

1           On the gravity wave forcing during the austral  
2           stratospheric final warming as simulated by LMDz

3           ALVARO DE LA CÁMARA<sup>1\*</sup> AND FRANÇOIS LOTT

          Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France.

<sup>1</sup> Centre de Mathématiques et de Leurs Applications, ENS de Cachan, France.

VALÉRIAN JEWTOUKOFF, RIWAL PLOUGONVEN AND ALBERT HERTZOG

          Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France.

4           In preparation for submission to Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences.

5                           Version of December 14, 2015

6                           **Abstract**

7           The austral stratospheric final warming date is often predicted with substantial  
8           delay in several climate models. This systematic error is generally attributed to insuf-  
9           ficient parametrized gravity waves (GW) drag in the stratosphere around 60°S. This  
10          bias is not present in the LMDz general circulation model, a property that we use to  
11          analyse the contribution of the different types of waves in the model. For this purpose,  
12          the resolved and unresolved wave forcings of the middle atmosphere during the austral  
13          spring are examined in LMDz and reanalysis data, and a good agreement is found be-  
14          tween the two datasets. The role of parameterized orographic and nonorographic GWs  
15          in LMDz is further examined, and it is found that orographic and nonorographic GWs  
16          contribute evenly to the GW forcing in the stratosphere, unlike other climate models  
17          where orographic GWs are the main contributor. This result is shown to be in good  
18          agreement with GW-resolving operational analysis products. It is demonstrated that

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\*Currently at NCAR, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.

19 the significant contribution of the nonorographic GWs is related to the fact that the  
20 source-related nonorographic GW parameterizations used in LMDz produce very inter-  
21 mittent momentum fluxes, in qualitative agreement with recent observations. It yields  
22 sporadic high-amplitude events during which the GWs break in the stratosphere and  
23 force the circulation at lower altitudes than more homogeneously distributed nonoro-  
24 graphic GW parameterization do.

## 25 1 Introduction

26 The final warming (FW) of the polar stratosphere marks the transition from the winter to  
27 summer circulation conditions, and occurs every spring. It is forced radiatively, but wave-  
28 mean flow interactions play an important role and control its inter-annual variability. In the  
29 Southern Hemisphere (SH) a number of climate models predicts that it occurs 1–2 weeks later  
30 than in observations [Butchart et al., 2011; Eyring et al., 2010; Wilcox and Charlton-Perez,  
31 2013], this systematic error being sometimes accompanied by a cold temperature bias in win-  
32 ter and spring. These biases have important implications on the stratospheric dynamics and  
33 chemistry, like a systematic late seasonal ozone recovery over Antarctica that affects simulated  
34 long-term ozone trends and Antarctic climate evolution [Barnes et al., 2014; Perlwitz et al.,  
35 2008].

36 The general consensus to explain **these late FW biases** is that climate models **under-**  
37 **estimate** the gravity wave (GW) forcing in the southern stratosphere, specially around 60°S  
38 [McLandress et al., 2012], but **the** orographic or nonorographic origin **of the missing GWs**  
39 is still controversial. In **present day climate** models, this is unavoidably related to how GW  
40 parameterizations are constructed. On the one hand, parameterized orographic gravity waves  
41 (OGWs) usually break in the troposphere and stratosphere [e.g., Palmer et al., 1986; ?]. This  
42 is in contrast to nonorographic gravity waves (NGWs), which are usually treated in the pa-  
43 rameterizations as small-amplitude waves, breaking at higher altitudes in the mesosphere to  
44 drive the upper branch of the Brewer-Dobson circulation and not interacting directly with the

45 stratospheric flow [e.g. [Alexander et al., 2010](#)]. In the atmosphere, OGWs are present around  
46 60°S although the underlying surface is an ocean: there are contributions due to small islands  
47 of the Southern Ocean [[Alexander et al., 2009](#); [Alexander and Grimsdell, 2013](#)] and due to  
48 lateral propagation from the Andes and the Antarctic Peninsula [[Sato et al., 2012, 2009](#)].  
49 However, small islands are absent or dwarfed because of poor resolution in climate mod-  
50 els, and horizontal propagation is absent from nearly all parameterizations by construction,  
51 leading to a gap in parameterized OGW drag around 60°S. Although this gap is unphysical,  
52 this does not imply that OGWs are solely responsible for the missing GW drag (GWD),  
53 as suggested by [McLandress et al. \[2012\]](#). Another possibility may be that NGWs are often  
54 parameterized as small perturbations, implying that they can propagate to high altitudes  
55 before dissipating. This is also unrealistic according to the recent observational studies that  
56 emphasize the intermittent character of the GW momentum fluxes entering the SH strato-  
57 sphere [[Alexander, 2015](#); [Hertzog et al., 2012, 2008](#); [Plougonven et al., 2013](#); [Wright et al.,](#)  
58 [2013](#)], and this intermittency is absent from nearly all GW parametrizations. If taken into  
59 account, this intermittency could make the NGWs contribute to the missing GWD more  
60 substantially than usually believed.

61 From the observational side, some studies using satellite-derived products have demon-  
62 strated that GWs generated by flow over the small southern islands can carry a significant  
63 amount of momentum flux [e.g., [Alexander et al., 2009](#); [Alexander and Grimsdell, 2013](#)], but  
64 the expected contribution to the global-scale forcing is presumably modest. Other works have  
65 pointed out that the stratospheric GWs observed over the ocean surrounding Antarctica likely  
66 have nonorographic sources. [Hendricks et al. \[2014\]](#) studied the source of the stratospheric  
67 GW belt (at around 60°S) in austral winter. They found a strong correlation between GW  
68 activity and mid-tropospheric maximum Eady growth rate, suggesting the nonorographic  
69 origin of the GWs. In a recent study, [Jewtoukoff et al. \[2015\]](#) showed quantitative evidences  
70 from in-situ balloon observations and high-resolution ECMWF operational analyses that the  
71 momentum flux around 60°S in the lower stratosphere in spring is dominated by GWs from

72 nonorographic sources [see also [Hertzog et al., 2008](#); [Plougonven et al., 2013](#)]. Using obser-  
73 vations of the first mesosphere-stratosphere-troposphere radar in Antarctica, [Shibuya et al.](#)  
74 [[2015](#)] also stress the important contribution of nonorographic GWs to the total momentum  
75 flux in the austral lower stratosphere.

76 The goal of the present study is to contribute to the debate by analyzing the wave forcing  
77 during the final warming of the southern stratosphere in climate simulations with the Labora-  
78 toire de Météorologie Dynamique general circulation model with zoom (LMDz), and in reanal-  
79 ysis products. LMDz includes state-of-the-art stochastic parameterizations of nonorographic  
80 GWs tied to their tropospheric sources [[de la Cámara and Lott, 2015](#); [Lott and Guez, 2013](#)],  
81 which generate lognormally distributed momentum fluxes in agreement with observations  
82 [[de la Cámara et al., 2014](#); [Jewtoukoff et al., 2015](#)], as well as orographic gravity waves [[Lott,](#)  
83 [1999](#); ?]. As a result, we will show that the contribution to the total GW drag in the strato-  
84 sphere of nonorographic GWs is larger than that reported in previous studies with different  
85 parameterizations, and no significant bias on the FW date is found in our model. We will also  
86 show that the ratio of OGWD to NGWD parameterized in LMDz is qualitatively realistic  
87 as compared to the GW-resolving European Centre for Medium-Range Forecast (ECMWF)  
88 operational analysis.

