Transport of trace gases via eddy shedding from the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone and associated impacts on ozone heating rates

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Abstract:

The highly vibrant Asian Summer Monsoon (ASM) anticyclone plays an important role in efficient transport of Asian tropospheric air masses to the extratropical upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UTLS). In this paper, we demonstrate long-range transport of Asian trace gases via eddy shedding events using MIPAS (Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding) satellite observations, ERA-Interim re-analysis data and the ECHAM5–HAMMOZ global chemistry–climate model. Model simulations and observations consistently show that Asian boundary layer trace gases are lifted to UTLS altitudes in the monsoon anticyclone and are further transported horizontally eastward and westward by eddies detached from the anticyclone. We present an event of eddy shedding during 1-8 July 2003 and discuss a 1995-2016 climatology of eddy shedding events. Our analysis indicates that eddies detached from the anticyclone contribute to the transport of Asian trace gases away from the Asian region to the West-Pacific (20°-30° N; 120°-150° E) and West-Africa (20°-30° N, 0°-30° E). Over the last two decades, the estimated frequency of occurrence of eddy shedding events is ~68 % towards West-Africa and ~25 % towards the West-Pacific.

Model sensitivity experiments considering a 10 % reduction in Asian emissions of non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) were performed with ECHAM5–HAMMOZ to understand the impact of Asian emissions on the UTLS. The model simulations show that transport of Asian emissions due to eddy shedding significantly affects the chemical composition of the upper troposphere (~100-400 hPa) and lower stratosphere (~100-80 hPa) over West-Africa and the West-Pacific. The 10 % reduction of NMVOCs and NO_x Asian emissions leads to decreases in peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) (2-10 % near 200-80 hPa), ozone (1-4.5 % near ~150 hPa) and ozone heating rates (0.001-0.004 K·day^{-1} near 300-150 hPa) in the upper troposphere over West-Africa and the West-Pacific.

Key Words: Asian summer monsoon anticyclone; Eddy shedding from the monsoon anticyclone, Transport of Asian trace gases, Ozone heating rates; ECHAM5-HAMMOZ model.

1. Introduction

Rapid industrialization, traffic growth, and urbanization resulted in significant increases in the concentrations of tropospheric trace gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH_4) over Asia. There is global concern about rising levels of these trace gases (due to their global warming potential) as they are projected to increase further over the coming years despite efforts to implement several mitigation strategies (Ohara et al., 2007). In situ observations, satellite measurements, trajectory analysis and model simulations show long range transport of Asian trace gases to remote locations (e.g. North America, Europe) (Liang et al., 2004). The transported trace gases change the radiative balance, dynamics and chemical composition at the respective locations (Vogel et al., 2016). Satellite observations show increasing trends in several tropospheric Asian trace gases over the last decade, e.g. ozone at ~1-3 % $year^{-1}$ (Verstraeten et al., 2015), CO at 3% $year^{-1}$ (Strode and Pawson, 2013), NO_x at ~3.8-7.3 % $year^{-1}$ (Schneider and van der A, 2012; Ghude et al., 2013). Biomass burning is another major contributor to the observed growth in these trace gases (van der Werf et al., 2006). Peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), a powerful pollutant formed in biomass burning plumes (Wayne, 2000), is a secondary pollutant produced through the oxidation of hydrocarbons released from anthropogenic and biogenic sources. It is a reservoir of reactive nitrogen and plays a fundamental role in the global ozone budget (Tereszchuk et al., 2013; Payne et al., 2017). PAN can also be formed in the upper troposphere through the production of NO_x from lightning (Zhao et al., 2009). Simulations of the Model of Ozone and Related Tracers (MOZART) show an increase of 20-30 % of PAN concentrations in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UTLS) over the Asian summer monsoon (ASM) region produced from lightning (Tie et al., 2002). While in the lower troposphere, PAN has a short lifetime (a few hours), in the UTLS it has a longer lifetime (3-5 months), and can therefore act as a reservoir and carrier of NO_x (Tereszchuk et al., 2013). Recent satellite observations show an increasing trend in PAN (~0.1 ± 0.05 to 2.7 ± 0.8 ppt year^{-1}) in the UTLS over Asia (Fadnavis et al., 2014).

Monsoon convection plays an important role in lofting of boundary layer Asian air masses to the UTLS (e.g., Randel et al., 2010; Fadnavis et al., 2015; Santee et al., 2017). The uplifted air masses become confined into the anticyclone enclosed by jets (westerly and easterly jets to the north and south, respectively), which act as a strong transport-barrier and restrict isentropic mixing into the extra-tropical lower stratosphere or the equatorial tropics (Ploeger et al., 2015; Ploeger et al., 2017). Confinements of high concentrations of trace gases, including ozone precursors (e.g., hydrogen cyanide (HCN), CO, hydrochloric acid (HCl), NO_x and PAN), and low ozone in the anticyclone are evident in satellite and aircraft observations, (Randel et al., 2010; Vogel et al., 2014; Fadnavis et al., 2015; Ungermann et al., 2016; Santee et al., 2017). The observed ozone minimum in spite of high amounts of its precursors in the anticyclone is still an open question. A fraction of these trace gases enters the lower stratosphere and affects the UTLS chemical composition (Randel et al., 2010; Fadnavis et al., 2015, 2016; Garny and Randel, 2016), with associated radiative forcing impacts (Riese et al., 2012). Cross-tropopause transport associated with the Asian monsoon is evident in a number of species, including aerosols, hydrogen cyanide (HCN) and PAN (Randel et al. 2010; Fadnavis et al. 2014, 2015; Bourassa et al., 2012).

The ASM anticyclone is highly dynamic in nature (e.g., Hsu and Plumb, 2000; Popovic and Plumb, 2001; Vogel et al., 2016). On the sub-seasonal scale, it shows variation in strength and location (Garny and Randel, 2016). It frequently sheds eddies and on occasions, it splits into two anticyclones, namely the Tibetan and Iranian anticyclones (Zhang et al., 2002; Nützel et al., 2016). An eddy detached from the anticyclone carries Asian air masses (trace gases) away from the ASM region. There are scattered studies indicating eddy shedding to the west (Popovic and Plumb, 2001) and east (Ungermann et al., 2016; Vogel et al., 2014) of the anticyclone. An eddy shedding event causes irreversible mixing in the surrounding air changing the chemical composition and radiative balance of that region (Garny and Randel, 2016). Here, we analyze in detail transport of Asian trace gases via eddies, subsequent mixing into the extra-tropics and radiative impact of eddy shedding events on decadal scales. In this study, we answer the following questions: (1) how frequent were eddy shedding events during the last two decades? (2) Which regions are the most affected? (3) Does the transport of Asian trace gases arising from eddy shedding affect UTLS ozone concentrations and heating rates at remote locations?

To address these questions, we first consider an eddy shedding event demonstrating eastward and westward shedding from the ASM anticyclone during 1-8 July 2003. This year was chosen since the monsoon season was quite normal (i.e., no evidence of El Niño or Indian Ocean dipole phenomenon influencing the monsoon circulation). We then present a climatology of eddy shedding events and lead-lag relations of eddies with the anticyclone. We also evaluate the impact of increasing Asian emissions of NO_x and NMVOCs on ozone and PAN during the eddy shedding event, using model sensitivity simulations. Finally, we estimate the associated changes in ozone heating rates in the UTLS due to Asian trace gases transported via eddy shedding events.

2. Model set-up and satellite observations

2.1 Satellite observations

The Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding (MIPAS) on-board the European ENVIronmental SATellite (ENVISAT) (MIPAS-E) was launched in March 2002 into a polar orbit of 800 km altitude. Its orbital period is about 100 min. MIPAS-E provided continual limb emission measurements in the mid-infrared over the range 685– 2410 cm^{-1} (14.6–4.15 μm) (Fischer et al., 2008). MIPAS monitored many atmospheric trace constituents including CO, PAN, and O_3. The details of the general retrieval method and setup, error estimates and use of averaging kernel and visibility flag are documented by von Clarmann et al. (2009). Here, we analyze the MIPAS observations of CO, PAN, and O_3 during 1-8 July 2003.

