

We would like to thank the reviewer for the review that has enabled us to improve our manuscript; our responses to the review points and comments are found below.

General Comments

Review Point 1: Generally, the paper needs clearer focus and to supply more model details/results/discussion pertinent to this focus. While the stated goal is to assess the temperature dependence of ozone chemistry as a function of NO_x, at the end, I am not exactly sure what new has been learned. Really, what I think is missing is just a dedicated discussion section, the ‘Results’ read like a true results section, rather than combined results and discussion, so it is difficult for the reader to understand the significance of the calculations.

Author Response: We thank the reviewer for communicating these concerns. In order to address these concerns, we have updated each subsection in the ‘Results and Discussion’ section to include further discussion. The changes to the manuscript are detailed in the responses to the review comments on each subsection below.

Review Point 2: The reasons behind the ozone impacts from temperature-dependent reaction rates are unclear because it is not stated explicitly what this term includes. If I understand correctly, only temperature-dependent reaction rates, $k(T)$, are being tested (page 4, lines 16). Generally, the model description does not give the reader sufficient information to understand what causes the changes reported in Table 2. For example, the text states the RONO₂ formation is temperature dependent, at least in some mechanisms, but does this refer to the RONO₂ branching ratio?

Author Response: The reviewer is correct in saying that only temperature-dependent reaction rates, $k(T)$, are tested in our study. In Sect. 2.1 (Page 4, Line 2), the temperature-dependent processes included in the chemical mechanisms are presented. We have clarified that the branching ratio of RONO₂ formation is not represented as a temperature-dependent process by any chemical mechanism by adding the following text to the manuscript at Page 4, Line 6: *Furthermore, none of the chemical mechanisms in our study represent the RONO₂ branching ratio as a temperature dependent process. Laboratory experiments have shown the temperature dependence of the RONO₂ branching ratio for some VOCs (Atkinson et al., 1987) but generally RONO₂ chemistry is not well known (Pusede et al., 2015) and this level of detail is not represented by the chemical mechanisms. Before chemical mechanisms can include the temperature-dependence of the RONO₂ branching ratio, further research is required.*

Review Point 3: It is interesting to see how the five different mechanisms capture these effects; however, there is little discussion of what is learned about the different mechanisms by testing them in this way. Can the last paragraph of Sect. 3.1 be expanded? Also, I have difficulty discerning differences between panels in Fig. 2. Is there a way to highlight key differences here? Regarding Fig. 3, something has been lost in translation - there are some floating numbers in the upper left corner of the top-left panel, but the different colors are not labeled, either in the text or caption. I deduce that green is CB05, purple is MCM3.2, blue is MOZART-4, and orange and yellow are each either RADM2 or CRIv2. I would be interested to read more, not just about what causes the differences between the curves, but also the

implications for studying air quality and chemistry. Finally, the NO_x regime distinction is derived from each individual model's H₂O₂:HNO₃. Why not simply use the shape of simulated PO₃ versus NO_x. A missing piece of information is whether maximal O₃ - at different temperatures - occurs at the same NO_x level in each mechanism. Differences in the NO_x level of maximal O₃ for different mechanisms have consequences for air quality decision-making.

Author Response: We thank the reviewer for the comments on Sect. 3.1 of the manuscript and have made changes to the manuscript based on these points. Figure 2 has been updated with a subfigure (Fig. 2b) displaying the relative differences in ozone mixing ratios in each chemical mechanism at each temperature, NO_x condition from the MCMv3.2 when using a temperature-independent and temperature-dependent source of isoprene emissions. Based on this figure, a discussion of the differences between the chemical mechanisms is included in the manuscript (Page 5, Line 26): *As shown in Fig. 2b, regions of high temperatures and high NO_x emissions generally lead to the largest inter-mechanism differences between ozone mixing ratios using reduced chemical mechanisms from the MCMv3.2 (up to 13 %). These differences in peak ozone mixing ratio produced from the reduced chemical mechanisms compared with the MCMv3.2 in each NO_x condition are consistent with Fig. 3 (described below) where RADM2 and CB05 generally produced higher ozone levels than the MCMv3.2. Also consistent with Fig. 3, CRIv2 produced the most similar amounts of ozone to the MCMv3.2 in each NO_x condition whereas MOZART-4 tended to produce lower ozone mixing ratios than the MCMv3.2 in High-NO_x conditions. In Fig. 3, a maximum difference of 10 ppbv between ozone mixing ratios produced using the chemical mechanisms is reached at 40 °C in the High-NO_x state when using both a temperature-independent and temperature-dependent source of isoprene emissions.*

