

# Climatological and environmental characteristics of Moscow according to 60 years of measurements at the Moscow State University Meteorological Observatory (MSU MO)

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# Outline:

1. The MSU MO program of observations;
2. Long-term trends of different meteorological parameters and their possible drivers;
3. UV monitoring, estimates of UV health effects;
4. Chemical composition of precipitation;
5. Aerosol urban pollution;
6. Air quality.



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## Welcome to the Meteorological Observatory of Moscow State University

The Moscow State University Meteorological Observatory (MSU MO) has been organized in 1954 as a teaching and scientific center for the research of the Moscow climate. The MSU MO provides the unique continuous measurements of the environmental and climatic characteristics of the atmosphere, which are being in operation on the base of comprehensive methods in accordance with the Russian and international standards adopted by World Meteorological Organization and Russian Hydrometeorological Service. The complex of measurements consists of an extended program of meteorological observations, including the acoustic sounding of the boundary atmospheric layer, and a large program of radiative measurements, which also includes the observations of natural illuminance and UV irradiance. Within the frame of international AERONET program a monitoring of aerosol parameters is being carried out. The measurements of chemical composition of precipitation and snow cover are being in operation as well. A new station for atmospheric air composition has been organized together with the Oboukhov's Institute of the Atmospheric Physics RAS, which provides continuous measurements of different gas species.

The MSU MO produces monthly [Bulletin \(PDF ~700kb\)](#) with the results of the observations. More detailed information can be found at corresponding sections of the site.



# Monitoring program

## **Meteorology since 1954**

large program of meteorological measurements, automated station (Vaisala); sodar program

## **Radiation since 1954**

longwave and shortwave net radiation components  
PAR radiation  
UV-B, UV 300-380nm radiation,  
natural illuminance

## **Precipitation quality since 1982**

concentration of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and pH in each rain and snowfall

## **Aerosol parameters since 1958**

AERONET - since 2001 ,  
PM2.5 since 2010

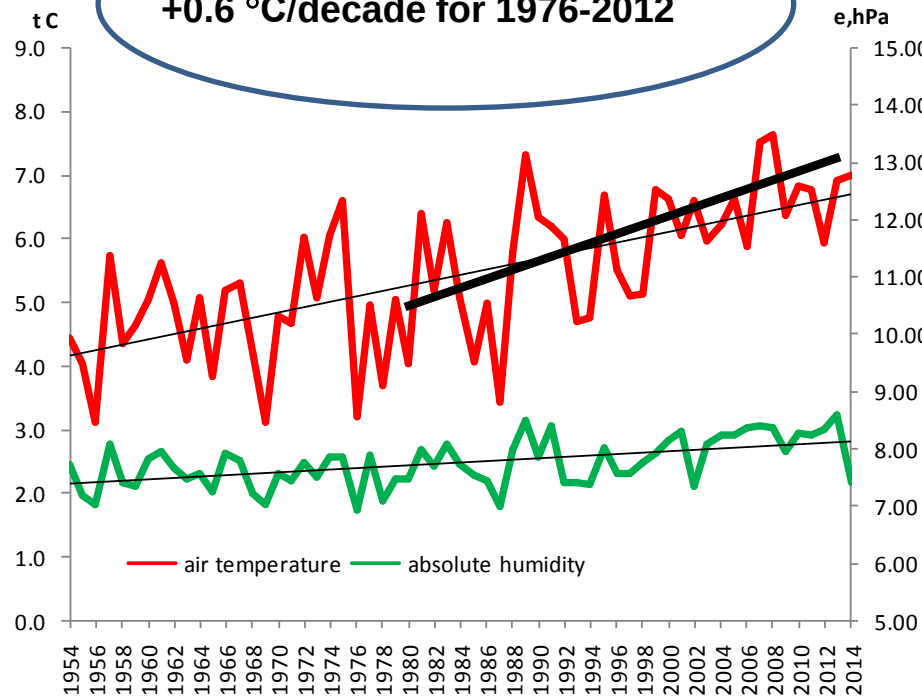
## **Air quality since 2002**

gas species measurements close to the GAW requirements

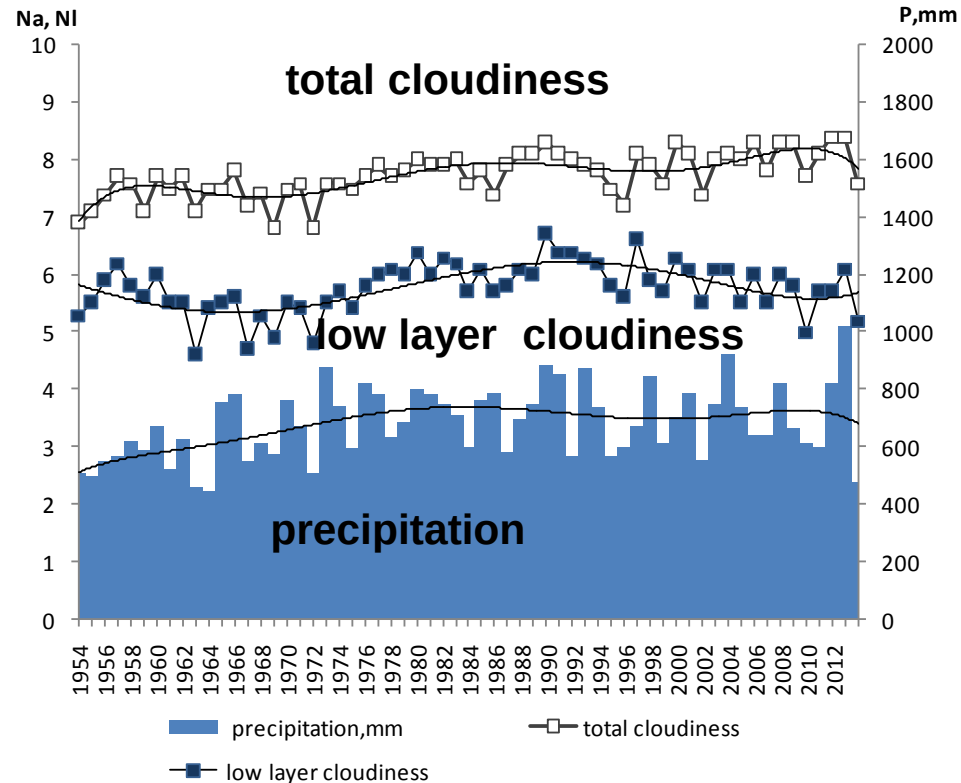
## 2. Interannual variations of different meteorological characteristics: air temperature, absolute humidity, total, low cloud amount, and precipitation.

Moscow air temperature:  
+0,4°C/decade over 1954-2014  
+0.7 °C/decade for 1976-2012

