

Uplifting of carbon monoxide from biomass burning and anthropogenic sources to the free troposphere in East Asia

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1 **Abstract**

2
3 East Asia has experienced rapid development with increasing CO emission in the past
4 decades. Therefore, uplifting CO from the boundary layer to the free troposphere in East
5 Asia can have great implications on regional air quality around the world. It can also
6 influence global climate due to the longer lifetime of CO at higher altitudes. In this study,
7 three cases of high CO episodes in the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan from 2003 to
8 2005 are examined with spaceborne Measurements Of Pollution In The Troposphere
9 (MOPITT) data, in combination with aircraft measurements from the Measurement of
10 Ozone and Water Vapor by Airbus In-Service Aircraft (MOZAIC) program. High CO
11 abundances of 300-550 ppbv are observed in MOZAIC data in the free troposphere
12 during these episodes. These are among the highest CO abundances documented at these
13 altitudes. On average, such episodes with CO over 400 ppbv (in the 2003 and 2004 cases)
14 and between 200-300 ppbv (in the 2005 case) may occur 2-5% and 10-20% in time,
15 respectively, in the respective altitudes over the region. Correspondingly, elevated CO is
16 shown in MOPITT daytime data in the middle to upper troposphere in the 2003 case,
17 mostly in the lower to middle troposphere in the 2004 case, and in the upper troposphere
18 in the 2005 case. Through analyses of the simulations from a chemical transport model
19 GEOS-Chem and a trajectory dispersion model FLEXPART, we found different CO
20 signatures in the elevated CO and distinct transport pathways and mechanisms for these
21 cases. In the 2003 case, emissions from large forest fires near Lake Baikal dominated the
22 elevated CO, which had been rapidly transported upward by a frontal system from the fire
23 plumes. In the 2004 case, anthropogenic CO from the North China Plain experienced

24 frontal lifting and mostly reached ~700 hPa near the East China Sea, while CO from
25 biomass burning over Indochina experienced orographic lifting, leeside-trough induced
26 convection, and frontal lifting through two separate transport pathways, leading to two
27 distinct CO enhancements around 700 hPa and 300 hPa. In the 2005 case, the observed
28 CO of ~300 ppbv around 300 hPa originated from anthropogenic sources over the
29 Sichuan basin and the North China Plain and from forest fires over Indochina. The high
30 CO was transported to such altitudes through strong frontal lifting, interacting with
31 convection and orographic lifting. These cases show that topography affects vertical
32 transport of CO in East Asia via different ways, including orographic uplifting over the
33 Hengduan Mountains, assisting frontal lifting in the North China Plain, and facilitating
34 convection in the Sichuan basin. In particular, topography-induced leeside troughs over
35 Indochina led to strong convection that assisted CO uplifting to the upper troposphere.
36 This study shows that the new daytime MOPITT near-infrared (NIR) and
37 thermal-infrared (TIR) data (version 5 or above) have enhanced vertical sensitivity in the
38 free troposphere and may help qualitative diagnosis of vertical transport processes in East
39 Asia.

40

41 **1 Introduction**

42 Carbon monoxide (CO) plays several important roles in the atmosphere. The
43 oxidizing capability, an ability of the atmosphere to cleanse itself, is strongly influenced
44 by the CO level in the troposphere. CO near the surface is a major pollutant. Under high
45 NO_x conditions, CO is a precursor of ozone, while in low NO_x airmasses, CO helps ozone
46 destruction (Jacob, 1999; Holloway et al., 2000). As carbon dioxide (CO₂) is produced in

47 both ozone production and destruction processes (Holloway et al., 2000), CO is linked to
48 the global carbon cycle (Suntharalingam et al., 2004; Yurganov et al., 2008; Nassar et al.,
49 2010) affecting climate change. With a lifetime of weeks to months, CO is a good tracer
50 tracking transport of pollution. In the purview of these roles, it is important to understand
51 processes influencing the CO distribution and variability in the atmosphere.

52 Although the main sources of atmospheric CO and its mean status are generally
53 understood (Novelli et al., 1998; Jacob, 1999; Holloway et al., 2000), many processes
54 influencing CO variations at different time scales are not well known. Uplifting CO from
55 the boundary layer to the free troposphere (FT) is such a process, which usually occurs on
56 the synoptic scale that spans hundreds to thousands of kilometers in space and lasts hours
57 to days in time (Daley, 1991). Uplifted CO usually has a longer lifetime and can be
58 transported fast by the upper layer winds over long distances through continents and
59 between hemispheres in the troposphere (Stohl, 2001; Stohl et al., 2002; Damoah et al.,
60 2004). Uplifting air mass from the surface to FT generally takes place by three processes
61 (1) frontal lifting, (2) orographic lifting, and (3) deep convection (Brown et al., 1984;
62 Banic et al., 1986; Dickerson et al., 1987; Bethan et al., 1998; Pickering et al., 1998;
63 Chung et al., 1999; Donnell et al., 2001; Kowol-Santen et al., 2001; Cooper et al., 2002;
64 Liu et al., 2003; Miyazaki et al., 2003; Chan et al., 2004; Mari et al., 2004; Li et al., 2005;
65 Liu et al., 2006; Kar et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2008; Ding et al., 2009; Randel et al., 2010;
66 Chen et al., 2012).

67 East Asia has experienced rapid development with increasing CO emission in the
68 past decades (Duncan et al., 2007). In addition to impacts on local air quality (Wang et al.,
69 2010), continuing increase in CO emissions will lead to great impacts on regional air

70 quality and climate of the world (Jaffe et al., 1999; Berntsen et al., 1999; Bertsch et al.,
71 2004) because of an expected upward trend in pollution outflow from the region. East
72 Asia is characterized by its unique and complex meteorology, topography, and land
73 covers. Vertical transport of CO can be modulated by one or more of these conditions or
74 by their interactions. For example, the likelihood of when and where extratropical
75 cyclones are active is closely linked to the locations and frequency of frontal uplifting.
76 Wet and dry convections prevail in different seasons in northern China because of the
77 distinct climatological pattern in precipitation there (Dickerson et al., 2007). The
78 topography there also plays an important role in uplifting of CO alone and/or interplaying
79 with frontal systems, aiding convection in mountainous regions (Liu et al., 2003; Ding et
80 al. 2009). Recently, Lin et al. (2009) proposed a new mechanism that emphasizes the role
81 of topography-induced leeside troughs over Indochina in promoting strong convection. A
82 variety of land cover types in East Asia diversifies CO sources there. In highly populated
83 urban areas, such as those in the North China Plain, anthropogenic emissions are high.
84 Large biomass burning, occurring in areas with abundant vegetation, can generate great
85 amounts of CO for vertical transport when meteorological conditions become favorable.
86 Two such areas are Southeast Asia and the boreal forested area in Russia (Wotawa et al.,
87 2001; Schultz, 2002; Duncan et al., 2003). So far, our understanding of the impacts of
88 these processes and their interactions on CO uplifting is still rather limited (Dickerson et
89 al., 2007). The objectives of studying vertical transport of CO in East Asia are to better
90 understand the vertical distribution of CO in the region, to advance the assessment of
91 impacts of long-range transport of Asian CO on regions downwind, and to help improve
92 simulating this process in atmospheric models on the synoptic scale, eventually leading to

93 more realistic chemical weather forecast in the future (Lawrence et al., 2003).

94 Due to lack of continuous measurements, most studies on CO in East Asia are based
95 on observations from periodic field campaigns (Jacob et al., 2003; Tsutsumi et al., 2003;
96 Li et al., 2007; Ding et al., 2009) or simulations by chemical transport models (Berntsen
97 et al., 1999; Bey et al., 2001) or both (Liu et al., 2003). CO measurements from satellites
98 provide unprecedented data revealing CO variations over East Asia. One of the
99 instruments is the Measurements Of Pollution In The Troposphere (MOPITT)
100 (Drummond, 1992; Drummond and Mond, 1996). MOPITT provides data of CO total
101 column and CO vertical profiles at several altitude levels, which are retrieved using a
102 nonlinear optimal estimation method theoretically based on the observed radiances and
103 their weighting functions, the a priori information, and the retrieval averaging kernels
104 (Rogers, 2000; Deeter et al., 2003). As a result, the MOPITT retrieval at one level can be
105 influenced by CO at other levels and thus MOPITT vertical resolution is coarse, generally
106 having only 2-3 pieces of independent information vertically in the troposphere.
107 Therefore, MOPITT's vertical sensitivity was an issue with earlier versions of MOPITT
108 data (Jacob et al., 2003). Nevertheless, a few studies (Deeter et al., 2004; Kar et al., 2004,
109 2006, 2008; Liu et al., 2006) demonstrated MOPITT's vertical sensitivity to some extent.
110 Kar et al. (2004) found Asian summer monsoon plumes in MOPITT CO data as a strong
111 enhancement of CO in the upper troposphere over India and southern China. Deeter et al.
112 (2004) illustrated similar distributions of the rain rate and the ratio of MOPITT CO at 350
113 hPa to at 850 hPa in the Tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean. Liu et al. (2006) observed large
114 differences (20-40 ppbv) in MOPITT CO at 250 hPa between two cases of vertical
115 transport of CO and attributed the differences to the respective weather systems.

116 Furthermore, the MOPITT data in new versions that use both thermal infrared and near
117 infrared radiances have offered enhanced vertical sensitivity (Worden et al., 2010; Deeter
118 et al., 2012; 2013). Therefore, a detailed examination of MOPITT's vertical sensitivity in
119 East Asia, especially for its ability in detecting vertical transport of high CO episodes, is
120 desirable.

121 In this study, three cases of high CO episodes in East Asia from 2003 to 2005 are
122 examined with MOPITT satellite data, in combination with aircraft measurements from
123 the Measurement of Ozone and Water Vapor by Airbus In-Service Aircraft (MOZAIC)
124 program (Marenco et al.,1998) (see Sects.2 and 4). The vertical transport mechanisms are
125 analyzed with simulations from a trajectory dispersion model FLEXPART (Stohl et al.,
126 2005) and a chemical transport model GEOS-Chem (Bey et al.,2001), along with other
127 meteorology data and satellite fire data (see Sects.2 and 4). MOPITT data are analyzed in
128 two ways. First, the vertical sensitivity of MOPITT is evaluated with the coincident
129 MOZAIC data (see Sect.3) and further illustrated with the three high CO episodes in
130 comparison with the MOZAIC data (see Sect.4). Second, the vertical variation in CO
131 captured by MOPITT is used to diagnose vertical transport of CO (see Sect. 4).
132 Discussion on the three cases is synthesized in Sect.5 and the major conclusions are
133 provided in Sect.6.

134

135 **2 Model and data**

136 **2.1 Satellite MOPITT CO data**

137 MOPITT is the first space instrument that targets continuous measurements of
138 tropospheric CO. MOPITT has been onboard of the Terra satellite since 1999, making

139 scientific measurements since March 2000. Terra is flying in a sun synchronous polar
140 orbit with an altitude of 705 km, crossing the equator at ~10:45 and 22:45 local time and
141 making 14-15 daytime and nighttime overpasses each day. MOPITT uses a cross-track
142 scanning method with a swath of 29 pixels (4 pixels in a row), each pixel being 22 km ×
143 22 km. Therefore, with a swath of ~600 km, about one third of the global area is covered
144 in a day. Additionally, clouds can cause even more gaps in MOPITT daily data. This
145 makes it challenging to use MOPITT data for synoptic studies. It takes 3 days to achieve
146 a near-complete global coverage (Edwards et al., 1999) assuming no blockage from
147 clouds.

148 MOPITT measures upwelling radiation in two narrow infrared spectral regions for
149 CO retrieval: (1) a thermal-infrared (TIR) band near 4.7 μm that has strong carbon
150 monoxide absorption and (2) a near-infrared (NIR) band near 2.3 μm that has weak CO
151 absorption. MOPITT Version 5 retrieval products are significantly different from earlier
152 products and offer three distinct products depending on application requirements. One of
153 them is a TIR/NIR “multispectral” product, which has enhanced sensitivity to CO in the
154 lower-most troposphere (Worden et al., 2010; Deeter et al., 2012; 2013). Validations and
155 evaluations of MOPITT data in various versions are documented in Emmons et al. (2004),
156 Worden et al. (2010), and Deeter et al. (2012, 2013).

157 In this study, the MOPITT CO profiles (Level 2 data) were first compared with the
158 coincident MOZAIC profiles. Advances of Version 5 (V5, a TIR/NIR “multispectral”
159 product) from Version 4 (V4, a TIR-only product) data were assessed. Then, the V5 data
160 were used in the case studies, in which MOPITT Level 2 data were gridded horizontally
161 into 0.25 °latitude × 0.25 °longitude bins and vertically at the MOPITT resolution of 100

162 hPa from the surface to 100 hPa.

163

164 **2.2 Aircraft MOZAIC CO data**

165 The MOZAIC program was initiated in 1993 by European scientists, aircraft
166 manufacturers, and airlines to collect experimental data (Marenco et al., 1998). MOZAIC
167 consists of automatic and regular measurements of ozone, CO, and water vapor by
168 several long range passenger airliners flying all over the world. The aim is to build a large
169 database of measurements to allow studies of chemical and physical processes in the
170 atmosphere.

171 In comparing MOPITT with MOZAIC CO data, coincident MOPITT and MOZAIC
172 data from 2003 to 2005 were screened within a radius of 1.5 ° and within a 4 h period.
173 The radius of 1.5 ° was applied to selected MOZAIC profiles at 500 hPa and the
174 MOZAIC slant path was included in the radius. MOZAIC profile was smoothed by
175 applying the MOPITT averaging kernels and the a priori profile for the co-located
176 retrieved MOPITT profile to account for the bias introduced by the averaging kernels and
177 the a priori. Therefore, the smoothed MOZAIC CO profile $\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{MOZAIC}$ is derived by
178 (Rogers, 2000)

$$179 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}^{MOZAIC} = \mathbf{x}_a^{MOPITT} + \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{x}^{MOZAIC} - \mathbf{x}_a^{MOPITT}) \quad (1)$$

180 where $\mathbf{A} = \partial \hat{\mathbf{x}} / \partial \mathbf{x}$ is the MOPITT averaging kernel matrix which describes the sensitivity
181 of the MOPITT CO estimate to the true profile of CO, \mathbf{x}^{MOZAIC} is the MOZAIC CO
182 profile, which has been mapped to the MOPITT pressure grid. The quantity \mathbf{x}_a^{MOPITT} is
183 the MOPITT a priori, which is based on CO simulations from the MOZART model
184 (Emmons et al., 2004).

185 The MOZAIC measurements usually extend from the surface to ~ 250 hPa.
186 When validating MOPITT data using Eq.(1), CO mixing ratios above 300 hPa was
187 supplemented with CO from the GEOS-Chem chemical transport model (see Sect.2.6) on
188 the same location and day, similar to the treatments by Worden et al.(2010), who used the
189 MOZART climatology simulations. Because CO above 250 hPa is lower than that in the
190 middle and lower troposphere, the bias due to this treatment is expected to be low.

191

192 **2.3 MODIS fire count data**

193 The Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) is a type of
194 instruments which have been onboard of the Terra (EOS AM) satellite since 1999 and on
195 the Aqua (EOS PM) satellite since 2002. The MODIS fire products include a validated
196 daily global active fire product (MOD14 Terra and MYD14 Aqua) (Justice et al., 2002),
197 generated using a global active fire detection algorithm that uses a multispectral
198 contextual approach to exploit the strong emission of midinfrared radiation from fires
199 allowing subpixel fire detection (Giglio et al., 2003). The horizontal resolution is 1 km.
200 The fire data are acquired from the Fire Information for Resource Management System
201 (FIRMS) (Davies et al., 2009).

202

203 **2.4 NCEP FNL meteorological data**

204

205 The NCEP Final (FNL) global tropospheric analyses are on 1 °by 1 °grids every 6h
206 (<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/>). Parameters in FNL include surface pressure, sea
207 level pressure, geopotential height, temperature, sea surface temperature, potential
208 temperature, relative humidity, precipitable water, u and v winds, and vertical motion,

209 available on the surface, at 26 levels from 1000 to 10 hPa, the tropopause, the boundary
210 layer, and a few others. In addition to driving FLEXPART (see Sect. 2.5), the FNL data
211 are used to analyze the meteorological conditions including the surface pressure, wind
212 fields, and development of a cyclone. The data are generated from the Global Data
213 Assimilation System (GDAS).

214

215 **2.5 The FLEXPART trajectory model**

216 To diagnose the transport processes and trace CO sources, we used the FLEXPART
217 model (Stohl et al., 2005), which is a Lagrangian Particle Dispersion Model developed at
218 the Norwegian Institute for Air Research in the Department of Atmospheric and Climate
219 Research. FLEXPART can be driven by meteorological input data generated from a
220 variety of global and regional models. In this study, the simulations were driven by the
221 NCEP FNL data. This model has been extensively validated (Stohl et al., 1998;
222 Cristofanelli et al., 2003) and widely used in studies of the influence of various
223 meteorological processes on pollution transport (Cooper et al., 2004, 2005, 2006;
224 Hocking et al., 2007; Ding et al., 2009; Barret et al., 2011; He et al., 2011; Chen et al.,
225 2012). In running FLEXPART, a large number of particles are released from defined
226 locations (latitude, longitude, and altitude) at a time. Backward or forward trajectories of
227 the particles are recorded in latitude (°), longitude (°), and altitude (km) every hour.

228

229 **2.6 The GEOS-Chem chemical transport model**

230 GEOS-Chem is a global three dimensional chemical transport model
231 (<http://geos-chem.org>). The model contains detailed description of tropospheric

232 O3-NOx-hydrocarbon chemistry, including the radiative and heterogeneous effects of
233 aerosols. It is driven by assimilated meteorological observations from the National
234 Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Earth Observing System
235 (GEOS) from the Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). In this study,
236 GEOS-Chem version v9-1-3 was employed and executed in the full chemistry mode,
237 which is driven by GEOS meteorology with temporal resolution of 6h (3h for surface
238 meteorological variables), with a horizontal resolution of 2 °latitude by 2.5 °longitude
239 and 47 vertical levels, including ~35 levels in the troposphere from 1000 to 100 hPa.

240 GEOS-Chem uses anthropogenic emissions from the Emissions Database
241 for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) global inventory (Olivier and Berdowski,
242 2001), which are updated with regional inventories, including the emission inventory in
243 Asia (Streets et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2009). The biomass burning emissions are from
244 the Global Fire Emissions Data (GFEDv3) monthly inventories (van der Werf et al., 2010)
245 and biogenic VOC emissions are taken from the Model of Emissions of Gases and
246 Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) global inventory. Emissions from other natural sources
247 (e.g., lightning, volcanoes) are also included.

248 The model has been extensively evaluated and used in studies of atmospheric
249 chemistry and pollution transport (Bey et al., 2001; Heald et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2003;
250 Liu et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2006; Jones et al., 2009; Nassar et al., 2009; Kopacz et al.,
251 2010; Jiang et al., 2011). GEOS-Chem can generally describe CO variability in the
252 troposphere but somewhat underestimate the observations in the northern mid-latitudes
253 possibly due to biases in the CO inventory or numerical diffusion in the model or both
254 (Heald et al., 2003; Duncan et al., 2007; Nassar et al., 2009; Kopacz et al., 2010).

