Reply to Reviewer #2

We would like to thank Reviewer #2 for the constructive and helpful comments. Reviewer's contribution is recognized in the acknowledgments of the revised manuscript. Our response to the reviewer's comments follows point by point.

1) The reviewer notes " *1. The results are based on the evaluation of temperature values that are computed from the thickness of atmospheric layers. It is argued that this method provide better temperature values than the temperatures themselves but little evidence is given to support this statement. A comparison of the presented temperatures with the initial temperatures of the used data sets should thus be provided. Also it would be interesting to have an idea of how the presented temperature anomalies compare to those of satellite data in the lower stratosphere (e.g. MSU channel 4 and SSU channel 1) in the 1980-2011 period. Indeed ,these datasets are widely used for the evaluation of recent temperature trends in the lower stratosphere.*"

Our argument for the preference to use thickness to obtain layer mean temperatures referred mainly to the case of the FUB dataset as it was pointed in our earlier studies based on this dataset (Zerefos and Crutzen, 1975; Zerefos and Mantis, 1977; Mantis and Zerefos, 1979). In the papers by Zerefos and Mantis (1977) as well as Mantis and Zerefos (1979) it was emphasized that the approximate geostrophic balance of the upper winds insures that the contour analysis will be more representative than the temperature analysis which for the FUB data it was based on map fields based on scattered radiosonde locations. Please note also that the FUB data used in this study were derived from daily stratospheric map analyses of isobaric surfaces prepared by the Stratospheric Research Group of the Free University of Berlin (http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/met/ag/strat/produkte/fubdata/index.html). The FUB dataset consists of 35 years of daily (or bi-daily in summer) geopotential height and temperature fields at 50, 30 and 10hPa in the northern hemisphere.

The hemispheric analyses were produced in real time by a subjective analysis technique, using the 00UT radiosonde reports from the observational network, by a team of experienced meteorologists. Both geostrophic and hydrostatic balance were assumed in the analysis procedure, and the wind observations were given a high priority. These balance conditions ensures a consistent dataset; further, temporal continuity was assured by meteorological inspection. Note that these balance conditions can result in layer temperatures which deviate from the local radiosonde reports, which include meso-scale structures as well as any random or systematic observational errors. The Berlin analyses thus represents the synoptic-scale structure of the lower and middle stratosphere.
However in the submitted manuscript we are not arguing that this method provides better temperature values than the temperatures themselves in a re-analysis dataset such as NCEP. But rather for purposes of comparison of the FUB thickness temperature data with the NCEP reanalyses we calculated similarly the mean thickness layer temperatures in NCEP data set as well.

Following the reviewers comment we modified the text accordingly in order to avoid any misunderstanding and the following paragraph was added in section 2.1:.

"The FU-Berlin is an independent stratospheric analysis data set which is based on earlier subjective hand analyses of temperature and geopotential height fields at 50, 30 and 10 hPa for the northern hemisphere, using the 00UT radiosonde reports from the observational network by a team of experienced meteorologists (http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/met/ag/strat/produkte/fubdata/index.html). Hydrostatic and geostrophic balances were assumed, and observed winds were used to guide the height and temperature analyses. The imposition of these balance conditions ensures a consistent dataset. In addition temporal continuity is assured by meteorological control. Note that these balance conditions can result in layer temperatures that deviate from the local radiosonde reports, which include meso-scale structures as well as any random or systematic observational errors (Labitzke et al., 2002; Manney et al., 2004). Earlier studies using the FU-Berlin dataset point that the approximate geostrophic balance of the upper winds ensures that the contour analysis will be more representative than the temperature analysis based on scattered radiosonde locations (Zerefos and Mantis, 1977; Mantis and Zerefos, 1979). The FU-Berlin analyses thus represent the synoptic-scale structure of the lower and middle stratosphere and the layer-mean temperature derived from the thickness is well suited for an investigation of large-scale climatic fluctuations of temperature. The analyses are provided as gridded data sets with a horizontal resolution of 10o x 10o before 1973, and 5ox 5o thereafter. FU-Berlin geopotential height data are available from July 1957 until December 2001 at 100, 50, and 30 hPa (Labitzke et al., 2002). Hence, from the FU-Berlin dataset we calculated layer-mean temperatures for the two lower stratospheric layers, 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa. It should be noted that the FU-Berlin dataset provides geopotential height data already since 1957, but temperature at the same levels since 1964. Hence, aiming in this study at presenting the stratospheric temperature trends from the earliest possible time, we have used the independent FU-Berlin stratospheric dataset with the choice of layer-mean temperature derived from geopotential heights thus extending the records in the past. The variability and trends derived using this dataset have been compared in the past to stratospheric data from other sources, both observations and reanalysis. The overall comparison is good, with differences in the variability (in the earlier period before 1980) that can be attributed mainly to the close match between the FU-Berlin analysis and the to radiosonde observations. (e.g. Randel et al., 2009; Labitzke and Kunze, 2005; Manney et al., 2004; Randel et al, 2004; also in Labitzke et al.,2002 and references therein)."

Furthermore following the suggestion of the reviewer we put our trend calculation in context with MSU channel 4 and SSU channel 1 trend calculations from previously published work. The following text was added in Section 4:

" Our post-1980 year round stratospheric temperature trends at layers L4 (100-50 hPa) and L5 (50-30 hPa) are in the range of calculated trends in Microwave Sounding Unit (MSU) channel 4 (15-20 km) and Stratospheric Sounding Unit (SSU) channel 1 (25-35 km). MSU channel 4 trends derived from RSS and UAH data show cooling trends over the Northern Hemisphere ranging from -0.2 ^{o}C/decade to -0.5 ^{o}C/decade over the period 1979-2007 (Randel et al., 2009). Comparable cooling trends were obtained for MSU channel 4 after reprocessing by NOAA with the trends at polar latitudes revealing higher uncertainties. The SSU channel 1 trends as processed by the UK Met Office and reprocessed by NOAA show cooling trends ranging from about -0.5 ^{o}C/decade (Met office) to about -1.1 ^{o}C/decade (NOAA) over the period 1979-2005 (Thompson et al., 2012)."

2) The reviewer notes " *2. Considering the parameters used (QBO, stratospheric aerosol optical depth), the regression model seems to be best suited for the evaluation of temperature trends in the stratosphere. Although it is quite clear that the study focuses on stratospheric temperature trends, results are also presented for the troposphere. Can the authors comment on the validity of the temperature trends in the troposphere?* "

The following text was added in Section 3.1 addressing the point of the reviewer.
"It should be also noted that the year-round tropospheric temperature trends in the post-1980s period calculated in NCEP (see supplementary material SMT3), RICH (see supplementary material SMT4) and WACCM model (see supplementary material SMT6) for the three latitudinal belts are within the range of respective calculations in previously published work based on different radiosonde datasets (Randel et al., 2009).

3) The reviewer notes " *3. Some more information should be provided on the multiple regression analysis. Since trends are calculated for two time periods, what is the sensitivity of the temperature to the other parameters (QBO, solar cycles) in both these periods? How the model reproduce this sensitivity?*"

The following paragraph was added in Section 3.1:
"The effects of natural forcings derived from our multi-linear analysis are in a generally good agreement with previous studies (e.g. Randel et al., 2009), given that we use layer-mean temperatures and different latitude band averages. The effects of solar and volcanic forcing are found to be more pronounced after 1980. Although the QBO signal is very small and insignificant in the troposphere, we have used the same regression model throughout the atmosphere for uniformity and consistency. "

4) The reviewer notes " *4. The trends are computed in specific latitude bands (e.g. 5-30_N, 30-60_N and 60- 90_N). Considering the position of the tropical barrier in the stratosphere, the former latitude band mixes tropical air with mid-latitude air. Can the authors comment on*
this point? Also, how representative are temperature trends in winter and spring in the 60-90_N latitude band, considering the presence of the polar vortex during these seasons? Could the formation of the vortex influence the large cooling trends found in February, especially during the earlier period in the polar regions?"

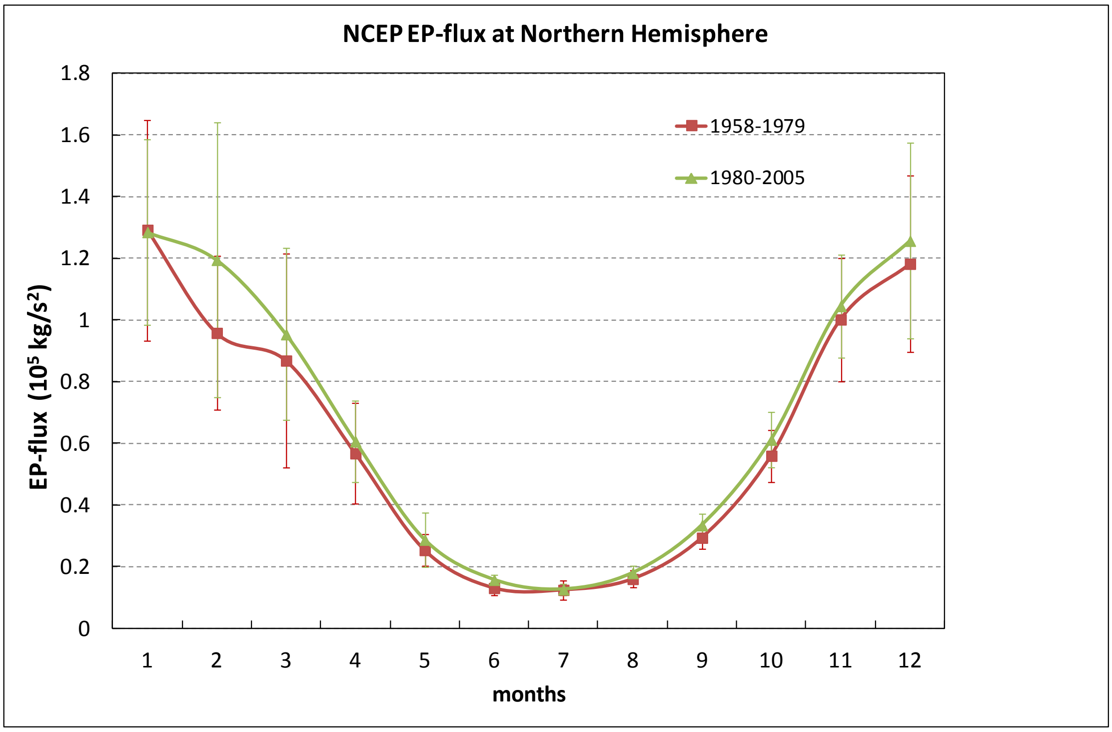
We agree with the reviewer that there is mixing of mid-latitude air with tropical air in and out of a tropical barrier in the stratosphere which according to previous model and observational studies usually ranges at Northern Hemisphere between 20 ^{o}N and 30 ^{o}N with the barrier being weaker in winter and stronger in summer in response to seasonal variation of the tropical zonal-mean flow and wave spectrum (Bowman and Hu, 1997). In our study we consider as NH tropical barrier the 30 ^{o}N which is within the range of estimates from previous model and observational studies. Furthermore the 30 ^{o}N tropical barrier has been also used in other previously published studies (e.g. Randel et al., 2009; Seidel and Randel, 2006).

As far as it concerns the temperature trends at polar latitudes especially during the earlier period we agree with the reviewer that should be considered with caution due to the presence of the polar vortex and the high natural variability. We have already mentioned in the manuscript (at the discussion section) that "At polar latitudes (60^{o}N-90^{o}N), though, the lower stratosphere cooling trends are either non-statistically significant or marginally significant at the 95% confidence level for all datasets. This finding could be related to the competing dynamical and radiative processes that may reduce the statistical significance of these trends."

At the polar latitudes we find a characteristic abrupt decrease (or elimination) of the cooling trend in from winter to early spring for the pre-1980s which is a common feature in all three datasets (NCEP, RICH and FUB) which could be related to dynamical characteristics and the strength of the polar vortex. We have looked the EP-flux through the tropopause at 100 hPa and 45-75 degrees north as calculated from the NCEP data. The following Figure shows the mean seasonal cycle of the EP-flux for the pre-1980s period and the post-1980s period. In the pre-80s period we can clearly note that in February the EP-flux has significantly lower values than the respective value in the post-1980s period. This indicates that February in the pre-1980s period the polar vortex should be stronger and colder due to the weaker BD circulation compared to the post-1980s period. This may have an impact on the strong cooling trend during February in the pre-1980s period and the characteristic abrupt decrease (or elimination) of the cooling trend in from winter to early spring.

Following the reviewer's question the text was modified as follows in Section 3.2:

" At polar latitudes, we find non-statistically significant (at 90% confidence level) cooling trends for all months in NCEP, except in February-March with a characteristic abrupt enhancement of the cooling trend for the pre-1980s (Fig. 3e).In the post-80s period the cooling trends are non-statistically significant for all months except in March-April with strongest cooling signal which might be associated to the Arctic ozone depletion by ODSs (Figure 3f). In the lower stratosphere over polar latitudes for the pre-80s period, both RICH (Figure 4e) and FU-Berlin (Figures 5a and 5c) datasets do not show statistically significant (at 90% confidence level) negative trends. However, it should be noted that the abrupt shift in trend from winter to early spring is a common feature in all three datasets which could be related to dynamical processes and the related variability of the polar vortex."



