

Estimating the Influence of Lightning on Upper Tropospheric Ozone Using NLDN Lightning Data

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- CMAQ
- 7/15~9/7/2006
- U.S. Continent

- Meteorology: MM5
- Emission: SMOKE
- LNO_x: NLDN observation
- Evaluation: IONS06 ozonesonde, OMI O₃/NO₂

LNO_x Parameterization

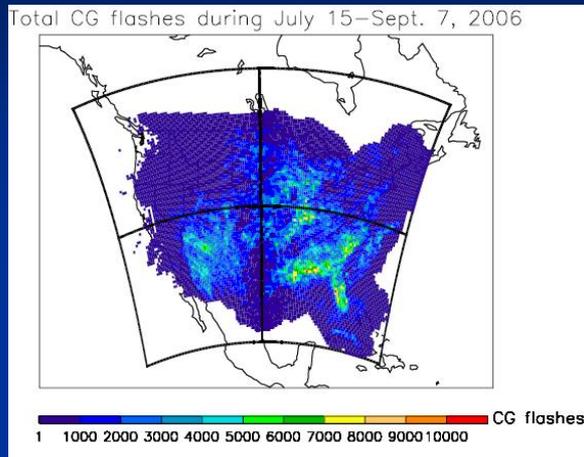


Figure 1 - Total CG flashes (7/15-9/7/2006) observed by NLDN

- Adjust CG flash counts for NLDN detection efficiency of **~95%**
- Scale up the CG flash counts to total flashes assuming **IC:CG ratio is 3**, which is close to the Boccippio et al. (2001) 4-yr mean IC:CG ratio value (2.94).
- Estimate the total quantity of lightning-produced N mass assuming a **500 moles** ($\sim 3.011 \times 10^{26}$ molecules) N per CG/IC flash production rate.
- Vertically-distribute onto 39 model layers following the **mid-latitude continental LNO_x distribution profiles** Pickering et al. [1998] developed.
- Add LNO_x emission to SMOKE estimated NO_x emissions.

LNO_x emission accounts for **27%** total NO_x emission averaged over the entire model domain, and **37.9%** (SW), **32.1%** (SE), **16.6%** (NE), and **15.6%** (NW) for the four sub-regions, respectively.

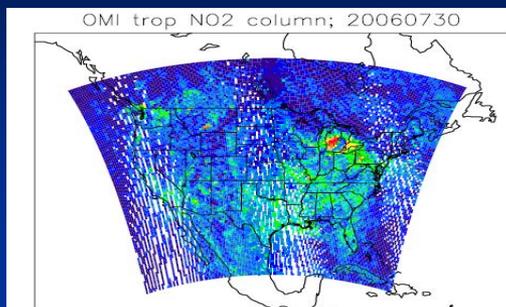
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- Make a CMAQ run including LNO_x (CNTRL_LNO_x)

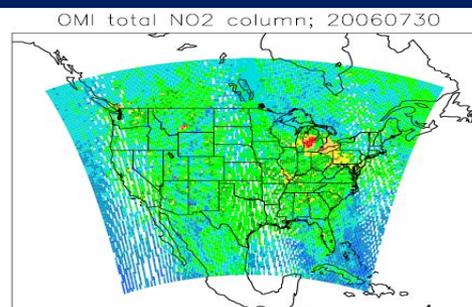
Results:

Model NO₂ Prediction versus OMI NO₂ (7/30/2006)

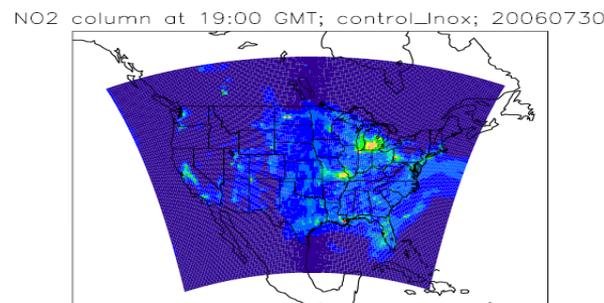
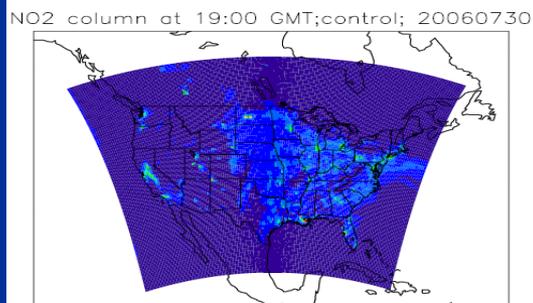
OMI trop. NO₂



