

Highlights of the UC-Irvine Global Trace Gas Monitoring Program (1978-2010)

Isobel J. Simpson¹, Simone Meinardi¹,
Mads P. Sulbaek Andersen¹, Lori Bruhwiler²,
F. Sherwood Rowland¹, Donald R. Blake¹

¹ University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA

² NOAA ESRL, Boulder, CO

isimpson@uci.edu

UC-Irvine whole air sampling (WAS)



Canister sampling in Rarotonga (21°S)

Canister-based global monitoring

- 2-L stainless steel
- Conditioned, evacuated
- Bellows valve
- Sampling period: 1 minute
- Sampling pressure: ambient



Nugget Point, New Zealand (46°S)

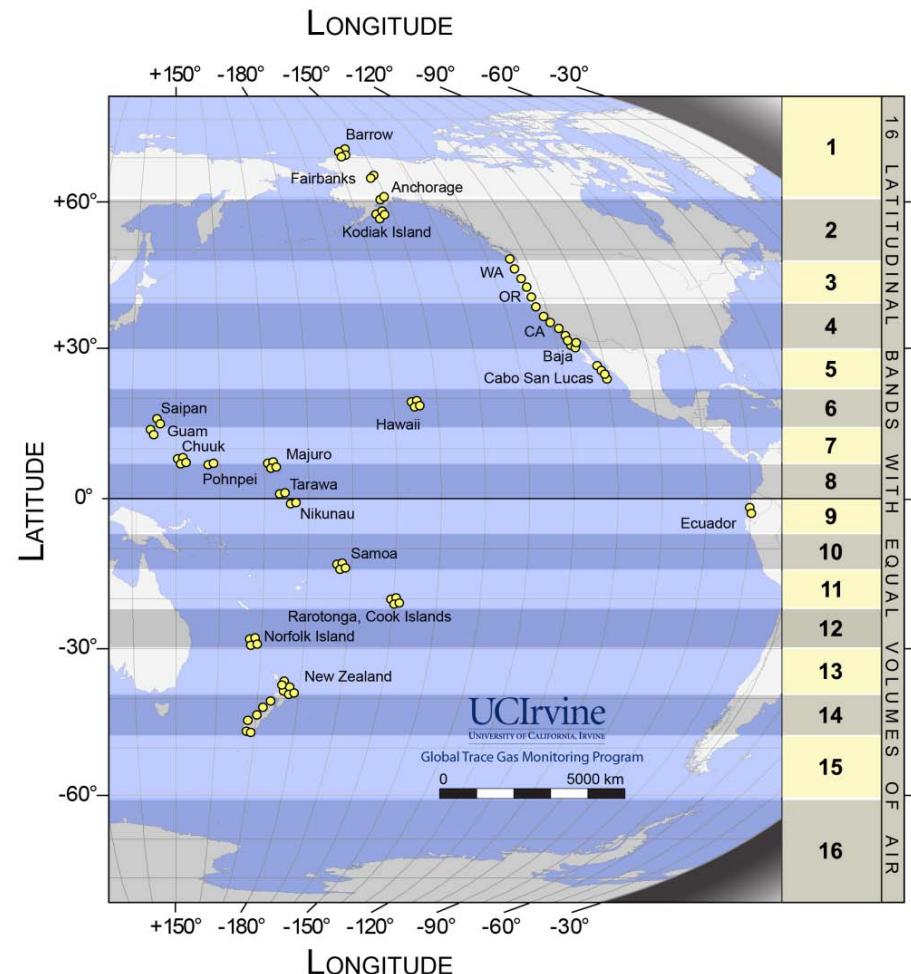
Seasonal sampling in the Pacific Basin

Seasonal sampling

- 80 samples per season
- 40-45 locations
- 3-week period

Global averaging

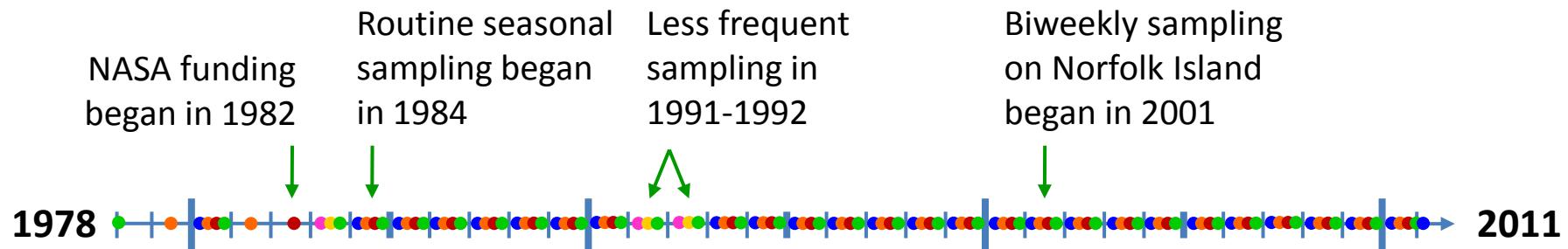
- 16 latitudinal bands
 - Each with equal volume of air
- Global averaging:
 1. Average within each band
 2. Interpolate box 15 & 16 values
 3. Average 16 band averages



J F M A M J J A S O N D



Timeline of global trace gases monitored by UC-Irvine



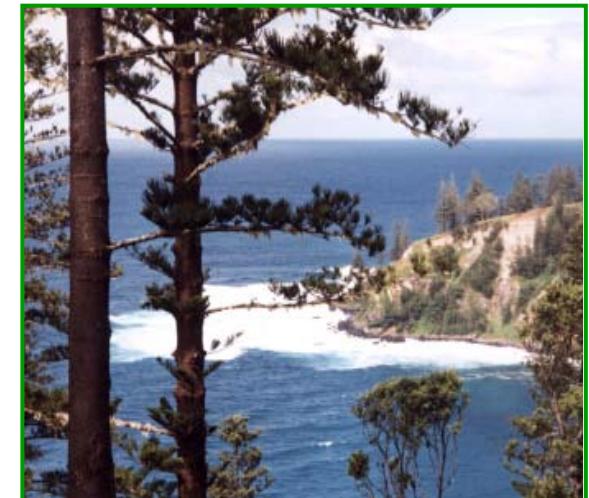
1978:
 CH_4
CFC-11
CFC-12
CFC-113
 CH_3CCl_3
 CCl_4



1984: Ethane
1988: C_2Cl_4

- March
 - June
 - September
 - December
-
- April
 - August
 - December

1996:
 CHCl_3
H-1211
Propane
i-Butane
n-Butane
Ethyne
 EtONO_2
 $i\text{-PrONO}_2$



