Ozone and carbon monoxide over India during the summer monsoon: regional emissions and transport

N. Ojha, A. Pozzer, A. Rauthe-Schöch, A. K. Baker, J. Yoon, C. A. M. Brenninkmeijer, and J. Lelieveld

Atmospheric Chemistry Department, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany

Received: 6 June 2015 – Accepted: 13 July 2015 – Published: 6 August 2015

Correspondence to: N. Ojha (narendra.ojha@mpic.de)

Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.
Abstract

We compare in situ measurements of ozone (O$_3$) and carbon monoxide (CO) profiles from the CARIBIC program with the results from the regional chemistry transport model (WRF-Chem) to investigate the role of local/regional emissions and long-range transport over southern India during the summer monsoon of 2008. WRF-Chem successfully reproduces the general features of O$_3$ and CO distributions over the South Asian region. However, the absolute CO concentrations in lower troposphere are typically underestimated. Here we investigate the influence of local relative to remote emissions through sensitivity simulations.

The influence of 50% enhanced CO emissions over South Asia is found to be 33% increase in surface CO during June. The influence of enhanced local emissions is found to be smaller (5%) in the free troposphere, except during September. Local to regional emissions are therefore suggested to play a minor role in the underestimation of CO by WRF-Chem during June–August. In the lower troposphere, a high pollution (O$_3$: 146.4 ± 12.8 nmol mol$^{-1}$, CO: 136.4 ± 12.2 nmol mol$^{-1}$) event (15 July 2008), not reproduced by the model, is shown to be due to transport of photochemically processed air masses from the boundary layer into southern India. Sensitivity simulation combined with backward trajectories indicates that long-range transport of CO to southern India is significantly underestimated, particularly in air masses from the west, i.e. from Central Africa. This study highlights the need for more aircraft-based measurements over India and adjacent regions and the improvement of emission inventories.

1 Introduction

Tropospheric ozone and its precursors play vital roles in atmospheric chemistry, air quality degradation and climate change (e.g. WHO, 2003; Stevenson et al., 2013; Monks et al., 2014). It is therefore important to understand the spatial and temporal distributions of these species and the contributions of different sources to their at-
mospheric budgets. Additionally, relative contributions of regional anthropogenic emissions and long-range transport need to be addressed for adequate policy making. In order to understand the quantitative contributions of different sources and processes (chemistry, transport) to the budgets of trace gases, systematic measurements of the vertical distribution of trace species are required in conjunction with chemistry-transport modeling.

Unfortunately, in situ measurements of vertical distribution of ozone and related trace gases are very sparse over the South Asian region, where rapidly increasing anthropogenic emissions lead to severe air pollution in recent years (e.g. Akimoto, 2003; Beig and Brasseur, 2006; Ohara et al., 2007; Lelieveld et al., 2013; Pozzer et al., 2015). It is suggested that air quality will further deteriorate to become severe over India in a Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario (Pozzer et al., 2012). A recent study shows that ozone pollution alone could lead to a loss of crop yield which could feed 94 million people below the poverty threshold in India (Ghude et al., 2014). Observations such as the Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) (Lelieveld et al., 2001) and the Integrated Campaign for Aerosols, Gases and Radiation Budget (ICARB) (Srivastava et al., 2011) have revealed significant South Asian outflow over the surrounding marine regions (Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010, and references therein). Additionally, the emissions and photochemically processed air masses can be uplifted due to strong tropical convection and can be transported to distant regions (Lelieveld et al., 2002; Lawrence et al., 2003; Park et al., 2007) influencing global air quality and climate.

Numerous efforts have been initiated to conduct in situ ground-based measurements of ozone and precursors (e.g. Lal et al., 2000; Reddy et al., 2008; David and Nair, 2011; Sarangi et al., 2014). and ship-based (e.g. Sahu and Lal, 2006; Mallik et al., 2013; Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010, and references therein). However, most of the studies over this region have been confined to the surface. The observational studies were followed by utilizing global chemistry-transport models, such as MATCH-MPIC (Lal and Lawrence, 2001; Ojha et al., 2012), MOZART (Beig and Brasseur, 2006; Sheel et al., 2010), and recently with a regional chemistry-transport model (WRF-Chem).
Due to the complex topography and large spatio-temporal heterogeneity in the emissions over India, initial results suggested that WRF-Chem at higher resolution than global models could better capture the variations in trace gases (Kumar et al., 2012) and aerosols (Michael et al., 2014) over the Indian region. However, evaluation of WRF-Chem simulations over the Indian region is still very limited, particularly against the in situ measurements of vertical profiles (Kumar et al., 2012).

The studies over the Indian region utilizing the WRF-Chem model have revealed significant differences between the model simulations and measurements, which have been attributed mainly to uncertainties in anthropogenic emissions (Kumar et al., 2012; Michael et al., 2014). Transport of CO has been investigated for the winter season by evaluating the model against satellite datasets (Kumar et al., 2013) in the absence of in situ observations of vertical profiles. Lack of in situ measurements in the free troposphere and above has inhibited the quantitative understanding of the transport involved, which could play a significant role in the free troposphere (e.g. Lal et al., 2013, 2014; Ojha et al., 2014). CARIBIC (Civil Aircraft for the Regular Investigation of the Atmosphere Based on an Instrument Container) observations (http://www.caribic-atmospheric.com/, Brenninkmeijer et al., 2007; Rauthe-Schöch et al., 2015) can partly fill this gap by providing in situ measurements of ozone and CO profiles over the Indian region.

The Asian summer monsoon is a dominant atmospheric phenomenon over the Indian region and is shown to redistribute trace gases and aerosols (Park et al., 2009; Randel et al., 2010; Baker et al., 2011; Cristofanelli et al., 2014; Fadnavis et al., 2014). The monsoonal convection uplifts and mixes regional pollution into the upper troposphere, while the anticyclonic winds can bring polluted air masses from other regions and also export the monsoon air with its pollution to regions far away from India. A few studies have utilized satellite datasets, however the view of satellite instruments during the monsoon period is often obscured by clouds. This study utilizes CARIBIC measurements of ozone and CO profiles conducted during the summer monsoon period (June to September) in the year 2008 in conjunction with the WRF-Chem model to assess the
contributions of emissions and long-range transport over the southern Indian region. We evaluate the WRF-Chem simulated ozone and CO against the in situ CARIBIC profiles, satellite (MOPITT) retrievals and ground-based measurements over southern India to identify the strengths and limitations of the WRF-Chem simulations. Additionally, we conduct a set of sensitivity simulations to identify the role of anthropogenic emissions and long-range transport/boundary conditions.

The paper is structured as follows: the configuration of the WRF-Chem model used in the present study is described in Sect. 2. The CARIBIC measurements, satellite data and ground-based measurements used to evaluate the model simulations are discussed in Sect. 3. The results with a focus on model evaluation are presented in Sect. 4.1, followed by an investigation of the influences of regional emissions (Sect. 4.2) and transport (Sect. 4.3). The summary and conclusions are presented in Sect. 5.

2 Model description and setup

2.1 WRF-Chem

We use version 3.5.1 of the Weather Research and Forecasting with Chemistry (WRF-Chem), an online regional chemistry transport model (Grell et al., 2005). The simulation domain has been defined on the Mercator projection (Fig. 1). The model domain is centered at 80° E, 22° N, and covers nearly the entire South Asian region with a spatial resolution of 30 km × 30 km. In the west-east and south-north directions, the domain has 132 and 120 grid points. We have used 51 vertical levels in the model starting from surface to 10 hPa. The geographical data e.g. terrain height, land-use etc. have been interpolated from the USGS (United States Geological Survey, Wang et al., 2014) data at 10 min resolution for the model domain using the geogrid program of the WRF Preprocessing System (WPS). The different options used in this study to parametrize the atmospheric processes are listed in Table 1. The instantaneous model output has been stored every hour and has been used for the analysis. Model simulations are
conducted for the period of 29 May to 30 September 2008. First three days output was
discarded as the model spin up.

NCEP Final Analysis (FNL from GFS ds083.2) dataset (http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/
ds083.2/) with a spatial resolution of 1°, available every 6 h, has been used to provide
the initial and lateral boundary conditions for the meteorological fields. Four Dimen-
sional Data Assimilation (FDDA) has been applied to limit the errors in the simulations
of meteorological parameters. The horizontal winds, temperature and water vapor are
nudged with a nudging coefficient of 0.0006 at all vertical levels. The time step for the
simulations has been set at 120 s, which is 4 times the grid resolution (30 km), so that
the CFL stability criterion is not violated.

