

Sarychev aerosols in
the Arctic
stratosphere

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Stratospheric aerosols from the Sarychev volcano eruption in the 2009 Arctic summer

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Abstract

Aerosols from the Sarychev volcano eruption (Kuril Islands, northeast of Japan) were observed in the Arctic lower stratosphere a few days after the strongest SO₂ injection which occurred on 15 and 16 June 2009. From the observations provided by the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) an estimated 0.9 Tg of sulphur dioxide was injected into the Upper Troposphere and Lower Stratosphere (UTLS). The resultant stratospheric sulphate aerosols were detected by the Optical Spectrograph and Infrared Imaging System (OSIRIS) limb sounder and by the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) satellite instruments. By the first week of July the aerosol plume had spread out over the entire Arctic region. The Sarychev-induced stratospheric aerosol over the Kiruna region (north of Sweden) was measured by the Stratospheric and Tropospheric Aerosol Counter (STAC) during eight balloon flights planned in August and September 2009. During this balloon campaign the Micro RADIOMÈTRE BALLOON (MicroRADIBAL) and the Spectroscopie d'Absorption Lunaire pour l'Observation des Minoritaires Ozone et NO_x (SALOMON) remote-sensing instruments also observed these aerosols. Aerosol concentrations returned to near-background levels by spring 2010. The effective radius, the Surface Area Density (SAD), the aerosol extinction, and the total sulphur mass from STAC in situ measurements are enhanced with mean values in the range 0.15–0.21 μm, 5.5–14.7 μm² cm⁻³, 5.5–29.5 × 10⁻⁴ km⁻¹, and 4.9–12.6 × 10⁻¹⁰ kg [S] kg⁻¹ [air], respectively, between 14 km and 18 km. The observed and modelled e-folding time of sulphate aerosols from the Sarychev eruption is around 70–80 days, a value much shorter than the 12–14 months calculated for aerosols from the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. The OSIRIS stratospheric Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) at 750 nm is enhanced by a factor of 6 with a value of 0.02 in late July compared to 0.0035 before the eruption. The HadGEM2 and MIMOSA model outputs indicate that aerosol layers in polar region up to 14–15 km are largely modulated by stratosphere-troposphere exchange processes. The spatial extension of the Sarychev plume is well represented in the HadGEM2 model with lower altitudes of

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the plume being controlled by upper tropospheric troughs which displace the plume downward and upper altitudes around 18–20 km in agreement with lidar observations. A good consistency is found between the HadGEM2 sulphur mass density and the value inferred from the STAC observations with a maximum located about 1 km above the tropopause ranging from 1 to $2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1} \text{ [air]}$, which is one order of magnitude higher than the background level.

1 Introduction

The climate effects of volcanic eruptions are well acknowledged (Robock, 2000). These effects are due to the production of a layer of sulphate aerosols in the lower stratosphere, which efficiently backscatters solar radiation, increases the planetary albedo and causes cooling at the surface. For these radiative effects to accumulate, the aerosols must remain in the atmosphere for an extended period of time. The stratospheric aerosol e-folding lifetime is strongly dependent on the altitude of injection. The residence time of aerosols is about one week when the injection occurs only in the troposphere and varies from a few months for moderate strato-volcanic eruptions to more than one year for major eruptions (Volcanic Explosive Index > 6). Solomon et al. (2011) showed that moderate eruptions from strato-volcanoes are likely to modulate the “background” aerosol layer in the lower stratosphere. In particular, the recurrent eruptions have resulted in a net negative radiative forcing in the period subsequent to 2000, offsetting the positive radiative forcing owing to increased concentrations of well-mixed greenhouse gases and hence global warming. It is therefore important to monitor and characterize the physical properties of stratospheric aerosols formed from this type of eruption so as to quantify their radiative impact.

Recent eruption events have led to high amounts of aerosols in the lower stratosphere. On 8 August 2008, the Kasatochi volcano (52° N , 175° W) in the Aleutian Islands in the south-western Alaska injected an estimated amount of $1.5\text{--}2.5 \text{ Tg}$ of SO_2 into the UTLS (Bourassa et al., 2010; Kravitz et al., 2010; Krotkov et al., 2010). In

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June 2009 the Sarychev volcano (48.1° N, 153.2° E) located in the Kuril Islands to the northeast of Japan erupted explosively, injected ash and an estimated ~1 Tg of sulphur dioxide into the UTLS (Clarisse et al., 2012). At the time, these two eruptions have been estimated to rank in the top ten perturbations to the stratospheric aerosol optical depth in the past 50 years (Haywood et al., 2010). More recently, the Nabro volcano (13° N, 41° E) in Eritrea emitted 1.3 Tg (Bourassa et al., 2012a) of SO₂ with the subsequent formation of aerosols up to 13–14 km. These 3 volcanic events have been among the largest ones since the Mount Pinatubo eruption in June 1991 which, for comparison, injected up to 20 Tg of SO₂ into the stratosphere (Bluth et al., 1992).

This paper is focused on the Sarychev eruption with the aim to characterize the physical properties of the produced stratospheric aerosols and their variability, using balloon-borne observations obtained in the framework of the StraPolÉTé (French acronym for “Stratosphère Polaire en ÉTé”) project integrated to the International Polar Year. The balloon campaign took place close to Kiruna, Sweden (67.5° N, 21.0° E) from 2 August 2009 to 7 September 2009 with eight balloon flights. In situ STAC optical aerosol counters (Renard et al., 2008) and the MicroRADIBAL photopolarimeter (Brogniez et al., 2003) have provided information on the size distribution of the aerosols from the upper troposphere to the middle stratosphere. Aerosol extinction values have been derived from these instruments and also from observations of the SALOMON UV-Visible spectrometer commonly used in balloon campaigns (Berthet et al., 2002; Renard et al., 2002). The data set has been completed by satellite instruments (CALIOP, IASI, OSIRIS) offering large spatial and temporal coverage of the region of interest and by the Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Changes (NDACC) lidar instrument deployed at OHP (Observatoire de Haute-Provence, France). The enhancement of the optical depth caused by the Sarychev eruption lasted 8 months, returning to pre-Sarychev eruption value in February 2010 (Doeringer et al., 2012). Data from the AEROWAVE (AEROSol WAter Vapor and Electricity) campaign conducted in spring 2010 over Kiruna have been used to quantify the aerosol concentrations in recovered “background conditions”. Outputs from the HadGEM2 climate model have been used

for comparisons with the aerosol physical properties derived from the balloon-borne observations and to investigate the role of stratospheric dynamics on the aerosol spatial distribution over the sounded period.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly describes the instruments and the model. Section 3 characterizes the geographic distribution of SO₂ over polar regions. Section 4 shows the distribution of sulphate aerosols over Europe from satellite data. Section 5 describes the influence of the atmospheric dynamics on the polar aerosol layer. The physical properties of the sulphate aerosols over the Kiruna region deduced from balloon-borne and satellite measurements are shown in Sect. 6. Finally a discussion of the results is provided.

2 Instrumentation and model descriptions

2.1 Balloon-borne and ground-based observations

STAC is an aerosol optical counter dedicated to the measurements of aerosol concentrations in various size classes (Renard et al., 2008). The measurements of the light scattered by aerosols that cross the laser beam are performed at a scattering angle of 70°. Since 2008, the number of available size classes has been increased from 7 to 14 over the 0.4–5 µm diameter size range (Renard et al., 2010). The counting uncertainty is obtained from the statistical probability given by Poisson counting statistics (Willeke and liu, 1976). This uncertainty, defined as the relative standard deviation, is of 60% for aerosol concentrations of 10⁻³ cm⁻³, 20% for 10⁻² cm⁻³, and of 6% for concentrations higher than 10⁻¹ cm⁻³. However, laboratory comparisons between two copies of the STAC aerosol counters using identical aerosols have shown differences of ±10% for concentrations higher than 10⁻² cm⁻³. From these results, we define a measurement precision limited to ±10%. Note that comparisons with the aerosol concentrations measured by the University of Wyoming optical particle counter (Deshler et al., 2003) have shown consistent results between both instruments (Renard et al., 2002). STAC

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is calibrated in order to provide size distributions of non-absorbing liquid aerosols. For stratospheric measurements in presence of solid and/or absorbing aerosols (Renard et al., 2010) characterized by a non-negligible imaginary part of the refractive index, the light scattered at the 70° scattering angle is weaker than for liquid particles. The concentration in a given size class can be underestimated because the contribution of these solid/absorbing aerosols could be attributed to lower size classes. In this case, the size distribution becomes inaccurate. For this reason, the altitude has been limited to the 8–19 km range to focus this study on layers with the predominant presence of liquid sulphate aerosols resulting from the Sarychev eruption. A STAC aerosol counter was on board the eight balloons launched from 2 August to 7 September 2009.

Contrarily to these in situ measurements, the following observations are remote soundings. MicroRADIBAL is a photopolarimeter developed by the Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique (Brogniez et al., 2003). The measurements are performed in 5 channels centred in the near infrared at 740 nm, 865 nm, 1000 nm, 1290 nm and 1625 nm. The radiometer measures the sunlight scattered by the atmosphere and an absolute calibration in the laboratory enables radiance and degree of linear polarization of the scattered sunlight to be obtained. The rotation of the gondola around its vertical axis provides observations under various directions in a quasihorizontal plane. Diagrams of the normalized radiance and of the polarized radiance versus scattering angle are modelled for a mixing of gas and particles. In the model, the particle size distributions are assumed to be lognormal (LND). LND parameters are adjusted to match the measurement diagrams. MicroRADIBAL is more sensitive to particles with radii larger than $0.05 \mu\text{m}$. This characteristic could explain a degraded estimation of the small particles. The MicroRADIBAL observations were conducted on 18 August 2009 between 15:30 and 19:15 UT.

Stratospheric aerosol extinction profiles were measured by the SALOMON balloon-borne instrument. On 25 August 2009, we have flown a successor of the former SALOMON instrument which was described by Renard et al. (2000). The new version of the instrument is able to either use the moon or the sun as light source. The data

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presented in this study have been obtained during sunset between 17:00 and 19:45 UT using a SAOZ type spectrometer (Pommereau and Piquard, 1994) connected to the Sun tracker. The aerosol optical depth is retrieved typically using the Differential Optical Absorption Spectrometry (DOAS) method. The ozone and NO₂ contributions are removed over the spectral domain and the spectral residuum is fitted using a third order polynomial. Aerosol extinction is retrieved after spatial inversion of the recorded optical depths. The data reduction method used in this study is described in detail by Berthet et al. (2002).

