Can parameterizations reproduce the gravity waves momentum fluxes and drag simulated by a global high resolution model?

I. Toghraei¹, F. Lott¹, L. Köhler², C. C. Stephan³, M. J. Alexander⁴

5	¹ Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace, PSL Research Institute, Paris,
6	France.
7	² Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven, Germany.
8	³ Department of Modelling of Atmospheric Processes, Leibniz Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the
9	University of Rostock, Kühlungsborn, Germany.
10	⁴ NorthWest Research Associates, Boulder Office, Boulder, CO, USA
11	keypoints
12	Gravity waves (GWs) parameterizations are used to predict the GWs solved in a short
13	range high-resolution global simulation.
14	The regions with large GWs activity in the low stratosphere of the global model are
15	quite well captured by the parameterizations.
16	An attenuation of the simulated GWs aloft the subtropical jets is described and is un-
17	derestimated by the parameterization.
18	The comparison suggests that the balance between the different sources of GWs should

¹⁹ be considered with great care.

1

2

3

4

Corresponding author: Francois Lott, francois.lott@lmd.ipsl.fr

20 Abstract

- ²¹ We compare the gravity waves (GWs) parameterizations used in the IPSLCM6 climate
- model to the GWs simulated in the ICON high-resolution global model. The parame-
- terizations are run offline using ICON fields coarse-grained to a $100 \ km$ horizontal scale
- grid and are compared to the GWs momentum fluxes (MFs) and drag due to the smaller
- scale disturbances and that are resolved in ICON. Overall, the parameterized and resolved
- drags are comparable and the MFs align well. It also seems that each GWs parameter-
- ization (fronts, convection and mountains) plays a role at the right geographical loca-
- tion. Among the differences, we find that in ICON the GWs are substantially attenu-
- ²⁹ ated aloft the subtropical jet, this is underestimated by the parameterization. It could
- ³⁰ be corrected by tuning the characteristic phase speeds or the breaking criteria of the pa-
- rameterized GWs. The comparison also suggests that ICON underestimates frontal waves.

32 Plain Language Summary

To simulate the middle atmosphere climate, Earth System Models use parameter-33 izations of small-scale gravity waves that are generated in the troposphere and that prop-34 agate and break in the middle atmosphere. The direct in situ observations of these waves 35 are sparse and non-global, their remote satellite observations are more global but still 36 have quite coarse resolutions. To compensate for these deficiencies, the recent high-resolution 37 global simulations of the earth atmosphere are extremely promising because they explic-38 itly solve a good fraction of the gravity wave spectra and their dissipation. Here we show 39 that these simulations are promising to tune existing parameterizations, and in partic-40 ular adjusting the partition between the different sources of waves or the characteristic 41 phase speeds of the parameterized waves. Reciprocally, these comparisons could help to 42 tell if the global scale high-resolution models produce more or less gravity waves than 43 needed for the middle atmosphere climate. 44

45 **1** Introduction

Gravity waves (GWs) are generated by various sources, mainly in the troposphere, 46 such as flow over mountains (Lilly & Kennedy, 1973), convection (Fovell et al., 1992). 47 and imbalances in jets and fronts (Plougonven & Zhang, 2014). As GWs propagate ver-48 tically, they carry horizontal momentum and affect the large-scale circulation when they 49 break (Dunkerton, 1997; M. Alexander & Rosenlof, 2003; Fritts & Alexander, 2003; McLan-50 dress & Shepherd, 2009). Since the horizontal scale of the GWs can be much shorter than 51 the 1° to 2° horizontal resolution of the atmospheric general circulation models used in 52 earth system models, they need to be parameterized (M. Alexander et al., 2010). State-53 of-the-art GW parameterization schemes make quite a distinct treatment between the 54 orographic and non-orographic GWs. 55

In the orographic GW schemes, quite local and detailed information about the source 56 is explicitly taken into account. Such orographic GW parameterizations have been em-57 ployed for almost 40 years and have proven to be successful in reducing biases in both 58 the upper (Palmer et al., 1986) and lower troposphere (Lott, 1999; Scinocca & McFar-59 lane, 2000). To a certain extent, they have been validated by dedicated in situ observa-60 tions during field campaigns (Lott & Miller, 1997; Smith & Kruse, 2018), and high-resolution 61 limited area model simulations, i.e. validations that remain very local in space and time. 62 In the non-orographic GW schemes, the numerical and theoretical complexities of treat-63 ing large ensemble of waves and of their breaking at a reasonable cost have been a ma-64 jor concern. These inherent difficulties have led to the development of globally spectral 65 schemes (Hines, 1997; Warner & McIntyre, 1999) or to treat the large ensemble of waves 66 with stochastic methods (Lott et al., 2012). In these schemes, the introduction of sources 67 is more recent and not systematic. It is generally believed that these sources are con-68 vection (Beres et al., 2005; Song & Chun, 2005; Lott & Guez, 2013a) and fronts in the 69 mid-latitude (Charron & Manzini, 2002; De la Cámara & Lott, 2015) (see also (Richter 70 et al., 2010)). Such non-orographic GW parameterizations have also been successfully 71 introduced to reduce biases in the middle atmosphere (Scinocca, 2003; Song & Chun, 72 2005; Beres et al., 2005; Orr et al., 2010; Lott & Guez, 2013a; De la Cámara & Lott, 2015; 73 Bushell et al., 2015; Anstey et al., 2016; Serva et al., 2018) and their realism has been 74 largely proven indirectly through their impact on the large-scale circulation. 75

