

Effect of Solar Proton Events on the Middle Atmosphere During the Past Two Solar Cycles as Computed Using a Two-Dimensional Model

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Daily average solar proton flux data for the years 1963–1984 (two solar cycles) have been used in a proton energy degradation scheme to derive ion pair production rates and, subsequently, HO_x (H, OH, HO₂) and NO_x (N, NO, NO₂) production rates. These HO_x and NO_x production rates are computed in a form suitable for inclusion in an atmospheric two-dimensional time-dependent photochemical model. The HO_x increases, although large for certain solar proton events (SPEs), are relatively short-lived because the HO_x species have lifetimes of only hours in the middle atmosphere. For longer-lived NO_x species, increases are important for 2–4 months past the more intense SPEs but are generally negligible 6 months after the SPE. The only exception to this scenario was the gigantic August 1972 SPE, whose stratospheric effects lasted about a year past the event. Comparisons of model results with the ozone data from the Nimbus 4 backscattered ultraviolet (BUV) instrument indicate relatively good agreement in the time dependence and magnitude of the ozone depletion for the middle stratosphere between the model and measurements for the August 1972 SPE and for 2 months past the event. The model predictions for the August 1972 SPE indicate at most a 1% decrease in total ozone at the highest latitudes with a significant interhemispheric difference. The model predicts a larger middle latitude stratospheric ozone change in the southern than the northern hemisphere caused by the difference in seasons between the two hemispheres. The computed ozone decreases associated with the HO_x and NO_x increases are substantial in the upper stratosphere at high latitudes for only a few SPEs in the 22 years studied. A mechanism is presented for transport of NO_y from the stratosphere to the ground, which may be involved in the enhancements in nitrate fluxes noticed in Antarctic deposition data. Our computations, however, indicate that the SPE contributions to these nitrate fluxes (even for the August 1972 SPE) are probably small.

INTRODUCTION

In order to comprehend fully humankind's influence on the middle atmosphere, the natural changes must first be understood. Some natural changes in the middle atmosphere related to the solar cycle are caused by solar proton events (SPEs). SPEs have been investigated since the late 1960s for possible effects on the middle atmosphere. Solar protons from SPEs produce ionizations, dissociations, dissociative ionizations, and excitations in the middle atmosphere. Either directly or through a photochemical sequence, reactive HO_x (H, OH, HO₂) and NO_x (N, NO, NO₂) are produced. These HO_x and NO_x constituents are important because they can lead to the destruction of ozone.

Ozone depletions have been observed during and after nine separate SPEs over the past two solar cycles [Weeks *et al.*, 1972; Heath *et al.*, 1977; McPeters *et al.*, 1981; Thomas *et al.*, 1983; Solomon *et al.*, 1983a; McPeters and Jackman, 1985]. SPEs have also been observed to increase NO during one SPE [McPeters, 1986]. The ozone depletions for eight of the SPEs (November 1969, January and September 1971, June and August 1979, October 1981, and July and December 1982) are believed to be primarily caused by the HO_x

production of SPEs. Those HO_x-caused ozone depletions are confined to the mesosphere and upper stratosphere, where HO_x species account for most of the ozone loss [Jackman *et al.*, 1986], and are relatively short-lived, since HO_x lifetimes and O₃ recovery times in this region are only of the order of hours.

The ozone depletion observations of the August 1972 SPE indicated a short-lived HO_x-caused component in the mesosphere and upper stratosphere and a relatively long-lived (approximately months) NO_x-dominated component in the middle stratosphere. This event was the largest of the past two solar cycles and has been studied theoretically by several groups [e.g., Crutzen *et al.*, 1975; Fabian *et al.*, 1979; Solomon and Crutzen, 1981; Reagan *et al.*, 1981; Rusch *et al.*, 1981].

Jackman *et al.* [1980] focused on the SPE production of odd nitrogen over 26 years (1954–1979), and Jackman and Meade [1988] investigated in detail the production of odd nitrogen during the years 1978 and 1979 for a possible SPE-related influence on the limb infrared monitor of the stratosphere (LIMS) measured constituents NO₂ and HNO₃. Jackman *et al.* [1980] found that the SPE source has a large variability in its yearly contribution to odd nitrogen and can dominate the largest odd nitrogen source, N₂O oxidation, for geographic latitudes greater than 50° during certain years. Jackman and Meade's [1988] calculations showed that the SPE-related odd nitrogen changes (1) were confined mainly to the region above 10 mbar and latitudes higher than 50° in both hemispheres, (2) depended primarily

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on the background local abundance of odd nitrogen as well as on the altitude and season, (3) are important for 2–3 months after the SPEs but are generally negligible 6 months after the SPE, and (4) should have caused negligible changes in background NO_2 and HNO_3 during the LIMS measurement period.

Here we investigate the effects of two solar cycles (1963–1984) of solar protons on the middle atmosphere by investigating odd nitrogen (NO_y) as well as ozone. Our calculations indicate the extent to which solar protons influence the middle atmosphere constituents and if SPEs need to be taken into consideration for studies of long (solar cycle) time scales.

PROTON FLUX DATA AND SPE PRODUCTION OF ODD NITROGEN (NO_y) AND HO_x

Proton fluxes from T. Armstrong and colleagues (University of Kansas, private communication, 1986) allow for a daily computation of ion pair production and NO_y production due to SPEs for the time period 1963–1984. The proton fluxes are given in integral form (units are $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$) for energies greater than 10, 30, and 60 MeV and are zero for most days in the 22-year period (1963–1984) with about 900 days containing nonzero values. These proton data are discussed by *Armstrong et al.* [1983]. We have derived differential proton spectra from those data and used those data in a manner similar to that given by *Jackman and Meade* [1988]. We fit the proton data from T. Armstrong with an empirical formula of a power law form, given as

$$dF/dE = F_0(E/E_0)^{-n} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ MeV}^{-1}$$

where F is the proton flux, F_0 and n are parameters, E is the proton energy in megaelectron volts (MeV), and E_0 is simply set to 1 MeV for all fits. The best fit to the proton data was found using a least squares fitting solution: parameter F_0 varied over a large range, while values for n were close to 2. These fits were generally within 10% over the proton energy range for most days of spectra data. We assume our power law form is valid over the proton energy range from 5 to 100 MeV. We extended the lower limit of the energy range from 10 MeV (given by *Jackman and Meade* [1988]) to 5 MeV because we wanted a better estimate of the mesospheric source of odd nitrogen over the two solar cycle time period 1963–1984. A significant amount of extra odd nitrogen production is derived from those protons between 5 and 10 MeV which deposit energy in the mesosphere, and the small extrapolation from 10 to 5 MeV is believed to give at least a reasonable estimate of the proton flux at these lower energies.

The protons were divided up into 60 monoenergetic energy intervals, all assumed to be isotropic, and then were degraded in energy following *Jackman et al.* [1980]. Protons in the 5–100 MeV energy range deposit most of their energy between about 100 and 35 km. We compute a daily ion pair production over the 22-year time period in a form suitable for inclusion in our two-dimensional model.

The ion pair production computed from the daily average proton flux data of T. Armstrong compares favorably with the ion pair production computed using the hourly average proton flux data found in the Solar Geophysical Data publication for most SPEs. However, for the August 1972 SPE the ratio of the hourly computed ion pair production to the

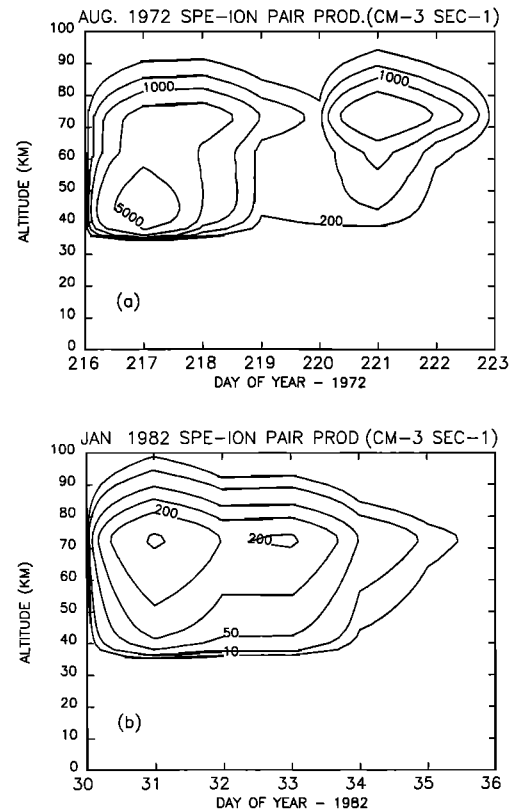


Fig. 1. Daily average ion pair production for (a) the August 1972 solar proton event; contours represented are 200, 500, 1000, 2000, and 5000 $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$; and (b) the January 1982 solar proton event; contours represented are 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$.

daily computed ion pair production ranges from about 3.7 in the stratosphere to near 1.0 in the mesosphere. We have normalized the daily to the hourly computed ion pair production for this one SPE because the hourly computed ion pair production is believed to be more accurate than the daily computed ion pair production.

