

Stratospheric ozone depletion and tropospheric ozone increases drive Southern Ocean interior warming

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Accepted Version

Liu, W., Hegglin, M. I. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2820-9044>, Checa-Garcia, R., Li, S., Gillett, N. P., Lyu, K., Zhang, X. and Swart, N. C. (2022) Stratospheric ozone depletion and tropospheric ozone increases drive Southern Ocean interior warming. *Nature Climate Change*, 12. pp. 365-372. ISSN 1758-678X doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01320-w> Available at <https://centaur.reading.ac.uk/104449/>

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To link to this article DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01320-w>

Publisher: Nature Publishing Group

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10 **Stratospheric ozone depletion and tropospheric ozone increases drive Southern Ocean**
11 **interior warming**

12
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32 **Atmospheric ozone has undergone distinct changes in the stratosphere and troposphere**
33 **during the second half of the twentieth century, with depletion in the stratosphere and an**
34 **increase in the troposphere. Until now, the effect of these changes on ocean heat uptake has**
35 **been unclear. Here we show that both stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes have**
36 **contributed to Southern Ocean interior warming, with the latter being more important. The**
37 **ozone changes between 1955 and 2000 induced about 30% of the net simulated ocean heat**
38 **content increase in the upper 2000 m of the Southern Ocean, with around 60% attributed to**
39 **tropospheric increases and 40% to stratospheric depletion. Moreover, these two warming**
40 **contributions show distinct physical mechanisms: Tropospheric ozone increases cause a**
41 **subsurface warming in the Southern Ocean primarily via the deepening of isopycnals, while**
42 **stratospheric ozone depletion via spiciness changes along isopycnals. Our results highlight**
43 **that tropospheric ozone is more than an air pollutant and, as a greenhouse gas, has been**
44 **pivotal to the Southern Ocean warming.**

45
46 Atmospheric ozone has experienced distinct changes in the stratosphere and troposphere during
47 the second half of the twentieth century. Notable ozone depletion has occurred in the stratosphere,
48 most strikingly as the ozone hole over Antarctica, which has been attributed primarily to
49 anthropogenic emissions of ozone-depleting substances^{1,2,3,4}. In contrast, ozone increases in the
50 troposphere have been observed (Extended Data Fig. 1) as a result of anthropogenic emissions of
51 ozone precursors such as methane, non-methane volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide
52 and nitrogen oxides^{5,6,7,8}. These atmospheric ozone changes have profound impacts on Earth's
53 climate system. For example, stratospheric ozone depletion has significantly altered the
54 tropospheric circulation by displacing the Southern Hemisphere westerly winds poleward during

55 austral summer^{9,10,11,12}, though these Southern Hemisphere circulation trends paused around 2000
56 and are expected to reverse the sign owing to reduced emissions of ozone depleting substances
57 following the signing of the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments^{13,14,15}. By contrast, ozone
58 impacts on oceans, especially those due to tropospheric ozone changes, are relatively less well
59 explored.

60

61 The Fifth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
62 indicates that ozone constitutes the third-most important contribution to greenhouse gas forcing
63 since pre-industrial times after carbon dioxide and methane¹⁶. Stratospheric and tropospheric
64 ozone changes substantially modulate Earth's radiation balance¹⁷, and thus could also affect
65 global ocean heat uptake. The role of the Southern Ocean is critical in the context of climate
66 change as it is one of the most important regions for taking up excess heat in a warming
67 climate^{18,19}, and is markedly affected by Southern Hemisphere westerly winds^{20,21,22,23}. During the
68 past several decades, the Southern Ocean has shown a rapid subsurface warming^{24,25}, only a small
69 part of which, however, has been attributed to stratospheric ozone depletion^{26,27,28}. Given the
70 concurrent (but opposite) ozone changes in both the stratosphere and troposphere, one gap remains
71 in our current knowledge of ozone-driven Southern Ocean warming: The impact of the increase in
72 tropospheric ozone. Here, we employ historical simulations and accompanying ozone
73 single-forcing experiments with a broad set of climate models from the Coupled Model
74 Intercomparison Projects Phase 5/6 (CMIP5/6) to probe the mechanisms and impacts of
75 stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes on Southern Ocean interior warming during the
76 second half of the twentieth century.

77

78 **Results**

79 We first examine the ozone single-forcing experiments from the CMIP5 models in which the
80 models were only forced with historical integrations of atmospheric ozone concentrations instead
81 of all historical forcings (see Methods). These ozone single-forcing experiments demonstrate the
82 effects of both stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes together. Between 1955 and 2000,
83 ozone depletion generates a strong stratospheric cooling trend in the Southern Hemisphere high
84 latitudes (Extended Data Fig. 2), which leads to a poleward intensification of Southern
85 Hemisphere westerly winds in the troposphere reminiscent of “annular mode-like” responses²⁹
86 (Fig. 1a). Along with the response in the atmosphere, ozone changes also produce a pronounced
87 subsurface warming in the Southern Ocean. Within 40-50°S, the warming rate is larger than 0.01
88 K/decade in the upper 1000 m (Fig. 1c). When we integrate ocean heat content (OHC) over the
89 upper 2000 m between 30°S and 60°S where ocean warming mainly occurs, we find a significant
90 increase of OHC, with a trend of 5.63 ± 2.36 ZJ/decade (1 ZJ = 10^{21} joule; multi-model mean \pm 1
91 standard deviation among models, see Methods) between 1955 and 2000 (Fig. 2a). Our results
92 from these CMIP5 model simulations thus suggest a substantial Southern Ocean subsurface
93 warming in response to stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes.

94
95 We have also examined the recent ozone single-forcing experiments with the new generation of
96 CMIP6 models. Unlike those with CMIP5 models, in these experiments CMIP6 models are
97 forced with historical changes solely in stratospheric ozone concentration (see Methods). Hence
98 the CMIP6 ozone experiments show solely the effect of stratospheric ozone change. Compared
99 with the results from the CMIP5 experiments, the CMIP6 ozone experiments show similar
100 stratospheric cooling in southern high latitudes and poleward intensified Southern Hemisphere

101 westerly winds, which indicates a major role of stratospheric ozone depletion in the atmospheric
102 response during 1955-2000 (Fig. 1b). However, in the Southern Ocean, we find a much weaker
103 subsurface warming in the CMIP6 stratospheric ozone only experiments with a pattern consistent
104 with previous studies^{27,30}. Between 40°S and 50°S, the warming rate is much smaller than 0.01
105 K/decade in the upper 2000 m (Fig. 1d). The upper 2000-m OHC between 30°S and 60°S
106 exhibits a marginal increase between 1955 and 2000, with a trend of 0.45 ± 1.22 ZJ/decade
107 (multi-model mean ± 1 standard deviation among models; Fig. 2a). We further find no
108 statistically significant difference in transient climate sensitivity between the CMIP5 and CMIP6
109 models (see Methods) but the Southern Ocean OHC trend in the CMIP5 simulations is one order
110 of magnitude larger than that in the CMIP6 simulations, indicating that the difference in model
111 climate sensitivity cannot serve as the major cause of such distinct warming trends in the
112 Southern Ocean. On the other hand, the comparison between CMIP5 and CMIP6 model
113 simulations implies that the tropospheric ozone increase is a key driver of Southern Ocean
114 interior warming. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that this comparison cannot allow for a
115 conclusive quantification of the impact nor shed light on the mechanism of tropospheric ozone
116 increases on Southern Ocean warming, since the differences in prescribed historical ozone
117 datasets between CMIP5 and CMIP6 models (Extended Data Fig. 1) and model responses to
118 ozone forcing would need to be considered.

119

120 **Quantifying the ozone impacts on Southern Ocean warming**

121 To quantify the impact of tropospheric ozone change on Southern Ocean interior warming and
122 investigate the mechanism, we employ two ensembles of ozone single-forcing simulations
123 performed with the same climate model, CanESM5. This model simulates a Southern Ocean

124 warming generally in alignment with the ensemble mean result of CMIP6 stratospheric ozone
125 only experiments (Fig. 2a). The first CanESM5 ensemble is forced with historical changes in
126 both stratospheric and tropospheric ozone, equivalent to the CMIP5 simulations described above
127 but adopting the CMIP6 simulation protocol^{31,32}. The second ensemble simulation is equivalent
128 to the CMIP6 ozone experiments described above in which the model is forced with historical
129 integrations of solely stratospheric ozone changes (see Methods). The difference between the
130 two ensemble simulations therefore isolates the effect of tropospheric ozone change. Relative to
131 preindustrial times, we find that both ensemble experiments from CanESM5 simulate a
132 stratospheric cooling in the southern high latitudes and a significant poleward intensification of
133 Southern Hemisphere westerlies in the troposphere between 1955 and 2000 (Fig. 3a,b). On the
134 other hand, tropospheric ozone increases lead to a warming in the troposphere and a cooling in
135 the stratosphere³³ (Extended Data Fig. 3), together with a significant upward intensification of
136 Southern Hemisphere westerly winds in the upper levels and a poleward intensification of
137 westerly winds towards surface (Fig. 3c). These tropospheric-ozone-produced atmosphere
138 temperature and circulation changes are comparable to those induced by stratospheric ozone
139 depletion towards the surface layers, suggesting that tropospheric ozone changes could
140 potentially have considerable impacts on the oceans underneath.

141
142 We further probe the temperature response in the Southern Ocean in the two CanESM5 ensemble
143 simulations. We find a region of pronounced warming extending downward and equatorward to
144 the north of 60°S as a response to the combined stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes.
145 Between 40°S and 50°S, this tongue of warming waters reaches 1200 m with a warming rate
146 exceeding 0.01 K/decade (Fig. 3d). Part of this subsurface warming is induced by stratospheric

147 ozone depletion, which is, however, mostly limited to the upper 600 m (Fig. 3e). On the other
148 hand, the vertical extension of the tongue of warming waters depends essentially on tropospheric
149 ozone forcing. The increase of tropospheric ozone creates such a deep warming in the Southern
150 Ocean that warming larger than 0.01 K/decade is found to penetrate as deep as 1000 m within
151 40-50°S (Fig. 3f). To the north of the tongue of warming waters, there is a tongue of cooling
152 waters in the upper levels of the Southern Ocean, which results principally from stratospheric
153 ozone depletion and secondarily from tropospheric ozone increases (Fig. 3e,f). A similar cooling
154 feature is found at high latitudes south of 55°S (Fig. 3d,f). It is worth noting that the warming
155 pattern due to tropospheric ozone increases is different from that due to the rising well-mixed
156 greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The rise of well-mixed greenhouse gases induces
157 ubiquitous while vertically decaying warming in the upper 2000-m ocean in the Southern
158 Ocean^{20,21,27,34}.

159
160 Here we estimate the OHC variations in the upper 2000 m between 30°S and 60°S in the two sets
161 of CanESM5 simulations. We find that atmospheric ozone changes induce a robust upward OHC
162 trend of 4.58 ± 3.35 ZJ/decade (ensemble mean ± 1 standard deviation among ensembles) between
163 1955 and 2000, of which about two-fifths (1.84 ± 2.50 ZJ/decade, ensemble mean ± 1 standard
164 deviation among ensembles) can be attributed to stratospheric ozone depletion while the other
165 three-fifths (2.74 ZJ/decade, the difference of the ensemble means between the two suites of
166 ozone simulations) is driven by tropospheric ozone increases. Our results confirm the importance
167 of tropospheric ozone to Southern Ocean heat uptake and storage. Importantly, the increases in
168 tropospheric ozone have been more effective in driving the interior warming over the Southern
169 Ocean during the second half of the twentieth century compared to stratospheric ozone depletion.

