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Overview of atmospheric conditions during the Smoke, Clouds, and Radiation–Brazil (SCAR-B) field experiment

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Abstract. The Smoke, Clouds, and Radiation–Brazil (SCAR–B) field experiment was conducted in central Brazil and southern Amazonia during the period August 15 to September 20, 1995. This paper presents an overview of atmospheric conditions during the SCAR–B period. A meteorological office was established in Brasília to support the mission flights and field activities. All the meteorological data collected during the SCAR–B have been archived and are available to the scientific community. The meteorological conditions throughout the SCAR–B period of August and September 1995 were near climatological conditions. Few synoptic-scale waves traveling from southeastern Pacific reached Brazil, therefore the SCAR–B period was characterized by long periods of low humidity, dryness, little cloudiness, or rain, and haze events. The stable situation was interrupted due to the penetration of a frontal system on September 20, 1995, and a second and more rain-producing one on September 28, 1995. Those two frontal systems in a period of 10 days brought an end to the dry season. Air particle trajectories show that most of the smoke below 4 km from Amazonia was transported to the south and then to the east exiting the continent at 25°S–30°S. Radiative transfer calculations carried out for the clear sky gaseous and aerosol atmosphere show the decrease of the solar radiation absorption in the atmosphere-surface system due to smoke aerosol loading at the value from 5 to 50 W m⁻² depending on the aerosol optical thickness, single-scattering albedo, and solar zenith angle.

1. Introduction

The Smoke, Clouds, and Radiation–Brazil (SCAR–B) field experiment, a joint research initiative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), which involved a number of Brazilian and U.S. institutions, took place over central Brazil and southern Amazonia during the period August 15 to September 20, 1995. An overview of SCAR–B is presented by *Kaufman et al.*, in this issue.

Meteorological support was provided during the field campaign. A meteorological support office was established in Brasília at the Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e Recursos Renováveis (IBAMA) and was staffed with meteorologists, using data from the Centro de Previsão do Tempo e Estudos Climáticos (CPTEC), of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE). One of the main goals of the office was to provide short- and medium-range weather forecasts to guide the aircraft missions. Additionally, a database of meteorological measurements collected during the field experiment was prepared to serve the SCAR–B scientific community in need of atmospheric information to interpret their data.

This paper describes the atmospheric conditions during the SCAR–B field experiment. It reviews the prevailing long-term mean atmospheric systems during the southern hemisphere (SH) winter over tropical South America and shows the main circulation features of August and September 1995. It dis-

cusses the synoptic conditions at the end of September 1995 which, with the occurrence of the first seasonal rains in central and southeastern Brazil, determined the end of the mission. Lastly, it includes a calculation of air particle trajectories during the SCAR–B period and also a calculation of the radiative effect of smoke aerosols on the radiation balance of the atmosphere and at the surface.

2. Data Sources

Weather forecasts were elaborated using conventional observations, such as surface station and radiosounding airport data, from Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INMET) and Departamento de Eletrônica e Proteção ao Voo (DEPV). In addition, the following data from Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models were used: CPTEC's global model and National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) operational models, The Medium-Range Forecast (MRF) and aviation (AVN). The AVN refers to the aviation model, which is identical to the MRF except that it runs from 1200 UTC data with an earlier data cutoff time and forecast only out to 72 hours. The satellite images used during the experiment are from various sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), and METEOSAT. The University of Wisconsin provided GOES images at visible and infrared channels, with fire descriptions, smoke plumes, and 850 hPa circulation trajectories. The SCAR–B meteorological data sets are available from CPTEC's public domain, as described in Figure 1, organized in the following manner: CPTEC numerical weather forecast from 0000 and 1200 UTC are zonal and

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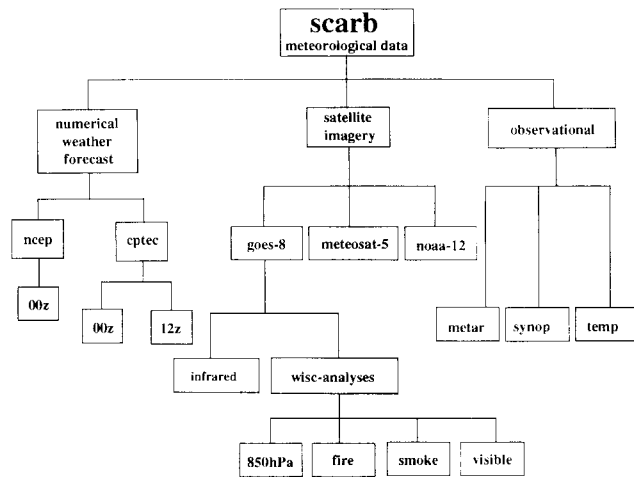


Figure 1. Box diagram of the SCAR-B directory organization, available at CPTEC public domain (yabac.cptec.inpe.br.).

meridional winds (m s^{-1}); vertical velocity (Pa s^{-1}); stream function ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$); velocity potential ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$); geopotential height (m); absolute temperature (K); relative and specific humidities at 1000, 850, 700, 500, 300, and 200 hPa; surface temperature (K); and sea level pressure (hPa). These 24–120 hour forecasts are available for the area 60°S to 15°N and 100°W to 10°W , with a horizontal resolution of $1.875^\circ \times 1.875^\circ$. NCEP products from 0000 UTC are geopotential height (m) at 1000, 700, 500, and 300 hPa; relative humidity at 1000, 850 and 700 hPa; zonal and meridional winds (m s^{-1}) at 850, 500, and 250 hPa; sea level pressure (hPa); absolute vorticity (s^{-1}) at 500 hPa; and absolute temperature (K). These analyses and 24–120 hour forecasts are available for the area 90°S to equator and 120°W to 10°W , with a horizontal resolution of $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$. From the GOES 8 satellite there are two types of products: daily infrared and analyzed images from University of Wisconsin; stream function at 850 hPa, fire pixels, smoke trajectory field, and visible channel showing the smoke/clouds mixing. In addition, infrared Meteosat 5 and visible NOAA 12 images are available. Conventional observational data are hourly airport (METAR) and meteorological surface station (SYNOP) reports and twice daily tropospheric sounding (TEMP), except for Alta Floresta (9.52°S , 56.0°W), where there are soundings every 3 hours from August 17 to 30, 1995.

3. Long-Term Mean Features of SH Winter Circulation and Precipitation over Tropical South America

The main large-scale circulation features of SH winter over tropical South America are illustrated schematically in Plate 1: the quasi-stationary Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the tropical Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and associated convective activity in northwestern South America (Colombia, Venezuela) and Central America, the transient frontal systems (FSs) with their associated cold fronts at the surface in temperate and subtropical South America, and the South Atlantic Subtropical High (SASH) pressure system.

The variability of precipitation over central tropical South America is dominated by clear seasonal cycle with the rainy season during the SH spring and summer and the dry season during the winter and autumn. Most of central South America

receives scanty rainfall during winter. During the dry season period of SCAR-B, precipitation maxima occur over Colombia, Venezuela, Central America, and over the ITCZ of both the tropical Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. The equatorial belt of low pressures associated with the ITCZ exhibits a seasonal cycle in the meridional displacement which lags 3–4 months the maximum of solar heating. During August it reaches its northernmost position at about 10°N , associated to maximum sea surface temperatures (SST). Precipitation falls off rapidly south of the equator in SH winter.

