

Ozone Layer: The Shield in the Sky

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Abstract: There are many situations where human activities have significant effects on the environment. Ozone layer damage is one of them. The objective of this paper is to review the origin, causes, mechanisms and bio effects of ozone layer depletion as well as the protective measures of this vanishing layer. The chlorofluorocarbon and the halons are potent ozone depletors. One of the main reasons for the widespread concern about depletion of the ozone layer is the anticipated increase in the amounts of ultraviolet radiation received at the surface of the earth and the effect of this on human health and on the environment. The prospects of ozone recovery remain uncertain. In the absence of other changes, stratospheric ozone abundances should rise in the future as the halogen loading falls in response to regulation. However, the future behaviour of ozone will also be affected by the changing atmospheric abundances of methane, nitrous oxide, water vapour, sulphate aerosol, and changing climate.

Keywords: Ozone, Ozone Depletion, Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Ultra Violet (UV) Radiations, Bio-Effects.

1. INTRODUCTION

All life on Earth depends on the existence of a thin shield of a poisonous gas high in the atmosphere: the ozone layer. Ozone is a molecule made up of three oxygen atoms. It is an extremely rare component of the Earth's atmosphere; in every ten million molecules of air, only about three are ozone. Most of the ozone (90%) is found in the upper atmosphere (the stratosphere), between 10 and 50 kilometers (6–30 miles) above the Earth's surface. This 'ozone layer' absorbs all but a small fraction of the harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV-B) emanating from the sun. It therefore shields plant and animal life from UV-B, which in high doses can be particularly damaging. The ozone layer is a layer in Earth's atmosphere which contains relatively high concentrations of ozone (O₃). This layer absorbs 93-99% of the sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, which is potentially damaging to life on earth. Over 91% of the ozone in Earth's atmosphere is present here. It is mainly located in the lower portion of the stratosphere from approximately 10 km to 50 km above Earth, though the thickness varies seasonally and geographically. The ozone layer was discovered in 1913 by the French physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson. Its properties were explored in detail by the British meteorologist G. M. B. Dobson, who developed a simple spectrophotometer (the Dobson meter) that could be used to measure stratospheric ozone from the ground. Between 1928 and 1958 Dobson established a worldwide network of ozone monitoring stations which continues to operate today. The "Dobson unit", a convenient measure of the total amount of ozone in a column overhead, is named in his honor.

2. OZONE

Without ozone, life on Earth would not have evolved in the way it has. The first stage of single cell organism development requires an oxygen-free environment. This type of environment existed on earth over 3000 million years ago. As the primitive forms of plant life multiplied and evolved, they began to release minute amounts of oxygen through the photosynthesis reaction (which converts carbon dioxide into oxygen). The buildup of oxygen in the atmosphere led to the formation of the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere or stratosphere. This layer filters out incoming radiation in the "cell-damaging" ultraviolet (UV) part of the spectrum. Thus with the development of the ozone layer came the formation of more advanced life forms. Ozone is a form of oxygen. The oxygen we breathe is in the form of oxygen

molecules (O_2) - two atoms of oxygen bound together. Normal oxygen which we breathe is colourless and odourless. Ozone, on the other hand, consists of three atoms of oxygen bound together (O_3). Most of the atmosphere's ozone occurs in the region called the stratosphere. Ozone is colourless and has a very harsh odour. Ozone is much less common than normal oxygen. Out of 10 million air molecules, about 2 million are normal oxygen, but only 3 are ozone. Most ozone is produced naturally in the upper atmosphere or stratosphere. While ozone can be found through the entire atmosphere, the greatest concentration occurs at altitudes between 19 and 30 km above the Earth's surface. This band of ozone-rich air is known as the "ozone layer". [4] Ozone also occurs in very small amounts in the lowest few kilometres of the atmosphere, a region known as the troposphere. It is produced at ground level through a reaction between sunlight and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), some of some of which are produced by human activities such as driving cars. Ground-level ozone is a component of urban smog and can be harmful to human health. Even though both types of ozone contain the same molecules, their presence in different parts of the atmosphere has very different consequences. Stratospheric ozone blocks harmful solar radiation - all life on Earth has adapted to this filtered solar radiation. Ground-level ozone, in contrast, is simply a pollutant. It will absorb some incoming solar radiation but it cannot make up for ozone losses in the stratosphere.