However as we discuss within the paper the emphasis is given in summer when the stratosphere is less disturbed because it is characterised by lower vertically propagating wave activity from the troposphere, it has smaller interannual natural variability than winter and it is also not influenced by chemical ozone depletion due to ODSs at high latitudes.

5) The reviewer notes " *5. More information should be given on the validity of the FU-Berlin record, which seems to be quite noisy in the early period. Results from this data set also show significant positive values in some months in the early period, in contrast to results based on the other data sets. A more detailed discussion of the various monthly trend results is thus recommended.*"

The variability and trends derived using this dataset have been compared for the past to stratospheric data from other sources, both observations and reanalysis.

The overall comparison is good, with differences in the variability (in the earlier period before 1980) attributed mainly to the close matching of the FUB analysis to radiosonde observations. (e.g. Randel et al., 2009; Labitzke and Kunze, 2005; Manney et al., 2004; Randel et al, 2004; also in Labitzke et al.,2002 and references therein).
Following the reviewer's comment the above mentioned paragraph was added within the revised manuscript in Section 2.1.

6) The reviewer notes "*Significance of trends and correlation coefficients should be indicated in the contour figures.*"
The Figures were revised accordingly.

7) The reviewer notes "*In section 3.3 the significance of correlation coefficients is not provided.*"
The correlations in Figure 7 with $\rho>0.3$ or $\rho<-0.3$ are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This was added in Figure caption of Fig. 7. The contours indicate the statistically significant correlations at 95% significance level with .$\rho>0.3$ or $\rho<-0.3$.

8) The reviewer notes "*P1078, l16: what is meant by "low frequency variability of the BD circulation"?*"
The low frequency variability of BD circulation was changed to "from inter-annual to decadal variability" in order to be more specific.

9) The reviewer notes "*P1080, l7: Do the derived quantities correspond to age of air? The text should be more specific.*"

The text was modified accordingly:
In contrast, other studies using balloon-borne measurements of stratospheric trace gases over the past 30 years to derive the mean age of air from sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) and CO2 mixing ratios found no indication of an increasing meridional circulation (Engel et al., 2009). Furthermore, Iwasaki et al. (2009) pointed that the yearly trends in BD strength, diagnosed from all re-analyses products over the 10 common period 1979–2001, are not reliably observed due to large diversity among the reanalyses.

Reply to Reviewer #3

We would like to thank Reviewer #3 for the constructive and helpful comments. Reviewer's contribution is recognized in the acknowledgments of the revised manuscript. It follows our response point by point.

1) The reviewer notes "*Page 1075, line 12: the authors mention the time period 1958-2011 here, but the Figs.1-7 all refer to some different time periods ending either 2001, 2005, or 2010. Would be nice to have some clarification.*"

The different time periods used in Fig. 1-7 results from the different time periods of the used datasets. For example as pointed in Section 2.1 the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis data cover the whole referred period from 1958 to 2011. The FU-Berlin dataset from 1958 to 2001, RICH dataset from 1958 to 2006 and the historical simulation with CESM1-WACCM from 1958 to 2005. So in Figures 1 and 2 as well as in Table 1 the NCEP data span the whole period 1958-2011. Mind also in Table 1 that for comparability reasons with the other datasets the trend calculations in NCEP cover also the periods 1980-2001 and 1980-2005. Similarly, for comparability reasons among the different datasets we decided to show in Figures 3,4, 6 and 7 the trends in common periods 1958-1979 and 1980-2005.

We added the following sentence in Section 2:

" Finally, it should be noted that the selection of various time periods is related to the different time periods of the used datasets aiming to a more representative comparison among them."

2) The reviewer notes "*Page 1080, line 29: Please add some points why mean temperature from thickness would be expected to improve homogeneity in both space and time.*"

Our argument for the preference to use thickness to obtain layer mean temperatures refereed mainly for the case of the FUB dataset as it was pointed in our earlier studies based on this dataset (Zerefos and Crutzen, 1975; Zerefos and Mantis, 1977; Mantis and Zerefos, 1979). In the papers of Zerefos and Mantis (1977) as well as Mantis and Zerefos (1979) it was emphasized that the approximate geostrophic balance of the upper winds insures that the contour analysis will be more representative than the temperature analysis which for the FUB data it was based on scattered radiosonde locations.
Please note that the FUB data used in this study were derived from daily stratospheric map analyses of isobaric surfaces prepared by the Stratospheric Research Group of the Free University of Berlin (http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/met/ag/strat/produkte/fubdata/index.html). The FUB dataset consists of 35 years of daily (or bi-daily in summer) geopotential height and temperature fields at 50, 30 and 10hPa in the northern hemisphere. The

hemispheric analyses were produced in real time by a subjective analysis technique, using the 00UT radiosonde reports from the observational network, by a team of experienced meteorologists. Both geostrophic and hydrostatic balance were assumed in the analysis procedure, and the wind observations were given a high priority. The imposition of these balance conditions ensures a consistent dataset; further, temporal continuity is assured by meteorological inspection. Note that these balance conditions can result in layer temperatures which deviate from the local radiosonde reports, which include meso-scale structures as well as any random or systematic observational errors. The Berlin analyses thus represent the synoptic-scale structure of the lower and middle stratosphere.

However in the submitted manuscript we are not arguing that this method provides better temperature values than the temperatures themselves in a re-analysis dataset such as NCEP. But rather for purposes of comparison of the FUB thickness temperature data with the NCEP reanalyses we calculated similarly the mean thickness layer temperatures in NCEP.

Following the reviewers comment we modified the text accordingly in order to avoid any misunderstanding an the following paragraph was added in section 2.1:.

" The FU-Berlin is an independent stratospheric analysis data set which is based on subjective hand analyses of temperature and geopotential height fields at 50, 30 and 10 hPa for the northern hemisphere, using the 00UT radiosonde reports from the observational network by a team of experienced meteorologists (http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/met/ag/strat/produkte/fubdata/index.html).

Hydrostatic and geostrophic balances were assumed, and observed winds were used to guide the height and temperature analyses. The imposition of these balance conditions ensures a consistent dataset. In addition temporal continuity is assured by meteorological or control?. Note that these balance conditions can result in layer temperatures that deviate from the local radiosonde reports, which include meso-scale structures as well as any random or systematic observational errors (Labitzke et al., 2002; Manney et al., 2004). Earlier studies using the FU-Berlin dataset point that the approximate geostrophic balance of the upper winds ensures that the contour analysis will be more representative than the temperature analysis based on scattered radiosonde locations (Zerefos and Mantis, 1977; Mantis and Zerefos, 1979). The FU-Berlin analyses thus represent the synoptic-scale structure of the lower and middle stratosphere and the layer-mean temperature derived from the thickness is well suited for an investigation of large-scale climatic fluctuations of temperature. The analyses are provided as gridded data sets with a horizontal resolution of 10o x 10o before 1973, and 5ox 5o thereafter. FU-Berlin geopotential height data are available from July 1957 until December 2001 at 100, 50, and 30 hPa (Labitzke et al., 2002). Hence, from the FU-Berlin dataset we calculated layer-mean temperatures for the two lower stratospheric layers, 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa. It should be noted that the FU-Berlin dataset provides geopotential height data already since 1957, but temperature at the same levels since 1964. Hence, aiming in this study at presenting the stratospheric temperature trends from the earliest

possible time, we have used the independent FU-Berlin stratospheric dataset with the choice of layer-mean temperature derived from geopotential heights thus extending the records in the past. The variability and trends derived using this dataset have been compared in the past to stratospheric data from other sources, both observations and reanalysis. The overall comparison is good, with differences in the variability (in the earlier period before 1980) that can be attributed mainly to the close match between the FU-Berlin analysis and the to radiosonde observations. (e.g. Randel et al., 2009; Labitzke and Kunze, 2005; Manney et al., 2004; Randel et al, 2004; also in Labitzke et al.,2002 and references therein).

3) The reviewer notes "*Page 1081, line 7: Please mention explicitly what variables you are referring to when using the term "data", e.g. temperature, pressure etc.?*"

We clarified this point in the revised version as follows: "Tropospheric and stratospheric temperature, pressure and geopotential height data used in this study are based on the following sources:"

4) The reviewer notes "*Page 1084, equation 1: Please explain what "t" and "T" stands for?*"

We clarified this point in the revised version by adding the following phrase: "Where Mt is the monthly deseasonalized zonal mean temperature and t is the time in months with t = 0 corresponding to the initial month and t = T corresponding to the last month." Also the other terms of equation 1 were also clarified in the revised version.

5) The reviewer notes "*Page 1084, equation 2: Please double check, whether it is the variable "Nt" or if "t" is an index (same for "et")? Please explain variable '.*"

Nt is the unexplained noise term assumed to be autoregressive with time lag of 1 month. It is specified within the text. The "t" is like a time index in the Nt residual time series. We changed Nt to N(t) as a time function of the noise.

6) The reviewer notes "*Page 1085, line 17 and associated figures: The text refers to the layer mean temperature, but the figures do not have any units associated with either the temperature or the layer thickness.*"

The units were added in the figure captions.

7) The reviewer notes "*Page 1089, lines 4-7: I think what is shown in the figures is a decrease in the cooling trend, but not a shift from a negative trend in winter to a positive trend in early spring as the values are still negative.*"

The sentences were modified accordingly:

" At polar latitudes, we find non-statistically significant (at 90% confidence level) cooling trends for all months in NCEP, except in February-March with a characteristic abrupt enhancement of the cooling trend for the pre-1980s (Fig. 3e)."

However, it should be noted that the abrupt shift in trend from winter to early spring is a common feature in all three datasets.

8) The reviewer notes "*Figures: Apart from figure 5 all other figures are pretty tiny and very hard to read. What are the units for the y-scales in figures 1 and 2?*"

The units were added in Figure captions of Figures 1 and 2. All Figures (except Figure 5) were redrawn in order to be more comprehensible.

Evidence for an earlier greenhouse cooling effect in the stratosphere before the 1980s over the Northern Hemisphere

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Key words: stratospheric temperature, tropopause, trends, anthropogenic climate change, greenhouse warming and cooling

Abstract

This study provides a new look at the observed and calculated long-term temperature changes from the lower troposphere to the lower stratosphere temperature changes since 1958 at over the Northern Hemisphere. The datasets include the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis, the Free University of Berlin (FU-Berlin) and the RICH radiosonde datasets as well as historical simulations with the CESM1-WACCM global model participating in CMIP5. The analysis is mainly based on monthly layer mean temperatures derived from geopotential height thicknesses between specific pressure levelsin order to take advantage from the use of the independent FU-Berlin stratospheric dataset of geopotential height data since 1957. This approach was followed to extend the records in the past for the investigation of the stratospheric temperature trends from the earliest possible time. Layer mean temperatures from thickness improve homogeneity in both space and time and reduce uncertainties in the trend analysis. Datasets used include the NCEP/NCAR I reanalysis, the Free University of Berlin (FU-Berlin) and the RICH radiosonde datasets as well as historical simulations with the CESM1-WACCM global model participating in CMIP5. After removing the natural variability with an autoregressive multiple regression model our analysis shows that the period 1958-2011 can be divided in two distinct sub-periods of long term temperature variability and trends; before and after 1980s. By calculating trends for the summer time to reduce interannual variability, the two periods are as follows. From 1958 until 1979, non-significant trend (0.06±0.06 ^{o}C/decade for NCEP) and slightly cooling trends (-0.12±0.06 ^{o}C/decade for RICH) are found in the lower troposphere. . The second period from 1980 to the end of the records shows significant warming (0.25±0.05 ^{o}C/decade for both NCEP and RICH). Above the tropopause a significant cooling trend is clearly seen in the lower stratosphere both in the pre-1980s period (-0.58±0.17 ^{o}C/decade for NCEP, -0.30±0.16 ^{o}C/decade for RICH and -0.48±0.20 ^{o}C/decade for FU-Berlin) and the post-1980s period (-0.79±0.18 ^{o}C/decade for NCEP, -0.66±0.16 ^{o}C/decade for RICH and -0.82±0.19 ^{o}C/decade for FU-Berlin). The cooling in the lower stratosphere is a persistent throughout the year feature from the tropics up to 60° North. At polar latitudes competing dynamical and radiative processes are reducing the statistical significance of these trends. Model results are in line with re-analysis and the observations, indicating a persistent cooling (-0.33 ^{o}C/decade) in the lower stratosphere during summer before and after the 1980s; a feature that is also seen throughout the year. However, the lower stratosphere CESM1-WACCM modelled trends are generally lower than re-analysis and the observations. The contrasting effects of ozone depletion at polar latitudes in winter/spring and the anticipated strengthening of the Brewer

Dobson circulation from man-made global warming at polar latitudes are discussed. Our results provide additional evidence for an early greenhouse cooling signal in the lower stratosphere before the 1980s, which it appears well in advance relative to the tropospheric greenhouse warming signal. ~~Hence we postulate that the stratosphere could have provided an early warning of man-made climate change.~~ The suitability for early warning signals in the stratosphere relative to the troposphere is supported by the fact that the stratosphere is less sensitive to changes due to cloudiness, humidity and man-made aerosols. Our analysis also indicates that the relative contribution of the lower stratosphere versus the upper troposphere low frequency variability is important for understanding the added value of the long term tropopause variability related to human induced global warming.

