

# Mid-Latitude Stratospheric Chemistry

## AOSC/CHEM 433 & AOSC/CHEM 633

### Ross Salawitch

Class Web Sites:

<http://www2.atmos.umd.edu/~rjs/class/spr2024>

<https://umd.instructure.com/courses/1358887>

**Today:**

- **Background on CFCs**
- **Ozone Depletion Potential**
- **Importance of how a chemical cycle is completed wrt odd-oxygen loss**
- **Role of halogens and aerosol loading on mid-latitude ozone**
- **Connection to recent research**

**Lecture 15**  
**2 April 2024**

# Motivation For Today

Total Column Ozone not recovering as fast as “expected”, particularly in NH mid-latitudes

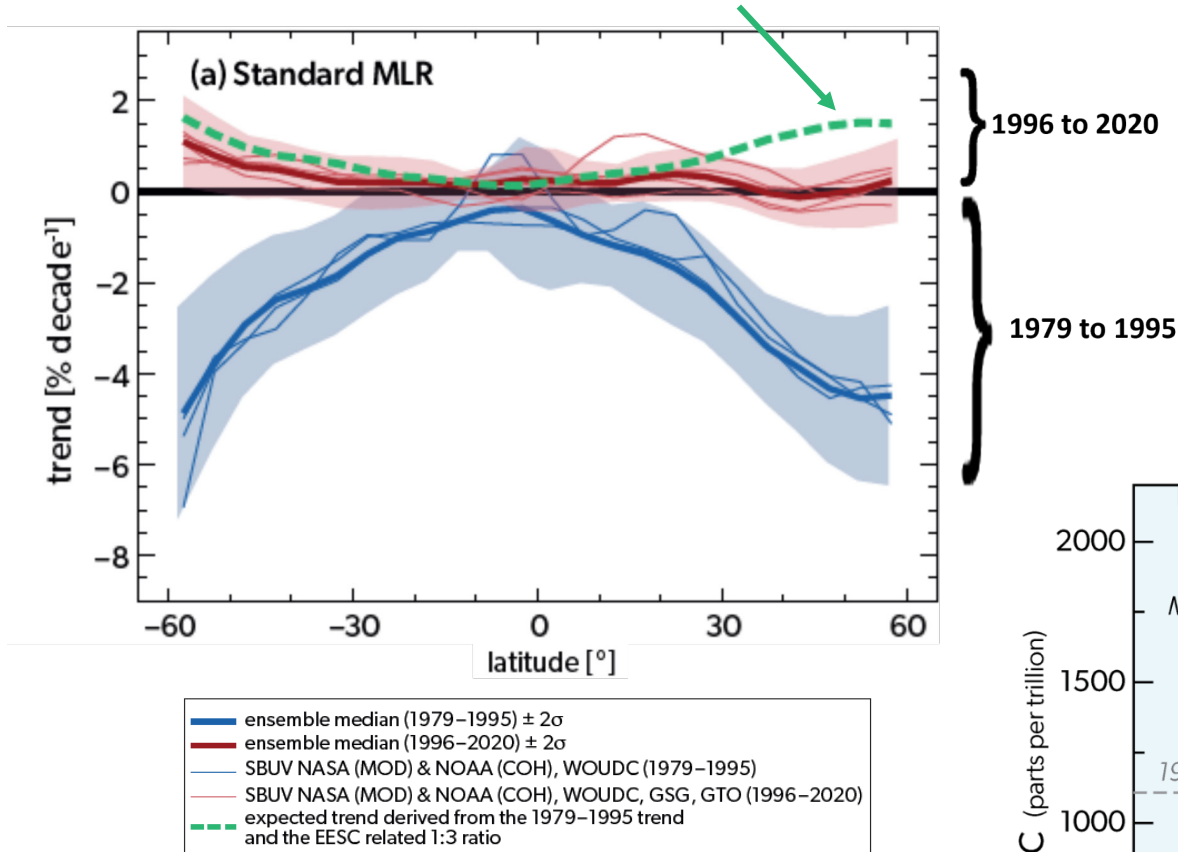
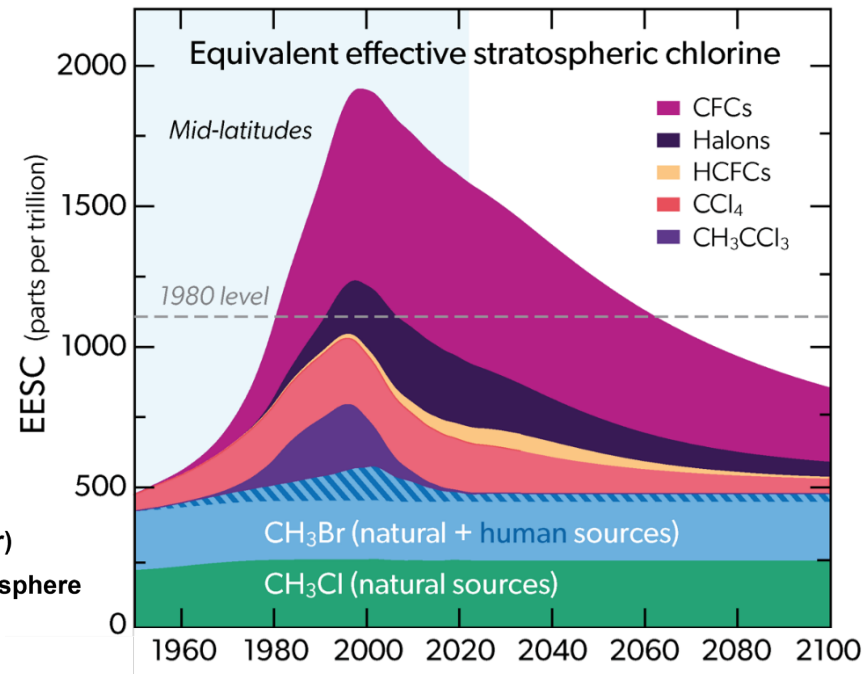


Fig 3-7, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

$$\text{EESC} = \text{Cl}_y + 60 \times \text{Br}_y$$

where  $\text{Cl}_y$  and  $\text{Br}_y$  refer to inorganic (that is, reactive and reservoir) chlorine and bromine respectively in the midlatitude, lower stratosphere



# Motivation For Today

**Current Trajectory of Stratospheric Halogens** also not recovering as fast as had once been **projected (Montreal 2007 line)**

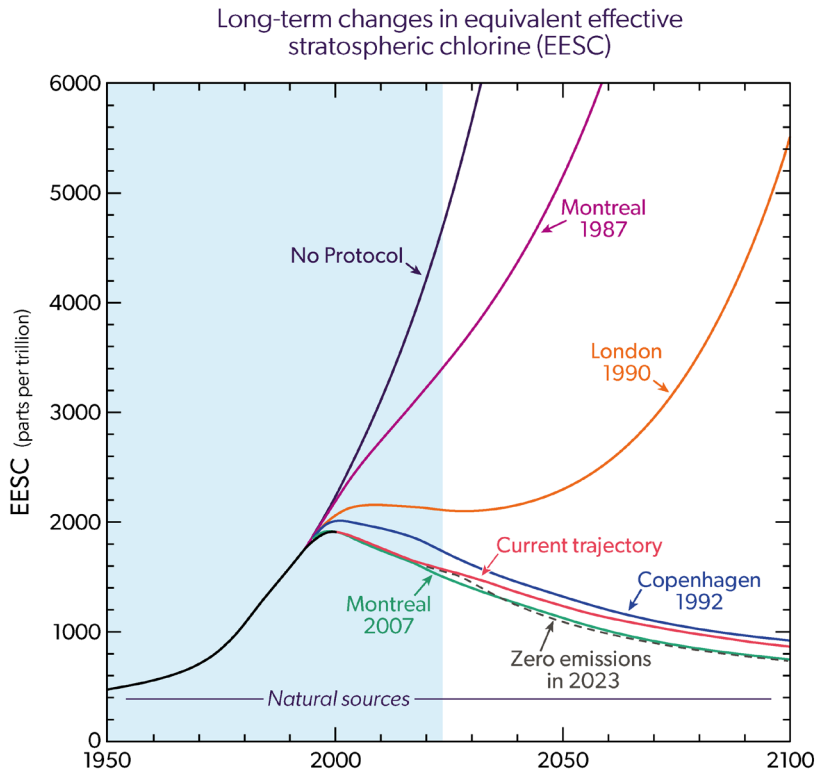
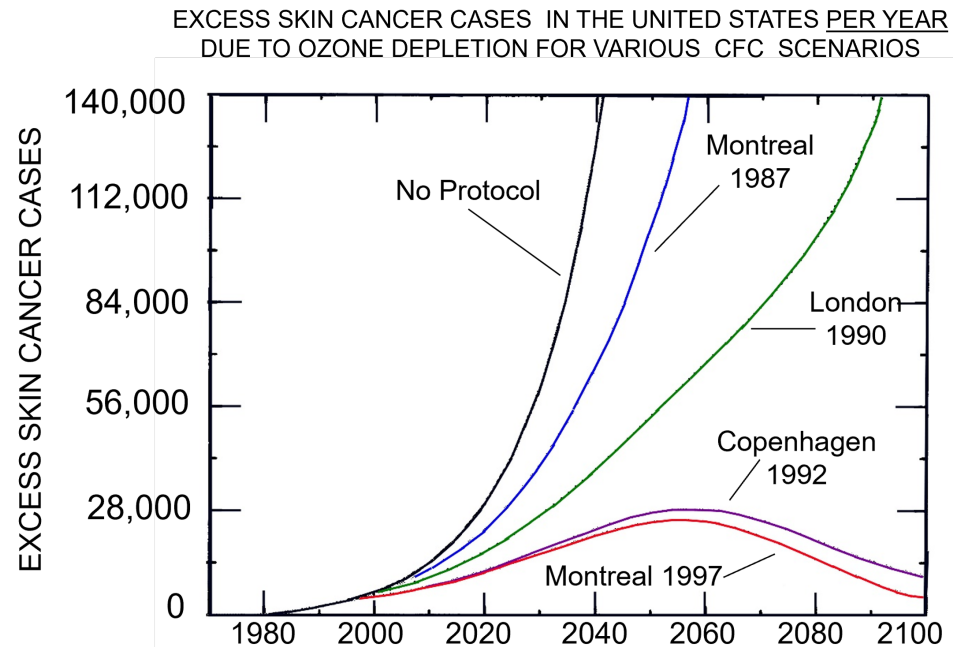


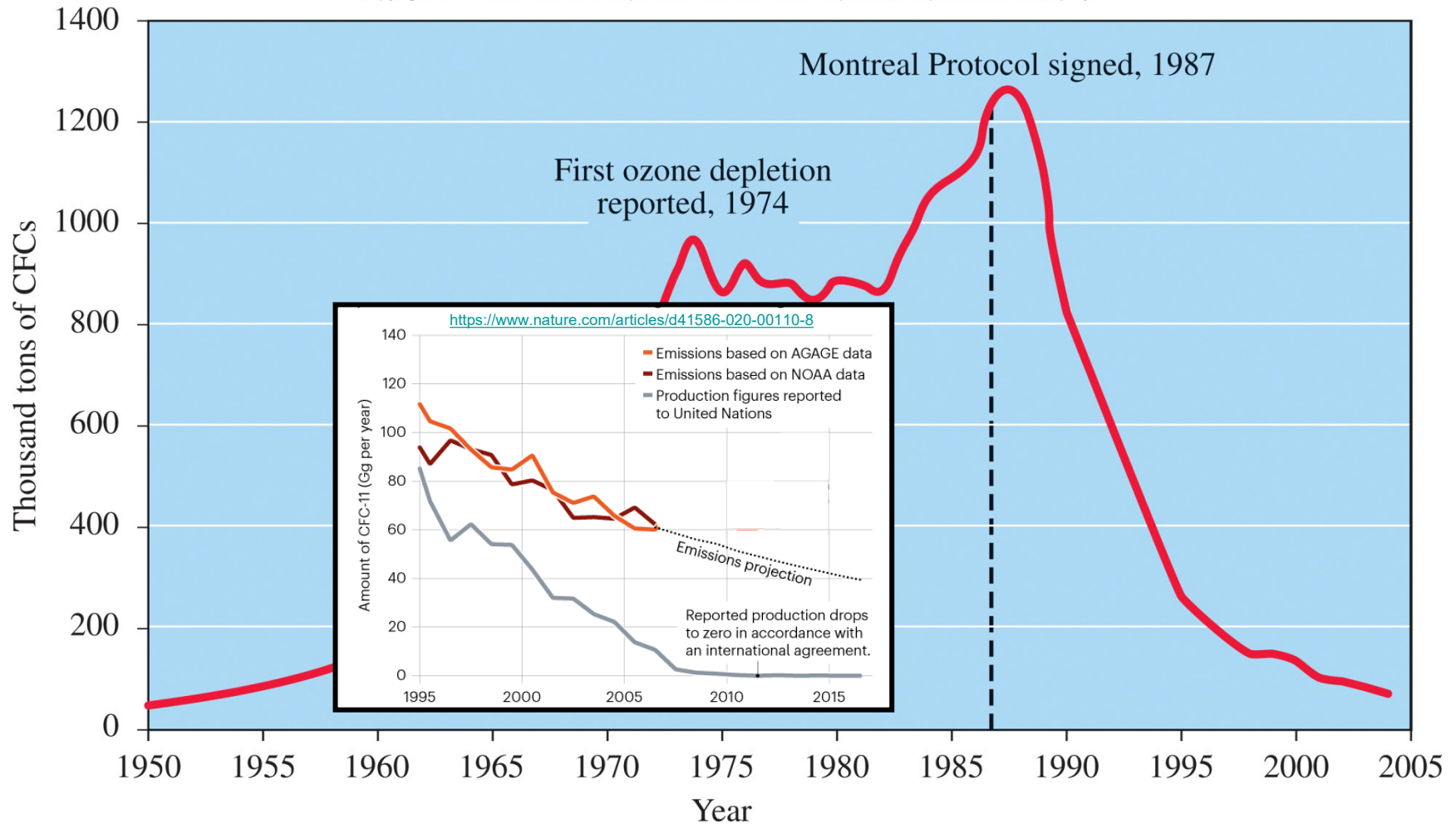
Fig Q14-1, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

**Nonetheless, the Montreal Protocol has been a huge success and has prevented a runaway increase in skin cancer cases**



# Montreal Protocol and Various Amendments Have Banned Industrial Production of CFCs and Halons

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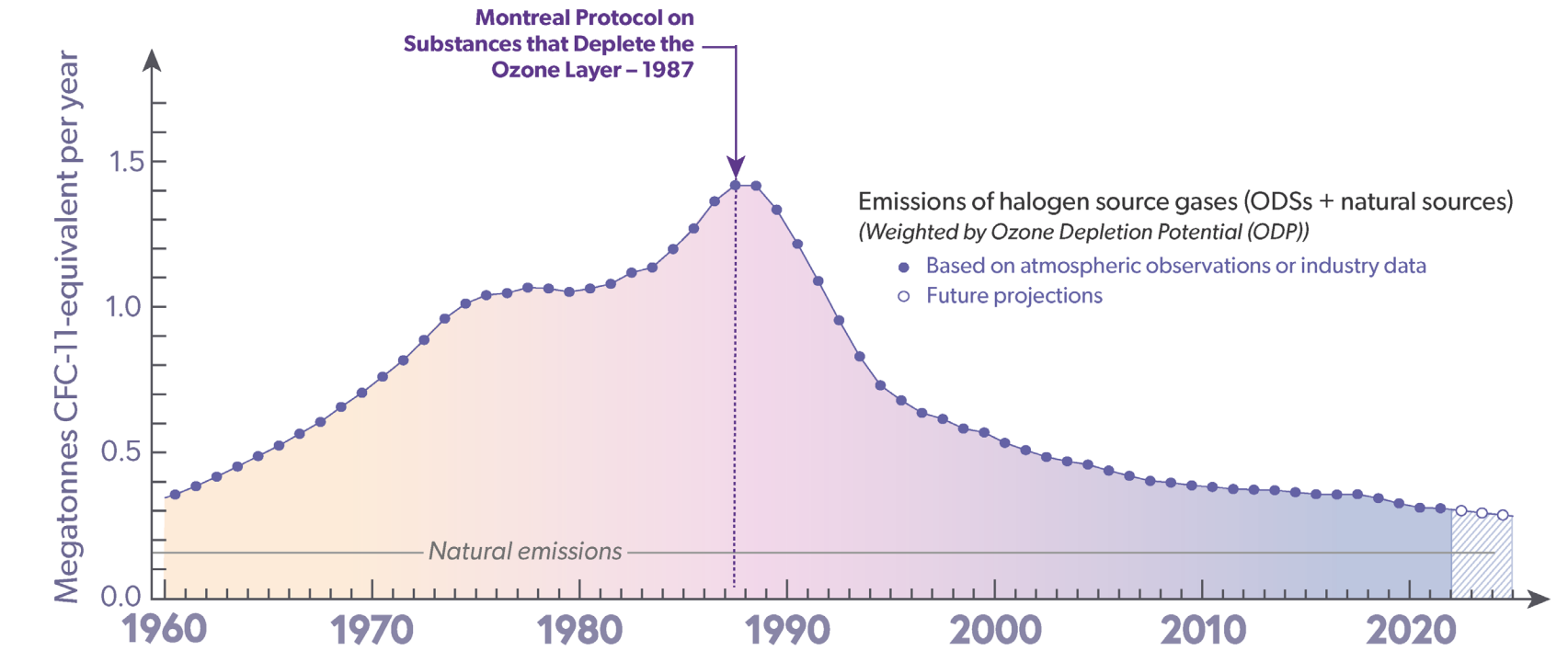


Global Production of CFCs, Fig. 2.19, Chemistry in Context



# Montreal Protocol and Various Amendments Have Banned Industrial Production of CFCs and Halons

Global Emissions of all CFCs, [Fig Q0-1, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone](#)



Why was the introduction of Freon-12 as a refrigerant gas in the 1930s hailed as a great triumph?