3. OZONE HOLE

In some of the popular news media, as well as in many books, the term "ozone hole" has and often still is used far too loosely. Frequently, the term is employed to describe any episode of ozone depletion, no matter how minor. Unfortunately, this sloppy language trivializes the problem and blurs the important scientific distinction between the massive ozone losses in Polar Regions and the much smaller, but nonetheless significant, ozone losses in other parts of the world. Technically, the term "ozone hole" should be applied to regions where stratospheric ozone depletion is so severe that levels fall below 200 Dobson Units (D.U.), the traditional measure of stratospheric ozone. Normal ozone concentration is about 300 to 350 D.U. Such ozone loss now occurs every springtime above Antarctica, and to a lesser extent the Arctic, where special meteorological conditions and very low air temperatures accelerate and enhance the destruction of ozone loss by man-made ozone-depleting chemicals (ODCs)

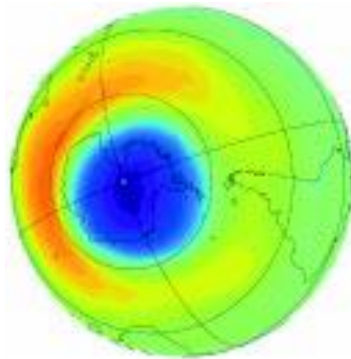


Fig.1: The Antarctic ozone hole in October 1999.

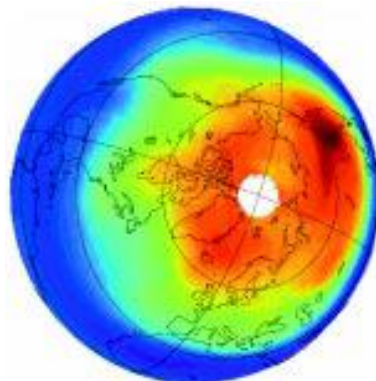
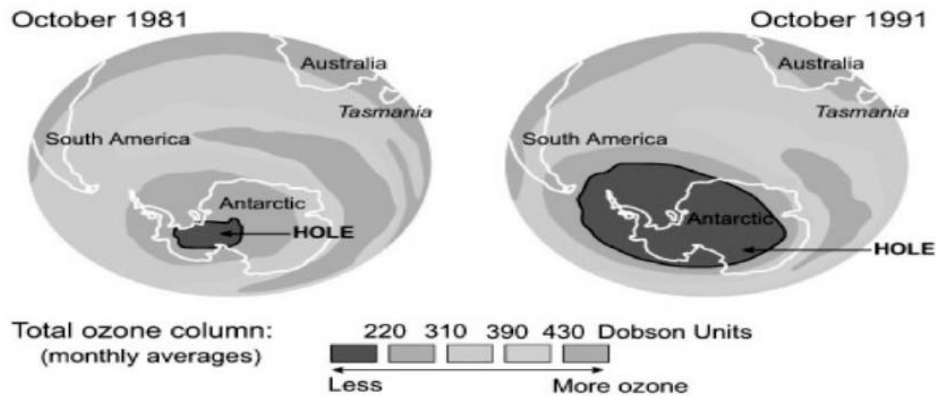
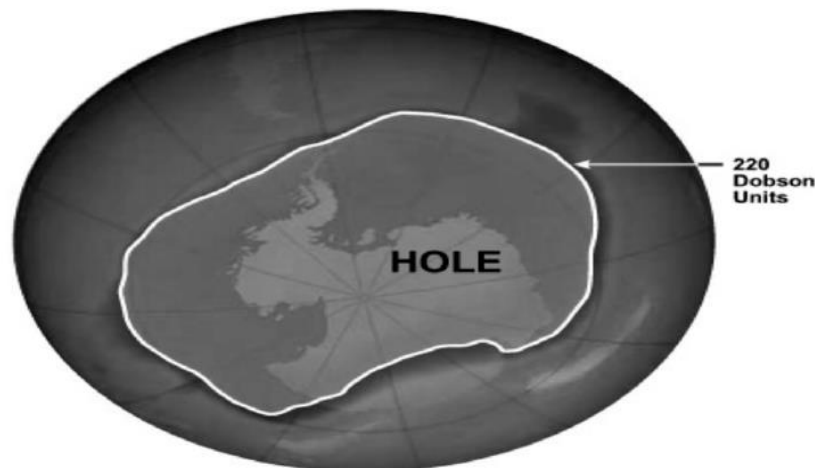


Fig.2: The monthly average total ozone in March 1999 for the Arctic (North Pole).