255

256 **3 Comparison between MOPITT and MOZAIC CO profiles**

257 MOPITT's vertical sensitivity can be described in terms of the averaging kernels
258 (see Eq.1) and the Degree of Freedom for Signal (DFS). The averaging kernel matrix
259 indicates the sensitivity of the MOPITT CO estimate to the true CO profile, with I
260 (identity matrix) being the best, when true CO profiles are retrieved, and 0 being the
261 worst, when MOPITT retrievals just take the a priori. In reality, the average kernel matrix
262 is less than I, implying some contribution of CO from other levels to the retrieved level so
263 that the CO vertical structure cannot be fully resolved. DFS gives the number of
264 independent pieces of information available vertically in the measurements and it is the
265 sum of the diagonal elements of the averaging kernel matrix (Rogers, 2000). Figure 1
266 shows a yearly mean of DFS for daytime and nighttime, respectively, in East Asia for the
267 V5 TIR/NIR data, indicating substantial increases in DFS compared to earlier MOPITT
268 versions (Worden et al., 2010; Deeter et al., 2012). The daytime DFS in East Asia (Fig.1a)
269 ranges from 0.5 to 2.7, usually decreasing with latitude, similar to its distribution in other
270 regions and on the global scale (Deeter et al., 2004; Worden et al., 2010). In the same
271 latitudinal zones, the DFS is higher over land than over ocean. The daytime annual DFS
272 is high in the Sichuan basin, the eastern part of mainland China, the Indochina peninsula,
273 and the Indian subcontinent. Over the mountain or valley regions, DFS is low, such as
274 above the Tibetan Plateau. The stars indicate the cities where MOZAIC vertical
275 measurements are available for validation of MOPITT data. The annual mean DFS is
276 1.65, 1.51, 1.60, and 1.64, respectively, in an area of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ around Beijing, Narita,
277 Shanghai, and Hong Kong, with a maximum of 1.98, 1.64, 1.81, and 1.74 for the cities,

278 respectively. The nighttime DFS values (Fig. 1b) are lower (from 0.5 to 1.5) than the
279 daytime values, similar to that in Deeter et al. (2004) for an earlier MOPITT version.
280 Spatially, nighttime DFS is high over regions where the daytime DFS is also high.

281 The general patterns of MOPITT averaging kernels have been documented (Pan et
282 al., 1998; Emmons et al., 2004; Deeter et al., 2003, 2004, 2012; Kar et al., 2008; Worden
283 et al., 2010). For V5 MOPITT data, the averaging kernels at the four cities are similar to
284 these in Worden et al. (2010, in their Fig. 7). The difference in the averaging kernels
285 between V4 and V5 can be as large as 0.14 in the surface and lower troposphere and as
286 0.10 in the upper troposphere (not shown).

287 Figure 2 shows the relative bias between MOPITT and the smoothed MOZAIC
288 ($\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{MOZAIC}$) profiles (see Eq. 1), which is also referred as “MOPITT estimate of in situ” in
289 Worden et al. (2010) and “transferred profile” in Emmons et al. (2004). For V5 data (in
290 red), the mean bias is within $\pm 20\%$ for all the cities. In all the altitude levels, the bias is
291 smallest (close to zero) around 500-400 hPa and increases upward and downward. The
292 bias is mostly positive above 500-400 hPa, while below 500-400 hPa, it is positive at
293 Beijing, Narita but negative at Shanghai and Hong Kong. Whether the sign change is
294 related to the change in the geographic location (Shanghai and Hong Kong are both
295 coastal cities) can be a subject for further study. The V4 data (in green) also show the
296 smallest bias in the middle troposphere. In the lower troposphere, the bias in V5 is
297 reduced by 5-10% at Beijing and Narita. At Shanghai and Hong Kong, the bias changes
298 from positive in V4 to negative in V5, with a smaller (at Shanghai) or larger (at Hong
299 Kong) magnitude. In the upper troposphere above 500-400 hPa, the bias in V5 at Beijing,
300 Narita, and Shanghai changes to positive, with a magnitude similar to or larger than that

301 in V4. At Hong Kong, the bias in V5 remains positive but the magnitude is enlarged.
302 Deeter et al. (2013) compared MOPITT data with the NOAA aircraft measurements over
303 North America and data from the HIAPER Pole to Pole Observations (HIPPO) field
304 campaign data (Wofsy et al., 2011). They found a positive bias in MOPITT V5 TIR/NIR
305 data at 400 hPa (4%) and 200 hPa (14%). They also showed a latitude-dependent positive
306 bias in the northern hemispherical upper troposphere in MOPITT V3 and V4 data. This
307 study suggests an overall positive bias, agreeing with Deeter et al. (2013) in magnitude
308 and sign, in MOPITT V5 data for the upper troposphere. As a comparison, we also
309 validated MOPITT data in other cities in the globe and found that the mean bias in
310 Europe or the United States is lower than that in East Asia, especially in the surface layer
311 (not shown).

312 The correlation between MOPITT and smoothed MOZAIC data is shown in Fig. 3.
313 From 500 to 100 hPa, the correlation coefficient between the two data sets is 0.92, 0.86,
314 0.83, 0.68 at Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, respectively (Fig.3a), while from
315 the surface to 600 hPa, the correlation becomes stronger, being 0.90,0.92, 0.92, 0.94 at
316 Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, respectively (Fig. 3b). The correlation
317 coefficient between the two data is the best in the middle troposphere (500-400 hPa, not
318 shown).

319

320 **4 Uplifting of CO to the free troposphere**

321 Daily MOPITT and MOZAIC data from 2003-2005 were screened to find cases of
322 high CO episodes observed by both MOPITT and MOZAIC at the same location and
323 time. We found three cases of high CO in MOPITT data with close-by MOZAIC

324 measurements, while it was hard to find such high CO episodes with exact coincident
325 MOPITT and MOZAIC observations because of large gaps in MOPITT data and limited
326 aircraft sampling coverages. In the three cases, high CO concentrations up to 300-500
327 ppbv were observed by MOZAIC in the free troposphere from 750 to 350 hPa.

328 In the following, we provide detailed analyses of each case, ordered by year of
329 occurrence (Table 1). The cases occurred over the East China Sea or the Sea of Japan or
330 both. High CO was shown in MOPITT daytime data in the middle to upper troposphere
331 in case 2003, mostly in the lower to middle troposphere in case 2004, and in the upper
332 troposphere in case 2005. The MOPITT and MOZAIC observations for the three cases
333 are shown in Figs. 4-6, followed by analyses for each case with FLEXPART and
334 GEOS-Chem simulations, in combination with MODIS fire data and NCEP FNL
335 meteorological data. The cases occurred in spring and summer when cyclone activities
336 are strong in East Asia (Chen et al., 1991; Yue and Wang, 2008). The main CO sources
337 are identified as biomass burning or a combination of biomass burning and anthropogenic
338 origins. The outflow of the high CO episodes finally reached the boundary layer at the
339 west coast of the United States and Canada.

340

341 **4.1 Case study I: 6 June 2003**

342 On 6 June 2003, a large area ($\sim 400 \text{ km} \times 1500 \text{ km}$) of high CO up to 350 ppbv
343 appeared in the MOPITT image over the Sea of Japan and the nearby continent in the
344 middle to high troposphere (Fig. 4a). In Fig. 5a, the MOPITT CO profile averaged over
345 the boxed area in Fig. 4a shows a broad enhancement from the monthly profile between
346 650-300 hPa, with peak CO abundances of ~ 300 ppbv around 550 hPa. The location and

347 shape of the box was selected to ensure enough MOPITT samplings (>30) at the closest
348 upwind direction of MOZAIC measurements (the same for Figs. 4b and 4c). The large
349 difference between the MOPITT a priori and the measurements over these altitudes
350 indicates MOPITT's capability of detecting pollution episodes with some degree of
351 vertical sensitivity. The vertical sensitivity is demonstrated through (1) the strongest CO
352 source among the three cases was shown as the largest magnitude (200-250 ppbv) of
353 elevated CO from the a priori, (2) the altitude with the maximum CO enhancement was
354 detected around the middle troposphere, in contrast to the other two cases which show the
355 maximum in the lower-middle and upper troposphere, respectively, and (3) the elevated
356 CO was over a broad range of altitudes as the vertical resolution of MOPITT is rather
357 coarse, i.e., the annual mean DFS maximizes about 2.5 (Figure 1). This CO peak was not
358 shown in the MOPITT monthly mean profile, reflecting the episodic nature of this event.
359 The high CO episode was also detected by a near-by MOZAIC measurement (Fig. 5b). A
360 layer of elevated CO is apparent between 500-350 hPa, with a CO peak up to ~ 550 ppbv
361 around 400 hPa. In addition, the MOZAIC relative humidity (RH) and ozone profiles are
362 shown in Fig. 5b. Around the altitudes of CO buildup, elevated humidity followed the CO
363 profile, while ozone also showed some enhancement.

364 A latitude-altitude cross section from MOPITT is shown in Fig. 6a. It is the average
365 between two blue dashed lines in Fig. 4a. The arrows represent the winds in the
366 meridional and vertical directions and the contour represents the zonal wind speed.
367 Consistent with Fig. 4a, high CO up to 350 ppbv appeared in the middle to upper
368 troposphere between 35-50 °N.

369 To trace down the CO source, backward trajectories of the air particles were

370 simulated using FLEXPART after releasing 30 000 and 7000 particles, respectively, from
371 the locations of the large and small boxed areas in Fig. 6a (the same as the blue bars in
372 Fig. 4a) on 6 June 2003 when CO was high in the MOPITT data. Because CO has a
373 relatively long lifetime (weeks to months), it is assumed that CO is not removed in the
374 backward trajectories. Figure 7 shows the distribution of particle concentration between
375 6.25-10.25 km (~ 500-250 hPa, Fig. 7a) and between 0-3.25 km (~ 1000-650 hPa, Fig.7b).
376 The contour lines indicate the geopotential height at 850 hPa at 12:00 UTC on 3 June
377 2003 (Fig. 7a) and at 0 UTC on 2 June 2003 (Fig. 7b), respectively. The locations of large
378 forest fires near Lake Baikal from MODIS fire data are indicated in Fig. 7b by the stars,
379 diamonds, and circles, with fire counts of 20-100, 100-300, and 300-500 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$
380 grid area, respectively, averaged daily from 31 May to 6 June. The high particle counts
381 between 0-3 km in the vicinity of Lake Baikal match well with the location of fire counts
382 (Fig. 7b). On 3 June 2003, there was a cyclone with a cold front (Fig. 7a) that rapidly
383 lifted the CO originated from the fires along the warm conveyor belt (WCB) to the upper
384 level. The particle distribution in the upper troposphere shows the transport pathway of
385 the particles to the Sea of Japan. To further illustrate this, particles were released from the
386 fire region near Lake Baikal ($93\text{-}115^\circ\text{E}$, $50\text{-}60^\circ\text{N}$, 0-3 km, following Lavoué et al.
387 (2000), who found an average injection height of Siberian fires of ~ 3 km). Forward
388 trajectories were simulated and the resultant vertical distribution of the particles, varying
389 with time during 1-15 June 2003, is shown in Fig. 8. The released particles from the fires
390 traveled along the isobars to northeast of Lake Baikal from 1 June to 3 June 2003 and
391 then the particles were lifted to the upper layers (2-5 km) on 3 June at 12 a.m. (in 60-70 h)
392 (Fig. 8). Then, the particles were transported to the east along these altitudes. On 6 June

393 (in 120-140 h), a large amount of particles appeared in a layer of 3-8 km (Figs. 8 and 4a).
394 The altitudes with high particle concentrations agree well the MOPITT data between
395 650-350 hPa (Figs. 4a and 6a).

396 It is the cyclone with a front northeast of Lake Baikal that transported the CO up
397 along the WCB (Figs. 7a and 8). Figure 5b shows that the relative humidity reached about
398 65 % in the MOZAIC measurement, suggesting the air mass indeed came from a WCB
399 (Cooper et al., 2002). The MOZAIC ozone profile also shows elevated ozone at the same
400 altitudes but the shape does not follow exactly the ones of CO and humidity, implying
401 complexity of chemical processes involved. The polluted air reached as high as 9 km
402 although most particles remained at heights of about 3-8 km (Fig. 8). After being lifted to
403 higher altitudes, the polluted air was transported by strong westerlies over long distances.
404 Figure 8 shows that the particles were further transported to the east and sink slowly after
405 7 June. Around 14 June 2003, the particles reached the east coast of Canada (0-5 km).
406 The satellite MODIS data show a large number of hot spots near Lake Baikal in May and
407 June 2003. Earlier studies have shown that forest fires in Asia can impact air quality in
408 North America (Jaffe et al., 2004; Liang et al., 2004; Oltmans et al., 2010). This case
409 illustrates again the role that WCBs played in the intercontinental transport of pollution
410 for such high CO. Notice that the FLEXPART simulation was made by using the FNL
411 meteorological data, which may have not considered the buoyancy force due to fires.
412 Such buoyancy force can lift CO plumes even faster and higher.

413 Our analyses are consistent with Néédéc et al. (2005), who examined 320 MOZAIC
414 flight routes from Europe to Asia in 2003 and reported the observations of high CO up to
415 800 ppbv above 8 km (~ 350 hPa) on 3 and 4 June 2003 around 57 °N (northeast of Lake

416 Baikal). With different data sets, i.e., Along Track Scanning Radiometer (ATSR) fire data,
417 the Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) aerosols data, and the MODIS cloud
418 data, Nédéc et al. (2005) also attributed the high CO at these altitudes to front lifting of
419 CO from large forest fires near Lake Baikal. The time and location of frontal lifting of
420 CO in our FLEXPART simulations match well with the observations of high CO by
421 Nédéc et al. (2005). Furthermore, this study provides a more explicit description on the
422 CO transport pathways (Figs. 7 and 8). We also found this rare case demonstrate
423 MOPITT's capability of detecting extreme high CO episodes through relative variations
424 in vertical and horizontal dimensions. Corresponding to the strongest CO source among
425 the three cases, MOPITT data showed the largest horizontal area with CO plumes (Fig. 4),
426 the deepest vertical CO buildup with the highest abundances (Fig. 6), and the biggest
427 enhancement of 200-250 ppbv from the a priori (Fig. 5).

428

429 **4.2 Case study II: 18 March 2004**

430 This case occurred on 18 March 2004 when high CO appeared in the MOPITT data
431 in the lower and middle troposphere over the East China Sea (Fig. 4b). The elevated CO
432 of 200-250 ppbv is observed between 750 and 550 hPa vertically in MOPITT data (Fig.
433 5c). The departure of the MOPITT CO profile from its a priori reflects the MOPITT's
434 vertical sensitivity (Fig. 5c). The MOPITT monthly mean, like for the other two cases,
435 follows a typical CO profile pattern with CO concentrations being the highest near the
436 surface and decreasing gradually with altitude. The CO on 18 March 2004 was 50 ppbv
437 higher than the monthly mean above 800 hPa. A layer of elevated CO appeared in the
438 MOZAIC profile between 750-550 hPa with a peak of 500 ppbv around 650 hPa (Fig. 5d).

439 The high RH (~ 90-100 %) below 600 hPa in the MOZAIC data suggests that the air
440 mass experienced some uplifting process that enhanced its humidity, likely from a WCB.
441 The MOZAIC ozone peaked (~ 70 ppbv) around the same altitudes as CO, implying that
442 ozone may be produced in the air mass carrying high CO during the transport process.
443 Figure 6b shows a latitude-altitude cross section averaged between the two blue dashed
444 lines in Fig. 4b. Around 30 °N, elevated CO levels (~ 200 ppbv) are evident around 700
445 hPa.

446 This case was simulated with GEOS-Chem to identify the sources of CO and to
447 explore the transport mechanisms. The MODIS fire data suggest biomass burning over
448 northern Indochina peninsula to be a source for the observed high CO (Fig. 9). The time
449 series of fire counts over area of 20-25 °N and 92-105 °E peaked on 12 March 2004.
450 Correspondingly, high CO of ~ 300 ppbv appeared in the MOPITT composite of 11-18
451 March 2004 at 700 hPa over northern Indochina peninsula (Fig. 9). This source was also
452 recognized in the GEOS-Chem simulation (Fig. 10b). In addition, the anthropogenic
453 source concentrated over the North China Plain (approximately 30-40 °N, 110-125 °E)
454 was identified as another source (Fig. 10c). The fire-induced CO spread larger areas from
455 south to north than the anthropogenic CO. Figure 11 shows the latitude-altitude cross
456 sections of the GEOS-Chem simulations of CO, fire-induced CO, and anthropogenic CO,
457 respectively, along 130 °E on 18 March 2004. CO abundances from both sources were
458 high around 700 hPa (Figs. 11b and 11c) between 25-35 °N across 130 °E where
459 MOPITT also observed high CO (Fig. 6b).

460 The different CO distributions for the two sources in three dimensions (Figs. 10 and
461 11) reflect rather different transport pathways and uplifting mechanisms. We found that

462 the transport of the fire-induced CO can be divided into four processes. First, the CO was
463 orographically lifted along the Hengduan Mountains from the surface to ~ 750 hPa. The
464 lifted CO is shown in Fig. 12 around 100°E on a longitude-altitude cross section along
465 22°N . Then, the uplifted CO experienced two separate transports. In the second process,
466 part of the lifted CO was further transported upward to 400-300 hPa, shown as a bulb in
467 Fig. 12 around 105°E . This is due to strong convection, possibly caused by a frontal
468 system developed on 17 March 2004 (Fig. 9), interplayed with the leeside troughs east of
469 the Hengduan Mountains. The vertical velocity reached 0.2 m s^{-1} in FNL data around this
470 level (not shown). The ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts)
471 data also show northeastward airflow from Indochina peninsula with high potential
472 energy (warm and wet) available for strong convection. All of these suggest that the
473 strong convection over the leeside troughs rapidly lifted CO up to ~ 350 hPa. In fact, the
474 orographic lifting and topography-induced convection are quite common in this region so
475 high CO often appears at these two altitudinal levels in March as simulated by
476 GEOS-Chem (not shown). On 17 March, the lifted CO was with even higher
477 concentrations (~ 500 ppbv) around 400 hPa than the monthly mean because of its fire
478 origin and presence of the leeside troughs. In the third process, the uplifted CO around
479 400-300 hPa (near 105°E in Fig. 12) was transported northeastward by strong winds
480 along the front in the upper troposphere, reaching the East China Sea (near 30°N , 130°E)
481 on 18 March (Fig. 11b). This transport enables high CO from forest fires in southern Asia
482 in low latitudes to rapidly reach the upper troposphere in the mid-latitudes. In the fourth
483 process, paralleling to the second and third, part of the orographically uplifted CO was
484 afloat around ~ 700 hPa because of leeside-trough induced convection. This CO was

485 transported eastward along the isobars of the low pressure system around 700 hPa (Figs.
486 10 and 12). This process occurred at lower altitudes than processes two and three. The
487 transport was slower and it took longer time (from 15 to 18 March) for the CO to reach
488 the East China Sea. Processes two and three brought CO to the upper troposphere
489 (200-300 hPa in Fig. 11b), while process four increased CO in the lower to middle
490 troposphere (700-500 hPa in Fig. 11b). For the anthropogenic CO from the North China
491 Plain, the vertical transport was mainly carried out by frontal lifting on 17 March 2004
492 (Fig. 9) and then the uplifted CO was transported eastward along 30 °N (Fig. 10c).
493 Consequently, the total CO shows a buildup centered near 700 hPa around 30 °N and 130 °
494 E, mostly coming from the two CO sources (Figs. 11a-11c).

495 The Hengduan Mountains run mainly north to south, with elevations ranging from
496 1300 to 6000 metres. This topography provides a favorable condition for the formation of
497 the leeside troughs if meteorology is satisfied. Such troughs promote vertical transport of
498 CO on the east side of the Mountains (in the second and fourth processes), while the
499 orographic lifting occurred on the west side of the Mountains (in the first process). The
500 leeside troughs occur most and least frequently in spring and summer, respectively.
501 Interannual variation of the leeside troughs is also observed.

502 Comparison of the vertical CO distributions between MOPITT and GEOS-Chem
503 (Fig. 6b vs Fig. 11a) suggests that MOPITT can generally capture vertical transport of
504 CO from forest fires and anthropogenic sources, although the magnitude of CO in
505 MOPITT data was lower and there were also substantial gaps in the MOPITT images due
506 to convective clouds. In the MOPITT data, high CO of ~ 200 ppbv reached up to 200 hPa.
507 In the lower to middle troposphere, elevated CO (~ 200 ppbv) was centered around

508 650-700 hPa. These features are similar to the GEOS-Chem simulations. Note that the
509 CO buildup around 300 hPa in the GEOS-Chem simulation (Figs. 11a and 11b) was
510 reflected in the MOPITT data (Fig. 6b), but not as obvious as in the simulation since the
511 MOPITT retrievals are smoothed with the averaging kernels. This CO is also shown as a
512 little bump around 300 hPa in MOPITT vertical profile in Fig. 5c. This buildup is missing
513 in the MOZAIC profile (Fig. 5d) because the aircraft flew towards the north and outside
514 the region with high CO (Fig. 4b).

