

A new prognostic representation of stratospheric aerosols in CESM

Whole Atmosphere Working Group
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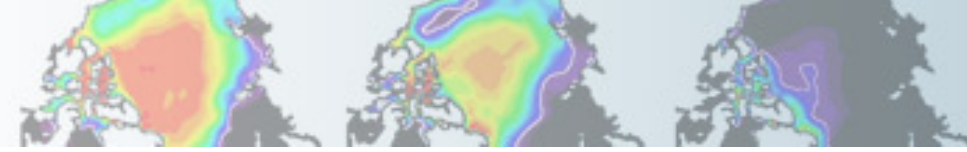
NCAR is funded by the National Science Foundation



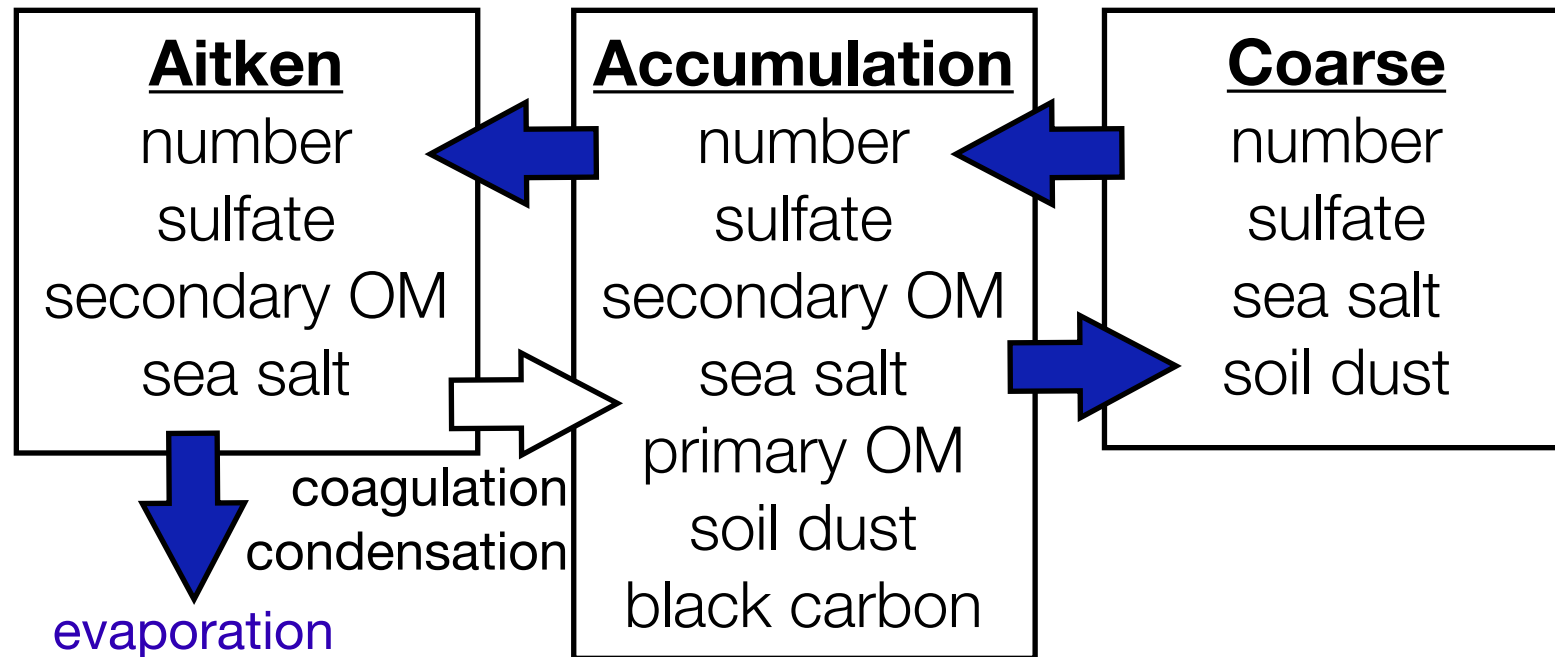
WACCM

Whole Atmosphere
Community Climate Model





Extend modal aerosol model (MAM3) for stratospheric aerosols



Gas-phase species: H₂SO₄, SO₂, DMS, SOA (gas)
Added: OCS, S, SO, SO₃, HSO₃
Added sulfate evaporation above tropopause
Added growth between modes
Adjusted diameter ranges, mode widths

Mode	Nucleation	Aitken	Accumulation	Coarse
Standard MAM3 radius (µm) geom. std. dev	N/A	0.00435 - 0.026 1.6	0.02675 - 0.22 1.8	0.5 - 2.0 1.8
Modified MAM3 radius (µm) geom. std. dev.	N/A	0.00435 - 0.026 1.6	0.02675 - 0.22 1.6	>0.22 1.2
ECHAM-M7 volcanic radius (µm) geom. std. dev.	<0.005 1.59	0.005 - 0.05 1.59	>0.05 1.2	N/A
ECHAM-M7 geoeng. radius (µm) geom. std. dev.	<0.005 1.59	0.005 - 0.05 1.59	0.05 - 0.2 1.59	>0.2 1.2

Non-volcanic sulfur burdens in Tg S

WACCM5-MAM3

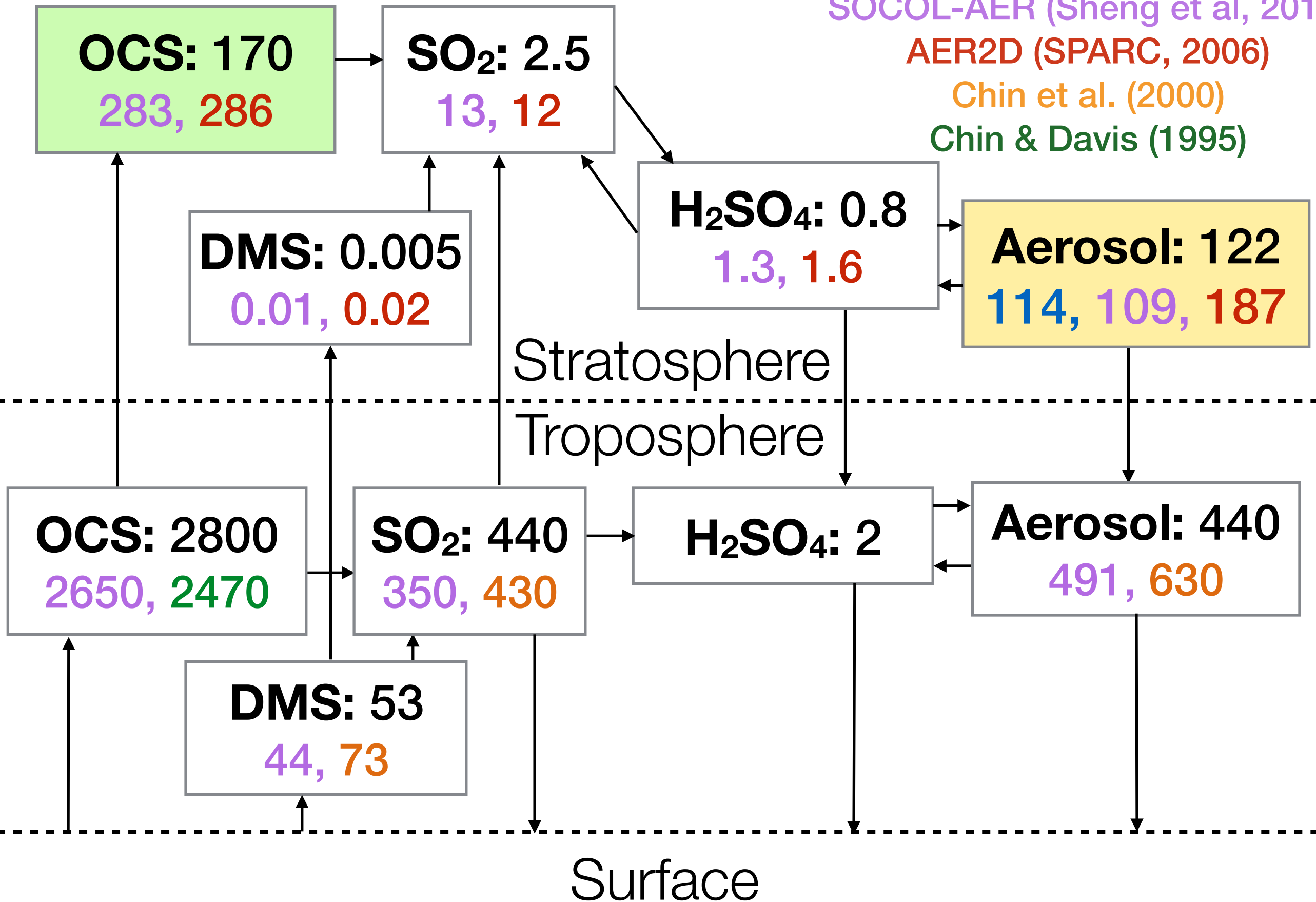
SAGE-4λ

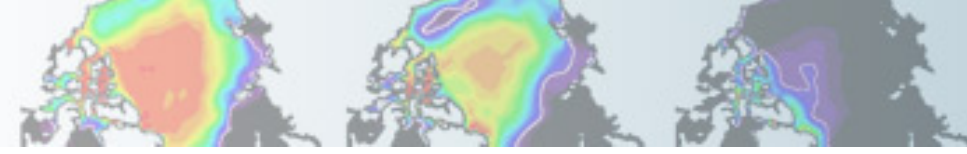
SOCOL-AER (Sheng et al, 2015)

AER2D (SPARC, 2006)

