

Abstract

An analysis of the static stability and ozone vertical gradient in the ozone tropopause based (OTB) coordinate is applied to the ozonesonde data at 10 stations in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) extratropics. The tropopause inversion layer (TIL) with a static stability maximum just above the tropopause shows similar seasonal variations at two Antarctic stations, which are latitudinally far from each other. Since the sunshine hour varies with time in a quite different way between these two stations, it implies that the radiative heating due to solar ultraviolet absorption of ozone does not contribute to the seasonal variation of the TIL. A meridional section of the static stability in the OTB coordinate shows that the static stability just above the tropopause has a large latitudinal gradient between 60° S and 70° S in austral winter because of the absence of the TIL over the Antarctic. It is accompanied by an increase of westerly shear with height above the tropopause, so that the polar-night jet is formed above this latitude region. This result suggests a close relationship between the absence of the TIL and the stratospheric polar vortex in the Antarctic winter. A vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio, referred to as ozone vertical gradient, around the tropopause shows similar latitudinal and seasonal variations with the static stability in the SH extratropics. In a height region above the TIL, a small ozone vertical gradient in the midlatitudes associated with the Antarctic ozone hole is observed in a height region of the subvortex but not around the polar vortex. This is a clear evidence of active latitudinal mixing between the midlatitudes and subvortex.

1 Introduction

Recent studies have shown that a stable layer with a static stability larger than usual stratospheric values exists just above the extratropical tropopause throughout the year (Birner et al., 2002; Birner, 2006; Randel et al., 2007b; Bell and Geller, 2008). This stable layer was first identified by an average in a vertical coordinate relative to the

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10, 19175–19194, 2010

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



thermal tropopause and called a tropopause inversion layer (TIL) (Birner et al., 2002). The static stability in the TIL shows large seasonal and latitudinal variations with the largest value in the summer polar region (Randel et al., 2007b; Grise et al., 2010).

The thermal tropopause is defined by a transition of temperature lapse rate from a large tropospheric value to a small or negative stratospheric value (WMO, 1957). Since the thermal tropopause can be determined only by a vertical distribution of temperature, it has been used as a simple and useful definition of the tropopause mainly in the midlatitudes. Over the Antarctic, lower stratospheric temperature in austral winter and spring is extremely low, so that the temperature lapse rate does not change so much as that in the midlatitudes and the thermal tropopause is not clearly defined (Highwood et al., 2000; Roscoe, 2004). On the other hand, a transition of ozone concentration from a tropospheric small value to a stratospheric large value is observed even in the Antarctic winter and spring, which indicates that the tropopause can be defined using ozone concentration (i.e., ozone tropopause, cf. Bethan et al. (1996)). Tomikawa et al. (2009) first described the characteristics of the TIL over the Arctic and Antarctic in a vertical coordinate relative to the ozone tropopause and indicated that the TIL disappears in the Antarctic winter and spring.

Several formation and maintenance mechanisms of the extratropical TIL have been suggested in the previous studies. Wirth (2003) suggested that upper-level anticyclones are accompanied by strong TILs and occupy larger area than cyclones, which leads to a TIL in the climatological mean. Birner (2010) demonstrated that the vertical gradient of residual vertical velocity enhances the static stability just above the tropopause and forms the TIL especially in the winter midlatitudes. Randel et al. (2007b) showed that large vertical gradients of ozone and water vapour concentrations around the tropopause contribute to the formation of the TIL through longwave and shortwave radiations using radiative transfer calculations. Focusing on the polar region, several recent studies indicated that a vertical distribution of water vapour around the tropopause significantly varies with season and plays a primary role for the seasonal variation of static stability in the TIL (Kunz et al., 2009; Randel and Wu, 2010;

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Birner, 2010).

The extratropical TIL is often collocated with the extratropical tropopause transition layer (ExTL), which is defined as a region with both the tropospheric and stratospheric signatures of long-lived chemical constituents (Pan et al., 2004; Hegglin et al., 2009).

The vertical distributions of long-lived chemical constituents such as ozone and water vapour have a significant impact on the TIL through radiative processes as mentioned in the previous paragraph. At the same time, since the enhanced static stability in the TIL suppresses the vertical mixing across the tropopause, the TIL itself controls the vertical distributions of chemical constituents. Miyazaki et al. (2010b) investigated a relationship between the TIL and ExTL using a high-resolution general circulation model (GCM) and showed that they interact with each other through dynamic and thermodynamic processes (see also Miyazaki et al. (2010a)). Therefore, it is essential to examine the static stability and material distribution together for understanding the formation and maintenance mechanisms of the TIL and ExTL.