What was the dire unintended consequence of the introduction of Freon-12?

# Chlorine (left) & Bromine (right) Source Gases Entering the Stratosphere

## Halogen Source Gases Entering the Stratosphere

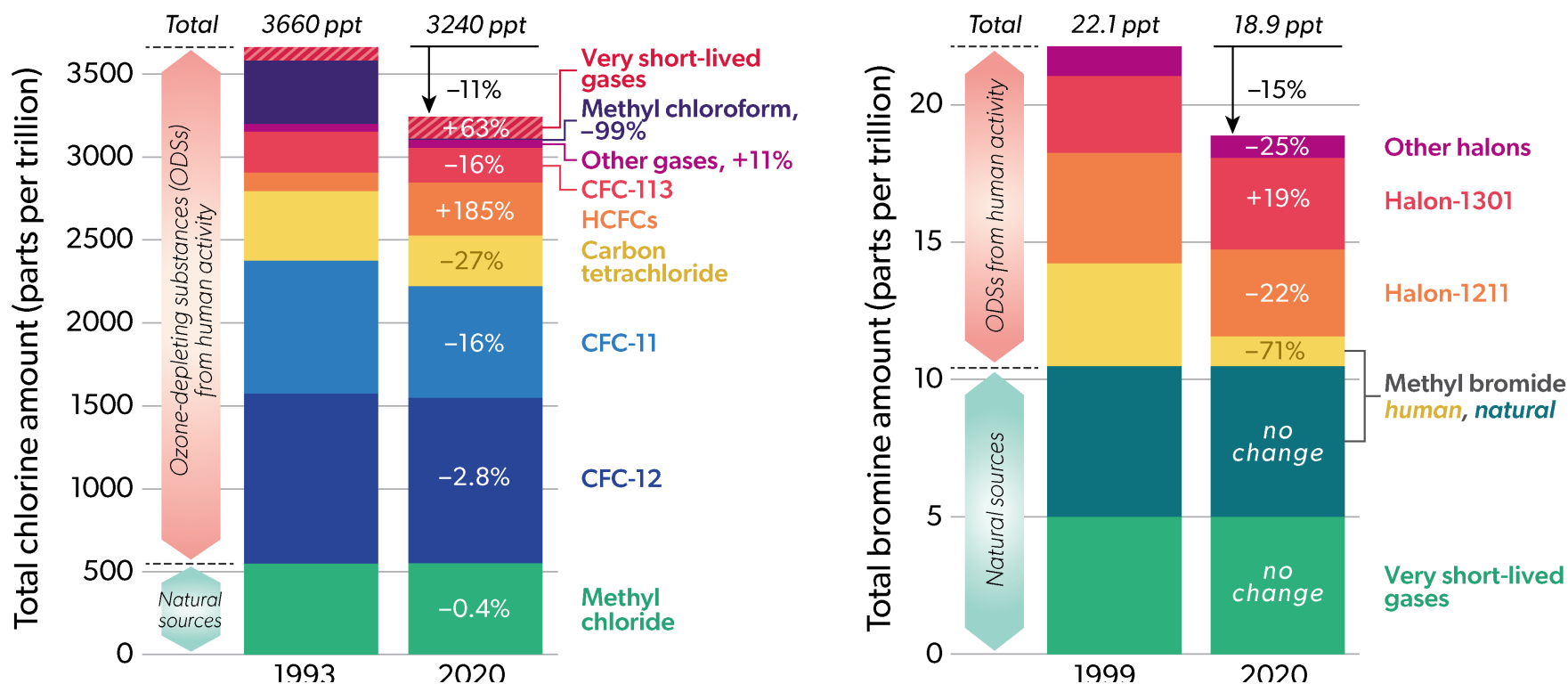



Fig Q6-1, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

[https://csl.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2022/downloads/Chapter1\\_2022OzoneAssessment.pdf](https://csl.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2022/downloads/Chapter1_2022OzoneAssessment.pdf)

# Ozone Depletion Potential and Halocarbons


**Table Q6-1. Atmospheric lifetimes, global emissions, Ozone Deletion Potentials, and Global Warming Potentials of some halogen source gases and HFC substitute gases.**

Gas	Atmospheric Lifetime (years)	Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) <sup>b</sup>
<b>Halogen Source Gases</b>		
<i>Chlorine Gases</i>		
CFC-11 (CCl <sub>3</sub> F)	52	1
Carbon tetrachloride (CCl <sub>4</sub> )	30	0.87
CFC-113 (CCl <sub>2</sub> FCClF <sub>2</sub> )	93	0.82
CFC-12 (CCl <sub>2</sub> F <sub>2</sub> )	102	0.75
Methyl chloroform (CH <sub>3</sub> CCl <sub>3</sub> )	5.0	0.12
HCFC-141b (CH <sub>3</sub> CCl <sub>2</sub> F)	8.8	0.102
HCFC-142b (CH <sub>3</sub> CClF <sub>2</sub> )	17	0.057
HCFC-22 (CHF <sub>2</sub> Cl)	12	0.038
Methyl chloride (CH <sub>3</sub> Cl)	0.9	0.015
<i>Bromine Gases</i>		
Halon-1301 (CBrF <sub>3</sub> )	72	17
Halon-1211 (CBrClF <sub>2</sub> )	16	7.1
Methyl bromide (CH <sub>3</sub> Br)	0.8	0.57
<b>Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)</b>		
HFC-23 (CHF <sub>3</sub> )	228	0
HFC-143a (CH <sub>3</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> )	52	0
HFC-125 (CHF <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> )	31	0
HFC-134a (CH <sub>2</sub> FCF <sub>3</sub> )	14	0
HFC-32 (CH <sub>2</sub> F <sub>2</sub> )	5.3	0
HFC-152a (CH <sub>3</sub> CHF <sub>2</sub> )	1.5	0
HFO-1234yf (CF <sub>3</sub> CFCH <sub>2</sub> )	0.03	0

ODP (species "i") = **continuous** 

$$\frac{\text{global loss of O}_3 \text{ due to unit mass emission of "i"}}{\text{global loss of O}_3 \text{ due to unit mass emission of CFC-11}}$$

$$\approx \frac{(\alpha n_{\text{Br}} + n_{\text{Cl}})}{3} \frac{\tau_i}{\tau_{\text{CFC-11}}} \frac{MW_{\text{CFC-11}}}{MW_i}$$

**continuous** 

where :

$\tau$  is the global atmospheric lifetime

$MW$  is the molecular weight

$n$  is the number of chlorine or bromine atoms

$\alpha$  is the effectiveness of ozone loss by bromine relative to ozone loss by chlorine

# Ozone Depletion

According to Section 2.8 of Chemistry in Context, how much depletion of stratospheric ozone at mid-latitudes ( $60^{\circ}\text{S}$  to  $60^{\circ}\text{N}$ ) has occurred?

According to the Question 12 of the WMO/UNEP QAs, how much depletion of the Global Total Ozone layer has occurred?

Also, state whether you are either "good" or "concerned" with the different estimates for depletion of the ozone layer given in Question 12 of the WMO/UNEP QAs, compared to Section 28 of Chemistry in Context (i.e, your answer to the prior question).

## Global and Regional Total Ozone Changes

Observed changes relative to the 1964–1980 average

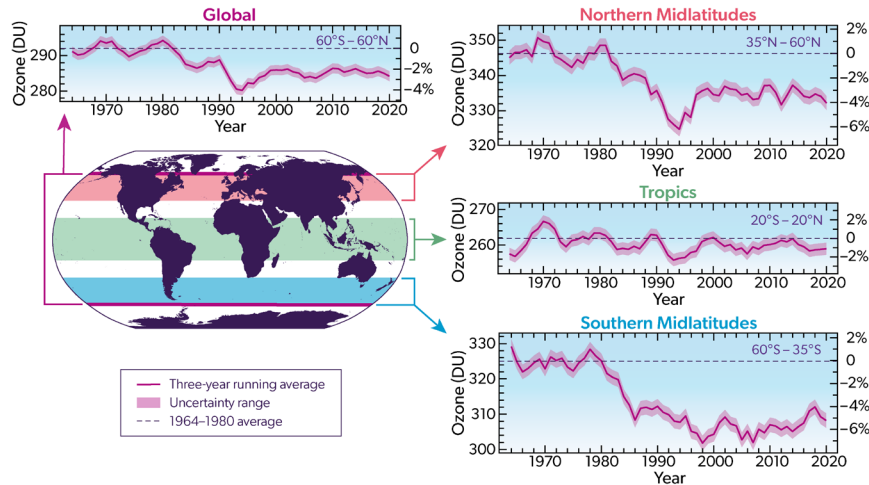


Fig Q12-1, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

Trend in total column ozone due to halogen chemistry

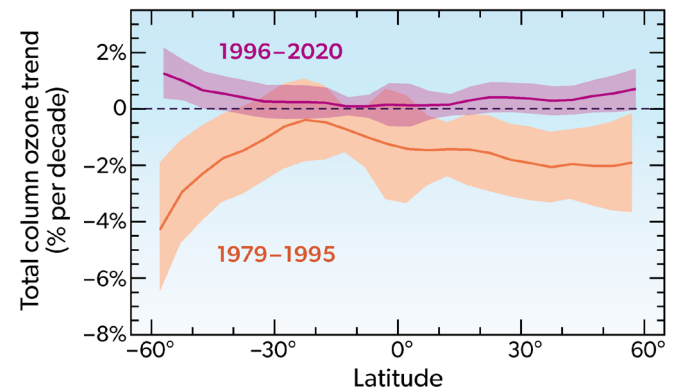


Fig Q12-2, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

# Multiple Linear Regression Inputs and Outputs

## Inputs

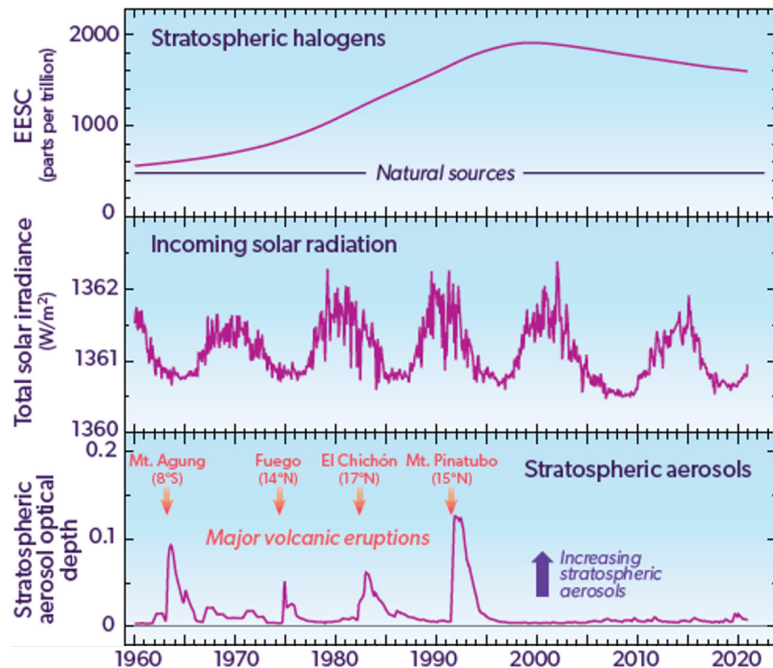
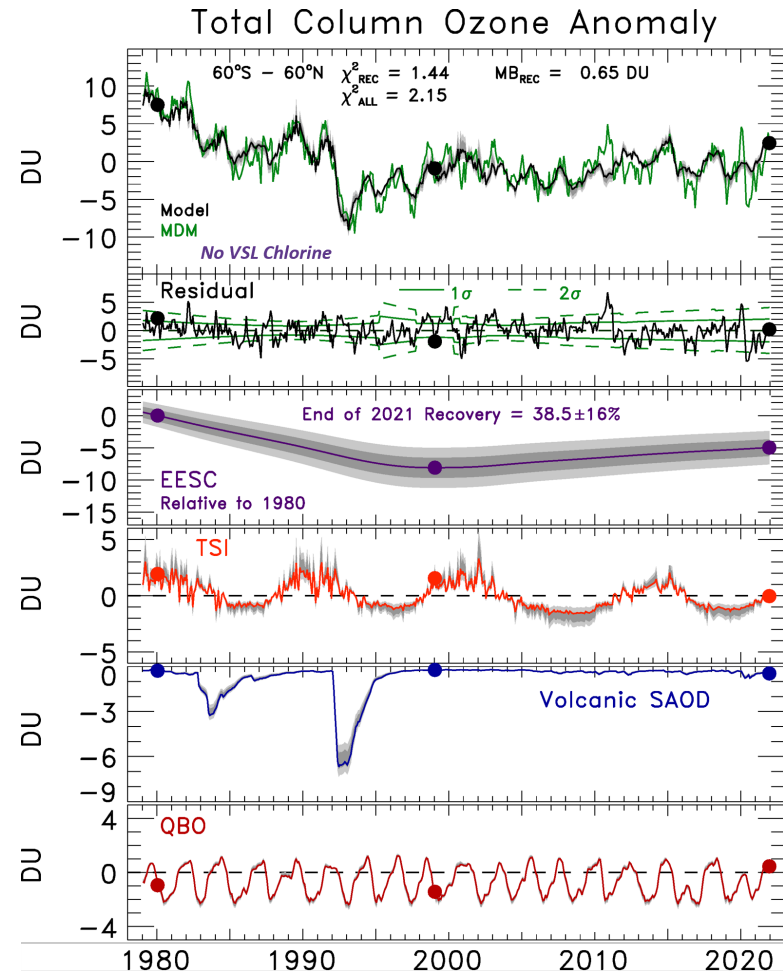


