

Lecture 4: circulation and transport in the TTL and tropical lower stratosphere

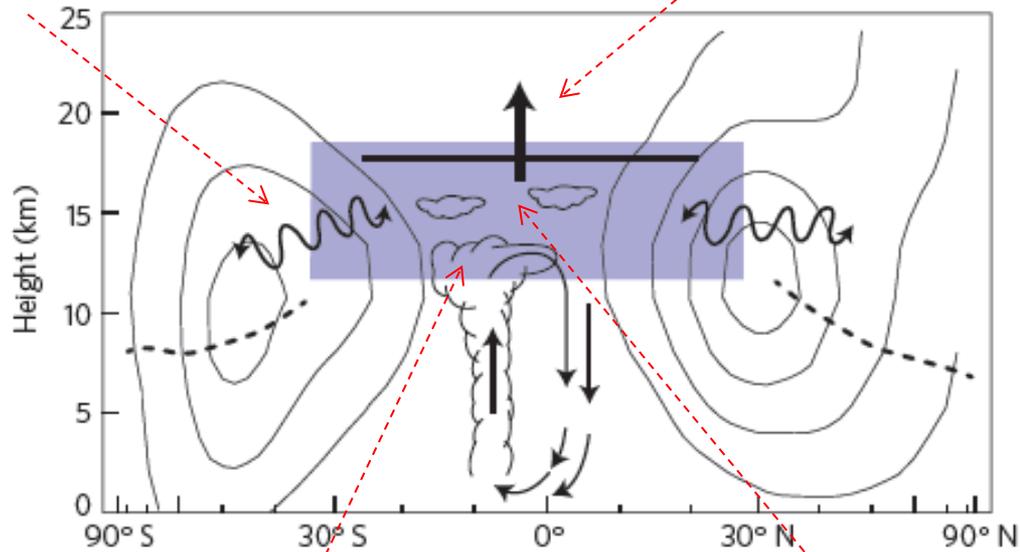
- the large annual cycle in the TTL: temperature and ozone
- observations: temperatures, circulation, trace species
- thermodynamic and constituent budgets in the TTL
- dynamical forcing of tropical upwelling

Transport near the tropical tropopause layer (TTL)

TTL sets 'boundary condition' for global stratosphere
Region with complex balances:

what controls tropical upwelling
(temps, ozone and stratospheric H₂O)?

two-way
transport by
baroclinic eddies



how does deep convection
impact composition?

cirrus and
climate impacts

Well-known: large annual cycle in temperature in tropical lower stratosphere

The Annual Temperature Variation in the Lower Tropical Stratosphere¹

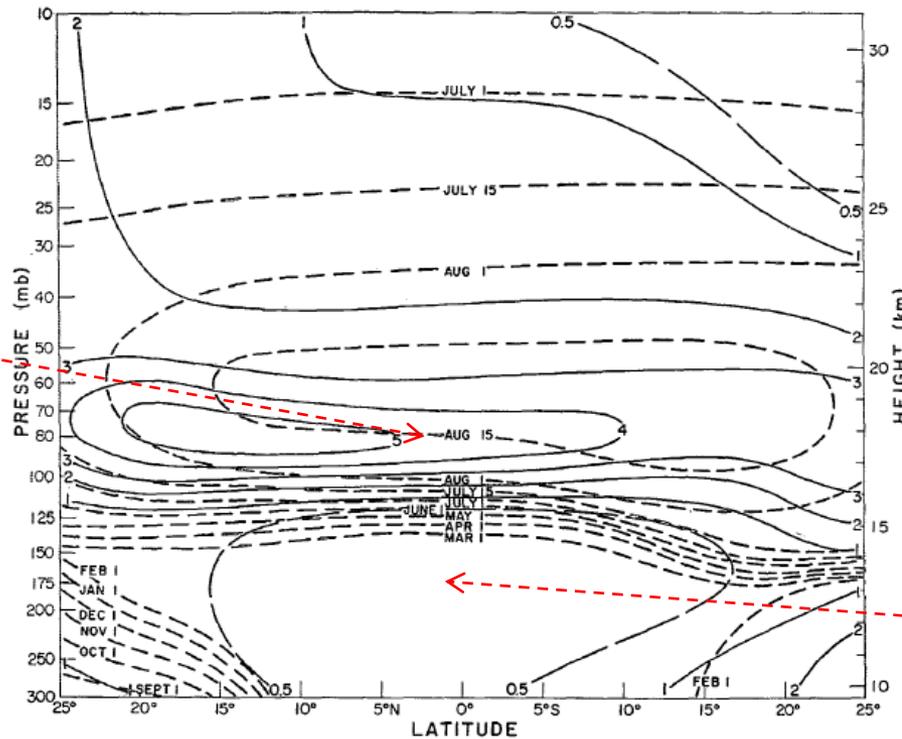
RICHARD J. REED² AND CHARLES L. VLCEK³

JAS 1969

dynamically forced,
but exactly how?

extratropical stratosphere,
tropical waves, ??

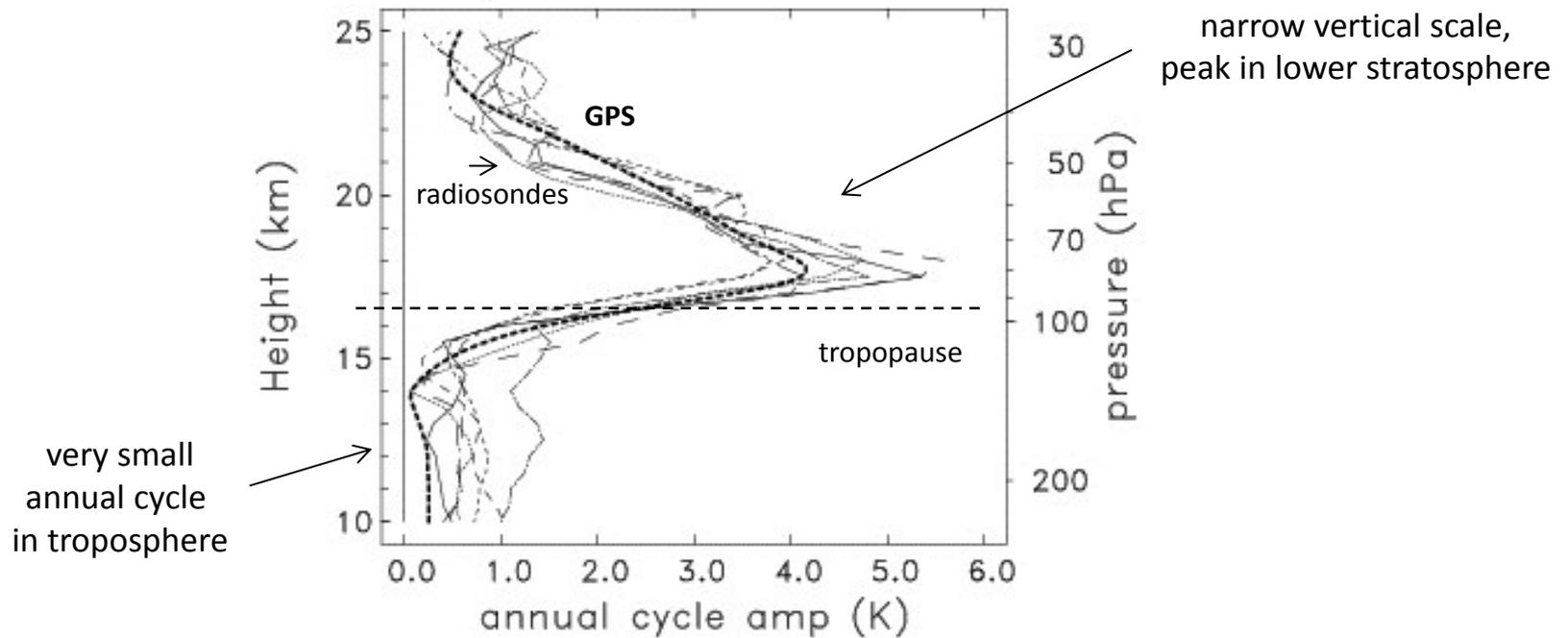
narrow
maximum



almost zero annual cycle
in tropical troposphere

FIG. 1. Amplitude (°C) and phase (time of maximum) of annual temperature variation.

Amplitude of the tropical annual cycle in temperature



What causes the annual cycle? Dynamically-forced upwelling

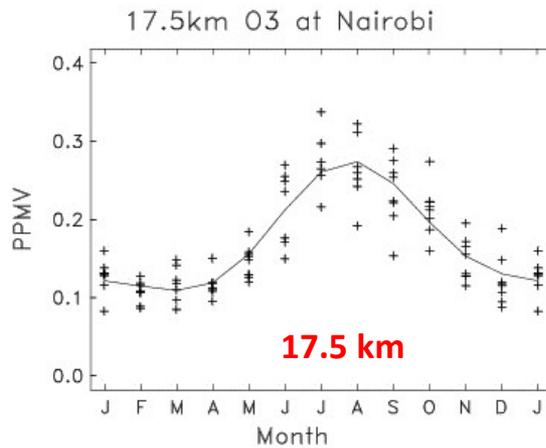
$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} + \cancel{\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial \phi}} + \bar{w}^* S = \bar{Q}$$

small

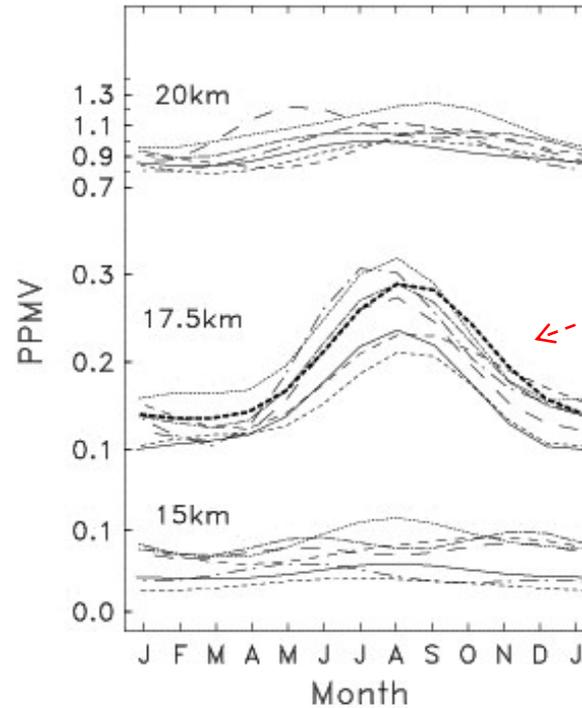
in this region, radiation acts as a damping term, not forcing

There is also a large annual cycle in ozone above the tropical tropopause

Seasonal cycle
at Nairobi

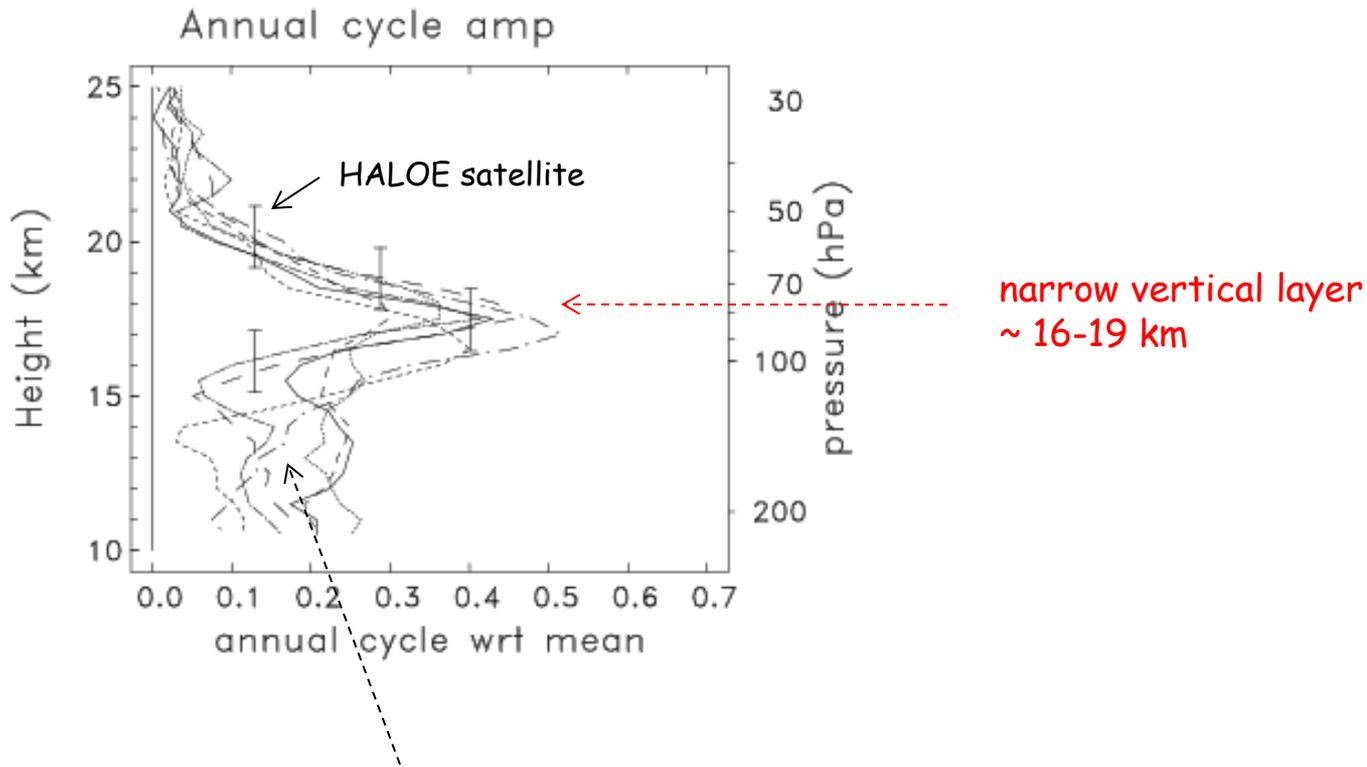


seasonal cycle at
7 SHADOZ ozonesonde
stations 10° N-S



Ozone annual cycle amplitude normalized by background

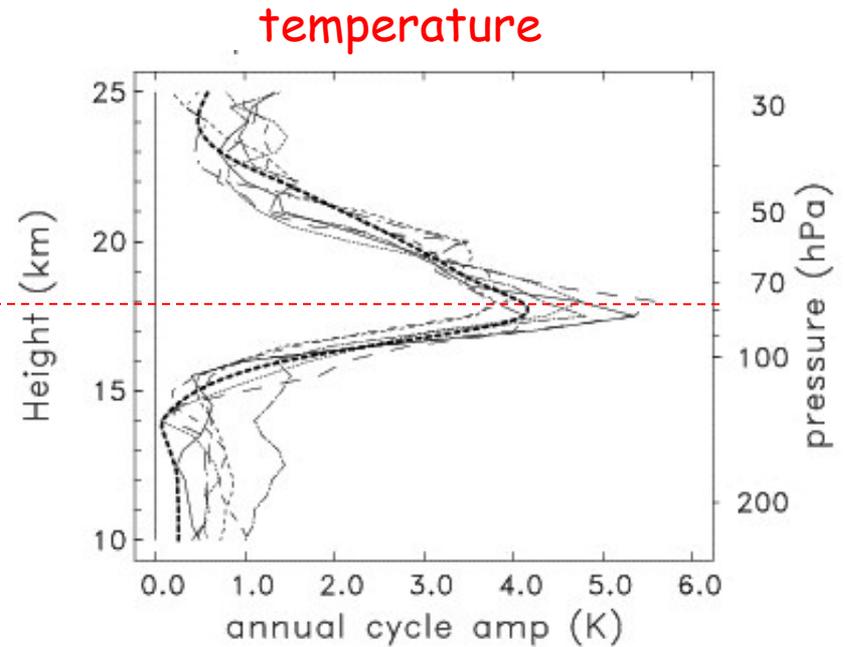
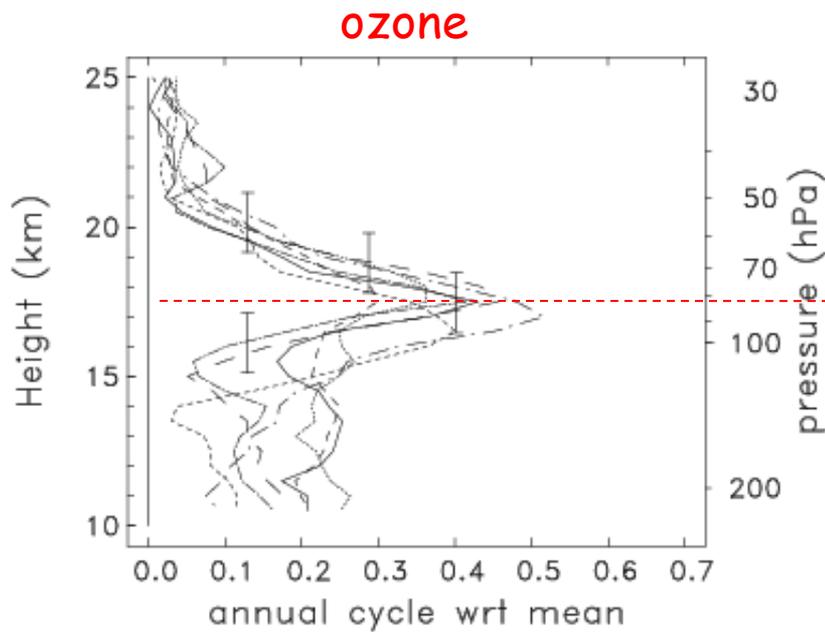
$$\frac{A_1}{\langle A \rangle}$$



upper troposphere seasonal
cycle is different among stations

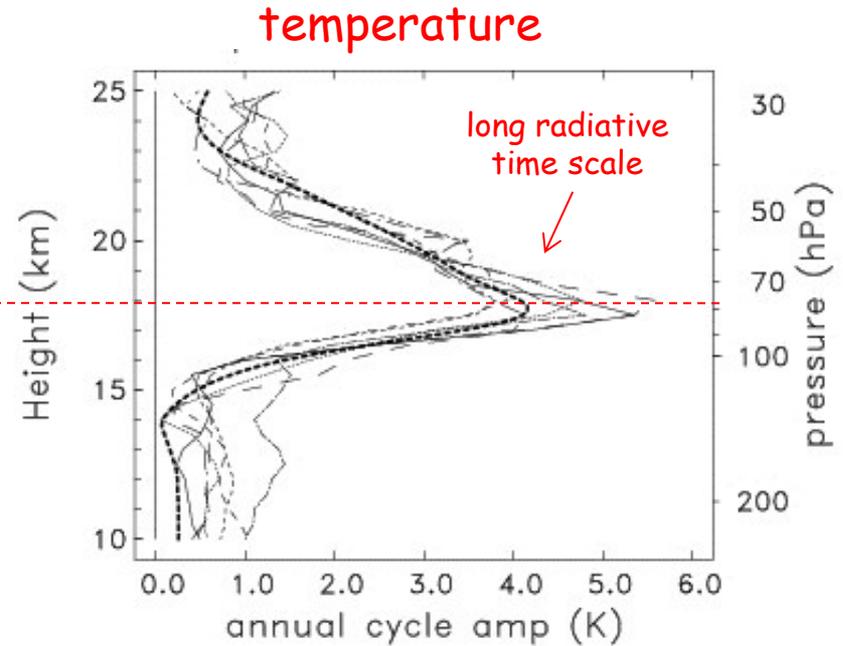
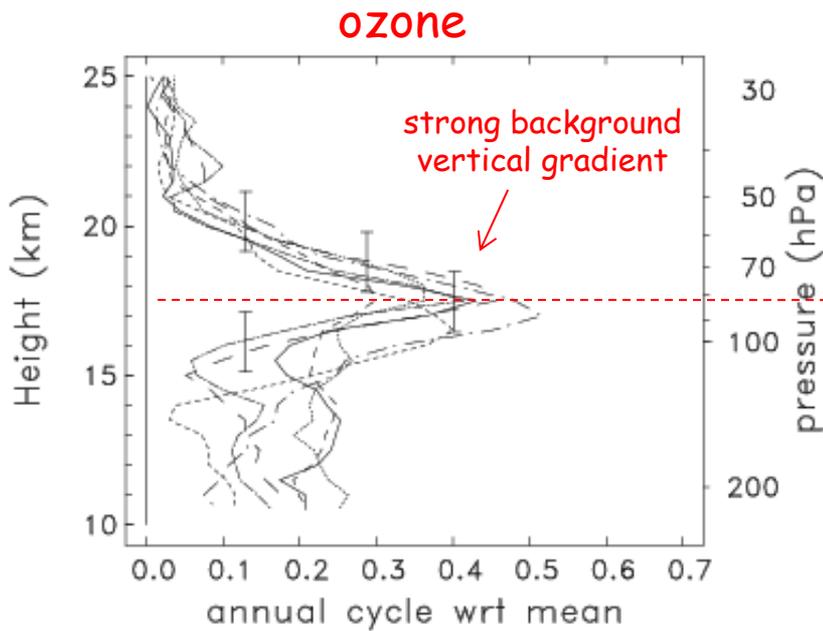
Randel et al., 2007, J. Atmos. Sci.

