Surface ozone-meteorology relationships: Spatial variations and the role of the jet stream

Gaige Hunter Kerr\textsuperscript{1,1}, Darryn W. Waugh\textsuperscript{2,2,2}, Stephen D. Steenrod\textsuperscript{3,3,3}, Sarah A. Strode\textsuperscript{4,4,4}, Susan E Strahan\textsuperscript{5,5,5}, and Gaige Hunter Kerr\textsuperscript{6}

\textsuperscript{1}The Johns Hopkins University
\textsuperscript{2}Johns Hopkins University
\textsuperscript{3}Universities Space Research Association
\textsuperscript{4}Universities Space Research Association
\textsuperscript{5}Universities Space Research Association
\textsuperscript{6}The George Washington University

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Abstract

We investigate the relationships among summertime ozone (O₃), temperature, and humidity on daily timescales across the Northern Hemisphere using observations and model simulations. Temperature and humidity are significantly positively correlated with O₃ across continental regions in the mid-latitudes (\textdegree 35 - 60\textdegree N). Over the oceans, the relationships are consistently negative. For continental regions outside the mid-latitudes, the O₃-meteorology correlations are mixed in strength and sign but generally weak. Over some high latitude, low latitude, and marine regions, temperature and humidity are significantly anticorrelated with O₃. Daily variations in transport patterns linked to the position and meridional movement of the jet stream drive the relationships among O₃, temperature, and humidity. Within the latitudinal range of the jet, there is an increase (decrease) in O₃, temperature, and humidity over land with poleward (equatorward) movement of the jet, while over the oceans poleward movement of the jet results in decreases of these fields and vice versa. Beyond the latitudes where the jet traverses, the meridional movement of the jet stream has variable or negligible effects on surface-level O₃, temperature, and humidity. The O₃-meteorology relationships are largely the product of the jet-induced changes in the surface-level meridional flow acting on the background meridional O₃ gradient. Our results underscore the importance of considering the role of the jet stream and surface-level flow for the O₃-meteorology relationships, especially in light of expected changes to these features under climate change.
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Gaige Hunter Kerr\textsuperscript{1,*}, Darryn W. Waugh\textsuperscript{1,2}, Stephen D. Steenrod\textsuperscript{3,4}, Sarah A. Strode\textsuperscript{3,4}, and Susan E. Strahan\textsuperscript{3,4}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
\textsuperscript{2}School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
\textsuperscript{3}NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA
\textsuperscript{4}Universities Space Research Association, GESTAR, Columbia, Maryland, USA

Key Points:

• The relationships among summertime O\textsubscript{3}, temperature, and humidity vary over the Northern Hemisphere
• Daily variations in meteorology drive the O\textsubscript{3}-meteorology covariance
• The jet impacts meridional flow, which acts on the latitudinal O\textsubscript{3} gradient and leads to variations in the O\textsubscript{3}-meteorology relationships

\textsuperscript{*}now at Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

Corresponding author: G. H. Kerr, gaige.kerr@gwu.edu
Abstract

We investigate the relationships among summertime ozone (O$_3$), temperature, and humidity on daily timescales across the Northern Hemisphere using observations and model simulations. Temperature and humidity are significantly positively correlated with O$_3$ across continental regions in the mid-latitudes (~35–60°N). Over the oceans, the relationships are consistently negative. For continental regions outside the mid-latitudes, the O$_3$-meteorology correlations are mixed in strength and sign but generally weak. Over some high latitude, low latitude, and marine regions, temperature and humidity are significantly anticorrelated with O$_3$. Daily variations in transport patterns linked to the position and meridional movement of the jet stream drive the relationships among O$_3$, temperature, and humidity. Within the latitudinal range of the jet, there is an increase (decrease) in O$_3$, temperature, and humidity over land with poleward (equatorward) movement of the jet, while over the oceans poleward movement of the jet results in decreases of these fields. Beyond the latitudes where the jet traverses, the meridional movement of the jet stream has variable or negligible effects on surface-level O$_3$, temperature, and humidity. The O$_3$-meteorology relationships are largely the product of the jet-induced changes in the surface-level meridional flow acting on the background meridional O$_3$ gradient. Our results underscore the importance of considering the role of the jet stream and surface-level flow for the O$_3$-meteorology relationships, especially in light of expected changes to these features under climate change.

Plain Language Summary

The relationship of ozone (O$_3$) with meteorological variables such as temperature and humidity at the earth’s surface varies in strength and sign. Some regions, such as continental parts of the mid-latitudes, experience increases in O$_3$ as the temperature or humidity rises. However, this is not the case over the entire Northern Hemisphere. We use detailed computer simulations of atmospheric chemistry to show that these relationships are primarily the result of changes in meteorology, not changes in emissions or chemistry. The relationship between O$_3$ and meteorological variables is related to the north-south movement of the jet stream, powerful eastward-flowing air currents located near the tropopause that can encircle the hemisphere. Specifically, we find that the jet stream influences the O$_3$-meteorology relationships due to its effect on the north- and southward advection of O$_3$, temperature, and humidity and not due to cyclones and the associated frontal activity, as has been previously suggested. Our results are relevant for understanding the present-day O$_3$-meteorology relationships and how climate change may impact O$_3$ pollution.

1 Introduction

Ambient surface-level ozone (O$_3$) plays a prominent role in atmospheric chemistry (Fiore et al., 2015; Pusede et al., 2015), while posing significant threats to human health (Landrigan et al., 2018) and ecosystem productivity (Tai & Martin, 2017). Long-term trends in observed O$_3$ in the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes reveal sustained, year-round increases in baseline O$_3$ concentrations (Parrish et al., 2012), underpinning the need for a better understanding of the drivers of O$_3$ variability. Meteorology strongly affects O$_3$ concentrations and chemistry through both variations in prevailing weather conditions on daily, seasonal, or interannual timescales as well as long-term trends associated with climate change (e.g., Jacob & Winner, 2009; Fiore et al., 2015; Otero et al., 2016; Lefohn et al., 2018). The meteorological, or transport-related, phenomena that affect O$_3$ are not cause-and-effect relationships in the same sense as emissions or chemical kinetics and energetics (i.e., temperature-dependent reaction or emissions rates). Rather, the link between O$_3$ and meteorology reflects a joint association (e.g., high temperatures are often associated with slow-moving anticyclones).
Previous studies have focused on characterizing the relationship between O\textsubscript{3} and temperature or humidity in historical data. Generally these studies found a positive O\textsubscript{3}-temperature relationship (e.g., Rasmussen et al., 2012, 2013; Pusede et al., 2015) and a variable O\textsubscript{3}-humidity relationship with substantial latitudinal variability (e.g., Camalier et al., 2007; Tawfik & Steiner, 2013; Kavassalis & Murphy, 2017). However, the majority of past studies on the O\textsubscript{3}-meteorology relationships focused on populated, industrialized portions of the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes, potentially overlooking important variations of these relationships elsewhere. These studies have been conducted for different and often non-overlapping time periods during which changes of O\textsubscript{3} precursors could affect chemical background conditions (Kim et al., 2006; Derwent et al., 2010; Cooper et al., 2012; Simon et al., 2015; Lin et al., 2017). Finally, past studies have used different methodologies (e.g., O\textsubscript{3}-relationships derived from hourly, daily, or seasonal data; see Brown-Steiner et al. (2015) for additional information). All these factors complicate direct comparisons from study to study; thus, it is difficult to piece together a comprehensive sense of how the O\textsubscript{3}-meteorology relationships vary across the globe and what processes drive these relationships. Recent work by Kerr et al. (2019) and Porter and Heald (2019) suggests that greater than 50\% of the covariance of O\textsubscript{3} and temperature in the United States (U.S.) and Europe on daily timescales stems from meteorological phenomena, not chemistry or emissions. It is an open question whether this also holds for the O\textsubscript{3}-humidity relationship.