515 As the backward trajectories starting from the boxed area at 700 hPa in Figure 4b
516 indicated the most particles came from the large fire in the Indochina peninsula starting
517 from 11 March 2004, we released air particles in FLEXPART over the fire regions from
518 the surface to 1 km on 11 March 2004, and forward trajectories were simulated to track
519 down the air parcels until 18 May 2004 at 2 a.m. Taking the same zonal means as for Fig.
520 6b, it is found that the vertical distribution of particle concentrations is similar to that in
521 Fig. 6b with highest particle concentrations between 4-5 km (not show). As simulated by
522 FLEXPART, the outflow of the high CO finally reached the west coast of the United
523 States with particles mainly distributed around 5 km in altitude. High CO observed in
524 East Asia in this case appeared the most southerly among the three (Fig. 6), leading to a
525 most southerly outflow.

526 The strong leeside-trough-induced convection described in the fourth process was
527 first proposed by Lin et al. (2009) who found that the leeside troughs above the Indochina
528 peninsula play a significant role in uplifting ozone there. In this study, we found these
529 leeside troughs can promote lifting of CO even up to the upper troposphere (in the second
530 process, Fig. 12). It is the interplay of the leeside troughs and the cyclone in the northeast

531 of China which formed a front system that transported CO from the Indochina peninsula
532 upward.

533

534 **4.3 Case study III: 10 April 2005**

535 In this case, MOPITT observed high CO of ~ 250 ppbv at 300 hPa near the east coast
536 of Japan on 10 April 2005 (Fig. 4c). Like for the other cases, the mean MOPITT profile
537 was taken over a boxed area (in Fig. 4c) upwind of the MOZAIC measurement for
538 comparison. The MOPITT vertical profile clearly shows a CO peak around 300 hPa,
539 where it departs from the MOPITT monthly mean (Fig. 5e). Comparing with the other
540 cases, MOPITT CO peaked at higher altitudes, illustrating some MOPITT vertical
541 sensitivity even at these altitudes. In Fig. 5f, a sharp peak of 300 ppbv in MOZAIC CO is
542 shown around 350 hPa. This peak can also be reproduced in the GEOS-Chem simulation
543 with a lower CO abundance of ~200 ppbv (not shown). The profile of relative humidity
544 follows closely that of CO, with values up to 90-100 % around 350 hPa, implying that the
545 elevated CO was lifted to this level from the lower troposphere by a cyclone system along
546 its WCB. However, the MOZAIC ozone profile varies differently from the CO profile.
547 We found this is connected to a strong stratospheric intrusion introduced by the cyclone.
548 HYSPLIT simulations suggest that a large amount of air mass plunged around 4 April
549 from 9 to 3-4 km over northwest of China, bringing high ozone to the lower troposphere
550 (not shown). Another piece of evidence for a stratospheric intrusion is suggested by the
551 low humidity between 780-400 hPa. Such a downwelling of stratospheric air on the back
552 side of cyclones was also reported by Miyazaki et al. (2003). Figure 6c shows an
553 altitude-latitude cross section averaged between 120-150 °E (between two dashed lines in

554 Fig. 4c). High CO of 200-250 ppbv appeared between 300-200 hPa around 35 °N. This is
555 a rare case in which MOPITT reports such high CO (200-250 ppbv) at these high
556 altitudes (around 300 hPa). Documented CO abundances observed by MOPITT at these
557 altitudes were ~130 ppbv over Indian summer monsoon seasons (Kar et al., 2004),
558 110-150 ppbv in the North America from the forest fires, chemical, and anthropogenic
559 sources (Liu et al., 2005; 2006), and ~150 ppbv in spring at Hong Kong (Zhou et al.,
560 2013).

561 The MODIS fire data show that there were indeed large fires over Indochina
562 peninsula in 3-10 April 2005, shown as stars in Fig. 13. Using GEOS-Chem, CO from
563 fire and anthropogenic sources was simulated to identify their respective contributions
564 and transport pathways.

565 The entire process of vertical and horizontal transport of CO was well reproduced by
566 GEOS-Chem (Fig. 14). Figure 14a provides the CO distribution in the lower troposphere
567 on 8 April 2005, while Figs. 14b and 14c show the CO distribution on the next day and
568 the day after in the middle and upper troposphere, respectively. The geopotential heights
569 at 750, 450, and 250 hPa are overlaid with the CO images for each layer accordingly. On
570 8 April 2005, there was a cyclone developing in the east of Lake Baikal between 110-120 °
571 E, 45-55 °N. The surface CO was transported upward and northeastward along the WCB
572 (Fig. 14a). On April 9, the cyclone moved to the east (Figs. 13 and 14b). The high CO
573 shows a “comma” shape along WCB at the mid-troposphere; this shape is typical for a
574 mature cyclone system with a WCB (Cooper et al., 2002). On April 10, the cyclone
575 further moved eastward and reached the Sea of Japan (Fig. 14c). The GEOS-Chem
576 simulation shows accumulation of high CO over the ridge of high pressure and along the

577 front at the upper troposphere. The GEOS-Chem simulations suggest that the outflow of
578 the high CO reached Canada on April 16.

579 The combined effects of cyclone activities, topography, and CO from different
580 sources and locations are reflected in distinct CO signatures along the WCB. Figure 15
581 shows the CO from the fires (Figs. 15a and 15c) and from the anthropogenic source (Figs.
582 15b and 15d) in the middle and upper troposphere, respectively, overlaid with the
583 geopotential height at 450 hPa (Figs. 15a and 15b) and 250 hPa (Figs. 15c and 15d),
584 respectively. In the middle troposphere (500-400 hPa), a large amount of CO from the
585 fires in Indochina peninsula was uplifted to this level through orographic lifting and
586 strong convection on the west and east side of the Hengduan Mountains, respectively.
587 This CO distributed along the middle part of the WCB on 9 April 2005 and was
588 transported eastward on 10 April 2005 (Fig. 15a). One source of the anthropogenic CO
589 was concentrated around the North China Plain (Ding et al., 2009) where high CO was
590 evident in MOPITT data (Fig. 13, 35-45 °N, 100-120 °E). On April 8, this CO was
591 uplifted along the WCB and further transported to the middle troposphere, coming across
592 sudden elevated terrains on the way and forming the head of the “comma” in the cyclone
593 system (Figs. 14b and 15b). The topography's role was noticed by Liu et al. (2003), who
594 found a ring of convergence around the North China Plain associated with elevated
595 terrain, and by Ding et al. (2009), who speculated possible topography lifting in the North
596 China Plain. In the southern end of the WCB (near 30 °N, 120 °E in Fig. 15b), the CO
597 came from the anthropogenic source in the vicinity of the Sichuan basin (~ 26-34 °N,
598 102-110 °E). This CO was transported vertically to 500 hPa on April 8 at 18:00 UTC to
599 April 9 at 00:00 UTC. Air pollution often accumulates in the Sichuan basin because of its

600 special topography. The development of small scale cyclones there is well known as the
601 southwest vortex or Sichuan low (Tao and Ding, 1981). Accumulated pollutants there
602 usually are transported to the free troposphere by such convection. The strong convection
603 can last more than 6 h and peak at the midnight (Yu et al., 2007). As this anthropogenic
604 source is quite stable, its contribution should not be understated.

605 Interestingly, Lin et al. (2009) reported an observed ozone enhancement from
606 ozonesonde data at 4 km in Taiwan on 11 April 2005. They proposed a new transport
607 mechanism from their study as discussed in Sect. 4.2, in which they attributed the
608 elevated ozone to the biomass burning in Indochina. Similarly, CO from biomass burning
609 was also apparent over Taiwan at the middle troposphere in the GEOS-Chem simulation
610 (Fig. 15a), although the maximum CO enhancement was north of Taiwan at this altitude.

611 The white dot in Fig. 15 indicates the location where MOZAIC passed over. It is clear
612 that MOZAIC measurement at 200-300 hPa was within the WCB, while it was at a
613 distance from the WCB at 500-400 hPa. This is consistent with the MOZAIC CO, ozone,
614 RH profiles shown in Fig. 5f, suggesting that MOZAIC in fact measured air from the
615 stratosphere at these altitudes. As the wind was stronger in the upper than in the lower
616 troposphere, the WCB-transported CO reached further east in the upper levels (Fig. 15).
617 The simulations suggest that over the boxed area in the MOPITT image in Fig. 4c at 300
618 hPa, the fire and anthropogenic sources contributed approximately 15% and 20 % CO,
619 respectively. It is noteworthy that there were large gaps in MOPITT data north of 33 °N
620 (Fig. 4c) where CO abundances may be even higher than the MOPITT CO south of 33 °N
621 as suggested by the GEOS-Chem simulation (Fig. 14c). These gaps were caused by
622 clouds associated with the cyclone system. The complication due to clouds is a problem

623 with an optical instrument like MOPITT. This is why this case is rare which high CO was
624 observed by both MOPITT and MOZAIC under a frontal system.

625 In this case, the strong part of the front (close to the centre of the cyclones) swept
626 southern China, where CO was high (Fig. 13). Along the front (30-40 °N, 100-120 °E),
627 the temperature gradient at 925 hPa was as high as 4.9 C per degree. Strong ascents
628 occurred ahead of the front, with vertical velocity being $\sim 0.05 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ at 900 hPa and \sim
629 0.20 m s^{-1} at 750 hPa, increasing with altitude until 300-250 hPa where the maximum
630 vertical velocity was 0.26 m s^{-1} . Consequently, the high CO can be rapidly lifted to the
631 upper troposphere in this case.

632 FLEXPART was also used to trace down high CO in the MOPITT image by releasing
633 air particles in the boxed area in Fig. 6c (indicated by a bar in Fig. 4c). We found that the
634 most CO came from the southwest part of China (boxed area in Fig. 13) where MOPITT
635 CO composite of 3-10 April 2005 shows high CO of 250-300 ppbv. This CO was lifted
636 along the WCB described above. This agrees with the GEOS-Chem simulation which
637 attributed the major CO source in the upper troposphere to the anthropogenic CO, likely
638 from the Sichuan Basin (Fig. 15d).

639

640 **5 Discussion**

641 New insights gained from this study and suggestions for future work are discussed as
642 follows.

643 **5.1 Observations of high CO episodes**

644 In the three CO episodes, high CO abundances 300-550 ppbv were observed by
645 MOZAIC in the free troposphere (Fig. 5). The CO abundances are among the highest

646 documented at these altitudes in East Asia. Ding et al. (2009) observed high CO episode
647 of ~1185 ppbv at 2.6 km (850-700 hPa) over the North China Plain in summer 2007.
648 Nédélec et al. (2005) found CO up to 800 ppbv above 8 km (~400 hPa) near the fire
649 region of Lake Baikal on 3 and 4 June 2003. Highest CO concentrations during
650 TRACE-P were between 250-300 ppbv from 2 to 12 km (Heald et al., 2003; Liu et al.,
651 2003; Miyazaki et al., 2003). Occurrences of such high CO episodes are not by chance.
652 They reflect the uniqueness and complexity of meteorology, orography, vegetation covers,
653 and CO sources in East Asia. For example, in all the cases, biomass burning occurred
654 from regions with dense vegetation covers and with most active forest fires in East Asia
655 (Schultz, 2002; Duncan et al., 2003). These fires are usually most active in summer in
656 boreal forest in Russia, like in case 2003, and in spring in the southern East Asia, like
657 cases 2004 and 2005, thus enhancing chances of high CO episodes in these seasons.

658 The frequency of occurrences of such high CO is illustrated in Table 2. As the three
659 cases occurred near Japan, MOZAIC data around the vicinity of Narita from 2001 to
660 2006 are summarized, showing occurrences of various CO abundance ranges in the
661 boundary layer (the surface-850 hPa), the lower (850-600 hPa), middle (600-400 hPa),
662 and upper (400-200 hPa) troposphere. Among all the data in the upper troposphere, CO
663 abundances occurred 93 times (17%) between 200-300 ppbv, 19 times (4%) between
664 300-400 ppbv, and 6 times (1%) over 400 ppbv. In the middle troposphere, the fraction of
665 occurrences of CO within 200-300, 300-400, and over 400 ppbv was 14%, 3%, and 2%,
666 respectively. In the boundary layer, the highest occurrences of CO abundances (38% of
667 all the data in the layer) were within a range of 200-300 ppbv, while the range was within
668 100-200 ppbv in the lower (47%), middle (74%), and upper troposphere (66%).

669 Seasonally, there were more high CO episodes in the higher altitudes in spring and
670 summer than in fall and winter.

671 The frequency of such high CO episodes is also examined in the GEOS-Chem
672 simulations and MOPITT observations in the vicinity of Narita (126-140 °E, 30-40 °N) in
673 2005 (Table 3). A count is added to a CO range if the daily maximum CO in the area
674 (126-140 °E, 30-40 °N) falls into that CO range. Thus, the total counts for all the CO
675 ranges at a given layer are 365 in 2005 for GEOS-Chem, while the counts are 281 for
676 MOPITT due to missing data. To minimize noise in daily MOPITT data, only when there
677 are at least 10 data with the maximum CO falling into a given CO range, a count is added.
678 GEOS-Chem can simulate CO up to 400 ppbv in the upper troposphere, while the
679 maximum CO in MOPITT is lower so that different CO ranges are used in Table 3.
680 Overall, MOZAIC, MOPITT and GEOS-Chem all show a high frequency of high CO
681 (larger than 200 ppbv) at the surface, progressively shifting to a high frequency of low
682 CO (less than 200 ppbv) at the upper troposphere. Between 400-200 hPa, CO with
683 200-300 ppbv occurred 1.2 times every 10 days in GEOS-Chem, which was slightly
684 lower than in MOPITT (1.8 times) and MOZAIC (1.7 times). Overall, MOZAIC
685 observed 2-5% more vertical transport of high CO (>300 ppbv) to the upper troposphere
686 than GEOS-Chem, while the latter simulated 10-20% more frequently the transport to the
687 middle and lower troposphere with similar or lower CO abundances.

688 It is likely that on average, the extremely high CO episodes (~500 ppbv), such as the
689 2003 and 2004 cases (Fig. 5), occurred 2-5 times per 100 days in their respective altitudes
690 over the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan (Tables 2 and 3). With a lower CO
691 abundances of 200-300 ppbv (case 2005), the frequency for the air mass to be transported

692 to 400-200 hPa is 1-2 times per 10 days (Tables 2 and 3). The frequency can be even
693 higher in spring and summer, approximately once a week (Table 2). Significant impacts
694 of such vertical transport can be expected on the air quality downwind and climate on the
695 global climate. The transport mechanisms and CO source contributions revealed in this
696 study can also be applicable for CO episodes with lower CO abundances or at lower
697 altitudes.

698

699 **5.2 The role of topography**

700 East Asia's topography varies significantly across its vast width, increasing from east
701 to west, with a variety of terrains. This study found that topography there affected the
702 three cases in different ways. In addition to its general function in orographic lifting (in
703 cases 2004 and 2005), topography also interplay with frontal systems and enhance the
704 uplifting substantially in the North China Plain (in cases 2004 and 2005). It is notable that
705 CO transports from south to north along elevated terrain over China (in case 2005, Fig.
706 14a). Under the influence of the Tibetan Plateau, the southwest vortex (or the Sichuan
707 low) is formed (Tao and Ding, 1981) and can facilitate strong convection in the Sichuan
708 basin (in case 2005).

709 In particular, topography-induced convection due to the leeside troughs east of the
710 Hengduan Mountains, proposed by Lin et al. (2009), offers a new mechanism for vertical
711 transport of pollutions from the region (in cases 2004 and 2005). Lin et al. (2009) mainly
712 aimed at pollution transport to the lower and middle troposphere. Extending from Lin et
713 al. (2009), this study found such a mechanism to be plausible in explaining pollution
714 transport to the upper troposphere. We found that the impacts of the topography-induced

715 convection on vertical CO transport vary substantially from year to year. A study on such
716 interannual variation is underway.

717

718 **5.3 The implications of WCB trends on uplifting of CO**

719 Extratropical cyclones and associated frontal activities are important in lifting CO
720 from the boundary layer to the free troposphere. This also applies to other air pollutants.
721 Zhao et al. (2008) found that the influence of Asian dust storms on North American
722 ambient particulate matter levels is highly related to the height to which the frontal
723 cyclones in East Asia can lift dust. Although many functions and characteristics of WCBs
724 have been recognized by earlier studies, we found some details new or unique for the
725 three cases. In case 2004, it is the interplay of the leeside troughs and the cyclone in the
726 northeast of China that transported CO from the Indochina peninsula upward. The high
727 CO in this case appeared the most southerly among the three, leading to a most southerly
728 outflow. In case 2005, the downwelling of stratospheric air on the back side of cyclones
729 was recognized. The CO along various parts of the WCB was identified to be of fire
730 origin from Indochina and anthropogenic origin from Sichuan and the North China Plain.
731 The source allocation was sensitive to the location of the front. Comparing cases 2004
732 and 2005, we found that uplifting of CO to the upper troposphere became possible when
733 large CO sources coincided with the strongest part of a WCB.

734 In East Asia, cyclones occur most frequently in two regions in spring and summer:
735 one over the lee sides of the Altai-Sayan and the other in the East China Sea and the Sea
736 of Japan (Chen et al., 1991; Yue and Wang, 2008). These are the locations and seasons
737 where and when we can expect similar events to happen in the future. Chen et al. (1991)

738 suggested a decline in cyclonic events in East Asia from 1957 to 1977 and no such
739 decline from 1977 to 1987. Recently, an analysis for a longer term from 1951 to 2010
740 based on ensembles of Twentieth Century Reanalysis (20CR) showed a decreasing trend
741 in the northern part of the Sea of Japan and an increasing trend over the southern part of
742 the Sea of Japan and the leeside of the Altai-Sayan in summer (Wang et al., 2013). The
743 implications of these trends on uplifting of CO deserve further investigation. It would be
744 helpful to conduct statistical analysis of the CO source distribution along WCBs in East
745 Asia in the future.

746

747 **5.4 Model simulations of pollution transport**

748 Pollution transport can be tracked computationally with Eulerian and Lagrangian
749 approaches, as represented by GEOS-Chem and FLEXPART models, respectively.
750 GEOS-Chem can not only track transport of CO (a physical process) but also consider
751 chemical reactions during the transport while FLEXPART can visualize transport
752 pathways and pin down source regions effectively, without considering chemical
753 functions in the meantime. GEOS-Chem can also fill the gaps in MOPITT satellite data
754 (Figs. 10, 11, and 14). We found that GEOS-Chem simulates the observed aircraft and
755 satellite CO well in cases 2004 and 2005 but cannot fully reproduce the elevated CO in
756 MOZAIC data in case 2003. The simulated CO plume is with lower mixing ratios and at
757 lower altitudes than in the MOZAIC data. This is possibly due to an underestimated fire
758 inventory or conservative parameterizations in simulating large forest fires or both in
759 GEOS-Chem. Nassar et al. (2009) reported underestimated CO over the 2006 Indonesia
760 fire region by GEOS-Chem, in comparison with the Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer

761 (TES) observations. FLEXPART can generally simulate the three cases, strikingly well
762 sometimes in agreement with observed details in space and time, although discrepancies
763 between FLEXPART and satellite and aircraft observations can be found in various
764 places on small scales. FLEXPART simulates strong sources well but omits weak sources
765 sometimes.

766

767 **5.5 Applications of MOPITT data**

768 We analyzed MOPITT data from two aspects: vertical sensitivity on the synoptic
769 scale. Both are challenging and have not been studied adequately. Large gaps due to
770 clouds and the limited MOPITT swath make application of MOPITT on the synoptic
771 scale difficult. Thus application of MOPITT data over East Asia were mostly focused on
772 monthly or seasonal scales (Tanimoto et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2010; Hao et al., 2011; Liu
773 et al., 2011; Zhou et al., 2013; Su et al., 2014). This study shows that even with large
774 gaps, daily MOPITT data can capture vertical disturbances of CO on the synoptic scale,
775 which are usually diluted on longer time scales. This study also suggests the importance
776 of filling the gaps with other satellite data or in designing new satellite instruments, for
777 the purpose of detecting such variation over large areas on the regional and global scales.

