

## ***Interactive comment on “Mesoscale temperature fluctuations in the Southern Hemisphere stratosphere” by B. L. Gary***

**B. L. Gary**

Received and published: 24 June 2008

Comment 1: defining MFA

Good idea. Thanks. Will insert the following:

As defined in the companion article "mesoscale fluctuation amplitude" (MFA) is the "full-width at half-maximum" of a histogram of departures of an isentrope surface altitude from its synoptic-scale counterpart, multiplied by the adiabatic lapse rate of 10 K per kilometer.

Comment 2: spelling-out RAOB

Will do.

Comment 3: Concerning my definition of "Winterness" in this article and its difference

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from a similar parameter, "Wintriness," in the companion article.

The astute reviewer pointed out 1) there's a one week shift in the stated definitions, 2) for this article I insert a "spring" season between winter and summer (whereas in the companion article I use only winter and summer) and 3) for this article I use the term "Winterness" instead of "Wintriness" that was used in the companion article.

First, I incorrectly stated the dates when Winterness is 0 and 1; in fact the current article uses the same definition that was used in the companion article, so I will correct the description on pg 9171, line 8 to read: from 0.0 on 22 July to 1.0 on 22 January. I thank the reviewer for pointing to a discrepancy that prompted me to find this error. Second, the insertion of "spring" was important for the SH data because many flights occurred during that season (19%), while for the NH data set there were very few (6%). Third, the term Wintriness didn't seem right to me 2 years ago but a reviewer preferred it, so I "went along." I suppose I should use this odd term again to maintain consistency, so I plan on reverting to its use in the final version of the article.

Comment 4: Lack of label for histogram graph (Fig. 3).

It puzzles me that twice in my life someone has requested that a histogram have the Y-axis labeled "Number of Cases." That's what all histograms plot, so when the caption begins "Histogram..." it seems redundant to me to also label the Y-axis. I stubbornly refuse to label the Y-axis of histograms!

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 8, 9167, 2008.

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