



1 Concentrations and radiative forcing of anthropogenic aerosols from 1750-2014  
2 simulated with the OsloCTM3 and CEDS emission inventory

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28 Abstract

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30 We document the ability of the new generation Oslo chemistry-transport model, OsloCTM3, to  
31 accurately simulate present-day aerosol distributions. The model is then used with the new  
32 Community Emission Data System (CEDS) historical emission inventory to provide updated time  
33 series of anthropogenic aerosol concentrations and consequent direct radiative forcing (RFari)  
34 from 1750 to 2014.

35 Overall, the OsloCTM3 performs well compared with measurements of surface concentrations and  
36 remotely sensed aerosol optical depth. Concentrations are underestimated in Asia, but the higher  
37 emissions in CEDS than previous inventories result in improvements compared to observations.  
38 The black carbon (BC) treatment in OsloCTM3 gives better agreement with observed vertical BC  
39 profiles relative to the predecessor OsloCTM2. However, Arctic wintertime BC concentrations  
40 remain underestimated, and a range of sensitivity tests indicate that better physical understanding  
41 of processes associated with atmospheric BC processing is required to simultaneously reproduce  
42 both the observed features. Uncertainties in model input data, resolution and scavenging affects  
43 the distribution of all aerosols species, especially at high latitudes and altitudes. However, we find  
44 no evidence of consistently better model performance across all observables and regions in the  
45 sensitivity tests than in the baseline configuration.

46 Using CEDS, we estimate a total net RFari in 2014 relative to 1750 of  $-0.17 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , significantly  
47 weaker than the IPCC AR5 2010-1750 estimate. Differences are attributable to several factors,  
48 including stronger absorption by organic aerosol, updated parameterization of BC absorption, and  
49 reduced sulfate cooling. The trend towards a weaker RFari over recent years is more pronounced  
50 than in the IPCC AR5, illustrating the importance of capturing recent regional emission changes.

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## 62 1 Introduction

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64 Changes in anthropogenic emissions over the industrial period have significantly altered the  
65 abundance, composition and properties of atmospheric aerosols, causing a change in the radiative  
66 energy balance. The net energy balance change is determined by a complex interplay of different  
67 types of aerosols and their interactions with radiation and clouds, causing both positive (warming)  
68 and negative (cooling) radiative impacts. Global aerosols were estimated by the Intergovernmental  
69 Panel on Climate Change fifth assessment report (IPCC AR5) to have caused a total effective  
70 radiative forcing (ERF) of  $-0.9 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  over the industrial era from 1750 to 2011, but with  
71 considerable uncertainty ( $-1.9$  to  $-0.1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) [Boucher *et al.*, 2013].

72 This large uncertainty range arises from a number of factors, including uncertainties in emissions  
73 and atmospheric aerosol distributions. Historical emission estimates for anthropogenic aerosol and  
74 precursor compounds are key data needed for climate and atmospheric chemistry transport models  
75 in order to examine how these drivers have contributed to climate change. The historical emission  
76 data set used in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5), important for the  
77 IPCC AR5 forcing estimates, covered the period up to 2000. The Community Emissions Data  
78 System (CEDS) recently published a new time series of emissions from 1750 to 2014, which will  
79 be used in the upcoming CMIP6. CEDS includes several improvements over previous inventories,  
80 including annual temporal resolution with seasonal cycles, consistent methodology between  
81 different species, and extending the time series to more recent years [Hoesly *et al.*, 2018]. During  
82 the period from 2000 to 2014, global emissions of black carbon (BC) and organic carbon (OC)  
83 have increased, while nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions have been relatively constant after 2008,  
84 and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions were back at 2000 levels in 2014, after a temporary increase  
85 [Hoesly *et al.*, 2018]. Furthermore, both CEDS and other recent emission inventories report  
86 considerably higher estimates of global BC and OC emissions in recent years than earlier  
87 inventories [Granier *et al.*, 2011; Klimont *et al.*, 2017; Lamarque *et al.*, 2010; Wang *et al.*, 2014].  
88 The global trend in emissions is driven by a strong increase in emissions from Asia and Africa,  
89 and a decline in North America and Europe. Capturing such geographical differences is essential,  
90 as the distribution, lifetime and radiative forcing of aerosols depend on their location.

91 The diversity in radiative forcing (RF) estimates also stems from uncertainties in the simulated  
92 spatiotemporal distribution of aerosols, their chemical composition and properties. After emission  
93 or formation, particles undergo transport, mixing, chemical aging and removal by dry and wet  
94 deposition, resulting in a short atmospheric lifetime, and a highly heterogeneous distribution in  
95 space and time. Consequently, accurate representation of the observed aerosol distributions  
96 remains challenging. Previous studies have shown that considerable diversity exist between global  
97 models. Bian *et al.* [2017] found that the atmospheric burden of nitrate aerosols differ by a factor  
98 of 13 between the models in AeroCom Phase III, caused by differences in both chemical and



99 deposition processes. A smaller, but still considerable, model spread in the simulated burden of  
100 organic aerosols (OA) from 0.6-3.8 Tg was found by *Tsigaridis et al.* [2014]. It was also shown  
101 that OA concentrations on average were underestimated. There has been particular focus on BC  
102 aerosols over recent years. Multi-model studies have shown variations in global BC burden and  
103 lifetime up to a factor of 4-5 [*Lee et al.*, 2013; *Samset et al.*, 2014]. Previous comparisons of  
104 modeled BC distributions with observations have also pointed to two distinct features common to  
105 many models: an overestimation of high altitude concentrations at low- to mid-latitudes and  
106 discrepancies in the magnitude and seasonal cycle of high-latitude surface concentrations (e.g.,  
107 [*Eckhardt et al.*, 2015; *Lee et al.*, 2013; *Samset et al.*, 2014; *Schwarz et al.*, 2013]).

108 Changes to one or more of the abovementioned processes may have considerable impact on the  
109 simulated concentrations, and propagates to uncertainties in estimates of both RF and climate  
110 impact. A number of recent studies have investigated possible factors controlling the BC  
111 distribution, focusing on aging and wet scavenging processes (e.g., [*Bourgeois and Bey*, 2011;  
112 *Browse et al.*, 2012; *Fan et al.*, 2012; *Hodnebrog et al.*, 2014; *Kipling et al.*, 2013; *Lund et al.*,  
113 2017; *Mahmood et al.*, 2016]), resulting in notable improvements, at least for specific regions or  
114 observational data sets. With a few notable exceptions (e.g., [*Kipling et al.*, 2016]), fewer studies  
115 have focused on a broader set of aerosol species or the combined impact in terms of total aerosol  
116 optical depth (AOD).

117 Here we use the CEDS historical emission inventory as input to the chemistry-transport model  
118 OsloCTM3 to quantify the change in atmospheric concentrations over the period of 1750 to 2014.  
119 The OsloCTM3 is an update of the OsloCTM2, and includes several key changes compared to its  
120 predecessor. The significant existing model spread and sensitivity to process parameterizations  
121 underlines the need for careful and updated documentation of new model versions, and the  
122 increasing amount of available measurement data allows for improved evaluation. Before the  
123 model is used to quantify historical time series, we therefore evaluate the simulated present-day  
124 aerosol concentrations and optical depth against a range of observations. To get a first-order  
125 overview of how uncertainties in key processes and parameters affect the atmospheric abundance  
126 and distribution of aerosols in the OsloCTM3, we perform a range of sensitivity simulations. In  
127 addition to changes in the scavenging (solubility) assumptions, runs are performed with different  
128 emission inventories, horizontal resolution, and meteorological data. The impact on individual  
129 species and total AOD, as well as on the model performance compared with observations, is  
130 investigated. Finally, we present updated estimates of the historical evolution of radiative forcing  
131 due to aerosol-radiation interactions from pre-industrial to present, taking into account recent  
132 literature on aerosol optical properties. Section 2 describes the model and methods, while results  
133 are presented in Sect. 3 and discussed in Sect. 4. The conclusions are given in Sect. 5.

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135 2 Methods

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## 137 2.1 OsloCTM3

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139 The OsloCTM3 is a global 3-dimensional chemistry-transport model driven by 3-hourly  
140 meteorological forecast data [Søvde *et al.*, 2012]. The OsloCTM3 has evolved from its predecessor  
141 OsloCTM2 and includes several updates to the convection, advection, photodissociation and  
142 scavenging schemes. Compared with OsloCTM2, the OsloCTM3 has a faster transport scheme, an  
143 improved wet scavenging scheme for large scale precipitation, updated photolysis rates and a new  
144 lightning parameterization. The main updates and subsequent effects on gas-phase chemistry were  
145 described in detail in Søvde *et al.* [2012]. Here we document the aerosols in OsloCTM3, including  
146 BC, primary and secondary organic aerosols (POA, SOA), sulfate, nitrate, dust and sea salt. The  
147 aerosol modules in OsloCTM3 are generally inherited and updated from OsloCTM2. The  
148 following paragraph briefly describes the parameterizations, including updates new to this work.

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150 The carbonaceous aerosol module was first introduced by *Berntsen et al.* [2006] and has later been  
151 updated with snow deposition diagnostics [*Skeie et al.*, 2011]. The module is a bulk scheme, with  
152 aerosols characterized by total mass and aging represented by transfer from hydrophobic to  
153 hydrophilic mode at a constant rate. In the early model versions, this constant rate was given by a  
154 global exponential decay of 1.15 days. More recently, latitudinal and seasonal variation in transfer  
155 rates based on simulations with the microphysical aerosol parameterization M7 were included  
156 [*Lund and Berntsen*, 2012; *Skeie et al.*, 2011]. Previous to this study, additional M7 simulations  
157 have been performed to include a finer spatial and temporal resolution in these transfer rates. In  
158 OsloCTM3 the carbonaceous aerosols from fossil fuel and biofuel combustion are treated  
159 separately, allowing us to capture differences in optical properties in subsequent radiative transfer  
160 calculations (Sect. 2.4). In contrast to the OsloCTM2, OsloCTM3 treats organic matter (OM)  
161 instead of OC. If emissions are given as OC, a factor of 1.6 for anthropogenic emissions and 2.6  
162 for biomass burning sources is used for the OC-to-OM conversion. Upon emission, 20% of BC is  
163 assumed to be hydrophilic and 80% hydrophobic, while a 50/50 split is assumed for OM. An  
164 additional update in this work is the inclusion of marine primary organic aerosols following the  
165 methodology by *Gantt et al.* [2015], where emissions are determined by production of sea spray  
166 aerosols and oceanic chlorophyll A. Monthly concentrations of chlorophyll A from the same year  
167 as the meteorological data is taken from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer  
168 (MODIS; available from [https://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/dataproduct/chlor\\_a.php](https://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/dataproduct/chlor_a.php)), while sea spray  
169 aerosols are simulated by the OsloCTM3 sea salt module. The climatological annual mean total  
170 emission of marine OM is scaled to 6.3 Tg based on *Gantt et al.* [2015].

