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# The role of dynamics in total ozone deviations from their long-term mean over the Northern Hemisphere

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**Abstract.** Total ozone anomalies (deviation from the long-term mean) are created by anomalous circulation patterns. The dynamically produced ozone anomalies can be estimated from known circulation parameters in the layer between the tropopause and the middle stratosphere by means of statistics. Satellite observations of ozone anomalies can be compared with those expected from dynamics. Residual negative anomalies may be due to chemical ozone destruction. The statistics are derived from a 14 year data set of TOMS (Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer January 1979–Dec. 1992) and corresponding 300 hPa geopotential (for the tropopause height) together with 30 hPa temperature (for stratospheric waves) at 60°N. The correlation coefficient for the linear multiple regression between total ozone (dependent variable) and the dynamical parameters (independent variables) is 0.88 for the zonal deviations in the winter of the Northern Hemisphere. Zonal means are also significantly dependent on circulation parameters, besides showing the known negative trend function of total ozone observed by TOMS. The significant linear trend for 60°N is  $\sim 3$  DU/year in the winter months taking into account the dependence on the dynamics between the tropopause region and the mid-stratosphere. The highest correlation coefficient for the monthly mean total ozone anomalies is reached in November with 0.94.

**Key words.** Atmospheric composition and structure (middle atmosphere – composition and chemistry) · Meteorology and atmospheric dynamics (middle atmosphere dynamics).

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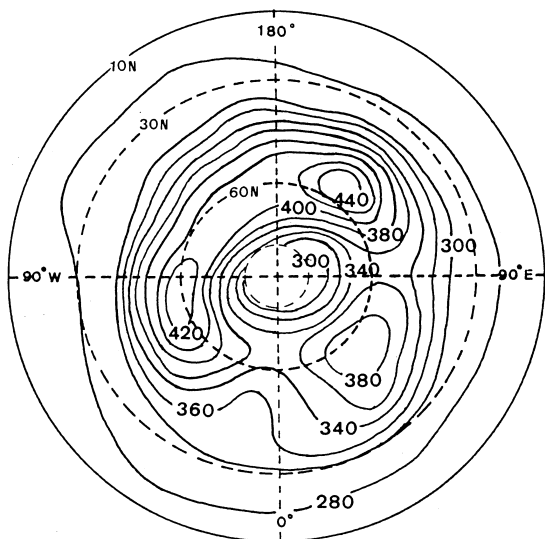
## 1 Introduction

After discovering how the ozone hole over Antarctica could form by heterogeneous reactions on polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) (activating the chlorine from

anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons) the problem arose whether an ozone hole could form over the Northern Hemisphere as well. PSCs and reactive chlorine chemicals had also been observed over the Arctic; however, there are two important factors which are different for the winter vortices in the two hemispheres. Firstly, the arctic stratosphere is warmer and thus less capable of supporting the formation of ice-coated aerosols (containing nitric acid) as often as in Antarctica, where they denitrify the vortex by falling out to lower levels. In the arctic winter vortex instead, a reservoir of inactive chlorine nitrate can be built up by the nitric acid, slowing down the further ozone destruction by chlorine (Rex, 1997). Secondly, the winter vortex over the Northern Hemisphere is disturbed by large breaking planetary waves destroying the vortex earlier in spring when the main ozone depletion takes place over Antarctica.

Nevertheless, over recent years many ozone stations in the Northern Hemisphere have reported the lowest ozone columns ever measured at their sites (Entzian *et al.*, 1992). A negative ozone trend was also seen by satellites at middle and high latitudes (Stolarski *et al.*, 1991), and by Dobson stations (Harris *et al.*, 1997). Several campaigns were established to measure the ozone depletion; in the vortex of the Northern Hemisphere, values of 31–52% ozone destruction were estimated up to the winter of 1995/96 at the 475 K potential temperature surface (Rex *et al.*, 1996). Observed total ozone at five SAOZ stations reveals 34% ozone destruction in 1995, when compared with simulated total ozone at the stations by a simple transport model (Goutail *et al.*, 1997). The recent winter of 1996/97, with very low ozone columns at the N Pole, in March (Fig. 1) resembles the beginning of the ozone hole in Antarctica because the undisturbed vortex remained unusually long over the North Pole region. Total ozone amounts measured by the SBUV/2 (Planet *et al.*, 1994) in March were 33% lower than the 8-y (1979–86) monthly mean of March (Miller 1997).

There is no doubt about ozone destruction over the Northern Hemisphere; however, the interpretation of



**Fig. 1.** Total ozone (DU) March 1997 from NOAA-9 SBUV/2. (No data in the polar region north of the *dashed circle*) from Miller (1997, <http://nic.fb4.noaa.gov>)

zonal mean trends or monthly mean maps of total ozone must take into account the corresponding meteorological situation. It has been known for a long time, that meteorological variables are well correlated with the total ozone amount. Therefore it must be estimated how far unusual dynamical conditions are responsible for ozone deviations from the long-term mean.

