

Reply to Reviewer 1

We thank the Reviewer for her/his careful consideration of the manuscript and her/his well thought-out comments. These certainly helped to improve the paper. In the following, we address all comments and questions raised (Reviewer's comments in *italics*). Text changes in the manuscript are highlighted in color (except minor wording changes).

General comments:

1) The authors argue that they identify a vertical pathway across the tropopause. However, since the initialization of the origin tracer (370–380 K) is not explicitly limited to the troposphere, the derived conclusions regarding cross-tropopause transport are not rigorous. The authors should discuss the position of the initialized tracer relative to the tropopause and analyze the sensitivity of their results to the initial location chosen.

The initialization of the anticyclone air mass tracer is indeed a critical point, as the Reviewer points out. However, a clear distinction between anticyclone core and surroundings based on an enhanced PV-gradient is only possible in a layer around 380 K potential temperature (see Ploeger et al., 2015). Therefore, based on the PV-identification of the anticyclone the tracer can only be initialized between 370–380 K.

In the revised version of the manuscript we analyse the frequency of occurrence of tropopause heights in the anticyclone lower than 380 K (see new Fig. 7 and the discussion in “Method” and “Appendix”). It turns out that for less than 4% of the grid points inside the anticyclone the tropopause is located below 380 K. Hence, the initialization region in the anticyclone between 370–380 K is mainly in the troposphere and the tracer can, indeed, be used for studying cross-tropopause transport. A careful discussion of these points is included now in “Method” and “Appendix”.

2) It would notably improve the paper if a figure similar to Figure 4 but for CO concentrations were included, comparing the model to the observations. Alternatively, a figure similar to the lower panels of Fig. 3 extended to show CO and the origin tracer on additional levels relative to the tropopause (e.g. up to 50 K above the tropopause). Any of these suggested figures would highlight the differences and similarities between CO and the origin tracer (are they due only to the CO lifetime?), provide further confirmation of the correct representation of transport in the model, and facilitate the comparison of the results with previous works.

The suggested figure showing CLaMS and MLS CO and the anticyclone air mass tracer at levels 10, 20 and 30 K above the local tropopause is shown in Fig. 1 of this reply. Overall, the figure is consistent with the discussion in the manuscript. Although the CO anomaly decays somewhat faster in MLS than CLaMS data, the positive anomaly is clear in both datasets up to about 30 K above the tropopause, showing the vertical nature of cross-tropopause transport in the monsoon anticyclone. The anomaly in the inert anticyclone tracer is still clearer at 30 K above the tropopause, consistent with our argumentation that the faster attenuation of the CO anomaly is due to the finite CO lifetime. (Note that for the anticyclone tracer simply the mixing ratio is shown to give insight into the respective mass fraction values - the anomaly with respect to the zonal mean, as for CO, would show an even stronger signal in the monsoon). Therefore, also the maps at other levels above the tropopause are consistent with the line of argumentation in the paper. However, as Reviewer 1 recommended publication almost as is, and because we are afraid of overloading the paper with figures and redundant information, we decided not to include this figure into the revised manuscript. But we slightly extended the discussion of Fig. 3.

3) Figure 2 calls for a more detailed explanation of the large variability in the time series (divided by a factor of 4 in the Figure). In particular, it is unclear to the reader how the standard deviations are defined (with respect to the various years or for each longitude point within each latitudinal band?). This is an important point, because the validity of the conclusions on the seasonality is questioned given the large variability around the time series, and thus it needs to be clarified exactly what the spread represents.

We agree that this information about the variability shown is necessary for a correct interpretation of the figure. The variability shown is the standard deviation from the zonal averaging, hence the variability for each longitude point at a given latitude at each day. It therefore just shows the large variability in the tracer distribution in mid-latitudes in the zonal direction, which is to a large degree related to Rossby-wave activity. This is characteristic for any long-lived tracer distribution in the lower stratosphere mid-latitudes. We modified the respective text to be clearer on these issues.

Minor comments:

P3L11–18: *A description of the data the temporal and spatial resolution should be included, to help the reader under-*

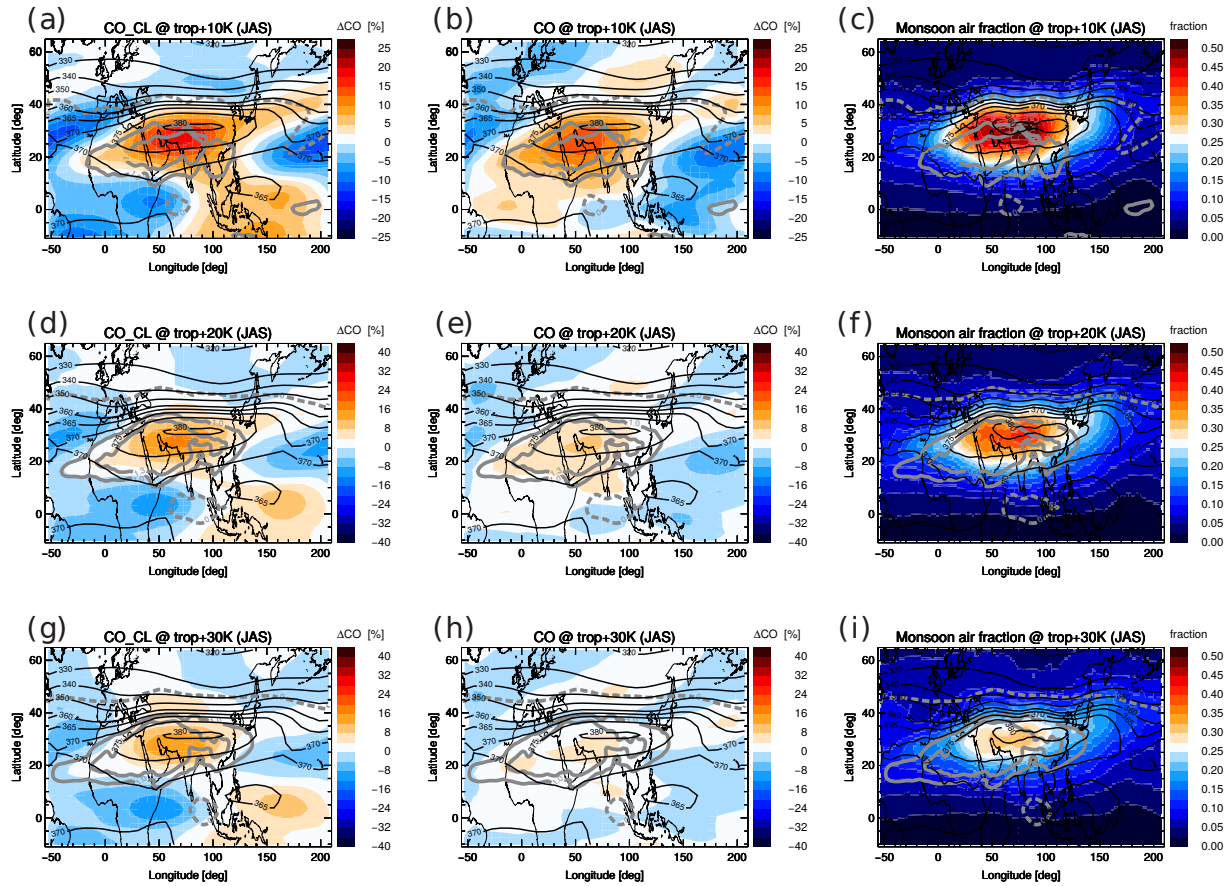


Figure 1: Maps of (a) carbon monoxide from CLaMS simulation, (b) CO from MLS satellite observations, and (c) monsoon air mass fraction from CLaMS (for July–September) at 10 K above the local (WMO) tropopause. (d, e, f) show the same at 20 K above the tropopause, and (g, h, i) at 30 K above the tropopause. For CO the deviation from the zonal mean is shown in percent (ΔCO). Black contours show the potential temperature of the local WMO tropopause, grey contours cross-isentropic (diabatic) vertical velocity $d\theta/dt$ (solid: 1, 1.3 K/day; dashed: 0 K/day). Note that $d\theta/dt$ is shown at 380, 400, 420 K for the 10, 20, 30 K above the tropopause maps. CO climatologies were calculated for the period 2004–2016, air mass fraction climatologies for 2010–2013.

stand how the data is employed for the model comparisons. For example, ACE-FTS data does not allow high-temporally resolved comparison as that in Fig. 4.

