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**Variations of Arctic winter ozone from the LIMS Level 3 dataset**

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19

## 20 Abstract

21 The Nimbus 7 limb infrared monitor of the stratosphere (LIMS) instrument operated from  
22 October 25, 1978, through May 28, 1979. Its Version 6 (V6) profiles and their Level 3 or zonal  
23 Fourier coefficient products have been characterized and archived in 2008 and in 2011,  
24 respectively. This paper focuses on the value and use of daily ozone maps from Level 3, based  
25 on a gridding of its zonal coefficients. We present maps of V6 ozone on pressure surfaces and  
26 compare them with several rocket-borne chemiluminescent ozone measurements that extend into  
27 the lower mesosphere. ~~Daily, We illustrate how the~~ synoptic maps of V6 ozone and temperature  
28 ~~illustrate that they~~ are an important aid in interpreting satellite limb-infrared emission versus  
29 local measurements, especially when they occur during dynamically active periods of northern  
30 hemisphere winter. ~~We then show a A map~~ sequence ~~of V6 maps of upper stratospheric ozone,~~  
31 ~~spanning the minor stratospheric warmings of late January and early February 1979. The map~~  
32 ~~sequence of V6 geopotential height reveals how ozone was changing in the vortex~~  
33 ~~and characterizes the evolution of a low ozone pocket (LOP) at the centers of adjacent~~  
34 ~~anticyclones that time.~~ We also ~~report on zonal variations~~ present time series of the wintertime  
35 tertiary ozone maximum ~~of the upper mesosphere~~ and its associated temperature fields during  
36 winter-zonally varying temperatures in the upper mesosphere. These ~~several~~ examples provide a  
37 guide/guidance to researchers for further exploratory analyses of the daily maps of middle  
38 atmosphere ozone from LIMS.

39

## 40 1 Introduction and objectives

41 The historic Nimbus 7 Limb Infrared Monitor of the Stratosphere (LIMS) experiment provided  
42 data on middle atmosphere ozone from October 25, 1978, through May 28, 1979, for scientific  
43 analysis and for comparisons with atmospheric models (Gille and Russell, 1984). Ozone is an  
44 excellent tracer of ~~middle atmosphere~~ stratospheric transport ~~processes at in the~~ high  
45 ~~latitudes~~ latitude stratosphere. As an early example, Leovy et al. (1985) showed how daily maps  
46 of the LIMS ozone fields correlate well with geopotential height (GPH) fields on the 10-hPa  
47 pressure surface. They also reported on the rapidly changing effects of wave activity on ozone,  
48 which led to a better understanding of stratospheric transport processes within models.

49 Hitchman et al. (1989) also analyzed the temperature fields from LIMS and reported on Arctic  
50 observations of an elevated stratopause in late autumn to early winter that they associated with  
51 momentum forcings from gravity waves.

52

53 Current research ~~is focusing~~focuses on the 3-dimensional character of ozone in the upper  
54 stratosphere and mesosphere, based on more recent satellite datasets. Several studies ~~report~~  
55 ~~on~~consider how temperature and ozone vary in association with sudden stratospheric warming  
56 (SSW) events (Smith et al., 2009; de la Camara et al., 2018; Kim et al., 2020; Shams et al.,  
57 2021). Manney et al. (1995) and Harvey et al. (2008) ~~report on~~describe the development of low  
58 ozone pockets (LOPs) in the region of the Aleutian anticyclone during winter. Siskind et al.  
59 (2005; 2021) ~~report on~~explain the occurrence of a mesospheric cooling associated with SSWs  
60 and ~~on~~ the role of gravity waves for modeling ozone in the upper mesosphere, respectively.  
61 Chandran et al. (2013) ~~developed~~provide a climatology of the Arctic elevated stratopause, and  
62 Sofieva et al. (2021) ~~analyzed a multiyear dataset~~analyze for regional trends in stratospheric  
63 ozone ~~since 2001. LIMS provides similar data on~~. Smith et al. (2011; 2018) report on monthly  
64 changes of the tertiary ozone from an earlier decade for further comparisonsmaximum at high  
65 latitudes of the upper mesosphere during winter.