Winter marks the time of the year when the upper tropospheric subtropical jet is stronger and further equatorward over South America. Atmospheric heating over the ITCZ creates the descending branch in the subtropics at the latitude of the jet stream. During this season the subtropical anticyclonic high pressure in the South Atlantic is centered farther to the west, reaches its annual peak (around 1024 hPa), and exhibits a westward extension of high pressures toward the continent over Brazil. Episodes of extremely low values of relative humidity over central South America during winter (relative humidity values as low as 15% are observed) can only be explained by large-scale subsidence of upper tropospheric dry air [Figueroa and Nobre, 1990]. It is noteworthy that the dryness of the air over central Brazil and southern Amazon during this season is an important factor in biomass burning.

The stable troposphere with light to moderate easterly winds and moderate temperatures, which dominates much of central South America during the SH winter, is related to the SASH circulation. The center of the SASH moves seasonally to the east over the Atlantic Ocean in the summer and to the west toward the continent in the winter, when the SASH ridge increases from the center to the border, with easterly winds on the eastern, central, and northern SCAR-B regions. West of the SCAR-B area, lowest-level winds are lighter, temperatures are higher, and pressures are lower.

The annual cycle of precipitation over southern Amazonia and central Brazil shows an interesting feature. According to Figueroa and Nobre [1990] by the end of August, convection starts to migrate in the Amazon Basin toward its western position over Brazil and Peru and keeps its southward migration to the end of September. By that time, moderate convection is also observed over southeastern Brazil. At the end of September the two systems merge and a well-defined band of convection-oriented NW-SE is established. During this transition, the typical circulation systems of the SH summer are also established: the subtropical jet is displaced to the south and the upper tropospheric Bolivian high is formed, as well as the so-called South Atlantic Convergence Zone (SACZ) and the low-level moisture-laden jet transporting moisture from Amazonia to subtropical South America, typically Paraguay and northern Argentina, favoring the establishment of convective complexes.

In general, the rainy season starts in August over the western portion of Brazil, in September from Mato Grosso to São Paulo and in October for areas farther to the northeast. The onset of the rainy season can last for a maximum period of a month, but the transition between winter dry conditions to summer wet conditions can be sometimes very swift, occurring in only 5 days [Kousky, 1988; Horel et al., 1989]. The date of the onset of the rainy season also shows large interannual variability [Sugahara, 1991; D'Almeida and Grimm, 1996]. The mechanisms which cause the large interannual variability of the

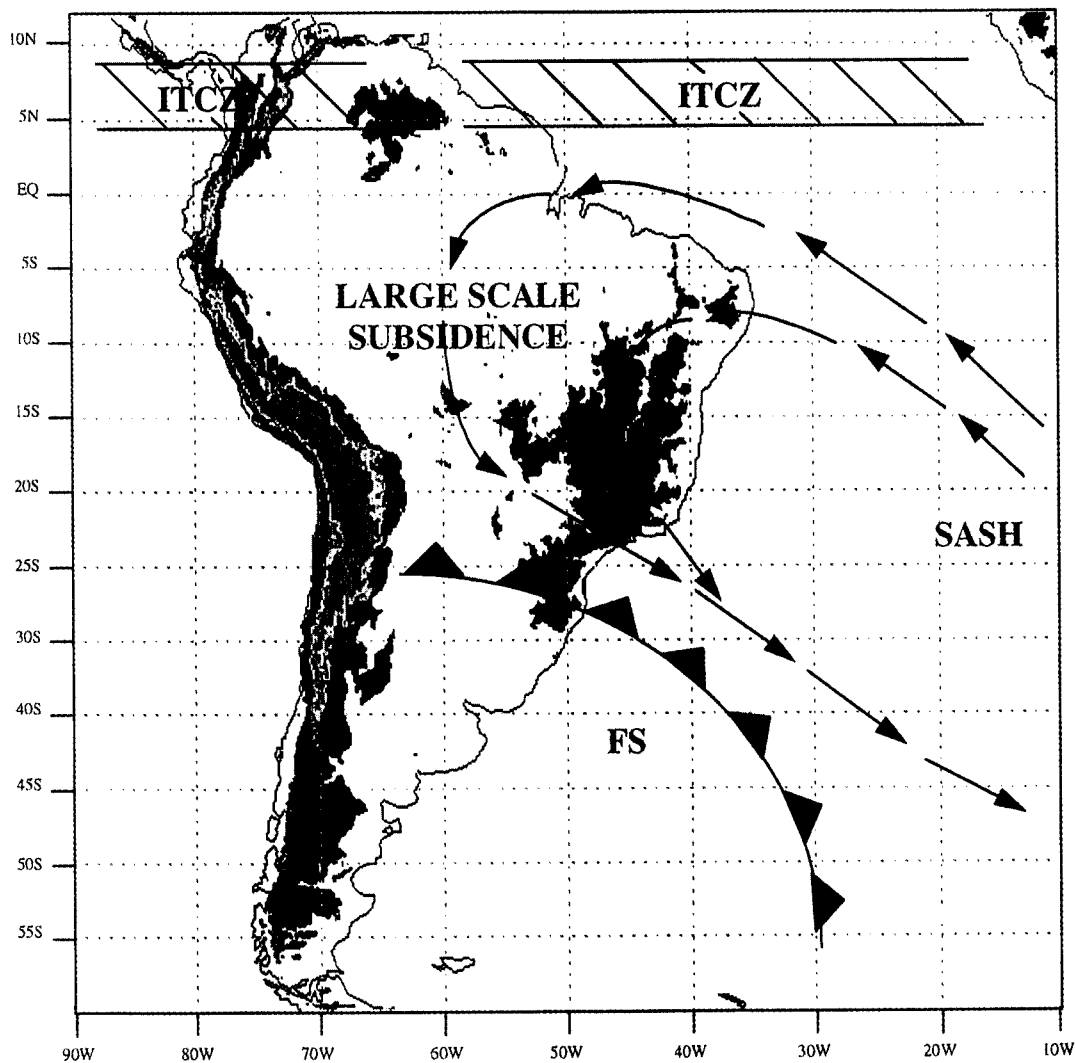


Plate 1. Main SH winter systems in SCAR-B area.

set of the rainy season and reasons for the abrupt transition are not yet been explained.

A large portion of the intraseasonal variability of rainfall over Brazil throughout the year is associated to the penetration of cold fronts originating in midlatitudes. The trajectory of the frontal systems over South America follows two distinct seasonal patterns. Their summer propagation is slower and characterized by greater convective activity due to complex interactions between the transient, synoptic-scale waves and the quasi-stationary systems: Bolivian high and the SACZ [Figueroa, 1997]. The winter frontal systems move faster and take more zonal trajectories farther to the south. These systems do not induce appreciable convective activity over central and southeastern Brazil but, occasionally, cause strong equatorward cold air advection, which further stabilizes the lower atmosphere over central Brazil and southern Amazonia.