With the most recent global satellite observations, it becomes possible to gain a 76 global view of the GW fields. However, these techniques only detect the large horizontal-77 scale GWs and mostly measure temperature fluctuations (Geller et al., 2013a) and the 78 momentum fluxes being computed indirectly using polarization relations (M. J. Alexan-79 der et al., 2010; Ern et al., 2014). In order to observe the shorter horizontal scales and 80 to have more direct access to the momentum fluxes, in situ observations are more adapted 81 and the most precise measurements are provided by constant-level long-duration balloons 82 like those made in the Antarctic region during Strateole-Vorcore (Hertzog, 2007) and Con-83 cordiasi (Rabier et al., 2010), or in the deep tropics during PreConcordiasi (Jewtoukoff 84 et al., 2013) and Strateole 2 (Haase et al., 2018). These observations have helped im-85 prove our understanding and parameterizations of GWs (M. Alexander et al., 2021; Lott 86 et al., 2023). Nevertheless, these observations are mainly regional, limited to the lower 87 stratosphere, and cover relatively short periods of time, which limit the scope of the re-88 sults obtained (Geller et al., 2013b; Achatz et al., 2024). 89

To complement these incomplete and global or too local datasets global high-resolution 90 models offer a promising avenue. There are at least three reasons for this. First, in these 91 models, GW fields start to be rather realistic when compared with satellite observations 92 (Stephan et al., 2019), with momentum fluxes matching quite decently with those de-93 rived from satellite observations. In this regard, it is important to note that the GW dy-94 namics at work in these models is still not fully understood and GW momentum fluxes 95 remain dependent on the model formulation. Secondly, these models start to tell at which 96 resolution GWs no longer need to be parameterized. In this respect, Polichtchouk et al. 97

(2023) show that GWs still need to be parameterized in global models with grid-scale 98 near $4 \, km$, with some convergence being reached at around $1 \, km$ resolution. If true, such 99 low convergence will make that parameterizations will remain necessary in most climate 100 models for the foreseeable future (Achatz et al., 2024). Third and starting again from 10 the results in Polichtchouk et al. (2023), these simulations give information on the par-102 titioning between the different sources of GWs (orographic or non-orographic), which 103 is crucial when tuning parameterizations in large-scale models. For instance, it is essen-104 tial to achieve the appropriate balance between orographic and non-orographic GWs when 105 simulating the right climate of the middle atmosphere in both the Northern Hemisphere 106 and the Southern Hemisphere. Similarly, achieving the right balance between convec-107 tive and frontal waves is crucial when trying to reproduce the mid-latitude dynamics and 108 simulate a quasi-biennial oscillation in the tropics. 109

Based on the success of the GW parameterization schemes to simulate the right 110 climate, the purpose of this paper is to evaluate momentum fluxes parameterized in cli-111 mate models by comparing them to those explicitly resolved in a recent state-of-the-art 112 high-resolution model. This comparison is an essential step in bridging the gap between 113 observations, models, and parameterizations to consolidate our understanding of the sig-114 nificance of GWs on climate. It also has practical applications. One application is to de-115 termine if high-resolution models produce the right amount of waves by directly com-116 paring parameterizations and resolved waves, rather than relying on simulations with 117 increasing resolution. Another is to assess if the GWs dynamics at work in parameter-118 izations are consistent with the GWs dynamics in high-resolution models. To reach these 119 goals, we use the ICOsahedral Nonhydrostatic Weather and Climate Model (ICON), which 120 is a state-of-the-art high-resolution global model capable of simulating GWs explicitly 121 (Hohenegger et al., 2023). The field from this model are "coarse-grained" at horizontal 122 scales near 1° to mimic the grid scale of an ESM, the subgrid-scale fluxes being due to 123 motions with scales ranging between the model and the coarse-grain resolution. From 124 the coarse-grained fields of winds, temperature, and precipitation, we run in offline mode 125 the GW parameterizations that are operational in the Institute Paul Simon Laplace Cou-126 pled Model version for CMIP6 (IPSLCM6, (Boucher et al., 2020)). 127

The plan of the paper is as follows: Data and Methods are briefly discussed in section §2. In section §3, the temporal mean and zonal mean GW fluxes by the parameterizations are compared with the zonal momentum fluxes simulated by ICON to comprehensively assess the capabilities of the parameterization schemes across different atmospheric regions and layers. Finally, section §4 illustrates how such comparison can highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the parameterization schemes used in a given model.

¹³⁴ 2 Data and method

2.1 Simulated Zonal momentum flux

135

To calculate horizontal momentum fluxes due to GWs with horizontal scales smaller 136 than typical climate model grid scales, we take 3-hourly instantaneous output from a 5 year 137 ICON run with atmosphere-ocean coupling performed within the cycle 3 of the project 138 nextGEMS (Koldunov et al., 2023). The horizontal resolution of the icosahedral grid was 139 R2B9 ($\sim 5 \ km$), but the outputs are immediately remapped to a Hierarchical Equal Area 140 isoLatitude Pixelation (Healpix) grid with resolution parameter $N_{\rm side} = 1024$ correspond-141 ing to a horizontal resolution $\sim 6.3 \ km$. In the vertical, the model has 90 unequally spaced 142 levels up to of $z = 75 \ km$. In the following, we only use results up to the top of the strato-143 sphere, $z = 50 \ km$, the altitudes aloft being in the model sponge layer. In the lower 144 stratosphere at 16 km the vertical resolution is near $\sim 700 m$ and at the stratopause 145 at $z = 50 \ km$ it is near $\sim 1.75 \ km$. The model was run without GW parameteriza-146 tions, and for three weeks between March 20 and April 10 2020, we separated the hor-147 izontal wind field at each model level into a divergent and a rotational part. With this 148