We now included short paragraphs about the vertical/horizontal resolution of the CLaMS model simulation, as well as about the vertical resolution and sampling density of ACE-FTS and MLS in the “Method” section in the revised version.

P3L25: In Fig. 1d (AMJ) there is little agreement between the model and the observations in the NH. Could you comment on why this might be the case?

The anticyclone air mass tracer is only initialized during July–August (because enhanced PV gradients for diagnosis of the monsoon anticyclone boundary usually exist only during this period, see appendix). Therefore, the anticyclone tracer present during April–June originates from the monsoon season almost one year ago and has been almost totally flushed out of the NH lower stratosphere. For that reason, no correlation with the enhanced HCN values close to the tropopause (indicating young and polluted air) can be expected. The related (second) paragraph in the “Results” section has been rewritten to clarify this, and also the next comment.

P3L26: In Fig. 1a there is a maximum of HCN in the tropical pipe, but no corresponding maximum in the origin tracer. Is this associated with the ascent from the year before?

Yes! The related (second) paragraph in the “Results” section has been rewritten to clarify this (see previous comment).

P3L2–3: It is not clear what you refer to. Could you refer to specific contours?

We think you refer to P4 here. The respective paragraph has been rewritten and should be much clearer now.

P3L15: *How do you define the lower edge of the tropical pipe?*

Again, we think you refer to P4 here. We did not diagnose the tropical pipe explicitly and we agree with the Reviewer that identifying the lower edge of the tropical pipe is not straightforward. Many studies show frequent exchange between tropics and mid-latitudes in a layer from the tropopause to about 450 K (e.g., Volk et al., 1996; Konopka et al., 2009; Ploeger et al., 2013), and this layer has been termed for that reason the “tropical transition layer” by Rosenlof et al. (1997). The level considered here (460 K) is just above that layer and we therefore think it should be representative of the lower edge of the tropical pipe. However, as this is not supported by a careful analysis, we reworded the respective sentence to “...460 K (above the layer of frequent exchange between tropics and mid-latitudes, see Rosenlof et al., 1997)...”.

P3L20: *I dont see in Fig. 2 that the anticyclone air exceeds the extra-tropical amount by half a year. Do you mean that from February until the next summer the tropical and extra-tropical monsoon air mass fractions are approximately equal?*
Our explanation here was not clear. What we aimed to say was that the amount of anticyclone tracer in the tropics (at the level where this fraction maximizes) exceeds the anticyclone tracer amount in the extratropics after about half a year (hence from around January on). However, the level of maximum anticyclone air mass fraction in the tropics rises due to tropical upwelling (already visible from Fig. 2 by comparing the timing of maxima for tropical fractions at 400 and 460 K). Hence, this higher tropical fraction after January will be located at a level higher than 460 K, which was not explicitly shown in the figure. We now included an additional time-series at 550 K in Fig. 2, illustrating this and reworded the respective text to clarify things: “The anticyclone air fraction in the extra-tropical stratosphere peaks with a value that is more than twice as high compared to the tropical anticyclone air fraction. However, the anticyclone air transported to the tropics remains much longer in the stratosphere and exceeds the extra-tropical amount after about half a year (at levels higher than 460 K the anticyclone air fraction peaks after January with peak values above the extratropical anticyclone air fraction, see Fig. 2).”

P4L21–24: *As mentioned in the major comment 3), a clarification on how the variability is computed and what it implies for the conclusions on the seasonality is needed.*

See reply to major comment 3.

P5L11: *“cross-tropopause transport into the stratosphere in the monsoon occurs to a large degree in the vertical direction”. You could actually quantify to what degree this happens. This is in line with major comment 2), suggesting a more detailed analysis of CO behavior relative to the tropopause, in the model and the observations.*

The anticyclone tracer in the CLaMS model provides quantitative information of how much of the air originates in the monsoon anticyclone. Hence, the clear maximum above the monsoon in the anticyclone tracer maps in Fig. 3 (right column) shows that the major part of the air mass from the anticyclone crosses the tropopause vertically, causing a fraction of approximately 40% of anticyclone air at 10K above the tropopause. Therefore, Fig. 3 already includes quantitative information about cross-tropopause transport (see also the reply to major comment 2).

P6L20: *How is this related to the vertical conduit from the boundary layer?*

Bergman et al. (2013) show that the air masses in the anticyclone at a particular level have been transported through a narrow conduit from levels below. This is qualitatively similar to the regionally confined (“chimney-like”) tropopause-crossing of air masses from the anticyclone. However, in our case we consider air masses being transported out of the anticyclone whereas Bergman et al. consider air masses transported into the anticyclone. Furthermore, the vertical coordinates used are different (pressure vs. potential temperature). Therefore, we decided to remove this statement in the revised manuscript version.

Technical corrections/suggestions:

P1L9: *emissions* → *pollutants*

Changed.

P2L11: *tracer-independent*

Changed.

P2L16: *“and argue that in terms of air mass transport into the stratosphere, the Asian monsoon...”*

Changed.

P2L23–26: *I would recommend introducing the tracer here rather than at the Appendix. Specifically mention that it is defined as unity inside the monsoon anticyclone.*

We agree that the information given in the methods section was not sufficient. We now added a hint at first mention of the tracer (“...We included an air-mass origin tracer ... (see below)...”), and then in the next but one paragraph, where the tracer set-up is explained in more detail, we explicitly state the initialization with unity (“...tracer is initialized with unity...”).

P2L31–32: *Here and throughout the paper, PV-value and PV-gradient do not need a hyphen.*
Changed.

Fig. 1: *Perhaps the hatching could be removed, as it is hard to distinguish the colors underneath.*

We already played around a lot with that figure and decided that the hatching is advantageous for distinguishing the locations of highest HCN mixing ratios and their correlation with the monsoon model tracer, what is the key message of this plot. Therefore, we would like to keep the figure as is, although the colours become slightly shaded.

Fig. 2: *There is a typo either in the legend or in the figure caption, is the level 450 K or 460 K? Also, the lines are not grey as the caption says, but black.*

The typo was in the figure caption, the level is 460 K – Thanks for pointing this out! Also the line description in the caption has been corrected to “black”.

P5L9: *tropopause-based*
Changed.

P5L29: *Is it really controversial or just a scientific debate?*

We agree that it is more appropriate to call it just a “scientific debate” – Changed.