OMI total NO₂

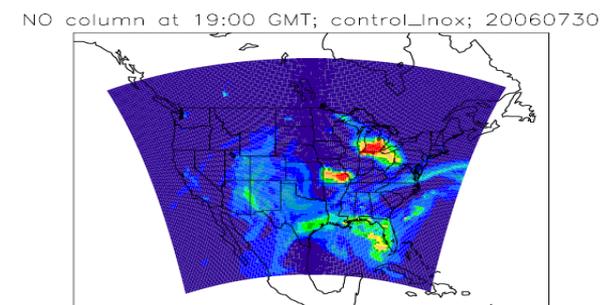
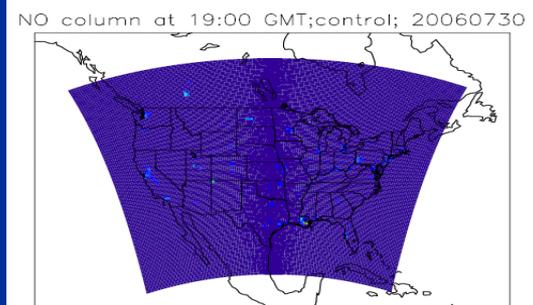


CNTRL trop. NO₂



CNTRL_LNO_x
trop. NO₂

CNTRL trop. NO_x



CNTRL_LNO_x
trop. NO_x



Figure 2 - NO₂ column from OMI retrieval and CMAQ model prediction. The CMAQ tropospheric NO₂ is calculated based on the tropopause pressure from OMI ozone data.

Results:

Model O₃ Prediction versus OMI O₃ (trop. column)

