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#### 1 Quantifying the tropospheric ozone radiative effect and its temporal evolution in the satellite-era

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#### 21 Key Points:

- Using satellite data and model simulations, we quantify the long-term (2008-2017) global average tropospheric ozone radiative effect to range between 1.21 and 1.28 W/m<sup>2</sup>.
- Satellite/modelled long-term trends in the tropospheric ozone radiative effect have
   remained stable (2008-2017) yielding no substantial changing influences on climate.
- Meteorological variability has been important in stabilising the global tropospheric ozone
   radiative effect with time.

# 28 Abstract:

29 Using state-of-the-art satellite ozone profile products, and chemical transport model, we provide an

- $30 \qquad \text{updated estimate of the tropospheric ozone radiative effect (TO_3RE) and observational constraint on}$
- 31 its variability over the decade 2008-2017. Previous studies have shown the short-term (i.e. a few
- $32 \qquad \text{years) globally weighted average } TO_3 \text{RE to be } 1.17 \pm 0.03 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{, while our analysis suggests that the}$
- 33  $\,$  long-term (2008-2017) average TO\_3RE to be 1.21-1.28 W/m^2. Over this decade, the
- 34 modelled/observational TO<sub>3</sub>RE linear trends show negligible change (i.e.  $\pm 0.1\%$ /year), so the
- 35 tropospheric ozone radiative contribution to climate has remained stable with time. Two model
- 36 sensitivity experiments fixing emissions and meteorology to one year (i.e. start year 2008) show





- 37 that ozone precursor emissions (meteorological factors) have had limited (substantial) impacts on
- 38 the long-term tendency of globally weighted average TO<sub>3</sub>RE. Here, the meteorological variability in
- $39 \qquad the tropical/sub-tropical upper troposphere is dampening any tendency in TO_3 RE from other factors$
- 40 (e.g. emissions, atmospheric chemistry).

# 41 Plain Language Summary:

42 Tropospheric ozone is a potent air pollutant and an important short-lived climate forcer (SLCF). It is a 43 secondary pollutant formed through chemical reactions of precursor gases and sunlight. As a SLCF, it 44 influences the incoming solar short-wave radiation and the outgoing long-wave radiation in the 45 upper troposphere (approximately at altitudes of 10-15 km) where the balance between the two 46 yields a net positive (i.e. warming) effect at the surface. The majority of previous estimates of the 47 tropospheric ozone radiative effect (TO<sub>3</sub>RE) have been quantified from atmospheric chemistry 48 climate model simulations. However, satellite retrievals of tropospheric ozone in recent decades 49 have provided the opportunity to estimate these model TO<sub>3</sub>RE estimates. In this study, we utilise 50 satellite ozone profile retrievals from the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI), on-51 board the MetOp-A satellite, to derive a long-term average TO<sub>3</sub>RE estimate of 1.21-1.28 W/m<sup>2</sup>. 52 While this builds upon previous studies (e.g. TO<sub>3</sub>RE estimates of 1.17±0.03 W/m<sup>2</sup>), the improved 53 spatial coverage and temporal record of IASI also allows for the assessment of TO₃RE variability and 54 tendencies on a decadal scale. Here, we find negligible trends in the TO<sub>3</sub>RE (2008-2017) suggesting 55 that the contribution of tropospheric ozone to climate, via radiative properties, remained stable 56 over that period.

### 57 1. Introduction

58 Tropospheric ozone  $(TO_3)$  is a short-lived climate forcer (SLCF). It is the third most important 59 greenhouse gas (GHG; Myhre et al., 2013) and a hazardous air pollutant with adverse impacts on 60 human health (WHO, 2018) and the biosphere (e.g. agricultural and natural vegetation; Sitch et al., 61 2007). Since the pre-industrial (PI) period, anthropogenic activities have increased the atmospheric 62 loading of ozone  $(O_3)$  precursor gases, most notably nitrogen oxides  $(NO_x)$  and methane  $(CH_4)$ , 63 resulting in an increase in TO<sub>3</sub> of 25-50% since 1900 (Gauss et al., 2006; Lamarque et al., 2010; Young 64 et al., 2013). The PI to present day (PD) radiative forcing (RF) from TO<sub>3</sub> is estimated to be 0.4 (0.2-65 0.6) Wm<sup>-2</sup> (Myhre et al., 2013; Stevenson et al., 2013) based on model simulations.

66 While models provide a valuable framework to quantify the  $TO_3$  RF, observations are required to 67 validate the models' representation of  $TO_3$  and  $TO_3$  RF. Observations are not available for the PI, but 68 multiple satellite products of TO<sub>3</sub> are readily available in the PD (e.g. Richards et al., 2008; Boynard 69 et al., 2018; Barret et al., 2020). The tropospheric ozone radiative effect (TO<sub>3</sub>RE) is defined as the 70 radiative flux imbalance at the tropopause between incoming short-wave solar radiation and the 71 outgoing long-wave radiation due to the presence of TO<sub>3</sub> (Rap et al., 2015). Therefore, satellite 72 ozone profile datasets from infrared instruments, in combination with off-line ozone radiative 73 kernels to account for vertical sensitivity (e.g. Bowman et al., (2013); Rap et al., 2015), can be used 74 to quantify the PD TO<sub>3</sub>RE and thus provide some constraint on modelled TO<sub>3</sub>RE which is used to 75 derive the TO<sub>3</sub>RF.