The Haute-Provence Observatory (OHP, 43.93° N, 5.71° E) is one of the NDACC northern mid-latitude stations. It is equipped with a stratospheric ozone lidar, which uses the Differential Absorption lidar (DIAL) technique to obtain measurements of the stratospheric ozone vertical distribution. This technique requires the emission of two laser wavelengths with different ozone absorption cross sections. In the case of the OHP lidar the absorbed radiation is emitted at 308 nm and the reference line (non-absorbed wavelength) at 355 nm. Under high aerosol loading conditions (e.g. volcanic plume), aerosols perturb the ozone profile locally. In applying the Klett-Fernald inversion technique (e.g. Klett, 1981) to the non-absorbed wavelength signal, backscatter coefficients and backscatter ratios at 355 nm are retrieved. Backscatter ratios measured from June to mid-November were used to characterize the Sarychev plume over Southern France. The extinction to backscatter ratio required for the Klett-Fernald method was derived from aerosol size distribution measurements by balloon borne aerosol optical counter at Laramie, WY (USA) (Deshler et al., 2003). The mean value of this ratio for the period of interest is 53 ± 6 sr between 10 and 25 km. Further details about the instrument can be found in Godin-Beekmann et al. (2003).

2.2 Satellite-borne observations

IASI is a nadir-looking remote sounder on board the Meteorological Operational satellite (MetOp-A) launched in October 2006 into a Sun-synchronous polar orbit. IASI provides global coverage of the thermal outgoing radiation of the Earth in the 645–

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2760 cm^{-1} spectral range. The footprint is 12 km diameter at nadir and the swath width is around 2200 km. Its spatial coverage makes the instrument suitable for monitoring a range of atmospheric species (Clerbaux et al., 2009), in particular for detecting and tracking volcanic SO_2 clouds (Clarisse et al., 2008). The SO_2 data version 2.004 (Clarisse et al., 2012) are interpolated on a 0.25×0.25 lat-lon grid twice a day, corresponding to 09:30 a.m. and 09:30 p.m. local solar time.

The Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) satellite was launched in April 2006 into a Sun-synchronous polar orbit. The Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) is an instrument on board CALIPSO (Winker et al., 2007). CALIOP is a two-wavelength polarization lidar (532 and 1064 nm) that provides attenuated backscatter vertical profiles from surface to 40 km along the satellite track with varying vertical (30–300 m) and horizontal (300–5000 m) resolutions depending on the altitude. In the troposphere, the detection limit of the aerosol attenuated backscatter signal is about $3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ km}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$ (Winker et al., 2009). Level 2 product differentiates between clouds and aerosols (Liu et al., 2009). In this study, the 532 nm extinction coefficient from the standard CALIPSO 5 km Aerosol and Cloud Layer Version 3 products is used.

The Optical Spectrograph and Infrared Imaging System (OSIRIS) instrument (Llewellyn et al., 2004) on the Odin spacecraft measures the vertical profile of atmospheric limb radiance spectra in the 274–810 nm wavelength range. The satellite was launched on 20 February 2001 into a Sun-synchronous polar orbit and continues full operation to the present date. These measurements are used to retrieve aerosol extinction profiles throughout the stratosphere approximately every 5 degrees (~ 550 km) along the satellite track with a vertical resolution of approximately 2 km from around 10 to 35 km. The newly validated Version 5 (V5) of the OSIRIS aerosol extinction retrievals at 750 nm (Bourassa et al., 2012b) is used in this study. The estimated error of V5 extinction is of 10–15 % in the mid-stratosphere (Bourassa et al., 2012c).

2.3 Model description

We used the atmosphere-only version of HadGEM2, the Hadley Centre Global Environment Model version 2 (Collins et al., 2008). The atmosphere horizontal resolution is of 1.25° latitude by 1.875° longitude. The model used here has 60 vertical levels with the model top at around 80 km, with 32 levels in the stratosphere and 28 in the troposphere, 12 of which are in the boundary layer. The HadGEM2 sulphate aerosol scheme is described by Jones et al. (2001) and Bellouin et al. (2007). Oxidation of SO₂ leads to the formation of accumulation sulphate aerosol mode (see Eq. 2 in Sect. 6, LND parameters at 0% relative humidity: median radius $r_m = 0.095 \mu\text{m}$, geometric standard deviation $\sigma = 1.4$, Jones et al., 2001). The model accumulation mode size distribution is a reasonable representation of the optically dominant mode of the Pinatubo stratospheric aerosol (Deshler et al., 2003; Carslaw and Kärcher, 2006). Sulphate is treated as H₂SO₄ throughout the stratosphere (Jones et al., 2010).

The HadGEM2 atmosphere-only simulations are constrained by observed sea-surface temperatures and the wind fields and potential temperature are nudged to ECMWF reanalyses (Haywood et al., 2010). Simulations are performed with and without SO₂ emissions from the Sarychev eruption and the difference between the simulations allows assessment of the impact of the Sarychev eruption. However, because the model is only nudged to operational meteorological analysis data from the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), the meteorological conditions are not precisely identical. This nudging in the free troposphere and stratosphere and the use of prescribed sea surface temperatures as a result of a part of the climatic response is not developed in the model. The simulation of the Sarychev eruption has been initiated for the period 00:00 UT on 15 June through to 24:00 UT on 16 June. From analysis of IASI data (prior to the newly released 2.004 version), a total of 1.2 Tg SO₂ (with an error estimate of $\pm 0.2 \text{ Tg}$) was injected into the model UTLS between approximately 11 and 15 km at a constant rate of $0.025 \text{ Tg SO}_2 \text{ h}^{-1}$. More details of the simulation used in this study can be found in Haywood et al. (2010).

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3 Geographic distribution of SO₂

After 33 yr of inactivity, the Sarychev erupted violently on 11 June 2009 and several explosive events followed over a 5-day period. Two first SO₂ plumes from the Sarychev were detected on 11 June 2009 and many more small plumes followed until 15 June.

5 On 15 and 16 June two large plumes were detected. The altitude of the individual volcanic clouds were reported by the Tokyo VAAC (Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers) and corresponded to 4–11 km on 11–13 June and to 10–16 km on 15–16 June with a maximum of 20 km on 14 June (Rybin et al., 2011). The IASI data used in this study differ from the data used in the HadGEM2 simulation essentially by the maximum value,
10 ~ 1 Tg on 15–16 June (black line Fig. 1), which is retrieved from IASI new version 2.004. This version is presumed to be more accurate, with smoother time series (Clarisse et al., 2012). However we chose to maintain the 1.2 Tg total value used by Haywood et al. (2010) because taking into account the Sarychev eruption as a whole (between 11 and 16 June 2009), total amount of SO₂ released in the stratosphere is likely to be
15 higher than the maximum observed value of 0.9 Tg (Clarisse et al., 2012).

The maximum in the IASI data is reached on 16 June with a following e-folding time of ~ 11 days. Haywood et al. (2010) estimated that the detection limit of IASI of 0.3–0.5 DU could lead to the reduction of the e-folding time by around 50 %. In comparison, the HadGEM2 e-folding time is 13–14 days (Haywood et al., 2010). This gap in the e-
20 folding time could be attributed to a slower oxidation of SO₂ or too dispersive dynamics in the model. The blue dashed line on Fig. 1 shows the SO₂ total mass in Gg over the Kiruna region. The distribution within this ±10° lat-lon box is controlled by the total emission, the oxidation, and by the long-range transport of SO₂ in the lower stratosphere. At first, the volcanic clouds are transported by the westerly winds around 12 km and
25 40° latitude. This jet rapidly transports the air masses across the pacific. Subsequently, Rossby wave breaking events perturb this long-range transport by creating meridional excursions of air. From 18 June, complex plumes are observed over Northern America which can be moved poleward and upward via an isentropic transport characteristic

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of the poleward branch of the Brewer-Dobson circulation (Holton, 2004). Thus, within two weeks after the eruption the SO₂ clouds are present over the whole polar region, Northern America and Europe. This complex transport is mostly clearly seen by examining the evolution of Ertel's potential vorticity (PV) on isentropic surfaces. The spatial evolution of the SO₂ distribution well matches the 380 K isentropic surface maps computed by the MIMOSA model (Hauchecorne et al., 2002) and available on the Ether website at <http://ether.ipsl.jussieu.fr>.

Figure 2 shows the evolution of the SO₂ cloud location from 16 June to 16 July 2009 as observed by IASI. The 15–16 June Sarychev plume rapidly reaches the West of Canada on 17 June, crosses Northern America a few days after and passes over Northern Sweden on 25 June (day 176), namely two weeks after the Sarychev eruption. The temporal evolution over Kiruna region is then characterized by two major peaks on 28 June (day 179) and 1 July (day 182), and two minor peaks on 6 (day 187) and 9 (day 190) July (blue dashed line, Fig. 1). These peaks are explained by volcanic plumes coming from northwest and southwest through isentropic transport. Figure 2 also tends to show that the highest SO₂ concentrations are generally located at latitudes to the north of the eruption, but southern transport could exist in relation to different meteorological situations. For example, the high SO₂ concentrations over the North Atlantic during the period from 26 June (day 177) to 2 July (day 183) are associated with the development of an upper trough which displaces the volcanic plumes down to 20–30° N latitudes.

Figure 3 shows the SO₂ vertical distribution over Kiruna from the surface to the lower stratosphere simulated by the HadGEM2 model. The variability over Kiruna is well represented with a first Sarychev plume over Kiruna on 24 June (day 175), followed by large enhancements between 28 June (day 179) and 2 July (day 183). The large enhancements which spread over 9–15 km (on 28 June, day 179) and 10–17 km (on 1 July, day 182) altitude range match the two SO₂ peaks observed by IASI over Kiruna (Fig. 1). The two minor enhancements shown in the IASI observations (Fig. 1) are also present in the model from 6 July (day 187). The good agreement between the IASI

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data and the model calculations gives confidence in the simulation of the multi-scale transport and of the SO₂ treatments included in the HadGEM2 model.

4 Distribution of aerosols over Europe

Figure 4 shows the temporal evolution of the OSIRIS individual extinction profiles (top) and optical depth (bottom) of aerosols over the Kiruna region ($\pm 10^\circ$ lat-lon), between 10–30 km, for the 2007–2010 period. The black squares represent the altitude of the 380 K level reflecting the top of the tropical tropopause and the upper boundary of the lowermost stratosphere at mid-latitudes and high latitudes (Bourassa et al., 2010). Data below this altitude could be contaminated by solid particles such as cirrus or dust. The two red triangles in 2008 and 2009 indicate the Kasatochi and Sarychev eruptions, respectively. There is no observation during the November–February period corresponding to the unilluminated polar wintertime. The main feature revealed by Fig. 4 is the higher aerosol loading over Kiruna after the Sarychev eruption compared to the Kasatochi period. These results are also consistent with the global aerosol optical depth analyses from OSIRIS (Haywood et al., 2010). This difference highlights the shorter residence time of the stratospheric aerosol produced by the Kasatochi eruption, possibly explained by an initial lower height of injection which facilitates the aerosol removal. The Sarychev and Kasatochi plumes extend up to around 18 km and 13 km, respectively. An secondary Kasatochi plume is present in September–October period around 14–18 km. Large emission maxima and smaller emissions up to 20 km from the Kasatochi eruption are also present in the GOME-2, OMI and AIRS satellite data (Kristiansen et al., 2010). The Sarychev plume shows maximum values in late July with an AOD peak of about 0.02. The e-folding time is approximately 80 days. Background conditions have completely recovered in early March 2010 at the end of the polar winter. In early spring the AOD level has returned to the 0.0035 pre-eruption value already observed before the Kasatochi eruption. The impact of the Sarychev eruption over Kiruna can be estimated by an enhancement factor of the AOD equal to 6, which is

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about twice the enhancement resulting from the Kasatochi eruption. These results are in agreement with the 70°–80° latitude range analysis of the OSIRIS data reported by Kravitz et al. (2011).