171 The formation, transport and deposition of SOA are parameterized as described by *Hoyle et al.*  
172 [2007]. A two product model (*Hoffmann et al.*, 1997) is used to represent the oxidation products  
173 of the precursor hydrocarbons and their aerosol forming properties. Precursor hydrocarbons which  
174 are oxidized to form condensable species include both biogenic species such as terpenes and  
175 isoprene, as well as species emitted predominantly by anthropogenic activities (toluene, m-xylene,



176 methylbenzene and other aromatics). The gas/aerosol partitioning of semi-volatile inorganic  
177 aerosols is treated with a thermodynamic model [Myhre *et al.*, 2006]. The chemical equilibrium  
178 between inorganic species (ammonium, sodium, sulfate, nitrate and chlorine) is simulated with the  
179 Equilibrium Simplified Aerosol model (EQSAM) [Metzger *et al.*, 2002a; Metzger *et al.*, 2002b].  
180 The aerosols are assumed to be metastable, internally mixed and obey thermodynamic gas/aerosol  
181 equilibrium. Nitrate and ammonium aerosols are represented by a fine mode, associated with sulfur,  
182 and a coarse mode associated with sea salt, and it is assumed that sulfate and sea salt do not interact  
183 through chemical equilibrium [Myhre *et al.*, 2006]. The sulfur cycle chemistry scheme and  
184 aqueous-phase oxidation is described by Berglen *et al.* [2004].

185

186 The sea salt module originally introduced by Grini *et al.* [2002] has been updated with a new  
187 production parameterization following recommendations by Witek *et al.* [2016]. Using satellite  
188 retrievals, Witek *et al.* (2016) evaluated different sea spray aerosol emission parametrizations and  
189 found the best agreement with the emission function from Sofiev *et al.* [2011] including the sea  
190 surface temperature adjustment from Jaeglé *et al.* [2011]. Compared to the previous scheme, the  
191 global production of sea salt is reduced, while there is an increase in the tropics. This will have an  
192 impact on the uptake of nitric acid in sea salt particles, consequently affecting NO<sub>x</sub>, hydroxide  
193 (OH) and ozone levels. However, here we limit the scope to aerosols. The Dust Entrainment and  
194 Deposition (DEAD) model v1.3 was implemented into OsloCTM2 by Grini *et al.* [2005] and is  
195 also used in OsloCTM3. As a minor update, the DEAD energy budget calculation now uses  
196 radiative surface properties and soil moisture from the meteorological fields.

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198 Wet scavenging of aerosols is calculated based on European Center for Medium-Range Weather  
199 Forecast (ECMWF) data for convective activity, cloud fraction and rain fall, and on the solubility  
200 of individual species. For large-scale precipitation, OsloCTM3 has a more complex cloud model  
201 that accounts for overlapping clouds and rain (Neu and Prather 2012). Convective scavenging is  
202 based on the Tiedtke mass flux scheme (Tiedtke 1989) and is unchanged from the OsloCTM2. The  
203 solubility of aerosols is given by constant fractions, given for each species and type of precipitation  
204 (i.e., large-scale rain, large-scale ice, and convective) (Table 2). Dry deposition rates are  
205 unchanged from OsloCTM2, but the OsloCTM3 includes a more detailed land use dataset (18 land  
206 surface categories at 1°x1° horizontal resolution compared to 5 categories at T42 resolution),  
207 which affects the weighting of deposition rates for different vegetation categories.

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## 210 2.2 Emissions

211

212 The baseline and historical simulations use the CEDS anthropogenic [Hoesly *et al.*, 2018; Smith *et al.*,  
213 2015] and biomass burning (BB4CMIP) [van Marle *et al.*, 2017] emissions. The CEDS  
214 inventory provide monthly gridded emissions of climate-relevant greenhouse gases, aerosols and  
215 precursor species from 1750 to 2014 using a consistent methodology over time. Anthropogenic



216 CEDS emissions are comparable to, but generally higher than, other existing inventories [*Hoesly*  
217 *et al.*, 2018]. Biogenic emissions are from the inventory developed with the Model of Emissions  
218 of Gases and Aerosols from Nature under the Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate  
219 project (MEGAN-MACC) [*Sindelarova et al.*, 2014] and are held constant at the year 2010 level.  
220 Here we use the CEDS version released in 2016 (hereafter CEDSv16). In May 2017, after  
221 completion of our historical simulations, an updated version of the CEDS emission inventory was  
222 released after users reported year-to-year inconsistencies in the country/sector level gridded data.  
223 The emission totals were not affected, but there were occasional shifts in the distribution within  
224 countries (<http://www.globalchange.umd.edu/ceds/ceds-cmip6-data/>). The potential implications  
225 for our simulations are discussed below.

226 Two other emission inventories are also used. The ECLIPSEv5 emission dataset was created with  
227 the Greenhouse Gas - Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) model [*Amann et al.*,  
228 2011] and provides emissions in 5 year intervals from 1990 to 2015, as well as projections to 2050  
229 [*Klimont et al.*, 2017]. The 1990-2015 emission series was recently used to simulate changes in  
230 aerosols and ozone and their RF [*Myhre et al.*, 2017]. Here we only use emissions for 2010 in the  
231 sensitivity simulation.

232 The Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) [*van Vuuren et al.*, 2011] were developed as  
233 a basis for near- and long-term climate modeling and were used in CMIP5 and Atmospheric  
234 Chemistry and Climate Model Intercomparison Project (ACCMIP) experiments. While the four  
235 RCPs span a large range in year 2100 RF, emissions of most species have not diverged  
236 significantly in 2010 and we select the RCP4.5 for use here [*Thomson et al.*, 2011]. Table S1  
237 summarized total global emissions of BC, OC, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> in 2010 in each of the three scenarios.

238 In the simulations with the ECLIPSEv5 and RCP4.5 inventories, biomass burning emissions are  
239 from the Global Fire Emission Database Version 4 (GFED4) [*Randerson et al.*, 2017]. The  
240 BB4CMIP emissions are constructed with GFED4 1997-2015 emissions as a basis [*van Marle et al.*,  
241 2017] and emissions in 2010 are similar in both datasets. Hence, any difference between the  
242 sensitivity simulations stems from differences in the anthropogenic inventory.

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244

### 245 2.3 Simulations

246

247 Time slice simulations with CEDSv16 emissions for 1750, 1850 and from 1900 to 2014 are  
248 performed (every ten years from 1900-1980, thereafter every five years), including six months  
249 spin-up. The model is run with year 2010 meteorological data and a horizontal resolution of  
250 2.25x2.25 degrees (denoted 2x2), with 60 vertical layers. While *Søvde et al.* [2012] used  
251 meteorological data from the ECMWF IFS model cycle 36r1, we apply here meteorology from the  
252 ECMWF OpenIFS cycle 38r1 (<https://software.ecmwf.int/wiki/display/OIFS/>).

253



254 Additional model runs are performed to investigate the importance of differences in key processes  
255 for the aerosol distributions and model performance (Table 1). In addition to the CEDSv16  
256 emissions, the model is run with ECLIPSEv5 and RCP4.5 emission inventories for anthropogenic  
257 emissions and GFEDv4 biomass burning emissions. Additionally, we perform simulations with  
258 1.125x1.125 degrees (denoted 1x1) horizontal resolution. To investigate the importance of  
259 meteorology, the simulation with CEDSv16 emissions is repeated with meteorological data for  
260 year 2000 instead of 2010. Year 2000 is selected due to its opposite El Niño–Southern Oscillation  
261 (ENSO) index compared to 2010. Finally, three model runs are performed with increased and  
262 decreased scavenging efficiency by large-scale ice clouds and decreased aerosol scavenging by  
263 liquid (large-scale and convective) precipitation. The efficiency with which aerosols are scavenged  
264 by precipitation is determined by a fixed fraction representing the fraction of the grid box that is  
265 available for removal, while the rest is assumed to be hydrophobic. Table 2 summarizes the  
266 fractions in the baseline configuration and the assumptions in the three sensitivity tests.  
267

#### 268 2.4 Radiative transfer

269

270 We calculate the radiative forcing of anthropogenic aerosols due to aerosol-radiation interactions  
271 (RFari) [Myhre *et al.*, 2013b]). The radiative transfer calculations are performed with a multi-  
272 stream model using the discrete ordinate method [Stamnes *et al.*, 1988]. The model includes gas  
273 absorption, Rayleigh scattering, absorption and scattering by aerosols, and scattering by clouds.  
274 The aerosol optical properties have been updated from earlier calculations using this radiative  
275 transfer model [Myhre *et al.*, 2007; Myhre *et al.*, 2009], in particular those associated with aerosol  
276 absorption. The Bond and Bergstrom [2006] recommendation of a mass absorption coefficient  
277 (MAC) for BC of around  $7.5 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  for freshly emitted BC and an enhancement factor of 1.5 for  
278 aged BC was used previously. In the present analysis, we apply a parametrization of MAC from  
279 observations over Europe [Zanatta *et al.*, 2016], where MAC depends on the ratio of non-BC to  
280 BC abundance. The mean MAC of BC from the observations over Europe is around  $10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  at  
281 630 nm [Zanatta *et al.*, 2016]. For low aerosol concentrations we apply the approach from Bond  
282 and Bergstrom [2006]. The absorption by organic matter is uncertain [Bond *et al.*, 2013]. Here, we  
283 have implemented absorbing organic matter according to refractive indices from Kirchstetter *et al.*  
284 [2004] to 1/3 of the biofuel organic matter and 1/2 of the SOA from anthropogenic volatile organic  
285 carbon (VOC) precursors. The remaining fractions of biofuel, fossil fuel and marine POA and  
286 SOA (anthropogenic and all natural VOCs) are assumed to be purely scattering organic matter.  
287

#### 288 2.5 Observations

289

290 A range of observational datasets are used to evaluate the model performance in the baseline  
291 simulation. Note that we use the term “black carbon” in a qualitative manner throughout the  
292 manuscript to refer to light-absorbing carbonaceous aerosols. However, when comparing with  
293 measurements, we use either elemental carbon (EC) or refractive BC (rBC), depending on whether



294 the data is derived from methods specific to the carbon content of carbonaceous aerosols or  
295 incandescence methods, in line with recommendations from *Petzold et al.* [2013].  
296 Measured surface concentrations of EC, OC, sulfate and nitrate are obtained from various  
297 frameworks. For the US, measurements from IMPROVE (Interagency Monitoring of Protected  
298 Visual Environments) and CASTNET (Clean Air Status and Trends Network) are used. For  
299 Europe, data from EMEP (European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme) [*Tørseth et al.*, 2012]  
300 and ACTRIS (Aerosols, Clouds and Trace gases Research InfraStructure) [*Cavalli et al.*, 2016;  
301 *Putaud et al.*, 2010] is used. EMEP and ACTRIS sites are all regional background sites,  
302 representative for a larger area. To broaden the geographical coverage we also compare the model  
303 output against additional observations from the CMA Atmospheric Watch Network (CAWNET)  
304 in China [*Zhang et al.*, 2012] and those reported in the literature from India (see *Kumar et al.* [2015]  
305 for more details). CASTNET, IMPROVE, EMEP and ACTRIS data is from year 2010, while  
306 CAWNET observations were sampled in 2006-2007 and the observational data base from India  
307 compiled by *Kumar et al.* [2015] cover a range of years. IMPROVE provides mass of aerosols  
308 using filter analysis of measurements of particulate matter with diameter of less than 2.5  
309 micrometers (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), while CASTNET uses an open-face filter pack system with no size restriction  
310 to measure concentrations of atmospheric sulfur and nitrogen species [*Lavery et al.*, 2009]. Mass  
311 of individual species from the CAWNET network is obtained from aerosol chemical composition  
312 analysis performed on PM<sub>10</sub> samples [*Zhang et al.*, 2012]. EMEP and ACTRIS measurements of  
313 EC and OC are in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> range, whereas nitrate and sulfate measurements are filter-based with  
314 no size cutoff limit. Data resulting from EMEP and ACTRIS are archived in the EBAS data base  
315 (<http://ebas.nilu.no>) at NILU - Norwegian Institute for Air Research, and are openly available (see  
316 also Data availability).  
317  
318 Modeled AOD is evaluated against the Aerosol Robotics Network (AERONET). AERONET is a  
319 global network of stations measuring radiance at a range of wavelengths with ground-based sun-  
320 photometers, from which aerosol column burden and optical properties can be retrieved [*Dubovik*  
321 *and King*, 2000; *Holben et al.*, 1998]. The AERONET data was processed through the validation  
322 tools available from the AeroCom data base hosted by Met Norway  
323 (<http://aerocom.met.no/data.html>). We also compare against AOD retrievals from MODIS-Aqua  
324 and Terra (level 3 atmosphere products, AOD550 combined dark target and deep blue, product  
325 version 6) [*MOD08*, 2018] and the Multi-angle Imaging SpectroRadiometer (MISR) (level 2  
326 aerosol product, product version 4) [*MISR*, 2018].  
327  
328 Figure S1 depicts the locations of all the stations. For comparison with surface concentrations and  
329 AERONET AOD, the model data is linearly interpolated to the location of each station using  
330 monthly mean or 3-hourly output. In the case of AERONET, high mountain stations (here defined  
331 as having an elevation higher than 1000 meter above sea level) are excluded following *Kinne et*  
332 *al.* [2013]. For comparison with observed OC surface concentrations, modeled OA is converted to  
333 OC using factor of 1.6 for POA and 1.8 for SOA. Unless measurements are restricted to the PM2.5  
334 size range, the comparison includes both fine and coarse mode modeled nitrate (Sect. 2.1). Several



