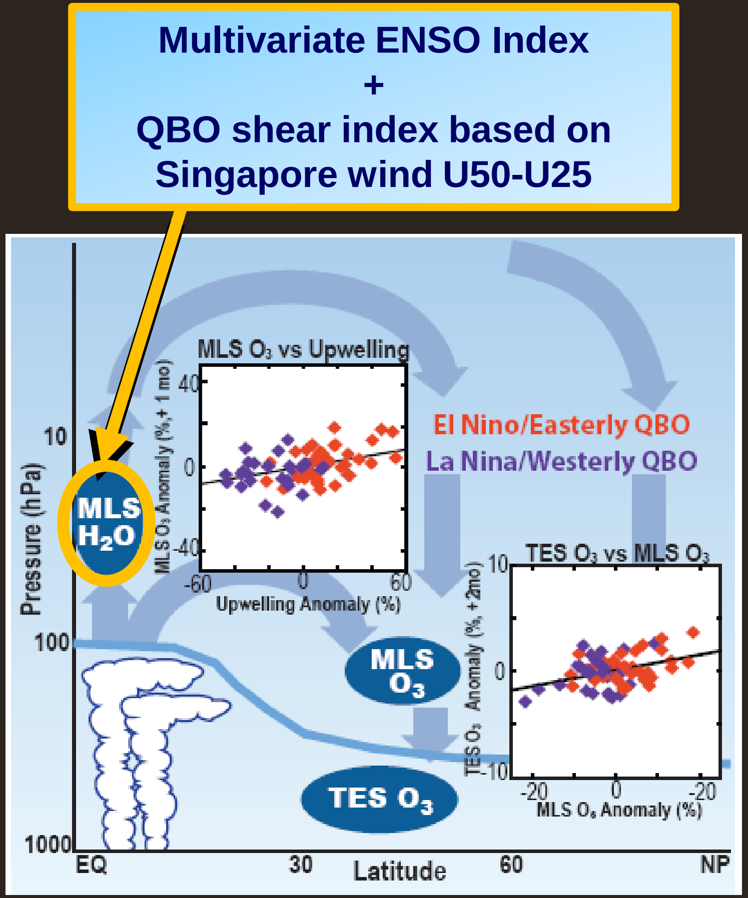
Comparing QBO and ENSO impacts on stratospheric transport in WACCM-SD and -FR

CESM Chemistry WG Meeting

Boulder, CO | February 10, 2016

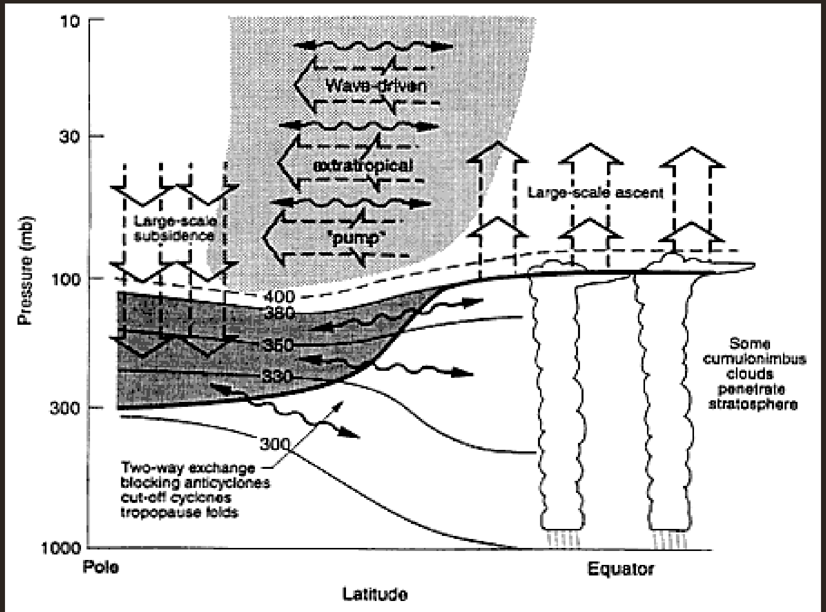
Jessica L. Neu[1], Douglas Kinnison[2], Sasha Glanville[2], Meemong Lee[1], Thomas Walker[1]

[1]NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Caltech, Pasadena, CA; [2] National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO

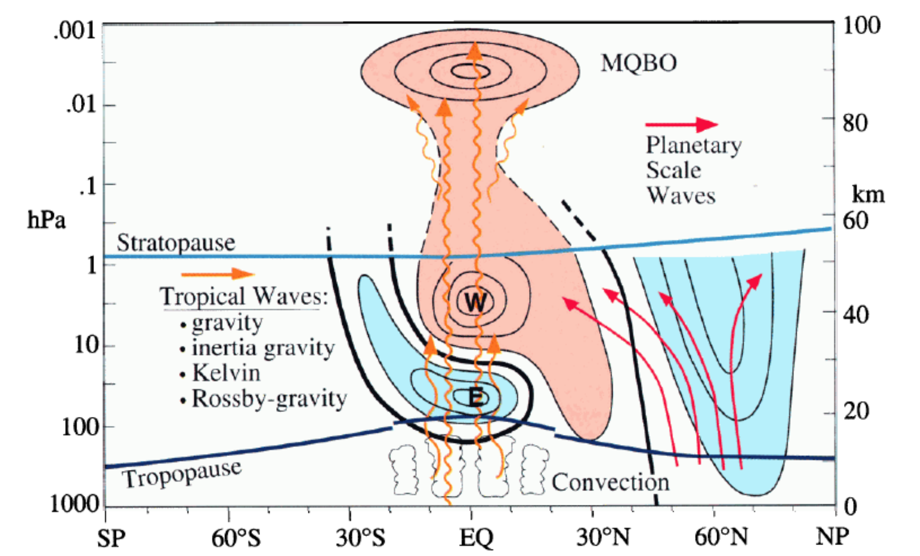


Neu et al., *Nature Geoscience*, 2014

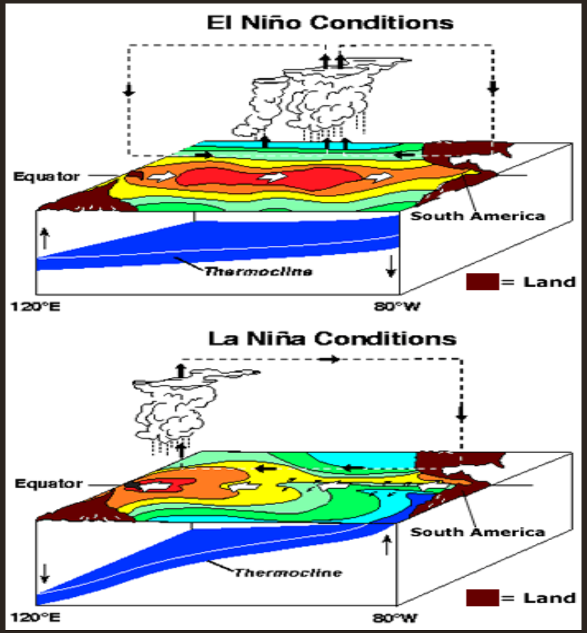
The Wave-Driven Circulation



QBO Zonal Wind Shear
Free Univ. of Berlin, B. Naujokat



ENSO Changes in Convection and the Walker Circulation

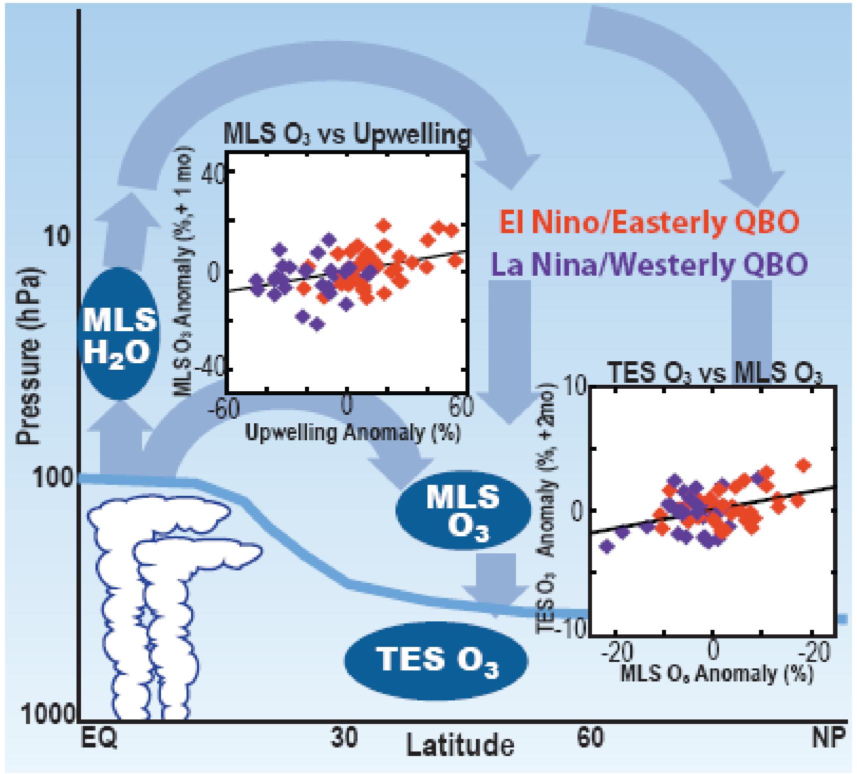


- Both QBO and ENSO also alter the circulation by modulating the propagation and dissipation of the waves that drive circulation (e.g. Dunkerton and Baldwin JAS, 1991; Calvo et al., JAS, 2010)
- The QBO also drives a secondary meridional circulation via thermal wind balance, with relative upwelling at the equator during the easterly shear phase and relative downwelling during the westerly shear phase (Plumb and Bell, QJRMS, 1982). During the solstices, the circulation extends deep into the winter hemisphere (Kinnersley, JAS, 1999).
- QBO and ENSO may interact nonlinearly to modulate the circulation (e.g. Garfinkel and Hartmann, JGR, 2007).

Natural variability in the stratospheric circulation allows us to empirically derive the response of tropospheric ozone to changes in the circulation

- El Nino/Easterly QBO increase the strength of the stratospheric circulation and transport from the ozone maximum down to the midlatitude lower stratosphere
- This leads to increased STE and increased midlatitude tropospheric ozone
- La Nina/Westerly QBO are associated with decreases in the strength of the circulation, STE, and O_3
- Focus on 2005-2010, NH

datasets used in this study



Multivariate ENSO Index (Wolter and Timlin 1993, 1998)
QBO shear index based on Singapore wind U50-U25
(Free Univ. Berlin, updated from Naujokat 1986)

Microwave Limb Sounder Water Vapor
Microwave Limb Sounder Ozone

Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer Ozone

Neu et al., *Nature Geoscience*, 2014

Why do we need to more fully understand the tropospheric ozone response to changes in the stratospheric circulation?

Chemistry-climate models robustly predict strengthening of the large-scale stratospheric circulation and stratosphere-troposphere exchange (STE) in response to increasing greenhouse gases, with uncertain consequences for tropospheric ozone.

We use the WACCM Chemistry-Climate Model in both specified dynamics (SD) and free-running (FR) modes to investigate how ENSO & QBO impact…

1. Transport circulation (total) vs the residual circulation (w*) in the tropics
2. Deep branch transport
3. Stratosphere-to-troposphere O_3 transport in the NH mid-latitudes

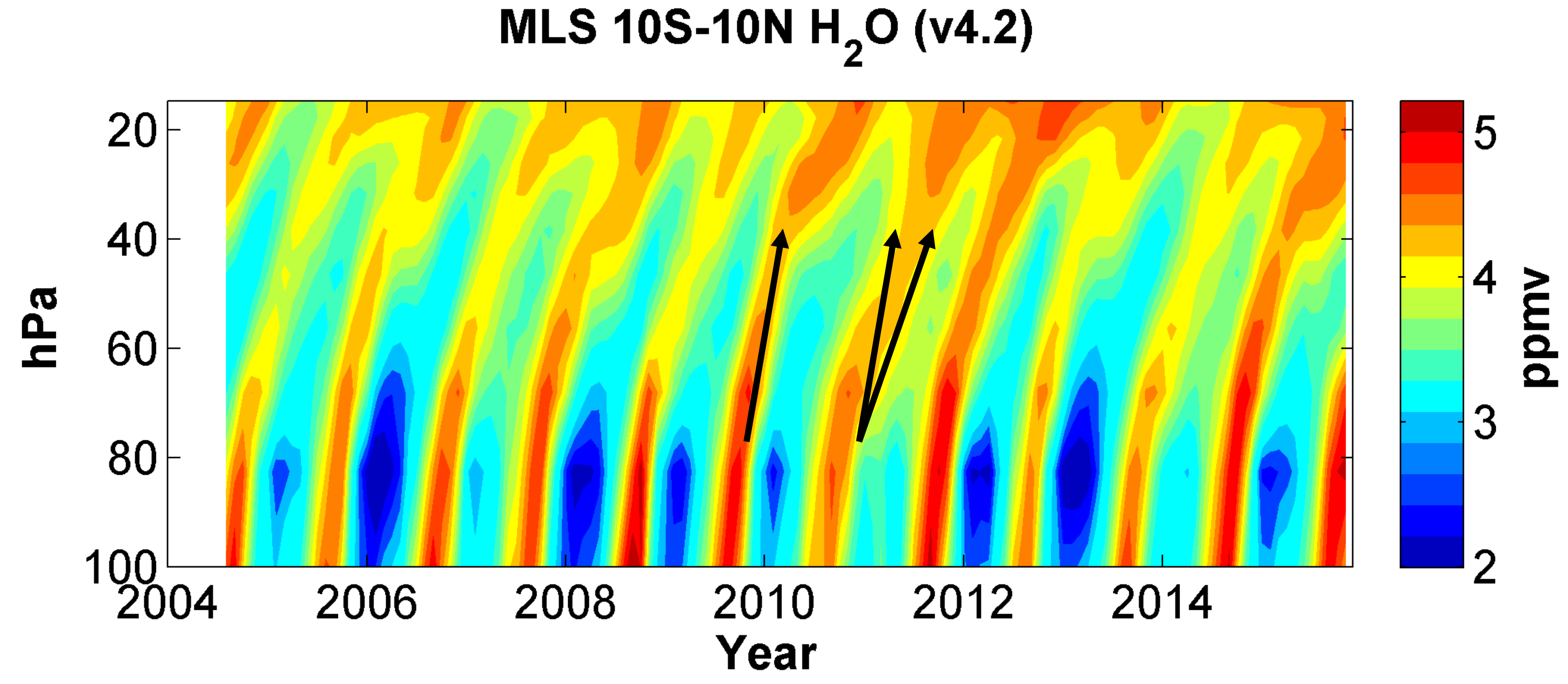
→ **comparing observations to WACCM**

Because water vapor is conserved after passing through the cold point, it's like a sound recorded on a tape…

Tape Recorder velocity (w_{TR})

method based on Schoeberl et al., 2008 and Niwano, 2003

an effective velocity that measures $\overline{w}^*$ + vertical mixing + horizontal mixing