The top of Fig. 5 shows the CALIOP time series of the Northern Hemisphere (up to 82° N) daily extinctions at 532 nm averaged over the 8–20 km and 15° W–45° E altitude-longitude box. The bottom of Fig. 5 shows the CALIOP time series of the daily extinction profiles at 532 nm averaged over Europe (40°–80° N, 15° W–45° E). Both time series cover the 2007–2010 period. These figures confirm the greater temporal and vertical extent of the Sarychev plume over Europe compared to the Kasatochi plume. The Sarychev plume arrived over Europe on the last days of June and remained between 10 and 18 km until August without noticeable altitude decrease. From mid-August to mid-October the plume vertically descended from 10–18 km to 7–13 km. From mid-October to late November the plume progressively vanished and the lowermost stratosphere seemed to have returned to background conditions in December. The e-folding time deduced from CALIOP is roughly in agreement with the 80 days OSIRIS e-folding time. For comparison, the CALIOP data show that the Kasatochi plume arrived over Europe in mid-August between 8 and 13 km before vertically decreasing to the 6–9 km altitude range in early November, when the aerosols returned to background conditions. So, the residence time of the volcanic plumes over Europe is about 2.5 and 5.5 months for the Kasatochi and Sarychev eruptions, respectively. O'Neill et al (2012) have suggested a consistent e-folding time of about 90 days from OSIRIS data near the Eureka high latitude site (Nunavut, Canada, 80.05° N, 86.42° W).

The high values of extinction in the 17–27 km altitude range from December to February are caused by polar stratospheric clouds and are consequently irrelevant for this study. An unexpected “aerosol hole” depending of the latitudes is present north of 60° N from August to September 2009. This surprising structure has already been detected by O'Neill et al. (2012) and can be explained by noisier data during daylight observations. In this case, an artificial “aerosol hole” can appear as soon as the aerosol loading is not high enough during the permanently illuminated polar summer. This “aerosol

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hole” tends to disappear at the end of the polar summer. However it is clear from Fig. 5 that during the illuminated polar summer, stratospheric plumes can be detected by CALIOP close to the eruptions when the aerosol amounts are above the detection threshold.

The volcanic plume has reached the North Africa coasts corresponding to 35° latitude (top Fig. 5). This southward extent gives the opportunity to monitor the aerosol plume using observatories involved in networks as EARLINET (European Aerosol Research Lidar NETwork) or NDACC. D’Amico et al. (2010) using the two multiwavelength Raman lidars located at Tito Scalco, Potenza, Italy (40° 36′ N, 15° 44′ E), have observed aerosol layers during the summer 2009 in the UTLS and up to a maximum height of 24 km. Lidar measurements have detected the Sarychev plume over Tito Scalco after 25 June and highlight a strong layer between 12 and 13.5 km on 26–27 June. A new aerosol layer is visible on 2 July between 14 and 15.5 km. From this date onwards, lidar observations show a decrease of the aerosol loading in the lowermost stratosphere over Tito Scalco. Figure 6 shows another example of time series of the backscattering ratio at 355 nm obtained by the DIAL instrument located at the OHP station from 1 June to 10 November 2009, between 8 and 25 km. The backscatter ratio is defined as the function

$$\frac{\beta_{\text{molecules}} + \beta_{\text{particles}}}{\beta_{\text{molecules}}},$$

where β represents either molecular or aerosol backscatter, so any values less than 1 are spurious and are likely due to instrumental noise. The dashed line represents the thermal tropopause height derived from collocated balloon soundings. The large white bands show periods without observations. The Sarychev plume has been detected over the OHP station on 24–25 June between 12.5 and 13.5 km followed by a more pronounced aerosol layer between 13 and 16.5 km until 12 July where data are missing. From mid-July to around 20 October, the plume extends from the tropopause up to ~19.5 km with two maximum peaks on 2 and 8 August at 17 and 16.2 km, respectively. Finally, the plume becomes undetectable by the lidar during the last days

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of October. Figure 6 seems to show that variations in the lower part of the Sarychev plume are completely associated with variations in the tropopause height. Upper tropospheric troughs which control tropopause height tend to displace the plume downward. The plume observed by the OHP lidar seems to extend about 1 km higher than the maximum altitude estimated from the satellite data and corresponds to approximately the same e-folding time (80 days).

5 Modelling the aerosol plume

The HadGEM2 model has been used to investigate the role of dynamics on the structure of the aerosol layer. Figure 7 shows the Sarychev plume (in kg [S] kg^{-1} air) simulated over Kiruna from June to late August 2009 (top figure) and the associated AOD at 550 nm and 750 nm (bottom figure). The dashed line on top of Fig. 7 represents the model thermal tropopause height and the red triangle highlights the Sarychev eruption on 11 June. The red line and crosses on bottom of Fig. 7 are simulated and Lidar AOD over OHP station at 550 nm, respectively.

The structure of the sulphate cloud is very similar to the SO_2 distribution (Fig. 3) from the arrival of the aerosol plume on 24 June (day 175) until mid-August where the SO_2 plume vanishes. The first peak occurs on June 29–30 (days 179–180) with a maximum AOD of 0.054. Three other peaks in the AOD are present on 1 (day 182), 8 (day 189) and 12 July (day 193) also corresponding to SO_2 peaks (Fig. 3). After mid-August no major peaks are modelled and aerosol amounts slowly decrease until late August where AOD values tend to recover near-background levels. The Kravitz et al. (2011) equation

$$\frac{\text{AOD at 750 nm and } r_m = 0.08\text{--}0.10 \mu\text{m}}{\text{AOD at 550 nm and } r_m = 0.08\text{--}0.10 \mu\text{m}} \approx 0.30 \quad (1)$$

is used to derive a model AOD value equal to 0.016 at 750 nm for typical Sarychev aerosols over Kiruna with median radii in the 0.08–0.10 μm range. Keeping in mind that

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the model does not consider background aerosols this maximum value is in a good agreement with the OSIRIS peak over Kiruna estimated to be of about 0.02 with a contribution of background aerosols of 0.0035 (Fig. 4). The peak in sulphate AOD on 30 June over Kiruna occurs about one month earlier than observed by OSIRIS (Fig. 4).

This discrepancy has already been noticed by Haywood et al. (2010) and has been explained by a too fast transfer from an optically inactive Aitken mode to an optically active accumulation mode in the model aerosol scheme. Improvements of the CLAS-SIC aerosol scheme in HadGEM2 (Bellouin et al., 2007) are in progress to remedy this deficiency.

Lidar AOD integrated from the tropopause to 20 km and converted to 550 nm by using an Ångström exponent of 3.8 (Kravitz et al, 2011) is compared to the HadGEM2 AOD on the bottom of Fig. 7. The HadGEM2 AOD peak at the end of June is not present in Lidar observations. Average HadGEM2 AOD over the 9 July–31 August period are found to be 25 % higher than the average Lidar AOD with 6.4×10^{-3} against 5.1×10^{-3} .

The vertical extent of the Sarychev plume is well established up to 19–20 km. The lower part of the plume is in phase with the tropopause vertical dynamics, which is controlled by the alternating upper troughs as also shown in the observations. The model confirms that these low pressure lead to an efficient transport of the lower stratospheric aerosols to altitudes lower than 5 km. This dynamical process was particularly important during the mid-August period corresponding to the MicroRADIBAL flight.

Figure 8 shows cross-sections of the HadGEM2 AOD over Europe on 2, 7, 18 and 24 August 2009 representing 4 different examples of isentropic transport (black cross, Kiruna station). AOD has been calculated over the entire stratosphere. High levels of aerosols are continuously present for latitude higher than 80° N with high variability from one day to another above Kiruna. These aerosols are more or less effectively transported southward depending on the meteorological conditions. On 2 August high levels of aerosols are present over Western Europe as far as North of Spain and over Eastern Europe from Scandinavia to the Black sea. Central Europe shows lower amounts of aerosols explained by a tropical intrusion. Kiruna is on the edge of a bulk of lower

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values. On 7 August the tropical intrusion is extended northward and entirely covers Scandinavia up to Kiruna region. On 18 August the tropical intrusion has completely vanished and is replaced by a high latitude airmass tongue full of sulphate aerosols and covering the Baltic sea region and the Russian coasts. On 24 August, a less pronounced airmass intrusion coming from latitudes higher than 80° N is present over the Kiruna region. These last two intrusions are responsible for temperature increase observed with meteorological soundings from 9 to 20 August and on 24 August (Fig. 9), which is the typical signature of middle stratosphere airmasses.

Figure 10 shows the HadGEM2 sulphur mass cross sections at 14 km and the potential vorticity field computed by the MIMOSA advection contour model (Hauchecorne et al., 2002) at 380 K, for 7 and 24 August, respectively. On 7 August the tropical intrusion is present in both models. On 24 August Fig. 10 shows the localized stratospheric intrusion from high latitudes that crossed central Europe. This intrusion containing high contents of aerosols present over the Kiruna region is detectable down to 14 km. These two examples show that the aerosol layers in the polar region between the tropopause and about 14–15 km are largely controlled by isentropic exchanges in the UTLS region.

6 Physical properties of the Sarychev aerosols in the Arctic summer stratosphere

The size resolved number concentration measurements by STAC and the Micro-RADIBAL radiance diagrams are fitted with either unimodal or bimodal lognormal size distributions of the form (Renard et al., 2002; Brogniez et al., 2003):

$$n(r) = \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{N_i}{\ln(\sigma_i) \cdot \sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \frac{1}{r} \cdot \exp \left[-\frac{\ln^2(r/r_i)}{2 \cdot \ln^2(\sigma_i)} \right] \quad (2)$$

in $\text{cm}^{-3} \mu\text{m}^{-1}$, where N_i (cm^{-3}) is the total aerosol number density, r_i (μm) is the aerosol median radius, and σ_i is the geometric standard deviation of the distribution.

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In a stratosphere impacted by the Sarychev eruption, namely below 19 km as shown above, sulphate aerosols largely dominate and are expected to be mainly described by unimodal size distributions (Kravitz et al., 2011).