89 The paper is organized as follows. Section [2](#) presents the LMDz model, the method used  
90 to infer the GWD from reanalysis fields, and the calculation of GWD from the ECMWF  
91 operational analysis. In section [3](#) we analyse the wave forcing during the final warming of  
92 the SH, with emphasis on the unresolved waves, and investigate the role of parameterized  
93 GW intermittency. The main conclusions are given in section [4](#).

## 2 Model and methodology

### 2.1 LMDz general circulation model

The LMDz version we use has a  $3.75^\circ \times 1.875^\circ$  longitude-latitude grid, and 71 levels in the vertical with the top at 1 Pa, and a vertical resolution of around 1 km in the lower stratosphere. We show results from a control run of 20 years, forced with climatological fields of sea surface temperature, sea ice, soil temperature and composition over land.

LMDz uses three distinct GWD parameterizations, representing GWs generated by subgrid-scale orography [Lott, 1999], by convection [Lott and Guez, 2013], and by fronts [de la Cámara and Lott, 2015]. The last two are stochastic and supposed to cover all the GWs of nonorographic origins. de la Cámara et al. [2014] and de la Cámara and Lott [2015] showed that the combination of a stochastic approach and the relation with the sources produce lognormally distributed momentum fluxes, i.e. including large, rare events that account for much of the mean value and that potentially break at lower altitudes in the stratosphere.

### 2.2 Inferring gravity wave drag from reanalysis

The zonal mean momentum balance in the Transformed Eulerian Mean (TEM) formalism is given by:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} = \left\{ \frac{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F}}{\rho_0 a \cos \phi} + \bar{X} \right\} + \left\{ \bar{v}^* \hat{f} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} \right\} + residual, \quad (1)$$

where  $a$  is the Earth radius,  $\phi$  is latitude,  $z = -H \log(p/p_r)$  is the log-pressure altitude,  $\rho_0 = \rho_r e^{-z/H}$  is the background density,  $\hat{f} = f - \frac{1}{a \cos \phi} \frac{\partial(\bar{u} \cos \phi)}{\partial \phi}$  with  $f$  the Coriolis parameter,  $\vec{F}$  is the Eliassen-Palm (EP) flux, and  $(\bar{v}^*, \bar{w}^*)$  is the TEM residual circulation [Andrews et al., 1987]. In Eq. 1 the zonal mean wind tendency is determined by the total wave forcing (the first set of braces) and the advection term (the second set of braces). The total wave forcing consists of the divergence of the resolved EP flux  $\vec{F}$  and the drag imposed by parameterized

116 GWs ( $\bar{X}$ ).

117 In the present study we will use the TEM formalism to infer the GWD from ERA-Interim  
118 (ERA-Interim) daily averaged data [Dee and et al, 2011]. We will consider that Eq. 1 will generally  
119 not be balanced in reanalysis products (the residual will be non-negligible) due to the assim-  
120 ilation process and the resulting analysis increments. For the target region and time of the  
121 year it is reasonable to assume that the analysis increments are mainly caused by insufficient  
122 parameterized GWD [McLandress et al., 2012]. Similarly to Alexander and Rosenlof [2003]  
123 and Ern et al. [2014], we calculate the total GWD in ERA-Interim ( $\bar{X}_{res}$ ):

$$\bar{X}_{res} = \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} - \frac{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F}}{\rho_0 a \cos \phi} - \left\{ \bar{v}^* \hat{f} - \bar{w}^* \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} \right\}, \quad (2)$$

124 which is equivalent to the sum of the parameterized GWD and the residual of Eq. 1 ( $\bar{X}_{res} =$   
125  $\bar{X} + residual$ ):

### 126 2.3 Gravity wave drag from ECMWF operational analysis data

127 The ECMWF model used to prepare operational analyses 4 times a day and to make weather  
128 predictions has a spectral truncation of T1279 and 91 vertical levels, corresponding to a grid  
129 spacing of around 500m in the free troposphere and stratosphere. At these resolutions, it  
130 is expected that a significant fraction of the GWs is resolved, and we know from Ern et al.  
131 [2008], Shutts and Vosper [2011] and Preusse et al. [2014] that the GWs in the ECMWF  
132 operational analysis fairly compare to those observed by satellites, a result confirmed with in-  
133 situ super pressure balloons [Jewtoukoff et al., 2015]. Relevant for our work, Jewtoukoff et al.  
134 [2015] showed that the spatial distribution of the GWs in the analysis is realistic as well as  
135 the wave statistics.

136 In the present study, we will use the ECMWF operational analysis data to diagnose the  
137 ratio of OGW drag to NGW drag and consider for this the data available four times a day  
138 (0h, 6h, 12h, and 18h UTC) over a 5 year period (2006–2010). Following Jewtoukoff et al.  
139 [2015], the GW velocity perturbations are obtained by spectral truncation of the wind and

140 temperature field removing the 15 first zonal modes. In the spectral space the density and  
 141 local correlations between the zonal and vertical components of the wind, and the meridional  
 142 wind and temperature, are calculated to yield the vertical component of the E-P flux:

$$F^{(z)} = \rho_0 a \cos \phi \left[ \left( f - \frac{1}{a \cos \phi} \frac{\partial \bar{u} \cos \phi}{\partial \phi} \right) \frac{\overline{v'\theta'}}{\partial \bar{\theta} / \partial z} - \overline{w'u'} \right]. \quad (3)$$

143 The vertical divergence of the flux gives the resolved GW drag. It is important to remark  
 144 that ERA-Interim data is used in the present study to analyze the unresolved wave drag  
 145 in a consistent climatological dataset, while the ECMWF operational analysis data is used  
 146 to explore the balance between orographic and nonorographic GW drag in a GW-resolving  
 147 dataset.

## 148 3 Results

### 149 3.1 The austral stratospheric final warming in LMDz

150 Figures 1a-b illustrate the austral stratospheric final warming in ERAI through a climato-  
 151 logical average (1979-2012) of the altitude-time evolution of the zonal mean zonal wind at  
 152 70S-50S and temperature over the polar cap during the southern winter and spring. The  
 153 latitude range for the wind corresponds to the approximate location of the jet maximum  
 154 throughout the season. During the winter months the wind is eastward, with a maximum  
 155 of  $\sim 70 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  in July around 1 hPa and below. Starting in late September and from the  
 156 highest altitudes, the winds decelerate and change to westward direction, signaling the tran-  
 157 sition from winter to summer circulation conditions. The black contour in Fig. 1a represents  
 158 the zero-wind line, and the gray contour the 10 m/s wind line, and illustrate very clearly  
 159 that the transition from eastward to westward winds happens at mesospheric levels first (in  
 160 October above 1 hPa) and at stratospheric levels later in the season (in early December at  
 161 10 hPa). The transition in temperature appears lower down and about a month earlier,  
 162 with a warming of several tens of degree in agreement with early studies of the FW [e.g.

