Forcing Mechanisms of the Terdiurnal Tide

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Abstract. Using a nonlinear mechanistic global circulation model we analyze the migrating terdiurnal tide in the middle atmosphere with respect to its possible forcing mechanisms, i.e. the absorption of solar radiation in the water vapor and ozone band, nonlinear tidal interactions, and gravity wave-tide interactions. In comparison to the forcing mechanisms of diurnal and semidiurnal tides, these terdiurnal forcings are less well understood and there are contradictory opinions about their respective

5 relevance. In our simulations we remove the wavenumber 3 pattern for each forcing individually and analyze the remaining tidal wind and temperature fields. We find that the direct solar forcing is dominant and explains most of the migrating terdiurnal tide's amplitude. Nonlinear interactions due to other tides or gravity waves are most important during local winter. Further analyses show that the nonlinear forcings are locally counteracting the solar forcing due to destructive interferences. Therefore, tidal amplitudes can become even larger for simulations with removed nonlinear forcings.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric waves such as solar tides play a crucial role for the dynamics of the mesosphere/lower thermosphere (MLT) region. They are global-scale oscillations with periods of a solar day or its subharmonics. They are mainly owing to absorption of solar radiation in the water vapor (troposphere) and ozone (stratosphere) region. Tidal amplitudes are growing with increasing height due to the decrease of density and conservation of energy (e.g., Chapman and Lindzen, 1970; Andrews et al., 1987). In

15 the MLT, tides can reach wind amplitudes comparable to the magnitude of the horizontal mean wind.

Due to the fact that diurnal tides (DTs) and semidiurnal tides (SDTs) usually have larger amplitudes than the harmonics of higher wavenumbers, they have attracted more attention in the past and are therefore relatively well understood. However, there are observations of terdiurnal tides (TDTs) showing local amplitudes comparable to those of DTs during some months of the year (Cevolani and Bonelli, 1985; Reddi et al., 1993; Thayaparan, 1997; Younger et al., 2002; Jacobi, 2012). Observations

20 using midlatitude radar measurements show large TDT amplitudes in autumn and early winter (Beldon et al., 2006; Jacobi, 2012). Namboothiri et al. (2004) also obtained slightly larger amplitudes in winter than in summer while Thayaparan (1997) and Jacobi (2012) additionally emphasize the occurrence of TDTs during spring.

Satellite observations have been used to analyze the TDT on a global scale (Smith, 2000; Moudden and Forbes, 2013; Pancheva et al., 2013; Yue et al., 2013). Yue et al. (2013) presented TDT amplitudes from the Thermosphere Ionosphere Mesosphere

25 Energetics and Dynamics (TIMED) Doppler Interferometer (TIDI) of more than $16\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ at $50°$ N/S above $100\,\mathrm{km}$ with an additional peak in the meridional component at about $82\,\mathrm{km}$ between 10 and $20°$ N. They could identify the first symmetric

(3,3) mode with peaks up to $8\,K$ above the equator and at midlatitudes, obtained from Sounding of the Atmosphere using Broadband Emission Radiometry (SABER). At an altitude of $90\,km$, Moudden and Forbes (2013) found the largest amplitudes above the equator during equinoxes $(6-8\,K)$, and also at $60°\,N$ during May $(7\,K)$ and at $60°\,S$ during during October $(5\,K)$ using 10 years of SABER data.

5 Model studies of the TDT are mainly attributed to the analysis of forcing mechanisms (Akmaev, 2001; Smith and Ortland, 2001; Huang et al., 2007; Du and Ward, 2010). This was motivated by the idea that TDTs are not only the consequence of diurnal solar heating but are additionally excited by gravity wave-tidal interactions (e.g., Miyahara and Forbes, 1991; Huang et al., 2007) and by nonlinear interactions between DTs and SDTs (e.g., Glass and Fellous, 1975; Teitelbaum et al., 1989). The theory for those nonlinear interactions has been outlined by Beard et al. (1999), stating that the period of a wave (P_3) resulting

10 from nonlinear interaction is linked to the periods of the interacting waves P_1 and P_2 through $\frac{1}{P_3} = \frac{1}{P_1} + \frac{1}{P_2}$.

Teitelbaum et al. (1989) performed the first model study on the nonlinear forcing of the TDT and they concluded that the nonlinear interactions and the direct solar forcing lead to comparable terdiurnal amplitudes. Smith and Ortland (2001) used a nonlinear model with specified DT and SDT fields at the lower boundary. They switched off the terdiurnal solar component on the one hand and removed the direct solar forcing of SDTs on the other hand. As a result, they found that the solar forcing is

15 dominant at middle and high latitudes while nonlinear interactions mainly contribute at low latitudes. A similar approach was applied by Akmaev (2001). They stated that the heating due to absorption of solar radiation in the ozone region is the main source for TDTs, while a noticeable nonlinear contribution is only seen during equinoxes. Huang et al. (2007) used a fully nonlinear tidal model with specified diurnal and semidiurnal thermotidal heating. Therefore, the occurrence of TDT amplitudes was only possible due to nonlinear interactions, and they have been significant in the MLT. Another model study about

20 TDT forcing mechanisms was performed by Du and Ward (2010). They analyzed model output from the Canadian Middle Atmosphere Model (CMAM) with self-consistent tides due to radiative heating, convective processes and latent heat release. They performed a correlation analysis of DTs and SDTs with TDTs on a seasonal and short-term scale. They concluded that nonlinear interactions are not essential for the generation of TDTs but solar heating is the major source.

To summarize, there are only few model studies about the forcing mechanisms of TDTs, and they do not provide a consistent

25 image. Nonlinear interactions seem to play a certain role in TDT forcing but to what extent is heavily under debate. Therefore, we want to shed more light on that matter by using a nonlinear global circulation model. To this end we performed model simulations with nonlinear and solar terdiurnal forcing at a time, and additional model experiments with one of the forcing mechanisms switched off in order to analyze TDT amplitudes due to the forcings, separately.

The paper is arranged as follows: The model and the numerical experiments are described in Sect. 2. Section 3 presents the

30 results of the simulations, starting with an overview on the climatology of the reference TDT in the model. The second part of this section describes the TDTs that are obtained when certain forcings are removed. Finally, in Sect. 4 the results from Sect. 3 are discussed and summarized.

2 Description of the Model and the Experiments

We use the nonlinear Middle and Upper Atmosphere Model (MUAM) to investigate the forcing mechanisms of tides with wavenumber 3. MUAM is a 3-dimensional mechanistic model based on the COMMA-LIM (Cologne Model of the Middle Atmosphere – Leipzig Institute for Meteorology) model, which is described in detail by Fröhlich et al. (2003a, b). The more

5 recent version of the model, MUAM, is documented by Pogoreltsev et al. (2007). MUAM extends from the surface (1000 hPa) to the lower thermosphere while the lower 30 km are nudged with monthly mean ERA-Interim reanalyses of zonal mean temperature. Here, we perform ensemble simulations for each experiment by using 11 different years (2000-2010) as reanalysis input data. In contrast to MUAM model experiments performed by Pogoreltsev et al. (2007) or by Jacobi et al. (2015), stationary planetary waves at the lower boundary are not explicitly forced for these model experiments in order to avoid coupling

10 between stationary planetary waves and tides. The model has a horizontal resolution of $5 \times 5.625°$ and a vertical resolution of 2.842 km in logarithmic pressure height with a constant scale height of $H = 7$ km. Parameterizations of gravity waves, solar and infrared radiation as well as several ionospheric effects are included.

MUAM experiments analyzing TDTs have been performed by Fytterer et al. (2014) who compared the simulated TDT wind shear with global lower ionospheric sporadic E occurrence rates. Additionally, Krug et al. (2015) presented a seasonal clima-

15 tology of the migrating TDTs based on MUAM simulations.

In the used configuration, the model incorporates a spin-up of 120 model days. Within that time, zonal mean heating rates (no tides) are building up a background climatology. In the following 90 model days, heating rates are allowed to be zonally variable and tides start to propagate. In this model version, the sun's zenith angle does not account for day to day variations and refers to the first day of the respective month. The last 30 model days are analyzed and presented here. A background cli-

20 matology for zonal wind, meridional wind and temperature during solstice (January) and equinox (April) conditions is given in Fig. 1 (details see section 3.1). This simulation does not include any modifications on tides and therefore serves as a reference, named REF in the following (see also Table 1).

Within the model there are three mechanisms that may excite TDTs: solar heating, nonlinear interactions between tides and gravity wave-tidal interactions. The first one, the diurnal variation of solar heating rates, creates atmospheric tides self-

25 consistently. This mechanism is known to be the most important factor for the forcing of DTs and SDTs (e.g., Andrews et al., 1987). The second mechanism is related to nonlinear interactions between different tides. Following Beard et al. (1999), the interaction between a DT and a SDT can lead to the forcing of a TDT. The last source might be gravity waves which can be modulated by tides and therefore produce waves with periods and wavenumbers equal to tides. This may lead to an enhancement of TDTs.

30 In order to separate these different mechanisms we analyze the wavenumber 3 component of the respective forcing and remove it in each model time step. We do not consider the temporal dimension for this analysis because wavenumber spectra prove that TDTs in the model are strongest for wavenumber 3 (migrating TDTs) and negligible for other wavenumbers (nonmigrating TDTs, not shown here). This is because nonmigrating tides are usually owing to orographic sources, latent heat release or other local effects that are not considered within the frame of this model. Therefore, we usually refer to the migrating TDT here. The

following results are obtained from five simulations in total, eliminating each forcings separately (NO_SOL, NO_NLIN and NO_GW), allowing all forcings (REF) and eliminating all forcings (CTRL). An overview is given in Table 1.