so-called Helmholtz decomposition (Lindborg, 2015), we reconstructed the divergent part 149 of the horizontal flow at each level, a technique that largely excludes the vortical terms 150 and leaves us approximately with the GW contribution (Stephan et al., 2022). The di-151 vergent wind field was then remapped to a Healpix grid with $N_{\rm side} = 512 \; (\sim 12.7 \; km)$. 152 At this still high-resolution, cross products such as uw were calculated, with u and w153 being the horizontal and vertical winds, respectively. We then averaged fields and cross 154 products to a coarser Healpix grid with a resolution parameter $N_{\rm side} = 64$, correspond-155 ing to $\sim 100 \ km$ horizontal resolution. This mapping allows the calculation of the ver-156 tical component of a local Eliasen-Palm flux 157

$$F^{z} = \rho \left[u'w' \right] + \rho f \frac{\left[v'\theta' \right]}{\left[\theta \right]_{z}},\tag{1}$$

where [] is the average over the $N_{\text{side}} = 64$ Healpix coarse grained gridboxes and u' = u - [u]. Note also that for the last term on the right, θ is the potential temperature and f is the Coriolis parameter, and that this term was always negligible compared to the first term on the left. In the following, we call this term the momentum flux. To quantify the contribution of these fluxes to the general circulation, we also evaluate their zonal mean (indicated by overlines) and refer to

$$\overline{F}^{z} = a\cos\phi \left(-\overline{\rho \left[u'w'\right]} + \overline{\rho f \frac{\left[v'\theta'\right]}{\left[\theta\right]_{z}}}\right),\tag{2}$$

as the contribution of the subgrid-scale waves to the vertical component of the Eliasen Palm flux, a being the earth radius and ϕ the latitude. When used, and to calculate the subgrid-scale wave drag we always include the meridional flux of zonal momentum from the ICON run and estimate the horizontal component of the Eliasen Palm flux by

$$\overline{F}^{\phi} = -a\cos\phi\,\overline{\rho\,[u'v']}.\tag{3}$$

Note that such a term is not relevant when evaluating the parameterized momentum fluxes,
 all the schemes we use do not include lateral propagation.

2.2 Parameterized momentum fluxes

For the parameterizations, we next take the non-orographic GWs scheme due to 171 convection and fronts described in Lott and Guez (2013b) and De la Cámara and Lott 172 (2015) respectively. For the orographic GWs, we take the subgrid-scale orography fields 173 calculated as in Lott and Miller (1997) but for the IPSLCM6 grid, and use the version 174 proposed by Lott (1999). Note that there is no tuning, the setup of the schemes used 175 are those from the CMIP6 version of the Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique with 176 "zoom" atmospheric general circulation model (LMDz6, see Hourdin et al. (2020)). The 177 parameterizations are then run offline for the same 21-day period, from 20 March to 10 178 April 2020, using the coarse-grained three-dimensional wind, temperature, and precip-179 itation fields of ICON. 180

181 **3 Results**

170

Figure 1 shows the global distribution of the 21-day averages of the resolved and parameterized momentum fluxes at $z = 8 \ km$, 16 km, and 23 km (bottom).

In the first row which falls within the troposphere, we recover the results in Wei et al. (2022) or Köhler et al. (2023) and find that the simulated fluxes are much larger than the parameterized ones. As these authors show, this is likely because in the troposphere many diabatically and dynamically forced circulations can produce momentum fluxes unrelated to GWs. To a certain extent, Wei et al. (2022) managed to separate in those fluxes the GW and non-GW contributions by applying filtering criteria based



Figure 1. Global distribution of the 21-day mean net zonal momentum fluxes simulated by ICON (left) and predicted by the parameterization schemes using ICON meteorological fields (right) at (a,b) $z = 8 \ km$, (c,d) $z = 16.4 \ km$, and (e,f) $z = 22.9 \ km$.

on precipitation. We attempted a similar approach by selecting coarse-grained grids where precipitations are weak but it did not help much in the context of our direct comparison to parameterizations.

In the lower stratosphere at $z = 16 \ km$ (Figs. 1(c) and 1(d)), the momentum fluxes 193 show better agreement in terms of sign and magnitude. They are quite large and pre-194 dominantly negative over the mountain ranges in the mid-latitudes. Over the oceans still 195 in the mid-latitudes and subtropics, the net fluxes are also predominantly negative, with 196 the resolved and parameterized fluxes being again of similar amplitude. There are how-197 ever substantial geographic differences, with a global shift of the parameterized fluxes 198 toward the polar regions over oceans. More precisely, in the southern hemisphere, the 199 resolved fluxes have a band of maximum activity around 30° S (Fig. 1(c)), while it is near 200 10° southward in the parameterization (Fig. 1(d)). Furthermore, in the Northern Hemi-201 sphere, for instance over the Atlantic Ocean East of Newfoundland to the North East 202 of the Atlantic Ocean (along the storm track), the parameterizations predict quite in-203 tense and negative fluxes whereas the resolved fluxes are much less pronounced there. 204

²⁰⁵ On the other hand, in the tropics, the locations and signs of the fluxes are quite well pre-

 $_{\rm 206}$ $\,$ dicted. In the eastward Pacific, there are intense negative fluxes over the 2 branches of

the ITCZ, and positive fluxes over Brazil, equatorial Africa, the Indian Ocean and the

maritime continent. Similar to the predictions over mid-latitude lands and mountains,

²⁰⁹ it seems that the parameterizations are performing well.