66

67 The LIMS (Level 2) profiles ~~have been~~were retrieved with an improved Version 6 (V6)  
68 algorithm. ~~Those V6 (or Level 2) profiles~~They were archived in 2008 and include ozone,  
69 temperature, and GPH that extend from 316 hPa to ~0.01 hPa. ~~The eoCo-~~Co-located V6 profiles of  
70 water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O), nitric acid vapor (HNO<sub>3</sub>), and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) extend through the  
71 stratosphere. Lieberman et al. (2004) analyzed the V6 temperature profiles and found evidence  
72 for non-migrating tides in the mesosphere, due to the interaction of the diurnal tide and planetary  
73 zonal-wave 1, especially in late January 1979. Holt et al. (2010) analyzed the descent of V6 NO<sub>2</sub>  
74 from the lower mesosphere to within the polar stratospheric vortex, where it interacts with ozone.  
75 Remsberg et al. (2013) assimilated V6 ozone profiles in a reanalysis model and gained improved  
76 estimates of column ozone, especially in Arctic winter. Such reanalysis studies assimilate  
77 temperature and ozone profiles within a model framework. However, the models only  
78 approximate the effects of small-scale variations, so it is also useful to consider observed

79 variations of the LIMS parameters without resort to a model. Keep in mind that smaller-scale  
80 atmospheric variations also contribute to the analyzed intermediate and large-scale fields from  
81 V6. This paper ~~provides some examples~~further explores several instances of ~~the~~those larger-  
82 scale variations of Arctic ozone, temperature, and GPH.

83  
84 The SPARC Data Initiative (SPARC-DI) includes monthly zonal averages ~~for of V6 ozone up to~~  
85 the ~~chemical species from V60.1-hPa level~~ (see Tegtmeier et al., 2013; SPARC, 2017; and  
86 Remsberg et al., 2021). In Section 2 we show January zonal averages of V6 ozone and  
87 temperature profiles that extend even higher or to near the mesopause. The V6 Level 3 (map)  
88 product provides a 3-dimensional context for those zonal mean data. Daily V6 maps are also an  
89 aid in interpreting individual V6 profiles versus correlative data, especially during dynamically  
90 disturbed periods. Specifically, in Section 3 we compare several nighttime V6 ozone profiles  
91 with those obtained with a rocket-borne chemiluminescent (~~CHEM~~) technique (Hilsenrath et al.,  
92 1980). Those profile comparisons are for December 15 and for January 27 and 28, when the  
93 temperature and ozone fields were affected by planetary wave forcings. There is a  
94 corresponding cooling and variations of ozone in the winter lower mesosphere associated with  
95 the warming in the upper stratosphere. Section 4 presents variations of ozone and GPH at  
96 northern extratropical latitudes during the minor SSW events of late January and early February  
97 1979, as a complement to the more comprehensive findings of Harvey et al. (2008) on the  
98 occurrence of LOPs within anticyclones ~~based on determined from satellite~~ solar occultation  
99 ~~satellite~~ data. Section 5 ~~gives some details on~~considers the variability of the tertiary ozone  
100 maximum in the upper mesosphere during that same period, as an adjunct to ~~the~~ monthly zonal  
101 average values reported by Smith et al. (2018). Section 6 ~~considers~~notes that the ~~variability maps~~  
102 of V6 ozone ~~within the lowermost extratropical stratosphere~~contain more details about the  
103 gradients of atmospheric ozone during disturbed periods, but also cautions users about  
104 occasional, pseudo-ozone features in the ~~tropics~~tropical lowermost stratosphere. Section 7  
105 concludes that the V6 Level 3 product represents an important resource for ~~further~~ studies of the  
106 effects of transport and chemistry ~~of middle atmosphere on Arctic~~ ozone.