Fig Q13-1, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

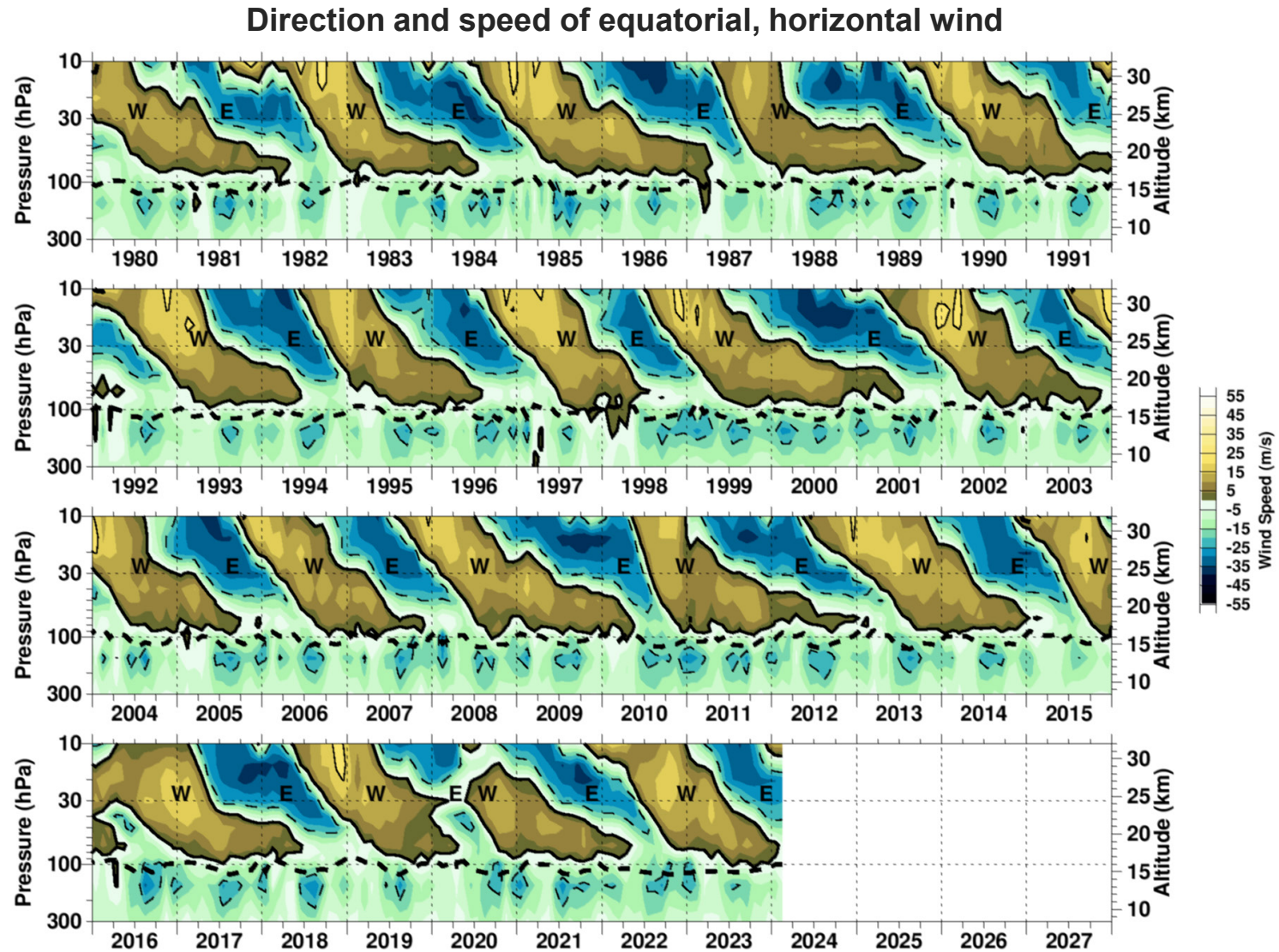
## Outputs



McBride *et al.*, Manuscript In Preparation, 2024



# Quasi-Biennial Oscillation of Stratospheric Winds



Paul A. Newman, Larry Coy, Leslie R. Lait (NASA/GSFC) Sat Mar 2 17:21:42 2024

No smoothing

[https://acd-ext.gsfc.nasa.gov/Data\\_services/met/qbo/qbo.html](https://acd-ext.gsfc.nasa.gov/Data_services/met/qbo/qbo.html)

# Chapman Chemistry

$$[\text{O}_3] = \left( \frac{J_1 k_2}{J_3 k_4} \right)^{1/2} f_{\text{O}_2} [\text{M}]^{3/2}$$

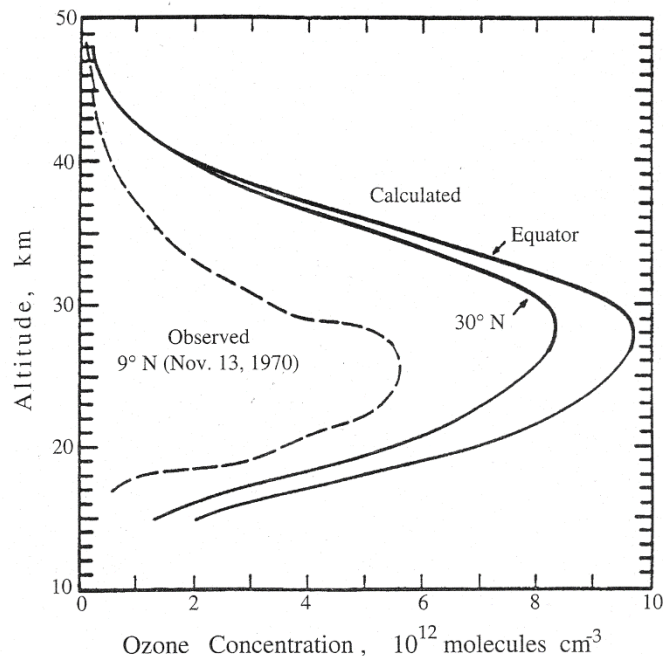


FIGURE 4.6 Comparison of stratospheric ozone concentrations as a function of altitude as predicted by the Chapman mechanism and as observed over Panama (9° N) on November 13, 1970.

$[\text{O}_3]$  falls off with increasing altitude (high in stratosphere), at a rate determined by  $[\text{M}]^{3/2}$ , because:

$[\text{O}_3]$  falls off with decreasing altitude (low in stratosphere) due to a rapid drop in  $J_1$ , reflecting:

Observed  $[\text{O}_3] < \text{Chapman } [\text{O}_3]$  : why ?!?

**Lecture 10**

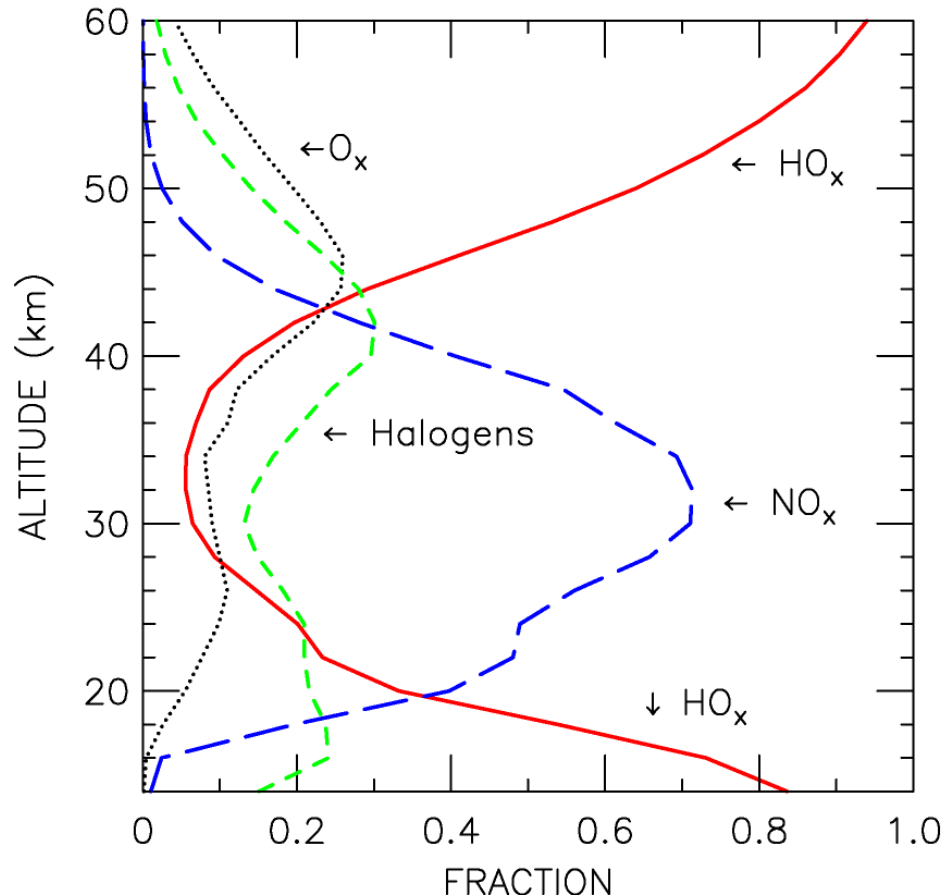


# Stratospheric Photochemistry: Odd Oxygen Loss By Families

Fraction of  $O_x$  Loss Due to Each Catalytic Family

JPL 2002 Kinetics

35°N, Sept



**Lecture 9**

Calculated fraction of odd oxygen loss due to various families of radicals

After Osterman *et al.*, *GRL*, 24, 1107, 1997;

Sen *et al.*, *JGR*, 103, 3571, 1998;

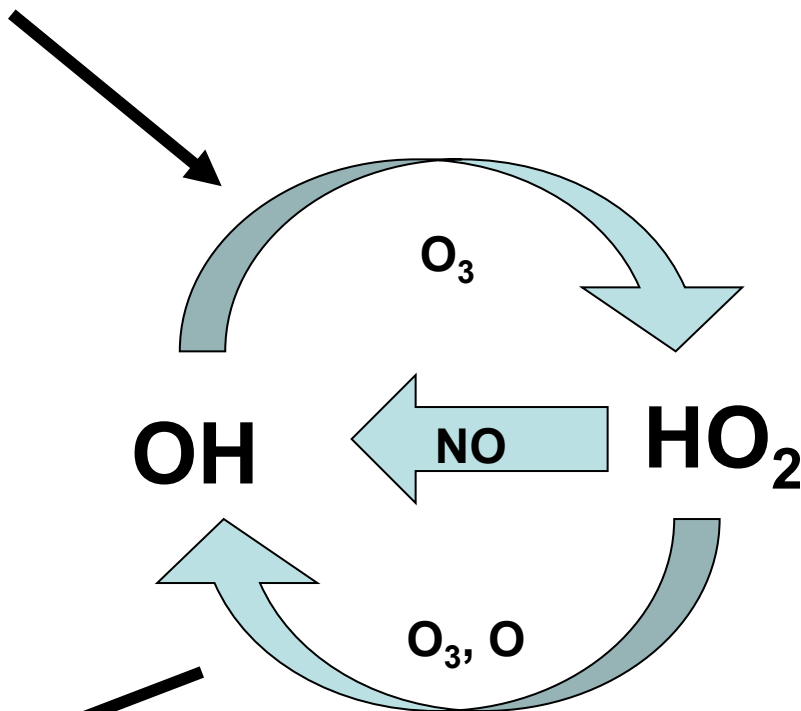
Sen *et al.*, *JGR*, 104, 26653, 1999.

# $\text{HO}_x$ : OH and $\text{HO}_2$

OH and  $\text{HO}_2$  are central to stratospheric and tropospheric photochemistry

**Production :**  $\text{O}^1\text{D} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{OH} + \text{OH}$

$\text{O}^1\text{D} + \text{CH}_4 \rightarrow \text{OH} + \text{CH}_3$



**Loss:**  $\text{OH} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$

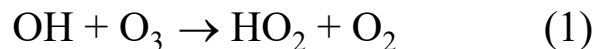
$\text{OH} + \text{HNO}_3 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{NO}_3$

# $\text{HO}_x$ : OH and $\text{HO}_2$

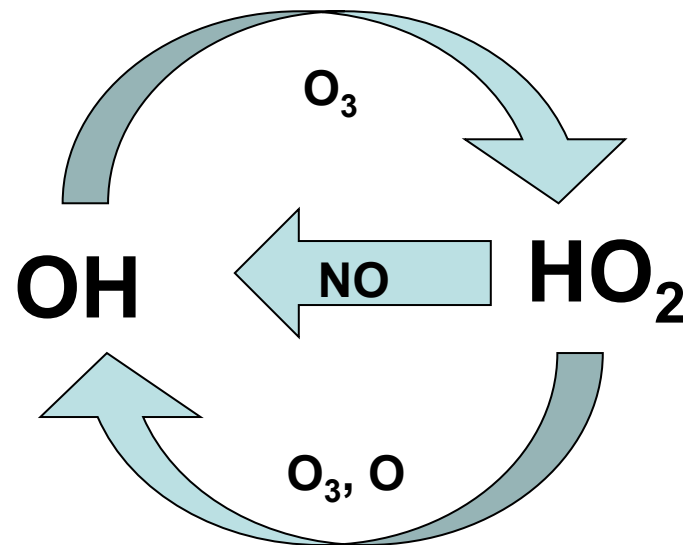
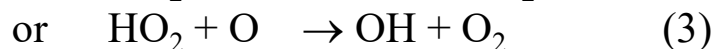
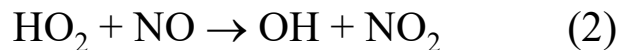
OH and  $\text{HO}_2$  are central to stratospheric and tropospheric photochemistry

Rapid inner cycle:

$\text{HO}_2$  formation:



$\text{HO}_2$  loss:

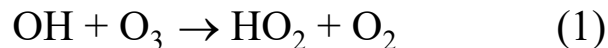


# HO<sub>x</sub> : OH and HO<sub>2</sub>

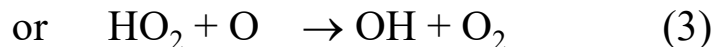
OH and HO<sub>2</sub> are central to stratospheric and tropospheric photochemistry

Rapid inner cycle:

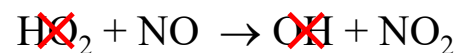
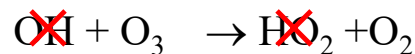
HO<sub>2</sub> formation:



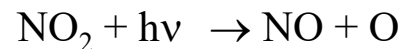
HO<sub>2</sub> loss:



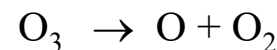
HO<sub>2</sub> loss step (2):



This is followed quickly by:



Yielding final “net”:



**Null cycle**

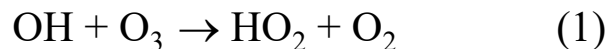
**with respect to production & loss of odd oxygen**

# $\text{HO}_x$ : OH and $\text{HO}_2$

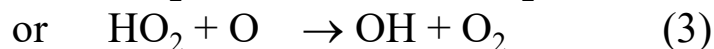
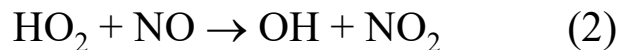
OH and  $\text{HO}_2$  are central to stratospheric and tropospheric photochemistry

Rapid inner cycle:

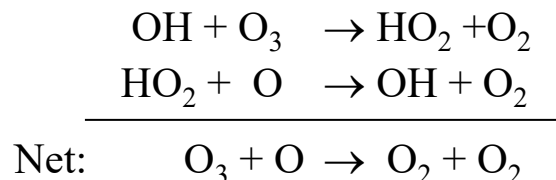
$\text{HO}_2$  formation:



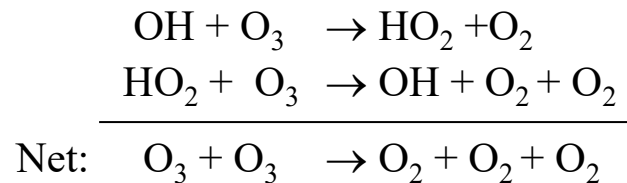
$\text{HO}_2$  loss:



$\text{HO}_2$  loss step (3):



$\text{HO}_2$  loss step (4):

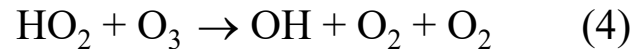
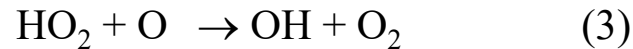


## Catalytic Ozone (Odd Oxygen) Loss Cycles

## Odd Oxygen Loss - $\text{HO}_x$

$$\frac{d(\text{Odd Oxygen})}{dt} = -2 k_4 [\text{HO}_2][\text{O}_3] - 2 k_3 [\text{HO}_2][\text{O}] \quad \text{Eq (7)}$$