for Central Federal District:  
+0.6 °C/decade for 1976-2012

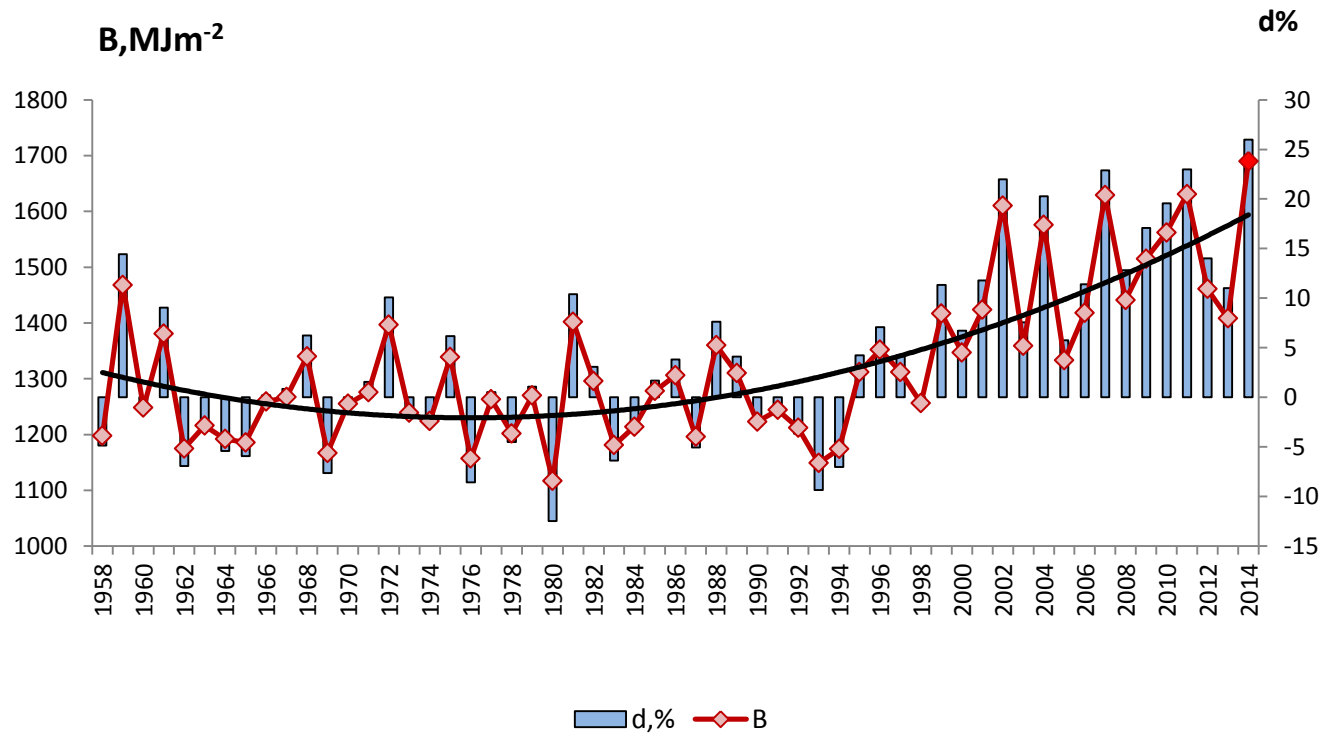


Trend in absolute humidity is +0.12 hPa per decade

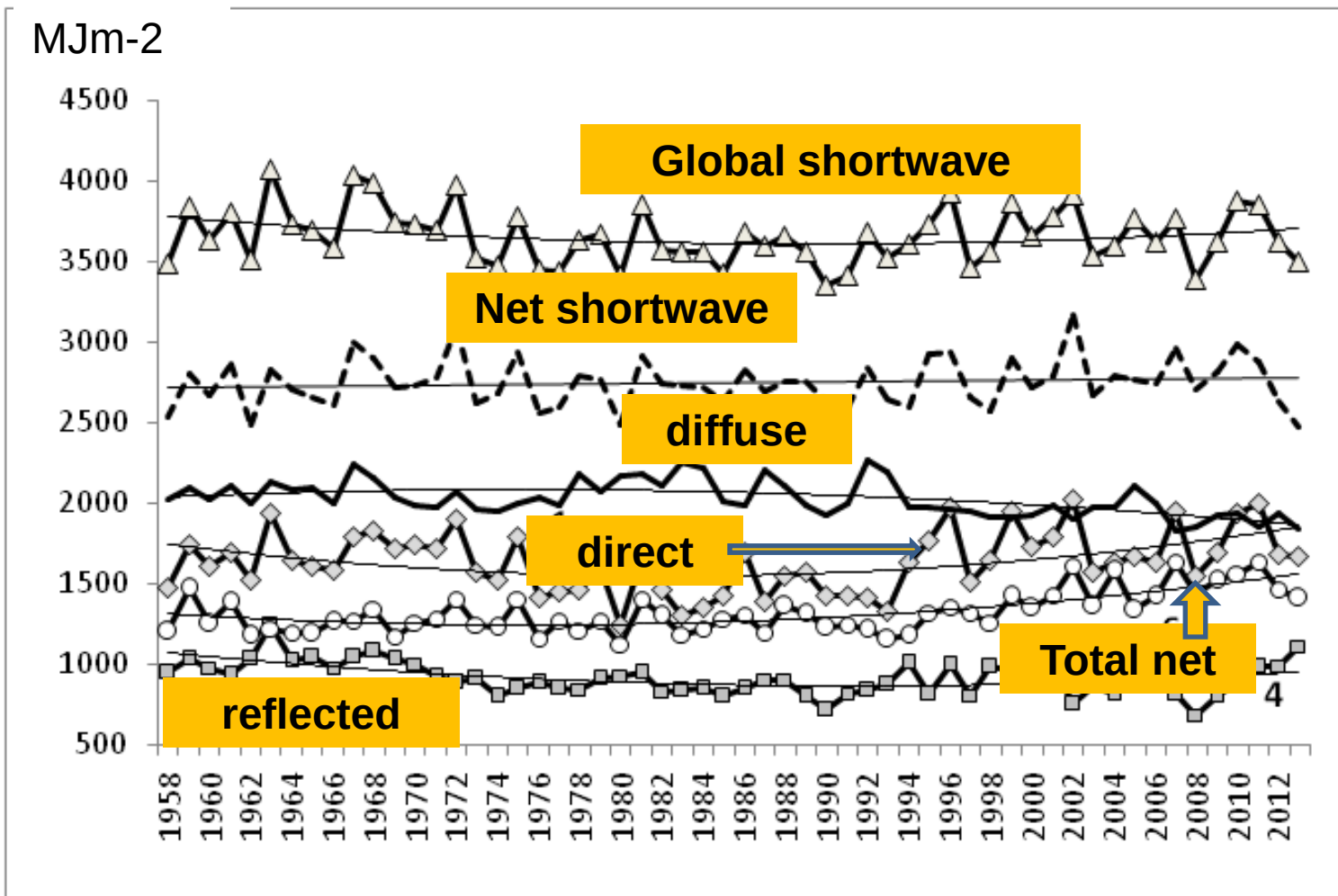


Trend in total cloudiness +0.1 per decade

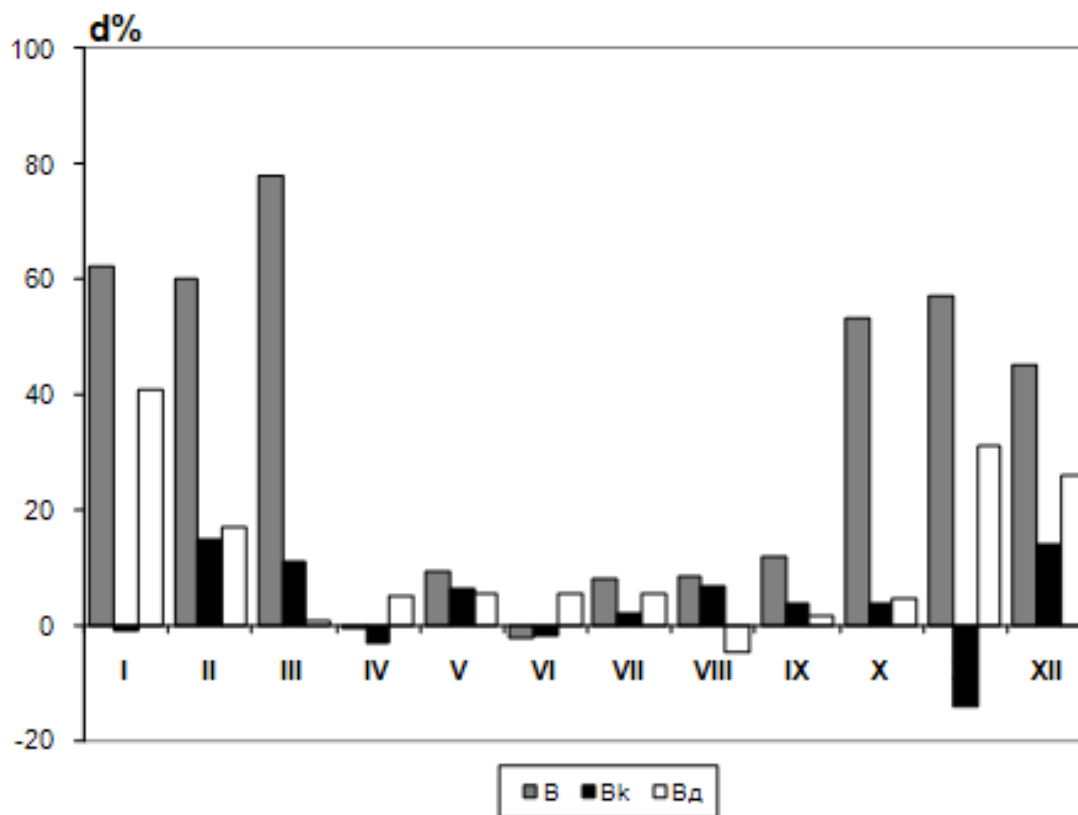
# Interannual changes in total (shortwave +longwave) net radiation. Moscow.



# Interannual changes in direct, diffuse, global, reflected, net shortwave radiation, and total net radiation over 1958-2013 period. Moscow MSU MO.



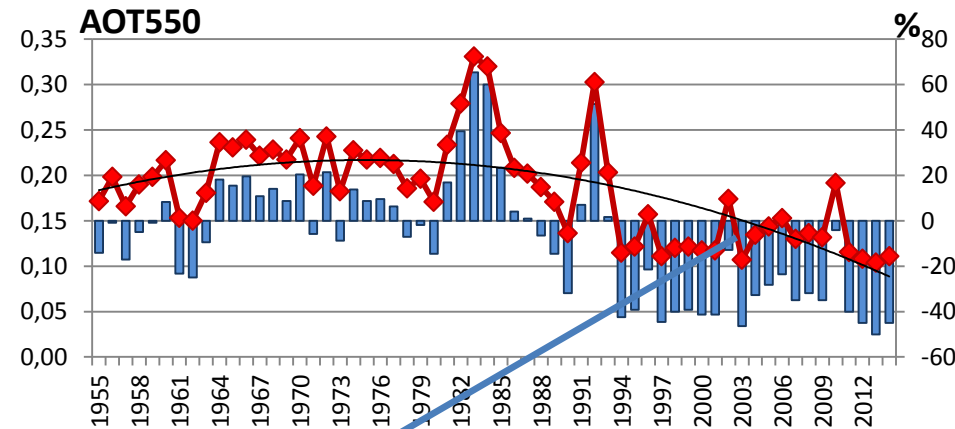
# Seasonal changes of linear trends (in %) in total (B), shortwave (Bk) and longwave (Bd) net radiation in Moscow



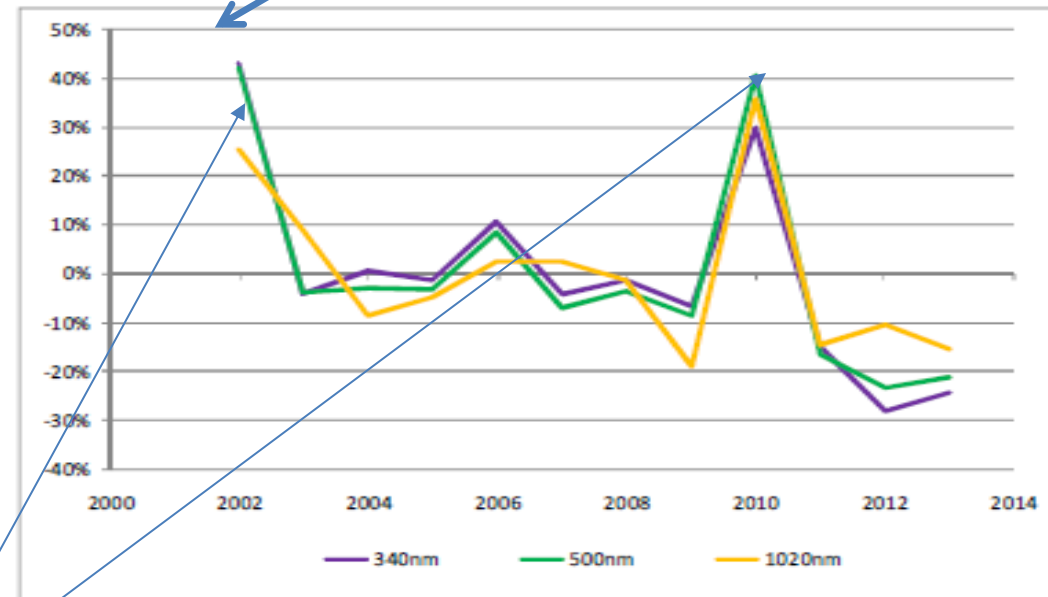


# DRIVERS:

Interannual changes in aerosol optical thickness at 550nm retrieved from direct shortwave irradiance and water vapor in Moscow.

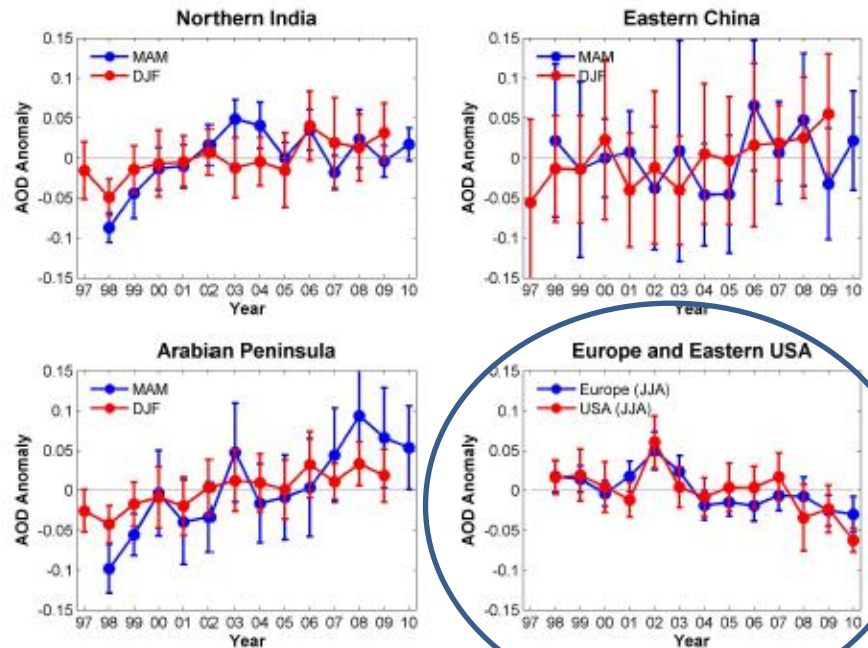
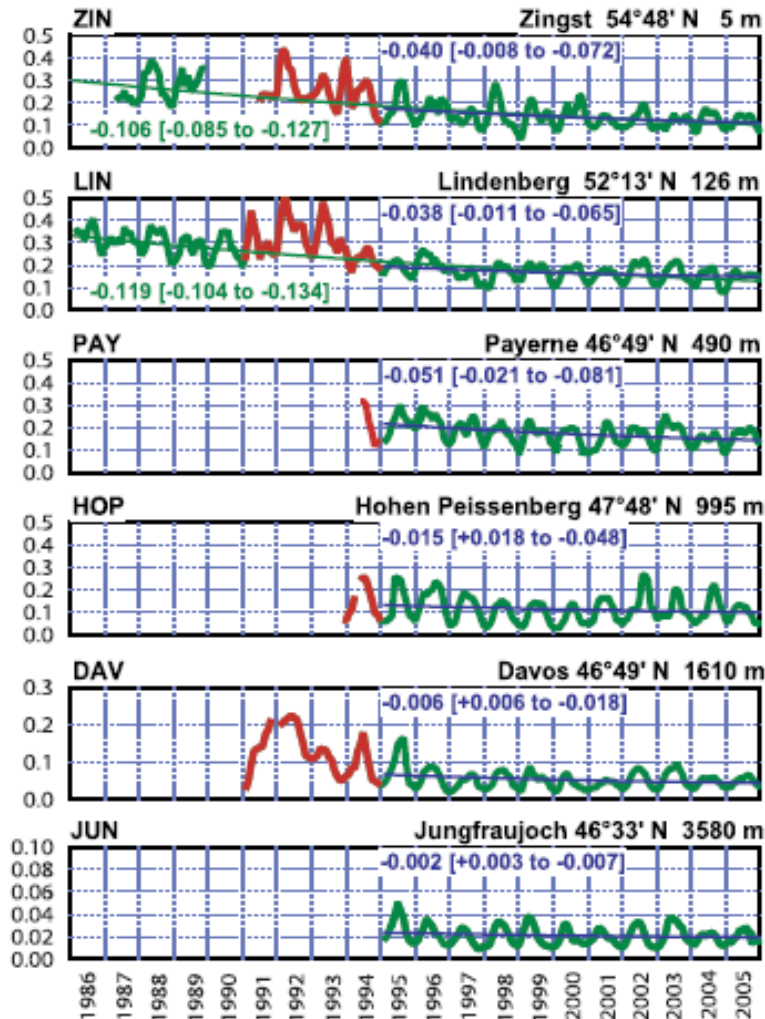