There have been several meteorological mechanisms proposed to link O\textsubscript{3} with temperature and humidity. However, little consensus exists as to which mechanism is the most important and the regions or timescales over which it operates. Baroclinic cyclones can disperse built-up concentrations of pollution by entraining polluted air from the planetary boundary layer (PBL) into the free troposphere (e.g., Mickley, 2004; Leibensperger et al., 2008; Knowland et al., 2015, 2017). Quasi-stationary anticyclones such as the Bermuda High can influence regional climate and O\textsubscript{3} (e.g., Zhu & Liang, 2013). Properties of the PBL, such as its height, or temperature inversions and mixing within the PBL, have also been suggested as transport-related mechanisms that affect surface-level O\text sub{3} (e.g., Dawson et al., 2007; He et al., 2013; Reddy & Pfister, 2016; Barrett et al., 2019). Winds near the earth’s surface or aloft can ventilate pollution away from its source region (e.g., Camalier et al., 2007; Hegarty et al., 2007; Tai et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2017). Interactions among the atmosphere, land surface, and biosphere have been proposed to explain the O\textsubscript{3}-humidity relationship in North America (Tawfik & Steiner, 2013; Kavassalis & Murphy, 2017). The jet stream is a pronounced feature of the general circulation of atmosphere in both the Northern and Southern Hemisphere mid-latitudes and is characterized by a region of strong eastward wind aloft. Its existence arises from momentum and heat fluxes forced by transient eddies, and the jet extends throughout the depth of the troposphere (Woollings et al., 2010). The variability of surface-level summertime O\textsubscript{3} as well as its relationship with temperature have been linked to the latitude of the jet stream over eastern North America (Barnes & Fiore, 2013; Shen et al., 2015). Similar connections between the jet position, persistence of the jet in a given position, and wintertime particulate matter with a diameter < 2.5 \(\mu\text{m}\) (PM\textsubscript{2.5}) have also been demonstrated in Europe (Ordóñez et al., 2019).

The aim of this paper is to document the relationships of surface-level temperature and specific humidity (henceforth “humidity”) with O\textsubscript{3} in the Northern Hemisphere during boreal summer and explore the processes responsible for spatial variations of these relationships. Through our model simulations, we demonstrate that variations in transport-related processes drive the covariance of O\textsubscript{3} with temperature and humidity on daily timescales. We build off of the previous regionally-focused work of Barnes and Fiore (2013), Shen et al. (2015), and Ordóñez et al. (2019) to show the connections between the position of the jet stream and surface-level temperature, humidity, and O\textsubscript{3} variability hold across the Northern Hemisphere. Finally, we develop and test hypotheses that tie the jet stream to the surface-level relationships among O\textsubscript{3}, temperature, and humidity.
2 Data and Methodology

2.1 Model Simulations

The majority of our analysis of the \( \text{O}_3 \)-meteorology relationships is performed using simulations of NASA’s Global Modeling Initiative chemical transport model (GMI CTM; Duncan et al., 2007; Strahan et al., 2007, 2013). The GMI CTM is driven by meteorological fields from the Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications, version 2 (MERRA-2; Gelaro et al., 2017). GMI CTM simulations used in this study have 1° latitude x 1.25° longitude horizontal resolution (\( \sim 100 \) km) with 72 vertical levels, extending from the surface to 0.01 hPa.

The chemical mechanism of the CTM includes tropospheric and stratospheric chemistry with approximately 120 species and over 400 reactions. In addition to the spectrum of chemical processes dependent upon the model meteorology, several aspects of \( \text{O}_3 \) production and destruction also depend on the meteorology: biogenic emissions (temperature, photosynthetically active radiation), soil emissions of \( \text{NO}_x \) (temperature, precipitation), lightning emissions of \( \text{NO}_x \) (convective mass flux), wet deposition (wind, clouds, precipitation), and dry deposition (wind, clouds, temperature, pressure). Additional information about the natural and anthropogenic emission inventories and model parameterizations (e.g., biogenic emissions, lightning \( \text{NO}_x \), etc.) is provided in Kerr et al. (2019) and Strode et al. (2015).

The GMI CTM is a proven model to understand surface-level \( \text{O}_3 \) variability and its drivers (e.g., Duncan et al., 2008; Strode et al., 2015; Kerr et al., 2019). Kerr et al. (2019) evaluated the CTM with observations from an in-situ network in the U.S. and showed that the model skillfully simulated the observed daily variability of \( \text{O}_3 \) during the summer despite a high model bias in the eastern U.S. and low model bias in the western U.S.; these biases are common among CTMs (e.g., Brown-Steiner et al., 2015; Guo et al., 2018; Phalitnonkiat et al., 2018).

In this study we focus on the \( \text{O}_3 \)-meteorology relationships in the Northern Hemisphere for a three-year period (2008–2010) during boreal summer (1 June–31 August). We use \( \text{O}_3 \) from the model’s surface level, which has a nominal thickness of \( \sim 130 \) m. CTM output from the early afternoon (mean 1300–1400 local time), coinciding with the overpass time of the Afternoon Constellation (“A-Train”) of Earth observing satellites, was archived as gridded fields, whereas hourly output was archived only at select sites. We consequently use modeled \( \text{O}_3 \) from this early afternoon period, noting that this time of day typically represents a time in which the PBL is well-mixed (e.g., Cooper et al., 2012) and daily \( \text{O}_3 \) concentrations reach their maximum (e.g., Schnell et al., 2014). Considering \( \text{O}_3 \) during this early afternoon period versus longer averaging periods leads to similar results (Kerr et al., 2019).

Two simulations are analyzed in this study. The first is a control simulation with daily (or sub-daily) variations in meteorology, chemistry, and natural emissions. Anthropogenic emissions in this simulation vary from month to month. Unless otherwise indicated, all subsequent figures and analysis use this control simulation. In a second simulation referred to as “transport-only,” we isolate the role of transport. Meteorological fields related to transport such as pressure, wind, convection, PBL height, and precipitation (as it affects the vertical transport of \( \text{O}_3 \) via wet deposition) all vary on daily and sub-daily timescales in this transport-only simulation. The daily variations of other meteorological fields that affect chemistry and emissions (e.g., temperature, clouds and albedo-related variables, surface roughness, specific humidity, soil moisture, and ground wetness) are removed by using a single, monthly mean diurnal curve for each of these fields at each grid cell. Therefore, any process that relies on these variables (e.g., photolytic and kinetic reaction rates, biogenic emissions, dry deposition) is identical for a given time of the diurnal cycle for all days in a particular month. Other non-biogenic emissions are
fixed to a single monthly mean value with no diurnal variations. We note that although there are no day-to-day variations in emissions- and chemistry-related processes within a given month in the transport-only simulation, there is still seasonal and interannual variability. This transport-only simulation is similar to the “Transport” simulation discussed in Kerr et al. (2019) with the exception that specific humidity is also averaged to a monthly mean diurnal cycle.

2.2 Observations

We use in-situ observations of O$_3$ across North America, Europe, and China to examine the observed variations of the O$_3$-meteorology relationships and assess the accuracy of the GMI CTM. We choose these regions because their in-situ networks, described below, measure and archive O$_3$ hourly. Since the model outputs O$_3$ averaged over 1300-1400 hours (local time), comparing this output with hourly O$_3$ observations averaged over the same time of the day represents the most direct comparison. The lack of in-situ networks with observations at a high temporal frequency in many other parts of the world hinders our ability to examine model performance over other regions.

Observations of O$_3$ from 233 Canadian sites are part of the National Air Pollution Surveillance Network (NAPS), collected and analyzed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC, 2017). In the U.S. we use observations from the Air Quality System (AQS), which contains O$_3$ observations collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state, local, and tribal air pollution control agencies at 1483 sites (EPA, 2019). The European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) provides O$_3$ observations at 142 sites in the European Union (Hjellbrekke & Solberg, 2019).