The issue with the display of the figures appears to be an issue with the default pdfviewer of the Chrome browser, downloading the file from the default pdfviewer in Chrome does not correct this issue. Opening the ACPD pdf using the Firefox browser and a pdfviewer extension of the Chrome browser (Kami) solves the issue and the manuscript is displayed as intended by the authors. We shall ensure that the updated manuscript does display correctly with the default pdfviewer in Chrome.

We used the H₂O₂:HNO₃ ratio to assign a NO_x regime as this has been used previously in other studies for this purpose, we have updated the manuscript to include examples. Sect. 3.1 (Page 6, Line 1) was updated: *This ratio was used by Sillman (1995) and Staffelbach et al. (1997) to designate ozone to NO_x regimes based on NO_x and VOC levels.*

The manuscript (Page 6, Line 17) was also updated to include further discussion on the NO_x emission required for the Maximal-O₃ regime with each chemical mechanism, to aid this discussion a new figure was generated and included in the updated supplementary material: *The NO_x emissions required for maximum ozone production (the contour ridges in Fig. 2a) at each temperature is displayed in Fig. 1 of the supplementary material. This figure illustrates that RADM2 and CB05 require higher NO_x emissions than the MCMv3.2 to achieve maximum ozone production at each temperature for both a temperature-independent and temperature-dependent source of isoprene emissions. At 20 °C, maximum ozone production is reached with ~ 30 % more NO_x emissions using CB05 and RADM2 than the MCMv3.2 with a temperature-independent and temperature-dependent source of isoprene emissions. The CRIv2 and*

MOZART-4 chemical mechanisms require very similar NO_x emissions to the MCMv3.2 at each temperature to produce maximum levels of ozone. Thus when modelling the air quality over a particular region using RADM2 and CB05, these mechanisms would simulate more NO_x -sensitive chemistry than the MCMv3.2, CRIV2 and MOZART-4 chemical mechanisms for the same conditions (i.e. emissions, meteorology and radiation). These differences in the ozone production regime using different chemical mechanisms highlight the need for air quality studies to assess the chemical scheme used by the model, otherwise differing mitigation strategies may be proposed.

Review Point 4: Provide a statement as to why the ozone production and consumption budget is informative for understanding the temperature dependence of ozone, i.e. what is gained compared to thinking about production alone. Also, can an equation be provided for the production and consumption budgeting? This section is in need of discussion and summary. There are many panels in Fig. 4 and it is not obvious to me what the take-away point(s) are.

Author Response: We agree with these review points and have provided additional information about the analysis of ozone production and consumption budgets, including equations and further description of how Fig. 4 was obtained. Section 3.2 of the manuscript (Page 7, Line 1) was updated: *Since chemical reactions contributing to both production and consumption of O_x ($\equiv O_3 + NO_2 + O(^1D) + O$) have temperature-dependent rate constants, we analysed the production and consumption budgets of O_x to determine the temperature-dependent chemical processes controlling the increase of ozone with temperature which was shown in Fig. 3. The O_x budgets displayed in Fig. 4 are assigned to each NO_x regime for each chemical mechanism and source of isoprene emissions. The net production or consumption of O_x is also indicated in Fig. 4.*

Figure 4 was obtained by determining the chemical reactions producing and consuming O_x and then allocating these reactions to important categories. Reactions of peroxy radicals with NO produce O_x and the peroxy radicals are divided into ‘HO2’, ‘RO2’, ‘ARO2’ categories representing the reactions of NO with HO_2 , alkyl peroxy radicals and acyl peroxy radicals respectively. Thus at each time step the O_x production rate is given by

$$k_{HO_2+NO}[HO_2][NO] + \sum_i k_{RO_2,i+NO}[RO_{2,i}][NO] + \sum_j k_{ARO_{2,j}+NO}[ARO_{2,j}][NO] \quad (1)$$