Interannual variability of aerosol optical thickness at 340nm, 500nm and 1020nm according to AERONET sun photometer data. Moscow.



Forest fires

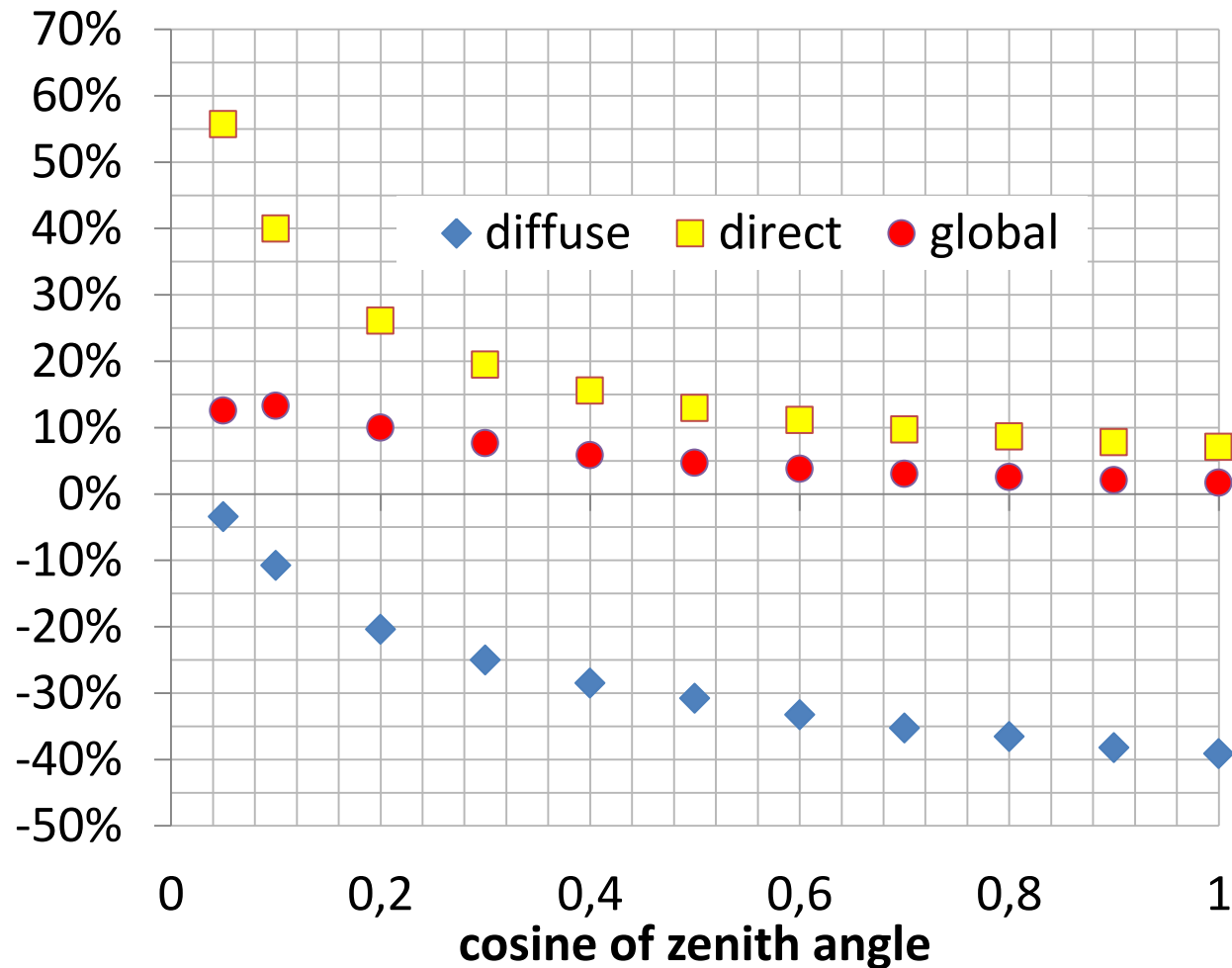
# Long-term trends in AOT in Europe (left) and other parts of the world (right)



Hsu et al., 2011

- From Ruckstuhl et al., 2008

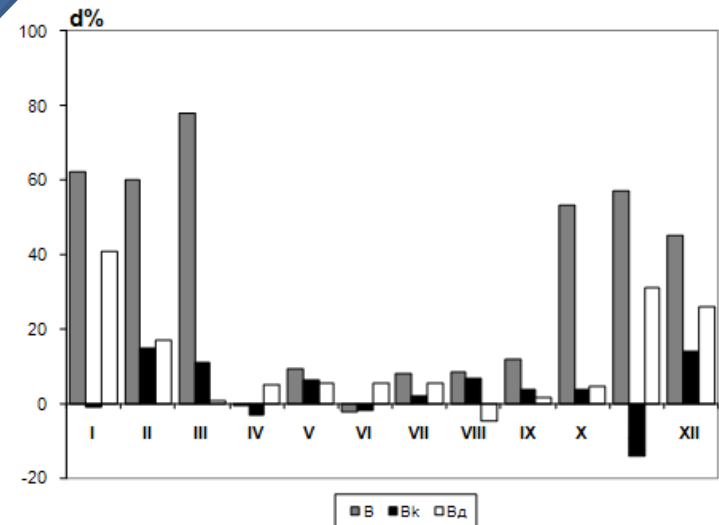
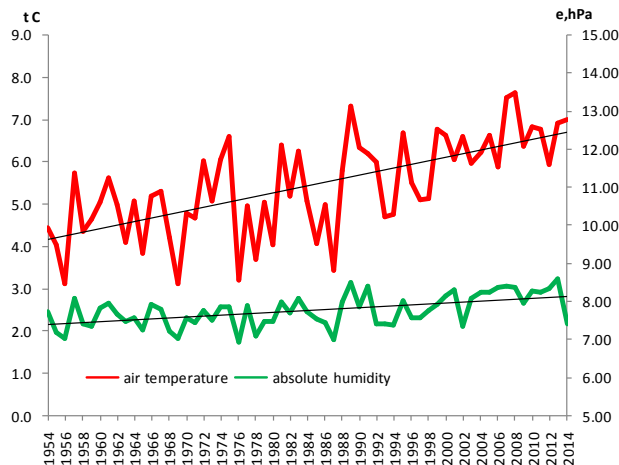
# Model estimates of changes in shortwave irradiance due to decrease in AOT from 1960s. Clear sky conditions.



# Can positive trend in net longwave radiation be a driver of higher urban temperature trend?



Positive net longwave trends (showed in white) are observed due to the increase in downwelling longwave irradiance



# Additional sources of the observed extra downwelling longwave irradiance (DLI):

1. Inhomogeneous distribution of urban heat emission: i.e. air temperature at standard meteorological sites (MSU MO, as an example) is always lower than the surrounding urban air temperatures that provides an additional source for higher levels of DLI ;
2. Emission of heat from elevated heat sources: power plants, industry, etc. ;
3. GHG larger emissions over urban area (i.e. urban CO<sub>2</sub> growth (Búns C., Kuttler , 2012));
4. Positive feedback - the additional water vapor absorption and further increasing of downwelling longwave irradiance .

# The scheme of possible positive feedback effect for enhancing urban temperature trend

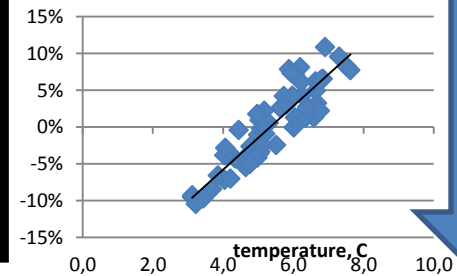
Inhomogeneity of heat flux, emission of heat from elevated heat sources ; GHG larger emissions over urban area

Warming the upper part of the boundary layer

Temperature increase results in water vapor increase in the upper layers



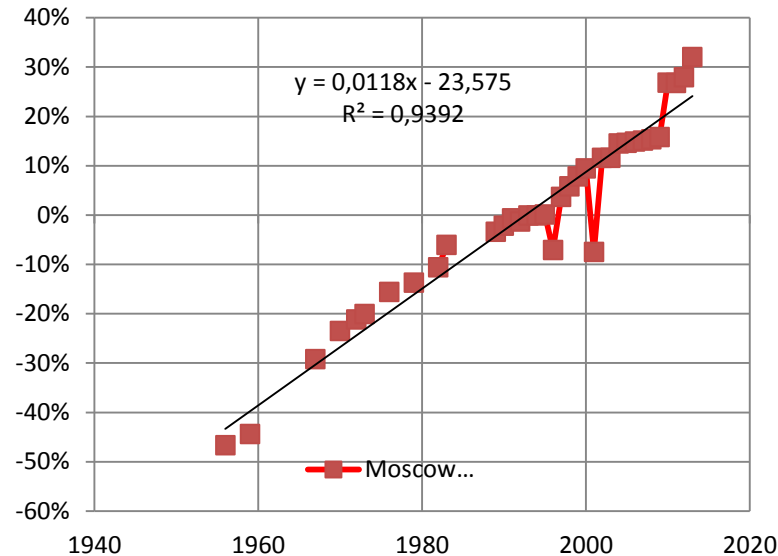
Relative change in water vapor obtained according to AERONET data as a function of delta temperature



Increase in net radiation due to longwave component, and eventually, surface temperature increase