170

171 Moreover, to set in context the effect of ozone forcing on the historical OHC increase in the
172 Southern Ocean over the 1955-2000 period, we compare OHC changes in the upper 2000 m
173 within 30-60°S between the CanESM5 historical simulations that also include the other
174 greenhouse gas forcings from carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide and the combined
175 stratosphere-troposphere ozone single-forcing experiment (Fig. 2b). We find that CanESM5
176 simulates a general long-term increase of OHC in the Southern Ocean, at a rate of 13.77 ± 4.29
177 ZJ/decade (ensemble mean ± 1 standard deviation among ensembles) between 1955 and 2000,
178 which is consistent with the OHC trends inferred from observations (16.25 ZJ/decade) and
179 CMIP5 models (14.60 ± 5.27 ZJ/decade, multi-model mean ± 1 standard deviation among models)
180 (Fig. 2b). Using the CanESM5 ozone experiment, we further find that about 33.2% of the net
181 historical OHC increase between 1955 and 2000 is caused by atmospheric (both stratospheric
182 and tropospheric) ozone changes. This ratio is in line with that suggested by the historical
183 CMIP5 model ozone experiment ($38.4 \pm 10.4\%$, multi-model mean ± 1 standard deviation among
184 models).

185

186 **Physical mechanisms of ozone-driven Southern Ocean warming**

187 To further understand the mechanisms by which stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes
188 drive Southern Ocean interior warming, we decompose the temperature and salinity changes
189 between 1955 and 2000 at depth levels into the spiciness changes along isopycnals and
190 heave-related changes owing to the vertical heave of isopycnals³⁵ (see Methods). The spiciness
191 reveals alterations in water mass properties as a result of the subduction of surface temperature
192 and salinity anomalies and changes by interior mixing processes. The heave of isopycnals could

193 be linked to changes in wind-driven ocean circulation and the redistribution of heat and salt in
194 the interior ocean³⁶.

195
196 We first depict the temperature and salinity responses to total atmospheric ozone variations.
197 During 1955-2000, the zonally averaged spiciness changes on density surfaces exhibit strong
198 warming and salification trends in the upper ocean toward isopycnal outcrops, especially in the
199 latitudes between 40°S and 60°S (Fig. 4a,b). These warming and salification trends primarily
200 result from stratospheric ozone depletion and not from tropospheric ozone increases (Fig. 4c,d).
201 Between 40°S and 60°S, the Southern Ocean takes heat from the atmosphere but loses freshwater
202 in response to stratospheric ozone depletion (Fig. 5a,b), both contributing to warming and
203 salification spiciness trends³⁶. The peak of Southern Ocean surface heat uptake is around 55°S
204 (Extended Data Fig. 4), essentially due to the increase of downward turbulent latent heat flux³⁷
205 over the Indian Ocean sector (Extended Data Fig. 5). Increases in surface shortwave radiation
206 fluxes also contribute to Southern Ocean heat uptake in these latitudes (Extended Data Fig. 3).
207 On the other hand, the reduction in surface freshwater flux can be mostly attributed to changes in
208 precipitation minus evaporation (P-E) to the north of 54°S but is likely related to sea-ice
209 variations to the south (Extended Data Fig. 6). Between 40°S and 54°S, the P-E reduction results
210 from both precipitation decreases and evaporation increases and is especially robust over the
211 Pacific sector (Extended Data Fig. 7).

212
213 Besides the warming and salification trends in the isopycnal outcropping region between 40°S
214 and 60°S, we also find cooling and freshening spiciness changes to the north of 40°S on density
215 surfaces between 26.3 and 27.0 kg/m³ (Fig. 4a,b), within the density ranges of the Subantarctic

216 Mode Water (SAMW) and Antarctic Intermediate Water (AAIW) simulated by climate models³⁸.
217 Particularly, the spiciness changes in the AAIW density range (26.7-27.0 kg/m³) can be attributed
218 mostly to stratospheric ozone depletion (Fig. 4c,d) while those in the SAMW density range
219 (26.3-26.6 kg/m³) mainly to tropospheric ozone increases (Fig. 4e,f). These ozone-induced
220 cooling signals contribute to the cooling trend found at corresponding locations from
221 observations and historical simulations during 1955-2000 (Extended Data Fig. 8).

222

223 After remapping the spiciness changes onto depth levels using the mean depth of each density
224 surface, we find the major spiciness warming (>0.01 K/decade) trends in response to total
225 atmospheric ozone variations extending equatorward and downward from the surface layer at
226 60°S to about 600 m at 40°S (Fig. 6a). The stratospheric ozone depletion is responsible for most
227 of the ozone-induced warming trends in the upper 500 m (Fig. 6c) while tropospheric ozone
228 increases primarily account for the spiciness warming below (Fig. 6e).

229

230 We further analyze the heave component of Southern Ocean temperature change. We find a
231 subsurface warming region (>0.01 K/decade) extending equatorward between 36°S and 51°S and
232 downward in 300-1100 m (Fig. 6b) in response to atmospheric ozone changes, accompanied by a
233 cooling tongue to the north and in upper levels. This pair of warming and cooling anomalies has
234 been linked to poleward intensified surface westerly winds and indicates heat redistribution
235 within the Southern Ocean^{21,39}. Specifically, stratospheric ozone depletion drives an
236 intensification of surface westerly winds at and to the south of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current
237 but a relaxation to the north (Fig. 5c, Extended Data Fig. 9), in a pattern consistent with other
238 CMIP6 models (Extended Data Fig. 10). The zonally averaged zonal wind change exhibits a

239 dipole-like pattern, with positive and negative anomalies to the south and north of around 50°S.
240 The resultant anomalous Ekman transport convergence and wind-driven downwelling produces a
241 deepening of isopycnals in the latitudes around 50°S and hence heave-induced changes of
242 warming. While to the north of about 43°S, the weakening of surface westerlies progressively
243 decays, which prompts an anomalous Ekman transport divergence and wind-driven upwelling
244 (Extended Data Fig. 9d) and thus leads to shallower isopycnals and cooling heave changes in
245 these latitudes (Fig. 6d).

246

247 Tropospheric ozone increases, on the other hand, engender different changes in surface winds
248 from those due to stratospheric ozone depletion (Fig. 5c, Extended Data Fig. 9). The zonally
249 averaged surface zonal wind change also reflects a dipole-like pattern but located more
250 northward, with positive and negative anomalies occurring to the south and north of around 42°S.
251 This pattern indicates less poleward displaced surface westerlies than their counterparts driven
252 by stratospheric ozone depletion. Tropospheric ozone increases also drive poleward-intensified
253 Southern Hemisphere precipitation and significantly increase evaporation at lower latitudes where
254 the tropospheric ozone increases are stronger (Extended Data Fig. 6f). In the ocean, the
255 wind-driven Ekman pumping (Extended Data Fig. 9d) produces isopycnals deepening in much
256 lower latitudes, around 42°S, and warming heave changes there (Fig. 6f). These heave-related
257 warming changes are much stronger than those induced by stratospheric ozone depletion, which
258 is likely due to the fact that the oceanic thermocline is more strongly stratified at lower
259 latitudes³⁶, allowing the wind-driven downwelling more effectively to create warming heave
260 changes there.

261

262 **Discussion**

263 In summary, we have examined the climate impacts of atmospheric ozone changes during the
264 second half of the twentieth century, with a focus on disentangling effects of stratospheric ozone
265 depletion and tropospheric ozone increases. We show that while stratospheric ozone depletion
266 plays a dominant role in atmospheric temperature and wind changes in southern high latitudes in
267 the stratosphere and upper levels of the troposphere, tropospheric ozone increases have made a
268 larger contribution to Southern Ocean interior warming. Between 1955 and 2000, about one-third
269 of the historical OHC increase in the upper 2000 m of the Southern Ocean between 30°S and
270 60°S was induced by atmospheric ozone changes, of which around three-fifths can be attributed
271 to tropospheric ozone increases and the other two-fifths to stratospheric ozone depletion.
272 Tropospheric ozone increases cause Southern Ocean subsurface warming primarily via the
273 deepening of isopycnals. They give rise to an intensification of surface westerly winds over the
274 Southern Ocean such that the wind-driven Ekman pumping brings about isopycnal deepening
275 around 42°S and prompts heave-induced warming there. On the other hand, stratospheric ozone
276 depletion promotes warming in the Southern Ocean mainly through spiciness changes along
277 isopycnals in the upper 500 m. In response to stratospheric ozone depletion, the net surface
278 downward heat flux increases but the freshwater flux decreases over the Southern Ocean
279 between 40°S and 60°S, contributing to the warming and salification spiciness changes in the
280 isopycnal outcropping regions of the Southern Ocean.

281

282 In our study, the finding that stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes contributed to around
283 one-third of the historical OHC increase during the second half of the twentieth century is
284 consistent with the result from previous studies examining simulations with fixed ozone

285 depleting substances (ODSs)⁴⁰. However, the response to ODSs, inferred by differencing
286 historical simulations with all anthropogenic forcings and simulations with fixed ODSs, omits
287 changes in tropospheric ozone induced by precursor omissions, but includes radiative effects of
288 ODSs themselves, and hence these results are not directly comparable with our study of the
289 direct effects of tropospheric and stratospheric ozone changes. Furthermore, our results suggest
290 that, when the effect of tropospheric ozone increases is considered, the ozone impacts on
291 Southern Ocean interior warming are much larger than previous estimates that only considered
292 stratospheric ozone depletion²⁷. Between 1955 and 2000, tropospheric ozone increases
293 significantly affect the P-E over the Southern Ocean. As such, our results highlight that
294 tropospheric ozone, besides being an air pollutant, is an important contributor to ocean heat
295 uptake and hydrological cycle change in the Southern Hemisphere.

296

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418

419 **Acknowledgments**

420 W.L. is supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation as a Research Fellow and by U.S. National
421 Science Foundation (AGS-2053121, OCE 2123422). K.L. and X.Z. are funded by the Centre for
422 Southern Hemisphere Oceans Research (CSHOR), jointly funded by the Qingdao National
423 Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (QNLN, China) and the Commonwealth
424 Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO, Australia).

425

426 **Author Contributions Statement**

427 W.L. conceived the study, performed the analysis and wrote the original draft of the manuscript.
428 S.L. contributed to the analysis. W.L., M.I.H., R.C.-G., S.L., N.P.G., K.L., X.Z. and N.C.S.
429 contributed to interpreting the results and made substantial improvements to the manuscript.

430

431 **Competing Interests Statement**

432 The authors declare no competing interests.

433

434 **Figure legends**

435 **Figure 1. Changes in Southern Hemisphere westerlies and Southern Ocean temperature in**
436 **response to ozone changes in CMIP5 and CMIP6 simulations.** (top row) Trends of annual and
437 zonal mean zonal winds during 1955-2000 (shading in m/s/decade) of the multi-model means
438 (MMMs) from (a) CMIP5 and (b) CMIP6 models ozone single-forcing experiments. The annual
439 climatologies of zonal mean zonal winds (contour in m/s, with an interval of 5 m/s and the zero
440 contours thickened) of the MMMs from CMIP5 and CMIP6 models preindustrial control runs
441 are superimposed on both panels, respectively. (bottom row) Trends of annual and zonal ocean
442 temperature during 1955-2000 (shading in K/decade) of the MMMs from (c) CMIP5 and (d)
443 CMIP6 models ozone single-forcing experiments. Stippling indicates that the change is
444 statistically insignificant at the 95% confidence level of the Mann-Kendall trend significance test
445 (see Methods).

446
447 **Figure 2. Observed and simulated Southern Ocean heat content.** (a) Ocean heat content
448 (OHC) anomalies (relative to the value in 1955) integrated over the upper 2000 m between 30°S
449 and 60°S from ozone single-forcing experiments with four CMIP5 models (MMM, medium blue;
450 inter-model spread, light blue; see Methods) and four CMIP6 models (MMM, magenta;
451 inter-model spread, light magenta), and the ensemble means from CanESM5 stratospheric and
452 tropospheric ozone experiment (blue), stratospheric ozone only experiment (red) as well as the
453 difference between the two (black) indicating the effect of tropospheric ozone change. The
454 inter-model spread is calculated as one standard deviation of the ensemble means of individual
455 models. (b) Same as panel (a) but for OHC anomalies from the IAP observation data (orange)
456 and historical simulations with the four CMIP5 models (MMM, medium purple; inter-model
457 spread, light purple) and CanESM5 (ensemble mean, purple). OHC anomalies from CMIP5

458 ozone single-forcing experiments are also included in the panel. Note that the OHC from the IAP
459 observations is a single realization, which has larger interannual variations than the other OHCs
460 from MMM.