778 Typically for satellite remote sensing products, the MOPITT retrieval at a specific
779 pressure level is influenced by CO from other levels and thus its retrieval at that pressure
780 level can be biased. However, MOPITT can more accurately measure the average CO
781 mixing ratio over a thick layer, resulting in a coarse vertical resolution. It was suggested
782 that the vertical variation in CO cannot be fully resolved in earlier applications of
783 MOPITT data (Jacob et al., 2003). This study addressed the MOPITT vertical sensitivity

784 with newly MOPITT V5 data and found enhanced vertical sensitivity in V5 data in the
785 free troposphere, even in the upper troposphere, in addition to in the boundary layer
786 emphasized by Worden et al. (2010) and Deeter et al. (2012). The enhanced DFSs and the
787 averaging kernels in V5 illustrated by Worden et al., (2010) and Deeter et al. (2012) are
788 supported (Figs. 1 and 5 and Sect.3).

789 In Fig. 5, the smoothed MOZAIC profiles were calculated using the averaging
790 kernels and the a priori in an area upwind of the MOZAIC measurement within 0-10 °
791 distance for each case as there were no MOPITT data available at the exact locations of
792 the MOZAIC measurements. Although this may introduce some bias, the averaging
793 kernel smoothed MOZAIC profiles in V5 show more vertical structure in CO than an
794 earlier version of MOPITT data in Jacob et al. (2003, in their Fig. 4). Overall, this study
795 found: (1) MOPITT can differentiate the magnitude of CO plumes originated from strong
796 or weak sources (Figs. 4, 5, and 6), (2) MOPITT can distinguish elevated CO in the lower,
797 middle, and upper troposphere (Figs. 4, 5, and 6), (3) the shape of CO plumes in vertical
798 direction matches with simulations of GEOS-Chem and FLEXPART, sometimes
799 remarkably well (Figs. 6, 8, and 11), and (4) there is more vertical structure in CO in new
800 V5 than in earlier versions of MOPITT data (Fig. 5).

801 It is the relative variations in MOPITT CO data that help diagnose CO transport
802 vertically or horizontally. This study suggests using MOPITT data quantitatively with
803 caution, especially at altitudes with high CO plumes because, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and
804 6, the magnitude of elevated CO in the MOPITT data could be lower than that in the
805 MOZAIC data at the altitudes where CO peaked. Therefore, the vertical variation of CO,
806 even enhanced in V5, is still much smoothed in MOPITT data. MOPITT can distinguish

807 elevated CO in different layers of the free troposphere, yet sometimes cannot specify the
808 exact altitude of elevated CO shown in the MOZAIC measurements (Figs. 5 and 6). One
809 limitation for MOPITT's application of vertical transport is the complication of clouds,
810 which often accompany with frontal systems. As shown in cases 2004 and 2005, CO is
811 usually high in cloudy areas. Therefore, the magnitude of CO abundances can be
812 underestimated by MOPITT in these areas.

813

814 **6 Conclusions**

815 East Asia is characterized by its unique and complex meteorology, topography,
816 vegetation covers, and CO sources. The characteristics are reflected in uplifting of CO
817 illustrated in three high CO episodes during 2003-2005 in this study. Through integrated
818 analyses of observations from the airborne MOZAIC and spaceborne MOPITT
819 instruments and simulations from a trajectory dispersion model FLEXPART (Stohl et al.,
820 2005) and a chemical transport model GEOS-Chem (Bey et al., 2001), this study draws
821 the following conclusions.

- 822 1. In the three CO episodes, high CO abundances of 300-550 ppbv were observed by
823 MOZAIC in the free troposphere over the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan.
824 These are among the highest CO abundances ever documented at these altitudes.
825 The three cases occurred when and where meteorology was favorable and CO
826 sources were strong. It is likely that on average, the extremely high CO episodes
827 (~500 ppbv) like cases 2003 and 2004 occurred 2-5 times every 100 days in their
828 respective altitudes over the region, while in case 2005, episodes with a lower CO
829 abundances (200-300 ppbv) occurred 1-2 times per 10 days between 400-200 hPa.

830 CO episodes in even lower altitudes and with even lower abundance occurred more
831 frequently in the region.

832 2. GEOS-Chem and FLEXPART simulations reveal different CO signatures from
833 biomass burning and anthropogenic sources in the CO enhancement in the three
834 cases, reflecting different transport pathways and mechanisms and locations of both
835 sources. In case 2003, CO from large forest fires near Lake Baikal dominated the
836 elevated CO. In case 2004, anthropogenic CO came from the North China Plain
837 and mostly reached ~ 700 hPa near the East China Sea, while CO from biomass
838 burning in Indochina was transported through two separate pathways, leading to
839 two distinct CO enhancements around 700 hPa and 300 hPa. In case 2005, along a
840 WCB over the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan, anthropogenic CO from the
841 North China Plain and from the Sichuan basin prevailed in the northern and
842 southern part of the WCB, while CO from biomass burning in Indochina was
843 mostly distributed in the middle part of the WCB.

844 3. Topography in East Asia influences vertical transport of CO in different ways. In
845 particular, topography-induced leeside troughs east of the Hengduan Mountains
846 over Indochina lead to strong convection. This new mechanism proposed by Lin et
847 al. (2009) is supported by this study in explaining CO transport to the middle
848 troposphere and further extended for CO transport to the upper troposphere. Strong
849 convection from the Sichuan basin also plays an important role in vertically
850 transporting anthropogenic CO. The topography interacting with frontal activities
851 can enhance the vertical transport of CO substantially in the North China Plain.

852 4. Extratropical cyclones and associated frontal activities are important mechanism in

853 lifting CO from the boundary layer to the free troposphere, as illustrated by the
854 three cases and earlier studies. East Asia is one of two regions between 25-45 °N
855 with most frequent WCB events (Eckhardt et al., 2004). Inside East Asia, there are
856 two regions where cyclones occur most frequently: one over the lee sides of the
857 Altai-Sayan and the other in the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan, occurring
858 mostly in spring and summer over both regions (Chen et al., 1991). The seasons
859 and locations of the three high CO episodes just match well with these two areas
860 and active cyclone seasons, which may not happen by chance.

861 5. Biomass burning is identified as an important source for all three episodes,
862 suggesting that CO from sporadic fire activities can provide additional CO to less
863 varying anthropogenic emission and enhance chances of high CO episodes. The
864 fire regions shown in this study are the places with dense vegetation covers and
865 with most active forest fires in East Asia.

866 6. The MOPITT's vertical sensitivity is found to be enhanced in its new V5 NIR/TIR
867 data in the free troposphere, even in the upper troposphere. The daytime V5 data
868 can detect synoptic disturbances of weather systems on horizontal variation of CO.
869 The data also show more vertical structure than earlier versions and can distinguish
870 CO enhancements at different layers of the troposphere, although the detected high
871 CO is over a broad range in altitudes and lacks detailed vertical structure in
872 comparison with the aircraft observations. Because the CO retrieval at a certain
873 pressure level is often smoothed by the MOPITT averaging kernels, the MOPITT
874 retrievals usually underestimate elevated CO at altitudes with peak CO plumes.
875 The complication of clouds within frontal systems can generate large gaps in

876 MOPITT data and cause underestimation of CO statistically in these regions.
877 Nevertheless, MOPITT data can be used to qualitatively help diagnose vertical
878 transport processes, with caution on their absolute CO values. On average,
879 MOPITT slightly overestimates the background CO in the upper troposphere.

880

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1369

1370

1371 **Figure caption**

1372 Fig. 1. The Degree of Freedom for Signal (DFS) of the MOPITT V5 TIR/NIR data over
1373 East Asia, averaged for 2005 during (a) daytime and (b) nighttime. Locations of four
1374 cities with MOZAIC CO measurements are indicated as stars. Note that the MOZAIC CO
1375 data from Narita also include a small portion of measurements from its surrounding cities
1376 at Osaka and Nagoya.

1377

1378 Fig. 2. Relative bias of CO profiles (in %) between MOPITT and MOZAIC data
1379 (smoothed with the MOPITT averaging kernels, see Equation 1) from 2003 to 2005 at
1380 Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and Hong Kong for MOPITT V4 and V5 data. The number of
1381 profiles for the comparison is 18, 23, 11, and 15, respectively, at Beijing, Narita,
1382 Shanghai, and Hong Kong. The error bars indicate the interquartile range of the mean.

1383

1384 Fig. 3. Correlation between MOPITT and MOZAIC data (smoothed with the MOPITT
1385 averaging kernels, see Equation 1) from 2003 to 2005 at Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and
1386 Hong Kong (a) from the middle to upper troposphere and (b) from the surface to the
1387 middle troposphere.

1388

1389 Fig. 4. MOPITT CO mixing ratio (ppbv, in color) (a) on 6 June 2003 at 500 hPa, (b) on
1390 18 March 2004 at 700 hPa, and (c) on April 10, 2005 at 300 hPa. All are overlaid with
1391 horizontal winds (in arrows) at the same altitude. In each subfigure, the locations of
1392 MOZAIC data at 900, 600, and 300 hPa are indicated as red, blue and pink dots,
1393 respectively. The box indicates an area over which mean MOPITT CO profile are taken
1394 and displayed in Fig.5. The box is selected to ensure enough MOPITT samplings at the
1395 closest upwind direction of MOZAIC measurements. The two blue dashed lines define
1396 the longitudinal zone, over which the CO abundances were averaged and shown in Fig 6.
1397 The solid blue bars in Figs. 4a and 4c indicate the locations where particles were released
1398 and backward trajectories were simulated using FLEXPART (see text for detail).

1399

1400 Fig. 5. Profiles of MOPITT CO and the a priori, averaged over the corresponding boxed
1401 area in Fig. 4 on (a) 6 June 2003, (c) 18 March 2004, and (e) 10 April 2005, respectively,
1402 along with their monthly mean MOPITT CO profile over the same area. The
1403 corresponding MOZAIC CO profiles (along the dots in Fig. 4) on the same day are
1404 shown in (b), (d), and (f), respectively. The corresponding MOZAIC ozone and relative
1405 humidity profiles are also shown in (b), (d), and (f). Note that the smoothed MOZAIC

1406 CO profiles (MOZAIC CO(s)) were calculated using the averaging kernels and the a
1407 priori in the boxed area in each case (see Sect. 5 for discussion).

1408

1409 Fig. 6. A latitude-altitude cross section of MOPITT CO averaged between the two blue
1410 dashed lines in Fig.4 on (a) June 6, 2003, (b) March 18, 2004, and (c) April 10, 2005. The
1411 contour lines indicate U wind speed (m s^{-1}). Vectors are for wind directions in V and W.
1412 For a better illustration, W is enlarged by a factor of 100. The pink box(es) in (a) and (c)
1413 indicate the locations where particles were released and backward trajectories were
1414 simulated using FLEXPART (see text for detail).

1415

1416 Fig. 7. (a) Particle distribution between 6.25-10.25 km (\sim 550-250 hPa) during June 1-6,
1417 2003. The particles were released from two locations (in pink lines) around 400 hPa (also
1418 see Figs. 4a and 6a) on June 6, 2003 and backward trajectories were calculated. The
1419 contour lines are the geopotential heights at 850 hPa on June 3, 2003. A cold front and a
1420 warm front are indicated by green and red lines, respectively. (b) The same as (a), but
1421 between 0-3.5 km. The contour lines are the geopotential heights at 850 hPa on 2 June
1422 2003. The circles, diamonds, and stars denote daily mean fire counts of 20-100, 100-300,
1423 and 300-500 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$ grid area, respectively, from May 31 to June 6.

1424

1425 Fig. 8. Vertical distribution of particles, varying with time from 1 June 2003 at 0 UTC to
1426 16 June 2003 at 0 UTC. The particles were released from fire regions in Fig. 7b from the
1427 surface to 3 km on 1 June 2003 and forward trajectories were calculated (15 days). The
1428 forward time (in hour) and date (in June) are indicated in the x-axis on the bottom and the
1429 top, respectively.

1430

1431 Fig. 9. MOPITT CO mixing ratio at 700 hPa from 11-19 March 2004, overlaid with the
1432 geopotential height at 850 hPa on 17 March 2004 in blue contour and with a front shown
1433 by brown solid line. The large and small stars denote daily mean fire counts of 100-200
1434 and over 200 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$ grid area during the period, respectively. “L” and “H” indicate
1435 a low and high pressure system, respectively.

1436

1437 Fig. 10. (a) CO, (b) CO from biomass burning, and (c) CO from the anthropogenic source
1438 on March 18, 2004 at 0 UTC, simulated by GEOS-Chem. The geopotential height at 700
1439 hPa is indicated with white lines. “L” indicates a low pressure system.

1440

1441 Fig. 11. Latitude-altitude cross sections along 130°E of (a) CO, (b) CO from biomass
1442 burning, and (c) anthropogenic CO on March 17, 2004 at 6 UTC, simulated by
1443 GEOS-Chem. The contour lines indicate U wind speed (m s^{-1}). Vectors are for wind
1444 directions in V and W. For a better illustration, W is enlarged by a factor of 100.

1445

1446 Fig. 12. A longitude-altitude cross section of CO along 22°N on March 17, 2004 at 6
1447 UTC, simulated by GEOS-Chem. The topography of the Hengduan Mountains is
1448 indicated in white.

1449

1450 Fig. 13. MOPITT CO mixing ratio at 800 hPa from April 3-10, 2005, overlaid with the
1451 geopotential height at 850 hPa on April 9, 2005 at 0 UTC in blue contour and with a front

1452 in brown solid line. The large and small stars denote daily mean fire counts of 100-200
1453 and over 200 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$ grid area during the period, respectively. The boxed area was
1454 identified as a major CO source region from the FLEXPART simulation (see text for
1455 detail).

1456

1457 Fig. 14. The GEOS-Chem simulated CO (a) on April 8, 2005 in the lower troposphere
1458 (800-700 hPa), (b) on April 9 in the middle troposphere (500-400 hPa), and (c) on April
1459 10 in the upper troposphere (300-200 hPa). The contours are the geopotential height at
1460 850, 450, and 250 hPa, respectively.

1461

1462 Fig. 15. The GEOS-Chem simulated fractional CO (a) from biomass burning and (b)
1463 from the anthropogenic source on April 10, 2005 at 00 UTC in the middle troposphere
1464 (500-400 hPa). (c) and (d) are the same as for (a) and (b), respectively, but in the upper
1465 troposphere (300-200 hPa). The geopotential height at 450 and 250 hPa is overlaid with
1466 the CO images in the middle and upper troposphere, respectively. White dots indicate the
1467 location of MOZAIC measurements.

1468

1469 **Table caption**

1470 **Table 1.** Characterization of the three cases.

1471

1472 **Table 2.** Occurrences of various CO ranges at different altitudes in the MOZAIC
1473 measurements in the vicinity of Narita from 2001 to 2006.

1474

1475 **Table 3.** Occurrences of various CO ranges at different altitudes in GEOS-Chem
1476 simulations and MOPITT observations in the vicinity of Narita ($126-140^\circ\text{E}$ $30-40^\circ\text{N}$) in
1477 2005.

1478

1479

Table 1. Characterization of the three cases.

Case	2003	2004	2005
Date	6 June 2003	18 March 2004	10 April 2005
Maximum CO (ppbv) in MOZAIC profiles	~550	~500	~300
CO peak height (hPa) in MOZAIC profiles	500-350	750-550	350-250
Maximum CO (ppbv) in MOPITT images	300-400	200-250	150-200
CO peak height (hPa) in MOPITT images	650-300	750-500	400-250
Peak CO area in MOPITT images	35-55°N 125-145°E	20-32°N 125-135°E	32-37°N 130-140°E
Major CO sources	Large fires near Lake Baikal in Russia	Fires in the Indochina peninsula, anthropogenic emissions in the North China Plain	Fires in the Indochina peninsula, anthropogenic emissions in the North China Plain and the Sichuan basin
Vertical transport mechanism	Frontal lifting	Convection, frontal lifting, and orographic lifting	Convection, frontal lifting, and orographic lifting
Outflow	West coast of Canada	West coast of the United States	West coast of Canada

Table 2. Occurrences of various CO ranges at different altitudes in the MOZAIC measurements in the vicinity of Narita from 2001 to 2006.

Season	Pressure (hPa)	Occurrence						Fractional Occurrence (%)					
		CO Concentration Range (ppbv)						CO Concentration Range (ppbv)					
		0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	>400	All	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	>400	All
All	400-200	67	354	93	19	6	539	12	66	17	4	1	100
	600-400	36	359	69	15	8	487	7	74	14	3	2	100
	850-600	17	180	150	31	6	384	4	47	39	8	2	100
	Surface-850	4	60	142	83	88	377	1	16	38	22	23	100
Spring	400-200	11	96	28	12	2	149	7	64	19	8	1	100
	600-400	1	101	29	9	3	143	1	71	20	6	2	100
	850-600	0	38	55	20	5	118	0	32	47	17	4	100
	Surface-850	0	14	44	27	29	114	0	12	39	24	25	100
Summer	400-200	14	132	41	4	4	195	7	68	21	2	2	100
	600-400	13	138	22	1	2	176	7	78	13	1	1	100
	850-600	14	80	50	6	0	150	9	53	33	4	0	100
	Surface-850	4	32	48	30	36	150	3	21	32	20	24	100
Fall	400-200	30	61	15	2	0	108	28	56	14	2	0	100
	600-400	20	50	11	2	1	84	24	60	13	2	1	100
	850-600	3	30	17	3	0	53	6	57	32	6	0	100
	Surface-850	0	10	20	12	11	53	0	19	38	23	21	100
Winter	400-200	12	65	9	1	0	87	14	75	10	1	0	100
	600-400	2	70	7	3	2	84	2	83	8	4	2	100
	850-600	0	32	28	2	1	63	0	51	44	3	2	100
	Surface-850	0	4	30	14	12	60	0	7	50	23	20	100

Table 3. Occurrences of various CO ranges at different altitudes in GEOS-Chem simulations and MOPITT observations in the vicinity of Narita (126-140 °E 30-40 °N) in 2005.