To account for the comparatively low, and altitude-dependent vertical resolution of MIPAS, the model data were convolved with the MIPAS averaging kernel to be directly comparable to MIPAS measurements of CO, PAN, and ozone. MIPAS vertical resolution for CO, O_3 and PAN in the UTLS is 5, 3.5 and 5 km, respectively. The data are contoured and gridded. For each grid point, the surrounding MIPAS data points are averaged while applying a distance weighting. The maximum distance for which MIPAS data points are considered is ± 7 deg in latitude and ± 15 deg in longitude (covering a box of 14 deg in latitude and 30 deg in longitude), and a minimum number of 2 data points per interpolation grid point is required.

The data quality specifications as documented at http://share.lsdf.kit.edu/imk/asf/sat/mipas-export/Documentation/ were employed, namely: only data with a visibility flag equal to 1 and a diagonal value of averaging kernel greater than 0.03 were used for ozone and PAN, while 0.008 was used for CO (Glatthor et al., 22007; Funke et al., 2009)..

2.2 Model set-up

We employ the ECHAM5-HAMMOZ (Roeckner et al., 2003) aerosol-chemistry-climate model to understand re-distribution of Asian trace gases via eddy shedding from the anticyclone. ECHAM5-HAMMOZ comprises of the general circulation model ECHAM5 (Roeckner et al., 2003), the tropospheric chemistry module MOZ (Horowitz et al., 2003), and the aerosol module, Hamburg Aerosol Model (HAM) (Stier et al., 2005). The chemistry of ozone, VOCs, NO_x, and other gas-phase species is based on the MOZART-2 chemical scheme (Horowitz et al., 2003). It includes O_x-NO_x-hydrocarbons with 63 tracers and168 reactions. The details of the parameterizations and emissions used in the model as well as a validation of the results are described by Fadnavis et al. (2013, 2014, 2015) and Pozzoli et al. (2011).

The model simulations were performed with a T42 spectral resolution corresponding to about 2.8°× 2.8° in the horizontal dimension and 31 vertical hybrid σ-p levels from the surface up to 10 hPa. Here, we note that our base year for aerosol and trace gas emissions is 2000. We performed two simulations: (i) a control experiment (CTRL), and (ii) a sensitivity experiment (Asia10), where emissions of both NO_x and NMVOCs were simultaneously reduced by 10 % over Asia (10° S–50° N, 60–130° E) similar as in earlier publication (Naik et al., 2005; Fadnavis et al., 2015). This fixed 10% reduction was chosen due to the spatial-temporal variability of NMVOCs over Asia and the inherent difficulty in obtaining a common trend value (Li et al., 2014). The impacts of this NMVOCs and NO_x emission perturbation are investigated by analyzing the associated anomalies (Asia10 – CTRL) in ozone, PAN and ozone heating rates.

Both simulations were performed for the year 2003 driven by European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts operational analyses (Integrated Forecast System (IFS) cycle-32r2) meteorological fields (available every six hours) (Uppala et al., 2005). All simulations include lightning NO_x and the subsequent PAN production. Since the lightning parameterization is the same in the CTRL and sensitivity simulations, its impact may be negligible. However, there may be an indirect impact of changed emissions on lightning and thus on NO_x or PAN production. The model simulations used here are the same as those used by Fadnavis et al. (2015). The climatology of ozone mass mixing ratio, winds and potential vorticity (PV) are obtained from ERA-Interim reanalysis data for the period 1995-2016. The anomalies are obtained from difference between daily mean values of July 2003 and daily climatology. Power spectral analysis and lag/lead correlations have been carried out on PV data for the period 1995-2016 to show climatological features.

Instantaneous ozone heating rates are calculated using the Edwards and Slingo (1996) radiative transfer model. We used the off-line version of the model, with six shortwave and nine longwave bands, and a delta-Eddington 2-stream scattering solver at all wavelengths, in a set-up similar to other recent studies (Rap et al., 2015, Roy et al., 2017).

3. Results

3.1 A typical case study of eddy shedding from the monsoon anticyclone

The dynamics of the monsoon anticyclone is best portrayed at the 370 K potential temperature surface and the monsoon anticyclone is obvious as an area of low PV values (PV< 2 PVU, 1 PVU = 10^{-6} K m^2 kg^{-1} s^{-1}) (indicating tropospheric air-mass) at this surface (Garny and Randel, 2016). Eddies are identified as air with low PV emanating from the monsoon anticyclone (Popovic and Plumb, 2001; Vogel et al., 2014). Past studies have shown that during the monsoon season (June to September), the bulk of the low PV air at the isentropic level of 370 K, is confined between about 20–35° N and 20–120° E indicating the spatial extent of the anticyclone (Popovic and Plumb, 2001; Vogel et al., 2014; Garny and Randel, 2016). A pocket of low PV air-mass detached from the boundary of the anticyclone (outside the anticyclone, 20–35° N and 20–120° E) is considered as an eddy. **Figures 1a-h** show the distribution of PV at 370 K during 1-8 July 2003. It can be seen that during this period the anticyclone was wobbling and shed eddies eastward and westward over West-Africa (20-30° N, 0-30° E) and the West-Pacific (20-30° N; 120-150° E). Initially, during 2-5 July 2003, the ASM anticyclone shed an eddy westward over West-Africa. The eddy moved further west with the progression of time. Later during 4-8 July 2003, eddy shedding occurred to the east of the anticyclone, over the West-Pacific and the air detached from the anticyclone moved further eastward with time. The longitude-pressure section of PV shows that the eddy protrudes down to 400 hPa (not shown).

Previous studies have shown that eddy shedding events are associated with Rossby wave breaking (RWB) (Hsu and Plumb, 2000; Popovic and Plumb, 2001; Fadnavis and Chattopadhyay, 2017). The RWB is manifested as a rapid and large-scale irreversible overturning of PV contours on the 350 K isentropic surface. It is accompanied with a cyclonic circulation at 200 hPa (Strong and Magnusdottir, 2008; Fadnavis and Chattopadhyay, 2017). **Figures 2a-h** show the distribution of PV at the 350 K surface and the circulation at 200 hPa during 1-8 July 2003. It can be seen that, during 1-8 July 2003, three RWB events occurred: one near 30° E (referred as RWB-1), one near 70° E (referred as RWB-2) and another one near 120° E (referred to as RWB-3). Since RWB-3 was outside the region of the ASM anticyclone (over the West-Pacific ~150-170° E) it did not play a role in the eddy shedding event of 1-8 July. If we track the location of these RWB events (indicated by the black and red arrows), one can see that, with the progression of time, the RWB feature moved eastward. The eastward migration of RWB is linked to its movement along the subtropical westerly jet (Fadnavis and Chattopadhyay, 2017). Initially during 1-5 July RWB-1 was strong (PV > 2 PVU) while RWB-2 (PV < 2 PVU) was weak. During this period the southward and westward moving RWB-1 leads to eddy shedding over West Africa. Later, during 4-8 July, RWB-2 strengthened while RWB-1 weakened and disappeared. The southward and eastward moving RWB-2 was responsible for the eddy shedding event near the Western Pacific (see **Figs. 2d-h**).

3.2. Climatology of eddy shedding from the monsoon anticyclone

A power spectrum analysis (PSA) has been performed on the PV data (averaged for 300-100 hPa) during 1995-2016 for West-Africa (20-30° N, 0-30° E) and the West-Pacific (20-30° N, 140-150° E). The PSA uses the temporal-to-frequency fast Fourier transform in order to identify dominant signal frequencies. It provides information of signal power (square of variance) associated with the frequency components of the signal, with the dominant signal periodicity being the inverse of the dominant signal frequency. **Figures 3a-b** show the distribution of power spectral variance over the West-Africa and West-Pacific regions. The variances corresponding to the periodicities of 3-5 days, 12-15, and 18-21 days are significant at 95 % confidence level for both the regions indicating that the eddy shedding activity is dominated in the range of synoptic frequency (~10 days). Popovic and Plumb (2001) also indicated a typical duration of an eddy shedding event of ~4-8 days. We compute the frequency of eddy shedding days (PV < 1 PVU) occurring over West-Africa and the Western Pacific. The ERA-Interim data for the last two decades show that eddy shedding is quite frequent over west-Africa (~68 %) and the West-Pacific (~25 %). The lag-lead correlation of PV (averaged for 200-100 hPa) for the centre region of the anticyclone (85-90° E, 28-30° N) with PV averaged over the West-Pacific shows a maximum positive lead correlation at 3-4 days (**Fig. 3c**). Similarly, PV over West-Africa shows a maximum positive lead correlation for 5-6 days with the PV averaged over the monsoon anticyclone (**Fig. 3d**). This indicates that the transport of the eddies from the anticyclone (source region) has a typical duration of three to four days over the West Pacific and five to six days over West Africa. This transport time is the timescale over which the trace gases are moved to remote locations from the ASM anticyclone.