THE ANTARCTIC HOLE



September 24, 2006



From September 21-30, 2006, the average area of the ozone hole was the largest ever observed.

4. OZONE LAYER

The ozone layer is not really a layer at all, but has become known as such because most ozone particles are scattered between 19 and 30 kilometers (12 to 30 miles) up in the Earth's atmosphere, in a region called the stratosphere. The concentration of ozone in the ozone layer is usually under 10 parts ozone per million [5]. Without the ozone layer, a lot of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the Sun would not be stopped reaching the Earth's surface, causing untold damage to most living species. In the 1970s, scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) could destroy ozone in the stratosphere. Ozone is created in the stratosphere when UV radiation from the Sun strikes molecules of oxygen (O₂) and causes the two oxygen atoms to split apart. If a freed atom bumps into another O₂, it joins up, forming ozone (O₃). This process is known as photolysis. Ozone is also naturally broken down in the stratosphere by sunlight and by a chemical reaction with various compounds containing nitrogen, hydrogen and chlorine. These chemicals all occur naturally in the atmosphere in very small amounts. In an unpolluted atmosphere there is a balance between the amount of ozone being produced and the amount of ozone being destroyed. As a result, the total concentration of ozone in the stratosphere remains relatively constant. At different temperatures and pressures (i.e. varying altitudes within the stratosphere), there are different formation and destruction rates. Thus, the amount of ozone within the stratosphere varies according to altitude. Ozone concentrations are highest between 19 and 23 km. Most of the ozone in the stratosphere is formed over the equator where the level of sunshine striking the Earth is greatest. It is transported by winds towards higher latitudes. Consequently,

the amount of stratospheric ozone above a location on the Earth varies naturally with latitude, season, and from day-to-day. Under normal circumstances highest ozone values are found over the Canadian Arctic and Siberia, whilst the lowest values are found around the equator. The ozone layer over Canada is normally thicker in winter and early spring, varying naturally by about 25% between January and July. Weather conditions can also cause considerable daily variations.

Total ozone (DU)/ Total Ozone (UD):