335 statistical metrics are used to assess the model skill, including correlation coefficient (R), root  
336 mean square error (RMSE), variance and normalized mean bias (NMB).

337 The modeled vertical distribution of BC is compared with aircraft measurements of refractory BC  
338 (rBC) from the HIAPER Pole-to-Pole Observations (HIPPO) campaign [Wofsy *et al.*, 2011].  
339 Vertical profiles of BC from OsloCTM2 have been evaluated in several previous studies (e.g.,  
340 Samset *et al.* [2014]) and a more thorough comparison of OsloCTM3 results against a broader set  
341 of campaigns is provided by Lund *et al.* [2018]. In the present analysis we focus on data from the  
342 third phase (HIPPO3) flights, the only phase that was conducted in 2010, i.e., the same year as our  
343 sensitivity simulations. Model data is extracted along the flight track using an online flight  
344 simulator. The data is separated into five latitude regions and vertical profiles constructed by  
345 averaging observations and model output in 13 altitude bins.

346

### 347 3 Results

348

349 We first document the aerosol distributions simulated in the baseline model configuration,  
350 focusing on the anthropogenic contribution, and compare with observations, multi-model studies  
351 and results from the sensitivity tests. With the present-day model performance evaluated, we then  
352 present the updated historical development of RFari of anthropogenic aerosols.

353

#### 354 3.1 Evaluation of present-day aerosol distributions

355

356 The global mean aerosol burdens in the baseline simulation are summarized in Table 3 (top row),  
357 with spatial distribution shown in Fig. S2. Table S3 also shows the split of OA between secondary  
358 and primary sources. Compared to results from the AeroCom III experiment, the OsloCTM3  
359 sulfate burden of 5.4 mg m<sup>-2</sup> estimated here is about 50% higher than the multi-model mean of 3.5  
360 mg m<sup>-2</sup> and 35% higher than OsloCTM2 [Bian *et al.*, 2017]. The nitrate burden is nearly a factor  
361 three higher than both the AeroCom multi-model mean and OsloCTM2 burden, and higher than  
362 all nine models contributing in AeroCom III [Bian *et al.*, 2017]. This is mainly due to a higher  
363 burden of coarse mode nitrate aerosols, associated with less efficient scavenging of sea salt in  
364 OsloCTM3 than OsloCTM2. The global budgets of OA simulated by the AeroCom II models was  
365 analyzed by Tsigaridis *et al.* [2014]. The burden of OA in the OsloCTM3 of 3.4 mg m<sup>-2</sup> is close  
366 to their multi-model mean of 3.1 mg m<sup>-2</sup> and 25% higher than the OsloCTM2. The OsloCTM3  
367 estimate includes the contribution from marine OA emissions (Sect. 2.1). This was included in  
368 only some of the AeroCom II models and not in OsloCTM2, which may partly explain the slightly  
369 lower OsloCTM2 OA burden in Tsigaridis *et al.* [2014]. However, the marine POA only  
370 contributes around 3% to the total OA (Table S3). The global BC burden of 0.23 mg m<sup>-2</sup> is also  
371 close to the mean of the AeroCom II models of 0.25 mg m<sup>-2</sup> [Samset *et al.*, 2014]. We note that  
372 different emission inventories were used in the AeroCom experiments and the present analysis,



373 however, the comparison shows that the aerosol burdens simulated by OsloCTM3 fall within the  
374 range of existing estimates from global models.

375

376 Figure 1 shows annual mean measured surface concentrations of EC, OC, sulfate and nitrate in  
377 Europe, North America and Asia against output from the baseline OsloCTM3 simulation. Overall,  
378 the OsloCTM3 shows a high correlation of 0.8-0.9 with measured surface concentrations. There  
379 is a general tendency of underestimation by the model, with the lowest NMB and RMSE for BC  
380 and nitrate (-23%) and the highest for sulfate (-52%). There are, however, notable differences in  
381 model performance between data sets in different regions, as seen from Table S2. For all species,  
382 the NMB and RMSE are highest for measurements in China. For instance, excluding the  
383 CAWNET measurements, reduces the NMB for sulfate in Fig. 1 from -52% to -31% (not shown).  
384 In contrast, the correlation is generally similar to, or higher than, other regions. In the case of BC  
385 and nitrate, the model slightly overestimates concentrations in Europe and North America, but  
386 underestimates Asian measurements. The best overall agreement is generally with IMPROVE  
387 observations in North America. Differences in instrumentation between different networks can  
388 affect the evaluation. *Lavery et al.* [2009] found that measurements from CASTNET typically gave  
389 higher nitrate surface concentrations than values obtained from co-located IMPROVE stations,  
390 which could partly explain the NMB of opposite sign in these two networks in Table S2. For BC,  
391 we also include measurements from across India compiled by *Kumar et al.* [2015]. This is a region  
392 where emissions have increased strongly, but where evaluation of the model performance so far  
393 has been limited due to availability of observations. The model underestimates concentrations with  
394 a NMB of -43%, however, the correlation of 0.60 is similar to the comparison with data from  
395 China and higher than the other regions. An examination of the monthly concentrations (Fig. S3)  
396 shows that the largest discrepancies occur during winter, with the largest bias found for  
397 measurements in North East India. One possible reason could be missing or underestimated  
398 emission sources. This finding is similar to the comparison of measurements against WRF-chem  
399 by *Kumar et al.* [2015]. The seasonality of BC concentrations has also been an issue at high  
400 northern latitudes, where earlier versions of the OsloCTM strongly underestimated winter and  
401 springtime surface concentrations at Arctic stations [*Lund et al.*, 2017; *Skeie et al.*, 2011], similar  
402 to many other models [*Eckhardt et al.*, 2015]. This Arctic underestimation persists in the current  
403 version of the model. Seasonal differences exist also in other regions, but not consistently across  
404 measurement networks. Compared with EC measurements from EMEP/ACTRIS the correlation  
405 is poorer during winter and spring, and the model underestimate concentrations in contrast to a  
406 positive NMB in summer and fall. However, due to the relatively low number of stations, these  
407 values are sensitive to a few stations with larger measurement-model discrepancies. For both  
408 IMPROVE and EMEP/ACTRIS, the model underestimation of sulfate is larger during summer  
409 and fall, but with opposite seasonal differences in correlation. In general, the number of stations  
410 and evaluation of data from only one year limits the analysis of seasonal variations.

411 We do not evaluate ammonium concentrations in the present analysis, as that requires a detailed  
412 discussion of the nitrate and sulfate budgets, which has been covered by the recent multi-model



413 nitrate evaluation study by *Bian et al.* [2017], in which the OsloCTM3 participated. Results  
414 showed that the OsloCTM3 is close to the multi-model mean and similar to the other models in  
415 terms of agreement with observed ammonium concentrations across USA, Europe and East Asia,  
416 with an average correlation of 0.47.

417 In May 2017, after completion of our historical simulations, an updated version of the CEDS  
418 emission inventory was released after an error in the code was reported (see Sect. 2.2). This  
419 resulted in occasional shifts in the spatial distribution of emissions within countries with large  
420 spatial extent (e.g., USA and China). Since the emission totals were not affected, the impact on  
421 our RFari estimates is likely to be small, but shifts in the emission distribution could impact the  
422 model evaluation, in particular for surface concentrations. While repeating all simulations require  
423 more resources than available to us, we have performed a limited investigation for the US, which  
424 is one of the regions affected by the emission distribution bug (Fig. S4a). We limit the analysis to  
425 BC, using a model data from one year, but note that emissions of other species are also affected.  
426 The comparison against measurements from the IMPROVE network (Fig. S4b-d) shows an  
427 increase in correlation from 0.33 to 0.43 and a 25 percent reduction in the RMSE when using the  
428 May 2017 version of emissions.

429 As shown in Table S2, the model overestimate surface concentrations in some regions and  
430 underestimate them in others. Compensating biases can influence the evaluation of total AOD.  
431 Moreover, the biases differ in magnitude between different species. Moving one step further, we  
432 therefore examine the average aerosol composition in the three regions where this is possible with  
433 our available measurements. Figure 2 shows the relative contribution from different aerosols  
434 species to the total mass in the IMPROVE, EMEP, ACTRIS and CAWNET measurements and the  
435 corresponding model results. The number of available aerosol species varies between the  
436 measurement networks and we include sea salt from IMPROVE and ammonium from CAWNET.  
437 Additionally, the number of stations where simultaneous measurements of all species were  
438 available also differ substantially, with 16 for CAWNET, 5 for EMEP/ACTRIS and 172 for  
439 IMPROVE. Overall, the relative composition is well represented by the model. The agreement is  
440 particularly good for the IMPROVE network. Compared to measurements from CAWNET, the  
441 model has a lower relative contribution from OC and more sulfate. In the case of Europe, nitrate  
442 aerosols also constitute a significantly larger fraction in the model than in the observations. The  
443 evaluation of nitrate is complicated by possible differences in the detection range of  
444 instrumentation compared to the size of the two nitrate modes in the model (Sect. 2.1). The  
445 comparison against EMEP nitrate data includes both coarse and fine mode modeled nitrate.  
446 Excluding the coarse mode, the fraction of total mass attributable to nitrate decreases from 43% to  
447 28%, which is much closer to the observed 30% contribution. However, this affects the comparison  
448 in Figure 1, resulting in a negative NMB of -34%, compared to -23% when including both coarse  
449 and fine mode. This suggest that part, but not all, of the nitrate represented as a coarse mode in the  
450 model is measured by the instrument, pointing to a need for a more sophisticated size distribution



451 in the model to make better use of available observations. The low number of available stations  
452 from EBAS could also an important factor.