3.3. Long range transport of trace gases

3.3.1 Horizontal transport of ozone, CO and PAN via eddies

Biomass burning over south-east Asia and East Asia produces large amounts of CO, NO_x, VOCs, PAN, ozone and aerosols (e.g., Streets et al., 2003, Fadnavis et al., 2014). The monsoon convection over the Bay of Bengal, southern slopes of Himalaya and South China Sea (see **Fig. S1**) lifts up these species into the anticyclone where they may get dispersed in the UTLS by the vibrant anticyclone and its associated eddies. **Figures 4a-h** show the distribution of ozone during 1-8 July 2003 (MIPAS O_3 is binned for 2 days and simulated O_3 is plotted for alternate days) in the anticyclone at 16 km (~100 hPa). Ozone concentrations from MIPAS satellite measurements and model simulations (CTRL) are plotted at 16 km and from ERA-Interim reanalysis at 100 hPa. For comparison, we have interpolated the model data to the MIPAS altitude grid and smoothed with the averaging kernel. The ASM anticyclone is marked by minimum ozone although its precursors (e.g. CO, NO_x and CH_4) show maxima (Randel et al., 2010; Roy et al., 2017). The spatial pattern of low ozone amounts in the anticyclone and the associated eddies is evident in all of the data sets during 1-8 July 2003. The locations of ozone local minima in the model are slightly shifted relative to the locations of eddies and relative to the locations of ozone local minima in MIPAS and ERA. During 1-5 July, ozone concentrations in the eddy over West-Africa are ~40-200 ppb in MIPAS, ~60-180 ppb in ERA-Interim and 100-200 ppb in the model simulations. During 4-8 July, the eddy over the west Pacific shows ozone amounts of ~60-180 ppb in MIPAS, ~60-180 ppb in ERA-

Interim and ~120-200 ppb in the model simulations. In general, model overestimates ozone amounts by ~60 ppb than ERA-Interim and MIPAS measurements.

Figures 5a-h show the distribution of CO from MIPAS observations and model simulations during 1-8 July 2003 (MIPAS CO is binned for 2 days and simulated CO is plotted for alternate days). The confinement of high concentrations of CO in the anticyclone and in eddies is seen in both MIPAS observations and model simulations. During 1-5 July, eddies over west-Africa and west-Pacific show CO volume mixing ratios of ~85-95 ppb in MIPAS, and ~70-95 ppb in the model simulations. Similar to ozone, a location of maximum in CO is not collocated with eddies and slightly different in MIPAS and Model.

Figures 6a-h show the distribution of PAN from MIPAS measurements and the model simulation (CTRL) at 16 km during 1-8 July 2003 (MIPAS PAN mixing ratios are binned for 2 days and simulated PAN is plotted for alternate days). A confinement of high amounts of PAN in the anticyclone and the associated eddies is seen both in the MIPAS measurements and the model simulations. During 1-5 July, MIPAS observed PAN amounts are ~120-240 ppt in eddies over west-Africa, while the model simulation shows ~180-240 ppt of PAN at the same location. The eddy over the west-Pacific shows PAN amounts of ~160-240 ppt both in MIPAS measurements and model simulations.

There are differences in ozone, CO and PAN amounts from model simulation, satellite observations and ozone from ERA-Interim. These differences may be due to a number of reasons e.g. different grid sizes of MIPAS, ERA-Interim and model data, binning of MIPAS data for two days to accommodate better spatial coverage, uncertainties in the model emission inventory, and retrieval errors in the satellite data. A maximum in PAN near the location of eddy differ in MIPAS and model. Comparison of Fig. 1 and Figs 4-6 shows that minimum in ozone and maximum in CO and PAN is not collocated at eddies. The location varies slight in species and data sets (in MIPAS, ERA and model). This may be due to differences in data sets and production and loss processes of each species.

3.3.2 Vertical distribution of CO, PAN and ozone

Further, we analyze the vertical distribution of CO and PAN as an indication of Asian biomass burning emissions. **Figure 7** shows longitude-pressure cross-sections (averaged for 20°-40° N) of CO and PAN from the CTRL simulation, with wind vectors depicting circulation patterns. It illustrates that during 1-5 July 2003 a plume of CO/PAN has been uplifted from the Asian region (80°-120° E), moving further upward into the UTLS. The location of the plume (**Fig. 7**) coincides with a strong convection region - see **Fig. S1,** showing combined cloud droplet (CDNC) and ice crystal (ICNC) number concentrations from the CTRL simulation. **Figure 7** and **Fig. S1**, together, indicate that surface emissions are lifted up by the monsoon convection. In the upper troposphere (~120 hPa), westward horizontal transport of CO/PAN towards West-Africa is obvious as a result of eddy shedding during the respective days. In particular, during 2-4 July high amounts of CO/PAN are observed near 0°-30° E at 100 hPa (**Figs. 7a-b** and **7e-f**). On 2 July, there is some PAN transport over the west-Pacific. During 4-8 July 2003, eddy shedding occurs to the east of the anticyclone over the West-Pacific (120°-150° E) (see **Figures 1e-f**). East-ward horizontal transport of CO/PAN in the regions of eddy shedding is evident in **Figs.7c-d** and **7g-h**. The Asian trace gases then disperse downward deep into the troposphere (to ~500 hPa over the West Pacific and to ~200 hPa over West-Africa) and are partially lifted into the lower stratosphere.

The vertical distribution of ozone shows low ozone amounts extending from the convective regions of Bay of Bengal and South China Sea (~15-25° N) upward in the upper troposphere (**Figs. S2a-d**), with ozone amounts of ~100-200 ppb near the tropopause (see also **Figs. 4-i-l**). The lower ozone amounts over the Asian troposphere may be due to clean marine air masses during the monsoon season (Zhao et al., 2009). The feature of low ozone air-mass ascent is less evident than the CO and PAN vertical ascent, due to a number of factors which are influencing ozone production and loss processes at different altitudes in the troposphere and lower stratosphere, such as stratospheric intrusions, lightning etc. (see discussions in section 3.4).

3.4 Influence of Asian emissions on extra-tropical UTLS

In this section, we investigate the influence of Asian anthropogenic emissions of NMVOCs and NO_x on the distribution of PAN and ozone in the tropical/extra-tropical UTLS from sensitivity experiments. **Figures 8a-d** show anomalies of PAN (Asia10-CTRL) at 16km during 1-8 July 2003 (plotted on alternate days). The negative anomalies in PAN are seen confined to the region of the anticyclone and the associated eddies (1-5 July over West-Africa and 4-8 July over West-Pacific). These anomalies portray the effect of Asian boundary layer emissions (NMVOCs and NO_x) on the upper level anticyclone and the associated eddies. A number of studies (Randel et al., 2010; Fadnavis et al., 2013; 2015; Vogel et al., 2014) have shown lifting of Asian emissions to the UTLS by the monsoon convection and its confinement in the anticyclone. A 10% decrease in Asian NMVOCs and NO_x emissions decreases PAN amounts by ~5-23 % in the ASM anticyclone and the associated eddies over West-Africa and the West-Pacific.