461

462 **Figure 3. Changes in Southern Hemisphere westerlies and Southern Ocean temperature in**

463 **response to ozone changes in CanESM5 simulations.** (top row) Changes in annual and zonal

464 mean zonal winds (shading in m/s) during 1955-2000 (relative to preindustrial control run) for

465 the ensemble means in CanESM5 (a) stratospheric and tropospheric ozone experiment and (b)

466 stratospheric ozone only experiment as well as (c) the difference between the two indicating the

467 effect of tropospheric ozone change. Stippling indicates that the change is statistically

468 insignificant at the 95% confidence level of the Student's t-test (see Methods). (bottom row)

469 Same as the top row but for trends of annual and zonal mean ocean temperature during

470 1955-2000 (shading in K/decade). Stippling indicates that the change is statistically insignificant

471 at the 95% confidence level of the Mann-Kendall trend significance test (see Methods).

472

473 **Figure 4. Temperature and salinity spiciness changes on density surfaces in CanESM5**

474 **ozone experiments.** (left column) Spiciness changes in annual and zonal mean ocean

475 temperature trends during 1955-2000 (shading in K/decade) on density surfaces for the ensemble

476 means in CanESM5 (a) stratospheric and tropospheric ozone experiment and (c) stratospheric

477 ozone only experiment as well as (e) the difference between the two indicating the effect of

478 tropospheric ozone change. (right column) Same as the left column but for spiciness changes in

479 annual and zonal mean ocean salinity trends (shading in 10^{-2} psu/decade).

480

481 **Figure 5. Surface heat flux, freshwater flux and zonal winds changes in CanESM5 ozone**
482 **experiments.** (a) Changes in annual and zonal mean net surface heat fluxes over the Southern
483 Ocean during 1955-2000 (relative to preindustrial control run) for the ensemble means in
484 CanESM5 stratospheric and tropospheric ozone experiment (light blue; significant, blue) and
485 stratospheric ozone only experiment (orange; significant, red) as well as the difference between
486 the two (gray; significant, black) indicating the effect of tropospheric ozone change. Panels (b)
487 and (c) are the same as (a) but for changes in annual and zonal mean net surface freshwater
488 fluxes over the ocean and surface zonal winds. The variable of surface zonal wind is obtained
489 from atmosphere model outputs and land is then masked out for the variable so that winds are on
490 the liquid ocean water surface in most parts of the Southern Ocean but on sea ice surface around
491 or south of 60°S where sea ice exists. Heat and freshwater fluxes are positive downward. In all
492 the panels, changes are tested based on the Student's t-test and denoted statistically significant
493 when exceeding the 95% confidence level (see Methods).

494
495 **Figure 6. Spiciness and heave changes of ocean temperature in CanESM5 ozone**
496 **experiments.** (left column) Spiciness changes in annual and zonal mean ocean temperature
497 trends during 1955-2000 (shading in K/decade) above 2000 m but below the mixed layer (~150
498 m) in the Southern Ocean for the ensemble means in CanESM5 (a) stratospheric and
499 tropospheric ozone experiment and (c) stratospheric ozone only experiment as well as (e) the
500 difference between the two indicating the effect of tropospheric ozone change. (right column)
501 Same as the left column but for heave changes.

502

503 **Methods**

504 **Observations**

505 To evaluate the performance of CanESM5 in simulating the historical warming in the Southern
506 Ocean during the second half of the twentieth century, we use one objectively analyzed ocean
507 dataset, the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) ocean temperature analysis⁴¹. The IAP ocean
508 temperature analysis has global ocean coverage of 1-degree horizontal resolution on 41 vertical
509 levels from the surface down to 2000 m. It has a monthly resolution from 1940 to the present. This
510 ocean temperature analysis minimizes the errors from ocean sampling by *in situ* observations and
511 allows for accurate estimates of regional and global OHC changes during the past several decades,
512 especially those in the Southern Ocean.

513

514 **CMIP5 and CMIP6 preindustrial control, historical and ozone single-forcing simulations**

515 We use the preindustrial control runs of four CMIP5 (CCSM4, CESM1-CAM5, FGOALS-g2
516 and GISS-E2-H) and four CMIP6 (CanESM5, GISS-E2-1-G, IPSL-CM6A-LR and MIROC6)
517 models. For either CMIP5 or CMIP6, the four-model ensemble has an average transient climate
518 response (TCR)^{42,43,44} that is very close to the mean TCR reported by previous studies^{43,44},
519 suggesting that the models we used can well represent the transient climate sensitivity of the
520 models of either generation. For all the models except CESM1-CAM5 and GISS-E2-1-G, we
521 estimate each model's climate drift in ocean temperatures as a 500-year temperature trend
522 (during the last 500 years) in each model's preindustrial control run. As CESM1-CAM5 and
523 GISS-E2-1-G only have 320 and 345 years of simulation available in the CMIP5 and CMIP6
524 archives, for either model, we estimate its climate drift in ocean temperature as the temperature
525 trend during the last 200 years of the preindustrial control run. For CanESM5 and GISS-E2-1-G,
526 the preindustrial simulations of "p1" and "f2" are adopted to be consistent with their ozone

527 experiments, respectively. We remove climate drifts from the trends of ocean temperatures in the
528 historical and ozone single-forcing simulations with these CMIP5 and CMIP6 models. We also
529 remove the climate drift in ocean salinity for CanESM5 (the salinity trend of its preindustrial
530 control run) when conducting the spiciness and heave decomposition.

531
532 The CMIP5 historical simulations are performed including all the natural and anthropogenic
533 forcings during the historical period. The CMIP5 ozone single-forcing experiments on the other
534 hand are forced by stratospheric and tropospheric ozone only during the historical period while
535 the other forcings are fixed at their preindustrial levels⁴⁵. In the four CMIP5 models, the ozone
536 chemistries are either semi-offline calculated or prescribed¹². In this study, we adopt 11
537 ensemble members of ozone single-forcing (stratospheric and tropospheric ozone) experiments
538 (2 from CCSM4, 3 from CESM1-CAM5, 1 from FGOALS-g2 and 5 from GISS-E2-H) and 21
539 ensemble members of historical simulations with the four CMIP5 models (6 from CCSM4, 4
540 from CESM1-CAM5, 5 from FGOALS-g2 and 6 from GISS-E2-H). Note here, for CCSM4
541 ozone experiment, there are three ensemble members while temperature outputs in 2000-2005
542 are not available for one member in the CMIP5 archives; so only the other two ensemble
543 members are used. For CCSM4 and GISS-E2-H preindustrial and historical simulations,
544 ensembles of “p1” perturbation are adopted to be consistent with the perturbation in the ozone
545 experiments. We calculate the ensemble mean for each model and then calculate the multi-model
546 mean (MMM) based on the ensemble means of the four models to minimize the effects of
547 internal climate variability and model differences. The inter-model difference is estimated as one
548 standard deviation of the ensemble means of the models.

549

550 The ozone single-forcing experiments with CMIP6 models are akin to their historical simulations
551 but forced by stratospheric ozone variations only. For models without coupled chemistry, they
552 prescribe the same stratospheric ozone concentrations as used in their historical simulations⁴⁶.
553 For models with coupled chemistry, their chemistry schemes are turned off. Note here, that while
554 these model configurations neglect to represent potential feedbacks of changing dynamics on the
555 ozone fields in a self-consistent way, we consider such effects to be of second-order relevance.
556 Such an assumption is justified given that the climate response, for example, the response of the
557 polar vortex breakdown to equivalent effective stratospheric chlorine, does not show a
558 systematic difference between models with prescribed and interactive ozone⁴⁷.

559

560 The CMIP6 models prescribe the ensemble mean monthly mean three-dimensional stratospheric
561 ozone concentrations as simulated in their historical runs but have fixed three-dimensional
562 long-term monthly mean tropospheric ozone concentrations from their preindustrial control runs.
563 In particular, grid cells are categorized tropospheric when they have an ozone concentration
564 below 100 ppbv (parts per billion by volume) in the climatology of the preindustrial control run.
565 This definition of the troposphere is consistent throughout the historical period and facilitates
566 inter-model comparisons⁴⁸. Albeit the tropopause height may alter with climate change, several
567 studies^{6,17} suggest that the tropopause choice only has a marginal effect on radiative forcing. To
568 examine the ozone impacts on Southern Ocean interior warming during the second half of the
569 twentieth century, we adopt 28 ensemble members of ozone single-forcing (stratospheric ozone
570 only) experiments with the four CMIP6 models (10 from CanESM5, 5 from GISS-E2-1-G, 10
571 from IPSL-CM6A-LR and 3 from MIROC6) and calculate the MMM and inter-model difference
572 of the CMIP6 models.

573

574 Besides, we compare the transient climate responses (TCRs) between CMIP5 and CMIP6
575 models. For CMIP5 models^{42,43}, the TCRs of CCSM4, CESM1-CAM5, FGOALS-g2 and
576 GISS-E2-H are 1.7 K, 2.33 K, 1.4 K and 1.7 K, so their average TCR is 1.78 K. For CMIP6
577 models⁴⁴, the TCRs of CanESM5, GISS-E2-1-G, IPSL-CM6A-LR and MIROC6 are 2.66 K,
578 1.68 K, 2.32 K and 1.52 K, so their average TCR is 2.05 K. Both averages are very close to the
579 mean TCRs reported by previous studies^{43,44} based on 29 CMIP5 models and 34 CMIP6 models,
580 respectively. This result suggests that, for either CMIP5 or CMIP6, the four-model ensemble
581 well represents the transient climate sensitivity of the models of either generation. The Student's
582 t-test result further shows that the difference of TCR between CMIP5 and CMIP6 model means
583 is insignificant at the 95% confidence level, which suggests that there is no statistically
584 significant difference in transient climate sensitivity between the CMIP5 and CMIP6 models used
585 in the current study.

586

587 **CanESM5 and associated simulations**

588 CanESM5 is a fully coupled climate model participating in CMIP6⁴⁹. The atmosphere
589 component is the Canadian Atmosphere Model (CanAM5), which employs a spectral dynamical
590 core with a T63 truncation (an approximate 2.8-degree horizontal resolution) and a hybrid
591 sigma-pressure coordinate with 49 vertical layers up to about 1 hPa. The land component
592 incorporates the Canadian Land Surface Scheme (CLASS) and the Canadian Terrestrial
593 Ecosystem Model (CTEM). The ocean component is a modified version of the Nucleus for
594 European Modelling of the Ocean model (NEMO), which includes ocean biogeochemistry
595 represented by the Canadian Model of Ocean Carbon (CMOC) and employs a ~1-degree

596 horizontal resolution and 45 vertical levels. The Louvain-la-Neuve sea-Ice Model version 2
597 (LIM2) also operates within the NEMO framework.

598
599 A 25-member historical simulation labeled as perturbed physics member 1 (“p1”) has been
600 performed with CanESM5 during 1850-2014. Individual ensemble members are initialized at
601 different years from preindustrial control run and perturbed by the conservative remapping
602 wind-stress fields. We use these 25 ensembles of CanESM5 historical simulation as they share
603 the same perturbation scheme (“p1”) with CanESM5 ozone simulations. We compare the trend
604 of zonal mean temperature in the ensemble mean of the CanESM5 historical simulation with that
605 in the IAP data during 1955-2000 and find that the CanESM5 historical simulation is able to well
606 capture the observed warming tongue (>0.03 K/decade) in the upper 1000 m between 40°S and
607 50°S (Extended Data Fig. 8). This result demonstrates the model fidelity in simulating the
608 Southern Ocean temperature response to external climate forcings.

