Tropospheric Ozone and Air Quality



Introduction: Motivation and Background Jim Wilczak (PSD) and Joost DeGouw (CSD)

Emissions, Chemistry and Transport: Christoph Senff and Joost DeGouw (CSD)

Profiles, Long Range Transport and Trends: Russ Schnell (GMD)

Meteorological Processes and Model Evaluation: Jian-Wen Bao (PSD)

Model Development: Georg Grell (GSD)

Future Outlook: Joost DeGouw (CSD)



Bad Ozone -

Impacts of Elevated Ozone: Human Health



Health-related costs to society >\$100 Billion

Damages respiratory tract; causes and aggravates asthma

- Reduce lung capacity enhances mortality: >20,000 premature deaths per year
- Adverse health effects are observed at levels below present 84 ppb EPA standard

Impacts of Elevated Ozone: Ecosystem



 Reduction in crop yields costs \$3-5 Billion/year
Reduced carbon uptake leaves more CO₂ in the atmosphere

Gregg et al., *Nature* 2003

Impacts of Elevated Ozone: Climate



Relative contribution to radiative forcing from the five main greenhouse gases in the troposphere

IPCC, 4th Assessment report, 2007

Ozone is a greenhouse gas, accounting for 12% of radiative forcing due to all anthropogenic geenhouse gases.

Counties Designated Nonattainment for EPA 84 ppb 8-hour Ozone Standard



Formation of Ozone in the Troposphere

de Gouw & Senff (CSD)

Ozone is not directly emitted but formed from the photochemical oxidation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of nitrogen oxides (NO_x):

$VOCs + NO_x + sunlight \longrightarrow O_3 + oxidized VOCs$





U.S. Sources of NO_x

U.S. Sources of VOCs

Grell (GSD) Bao (PSD)

Model of Ozone Life-Cycle



California ozone compliance costs

- More than \$50 Billion for California to reach compliance with EPA 84 ppb standard
 - Automotive emissions including gasoline reformulation
 - Power plant emissions
 - Ship fuel
 - Catalytic converters on trains, replacing diesel engines on construction and agricultural equipment
 - Consumer products (e.g., paint, lawnmowers, aerosol sprays)

EPA is Conducting a Review of the Ozone Standard

Based on known health effects, recommendation is to reduce maximum allowable ozone from 84 ppb to between 60-80 ppb.



Present Nonattainment Areas

Estimated Future Nonattainment Areas

• With new standard, questions regarding meteorological transport will become even more important

Grell (GSD) Bao (PSD)



Global Distribution of Ozone

Schnell (GMD)



Lelieveld & Dentener, JGR 2000

Northern Hemisphere Summer:

Surface maxima over U.S., Mediterranean and E. Asia

> Transport is a global issue

Ozone Research in NOAA

• ESRL

- (CSD-emissions, transformations)
- (GMD- global distribution)
- (PSD-meteorological processes)
- (GSD-model development)
- NOAA (ARL, NWS, GFDL)
- NOAA (research & forecasting)-EPA (mostly regulatory)

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