453 Next, we examine total AOD. Figure 3 shows modeled AOD and aerosol absorption optical depth  
454 (AAOD), AOD retrieved from MODIS-Aqua and comparison of modeled AOD with AERONET  
455 observations. Modeled global, annual mean AOD and AAOD is 0.13 (Fig. 3a) and 0.0051 (Fig.  
456 3b), respectively. The overall spatial pattern of modeled AOD agrees well with MODIS (Fig. 3c),  
457 however, the latter gives a higher global mean of 0.16 and clearly higher values in North India and  
458 parts of China, as well as Central Africa. These peak values are similar to MODIS-Terra, but less  
459 pronounced in the AOD retrieved from MISR (Fig. S5), illustrating important differences between  
460 different remote sensing products. Nevertheless, an underestimation of modeled AOD in Asia is  
461 consistent with results from the evaluation of surface concentrations and can also be seen in the  
462 comparison against AERONET, as discussed below. The OsloCTM3 shows a good agreement  
463 with measured AOD from the AERONET network, with an overall correlation of 0.82 and RMSE  
464 of 0.11, when using monthly mean data from 266 stations (Fig. 3d). Note that the modeled global  
465 mean AOD is 0.13, but the model mean at the AERONET stations is 0.175 (Fig 3d) and has only  
466 a NMB of -11.8%. Many of the AERONET stations tend not to be regional background sites, but  
467 can be influenced by local pollution (e.g., Wang *et al.* [2018])

468 However, as for surface concentrations, there are notable regional differences. Fig. S6 compares  
469 modeled AOD against AERONET stations in Europe, North America, India and China separately.  
470 The best agreement is found for Europe and North America, with NMB of -0.4% and -13%,  
471 respectively, and RMSE of approx. 0.05. The correlation is higher for North America (0.71) than  
472 Europe (0.63). A relatively high correlation of 0.71 is also found for stations in China. However,  
473 the NMB and RMSE is higher (-34.5% and 0.25). There are significantly fewer observations for  
474 comparison with modeled AOD over India, but the ones available give NMB and RMSE on the  
475 same order of magnitude as for China, but a lower correlation (0.45).

476 Ground-based measurements can also provide information about column absorption aerosol  
477 optical depth (AAOD). Such information has been used to constrain the absorption of BC and  
478 provide top-down estimate of the direct BC RF (e.g., [Bond *et al.*, 2013]). However, retrieval and  
479 application of AERONET AAOD is associated with a number of challenges and uncertainties (e.g.,  
480 [Samset *et al.*, 2018]), hence such an evaluation is not performed here.

481 Recent literature has pointed to important representativeness errors arising when constraining  
482 models using observations due to the coarse spatial and temporal scales of global models compared  
483 with the heterogeneity of observations. Schutgens *et al.* [2016a] found differences in RMSE of up  
484 to 100% for aerosol optical thickness when aggregating high resolution model output over grid  
485 boxes representative of the resolution of current global models compared to small areas  
486 corresponding to satellite pixels. Smaller, but notable, differences of up to 20% were found when  
487 monthly mean model data was used, as in the present analysis. However, that did not account for  
488 issues related to temporal collocation, which can also introduce considerable errors [Schutgens *et*



489 *al.*, 2016b]. In a recent study, Wang *et al.* [2018] found a spatial representativeness error of 30%  
490 when constraining AAOD modeled at a  $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$  horizontal resolution against AERONET retrievals.  
491 However, further work is needed to investigate whether similar biases exist for AOD.

492

### 493 3.2 Sensitivity of aerosols distributions to model input and process parameterization

494

495 As shown in the section above, the OsloCTM3 performs well compared against observed AOD.  
496 Still, a number of factors influence the simulated distributions of individual aerosol species. To  
497 assess the importance of key uncertainties for modeled distributions and model performance, we  
498 perform a range of sensitivity simulations to examine the importance of emission inventory,  
499 scavenging assumptions, meteorological data and resolution for the modeled aerosol distributions  
500 and model performance.

501

502 Global aerosol burdens and AOD in each sensitivity run are summarized in Table 3. The BC  
503 burden is particularly sensitive to reduced scavenging by large-scale ice clouds (LSIDEC),  
504 resulting in a 40% higher burden compared to the baseline. In contrast, an equal increase in the  
505 scavenging efficiency (LSIINC) result in a decrease in burden of only 9%, while decreased  
506 scavenging by liquid precipitation (SOLDEC) gives a 13% higher burden. The lower BC emissions  
507 in the ECLv5 and CMIP5 inventories give a global BC burden that is 9 and 22% lower, respectively.  
508 For sulfate, ammonium and OA, we also find the largest burden changes in the LSIDEC case,  
509 followed by SOLDEC. The change in the LSIDEC is particularly large for OA and is driven by  
510 changes in SOA. For SOA, the changes are determined not only by modifying the scavenging, but  
511 also by changes in POA concentrations, which gas-phase secondary organics can partition onto.  
512 Increasing the horizontal resolution results in a slightly higher burden for all species, except sea  
513 salt.

514 While sensitivity tests may give similar changes in the total global burdens, the spatial distribution  
515 of changes can differ substantially. Figure 4 shows the ratio of AOD and total burden by species  
516 and altitude in each sensitivity simulation to the baseline. As expected, varying the emission  
517 inventories results in changes that are largely confined to the main source regions (Figs.4a,b).  
518 Using the CMIP5 inventory results in considerably lower concentrations over Asia, the Middle  
519 East and North Africa, reflecting the higher emissions in the more recent inventory. Over Europe  
520 and most of North America there is an increase, particularly for sulfate, nitrate and ammonium. A  
521 similar pattern is found when using ECLv5, but the differences are smaller. Reducing the large-  
522 scale ice cloud scavenging increases aerosol burdens the most at high latitudes, while changes in  
523 the solubility assumption for liquid clouds affects burdens mostly over Asia, where emissions are  
524 highest, and around the equator where convective activity is stronger. Changes in burdens when  
525 using meteorological data from a different year are more heterogeneous and mainly occur in  
526 regions where the influence of differences in the ENSO is expected to be the main factor, e.g.,  
527 west coast of South America, South East Asia and Australia.



528 For BC, OA and dust, the largest impact relative to the baseline are seen above 600 hPa in the  
529 LSIDE case. Change in LSIDE are also important in the case of sulfate and sea salt, but occur  
530 at lower altitudes. In contrast to the other aerosol species, differences in emission inventories are  
531 most important for nitrate. In a recent study, *Kipling et al.* [2016] investigated factors controlling  
532 the vertical distribution of aerosols in the HadGEM3-UKCA. It was found that in-cloud  
533 scavenging was very important in controlling the vertical mass concentration of all species, except  
534 dust. For dust, it was also found that dry deposition and sub-cloud processes played key roles,  
535 processes not examined in the present analysis. Moreover, *Kipling et al.* [2016] performed  
536 sensitivity simulations by switching transport and scavenging on and off to get the full effect of a  
537 given process, while we perform smaller perturbations to investigate uncertainties. Here we find  
538 significant impacts of changes in ice-cloud removal efficiency on the vertical distribution of BC,  
539 OA and dust, while large-scale liquid and convective precipitation is more important for sea salt  
540 and nitrate

541 With the exception of different emission inventories, there is generally a small impact on surface  
542 concentrations in source regions compared to the changes in remote areas. This is important to  
543 note due to the role of aerosols in air quality perspectives, where uncertainties in near-source  
544 concentrations are vital.

545 Our sensitivity tests show that changes in input data, resolution or scavenging can lead to notable  
546 changes in the aerosol distributions. The next question is then how these changes affect model  
547 performance compared to observations. Figure 5a compares modeled and measured surface  
548 concentrations of BC, OC, sulfate and nitrate in each simulation using all observations in Fig. 1.  
549 For BC, the sensitivity tests have little or no impact on correlation, but there is a markedly better  
550 agreement in terms of standard deviation (i.e., model becomes closer to observations) for  
551 CEDSv16/CMIP6 compared to RCP/CMIP5, reflecting the higher emissions in the former. Similar,  
552 but smaller, effects are also found for the other species. The improvement from RCP/CMIP5 to  
553 CEDSv16/CMIP6 is especially seen for measurements in Asia. A higher resolution is also found  
554 to reduce the bias, in particular for BC. Figure 5b shows the comparison against AERONET AOD  
555 in each sensitivity simulation. Again, there is a higher correlation and lower bias in the 1x1RES  
556 run than in the baseline, while the opposite is found in the RCP/CMIP5 and ECLv5 cases. The  
557 most pronounced changes results from using meteorological data from year 2000, in which case  
558 the correlation is reduced from around 0.8 to 0.7.

559 For both observables, the difference in model performance between the baseline and scavenging  
560 sensitivity tests is small. This may partly be an effect of the geographical coverage of stations; the  
561 majority of measurements are from stations in more urban regions, whereas simulated burden  
562 changes occur in remote regions, particularly at high latitudes and altitudes (Fig. 4). We therefore  
563 also perform evaluations against AOD from regional sub-sets of AERONET stations. Ten of the  
564 AERONET stations used in the present analysis are located north of 65°N (Fig. S1). A comparison  
565 of monthly mean simulated AOD in each of the sensitivity runs against observations in this region  
566 shows the best agreement with the baseline simulation and with the ECLv5 emission inventory,



567 with a considerably higher bias when scavenging parameters are modified (Fig. S7a). This is  
568 particularly the case in the LSIDE run, where concentrations of all species increase at high  
569 latitudes compared to the baseline (Fig. 4). In contrast, the reduced concentrations in LSIINC,  
570 results in a negative bias. We note that most of these stations have missing values in the winter  
571 months, which is when the model underestimate BC concentrations in the Arctic, hence limiting  
572 the evaluation. Decreased scavenging efficiency also leads to a higher bias than in the baseline for  
573 observations in Europe and North America (not shown). In Asia, where the model already  
574 underestimates aerosols in the baseline configuration, the bias is reduced since concentrations  
575 increase. However, differences are smaller than north of 65°N. Moreover, given the notable  
576 exacerbation in model performance in other regions, it is likely that other sources of uncertainty  
577 (e.g., emissions) are more important for the model-measurement discrepancies in Asia. A similar  
578 comparison is performed for 15 AERONET stations located in North Africa and the Middle East  
579 (Fig. S7b), where the dust influence is strong. Changing the meteorological year and reducing  
580 scavenging results in higher dust burdens (Table 3). Again, the agreement is better in the baseline  
581 run than in these sensitivity runs. In particular, the METDATA run result in a higher bias and a  
582 lower correlation, which is not surprising as dust production depends also on meteorological  
583 conditions. The changes compared to the baseline CEDSv16/CMIP6 simulation cannot be entirely  
584 attributed to differences in dust concentrations, as seen from the RCP/CMIP5 and ECLv5  
585 simulations where the dust production is equal to the baseline. Several studies have pointed to the  
586 importance of spatial resolution for improved model performance compared to observations (e.g.,  
587 [Sato *et al.*, 2016; Schutgens *et al.*, 2017; Schutgens *et al.*, 2016a; Wang *et al.*, 2016]). Wang *et al.*  
588 [2016] found significant reductions in NMB of BC AAOD relative to AERONET when using a  
589 high resolution (10 km) emission data and model output. In our analysis, moving from 2°x2° to  
590 1°x1° horizontal resolution also results in a slightly higher correlation and reduced bias and errors  
591 when compared to all AERONET stations (Fig. 5b). The impact is largest for AOD in China and  
592 India, the NMB is reduced (from -34% and -24% (Fig. S6) to -20% and -10%, respectively).  
593 However, the opposite effect is found for AERONET stations in Europe and North America. Of  
594 course, the 1°x1° resolution is still very coarse compared to the grid sizes used in the  
595 abovementioned studies.