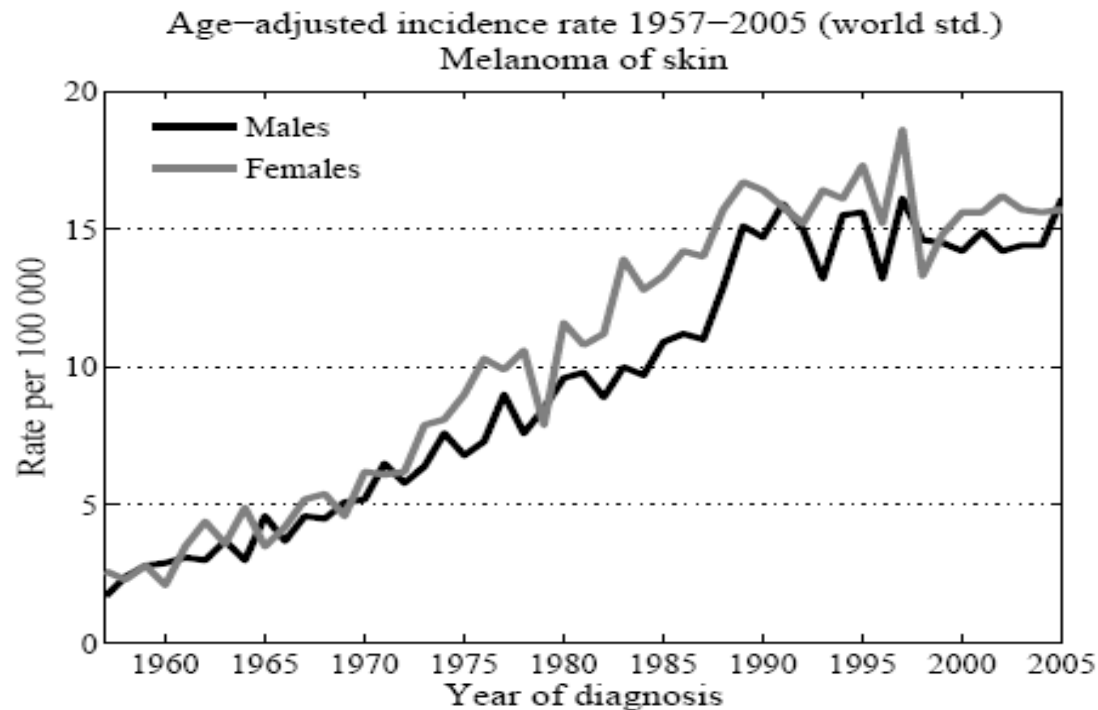
Increase in absorption and as a result in downwelling longwave irradiance

# Percent growth of Moscow population, which now is over 12mln residents



**ENHANCEMENT OF THIS PROCESS  
WITH THE MOSCOW POPULATION  
GROWTH SINCE 1954 COULD  
STRENGTHEN THE TEMPERATURE  
INCREASE**

### 3. UV monitoring and UV health effects

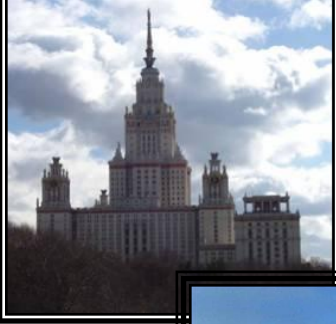


**For the 1991-2012 period**

**the Skin Cancer rate is +1.6% per decade  
in Russia**



# UV Monitoring program at the MOMSU



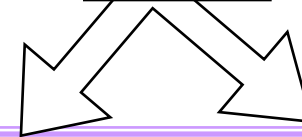
The longest UV data series in the world since 1968 (Ozone assessment 2006, UNEP 2015)

MOMSU UV  
pyranometer 300-  
380nm (Garadzha,  
Visotski)

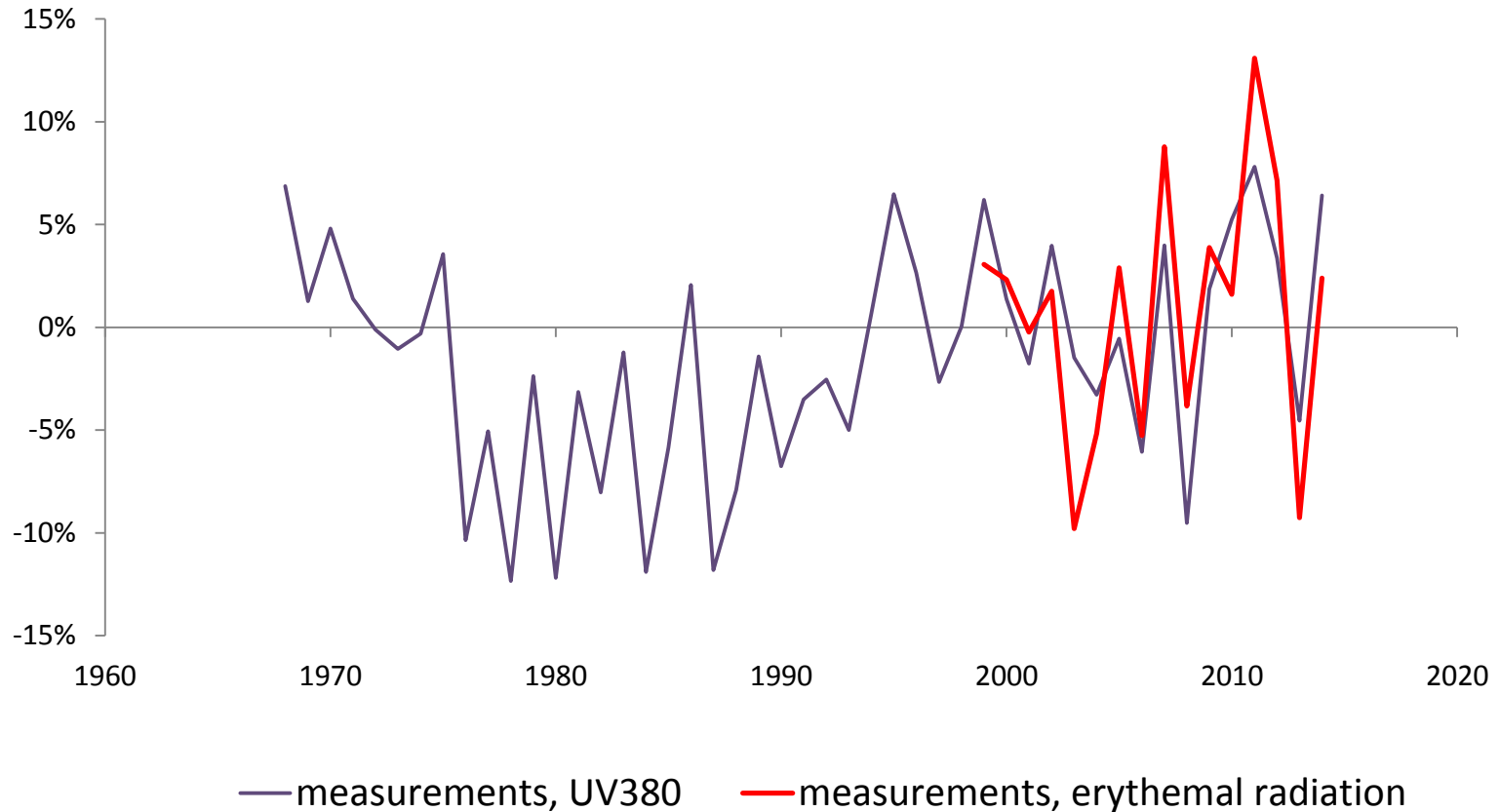


Calibration according to the European and the US standards.

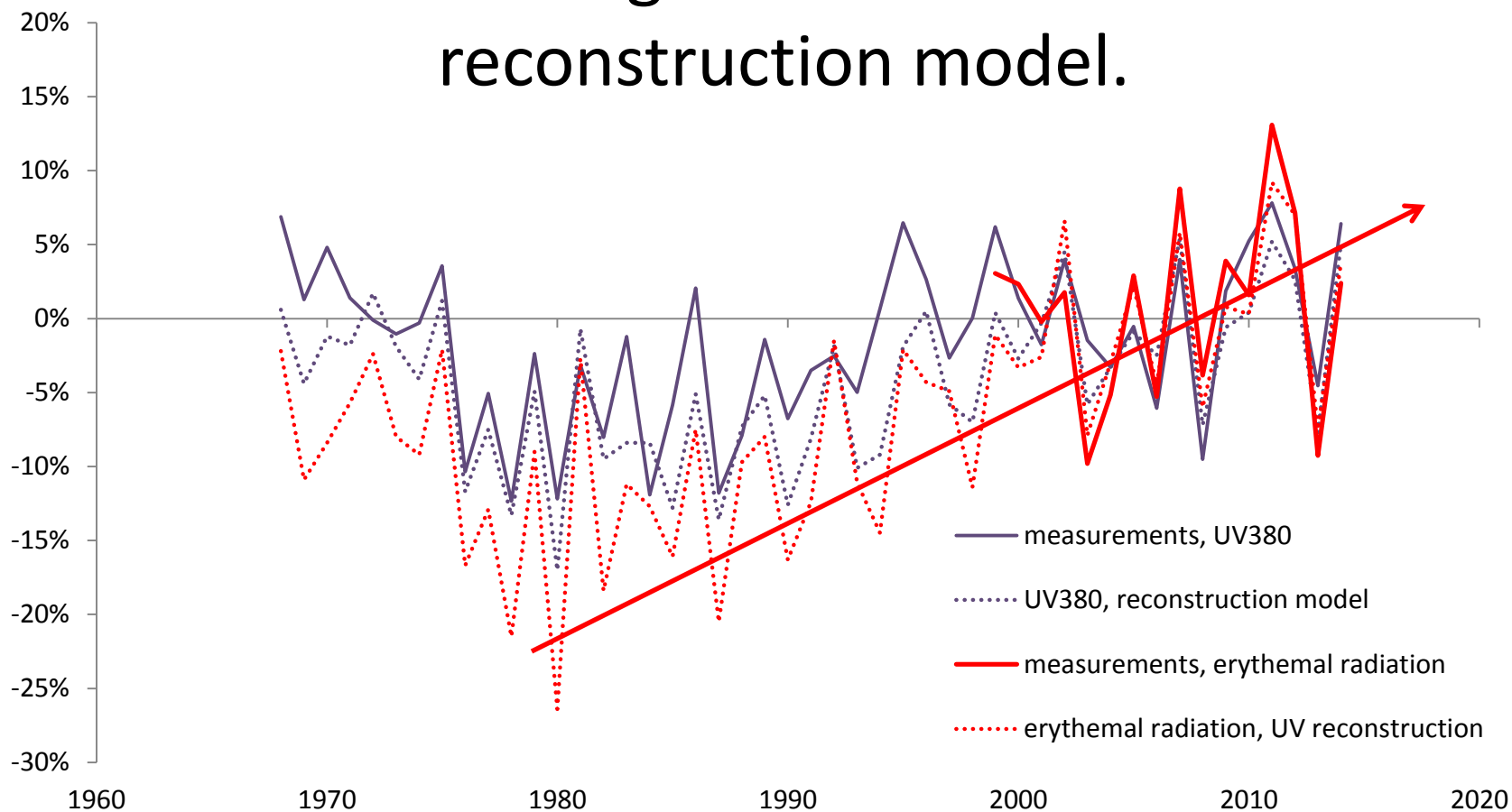
The program of continuous UV measurements since 1999



