

The Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report:

A community-wide effort to quantify tropospheric ozone in a rapidly changing world

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Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report (TOAR)

Global metrics for climate change, human health and crop/ecosystem research



Mission:

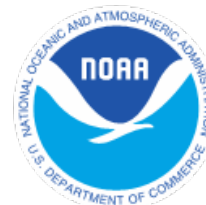
To provide the research community with an up-to-date scientific assessment of tropospheric ozone's global distribution and trends from the surface to the tropopause.

Deliverables:

- 1) The first tropospheric ozone assessment report based on all available surface observations, the peer-reviewed literature and new analyses.
- 2) A database containing ozone exposure metrics at thousands of measurement sites around the world, freely accessible for research on the global-scale impact of ozone on climate, human health and crop/ecosystem productivity.

<http://www.igacproject.org/activities/TOAR>

Stakeholders:



**Task Force on Hemispheric
Transport of Air Pollution**

TOAR members: 230+ scientists from 36 nations, representing research on all 7 continents



TOAR Publications



Schultz, MG, et al 2017 Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Database and metrics data of global surface ozone observations. *Elem Sci Anth*, 5: 58, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.244>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Database and metrics data of global surface ozone observations

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Young, PJ, et al. 2018 Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Assessment of global-scale model performance for global and regional ozone distributions, variability, and trends. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 10, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.265>

REVIEW

Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Assessment of global-scale model performance for global and regional ozone distributions, variability, and trends

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The goal of the Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report (TOAR) is to provide the research community with an up-to-date scientific assessment of tropospheric ozone, from the surface to the tropopause. While a suite of observations provides significant information on the spatial and temporal distribution of tropospheric ozone, observational gaps make it necessary to use global atmospheric chemistry models to synthesize our understanding of the processes and variables that control tropospheric ozone abundance and its variability. Models facilitate the interpretation of the observations and allow us to make projections of future tropospheric ozone and trace gas distributions for different anthropogenic or natural perturbations. This paper assesses the skill of current-generation global atmospheric chemistry models in simulating the observed present-day tropospheric ozone distribution, variability, and trends. Drawing upon the results of recent international multi-model intercomparisons and using a range of model evaluation techniques, we demonstrate that global chemistry models are broadly skillful in capturing the spatio-temporal variations of tropospheric ozone over the seasonal cycle, for extreme pollution episodes, and changes over interannual to decadal periods. However, models are consistently biased high in the northern hemisphere and biased low in the southern hemisphere, throughout the depth of the troposphere, and are unable to replicate particular metrics that define the longer term trends in tropospheric ozone as derived from some background sites. When the models compare unfavorably against observations, we discuss the potential causes of model biases and propose directions for future developments, including improved evaluations that may be able to better diagnose the root cause of the model-observation disparity. Overall, model results should be approached critically, including determining whether the model performance is acceptable for the problem being addressed, whether biases can be tolerated or corrected, whether the model is appropriately constituted, and whether there is a way to satisfactorily quantify the uncertainty.



Chang, K-L, et al 2017 Regional trend analysis of surface ozone observations from monitoring networks in eastern North America, Europe and East Asia. *Elem Sci Anth*, 5: 50, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.243>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Regional trend analysis of surface ozone observations from monitoring networks in eastern North America, Europe and East Asia

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Surface ozone is a greenhouse gas and pollutant detrimental to human health and crop and ecosystem productivity. The Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report (TOAR) is designed to provide the research community with an up-to-date observation-based overview of tropospheric ozone's global distribution and trends. The TOAR Surface Ozone Database contains ozone metrics at thousands of monitoring sites around the world, densely clustered across mid-latitude North America, western Europe and East Asia. Calculating regional ozone trends across these locations is challenging due to the uneven spacing of the monitoring sites across urban and rural areas. To meet this challenge we conducted a spatial and temporal trend analysis of several TOAR ozone metrics across these three regions for summertime (April–September)



Fleming, ZL, et al. 2018 Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day ozone distribution and trends relevant to human health. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 12, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.273>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day ozone distribution and trends relevant to human health

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This study quantifies the present-day global and regional distributions (2010–2014) and trends (2000–2014) for five ozone metrics relevant for short-term and long-term human exposure. These metrics, calculated by the Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report, are: 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone (4MDA8); number of days with MDA8 > 70 ppb (NDGT70); SOMO35 (annual Sum of Ozone Means Over 35 ppb) and two seasonally averaged metrics (3MMDA1; AVGMDA8). These metrics were explored at ozone monitoring sites worldwide, which were classified as urban or non-urban based on population and nighttime lights data.

Present-day distributions of 4MDA8 and NDGT70, determined predominantly by peak values, are similar with highest levels in western North America, southern Europe and East Asia. For the other three metrics, distributions are similar with North-South gradients more prominent across Europe and Japan. Between 2000 and 2014, significant negative trends in 4MDA8 and NDGT70 occur at most US and some European sites. In contrast, significant positive trends are found at many sites in South Korea and Hong Kong, with mixed trends across Japan. The other three metrics have similar, negative trends for many non-urban North American and some European and Japanese sites, and positive trends across much of East Asia. Globally, metrics at many sites exhibit non-significant trends. At 59% of all sites there is a common direction and significance in the trend across all five metrics, whilst 4MDA8 and NDGT70 have a common trend at ~80% of all sites. Sensitivity analysis shows AVGMDA8 trends differ with averaging period (warm season or annual). Trends are unchanged at many sites when a 1995–2014 period is used; although fewer sites exhibit non-significant trends. Over the longer period 1970–2014, most Japanese sites exhibit positive 4MDA8/SOMO35 trends. Insufficient data exist to characterize ozone trends for the rest of Asia and other world regions.