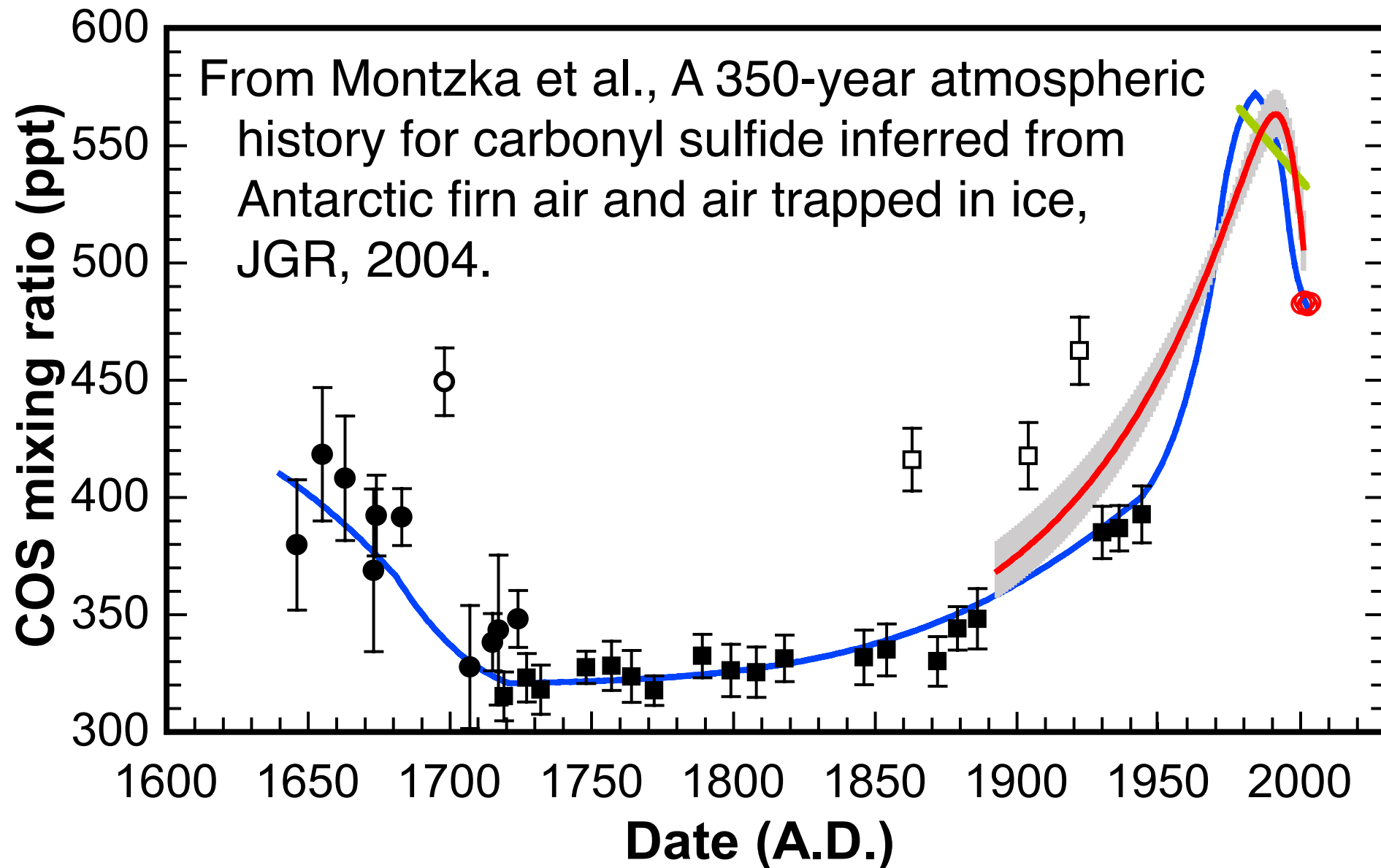
Chin et al. (2000)

Chin & Davis (1995)

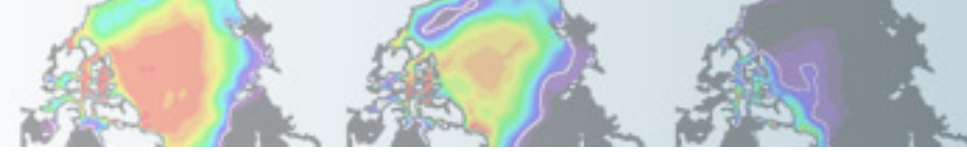




Time-varying lower boundary condition for OCS

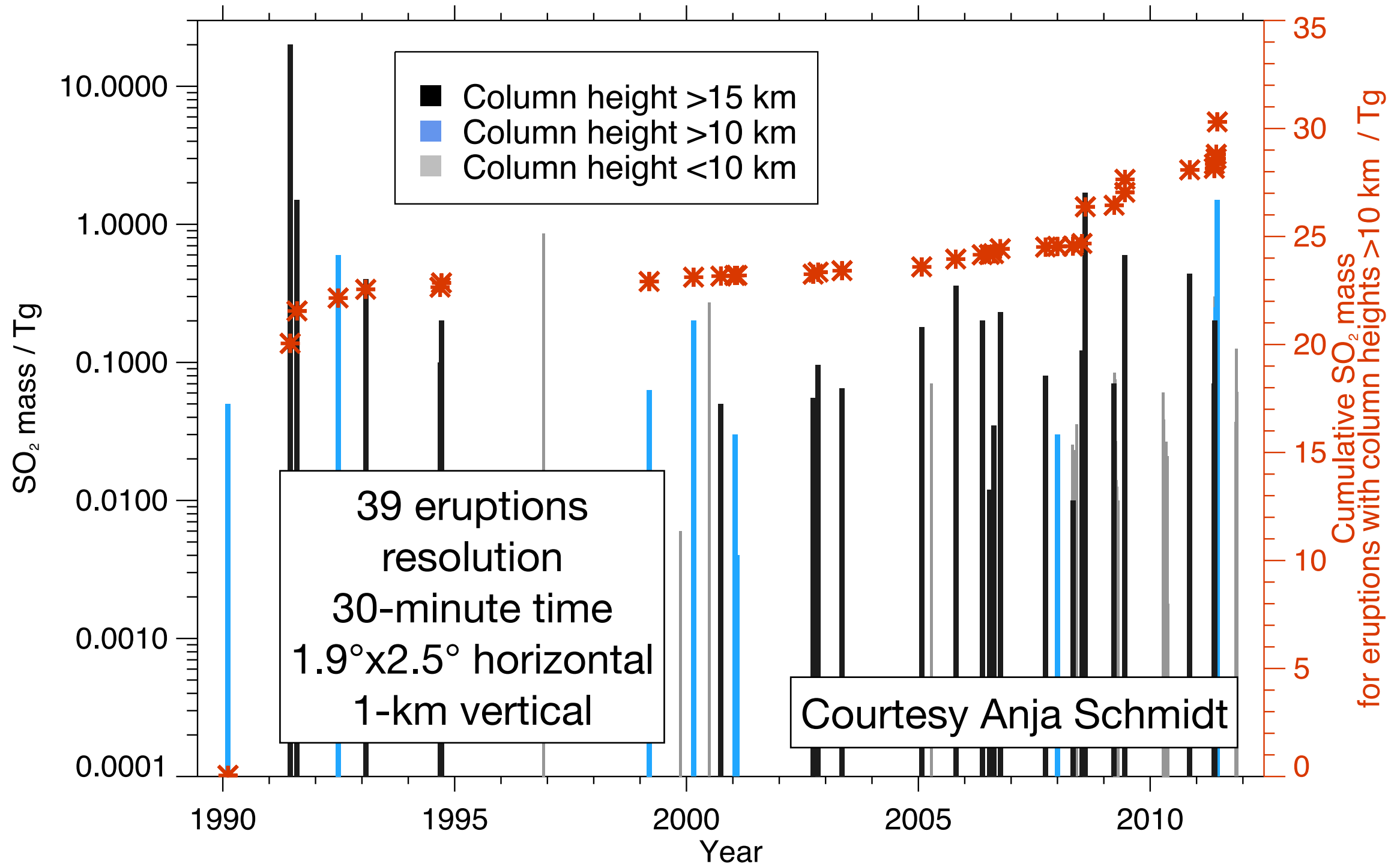


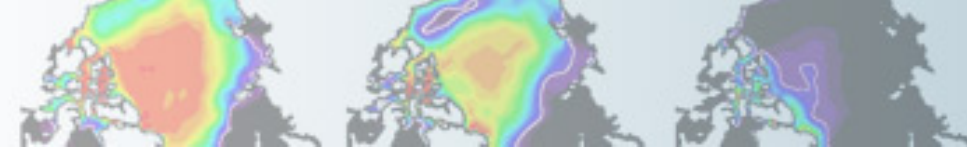
- New LBC file for runs with chemistry (WACCM, CAM-chem)
- External forcing files developed for SO₂ produced from OCS oxidation in CAM without chemistry: 1850, 20th Century