Distribution moments are derived using well-known analytical expressions. Using a statistical approach as described in Deshler et al. (2003), STAC counting uncertainties (Poisson statistics and the $\pm 10\%$ precision) translate into uncertainties on distribution moments, with estimated values of 35 % for r_{eff} , 40 % for SAD, 40 % for sulphur mass and 40 % for extinction.

Signatures attributed to solid aerosols have been detected for altitudes above 19 km (Renard et al., 2010) confirming previous balloon-borne observations in the middle stratosphere (Renard et al., 2005, 2008). STAC is calibrated to provide size distributions of non-absorbing spherical aerosols which result in indeterminable errors for the sizing of the solid non-spherical particles and the derived size distribution moments. Moreover, solid aerosols are not taken into account in the HadGEM2 model. In the following, we will therefore limit our study of the STAC, MicroRADIBAL, SALOMON and OSIRIS measurements to the lower stratosphere to focus only on the Sarychev aerosols.

Large aerosol concentration enhancements have been reported by Renard et al. (2010) from the summer 2009 STAC counting measurements in the lower stratosphere (see their Fig. 3), unambiguously demonstrating the impact of the Sarychev eruption. From these results cumulated aerosol concentrations (particles with radii greater than $0.20\ \mu\text{m}$) are increased by a factor of 2–7 in comparison to the background situation in April-May 2010.

The retrieved effective radius, extinction, SAD and sulphur mass as a function of altitude on 2, 7, 14, 18, 24, 25, 26 August, 7 September 2009 (volcanic conditions) and 19 May 2010 (background conditions) are shown in Table 1 and for a selected number of days in Figs. 11 and 12. In these figures black and red squares represent the STAC profiles obtained during balloon ascent and descent, respectively. Also represented are the SALOMON (black dashed lines) and OSIRIS (green lines) extinction

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profiles (Fig. 11). Results from observations by the MicroRADIBAL photopolarimeter are compared to the STAC observations on 18 August (see also Table 2). To achieve these comparisons STAC observations are averaged over ± 250 m around the MicroRADIBAL altitudes to represent the MicroRADIBAL field of view. So, in Table 2 numbers in brackets are $3 \times$ standard deviations corresponding for STAC to the spatial variability of the observations and for MicroRADIBAL to the uncertainties. In both figures the horizontal black dashed lines represent the thermal tropopause height derived from collocated balloon soundings. The 18 km level is close to the top of the sulphate layer.

6.1 Effective radius

The profile on 7 August (Fig. 11, top panel) shows high variability with r_{eff} values within the 0.09–0.28 μm range. On 18 August the profile shows less variability with r_{eff} reaching 0.21 μm at 14 km. On 18 August in the 17–19 km altitude range the MicroRADIBAL and STAC r_{eff} are 0.17 μm and 0.15 μm , respectively (Table 2). High values between 0.3 and 0.4 μm are present for STAC above the tropopause on 25 August. The last observations on 26 August and on 7 September show low values around 0.12 μm over the whole altitude range. On average, values of r_{eff} range from 0.15 to 0.20 μm in summer 2009. The background conditions on 19 May 2010 are characterized by steady stratospheric r_{eff} values of 0.15 ± 0.01 μm . Observations in August 2009 show in general higher values.

An enhancement of r_{eff} usually follows a volcanic eruption. For example after the Pinatubo eruption r_{eff} increased from ~ 0.22 μm to 0.5 μm around 20 km (Bauman et al., 2003). Such an enhancement has been observed by O'Neill et al. (2012) with r_{eff} values of 0.183 μm and 0.25 μm before and after the Sarychev plume arrival over Greenland. Two months after the eruption, the maximum mean r_{eff} of 0.20 μm inferred from STAC observations at 14 km (Table 1) is lower than the results of O'Neill et al. (2012) but is higher than the expected values for background conditions.

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6.2 Extinction

Mie theory (Van de Hulst, 1957) has been used to calculate aerosol extinction profiles and optical depths at 740 nm from the STAC granulometries on 7, 18, 24, 25 August 2009 and on 19 May 2010. These extinction profiles are compared with individual OSIRIS profiles at 750 nm, with extinction values derived at 740 nm from MicroRADIBAL measurements on 18 August and with SALOMON measurements at 750 nm on 25 August (Fig. 11, bottom panel). The OSIRIS profiles have been selected within a 10° lat-lon box around Kiruna to approximately coincide with the STAC flight profiles. The OSIRIS lat-lon sampling is sufficient to provide comparisons for all STAC flights (except for 24 August where no coincidence has been found) from 10–12 km height to 19 km.

Figure 11 globally shows decreasing extinction values from the tropopause to 19 km. OSIRIS average values are within 1 % of the STAC average values at 14 km and are 52 % and 26 % larger than STAC at 16 and 18 km, respectively (Table 1). The difference between STAC extinction values between ascent and descent somewhat reflects the strong local variability (over tens of km and a 2-h time interval) of the Sarychev aerosol content, certainly resulting from dynamical effects. The MicroRADIBAL aerosol extinction values on 18 August obtained during the balloon descent is on average 14 % below the STAC descent profile (Table 2a).

On 25 August there is a reasonable agreement between SALOMON extinction and OSIRIS (considering the error bars on the balloon data). Differences between OSIRIS and SALOMON values are -11 %, +22 % and -31 % at 14, 16 and 18 km, respectively. STAC data are comparable to both datasets, with once again some variability between ascent and descent in situ observations by STAC. SALOMON extinction profile obtained on 28 April 2011, overplotted on the 19 May 2010 panel in Fig. 11 is a new example of background conditions, again consistent with OSIRIS and STAC profiles, except near the tropopause where OSIRIS deviates from the others.

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This discrepancy around the tropopause could be the sign of local cirrus layers since no similar enhancements are present around the tropopause in the nearest OSIRIS profiles (not shown). On average, extinction values observed by STAC in aerosol background conditions are reduced by a factor of about 7 and 2 at 14 km and 18 km, respectively in comparison with the summer 2009 observations (Table 1).

To retrieve the aerosol properties from the ACE-FTS instrument on board the SCISAT satellite, Doeringer et al. (2012) assume that the Sarychev volcanic aerosols in July 2009 have a constant σ of 1.8, while the median radius derived by least-square fit procedure is variable and equal to $\sim 0.09 \mu\text{m}$ at 15 km. In this case the effective radius is $0.21 \mu\text{m}$. Average atmospheric extinction profiles at 1030 nm in July between 2004 and 2009 are shown in Doeringer et al. (2012). In July 2009, the aerosol layer is present approximately between 8.5 km to 17.5 km with a maximum extinction value of $2.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ km}^{-1}$ at an altitude of 13 km. The usual atmospheric extinction at this altitude is about $4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ km}^{-1}$, almost one order of magnitude smaller. The STAC measurements confirm this ratio with a mean extinction value at 15 km in August 2009 of $2.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ km}^{-1}$ compared to $3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ km}^{-1}$ on 19 May 2010.

6.3 Surface area density

SAD ($\mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) is calculated by using the STAC and MicroRADIBAL distributions (Fig. 12, top panel). The STAC background profile on 19 May 2010 is characterized by a minimum of $0.5 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at 9 km, $2.5 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at the tropopause and almost constant from 15 to 18 km with $1.0 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at 18 km. This SAD profile is compared to the SPARC ASAP (Weisenstein and Bekki, 2006) profile computed by the AER-UPMC two-dimensional (2-D) model considering typical background scenarios of sulphate precursors (50 ppt of SO_2 in the lowermost stratosphere and 512 ppt of carbonyl sulphide (COS) at the surface). The AER-UPMC profile shows values around $0.4 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at 9 km, $0.8 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at the tropopause and $1.2 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at 18 km. The main differences with the STAC observations are located around the tropopause region (10–15 km). This could once again reflect some variability of the UTLS background aerosols resulting

from regional dynamical processes which are not taken into account in 2-D models (of course limited in terms of spatial resolution). Nevertheless the overall good agreement provides new confidence in the SPARC ASAP scenario.

SAD from STAC in August 2009 at the altitudes of the volcanic plume are enhanced by a factor of 5–10 on average in comparison with the background aerosol situation of May 2010 (Table 1). The MicroRADIBAL SAD on 18 August 2009 are 30–60 % lower than the STAC SAD values (averaged to the MicroRADIBAL vertical resolution) between 17.4 and 18.7 km (Table 2a). This gap may partly reflect the limitation of the log-normal fitting procedure of the STAC size-resolved concentrations which provides a significant number of mathematically acceptable solutions encompassing the particles sizes lower than the STAC size detection threshold (i.e. minimum radius of 0.2 μm). Also, as stated above, MicroRADIBAL is less sensitive to small particles. To illustrate this effect, we have calculated the surface area density values starting from the first particle size class typically detected by STAC, i.e. for radii greater than 0.2 μm . Note that the same comparisons are made with truncated total number concentrations (Table 2b). The discrepancy between STAC and MicroRADIBAL is reduced by a factor of 2 when comparing these truncated SAD (Table 2b). For 17.4, 17.7 and 18.7 km, the truncated SAD values from MicroRADIBAL are 15, 20, and 28 % smaller than STAC, respectively. Another explanation for the differences between both datasets could be related to the issue of comparing in situ data (the aerosol counter) with remote-sensing observations obtained by integrating over tens of kilometres (MicroRADIBAL). Even in case of datasets obtained simultaneously, such comparisons are likely to be flawed when the targeted stratospheric compound is spatially variable along the instrument line of sight, as already investigated for stratospheric chemical species (Berthet et al., 2007). The effect of comparing these different observation techniques is more apparent when observations are close to the top of the plume around 18 km where the sulphate aerosols are sparse and not continuously detected.

It is interesting to notice that STAC SAD agree well with the values ranging from 5 to 10 $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ between 14 and 18 km at the end of August 2009 estimated by Mattis et al.

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(2010) from Raman lidar observations over Leipzig (Germany, 51.4° N, 12.4° E). Similar conclusions are obtained taking the balloon in situ observations of Kravitz et al. (2011) who present SAD values ranging from 3 to 10 $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ in the lower stratosphere, though this dataset has been recorded 2–3 months after our observations, i.e. on 7 November 2009.

6.4 Sulphur mass

The comparison between the STAC/MicroRADIBAL granulometries and the HadGEM2 model outputs is not directly feasible because the code is not designed to reproduce the evolution of the parameters of the aerosol distribution. On the other hand the HadGEM2 model is really appropriate to follow the sulphur mass evolution. As stated above, background aerosols are not taken into account in the Sarychev eruption modelling. So, the mean aerosol profile observed by STAC on 19 May 2010 has been added to the HadGEM2 profiles to directly compare observations and model results. The sulphur mass profiles from observations and model (blue lines) calculations are shown on Fig. 12 (bottom panel). The dashed blue line represents the typical STAC profile in background conditions. This profile shows only small variations between 1×10^{-10} and $2 \times 10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$ from the tropopause to 18 km. The difference between both blue lines on the August 2009 profiles quantifies the simulated aerosol enhancement resulting from the Sarychev eruption in terms of sulphur loading. On average, sulphur mass values observed by STAC in aerosol background conditions are reduced by a factor of about 8 and 3 at 14 km and 18 km, respectively in comparison with the summer 2009 observations (Table 1).