Lefohn, AS, et al. 2018 Tropospheric ozone assessment report: Global ozone metrics for climate change, human health, and crop/ecosystem research. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 28, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.279>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tropospheric ozone assessment report: Global ozone metrics for climate change, human health, and crop/ecosystem research

Allen S. Lefohn^{*}, Christopher S. Malley^{†,‡,§}, Luther Smith[¶], Benjamin Wells[¶], Milan Hazucha^{**}, Heather Simon[¶], Vaishali Naik^{††}, Gina Mills^{††}, Martin G. Schultz^{§§}, Elena Paoletti^{¶¶¶}, Alessandra De Marco^{¶¶}, Xiaobin Xu^{***}, Li Zhang^{†††}, Tao Wang^{†††}, Howard S. Neufeld^{†††}, Robert C. Musselman^{§§§}, David Tarasick^{¶¶¶}, Michael Brauer^{¶¶¶}, Zhaozhong Feng^{****}, Haoye Tang^{††††}, Kazuhiko Kobayashi^{††††}, Pierre Sicard^{§§§§}, Sverre Solberg^{¶¶¶¶} and Giacomo Gerosa^{¶¶¶¶}



Gaudel, A. et al. 2018. Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day distribution and trends of tropospheric ozone relevant to climate and global atmospheric chemistry model evaluation. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 39, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.291>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day distribution and trends of tropospheric ozone relevant to climate and global atmospheric chemistry model evaluation

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Mills, G, et al. 2018. Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day tropospheric ozone distribution and trends relevant to vegetation. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 47, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.302>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day tropospheric ozone distribution and trends relevant to vegetation

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Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Repo metrics data of global surface ozone

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The TOAR Database



As of March 2018:

**10989 O₃ data series
at 9791 stations**

The database is being
expanded to include:

NO₂

NO

PM10

CO

Meteorological data, incl.
COSMO reanalysis @ 6km

...

TOAR
tropospheric
ozone
assessment
report

TOAR Ozone Metrics

The TOAR database contains various ozone metrics at thousands of surface sites around the world. Some key metrics are:

Human Health:

- Maximum daily 8-hour average
- annual number of 8-hour exceedances above 70 ppb

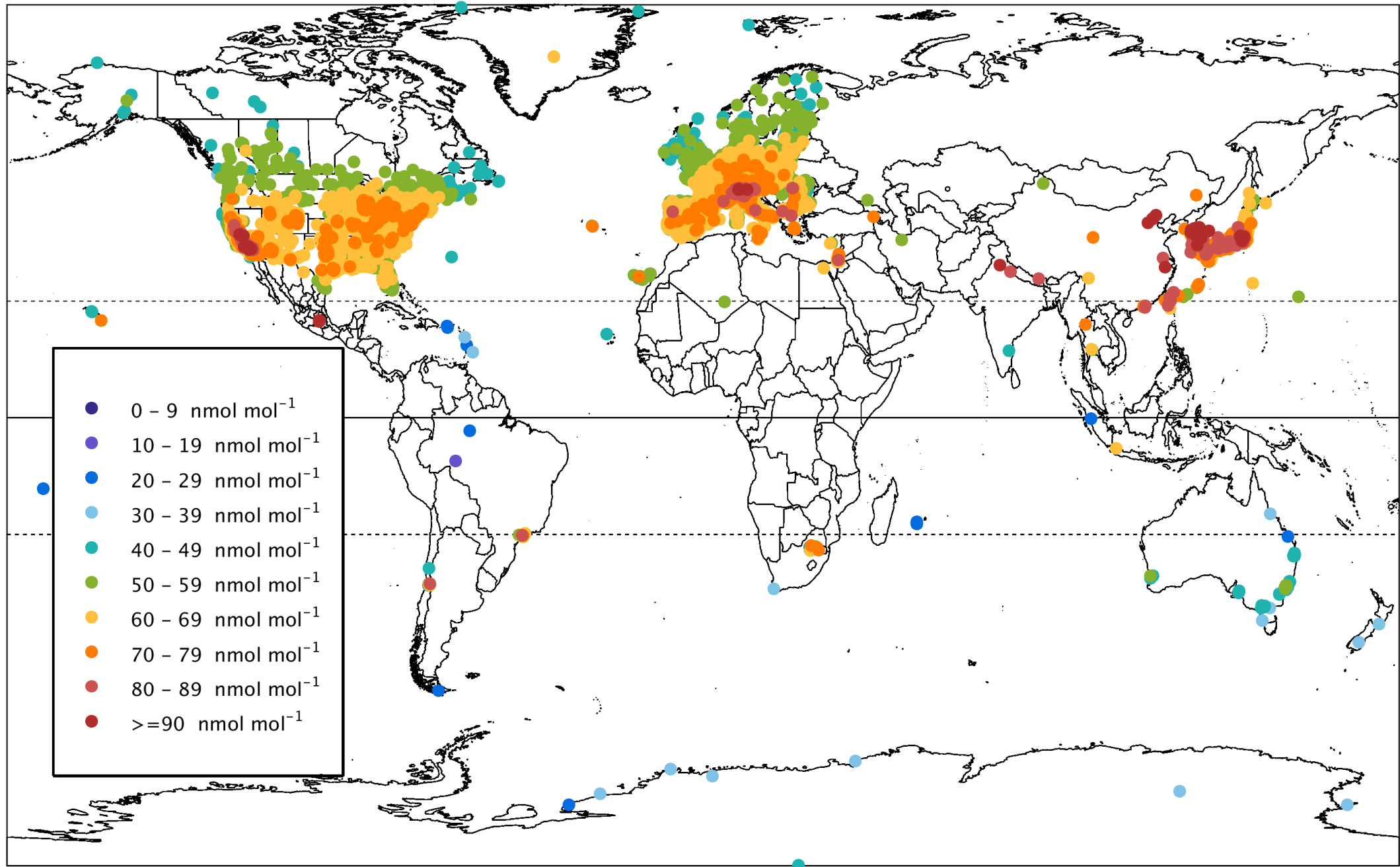
Vegetation:

- Cumulative Exposure Index: W126
- Cumulative Exposure Index: AOT40

Climate Change:

- Monthly means, medians and various percentiles
- Monthly and seasonal mean vertical profiles:
ozonesondes, lidar, MOZAIC/IAGOS commercial aircraft
- tropospheric ozone burden or columns
OMI/MLS, TES, GOME/GOME2, IASI, ground-based FTIR instruments

98th percentile ozone value, summer Data extracted on: 2016-10-24
perc98 ozone, 2010-2014 (minimum 3 years): 4792 all sites



Long-Term Ozone Exposure and Mortality in a Large Prospective Study

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Abstract

Rationale: Tropospheric ozone (O₃) is potentially associated with cardiovascular disease risk and premature death. Results from long-term epidemiological studies on O₃ are scarce and inconclusive.

Objectives: In this study, we examined associations between chronic ambient O₃ exposure and all-cause and cause-specific mortality in a large cohort of U.S. adults.

