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# **Ozonesonde observations at Christmas Island (2°N, 157°W) in the equatorial central Pacific**

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**Abstract.** Ozone and water vapor observations have been conducted at Christmas/Kiritimati Island ( $2^{\circ}\text{N}$ ,  $157^{\circ}\text{W}$ ) in the equatorial central Pacific as a part of the Soundings of Ozone and Water in the Equatorial Region (SOWER)/Pacific mission. We launched 33 ozonesondes and 33 chilled-mirror hygrometers in nine observation campaigns from 1999 to 2003 for various seasons. We found that ozone concentrations at Christmas Island are low in the whole troposphere ( $\sim 10\text{-}35$  ppbv) particularly in the marine boundary layer (MBL). Ozone variation is small throughout the year compared with other tropical stations, though annual and interannual variations of meteorological fields are large over the equatorial central Pacific. Just below the tropopause during the August 2002 campaign, we observed substantially reduced ozone concentrations ( $<10$  ppbv) similar to those found in the MBL, which are maintained at least for the observation period. From meteorological conditions, we found that air mass was advected from the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), located to the north of Christmas Island, in accordance with the northeasterly wind that is only observed during northern summer in the upper troposphere. The origin of air mass is supposed to be from the MBL in the ITCZ.

## 1. Introduction

1 Christmas (Kiritimati) Island, a part of the Republic of Kiribati, is located at 2°N  
2 and 157°W in the equatorial central Pacific. This is one of the most important regions  
3 in the equatorial Pacific to consider the east-west contrast of meteorological conditions  
4 associated with the Walker circulation and its variation due to the El-Niño/ Southern Os-  
5 cillation (ENSO). However, atmospheric measurements including trace gas observations  
6 have not been extensively conducted around here, because there is no routine meteoro-  
7 logical station. There was a series of ozone and water vapor sonde soundings conducted  
8 during the Central Equatorial Pacific Experiment (CEPEX) campaign in March 1993  
9 [Vömel *et al.*, 1995; Kley *et al.*, 1996; Kley *et al.*, 1997], but the space-time characteristics  
10 in the equatorial central Pacific have not been fully understood yet.

11 Ozone and water vapor observations around the tropical tropopause are important  
12 from the view point of stratosphere-troposphere exchange (STE) processes which control  
13 the stratospheric air conditions. In particular, understanding of spatial and temporal  
14 structures in the tropical tropopause layer (TTL) is crucial [e.g., *Folkins et al.*, 1999; *Kley*  
15 *et al.*, 2000; *Folkins et al.*, 2006; *Takashima and Shiotani*, 2007]. Since the photochemical  
16 life time of ozone and water vapor is very long in the TTL, these gases can be used  
17 as a tracer. In addition, simultaneous observations of ozone and water vapor give us  
18 important information on the STE processes, because of the stratosphere-troposphere  
19 contrast of ozone and water vapor distributions with high ozone and low water vapor in  
20 the stratosphere and vice versa in the troposphere. Using ozone and water vapor data, we  
21 are able to further investigate the STE processes including the dehydration mechanism  
22 around the tropical tropopause as presented by *Kley et al.* [2000].

23 As to a global scale east-west contrast of the longitudinal ozone distribution in the trop-  
24 ical troposphere, the zonal wave number one structure with maxima around the Atlantic  
25 and Africa and minima around the western Pacific is well known [e.g., *Fishman et al.*,  
26 1990; *Shiotani*, 1992]. The vertical characteristics of the zonal wave one structure were

1 presented for the first time by *Thompson et al.* [2003] with ozonesonde data from the  
2 Southern Hemisphere Additional Ozonesondes (SHADOZ) archive. By paying special at-  
3 tention to the TTL, *Takashima and Shiotani* [2007] recently found that the zonal wave one  
4 structure of ozone and the east-west temperature contrast in the upper troposphere could  
5 be explained by the large-scale atmospheric response to tropical heat source. However,  
6 there are still several weaknesses of the data coverage, because of only a few observations  
7 in the equatorial Pacific.

8 Substantially reduced ozone concentration in the upper troposphere or just below the  
9 tropopause called "near-zero ozone concentration" is often observed in the tropical Pacific  
10 [e.g., *Kley et al.*, 1996; *Solomon et al.*, 2005]. A mechanism of the reduced ozone con-  
11 centration is supposed to be due to vertical transport of low-ozone air from the marine  
12 boundary layer (MBL) by tropical deep convection as suggested by *Kley et al.* [1996]. As  
13 will be described further below, *Solomon et al.* [2005] recently investigated the spatial vari-  
14 ation of the reduced ozone concentration in the tropics and subtropics using the SHADOZ  
15 ozonesonde data, and found high frequency of the reduced ozone in the equatorial Pacific.

16 The Soundings of Ozone and Water in the Equatorial Region/Pacific (SOWER/ Pa-  
17 cific) mission has been running on a campaign basis since 1998 to improve our knowledge  
18 on ozone and water vapor distributions in the tropical Pacific by making coordinated ra-  
19 diosonde observations at several equatorial places. In addition to establishing climatology  
20 and variability in ozone and water vapor, the mission is intended to explore control-  
21 ling dynamical/chemical processes for these species and to collect correlative observations  
22 for satellite data validation [e.g., *Hasebe et al.*, 2007]. See also the SOWER web page  
23 (<http://sower.ees.hokudai.ac.jp/>) for details. At Christmas Island, one of those SOWER  
24 bases in the equatorial central Pacific (Figure 1), ozone and water vapor observations had  
25 been conducted in nine campaigns from 1999 to 2003. This is a very unique location since  
26 it is far from polluted air source and there has been no such observation in the equatorial  
27 central Pacific.

Figure 1

1 In this study using the SOWER observation data, we will investigate mostly ozone  
2 variations at Christmas Island in the equatorial central Pacific in relation to the mete-  
3 orological conditions and transport processes. Data description is in section 2. Results  
4 of ozone and water vapor variations at Christmas Island, particularly in the TTL, are  
5 presented in section 3. Section 4 summarizes our results.

## 2. Ozone and water vapor soundings at Christmas Island

6 For each launch at Christmas Island we used the Electrochemical Concentration Cell  
7 (ECC) ozonesonde [*Komhyr et al.*, 1995] (EN-SCI corporation 1Z, 2Z model; 2% KI  
8 unbuffered sensor solutions) with a radiosonde (Vaisala RS80-15G, RS80-15A, and RS80-  
9 15H) to obtain a vertical distribution of ozone and meteorological parameters, such as tem-  
10 perature, pressure, and relative humidity. After 2000, we also used a commercial chilled-  
11 mirror hygrometer called the Snow White [*Fujiwara et al.*, 2003] with the ozonesonde.  
12 The observations at Christmas Island are summarized in Table 1. Note that we used the Table 1  
13 Vaisala ozonesonde system (the Science Pump ECC ozonesonde connected to a Vaisala  
14 GPS radiosonde) for the first campaign in 1999.