1 Introduction

Since the discovery of ~~the~~ significant cooling trends in the lower stratosphere ~~reported already by~~~~in~~in the late 1970s, 80s and 90s (Zerefos and Mantis, 1977; Angell and Korshover, 1983; Miller et al., 1992), a number of scientific articles have focused on the statistical space and time continuity of stratospheric temperature observations both from ground and from satellite retrievals. Those publications indicate that the lower stratosphere cooling continues from the 1980s to the present (Santer et al., 1999; Randel et al., 2009; WMO, 2011; Santer et al., 2013).

Common features in lower-stratospheric temperature change are found in all available radiosonde and satellite datasets[1]. One common finding is that in the global mean, the lower stratosphere has cooled by about -0.5 ^{o}C~~K~~/decade since 1980. Randel et al. (2009) reported that lower stratosphere cooling is a robust result over much of the globe for the period 1979–2007, being nearly uniform over all latitudes outside of the polar regions, with some differences among various ~~different~~ radiosonde and satellite data sets. Substantially larger cooling trends are observed in the Antarctic lower stratosphere during spring and summer, in association with the development of the Antarctic ozone hole (Randel et al., 2009; Santer et al., 2013). In the tropical lower stratosphere the observations show significant long-term cooling ~~over~~ (70–30 hPa) for 1979–2007, while less overall cooling is seen at 100 hPa

[1] Today, there are six available global lower-stratospheric temperature data sets based on radiosonde data since the late 1950s; RATPAC (Free et al., 2005); HadAT (Thorne et al., 2005); RATPAC-lite (Randel and Wu, 2006); RAOBCORE (Haimberger, 2007); RICH (Haimberger et al., 2008); and IUK (Sherwood et al., 2008) and three satellite datasets; UAH (Christy et al., 2003); RSS (Mears and Wentz, 2009); and STAR, (Zou et al., 2009).

(Randel et al., 2009). The global-mean lower stratospheric cooling has not occurred linearly, but stems from two downward steps in temperature, both of which are coincident with the cessation of transient warming after the volcanic eruptions of El Chichón and Mt. Pinatubo (Thompson and Solomon, 2009; Free and Lanzante, 2009). It should be also noted that the global mean lower stratospheric temperatures during the period following 1995 are significantly lower than they were during the decades prior to 1980, but have not dropped further since 1995 (WMO, 2011). Recently, Thompson et al. (2012) reported that the SSU data reprocessed by NOAA indicate stronger cooling trends in the middle and higher stratosphere than previously estimated, which cannot be captured by the available simulations with coupled chemistry–climate models (CCMs) and coupled atmosphere–ocean global climate models (AOGCMs). This global lower stratosphere cooling since the 1980s is also evident in the pre-satellite era with a cooling rate of ~0.35 ~~K~~ ^{o}C/decade since 1958 (WMO, 2011). Randel et al., (2009) questioned the validity of the trends for the period 1958–1978 because of the sparse observational database and the known instrumental uncertainties for this period, together with the large trend uncertainties implied by the spread of results. Furthermore in other studies it was pointed out that the radiosonde datasets are not fully independent and that there are systematic biases in a number of stations relative to the satellites (Randel and Wu, 2006; Free and Seidel, 2007). These systematic biases are not well understood. Nevertheless, the different statistical approaches applied for homogenization are useful to assessing the overall uncertainty of the long-term stratospheric temperature trend estimates since the late 1950s (WMO, 2011).

The primary radiative forcing mechanisms responsible for global temperature changes in the stratosphere since 1979 have been increases in well-mixed GHG concentrations, increases in stratospheric water vapour, the decrease in stratospheric ozone primarily related to chlorine and bromine from various halocarbons, the effects of aerosols from explosive volcanic eruptions, and the effects of solar activity changes (e.g., Shine et al., 2003; Ramaswamy et al., 2006; WMO, 2007; IPCC, 2007; IPCC, 2013). The effects of volcanic eruptions, variations in solar radiation, and other sources of natural variability, including the wave-driven quasi-biennial oscillation (QBO) in ozone, can be accounted for through the use of indices in time series trends analyses (Tiao et al., 1990; Staehelin, 2001; Reinsel et al., 2005; Fioletov, 2009). However, the attribution of past lower stratosphere temperature trends is complicated by the effects of the increases and leveling off, of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and the inter-annual to decadal ~~low-frequency~~ variability of the Brewer-Dobson (BD) circulation.

The expectation of an accelerated and stronger BD circulation in a warmer climate is

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consistent with results from transport chemistry climate model simulations, wherein the lower stratospheric temperature trends may result from increases in upwelling over the tropical lower stratosphere and strengthening of the BD circulation (Rind et al., 2001; Cordero and Forster, 2006; Butchart et al., 2006; 2010; Austin and Li, 2006; Rosenlof and Reid, 2008; Garcia and Randel, 2008; Lamarque and Solomon, 2010). Unfortunately the detection of trends in the BD circulation in observations is complicated because trends in BD circulation are small from 1980s through 2010 but are expected to become larger in the next few decades (Butchart, 2014). In addition, the BD circulation is not a directly observed physical quantity (WMO, 2011). Yet, observational evidence of an accelerated BD has been shown in a number of studies over both the tropics (e.g., Thompson and Solomon, 2005, Rosenlof and Reid, 2008) and the high latitudes (Johanson and Fu, 2007; Hu and Fu, 2009; Lin et al., 2009; Fu et al., 2010). Thompson and Solomon (2009) have shown that the contrasting latitudinal structures of recent stratospheric temperature and ozone trends are consistent with the assumption of increases in the stratospheric overturning BD circulation. Also Free (2011) pointed out that trends in the tropical stratosphere show an inverse relationship with those over the Arctic for 1979–2009, which might be related to changes in stratospheric circulation. In contrast, other studies using balloon-borne measurements of stratospheric trace gases over the past 30 years to derive the mean age of air from sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) and CO_2 mixing ratios, found no indication of an increasing meridional circulation (Engel et al., 2009). Furthermore, Iwasaki et al. (2009) pointed out that the yearly trends in BD strength, diagnosed from all re-analyses products over the common period 1979–2001, are not reliably observed due to large diversity among the reanalyses. In contrast, other studies using derived quantities found no indication of an increasing meridional circulation (Engel et al. 2009) while Iwasaki et al. (2009) pointed that the yearly trends in BD strength, diagnosed from all re-analyses products over the common period 1979-2001, are not reliably observed due to large diversity among the reanalyses. According to Randel and Thompson (2011), since there are no direct measurements of upwelling near the tropical tropopause, and there are large uncertainties in indirect measurements or assimilated data products (Iwasaki et al., 2009), temperature and ozone observations at the tropics can provide a sensitive measure of upwelling changes in the real atmosphere. In a recent article, Kawatani, and Hamilton (2013) reported that a weakening trend in the lower stratosphere QBO amplitude provides strong support for the existence of a long-term trend of enhanced upwelling near the tropical tropopause.

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The tropospheric warming and stratospheric cooling associated also with human forcing factors ~~would~~ are expected to influence their interface i.e. the tropopause region (Santer et al., 2003a; Santer et al., 2003b; Seidel and Randel 2006; Son et al., 2009). Seidel and Randel (2006) examined global tropopause variability on synoptic, monthly, seasonal, and longer-term timescales using 1980–2004 radiosonde data and reported upward tropopause height trends at almost all of the (predominantly extratropical) stations ~~analyzed~~analysed, yielding an estimated global trend of 64 ± 21 m/decade. They reported that on multidecadal scale the ~~tropopause height~~ change of the tropopause height is more sensitive to stratospheric temperature changes than to ~~tropospheric~~ changes in the troposphere ~~for~~ over both the ~~tropical~~ tropics and the ~~extratropical~~ extratropics,~~atmosphere and hence at the lowest frequencies the tropopause is primarily coupled with stratospheric temperatures.~~ Furthermore, Son et al. (2009) analysed a set of long-term integrations with stratosphere-resolving chemistry climate models, ~~and~~ reported that at ~~the~~ northern mid-latitudes, ~~the~~ long-term tropopause increase is dominated by the upper troposphere warming. ~~while over~~ Over the tropics and the ~~Southern~~ southern ~~Hemisphere~~ hemisphere extratropics, the long-term tropopause trend is almost equally affected by both the ~~lower stratosphere~~ trend in the lower stratosphere and the ~~upper troposphere~~ warming in the upper troposphere (Son et al., 2009).

A major open question that still remains to be answered is if the stratosphere can be considered as a more suitable region than the troposphere to detect anthropogenic climate change signals and what can be learned from the long-term stratospheric temperature trends. Indeed the signal-to-noise ratio in the stratosphere is, radiatively speaking, more sensitive ~~radiatively~~ to anthropogenic GHGs forcing and less disturbed from natural variability of water vapour and clouds when compared to the troposphere. This is because (a) the dependence of the equilibrium temperature of the stratosphere on CO_2 is larger than that ~~of~~ on tropospheric temperature, (b) the equilibrium temperature of the stratosphere depends ~~little~~ less upon tropospheric water vapour variability and (c) the influence of cloudiness upon equilibrium temperature is more pronounced in the troposphere than in the stratosphere where the influence decreases with height (Manabe and Weatherald, 1967). Furthermore, anthropogenic aerosols are mainly spread within the lower troposphere (He et al., 2008), and presumably have little effect on stratospheric temperatures.

Another open question is if the lower stratosphere started cooling since the time a reasonable global network became available i.e. after the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957-1958. Such a long lasting cooling from the 60s until today needs to be re-examined and explained. To what extent are the cooling trends in the lower stratosphere related to human induced climate change? Has it been accelerating, for instance at high latitudes in winter/spring due to ozone depletion? Has it been interrupted by major volcanic eruptions and El Nino events (Zerefos et al., 1992) or large climatological anomalies?

The study addresses those questions and presents a new look at observed temperature trends over the Northern Hemisphere from the troposphere up to the lower stratosphere in a search for an early warning signal of global warming i.e. a cooling in the lower stratosphere relative to the warming in the lower atmosphere.~~based on layer mean temperatures from thickness which are expected to improve homogeneity in both space and time and reduce trend uncertainties before and after the 1980s in the lower stratosphere. Furthermore the tropopause variability and trends are also investigated with regard to the observed temperature trends and variability in the lower stratosphere and the troposphere.~~

2 Data and analysis of the statistical methods

2.1 Data

Tropospheric and stratospheric temperature, pressure and geopotential height data used in this study are based on the following sources: a) the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis I product (NCEP) data from 1958 to 2011 (Kalnay et al., 1996; Kistler et al., 2001), b) the Free University of Berlin (FU-Berlin) from 1958 to 2001, c) the Radiosonde Innovation Composite Homogenization (RICH) data (Haimberger, 2007; Haimberger et al., 2008) from 1958 to 2006 and d) historical simulations with the NCAR Community Earth System Model (CESM) coupled to the "high-top" Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model (WACCM) CESM1-WACCM (Marsh et al., 2013) from 1958 to 2005. Our analysis is focused at the northern hemisphere, as the data coverage in the pre-satellite era has been denser there than at the southern hemisphere.

The FU-Berlin is an independent stratospheric analysis data-set which is based on earlier subjective hand analyses of temperature and geopotential height fields at 50, 30 and 10 hPa for the northern hemisphere, using the 00UT radiosonde reports from the observational network by a team of experienced meteorologists (http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/met/ag/strat/produkte/fubdata/index.html). Hydrostatic and geostrophic balances were assumed, and observed winds were used to guide the height and temperature analyses. The imposition of these balance conditions ensures a consistent dataset. In addition temporal continuity is assured by meteorological ~~or~~ control~~?~~. Note that these balance conditions can result in layer temperatures that deviate from the local radiosonde reports, which include meso-scale structures as well as any random or systematic observational errors (Labitzke et

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al., 2002; Manney et al., 2004). Earlier studies using the FU-Berlin dataset point that the approximate geostrophic balance of the upper winds ensures that the contour analysis will be more representative than the temperature analysis based on scattered radiosonde locations (Zerefos and Mantis, 1977; Mantis and Zerefos, 1979). The FU-Berlin analyses thus represent the synoptic-scale structure of the lower and middle stratosphere and the layer-mean temperature derived from the thickness is well suited for an investigation of large-scale climatic fluctuations of temperature. -The analyses are provided as gridded data sets with a horizontal resolution of 10^{o} x 10^{o} before 1973, and 5^{o}x 5^{o} thereafter. FU-Berlin geopotential height data are available from July 1957 until December 2001 at 100, 50, and 30 hPa (Labitzke et al., 2002). Hence, from the FU-Berlin dataset we calculated layer-mean temperatures for the two lower stratospheric layers, 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa. It should be noted that the FU-Berlin dataset provides geopotential height data already since 1957, but temperature at the same levels since 1964. Hence, aiming in this study at presenting the stratospheric temperature trends from the earliest possible time, we have used the independent FU-Berlin stratospheric dataset with the choice of layer-mean temperature derived from geopotential heights thus extending the records in the past. The variability and trends derived using this dataset have been compared in the past to stratospheric data from other sources, both observations and reanalysis. The overall comparison is good, with differences in the variability (in the earlier period before 1980) that can be attributed mainly to the close match between the FU-Berlin analysis and the to radiosonde observations. (e.g. Randel et al., 2009; Labitzke and Kunze, 2005; Manney et al., 2004; Randel et al, 2004; also in Labitzke et al., 2002 and references therein).

Randel et al. (2009) pointed out that the sparse observational database and known instrumental uncertainties for the pre-satellite era, suggest an overall poor knowledge of trends for the period 1958–1978. Furthermore large differences and continuity problems are evident in the middle and upper stratosphere in the reanalysis data sets, implying that trend analysis of stratospheric temperatures for the whole time period of the reanalyses products should be considered with caution (WMO, 2011).