Methods: Cancer Prevention Study II participants were enrolled in 1982. A total of 669,046 participants were analyzed, among whom 237,201 deaths occurred through 2004. We obtained estimates of O₃ concentrations at the participant's residence from a hierarchical Bayesian space-time model. Estimates of fine particulate matter (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of up to 2.5 μm [PM_{2.5}]) and NO₂ concentrations were obtained from land use regression. Cox proportional hazards regression models were used to examine mortality associations adjusted for individual- and ecological-level covariates.

Measurements and Main Results: In single-pollutant models, we observed significant positive associations between O₃, PM_{2.5}, and NO₂ concentrations and all-cause and cause-specific mortality. In two-pollutant models adjusted for PM_{2.5}, significant positive associations remained between O₃ and all-cause (hazard ratio [HR] per 10 ppb, 1.02; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.01–1.04), circulatory (HR, 1.03; 95% CI, 1.01–1.05), and respiratory mortality (HR, 1.12; 95% CI, 1.08–1.16) that were unchanged with further adjustment for NO₂. We also observed positive mortality associations with both PM_{2.5} (both near source and regional) and NO₂ in multipollutant models.

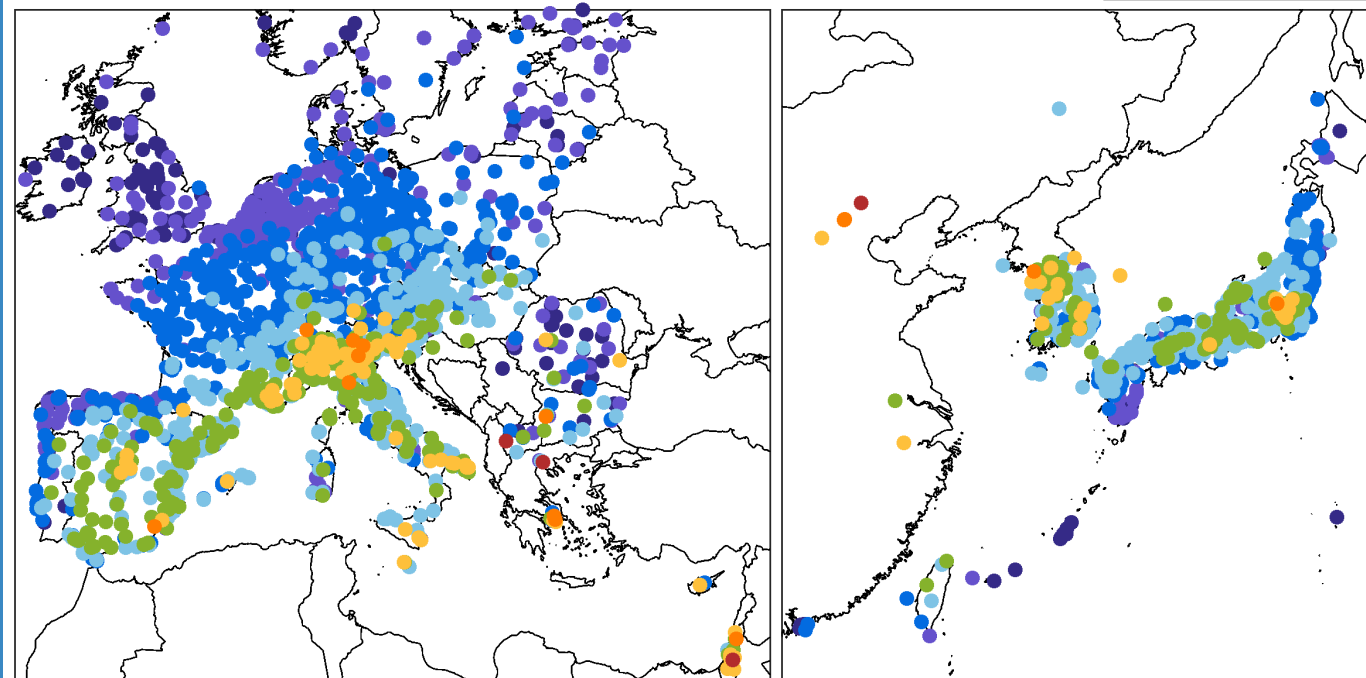
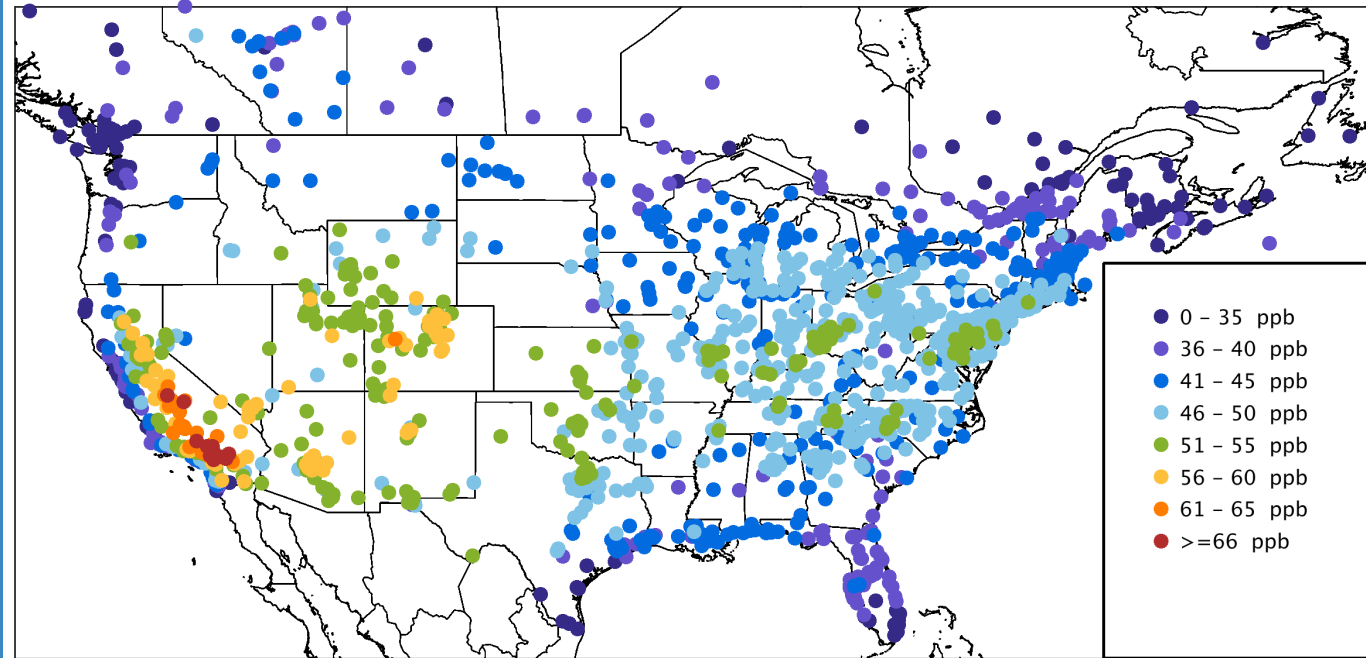
Conclusions: Findings derived from this large-scale prospective study suggest that long-term ambient O₃ contributes to risk of respiratory and circulatory mortality. Substantial health and environmental benefits may be achieved by implementing further measures aimed at controlling O₃ concentrations.