During winter the synoptic-scale waves follow a more zonal trajectory primarily over the southeastern Pacific along the latitudes of the subtropical (30°S) and subpolar (50°S) jets. After penetrating over the extratropical South America they amplify meridionally at the same time that they propagate to the northeast [Berbery and Vera, 1996]. Gan and Rao [1994] investigated the influence of the Andes on transient disturbances. Their analyses show that waves approaching the Andes

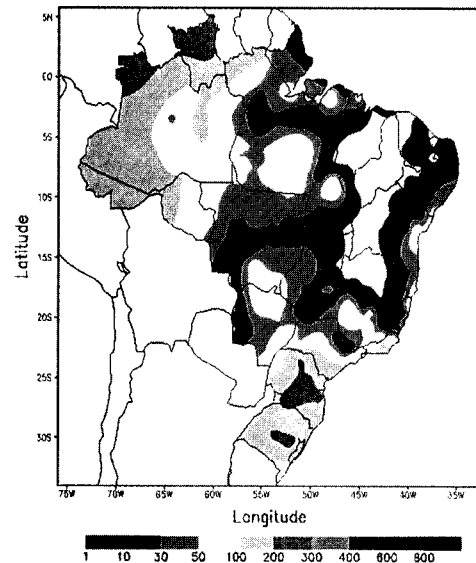
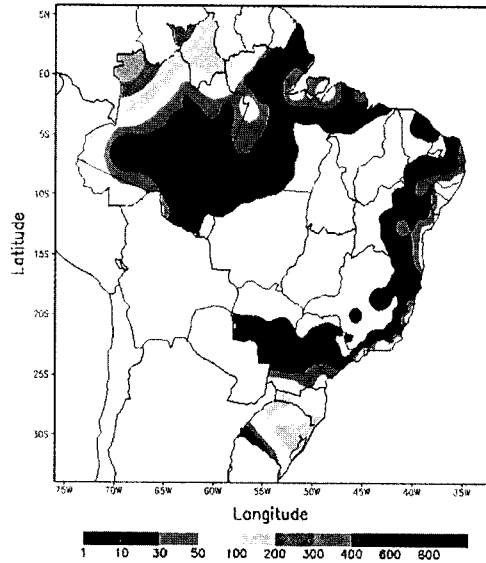
turn anticyclonically at low levels and exhibit zonal trajectory at upper levels, which implies a decrease in the vertical tilt of the system on the windward side and an increase in the tilt on the lee side, resulting in increased baroclinicity on the lee side and lee cyclogenesis. The frontal systems associated to these waves propagate rapidly during the winter over regions of low humidity and longwave radiation losses mainly over central and central western Brazil. Sometimes in SH winter these waves bring cold air from higher latitudes into Amazonia, producing a sharp drop of surface temperatures known as "Friagens" [Parmenter, 1976; Marengo *et al.*, 1997]. Another common feature of these SH winter waves is that they produce very little precipitation (convective or large-scale precipitation). Starting in the SH spring, the frontal systems continue to propagate over Brazil, but they move more slowly and they are very important in organizing regional convection [Kousky and Molion, 1981; Oliveira and Nobre, 1986; Figueroa, 1997]. The SACZ is a zone where frontal systems become climatologically quasi-stationary [Kodama, 1992; Kousky, 1979; Figueroa, 1997]. The penetration of these systems enhance the conditions which determine the positioning and intensity of the SACZ as the locus of convergence of cold air from the south and moisture-laden air from Amazonia.

PRECIPITATION (mm)

Total

(a) Aug

(b) Sep



Anomalies

(c)

(d)

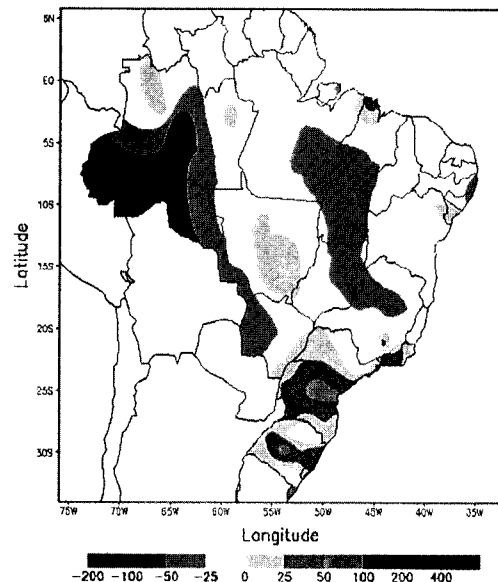
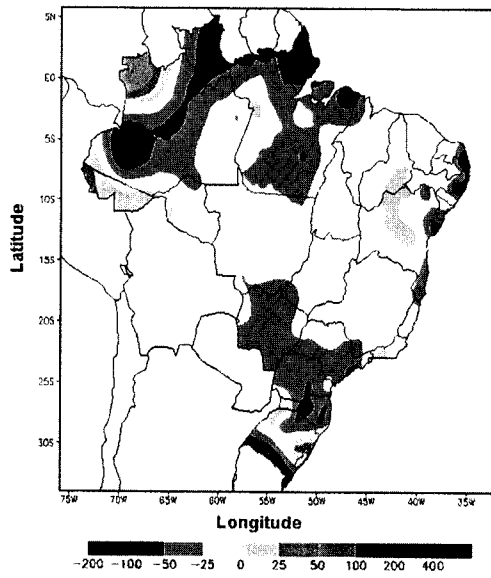


Plate 2. Total precipitation (mm) in 1995: (a) August, (b) September, (c) August anomalies, and (d) September anomalies.

4. Atmospheric Conditions in August and September 1995

4.1. Mean Atmospheric Conditions

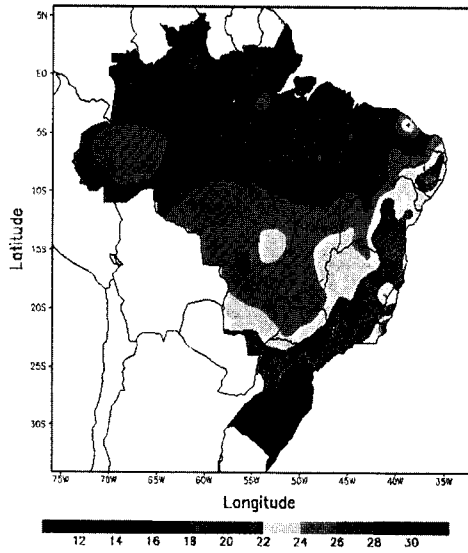
The large-scale conditions in the Tropical Pacific Ocean during SCAR-B showed the existence of a moderate cold

southern oscillation (SO) phase. In March–April 1995 the SST anomalies changed from positive to negative, breaking a long period of warm, El Niño-like conditions that started in 1991. It has to be remarked, however, that most of central and southeastern Brazil are not affected significantly by either phase of

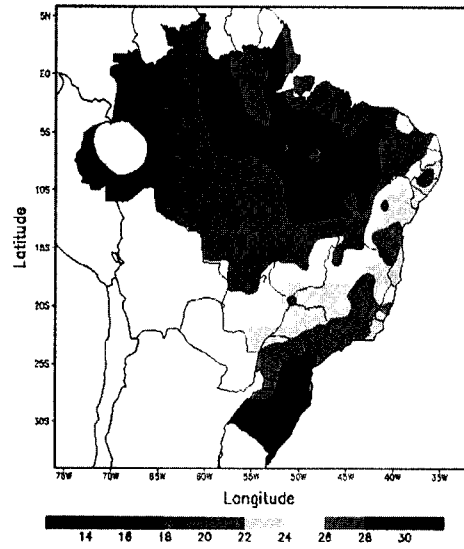
TEMPERATURE (°C)