15 Vertical distributions of ozone and meteorological parameters could be obtained from  
16 the surface to  $\sim 35$  km at the maximum with a sampling interval of  $\sim 40$  m. Figure 2 shows Figure 2  
17 vertical profiles calculated by averaging the whole observations for ozone mixing ratio in  
18 the troposphere, ozone partial pressure, and temperature at Christmas Island. The cold  
19 point tropopause is found around 16.5 km in the temperature profile. The ozone partial  
20 pressure profile clearly shows the ozone layer with a maximum around 27–28 km, and  
21 a minimum just below the tropopause. Ozone mixing ratios are almost constant in the  
22 whole troposphere with reduced values in the MBL. The accuracy of the ECC ozonesonde  
23 is within  $\pm 5$ –10% [e.g., *Komhyr*, 1997; *Oltmans et al.*, 2001; *Smit et al.*, 2007], but it  
24 could be getting worse in very low ozone condition around the tropical upper troposphere.

1 It is called the background current problem [e.g., *Komhyr, 1997; Oltmans et al., 2001;*  
2 *Smit et al., 2007*], and we need a careful treatment for such a case.

3 In calibration for each ECC ozonesonde just before launch, we measure the background  
4 current after taking in zero ozone concentration air for about 10 minutes, but even in such  
5 a condition electric current occurs [*Komhyr, 1997*]. To derive actual ozone concentrations,  
6 we should subtract the background current from the measured electric current under an  
7 assumption that the background current is constant during each observation. Because  
8 ozone partial pressure is roughly proportional to electric current, the measurement is very  
9 sensitive to the background current in the upper troposphere where ozone partial pressure  
10 can be very low (see the minimum in Figure 2). For example in the upper troposphere,  
11 the background current error of  $0.01 \mu\text{A}$  corresponds to  $\sim 0.05 \text{ mPa}$  in partial pressure  
12 and  $\sim 5 \text{ ppbv}$  in mixing ratio. In the SOWER campaigns at Christmas Island except for  
13 the 1999 campaign, we carefully determined the background current for each ascent as a  
14 minimum after applying running mean ( $\sim 39$  seconds) to the measured current during the  
15 calibration. This time scale is reasonable, because a response time of the ECC ozonesonde  
16 is in a similar order.

17 We used RS80 A-Humicap sensors before March 2000 and RS80 H-Humicap sensors after  
18 December 2000. About humidity observation the A-Humicap is valid up to 10 km (or  $-40$   
19  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in the tropics, while the H-Humicap is valid up to 12 km (or  $-50 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in relation to  
20 the temperature-dependent sensitivity of these sensors [e.g., *Fujiwara et al., 2003*]. In the  
21 upper troposphere, the Snow White, a commercial chilled-mirror hygrometer, has much  
22 better sensitivity and can capture small vertical variations [*Fujiwara et al., 2003*], although  
23 above the tropopause it cannot measure humidity correctly due to the limitation of cooling  
24 capability [*Vömel et al., 2003*]. Details of the Snow White including the model changes for  
25 improvement and the observations at Christmas Island are described by *Fujiwara et al.*  
26 [2003].

1 We used other meteorological data sets from the European Centre for Medium-Range  
2 Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) 40 years re-analysis ( $\sim$ August 2002) and the ECMWF op-  
3 erational analysis (September 2002 $\sim$ ) to cover the whole observation period. We also  
4 used the Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) data from the National Oceanic and At-  
5 mospheric Administration (NOAA) to infer deep convective activity.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Climatology in the equatorial central Pacific

6 Before presenting ozonesonde observations, we briefly show the climatology of meteorolo-  
7 gical conditions in the equatorial central Pacific. We first describe the seasonal variation  
8 that is clear over the Christmas Island. Figures 3a, b show the 20-year climatology of Figure 3  
9 the seasonal mean OLR as a proxy of deep convective activity and the seasonal mean  
10 horizontal wind at 150 hPa over the tropical Pacific. Throughout the year, an active  
11 area of large-scale convection is located around the Maritime Continent and the western  
12 Pacific. In addition, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) extends east and west  
13 at about  $5^\circ$  north of Christmas Island, while the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ)  
14 extends southeastward in the southwestward of Christmas Island. That is, Christmas  
15 Island is located at rather dry area between the ITCZ and the SPCZ throughout the  
16 year, but we see some annual variations in OLR and wind fields. During northern winter  
17 (January–February–March (JFM)) convective activity along the SPCZ is enhanced (Fig-  
18 ure 3a), while during northern summer (July–August–September (JAS)) the large-scale  
19 convective area appears over the Indochina Peninsula (Figure 3b). Meteorological fields  
20 during northern spring and autumn are basically similar to those during northern winter  
21 (not shown).

22 Except for northern summer, the zonal wind over Christmas Island is westerly corre-  
23 sponding to divergence with two anticyclonic circulations being almost symmetric with  
24 respect to the equator. The anticyclonic circulations are located around the eastward of

1 the large-scale convective area and the westward of Christmas Island (see Figure 3a at  
2  $120^{\circ}$ – $190^{\circ}$ E, for example). During northern summer (Figure 3b) the large-scale convec-  
3 tive area related to the Asian summer monsoon appears around the Bay of Bengal and  
4 Philippine, resulting in a weak southwestward flow over Christmas Island, while an exis-  
5 tence of the ITCZ is clear throughout the year. The detailed observation of zonal wind at  
6 Christmas Island derived from the VHF wind profiler is described by *Gage et al.* [1996]  
7 showing the seasonal and interannual variations associated with large-scale convective  
8 activity.