The daily average ion pair production for two SPEs (August 1972 and January 1982) is shown in Figure 1. The gigantic SPE in August 1972 is presented in Figure 1a. This event had a rather hard spectrum of particles (with higher energy protons dominating) during the first couple of days, peaking in ion pair production near 8000 $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$ between 40 and 50 km on day 217. Later in the August 1972 SPE (days 220–222), the peak in ion pair production occurred at the higher altitudes (between 70 and 80 km) when a softer spectrum of particles was dominant (lower-energy protons). Other SPEs during the 22-year period studied are not as intense as the first couple of days of the August 1972 SPE, and their proton spectra are typically softer. The January 1982 SPE, whose ion pair production is shown in Figure 1b, is a good example of this type of SPE. Its ion pair production has a peak over 500 $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$ between 70 and 80 km on day 31.

These 22 years of changing solar condition are represented by the changing sunspot number in Figure 2a. Figure 2b indicates the ion pair production at 44 km for the same 22-year period at geomagnetic latitudes greater than 60°. Note that more SPEs tend to occur when the sunspot number is high. The maxima in ion pair production, how-

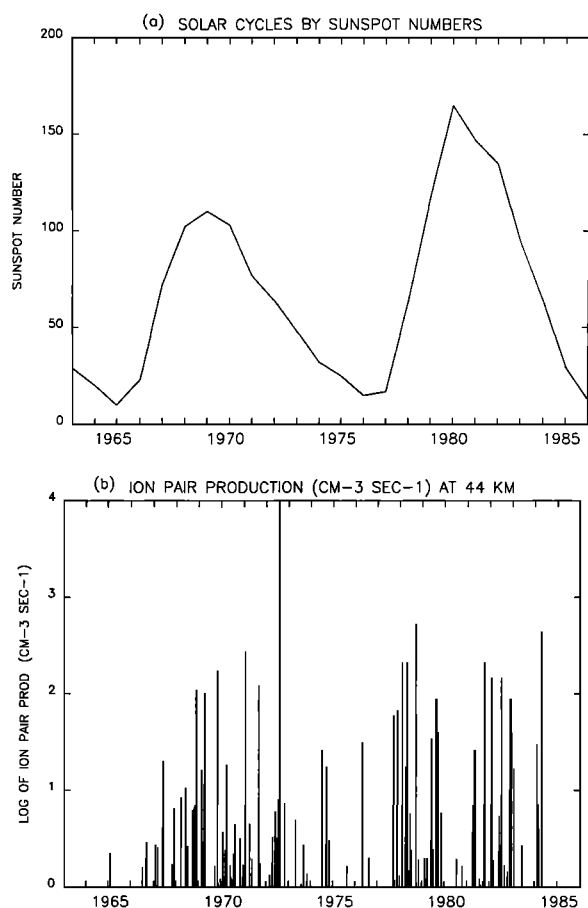


Fig. 2. (a) Sunspot number (R_z) taken from the Solar Geophysical Data publication. (b) Log_{10} of the computed ion pair production ($\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$) at 44 km.

ever, do not necessarily correspond to the maxima in sunspot number. In fact, during the last solar cycle the ion pair production at 44 km maximized just before and just after the maximum in sunspot number.

The production of NO_y species by SPEs has been predicted since the mid-1970s [Crutzen *et al.*, 1975]. The NO increase after the July 1982 SPE was inferred from the Nimbus 7 solar backscattered ultraviolet (SBUV) instrument to be about 6×10^{14} NO molecules cm^{-2} at polar latitudes [McPeters, 1986], in good agreement with our calculated NO increase of 7×10^{14} NO molecules cm^{-2} in the polar cap. This calculation assumed 1.25 nitrogen (N) atoms produced per ion pair which is similar to the value given by Porter *et al.* [1976], derived using a detailed theoretical energy degradation computation. The agreement between the predicted and measured NO increase following the July 1982 SPE has given us confidence in the reliability of the computations for NO_y species' increase caused by SPEs. We therefore assume that 1.25 N atoms are produced per ion pair for all base model computations in this paper.

The production of HO_x species by SPEs has been predicted since the early 1970s [Swider and Keneshea, 1973]. The HO_x produced by SPEs is believed to be responsible for most of the ozone depletion observed in eight SPEs. Solomon *et al.* [1983a, b] found good agreement between model predictions and observations by the Solar Mesosphere Explorer (SME) satellite of ozone depletion caused by the HO_x

increases due to the July and December 1982 SPEs. Jackman and McPeters [1985] also found good agreement between model predictions and SME observations of ozone depletion; however, the model calculations of ozone depletion between 1 and 0.3 mbar (~ 50 and 60 km) tend to be smaller than the ozone depletion observed with the Nimbus 7 SBUV instrument.

The positive ions produced by the solar protons form ion water clusters and, subsequently, H and OH. Below 70 km most of the positive ions result in the formation of two HO_x species apiece. Above 75 km the HO_x produced per positive ion is somewhat less than 2 and is also strongly altitude-dependent [Solomon *et al.*, 1983b]. In this paper we are concerned with altitudes at and below 60 km, and we assume that two HO_x species are produced per positive ion.

TWO-DIMENSIONAL MODEL DESCRIPTION

The ion pair production was input into our two-dimensional (2-D) photochemical model [Douglass *et al.*, 1989], whose vertical range, equally spaced in log pressure, has been extended to be from the ground to approximately 90 km (0.0024 mbar) with about a 2-km grid spacing and from 85°S to 85°N with a 10° grid spacing. We used heating rates and temperatures from Rosenfield *et al.* [1987] in order to compute our background residual circulation. Since Rosenfield *et al.* [1987] indicate that questions remain concerning the quality of the temperature and ozone data and the accuracy of the radiative transfer scheme above 0.1 mbar (~ 66 km), we only show results from our model that are below 0.23 mbar (~ 60 km). We consider the upper extent of our model (from 0.23 to 0.0024 mbar) to act as a sponge layer which nevertheless contains a reasonable simulation of the dynamics and photochemistry of the upper region.

The SPE production of 1.25 atomic N per ion pair and 2 OH per ion pair was input at geomagnetic latitudes above 60°. This corresponded to inputting the atomic N and OH in the 2-D model using weighting factors of 1.0 for model grid boxes centered on $\pm 85^\circ$, 0.98 for $\pm 75^\circ$, 0.60 for $\pm 65^\circ$, 0.31 for $\pm 55^\circ$, 0.02 for $\pm 45^\circ$, and 0.0 for all other latitudes [Jackman and Meade, 1988].