 $76 \qquad \text{Several studies have previously used satellite data to derive short-term estimates of the TO_3 RE (i.e.$ 

- from a few months of data). Joiner et al., (2009) used tropospheric column ozone ( $TCO_3$ ) data based
- 78 on two satellite instruments: Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) and Microwave Limb Sounder





79 (MLS) measurements, also known as OMI-MLS product for January and July 2005, to estimate the 80 resultant instantaneous TO<sub>3</sub>RE at the tropopause to be 1.53 W/m<sup>2</sup>. Worden et al., (2008) used ozone 81 profile data for 2006 from the Tropospheric Emissions Spectrometer (TES), on-board NASA's Aura 82 satellite, to estimate the average instantaneous long-wave TO<sub>3</sub>RE at the top-of-the-atmosphere 83 (TOA) over the oceans (45°S-45°N) to be 0.48±0.14 W/m<sup>2</sup>. Worden et al., (2011), using TES data for 84 August 2006, estimated the instantaneous long-wave TO<sub>3</sub>RE at TOA to be 0.33 W/m<sup>2</sup>. Later, Bowman 85 et al., (2013) also used TES data (averaged between 2005 and 2009) to constrain the simulated 86 instantaneous long-wave TO<sub>3</sub>RE from an ensemble model average. They found that seasonally, TES 87 long-wave TO<sub>3</sub>RE peaks in northern Africa/Mediterranean/Middle East in June-July-August over 1.0 88 W/m<sup>2</sup> with minimum values (0.0-0.2 W/m<sup>2</sup>) over the winter-time high-latitudes. Overall, the 89 ensemble average long-wave TO<sub>3</sub>RE low bias was 0.12 W/m<sup>2</sup>. Doniki et al., (2015) took this further 90 by calculating the instantaneous long-wave TO<sub>3</sub>RE from the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding 91 Interferometer (IASI), though using a small subset of the data, and found estimates from Worden et 92 al., (2008), using TES, had a low bias of ~25%. Rap et al., (2015) also used TES satellite ozone profile 93 observations (2005-2008) in combination with the TOMCAT chemical transport model (CTM) and 94 provided the first robust satellite constraint on annual globally weighted resultant TO<sub>3</sub>RE (after 95 stratospheric temperature adjustment) with a range of  $1.17\pm0.03$  W/m<sup>2</sup>. 96 Following the methodology adopted in Rap et al. (2015), we exploit satellite ozone profile data from

Following the methodology adopted in Rap et al. (2015), we exploit satellite ozone profile data from
IASI, on the MetOp-A satellite, which has a long-term record and substantial spatial coverage, in
combination with the TOMCT CTM, to improve the TO<sub>3</sub>RE estimate and investigate its long-term
variability and implications for climate. The satellite data, radiation model and CTM used are
discussed in Section 2, our results are presented in Section 3 and Section 4 summarises our
conclusions.

#### 102 2. Observations and Model

#### 103 2.1. Satellite Observations

IASI is a Michelson interferometer with a nadir-viewing spectral range between 645 and 2760 cm<sup>-1</sup>
with spectral sampling of 0.25 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Illingworth et al., 2011). It measures simultaneously in four fields
of view (FOV, each circular at nadir with a diameter of 12 km) in a 50 x 50km square which are
scanned across track to sample a 2200 km-wide swath (Clerbaux et al., 2009). IASI, on Eumetsat's
MetOp-A satellite, is in a sun-synchronous polar orbit with equator crossing local times of 9.30 (day)
and 21.30 (night).

110 The three IASI products we use in this study are the IASI-FORLI product (vn 20151001, IASI-FORLI, 111 2020; Boynard et al., 2018; Wespes et al., 2018), the IASI-SOFRID product (vn 3.5, IASI-SOFRID, 2022; 112 Barret et al., 2020) and the RAL IASI-IMS product (IASI-IMS, 2022; Pope et al., 2021; Pimlott et al. 113 ,2022) between 2008 and 2017 (i.e. period of consistent data coverage for all the IASI products). All 114 three products use an optimal estimation method (OEM, Rogers, 2000) to retrieve ozone. Both IASI-115 SOFRID and IASI-IMS use the RTTOV radiative transfer model (Saunders et al. 1999), while the IASI-116 FORLI product uses look-up tables to speed up its radiative transfer calculations (Hurtmans et al., 117 2012). Meteorological inputs (pressure, water vapour, temperature and clouds) for IASI-FORLI come 118 from Eumetsat level-2 data, while IASI-SOFRID uses ECMWF operational analyses and IASI-IMS uses 119 ECMWF surface pressures and co-retrieves other meteorological and surface variables. For the 120 ozone apriori, IASI-FORLI and IASI-IMS use the ozone climatology of McPeters et al., (2007), while 121 IASI-SOFRID uses the dynamical ozone climatology described in Sofieva et al., (2014).





122 The IASI-FORLI level-2 data are filtered for a geometric cloud fraction <0.2, degrees of freedom > 2.0, 123  $O_3$  values > 0.0, solar zenith angle < 80.0° and the surface to 450 hPa sub-column  $O_3$  / total column 124  $O_3 < 0.085$ . The IASI-SOFRID data were provided on a  $1.0^{\circ} \times 1.0^{\circ}$  horizontal grid (i.e. level-3 product, 125 but daily temporal resolution - we used daytime retrievals only) with filtering already applied as in 126 Barret et al., (2020). Here, only O<sub>3</sub> values > 0.0 were used. For IASI-IMS level-2, the data are filtered 127 for a geometric cloud fraction <0.5,  $O_3$  values > 0.0, solar zenith angle < 80.0° and a cost function < 128 1000.0. However, for IASI-IMS, we relaxed the geometric cloud fraction threshold to 0.5 as it retains 129 more data as the data product in this study has only been processed for 1 in 10 days and 1 in 4 130 pixels.