In this study, vertical and latitudinal structures of the static stability and vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio are examined using ozonesonde data in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) extratropics. In order to demonstrate their seasonal variations including winter and spring over the Antarctic, we extend the analysis using the ozone tropopause based coordinate into the whole extratropical region in the SH. This analysis captures well latitudinal and vertical structures of the static stability and vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio in the SH extratropics. The object of this study is to discuss a radiative role of ozone for the formation of the TIL, a relationship between the TIL and stratospheric polar vortex, and outflow of ozone-depleted air from the Antarctic ozone hole into midlatitudes. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes details of the ozonesonde data and ozone tropopause based coordinate used in this study. Latitudinal and seasonal variations of the static stability and vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio obtained in the OTB coordinate are presented and discussed in section 3. Concluding remarks are given in Sect. 4.

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



2 Data and methodology

Routine ozonesonde observation data at 10 stations in the SH extratropics were obtained from World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre (WOUDC) and Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change (NDACC). They have vertical resolutions high enough to represent the sharp vertical structure of the static stability and ozone mixing ratio around the tropopause. Details of the ozonesonde data are given in Table 1. Precision and accuracy of ozonesonde observations are discussed in Komhyr et al. (1995).

Since the thermal tropopause over the Antarctic during austral winter and spring is not well defined (Roscoe, 2004), it is more appropriate to use the ozone tropopause as the definition of the tropopause there (Tomikawa et al., 2009). The ozone tropopause is defined as the lowest level satisfying the following three conditions (Tomikawa et al., 2009; Bethan et al., 1996):

- Vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio exceeds 60 ppbv km^{-1} .
- Ozone mixing ratio is greater than 80 ppbv.
- Ozone mixing ratio in a layer from 500 m to 1500 m above the tropopause exceeds 110 ppbv.

The ozone tropopause height agrees well with the thermal tropopause height within a range of several hundred meters in the SH midlatitudes (not shown). Thus the ozone tropopause can be used as a surrogate of the thermal tropopause in the whole extratropical region.

In order to establish a sharp vertical structure of the static stability and ozone mixing ratio around the tropopause, the ensemble average in the vertical coordinate relative to the ozone tropopause is used in this study following Tomikawa et al. (2009), which is called the ozone tropopause based (OTB) average. The distribution obtained by the OTB average is vertically shifted by the mean tropopause height in a similar fashion

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



with Birner et al. (2002) and Birner (2006). This operation enables us to investigate a meridional variation of the tropopause characteristics without losing its sharp vertical structure.

3 Results

3.1 Seasonal variation of the TIL over the Antarctic

Figure 1 shows seasonal variations of monthly-mean Brunt-Väisälä frequency squared (N^2) at Neumayer and South Pole in the OTB coordinate. N^2 just above the tropopause at Neumayer and South Pole are maximized in February and March and minimized in August and September. They show nearly the same seasonal variations in terms of their timing and strength in spite of their latitudinal separation of about 20° . Both of these two stations are located inside the stratospheric polar vortex during austral winter, so that their dynamical condition is similar. However, the sunshine hour around the tropopause is much different between Neumayer and South Pole because of their latitudinal separation.

Figure 2 shows seasonal variations of the sunshine hours at an altitude of 10 km over Neumayer and South Pole. While the sunshine hour at Neumayer changes gradually from its maximum to minimum for about five months, that at South Pole changes in a few days between 0 and 24 h. The diabatic heating due to solar ultraviolet absorption of ozone is proportional to the sunshine hour. Thus, if the ozone heating contributes to the formation and seasonal variation of the tropopause inversion layer (TIL) over the Antarctic, the TIL at Neumayer and South Pole should exhibit different seasonal variations. Little difference of the seasonal variations of the TIL between Neumayer and South Pole implies that the ozone heating does not have a significant contribution to the formation and seasonal variation of the TIL over the Antarctic. This inference is consistent with the recent studies that emphasized the radiative role of water vapour for the seasonal variation of the TIL in the polar region (Kunz et al., 2009; Birner, 2010;

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



3.2 Meridional structure of the TIL in the SH extratropics

Figure 3 shows latitude-height sections of seasonal-mean N^2 during austral summer (December, January, and February) and winter (June, July, and August) in the OTB coordinate. Arrows on the top axes represent the station latitudes. Since the ozonesonde data at McMurdo (77.9° S) are available only in austral winter and spring, Fig. 3a is drawn without the data at McMurdo. In general, the data at each station are not necessarily representative of the corresponding latitude. However, longitudinal variations of N^2 in the extratropical TIL are small compared to its latitudinal variations (Randel et al., 2007b; Grise et al., 2010), so that the longitudinal variations of N^2 and vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio are not taken into account in this study.