Further, we analyze the vertical distribution of anomalies of PAN and ozone. **Figures 8e-h** show longitude-pressure sections of anomalies of PAN. It shows negative anomalies (in response to reduced Asian emissions) along the transport pathways (**Fig. S1**), i.e. from the boundary layer of the Asian region (80°-120° E) into the upper troposphere and westward/eastward transport from the anticyclone owing to eddy shedding. These anomalies extend above the tropopause, indicating cross-tropopause transport. Upward transport across the tropopause in monsoon season has been demonstrated to occur in recent tracer studies (Ploeger et al., 2017; Vogel et al., 2018). PAN is rather long lived in the cold tropopause region and should therefore behave similar as inert trace gases in the model studeies (Fadnavis et al., 2014; 2015). Our simulations show that a 10 % reduction in Asian emissions of both NMVOCs and NO_x, results in a decrease in the amount of PAN by ~2-10 % over North-West Africa during 1-5 July and over the Western Pacific during 4-8 July 2003.

The vertical distribution of ozone anomalies (**Figs. 8i-l**) show negative values (–1 to –4.5 %) in the troposphere extending from the surface up to ~180 hPa along the transport pathways (~90° E) and in the region from where cross tropopause transport occurs. Near the tropopause (except in the region of cross-tropopause transport; indicted by boxes) ozone anomalies are positive, varying between 1 to 8 % (**Figs. 8i-l**). In contrast to PAN, ozone will be chemically active during the slow ascent over the monsoon area for several months (Vogel et al., 2018). Ozone loss rates are likely to be affected in the Asia-10 simulations. For example reduced NO_x will lead to a lower efficiency of ozone loss providing a reason for higher ozone in the Asia-10 runs. Further, less NMVOCs in Asia-10 simulations might lead to lower OH concentrations in the lowermost stratosphere above the monsoon region. The major ozone loss cycle in the lowermost stratosphere in the tropics is driven by HO_x radicals with the rate limiting step being the reaction of OH with ozone. The anomalies of OH concentrations are negative near the tropopause indicating lower ozone loss rates (**Fig. S3**). The changes in dynamics (e.g stratospheric intrusions and lightning) due to emission sensitivity may also partially contribute to positive anomalies of ozone near the tropopause. Ozone distribution of from CTRL simulations show stratospheric intrusion in the northern part of the anticyclone ~30°N **(Fig. S2**) which is enhanced (positive anomalies) in Asia-10 simulations (**Figs. S4 a-d**). The spatial distribution of ozone anomalies (**Fig. S4 e-h**) indicate that the response to emission reductions generates negative anomalies of ozone in the southern part of anticyclone (15-25°N; 60-120° E) (may be due to cross tropopause of monsoon air), while ozone anomalies are positive in the northern part of the anticyclone (which may be associated with stratospheric intrusions). The ozone variability near the tropopause is generally driven by the strong mixing of tropospheric and stratospheric air-masses.

In **Fig. 8i-l**, negative values of ozone anomalies extending from surface to ~180 hPa may be likely to be related to the vertical extent of transport and associated outflow. A plume of high values of CO (~95 ppb) and PAN (~260 ppt) (**Fig. 7**), together with relatively low ozone amounts (70-80 ppb) (**Fig. S2)** reaching to ~180 hPa and leads to a strong gradient near the tropopause. It also indicates that the outflow of uplifted trace gases in the upper troposphere reaches to ~250-180 hPa. The moderate concentrations of CO and PAN between 180-70 hPa may also be due to the slow ascent into the lower stratosphere of these Asian pollutants (Park et al., 2008).

During the monsoon season, marine air masses containing low amounts of ozone prevail over the Asian land mass. The monsoon air mass gathers Asian boundary layer ozone precursors (and other trace gases) and are uplifted to the UTLS by the monsoon circulation. It should be noted that a decrease in emissions of NO_x and NMVOCs in the Asia10 simulations produces lower ozone amounts in the troposphere than CTRL. Therefore, in the regions of eddy shedding, negative anomalies near 200-300 hPa indicate transport of monsoon air (via eddies) towards West-Africa during 1-5 July and to the West-Pacific during 4-8 July.

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3.5 Influence of Asian emission of trace gases on ozone heating rates

Ozone is a dominant contributor to radiative heating in the tropical lower stratosphere, impacting the local heating budget and non-local forcing of the troposphere below (Gilford and Solomon, 2017). We estimate changes in ozone heating rates caused by a 10 % decrease in Asian NMVOCs and NO_x emissions. **Figures 9a-d**, show anomalies of ozone heating rates on 1-8 July (plotted on alternate days), indicating a reduction in ozone heating rates in response to a decrease in Asian NMVOCs and NO_x emissions, coincident with the region of convective transport (**also see Fig. S5**). In the upper troposphere (300-180 hPa), the negative anomalies in ozone heating rates vary between –0.001 and –0.0045 $K \cdot day^{-1}$. Interestingly, reduced Asian emissions (NMVOCs and NO_x), lead to a reduction in ozone, which leads to a reduction in ozone heating rates (–0.001 to –0.003 K·day^{-1}) in the region of eddy shedding over West-Africa (1-5 July) and the West-Pacific (4-8 July). The ozone poor Asian air mass trapped within eddies has reduced the heating over West-Africa and the West-Pacific. Influence of Asian NO_x emissions on ozone heating rates (mean for June-September ~0.0001 - 0.0012 K·day^{-1} for 38 % increase over India) in the upper troposphere (300-200 hPa) have been reported in the past (Roy et al., 2017). Near the tropopause ozone heating rates are positive (0.001 - 0.005 K·day^{-1}) except in the region of cross-tropopause transport (marked in **Figs. 8i-l**). The positive anomalies of ozone heating rates are associated with positive anomalies of ozone near the tropopause. The ECMWF dataset for 44 years (1958-2001) shows an inter-annual amplitude of the ozone heating rate ±0.00025 K·day^{-1} near the tropopause over 30° S-30° N (Wang et al., 2008).

4. Summary and Discussion

In this study, we show evidence of eddy shedding from the ASM anticyclone to both its eastern and western edge, during 1-8 July 2003 based on MIPAS satellite observations and ERA Interim re-analysis data as well as the associated transport patterns of trace gases from the ASM region to remote regions. The transport diagnostic based on ERA-Interim data shows that eddy shedding events are associated with RWB in the subtropical westerly jet. The RWB feature moves eastward in the subtropical westerly jet. Initially, during 1-5 July 2003, RWB occurs in the western part of the anticyclone and then sheds over West-Africa (20°-30° N, 0°-30° E). Later, during 5-8 July 2003, RWB moves to the eastern part of the anticyclone and sheds an eddy over the West-Pacific (20°-30° N; 120°-150° E). Analysis of ERA-Interim PV data for the last two decades (1995-2016) shows that the occurrence frequency of eddy shedding from the ASM anticyclone over West-Africa is ~68 % and ~25 % over the West-Pacific. In the UTLS (300-100 hPa), eddies (PV<2 PUV) over West-Africa/West-Pacific shows highest correlation with the PV in the anticyclone after accounting for 3-4 days/5-6days of lag. This indicates that the anticyclone sheds eddies with transport duration of typically three to four days to West Africa and five-six days to the Western Pacific.

We employ the chemistry climate model ECHAM5-HAMMOZ to investigate transport of Asian boundary layer trace gases (CO, ozone and PAN) into the monsoon anticyclone and the associated eddies. The model simulations show that Asian trace gases transported into the monsoon anticyclone are further carried away horizontally towards West-Africa and the West-Pacific by eddies which detach from the anticyclone. These eddies protrude down to ~200 hPa over West-Africa and ~500 hPa over the West Pacific. They re-distribute Asian trace gases downward into the troposphere over these regions. Moreover, part of this air-mass is also transported upward into the lower stratosphere. A higher frequency of eddy shedding over West-Africa (68 %) during the last two decades (1995-2016) indicates a greater influence of Asian trace gases on the UTLS over West-Africa than the West-Pacific over this period.

