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1 **Investigation of satellite vertical sensitivity on long-term retrieved lower tropospheric ozone trends**

2 Richard J. Pope^{1,2}, Fiona M. O'Connor^{3,4}, Mohit Dalvi³, Brian J. Kerridge^{5,6}, Richard Siddans^{5,6}, Barry G.
3 Latter^{5,6}, Brice Barret⁷, Eric Le Flochmoen⁷, Anne Boynard^{8,9}, Martyn P. Chipperfield^{1,2}, Wuhu Feng^{1,10},
4 Matilda A. Pimlott¹, Sandip S. Dhomse^{1,2}, Christian Retscher¹¹, Catherine Wespes¹² and Richard Rigby^{1,13}

5 1: School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

6 2: National Centre for Earth Observation, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

7 3: Met Office Hadley Centre, Exeter, United Kingdom

8 4: Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

9 5: Remote Sensing Group, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, United Kingdom

10 6: National Centre for Earth Observation, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, United Kingdom

11 7: Laboratoire d'Aérodynamique/OMP, Université de Toulouse, Toulouse, France

12 8: LATMOS/IPSL, Sorbonne Université, UVSQ, CNRS, Paris, 75005, France

13 9: SPASCI, Ramonville-Saint-Agne, 31520, France

14 10: National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

15 11: European Space Agency, ESRI, Frascati, Italy

16 12: Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Spectroscopy, Quantum Chemistry and Atmospheric Remote Sensing,
17 Brussels, Belgium

18 13: Centre for Environmental Modelling and Computation, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

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20 Correspondence to: Richard J. Pope (r.j.pope@leeds.ac.uk)

21

22 **Key Points**

23

- 24 • Satellite lower tropospheric column ozone (LTCO₃) trends in the northern hemisphere show small
25 scale trends with large uncertainty ranges between 2008 and 2017.
26 • Modelled LTCO₃ over that period is temporally stable and application of the satellite averaging
27 kernels (AKs), accounting for the vertical sensitivity, to the model yields little impact on the
28 simulated trends.

29

30 **Abstract:**

31 Ozone is a potent air pollutant in the lower troposphere and an important short-lived climate forcer (SLCF) in
32 the upper troposphere. Studies investigating long-term trends in tropospheric column ozone (TCO₃) have
33 shown large-scale spatiotemporal inconsistencies. Here, we investigate the long-term trends in lower
34 tropospheric column ozone (LTCO₃, surface-450 hPa sub-column) by exploiting a synergy of satellite and
35 ozonesonde datasets and an Earth System Model (UKESM) over North America, Europe and East Asia for the
36 decade 2008-2017. Overall, we typically find small LTCO₃ linear trends with large uncertainty ranges from the
37 Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) and the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI), while
38 model simulations indicate a stable LTCO₃ tendency. Trends in the satellite a priori datasets show negligible



39 trends indicating year-to-year sampling is not an issue. The application of the satellite averaging kernels
40 (AKs) to the UKESM ozone profiles, accounting for the satellite vertical sensitivity and allowing for like-for-
41 like comparisons, has a limited impact on the modelled LTCO₃ tendency in most cases. While, in relative
42 terms, this is more substantial (e.g. in the order of 100%), the absolute magnitudes of the model trends
43 show negligible change. However, as the model has a near-zero tendency, artificial trends were imposed on
44 the model time-series (i.e. LTCO₃ values rearranged from smallest to largest) to test the influence of the AKs
45 but simulated LTCO₃ trends remained small. Therefore, the LTCO₃ tendency between 2008 and 2017 in
46 northern hemispheric regions are likely small, with large uncertainties, and it is difficult to detect any small
47 underlying linear trends due to inter-annual variability or other factors which require further investigation.

48 **1. Introduction**

49 Tropospheric ozone (TO₃) is a short-lived climate forcer (SLCF) and an important greenhouse gas (GHG;
50 Myhre et al., 2013; Forster et al., 2021). TO₃ is also a hazardous air pollutant with adverse impacts on human
51 health (Doherty et al., 2017; WHO, 2022) and agricultural/natural vegetation (Sitch et al., 2007; Hollaway et
52 al., 2012). Since the pre-industrial (PI) period, anthropogenic activities have increased the atmospheric
53 loading of ozone (O₃) precursor gases, most notably methane (CH₄) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) resulting in an
54 increase in TO₃ of 25-50% since 1900 (Gauss et al., 2006; Lamarque et al., 2010; Young et al., 2013). The PI to
55 present day (PD) radiative forcing (RF) from TO₃ is estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
56 Change (IPCC) to be 0.47 Wm⁻² (Forster et al., 2021) with an uncertainty range of 0.24-0.70 Wm⁻².

57 During the satellite-era (i.e. since the mid-1990s), extensive records of TO₃ have been produced, e.g. by the
58 European Space Agency Climate Change Initiative (ESA-CCI; ESA, 2019). However, the large presents of
59 stratospheric O₃, coupled with the different vertical sensitivities and sources of error associated with
60 observations in different wavelength regions (e.g. Eskes and Boersma 2003; Ziemke et al., 2011; Miles et al.,
61 2015) means large-scale inconsistencies in time and space exist between the records of satellite
62 tropospheric column ozone (TCO₃) (as shown by Gaudel et al., 2018).

63 The work by Gaudel et al. (2018) was part of the Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report (TOAR), which
64 represented a large global effort to understand spatio-temporal patterns and variability in TO₃. However,
65 their investigation of ozonesondes (2003-2012) and products from nadir viewing satellites in polar orbits
66 (three from the Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) (2005-2015/6) and two from the Infrared Atmospheric
67 Sounding Interferometer (IASI) (2008-2016)) displayed discrepancies in the spatial distribution, magnitude,
68 direction and significance of the TCO₃ trends. They noted that the records cover slightly different time
69 periods but were unable to provide any definitive reasons for these discrepancies beyond briefly suggesting
70 that differences in measurement techniques and retrieval methods were likely to be causing the observed
71 spatial inconsistencies.

72 The vertical sensitivity of each retrieved product (function of measurement technique and retrieval
73 methodology) used by Gaudel et al. (2018) will have had an impact on which part of the troposphere the O₃
74 signal is weighted towards. This was evident in the OMI and IASI TCO₃ trends, where OMI showed
75 predominantly positive trends between 60°S and 60°N while the opposite was the case for IASI. The vertical
76 sensitivity is represented by the “averaging kernel” (AK), which provides the relationship between
77 perturbations at different levels in the retrieved and true profiles (Eskes and Boersma, 2003). Typically, for
78 the products used by Gaudel et al., (2018), the peak AK sensitivities for TO₃ are in the 0-6 km range for OMI
79 (Miles et al., 2015) and around 11-12 km for IASI (Keim et al., 2009). In the case of the Rutherford Appleton
80 Laboratory (RAL) Space OMI data, used in Gaudel et al., (2018), TCO₃ values were derived from retrieved
81 surface – 450hPa layer average mixing ratios applied also to the overlying 450hpa – tropopause layer using



82 ERA-Interim profiles. As the TO_3 values were derived from different (UV and IR) sensors and methodologies
83 whose vertical sensitivities differ, they were likely representing O_3 controlled by different contributions of
84 atmospheric processes (e.g. precursor emissions from the surface and stratosphere-troposphere exchanges).
85 Therefore, TCO_3 trends from the different satellite products are not necessarily expected to be similar.

86 In this study, we undertake the first assessment of spatio-temporal variability in satellite-derived lower
87 tropospheric column ozone (LTCO_3 , surface-450 hPa) from three instruments over a consistent decade
88 (2008-2017). In combination with an Earth System Model (ESM), we aim to quantify the impact of year-to-
89 year sampling, the satellite instrument uncertainties and the instrument vertical sensitivity on long-term
90 LTCO_3 trends. We focus our analysis on North America, Europe and East Asia given their large emissions of
91 ozone precursor gases and temporal variability. In our manuscript, **Section 2** discusses the
92 satellite/ozonesonde datasets and model used, **Section 3** presents our results, and our discussion/
93 conclusions are summarised in **Sections 4 and 5**.