Norfolk Island (29°S)

Laboratory analysis at UC-Irvine

Gas Chromatography (GC)

Flame Ionization Detection (FID)

- Sensitive to hydrocarbons

Electron Capture Detection (ECD)

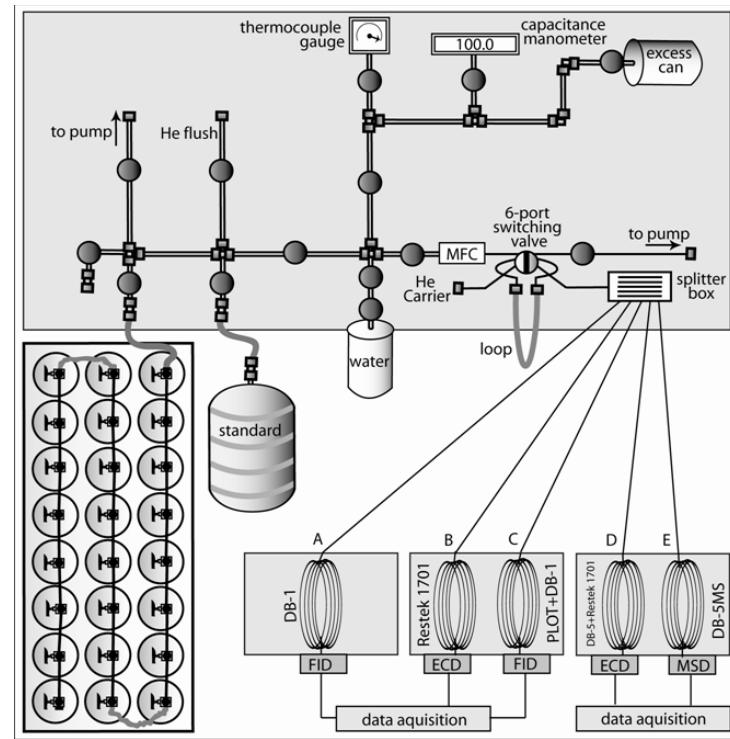
- Sensitive to halocarbons, RONO₂

Mass Spectrometer Detection (MSD)

- Unambiguous compound identification



Laboratory analysis performed by Brent Love



Compound	<u>LOD</u>	<u>Precision</u>	<u>Accuracy</u>
Methane		1 ppbv	1%
Ethane	3 pptv	1%	5%
CFC-11	10 pptv	1%	5%
CHCl ₃	0.1 pptv	5%	5%
C ₂ Cl ₄	0.01 pptv	2%	5%
MeONO ₂	0.01 pptv	3%	10%

UC-Irvine C₁-C₁₀ VOC measurements

Hydrocarbons

- 1. Methane
- 2. Ethane
- 3. Ethene
- 4. Ethyne
- 5. Propane
- 6. Propene
- 7. Propyne
- 8. *i*-Butane
- 9. *n*-Butane

- 10. 1-Butene
- 11. *i*-Butene
- 12. *t*-2-Butene
- 13. *c*-2-Butene
- 14. 1,3-Butadiene
- 15. *i*-Pentane
- 16. *n*-Pentane

- 17. Isoprene
- 18. *n*-Hexane
- 19. *n*-Heptane
- 20. *n*-Octane
- 21. *n*-Nonane

Hydrocarbons

- 22. 2,3-Dimethylbutane
- 23. 2+3-Methylpentane
- 24. Cyclopentane
- 25. Methylcyclopentane
- 26. Cyclohexane
- 27. Methylcyclohexane
- 28. Benzene
- 29. Toluene
- 30. Ethylbenzene
- 31. *m+p*-Xylene
- 32. *o*-Xylene
- 33. Styrene
- 34. *n*-Propylbenzene
- 35. 2-Ethyltoluene
- 36. 3-Ethyltoluene
- 37. 4-Ethyltoluene
- 38. 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene
- 39. 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene
- 40. 1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene
- 41. α -Pinene
- 42. β -Pinene

Hydrocarbons

- 43. Furan
- 44. Methanol
- 45. Ethanol
- 46. Acetone
- 47. Acetaldehyde
- 48. MEK
- 49. MAC
- 50. MVK
- 51. MTBE

Alkyl Nitrates

- 52. MeONO₂
- 53. EtONO₂
- 54. *i*-PrONO₂
- 55. *n*-PrONO₂
- 56. 2-BuONO₂
- 57. 2-PeONO₂
- 58. 3-PeONO₂
- 59. 3-Me-2-BuONO₂

Sulfur Species

- 60. OCS
- 61. DMS

Halocarbons

- 62. CFC-11
- 63. CFC-12
- 64. CFC-113
- 65. CFC-114
- 66. H-1211
- 67. H-1301
- 68. H-2402
- 69. HFC-134a
- 70. HFC-152a
- 71. HCFC-22
- 72. HCFC-141b
- 73. HCFC-142b
- 74. CCl₄
- 75. CH₃CCl₃
- 76. CH₂Cl₂
- 77. C₂HCl₃
- 78. CHCl₃
- 79. C₂Cl₄
- 80. CH₃Cl
- 81. CH₃Br
- 82. CH₃I
- 83. CHBr₂Cl
- 84. CHBrCl₂