The reactions:

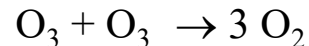


are rate limiting steps for  $\text{O}_3$  loss by two catalytic cycles:

Cycle (1) Net :



Cycle (2) Net :



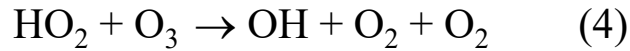
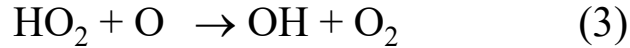
As a convenient short hand, **we consider  $\text{HO}_2$  to be odd oxygen**

Then:

clear now that reactions (3) and (4) each consume two odd oxygens at rates determined by  $2 k_3 [\text{HO}_2][\text{O}]$  and  $2 k_4 [\text{HO}_2][\text{O}_3]$

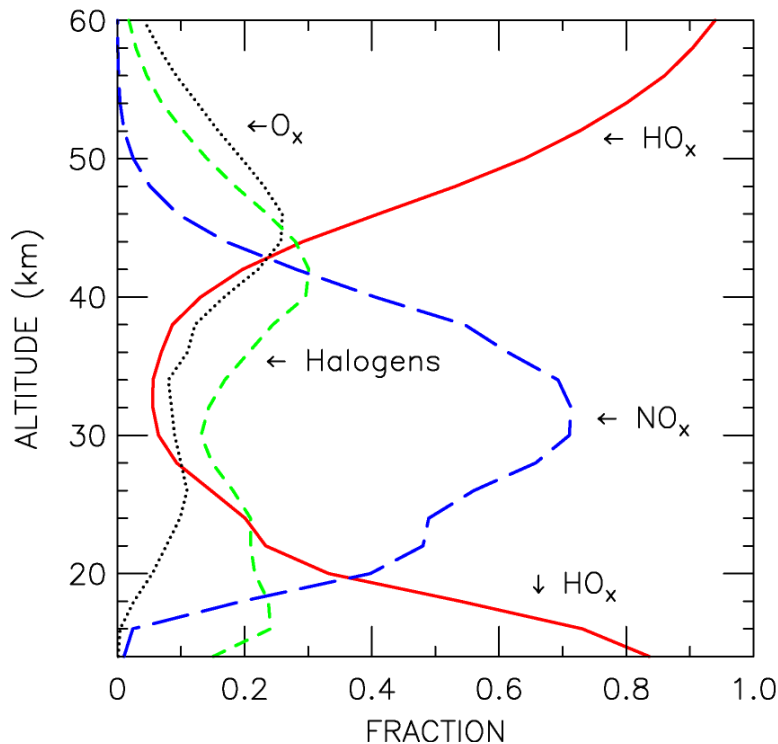
# Odd Oxygen Loss - HO<sub>x</sub>

At what altitudes will loss of ozone by these rate limiting steps be dominant ?



One dominates at low altitude, the other at high altitude  $\Rightarrow$  which is which !?

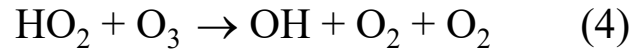
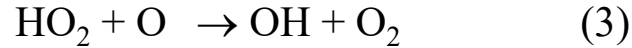
Fraction of O<sub>x</sub> Loss Due to Each Catalytic Family  
JPL 2002 Kinetics  
35°N, Sept



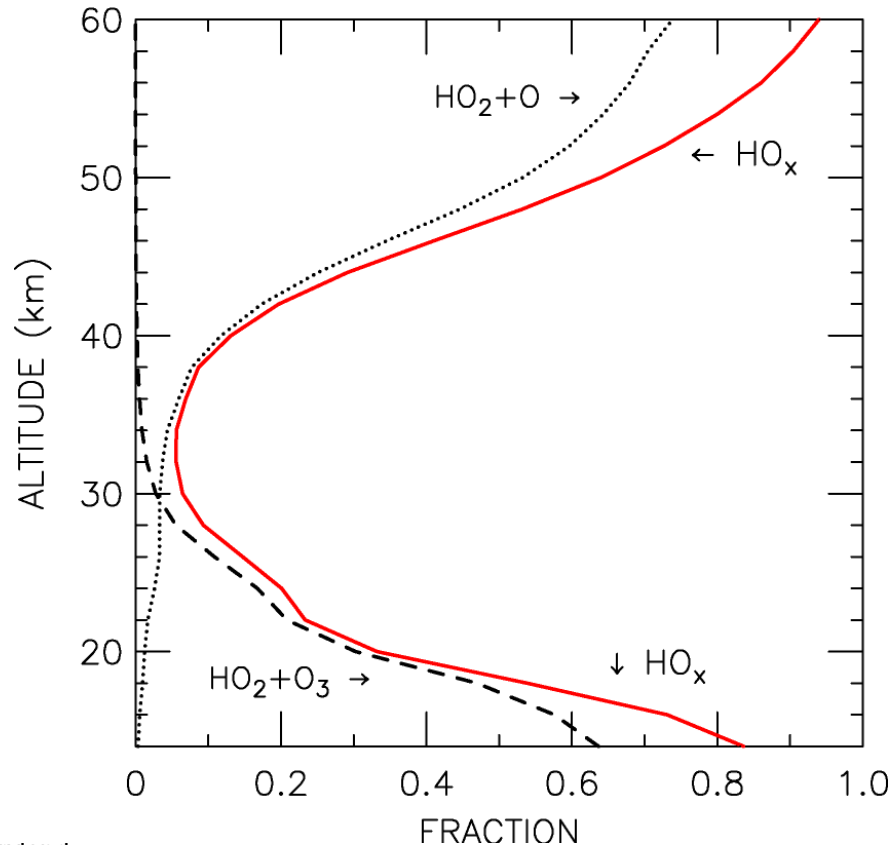


# Odd Oxygen Loss - $\text{HO}_x$

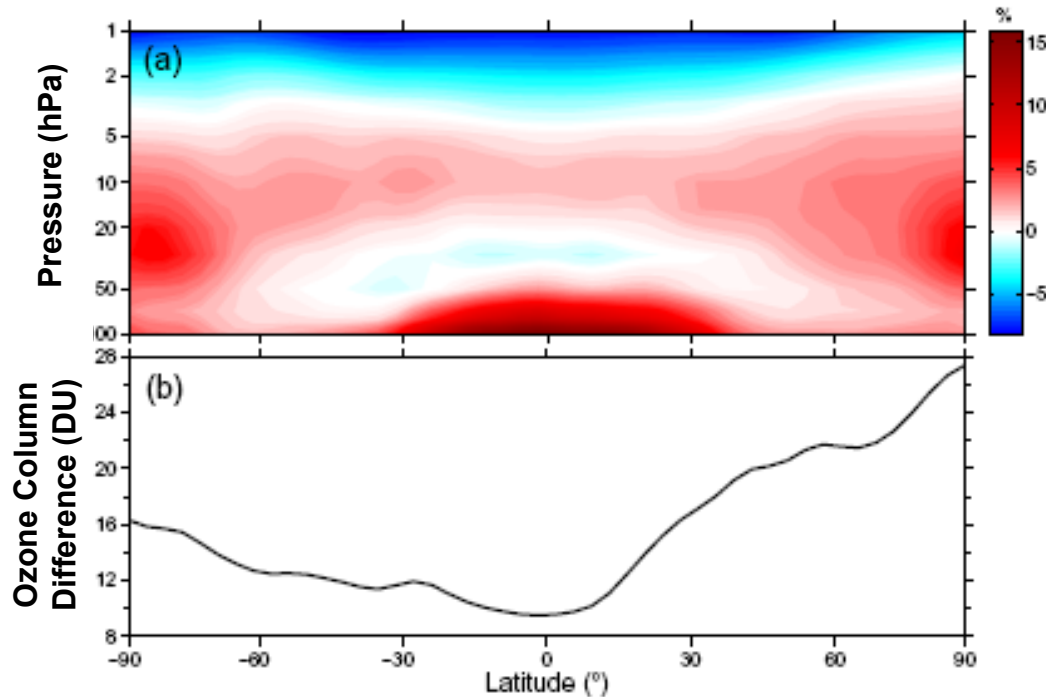
At what altitudes will loss of ozone by these rate limiting steps be dominant ?



One dominates at low altitude, the other at high altitude  $\Rightarrow$  which is which !?



# CH<sub>4</sub> and Stratospheric Ozone



Revell *et al.*, *ACP*, 2012

Stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> difference in the 2090s found for a computer simulation run using CH<sub>4</sub> from RCP 8.5 minus that of a simulation using CH<sub>4</sub> from RCP 2.6

Rising CH<sub>4</sub> leads to:

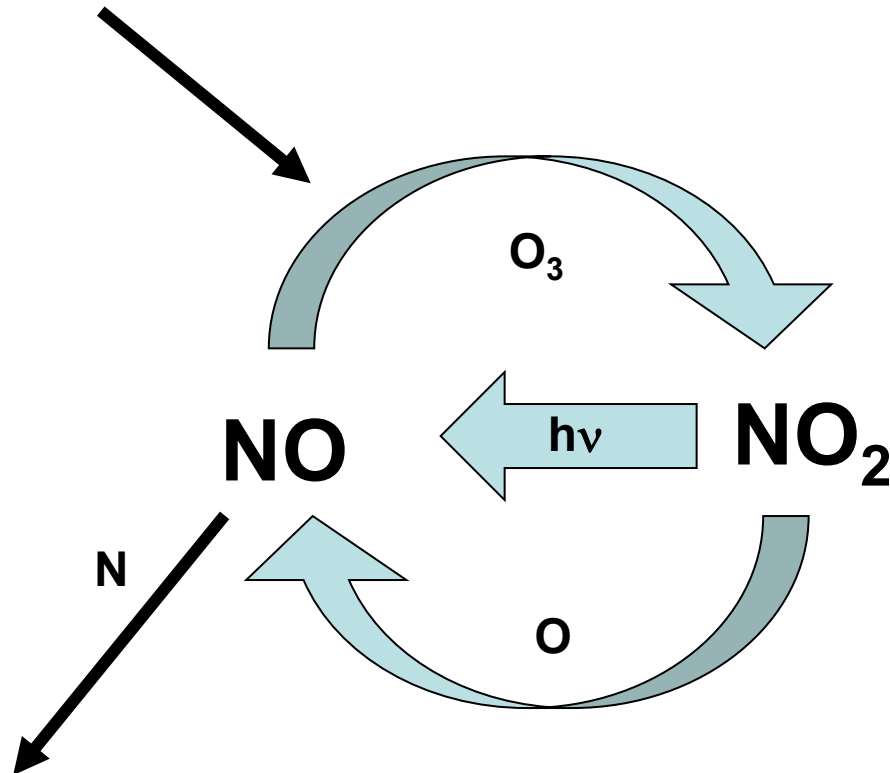
- a) ozone loss in the upper stratosphere by increasing the speed of OH and HO<sub>2</sub> (HO<sub>x</sub>) mediated loss cycles.
- b) a cooler stratosphere, slowing the rate of all ozone loss cycles
- c) speeds up the rate of Cl+CH<sub>4</sub>, shifting chlorine from ClO into HCl (i.e., deactivates chlorine)
- d) more HO<sub>2</sub> in the lowermost stratosphere where there is sufficient CO to result in O<sub>3</sub> production by “smog chemistry”

**Computer models project stratospheric column O<sub>3</sub> will increase as CH<sub>4</sub> rises**

# $\text{NO}_x$ : NO and $\text{NO}_2$

NO and  $\text{NO}_2$  are central to stratospheric and tropospheric photochemistry

**Stratospheric Production** :  $\text{O}^1\text{D} + \text{N}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{NO}$



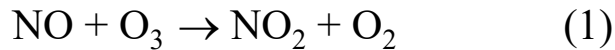
**Final sinks** :  $\text{N} + \text{NO} \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + \text{O}$  (uppermost stratosphere)  
 $\text{HNO}_3$  solubility & rainout (lowermost stratosphere)

# NO<sub>x</sub> : NO and NO<sub>2</sub>

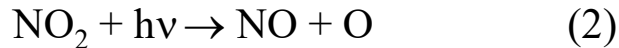
NO and NO<sub>2</sub> are central to stratospheric and tropospheric photochemistry

Rapid inner cycle:

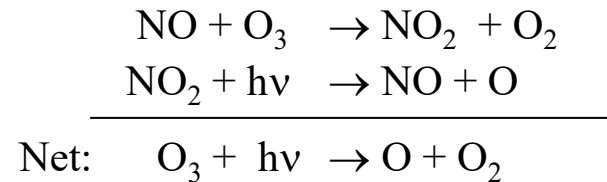
NO<sub>2</sub> formation:



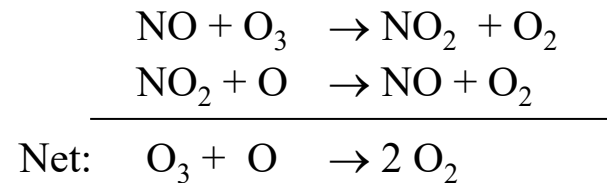
NO<sub>2</sub> loss:



NO<sub>2</sub> loss step (2):



NO<sub>2</sub> loss step (3):



Can show:

$$\frac{d\text{O}_3}{dt} + \frac{d\text{O}}{dt} = \frac{d(\text{Odd Oxygen})}{dt} = -2 k_3 [\text{NO}_2][\text{O}]$$

As a convenient short hand, **we consider NO<sub>2</sub> to be odd oxygen**

# $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{NO}_y$

Loss of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  occurs mainly in the stratosphere due to:

photolysis – main sink

reaction with electronically excited  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  – minor sink

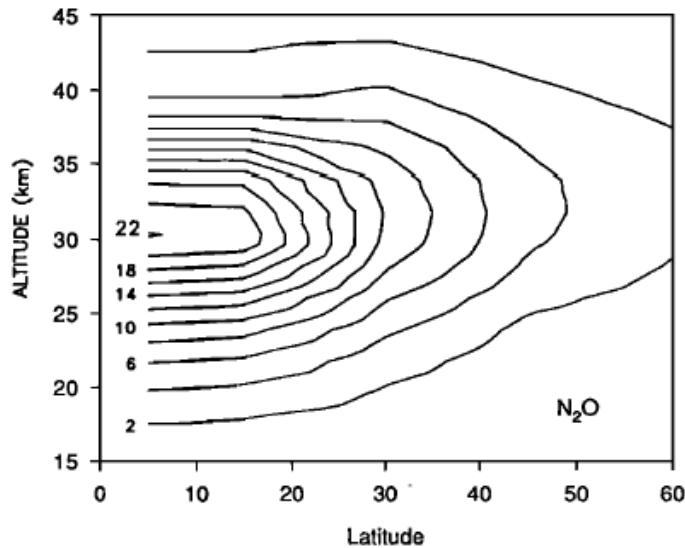
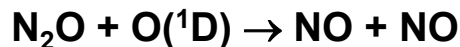


Fig. 11. Diurnally averaged loss rate for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $10^2$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) as a function of altitude and latitude, calculated with the line-by-line model, for equinox. The loss rate includes destruction of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  by reaction with  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  as well as photolysis.