94 **2. Methodology and Datasets**

95 **2.1. Satellite Datasets**

96 The satellite products (see **Table 1**) used here are from nadir-viewing polar-orbiting platforms providing
97 ozone sub-column profiles. This includes ozone profile data from the OMI product developed by the RAL
98 Space and the IASI products from the Laboratoire d'aérodynamique (IASI-SOFRID) and the Université Libre de
99 Bruxelles, in collaboration with the Laboratoire Atmosphères, Observations Spatiales (ULB-LATMOS) (IASI-
100 FORLI). OMI and IASI are on NASA's Aura and Eumetsat's MetOp-A satellites in sun-synchronous low Earth
101 orbits with local overpass times of 13.30 and 9.30, respectively. OMI and IASI are ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis)
102 and infrared (IR) sounders with spectral ranges of 270-500 nm (Boersma et al., 2008, Boersma et al., 2011)
103 and $645\text{-}2760\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Illingworth et al., 2011), respectively. OMI has a spatial footprint at nadir of $24\text{ km} \times 13$
104 km, while IASI measures simultaneously in four fields of view (FOV, each circular at nadir with a diameter of
105 12 km) in a $50\text{ km} \times 50\text{ km}$ square which are scanned across track to sample a 2200 km-wide swath (Clerbaux
106 et al., 2009). The OMI retrieval scheme is based on an optimal estimation (OE) approach, produced by RAL
107 Space, which is described in detail by Miles et al., (2015). The retrieval schemes for IASI-FORLI and IASI-
108 SOFRID O_3 are discussed in detail by Boynard et al., (2018) and Barret et al., (2020). In this work, the OMI
109 data were filtered for good quality retrievals where the geometric cloud fraction was <0.2 , the sub-column
110 O_3 values were >0.0 , the solar zenith angle $<80.0^\circ$, the retrieval convergence flag = 1.0 and the normalised
111 cost function was <2.0 . The IASI-FORLI data were filtered for a geometric cloud fraction <0.13 (pre-filtered),
112 degrees of freedom >2.0 , O_3 values >0.0 , solar zenith angle $<80.0^\circ$ and the surface to 450 hPa sub-column
113 O_3 / total column $\text{O}_3 <0.085$. The IASI-SOFRID data were provided on a $1.0^\circ \times 1.0^\circ$ horizontal grid (i.e. level 3
114 product, but at a daily temporal resolution – we use the daytime data in this study) with filtering already
115 applied in Barret et al., (2020). Here, only O_3 values >0.0 were used. To remove systematic biases between
116 the satellite records, ozonesondes were used to generate bias correction factors (2008-2017) to help
117 harmonise the data sets. This is discussed in the Supplementary Material (i.e. **S1**). The application of the
118 satellite AKs to the ozonesondes and the model is also discussed in **S1**. To investigate long-term trends over
119 North America, Europe and East Asia, the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (HTAP) regional sea-land
120 mask (European Commission (2016); see **S2, Figure S2**), is used to generate average monthly time-series for
121 each product over each region of interest. In Section 3.2, where we discuss the impact of satellite retrieval
122 errors on derived LTCO_3 linear trends, the OMI and IASI-FORLI retrieval errors are provided in their product
123 files, but are not available for IASI-SOFRID. Therefore, while not a perfect metric to represent the error in the
124 IASI-SOFRID data, we use the standard deviation in the monthly-spatial average of the regional time-series.



125 **2.2. United Kingdom Earth System Model (UKESM)**

126 The UK's Earth System Model, UKESM1.0, is a state-of-the-art ESM with fully interactive coupled component
127 models (e.g. atmosphere, ocean, land surface, atmospheric chemistry), which has been developed by the UK
128 Met Office and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). The detailed coupling of all the Earth
129 System components is described by Sellar et al. (2019). However, in this study, we run UKESM1.0 in an
130 atmosphere only configuration (e.g. similar to Archibald et al., (2020)). The aim is to use UKESM1.0 to
131 investigate long-term trends in TO₃ and help explore inconsistencies between satellite records, so it is
132 computationally more time efficient as only the atmospheric dynamics and chemistry components are
133 simulated. Over the 2008-2017 time period (with a 1-year spin up), the UKESM1.0 model tracers and
134 diagnostics (e.g. ozone, pressure) are output as 3D fields at sub-daily (6-hourly) time steps to allow robust
135 comparisons between the model and satellite data sets (i.e. model-satellite spatio-temporal co-location to
136 reduce representation biases and application of the satellite AKs to map the instrument vertical sensitivity
137 onto the model yielding like-for-like comparisons).

138 Here, the UKESM1.0 land and atmosphere share a regular latitude–longitude grid with a resolution of 1.25°
139 ×1.875° with 85 vertical levels on a terrain-following hybrid height coordinate with a model lid at 85 km
140 above sea level (50 levels are below 18 km). All the key inputs to the model from other Earth system
141 components (e.g. sea surface temperature (SST) and land surface vegetation) were prescribed from ancillary
142 files. The ocean and ice forcing are represented by the monthly Reynolds sea ice and SSTs data from the
143 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, [https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-](https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-data/)
144 [data/](https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-data/)). Solar forcings are provided by Phase 6 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6;
145 Matthes et al., 2017; Eyring et al., 2016), as is the stratospheric aerosol climatology to represent
146 contributions from volcanic eruptions (Sellar et al., 2019). The land cover is provided from output from the
147 land surface component of the ESM (JULES; Wiltshire et al., 2021) from a fully coupled historical simulation.
148 Anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions from Hoesly et al. (2018) and van Marle et al. (2017) are
149 prescribed for the period 2008 to 2014. After 2014, anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions are from
150 the Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP, Rao et al., 2017) 2-4.5 (i.e. a middle-of-the-road climate and
151 emissions scenario).

152 Biological emissions are a climatology between 2001 and 2010 from the MEGAN-MACC data base
153 (Sindelarova et al., 2014), while natural emissions are from the Precursors of Ozone and their Effects in the
154 Troposphere (POET, http://accent.aero.jussieu.fr/database_table_inventories.php) based on 1990. Dry
155 deposition of O₃ to the land surface is represented by the Wesley scheme, which is applied as in O'Connor et
156 al., (2014). The model is also in a nudged or “specified dynamics” configuration (i.e. meteorological analyses
157 are used to “nudge” the model's meteorological variables, i.e. u- and v-wind components, and potential
158 temperature, towards reality; Telford et al., 2008) using 6-hourly reanalysis data from the European Centre
159 for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA-Interim product. A similar configuration of UKESM1.0
160 was used by Archibald et al., (2020), in which a thorough evaluation against multiple observations (e.g.
161 surface, aircraft and satellite) was carried out.

162 **2.3. Trend Approach**

163 LTCO₃ trends are calculated using the linear least squares fit approach of van der A et al., (2006; 2008), and
164 utilised by Pope et al., (2018) who investigated LTCO₃ trends. Here, the monthly LTCO₃ time-series are
165 represented by the function:

$$166 Y_t = C + BX_t + A\sin(\omega X_t + \phi) + N_t \quad (1)$$



167 where Y_t is the observed monthly LTCO_3 for month t , X_t is the number of months since the start of the record,
 168 C is the first month of the record, B is the monthly linear trend and $A \sin(\omega X_t + \phi)$ is the seasonal model
 169 component (Weatherhead et al., 1998). A is the amplitude, ω is the frequency (set to 1 year; $\omega = \pi/6$) and ϕ is
 170 the phase shift. C , B , A and ϕ are the fit parameters from the linear least squares fit. N_t represents the model
 171 errors/residuals. The linear trend uncertainty, σ_B , represents the trend precision and is calculated as:

$$172 \quad \sigma_B = \left[\frac{\sigma_N}{n^2} \sqrt{\frac{(1+\alpha)}{(1-\alpha)}} \right] \quad (2)$$

173 where n is the number of years, α is the autocorrelation in the residuals (N_t) and σ_N is the standard deviation
 174 in the residuals. As in van der A et al., (2006) and Pope et al., (2018), we calculate the autocorrelation for each
 175 time-series using a lag of one-time step (i.e. one month). The autocorrelation in **Equation 1** is not accounted
 176 for directly, so is factored into the trend uncertainty (**Equation 2**), as used and discussed by van der A et al.,
 177 (2006) and Weatherhead et al., (1998), respectively.

178 **3. Results**

179 A detailed evaluation of UKESM1.0 LTCO_3 through comparisons with the three satellite products and
 180 ozonesondes is presented in **S3**. Overall, UKESM1.0 robustly simulates LTCO_3 spatially and seasonally in
 181 comparison to the ozonesondes and satellite instruments (i.e. typically within the ozonesonde variability and
 182 satellite uncertainty range).

183 **3.1. UKESM1.0 and Satellite LTCO_3 Trends**

184 LTCO_3 trends from OMI, IASI-FORLI, IASI-SOFRID and ozonesondes are derived between 2008 and 2017 (i.e.
 185 consistent time record for all instruments) using the linear-seasonal trend model (**Equation 1**). For each
 186 satellite product, the corresponding UKESM1.0 time-series (with and without AKs) are analysed as well as
 187 the satellite apriori. For the North America OMI metrics (**Figure 1 – top left, Table 2**), there is clear
 188 seasonality in the apriori ranging between approximately 17.0 and 22.0 Dobson Units (DU). As this is based
 189 on the climatology of McPeters et al., (2007), there is no trend and there is a very good model fit (i.e.
 190 $R^2=1.0$). The key point is that, as a climatology, the apriori will have no trend but if there are substantial
 191 temporal sampling differences between years, then an artificial trend could be introduced. OMI LTCO_3
 192 ranges between 20.0 and 27.0 DU with substantial variability. There is a drop in LTCO_3 to 19.0 DU in 2009
 193 before peaking at 25.0-27.0 DU between 2010 and 2015. Peak LTCO_3 then drops to 22.0-24.0 DU in 2016 and
 194 2017. As a result, the linear-seasonal trend model, which does not account for interannual variations such as
 195 this, only has a fit skill of $R^2=0.59$. The corresponding OMI LTCO_3 trend is -0.79 ($-7.07, 5.48$; 95% confidence
 196 interval, p-value = 0.80) DU/decade showing a negligible trend with a large uncertainty range. Here, -0.79
 197 DU/decade is the trend while the -7.07 and 5.48 DU/decade values are the 95% confidence interval. The
 198 UKESM1.0 LTCO_3 time-series ranges between 17.0 and 22.0 DU with clear seasonality, though somewhat less
 199 inter-annual variation than OMI, and the linear-seasonal trend model therefore has a considerably better fit
 200 with $R^2=0.95$. The model trend has the opposite sign at 0.21 ($-0.37, 0.78$; $p = 0.59$) DU/decade. Here, the
 201 model trend is near-zero with a relatively large uncertainty range (though not as sizable as OMI). When the
 202 AKs are applied to the model, the trend switches sign to -0.57 ($-1.58, 0.45, p = 0.98$) DU/decade and the
 203 linear-seasonal trend model fit decreases in skill to $R^2=0.90$. The trend switch of sign, though small, is
 204 potentially linked to the application of the AKs, which also increases LTCO_3 by 2.0-3.0 DU in general.