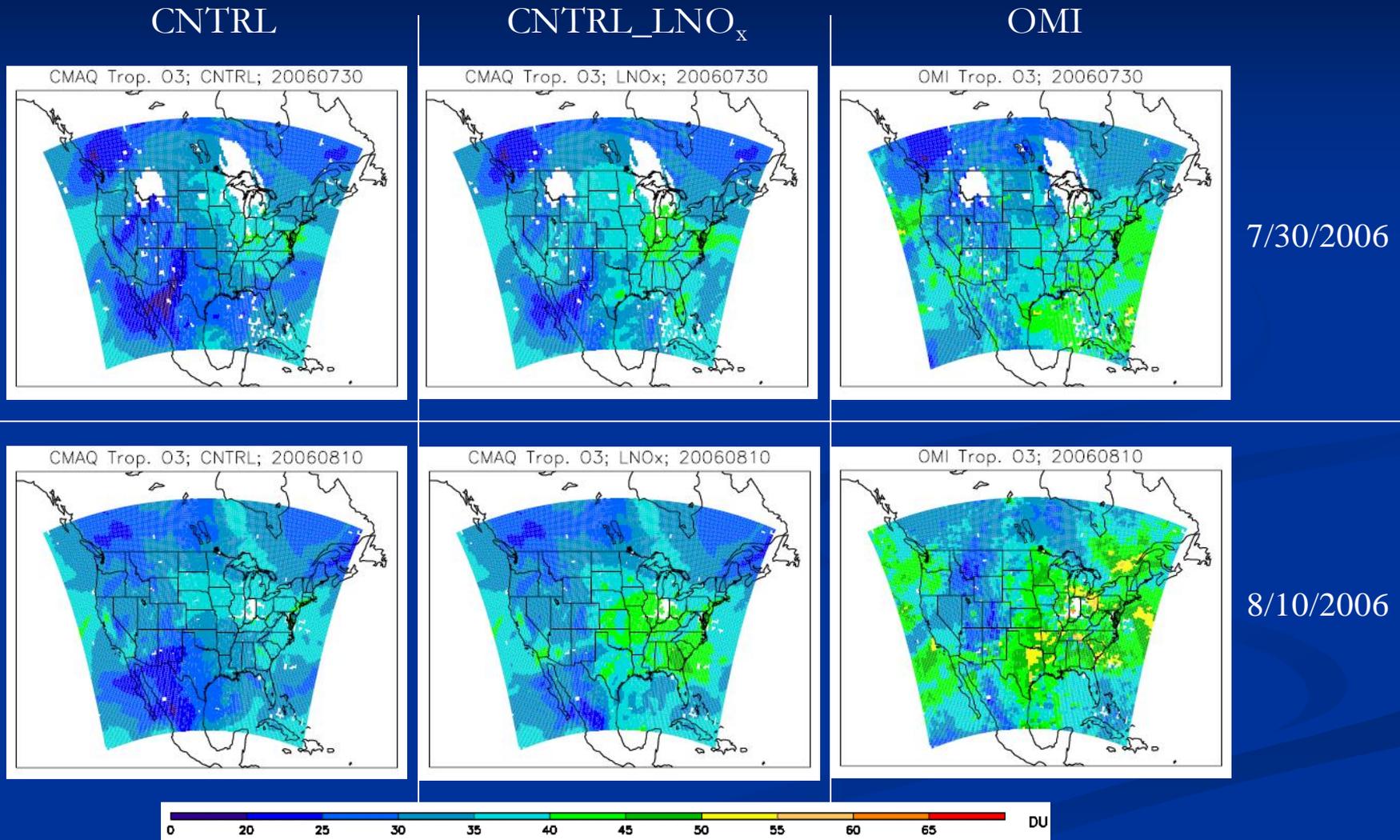


Figure 3 – Model-predicted tropospheric ozone column at 19:00 GMT of (upper) July 30, 2006 and (bottom) August 10, 2006, compared with OMI tropospheric ozone retrieval.

Results: Evaluation with ozonesondes (continued)