596 Changes away from near-source areas are also evaluated in terms of BC concentrations by a  
597 comparison with observed vertical distribution from the HIPPO3 campaign, where remote, marine  
598 air over the Pacific was sampled across all latitudes (Sect. 2.5). To limit the number of model runs,  
599 we focus on only one phase of the HIPPO campaign here, but a more comprehensive evaluation  
600 of OsloCTM3 vertical BC distribution against aircraft measurements was performed by [Lund *et al.*,  
601 2018]. Figure 6 shows observed average vertical BC concentration profiles against model  
602 results from each sensitivity test. The OsloCTM3 reproduces the vertical distribution well in low  
603 and mid-latitudes over the Pacific in its baseline configuration, although near-surface  
604 concentrations in the tropics are underestimated. This is a significant improvement over the  
605 OsloCTM2, where high-altitude concentrations in these regions typically were overestimated. The  
606 baseline configuration of OsloCTM3 includes updates to the scavenging assumptions based on



607 previous studies investigating reasons for the high-altitude discrepancies (e.g., [Hodnebrog *et al.*,  
608 2014; Lund *et al.*, 2017]. At high northern and southern latitudes, the model underestimates the  
609 observed vertical profiles in the baseline. Increasing the model resolution does not have any  
610 notable impact on the vertical profiles. There is a notable increase in high-latitude concentrations  
611 when large-scale ice cloud scavenging is decreased. However, there is a simultaneous exacerbation  
612 of model performance in the other latitude bands, pointing to potential tradeoffs when tuning  
613 global parameters, as also illustrated by Lund *et al.* [2017]. Due to the significant altitude  
614 dependence of the radiative effect of BC (e.g., [Samset *et al.*, 2013]), high altitude overestimations  
615 will contribute significantly to uncertainties in BC RFari. We also note that HIPPO3 was  
616 conducted in March/April: Comparison with aircraft measurements from other seasons show a  
617 smaller underestimation at high latitudes ([Lund *et al.*, 2018].

### 618 3.3 Pre-industrial to present-day aerosols

619

620 With confidence in the model ability to reasonably represent current aerosol distributions  
621 established, we next present an updated historical evolution of anthropogenic aerosols from pre-  
622 industrial to present-day, and the consequent direct radiative effect (RFari). Figure 7 shows the net  
623 change in total aerosol load from 1750 to 2014. Full times series by species are given in Table S4.  
624 To keep in line with the terminology used in the IPCC AR5, we now separate out biomass burning  
625 BC and POA in a separate species “biomass”. To illustrate the contributions from additional  
626 emissions during the past 14 years, we also include the 2000-1750 difference. The values from the  
627 present study are also compared with results from the AeroCom II models [Myhre *et al.*, 2013a],  
628 where emissions over the period 1850 to 2000 from Lamarque *et al.* [2010] were used.

629 The most notable difference compared to the AeroCom II results is seen for biomass aerosols.  
630 Biomass burning emissions have high interannual variability and this affects the analysis. While  
631 the 1750-2014 difference is  $0.23 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ , taking the difference between year 1750 and 2000 (black  
632 asterisk) results in a net change of only  $0.03 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ . There is also a much larger change in the  
633 burden of biomass aerosols in the AeroCom experiments, reflecting a more than 100% higher  
634 emissions in 2000 compared to 1850 Lamarque *et al.* [2010] inventory. However, biomass aerosols  
635 comprises both scattering OA and absorbing BC and, as seen below, these nearly cancel in terms  
636 of RFari. Changes in sulfate and OA from pre-industrial to 2000 are slightly higher in the present  
637 analysis than in AeroCom II, and the influence of additional emissions since 2000 is seen. The  
638 OsloCTM3fast is well below the AeroCom multi-model mean for nitrate. The OsloCTM2 was  
639 found to be in the low range, but the multi-model was also influenced by some models giving high  
640 estimates [Myhre *et al.*, 2013a]

641 Using the CEDSv16 emissions, we estimate a total net RFari from all anthropogenic aerosols in  
642 2014 relative to 1750 of  $-0.17 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . The RFari from sulfate is  $-0.30 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , while the  
643 contributions from OA (combined fossil fuel plus biofuel POA and SOA), nitrate and biomass  
644 aerosols are smaller in magnitude of  $-0.09$ ,  $-0.02$  and  $-0.0004 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , respectively. The RFari due  
645 to fossil fuel and biofuel BC over the period is  $0.31 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . The sum over the individual



646 contributions is non-linear with the total RFari, as found in previous studies (e.g., *Myhre et al.*  
647 2013a).

648 Figure 8a shows the time series of RFari by component, as well as the total net, in the present  
649 analysis (solid lines), and corresponding results reported in the IPCC AR5 (dashed lines). The net  
650 RFari over time is mainly determined by the relative importance of compensating BC and sulfate  
651 RFari. The most rapid increase in BC RFari is seen between 1950 and 1990, as emissions in Asia  
652 started to grow, outweighing reductions in North America and Europe [*Hoesly et al.*, 2018]. After  
653 a period of little change between 1990 and 2000, the rate of change increases again over the past  
654 two decades, following strong emission increases in Asia and South Africa. Similarly, cooling  
655 contribution from sulfate aerosols strengthened from around mid-century. However, in contrast to  
656 BC, the evolution is fairly flat after 1990. The last 20 years has seen a continuous reduction in  
657 sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Europe, from around 30 to 5 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> in CEDSv16, with a similar  
658 trend in North America. While emissions in China continue to increase well into the 2000s, a  
659 stabilization is seen after 2010, following introduction of stricter emission limits as part of a  
660 program to desulfurize power plants [*Klimont et al.*, 2013]. During the same period, emissions in  
661 India have risen. However, the net global SO<sub>2</sub> emission trend over the past few years is a slight  
662 decline [*Hoesly et al.*, 2018]. This development is reflected in the net RFari, which reaches its peak  
663 (i.e., strongest negative value) around 1990 and gradually becomes weaker thereafter. This trend  
664 is more pronounced in the present analysis than in the IPCC AR5 estimates, where the forcing due  
665 to sulfate is more flat in recent decades, suggesting that projected emission estimates  
666 underestimated recent decreases in SO<sub>2</sub>. The minimum net RFari value is also reached later in the  
667 latter. Moreover, a recent study suggests that current inventories underestimate the decline in  
668 Chinese SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and estimate a 75% reduction since 2007 [*Li et al.*, 2017]. In this case, the  
669 weakening trend could be even stronger than estimated here. The insert in Fig. 8a focuses on recent  
670 estimates of total RFari over the period 1990-2015. Using the ECLv5 emission inventory, *Myhre*  
671 *et al.* [2017] found a global mean RFari due to changes in aerosol abundances over the period  
672 1990-2015 of 0.05 (±0.04) W m<sup>-2</sup>. Our results using CEDSv16 emissions are in close agreement  
673 with these findings.

674  
675 The geographical shift in emissions is clearly reflected in zonally averaged RFari over time in Fig.  
676 8b. RFari declined in magnitude north of 40°N after 1980, with particularly large year-to-year  
677 decreases between 1990 and 1995, and from 2005 to 2010. The RFari has strengthened in  
678 magnitude between 20°-30° in both hemispheres, although the peak around 35°N is considerably  
679 weaker in 2014 than in 1980. The past decade, the net RFari has switched from negative to positive  
680 north of 70°N, due to a combination of stronger positive RF of BC and from biomass burning  
681 aerosols.

682  
683 Here we have used an updated parameterization of BC absorption based on *Zanatta et al.* [2016]  
684 (Sect. 2.4), which takes into account the ratio of non-BC-to-BC material and results in a MAC of



685  $12.5 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  at 550 nm. This is 26% higher than the  $9.94 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  using the approach from *Bond and*  
686 *Bergstrom* [2006]. Using the latter, we estimate a BC RFari in 2014 relative to 1750 of  $0.23 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ,  
687 25% lower than the  $0.31 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  calculated based on *Zanatta et al.* [2016]. These results  
688 emphasize the importance of assumptions related to the BC absorption.

689 The magnitude of RFari by scattering aerosols is sensitive to assumptions about absorption by  
690 organic aerosols, so-called brown carbon (BrC). Observational studies have provided evidence for  
691 the existence of such particles, and modeling studies suggest they could be responsible for a  
692 substantial fraction of total aerosol absorption, although the spread in estimates is wide (e.g., *Feng*  
693 *et al.* [2013] and reference therein). In the present study we assume a considerable fraction of  
694 absorption by OA (Sect. 2.4). Assuming purely scattering aerosols, the RFari from OA is  $-0.13 \text{ W}$   
695  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ; accounting for BrC absorption this is weakened to  $-0.09 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . Splitting total OA RFari into  
696 contributions from primary and secondary aerosols, we find that purely scattering POA gives a  
697 RFari of  $-0.07 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  compared to  $-0.06 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  with absorption. The corresponding numbers for  
698 SOA are  $-0.06$  and  $-0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . This indicates that in OsloCTM3, the absorbing properties of SOA  
699 are relatively more important than for POA. This is likely due to the generally higher altitude of  
700 SOA than POA (Fig. S8) in combination with the increasing radiative efficiency of absorbing  
701 aerosols with altitude [*Samset et al.*, 2013]. However, due to the weaker overall contributions from  
702 OA, our results indicate that differences in parameterization of BC absorption can be more  
703 important than uncertainties in absorption by BrC for the total net RFari.

704

#### 705 4 Discussion

706

707 Our estimate of total net RFari in 2014 relative to 1750 is weaker in magnitude than the best  
708 estimate for the 1750–2010 period reported by IPCC AR5. The difference is due to a combination  
709 of factors, including weaker contributions from both cooling aerosols and BC. A significant range  
710 from  $-0.6$  to  $-0.13 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  surrounds the central RFari estimate of  $-0.35 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  from IPCC AR5  
711 [*Boucher et al.*, 2013], due to the large spread in underlying simulated aerosol distributions. As  
712 shown in Sect. 3, the OsloCTM3 generally lies close to or above the multi-model mean of  
713 anthropogenic aerosol burdens from recent studies and performs reasonably well compared with  
714 observations and other global models, with improvements over the predecessor OsloCTM2.

715 In particular, recent progress towards constraining the vertical distribution of BC concentrations  
716 has resulted in improved agreement between modeled and observed vertical BC profiles over the  
717 Pacific Ocean with less of the high-altitude overestimation seen in earlier studies. However, as  
718 shown by *Lund et al.* [2018], discrepancies compared to recent aircraft measurements over the  
719 Atlantic Ocean remain. The higher emissions in the CEDSV16 inventory also results in an  
720 improved agreement with BC surface concentrations over Asia. Despite these considerably higher  
721 emissions compared to older inventories, we calculate a weaker BC RFari than reported in AR5,  
722 hence going in the opposite direction of explaining the difference to IPCC AR5 total RFari. The  
723 IPCC AR5 best estimate for fossil fuel and biofuel BC of  $0.4$  ( $0.05$  to  $0.8$ )  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  [*Boucher et al.*,  
724 2013] was based mainly on the two studies by *Myhre et al.* [2013a] and *Bond et al.* [2013], who



725 derived estimates of BC RFari of 0.23 (0.06 to 0.48) W m<sup>-2</sup> and 0.51 (0.06 to 0.91) W m<sup>-2</sup>,  
726 respectively. The spread between the two is largely attributed to methodological differences: *Bond*  
727 *et al.* [2013] used an observationally weighted scaling of results to match those based on  
728 AERONET AAOD, which was not adopted by *Myhre et al.* [2013a]. Such ad-hoc adjustments  
729 typically result in higher estimates (*Wang et al.* [2018] and references therein). Moreover, a recent  
730 study by *Wang et al.* [2018] suggest that representativeness error arising when constraining coarse  
731 resolution models with AERONET AAOD could result in a 30% overestimation of BC RFari,  
732 which explains some of the differences between bottom-up and observationally constrained  
733 numbers. The BC RFari estimate from the present study is around 20% higher than the AeroCom  
734 multi-model mean from *Myhre et al.* [2013a] when calculated over the same period 1850-2000.  
735 This reflects the higher emissions in the CEDSv16 emission inventory than in *Lamarque et al.*  
736 [2010], as well as a higher MAC.