Ozone seasonal cycle has similar vertical structure to temperature



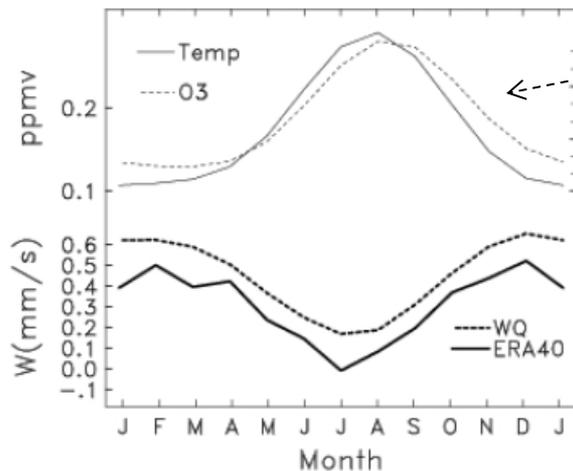
temps from SHADOZ stations
and zonal mean GPS data

Ozone seasonal cycle has similar vertical structure to temperature



ozone and temp
respond to
annual cycle
in tropical
upwelling

Climatological seasonal cycle



ozone and temp
~ in phase

vertical velocity (2 estimates)

Tracer transport equation similar to thermodynamic equation:

tracer

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial t} = -\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial z} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{M} + P - L$$

temperature

$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} + \bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial \phi} + \bar{w}^* S = \bar{Q},$$



idealized situation in
tropical lower stratosphere

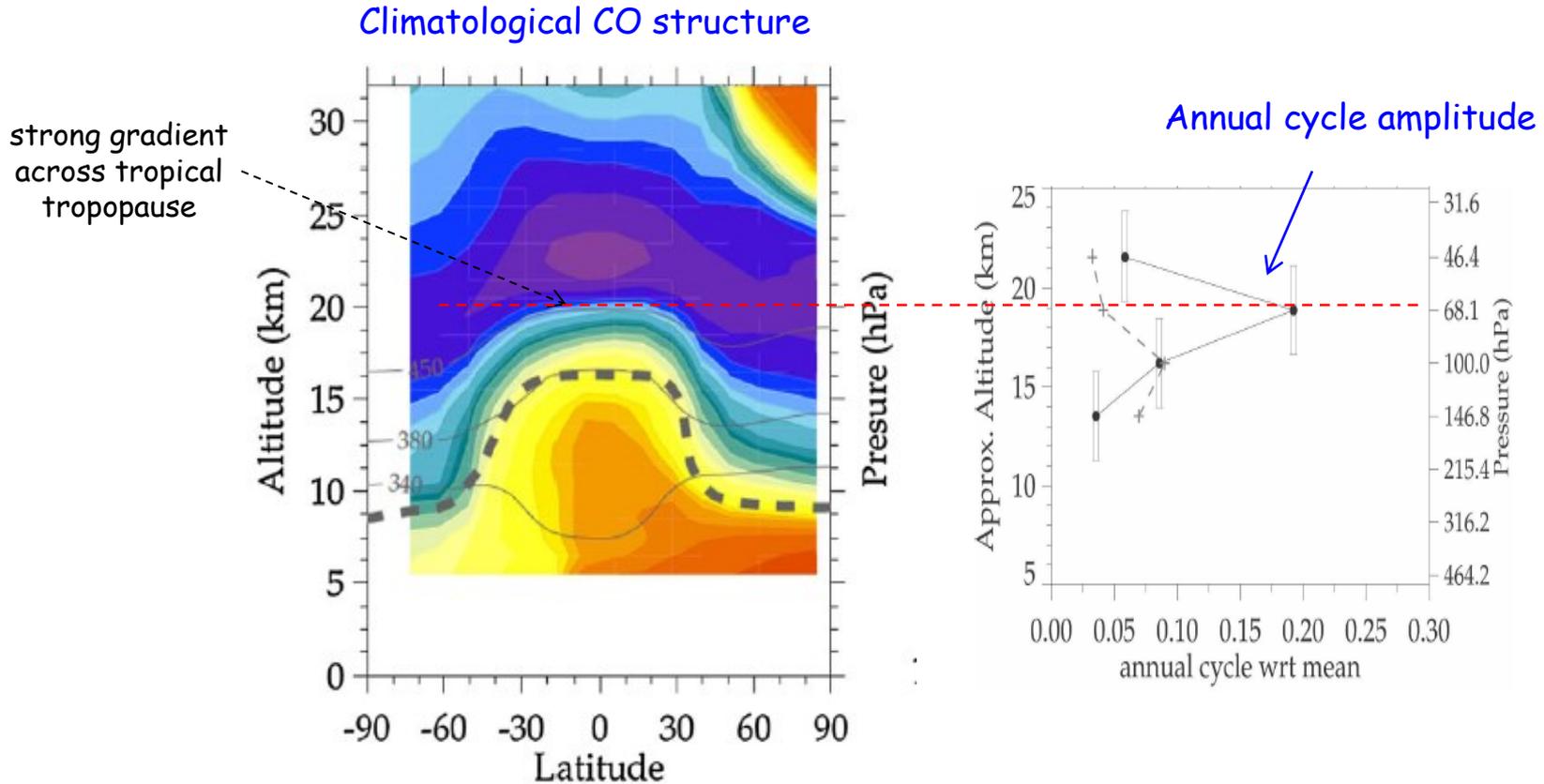
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial t} = -\bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} = -\bar{w}^* S$$

variations in upwelling \bar{w}^*
result in correlated
temperature and tracers

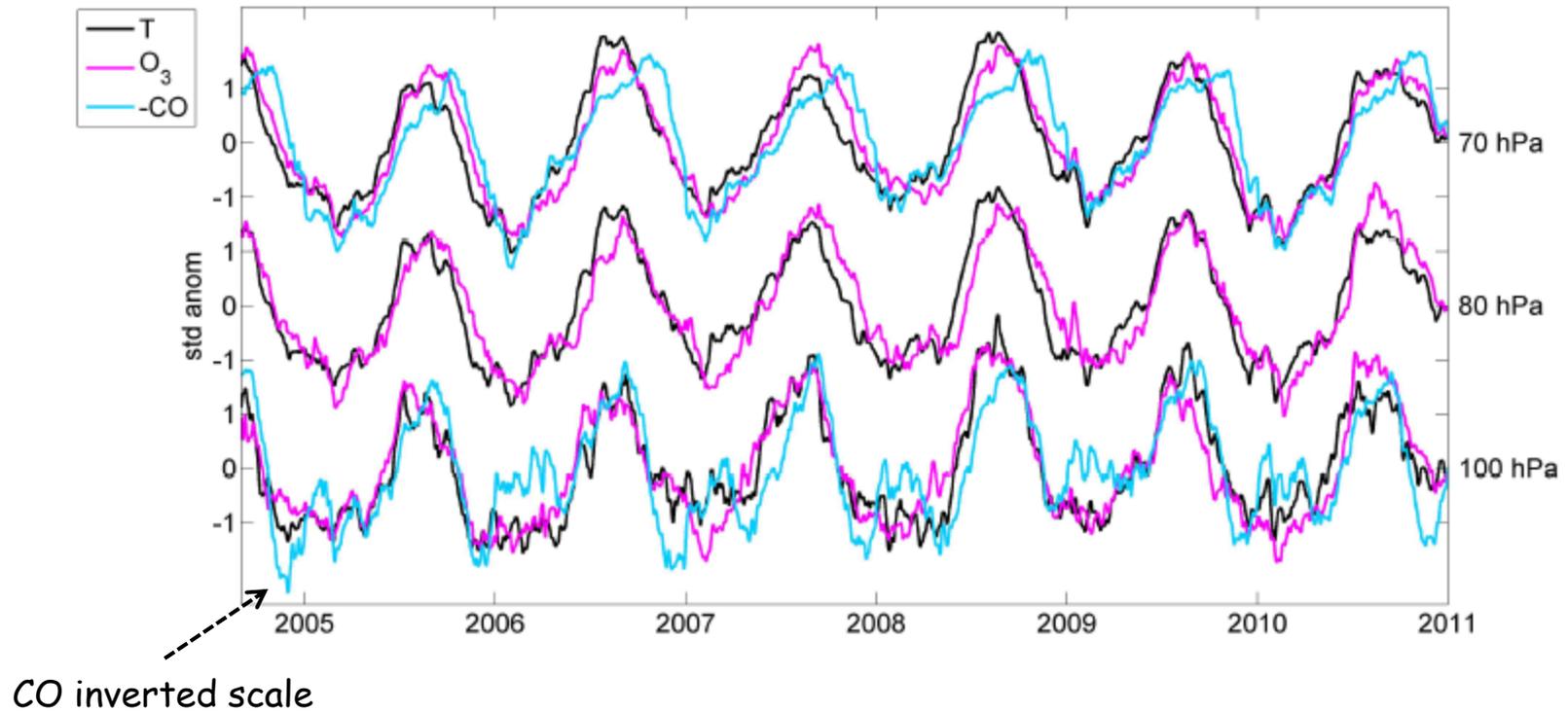
* for tracers with strong
vertical gradients

There is a corresponding annual cycle in CO above the tropical tropopause (out of phase with temperature and ozone)



Zonal mean temperature, ozone and CO averaged 18° N-S

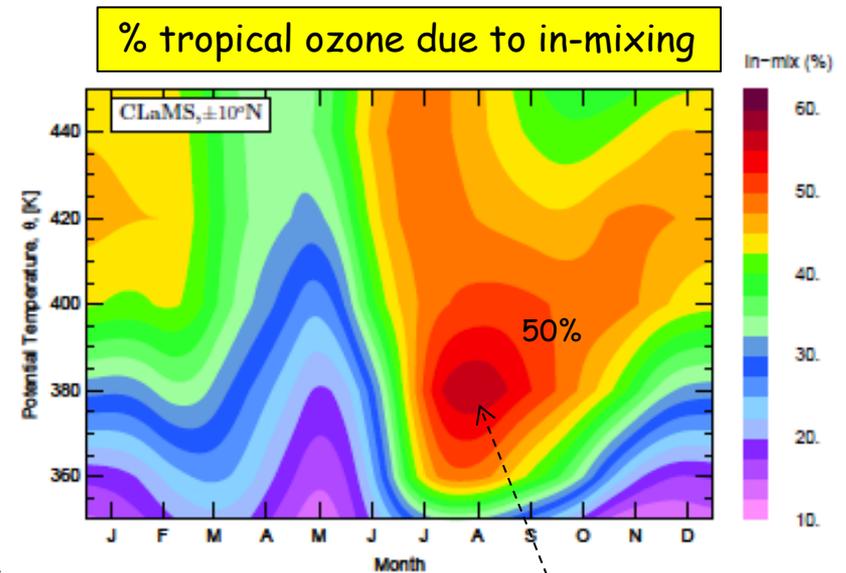
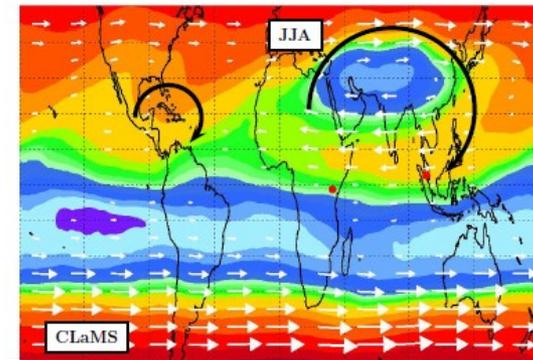
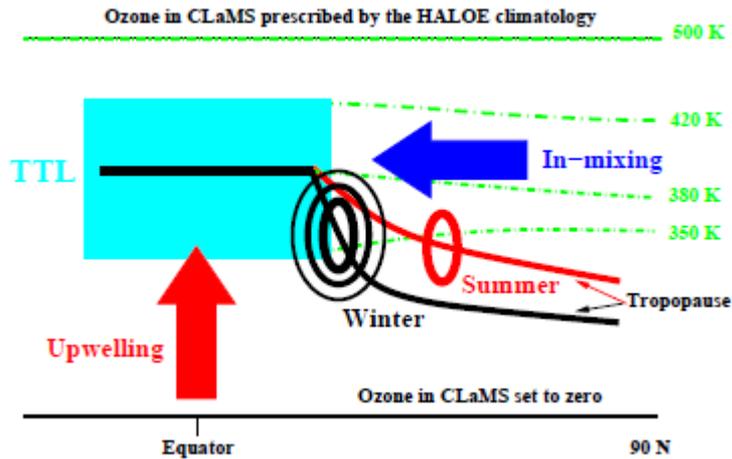
Temps from ERAinterim, ozone and CO from MLS observations



Complementary viewpoint: ozone annual cycle due to in-mixing

Isentropic calculations using CLaMS Lagrangian model

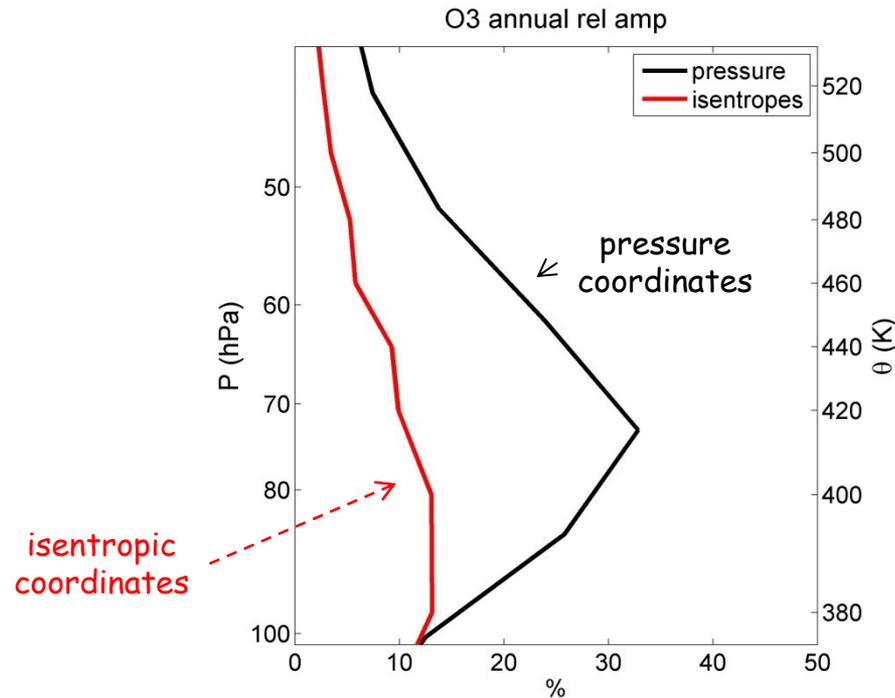
Konopka et al JGR 2009
Konopka et al ACP 2010
Ploeger et al JGR 2012



summer ozone maximum
due to Asian monsoon transport

Ozone annual cycle amplitude is reduced in isentropic coordinates because of strong ozone-temperature correlation (forced by upwelling)

Konopka et al JGR 2009



Key points:

- Large annual cycle in temperature and ozone in tropical lower stratosphere
- Also for other trace species with strong vertical gradients
- Forcing by upwelling is a simple explanation
- Possible importance of in-mixing linked to monsoon circulations

Variability in upwelling across the tropical tropopause and correlations with tracers in the lower stratosphere

M. Abalos¹, W. J. Randel², and E. Serrano¹

ACP 2012

¹Depto. de Geofísica y Meteorología, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

²National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, USA

- Observational analysis of upwelling effect on tracers
- MLS observations of ozone, CO 2004-2011
- ERAinterim meteorology
- 3 estimates of upwelling:
 - w^* (from reanalysis)
 - w^*_Q (thermodynamic balance)
 - w^*_m (momentum balance)

3 estimates of tropical upwelling w^* from observations:

$$\bar{w}^* \equiv \bar{w} + \frac{1}{a \cos \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(\cos \phi \frac{\overline{v'T'}}{S} \right)$$

residual circulation from reanalysis w^*

accurate radiative heating rate

$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} = -\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* S + \bar{Q} - \frac{1}{e^{-z/H}} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[e^{-z/H} \left(\frac{\overline{v'T'}}{a \cdot S} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial \phi} + \overline{w'T'} \right) \right]$$

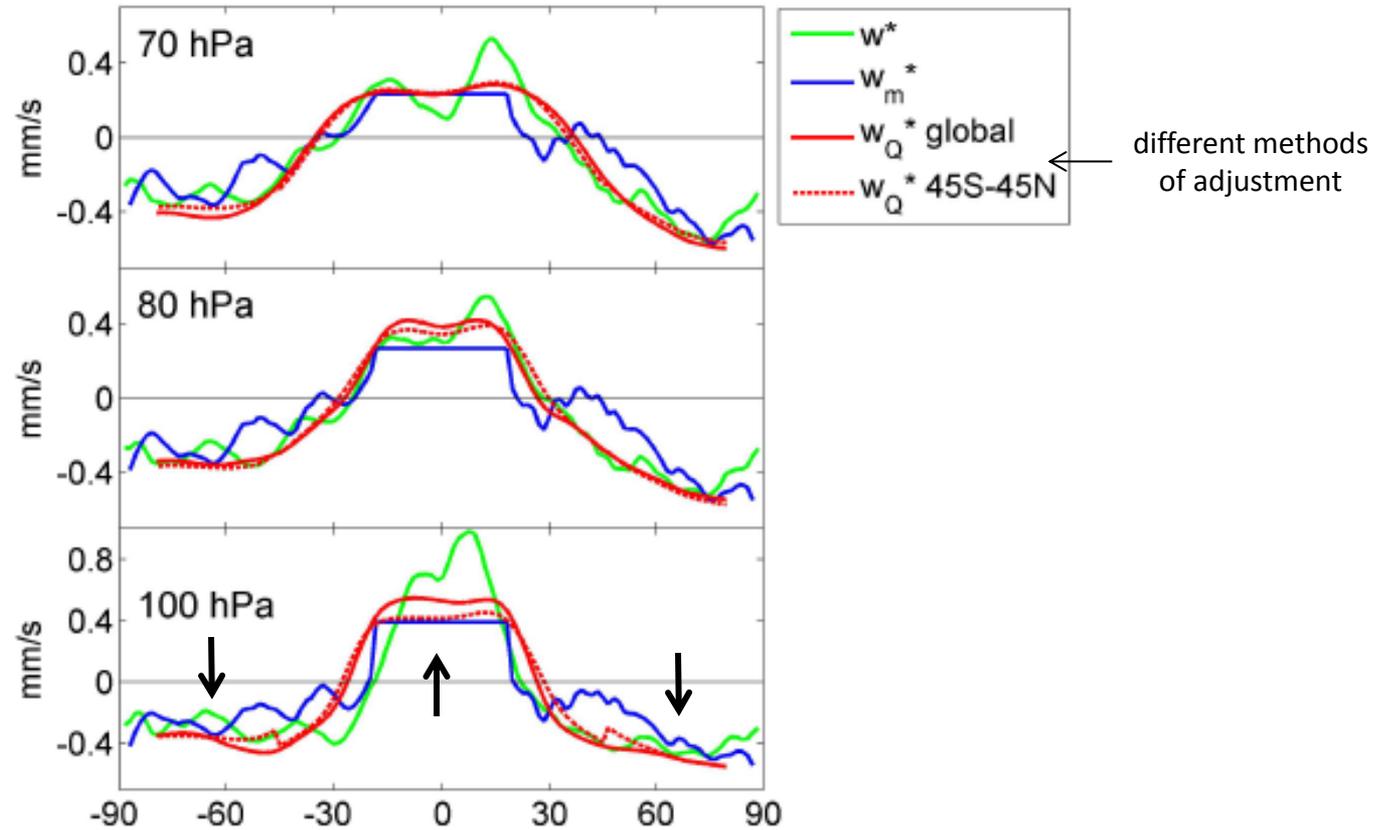
thermodynamic
balance
 w_Q^*

$$\langle \bar{w}_m^* \rangle(z) = \frac{-e^{z/H}}{\int_{-\phi_0}^{\phi_0} a \cos \phi d\phi} \left\{ \int_z^{\infty} \frac{e^{-z'/H} \cos \phi}{\hat{f}(\phi, z')} [DF(\phi, z') - \bar{u}_t(\phi, z')]_{\bar{m}} dz' \right\}_{-\phi_0}^{\phi_0}$$

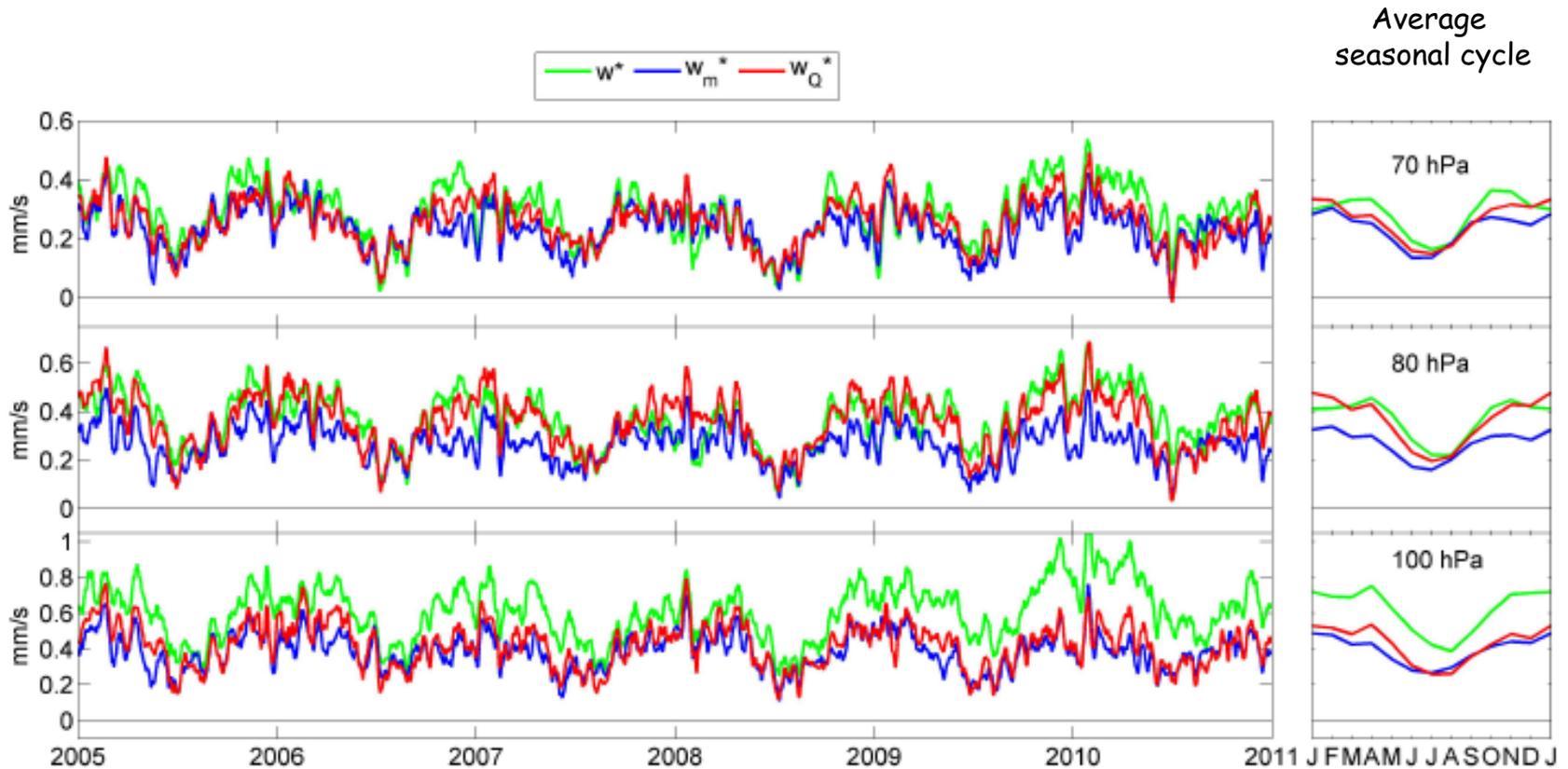
EP flux divergence

momentum
balance
 w_m^*

Latitude structure of upwelling from 3 estimates



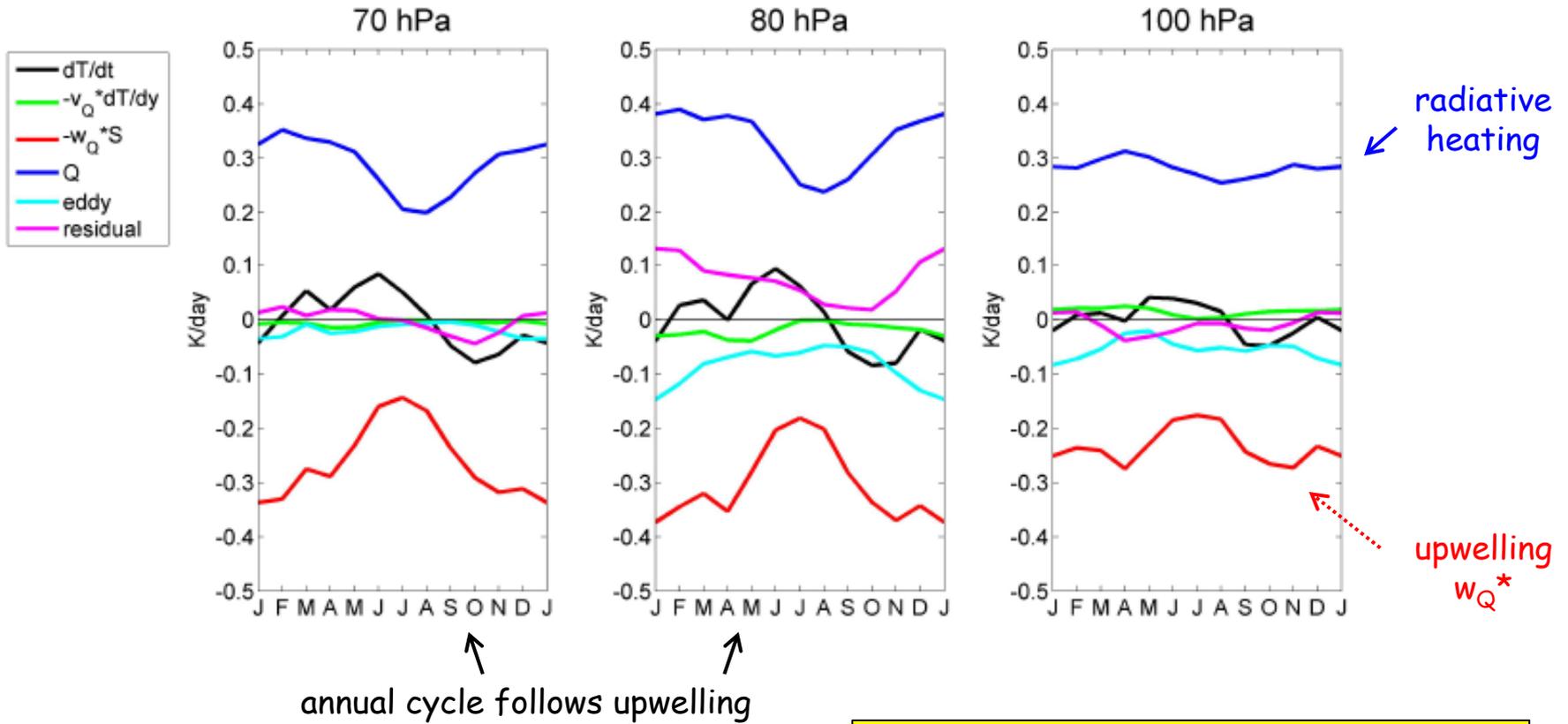
Daily variations in upwelling 18° N-S



Large annual cycles and significant sub-seasonal variability

Thermodynamic balance →

$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} = -\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* S + \bar{Q} + \text{eddy term}$$



