

Origin and decadal-scale variations of UTLS aerosols

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Background:

The upper troposphere/lower stratosphere (UTLS) is a crucial region for Earth's climate, where changes of aerosol loading and composition can have a direct impact on the amount of radiation absorbed and emitted. Recent observations have shown an apparent increase of aerosols in the UTLS, but the cause of such increase is still under debate. Deep convection during the Asian monsoon season can lift the boundary layer anthropogenic pollutants from South and East Asia, which have shown an increasing trend in the recent decades, to the UTLS. On the other hand, strong volcanic eruptions can inject SO₂ into the UTLS to produce sulfate aerosols at high altitudes where residence time is much longer, making a disproportionately larger contribution to the aerosol loading in the UTLS. In addition, large forest fires can generate “pyro-convection” that sends aerosols and precursor gases to the upper troposphere or the lowermost stratosphere, changing aerosol composition and perturbing the energy balance. Many questions remain concerning the sources of UTLS aerosols, the processes controlling their evolution and distribution, and the cause of the apparent increase in stratospheric aerosol loading. AeroCom can make a “community contribution” to shed light on these questions with the global models and observations; on the other hand, the comparisons between observations and models can help model improvements in the UTLS regions, especially in the LS region that has not been looked at in the past AeroCom experiments.

Objectives:

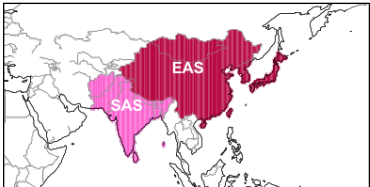
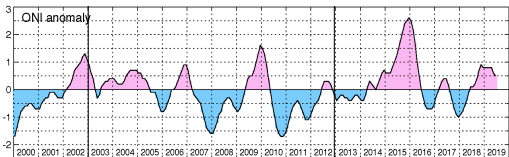
- Compare and evaluate the model simulated aerosol and precursors in the UTLS regions
- Examine the origins and transport pathways of aerosols in the UTLS region (e.g., convective transport, advection, chemical formation, and direct injection)
- Assess the contributions of anthropogenic and volcanic emissions to the decadal variations of UTLS aerosols
- Coordinate with other community projects, such as the IGAC/SPARC Atmospheric Composition and Asian Monsoon (ACAM) and the Chemistry Climate Model Initiative (CCMI).

Model simulation:

Emissions (see AeroCom Phase III wiki for access to the emission files):

Emission amount <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anthropogenic:▪ Biomass burning:▪ Volcanic:▪ Natural (dust, seasalt, biogenic):	CMIP6 CMIP6 Carn dataset, SO ₂ from eruptive and degassing volcanoes Model-calculated or specified
Emission height <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anthropogenic:▪ Biomass burning:▪ Volcanic:	Surface layer Boundary layer Eruptive: top listed in Carn dataset. Degassing: crater to 1km above

Model experiments (see AeroCom wiki for access to the emission files):

Tier 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simulation period: 2003-2012 (10 years) ▪ BASE Model simulation with all emissions ▪ VOL0 Same as BASE but without volcanic emissions ▪ FIR0 Same as BASE but without fire emissions ▪ ANT0 Same as BASE but without fossil fuel/biofuel emissions 	
Tier 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simulation period: 2000-2018 (19 years) ▪ BASE Model simulation with all emissions ▪ VOL0 Same as BASE but without volcanic emissions ▪ FIR0 Same as BASE but without fire emissions ▪ ANT0 Same as BASE but without fossil fuel/biofuel emissions ▪ EAS0 (use region mask) Same as BASE but without East Asian fossil fuel/biofuel emissions ▪ SAS0 (use region mask) Same as BASE but without South Asian fossil fuel/biofuel emissions ▪ Region mask: https://tropo.gsfc.nasa.gov/gocart/products/xchange/aerocom/aerocom3/region_code/file_name=region-code_htap2_tier1_mod_0.5x0.5.nc (0.5 deg resolution) 	 
Transport tracer:	CO with prescribed sources (will be provided) and 50-day lifetime (see description in “Tracer for transport” on AeroCom Phase III wiki page)
Wet/dry deposition tracer:	Pb-210 produced from Rn-222 decay (5.5-day lifetime) with the removal (dry and wet deposition) process same as sulfate (see description in “Tracer for removal” on the AeroCom Phase III wiki page)
Output:	File specification on AeroCom Phase III wiki page under “UTLS”

Observations:

Satellite:

Column SO ₂	OMI	2004 (later half) – 2018
UTLS SO ₂ (with vertical information)	MIPAS MLS	2003 – 2012 2004 (later half) – 2018
UTLS CO	MLS	2004 (later half) – 2018
Stratospheric aerosol vertical profile	SAGE II OSIRIS SCIAMACHY GOMOS CALIOP OMPS LP	1998 – 2005 2001 – 2018 2003 – 2018 2003 – 2012 2006 (later half) – 2018 2012 – 2018

Aircraft observation:

UT aerosol (S, C) concentration	CARIBIC	2004 – 2012
SO ₂ , sulfate vertical profiles	ICARTT INTEX-B ARCTAS	2004 2006 2008
Aerosol vertical profiles	HIPPO (BC) ATom StratoClim	2009 – 2011, 5 deployments 2016 – 2018, 4 deployments 2017