3D volcanic strat/trop SO₂ input file for 1990-2011

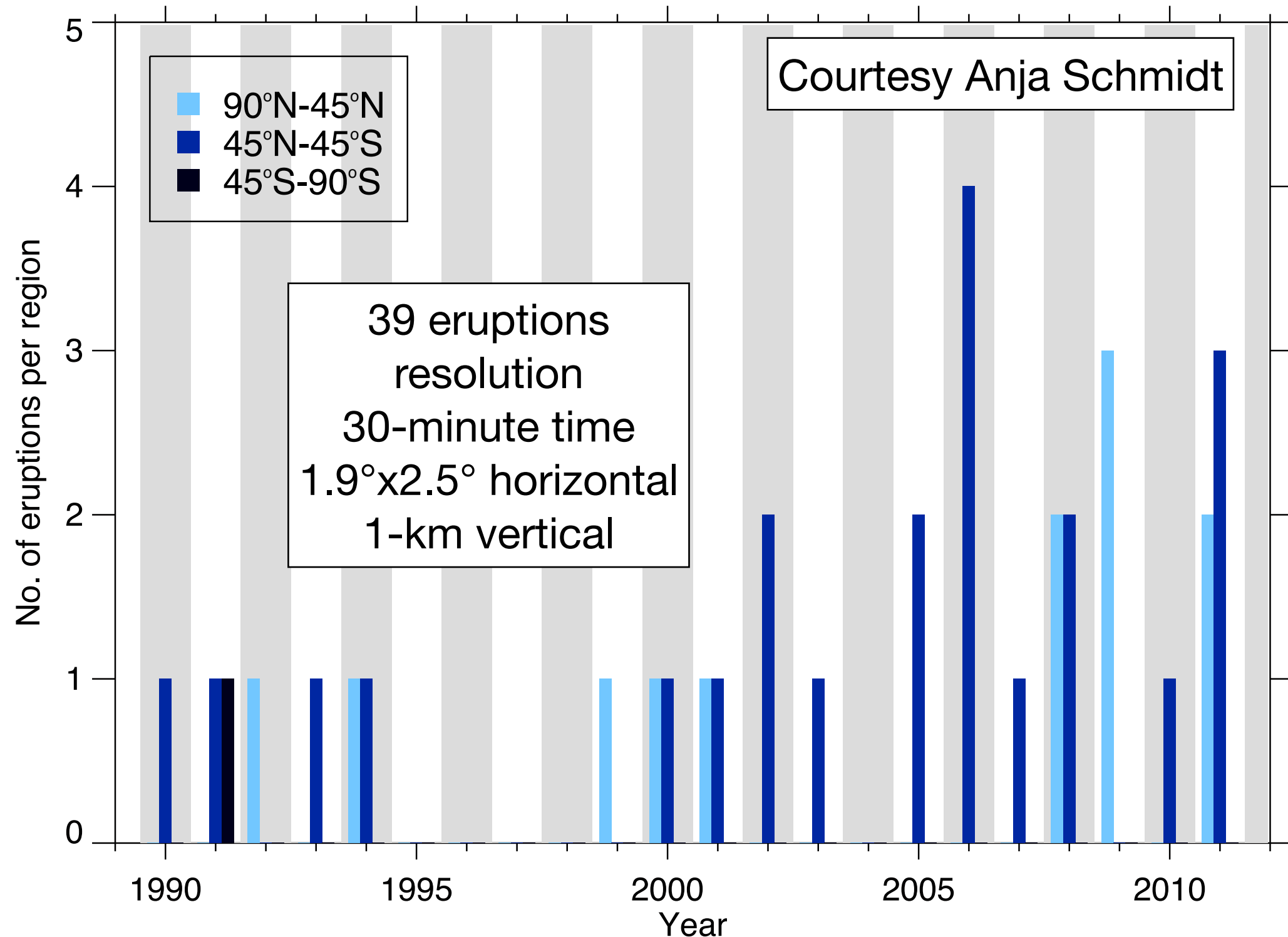
VEI > 2 eruptions since 1990 (with SO₂ reported)

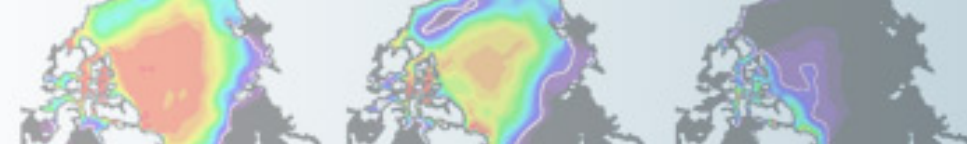




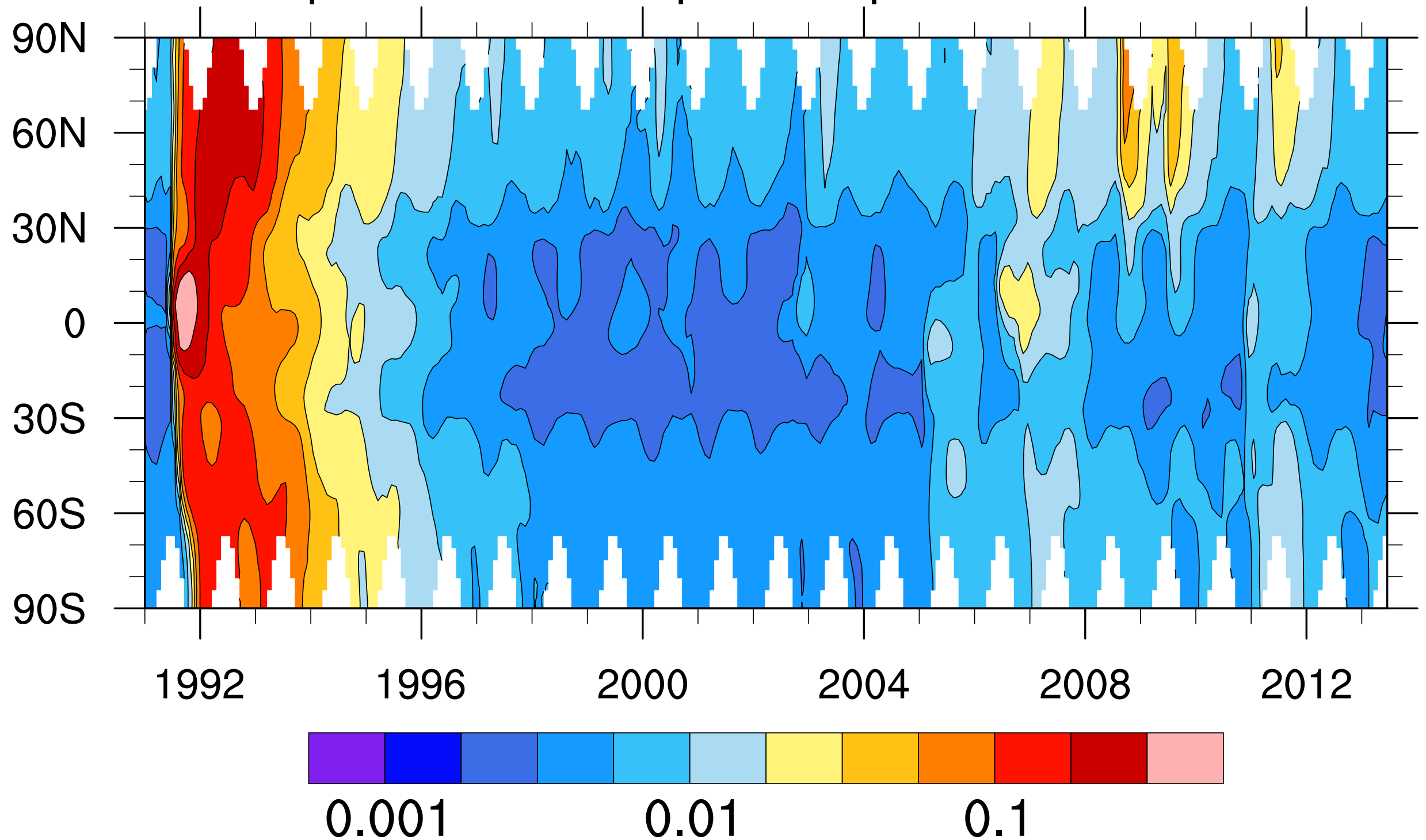
3D volcanic strat/trop SO₂ input file for 1990-2011

No. of VEI > 2 eruptions with eruption column heights >10 km

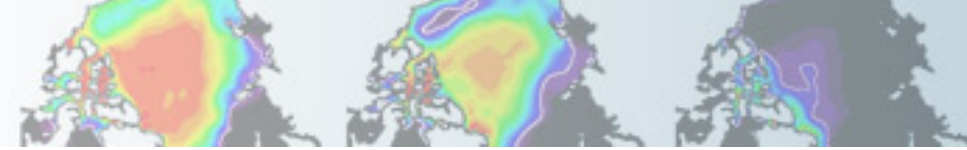




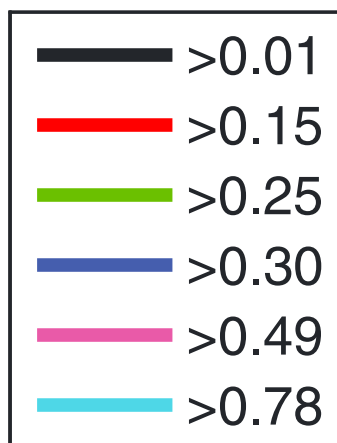
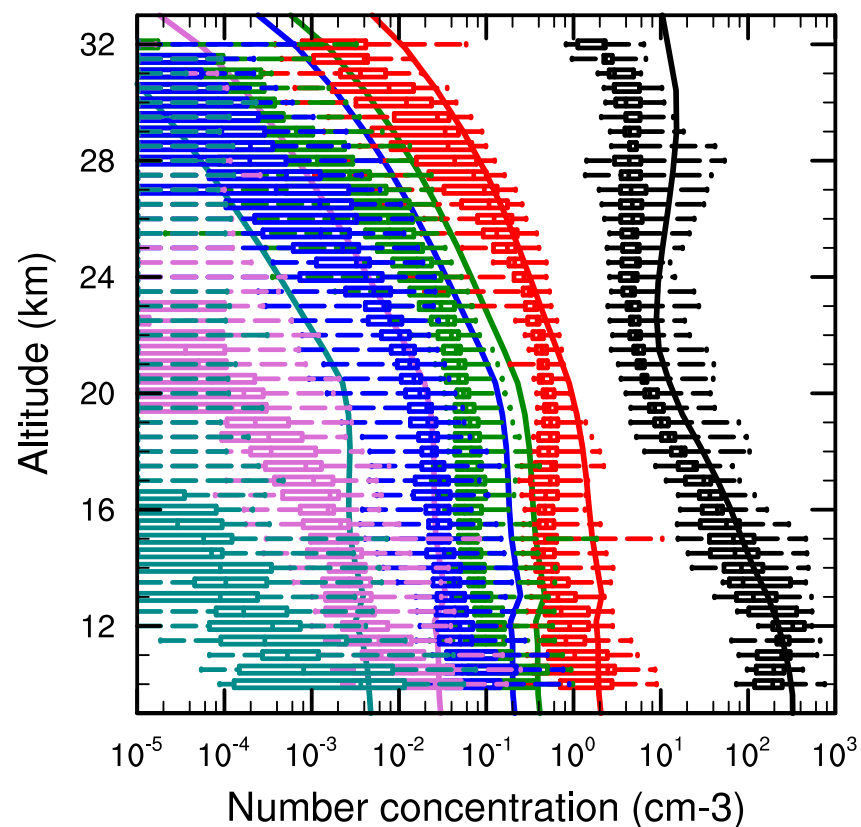
Stratospheric aerosol optical depth 550 nm



CESM WACCM5 with prognostic modal stratospheric sulfates using eruption database compiled by Anja Schmidt