The parameterization of solar heating in the middle atmosphere is calculated following Strobel (1978). It considers heating due to the most important gases such as water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, oxygen and nitrogen. Thereby, zonal mean ozone

5 fields up to $50\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude are taken from the Stratosphere-troposphere Processes And their Role in Climate project (SPARC; Randel and Wu, 2007). The volume mixing ratio for carbon dioxide has been chosen according to measurements from Mauna Loa Observatory for the year 2005 (e.g., 378ppm for January; NOAA ESRL Global Monitoring Division). Chemical heating due to recombination of O_2 and O_3 (Riese et al., 1994) and heating due to extreme ultra violet radiation (EUV) are added. This is described in more detail by Fröhlich et al. (2003a).

10 In the NO_SOL simulation, the total heating rate of all heating contributions is analyzed using a Fourier transform to separate the tidal components. For the analysis of the forcing mechanism we subtract the wavenumber 3 amplitude from the total heating for each time step and each grid point, separately. The result of this simulation is a wavenumber 3 tide that is only due to nonlinear interactions and gravity wave effects.

In order to separate the nonlinear forcing we modify the nonlinear terms in the tendency equations of the model (e.g., Jakobs

15 et al., 1986), i.e. in the advection terms in the zonal (Eq. (1)) and meridional (Eq. (2)) momentum equations as well as temperature advection (Eq. (3)):

$$\boldsymbol{v} \cdot (\nabla u) = \frac{u}{a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial u}{\partial \lambda} + \frac{v}{a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial(u\cos\phi)}{\partial \phi} + \frac{w}{\rho_0}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\rho_0 u), \tag{1}$$

$$\boldsymbol{v} \cdot (\nabla v) = \frac{u}{a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial v}{\partial \lambda} + \frac{v}{a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial(v\cos\phi)}{\partial \phi} + \frac{w}{\rho_0}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\rho_0 v), \tag{2}$$

$$\boldsymbol{v} \cdot (\nabla T) = \frac{u}{a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial T}{\partial \lambda} + \frac{v}{a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial(T\cos\phi)}{\partial \phi} + \frac{w}{\rho_0}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\rho_0 T) \tag{3}$$

where $\boldsymbol{v}$ is the wind vector, u and v are the horizontal wind components, w is the vertical wind component and T is the temperature. a is Earth's radius, ϕ, λ and z are latitude, longitude and altitude, respectively, and ρ_0 is the reference density at a given height z. Additionally, the adiabatic contribution included in the temperature equation in principle has to be taken into consideration because it includes nonlinear coupling:

25 $$\left.\frac{\partial T}{\partial t}\right|_{adiab} = \frac{RwT}{m'c_\mathrm{p}H} \quad , \tag{4}$$

with R as the gas constant for dry air, m' the ratio of molecular weights at the respective altitude and at $1000\,\mathrm{hPa}$ and c_p is the specific heat at constant pressure.

Linearizing these equations, i.e. $T \approx \overline{T} + T'$, $w \approx \overline{w} + w'$, etc., results in a separation of purely nonlinear (wave-wave) inter-

actions, wave-background interactions and pure background processes. For example, the adiabatic term from Eq. (4) may be written as

$$\left.\frac{\partial T}{\partial t}\right|_{adiab} \approx \frac{R}{m'c_{\mathrm{p}}H} \cdot \left(\overline{w}\overline{T} + \overline{w}T' + w'\overline{T} + w'T'\right) \tag{5}$$

5   and the terms on the right-hand side of Eqs. 1-3 are treated similarly. The last term in the bracket of Eq. (5) describes nonlinear wave-wave interaction. From these terms of wave-wave interactions we removed the $k = 3$ amplitudes analogous to the modification of the solar heating terms in the NO_SOL simulation. Removing the nonlinear interactions will result in a combination of solar and gravity wave driven TDT (Run NO_NLIN).

The simulations NO_SOL and NO_NLIN are very similar to the approach presented by Akmaev (2001) and Smith and Ort-
10 land (2001). Additionally, we consider gravity waves for the generation of TDTs. Gravity waves are calculated by an updated Lindzen-type parameterization (Lindzen, 1981; Jakobs et al., 1986) as described by Fröhlich et al. (2003b) and Jacobi et al. (2006). Due to the fact that this parameterization does not account for ionospheric effects, it is coupled with a modified parameterization after Yigit et al. (2008), connected via the eddy diffusion coefficient. Note that the Yiğit parameterization mainly attributes the thermosphere while the Lindzen-type parameterization affects the stratosphere and mesosphere. This way, over-
15 laps between both parameterizations are small and the contributions of both routines to the tendency terms can be simply summed up. The total acceleration of the mean flow due to gravity waves is finally subject to a Fourier filtering of wavenumber 3, equal to the one for the heating rates and the nonlinear terms. As a result, TDTs of solar and nonlinear origin are remaining (NO_GW simulation).

As a control simulation (CTRL), solar as well as nonlinear and gravity wave forcings are removed. This is done in order to test
20 to what degree all sources of TDTs are captured, and if the model produces further TDTs of either numerical or physical origin.

3   Results

3.1   Reference Simulation: TDT Climatology

The REF simulation includes solar, nonlinear and gravity wave forcing for all wavenumbers. Therefore, it serves as a reference
25 for the following experiments. The following results are given as a mean of all 11 ensembles (colors) with the respective standard deviations (contour lines).

In Fig. 1 we provide a background climatology of the MUAM zonal mean circulation for solstice (Fig. 1a-c) and equinox (Fig. 1d-f) for the parameters zonal wind (a,d), meridional wind (b,e) and temperature (c,f). The color coding denotes the 11-year means, while the standard deviations are given as black contour lines.
30 Comparing the MUAM climatology with empirical climatologies such as CIRA86 (Fleming et al., 1990), the radar based GEWM (Portnyagin et al., 2004) or the satellite based UARS (Swinbank and Ortland, 2003) we find good agreements but with

slightly larger westerly jets and weaker easterly jets during January in MUAM.

We notice that the model produces small year-to-year variations below $100\,\mathrm{km}$ in the southern hemisphere and south of $30°\,\mathrm{N}$. There, the standard deviation σ is very small, mostly below $\sigma(T) = 1\,\mathrm{K}$ ($\sigma(u) = 2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$, $\sigma(v) = 0.25\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$). Model variations for middle and high latitudes in the northern hemisphere are larger with standard deviations up to $\sigma(T) = 6\,\mathrm{K}$

5   ($\sigma(u) = 12\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$, $\sigma(v) = 2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$) during January and $\sigma(T) = 2\,\mathrm{K}$ ($\sigma(u) = 2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$, $\sigma(v) = 0.75\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$) for April. Maxima of the standard deviation are located at about $60°\,\mathrm{N}$. These variations have their origin in the year-to-year variability of the polar vortex which is realistic to have a range of several K, especially during winter. Due to the fact that MUAM assimilates the zonal mean temperature up to $30\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude, this model variability represents a realistic atmospheric variability, too.

Figures 2 and 3 show the terdiurnal component of all forcing terms that our analysis takes into account, namely solar forcing,

10   nonlinear forcing and forcing due to gravity wave-tide interactions. Figure 2 refers to thermal parameters including temperature advection (a,b), the nonlinear component of adiabatic heating (c,d), heating due to gravity waves (e,f) and direct solar heating (g,h). Note that the color scales in Fig. 2 are equal but not continuous in order to cover the magnitudes of all forcings while keeping them comparable to each other. For the thermal forcing of the TDT it can be seen that the direct solar forcing dominates in the troposphere and stratosphere. This is because of the strong absorption of solar radiation by tropospheric water

15   vapor and stratospheric ozone. In the mesosphere ($80\text{-}100\,\mathrm{km}$), nonlinear effects are mainly responsible for the forcing of terdiurnal fluctuations. Due to absorption of EUV radiation, there is again some solar forcing in the lower thermosphere (Fig. 2g,h at about $120\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude) that is comparable to nonlinear thermal forcing (Fig. 2a,b). In this region, heating due to gravity wave effects (Fig. 2e,f) plays a major role. The nonlinear adiabatic heating effect (Fig. 2c,d) is weak everywhere compared to the other forcings and will therefore be neglected in our further considerations.

20   Figure 3 is similar to Fig. 2 but refers to wind parameters, including nonlinear zonal (a,b) and meridional (c,d) wind advection as well as zonal (e,f) and meridional (g,h) acceleration due to gravity waves. In the zonal wind, in the troposphere and stratosphere, the nonlinear forcing is clearly dominating over gravity wave effects. Zonal gravity wave forcing becomes strong above $100\,\mathrm{km}$. In January, there is an additional maximum of gravity wave induced terdiurnal forcing (Fig. 3e) near $80\,\mathrm{km}$ between 30 and $60°\,\mathrm{N}$ which cannot be observed in April (Fig. 3f). For meridional wind patterns, gravity wave forcing only plays a role

25   between 80 and $100\,\mathrm{km}$ (Fig. 3g,h), its magnitude being comparable to those of the advective nonlinear forcing (Fig. 3c,d). In the stratosphere and mesosphere, nonlinear advection is the most important source for the meridional component.

Generally, direct solar forcing is weaker during April (Fig. 2h) than during January (Fig. 2g), but most nonlinear forcings (Fig. 2a,b and Fig. 3a-d) become stronger in April and are therefore more dominant during equinox.