Minschwaner, Salawitch, and McElroy, *JGR*, 1993

The minor sink for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  loss has a path that results in “reactive nitrogen”:

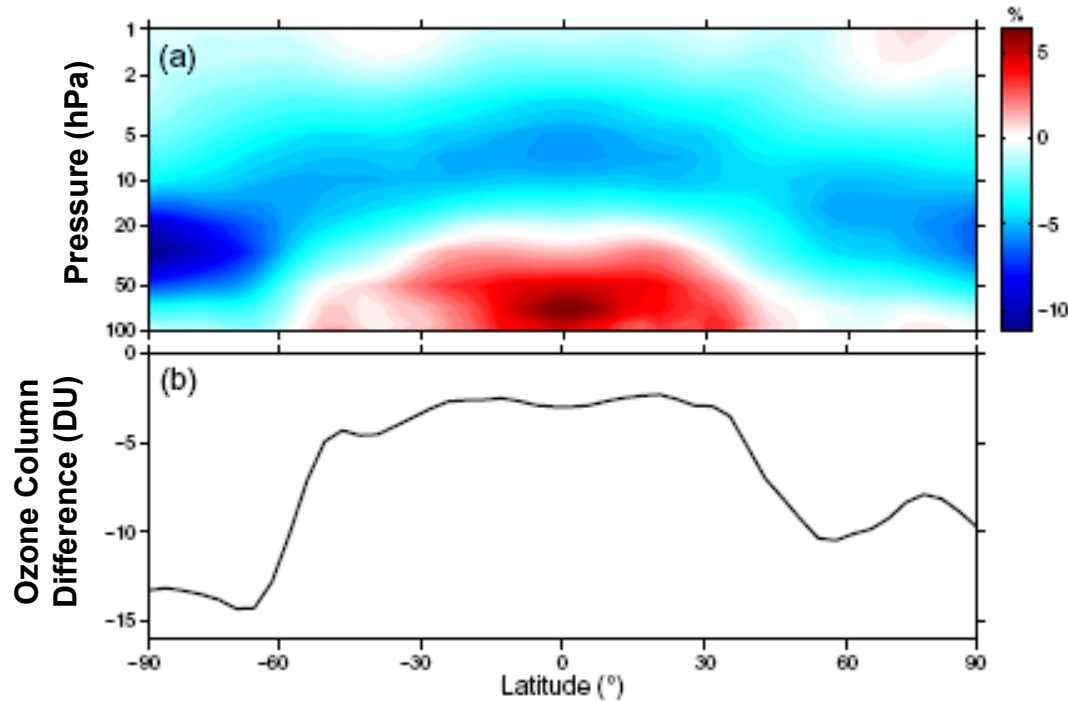
**Lecture 6**



**Reactive nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_y$ ) is crucial to stratospheric chemistry**

Oxides of nitrogen catalyze loss of stratospheric  $\text{O}_3$  & participate in a series of chemical reactions that affect partitioning of hydrogen and chlorine radicals, etc.

# N<sub>2</sub>O and Stratospheric Ozone



Revell *et al.*, *ACP*, 2012

Stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> difference in the 2090s found for a computer simulation run using N<sub>2</sub>O from RCP 8.5 minus that of a simulation using N<sub>2</sub>O from RCP 2.6

Rising N<sub>2</sub>O leads to:

- a) ozone loss in the middle & upper stratosphere by increasing the speed of NO and NO<sub>2</sub> (NO<sub>x</sub>) mediated loss cycles.
- b) speeds up the rate of OH+NO<sub>2</sub>+M→HNO<sub>3</sub>+M & ClO+NO<sub>2</sub>+M→ClONO<sub>2</sub>+M in the lowermost stratosphere, leading to slower ozone loss by these cycles & therefore more O<sub>3</sub> where these cycles dominate total loss of O<sub>3</sub>

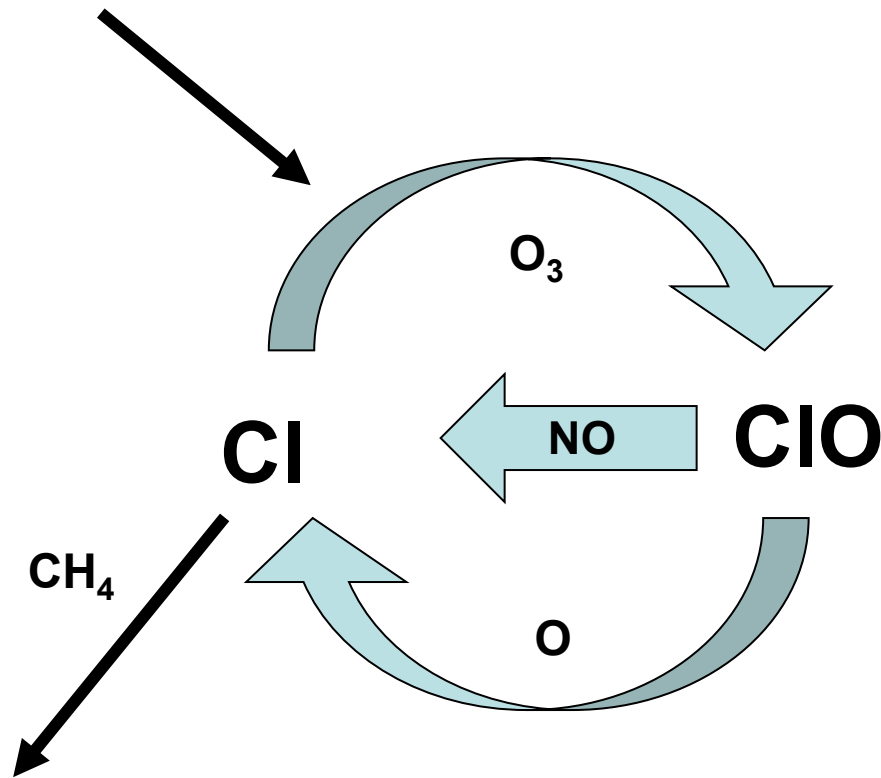
**Computer models project stratospheric column O<sub>3</sub> will decline as N<sub>2</sub>O rises**

Lecture 6

# $\text{ClO}_x$ : ClO and Cl

ClO is central to stratospheric photochemistry, at mid-latitudes and polar regions

**Production : CFCs  $+h\nu \rightarrow$  Inorganic chlorine**



**Final sinks : HCl solubility & rainout (lowermost stratosphere)**

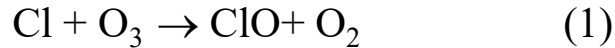


# $\text{ClO}_x$ : ClO and Cl

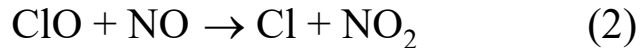
ClO is central to stratospheric photochemistry, at mid-latitudes and polar regions:

Rapid inner cycle:

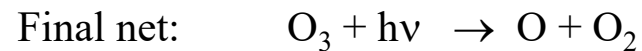
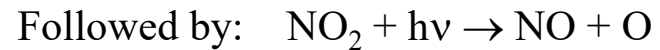
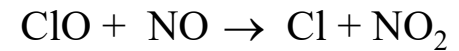
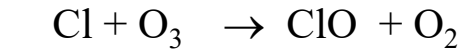
ClO formation:



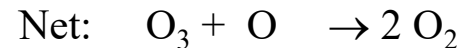
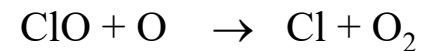
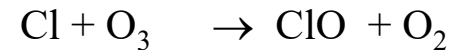
ClO loss:



ClO loss step (2):



ClO loss step (3):



Can show:

$$\frac{d\text{O}_3}{dt} + \frac{d\text{O}}{dt} = \frac{d(\text{Odd Oxygen})}{dt} = -2 k_3 [\text{ClO}][\text{O}]$$

As a convenient short hand, **we consider ClO to be odd oxygen**

# Proof Halocarbons Reach The Stratosphere

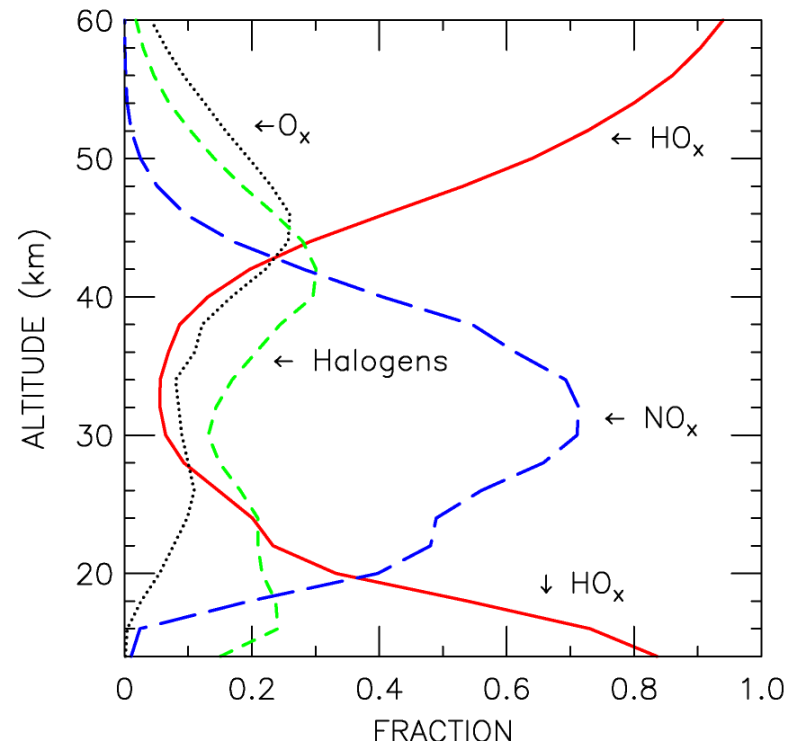
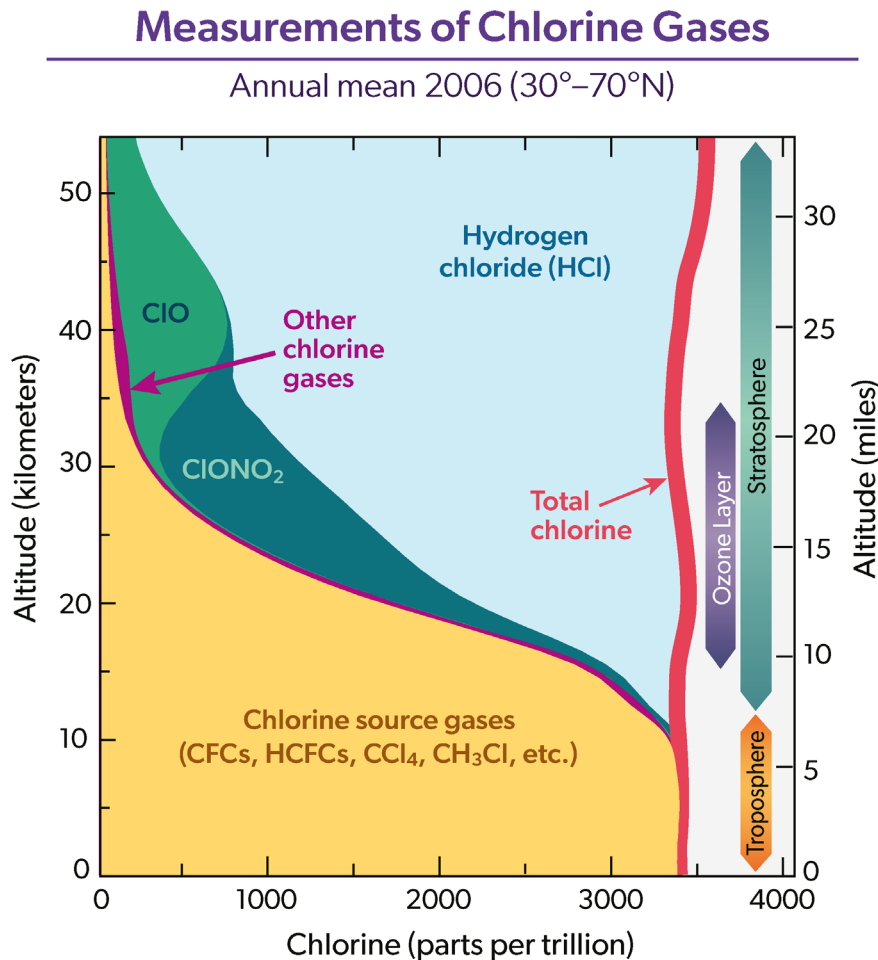


Fig Q7-2, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

# Proof Halocarbons Reach The Stratosphere

## Measurements of Chlorine Gases

Annual mean 2006 (30°–70°N)

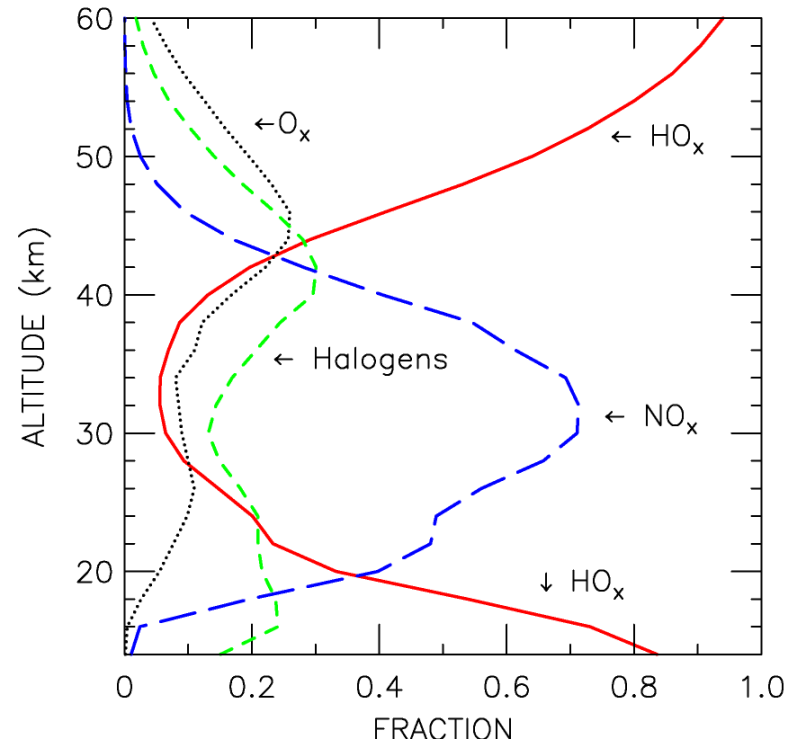
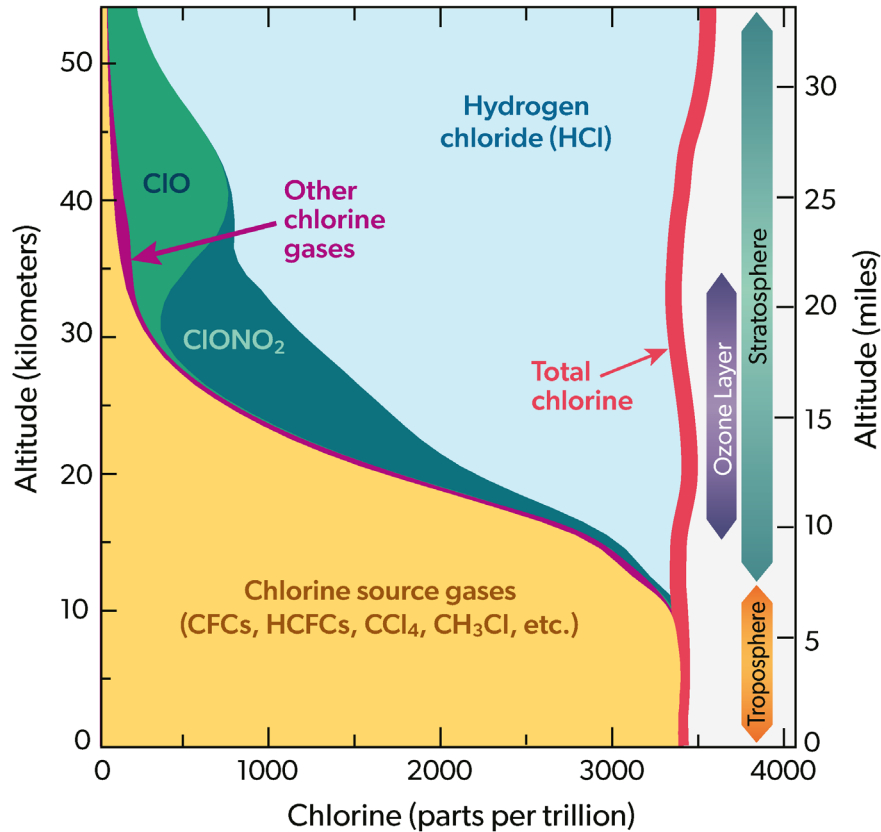
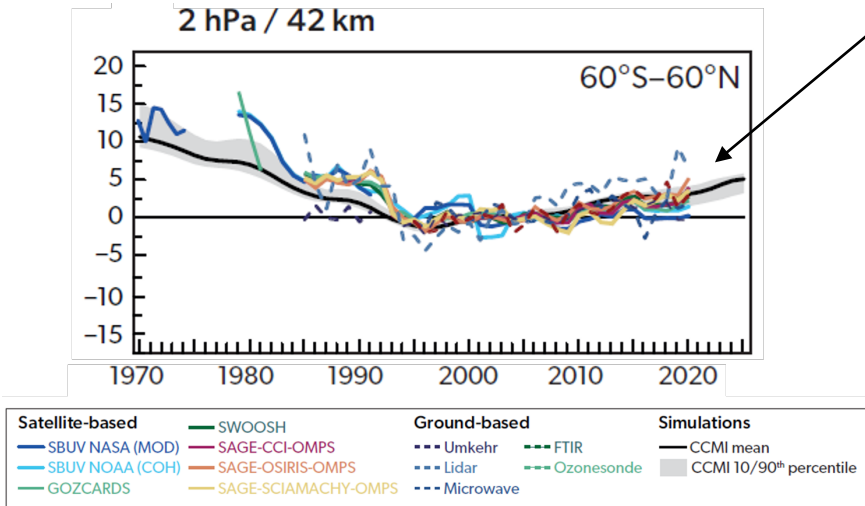