We evaluate the impact of Asian NO_x and NMVOCs emissions on ozone and PAN in the regions of the ASM anticyclone and the associated eddies. The model sensitivity simulations for a 10 % reduction in Asian emissions of NMVOCs and NO_x indicate significant reduction (~2-10 %) in the concentration of PAN in the UTLS (300-80 hPa) over West-Africa and the West-Pacific. The vertical distribution of anomalies of PAN shows negative values along the transport pathways, i.e., rising from the Asian region (80°-120° E) into the upper troposphere and both westward and eastward transport towards the region of eddy shedding. Tropospheric ozone (1000-180 hPa) shows a decrease of up to –4.5 % in response to a 10 % decrease in Asian emissions of NMVOCs and NO_x, while positive ozone anomalies (up to 8 %) are seen near the tropopause. In general, negative ozone anomalies in response to 10% reduction of NO_x and NMVOCs in the region of convective transport are seen in **Figs. 8i-l**. However, positive anomalies of ozone are observed near the tropopause (except in the region of cross tropopause transport) which may be due to reduction in the efficiency of ozone loss induced by reduced of NO_x and OH in the Asia-10 simulations and changes in dynamics due to emission changes, e.g. stratospheric intrusions and lightning. Mixing of tropospheric and stratospheric air-masses near the tropopause generates ozone variability. However, such an analysis is beyond the scope of the paper.

Our analysis indicates that transport of Asian trace gases from the anticyclone to West-Africa and the West-Pacific via eddies causes a change in the chemical composition of the UTLS and may therefore impact the radiative balance of the UTLS. We also estimate that a 10 % reduction in Asian NMVOCs and NO_x emissions leads to a decrease of ozone heating rates of 0.001 to 0.004 K·day^{-1} in the region of transport into the troposphere and an increase of 0.001 to 0.005 K·day^{-1} near the tropopause and lower stratosphere (180-50 hPa) over Asia (20°-150° E; 20°-40° N). Previous studies show that ozone changes in the lower stratosphere have the largest impact on the ozone radiative forcing (Riese et al., 2012). Interestingly, in the upper troposphere (200-300 hPa) negative anomalies of ozone heating rates (~0.001-0.003 K·day^{-1})

are seen in the region of eddy shedding over West-Africa and the West-Pacific. Thus transport of Asian air masses via eddies eventually alters the heating rates in the UTLS in the regions of eddy shedding and may thus affect radiative forcing and local temperature. However, such questions are beyond the scope of this study. It should be noted that the distributions of MIPAS concentration fields look different from those of ERA-Interim and ECHAM5-HAMMOZ.. The ozone heating rates estimated from the model simulations will vary accordingly. Notwithstanding, we suggest further scrutiny of long range transport of Asian trace gases via eddies shedding from the anticyclone and its impact on ozone heating rates in the respective regions.

Acknowledgements: Dr. S. Fadnavis and C. Roy acknowledge with gratitude of Prof. Ravi Nanjundiah, Director of IITM, for his encouragement during the course of this study. We are grateful to B. Vogel for helpful discussions. This work was partly funded by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007–2013) as part of the StratoClim project (grant agreement no. 603557). We thank the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) for providing meteorological data sets. The authors are also thankful to Dr. Bernd Funke, Dr. Michael Kiefer and Dr. Gabriele Stiller, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, for providing MIPAS data and for helpful discussions. We thank the anonymous reviewers for their valuable suggestions.

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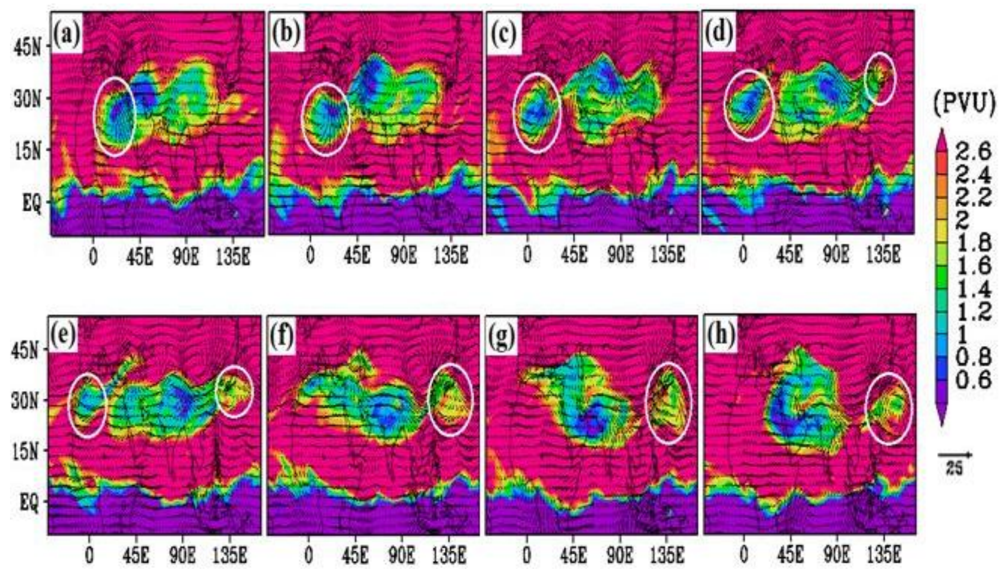

Figure 1: Spatial distribution of potential vorticity (PVU) (1 PVU = 10^{-6} K m^2 kg^{-1} s^{-1}) (color shades) at 370 K potential temperature surface and wind anomalies at 200 hPa from ERA-Interim reanalysis for (a) 01 July, (b) 02 July, (c) 03 July, (d) 04 July, (e) 05 July, (f) 06 July, (g) 07 July, (h) 08 July, 2003. Wind vectors are represented by black arrows ($m \cdot s^{-1}$). Eddies are shown with white circles.

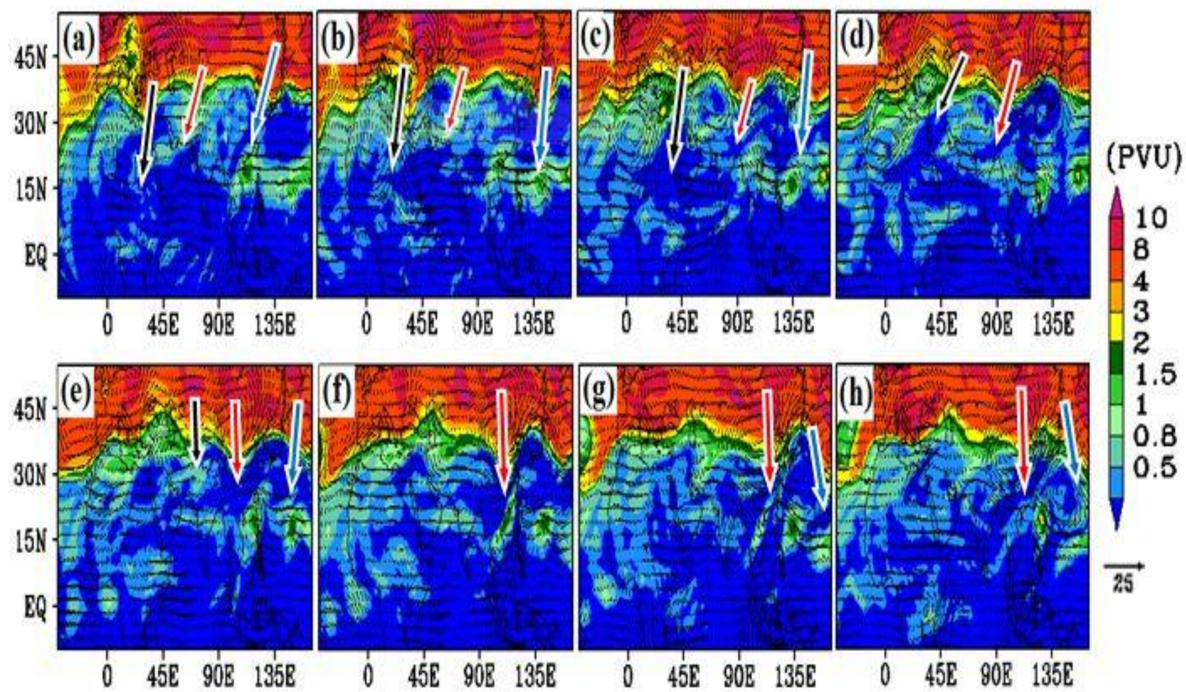

Figure 2: Spatial distribution of potential vorticity (PVU) (color shades) at 350 K potential temperature surface and wind anomalies in $m \cdot s^{-1}$ (thin black vectors) at 200 hPa from ERA-Interim reanalysis for (a) 01 July, (b) 02 July, (c) 03 July, (d) 04 July, (e) 05 July, (f) 06 July, (g) 07 July, (h) 08 July, 2003. The events of RWB-1, RBW-2 and RWB-3 are indicated by solid black, red and blue arrows, respectively.