Mean fields

(a) Aug

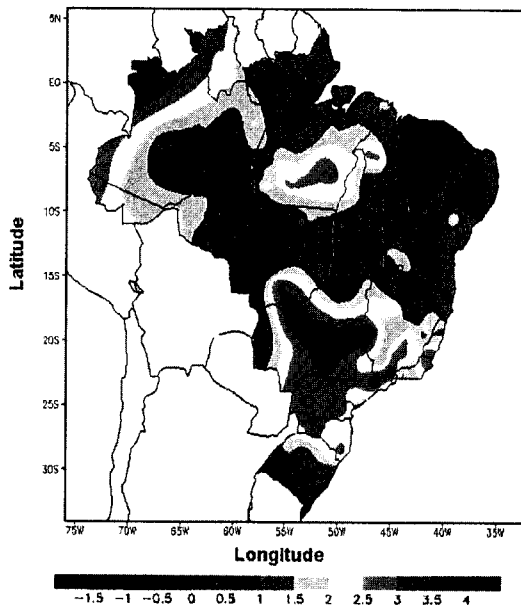


(b) Sep



Anomalies

(c)



(d)

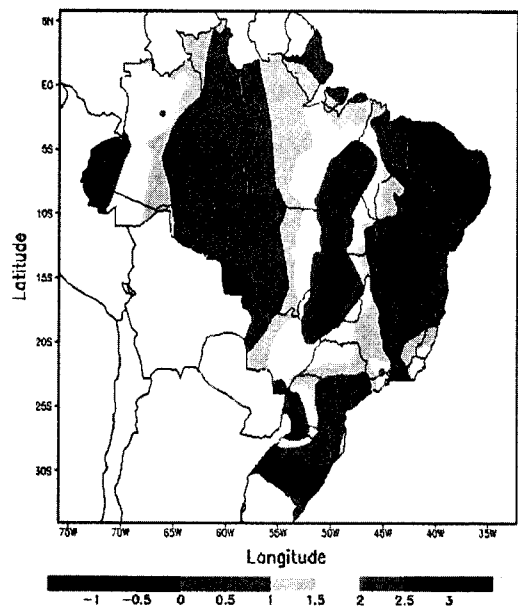


Plate 3. Mean temperature (°C) in 1995: (a) August, (b) September, (c) August anomalies, and (d) September anomalies.

BACKWARD TRAJECTORIES OF AIR PARTICLES

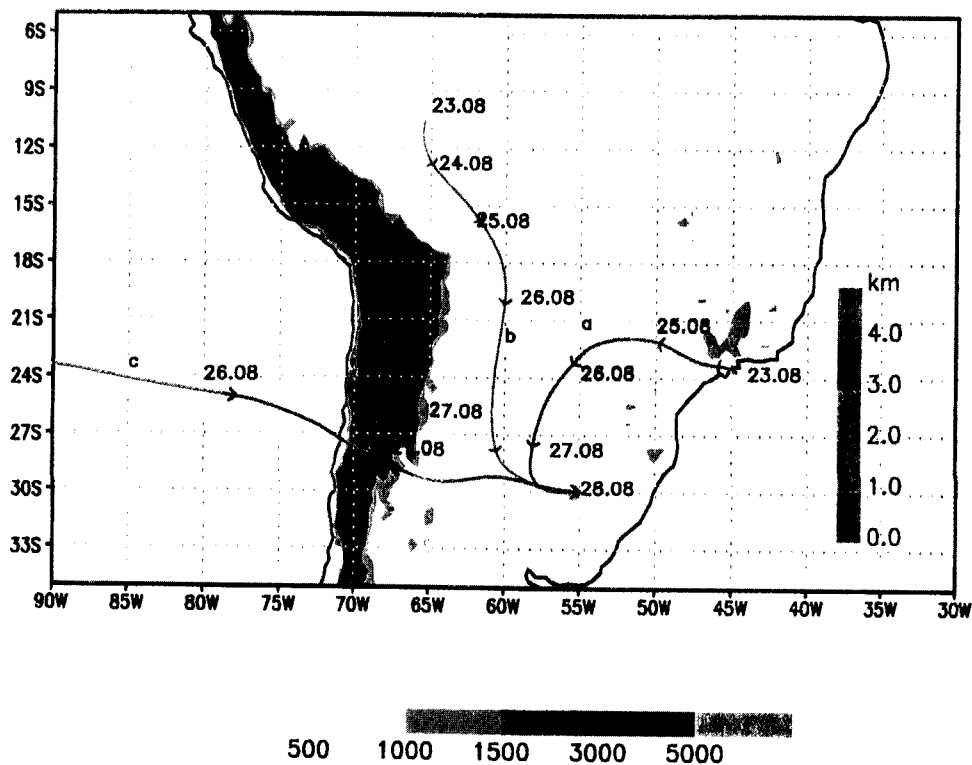


Plate 4. Backward trajectories of air particles on the isentropic surfaces (a) 305 K, (b) 308 K, and (c) 315 K for period from August 23, 1995, to August 28, 1995. The vertical bar shows trajectory altitude in kilometers. The horizontal bar indicates topography height in meters.

the SO, except by colder (warmer) winter temperatures in the strong cold (warm) SO phase [CPTEC/INPE, 1996].

FS blocking at hemispheric scale was observed since July 1995 as identified by persistent positive geopotential height anomalies at 500 hPa in the South Pacific Ocean [CPTEC/INPE, 1995a]. This blocking lasted through August and has led to drought conditions in Argentina, as pointed out by Nuñez et

al. [1996] and Alessandro and Liechtenstein, [1996], and in southern Brazil in August [Nascimento and Ambrizzi, 1996]. During the first 30 days of the experiment, when the lower troposphere anticyclone was dominant over the SCAR-B area, few cold fronts reached Brazil. The FS that managed to move farther equatorward soon were diverted to the South Atlantic Ocean, with its transient anticyclones merging with the SASH,

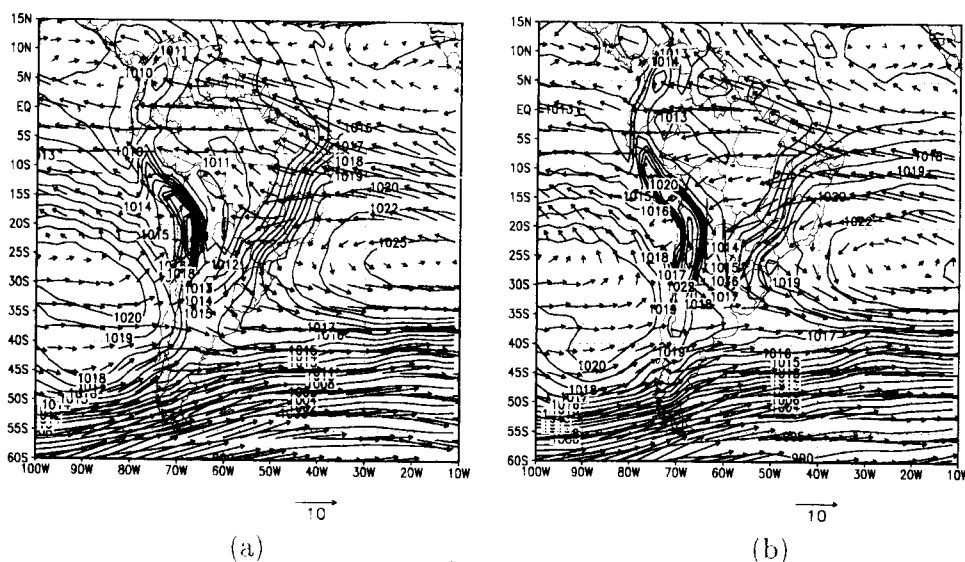


Figure 2. Averaged sea level pressure (hPa) and 850 hPa wind ($m s^{-1}$) during SCAR-B period: (a) 0000 and (b) 1200 UTC.