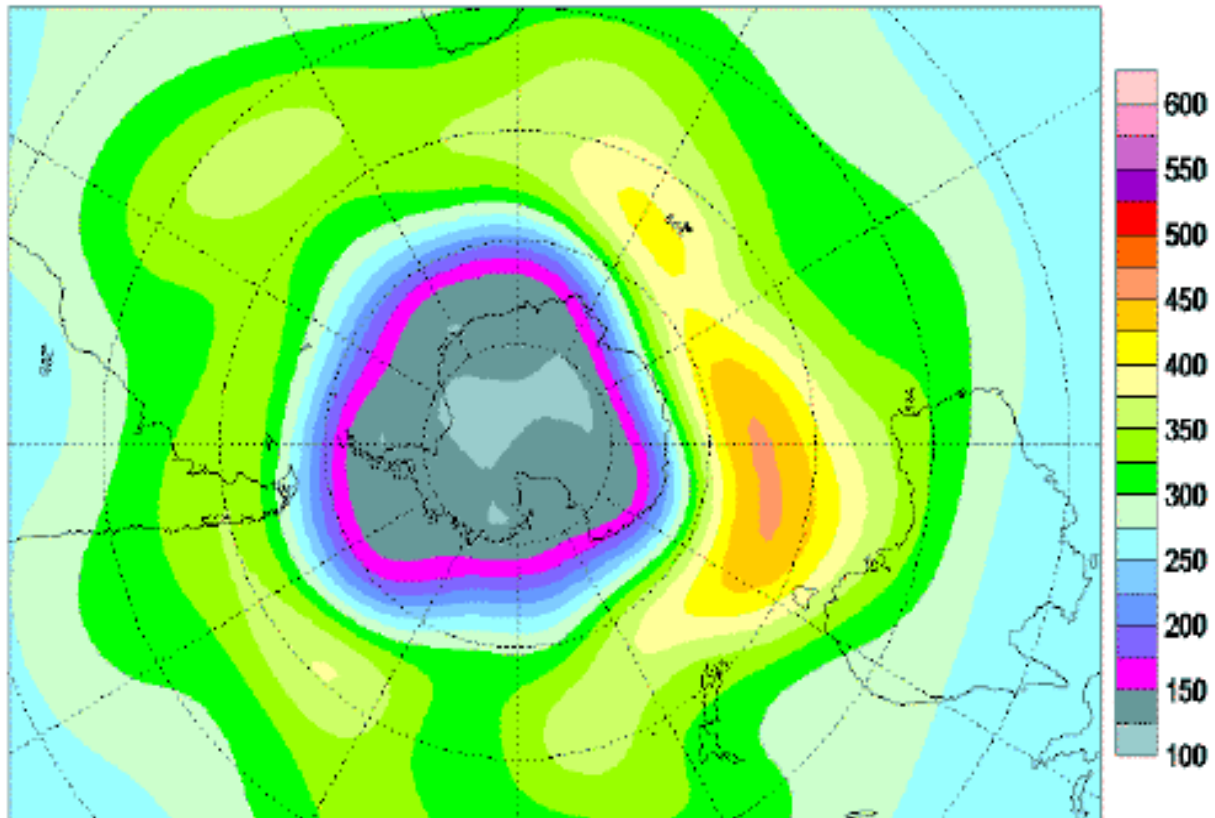


Fig.3: ozone layer depletion over Antarctica

5. OZONE DEPLETION

Any damage to the ozone layer therefore allows more UV-B radiation to reach the surface of the Earth. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, scientists began first to suspect, and then to detect, a steady thinning of the layer. This was accompanied by increases in the amount of UV-B reaching the surface. In northern hemisphere mid-latitudes (25–60°, i.e. north of the tropics but south of the polar regions), UV-B levels are now about 7% higher than twenty years ago in the winter and spring, and about 4% higher in the summer and autumn. In southern hemisphere mid-latitudes, UV-B levels are about 6% higher all the year round. UV-B radiation has increased dramatically all year near the poles, particularly in the spring – 22% higher in the Arctic and 130% higher in the Antarctic relative to values in the 1970s.

Moderate exposure to UV-B poses no dangers; indeed, in humans it is an essential part of the process that forms vitamin D in the skin. But higher levels of exposure have potentially harmful effects on human health, animals, plants, microorganisms, materials and air quality. In humans, long-term exposure to UV-B is associated with the risk of eye damage, including severe reactions such as 'snow blindness', cancer and cataracts; UV-B radiation can cause effects on the immune system, but may be both adverse and beneficial. Increases in UV-B are likely to accelerate the rate of photo aging, as well as increase the incidence (and associated mortality) of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma with risk increasing with fairness of the skin. The risk of the more serious melanoma may also increase with UV-B exposure, particularly during childhood; melanoma is now one of the most common cancers among white-skinned people.

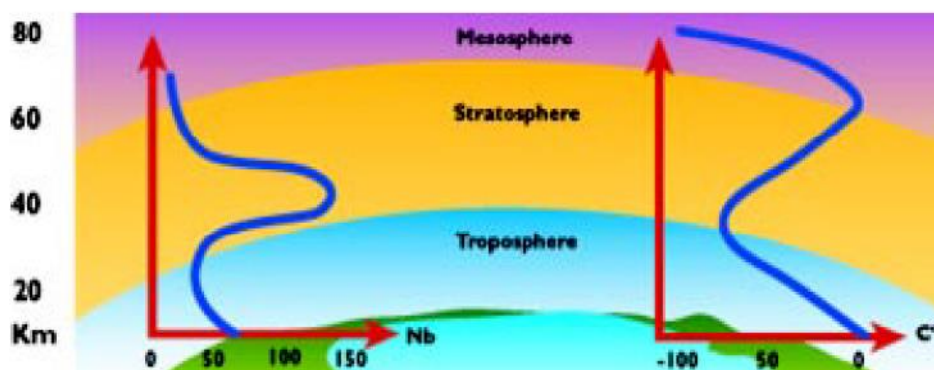


Fig.4: The thin layer of ozone in the stratosphere is at its thickest between about 20-40 km up. It also accumulates near the ground in the troposphere, where it is a troublesome pollutant.

6. MEASURING OZONE DEPLETION

The most common stratospheric ozone measurement unit is the Dobson Unit (DU). The Dobson Unit is named after the atmospheric ozone pioneer G.M.B. Dobson who carried out the earliest studies on ozone in the atmosphere from the 1920s to the 1970s. A Dobson Unit measures the total amount of ozone in an overhead column of the atmosphere. Dobson Units are measured by how thick the layer of ozone would be if it were compressed into one layer at 0 degrees Celsius and with a pressure of one atmosphere above it. Every 0.01 millimeter thickness of the layer is equal to one Dobson Unit. The average amount of ozone in the stratosphere across the globe is about 300 DU (or a thickness of only 3mm at 0°C and 1 atmospheric pressure!). Highest levels of ozone are usually found in the mid to high latitudes, in Canada and Siberia (360 DU). When stratospheric ozone falls below 200 DU this is considered low enough to represent the beginning of an ozone hole. Ozone holes of course commonly form during springtime above Antarctica, and to a lesser extent the Arctic.