Major species N_2 (78% of the atmosphere) and O_2 (21% of the atmosphere) are calculated solving the hydrostatic equation using monthly average temperature fields from the National Meteorological Center (NMC) for 1000–0.4 mbar and CIRA (1978) above 0.4 mbar following Rosenfield *et al.* [1987]. The CO_2 mixing ratio is set at 330 ppmv. The stratospheric and mesospheric H_2O distribution is fixed to LIMS measurements where possible and set to LIMS measurements at 1.68 mbar for all altitudes above 1.68 mbar. Extrapolation of H_2O values to latitudes south of 65°S was accomplished by using northern hemisphere data during a comparable season. LIMS H_2O measurements extend for only 7 months, and thus seasonal reflection between hemispheres was used for the other 5 months (see Jackman *et al.* [1987] for further discussion). The tropospheric H_2O concentrations are set to values from our previous 2-D model calculations [Guthrie *et al.*, 1984] and are close to those of Newell *et al.* [1972]. Thirty-four minor species are calculated in the model, although not all of them are transported individually. Three groups of species are transported using the family approach: O_x (O_3 , $\text{O}(^1D)$, $\text{O}(^3P)$), NO_y , not including HNO_3 , (N, NO, NO_2 , NO_3 , HO_2NO_2 , N_2O_5 , and

TABLE 1. Lower Boundary Conditions for All Transported Species

Species	Type of Boundary Condition	1980 Value	1972 Value
N ₂ O	mixing ratio (ppbv)	300	300
CH ₄	mixing ratio (ppmv)	1.6	1.6
CO	mixing ratio (ppbv)	100	100
H ₂	mixing ratio (ppbv)	500	500
CH ₃ OOH	flux (cm ⁻² s ⁻¹)	0.0	0.0
CH ₃ Cl	mixing ratio (pptv)	700	700
CH ₃ CCl ₃	mixing ratio (pptv)	100	100
CCl ₄	mixing ratio (pptv)	100	100
CFCl ₃	mixing ratio (pptv)	170	70
CF ₂ Cl ₂	mixing ratio (pptv)	285	130
O _x	deposition velocity (cm s ⁻¹)	0.1	0.1
HNO ₃	mixing ratio (pptv)	90	90
NO _y (not including HNO ₃)	mixing ratio (pptv)	10	10
Cl _x	flux (cm ⁻² s ⁻¹)	0.0	0.0

ClONO₂), and Cl_x (Cl, ClO, HOCl, HCl, and ClONO₂). Partitioning among the family members is done in the manner described by *Douglass et al.* [1989]. Other transported species include HNO₃, N₂O, CH₄, H₂, CO, CH₃OOH, CFCl₃, CF₂Cl₂, CH₃Cl, CCl₄, and CH₃CCl₃. The HO_x (H, OH, HO₂) species, H₂O₂, and the hydrocarbons CH₃, CH₃O, CH₃O₂, CH₂O, and CHO are calculated using photochemical equilibrium assumptions.

The boundary conditions are given in Table 1 for the two model background cases used: (1) a simulation of year 1980 with ~2.5 ppbv Cl_x input at the ground and (2) a simulation of year 1972 with ~1.7 ppbv Cl_x input at the ground. Most reaction rates and photodissociation cross sections are taken from *DeMore et al.* [1987] and presented by *Douglass et al.* [1989]. Some reactions were added when the upper boundary was moved to 90 km. The reactions added were O + O + M → O₂ + M with $k = 1.4 \times 10^{-33} \exp(408/T) \text{ cm}^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ from *Hampson* [1980], N + OH → NO + H with $k = 5.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ from *DeMore et al.* [1987], and CO₂ + hν → CO + O with $J < 220 \text{ nm}$ from *DeMore et al.* [1987]. Another reaction which was included in the simulation but inadvertently left out of Table 2 of *Douglass et al.* [1989] was OH + CH₃CCl₃ → 3(Cl) with $k = 5.0 \times 10^{-12} \exp(-1800/T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ from *DeMore et al.* [1987].

The 2-D model was run 20 years to a seasonally repeating steady state for the two model background cases, years 1980 and 1972. The model was then run for 23 years from 1963 through 1985 using the year 1980 background case. No SPEs were allowed to occur in 1985 so that the model had a chance to relax to its ambient state before the end of the model run. A closer look at the effect of the August 1972 SPE on the middle atmosphere used the 1972 background case. Several runs were completed for 1972, some for 60 days in which the output was analyzed every day and some for 360 days (1 model year) in which the output was analyzed every 10 days.

The solar cycle ultraviolet (UV) flux variation was not accounted for in any of our computer simulations. Some variation is expected in the background NO_y abundance because of the solar cycle UV flux variation. We do not include this UV change so that it is possible to analyze more easily the straightforward influence of solar protons.

ODD NITROGEN (NO_y) VARIABILITY DUE TO SPEs

Odd nitrogen (NO_y = N + NO + NO₂ + NO₃ + HO₂NO₂ + HNO₃ + 2N₂O₅ + ClONO₂), due to its lifetime of

months, is of interest for any long-term stratospheric changes. We investigate NO_y at 75°N because of the large changes associated with SPEs at this high latitude. Figure 3a illustrates the variability of NO_y at 1.7 mbar (44 km) and 75°N over the 23-year period. Note that NO_y can vary dramatically after an SPE, especially after the August 1972 SPE. Generally, the NO_y values return to their ambient levels 2–6 months after the event, but after the August 1972 SPE the stratospheric NO_y values take about a year to return to their ambient levels.

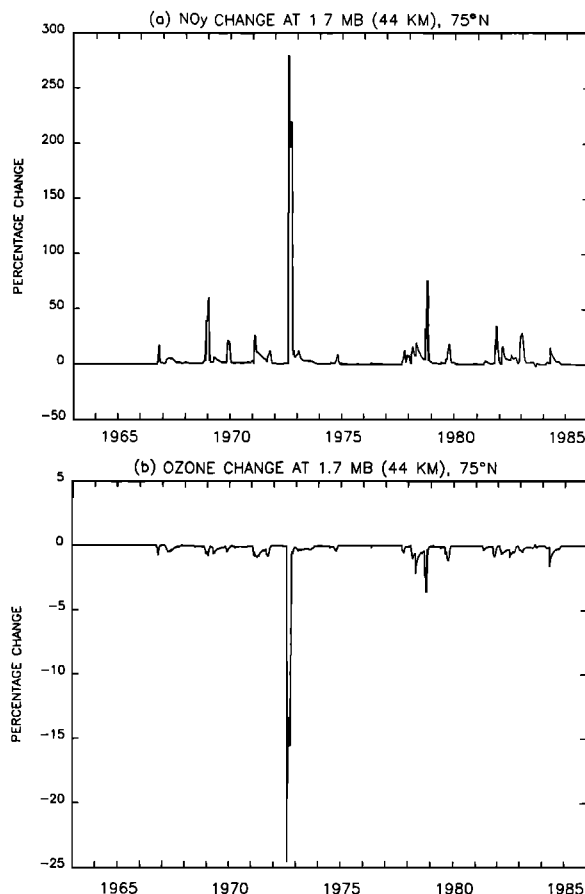


Fig. 3. Model-predicted (a) NO_y and (b) ozone percentage change at 1.7 mbar (44 km) and 75°N.

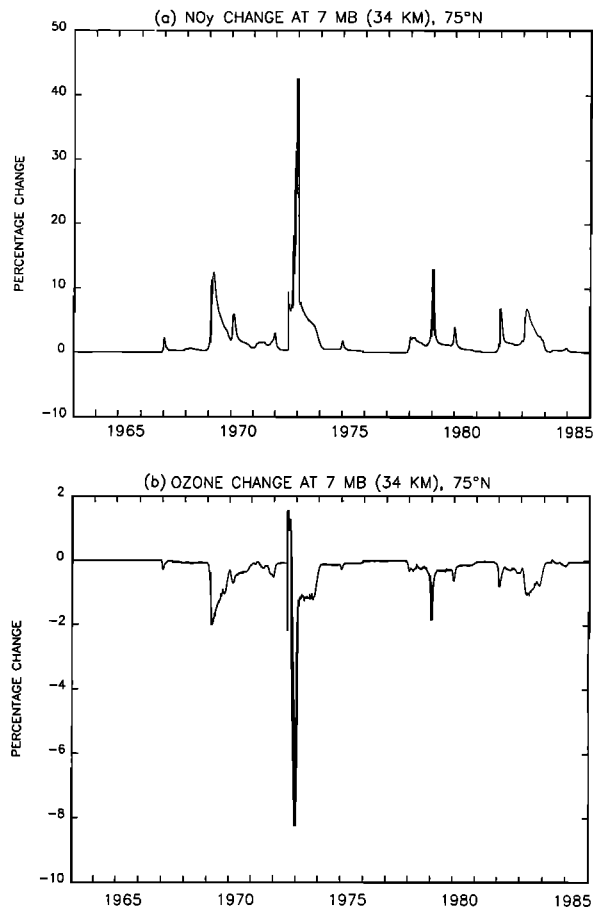


Fig. 4. Model predicted (a) NO_y and (b) ozone percentage change at 7 mbar (34 km) and 75°N .