Result: upwelling ~ radiative heating

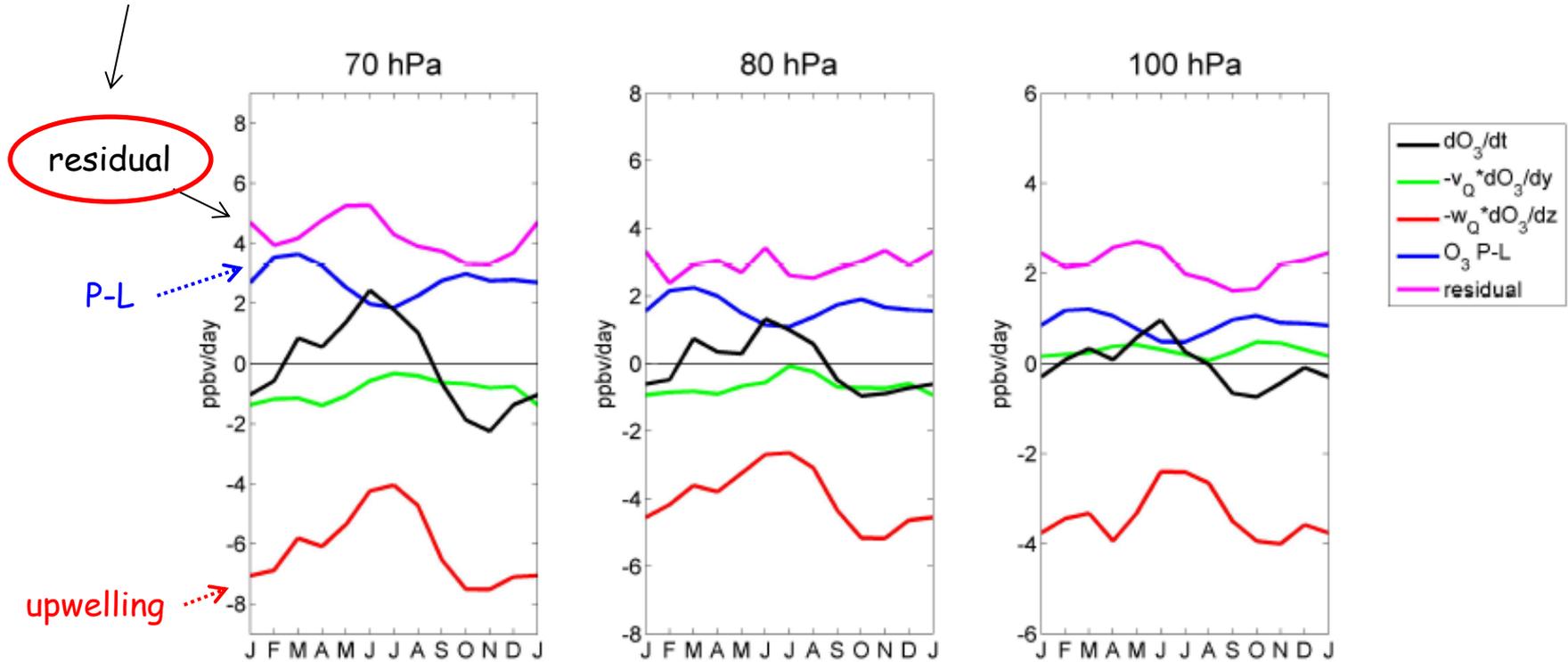
Ozone budget

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial t} = -\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial z} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{M} + P - L$$

↑
↑
↑
↑

mean advection
eddy transport
chemistry

Residual = unresolved eddy effects + imbalances from resolved terms



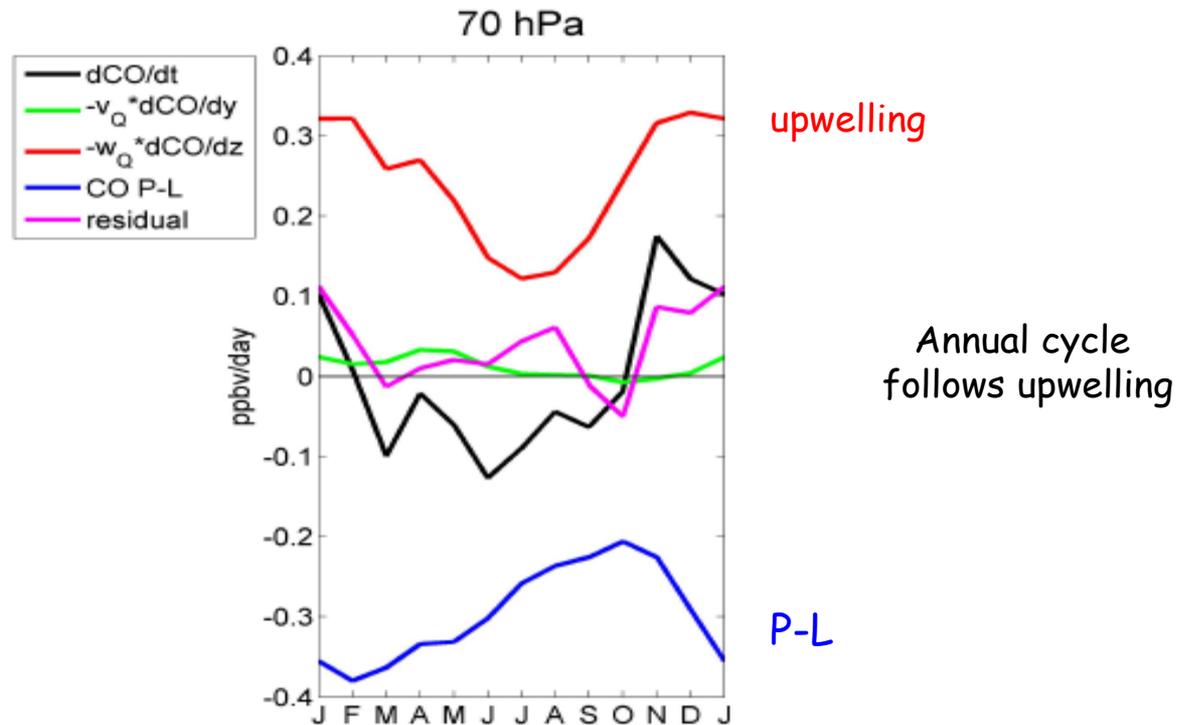
upwelling

P-L

annual cycle follows upwelling

Result: upwelling ~ photochemical production + residual (eddy effects?)

CO budget



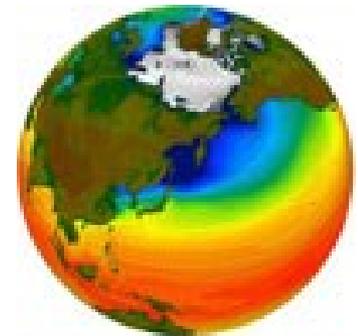
Result: upwelling \sim photochemical loss

Summary from budgets calculated from observations:

- Upwelling is the dominant forcing for temp, ozone and CO
- Relatively large residual for ozone budget; are these due to unresolved eddy effects?

What are the detailed balances in a free-running climate model (WACCM) ?

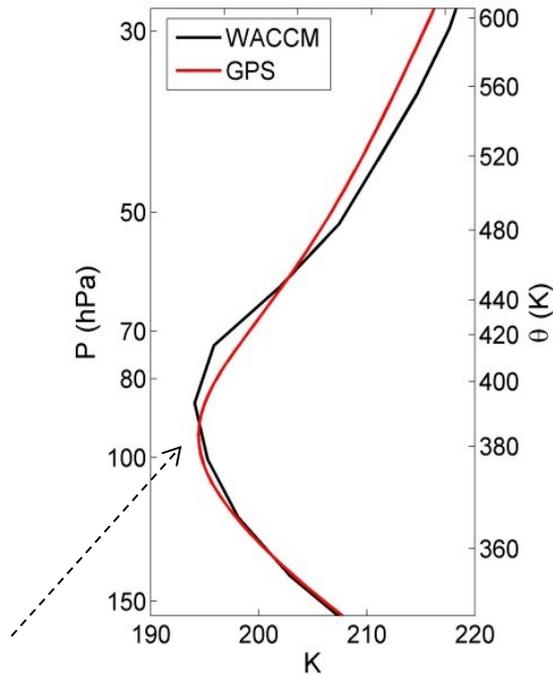
- Archive and analyze daily output of a standard WACCM simulation



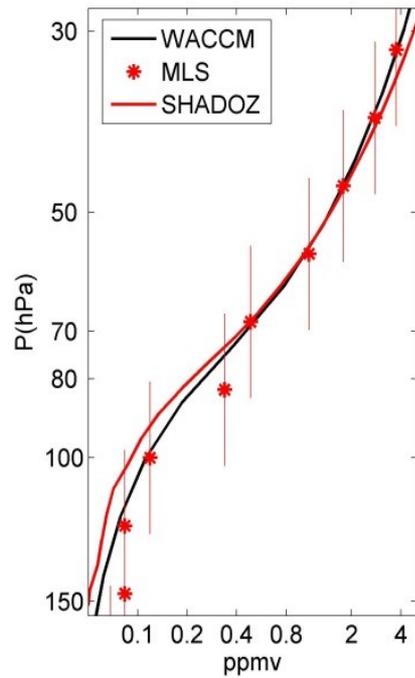
Abalos et al, 2013, ACP

How realistic is the near-tropopause structure in WACCM?

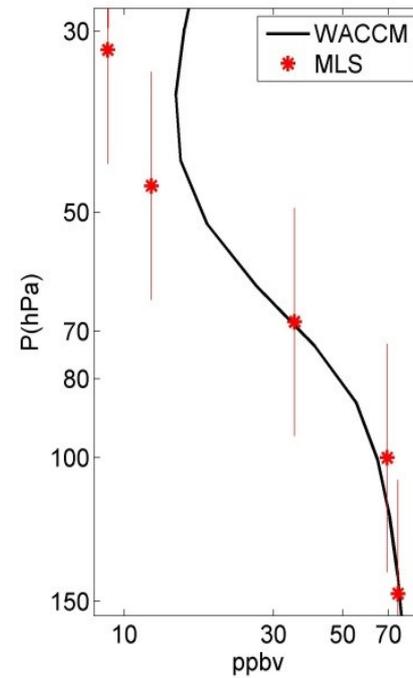
temp



ozone



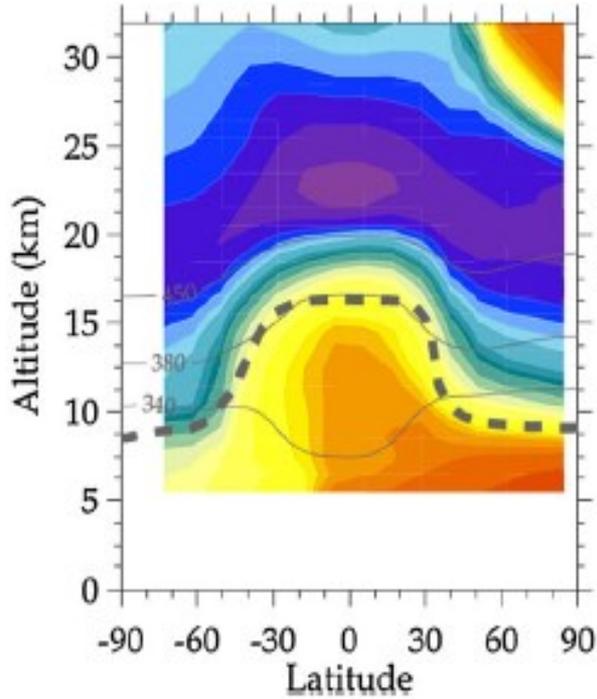
CO



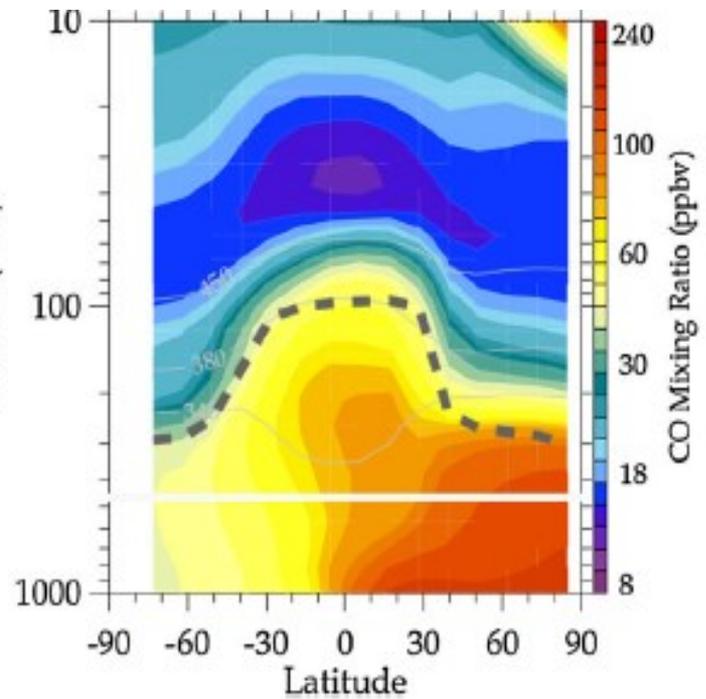
tropopause is slightly higher in WACCM

Accurate simulation of CO in WACCM

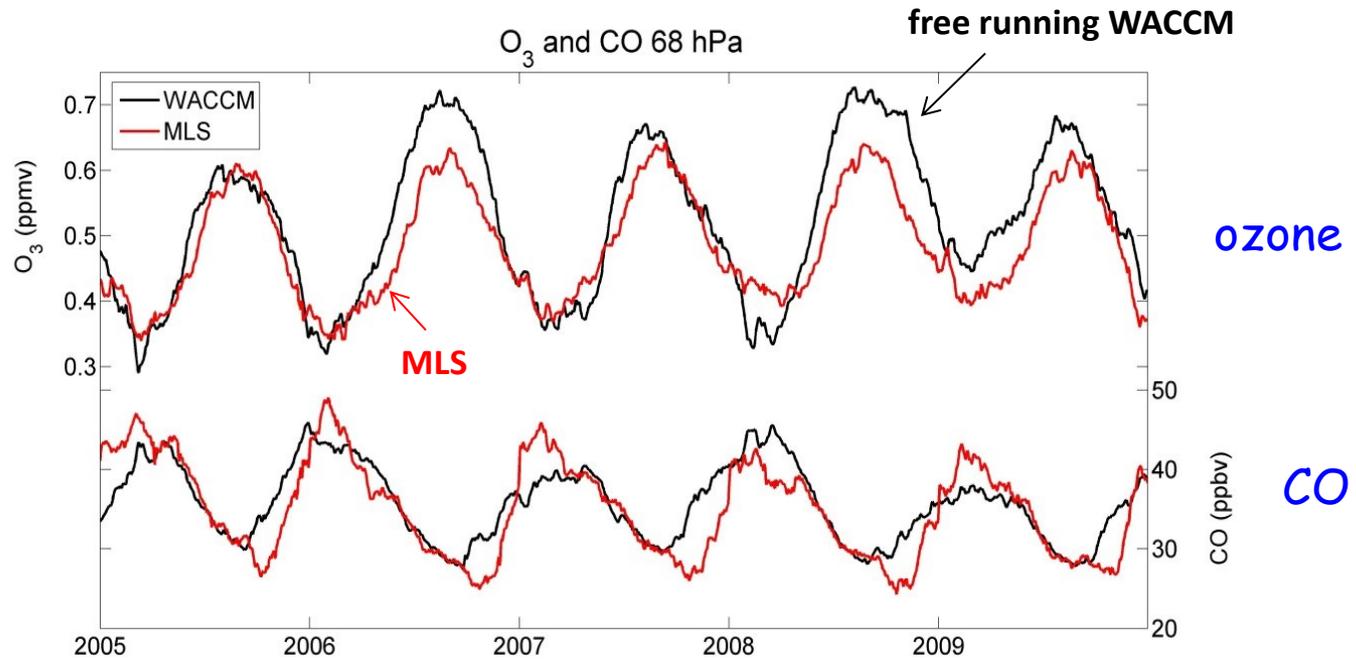
Observed ACE-FTS



WACCM

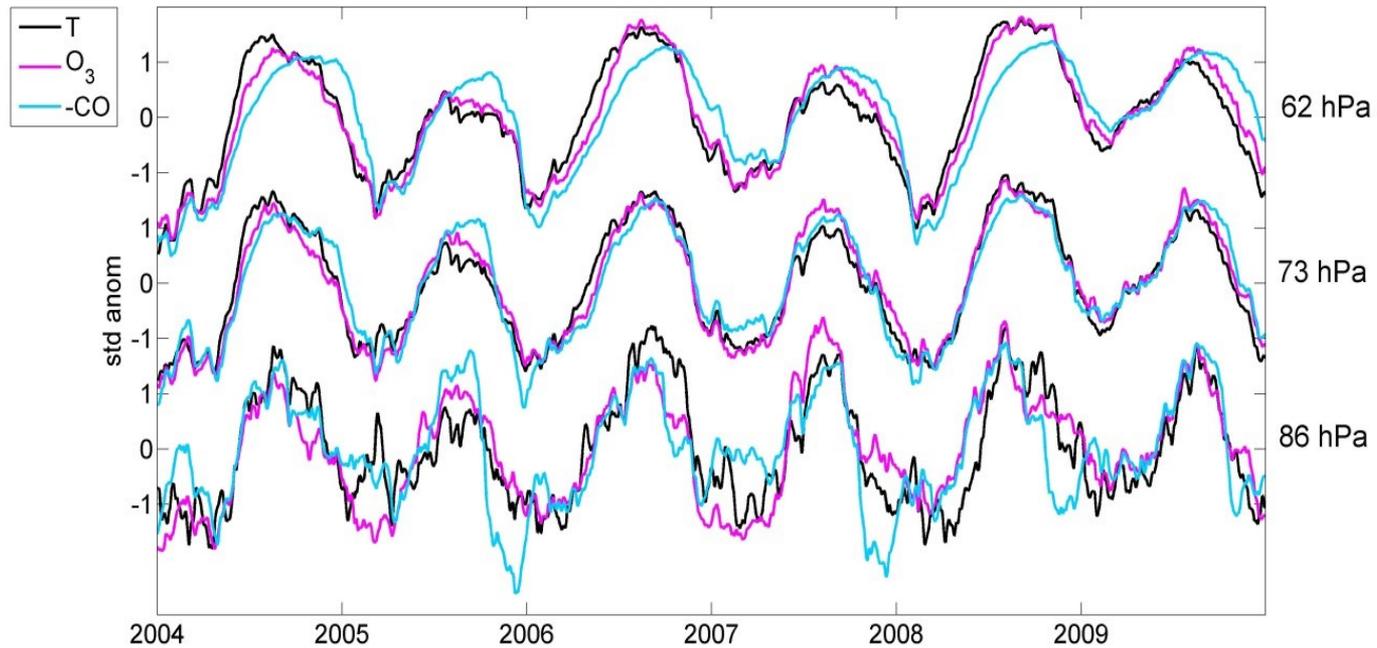


Tropical seasonal variations at 68 hPa (19 km)