# UV variability over 1968-2014 in Moscow.



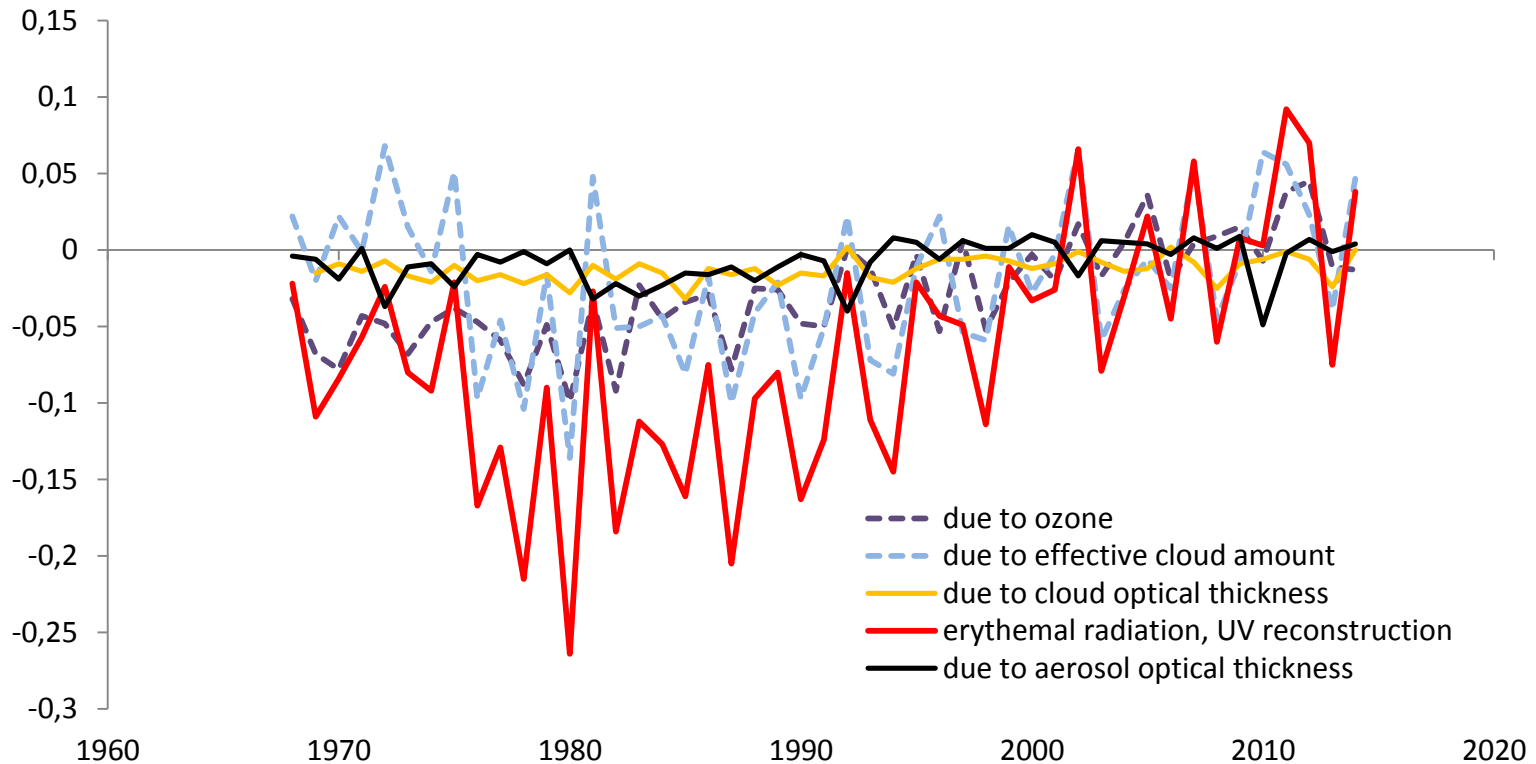
# Erythmal and UV 300-380nm radiation interannual variability over 1968-2014 in Moscow according to the measurements and reconstruction model.



Normalized against 1999-2013 period

For erythmal radiation - 6% increase per decade since 1980

# The contribution of different atmospheric parameters to erythemal UV irradiance changes according to reconstruction model.



Normalized against 1999-2013 period

# UV RESOURCES – attributing health effects:

The harmful UV conditions:

**UV deficiency**  
(no vitamin D)

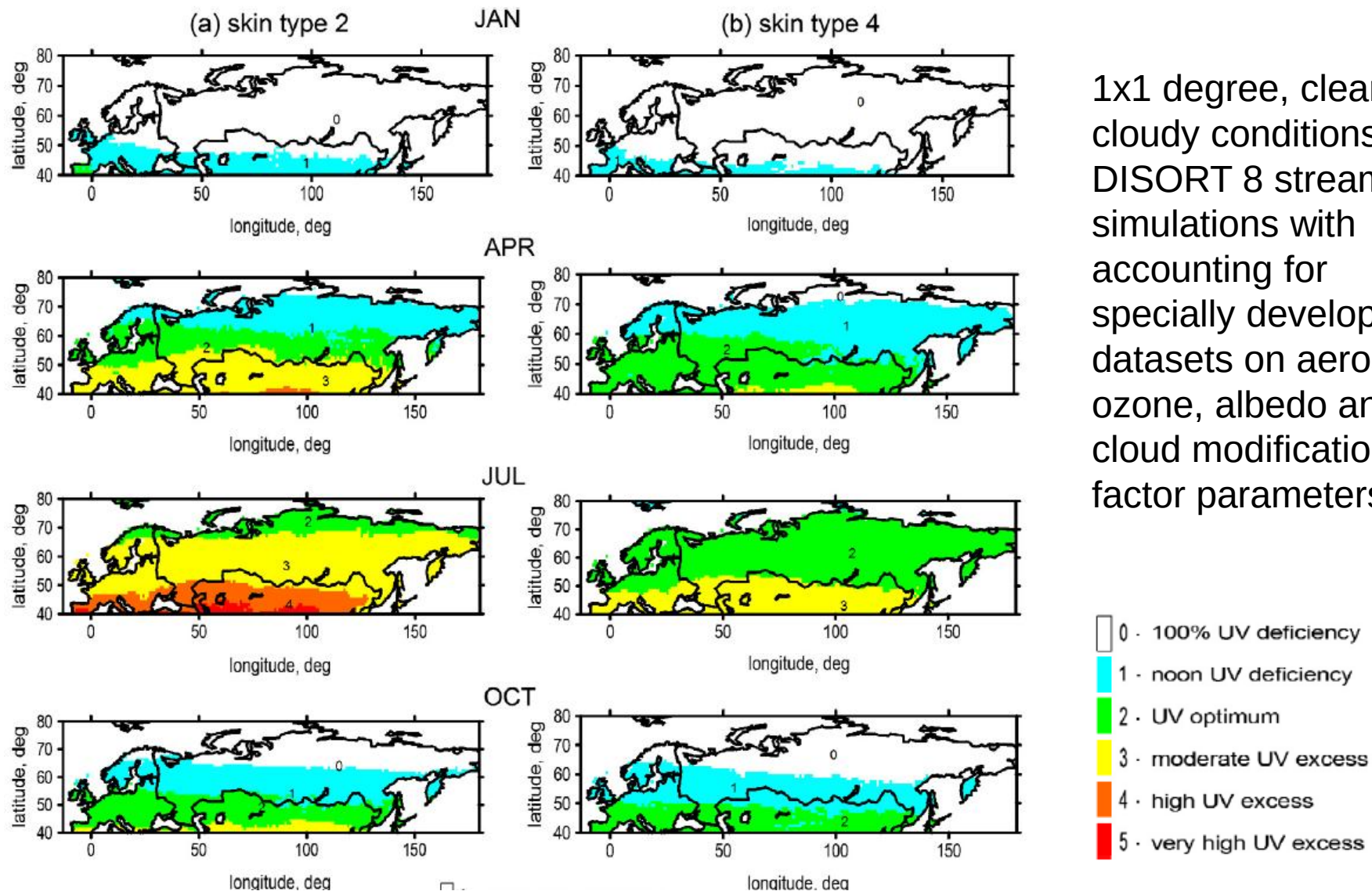
Favorable UV conditions:

**UV optimum**  
vitamin D – yes,  
erythema – no.

The harmful UV conditions

**UV excess**  
(erythema, eye damage, immune suppression).

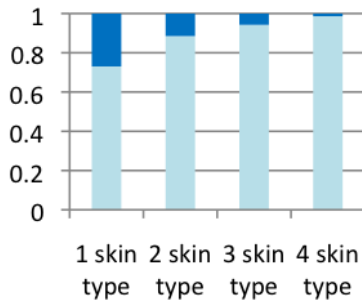
# UV resources: average cloudy conditions



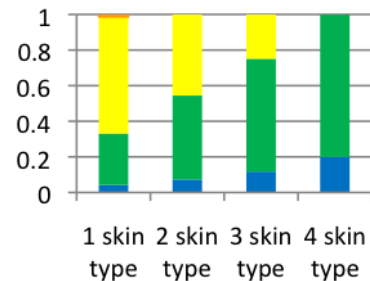
1x1 degree, clear and cloudy conditions, DISORT 8 stream simulations with accounting for specially developed datasets on aerosol, ozone, albedo and cloud modification factor parameters.

# Probability of different types of the UV-resources for the various skin types in Moscow.

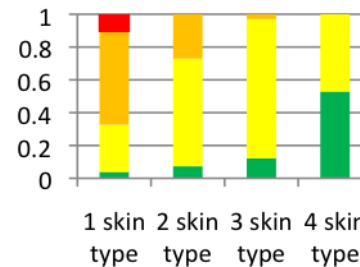
January



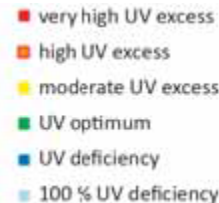
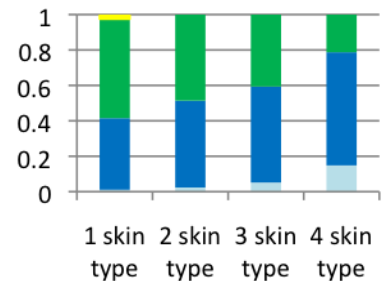
April



July



October



Latitude, degrees:

55.5

Latitude should be expressed in decimal degrees.

Longitude, degrees:

37.5

Longitude should be expressed in decimal degrees. Negative values indicate the longitudes in the Western hemisphere.