For China we use observations from the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) for summers 2016–2017 (Li et al., 2019). Observations are primarily from urban centers, and if a particular Chinese city has >1 monitor, a city-wide average was computed following Z. Zhao and Wang (2017), resulting in data from 360 Chinese cities. The choice of this 2016 – 2017 time period is because this Chinese observational network did not come online until the mid-2010s. Accordingly, when we assess the performance of the GMI CTM and discuss the observed O$_3$-meteorology relationships in China, we use model simulations (Section 2.1) and reanalysis data (Section 2.3) for 2016–2017 rather than the 2008 – 2010 period used elsewhere in this study.

2.3 Meteorological Reanalysis

In addition to providing meteorological input to drive the GMI CTM, MERRA-2 is also used to determine the relationships between O$_3$ and meteorology. Several of the observational networks detailed in Section 2.2 lack co-located meteorological observations, and Varotsos et al. (2013) commented that lack of co-located O$_3$ and temperature (or other meteorological) observations necessitates the use of gridded products to examine the relationships between O$_3$ and meteorology.

MERRA-2 meteorological fields are not available at the satellite overpass times sampled by the GMI CTM simulations (Section 2.1). We calculate daily averages from the following MERRA-2 fields: hourly surface-level (10-m) zonal ($U_{10}$) and meridional ($V_{10}$) wind, three-hourly 2-m specific humidity ($q$), three-hourly 500 hPa zonal wind ($U_{500}$), and hourly PBL height ($PBLH$). Daily 2-m maximum temperature ($T$) is computed as the maximum of hourly values. Our use of daily maximum temperature follows Zhang and Wang (2016) and Meehl et al. (2018).

There are uncertainties associated with an assimilated product like MERRA-2, but Bosilovich et al. (2015) presented evidence that MERRA-2 provides a very good quality reanalysis data set. As the MERRA-2 data have higher horizontal resolution than the GMI CTM (0.5° latitude × 0.625° longitude for MERRA-2 versus 1° latitude × 1.25°...
longitude for the CTM), we degrade the MERRA-2 data to the resolution of the CTM using xESMF, a universal regridding tool for geospatial data (Zhuang, 2018).

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 Statistical analysis

We use the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient and the slope of the ordinary least squares (OLS) regression (denoted $r(x, y)$ and $dy/dx$ for variables $x$ and $y$, respectively) to (1) quantify the $O_3$-meteorology relationships on daily timescales and (2) evaluate the ability of the GMI CTM to accurately simulate observed $O_3$ from the in-situ networks detailed in Section 2.2. The correlation coefficient is a parametric test that measures the degree of linear correlation between $x$ and $y$, and the OLS regression describes the linear relationship between $x$ (explanatory variable) and $y$ (dependent variable).

The serial dependence (persistence) in our meteorological and chemical data reduces the effective sample size by an amount not known a priori and inhibits the use of traditional hypothesis testing methods such as $t$-tests to evaluate significance (Zwiers & von Storch, 1995; Wilks, 1997; Mudelsee, 2003). Therefore, we use moving block bootstrapping to quantify the significance of the correlation coefficient. While traditional bootstrapping resamples individual, independent values of the time series, moving block bootstrapping resamples continuous subsets of the time series with blocklength $L$ and does not destroy the ordering responsible for the persistence (Wilks, 2011). At each grid cell we synthetically construct a null distribution of 10000 bootstrapped realizations of the correlation coefficient (Mudelsee, 2014) and use $L = 10$ days. As a rule of thumb, block-lengths should generally exceed the decorrelation time. More rigorous methods for optimizing $L$ exist, but we find that $L = 10$ is adequate for our application and our results are not sensitive to the exact value of $L$. To evaluate the significance, we estimate the 95% confidence interval using the percentile method of the bootstrapped values (i.e., the 95% confidence interval of our 10000 realizations is given by the 250th and 9750th sorted values). If this confidence interval does not contain zero, we declare the correlation coefficient significant.

2.4.2 Jet stream position

We define the latitude of the jet ($\phi_{jet}$) as the latitude of maximum zonal winds at 500 hPa ($U_{500}$) on each day. This approach to determine $\phi_{jet}$ follows Barnes and Fiore (2013) but differs in two ways: (1) Barnes and Fiore (2013) determined $\phi_{jet}$ using $U_{500}$ averaged over the eastern North America zonal sector. We determine $\phi_{jet}$ locally (at each longitudinal grid cell) and between 20–70°N; (2) After finding the maximum $U_{500}$ for each longitude, we employ a simple moving average that is essentially a convolution of daily $\phi_{jet}$ of a general rectangular pulse with width $\sim 10°$. This approach removes large changes (abrupt latitudinal shifts) in $\phi_{jet}$ with longitude. Using smoothed versus un-smoothed data or different pulse widths yields similar overall findings in this study.

2.4.3 Cyclone detection and tracking

To assess the impact of extratropical cyclones on surface-level $O_3$, we use the MAP Climatology of Mid-latitude Storminess (MCMS) database to locate cyclones (Bauer & Genio, 2006; Bauer et al., 2016). Within MCMS, cyclones are detected as minima in the ERA-Interim sea level pressure (SLP) dataset (Dee et al., 2011) and are subject to additional filters to screen for spurious detections. Once detected, MCMS tracks cyclones with criteria that require gradual changes in SLP, no sudden changes in direction, and cyclones travel distances less than 720 km over single six-hourly time steps. Additional details can be found in Bauer and Genio (2006) and Bauer et al. (2016).
3 Global O$_3$ distribution and evaluation

We begin with an analysis of the distribution and variability of modeled surface-level O$_3$ during summer (Figure 1a). Concentrations of O$_3$ are highest (~30–60 ppbv) in a broad mid-latitude band over continental regions extending from 20 – 50°N. The GMI CTM suggests that O$_3$ is not zonally-symmetric within this mid-latitude band and that the highest mean concentrations (> 50 ppbv) are in the Middle East and central and eastern Asia. Outside of the mid-latitudes, the CTM simulates lower O$_3$ concentrations (< 30 ppbv), and the lowest concentrations in the hemisphere (< 15 ppbv) are found in the remote tropical marine atmosphere. We characterize the daily variability of O$_3$ by the standard deviation, and two levels (8 and 10 ppbv) are highlighted with the thin dashed and thick contours in Figure 1a. The hemispheric distribution of mean summertime surface O$_3$ and its variability in Figure 1a is consistent with simulations from other models in a recent model intercomparison (Turnock et al., 2020).

To illustrate the possible influence of anthropogenic emissions on the spatial variability of mean O$_3$ concentrations, we show mean annual anthropogenic NO$_x$ emission data from the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR; Crippa et al., 2018) at their native resolution (0.1° latitude x 0.1° longitude) in Figure 1b. EDGAR is used in the GMI CTM, but is overwritten by regional inventories, if available. To first order, regions with the highest O$_3$ concentrations and largest O$_3$ variability generally coincide with industrialized regions that have high precursor emissions (Figure 1).

We evaluate whether the modeled O$_3$ distribution shown in Figure 1a is realistic using the correlation coefficient, calculated for CTM grid cells containing in-situ monitors (Section 2.2). The temporal correlation between modeled and observed O$_3$ > 0.5 in the vast majority of grid cells (Figure 2). The strength of the correlation is slightly weaker in central China than other parts of China or Europe and North America (compare Figures 2c and 2a-b), but there are no other readily-detectable spatial patterns regarding the strength of the correlation.

The primary goal of our study is to document the O$_3$-meteorology relationships in terms of the strength of the temporal correlation of O$_3$ with temperature and humidity. Thus, the model’s ability to accurately reproduce this covariance (Figure 4) is the relevant litmus test for model performance. Recent studies by Strode et al. (2015) and Kerr et al. (2019) have shown that the GMI CTM can reproduce the meteorological- and emissions-driven variability of summertime O$_3$ as well as the O$_3$-temperature relationship over the U.S. On account of these studies and our analysis in Figure 2, the GMI CTM is a suitable tool to address our research questions. The agreement between the observed and modeled O$_3$-meteorology correlations will be explored in the following section (Section 4), and this analysis will also support our use of the GMI CTM to simulate the covariance of O$_3$ with temperature or humidity.