The ozone tropopause in austral summer, which is shown by the thick solid line in Fig. 3a, is located around 13 km over Broadmeadows (37.7° S) and quickly drops down to about 9 km around 65° S. This region with a large latitudinal gradient of the ozone tropopause height is close to the core of the subpolar jet in austral summer (Tomikawa et al., 2006). On the other hand, the ozone tropopause height becomes nearly constant in a latitude region poleward of 65° S. Enhanced N^2 just above the tropopause corresponding to the TIL is observed in a region poleward of the subpolar jet and its magnitude becomes larger with latitude. The strong TIL in the summer polar region has been reported in the previous studies (Birner, 2006; Randel et al., 2007b; Grise et al., 2010).

The ozone tropopause height in austral winter is nearly constant or slightly decreases with latitude (Fig. 3b). This feature is clearly different from the thermal tropopause, which is higher in the polar region than in the midlatitudes (i.e., Birner, 2006; Randel et al., 2007b; Grise et al., 2010). The higher thermal tropopause misidentifies stratospheric air with high ozone concentration as tropospheric air. Thus, a usage of the ozone tropopause as the tropopause definition is most appropriate to describe the tropopause characteristics in the polar region (Tomikawa et al., 2009).

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



During austral winter, N^2 maximum just above the tropopause corresponding to the TIL is observed in the midlatitudes but does not appear in the polar region, which is consistent with Tomikawa et al. (2009). N^2 just above the tropopause quickly decreases from 60° S to 70° S and becomes nearly constant in a region poleward of about 70° S. A large meridional gradient of N^2 between 60° S and 70° S just above the tropopause is accompanied by increase of westerly shear with height through the following relationship (cf. Birner, 2006):

$$\frac{\partial^2 \bar{u}}{\partial z^2} \approx -\frac{1}{f} \frac{\partial N^2}{\partial y}, \quad (1)$$

where \bar{u} is zonal-mean zonal wind and f is the Coriolis parameter. This equation is approximately obtained as a vertical derivative of the thermal wind equation. The enhanced westerly shear above the tropopause forms the polar-night jet in the winter stratosphere. Therefore, the absence of the TIL in the winter polar region is closely related to the polar-night jet.

3.3 Vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio in the SH extratropics

Both of potential temperature and ozone mixing ratio are conserved following air parcel motions without any nonconservative processes. It means that conservative processes such as advection due to meridional circulation act on them in the same way. Thus a usage of these conserved quantities is useful for isolating conservative from nonconservative processes. Since N^2 is nearly proportional to the vertical gradient of potential temperature, we examine the vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio for comparison with N^2 in this subsection.

Figure 4 shows time-height sections of monthly-mean vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio, hereafter referred to as ozone vertical gradient, at Neumayer and Lauder in the OTB coordinate. The ozone vertical gradient just above the tropopause at Neumayer is maximized in austral summer and minimized in winter. This seasonal variation

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

is synchronized with that of N^2 . On the other hand, a small value of ozone vertical gradient appears above 12 km in September and descends with time until April (cf. Sato et al., 2009). This is due to the Antarctic ozone hole. The ozone vertical gradient just above the tropopause at Lauder is maximized in austral winter and minimized in summer. This seasonal variation is synchronized with that of N^2 (not shown), but in an opposite phase to that at Neumayer. A small value of ozone vertical gradient is observed between 12 and 15 km except for austral winter, which is similar to that at Neumayer.