7. OZONE LAYER RECOVERY

The ozone depletion caused by human-produced chlorine and bromine compounds is expected to gradually disappear by about the middle of the 21st century as these compounds are slowly removed from the stratosphere by natural processes. This environmental achievement is due to the landmark international agreement to control the production and use of ozone-depleting substances. Full compliance would be required to achieve this expected recovery. Without the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments, continuing use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances would have increased the stratospheric abundances of chlorine and bromine tenfold by the mid-2050s compared with the 1980 amounts. Such high chlorine and bromine abundances would have caused very large ozone losses, which would have been far larger than the depletion observed at present. In contrast, under the current international agreements that are now reducing the human-caused emissions of ozone-depleting gases, the net troposphere concentrations of chlorine- and bromine-containing compounds started to decrease in 1995. Because 3 to 6 years are required for the mixing from the troposphere to the stratosphere, the stratospheric abundances of chlorine are starting to reach a constant level and will slowly decline thereafter. With full compliance, the international agreements will eventually eliminate most of the emissions of the major ozone-depleting gases. All other things being constant, the ozone layer would be expected to return to a normal state during the middle of the next century. This slow recovery, as compared with the relatively rapid onset of the ozone depletion due to CFC and bromine-containing halons emissions, is related primarily to the time required for natural processes to eliminate the CFCs and halons from the atmosphere. Most of the CFCs and halons have atmospheric residence times of about 50 to several hundred years.

8. CAUSES OF OZONE DEPLETION

Ozone depletion occurs when the natural balance between the production and destruction of stratospheric ozone is tipped in favour of destruction. Although natural phenomena can cause temporary ozone loss, chlorine and bromine released suggested by Drs. M. Molina and S. Rowland in 1974 that from man-made compounds such as CFCs are now accepted

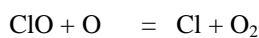
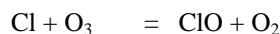
as the main cause of this depletion. It was firstman-made group of compounds known as the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were likely to be the mainsource of ozone depletion. However, this idea was not taken

seriously until the discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica in 1985 by the Survey. Chlorofluorocarbons are

not "washed" back to Earth by rain or destroyed in reactions with other chemicals. They simply do not break down in the lower atmosphere and they can remain in the atmosphere from 20 to 120 years or more. As a consequence of their relative stability, CFCs are instead transported into the stratosphere where they are eventually broken down by

ultraviolet (UV) rays from the Sun, releasing free chlorine. The chlorine becomes actively involved in the process of

destruction of ozone. The net result is that two molecules of ozone are replaced by three of molecular oxygen, leaving the chlorine free to repeat the process:



Ozone is converted to oxygen, leaving the chlorine atom free to repeat the process up to 100,000 times, resulting in a

reduced level of ozone. Bromine compounds, or halons, can also destroy stratospheric ozone. Compounds containing chlorine and bromine from man-made compounds are known as industrial halocarbons. Emissions of CFCs have accounted for roughly 80% of total stratospheric ozone depletion. Thankfully, the developed world has phased out the use of CFCs in response to international agreements to protect the ozone layer. However, because CFCs remain in the atmosphere so long, the ozone layer will not fully repair itself until at least the middle of the 21st century. Naturally occurring chlorine has the same effect on the ozone layer, but has a shorter life span in the atmosphere.

A. Chlorofluorocarbons:

Chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs (also known as Freon) are non-toxic, non-flammable and non-carcinogenic. They contain fluorine atoms, carbon atoms and chlorine atoms. The 5 main CFCs include CFC-11 (trichlorofluoromethane - CFCl_3), CFC-12 (dichloro-difluoromethane - CF_2Cl_2), CFC-113 (trichloro-trifluoroethane - $\text{C}_2\text{F}_3\text{Cl}_3$), CFC-114 (dichloro-tetrafluoroethane - $\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{Cl}_2$), and CFC-115 (chloro pentafluoroethane - $\text{C}_2\text{F}_5\text{Cl}$). CFCs are widely used as coolants in refrigeration and air conditioners, as solvents in cleaners, particularly for electronic circuit boards, as blowing agents in the production of foam (for example fire extinguishers), and as propellants in aerosols. Indeed, much of the modern lifestyle of the second half of the 20th century had been made possible by the use of CFCs. Man-made CFCs however, are the main cause of stratospheric ozone depletion. CFCs have a lifetime in the atmosphere of about 20 to 100 years, and consequently one free chlorine atom from a CFC molecule can do a lot of damage, destroying ozone molecules for a long time. Although emissions of CFCs around the developed world have largely ceased due to international control agreements, the damage to the stratospheric ozone layer will continue well into the 21st century.