107

## 108 2 Characteristics of V6 Level 3 data

109        2.1 LIMS measurements and analyses

110 Nimbus 7 was in a near-polar orbit, and LIMS made measurements at ~1 pm local time along its  
111 ascending (A or south-to-north) orbital segments and at ~11 pm on its descending (D or north-to-  
112 south) segments. A-D time differences are of the order of 10 hours at most ~~all~~ latitudes because  
113 LIMS viewed the atmosphere 146.5° clockwise of the spacecraft velocity vector, as seen from  
114 above, ~~or 33.5° counterclockwise from its negative velocity vector.~~ The A-D differences narrow  
115 from 10 to about 6 hours from 60°N to 80°N, due to the orbital geometry of Nimbus 7. The V6  
116 processing algorithm accounts for low-frequency spacecraft motions that affect the LIMS view  
117 of the horizon. As a result, its measured radiance profiles are well registered ~~well~~ in pressure-  
118 altitude (Remsberg et al., 2004). Retrieved V6 ozone, temperature, and GPH profiles extend  
119 from 316 hPa to ~0.01 hPa and have a vertical point spacing of ~0.88 km with an altitude  
120 resolution of ~3.7 km. ~~They occur every 1.6 degrees of latitude along orbits, and Retrieved~~  
121 profile pairs are spaced every 144 km along the orbital track or at every 1.3°, but closer together  
122 at the high, turn-around latitudes of the orbital viewing geometry (Remsberg et al., 1990). LIMS  
123 made measurements with a duty cycle of about 11 days on and 1 day off over its planned  
124 observing lifetime. The LIMS algorithms (Remsberg et al., 2007) do not account for non-local  
125 thermodynamic equilibrium (NLTE) effects in ozone (Solomon et al., 1986; Mlynczak and  
126 Drayson, 1990) and in CO<sub>2</sub> (Edwards et al., 1996; Manuilova et al., 1998), so there are positive  
127 biases in the retrieved V6 ozone throughout the mesosphere during daylight. However, the V6  
128 nighttime ozone is essentially more nearly free of NLTE effects below about the 0.05-hPa level,  
129 except at times of SSWs (see e.g., Funke et al., 2012).

130  
131 A sequential-estimation (SE) algorithm ~~generated~~ was used to generate daily, zonal Fourier  
132 coefficients (zonal mean and up to ~~6 wavenumber, sine and six~~ cosine and sine values or 6-zonal  
133 wavenumbers) for Level 3 at every 2° of latitude and at up to 28 vertical levels (Remsberg and  
134 Lingenfelter, 2010). The V6 SE algorithm uses better estimates of data uncertainty and ~~a shorter~~  
135 relaxation time of ~2.5 days for the its zonal wave coefficients, ~~as compared with the earlier~~  
136 have a memory of ~2.5 days, or about half that of the SE algorithm ~~used by~~ Remsberg et al.  
137 (1990). The SE analysis is ~~also~~ insensitive to the very few large, unscreened ozone profiles  
138 values found in the lower stratosphere, as noted in Remsberg et al. (2013, their Fig. 1a). The SE

139 algorithm combines the coefficients from both the separate A and D orbital segments and  
140 effectively interpolates the profile data in time to provide a continuous, 216-day set of daily  
141 zonal coefficients versus pressure-altitude ~~for each of the retrieved LIMS parameters. Those~~  
142 ~~combined (A+D) Level 3 coefficients are the basis for a gridding of synoptic maps at 1200Z of~~  
143 ~~ozone and related parameters. Note that Level 3 also contains coefficients from its separate A~~  
144 ~~and D profiles; their ‘zonal mean’ values correspond to the local time of day of their respective~~  
145 ~~measurements. The Level 3 data are in ASCII format for easy access and use. at 1200Z for each~~  
146 ~~of the retrieved LIMS parameters.~~