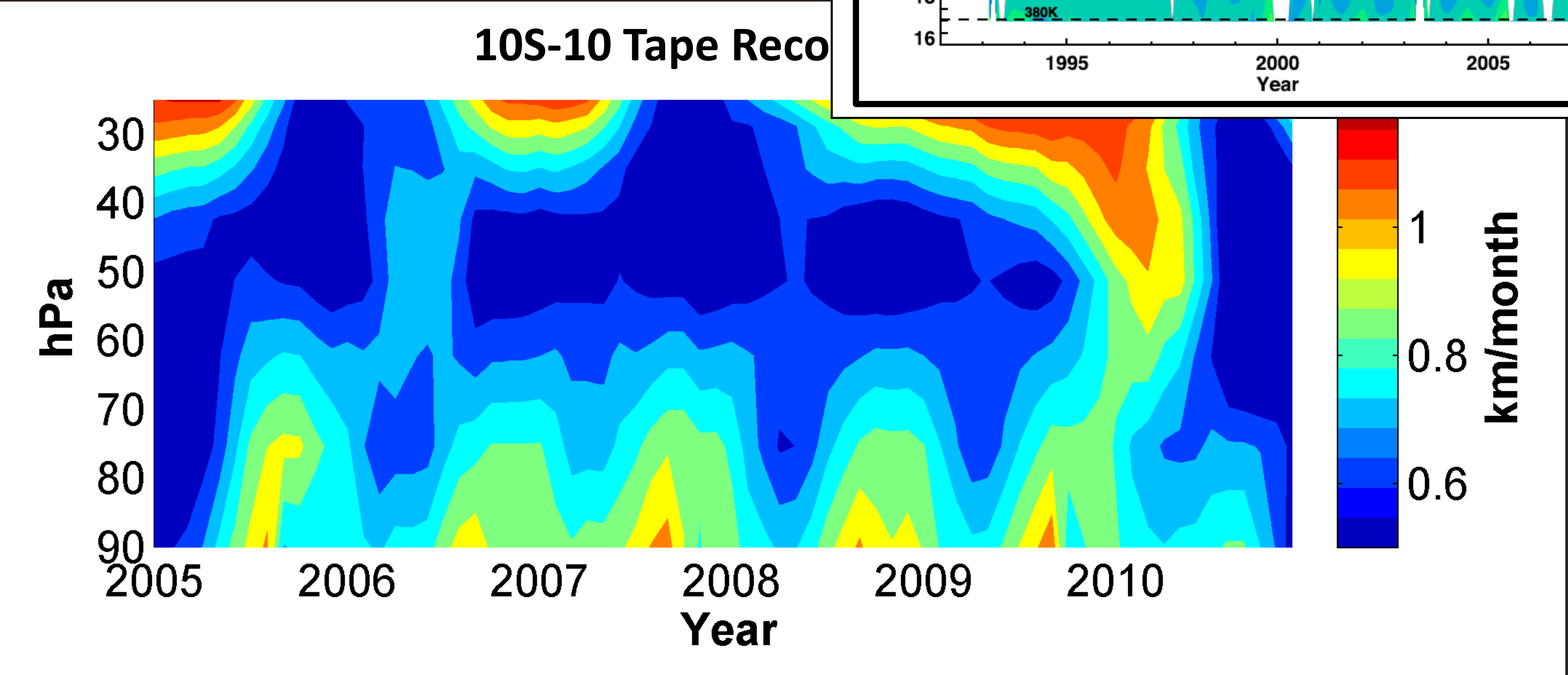


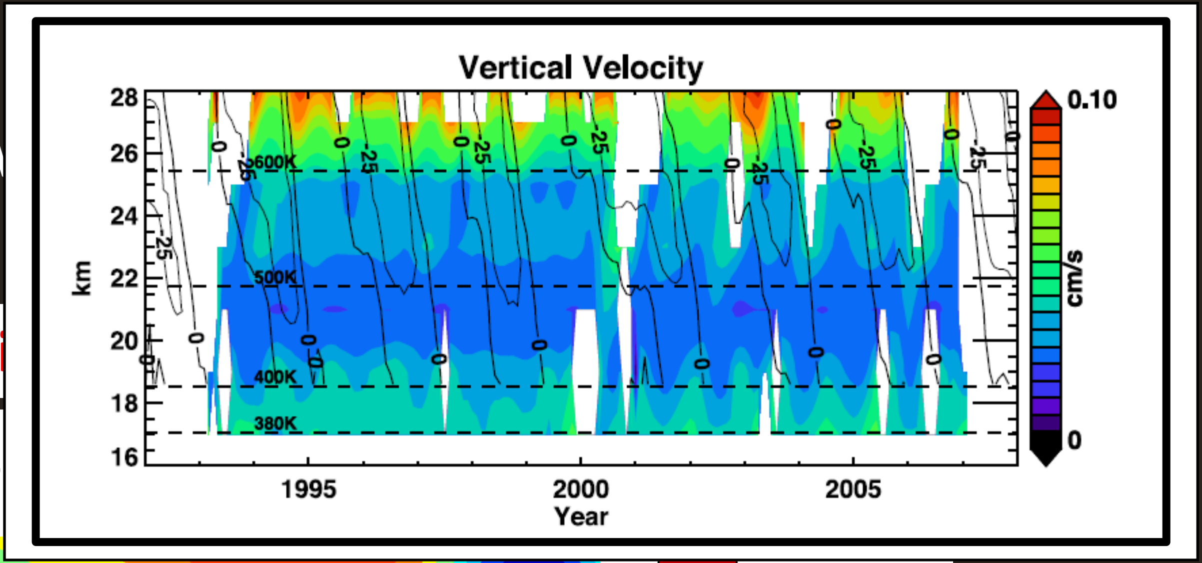
Because water vapor is conserved after passing through the cold point, it's like a sound recorded on a tape…

Tape Recorder velocity (w

method based on Schoeberl et al., 2008 and

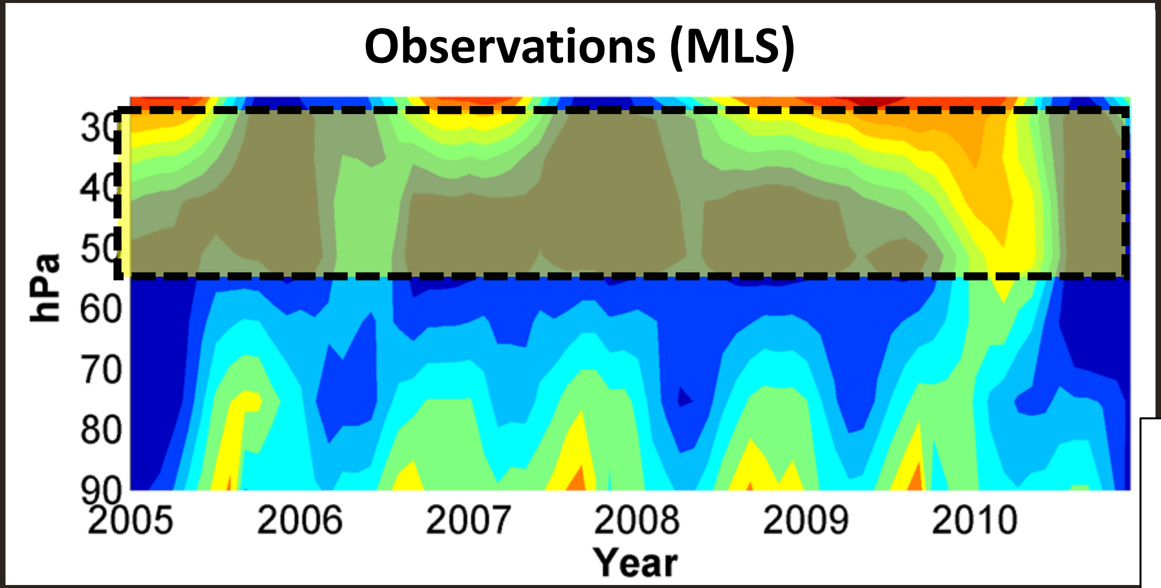
total transport velocity = $\bar{w}^*$ + verti