Keywords: air pollution; mortality; ozone; prospective study

Average of the daily maximum 8-hr average O₃ values, summer

Data extracted on: 2016-10-24

avgdma8epax ozone, 2010-2014 (minimum 3 years): all sites



A vector indicates the linear trend at a station for the period 2000-2014.

Warm colors indicate increasing ozone while cool colors indicate decreasing ozone.

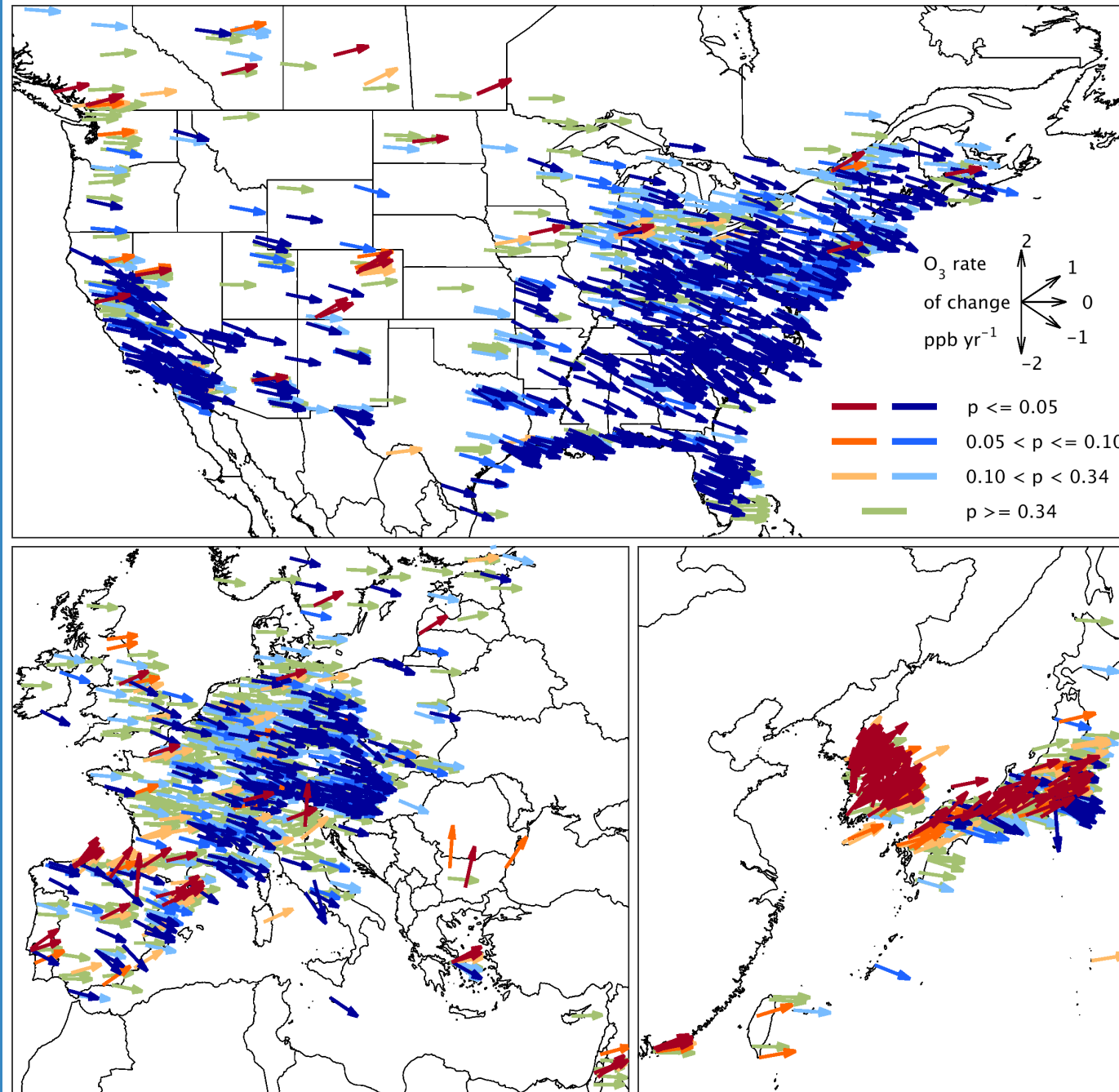
The legend shows the p-Values on the linear trends associated with each vector, as indicated by the shading.

Statistically significant trends at the 95% confidence interval are shown on top in dark red and dark blue.

Medium orange and blue provide an indication of a trend.

Light orange and blue provide a weak indication of change.

Green indicates weak or no change.



In collaboration with Jason West, UNC Chapel Hill, TOAR metrics are supporting NASA HAQAST research.