On the 7 and 18 August profiles, model calculations are lower than the STAC observations from 11 to about 15 km with a difference of 40–70 % at 14 km (± 1 km). For altitudes above, values from STAC are systematically 2–3 times higher. On 18 August, the sulphur loading values (see Table 2a) inferred from MicroRADIBAL observations above 17 km ($4.9 \times 10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$ on average) are about 16 % larger than STAC values ($4.25 \times 10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$). Note that the difficulty to take into account

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accurately the contribution of the smaller particles to the calculated SAD values (see Sect. 6.3) may also apply to the calculation of the mass sulphur budget and consequently partly explain the discrepancies between the two instruments. However, overall better agreement is found in the sulphur mass (third order moment) calculation than in the SAD (second order moment) calculation (Table 2a). MicroRADIBAL and STAC observations at 18 km are ~ 2 times higher than the values computed by HadGEM2 ($2.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$, Table 1) which returns to background quantities above 18 km corresponding to the top of the volcanic plume. This gap could either be due to a too weak vertical transport of sulphate aerosols in the model or could reflect some variability in the background aerosol level. On 24 and 25 August, the sulphur mass profiles from STAC and HadGEM2 reasonably match from 2 km below the tropopause up to 19 km with average differences below 50%. The observed and model profiles both return to background levels around 18 km. On average in August, better results are found with model values of 20%, 30% and 50% below STAC at 14, 16 and 18 km, respectively (Table 1). This result shows that the model, though not appropriate to calculate the high spatial variability of the STAC observations, succeeds in representing the aerosol trend over a month.

The modelled and STAC sulphur mass profiles show a maximum systematically 1.0 ± 0.5 km above the tropopause, with values of $1-2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$ corresponding to an order of magnitude higher than the background level. STAC-HadGEM2 comparisons are difficult to perform below the tropopause because of the occurrence of cirrus clouds and spurious signals from tropospheric aerosols. When these effects are not present, as on 2 August (not shown), a good agreement can be found between the model and STAC observations in the upper troposphere suggesting reasonable tropospheric-stratospheric exchange computed in the HadGEM2 model.

Overall, our results reveal an acceptable agreement between the HadGEM2 model and the STAC observations in terms of sulphur mass values and vertical trend. This statement should be caveated by the fact that the model has a much broader spatial

and temporal resolution than the STAC in situ observations and is consequently unable to describe the observed strong variability in the sulphate aerosol content.

7 Discussion and conclusions

It is well-known that major volcanic eruptions such as the Pinatubo event in 1991 can inject large amounts of SO_2 into the stratosphere increasing the optical thickness of the stratospheric sulphate aerosol layer over periods of years with subsequent implications on climate (cooling effects) and on stratospheric ozone (heterogeneous chemistry). Recent studies have shown that moderate volcanic eruptions are also likely to significantly contribute to increase the stratospheric aerosol loading over periods of months (Vernier et al., 2011) with also non-negligible climate effects (Solomon et al., 2011). After the decay of the Pinatubo aerosol and a volcanically quiescent period until about 2004, several moderate eruptions (VEI, of about 4) have been reported from tropical and mid-latitude volcanoes such as the Kasatochi (Alaska, August 2008), the Sarychev (Kuril Islands, June 2009) and the Nabro (Eritrea, July 2011) eruptions.

In this study, we have focussed on the eruption of the mid-latitude Sarychev volcano which injected on 15–16 June 2009 ~ 1 Tg of SO_2 into the stratosphere (Clarisse et al., 2012). With an e-folding time of ~ 11 days, the injected SO_2 amounts were oxidized to gaseous sulphuric acid that condensed into an $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ liquid aerosol in the stratosphere. This result differs from the Pinatubo eruption where the e-folding time was estimated to range between 30 and 40 days (Bluth et al., 1997). The Sarychev perturbation is transient because the droplets fall out of the stratosphere with a characteristic e-folding time of 80 days as shown from CALIOP and OSIRIS data. This e-folding time is significantly shorter than the 12–14 month value estimated for the Pinatubo eruption (Baran et al., 1994; Oman et al., 2005). The latitude of the eruption is an important factor controlling this e-folding time since the volcanic aerosols are transported by the general circulation (Hamill, 1997). In the case of volcanic sulphate aerosols directly produced at mid- and high latitudes, as for the Sarychev event, their atmospheric lifetime

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is generally decreased. Indeed, our results indicate that a large part of the aerosol plume from the Sarychev eruption is concentrated in the mid-latitude storm tracks, where tropopause folding is responsible for a large part of the removal of stratospheric aerosols in agreement with the conclusions of Kravitz et al. (2011).

5 Though the HadGEM2 model provides reasonable simulations of SO₂ transport and of its oxidation to sulphate aerosols, there are still some physical aspects that may require improvements. In particular, the transformation of optically inactive Aitken to optically active accumulation mode of sulphate appears too fast when compared to observations possibly as a result of a lack of representation of nucleation processes.
10 However, the vertical transport of the Sarychev sulphate aerosols is well modelled with a plume extending from the tropopause to about 19 km which is comparable to the results found with the OHP and CALIOP lidar measurements.

In the 2009 Arctic summer, the StraPoIÉté balloon campaign offered the opportunity to investigate the physical properties of the Sarychev volcano aerosols within the UTLS region. Aerosol extinction profiles inferred from STAC observations during eight flights acceptably match extinction values measured by the OSIRIS UV-visible spectrometer and show significant extinction enhancements when compared to background conditions. MicroRADIBAL and SALOMON observations confirm these profiles during two flights. Note that the good agreement shown between OSIRIS extinction profiles and those derived from the balloon-borne instruments strengthens the OSIRIS retrieval hypothesis consisting in using a fixed mode radius (0.08 μm) and a fixed width (1.6) to derive extinction profiles even in such volcanic conditions (Bourassa et al., 2010). SAD values observed in the UTLS for the Sarychev period increase by a factor of 5–10 in comparison with background conditions. Such enhancements in SAD (typically implemented in chemistry-transport models) could have significant implications for stratospheric chemistry, in particular for nitrogen and halogenated species. Additionally the sulphur mass calculated by the model over Kiruna is in reasonable agreement with the sulphur mass inferred from STAC and MicroRADIBAL observations with a maximum value of $1\text{--}2 \times 10^{-9}$ kg[S] kg located 1.0 ± 0.5 km above the tropopause, which is one

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order of magnitude higher than the background level. This indicates that the choice of a 1.2 Tg SO₂ injection in the model to take into account all the June 2009 Sarychev eruptive events is consistent.

Vernier et al. (2011) state that the relatively high occurrence of this type of strato-volcano eruption in the tropical latitudes is likely to explain the worldwide increasing trend in aerosol backscatter of about 4–7 % per year (0.015–0.02 Tg[S] yr⁻¹) after 2000 above 20 km reported by Hofmann et al. (2009). However, there is somewhat a topic of debate since Hofmann et al. (2009) attributes this trend to increased emissions of SO₂ (about 5.2 % or 2.4 Tg [S] yr⁻¹) from coal burning in southeast Asia ignoring a contribution from moderate eruptions. The impact on the stratosphere of mid-latitude moderate volcanic eruptions like the Sarychev and the Kasatochi is unambiguously recognized over periods of months but an important issue is to quantify the contribution of the various potential sources of SO₂ to the background aerosol loading, namely between two successive periods of volcanic influence on the stratosphere. OSIRIS observations presented in our study for periods free of volcanic aerosols, for instance before and after the Sarychev event, suggest a rather steady source, typically corresponding to 15–20 % of the Sarychev AOD levels. Anthropogenic sources of SO₂ and their variability should be quantified together with their transport pathways to the stratosphere so as to determine the contribution of these emissions to this stratospheric sulphate aerosol loading observed during volcanically-quiescent periods. SO₂ emissions from more frequent tropospheric volcanic eruptions (VEI < 4), associated with troposphere-stratosphere-exchange dynamics (Holton et al., 1995), may be also a potential natural source to sustain a sulphate aerosol layer in the stratosphere and explain a part of its variability. Finally, these possible contributions of SO₂ to the background stratospheric sulphur budget must be weighted with the role of carbonyl sulphide (COS), the most abundant sulphur gas in the atmosphere (Barkley et al., 2008) and considered as a major precursor of stratospheric aerosols (Notholt and Bingemer, 2006). Model calculations by Brühl et al. (2012) even minimize the role of SO₂ and estimate that

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upward transport of COS from the troposphere largely controls the sulphur budget and the background aerosol loading of the stratosphere.

Thus, a renewed modelling effort including the latest SO₂ emission data, simulations of tropical deep convection at various scales, complete tropospheric sulphur chemistry, and aerosol growth under changing vapour pressures in the stratosphere will be necessary to delineate the important mechanisms controlling the background aerosol layer. A new generation of light aerosol counters will also be necessary to monitor sudden events like volcano eruptions and to discriminate the nature of the aerosols. LOAC (Light Optical Aerosol Counter) is a new instrument developed in collaboration with the LPC2E laboratory (France) and the Environment S.A. company (France) capable of achieving this challenge during meteorological soundings. Such efforts need to be supported and improved by international initiatives as the SSIRC (Stratospheric Sulphur and its Role in Climate) SPARC activity.

