



Origin of springtime ozone enhancements in the lower troposphere over Beijing: in situ measurements and model analysis

J. Huang^{1,*}, H. Liu¹, J. H. Crawford², C. Chan³, D. B. Considine^{3,4}, Y. Zhang⁵, X. Zheng⁶, C. Zhao⁷, V. Thouret⁸, S. J. Oltmans^{9,10}, S. C. Liu¹¹, D. B. A. Jones¹², S. D. Steenrod^{13,14}, and M. R. Damon^{14,15}

¹National Institute of Aerospace, Hampton, VA, USA

²NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA, USA

³Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an, China

⁴NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C., USA

⁵South China Institute of Environmental Science, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

⁶Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, Beijing, China

⁷Department of Atmospheric Science, Peking University, Beijing, China

⁸Laboratoire d'Aérodynamique, UMR5560, Toulouse, France

⁹CIRES, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA

¹⁰NOAA ESRL, Boulder, CO, USA

¹¹Research Center for Environmental Changes, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

¹²Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

¹³Universities Space Research Association, Columbia, MD, USA

¹⁴NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA

¹⁵Science Systems and Applications Inc., Lanham, MD, USA

* now at: University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Correspondence to: H. Liu (hongyu.liu-1@nasa.gov)

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Abstract. Ozone (O_3) concentrations in the lower troposphere (LT) over Beijing have significantly increased over the past 2 decades as a result of rapid industrialization in China, with important implications for regional air quality and the photochemistry of the background troposphere. We characterize the vertical distribution of lower-tropospheric (0–6 km) O_3 over Beijing using observations from 16 ozonesonde soundings during a field campaign in April–May 2005 and MOZAIC (Measurement of Ozone and Water Vapor by Airbus In-Service Aircraft) over 13 days in the same period. We focus on the origin of LT O_3 enhancements observed over Beijing, particularly in May. We use a global 3-D chemistry and transport model (GEOS-Chem CTM; GEOS – Goddard Earth Observing System) driven by assimilated meteorological fields to examine the transport pathways for O_3 pollution and to quantify the sources contributing to O_3 and its enhancements in the springtime LT over Beijing. Out-

put from the Global Modeling Initiative (GMI) CTM is also used. High O_3 concentrations (up to 94.7 ppbv) were frequently observed at the altitude of ~ 1.5 –2 km. The CTMs captured the timing of the occurrences but significantly underestimated their magnitude. GEOS-Chem simulations and a case study showed that O_3 produced in the Asian troposphere (especially from Asian anthropogenic pollution) made major contributions to the observed O_3 enhancements. Contributions from anthropogenic pollution in the European and North American troposphere were reduced during these events, in contrast with days without O_3 enhancements when contributions from Europe and North America were substantial. The O_3 enhancements typically occurred under southerly wind and warmer conditions. It is suggested that an earlier onset of the Asian summer monsoon would cause more O_3 enhancement events in the LT over the North China Plain in late spring and early summer.

1 Introduction

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is an effective greenhouse gas, especially in the upper troposphere (UT) (Lacis et al., 1990). It is also the primary source of hydroxyl radicals (OH) that determine the oxidizing capacity of the atmosphere (Thompson, 1992). As an air pollutant near the surface, it has a detrimental effect on vegetation and human health. Tropospheric O_3 has two sources – photochemical oxidation of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide (CO) by OH radicals in the presence of the oxides of nitrogen ($NO_x = NO + NO_2$), and downward transport from the stratosphere. Its precursors (NO_x , hydrocarbons, CO) are generated by fossil fuel combustion, industrial processes, biomass burning, vegetation, microbial activity in soils, and lightning.

Ozone concentrations have significantly increased in the lower troposphere (LT) across China (Chan et al., 2003; Ding et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2009) over the past decades as a result of increasing anthropogenic precursor emissions (Richter et al., 2005). Elevated O_3 levels not only lead to the degradation of local and regional air quality (Wang et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2008; Lin et al., 2008) but also have significant implications for the chemical environment and air quality in downwind regions (e.g., Hudman et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2012, 2014). Via deep convection or strong warm conveyor belts, Asian pollutants can be lifted up into the upper troposphere and transported to the North Pacific and North America (Jaffe et al., 1999; Liu et al., 2002, 2003; Liang et al., 2004; Cooper et al., 2010). This transpacific transport is most efficient in spring, when cold fronts frequently occur and strong westerlies prevail in the UT over eastern Asia (Liu et al., 2003; Liang et al., 2004). Note, however, that stratospheric intrusions also maximize at midlatitudes in spring. Ozonesonde measurements in western North America between 40 and 55° N in April–May 2006 showed that stratospheric influences can be comparable to impacts of Asian transport (Doughty et al., 2011; Moody et al., 2012). Studies of the sources and variability of LT O_3 over China emphasize the roles of biomass burning emissions (Liu et al., 1999; Fu et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2009), biogenic emissions (Fu et al., 2007), and the Asian monsoon system (Liu et al., 2002; Lin et al., 2009).

Located in northern China and with a population of over 19 million, Beijing is one of the world's largest cities and is facing a severe problem of O_3 pollution. Ozone measurements over Beijing, derived from MOZAIC (Measurement of Ozone and Water Vapor by Airbus In-Service Aircraft) data from 1995 to 2005, showed that O_3 in the LT increased by 2 % annually and ~ 4 % during May–July in contrast to the flat or negative trends of other megacities at a similar latitude (Tokyo, New York, and Paris), and the measurements also exhibited higher daytime O_3 concentrations than these cities (Ding et al., 2008). Wang et al. (2012) reported a summertime increase rate of 3.4 % yr^{-1} in the lower-tropospheric (0–3 km) partial O_3 column over Beijing based on ozonesonde

measurements from 2002 to 2012. In addition to the long-term positive trend, O_3 over Beijing often experiences high-concentration episodes at ground level. Wang et al. (2006) reported that in 13 out of 39 days of surface observations at an elevated site (280 m a.s.l.) in northern Beijing during June–July 2005, ambient O_3 levels exceeded 120 ppbv and had a 1 h maximum level of 286 ppbv. The IASI (Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer) observed O_3 concentrations in the LT (3 km) over Beijing that were up to 10 ppbv higher than the values for the 40–50° N latitude band climatology, which is more representative of background O_3 (Dufour et al., 2010). Dufour et al. (2010) reported that the lower-tropospheric partial (0–6 km) column O_3 in Beijing shows a sharp increase in late spring, with a maximum in May.

High ground-level O_3 in Beijing is caused not only by local anthropogenic emissions but also by regional and long-range transport. As reported by Streets et al. (2007), 35–60 % of O_3 during high- O_3 episodes at Beijing Olympic Stadium originated from sources outside Beijing. Back trajectory analysis by Ding et al. (2008) indicated that elevated O_3 levels in the boundary layer over Beijing during May–July were mostly related to emissions from the North China Plain. However, past investigations of the sources and transport of lower-tropospheric O_3 in Beijing have mostly involved categorizing wind directions or calculating back trajectories, techniques that do not allow its various sources to be quantified. In addition, previous studies were mainly based on surface measurements, which are not adequate for a full understanding of the processes that control the vertical distribution and variability of lower-tropospheric O_3 in Beijing.

To characterize the distribution and variability and quantify the sources of springtime lower-tropospheric O_3 in Beijing, we analyze O_3 vertical profiles measured during an ozonesonde sounding campaign, as well as aircraft measurements made by the MOZAIC program. We show that O_3 enhancements in the LT over Beijing were frequently observed by ozonesondes during April–May 2005. Such O_3 enhancements during some of those days were also captured by the MOZAIC aircraft. We apply the GEOS-Chem chemistry and transport model (CTM), driven by assimilated winds, to quantify the sources contributing to these O_3 enhancements over Beijing and examine the corresponding pollution transport pathways in eastern China. By tagging O_3 originating in different source regions and conducting sensitivity simulations, we show that these O_3 enhancements were mainly due to Asian anthropogenic pollution, while the impact of the European and North American emissions were significantly smaller. We find that the high- O_3 episodes occurred mostly under southerly wind conditions. We also evaluate the Global Modeling Initiative (GMI) CTM simulations with observations and show that current global models significantly underestimated the magnitude of these O_3 enhancements.

This paper is structured as follows. The ozonesonde and aircraft measurements, as well as GEOS-Chem and GMI CTMs, are briefly described in Sect. 2. We describe the

characteristics of the distribution and variability of springtime lower-tropospheric O₃ in Beijing from ozonesonde observations and MOZAIC aircraft measurements in Sect. 3. The model performance in reproducing the observed characteristics is examined in Sect. 4. The model analysis and case study of various sources of lower-tropospheric O₃ enhancements are presented in Sect. 5, followed by a summary and conclusions in Sect. 6.