Pressure (hPa)	GEOS-Chem: Fractional Occurrence (%)						Pressure (hPa)	MOPITT: Fractional Occurrence (%)				
	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	>400	All		0-100	100-200	200-250	>250	All
200-100	12	87	1	0	0	100	200-100	38	45	11	6	100
400-200	0	87	12	1	0	100	400-200	4	68	18	10	100
600-400	0	53	35	11	1	100	600-400	6	86	6	1	100
850-600	0	20	46	25	8	100	800-600	7	67	20	6	100
1000-850	0	7	46	35	11	100	1000-800	2	16	18	64	100

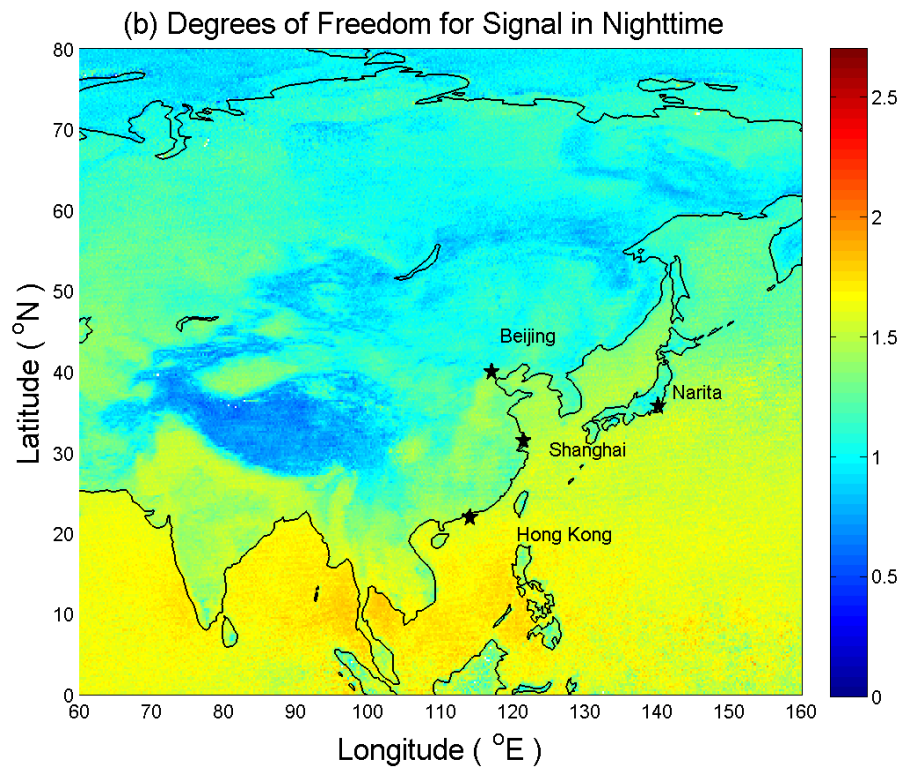
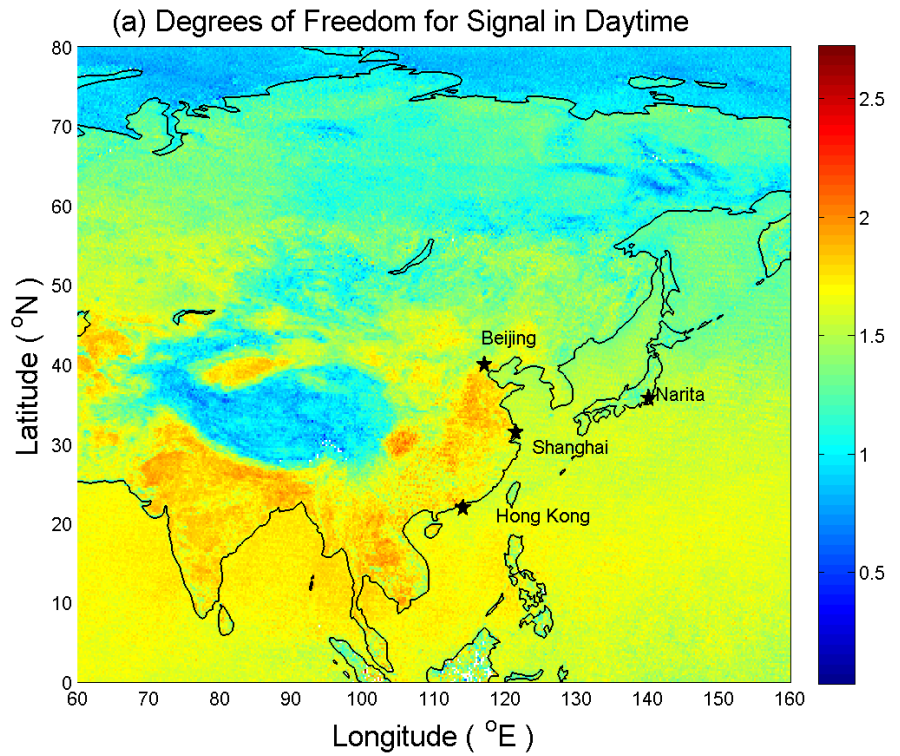


Fig. 1. The Degree of Freedom for Signal (DFS) of the MOPITT V5 TIR/NIR data over East Asia, averaged for 2005 during (a) daytime and (b) nighttime. Locations of four cities with MOZAIC CO measurements are indicated as stars. Note that the MOZAIC CO data from Narita also include a small portion of measurements from its surrounding cities at Osaka and Nagoya.

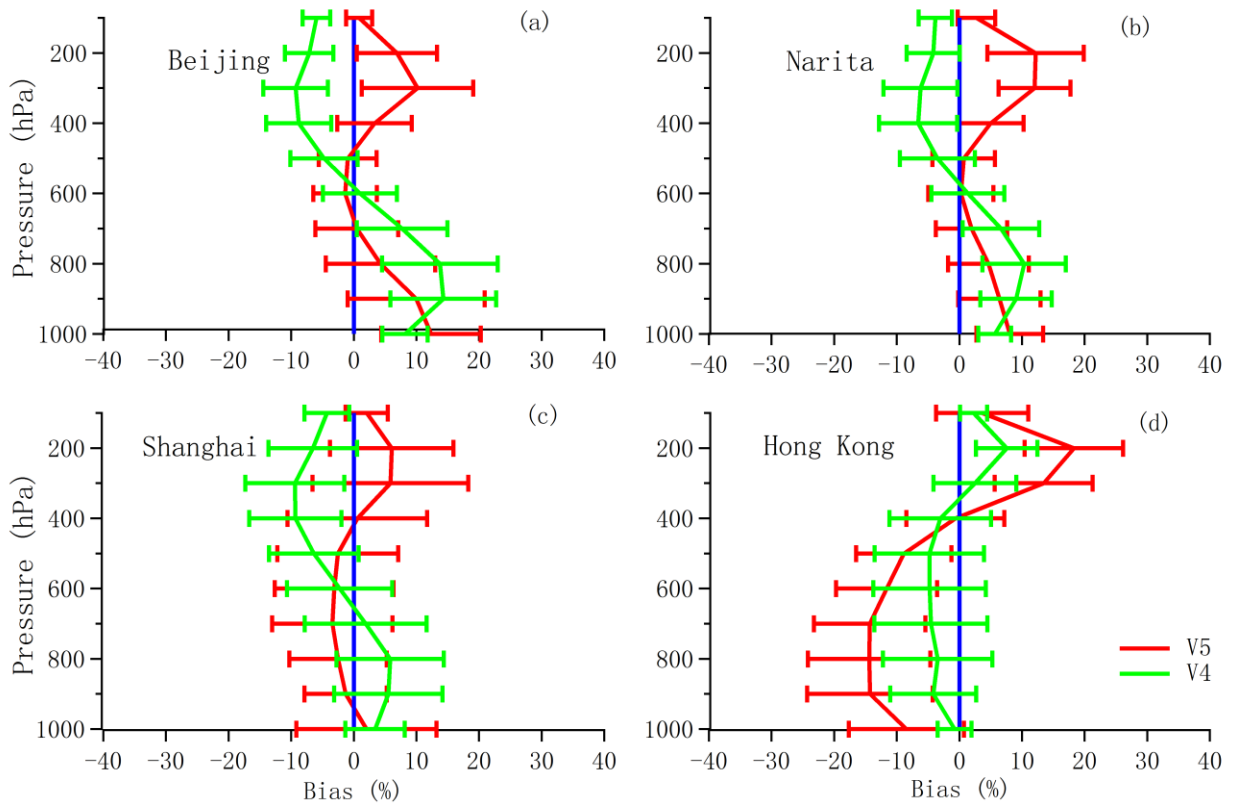


Fig. 2. Relative bias of CO profiles between MOPITT and MOZAIC data (smoothed with the MOPITT averaging kernels, see Equation 1) from 2003 to 2005 at Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and Hong Kong for MOPITT V4 and V5 data. The number of profiles for the comparison is 18, 23, 11, and 15, respectively, at Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. The error bars indicate the interquartile range of the mean.

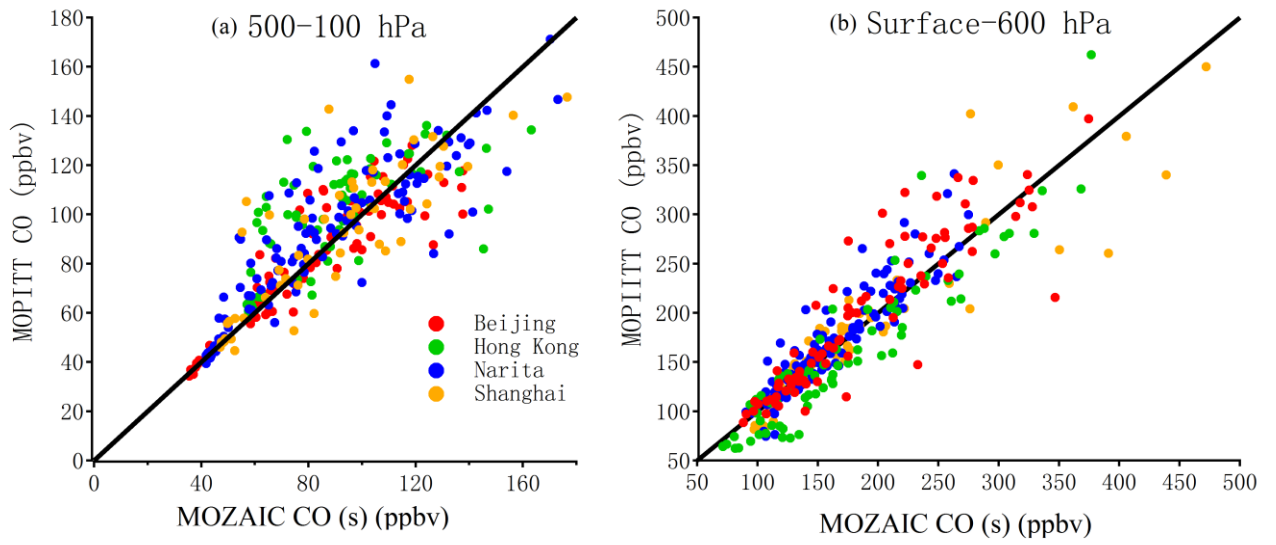
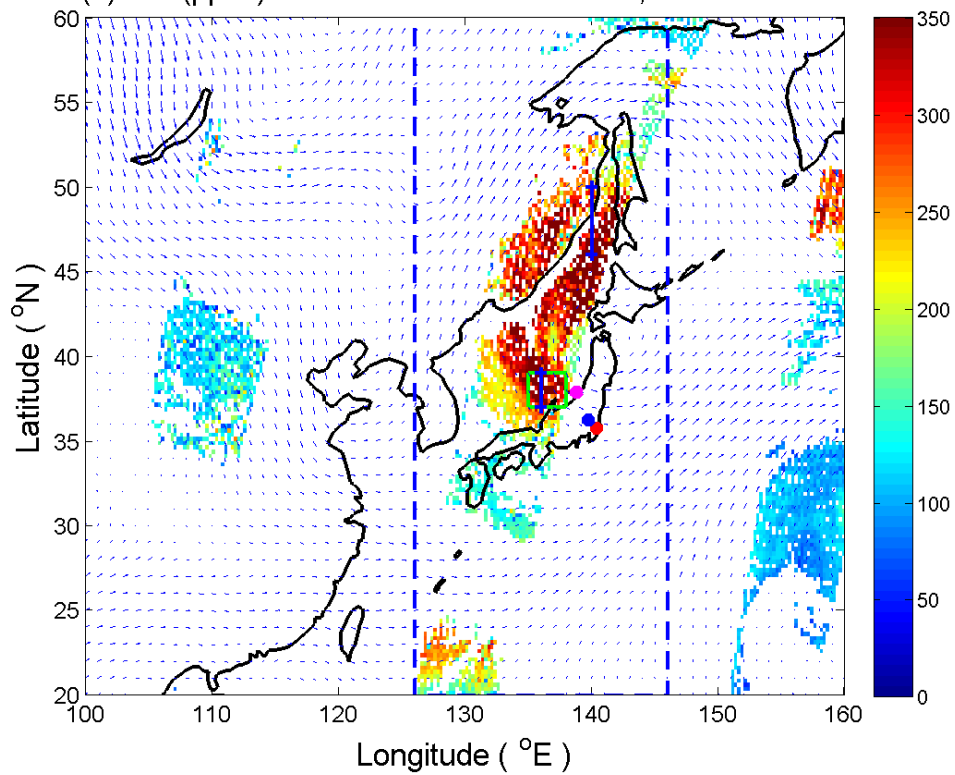
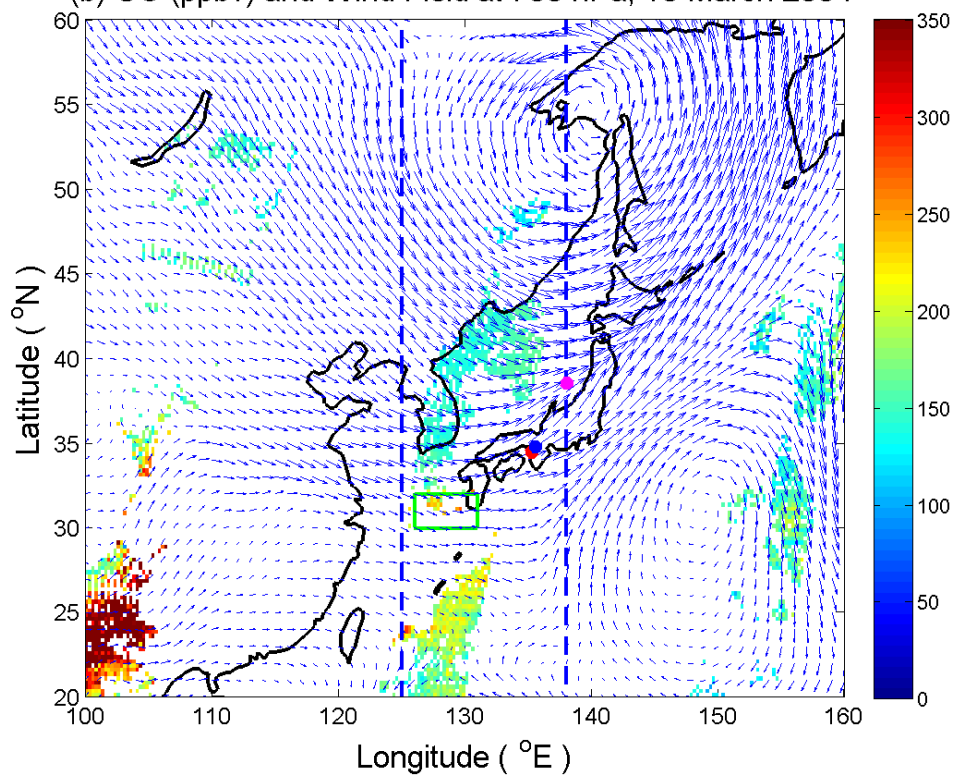


Fig. 3. Correlation between MOPITT and MOZAIC data (smoothed with the MOPITT averaging kernels, see Equation 1) from 2003 to 2005 at Beijing, Narita, Shanghai, and Hong Kong (a) from the middle to upper troposphere and (b) from the surface to the middle troposphere.

(a) CO (ppbv) and Wind Field at 500 hPa, 06 June 2003



(b) CO (ppbv) and Wind Field at 700 hPa, 18 March 2004



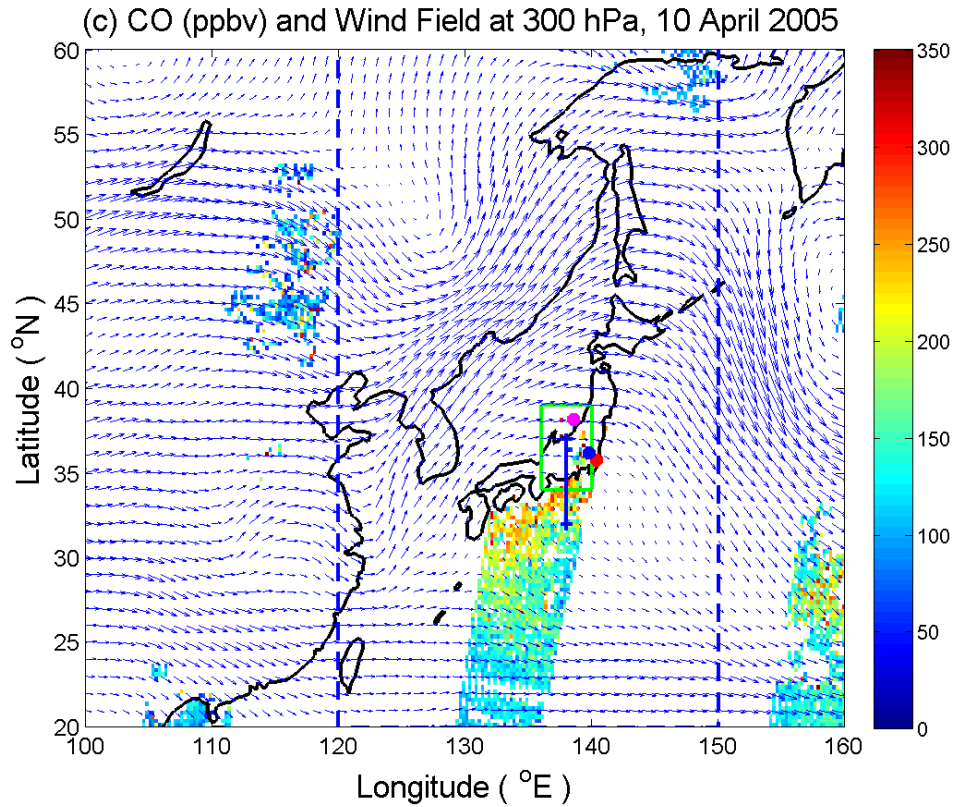
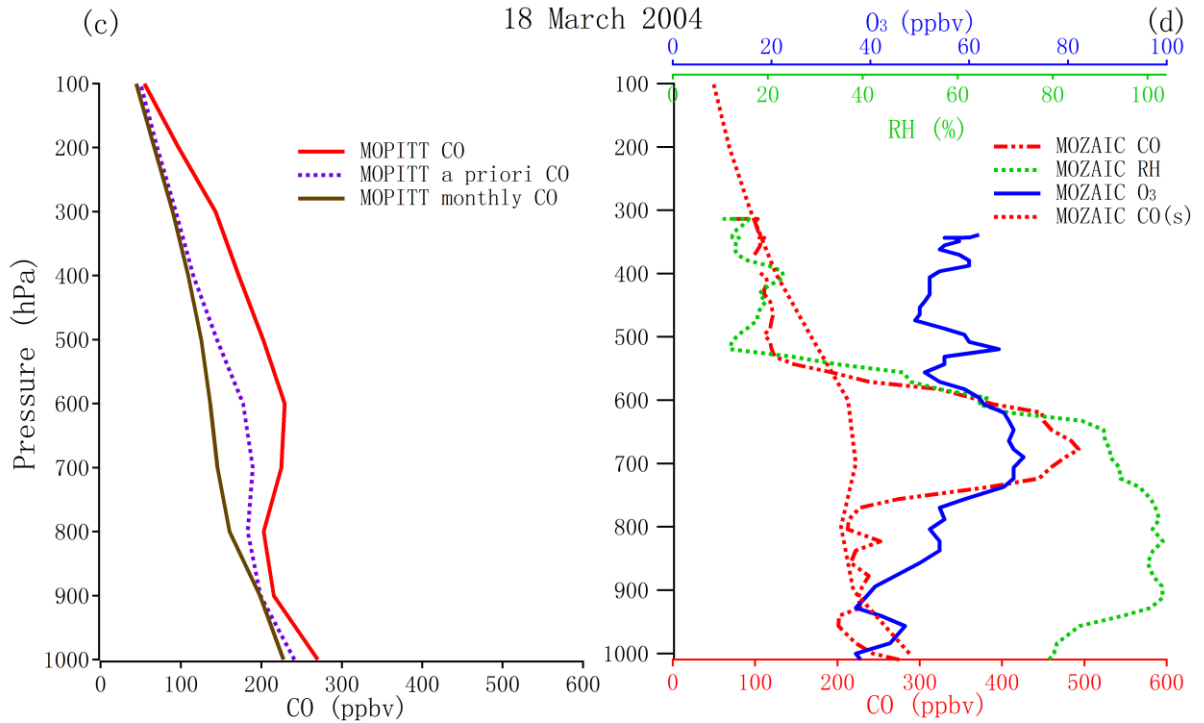
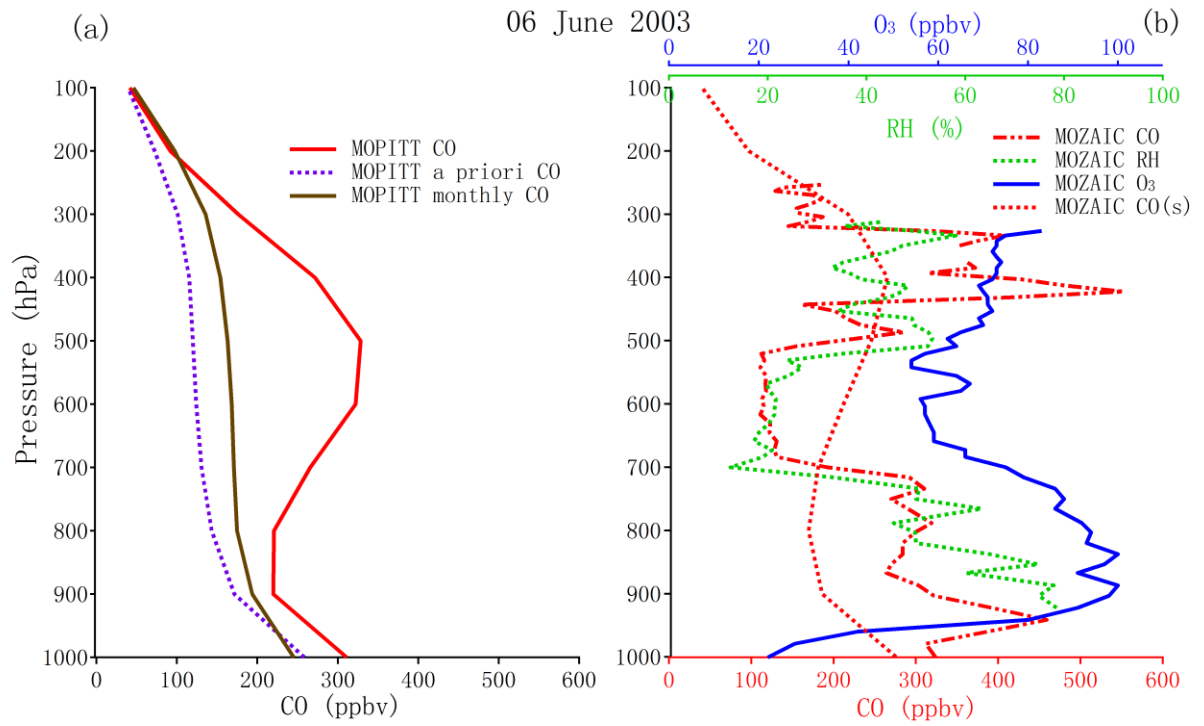


Fig. 4. MOPITT CO mixing ratio (ppbv, in color) (a) on 6 June 2003 at 500 hPa, (b) on 18 March 2004 at 700 hPa, and (c) on April 10, 2005 at 300 hPa. All are overlaid with horizontal winds (in arrows) at the same altitude. In each subfigure, the locations of MOZAIC data at 900, 600, and 300 hPa are indicated as red, blue and pink dots, respectively. The box indicates an area over which mean MOPITT CO profile are taken and displayed in Fig.5. The box is selected to ensure enough MOPITT samplings at the closest upwind direction of MOZAIC measurements. The two blue dashed lines define the longitudinal zone, over which the CO abundances were averaged and shown in Fig 6. The solid blue bars in Figs. 4a and 4c indicate the locations where particles were released and backward trajectories were simulated using FLEXPART (see text for detail).