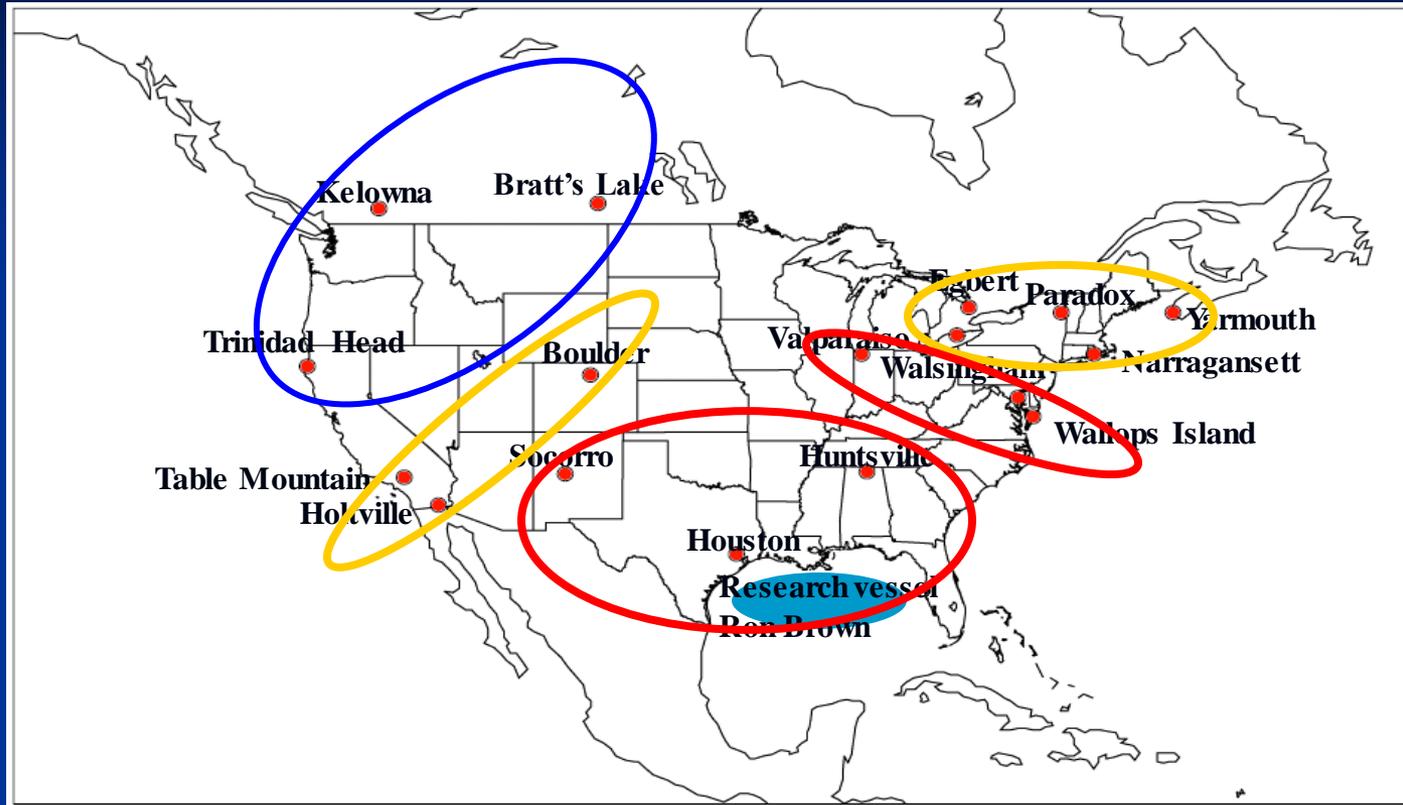


Figure 4 - LNO_x-influenced ozone at IONS06 stations.

Not influenced: Kelowna(26), Bratt's Lake(28), Trinidad Head(29)

Improved: Table Mountain(25), Holtville(10), Boulder(27), Egbert(15), Paradox(5), Yarmouth(13), Walsingham(19), Narragansett(27)

Significantly improved: Socorro(25), Houston(16), Ron Brown(23), Huntsville(29), Valparaiso(5), Beltsville(9), Wallops Island(10)

Note: Digits indicate numbers of coincidence pairs between ozonesonde measurements and model prediction.