2 Data and methods

2.1 Ozonesonde and aircraft measurements

We use two sets of in situ O₃ vertical profiles over Beijing obtained during April–May 2005: one from the Transport of Air Pollutants and Tropospheric Ozone over China (TAPTO-China) (Chan et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2012) ozonesonde campaign and the other from the MOZAIC program (Marengo et al., 1998). The concurrent availability of these two data sets allows cross validation of such measurements.

TAPTO-China was an intensive ozonesonde sounding campaign over China, conducted at five locations across southern China in the spring of 2004 (Zhang et al., 2012) and four locations across northern China in the spring of 2005. The main objective of TAPTO-China was to investigate the mechanisms controlling the spatiotemporal distribution, variability, and sources of springtime tropospheric O₃ over China and its surrounding regions. Figure 1 shows the locations of the four ozonesonde stations in northern China during the second phase of TAPTO-China (April–May 2005): Xining (36.43° N, 101.45° E), Beijing (39.80° N, 116.18° E), Longfengshan (44.44° N, 127.36° E), and Aletai (47.73° N, 88.08° E). In this study, we use the ozonesonde sounding data obtained at the Beijing station (34 m a.s.l.), which is located in the suburban Daxin district of southeastern Beijing. Sixteen ENSCI-ECC (Environmental Science Corporation electrochemical concentration cell) ozonesonde (with Vaisala RS 80 radiosonde) soundings in total were performed at this station from 11 April to 15 May 2005, with one sounding every 2–3 days on average. These sondes were launched at 13:30 local time, and the air was sampled every 15 s. Pollution at the station is expected to be heavier than the average in the city because it is located downwind of Beijing. All raw ozonesonde data were averaged into 100 m vertical bins.

The MOZAIC program was initiated in 1993 to collect experimental data of O₃ and water vapor obtained by five long-range commercial airlines flying all over the world. Its goal was to provide a large database for studies of atmospheric chemical and physical processes in order to improve chemistry and transport models (Marengo et al., 1998). Dual-beam UV absorption analyzers (Model 49-103 from Thermo Environment Instruments) were installed on board the aircraft to

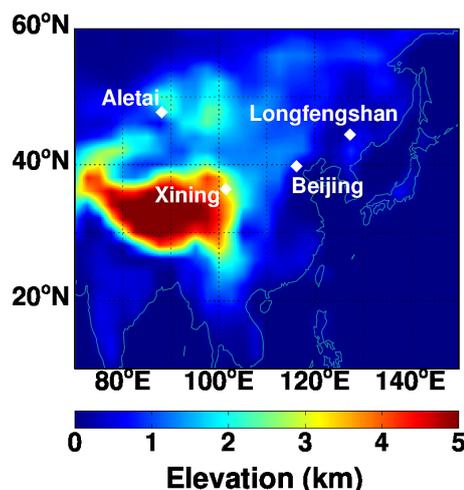


Figure 1. Locations of Beijing (39.8° N, 116.18° E) and three other ozonesonde stations in north China during the second phase of the TAPTO-China campaign in April–May 2005. Colors denote surface topography.

measure O₃ and were calibrated in the laboratory every 6–12 months with an overall precision of $\pm(2 \text{ ppbv} + 2\% \text{ of the measured mixing ratio})$ (Thouret et al., 1998, 2006). Tropospheric O₃ measurements were routinely conducted during the ascents and descents of flights nearby 50 cities frequented by the MOZAIC operation (Marengo et al., 1998), including Beijing. More information about the MOZAIC program can be found on its website (<http://www.iagos.fr/web/rubrique36.html>). The Beijing Capital International Airport is located about 25 km southeast of the urban Beijing area and is surrounded by mountains to the west, north, and northeast (Ding et al., 2008). MOZAIC obtained vertical O₃ profiles in Beijing from March 1995 through March 2006. For April–May 2005, 13 profiles are available. The raw data were sampled every 4 s ($\sim 30 \text{ m}$) vertically and averaged into 150 m bins.

2.2 CTM simulations

GEOS-Chem is a global 3-D model of tropospheric chemistry driven by assimilated meteorological observations from the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) of the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). The use of assimilated meteorological data to drive the model makes it ideal for explaining the factors governing observed constituent distributions for a specific year. The description and evaluation of GEOS-Chem as applied to tropospheric O₃–NO_x–hydrocarbon chemistry was first presented by Bey et al. (2001b), and a description of the coupled oxidant–aerosol simulation was given by Park et al. (2004). The reader is referred to the Appendix for a brief description of other aspects of the model, including the emissions used. Here, we use GEOS-Chem version v9-01-02 (<http://www.geos-chem.org>),

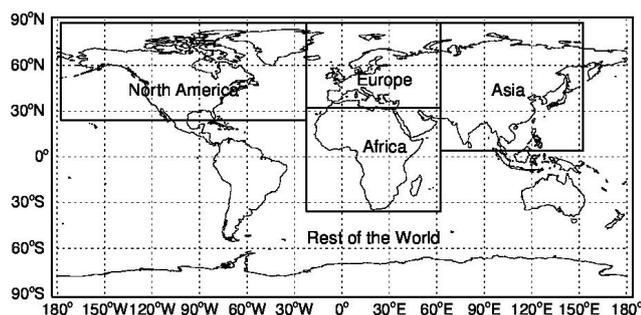


Figure 2. Tropospheric O₃ source regions for tagged O₃ simulations.

driven by two generations of GEOS assimilated meteorological fields – GEOS-4 (Bloom et al., 2005) and GEOS-5 (Rienecker et al., 2008) – with a degraded horizontal resolution ($2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$). The two sets of meteorological input data allow for an examination of the sensitivity of model results to uncertainties in our characterization of the April–May 2005 meteorology. While GEOS-Chem is the major modeling analysis tool we use, we also use outputs from simulations made with GMI CTM (<http://gmi.gsfc.nasa.gov>) (e.g., Strahan et al., 2007; Duncan et al., 2007; Considine et al., 2008; Allen et al., 2010) to take into account the uncertainty in model simulations. GMI CTM combines both tropospheric and stratospheric chemical mechanisms. GMI simulations are driven by the GEOS-4 and Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications (MERRA, i.e., GEOS-5.2.0) meteorological data sets ($2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$).

We use GEOS-Chem to investigate the contributions to LT O₃ in Beijing from six source regions: the troposphere of Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, the stratosphere, and the rest of the world. Figure 2 shows the tropospheric O₃ source regions defined in the model for tagged O₃ simulations. Ozone produced in each of these source regions is transported separately in the model and removed by chemical loss and dry deposition at the same frequencies as those for total O₃. The sum of all tagged O₃ tracers is equivalent to the O₃ concentration from the standard full-chemistry simulation (Wang et al., 1998). This approach was previously applied to a number of investigations (e.g., Liu et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2012). However, it is important to note that tagged O₃ by source regions does not represent the sensitivity of tropospheric O₃ to emissions in those regions. This is because O₃ precursors themselves can be transported out of their source regions and can therefore contribute to O₃ production elsewhere.

We therefore also conduct sensitivity simulations to examine the effect of various emission types on tropospheric O₃ over Beijing. In these simulations, emissions from Asian fossil fuel, biomass burning, European fossil fuel, North American fossil fuel, and lightning NO are individually shut off to quantify their contributions to O₃. Simulations are conducted

from August 2004 to May 2005 with the first 8 months being used for initialization.

Spring in eastern Asia is a meteorological transition season when the winter monsoon retreats and summer monsoon gradually moves northward. Figure 3 shows the average wind vectors in the LT (~ 870 hPa) during April–May 2005. Superimposed colors indicate the model average O₃ mixing ratios. The circulation patterns and O₃ distributions in the two simulations with GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 show similar features. In eastern China, the northwesterly and southwesterly winds converge around 30–40° N (North China Plain), flanked by the western Pacific subtropical high to the east. In this convergence zone, surface pollutants can be readily lifted out of the boundary layer and transported to the western Pacific by westerly winds in the free troposphere (Bey et al., 2001a; Liu et al., 2003). Beijing is located in the northern part of the North China Plain, where northwesterly winds prevail near the surface in spring. However, as the Siberian high weakens and the eastern Asia summer monsoon develops towards late spring, incursions of warmer tropical air from the south become more frequent and vigorous, especially in May (Ding and Chan, 2005), putting Beijing under the influence of southerly air masses.

3 Lower-tropospheric O₃ in Beijing as observed by ozonesonde and aircraft

In this section, we examine the distribution and variability of springtime lower-tropospheric O₃ in Beijing using ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft measurements for April–May 2005. Measurements were made by both platforms on 4 days: 1, 3, 11, and 15 May. The vertical distributions of O₃ in the LT in the two data sets are consistent on each of these 4 days. This is illustrated in Fig. 4a with the 4-day average profile. The consistency indicates that both ozonesonde and MOZAIC measurements captured tropospheric O₃ concentrations over Beijing well.