A new method for combining observations and multiple model output for an improved estimate of the global surface ozone distribution

Kai-Lan Chang^{1, 2}, Owen R. Cooper^{2, 3}, J. Jason West⁴, Marc Serre⁴, Martin G. Schultz⁵, Meiyun Lin^{6, 7}, Virginie Marecal⁸, Makoto Deushi⁹, Kengo Sudo¹⁰, Junhua Liu¹¹, and Christoph A. Keller^{11, 12, 13}

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¹¹NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA

¹²John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

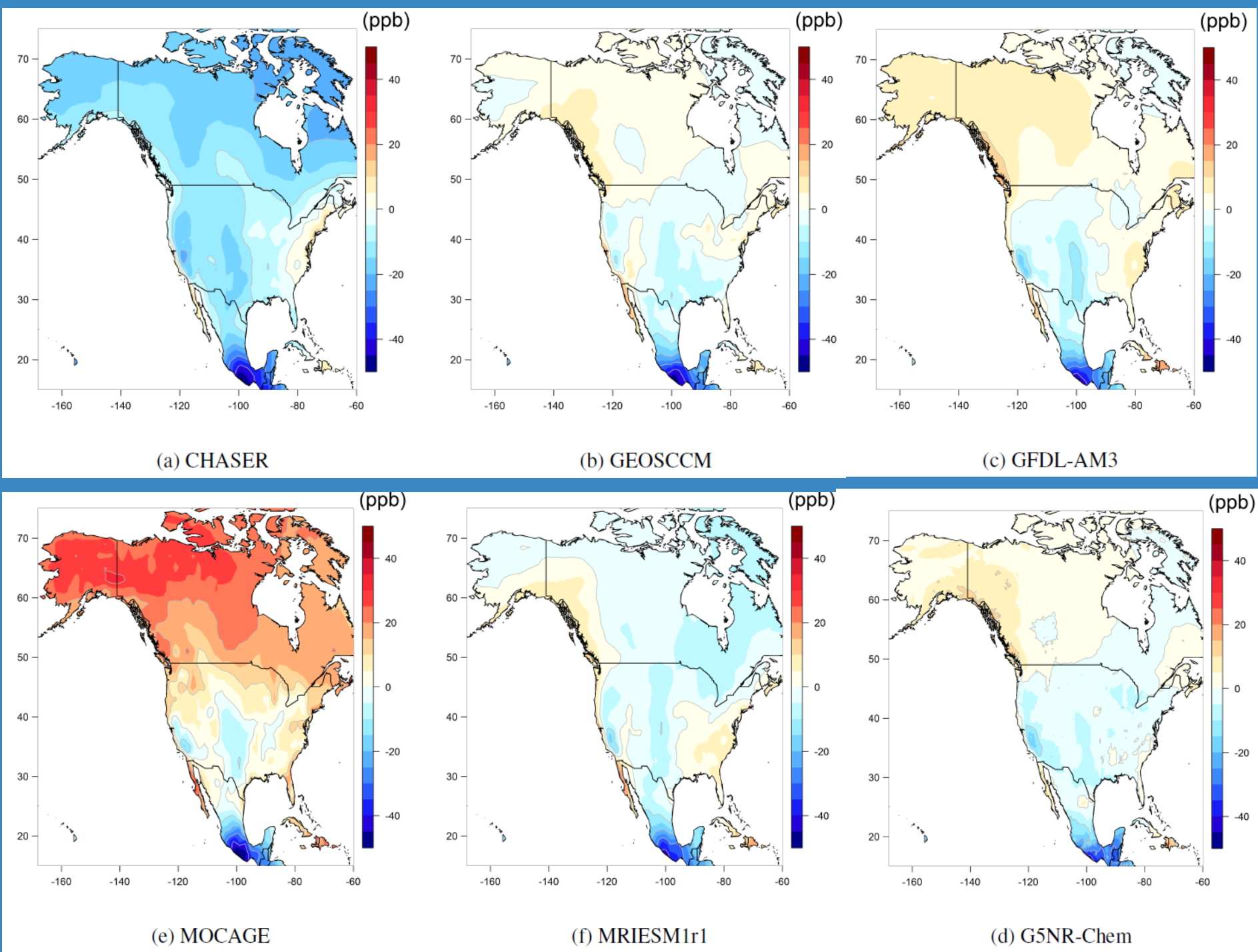
¹³Universities Space Research Association, Columbia, MD, USA

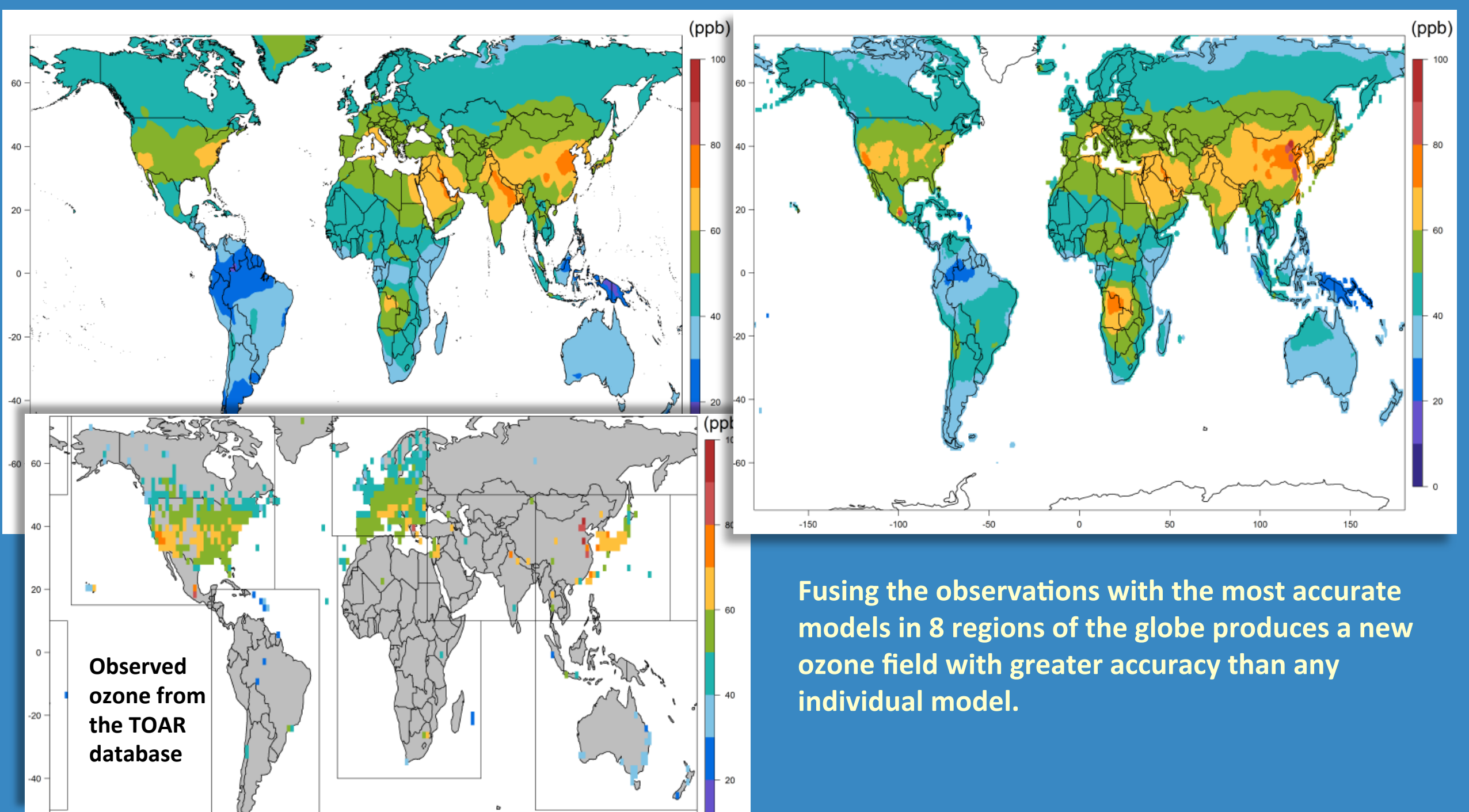
a manuscript to be submitted to Global Model Development