Coherent WACCM variations of T, ozone and CO

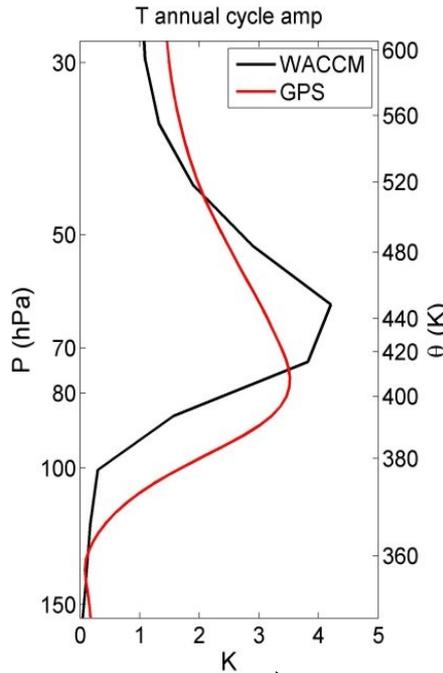
* similar to observations *



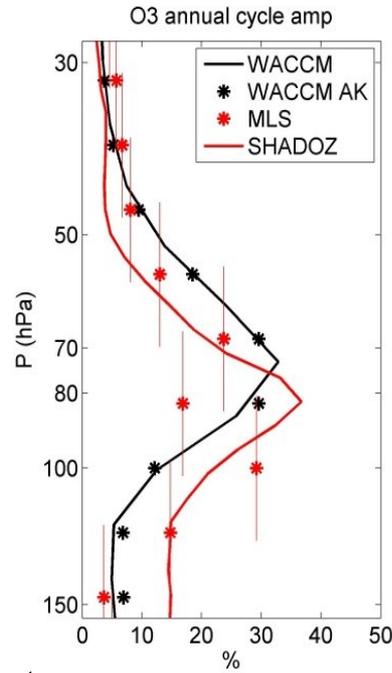
CO inverted scale

Amplitude of annual cycle

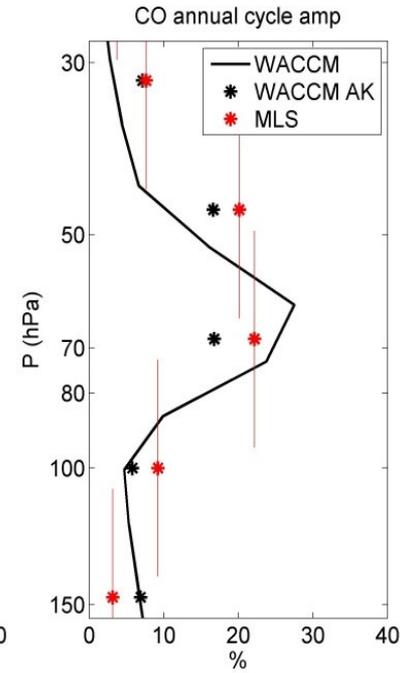
temp



ozone



CO

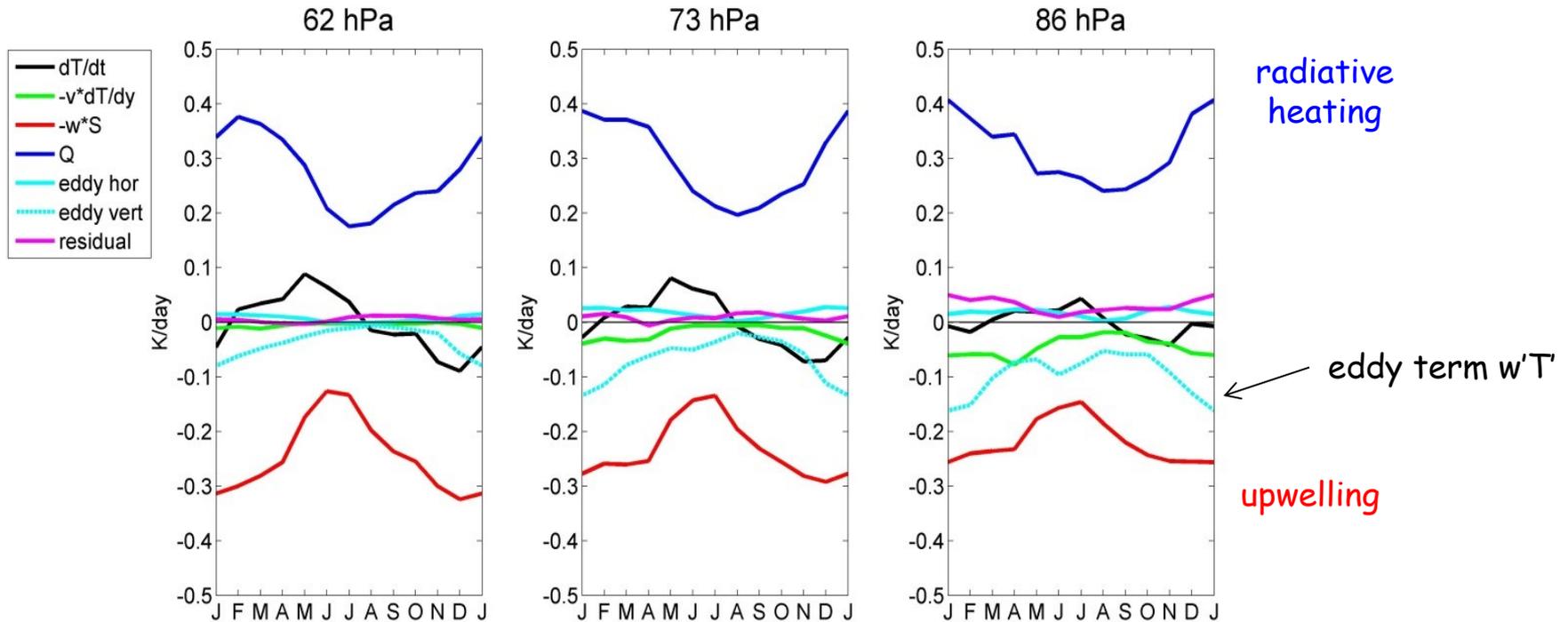


Realistic amplitudes,
but slightly higher
altitude in WACCM

WACCM thermodynamic balance:

$$\bar{T}_t = -\bar{v}^* \bar{T}_y - \bar{w}^* S + \bar{Q} - e^{z/H} \left[e^{-z/H} \left(\overline{v'T'} \frac{\bar{T}_y}{S} + \overline{w'T'} \right) \right]_z$$

eddy fluxes are typically small

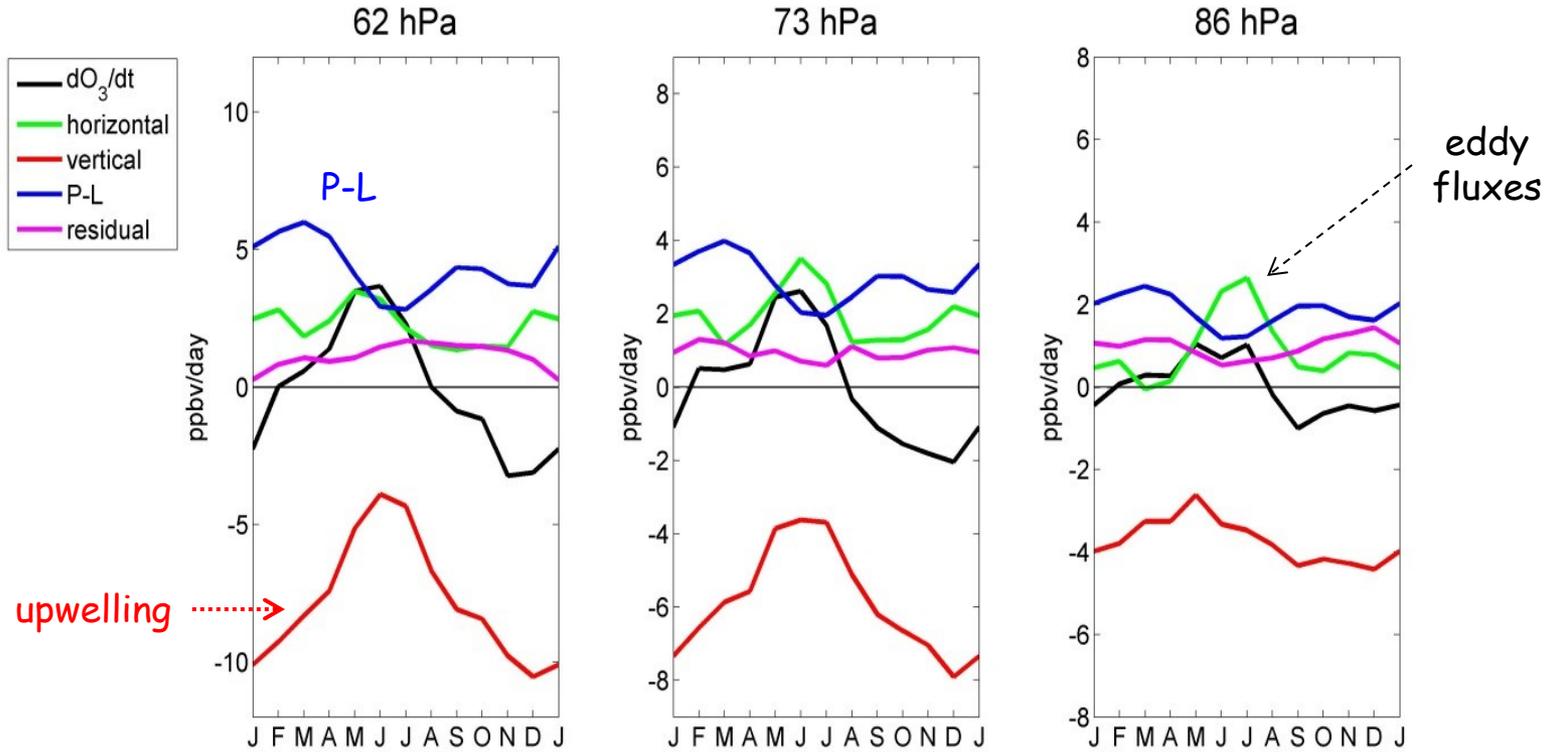


Note very small residuals (not always easy with model results)

WACCM ozone budget:

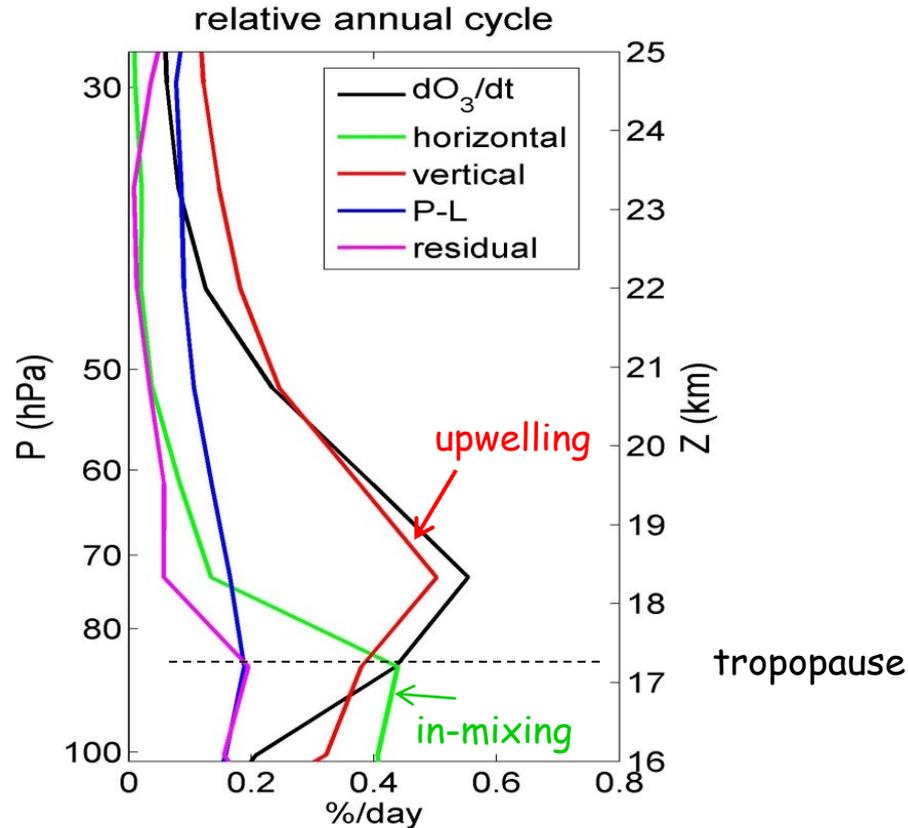
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial t} = -\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial z} + \nabla \cdot M + P - L$$

↑ eddy fluxes



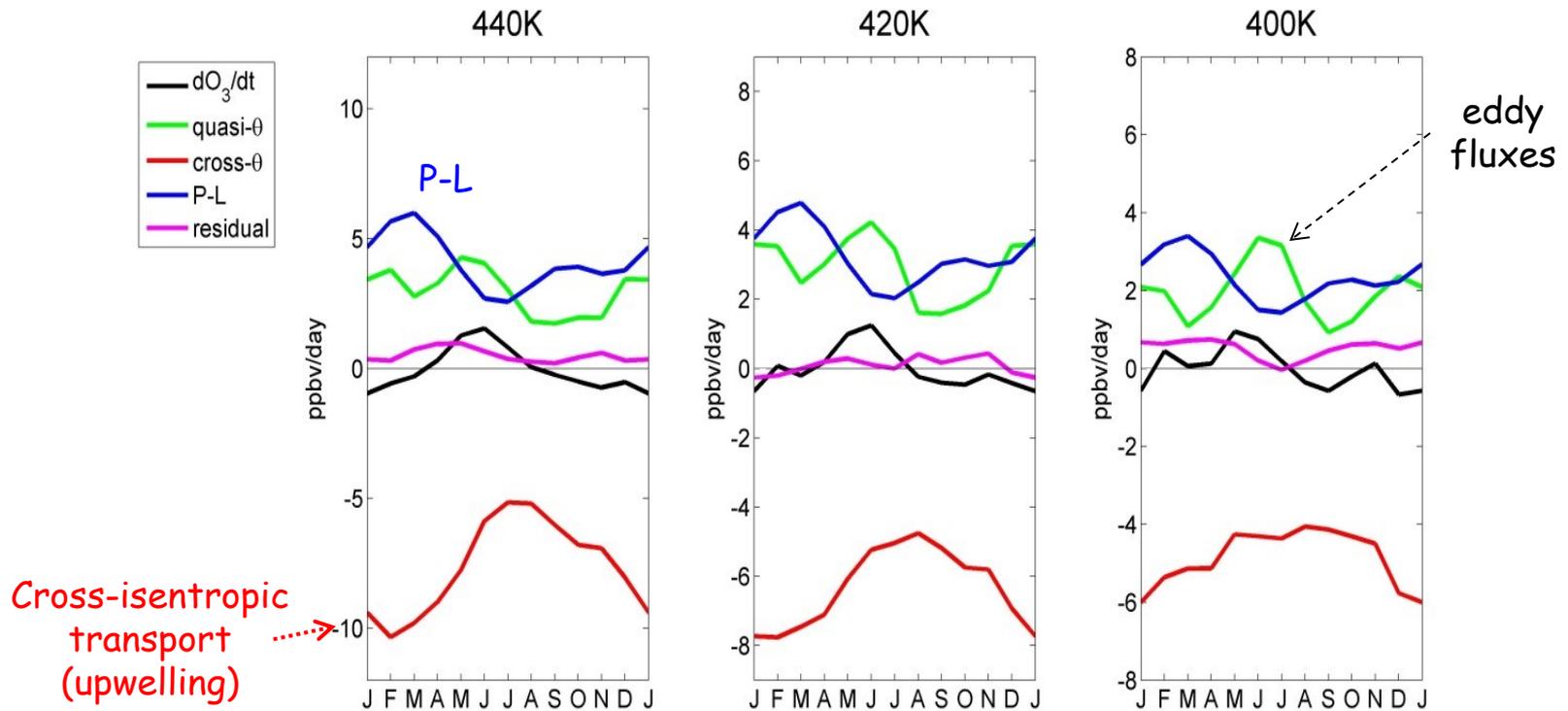
Note: explicitly resolved eddy fluxes are similar to observational 'residuals'

Contribution of terms to forcing ozone annual cycle



- upwelling is dominant in lower stratosphere
- in-mixing is relatively large near and below tropopause

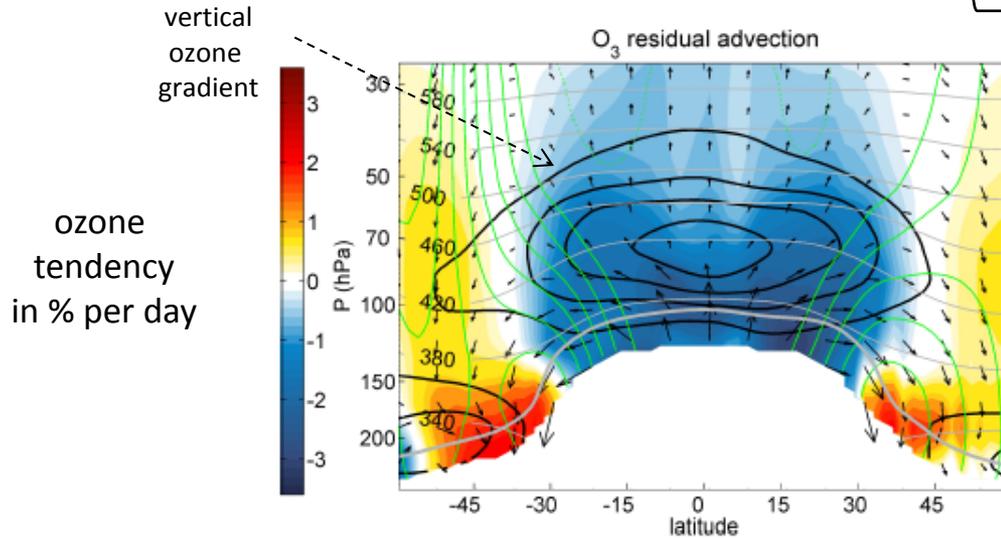
Ozone budget in isentropic coordinates



Balances are similar to pressure coordinates, but reduced ozone amplitude

WACCM ozone budget

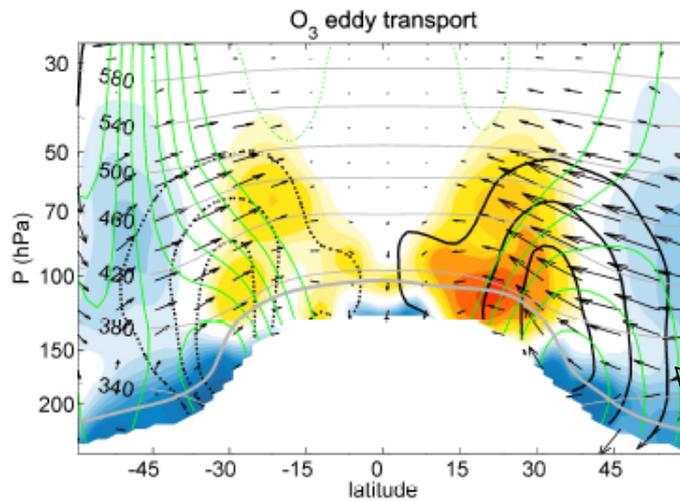
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial t} = \underbrace{-\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial z}}_{\text{mean advection}} + \nabla \cdot M + P - L$$



mean advection

$$M_y = -e^{-z/H} \left(\overline{v' \chi'} - \frac{\overline{v' T'}}{S} \bar{\chi}_z \right)$$

$$M_z = -e^{-z/H} \left(\overline{w' \chi'} + \frac{\overline{v' T'}}{S} \bar{\chi}_y \right)$$



eddy transport

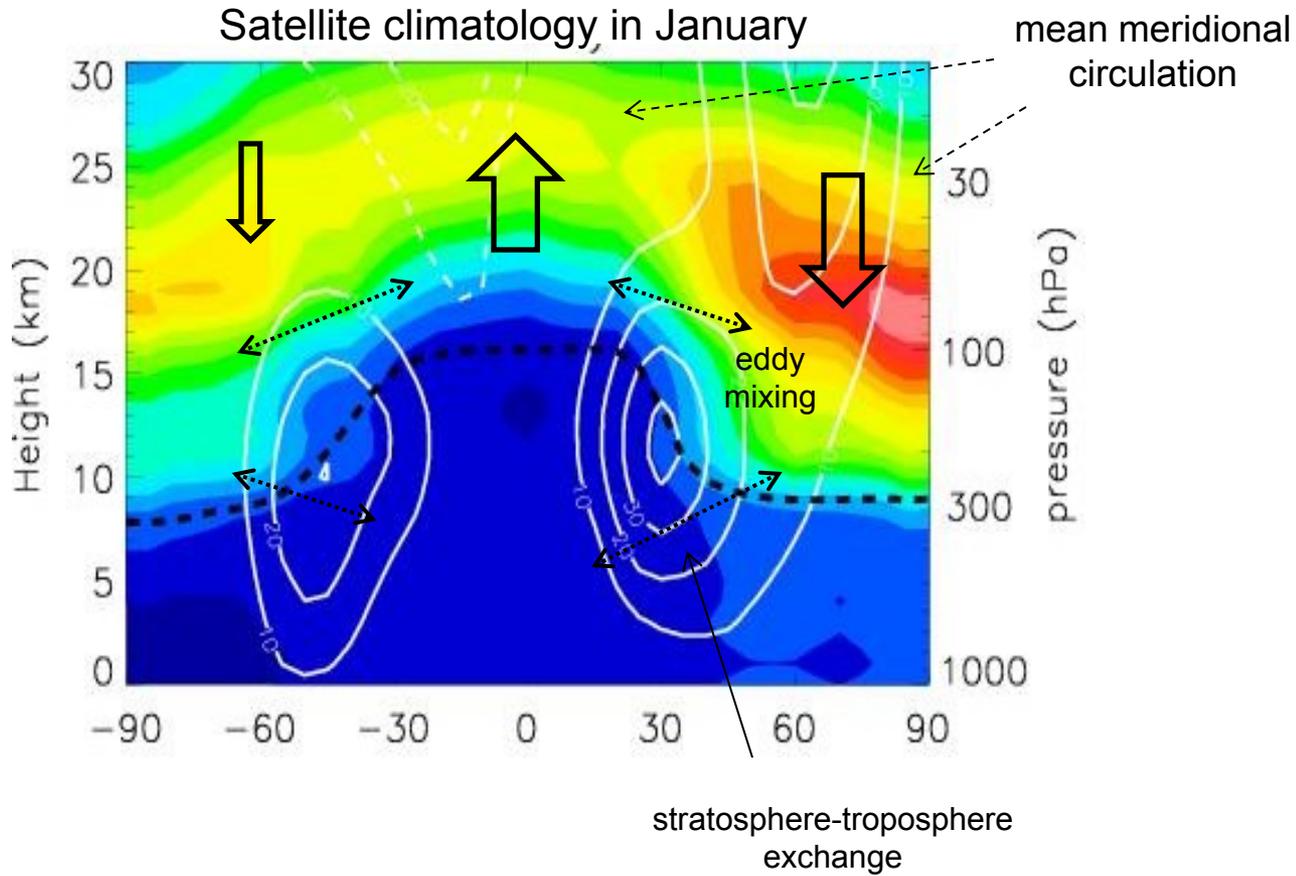
latitudinal ozone gradient

eddy ozone transport from midlatitudes into tropics (downgradient)