This can be done either by model calculations of ozone transport or by a statistical approach. The former is difficult because of unknown vertical ozone profiles for initialisation and the long integration time. The statistical approach can be improved by taking into account the most decisive independent variables. Dobson *et al.* (1929) already knew the correlation between total ozone and the tropopause height. A high (cold) tropopause above an anticyclone means low total ozone because of the redistribution of low ozone content from the troposphere and lower latitudes. Since then a lot of statistical work has given more insight into the dynamical contribution to total ozone behaviour. Reed (1960) stressed the importance of vertical motion for the total ozone, while Ohring (1970) took into account the lower stratosphere. In recent publications dynamical parameters have been used. The correlation between absolute vorticity in the lower stratosphere and the total ozone column shows that synoptic scale vorticity anomalies cause perturbations in total ozone (Vaughan and Price, 1991); however, middle stratospheric anomalies disturbed the relationship. The influence of the lower stratospheric stationary waves on the longitude dependence of total ozone was investigated by Hood and Zaff (1995).

Furthermore, it could be indicated that both total ozone trend and dynamical trends show the same longitudinal dependence (Randel and Cobb, 1994 using MSU/channel 4 with max weight between 150 and 50 hPa; Peters and Entzian, 1996 using 300 hPa). A multiple statistical regression model for total ozone with

the height and the temperature at 100 hPa was set up by Hood *et al.* (1997). They could show that the negative TOMS trend for February would increase with latitude after subtracting the estimated dynamical trends (instead of showing largest negative trends at midlatitudes shown by Stolarski *et al.*, 1991).

Here an attempt is made to improve the correlation by a multiple correlation for the anomalies of the ozone column with predictors from the tropopause height *and* the temperature in the middle stratosphere. For a time scale up to a month the dynamical anomalies extending into the region of maximum ozone seems to play a dominant role especially in winter.

In the first section local minima of total ozone < 225 DU from the 14 y series (1979–1992) of TOMS satellite data are described. All cases show the same conditions in the dynamical situation from which the independent variables for the regression can be found. In the second section the regression equation is derived. The correlation coefficients and the derived values are presented for different seasons. The discussion of the results in the last section points towards the important fact, that total ozone anomaly maps for the arctic winter can be interpreted with respect to ozone destruction only after taking into account the dynamic anomalies. In particular, the fact that the total ozone column can be depleted in the *same* cold region by dynamics and chemical ozone destruction (upwelling by dynamics and activated chlorine by heterogenous processes on PSCs) makes it necessary to separate both effects carefully.

## 2 Local minima of total ozone and meteorological conditions 1979–1992

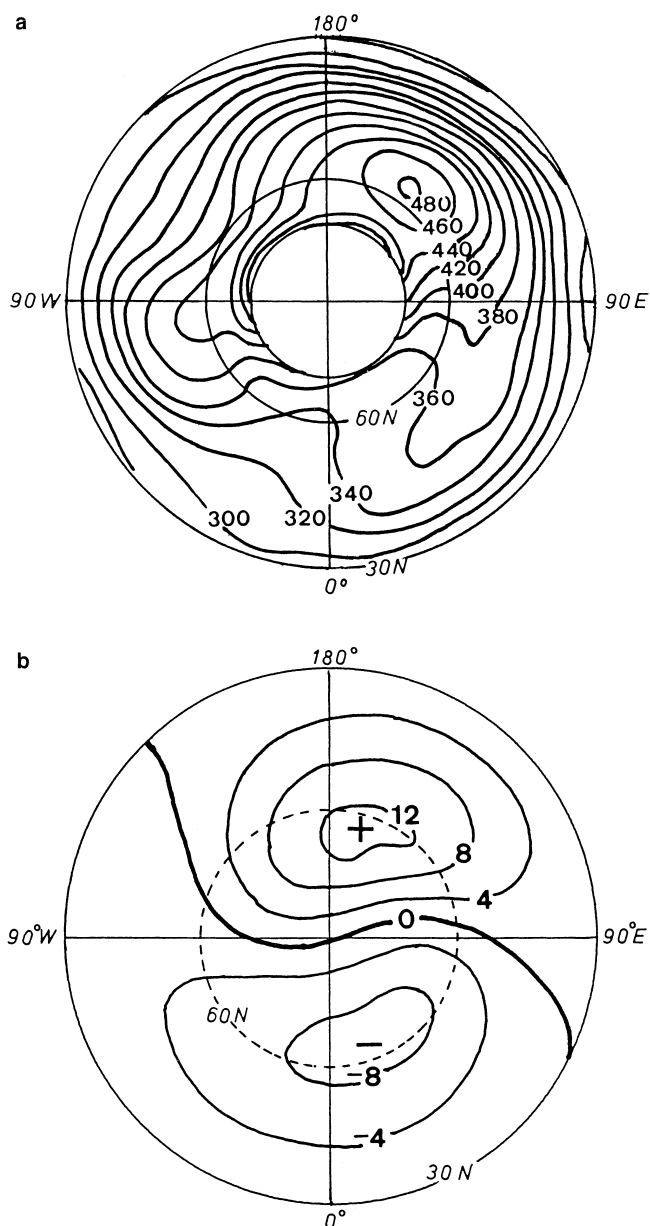
In a recent study Petzoldt *et al.* (1994) have shown that unusually large ozone anomalies in the monthly total ozone means (as in January 1992 and January 1987) were associated with large anomalies in the monthly means of the 300 hPa height and the temperature at 30 hPa. The meteorological anomalies were caused by an unusually strong tropospheric anticyclone beneath a very cold region of the winter vortex during January.

These conditions cannot only be seen in monthly means as quasi-stationary wave perturbations, but also as transient events. Such a transient event overpassing Norway in February 1990 was described by Rabbe and Larsen (1992) as an ozone minihole. At first an ozone minihole was observed at the edge of the Antarctic polar vortex in a cold region with a bulk of isentropic levels in the upper troposphere (McKenna *et al.*, 1989).