#### 131 2.2. Ozonesondes

132 Despite the three IASI ozone profile products using the same radiance data, the three retrieval 133 schemes produced systematic differences between the products in the long-term TCO<sub>3</sub> average (e.g. 134 Figures S2 and S3 from the Supporting Information (SI)). Though, the spatial structure in the three 135 products compares well. Therefore, to harmonise the three IASI TCO<sub>3</sub> data sets (i.e. absolute values 136 but not long-term variability) we use ozonesonde data from the World Ozone and Ultraviolet 137 Radiation Data Centre (WOUDC; WOUDC, 2023), the Southern Hemisphere ADditional Ozonesondes 138 (SHADOZ; SHADOZ, 2023) project and the Global Monitoring Laboratory, National Oceanic and 139 Atmospheric Administration (NOAA; NOAA, 2023). Here,  $O_3$  measurements were rejected if the  $O_3$  or 140 pressure values were unphysical (i.e. < 0.0), if the O<sub>3</sub> partial pressure > 2000.0 mPa or the O<sub>3</sub> value 141 was set to 99.9, and whole ozonesonde profiles were rejected if least 50% of the measurements did 142 not meet these criteria. These criteria are similar to those applied by Keppins et al., (2018) and 143 Hubert et al., (2016). To allow for direct like-for-like comparisons between the two quantities, 144 accounting for the vertical sensitivity of the satellite, the instrument averaging kernels (AKs) are 145 applied the ozonesonde profiles as:

146

#### $sonde_{AK} = AK. (sonde_{int} - apr) + apr$ (1)

147 where *sonde<sub>AK</sub>* is the modified ozonesonde sub-column profile, *AK* is the averaging kernel matrix, 148 *sonde<sub>int</sub>* is the ozonesonde sub-column profile interpolated on the satellite pressure grid and *apr* is 149 the a priori for the satellite retrieval. For the application of the AKs to the ozonesonde profiles, the 150 full ozone profile is required which is not available from the ozonesondes (i.e. mid-stratosphere and 151 above). Therefore, the ozonesonde profile above its minimum pressure level is extended using the 152 apriori profile from the corresponding satellite product. The profile is smoothed vertically across the 153 joining pressure level to avoid a profile discontinuity.

154 Once the ozonesondes had been co-located with the satellite data (i.e. within 6-hours and 500 km) 155 and the AKs applied, the two datasets were compared across the full 2008-2017 period. We typically 156 find a global annual TCO<sub>3</sub> systematic bias of 14.9%, 2.7% and 17.4% for IASI-FORLI, IASI-SOFRID and 157 IASI-IMS, respectively, which is consistent with Boynard et al., (2018), Barret et al., (2020) and 158 Pimlott et al., (2022). Here, we generated annual-latitude (30° bins) bias correction factors (BCF) 159 which were applied to the gridded satellite records (see SI-2) to harmonise the retrieved  $TCO_3$  (i.e. 160 remove the systematic errors) and scale the derived TO<sub>3</sub>RE. This is an important exercise as it 161 provides a more accurate absolute range in satellite retrieved TCO<sub>3</sub> (and the ozone values used to 162 derive the TO<sub>3</sub>RE) but as the ozonesondes generally have poor spatial coverage, the global coverage 163 and spatial distribution of the satellite data is critical in our analysis. Note, that as a climatology was





used, the systematic biases in the satellite records were affected but their long-term temporalvariability retained.

### 166 **2.3. TOMCAT**

167 In this study, we use the 3D global chemical transport model TOMCAT (Chipperfield, 2006), which 168 has a detailed tropospheric chemistry scheme including 229 gas-phase reactions and 82 advected 169 tracers (Monks et al., 2017). Model heterogeneous chemistry uses size-resolved aerosol from the 170 GLOMAP module (Mann et al., 2010). The model was run between 2008 and 2017 at a 2.8°×2.8° 171 spatial resolution with 31 vertical levels between the surface and 10hPa. The model is forced by 172 meteorological reanalyses (ERA-Interim) from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather 173 Forecasts (ECMWF; Dee et al., 2011) including reanalysis cloud fields and mass fluxes (e.g. as in 174 Rowlinson et al., 2020, Pimlott et al., 2022). Annually varying anthropogenic emissions come from 175 the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6, Feng et al., 2020). Climatological 176 biogenic emissions are from the Chemistry-Climate Model Initiative (CCMI; Morgenstern et al., 2017) 177 but isoprene and monoterpene emissions are annually varying from the Joint UK Land Environment 178 Simulator (JULES, Pacifico et al., 2011) within the free-running UK Earth System Model (UKESM, 179 Sellar et al., 2019). Other natural emissions come from the Precursors of Ozone and their Effects in 180 the Troposphere (POET, Olivier et al., 2003) and biomass burning emissions from the Global Fire 181 Emissions Database (GFED) version 4 (van der Werf et al., 2017). For methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), the model 182 tracer is scaled to the annually varying global averaged surface CH<sub>4</sub> value from NOAA (Dlugokencky, 183 2020). The model was spun up for 1-year (2007) and the model tracers output daily at 09:30 local 184 time (LT) globally to match the MetOp-A daytime overpass time. When comparing with IASI, the 185 satellite AKs are applied to the TOMCAT vertical ozone profiles in the same way as the ozonesondes 186 (i.e. Equation 1). Here, the TOMCAT ozone profile (already temporally co-located) is co-located from 187 the model grid box the retrieval sits in. To investigate the importance of emissions and meteorology 188 on TO<sub>3</sub> and TO<sub>3</sub>RE, two sensitivity experiments were run between 2008 and 2017 using repeating 189 emissions and meteorology for 2008 (i.e. start of the time-series) annually in the model simulation 190 over the time period.