Halocarbons

- 85. CH₂Br₂
- 86. CHBr₃
- 87. Ethylchloride
- 88. 1,2-DCE

Alkanes

Alkenes

Alkynes

Cycloalkanes

Aromatics

Monoterpenes

Oxygenates

Alkyl nitrates

Sulfur species

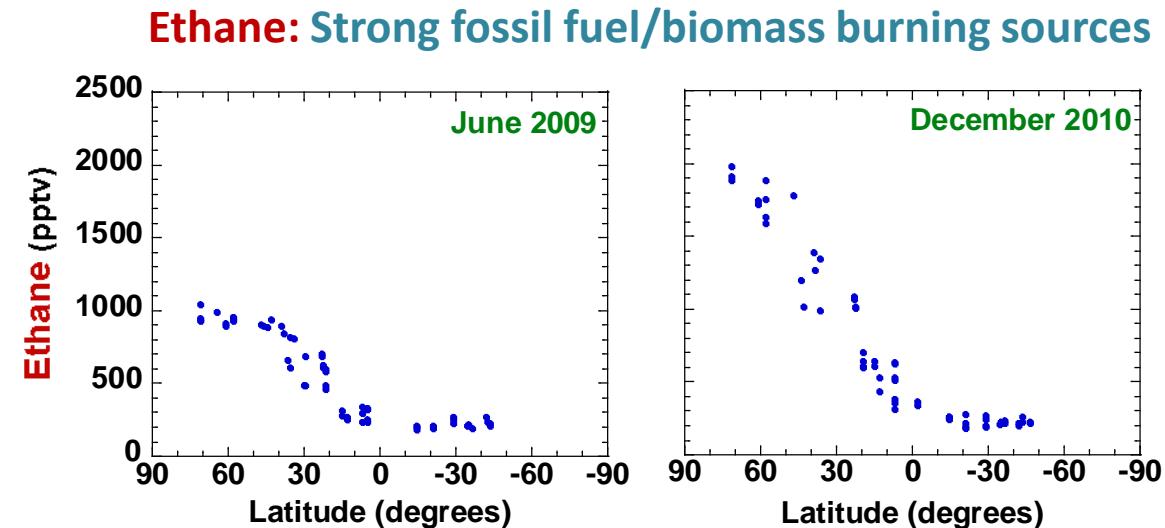
Halocarbons



Latitudinal and seasonal trends

Latitudinal trends

- **Anthropogenic sources:**
 - North/South gradient
 - CH_4 , C_2Cl_4 , CFCs, ethane ...
- **Oceanic sources:**
 - Tropical maximum
 - MeONO_2 , EtONO_2 ...



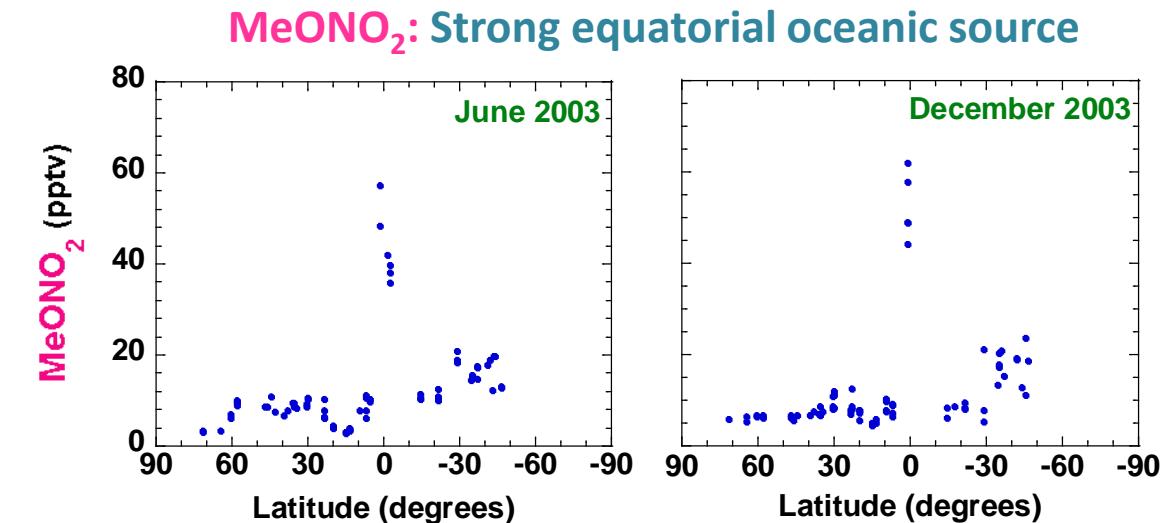
Seasonal trends

- Many species: major OH sink
- Winter maximum
- Summer minimum

Atmospheric lifetimes:

Ethane: 2-3 mo

Methyl nitrate: 1 mo



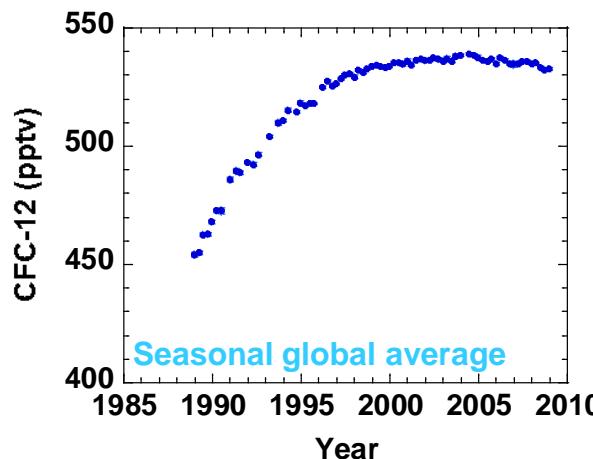
Global trends of long-lived halocarbons

CFC-12 (CCl_2F_2)

Lifetime: **100 yrs**

Peak: ~2004

Decline: $-2.5 \text{ pptv yr}^{-1}$
in 2008

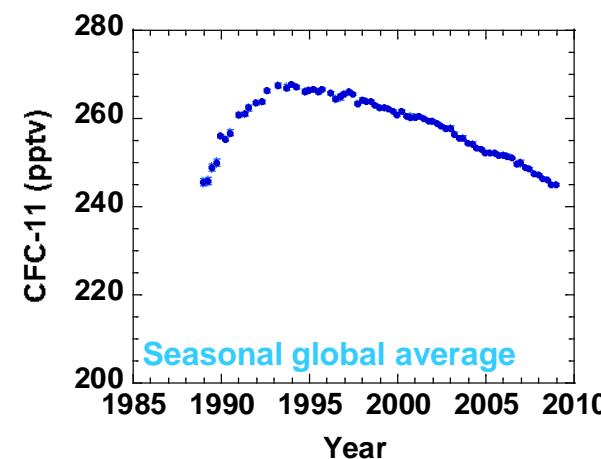


CFC-11 (CCl_3F)