4 O$_3$-meteorology relationships

In this section we describe the relationships among O$_3$, temperature, and humidity on daily timescales in the Northern Hemisphere during summer. We primarily use the GMI CTM but also compare the modeled relationships to observed values. As discussed in the Introduction (Section 1), other studies have focused mainly on subsets of the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes, but our examination of the relationships across the entire hemisphere allows us to have a more holistic sense of the synoptic-scale variations of these relationships.

In the mid-latitudes (~30–60°N), statistically-significant positive values of $r(T, O_3)$ are simulated by the CTM throughout North America and Eurasia (Figure 3a), but over virtually all the oceans $r(T, O_3)$ is negative. Poleward of the mid-latitudes, the strength of $r(T, O_3)$ decreases nearly monotonically over land, reaching either weak values or sig-
sificantly negative correlations (Figure 3a). The \( O_3 \)-temperature relationship is varied equatorward of the mid-latitudes; but, in the zonal mean, \( r(T, O_3) \) decreases to negative values south of 30°N. Previous work by Rasmussen et al. (2012) and Brown-Steiner et al. (2015) in the U.S. and Han et al. (2020) and Lu, Zhang, Chen, et al. (2019) in China showed a similar latitudinal gradient of \( r(T, O_3) \). Despite the general tendency of a positive-to-negative relationship between \( O_3 \) and temperature with decreasing latitude, there are regions at low latitudes with significant positive correlations between \( O_3 \) and temperature (Central America, Sahel, the south coast of the Arabian Peninsula, Indo-Gangetic Plain; Figure 3a).

The sign of \( r(q, O_3) \) generally transitions from significantly positive in the continental mid-latitudes to significantly negative over continental regions at higher and lower latitudes and over the oceans (Figure 3b). Unlike \( r(T, O_3) \), the sign of \( r(q, O_3) \) outside of the mid-latitudes is more spatially uniform. The only exceptions to the widespread negative correlations occur over small parts of the Mediterranean Sea and Caribbean and Indian Oceans (Figure 3b). These results are supported by modeling and observational studies in the U.S. and China, which indicate \( r(q, O_3) > 0 \) in the northern U.S. and China and \( r(q, O_3) < 0 \) in southern U.S. and China (e.g., Tawfik & Steiner, 2013; Kavassalis & Murphy, 2017; Li et al., 2019).

In continental regions of the mid-latitudes, temperature is a better predictor of \( O_3 \) than specific humidity, as \( r(T, O_3) > r(q, O_3) \). Other studies support temperature as a leading covariate in the mid-latitudes (e.g., Camalier et al., 2007; Porter et al., 2015; Otero et al., 2016; Sun et al., 2017; Kerr & Waugh, 2018).

Many other studies report \( dO_3/dT \) (Rasmussen et al., 2012; S. Zhao et al., 2013; Brown-Steiner et al., 2015; Kerr et al., 2019; Porter & Heald, 2019), and we also present \( dO_3/dT \) and \( dO_3/dq \) in Figure S1a-b for comparisons with these other studies. The spatial variations of the slopes shown in Figure S1a-b are qualitatively similar to \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) shown in Figure 3, as is expected by construction. We also note that the large-scale patterns in Figure 3 are preserved whether \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) or \( dO_3/dT \) and \( dO_3/dq \) are calculated with daily data aggregated over summers 2008–2010 or with daily data from individual summers.

To test whether the modeled \( O_3 \)-meteorology relationships are realistic, we calculate \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) from the in-situ networks described in Section 2.2. The strength of the zonally-averaged values of observed and modeled \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) generally reaches a maximum around 50°N across four distinct regions (Figure 4). In Europe and the eastern U.S., the CTM slightly overestimates the strength of \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) by \( ~0.1–0.3 \), similar to other studies (e.g., Brown-Steiner et al., 2015; Kerr et al., 2019). Since we used temperature from MERRA-2 to calculate the observed \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) (some of the observational networks lack co-located meteorological measurements), differences in the \( O_3 \)-meteorology relationships are driven by differences in simulated versus observed \( O_3 \) rather than by temperature. Observations are sparse outside of the mid-latitudes. A small number of AQS monitors in Alaska and NAPS monitors in northern Canada supports the transition of \( r(T, O_3) \) and \( r(q, O_3) \) from positive to negative at high latitudes that is suggested by the model (Figure 4).

In summary, the observation- and model-based analysis of the relationships among surface-level \( O_3 \), temperature, and humidity reveals substantial variability across the Northern Hemisphere during summer. The terrestrial mid-latitudes (\( \sim 30–60°N \)) stand out as the largest, most spatially-coherent region with significant positive relationships of \( O_3 \) with temperature and humidity (Figures 3-4). The \( O_3 \)-meteorology relationships are negative over nearly all marine regions, while they are mixed in sign and often not significant at high and low latitude continental regions (Figures 3-4).
5 Factors causing the O₃-meteorology relationships

The O₃-meteorology relationships in Figure 3 are far from uniform, and their spatial structure begs the question: what factors drive these relationships? In Section 1, we discussed several direct and indirect drivers that have been linked to O₃ variability, such as emissions, chemistry, and transport. Recent work has shown that transport-related processes are key contributors to the O₃-temperature relationship in the U.S. and Europe (Kerr et al., 2019; Porter & Heald, 2019), and we expand on these previous findings and examine the covariance of O₃ with temperature and humidity over the Northern Hemisphere. We do this using the transport-only GMI CTM simulation in which the daily variability of chemistry and emissions are fixed (Section 2.1).

The transport-only simulation achieves similar mean O₃ concentrations as the control simulation (compare Figures 1a and S2a). Percentage differences in mean O₃ between simulations are generally less than ±5%, suggesting that the non-linearities underpinning O₃ chemistry do not drastically change mean O₃ concentrations when day-to-day variations in chemistry- and emissions-related processes are removed. Regions in Figure 1a with high NOₓ (and presumably other precursor) emissions such as the eastern U.S., Europe, and China experience the largest decrease in mean O₃ concentrations as the daily variability of chemistry- and emissions-related processes are removed (Figure S2).

The O₃-meteorology relationships calculated with O₃ from the transport-only simulation are remarkably similar to the same quantities from the control simulation (e.g., compare Figures S1a-b and S1c-d), emphasizing the dominance of transport on these relationships. As the transport-only simulation used monthly mean values or monthly averaged diurnal cycles for processes related to chemistry and emissions, it is possible that some of the daily correlations over the three summers in our measuring period could be due to month-to-month or interannual variations in temperature or humidity coupled to chemistry or emissions. However, Porter and Heald (2019) found a similar dominance of transport in their simulations where summertime averaged values were used (rather than monthly averages). Furthermore, when we repeat the correlation analysis (i.e., Figure 3) using daily data from individual months (rather than the combined nine months) we find good agreement between the correlations from control and transport-only simulations with both showing the key features (e.g., positive correlations over mid-latitude continental regions, negative values over the oceans). Taken all together, these results indicate transport is the dominant process driving the O₃-meteorology relationships across Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes.

Over most of the oceans and a majority of the continental regions in the Northern Hemisphere, the strength of the O₃-meteorology relationships slightly increases in the transport-only simulation (negative values in Figures 5, S1e-f). The hatching in Figures 5 and S1e-f indicates that the significance of the O₃-meteorology relationships is largely retained when only daily variations in transport-related processes are considered.