### 191 2.4. Radiative Transfer Model and Kernel

192 The TO₃RE was calculated using the SOCRATES off-line radiative transfer model (Edwards and Slingo, 193 1996) in combination with TOMCAT and the three IASI ozone products. SOCRATES has six bands in 194 the short-wave and nine in the long-wave. To account for stratospheric temperature adjustments, 195 Rap et al., (2015) used the dynamical heating approximation (Fels et al., 1980). This involved 196 accounting for changes in the stratospheric heating rate determined from the model due to the O<sub>3</sub> 197 perturbation, which were applied to the temperature field, with the model run iteratively until 198 stratospheric temperatures reached equilibrium (Rap et al., 2015). This approach of using the 199 SOCRATES off-line radiative kernel with output from model simulations to derive the TO<sub>3</sub> radiative 200 effect has been used in several studies e.g. Rap et al., (2015), Scott et al., (2018), Iglesias-Suarez et 201 al. (2018) and Rowlinson et al., (2020).

To derive the satellite TO₃RE, the annual average IASI 3D ozone field is multiplied by the off-line
 radiative kernel (grid box by grid box) and then summed from the surface to the tropopause
 pressure. Here, the IASI ozone data is mapped onto the spatial resolution of the radiative kernel and
 then interpolated vertically onto its pressure grid. The equation for each grid box is:



206



# $TO_3RE = \sum_{i=surf}^{trop} RK_i \times O_{3i} \times dp_i/100$ (2)

where  $TO_3RE$  is the tropospheric ozone radiative effect (W/m<sup>2</sup>), *RK* is the radiative kernel (W/m<sup>2</sup>/ppbv/100 hPa),  $O_3$  is the satellite ozone grid box value (ppbv), *dp* is the pressure difference between vertical levels (hPa) and *i* is the grid box index between the surface pressure level and the tropopause pressure. The tropopause pressure is based on the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) definition of "the lowest level at which the temperature lapse rate decreases to 2 K/km or less" (Bethan et al., 1996).

# 213 3. Results

### 214 3.1. Tropospheric Ozone Radiative Effect

Figure 1 shows the IASI derived TCO<sub>3</sub>, TO<sub>3</sub>RE and normalised TO<sub>3</sub>RE (NTO<sub>3</sub>RE, i.e. the TO<sub>3</sub>RE divided
by its TCO<sub>3</sub> as in Rap et al., (2015)). For the TCO<sub>3</sub>, all three harmonised IASI products have good
spatial agreement in the long-term (2008-2017) average with a background north-south hemisphere
gradient of approximately 30.0-40.0 to 15.0-25.0 DU. Peak TCO<sub>3</sub> (>40.0 DU) occurs over East Asia,
the Middle East and ozone outflow from central Africa (e.g. from lightning and biomass burning
precursor gases (Moxim & Levy, 2000)). The global average TCO<sub>3</sub> values for IASI-FORLI, IASI-SOFRID
and IASI-IMS are 32.6 DU, 29.9 DU and 29.9 DU, respectively (Figure 1 left column).

222 When the TO<sub>3</sub>RE is calculated (Figure 1 middle column), peak values occur over the sub-tropics, 223 Africa and Australia ranging between approximately 2.0 and 2.5 W/m<sup>2</sup> consistently for each IASI 224 product. The minimum values are in the high latitudes ranging between 0.0 and 0.8 W/m<sup>2</sup> where  $TO_3$ 225 appears to have limited impact on the TO<sub>3</sub>RE. The bottom panel of Figure 1 supports this as the 226 zonally average profiles, weighted by the cosine of degrees latitude, show that TCO3 is near-zero in 227 the high-latitudes, approximately 15.0-20.0 DU in the mid-latitudes, peaking at 28.0-33.0 DU in the 228 sub-tropics and then decreasing by several DU at the tropics. The corresponding TO₃RE profiles 229 follow a similar pattern with near-zero values at the high-latitudes, approximately 0.5-1.0 W/m<sup>2</sup> in 230 the mid-latitudes, peak at 1.5 W/m<sup>2</sup> in the sub-tropics and then decrease to 1.1-1.2 W/m<sup>2</sup> in the 231 tropics. Therefore, the sub-tropics have the largest contribution to the global TO<sub>3</sub>RE. The global 232 weighted TO<sub>3</sub>RE averages for IASI-FORLI, IASI-SOFRID and IASI-IMS are 1.23, 1.21 and 1.21 W/m<sup>2</sup>, 233 respectively.

234 The NTO<sub>3</sub>RE (Figure 1 right column) provides an estimate of where the TO<sub>3</sub>RE is most sensitive to 235 changes in TCO<sub>3</sub> (i.e. the unit of TO<sub>3</sub>RE per unit of TCO<sub>3</sub>). Peak NTO<sub>3</sub>RE (>45.0 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU) occurs in 236 similar locations to the peak TO<sub>3</sub>RE (e.g. sub-tropics, Africa and Australia), while the minimum values 237 (10.0-20.0 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU) occur in the high-latitudes. However, while the South Pacific TCO<sub>3</sub> values 238 (23.0-30.0) are lower than other ocean regions (e.g. >30.0 DU), the NTO<sub>3</sub>RE values are of similar 239 magnitude (approximately 50.0 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU). Therefore, while the sub-tropical/mid-latitude oceans 240 have reasonable large TCO<sub>3</sub> and TO<sub>3</sub>RE values, the South Pacific is more effective at contributing to 241 the TO<sub>3</sub>RE, despite its lower TCO<sub>3</sub> values (i.e. more positive radiative effect per unit of TO<sub>3</sub>).