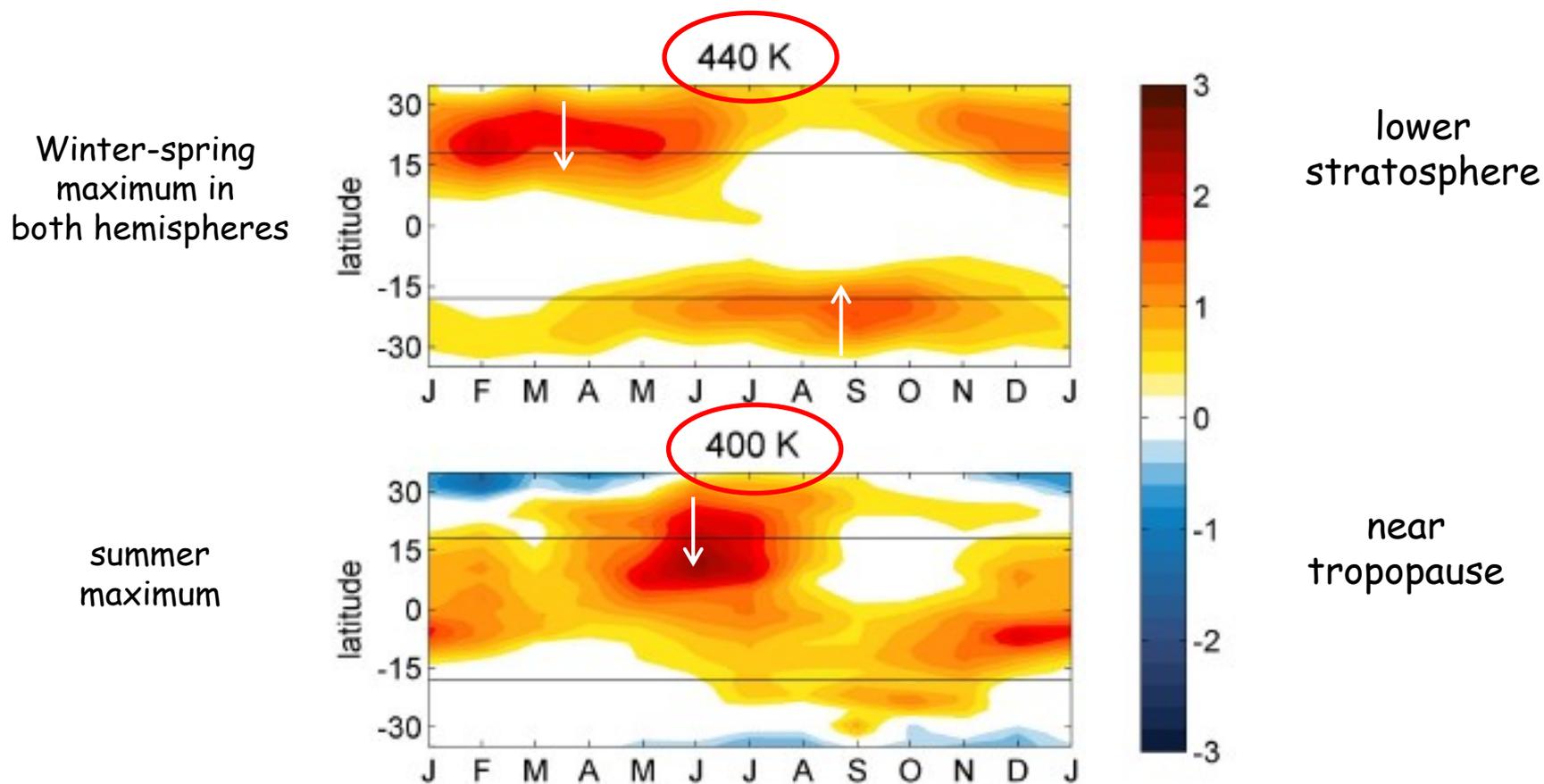
Ozone

- Formed in stratosphere (stratospheric source gas)
- Strong gradients across tropopause

Ozone column density, DU/km

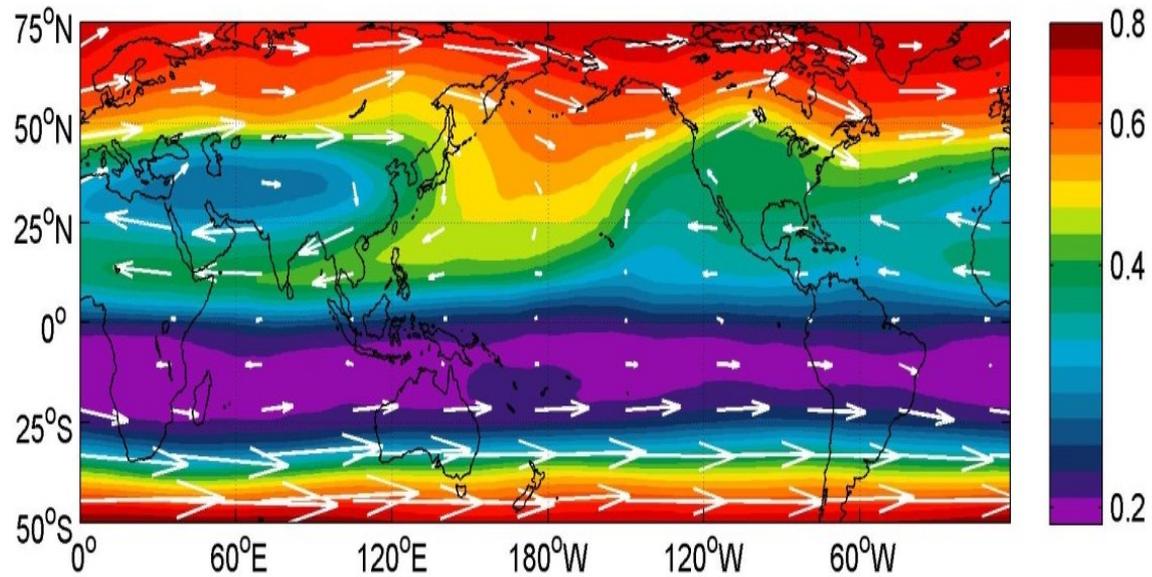


WACCM eddy flux tendencies $d/dy (v'O_3')$



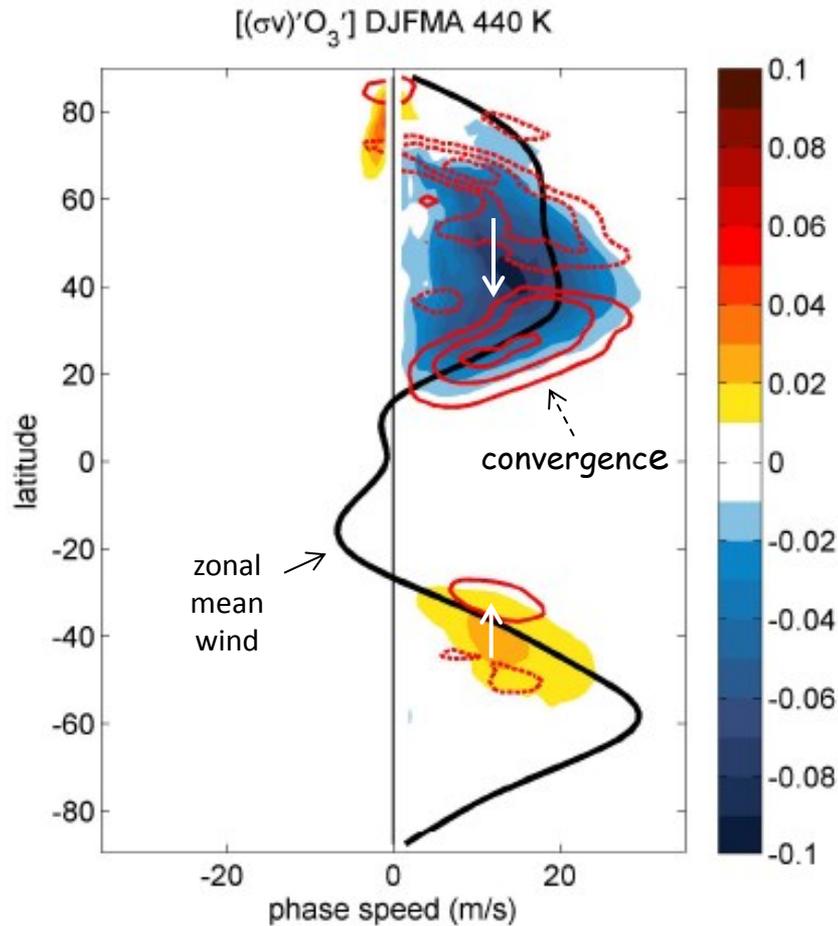
NH summer eddy transport from Asian monsoon anticyclone

WACCM O_3 400K JJA



Phase-speed vs. latitude spectra for eddy fluxes ($\overline{v'O_3'}$)

NH winter
eddy ozone
transport
at 440 K



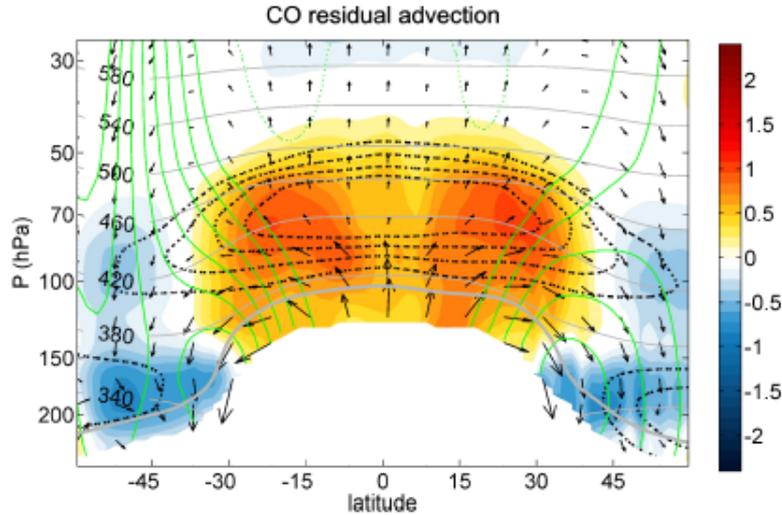
following
Randel and Held 1991

- eddy fluxes into the tropics due to transient Rossby waves
- Eddy fluxes 'see' critical lines!
($u=c$)

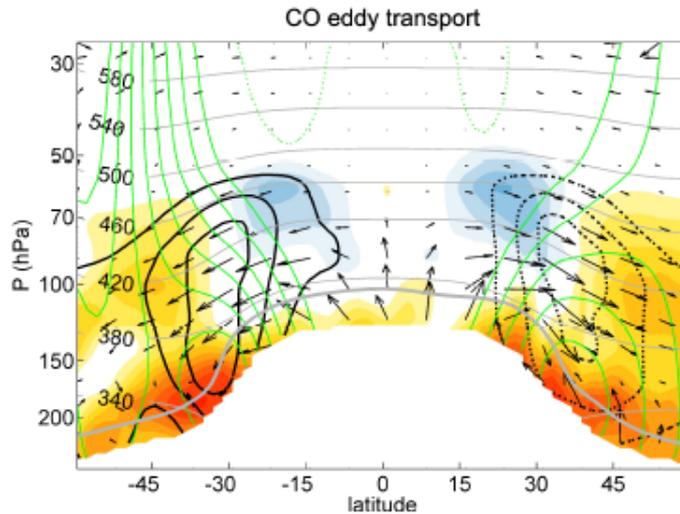
WACCM CO budget

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial t} = -\bar{v}^* \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial \phi} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{\chi}}{\partial z} + \nabla \cdot M + P - L$$

CO tendency
in % per day



mean
advection

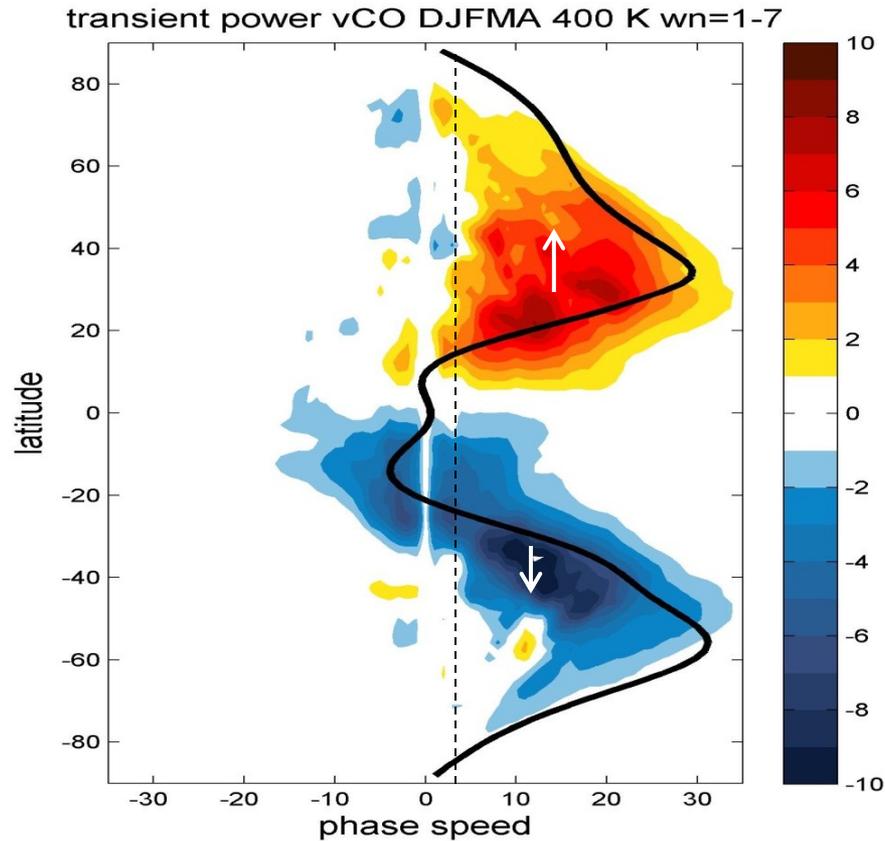


eddy
transport

relatively small
contribution in
the tropics for CO

CO eddy fluxes at 400 K ($v'CO'$)

NH winter
eddy CO
transport
at 400 K



- eddy fluxes out of the tropics
- Eddy fluxes 'see' critical lines!
($u=c$)

Key points:

- WACCM results for temp, ozone and CO are very similar to observations
- Upwelling is a dominant term in all balances, and primarily responsible for the coupled seasonal variations in T, ozone and CO in the tropical lower stratosphere
- Eddy transport into the tropics is important for ozone
 - * summertime maximum near tropopause (Asian monsoon)
 - * transient Rossby waves in winter lower stratosphere
 - * evidence for critical-layer behavior in phase-speed spectra

What drives the annual cycle in tropical upwelling?

- Extratropical stratospheric planetary waves

Yulaeva et al, 1994, Ueyama and Wallace 2010, Ueyama et al 2013

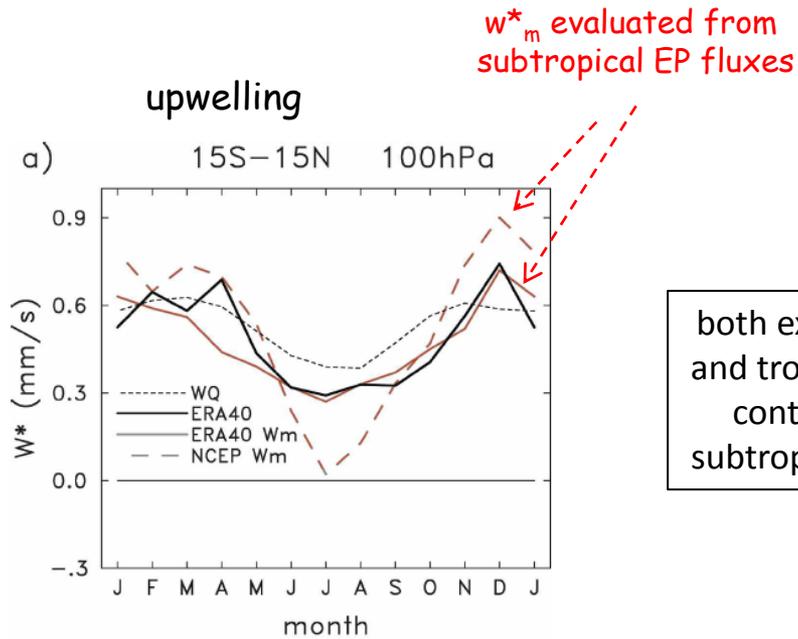
- Equatorial waves

Kerr-Munslow and Norton, 2006, Ortland and Alexander, 2013

- Subtropics (baroclinic eddies from midlatitudes)

Randel et al 2008, Taguchi 2009, Chen and Sun 2011,
Jucker et al 2013, others

Evaluating upwelling from subtropical EP fluxes

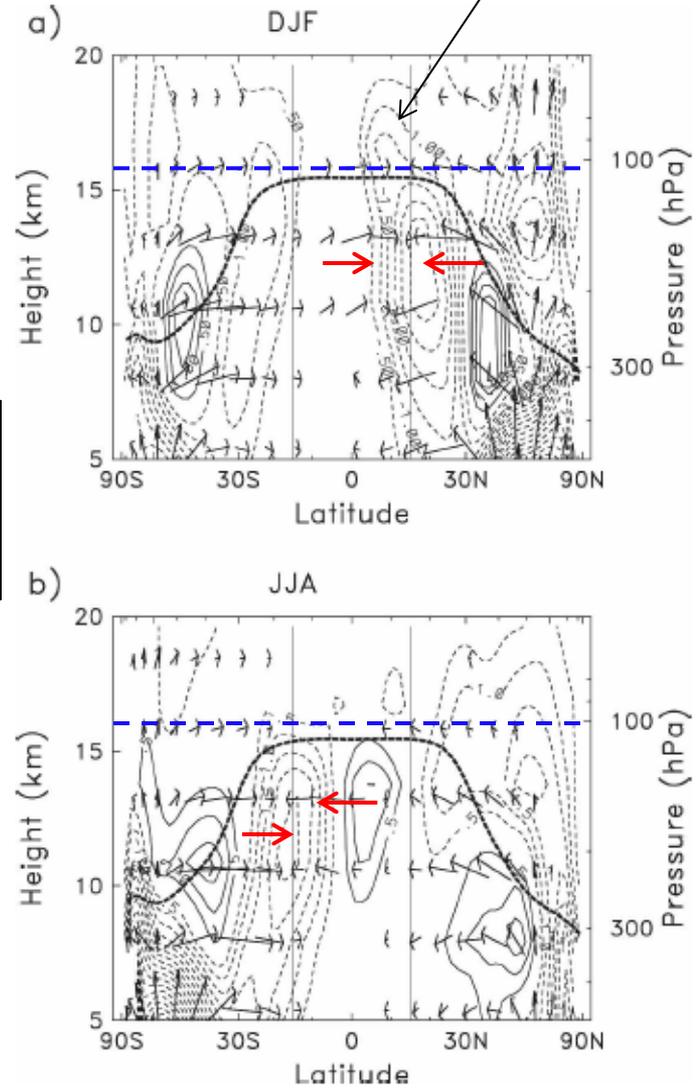


both extratropical and tropical waves contribute to subtropical forcing

Randel, Garcia and Wu, 2008

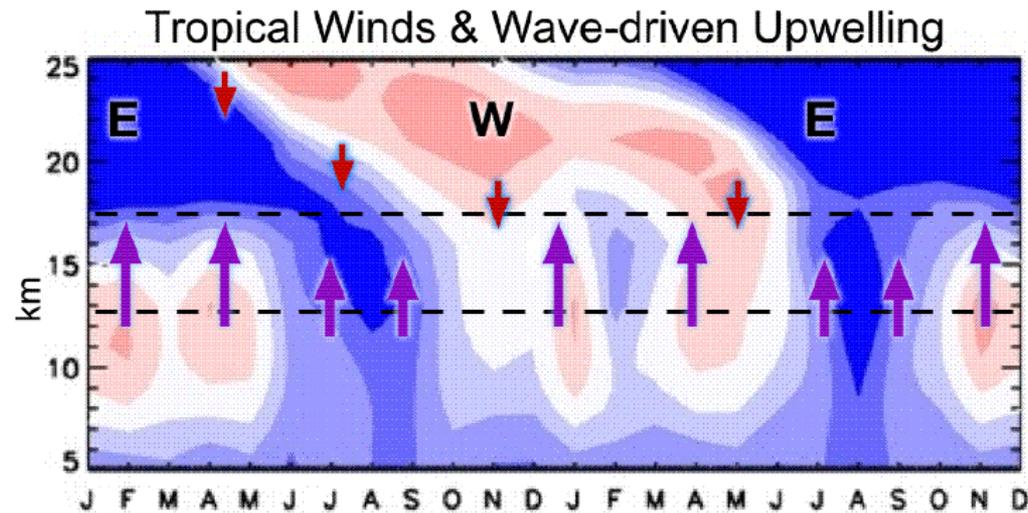
Seasonal mean EP fluxes

wave forcing extends deeper during DJF



Ortland and Alexander, 2013:

Equatorial waves respond to variations in background tropical zonal winds, driving stronger tropical upwelling for westerlies (boreal winter)

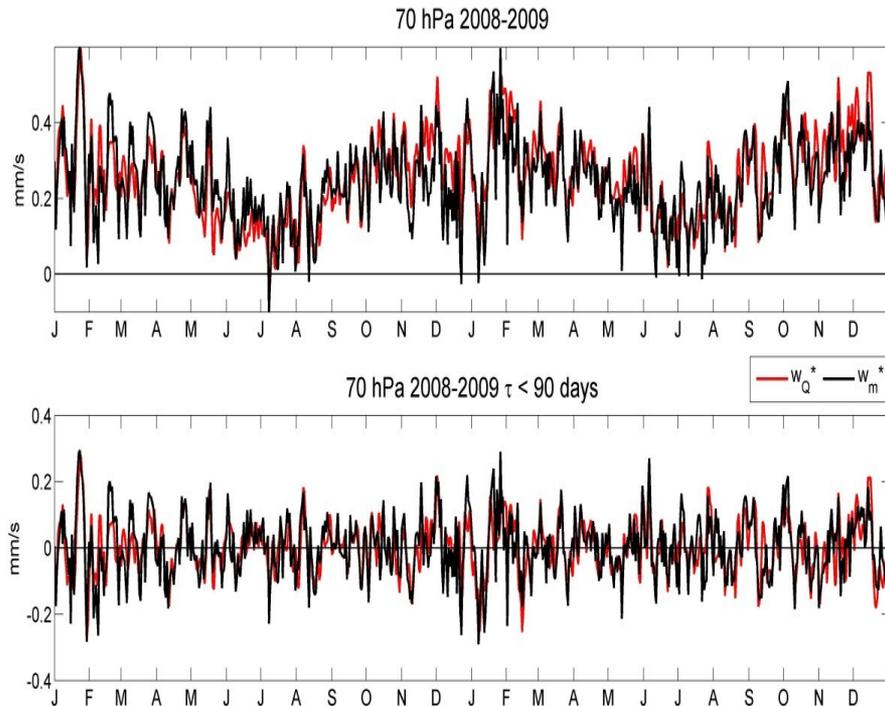


alternative: tropics driven completely by extratropics (e.g. Jucker et al, 2013)