609
610 Besides the 10-ensemble stratospheric ozone only experiment as in line with several other
611 CMIP6 models, CanESM5 provides a 10-ensemble member historical total ozone-only
612 experiment in which the model prescribes the monthly mean three-dimensional ozone
613 concentrations from the historical simulation through the depth of the atmosphere. This total
614 ozone-only experiment is consistent with the CMIP5 ozone single-forcing (stratospheric and
615 tropospheric ozone) experiments. We adopt the simulations of this pair of ozone experiments to
616 isolate and quantify the effects of stratospheric and tropospheric ozone on Southern Ocean
617 interior warming.

618

619 **The spiciness and heave decomposition**

620 The spiciness and heave decomposition follows previous studies^{35,36}. For changes in potential
621 temperature (θ) and salinity (S) at depth z , i.e., $\theta'|_z$ and $S'|_z$, they can be decomposed as:

622
$$\theta'|_z \cong \theta'|_n + N'\theta_z \quad (1)$$

623
$$S'|_z \cong S'|_n + N'S_z \quad (2)$$

624 where $\theta'|_n$ and $S'|_n$ denote the spiciness changes of temperature and salinity that are
625 density-compensating along neutral density surfaces; $N'\theta_z$ and $N'S_z$ denote the heave changes
626 of temperature and salinity that are related to the neutral density surface height change N'
627 (positive downward).

628

629 **The OHC calculation**

630 At each location, the OHC within a layer between the depths z_1 and z_2 is calculated as

631
$$OHC = \rho_0 C_p \int_{z_1}^{z_2} \theta dz \quad (3)$$

632 where ρ_0 denotes sea water density and C_p denotes the specific heat capacity of sea water.

633

634 **The statistical significance test**

635 We examine the statistical significance of climate response to ozone forcing in CanESM5 based
636 on the Student's t-test. We divide 500 years of CanESM5 preindustrial simulation into 10
637 truncations and treat each truncation as one ensemble member. Hence we construct 10
638 preindustrial ensembles with non-overlapping 50-year periods. We apply the Student's t-test to
639 the three pairs of ensemble simulations—total-ozone versus preindustrial, stratospheric-ozone
640 versus preindustrial and total-ozone versus stratospheric-ozone—to estimate the statistical
641 significance of total, stratospheric and tropospheric ozone effects. Besides, we examine the

642 statistical significances of trends of CMIP5 and CMIP6 MMMs and CanESM5 ensemble means
643 based on the Mann-Kendall trend significance test.

644

645 **Data availability**

646 All the raw CMIP5 model simulation data are publically available at

647 <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip5/>

648 All the raw CMIP6 model simulation data are publically available at

649 <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/projects/cmip6/>

650 The IAP observation data are publically available at

651 <http://www.ocean.iap.ac.cn/>

652

653 **Code availability**

654 Figures are generated via the NCAR Command Language (NCL, Version 6.5.0) [Software].

655 (2018). Boulder, Colorado: UCAR/NCAR/CISL/TDD. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5065/D6WD3XH5>

656 The codes and processed variables to generate Figures 1-6 are available at Zenodo⁵⁰.

657

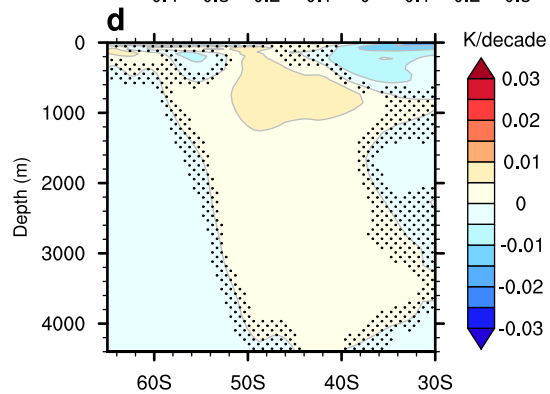
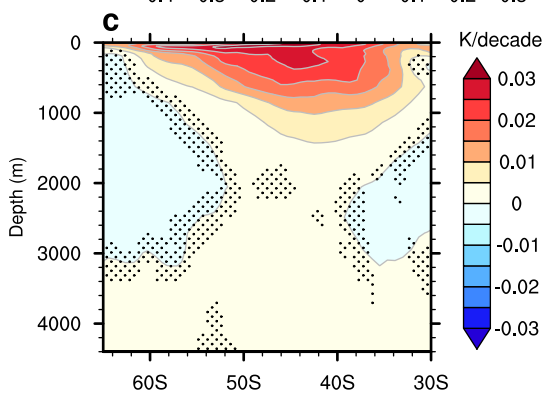
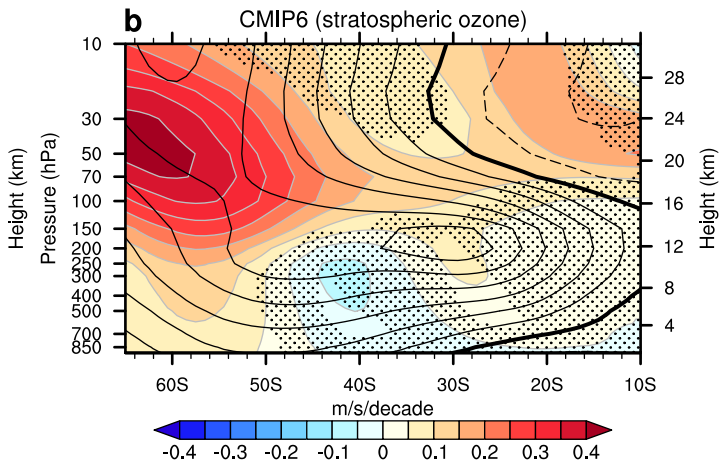
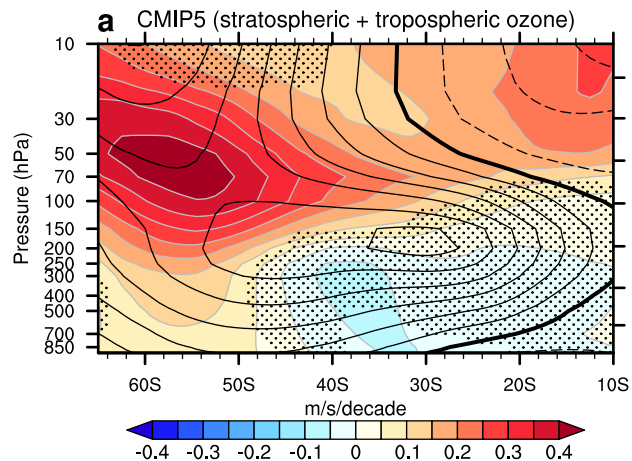
658 **Methods References**