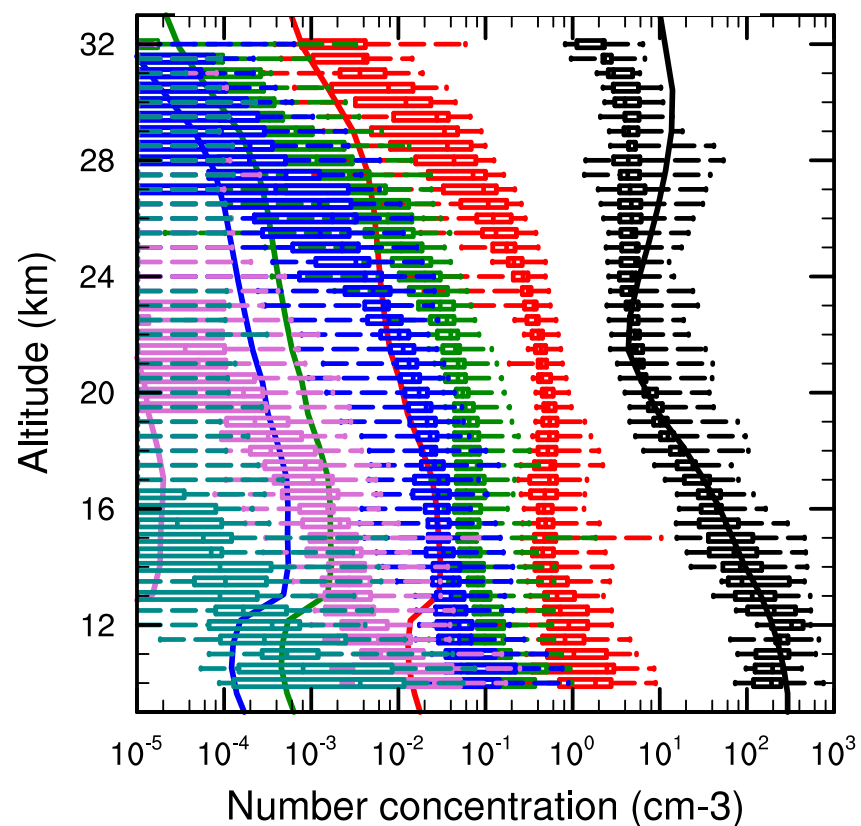
Laramie (41N, 105W), 1999-2008



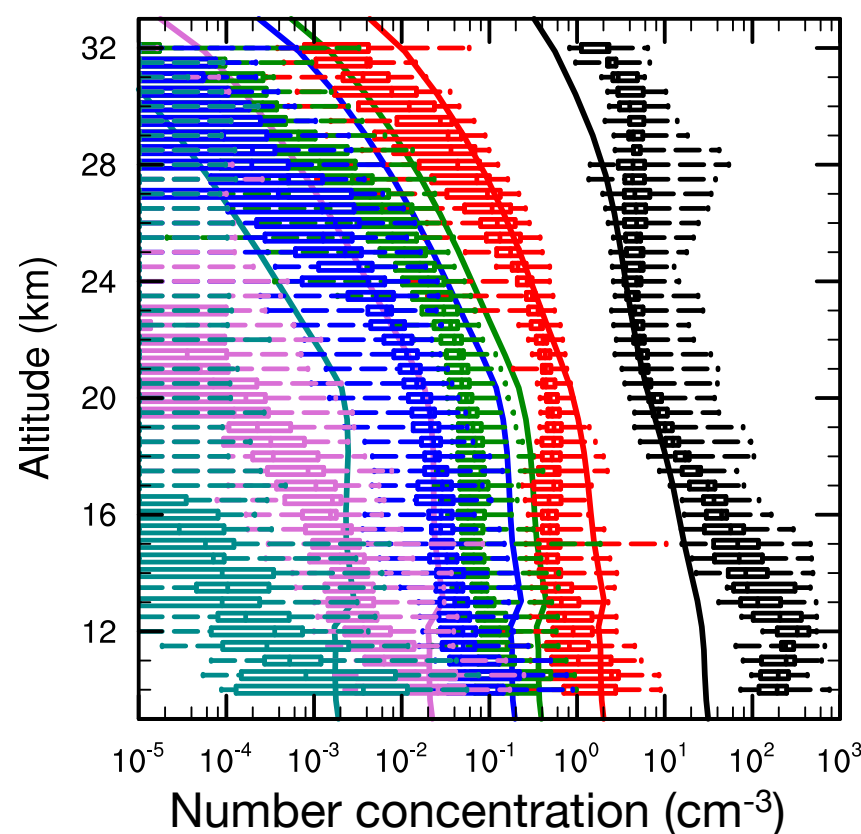
Cumulative number densities (for radii larger than stated radius in μm) calculated by CESM(WACCM5) compared to in situ stratospheric aerosol measurements over the period 1999–2008 at Laramie.

Vertical profiles of particles >10 nm and >150 nm match observations well. MAM retains higher number densities of larger particles in the accumulation and coarse mode than are observed.