Results: Evaluation with ozonesondes

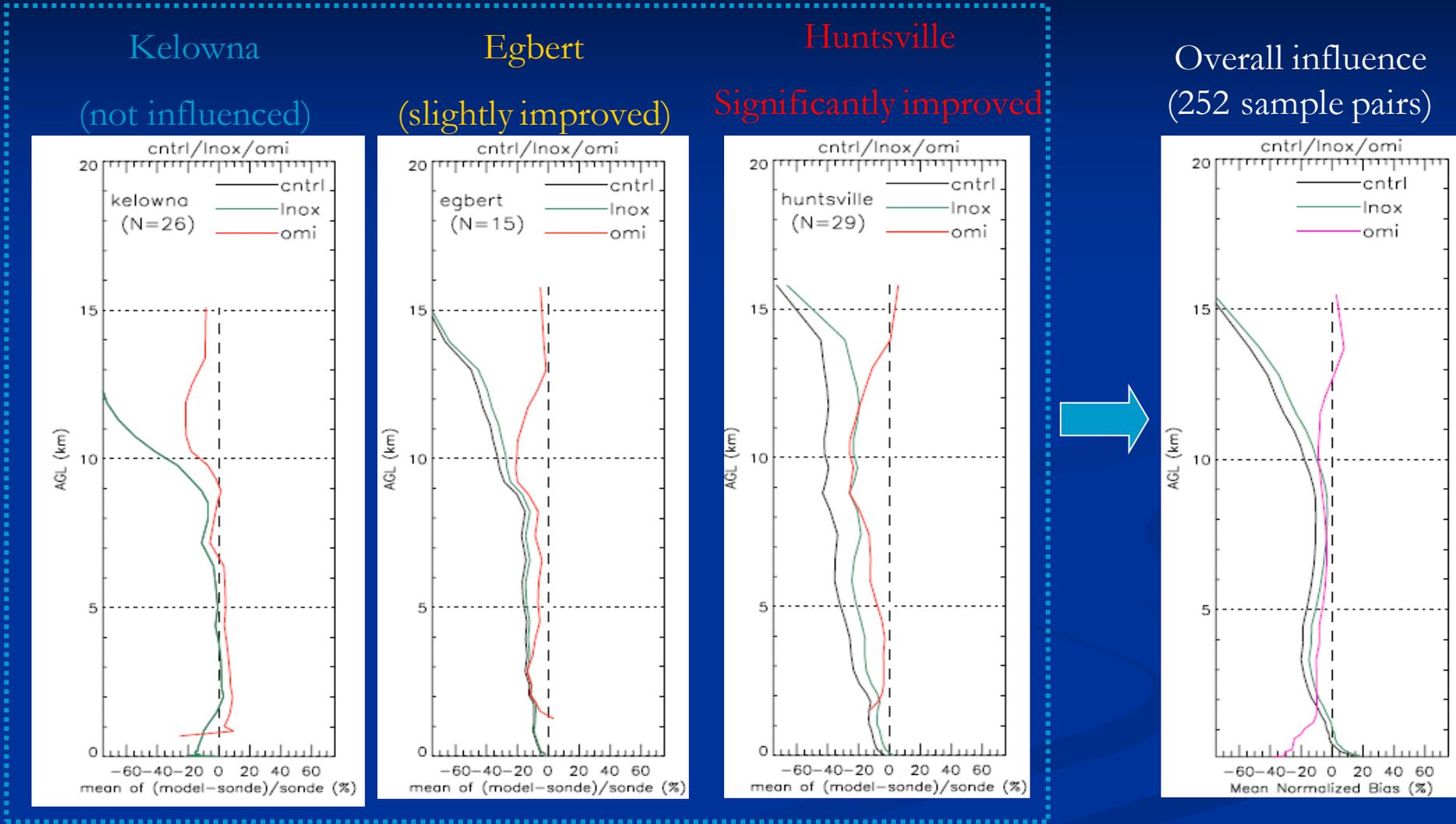


Figure 5 - Mean normalized bias of model predicted ozone (CNTRL and CNTRL_LNOx runs) and OMI O₃, evaluated by ozonesondes at three sites: Kelowna, Egbert and Huntsville, representing three kinds of lightning influence: not influenced, improved and significantly improved, respectively. The last panel gives the overall influence at these 18 sites.

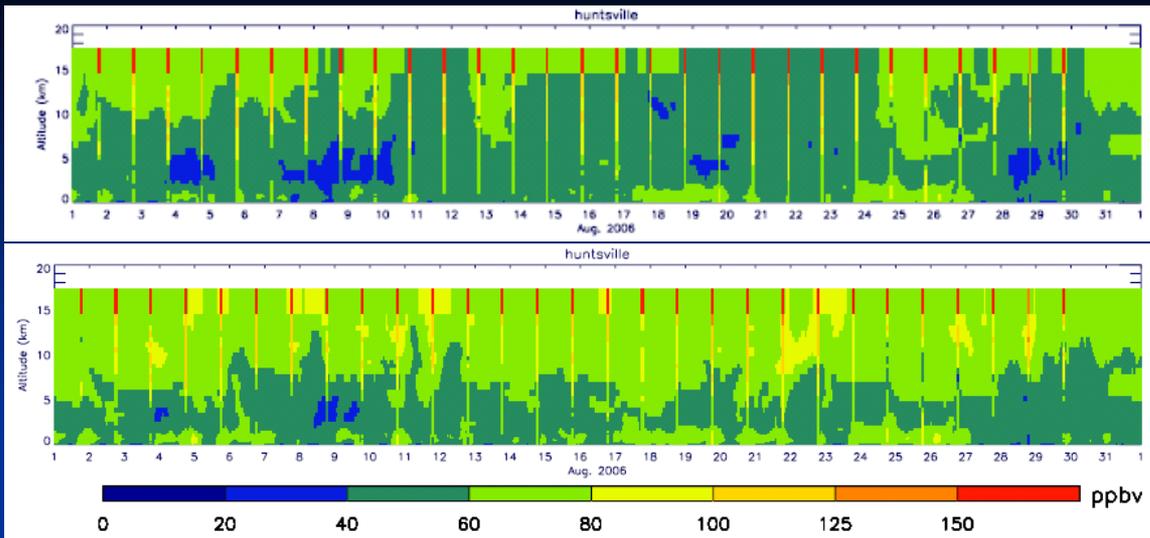


Figure 6 - Model predictions of ozone concentration at Huntsville, AL during August 2006, with 29 ozonesonde profiles (interpolated onto CMAQ vertical resolution) overplotted. Top: CNTRL; Bottom: CNTRL_LNO_x