205 The IASI-FORLI LTCO_3 time-series (**Figure 1 – top right**) tends to be lower than OMI and range between 17.0
 206 and 22.0 DU. There is a substantial negative IASI-FORLI trend (-1.42 ($-2.35, -0.50$; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade);
 207 **Table 2** though as suggested by Boynard et al., (2018) and Wespes et al., (2018), the input IASI Level-1 data



208 sets into the FORLI retrieval are not consistent with time; they suffer from a specific discontinuity in
209 September 2010 which degrades the robustness of this trend. While we are aware of the artificial trend in
210 the IASI-FORLI dataset, it is still a valuable long-term product allowing us to quantify multiple factors (e.g.
211 impact of AKs on model tendencies/absolute values and year-to-year sampling stability – i.e. near-zero trend
212 in the apriori). The apriori has a negligible trend but there is no clear seasonality in the apriori time-series. As
213 a result, the linear-seasonal trend model has a more limited fit skill (i.e. $R^2=0.67$). The impact of the satellite
214 AKs appears to have less impact for IASI-FORLI as both UKESM1.0 and UKESM1.0+AKs have time-series
215 ranging between approximately 17.0 and 21.0 (though slightly smaller UKESM1.0+AKs range) and linear-
216 seasonal trend model fits of $R^2=0.93$ and $R^2=0.92$, respectively. The corresponding trends are small at -0.13 (-
217 0.75, 0.49; $p = 0.67$) and -0.32 (-0.82, 0.20; $p = 0.22$) DU/decade, but the introduction of the AKs does move
218 the UKESM1.0 trend slightly towards that of the satellite. For IASI-SOFRID (**Figure 1 – bottom left**), there is
219 little difference between any of the time-series as they all range between 16.0 and 21.0 DU with
220 corresponding linear-seasonal trend model fits of $R^2=0.94$ to 0.98 and negligible trends. The IASI-SOFRID and
221 apriori trends are 0.12 (-0.59, 0.82; $p = 0.74$) and 0.11 (-0.17, 0.39; $p = 0.43$) DU/decade; **Table 2**),
222 respectively, with the model showing near-zero trends in both cases. Given the close agreement between
223 the satellite and apriori time series and fit metrics, it is suggestive that IASI-SOFRID TO_3 is more closely
224 confined to the apriori profile than are the other products. The ozonesondes show a substantial trend of -
225 1.15 (-2.0, -0.10; $p = 0.03$) DU/decade, while the model trend sampled as the sondes is -0.16 (-1.67, 1.35; p
226 =0.63) DU/decade. The co-located model and ozonesonde linear-seasonal trend model fits are $R^2=0.62$ and
227 0.64, respectively. The noise and lack of seasonality in the ozonesonde time-series is slightly unexpected
228 given the reasonable density of stations over North America, though the spatial coverage and temporal
229 sampling is much less than the satellite products.

230 In Europe, the OMI $LTCO_3$ values are larger than in North America, ranging between 19.0 and 30.0 DU (**Figure**
231 **2 – top left**). The same inter-annual variability exists, peaking between 2010 and 2015 with the minimum in
232 2009. Hence, the linear-seasonal trend model, which does not represent interannual variation, does not
233 have high skill and $R^2=0.72$. The corresponding trend is -0.80 (-7.29, 5.69; $p = 0.80$) DU/decade, so has a
234 similar direction and magnitude to that for North America, though is not substantial. The apriori ranges
235 between 17.0 and 22.5 DU with a trend of -0.12 (-0.26, 0.03; $p = 0.10$; **Table 2**) DU/decade. Given the
236 relatively small trend and uncertainty range, unlike the OMI equivalent, it suggests there is unlikely to be an
237 artificial trend arising through year-to-year changes in geographical sampling across the European region.
238 UKESM1.0 $LTCO_3$ ranges between approximately 19.0 and 22.0 DU with a good linear-seasonal trend model
239 fit of $R^2=0.99$ and a trend of -0.11 (-0.50, 0.29; $p = 0.59$) DU/decade. As for North America, when the OMI
240 AKs are applied, the UKESM $LTCO_3$ values systematically increase by 2.0-3.0 DU, move further away from the
241 satellite apriori and more closely follow the variability of OMI (although R^2 decreases slightly to 0.95). The
242 trend tends towards that of OMI at -0.72 (-1.77, 0.32; $p = 0.16$) DU/decade. As in the case of North America,
243 the European IASI-FORLI apriori has no seasonal cycle (and moderate R^2 of 0.48 in the linear-seasonal trend
244 model fit) with a near-zero trend (0.09 (-0.09, 0.27; $p = 0.32$) DU/decade) (**Figure 2 – top right, Table 2**). The
245 IASI-FORLI data exhibit a substantial negative trend of -1.83 (-2.78, 0.89; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade, again
246 potentially attributable to step changes in the IASI Level-1 processor, with a good linear-seasonal trend
247 model fit of $R^2=0.92$. UKESM1.0 $LTCO_3$ trends, without and with AKs applied, are -0.28 (-0.77, 0.20; $p = 0.25$)
248 and -0.43 (-1.21, 0.35; $p = 0.27$) DU/decade. Again, though a small change, the application of the AKs
249 introduces a slight perturbation of the model trend compared to IASI-FORLI. The IASI-SOFRID apriori, ranging
250 between 17.0 and 21.0 DU, has a trend of 0.17 (-0.12, 0.45; $p = 0.24$) DU/decade with good fit skill of $R^2=0.98$
251 (**Figure 2 – bottom left**). The IASI-SOFRID and UKESM1.0 metrics, with and without averaging kernels



252 applied, are similar, with LTCO₃ trends of 0.05 (-0.91, 1.01; p = 0.92), -0.27 (-0.72, 0.19; p = 0.24) and 0.08 (-
253 0.33, 0.49; p = 0.69) DU/decade, respectively, and with R² values between 0.93 and 0.98. The ozonesonde
254 monthly regional means (**Figure 2 – bottom right**) has a more pronounced time-series than North America,
255 yielding a less noisy time-series of LTCO₃. Here, there is clear seasonality ranging between 17.0 and 24.0 DU
256 with a large R² value of 0.95. The ozonesonde trend is relatively small at -0.61 (-1.39, 0.17; p = 0.12)
257 DU/decade while the UKESM1.0 equivalent is more substantial at -0.96 (-1.56, 0.35; p = 0.00) DU/decade.

258 For East Asia, OMI LTCO₃ again has both a pronounced seasonal cycle and inter-annual variability (19.0-27.0
259 DU), consistent with the other two regions discussed above (**Figure 3 – top left**). This yields a moderate skill
260 fit to the linear-seasonal trend model of R²=0.52 and near-zero trend (-0.09 (-7.88, 7.70; p = 0.98)
261 DU/decade). The apriori has a trend of -0.25 (-0.71, 0.22; p = 0.29) DU/decade, so year-to-year sampling
262 changes could be influencing the robustness of OMI retrieved time-series in this region. However, both the
263 instrument and apriori trend uncertainties intersect with 0.0. UKESM1.0 LTCO₃ ranges between
264 approximately 16.0 and 22.0 DU with a good fit R² of 0.98. Like the other regions, the application of the OMI
265 AKs increases the model values systematically by several DUs. The UKESM1.0 LTCO₃ trend is -0.16 (-0.94,
266 0.62; p = 0.67) DU/decade, which is small, but the AKs increase the trend magnitude to -0.62 (-2.24, 1.00; p =
267 0.44) DU/decade, which moves it away from the OMI trend. IASI-FORLI (**Figure 3 – top right, Table 2**), like
268 the other two regions, has a substantial negative trend of -1.52 (-2.16, 0.88; p = 0.00) DU/decade. The apriori
269 again exhibits virtually no seasonal cycle but non-zero year-to-year variation so a low fit skill of R²=0.21 and
270 shows a near-zero trend of -0.03 (-0.22, 0.16; p = 0.76) DU/decade. For UKESM1.0, the East Asian seasonal
271 range is much larger than other regions, ranging between 17.0 and 27.0 DU (i.e. seasonal amplitude of
272 approximately ±5.0 DU). When the AKs are applied, this range shrinks to approximately 19.0 to 23.0 DU,
273 more in-line with the IASI-FORLI LTCO₃ values. The corresponding model trends are -0.03 (-0.62, 0.56; p =
274 0.93) DU/decade and -0.29 (-0.80, 0.22; p = 0.25) DU/decade, so the AKs are pushing the model tendency
275 towards that of the instrument, though the impact is small in absolute terms (large in relative terms). IASI-
276 SOFRID and its apriori LTCO₃ seasonality are again very similar, ranging between 16.0 and 21.0 DU with very
277 little interannual variability and with linear seasonal trend model fit skills of R²=0.96 and 0.98 (**Figure 3 –
278 bottom left, Table 2**). The IASI-SOFRID and apriori linear trends are therefore also consistent at -0.19 (-1.01,
279 0.63; p = 0.65) and -0.15 (-0.73, 0.58; p = 0.82) DU/decade. The UKESM1.0 seasonal variability is again large,
280 between 17.0 and 26.0 DU, and, as in the case of IASI-FORLI, when the instrument AKs are applied to the
281 model, the seasonal range shrinks (i.e. 16.0-22.0 DU) to be much closer to those of the retrieval and its prior.
282 The model trends are -0.42 (-0.97, 0.13; p = 0.12) and -0.24 (-0.67, 0.20; p = 0.28) (with AKs) DU/decade,
283 where there is a minor shift in the model tendency towards that of IASI-SOFRID and its prior. For the
284 ozonesondes (**Figure 3 – bottom right**), there is a substantial LTCO₃ trend of 3.17 (0.16, 6.17; p = 0.04)
285 DU/decade with a fit skill of R²=0.79, which is larger than those for North America and Europe. LTCO₃
286 increases from 18.0-25.0 in 2008 to 21.0-28.0 in 2011. This remains similar in 2012 and 2013 before
287 dropping by several DUs between 2014 and 2017. The UKESM1.0 sampled as the ozonesondes has
288 considerably less inter-annual variability with a smaller trend of 0.37 (-0.90, 1.64; p = 0.56) DU/decade.
289 Therefore, UKESM1.0 and the satellite product trends are generally smaller (in magnitude) than the
290 ozonesonde tendencies. However, it is worth considering that there are only a few sites (e.g. Hong Kong and
291 Taiwan) where ozonesonde data is available in East Asia.