According to WMO (2011) large differences and continuity problems are evident in the middle and upper stratosphere inwithin the reanalysis data sets, implying that trend analysis of stratospheric temperatures for the whole time period of the reanalyses products should be considered with caution (WMO, 2011). Aware of these problems, we opted to use here not the

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NCEP product of stratospheric temperature derived at specific atmospheric pressure levels, but rather the layer-mean temperature derived from the thickness of stratospheric and tropospheric layers (based on the geopotential height differences between specific atmospheric pressure levels) for comparison purposes with the respective quantities of the FU-Berlin dataset. Differences of monthly mean geopotential heights were used at standard atmospheric levels to derive the layer thickness and subsequently the layer mean temperature. ~~Long-term global data sets of layer-mean temperatures derived from the geopotential height thickness from the troposphere to the stratosphere were chosen instead of mean temperatures because the approximate geostrophic balance of the upper winds in the free troposphere ensures that the contour analysis of the layers is more representative than the temperature analysis alone. For these reasons the thickness is well suited for an investigation of large-scale climatic fluctuations of temperature.~~

For the NCEP dataset we have used the layers 1000-925 hPa (planetary boundary layer), 925-500 hPa (free troposphere), 500-300 hPa (upper troposphere), 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa (lower stratosphere). The layer-mean temperatures were then used to calculate the averaged layer mean temperature over the latitude belts: northern polar (90N-60N), northern mid-latitudes (60N-30N) and the northern tropics (30N-5N). Furthermore, we also used in our analysis the tropopause pressure from NCEP to ~~sudy~~study the interannual correlation of tropopause pressure with tropospheric and stratospheric temperatures.

~~The FU-Berlin stratospheric analysis data set is based on subjective hand analyses of temperature and geopotential height for the northern hemisphere, derived from daily radiosonde observations, and thicknesses derived from TOVS (operationally transmitted SATEMs) over data sparse regions. Hydrostatic and geostrophic balances were assumed, and observed winds were used to guide the height and temperature analyses. The analyses are provided as gridded data sets with a horizontal resolution of 10° x 10° before 1973, and 5°x 5° thereafter. FU-Berlin geopotential height data are available from July 1957 until December 2001 at 100, 50, and 30 hPa (Labitzke et al., 2002). Hence, from the FU-Berlin dataset we calculated, following the same procedure as with the NCEP dataset, layer-mean temperatures for the two lower stratospheric layers, 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa. The RICH dataset was used at the standard atmospheric levels.~~

In our analysis we have used simulations with CESM1-WACCM, a state-of-the-art "high top" chemistry climate model coupled to the earth system model CESM that extends from the surface to 5.1×10^{-6} hPa (approximately 140 km). It has 66 vertical levels and horizontal resolution of 1.9° latitude by 2.5° longitude. The historical simulations with CESM1-WACCM were carried out as part of phase 5 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5). CESM1-WACCM has an active ocean and sea ice components as described by Holland et al. (2012). As shown in Marsh et al. (2013) for CESM1-WACCM, an updated parameterization of non-orographic gravity waves led to an improvement in the frequency of northern hemisphere (NH) sudden stratospheric warmings (SSWs). Furthermore the model also includes a representation of the QBO leading to a significant improvement in the representation of ozone variability in the tropical stratosphere compared to observations. The model's chemistry module is based on version 3 of the Model for OZone And Related chemical Tracers (Kinnison et al. 2007). Volcanic aerosol surface area density in WACCM is prescribed from a monthly zonal mean time series derived from observations including the following major volcanic eruptions in historical simulations: Krakatau (1883), Santa Maria (1902), Agung (1963), El Chichón (1982), and Pinatubo (1991). WACCM explicitly represents the radiative transfer of the greenhouse gases CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, H_2O, CFC-12 and CFC-11 (which includes also additional halogen species). WACCM simulation used here was performed with all observed forcing from 1955-2005. The observed forcing included changes in surface concentrations of radiatively active species, daily solar spectral irradiance, volcanic ~~sulphate~~ sulfate heating and the QBO. A more detailed description of the CESM1-WACCM historical simulations can be found in Marsh et al. (2013).

As each source of analysis/reanalysis data spans over a different period, the time series were deseasonalized for the period of 1961-1990, common to all data sets. The same procedure was followed for the tropopause pressure. The RICH dataset was used at the standard atmospheric levels. The temperature anomalies from the RICH dataset available at standard pressure levels were adjusted accordingly. Finally, it should be noted that the selection of various time periods is related to the different time periods of the used datasets aiming to a more representative comparison among them.

2.2 Analysis of methods

A multiple linear regression time series analysis with an autoregressive statistical model is applied on the deseasonalized time series of zonally averaged layer mean temperature similarly to the statistical approach applied by Reinsel et al. (2005). The regression model is of the form:

$$M(t)=\alpha_0+\alpha_1 t + \Sigma g_i Z_i + N(t);\ 0 < t \le T \qquad (1)$$

Where $M(t)$ is the monthly deseasonalized zonal mean temperature and t is the time in months with t = 0 corresponding to the initial month and t = T corresponding to the last month.

The terms α_0 is an overall level term while α_1 ~~included~~ accounts for a linear trend~~s (Tr_t)~~. The terms giZi in the statistical model reflect the temperature variability related to the natural variability, where Zi represent a number of climatic and dynamical indices and gi are the respective regression coefficients. Specifically the climatic and dynamical indices used here include the 11-year solar cycle (using the solar F10.7 radio flux as a proxy), plus two orthogonal time series to model QBO, namely the standardized zonal wind at 30hPa and 50hPa (e.g., Crooks and Gray, 2005, Austin et al., 2009).

It is well known that significant transient warming events occurred in the stratosphere following the volcanic eruptions of Agung (March 1963), El Chichon (April 1982) and Mount~~t.~~ Pinatubo (June 1991), and these can substantially influence temperature trend estimates (especially if the volcanic events occur near either end of the time series in question). The common approach in order to avoid a significant influence on trend results is to omit data for 2 years following each eruption in the regression analysis. In order to investigate the role played by stratospheric aerosols, we include terms to account for the influence of stratospheric aerosol variability, using the Stratospheric Aerosol Optical Depth (Sato et al., 1993) as an index in the regression model.

Finally, $N(t)$ is the unexplained noise term. The statistical model is first-order autoregressive (AR(1)), and the term $N(t)$ satisfies:

$$N(t) = \varphi N(t-1) + e(t) \qquad (2)$$

where $e(t)$ is an independent random variable with zero mean, commonly known as the white noise residuals. This AR(1) model allows for the noise to be (auto)correlated among successive measurements and is typically positive for data which show smoothly varying changes (naturally occurring) in $N(t)$ over time (Reinsel, 2002).

The temperature trends and the role played by the various climatic and dynamic factors described above are examined in detail. The focus is on the detection of trends before and after the beginning of the satellite era (i.e. 1979), a period that is also the benchmark for ozone depletion.

3 Results

3.1 Summer and year-round trends

In the summer, the stratosphere is less disturbed because it is characterised by lower vertically propagating wave activity from the troposphere, it has smaller natural variability than winter (Webb, 1966; Berger and Lübken, 2011; Gettelman et al., 2011) and it is also not influenced by chemical ozone depletion due to ODSs at high latitudes. Hence the less “noisy” summer records offer the opportunity to investigate for better estimates of the lower stratospheric temperature trends. Figure 1 presents the time series of the layer mean temperatures in summer (June-July-August) for the northern hemisphere at tropical, mid and higher latitudinal zones from the lower troposphere up to the stratosphere, calculated from NCEP reanalysis, FU-Berlin and RICH datasets. The thick black lines represent the linear trends before and after 1980, a year that marks the beginning of the availability of satellite data whose inclusion resulted to increased global coverage. Figure 1 shows a consistent cooling of the lower stratosphere in NCEP, FU-Berlin and RICH datasets that persists in both pre- and post-80s periods. Specifically, for the period 1958-1979, there is a cooling trend for the whole Northern Hemisphere of -0.58±0.17 ^{o}C/decade in NCEP, -0.30±0.16 ^{o}C/decade in RICH and -0.48±0.20 ^{o}C/decade in FU-Berlin. For the common post-1980s period (1980-2001), the respective trends are -0.79±0.18 ^{o}C/decade in NCEP, -0.66±0.16 ^{o}C/decade for RICH and -0.82±0.19 ^{o}C/decade in FU-Berlin. The CESM1-WACCM model results agree with re-analysis and the observations, indicating a persistent cooling of the lower stratosphere during summer for the whole Northern Hemisphere by -0.33±0.17 ^{o}C/decade for 1958-1979 and by -0.35±0.20 ^{o}C/decade for 1980-2001. However the modelled trends are generally lower than re-analysis and observations. We should point out that our analysis was also performed for the ERA-40 dataset (not shown here) with the trend results for the two periods (1958-1979 and 1980-2001) being similar to NCEP trend results.

The summertime lower stratosphere trends at the different latitudinal belts (see Table 1 and Tables SMT1 and SMT2 in supplementary material) indicate generally statistically significant (at 95%) cooling trends over both pre-1980s and post-1980s periods in the tropics (5°N-30°N) and mid-latitudes (30°N – 60°N) based on NCEP, FU-Berlin and RICH datasets which is also reproduced by CESM1-WACCM (Table 2). However, in polar regions (60°N-90°N), the lower stratosphere cooling trends are either non-statistically significant or marginally significant at the 95% confidence level for NCEP, FU-Berlin and RICH datasets. The same result is also indicated in CESM1-WACCM simulation (Table 2).

In the lower northern hemispheric troposphere (1000-500 hPa), non-statistically significant (at 95%) trends or slight cooling trends prevail in the period 1958-1979 (0.06±0.06 for NCEP and -0.12±0.06 ^{o}C/decade for RICH) followed by significant warming trends over the period 1980-2005 (0.25±0.05 ^{o}C/decade for both NCEP and RICH). CESM1-WACCM shows a persistent warming of the lower troposphere during summer by 0.21±0.17 ^{o}C/decade in the pre-1980s period and 0.21±0.14 ^{o}C/decade in the post-80s period. However, when excluding the polar latitudes, CESM1-WACCM shows a non-statistically significant (at 95%) trend in the period 1958-1979 (0.04±0.12 ^{o}C/decade) followed by a warming trend over the period 1980-2005 (0.22±0.11 ^{o}C/decade) in agreement with NCEP and RICH.

The NCEP tropopause pressure follows closely (but in reverse) the tropospheric temperature long term change with tropopause pressure increasing in the pre-1980s period (tropopause height decreases) and decreasing in the post-80s period (tropopause height increases) at all three latitude zones. It should be pointed out that the increasing trend of tropopause pressure over the tropics in the pre-80s period is small and not statistically significant at 95% level. The summer CESM1-WACCM tropopause pressure trends (Table 2) generally agree within 1-sigma with the respective NCEP trends (Table 1) with exception for the mid-latitudes of the pre-1980s period where CESM1-WACCM shows a statistical significant decreasing trend (tropopause height increases).

The year-round temperature and tropopause trends (Figure 2) generally show similar results to those derived for the summer period (see also Tables SMT3, SMT4, SMT5 and SMT6 in the supplementary material). In the lower stratosphere, the layer mean temperatures are decreasing continuously from late 1950s and throughout the records onwards. Specifically, for the period 1958-1979, there is a cooling trend for the whole Northern Hemisphere of -0.58±0.08 ^{o}C/decade in NCEP, -0.33±0.08 ^{o}C/decade in RICH and -0.44±0.10 ^{o}C/decade in FU-Berlin. For the common for all datasets period 1980-2001, the respective trends are -0.76±0.09 ^{o}C/decade in NCEP, -0.64±0.08 ^{o}C/decade for RICH and -0.71±0.10 ^{o}C/decade in FU-Berlin. The CESM1-WACCM model shows also a persistent cooling of the lower stratosphere by -0.40±0.09 ^{o}C/decade for 1958-1979 and by -0.24±0.10 ^{o}C/decade for 1980-

2001. The decreasing trends of lower stratospheric temperatures are statistically significant (at 95% confidence level) at the tropical belt (5^{o}N-30^{o}N) and the mid-latitudes (30^{o}N-60^{o}N) for all datasets. For the polar latitudes (60^{o}N-90^{o}N), it should be noted the non-statistically significant (95%) small negative temperature (or even positive) trend during the pre-1980s period at the lower stratosphere in both RICH and FU-Berlin datasets in contrast to NCEP and CESM1-WACCM. For the post-1980s period in the lower stratosphere over polar latitudes all datasets indicate statistically significant cooling trends but with the tension in CESM1-WACCM simulation for a smaller cooling trend.