Figure 2. Global distribution of the 21-day mean net zonal parameterized momentum fluxes using ICON meteorological fields: orographic GWs (left), convective GWs (middle), and frontal GWs (right), at $z = 16 \ km$ (first row) and $z = 23 \ km$ (second row).

To understand what causes the similarities and differences between the resolved 210 and parameterized fluxes at 16 km, Fig. 2 shows the contribution of the three GW pa-211 rameterizations. The better predictions in mid-latitude lands and the tropics mainly re-212 sult from the orographic GW parameterization and the convective GW parameteriza-213 tion, respectively (Figs. 2(a) and 2(b)). The frontal GW parameterization is also help-214 ful in some sub-tropical regions over the continent (Northern Africa, South Asia and even 215 the Antarctica border). However, it is the main cause of error, leading to excessively large 216 fluxes, for instance, in the mid-latitude storm tracks. 217

Returning to the comparison between the resolved and parameterized fluxes and analyzing the maps at z = 23km in Figs. 1(e) and 1(f), the differences are much more pronounced than at z = 16 km. In contrast with the fluxes at z = 16 km, simulated net fluxes are of the opposite sign at z = 23 km: they are positive almost everywhere in the subtropics and mid-latitudes, they only stay negative in the Northern regions and over land. This change of sign in the subtropics between z = 16 km and z = 23 km is not observed in the parameterization as show Figs. 1(d), 1(f). There is at least one ²²⁵ good reason for this to occur, and it is again illustrated in Fig. 2 showing the net fluxes ²²⁶ from the different parameterizations. Figs 2(b) and 2(e) show that the fluxes due to the ²²⁷ convective GWs in the subtropics change sign in many places in the subtropics between ²²⁸ $z = 16 \ km$ and $z = 23 \ km$. Such a difference is not seen between the fluxes due to ²²⁹ the frontal GW, again because these fluxes are more poleward than the convective GW ²³⁰ fluxes.

The results on the time-averaged net fluxes discussed so far hide that in each re-231 gion, the wave field consists of both negative and positive phase speed waves, which can 232 largely oppose at low altitudes in the stratosphere but result in drags of different signs 233 at different places and altitudes in the middle atmosphere. It is also possible that at a 234 given place and time, predominantly negative phase speed GWs could be hidden by pre-235 dominantly positive phase speed GWs at another time. Nevertheless and in ICON, it 236 is almost impossible to make such a separation between eastward and westward waves 237 because it necessitates huge storages in the time-horizontal space to make space time Fourier 238 transforms of the subgrid-scale motion. For this reason and to get some insight into the 239 amplitude of the eastward and westward waves separately, an approximation is made as-240 suming that at a given place and time, the GW field is dominated by signed definite phase 241 speed GWs and attribute all the net fluxes of a given sign to GWs with intrinsic phase 242 speed of that sign. We apply this approximation to the parameterized and resolved fluxes 243 to make things comparable. 244

The temporal average of these sign definite fluxes are shown in Fig. 3. The first im-245 portant thing to notice is that they have amplitudes comparable with the net fluxes in 246 Fig. 1. It means that in most places, the time average of the net fluxes is not the result 247 of large positive and negative fluxes occurring at different times and canceling each other 248 out. This being noticed, the most remarkable result is that with this east-west separa-249 tion, the resolved and parameterized fluxes continue to be comparable, with about the 250 same differences as the net fluxes: at $z = 16 \ km$ there are too strong parameterized fluxes 251 over oceans in the mid-latitudes, too small parameterized fluxes in the subtropics and 252 about the right amplitude fluxes in the equatorial regions. Importantly also, over the ma-253 jor mountain ranges and mid-latitude lands, the westward fluxes consistently dominate. 254 This is largely due to orographic GWs since momentum fluxes of orographic GWs are 255 mostly negative on the predominantly eastward mid-latitude zonal winds. Finally, and 256 consistent with our interpretation that the westward waves are absorbed in the subtrop-257 ics between 16 km and 23 km, the resolved westward fluxes are considerably reduced at 258 $z = 23 \ km$ compared to $z = 16 \ km$, whereas the eastward fluxes are not. To a cer-259 tain extent, a similar pattern is observed for the parameterized fluxes in the subtropics. 260

To interpret the difference between the altitudes $z = 16 \ km$ and $z = 23 \ km$, and to see the impacts on the large-scale circulation of these fluxes, Fig. 4 shows the zonal and temporal mean of the zonal wind in ICON (contour lines) and of the GW drags, calculated from the divergence of the resolved EP flux in ICON,

$$\frac{1}{\rho a \cos \phi} \left(\frac{\partial \cos \phi \,\overline{F}^{\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial \overline{F}^z}{\partial z} \right),\tag{4}$$

in Fig. 4(a) and from the GW parameterizations in Fig. 4(b).

Fig. 4 shows that in the upper troposphere lower stratosphere and aloft the tro-266 pospheric jet center (located at around $\pm 40^{\circ}$), the zonal mean zonal wind shear is strongly 267 negative between $z = 14 \ km$ and $z = 20 \ km$. In these regions Fig. 4(a) shows that 268 the GW drag from ICON is negative indicating that significantly more westward GWs 269 break or encounter critical levels than eastward GWs. This is consistent with the the-270 oretical fact that in negative shears, the intrinsic phase speed of westward GWs decreases 271 in amplitude with altitude: these waves saturate at a lower amplitude than the eastward 272 GWs or encounter critical lines as they propagate up. If we now return to the difference 273

between the negative fluxes at $z = 16 \ km$ in Fig. 3(e) and at $z = 21 \ km$ in Fig. 3(g) one sees that this dynamical filtering of the westward waves occurs around latitudes ± 40 and much more pronounced than for the eastward waves in Figs. 3(a) and 3(c).