The anthropogenic emissions of CO, NO\textsubscript{x}, SO\textsubscript{2}, NMVOCs, PM, BC and OC are
from the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (HTAP v2) emission inventory avail-
able on a monthly temporal resolution (http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/htap_v2/index.
php?SECURE=123). The HTAP emissions are based upon compilation of regional
emission inventories available from US EPA for USA, Environment Canada for Canada,
EMEP and TNO for Europe and MICS-Asia for Asian countries including India. The rest
of the world is filled by emissions from EDGAR4.3. The HTAP v2 data is harmonized
at a spatial resolution of 0.1° × 0.1° for the years 2008 and 2010. We have utilized
the emissions available for the year 2008. The emissions available from different sec-
tors such as energy, industry, residential, ground-transport, ships and agriculture have
been combined and then mapped on the WRF-Chem grid. A detailed information on
the HTAP inventory used can be seen in a recent study (Janssens-Maenhout et al.,
2015).

The biomass burning emissions to the model have been provided from the Fire IN-
ventory from NCAR (FINN), Version 1 (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011). The biogenic emis-
sions are calculated using the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature
(MEGAN) (Guenther et al., 2006) online based on weather and land use data. The gas
phase chemistry is represented by the second generation Regional Acid deposition
Model (RADM2) (Stockwell et al., 1990), which includes 63 chemical species partici-
pating in 21 photolysis and 136 gas phase reactions. The aerosol module is based on the Modal Aerosol Dynamics Model for Europe (MADE) (Binkowski and Shankar, 1995; Ackermann et al., 1998) and Secondary Organic Aerosol Model (SORGAM) (Schell et al., 2001). GOCART dust emissions have been included with AFWA modifications. The feedback from aerosols to the radiation scheme has been turned on in the simulations.

Results from two different MOZART simulations (MOZART-4/NCEP and MOZART-4/GEOS5) were available to use for the initial and boundary conditions for chemical fields in WRF-Chem (http://www.acd.ucar.edu/wrf-chem/mozart.shtml). MOZART-4/NCEP simulations are driven by NCEP/NCAR reanalysis meteorological dataset and utilizes emissions based on POET, REAS and GFED2 (Emmons et al., 2010). The spatial resolution of these simulations is 2.8° × 2.8° and has 28 pressure levels from surface to about 3 hPa. MOZART-4/GEOS-5 simulations are driven by meteorological fields from the NASA GMAO GEOS-5 model. This simulation utilizes the emissions based on inventory by D. Streets for ARCTAS (http://cgrer.uiowa.edu/arctas) and fire emissions from FINN-v1 (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011). The spatial resolution of MOZART-4/GEOS5 simulations is 1.9° × 2.5° and has 56 pressure levels from surface to about 2 hPa. In this study we show the simulations driven by MOZART-4/GEOS5 initial and boundary conditions. A sensitivity analysis (not shown here) using MOZART4/NCEP data revealed similar results for WRF-Chem simulated free tropospheric ozone and carbon monoxide.

We have conducted three different WRF-Chem simulations by varying the initial and boundary conditions and the anthropogenic emissions as mentioned in Table 2. The first simulation called as “Std” is the standard run without any adjustments in the anthropogenic emissions or MOZART-4/GEOS5 boundary conditions data (Sect. 4.1.1). The additional simulation 1.5×_EM has been conducted by enhancing the anthropogenic emissions over South Asia by a factor of 1.5 to investigate the influence of regional emissions (Sect. 4.2). The simulation 1.25×_BDY has been conducted by enhancing
the CO mixing ratios by a factor of 1.25 on the MOZART boundary conditions data at the western fringe of the domain (Sect. 4.3) to study the effect of long-range transport.

### 2.2 Backward trajectories

In order to investigate the transport of CO over Chennai (Sect. 4.3), 10 day backward air trajectories are simulated using the Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model (http://www.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT_info.php). The meteorological inputs to the model are provided from the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis data available every 6 h at a spatial resolution of 2.5° × 2.5°. The top of the model was set at 20 km and the isentropic method has been used for the vertical motion. Backward air trajectories are calculated for each CARIBIC observation day at 18:00 and 22:00 GMT at 6 altitude levels (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 km a.s.l.) to cover the altitude range of the CARIBIC measurements. More details about the HYSPLIT trajectory simulations (Draxler and Hess, 1997, 1998; Draxler et al., 2014) and use of other meteorological datasets as inputs to the HYSPLIT model over the Indian region can be found elsewhere (Ojha et al., 2012; Sarangi et al., 2014).

### 3 Observational datasets

#### 3.1 CARIBIC

This study primarily utilizes the in situ measurements of ozone and CO vertical profiles collected over Chennai in the southern Indian region as a part of the CARIBIC project. The CARIBIC observatory is deployed on a monthly basis aboard a Lufthansa Airbus A340-600 for a series of two to six long distance flights. The aircraft is fitted with a permanently mounted inlet system which is connected via stainless steel tubing to the CARIBIC instrument container when installed. Parts of the tubing are lined with thin walled PFA tubes to avoid wall effects (Brenninkmeijer et al., 2007). From April to December 2008, the CARIBIC container measured during 32 flights between Frankfurt,
Germany and Chennai. Here we use only the 14 flights conducted between June and September 2008 as these months represent the core of the monsoon period over India in this year as discussed by Schuck et al. (2010) and Baker et al. (2011). All 14 flights crossed the western part of the monsoon anticyclone in the upper troposphere over the western coast of India at altitudes of 10–12 km before reaching Chennai at the east coast. More details regarding the flight track can be found in Rauthe-Schöch et al. (2015).

CO is measured with a commercial AeroLaser AL 5002 resonance fluorescence UV instrument modified for use onboard the CARIBIC passenger aircraft. Alterations were necessary to optimise the instrument reliability to allow for automated operation over an entire CARIBIC flight sequence lasting several days. The instrument has a precision of better than 2 nmol mol\(^{-1}\) at an integration time of 1 s. For more details, the reader is referred to Scharffe et al. (2012).

The ozone measurements are performed by a fast, commercially available dry chemiluminescence instrument, which at typical ozone mixing ratios between 10 and 100 nmol mol\(^{-1}\) and a measurement frequency of 10 Hz has a precision of better than 1.0 %. The absolute ozone concentration is inferred from a UV-photometer designed in-house which operates at 0.25 Hz and reaches an accuracy of 0.5 nmol mol\(^{-1}\). More technical details can be found in Zahn et al. (2012).

### 3.2 Satellite data

We also use vertical profiles of CO retrieved from the Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) instrument (https://www2.acd.ucar.edu/mopitt) for comparison with WRF-Chem simulations. The MOPITT instrument on the EOS-Terra provides the vertical profiles and global distribution of tropospheric CO with the expected precision of 10 % (Pan et al., 1998; Deeter et al., 2003; Yoon et al., 2013). Because MOPITT measures upwelling infrared radiation at 4.7 and 2.4 µm, it can provide data during night and day. Even though the retrieval sensitivity is generally greater for daytime than
for nighttime overpasses (Deeter, 2013), the nighttime retrievals have been updated by using the improved a priori profiles over land (Ho et al., 2005).

We have used the gridded monthly CO retrievals (MOP03JM) version 6 data, available at http://reverb.echo.nasa.gov/reverb/. The major updates with this version include corrected geolocation data, use of NASA MERRA reanalysis product for meteorological fields and a priori surface skin temperatures instead of NCEP and updated CO a priori (Deeter, 2013). The Thermal and Near IR (JIR) retrievals have been utilized to have better sensitivity of MOPITT retrievals in the lower free tropospheric altitudes (Worden et al., 2010). Further information on MOPITT CO retrievals (Deeter et al., 2003, 2004a, b) and comparison with measurements (Emmons et al., 2004, 2007) and model simulations can be found elsewhere (Emmons et al., 2010; Yoon and Pozzer, 2014).

3.3 Ground-based measurements

Ground-based measurements of CO used in the study are obtained from Cape Rama (73.8° E, 15.1° N) located at the western coast of India. These measurements contributed to the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO, http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/gaw_home_en.html). The air samples were analyzed using a Gas Chromatograph (GC) and the reported precision of CO measurements is 1 nmol mol\(^{-1}\) (Bhattacharya et al., 2009). The observations conducted during 1993–2010 have been used to calculate the average seasonal cycle of CO at Cape Rama. More details of the measurement site (Tiwari et al., 2011), sample collection and analysis (Bhattacharya et al., 2009), and WDCGG database can be found elsewhere (http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdcgg/).

Ground-based measurements of ozone at the rural site Gadanki (79.2° E, 13.5° N) were obtained from the literature (Naja and Lal, 2002; Renuka et al., 2014). These measurements are based upon the UV-absorption technique. The accuracy of these instruments is reported to be ±5 % (Kleinman et al., 1994).
4 Results and discussion

4.1 Model evaluation

In this section, WRF-Chem simulated ozone and carbon monoxide data over Chennai are evaluated against the CARIBIC observations, MOPITT retrievals of CO profiles and the ground-based measurements.