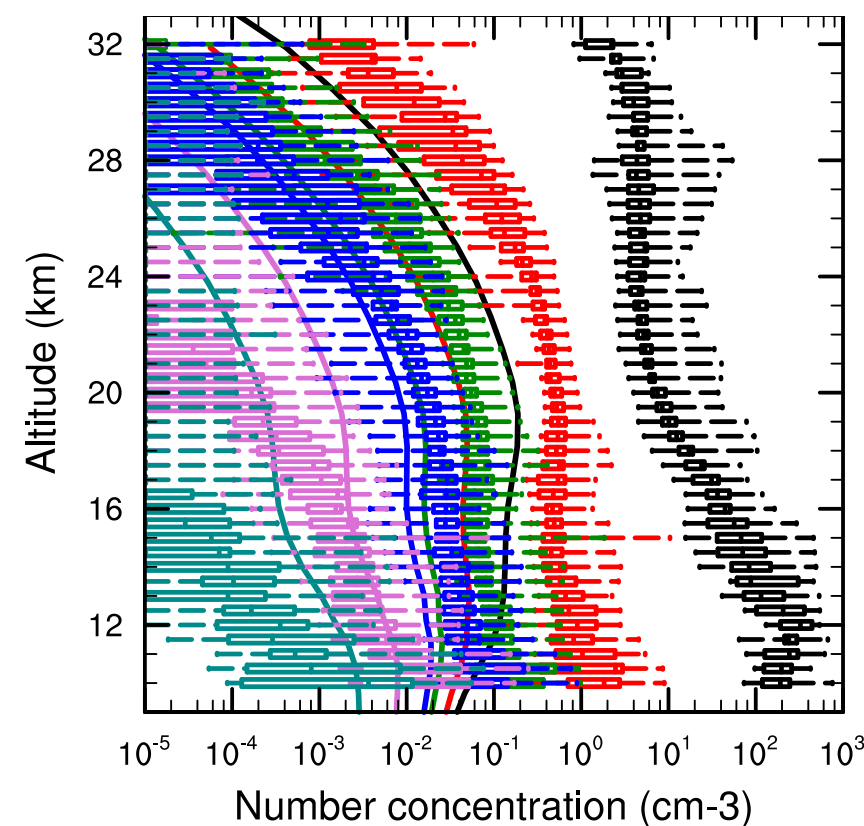
Aitken mode

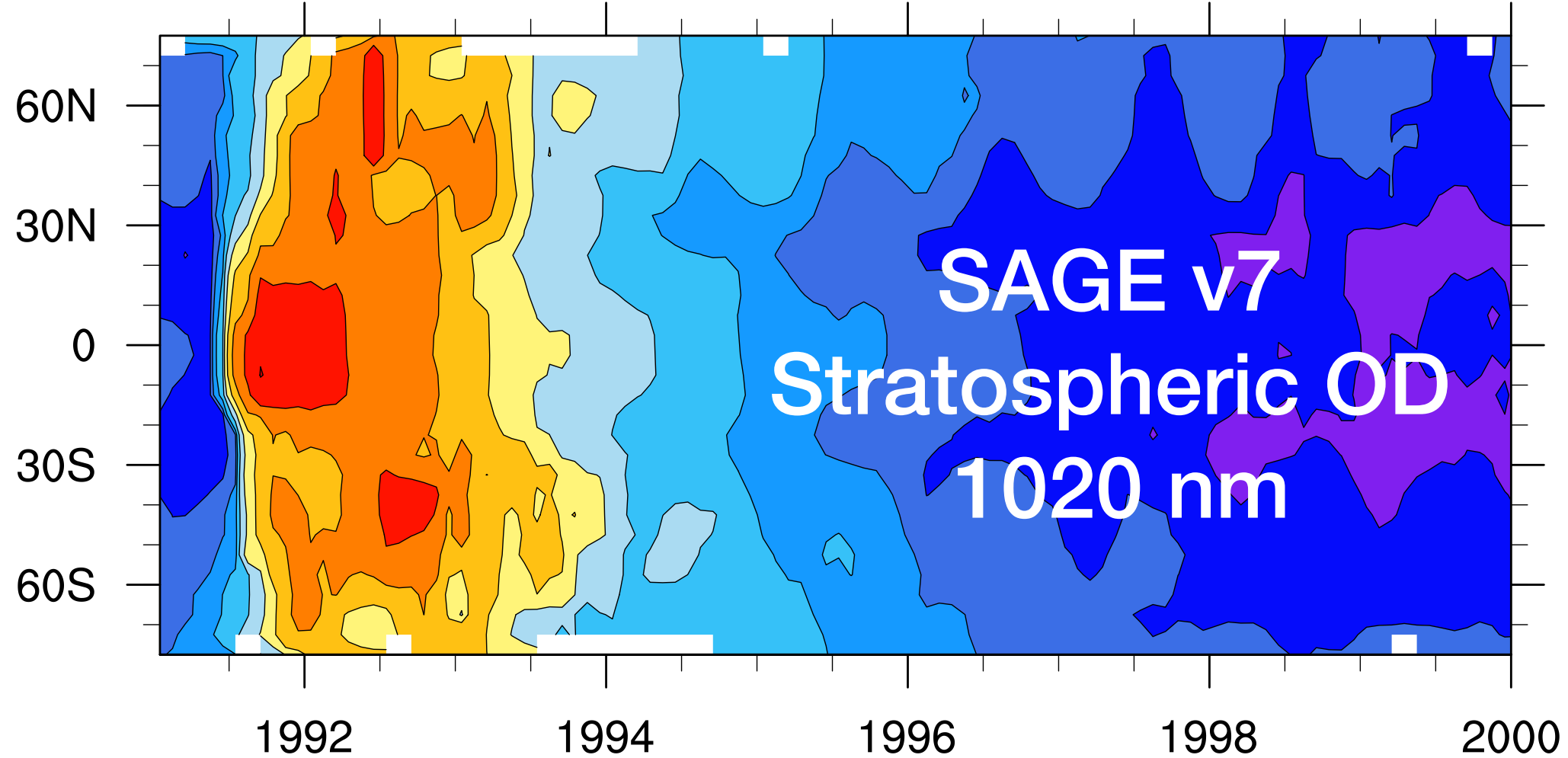


accumulation mode



coarse mode

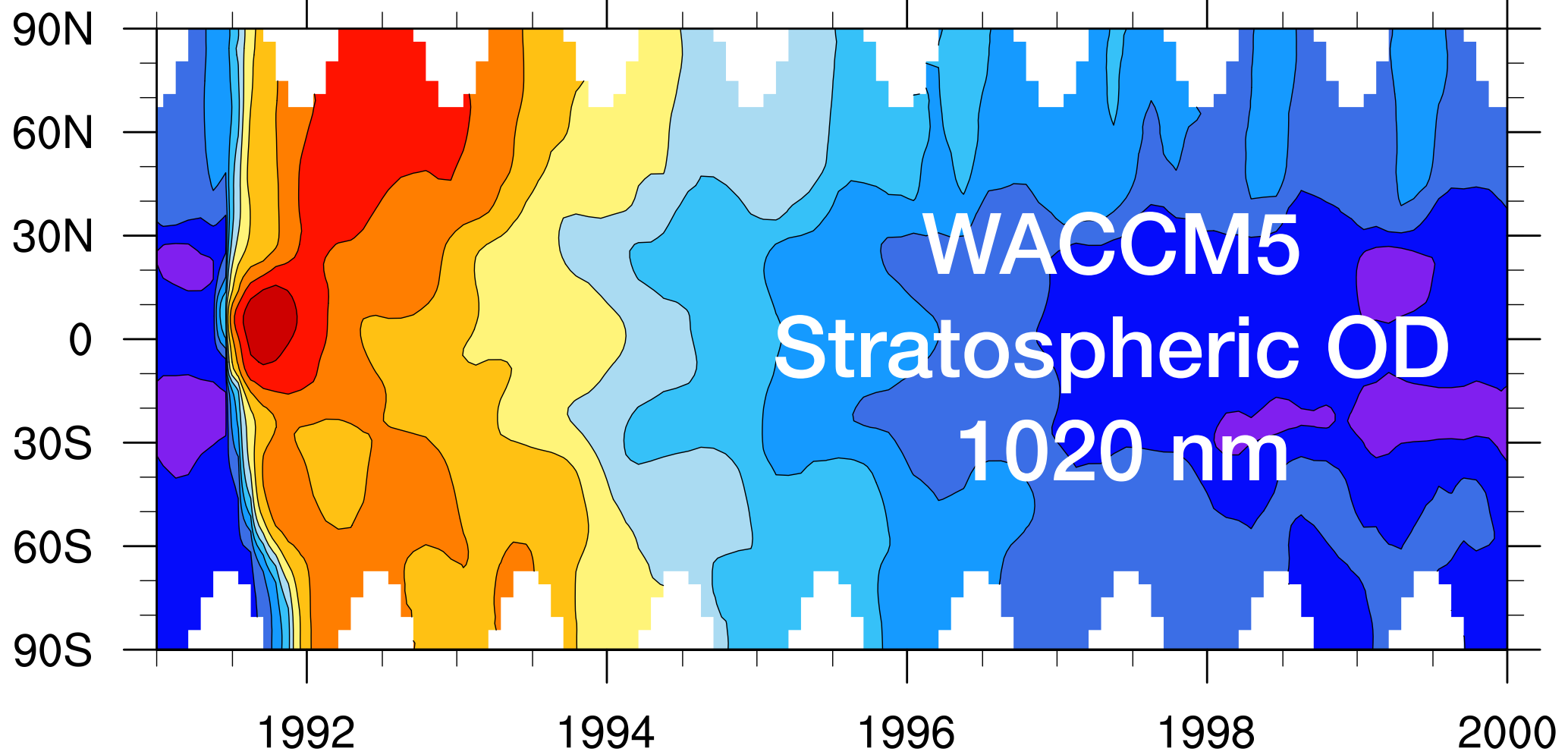


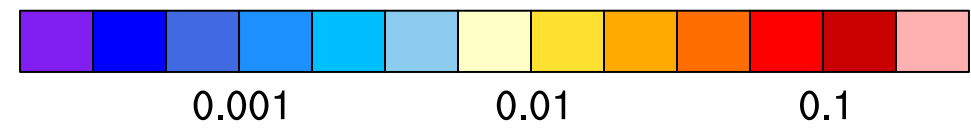
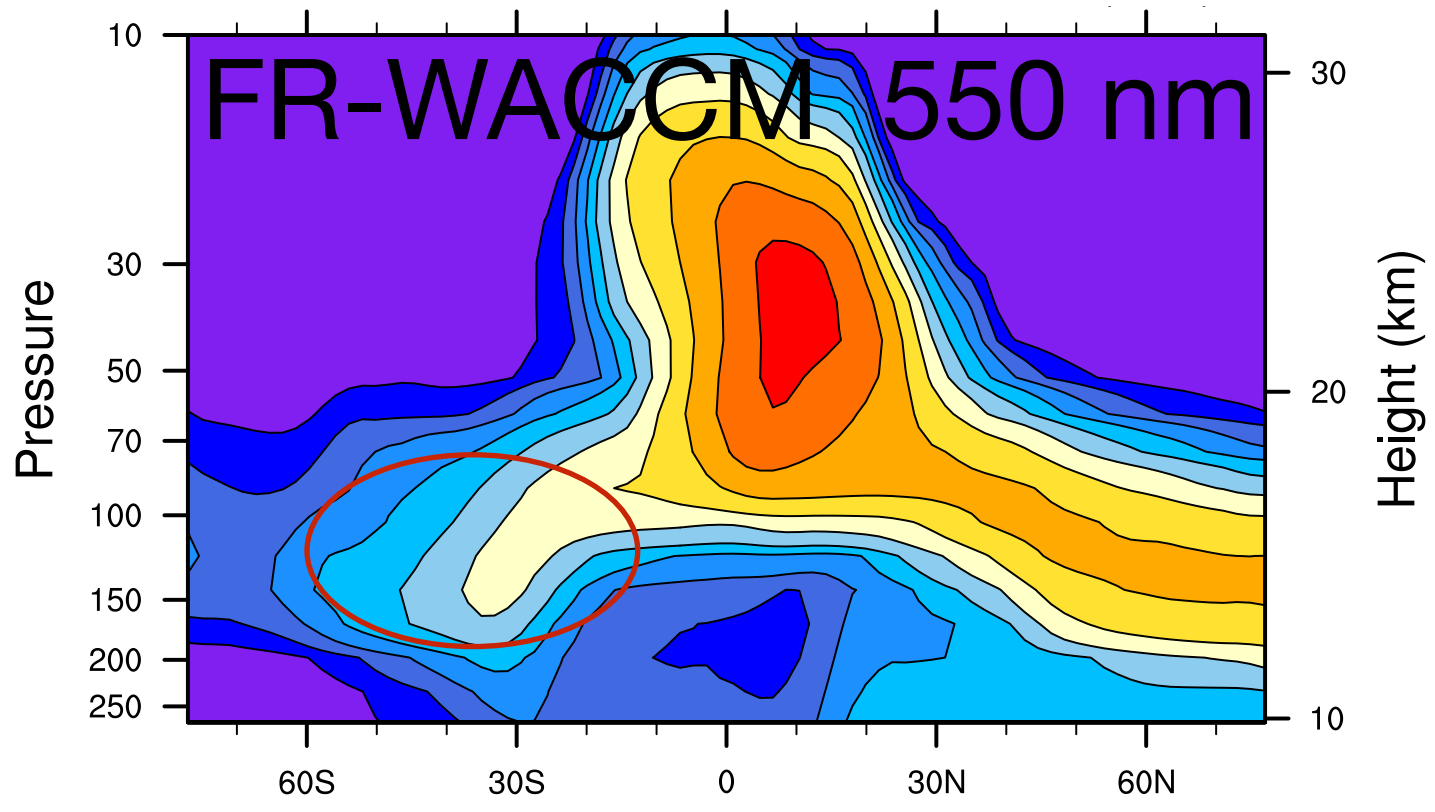
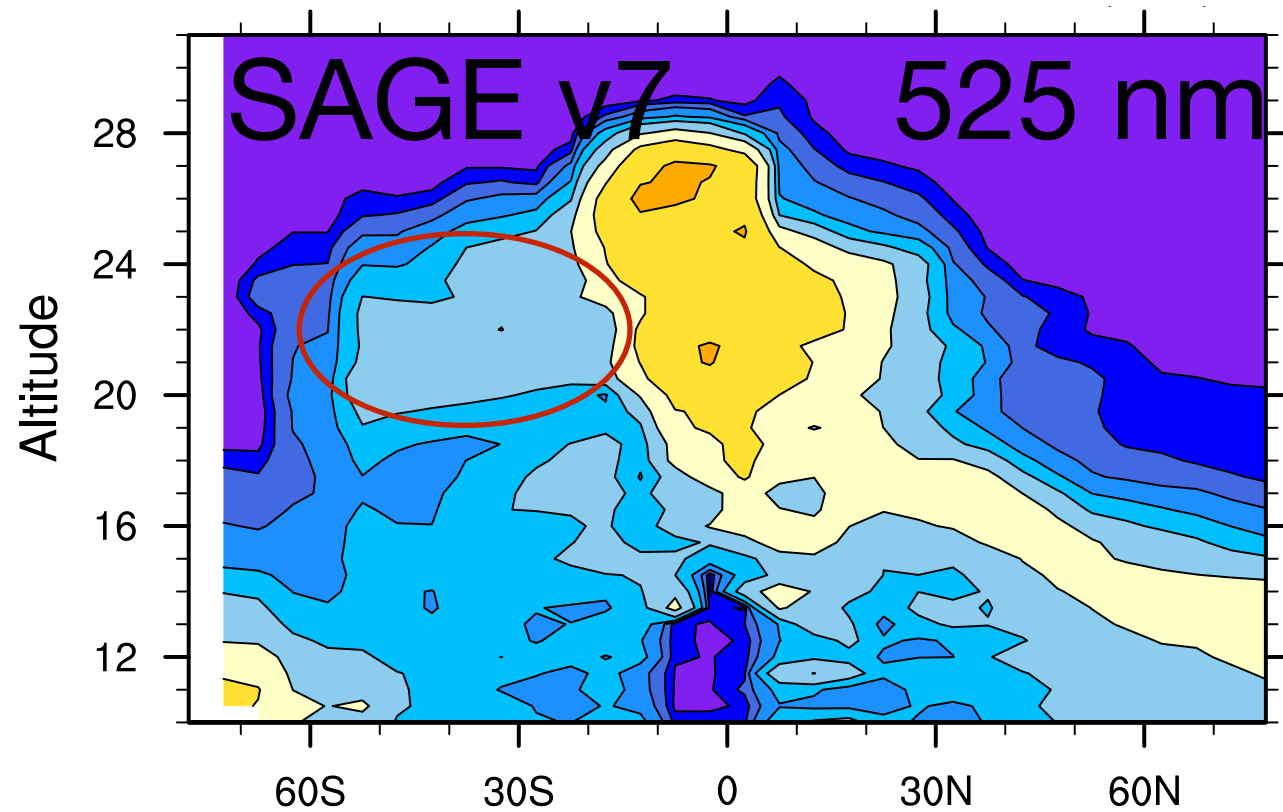
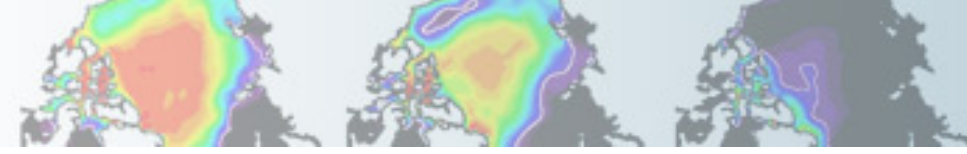