292 3.2. Influence of Satellite Averaging Kernels on UKESM1.0 LTCO₃

293 To investigate the impact of applying the satellite averaging kernels to UKESM1.0, and thus learn something
294 about vertical sensitivity influence on retrieved LTCO₃, three different metrics are considered for the 2008 to
295 2017 time-period. These are the absolute LTCO₃ value, amplitude of the LTCO₃ seasonal cycle and the linear



296 trend. These metrics are compared for the satellite, the satellite \pm error term, the apriori, UKESM1.0 and
297 UKESM1.0+AKs for the three regions discussed above.

298 From **Figure 4**, average OMI L_{TCO}₃ is approximately 22.0, 24.0 and 23.0 DU for North America, Europe and
299 East Asia, respectively. This represents a substantial deviation away from the apriori values of 17.5, 20.0 and
300 16.0 DU, respectively. However, the average error term for OMI L_{TCO}₃ is sizeable at approximately ± 8.0 to
301 ± 9.0 DU for all regions. The average UKESM1.0 value for each region is approximately 19.5, 21.5 and 19.0 DU
302 but the application of the AKs increases this by several DU to 22.0, 24.0 and 21.0 DU. In comparison, mean
303 values for both IASI products vary less between the three geographical areas: IASI-FORLI (IASI-SOFRID) L_{TCO}₃
304 values are 20.0 (18.5), 19.0 (18.5) and 22.0 (18.0) DU, respectively. The corresponding error ranges, in
305 comparison with OMI, are smaller between 17.0 and 23.0 (16.0 and 21.5), 16.0 and 21.5 (16.0 and 21.0) and
306 18.0 and 23.5 (14.5 and 21.5) DU for North America, Europe and East Asia, respectively. With the IASI-FORLI
307 AKs applied to UKESM1.0, L_{TCO}₃ decreases from 19.5 to 19.25 DU, 21.25 to 19.5 DU and 22.75 to 21.25 DU
308 for the three regions. For IASI-SOFRID, there is a decrease from 21.0 to 19.5 DU in Europe and a decrease
309 from 22.0 to 19.5 DU in East Asia, while no change occurs in North America. Overall, OMI has the largest
310 error range and the application of the AKs to UKESM1.0 systematically increases the model L_{TCO}₃ time-
311 series by several DU. The opposite occurs for the IASI products where there is a smaller decrease to
312 UKESM1.0 L_{TCO}₃ of 1.0-2.0 DU. The error ranges are also smaller than that of OMI.

313 In terms of the L_{TCO}₃ seasonal amplitude (**Figure 5**), OMI (including the error terms) is approximately 2.6
314 (for all) DU, 3.3-3.8 DU and 2.3-2.6 DU for North America, Europe and East Asia. The apriori seasonal
315 amplitude ranges from 2.7 to 2.9 DU across the regions. The IASI-FORLI averages (including the error terms)
316 tend to be lower than OMI but have similar seasonal ranges. North America, Europe and East Asia have
317 amplitudes of 2.3-2.5 DU, 2.3-2.5 DU and 1.6-1.8 DU, respectively. It is noteworthy that this seasonal cycle is
318 despite the IASI-FORLI prior exhibiting virtually no seasonal cycle at all. IASI-SOFRID has a European range of
319 2.4-2.6 DU, and comparable ranges for North America and East Asia at 1.8-2.5 DU and 2.3-3.0 DU. Therefore,
320 seasonal amplitude in IASI-SOFRID is more sensitive to the error metric but as the “error” term is based on
321 the L_{TCO}₃ standard deviation, given the lack of an error term in the product, it is unsurprising that there is
322 more variability in the seasonal amplitude. For the OMI comparisons, the application of the AKs to
323 UKESM1.0 shifts the simulated amplitude slightly upwards from 2.0 to 2.1 DU, 3.1 to 3.3 DU and 4.0 to 4.4
324 DU for the respective regions. The IASI-FORLI AK impacts are a decrease from 1.9 to 1.4 DU, 3.0 to 2.1 DU
325 and 4.2 to 1.9. For IASI-SOFRID, the corresponding impact on UKESM1.0 is 2.2 to 2.4 DU, 3.3 to 2.9 and 4.5 to
326 3.2 DU. Therefore, the OMI AKs have a minimal impact, increasing the model seasonal amplitude by 0.1-0.3
327 DU, but the IASI products suppress the simulated amplitude by 1.0-2.0 DU at the most extreme.

328 The impact of the satellite L_{TCO}₃ error terms on the derived linear trends are shown in **Figure 6**. For OMI,
329 the range in trends calculated (i.e. satellite \pm error term) is approximately -1.50 (-7.04, 4.04; $p = 0.59$) to -
330 0.09 (-6.98, 6.81; $p = 0.98$) DU/decade, -1.65 (-6.92, 3.62; $p = 0.53$) to 0.05 (-7.44, 7.53; $p = 0.99$) DU/decade
331 and -1.05 (-6.61, 4.52; $p = 0.70$) to 0.87 (-8.24, 9.98; $p = 0.85$) DU/decade for North America, Europe and East
332 Asian, respectively. The IASI-FORLI trends (i.e. satellite \pm error term) are substantial, ranging from -1.50 (-
333 2.51, -0.50; $p = 0.00$) to -1.34 (-2.21, -0.47; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade, -1.87 (-2.87, -0.87; $p = 0.00$) to -1.80 (-2.72, -
334 0.88; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade and -1.62 (-2.27, -0.98; $p = 0.00$) to -1.42 (-2.06, -0.78; $p = 0.00$) for the three
335 regions, respectively. The corresponding IASI-SOFRID trends were 0.09 (-0.48, 0.66; $p = 0.75$) to 0.14 (-0.59,
336 0.88; $p = 0.70$) DU/decade, -0.07 (-0.91, 0.78; $p = 0.87$) to 0.16 (-0.74, 1.07; $p = 0.72$) DU/decade and -0.30 (-
337 1.02, 0.42; $p = 0.41$) to -0.08 (-0.73, 0.58; $p = 0.82$), respectively. Therefore, only the IASI-FORLI trends (i.e.
338 satellite \pm error term) are substantially different from zero (i.e. $p < 0.05$). However, that is likely due in part



339 to discontinuities in the Level-2 input meteorological data used to generate this version of the product
340 (Boynard et al., 2018).

341 The application of the OMI AKs to UKESM1.0 had the largest impacts on the simulated trends with changes
342 in a negative direction from of 0.21 (-0.37, 0.78; $p = 0.59$) to -0.57 (-1.58, 0.45, $p = 0.98$) DU/decade, -0.11 (-
343 0.50, 0.29; $p = 0.59$) to -0.72 (-1.77, 0.32; $p = 0.16$) DU/decade and -0.16 (-0.94, 0.62; $p = 0.67$) to -0.62 (-
344 2.24, 1.00; $p = 0.44$) DU/decade for the respective regions. IASI-FORLI AKs introduced small decreases from -
345 0.13 (-0.75, 0.49; $p = 0.67$) to -0.32 (-0.82, 0.20; $p = 0.22$) DU/decade, -0.28 (-0.77, 0.20; $p = 0.25$) to -0.43 (-
346 1.21, 0.35; $p = 0.27$) DU/decade and -0.03 (-0.62, 0.56; $p = 0.93$) to -0.29 (-0.80, 0.22; $p = 0.25$) DU/decade.
347 IASI-SOFRID AKs introduced small increases in the LTCO_3 trend from -0.24 (-0.85, 0.37; $p = 0.44$) to -0.04 (-
348 0.53, 0.45; $p = 0.87$) DU/decade, -0.27 (-0.72, 0.19; $p = 0.24$) to 0.08 (-0.33, 0.49; $p = 0.69$) DU/decade and -
349 0.42 (-0.97, 0.13; $p = 0.12$) to -0.24 (-0.67, 0.20; $p = 0.28$) DU/decade.