Overall, the global weighted average NTO<sub>3</sub>RE is 37.78, 40.43 and 40.60 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU for IASI-FORLI,
IASI-SORID and IASI-IMS, respectively. Based on the AKs, the tropospheric degrees of freedom of
signal (DOFS, between the surface and 170 hPa – approximate tropopause) is approximately 1.0 for
all three IASI products (not shown here). However, it is likely that differences in the IASI ozone
profiles are driving the contrasting globally averaged NTO<sub>3</sub>RE values. As the IASI-FORLI NTO<sub>3</sub>RE is
lower, while having the highest global average TCO<sub>3</sub> and TO<sub>3</sub>RE, it suggests that IASI-FORLI has more





248 $TO_3$  in the mid-troposphere where the radiative kernel has less sensitivity. Further to this, as the IASI249ozone products only have approximately 1.0 DOFS, the harmonisation of the products using the250ozonesondes can only be done on a tropospheric column level and thus the scaling of the satellite251derived  $TO_3RE$  (i.e. even though the upper troposphere is the most sensitive region to ozone252radiative properties, the scaling of the  $TO_3RE$  is applied based on the satellite-ozonesonde  $TCO_3$ 253relative differences).

254 TOMCAT allows for a further quantification of the  $TO_3RE$  in the satellite-era and the ability to run 255 sensitivity experiments to explore important processes. Therefore, the TOMCAT equivalent metrics 256 from Figure 1 are presented in Figure 2. Evaluation of the model using the IASI products and 257 ozonesondes (see SI-2, Figure S3 & S4) shows the model generally captures the TCO<sub>3</sub> spatial pattern 258 and absolute values. In the tropics (mid/high-latitudes), the model underestimates (overestimates) 259 by approximately 10-20% on average. These biases are comparable with other modelling studies 260 evaluating models against satellite TO<sub>3</sub> observations (e.g. Archibald et al., 2020; Monks et al., 2017; 261 Nassar et al., 2009; Young et al., 2013), indicating that TOMCAT is a suitable modelling framework in 262 this study.

263 The globally mean TCO<sub>3</sub> from TOMCAT (2008-2017) with the three sets of AKs applied (Figure 2 left 264 column) ranges between 31.6 and 32.5 DU, so it slightly larger than the IASI data sets in Figure 1. 265 When translated into TO<sub>3</sub>RE, the peak values from TOMCAT (with AKs applied) ranges between 2.0 266 and >2.5 W/m<sup>2</sup> over Africa, Australia and the sub-tropics. The globally weighted TO<sub>3</sub>RE for TOMCAT 267 with the IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID AKs applied is 1.28 W/m<sup>2</sup> and thus moderately higher than IASI 268 (1.21-1.23 W/m<sup>2</sup>) but comparable overall. However, the globally weighted TO<sub>3</sub>RE for TOMCAT with 269 IASI-IMS AKs applied is larger at 1.34 W/m<sup>2</sup>. As TOMCAT has a positive TCO<sub>3</sub> bias with the 270 observations in the sub-tropics, where the TO<sub>3</sub>RE influence is most pronounced, this probably 271 explains the larger model TO<sub>3</sub>RE values. In the bottom panel of Figure 2, the zonal profiles (weighted 272 by cosine of degree latitude) for TCO<sub>3</sub> (TO<sub>3</sub>RE) are consistent with IASI as high-latitude values are 273 near-zero, mid-latitude values range between 10.0 and 20.0 DU (0.5 to 1.0 W/m<sup>2</sup>) and sub-tropical 274 values range between 30.0 and 38.0 DU (1.5 and 1.7 W/m<sup>2</sup>). There is a decrease to approximately 275 25.0 DU (1.0-1.3 W/m<sup>2</sup>) in the tropics. In terms of the NTO<sub>3</sub>RE, the TOMCAT (with AKs applied) global 276 weighted values range between 39.4 and 42.4 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU, which is similar to IASI. The peak NTO<sub>3</sub>RE 277 values are over the oceans (50.0-60.0 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU) and over Africa/Australia (>60.0 mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU). 278 Like for IASI, the TCO<sub>3</sub> values over the South Pacific are lower than the other ocean values but the 279 NTO<sub>3</sub>RE values are similar, again showing that despite the lower TO<sub>3</sub>, the South Pacific region is 280 important for the global  $TO_3RE$  given its greater sensitivity (i.e. more radiative effect per unit of  $TO_3$ ).

## 281 **3.2.** Temporal Evolution of the Tropospheric Ozone Radiative Effect

282 As IASI has daily global coverage (Clerbaux et al., 2009), we are able to derive annual average 3D 283 ozone fields between 2008 and 2017, thus providing the first assessment of temporal variability and 284 tendency in satellite derived TO<sub>3</sub>RE. Figure 3 shows the annual TO<sub>3</sub>RE time series for all three IASI 285 products. First thing to note, is that the Eumetsat meteorological data used to retrieve ozone for the 286 IASI-FORLI product is subject to inhomogeneities (Boynard et al., 2018; Wespes et al., 2018). As a 287 result, we include long-term analysis of the IASI-FORLI data for the full time period (2008-2017) and 288 then a sub-time period (2011-2017) given the large inhomogeneity in September 2010 reported by 289 Boynard et al., (2018) and Wespes et al., (2018). Here, we can derive the TO₃RE to quantify the 290 absolute values (e.g. are they generally similar year to year) and how they compare between





products over the two time periods. In the near future, a new consistent IASI-FORLI ozone climate
 data record will be available using homogeneous level-2 Eumetsat meteorological data.