This is still an active topic of research

Dynamics of sub-seasonal variability

$$\langle \bar{w}_m^* \rangle(z) = \frac{-e^{z/H}}{\int_{-\phi_0}^{\phi_0} a \cos \phi d\phi} \left\{ \int_z^{\infty} \frac{e^{-z'/H} \cos \phi}{\hat{f}(\phi, z')} [DF(\phi, z') - \bar{u}_t(\phi, z')]_m dz' \right\}_{-\phi_0}^{\phi_0}$$



w_m^* and w_Q^*

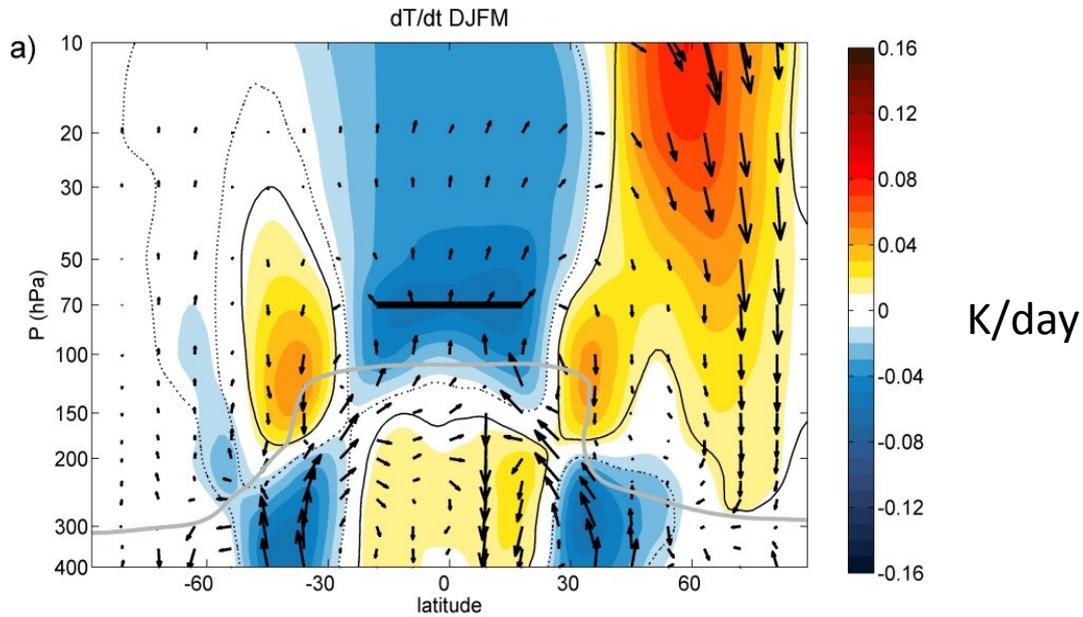
remove annual cycle

use regressions onto w_m^* to identify circulation and dynamical forcing of transient upwelling

ERAi reanalysis 1979-2011

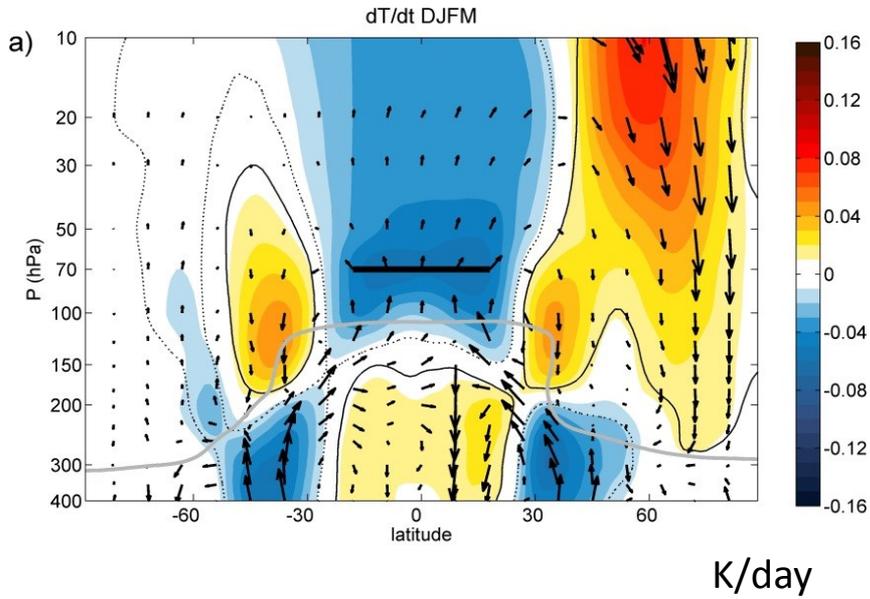
Regressions onto w_m^* : residual circulation and dT/dt

Boreal winter
DJFM

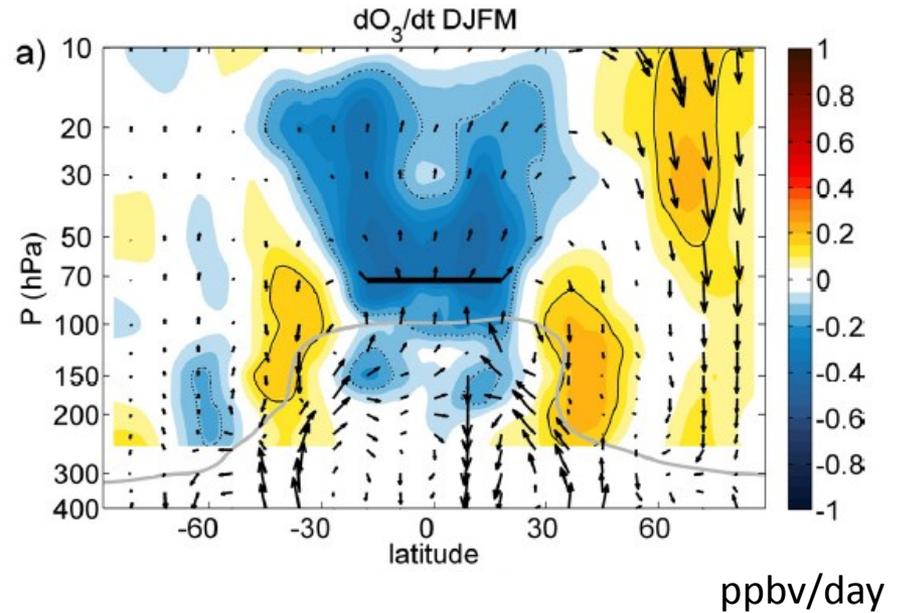


Coherent signals in ozone tendencies

dT/dt

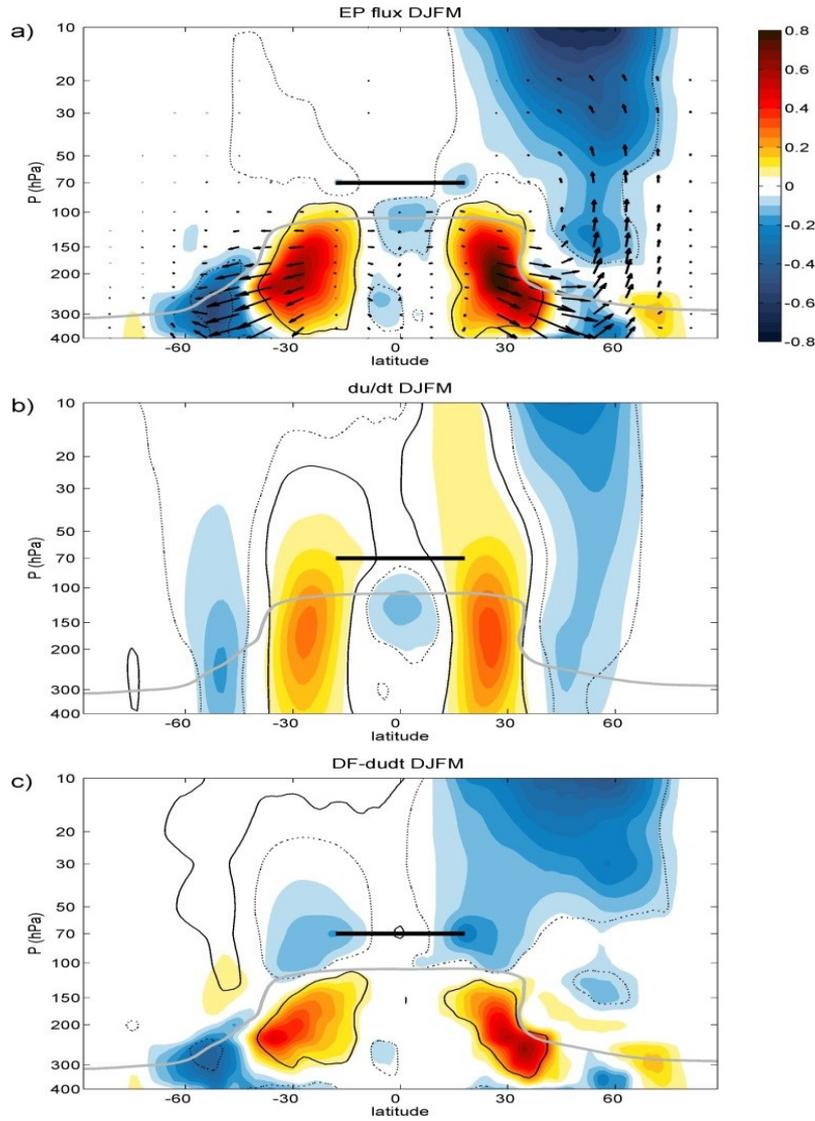


MLS ozone dO_3/dt



Regressions onto w_m^*

$$\langle \overline{w_m^*} \rangle(z) = \frac{-e^{z/H}}{\int_{-\phi_0}^{\phi_0} a \cos \phi d\phi} \left\{ \int_z^{\infty} \frac{e^{-z'/H} \cos \phi}{\hat{f}(\phi, z')} [DF(\phi, z') - \bar{u}_t(\phi, z')]_m dz' \right\}_{-\phi_0}^{\phi_0}$$



DF



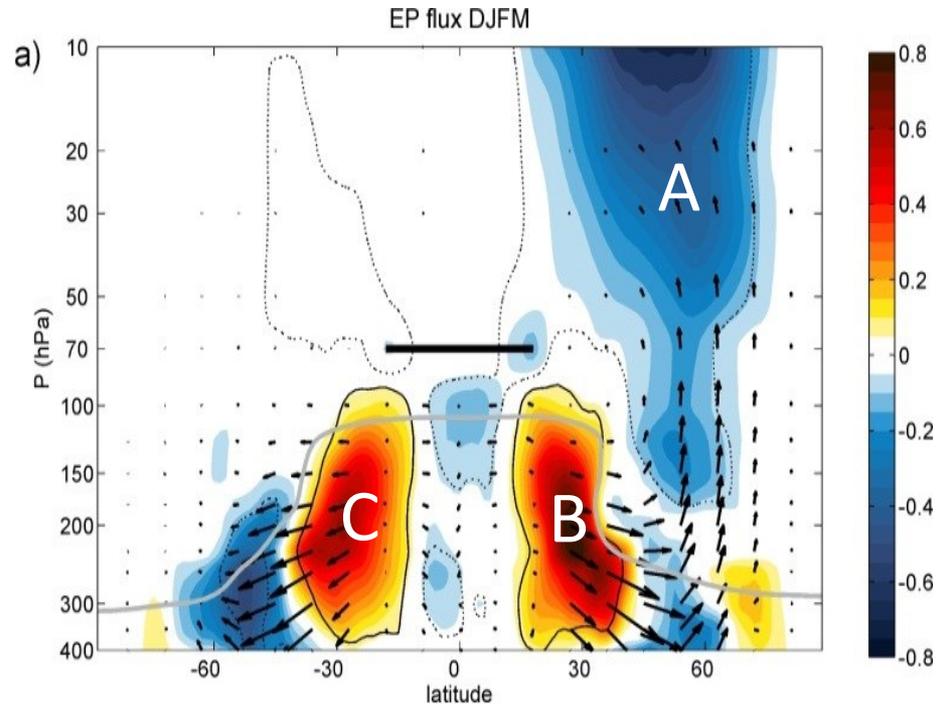
both terms
are important

du/dt

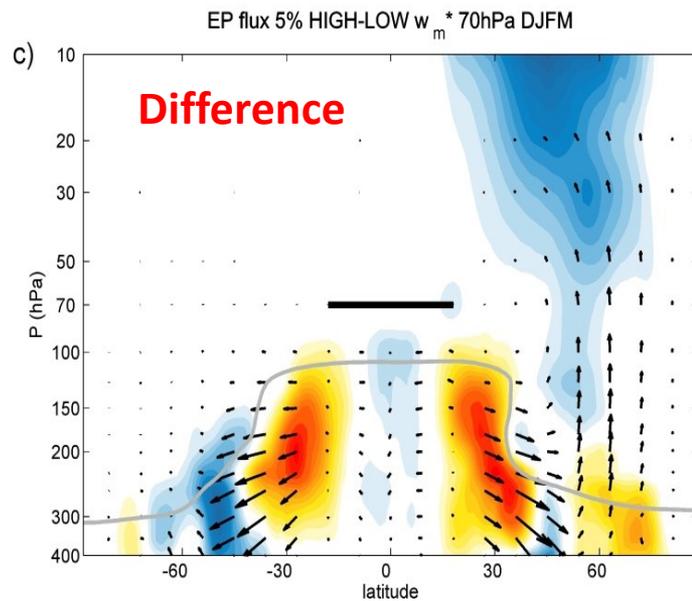
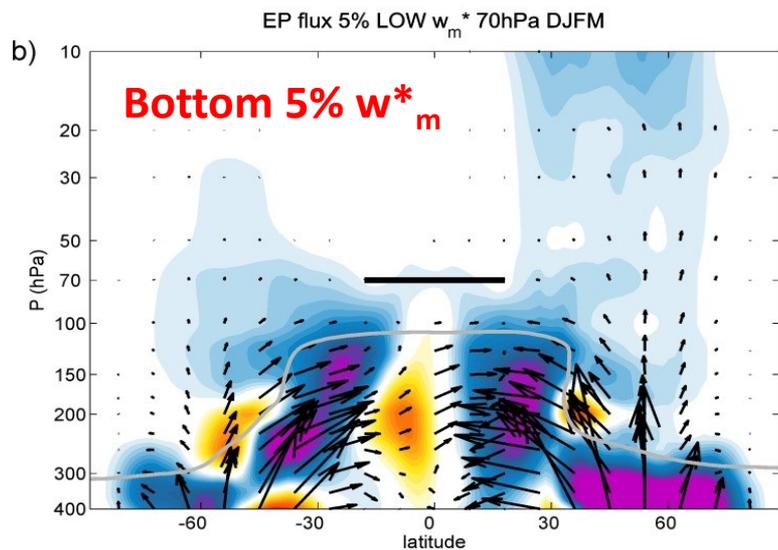
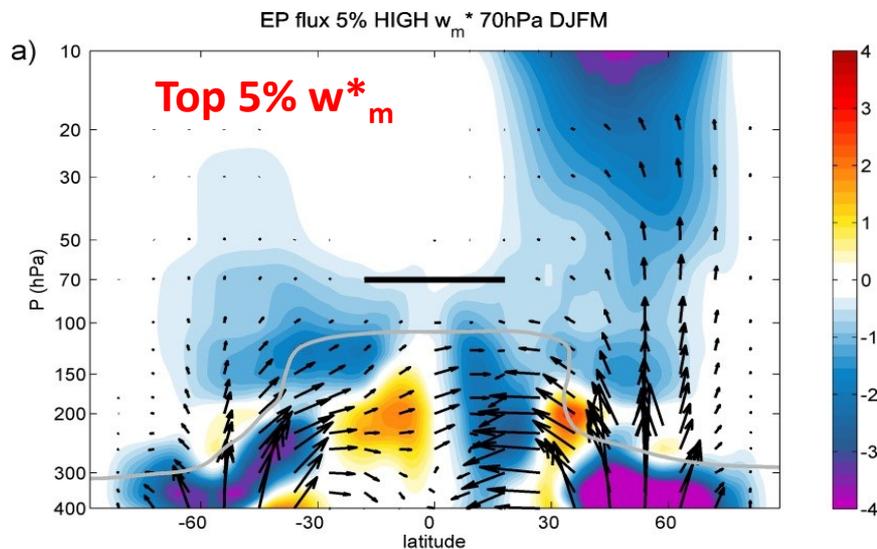
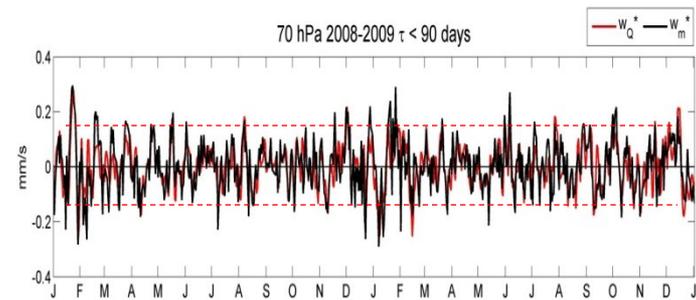


DF - du/dt

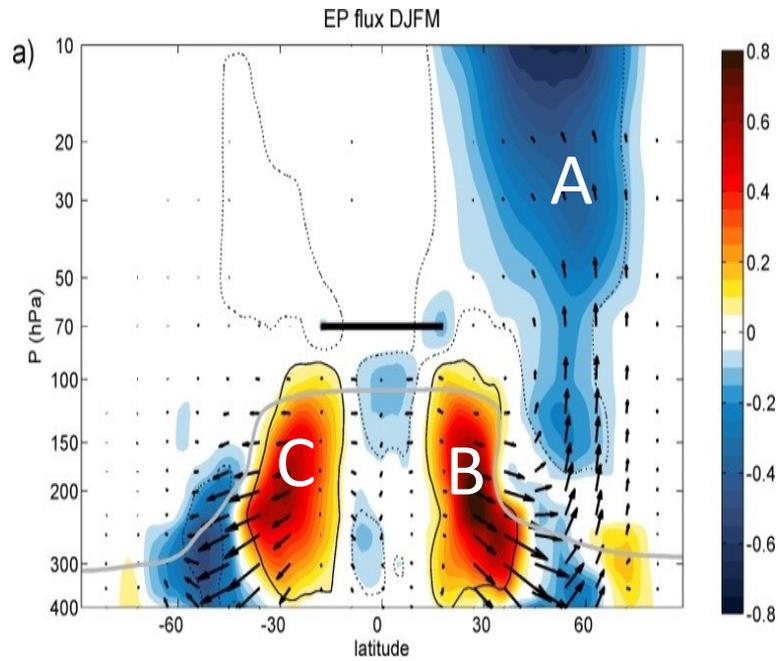
EP flux 'centers of action' for forcing transient tropical upwelling:



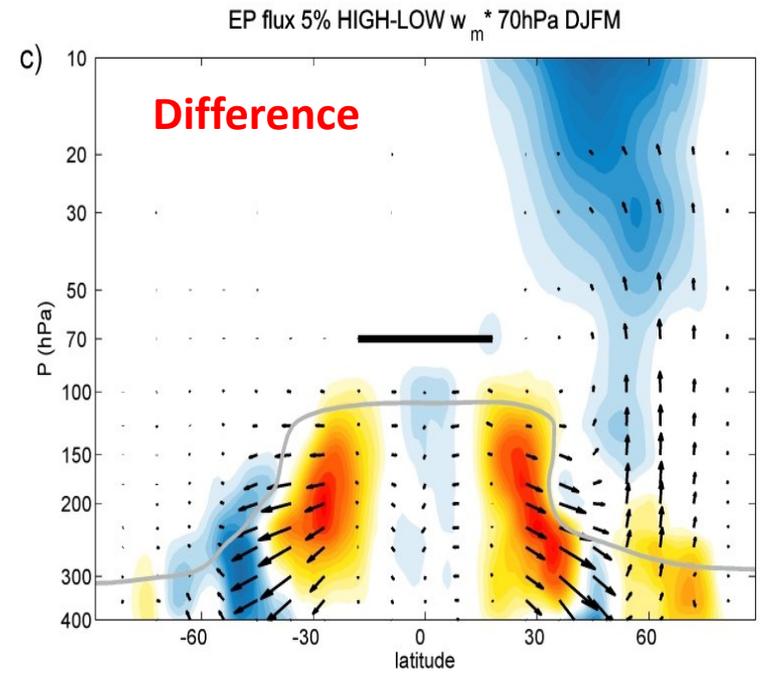
Composites of extreme 5% w_m^* events



regressions



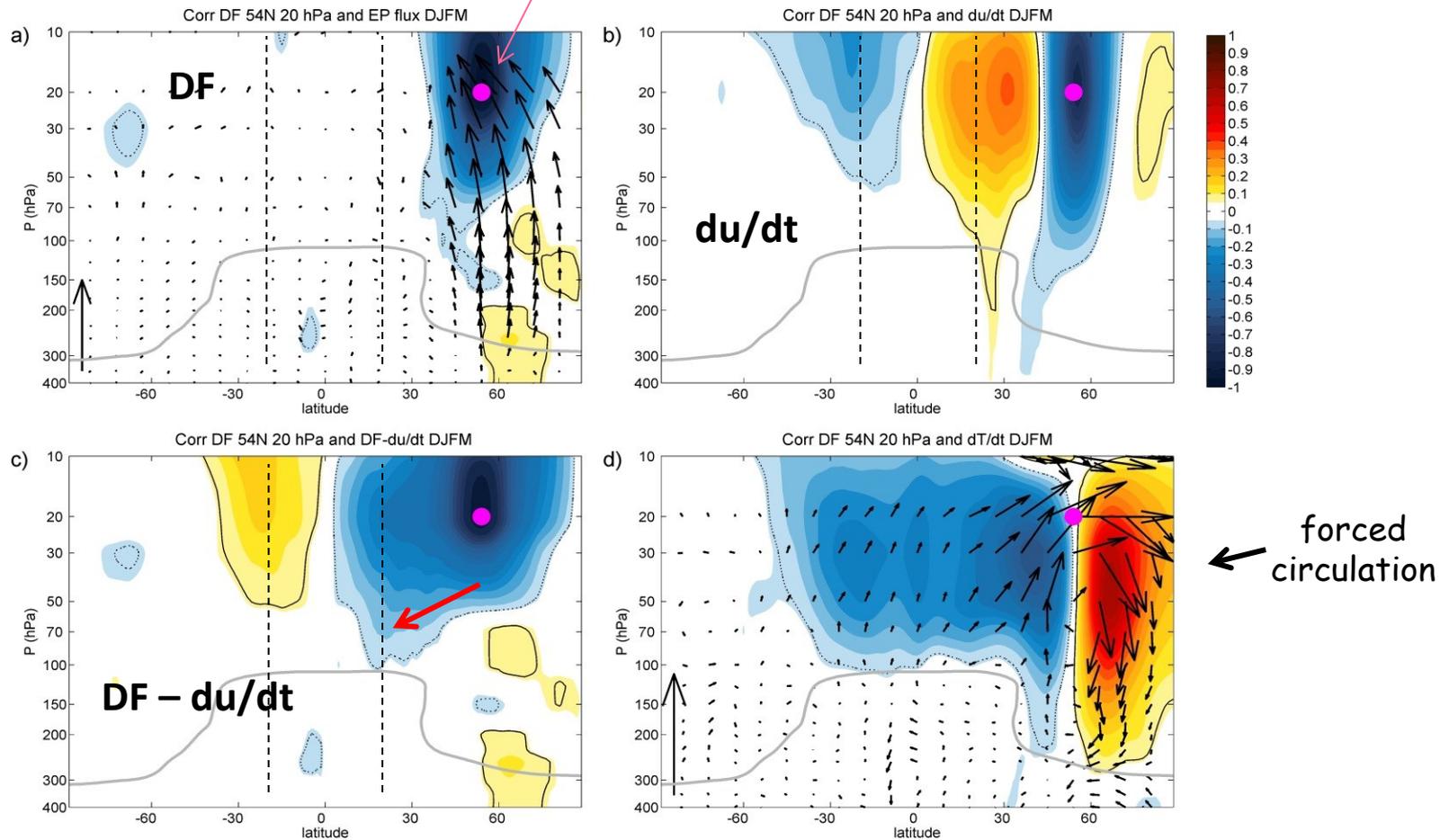
extreme event composites



How does remote forcing influence tropical upwelling?