P6L10: *This does not discard isentropic advection*

Yes, we agree. And it was not our intention to discard it. We only aim at separating cross-isentropic from isentropic transport (not distinguishing isentropic mixing from isentropic advection). We try to be more clear with wording in the revised version by explicitly stating “...horizontal transport (either isentropic advection or mixing...)”.

P6L16: *emissions ! pollutants*
Changed.

Fig. 5: *Please add a colorbar.*

This figure was aimed to be a schematic and the contour values were chosen to highlight the patterns in the tracer mixing ratio. However, we now provide the contour values in the figure caption.

References:

- Konopka et al. (2009), *J. Geophys. Res.*, 114, D19111.
Ploeger et al. (2013), *J. Geophys. Res.*, 118, 8111–8127.
Rosenlof et al. (1997), *J. Geophys. Res.*, 102, 13213–13234.
Volk et al. (1996), *Science*, 272, 1763–1768.

Reply to Reviewer 2

We thank the Reviewer for her/his careful consideration of the manuscript and are encouraged by her/his very positive rating of the manuscript. All minor points raised are addressed in the revised version, as described below (Reviewer's comments in italics). Text changes in the manuscript are highlighted in color (except minor wording changes).

Minor remarks:

p.5, l.31: *What is meant with “direct pathway”? I guess quasihorizontal roughly along isentropes from 380K-400K into the tropical tropopause region?*

We agree that our wording here was somewhat too loose. However, to our understanding also Garny and Randel (2016) are not totally clear about the details of their main pathway from the anticyclone to the stratosphere. They write that “the preferred pathway of trajectories is to travel from within the upper-tropospheric anticyclone region to the tropical lower stratosphere (32% of all trajectories). Another 14% are first mixed outside of the anticyclone into the tropical upper troposphere and are subsequently transported upward into the tropical lower stratosphere.” As the analysis is neither done in potential temperature nor in tropopause based coordinates, it is difficult to exactly conclude where isentropic mixing occurs. Furthermore, their definition of the tropics covers 30S–45N, such that the anticyclone belongs to the tropics, whereas we differentiate between deep tropics and subtropics (to which we assign the anticyclone). In this sense, our findings regarding cross-tropopause transport in the Asian monsoon are a refinement of Garny and Randel (2016). In the revised version, we changed the wording to: “Garny and Randel (2016) concluded from 60 day backward trajectory ensembles that the preferred pathway of air masses is to travel from within the upper-tropospheric anticyclone region to the tropical lower stratosphere, but they did not further investigate where (relative to the tropopause) horizontal mixing from the monsoon region to low and high latitudes occurs”.

p.5, l.33: *Similarly: “....transported upwards in the monsoon and reaches the extratropical tropopause within a few days...”: The monsoon tropopause is meant here with extratropical, please clarify.*

Orbe et al. (2015) state that “Asian air reaches the extratropical tropopause within a few days of leaving the boundary layer and is quasi-horizontally transported into the tropical lower stratosphere...”, implying that the monsoon tropopause is considered to be extratropical. Their Fig. 4 shows that the use of pressure as vertical coordinate favors the interpretation of tracer transport from the monsoon towards the NH extratropics, as tracer contours are slanted towards high latitudes. Using potential temperature as vertical coordinate clearly shows cross-tropopause transport in the vertical direction (see our Figs. 3 & 4). Hence, in our opinion considering the monsoon tropopause as extratropical is arising from the use of pressure as vertical coordinate.

p.5, l.27: *equator wards → equatorwards*
Changed.

Quantifying pollution transport from the Asian monsoon anticyclone into the lower stratosphere

Felix Ploeger¹, Paul Konopka¹, Kaley Walker², and Martin Riese¹

¹Institute for Energy and Climate Research: Stratosphere (IEK-7), Forschungszentrum Jülich, Jülich, Germany.

²Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Correspondence to: Felix Ploeger (f.ploeger@fz-juelich.de)

Abstract. Pollution transport from the surface to the stratosphere within the Asian monsoon circulation may cause harmful effects on stratospheric chemistry and climate. Here, we investigate air mass transport from the monsoon anticyclone into the stratosphere using a Lagrangian chemistry transport model. We show how two main transport pathways from the anticyclone emerge: (i) into the tropical stratosphere (tropical pipe), and (ii) into the Northern hemisphere (NH) extra-tropical lower stratosphere. Maximum anticyclone air mass fractions reach around 5% in the tropical pipe and 15% in the extra-tropical lowermost stratosphere over the course of a year. The anticyclone air mass fraction correlates well with satellite hydrogen cyanide (HCN) and carbon monoxide (CO) observations, corroborating that pollution is transported deep into the tropical stratosphere from the Asian monsoon anticyclone. Cross-tropopause transport occurs in a vertical chimney, but with the pollutants transported quasi-horizontally along isentropes above the tropopause into the tropics and NH.

1 Introduction

The Asian summer monsoon circulation provides a pathway for anthropogenic pollution into the stratosphere (e.g., *Randel et al.*, 2010), where it may crucially affect stratospheric chemistry and radiation. A related phenomenon is the build-up of the Asian tropopause aerosol layer ATAL (*Vernier et al.*, 2011), which has recently been estimated to cause a significant regional radiative forcing of -0.1 W/m^2 (*Vernier et al.*, 2015), cooling the Earth's surface. Hence, transport in the Asian monsoon is likely an important factor for climate change.

Transport by the Asian monsoon includes convection over the Bay of Bengal, Northern India and the South China Sea (e.g., *Tzella and Legras*, 2011; *Wright et al.*, 2011; *Bergman et al.*, 2012). At higher levels monsoon transport is dominated by a strong anticyclonic circulation (*Randel and Park*, 2006) with confinement and slow uplift of air in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere UTLS (e.g., *Park et al.*, 2009). Related to this transport are positive anomalies of trace gases with tropospheric sources and negative anomalies of trace gases with stratospheric sources (e.g., *Park et al.*, 2008). The detailed upward transport from the convective outflow to higher levels involves a vertical conduit over the southern Tibetan plateau (*Bergman et al.*, 2013). In addition, convective uplift by typhoons has been shown to inject air masses into the outer region of the anticyclonic circulation (*Vogel et al.*, 2014). The interplay of these processes results in fast upward transport into the lower

stratosphere and an enhanced fraction of young air in the monsoon UTLS region (*Ploeger and Birner, 2016*). Convection over land causes particularly fast upward transport (*Tissier and Legras, 2016*).

Based on global satellite observations of hydrogen cyanide (HCN), *Randel et al. (2010)* argued that upward transport from the Asian monsoon reaches deep into the tropical stratosphere. Water vapour observations and simulations, on the other hand, show transport from the monsoon anticyclone mainly into the extra-tropical lower stratosphere (e.g., *Dethof et al., 1999*). As stratospheric water vapour is strongly controlled by cold temperatures around the tropopause these results are not necessarily contrary. However, even tracer independent model diagnostics yielded controversial results, recently. On the one hand, the back trajectory study of *Garny and Randel (2016)* shows strongest transport from the anticyclone directly into the tropical stratosphere. On the other hand, climate model simulations by *Orbe et al. (2015)* show the tropopause crossing of air masses from the anticyclone largely in the extra-tropics and subsequent transport into the extra-tropical lower stratosphere.