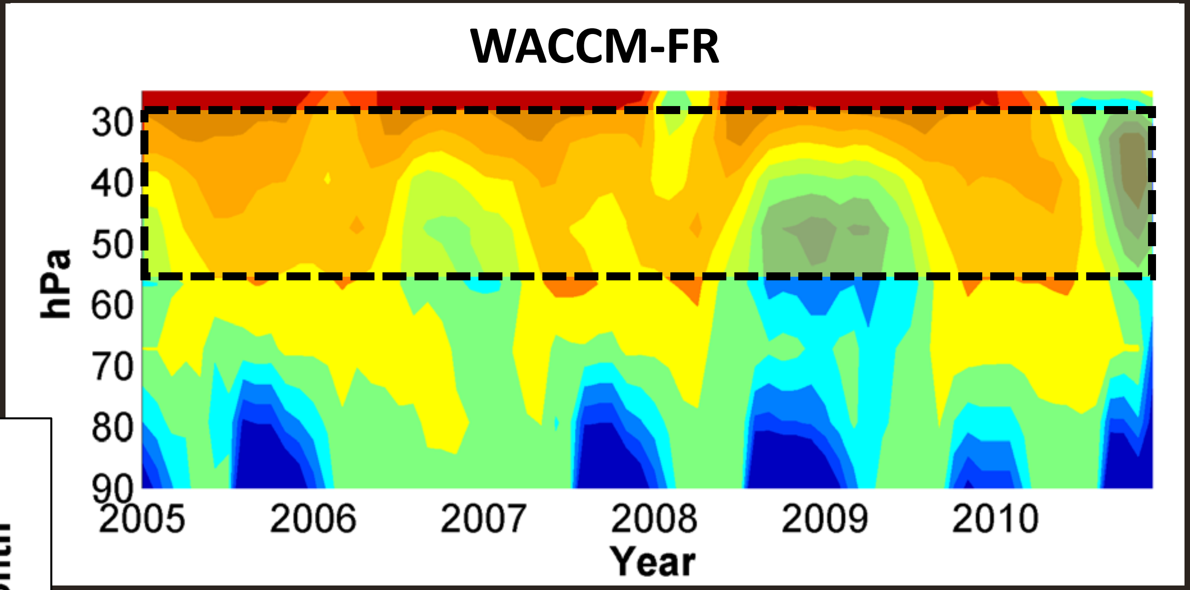


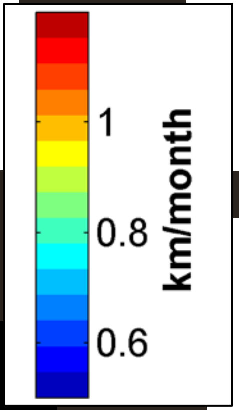


Tape Recorder velocity w_{TR}

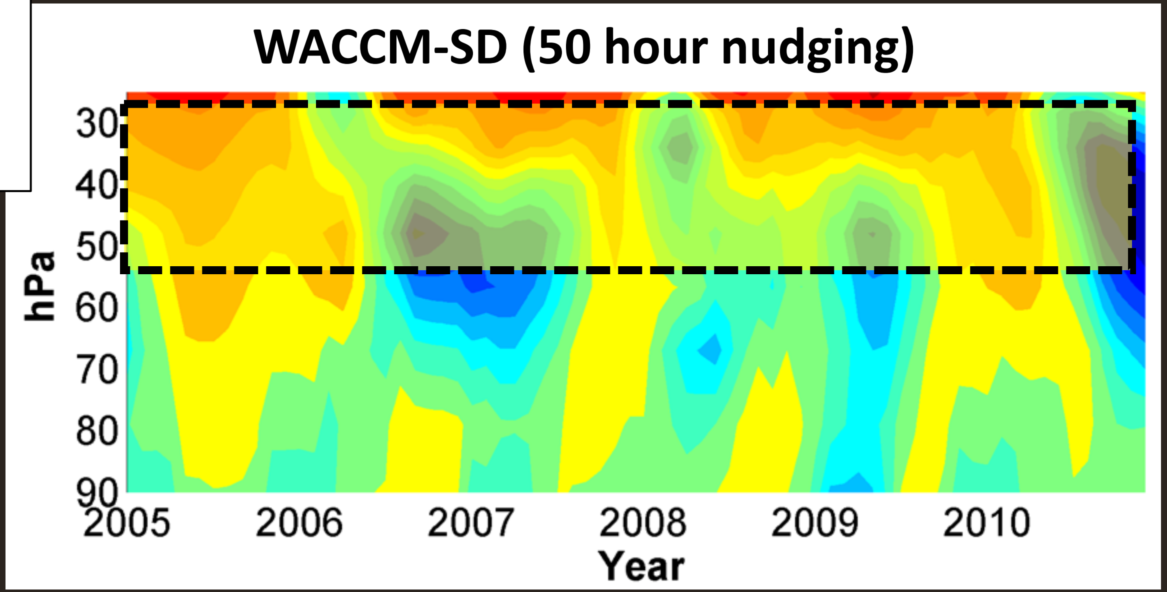
Fourier transform results
~75 day lead at 50 hPa







In each simulation, the dry signal moves too fast (esp. during May/June) while the wet signal matches MLS very well



~45 day lead at 50 hPa

Upwelling in the Tropics

total transport vs residual circulation

w_{TR} Total Circulation

$\bar{w}^*$ Residual Circulation

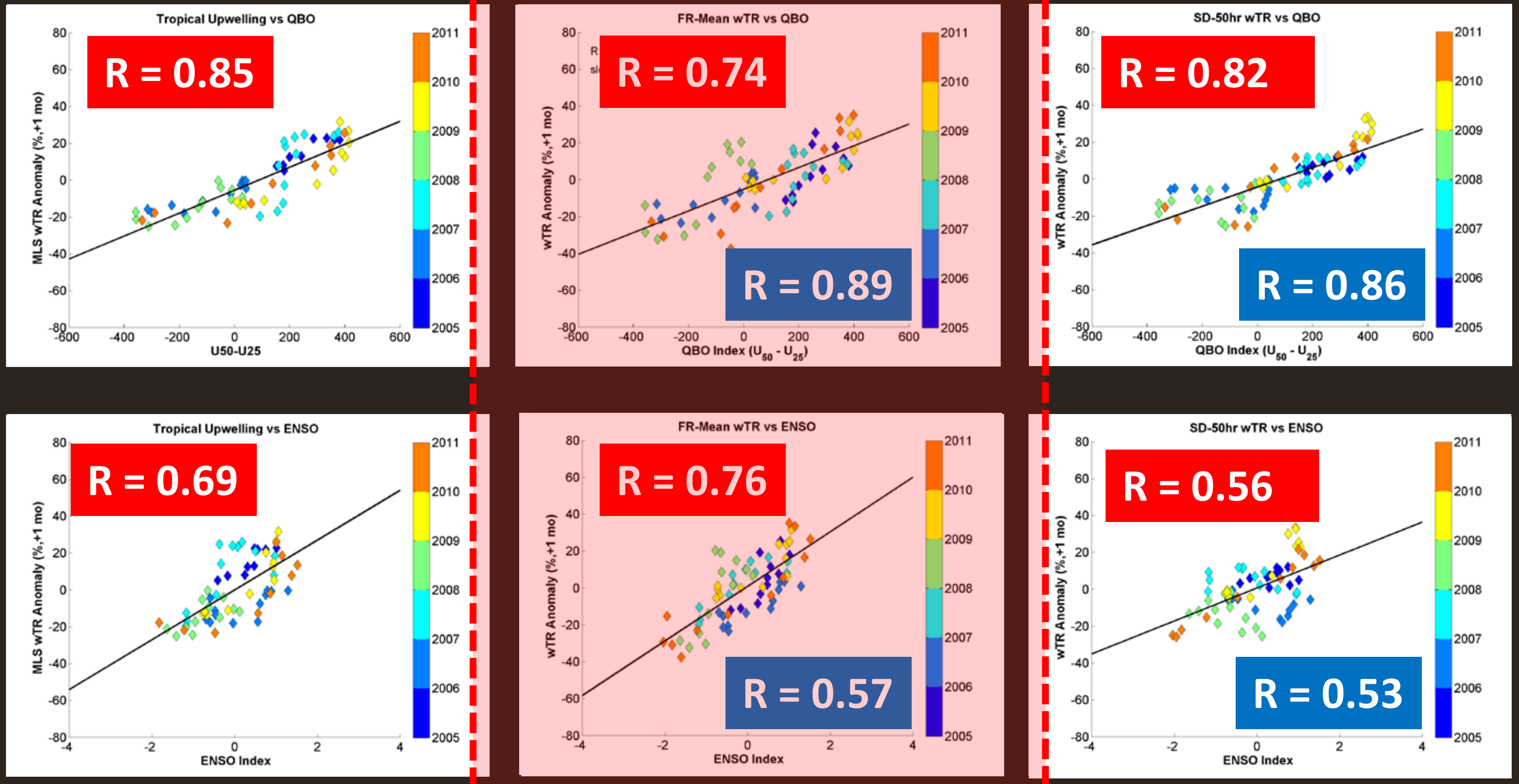
Tropical vertical transport response to ENSO and QBO

for 2005 thru 2010 QBO/ENSO R = 0.67

Observations | WACCM-FR | WACCM-SD (50hr)