TDT amplitudes are presented for April (Fig. 4a-c) and January (Fig. 4d-f). Zonal wind amplitudes become stronger in April

30   (Fig. 4e) compared to January (Fig. 4b) above $110\,\mathrm{km}$ but this is not the case for the temperature and meridional wind amplitude. Amplitudes at $100\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude reach only about $1.5\,\mathrm{K}$ and $4\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (zonal/meridional wind). This is much smaller than observed by radars (e.g., Thayaparan, 1997; Namboothiri et al., 2004; Beldon et al., 2006; Jacobi, 2012) and by satellite measurements (e.g., Moudden and Forbes, 2013; Pancheva et al., 2013; Yue et al., 2013). They reported amplitudes of about $5\text{-}6\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ at $90\,\mathrm{km}$ (Thayaparan, 1997; Namboothiri et al., 2004) during equinoxes and local winter with a minimum during

35   summer. These radars are located between $40\text{-}50°\,\mathrm{N}$ and in these regions, Fig. 4 also shows large wind amplitudes during winter

and equinoxes. Beldon et al. (2006) and Jacobi (2012) observe a maximum larger than $10\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (95 km) during autumn/early winter and a smaller one during spring. The absence of a mid-winter maximum can be explained by the location of the radars ($> 50°$ N) which is northward of the region with a winter maximum as can be seen in Fig. 4b,c.

However, considering only the maximum does not give a good comparison between seasons, but the height-latitudinal structure

5 is more important. Especially in temperature (Fig. 4a) and zonal wind (Fig. 4b) we note a double-peak structure in January with maxima at very low latitudes and a minimum at the equator. This turns into a triple-peak structure in April (Fig. 4d,e) with maxima slightly more poleward ($30°$ N/S) and directly at the equator. This structure is also visible in SABER measurements by Pancheva et al. (2013) for March and December. In the meridional wind, the TDT has not such a clear structure in January (Fig. 4c), with several maxima between $\pm 60°$, the strongest one appears near the equator. In April (Fig. 4f), it has four distinct

10 peaks with maxima at low and midlatitudes but, opposite to temperature and zonal wind, a minimum at the equator. These reversed maxima and minima for zonal and meridional wind component are expected and can be explained by the wave structure itself.

The standard deviation of tidal amplitudes is relatively small and reaches not more than $10\,\%$ of the total amplitude. Thus, our results prove to be robust in structure and strength.

15 The phases of TDT are shown in Fig. 5. Vertical wavelengths turn out to be longer where the amplitude is large and shorter where the amplitude is small. Thayaparan (1997), Namboothiri et al. (2004) and Jacobi (2012) report a similar relationship with vertical wavelengths being short in summer when the amplitude minimizes. Typically, the wavelengths in Fig. 5 reach $100\,\mathrm{km}$ and more. In January (Fig. 4a-c), the structure of phases appears to be more complex while in April (Fig. 4d-f) there are large areas of constant phase, especially at low latitudes.

20 Figure 6 presents the seasonal cycle of TDT amplitudes at an altitude of $106\,\mathrm{km}$. The temperature TDT at this altitude (Fig. 6a) appears to be strongest during equinoxes near the equator ($3.0\,\mathrm{K}$) and at midlatitudes ($30\text{-}40°$ N/S). The amplitudes in autumn ($2.2\,\mathrm{K}$) are larger than those in spring ($1.6\,\mathrm{K}$). Further maxima are reached during local winter at $30\text{-}40°$ N/S ($2.6\,\mathrm{K}$ at northern hemisphere and $2.3\,\mathrm{K}$ at southern hemisphere). For latitudes poleward of $50°$ N/S, amplitudes are much smaller and peak during summer ($< 1.1\,\mathrm{K}$).

25 The structure of MUAM temperature amplitudes is generally confirmed by SABER measurements (e.g., Moudden and Forbes, 2013; Pancheva et al., 2013; Yue et al., 2013) who reported maxima of about $5\,\mathrm{K}$ during equinoxes near the equator at $90\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude. Note that this amplitude is almost twice as large as the one obtained from our model simulations even though the altitude is smaller. For midlatitudes, Moudden and Forbes (2013) also found maxima during northern winter ($3\text{-}4\,\mathrm{K}$ at $30\text{-}50°$ N, $90\,\mathrm{km}$) but not during southern winter. This is in contrast to the results of Pancheva et al. (2013) and Yue et al. (2013) who

30 found maxima during equinoxes and local winter in both hemispheres ($110\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude) which qualitatively agrees well with our results at $106\,\mathrm{km}$ near $40°$ N/S.

Maxima in zonal wind (Figs. 6b) and meridional wind TDT (Figs. 6c) are also found during local winter at midlatitudes and they are slightly larger in the northern hemisphere ($5.9\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ in both components) than in the southern hemisphere ($4.7\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ in both components). During equinoxes, the maxima are smaller and located close to the equator (zonal wind only, $< 4.0\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$),

35 at low latitudes (meridional wind only, $< 4.3\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$) and at midlatitudes (zonal and meridional wind $< 3.8\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$).

Zonal and meridional amplitudes at midlatitudes (40-50° N/S) agree well with TIDI measurements (Yue et al., 2013) showing maxima during equinoxes at both hemisphere and during southern winter. However, the northern winter maximum is not seen in the zonal wind analysis by Yue et al. (2013). Another meridional wind peak is reported by Yue et al. (2013) near 30° N during July which can be found in our simulations, as well. However, amplitudes tend to be underestimated by a factor of about

5   3-4.

Some differences between model results and satellite measurements may be explained by the orbit of the satellite, passing high latitudes less frequently and leading to larger uncertainties in these latitudes. However, this cannot explain the large discrepancies in the magnitude of the TDT. Smaller model amplitudes may be owing to processes that are not included in the simulations such as latent heat release.

3.2   Separating the Forcings

In order to obtain the effect of each individual forcing on the amplitude of the TDT we performed the simulations with different forcings switched off, as listed in Table 1.

NO_SOL represents a TDT that is only owing to nonlinear and gravity wave effects because wavenumber 3 direct solar heat-
15   ing is removed in the whole model domain. Therefore, possible sources of this wave are nonlinear interactions between other tides, i.e. between the DT and the SDT, and gravity wave-tide interactions only. Remaining amplitudes and phases are shown in Figs. 7 and 8. As expected, the amplitudes are strongly reduced. However, they are not completely extinguished. In all parameters there is a clear maximum at northern midlatitudes (about 60° N) during January reaching $4\,\mathrm{K}\ \pm 0.6\,\mathrm{K}$ (temperature), $5\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}\ \pm 1.2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (zonal wind) and $4\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}\ \pm 0.8\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (meridional wind) above $120\,\mathrm{km}$. In the zonal wind component
20   there is a secondary maximum at about 30° N as well. During April, the maxima are shifted towards the equator with similar amplitudes like in January. This indicates that secondary terdiurnal forcing is most evident during local winter which can be confirmed from the annual cycle of the NO_SOL simulation (not shown here). TDT phases from this simulation (Fig. 8) are much more irregular compared to the REF simulation (Fig. 5) and show shorter vertical wavelengths no longer than $50\,\mathrm{km}$ for those latitudes where TDT amplitudes are strong.

25   The simulation NO_NLIN only includes direct solar forcing and gravity wave-tide interactions. Therefore, it does not include nonlinear interactions. Figure 9 shows the mean amplitude differences between the NO_NLIN and REF ensembles where red (blue) colors denote larger (smaller) amplitudes in NO_NLIN. Welch's t-test was applied and areas with $\alpha < 0.01$ are hatched. It turns out that decreased amplitudes are not the only consequence of the removed nonlinear forcing but there are also areas where the amplitude has increased. This result can be mainly observed during January in all parameters. The strongest increase
30   of about $3\,\mathrm{K}\ (3\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}})$ is located where the REF amplitude reaches its maximum. There, the amplitude in the NO_NLIN simulation is about 25% larger compared to the REF simulation. Another large red area is located at about 60° N at an altitude of $110\,\mathrm{km}$. In this area the amplitudes in the REF simulation are relatively small (not more than $2\,\mathrm{K}$ and $2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$), but the differences between the simulations reach similar values so that the NO_NLIN amplitudes are twice as strong as the REF amplitudes.

In April only weak enhancements of about $0.5-1.5\,\mathrm{K}$ $(0.5-2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}})$ appear for individual grid points and these are not located in the areas of larger amplitudes. Generally, the negative amplitude differences dominate and areas of positive change seem to be negligible.

We do not show the phases of the NO_NLIN simulation and the NO_GW simulation here because either of these simulations still includes the solar forcing which dominates the other remaining forcing, respectively, and therefore phases almost look the same like those shown in Fig. 5 for the REF simulation.

In order to investigate the positive difference in amplitude it is useful to compare phase shifts $\Delta\phi$ between the NO_NLIN TDT (with solar and gravity wave forcing) and the NO_SOL TDT (with nonlinear and gravity wave forcing). The gravity wave forcing appears in both simulations and therefore the phase shift between the tides according to these simulations can be mainly attributed to the phase shift between a pure solar wave and a pure nonlinear wave. The differences of the background wind and therefore tidal propagation conditions between the simulations are small. For $120°< \Delta\phi < 240°$ destructive interferences are possible which may lead to a decrease in amplitude for the case of superposition.

Figure 10 shows the amplitude differences as presented in Fig. 9 but now scaled by density (factor $\exp\{-z(2H)^{-1}\}$) to show the source of the positive amplitude differences. Here, the hatched areas show regions of destructive interferences ($120°< \Delta\phi < 240°$) between the phases of NO_NLIN and NO_SOL occur. It can be clearly seen that the red areas and the destructive interferences match almost perfectly for both January and April conditions and for all parameters.