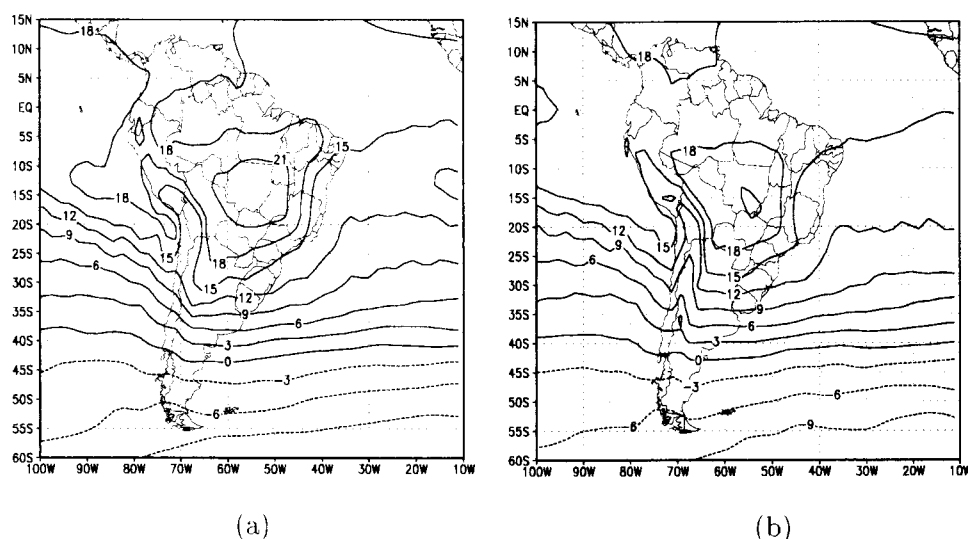


Figure 3. Averaged 850 hPa temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) during SCAR-B period: (a) 0000 and (b) 1200 UTC.

which was stronger than normal. The blocking situation varied during September 1995 [CPTEC/INPE, 1995b]. Daily synoptic analyses at the regional scale have shown that the blocking situation persisted from August 1 to September 15, 1995. After this date, cloudiness frequency and amount increased in the northern portion of the SCAR-B area. The end of the blocking event occurred due to the weakening of the subsidence induced by the SASH and to the easterly displacement of the midtropospheric anticyclone.

Most of the SCAR-B region received little precipitation (Table 2) in August and September, ranging from 0 to 100 mm for the 2 month totals, which is not far from long-term means for the dry season. There was virtually no rainfall in August and in the first three weeks in September in the SCAR-B area. This dry situation started to change toward the end of September when frontal systems caused the first rains of the season, putting an end to the dry conditions. Plate 3 shows the mean temperature and mean temperature anomalies for August and September 1995 with respect to the base period 1961–1990. In September, temperatures were up to 2.5°C warmer than 30 year (1961–1990) average in the SCAR-B area, consistent with the negative rainfall anomalies. In agreement with the long-term mean features, the weather conditions over the SCAR-B area were relatively stable during the SII winter, with reduced cloudiness and rainfall, increased haze, and low easterly winds. The pronounced dry season that occurred in all of the SCAR-B area can be accounted as partly responsible for the large number of fires observed in central Brazil, where total precipitation was less than 50 mm for those 20 months.

Figure 2 shows the sea level pressure and 850 hPa wind vectors, averaged for the SCAR-B period (August 16 to September 20, 1995) for 1200 and 0000 UTC. Figure 3 is similar but for the 850 hPa temperature based on CPTEC global NWP model analyses for the period. One can see the diurnal lowering of sea level pressure of 2–3 hPa and temperature increase over the SCAR-B area by comparing conditions at 0000 and 1200 UTC. This is due to diurnal heating of the continent.

During most of the SCAR-B period, there were no significant precipitation events in central Brazil for two reasons: firstly, absence of intense FS that could have brought episodic

rainfall, and secondly, the large-scale subsidence associated to the westward influence of the SASH. This condition leads to high concentrations of smoke and haze over central Brazil and southern Amazonia. The aerosol loading can be so high as to strongly affect visibility, resulting in closing of airports throughout the regions, as happened, for example, on August 22, 1995, at the Rio Branco (AC) Airport.

4.2. Significant Weather Events

The surface wind intensification, in the morning of September 5, 1995, at Brasilia Airport, causing cancelation of a programmed ER-2 aircraft takeoff, was forecasted by the CPTEC global NWP model. Figure 4a shows a 24 hour forecast of winds valid on September 5, 1995, at 1200 UTC, when surface wind speeds are in excess of 15 m s^{-1} over the eastern SCAR-B area. The forecast was verified by the surface observations (Table 1) and by the MRF analysis of September 5, 1995, at 1200 UTC shown in Figure 4b. The wind intensification was due to interactions with an FS. This FS caused little rain, and moved rapidly offshore of Santa Catarina on September 2, reached Rio de Janeiro on September 3, and Bahia on September 4, 1995 [CPTEC/INPE, 1995b]. The trailing high-pressure center (1035 hPa), located at $35^{\circ}\text{S}/35^{\circ}\text{W}$, was responsible for tightening the pressure gradient and thus the wind intensification farther inland on September 5, 1995.

The first FS that effectively organized convection and produced significant amounts of rainfall over central and southeastern Brazil occurred on September 20, and it was forecasted by the meteorological staff. The GOES infrared satellite image for September 20, 1995 (Figure 5) shows the typical NW-SE oriented band of convective cloudiness over the western SCAR-B area, produced by penetration of a cold front sweeping through southeastern Brazil. Figure 6 shows the vertical structure of the atmosphere before (September 19, 1995, at 0000 UTC) and after the penetration of the frontal system (September 20, 1995, at 0000 UTC) in Campo Grande. It shows the typical sharp drop in lower troposphere temperatures and a strong inversion layer up to 700 hPa.

This cold front passage and associated rainfall determined an earlier end to the SCAR-B aircraft flights, partly due to the difficulty to detect smoke from the SCAR-B region on the

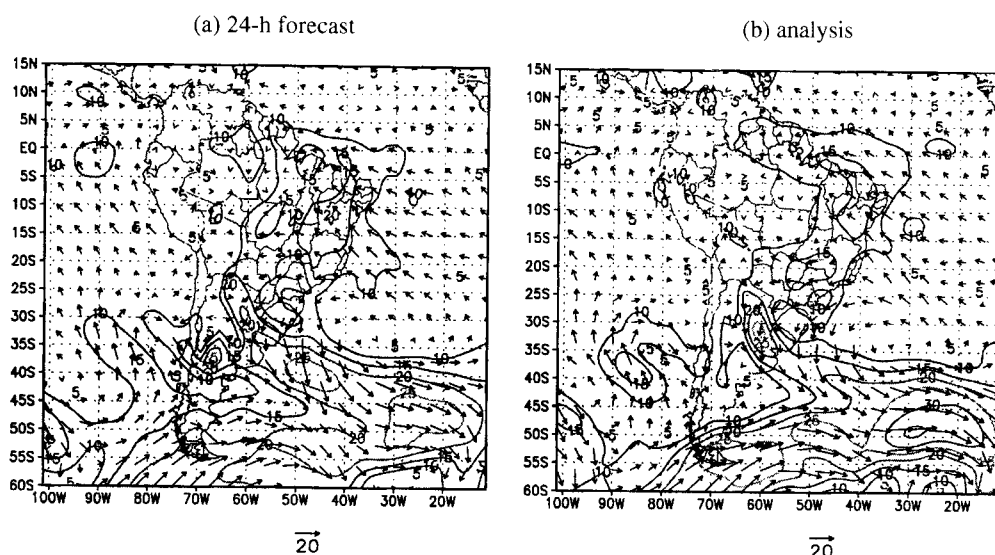


Figure 4. The 850 hPa horizontal wind field (m s^{-1}) at 1200 UTC, September 5, 1995: (a) CPTEC 24 hour forecast and (b) MRF analysis.