Here, we use tracer-independent model diagnostics (i.e., independent from species' chemistry and emissions) in combination with satellite observations of the tropospheric tracers HCN and CO to investigate the pathways of pollution from the Asian monsoon anticyclone to the lower stratosphere, and quantify the related amount of air originating in the monsoon anticyclone. First, we demonstrate how transport from the anticyclone can be divided into two main pathways directing into (i) the tropical pipe and (ii) the Northern hemisphere (NH) extra-tropical lowermost stratosphere, over the course of a year following the monsoon season. Second, we discuss the detailed transport across the tropopause in the monsoon, and argue that [in terms of air mass transport into the stratosphere](#), the Asian monsoon acts as a vertical "chimney" with strong horizontal transport ("blowing") on top for air mass transport into the stratosphere (see Sect. 4).

2 Method

We quantify air mass transport from the Asian monsoon anticyclone using simulations with the Lagrangian chemistry transport model CLaMS (*McKenna et al., 2002; Konopka et al., 2004; Pommrich et al., 2014*). CLaMS uses an isentropic vertical coordinate throughout the UTLS, and the model transport is driven with horizontal winds and total diabatic heating rates from European Centre of Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA-Interim reanalysis (*Dee et al., 2011*). [The horizontal resolution of the model simulation is about 100 km and the vertical resolution about 400 m around the tropical tropopause \(see Pommrich et al., 2014, for details\)](#). We included an air-mass origin tracer in the model to diagnose the fraction of air at any location in the stratosphere which has left the Asian monsoon anticyclone during the previous monsoon season ([see below](#)). In addition we consider carbon monoxide (CO), with the CO lower boundary in CLaMS derived from Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) version 6 satellite measurements following the method described in *Pommrich et al. (2014)*, and relevant chemistry for the UTLS region included (*Pommrich et al., 2014*).

It has recently been shown that trace gas confinement within the monsoon anticyclone core can be best described by potential vorticity (PV) contours (*Garny and Randel, 2013*), and that the anticyclone core can be clearly distinguished from the surrounding atmosphere in a layer around 380 K potential temperature (*Ploeger et al., 2015; Ungermann et al., 2016*). We therefore apply the method of *Ploeger et al. (2015)* to determine the PV value related to the anticyclone border from the maxi-

mum PV gradient on every day during summers 2010–2013 at the 370 and 380 K potential temperature surfaces (see appendix for further details, and the online supplement for the data).

The anticyclone tracer is initialized **with unity** inside the PV contour enclosing the anticyclone core in the 370–380 K layer on each day during July–August of the years 2010–2013, and is advected as an inert tracer during the following year. On 1 July of the year thereafter, the tracer is set to zero everywhere and is then reinitialized for the following monsoon season. By definition, the tracer mixing ratio at any location in the stratosphere equals the fraction of air which has left the monsoon anticyclone during the previous monsoon season (compare *Orbe et al.*, 2013). Initializing the air mass origin tracer in the UTLS part of the Asian monsoon avoids our results to be affected by small-scale transport processes in the troposphere (e.g., convection), whose representation in global reanalysis data is uncertain (e.g., *Russo et al.*, 2011). This choice of method is suitable to study the transport of air from the anticyclone, irrespective of where it originated at the surface. The impact of different boundary layer source regions on the Asian monsoon UTLS is an important research topic itself (e.g., *Vogel et al.*, 2015; *Tissier and Legras*, 2016). **The very rare occurrence of tropopause potential temperatures below 380 K (see Appendix and Fig. 7) shows that the tracer is to a good degree initialized in the troposphere and can be used to study cross-tropopause transport (see Sect. 3).**

The anticyclone air mass tracer is compared to global HCN measurements from the Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment Fourier Transform Spectrometer (ACE-FTS) satellite instrument (*Bernath et al.*, 2005). This data has been presented and discussed by *Randel et al.* (2010) to be a valid tracer for Asian monsoon pollution. For the results of this paper we use HCN from the updated ACE-FTS level 2 data version 3.5 (*Boone et al.*, 2005, 2013) during the period between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2014, which is in good agreement with the results shown by *Randel et al.* (2010). Physically unrealistic outliers in the ACE-FTS data have been filtered out following *Sheese et al.* (2015), discarding data with quality flag greater than 3. Furthermore, we use CO observations from the Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS) on board the Aura satellite (*Pumphrey et al.*, 2007; *Livesey et al.*, 2008), for validating Asian monsoon transport in the model simulation. **While the vertical resolution for HCN from ACE-FTS (3–4 km) is almost twice as good as for HCN from MLS (about 6 km), MLS has a much higher sampling rate (about 3500 profiles per day) compared to ACE-FTS (maximum 32 occultations per day). Hence, for the considerations of climatological zonal mean HCN it is advantageous to use HCN from ACE-FTS (see Sect. 3), whereas for maps of CO within the monsoon region the higher sampling density of MLS is beneficial. (For further comparison of the two instruments see e.g., *Pumphrey et al.*, 2007).**

3 Results

Figure 1 presents the anticyclone air mass fraction and compares with HCN satellite observations from ACE-FTS. During July–September (Fig. 1a) the anticyclone air is transported into the lower stratosphere mainly in the subtropics (between 20°–40°N). During fall (October–December, Fig. 1b), the anticyclone air disperses throughout the NH lower stratosphere, even reaching the tropics and Southern hemisphere (SH). Strong wintertime tropical upwelling related to the stratospheric Brewer-Dobson circulation lifts the anticyclone air in the tropics during the following winter (Fig. 1c). Related downwelling in the

extra-tropics flushes the anticyclone air out of the NH lower stratosphere. During spring (Fig. 1d), the anticyclone air in the tropical pipe rises further while the extra-tropical lower stratosphere is cleaned. Hence, two main pathways emerge for air from the Asian monsoon anticyclone into the stratosphere. First, a fast transport pathway is directed into the NH extra-tropical stratosphere (extra-tropical pathway). Second, a slower pathway is directed into the tropical stratosphere and deep into the stratosphere related to ascent within the tropical pipe (tropical pathway).

Contours of ACE-FTS measured HCN show that the simulated anticyclone air mass fraction correlates well with satellite-observed pollution (for a discussion of this data as a tracer for pollution from the Asian monsoon compare *Randel et al.*, 2010). In analogy to the model tracer, observed HCN peaks in the subtropical and extra-tropical lower stratosphere during and directly following the monsoon season (Figs. 1a, b). During winter and spring (Figs. 1c, d), both enhanced HCN mixing ratios and anticyclone air mass fractions rise in the tropical pipe and are flushed out of the NH lower stratosphere. The good correlation between the maxima of HCN and anticyclone air mass fraction in the tropical pipe during April–June (Fig. 1d) renders an origin of enhanced HCN mixing ratios in the Asian monsoon very likely, as proposed by *Randel et al.* (2010). The fact that the ascending tropical HCN signal slightly lags the model tracer signal (Fig. 1d) is consistent with the overestimated tropical upwelling in ERA-Interim (e.g., *Dee et al.*, 2011). During July–September (Fig. 1a) no agreement between the anticyclone air mass tracer and HCN mixing ratios in the tropical pipe can be expected due to the reset of the anticyclone air mass tracer to zero on 1 July (see Sect. 2). Similarly, the poor agreement between the anticyclone air mass tracer and HCN in the NH lower stratosphere during April–June (Fig. 1d) is to be expected, because the enhanced HCN mixing ratios around the tropopause are related to young air masses while the anticyclone tracer originates in the previous monsoon season almost 1 year ago.

