

1 **Atmospheric Chemistry Signatures of an Equatorially-Symmetric Matsuno-**  
2 **Gill Circulation Pattern**

3 **Catherine Wilka<sup>1</sup>, Susan Solomon<sup>1</sup>, Timothy W Cronin<sup>1</sup>, Doug Kinnison<sup>2</sup>, Rolando**  
4 **Garcia<sup>2</sup>**

5 <sup>1</sup> Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
6 Cambridge, MA, USA.

7 <sup>2</sup>Atmospheric Chemistry Observations and Modeling Laboratory, National Center for Atmospheric  
8 Research, Boulder, CO, USA

9

10 Corresponding author: Catherine Wilka (cwilka@mit.edu)

11

12   **Abstract**

13   Matsuno-Gill circulations have been widely studied in tropical meteorology, but their  
14   impact on stratospheric chemistry has seldom been explicitly evaluated. This study  
15   demonstrates that, in a model nudged to reanalysis, anticyclonic Rossby wave gyres  
16   that form near the tropopause due to equatorially-symmetric heating in the troposphere  
17   provide a dynamical mechanism to influence tropical and subtropical atmospheric  
18   chemistry during near-equinox months. The anticyclonic flow entrains extratropical air  
19   from higher latitudes into the deep tropics of both hemispheres and induces cooling in  
20   the already cold upper-troposphere/lower-stratosphere (UTLS) region. Both of these  
21   aspects of the circulation allow heterogeneous chlorine activation on sulfuric acid  
22   aerosols to proceed rapidly, primarily via the  $\text{HCl} + \text{ClONO}_2$  reaction. Precipitation rates  
23   and heating rates from reanalysis are shown to be consistent with these heating and  
24   circulation response patterns in the months of interest. This study analyzes specified  
25   dynamics simulations from the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model (SD-  
26   WACCM) with and without tropical heterogeneous chemistry to demonstrate that these  
27   circulations influence substantially the distributions of, for example,  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{ClO}$  in the  
28   UTLS tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres. This provides a previously  
29   unrecognized dynamical influence on the spatial structures of atmospheric composition  
30   changes in the UTLS during near-equinox months.

31

## 32 1 Introduction

33 Matsuno (1966) studied the equatorial waves produced in response to equatorial  
34 heating in the context of a linearized, beta-plane model, successfully identifying the  
35 equatorially trapped Kelvin wave and the off-equator Rossby wave gyre responses. Gill  
36 (1980) imposed both symmetric and asymmetric heating across the equator and  
37 calculated the response of the tropical atmosphere to these idealized perturbations  
38 using linear theory. Both papers show variants of a “bull’s-eye” pattern in pressure  
39 perturbations (Matsuno Figure 9 and Gill Figure 1b), which are now seen as indicative  
40 of the Matsuno-Gill response. While the real atmosphere is more complicated than  
41 these simplified models, and the assumptions of steady heating and time-invariance are  
42 never perfectly valid, the basic patterns have been identified in multiple dynamical  
43 studies (Jin and Hoskins 1995, Adames and Wallace 2017, Rodwell and Hoskins 2001,  
44 among others). The wind response takes the form of two Rossby cyclones in the lower  
45 troposphere and is overlain by anticyclones in the UTLS, which are located to the  
46 northwest and southwest of the heating maximum, as well as an equatorially trapped  
47 Kelvin wave to the east over the Pacific, with easterly flow in the lower troposphere and  
48 westerly flow aloft. These zonal asymmetries in the Matsuno-Gill pattern decay upward  
49 into the stratosphere, with ascent and anomalously cold air in the lower stratosphere  
50 overlying regions of deep convection and greatest tropopause heights. The dynamics of  
51 this pattern have been widely studied in the decades since its description; here we  
52 examine some of its impacts on UTLS chemistry, which result from the combination of  
53 winds and temperature anomalies.

54

The importance of heterogeneous chlorine activation reactions to ozone depleting chemistry has been well established for decades (Solomon et al. 1986, Solomon 1999 and references therein) and is known to be the key driver of the so-called “ozone hole.” Heterogeneous reactions on stratospheric aerosols convert chlorine from the reservoir species HCl and ClONO<sub>2</sub> to active forms that can destroy ozone in catalytic cycles. Of particular importance are the  $\text{HCl} + \text{ClONO}_2 \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2 + \text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{ClONO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HOCl} + \text{HNO}_3$ , and  $\text{HCl} + \text{HOCl} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{Cl}_2$  reactions. Multiple factors influence the rates of these reactions, including temperature, water vapor levels, chlorine precursor levels, and aerosol surface area. The HCl + ClONO<sub>2</sub> reaction, which is in many regions the dominant source of activation, has an extremely strong inverse temperature dependence, with reaction efficiencies that decrease by six orders of magnitude between 190 K and 205 K. This dependence is due to multiple factors, but below 200 K is dominated by the increasing solubility of HCl with decreasing temperature (Shi et al. 2001). The importance of these reactions has been extensively studied in the Arctic and Antarctic for decades, and in recent years there has been an increased focus on the potential for this chemistry to proceed outside the polar regions, specifically on liquid sulfuric acid aerosols that are ubiquitous in the lower stratosphere (Anderson et al. 2017, Robrecht et al. 2019).

Solomon et al. (2016) showed that the strong anticyclone of the East Asian Summer Monsoon (EASM) is capable of entraining chlorine (in the form of HCl) from higher latitudes. This chlorine enters the upper troposphere/lower stratosphere (UTLS) region above the EASM anticyclone, where temperatures are anomalously cold due to

78 the response to convective heating (Highwood and Hoskins 1998). This combination of  
79 increased chlorine mixing ratios and cold temperatures drives chlorine activation. This  
80 work motivates us to consider additional conditions for moving chlorine into cold regions  
81 in the tropics that are difficult to describe in a zonally-averaged framework, such as has  
82 often been used in the past to study meridional gradients in stratospheric chemical  
83 species. An overall goal is to contribute to a growing body of research that considers the  
84 effect of eddies and other longitudinally asymmetric features on stratospheric  
85 composition and chemistry. Identifying such features would provide an improved  
86 understanding of coupling between chemistry and transport, and a potential target for  
87 future observational campaigns in the tropical UTLS.

88

89 Matsuno-Gill tropical circulation patterns have seldom been studied in connection  
90 with stratospheric chemistry until recently. Solomon et al. (2016) was one of the first  
91 studies to investigate the response of stratospheric chlorine to equatorially-asymmetric  
92 heating of this type, and this work extends that by looking at the equatorially-symmetric  
93 case, which is more typically found in near-equinox months. Compared to the EASM  
94 anticyclone, the equatorially-symmetric Matsuno-Gill anticyclones are somewhat weaker  
95 and situated deeper in the tropics, so they advect less chlorine from higher latitudes.  
96 However, since the tropopause temperatures in the deep tropics are lower on average  
97 than those at the latitude of the EASM anticyclone, the negative temperature  
98 perturbations from this type of Matsuno-Gill circulation nonetheless drive very swift  
99 chlorine activation. As explored below, this circulation pattern provides a pathway for

100 chlorine activation in the deep tropics in months where activation has not previously  
101 been considered.