In the lower troposphere over the Northern Hemisphere, an insignificant change or a small cooling trend from the beginning of our datasets through the end of 1970s, (0.01±0.03 for NCEP and -0.13±0.03 ^{o}C/decade for RICH) is followed by a statistically significant warming trend in the post-1980s period (0.30±0.02 for NCEP and 0.27±0.02 ^{o}C/decade for RICH). CESM1-WACCM shows a persistent warming of the lower troposphere during summer by 0.23±0.09 ^{o}C/decade in the pre-1980s period and 0.28±0.07 ^{o}C/decade in the post-80s period. Tropospheric temperature trends in CESM1-WACCM simulations (see supplementary material SMT6) generally agree within 1-sigma with NCEP temperature trends before and after the 1980s with exception the pre-1980s trend in polar latitudes showing a statistical significant warming in contrast to NCEP and RICH datasets. When excluding the polar latitudes, CESM1-WACCM shows a non-statistically significant (at 95%) trend in the period 1958-1979 (0.05±0.06) followed by a warming trend over the period 1980-2005 (0.24±0.06 ^{o}C/decade) in agreement with NCEP and RICH. It should be also noted that the year-round tropospheric temperature trends in the post-1980s period calculated in NCEP (see supplementary material SMT3), RICH (see supplementary material SMT4) and WACCM model (see supplementary material SMT6) for the three latitudinal belts are within the range of respective calculations in previously published work based on different radiosonde datasets (Randel et al., 2009).

The effects of natural forcings derived from our multi-linear regression analysis are in generally good agreement with previous studies (e.g. Randel et al., 2009), given that we use layer-mean temperatures and different latitude band averages. The effects of solar and volcanic forcing are found to be more pronounced after 1980. Although the QBO signal is very small and insignificant in the troposphere, we have used the same regression model throughout the atmosphere for uniformity and consistency.

3.2 Monthly trends

The temperature trends were also calculated on a monthly basis. The layer mean temperature trends based on NCEP reanalysis (Figure 3) are persistently negative at the lower stratosphere for all months, for both periods before and after 1979 at the tropical and mid-latitude latitudinal belts. The monthly temperature trends based on the RICH dataset (Figure 4) and the FU-Berlin dataset (Figure 5) also show persistent negative temperature trends in the lower stratosphere for all months for both periods before and after 1979 at the tropical and mid-latitude latitudinal belts, in agreement with NCEP. The CESM1-WACCM simulation reproduces the cooling trends in the lower stratosphere for both pre-1980s and post-1980s at the tropical and mid-latitude latitudinal belts (Figure 6).

At polar latitudes, we find non-statistically significant (at 90% confidence level) cooling trends for all months in NCEP, except in February-March with a characteristic abrupt enforcement of the cooling trend in for the pre-1980s (Fig. 3e).~~At the polar latitudes, we also find cooling trends for all months in NCEP, except in March-April with a characteristic feature of an abrupt shift from a negative trend in winter to a positive trend in early spring for the pre-1980s (Figure 3e).~~ In the post-80s period the cooling trends are non-statistically significant for all months except in March-April ~~maximizing~~ with strongest cooling signal which mightay be associated to the Arctic ozone depletion by ODSs (Figure 3f). In the lower stratosphere over polar latitudes for the pre-80s period, both RICH (Figure 4e) and FU-Berlin (Figures 5a and 5c) datasets do not show statistically significant (at 90% confidence level) negative trends. However, it should be noted that the abrupt shift in trend from winter to early spring is a common feature in all three datasets which could be related to dynamical processes and the related variability of the polar vortex.~~. However, it should be noted that the abrupt shift from a negative trend in winter to a positive trend in early spring is a common feature in all three datasets.~~ In the post-80s period both RICH and FU-Berlin datasets indicate cooling trends maximizing in early spring in agreement with the NCEP results presumably due to the ozone depletion issue within the Arctic polar vortex. The CESM1-WACCM simulation captures at polar latitudes (Figure 6e) the ~~shift~~ abrupt decrease (or elimination) of the cooling trend from ~~a negative trend in~~ winter to ~~a positive trend in~~ early spring for the pre-80s period but the winter cooling trends are much stronger than in NCEP, RICH and FU-Berlin datasets. In the post-80s period the cooling trends are non-statistically significant (at 90% confidence level) for all months and the early-spring cooling trend seen in NCEP, RICH and FU-Berlin datasets (due to ODSs) is not captured or is smaller (Figure 6f). Overall, all datasets indicate that persistent cooling trends in the lower stratosphere exist in all months and for both periods before and after 1979 which is a robust feature over the tropical belt and the middle latitudes.

3.3 Tropopause - Temperature correlation

As seen in Figures 1 and 2, the tropopause pressure follows closely (but reversed) the tropospheric temperature long-term course with a cooling trend or absence of a trend until about the end of the 1970s and a warming trend from about the mid-1980s until present. Moving up in the lower stratosphere, we have seen that all datasets show persistent cooling temperature trends for both the pre-1980s and post-1980s periods (Figure 1 and Figure 2). In this section we investigate the interannual correlation of temperature with tropopause pressure on a monthly basis with the aim of unraveling the relative contribution of tropospheric and stratospheric temperatures on the interannual and long-term variability of tropopause pressure. As has been pointed out in previous studies, the interannual variability and the trends in tropopause height are mainly determined by the interannual variability and the trends of temperature in the lower stratosphere and upper troposphere (Seidel et al., 2006; Son et al., 2009).

At the tropical latitudinal belt (5N-30N) the pearson correlation between tropopause pressure and layer mean temperature (based on NCEP reanalysis) is negative ~~at~~ in the troposphere ranging from -0.3 to -0.7 becoming positive and stronger ~~at~~ in the lower stratosphere ranging from 0.6 to 0.9 (Figure 7a). The negative correlations in the troposphere have a seasonal signal with the tendency to get stronger during the summer period while in the lower stratosphere the strong positive correlation persists throughout the course of the year. Hence it is inferred from Figure 7a that throughout the year the interannual variance of the lower stratospheric temperatures contribute to the interannual variability at the tropopause region, a higher percentage than that contributed from the variance of tropospheric temperatures. The relative contribution of tropospheric temperatures in the interannual variance at tropopause maximizes during the warm period of the year. CESM1-WACCM (Figure 7d) reproduces fairly well the correlation pattern of NCEP at the tropical band, thus indicating good skill of the model to simulate the relation in the interannual variability between tropopause height and temperature in the lower stratosphere/upper troposphere region.

At mid-latitudes, the tropopause-temperature correlations in NCEP dataset become weaker, reaching 0.4 ~~at~~ in the lower stratosphere and -0.5 ~~at~~ in the troposphere mainly from June to

September (Figure 7b) indicating a higher sensitivity of tropopause interannual changes to tropospheric temperature changes during the warm season. CESM1-WACCM (Figure 7e) captures the basic pattern of the tropopause-temperature correlations seen in NCEP for mid-latitudes.

At polar latitudes (60N-90N), the negative correlations (in NCEP) in the troposphere have a seasonal signal with the tendency to get stronger during the warm period of the year reaching a value of -0.7 while in the lower stratosphere the positive correlations become stronger during the cold part of the year reaching a value of 0.8 (Figure 7c). Thus the interannual variability of lower stratospheric temperature dominates over tropospheric temperature for controlling the interannual variability of the tropopause during the cold part of the year linked with the development of the polar vortex. In contrast during the warm period of the year, the interannual variability of tropospheric temperature takes over stratospheric temperature, linked to the higher heating rates of the polar troposphere.

The tropopause-temperature correlations pattern in CESM1-WACCM over the polar latitudes (Figure 7f) is similar to the pattern of mid-latitudes and does not capture the NCEP correlation pattern of polar latitudes. A common feature for the three latitudinal belts and for both NCEP and WACCM is that the negative correlations in the troposphere have a seasonal signal with the tension tendency to get stronger during the warm part of the year, linked to the more efficient mechanism of tropospheric heating to affect the interannual variability of climate variables at the tropopause region.

4 Discussion and concluding remarks

We presented the stratospheric temperature trends from the late 1950s using the independently produced FU-Berlin stratospheric dataset comprising monthlyof layer-mean temperatures derived from geopotential heights together with other analysis using reanalysis and radiosonde and reanalysis data over the northern hemisphere.data since 1957 thus extending the records in the past. The imposition of the geostrophic and hydrostatic balance conditions in FU-Berlin dataset ensures a consistent layer-mean temperature dataset (derived from geopotential height thickness) which represents the synoptic-scale structure of the lower and middle stratosphere and it is well suited for an investigation of large-scale climatic fluctuations of temperature.

The analysis is mainly based on monthly layer mean temperatures derived from geopotential height thicknesses between specific pressure levels that improve homogeneity in both space and time and reduce uncertainties in the trend analysis. After removing the natural related variability with the use of climatic and dynamical indices in a statistical autoregressive multiple regression model, the calculated year-round trends showed a persistent decreasing temperature trendsdecrease in temperatures in the lower stratosphere before and after 1980ssince the late 50s. This is also confirmed by applying from the interannual trend analyses separately in for summer when the stratosphere is less disturbed, the Brewer-Dobson circulation is weaker and it is also not influenced at high latitudes by the chemical ozone depletion due to ODSs found in the winter-early spring period (e.g. Harris et al., 2008). These decreasing lower stratosphere trends are robust features for NCEP, FU-Berlin and RICH datasets in the tropics and the middle latitudes. The CESM1-WACCM simulation reproduces the lower stratosphere cooling trends temperature trends before and after the 1980s in the tropics and over mid-latitudes, consistent with an increased infrared emission by CO_2 (Marsh et al., 2013). It should be noted that modelled trends in the lower stratosphere were found to be generally lower than those found in the re-analysis and the observations. However, the lower stratosphere modelled trends are generally lower than re-analysis and the observations. This result is in agreement with the study of by Santer et al. (2013) who showed that on average the CMIP5 models analyzed analysed underestimate the observed cooling of the lower stratosphere maybe due to the need for a more realistic treatment of stratospheric ozone depletion and volcanic aerosol forcing.

It should be pointed out that the temperature long-term trends based on RICH are within 1-sigma of the thickness calculated layer temperature trends from FU-Berlin and NCEP datasets indicating a consistent picture for the cooling trend of the lower stratosphere before and after the 1980s. The consistency of RICH temperature trends with the thickness calculated layer mean temperature trends from FU-Berlin and NCEP, enhances our confidence for the cooling trend in the lower stratosphere in the pre-satellite era despite the documented trend uncertainties of the radiosonde datasets during this period (Randel and Wu, 2006; Free and Seidel, 2007; Randel et al. 2009). Furthermore the inspection of lower stratospheric trends on a monthly basis for all datasets indicate the persistent cooling trends in the lower stratosphere to be a common feature for all months before and after 1980s both at the tropical belt and over the middle latitudes.

The post-1980s lower stratosphere cooling is a common finding in the global mean based on all available satellite and radiosonde datasets while the stratosphere cooling is also reported for the pre-satellite era since 1958 (WMO, 2011; Zerefos and Mantis, 1977). Our post-1980 year round stratospheric temperature trends at layers L4 (100-50 hPa) and L5 (50-30 hPa) are in the range of calculated trends in Microwave Sounding Unit (MSU) channel 4 (15-20 km) and Stratospheric Sounding Unit (SSU) channel 1 (25-35 km). MSU channel 4 trends derived from RSS and UAH data show cooling trends over the Northern Hemisphere ranging from -0.2 ^{o}C/decade to -0.5 ^{o}C/decade over the period 1979-2007 (Randel et al., 2009). Comparable cooling trends were obtained for MSU channel 4 after reprocessing by NOAA with the trends at polar latitudes revealing higher uncertainties. The SSU channel 1 trends as processed by the UK Met Office and reprocessed by NOAA show cooling trends ranging from about -0.5 ^{o}C/decade (Met office) to about -1.1 ^{o}C/decade (NOAA) over the period 1979-2005 (Thompson et al., 2012).

These long term cooling trends in the lower stratosphere can be maintained by increasing GHGs that cool the stratosphere while warming the troposphere (IPCC, 2007 and references therein; Polvani and Solomon, 2012). The post 1980s decrease in stratospheric ozone in late winter-early spring at mid and polar latitudes of Northern Hemisphere due to ODSs complicates the issue (Harris et al., 2008). However the ~~persistency~~ persistence of the cooling trends ~~in our results~~ in the lower stratosphere for all months and especially during the less disturbed summer period with the reduced interannual variance which are observed both before and after the 1980s over the tropics and the mid-latitudes indicates that the anthropogenic enhanced greenhouse effect is the most plausible cause for the observed stratospheric quasi monotonous cooling in the Northern Hemisphere.

At polar latitudes (60^{o}N-90^{o}N) the cooling trends in~~, though,~~ the lower stratosphere ~~cooling trends~~ are either non-statistically significant or marginally significant at the 95% confidence level for all datasets. This finding could be related to the competing dynamical and radiative processes that ~~may~~ reduce the statistical significance of these trends. A number of modeling studies suggest that the greenhouse warming leads to stronger tropical upwelling and stronger Brewer-Dobson (BD) circulation (Rind et al., 2001; Cordero and Forster, 2006; Butchart et al., 2006; Butchart et al., 2010; Austin and Li, 2006; Rosenlof and Reid, 2008; Garcia and Randel, 2008; Lamarque and Solomon, 2010). The GHG induced strengthening of BD circulation may lead to a relatively warmer lower stratosphere at higher latitudes thus masking the GHGs radiatively cooling discussed before. In contrast, over the tropics both dynamical and radiative processes act towards the same direction~~,~~ i.e. the cooling in the lower stratosphere. Our results are in line with other recent studies. For example, Thompson and Solomon (2009) demonstrated that the contrasting latitudinal structures of recent stratospheric temperature (i.e., stronger cooling in the tropical lower stratosphere than in the extratropics) and ozone trends (i.e., enhanced ozone reduction in the tropical lower stratosphere) are consistent with the assumption of increases in the stratospheric overturning BD circulation. Free (2011) also pointed that the trends in the tropical stratosphere show an inverse relationship with those in the Arctic for 1979–2009, which might be related to changes in stratospheric circulation.