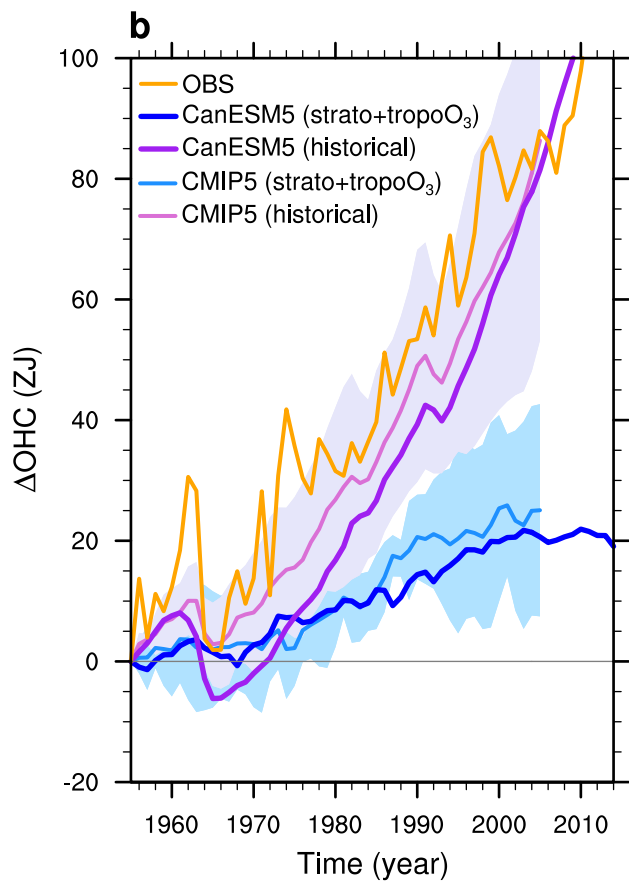
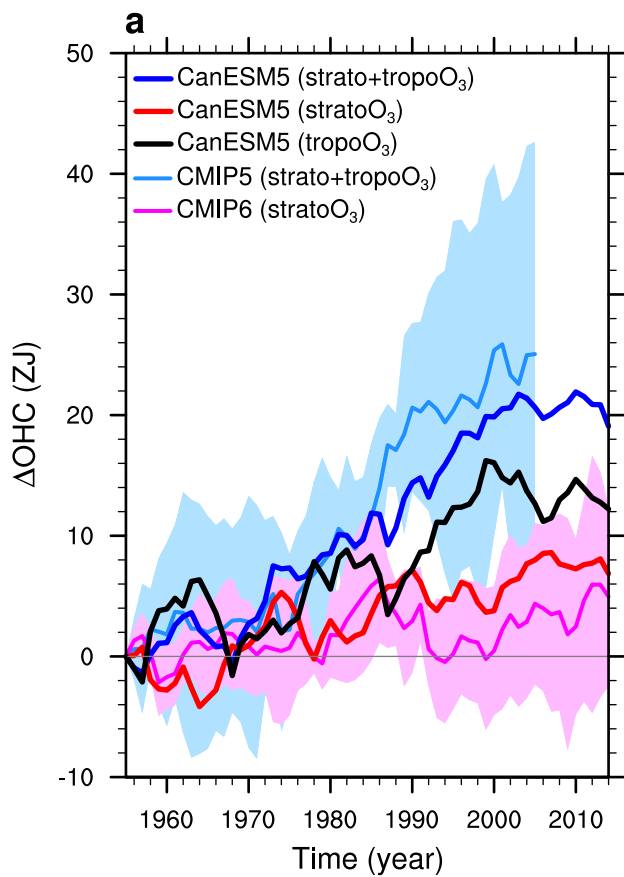
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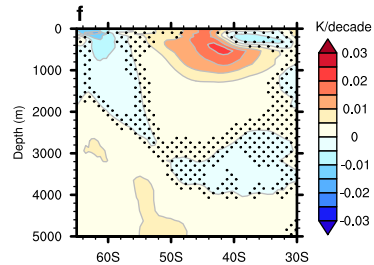
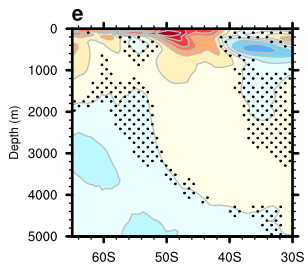
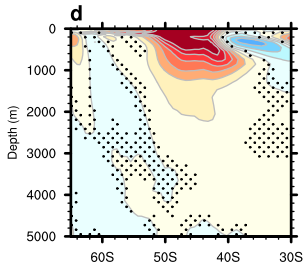
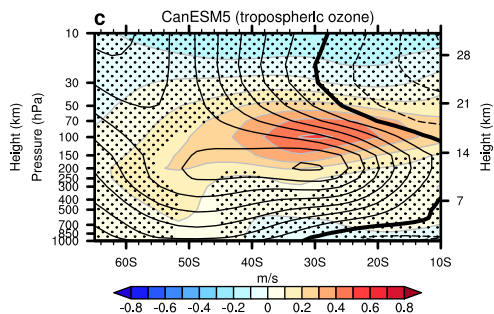
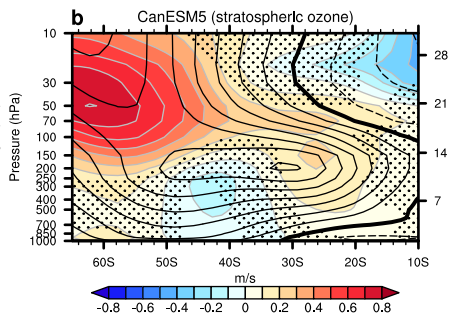
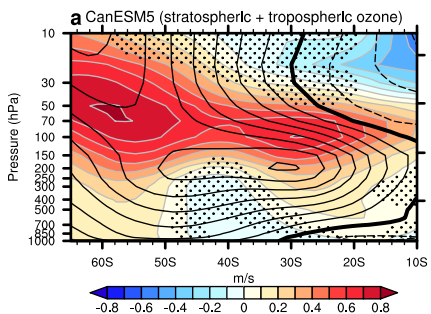
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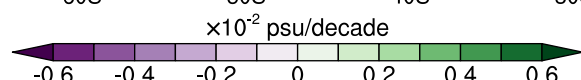
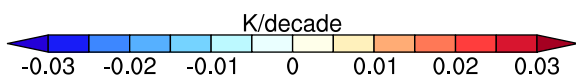
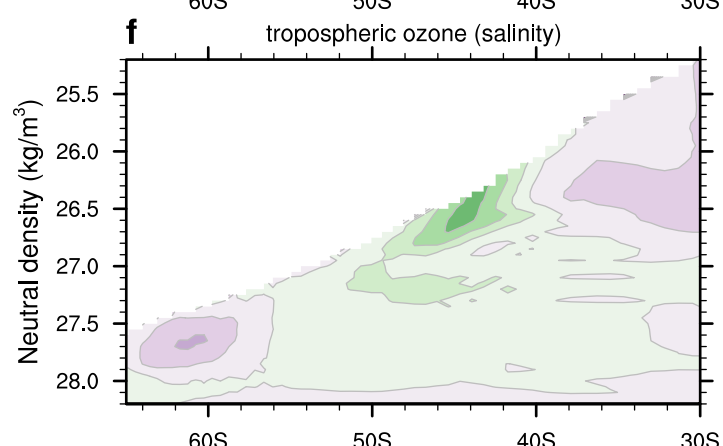
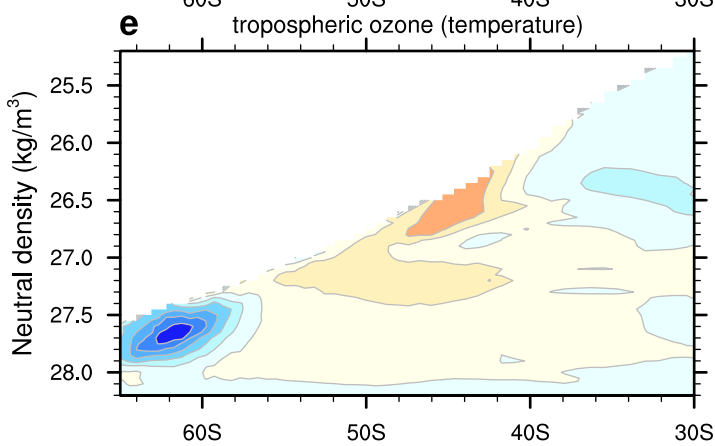
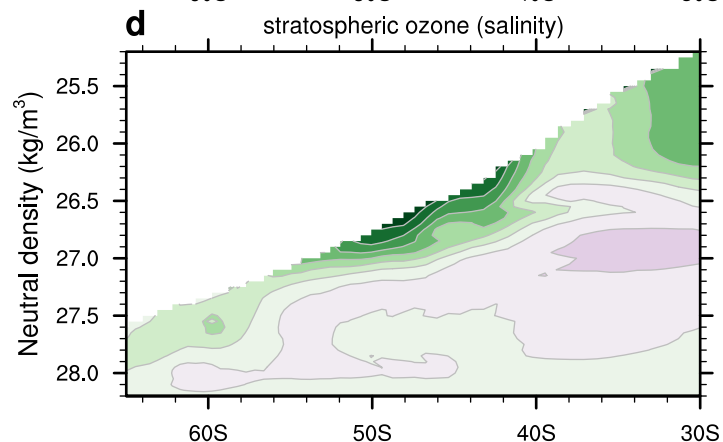
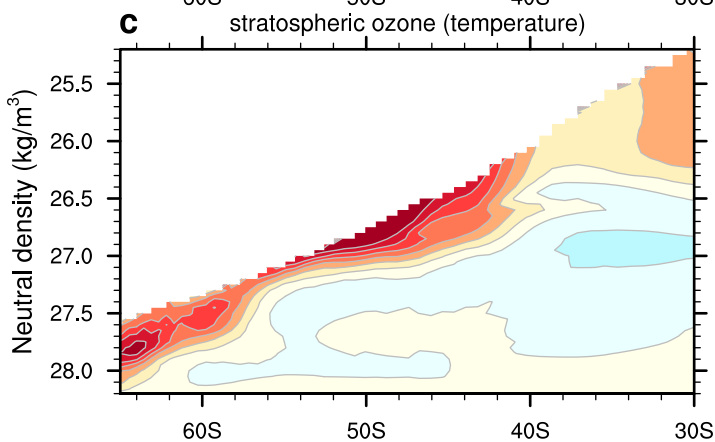
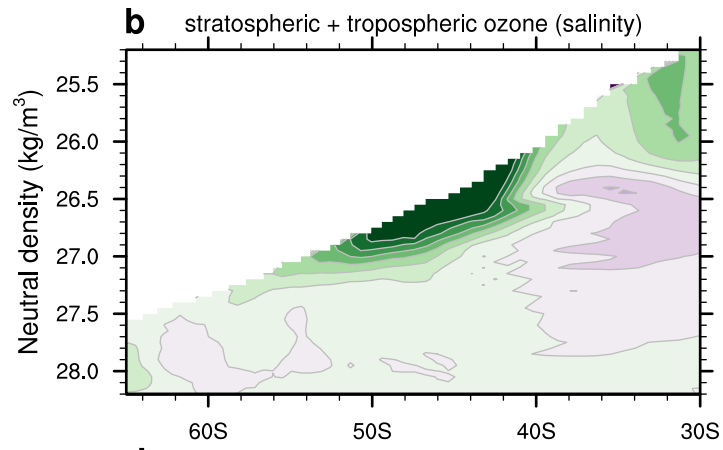
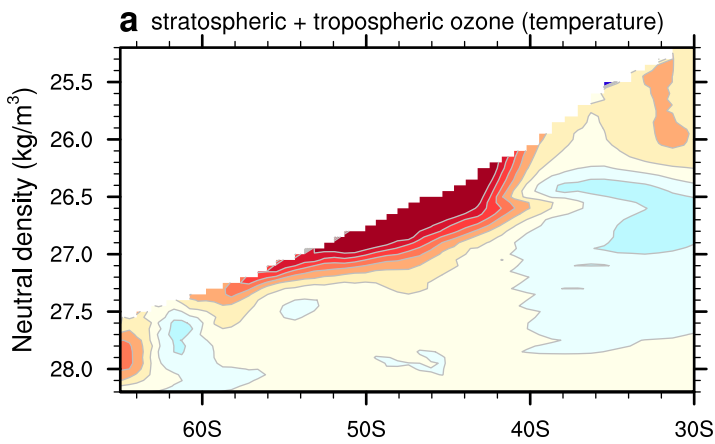
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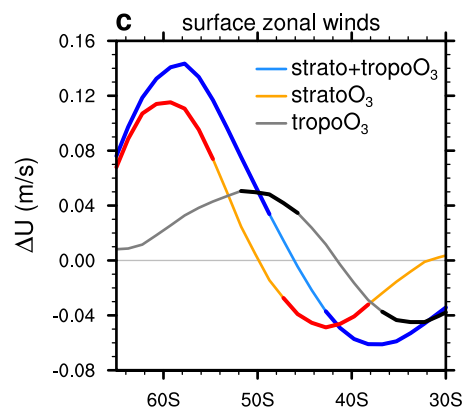
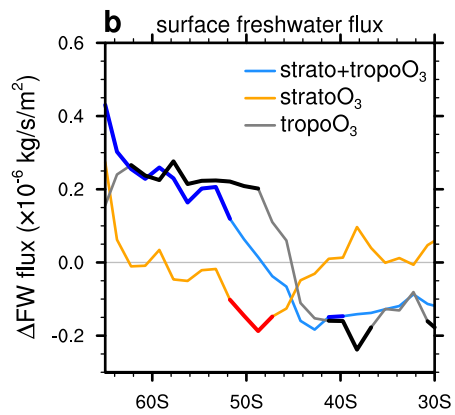
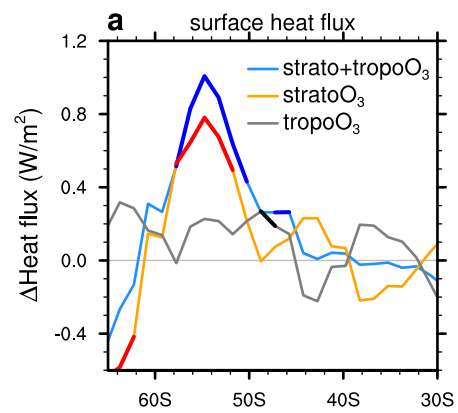
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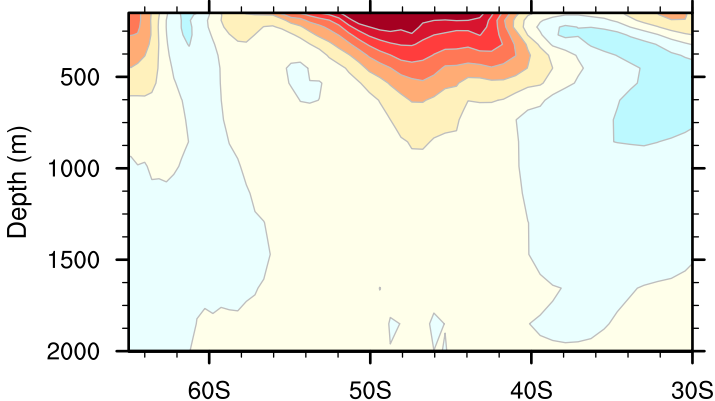
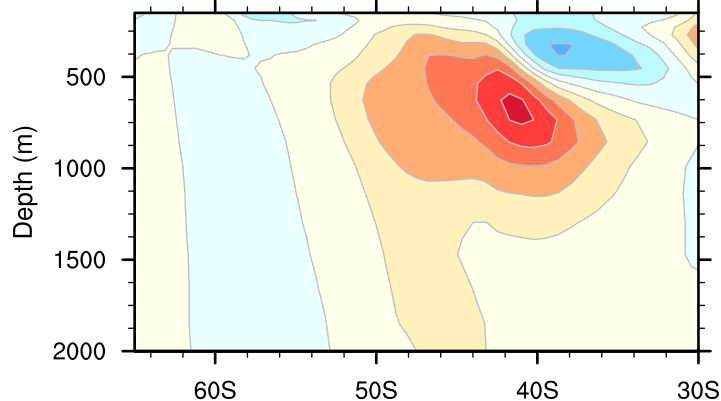
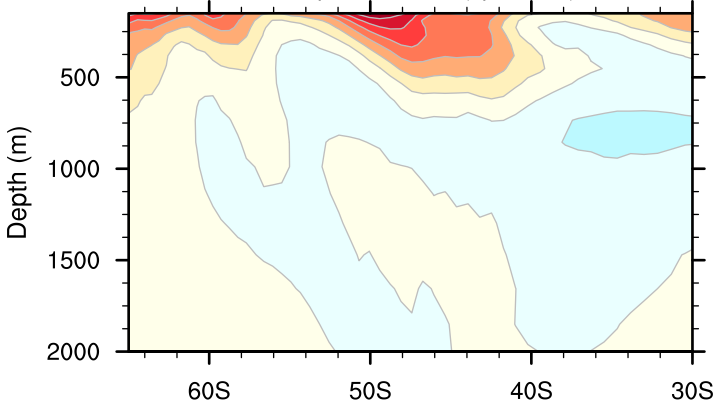
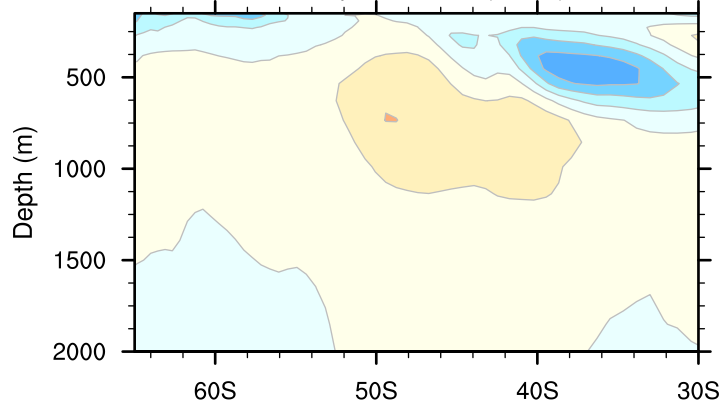
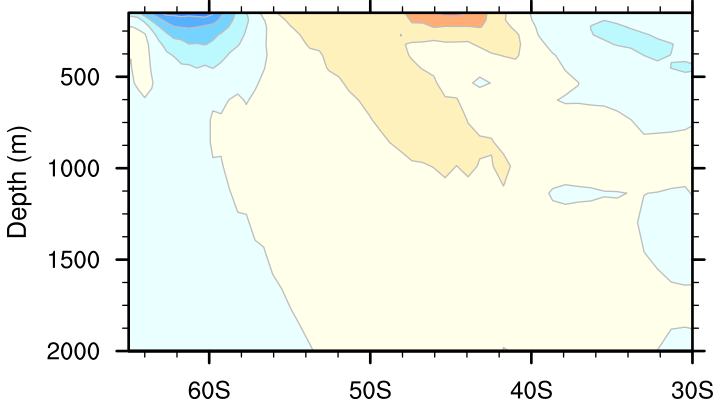
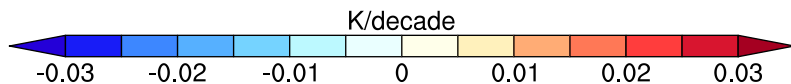
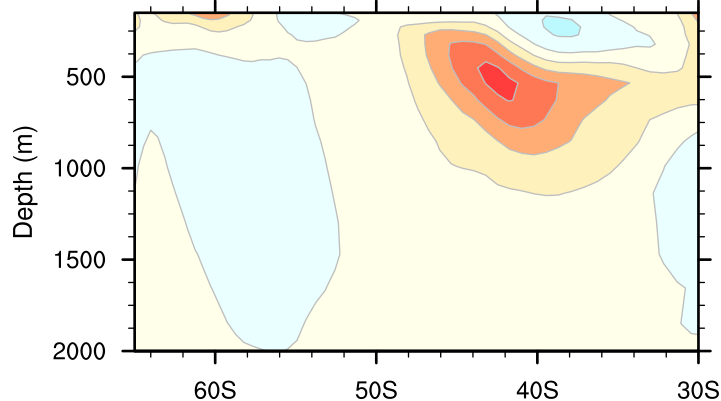