Altitude, km:

0.192

☐ Enter surface UV albedo

NOTE: If you do not know exactly the UV albedo at your point, you can use approximate UV albedo according to the type of surface and surroundings: ground (grass) - 2%; trees and snow - 40%; bare snow within 1 km - 70%

☒ Use climatological value of surface UV albedo

**To check UV dose in France or any other place!**

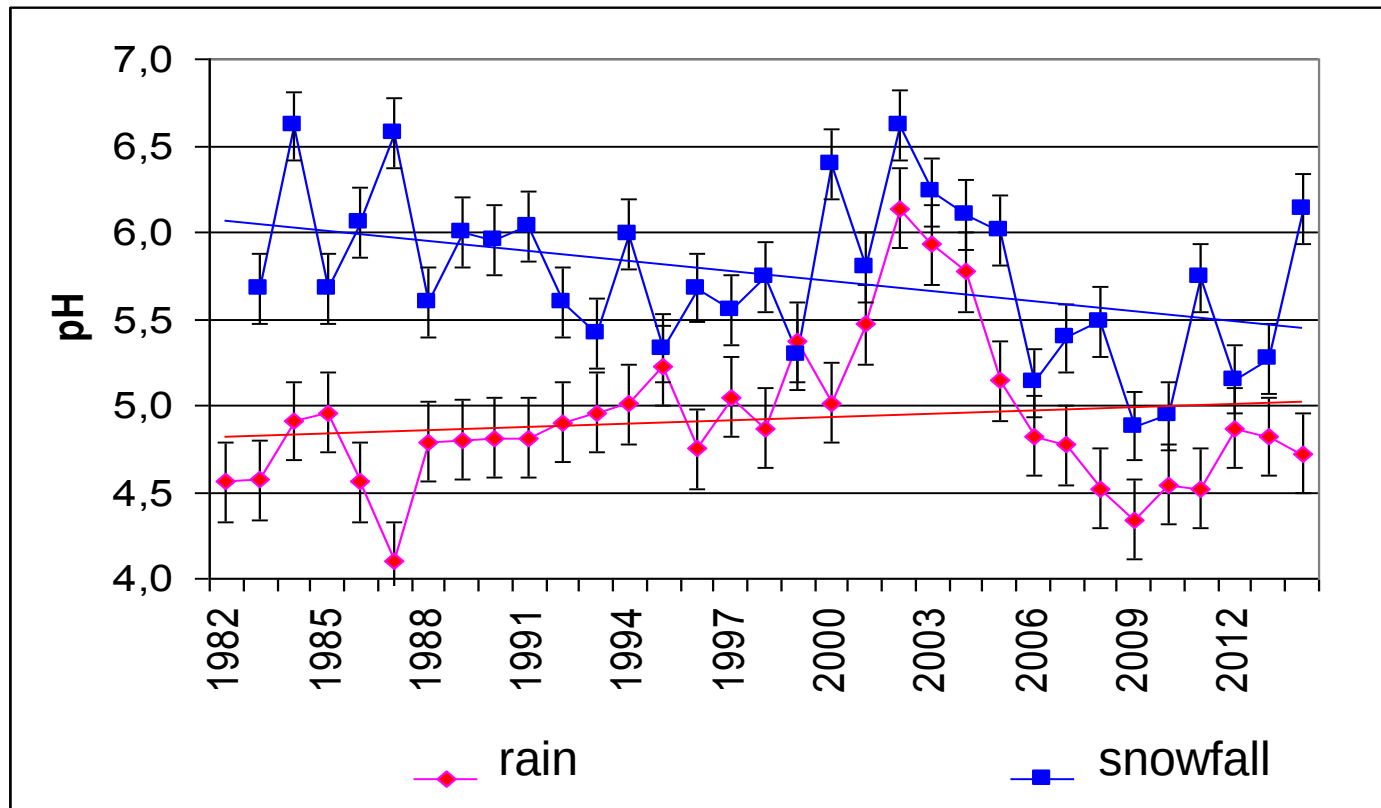
**visit our online web tool:**

**[www.momsu.ru/uv/](http://www.momsu.ru/uv/)**

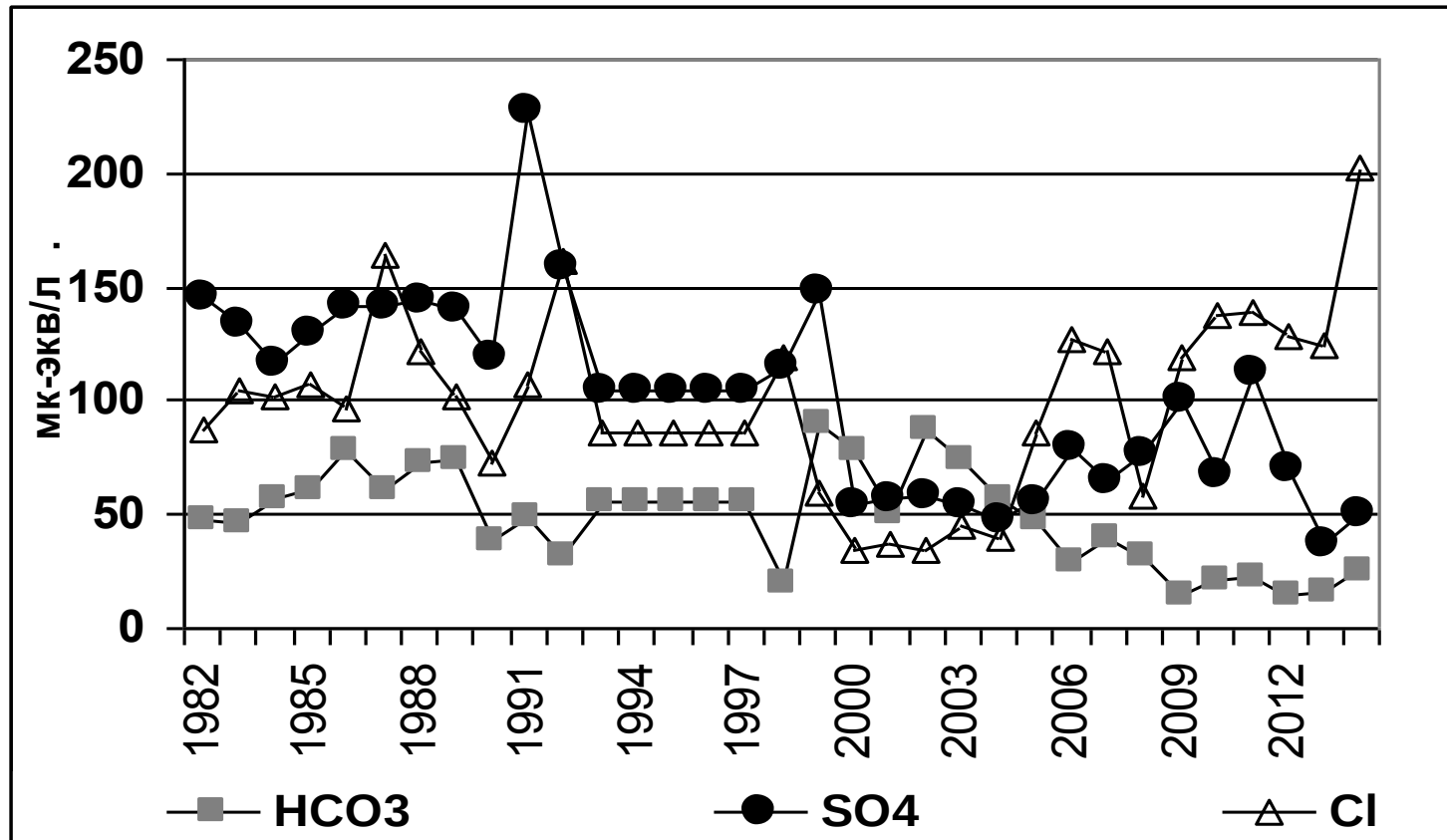


# 4. Chemical composition of precipitation

Trends in rain and snowfall pH since 1982 in Moscow



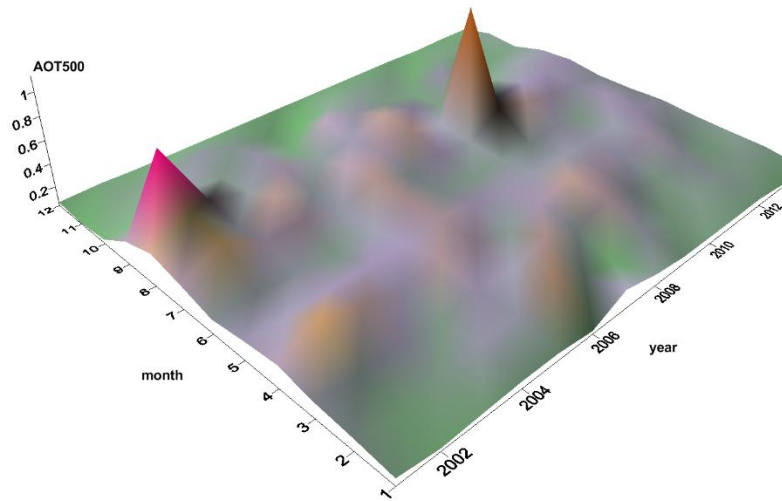
# Interannual variability of main anions in precipitation. Moscow.



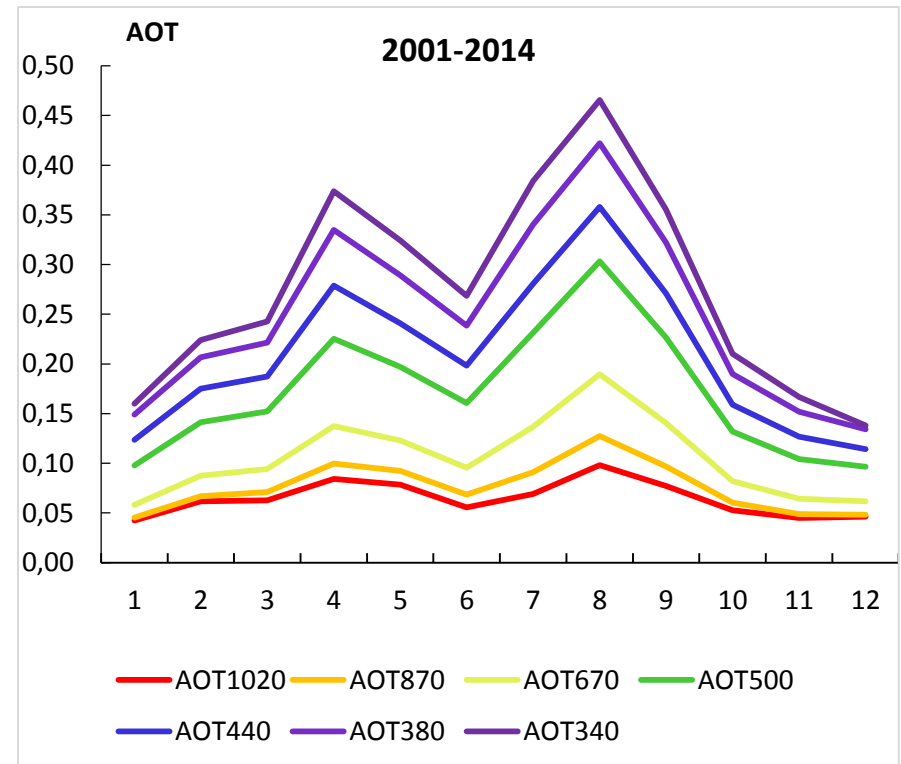


## 5. Urban aerosol pollution

### Seasonal cycle of aerosol optical thickness at different wavelengths since 2001 in Moscow



Interannual variability of aerosol optical thickness at 340nm, 500nm and 1020nm according to AERONET sun photometer data