In the troposphere, a common feature in the RICH and NCEP datasets is a non-statistically significant trend or a slight cooling trend until about the end of the 1970s, followed by a warming trend until the present day for the three latitudinal belts. This pre-1980s cooling trend (or absence of trend) in the troposphere is associated with a notable cooling trend from the late 1940s to 1970s (IPCC, 2007), which has been raised as a point of weakness against the advocates of the theory of CO_2 related anthropogenic global warming (Thompson et al., 2010). However, apart from the important role of the decadal natural variability hampering the anthropogenic climate change (Ring et al., 2012; Kosaka and Xie, 2013), anthropogenic aerosols also attracted the scientific interest as a possible cause for this mid-century cooling due to a high concentration of ~~sulphate~~ sulfate aerosols emitted in the atmosphere by industrial activities and volcanic eruptions during this period causing the so-called ‘‘solar dimming’’ effect (e.g. Wild et al., 2007; Zerefos et al., 2012). Hence the pre-1980s small cooling trend or insignificant change might be due to natural variability in the ocean-atmosphere system in combination with the compensating role of anthropogenic aerosols in the troposphere. Concerns have been raised recently that increases in aerosol from anthropogenic air pollution and associated dimming of surface solar radiation could have masked to a large extent the temperature rise induced by increasing greenhouse gases, so that the observed temperature records would not reflect the entire dimension of greenhouse warming (Andreae et al., 2005; Wild et al., 2007).

The investigation of the interannual correlation of tropopause pressure with tropospheric and stratospheric temperatures showed a few distinct characteristics. A common feature for the three latitudinal belts in both NCEP and CESM1-WACCM is that the influence of tropospheric temperature on the interannual variability of tropopause has a seasonal signal with the tendency to get stronger during the warm period of the year when the tropospheric heating maximizes.

In the tropics (5^{o}N-30^{o}N), the interannual variability of lower stratospheric temperature dominates over tropospheric temperature for controlling the interannual variability of the tropopause throughout the year in both NCEP and CESM1-WACCM. This could possibly explain why at the tropical zone (5^{o}N-30^{o}N) there is a decreasing trend of tropopause pressure (increase of tropopause height) in the pre-1980s. Seidel and Radel (2006) also reported using radiosonde data that on the multidecadal scale for tropical atmosphere, the tropopause height change is more sensitive to stratospheric temperature change than tropospheric change and hence at the lowest frequencies the tropopause is primarily coupled with stratospheric temperatures.

At mid-latitudes the tropopause pressure - temperature correlations become generally weaker maximizing from June to September with tropospheric temperatures slightly overwhelming stratospheric temperatures for the control of the interannual variability of tropopause. This is in line with the study of Son et al. (2009) who analysed a set of long-term integrations with stratosphere-resolving chemistry climate models (CCMs) and reported that at mid-latitudes the linear tropopause height increase is rather controlled by the upper troposphere warming rather than the lower stratosphere cooling. Wu et al. (2013) reported a significant positive correlation between the changes in the tropospheric temperature induced by aerosols and tropopause height at mid-latitudes, the zone between 30° and 60° in both hemispheres. Hence taking into account the anthropogenic aerosols variability in the troposphere, the tropopause trends at mid-latitudes may not solely reflect human induced climate change signal from GHGs.

At polar latitudes (in NCEP) the interannual variability of lower stratospheric temperature dominates over tropospheric temperature for controlling the interannual variability of the tropopause during the cold part of the year (linked with the development of the polar vortex) while the opposite occurs during the warm period of the year (linked to the higher heating rates of polar troposphere). However, during the late winter-early spring, chemical ozone depletion within polar Arctic stratosphere in the post-1980s period could further cool the lower stratosphere (in addition to the radiative effect of GHGs) leading possibly to an even higher tropopause. The GHGs induced strengthening of BD circulation, which leads to a relatively warmer lower stratosphere (thus masking the GHGs radiatively cooling) and lower tropopause, further complicates the issue of using lower stratosphere temperature and tropopause height as climate change indicators at polar latitudes. CESM1-WACCM at polar latitudes does not capture the respective NCEP correlation pattern, an issue that needs further investigation.

The relative contribution of lower stratosphere versus troposphere for the control of tropopause low frequency variability is an important issue for understanding past and future tropopause trends in view also of the monotonically increasing future tropopause height trends till the end of 21st century predicted by both stratosphere-resolving chemistry climate models (CCMs) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) models (Son et al., 2009).

In conclusion, we provide additional evidence for an early greenhouse cooling signal of the lower stratosphere before the 1980s, which appears earlier than the tropospheric greenhouse warming ~~signal possibly due to the compensating role of antropogenic aerosols~~. As a result, it may be that the stratosphere could have provided an early warning of human-produced climate change. In line with the theoretical expectations that equilibrium temperature in the stratosphere compared to the troposphere is more sensitive to anthropogenic GHGs and less sensitive to tropospheric water vapour, aerosols and clouds, it is tentatively proposed that the stratosphere is more suitable for the detection of man-made climate change signal. We suggest that the maintenance and enrichment of the ground-based and satellite global networks for monitoring stratospheric temperatures and the tropopause region, which adds value in understanding the behaviour of the interface between the troposphere and stratosphere, are essential steps to unravel the issue of future human induced climate change signals.

Acknowledgments

For University of Illinois, this research was supported in part from NASA under project NASA NNX12AF32G. We acknowledge the support provided by the Mariolopoulos-Kanaginis Foundation for the Environmental Sciences. Prodromos Zanis and Juerg Luterbacher would like also to acknowledge the support in the framework of the Greece-Germany Exchange and Cooperation Programme, IKYDA 2012. The FU-Berlin dataset was obtained by K. Labitzke and Collaborators, 2002: The Berlin Stratospheric Data Series, CD from the Meteorological Institute, Free University Berlin. NCEP Reanalysis derived data provided by the NOAA/OAR/ESRL PSD, Boulder, Colorado, USA, from their Web site at http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/. The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions.

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Table 1: Trend calculations in northern hemisphere summer (JJA) based on the monthly normalised time series of the layer mean temperature (^{o}C/decade) and tropopause pressure (hPa/decade) calculated from NCEP reanalysis and filtered from natural variations at the latitudinal belts a) 5 N-30 N, b) 30 N - 60 N and c) 60 N - 90 N. The layers are: L1: 1000-925 hPa, L2: 925-500 hPa, L3: 500-300 hPa, L4: 100-50 hPa and L5: 50-30 hPa. The trends calculations refer to the periods 1958-1979, 1980-2001, 1980-2005 and 1980-2011.

Period 1958-1979

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.26±.11	2.48	-.01±.04	-.25	.11±.03	3.91
L2	.10±.09	1.12	-.11±.04	-2.92	-.01±.04	-.22
L3	-.42±.07	-5.69	-.25±.04	-6.89	-.11±.05	-2.19
L4	-.57±.31	-1.83	-.59±.06	-10.37	-.21±.12	-1.79
L5	-.77±.35	-2.19	-.74±.09	-8.38	-.59±.10	-5.99
TP	**1.98± 1.25**	**1.58**	**2.42± .28**	**8.57**	**.19± .24**	**.78**

Period 1980-2001

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.39±.11	3.42	.23±.04	5.31	.06±.03	2.00
L2	.05±.09	.56	.19±.04	4.74	.04±.04	.93
L3	.14±.08	1.83	.07±.04	1.50	-.10±.05	-2.20
L4	-.70±.34	-2.04	-.94±.07	-14.14	-.90±.11	-8.30
L5	-.66±.36	-1.84	-.83±.08	-10.02	-.73±.09	-8.20
TP	**-1.87± 1.69**	**-1.10**	**-1.59±.35**	**-4.52**	**-.82±.24**	**-3.43**

Period 1980-2005

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.61±.09	6.75	.28±.03	8.31	.11±.02	5.51
L2	.14±.07	2.07	.24±.03	7.81	.11±.03	3.67
L3	.23±.06	3.91	.11±.03	3.20	-.01±.03	-.35
L4	-.43±.26	-1.61	-.69±.06	-11.86	-.79±.08	-9.51
L5	-.46±.28	-1.66	-.63±.07	-9.14	-.55±.08	-6.90
TP	**-1.06± 1.30**	**-.82**	**-.72±.27**	**-2.68**	**-.75±.18**	**-4.14**

Period 1980-2011

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.65±.07	9.18	.29±.03	10.83	.13±.02	7.85
L2	.25±.05	4.68	.27±.03	10.50	.16±.02	6.40
L3	.28±.05	5.99	.16±.03	5.91	.07±.03	2.22
L4	-.32±.22	-1.50	-.53±.05	-10.03	-.67±.07	-10.21
L5	-.38±.22	-1.70	-.45±.06	-7.59	-.41±.06	-6.51
TP	**-1.49± 1.07**	**-1.40**	**-1.07±.25**	**-4.23**	**-.91±.15**	**-5.92**

Table 2: Trend calculations in northern hemisphere summer (JJA) based on the monthly normalised time series of the layer mean temperature (^{o}C/decade) and tropopause pressure TP (hPa/decade) calculated from the WACCM model and filtered from natural variations at the latitudinal belts a) 5 N-30 N, b) 30 N - 60 N and c) 60 N - 90 N. The layers are: L1: 1000-925 hPa, L2: 925-500 hPa, L3: 500-300 hPa, L4: 100-50 hPa and L5: 50-30 hPa. The trends calculations refer to the periods 1958-1979, 1980-2001 and 1980-2005.

Period 1958-1979

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.70±.45	1.55	.01±.32	.02	-.02±.10	-.16
L2	.37±.09	4.23	-.01±.04	-.20	.19±.02	8.66
L3	.13±.06	2.14	.02±.04	.43	.24±.03	7.83
L4	-.26±.32	-.81	-.22±.10	-2.25	-.30±.09	-3.22
L5	-.28±.35	-.80	-.32±.13	-2.41	-.57±.10	-5.80
TP	**.33± 1.13**	**.29**	**-1.42±.45**	**-3.14**	**-.57±.53**	**-1.07**

Period 1980-2001

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.14±.42	.33	.12±.36	.34	.40±.10	3.97
L2	.40±.10	3.90	.29±.04	6.67	.22±.04	5.14
L3	.33±.07	4.64	.26±.05	5.25	.29±.07	4.31
L4	-.43±.28	-1.50	-.16±.14	-1.19	-.31±.15	-2.08
L5	-.35±.31	-1.13	-.40±.17	-2.40	-.44±.16	-2.73
TP	**-2.20± 1.02**	**-2.16**	**-.75±.43**	**-1.74**	**-.10±.53**	**-.19**

Period 1980-2005

	90-60N		60-30N		30-05N	
Layer	Trend	t-test	trend	t-test	trend	t-test
L1	.04±.32	.12	-.03±.29	-.11	.35±.08	4.43
L2	.34±.08	4.40	.31±.04	8.39	.23±.03	7.49
L3	.30±.06	5.39	.32±.04	7.83	.32±.05	6.46
L4	-.52±.23	-2.30	-.13±.10	-1.28	-.23±.11	-2.14
L5	-.46±.25	-1.85	-.34±.13	-2.72	-.30±.11	-2.62
TP	**-2.87±.86**	**-3.35**	**-.69±.34**	**-2.01**	**-.55±.40**	**-1.38**

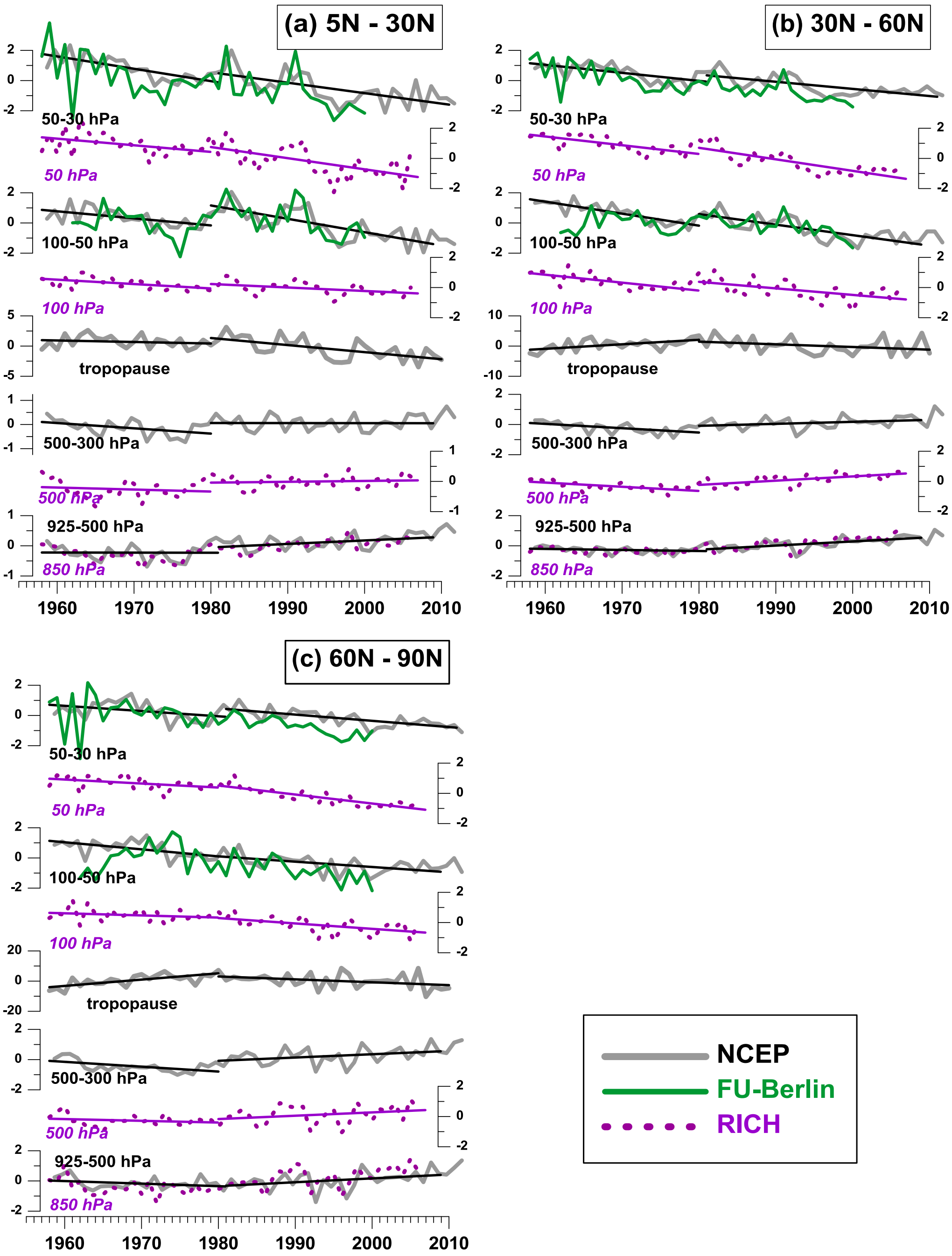

Figure 1: Layer mean temperature variations in northern hemisphere summer (JJA) at layers