Finally, latitude-height sections of seasonal-mean ozone vertical gradient in austral winter and spring are shown in Figure 5. The ozone vertical gradient just above the tropopause in austral winter decreases from 60° S to 70° S and becomes nearly constant in a region poleward of 70° S. This latitudinal variation of the ozone vertical gradient is similar to that of N^2 . In austral spring, a small ozone vertical gradient due to the Antarctic ozone hole is observed above 11 km in a region poleward of 70° S. Another region with a small ozone vertical gradient is observed in a region equatorward of 70° S, but its height range is limited to below 14 km. Above 15 km in this latitude region, the ozone vertical gradient is much larger than that in the polar region. This result indicates that, while the ozone-depleted air in the Antarctic polar vortex is isolated from the midlatitudes above 15 km, it leaks from the polar region to the midlatitudes below 14 km. Since the residual circulation in the lower stratosphere during austral spring is poleward (Rosenlof and Holton, 1993), the leak of ozone-depleted air is due to the latitudinal mixing rather than the meridional circulation. The small ozone vertical gradient in the midlatitudes is still observed in austral summer (not shown).

A height region between 14 and 15 km in the midlatitudes is roughly corresponding to isentropes between 380 and 400 K. Haynes and Shuckburgh (2000) indicated that the Antarctic polar vortex during austral spring was permeable to a large-scale isentropic mixing below a 380-K isentrope (see also Chen, 1994). McIntyre (1995) showed that a similar permeable region also existed in the Arctic lower stratosphere using the airborne lidar observation of aerosol and called it a subvortex. Our study

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

clearly demonstrated that the latitudinal mixing in the subvortex region transported the ozone-depleted air in the Antarctic polar vortex into the midlatitudes and changed the ozone mixing ratio in the midlatitude lower stratosphere (cf. Reid et al., 1998). In addition, the small ozone vertical gradient above the midlatitude tropopause remains until austral summer or fall, which implies that the Antarctic ozone hole affects the midlatitudes even after spring. On the other hand, the midlatitude lower stratosphere is susceptible to the intrusion of ozone-poor air from the tropical upper troposphere (Chen et al., 1994; Randel et al., 2007a; Pan et al., 2009). Therefore, a separation of air parcels with tropical and polar origins is necessary for quantitative evaluation of the impact of the Antarctic ozone hole on the midlatitude ozone loss.

4 Conclusions

An analysis of the static stability and ozone vertical gradient in the ozone tropopause based (OTB) coordinate was applied to the ozonesonde data at 10 stations in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) extratropics. This is the first comprehensive study of the TIL and ozone distribution in the SH extratropics using the OTB coordinate. It captured a sharp vertical structure of the static stability and ozone vertical gradient around the extratropical ozone tropopause and clearly showed their latitudinal and seasonal variations. Seasonal variations of the static stability just above the tropopause are quite similar between Neumayer (70.7° S) and South Pole (90° S) in spite of their latitudinal separation of about 20°. On the other hand, the sunshine hours around the tropopause vary with time in a quite different way between Neumayer and South Pole. Since the radiative heating associated with solar ultraviolet absorption of ozone is proportional to the sunshine hour, this result implies that the ozone heating does not contribute to the seasonal variation of the static stability in the TIL over the Antarctic.

In austral summer, the tropopause inversion layer (TIL) is observed in a region poleward of the subpolar jet and becomes strongest over the Antarctic. In austral winter, the static stability just above the tropopause is maximized in the midlatitudes and quickly

N² and dO₃/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



decreases from 60° S to 70° S. As a result, the TIL disappears over the Antarctic in austral winter as reported by Tomikawa et al. (2009). The large latitudinal gradient of the static stability between 60° S and 70° S is accompanied by the enhanced westerly shear above the tropopause, which forms the polar-night jet in the winter stratosphere.

Thus, it is suggested that there is a close relationship between the absence of the TIL and the stratospheric polar vortex in the Antarctic winter.

The vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio around the tropopause showed similar latitudinal and seasonal variations with the static stability in the SH extratropics. On the other hand, a small vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio associated with the Antarctic ozone hole appeared over the Antarctic in austral spring and reached the midlatitudes in a height region of the subvortex, which is located between the tropopause and the bottom of the stratospheric polar vortex. This result indicates that the latitudinal mixing between the midlatitudes and subvortex is active and contributes to the midlatitude ozone loss. At the same time, it is found that the polar-night jet acts as a barrier to confine the ozone-depleted air inside the polar vortex.