HCN exhibits enhanced concentrations also in the SH subtropics during austral spring to summer (Fig. 1b, c), consistent with independent satellite observations from the Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding MIPAS (*Glatthor et al.*, 2015). Hence, a contribution from the SH to stratospheric HCN can not be ruled out. Furthermore, the irregular tape-recorder signal in the deseasonalized anomaly of tropical HCN during 2005–2008 (*Pumphrey et al.*, 2007) has been linked to irregularly occurring biomass burning in Indonesia (*Pommrich et al.*, 2010). Compared to these studies, the focus here is on the annually repeating seasonal signal discussed by *Randel et al.* (2010). The qualitative agreement between the transport pathways of HCN and air mass from the monsoon indicates that transport from the Asian monsoon anticyclone has the potential to significantly contribute to the annual signal in HCN concentrations in the stratosphere. In the following, we focus on air mass transport from the Asian monsoon, which clearly reaches the tropical pipe (Figs. 1) and therefore may cause substantial pollution transport deep into the stratosphere.

The time series of air mass fractions in Fig. 2 show that the amount of anticyclone air peaks in the NH extra-tropical lowermost stratosphere in October, reaching around 15% at 380 K. In the tropics at 460 K (above the layer of frequent exchange between tropics and mid-latitudes, see *Rosenlof et al.*, 1997) the amount of anticyclone air peaks in December, reaching around 5%. This later timing of the peak in the tropics compared to the extra-tropics is related to the higher potential temperature level (460 vs. 380 K) and slow tropical upwelling. At lower levels (here 400 K, red dashed) the tropical anticyclone air mass fraction peaks earlier, around October. The anticyclone air fraction in the extra-tropical stratosphere peaks with a value that is more than twice as high compared to the tropical anticyclone air fraction. However, the anticyclone air transported to the tropics

remains much longer in the stratosphere and exceeds the extra-tropical amount after about half a year (at levels higher than 460 K the anticyclone air fraction peaks after January with peak values above the extratropical anticyclone air fraction, see Fig. 2). The large standard deviation (from the zonal averaging) around the extra-tropical zonal mean value (grey shading in Fig. 2) indicates strong variability in the extra-tropical lowermost stratosphere tracer distribution, related to the frequent occurrence of smaller scale structures in the mid-latitude tracer distribution due to various processes (e.g., Rossby-wave breaking). At the lower end of the tropical pipe (460 K), the tracer distribution is more homogeneous as reflected in a smaller standard deviation.

To further understand the details of transport from the monsoon anticyclone into the stratosphere we investigate the direction of tropopause crossing. Recently, the question was raised whether the air confined within the monsoon anticyclone crosses the tropopause vertically or horizontally or, in other words, whether the monsoon acts mainly as a vertical “chimney” or as an isentropic “blower” for cross-tropopause transport (*Pan et al.*, 2016). The good agreement of carbon monoxide distributions in the monsoon region at 380 K between the CLaMS simulation and MLS satellite observations shows that the model reliably simulates transport in the monsoon anticyclone (Fig. 3a, b upper panels). Note that the figure shows the deviation of CO from the zonal mean to emphasize the anomalous character of monsoon transport. In particular, the positive CO anomaly in the monsoon agrees well between model and observations, and even the weak positive anomalies to the north-west and north-east of the monsoon indicating regions of frequent eddy shedding (*Hsu and Plumb*, 2001; *Popovic and Plumb*, 2001).

In order to clearly separate tropospheric and stratospheric air we transform the data to a tropopause-based vertical coordinate, chosen as the distance to the local tropopause in potential temperature before calculating all averages (compare e.g., *Birner et al.*, 2002; *Hoor et al.*, 2004, for using this method in a different context). The distributions in the monsoon region change remarkably when viewed in tropopause-based coordinates along a surface at 10 K above the local tropopause (Fig. 3a, b lower panels). The positive CO anomaly significantly weakens, as an effect of the averaging procedure following the tropopause, indicating that a considerable part of the trace gas anomaly in the monsoon is related to the upward bulging tropopause in the monsoon region. However, the fact that parts of the anomaly remain indicates upward transport across the tropopause above the monsoon. Also for the tropopause-based map, CO distributions from CLaMS and MLS observations agree reliably well in the monsoon region. Significant differences between CLaMS and MLS exist only at mid-latitudes (already observed by *Pommrich et al.*, 2014) and above the West Pacific and Maritime continent.

Figure 3c shows analogous maps for the anticyclone air mass fraction. Again, tropopause-based averaging weakens the positive monsoon anomaly. However, a clear maximum remains centred in the monsoon region above the tropopause. This indicates that cross-tropopause transport into the stratosphere in the monsoon occurs to a large degree in the vertical direction. Vertical transport, diagnosed from the ERA-Interim total diabatic heating rate, is consistent with this finding showing maximum upward velocity in the anticyclone (grey contours in Fig. 3). The stronger degradation of the monsoon anomaly for CO as compared to the inert air mass tracer is related to the finite (~ 4 months) lifetime of CO. As a consequence, CO mixing ratios degrade rapidly at levels around the tropopause where vertical transport is slow. At levels about 30 K above the local tropopause the positive CO anomaly above the monsoon anticyclone almost vanishes, whereas the inert model tracer still shows a clear signal (not shown).

An unambiguous picture of air mass transport across the tropopause can only be deduced from the inert air mass origin tracer in the model. Figure 4 shows the anticyclone air mass fraction averaged over the zonal section of the Asian monsoon (40°–100°E) and over periods of about a week (with all averages carried out in tropopause-based coordinates). Directly after the main monsoon season at the end of August (Fig. 4a) the largest amount of anticyclone air is located in the subtropics between 20°–40°N around and above the tropopause. One month later, this air has been further transported upwards and resides clearly above the tropopause (Fig. 4b). Hence, cross-tropopause transport of anticyclone air occurs mainly vertically across the subtropical tropopause, like in a chimney. Above the tropopause, however, in a layer between about 380–430 K the air from the anticyclone is strongly affected by horizontal transport processes and is largely mixed into the NH extra-tropics and into the tropics (Fig. 4b–d). Strong horizontal transport above about 380 K in NH summer and fall is likely related to enhanced subtropical Rossby-wave breaking during this season (see *Homeyer and Bowman*, 2012). Fastest uplift in the subtropics is consistent with largest upward velocity in that region (black contours in Fig. 4a). Note that ERA-Interim cross-isentropic vertical velocities in August show even downwelling equatorwards of about 10°N in the 380–410 K layer.

4 Discussion

There has been a recent scientific debate on if and how the air masses from the Asian monsoon anticyclone reach the lower stratosphere. *Garny and Randel* (2016) concluded from 60 day backward trajectory ensembles that [the preferred pathway of air masses is to travel from within the upper-tropospheric anticyclone region to the tropical lower stratosphere, but they did not further investigate where \(relative to the tropopause\) horizontal mixing from the monsoon region to low and high latitudes occurs](#) ~~the largest fraction of anticyclone air reaches the tropical stratosphere via a direct pathway~~. *Orbe et al.* (2015) analysed air mass origin tracers in a climate model. They found that Asian surface air is transported upwards in the monsoon, reaches the extra-tropical tropopause within a few days, and is first transported quasi-horizontally into the extra-tropical lower stratosphere before eventually being transported subsequently into the tropics. A very recent study by *Pan et al.* (2016) also shows mainly quasi-horizontal isentropic transport out of the monsoon anticyclone into the lower stratosphere.