102

103

## 104 **2 Methods**

### 105 *2.1 Rainfall Data*

106 We use NOAA's Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP) version 2.3 to  
107 investigate precipitation patterns, which are a good observable proxy for heating due to  
108 latent heat release. The GPCP combines observations from rain gauge stations and  
109 soundings with satellite precipitation data to produce a 2.5°x2.5° resolution global  
110 product that covers land and ocean at monthly resolution from 1979 to present day  
111 (Adler et al. 2003).

112

### 113 *2.2 Model*

114 We use NCAR's Community Earth System Model with a "specified dynamics"  
115 (SD) version of the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model, version 4 as the  
116 atmospheric component. This model configuration is formally denoted CESM(SD-  
117 WACCM4), but throughout this paper we refer to it simply as SD-WACCM. Below 50  
118 km, SD-WACCM is nudged to externally specified temperature, zonal and meridional  
119 wind, and surface pressure fields from the Modern Era Retrospective Analysis for  
120 Research and Applications (MERRA), with a relaxation time of 50 hours. MERRA is a  
121 global atmospheric reanalysis beginning in 1979 and continuing through 2016 that is  
122 produced and maintained by NASA (Rienecker et al. 2011). To investigate heating

123 rates, we present monthly means derived from the daily mean output files for each  
124 pressure level of interest for the diabatic heating.

125

126 WACCM is a high-top model with detailed gas-phase and heterogeneous  
127 chemistry schemes that include the  $O_x$ ,  $NO_x$ ,  $HO_x$ ,  $ClO_x$ , and  $BrO_x$  reaction families. The  
128 chemistry is fully interactive, with a timestep of 30 minutes, and the model has been  
129 extensively evaluated for use in stratospheric studies (Marsh et al. 2013, Mills et al.  
130 2017, Froidevaux et al. 2019). About 5 pptv of very short-lived substances (VSLS) are  
131 included in the total bromine loading, but chlorine from VSLS is not included.

132 Heterogeneous reactions on cirrus ice particles are not included. SD-WACCM has  $1.9 \times$   
133  $2.5^\circ$  (latitude-longitude) horizontal resolution, with 88 pressure levels from the surface  
134 up to 140 km. Stratospheric sulfate aerosols are modeled as three lognormal modes  
135 and include the effect of nucleation, condensation, coagulation, and sedimentation in a  
136 microphysics scheme described in detail in Mills et al 2016. The background sulfur  
137 loading from volcanic eruptions is taken from a database developed by Neely and  
138 Schmidt 2016 that specifies plume injection height and the amount of sulfur injected.

139

140 We consider two different runs of SD-WACCM over four years from 2009 to  
141 2012. In the first run, labeled Chem-Dyn-Vol, the effects of chemistry, dynamics, and  
142 volcanic eruptions are all included. This run is the standard and, in SD-WACCM,  
143 represents the best attempt to simulate the real world for those years. Note, however,  
144 that the chemical scheme in Chem-Dyn-Vol does not include water ice chemistry; the  
145 implications of this are discussed below, in Section 4. The second run, labeled

146 NoHet40NS, turns off all heterogeneous reactions involving chlorine and bromine  
147 between 40°N and 40°S but permits heterogeneous reactions not involving these  
148 species. Temperatures at mid-latitudes are too warm to drive the heterogeneous  
149 chemistry of interest here. Comparing these two runs allows us to isolate the signature  
150 of in-situ tropical heterogeneous chlorine and bromine chemistry as distinct from polar  
151 regions. We examine monthly-mean output for this study, and discuss the potential  
152 influence of more transient behavior in Section 4.

153

154 We focus on “near equinox” months for this analysis, so the influence from  
155 summer monsoonal patterns in either hemisphere should be limited. As an example, we  
156 present results below for November, 2009 (a month without a major stratospheric-  
157 impacting volcanic eruption) but note that equatorially-symmetric Matsuno-Gill patterns  
158 are identified in other months as well. The impacts of these Matsuno-Gill patterns are  
159 manifested in chemical responses in low latitudes of both hemispheres, whereas  
160 responses to heating displaced from the Equator, such as the EASM, are confined to  
161 the warm season hemisphere of active monsoon rainfall. We find similar results in  
162 several other shoulder months in the four-year time series we looked at, including April  
163 2009 and 2011, November 2011, and March 2012. We expect that in a longer time  
164 series there would be many more examples.

165

166

167 **3 Results**

168 Figure 1a shows the mean precipitation rate for November 2009 from 40°N to  
169 40°S from the GPCP. The highest rates occur over the equatorial Indian Ocean and  
170 over the western Pacific Ocean between 15°N to 15°S. These areas are therefore  
171 regions of strong latent heat release, and are a better marker of tropical diabatic heating  
172 locations than sea surface temperature would be. We examine the diabatic heating  
173 rates at multiple levels in MERRA, which provides the meteorological fields for SD-  
174 WACCM as described above, and find that the heating tendency (K/day) due to physics  
175 is at a maximum near 400 mb, as shown in Figure 1b for November 2009. Although the  
176 real-world response is more varied, this resembles the vertical profile of the heating  
177 prescribed in the Gill model. The maximum in the deep tropics and the north-and-  
178 southward extending lobes track the observed precipitation patterns closely, as we  
179 would expect given the close linkage between diabatic heating rates and latent heat  
180 release. While the heating itself extends further into the Southern Hemisphere than the  
181 Northern Hemisphere, anomalies are clearly visible in both hemispheres. These heating  
182 rates decay higher in the troposphere, and at and above the tropopause there is little  
183 remnant in the diabatic heating signal. By 100 mbar (Figure S1), the signal has  
184 vanished.

185

186 Figure 2a shows the vector winds and temperatures in SD-WACCM on the 85  
187 mb level for November 2009. The wind response to the heating pattern consists of  
188 cyclonic behavior in the lower troposphere and mirrored anticyclonic behavior in the  
189 lower stratosphere. Anticyclones can be seen in Figure 2a on the poleward flanks of the  
190 heating pattern, specifically east of Taiwan and off the northeast coast of Australia. The

191 eastward-propagating Kelvin wave characteristic of the Matsuno-Gill is manifested by  
192 the pattern of eastward winds visible in the equatorial Pacific east of the dateline,  
193 toward the eastern part of the 192 K temperature contour. The anticyclones provide a  
194 mechanism, analogous to the anticyclone of the EASM, to entrain chlorine in reservoir  
195 form from higher latitudes. We see this when we examine SD-WACCM's November  
196 2009 HCl distribution at 85 mbar in Figure 2b. Higher volume mixing ratios track the  
197 anticyclone near 160°E in the Northern Hemisphere and 140°E in the Southern  
198 Hemisphere, enhancing HCl by 50-100 pptv above what is seen in the rest of the Pacific  
199 at those latitudes. The other main form of reservoir chlorine, ClONO<sub>2</sub>, is also enhanced  
200 by this effect, as can be seen in Figure S2.