9 ENSO is a coupled ocean-atmosphere phenomenon which affects the global climate. Me-  
10 teorological conditions in the equatorial central Pacific are directly affected by large-scale  
11 convection associated with the ENSO variation. Figures 4a, b show the OLR and hori- Figure 4  
12 zontal wind distributions for the El-Niño year and La-Niña year in northern winter, using  
13 the data for three El-Niño years (1986/87, 1991/92, 2002/03) and three La-Niña years  
14 (1988/89, 1998/99, 1999/2000). In general, the convective area located in the western  
15 Pacific moves eastward in the El-Niño year, bringing rather rainy condition over Christ-  
16 mas Island and vice versa in the La-Niña year. At the same time, a divergent area with  
17 the anticyclonic circulations in the upper troposphere also moves eastward in association  
18 with the ENSO variation. Then, the weak zonal wind is observed over Christmas Is-  
19 land during the El-Niño phase as already reported by *Gage et al.* [1996]. The east-west  
20 movement of the meteorological fields in the equatorial Pacific is clear during northern  
21 winter (Figure 4), but the variations during northern summer is small and the fields  
22 are almost similar to the climatology (not shown). According to the southern oscilla-  
23 tion index (SOI) prepared by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)  
24 (<http://www.cgd.ucar.edu/cas/catalog/climind/soi.html>) for the SOWER campaign pe-  
25 riods, we had a weak El-Niño phase during 2002/2003 and weak La-Niña phases during  
26 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

### 3.2. Ozone and water vapor variations at Christmas Island

1 In this subsection, we first describe characteristics of the tropospheric ozone and water  
2 vapor variations at Christmas Island, and then we investigate a relation between the ozone  
3 variations and the meteorological conditions in the upper troposphere. Figure 5 shows Figure 5  
4 vertical profiles of ozone concentration and relative humidity for six campaigns out of  
5 nine to see gross features of ozone and water vapor distributions in the troposphere at  
6 Christmas Island. As seen in Figure 2, the ozone mixing ratio profiles show relatively low  
7 concentrations in the whole troposphere compared with other tropical observations [e.g.,  
8 *Takashima and Shiotani, 2007*]. We usually see a maximum in the middle troposphere and  
9 two minima in the upper troposphere and in the MBL where particularly low ozone mixing  
10 ratios with  $\sim 10$  ppbv are found. The ozone minimum in the upper troposphere ( $\sim 20$   
11 ppbv on the average) is located around 14 km on the mean profile, and the mixing ratio  
12 gradually increases above 14 km, possibly corresponding to the mixing barrier [*Folkins*  
13 *et al., 1999*] or the bottom of the TTL, in which the convective detrainment rapid fall off  
14 above this level. However, we need to carefully investigate the processes around this level,  
15 because campaign-to-campaign variation of the level in the ozone profiles in Figure 5 is  
16 large, which means the level should be considered as a layer rather than a simple surface  
17 as discussed by *Takashima and Shiotani [2007]*.

18 Particularly interesting in Figure 5 are the substantially reduced ozone profiles just  
19 below the tropopause during August 2002. The mixing ratio ( $\sim 10$  ppbv at 15 km) is  
20 almost similar to that found in the MBL, and it is maintained at least during the campaign  
21 period. The substantially reduced ozone concentration in the upper troposphere such as  
22 observed during the August 2002 campaign is called "near-zero ozone concentration" that  
23 was first reported by *Kley et al. [1996]* using ozonesonde data in the western Pacific  
24 during the CEPEX campaign in March 1993. In the tropical MBL, clean (low ozone  
25 precursor gases) and wet air with ultraviolet radiation keeps the ozone mixing ratio low  
26 by photochemical reactions involving hydrogen radicals [e.g., *Liu et al., 1983*; *Routhier*

1 *et al.*, 1980; *Johnson et al.*, 1990]. The source of the near-zero ozone concentration in  
2 the upper troposphere could be due to air transport from the MBL up to the upper  
3 troposphere by deep convection [*Kley et al.*, 1996]; chemical destruction on a cirrus clouds  
4 around the tropical tropopause might be another possible factor [*Roumeau et al.*, 2000].  
5 Our observations on the reduced ozone concentration seem to be quantitatively reasonable,  
6 because all four profiles during the campaign period show almost a similar low value with  
7 low variability. In addition, we carefully determined the background current of  $\sim 0.02\text{-}0.04$   
8  $\mu\text{A}$  during the campaign period as described in section 2. Details of the near-zero ozone  
9 concentration will be described in section 3.3. The La-Niña phase for the March 1999  
10 and March 2000 campaigns may result in ozone-rich condition in the middle and upper  
11 troposphere in Figure 5, in accordance with a westward shift of convective area to the west  
12 of Christmas Island. During the January 2003 campaign in the El-Niño phase, however, a  
13 convective area is very close to Christmas Island and low ozone concentrations just below  
14 the tropopause with colder tropopause temperatures ( $\sim 185\text{ K}$ ) are observed at Christmas  
15 Island.

16 In the water vapor (relative humidity) profiles in Figure 5, nearly saturated air condition  
17 in the MBL ( $< 2\text{ km}$ ) is persistently observed. As described above, this wet condition is  
18 important for photochemical destruction of ozone in the MBL, since the photochemical  
19 life time is less than 1 week [e.g., *Kley et al.*, 1996]. A dry layer just above the MBL and  
20 a wet layer around 5 km are usually observed. The wet layer around 5 km is related to  
21  $0^\circ\text{C}$  level clouds [e.g., *Johnson et al.*, 1999]. Wet condition just below the tropopause is  
22 found during August 2002 campaign, when the reduced ozone is observed there. In the  
23 upper troposphere and near the tropopause, relatively dry condition was found during the  
24 March 1999 and March 2000 campaigns under the La-Niña condition. In contrast, nearly  
25 saturated profile with respect to ice in the middle and upper troposphere is observed  
26 during the January 2003 campaign under the El-Niño condition.

1 Figure 6 shows the month-to-month variation of ozone concentrations at Christmas  
2 Island using all available observations, despite the small number of soundings for each  
3 month. As already described above, ozone mixing ratios are low ( $\sim 20$  ppbv) in the whole  
4 troposphere throughout the year with substantially low ozone concentrations in the MBL.  
5 Comparing the seasonal variation at Christmas Island with other tropical stations such as  
6 Watukosek (Indonesia) and American Samoa (the equatorial Pacific) [e.g., *Takashima and*  
7 *Shiotani*, 2007], there are some differences in the seasonality. In the upper troposphere at  
8 Christmas Island the seasonal ozone minimum is found during northern summer, but at  
9 Watukosek and American Samoa it is observed during northern winter-spring. Although  
10 the seasonality is different between these observation sites, it is found to be synchronized  
11 with local convective activities. Discussion on the mechanism will be described in the  
12 following subsection.

Figure 6

### 3.3. Near-zero ozone concentration in the upper troposphere

13 The substantially reduced ozone concentration just below the tropopause is observed  
14 and maintained during the August 2002 campaign. Figure 7 shows the monthly-averaged  
15 profiles to see how low the ozone concentration is just below the tropopause during the  
16 August 2002 campaign. The reduced ozone in the upper troposphere is first indicated by  
17 *Kley et al.* [1996] using the ozonesonde data in the western Pacific during the CEPEX  
18 campaign. Recently *Solomon et al.* [2005] investigated the spatial variation of the reduced  
19 ozone appearance in the tropics and subtropics using the SHADOZ archive, and found  
20 that high frequency of the reduced ozone appearance is observed in the equatorial southern  
21 Pacific, such as at American Samoa and also at Watukosek. The maximum fraction is  
22 observed at  $\sim 200$  hPa, and it is getting small as close to the tropopause (see Figure 3 in  
23 *Solomon et al.*, 2005).