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Table 1. STAC average values at 14, 16, and 18 km (± 1 km) of effective radius (μm), aerosol coefficient extinction at 740 nm (10^{-4} km^{-1}), SAD ($\mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$), and sulphur mass ($10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$) on 2, 7, 14, 18, 24, 25, 26 August, 7 September 2009 and 10 May 2010. OSIRIS extinction values at 750 nm in 10^{-4} km^{-1} . HadGEM2 sulphur mass calculation in $10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$. Numbers into brackets are standard deviations.

| | | 2009 | | | | | | | | Mean | 2010 19 May | Ratio* |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-------|------------|----------------|--------|
| | | 2 Aug | 7 Aug | 14 Aug | 18 Aug | 24 Aug | 25 Aug | 26 Aug | 7 Sep | | | |
| r_{eff} | 18 km | 0.12 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.22 | 0.12 | 0.15 | 0.15(0.04) | 0.14 | 1.0 |
| | 16 km | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.23 | 0.17 | 0.18 | 0.25 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.17(0.04) | 0.15 | 1.1 |
| | 14 km | 0.20 | 0.22 | 0.26 | 0.21 | 0.19 | 0.32 | 0.11 | 0.14 | 0.21(0.07) | 0.16 | 1.3 |
| Extinction | 18 km | 7.3 | 8.1 | 3.2 | 5.2 | 2.8 | 3.9 | 7.4 | 3.7 | 5.5(4.3) | 2.7 | 2.0 |
| | 16 km | 16.8 | 17.1 | 16.6 | 11.0 | 4.3 | 10.7 | 14.5 | 9.0 | 11.9(6.9) | 2.7 | 4.4 |
| | 14 km | 24.6 | 33.0 | 43.0 | 33.0 | 18.8 | 30.7 | 29.2 | 17.1 | 29.5(14.8) | 4.2 | 7.0 |
| Extinction (OSIRIS) | 18 km | 7.2 | 13.9 | 3.8 | 5.9 | no data | 4.7 | 5.9 | 6.7 | 6.9(4.5) | 3.4 | 2.0 |
| | 16 km | 12.4 | 27.6 | 18.0 | 16.7 | no data | 19.3 | 15.3 | 17.6 | 18.1(6.0) | 3.2 | 5.6 |
| | 14 km | 27.7 | 25.7 | 31.0 | 37.2 | no data | 29.0 | 26.6 | 15.9 | 27.6(7.2) | 4.8 | 5.8 |
| SAD | 18 km | 14.5 | 6.4 | 2.3 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 1.4 | 10.5 | 4.1 | 5.5(5.5) | 1.0 | 5.5 |
| | 16 km | 19.2 | 11.2 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 15.2 | 8.0 | 8.2(6.5) | 1.0 | 8.2 |
| | 14 km | 11.4 | 12.7 | 15.5 | 13.4 | 10.6 | 8.2 | 32.9 | 14.1 | 14.7(8.5) | 1.5 | 9.8 |
| Mass | 18 km | 9.4 | 6.4 | 2.4 | 4.4 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 7.7 | 3.6 | 4.9(3.6) | 1.6 | 3.1 |
| | 16 km | 13.4 | 10.0 | 7.9 | 5.8 | 2.7 | 4.3 | 10.1 | 6.2 | 7.1(4.3) | 1.3 | 5.5 |
| | 14 km | 10.0 | 12.6 | 2.0 | 12.4 | 8.1 | 11.5 | 17.0 | 8.9 | 12.6(6.4) | 1.6 | 7.9 |
| Mass (HadGEM2) | 18 km | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.4(0.7) | | |
| | 16 km | 5.1 | 7.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 5.1(1.6) | | |
| | 14 km | 5.3 | 7.7 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 10.1(2.0) | | |

* Ratio between the summer 2009 mean value (StratPoliÉTé campaign) and the 19 May 2010 background value (AEROWAVE campaign).

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Table 2. (a) STAC (average over ± 250 m) and MicroRADIBAL values at 17.4, 17.7, and 18.7 km of effective radius (μm), aerosol extinction (10^{-4} km^{-1}), sulphur mass ($10^{-10} \text{ kg [S] kg}^{-1}$) and SAD ($\mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) obtained during the balloon descent on 18 August 2009. **(b)** STAC (average over ± 250 m) and MicroRADIBAL values of SAD ($\mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and partial total number (cm^{-3}) for particles with radii $> 0.2 \mu\text{m}$. Numbers into brackets are $3 \times$ standard deviations corresponding for STAC to the spatial variability of the observations and for MicroRADIBAL to the uncertainties.

| (a) | MicroRAD. | STAC | MicroRAD. | STAC | MicroRAD. | STAC | MicroRAD. | STAC |
|------------|--|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Altitude | r_{eff} | r_{eff} | Extinction | Extinction | SAD | SAD | Mass | Mass |
| 18.7 km | 0.16(0.06) | 0.14(0.06) | 3.26(0.39) | 4.20(0.72) | 1.94(1.02) | 4.59(5.22) | 4.15(1.14) | 4.15(2.94) |
| 17.7 km | 0.16(0.06) | 0.15(0.03) | 4.94(0.24) | 5.70(1.74) | 2.90(1.59) | 4.85(3.12) | 5.51(1.56) | 4.53(2.16) |
| 17.4 km | 0.17(0.06) | 0.16(0.03) | 5.06(0.60) | 5.40(1.38) | 2.77(1.89) | 4.17(1.68) | 5.17(1.86) | 4.07(1.68) |
| (b) | For particles with $r > 0.2 \mu\text{m}$ | | | | | | | |
| Altitude | MicroRAD. | STAC | MicroRAD. | STAC | | | | |
| | SAD | SAD | N | N | | | | |
| 18.7 km | 0.48(0.12) | 0.66(0.15) | 0.62(0.12) | 1.02(0.66) | | | | |
| 17.7 km | 0.75(0.09) | 0.93(0.24) | 0.96(0.15) | 1.28(0.75) | | | | |
| 17.4 km | 0.76(0.18) | 0.89(0.21) | 0.99(0.30) | 1.33(0.78) | | | | |

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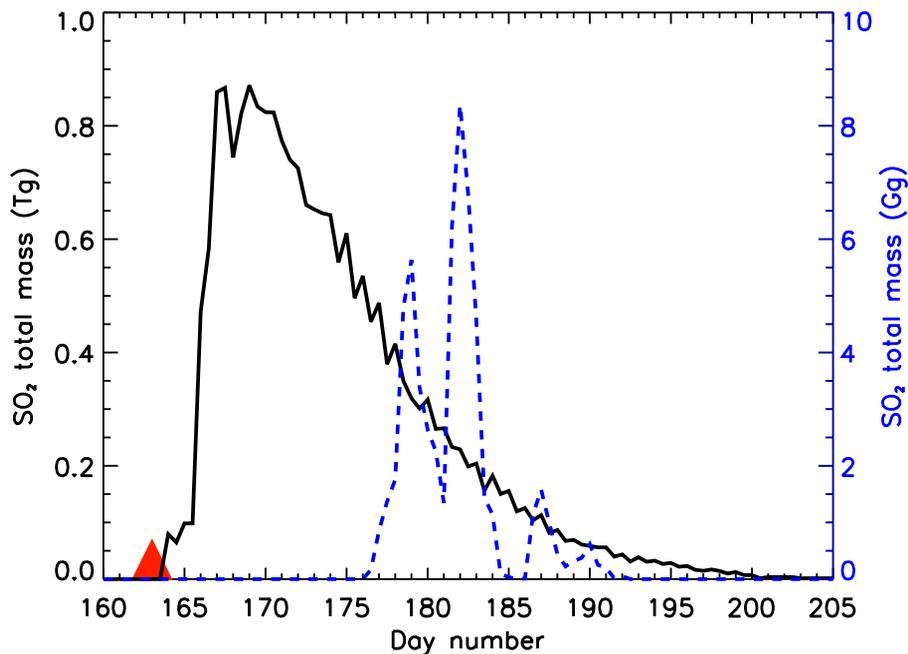


Fig. 1. Temporal evolution of the SO_2 total mass over the Kiruna region (blue dashed line, $\pm 10^\circ$ lat-lon box, in Gg) and Northern Hemisphere (black line, in Tg) observed by the IASI instrument on board the METOP-A satellite for the June–August 2009 period. The Sarychev eruption is symbolized by the red triangle.

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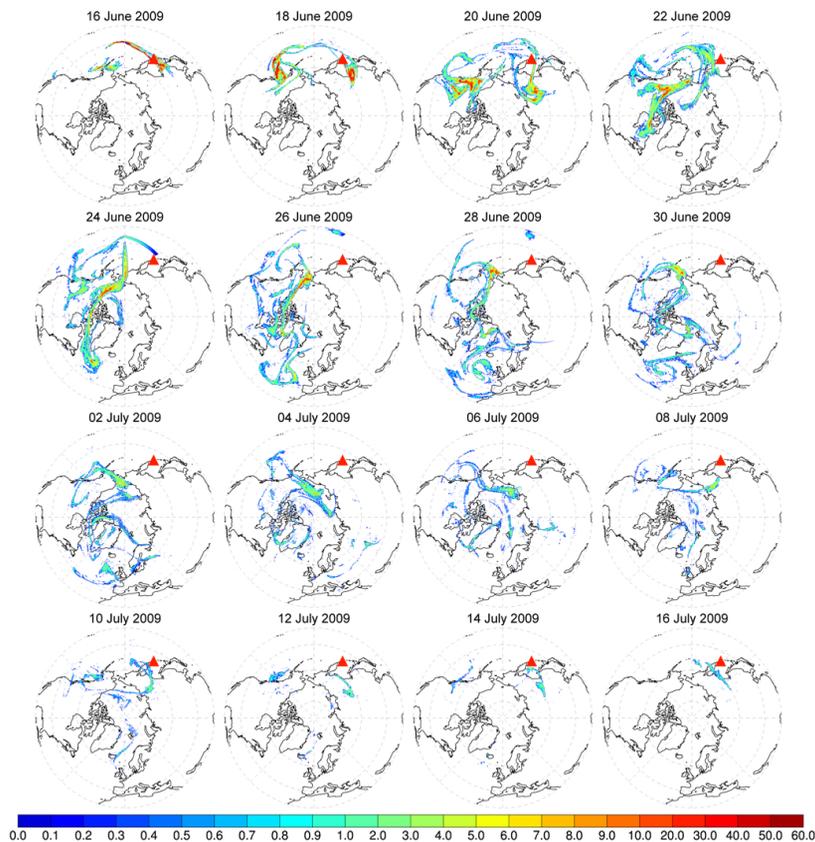


Fig. 2. Evolution of plumes of SO_2 over the Northern Hemisphere observed by the IASI instrument on board the METOP-A satellite in Dobson units (DU) for the 16 June–16 July 2009 period. The Sarychev volcano is indicated by the red triangle.

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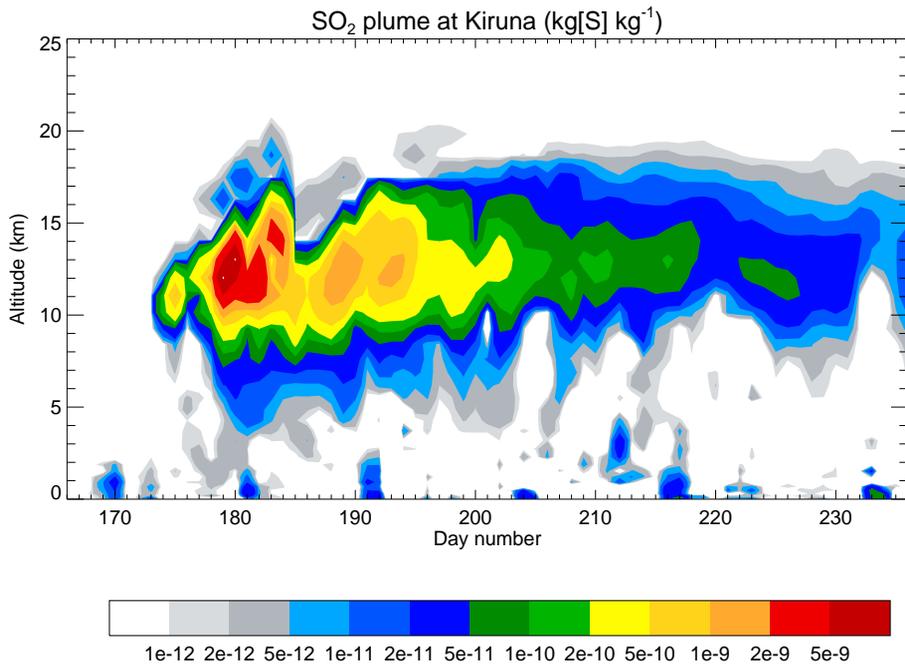


Fig. 3. SO₂ daily evolution over Kiruna from June to August 2009 modelled by the HadGEM2 climate model.