Figure 11 shows the mean amplitude differences between the NO_GW and REF ensembles. For this simulation, positive amplitude differences occur at several heights/latitudes, when removing the gravity wave-tide interactions as a forcing of TDTs. In this case destructive interference seems to be more independent from the season and can be seen in January and April alike. However, the regions where the zonal wind amplitude is increased are rather small. This increase is most expressed around $60°\,\mathrm{N}$ and $110\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude during January. Note that this area is positive for meridional and zonal wind alike and also appears in the NO_NLIN simulation (Fig. 9). For the temperature and meridional wind component we find, as in Fig. 9, that amplitudes in regions with strong REF amplitudes are even enhanced when removing the wavenumber 3 gravity wave forcing. Furthermore, the amplitude changes in Fig. 11 reach larger values during April compared to January which can be explained by larger TDT reference amplitudes during April. Generally, all amplitude differences are stronger for NO_GW than for NO_NLIN.

The CTRL simulation represents TDT amplitudes due to effects that have not been considered in the previous simulations. So there still exist other sources in the model. Figure 12 shows the TDT amplitudes for the CTRL simulation. Note that the scale is different from Fig. 4 to cover the much smaller magnitudes. The structure of this remaining tide is not completely irregular indicating that it is possibly not owing to noise. However, the amplitudes are small with maximum values below $1\,\mathrm{K}$, $1.2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (zonal wind) and $1.4\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (meridional wind). During January, maxima are located in the northern hemisphere at low and midlatitudes and during April at the equator (temperature) and at southern low and midlatitudes (wind).

4 Discussion and Conclusion

The results of our REF simulation present a climatology and structure of the TDT that generally agrees with observations and earlier model studies. However, MUAM produces relatively small amplitudes for the TDT, e.g. $5\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ for the zonal wind component at $106\,\mathrm{km}$ altitude during winter or $12\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ at an altitude of $120\,\mathrm{km}$ during April. In opposite to reports by Cevolani and Bonelli (1985); Reddi et al. (1993); Thayaparan (1997); Yue et al. (2013) the TDT in our simulations does not reach the magnitude of a typical DT or SDT.

MUAM simulations show strongest wind amplitudes at midlatitudes (30-50° N) during winter with smaller maxima during spring and autumn. This is in accordance to radar measurements at these latitudes (e.g., Thayaparan, 1997; Namboothiri et al., 2004) who observed amplitudes of at least $5\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ during the whole year except during summer. At slightly larger latitudes (50-60° N), the winter maxima disappear and those near the equinoxes become more important as reported by (e.g., Beldon et al., 2006; Jacobi, 2012). There are also agreements with satellite analyses by Moudden and Forbes (2013), e.g., during equinoxes maxima appear at the equator and at midlatitudes. However, Moudden and Forbes (2013) observe those maxima to be more poleward (at about 60° N/S) than we do (30-40° N/S in MUAM). They also find that winter maxima are located about 30-40° N while poleward of 55° the maxima appear during summer.

Based on former model studies and in order to investigate the forcing mechanisms of the TDT we present further model simulation where possible forcings are switched off individually. In addition to the methods used by, e.g. Akmaev (2001); Smith and Ortland (2001); Huang et al. (2007) or Du and Ward (2010), who focus on direct solar heating and nonlinear interactions between tides only, we also consider gravity wave-tide interactions as suggested by, e.g. Miyahara and Forbes (1991); Huang et al. (2007).

Removing the direct terdiurnal solar heating leads to a significant decrease in amplitude (see Fig. 7) and therefore we conclude that the solar forcing is the most important and dominating TDT source amongst all possible mechanisms. However, the remaining amplitudes amount to several K or $\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$, at few latitudes/altitudes reaching about one third to one half of the total amplitude. This gives rise to the assumption that nonlinear interaction between tides and/or gravity waves should also be considered as an important forcing. The „left-over amplitudes", which include nonlinear and gravity wave induced forcing, exhibit a maximum at northern low and midlatitudes during January and April alike and phases for this tide are much more complex than the original ones (Figs. 7 and 8).

Removing the nonlinear tidal interactions leads to an increase in amplitude for some heights/latitudes during January by up to $2\,\mathrm{K}$ ($3\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$). This can be explained by destructive interferences between the purely solar forced TDT and the nonlinearly forced TDT. Due to the destructive phase shift the waves are counteracting each other and therefore reduce the amplitude when appearing together in the REF model simulation.

Similar results are obtained for removing the terdiurnal gravity wave-tide interactions but an increase in amplitude in this case is observed for both January and April conditions. Here, the zonal wind component is not affected by this positive amplitude change but temperature and meridional wind.

This conclusion supports the results of Smith and Ortland (2001) and partly those of Akmaev (2001) who found some minor

nonlinear contributions but assume the solar forcing to be a major source. While Smith and Ortland (2001) also obtain largest nonlinear contribution at low and middle latitudes, Akmaev (2001) point out that nonlinear interactions take place during equinoxes. However, Akmaev (2001) only analyzed a latitude of $44°$ N where amplitudes seem to maximize during equinoxes and therefore one may conclude that nonlinear interactions generally come into play where the TDT is large. Therefore, we

5 cannot agree with Du and Ward (2010) who concluded that nonlinear interactions are negligible. However, we did not perform a correlation analysis between DTs, SDTs and TDTs and therefore we cannot directly compare the results. Furthermore, our simulations do not agree with Huang et al. (2007) who obtain very large wind amplitudes over $15\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ and temperature amplitudes over $10\,\mathrm{K}$ in the MLT region for TDTs due to nonlinear interactions only. However, they also find nonlinear amplitude maxima during equinoxes at low and middle latitudes which is in agreement with our results.

10 Finally, a control simulation (CTRL) tested the TDT amplitude for all three considered forcings removed simultaneously to check whether there is a remaining weak forcing that has not been considered, yet. Amplitudes for that simulation are relatively small ($< 0.6\,\mathrm{K}$ and $<1.5\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$) but have a clear structure with maxima at $50°$ N/S during local winter. We conclude that there is another possible weak TDT source in the model, e.g., in the thermospheric parameterizations, which include nonlinear terms. These sources, however, are likely to be dependent on the used model and it is not likely that the remaining amplitudes

15 in Fig. 12 have a real meteorological meaning.

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Table 1. Overview on the different simulations.