w_{TR} vs QBO

w_{TR} vs ENSO



Note: w_{TR} anomalies taken between 56-25 hPa

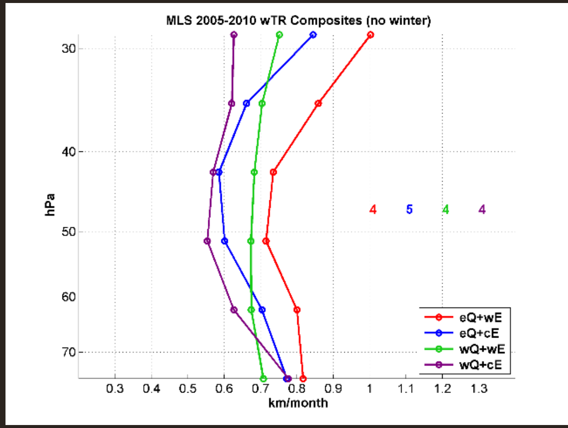
Tropical vertical transport composites

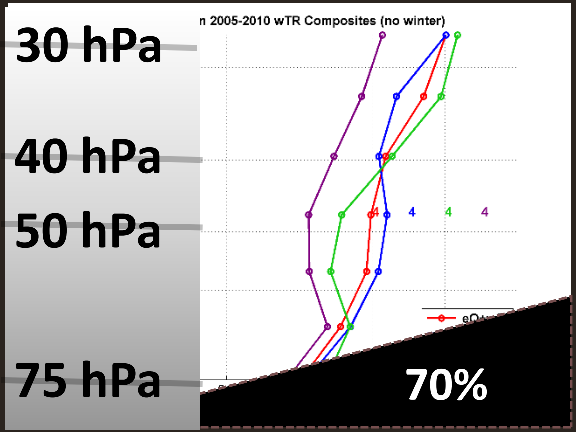
for different QBO/ENSO combinations

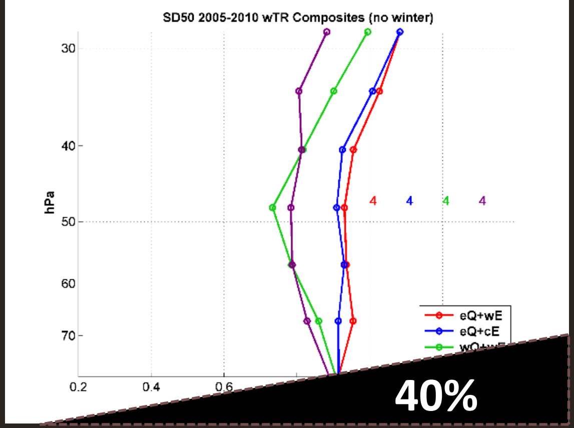
for 2005 thru 2010
QBO/ENSO R = 0.67

warm ENSO dominates	?	easterly QBO dominates
Observations	**WACCM-FR**	**WACCM-SD (50hr)**

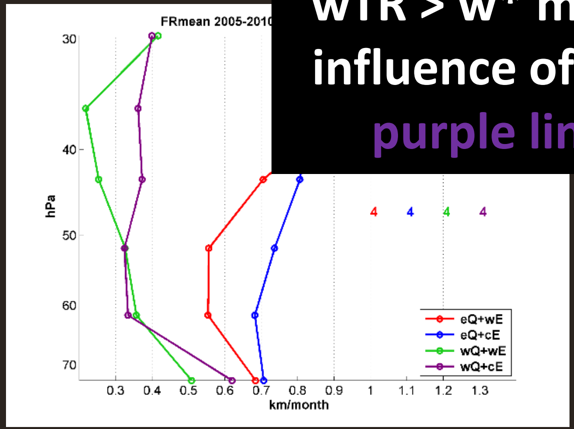
w_{TR}



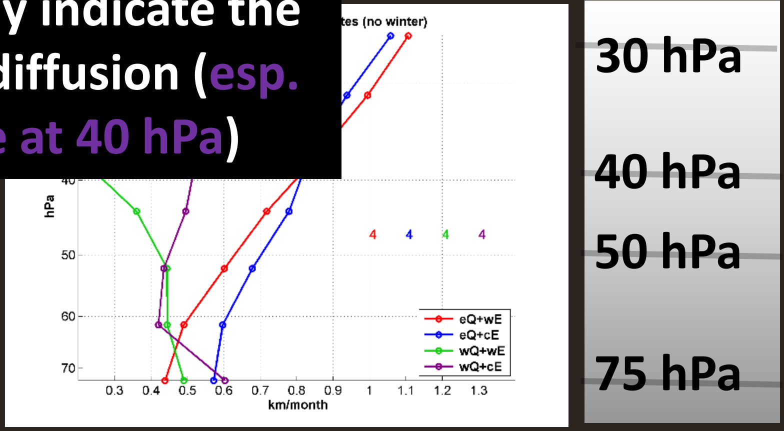




$\overline{w}^*$



wTR > w* may indicate the influence of diffusion (esp. purple line at 40 hPa)



- easterly QBO + warm ENSO
- easterly QBO + cold ENSO
- westerly QBO + warm ENSO
- westerly QBO + cold ENSO