If we now analyzed the parameterized values, one sees that the drag Fig. 4(b) is 277 only slightly negative in the northern hemisphere aloft the subtropical jet, the dynam-278 ical filtering of the parameterized westward waves seems much less pronounced than for 279 that of the simulated waves. This is in agreement with the maps of positive and nega-280 tive fluxes in Figs. 3(b), 3(d) and Figs. 3(f), 3(h). Remember nevertheless that in the 281 parameterizations, we found substantial dynamical filtering of the convective waves in 282 the subtropical regions (Figs. 2(b) and 2(e)), confirming that these waves are under-283 represented compared to the frontal waves in the parameterizations. 284

So far, we have established that the parameterizations predict quite realistic fluxes 285 entering the middle atmosphere, but underestimate the attenuation of GWs at the sub-286 tropical tropopause. Nevertheless, the simulations and parameterizations can be also com-287 pared further aloft where some resemblances are worth noticing. Below the stratopause 288 at $z = 50 \ km$ and in the mid-latitude north and south of $\pm 40^{\circ}$ respectively, both ICON 289 and the parameterizations present negative drags with comparable amplitudes of a few 290 m/s. What is remarkable here is that the amplitudes somehow compare, and this oc-291 curs although GW drags in models are often tuned for acting further aloft in the meso-292 sphere whereas in ICON the drags are produced explicitly. To a certain extent, it tells 293 that the breaking of GWs in the parameterization scheme is quite realistically represented. 294 In both also, the GW drag is negative and large in amplitude where the wind is posi-295 tive, consistent with the fact that the negative phase speed waves have been dynamically 296 filtered before reaching the upper stratosphere. Analyzing with more details reveals marked 297 differences, for instance, around the polar and mid-latitude regions near below 50 km298 in the Southern Hemisphere, the parameterized drag is much stronger and negative than 299 the resolved drag. To a certain extent, this is related to the fact that the frontal GWs 300 MF is very large and negative in the northern and mid-latitude in the Southern Hemi-301 sphere (see Fig. 2(f) and compare to the resolved momentum flux in Fig. 1(e)). The dif-302 ferences are more pronounced in the Southern Hemisphere than in the Northern Hemi-303 sphere, probably because in the Northern Hemisphere too large parameterized frontal 304 waves are equilibrated by smaller orographic drag. Other resemblances and differences 305 can be found in the equatorial and subtropical upper stratosphere (i.e. where 30 < z <306 50 km), where both the resolved and parameterized drags are consistently positive with 307 maxima where the zonal wind is negative with positive shear. The resolved amplitudes 308 are larger than the parameterized ones (Figs. 4(a),4(b)), to a certain extent this can be 309 related to the fact that the entering net flux at $z = 16 \ km$ seems slightly more posi-310 tive in the subtropical and equatorial regions in Fig. 1(c) than in Fig. 1(d). As show Figs. 1(e) 311 and 1(f) it is more likely related to the dynamical filtering of the westward waves in the 312 subtropics already discussed. 313

314 4 Conclusion

This study uses high-resolution simulations done with ICON to estimate the mo-315 mentum fluxes due to disturbances with horizontal scale below that of a target "coarse-316 grained" grid of resolution $\approx 100 \ km$, somehow representative of the grid of a climate 317 model. These MFs are then predicted by the GW parameterization schemes used in the 318 IPSLCM6 climate model, the input field for the parameterizations being the ICON fields 319 averaged over the "coarse-grained" grid. An important result is that the MFs entering 320 in the middle atmosphere are quite well predicted in amplitude and geographical loca-321 tion. The high resolution model also shows a substantial diminution of the westward prop-322 agating waves in the lower stratosphere aloft the subtropical jet that the parameteriza-323 tion underestimates. To a certain extent, this difference is attributed to the fact that the 324 parameterizations overstate the significance of frontal waves compared to convective waves, 325

the latter showing being more dissipated as they are mostly forced in the subtropics. Pre-326 liminary tests also show that this underestimation of the gravity wave dissipation in the 327 low stratosphere can be further corrected by imposing smaller intrinsic phase speed waves 328 and/or the parameter that control the amplitude at which the parameterized gravity waves 329 break. The comparison also suggests that in IPSLCM6, the frontal GW parameteriza-330 tion is overestimating the GWs, and to balance this the orographic GWs are underes-331 timated. The parameterizations also make reasonable predictions of the zonal mean GW 332 drag in the stratosphere with some positive drag missing near the subtropical stratopause, 333 may be a result of the lack of dynamical filtering of the westward waves discussed be-334 fore. 335