Figure 4b and c show the mean vertical distribution of O₃ below 6 km as calculated from the April and May ozonesonde and aircraft data in comparison with model simulations. Model results will be discussed later in Sect. 4. The average O₃ distribution observed in the LT over Beijing ranged from 44 to 67 ppbv, with a minimum near the surface and an enhancement at ~ 1.5 km. Ozone concentrations remained fairly constant (~ 65 ppbv) above ~ 1.5 km. This LT enhancement in the vertical O₃ distribution over Beijing is consistent with the MOZAIC climatology (1995–2005), where O₃ concentrations peak below 2 km in May–July, but the peak in the latter was located at a somewhat lower altitude (~ 1.0 km) (Ding et al., 2008).

The low average O₃ concentration observed near the surface (below 1 km) over Beijing (Fig. 4b, c) reflects the frequent low O₃ concentrations below 1 km seen in the individual sonde or aircraft profiles (Fig. 5). The minimum LT

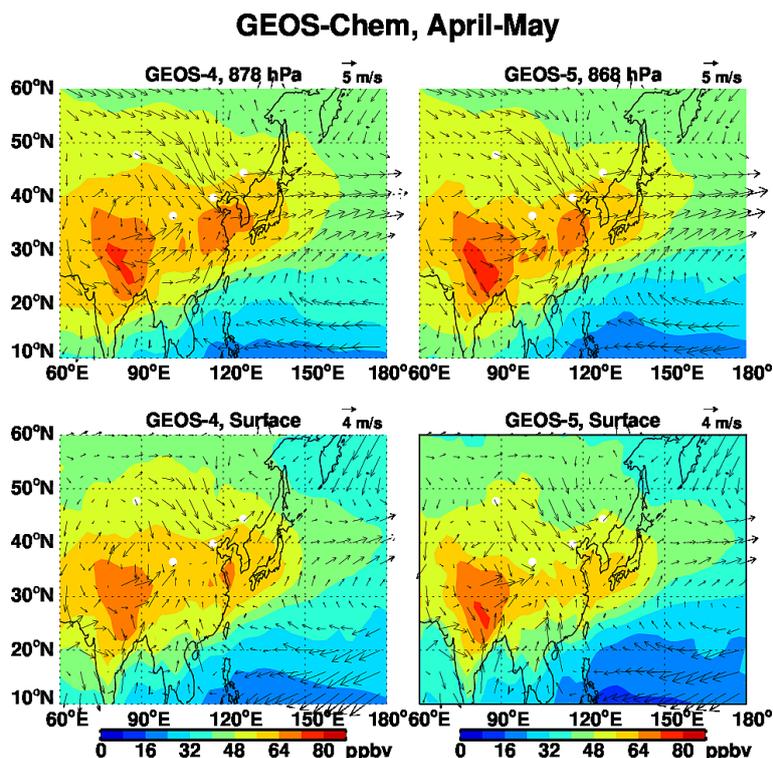


Figure 3. GEOS-4 (left panels) and GEOS-5 (right panels) horizontal wind vectors near the surface (lower panels) and ~ 870 hPa (upper panels) in eastern Asia during April–May 2005. Also shown as a color image are the O_3 concentrations (ppbv) simulated by GEOS-Chem driven with GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 meteorological data sets. Values are averages over April–May. White dots denote the locations of four ozonesonde stations (see Fig. 1).

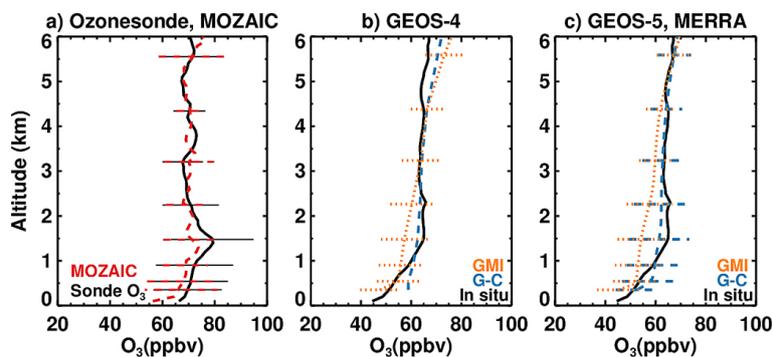


Figure 4. (a) Mean vertical profiles of O_3 mixing ratios (ppbv) over Beijing averaged over 4 days (1, 3, 11, and 15 May), when both ozonesonde (black solid line) and MOZAIC aircraft (red dashed line) measurements were conducted. (b) Mean vertical profiles of O_3 mixing ratios observed by ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft during April–May 2005 (solid black line), compared to GEOS-Chem (blue dashed line) and GMI (orange dotted line) simulations driven by the GEOS-4 meteorological fields. Daily model output was sampled at the time and location of ozonesonde and aircraft measurements. (c) Same as (b), except that GEOS-Chem and GMI were driven by the GEOS-5 and MERRA meteorological fields, respectively.

O_3 concentration seen in the ozonesonde observations was a value of 0.2 ppbv at 0.3 km on 13 May; on this day, O_3 mixing ratios were lower than 2 ppbv up to 0.6 km. Low- O_3 episodes were also observed near the surface on 17, 23, 29 April, and 9 May. These low O_3 mixing ratios are likely due to the chemical titration by high NO_x concentrations,

a common characteristic in urban areas (e.g., Chan et al., 1998). Backward trajectory calculations (not shown) suggest that cleaner air masses originating from the east may also contribute to the low O_3 concentrations seen here.

The O_3 concentrations (~ 65 ppbv) at ~ 1.5 km in the average profile reflect O_3 enhancements (> 70 ppbv) frequently

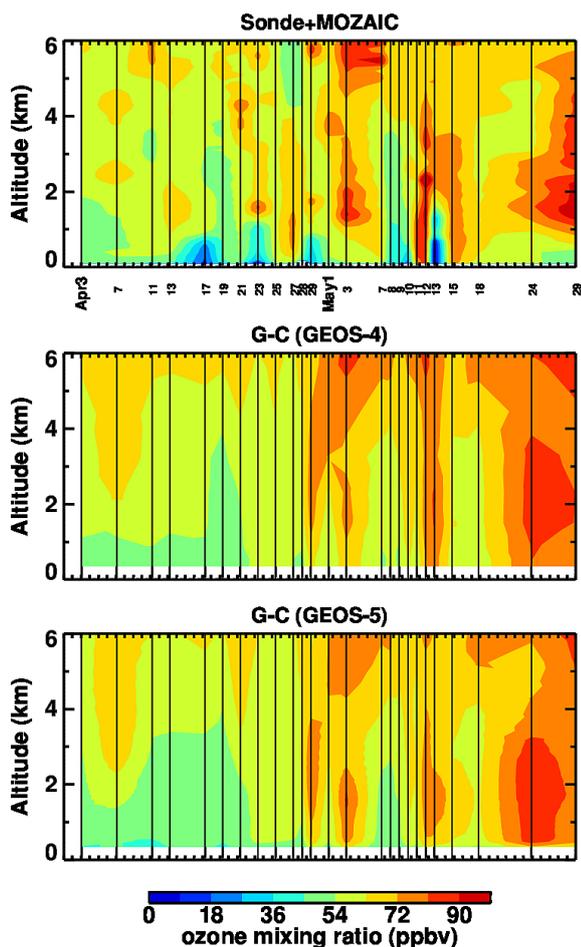


Figure 5. Time–height cross sections of lower-tropospheric O₃ mixing ratios (ppbv), as observed at Beijing during April–May 2005 by ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft in comparison with GEOS-Chem simulations driven by the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 meteorological fields. Model daily outputs are sampled in the grid box nearest to Beijing for the dates (vertical lines) of ozonesonde soundings.

observed in individual profiles during April–May 2005. Enhanced O₃ mixing ratios were observed below 4 km in 15 out of a total of 25 days with observations: 7, 13, 21, 23, 27, and 29 April and 1, 3, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 24, and 29 May (Fig. 5). Of these 15 days, 11 days (i.e., all except 7 and 21 April and 1 and 13 May) saw enhanced O₃ mixing ratios at ~1.5 km over Beijing. Relatively large O₃ enhancements at this altitude were mostly observed in late April and May, such as 29 April and 3, 11, 12, 15, 24, and 29 May. The maximum O₃ concentrations observed in the LT were 95 ppbv at ~1.4 km on 3 May during the ozonesonde sounding campaign and 131 ppbv at ~2.3 km on 12 May as observed by MOZAIC aircraft. Ozone enhancements on 3, 11, and 15 May were observed simultaneously by ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft.