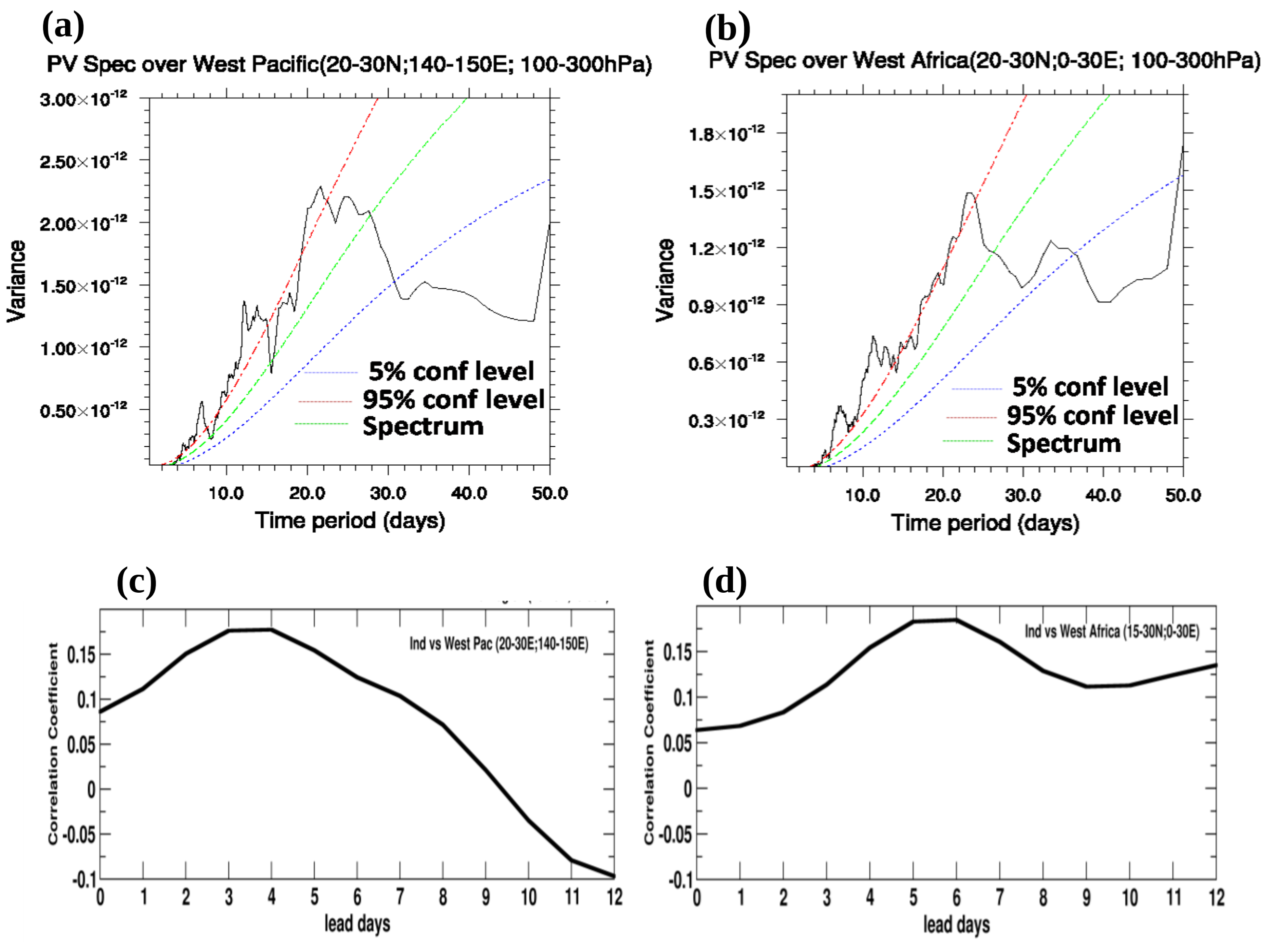

Figure 3: Power spectral analysis of ERA-Interim PV averaged for 100-300 hPa and in June-September during 1995-2015 (a) West-Africa (20-30° N, 0-30° E) and (b) West-Pacific (20-30° N, 140-150° E) and lag-lead Pearson correlation coefficient of PV in the monsoon anticyclone (85-90° E, 28-30° N) with (c) West-Pacific (20-30° N, 140-150° E), (d) West Africa (20-30° N, 0-30° E). In **Fig. a-b** dotted green line indicates spectrum and blue and red line indicates 5% and 95% confidence levels respectively for lag-1 autocorrelation. Any spectral peak above red line is statistically significant at 95% confidence level.

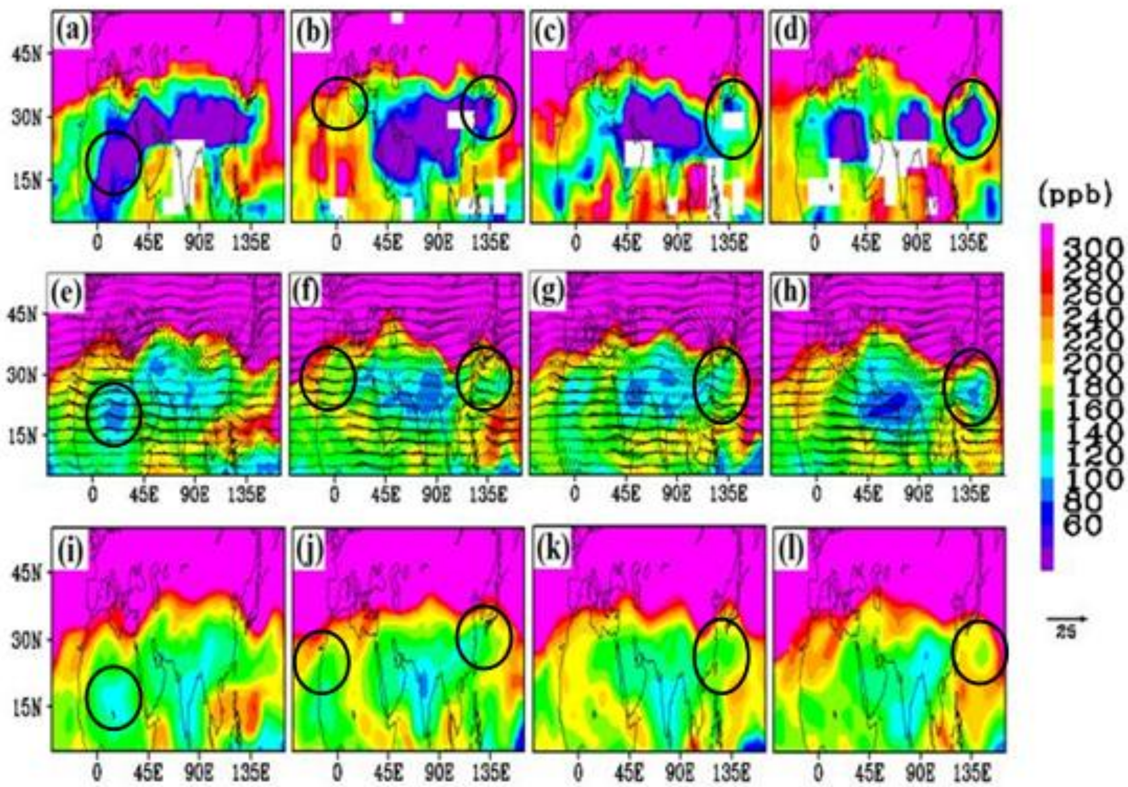

Figure 4: Spatial distribution of ozone mixing ratios (ppb) (color shades) corresponding to MIPAS satellite observations at 16 km for (a) 1-2 July, (b) 3-4 July, (c) 5-6 July, (d) 7-8 July, 2003; ERA-Interim reanalysis at 100 hPa for (e) 2 July, (f) 4 July, (g) 6 July, (h) 8 July, 2003, and ECHAM5-HAMMOZ CTRL simulations at 16 km for (i) 2 July, (j) 4 July, (k) 6 July, (l) 8 July, 2003. Black arrows in panels (e)-(h) show wind anomalies ($m \cdot s^{-1}$) at 200 hPa. Minimum ozone amounts near the location of eddies are shown with black circles.