It is known that the large-scale waves in the stratosphere are responsible for the large-scale distribution of the total ozone (Wirth, 1993). For example, the effect of the steady pattern of wave number one in the January long-term mean at 30 hPa can be seen in the adiabatically changed temperature as well as in the total ozone. A sinking motion causes high temperature and high ozone over the Aleutian region, whereas cold air with low ozone columns (caused by rising motion) are found over Northern Europe (Fig. 2a, b). Anomalous

stratospheric wave amplitudes and additional effects from the troposphere produce an anomalous ozone distribution with unusually low/high values if the processes work in the same direction from the tropopause up to the middle stratosphere.

Here we investigate whether the dynamical situation described (positive anomaly of upper tropospheric levels combined with negative anomaly of the stratospheric temperature) also provides a necessary condition for all local ozone minima by scanning the daily TOMS data (1979–1992) north of 55°N for values below 225 DU in January and February. This low ozone column means a large deviation from the long-term mean (anomaly), even over Europe where the ozone minimum at these latitudes is situated (see Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2.** a 10-y monthly mean of total ozone (DU) for January (TOMS); b 28-y monthly mean of deviations from zonal mean of 30-hPa temperature for January (Pawson *et al.*, 1994)

All 11 cases found in January and February from the period 1979–1992, when the TOMS experiment measured total ozone below 225 DU, demonstrate the same features as shown in Table 1. A tropospheric anticyclone associated with a high 200 hPa level and low temperatures at the tropopause beneath a cold part of the stratospheric winter vortex. Whereas tropospheric anticyclones with a high cold tropopause ( $< -70$  °C) are often seen, stratospheric temperatures below  $-83$  °C at 50°N–70°N are observed only during strong planetary wave activity. As seen from Table 1, all cases were associated with a strong warming in the upper stratosphere which shifted the vortex towards the European sector, connected with amplification of wave amplitudes. It can be assumed that the enhanced vertical motion during a stratospheric warming redistributes the ozone. Circulating around the vortex, the air will be lifted in the European sector and pushed downward over Siberia. In the sinking branch where the air is adiabatically warmed the ozone will increase, whereas the ozone column will decrease moving upwards along the sloping isentropic levels due to the invariant ozone mixing ratios. Of course, horizontal advection (forced by divergence due to mass continuity) has also to be taken into account, when there is a meridional ozone gradient. However, it could be shown by a linear, steady state model (Wirth, 1993) that the ozone column is well correlated with the extrema in the temperature field of the waves.

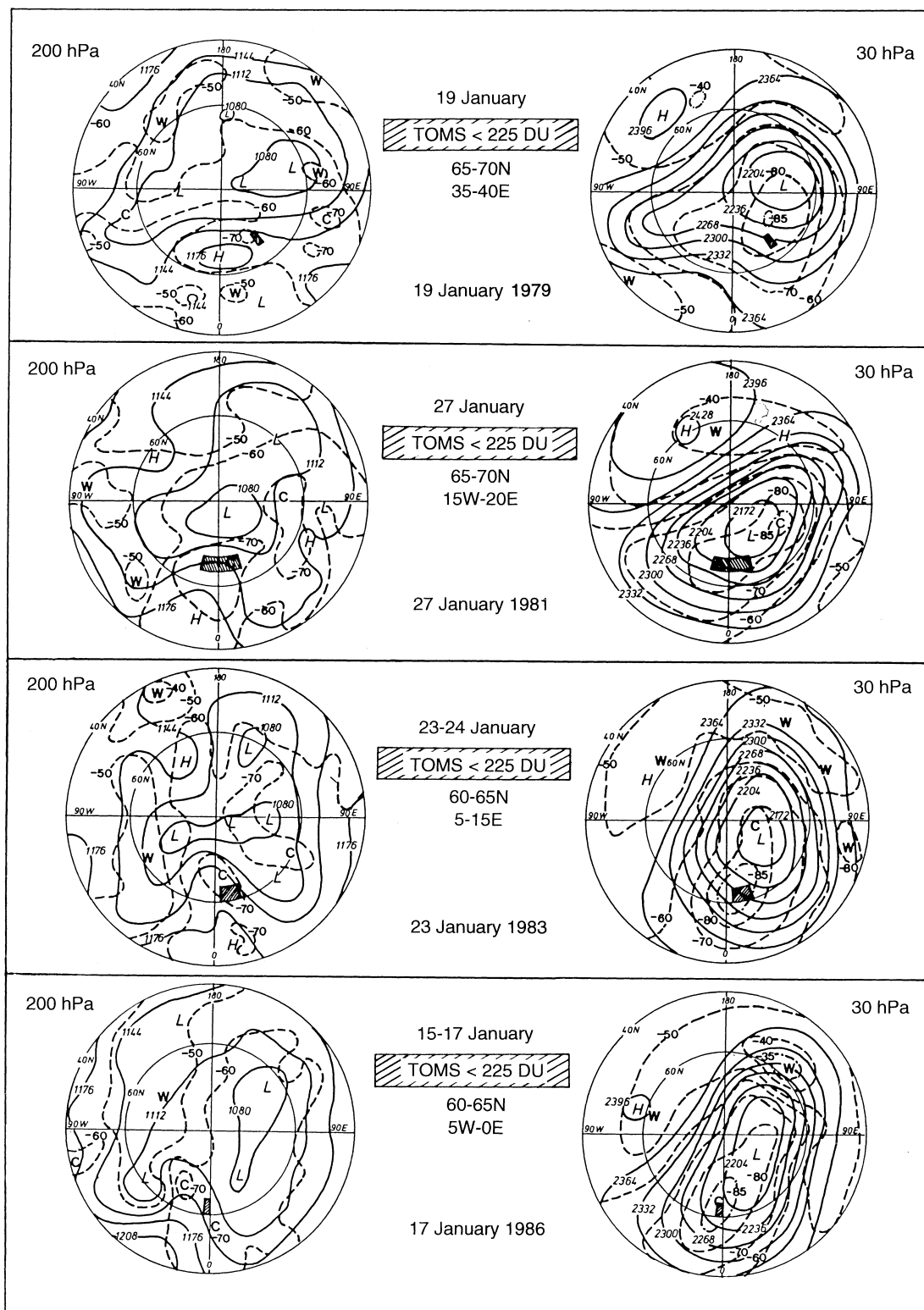
In Fig. 3 four cases for January are shown. They display transient features, when short periods occurred with total ozone values below 225 DU. They were mainly caused by propagating low-ozone centres in which the columns reached a minimum only during a few days. The hatched areas in the figures where TOMS measured less than 225 DU are always on the northern side of the tropospheric anticyclone, just below the edge of the stratospheric vortex. Not shown in Fig. 3 is the case 2 January 1985 in Table 1, when, after a major warming, the split stratospheric vortex moved, still with very low temperatures, towards the Pacific coast of Canada.