Lifetime: **45 yrs**

Peak: ~1993

Decline: $-1.9 \text{ pptv yr}^{-1}$
in 2008

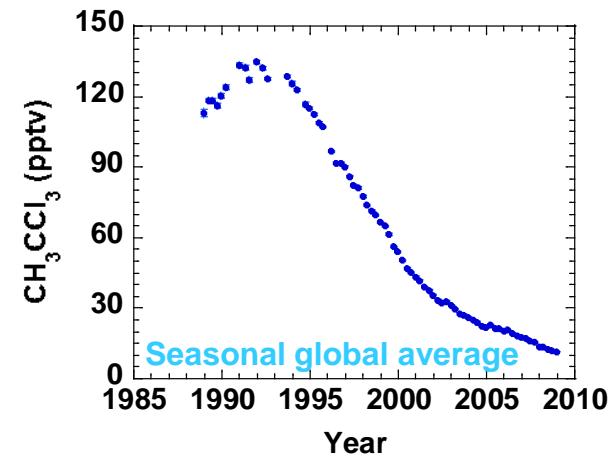


CH_3CCl_3

Lifetime: **5 yrs**

Peak: ~1991

Decline: $-2.2 \text{ pptv yr}^{-1}$
in 2008



Group	CFC-12 (2008)*
UCI	532.6 ppt
NOAA	535.5 ppt
AGAGE	537.4 ppt

Group	CFC-11 (2008)*
UCI	244.2 ppt
NOAA	244.8 ppt
AGAGE	243.4 ppt

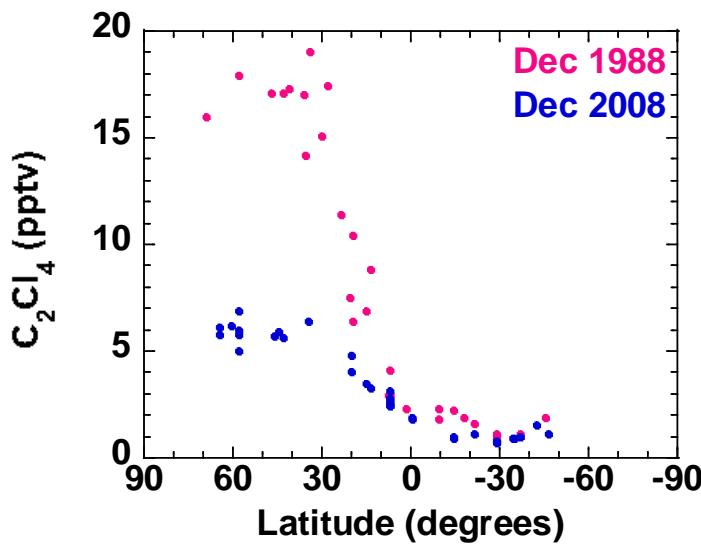
Group	CH_3CCl_3 (2008)*
UCI	11.5 ppt
NOAA	11.1 ppt
AGAGE	10.7 ppt

*Montzka, S.A. and S. Reimann (Coordinating Lead Authors), Chapter 1 in *Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2010*

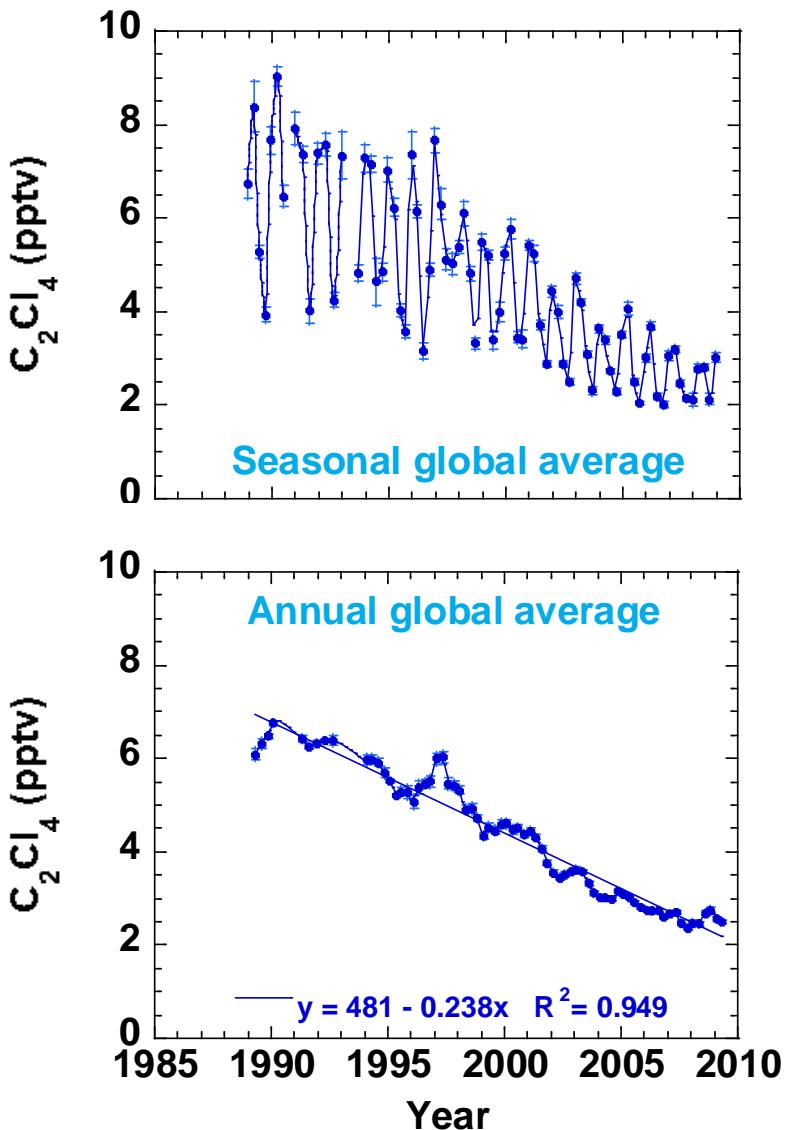
Global C₂Cl₄ trend: Declining

Long-term global C₂Cl₄ decline

- 6.3 ± 0.1 pptv in 1989
- 2.5 ± 0.1 pptv in 2009
- **3.8 pptv (60%) decline in 20 years**



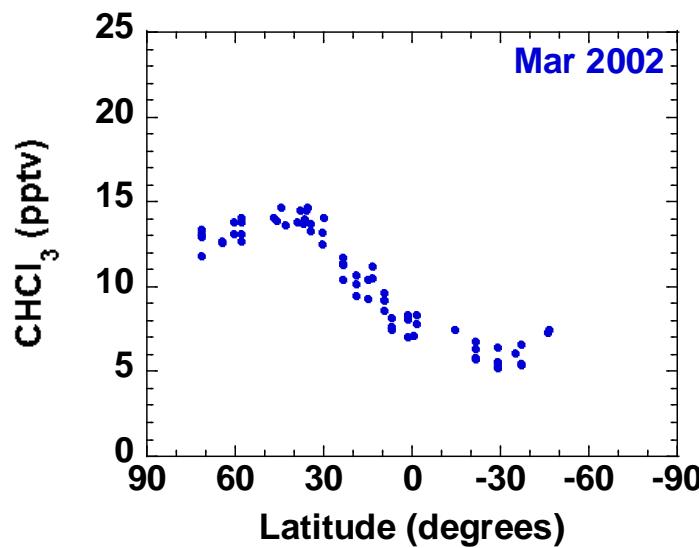
Tetrachloroethene (C₂Cl₄) is an industrial solvent (lifetime 3-4 mo). It is carcinogenic and affects the central nervous system.