Here, we focus on transport from the anticyclone deep into the stratosphere. Using a PV-gradient based definition of the anticyclone edge, we trace the anticyclone air over an entire year following the monsoon season. Our analysis shows that the air from the anticyclone crosses the subtropical tropopause vertically (here cross-isentropic) and is subsequently transported horizontally (along isentropes) in the stratosphere to both the tropics and to NH extra-tropics, as illustrated in Fig. 5. The vertical nature of cross-tropopause transport is consistent with the findings of *Garny and Randel* (2016), but with the addition that above the tropopause a substantial amount of anticyclone air is mixed into the NH extra-tropics. This strong horizontal transport is, on the other hand, consistent with *Orbe et al.* (2015) and *Pan et al.* (2016), but with the difference that horizontal transport [\(either isentropic advection or mixing\)](#) in our case occurs mainly above the tropopause. It is important to note that we defined vertical and horizontal transport with respect to potential temperature as the vertical coordinate. Therefore, horizontal transport can be directly interpreted as isentropical mixing.

Hence, in summary we refine the findings of *Orbe et al.* (2015), *Garny and Randel* (2016) and *Pan et al.* (2016) by describing transport from the Asian monsoon anticyclone into the stratosphere as a “blowing chimney”, using the terminology of *Pan et al.* (2016). This characterization emphasizes the vertical “chimney-like” nature of cross-tropopause transport (with respect to potential temperature as vertical coordinate), but with the pollutants transported away quasi-horizontally along isentropes above the tropopause (see Fig. 5). This quasi-horizontal transport pathway from the monsoon into the UTLS is supported by recent in-situ measurements (*Mueller et al.*, 2016). At lower levels below the tropical tropopause (about 380 K) horizontal transport from the anticyclone core to the NH extra-tropics is very weak due to strong gradients in PV, in agreement with the findings of *Garny and Randel* (2016). ~~The chimney-like nature of cross-tropopause transport is likely related to the existence of a vertical transport conduit found by *Bergman et al.* (2013).~~

So far, our conclusions concern air masses from the anticyclone core. To investigate differences in transport from the anticyclone edge, we initialized an anticyclone edge tracer in CLaMS (between PV contours of the anticyclone border PV^* and $PV^* + 2$ PVU, see appendix), whose mixing ratio by definition yields the fraction of air originating from the anticyclone edge during the last monsoon season. Figures 4e and f show the air mass fraction from the anticyclone edge at the end of August and at the end of November. Comparison to the air mass fraction from the anticyclone core shows that directly after the monsoon season (Figs. 4a, e) air from the anticyclone edge is transported faster in the horizontal direction into the tropics and into NH extra-tropics. This is a consequence of air masses in the anticyclone edge region being less well confined as compared to air masses in the anticyclone core. After a few months, however, the two distributions of anticyclone edge and core air align (Figs. 4d, f), showing that on the long-term air masses ascending in the anticyclone core and air masses injected into the anticyclone edge (e.g., by typhoons, see *Vogel et al.*, 2014) follow the same transport pathways. The higher fraction of air from the anticyclone edge compared to the core is likely a result of the larger area of the edge region. Note that air masses in the anticyclone edge may have originated in the anticyclone core at lower levels, as suggested by the vertical transport conduit pathway proposed by *Bergman et al.* (2013).

5 Conclusions

The anticyclone air fraction of 5% in the tropical pipe appears small if compared to the 15% fraction in the NH extra-tropical lowermost stratosphere. However, as tropical air ascends deep into the stratosphere with the rising branch of the Brewer-Dobson circulation while extra-tropical air is flushed out of the stratosphere within a few months, the impact of this tropical anticyclone air on stratospheric chemistry and climate may be substantial. Our model simulation shows that the tropical anticyclone air correlates well with the annual cycle in satellite observed HCN over the course of a year. Hence, the Asian monsoon likely causes pollution transport deep into the stratosphere and contributes to the stratospheric aerosol loading. Therefore, changes in these two pathways of pollution from the Asian monsoon anticyclone into the stratosphere likely affect chemistry and radiation and may be important for causing feedback effects in a changing climate.

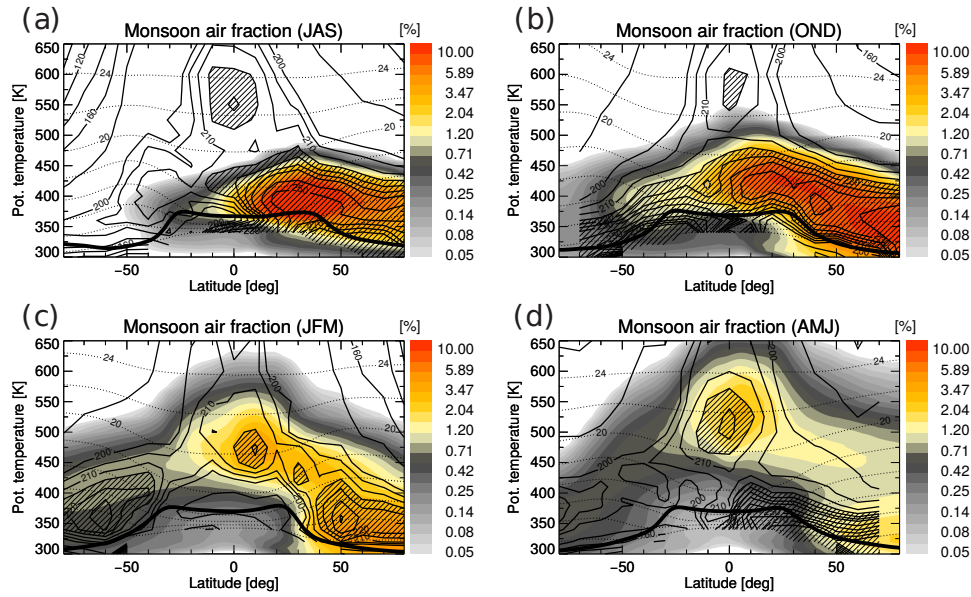


Figure 1. Seasonal evolution of climatological (2010–2013) zonal mean monsoon air mass fraction from CLaMS (colour-coded) and HCN from ACE–FTS observations (black contours) during July–September (a), October–December (b), January–March (c), and April–June (d). Regions with HCN values above 215 pptv are hatched. The thick black line shows the (WMO) tropopause, thin black lines show altitude levels (2 km spacing).

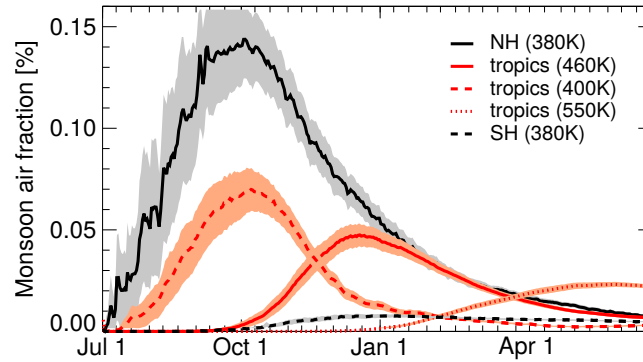


Figure 2. Climatological time series of monsoon air mass fraction in the tropical lower stratosphere (15°S – 15°N) at 460 K (red solid), 400 K (red dashed), and 550 K (red dotted), and in the extra-tropical lower stratosphere (50° – 70°N/S) at 380 K in the NH (black solid) and in the SH (black dashed). Shading shows the mean standard deviation for the zonal average (multiplied by 0.25, for better visibility), as a measure of geographic variability in the mid-latitude tracer distribution.