The February cases of Table 1 show the same features (Petzoldt *et al.*, 1994). The case in 1984 was first mentioned as an extremely low ozone column by Krueger (1989). The low ozone values during 1989 were described in the results for the AASE campaign (Airborne Arctic Stratospheric Expedition) and could be simulated in a 3-D model (Rood *et al.*, 1991). The ozone minihole in 1990 was discussed in connection with the vertical velocity at 100 hPa (Rabbe and Larsen, 1992). The 1992 February case was simulated (Engelen, 1997) by means of realistic wave amplitudes; the assumption was confirmed that the maximum of the ozone perturbation at 60°N was mainly caused by vertical motion up to the middle stratosphere.

So far, only the dynamical reasons for low ozone columns have been described here. Unfortunately, ozone depletion by chemical reactions will start in exactly the same region (low temperatures) where ozone decrease is caused by the dynamics. The low strato-

**Table 1.** Total ozone (TOMS) < 225 DU 1979–1992 (north of 55°N)

Year	Days	5° × 5° arrays	Date	Position	200 hPa		30 hPa		10 hPa warming		ΔT North Pole (°C)
					H (km)	T (°C)	H (km)	T (°C)	Period		
1979	1	2	19 January	65–70N/ 35–40E	11.44	-70	22.68	-83	19–25 January	+38	
1981	1	3	27 January	65–70N/ 15W–20E	11.44	-72	22.04	-84	20 January–5 February	+55	
1983	2	5	23 January	60–65N/ 5–15E	11.44	-73	22.36	-88	20 January–1 February	+42	
1984	3	15	10 February	60–70N/ 20W–5E	11.60	-70	22.36	-86	1–10 February	+30	
1985	2	5	2 January	55–60N/ 135–120W	11.60	-70	22.80	-80	26 December–2 January	+45	
1986	6	8	17 January	60–65N/ 5W–0E	11.36	-70	22.20	-86	15–20 January	+30	
1987	12	72	7 February	50–70N/ 15W–15E	11.48	-72	22.20	-86	–	–	
1889	2	25	6–19 January	50–70N/ 40W–45E		Strong anomalies in monthly means			14–20 January	+43	
1990	4	47	1 February	55–70N/ 5W–35E	11.76	-70	22.36	-90	25 January–1 February	+35	
1991	1	12	6 February	50–70N/ 0–55E	11.60	-70	22.20	-87	1–10 February	+48	
1992	18	Very large	23 January	55–65N/ 10–35E	11.60	-72 (24 January)	22.84	-84	16–21 January	+36	
			2, 7–20, 26–29 January	50–65N/ 30W–35E		Strong anomalies in monthly means			10–14 January	+60	



**Fig. 3.** Height (gpdam) (solid line) and temperature (°C) (dashed line) at 200 hPa (left side) and at 30 hPa (right side) for 4 January cases when total ozone < 225 DU (hatched areas)

spheric temperature permit the existence of PSCs, which activate the chlorine of the anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons by heterogeneous chemistry. For this reason, it is very difficult to decide by total ozone

mapping to what extent a minimum is caused by atmospheric dynamics or by chemical ozone depletion.

From the cases discussed already it is obvious that transient and standing waves are responsible for ozone

redistribution. Intense change will be achieved when the waves in the stratosphere are in phase. So the transient events produced lowest columns crossing the minimum of the standing wave over Northern Europe. The isentropes slope upwards and, in the uprising air, lower mixing ratios are lifted towards greater heights. When this lifting gets support from the tropopause region above an anticyclone, the ozone column can get extremely low. The negative deviation from the long-term mean will be large, and can be enlarged further by chemical ozone depletion. The effects of the dynamics have to be removed from the observed anomalies to obtain that part due to the ozone depletion. There are several approaches to solve this problem. An analytical solution of the transport equation of waves shown for the Southern Hemisphere (Schoeberl and Krueger, 1983) cannot easily be applied to the fast changing, sloping waves of the Northern Hemisphere. Three-D models are used to simulate the transported ozone for several cases in the Northern Hemisphere (Rood *et al.*, 1991, Orsolini *et al.*, 1994). A problem with respect to the interpretation of monthly mean anomalies is the long integration time and the initialisation with unknown disturbed ozone fields. However, a linear model could clearly show the longitudinal effect of the waves on the total ozone trend (Peters *et al.*, 1996).