The NO_y seems to be affected only by those SPEs which have an ion pair production over about $100 \text{ ion pairs cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (see Figure 2b). The ambient NO_y amounts help determine the magnitude of the computed NO_y change at a certain level. These ambient NO_y amounts vary with season, being less in late winter and more in late summer. The same production rate of N atoms, adding, say, 2 ppbv of NO_y to a 14 ppbv background at 4 mbar and 85°N in late summer will have less of an effect than the same production rate of N atoms, adding, say, 2 ppbv of NO_y to a 4-ppbv background at 4 mbar and 85°S in late winter (see Jackman and Meade [1988] for further discussion). Some downflux of NO_y from the SPE's mesospheric production of NO_y is important during late fall, winter, and early spring and influences the amount of NO_y in the upper stratosphere.

Figure 4a illustrates the behavior of NO_y at 34 km. Figures 3a and 4a, as well as our analysis of NO_y at other altitudes and latitudes, indicate that although the NO_y produced by SPEs over solar cycle time periods does not build up, it can be important at high latitudes on time scales of months to a year. This result is not surprising as only a small fraction of the annual odd nitrogen budget results from SPEs [Jackman *et al.*, 1980]. Most of the annual production of odd nitrogen is a result of N_2O oxidation and was computed by Jackman *et al.* [1987] to be $2.6 \times 10^{34} \text{ NO}_y \text{ molecules yr}^{-1}$. Here we have a different ozone and N_2O distribution (model computed rather than specified as by Jackman *et al.* [1987]) and compute the annual production of odd nitrogen as a result of

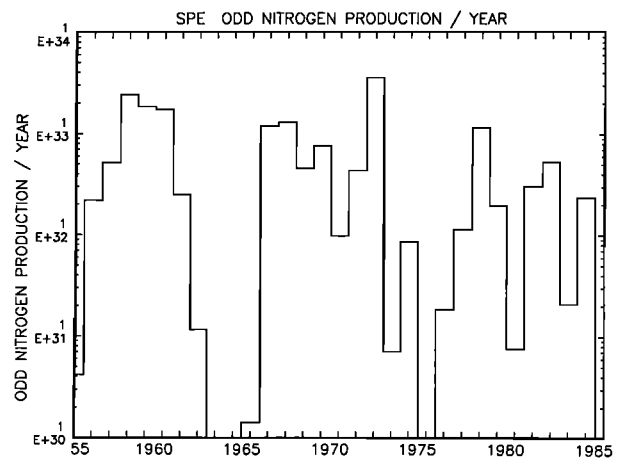


Fig. 5. Solar proton event (SPE) odd nitrogen production in molecules yr^{-1} for years 1955–1984.

N_2O oxidation to be $2.9 \times 10^{34} \text{ NO}_y \text{ molecules yr}^{-1}$. The largest production of NO_y molecules from SPEs was in the year 1972 at the level of $3.6 \times 10^{33} \text{ NO}_y \text{ molecules yr}^{-1}$, only 12% of the N_2O oxidation source. Since this SPE source is confined to high latitudes, we note that it is significantly larger than the yearly N_2O oxidation source at latitudes greater than 50° , calculated to be $2.2 \times 10^{33} \text{ NO}_y \text{ molecules per yr}^{-1}$. The production of odd nitrogen molecules from SPEs in other major SPE-active years is less than that computed for 1972.

We show the annual production of odd nitrogen from SPEs in the middle atmosphere for the years 1955–1984 in Figure 5. The annual production for the years 1955–1962 is taken from Jackman *et al.* [1980], and the years 1963–1984 are taken from this study. The values for the stratosphere and mesosphere, separately and together, are given in Table 2. Clearly, there is a large variation in the annual addition of odd nitrogen from SPEs.

OZONE VARIANCE DUE TO SPEs

The investigation of the long-term influence of SPEs on ozone is the primary purpose of this paper. We would like to answer the question: Do SPE-related changes in ozone need to be considered when investigating long-term variations of ozone? Figure 3b illustrates the variability of ozone at 1.7 mbar (44 km) and 75°N over the 23-year period. In Figure 4b we show the ozone at 7 mbar (34 km) and 75°N . In general, the NO_y increase corresponds to an ozone decrease. Note, however, that ozone goes up during several days of 1972 at 7 mbar (see Figure 4b). This is a result of self-healing due to ozone depletion above.

It is clear from Figures 3b and 4b that the largest changes in ozone in the stratosphere are connected with the August 1972 SPE. Because of this we have investigated the time period during and just after the August 1972 SPE in more detail. We first ran the model to steady state (20-year computer simulation) for the 1972 boundary conditions (see Table 1). Next we ran a base case for 60 and 360 days, with daily and 10-day interval outputs, respectively. Finally, we simulated the August 1972 SPE with the model (several times) over 60- and 360-day time periods. We found only small differences in the ozone depletion from the August

TABLE 2. Odd Nitrogen Molecules Produced per Year in the Mesosphere, Stratosphere, and Both the Mesosphere and Stratosphere

Year	Mesospheric Contribution	Stratospheric Contribution	Total Contribution
1955	3.24 (+30)	9.32 (+29)	4.17 (+30)
1956	1.19 (+32)	1.00 (+32)	2.19 (+32)
1957	4.64 (+32)	5.07 (+31)	5.15 (+32)
1958	1.98 (+33)	4.38 (+32)	2.42 (+33)
1959	1.42 (+33)	4.37 (+32)	1.86 (+33)
1960	6.63 (+32)	1.08 (+33)	1.74 (+33)
1961	1.40 (+32)	1.09 (+32)	2.49 (+32)
1962	9.25 (+30)	2.30 (+30)	1.16 (+31)
1963	6.56 (+29)	7.05 (+28)	7.26 (+29)
1964	4.65 (+29)	1.26 (+28)	4.78 (+29)
1965	3.89 (+30)	3.64 (+29)	1.42 (+30)
1966	1.19 (+33)	1.44 (+30)	1.19 (+33)
1967	1.29 (+33)	1.02 (+31)	1.30 (+33)
1968	4.31 (+32)	2.54 (+31)	4.56 (+32)
1969	7.56 (+32)	4.46 (+31)	7.60 (+32)
1970	8.85 (+31)	9.44 (+30)	9.79 (+31)
1971	3.85 (+32)	4.65 (+31)	4.32 (+32)
1972	2.09 (+33)	1.46 (+33)	3.55 (+33)
1973	5.18 (+30)	1.88 (+30)	7.06 (+30)
1974	7.34 (+31)	1.24 (+31)	8.58 (+31)
1975	6.10 (+29)	2.42 (+29)	8.52 (+29)
1976	1.44 (+31)	4.09 (+30)	1.85 (+31)
1977	9.19 (+31)	2.18 (+31)	1.14 (+32)
1978	1.01 (+33)	1.46 (+32)	1.16 (+33)
1979	1.58 (+32)	3.72 (+31)	1.95 (+32)
1980	6.08 (+30)	1.46 (+30)	7.54 (+30)
1981	2.59 (+32)	4.69 (+31)	3.06 (+32)
1982	4.55 (+32)	7.65 (+31)	5.32 (+32)
1983	1.80 (+31)	2.89 (+30)	2.09 (+31)
1984	1.79 (+32)	5.68 (+31)	2.36 (+32)

*Read 3.24 (+30) as 3.24×10^{30} .

1972 SPE predicted by the model for conditions in 1980 (~ 2.5 ppbv Cl_x at the ground) and 1972 (~ 1.7 ppbv Cl_x at the ground). The extra Cl_x for 1980 conditions was expected to tie up more NO_y into unreactive ClONO_2 [Solomon *et al.*, 1981], leading to a smaller ozone depletion from the SPE-produced NO_y . Our 1980 condition computations show a couple of percent smaller ozone depletion than was indicated in our 1972 condition computations. These calculations imply that increases in atmospheric Cl_x close to 50% (1.7–2.5 ppbv), at least for these levels of chlorine, cause relatively little change in the ozone response to SPEs.