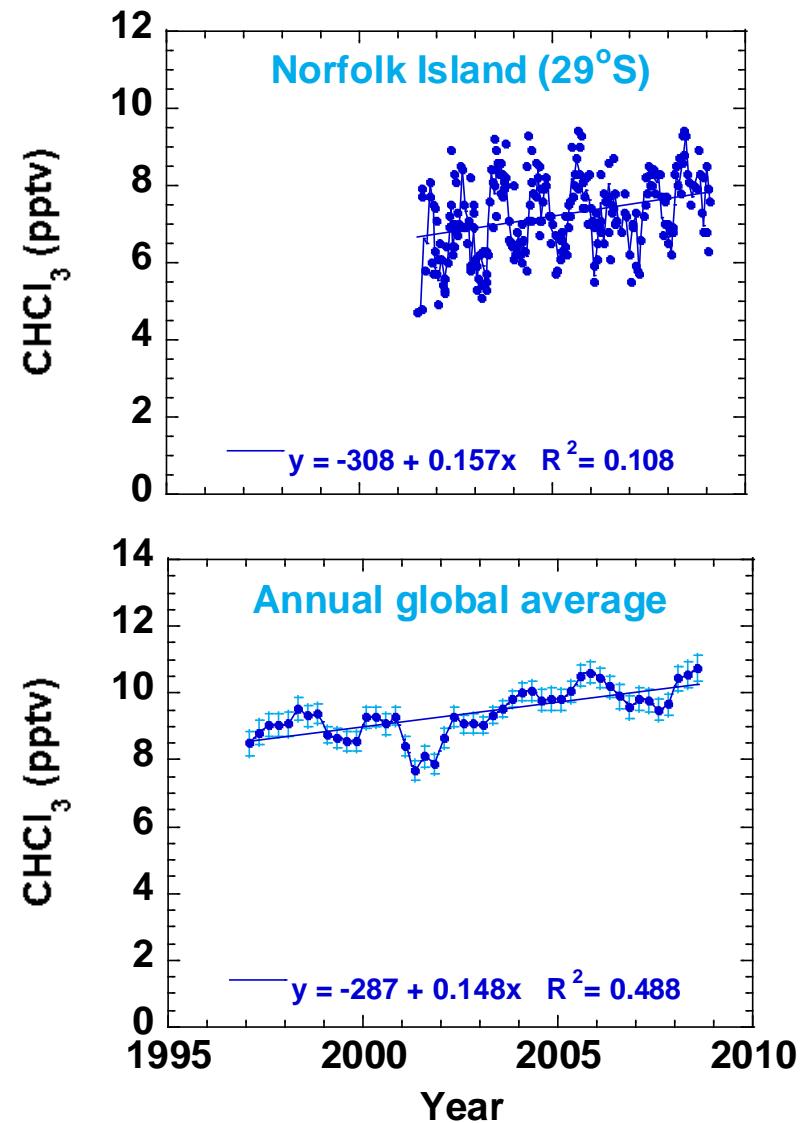
Global CHCl₃ trend: Increasing

Long-term global CHCl₃ increase

- 9.0 ± 0.3 pptv in 1997
- 10.7 ± 0.4 pptv in 2008
- **~ 20% increase in 11 years**

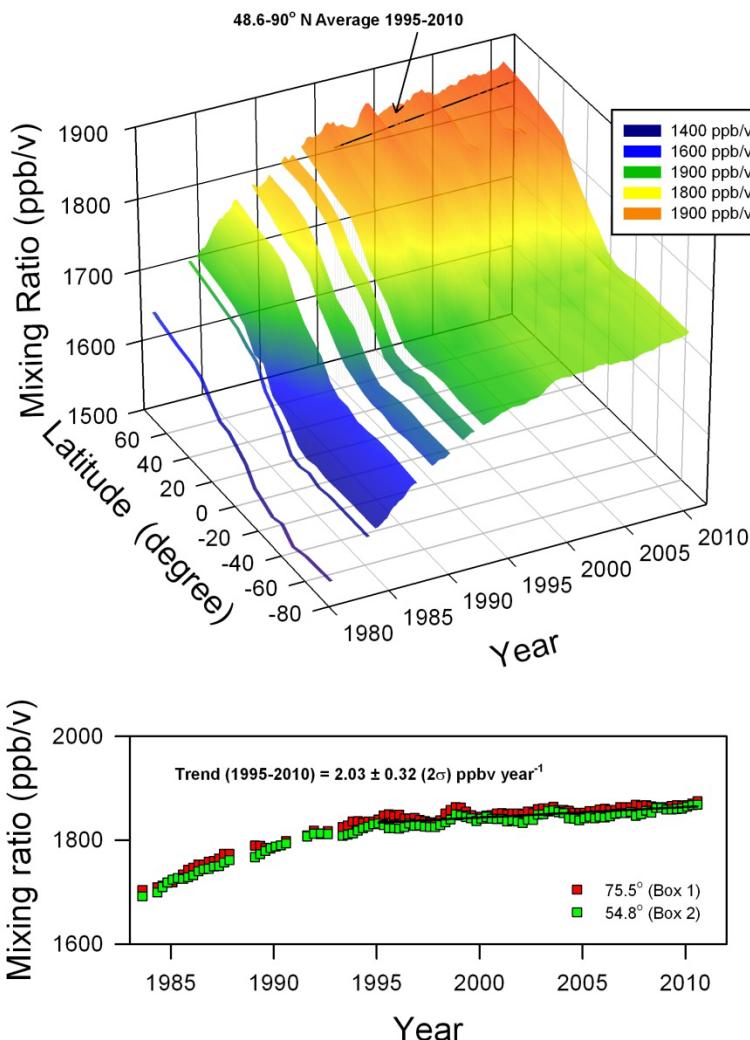


Chloroform (CHCl₃) is an industrial solvent (lifetime 3-5 mo). It is produced as a precursor to Teflon.



