
Response to comments of Referee #2 on

Schäfler, A., Sprenger, M., Wernli, H., Fix, A., and Wirth, M.: Case study on the influence of synoptic-scale processes on the paired H₂O-O₃ distribution in the UTLS across a North Atlantic jet stream, *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.* [preprint], <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2022-692>, in review, 2022.

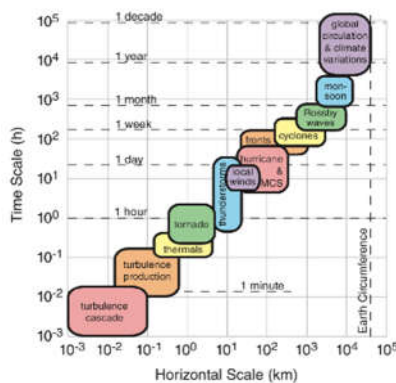
This study is a perfect show case to illustrate the complex interplay between tropospheric dynamics and the chemical composition of the UTLS in the extratropics. The study is of high value for the community, first because the DIAL observations provide such detailed information which are unique in the tropopause region. Second, the combination with Lagrangian analysis provides further insight in the pathways of air masses in the tropopause region and highlights the non-local but persistent effect of mixing on the chemical composition. Yet alone Figure 4 shows how diverse the air mass origin along a relatively short flight trajectory in the mid-latitudes can be! I regard the quality of this paper as very high. The line of thoughts is laid out clearly, the question of the paper is expressed in a clear statement, the figures are illustrative and informative, and the conclusions follow from the analysis. I highly recommend publication in ACP. I have only a few minor and technical comments which the authors might address before final publication.

We appreciate the careful review of our manuscript and the positive feedback about the relevance of our work. The response to the individual comments and questions is presented in blue with the corresponding changes to the revised manuscript in green.

Minor

1. page 4, line 96 and page 5, line 42: Isn't 10 days a bit long for the synoptic time scale? If I take the synoptic length scale (1000 – 5000 km) and the characteristic wind speed of about 10–50 m/s, then I end up (optimistically) at around 5–6 days. I am curious whether there is a physical justification for the ten days which I miss here?

We were not precise enough about what we mean with synoptic time scale and why we choose 10 days for the trajectories. We do not consider the 10 days to be a Lagrangian time scale, i.e. the time needed for an air parcel to pass a typical weather system. Instead, we selected 10 days to be sure to cover the whole lifetime of tropospheric synoptic scale weather systems (including fairly long-lived atmospheric blocks), which is typically illustrated in length and time scale diagrams of weather systems (see left, taken from Stull, 2017)



To clarify this, we first removed the 10 days in connection with the synoptic time scales and changed the sentence in the introduction to *“On shorter synoptic time scales (several days) (...)”*. Second, we added a sentence to Sect. 2.2: *“Note that the 10 days were selected to cover the whole range of lifetimes of synoptic-scale weather systems.”*

2. Table 1 (and associated weather system classification): Is there a specific reason why you refer to the jetstream as polar jet? Is it because of the altitude of the jet, like is it more present at lower levels while the subtropical jet is at higher levels? Has there been an additional subtropical jet (while the polar jet reaches latitudes down to 30°N according to the table).

We agree that the naming “Pacific polar jet” neglects the subtropical jet stream over the Pacific at higher altitudes and it is possible that both jet streams merged. We changed the naming to “Pacific jet”. The 250 hPa flow (Fig. 4) and the surface pressure, however, show characteristic meridionally disturbed mid-latitude Rossby waves and related surface cyclones, which are the dominant features.

3. page 5, line 35: Which quantity has been used for the vertical interpolation of the model data onto the aircraft trajectory: pressure, altitude or potential temperature?

The interpolation is done in altitude, which is what the lidar profile provides as vertical coordinate. We revised the sentence as follows: *“These reanalysis fields were interpolated bilinearly in the horizontal from the surrounding model grid points, linearly in altitude and linearly in time towards the observation location (Schäfler et al., 2010).”* A more detailed description of the interpolation method is available in the given reference.

4. Page 15, section 3.4, line 341ff: The fate of the O₃ rich air at midlatitudes is studied using 8 trajectories. How trustworthy are these individual trajectories? Would it not be better to initialize a cluster of trajectories in the region of the eight starting points (with slightly altered initial positions)?

We choose one particular isentropic level that is transecting the stratospheric O₃ filament, the upper part of the jet stream and the tropospheric H₂O filament. We agree that this selection is somehow arbitrary and a certain variability is likely (when we look at the results from Fig. 3-5). This may also be the case for the selection of trajectories used to analyse the vertical distribution of turbulence in Fig. 10.

However, these eight trajectories are trustworthy as they confirm the earlier identified pathways (in Fig. 3) and allow the specific aspects (Sect. 3.4) to be described in greater detail. An additional subset of trajectories for each of these locations would further extend and complicate the discussion, which we try to avoid.

5. Page 21, line 438: What is meant with “enhanced turbulence probability”?

We changed *“probability”* to *“activity”*. Generally, the turbulence metrics are only able to identify regions that likely experienced turbulence. The process itself is not resolved (see detailed discussion in Sect. 2.2).

Technical

Figure 1c: I assume the geopotential height contours are given in gpm. Which isolines are shown for the surface pressure? Same as in Figure 4?

We added the units for the geopotential height contours (gpm) and a contour interval for the surface pressure.

Page 6, line 163: “... but also ...” => “...and also ...”

Changed to *“(.) local gradients of winds (wind shear), temperature (stability) and trace gases (Kunkel et al., 2019).”*

Figure 2: The Arctic Circle is difficult to spot (but is in my opinion not too relevant).

The lines are included to indicate the midlatitudes. We changed the colour of the circles to black and thickened the lines.

Figure 3g: The figure shows max pressure, and the legend states mean pressure.

Corrected. We also corrected the description for panel (i) in the caption.

Are the figures vector graphics? When zooming in the figures (since they often contain a lot of information!), they often pixelated and small letters were difficult to read.

Thanks for this remark and apologies for the bad quality figures. Indeed, some details were not readable. For the initial submission we included raster graphics in the word template, which led to a quality loss. We updated most figures and increased the font size wherever possible. In addition, the figures will be submitted as vector graphics and we will take care about the quality in the typeset version of the manuscript.