Deleted: 3

Formatted: Subscript

201  
202 At temperatures below 194 K, the ClONO<sub>2</sub> + HCl reaction proceeds extremely  
203 efficiently, whereas above 195 K the reaction rate drops so steeply that chlorine  
204 enhancement potential is minimal. We see this expected general relationship in Figure  
205 3, where we compare the tropics in November 2009 (Figure 3a) to the southern high  
206 latitudes in October 2009 (Figure 3b), when the ozone depletion in Antarctica peaks for  
207 the year. Although there is greater scatter in the tropics because some cold regions are  
208 isolated from any entrained chlorine, and the enhancement levels in Antarctica reach an  
209 order of magnitude higher, we can see that in both cases it is only possible to get  
210 enhanced ClO at colder temperatures. Temperature histories can also induce scatter;  
211 for example, air at 195 K on one day may contain chlorine activated a day or two earlier  
212 when the air was 192 K. A Lagrangian back-trajectory analysis could be used to further

Deleted: 4

215 evaluate this question, but Figure 3 is sufficient to show that the highest levels of ClO  
216 are associated with temperatures below 192 K for both the Antarctic and the tropics.

Deleted: 4

217 The coldest temperatures (<192 K) in Figure 2a occur over a broad region of the  
218 Western Pacific and are qualitatively consistent with the concept of a stratospheric  
219 fountain first described by Newell and Gould-Stewart (1981). Highwood and Hoskins  
220 (1998) linked these stratospheric thermal anomalies to the pressure anomalies found in  
221 the upper troposphere that form part of the classic response to equatorially-symmetric  
222 Matsuno-Gill heating perturbations. This circulation pattern therefore enhances chlorine  
223 activation in two ways: by entraining reservoir chlorine in the form of HCl and ClONO<sub>2</sub>  
224 from higher latitudes (Figures 2b and S2) and by lowering temperatures such that  
225 activation proceeds more rapidly (Figure 2a). In addition to the broad region where  
226 temperatures are below 192 K, there is a smaller but still substantial region in both  
227 hemispheres where they drop below 191 K. This region is roughly symmetric about the  
228 equator, but with a greater extent in the northern hemisphere. There are other, smaller  
229 regions of extremely cold temperatures to the west and east of the main response  
230 pattern which may be associated with convection over land, such as over the Amazon  
231 basin.

Deleted: 3

232  
233 SD-WACCM's chemistry fields demonstrate the impacts of these cold  
234 temperatures and circulation patterns. We focus on two different chemical features at 85  
235 mb for November 2009: enhancement in ClO in Figure 4a and depletion in NO<sub>2</sub> in  
236 Figure 4b. As ClO is both a product of the heterogeneous reactions of interest and has  
237 very low background levels in the tropics and subtropics, it presents the clearest view of

Deleted: 5

Deleted: 5

242 the activation response. Figure S3 compares calculations with heterogeneous chemistry  
 243 turned on and off to isolate the in-situ chemical enhancement from dynamical transport;  
 244 the figure shows that heterogeneous chemistry enhances ClO from unperturbed levels  
 245 of 1 pptv or less in the Tropics in the absence of heterogeneous chemistry to above 25  
 246 pptv in the northern hemisphere lobe and above 12 pptv in the southern hemisphere  
 247 lobe; such high levels of ClO are not normally present equatorward of about  $\pm 60^\circ$  in the  
 248 months in question. While ClO provides the cleanest signal for chemical activation, NO<sub>2</sub>  
 249 is a more commonly observable species due to its higher background mixing ratios.  
 250 Figure 4b shows the expected response in NO<sub>2</sub>, of opposite sign to that of ClO, due to  
 251 the recombination of NO<sub>2</sub> with ClO and subsequent conversion to HNO<sub>3</sub>. It is especially  
 252 illuminating to note how the pattern of chlorine activation curls around with the winds of  
 253 the anticyclones. In the southern hemisphere in particular, there is a marked decrease  
 254 in activation near the center of the anticyclone off the northeast coast of Australia. We  
 255 see continued but decreasing elevated levels in a west-east band across the Pacific.  
 256 Examination of the reaction rates of the three main heterogeneous chlorine activation  
 257 reactions described above ( $\text{HCl} + \text{ClONO}_2 \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2 + \text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{ClONO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HOCl} +$   
 258  $\text{HNO}_3$ , and  $\text{HCl} + \text{HOCl} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{Cl}_2$ ), (Figure S4) confirms that the *in-situ* activation is  
 259 driven by a combination of available chlorine and cold temperatures, with the former  
 260 limiting activation on the equatorward side and the latter limiting it on the poleward side.  
 261 Both ClO and NO<sub>2</sub> changes span somewhat larger regions than the chemical rates; this  
 262 is likely associated with advection by the equatorward edges of the subtropical jets or  
 263 the Kelvin wave part of the Matsuno-Gill wind response. NO<sub>2</sub> changes show a broader  
 264 pattern than ClO, reflecting the former's longer lifetime in the stratosphere and thus

Deleted: 2

Deleted: 5

Deleted: chemical

Deleted: in question

Deleted: 3

270 ability to be carried by the circulation. There is more activation in the northern than the  
271 southern hemisphere, consistent with the more extensive region of cold temperatures  
272 there. It is notable that there is little enhancement of chlorine activation over the equator  
273 proper despite the cold temperatures, as the meridional transport of chlorine from higher  
274 latitudes weakens dramatically there, in accordance with the Matsuno-Gill meridional  
275 wind response vanishing at the equator for symmetric heating.