When simulating surface ozone, 6 different chemistry-climate models differ in their abilities to reproduce the observations from the TOAR database.

Ozone metric: annual peak of the 6-month mean of the maximum daily 8-hour average.

This metric aligns with the ozone metric used by *Turner et al. 2016*.





Next steps:

- 1) Finish the two remaining papers and submit them to *Elementa* (TOAR-Observations and TOAR-Ozone Budget)
- 2) The database of ozone metrics has been released to the general public
- 3) Encourage human health, ecosystem and climate researchers to utilize the database for their impact studies.

All metrics and figures can be downloaded from:
<https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.876108>

The screenshot shows the PANGAEA website interface. At the top, the PANGAEA logo and name are displayed, along with the tagline "Data Publisher for Earth & Environmental Science". Navigation links for SEARCH, SUBMIT, ABOUT, and CONTACT are visible. The main content area features a citation for Schultz, MG et al. (2017) titled "Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report, links to Global surface ozone datasets". The citation text is followed by a list of authors and their affiliations. Below the citation, there are links to download the data in various formats (RIS, BibTeX, Text) and social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, Google+). A section titled "Datasets listed in this Collection" provides a list of seven datasets, each with a brief description and a link to the dataset page. The footer of the website contains information about the hosting institution (Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research) and the supporting organizations (The European Commission, Research Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and International Ocean Discovery Program).

Citation: Schultz, Martin G; Schröder, Sabine; Lyapina, Olga; Cooper, Owen R; Galbally, Ian; Petropavlovskikh, Irina; von Schneidemesser, Erika; Tanimoto, Hiroshi; Elshorbany, Yasin; Naja, Manish; Seguel, Rodrigo J; Dauert, Ute; Eckhardt, Paul; Feigenspan, Stefan; Fiebig, Markus; Hjellbrekke, Anne-Gunn; Hong, You-Deog; Kjeld, Peter Christian; Koide, Hiroshi; Lear, Gary; Tarasick, David; Ueno, Mikio; Wallasch, Markus; Baumgardner, Darrel; Chuang, Ming-Tung; Gillett, Robert; Lee, Meehye; Molloy, Suzie; Moolla, Raeesa; Wang, Tao; Sharps, Katrina; Adame, Jose A; Ancellet, Gerard; Apadula, Francesco; Artaxo, Paulo; Barlasina, Maria E; Bogucka, Magdalena; Bonasoni, Paolo; Chang, Limseok; Colomb, Aurelie; Cuevas-Agulló, Emilio; Cupeiro, Manuel; Degorska, Anna; Ding, Aijun; Fröhlich, Marina; Frolova, Marina; Gadhavi, Harish; Gheusi, Francois; Gilge, Stefan; Gonzalez, Margarita Y; Gros, Valérie; Hamad, Samera H; Helmig, Detlev; Henriques, Diamantino; Hermansen, Ove; Holla, Robert; Hueber, Jacques; Im, Ulas; Jaffe, Daniel A; Komala, Ninong; Kubistin, Dagmar; Lam, Ka-Se; Laurila, Tuomas; Lee, Haeyoung; Levy, Ilan; Mazzoleni, Claudio; Mazzoleni, Lynn R.; McClure-Begley, Audra; Mohamad, Maznorizan; Murovec, Marijana; Navarro-Comas, Monica; Nicodim, Florin; Parrish, David; Read, Katie A; Reid, Nick; Ries, Ludwig; Saxena, Pallavi; Schwab, James J; Scorgie, Yvonne; Senik, Irina; Simmonds, Peter; Sinha, Vinayak; Skorokhod, Andrey I; Spain, Gerard; Spangl, Wolfgang; Spoor, Ronald; Springston, Stephen R; Steer, Kelvyn; Steinbacher, Martin; Suharguniyawan, Eka; Torre, Paul; Trickl, Thomas; Weili, Lin; Weller, Rolf; Xu, Xiaobin; Xue, Likun; Zhiqiang, Ma (2017): Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report, links to Global surface ozone datasets. *PANGAEA*, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.876108>,

Supplement to: Schultz, MG et al. (in press): Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Database and Metrics Data of Global Surface Ozone Observations. *Elementa*, <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.244>

Always quote above citation when using data! You can download the citation in several formats below.

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Datasets listed in this Collection

1. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): All pre-compiled metrics data sets, link to zip archive. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.876110>
2. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): Graphical products of TOAR ozone metrics, link to files in PNG format. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.876109>
3. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): Pre-compiled metrics data sets, links to aggregated statistics files in CSV format. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.880503>
4. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): Pre-compiled metrics data sets, links to gridded files in NetCDF format. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.880506>
5. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): Pre-compiled metrics data sets, links to trend statistics files in CSV format. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.880504>
6. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): Pre-compiled metrics data sets, links to yearly statistics files in CSV format. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.880505>
7. Schultz, MG; Schröder, S; Lyapina, O et al. (2017): Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report, link to software tools. <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.876640>

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New review of O₃ pollution in China

Led by Tao Wang

Hong Kong Polytechnic

Presently, ozone production in Chinese urban areas is VOC limited.

So far, recent NO_x reductions at power plants have had no observable impact on ozone pollution.