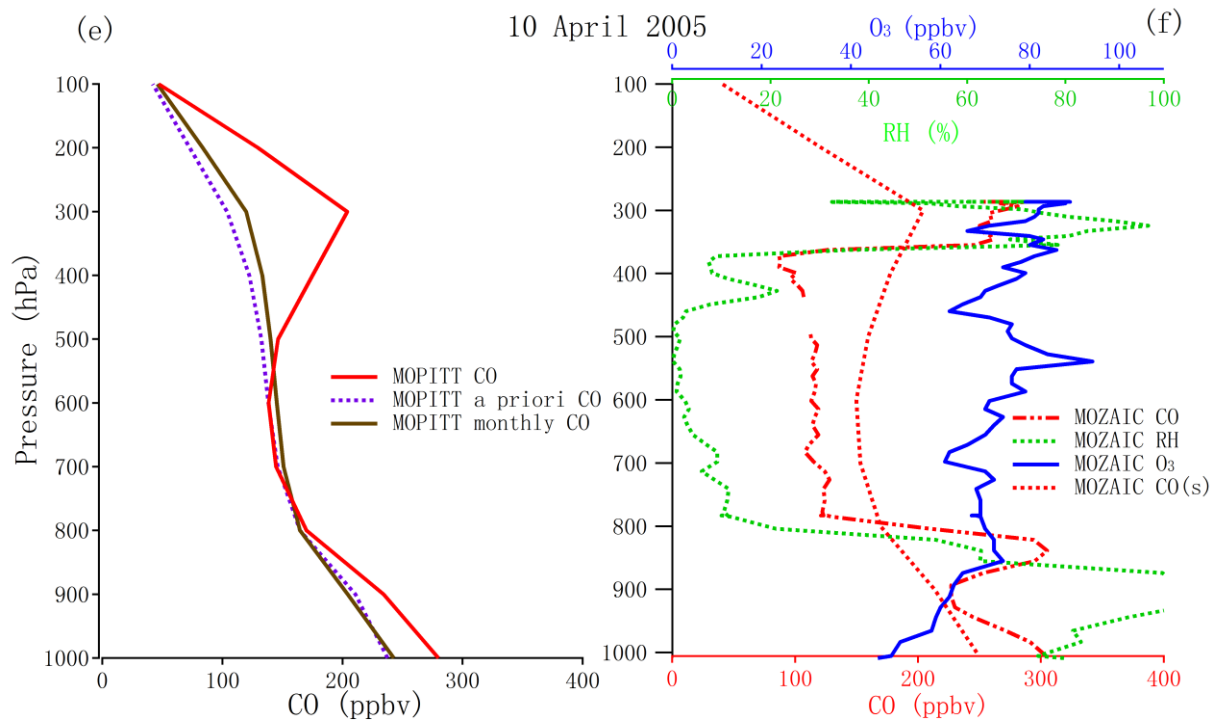
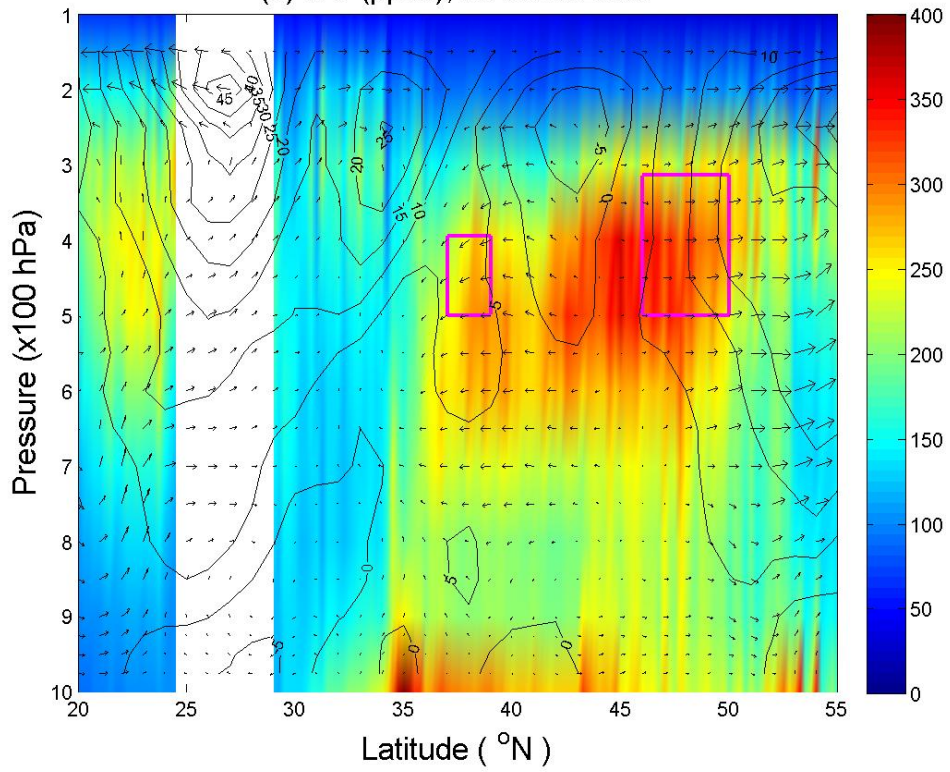
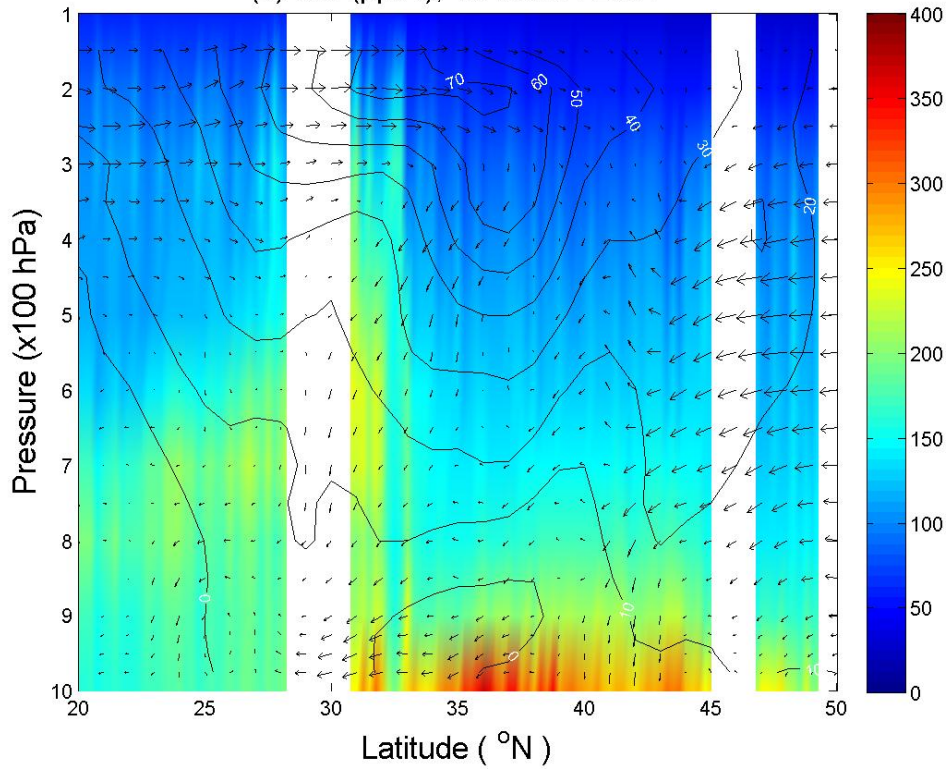


Fig. 5. Profiles of MOPITT CO and the a priori, averaged over the corresponding boxed area in Fig. 4 on (a) 6 June 2003, (c) 18 March 2004, and (e) 10 April 2005, respectively, along with their monthly mean MOPITT CO profile over the same area. The corresponding MOZAIC CO profiles (along the dots in Fig. 4) on the same day are shown in (b), (d), and (f), respectively. The corresponding MOZAIC ozone and relative humidity profiles are also shown in (b), (d), and (f). Note that the smoothed MOZAIC CO profiles (MOZAIC CO(s)) were calculated using the averaging kernels and the a priori in the boxed area in each case (see Sect. 5 for discussion).

(a) CO (ppbv), 06 June 2003



(b) CO (ppbv), 18 March 2004



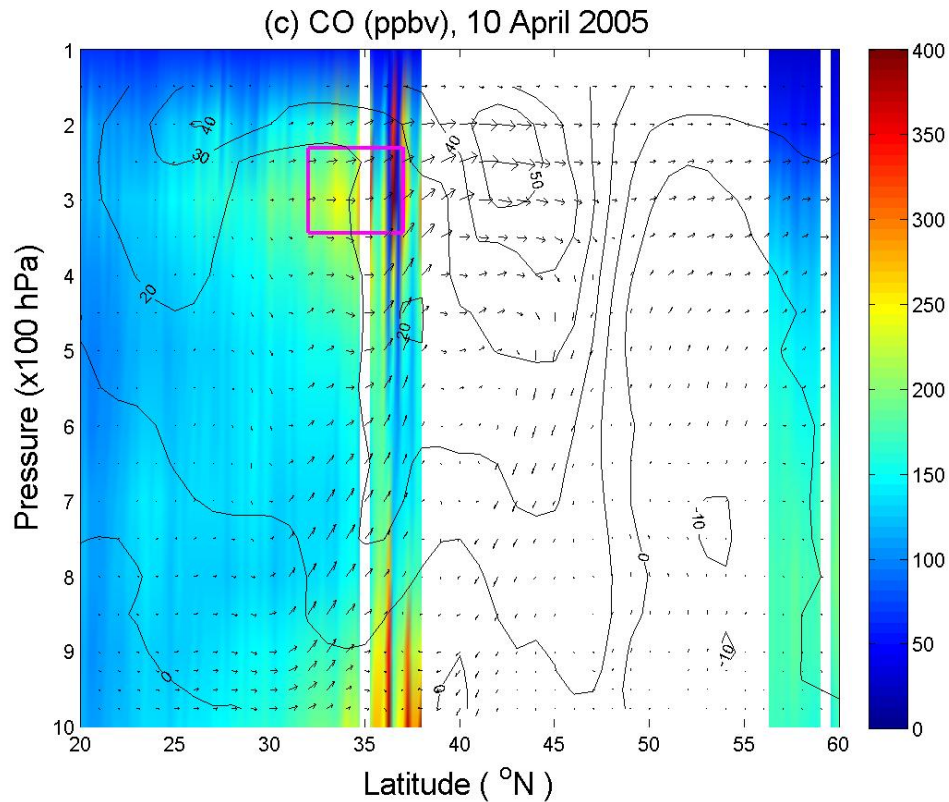
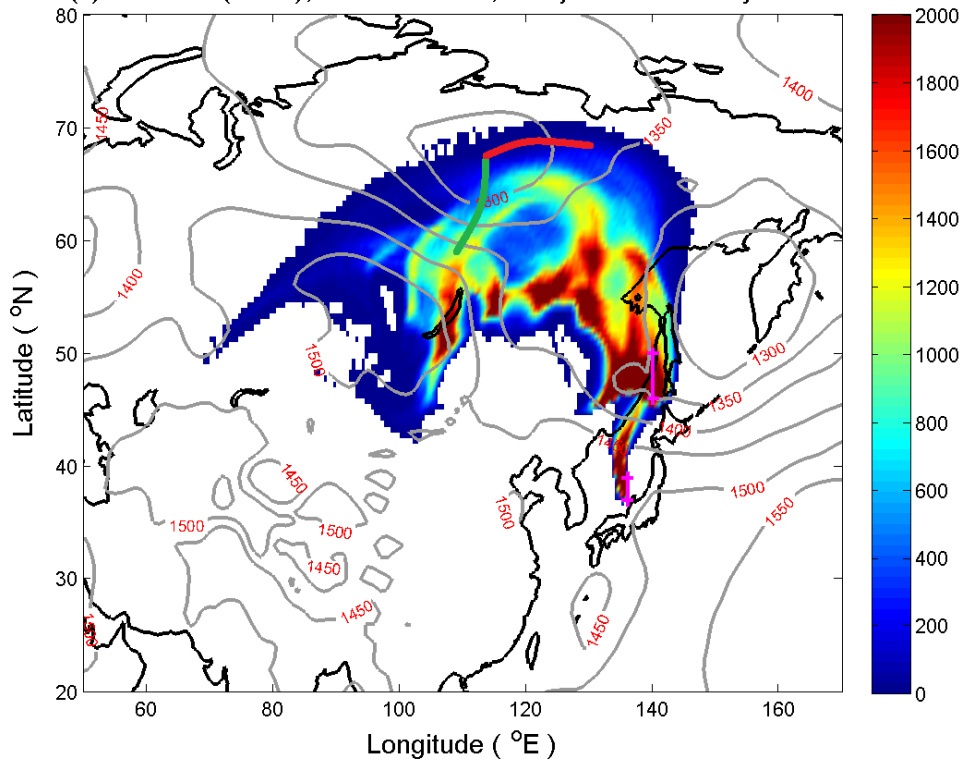


Fig. 6. A latitude-altitude cross section of MOPITT CO averaged between the two blue dashed lines in Fig.4 on (a) June 6, 2003, (b) March 18, 2004, and (c) April 10, 2005. The contour lines indicate U wind speed (m s^{-1}). Vectors are for wind directions in V and W. For a better illustration, W is enlarged by a factor of 100. The pink box(es) in (a) and (c) indicate the locations where particles were released and backward trajectories were simulated using FLEXPART (see text for detail).

(a) Particles (count), 6.25-10.25 km, 5-day Backward Trajectories



(b) Particles (count), 0-3.25 km, 5-day Backward Trajectories

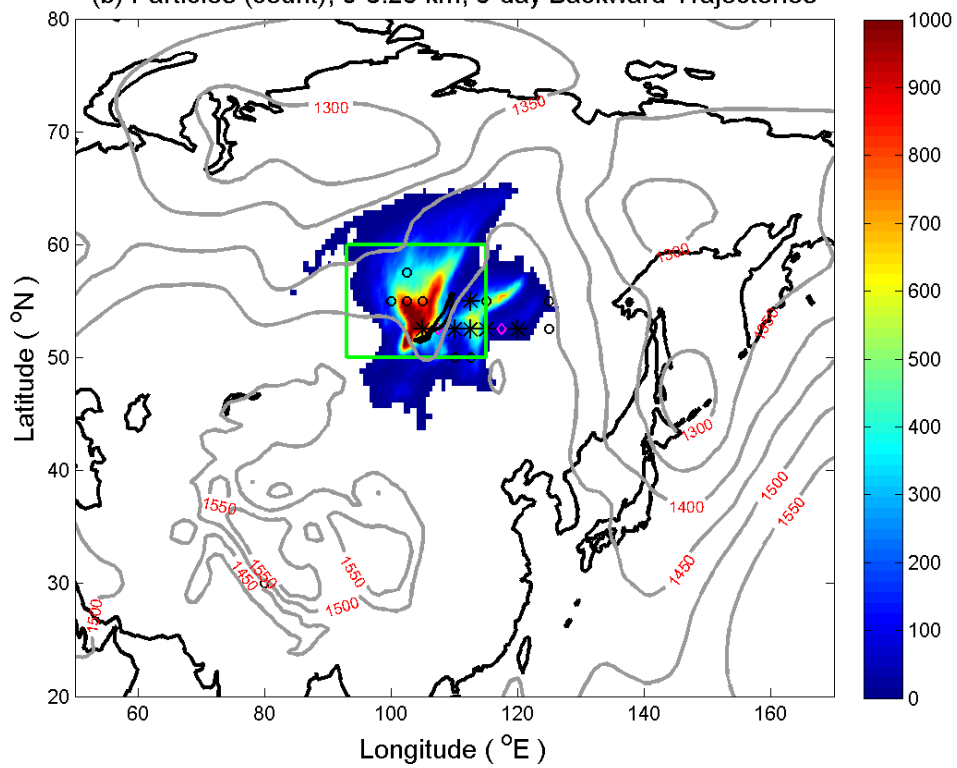


Fig. 7. (a) Particle distribution between 6.25-10.25 km (~550-250 hPa) during June 1-6, 2003. The particles were released from two locations (in pink lines) around 400 hPa (also see Figs. 4a and 6a) on June 6, 2003 and backward trajectories were calculated. The contour lines are the geopotential heights at 850 hPa on June 3, 2003. A cold front and a warm front are indicated by green and red lines, respectively. (b) The same as (a), but between 0-3.5 km. The contour lines are the geopotential heights at 850 hPa on 2 June 2003. The circles, diamonds, and stars denote daily mean fire counts of 20-100, 100-300, and 300-500 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$ grid area, respectively, from May 31 to June 6.