Simulation	Description	solar forcing	nonlinear forcing	gravity wave forcing
REF	Reference with all forcings	on	on	on
NO_NLIN	Effect of removed nonlinear forcing	on	off	on
NO_SOL	Effect of removed solar forcing	off	on	on
NO_GW	Effect of removed gravity wave forcing	on	on	off
CTRL	Control without all forcings	off	off	off
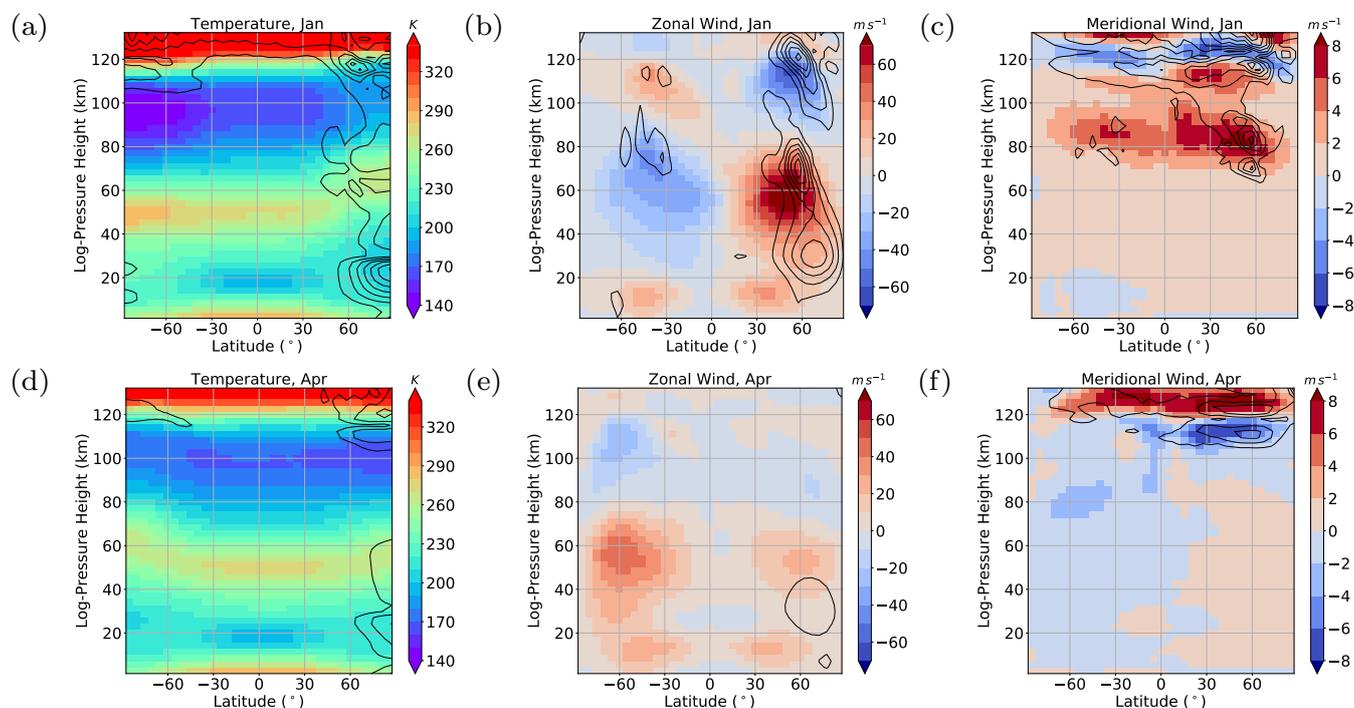
Figure 1. From left to right: REF zonal mean temperature, zonal wind and meridional wind. Top: Solstice (January) conditions. Bottom: Equinox (April) conditions. Results are obtained using an 11-year mean of assimilation data (colors). Standard deviations are added as black contour lines in intervals of 1 K (temperature), $2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (zonal wind) and $0.25\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ (meridional wind).
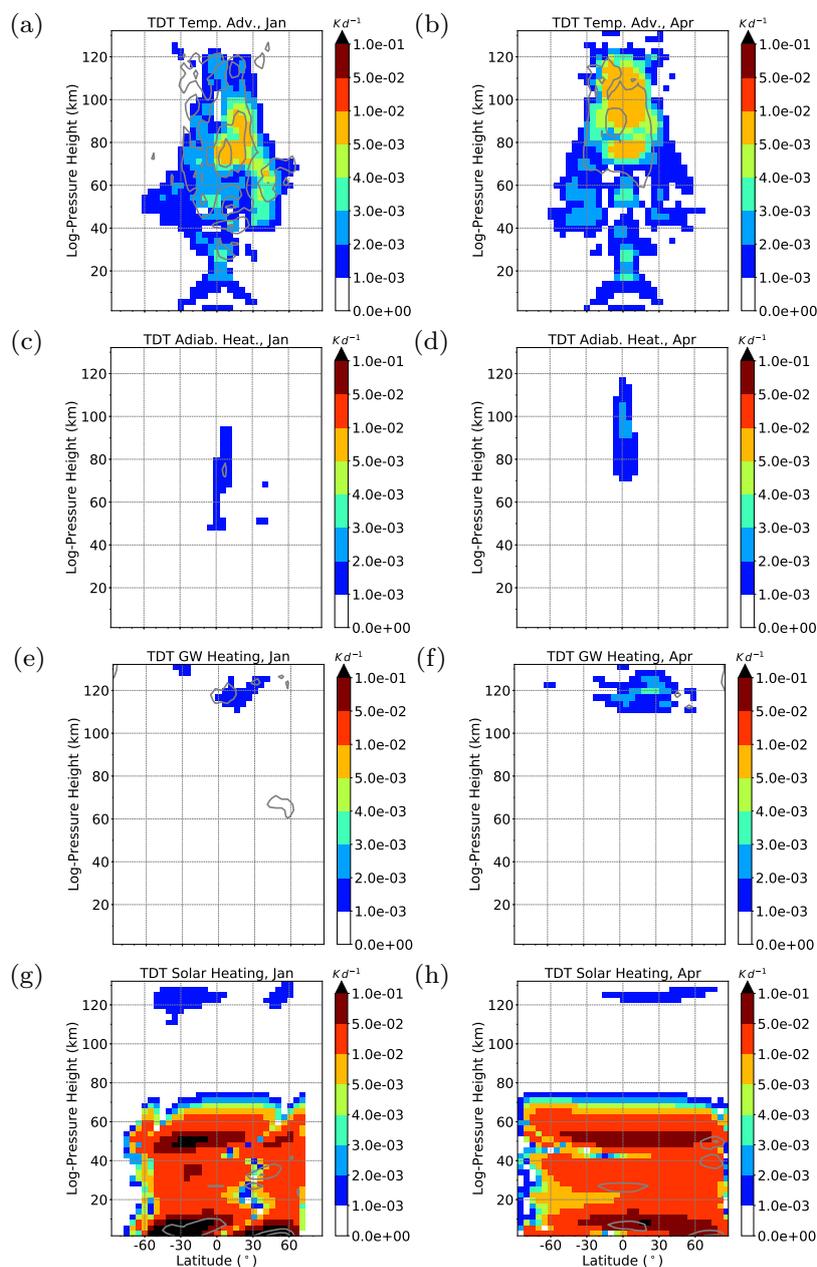
Figure 2. Terdiurnal component of thermal tendency terms in the REF simulation for January conditions (left) and April conditions (right). Amplitudes are scaled by density (factor $\exp\{-z(2H)^{-1}\}$). Results are obtained using an 11-year mean of assimilation data (colors). Standard deviations (σ) are added as gray contour lines. From