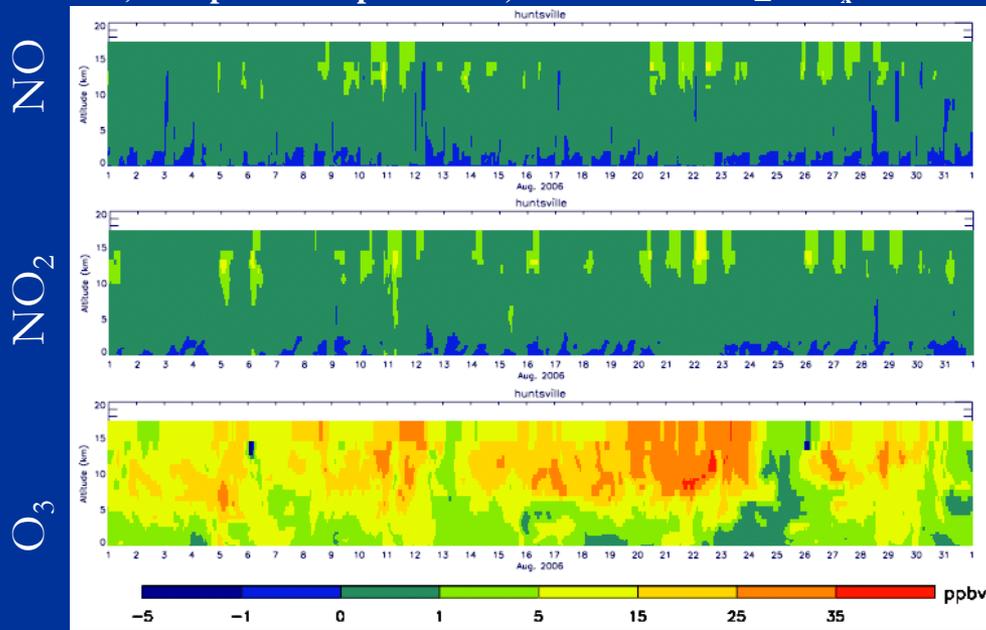
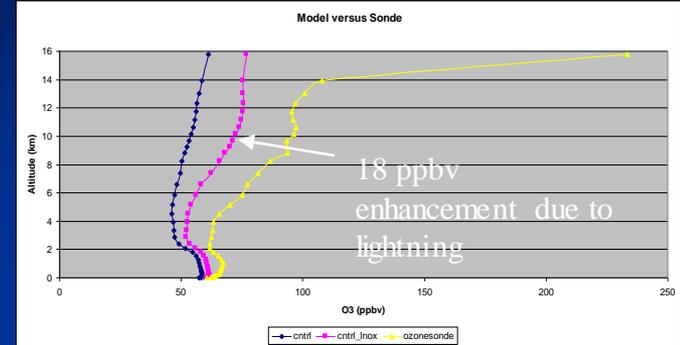


Figure 8 – Differences in NO, NO₂ and O₃ between CNTRL_LNO_x and CNTRL for Huntsville, AL during August 2006, due to lightning influence.

Figure 7 – Mean of 29 ozonesondes measured between 17:00 ~19:00 GMT during August 2006, as well as mean of model predictions (CNTRL and CNTRL_LNO_x) at 19:00 GMT.



A case study in Huntsville, AL during August 2006 shows increased NO_x in upper troposphere due to lightning-NO_x injection, and finds corresponding ozone enhancement around same altitude (~10 km), but still 20 ppbv lower than ozonesonde measurement

