Regional climate chemistry interactions and modelling in the Mediterranean region

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Atmospheric chemistry in the Mediterranean region

Diversity of sources of primary gases and particles (anthropogenic and natural).
Active photochemistry (ozone and secondary aerosol formation)
Diversity of chemical transport pathways



Hot spot for ozone

... and aerosol





From MedCliVar book, Lionello

• Air quality

Impacts

- Regional radiative forcing and climate
- Biogeochemistry (deposition , PAR)

e.g.: Role of dust on regional climate (Nabat et al., Clim. Dyn., 2015)



Based on CNRM-RCSM4 simulations, June 2006 heatwave

The variability of gases and aerosol concentrations is controlled by :



Jacobs et al., 2009

Example : Variability of dust aerosol





Emission change in the future ?



Anthropogenic emissions evolution.

Consider different scenarios based on socio-economic projections for different activity sectors. Prescribed to models.

Perturbation of natural (or semi-natural) emissions through climate, land use , ecosystem/agrosystem changes

Possibly parameterized in models, e.g. dust and sea salt emission, biogenic VOC emissions, wildfires, ..

ACCMIP/ RCP emission scenarios for the Mediterranean region

from Jaidan et al., ACPD, 2017



HIST 1990-2010





Lamarque et al.,2010 Van Vuuren et al., 2011

Seen from 11 global models

JJA mean Surface Ozone changes over the Mediterranean basin

Seen by ACCMIP models:

Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model Intercomparison Project (ACCMIP) outputs from 11 global models

Jaidan et al., ACPD, 2017



Air quality : The ozone climate penalty

Colette et al., ERL, 2015 ; Lemaire et al., 2016

driving chemistry-transport models with future climate projections while holding the ozone precursor emissions (anthropogenic) constant



Aerosol change

Seen by two regional climate models with simplified aerosol scheme (SO4/BC/OC) and on-line dust and sea salt emission/ transport

AOD change ([2080-2100] – [1990-2010]) RCP8.5



Total aerosol radiative forcing change TOA JJA



- Driven by anthropogenic emission reduction over Europe and possibly regional climate change (uncertain).
- Regional enhancement of global warming due to decreased dimming aerosol effect.
- No significant dust change simulated.



Some components of the change in atmospheric chemistry are highly uncertain (e.g. evolution of biogenic emissions, land use change, wildfires).

The analysis of the evolution of deposition, extreme events, exposure time (...) is required for impact studies.

Important subregional factors for pollution impacts : e.g. sea breeze / pollution recirculation in coastal or mountain areas. Promising results from high resolution CORDEX runs (Drobinski et al., 2017)

Simulating dust emission change might require higher RCM resolution / improvement of subgrid scale parametrisation and must take into account the impact of landuse change



Intercomparison of atmospheric chemistry simulations based on regional climate modelling. Ensemble data sets.





Med-CORDEX Aerosol Flagship Pilot study

ChArMEx modelling intercomparison work package

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or Theoretical Physics

Modelling of atmospheric chemistry/ aerosols in Mediterranean regions : a number of challenges !

Example 2 : Secondary aerosol formation

Secondary aerosol particles dominate the fine (PM2.5) particulate fraction



Sulfate dominate in the eastern basin Organics dominate in the northwestern basin

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Relevance of PM2.5 for air quality, ecosystem impact, and climate (direct and indirect effects)