293 For IASI-SOFRID and IASI-IMS, the annual TO<sub>3</sub>RE values range between 1.19 and 1.24 W/m<sup>2</sup> across 294 the 2008-2017 time period. IASI-FORLI has somewhat larger values at the start of the record (1.26-295 1.28 W/m<sup>2</sup>) before tending to that of IASI-SOFRID/IASI-IMS from 2011 onwards. Correlations 296 (squared) in the annual TO<sub>3</sub>RE time-series between IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID (IASI-IMS) are poor at 297 R<sup>2</sup>=0.148 (R<sup>2</sup>=0.132). However, IASI-SOFRID and IASI-IMS have a much stronger agreement with 298 R<sup>2</sup>=0.591 (significant at the 95<sup>th</sup> confidence level, CL95%) sharing nearly 60% of the temporal 299 variability. We also calculate the coefficient of variation (CoV, i.e., time series standard deviation 300 divided by its mean) to assess the inter-annual variability. For IASI-SOFRID and IASI-IMS, this is 1.1%, 301 but for IASI-FORLI it is 2.5%. Therefore, there is more year-to-year variability in the IASI-FORLI TO₃RE 302 record. However, when focussing on IASI-FORLI data for 2011-2017, the CoV drops to 1.2% in-line 303 with IASI-SOFRID and IASI-IMS. The correlation (squared) values are now R<sup>2</sup><sub>FORLI-SOFRID</sub>=0.496 304 (significant at the CL95%) and R<sup>2</sup><sub>FORLI-IMS</sub>=0.137, which shows improved agreement between IASI-305 FORLI and IASI-SOFRID, but slightly surprisingly not with IASI-IMS. Using ordinary least squares fit 306 regression, IASI-FORLI, IASI-SORFRID and IASI-IMS have global average weighed TO<sub>3</sub>RE linear trends 307 of -0.6%/year (CL95%), 0.0%/year (non-significant) and -0.1%/year (non-significant). As the IASI-308 FORLI product has known inhomogeneities (hence the larger CoV), the insignificant IASI-SOFRID and 309 IASI-IMS trends are more robust. This is supported by IASI-FORLI when only considering 2011-2017 310 with an insignificant linear trend of -0.2%/year. Therefore, this suggests negligible change in the 311 contribution of  $TO_3$  to the tropospheric radiative effect and thus climate over the recent past (i.e. 312 2008-2017).

313 TOMCAT global average weighed  $TO_3RE$  (without AKs applied) ranges between 1.24 and 1.29 W/m<sup>2</sup> 314 between 2008 and 2017. The CoV is 1.5% for TOMCAT, so it is larger than both IASI-SOFRID and IASI-315 IMS. When the IASI AKs are applied to TOMCAT, there is a substantial shift in the modelled absolute 316 TO<sub>3</sub>RE values. TOMCAT with IASI-SOFRID and IASI-FORLI AKs applied ranged between 1.28 and 1.30 317 W/m<sup>2</sup>. And for TOMCAT with the IASI-IMS AKs applied, the TO<sub>3</sub>RE values peak at 1.33 to 1.34 W/m<sup>2</sup> 318 between 2008 and 2017. As well as the increase in  $TO_3RE$  values, the application of the AKs squashes 319 the TOMCAT inter-annual variability with corresponding CoV values between 0.4 and 0.6%, which is 320 smaller than the original CoV of 1.5%. Interestingly, without the application of the AKs, the TOMCAT 321 TO<sub>3</sub>RE time-series has similar temporal variability (e.g. peaks in 2008, 2010 and 2017 and troughs in 322 2009 and 2014. Overall, all the TOMCAT TO<sub>3</sub>RE time-series (with and without AKs applied have 323 insignificant linear trends ranging between -0.1%/year and 0.1%/year. Therefore, even with the 324 influence of the IASI AKs on the TOMCAT TO<sub>3</sub>RE time-series, there appears to be a negligible trend in 325 the modelled TO<sub>3</sub>RE, supporting that of the IASI records. As a result, between 2008 and 2017, there 326 has been limited change in  $TO_3$  and  $TO_3RE$ , thus the impact of  $TO_3$  on climate has remained stable.

327 To investigate the importance of emissions and meteorology on the long-term TO<sub>3</sub>RE trends, 328 TOMCAT was run using repeating emissions and repeating meteorology for 2008 (i.e. start of the 329 time-series) in two sensitivity experiments for the full time-period. Here, we find that in absolute 330 terms, using fixed emissions reduces the TO<sub>3</sub> burden and the TO<sub>3</sub>RE as the time-series drops to 1.22 331 to 1.28 W/m<sup>2</sup> (i.e. minima in 2014 and 2015 more pronounced). However, the trend in  $TO_3RE$  (-332 0.2%/year) remains insignificant and that emissions are only moderately important in driving long-333 term tendencies in TO₃RE. On the other hand, meteorological factors, while not dramatically altering 334 the absolute simulated TO<sub>3</sub>RE values, are more important as fixing the meteorology yields a steady





and significant increase (0.3%/year). Thus, without year-to-year variability in meteorology, temporal variability in  $TO_3$  would likely have a more substantial impact on the present day climate.