0.1

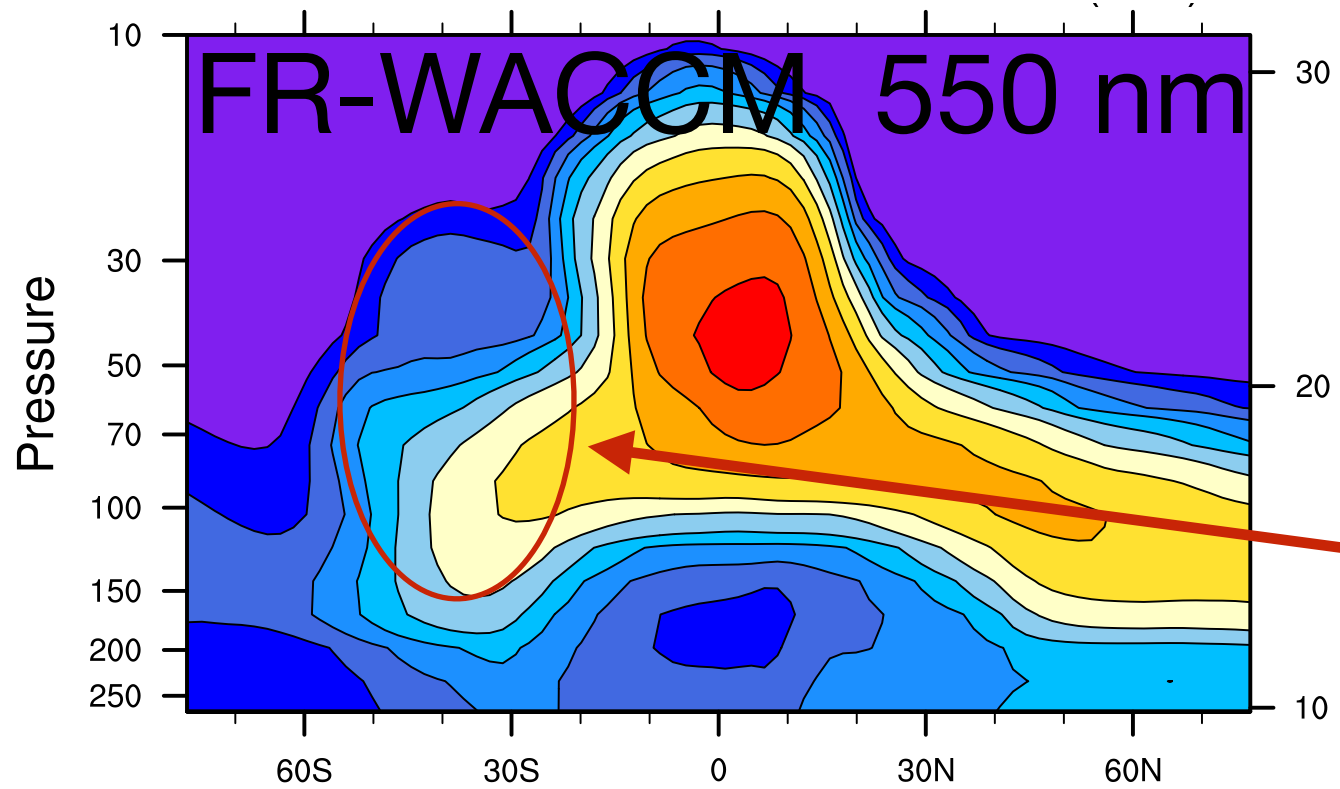
0.01

0.001



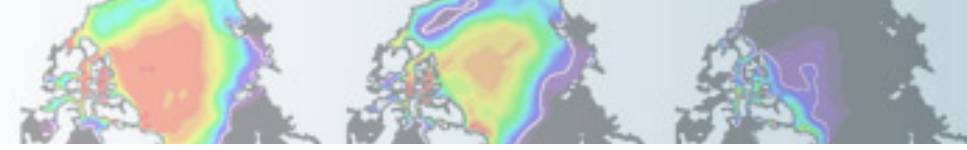


Extinction (/km)