programed flight trajectories between Brasília and the Atlantic coast. Moreover, because of the dispersion of industrial pollutants from the Greater São Paulo area associated to the frontal passage, it was not recommended to continue the flights. A second major FS which organized convection swept through the region from September 28 to 30 and caused larger amounts of rainfall reaching up to 60 mm in 24 hours in Cuiabá. The two organized rainfall events (September 20–21 and 28–30) established the end of the dry season in most of the SCAR-B area. Only its northeastern sector remained dry until the end of September, which is consistent with the climatology of rainfall for that area where the rainy season starts in October–November.

5. Trajectories of Air Particles in SCAR-B Areas

To estimate the spreading of gas and aerosol emissions from areas with intense biomass burning, numerical simulation of the forward and backward trajectories of air particles has been applied. The calculations were carried out using the CPTEC database which includes analyses and five days forecasts for horizontal wind, vertical velocity ω , temperature, and geopotential on the grid with $1.874^\circ \times 1.875^\circ$ horizontal resolution.

For calculation of the trajectories of air particles, Crank-

Nicolson time integration scheme was used [Williamson and Rasch, 1989]:

$$\mathbf{X}_a - \mathbf{X}_d = \frac{\Delta t}{2} (\mathbf{V}_d + \mathbf{V}_a) \quad (1)$$

where the index a refers to arrival point, and the index d refers to departure point, \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{V} are the vectors of a particle location and a wind velocity, respectively. They are three-

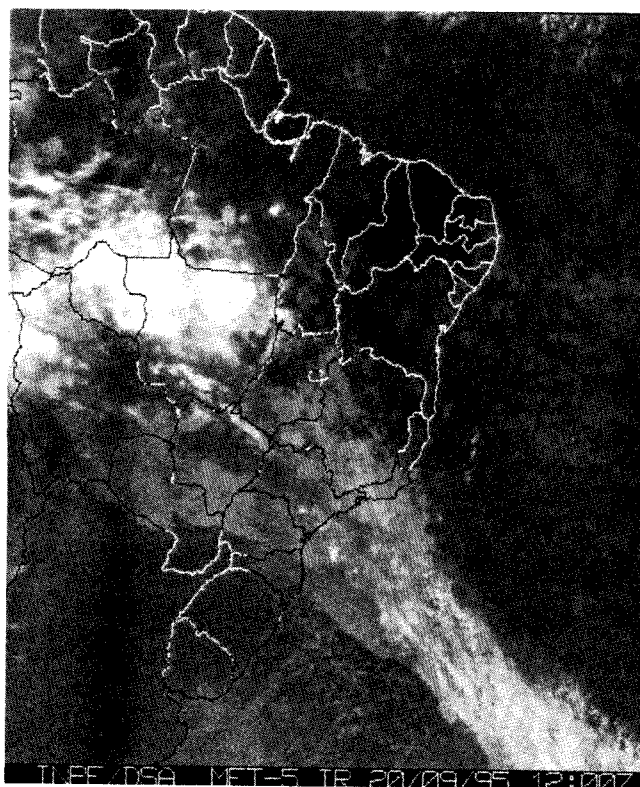


Figure 5. Meteosat-5 IR image for 1200 UTC, September 20, 1995.

Table 1. Surface Winds at Brasília Airport Station (Latitude 15.87°S , longitude 47.93°W), September 5, 1995

Time, UTC	Direction	Speed, m s^{-1}
10	SE	7.0
11	NE	14.0
12	E	17.0
13	SE	20.0
14	SE	20.0
15	E	20.0
16	NE	20.0
17	E	9.0
18	NE	3.0

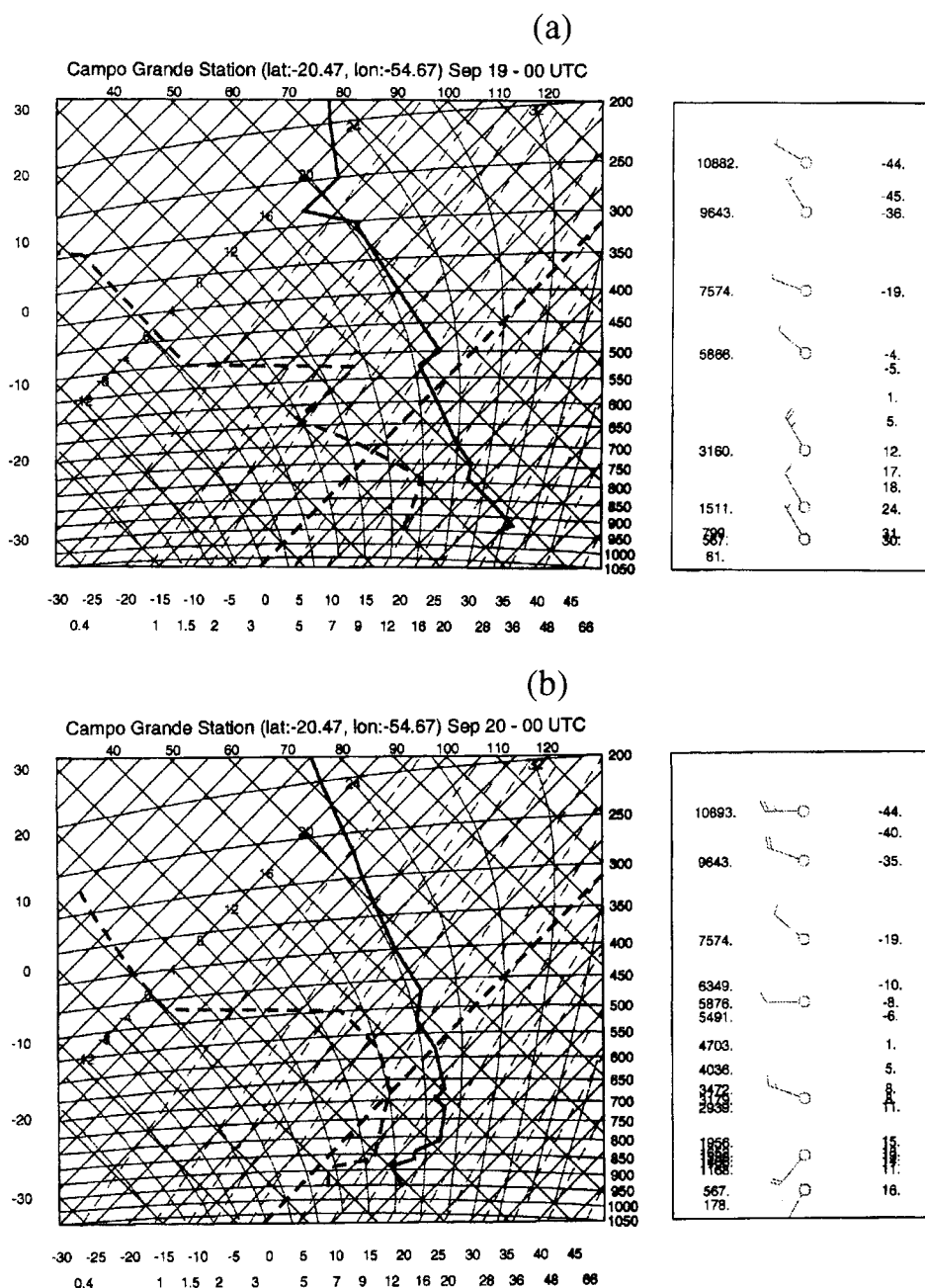


Figure 6. Campo Grande (MS) tephigram for September 1995, 0000 UTC: (a) 19 and (b) 20.