The correlation between total ozone and dynamical parameters is described in the introduction. Strong correlations can be used to construct dynamically caused total ozone distribution by statistical regression of these parameters. In the following section a multiple linear regression model is tested with two independent variables for the troposphere and the stratosphere shown to be determinative for ozone redistribution in winter.

### 3 Statistical regression of the monthly mean anomaly for total ozone in the period 1979–1992

The dependence of the anomalies of total ozone on anomalous dynamics of the troposphere and the stratosphere shown suggests the calculation of a statistical regression between the ozone anomaly and relevant parameters. To distinguish between anomalous ozone redistribution by anomalous dynamics and possible ozone destruction, the anomalies should be separated into a zonal mean anomaly and the deviations from it along a latitudinal circle. A strong correlation between ozone and dynamical parameters could be expected in these zonal deviations of the anomalies due to the redistribution by the zonal waves. On the other hand, any ozone destruction should be seen in the zonal mean, independently of where it happened.

If the chemical loss always occurs in the negative zonal deviations of the waves the dynamical redistribution would be overestimated by the statistical regression of the observed total ozone anomalies; in a preceding test however, no trend was found for the regression coefficients of the zonal deviations. Therefore it is assumed that regressed values for the ozone zonal deviations (computed with the regression coefficient

derived from the statistical sample) as a function of the circulation deviations may suggest where negative ozone deviations can be expected by redistribution, regardless of whether there is also any ozone destruction or not. Of course, the results should be viewed qualitatively.

The data used are monthly mean gridded data ( $5^\circ$  longitudinal distance) at  $60^\circ\text{N}$ . This latitude was chosen because wave amplitudes are largest there and the redistribution is expected to be strong. Furthermore, strong negative ozone anomalies were observed in the latitudinal band  $50^\circ\text{N}$ – $70^\circ\text{N}$  over the last few years. Due to the monthly mean values mainly quasi-stationary perturbations are considered, blocking events in the troposphere and standing waves in the stratosphere.

The local anomaly (deviation of the long-term mean:  $x^*$ ) of a variable  $x$  is the sum of the anomaly of the zonal mean (hereafter called ‘zonal mean anomaly’:  $\bar{x}^*$ ) and the anomaly of the deviation from the zonal mean (hereafter called ‘zonal deviation anomaly’:  $x'^*$ ); this is shown by separating the variable  $x$  and its long-term mean into zonal mean and the deviation from it:

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= x - \bar{x} = (\bar{x} + x') - (\bar{\bar{x}} + \tilde{x}') \\ &= (\bar{x} - \bar{\bar{x}}) + (x' - \tilde{x}') = \bar{x}^* + x'^*, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $x^*$  is the difference of  $x$  from its long-term mean  $\bar{x}$  (here called ‘anomaly’)  $x'$  is the deviation of  $x$  from its zonal mean  $\bar{x}$ .

For each month ‘long-term’ means of the TOMS period (1979–92) were computed at all gridpoints. The difference of a single year monthly mean to this long-term mean is the gridpoint anomaly. Zonal means of those gridpoint anomalies were used to obtain the deviation from it at the gridpoint, the zonal deviation anomaly. The statistical regression was performed for each month separately for the zonal deviation anomalies and the zonal mean anomalies.

#### 3.1 Correlation for the zonal deviation anomalies

Circulation disturbances change the ozone distribution by their vertical and horizontal advection. As long as the isentropic levels and the levels of constant mixing ratio do not intersect with a large angle, zonal deviations of ozone should show a good correlation with the zonal deviation of the temperature caused by the vertical motions in the wave disturbances (Wirth, 1993).

The ozone redistribution caused by synoptic scale anomalies from the tropopause through the lower stratosphere can be represented by the 300 hPa height anomalies. The physical link is the association of a tropospheric anticyclone/cyclone with adiabatic cooling/warming in the tropopause region.

The temperature anomalies in the middle stratosphere can be represented by the 30 hPa temperature field which outlines the rising/sinking branches of the planetary wave disturbances.

If in both regions, from the upper troposphere to the middle stratosphere, the wave disturbances work in the

same/opposite sense to change the ozone column, the anomalies will increase/decrease. The example shown in the former section supports this suggestion, and therefore the following linear multiple regression model is applied,

$$TOZ^{/*} = a + b \ 300H^{/*} + c \ 30T^{/*} \quad (2)$$

with the definition from Eq. (1), and where TOZ: total ozone; 300H: height of 300 hPa; 30T: temperature at 30 hPa, and *a*, *b*, and *c*: are regression coefficients derived from the data set.

As expected, the correlation coefficient for the multiple regression is high for each month. For the whole sample of 12 096 pairs of zonal deviation anomalies (72 gridpoints in 12 months of 14 years) a multiple correlation coefficient of 0.85 is found. In Fig. 4 the correlation coefficients for the single correlations can be compared with those for the multiple correlation. It can be seen that the correlation between the ozone anomaly and the 300 hPa anomaly (for the tropopause effect) is higher in summer when the stratospheric effect is small. In winter the correlation between the ozone anomalies and the effect of the middle stratosphere is strongest. For each month the multiple correlation is stronger than the single ones. The highest correlation coefficient of 0.93 is reached in October.