4.1.1 Comparison with CARIBIC profiles

The hourly output of WRF-Chem simulations have been spatially and temporally interpolated along the CARIBIC flight tracks. The observed and model simulated profiles have been averaged into vertical bins of 50 hPa for the comparison analysis. The comparison of \( \text{O}_3 \) and CO profiles from CARIBIC measurements with standard WRF-Chem simulations is shown in Fig. 2. Here we only show the profiles collected during the descent of the aircraft as these have complete coverage until about 800 hPa, while the measurements start from about 600 hPa onwards in the ascending profiles. However for the analysis of model biases, all the ascending and descending profiles have been averaged to calculate the monthly profiles (Fig. 3).

Higher levels of ozone and carbon monoxide occur in the Lower Troposphere (LT: 850–600 hPa) and Upper Troposphere (UT: above 300 hPa), while lower levels in the Middle Troposphere (MT: 600–400 hPa), cause a typical C-shape structure during July. This feature is suggested to be associated with the monsoonal convective uplifting of the lower tropospheric pollution and is captured by WRF-Chem.

Despite the qualitative agreement of the vertical distributions of \( \text{O}_3 \) and CO, significant differences occur between model and measurements, particularly in lower tropospheric CO. For example, on 19 June the observational CO levels vary from 91.5 ± 3.9 to 104.4 ± 0.6 nmol mol\(^{-1}\) in the LT, whereas WRF-Chem simulated CO levels are significantly lower (75.4 ± 1.0 to 85.8 ± 0.7 nmol mol\(^{-1}\)). The average underestimation (Mean Bias) of CO in the LT is found to be 12.6 ± 4.4, 22.8 ± 12.6 and 19.9 ± 7.5 nmol mol\(^{-1}\).
during June, July and August respectively, as calculated from all the ascend and descend profiles averaged for a month (Fig. 3). WRF-Chem simulated average CO shows very good agreement with CARIBIC measurements during September in the LT (MB = −0.1 ± 4.2 nmol mol⁻¹).

The model underestimates a pollution event of strongly elevated ozone observed on 15 July 2008 (146.4 ± 12.8 nmol mol⁻¹ at 810 hPa). In contrast to CO which is typically underestimated in LT, the bias in model simulated O₃ varies from an overestimation by 4.3 ± 1.8 during June to an underestimation by 7.8 ± 1.6 nmol mol⁻¹ during August, except during the strong pollution event (−71.5 ± 25.9 nmol mol⁻¹). The significantly higher levels of O₃ (146.4 ± 12.8 nmol mol⁻¹) and CO (136.4 ± 12.2 nmol mol⁻¹) as observed during July are from two observational profiles on the same day (15 July), discussed separately as an event of strong pollution.

For the complete profiles from Standard WRF-Chem simulations (Std), the Root Mean square Deviation (RMSD) values for O₃ are found to vary from 6.5 to 12.6 nmol mol⁻¹, except during a strong pollution event (RMSD = 48.1 nmol mol⁻¹). RMSD values for CO are in the range of 5.5 to 18.2 nmol mol⁻¹.

### 4.1.2 Comparison with MOPITT CO profiles

Figure 4 shows the monthly average CO profiles from simulation Std and the CO retrievals obtained from MOPITT over Chennai. For consistency with the comparison with CARIBIC observations (Sect. 4.1.1), which are collected only during nighttime, we restrict the comparison of WRF-Chem and MOPITT to nighttime data, though we do not find large diel variability in free tropospheric CO in our simulations. The averaging kernel and the a priori profiles of MOPITT data have been applied on the monthly average CO profile from standard WRF-Chem simulation, denoted as Std(AK).

In contrast to the comparison with the in situ vertical profiles from CARIBIC, the WRF-Chem simulated CO shows very good agreement with the satellite data in the lower troposphere during June. The mean bias value between WRF-Chem and MO-
PITT is found to be $1.5 \pm 0.8 \text{nmol mol}^{-1}$ in the LT during June as compared to the WRF-Chem and CARIBIC data comparison ($-12.6 \pm 4.4 \text{nmol mol}^{-1}$). Interestingly, in comparison to the satellite data, WRF-Chem is found to overestimate CO in the LT by $21.4 \pm 2.8$, $37.8 \pm 5.0$, and $26.9 \pm 4.0 \text{nmol mol}^{-1}$ during July, August and September respectively. Middle tropospheric CO is also significantly overestimated by WRF-Chem as compared to MOPITT during July–September. This could be partially associated with the unscreened-out cloud contamination in the satellite retrievals during the summer monsoon season. The a priori CO data from the global chemistry transport model could be another potential source of the discrepancy (Asatar and Nair, 2010).

The different results regarding the WRF-Chem evaluation against the in situ measurements and satellite data clearly highlight the need of more in situ measurements of vertical profiles for validation of chemistry-transport models as well as the satellite retrievals over this region, particularly during the monsoon, when the sky is obscured by clouds. Such studies would be invaluable for addressing the discrepancies due to limited overpassing time for MOPITT, retrieval errors due to sensor degradation, not updated CO a priori, cloud-contamination, systematic errors as well as errors in model simulations.

### 4.1.3 Surface O$_3$ and CO

In order to understand if the observed discrepancies between WRF-Chem and CARIBIC observations are associated with emissions and processes at the surface in India, we analyze the variations in surface ozone and CO over this region. WRF-Chem (Std) simulated average distributions of surface O$_3$ and CO over the Indian region are shown in Fig. 5 for the four months of the summer monsoon in 2008. The distribution of O$_3$ as well as CO shows large spatial heterogeneity across the region in all four months.

Surface ozone levels are typically lower ($< 30 \text{nmol mol}^{-1}$) than aloft over most of the domain. The ozone levels are found to be highest over the polluted Indo-Gangetic
Plain (IGP), in northeastern India, and also over the eastern coastal region (40–50 nmol mol\(^{-1}\)). Average surface ozone levels over most of the Indian region are relatively low, mostly below 40 nmol mol\(^{-1}\), which is mainly due to the inflow of marine air masses and suppressed photochemistry in cloudy/rainy conditions. The highest levels of surface ozone are simulated over the northern part of the domain, where the influences of marine air/monsoon are relatively smallest. While, vertical trace gas distributions are influenced by monsoon convection, both CO and \(\text{O}_3\) are not soluble and not significantly affected by precipitation scavenging. CO mixing ratios vary from about 50 to 300 nmol mol\(^{-1}\), except over the IGP where a high CO belt (400 nmol mol\(^{-1}\) and more) accumulates throughout the monsoon season. Towards the end of the monsoon period in September, ozone and CO levels show most pronounced enhancements over the IGP and also a tendency of pollution buildup in the surrounding regions.

The WRF-Chem simulated spatial distributions of surface ozone and CO are found to be consistent with previous studies over the Indian region mostly based on satellite observations (Fishman et al., 2003; Kar et al., 2008) and simulations with a global chemistry transport model (Ojha et al., 2012).

Figure 6 shows a comparison of surface ozone and CO variations from WRF-Chem with ground-based observations. Unfortunately simultaneous measurements of ozone and CO are sparse over this region and therefore observations of ozone are utilized from Gadanki (79.2° E, 13.5° N), a rural site in southern India (Naja and Lal, 2002; Renuka et al., 2014) and observations of CO are used from the coastal site Cape Rama (73.8° E, 15.1° N) (Yoon and Pozzer, 2014). \(\text{O}_3\) and CO model results from the Std simulation are found to be within the 1\(\sigma\) standard deviations of the measurements at Gadanki and Cape Rama.

The significant underestimation of CO by WRF-Chem in the free troposphere (Sect. 4.1.1) as compared to CARIBIC measurements is not evident at the surface. It is suggested that the discrepancies between WRF-Chem and CARIBIC observations are likely not caused directly by surface emissions and chemistry and may be associated with the influence of large-scale air mass transports. We further investigate
this by conducting a sensitivity simulation with 50% higher CO emissions (Sect. 4.2) over the Indian region. The possible role of transport is investigated by backward air trajectory analysis and conducting a sensitivity run with 25% higher influx of CO from the domain boundary based on trajectories (Sect. 4.3).

4.2 Sensitivity to regional emissions

A sensitivity simulation $1.5 \times _{EM}$ has been conducted by enhancing the CO emissions over the entire south Asian domain (Fig. 1) by 50%, keeping all other inputs fixed as for the Standard WRF-Chem simulations (Std, Table 2). The comparison of monthly average CO over Chennai between the standard simulation and $1.5 \times _{EM}$ is shown in Fig. 7. The percentage enhancement in the CO mixing ratios due to the increased emissions is also shown. The maximum impact (33%) of the increased anthropogenic emissions on CO mixing ratios is observed near the surface. The direct impact of emission enhancement is found to be significantly lower (5% and less) from 850 hPa and above, where WRF-Chem was found to most strongly underestimate the CO levels.