Figure 7

24 Since *Solomon et al.* [2005] did not show the seasonality of reduced ozone appearance  
25 in the tropics, in Figure 8 we investigate vertical profiles of the seasonal frequency at

Figure 8

1 Watukosek (Indonesia) and American Samoa (the equatorial southern Pacific) where the  
2 larger values are obtained by *Solomon et al.* [2005]. Here the frequency is defined as a rate  
3 lower than 20 ppbv, which is used by *Solomon et al.* [2005]. In addition to the fraction  
4 maxima in the upper troposphere similar to those shown by *Solomon et al.* [2005], we can  
5 clearly see the seasonal variation in the upper troposphere with maxima mostly during  
6 northern winter and spring at both sites. This is consistent with the seasonal variation  
7 of convective activities in the tropics as seen in Figure 3. During northern winter-spring  
8 convective activities over the equator and the SPCZ covering Watukosek and American  
9 Samoa are enhanced. That is, seasonality of the fraction in the upper troposphere is  
10 supposed to be due to vertical transport of low-ozone air in the MBL by deep convection.  
11 In the equatorial southern Pacific (American Samoa), an altitude of the maximum fraction  
12 is almost constant along the seasonal variation and the profiles shift in parallel. The  
13 seasonal variation of the ozone concentration around the altitude is partly related to the  
14 seasonal variation of ozone in the MBL with maxima during northern summer as shown  
15 by *Oltmans and Komhyr* [1986]. On the other hand in Indonesia (Watukosek), there  
16 is a seasonal change in the maximum altitude, suggesting a relation to the seasonality  
17 in convective activity (see around 14–16 km), although there is a high fraction during  
18 northern summer around 10–12 km. As already indicated by *Solomon et al.* [2005], the  
19 fraction near the surface at Watukosek is quite low, and the high fractions in the upper  
20 troposphere could be due to advection of low-ozone air from the ocean area. The low  
21 fraction at Watukosek near surface is due to air pollution.

22 Figure 9 shows a map of the OLR and horizontal wind fields at 150 hPa during the Au-  
23 gust 2002 campaign. The large-scale convective area is observed over the Bay of Bengal  
24 and the western Pacific, and the wind field in the upper troposphere is a weak south-  
25 westward flow over Christmas Island, suggesting advection from the ITCZ, though the  
26 maximum convective area in the western Pacific is found slightly westward ( $\sim 170^\circ\text{E}$ ) from  
27 the climatology in Figure 3. The source of reduced ozone air over Christmas Island seems

Figure 9

1 to be the MBL origin in the ITCZ. From the trajectory analysis air around this altitude  
2 was advected from the ITCZ  $\sim 2\text{--}4$  days ago, although we may need further consider-  
3 ation of the trajectory calculation with the reanalysis data in the TTL. The time scale  
4 of advection can be short enough to keep the low ozone mixing ratio from the ITCZ. It  
5 is important to recall the annual variation of the horizontal wind over Christmas Island  
6 with a weak southwestward flow during northern summer (Figure 3). During the CEPEX  
7 campaign, there were deep convective clouds in the SPCZ very close to the observation  
8 point in some cases [*Kley et al.*, 1996], a distance from deep convective cloud may be  
9 another important factor for the transport process in the tropical upper troposphere.

10 Low-ozone air mass in the MBL can be supplied to the upper troposphere by deep  
11 convection in the ITCZ throughout the year, but the air can be advected to Christmas  
12 Island only in northern summer in accordance with the southwestward wind field. This  
13 is controlled by a large-scale convective area usually located in the western Pacific, and  
14 may also be affected by a convective area associated with the American summer monsoon  
15 that is found during northern summer to the northeast of Christmas Island. The different  
16 seasonality between Christmas Island and other Pacific stations is due to a seasonal change  
17 in its location of large-scale convection and associated large-scale air flow in the upper  
18 troposphere.

#### 4. Summary

19 We have conducted ozone and water vapor observation campaigns at Christmas Island  
20 ( $2^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $157^\circ\text{W}$ ; Figure 1) in the equatorial central Pacific as a part of the Soundings of Ozone  
21 and Water in the Equatorial Region (SOWER) /Pacific mission. From 1999 to 2003,  
22 nine campaigns have been performed with 33 ozonesondes (ECC) and 33 chilled-mirror  
23 hygrometers (Snow White) as shown in Table 1. This is one of the most important regions  
24 in the equatorial Pacific to consider the east-west contrast of meteorological conditions

1 associated with the Walker circulation and its variation due to the El-Niño/ Southern  
2 Oscillation (ENSO).

3 From ozonesonde observations, we found that ozone concentration at Christmas Island  
4 is low over the whole troposphere. In particular just below the tropopause during the Au-  
5 gust 2002 campaign period we observed substantially reduced ozone concentrations (<10  
6 ppbv) similar to those found in the marine boundary layer (MBL), which are maintained  
7 at least during the campaign period. The observed seasonality of the reduced ozone con-  
8 centration just below the tropopause at Christmas Island differ from those at Watukosek  
9 (Indonesia) and at American Samoa (the equatorial southern Pacific) where *Solomon*  
10 *et al.* [2005] observed the maximum appearance during northern winter and spring in the  
11 upper troposphere. From meteorological conditions we found that air was advected from  
12 the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) located at 300–1000 km north of Christmas  
13 Island, in accordance with the northeasterly wind in the upper troposphere, suggesting  
14 that the origin of air mass is from the MBL in the ITCZ.

15 Although measurements on the substantially reduced ozone concentration can be quan-  
16 titatively reasonable with our careful treatment of the ECC calibration, additional obser-  
17 vations may be needed for more detailed discussion. For future studies on the mechanism  
18 of the reduced ozone concentration in the TTL, a quantitative estimate on chemical pro-  
19 cesses, such as chemical reaction on ice as indicated by *Roumeau et al.* [2000] may be  
20 important. We need additional investigation for various processes in the TTL involving  
21 ozone variation to clarify the STE mechanisms.