There are a few regions such as the eastern U.S. and southeast Asia where the daily variability of chemistry and emissions appears important for the O₃-meteorology relationships (Figures 5, S1e-f). In these regions the strength of the correlation and the magnitude of the slopes decreases up to ~ 50% in the transport-only simulation and the correlation coefficient switches from significant to not significant. We note that these regions have high levels of anthropogenic emissions (e.g., NO₂; Figure 1b) and biogenic emissions (e.g., isoprene; Guenther et al., 2012). Further work is warranted to understand how emissions (and the chemical processes linking emissions to O₃ production) contribute to the O₃-meteorology relationships in these regions.

Although daily variations in chemistry- and emissions-related processes do not drive the O₃-meteorology relationships across the Northern Hemisphere, the importance of chem-
istry and emissions in setting the background state should not be ignored. To illustrate this, we return to Figure 3 and draw attention to the stark land-ocean contrasts in the O$_3$-meteorology relationships with marine regions generally characterized by negative correlations. These marine regions are largely low NO$_x$ environments (Figure 1a). In this type of chemical regime, an increase in humidity or temperature is expected either to not impact or decrease O$_3$ (e.g., Johnson et al., 1999; Coates et al., 2016). The transport-only simulation still includes this low NO$_x$ marine environment relative to other regions, just without day-to-day variations.

These results answer our original question whether daily variations in transport, chemistry, or emissions are primarily responsible for the O$_3$-meteorology relationships, but they also raise the question of which aspect(s) of transport links temperature and humidity to O$_3$. In the next section we investigate the role of the jet stream on surface-level temperature, humidity, and O$_3$, and we also develop and test hypotheses to link synoptic-scale flow aloft to meteorology and composition at the surface.

### 5.1 The role of the jet stream

Barnes and Fiore (2013) determined that the largest O$_3$ variability and peak strength of $r(T, O_3)$ are located near $\phi_{jet}$ in the eastern U.S. These results were further explored by Shen et al. (2015) who found that O$_3$ responded to seasonal variations in the position of the jet stream and that a poleward shift of the jet increased O$_3$ concentrations south of the jet. In this section we expand upon this previous work and document the response of surface-level O$_3$, temperature, and humidity to daily changes in $\phi_{jet}$ across the Northern Hemisphere.

The time-averaged latitude of the jet stream ($\bar{\phi_{jet}}$) is shown by the scatter points in Figure 1, and $\phi_{jet}$ averaged over the entire hemisphere is $50.1^\circ$N. The variability of the jet, cast in terms of the standard deviation, averaged over the Northern Hemisphere is $10.5^\circ$, but its variability is not constant throughout the hemisphere (vertical bars in Figure 1). Rather, we note the largest variability over continental regions, particularly Eurasia ($\sim 20^\circ$), and smaller variability over maritime regions, coinciding with the Atlantic and Pacific storm tracks. The position of the jet is only one metric to describe the jet stream, and other jet-related measures exist (e.g., strength of the jet, waviness). Our focus on $\phi_{jet}$ rather than other metrics is based on Ordóñez et al. (2019) who found that $\phi_{jet}$ exerts a stronger influence than the strength of the jet on surface-level pollution extremes.

The maximum variability of O$_3$ (Figure 1a) and the strength of the O$_3$-meteorology correlations (Figures 3-5) peak at or slightly south of $\phi_{jet}$, and $\phi_{jet}$ also separates regions with elevated O$_3$ concentrations to its south from regions with low (< 30 ppbv) concentrations to its north (Figure 1a). These results are consistent with Barnes and Fiore (2013); however, it is worth pointing out a couple of exceptions: (1) In Asia, O$_3$ variability peaks over a broader latitudinal range, extending from $\phi_{jet}$ to $\sim 20^\circ$N (Figure 1). (2) There are regions with significant positive values of $r(T, O_3)$ such as the Sahel and India that do not coincide with $\phi_{jet}$ (Figure 3a). Our current work also reveals the weak-to-negative correlation between O$_3$ and humidity or temperature for marine environments and some high and low latitudes.

To further examine the role of the jet stream on the O$_3$-meteorology relationships, we segregate summer days into two subsets: days when the jet stream is in poleward (PW) and equatorward (EW) position. Days classified as PW (EW) are days in which $\phi_{jet}$ exceeds (is less than) the 70th (30th) percentile of all daily $\phi_{jet}$ at each longitudinal grid cell. We construct composites of O$_3$, temperature, and humidity by identifying the average value of these fields on days with a PW or EW jet stream and thereafter calculate the difference of these PW and EW composites.
The difference in the PW and EW composites (PW - EW) of $O_3$, temperature, and humidity are positive in the mid-latitudes over land (Figure 6), which indicates that these fields increase when the jet is in a more northerly position. The positive values are generally significant (hatching in Figure 6), coincide with the latitudinal band over which the jet stream migrates, and persist 10–15° north and south of $\phi_{jet}$ over land. Outside the continental mid-latitudes, the association between the position of the jet and $O_3$, temperature, or humidity is weak and not statistically significant (Figure 6).

In contrast, there is a difference in the response of $O_3$ to the jet stream versus temperature and humidity over the mid-latitude ocean basins. In the case of $O_3$, a poleward movement of the jet decreases $O_3$ over the oceans but increases it over land, while temperature increases over both land and oceans (Figure 6a). This sharp land-ocean contrast, akin to the land-ocean contrasts in the $O_3$-meteorology correlations (Figure 3), could reflect land-ocean asymmetries in $O_3$ and its precursors and will be further explored in Section 5.3. On the other hand, temperature and humidity increase over the oceans as the jet shifts poleward, akin to the behavior of these variables over land (Figure 6b-c).

The impact of the jet stream on $O_3$, temperature, and humidity outside of the mid-latitudes is largely not significant (Figure 6).

For completeness, maps of the correlation of jet distance with the variables in Figure 6 are shown in Figure S3. We note that the strength of the correlation between $\phi_{jet}$ and $O_3$ and meteorology is weaker than $r(T, O_3)$ and $r(q, O_3)$, and the spatial extent of areas with significant correlations is smaller (compare Figures 3 and S3).

While the response of $O_3$ and meteorological fields to the meridional movement of the jet stream is consistent in its sign in the mid-latitudes over land, there are some regions outside of the continental mid-latitudes where jet movement leads to increases of one variable and decreases of another. China is an example of this. As the jet migrates poleward, $O_3$ significantly increases, as it does throughout the mid-latitudes; however, temperature remains more or less constant, and humidity slightly decreases (Figures 6, S3). This discrepancy and others evident in Figures 6 and S3, particularly those at lower latitudes and over the oceans, are beyond the scope of this study, but future studies should further examine and address regions where $O_3$, temperature, and humidity are decoupled from the jet in this manner.

Having uncovered the dominant role of transport and the connections with the jet, we next explore transport-related processes that might be responsible for the relationships among surface-level $O_3$, the jet stream, and meteorology. As cyclones are commonly-invoked to explain $O_3$ variability, we begin by showing the impact of the jet stream on cyclone frequency and, in turn, the effect of cyclones on $O_3$. We then explore and discuss how the jet stream affects the surface-level meridional flow and commensurate changes in $O_3$, temperature, and humidity.

### 5.2 Cyclones

Mid-latitude baroclinic cyclones follow a storm track dictated by the jet stream, and changes in $\phi_{jet}$ affect the location of this storm track (e.g., Shen et al., 2015). To assess the dependence of cyclone frequency on $\phi_{jet}$, we show the spatial distribution of the climatological frequency of cyclones detected by MCMS (Section 2.4.3) in Figure 7a. The highest frequency of mid-latitude cyclone detections largely follows $\phi_{jet}$ and is offset north of the jet by $\sim 10^\circ$ over North America. In other regions such as eastern Asia the peak cyclone frequency occurs in a broader latitudinal band, extending north and south of $\phi_{jet}$ by $\sim 15^\circ$ (Figure 7a).