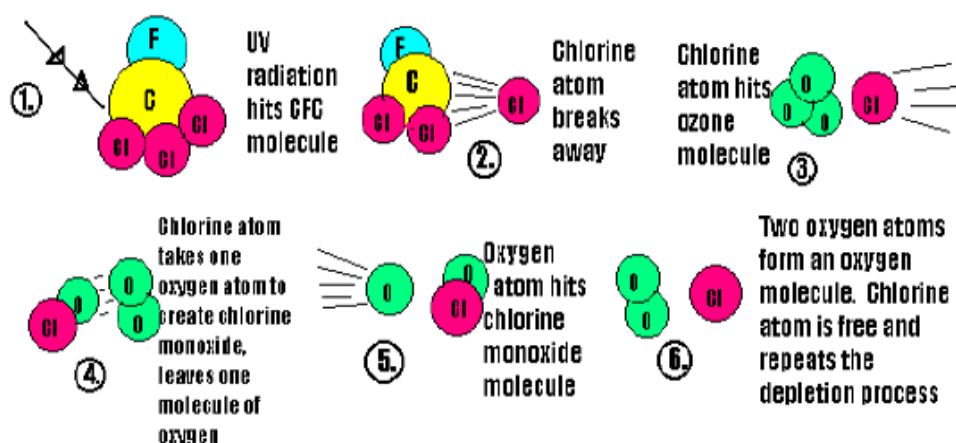


Fig.5: ozone depletion reaction

B. Rocket launches:

The global market for rocket launches may require more stringent regulation in order to prevent significant damage to Earth's stratospheric ozone layer in the decades to come, according to a new study by researchers in California and Colorado. Future ozone losses from unregulated rocket launches will eventually exceed ozone losses due to

Chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, which stimulated the 1987 Montreal Protocol banning ozone-depleting chemicals, said Martin Ross, chief study author from The Aerospace Corporation in Los Angeles. The study, which includes the University of Colorado at Boulder and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, provides a market analysis for

estimating future ozone layer depletion based on the expected growth of the space industry and known impacts of rocket launches." As the rocket launch market grows, so will ozone-destroying rocket emissions," said Professor Darin Toohey of CU-Boulder's atmospheric and oceanic sciences department. "If left unregulated, rocket launches by the year 2050 could result in more ozone destruction than was ever realized by CFCs." Since some proposed space efforts would require frequent launches of large rockets over extended periods, the new study was designed to bring attention to the issue in hopes of sparking additional research, said Ross. "In the policy world uncertainty often leads to unnecessary regulation," he said. "We are suggesting this could be avoided with a more robust understanding of how rockets affect the ozone layer." Current global rocket launches deplete the ozone layer by no more than a few hundredths of 1 percent annually, said Toohey. But as the space industry grows and other ozone-depleting chemicals decline in the Earth's stratosphere, the issue of ozone depletion from rocket launches is expected to move to the forefront. Highly reactive trace-gas molecules known as radicals dominate stratospheric ozone destruction, and a single radical in the stratosphere can destroy up to 10,000 ozone molecules before being deactivated and removed from the stratosphere.