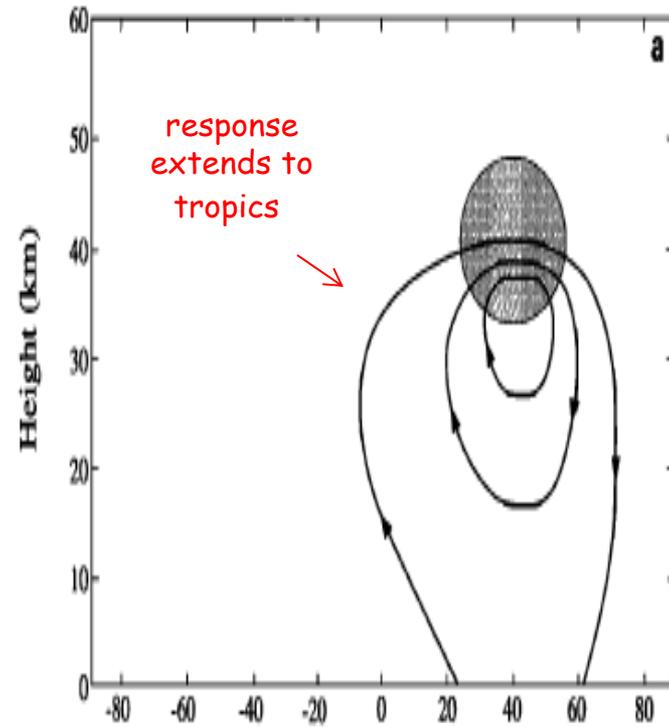
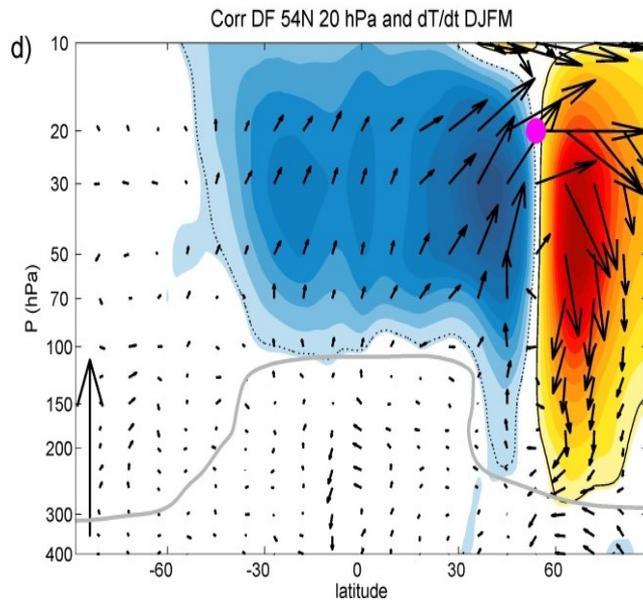
High latitude stratosphere

Correlation reference



theory (Holton et al, 1995)
(response to extratropical EP flux divergence)

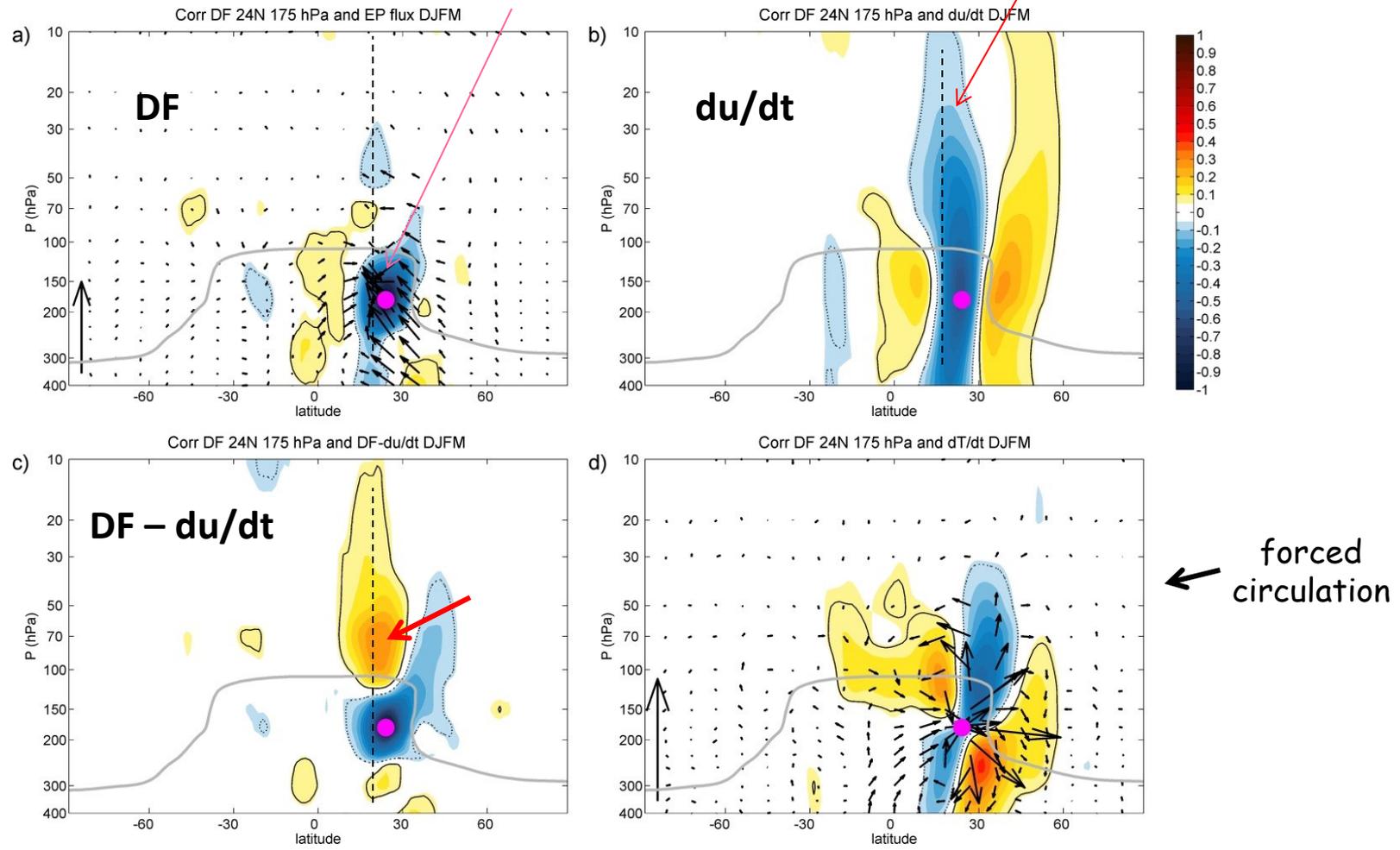
response to high latitude forcing



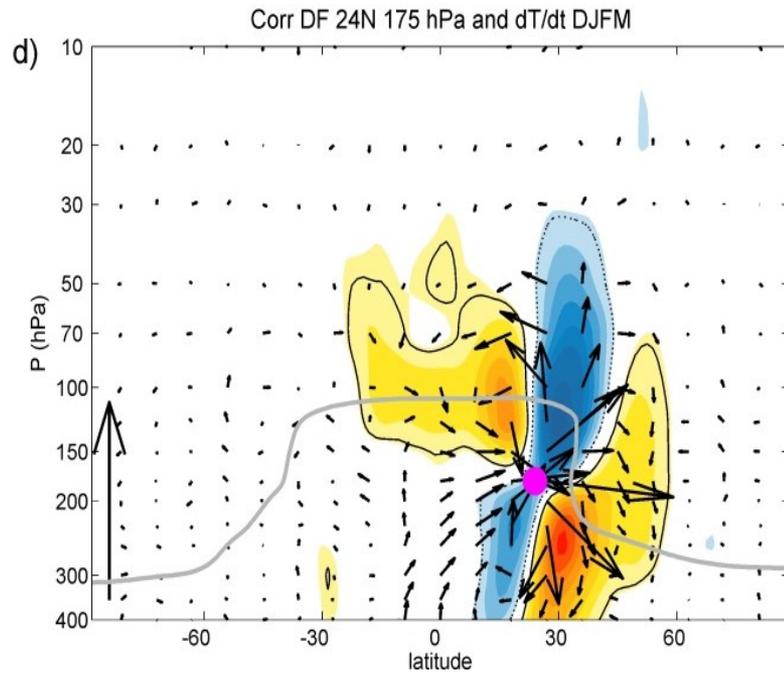
Subtropical upper troposphere

deep barotropic wind response

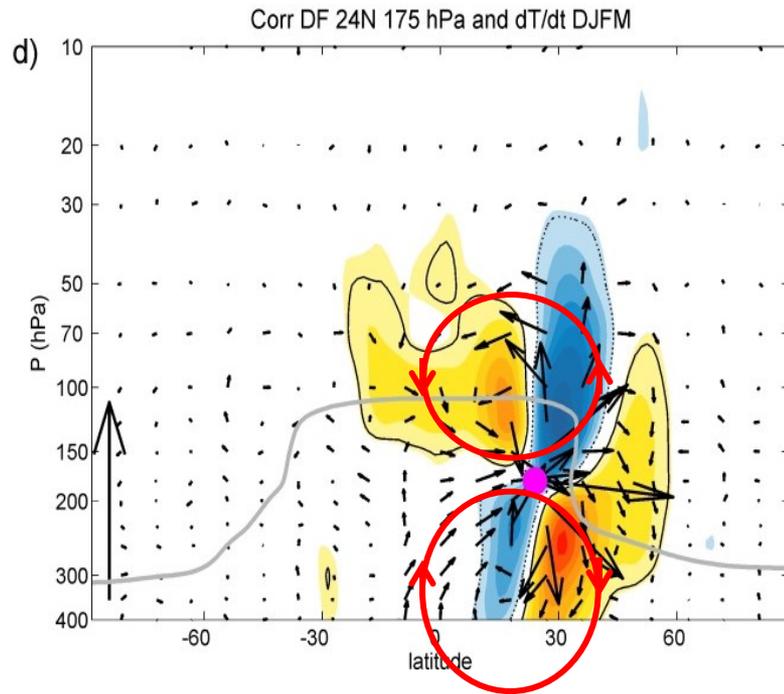
Correlation reference



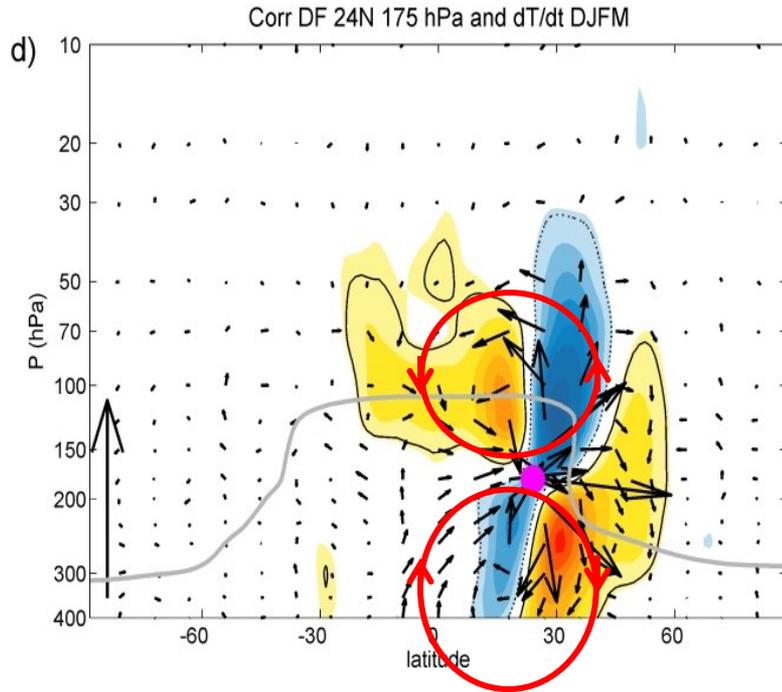
response to subtropical forcing



response to subtropical forcing

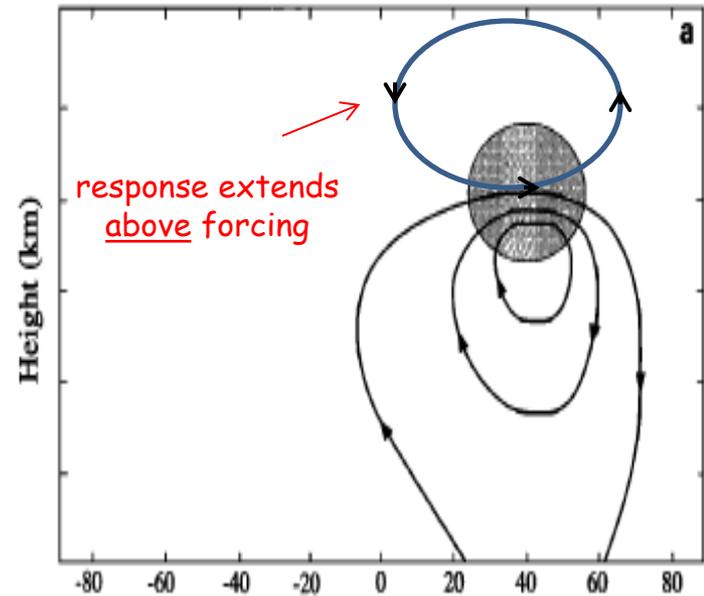


response to subtropical forcing



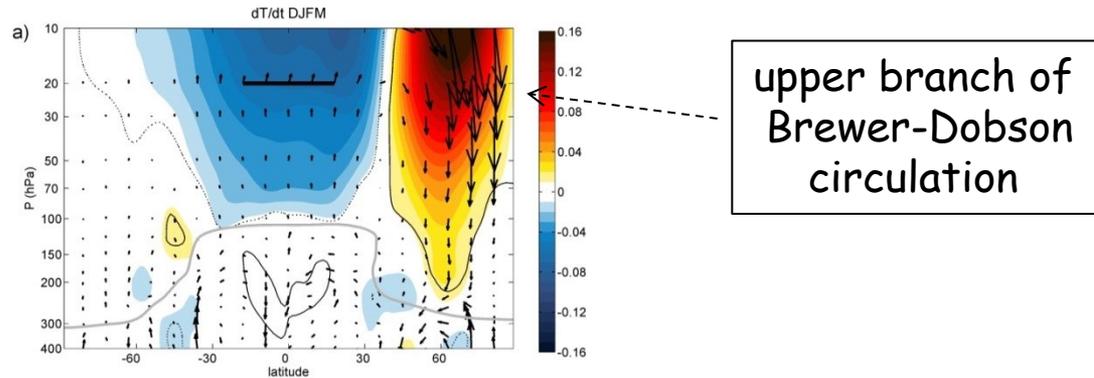
Net result: subtropical EP flux effective at forcing transient upwelling across tropopause

Theory (Haynes, Holton)

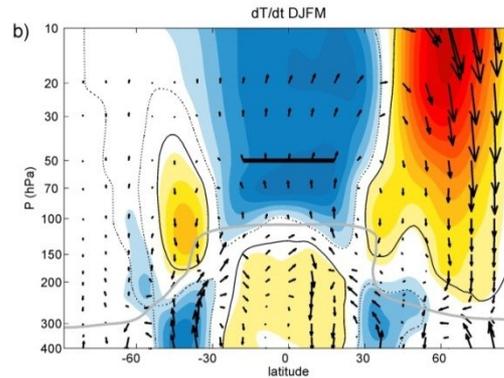


Dependence on the reference altitude for w_m^*

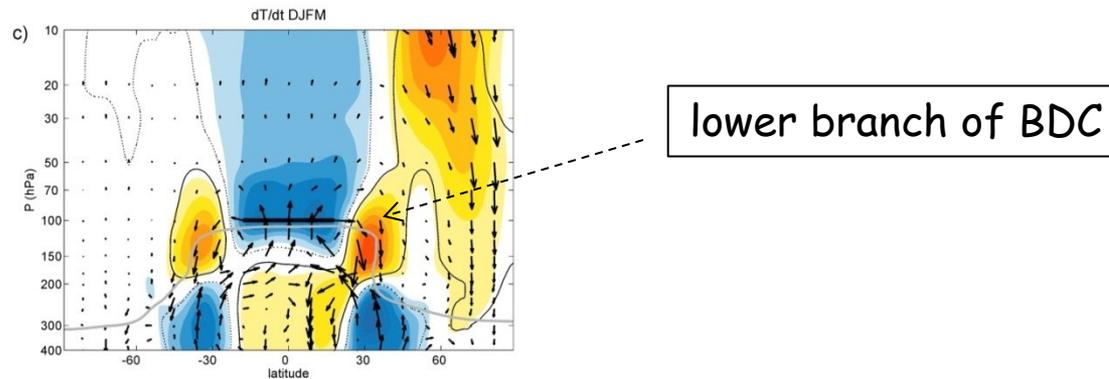
20 hPa



50 hPa



100 hPa

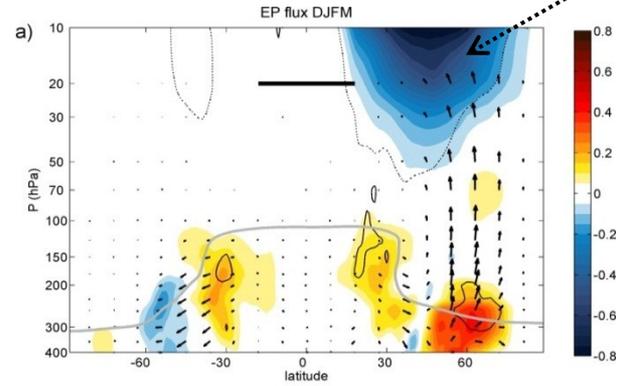
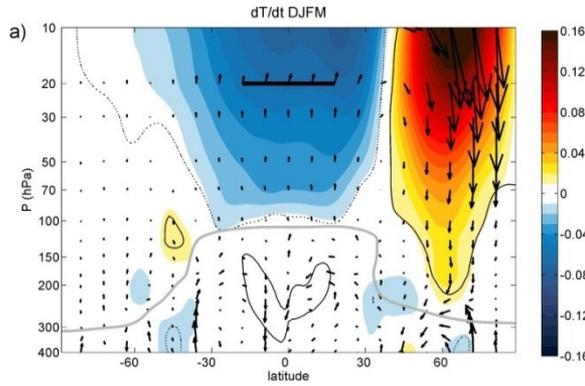


dT/dt and circulation

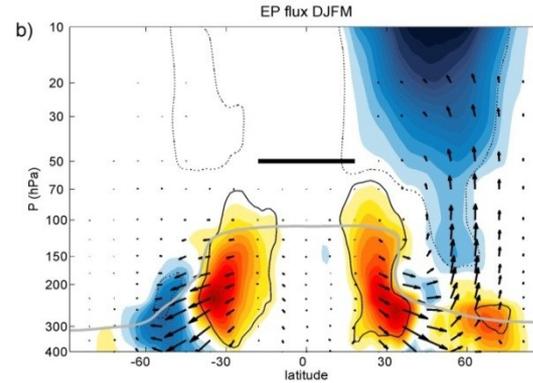
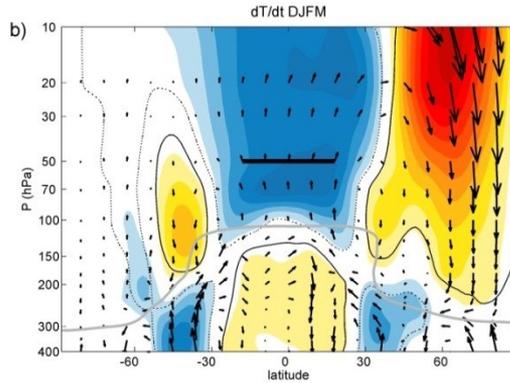
EP fluxes

high latitude
stratosphere
forcing

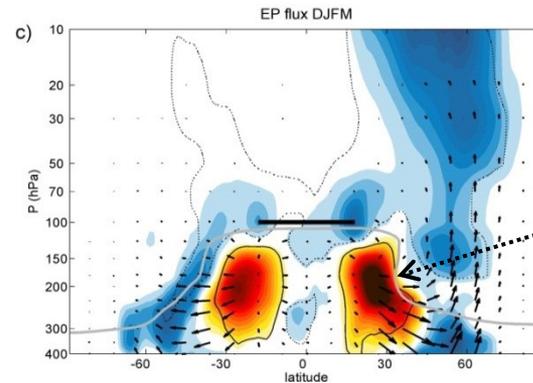
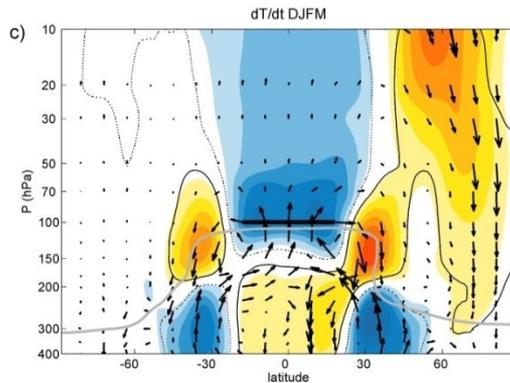
20 hPa



50 hPa



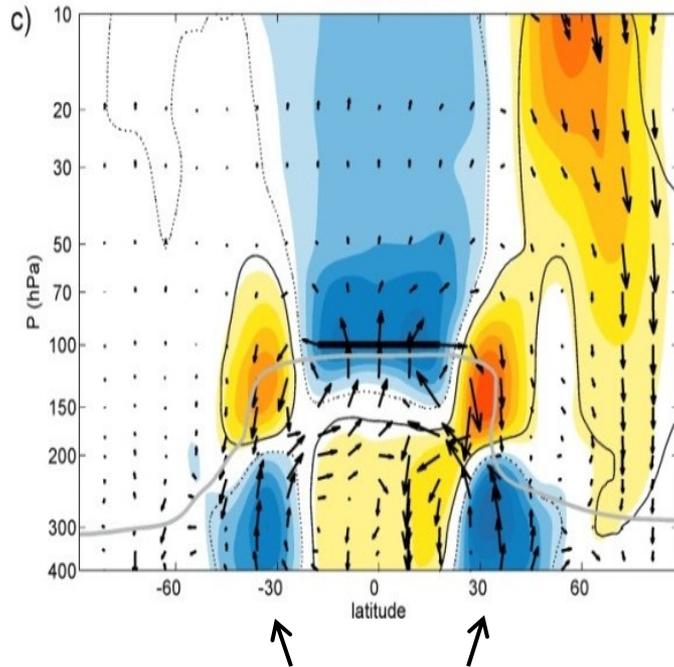
100 hPa



subtropical
upper troposphere
forcing

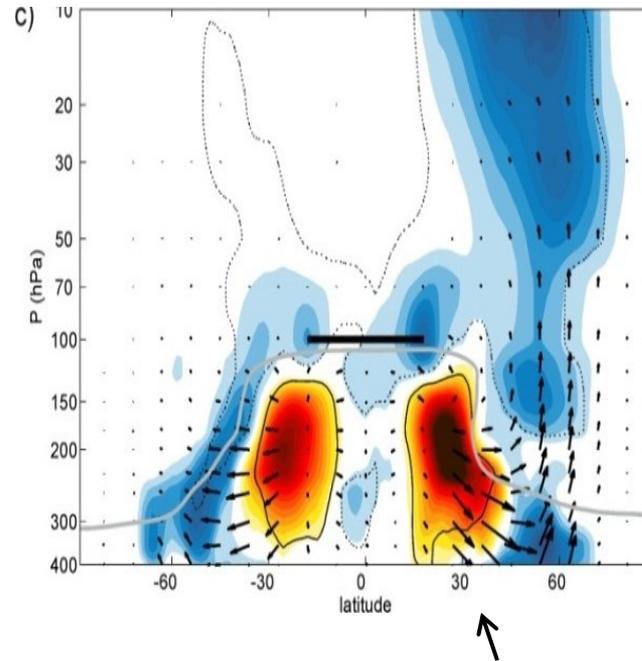
Lower branch of the BDC is primarily related to subtropical wave forcing