These aforementioned springtime O₃ enhancements are likely due to regional photochemical pollution. Recent studies indicate that the transport of pollutants from surrounding

regions has an important influence on air quality in Beijing during spring (Zhang et al., 2006; An et al., 2007). A regional model simulation of an air pollution episode in Beijing during 3–7 April 2005 by An et al. (2007) showed that non-Beijing sources contributed about 39 % to PM_{2.5} and 60 % to PM₁₀ concentrations in Beijing. Lin et al. (2008) showed that the North China Plain contributed 19.2 ppbv to the surface O₃ at a rural site north of Beijing (Shangdianzi, one of the regional Global Atmosphere Watch stations in China) in spring. Nevertheless, intercontinental transport may also contribute to these O₃ enhancements. We will address this issue in Sect. 5.

These springtime O₃ enhancements over Beijing are also likely related to favorable meteorological conditions. LT temperature inversions were observed in sonde profiles over Beijing on 11, 23, 27, and 29 April and 1, 3, 9, 13, and 15 May (not shown). Specifically, strong inversions were found at ~1.5 km on 29 April and 3 May, when relatively large O₃ enhancements were seen at the same altitude. When such inversions are present, vertical mixing is suppressed, trapping O₃ and its precursors below the inversion. This is similar to the elevated levels of O₃ previously seen above the base of temperature inversions in and nearby the similarly polluted Los Angeles Basin (Lea, 1968; Edinger, 1973; Blumenthal et al., 1978).

The LT over Beijing is near the boundary between regions of southwesterly (southerly) and northwesterly winds during spring (Fig. 3). The transition from winter to summer monsoon during this period has an important impact on the transport of O₃ in the LT. Trajectory classifications over Beijing during May–July, as shown by Ding et al. (2008), revealed that the O₃ concentrations in the air masses from the south are 10–15 ppbv higher than those from the north below 2 km, and the difference was largest at 1 km. By comparing surface O₃ concentrations observed at Shangdianzi under southwesterly (SW) and northeasterly (NE) wind conditions, Lin et al. (2008) showed that the average O₃ concentrations corresponding to the SW wind directions were higher than those of NE wind directions in spring, and the difference was over 20 ppbv in May. We will illustrate such influences of meteorological conditions on LT O₃ with a case study to be presented in Sect. 5.

4 Model simulations of lower-tropospheric O₃ over Beijing

In this section, we present model simulations of LT O₃ over Beijing in comparison with in situ (ozonesonde and aircraft) measurements. Because the elevation of Beijing in the model is 290 m a.s.l., which is higher than the actual elevation (160 m a.s.l.), there is a small gap below 290 m where O₃ is not simulated. Figure 4b, c shows the model–observation comparison of the average vertical distribution of O₃ in the LT during April–May 2005. Results from both GEOS-Chem

(driven by the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 meteorological fields) and GMI (driven by the GEOS-4 and MERRA meteorological fields) models are shown. Figure 5 shows the time–height cross sections of the LT O₃ mixing ratios (ppbv), as observed by ozonesonde and aircraft and simulated by GEOS-Chem during this period.

The simulated mean vertical distributions of O₃ are similar to the observations (Fig. 4b, c). The GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 model agrees with the observations near 3–4.5 km but underestimates the observations by 2 ppbv between ~ 1 and 2.5 km and overestimates O₃ by 1.7–7.7 ppbv below 1 km and by 1.3–6.7 ppbv above 4.5 km, with a large bias of ~ 8 ppbv near the surface (Fig. 4b). The GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5 simulated O₃ is in good agreement with observation above 2.5 km but too low by up to 6 ppbv at ~ 1–1.5 km compared to observations (Fig. 4c). Both simulations showed negative biases around 1.5 km, with the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 values in slightly better agreement. Both simulations fail to reproduce the magnitude of the daily LT O₃ enhancements over Beijing, as discussed further below.

The GMI model simulations driven by GEOS-4 and MERRA meteorological fields (Fig. 4b, c) reproduced the observed values at ~ 0.5 km better than GEOS-Chem. Above ~ 2.5 km, the GMI and GEOS-Chem simulations driven by the GEOS-4 meteorology are consistent. Near 1.5 km, however, GMI/GEOS-4 has a larger negative bias than GEOS-Chem (Fig. 4b). The GMI/MERRA model consistently underestimates O₃ observations below 4.5 km, with the largest bias near 1.5 km (~ 10 ppbv) and larger biases than those of GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5 (Fig. 4c).

Both GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 and GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5 simulations capture the large-scale temporal (day-to-day) variability in the vertical distribution of O₃ seen in the ozonesonde and aircraft measurements (Fig. 5). They simulate the O₃ enhancement event at ~ 1.5 km on 3 May well, which is the largest observed by both ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft at this altitude during this period. The timing of O₃ enhancements, especially those observed in late April and May, is captured reasonably well. However, the model is missing the 23 April enhancement and the 27 April event is shifted to 29 April in the model. Overall, the model underestimates the magnitude of those O₃ enhancements. Also, both simulations fail to reproduce the observed low-O₃ episodes near the surface, where the O₃ concentrations are largely overestimated. Model simulations at higher horizontal resolutions that resolve the chemical titration of O₃ by excessive NO_x better may help address this discrepancy.

The distribution and variability of model relative humidity (RH) are generally similar to those observed by ozonesondes (not shown), suggesting that convective transport and large-scale ascending and descending motions in the study region are reasonably represented in the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 meteorology. GMI/GEOS-4 and GMI/MERRA simulations also capture the observed large-scale variability in O₃ and in the timing of O₃ enhancements (not shown).

5 Sources of springtime O₃ enhancements in the lower troposphere over Beijing

In this section we quantify the relative contributions to LT O₃ over Beijing of different source types and source regions in the GEOS-Chem model. We focus on model simulations driven by GEOS-4 but also discuss GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5 results where necessary. The relative contributions allow us to better understand the factors and processes contributing to the observed O₃ enhancements and distributions in the LT, and therefore they may provide insights into the model limitations in the representation of chemical, physical, and dynamical processes. Figure 6 shows the major sources of LT O₃ over Beijing during April–May 2005 as a function of date and altitude, as simulated by GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4. The plots show model results for tagged O₃ tracers transported from the stratosphere and those produced in the Asian, African, European, and North American troposphere. Figure 7 presents the changes (decreases) in the LT O₃ concentrations over Beijing when Asian, European, and North American fossil fuel emissions, global biomass burning emissions, or lightning NO_x emissions were turned off, individually, in GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 and GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5, relative to their standard simulations. Shown in Fig. 8 are the time series of temperature, total tagged O₃, and tagged O₃ tracer concentrations in the LT (~ 878 or 840–915 hPa in the model) over Beijing, as simulated by GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4. These figures provide a context for most of the discussions below.

5.1 Contributions to O₃ in the LT over Beijing of different source regions and emission types

Ozone produced within Asia made a major contribution to LT O₃ over Beijing during April–May 2005. The Asian troposphere contributed ~ 10–46.6 ppbv (~ 17–66 %) in early–mid-April and ~ 9–81 ppbv (~ 15–88 %) in late April and May (Fig. 6, top panels). The contribution was significantly higher in May than in April. This is consistent with the earlier result that relatively large enhancements of O₃, which were observed by ozonesonde and aircraft and captured in model simulations, mostly occurred in late April and May. On the dates of these O₃ enhancement events (e.g., 29 April and 3, 13, and 15 May), LT O₃ was predominantly produced within Asia (~ 60–79.4 ppbv, or ~ 81–88 %). A modeling study by Sudo and Akimoto (2007) also suggested that LT O₃ in Japan and coastal Chinese regions during the NASA Transport and Chemical Evolution over the Pacific (TRACE-P) aircraft mission (spring 2001) was mainly produced within Asia and mostly in the planetary boundary layer.