As supposed, the strong ozone anomalies appeared not only in the European sector, where the extremely low ozone columns caused public concern. In Table 2 the largest amounts of zonal deviation anomalies of ozone for the 14 January cases are shown. More than -50 DU can be seen for 120°W;60°N (1985) and 155°E;60°N (1991). Like the two European cases with more than 50 DU negative anomaly (1987, 1992) they

are associated with strong tropospheric anticyclones beneath an extremely cold stratosphere.

### 3.2 Correlation for the zonal mean anomalies

The zonal mean anomalies  $\bar{x}^*$  can display other reasons for ozone changes. A continuous depletion of ozone by anthropogenically released halogenated hydrocarbons should show up as a trend function for the zonal mean anomaly of that month. Additionally, interannual variations of the circulation in the meridional plane could cause anomalies for the ozone zonal mean in that month. The dependence of the zonal mean anomalies of total ozone on the meridional circulation (shown by zonal mean anomalies of 300 hPa height and 30 hPa temperature) is tested by a regression equation similar to Eq. (2). The correlation between the anomalies is very weak; however, an additional linear trend function for the zonal means of the monthly mean ozone anomaly improves the multiple correlation from 0.26 to 0.70 (all months of the 14 years together):

$$\overline{TOZ}^* = A + Bt + C\overline{300H}^* + D\overline{30T}^* \quad (3)$$

with the definitions of Eq. (1), and where *t* is time (1, 2, ... 14 years) and *A*, *B*, *C*, *D* are regression coefficients to be derived from the data set.

A negative trend is shown for all months in Table 3. The largest trend occurred in the winter months with -3.1 to -3.2 DU/year. This supports the suspicion of chemical ozone depletion in PSCs. The zonal mean anomalies of ozone depend also (significant at the 2 sigma level) on the 300 hPa and 30 hPa zonal mean anomalies in January. That means that trends in the

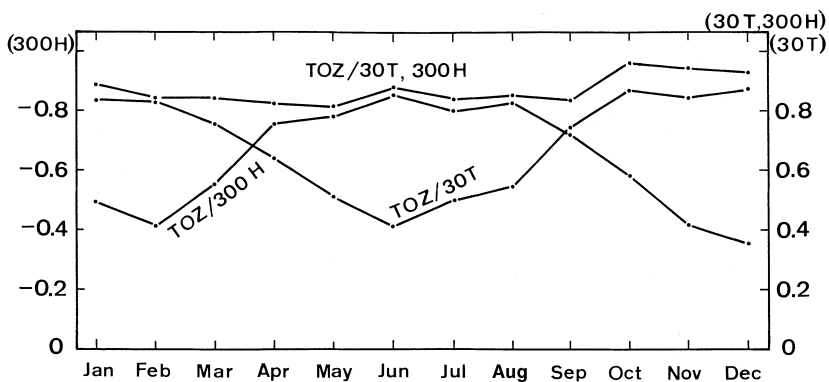


Fig. 4. Correlation coefficient for deviations from the zonal mean anomalies at 60°N between total ozone (TOZ), 300 hPa height (300H), and 30 hPa temperature (30T)

Table 2. Largest negative ozone anomaly of gridpoint deviations from zonal means at 60°N in Januarys 1979–1992

	1979	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
TOZ <sup>a</sup>	-49	-41	-25	-27	-12	-25	-63	-31	-56	-31	-34	-39	-51	-57
30 T <sup>b</sup>	-3.0	-3.3	-4.0	-6.5	-3.5	-2.3	-12.5	-4.6	-10.8	-4.2	-5.2	-7.4	-6.0	-14.5
300 H <sup>c</sup>	128	2	92	-82	113	132	231	-35	209	83	113	-26	207	261
Position <sup>d</sup>	55°W	75°W	30°W	40°E	95°E	155°E	120°W	55°W	05°W	130°W	110°E	80°E	155°E	10°E

<sup>a</sup> Ozone anomaly (DU)

<sup>b</sup> Temperature anomaly (°C) at 30 hPa

<sup>c</sup> Height anomaly (m) at 300 hPa

<sup>d</sup> All at 60°N in the position of the ozone anomaly at various longitudes



**Table 3.** Correlations and trend for the zonal mean anomalies of total ozone at 60°N for the period 1979–1992

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TOZ/ $t^a$	-0.46	-0.61	-0.76	-0.78	-0.72	-0.71	-0.69	-0.53	-0.74	-0.84	-0.79	-0.70
TOZ/30T <sup>b</sup>	0.17	0.44	0.34	0.11	0.21	0.28	0.41	0.63	0.55	0.55	0.36	-0.08
TOZ/300H <sup>c</sup>	-0.06	-0.02	-0.27	-0.32	-0.31	-0.34	-0.14	-0.08	-0.46	-0.48	-0.23	-0.16
TOZ/ $t$	0.67	0.73	0.76	0.83	0.72	0.73	0.71	0.70	0.91	0.93	0.94	0.76
30T,300H <sup>d</sup>												
Trend <sup>e</sup>	-3.5	-3.1	-3.3	-3.1	-2.5	-1.8	-1.4	-0.8	-1.7	-2.1	-2.9	-3.0