276

277 Although the longitudinally resolved plots give the clearest demonstration of the  
278 implications of a Matsuno-Gill type flow for stratospheric chemistry, this activation signal

279 can also be seen in the zonal mean in both ClO and NO<sub>2</sub>. Figure 5a and Figure 5b show

280 the ClO and NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios for November 2009 at 85 mb for the Chem-Dyn-Vol run

281 and the NoHet40NS run. A partial zonal mean from 100°E to 250°E emphasizes the

282 region of interest while excluding the influence of the continental landmasses, but the

283 same features are present in the full zonal mean (Figure S5) despite dilution from

284 chemically quiescent longitudes. ClO shows an extremely clear dual hemisphere

285 enhancement, stronger in the northern hemisphere, with background levels nearly zero

286 in the absence of heterogeneous chemistry. NO<sub>2</sub> has a more pronounced hemispheric

287 asymmetry, although the signal is present in both. The feature in NO<sub>2</sub> near 10°N is

288 especially significant, as the Chem-Dyn-Vol mixing ratio of ~60 pptv, compared to the

289 NoHet40NS concentration of ~200 pptv, should be observable. Perturbations are even

290 larger at some longitudes as shown in Figure 4.

291

292

Deleted: 6

Deleted: 6

Deleted: 4

Deleted: 5

297 **4 Discussion**

298 We find clear signals of enhancement in ClO and depletion in NO<sub>2</sub> in SD-  
299 WACCM in the tropical lower stratosphere in months near the equinoxes due to the  
300 presence of heterogeneous chemistry on liquid sulfuric acid aerosols. We present  
301 results from November 2009 and find similar patterns in several other months as well,  
302 as shown in the ClO differences over the entire time series (Figure S6). In particular,  
303 November 2011 (Figure S6d), [December 2011 \(Figure S6a\)](#), April 2009 (Figure S6b),  
304 and April 2011 (Figure S6b) show double bullseyes. Boreal summer (Figure S6c) and  
305 austral summer (Figure S6a) are both dominated by single-hemisphere enhancements  
306 associated with their monsoons. [The strong East Asian Summer Monsoon anticyclone](#)  
307 [leads to the largest chlorine enhancement of these asymmetric heating responses,](#)  
308 [confirming what was previously found in Solomon et al., 2016.](#) It is worth noting that,  
309 while November 2010-January 2011 have very high enhancement, the Merapi volcano  
310 erupted at the end of October 2010, increasing the aerosol surface areas and  
311 heterogeneous reaction rates, and likely dominates the signal for months.

312 \_\_\_\_\_ We have systematically traced [the chlorine activation](#) back to the effects of a  
313 Matsuno-Gill circulation pattern caused by diabatic heating in equatorial regions of the  
314 Western Pacific. This circulation pattern includes anticyclones in the lower stratosphere  
315 of both hemispheres that entrain chlorine to lower latitudes, as well as very cold lower-  
316 stratospheric temperatures overlying regions where the tropopause is high. Winds and  
317 temperatures combine to drive efficient heterogeneous chlorine activation. The changes  
318 in ClO and NO<sub>2</sub> background mixing ratios provide a testable signature of this  
319 mechanism that should be visible to future measurement campaigns in the region,

Deleted: 5

Deleted: 5

Deleted: 5

Deleted: 5

Deleted: 5

Deleted: this

Deleted: enhancement

327 particularly using airborne instruments. Unfortunately, the current generation of  
328 chemistry-focused satellites does not measure ClO in the tropical UTLS, but should that  
329 change this pattern should also be visible on a large scale as seen in the model. While  
330 the differences between the SD-WACCM runs we present successfully isolate the signal  
331 of chlorine activation due to heterogeneous reactions, the underlying meteorological  
332 fields and thus the Matsuno-Gill circulations are the same for all runs. To quantify the  
333 importance of these for transporting chlorine, runs with modified dynamics that suppress  
334 the Matsuno-Gill response would be required. While such comparisons are beyond the  
335 scope of this study, they could be a useful component of future ones.

336

337       Although the years we look at in this study were devoid of major volcanic  
338 eruptions, in the past decade numerous studies have shown that aerosols from the  
339 more frequent, moderate-sized volcanoes have a discernible impact on many aspects of  
340 stratospheric chemistry (Solomon et al. 2011, Naik et al. 2017, Adams et al. 2017, Wilka  
341 et al. 2018). Sarychev Peak erupted in June 2009 and lofted measurable sulfur to the  
342 stratosphere, so November 2009 was not “volcanically clean.” Nor was 2011, due to the  
343 Nabro eruption in June of that year. However, as volcanically clean years seem to be  
344 more the exception than the rule (Mills et al. 2016, Vernier et al. 2011), at least in recent  
345 decades, 2009 may be a fairly typical year in terms of tropical sulfate levels.

346

347       The model chemistry relies on several assumptions about heterogeneous  
348 chemistry whose validity could impact our results. The parameterized heterogeneous  
349 activation rates are based on laboratory studies that contain few direct measurements

350 at the coldest temperatures, and have not been updated for almost two decades.  
351 Furthermore, these studies assumed pure liquid H<sub>2</sub>O/H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> mixtures, so that the  
352 effects of freezing and of any doping with pollutant nitrates or organics are poorly  
353 constrained. The extent to which these matter in the real world depends on both the  
354 aerosol composition of the tropical lower stratosphere and the degree to which sulfates  
355 are internally versus externally mixed with other species. The degree of accuracy with  
356 which models capture relevant stratospheric aerosol processes and composition  
357 changes is an area of active research (Kremser et al. 2016 and references therein).  
358 One recent study (Höpfner et al. 2019) found elevated levels of solid ammonium nitrate  
359 in the upper troposphere during the Asian summer monsoon due to convective uplift of  
360 NH<sub>3</sub>. However, they did not find elevated ammonium nitrate outside of the summer  
361 monsoon months, i.e., for the months of interest here. Further, sulfate aerosols can be  
362 expected to be dominant in volcanically perturbed periods.

363

364 While the version of SD-WACCM we use does not account for heterogeneous  
365 chemistry on cirrus ice cloud particles, we expect such reactions to enhance our  
366 modeled activation. Cirrus chemistry parameterizations are subject to large  
367 uncertainties, but we test our expectation by running SD-WACCM with an ice chemistry  
368 parameterization implemented for the four years of interest and plot the CIO mixing  
369 ratios in Figure 6 along with the Chem-Dyn-Vol and NoHet40NS runs for the same  
370 Pacific region of interest as Figure 5. We see in Figure 6 that ice chemistry increases  
371 activation, as expected, but the magnitude of its impact varies greatly both among years  
372 and between hemispheres. For November 2009, ice chemistry appears to enhance CIO

Deleted: 7

Deleted: 6

Deleted: 7

376 more in the Southern Hemisphere (Figure 6b) than the Northern Hemisphere (Figure  
377 6a), but in November 2010 there is little effect in either hemisphere. The relative  
378 importance of cirrus clouds is an ongoing area of study, but it is important to note that  
379 the enhancements seen in Figure 6, regardless of season, occur in addition to activation  
380 caused by liquid sulfuric acid aerosols, and we do not see any significant enhancements  
381 in the absence of liquid sulfuric acid aerosol-driven activation. Thus, we feel confident  
382 that our results capture the main features of chlorine activation in the tropical UTLS,  
383 even without considering cirrus input.