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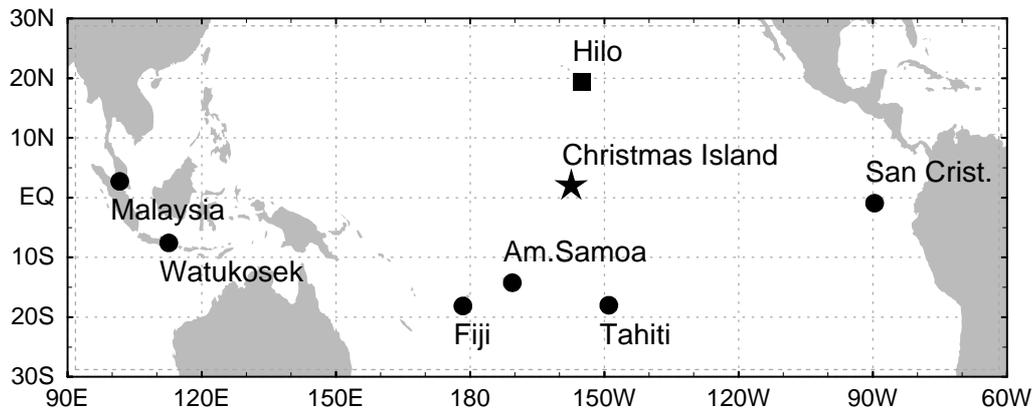
1 meteorological analysis and reanalysis data. The figures were produced with the GFD-  
2 Dennou Library.

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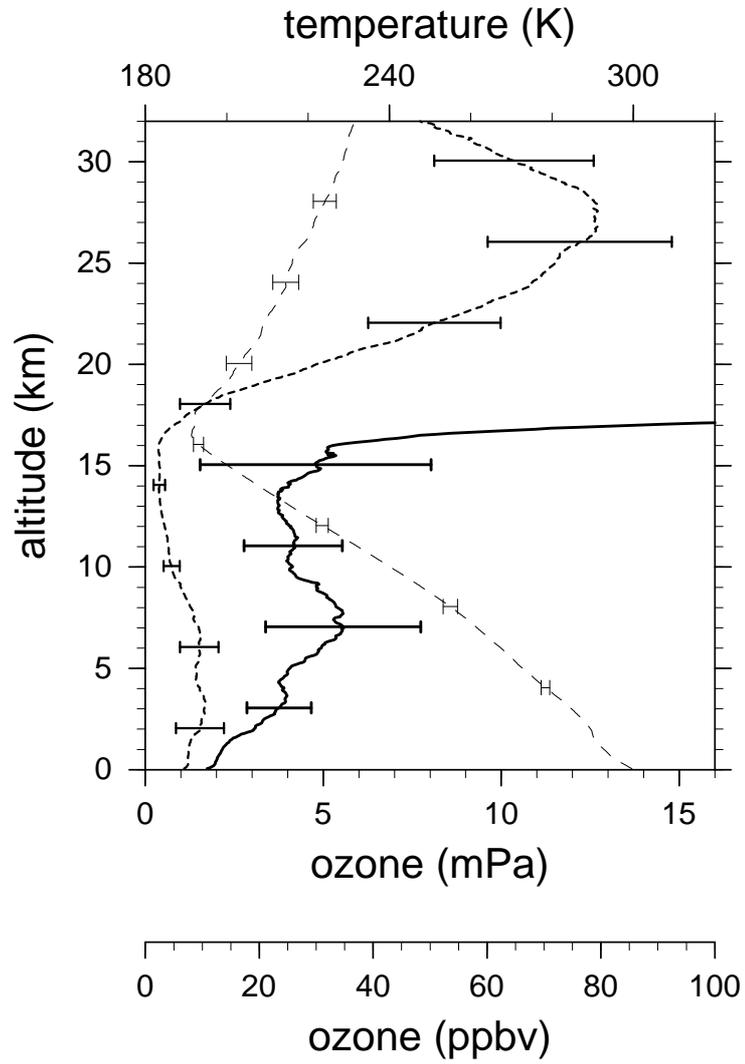
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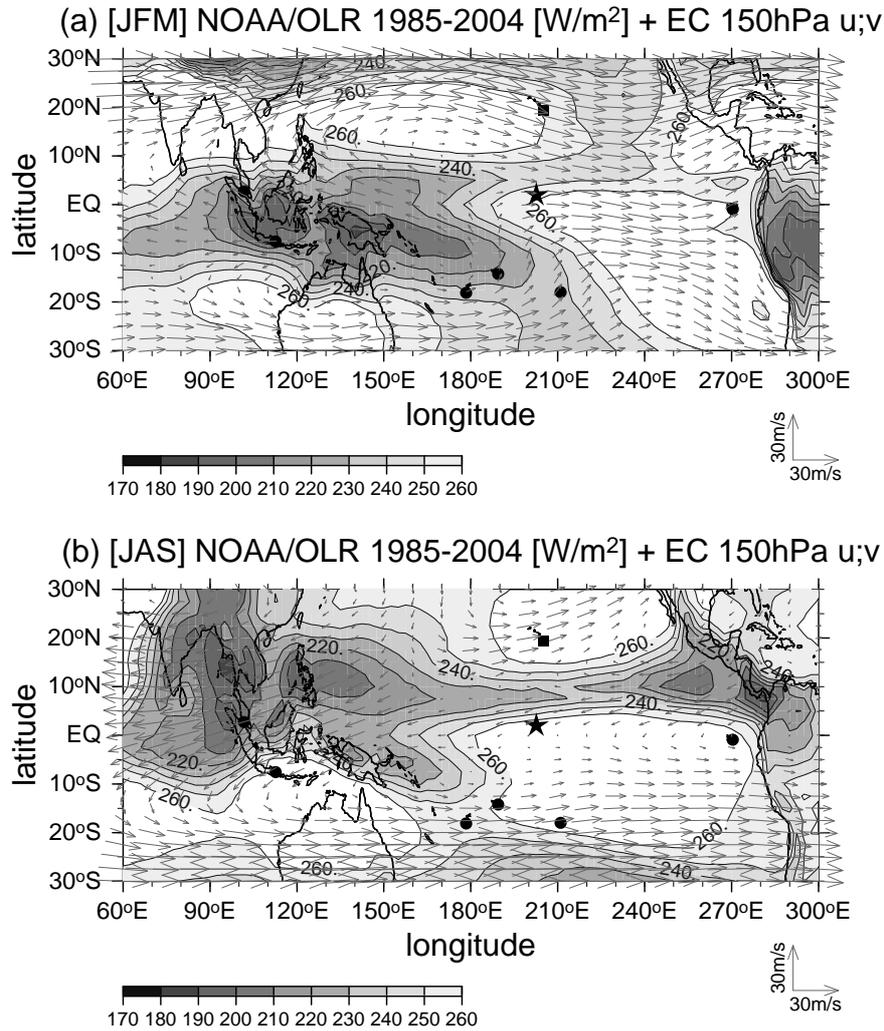
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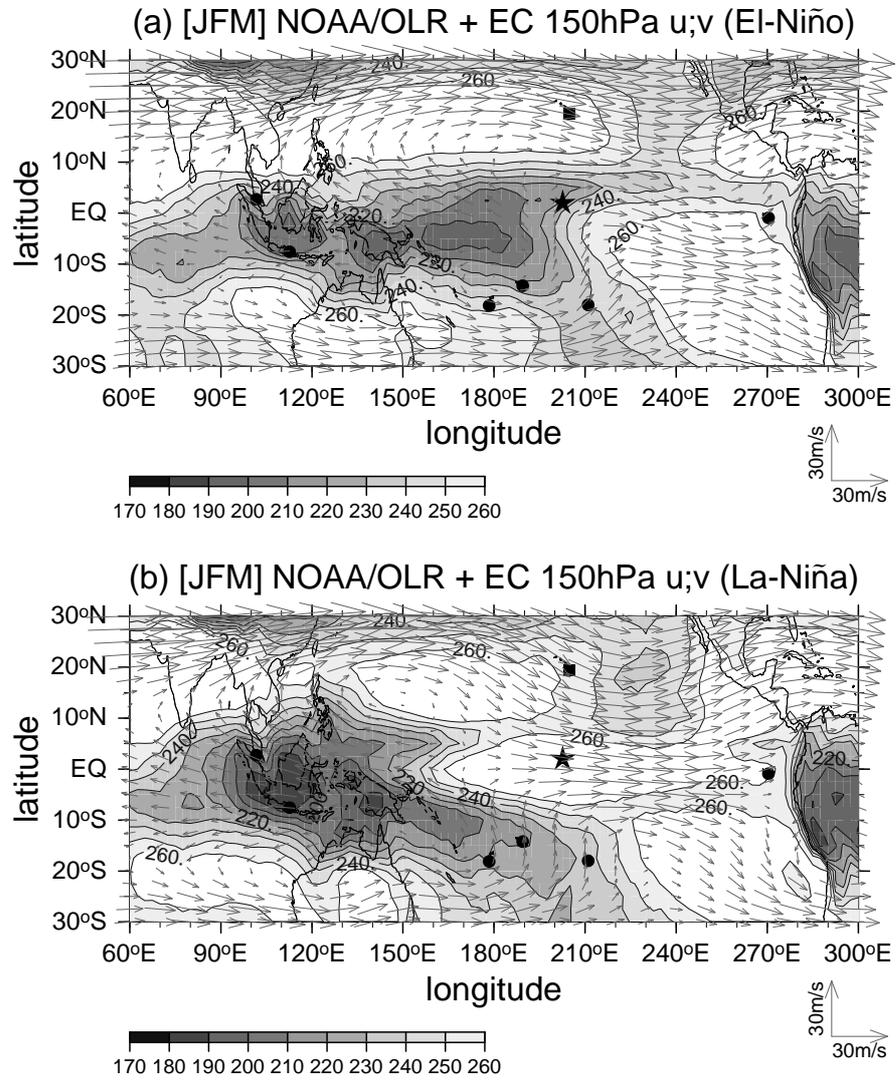
**Figure 1.** Locations of the tropical Pacific ozonesonde station from SHADOZ (circles), and that of Hilo (Hawaii) and Christmas Island ( $157^{\circ}\text{W}$ ,  $2^{\circ}\text{N}$ ) (star).