925-500 hPa, 500-300 hPa, 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa calculated from NCEP reanalysis and FU-Berlin datasets and filtered from natural variations for three latitudinal belts a) 5N-30N, b) 30N - 60N and c) 60N - 90N. The respective summer normalised time series of temperature from RICH dataset at levels 850 hPa, 500 hPa, 50 hPa and 30 hPa are also illustrated as well as the NCEP tropopause pressure. The trends lines before and after 1979 are superimposed. Grey lines denote NCEP reanalysis variations. Green lines denote variations as depicted in the FU-Berlin analysis, while purple dotted lines the RICH data temperature. The units at vertical axis are in degrees ^{o}C except for the tropopause that is in hPa.

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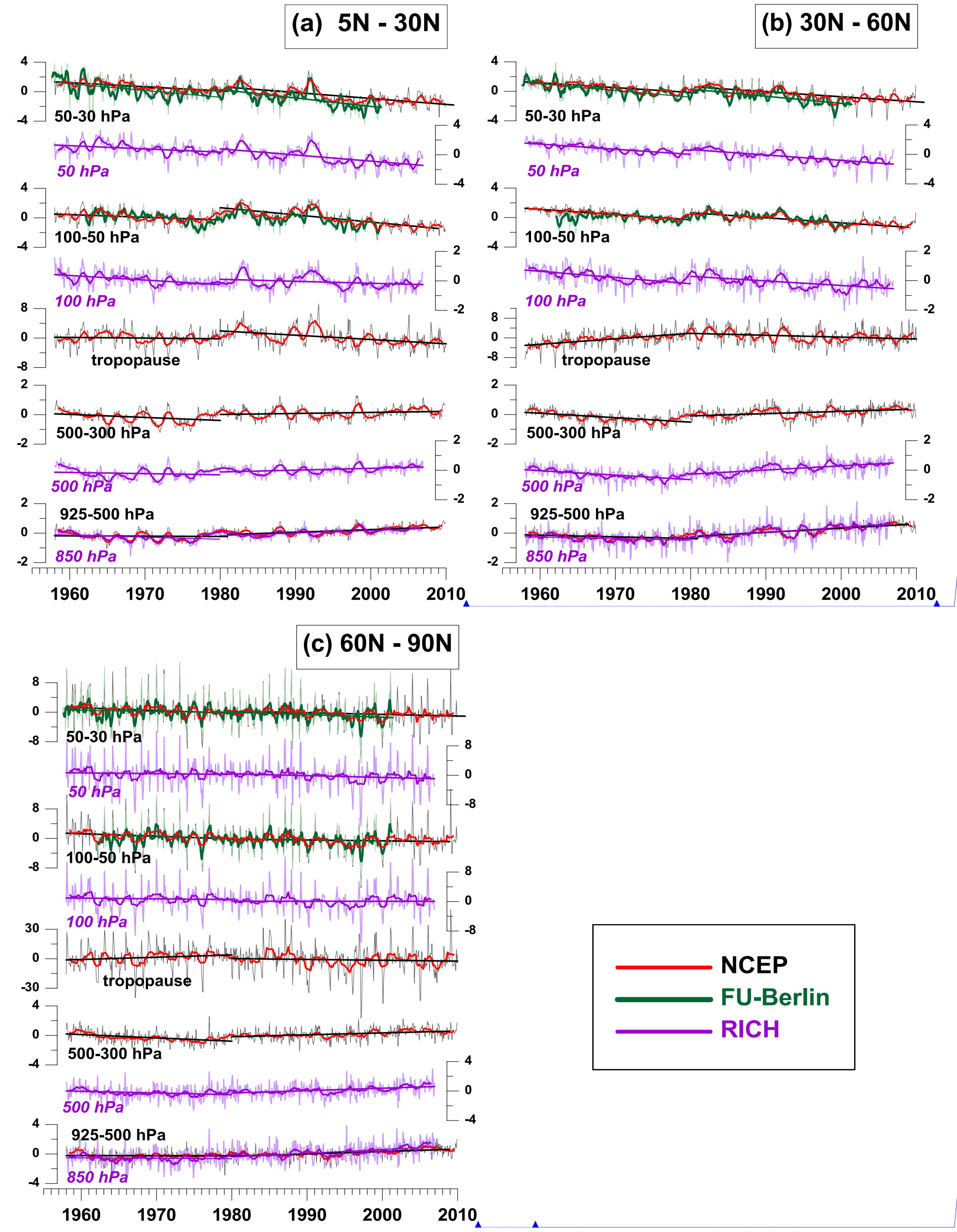

Figure 2:Monthly normalised time series of the layer mean temperature at layers 925-500 hPa, 500-300 hPa, 100-50 hPa and 50-30 hPa calculated from NCEP reanalysis and FU-Berlin

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datasets for the northern hemisphere and filtered from natural variations at the latitudinal belts a) 5 N-30 N, b) 30 N - 60 N and c) 60 N - 90 N. The respective monthly normalised time series of temperature from RICH dataset at levels 850 hPa, 500 hPa, 50 hPa and 30 hPa are also illustrated with purple lines as well as the NCEP tropopause pressure normalized monthly means. The trends lines before and after 1979 are also superimposed. The units at vertical axis are in degrees ^{o}C except for the tropopause that is in hPa.

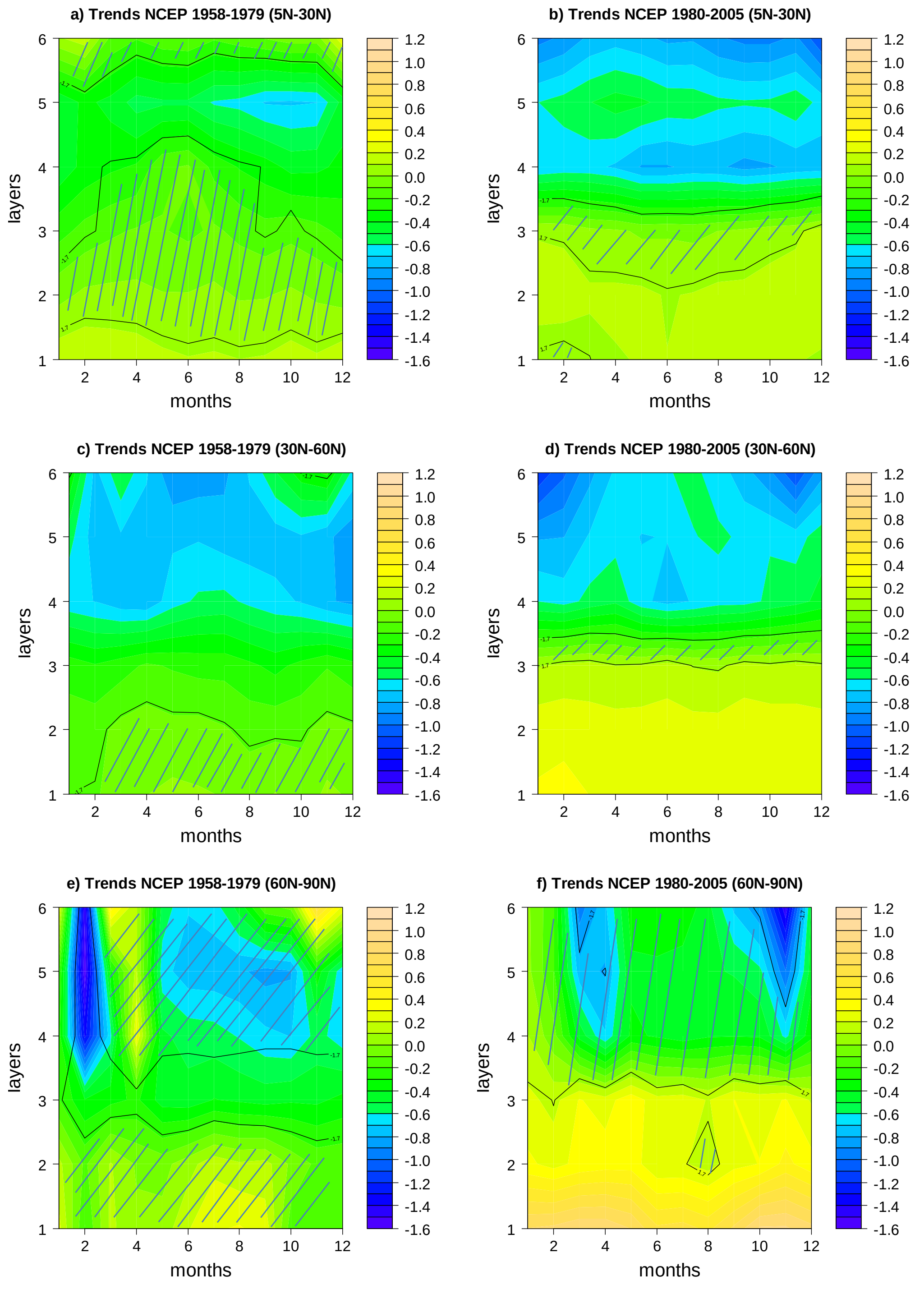

Figure 3: Layer mean temperature trends (^oC/decade) for each month (x-axis) and layer (y-axis) based on NCEP reanalysis over the periods 1958-1979 and 1980-2005, respectively, for three latitudinal belts a) and b) for 5N-30N, c) and d) for 30N - 60N and e) f) for 60N -

90N. The layers are: Layer 1: 1000-925 hPa, Layer 2: 925-500 hPa, Layer 3: 500-300 hPa, Layer 4: 100-50 hPa, Layer 5: 50-30 hPa, and Layer 6: 30-10 hPa. The shaded areas are non-statistically significant at 90% confidence level.

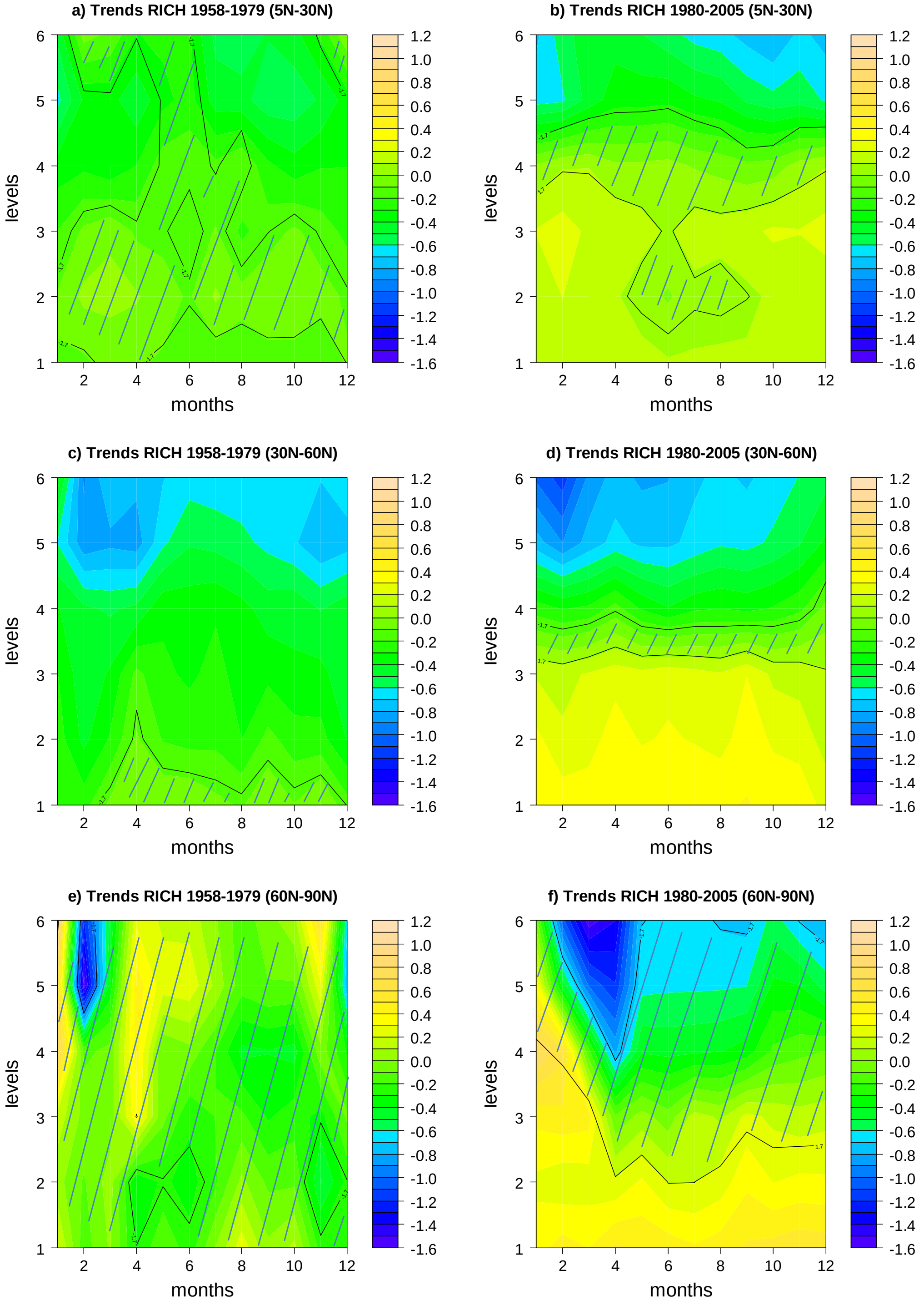

Figure 4: Temperature trends (^{o}C/decade) for each month (x-axis) and level (y-axis) based on RICH dataset over the periods 1958-1979 and 1980-2005, respectively, for three latitudinal