Hence a significant increase (50%) in the regional anthropogenic emissions over India led to only minor enhancements in the model CO levels as compared to the observed underestimation in the lower free troposphere. Furthermore, the WRF-Chem simulated surface CO is in good agreement with ground-based observations over this region. Therefore, it is concluded that the observed underestimation of CO by WRF-Chem in the free troposphere is not primarily associated with local and regional anthropogenic emissions. The next possibility of transport of CO into the domain as controlled by the chemical boundary conditions in WRF-Chem is investigated in the next subsection.

4.3 Influence of transport

We investigate the role of transport over Chennai utilizing the 10 day backward trajectories simulated using the HYSPLIT model in conjunction with a sensitivity simulation with
the MOZART/GEOS5 boundary condition. Air mass trajectories color coded according to the starting altitude over Chennai for all the CARIBIC observation days are shown in Fig. 8. Synoptic wind patterns appear to be very different in the lower troposphere (2–4 km) compared to higher altitudes (8–12 km). Lower tropospheric air over Chennai has been dominantly influenced by westerly air masses, while the upper tropospheric air masses primarily originated from the east during June–August. The wind patterns change significantly towards the end of the monsoon period (September), when the trajectories are influenced by different continental regions of South Asia.

To investigate the transport/influences from local/regional pollution, we calculated the residence time of the air masses and mean pressure along the trajectory over the southern Indian region (74.9 to 81.7°E and 9.9 to 17.1°N) for all the backward air trajectories at 2 and 4 km altitude above Chennai (Fig. 9). Residence time is derived by counting number of hours in the air trajectory within the specified south Indian region and converting it into days.

4.3.1 Strong pollution event on 15 July 2008

We begin by examining a pollution event observed on 15 July 2008 to investigate its origin. Ozone and carbon monoxide levels were observed to be very high during the month of July but are substantially underestimated by WRF-Chem. Since there were only two observational profiles during July and both on the same day (15 July 2008), this observation is suggested to be more representative of a pollution event rather than the monthly average conditions over this region. During this event, O$_3$ (146.4 ± 12.8 nmol mol$^{-1}$) as well as CO (136.4 ± 12.2 nmol mol$^{-1}$) is found to be very high in the lower troposphere (∼ 805 hPa), indicating that these concentrations are associated with the transport of polluted air with ample time for photochemical ozone build up, while significant influence of transport of ozone rich air from the stratosphere is unlikely. It is found that the residence time of this air mass is more than 3 days over southern India during this event, much longer than during CARIBIC flight times in other months.
Moreover, the air masses are found to be influenced by boundary layer pollution as indicated by significantly higher mean pressure along the trajectory (915 ± 43 hPa).

### 4.3.2 Long-range transport

Long-range transport in the WRF-Chem simulated chemical fields is controlled by the chemical boundary conditions taken from a global model MOZART/GEOS5. We assess the contribution of long-range transport of CO in the lower troposphere over Chennai by conducting a sensitivity simulation with increased CO at the domain boundary. Backward air trajectories suggest that CO is significantly underestimated in the lower troposphere in westerly air masses (Figs. 3 and 8). Therefore, we increase the CO mixing ratios in the MOZART/GEOS5 data, over a region (7.5°N < lat < 16.5°N) on the western boundary as shown in Fig. 10, chosen suitably based on the backward trajectories (Fig. 8).

Figure 11 shows a comparison of average CO profiles from CARIBIC measurements, WRF Chem standard simulations (Std) and the sensitivity simulation with increased CO at the western boundary (1.25×_BDY). In contrast to the sensitivity run with increased emissions (1.5×_EM), here we find significant improvement in the WRF-Chem simulated CO in the free troposphere. For example during June, WRF-Chem simulated CO mixing ratios from 1.25×_BDY simulation (95.8 ± 4.3 nmol mol⁻¹) are comparable to the observations (96.6 ± 9.1 nmol mol⁻¹) at ~800 hPa. The improvements are also significant in other months in the lower free troposphere. In contrast to the June–August period, the air masses over Chennai show influences of higher emissions on the free troposphere. This could be associated with the transport from the continental Indian region as shown by backward trajectories (Fig. 8). The enhancements due to higher CO in the boundary conditions are significantly less during September as compared to June–August. We suggest that since air masses over Chennai during September are more influenced by the regional emissions, the influence of uncertainty in boundary conditions is not evident here. Further it is noted that such dominance of regional im-
Impacts on CO vertical distributions during September is captured better by WRF-Chem, as compared to the global model simulation (Supplement Fig. 1).

This study suggests that anticyclonic advection plays a very important role which could transport polluted air masses from outside the region (domain) during the summer monsoon. This complements conventional thinking that convected regional emissions dominate the tropospheric composition during the monsoon season and points to a potentially significant external source of pollution to the monsoon anticyclone. We show that this transport is generally very fast i.e. the residence time of air masses is 1–2 days over southern India, except during the strong pollution event (Sect. 4.3.1). This rapid transport could advect CO-rich air masses from more strongly polluted upwind regions. As indicated by the backward air trajectories and a sensitivity run, CO-rich air masses could originate in central Africa and the Persian Gulf region. During the summer monsoon, CO mixing ratios have been found to be highest over central Africa associated with biomass burning emissions (Torres et al., 2010; Inness et al., 2013, and references therein). Regional emissions from continental India are shown to significantly influence the free troposphere over Southern India towards the end of the monsoon (September).

5 Conclusions

In this paper we integrated the aircraft-borne measurements of O$_3$ and CO vertical profiles collected as a part of the CARIBIC program with WRF-Chem simulations over India for the summer monsoon period in the year 2008. Evaluation of the model results against in situ O$_3$ and CO profiles revealed the capabilities as well as limitations of the WRF-Chem simulations over this region. The WRF-Chem simulated spatial distribution of ozone and CO at the surface is largely consistent with previous studies over this region based on satellite-based measurements and model simulations. Higher levels in the lower and upper troposphere and lower levels in the middle troposphere cause
a typical C-shape profile in the O\textsubscript{3} and CO distributions. This feature has been observed to be most pronounced during July and has been qualitatively captured by WRF-Chem. The major limitation of the model is found to be underestimation (12.6–22.8 nmol mol\textsuperscript{−1}) of CO in the lower free troposphere during June to August. Model simulated CO is in very good agreement with CARIBIC measurements during September. The model biases in lower tropospheric O\textsubscript{3} are found to vary from an overestimation by about 4.3 nmol mol\textsuperscript{−1} (June) to an underestimation by 7.8 nmol mol\textsuperscript{−1} (August). WRF-Chem simulated CO is also compared with satellite (MOPITT) retrievals. Interestingly, WRF-Chem is found to overestimate CO compared to MOPITT data during July–September, while, WRF-Chem and MOPITT CO are in very good agreement during June. The contrasting evaluation results of WRF-Chem with in situ measurements and satellite retrievals points towards a need of more measurements to validate the satellite data and evaluate model results over this region.

WRF-Chem simulations are also compared with the ground-based measurements of ozone and CO at Gadanki (79.2\textdegree E, 13.5\textdegree N) and Cape Rama (73.8\textdegree E, 15.1\textdegree N). It is shown that the model simulated O\textsubscript{3} as well as CO at the surface is within the observed variabilities (1\textsigma). This indicates that the discrepancy between the WRF-Chem simulated and CARIBIC measured CO is likely not directly associated with the regional surface emissions. This is corroborated by a sensitivity simulation with 50\% higher CO emissions over India which leads to about 33\% enhancement at the surface but small influence (5\%) above 850 hPa. Analysis of backward airmass trajectories over Chennai suggest that a strong pollution event observed during July (O\textsubscript{3}: 146.4 ± 12.8 nmol mol\textsuperscript{−1}, CO: 136.4 ± 12.2 nmol mol\textsuperscript{−1}) was associated with regional photochemically processed air masses from the boundary layer (915 ± 43 hPa) over southern India.

We find that the lower free troposphere over this region is strongly influenced by air masses from the west during the summer monsoon. A sensitivity simulation with 25\% higher CO mixing ratios over a region at the western boundary of the domain, chosen suitably based on back air trajectories, shows significant improvement in the computed CO levels. We suggest that long-range transport of CO over southern India, originated
in Africa, is underestimated in model simulations during the summer monsoon and may have a significant impact on the regional CO budget. Our study highlights that in situ measurements limited only to the ground are insufficient to understand the transport of trace gases, and that aircraft-borne measurements of ozone precursors are essential to improve the model simulations and the understanding of regional tropospheric chemistry.

The Supplement related to this article is available online at doi:10.5194/acpd-15-21133-2015-supplement.