## 148 2.2 Monthly average V6 data

149 One can generate monthly average distributions from the daily Level 3 files of temperature,  
150 GPH, and species (ozone, H<sub>2</sub>O, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>); zonal averages for the V6 species were  
151 supplied to ~~the SPARC Data Initiative or~~ SPARC-DI (SPARC, 2017; Hegglin et al., 2021).  
152 Tegtmeier et al. (2013) compared the V6 monthly ozone distributions with ones from other  
153 satellite-based limb sensors and reported good agreement throughout the stratosphere. Although  
154 the species cross sections ~~offor~~ SPARC-DI (2017) extend only up to the 0.1-hPa level (~64 km),  
155 V6 average ozone extends higher or to about 0.015 hPa (~75 km). Figure 1 shows the latitude-  
156 pressure cross section for January from just the descending (D) orbital profiles, which avoids the  
157 larger NLTE biases ~~from the that affect~~ daytime ozone in the mesosphere. Stratospheric ozone  
158 mixing ratios in Fig. 1 have largest values at about 10 hPa near the Equator (> 9.2 ppmv), and  
159 they decrease sharply above and below that level. Maximum mixing ratios for the middle to  
160 high latitudes occur between 3 to 5 hPa, due to the larger zenith angles and longer paths of the  
161 ultraviolet light for production of atmospheric ozone. There is a nighttime ozone minimum of  
162 ~1.2 ppmv across most latitudes of the middle mesosphere. A tertiary ozone maximum is  
163 present in the upper mesosphere near the winter day/night terminator ~~zones of zone in~~ the LIMS  
164 measurements for January (~~-50°S and -65~~(at about 67°N)), in accordance with the interpretation  
165 of Marsh et al. (2001). The location (~0.02 hPa) and magnitude (~3.5 ppmv) of the NH  
166 maximum ~~agree with are somewhat higher and larger than~~ those reported ~~from subsequent~~  
167 ~~satellite studies~~ by Smith et al. (2018, their Fig. 4~~)-~~ from more recent satellite datasets. On the  
168 other hand, while the V6 ozone poleward of ~~-60~~50°S is also from descending orbital profiles, it

169 corresponds to daylight conditions at the high southern latitudes in January. Thus, the decrease  
170 of mesospheric V6 ozone at 0.1 hPa and poleward of ~~60~~50°S in Fig. 1 indicates merely a change  
171 from night to day values: and agrees with findings of Lopez-Puertas et al. (2018).

172  
173 Radiances from two 15- $\mu$ m CO<sub>2</sub> channels are used for retrievals of V6 temperature versus  
174 pressure or T(p), and they are ~~also~~ free of NLTE effects below about the 0.05-hPa level (~70 km)  
175 (Lopez-Puertas and Taylor, 2001). ~~Retrievals for~~ To first order, the V6 T(p) in the stratosphere  
176 retrievals account for the effects of horizontal temperature gradients ~~to first order in the~~  
177 stratosphere (Remsberg et al., 2004). Single profile root-sum-squared (or RSS) errors for T(p)  
178 range vary from 1 K at 10 hPa to greater than ~2.5 K in the upper mesosphere. ~~Systematic, but~~  
179 they do not include possible temperature gradient errors. RSS error from T(p) ~~are~~ is the primary  
180 source of bias error for ozone, which grow growing to ~~of order about~~ 16% in the middle  
181 mesosphere (Remsberg et al., 2021, Table 1). Random errors become large for single ozone  
182 profiles in the upper mesosphere. As a complement to the V6 ozone of Fig. 1, we show the  
183 descending (~nighttime) V6 T(p) distribution for January in Figure 2, which extends to near the  
184 0.01-hPa level. The large-scale features of the T(p) distribution compare well with  
185 climatological values from the late 1970s (Fleming et al., 1990), having a maximum value of  
186 about 285 K at the SH high latitude, ~~SH~~ stratopause and minimum values of < 200 K at the  
187 tropical tropopause and near the summer mesopause. There is also ~~an apparent~~ some elevation of  
188 the Arctic zonal-average stratopause.

189  
190 Figure 3 shows the monthly-average, zonal (wave) standard deviations (SD) about ~~the~~ daily  
191 zonal ~~mean~~ means of the combined-mode (A+D) V6 ozone for January, where the SD values are  
192 ~~also part~~ derived from the zonal-wave amplitudes of ~~the LIMS SPARC-DI product~~ V6 Level 3.  
193 There are relatively small SD values at low latitudes from 7 to 10 hPa; it is assumed that they are  
194 a result of ~~both~~ smaller-amplitude Kelvin and Rossby-gravity ~~wave activity-waves.~~ Effects of  
195 more vigorous, planetary wave activity are most apparent at high northern latitudes throughout  
196 the stratosphere ~~and~~ during winter. Gravity waves also contribute to SD in the ~~upper~~ uppermost  
197 mesosphere. ~~(Siskind et al., 2021).~~ Ozone shows little zonal variation in the SH upper  
198 stratosphere of Fig. 3, due to constraints on the upward propagation of planetary waves through

199 the summer zonal easterlies ([Andrews et al., 1987](#)). SD values near the tropical tropopause are  
200 due mostly to residual effects of emissions from thin cirrus and represent spurious ozone  
201 variations (see Section 6).