The aforementioned relatively large enhancements of O₃ were largely due to Asian fossil fuel emissions. When Asian fossil fuel emissions were turned off, the LT O₃ concentrations over Beijing decreased by ~ 3.1–21.3 ppbv in the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 simulation and by ~ 3.0–25.3 ppbv

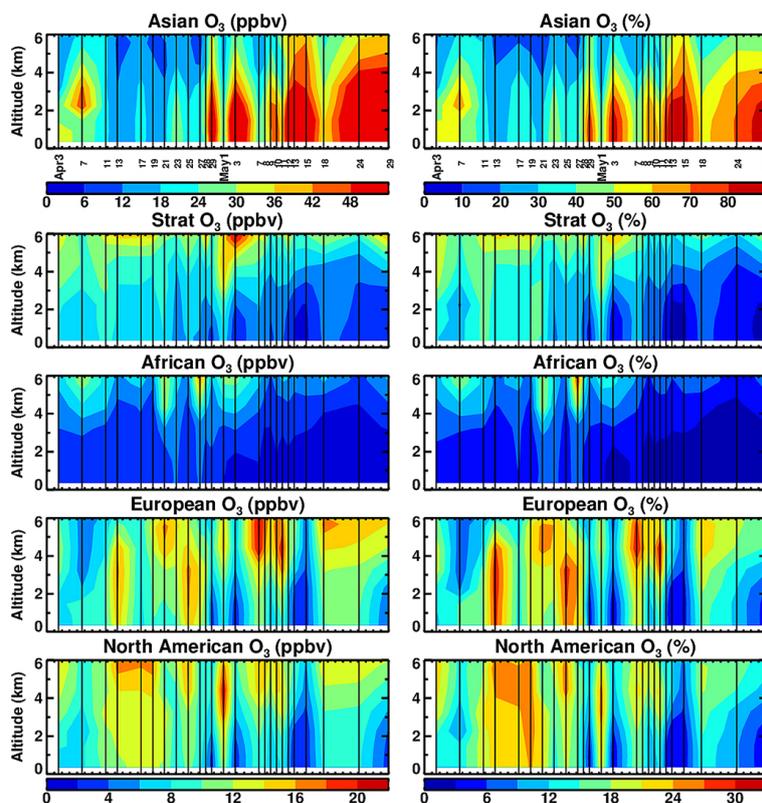


Figure 6. Major sources contributing to O₃ (0–6 km) over Beijing, as simulated by GEOS-Chem driven by the GEOS-4 meteorological fields during April–May 2005. The plots show time–height cross sections of concentrations (ppbv, left panels) and percentages (% , right panels) of tagged O₃ produced in the Asian, African, European, and North American troposphere, as well as O₃ transported from the stratosphere. Model daily outputs are sampled at the location and dates (vertical lines) of ozonesonde soundings and/or aircraft measurements. Note the different color scales on color bars.

in the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5 simulation in early–mid-April, and decreased by ~ 2.2 – 42.4 and ~ 3.0 – 37.8 ppbv, respectively, in late April and May (Fig. 7, top panels). The impact of Asian fossil fuel emissions was stronger in late April and May, especially during those days with large enhancements of O₃. Without Asian fossil fuel emissions, LT O₃ reduced by ~ 30 – 40 ppbv on 29 April and 3, 13, and 15 May. To understand the influence of fossil fuel emissions (or O₃ produced) in the subregions within Asia on LT O₃ over Beijing, additional sensitivity or tagged O₃ simulations with refined emission (or O₃ source) regions would be required. Nevertheless, the case study to be presented in the following section will provide insights into the effect of regional pollution transport in this regard.

Stratospheric contributions to LT O₃ over Beijing during April–May 2005 were significant (Fig. 6). They were ~ 6.0 – 13.0 ppbv (~ 8.5 – 20.6 %) in April and ~ 1.6 – 19.8 ppbv (~ 2.1 – 23.8 %) in May, and increased with altitude. On average, stratospheric contributions were larger in April (~ 7.6 ppbv) than in May (~ 5.7 ppbv). At the time of the aforementioned O₃ enhancement events, stratospheric contributions were significantly reduced below ~ 3 km (~ 2 ppbv, ~ 2 %). The magnitude of the contributions of O₃ produced within

the African troposphere was lower than that of the stratospheric contributions (Fig. 6). The African troposphere contributed ~ 2.4 – 16.5 ppbv (~ 3 – 28 %) O₃ in April and ~ 0.9 – 10.6 ppbv (~ 1 – 13 %) O₃ in May.

The impact of biomass burning emissions on LT O₃ over Beijing during this period was relatively small. When biomass burning emissions were turned off in GEOS-Chem, O₃ concentrations decreased by $\sim 1 \pm 0.5$ ppbv in April and by $\sim 2 \pm 1$ ppbv in May, with a maximum decrease of ~ 6.7 ppbv on 7 April (Fig. 7). When lightning NO_x emissions were turned off, the LT O₃ concentrations fell by ~ 1.3 – 9.1 ppbv in the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 simulation and by ~ 1.5 – 14.5 ppbv in the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-5 simulation in April; in May, they decreased by ~ 0.3 – 14.3 ppbv and by ~ 0.5 – 21.3 ppbv (Fig. 7). The larger impact of lightning NO_x emissions in May reflects the seasonal increase in continental deep convection, which results in more frequent lightning. Relatively small effects ($\sim 3 \pm 1$ ppbv) were seen at ~ 1.5 km, with an effect of $\sim 0.9 \pm 0.1$ ppbv O₃ at the time of large enhancements of O₃.

The European and North American source regions and their anthropogenic emissions have important impacts on LT O₃ over Beijing. Europe contributed ~ 2 – 16.7 ppbv (~ 3 –

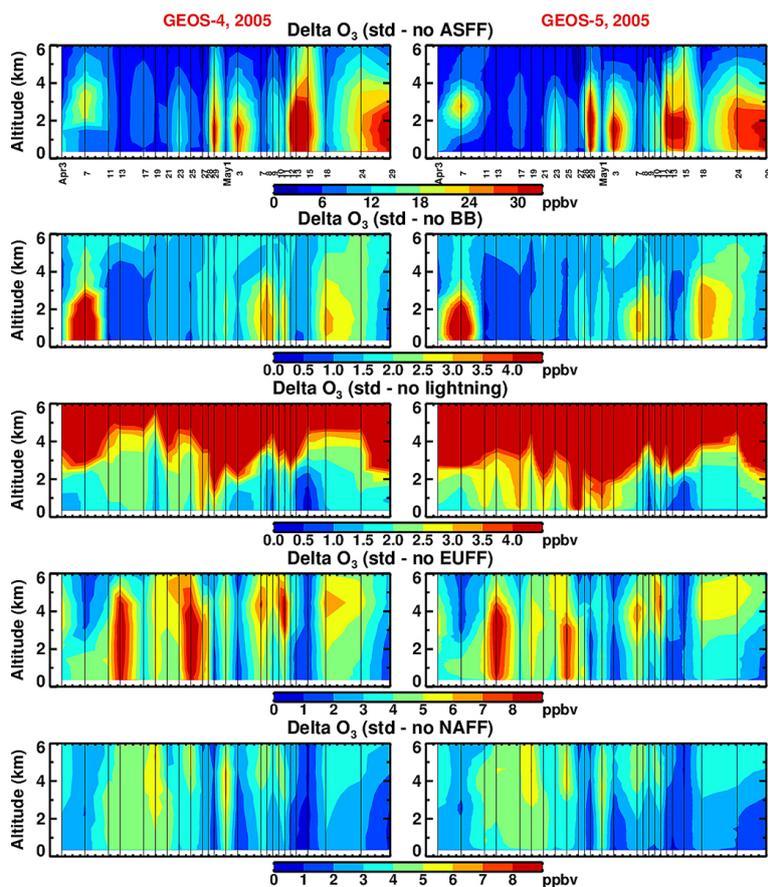


Figure 7. Decreases in the lower-tropospheric O_3 concentrations (ppbv), as simulated by GEOS-Chem driven by the GEOS-4 (left panels) and GEOS-5 (right panels) meteorological fields, when Asian, European, and North American fossil fuel emissions, and biomass burning emissions or lightning NO_x emissions were suppressed, individually, relative to their standard simulations for April–May 2005. Note the different scales on color bars. Colors are saturated when values are out of range.

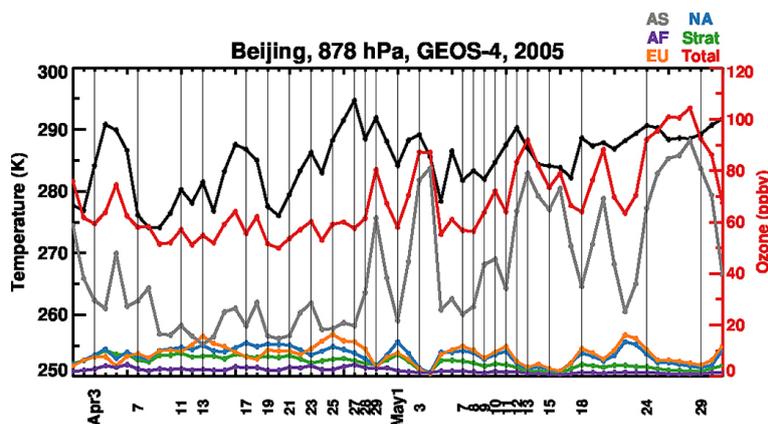


Figure 8. Time series of O_3 concentrations (ppbv, red line) and temperature (black line) at 878 hPa over Beijing in the GEOS-Chem model driven by the GEOS-4 meteorological fields. Also shown in the panel are simulated concentrations (ppbv) of tagged O_3 produced in the Asian (AS, grey line), African (AF, purple line), European (EU, orange line), and North American (NA, blue line) troposphere and O_3 transported from the stratosphere (Strat, green line). Vertical lines indicate dates with ozonesonde soundings and/or aircraft measurements.