The resemblances and differences we find here are certainly model and parameter-336 izations dependent. This is a deliberate choice: the parameterization schemes used have 337 not been tuned before the comparison, and the middle atmosphere climatology of ICON 338 has not yet been thoroughly tested. Also, we know that these high-resolution simulations 339 have not yet converged when it comes to GWs simulation (Polichtchouk et al., 2023), 340 and that the GWs signal in them is very sensitive to the model formulation (Stephan 341 et al., 2022). This being said, our study illustrates the potential for high-resolution sim-342 ulations to be used to improve parameterizations, for instance, the balance to be found 343 between the different sources of waves (orographic versus non-orographic, and may be 344 convective versus fronts). Within a given scheme, it also suggests which parameters could 345 be changed to gain realism. In return, our results can also serve as a guidance to tell if 346 high resolution models predict the right amount of waves. After all, the parameteriza-347 tions have been tuned to reproduce a right climate in the middle atmosphere, this is an 348 indirect evidence of their realism. As an illustration, we have seen that our frontal waves 349 parameterizations predict to large momentum fluxes, but it can also be that in ICON, 350 the resolved waves over fronts are underestimated, simply because its horizontal reso-351 lution is still too coarse to resolve well the geostrophic adjustments. We can also imag-352 ine that with increasing horizontal resolution the global models overestimate the GWs 353 signal, for instance, because there remain too dissipative at the smaller scales staying 354 too much in a linear regime that favors GWs dynamics. In this case, the GW drags pre-355 dicted by the parameterizations become an important upper bound to validate the high 356 resolution models. Therefore and to appreciate the mutual benefits, it will be interest-357 ing in the future to tune the GW parameterizations to improve their fit with high-resolution 358 simulations systematically and to test in return if this is beneficial to the climate mod-359 els. 360

³⁶¹ Data availability statement

All data and routines needed to run the parameterizations in offline mode and to compare the results with the coarse grain ICON fields can be downloaded from Zenodo (Toghraei, 2024).

365 Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the VESRI Schmidt Future project "Datawave".

367 References

- Achatz, U., Alexander, M., Becker, E., Chun, H.-Y., Dörnbrack, A., Holt, L., ...
 others (2024). Atmospheric gravity waves: Processes and parameterization.
 Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 81(2), 237–262.
- Alexander, M., Geller, M., McLandress, C., Polavarapu, S., Preusse, P., Sassi, F., ...
- 372others(2010). Recent developments in gravity-wave effects in climate models373and the global distribution of gravity-wave momentum flux from observations

374	and models. Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, 136(650), 1103–1124
375	1100-1124.
376	Alexander, M., Liu, C., Bacmeister, J., Bramberger, M., Hertzog, A., & Richter, J.
377	(2021). Observational validation of parameterized gravity waves from tropical
378	convection in the whole atmosphere community climate model. Journal of C_{i}
379	Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 12b(7), e2020JD033954.
380	Alexander, M., & Rosenlof, K. H. (2003). Gravity-wave forcing in the stratosphere:
381	Observational constraints from the upper atmosphere research satellite and
382	implications for parameterization in global models. <i>Journal of Geophysical</i>
383	Research: Atmospheres, 108 (D19).
384	Alexander, M. J., Geller, M., McLandress, C., Polavarapu, S., Preusse, P., Sassi,
385	F., Watanabe, S. (2010). Recent developments in gravity-wave effects in
386	climate models and the global distribution of gravity-wave momentum flux
387	from observations and models. $Q. J. R.$ Meteorol. Soc., 130, 1103-1124. doi:
388	$\operatorname{https://doi.org/10.1002/dj.037}_{\operatorname{A}_{\operatorname{A}}}$
389	Anstey, J. A., Scinocca, J. F., & Keller, M. (2016). Simulating the qbo in an
390	atmospheric general circulation model: Sensitivity to resolved and parameter- ized function $f(t) = f(t) + f(t)$
391	12ed forcing. Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, $75(4)$, $1049 - 1005$. doi: https://doi.org/10.1175/JAS.D.15.0000.1
392	Derec I H Carrie D D Derille D A & Sacci E (2005) Implemente
393	tion of a gravity wave course greatrum parameterization dependent on the
394	properties of convection in the whole atmosphere community elimete model
395	(waccm) Iournal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres 110(D10) doi:
390	https://doi.org/10.1029/2004 ID005504
397	Boucher O Servonnet I Albright A L Aumont O Balkanski V Bestrikov
398	V Vuichard N (2020) Presentation and evaluation of the insl-cm6a-
399	lr climate model I ovrnal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems 19(7)
400	e2019MS002010. doi: https://doi.org/10.1029/2019MS002010
402	Bushell, A. C., Butchart, N., Derbyshire, S. H., Jackson, D. R., Shutts, G. J.,
403	Vosper, S. B., & Webster, S. (2015). Parameterized gravity wave momen-
404	tum fluxes from sources related to convection and large-scale precipitation
405	processes in a global atmosphere model. Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences,
406	72(11), 4349–4371. doi: https://doi.org/10.1175/JAS-D-15-0022.1
407	Charron, M., & Manzini, E. (2002). Gravity waves from fronts: Parameter-
408	ization and middle atmosphere response in a general circulation model.
409	Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 59(5), 923 - 941. doi: 10.1175/
410	1520-0469(2002)059(0923:GWFFPA)2.0.CO;2
411	De la Cámara, A., & Lott, F. (2015). A parameterization of gravity waves emitted
412	by fronts and jets. Geophysical Research Letters, $42(6)$, 2071–2078.
413	Dunkerton, T. J. (1997). The role of gravity waves in the quasi-biennial oscillation.
414	Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 102(D22), 26053–26076.
415	Ern, M., Ploeger, F., Preusse, P., Gille, J., Gray, L. J., Kalisch, S., Riese, M.
416	(2014). Interaction of gravity waves with the QBO: A satellite perspec-
417	tive. Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 119, 2329 - 2355. doi:
418	https://doi.org/10.1002/2013JD020731
419	Fovell, R., Durran, D., & Holton, J. (1992). Numerical simulations of convectively
420	generated stratospheric gravity waves. Journal of Atmospheric Sciences,
421	49(10), 142(-1442)
422	Fritts, D. C., & Alexander, M. (2003). Gravity wave dynamics and effects in the
423	middle atmosphere. Reviews of geophysics, $41(1)$.
424	Geller, M. A., Alexander, M., Love, P. T., Bacmeister, J., Ern, M., Hertzog, A.,
425	otners (2013b). A comparison between gravity wave momentum fluxes in $f(Q)$ (2013b).
426	observations and climate models. Journal of Climate, $2b(17)$, $b383-6405$.
427	Gener, M. A., Alexander, M. J., Love, P. T., Bacmelster, J., Ern, M., Hertzog, A., Zhou, T. (2012a) A comparison between maximum maximum of the second seco
428	Znou, 1. (2013a). A comparison between gravity wave momentum fluxes