350 As the absolute model trends are small, it is difficult to determine the impact of the AKs on the simulated
351 trends. In relative terms, it can have impacts of several 100% but the model and model+AK trend ranges
352 (95% confidence interval) always intersect. Therefore, in an attempt to derive more substantial UKESM1.0
353 LTCO_3 trends (without and with AKs applied), to assess the maximum impact the AKs can have on UKESM
354 LTCO_3 trends, the modelled data were sorted from lowest to highest and the trend re-calculated. In North
355 America, this approach forced positive model trends, sub-sampled to OMI, IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID, of
356 0.73 (0.22, 1.25; $p = 0.00$), 0.64 (-3.50, 4.77; $p = 0.76$) and 0.80 (0.41, 1.19; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade. When the
357 AKs were applied, it yielded trends of -0.74 (-1.89, 0.40; $p = 0.20$), 0.55 (0.08, 1.03; $p = 0.02$) and 0.58 (0.24,
358 0.92; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade. In Europe, this forced positive trends model trends, of 0.62 (0.14, 1.10; $p = 0.01$),
359 0.37 (-0.05, 0.79; $p = 0.08$) and 0.46 (0.09, 0.84; $p = 0.01$) DU/decade, respectively. With the AKs applied, the
360 trends become 0.47 (-0.51, 1.44; $p = 0.34$), 0.28 (-0.38, 0.94; $p = 0.40$) and 0.10 (-0.32, 0.51; $p = 0.64$)
361 DU/decade. Finally, in East Asia, the forced model trends are 0.90 (0.34, 1.47; $p = 0.00$), 0.66 (0.15, 1.17; $p =$
362 0.01) and 0.63 (0.26, 1.00; $p = 0.00$) DU/decade. The application of the AKs introduced model trends of 1.02
363 (-0.04, 2.09; $p = 0.05$), 0.08 (-0.44, 0.61; $p = 0.75$) and 0.20 (-0.20, 0.61; $p = 0.31$) DU/decade.

364 Even with forced trends in the UKESM1.0 regional time-series, the trends are relatively small (i.e. typically
365 less than 1.0 DU/decade in magnitude). Therefore, the application of the AKs to the forced UKESM LTCO_3
366 time-series still yields small scale change tendencies and there is overlap in the two model trend uncertainty
367 ranges (i.e. 95% confidence level). However, in relative terms, the trend changes are larger (e.g. >100% in
368 multiple cases) and there is often a shift of the modelled LTCO_3 trend uncertainty range either intersecting
369 or no longer intersecting with zero (i.e. a shift in p -value regime from <0.05 to >0.05). Therefore, in modelled
370 and satellite datasets with more substantial trends, the impacts of the AKs, and thus the satellite vertical
371 sensitivity, on LTCO_3 trends would be much greater and potentially help pinpoint sources of differences
372 between satellite products in their TO_3 temporal evolution.

373 4. Discussion

374 Investigation of satellite LTCO_3 focussed on 2008 to 2017, representing a decade of overlap of the OMI and
375 IASI records. The analysis focussed on North America, Europe and East Asia as these regions are subject to
376 large emissions of and temporal changes in O_3 precursor gases. LTCO_3 is typically spatially homogeneous
377 with shallow gradients between background and source-induced O_3 concentrations. Secondly, individual
378 retrievals of LTCO_3 are subject to multiple issues (e.g. influences on radiative transfer and vertical sensitivity
379 of stratospheric ozone, cloud and other particulates, surface spectral reflectivity/emissivity and temperature
380 profile) which can result in noisy LTCO_3 time-series at high resolution (e.g. when gridded on a scale of 0.5° or
381 1.0°). Both of these factors supported analysis at a regional scale (e.g. continental scale).



382 Ideally, this analysis would have utilised several more records (e.g. several UV-Vis and IR products) to
383 quantify long-term trends in LTCO_3 and investigate the potential reasons for any discrepancies, as shown by
384 Gaudel et al., (2018) for TCO_3 . While RAL Space, and other providers, have generated UV-Vis profile O_3
385 products for more instruments, e.g. from the Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment 1 & 2 (GOME-1 & GOME-
386 2) and the SCanning Imaging Absorption spectromETER for Atmospheric CartographY (SCIAMACHY), the
387 GOME-1 and SCIAMACHY records do not overlap for as long with IASI and step changes in the GOME-2A
388 Level-1 processing scheme used to produce the available LTCO_3 Level-2 version mean it is not sufficiently
389 homogeneous (see Pope et al., (2023)). For the IR instruments, other potential sensors include the
390 Tropospheric Emissions Spectrometer (TES; Richards et al., 2008) and the RAL Space IASI Extended Infrared
391 Microwave Sounding (IMS; Pimlott et al., 2022) scheme applied to IASI. Unfortunately, the TES record only
392 covers 2005 to 2013, with decreasing spatial coverage with time, and at the time of this work the IASI-IMS
393 product had only been processed on a sub-sampled basis of 1 in 10 days.

394 In this work, we some find discrepancies in the observed long-term tendencies from the utilised LTCO_3
395 products in these northern hemispheric regions. The OMI product is subject to large-scale interannual
396 variability over the 2008-17 decade, in comparison with which the underlying linear trends are small in
397 absolute terms with large confidence ranges (i.e. 95% confidence intervals) intersecting with zero. .
398 However, the OMI LTCO_3 product has been shown to be stable over this period relative to ozonesondes by
399 Pope at el., (2023). IASI-FORLI has substantial negative LTCO_3 tendencies, but this is driven by a specific
400 discontinuity in 2010 due to inhomogeneity in Eumetsat (water vapour, temperature) data used in IASI-
401 FORLI Level-2 processing (Boynard et al., 2018; Wespes et al., 2018). It induces an artificial drift that explains
402 the substantial negative LTCO_3 trends reported here and in Gaudel et al., (2018). The IASI-SOFRID LTCO_3 and
403 apriori are very similar, with little inter-annual variability, which suggests that the IASI-SOFRID O_3 retrieval in
404 this height-range is more constrained by the apriori (i.e. less TO_3 sensitivity than the other products).
405 Importantly, analysis of the three products' apriori LTCO_3 records show negligible trends meaning that year-
406 to-year sampling differences (i.e. the number of retrievals used in the spatial-monthly regional averages) are
407 not skewing long-term satellite trends. In summary: any underlying linear trend in LTCO_3 occurring during
408 the decade 2008-17 was masked by interannual variability in the OMI retrieval and by constraint to the
409 apriori in the IASI-SOFRID retrieval and, although substantial for IASI-FORLI retrieval, that is believed to be
410 due to changing meteorological input to the data processing.

411 For UKESM1.0, the model exhibits negligible temporal variability in LTCO_3 for all regions and instruments'
412 samplings. Modelled LTCO_3 trends never exceeded 1.0 DU/decade in magnitude, all of which were deemed
413 to be insignificant due to large associated p-values by the linear-seasonal trend model detailed in **Section 2.4**
414 and **Equations 4 & 5**. The ozonesondes for each region were included to ground truth the model and satellite
415 trends. The North American sites' LTCO_3 time-series was relatively noisy and exhibited considerable inter-
416 annual variability in its seasonal cycle. The comparatively low level of inter-annual variability in the European
417 UKESM1.0 record of LTCO_3 was in good agreement with the ozonesondes, however, and so was its low
418 trend, providing confidence in the model over that region. For East Asia, the interannual variability differed
419 substantially between UKESM1.0 and ozonesondes and the reported ozonesonde trend was significantly
420 much larger than for UKESM1.0. Therefore, when considering UKESM1.0 and the ozonesondes, no consistent
421 LTCO_3 trends can be determined for any of the regions. Overall, taking all data sets into account, LTO_3
422 appears to have neither increased nor decreased markedly over these three regions between the beginning
423 and end of the study decade (i.e. 2008 to 2017).

424 One key aspect of this work was to exploit UKESM1.0 to determine the importance of vertical sensitivity on
425 retrieved LTO_3 and how this influences the reported long-term tendency. In terms of the absolute model



426 trends (with and without the satellite AKs), the impact on L_{TCO}₃ was small with typically near-zero
427 tendencies and large uncertainty ranges (i.e. the 95% confidence interval). In relative terms, the changes in
428 model trend values were more substantial in the order of 100%. To explore this further, the UKESM1.0 L_{TCO}₃
429 time-series (with and without the satellite AKs) were sorted from lowest to highest (based on annual
430 averages) to impose the most substantial trend in the model data. When the trends were re-calculated, the
431 largest model L_{TCO}₃ trends ranged between 0.37 and 0.90 DU/decade. When the AKs were applied, the
432 L_{TCO}₃ trends ranged from -0.74 to 1.02 DU/decade. Again, in relative terms, this represents a relatively large
433 impact of the AKs on simulated L_{TO}₃ tendencies but in absolute terms, these are small changes. Though, it
434 should be noted that many of the 95% confidence intervals for these trends either shifted to intersect with
435 zero or vice versa once the AKs were applied to the model. Gaudel et al., (2018) suggested two potential
436 reasons for the T_{CO}₃ trend discrepancies in their study:

- 437 - Time varying instrument biases/drift.
- 438 - The impact of satellite vertical sensitivity.

439 A further two important reasons are:

- 440 - Changes over time in latitude/longitude domains sampled by satellite sensors (e.g. GOME-1 has
441 substantial issues after 2003).
- 442 - The time-period used for the trend analysis.