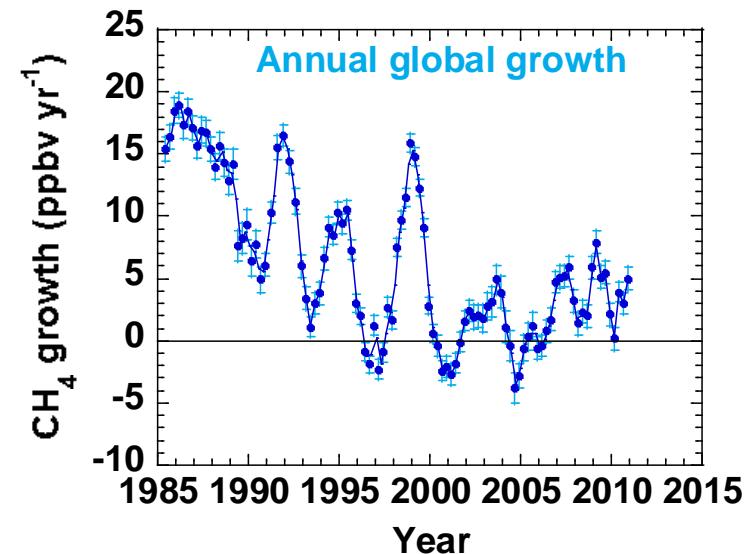
Global CH₄ trend: Increasing, variable

Annual CH₄ Trends



Long-term global CH₄ increase

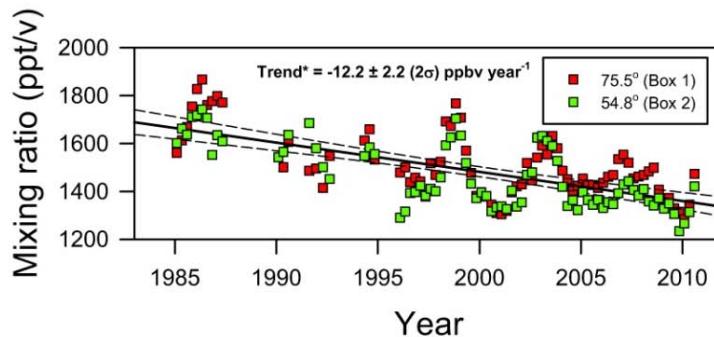
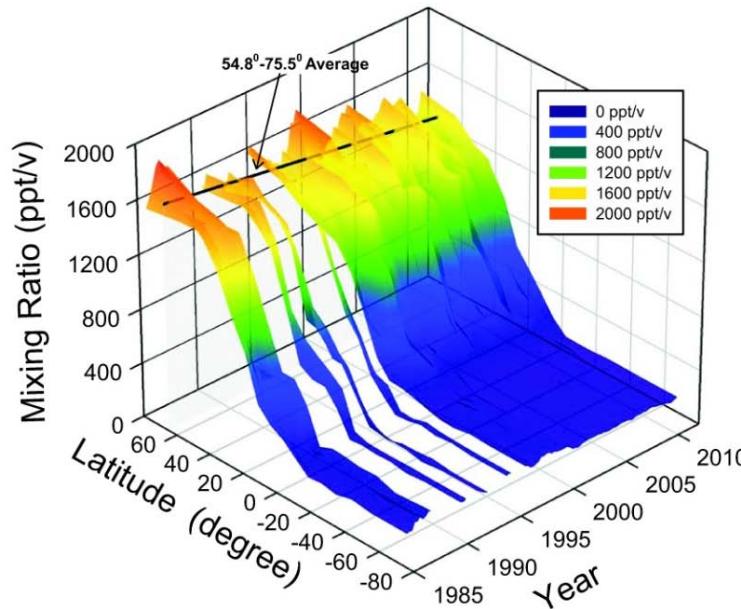
- 1568 ± 2 ppbv in 1980
- 1792 ± 1 ppbv in 2010
- **225 ppbv (14%) increase in 30 years**
- Growth in 2010: **5.3 ± 0.7 ppbv yr⁻¹**



Methane (CH₄) is a potent greenhouse gas. Its sources include wetlands, rice paddies, fossil fuel and biomass burning (lifetime 9 years).

Global ethane trend: Declining

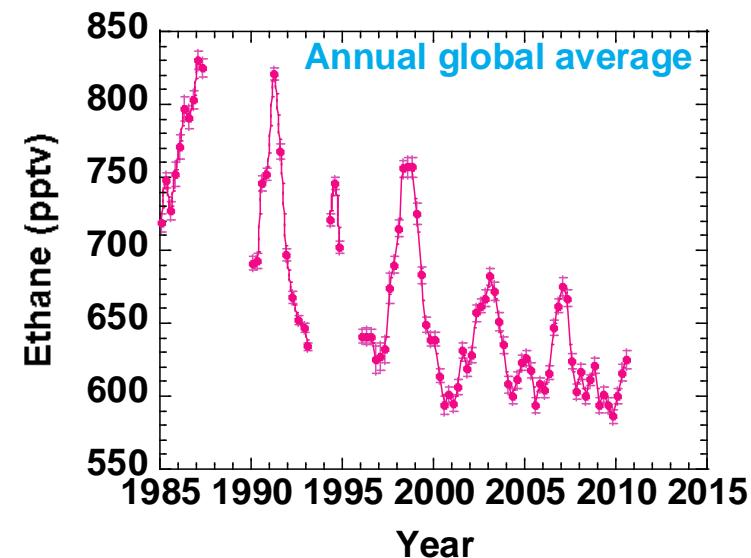
Annual Ethane Trends



* Dashed lines are 99% confidence intervals.

Long-term global ethane decline

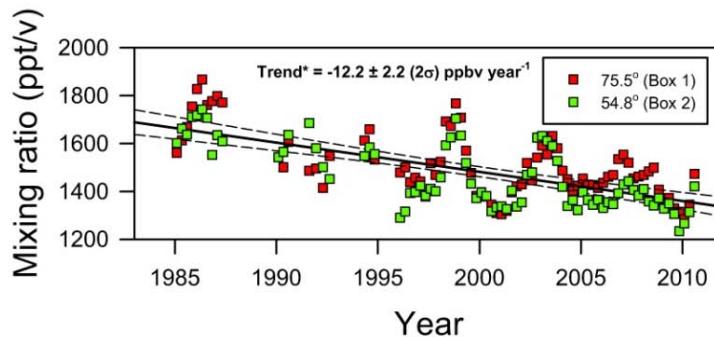
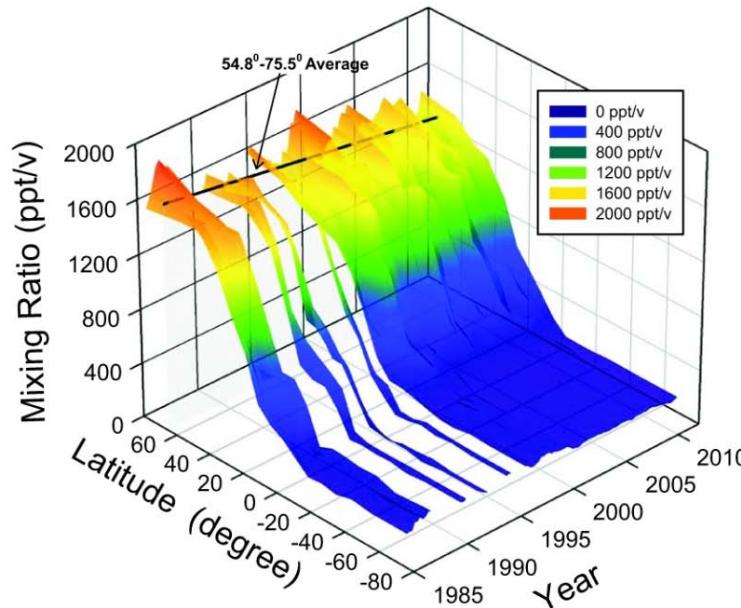
- 791 \pm 19 pptv in 1986
- 625 \pm 10 pptv in 2010
- **170 pptv (21%) decline in 25 years**
- Growth in 2010: 31 ± 11 pptv yr $^{-1}$