Deleted: 7

384  
385 An additional source of uncertainty in the model results comes from the adopted  
386 temperature profiles. MERRA temperatures near the tropopause, to which SD-WACCM  
387 is relaxed, assimilate both satellite and in-situ observations, so we expect that they  
388 capture the mean structure well. However, the number of levels in the UTLS is relatively  
389 small, and may fail to capture some of the variance in temperature structure often seen  
390 in higher vertical resolution radiosondes, especially due to situations such as a double-  
391 peaked cold point tropopause or small-scale wave activity. We recognize that this  
392 smoothing of the temperature structure will mute some of the corresponding vertical  
393 structure in the chemistry, and in particular may underestimate activation if the cold  
394 point occurs between model levels. This is an active area for further research and the  
395 importance of temperature resolution for chemistry could inform considerations of future  
396 sub-grid scale modelling parameterizations, as well as be a target of investigation for  
397 higher-resolution models.

398

400 Another promising direction for further exploration is the role that wave activity on  
401 different timescales has on the likelihood and lifetime of the patterns that we investigate  
402 here. Tropical winds, temperatures, and resultant chemistry patterns are influenced  
403 from year-to-year by El Niño-Southern Oscillation and the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation,  
404 and on sub-seasonal timescales by the Madden-Julien Oscillation and mixing from  
405 midlatitude eddies. As we have examined only a monthly-mean response, we recognize  
406 that on shorter time scales the activation could be both stronger and more localized.  
407 This is especially likely in the case of modulation of convection by the MJO, which  
408 varies in location over its cycle and in strength between different events. While it is  
409 intriguing that 2009 and 2011 both seem to display more activation in fall and spring  
410 (Figure S6), the current study does not span enough years to determine what dynamical  
411 phases or combinations thereof are most responsible for influencing chemistry. A  
412 systematic investigation of a longer time series could also help quantify the influence of  
413 summer monsoonal circulations of varying strength on this chemistry. Quantifying how  
414 both the background state of the atmosphere and the activity of more transient  
415 phenomena influence the likelihood of finding these patterns is an area of ongoing  
416 investigation.

417

## 418 5 Conclusions

419 This study has expanded our knowledge of where heterogeneous chlorine  
420 activation chemistry can take place in months near the equinoxes, and revealed new  
421 connections between tropical meteorology and stratospheric chemistry. The ClO and  
422 NO<sub>2</sub> levels we have modeled provide observable targets for future aircraft campaigns or

Deleted: 5

Deleted:

425 satellites focused on the tropical UTLS. For example, measurements of the anomalies  
426 seen in both hemispheres (as in Figure 4) would serve as a characteristic signature of  
427 the response as described here. Such campaigns could also use this chemistry to  
428 deepen our understanding of the stratospheric equatorially-symmetric Matsuno-Gill  
429 circulation and transport patterns, with chemical enhancements providing observable  
430 indicators for dynamical studies.

431

432 Furthermore, while we have focused on the heterogeneous chlorine reactions  
433 most relevant for ozone depletion in this region, it is notable that other chemical  
434 constituents and processes will also be affected. For example, all reactants with a steep  
435 equator-to-pole concentration gradient are expected to be affected by the Matsuno-Gill  
436 wind pattern described here. Reactions with a sufficiently strong temperature sensitivity  
437 will also be influenced. For both chlorine-dependent and other reactions, continuing to  
438 investigate the impacts of zonally asymmetric circulation patterns on atmospheric  
439 chemistry is an area ripe for further research.

440

441

#### 442 **Data Availability Statement**

443 We thank NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory for the GPCP rainfall data  
444 (available freely online at [esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/data.gcpc.html](http://esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/data.gcpc.html)). We thank  
445 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for the MERRA data (available freely online at  
446 <http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). WACCM is a component of the Community Earth System

Deleted: 5

448 Model (CESM), which is supported by the National Science Foundation. WACCM runs  
449 are available at [https://acomstaff.acom.ucar.edu/dkin/JAS\\_Wilka\\_2020/](https://acomstaff.acom.ucar.edu/dkin/JAS_Wilka_2020/).

450

451

#### 452 **Acknowledgements**

453 We would like to acknowledge high-performance computing support from Cheyenne  
454 (doi:10.5065/D6RX99HX) provided by NCAR's Computational and Information Systems  
455 Laboratory, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. CW, SS, and TC are  
456 grateful for partial support under NSF grant 1906719 from the atmospheric chemistry  
457 division. DK is grateful for partial support under NASA ACOM grant 80NSSC19K0952.

458

459 **References Cited**

460

461 Adames, Á. F., & Wallace, J. M., 2017: On the tropical atmospheric signature of El Niño,  
462 *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, **74(6)**, 1923-1939.

463

464 Adams, C., Bourassa, A. E., McLinden, C. A., Sioris, C. E., Clarmann, T. V., Funke, B.,  
465 ... & Degenstein, D. A., 2017: Effect of volcanic aerosol on stratospheric NO<sub>2</sub>  
466 and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> from 2002–2014 as measured by Odin-OSIRIS and Envisat-MIPAS,  
467 *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, **17(13)**, 8063-8080.

468

469 Adler, R. F., Huffman, G. J., Chang, A., Ferraro, R., Xie, P. P., Janowiak, J., ... &  
470 Gruber, A., 2003: The version-2 global precipitation climatology project (GPCP)  
471 monthly precipitation analysis (1979–present), *Journal of hydrometeorology*, **4(6)**,  
472 1147-1167.

473

474 Anderson, J. G., Weisenstein, D. K., Bowman, K. P., Homeyer, C. R., Smith, J. B.,  
475 Wilmouth, D. M., ... & Wofsy, S. C., 2017: Stratospheric ozone over the United  
476 States in summer linked to observations of convection and temperature via  
477 chlorine and bromine catalysis, *Proceedings of the National Academy of*  
478 *Sciences*, **114(25)**, E4905-E4913.