C. Global Warming:

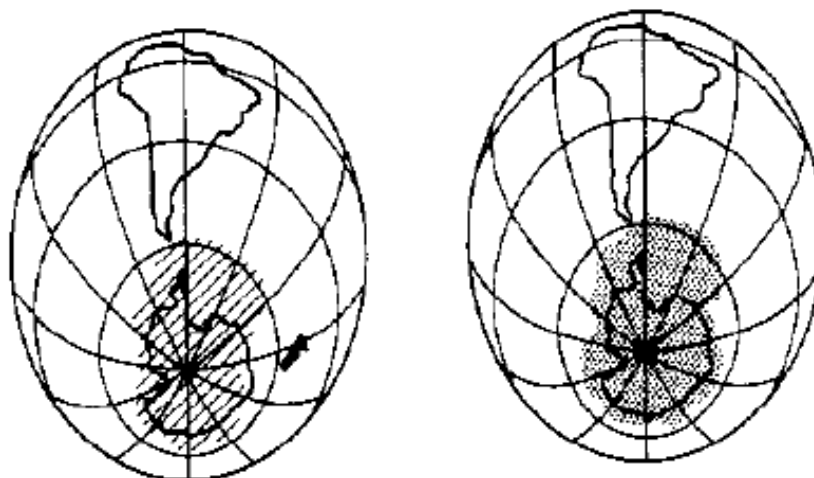
Global warming also leads to ozone layer depletion. Due to global warming and greenhouse effect most of the heat is trapped in troposphere which is the layer below the stratosphere. As we all know ozone is present in Stratosphere so heat doesn't reach troposphere and it remains cold as recovery of ozone layer requires maximum sunlight and heat so it leads to depletion of ozone layer.

D. Nitrogenous Compound:

Nitrogenous compounds emitted by human activities in small amounts like NO, N₂O and NO₂ are considered to be greatly responsible for the depletion of ozone layer.

9. EVIDENCE FOR OZONE DEPLETION

In 1974, after millions of tons of CFCs had been manufactured and sold; chemists F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina of the University of California began to wonder where all these CFCs ended up. Rowland and Molina theorized that ultraviolet (UV) rays from the Sun would break up CFCs in the stratosphere, and that the free chlorine atoms would then enter into a chain reaction, destroying ozone. Many people, however, remained unconvinced of the danger until the mid-1980s, when a severe springtime depletion of ozone was first monitored by the British Antarctic Survey above Antarctica. The depletion above the South Pole was so severe that the British geophysicist, Joe Farman, who first measured it, assumed his spectrophotometer must be broken and sent the device back to England to be repaired. Once the depletion was verified, it came to be known throughout the world through a series of NASA satellite photos as the Antarctic Ozone Hole. Laboratory studies backed by satellite and ground based measurements, show that free chlorine reacts very rapidly with ozone. They also show that the chlorine oxide formed in that reaction undergoes further processes that regenerate the original chlorine, allowing this sequence to be repeated up to 100,000 times. This process is known as a "chain reaction". Similar reactions also take place between bromine and ozone. Observations of the Antarctic ozone hole have given a convincing and unmistakable demonstration of these processes. Scientists have repeatedly observed a large number of chemical species over Antarctica since 1986. Among the chemicals measured were ozone and chlorine monoxide, which is the reactive chemical identified in the laboratory as one of the participants in the ozone-destroying chain reactions. The satellite maps shown in the figure below relate the accumulation of chlorine monoxide observed over Antarctica and the subsequent ozone depletion that occurs rapidly in a few days over very similar areas.

Chlorine Monoxide and the Antarctica Ozone hole latest August 1996:**I: Region of High Chlorine Monoxide (ClO)****II: Region of low Ozone (O₃)****Fig.6: ozone depleting agents over earth****10. EFFECT OF OZONE LAYER DEPLETION**

Ozone depletion is affecting the human health and environment negatively, as it allows the penetration of UV radiations to reach the Earth. These radiations can cause severe diseases in humans such as skin cancer, eye damage and genetic mutations etc. Furthermore the ozone depletion is affecting the aquatic life, biogeochemical cycles, air quality and also contributing in Global warming but in this review paper our main focus is on the effects of ozone depletion on human health.

A. Effects on Eyes:

The major cause of blindness in this world is cataracts. There would be 0.3% - 0.6% increase in risk of cataract if there will be 1% decrease in Ozone level. Eye lens can be damaged by oxidative agents. Oxidative oxygen Produced by UV radiation can severely damage eye lens and cornea of eye is also badly damaged by UV radiation .Photo keratitis, cataract, blindness all are caused due to UV rays.