443 According to Boynard et al., (2018) and Wespes et al., (2018), the IASI-FORLI-v20151001 products has an
444 artificial negative drift with time explained by a discontinuity found in the Level-2 meteorological inputs
445 taken from Eumetsat. However, in the near future, a new consistent IASI-FORLI ozone climate data record
446 will be available using homogeneous Level-1 and Level-2 Eumetsat meteorological data. Analysis of OMI
447 L_{TCO}₃ by Pope et al., 2023 showed OMI L_{TCO}₃ to be temporally stable against ozonesondes. A similar
448 analysis (not shown here) indicates IASI-SOFRID L_{TCO}₃ to also be temporally stable with near-zero drift in
449 bias. For the satellite vertical sensitivity, some of our results were unexpected. While the application of the
450 AKs to UKESM1.0 can substantially shift the simulated absolute L_{TO}₃ values and squash/stretch the seasonal
451 amplitude, the impact on the simulation L_{TCO}₃ tendencies are small in absolute terms. In relative terms, the
452 impacts can be large (e.g. 100% change in trend rate). However, as the UKESM1.0 simulated L_{TCO}₃ trends
453 are generally near-zero, it is difficult to confidently say either way if the vertical sensitivity, when retrieving
454 L_{TCO}₃, is important for influencing long-term tendencies, even when a more substantial trend is forced upon
455 UKESM1.0. Future work on this would probably need to look at artificial model data which already has
456 substantial T_O₃ trends in it (e.g. 5.0 or 10.0 DU/decade). This will obviously not match reality but would
457 provide some further quantification on how important vertical sensitivity is from different
458 instruments/sounders in L_{TO}₃ trend determination.

459 As for year-to-year sampling, our results suggest negligible trends for the product L_{TCO}₃ a priori time-series
460 and thus monthly sampling biases are unlikely to be introducing artificial trends as the a priori datasets are
461 trendless. Finally, the time-period over which the trend analysis is undertaken is critically important. Gaudel
462 et al., (2018), using the available data at the time, focussed on 2005-2015/6 and 2008-2015/6 for the OMI
463 and IASI products they used. For the IASI products, using a slightly extended time-period, the trends show
464 similar tendencies. However, for OMI, 2016 and 2017 represent lower years of T_O₃. As a result, this dampens
465 the strong significant positive trends reported by Gaudel et al., (2018) in T_{CO}₃. It is notable that the
466 substantial positive increase in tropical L_{TO}₃ between 1995 and 2017 reported by Pope et al., (2023) from a
467 series of UV-Vis sounders, included the same OMI global dataset as that is used here, further suggests the



468 selection of time period and geographical region to be crucial in regard to the role of interannual variability
469 on linear trend detection.

470 **5. Conclusions**

471 Gaudel et al., (2018) undertook a multi-satellite analysis of long-term trends in tropospheric column ozone
472 (TCO_3). They found large scale differences between these products with no clear consensus on the signs or
473 drivers of these TCO_3 trends. To avoid complications with tropopause definition and reduce influence of
474 stratospheric ozone on retrieved values, this study has undertaken a detailed follow-up assessment of
475 decadal trends in LTCO_3 (surface – 450 hPa layer) rather than TCO_3 exploiting ozonesonde records, model
476 simulations and accounting carefully for satellite O_3 metrics (e.g. averaging kernels, AKs, apriori information
477 and satellite uncertainties). We have focussed on LTCO_3 data sets from Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI)
478 produced by the RAL Space scheme and from Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer produced by
479 the IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID schemes, for which there were consistent records from 2008-2017.

480 Evaluation of satellite LTO_3 from these three products over the North American, European and East Asian
481 regions resulted in linear trends which varied over a small range close to zero and with confidence intervals
482 intersecting with zero. This was consistent with simulations from the UK Earth System Model (UKESM1.0).
483 There were no large-scale trends in the apriori information, so changes in satellite year-to-year sampling has
484 not been driving inconsistencies between products. When convolving UKESM1.0 with the satellite AKs (i.e. to
485 assess the impact of the satellite vertical sensitivity) it did change the size of the model trend, and in some
486 instances, the direction of the trend, but as the simulated LTO_3 trends were small and insignificant, they had
487 limited influence. Overall, our results show that changes in LTO_3 during the decade 2008-2017 in North
488 America, Europe and East Asia were dominated by variability in processes which control LTO_3 on shorter
489 timescales.

490 In the future, new polar orbiting missions including the IASI Next Generation and Sentinel-5 UV/VIS sounders
491 on the MetOp Second Generation will provide tropospheric ozone products to extend current missions
492 through to the mid-2040s. There will also be the new geostationary platforms like the Infrared Sounder (IRS)
493 and Sentinel 4 UV/VIS sounder on Meteosat-Third Generation (MTG-S) and the already in orbit
494 Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS) and Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of
495 Pollution (TEMPO), which will provide large volumes of data (e.g. diurnal observations) and over a long-time
496 scale on tropospheric ozone for future regional trend analyses.

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509

510



511 **Data Availability**

512 The IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID data can be obtained from <https://iasi.aeris-data.fr/O3> and <https://iasi-sofrid.sedoo.fr/>. The RAL OMI data is available via the NERC Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA)
513 Jasmin platform subject to data requests. However, the RAL Space satellite data, as well as the UKESM1.0
514 simulations, will be uploaded to the Zenodo open access portal (<https://zenodo.org/>) if this manuscript is
515 accepted for publication in ACP after the peer-review process. The ozonesonde data for WOUDC, SHADOZ
516 and NOAA is available from <https://woudc.org/>, <https://tropo.gsfc.nasa.gov/shadoz/> and
517 <https://gml.noaa.gov/ozwv/ozsondes/>.

519 **Author Contributions**

520 RJP conceptualised, planned and undertook the research study. BB, ELF, BJK, RS, BGL, LJV, AB and CW
521 provided the OMI and IASI ozone data and advice on using the products. FO and MD provided advice and
522 expertise on using and running UKESM. CR provided advice and help during RP's ESA CCI fellowship. RJP
523 prepared the manuscript with scientific and technical contributions from all co-authors.

524 **Conflicts of Interest**

525 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

526 **References:**

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713 **Figures & Tables:**

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Data Provider	Satellite Profile Products & Version	Product Link	Data Range	Data Size
RAL Space	OMI-fv214	http://www.ceda.ac.uk/	2004-2018	1442 GB
ATMOS-ULB	IAS-FORLI-v20151001	https://iasi.aeris-data.fr/catalog/	2008-2019	9.1 TB
Université de Toulouse	IASI-SOFRID vn3.5	https://iasi-sofrid.sedoo.fr/	2008-2017	3.0 TB

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Table 1: List of the satellite ozone profile data sets.

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Satellite	Quantity	Trend	Trend Lower	Trend Upper	p-value	Fit (R ²)
OMI	Trend	-0.79	-7.07	5.48	0.80	0.58
	Trend Error 1	-1.50	-7.04	4.04	0.59	0.68
	Trend Error 2	-0.09	-6.98	6.81	0.98	0.50
	Apriori Trend	-0.05	-0.21	0.11	0.56	1.00
	UKESM Trend	0.21	-0.37	0.78	0.47	0.95
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.57	-1.58	0.45	0.26	0.90
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.73	0.22	1.25	0.00	0.95
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	-0.74	-1.89	0.40	0.20	0.89
FORLI	Trend	-1.42	-2.35	-0.50	0.00	0.93
	Trend Error 1	-1.34	-2.21	-0.47	0.00	0.93
	Trend Error 2	-1.50	-2.51	-0.50	0.00	0.93
	Apriori Trend	0.00	-0.11	0.12	0.94	0.67
	UKESM Trend	-0.13	-0.75	0.49	0.67	0.93
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.32	-0.83	0.20	0.22	0.92
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.64	-3.50	4.77	0.76	0.46
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.55	0.08	1.03	0.02	0.93
SOFRID	Trend	0.12	-0.59	0.82	0.74	0.94
	Trend Error 1	0.14	-0.59	0.88	0.70	0.90
	Trend Error 2	0.09	-0.48	0.66	0.75	0.94
	Apriori Trend	0.11	-0.17	0.39	0.43	0.98
	UKESM Trend	-0.24	-0.85	0.37	0.44	0.95
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.04	-0.53	0.45	0.87	0.97
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.80	0.41	1.19	0.00	0.97
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.58	0.24	0.92	0.00	0.98
OMI	Trend	-0.80	-7.29	5.69	0.80	0.71
	Trend Error 1	-1.65	-6.92	3.62	0.53	0.76
	Trend Error 2	0.05	-7.44	7.53	0.99	0.67
	Apriori Trend	-0.12	-0.26	0.03	0.10	1.00
	UKESM Trend	-0.11	-0.50	0.29	0.59	0.99
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.72	-1.77	0.32	0.16	0.95
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.62	0.14	1.10	0.01	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.47	-0.51	1.44	0.34	0.94