479

480 Froidevaux, L., Kinnison, D. E., Wang, R., Anderson, J., & Fuller, R. A., 2019:  
481 Evaluation of CESM1 (WACCM) free-running and specified dynamics

482 atmospheric composition simulations using global multispecies satellite data  
 483 records, *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, **19(7)**, 4783-4821.  
 484  
 485 Gill, A. E., 1980: Some simple solutions for heat-induced tropical circulation. *Quarterly*  
 486 *Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, **106(449)**, 447-462.  
 487  
 488 Highwood, E. J., & Hoskins, B. J., 1998: The tropical tropopause. *Quarterly Journal of*  
 489 *the Royal Meteorological Society*, **124(549)**, 1579-1604.  
 490  
 491 Höpfner, M., Ungermann, J., Borrmann, S., Wagner, R., Spang, R., Riese, M., ... &  
 492 Cairo, F., 2019: Ammonium nitrate particles formed in upper troposphere from  
 493 ground ammonia sources during Asian monsoons, *Nature Geoscience*, **12**, 608-  
 494 612.  
 495  
 496 Jin, F., & Hoskins, B. J., 1995: The direct response to tropical heating in a baroclinic  
 497 atmosphere, *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, **52(3)**, 307-319.  
 498  
 499 Kremser, S., Thomason, L. W., von Hobe, M., Hermann, M., Deshler, T., Timmreck, C.,  
 500 ... & Fueglistaler, S., 2016: Stratospheric aerosol—Observations, processes, and  
 501 impact on climate, *Reviews of Geophysics*, **54(2)**, 278-335.  
 502

503 Marsh, D. R., Mills, M. J., Kinnison, D. E., Lamarque, J. F., Calvo, N., & Polvani, L. M.,  
 504 2013: Climate change from 1850 to 2005 simulated in CESM1 (WACCM),  
 505 *Journal of Climate*, **26(19)**, 7372-7391.  
 506  
 507 Matsuno, T., 1966: Quasi-geostrophic motions in the equatorial area, *Journal of the*  
 508 *Meteorological Society of Japan. Ser. II*, **44(1)**, 25-43.  
 509  
 510 Mills, M. J., Richter, J. H., Tilmes, S., Kravitz, B., MacMartin, D. G., Glanville, A. A., ... &  
 511 Gettelman, A., 2017: Radiative and chemical response to interactive  
 512 stratospheric sulfate aerosols in fully coupled CESM1 (WACCM), *Journal of*  
 513 *Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, **122(23)**, 13-061.  
 514  
 Mills, M. J., Schmidt, A., Easter, R., Solomon, S., Kinnison, D. E., Ghan, S. J., ... &  
 Gettelman, A., 2016: Global volcanic aerosol properties derived from emissions,  
 1990–2014, using CESM1 (WACCM), *Journal of Geophysical Research:*  
*Atmospheres*, **121(5)**, 2332-2348.  
  
 Naik, V., Horowitz, L. W., Daniel Schwarzkopf, M., & Lin, M., 2017: Impact of volcanic  
 aerosols on stratospheric ozone recovery, *Journal of Geophysical Research:*  
*Atmospheres*, **122(17)**, 9515-9528.

515 Neely, R., & Schmidt, A., 2016: VolcanEESM: Global volcanic sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)  
 516 emissions database from 1850 to present–Version 1.0, *Cent. Environ. Data*  
 517 *Anal.*, doi.org/10.5285/76ebdc0b-0eed-4f70-b89e-55e606bcd568  
 518  
 519 Newell, R. E., & Gould-Stewart, S., 1981: A stratospheric fountain? *Journal of the*  
 520 *Atmospheric Sciences*, **38(12)**, 2789-2796.  
 521  
 522 Rienecker, M. M., Suarez, M. J., Gelaro, R., Todling, R., Bacmeister, J., Liu, E., ... &  
 523 Bloom, S., 2011: MERRA: NASA's modern-era retrospective analysis for  
 524 research and applications, *Journal of Climate*, **24(14)**, 3624-3648.  
 525  
 526 Robrecht, S., Vogel, B., Grooß, J. U., Rosenlof, K., Thornberry, T., Rollins, A., ... &  
 527 Müller, R., 2019: Mechanism of ozone loss under enhanced water vapour  
 528 conditions in the mid-latitude lower stratosphere in summer, *Atmospheric*  
 529 *Chemistry and Physics*, **19(9)**, 5805-5833.  
 530  
 531 Rodwell, M. J., & Hoskins, B. J., 2001: Subtropical anticyclones and summer  
 532 monsoons, *Journal of Climate*, **14(15)**, 3192-3211.  
 533  
 534 Shi, Q., Jayne, J. T., Kolb, C. E., Worsnop, D. R., & Davidovits, P., 2001: Kinetic model  
 535 for reaction of ClONO<sub>2</sub> with H<sub>2</sub>O and HCl and HOCl with HCl in sulfuric acid  
 536 solutions, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, **106(D20)**, 24259-  
 537 24274.

538

539 Solomon, S., Garcia, R. R., Rowland, F. S., & Wuebbles, D. J., 1986: On the depletion  
540 of Antarctic ozone, *Nature*, **321(6072)**, 755.

541

542 Solomon, S., 1999: Stratospheric ozone depletion: A review of concepts and history,  
543 *Reviews of Geophysics*, **37(3)**, 275-316.

544

545 Solomon, S., Daniel, J. S., Neely, R. R., Vernier, J. P., Dutton, E. G., & Thomason, L.  
546 W., 2011: The persistently variable “background” stratospheric aerosol layer and  
547 global climate change, *Science*, **333(6044)**, 866-870.

548

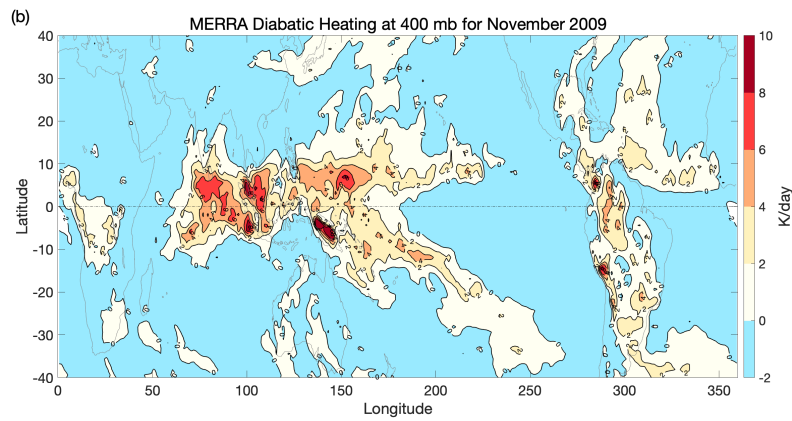
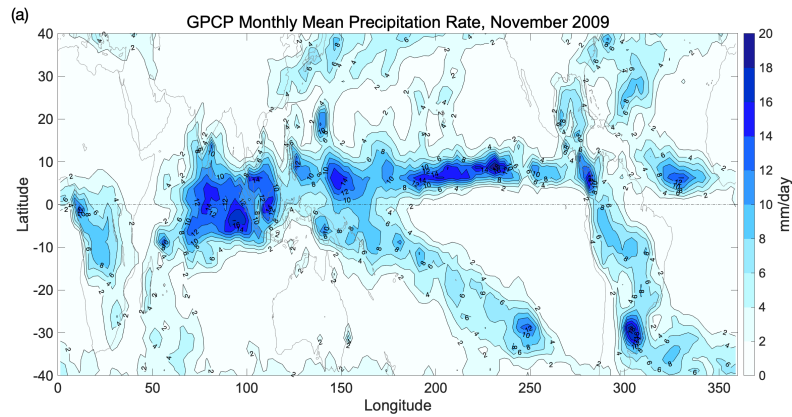
549 Solomon, S., Kinnison, D., Garcia, R. R., Bandoro, J., Mills, M., Wilka, C., ... & Höpfner,  
550 M., 2016: Monsoon circulations and tropical heterogeneous chlorine chemistry in  
551 the stratosphere, *Geophysical Research Letters*, **43(24)**, 12-624.