Acknowledgements. We thank CARIBIC partners as well as Lufthansa, especially T. Dauer and A. Waibel, and Lufthansa Technik for support. We especially acknowledge D. Scharfe, C. Koeppel and S. Weber for the operation of CARIBIC. The HTAP v2 anthropogenic emissions were obtained from http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/htap_v2/index.php?SECURE=123. Initial and boundary conditions data for meteorological fields have been obtained from http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/. MOZART-4/NCEP and MOZART-4/GEOS5 initial and boundary condition data for chemical fields, biogenic emissions, biomass-burning emissions and programs to process these datasets were obtained from NCAR Atmospheric Chemistry Division website (http://www.acd.ucar.edu/wrf-chem/). We acknowledge NASA Reverb (http://reverb.echo.nasa.gov/reverb/) for providing MOPITT CO version 6 data. We acknowledge the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WDCGG, http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdcgg/) for surface CO data. The authors acknowledge the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) for the HYSPLIT transport and dispersion model. The WRF-Chem simulations have been performed on the supercomputer HYDRA (http://www.rzg.mpg.de/). N. Ojha is thankful to Martin Körfer and Rüdiger Sörensen for their help with computing and data storage.

The article processing charges for this open-access publication were covered by the Max Planck Society.
References

Ackermann, I. J., Hass, H., Memmesheimer, M., Ebel, A., Binkowski, F. S., and Shankar, U.: Modal aerosol dynamics model for Europe: development and first applications, Atmos. Environ., 32, 2981–2999, doi:10.1016/S1352-2310(98)00006-5, 1998. 21139

Akimoto, H.: Global air quality and pollution, Science, 302, 1716–1719, doi:10.1126/science.1092666, 2003. 21135

Asatar, G. I. and Nair, P. R.: Spatial distribution of near-surface CO over bay of Bengal during winter: role of transport, J. Atmos. Sol.-Terr. Phy., 72, 1241–1250, doi:10.1016/j.jastp.2010.07.025, 2010. 21145

Baker, A. K., Schuck, T. J., Slemr, F., van Velthoven, P., Zahn, A., and Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M.: Characterization of non-methane hydrocarbons in Asian summer monsoon outflow observed by the CARIBIC aircraft, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 11, 503–518, doi:10.5194/acp-11-503-2011, 2011. 21136, 21141

Beig, G. and Brasseur, G. P.: Influence of anthropogenic emissions on tropospheric ozone and its precursors over the Indian tropical region during a monsoon, Geophys. Res. Lett., 33, L07808, doi:10.1029/2005GL024949, 2006. 21135

Bhattacharya, S. K., Borole, D. V., Francey, R. J., Allison, C. E., Steele, L. P., Krummel, P., Langenfelds, R., Masarie, K. A., Tiwari, Y. K., and Patra, P. K.: Trace gases and CO₂ isotope records from Cabo de Rama, India, Curr. Sci. India, 97, 1336–1344, 2009. 21142

Binkowski, F. S. and Shankar, U.: The regional particulate matter model: 1. Model description and preliminary results, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 100, 26191–26209, doi:10.1029/95JD02093, 1995. 21139

Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., Crutzen, P., Boumaerd, F., Dauer, T., Dix, B., Ebinghaus, R., Filippi, D., Fischer, H., Franke, H., Frieß, U., Heintzenberg, J., Helleis, F., Hermann, M., Kock, H. H., Koeppel, C., Lelieveld, J., Leuenberger, M., Martinsson, B. G., Miemczyk, S., Moret, H. P., Nguyen, H. N., Nyfeier, P., Oram, D., O’Sullivan, D., Penkett, S., Platt, U., Pupek, M., Ramonet, M., Randa, B., Reichelt, M., Rhee, T. S., Rohwer, J., Rosenfeld, K., Scharffe, D., Schlager, H., Schumann, U., Slemr, F., Sprung, D., Stock, P., Thaler, R., Valentino, F., van Velthoven, P., Waibel, A., Wandel, A., Waschitschek, K., Wiedensohler, A., Xuereb-Remy, I., Zahn, A., Zech, U., and Ziereis, H.: Civil Aircraft for the regular investigation of the atmosphere based on an instrumented container: The new CARIBIC system, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 7, 4953–4976, doi:10.5194/acp-7-4953-2007, 2007. 21136, 21140

21153
Chen, F. and Dudhia, J.: Coupling and advanced land surface-hydrology model with the Penn State-NCAR MM5 modeling system, Part I: Model implementation and sensitivity, Mon. Weather Rev., 129, 569–585, 2001. 21163

Chou, M.-D. and Suarez, M. J.: An efficient thermal infrared radiation parametrization for use in general circulation models, NASA Tech. Memo., 104606, 85 pp., 1994. 21163

Cristofanelli, P., Putero, D., Adhikary, B., Landi, T. C., Marinoni, A., Duchi, R., Calzolari, F., Laj, P., Stocchi, P., Verza, G., Vuillemoz, E., Kang, S., Ming, J., and Bonasoni, P.: Transport of short-lived climate forcers/pollutants (SLCF/P) to the Himalayas during the South Asian summer monsoon onset, Environ. Res. Lett., 9, 084005, doi:10.1088/1748-9326/9/8/084005, 2014. 21136

David, L. M. and Nair, P. R.: Diurnal and seasonal variability of surface ozone and NOx at a tropical coastal site: association with mesoscale and synoptic meteorological conditions, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 116, D10303, doi:10.1029/2010JD015076, 2011. 21135

Deeter, M. N.: MOPITT (Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere): Version 6 Product User's Guide, available at: http://www.acom.ucar.edu/mopitt/v6_users_guide_beta.pdf (last access: 4 August 2015), 2013. 21142

Deeter, M. N., Emmons, L. K., Francis, G. L., Edwards, D. P., Gille, J. C., Warner, J. X., Khattatov, B., Ziskin, D., Lamarque, J.-F., Ho, S.-P., Yudin, V., Attié, J.-L., Packman, D., Chen, J., Mao, D., and Drummond, J. R.: Operational carbon monoxide retrieval algorithm and selected results for the MOPITT instrument, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 108, 4399, doi:10.1029/2002JD003186, 2003. 21141, 21142

Deeter, M. N., Emmons, L. K., Edwards, D. P., Gille, J. C., and Drummond, J. R.: Vertical resolution and information content of CO profiles retrieved by MOPITT, Geophys. Res. Lett., 31, L15112, doi:10.1029/2004GL020235, 2004a. 21142

Deeter, M. N., Emmons, L. K., Francis, G. L., Edwards, D. P., Gille, J. C., Warner, J. X., Khattatov, B., Ziskin, D., Lamarque, J.-F., Ho, S.-P., Yudin, V., Attie, J.-L., Packman, D., Chen, J., Mao, D., Drummond, J. R., Novelli, P., and Sachse, G.: Evaluation of operational radiances for the Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) instrument CO thermal band channels, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 109, D03308, doi:10.1029/2003JD003970, 2004b. 21142

Draxler, R. and Hess, G.: Description of the HYSPLIT 4 modeling system, NOAA Tech. Memo. ERL ARL-224, NOAA Air Resources Laboratory, Silver Spring, MD, 24 pp., 1997. 21140
Draxler, R. and Hess, G.: An overview of the HYSPLIT 4 modeling system of trajectories, dispersion, and deposition, Aust. Meteorol. Mag., 47, 295–308, 1998. 21140
Draxler, R., Stunder, B., Rolph, G., Stein, A., and Taylor, A.: HYSPLIT4 USER's GUIDE, available at: http://www.arl.noaa.gov/documents/reports/hysplit_user_guide.pdf (last access: 4 August 2015), 2014. 21140
Emmons, L. K., Deeter, M. N., Gille, J. C., Edwards, D. P., Attié, J.-L., Warner, J., Ziskin, D., Francis, G., Khattatov, B., Yudin, V., Lamarque, J.-F., Ho, S.-P., Mao, D., Chen, J. S., Drummond, J., Novelli, P., Sachse, G., Coffey, M. T., Hannigan, J. W., Gerbig, C., Kawakami, S., Kondo, Y., Takegawa, N., Schlager, H., Baehr, J., and Ziereis, H.: Validation of Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) CO retrievals with aircraft in situ profiles, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 109, D03309, doi:10.1029/2003JD004101, 2004. 21142
Emmons, L. K., Pfister, G. G., Edwards, D. P., Gille, J. C., Sachse, G., Blake, D., Wofsy, S., Gerbig, C., Matross, D., and Nédélec, P.: Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) validation exercises during summer 2004 field campaigns over North America, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 112, D12S02, doi:10.1029/2006JD007833, 2007. 21142
Emmons, L. K., Walters, S., Hess, P. G., Lamarque, J.-F., Pfister, G. G., Fillmore, D., Granier, C., Guenther, A., Kinnison, D., Laepple, T., Orlando, J., Tie, X., Tyndall, G., Wiedinmyer, C., Baughcum, S. L., and Kloster, S.: Description and evaluation of the Model for Ozone and Related chemical Tracers, version 4 (MOZART-4), Geosci. Model Dev., 3, 43–67, doi:10.5194/gmd-3-43-2010, 2010. 21139, 21142
Fadnavis, S., Semeniuk, K., Schultz, M. G., Mahajan, A., Pozzoli, L., Sonbawane, S., and Kiefer, M.: Transport pathways of peroxyacetyl nitrate in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere from different monsoon systems during the summer monsoon season, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 14, 20159–20195, doi:10.5194/acpd-14-20159-2014, 2014. 21136
Fishman, J., Wozniak, A. E., and Creilson, J. K.: Global distribution of tropospheric ozone from satellite measurements using the empirically corrected tropospheric ozone residual technique: Identification of the regional aspects of air pollution, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 3, 893–907, doi:10.5194/acp-3-893-2003, 2003. 21146
Ghude, S. D., Jena, C., Chate, D. M., Beig, G., Pfister, G. G., Kumar, R., and Ramanathan, V.: Reductions in India's crop yield due to ozone, Geophys. Res. Lett., 41, 5685–5691, doi:10.1002/2014GL060930, 2014. 21135
Grell, G. A., Peckham, S. E., Schmitz, R., McKeen, S. A., Frost, G., Skamarock, W. C., and Eder, B.: Fully coupled “online” chemistry within the WRF model, Atmos. Environ., 39, 6957–6975, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2005.04.027, 2005. 21137