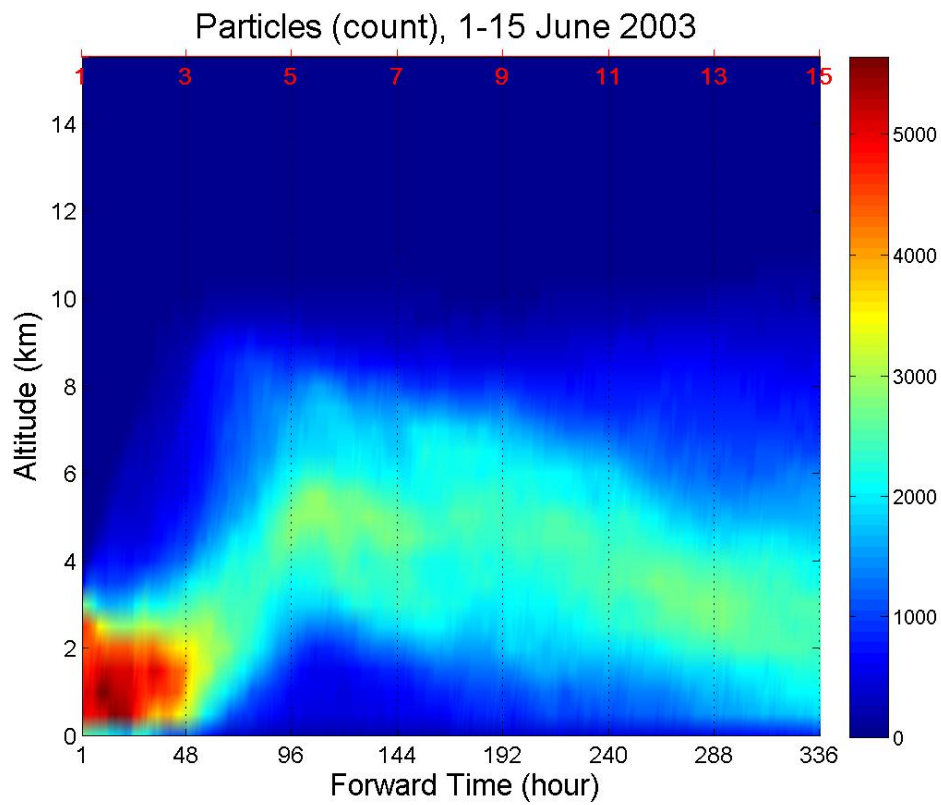


Fig. 8. Vertical distribution of particles, varying with time from 1 June 2003 at 0 UTC to 16 June 2003 at 0 UTC. The particles were released from fire regions in Fig. 7b from the surface to 3 km on 1 June 2003 and forward trajectories were calculated (15 days). The forward time (in hour) and date (in June) are indicated in the x-axis on the bottom and the top, respectively.

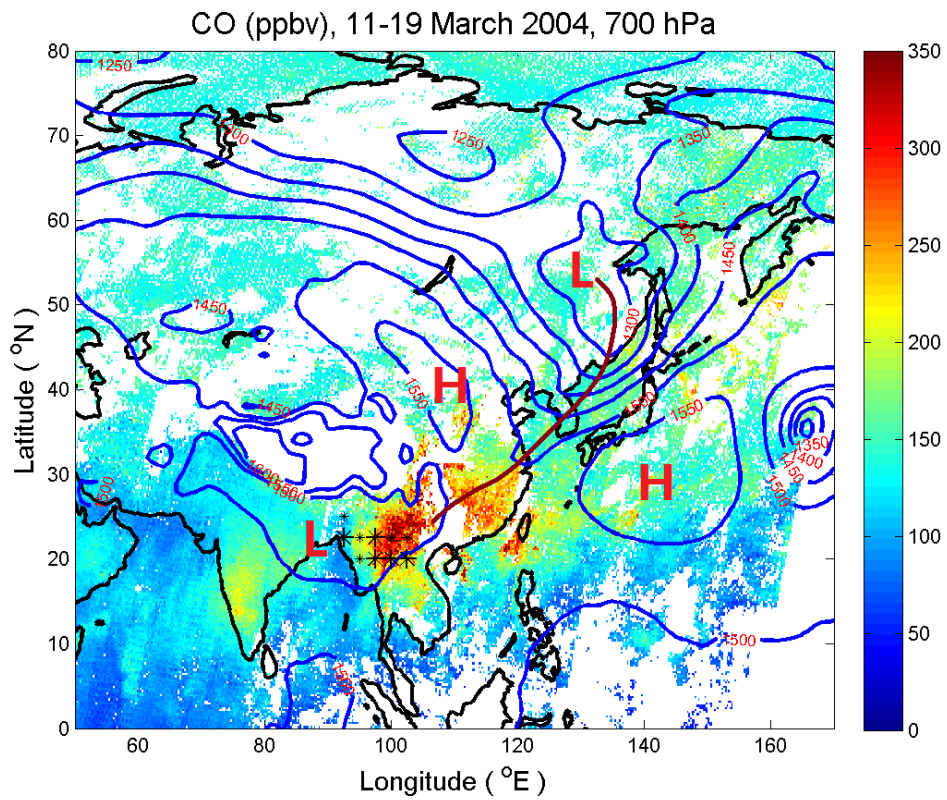
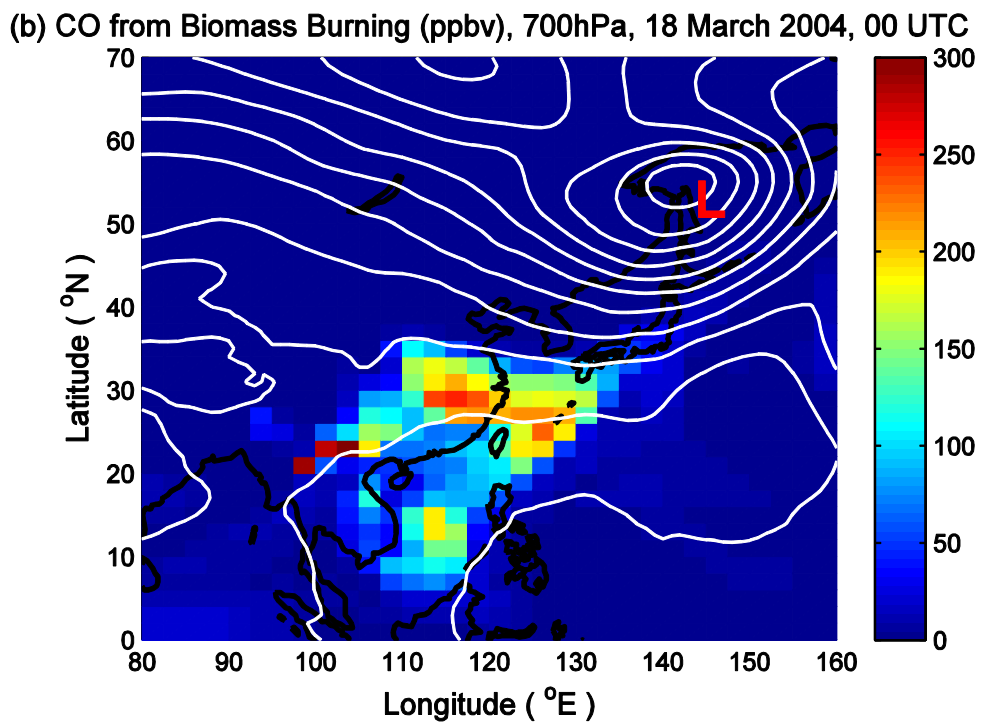
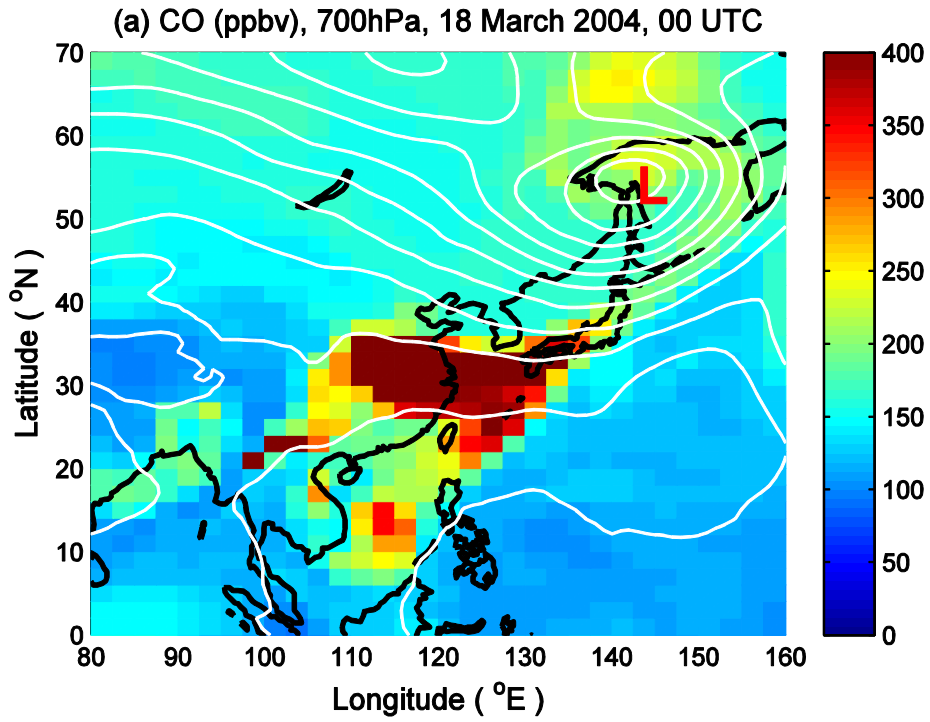


Fig. 9. MOPITT CO mixing ratio at 700 hPa from 11-19 March 2004, overlaid with the geopotential height at 850 hPa on 17 March 2004 in blue contour and with a front shown by brown solid line. The large and small stars denote daily mean fire counts of 100-200 and over 200 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$ grid area during the period, respectively. “L” and “H” indicate a low and high pressure system, respectively.



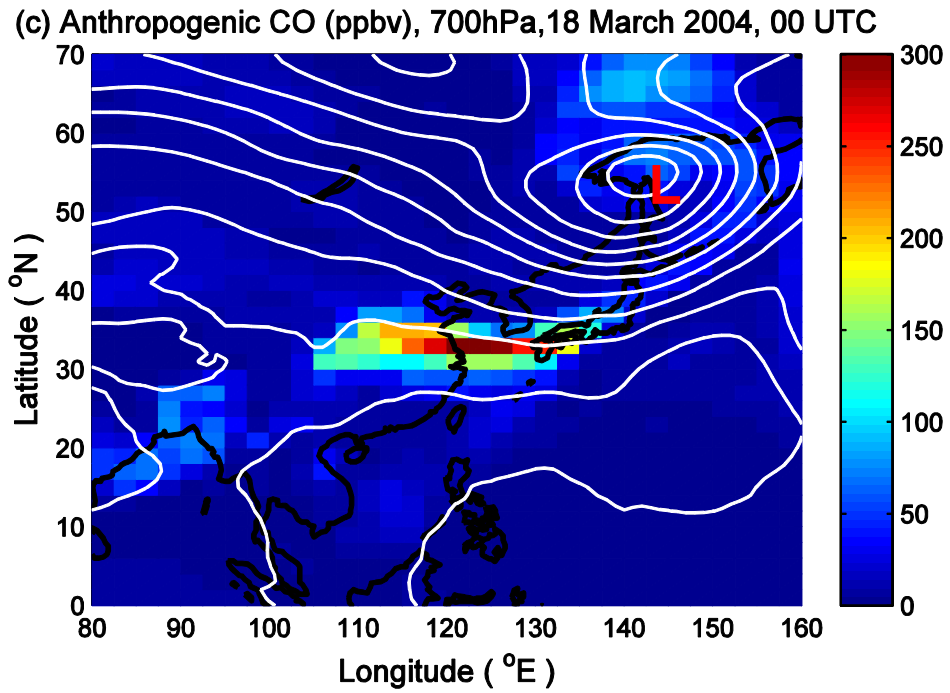
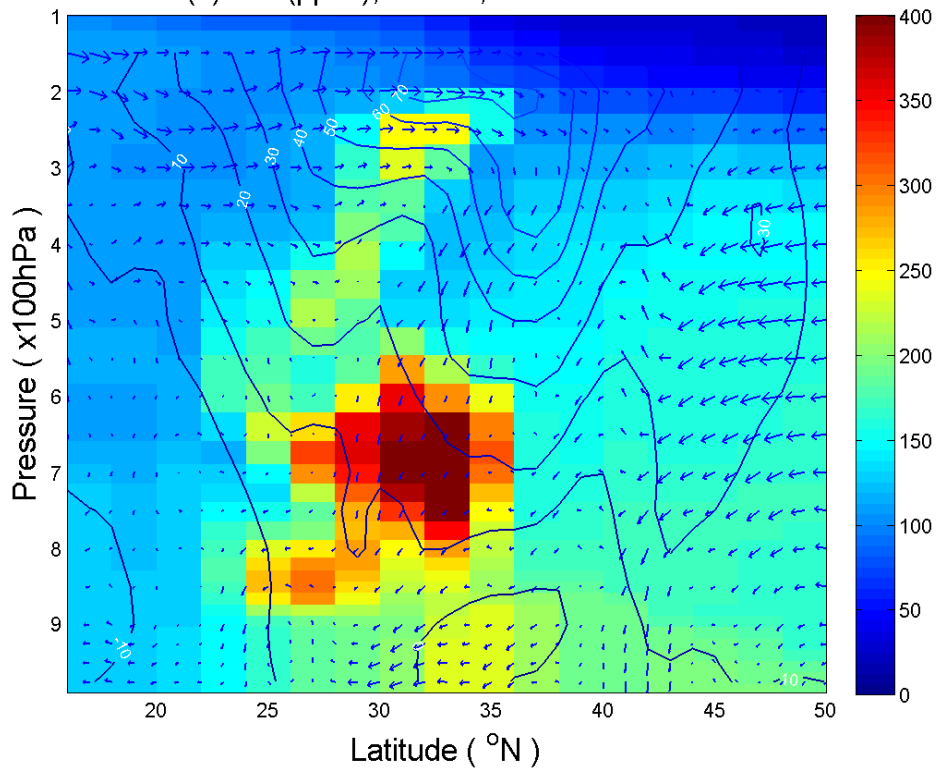
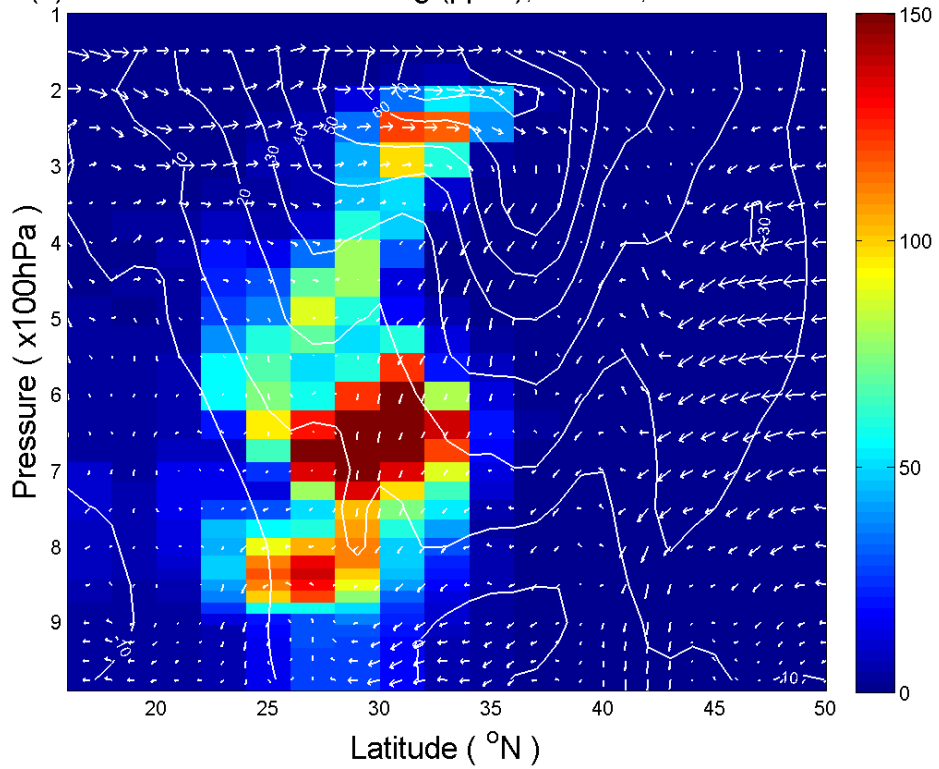


Fig. 10. (a) CO, (b) CO from biomass burning, and (c) CO from the anthropogenic source on March 18, 2004 at 0 UTC, simulated by GEOS-Chem. The geopotential height at 700 hPa is indicated with white lines. “L” indicates a low pressure system.

(a) CO (ppbv), 130°E, 18 March 2004



(b) CO from Biomass Burning (ppbv), 130°E, 18 March 2004



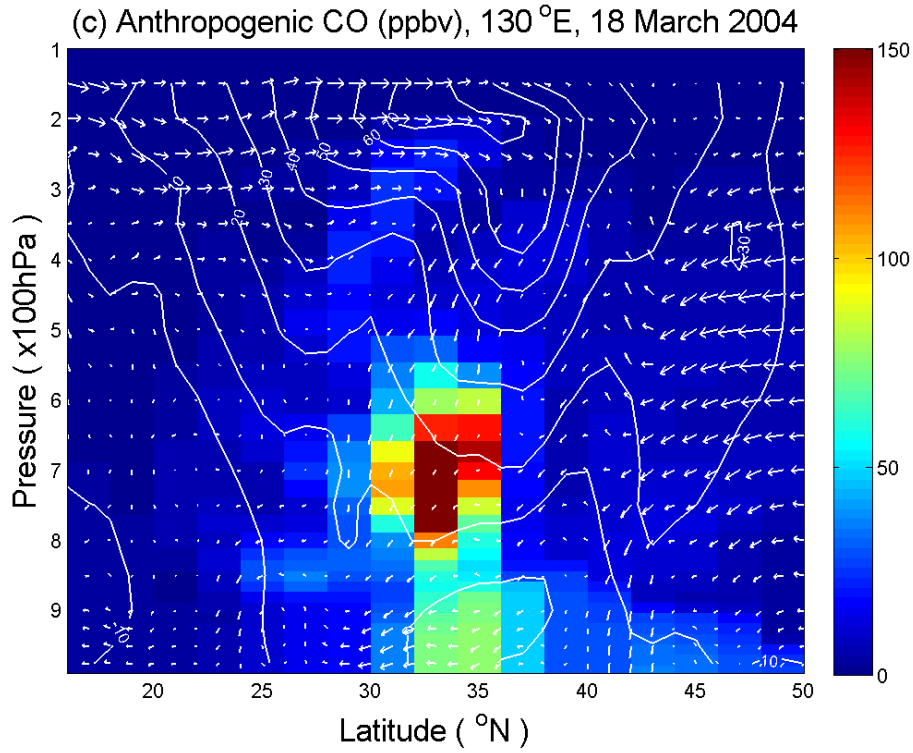


Fig. 11. Latitude-altitude cross sections along 130°E of (a) CO, (b) CO from biomass burning, and (c) anthropogenic CO on March 17, 2004 at 6 UTC, simulated by GEOS-Chem. The contour lines indicate U wind speed (m s^{-1}). Vectors are for wind directions in V and W. For a better illustration, W is enlarged by a factor of 100.

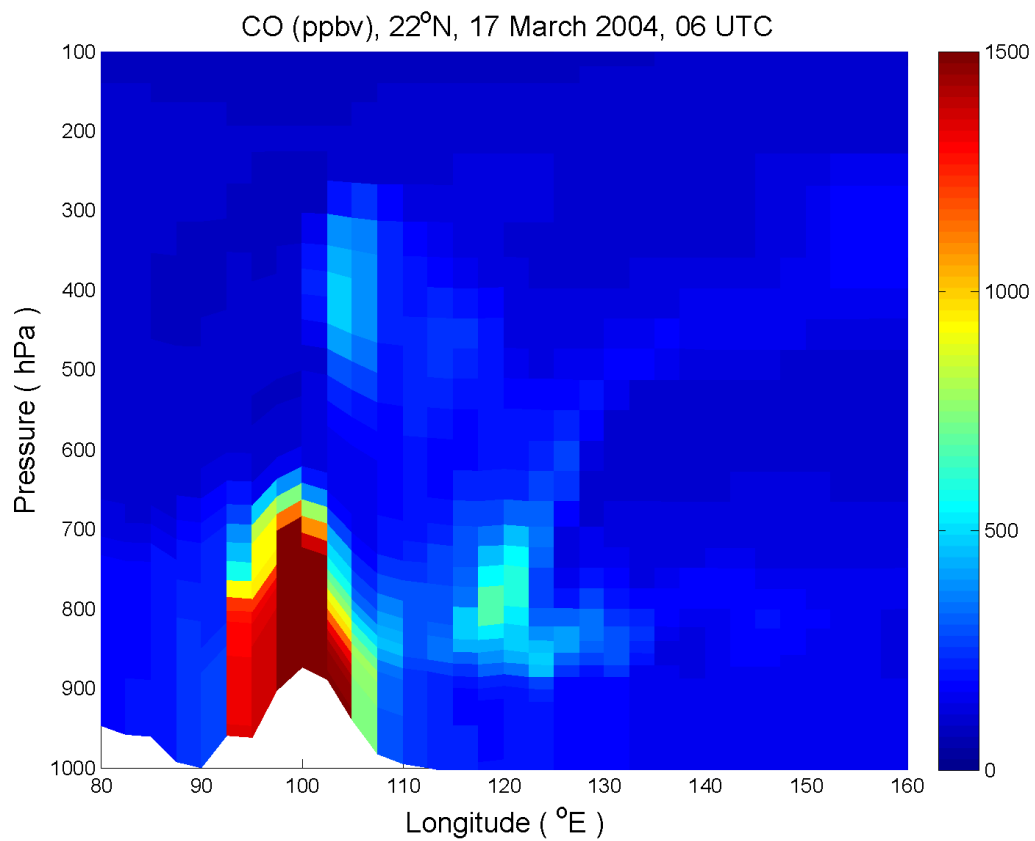


Fig. 12. A longitude-altitude cross section of CO along 22°N on March 17, 2004 at 6 UTC, simulated by GEOS-Chem. The topography of the Hengduan Mountains is indicated in white.