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Ozone pollution in China: A review of concentrations, meteorological influences, chemical precursors, and effects

Tao Wang^{a,*}, Likun Xue^b, Peter Brimblecombe^c, Yun Fat Lam^c, Li Li^d, Li Zhang^a

^a Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

^b Environment Research Institute, Shandong University, Ji'nan, Shandong, China

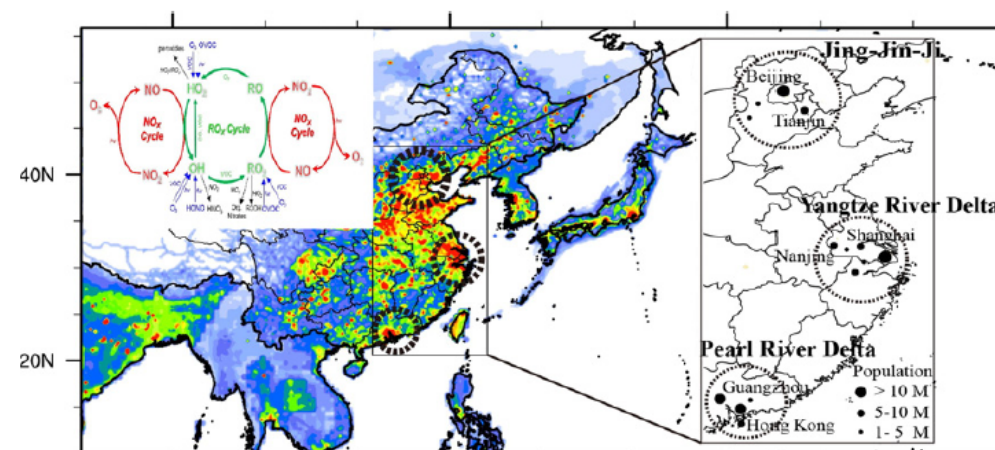
^c School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

^d Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences, Shanghai, China

HIGHLIGHTS

- Studies of atmospheric ozone in urban and rural areas of China are reviewed.
- Topics include abundance, chemical and meteorological processes, and effects.
- Available data reveals serious and worsening ozone pollution in major areas of China.
- Data from national network are needed to get a full picture of ozone pollution and to evaluate its impact.
- Strategies for control ozone precursors need to be developed.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



Significant increase of summertime ozone at **Mount Tai** in Central Eastern China

Lei Sun¹, Likun Xue¹, Tao Wang^{2,1}, Jian Gao³, Aijun Ding⁴, Owen R. Cooper^{5,6}, Meiyun Lin^{7,8}, Pengju Xu⁹, Zhe Wang², Xinfeng Wang¹, Liang Wen¹, Yanhong Zhu¹, Tianshu Chen¹, Lingxiao Yang^{1,10}, Yan Wang¹⁰, Jianmin Chen^{1,10}, and Wenxing Wang¹

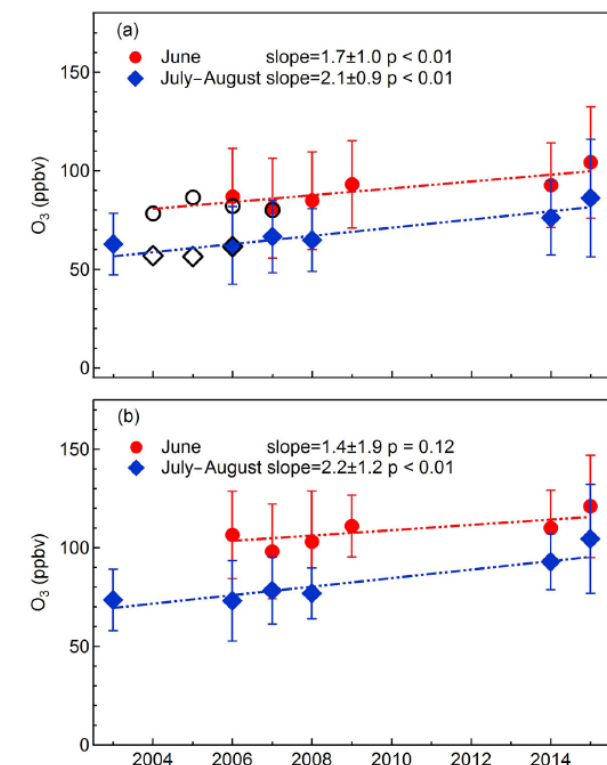
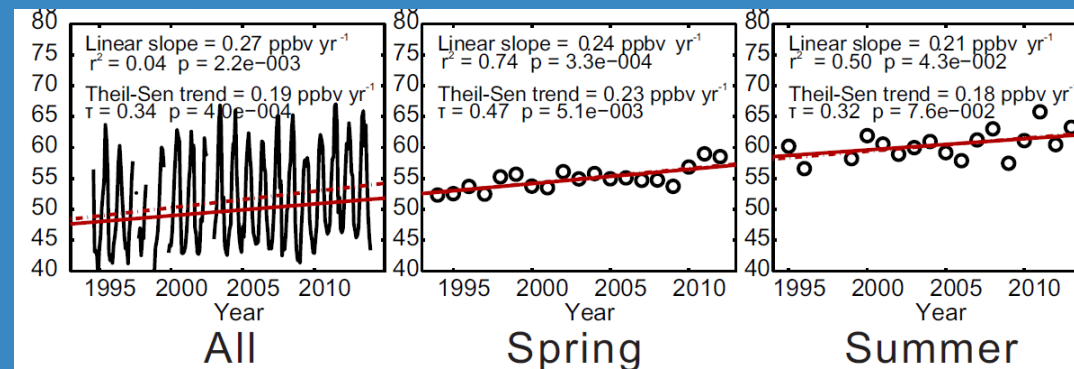


Figure 6. Monthly averaged (a) 1-hour and (b) MDA8 O₃ mixing ratios at Mt. Tai in June and July–August over 2003–2015. Error bars indicate the standard deviation of the mean. The black open circles and squares represent the data taken from Kanaya et al. (2013). The fitted lines are derived from the least square linear regression analysis with the slopes ($\pm 95\%$ confidence intervals) and p values annotated.