Guenther, A., Karl, T., Harley, P., Wiedinmyer, C., Palmer, P. I., and Geron, C.: Estimates of global terrestrial isoprene emissions using MEGAN (Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature), Atmos. Chem. Phys., 6, 3181–3210, doi:10.5194/acp-6-3181-2006, 2006. 21138

Ho, S.-P., Edwards, D. P., Gille, J. C., Chen, J., Ziskin, D., Francis, G. L., Deeter, M. N., and Drummond, J. R.: Estimates of 4.7 µm surface emissivity and their impact on the retrieval of tropospheric carbon monoxide by Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT), J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 110, D21308, doi:10.1029/2005JD005946, 2005. 21142

Inness, A., Baier, F., Benedetti, A., Bouarar, I., Chabrillat, S., Clark, H., Clerbaux, C., Coheur, P., Engelen, R. J., Errera, Q., Flemming, J., George, M., Granier, C., Hadji-Lazaro, J., Huijnen, V., Hurtmans, D., Jones, L., Kaiser, J. W., Kapsomenakis, J., Lefever, K., Leitão, J., Razinger, M., Richter, A., Schultz, M. G., Simmons, A. J., Suttie, M., Stein, O., Thépaut, J.-N., Thouret, V., Vrekoussis, M., Zerefos, C., and the MACC team: The MACC reanalysis: an 8 yr data set of atmospheric composition, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 4073–4109, doi:10.5194/acp-13-4073-2013, 2013. 21150

Janjic, Z. I.: The surface layer in the NCEP Eta Model, Eleventh Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, Norfolk, VA, 19–23 August, Amer. Meteor. Soc., Boston, Boston, MA, 354–355, 1996. 21163

Janjic, Z. I.: Nonsingular Implementation of the Mellor-Yamada Level 2.5 Scheme in the NCEP Meso Model, NCEP Office Note, 437, 61 pp., 2002. 21163

Janssens-Maenhout, G., Crippa, M., Guizzardi, D., Dentener, F., Muntean, M., Poulitot, G., Keating, T., Zhang, Q., Kurokawa, J., Wankmüller, R., Denier van der Gon, H., Klimont, Z., Frost, G., Darras, S., and Koffi, B.: HTAP_v2: a mosaic of regional and global emission gridmaps for 2008 and 2010 to study hemispheric transport of air pollution, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 15, 12867–12909, doi:10.5194/acpd-15-12867-2015, 2015. 21138

Kar, J., Jones, D. B. A., Drummond, J. R., Attié, J. L., Liu, J., Zou, J., Nichitiu, F., Seymour, M. D., Edwards, D. P., Deeter, M. N., Gille, J. C., and Richter, A.: Measurement of low-altitude CO over the Indian subcontinent by MOPITT, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 113, D16307, doi:10.1029/2007JD009362, 2008. 21146
Kleinman, L., Lee, Y.-N., Springer, S. R., Nunnermacker, L., Zhou, X., Brown, R., Hallock, K., Klotz, P., Leahy, D., Lee, J. H., and Newman, L.: Ozone formation at a rural site in the southeastern United States, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 99, 3469–3482, doi:10.1029/93JD02991, 1994. 21142

Kumar, R., Naja, M., Pfister, G. G., Barth, M. C., Wiedinmyer, C., and Brasseur, G. P.: Simulations over South Asia using the Weather Research and Forecasting model with Chemistry (WRF-Chem): chemistry evaluation and initial results, Geosci. Model Dev., 5, 619–648, doi:10.5194/gmd-5-619-2012, 2012. 21136

Kumar, R., Naja, M., Pfister, G. G., Barth, M. C., and Brasseur, G. P.: Source attribution of carbon monoxide in India and surrounding regions during wintertime, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 118, 1981–1995, doi:10.1002/jgrd.50134, 2013. 21136

Lal, S. and Lawrence, M. G.: Elevated mixing ratios of surface ozone over the Arabian Sea, Geophys. Res. Lett., 28, 1487–1490, doi:10.1029/2000GL011828, 2001. 21135

Lal, S., Naja, M., and Subbaraya, B.: Seasonal variations in surface ozone and its precursors over an urban site in India, Atmos. Environ., 34, 2713–2724, doi:10.1016/S1352-2310(99)00510-5, 2000. 21135

Lal, S., Venkataramani, S., Srivastava, S., Gupta, S., Mallik, C., Naja, M., Sarangi, T., Acharya, Y. B., and Liu, X.: Transport effects on the vertical distribution of tropospheric ozone over the tropical marine regions surrounding India, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 118, 1513–1524, doi:10.1002/jgrd.50180, 2013. 21136

Lal, S., Venkataramani, S., Chandra, N., Cooper, O. R., Brioude, J., and Naja, M.: Transport effects on the vertical distribution of tropospheric ozone over western India, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 119, 10012–10026, doi:10.1002/2014JD021854, 2014. 21136

Lawrence, M. G. and Lelieveld, J.: Atmospheric pollutant outflow from southern Asia: a review, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 11017–11096, doi:10.5194/acp-10-11017-2010, 2010. 21135

Lawrence, M. G., Rasch, P. J., von Kuhlmann, R., Williams, J., Fischer, H., de Reus, M., Lelieveld, J., Crutzen, P. J., Schultz, M., Stier, P., Huntrieser, H., Heland, J., Stohl, A., Forster, C., Elbern, H., Jakobs, H., and Dickerson, R. R.: Global chemical weather forecasts for field campaign planning: predictions and observations of large-scale features during MINOS, CONTRACE, and INDOEX, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 3, 267–289, doi:10.5194/acp-3-267-2003, 2003. 21135

Lelieveld, J., Crutzen, P. J., Ramanathan, V., Andreae, M. O., Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., Campos, T., Cass, G. R., Dickerson, R. R., Fischer, H., de Gouw, J. A., Hansel, A., Jefferson, A.,
Kley, D., de Laat, A. T. J., Lal, S., Lawrence, M. G., Lobert, J. M., Mayol-Bracero, O. L., Mitra, A. P., Novakov, T., Oltmans, S. J., Prather, K. A., Reiner, T., Rodhe, H., Scheeren, H. A., Sikka, D., and Williams, J.: The Indian Ocean experiment: widespread air pollution from South and Southeast Asia, Science, 291, 1031–1036, doi:10.1126/science.1057103, 2001.

Lelieveld, J., Berresheim, H., Borrmann, S., Crutzen, P. J., Dentener, F. J., Fischer, H., Feichter, J., Flatau, P. J., Heland, J., Holzinger, R., Korrmann, R., Lawrence, M. G., Levin, Z., Markowicz, K. M., Mihalopoulos, N., Minikin, A., Ramanathan, V., de Reus, M., Roelofs, G. J., Scheeren, H. A., Scire, J., Schlager, H., Schultz, M., Siegmund, P., Steil, B., Stephanou, E. G., Stier, P., Traub, M., Warneke, C., Williams, J., and Ziereis, H.: Global air pollution crossroads over the Mediterranean, Science, 298, 794–799, doi:10.1126/science.1075457, 2002.

Lelieveld, J., Barlas, C., Giannadaki, D., and Pozzer, A.: Model calculated global, regional and megacity premature mortality due to air pollution, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 7023–7037, doi:10.5194/acp-13-7023-2013, 2013.

Mallik, C., Lal, S., Venkataramani, S., Naja, M., and Ojha, N.: Variability in ozone and its precursors over the Bay of Bengal during post monsoon: Transport and emission effects, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 118, 10190–10209, doi:10.1002/jgrd.50764, 2013.

Michael, M., Yadav, A., Tripathi, S. N., Kanawade, V. P., Gaur, A., Sadavarte, P., and Venkataraman, C.: Simulation of trace gases and aerosols over the Indian domain: evaluation of the WRF-Chem model, Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., 7, 431–482, doi:10.5194/gmd-7-431-2014, 2014.