Consistent with Cooper et al., 2009

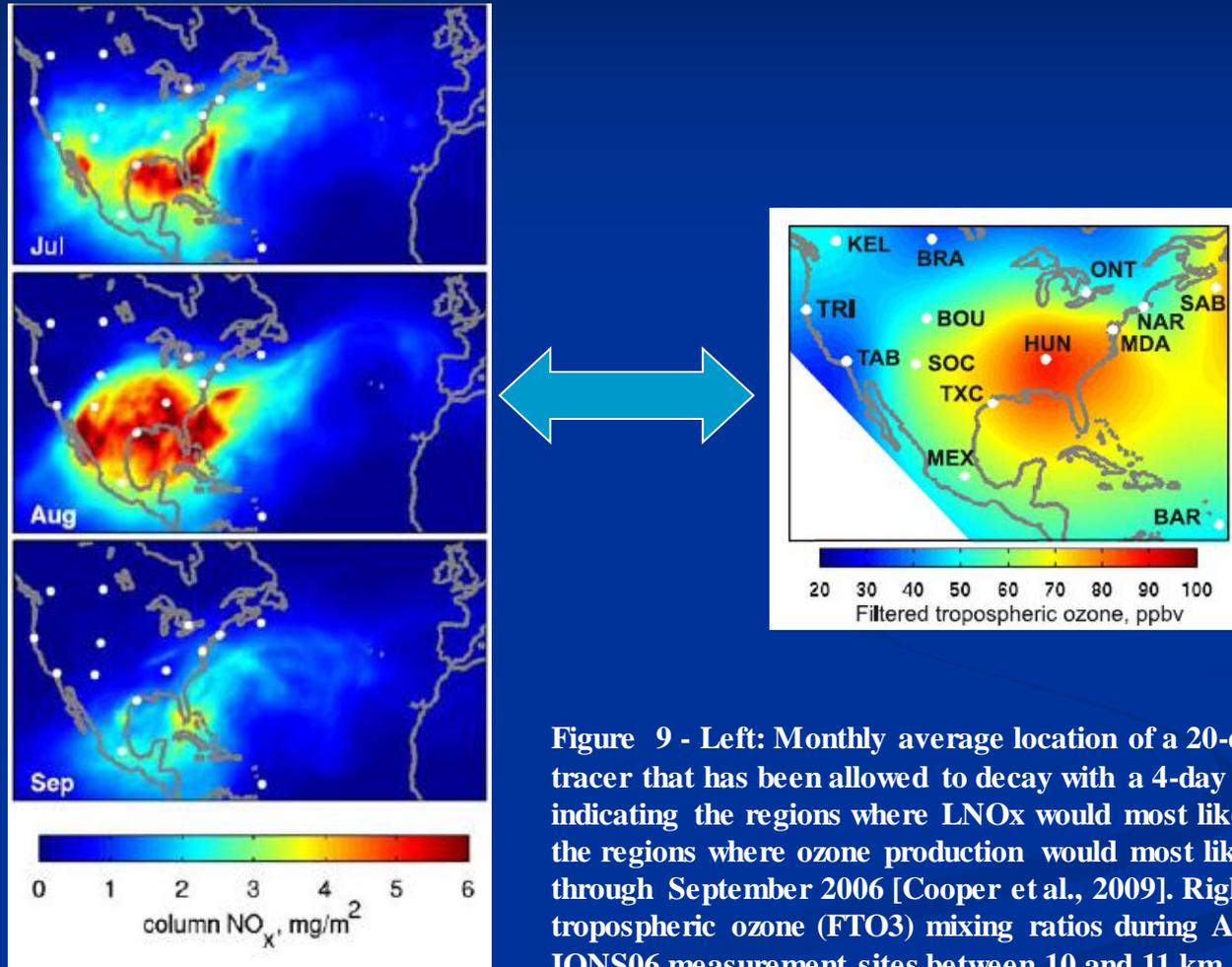


Figure 9 - Left: Monthly average location of a 20-day passive LNO_x tracer that has been allowed to decay with a 4-day e-folding lifetime, indicating the regions where LNO_x would most likely be found, as well as the regions where ozone production would most likely occur, for July through September 2006 [Cooper et al., 2009]. Right: Median filtered tropospheric ozone (FTO3) mixing ratios during August 2006 at all 14 IONS06 measurement sites between 10 and 11 km. FTO3 is the measured ozone within the troposphere with the model calculated stratospheric ozone contribution removed [Cooper et al., 2007].

DC3 in 2012

- May ~ June 2012
- NCAR HIAPER aircraft and the NASA DC8
- the most extensive set of upper tropospheric trace gas measurements ever obtained above the south-central United States, with a focus on thunderstorm outflow.
- DC3 provides an excellent opportunity to correct the deficiencies in chemical transport models regarding LNO_x production, ozone/NO_x lifetime and ozone production rates in the upper troposphere.

Huntsville, AL in DC3

- **Huntsville, Alabama** is identified as an ideal location to monitor the build-up and decay of the UTOM due to its location at or near the center of the UTOM [*Cooper, et al., 2006; Cooper, et al., 2007; Cooper, et al., 2009*].
- The ozone lidar will be the primary instrument as it is more cost effective.
- Near-daily tropospheric ozone profiles over a 16-week period from June 1 through September 21, 2012
- WRF-CHEM chemical transport model at fine resolution (12 km) over the continental United States:
 - (1) In situ trace gas measurements from the NCAR and NASA aircraft to constrain LNO_x production rates and ozone/NO_x lifetimes in the upper troposphere.
 - (2) to quantify the sources of the UTOM during June-September 2012.