337 Figure 4 shows the horizontal and vertical impact of the two sensitivity experiments on TOMCAT O<sub>3</sub> 338 radiative effect (note the different colour bar scales). Consistent with Figures 1 and 2, the TOMCAT 339 control TO<sub>3</sub>RE has peak values (>2.50 W/m<sup>2</sup>) over northern Africa and throughout the sub-tropics 340 (approximately 2.0 W/m<sup>2</sup>, Figure 4a). Vertically, the TOMCAT peak ozone radiative effect (>0.25 341  $W/m^2$ ) is in the upper troposphere (Figure 4b) with the largest impact in the sub-tropics of both 342 hemispheres (500-200 hPa). Similar values extend through the hemispheric mid-latitudes but in a 343 smaller pressure range (400-300 hPa). As shown in Figure 3, the fixed meteorological run imposes a 344 significant TO<sub>3</sub>RE trend on the modelled tendency between 2008 and 2017. From Figure 4c, the 345 difference between the fixed meteorology and control runs shows mainly positive TO<sub>3</sub>RE differences 346 of 0.1 to >0.2 W/m<sup>2</sup> throughout the tropics and sub-tropics, though there is considerable spatial 347 variation due to changes in the global circulation. In the high and mid-latitudes, there are smaller 348 scale negative differences ranging between -0.1 and 0.0 W/m<sup>2</sup> (though some differences up to -0.15 349 W/m<sup>2</sup> in the sub-tropical Pacific). In the upper troposphere (Figure 4d), the zonal average O<sub>3</sub> 350 radiative effect is consistent with positive differences of up to 0.02 W/m<sup>2</sup> at approximately 200 hPa 351 in the tropics and sub-tropics. The positive differences (approximately 0.01 W/m<sup>2</sup>) filter down to 600 352 hPa in the same latitudinal range. In the mid-latitudes, the peak negative differences are 353 approximately -0.02 to -0.015 W/m<sup>2</sup> at 300 hPa, with a reach down to 500 hPa at -0.005 W/m<sup>2</sup>. 354 Overall, as shown in Figure 3, the fixed meteorology run increases the global average TO<sub>3</sub>RE. While 355 this could be a specific signal related to the 2008 meteorology (i.e. it is conducive to  $TO_3$  formation), 356 it clearly shows that the upper tropospheric tropical and sub-tropical regions predominantly control 357 the global TO₃RE average and its temporal variability (i.e. the region where the meteorological inter-358 annual variability is buffering underlying increases in TO<sub>3</sub>RE). With fixed emissions, there is a general 359 increase (decrease) in TO<sub>3</sub>RE in the tropics/sub-tropics (northern mid-latitudes) by 0.02 (-0.02) 360 W/m<sup>2</sup>. However, over tropical Asia, Indonesia and Australia, the decrease in TO<sub>3</sub>RE is more 361 substantial at -0.05 to -0.04  $W/m^2$  (Figure 4e). Vertically, there are decreases (increases) in the O<sub>3</sub> 362 radiative effect of -0.005 (0.003) W/m<sup>2</sup> in the tropics/sub-tropics (northern mid-latitudes) between 363 600 and 200 (800 and 400) hPa (Figure 4f). Overall, the meteorological variability, in comparison to 364 the long-term emission changes in  $O_3$  precursor gases, has substantially more influence on the inter-365 annual variability of the global TO<sub>3</sub>RE over this decade.

#### 366 4. Conclusions

367 By using state-of-the-art satellite ozone profile retrievals from the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding 368 Interferometer (IASI), on-board MetOp-A, in combination with the TOMCAT chemical transport 369 model (CTM), we provide an updated estimate of the tropospheric ozone radiative effect ( $TO_3RE$ ) 370 and provide the first observational constraint on its variability over the decade 2008-2017. Building 371 upon the previous study of Rap et al., (2015), who quantified the globally weighed average TO<sub>3</sub>RE to 372 be 1.17±0.03 W/m<sup>2</sup> (based on data between 2005 and 2008), we find the long-term average TO<sub>3</sub>RE, 373 between 2008 and 2017, to range from 1.21 and 1.28 W/m<sup>2</sup>. Secondly, neither the modelled, nor the 374 observed TO<sub>3</sub>RE suggest any substantial change during this period. Therefore, the tropospheric 375 ozone contribution to climate, through its infrared radiative properties, has remained stable with 376 time during 2008-2017. Investigations of the importance of ozone precursor emissions and 377 meteorology, through targeted sensitivity experiments repeating emissions and meteorology for 378 2008 (i.e. year at start of time-series), suggest that emissions have a limited impact on the globally





- 379 weighted average TO<sub>3</sub>RE. Meanwhile, fixing the meteorology to a specific year (i.e. 2008) introduces
- 380 a significant positive trend in global TO<sub>3</sub>RE, indicating that the meteorological variability in the
- 381 tropical/sub-tropical upper troposphere has been important in stabilising the tropospheric ozone
- 382 contribution to climate, via radiative properties, in the recent past (i.e. satellite-era).

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# 389 Data Availability

- 390 The IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID data can be obtained from https://iasi.aeris-data.fr/O3 and
- 391 https://iasi-sofrid.sedoo.fr/. The IASI-IMS data is available via the NERC Centre for Environmental
- 392 Data Analysis (CEDA) Jasmin platform subject to data requests. However, the IASI-IMS data and
- **393** TOMCAT simulations used in this study are available from
- 394 <u>https://homepages.see.leeds.ac.uk/~earrjpo/to3re/</u>. The ozonesonde data for WOUDC, SHADOZ and
- 395 NOAA is available from <u>https://woudc.org/</u>, <u>https://tropo.gsfc.nasa.gov/shadoz/</u> and
- 396 <u>https://gml.noaa.gov/ozwv/ozsondes/</u>.

# 397 Author Contributions

- 398 RJP conceptualised, planned and undertook the research study. AR provided the SOCRATES radiative
- kernel. BB, ELF, BJK, RS, BGL, LJV, AB and CW provided the IASI ozone data and advice on using the
- 400 products. MAP performed the TOMCAT model simulations with support from MPC and WF. CR
- 401 provided advice and help during RP's ESA CCI fellowship. RJP prepared the manuscript with402 contributions from all co-authors.