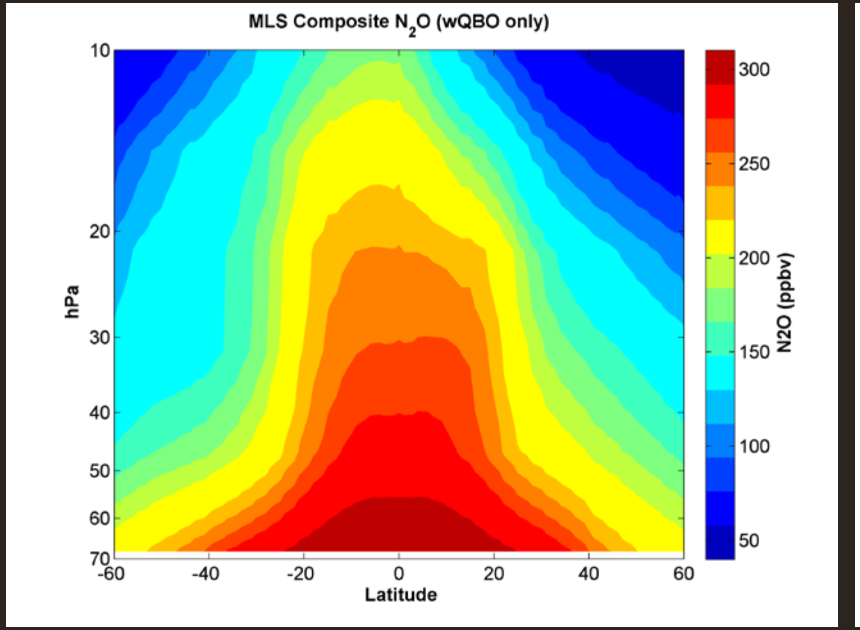
Deep Branch Transport

using N_2O

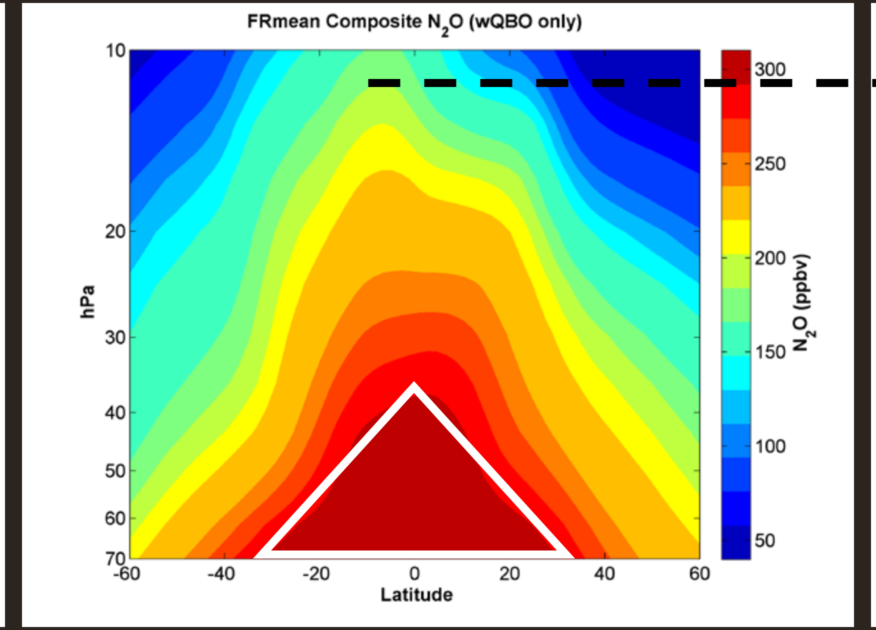
N_2O Composites for westerly QBO

for 2004 thru 2014
QBO/ENSO R = 0.47

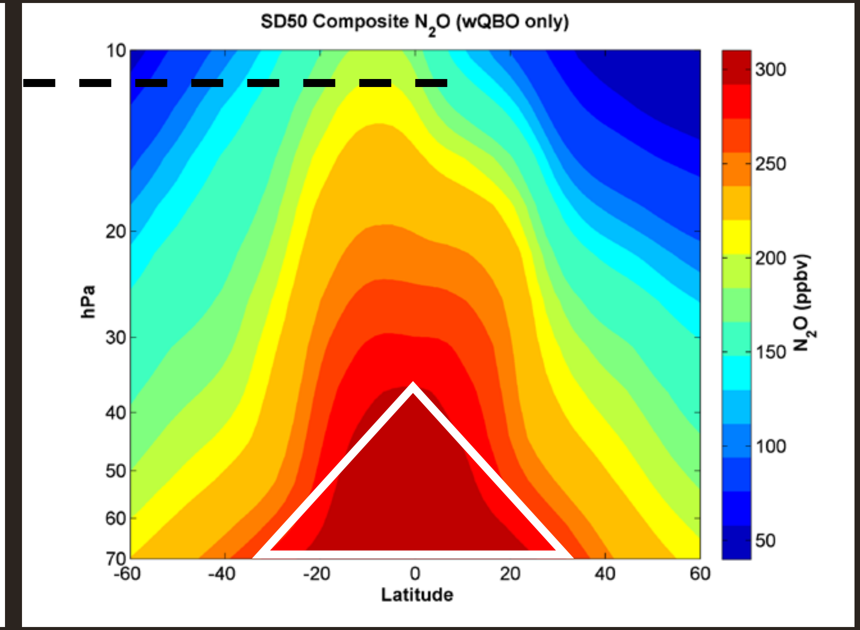
Observations



WACCM-FR



WACCM-SD (50hr)

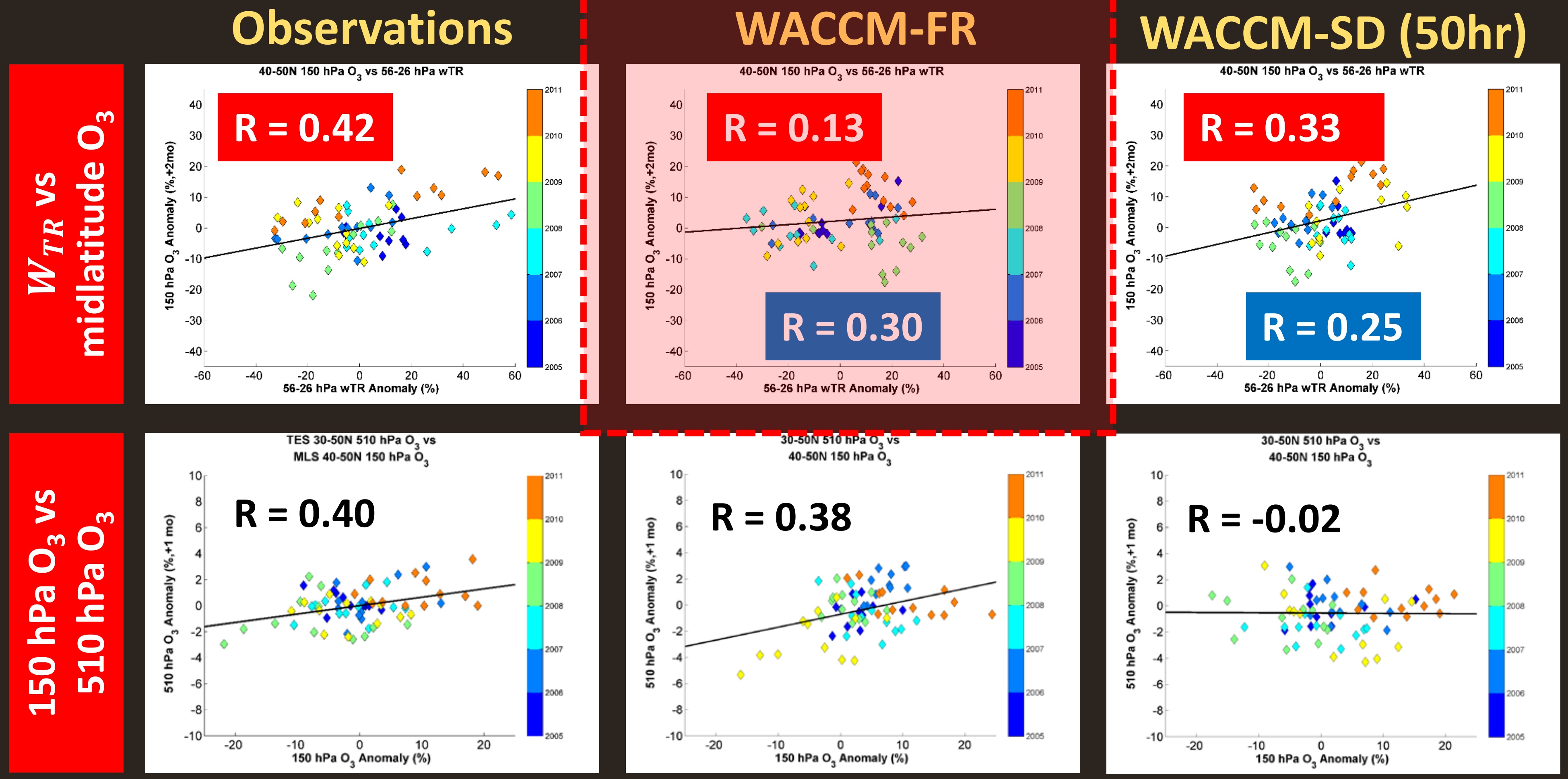


w_{TR} Total Circulation

$\overline{w}^*$ Residual Circulation

Midlatitude (40N-50N) stratospheric (150 hPa) ozone response to wTR

for 2005 thru 2010
QBO/ENSO R = 0.67



Note: w_{TR} anomalies taken between 56-25 hPa

Conclusions

- Both ENSO and QBO drive year-to-year changes in the circulation, but model/observation agreement depends on your location
  - Tropical Upwelling: FR and SD
  - Deep Branch Transport: SD
  - Midlatitude Ozone Flux: FR (Neu's talk)
- **Middle-stratosphere tropical total transport (wTR) variability**
  - **FR is driven equally by QBO and ENSO**
  - **SD is driven more by QBO (~30%) than ENSO**
  - **Observations are driven more by QBO (~20%) than ENSO**
- **On all measures, there is a larger wTR vs w* difference in the FR**
  - Meaning potentially more vertical or horizontal diffusion in FR
  - Westerly phase of QBO reaches further poleward in FR → RW could propagate further equatorward → more mixing between the tropics/subtropics and midlatitudes (between 50-70 hPa)

Tropical vertical transport driven by different waves

Downward control calculations show significant differences in the wave-driven response to ENSO and QBO in FR and SD

Note: Downward control taken over 22S-22N

easterly QBO + warm ENSO

easterly QBO + cold ENSO

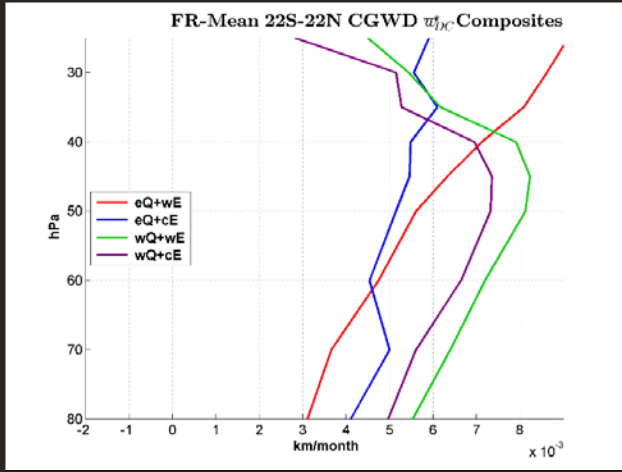
westerly QBO + warm ENSO

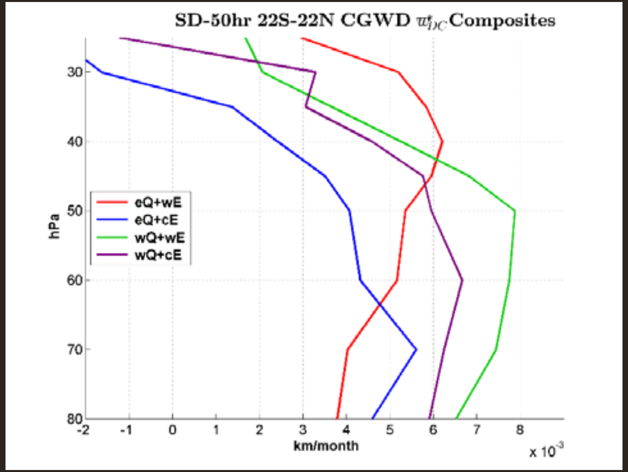
westerly QBO + cold ENSO

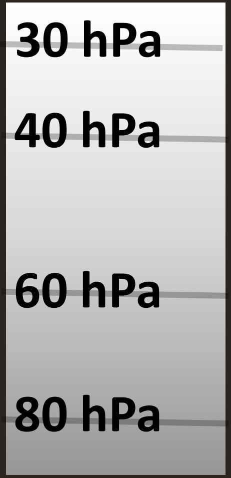
WACCM-FR

WACCM-SD (50hr)