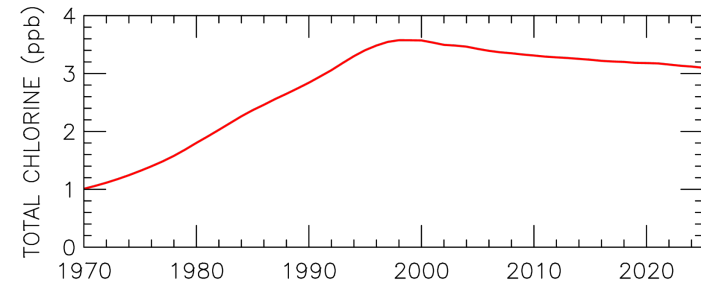
Fig Q7-2, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

# Trends in Ozone, ~40 km

Line: range of model calculations,  
where models are forced by  
changing levels of stratospheric halogens

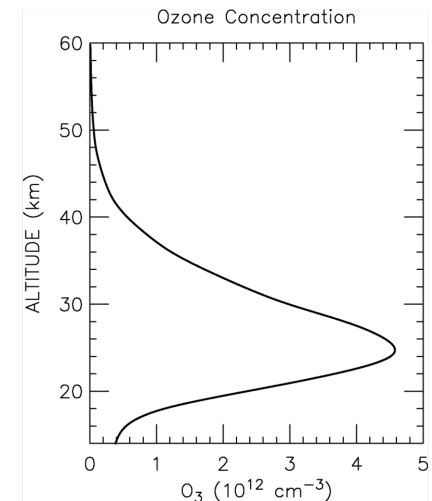


Trends in ozone at 40 km are “well understood”:  
ozone is *anti-correlated* with time history  
of upper stratospheric chlorine loading



**But: ozone at 40 km has little effect  
on surface UV radiation**

Fig 3-9, WMO/UNEP Ozone Report



# Multiple Linear Regression Inputs and Outputs

## Inputs

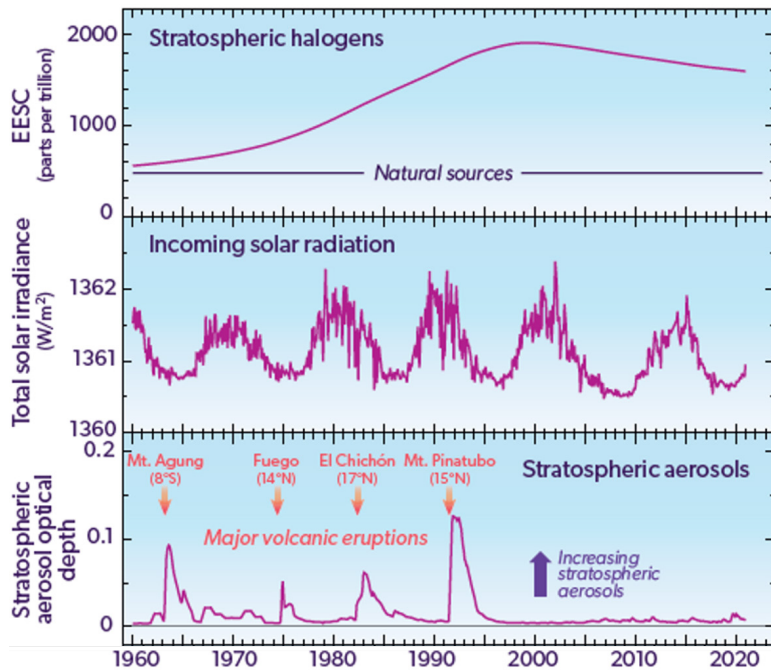
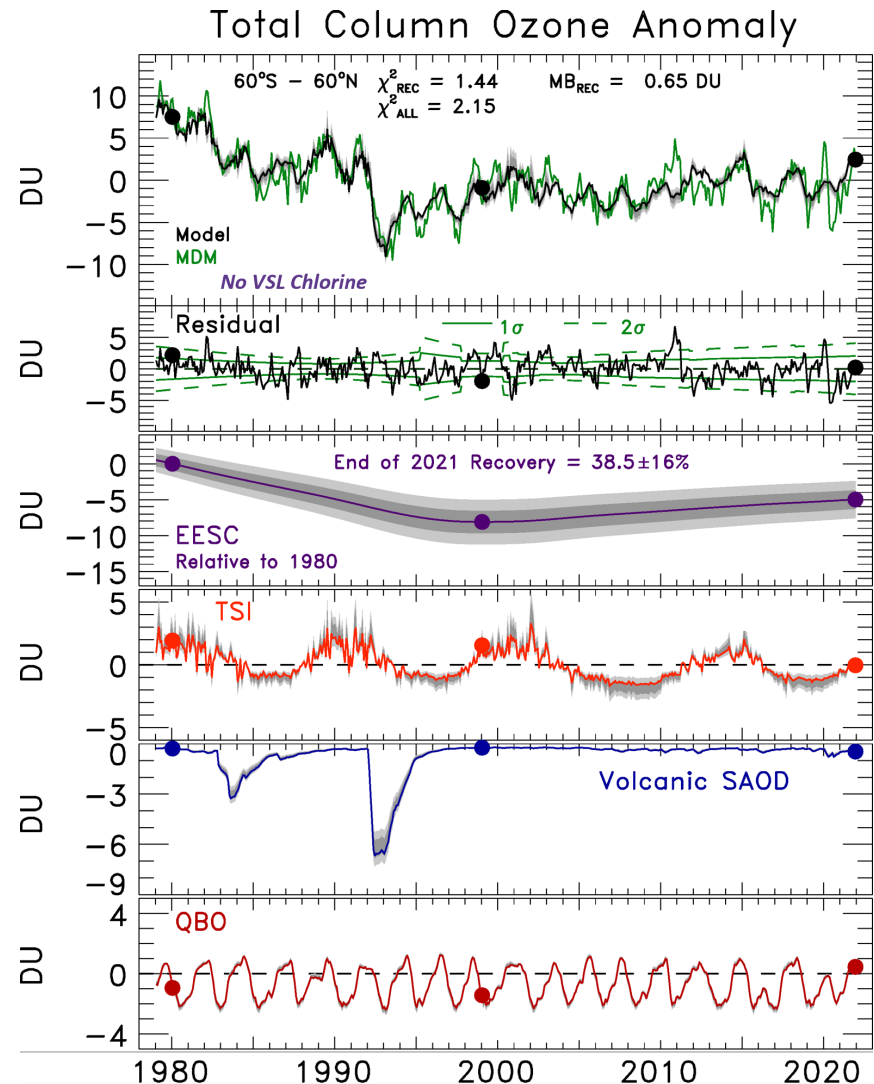


Fig Q13-1, WMO/UNEP Twenty QAs Ozone

## Outputs

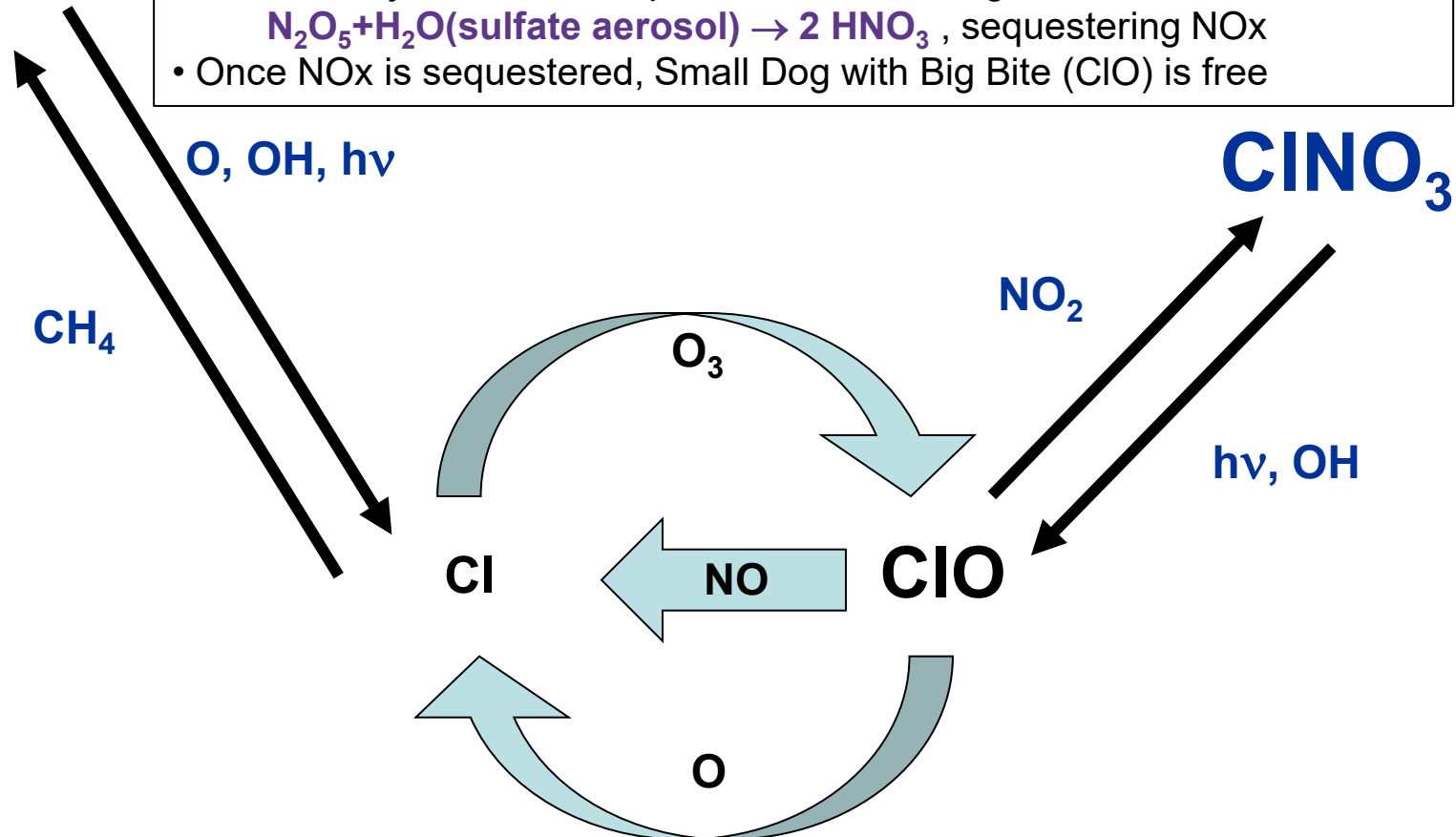


# Chemical reaction on surface of volcanic aerosol couples $\text{NO}_2$ and $\text{HNO}_3$

- As sulfate aerosol rises,  $\text{NO}_x$  (NO and  $\text{NO}_2$ ) falls
- As  $\text{NO}_2$  drops,  $\text{ClNO}_3$  falls and ClO rises

- Big Dogs in Chlorine Family: HCl &  $\text{ClNO}_3$
- Small Bog, Big Bite (for  $\text{O}_3$ ): ClO
- When lots of  $\text{NO}_x$  is present,  $[\text{ClO}] / [\text{ClNO}_3]$  suppressed by  $\text{ClO} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{M}$
- When a major volcanic eruption occurs, heterogeneous reaction  
 $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5 + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{sulfate aerosol}) \rightarrow 2 \text{HNO}_3$ , sequestering  $\text{NO}_x$
- Once  $\text{NO}_x$  is sequestered, Small Dog with Big Bite (ClO) is free

HCl



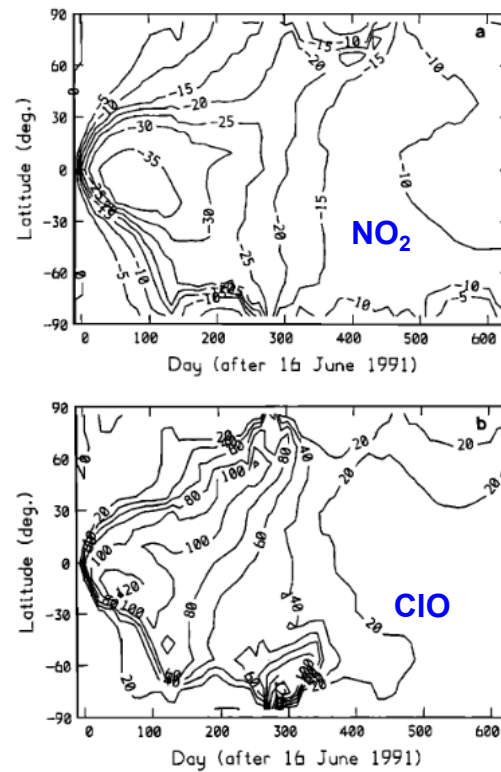
# Response of Stratospheric Constituents to Mount Pinatubo: aka The Rise (ClO) and Fall (NO<sub>2</sub>) of Radicals

JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 99, NO. D9, PAGES 18,861–18,869, SEPTEMBER 20, 1994

## A two-dimensional modeling study of the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo

S. Bekki and J. A. Pyle

Centre for Atmospheric Science, Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

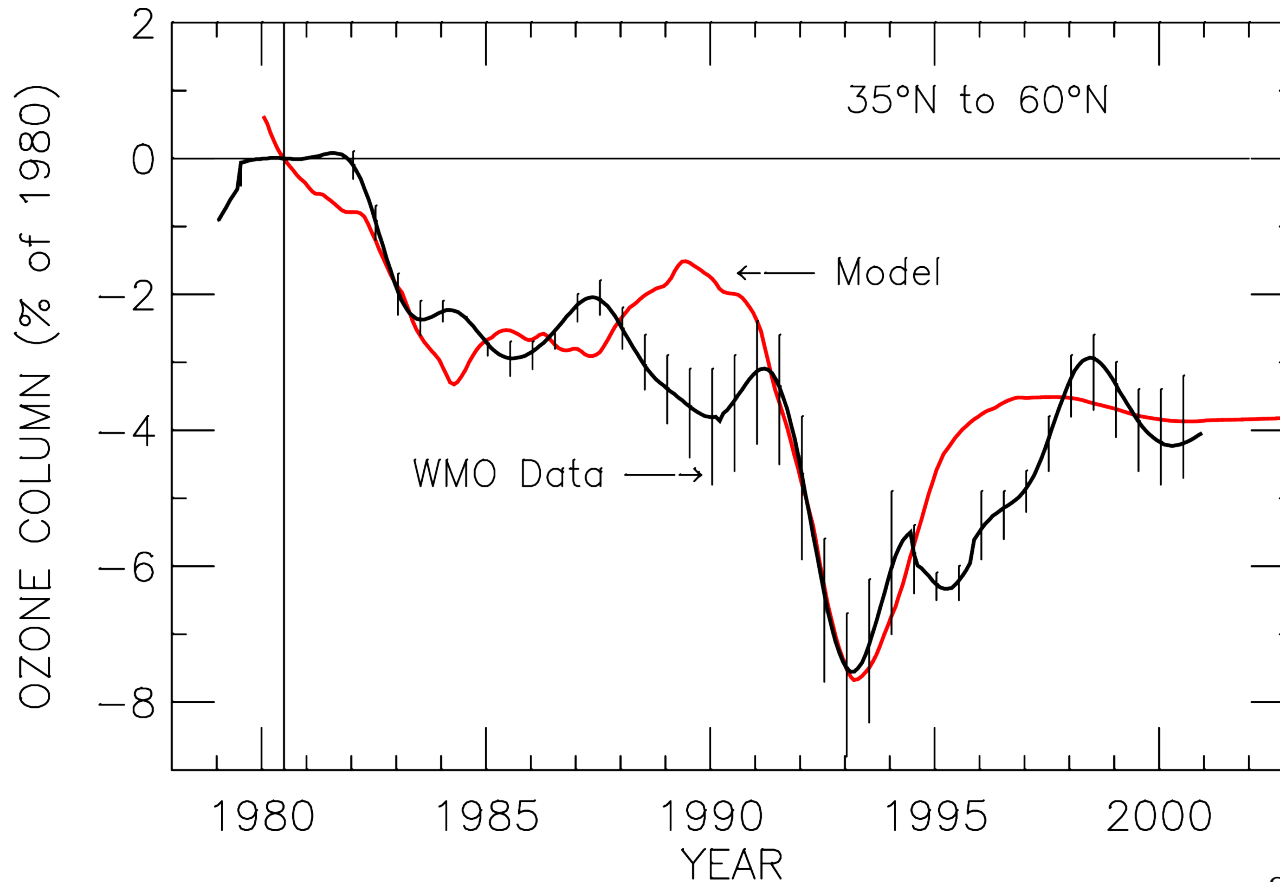


**Figure 6.** Percentage changes in (a) NO<sub>2</sub> and (b) ClO columns as a function of time and latitude for the volcanic run relative to the background run.