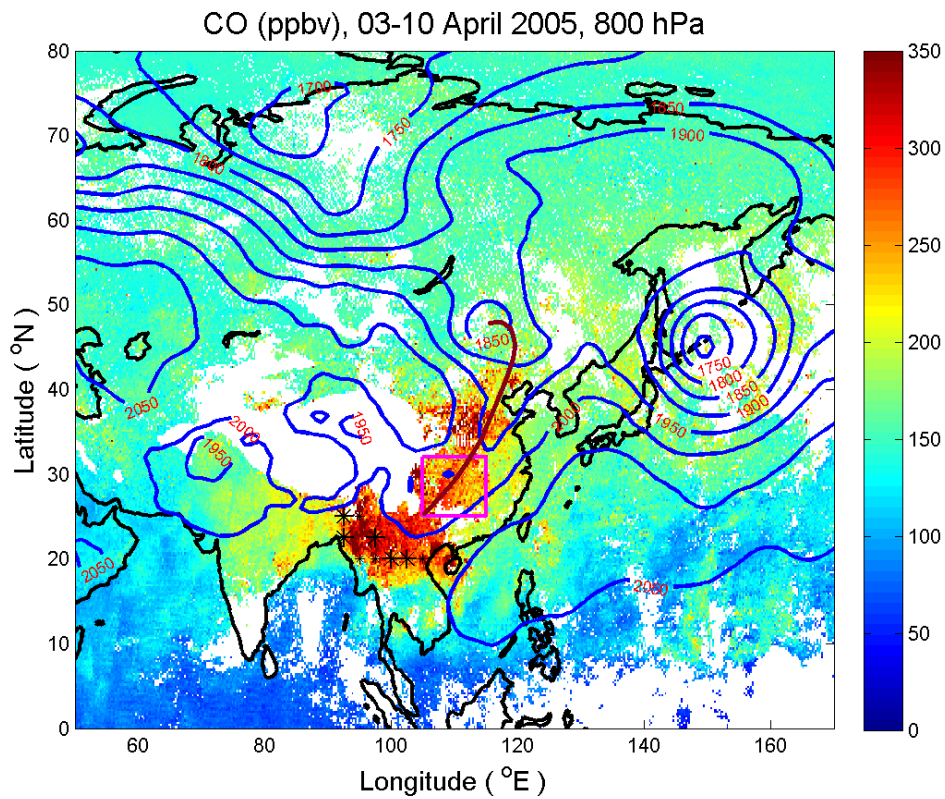
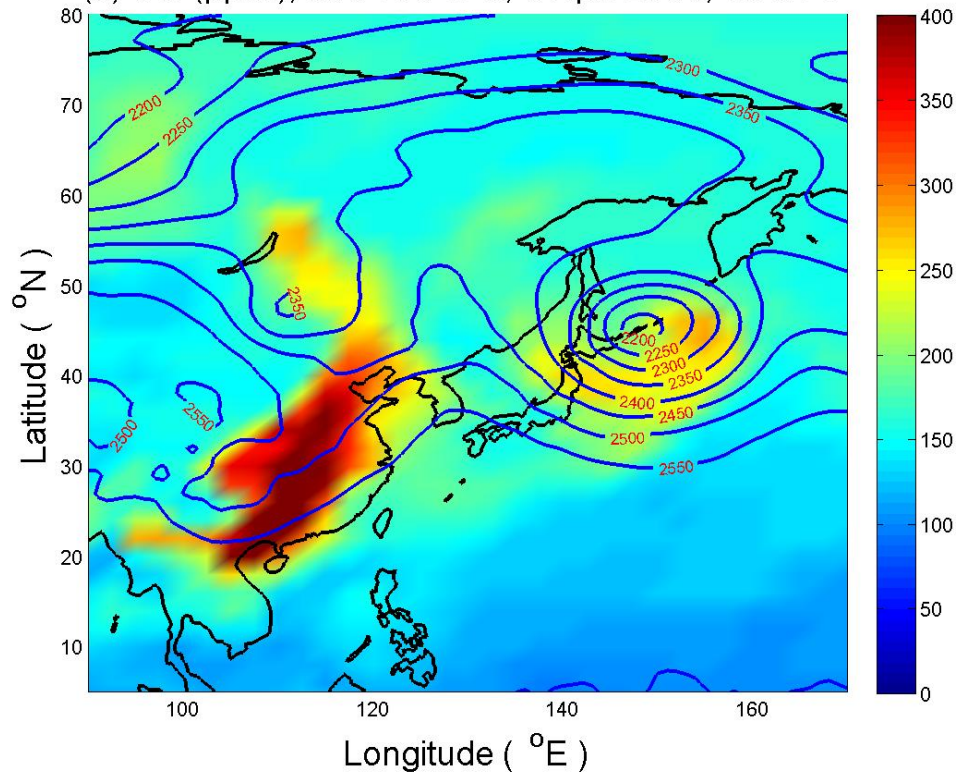
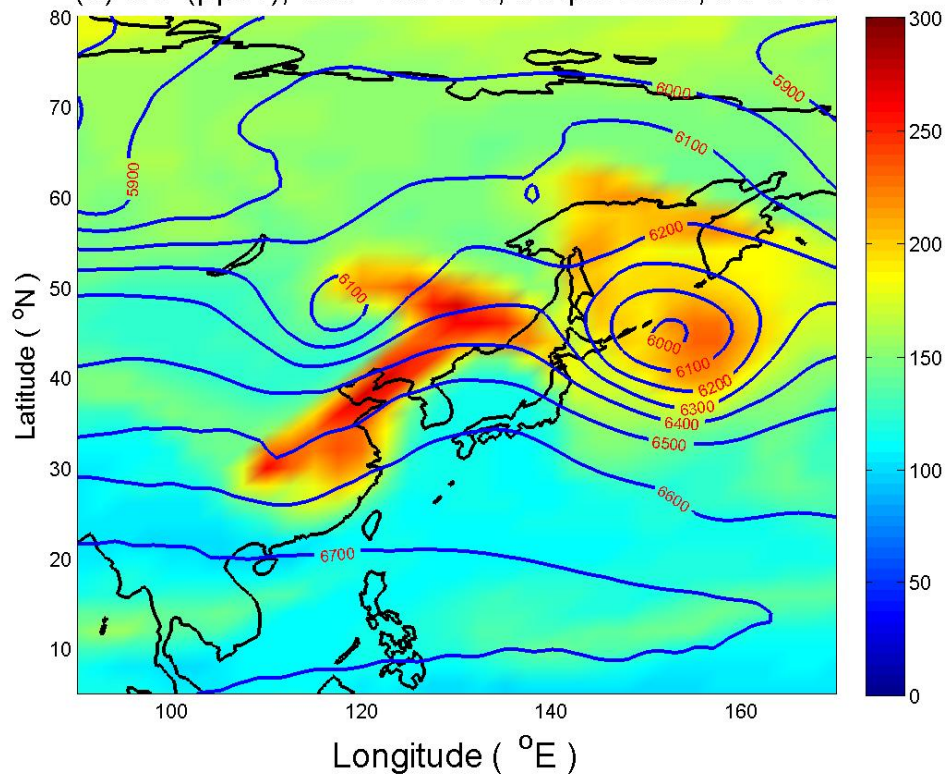


Fig. 13. MOPITT CO mixing ratio at 800 hPa from April 3-10, 2005, overlaid with the geopotential height at 850 hPa on April 9, 2005 at 0 UTC in blue contour and with a front in brown solid line. The large and small stars denote daily mean fire counts of 100-200 and over 200 per $2.5 \times 2.5^\circ$ grid area during the period, respectively. The boxed area was identified as a major CO source region from the FLEXPART simulation (see text for detail).

(a) CO (ppbv), 800-700 hPa, 8 April 2005, 18 UTC



(b) CO (ppbv), 500-400 hPa, 9 April 2005, 06 UTC



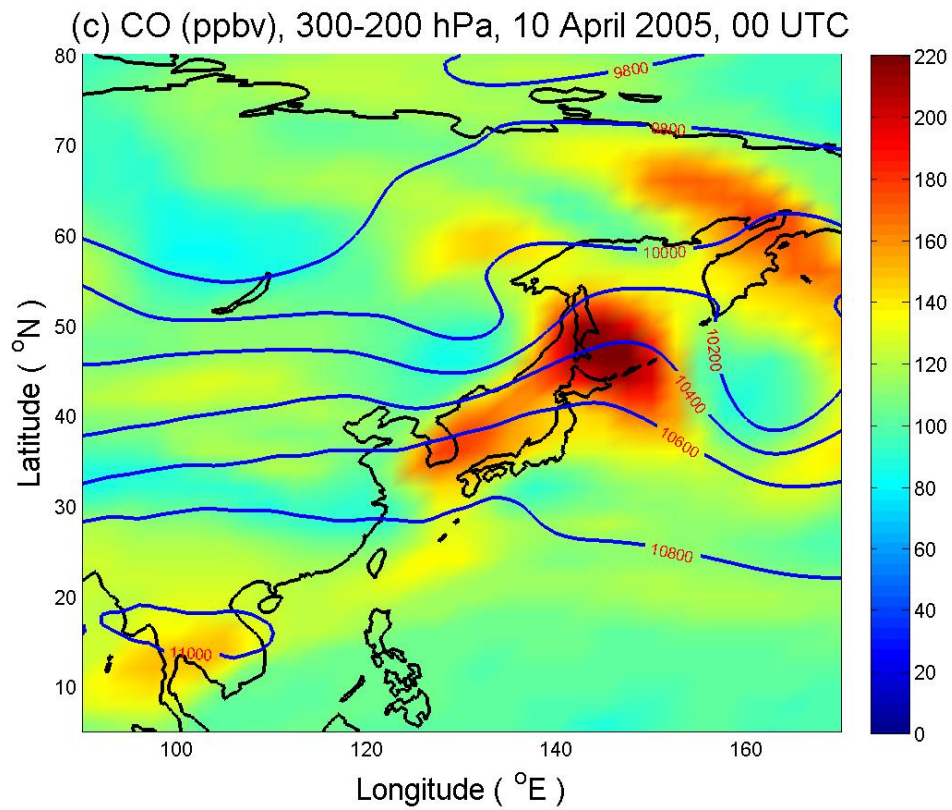
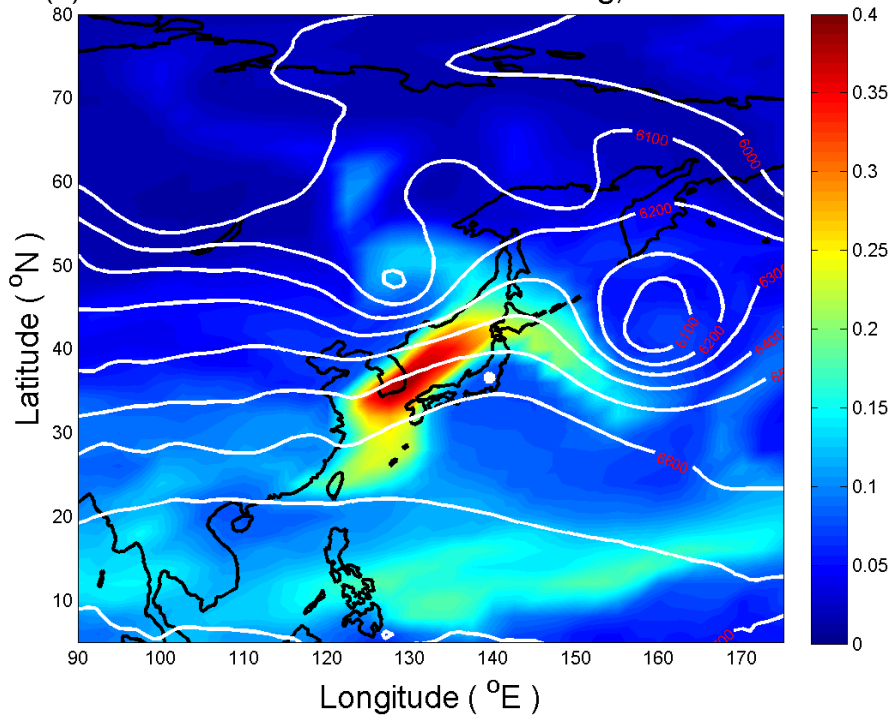
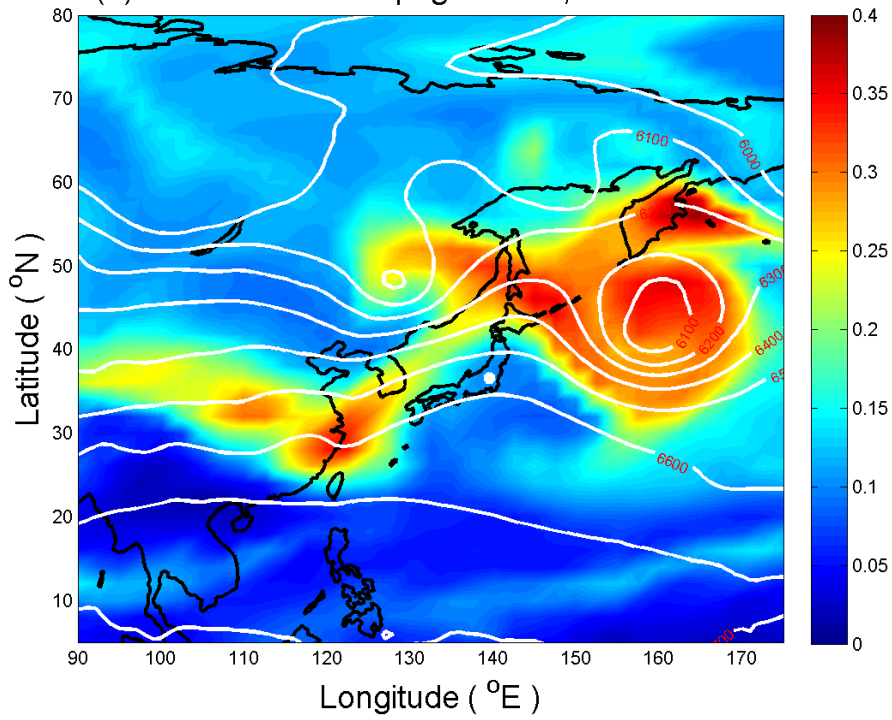


Fig. 14. The GEOS-Chem simulated CO (a) on April 8, 2005 in the lower troposphere (800-700 hPa), (b) on April 9 in the middle troposphere (500-400 hPa), and (c) on April 10 in the upper troposphere (300-200 hPa). The contours are the geopotential height at 850, 450, and 250 hPa, respectively.

(a) Fraction of CO from Biomass Burning, 500-400 hPa



(b) Fraction of Anthropogenic CO, 500-400 hPa



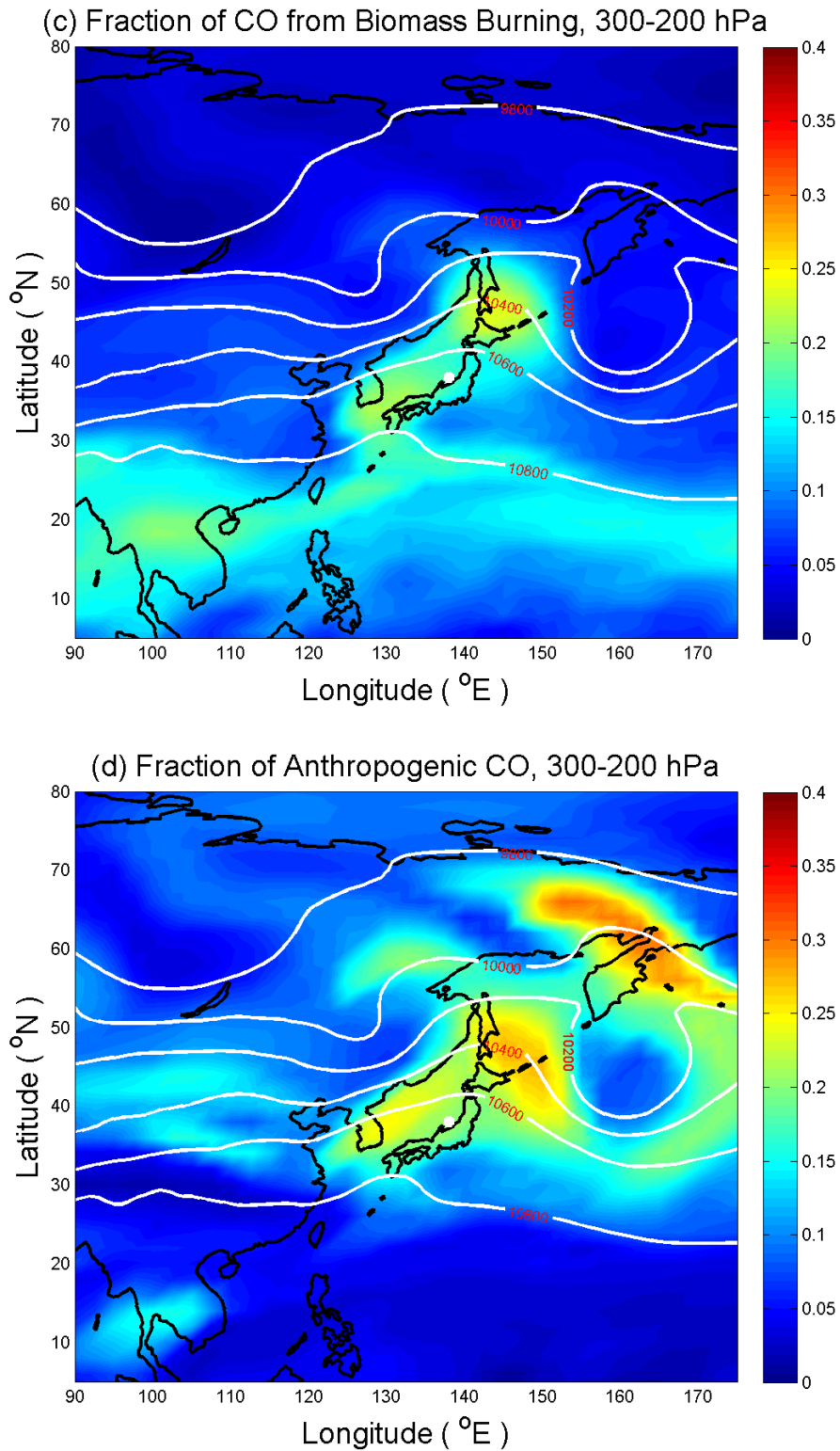


Fig. 15. The GEOS-Chem simulated fractional CO (a) from biomass burning and (b) from the anthropogenic source on April 10, 2005 at 00 UTC in the middle troposphere (500-400 hPa). (c) and (d) are the same as for (a) and (b), respectively, but in the upper troposphere (300-200 hPa). The geopotential height at 450 and 250 hPa is overlaid with the CO images in the middle and upper troposphere, respectively. White dots indicate the location of MOZAIC measurements.