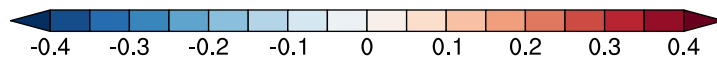
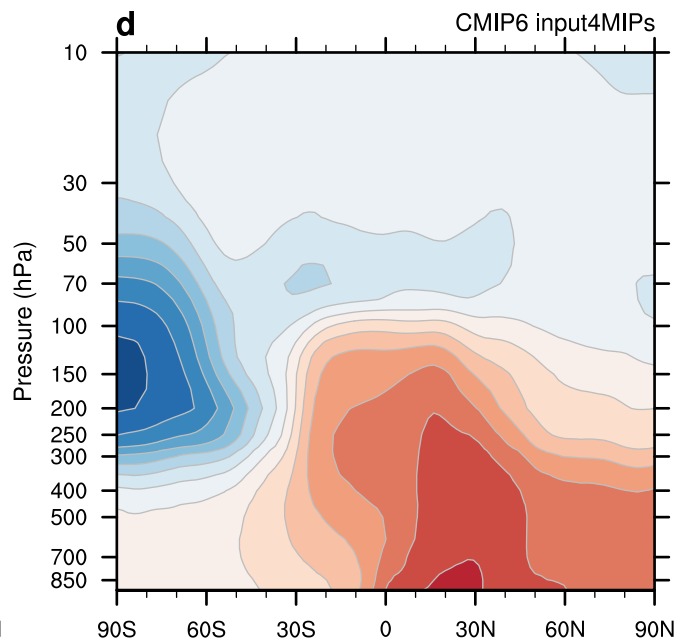
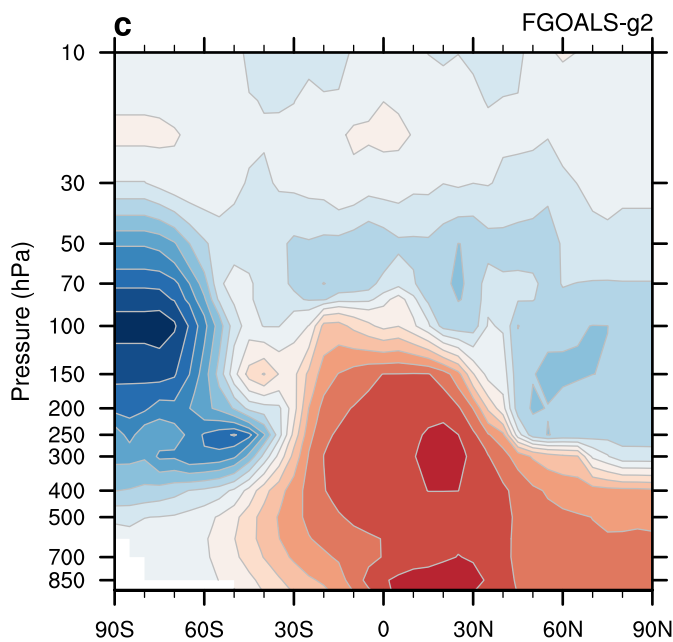
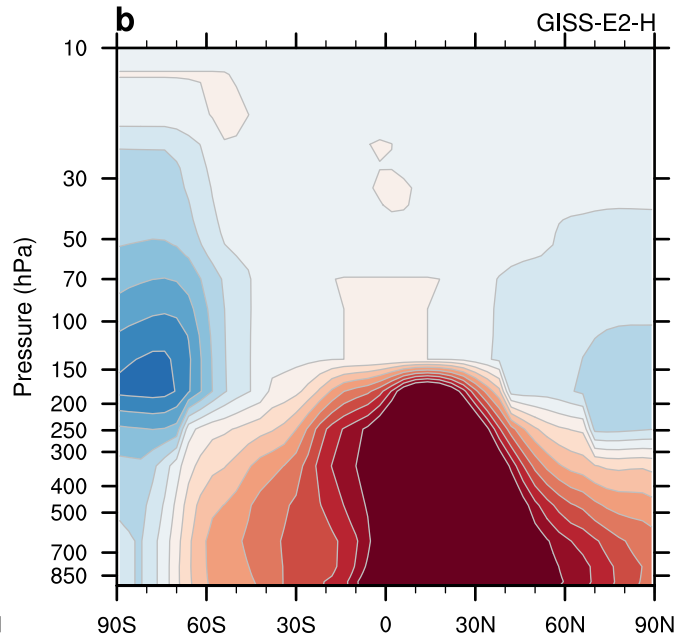
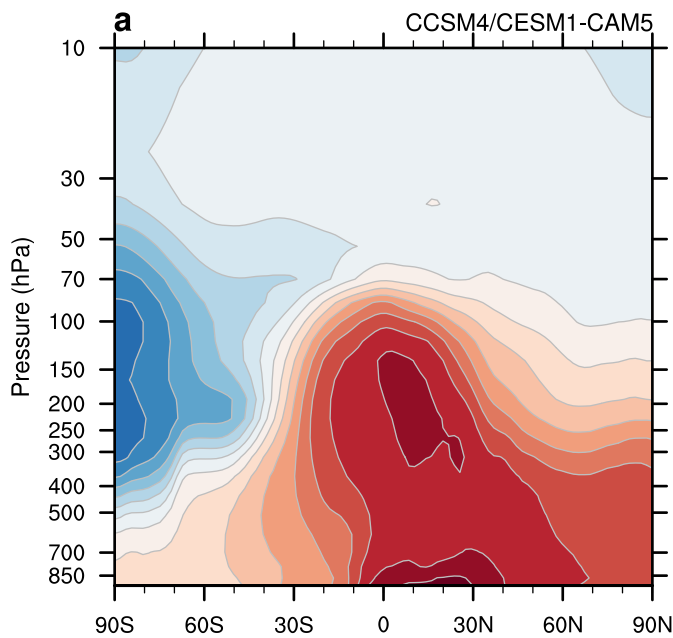


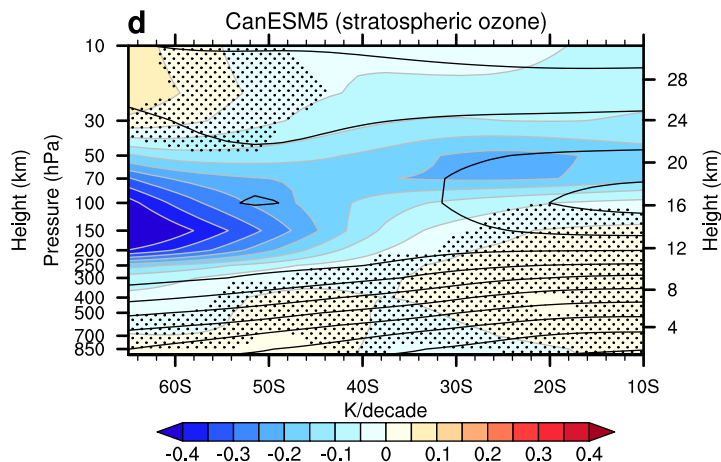
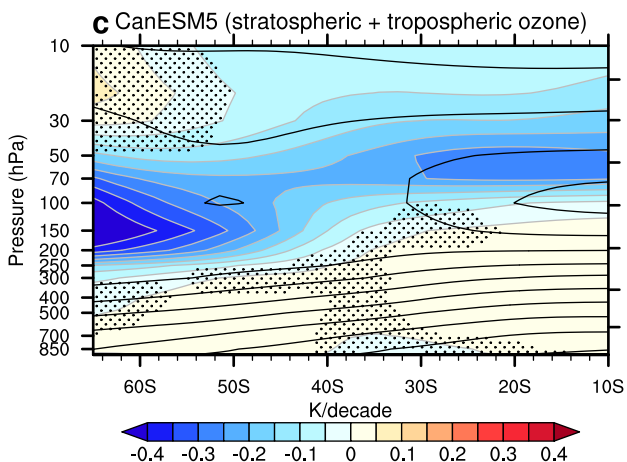
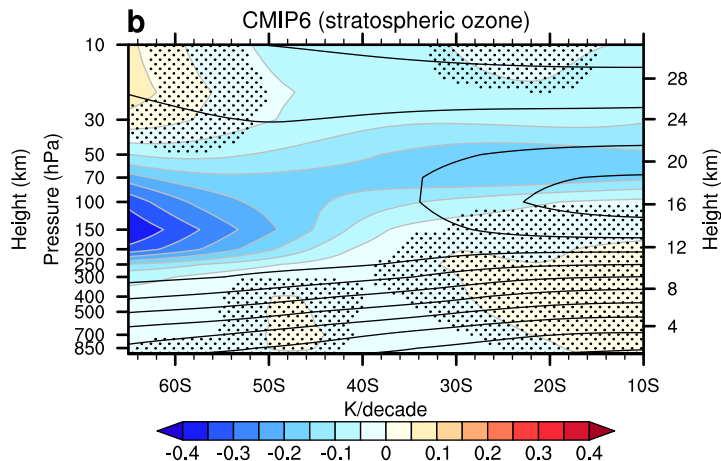
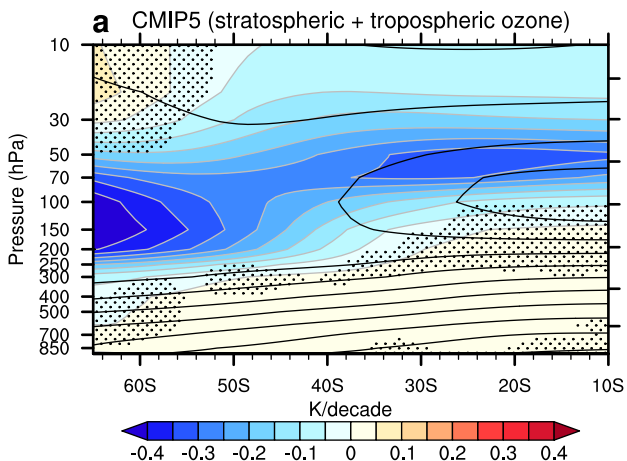