Residual circulation



note coherent tropospheric effects

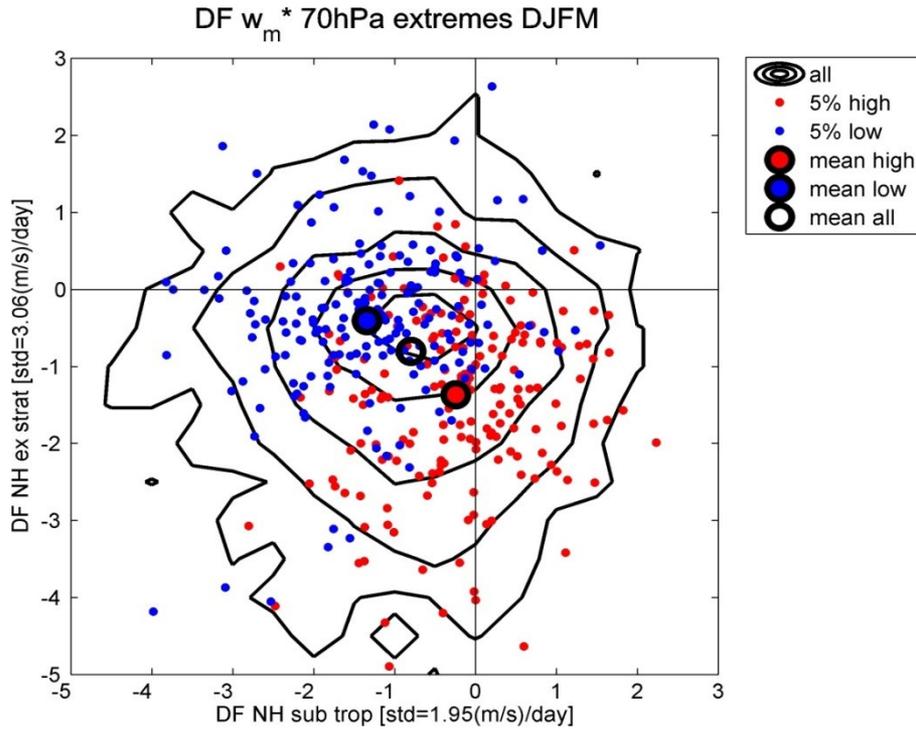
EP fluxes



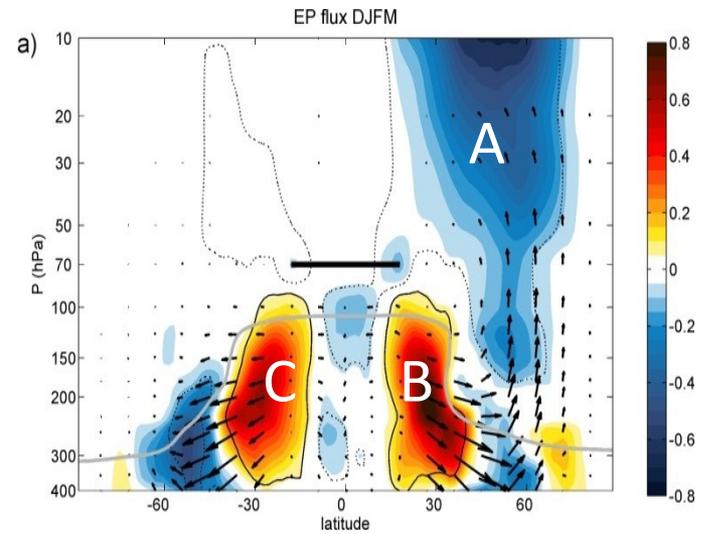
subtropical EP fluxes
drive lower branch of BDC

Is stratospheric forcing correlated with subtropical forcing?

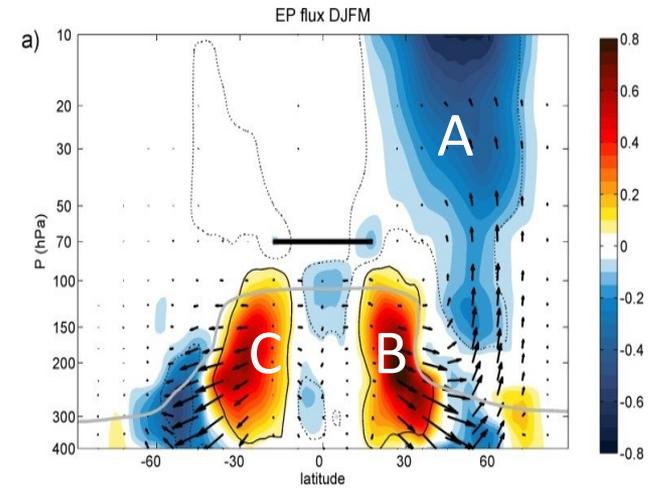
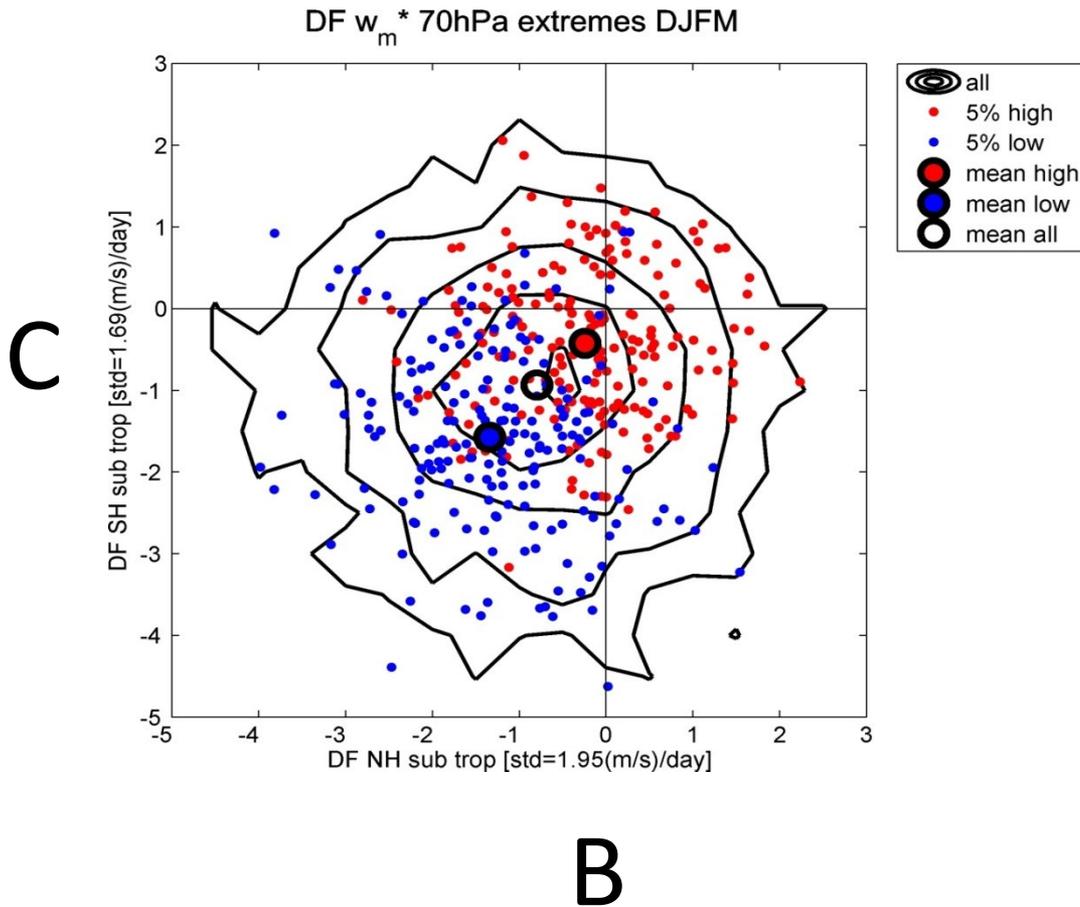
A



B

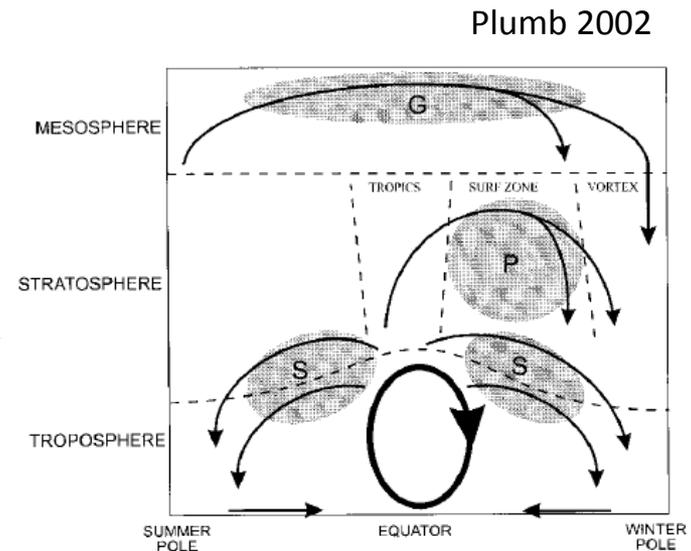
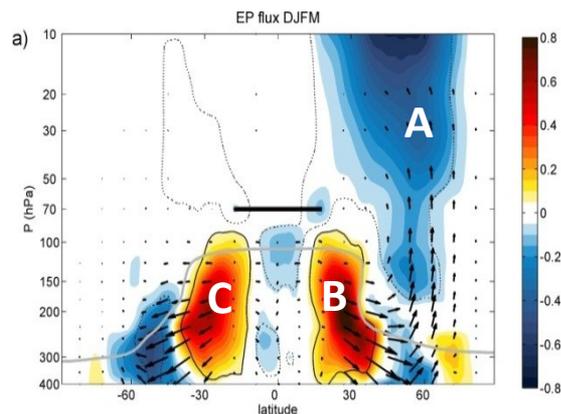


Is subtropical forcing related between the two hemispheres?

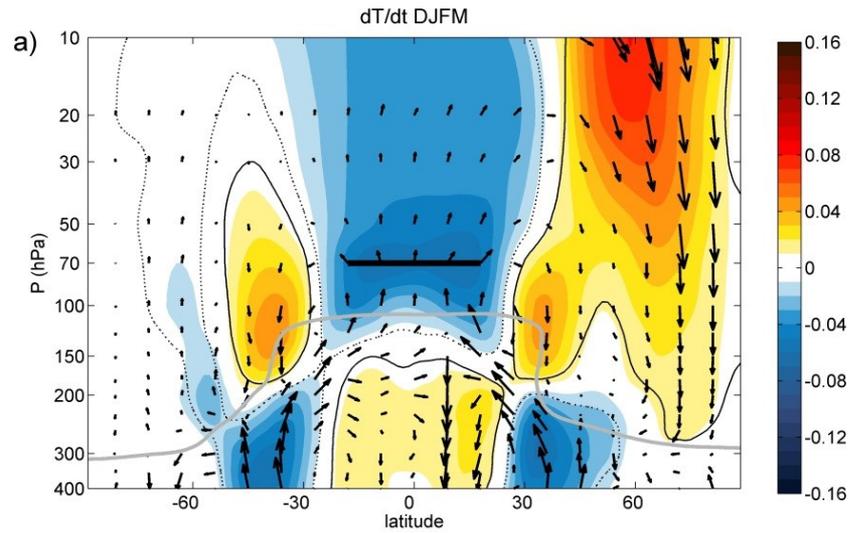


Key points:

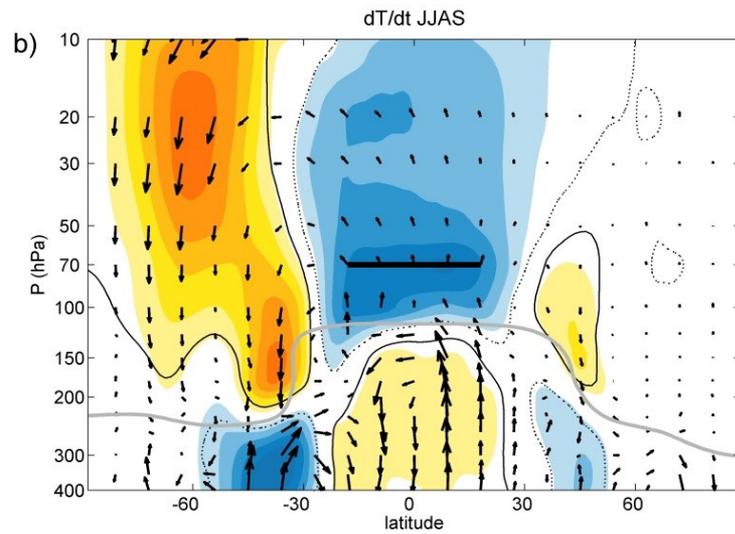
- Transience in tropical Brewer-Dobson circulation linked to remote wave forcing
 - high latitude winter stratosphere, subtropics of both hemispheres
- Zonal wind changes are an important component of the remote response
- Clear identification of upper/lower branches of BDC:
 - Deep branch tied to high latitude stratosphere forcing
 - Shallow branch linked to subtropical wave dissipation



Extra slides



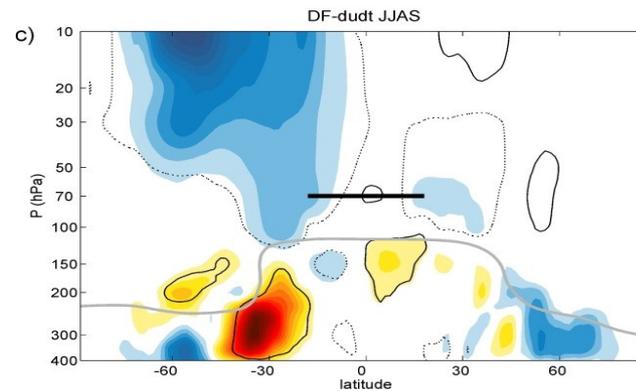
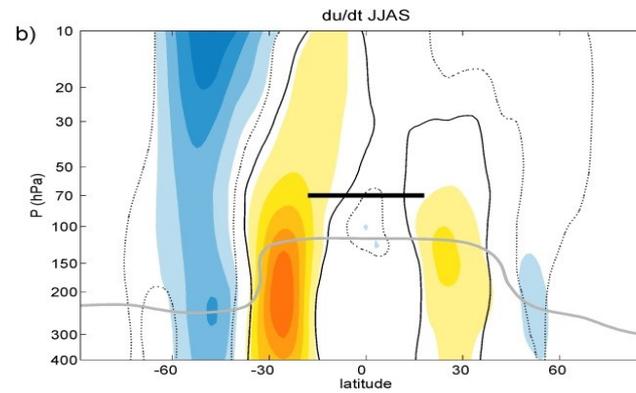
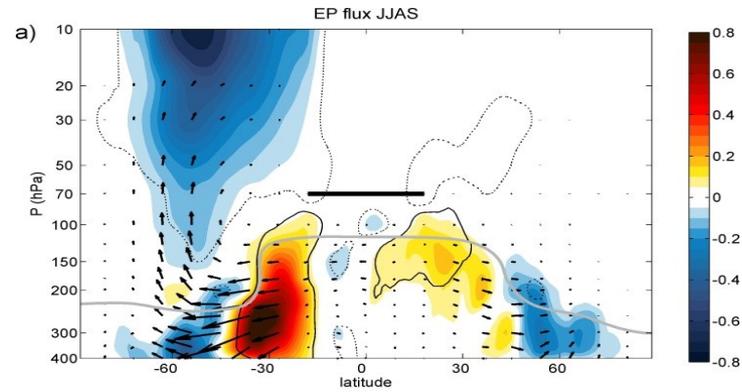
boreal winter
DJFM

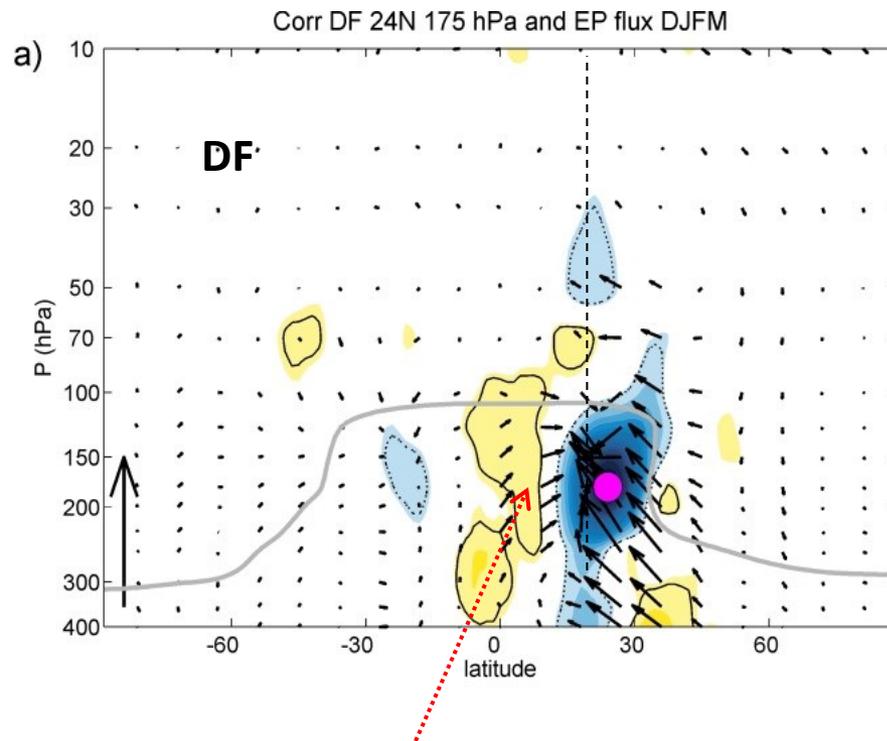


boreal summer
JJAS

Regressions onto w_m^*

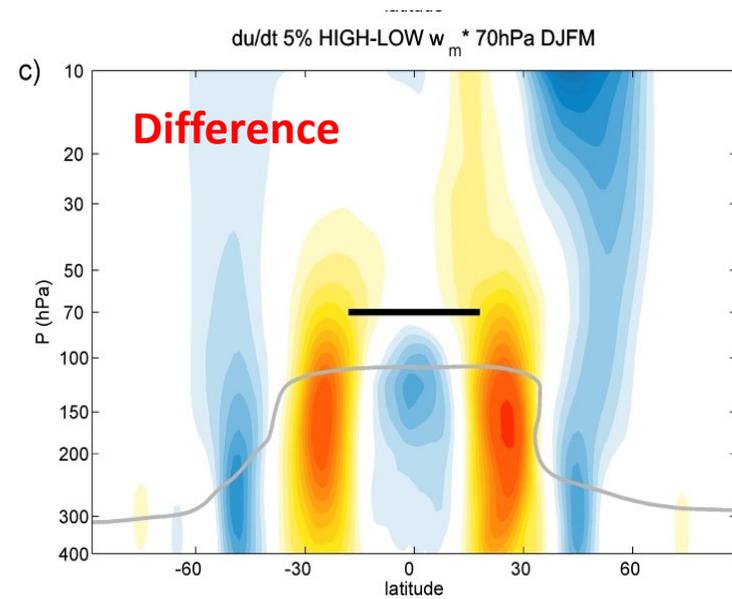
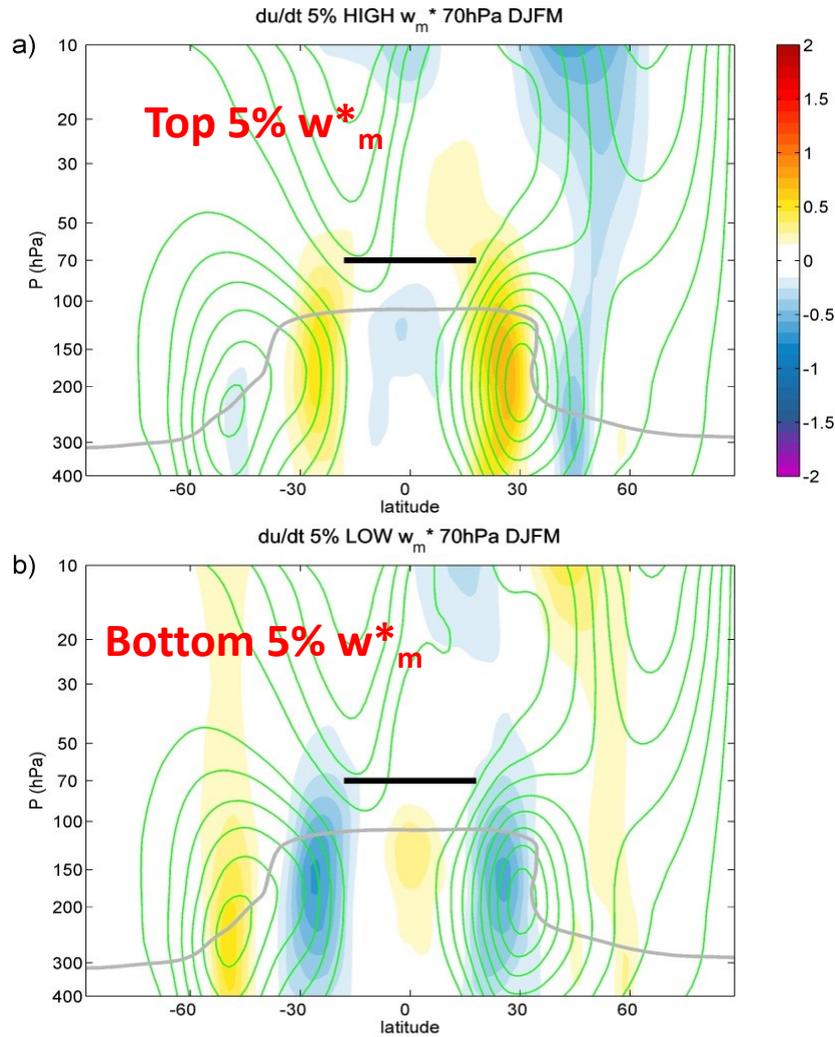
SH winter JJAS





Note contribution from (transient) equatorial waves

Composites of extreme 5% w_m^* events: du/dt



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