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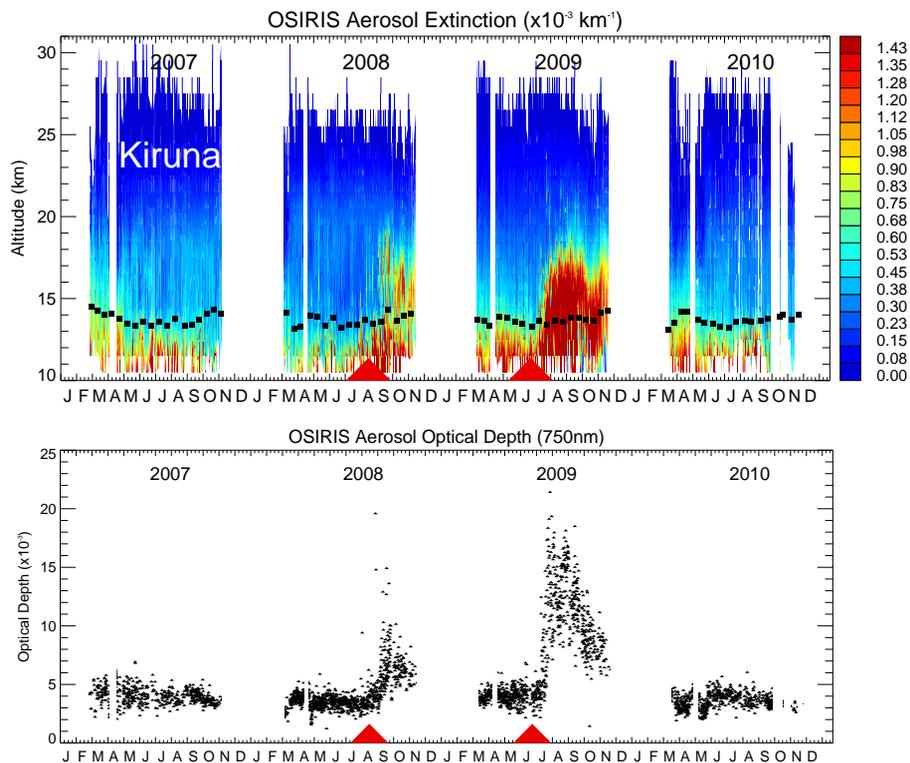


Fig. 4. Evolution of the extinction coefficient (top) and AOD (bottom) between 10–30 km measured by the OSIRIS instrument on board the ODIN satellite over Kiruna region ($\pm 10^\circ$ lat-lon box) during the 2007–2010 period. The potential temperature tropopause ($\theta = 380$ K) is indicated by the black squares. The Kasatochi (2008) and the Sarychev (2009) eruptions are symbolized by the red triangles.

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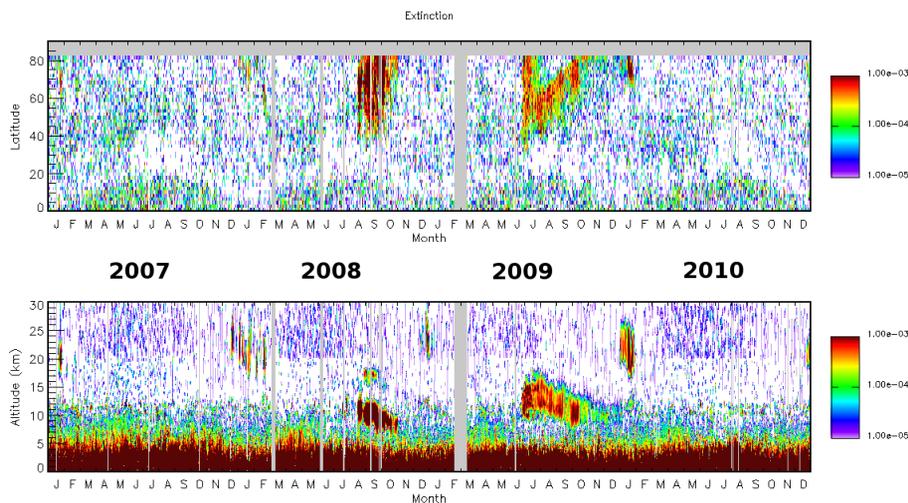


Fig. 5. Daily mean aerosol extinction coefficient measured by the CALIOP lidar on board the CALIPSO satellite during the 2007–2010 period. Top: averaged values between 8 and 20 km and for the latitudes between 15° W and 45° E. Bottom: average profiles over Europe (40°–80° N, 15° W–45° E). Grey bars represent days without data.

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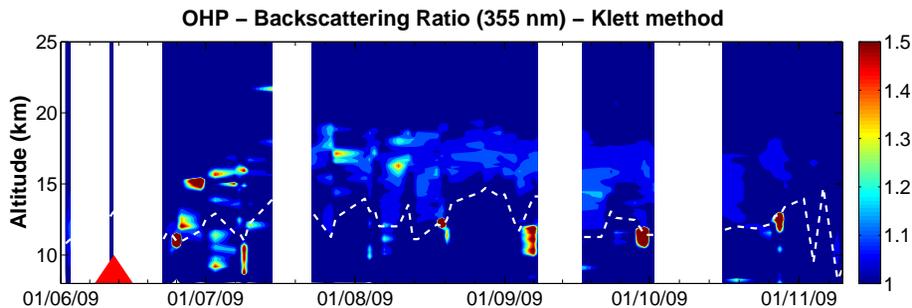


Fig. 6. Aerosol backscatter ratio observed with the 355 nm OHP lidar (Observatoire de Haute Provence, France) during the 1 June 2009–10 November 2009 period. The dashed white line is the thermal tropopause. The Sarychev eruption is symbolized by the red triangle.

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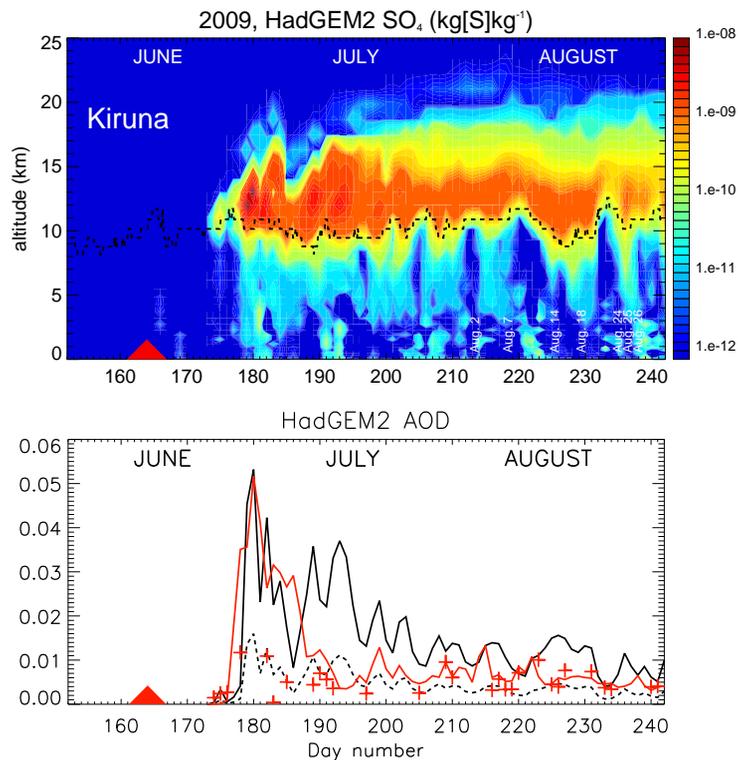


Fig. 7. Evolution from June to August 2009: SO₄ (top) and AOD at 550 nm (bottom black line) and 750 nm (bottom black dashed line) over Kiruna modelled by the HadGEM2 climate model. Evolution from June to August 2009: AOD at 550 nm over OHP station modelled by the HadGEM2 climate model (bottom red line) and observed by the Lidar from the tropopause to 20 km (bottom red crosses). The dates of the flights are indicated in white in the upper panel. The black dashed line is the model thermal tropopause. The Sarychev eruption is symbolized by the red triangle.

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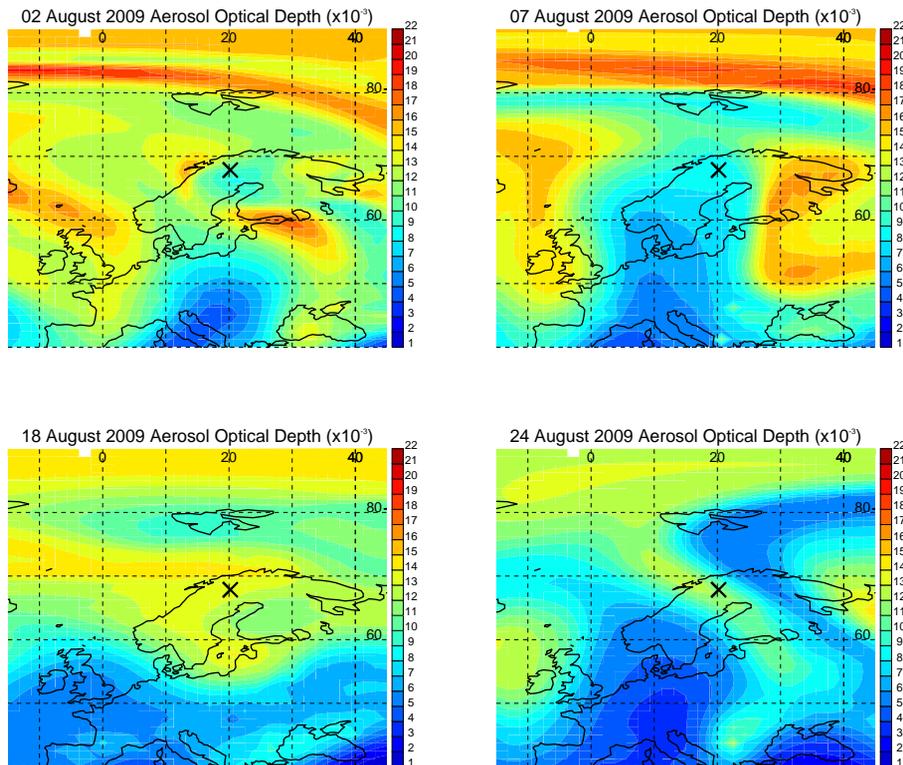


Fig. 8. HadGEM2 aerosol optical depth at 550 nm on 2, 7, 18 and 24 August 2009 over Europe (black cross: Kiruna station). AOD values are only for the Sarychev aerosols present from the surface to around 20 km.