for each alkyl peroxy radical i and acyl peroxy radical j . The net contributions of peroxy nitrates, inorganic reactions and any other remaining organic reactions to the O_x budget are represented by the ‘RO2NO2’, ‘Inorganic’ and ‘Other Organic’ categories in Fig. 4. The net contributions of these categories to the O_x budget was calculated by subtracting the consumption rate from the production rate of the reactions contributing to each category. For example, peroxy nitrates produce O_x when thermally decomposing or reacting with OH and consume O_x when produced. Hence, at each time step the net contribution of RO2NO2 to the O_x budget was calculated by

$$\sum_k k_{RO_2NO_{2,k}}[RO_2NO_{2,k}] + \sum_k k_{RO_2NO_{2,k}+OH}[RO_2NO_{2,k}][OH] - \sum_k k_{RO_{2,k}+NO_2}[RO_{2,k}][NO_2] \quad (2)$$

for each peroxy nitrate species k . The cumulative day-time budgets were calculated by summing the net contributions of the reaction rates of each category over the day-time period. The ratio of net ozone to net O_x production was practically constant with temperature in all cases showing that using O_x budgets as a proxy for ozone budgets was suitable at each temperature in our study.

The main results of the section are summarised and discussed in the final paragraph of Sect. 3.2 (Page 8) of the updated manuscript: *Our results indicate that increased VOC reactivity due to faster rate constants for the reaction with OH and the decomposition rate of peroxy nitrates are the temperature-dependent chemical processes leading to increased production of O_x with temperature. Out of these two chemical processes, the increased VOC reactivity with OH with temperature had a larger influence on the increase of O_x production with temperature. These results are consistent between each chemical mechanism and each NO_x condition.*

Review Point 5: Before the authors talk about mixing, the WRF-CHEM and box MOZART- 4 results should be compared directly and discussed. The importance of atmospheric mixing appears for the first time in Section 3.3, at which time, the paper states it is the most important term in mO_3-T . At this stage in the manuscript, I am left wondering what is this paper actually about. How does Section 3.3 relate to the previous two sections? A subsequent discussion would be helpful.

Author Response: We thank the reviewer for these comments on Sect. 3.3, we have updated the introductory part of this section to include further details of the motivations of the analysis and also discuss the use of the metric of mO_3-T for comparing the box model, observations and WRF-Chem output. Furthermore the box model simulations looking at the effect of mixing on the increase of ozone with temperature are discussed in more detail. Accordingly, Section 3.3 (Page 8, Line 5) of the manuscript was updated: *The final step in our study was to compare how well our idealised box model simulations represent the real-world relationship between ozone and temperature. Firstly, we compared the box model simulations to the interpolated observations of the maximum daily 8 h mean (MDA8) of ozone from Schnell et al. (2015) and the meteorological data of the ERA-Interim re-analysis (Dee et al., 2011). Using this data set, Otero et al. (2016) showed that temperature is the main meteorological driver of ozone production during the summer (JJA) months over many regions of central Europe. A further test was to compare the box model simulations to the output from a regional 3D model as 3D models include explicit representations of transport and mixing processes which influence ozone production, and which are not well represented in our box model. We used the WRF-Chem 3D model set-up over the European domain to simulate ozone production in the year 2007 using MOZART-4 chemistry, further details are described in Mar et al. (2016).*

Directly comparing the ozone mixing ratios from our idealised box model simulations to the WRF-Chem output is difficult due to significant differences in the setups of the models. For example, WRF-Chem used gas-phase and aerosol chemistry whereas our box model setup used only gas-phase chemistry, also the treatment of photolysis and VOC and NO_x emissions differ between our box model and WRF-Chem. In addition to this, to include the effects of transport and mixing, the box model includes a simple mixing term representing the entrainment of clean free tropospheric air into the growing daytime boundary layer. Out of the meteorological conditions not represented by our box model, stagnation could have the largest

influence on the increase of ozone with temperature Stagnant atmospheric conditions are characterised by low wind speeds slowing the transport of ozone and its precursors away from sources and have been correlated with high-ozone episodes in the summer over eastern US (Jacob et al., 1993). In order to investigate the sensitivity of ozone production to mixing, further box model simulations were performed without mixing approximating stagnant conditions.