163 [Mechose et al., 1985](#)]. Figures 1c,d show similar plots but for LMDz. The maximum of the  
164 winter jet ( $80 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) is stronger than in ERAI, and the very low temperatures in the winter  
165 lower stratosphere slightly expand to lower levels. Apart from these differences, the evolution  
166 of the zonal wind and temperature simulated by LMDz compares well with that reproduced  
167 in ERAI. Following [Black and McDaniel \[2007\]](#), we use 5-day running averages of daily data  
168 to calculate the final warming date as the final time that the zonal-mean zonal wind at  $60^\circ\text{S}$   
169 and 50 hPa drops below  $10\text{-m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  until the following autumn. As shown in Fig. 1, the aver-  
170 aged final warming date is the 342 day-of-year in ERAI, and the 348 day-of-year in LMDz  
171 (day 343 in a 360-day year), which are fairly close to each other.

172 Figure 2 gives a complementary view of the zonal wind evolution over the spring, display-  
173 ing the monthly zonal-mean zonal wind for September, October and November in ERAI and  
174 LMDz. There is reasonable agreement between the two datasets, in particular the position  
175 of the zero-wind line. These results illustrate that LMDz does a good job simulating the final  
176 warming of the SH. In the next sections we analyze the resolved and unresolved wave forcing  
177 during the FW, focusing on the role of nonorographic GW parameterizations.

### 178 **3.2 Resolved and unresolved wave forcing**

179 Figure 3 shows latitude-height cross-sections of monthly mean resolved wave drag (i.e. di-  
180 vergence of the EP flux, DF) in ERAI and LMDz, for October and November from the  
181 mid-stratosphere to the lower mesosphere. In October, the magnitude and the extent of the  
182 negative wave forcing in ERAI resembles that in LMDz (Figs. 3a,c). The main difference  
183 appears over the pole higher than 0.3 hPa, where the positive values are larger in ERAI.  
184 This positive EP flux divergence arises in a region of very weak positive and negative winds  
185 (Fig. 2b,e), where the waves tend to be refracted away resulting in positive divergence of the  
186 EP flux. The difference in magnitude could be partly due to a weaker vertical shear in ERAI  
187 than in LMDz, which favors refraction. In November as well, the forcing is similar in both  
188 datasets, with slightly stronger negative forcing in LMDz than in ERAI in the stratosphere



189 (below  $\sim 1$  hPa).

190 Figures 4a-d show the corresponding latitude-height cross-sections of monthly mean  $\bar{X}_{res}$   
191 in ERAI and total GWD in LMDz. Interestingly, the momentum-balance estimate for the  
192 GWD in ERAI shows clear similarities with the parameterized GWD in LMDz in both  
193 magnitude and distribution. There is strong negative forcing in mid- to high latitudes in  
194 October that weakens in November, but the  $-1 \text{ m s}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  isoline expands to lower altitudes  
195 in the stratosphere in ERAI than in LMDz. Although a bit weaker, the GW forcing has a  
196 similar pattern and order of magnitude in October and November as that of the resolved  
197 waves (Fig. 3), highlighting the importance of GW drag parameterizations to achieve a  
198 realistic middle atmospheric circulation.

199 It is interesting that despite the different horizontal resolutions, ERAI having a horizontal  
200 spacing of about 80 km (T255 spectral truncation) and LMDz of about 200 km, the resolved  
201 and unresolved wave forcing have a similar order of magnitude and latitude distribution  
202 in both datasets. The reason is probably that the resolved forcing in the stratosphere in  
203 both ERAI and LMDz essentially come from planetary scale Rossby waves, e.g. waves with  
204 scales that can be resolved in both models, and consistent with the fact that the synoptic  
205 disturbances play a small role in the middle atmosphere dynamics [Andrews et al., 1987].

### 206 **3.3 Orographic and nonorographic gravity wave drag**

207 We next analyse the relative contribution of the nonorographic and orographic GWD pa-  
208 rameterizations to the total GW forcing in LMDz. Figure 5 shows the profiles of OGWD  
209 and NGWD for October, focusing on stratospheric levels from 100 to 1 hPa. It appears  
210 that the main contribution to the total GW forcing at these altitudes in the model comes  
211 from nonorographic GWs. The OGWD presents a minimum around  $60^\circ\text{S}$  consistent with  
212 the absence of topography in that latitude band and the columnar approximation made  
213 in parameterizations. This gap of orographic GWD at  $60^\circ\text{S}$  is compensated by GWD of  
214 nonorographic origin, which peaks around that latitude possibly due to the location of the

215 tropospheric sources [Hendricks et al., 2014] and the presence of the stratospheric jet. This  
216 relatively large contribution in LMDz of nonorographic GWs to the stratospheric forcing  
217 during the austral spring differs from most climate models. In a study of the SH cold pole  
218 and strong jet biases in the Canadian Middle Atmosphere Model, McLandress et al. [2012]  
219 showed that the OGWD was much stronger than the NGWD in their model, and found that  
220 the mentioned biases were reduced when including an extra forcing at 60°S in the OGWD  
221 scheme.

222 Recent observations indicate that the GW momentum flux in the springtime lower strato-  
223 sphere over the Southern Ocean is dominated by nonorographic GWs [e.g., Hendricks et al.,  
224 2014; Jewtoukoff et al., 2015; Shibuya et al., 2015], pointing to the potential importance of  
225 these waves in forcing the stratospheric circulation in the region. However, this cannot be  
226 verified observationally since the derivation of the GW drag from global measurements re-  
227 mains a big challenge [Alexander, 2015; Geller et al., 2013]. Thus, to address whether the  
228 balance between orographic and nonorographic GWD in LMDz is consistent, we next com-  
229 pare the GW drag in LMDz with the GW drag obtained from the resolved spectrum of GWs  
230 in the ECMWF operational model (see Section 2). Figure 6 shows the corresponding plots  
231 for ECMWF operational analyses data. We simply apply a geographical mask to discern  
232 between orographic and nonorographic GWs: all the GWs placed over the green areas in  
233 Fig. 6c will be considered most likely of orographic origin, and those outside the green ar-  
234 eas almost surely of nonorographic origin. Using a GW resolving climate model, Sato et al.  
235 [2012] showed that OGWs originating from the Andes and Antarctic Peninsula propagate  
236 very far leeward of the topographic obstacles. To account for this effect, our 'orographic'  
237 region extends downstream of obstacles as in Plougonven et al. [2013]. The OGWD in the  
238 analyses (Fig. 6a) does not go to zero around 60°S, unlike in LMDz(Fig. 5a). This is clearly  
239 due to the fact that we consider as orographic GWs those detected above small islands and  
240 over a vast region leeward of the Andes and Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 6c). Apart from this  
241 difference, the magnitude and vertical extension of OGWD and NGWD agree reasonably

242 well with parameterized data in LMDz. And importantly, the ratio of OGWD to NGWD is  
243 similar in both datasets.