	in observations and climate models. I Atmos. Sci. $96(17)$
429	Hasso I.S. Alexander, M. I. Hertzog, A. Kalpais, J. F. Dogbler, T. Davis
430	Mase, J. S., Alexander, M. J., Hertzog, A., Kalnajs, L. E., Desmer, T., Davis,
431	5. M., Venel, S. (2018). Around the world in 84 days [Dataset]. Eos, 99.
432	uol: https://doi.org/10.1029/2018EO091907
433	Hertzog, A. (2007). The strateole-vorcore long-duration balloon experiment: A per-
434	sonal perspective. Space Research Today, 109, 43-48. doi: https://doi.org/10
435	1010/51/52-9298(07)80047-8
436	Hines, C. O. (1997). Doppier-spread parameterization of gravity-wave momentum
437	deposition in the middle atmosphere, part 2: Broad and quasi monochromatic subsets and inclosentation I Atmosphere Color Term Divis $50(4)$ 287 400 doi:
438	spectra, and implementation. J. Atmos. Solut 1ett. Phys., $59(4)$, $587-400$. doi: 10.1016/S1264.6826/06/00000.6
439	10.1010/51304-0820(90)00080-0
440	Honenegger, C., Korn, P., Linardakis, L., Redier, R., Schnur, R., Adamidis, P.,
441	ten and their interactions at hilemater and sublidemater assles. <i>Constantifue</i>
442	tem and their interactions at knometer and subknometer scales. Geoscientific Model Development $16(2)$, 770,811
443	Model Development, $10(2)$, $(19-811)$.
444	Hourdin, F., Rio, C., Grandpeix, JY., Madeleine, JB., Oneruy, F., Rocnetin, N.,
445	others (2020). Emidzoa: The atmospheric component of the psi climate
446	model with improved and better tuned physics. Journal of Advances in Model- ing Earth Systems $10(7)$ applied with Section 2012
447	$\begin{array}{c} \text{ing Larin Systems, } 12(1), \text{e2019} \text{insource} 2. \end{array}$
448	Jewtoukon, V., Plougonven, R., & Hertzog, A. (2013). Gravity waves generated by
449	deep tropical convection: Estimates from balloon observations and mesoscale simulations $L_{auronal}$ of Coophysical Research: Atmospheres, $118(17)$, 0600
450	9090- 9707 doi: https://doi.org/10.1002/jgrd 50781
451	9707. doi. https://doi.org/10.1002/jgid.50781 Kelduney, N. Kölling, T. Bedruge Bereggeitie, Y. Beckey, T. Bedler, B.
452	Siderenko D. Ziemen E. A. (2022) nerteemet entrut of the model devel
453	ormant cycle 2 cimulations for icon and ife World Data Contor for Climate
454	(WDCC) at DKB7 doi: 10.26050/WDCC/portCEMS) ave2
455	Köhler I. Creen B. & Stenhan C. C. (2023) Comparing loon superpres
456	sure balloon observations of gravity waves in the tropics with global storm.
457	resolving models Iournal of Geonbusical Research: Atmospheres 198(15)
450	e2023 ID038549 doi: https://doi.org/10.1029/2023 ID038549
459	Lilly D & Kennedy P (1073) Observations of a stationary mountain wave and its
400	associated momentum flux and energy dissipation <i>Journal of Atmospheric Sci</i> -
401	ences $30(6)$ 1135–1152
462	Lindborg $E = (2015)$ A helmholtz decomposition of structure functions and spectra
403	calculated from aircraft data <u>Iournal of Fluid Mechanics</u> 769 B4 doi: 10
404	1017/ifm 2014 685
465	Lott F (1999) Alleviation of stationary biases in a GCM through a moun-
467	tain drag parameterization scheme and a simple representation of moun-
468	tain lift forces. Monthly Weather Review, 127(5), 788 - 801. doi: 10.1175/
469	1520-0493(1999)127/0788:AOSBIA\2.0.CO:2
470	Lott, F., & Guez, L. (2013a). A stochastic parameterization of the gravity waves due
470	to convection and its impact on the equatorial stratosphere <i>J. Geophys. Res.</i>
472	118(16) 8897-8909 doi: 10.1002/jord 50705
473	Lott F & Guez L (2013b) A stochastic parameterization of the gravity waves due
474	to convection and its impact on the equatorial stratosphere. Journal of Geo-
475	physical Research: Atmospheres, 118(16), 8897–8909.
476	Lott, F., Guez, L., & Maury, P. (2012). A stochastic parameterization of non-
477	orographic gravity waves: Formalism and impact on the equatorial strato-
478	sphere. <i>Geophys. Res. Lett.</i> , 39(6), L06807. doi: 10.1029/2012GL051001
479	Lott, F., & Miller, M. J. (1997). A new subgrid-scale orographic drag parametriza-
480	tion: Its formulation and testing. <i>Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorologi</i> -
481	cal Society, 123(537), 101–127.
482	Lott, F., Rani, R., Podglajen, A., Codron, F., Guez, L., Hertzog, A., & Plougonven.
483	R. (2023). Direct comparison between a non-orographic gravity wave drag