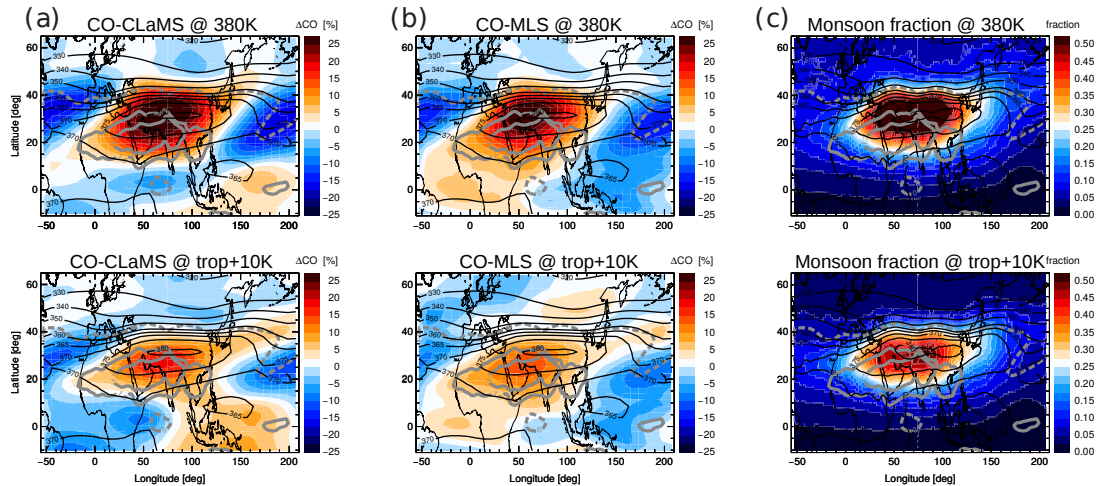


Figure 3. Maps of (a) carbon monoxide from CLaMS simulation, (b) CO from MLS satellite observations, and (c) monsoon air mass fraction from CLaMS, all for July–September. Top panels show maps at 380 K potential temperature, bottom panels show maps along a surface at 10 K above the local (WMO) tropopause. For CO the deviation from the zonal mean is shown in percent (ΔCO). Black contours show the potential temperature of the local WMO tropopause, grey contours cross-isentropic (diabatic) vertical velocity $d\theta/dt$ (solid: 1, 1.3 K/day; dashed: 0 K/day). Note that $d\theta/dt$ is shown at 380 K. CO climatologies were calculated for the period 2004–2016, air mass fraction climatologies for 2010–2013.

Appendix A: Asian monsoon anticyclone border from PV-gradient

To separate the Asian monsoon anticyclone core region from its surroundings we follow the method of *Ploeger et al. (2015)*. This method is based on the existence of an enhanced PV gradient indicating a transport barrier between the core and the surrounding region, similar but weaker to the polar vortex edge (compare e.g., *Nash et al., 1996*). The anticyclone core is defined as the region enclosed by the PV contour PV^* corresponding to the maximum gradient of PV with respect to a monsoon-centred equivalent latitude (*Ploeger et al., 2015*). Note that the PV field has to be smoothed by averaging over a time-window around the given date before the calculation, for a clear gradient maximum to emerge, due to strong dynamic variability of the monsoon circulation. The situation for the 6 July 2011 at 380 K is illustrated in (Fig. 6a), showing the time-averaged PV field (averaged over 5–7 July 2011), with the anticyclone core (region of lowest PV) enclosed by the deduced transport barrier (thick black line).

The calculation yields a well-defined PV value for most days of the summers 2010–2013 (red symbols in Fig. 6b, c). Missing data in the time series of the anticyclone border of each summer have been filled in by linear interpolation (black symbols) in time from the neighbouring values. At days before the first day (and after the last day) when the PV gradient criterion holds no anticyclone border PV value has been estimated (no extrapolation), and the time series ends. This procedure results in a smooth PV time series of the anticyclone border during July–August (Fig. 6b, c). The model tracer has been initialized with

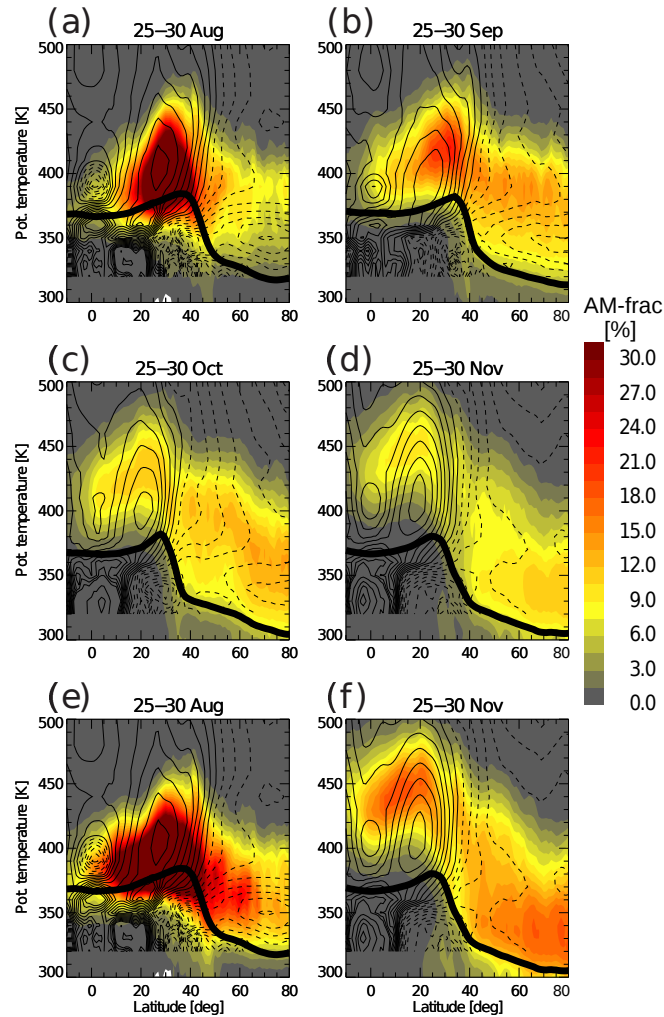


Figure 4. Latitude section of monsoon air mass fraction averaged over longitudes between 40–100°E for the (climatological 2010–2013) periods 25–30 August (a), September (b), October (c), and November (d). The averaging has been carried out in tropopause-based vertical coordinates, and the data has afterwards been adjusted vertically for plotting by adding the mean tropopause potential temperature (grey line). (e, f) Same as (a, d) but for the monsoon edge fraction, calculated from the monsoon edge tracer (see text). Thin black contours show total diabatic vertical velocity $d\theta/dt$ (positive values solid, negative values dashed, contour-spacing 0.2 K/day), the thick black line shows the mean tropopause. All quantities are averaged between 40–100°E.