29.4 %) of O_3 in April and ~ 2.5 – 20.8 ppbv (~ 3 – 29.9 %) in May (Fig. 6). The contributions to LT O_3 below 4 km

were larger in April. For these large enhancements of O_3 , the contributions from Europe were significantly reduced.

Similarly, North America contributed ~ 2.9 – 16.6 ppbv (~ 3.9 – 26.5 %) in April and ~ 2.5 – 20.3 ppbv (3.2 – 26.1 %) in May, with much smaller contributions during O_3 enhancement events (Fig. 6). When European fossil fuel emissions were turned off, the LT O_3 concentrations over Beijing decreased by ~ 1.3 – 10 ppbv in April and ~ 1 – 8 ppbv in May (Fig. 7). The decreases were ~ 1 – 6 ppbv in April and ~ 0.6 – 6 ppbv in May when North American fossil fuel emissions were turned off. Again, the impacts of European and North American fossil fuel emissions were minimal ($< \sim 1$ ppbv) during the events of large enhancements of O_3 .

Figure 8 shows the time series of total O_3 , tagged O_3 , and temperature in the LT (~ 878 hPa, ~ 1.5 km) over Beijing in GEOS-Chem–GEOS4. Occurrences of these O_3 enhancements were accompanied by significantly increased contributions of O_3 produced in the Asian troposphere and often associated with warm air masses. On the days with relatively large O_3 enhancements observed (29 April and 3, 13, and 15 May), the contributions of O_3 from the Asian troposphere were 62.1 ppbv (77.4 %), 76.0 ppbv (87.0 %), 79.4 ppbv (86.4 %), and 64.0 ppbv (87.2 %), respectively. By contrast, at the time of these events, the contributions from Europe and North America were largely reduced. Also, compared to the more prominent contributions from Europe (~ 11.6 ppbv) and North America (~ 11.6 ppbv) in early April, they were smaller in late April and May, with an average of ~ 8.2 and ~ 8.0 ppbv, respectively.

As Beijing is located at midlatitudes in eastern Asia (40° N), air masses originating from Europe and North America arrived as a result of large-scale subsidence associated with the Siberian anticyclone. Previous studies have shown that European anthropogenic emissions contribute significantly to the Asian outflow in the LT at latitudes north of 35° N (Bey et al., 2001a; Liu et al., 2003). As the Siberian high gradually weakened in spring and its center shifted westward, air masses from these regions had a reduced influence. Meanwhile, the western Pacific subtropical high developed and its center moved northwestward. As a result, the northward transport of warmer air masses from southern China and along the Asian Pacific rim became more vigorous. An examination of the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 meteorological fields shows that Beijing was mostly under the influence of southwesterly flow on the days with observed ozone enhancements. This is consistent with the stronger influence of Asian sources and more frequent occurrences of large O_3 enhancements in late April and May.

5.2 Ozone enhancements in the lower troposphere: a case study

In order to better understand the transport pathways for O_3 pollution and the vertical extent of O_3 enhancements over Beijing, we examine the largest O_3 enhancement observed by both the TAPTO-China ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft during April–May 2005. Figure 9 shows the vertical

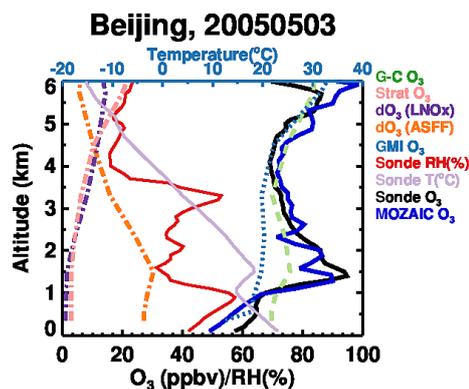


Figure 9. Vertical profiles of O_3 mixing ratios (ppbv) over Beijing from ozonesonde (black solid line) and MOZAIC aircraft (blue solid line) measurements on 3 May 2005 compared to those simulated by GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 (green dashed line) and GMI/GEOS-4 (blue dotted line). Sonde-observed RH (%) and temperature ($^\circ$ C) are shown as red solid line and purple solid line, respectively. Decreases in O_3 concentrations (ppbv) when Asian fossil fuel or lightning NO_x emissions were suppressed, relative to the standard simulation, are shown as orange and purple dot-dashed lines, respectively. O_3 transported down from the stratosphere (ppbv) is shown as pink dot-dashed line.

profiles of O_3 over Beijing from the TAPTO ozonesonde and MOZAIC aircraft measurements in comparison with those simulated by GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 and GMI/GEOS-4 on 3 May 2005. Also shown are observed RH, temperature, and O_3 sources as determined by GEOS-Chem tagged O_3 and sensitivity simulations.

Ozonesonde and aircraft measurements of O_3 (0–6 km) agree within ~ 2 % on average and show similar structures in their vertical distributions. The ozone mixing ratio was lowest near the surface and increased with altitude below ~ 1.5 km, where it reached a maximum (94.7 and 90 ppbv in ozonesonde and aircraft measurements, respectively), and then decreased with altitude from ~ 1.5 to ~ 4 km. The rapid increase in O_3 concentrations from ~ 1 up to ~ 1.5 km was accompanied by a temperature inversion observed by ozonesonde. This temperature inversion inhibited the vertical mixing and transport of the air, trapping the air mass containing high levels of O_3 (and its precursors) at this level. The presence of the inversion also suggests that the high O_3 at ~ 1.5 km was not transported from the local boundary layer via vertical mixing. Rather, backward trajectory calculations using the NOAA HYSPLIT (Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) model (Draxler and Rolph, 2014; Rolph, 2014) show that the air mass was transported downward from a higher altitude (~ 3 km) and stayed at about 1.4 km for 2 days before arriving at the 1.4 km level over Beijing (Fig. 10).

The relatively low O_3 below 1 km was likely due to chemical titration by local fresh NO_x emissions. The 5-day backward trajectory arriving at 150 m over Beijing indicates that

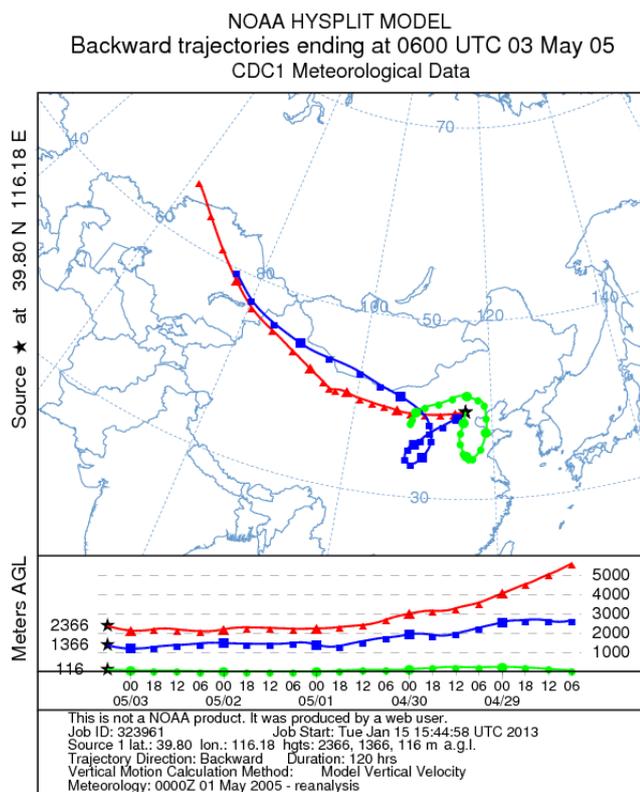


Figure 10. Five-day back trajectories arriving at the altitudes of 150 m (green line), 1400 m (blue line), and 2400 m (red line) over Beijing at 14:00 local time on 3 May 2005. AGL and hgts denote the altitudes above ground level. The ozonesonde station is 34 m a.s.l. Note that 1366 m a.g.l. corresponds to 1400 m a.s.l. and so on.

the air mass stayed near the surface during the days prior to its arrival (Fig. 10), providing optimal conditions for chemical titration.

The GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 simulation showed an enhancement of O_3 at ~ 1.5 km on 3 May but significantly underestimated its magnitude by ~ 10 – 15 ppbv (Fig. 9). This is partly attributed to the inability of a large-scale model to resolve the local temperature inversion (not shown). The simulation reproduced the observations above 2.5 km reasonably well, but overestimated the observations (by ~ 5 – 10 ppbv) below 1 km, presumably because chemical titration was not well represented and there was too much vertical mixing due to the lack of a temperature inversion in the model. The GMI/GEOS-4 simulation reproduced the relatively low O_3 concentrations near the surface better. However, it failed to capture the O_3 enhancements at ~ 1.5 km. The LT O_3 concentrations simulated by GMI/GEOS-4 are much lower than the observations, with the largest discrepancy (~ 26.9 ppbv) at ~ 1.5 km.