### 244 **3.4 The role of gravity wave intermittency**

245 To clarify further the significance of the intermittency, we next make offline tests using  
246 October daily fields from LMDz, and test different configuration of the NGWD schemes.  
247 Figure 7a presents the NGW drag averaged in time and longitude. It compares well with  
248 the online runs in Fig. 5b, witnessing the potential of the offline calculations. First, these  
249 offline runs permit to estimate the intermittency of the momentum-flux predicted by our  
250 schemes, as Fig. 7b illustrates by showing the probability density functions of NGW absolute  
251 momentum flux at different levels in the stratosphere south of 40°S (Fig. 7b). As high-  
252 lighted in [de la Cámara et al. \[2014\]](#) and [de la Cámara and Lott \[2015\]](#), the NGW sources  
253 included in these stochastic parameterizations naturally generate lognormally distributed  
254 momentum fluxes in agreement with observations [[Alexander, 2015](#); [Hertzog et al., 2012](#);  
255 [Jewtoukoff et al., 2015](#)]. We see in Fig. 7b that the larger, less frequent momentum fluxes  
256 are filtered out throughout the stratosphere, and therefore are responsible for the NGW drag  
257 at stratospheric levels.

258 To reveal more precisely the significance of intermittency, we next run our NGWs pa-  
259 rameterization imposing a constant flux at the launching altitude, and choose for value the  
260 averaged of the flux amplitude emitted when the sources are explicit. The value is near 3  
261 mPa, and the corresponding drag due to the westward component of the GW stress is shown  
262 in Fig. 8, where the bottom panels show the drag multiplied by a normalized density to  
263 highlight the values at stratospheric levels. The westward drag produced when considering  
264 a fixed emitted stress of 3 mPa is smaller in the stratosphere and larger in the mesosphere  
265 than when considering NGW sources (Figs. 8a, 8b, 8c, and 8d).

266 The differences at mesospheric levels are important. As commented in the Introduction,  
267 NGW parameterization were introduced in climate models to be active at high altitudes, in

268 order to close the mesospheric jets and to contribute to the upper branch of the Brewer-  
269 Dobson circulation. Therefore, as our model with source-related NGWs is quite realistic, it  
270 is likely that one should reduce the imposed fixed stress to reach comparable results online  
271 with fixed stress. This is therefore what is done in Figs. 8c and 8f, which show the westward  
272 wave drag for an offline run reducing the emitted fixed stress to 1.25 mPa. We obtain now  
273 a reasonable drag above 50 km, but at the cost of reducing significantly the drag in the  
274 stratosphere.

275 To summarize, these results suggest that with schemes imposing fixed NGWs sources it  
276 will be difficult to predict the stratospheric GW drag requested to simulate the annual cycle  
277 of the westerly jet without altering the mesosphere.

## 278 4 Summary and conclusions

279 Insufficient parameterized GW drag around 60°S is likely causing the delay in springtime  
280 breakdown of the austral polar vortex in a number of climate models [e.g., [Wilcox and Charlton-Perez,](#)  
281 [2013](#)]. Yet, there is not a clear consensus on the origin of the 'missing' GW drag (oro-  
282 graphic versus nonorographic) [e.g., [McLandress et al., 2012](#)]. Recent observational studies  
283 stress the significant contribution of nonorographic GWs to the total momentum flux in  
284 the lower stratosphere, and highlight their intermittent behaviour [e.g., [Alexander, 2015;](#)  
285 [Hendricks et al., 2014;](#) [Hertzog et al., 2012;](#) [Jewtoukoff et al., 2015;](#) [Shibuya et al., 2015;](#)  
286 [Wright et al., 2013](#)]. This intermittency decisively determines the altitude at which the waves  
287 break, and is generally not modelled in NGW parameterizations.

288 We have shown that the LMDz climate model does not present a significant delay of the  
289 stratospheric vortex breakdown, and consequently can be used to analyze the wave forcing  
290 during the austral stratospheric final warming. We have found a good agreement in the  
291 zonal drag exerted by resolved and unresolved waves between LMDz and ERAI. In LMDz,  
292 the unresolved forcing comprises the parameterized GW drag (i.e orographic, convective  
293 and frontal GWs), while in ERAI it has been derived from the momentum balance in the

294 Transformed Eulerian Mean formalism.

295 Differently from many climate models, where orographic GWs play a dominant role at  
296 stratospheric levels, the parameterized GW drag in LMDz during the austral final warming is  
297 not larger for waves of orographic origin than for those of nonorographic origin. Furthermore,  
298 while the OGW drag presents a minimum at 60°S, the NGW drag presents a maximum at  
299 this latitude possibly related to baroclinic activity and favourable propagation conditions in  
300 the jet stream. Therefore, in LMDz nonorographic GWs make a significant contribution to  
301 the total wave forcing during the austral final warming. We have demonstrated that this  
302 significant contribution of NGWs at stratospheric levels is due to a qualitatively realistic  
303 representation of momentum-flux intermittency in the NGW parameterizations used. The  
304 stochastic scheme, tied to convective and frontal GW sources [de la Cámara and Lott, 2015;  
305 Lott and Guez, 2013], naturally produce sporadic, high-amplitude GWs that tend to break  
306 and force the circulation at lower levels in the stratosphere. At the same time, the bulk of  
307 waves carrying small momentum flux produce a drag in the mesosphere that keep simulated  
308 winds and temperature at those altitudes within reasonable limits.

309 Using resolved gravity waves from the high-resolution ECMWF operational analysis, we  
310 have shown that the balance between orographic and nonorographic GW drag is similar to  
311 the drag parameterized in LMDz, which provides a physical justification for a fair represen-  
312 tation of momentum-flux intermittency in nonorographic GW parameterizations. We know  
313 that the ECMWF operational analysis underestimates by a factor of 5 the resolved GW mo-  
314 mentum fluxes entering in the stratosphere when compared to direct balloon measurements  
315 Jewtoukoff et al. [2015]. Although we have shown that the introduction of intermittency  
316 permits us to increase substantially the GW fluxes entering the model stratosphere without  
317 degrading the mesosphere, these quite large measured values tell that much more still needs  
318 to be understood concerning the drag exerted in the models' stratosphere at lower levels.  
319 Also, we must not forget that the necessary simplifications made in parameterizations, such  
320 as instant vertical propagation or total conversion of vertical momentum flux into a drag,

321 could be missing some fundamental dynamics that might explain the large quantitative devi-  
322 ations between the observed absolute momentum fluxes in the lower stratosphere [[Alexander](#),  
323 [2015](#); [Jewtoukoff et al., 2015](#)], and the parameterized values (see Fig. 7b). In this regard, the  
324 direct comparison of observed and modelled (parameterized) momentum fluxes might not be  
325 well-posed [[Geller et al., 2013](#)].

326 Finally, our results do not rule out the potential role of misrepresented orographic GWs  
327 due to the absence of lateral propagation in the parameterizations [see [Kalisch et al., 2014](#)].  
328 We rather argue that it is not the only cause of the GW drag deficit, and that the missing  
329 drag can be to a great extent due to nonorographic GWs. Also, we argue that improving the  
330 NGWs parameterizations by relating quantitatively the GW amplitudes to their sources can  
331 help to simulate better the Antarctic stratospheric final warming.

### 332

### 333 **Acknowledgements:**

334 The authors would to thank the French ANR project Stradyvarius (Stratospheric Dynamics  
335 and Variability), and the Franco-Argentinian LEFE and ECOS projects DIAC (Dynamical  
336 Influence of the Andes on Climate) and DIAGAC (Dynamical Influence of the Andes on the  
337 Global and Argentinian Climate). AdIC has been partially supported by the Advanced Study  
338 Program at NCAR.