Mlawer, E. J., Taubman, S. J., Brown, P. D., Iacono, M. J., and Clough, S. A.: Radiative transfer for inhomogeneous atmospheres: RRTM, a validated correlated-k model for the longwave, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 102, 16663–16682, doi:10.1029/97JD00237, 1997.

Monks, P. S., Archibald, A. T., Colette, A., Cooper, O., Coyle, M., Derwent, R., Fowler, D., Granier, C., Law, K. S., Stevenson, D. S., Tarasova, O., Thouret, V., von Schneidemesser, E., Sommariva, R., Wild, O., and Williams, M. L.: Tropospheric ozone and its precursors from the urban to the global scale from air quality to short-lived climate forcer, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 14, 32709–32933, doi:10.5194/acpd-14-32709-2014, 2014.

Naja, M. and Lal, S.: Surface ozone and precursor gases at Gadanki (13.5° N, 79.2° E), a tropical rural site in India, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 107, ACH8.1–ACH8.13, doi:10.1029/2001JD000357, 2002.
Ohara, T., Akimoto, H., Kurokawa, J., Horii, N., Yamaji, K., Yan, X., and Hayasaka, T.: An Asian emission inventory of anthropogenic emission sources for the period 1980–2020, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 7, 4419–4444, doi:10.5194/acp-7-4419-2007, 2007. 21135

Ojha, N., Naja, M., Singh, K. P., Sarangi, T., Kumar, R., Lal, S., Lawrence, M. G., Butler, T. M., and Chandola, H. C.: Variabilities in ozone at a semi-urban site in the Indo-Gangetic Plain region: association with the meteorology and regional processes, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 117, D20301, doi:10.1029/2012JD017716, 2012. 21135, 21140, 21146

Ojha, N., Naja, M., Sarangi, T., Kumar, R., Bhardwaj, P., Lal, S., Venkataramani, S., Sagar, R., Kumar, A., and Chandola, H.: On the processes influencing the vertical distribution of ozone over the central Himalayas: analysis of yearlong ozonesonde observations, Atmos. Environ., 88, 201–211, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2014.01.031, 2014. 21136

Pan, L., Gille, J. C., Edwards, D. P., Bailey, P. L., and Rodgers, C. D.: Retrieval of tropospheric carbon monoxide for the MOPITT experiment, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 103, 32277–32290, doi:10.1029/98JD01828, 1998. 21141

Park, M., Randel, W. J., Gettelman, A., Massie, S. T., and Jiang, J. H.: Transport above the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone inferred from Aura Microwave Limb Sounder tracers, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 112, D16309, doi:10.1029/2006JD008294, 2007. 21135

Park, M., Randel, W. J., Emmons, L. K., and Livesey, N. J.: Transport pathways of carbon monoxide in the Asian summer monsoon diagnosed from Model of Ozone and Related Tracers (MOZART), J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 114, D08303, doi:10.1029/2008JD010621, 2009. 21136

Pozzer, A., Zimmermann, P., Doering, U.M., van Aardenne, J., Tost, H., Dentener, F., Janssens-Maenhout, G., and Lelieveld, J.: Effects of business-as-usual anthropogenic emissions on air quality, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 12, 6915–6937, doi:10.5194/acp-12-6915-2012, 2012. 21135

Pozzer, A., de Meij, A., Yoon, J., Tost, H., Georgoulis, A. K., and Astitha, M.: AOD trends during 2001–2010 from observations and model simulations, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 5521–5535, doi:10.5194/acp-15-5521-2015, 2015. 21135

Randel, W. J., Park, M., Emmons, L., Kinnison, D., Bernath, P., Walker, K. A., Boone, C., and Pumphrey, H.: Asian monsoon transport of pollution to the stratosphere, Science, 328, 611–613, doi:10.1126/science.1182274, 2010. 21136

Rauthe-Schöch, A., Baker, A. K., Schuck, T. J., Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., Zahn, A., Hermann, M., Stratmann, G., Ziereis, H., van Velthoven, P. F. J., and Lelieveld, J.: Trapping, chemistry and export of trace gases in the South Asian summer monsoon observed during
CARIBIC flights in 2008, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 15, 6967–7018, doi:10.5194/acpd-15-6967-2015, 2015. 21136, 21141
Reddy, R., Gopal, K., Reddy, L., Narasimhulu, K., Kumar, K., Ahammed, Y., and Reddy, C.: Measurements of surface ozone at semi-arid site Anantapur (14.62° N, 77.65° E, 331 m a.s.l.) in India, J. Atmos. Chem., 59, 47–59, doi:10.1007/s10874-008-9094-1, 2008. 21135
Renuka, K., Gadhavi, H., Jayaraman, A., Lal, S., Naja, M., and Rao, S.: Study of Ozone and NO2 over Gadanki – a rural site in South India, J. Atmos. Chem., 71, 95–112, doi:10.1007/s10874-014-9284-y, 2014. 21142, 21146, 21171
Sahu, L. K. and Lal, S.: Changes in surface ozone levels due to convective downdrafts over the Bay of Bengal, Geophys. Res. Lett., 33, L10807, doi:10.1029/2006GL025994, 2006. 21135
Sarangi, T., Naja, M., Ojha, N., Kumar, R., Lal, S., Venkataramani, S., Kumar, A., Sagar, R., and Chandola, H. C.: First simultaneous measurements of ozone, CO, and NOy at a high-altitude regional representative site in the central Himalayas, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 119, 1592–1611, doi:10.1002/2013JD020631, 2014. 21135, 21140
Scharffe, D., Slemr, F., Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., and Zahn, A.: Carbon monoxide measurements onboard the CARIBIC passenger aircraft using UV resonance fluorescence, Atmos. Meas. Tech., 5, 1753–1760, doi:10.5194/amt-5-1753-2012, 2012. 21141
Schell, B., Ackermann, I. J., Hass, H., Binkowski, F. S., and Ebel, A.: Modeling the formation of secondary organic aerosol within a comprehensive air quality model system, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 106, 28275–28293, doi:10.1029/2001JD000384, 2001. 21139
Schuck, T. J., Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., Baker, A. K., Slemr, F., von Velthoven, P. F. J., and Zahn, A.: Greenhouse gas relationships in the Indian summer monsoon plume measured by the CARIBIC passenger aircraft, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 3965–3984, doi:10.5194/acp-10-3965-2010, 2010. 21141
Sheel, V., Lal, S., Richter, A., and Burrows, J. P.: Comparison of satellite observed tropospheric NO2 over India with model simulations, Atmos. Environ., 44, 3314–3321, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2010.05.043, 2010. 21135
Srivastava, S., Lal, S., Venkataramani, S., Gupta, S., and Acharya, Y. B.: Vertical distribution of ozone in the lower troposphere over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea during ICARB-2006: effects of continental outflow, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 116, D13301, doi:10.1029/2010JD015298, 2011. 21135
Stevenson, D. S., Young, P. J., Naik, V., Lamarque, J.-F., Shindell, D. T., Voulgarakis, A., Skeie, R. B., Dalsoren, S. B., Myhre, G., Berntsen, T. K., Folberth, G. A., Rumbold, S. T.,
Collins, W. J., MacKenzie, I. A., Doherty, R. M., Zeng, G., van Noije, T. P. C., Strunk, A., Bergmann, D., Cameron-Smith, P., Plummer, D. A., Strode, S. A., Horowitz, L., Lee, Y. H., Szopa, S., Sudo, K., Nagashima, T., Josse, B., Cionni, I., Righi, M., Eyring, V., Conley, A., Bowman, K. W., Wild, O., and Archibald, A.: Tropospheric ozone changes, radiative forcing and attribution to emissions in the Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model Intercomparison Project (ACCMIP), Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 3063–3085, doi:10.5194/acp-13-3063-2013, 2013.

21134

Stockwell, W. R., Middleton, P., Chang, J. S., and Tang, X.: The second generation regional acid deposition model chemical mechanism for regional air quality modeling, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 95, 16343–16367, doi:10.1029/JD095iD10p16343, 1990.

21138

Thompson, G., Field, P. R., Rasmussen, R. M., and Hall, W. D.: Explicit forecasts of winter precipitation using an improved bulk microphysics scheme. part ii: implementation of a new snow parameterization, Mon. Weather Rev., 136, 5095–5115, doi:10.1175/2008MWR2387.1, 2008.

21163

Tiwari, Y. K., Patra, P. K., Chevallier, F., Francey, R. J., Krummel, P. B., Allison, C. E., Ravindran, J. V., Chakraborty, S., Langenfelds, R. L., Bhattacharyya, S. K., Borole, D. V., Ravi Kumar, K., and Paul Steele, L.: Carbon dioxide observations at Cape Rama, India for the period 1993–2002: implications for constraining Indian emissions, Curr. Sci. India, 101, 1562–1568, 2011.