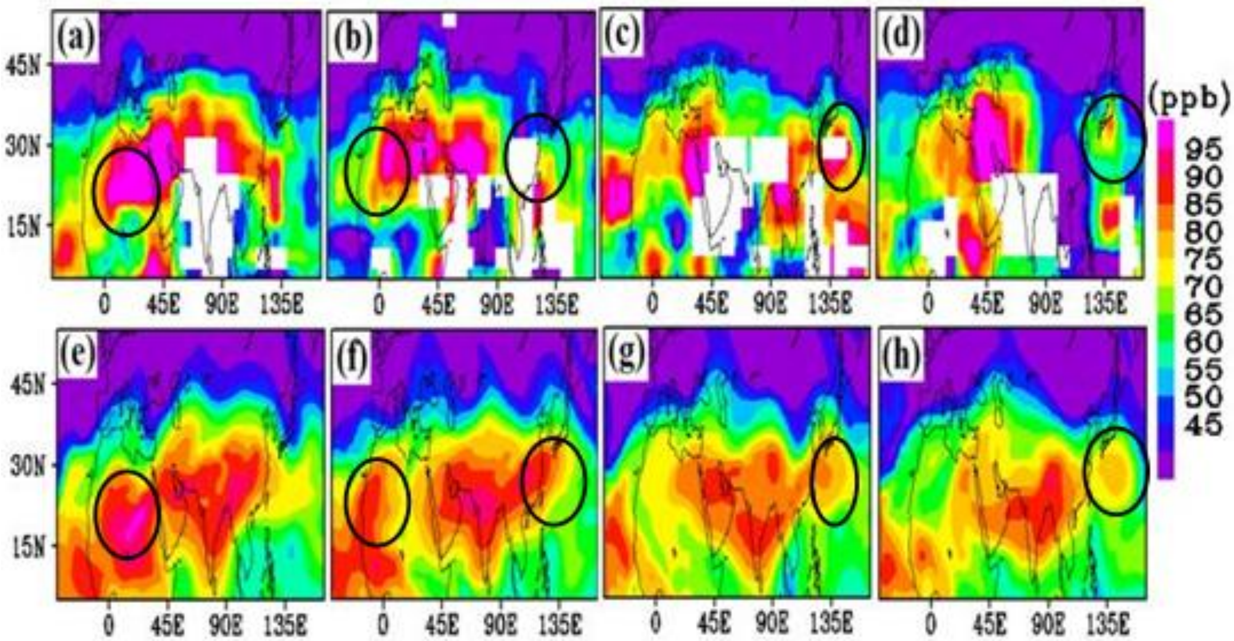

Figure 5: Spatial distribution of CO mixing ratios (ppb) at 16 km: MIPAS satellite observations for (a) 1-2 July, (b) 3-4 July, (c) 5-6 July, (d) 7-8 July, 2003 and ECHAM5-HAMMOZ CTRL simulations for (e) 02 July, (f) 04 July, (g) 06 July, (h) 08 July, 2003. Maximum CO amounts near the location of eddies are shown with black circles.

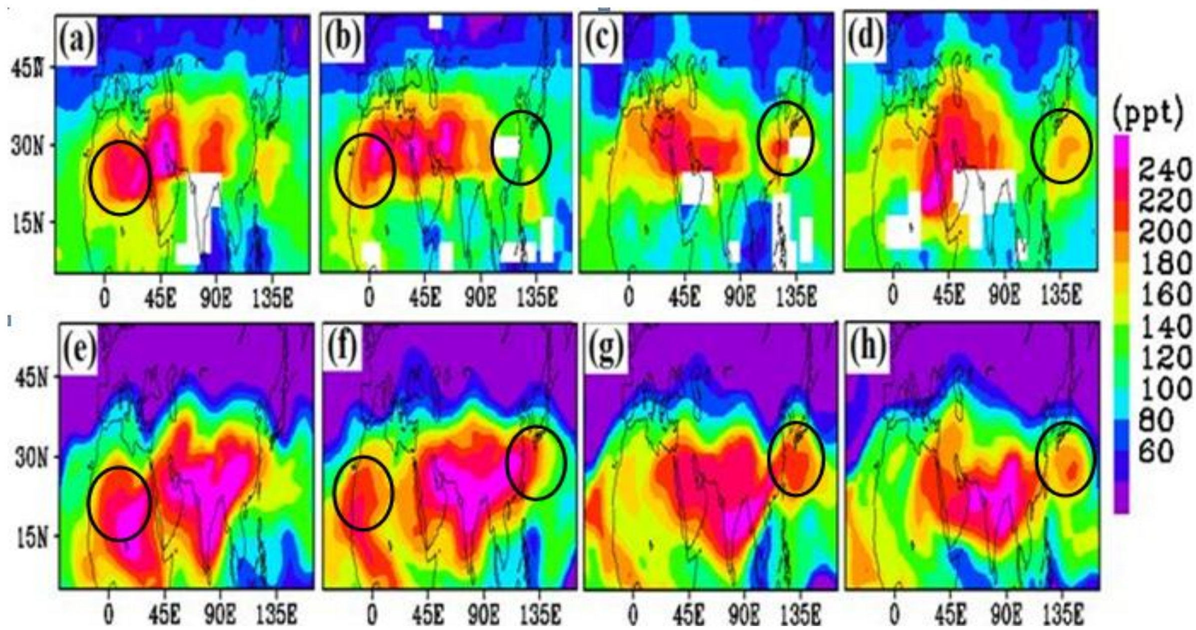

Figure 6: Spatial distribution of PAN mixing ratios (ppt) at 16 km: MIPAS satellite observations for (a) 1-2 July, (b) 3-4 July, (c) 5-6 July, (d) 7-8 July, 2003, and ECHAM5-HAMMOZ CTRL simulations for (e) 02 July, (f) 04 July, (g) 06 July, (h) 08 July, 2003. Maximum PAN amounts near the location of eddies are shown with black circles.