**Figure 2.** Mean vertical profiles of ozone volume mixing ratio [ppbv; solid], ozone partial pressure [mPa; thick dashed], and temperature [K; thin dashed] at Christmas Island. Error bars indicate  $\pm$  one standard deviations.

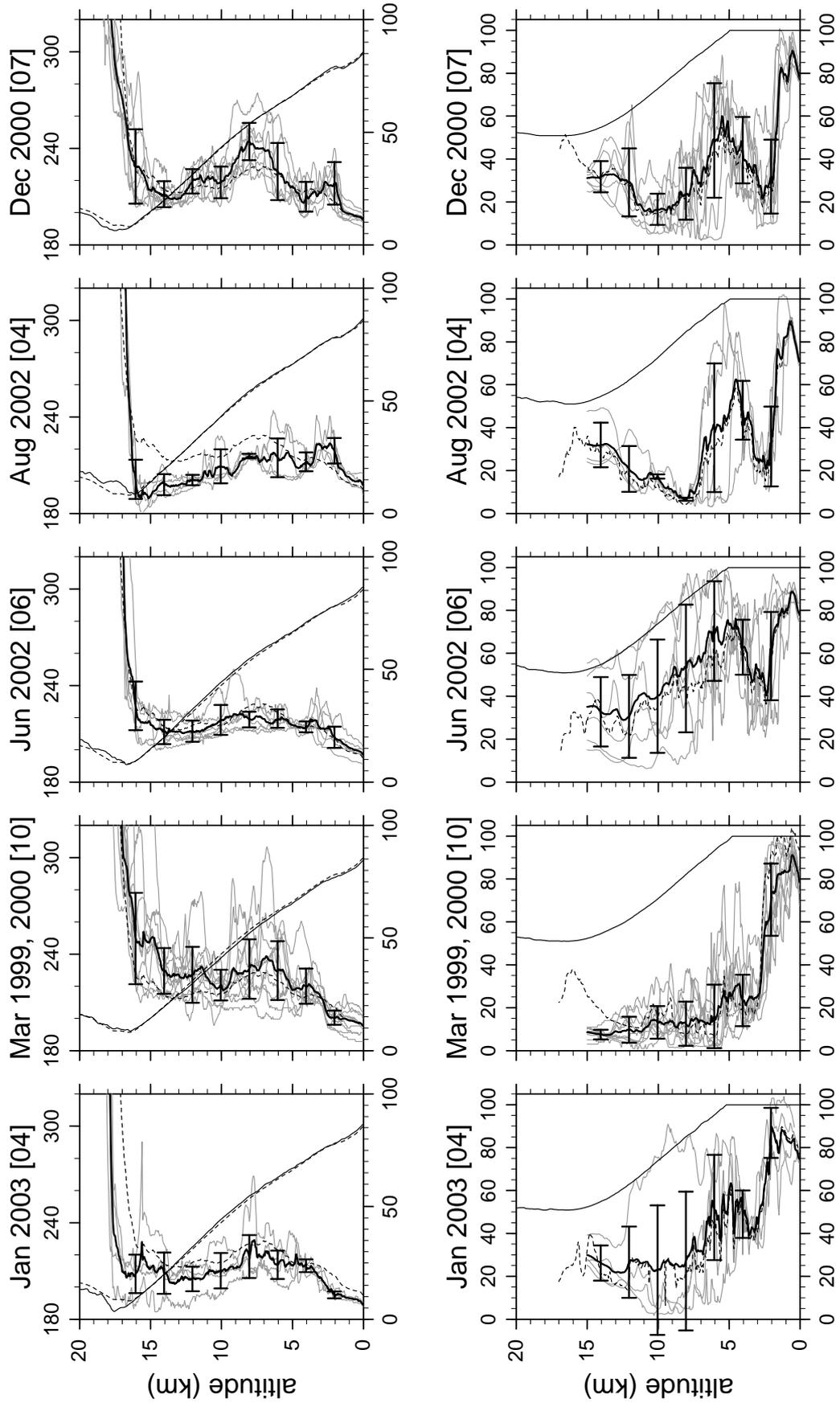


**Figure 3.** The 20-year mean climatology (1985-2004) of the NOAA/OLR [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] and the ECMWF horizontal wind (vector) at 150 hPa for northern winter (a: January–March) and summer (b: July–September). The star indicates the location of Christmas Island ( $2^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $157^\circ\text{W}$ ).