top to bottom: temperature advection (nonlinear component of Eq. (3), $\Delta\sigma = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$), adiabatic heating (nonlinear component of Eq. (4), $\Delta\sigma = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$), heating due to gravity wave activity (tendency term from gravity wave parameterization, $\Delta\sigma = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$) and solar heating (tendency term from solar radiation parameterization, $\Delta\sigma = 1 \cdot 10^{-4}$). Note that the color scale is not continuous.
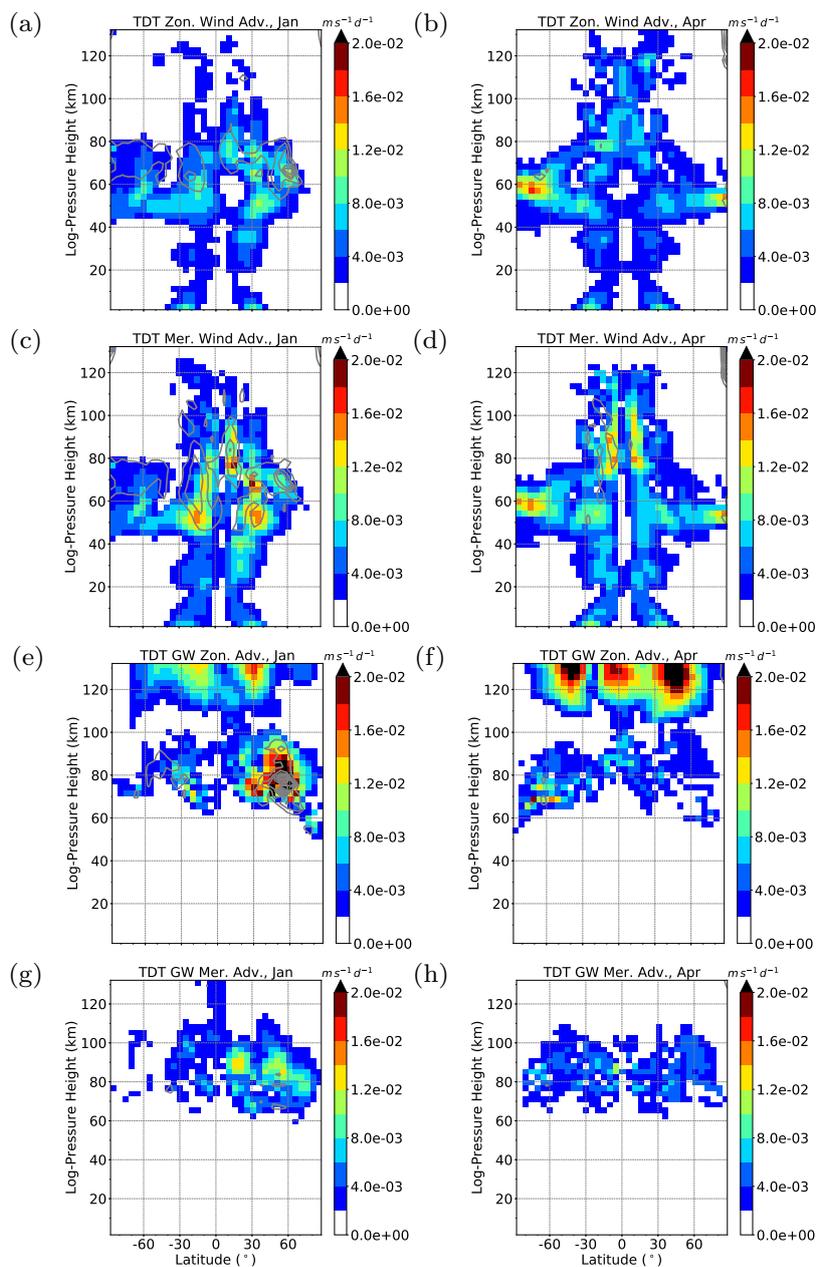
Figure 3. Terdiurnal component of zonal and meridional wind acceleration terms in the REF simulation for January conditions (left) and April conditions (right). Amplitudes are scaled by density (factor $\exp\{-z(2H)^{-1}\}$). Results are obtained using an 11-year mean of assimilation data (colors). Standard deviations (σ) are added as gray contour line. From top to bottom: zonal wind advection (nonlinear component of Eq. (1), $\Delta\sigma = 5 \cdot 10^{-4}$), meridional wind advection (nonlinear component of Eq. (2), $\Delta\sigma = 5 \cdot 10^{-4}$) and zonal and meridional acceleration due to gravity waves (tendency terms from gravity wave parameterization, $\Delta\sigma = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$).