We were fortunate to have Nimbus 4 backscattered ultraviolet (BUV) instrument ozone measurements during the August 1972 SPE. We compare our model output with a percentage difference plot which was constructed from a comparison of 1972 with 1970 BUV ozone data. These BUV comparison data (percentage ozone changes from 1970 to 1972) are given in Figures 6a and 6b for the latitude intervals 70° – 80°N and 50° – 60°N for days 214–274 of year 1972. The percentage change in modeled ozone as a result of the August 1972 SPE is given in Figures 7a and 7b for similar latitudes (75° and 55°N) and days 214–274 of year 1972. Both the modeled and BUV ozone depletion are larger at 75°N (Figures 6a and 7a) than at 55°N (Figures 6b and 7b). The magnitude of the depletion observed in the BUV data set is fairly close to that predicted by the model computation. For example, about a 15–25% maximum ozone depletion was observed between 70° and 80°N (Figure 6a) and predicted at 75°N (Figure 7a), and about a 5–10% maximum ozone

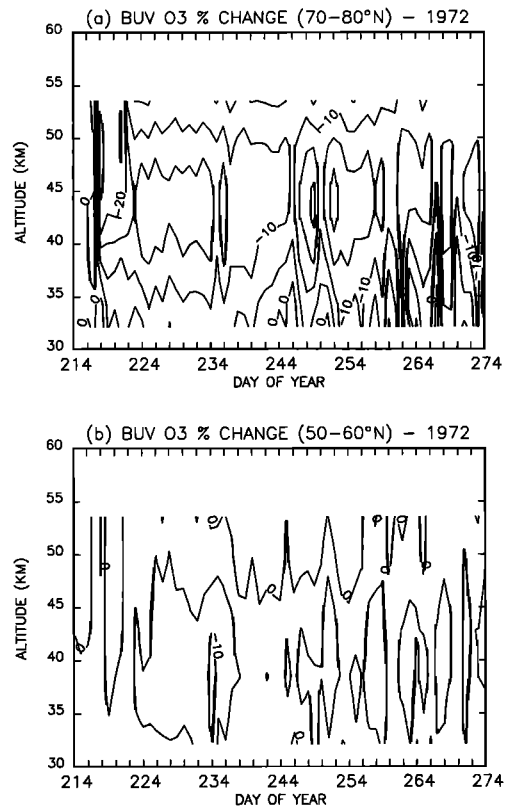


Fig. 6. Nimbus 4 BUV measured ozone percentage change as a function of day of year in 1972 for 60 days for (a) the 70° – 80°N band and (b) the 50° – 60°N band. The ozone change is a result of the August 1972 SPE and is given at the contour levels of -30 , -20 , -15 , -10 , -5 , and 0% .

depletion was observed between 50° and 60°N (Figure 6b) and predicted at 55°N (Figure 7b). There are some differences between the modeled and BUV ozone depletion: (1) the BUV ozone depletion has more structure than seen in the 2-D model computation, indicating that the atmosphere is not yet uniformly zonally mixed from the initial ozone depletion which occurs in the geomagnetic polar cap region (greater than 60° geomagnetic latitude) and (2) the BUV ozone depletion at higher altitudes (above 50 km) is larger and persists for a longer period of time than indicated in the model predictions.

Figures 8a and 8b illustrate the modeled ozone depletion at 75°S and 55°S , respectively. The model at 75°S shows over a 30% ozone depletion, while the model at 75°N indicates only about a 20% depletion. Also, the model at 75°S shows a large depletion near 60 km about a month after the August 1972 SPE. This depletion is caused by the downflux of the middle and upper mesospheric NO_y , created by the August 1972 SPE, to the lower mesosphere. These lower mesospheric effects are almost gone by day 250. The model at 55°S shows over a 20% ozone depletion about a month after the event, but the model at 55°N indicates between 5 and 10% depletion in the time period 20–60 days after the SPE. These results imply a large hemispheric difference in the level of ozone depletion.

Maeda and Heath [1980/1981] reported that the southern hemisphere did experience a larger ozone loss (more than a 40% reduction at 70°S) than did the northern hemisphere (a 16.5% reduction at 70°N), in fair agreement with our model

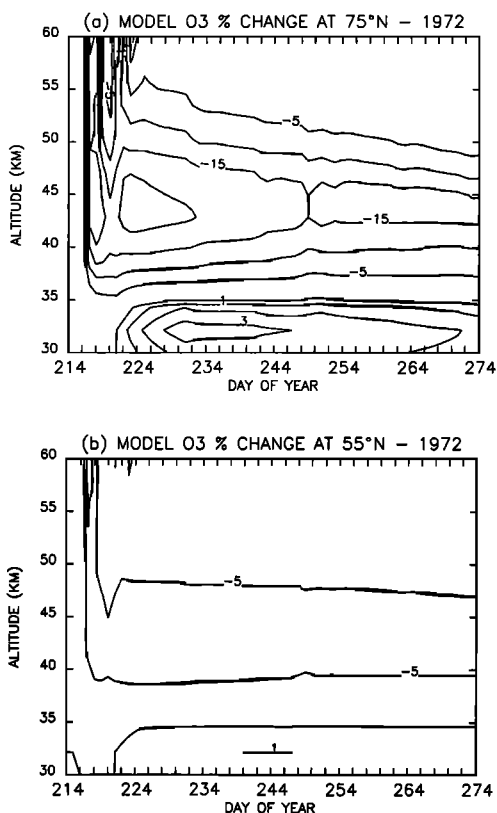


Fig. 7. Model predicted ozone percentage change as a function of day of year in 1972 for 60 days for (a) 75°N and (b) 55°N. The ozone change is a result of the August 1972 SPE and is given at the contour levels of -30, -20, -15, -10, -5, 0, +1, +2, and +3%.

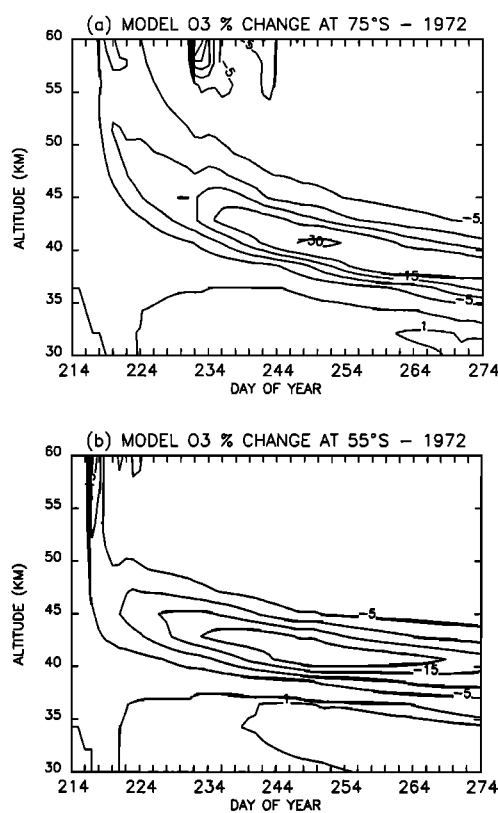


Fig. 8. Model predicted ozone percentage change as a function of day of year in 1972 for 60 days for (a) 75°S and (b) 55°S. The ozone change is a result of the August 1972 SPE and is given at the contour levels of -30, -20, -15, -10, -5, 0, +1, +2, and +3%.

predictions. We have now reanalyzed the southern hemisphere data for comparison with the northern hemisphere results just discussed. Because ozone is far more variable in the winter (southern hemisphere) than in the summer (northern hemisphere) and because only a few orbits of ozone data were available each day, we cannot create graphs for the southern hemisphere complementary to those of Figures 6a and 6b. But if we compare weekly average ozone in zones 50°–60° and 60°–70° for the weeks immediately after the SPE with the weeks immediately before the SPE, we find that ozone between 2 and 10 mbar decreased more in the southern hemisphere than in the northern hemisphere but that the results are too uncertain to prove the existence of an interhemispheric difference.

This interhemispheric ozone depletion difference is caused by the different seasons which the two hemispheres are experiencing during and after the August 1972 SPE. SPE-produced NO_y in winter has a far greater effect on ambient NO_y amounts and therefore on ozone levels than does SPE-produced NO_y in summer. Not only are the background NO_y amounts less in winter, but the lifetime of NO_y is longer in winter than in summer, and the transport is directed downward in winter to regions of even longer lifetimes for NO_y (see discussion earlier and Jackman and Meade [1988] for more details of SPE effects on NO_y amounts).