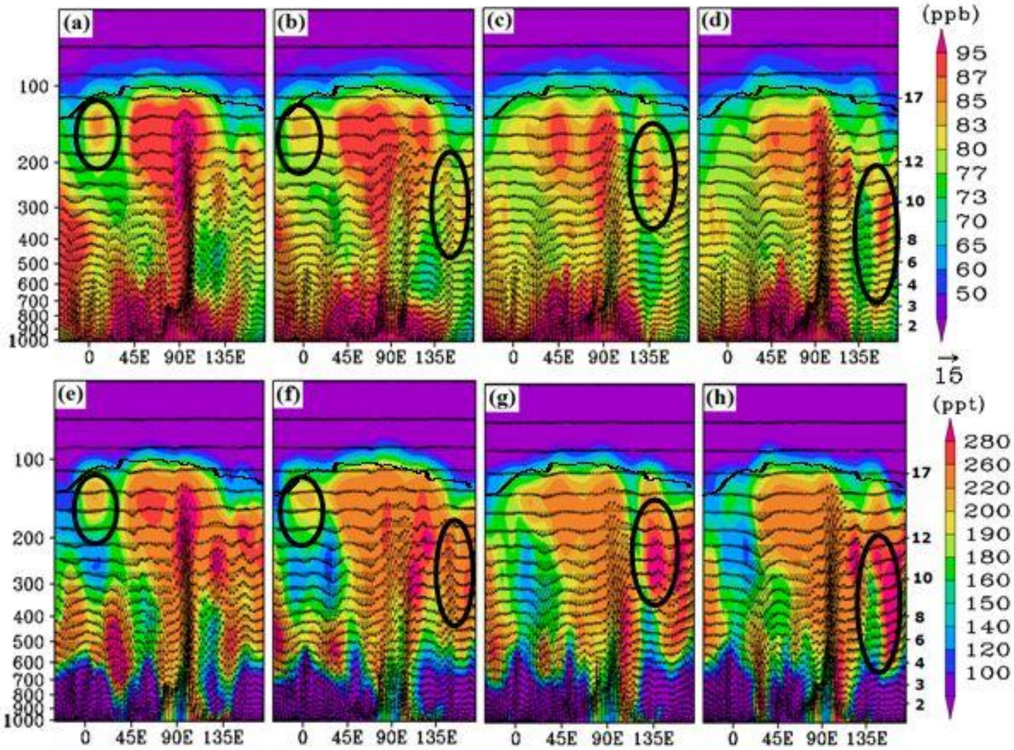

Figure 7: Longitude-pressure section (averaged for 20°-40° N) of CO (ppb) from ECHAM5-HAMMOZ CTRL simulation for (a) 02 July, (b) 04 July, (c) 06 July, (d) 08 July, 2003. (e)-(h) same as (a)-(d) but for PAN (ppt). Black thick line indicates the tropopause and black dotted circles indicate maximum in CO and PAN amounts near eddies. Pressure (hPa) is indicated on left y-axis and altitudes (km) on the right y-axis. Wind vectors (m·s^{-1}) are shown by black arrows. Vertical velocity field is scaled by a factor of 300.

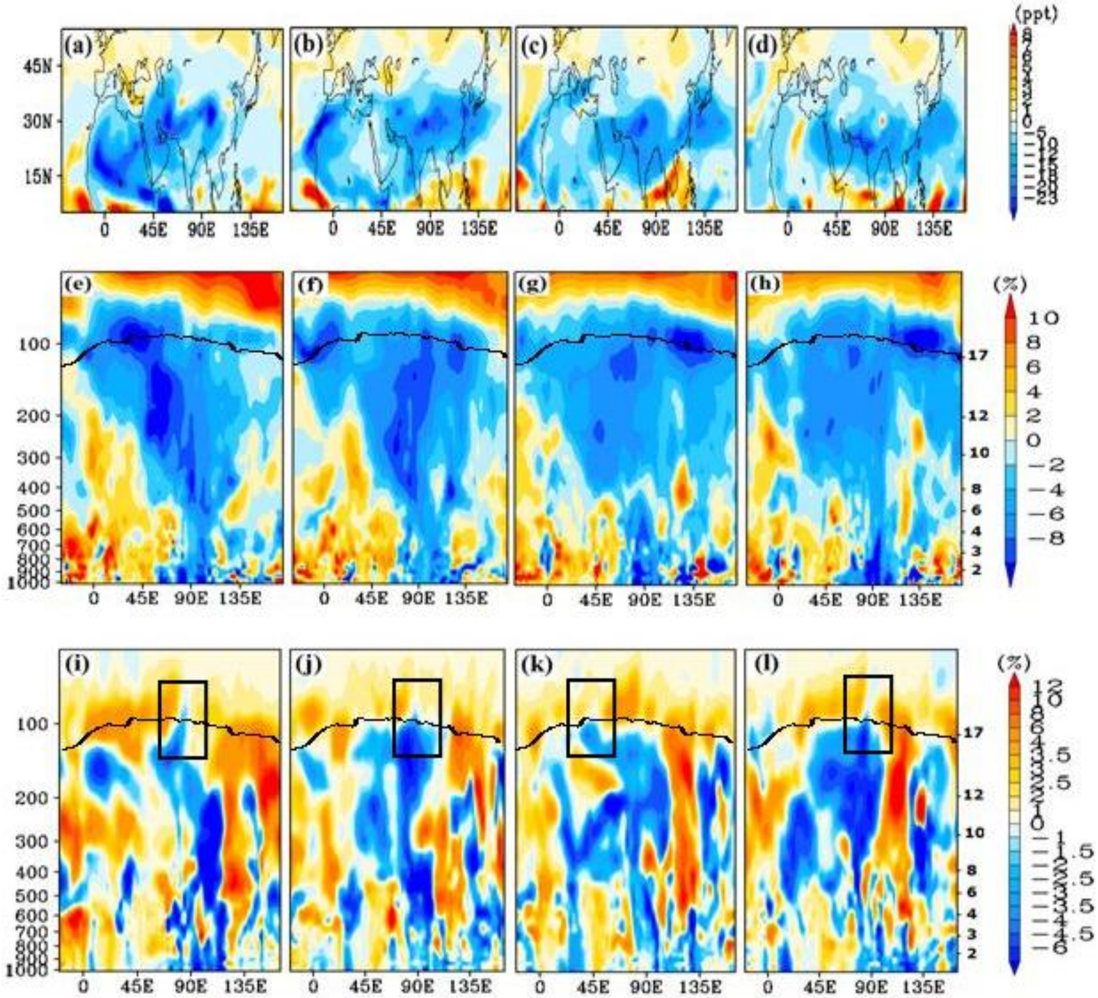

Figure 8: Spatial distribution of anomalies (Asia10-CTRL) of PAN mixing ratios (ppt) (color shades) at 16 km from ECHAM5-HAMMOZ model simulations for (a) 02 July, (b) 04 July, (c) 06 July, (d) 08 July, 2003. Longitude-pressure distribution (averaged for 20°-40° N) of anomalies of PAN (%) for (e) 02 July, (f) 04 July, (g) 06 July, (h) 08 July, 2003. (i)-(l) same as (e)-(h) but for ozone anomalies (%) (averaged for 18°-20° N). Black thick line indicates the tropopause. Pressure (hPa) is indicated on left y-axis and altitudes (km) on right y-axis. Black boxes in the bottom panels indicate regions of cross tropopause transport.

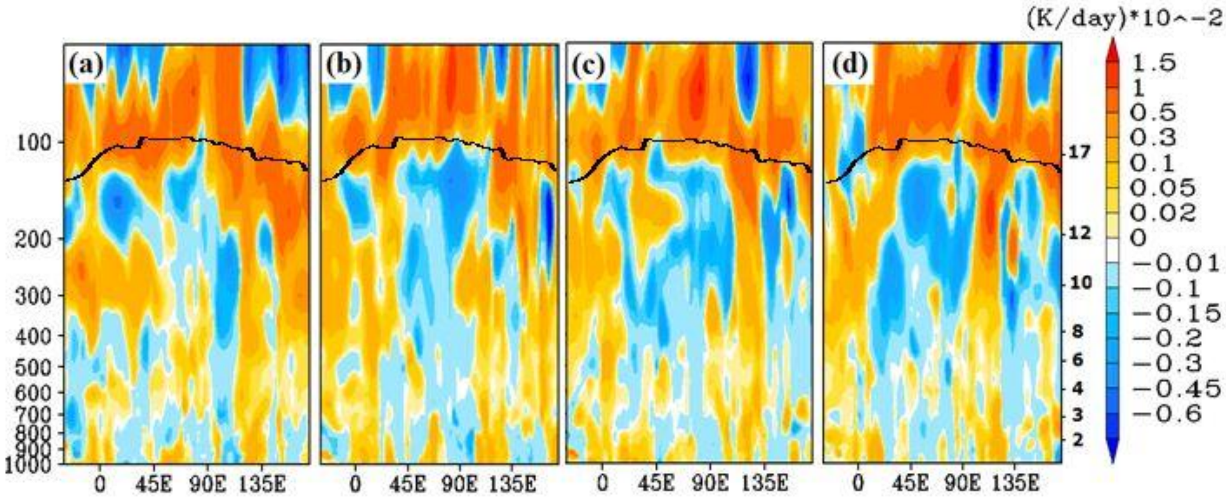

Figure 9: Longitude-pressure distribution (averaged for 18°-20° N) of anomalies of ozone heating rates ((K·day^{-1}) ×10^{-2}) for (a) 02 July, (b) 04 July, (c) 06 July, (d) 08 July, 2003. Pressure (hPa) is indicated on left y-axis and altitudes (km) on right y-axis. The black thick line indicates the tropopause.