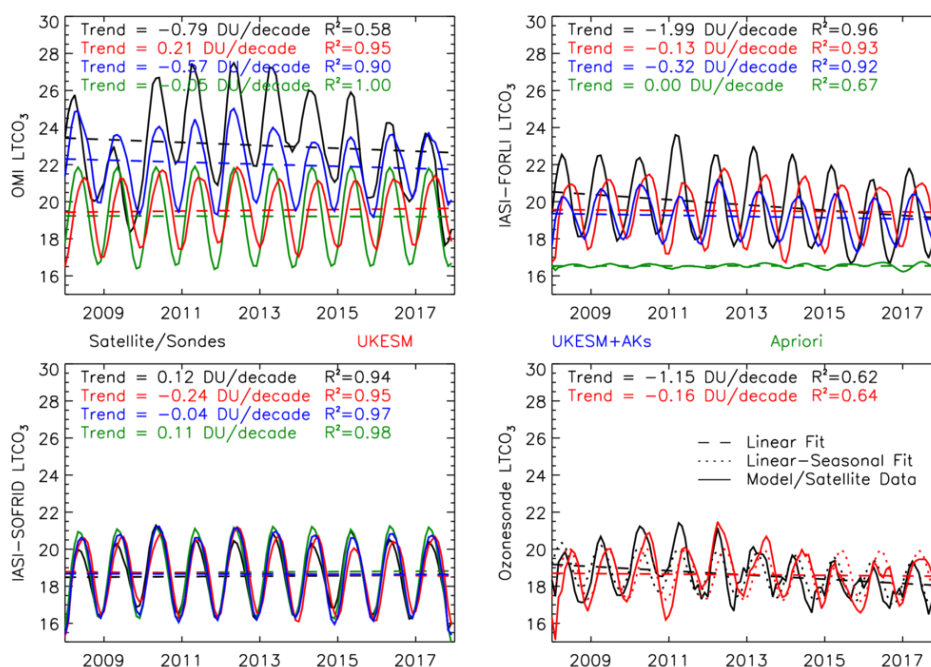
FORLI	Trend	-1.83	-2.78	-0.89	0.00	0.92
	Trend Error 1	-1.80	-2.72	-0.88	0.00	0.93
	Trend Error 2	-1.87	-2.87	-0.87	0.00	0.92
	Apriori Trend	0.09	-0.09	0.27	0.32	0.48
	UKESM Trend	-0.28	-0.77	0.20	0.25	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.43	-1.21	0.35	0.27	0.94
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.37	-0.05	0.79	0.08	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.28	-0.38	0.94	0.40	0.93
SOFRID	Trend	0.05	-0.91	1.01	0.92	0.93
	Trend Error 1	0.16	-0.74	1.07	0.72	0.91
	Trend Error 2	-0.07	-0.91	0.78	0.87	0.93
	Apriori Trend	0.17	-0.12	0.45	0.24	0.98
	UKESM Trend	-0.27	-0.72	0.19	0.24	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend	0.08	-0.33	0.49	0.69	0.98
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.46	0.09	0.84	0.01	0.99
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.10	-0.32	0.51	0.64	0.98
OMI	Trend	-0.09	-7.88	7.70	0.98	0.51
	Trend Error 1	-1.05	-6.61	4.52	0.70	0.66
	Trend Error 2	0.87	-8.24	9.98	0.85	0.38
	Apriori Trend	-0.25	-0.71	0.22	0.29	0.98
	UKESM Trend	-0.16	-0.94	0.62	0.67	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.62	-2.24	1.00	0.44	0.95
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.90	0.34	1.47	0.00	0.99
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	1.02	-0.04	2.09	0.05	0.97
FORLI	Trend	-1.52	-2.16	-0.88	0.00	0.93
	Trend Error 1	-1.42	-2.06	-0.78	0.00	0.93
	Trend Error 2	-1.62	-2.27	-0.98	0.00	0.92
	Apriori Trend	-0.03	-0.22	0.16	0.76	0.21
	UKESM Trend	-0.03	-0.62	0.56	0.93	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.29	-0.80	0.22	0.25	0.95
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.66	0.15	1.17	0.01	0.98
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.08	-0.44	0.61	0.75	0.93
SOFRID	Trend	-0.19	-1.01	0.63	0.65	0.96
	Trend Error 1	-0.08	-0.73	0.58	0.82	0.90
	Trend Error 2	-0.30	-1.02	0.42	0.41	0.93
	Apriori Trend	-0.15	-0.39	0.09	0.21	0.98
	UKESM Trend	-0.42	-0.97	0.13	0.12	0.99
	UKESM+AKs Trend	-0.24	-0.67	0.20	0.28	0.98
	UKESM Trend Forced	0.63	0.26	1.00	0.00	0.99
	UKESM+AKs Trend Forced	0.20	-0.20	0.61	0.31	0.98

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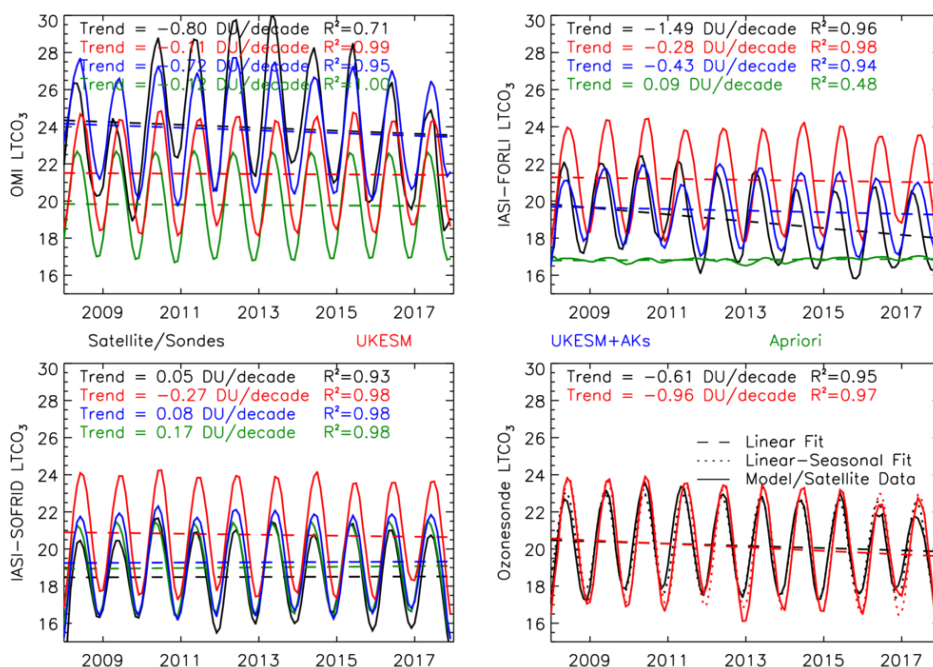
719 **Table 2:** *LTCO₃ trends (DU/decade) for the satellite trend (Trend), the satellite-uncertainty trend (Trend Error*
 720 *1), the satellite+uncertainty trend (Trend Error 2), the satellite apriori trend (Apriori Trend), UKESM trend*
 721 *(UKESM Trend), UKESM with AKs applied trend (UKESM+AKs Trend), UKESM forced trend (UKESM Trend*
 722 *Forced) and UKESM with AKs applied forced trend (UKESM+AKs Trend Forced). The trends from OMI, IASI-*



723 FORLI and IASI-SOFRID are for North America (red), Europe (blue) and East Asia (green). The trend lower and
 724 trend upper represent the trend 95% confidence interval. R^2 is the trend fit skill (i.e. correlation squared) and
 725 the p-value is also shown.
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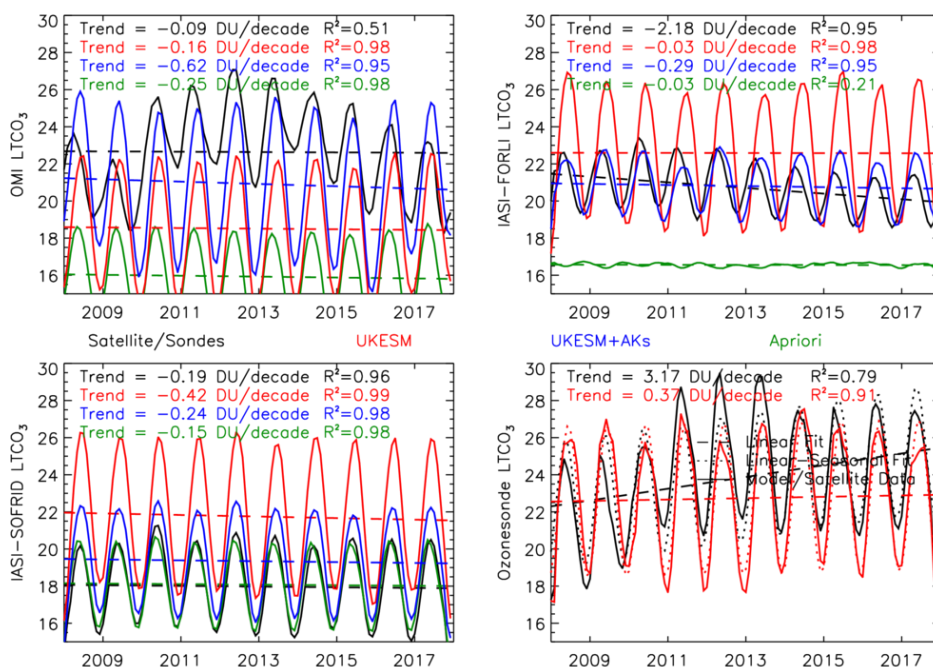


728
 729 **Figure 1:** Lower tropospheric column ozone ($LTCO_3$, surface to 450 hPa, DU) regional time-series for North
 730 America, based on the HTAP land mask, from OMI (top-left), IASI-FORLI (top-right), IASI-SOFRID (bottom-left)
 731 and ozonesondes (bottom-right) are shown by the black lines in the respective panels. UKESM simulations
 732 without and with satellite averaging kernels (AKs) applied are shown in red and blue lines. Green lines show
 733 the satellite apriori. Dashed lines show the $LTCO_3$ linear trend which are labelled in the top of each panel. The
 734 R^2 squared values show the linear-seasonal trend model fit to the corresponding $LTCO_3$ time-series (i.e.
 735 correlation squared).