The concept of the tropopause inversion layer (TIL) and the extratropical tropopause transition layer (ExTL) has significantly developed our understanding on the extratropical tropopause region in the last decade. Originally these two layers were treated independently, one of which describes the thermodynamic character of the extratropical tropopause and the other comes from the material distribution. However, vigorous research on the extratropical tropopause demonstrated that they interact with each other through transport/mixing and radiative processes. Further research is still going on in several directions. Satellite observations which cover the whole globe increasingly become higher resolution enough for capturing a sharp vertical structure of the tropopause (e.g., Hegglin et al., 2009). General circulation models with a resolution high enough to resolve the tropopause structure (e.g., Miyazaki et al., 2010a,b) will become more realistic by including interactive chemistry. It is also attempted to assimilate observational data of chemical constituents into forecast models (i.e., chemical data assimilation, Constantinescu et al. (2007)). In addition to these ongoing research, it

N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



is planned to install a new mesosphere-stratosphere-troposphere (MST) radar and a Rayleigh/Raman lidar at Syowa Station over the Antarctic. The MST radar can measure the three-dimensional wind in the troposphere and lower stratosphere with high vertical and temporal resolutions. The Rayleigh/Raman lidar can obtain a vertical profile of temperature from the troposphere to the mesosphere. By combining these observations with other material observations by ozone, aerosol, and hygrometer sondes, an interplay between dynamic, radiative, and chemical processes around the Antarctic tropopause will be intensively studied.

Acknowledgements. The ozonesonde data were provided by World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre (<http://www.woudc.org/>) and Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change (<http://www.ndsc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/>). The GFD-DENNOU Library was used for drawing the figures. This work was supported in part by the Center for the Promotion of Integrated Sciences (CPIS) of Sokendai.

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N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



- Chen, P., Holton, J. R., O'Neill, A., and Swinbank, R.: Quasi-horizontal transport and mixing in the Antarctic stratosphere, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 99, 16851–16866, 1994. 19184
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N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

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N^2 and dO_3/dz around the SH tropopause

Y. Tomikawa and
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Table 1. Ozonesonde data used in this study. δz is a vertical resolution. See the text for details.

Station Name	Longitude	Latitude	Period	No. of Profiles	δz (m)	Data Source
South Pole	24.8° W	90.0° S	12.1999–1.2009	622	~50	NDACC
McMurdo	166.7° W	77.9° S	8.1986–10.2008	746	~25	NDACC
Neumayer	8.3° W	70.7° S	3.1992–11.2009	1303	~25	WOUDC
Syowa	39.6° E	69.0° S	1.2003–9.2009	435	~50	WOUDC
Davis	78.0° E	68.6° S	4.2006–4.2010	103	~50	WOUDC
Dumont d'Urville	140.0° W	66.7° S	1.1991–1.2007	407	~100	NDACC
Marambio	56.7° W	64.2° S	1.2005–5.2010	307	~50	WOUDC
Macquarie Island	159.0° E	54.5° S	1.2006–4.2010	183	~10	WOUDC
Lauder	169.7° E	45.0° S	11.1988–12.2008	1167	~50	WOUDC
Broadmeadows	145.0° E	37.7° S	1.2005–4.2010	245	~50	WOUDC

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[⏪](#)
[⏩](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Printer-friendly Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

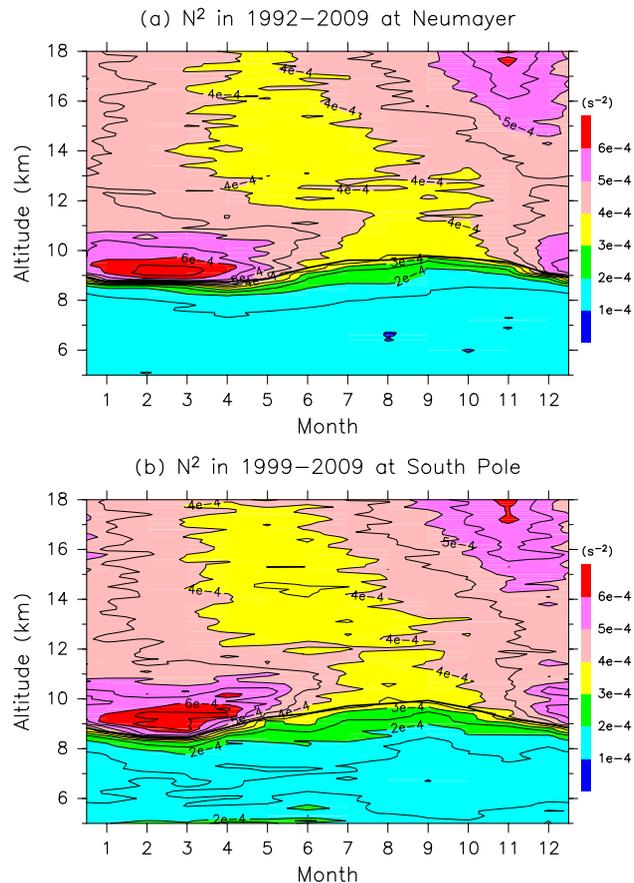
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around the SH
tropopause**Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Fig. 1. Seasonal variations of monthly-mean N^2 at **(a)** Neumayer and **(b)** South Pole in the OTB coordinate. Thick solid lines represent the ozone tropopause. Contour intervals are $0.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-2}$.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