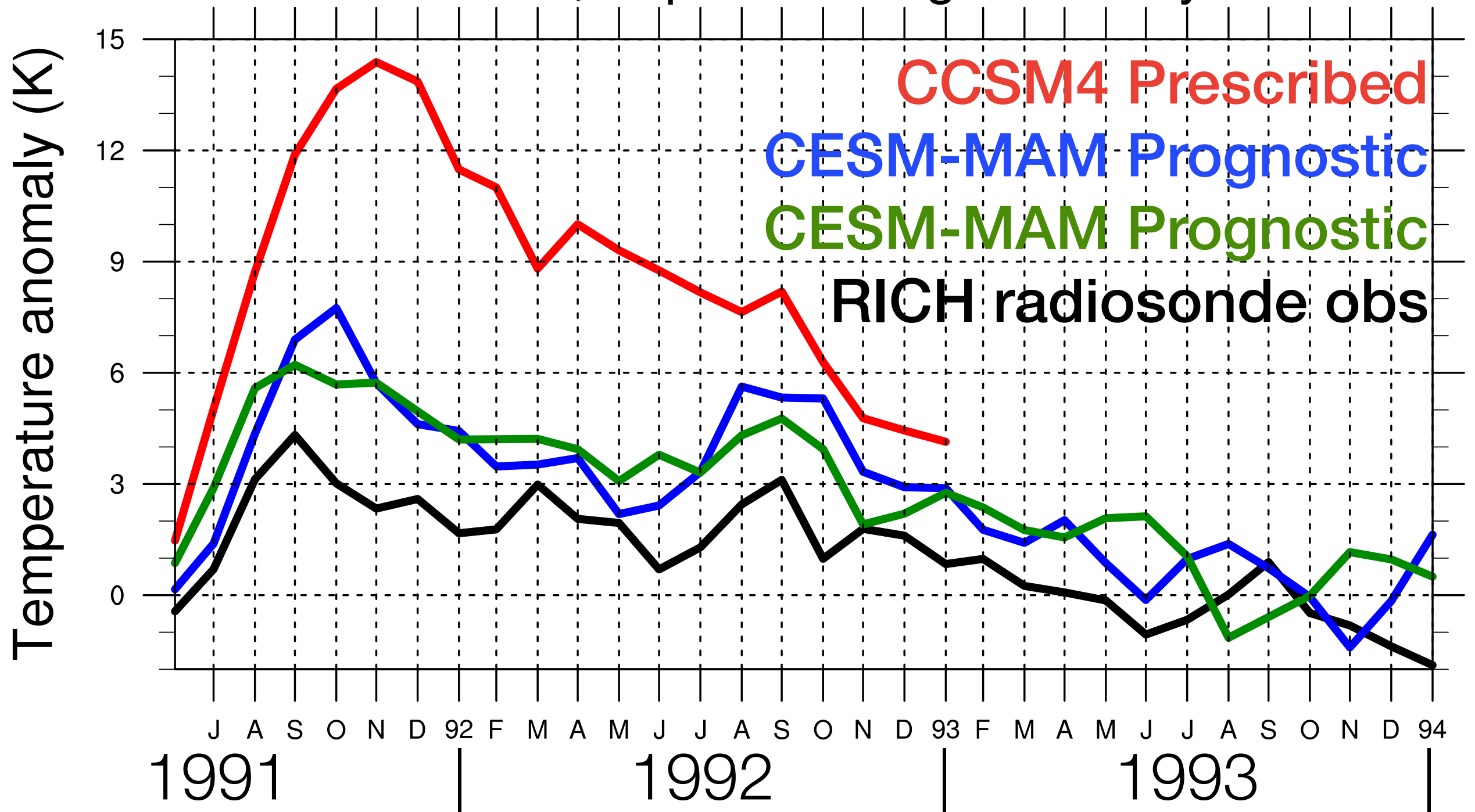


August 1991

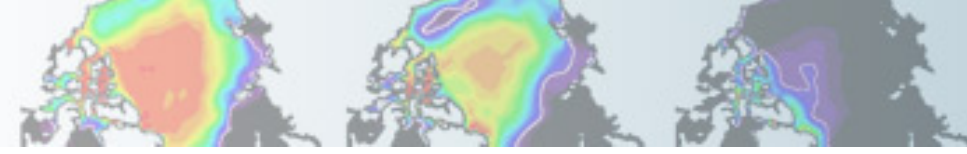
Cerro Hudson
input moved up
to 14-20 km



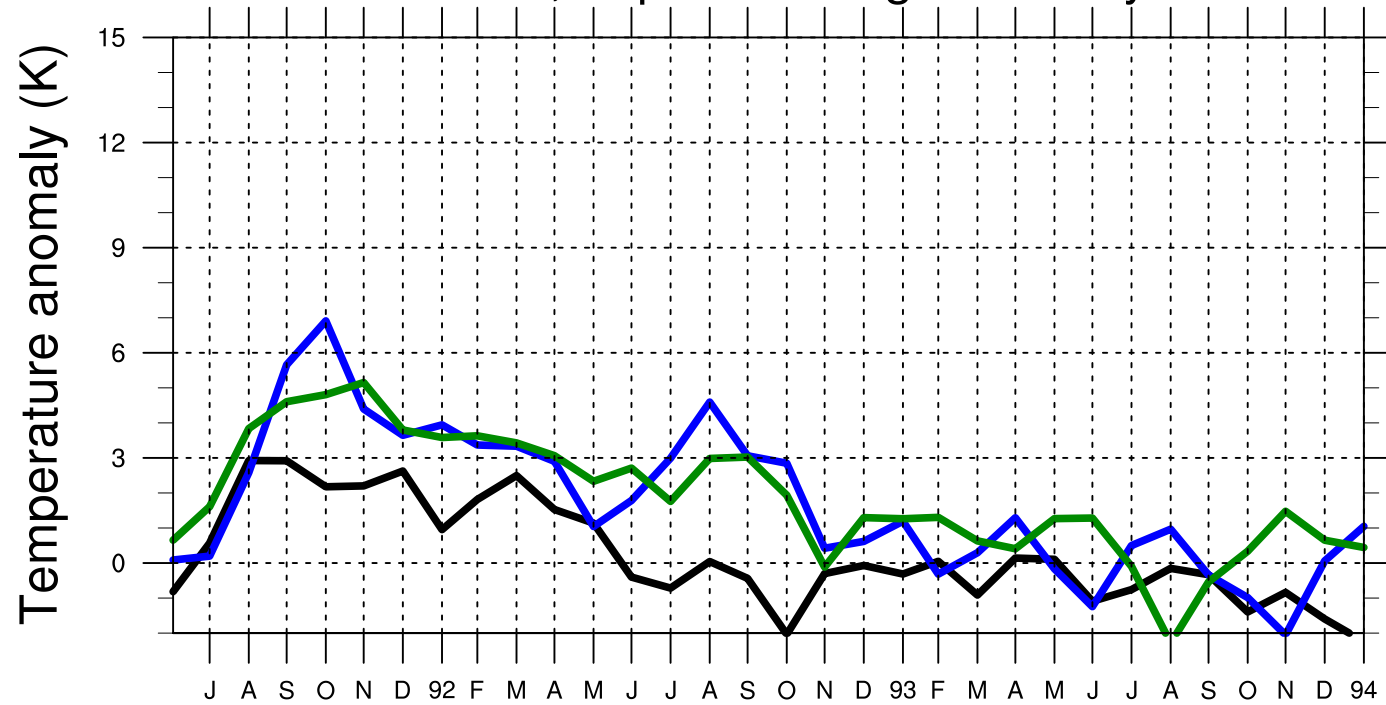
50 hPa, tropical average anomaly



Pinatubo heating in the stratosphere greatly improved over CCSM4 prognostic volcanics.

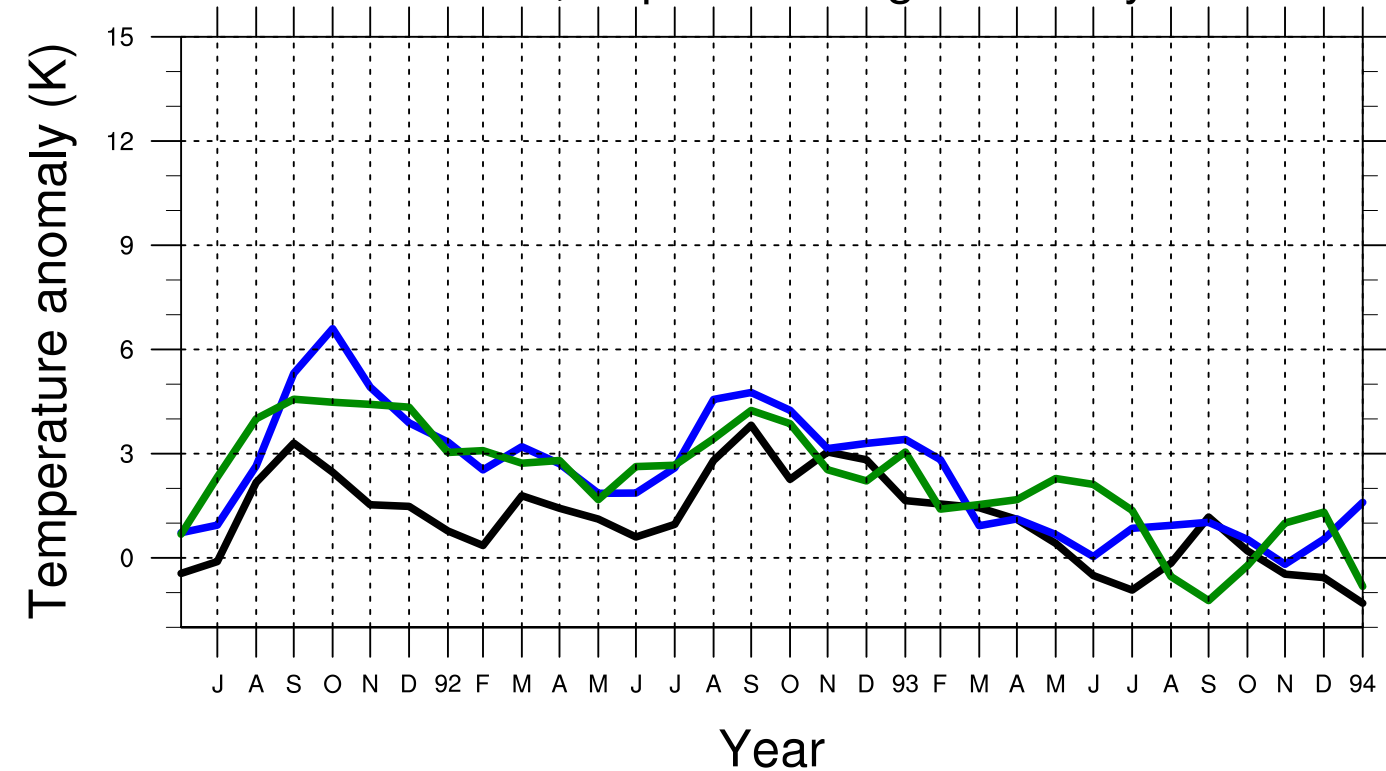


30 hPa, tropical average anomaly

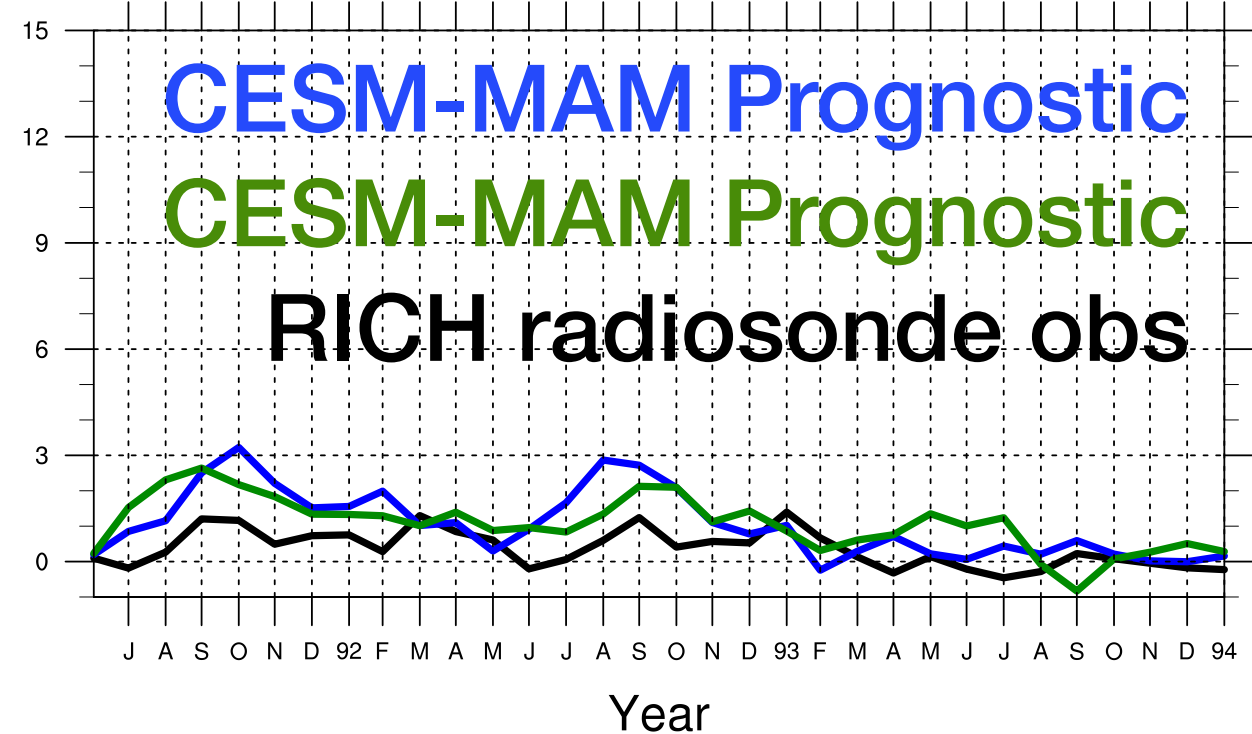


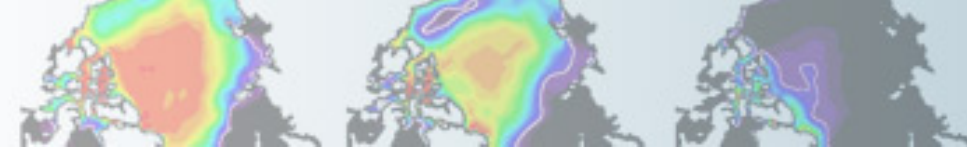
Volcanic temperature perturbation is reasonable from the tropopause up to 30 hPa.