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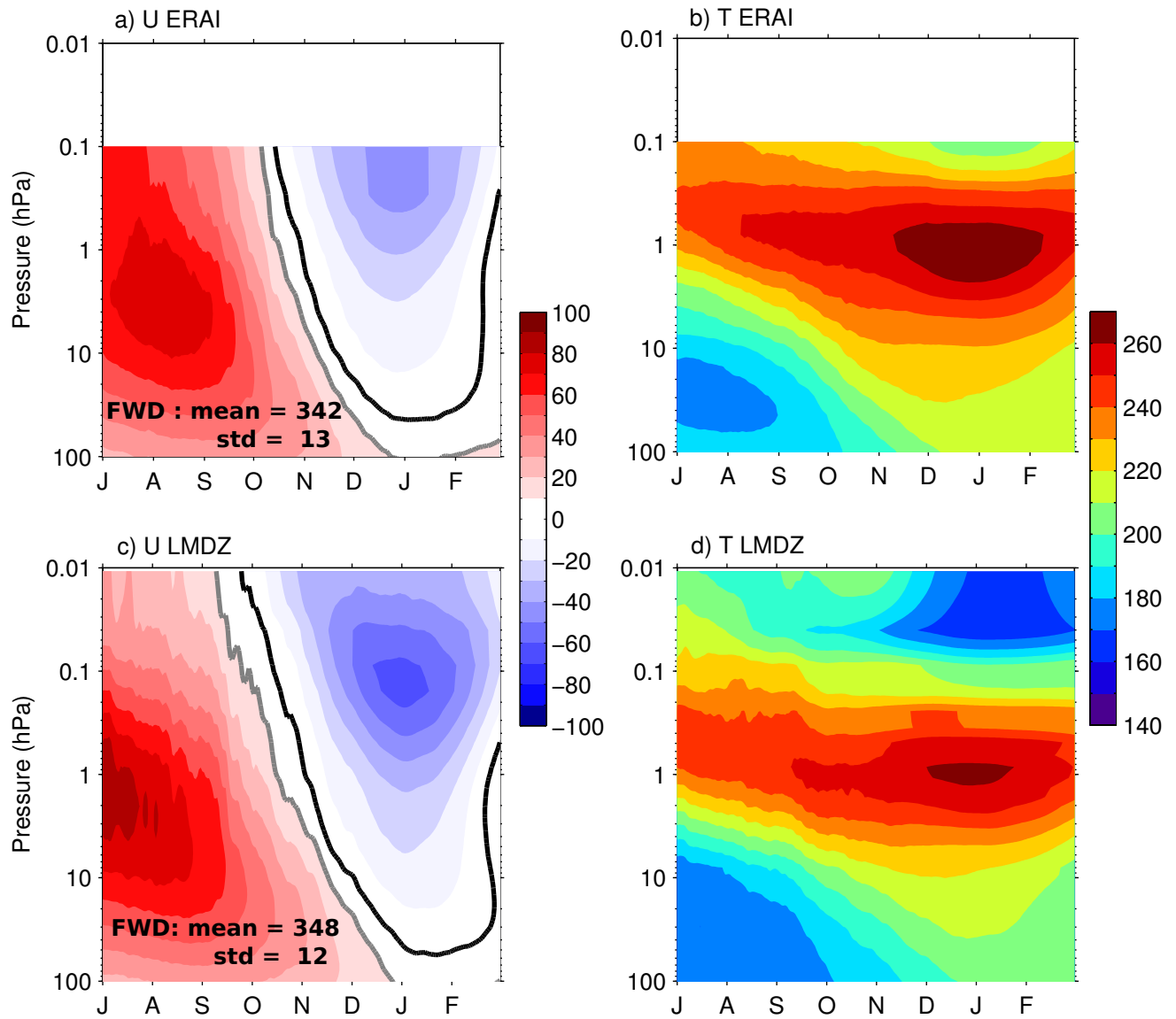


Figure 1: Time-height evolution of (a) zonal mean zonal wind averaged over  $70^{\circ}\text{S}$ - $50^{\circ}\text{S}$  and (b) temperature averaged over  $85^{\circ}\text{S}$ - $60^{\circ}\text{S}$  during the southern winter and spring for ERAI. (c, d) Same as (a, b) but for LMDz. The averaged date of the final warming, and the standard deviation (in Julian days) are also indicated for each dataset.