737 In general, we find lower surface sulfate concentrations in the model compared with measurements.  
738 This could contribute to an underestimation of the sulfate RFari, which is weaker in the present  
739 study than in IPCC AR5. We also note that the global mean sulfate burden is higher in the  
740 OsloCTM3 than in most of the global models participating in the AeroCom III experiment (Sect.  
741 3.1, *Bian et al.* [2017]). Compared with other AeroCom Phase III models, the OsloCTM3 performs  
742 similarly or better in terms of nitrate and sulfate surface concentrations from CASTNET [*Bian et*  
743 *al.*, 2017]. Nevertheless, the model diversity in simulated nitrate and sulfate remains large and,  
744 although all models capture the main observed features in concentrations, further work is needed  
745 to resolve the differences and improve model performance for these species.

746 While a comprehensive quantitative uncertainty analysis of the updated RFari estimate is not  
747 possible within the scope of this study, we explore the order of magnitude uncertainties due to  
748 “internal” factors such as scavenging parameterizations and model resolution by performing  
749 sensitivity tests. Changes in global burden on the order of 10-20%, and up to 65%, were found  
750 (Sect. 3.2). However, compared to observations of surface concentrations in near-source regions,  
751 total AOD and vertical distribution of BC concentrations, we saw that the model generally  
752 performed the best in its baseline configuration. Furthermore, the largest changes in the simulated  
753 AOD and aerosol distributions were found in high-latitude regions, whereas changes over land  
754 where the concentrations, and hence subsequent RF is localized, were smaller. For certain regions  
755 and observables, there were notable differences between the baseline and sensitivity simulations.  
756 For instance, an improvement in the baseline compared to using the CMIP5 emission inventory was  
757 seen for BC surface concentrations, in particular in Asia, while the NMB of AOD compared to  
758 AERONET stations in the same region was reduced in the simulation with higher spatial resolution.  
759 The importance of using the correct meteorological year was also seen. Such uncertainties will  
760 translate to the RFari estimates, along with uncertainties in optical properties such as absorption  
761 by organic aerosols and parameterization of BC absorption (Sect. 3.3).

762

763 Estimates of radiative impacts depend critically on the confidence in the emission inventories. A  
764 detailed discussion of uncertainties in the CEDS inventory is provided by *Hoesly et al.* [2018]. On  
765 a global level, the uncertainty in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions tend to be relatively low, although there is an



766 indication of missing SO<sub>2</sub> sources in particular in the Persian Gulf [*McLinden et al.*, 2016], whereas  
767 emission factors for BC, OC, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and VOCs have higher uncertainties. Uncertainties in  
768 country-specific emissions can also be much larger, which is particularly true for carbonaceous  
769 aerosols. In future CEDS versions, a quantitative uncertainty analysis is planned [*Hoesly et al.*,  
770 2018], which will provide valuable input to modeling studies.

771

772 Our study does not include anthropogenic dust, i.e., wind-blown dust from soils disturbed by  
773 human activities such as land use practices, deforestation and agriculture, and fugitive combustion  
774 and industrial dust from urban sources. These sources could contribute an important fraction of  
775 emissions and ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in some regions [*Paul et al.*, 2012; *Sajeev et al.*, 2017],  
776 but are missing from most models today. For instance, a recent study found a 2–16 mg m<sup>-3</sup> increase  
777 in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in East and South Asia from anthropogenic fugitive, combustion, and  
778 industrial dust emissions. However, the transport processes and optical properties, and hence,  
779 radiative impact, is poorly known. We also do not include the effect of aerosol-cloud interactions,  
780 which are crucial for the net climate impact of aerosols. For instance, recent studies suggest that  
781 the impact of BC on global temperature response is small due to largely compensating direct and  
782 semi-direct effects [*Samset and Myhre*, 2015; *Stjern et al.*, 2017]. The composition and distribution  
783 of aerosols and oxidants in the pre-industrial atmosphere is uncertain and poorly constrained by  
784 observations. However, while this is an important source of uncertainty in estimates of RF due to  
785 aerosol-induced cloud albedo changes, it is less important for RFari because the forcing scales  
786 quite linearly with aerosol burden [*Carslaw et al.*, 2017].

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## 789 5 Conclusions

790

791 In this study, we have documented the third generation of the Oslo chemical transport model  
792 (OsloCTM3) and evaluated the simulated distributions of aerosols, including results from a range  
793 of simulations to investigate the sensitivity to uncertainties in scavenging processes, input of  
794 emissions and meteorological data and resolution. We have then used the new historical CEDS  
795 emission inventory (version 2016; CEDSv16), which will also be used in the upcoming CMIP6,  
796 to simulate the temporal evolution of atmospheric concentrations of anthropogenic aerosols, and  
797 quantified the temporal evolution of the subsequent radiative forcing due to aerosol-radiation  
798 interactions (RFari).

799

800 The total AOD from the OsloCTM3 is in good agreement with observations from the AERONET  
801 network with a correlation of 0.82 and a normalized mean bias (NMB) of -11.8%. Regionally, the  
802 underestimation of observed AOD is higher for stations in China and India than in Europe and  
803 North America, as also reflected from the comparison against measured aerosol surface  
804 concentrations. High correlations 0.80-0.90 are also found for surface concentrations of BC, OC,  
805 sulfate and nitrate aerosols compared with all measurements across Europe, North America and



806 Asia. The corresponding NMB range from -23% for BC and nitrate to -46% and -52% for OC and  
807 sulfate, respectively. The OsloCTM3 performs notably better than its predecessor OsloCTM2 in  
808 terms of high-altitude BC distribution as compared with observed BC concentration profiles over  
809 the Pacific Ocean from the HIPPO3 campaign. In contrast, the model continues to underestimate  
810 observed surface levels of BC during winter and spring. Compared with other recent estimates of  
811 aerosol burdens, the OsloCTM3 generally lies close to or above the mean of other global models.

812 Increasing or reducing the scavenging efficiency, moving to a finer resolution, and using the wrong  
813 meteorological year or a different emission inventory results in changes in the global mean aerosol  
814 burdens of up to 65%. The burdens of BC, OC and sulfate are particularly sensitive to a reduced  
815 efficiency of removal by large-scale ice clouds; a 10 percentage point reduction increases the  
816 global burden by 40%, 65% and 20%, respectively. A corresponding increase in the efficiency  
817 gives around 10% lower burdens. A significantly better agreement with BC surface concentrations  
818 is found when using the CEDSv16 emission inventory compared with the RCP4.5. Furthermore,  
819 a notable reduction in the bias of AOD compared to AERONET observations in Asia is found  
820 when increasing the horizontal resolution, while the correlation is reduced when using the wrong  
821 meteorological year. However, we find no clear evidence of consistently better model performance  
822 across all observables and regions in the sensitivity tests than in the baseline configuration. This  
823 may in part be influenced by the geographical coverage of observations, as the largest differences  
824 in concentrations and AOD from the baseline is found at high altitudes and latitudes where the  
825 availability of constraining measurements is limited.

826 Using the CEDSv16 historical emission inventory we estimate a total net  $R_{\text{Fari}}$  from all  
827 anthropogenic aerosols, relative to 1750, of  $-0.17 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . This is significantly weaker than the best  
828 estimate reported in the IPCC AR5, due to a combination of factors resulting in weaker  
829 contributions from both cooling aerosols and BC in our simulations. Our updated  $R_{\text{Fari}}$  estimate  
830 is based on a single global model. As shown by previous studies, there is a large spread estimates  
831 of  $R_{\text{Fari}}$  due to the spread in modeled aerosol distributions. The present analysis shows that  
832 uncertainties in emissions, scavenging and optical properties of aerosols can have important  
833 impacts on the simulated AOD and subsequent forcing estimates within one model. Additional  
834 studies to place our estimates in the context of multi-model spread and provide a comprehensive  
835 uncertainty analysis are needed ahead of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

836

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#### 838 Data availability

839 The CEDS anthropogenic emissions data is published within the ESGF system [https://esgf-](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/input4mips/)  
840 [node.llnl.gov/search/input4mips/](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/input4mips/). Surface observations used in this study are collected from the  
841 following publicly available databases: the EBAS database (<http://ebas.nilu.no/>) hosted by NILU  
842 – Norwegian Institute for Air Research. The US national Clean Air Status and Trends monitoring  
843 network (CASTNET), available at <http://www.epa.gov/castnet>. The Interagency Monitoring of



844 Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE), a collaborative association of state, tribal, and  
845 federal agencies, and international partners, with the US EPA as the primary funding source and  
846 support from the National Park Service. Data available from  
847 <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/Improve/>. MODIS and MISR AOD retrievals are downloaded from  
848 <https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni/>. Aircraft measurements from the HIPPO3 flights  
849 available from <https://www.eol.ucar.edu/node/524>. Model output available upon request from  
850 Marianne T. Lund ([m.t.lund@cicero.oslo.no](mailto:m.t.lund@cicero.oslo.no)).