Model simulations suggest that this LT O_3 enhancement over Beijing was largely due to Asian fossil fuel emissions. Without Asian fossil fuel emissions in the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 model, the simulated O_3 concentrations in

the LT decreased by $\sim 30\%$ (Fig. 9). The impact of the Asian fossil fuel emissions was largest (~ 30 ppbv, 40 %) at ~ 1.5 km, where LT O_3 concentrations reached a maximum. In addition, tagged O_3 simulations showed that 79.6 % of O_3 at ~ 1.5 km originated from the Asian troposphere (not shown). When lightning NO_x emissions were suppressed, the decreases in LT O_3 over Beijing increased with altitude, with the smallest decreases (~ 1.2 ppbv, $\sim 1.7\%$) below ~ 1.5 km. Similarly, the contributions of stratospheric O_3 increased with altitude, with a small contribution (~ 2.9 ppbv, $\sim 4\%$) at ~ 1.5 km, where the largest enhancement of O_3 occurred. Therefore, this LT O_3 enhancement was mainly due to the regional anthropogenic pollution within Asia.

The GEOS4 assimilated meteorological data driving the GEOS-Chem model indicate that strong southwesterly winds prevailed over Beijing in the LT on 2–3 May (Figs. 11, 12). Meanwhile, a low-pressure center in the LT at ~ 43 – 53° N, 120 – 140° E put the area north of Beijing under the influence of northwesterly winds. The southwesterly and northwesterly winds met just north of Beijing at around 43° N, forming a convergence zone. As part of the western Pacific subtropical high developing around 15 – 30° N, strong southwesterly winds over southern and eastern China could have readily swept the pollutants in their pathway into Beijing. Indeed, an area of high CO (> 200 ppbv) was located to the southwest of the North China Plain on 2–3 May at 878 hPa. The air mass stayed in this high-CO area for a couple of days before arriving at 1.4 km over Beijing (Fig. 10), where the O_3 enhancement was observed by both sonde and aircraft, as well as simulated by the model. By contrast, the air mass arriving at 2.4 km came straight from the west, where air was cleaner and thus had much lower O_3 . The high-CO area was largest near the surface and became smaller with altitude. High CO concentrations were seen in the model simulations up to ~ 797 hPa. No high-CO plumes were found at ~ 704 hPa over eastern Asia on 2–3 May in the model (not shown). By 3 May, Beijing was at the center of the high- O_3 area (> 72 ppbv) in the LT (797 and 878 hPa, Fig. 12). The O_3 concentrations were also relatively lower ($\sim 68 \pm 4$ ppbv) near the surface (942 hPa) or at a higher altitude (704 hPa).

6 Summary and conclusions

We have characterized the vertical distribution of lower-tropospheric O_3 over Beijing using observations from 16 ozonesonde soundings made during the TAPTO-China field campaign in April–May 2005, as well as from MOZAIC aircraft ascending and descending profiles over 13 days in this period. A particular focus was placed on the origin of O_3 enhancements in the lower troposphere (0–6 km). We used a global 3-D chemistry and transport model (GEOS-Chem CTM) driven by assimilated meteorological fields from the NASA Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS-4 and GEOS-5) to interpret these characteristics and quantify

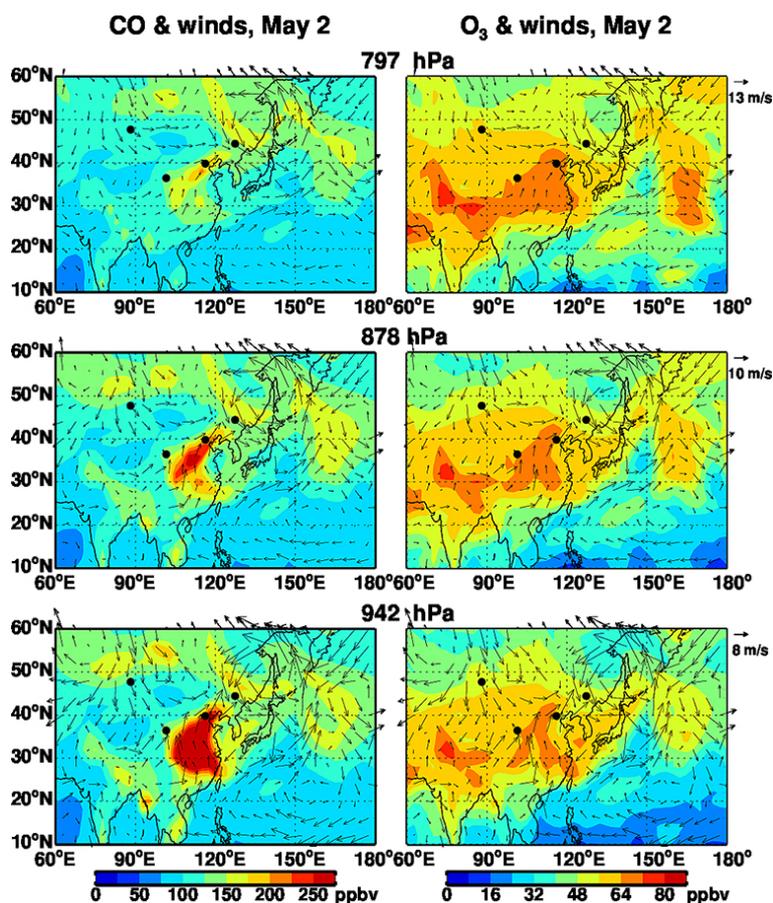


Figure 11. Average CO concentrations (ppbv, left panels) and O₃ concentrations (ppbv, right panels) in the lower troposphere (797 hPa, top panels; 878 hPa, middle panels; 942 hPa bottom panels) over eastern Asia on 2 May 2005, as simulated by GEOS-Chem driven by the GEOS-4 meteorological fields. Dots denote the locations of four ozonesonde stations shown in Fig. 1. Arrows are wind vectors. Note the different arrow scales for wind vectors at different levels.

the sources contributing to O₃ and its enhancements in the springtime LT over Beijing. We also used the output of the Global Modeling Initiative (GMI) CTM for comparison with O₃ observations.

The average observed profile of the O₃ mixing ratio in the LT over Beijing during April–May 2005 ranged from ~44 to 67 ppbv, with an enhancement at the altitude of ~1.5 km and a relatively low abundance near the surface. The relatively high average O₃ concentrations at ~1.5 km were due to frequently observed elevated O₃ levels (up to 94.7 ppbv in soundings and 130.3 ppbv in MOZAIC aircraft measurements). Such enhancements were observed at this altitude in 15 out of the 25 days with observations during this period. Ozone enhancements were more frequently observed by ozonesonde in late April and May compared to early and mid-April. This relates to the northward transport of pollution in eastern China to the LT over Beijing as a result of a weakening of the Siberian high and the onset of the Asian summer monsoon. It also implies that an earlier onset of the Asian summer monsoon would cause more O₃ enhancement

events in the LT over the North China Plain in late spring and early summer.

The GEOS-Chem model driven by GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 assimilated meteorological fields adequately reproduced the average vertical distribution of LT O₃ and captured the timing of the observed O₃ enhancement events over Beijing during April–May 2005, but both simulations underestimated the magnitude of these enhancements. On the other hand, GEOS-Chem overestimated the observed low O₃ concentrations near the surface. The GMI model driven by GEOS-4 and MERRA resolved the average O₃ concentrations near the surface better but was less successful in reproducing the enhancement of average O₃ concentrations at ~1.5 km. Nevertheless, GMI did capture the timing of the major O₃ enhancement events observed. Both GEOS-Chem and GMI were successful in reproducing temporal fluctuations of observed O₃ because they are driven by assimilated meteorological fields. The fact that they did not capture the surface low or the 1.5 km peak likely resulted from a combination of an inability to represent the chemical regime at the surface (i.e., NO_x-