## Abundance of stratospheric ozone responds to:

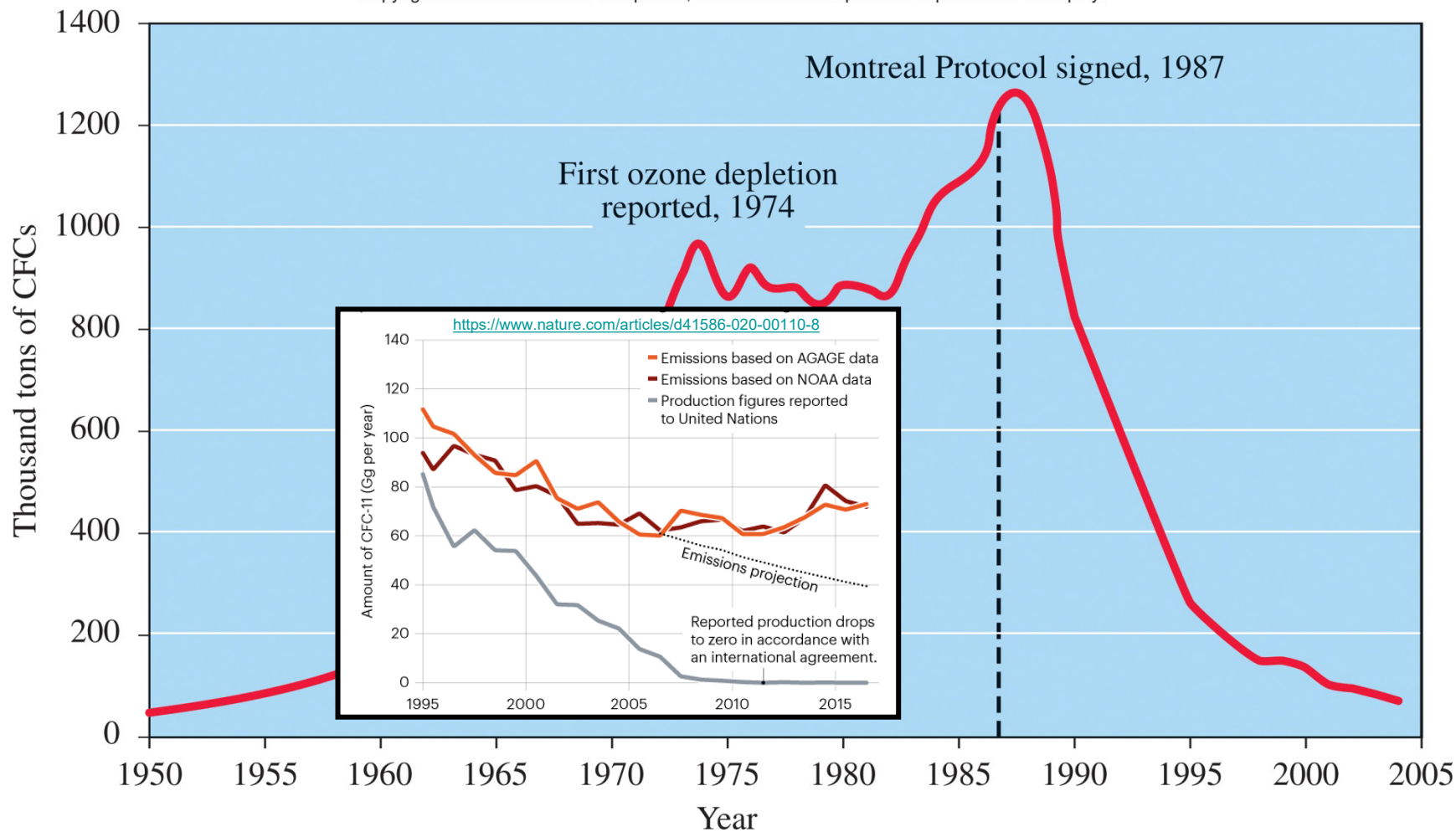
- a) rise and fall of chlorine
- b) volcanic perturbations to aerosol loading
- c) measured & modeled ozone column anomaly (deviation from mean)  
simulated quite after June 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, particularly in NH



Salawitch *et al.*, *GRL*, 2005

# Montreal Protocol and Various Amendments Have Banned Industrial Production of CFCs and Halons

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Global Production of CFCs, Fig. 2.19, Chemistry in Context

# Montreal Protocol Had Banned Most Industrial Production of CFCs & Other ODS

## The New York Times

### *In a High-Stakes Environmental Whodunit, Many Clues Point to China*

Interviews, documents and advertisements collected by The New York Times and independent investigators indicate that a major source — possibly the overwhelming one — is factories in China that have ignored a global ban and kept making or using the chemical, CFC-11, mostly to produce foam insulation for refrigerators and buildings.

“You had a choice: Choose the cheaper foam agent that’s not so good for the environment, or the expensive one that’s better for the environment,” said Zhang Wenbo, owner of a refrigerator factory here in Xingfu, in Shandong Province, where he and many other small-scale manufacturers said that until recently, they had used CFC-11 widely to make foam insulation.



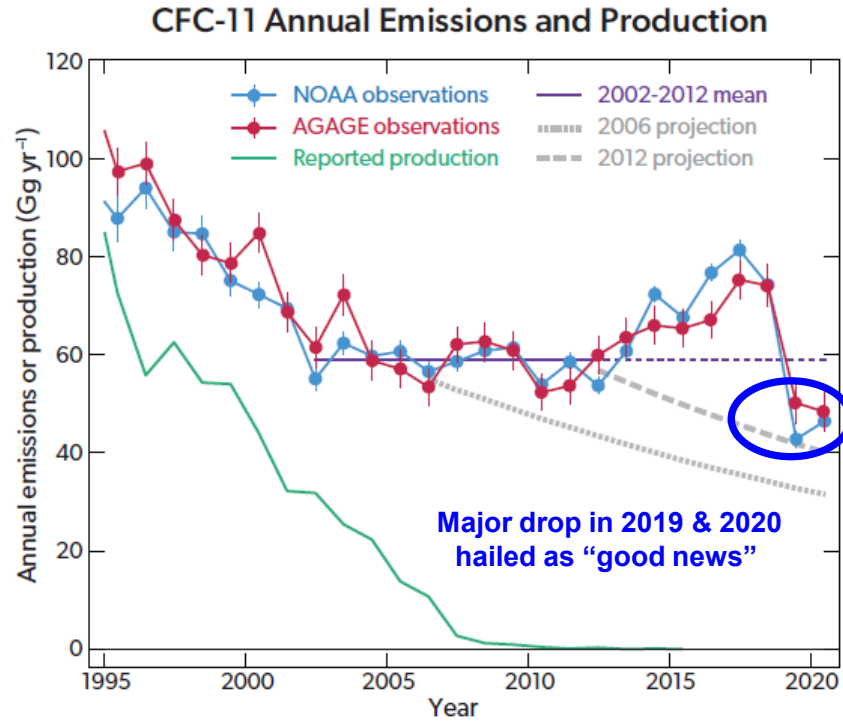
Billboards in Xingfu, China, promoting locally made refrigerators. The city has around 1,700 businesses involved in the production of cooking and refrigeration equipment. Gillies Sabatini for The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/24/world/asia/china-ozone-cfc.html>

# CFC-11 Emissions Update

**Figure ES-3. CFC-11 global emissions and reported production.** Shown are emissions of CFC-11 derived from AGAGE (Advanced Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment; red) and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; blue) global network measurements of CFC-11 abundances (see also Figure 1-3 of the Assessment) and a model using a CFC-11 lifetime of 52 years. Also shown is the production history reported to the UN Environment Programme for all uses (green), the average of annual emissions over the 2002–2012 period (horizontal purple line) extended to 2020 (dashed purple line), and scenario projections based on observations through 2006 or through 2012 (grey dotted and dashed lines). These emission projections are calculated using standard methodologies based on reported production, inventory estimates of the bank, and an empirically determined release fraction from the bank over the seven years before 2006 or 2012, which is then applied to subsequent years

(see Chapters 1 and 7). Uncertainties in emissions, shown as vertical lines on the data points, include the influence of measurement and model representation uncertainties, and do not include the influence of dynamical variability. The uncertainties are smaller than those presented in Figure 1-3, because uncertainties related to factors constant across the whole time period, such as lifetimes and calibration scale, have been omitted.



**Fig ES-3, 2022 WMO/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion Executive Summary**  
<https://csf.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2022/downloads/executivesummary.pdf>

# Very-Short Lived (VSL) Chlorine

These gases, all mainly anthropogenic, have lifetimes for atmospheric removal of less than 6 months and are not controlled by the Montreal Protocol.

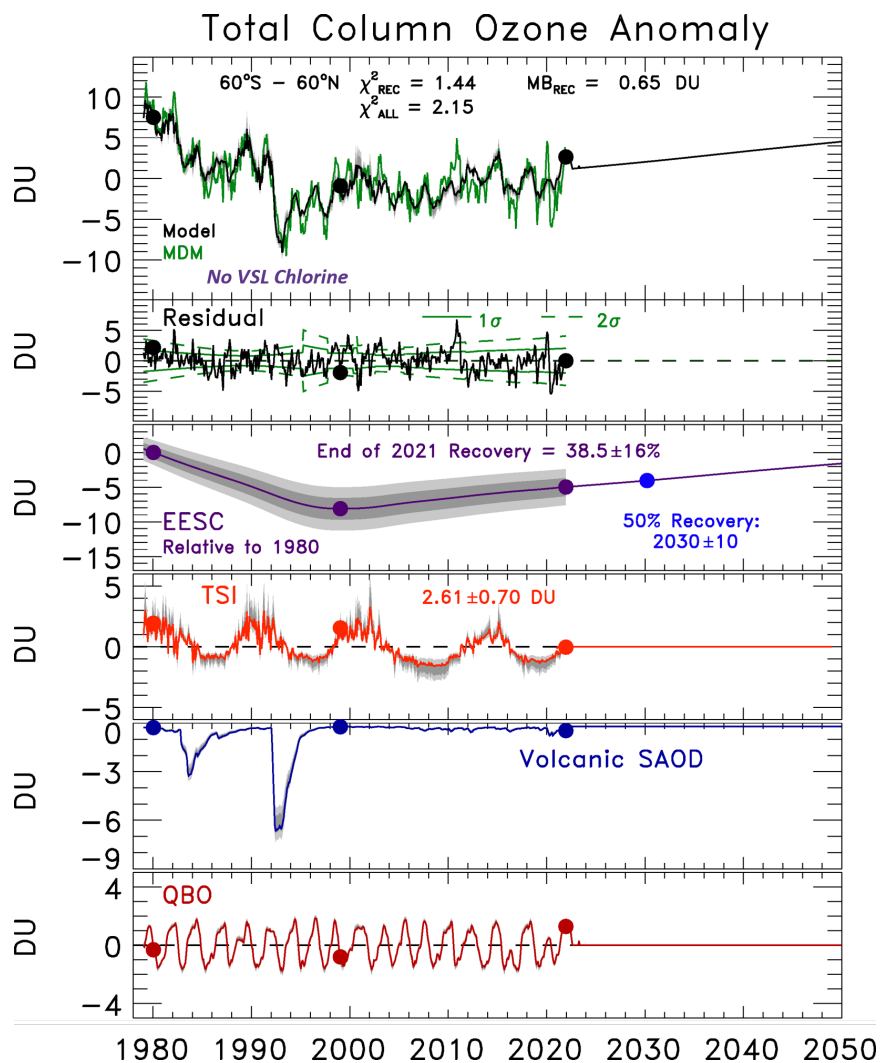
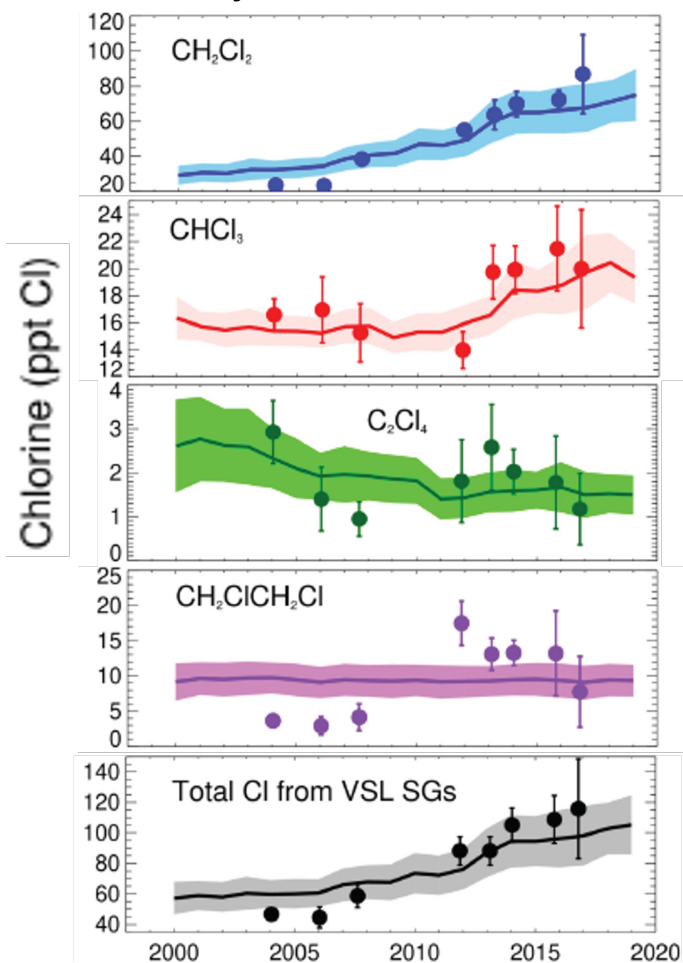
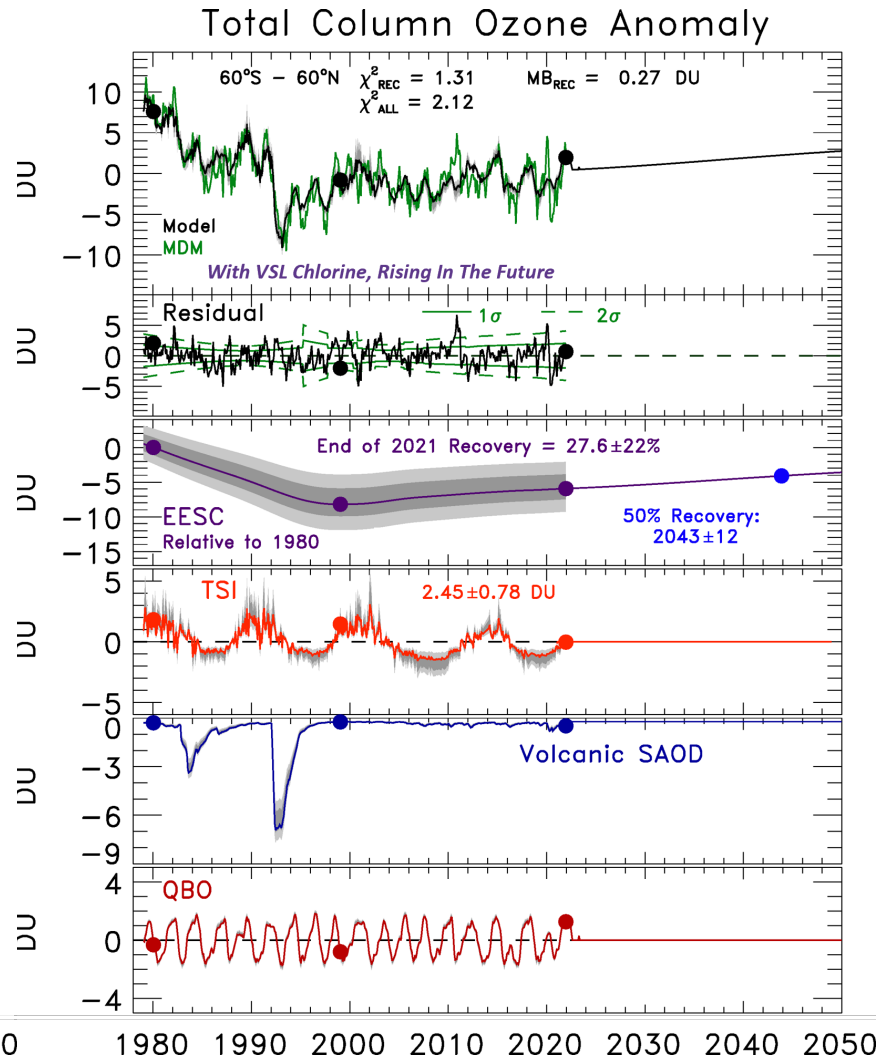
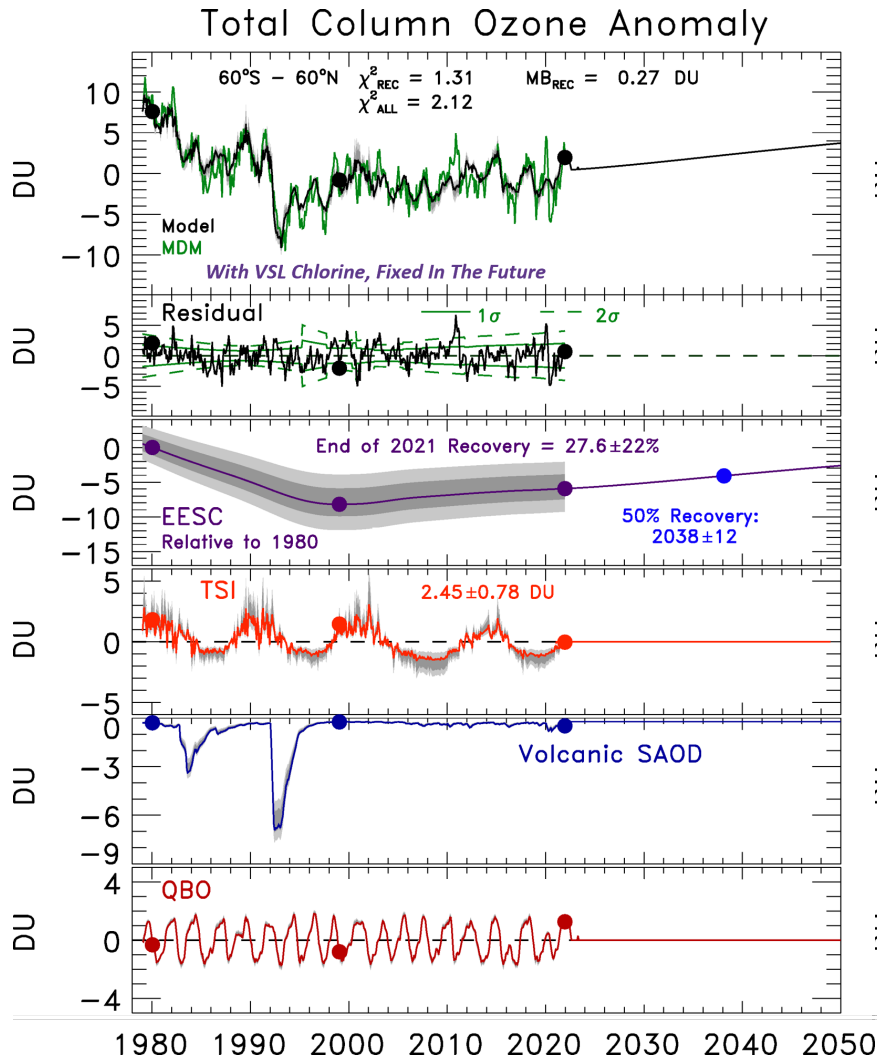