belts a) and b) for 5N-30N, c) and d) for 30N - 60N and e) and f) for 60N - 90N. The levels are: Level 1: 850 hPa, Level 2: 500 hPa, Level 3: 300 hPa, Level 4: 100 hPa, Level 5: 50 hPa, and Level 6: 30 hPa. The shaded areas are non-statistically significant at 90% confidence level.

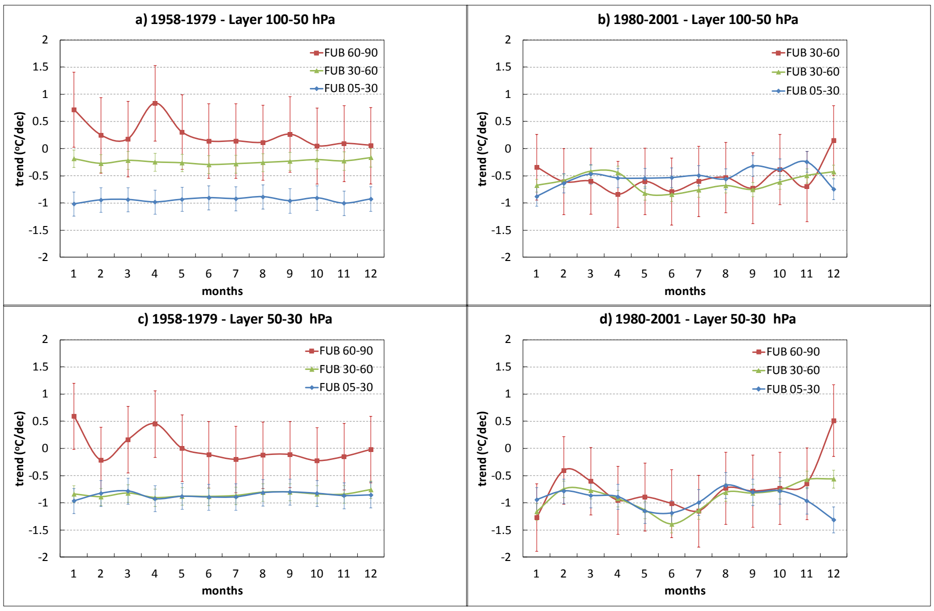

Figure 5: Mean temperature trends (^{o}C/decade) for each month (x-axis) based on FU-Berlin dataset over the periods 1958-1979 and 1980-2001 for the layers 100-50 hPa (a and b) and 50-30 hPa (c and d) for the three latitudinal belts, 5N-30N (blue), 30N - 60N (green) and 60N - 90N (red).

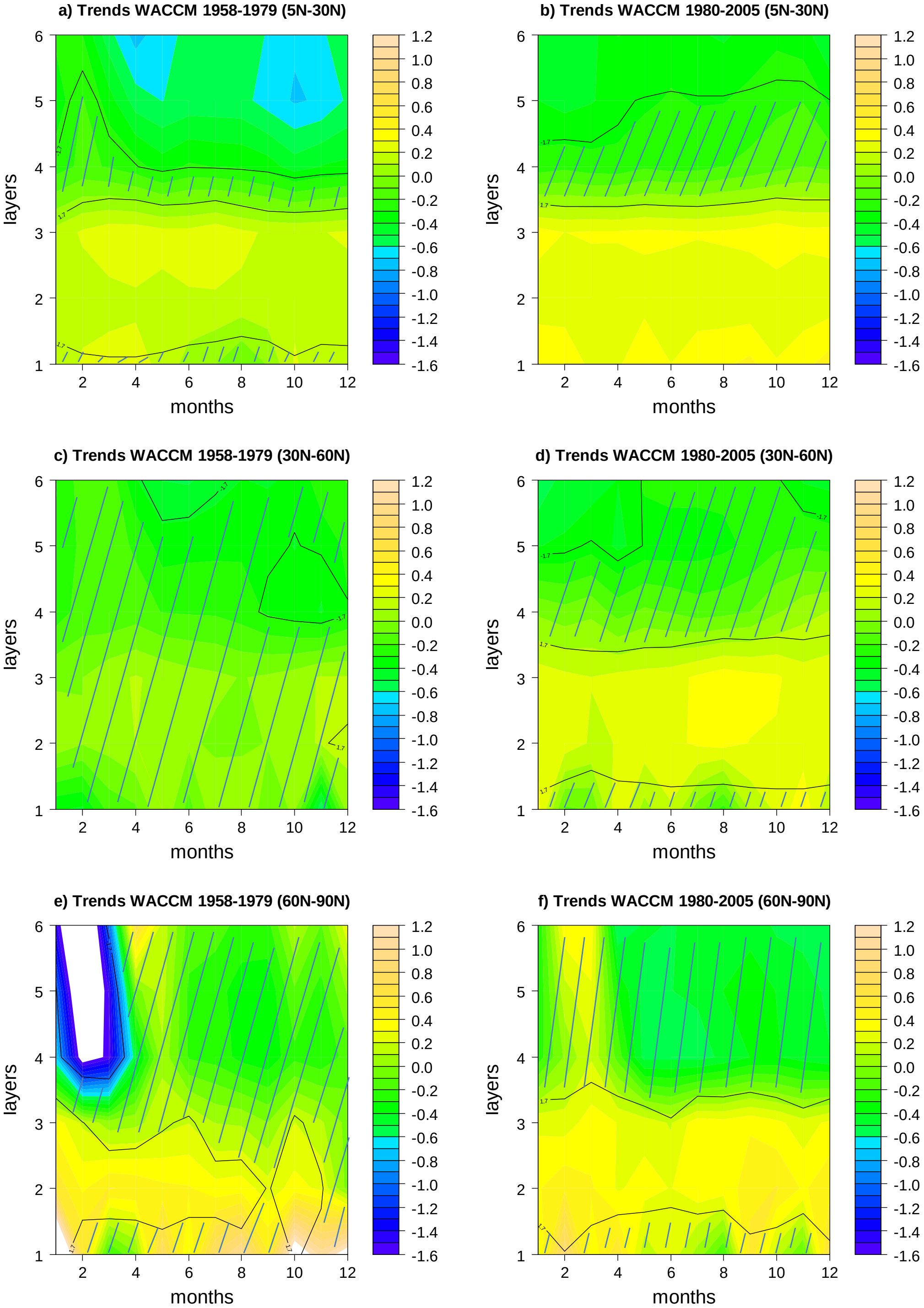

Figure 6: Layer mean temperature trends (^{o}C/decade) for each month (x-axis) and layer (y-axis) based on WACCM model over the periods 1958-1979 and 1980-2005, respectively, for

three latitudinal belts a) and b) for 5N-30N, c) and d) for 30N - 60N and e) and f) for 60N - 90N. The layers are: Layer 1: 1000-925 hPa, Layer 2: 925-500 hPa, Layer 3: 500-300 hPa, Layer 4: 100-50 hPa, Layer 5: 50-30 hPa, and Layer 6: 30-10 hPa. The shaded areas are non-statistically significant at 90% confidence level.

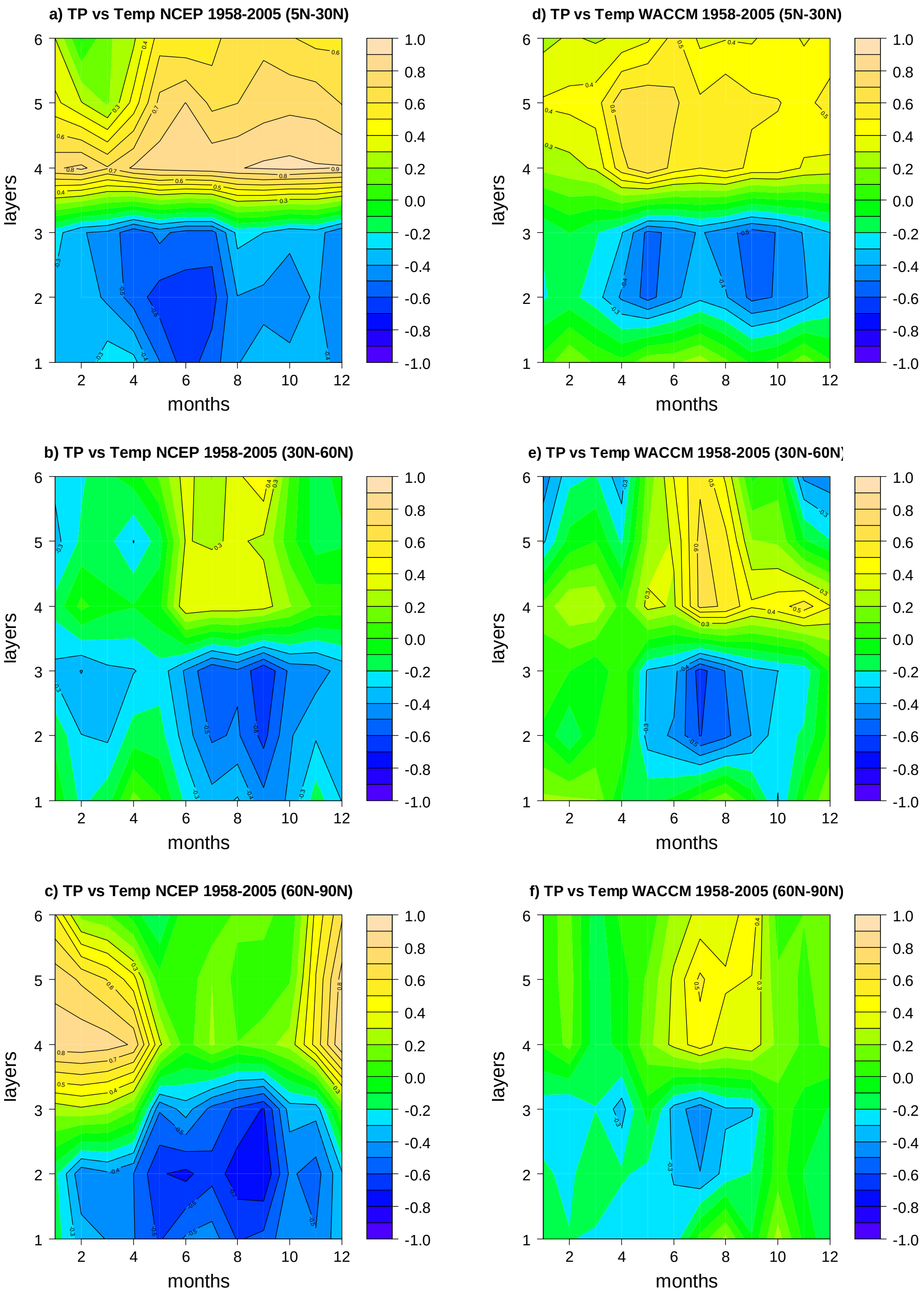

Figure 7: Correlation plots between tropopause pressure and layer mean temperature for each month (x-axis) and layer (y-axis) based on NCEP reanalysis (left panel) and WACCM model (right panel) over the common period 1958-2005 for the three latitudinal belts: 5N-30N (a and

d), 30N - 60N (b and e) and 60N - 90N (c and f). The layers are: Layer 1: 1000-925 hPa, Layer 2: 925-500 hPa, Layer 3: 500-300 hPa, Layer 4: 100-50 hPa, Layer 5: 50-30 hPa, and Layer 6: 30-10 hPa. The contours indicate the statistically significant correlations at 95% significance level with -$\rho>0.3$ or $\rho<-0.3$.

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