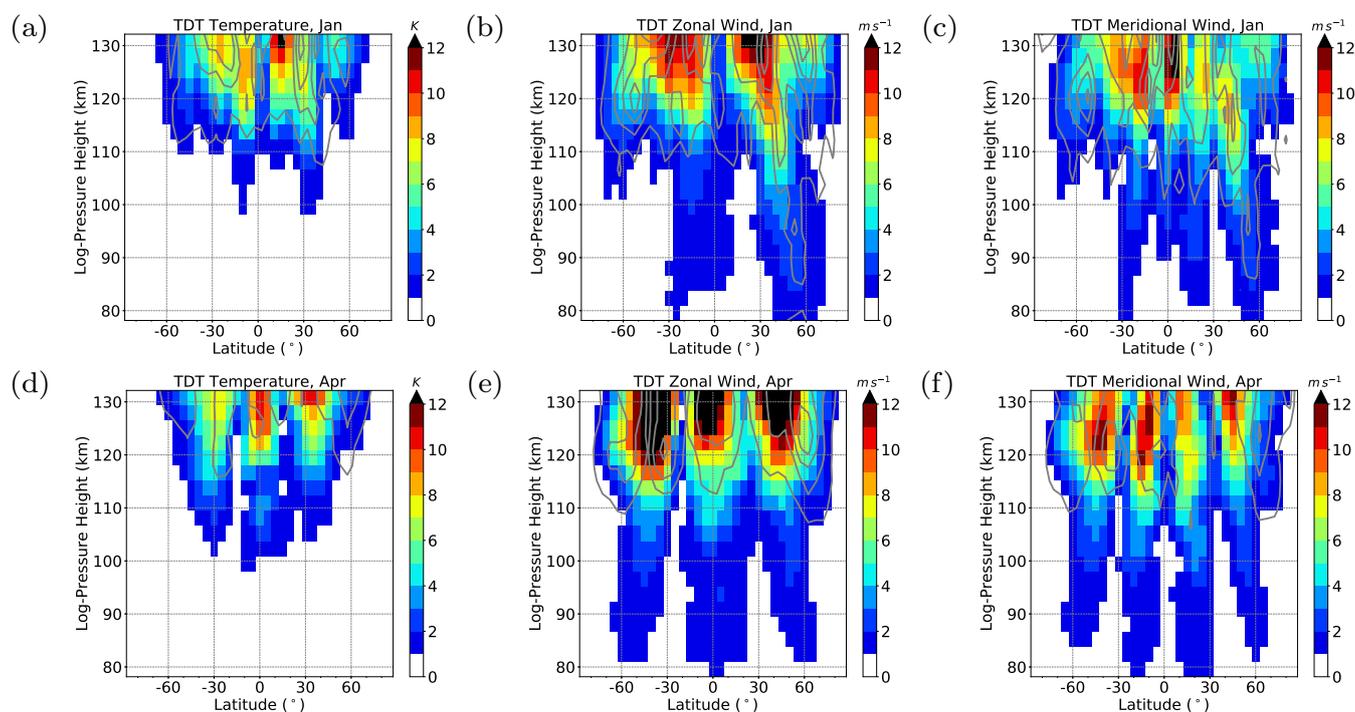
Figure 4. Zonal mean TDT amplitudes (colors, REF). From left to right: Temperature, zonal wind, meridional wind. Top: Solstice (January) conditions. Bottom: Equinox (April) conditions. Standard deviation (gray contour lines) is given in steps of 0.2, starting at 0.2, in each parameter.
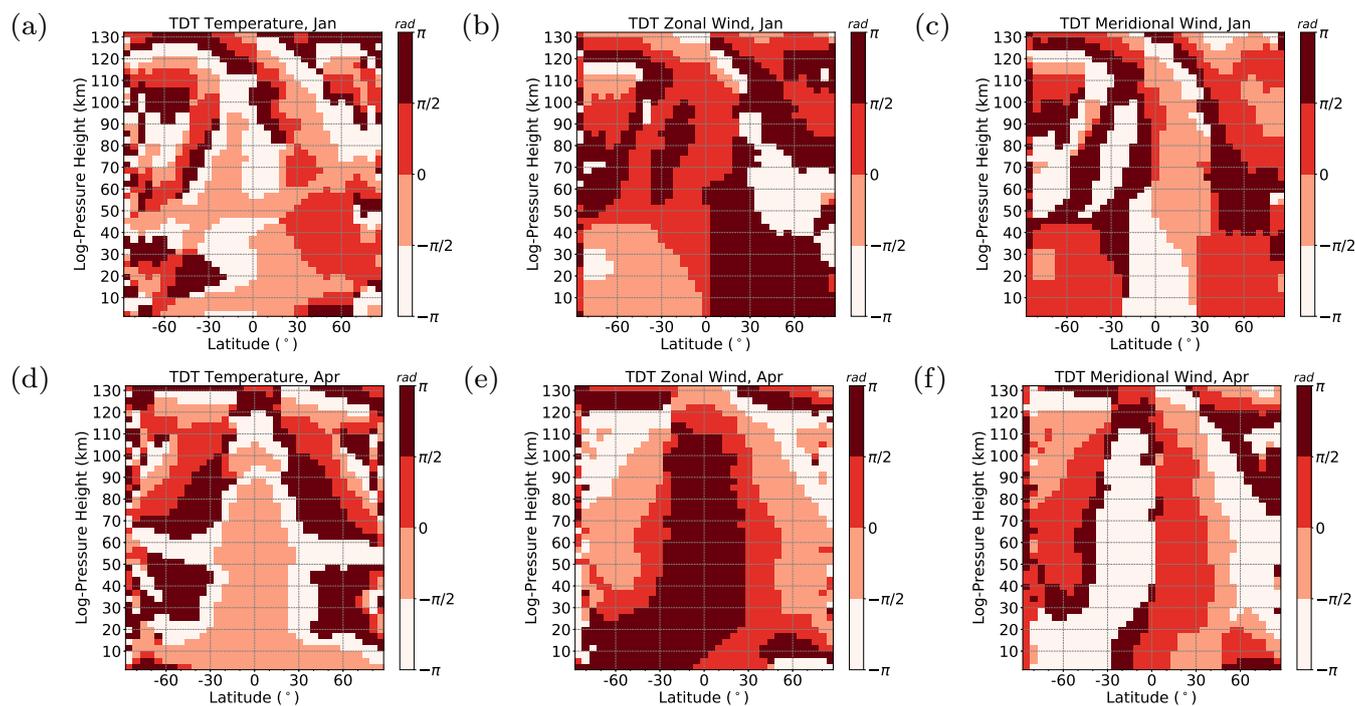
Figure 5. Zonal mean TDT phases (REF). From left to right: Temperature, zonal wind, meridional wind. Top: Solstice (January) conditions. Bottom: Equinox (April) conditions.
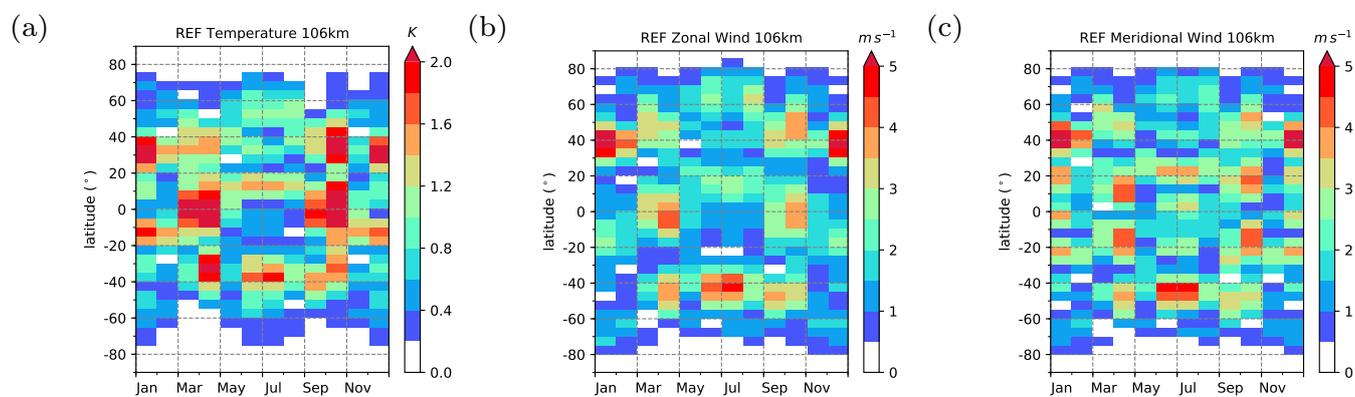
Figure 6. REF monthly mean TDT amplitudes at an altitude of ≈ 106 km. From left to right: temperature, zonal wind component, meridional wind component.
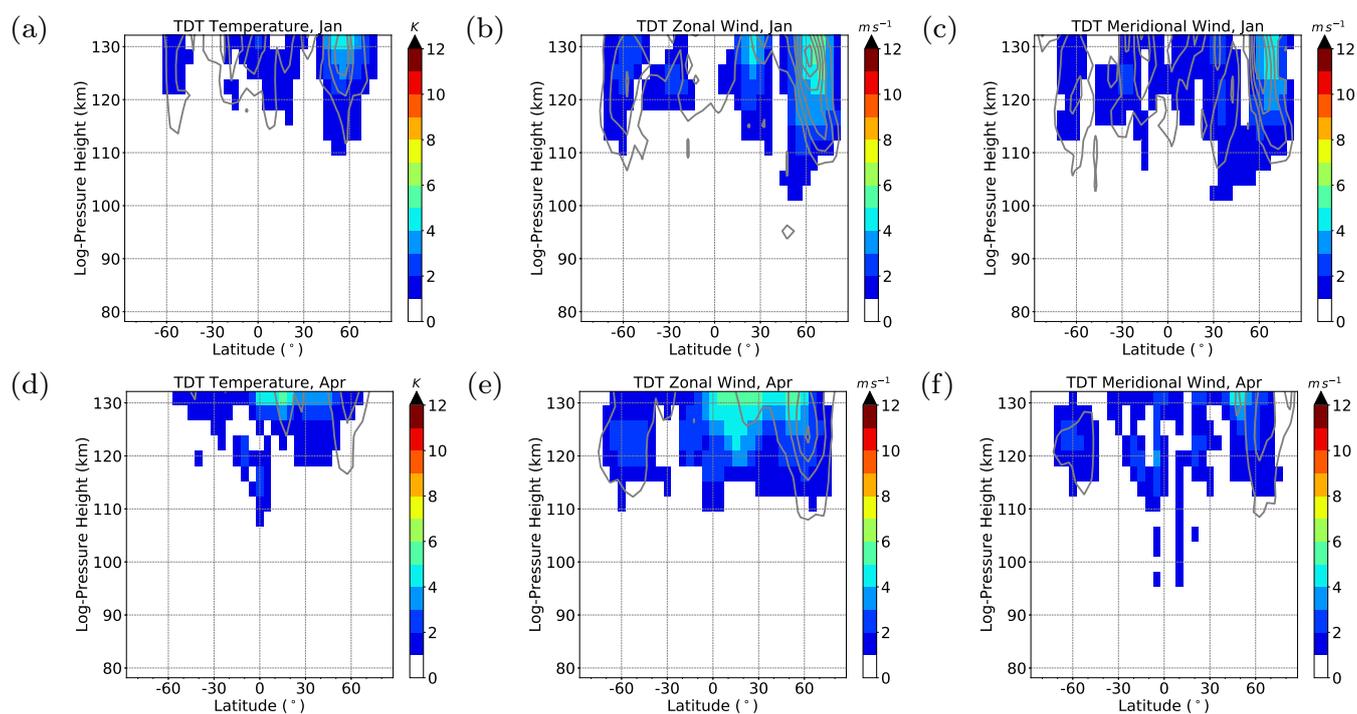
Figure 7. As in Fig. 4 but for NO_SOL simulation.
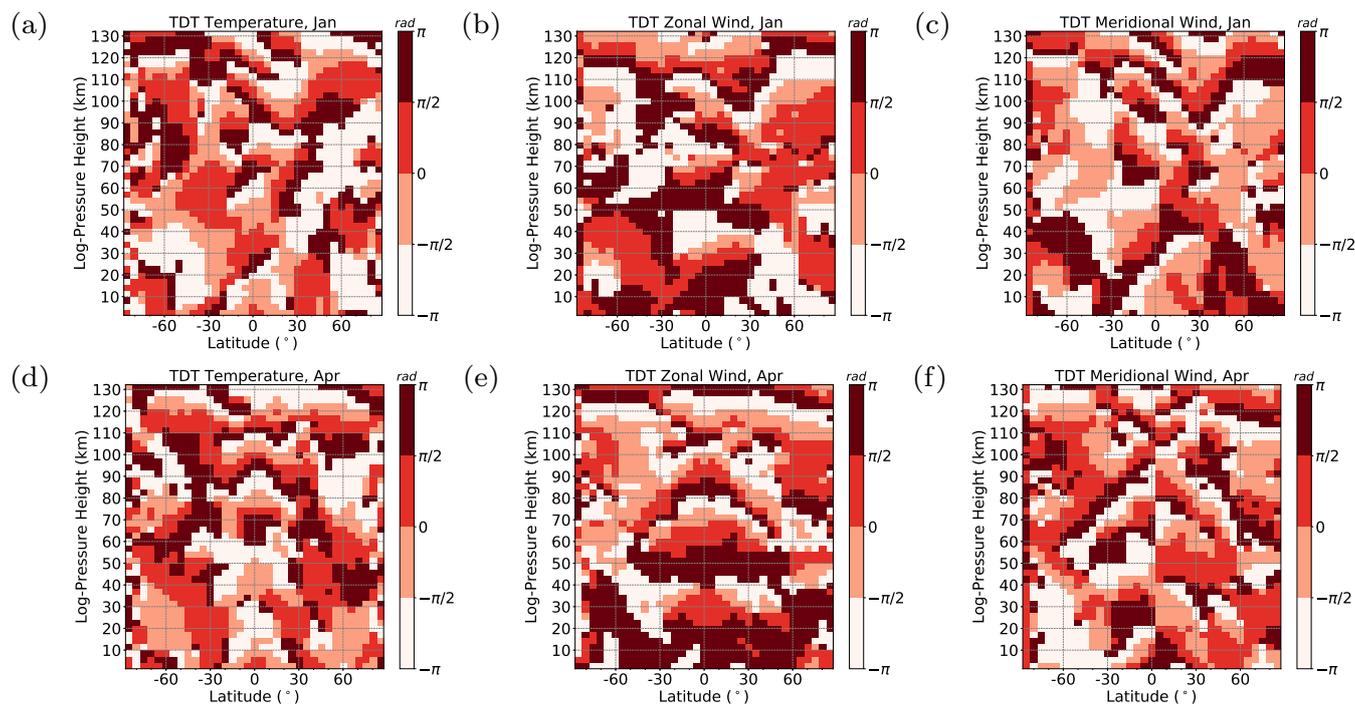
Figure 8. Zonal mean TDT phases (NO_SOL). From left to right: Temperature, zonal wind, meridional wind. Top: Solstice (January) conditions. Bottom: Equinox (April) conditions.
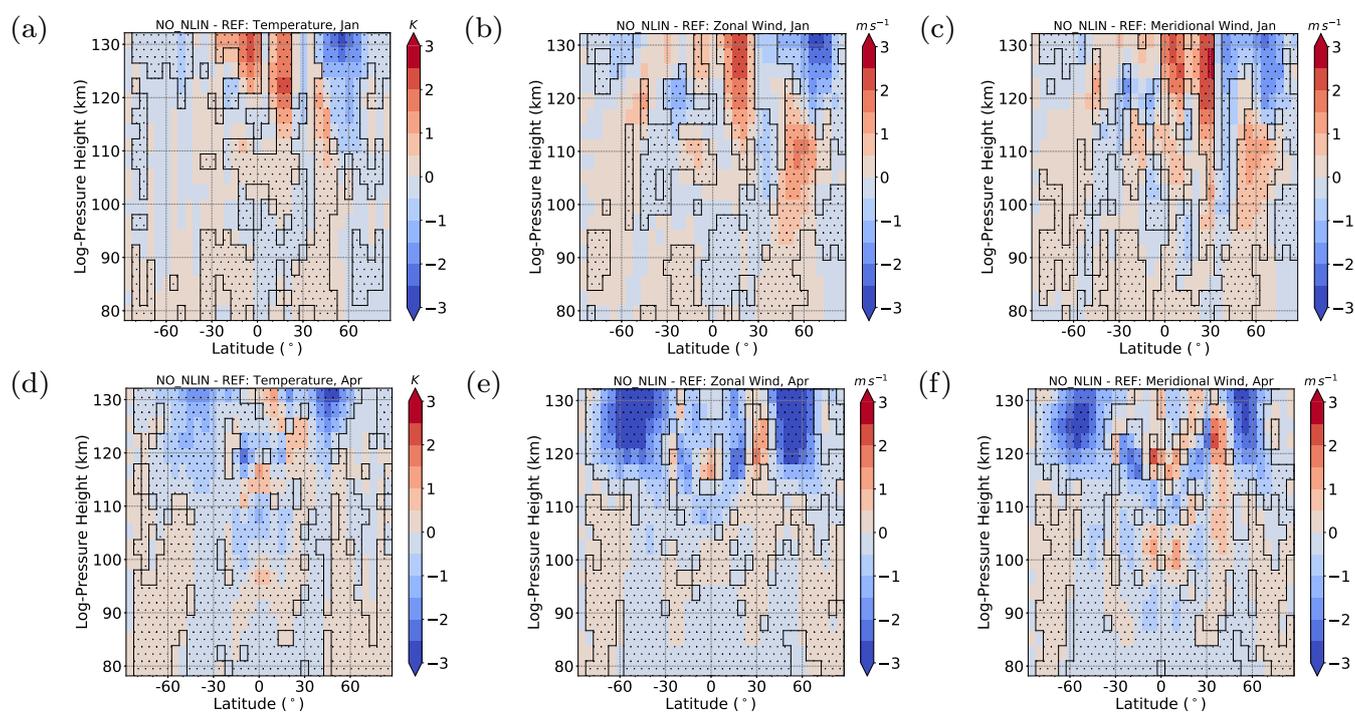