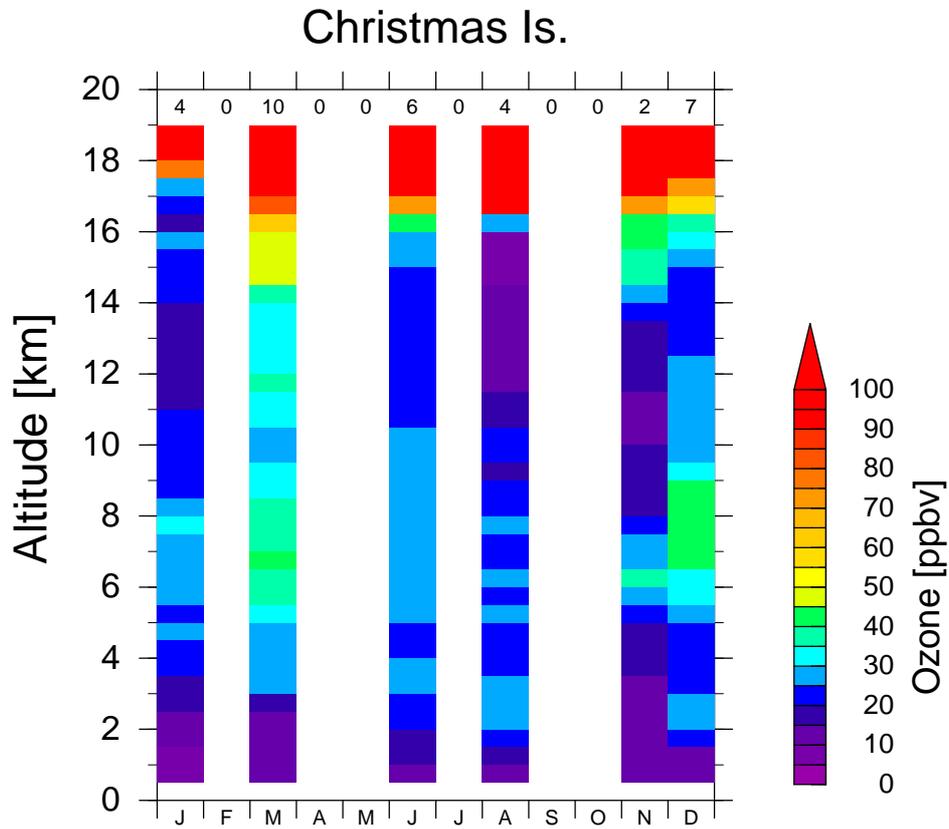
**Figure 4.** As Figure 3, but for (a) the El Niño (1986/87, 1991/92, 2002/03) years, and for (b) the La-Niña (1988/89, 1998/99, 1999/00) years during January–March.

**Figure 5.** (top) Vertical profiles of ozone mixing ratio [ppbv] and temperature [K] and (bottom) relative humidity with respect to liquid water [%] at Christmas Island. Thick solid lines in the top panels indicate averaged ozone profiles and error bars indicate  $\pm$ one standard deviations. The ozone and temperature profiles averaged over all campaigns at Christmas Island are superimposed (dashed lines). Thick solid lines and thin solid lines in the bottom panels indicate averaged relative humidity profiles and saturation relative humidity profiles, respectively (see *Fujiwara et al.* [2003] for details of the saturation relative humidity profiles). Averaged relative humidity profiles obtained by the Snow White are also indicated (dashed line). The number of observations for each campaign is shown in the right of the top title.