# Aerosol urban pollution study based on colocated AERONET sites

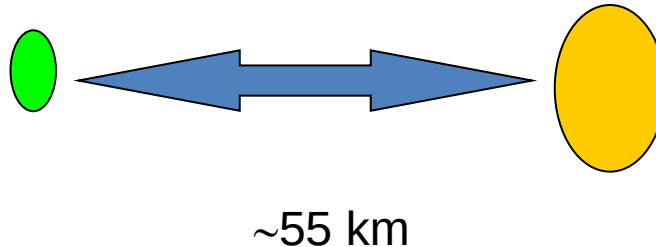


Sun sky  
photometer  
CIMEL of AERONET  
network

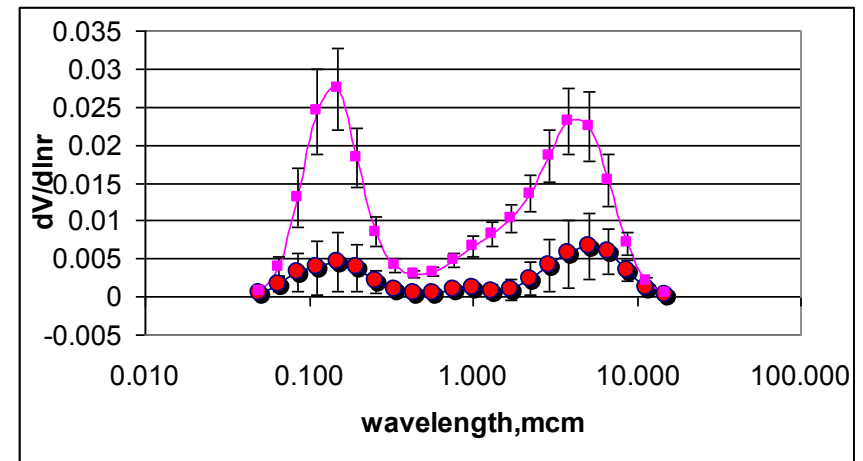
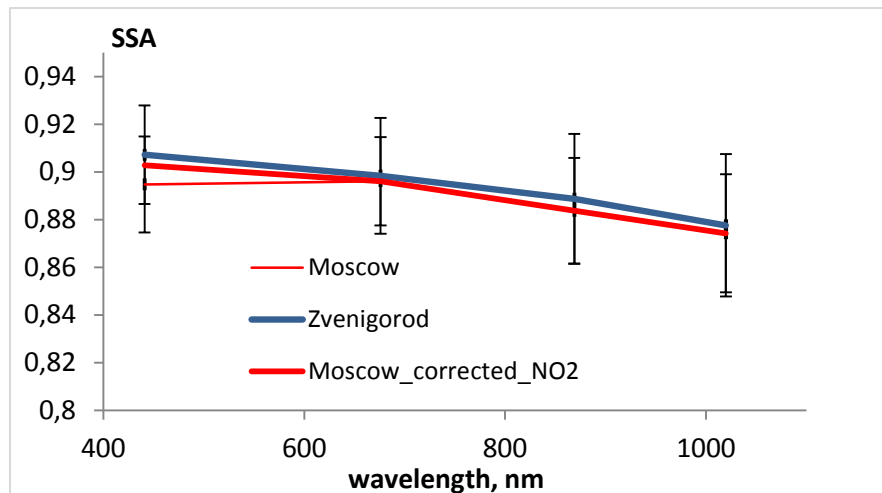
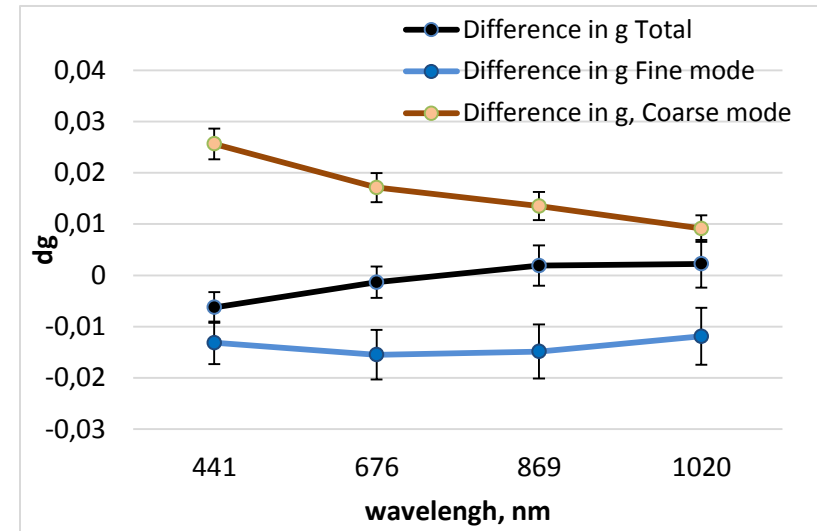
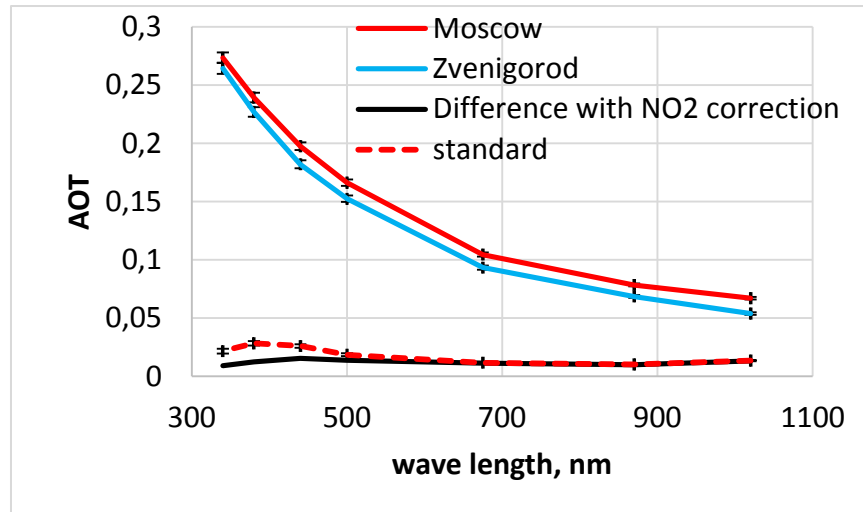


**Zvenigorod IFARAS**

**Moscow MSUMO  
site**

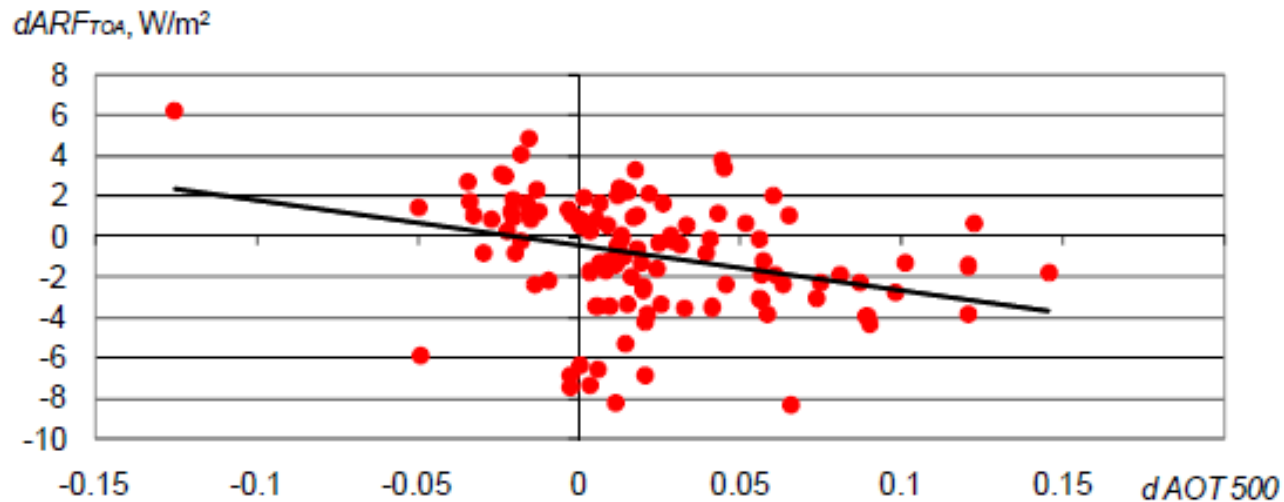


# Urban aerosol effects – differences in AOT, factor of asymmetry ( $g$ ), single scattering albedo (SSA) and in volume size distribution between the two collocated AERONET sites ( Moscow and Zvenigorod sites)





Dependence of the difference in urban aerosol radiative forcing at the top of the atmosphere ( $dARF_{TOA}$ ) between Moscow and Zvenigorod as a function of  $dAOT_{500}$ . Model simulations, clear sky conditions.