Figure 5 compares the ERA-Interim reanalysis and WRF-Chem data from summer 2007 averaged over central and eastern Germany, where summertime ozone values are driven by temperature (Otero et al., 2016), to the MDA8 values of ozone from the box model simulations for each chemical mechanism with mixing (solid lines) and without mixing (dotted lines). We compare the rate of change of ozone with temperature (m_{O_3-T}) between the box model, WRF-Chem and ERA-Interim reanalysis data. This metric has been used to quantify future ozone pollution due to the warmer temperatures predicted by climate change (Dawson et al., 2007; Rasmussen et al., 2013) and is discussed further in the review of Pusede et al. (2015). m_{O_3-T} is calculated as the linear slope of the increase of ozone with temperature in ppbv of ozone per °C. Polluted areas have larger m_{O_3-T} values than rural areas corresponding to the High- NO_x and Low- NO_x conditions simulated in our study. Table 3 summarises the calculated slopes of the box model simulations displayed in Fig. 5.

The final paragraph of Sect. 3.3 in the manuscript (Page 9, Line 4) was updated and additional discussion was included: Analysis of the O_x budgets, similar to that presented in Sect. 3.2, shows an increase in absolute net production of O_x when simulating stagnant conditions compared to simulations including mixing (Fig. 4a). Moreover, the O_x budgets normalised by the chemical loss rate of VOC for the simulations without mixing show no appreciable difference to the simulations including mixing (Fig. 4b). This analysis is displayed in the supplementary material and is consistent for each chemical mechanism and each NO_x condition. Thus we conclude that the increased ozone production seen in the box model simulations with reduced mixing is due to enhanced OH reactivity from secondary VOC oxidation products.

A slower rate of increase of ozone with temperature with our box model was obtained compared to the rate of increase of ozone with temperature of observational and 3D model simulations. The reason for this discrepancy was that the box model did not represent stagnation conditions which are relevant to real-world conditions. The lack of mixing meant that secondary VOC oxidation products were allowed to accumulate, leading to further degradation and increased production of peroxy radicals compared with simulations including mixing. Thus the chemical processes driving the increase of ozone with temperature determined in Sect. 3.2 (faster VOC oxidation and peroxy nitrate decomposition) are not altered by stagnant condition but proceed at a faster rate. Thus during stagnant conditions, stronger reductions in NO_x are required to minimise the impact of increased ozone production at higher temperatures on the urban population.

Minor Comments:

Minor Comments 1: More information should be provided in the introduction. The three sentences in the papers first paragraph do not really follow logically. I am not familiar with the Otero paper and this single-sentence description does not stand on its own temperature was shown to be a driver of which

process?

Author Response: We thank the reviewer for this comment and have updated the introduction (Page 1, Line 21): *In particular, heatwaves, characterised by high temperatures and stagnant meteorological conditions, are correlated with high ozone levels as was the case during the European heatwave in 2003 (Solberg et al., 2008; Vautard et al., 2005).*

Minor Comments 2: Fig. 2: The ozone contours are labeled left to right: 5, 50, 55, 0, 5, 0, 5. The y-axis reads: 10, 10, 30, 50. On the x-axis, the 4 of 40 has been lost.

Author Response: As discussed in the answer to Review Point 3, the issue with figures appears to be a problem with the default pdfviewer of the Chrome browser. We shall ensure that the updated manuscript does display correctly with the default pdfviewer in Chrome.

Minor Comments 3: Fig. 5: The majority of measured O₃ data are found at lower temperatures, so fitting the calculated O₃ with a straight line across the whole temperature range may not be representative.

Author Response: We agree with the reviewer that a linear regression may not be the best choice for the observation. However, as a metric m_{O_3-T} , defined as the linear slope of the increase of ozone with temperature, was the most appropriate with which to compare the observations not only to other studies but also to the box model and WRF-Chem output. The manuscript was updated as outlined in the response to Review Point 5 and Page 8, Line 14 was also updated to compare m_{O_3-T} of the observational data to that from other studies: *The linear slope of the observational data indicates an increase of 2.15 ppbv ozone per °C, this is comparable to the increase of ozone with temperature from other recent studies over urban areas: 2.2 ppbv/°C obtained over the Northeast US (Rasmussen et al., 2013) and Milan, Italy (2.8 ppbv/°C, Baertsch-Ritter et al. (2004)).*

Minor Comments 4: Fig. 5: y-axis reads 25, 50, 5, 100, 125; on the x-axis, the 4 of 40 has been lost.

Author Response: See response to Minor Comments 2.

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