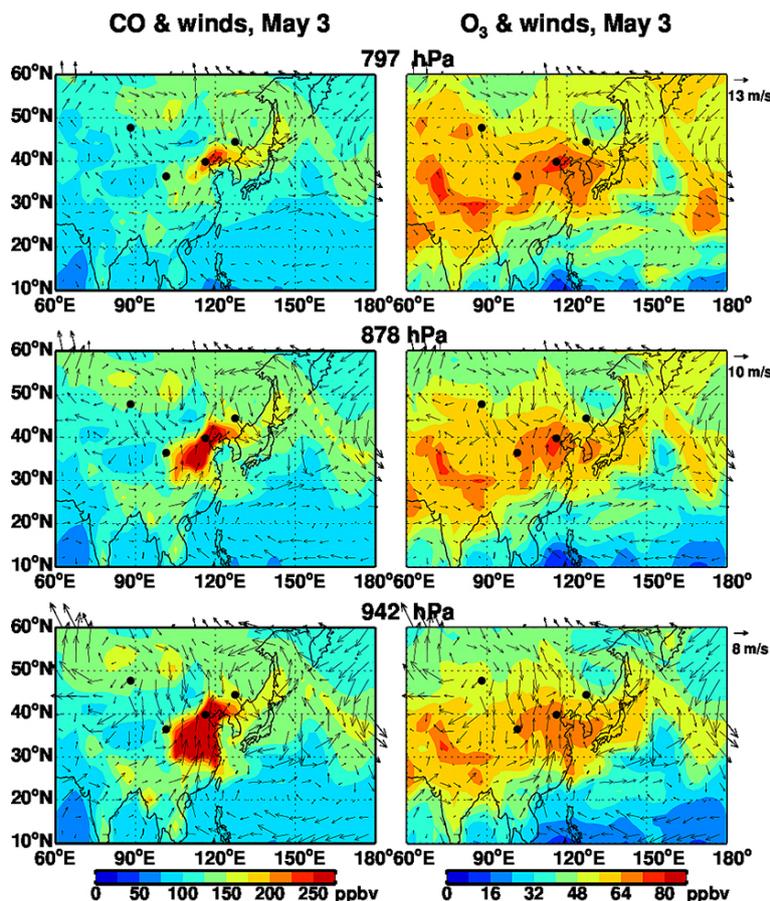


Figure 12. Same as Fig. 11, but for 3 May 2005.

driven titration) due to low spatial resolution and overly vigorous vertical transport (i.e., lack of a temperature inversion at an altitude of ~ 1.5 km).

We investigated the sources contributing to the LT O₃ enhancements observed over Beijing during April–May 2005 by tagging O₃ produced in different source regions in the GEOS-Chem/GEOS-4 model and by conducting model sensitivity calculations. We found that these O₃ enhancements were predominantly attributed to O₃ produced within Asia, especially for relatively large enhancements (~ 81 – 88%). For the large enhancements, the O₃ concentrations at ~ 1.5 km were reduced by ~ 30 – 40 ppbv when Asian fossil fuel emissions were suppressed within the model. Contributions of O₃ from outside Asia were small during these O₃ events. However, long-range transport of O₃ (and its precursors) from Europe and North America had important impacts on LT O₃ over Beijing during non-event periods, especially in April. The two alternating regimes of transport reflect the springtime transition from winter to summer monsoon in eastern Asia.

A case study of the O₃ enhancements at ~ 1.5 km on 3 May 2005 showed that the event was largely attributed to Asian fossil fuel emissions (34%). Backward trajectory cal-

culations suggested that the air mass stayed in the LT to the southwest of Beijing for a couple of days before arriving at ~ 1.4 km over Beijing. Elevated CO levels were found in the model on 2 and 3 May in the area where the air mass stayed before reaching Beijing. The model simulations showed that Beijing was at the center of the high-O₃ area in the LT (~ 878 to 797 hPa) by 3 May, with prevailing strong southwesterly winds that swept O₃ and its precursors downwind to Beijing.

We find that the ozonesonde and aircraft observations of springtime O₃ in the LT over Beijing are qualitatively consistent with the current understanding of tropospheric chemistry and transport as represented by the GEOS-Chem model. Using the same model driven by different meteorological fields (GEOS-4 and GEOS-5) does not alter our conclusion. However, current global models (e.g., GEOS-Chem and GMI) have difficulty in quantitatively reproducing the observed enhancements and depletions of LT O₃ over Beijing. Model simulations at higher resolutions would resolve regional meteorology and transport better with respect to the topography in the North China Plain and chemical transformation, such as the titration of O₃ by NO. Models could also be further evaluated by increasing satellite observations as well as multiyear ozonesonde (Wang et al., 2012) and air-

craft measurements (Ding et al., 2008). Such efforts would improve our quantitative understanding of the origin of tropospheric O₃ and elevated O₃ events over the North China Plain, allowing a better projection of regional O₃ pollution and its global impact.

Appendix A: GEOS-Chem CTM

An earlier version of the GEOS-Chem model that we applied to the analysis of ozonesonde O_3 observations was described in the Appendix of Zhang et al. (2012). A similar description is included here for completeness, but for version v9-01-02 and with a different configuration. We drive the GEOS-Chem model with the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 assimilated meteorological observations from the GEOS of the NASA GMAO. The original description and evaluation of GEOS-Chem as applied to tropospheric O_3 – NO_x –VOCs (volatile organic compounds) chemistry was presented by Bey et al. (2001a) and a description of the coupled oxidant–aerosol simulation was given by Park et al. (2004). A number of previous studies have applied the model to tropospheric O_3 in various regions of the world, including the Asian and western Pacific (e.g., Bey et al., 2001b; Liu et al., 2002), the Middle East (e.g., Li et al., 2001; Liu et al., 2009), the United States (e.g., Fiore et al., 2002; Zhang et al., 2008; Hudman et al., 2009), the Atlantic (e.g., Li et al., 2002), and the tropics (e.g., Martin et al., 2002; Nassar et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011).

The temporal resolution of the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 meteorological data is 6 h (3 h for surface variables and mixing depth). GEOS-4 has a native resolution of 1° latitude by 1.25° longitude with 55 vertical levels between the surface and 0.01 hPa and 8 vertical levels between 0–6 km. GEOS-5 has a higher native resolution of 0.5° latitude by 0.667° longitude with 72 levels overall in the vertical and 23 vertical levels between 0 and 6 km. For computational expediency, horizontal resolutions are degraded to 2° latitude by 2.5° longitude for input to GEOS-Chem. In addition, vertical levels above 50 hPa (GEOS-4) or 80 hPa (GEOS-5) are merged to result in 30 (GEOS-4) or 47 (GEOS-5) vertical levels in total. A major difference between GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 is the parameterization scheme for convection. GEOS-4 uses the parameterization scheme of Zhang and McFarlane (1995) for deep convection and that of Hack (1994) for shallow convection. Convection in GEOS-5 is based on the relaxed Arakawa–Schubert parameterization scheme (Moorthi and Suarez, 1992). Previous model simulations of ^{222}Rn (Zhang et al., 2011) and CO (Liu et al., 2010) indicate that tropical deep convection is significantly deeper in GEOS-4 than in GEOS-5. GEOS-Chem assumes rapid vertical mixing within the mixing layers diagnosed by GEOS.

The GEOS-Chem model includes 87 chemical species and transports 43 chemical tracers to describe tropospheric O_3 – NO_x –VOCs–aerosol chemistry. Anthropogenic emissions are based on the Global Emission Inventory Activity (GEIA) (Benkovitz et al., 1996), overwritten with NO_x , CO, and SO_x from the Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) inventory (Olivier and Berdowski, 2001) and from various regional emissions inventories as described by Nassar et al. (2009). Anthropogenic emissions in Asia are from the Streets 2000 inventory (Streets et al., 2003), with anthropogenic CO emissions in China updated by the Streets 2001 inventory (Streets et al., 2006). These base inventory emissions are scaled to our 2005 simulation year, following van Donkelaar et al. (2008). The 2005 anthropogenic emission for Asia (0 – 60° N, 65 – 150° E) is $10.1 \text{ Tg N yr}^{-1}$ for NO_x and 271.9 Tg yr^{-1} for CO. Biofuel emissions follow Yevich and Logan (2003). Biogenic VOC emissions are based on the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosol from Nature (MEGAN) inventory (Guenther et al., 2006). Biomass burning emissions are based on the Global Fire Emissions Database version 2 (GFEDv2), which resolves interannual variability (van der Werf et al., 2006). The monthly GFEDv2 emissions were resampled to an 8-day time step using MODIS fire hot spots (Giglio et al., 2003; Nassar et al., 2009).

Lightning NO emissions in GEOS-Chem are calculated locally in deep convection events with the scheme of Price and Rind (1992) that links flash rates to convective cloud top heights. The spatial distribution of lightning averaged over 11 years in the model is constrained to match the climatological (11-year) satellite observations of lightning flash rates from the Optical Transient Detector–Lightning Imaging Sensor (OTD-LIS) High Resolution Monthly Climatology (HRMC v2.2) product by applying a local monthly rescaling factor (Sauvage et al., 2007; Nassar et al., 2009). The interannual variability of the lightning NO_x emissions as represented by the model is retained, with approximately 6 Tg N yr^{-1} released globally (Sauvage et al., 2007; Nassar et al., 2009). The vertical distribution of lightning NO_x emissions follows Pickering et al. (1998), with most of NO_x in the upper troposphere (55–75 % above 8 km). The model uses the linearized stratospheric O_3 chemistry scheme (Linoz or linearized ozone) of McLinden et al. (2000). Liu et al. (2015) previously suggested that Linoz in a CTM driven with the GEOS-4 and GEOS-5 assimilated meteorological fields yields reasonable impacts of cross-tropopause transport on the lower troposphere.

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