A longer-term picture of the ozone depletion as well as the NO_y enhancement with time is shown in Figures 9 and 10 where the ozone and NO_y changes are given for a 1-year time period from day 210 in year 1972 to day 210 in year 1973 for latitudes 75°N and 75°S. The output for Figures 9 and 10

was taken every 10 days rather than every day (used for Figures 7 and 8); thus some of the structure in the ozone depletion (see Figures 9a and 10a) will not be quite the same as that observed in Figures 7a and 8a. The ozone-depleted air is slowly transported downward to lower altitudes with time and gradually dissipates. The depletion is only as large as about 6% at pressure 10 mbar (~32 km) by day 30 of year 1973 for both 75°N and 75°S. Our computations suggest that the ozone depletion is simply a reflection of the NO_y enhancement (see Figures 9 and 10), even for months after the event. The NO_y increase is gradually diluted by transport of NO_y from lower latitudes, and the ozone depletion gradually disappears over several months to a year.

Total ozone change due to the August 1972 SPE is represented in Figure 11 for the time period days 210–360 in year 1972. Ozone changes of slightly greater than 1% are observed at only the highest latitudes. The largest ozone depletion in the northern hemisphere occurs at 85°N during or slightly after the SPE, and the largest ozone depletion in the southern hemisphere occurs at 85°S about a month after the SPE, consistent with the interhemispheric differences in the ozone profiles (discussed above). The possibility of observing a change of this magnitude in the total column ozone data is remote because of the large daily fluctuations that accompany total ozone data at high latitudes.

SENSITIVITY STUDIES

We carried out three sensitivity studies which will be discussed. The first sensitivity study was undertaken to

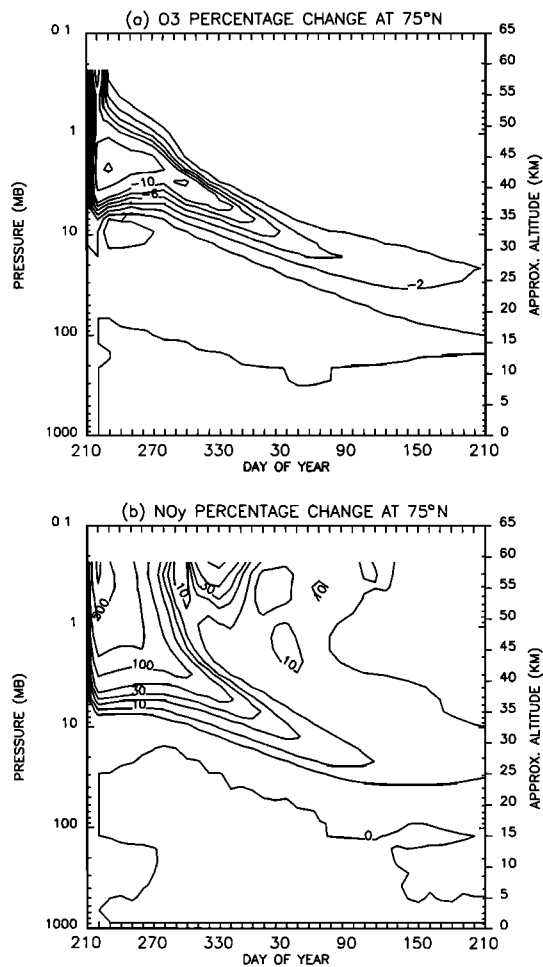


Fig. 9. Model predicted (a) ozone and (b) NO_y percentage change as a function of day of year for 75°N for one year from day 210 of year 1972 to day 210 of year 1973. Both ozone and NO_y changes are a result of the August 1972 SPE. The ozone changes are given at the contour levels of -30 , -20 , -15 , -10 , -8 , -6 , -4 , -2 , 0 , and $+2\%$, and the NO_y changes are given at the contour levels of 0 , 5 , 10 , 20 , 30 , 50 , 100 , 200 , 500 , and 1000% .

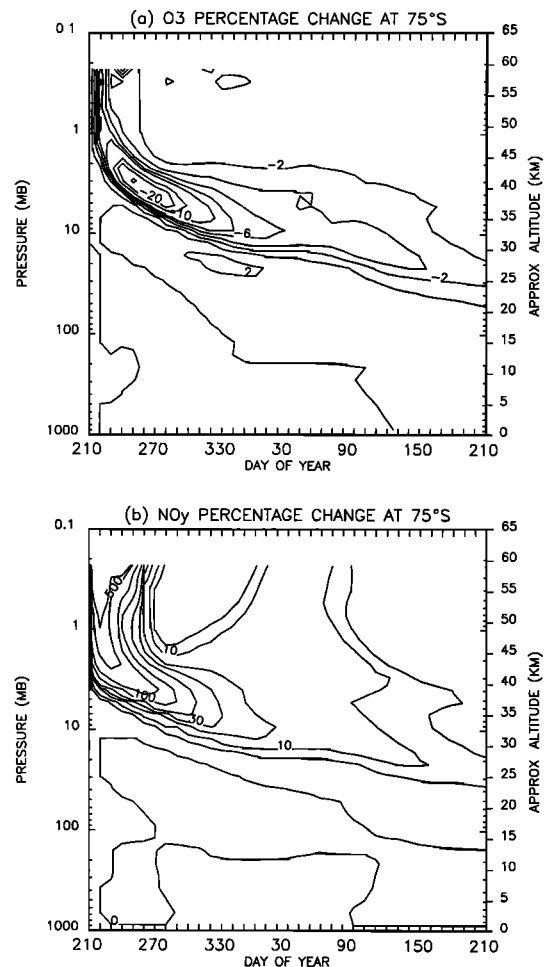


Fig. 10. Model predicted (a) ozone and (b) NO_y percentage change as a function of day of year for 75°S for one year from day 210 of year 1972 to day 210 of year 1973. Both ozone and NO_y changes are a result of the August 1972 SPE. The ozone changes are given at the contour levels of -20 , -15 , -10 , -8 , -6 , -4 , -2 , 0 and $+2\%$, and the NO_y changes are given at the contour levels of 0 , 5 , 10 , 20 , 30 , 50 , 100 , 200 , 500 , and 1000% .

determine the influence of NO_x produced above 66 km on NO_y and on O_3 below 60 km. We wanted to determine the influence of the middle and upper mesosphere, where the transport fields may be uncertain (see discussion in the section on two-dimensional model description) on the lower mesosphere and stratosphere. For this study we completed a model simulation of the August 1972 SPE for 1 year and input the NO_x produced from this event only at altitudes above 66 km. When the results of this sensitivity study were compared with the results of our base model simulation for the August 1972 SPE, we found that (1) the percentage contribution from NO_x produced above 66 km to the NO_y change could be over 50% at levels above 2 mbar for both hemispheres, (2) by 10 mbar the percentage contribution from the NO_x produced above 66 km to the NO_y change was less than 10% for both hemispheres, (3) the percentage contribution from NO_x produced above 66 km to O_3 change was similar to that found for NO_y , except with slightly smaller percentages represented. This implies that the large O_3 depletions below 40 km (~ 3 mbar), where NO_x chemistry is dominant, are predominantly caused by the NO_y created

below 66 km, where the 2-D model results are probably most reliable.

Model computations indicate fairly good agreement with ozone data for the SPE-induced ozone depletion caused by NO_y species connected with the August 1972 SPE. One difference that needs to be investigated is that the BUW ozone depletion at higher altitudes (above 50 km) is larger and persists for a longer period of time than indicated in the model predictions. Two sensitivity studies were proposed to investigate this difference between model predictions and observations and are discussed below.