484	scheme and constant level balloons. Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmo- spheres 128(4), e2022 ID037585
405	McL and ress $C_{\rm s}$ is Shenhard T $C_{\rm s}$ (2000). Simulated anthronogenic changes in the
400	brewer-dobson circulation including its extension to high latitudes <i>Lowrad</i> of
407	Climate 22(6) 1516–1540
400	Orr A Bechtold P Scinocca I Frn M & Janiskova M (2010) Improved mid-
489	dle atmosphere climate and forecasts in the econyf model through a nonoro-
490	graphic gravity wave drag parameterization <u>Journal of Climate</u> 93(22) 5005
491	= 5026 doi: https://doi.org/10.1175/2010.ICLI3/00.1
492	Palmar T N Shutts C I & Swinbark B (1986) Alleviation of a system-
493	atic westerly bias in general circulation and numerical weather prediction
494	models through an orographic gravity wave drag parametrization
495	terly Lowrnal of the Royal Meteorological Society $112(\Lambda^{7}\Lambda)$ 1001-1039 doi:
490	10 1002/ai 49711247406
497	Plougonyen B k_z Zhang F (2014) Internal gravity waves from atmospheric jets
490	and fronts <i>Reviews of Geophysics</i> 52(1) 33-76
499	Polichtchouk I Van Niekerk A & Wedi N (2023) Resolved gravity waves in the
500	extratropical stratosphere: Effect of horizontal resolution increase from o (10)
501	to α (1) km Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences $80(2)$ 473–486
502	Babier F. Bouchard A. Brun F. Doerenbecher A. Guedi S. Guidard V.
503	Steinle P (2010 January) The Concordiasi Project in Antarc-
505	tica Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society 91(1) 69-86 doi:
505	10 1175/2009BAMS2764 1
507	Richter J H Sassi F & Garcia R R (2010) Toward a physically based gravity
508	wave source parameterization in a general circulation model. <i>Journal of the At-</i>
509	mospheric Sciences, 67(1), 136 - 156, doi: 10.1175/2009JAS3112.1
510	Scinocca J F (2003) An accurate spectral nonorographic gravity wave drag pa-
510	rameterization for general circulation models Journal of the Atmospheric Sci-
512	ences. 60(4), 667 - 682, doi: https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0469(2003)060/0667:
513	AASNGW)2.0.CO:2
514	Scinocca, J. F., & McFarlane, N. A. (2000). The parametrization of drag induced
515	by stratified flow over anisotropic orography. <i>Quarterly Journal of the Royal</i>
516	<i>Meteorological Society</i> , 126(568), 2353-2393. doi: https://doi.org/10.1002/gj
517	.49712656802
518	Serva, F., Cagnazzo, C., Riccio, A., & Manzini, E. (2018). Impact of a stochastic
519	nonorographic gravity wave parameterization on the stratospheric dynamics of
520	a general circulation model. Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems,
521	10(9), 2147-2162. doi: https://doi.org/10.1029/2018MS001297
522	Smith, R. B., & Kruse, C. G. (2018). A gravity wave drag matrix for complex ter-
523	rain. Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 75(8), 2599 - 2613. doi: 10.1175/
524	JAS-D-17-0380.1
525	Song, IS., & Chun, HY. (2005). Momentum flux spectrum of convectively
526	forced internal gravity waves and its application to gravity wave drag pa-
527	rameterization. part i: Theory. J. Atmos. Sci., $62(1)$, 107-124. doi:
528	https://doi.org/10.1175/JAS-3363.1
529	Stephan, C. C., Duras, J., Harris, L., Klocke, D., Putman, W. M., Taylor, M.,
530	Ziemen, F. (2022). Atmospheric energy spectra in global kilometre-scale mod-
531	els. Tellus A: Dynamic Meteorology and $Oceanography(74(1)), 280-299.$ doi:
532	10.16993/tellusa.26
533	Stephan, C. C., Strube, C., Klocke, D., Ern, M., Hoffmann, L., Preusse, P., &
534	Schmidt, H. (2019). Gravity waves in global high-resolution simulations
535	with explicit and parameterized convection. Journal of Geophysical Research:
536	Atmospheres, 124(8), 4446-4459.
537	Toghraei, I. (2024). Icon data for spring 2020: March 20 to april 10 release (version
538	1.0.0). Zenodo. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13946360

- ⁵³⁹ ([Code and data files]) doi: 10.5281/zenodo.13946360
- Warner, C. D., & McIntyre, M. E. (1999). Toward an ultra-simple spectral grav ity wave parameterization for general circulation models. *Earth, Planets and Space*, 51, 475–484. doi: 10.1186/BF03353209
- ⁵⁴³ Wei, J., Zhang, F., Richter, J. H., Alexander, M., & Sun, Y. Q. (2022). Global
- distributions of tropospheric and stratospheric gravity wave momentum fluxes resolved by the 9-km ecmwf experiments. *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*,
 - 79(10), 2621-2644.

546



Figure 3. Global distribution of the 21-day mean of the "sign definite" positive and negative zonal momentum fluxes simulated by ICON (left) and predicted by the parameterization schemes (right). The eastward fluxes are in the top four panels, the westward in the bottom four panels. The altitude $z = 16 \ km$ in (a,b,e,f) and $z = 23 \ km$ in (c,d,g,h).



Figure 4. Zonal mean 21-day mean of the resolved (a) and parameterized (b) GW drag. Solid and dashed contour lines represent eastward and westward of the zonal mean 21-day mean zonal wind, respectively.