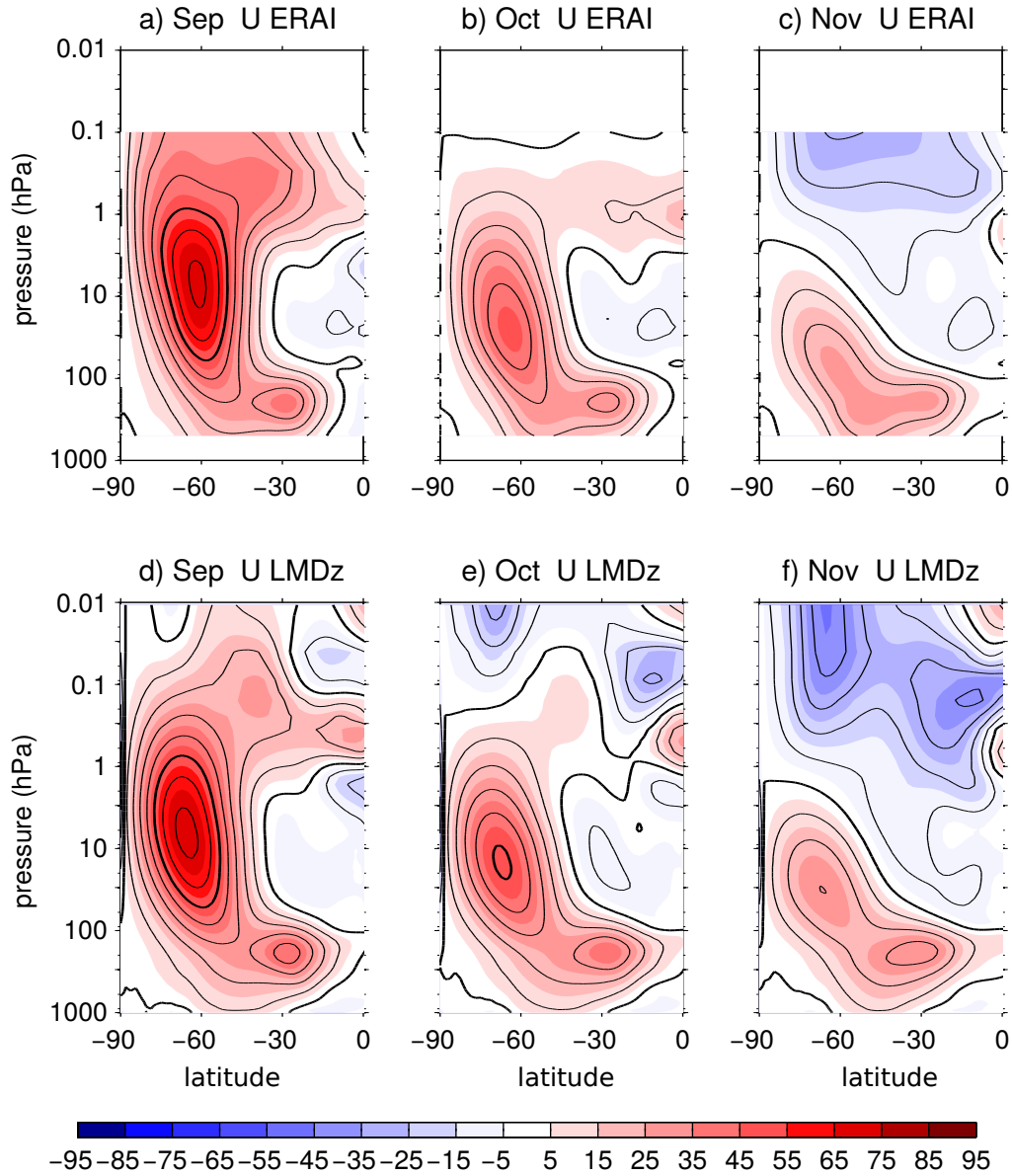


Figure 2: Time-height evolution of (a) zonal mean zonal wind averaged over  $70^{\circ}\text{S}$ - $50^{\circ}\text{S}$  and (b) temperature averaged over  $85^{\circ}\text{S}$ - $60^{\circ}\text{S}$  during the southern winter and spring for ERAI. (c, d) Same as (a, b) but for LMDz. The averaged date of the final warming, and the standard deviation (in Julian days) are also indicated for each dataset.

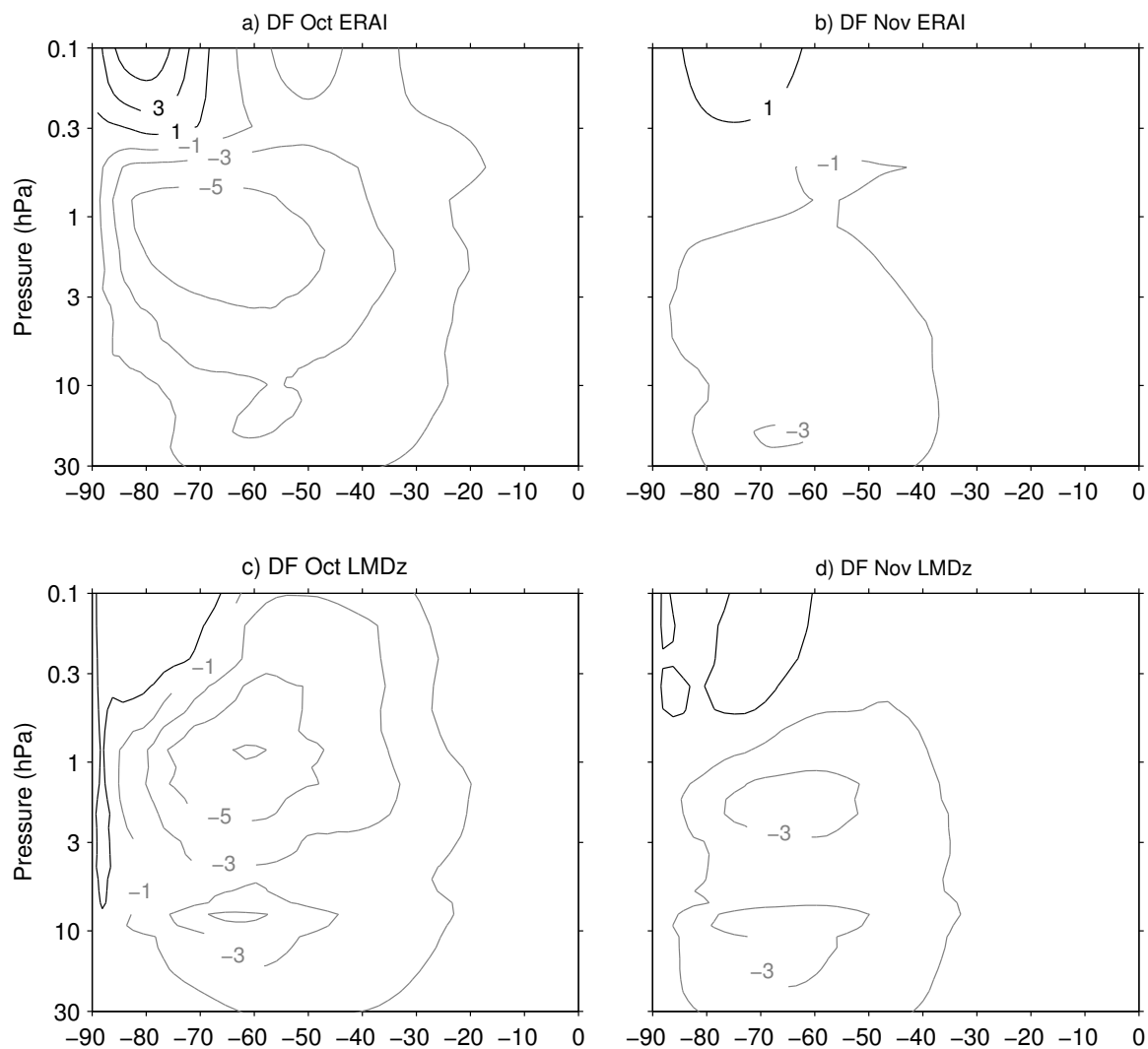


Figure 3: Latitude-height profiles of resolved wave drag for (a) October and (b) November for ERAI. (c, d) Same as (a, b) but for LMDz. Contour interval is  $2 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ , starting at  $\pm 1 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ .

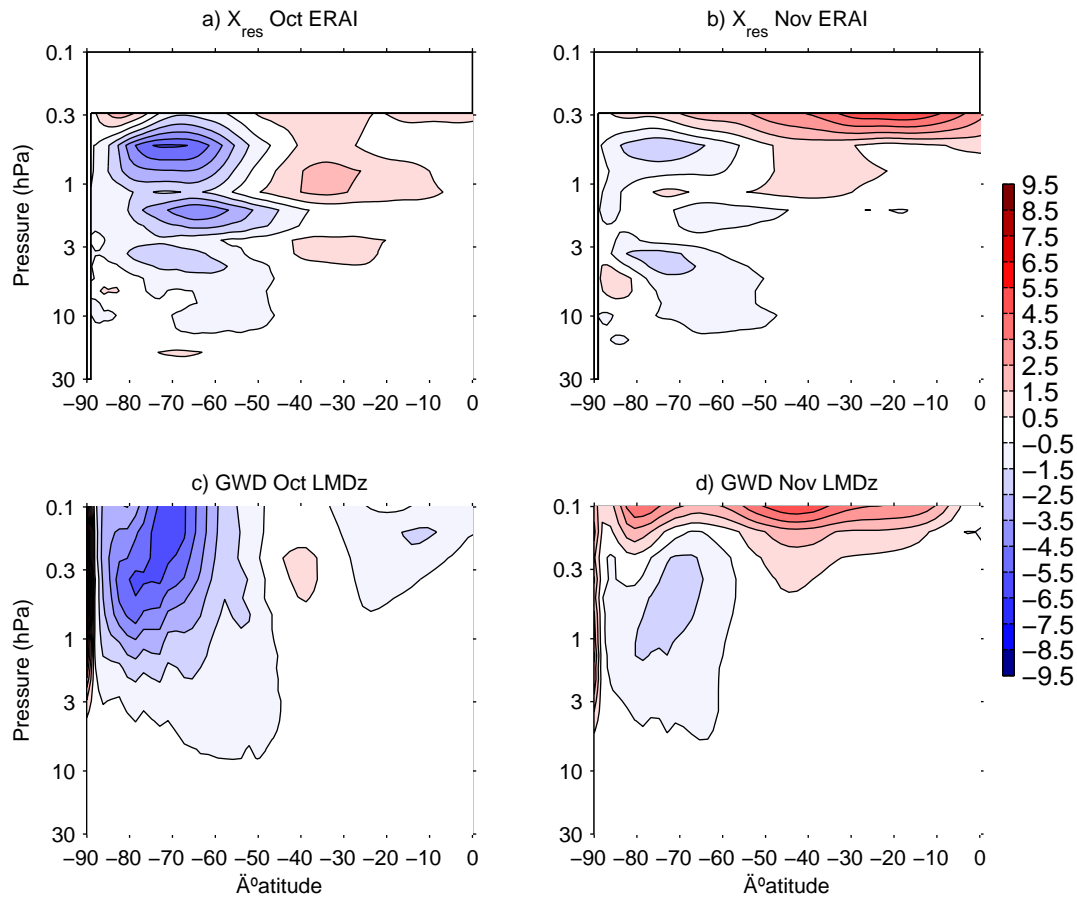


Figure 4: Same as Fig. 3, but for unresolved (parameterized) gravity waves.

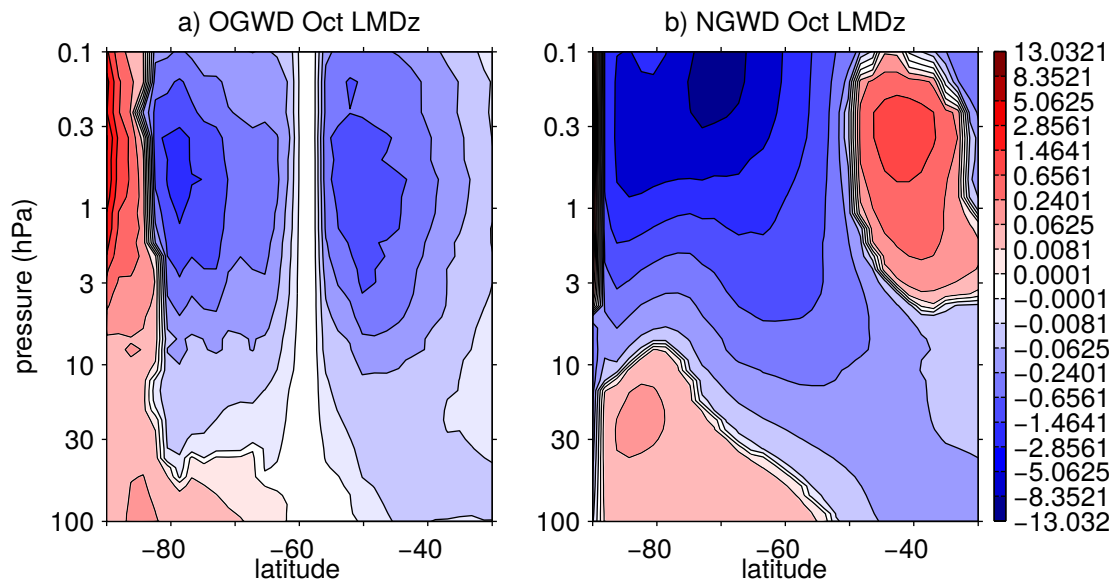


Figure 5: Latitude-height profiles in the stratosphere of (a) orographic, and (b) nonorographic gravity wave drag (in  $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ) in LMDz for October.

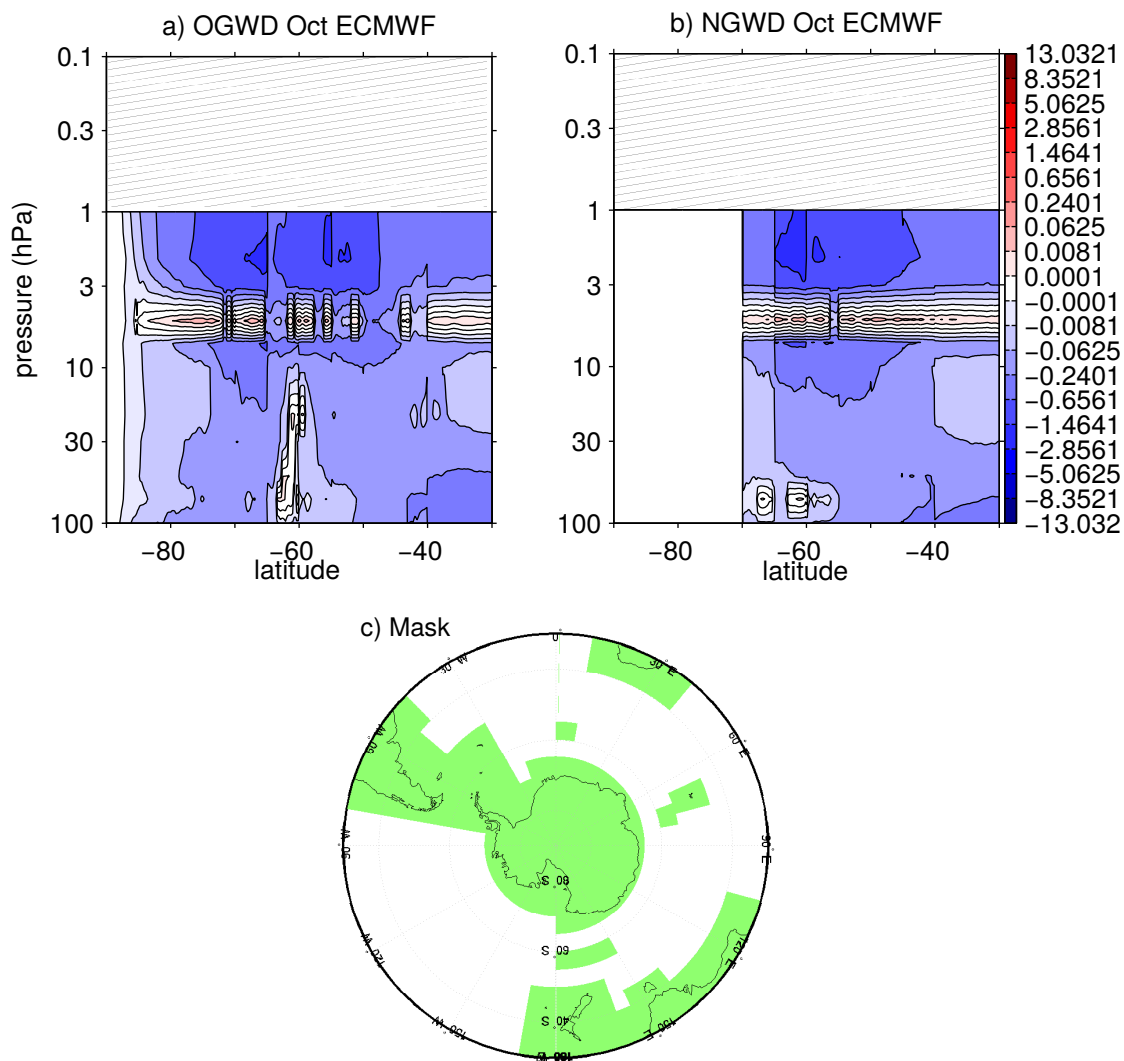


Figure 6: (a, b) As in Fig. 5, but for resolved gravity waves in the ECMWF operational analyses (2006–2010 period). Data is not displayed higher of 1 hPa (hatched area). (c) Map showing the continental mask (in green) used to discriminate orographic and nonorographic GWs in the ECMWF operational analyses data.