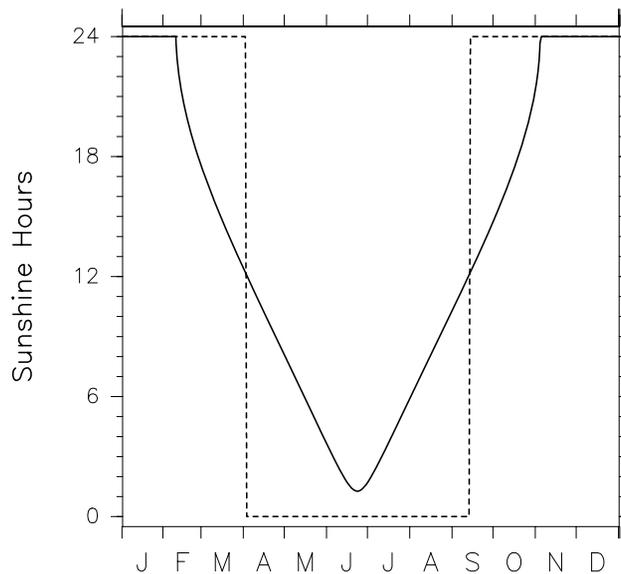
**N^2 and dO_3/dz
around the SH
tropopause**Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Fig. 2. Seasonal variations of sunshine hours at an altitude of 10 km over Neumayer (solid) and South Pole (dashed).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

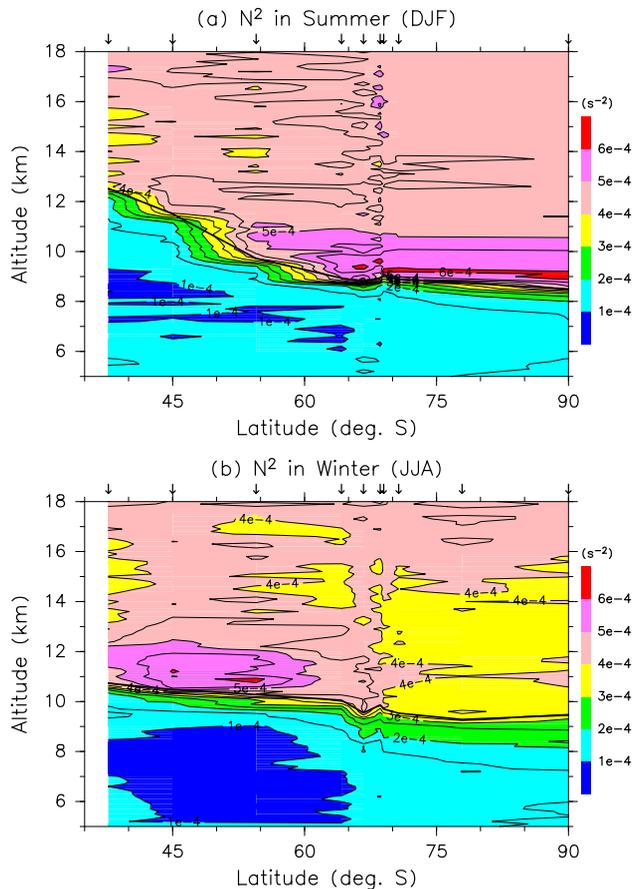
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around the SH
tropopause**Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Fig. 3. Latitude-height sections of seasonal-mean N^2 in **(a)** austral summer (DJF) and **(b)** winter (JJA) in the OTB coordinate. Thick solid lines represent the ozone tropopause. Contour intervals are $0.5 \times 10^{-4} s^{-2}$. Arrows on the top axes represent the station latitudes.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