B. Effects on Skin:

Exposure to UV radiations can cause skin cancer. UV radiations alter the structure of biomolecules and thus lead to different diseases. Skin is the most often exposed part of body to UV radiations there are two types of skin cancer, Melanoma and Non-melanoma. Melanoma is most serious form of cancer and is often fatal, while non-melanoma is most common type and less fatal. Depletion of ozone layer leads to both Sun burn and skin cancer .UV radiations are also responsible for breast cancer and leukemia. Epidemiological studies of Melanoma indicate that the incidence of melanoma is increasing in those countries having high ratio of cases. As UV radiations can penetrate more easily in thin skin so there is greater number of incidence is found in thin skinned people. It is found that the incidence of Melanoma is more in children than adults. The chance of incidence of melanoma is correlated with UV exposure furthermore the survival chance of melanoma is less in boys as compared to girls .As the intensity of radiation increases in summer so the risk of melanoma in thin skinned people is increased in summer and it is more in females as compared to males as their skin is thinner than males .There is considerable relationship between melanoma risk and intermittent sun exposure and sunburn history. There is also a direct relationship between air travelling and melanoma incidence .However the studies revealed that genetic factors contribute more for having melanoma disease than behavioral aspects. The epidemiological studies of non-melanoma skin carcinoma (NMSC) indicates that its risk is more in young females in lower limbs and sunbathing increases its risk five times in trunk region.

C. Effects on Human Immunity:

Exposure to UV radiations can also result in suppression of immune response to skin cancer, infectious diseases and other antigens. The immunosuppression is due to changes in skin photoreceptors and antigen presenting cells that are brought by UV radiations. More increase in depletion of ozone results in more decrease in immune system.

D. DNA Damage and Lung Diseases:

Short exposure to UV-B radiations can cause the DNA damage because UV radiations can disturb biomolecules such as lipids, proteins and Nucleic acids. Due to UV-B radiations there would be cryptic transposable elements which may lead towards the mutations which is more dangerous than the immediate DNA damage. Excessive

UV-B radiation exposure results in the basal and squamous cells carcinomas. These types of cancers are induced due to transcriptional errors during DNA replication which are caused by changes in pyrimidine bases. The ultimate cause of this whole mechanism is found to be the prolonged exposure to UV radiations. It is estimated that there is increase of 2% of incidence of these cancers by 1% depletion of ozone layer. Exposure to UV radiations equally affects lungs. Bronchitis, obstruction of lungs, Emphysema, asthma all can be resulted from UV radiations exposure.

E. Effects of Hydrogen Peroxide on Human Health:

Due to stratospheric ozone layer depletion UV radiations are penetrating in earth atmosphere which result in the production of reduced oxygen. Highly reactive species like hydrogen peroxide is produced which has bad effects on human health. It is ideal photochemical maker due to its long life and stability. Hydrogen peroxide is toxicant and it pollutes drinking water especially in lakes and makes water toxic and unfit for drinking. It alters redox chemistry of metals that are used by our body like iron copper and manganese.

F. Effect of Food Shortage on Human Population:

Depletion of ozone layer is also causing the problem of food shortage to humans. UV radiations are disturbing developmental and physiological processes which is decreasing the productivity of crops. As humans are heavily dependent on crops for food so there is a great chance if depletion of ozone layer is not checked it may cause seriously shortage of food to humans. Researches also show that UV radiations can also be used to enhance yield of crops by the use and application of phytohormones.

11. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the auspices of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Governments of the world, including the United States have cooperatively taken action to stop ozone depletion with the "The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer", signed in 1987. Scientist's are concerned that continued global warming will accelerate ozone destruction and increase stratospheric ozone depletion. Ozone depletion gets worse when the stratosphere (where the ozone layer is), becomes colder. Because global warming traps heat in the troposphere, less heat reaches the stratosphere which will make it colder. Greenhouse gases act like a blanket for the troposphere and make the stratosphere colder. In other words, global warming can make ozone depletion much worse right when it is supposed to begin its recovery during the next century. Maintain programs to ensure that ozone-depleting substances are not released and ongoing vigilance is required to this effect. In fact, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, and ground-level ozone pollution all pose a serious threat to the quality of life on Earth. They are separate problems, but, as has been seen, there are links between each. The use of CFCs not only destroys the ozone layer but also leads to global warming. Ozone layer is continuously depleting which is highly alarming situation of today. Chlorofluorocarbons are major cause of ozone depletion. These substances should be banned or we should use their alternatives so that in future we can protect ourselves from the harmful effects of UV radiation. Human eye and skin are the most exposed part of the body to these radiations. So there is high degree of incidence of blindness and skin cancer disease increasing day by day with the depletion of ozone layer so we should use sunglasses and full body clothes especially in summer when there is high intensity of sunlight so that we can protect our body from harmful UV radiations. We should also use sun block creams to our most exposed parts of body like face. We should also don't consume water from lakes as it may contain high quantity of hydrogen peroxide which is toxic to our bodies, and we should consume water for drinking from clean water sources.

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