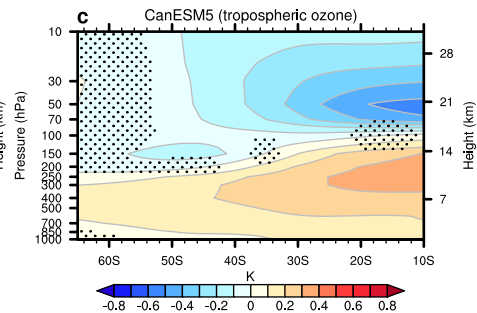
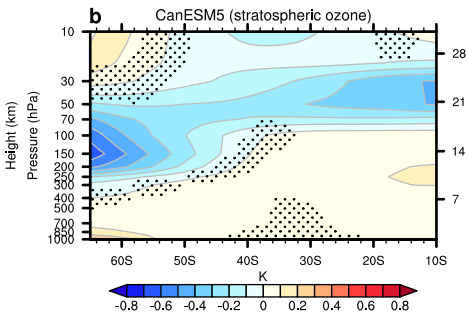
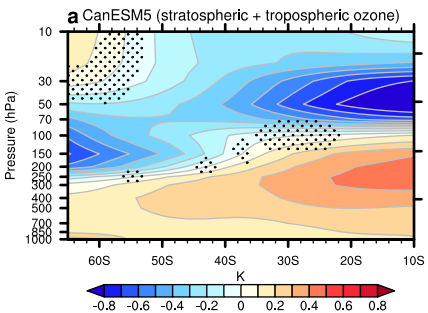


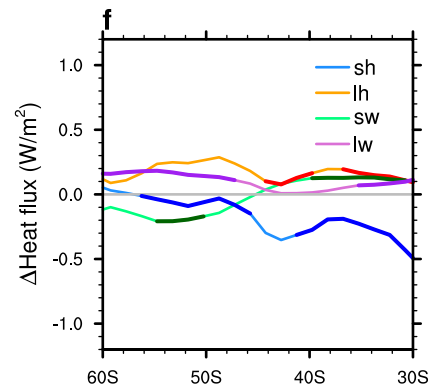
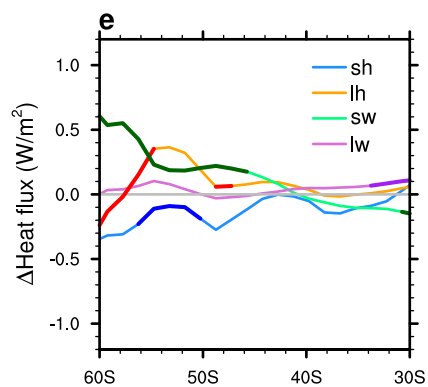
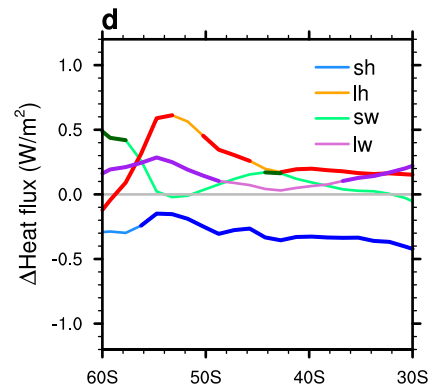
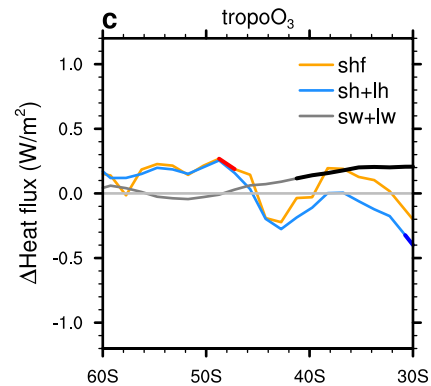
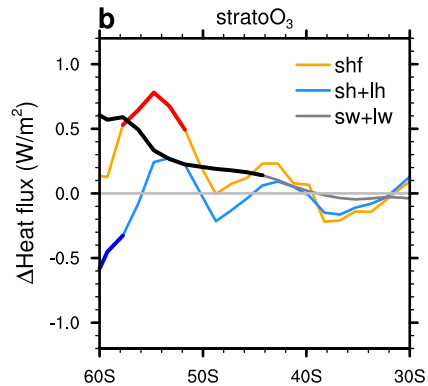
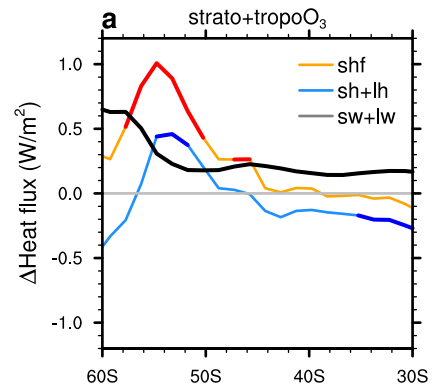


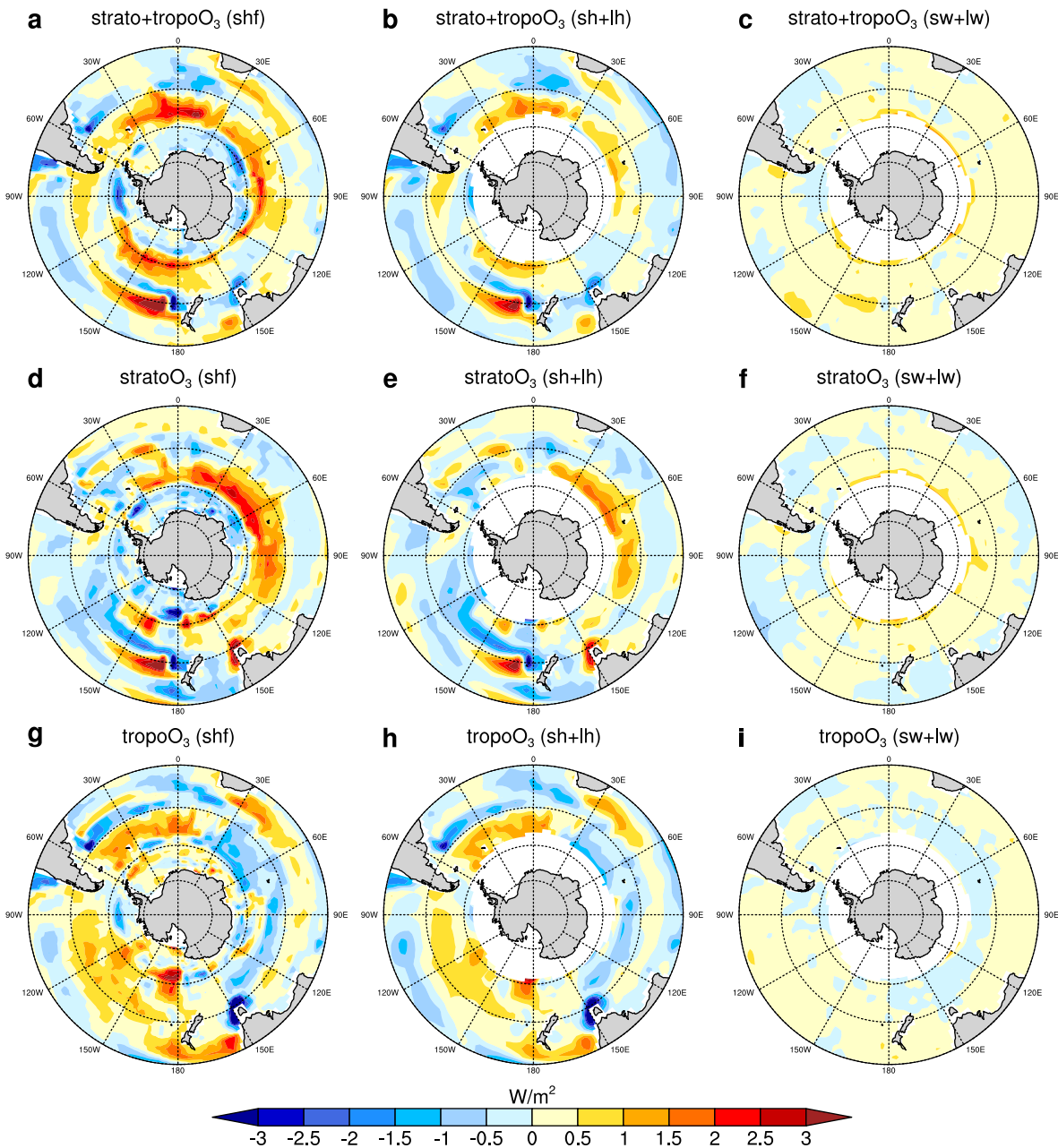
a stratospheric + tropospheric ozone (spiciness)**b** stratospheric + tropospheric ozone (heave)**c** stratospheric ozone (spiciness)**d** stratospheric ozone (heave)**e** tropospheric ozone (spiciness)**f** tropospheric ozone (heave)

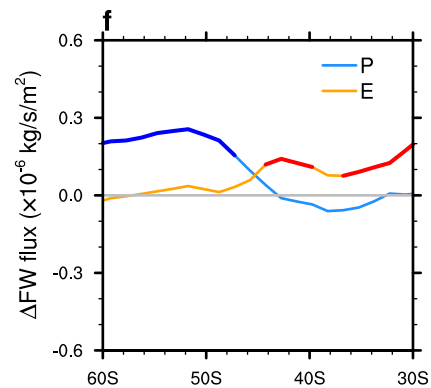
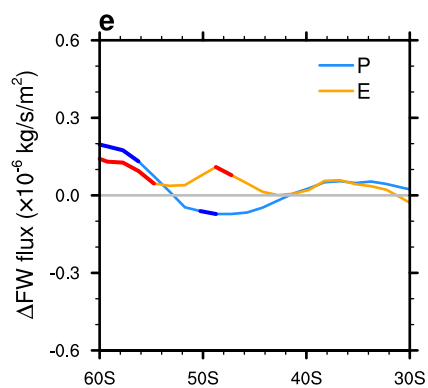
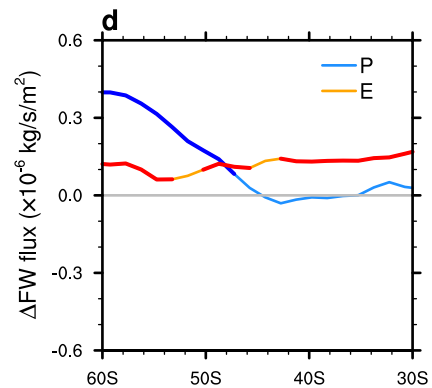
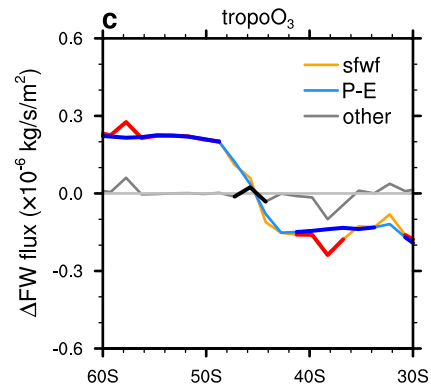
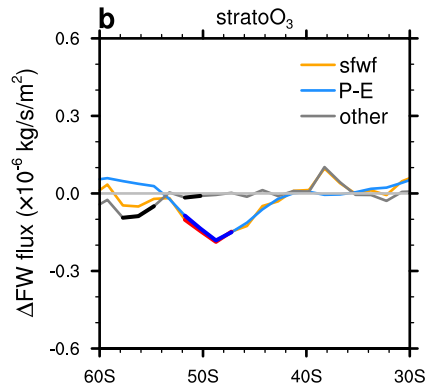
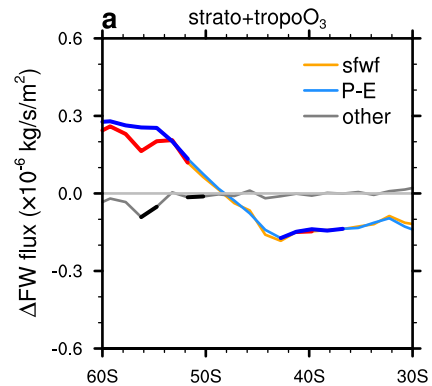