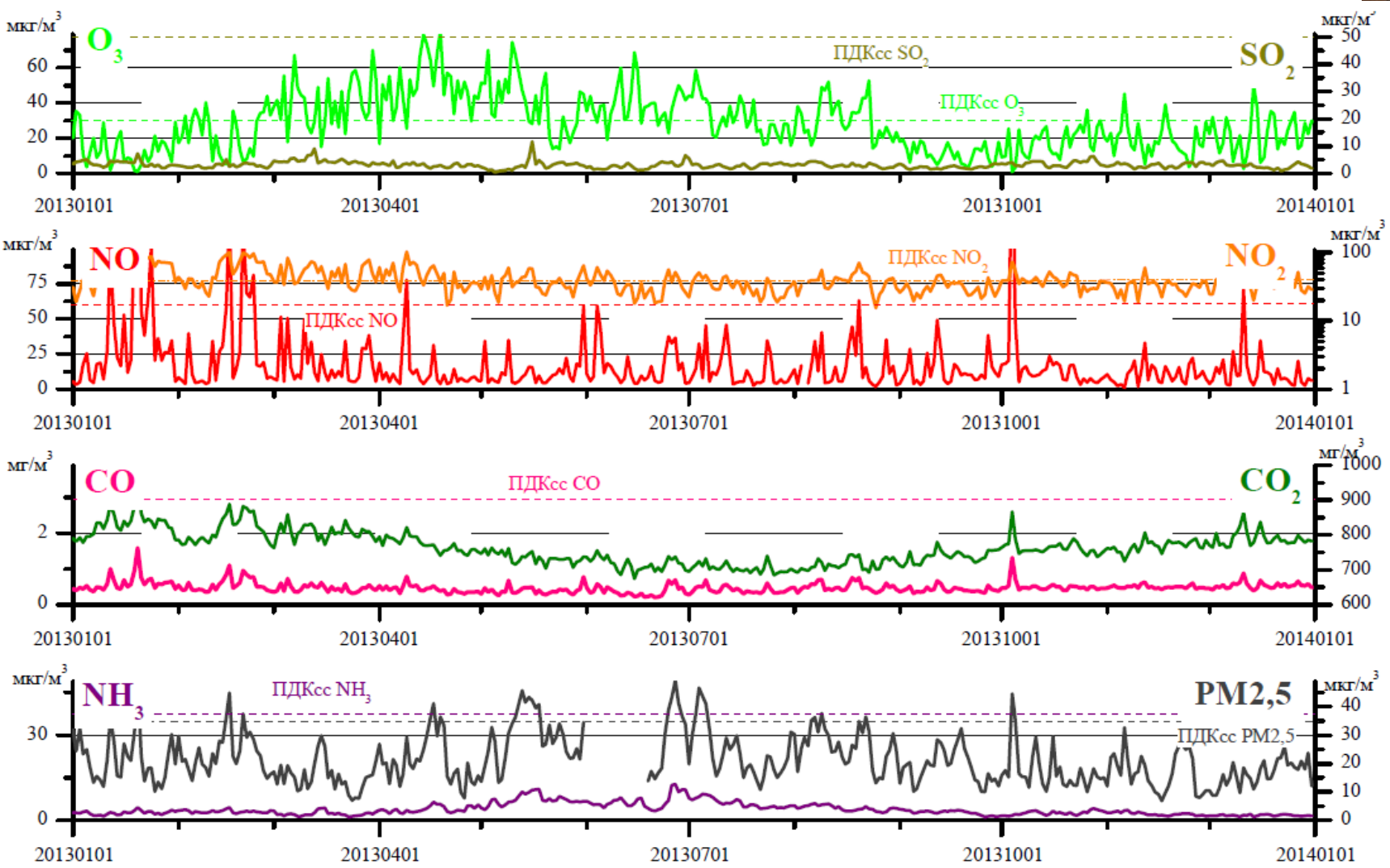


**Urban aerosol leads to cooling effect due to larger aerosol content, which is characterized by small absorbing.**

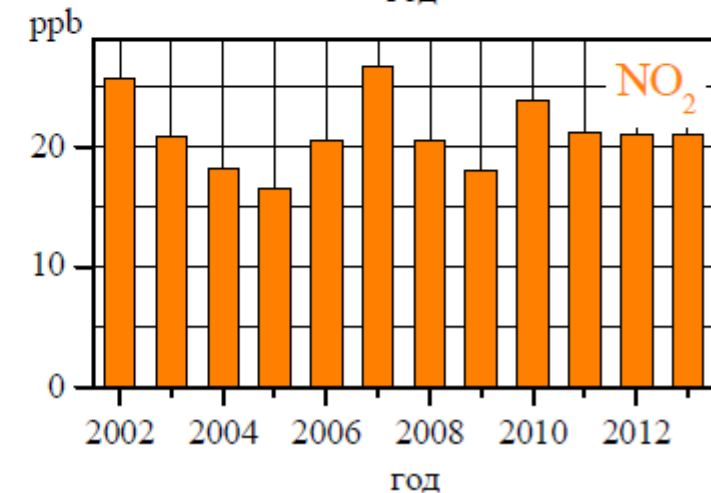
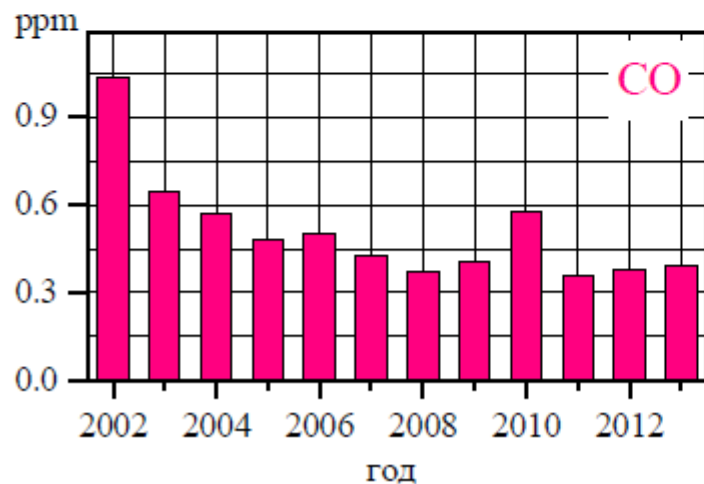
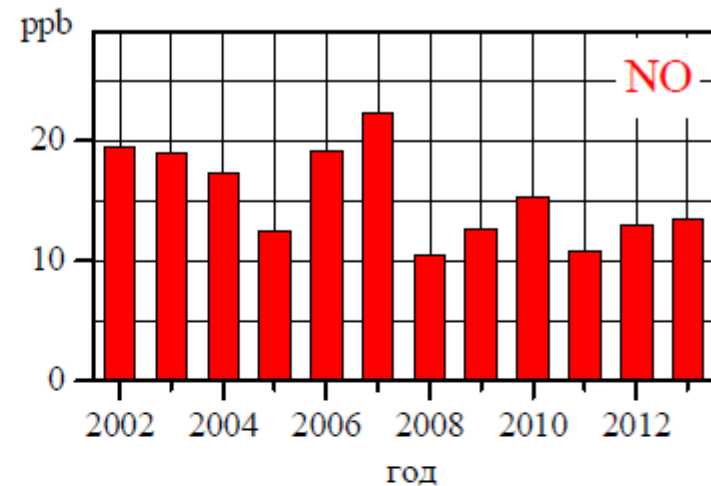
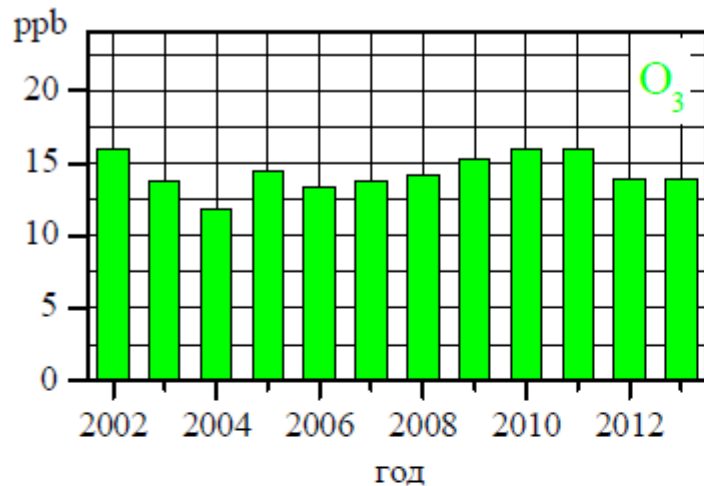


# 6. Air quality.

## Gas species monitoring 2002-2013, MSU MO

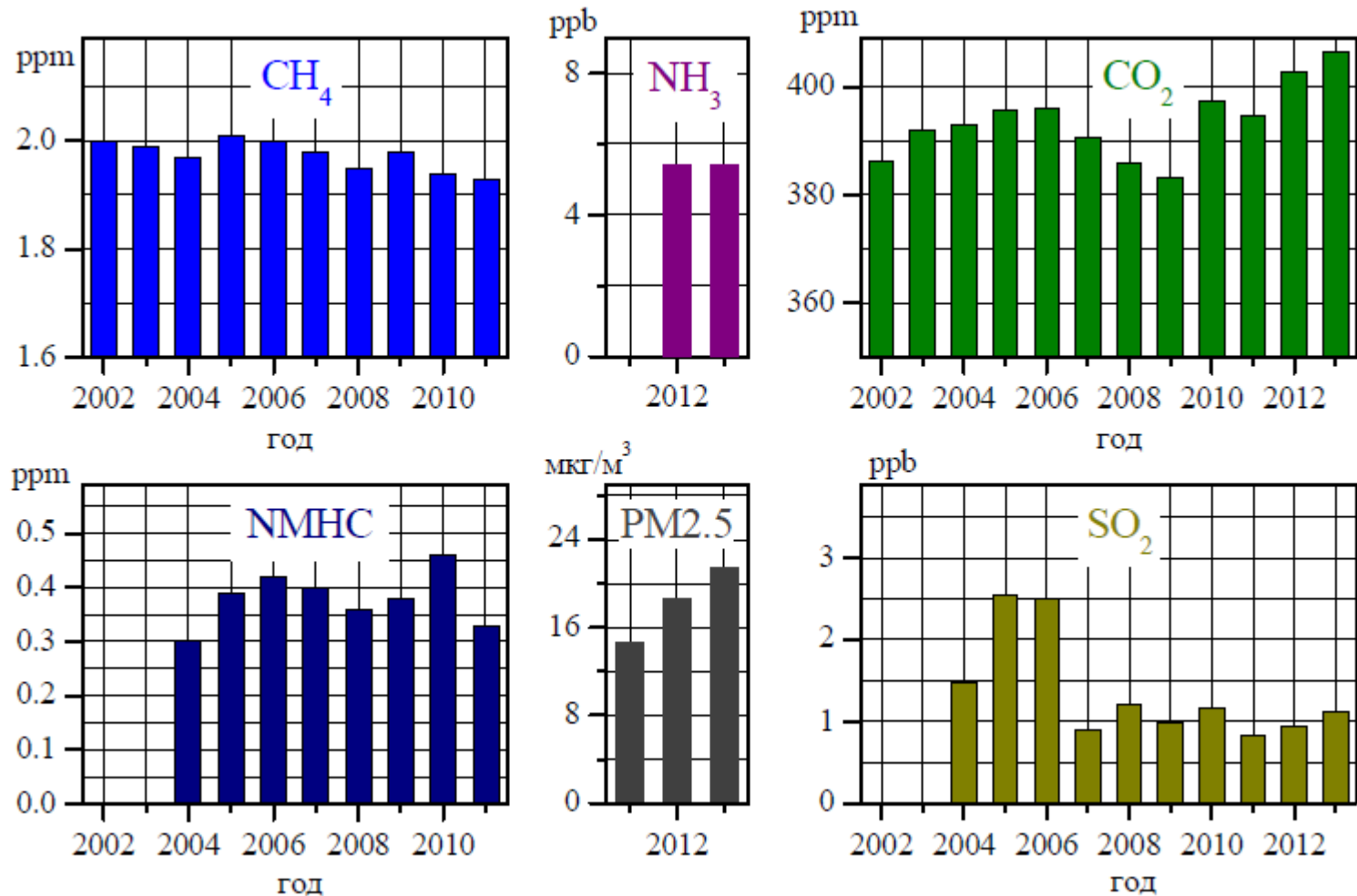


# Interannual variations of different gas species concentration



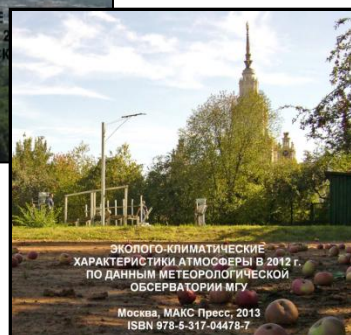
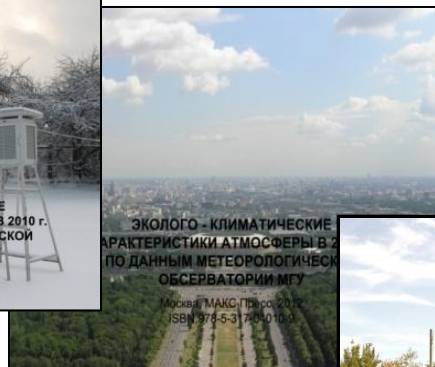


# Interannual variations of different gas species concentration



# CONCLUSIONS:

- There is a positive trend in temperature, which is higher than that in background conditions.
- This happens (very likely) due to increase in downwelling longwave irradiance. Need further analysis and model sensitivity study.
- There is a distinct negative AOT trend. The urban aerosol pollution has a cooling effect in Moscow.
- There is a pronounced positive UV increase since 1980s with a trend of 6% per decade. The UV health effects were estimated in Moscow and over Northern Eurasia. The developed UV -tool for determining UV level can be found at [www.momsu.ru/uv/](http://www.momsu.ru/uv/).
- The amount of acid rains are increasing during the last decade; the chemical composition of precipitation has changed significantly!
- The air quality in Moscow megalopolis is characterized by negative trends in CO, NO<sub>x</sub> and a positive trend in CO<sub>2</sub>.



**HANDBOOK**

**OF MOSCOW ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND CLIMATIC FEATURES  
(ACCORDING TO THE  
OBSERVATIONS AT MOSCOW  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
METEOROLOGICAL  
OBSERVATORY)**

*Editor-in-chief:*  
**A.A. Isaev**  
**Moscow State Univ. Publishing,**  
**2003**

<http://www.momsu.ru/publications.html>

# Thanks for your attention!

- Questions?