It is possible that in our model some atmospheric constituents are being transported from the upper mesosphere or stratosphere to the lower mesosphere but that this is not happening in the Earth's atmosphere. We investigate this concern with a sensitivity study in which no winds or diffusion are allowed in the model. This model experiment is totally unrealistic; however, it does illustrate the influence of transport on our results. The model results from this sensitivity study for the northern hemisphere are very similar to our model results presented in Figure 7. We do find, how-

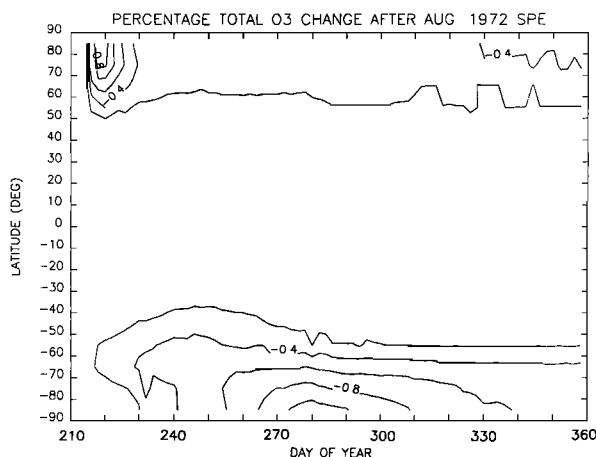


Fig. 11. Model predicted total ozone percentage change as a function of day of year for 1 year from day 210 of year 1972 to day 210 of year 1973. Contour levels represented are -1 , -0.8 , -0.6 , -0.4 , and -0.2% .

ever, that the ozone-depleted air in this model experiment is not being transported to lower altitudes in the northern hemisphere as indicated in Figures 9 and 10. Model results in this sensitivity study for the southern hemisphere differ somewhat from our model results presented in Figure 8. Transport is very important in the 60 days presented for 55° and 75° S. The large ozone depletion observed in Figure 8b is a result of NO_y transport; thus with no winds or diffusion the ozone depletion is predicted to be only between 5 and 10%, and not the 30% presented in Figure 8b. The depletion at 75° S is about the same in this sensitivity study than shown in Figure 8a.

It is equally likely that in our model some atmospheric constituents are not being transported from the upper mesosphere or stratosphere to the lower mesosphere but that this is happening in the Earth's atmosphere. We investigate this concern with a sensitivity study in which the vertical diffusion is increased by a factor of 20 from 10 to 1 mbar (increasing from 2×10^3 to $4 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$) with a constant value of $4 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for altitudes above 1 mbar. Again, the values in the northern hemisphere are similar in this sensitivity study when compared to the base case. Less ozone depletion was predicted in this sensitivity study than observed in the base case for the southern hemisphere, however, the differences between the two studies are small.

Both sensitivity studies gave a smaller ozone depletion in the lower mesosphere than was observed in the data, the same as indicated in our base model simulation. These two sensitivity studies do not span all possible uncertainties in our 2-D model, but they do represent two extreme computations which indicate that it may be difficult to resolve easily the model-observation disagreement in the lower mesosphere. This disagreement between model predictions and satellite observations may be related to the ozone depletion problem noted earlier and discussed by Jackman and McPeters [1985]. They showed that model computations of ozone depletion in the lower mesosphere/upper stratosphere were less than indicated in the observations of ozone depletion by the Nimbus 7 SBUV instrument.

This model prediction problem may also be related to the classical problem that models tend to have in predicting

ozone amounts in the upper stratosphere. Models tend to predict less ozone than observed or, equivalently, models constrained by observations predict more ozone loss than production in the ozone photochemical region which is located in the upper stratosphere at the low to middle latitudes [e.g., Wofsy, 1978; Butler, 1978; Frederick *et al.*, 1978; Johnston and Podolske, 1978; Jackman *et al.*, 1986; Natarajan and Callis, 1989; McElroy and Salawitch, 1989]. This discrepancy implies that we have something missing or incorrect in our photochemical description of the upper stratosphere; for instance, there could be a missing important reaction, an incorrect photodissociation or reaction rate, a missing important species, a combination of the above, or perhaps some other model simulation problem. Future observations of ozone depletion and NO_y or HO_x enhancements during SPEs may help in the resolution of this model-observation disagreement.

ANTARCTIC NITRATE DEPOSITION

The deposition of trace molecules in the surface ice sheet in both the northern and southern hemisphere is an intriguing problem. The southern hemisphere ice cores are characterized by large spikes in the nitrate (NO_3^-) concentration. These spikes could come from any of a variety of terrestrial and extraterrestrial sources [see Zeller and Parker, 1981, pp. 896–897]. Zeller *et al.* [1986] have indicated that the August 1972 SPE is observable in the nitrate deposition data. Earlier calculations [Jackman and McPeters, 1987] showed that enough NO_y was produced in the August 1972 SPE to possibly generate a detectable signal in the ice core. In this study we propose a viable mechanism for communicating enhanced amounts of stratospheric NO_y to the ground and further investigate the possibility of the August 1972 SPE event being observed in the Antarctic ice cores.

The mechanism and model studies are described in detail in the appendix. The mechanism requires the heterogeneous processes that are important in the formation of the Antarctic ozone hole. Basically, the NO_y produced by SPEs is transported downward to the lower stratosphere, removed from the gas phase by heterogeneous processes, and then precipitated into the troposphere and subsequently to the ground.

Performing model studies and then invoking the maximum possible ice deposition does not provide for an NO_y enhancement in the ice core that agrees with the observations of Zeller *et al.* [1986]. The maximum NO_y enhancement that is calculated is $1.6 \times 10^{15} \text{ molecules cm}^{-2}$ at 75° S, which is a 10.6% increase in NO_y above the model background. If the entire amount was transported to the ground within 1 month, the nitrate flux could be as large as $1.6 \text{ mg NO}_3^- \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$, in reasonable agreement with Zeller *et al.* [1986]. However, the nitrate maximum can only be 10.6% above the background and enhancements measured by Zeller *et al.* are 400% above background. Therefore our model suggests that the correlation of the spike with the August 1972 SPE is fortuitous and that the spike has a different origin.

A complementary study of the effects of solar cycle variations on stratospheric odd nitrogen and the possible geochemical implications in Antarctic nitrate flux was recently published by Legrand *et al.* [1989]. Legrand *et al.* [1989] studied the effect of solar cycle variations in ultraviolet radiation, thermospheric and mesospheric NO_x down-

ward transport, and galactic cosmic rays on stratospheric NO_y . They concluded that the net solar cycle changes in stratospheric NO_y are fairly modest (3–7%) and that these changes are not sufficient to account for the solar cycle variation in Antarctic nitrate flux indicated by Zeller and Parker [1981].

We suggest that the solar cycle variation in nitrate flux [Zeller and Parker, 1981] and the spike in 1972 [Zeller et al., 1986] are perhaps indications of other atmospheric effects, such as cold temperatures in the lower stratosphere or tropospheric meteorological variation in the Antarctic.

CONCLUSIONS

It would be useful to compare these detailed studies with another large SPE similar in magnitude to the August 1972 SPE, perhaps one that occurs during the current solar active period. Since NO_y constituents are responsible for most of the ozone loss in the stratosphere [Jackman et al., 1986], this type of comparison is useful for further validation of NO_y -ozone-related photochemistry.

Our model computations indicate that NO_y will not be substantially changed over a solar cycle by SPEs. Significant SPEs last only 1–5 days, tend to occur near solar maximum, and are typically months to years apart; thus the NO_y produced by SPEs does not, in general, build up. The NO_y changes caused by the SPEs are mainly at high latitudes and are on time scales of several months (most SPEs) to a year (August 1972 SPE), after which NO_y relaxes to its ambient levels. Fractional ozone changes are even smaller than the fractional NO_y changes and are significant only for the August 1972 SPE. Ozone, like NO_y , returns to its ambient levels on time scales of several months to a year.

We presented a mechanism whereby NO_y enhancements in the stratosphere can be communicated to the ground. Our computations of the SPE-related increase in the stratospheric NO_y abundance indicated that the correlation between the huge spikes in nitrate flux data and major SPEs should probably be regarded as fortuitous.

APPENDIX: ANTARCTIC NITRATE DEPOSITION

Episodic spikes of nitrate in Arctic and Antarctic ice cores have been attributed to a variety of sources ranging from biological fixation, to supernovae, to solar activity [Zeller and Parker, 1981]. A major problem with the deposition of reactive stratospheric nitrogen compounds in the Antarctic ice pack has been the lack of any viable mechanism to communicate stratospheric air to the troposphere and subsequently to the surface on the necessary time scales. Zeller et al. [1986] show a nitrate peak 4 months after the 1972 SPE and attribute the peak to the SPE. In this appendix we propose a mechanism based on the 1987 Antarctic Airborne Ozone Experiment (AAOE) observations. Then, using the model, we investigate the possibility that the peak is caused by the SPE.

Communication Mechanism

The AAOE data revealed that the wintertime polar vortex is isolated from the rest of the hemisphere and contains very low values of N_2O [e.g., Loewenstein et al., 1989]. The values of N_2O within the vortex are approximately one half of the values found just outside the vortex. These low values

within the vortex are typical of higher altitudes and are an indication that significant subsidence has taken place during the polar night. The AAOE results suggest that there is a downward displacement of polar air of the order of 5–10 km in the lower stratosphere. Qualitatively similar results have been found in the recent Airborne Arctic Stratospheric Expedition.