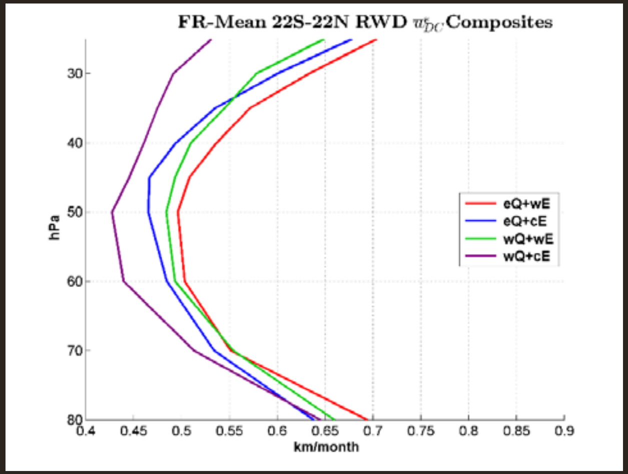
Convection-generated GWs

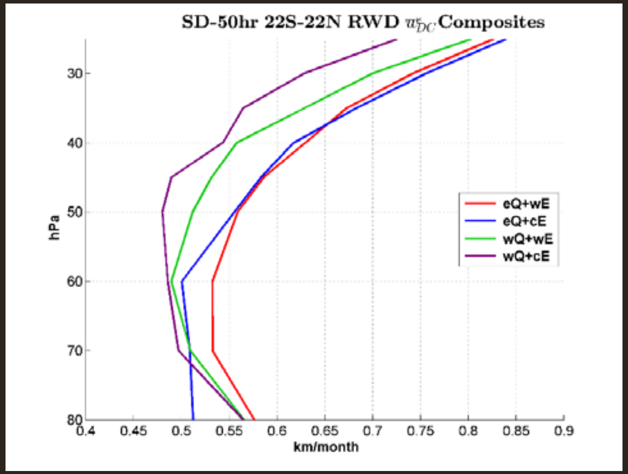


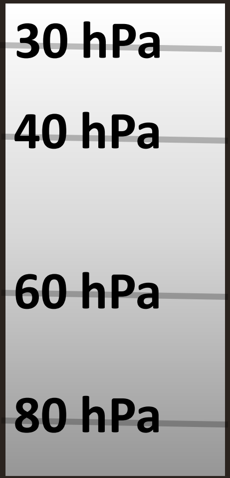




Resolved Waves







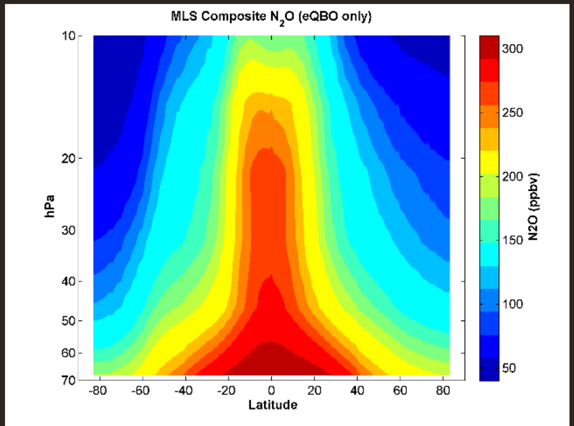
Global N_2O composit

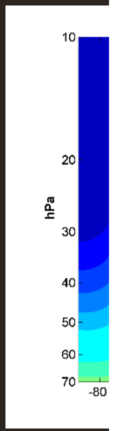
for 2004 thru 2014
?BO/ENSO R = 0.47

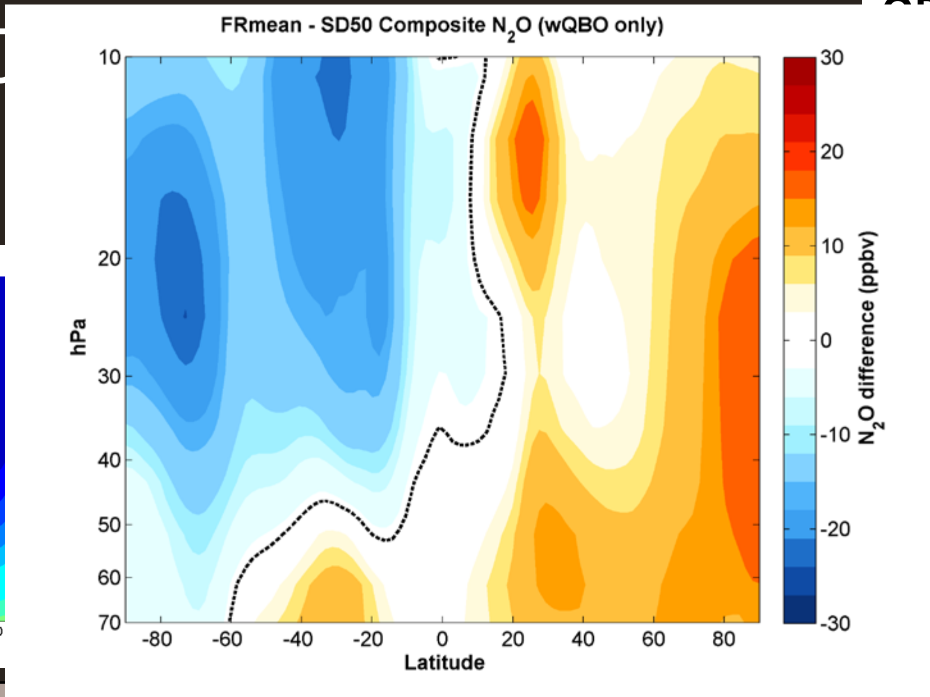
Observations

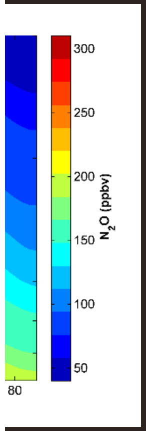
0hr)