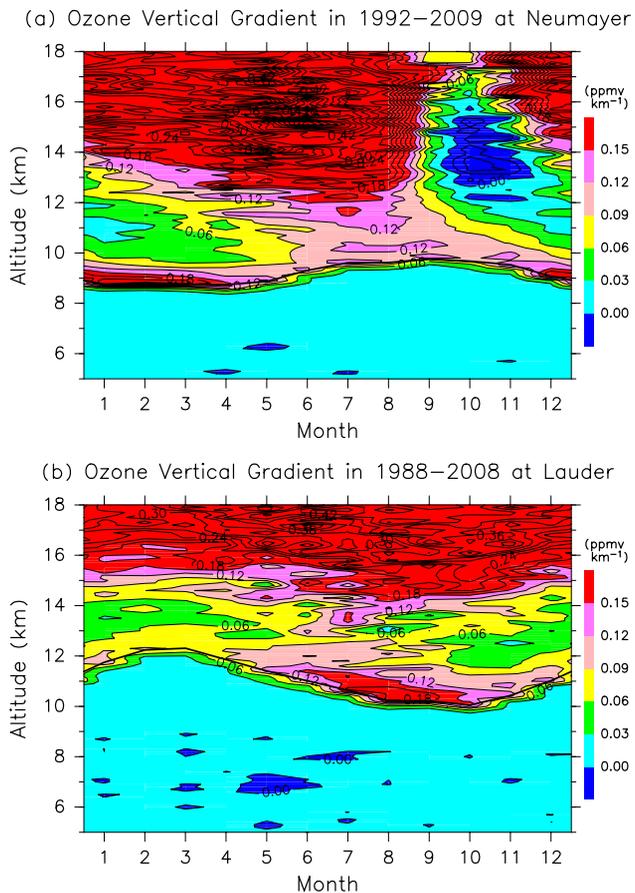
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around the SH
tropopause**Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

Fig. 4. Same as Fig. 1 except for the vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio at **(a)** Neumayer and **(b)** Lauder. Contour intervals are $0.03 \text{ ppmv km}^{-1}$.

**N^2 and dO_3/dz
around the SH
tropopause**

Y. Tomikawa and
T. Yamanouchi

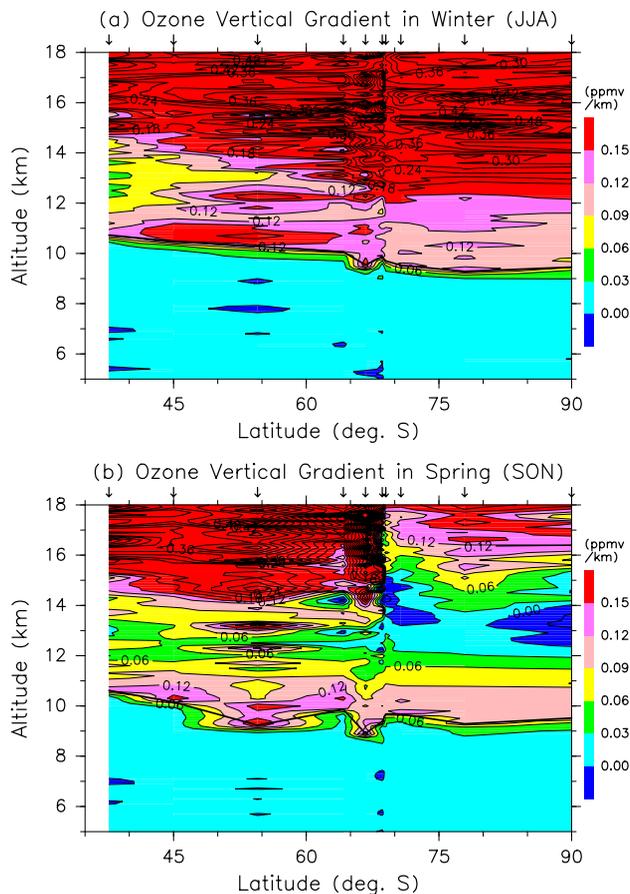


Fig. 5. Same as Fig. 3 except for the vertical gradient of ozone mixing ratio in (a) austral winter (JJA) and (b) spring (SON). Contour intervals are $0.03 \text{ ppmv km}^{-1}$.

Title Page	
Abstract	Introduction
Conclusions	References
Tables	Figures
◀	▶
◀	▶
Back	Close
Full Screen / Esc	
Printer-friendly Version	
Interactive Discussion	