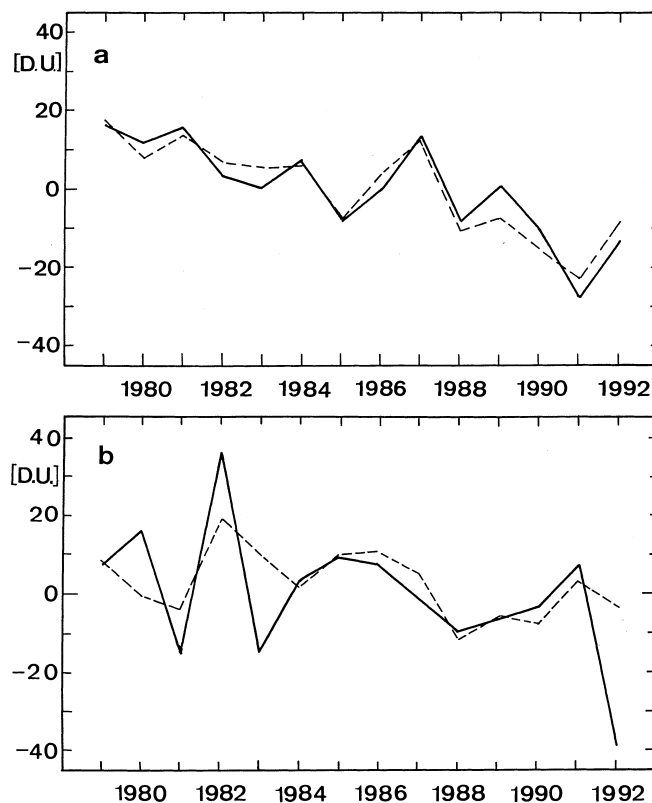
<sup>a</sup> Correlation coefficient between ozone anomaly and a linear time trend<sup>b</sup> Correlation coefficient between ozone anomaly and temperature at 30 hPa<sup>c</sup> Correlation coefficient between ozone anomaly and height at 300 hPa<sup>d</sup> Multiple correlation coefficient for Eq. (3)<sup>e</sup> Trend of ozone anomaly (DU/year) (dependency on 30 hPa and 300 hPa taken into account)

circulation parameters could be misinterpreted as ozone trends if the dynamical anomalies are neglected. With respect to cycles in the total ozone it can be tentatively assumed that they respond to the dynamics and therefore would be included in the dynamical anomalies (coherent ozone and temperature structure were found in the Quasi-Bienial-Oscillation and in the El-Nino-Southern-Oscillation by Randel and Cobb, 1994). That means that it is not necessary to remove such cycles in the ozone anomalies to get proper correlations.

The multiple correlation coefficient (also shown in Table 3 for all months) is largest in autumn with 0.94 in November and improved for all months compared with a time trend of total ozone without dynamical influence (first line of Table 3).

In Fig. 5 the observed total ozone anomalies are presented together with the computed ozone anomalies by means of Eq. (3) using the observed circulation anomalies (Geb and Naujokat, 1979–1992). Whereas the regressed ozone anomalies for November are extremely well represented by the linear regression, there seems to be more nonlinearity in January.

The largest difference between observed and regressed ozone zonal mean anomalies occurred in January 1992 when the Pinatubo volcanic aerosols disturbed the whole environment of the stratosphere. A possible effect could have been an increased potential for PSCs (Randel and Wu, 1995), but also disturbed radiation fields could have affected the meridional transport. This

**Fig. 5a, b.** Anomaly (difference to long-term mean) of total ozone (DU) monthly zonal means at 60°N **a** November, **b** January, TOMS data (solid line) and regressed values (dashed line) (Eq. 3 in the text)

difference increased in the winter after the eruption, November 1991:  $-5$  DU, December 1991:  $-15$  DU, January 1992:  $-20$  DU, February 1992:  $-22$  DU. A corresponding strong difference can be seen 1983 after the eruption of the volcano Chichon.

From the regression Eq. (2) for the deviations of the zonal mean and the regression Eq. (3) for the zonal mean it seems to be obvious that the extremely low anomaly in January 1992 over Northern Europe is a combined effect. Unusually strong disturbances in the stratosphere and the troposphere were associated with upward and northward transport of low ozone mixing ratios over Northern Europe contributing there to a local maximum of  $-100$  DU total ozone anomaly. Accordingly, the regressed zonal deviation over Northern Europe reached  $\sim 50\%$  of the negative ozone anomaly, whereas the low ozone zonal mean could be tentatively explained by a linear trend of  $-3.2$  DU/year and an additional effect by Pinatubo aerosols.