#### 403 Conflicts of Interest

404 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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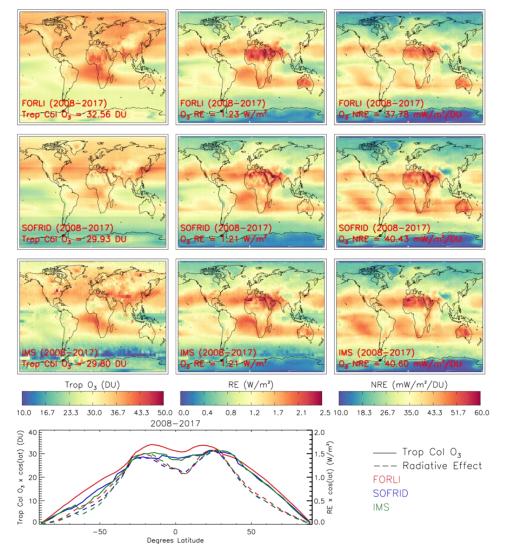


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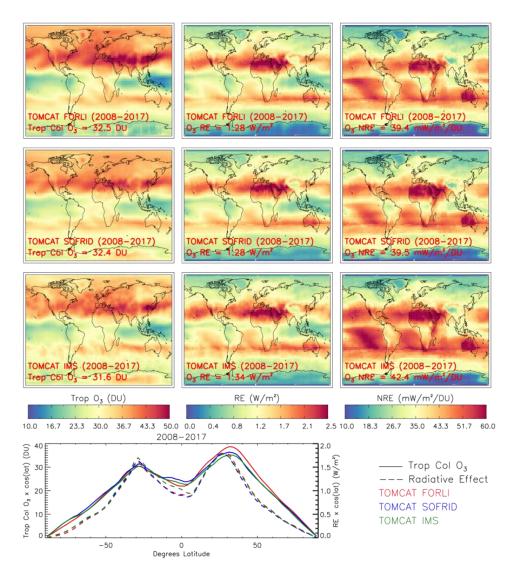


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**Figure 1**: Tropospheric column  $O_3$  (TCO<sub>3</sub>, DU), tropospheric  $O_3$  radiative effect (TO<sub>3</sub>RE, W/m<sup>2</sup>) and normalised TO<sub>3</sub>RE (NTO<sub>3</sub>RE, mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU) averaged for 2008 to 2017 for IASI-FORLI (top row), IASI-SOFRID (middle row) and IASI-IMS (bottom row). Zonal averages of TCO<sub>3</sub> (DU, solid lines) and TO<sub>3</sub>RE (W/m<sup>2</sup>, dashed lines), both weighted by cosine of latitude, is shown in the bottom panel from all the IASI instruments.







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Figure 2:  $TCO_3$  (DU),  $TO_3RE$  (W/m<sup>2</sup>) and  $NTO_3RE$  (mW/m<sup>2</sup>/DU) averaged for 2008 to 2017 for 583 TOMCAT with the averaging kernels (AKs) applied from IASI-FORLI (top row), IASI-SOFRID (middle 584 row) and IASI-IMS (bottom row). Zonal averages of TCO<sub>3</sub> (DU, solid lines) and TO<sub>3</sub>RE ( $W/m^2$ , dashed 585 lines), both weighted by cosine of latitude, is shown in the bottom panel from all the IASI 586 instruments.

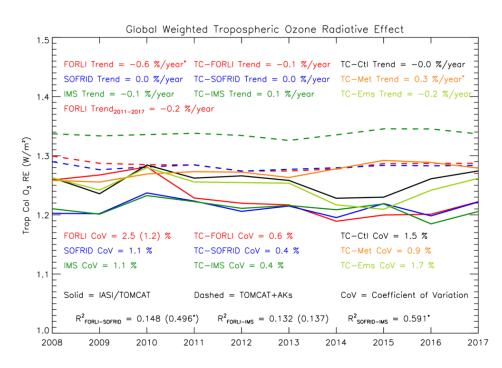
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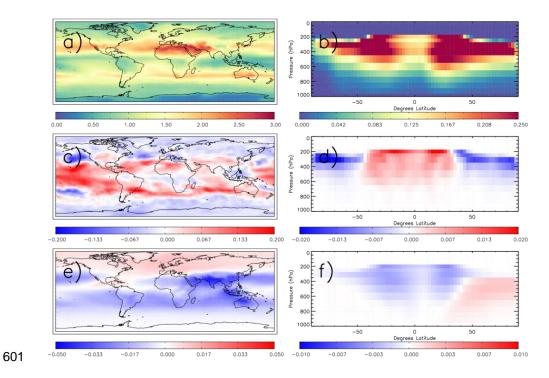


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Figure 3: Annual global mean time-series of  $TO_3RE(W/m^2)$ , between 2008 and 2017, for IASI-FORLI 592 (red-solid), IASI-SOFRID (blue-solid) and IASI-IMS (green-solid). TOMCAT with the IASI-FORLI (red-593 dashed), IASI-SOFRID (blue-dashed) and IASI-IMS (green-dashed) AKs applied, original TOMCAT 594 simulation (black-solid), TOMCAT with fixed emissions (lime-solid) and TOMCAT with fixed 595 meteorology (orange-solid) are also shown. The linear trend (%/year) is shown as well as the 596 percentage coefficient of variation (CoV). The correlation between IASI time-series are shown by the 597  $R^2$  values. Significant linear trends and correlations in the TO<sub>3</sub>RE are shown by an \*. TC represents 598 TOMCAT. The IASI-FORLI trend for 2011 to 2017 is also shown as well as the CoV and  $R^2$  in brackets in 599 addition to the statistical metrics over the full time period due to record inhomogeneities prior to 600 2011 (Boynard et al., 2018).







**Figure 4**: a) TOMCAT control run  $TO_3RE(W/m^2)$ , b) TOMCAT control run zonal average grid box  $O_3$ 

603 radiative effect  $(W/m^2)$ , c) TOMCAT fixed meteorology – TOMCAT control TO<sub>3</sub>RE difference  $(W/m^2)$ ,

604 d) TOMCAT fixed meteorology – TOMCAT control zonal average grid box  $O_3$  radiative effect

605 difference ( $W/m^2$ ), e) TOMCAT fixed emissions – TOMCAT control TO<sub>3</sub>RE difference ( $W/m^2$ ), f)

606TOMCAT fixed emissions – TOMCAT control zonal average grid box  $O_3$  radiative effect difference607 $(W/m^2)$ .

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