We identify the subset of days with a poleward-shifted or equatorward-shifted jet using the 70th and 30th percentiles of the daily latitudes of the jet stream, as previously described, to determine the dependence of cyclones on $\phi_{jet}$. We thereafter determine the
frequency of cyclones on these subsets of days and show the difference (Figure 7b). The meridional movement of the jet affects cyclones in two different ways. First, the total number of cyclones on days when the jet is in a poleward position is 15% less than on days when the jet is equatorward. Second, the storm track shifts alongside the jet, and cyclones are more highly concentrated about $\phi_{\text{jet}}$ when the jet is equatorward compared with when it is poleward (Figure 7b).

The decrease and latitudinal shift in cyclone frequency with meridional movements of the jet stream could be the transport-related mechanism responsible for the above $O_3$-meteorology relationships. The cold fronts associated with mid-latitude cyclones have been suggested as a mechanism for the ventilation of the eastern U.S. (Mickley, 2004), and Knowland et al. (2015) and Jaeglé et al. (2017) demonstrated how cyclones redistribute $O_3$, its precursors, and other pollutants vertically and horizontally in the atmosphere. We assess the impact of cyclones on surface-level $O_3$ by further filtering the cyclones from the MCMS dataset (Section 2.4.3), requiring that a particular cyclone (1) occurs over land and (2) is detected for $\geq 2$ six-hourly time steps to allow us to calculate the direction of propagation. We then rotate cyclones following Knowland et al. (2015) and Knowland et al. (2017) such that they propagate to the right of Figure 8 to account for the impact of different ascending and descending airstreams within the cyclones. Applying these filters to cyclones in summers 2008–2010 yields $\sim$730 cyclones with an average lifetime of $\sim$54 hours. The mean direction of cyclone propagation is east-southeast ($\sim 120^\circ$, where $0^\circ$ is north). Though we have only considered cyclones occurring over land in this analysis, compositing all land- and ocean-based cyclones produces $O_3$ anomalies of similar magnitude.

The largest negative $O_3$ anomaly occurs in the “cold sector” of the cyclone, and the largest positive anomaly occurs in the “warm sector.” However, these positive and negative anomalies cancel each other when averaged over the footprint of the cyclones, leading to a net $\sim 0$ ppbv change in $O_3$ (Figure 8). Comparing our results with conceptual models and case studies of baroclinic cyclones (e.g., Cooper et al., 2004; Polvani & Esler, 2007) hints that the positive anomalies in Figure 8 occur near the warm conveyor belt (WCB), where there is likely polluted air entrained from the PBL and lower troposphere. On the other hand, the largest negative anomalies are found in the vicinity of the dry intrusion (DI) and could be influenced by cleaner air entrained from the upper troposphere or lower stratosphere. The roles of the WCB in ventilating pollution from the PBL and the cleaner air brought to the PBL by the DI could cancel each other out and be one reason for the small increases and decreases in surface-level $O_3$.

If cyclones were the mechanism that linked $\phi_{\text{jet}}$ to surface-level $O_3$, we might expect that the cyclones-driven impact on $O_3$ would be $> 6$ ppbv in the mid-latitudes, similar to the impact that $\phi_{\text{jet}}$ has on $O_3$ (Figure 6a). However, our analysis in Figure 8 indicates that, on average, cyclones have a much weaker effect on surface-level $O_3$, despite the connections between cyclones and the jet stream (Figure 7b). There is, though, substantial variability among individual cyclones (the standard deviation of the $O_3$ anomaly is a factor of $\sim 6$ greater than the largest anomaly: Figure 8). As such, some cyclones might be effective at reducing surface-level $O_3$, but this is far from the case for all cyclones.

Other studies support the small role of cyclones on surface-level $O_3$. Knowland et al. (2015) showed that the surface-level $O_3$ anomaly associated with springtime cyclones in the North Atlantic and Pacific is small (i.e., $-5 < \delta O_3 < 5$ ppbv); however, they found a larger impact when examining the mid- to upper-level $O_3$ anomalies. Moreover, Leibensperger et al. (2008) found a negative correlation between the number of $O_3$ pollution events and the number of mid-latitude cyclones passing through the southern climatological storm track ($\sim 40–50^\circ$N) over eastern North America on interannual timescales, but Turner et al. (2012) demonstrated that the cyclone-$O_3$ correlation is weak, and cy-
clone frequency explains less than 10% of the variability of O₃ pollution events in the region.

In summary, while the storm track dictating the preferred location of baroclinic cyclones shifts with the jet (Figure 7b), cyclones are likely not the key mechanism controlling O₃ variability in the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes as they only explain a small fraction of the changes of O₃ associated with daily migrations of the jet (Figure 8).

### 5.3 Meridional transport

The ventilation and dilution of the PBL, the surface-level zonal flow (U₁₀), or the total wind (U₁₀) could link the position of the jet stream to surface-level O₃. However, an analysis of PBLH, U₁₀, and U₁₀ rules out these variables as drivers of the O₃-jet relationship (Text S1-S2, Figures S4-5). To summarize: φjet is not significantly correlated with variations in PBLH and U₁₀ throughout the majority of the Northern Hemisphere. Similar to our analysis of cyclones in Figures 7-8, U₁₀ is significantly correlated with φjet throughout parts of the mid-latitudes but not correlated with O₃ independently of the jet.

However, the surface-level meridional flow (V₁₀) is significantly correlated with the position of the jet in the mid-latitudes (Figure 9a). When the jet is in a poleward position, V₁₀ increases by more than 2 m/s throughout the mid-latitudes with the largest increases centered over the oceans (Figure 9a). In the mid-latitudes, time-averaged V₁₀ is varied in sign but generally weak (−0.5 < V₁₀ < 0.5), so the large values of V₁₀ accompanying a poleward jet represent a large increase in the southerly flow.

In addition to its connections with φjet, V₁₀ is significantly positively correlated with O₃ in the continental mid-latitudes (Figure 9b). Here, the strength of r(V₁₀, O₃) rivals that of r(T, O₃) and r(q, O₃) (compare Figures 9b and 3), suggesting that the surface-level meridional flow is also a key covariate of O₃ variability on daily timescales. In parts of the mid-latitudes such as eastern North America or Asia, a unit increase in V₁₀ is associated with an increase of O₃ that is roughly one-third of its total daily variability (Figure S6). Equatorward of the mid-latitudes (particularly for ~ 10 – 30°N), V₁₀ is significantly negatively correlated with O₃, while r(V₁₀, O₃) is not significant poleward of the mid-latitudes. Thus far we have shown significant positive relationships among φjet, V₁₀, O₃, and the meteorological variables in the mid-latitudes (Figures 6a, 9). When the jet is poleward, surface-level meridional flow becomes strongly southerly, and there is significant poleward advection of O₃, temperature, and humidity.

We posit that the relationships of O₃ with φjet and the meteorological variables are largely the product of surface-level meridional flow acting on the latitudinal background gradients. Ozone generally peaks south of φjet (Figure 1a), so there are negative gradients in the vicinity of the jet (Figure 9b). These negative gradients are well-aligned with the regions where there is increased southerly flow at the surface when the jet is poleward (Figure 9a). This configuration serves to advect higher concentrations of O₃ into the mid-latitudes when the jet is poleward (Figures 9b, S6). Although not shown here, the latitudinal gradients of temperature and humidity are broadly similar to dO₃/dφ inasmuch as they are positive south of the mid-latitudes. When surface-level southerly flow increases, these gradients favor increases of temperature and humidity in the mid-latitudes, as is evident in Figure 6b-c.

The importance of the background gradient can also partially explain the negative O₃-jet relationships over the oceans. Latitudes where dO₃/dφ > 0 often extend farther poleward over the oceans than over land. For example, over the Pacific storm track dO₃/dφ > 0, while dO₃/dφ < 0 between ~ 20 and 40°N in the Pacific (Figure 9b). Under these conditions, increased southerly flow associated with the poleward movement of the jet would decrease O₃ (i.e., a negative O₃-jet relationship). Other factors also may be im-
important in marine environments. For example, strong surface-level zonal winds in the vicinity of the Atlantic and Pacific storm tracks may lead to zonal gradients that are as important as the meridional background gradients investigated in this section.