552

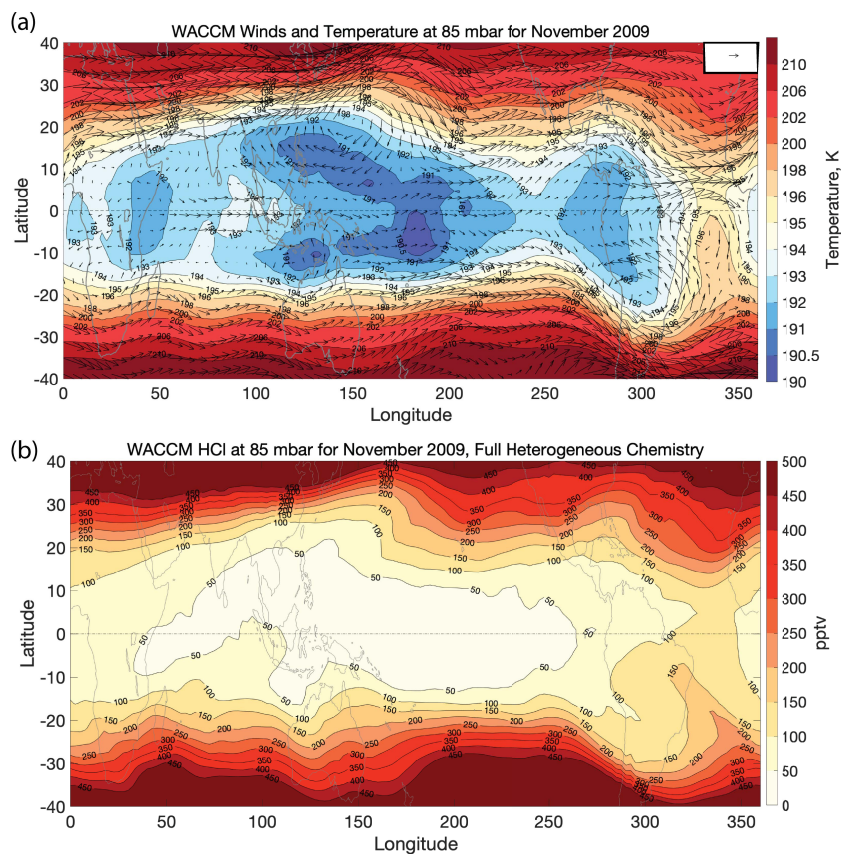
553 Vernier, J. P., Thomason, L. W., Pommereau, J. P., Bourassa, A., Pelon, J., Garnier, A.,  
554 ... & Vargas, F., 2011: Major influence of tropical volcanic eruptions on the  
555 stratospheric aerosol layer during the last decade, *Geophysical Research*  
556 *Letters*, **38(12)**.

557

558 Wilka, C., Shah, K., Stone, K., Solomon, S., Kinnison, D., Mills, M., ... & Neely III, R. R.,  
559 2018: On the role of heterogeneous chemistry in ozone depletion and recovery,  
560 *Geophysical Research Letters*, **45(15)**, 7835-7842.

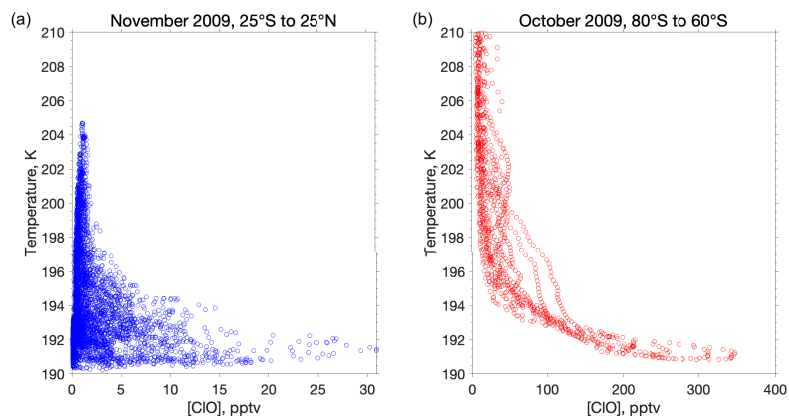


**Figure 1. a)** Precipitation (mm/day) from the GPCP and **b)** diabatic heating rates (K/day) at 400 mb from MERRA reanalysis from 40°N to 40°S, averaged for November 2009.



**Figure 2. a)** Monthly mean WACCM horizontal flow and temperature (K) at 85 mb from 40°N to 40°S for November 2009. The winds are shown as vectors, with the length of the tail corresponding to the strength of the wind. A 5 m/s vector is displayed in the upper right for scale. **b)** Monthly mean WACCM HCl volume mixing ratios at 85 mbar in the tropics for November 2009. Heterogeneous chemistry is turned on at all latitudes.