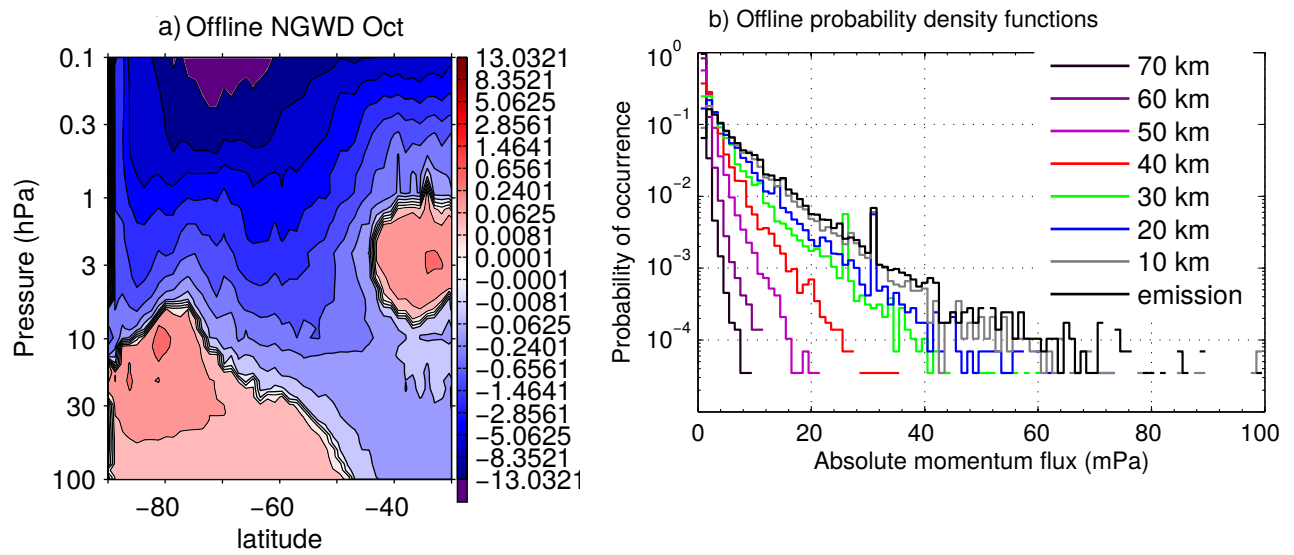


Figure 7: Some gravity wave diagnostics produced offline using LMDz fields for a given October: a) nonorographic gravity wave drag (in  $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ), and b) probability density functions (histogram style) of NGW absolute momentum fluxes in the latitude band  $90^{\circ}\text{S}$ - $40^{\circ}\text{S}$  at different altitudes.

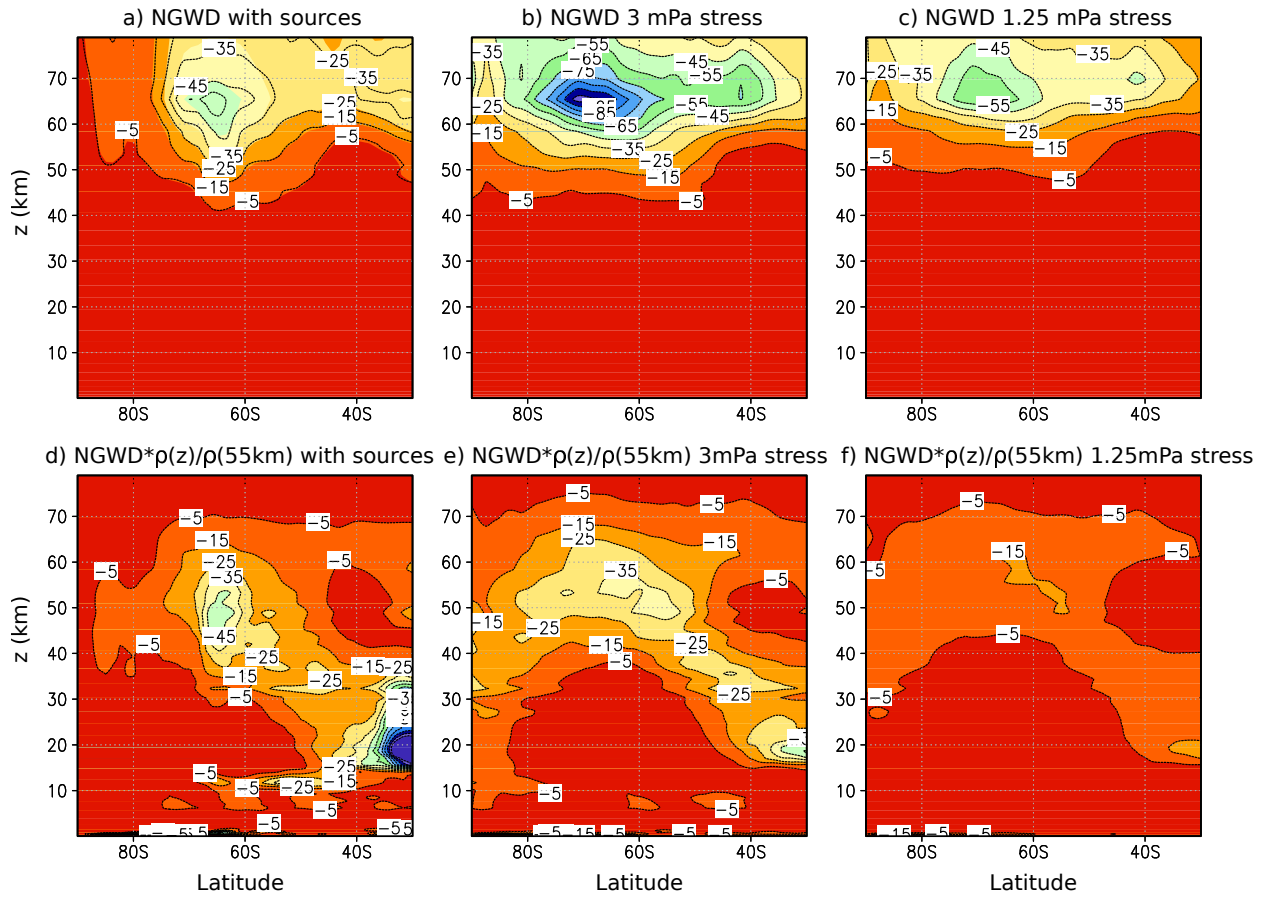


Figure 8: Westward nonorographic gravity wave drag (in  $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ) derived offline using a) GW sources, b) a fixed emitted stress of 3 mPa, and c) a fixed emitted stress of 1.25 mPa. In order to emphasize the drag at stratospheric levels, the bottom panels display the drag scaled by a normalized density.