Figure 9. Difference of TDT amplitudes between NO_NLIN and REF simulation. Red colors denote larger NO_NLIN simulation amplitudes and blue colors denote larger REF simulation amplitudes. Significant areas ($\alpha < 0.01$) are hatched. From left to right: Temperature, zonal wind, meridional wind. Top: Solstice (January) conditions. Bottom: Equinox (April) conditions.
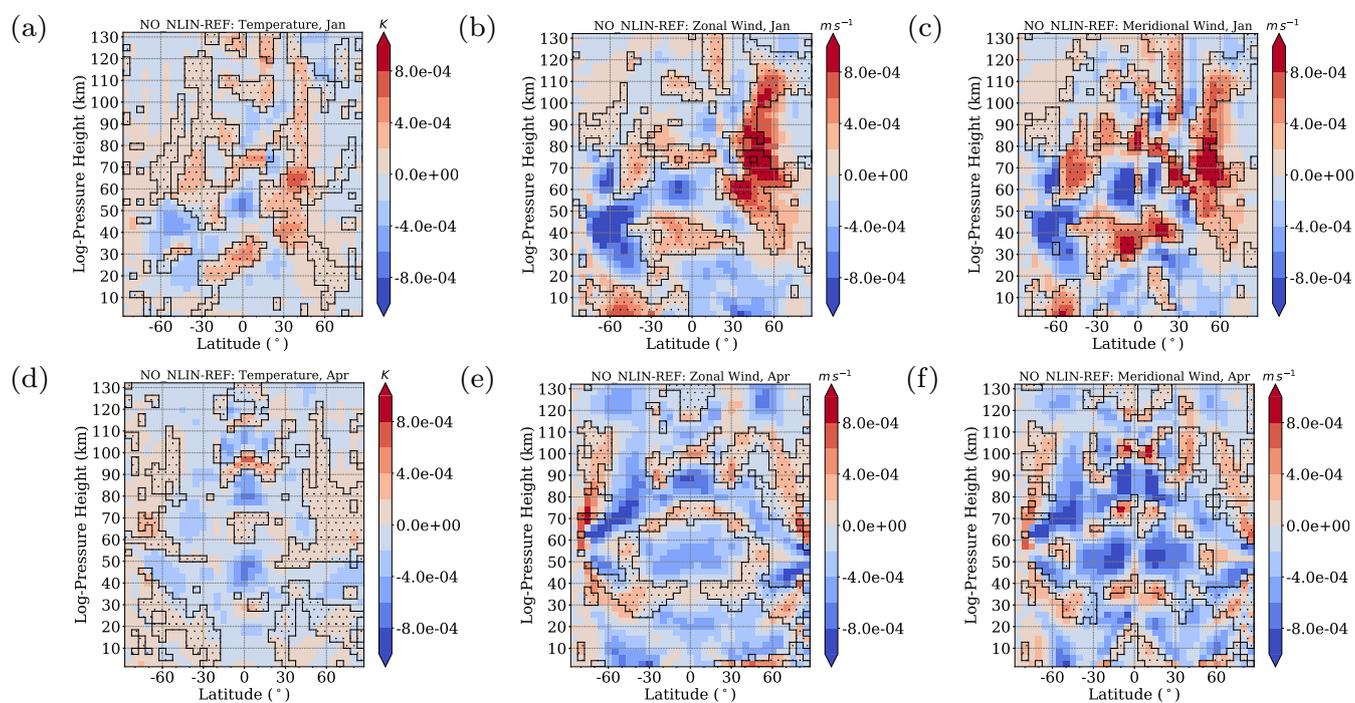
Figure 10. Difference of TDT amplitudes between NO_NLIN and REF simulation, scaled by $\exp\{-z(2H)^{-1}\}$. Red colors denote larger NO_NLIN simulation amplitudes and blue colors denote larger REF simulation amplitudes. Areas of destructive interferences ($120° \leq \Delta\Phi \leq 240°$) between NO_NLIN and NO_SOL phases are hatched. From left to right: Temperature, zonal wind, meridional wind. Top: Solstice (January) conditions. Bottom: Equinox (April) conditions.
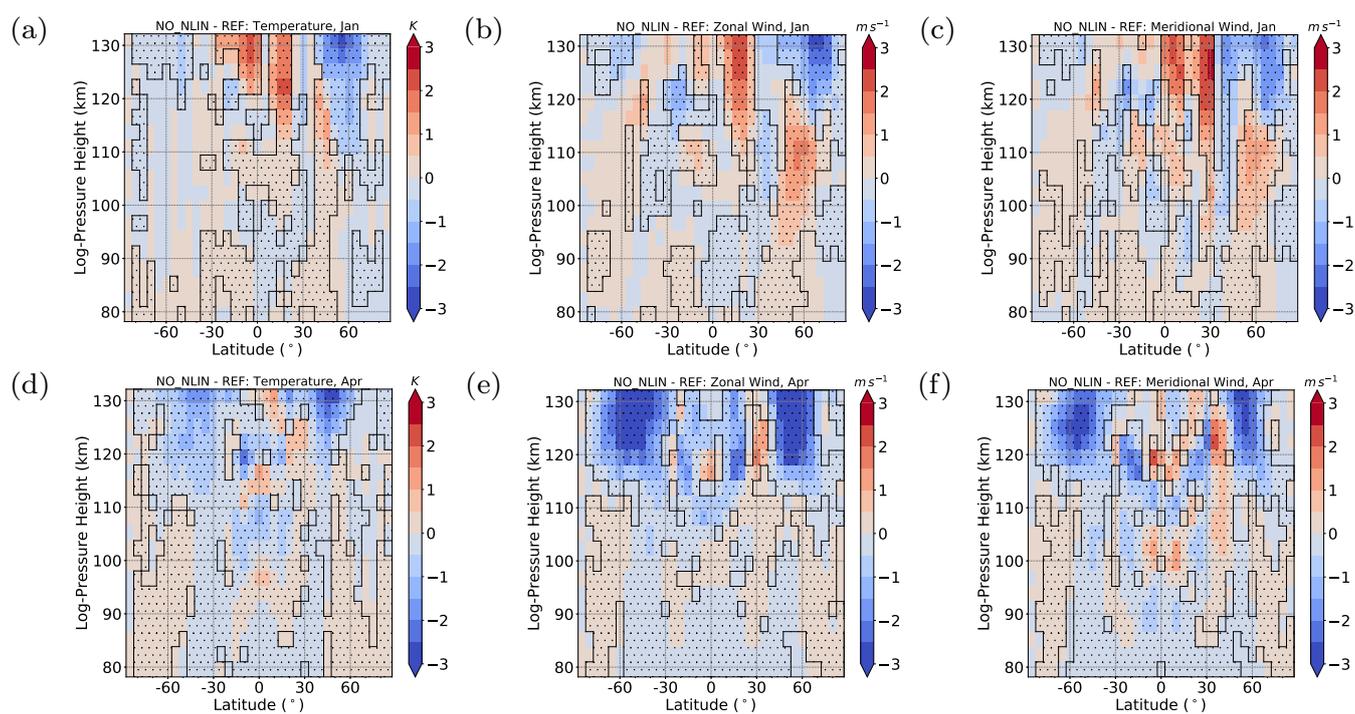
Figure 11. As in Fig. 9 but for NO_GW simulation.
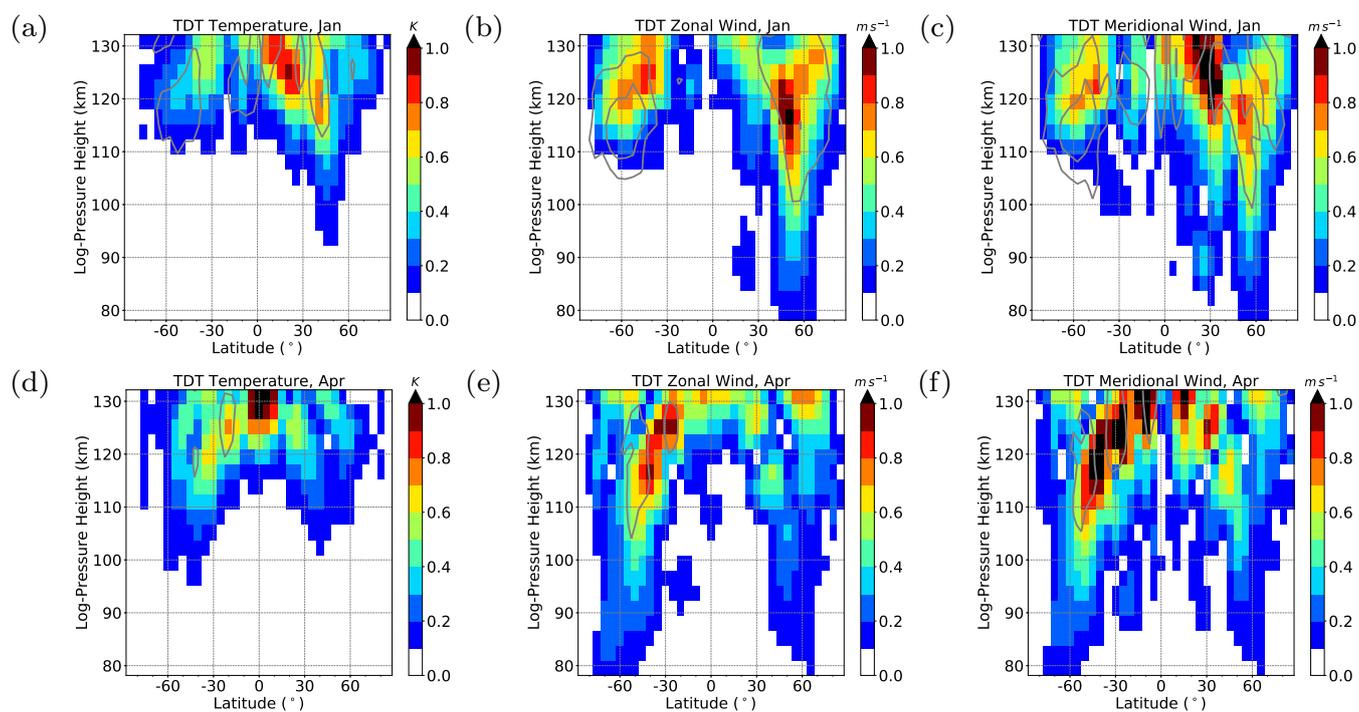
Figure 12. As in Fig. 4 but for CTRL simulation. Note that scales are different. Standard deviation (gray contour lines) is given in steps of 0.05, starting at 0.05, in each parameter.