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### 867 Competing interests

868 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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## 1211 Tables

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1213 *Table 1: Summary and description of simulations in this study*

Name	Anthropogenic emissions	Year	Res	Description
CEDSv16/CMIP6	CEDS, version released in 2016	2010	2x2	Baseline simulation, 2.25x2.25 degree resolution
ECLv5	ECLIPSEv5	2010	2x2	As baseline, but with ECLIPSEv5 emissions
RCP/CMIP5	RCP4.5	2010	2x2	As baseline, but RCP4.5/CMIP5 emissions
LSIDEC	CEDS	2010	2x2	Reduced scavenging of all aerosols by large-scale ice clouds
LSIINC	CEDS	2010	2x2	Increased scavenging of all aerosols by large-scale ice clouds
SOLDEC	CEDS	2010	2x2	Decreased scavenging of all aerosols by convective and large-scale liquid precipitation
1x1RES	CEDS	2010	1x1	Same as baseline, but on 1.125x1.125 degree resolution
METDTA	CEDS	2010	2x2	Year 2010 emissions, but 2000 meteorology
Historical	CEDS/	1750-2014	2x2	Time-slice simulations for year 1750, 1850, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014

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1219 *Table 2: Fraction of aerosol mass available for wet scavenging by convective, large-scale liquid*  
 1220 *and large-scale ice precipitation in baseline setup and in the three sensitivity tests.*

1221 *Phil=hydrophilic, phob=hydrophobic.*

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Simulation	Precipitation type	Sulfate	OM phil	OM phob	BC phil	BC Phob	Nitrate	SOA	Sea salt	Dust
CEDSv16/CMIP6	Convective	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.8	1	1
	LS-liquid	1	1	0	1	0	1	0.8	1	1
	LS-ice	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.5
LSIINC	LS-ice	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.7
LSIDEC	LS-ice	0.001	0.001	0.1	0.001	0.1	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.1
SOLDEC	Convective	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8
	LS-liquid	0.8	0.8	0	0.8	0	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8

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1232 *Table 3: Global, annual mean aerosol burdens [mg m<sup>-2</sup>] and total AOD in the baseline and*  
 1233 *sensitivity simulations*

Simulation	BC	OA	Sulfate	NH4 (fine+coarse)	Nitrate (fine)	Nitrate (coarse)	Sea salt	Dust	AOD
<b>CEDSv16/CMIP6</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0.13</b>
ECLv5	0.21	3.1	5.1	0.65	0.15	3.7	12	39	0.13
RCP/CMIP5	0.18	3.2	5.3	0.63	0.13	3.7	12	39	0.13
LSIINC	0.21	2.8	4.9	0.63	0.17	3.4	11	39	0.12
LSIDEC	0.32	5.3	6.5	0.79	0.16	4.7	14	43	0.16
SOLDEC	0.26	3.6	6.1	0.78	0.16	5.2	15	42	0.15
1x1RES	0.24	3.4	5.6	0.71	0.19	3.6	12	38	0.14
METDTA	0.22	3.0	5.5	0.69	0.16	3.8	12	42	0.13

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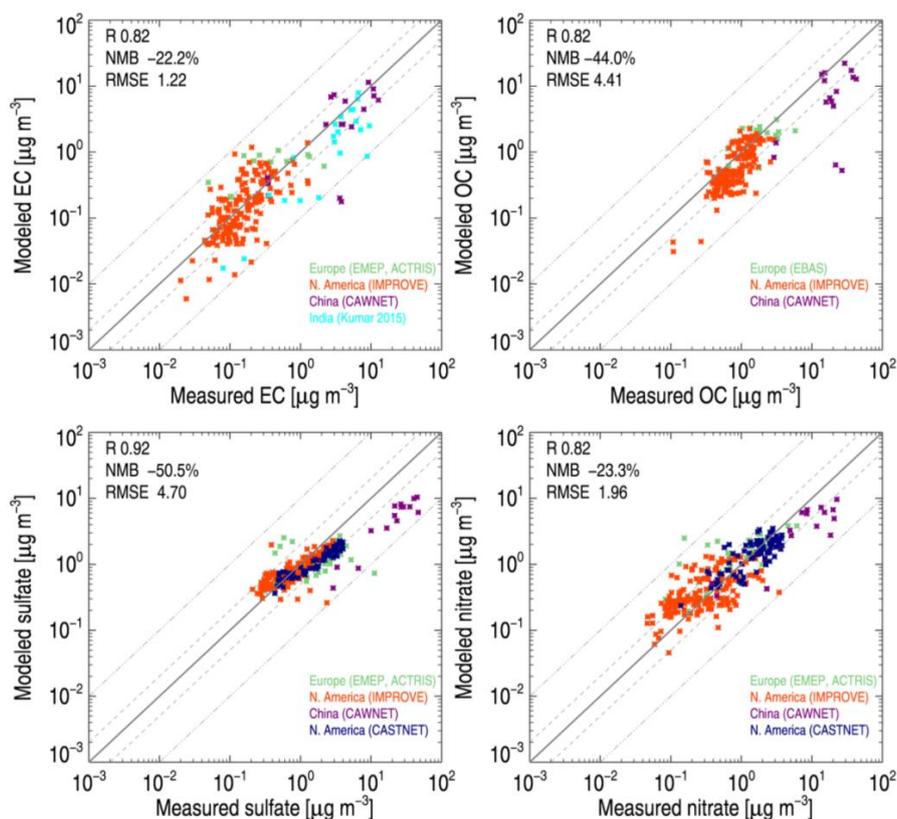
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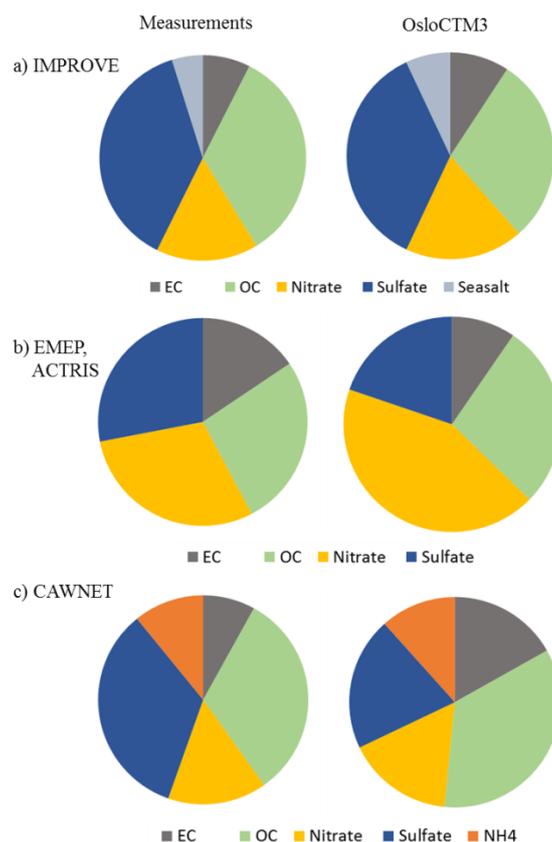
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1263 Figures



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1266 *Figure 1: Annual mean modeled versus measured aerosol surface concentrations of a) EC, b)*  
1267 *OC, c) sulfate and d) nitrate from the IMPROVE, EMEP, ACTRIS, CASTNET and CAWNET*  
1268 *measurements networks.*



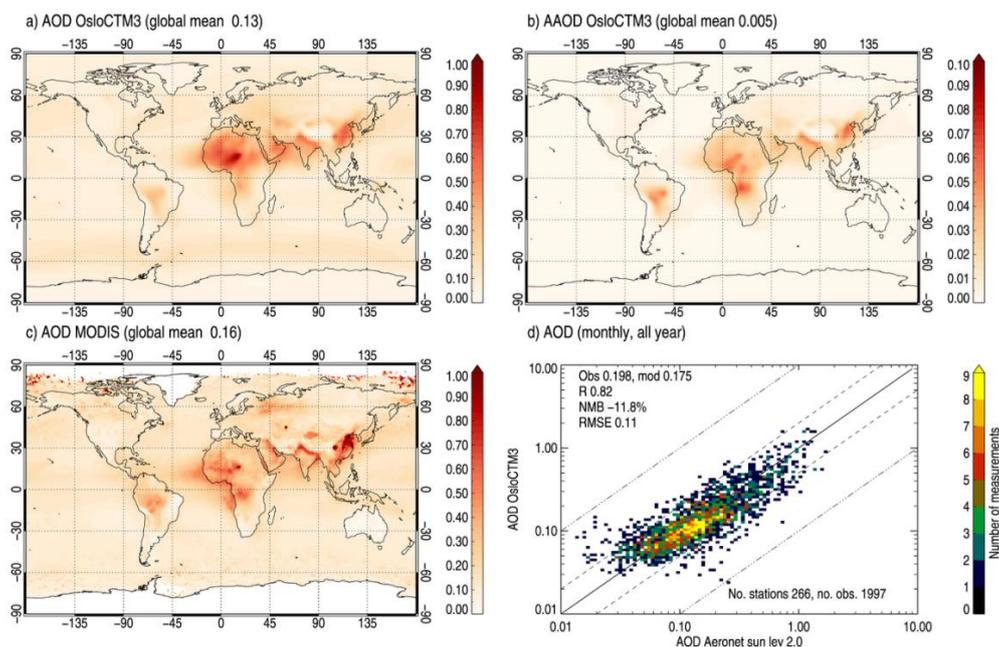
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1271 *Figure 2: Aerosol composition (fraction of total aerosol mass) derived from the IMPROVE, EMEP,*  
1272 *ACTRIS and CAWNET networks (left column) and corresponding OsloCTM3 results (right*  
1273 *column).*

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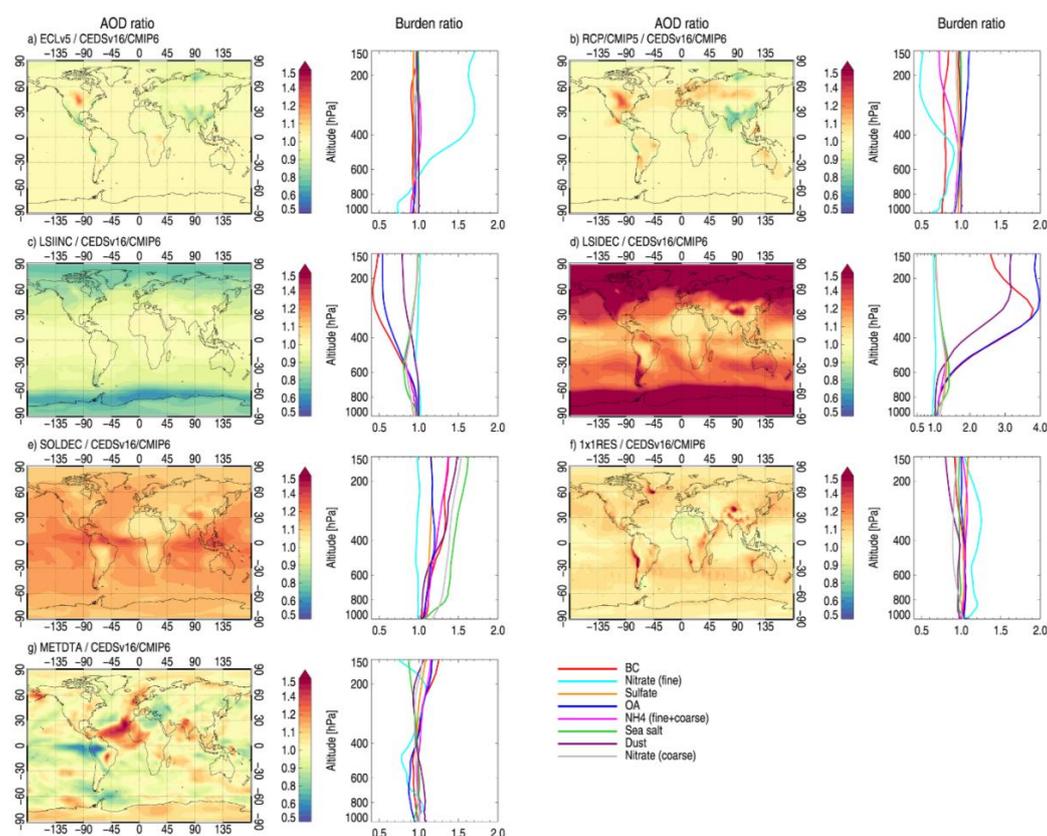
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1277 *Figure 3: Annual mean (year 2010) modeled a) AOD and b) AAOD, c) MODIS-Aqua AOD*  
 1278 *retrieval and d) scatter density plot of comparison of simulated AOD against monthly mean*  
 1279 *AERONET observations.*