unity within the anticyclone core in the 370–380 K layer during July–August. Note that we used the time-averaged PV field for the initialization criterion. The anticyclone border PV value PV^* calculated from ERA-Interim for the summers 2010–2013 is available from the online supplement. The tracer mixing ratio, by definition, yields the mass fraction of air from the anticyclone core region during the previous monsoon season (compare Sect. 2, and e.g., *Orbe et al.*, 2013). In analogy, the anticyclone edge

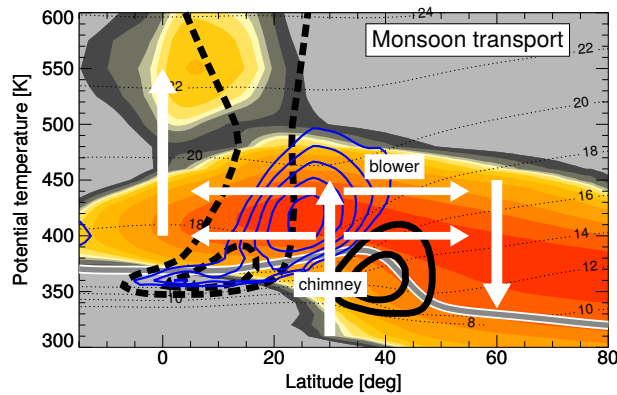


Figure 5. Schematic of pollution transport from the monsoon into the stratosphere. Colour shading shows zonal mean anticyclone air mass fraction (October below about 500 K, June above), with white arrows illustrating the dominant transport pathways. Note the non-linear color-scale for the tracer mixing ratios to highlight the patterns (contour value 0,0.001,0.002,1.4,1.401,1.402,1.403,1.404,1.6,1.8,1.9,2,2.2,2.6,3.5,6,9,13%). Black contours show zonal wind (± 15 , 25 m/s solid/dashed), blue contours diabatic heating rates (from 1 K/day increasing in 0.2 K/day steps), thin black geopotential height, thick grey line the (WMO) tropopause, all from ERA–Interim for June–August and zonally averaged over the monsoon region (40–100°E).

tracer is initialized with unity between PV contours of the anticyclone border PV^* and $PV^* + 2$ PVU (see Fig. 6a), providing the mass fraction of air from the anticyclone edge region during the previous monsoon season.

The use of the anticyclone tracer for studying the details of cross-tropopause transport appears questionable at first instance, as the tropopause in the monsoon may be located below 380 K at specific locations. However, Fig. 7 presents the occurrence of tropopause potential temperatures in the Asian monsoon anticyclone, showing only a very small frequency of 3.7% for the tropopause being located below 380 K. Hence, initializing the anticyclone tracer between 370–380 K is to a very good degree characterizing tropospheric air masses and the model tracer can well be used for studying cross-tropopause transport.

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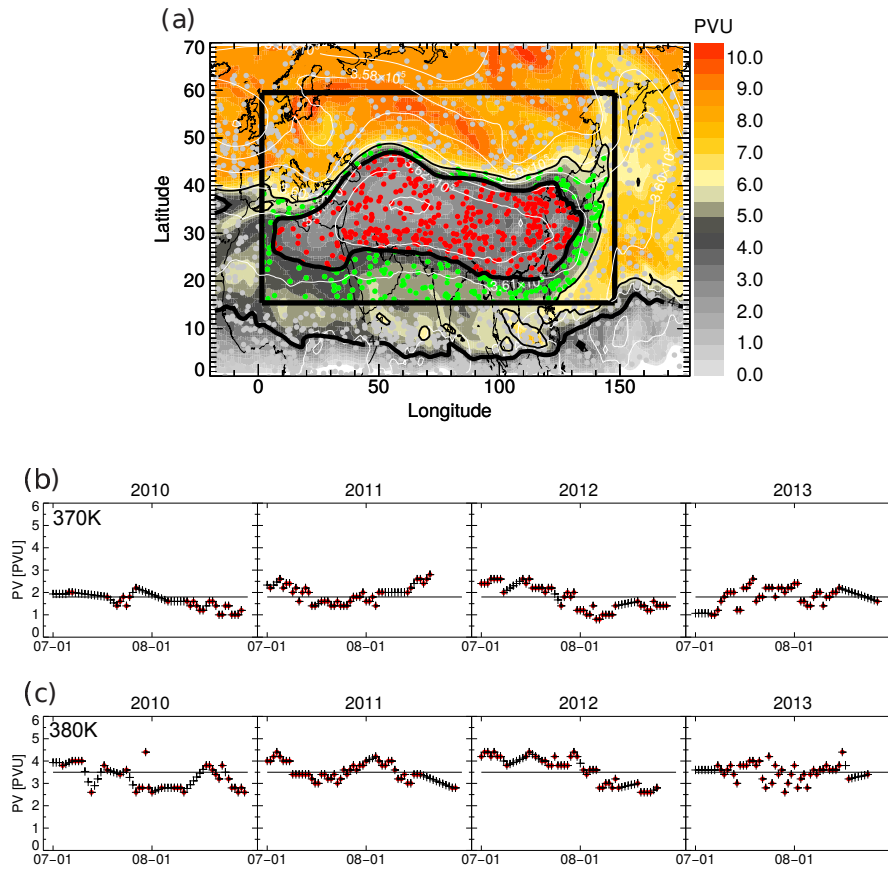


Figure 6. (a) Map of time-averaged PV field at 380 K on 6 July 2011, calculated as the average over the PV distribution for 5–7 July 2011. The thick black contour shows the calculated PV-gradient based anticyclone border PV^* (4 PVU for that date), the thin black contour shows PV^*+2 PVU. Thin white contours show selected Montgomery stream function values. Filled circles show CLaMS air parcels between 379–380 K, with parcels inside the anticyclone core coloured red, at the anticyclone edge coloured green. The black rectangle indicates the regional restriction of the calculation (see text). (b) Time-series of PV gradient based anticyclone border PV value at 370 K, with the calculated barrier as red circles and interpolated barrier (at days where the calculation did not work, interpolated from existing neighbour values) as black crosses. (c) Same as (b) but for 380 K.

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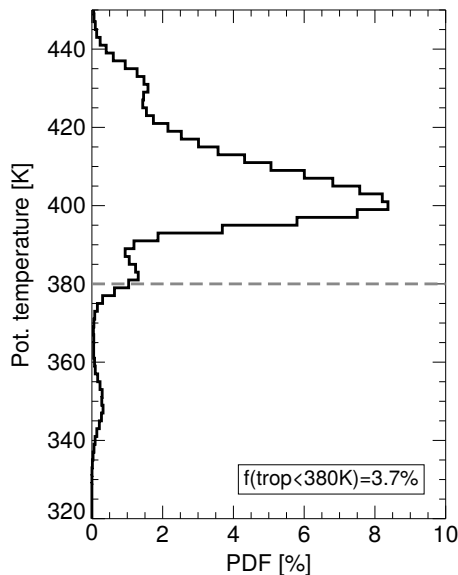


Figure 7. Tropopause potential temperature frequency of occurrence inside the monsoon anticyclone, calculated as frequency distribution of (WMO) tropopause potential temperature at grid points inside the anticyclone (identified from PV-based boundary definition, see Appendix) from all days during July–August 2010–2013. The integrated fraction of tropopause occurrence below 380 K of 3.7% is given in the plot.

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