dimensional vectors for the kinematic trajectory model and two-dimensional vectors for motion of air particles on isentropic surfaces.

This implicit equation may be integrated forward or backward by iterations. The unknown wind components for air particles are obtained by quasi-monotone local spline interpolation [Bermejo and Staniforth, 1992]. Calculation of the location of the air particle, its height relative to sea level, and to the topography are made with time step $\Delta t = 1$ hour. Plate 4 shows an example of the backward trajectory calculations for the period from August 23 to 28, 1995. By the end of this period the air masses within 35°S to 25°S and 60°W to 55°W consist of three types of air particles. The first type is the air particles which have come from Pacific Ocean and are located above 2 km. They moved on the isentropic surface 315° K. The

second type of air mass is located between 1 and 2 km and comes from Amazonia (isentropic surface 308° K). This type of air mass has brought smoke from Amazonia region. The particles below 1 km with potential temperature 305° K come from the São Paulo region.

In Plate 5 one can see an example of forward trajectories in Amazonia. These forward trajectories have been calculated using the three-dimensional wind field. Their starting points represent typical biomass burning areas during SCAR-B. For a detailed description of sources, see Trosnikov and Nobre [this issue]. They began on the levels with the heights 500, 1000, and 1500 m in the four geographical points with the coordinates: 54°W, 9.5°S; 52°W, 18.5°S; 55°W, 17°S; and 48.5°W, 13.5°S. Plates 5a and 5b show that the air particles, which started August 20 and 21, 1995, moved generally to the northwest.

After August 23 the flow had been split, and two systems of the trajectories have been observed (see Plates 5c and 5d). This radical change of behavior of air currents was connected with the intensification of the high-pressure center in the tropical Southern Atlantic.

6. Change of Solar Radiation Budget of Atmosphere-Surface System by Smoke Hazes Observed During SCAR-B

Smoke aerosol particles absorb and scatter solar radiation, changing the radiation balance at the top of the atmosphere and at the Earth's surface. In recent studies there are apparent uncertainties concerning the evaluation of the tropospheric aerosol impact on a solar irradiance and climatic variables. The aerosols with different optical parameters can cause either an increase or decrease of the solar radiation absorption in the atmosphere-surface system and, as a result, a heating or cooling at the surface, respectively. Tropospheric aerosols lead to the opposite radiation effects in the atmosphere and at the surface, which have to be studied also. To evaluate the radiation effects of smoke aerosols of large biomass burning in Amazonia, we carried out the calculations using the broadband radiation code with the column aerosol optical thickness and precipitable water derived from the Sun photometer measurements taken during SCAR-B. The developed radiation code and the parameters of the atmosphere adopted for use in the computations are described in detail by Tarasova *et al.* [this issue]. We calculated the solar radiation absorption in the atmosphere and at the surface separately. Three periods of the Sun photometer measurements, made under the clear sky conditions at Cuiabá and Potosi Mine sites at a 15 min sampling interval, were considered. They were characterized by the low, medium, and heavy aerosol loading of the atmosphere. Table 2 presents aerosol optical thickness and the precipitable water, averaged over each period. Smoke was located in the lower 4 km layer. The radiation computations below 12 km were performed using the continental aerosol optical model with the single-scattering albedo at the wavelength 550 nm equal to $\omega_0^{550} = 0.89$. Smoke was located in the lower 4 km layer. The calculations were made also with the aerosol single-scattering albedo in the visible region of solar spectrum obtained from the comparison of the measured and computed solar irradiance at the surface (T. A. Tarasova *et al.*, unpublished data, 1997). For cases 1 and 2 there was obtained the value $\omega_0^{550} = 0.86$ in the lower 4 km layer, and $\omega_0^{550} = 0.95$ for case III.

The difference of the solar radiation absorption computed with the aerosol loading of the atmosphere and without it, or aerosol radiative forcing, is shown in Figure 7 as function of the cosine of the solar zenith angle. It is seen that the smoke aerosol particles decrease the solar absorption at the surface at the value from -40 to -300 W/m², depending on the aerosol optical thickness and the solar zenith angle. There is almost the same increasing of the absorption in the atmosphere column, taking place in the lower 4 km layer, where smoke is usually located. The aerosol radiative forcing at the top of the atmosphere is from -5 to -50 W/m². It strongly depends on the solar zenith angle and increases in 2 times when the angle changes from 25° up to 65°. The sensitivity of the calculation results to the aerosol single-scattering albedo, varied from $\omega_0^{550} = 0.89$ to $\omega_0^{550} = 0.86$, is not large for cases 1 and 2 of the low and middle smoke aerosol turbidity. The change of the aerosol single-scattering albedo from $\omega_0^{550} = 0.89$ to $\omega_0^{550} = 0.95$ for the

heavy smoke haze, case 3, results in the large differences of the value of the computed aerosol radiative forcing.

The described results were obtained using the approximate broadband radiation code and the specific aerosol optical model. It can be considered as the illustrative test cases for the more sophisticated radiation calculations, taking into account the detailed knowledge of the smoke aerosol optical parameters, particularly in the near-infrared region of the solar spectrum.

7. Conclusions

Accurate short- and medium-range weather forecasts are fundamental for field experiments involving aircraft. They became even more crucial when there are special aircrafts in the mission, such as the high-altitude flying ER-2. This aircraft needs a long landing runway, available only in Brasília for the SCAR-B area. An inaccurate short-range forecast could put to risk the mission since there would be no airports in southern Amazonia for the aircraft to land. Mainly for that reason, a meteorological office was established in Brasília to support the mission flights and field activities. The weather forecasts were based on numerical weather products from CPTEC and from NCEP, operational satellites imagery, and observations from surface and upper air stations. Although the dry season in central Brazil is rather eventless in terms of extreme weather events, the forecasting capability proved to be useful. For instance, it correctly forecasted the strong winds on September 5, 1995, which forced the ER-2 to ground. It also accurately predicted the rain-producing frontal system on September 20, 1995, which brought the SCAR-B field experiment to an end.