Fig 1-8, 2022 WMO/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion Report  
[https://csl.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2022/downloads/Chapter1\\_2022OzoneAssessment.pdf](https://csl.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2022/downloads/Chapter1_2022OzoneAssessment.pdf)

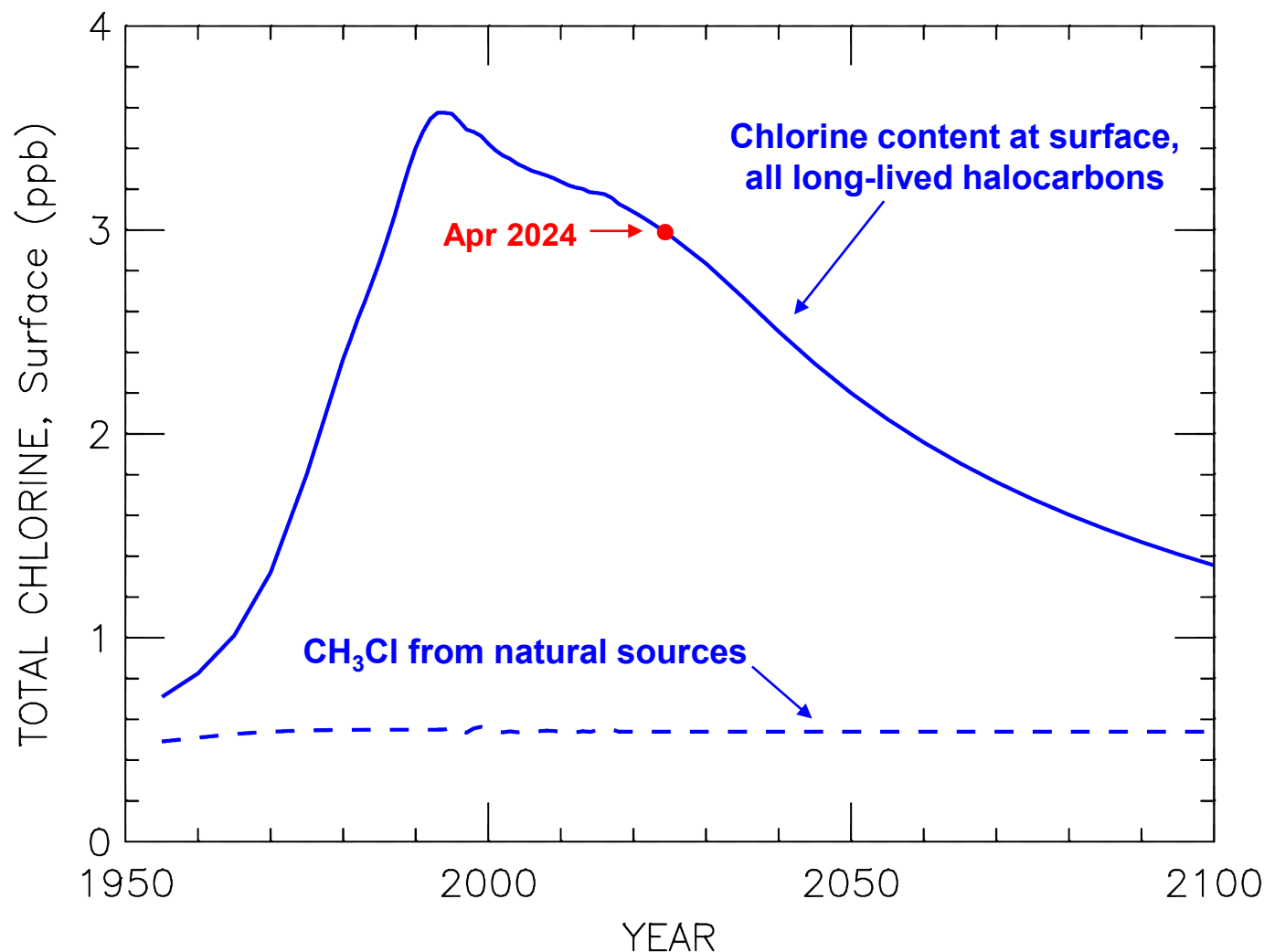
# Very-Short Lived Chlorine





# Argh, “Long-Lived” Chlorine Not Declining As Fast As We Had Projected

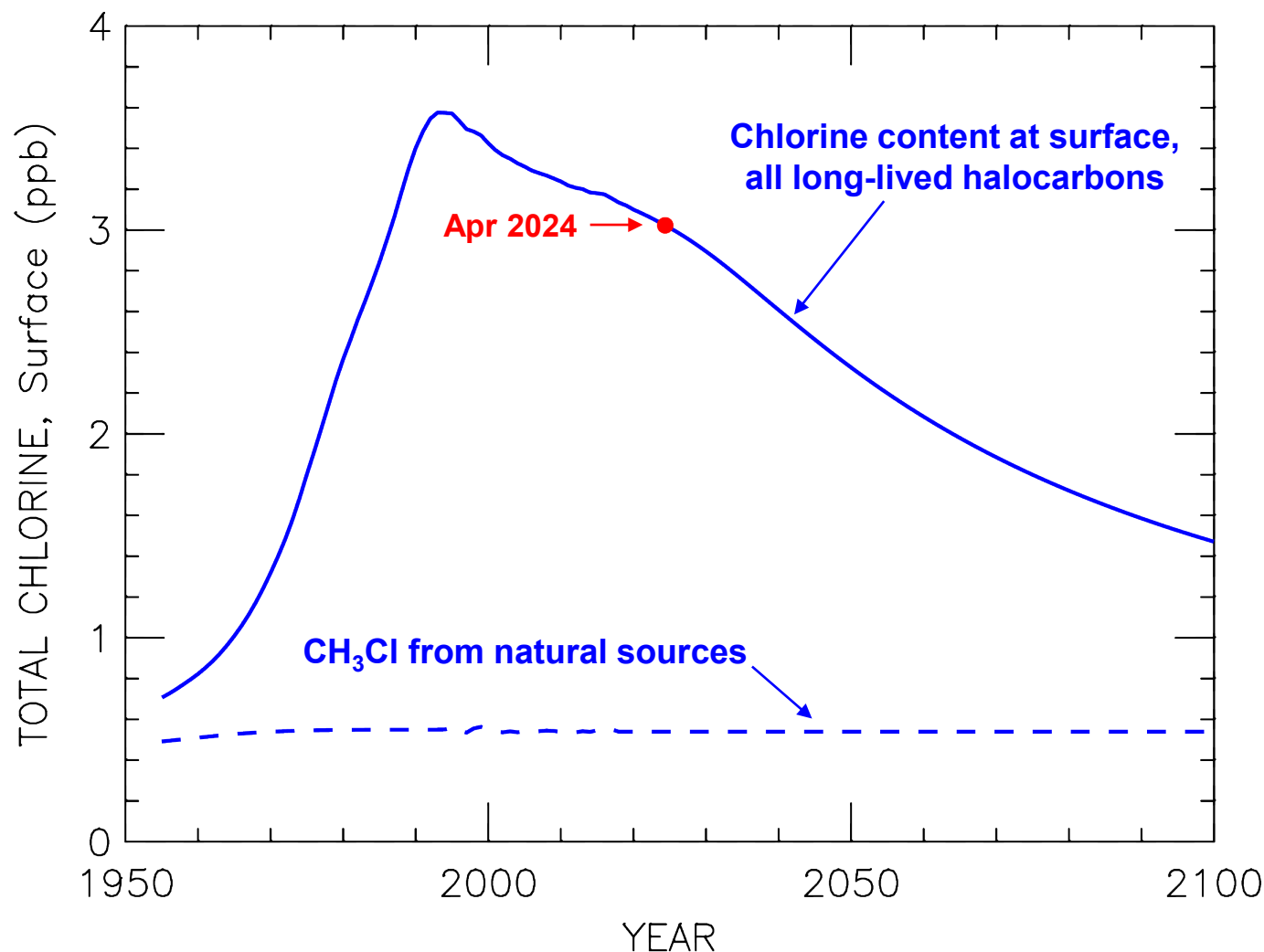
Projections Based on 2018 World Meteorological Organization  
Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion Report



2018 WMO Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion Report:  
<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/assessments/ozone/2018>

# Argh, “Long-Lived” Chlorine Not Declining As Fast As We Had Projected

Projections Based on 2022 World Meteorological Organization  
Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion Report



2022 WMO Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion Report:

<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/assessments/ozone/2022>



# Argh, “Long-Lived” Chlorine Not Declining As Fast As We Had Projected



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

104TH ANNUAL MEETING

28 JANUARY-1 FEBRUARY 2024

BALTIMORE, MD & ONLINE

## 12A.1 - Kicking the Can Down the Road in Ozone Recovery



Wednesday, January 31, 2024



4:30 PM - 4:45 PM



310 (The Baltimore Convention Center)

Megan Lickley, Georgetown University, Washington, DC; Georgetown University, Cambridge, MA; and R. J. Salawitch, J. S. Daniel, L. McBride, and G. Velders



310 (The Baltimore Convention Center)

### Abstract

Every four years the international scientific assessment of ozone depletion is prepared to support decisions made by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. A key component of each assessment is an outlook of the ozone recovery timeline, which has been quantified using equivalent effective stratospheric chlorine (EESC), a metric that has been developed to relate surface level atmospheric abundance of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) to stratospheric ozone destruction. In each assessment, the year in which EESC values will return to below 1980 levels is estimated, given the best scientific understanding of atmospheric processes and assuming global compliance with the Protocol. However, since 2006, the expected EESC return date to below 1980 levels has been consistently delayed between assessments from an expected EESC return date of 2049 in the 2006 assessment to 2066 in the 2022 assessment, an ozone recovery delay of 17 years over a 16-year assessment period. Has this delay in expected ozone recovery been a result of consistently underestimating global production and emissions of ODSs or due to changes in the scientific understanding and representation of atmospheric processes? Here, we investigate this question by identifying the primary drivers that have delayed the expected ozone recovery date between each consecutive international ozone assessment from 2006 to 2022. We find that changes in the formulation of fractional release factors that underlie the calculation of EESC can only partially explain this delay, and that changes in 1) atmospheric lifetime assumptions 2) bank calculation methods 3) updated historical mole fraction estimates and 4) an under-estimate of the atmospheric release of CCl<sub>4</sub> account for much of the remaining delay. Since some of these factors are amenable to future controls (i.e., capture of ODSs from banks and limitations on future atmospheric release of CCl<sub>4</sub>), it is important to understand the reasons for the delays in the expected ozone recovery date.

<https://ams.confex.com/ams/104ANNUAL/meetingapp.cgi/Session/67035>