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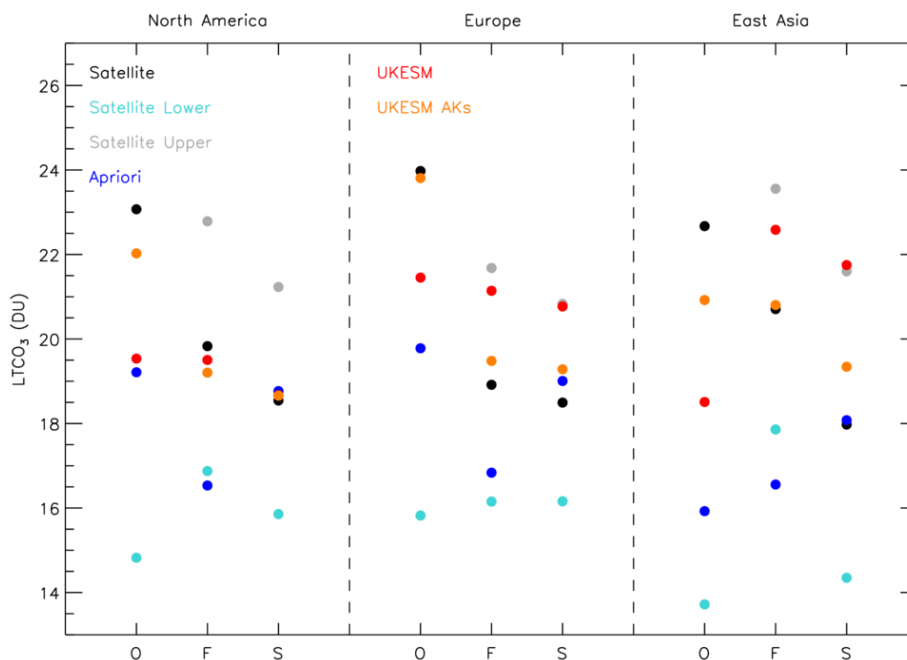
737 **Figure 2:** $LTCO_3$ (DU) regional time-series for Europe, based on the HTAP land mask, from OMI (top-left), IASI-
 738 FORLI (top-right), IASI-SOFRID (bottom-left) and ozonesondes (bottom-right) are shown by the black lines in
 739 the respective panels.. UKESM simulations without and with satellite AKs applied are shown in red and blue
 740 lines. Green lines show the satellite apriori. Dashed lines show the $LTCO_3$ linear trend which are labelled in the
 741 top of each. The R^2 squared values show the linear-seasonal trend model fit to the corresponding $LTCO_3$ time-
 742 series (i.e. correlation squared).



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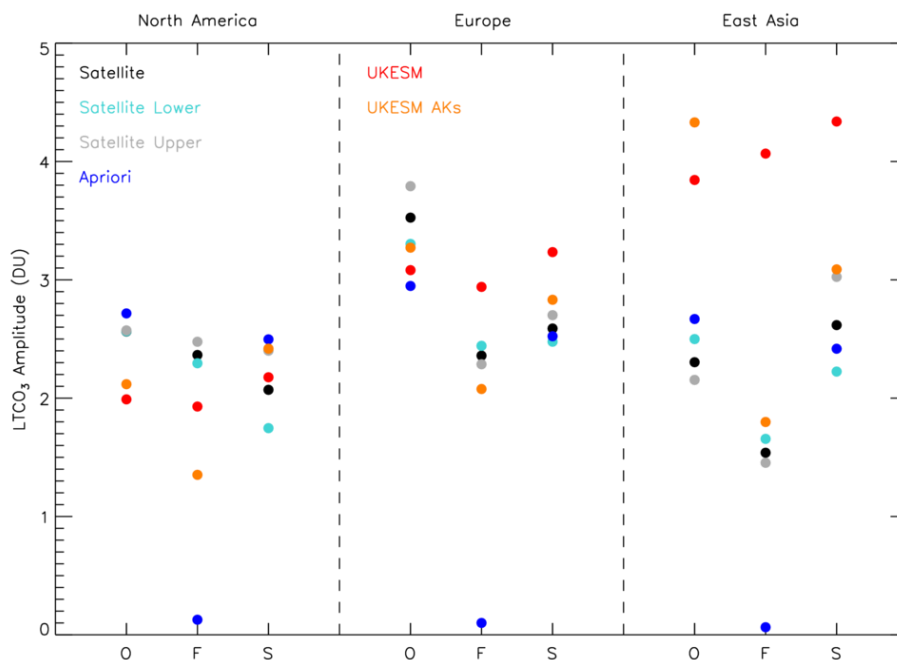
744 **Figure 3:** LTCO₃ (DU) regional time-series for East Asia, based on the HTAP land mask, from OMI (top-left),
 745 IASI-FORLI (top-right), IASI-SOFRID (bottom-left) and ozonesondes (bottom-right) are shown by the black lines
 746 in the respective panels.. UKESM simulations without and with satellite AKs applied are shown in red and blue
 747 lines. Green lines show the satellite apriori. Dashed lines show the LTCO₃ linear trend which are labelled in the
 748 top of each panel. The R² squared values show the linear-seasonal trend model fit to the corresponding LTCO₃
 749 time-series (i.e. correlation squared).

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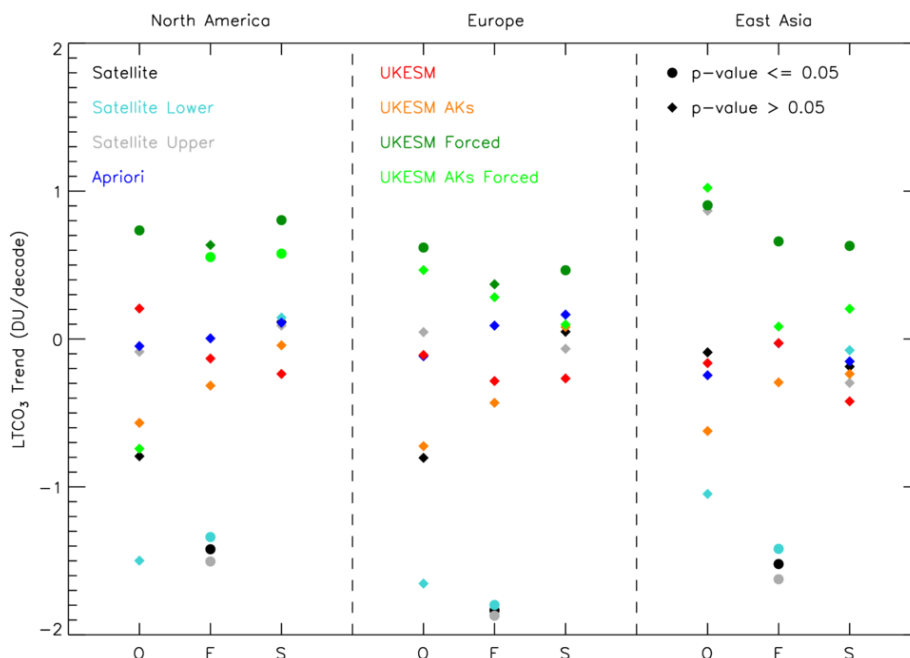
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752 **Figure 4:** Average $LTCO_3$ (DU) values across the 2008-2017 time-period for the satellite (black), satellite-lower
 753 (cyan), satellite-upper (grey), apriori (blue), UKESM (red) and UKESM+AKs (orange). The satellite-lower and
 754 satellite-upper values are the average of the satellite \pm its error term time-series (note: these values do not
 755 always fit in the y-axis range). O, F and S represent OMI, IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID for North America (left),
 756 Europe (centre) and East Asia (right).



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758 **Figure 5:** Average $LTCO_3$ seasonal cycle amplitude (DU) values across the 2008-2017 time-period for the
 759 satellite (black), satellite-lower (cyan), satellite-upper (grey), apriori (blue), UKESM (red) and UKESM+AKs
 760 (orange). The satellite-lower and satellite-upper values are the average of the satellite \pm its error term time-
 761 series (note: these values do not always fit in the y-axis range). O, F and S represent OMI, IASI-FORLI and IASI-
 762 SOFRID for North America (left), Europe (centre) and East Asia (right).



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764 **Figure 6:** Average LTCO₃ linear trends (DU/decade) values across the 2008-2017 time-period for the satellite
 765 (black), satellite-lower (cyan), satellite-upper (grey), apriori (blue), UKESM (red), UKESM+AKs (orange),
 766 UKESM forced (dark green) and UKESM+AKs forced (light green). The satellite-lower and satellite-upper
 767 values are the average of the satellite ± its error term time-series (note: these values do not always fit in the
 768 y-axis range). O, F and S represent OMI, IASI-FORLI and IASI-SOFRID for North America (left), Europe (centre)
 769 and East Asia (right). Triangle and circular symbols represent linear trends with p-values > 0.05 or p ≤ 0.05,
 770 respectively.

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