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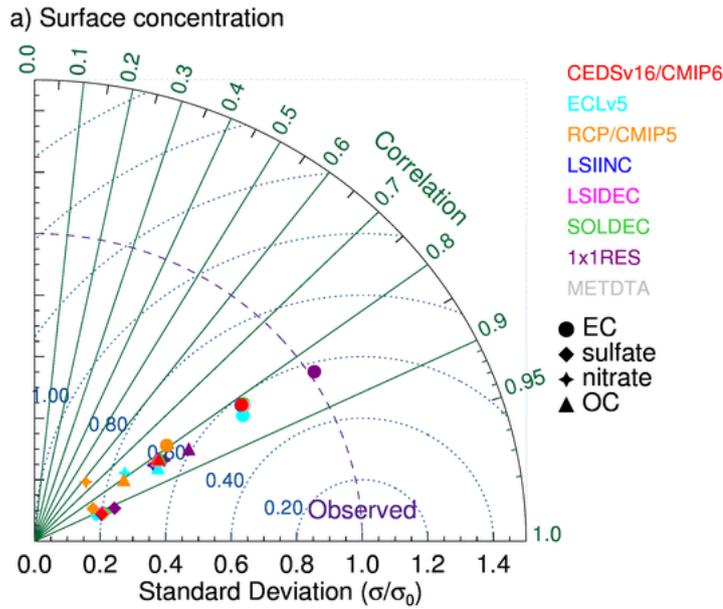
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1284 *Figure 4: Ratio of each sensitivity simulation relative to the baseline for AOD (columns 1 and 3)*

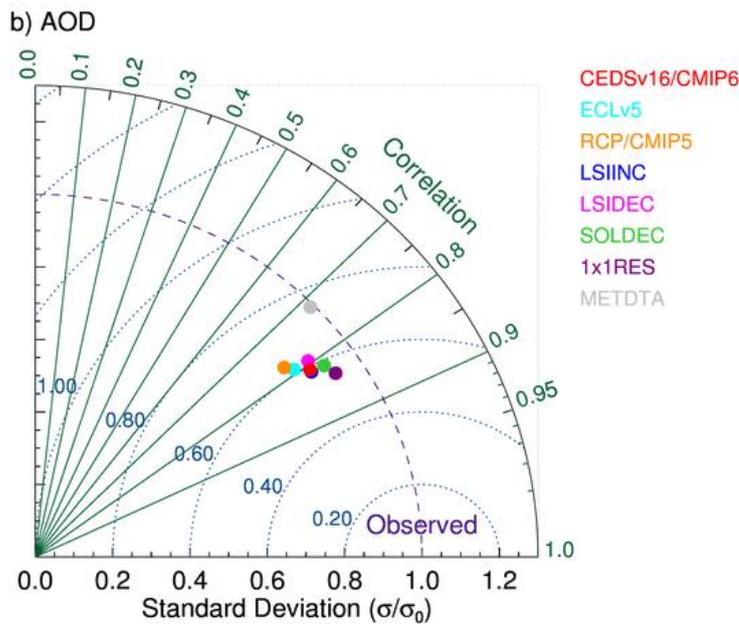
1285 *and total burden by species in each model layer (columns 2 and 4).*

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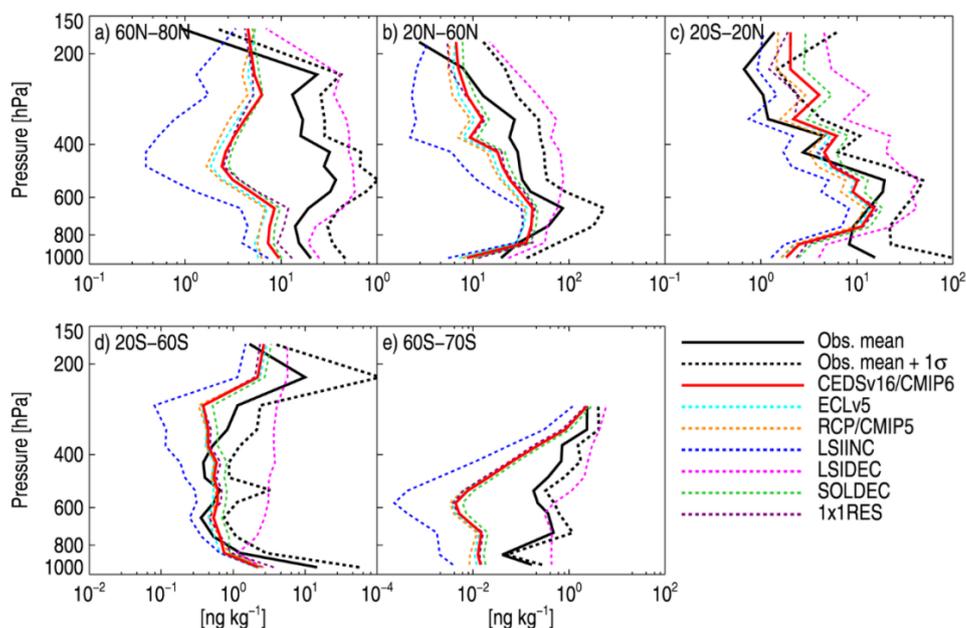
1290 *Figure 5: Taylor diagram of modeled and measured aerosol surface concentrations in the baseline*  
 1291 *simulation and sensitivity tests using all observations in Fig. 1.*

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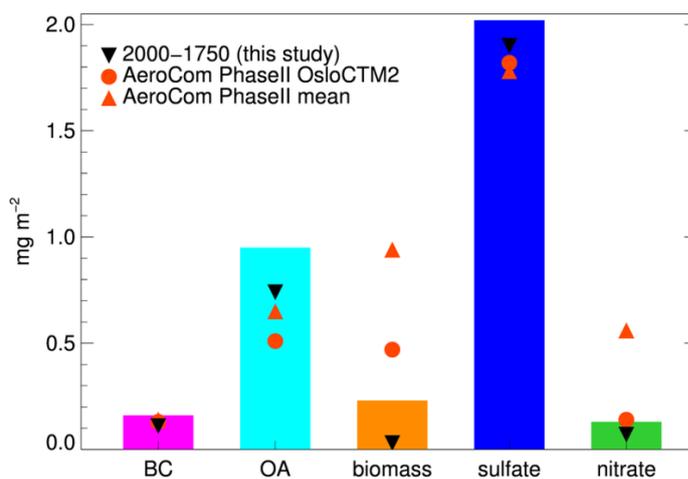
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1300 *Figure 6: Modeled vertical BC profiles against rBC aircraft measurements in five different*  
 1301 *latitudes bands over the Pacific Ocean from the HIPPO3 flight campaign. Model data is extracted*  
 1302 *along the flight track using an online flight simulator. Black lines: mean of observations (solid),*  
 1303 *mean + plus 1 standard deviation (dashed). Colored lines: OsloCTM3 baseline (CEDSV16/CMIP6)*  
 1304 *(solid), sensitivity simulations (dashed).*

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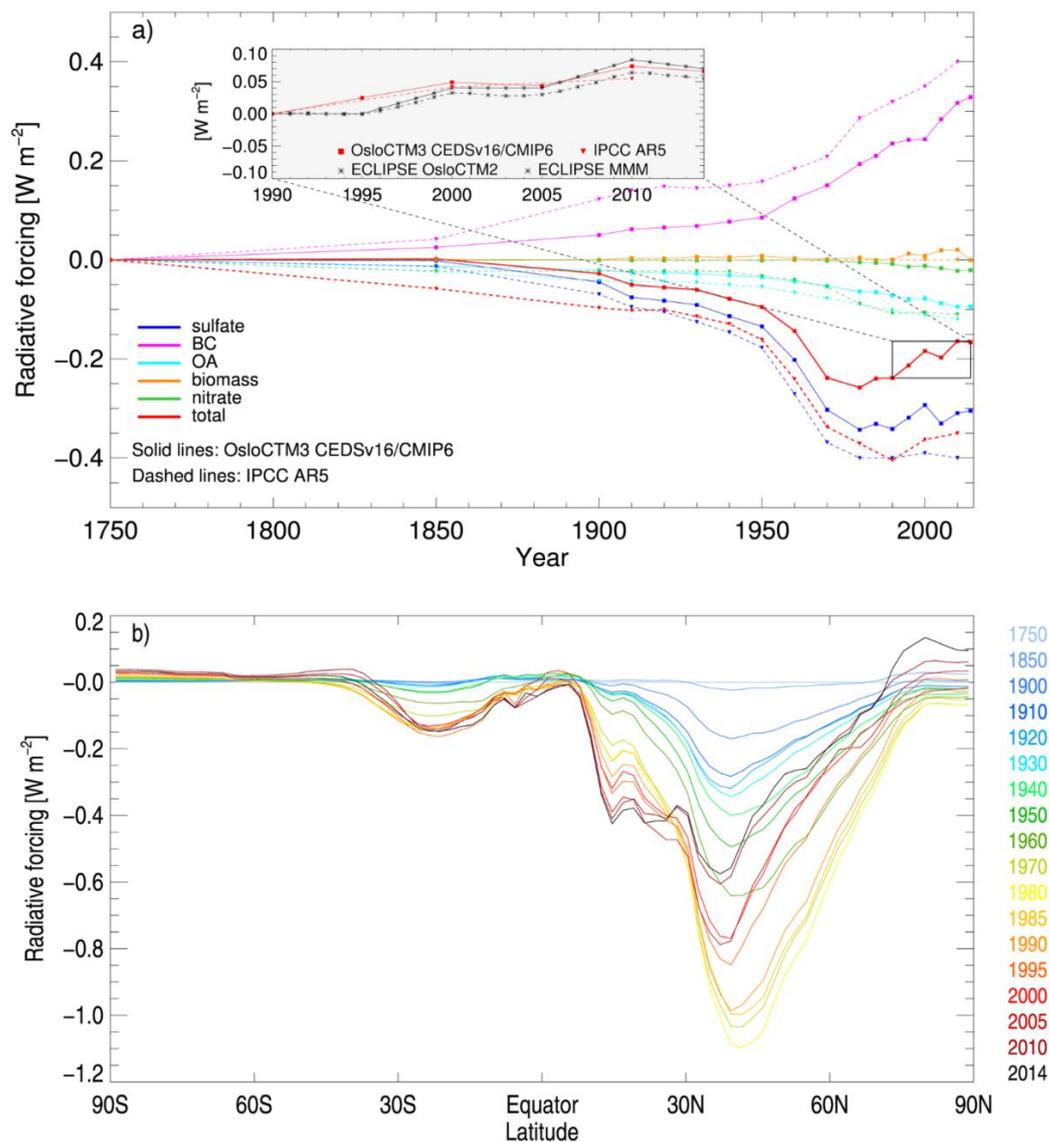
1309 *Figure 7: Change in anthropogenic aerosol load over the period 1750 to 2014 using CEDSv16*  
1310 *emissions. Black symbols show the 1750 to 2000 difference and red symbols show multi-model*  
1311 *mean and OsloCTM2 results from the AeroCom II experiments [Myhre et al., 2013a].*

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1317 *Figure 8: a) Time evolution of  $R_{\text{Fari}}$ . Solid lines show OsloCTM3 results from the current study,*  
 1318 *while dashed lines show results from IPCC AR5 [Myhre et al., 2013b]. The inset shows the change*  
 1319 *in total  $R_{\text{Fari}}$  between 1990 and 2015 in the current study compared with IPCC AR5 and multi-*



1320 *model mean and OsloCTM2 results from Myhre et al. [2017] using ECLv5 emissions. b) zonal*  
1321 *mean RFari 1750-2014.*

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