70 hPa, tropical average anomaly

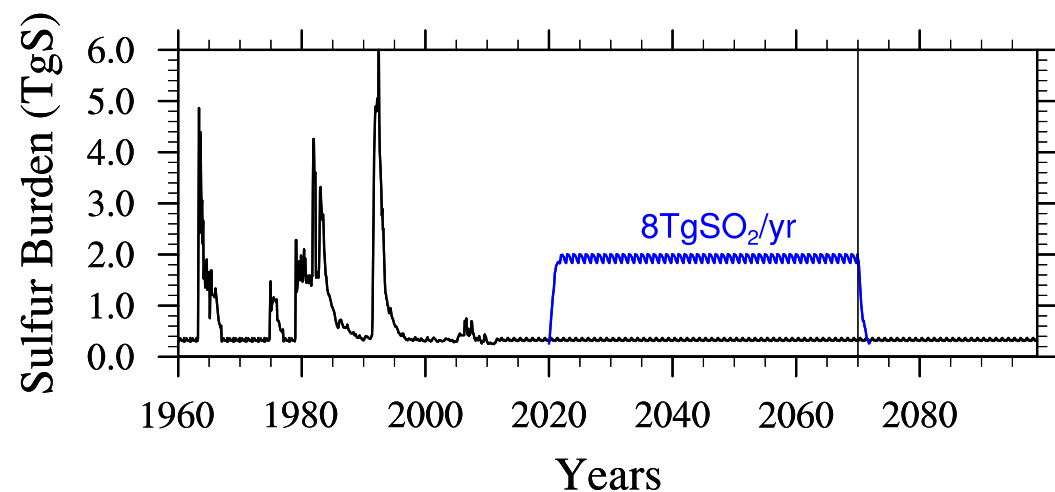
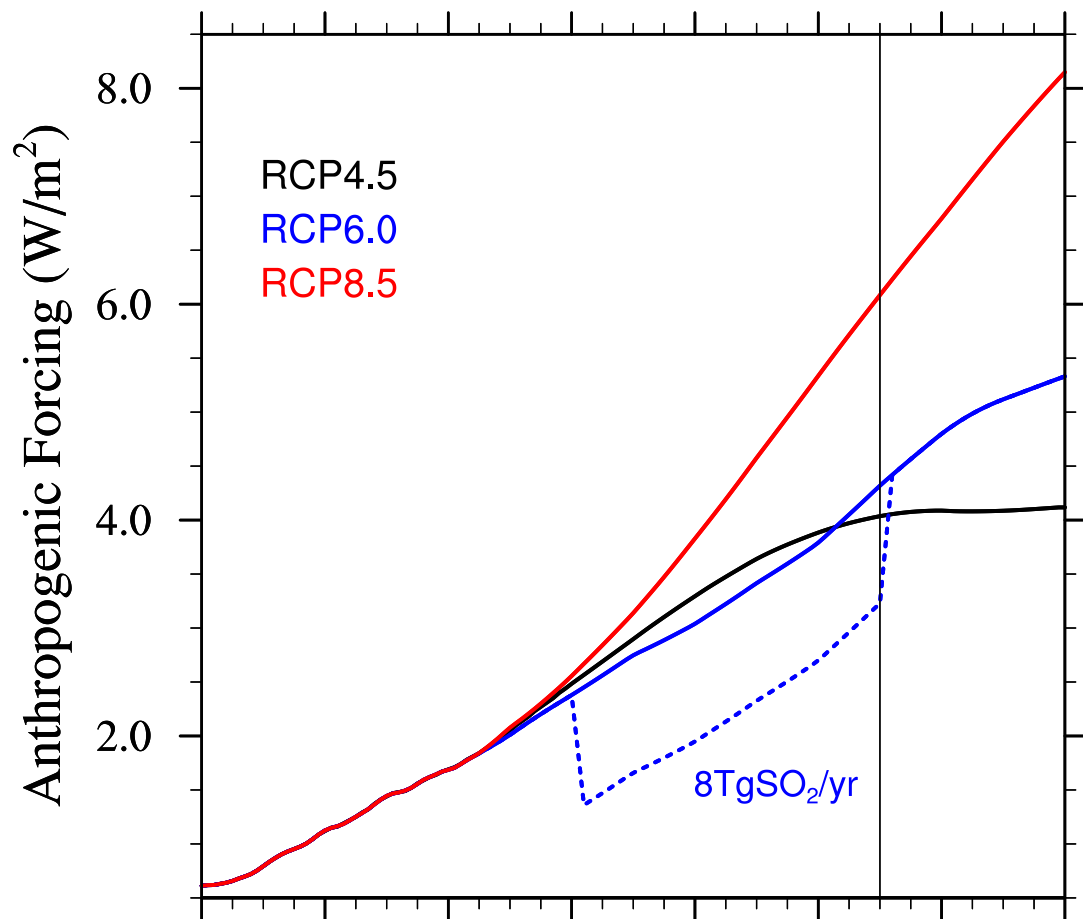


100 hPa, tropical average anomaly

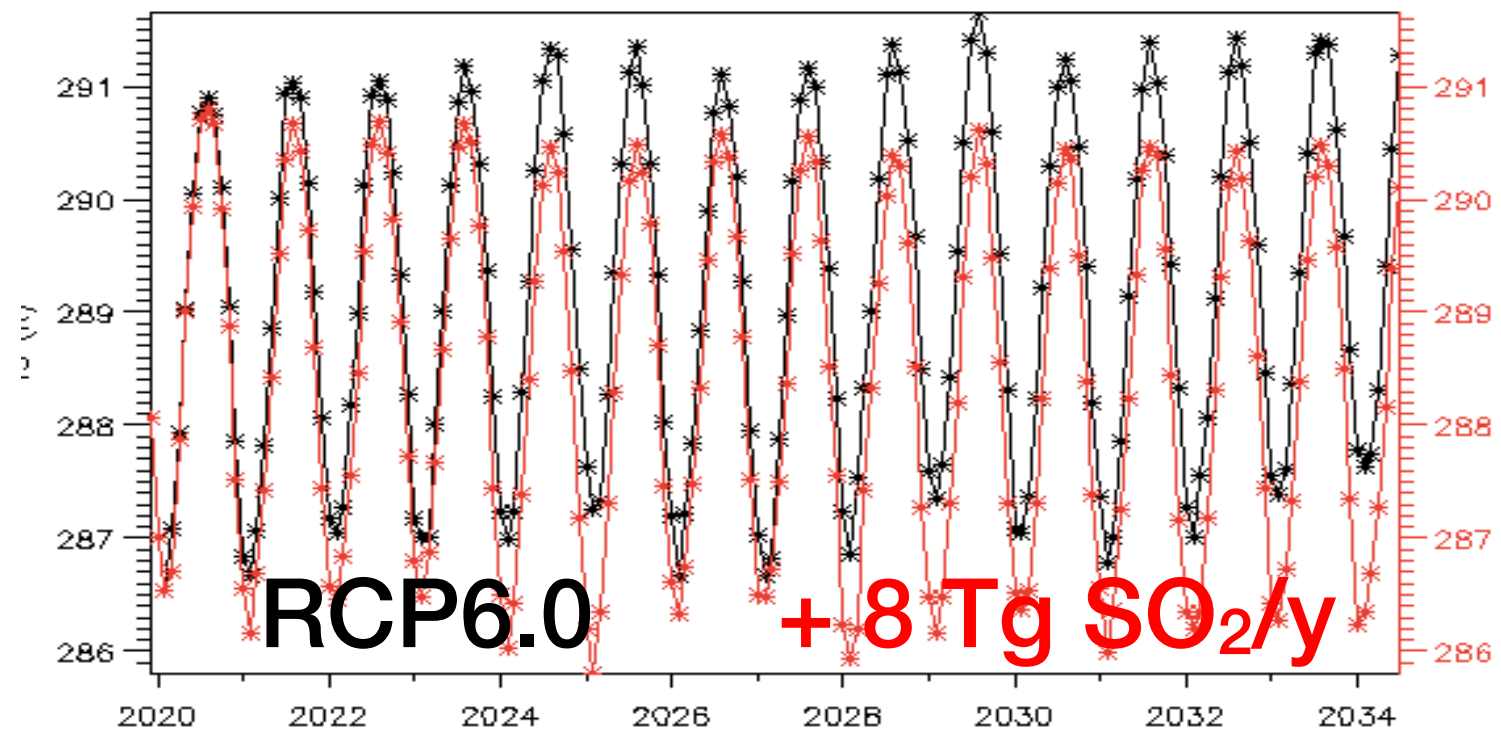




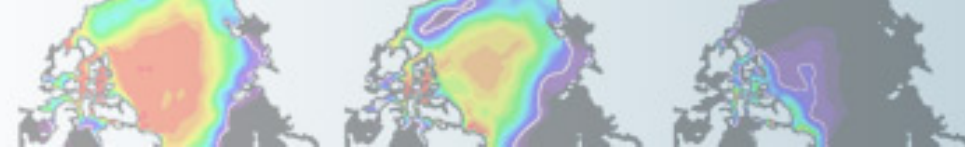
Geoengineering experiment in progress



From Tilmes et al. (GMD, 2015)



- RCP6.0 + 8 Tg SO₂/year, after Tilmes et al. (GMD, 2015)
- Global average stratospheric visible AOD increases over first 2 years, then steady at 0.14-0.15
- Global warming of ~1.2°C offset in the first 15 years



Summary: prognostic stratospheric sulfates with MAM

- Prognostic modal volcanic aerosol is not available for use in CESM.
- A volcanic input file has been developed for 1990-2011, with plans to extend it back to 1850.
- Number densities of small particles compare well to balloon observations from Laramie. This is important because small particles dominate the surface area densities relevant to heterogeneous chemistry in the stratosphere.
- Completed 1990-2012 runs with and without volcanoes. Testing sensitivity to input altitude, latitude, and mass with comparison to SAGE v7 data set of extinction and optical depth.
- Stratospheric heating after Pinatubo is greatly improved over prescribed volcanic sulfate in CCSM4.
- Running geoengineering experiment styled after Tilmes et al. (GMD, 2015): RCP6.0 with 8 Tg SO₂/year for years 2020-2070, compared to RCP6.0 control