These large vertical displacements could be the first step in moving SPE-generated NO_y enhancements toward the ground. However, there is no indication that this downward motion would move the NO_y out of the stratosphere and into the troposphere. Therefore other steps are needed if the NO_y is to get to the ground.

The same heterogeneous mechanisms that are responsible for the formation of the Antarctic ozone hole can provide the next step. The current understanding of this mechanism is the formation of large water particles that scavenge out the reactive nitrogen compounds. These particles then precipitate out of the lower stratosphere, leaving the lower stratosphere depleted in reactive nitrogen and enhanced in reactive chlorine. The formation of water clouds in the stratosphere requires very low temperatures.

The AAOE data, therefore, suggest that the downward motion of NO_y -rich air, followed by the precipitation of NO_y -rich particles to the troposphere, followed by deposition of nitrate containing ice at the surface, could communicate the SPE event to the ground. The mechanism would be active in winter and spring and should work on the time scale of months. Of course, this mechanism would move the background NO_y as well as any SPE enhancement.

Given the above mechanism, there are several implications on nitrate deposition in the polar ice caps:

1. Temperatures in the northern hemisphere winter polar vortex are warmer than in the southern hemisphere. The temperatures do not regularly get cold enough to form water droplets, and there is no precipitation of nitrate-enriched air out of the stratosphere. Therefore spikes of extraterrestrial origin are not expected in the northern hemisphere.

2. Given the time scales of months for the existence of SPE-enhanced air, the effect of any particular SPE on ice cap deposition would be a strong function of the season in which the SPE occurred. For instance, the mechanism for downward displacement and precipitation would not occur during the summer, and an SPE in January would go largely unnoticed in the southern hemisphere ice cores.

3. The mechanism depends strongly on temperature and water vapor concentrations.

4. The spikes in the ice core may be entirely of terrestrial origin and simply markers of atmospheric processes (e.g., low stratospheric temperatures leading to cloud formation).

Given these possibilities, it is worth noting that 30 and 50 mbar temperatures during austral spring in 1972 at the south pole were the coldest observed prior to the 1980s and the formation of the ozone hole [Trenberth and Olson, 1989]. Therefore the 1972 ice core nitrate maximum could be related to these cold temperatures. However, other cold seasons and the very cold temperatures seen in the 1980s do not obviously correlate with nitrate spikes. Any relation of the nitrate spikes to stratospheric activity is not straightforward, and careful analysis of tropospheric and stratospheric meteorology is needed to understand their origin.

Model Studies

It is not possible to model fully the above mechanism within the current framework of the 2-D model because of the lack of heterogeneous (cloud) chemistry. However, the model transport fields can be altered to give a credible simulation of the AAOE observations. Then the maximum possible enhancement that the SPE could produce can be estimated. This section presents results from such experiments and, also, experiments that investigate the sensitivity of the results to the ion pair production by solar protons.

The model used in this study differs from the one used by *Jackman and McPeters* [1987]. Therefore we first investigate what the base model predicts about nitrate deposition. The model shows that the August 1972 SPE has enhanced the atmosphere in the year past the event between the ground and 10 mbar by a maximum of 4.4×10^{14} NO_y molecules cm⁻² (about a 3.5% increase) at 75°S. It is reasonable to assume that only a small fraction of the NO_y enhancement above 10 mbar will make it to the ground after a year past the event, and thus we ignore this upper stratospheric (above 10 mbar) component of the NO_y enhancement. The increase in NO_y between the ground and 10 mbar as a result of the August 1972 SPE corresponds to a maximum deposition of about 0.45 mg NO₃⁻ m⁻² month⁻¹ (assuming it is all deposited in a month). This can be compared to a value of approximately 1.5 mg NO₃⁻ m⁻² month⁻¹ above background from *Zeller et al.* [1986].

By setting the horizontal diffusion (K_{yy}) to zero for latitudes of ±65°, ±75°, and ±85°, it is possible to simulate the vortex isolation and downward motion observed during AAOE. This yields significantly more NO_y below 10 mbar in the year following the SPE event. The enhancement is 1.6×10^{15} NO_y molecules cm⁻² (about a 10.6% increase) at 75°S. With heterogeneous processes it is reasonable to assume that the entire signal can be transported to the ground. Therefore the nitrate flux could be as large as 1.6 mg NO₃⁻ m⁻² month⁻¹ (assuming it is all deposited in a month), which is in reasonable agreement with the observations of *Zeller et al.* [1986]. This computation pushes the NO_y enhancement of the ground nitrate flux to the limit.

The denitrification of lower stratospheric air by clouds would not act just on the SPE-enhanced NO_y but also on the background NO_y. Even with the reduced K_{yy} the NO_y increase due to the August 1972 event is only 10.6% above background. The enhancements of nitrate observed by *Zeller et al.* [1986] are 400% above background. Therefore our model suggests that the relationship of the spike with the August 1972 SPE is fortuitous.

It is also possible that errors exist in the specification of the N production by ion pairs. *Laird et al.* [1988] have argued that *Legrand and Delmas* [1986] did not observe a solar signal in the nitrate data because they did not take into account the possibility that SPEs produce more than 1.25 N atoms per ion pair. They discuss the possibility that SPE-produced N₂⁺ constituents will form water clusters and then nitrate in water clusters. Other studies have indicated that N₂⁺ will likely end up as O₂⁺ first and eventually a water cluster [*Frederick*, 1976; *Solomon et al.*, 1981] and not affect the NO_y abundance. *Jackman et al.* [1979] concluded that production rates larger than 1.5 NO_y per ion pair in the stratosphere are difficult to justify.

We have performed a study to investigate if a larger

production of NO_y per ion pair is reasonable. About the only possibility for N₂⁺ to affect NO_y directly in the stratosphere is through a dissociative recombination with an electron with the resultant formation of two N atoms. The reaction N₂⁺ + e⁻ → N* + N has a rate of $k_1 = 3 \times 10^{-7} (T/300)^{-0.2}$ cm³ s⁻¹ and the charge exchange reaction N₂⁺ + O₂ → O₂⁺ + N₂ has a rate of $k_2 = 2 \times 10^{-10}$ cm³ s⁻¹ (both rates taken from *Whitten and Poppoff* [1971, p. 251]). The August 1972 SPE was the largest in the past 22 years, with electron densities computed to be between 10⁴ and 10⁵ cm⁻³ s⁻¹ near 50 km [*Banks*, 1979]. At 50 km the O₂ number density is 5.6×10^{16} cm⁻³, and the temperature is about 260 K. We compare the two rates for N₂⁺ loss at 50 km by computing $k_1 e^- = 0.031$ s⁻¹, assuming $e^- = 10^5$ cm⁻³, an upper limit, and $k_2 O_2 = 1.1 \times 10^7$ s⁻¹. Clearly, the charge exchange reaction is several orders of magnitude faster than recombination for loss of N₂⁺ at 50 km. At lower altitudes the charge exchange is even more dominant. These calculations indicate that N₂⁺ will likely end up as O₂⁺ and eventually a water cluster through O₄⁺ to O₂⁺ · H₂O and not affect the NO_y abundance, which is in agreement with the conclusions of *Frederick* [1976] and *Solomon et al.* [1981].

We did complete a sensitivity study in which some extra production of N atoms from N₂⁺ recombination was input for the August 1972 SPE. For this model experiment we assume an NO_y production of 2.5 N atoms per ion pair (similar to that suggested by *Laird et al.* [1988]). This gave an NO_y enhancement between the ground and 10 mbar of 8.7×10^{14} NO_y molecules cm⁻² at 75°S, which translates into a maximum deposition of about 0.88 mg NO₃⁻ m⁻² month⁻¹ (assuming it is all deposited in a month). This nitrate deposition is still less than that observed by *Zeller et al.* [1986]. We found that the ozone depletion predicted from this model calculation was somewhat higher than indicated in the UV data for the northern hemisphere. At 75°N the maximum ozone decrease was computed to be 25–30%, compared to the 15–25% observed, and at 55°N the ozone decrease was computed to be 10–15%, compared to the 5–10% observed. We conclude from this study that a production of 2.5 N atoms per ion pair is probably too large.

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