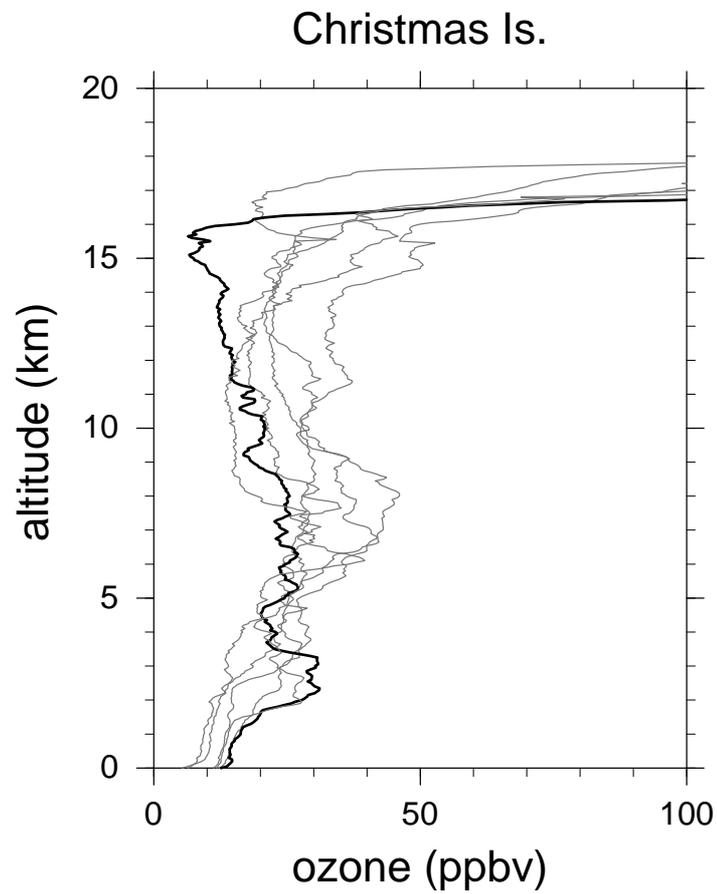


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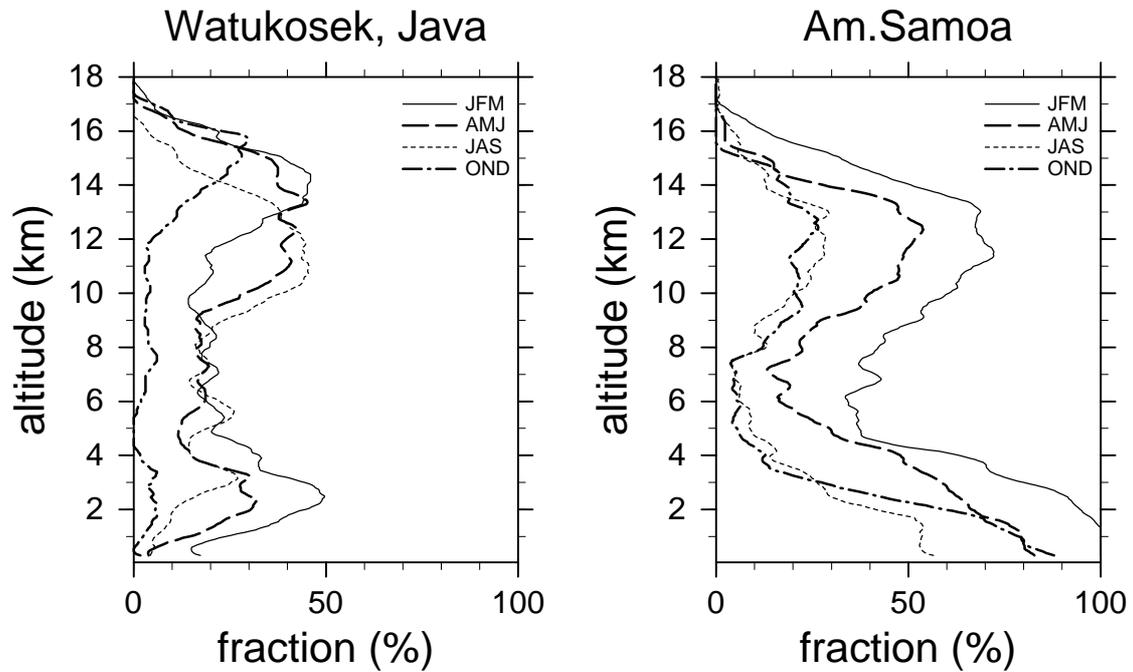
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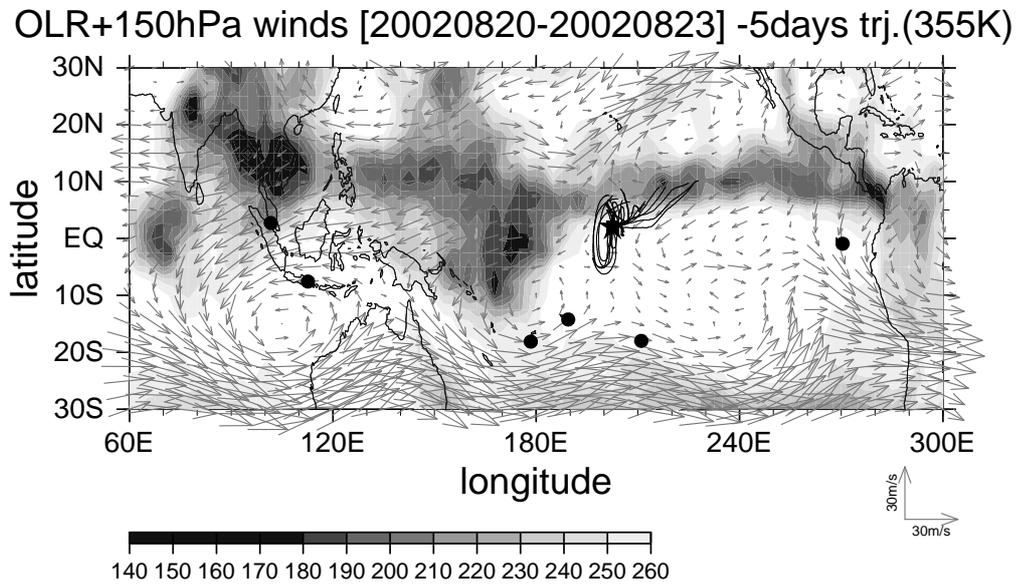
**Figure 6.** Vertical distributions of ozone mixing ratio (ppbv) for each month averaged in 0.5 km bins at Christmas Island. The number of observations for each month is shown in the upper part of this figure.



**Figure 7.** Monthly mean profiles of ozone mixing ratio [ppbv] at Christmas Island. The thick solid line shows the ozone profile for August 2002.



**Figure 8.** Vertical profiles of the occurrence frequency of ozone mixing ratios below 20 ppbv at Watukosek (Indonesia) and American Samoa for each season. The analysis is made for the period using mid-1998 to mid-2003 from the SHADOZ archive.



**Figure 9.** A map of the OLR [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] and the horizontal wind fields at 150 hPa during the August 2002 campaign (4-day mean). Five-day isentropic back-trajectories on 355 K level ( $\sim 15$  km) starting every 6 hour from 00 UTC 20 to 00 UTC 24 August 2002 are also superimposed. The trajectory calculation using horizontal wind fields from the ECMWF 40-year reanalysis is stopped when trajectory passes over a deep convective area ( $\text{OLR} < 190 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ ). The star indicates the location of Christmas Island ( $2^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $157^\circ\text{W}$ ).

**Table 1.** The Number of ECC Ozonesonde, Snow White Water Vapor Sonde Soundings, and Radiosonde (Vaisala RS-80) Soundings at Christmas Island (2°N, 157°W)

	Date	Ozonesonde	Water vapor	Radiosonde	
1999	Feb 25-Mar 9	Feb 28*, Mar 2*, 4*, 6*	4 (Science Pump 6A)	-	27
	Sep 17-28	-	-	-	23
2000	Mar 10-18	Mar 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18	6 (EN-SCI 2Z)	6	6
	Nov 30-Dec 6	Nov 30, Dec 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7 (EN-SCI 1Z)	7	7
2001	Nov 27-30	Nov 27 <sup>†</sup> , 28 <sup>†</sup> , 29 <sup>†</sup> , 30 <sup>†</sup>	-	4	4
2002	Jun 19-27	Jun 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27	6 (EN-SCI 1Z)	6	6
	Nov 2	Nov 2	2 (EN-SCI 1Z)	2	2
	Aug 20-23	Aug 20, 21, 22, 23	4 (EN-SCI 1Z)	4	4
2003	Jan 21-24	Jan 21, 22, 23, 24	4 (EN-SCI 1Z)	4	4
total			33	33	83

<sup>†</sup>only Water Vapor sonde, \*only Ozonesonde