21142

Torres, O., Chen, Z., Jethva, H., Ahn, C., Freitas, S. R., and Bhartia, P. K.: OMI and MODIS observations of the anomalous 2008–2009 Southern Hemisphere biomass burning seasons, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 3505–3513, doi:10.5194/acp-10-3505-2010, 2010.

21150

Wang, W., Bruyère, C., Duda, M., Dudhia, J., Gill, D., Kavulich, M., Keene, K., Lin, H.-C., Michalakes, J., Rizvi, S., and Zhang, X.: ARW Version 3 Modeling System User’s Guide, Chapter 3: WRF Preprocessing System (WPS), NCAR, Boulder, USA, 59–60, 2014.

21137

WHO: Health Aspects of Air Pollution with Particulate Matter, Ozone and Nitrogen Dioxide, Publisher WHO, Rep. EUR/03/5042688, Bonn, 2003.

21134

Wiedinmyer, C., Akagi, S. K., Yokelson, R. J., Emmons, L. K., Al-Saadi, J. A., Orlando, J. J., and Soja, A. J.: The Fire INventory from NCAR (FINN): a high resolution global model to estimate the emissions from open burning, Geosci. Model Dev., 4, 625–641, doi:10.5194/gmd-4-625-2011, 2011.
Worden, H. M., Deeter, M. N., Edwards, D. P., Gille, J. C., Drummond, J. R., and Nédélec, P.: Observations of near-surface carbon monoxide from space using MOPITT multispectral retrievals, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 115, D18314, doi:10.1029/2010JD014242, 2010. 21142

Yoon, J. and Pozzer, A.: Model-simulated trend of surface carbon monoxide for the 2001–2010 decade, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14, 10465–10482, doi:10.5194/acp-14-10465-2014, 2014. 21142, 21146

Yoon, J., Pozzer, A., Hoor, P., Chang, D. Y., Beirle, S., Wagner, T., Schloegl, S., Lelieveld, J., and Worden, H. M.: Technical Note: Temporal change in averaging kernels as a source of uncertainty in trend estimates of carbon monoxide retrieved from MOPITT, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 11307–11316, doi:10.5194/acp-13-11307-2013, 2013. 21141

Zahn, A., Weppner, J., Widmann, H., Schlote-Holubek, K., Burger, B., Kühner, T., and Franke, H.: A fast and precise chemiluminescence ozone detector for eddy flux and airborne application, Atmos. Meas. Tech., 5, 363–375, doi:10.5194/amt-5-363-2012, 2012. 21141
### Table 1. The WRF-Chem options used in the present study.

| Atmospheric Process                  | Option used                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cloud microphysics                   | Thompson microphysics scheme (Thompson et al., 2008)                        |
| Longwave radiation                   | Rapid Radiative Transfer Model (RRTM) (Mlawer et al., 1997)                 |
| Shortwave radiation                  | Goddard shortwave scheme (Chou and Suarez, 1994)                            |
| Surface Layer                        | Monin–Obukhov scheme (Janjic, 1996)                                        |
| Land-surface option                  | Noah Land Surface Model (Chen and Dudhia, 2001)                             |
| Urban surface physics                | Urban Canopy Model                                                          |
| Planetary boundary layer             | Mellor–Yamada–Janjic scheme (Janjic, 2002)                                  |
| Cumulus parametrization              | New Grell scheme (G3)                                                       |
| Gas Phase chemistry                  | RADM2                                                                       |
| Aerosol module                       | MADE SORGAM                                                                 |
**Table 2.** Description of WRF-Chem simulations performed for this study.

| Simulation Name | Description |
|-----------------|-------------|
| (1) Std         | WRF-Chem simulations driven by MOZART4/GEOS5 boundary conditions. No factor on boundary conditions or emissions. This simulation is used as the standard WRF-Chem run for this study. |
| (2) 1.5×_EM     | The anthropogenic emissions of CO over the entire South Asian domain have been increased by 50%, everything else fixed same as for Std. |
| (3) 1.25×_BDY   | CO in MOZART-GEOS5 boundary conditions increased by 25% over a region at the western boundary of the domain, as shown in Fig. 10, everything else fixed same as for Std. |
### Table A1. Abbreviations/Acronym.

| Abbreviation | Description |
|--------------|-------------|
| ARCTAS:      | Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites |
| CARIBIC:     | Civil Aircraft for the Regular Investigation of the Atmosphere Based on an Instrument Container |
| CFL:         | Courant-Friedrichs-Levy |
| EDGAR:       | Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research |
| EMEP:        | European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme |
| EPA:         | Environmental Protection Agency |
| EOS:         | Earth Observing System |
| FNL GFS:     | Final analysis Global Forecast System |
| GEOS5:       | Goddard Earth Observing System Model, Version 5 |
| GOCART:      | Goddard Chemistry Aerosol Radiation and Transport |
| HYSPLIT:     | Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory |
| HTAP:        | Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution |
| IGP:         | Indo-Gangetic Plain |
| MADE:        | Modal Aerosol Dynamics Model for Europe |
| MATCH-MPIC:  | Model of Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry – Max Planck Institute for Chemistry version |
| MERRA:       | Modern Era-Retrospective Analysis for Research and Applications |
| MICS:        | Model Intercomparison Study |
| MOPITT:      | Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere |
| MOZART:      | Model for OZone and Related chemical Tracers |
| NCEP:        | National Centers for Environmental Prediction |
| NCAR:        | National Center for Atmospheric Research |
| RADM2:       | Regional Acid deposition Model Second Generation |
| REAS:        | Regional Emission inventory in ASia |
| RMSE:        | Root Mean Square Deviation |
| SORGAM:      | Secondary Organic Aerosol Model |
| WRF-Chem:    | Weather Research and Forecasting with Chemistry |
Figure 1. (a) The simulation domain of WRF-Chem covering the South Asian region at a spatial resolution of 30 km × 30 km, including topography map. (b) Anthropogenic emissions of CO over the South Asian region for June 2008 from the HTAP v2.2 emission inventory. The location of Chennai (CHE) is shown over which the profiles have been measured as a part of the CARIBIC program. Cape Rama (CR) and Gadanki (GAD) are two additional sites for which ground-based measurements have been used.
Figure 2. Comparison of Ozone and Carbon Monoxide profiles from WRF-Chem simulations (Std, red lines) with the CARIBIC observations (blue lines) during June, July, August and September 2008. Model output has been spatially and temporally interpolated along the CARIBIC flight tracks. Only data collected during the aircraft descent is shown here (see Sect. 4.1.1 for details).
Figure 3. Comparison of monthly average ozone and carbon monoxide profiles from standard WRF-Chem simulations (Std) with the CARIBIC observations during June, July, August and September 2008. Numbers in brackets denote the number of observational profiles in the respective month. Model output has been spatially and temporally interpolated along the CARIBIC flight tracks.
Figure 4. Comparison of monthly average CO from WRF-Chem simulations (Std) with the MOPITT retrievals over Chennai during the four months of the summer monsoon period of the year 2008. The MOPITT averaging kernel and the a priori profile have been applied to the WRF-Chem output, denoted by Std (AK).
Figure 5. Spatial distribution of monthly average surface ozone and CO (nmol mol$^{-1}$) from WRF-Chem simulations (Std) during June, July, August and September 2008. The locations of two surface sites, Cape Rama (CR) and Gadanki (GAD), are also shown.
Figure 6. Comparison of WRF-Chem simulated surface ozone and CO with the ground-based measurements at Gadanki (79.2° E, 13.5° N) (Naja and Lal, 2002) and Cape Rama (73.8° E, 15.1° N). Open green symbols for Gadanki show observations from another study (Renuka et al., 2014).
Figure 7. Monthly average vertical profile of CO over Chennai during June from Std and 1.5×_EM Simulations. The resulting enhancement in CO is also indicated in percentages along the right axis.
Figure 8. HYSPLIT simulated 10 days backward air trajectories at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 km a.s.l. over Chennai for the CARIBIC measurement days. Different colors of trajectories correspond to different starting altitude over Chennai for the trajectory simulations.
Figure 9. Residence time of air masses over the southern Indian region on all CARIBIC measurement days calculated from the back-trajectories at 2 and 4 km above Chennai. The mean pressure along the trajectory over southern India is also shown.
Figure 10. Spatial distribution of CO at 810 hPa from MOZART GEOS5 boundary condition data on a typical day (18 June 2008 at 18:00 GMT). The WRF-Chem simulation domain is shown as the dotted box. The CO mixing ratios over part of the western boundary, shown by the thick solid box, have been increased by 25% in the simulation $1.25 \times \text{BDY}$. 
Figure 11. Sensitivity analysis of WRF-Chem simulated CO profiles to the chemical boundary conditions. Standard CO profiles are compared with the simulation driven by 25% higher CO at the western boundary of the domain as shown in Fig. 10. Results from 50% higher CO emissions over the whole domain (1.5 × EM) are also shown for comparison. Numbers in brackets denote the number of observational profiles in the respective month.