The atmospheric conditions throughout the SCAR-B period of August and September 1995 were near long-term mean conditions, typical dry season in central Brazil and southern Amazonia. Precipitation ranging between 0 and 50 mm was slightly below normal, primarily in September. The mean temperatures, consistent with the small precipitation anomalies, were slightly higher than average up to 2.5°C. The winds were light to moderate easterlies over most of the region. Stable conditions prevailing throughout the region, associated to large-scale subsidence, inhibited dispersion of smoke from biomass burning for most of the SCAR-B period. Long periods of haze, low humidity, and also little cloudiness and rain occurred during the mission partly due to blocking of frontal systems in the southeastern Pacific. The stable situation was interrupted by the penetration of a frontal system on September 20–21, 1995, and a second and more rain-producing one on September 28–30, 1995. Those two frontal systems in a period of 10 days brought an end to the dry season.

Trajectory calculations for the period showed that most of the smoke below 4 km was transported to the south and then

Table 2. Three Periods of Sun Photometer Measurements During SCAR-B Under Clear Sky Conditions With Smoke Haze

Period	Site	1995	Local Standard Time	$\bar{\tau}_{550}$	P_w
1	Cuiabá	Aug. 28	0730–1145	0.344	1.89
2	Cuiabá	Aug. 27	1145–1600	0.744	1.41
3	Potosi Mine	Sept. 5	0900–1045	2.14	4.13

The value τ_{550} is the column aerosol optical thickness at 550 nm; P_w is the precipitable water in centimeters.

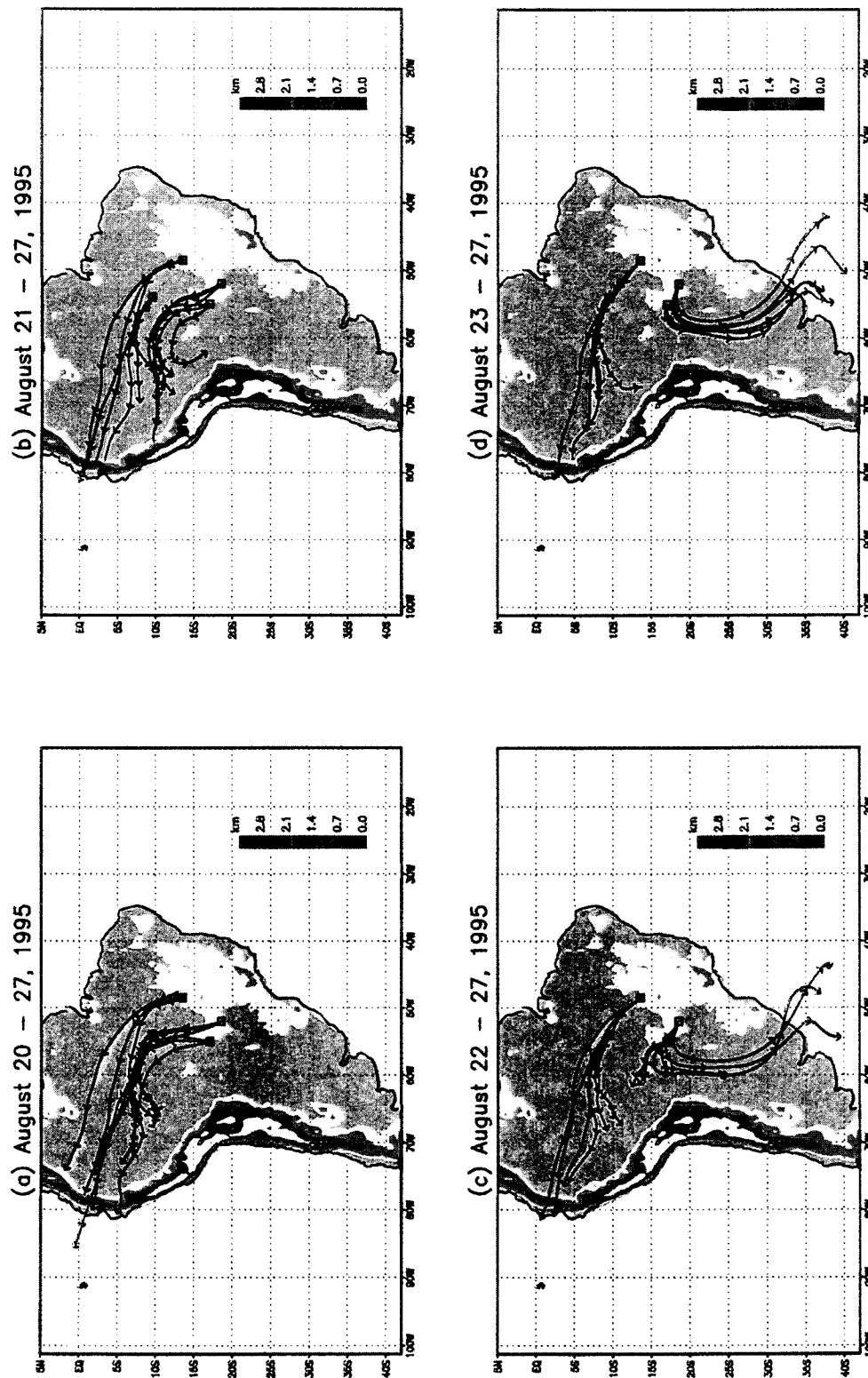


Plate 5. Three-dimensional trajectories for (a) August 20-27, 1995; (b) August 21-27, 1995; (c) August 22-27, 1995, and (d) August 23-27, 1995. The vertical bar shows trajectory altitude in kilometers.

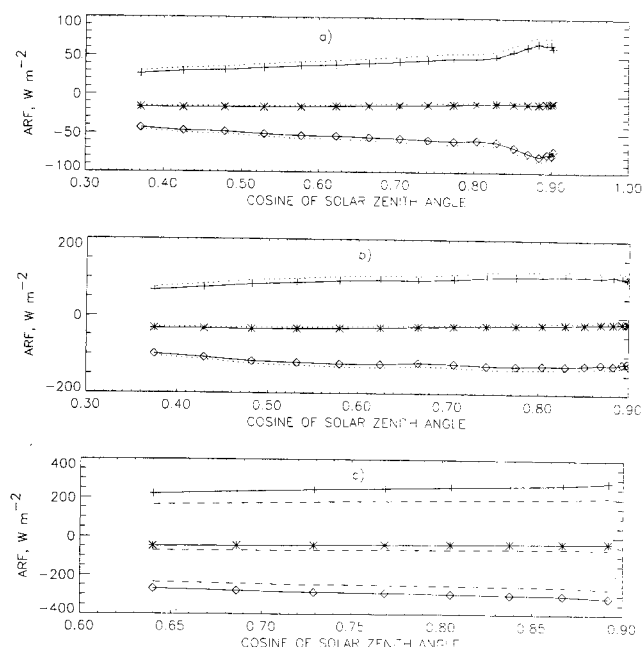


Figure 7. Change of the solar radiation absorption due to aerosols, or aerosol radiative forcing (ARF), in the atmosphere-surface system denoted by asterisk, at the surface given by diamonds, and in the atmosphere column denoted by pluses. It was computed with the aerosol optical depth and precipitable water measured during (a) period 1, (b) period 2, (c) period 3 of SCAR-B measurements shown in Table 2. Dotted and dashed curves present the calculation results obtained with $\omega_0^{550} = 0.86$ and $\omega_0^{550} = 0.95$, respectively.

to the east at 25°S to 30°S exiting the continent into the Atlantic Ocean. A calculation of the changes of radiation balance due aerosol loading using a radiative transfer model indicated that the aerosol radiative forcing can be substantial for observed cases of heavy aerosol loadings. All the meteorological data collected during the SCAR-B have been archived and are available to the scientific community.

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