The importance of both meridional flow and the latitudinal background gradient has been the subject of recent studies for O$_3$ and other trace gases. Keppel-Aleks et al. (2012) showed that the daily variability of total column carbon dioxide was dominated by non-local effects and primarily reflects the synoptic scale latitudinal carbon dioxide gradient. Changes in the mean meridional circulation (specifically the extratropical stratospheric-to-tropospheric transport associated with the Southern Hemisphere Hadley Cell) have been suggested to explain recent trends in Southern Hemisphere tropospheric O$_3$ (Lu, Zhang, Zhao, et al., 2019). On smaller spatial scales, transport-related features favoring southerly flow (e.g., the nocturnal low-level jet in the U.S.) are important for explaining O$_3$ in the PBL (Taubman et al., 2004). Our future work will further elucidate the main physical features that link the jet stream, surface-level meridional flow, and background tracer gradients.

In the mid-latitudes, the meridional vacillation of the jet stream impacts the surface-level meridional flow (Figure 9a). The meridional flow, in turn, plays a profound role in surface-level O$_3$ variability (Figure 9b). Temperature, humidity, and O$_3$ are generally higher south of $\phi_{\text{jet}}$, and the meridional flow acts on their background gradients and leads to the coupling between the jet stream and O$_3$ and the meteorological variables shown in Figure 6.

6 Conclusions

The primary intent of this study was to document the relationships among surface-level O$_3$, temperature, and humidity and explore the cause(s) of these relationships. Both observations and the GMI CTM support substantial spatial variations in $r(T, O_3)$ and $r(q, O_3)$. In continental regions of the mid-latitudes ($\sim 30\text{–}60^\circ$N), the O$_3$-meteorology relationships are significantly positive (Figures 3-4). The O$_3$-meteorology relationships are significantly negative over the oceans (Figure 3). For other continental regions outside the mid-latitudes, $r(T, O_3)$ and $r(q, O_3)$ are generally weak and often not statistically significant, but we have shown regions at low latitudes (e.g., Central America, Sahel) that are exceptions to this rule-of-thumb (Figure 3).

Our transport-only GMI CTM simulation indicates that the O$_3$-temperature and O$_3$-humidity relationships are largely driven by transport-related phenomena on daily timescales (Figure 5). We stress that these findings do not trivialize the importance of chemistry and emissions. Chemistry- and emissions-related processes are essential for setting the background state for the production of a secondary pollutant such as O$_3$; however, daily variations in these processes are not the dominant drivers of O$_3$ variability or its covariance with temperature and humidity. Our results showcasing the dominant role of transport are in line with previous work by Kerr et al. (2019) and Porter and Heald (2019), which showed that a majority of the O$_3$-temperature relationship in the U.S. and Europe derive from meteorological phenomena.

The variability of surface-level O$_3$, temperature, and humidity are linked to the meridional movement of the jet stream in the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes. This result extends previous work focusing on the eastern U.S. (e.g., Barnes & Fiore, 2013; Shen et al., 2015) to the entire Northern Hemisphere. Over land in the mid-latitudes, a poleward (equatorward) shift of the jet is associated with increased (decreased) surface-level O$_3$, temperature, and humidity (Figures 6, S3). Over the oceans, temperature and humidity respond to this meridional vacillation of the jet in the same fashion as over land, but the poleward (equatorward) movement of the jet decreases (increases) O$_3$. 
We ultimately found that the jet influences these surface-level fields by means of changes in the surface-level meridional flow. On days when the jet is in a poleward position, the pronounced southerly flow in the mid-latitudes together with the latitudinal gradients of O₃, temperature, and humidity generally lead to increases of O₃, temperature, and humidity in the mid-latitudes (Figures 6, 9). We have shown clear land-ocean differences in the relationships among O₃, temperature or specific humidity, and the jet stream (Figures 3, 6, S3). We partially attribute these the land-ocean contrasts to differences in the latitudinal gradient of O₃ over land versus over the ocean (Figure 9b).

Establishing the spatial variations of the O₃-meteorology relationships is a prerequisite to understand which regions could experience an “O₃-climate penalty” (Wu et al., 2008) under future climatic changes. As the O₃-meteorology relationships in the present-day climate are far from uniform in both magnitude and sign, it is unlikely that future changes in the climate will affect O₃ uniformly. Furthermore, as the relationships among O₃, temperature, and humidity are driven by an indirect association with transport, caution should be used when applying any measures of the current sensitivity of O₃ to meteorological variables (e.g., dO₃/dT or dO₃/dq from Figure S1) to future climatic changes.

Overall, our results demonstrate the importance of the position of the jet stream and surface-level meridional flow on O₃ variability in the Northern Hemisphere, both of which will be affected by the future climate (e.g., Barnes & Polvani, 2013; Shaw & Voigt, 2015; Grise et al., 2019). A robust poleward displacement of the jet stream is expected in the twenty-first century, while changes to other properties of the jet (i.e., variations in speed; north-south movement) will exhibit spatial heterogeneity (Barnes & Polvani, 2013). The effect of these changes on surface-level O₃ needs to be explored.

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Figure 1. (a) Time-averaged O$_3$ from the surface-level of the GMI CTM (colored shading). Black contours indicate O$_3$ variability (standard deviation): thin dashed contour, 8 ppbv; thick contour, 10 ppbv. (b) Time-averaged anthropogenic NO$_x$ emissions from EDGAR. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-b) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively.
Figure 2. The correlation coefficient calculated between daily modeled O\textsubscript{3} from the GMI CTM and observed O\textsubscript{3} for model grid cells containing m-situ monitor(s). If there is > 1 monitor in a grid cell, all O\textsubscript{3} observations are averaged to produce a grid cell average prior to computing the correlation coefficient. The networks in (a) North America, (b) Europe, and (c) China from which monitor-based observations have been derived are indicted in the subplots’ titles. Note that the time period for the model-observation comparison in (a-b) is 2008 – 2010 but is 2016 – 2017 in (c), due to limited observations in China during earlier years.
Figure 3. (a) The correlation coefficient calculated between $O_3$ from the GMI CTM and MERRA-2 temperature, $r(T, O_3)$. Hatching denotes regions where the correlation is not statistically significant, determined using moving block bootstrap resampling to estimate the 95% confidence interval. (b) Same as (a) but for the correlation coefficient calculated between $O_3$ and MERRA-2 specific humidity, $r(q, O_3)$. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-b) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively. Black boxes in (a) outline the regions over which zonal averages were performed in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Zonally-averaged observed and modeled (left) $r(T, O_3)$ and (right) $r(q, O_3)$ in four regions: western North America ($125^\circ - 100^\circ$W), eastern North America ($100^\circ - 65^\circ$W), Europe ($10^\circ$W–$30^\circ$E), and East Asia ($90^\circ - 125^\circ$E). These regions are also outlined in Figure 3a. Zonally-averaged modeled relationships consider only grid cells over land, and the observed relationships are binned by latitude to compute the zonal average. The dashed grey lines delineate positive from negative values of the $O_3$-meteorology relationships, and the scatter points and vertical bars corresponding to the jet and its variability are the same as in Figure 1 but averaged over each region.
Figure 5. Differences in (a) $r(T, O_3)$ and (b) $r(q, O_3)$ calculated between the control and transport-only CTM simulations (i.e., control -- transport-only). To assess their relative importance, differences should be compared with values from the control simulation (Figure 3). Hatching indicates regions with significant $r(T, O_3)$ or $r(q, O_3)$ in the control simulation that are not statistically significant in the transport-only simulation. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-b) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively.
Figure 6. The difference in composites of (a) O$_3$, (b) temperature, and (c) specific humidity on days when the jet is in a poleward (PW) and equatorward (EW) position. Composites are formed for the PW (EW) case by determining the value of each field in (a-c) averaged over all days when the position of the jet stream ($\phi_{jet}$) exceeds the 70th (is less than the 30th) percentile for each longitude. Hatching indicates regions where the correlation between each field and the distance from the jet is not statistically significant. The distance from the jet, $\phi_{jet} - \phi$, is defined as the difference, in degrees, between the latitude of the jet and the local latitude. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-c) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively.
Figure 7. (a) Total number of cyclones detected by MCMS on sub-daily (six-hourly) time scales binned to a $\sim 4^\circ \times 4^\circ$ grid. (b) The difference in the total number of cyclones calculated between days when the jet is in a poleward (PW) and equatorward (EW) position. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-b) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively.
Figure 8. The average O$_3$ anomaly (colored shading) and standard deviation of the anomalies (solid black contours) within five grid cells (∼ 5°) of the position of the cyclones. From the cyclones shown in Figure 7, we only consider cyclones occurring over land and detected for ≥ 2 time steps and subsequently rotate the cyclones following the direction of their propagation such that they move to the right of the figure. Dashed black lines divide the cyclone composites into quadrants.
Figure 9. (a) The difference in composites of $V_{10}$ on days when the jet is in a PW and EW position. (b) The correlation coefficient calculated between $O_3$ and $V_{10}$ (colored shading) and regions where latitudinal gradient of $O_3$ ($dO_3/d\phi$) is positive (stippling). Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-b) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively. Hatching denotes regions where the correlation between $V_{10}$ and (a) the distance from jet and (b) $O_3$ are not statistically significant.
Supporting Information for “Surface ozone-meteorology relationships: Spatial variations and the role of the jet stream”
Gaige Hunter Kerr1 *, Darryn W. Waugh2,3, Stephen D. Steenrod3,4, Sarah A. Strode3,4, and Susan E. Strahan3,4

1Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
2School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
3NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA
4Universities Space Research Association, GESTAR, Columbia, Maryland, USA

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*now at Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

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Text S1: Planetary boundary layer (PBL) dynamics

Variations in the height of the PBL \((PBLH)\) could connect the jet to surface-level \(O_3\), temperature, and humidity. \(PBLH\) determines vertical mixing and the dilution of surface-level pollutants (Dawson et al., 2007) and responds directly to the flux of heat into the PBL. Previous studies have used both \(PBLH\) and mixing height to assess the impact of PBL dynamics on surface-level pollutants (e.g., Jacob & Winner, 2009; Reddy & Pfister, 2016), and here we use daily mean MERRA-2 \(PBLH\), detailed in Section 2.3 of the main text.

An analysis of the \((PW - EW) PBLH\) composites shows that the daily north-south movement of the jet stream is not significantly associated with \(PBLH\) variability over a majority of the continental regions of the Northern Hemisphere (Figures S4a, S5a). Over the oceans, northward movement of the jet stream tends to be associated with a more shallow boundary layer; but, in general, there is a no consistent sign associated with the variability of the jet with \(PBLH\) (Figures S4a, S5a). This result is robust whether daily mean \(PBLH\) is used as we have here, or if the jet-\(PBLH\) relationship is derived using \(PBLH\) averaged over subsets of the day (e.g., daytime, afternoon).

Although there is no jet-\(PBLH\) relationship, it is possible that \(PBLH\) may influence \(O_3\) independently of the jet stream. To examine this we evaluate the correlation between \(PBLH\) and \(O_3\). The sign of this correlation is varied, and its strength is largely not statistically significant across the mid-latitudes (not shown). There are some regions where \(r(PBLH, O_3)\) is positive and significant, but this implies that a deeper PBL results in higher \(O_3\), which goes against simple dilution arguments. These findings agree with
other studies: Jacob and Winner (2009) pointed out that the effect of mixing depth on O\textsubscript{3} is weak or variable (while the effect of mixing depth on PM\textsubscript{2.5} is consistently negative).

**Text S2: Near-surface zonal and total wind**

Another possible mechanism for the jet-O\textsubscript{3} relationship is changes in surface-level flow. We form additional (PW - EW) composites and correlations for surface-level eastward (\textit{U\textsubscript{10}}) and total (\textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}}) winds (Figures S4b-c, S5b-c).

The composites in Figure S4b-c are less meaningful unless placed in the context of the time-averaged direction and magnitude of \textit{U\textsubscript{10}} and \textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}}. Time-averaged \textit{U\textsubscript{10}} is generally positive (eastward) over both land and ocean in the mid-latitudes (40° - 60°N) with a magnitude of \sim 1 m/s. On the other hand, \textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}} has a magnitude of < 4 m/s over land and \sim 6 m/s over the oceans.

In a \sim 20° latitudinal band north of the mean position of the jet, the poleward movement of the jet significantly increases \textit{U\textsubscript{10}} by up to 4 m/s (Figures S4b, S5b). It is worth noting the largest areal extent of changes (both increases and decreases) in \textit{U\textsubscript{10}} is centered over the oceans (Figure S4b). However, \textit{U\textsubscript{10}} and O\textsubscript{3} are not correlated with each other (not shown), which rules out the surface-level zonal wind as the mechanism connecting the position of the jet stream with O\textsubscript{3}.

We investigated the relationship between \phi\textsubscript{jet} and \textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}}, a proxy for stagnation (Figures S4c and S5c). Differences in \textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}} between days with a poleward- versus equatorward-shifted jet were weak and variable in sign, and the correlation was not statistically significant across virtually the entire hemisphere. As we did with \textit{PBLH} and \textit{U\textsubscript{10}}, we considered the impact that \textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}} has on O\textsubscript{3} independently of the jet, as weak flow can inhibit the ventilation of the PBL (Mickley, 2004). We found that O\textsubscript{3} and \textit{\overline{U\textsubscript{10}}} were generally anticorrelated in
the mid-latitudes (not shown); however, these correlations were weak and not significant. There were also parts of the mid-latitudes with positive correlations between $O_3$ and $U_{10}$, implying that higher wind speeds and therefore increased ventilation are associated with higher concentrations of $O_3$.

References


Figure S1.  (a) The slope of the ordinary least squares (OLS) regression of O$_3$ from the control simulation versus temperature, dO$_3$/dT. Hatching denotes regions where the correlation between O$_3$ and temperature is not statistically significant. (b) Same as (a) but for O$_3$ from the control simulation versus humidity, dO$_3$/dq, with hatching showing correlations between O$_3$ and humidity that are not statistically significant. (c-d) Same as (a-b) but with O$_3$ from the transport-only simulation. (e-f) The difference in dO$_3$/dT and dO$_3$/dq between the two simulations. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-f) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively.
Figure S2.  (a) Same as Figure 1a in the main text but for $O_3$ from the transport-only simulation. (b) The difference (i.e., control – transport-only) in mean $O_3$ concentrations. Scatter points and vertical bars in (a-b) specify the mean position and variability of the jet stream, respectively.
Figure S3. Colored shading shows the correlation coefficient calculated between distance from the jet stream and (a) O$_3$, (b) temperature, and (c) humidity. Hatching is the same as in Figure 6, and scatterpoints, and vertical bars are the same as in Figure 3.
Figure S4. Same as Figure 6 in the main text but for (a) $PBL_H$, (b) $U_{10}$, and (c) $\overline{U_{10}}$. 
Figure S5. Same as Figure S3 but for (a) PBLH, (b) $U_{10}$, and (c) $\overline{U_{10}}$. 
Figure S6. Regionally-averaged O$_3$ from the control simulation versus regionally-averaged $V_{10}$. Regional averaging is conducted over the longitudinal extent of the regions listed in each subplots’ title but only within $\pm 5^\circ$ of the mean position of the jet: western North America ($125^\circ-100^\circ$ W), eastern North America ($100^\circ-65^\circ$ W), Europe ($10^\circ$ W–$30^\circ$ E), and China ($90^\circ-125^\circ$ E). Red dashed lines represent the OLS regression, and inset text indicates its slope.