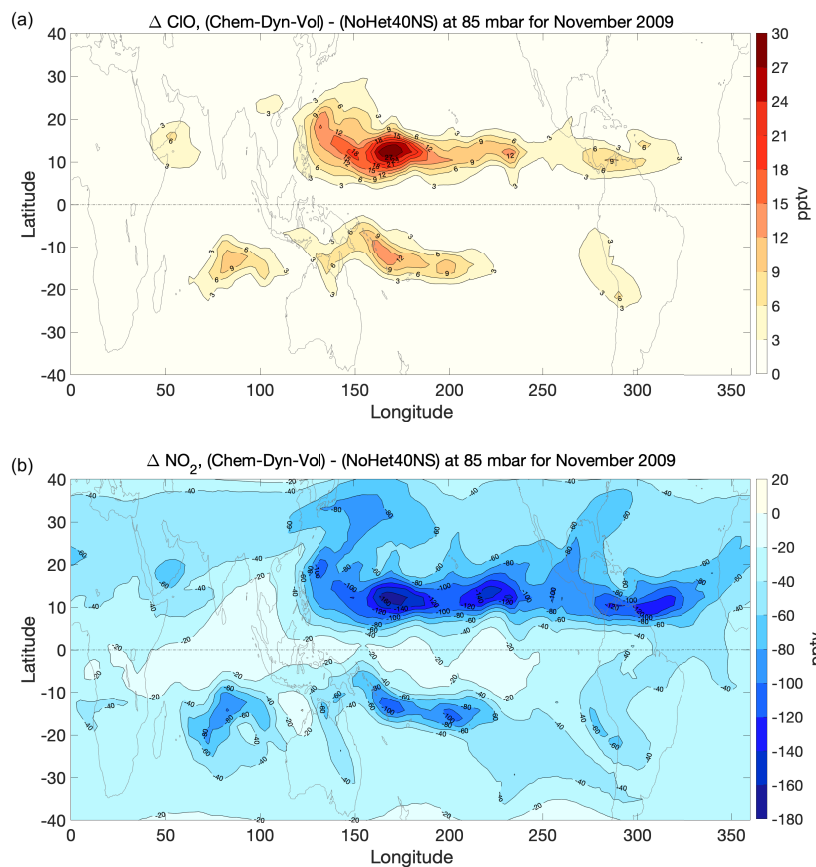
576



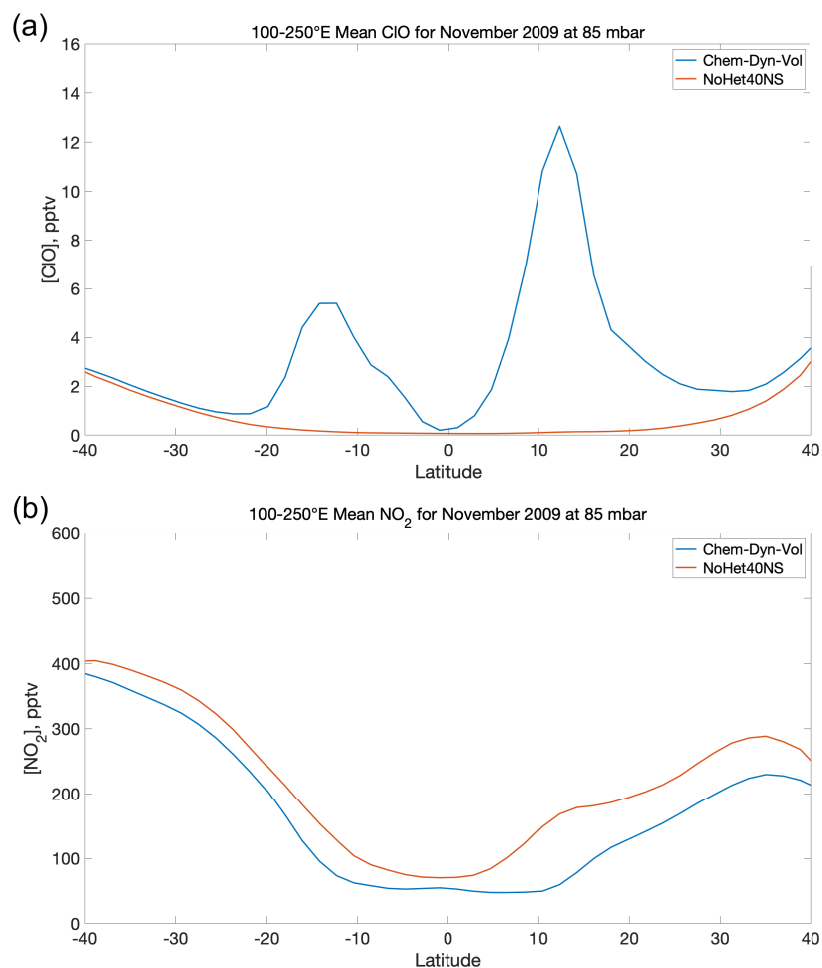
577

578

579 **Figure 3.** Distribution of ClO mixing ratios and associated temperatures in **(a)** the  
580 tropics for November 2009 and in **(b)** the Antarctic for October 2009. Both plots are at  
581 85 mbar for all longitudes.

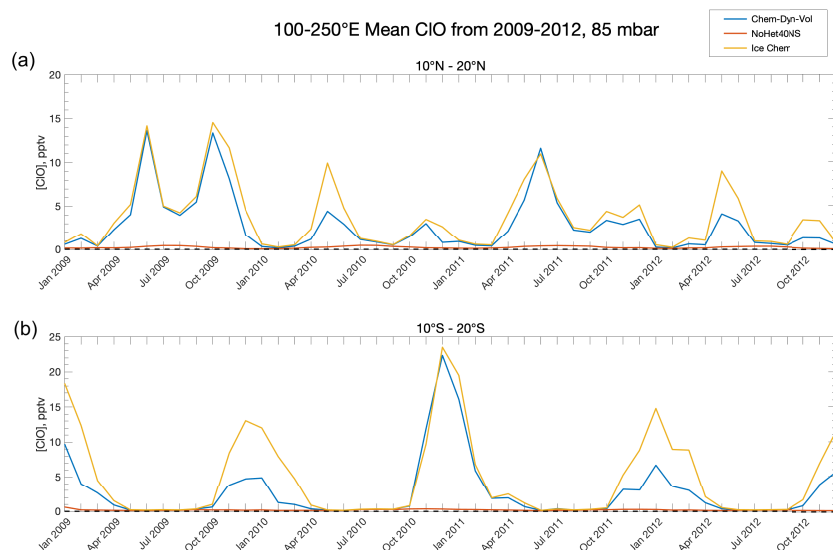


**Figure 4.** Differences in the monthly mean distribution of (a) ClO and (b) NO<sub>2</sub> at 85 mb in SD-WACCM between the runs with and without heterogeneous chlorine and bromine chemistry turned on in the tropics. Red values show relative enhancement and blue indicates relative depletion.



**Figure 5.** Monthly longitudinal means from 100° to 250°E for (a) CIO and (b) NO<sub>2</sub> in SD-WACCM at 85 mb from 40°S to 40°N for November 2009. The blue line is the Chem-Dyn-Vol run with full heterogeneous chemistry turned on and the red line is the NoHet40NS run with heterogeneous chlorine and bromine chemistry turned off in the tropics.

597



598

599

600 **Figure 6.** Time series of monthly mean CIO over the Pacific in the **(a)** Northern  
 601 Hemisphere and **(b)** Southern Hemisphere tropics. Latitude bands are chosen to  
 602 maximize the activation signal and isolate inter-hemispheric differences. The blue line is  
 603 the Chem-Dyn-Vol run with full heterogeneous chemistry turned on but no ice  
 604 chemistry, the red line is the NoHet40NS run with heterogeneous chlorine and bromine  
 605 chemistry turned off in the tropics, and the yellow line is the Ice Chem run with full  
 606 heterogeneous chemistry and an additional ice chemistry parameterization included.