Ethane (C_2H_6) is emitted during fossil fuel production (unburned gas) and by biofuel and biomass burning (lifetime 2-3 months)

Global ethane trend: Declining

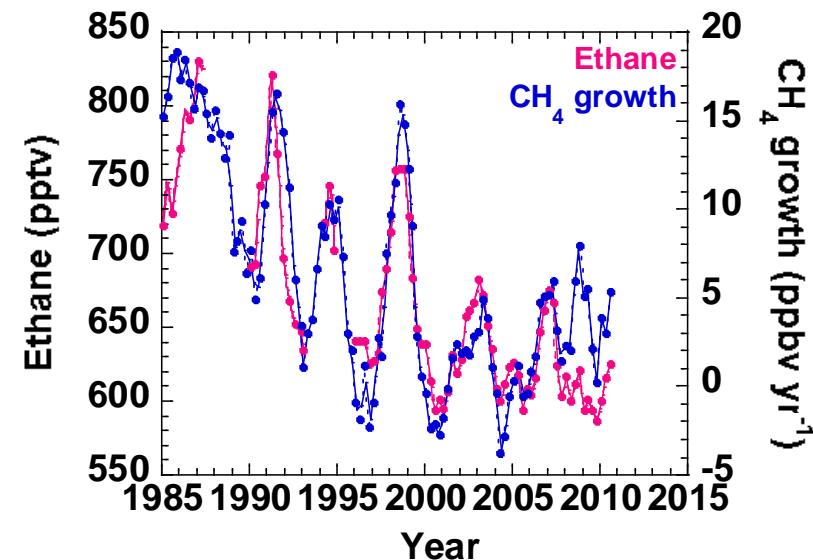
Annual Ethane Trends



* Dashed lines are 99% confidence intervals.

Long-term global ethane decline

- 791 \pm 19 pptv in 1986
- 625 \pm 10 pptv in 2010
- **170 pptv (21%) decline in 25 years**
- Growth in 2010: 31 ± 11 pptv yr $^{-1}$

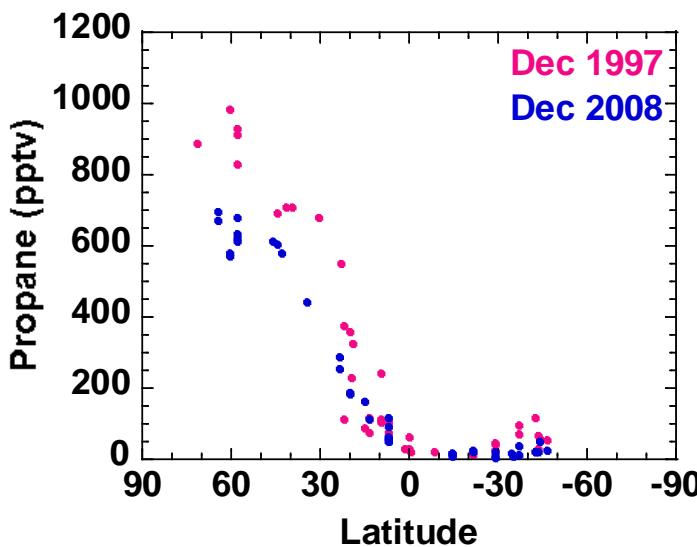


Ethane (C₂H₆) is emitted during fossil fuel production (unburned gas) and by biofuel and biomass burning (lifetime 2-3 months)