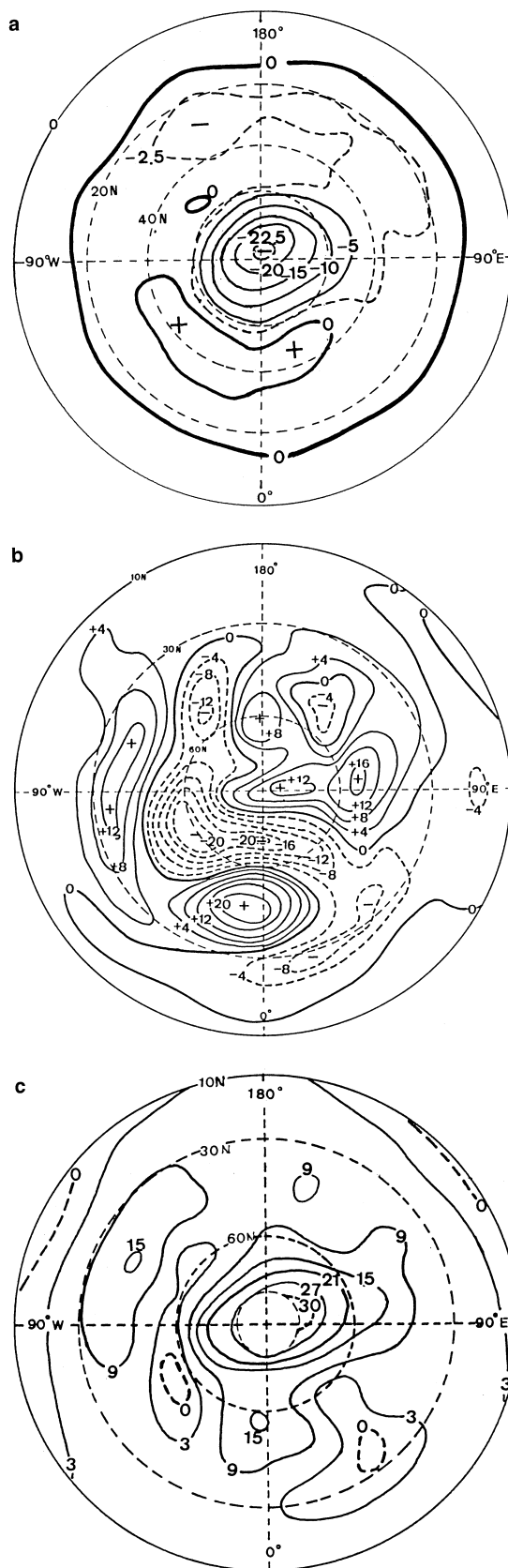
#### 4 Discussion

Redistribution of ozone by anomalous dynamics can produce large deviations of the long-term monthly mean ('anomalies' in this article). Just in the dynamically produced region of the lowest ozone columns the temperature is also low, raising the possibility for PSCs and subsequent ozone destruction.

The separation of dynamical and chemical reasons for ozone depletion in the winter vortex is made difficult by insufficient methods for both effects. There is no doubt that there is strong ozone destruction due to heterogeneous chemical reactions during the Northern Hemisphere winter (estimated amounts are up to  $52\%$  at  $475$  K potential temperature  $\sim 50$  hPa, European Commission, 1997); however, monthly mean maps of the total ozone anomaly are misleading because they can be strongly influenced by anomalous dynamics.

How strong the dynamical effect on the ozone anomaly can be was shown for January 1987 and January 1992. Up to  $50\%$  of the strong negative total ozone anomaly over Europe could be correlated (by regression coefficients of the 1979–92 sample) to the circulation anomalies of the troposphere and the stratosphere working together to reduce the ozone column by large-scale redistribution.

Another important example is the winter of 1996/1997, when the vortex was unusually strong until March over the North pole (Naujokat and Pawson, 1998). The negative ozone anomaly in March 97 was reported (Miller, 1997) to be more than  $30\%$  of the 8 y (1979–86) monthly mean of March (Fig. 6a). As mentioned in the introduction this negative ozone anomaly over the Arctic resembled the beginning of an ozone hole. However, taking into account the circulation anomalies of the troposphere and stratosphere in March 97 (Fig. 6a,b) it can be assumed that they contributed to the negative ozone anomaly strongly: positive anomalies at the 300 hPa level (anticyclonic influence over the Siberian Arctic) and negative anomalies of the stratospheric



**Fig. 6a–c.** March 1997 deviations from long-term March means, **a** 30 hPa temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ); **b** 300 hPa height (gpdam); **a** and **b** from Geb and Naujokat KNH III/97 (1997); **c** total ozone (% of 8-y-mean 1979–86) from Miller (1997 <http://nic.fb4.noaa.gov>)

temperature at 30 hPa north of 60°N (cold vortex over the polar region) are shown to reduce the ozone column by redistribution. The regression coefficients for 60°N derived in the former section would provide a dynamical ozone reduction of  $-58 \text{ DU at } 60^\circ\text{N}; 90^\circ\text{E}$  ( $-11 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} * 4.19 + 140 \text{ m} * -0.086 = -58,13$ ). This is a large part of the reported ozone anomaly in the monthly mean map. Unfortunately no regression between ozone and dynamical anomalies is available for the N Pole due to the lack of satellite observations, but it seems to be clear that the polar ozone anomaly is strongly influenced by the dynamical anomalies, too. The 20°C negative anomaly at 30 hPa and 100 m positive anomaly at 300 hPa over polar latitudes must have provided a strong dynamical negative ozone anomaly.

For the further assessment of ozone depletion by anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons it seems useful to estimate the redistribution carefully. Statistical regression, model calculations and chemical ozone depletion methods should be balanced to distinguish the processes. The difference between the anomalous redistribution and the observed anomaly should confirm the depletion amounts estimated by chemical destruction methods.

The formation of an ozone hole over the arctic in spring seems to be possible only when the vortex is unusually stable and situated over the N Pole until March. However, the ozone depletion in the vortex normally displaced towards midlatitudes in spring is more dangerous, especially when the negative anomalies are intensified by unusual dynamics between the tropopause and the middle stratosphere.

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