Long-term trends of surface ozone and its influencing factors at the **Mt Waliguan** GAW station, China – Part 1: Overall trends and characteristics

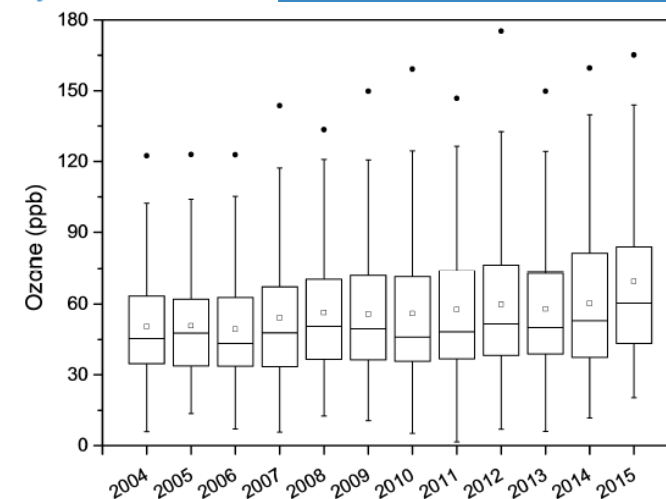
Wanyun Xu¹, Weili Lin², Xiaobin Xu¹, Jie Tang², Jianqing Huang³, Hao Wu³, and Xiaochun Zhang²



Significant increase of surface ozone at a rural site, north of eastern China - **Shangdianzi**

Zhiqiang Ma^{1,2}, Jing Xu^{1,2}, Weijun Quan², Ziyin Zhang², Weili Lin³, and Xiaobin Xu⁴

Yearly distributions of MDA8 ozone at Shangdianzi



Severe surface ozone pollution in China: a global perspective

Xiao Lu, Jiayun Hong, Lin Zhang, Owen R. Cooper, Martin G. Schultz, Xiaobin Xu, Tao Wang, Meng Gao, Yuanhong Zhao, Yuanhang Zhang

Manuscript in-review with ES&T Letters

Figure 2. Comparison of April-September ozone metrics (4MDA8, NDGT70, AVGMDA8, AOT40) between China and the industrialized regions of Japan and Korea, Europe, and the US.

Only sites with at least 3-years of measurements are included.

Values inset are regional mean and standard deviation averaged over the N sites.

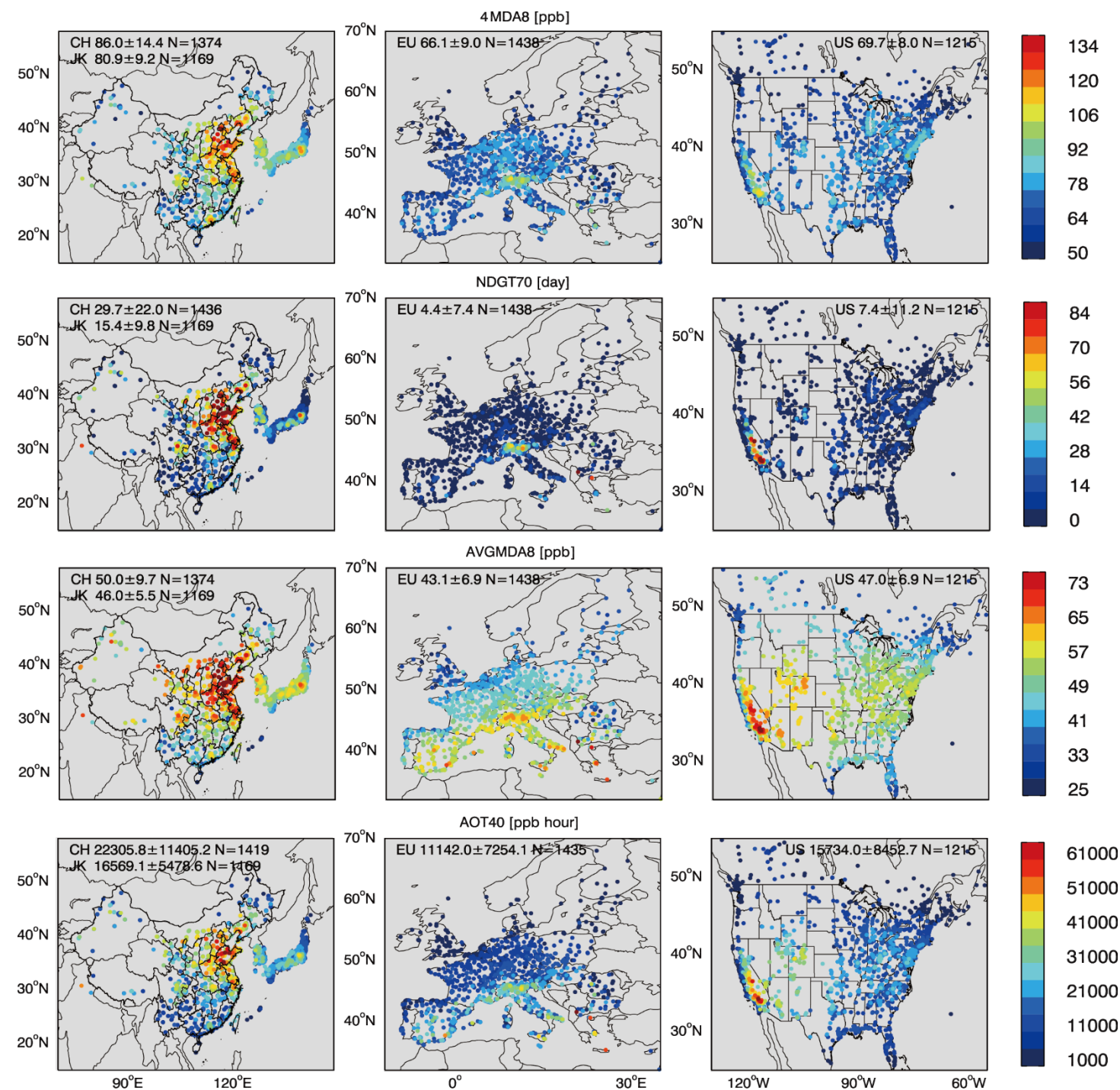


Figure 3 from *Lu et al., 2018*

Evolution of urban surface ozone pollution in China (red), Japan (purple), Europe (orange), and US (blue) from 1980 to 2017.

Also shown are the ozone time series in Beijing (red) and Los Angeles (blue).

Number of available sites is shown in the parentheses.