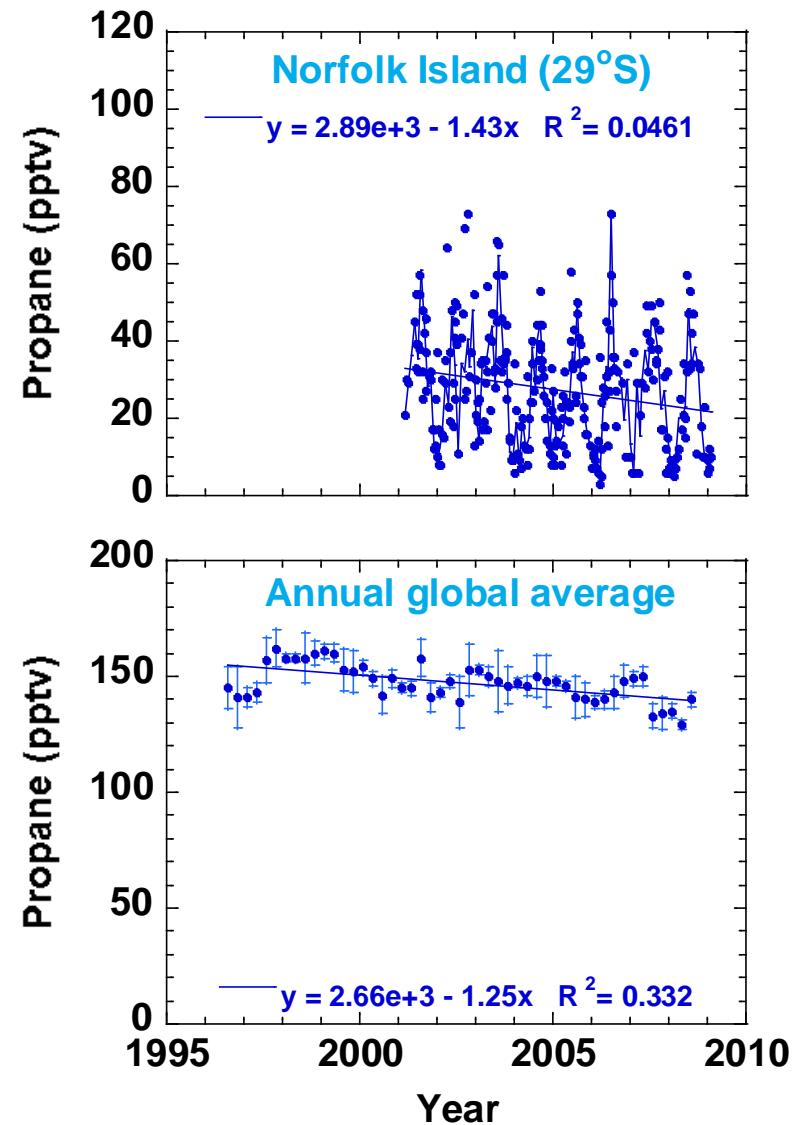
Global propane trend: Decreasing

Long-term global propane decrease

- 158 ± 2 pptv in 1998
- 140 ± 2 pptv in 2008
- $\sim 10\%$ decrease in 10 years



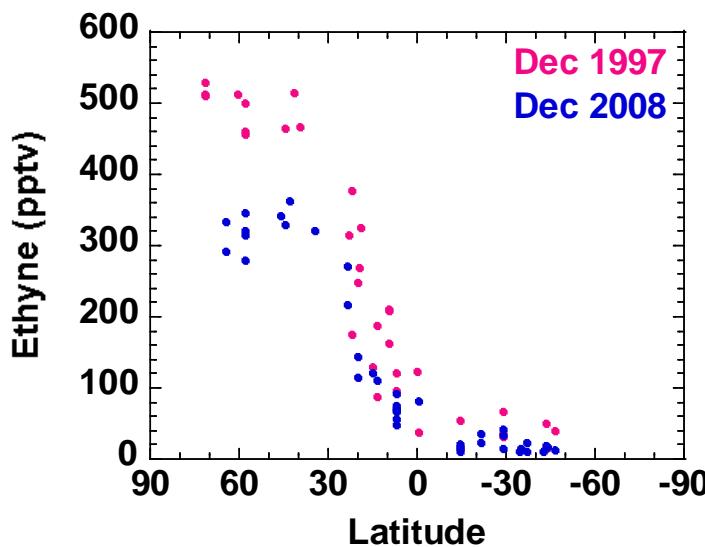
Propane (C_3H_8) is emitted by fossil fuel production, biofuel and biomass burning, and gasoline exhaust (lifetime 1-2 weeks)



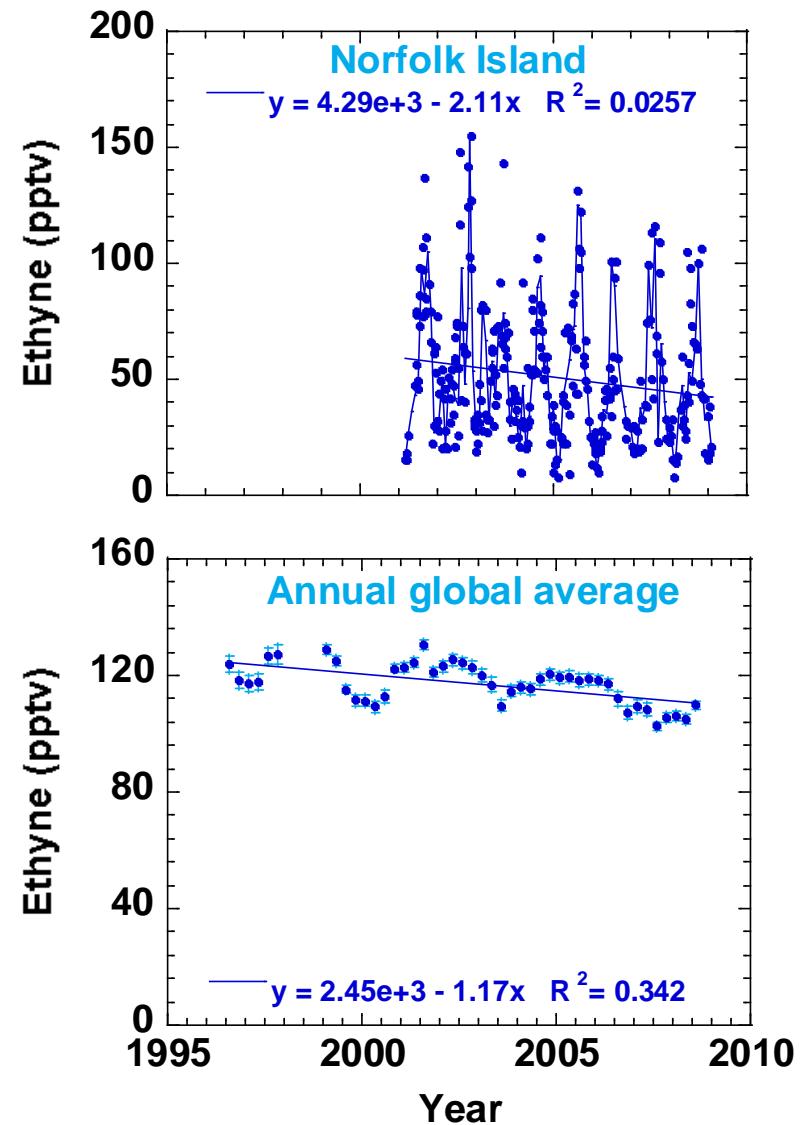
Global ethyne trend: Decreasing

Long-term global ethyne decrease

- 124 ± 3 pptv in 1996
- 110 ± 2 pptv in 2008
- **$\sim 11\%$ decrease in 12 years**



Ethyne (C_2H_2) is a tracer of incomplete combustion by biomass burning and urban fossil fuel (lifetime 2-3 weeks).



Conclusions and Acknowledgments

Multi-decade record shows significant trends in global trace gas mixing ratios:

- Global declines of many **halocarbons** in response to banning legislation
- Global declines of many **hydrocarbons** due to less venting/flaring; vehicle emission controls
- Global increases of **CHCl₃**, **HCFCs** and **CH₄**

Global declines:

Halocarbons

- CFC-11
- CFC-12
- CFC-113
- H-1211
- CCl₄
- CH₃CCl₃
- CFC-114
- C₂Cl₄

Alkanes

- Ethane
- i-Butane
- Propane
- n-Butane

Alkynes

- Ethyne

Global increases:

Halocarbons

- HCFC-22
- HCFC-141b
- HCFC-142b
- CHCl₃

Alkanes

- Methane

Acknowledgments

NASA

The Gary Comer Foundation
Christine Wiedinmyer (NCAR)