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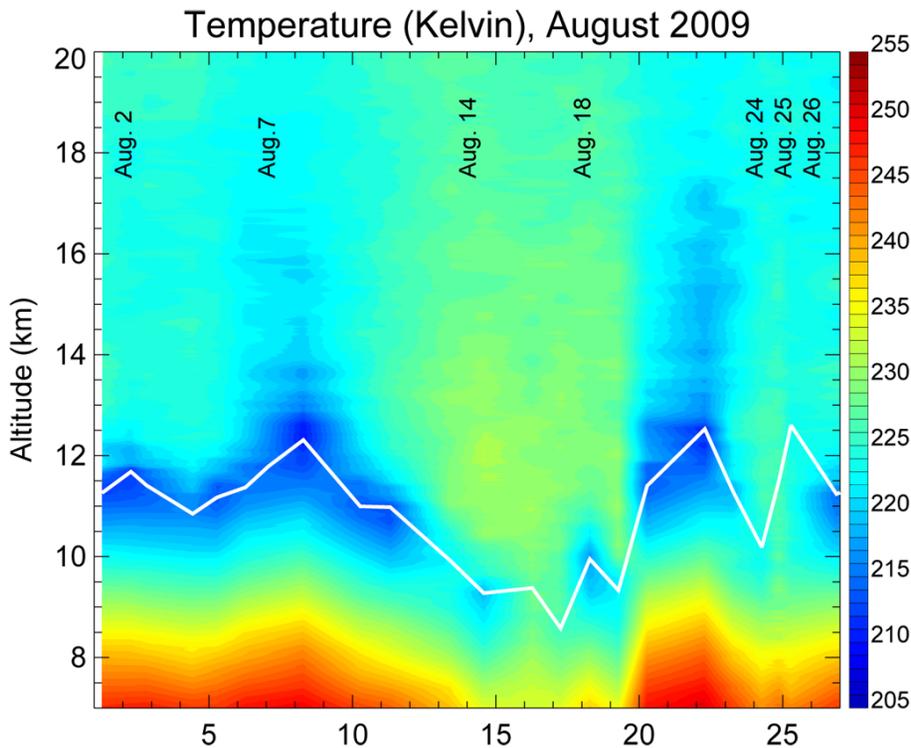


Fig. 9. Evolution of the temperature and thermal tropopause height (white line) from ozone-sonde observations in August 2009. The dates of the flights are indicated in black.

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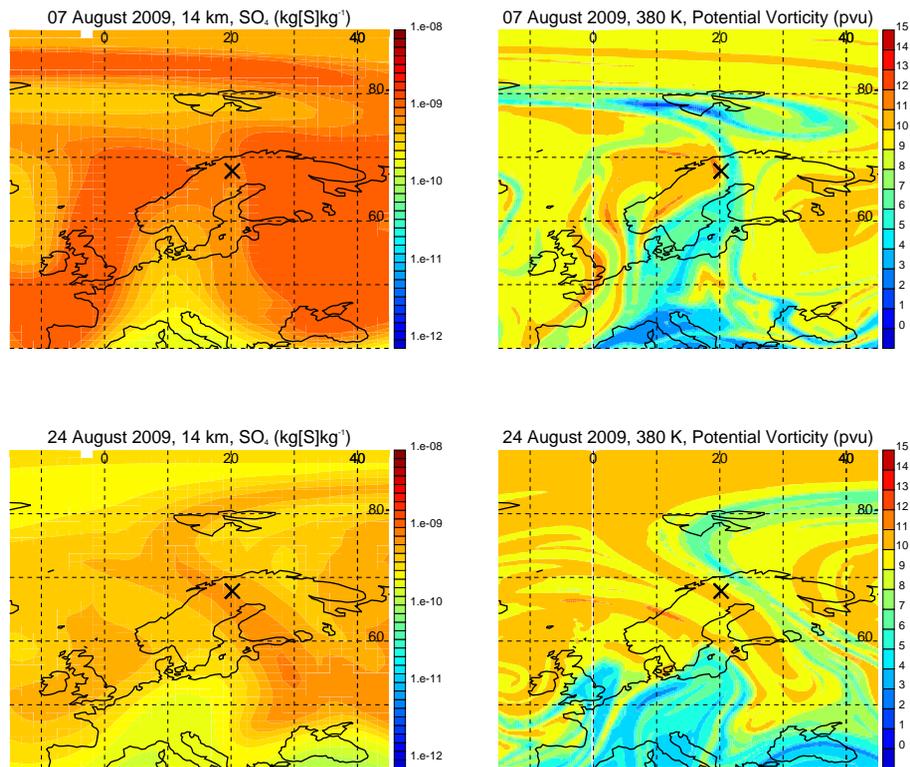


Fig. 10. HadGEM2 sulphur mass in kg[S]kg^{-1} at 14 km (left) and potential vorticity (pvu) at 380 K from the MIMOSA model (right) on 7 (top) and 24 (bottom) August 2009.

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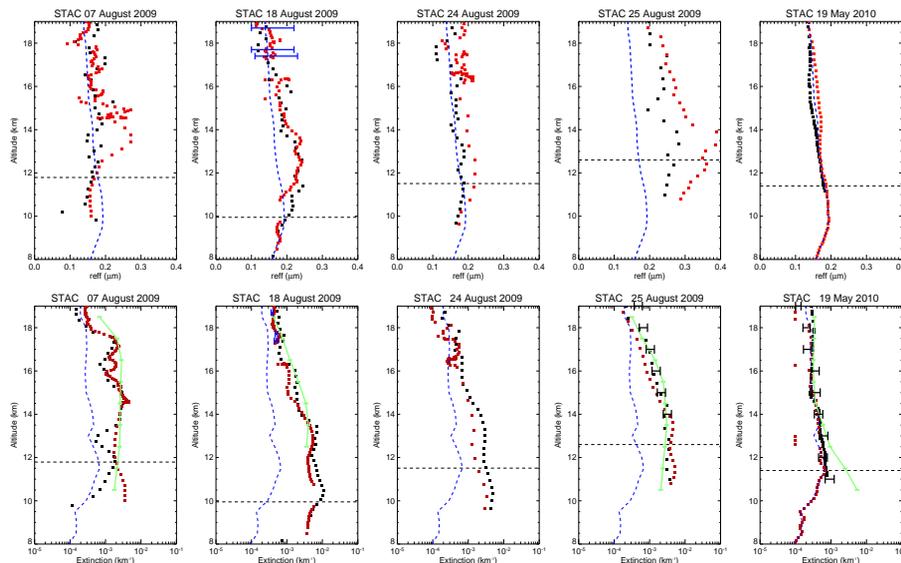


Fig. 11. Observations by the STAC aerosol counter for effective radius (top) and aerosol extinction coefficient at 740 nm (bottom) on 7, 18, 24 and 25 August 2009 (volcanic conditions) and on 19 May 2010 (background conditions), for the balloon ascent (black squares) and descent (red squares). Dashed blue lines: STAC background profiles on 19 May 2010 averaged over the whole flight (ascent and descent). Horizontal blue lines: MicroRADIBAL effective radius and extinction coefficient at 740 nm in the 17–19 km range on 18 August 2009. Extinction: OSIRIS profiles (green lines) at 750 nm, SALOMON balloon observations (horizontal black lines) at 750 nm on 25 August 2009 and on 28 April 2011 (shown on the 19 May 2010 figure). Horizontal black dotted lines: thermal tropopause derived from collocated balloon soundings. See Sect. 6 for uncertainties.

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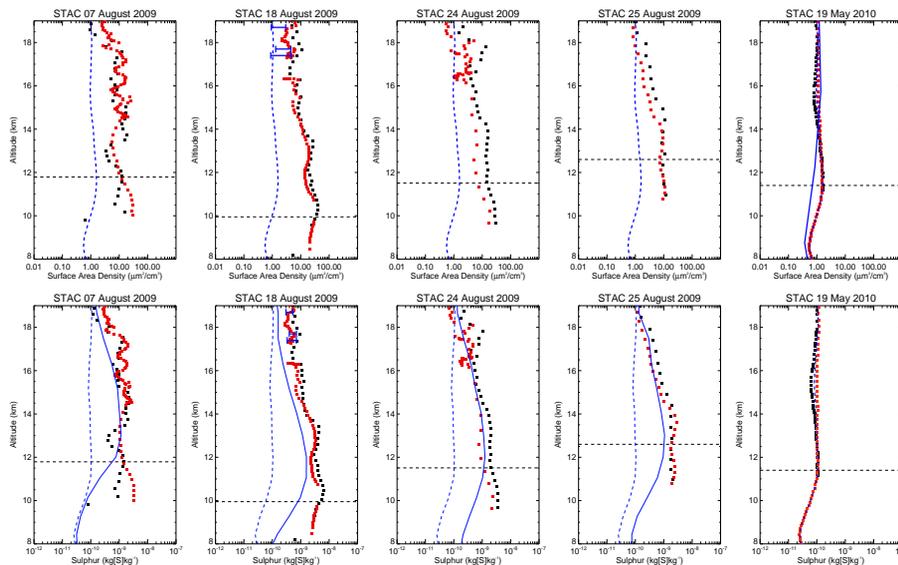


Fig. 12. Observations by the STAC aerosol counter for SAD (top) and sulphur mass (bottom) on 7, 18, 24 and 25 August 2009 (volcanic conditions) and on 19 May 2010 (background conditions), for the balloon ascent (black squares) and descent (red squares) balloon flights. Dashed blue lines: STAC background profiles on 19 May 2010 averaged over the whole flight (ascent and descent). Horizontal blue lines: MicroRADIBAL SAD and sulphur mass in the 17–19 km range on 18 August 2009. Sulphur mass: full blue lines correspond to the HadGEM2 profiles added to the 19 May 2010 STAC background profile. SAD: full blue line on 19 May 2010 is the typical SPARC ASAP scenario background aerosol profile (Weisenstein and Bekki, 2006). Horizontal black dotted lines: thermal tropopause derived from collocated balloon soundings. See Sect. 6 for uncertainties.

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