Easterly QBO





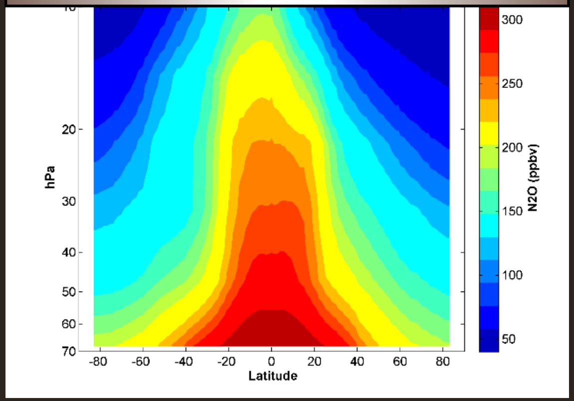




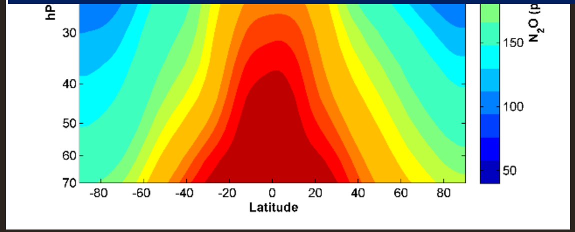
10 hPa
20 hPa
40 hPa
70 hPa

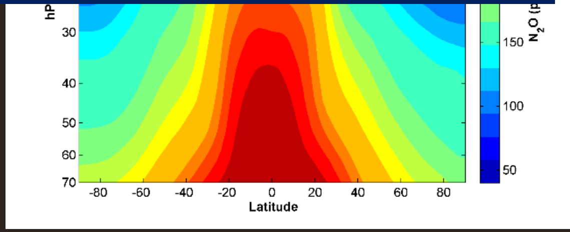
90S 0 90N

Westerly QBO

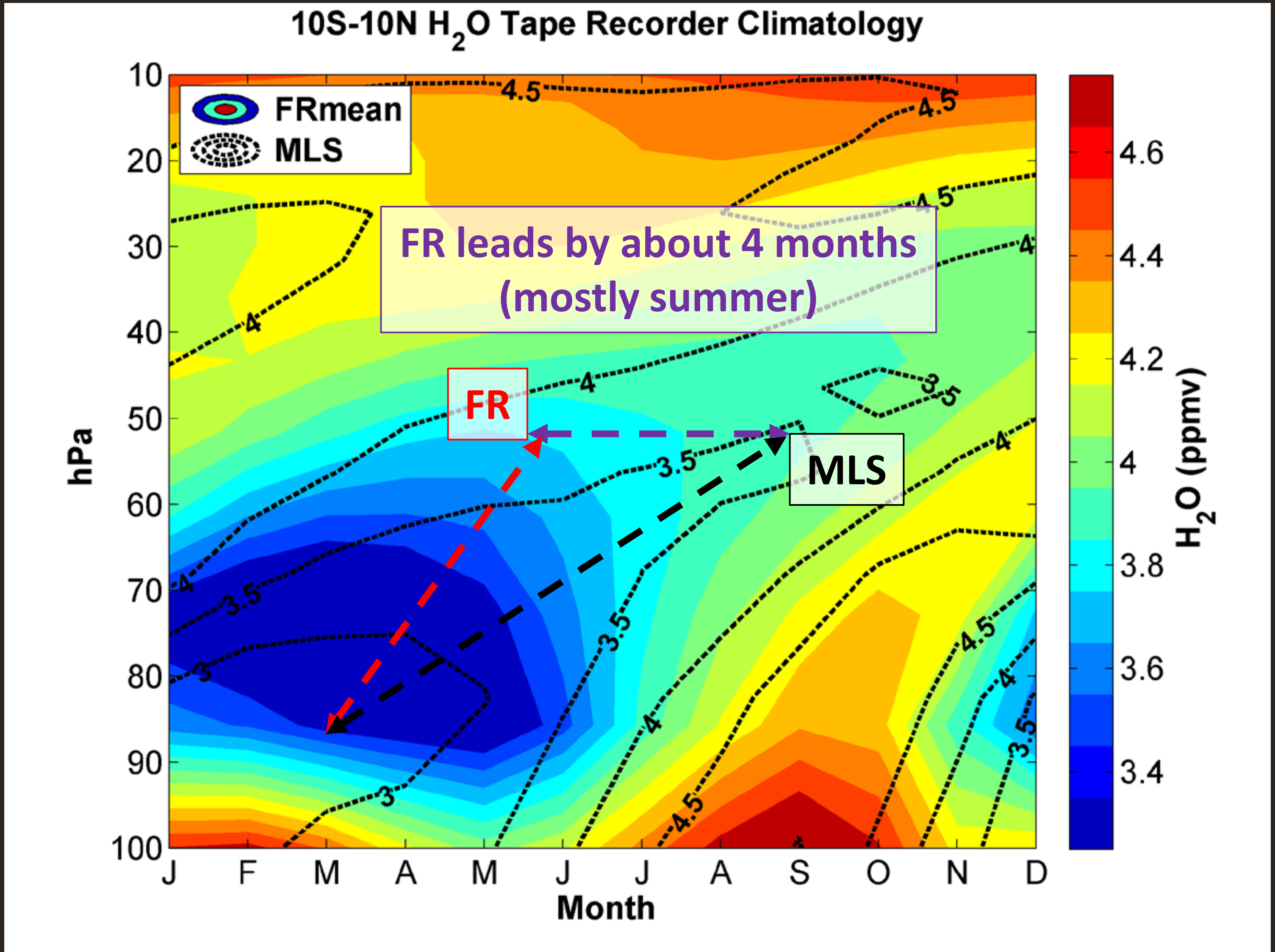


- NH latitudinal gradient 20% weaker in FR
- FR flux of N2O doesn't reach as high as SD/obs
- Winter residual circulation stronger bend in SD?





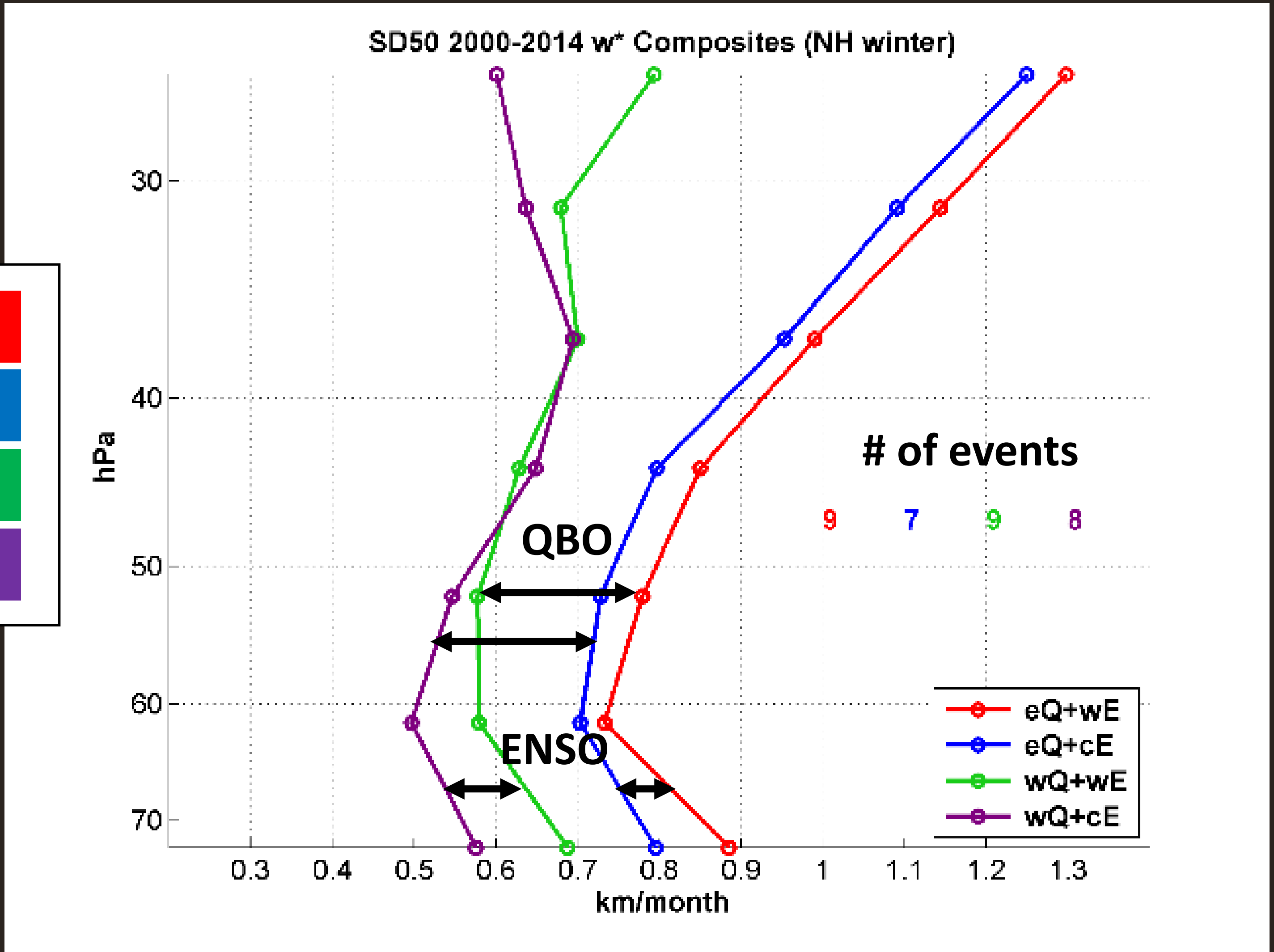
10 hPa
20 hPa
40 hPa
70 hPa


10S-10N H2O Tape Recorder Climatology
FRmean
MLS
FR leads by about 4 months
(mostly summer)
FR
MLS
hPa
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
J
F
M
A
M
J
J
A
S
O
N
D
Month
H2O (ppmv)
4.6
4.4
4.2
4
3.8
3.6
3.4

Vertical advection composites

for different QBO/ENSO combinations

easterly QBO + warm ENSO
easterly QBO + cold ENSO
westerly QBO + warm ENSO
westerly QBO + cold ENSO



Tape Recorder velocity w_{TR}

with easterly winds and ENSO Index overlaid