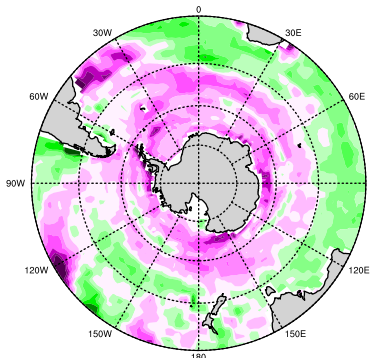
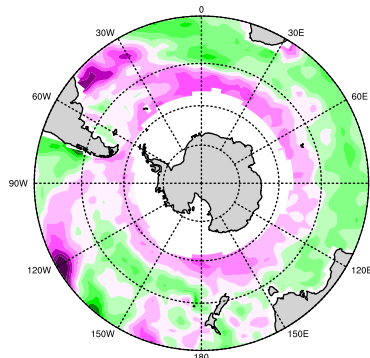
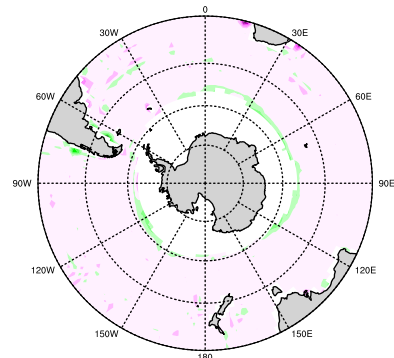
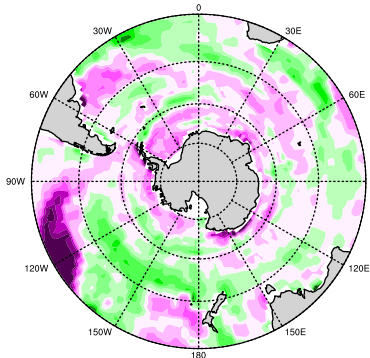
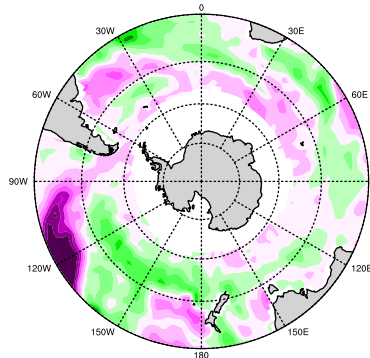
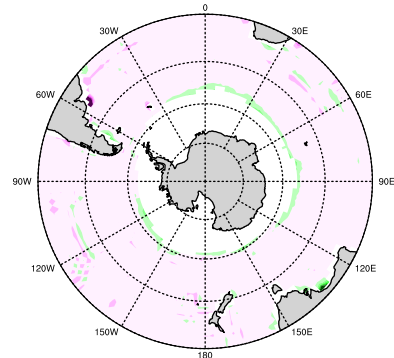
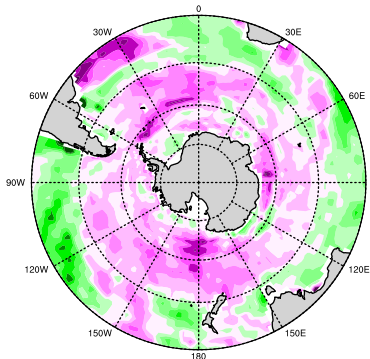
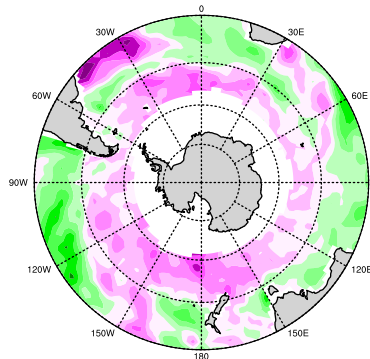
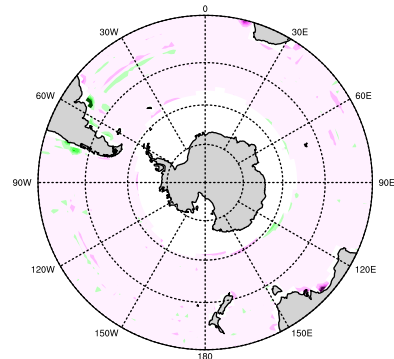
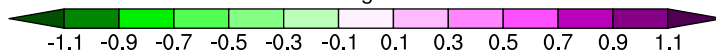


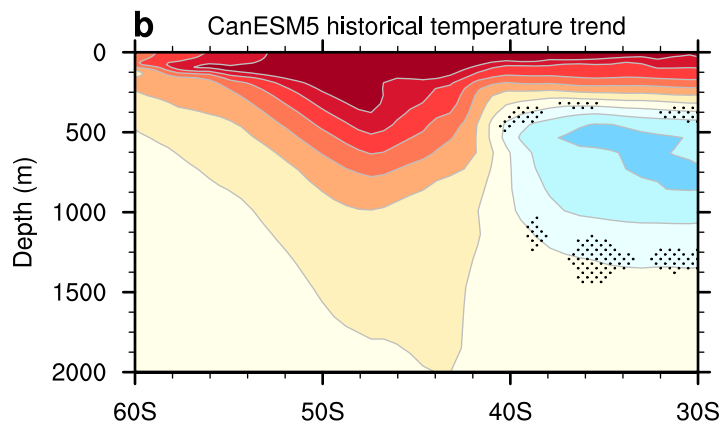
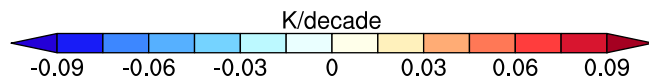
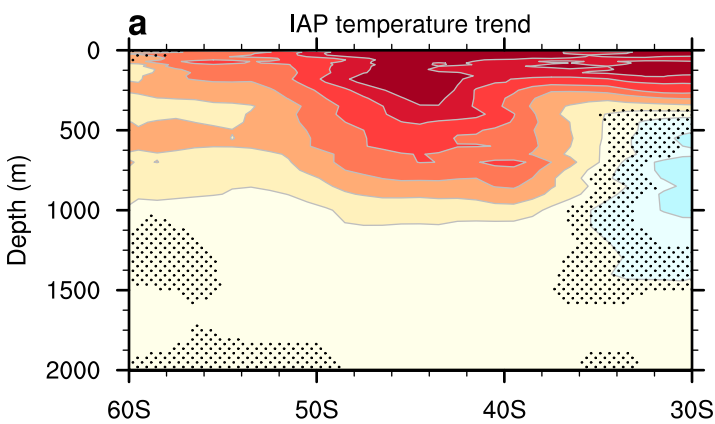


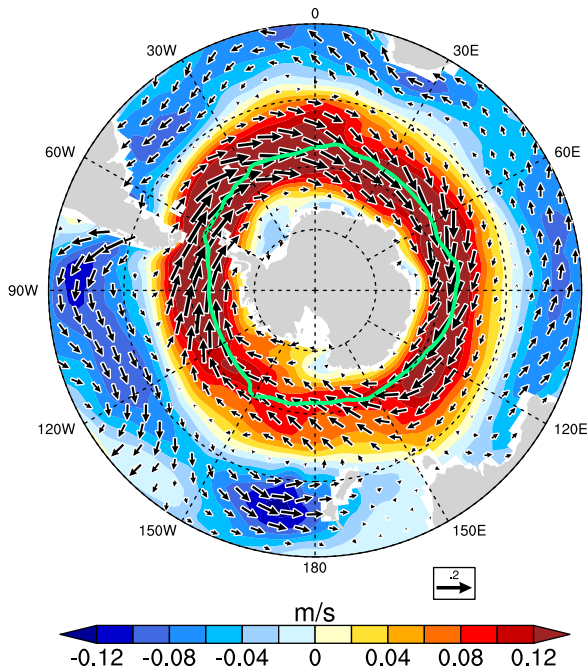
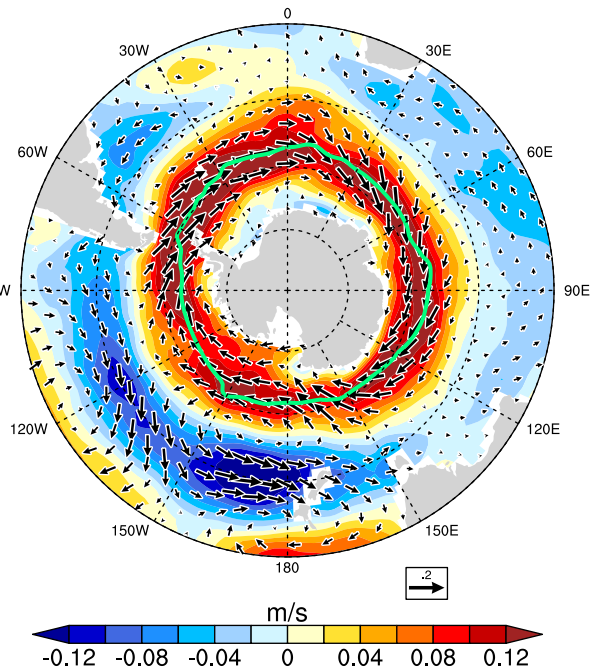
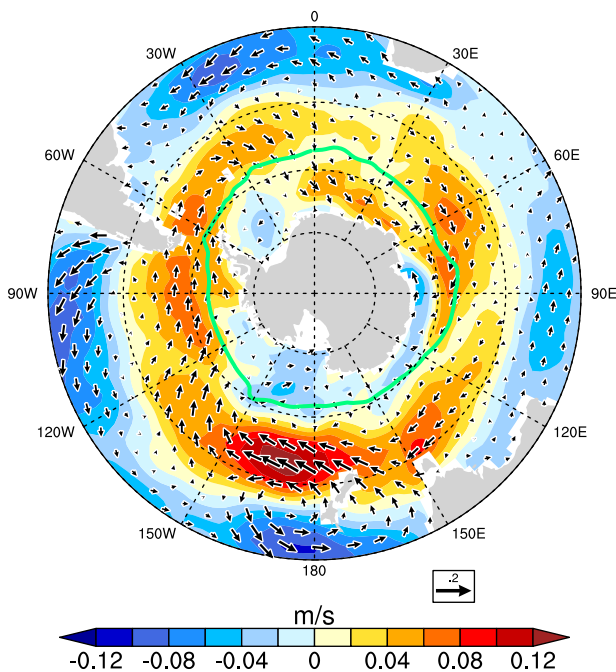






a strato+tropoO₃ (sfwf)**b** strato+tropoO₃ (P-E)**c** strato+tropoO₃ (other)**d** stratoO₃ (sfwf)**e** stratoO₃ (P-E)**f** stratoO₃ (other)**g** tropoO₃ (sfwf)**h** tropoO₃ (P-E)**i** tropoO₃ (other)10⁻⁶ kg/s/m²



a stratospheric + tropospheric ozone**b** stratospheric ozone**c** tropospheric ozone**d**