### 203 3. V6 comparisons with rocket-borne chemiluminescent ozone measurements

204 In this section we consider V6 comparisons with three nighttime, rocket-borne [chemiluminescent](#)  
205 ozone soundings ~~using the CHEM technique~~ of Hilsenrath (1980)—one at White Sands, NM,  
206 (32.4°N, 253.5°E) on December 15, 1978, and two more at Poker Flat, AK, (65.1°N, 212.5°E)  
207 on the successive days of January 27 and 28, 1979. ~~Estimated~~The estimated total, [rocket ozone](#)  
208 error ~~for CHEM ozone~~ is 14% (precision plus accuracy), according to Hilsenrath and Kirschner  
209 (1980).

211 Ozone comparisons for December 15 are in Figure 4, ~~where the (top); we plot every other V6~~  
212 ~~profile and those~~ four [V6](#) profiles ~~are spaced about~~ [have spacings of 2.6°](#) in latitude ~~along the~~  
213 ~~descending orbital segment with the LIMS instrument viewing in the NNW direction.~~ The  
214 short-dashed V6 profile is at 29.2°, and the long-dashed profile is at 37.2°. ~~The location of The~~  
215 ~~solid curve is the V6 profile at 31.8° (at 0611Z) or closest to the rocket ozone sounding lies~~  
216 ~~midway between them, from White Sands (at 0541Z).~~ Horizontal bars on the profiles are  
217 estimates of ozone error; they overlap between V6 and [CHEM](#)~~rocket~~, except in the upper  
218 stratosphere. ~~However, the LIMS ozone is larger than rocket ozone in through the upper~~  
219 ~~stratosphere. The~~ corresponding V6 ~~polar~~-ozone map at 4.6 hPa ~~in Fig. 4 (bottom) reveals a~~  
220 ~~regional ozone maximum just south of elevated ozone near White Sands (WS—blue dot) on that~~  
221 ~~date.~~, ~~along the descending orbital segment of the satellite at (6°N, 265°E—white dot) or~~  
222 ~~viewing in the NNW direction toward White Sands.~~ Note that while zonal variations in the ~~polar~~  
223 ~~plot map~~ are from a gridding ~~of the Level 3 coefficients (2° latitude and 5.625° longitude) of the~~  
224 ~~Level 3 coefficients.~~, there is no smoothing of the gridded field in the meridional direction;  
225 there is good continuity across latitudes, nonetheless. The [CHEM](#)~~rocket~~ profile is a local  
226 measurement and has a vertical resolution that ranges from 1.5 km at 60 km to 0.1 km at 20 km;  
227 the nearby V6 profiles have a lower vertical resolution of ~3.7 km and are an average over the

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228 finite horizontal length (~300 km or ~3° latitude) of the LIMS tangent layer. There is an ozone  
229 maximum along the LIMS view path just to the south of White Sands, which may account for the  
230 profile differences. We also note that the ozone field of two days earlier has the region of sharp  
231 gradients positioned over White Sands with ozone at only 8 ppmv. Thus, an ozone field that  
232 varies in both space and time may can lead to ~~a somewhat reduced quality~~ additional uncertainties  
233 for comparisons ~~between of~~ the localized rocket and limb-viewing satellite profiles in Fig. 4.

234

235 Because V6 ozone is obtained from retrievals of the measured V6 ozone radiance profiles, the  
236 LIMS retrieved temperature profile must be representative of the atmospheric state for the  
237 forward model of ozone radiance. Figure 5 (top) shows the corresponding temperature  
238 comparisons between V6 and ~~the correlative a separate~~ rocket Datasonde instrument (\*).  
239 Agreement between them is very good throughout the upper stratosphere, ~~which means that the~~  
240 ~~retrieved V6 ozone is nearly unaffected by temperature bias error. Temperatures do not agree as~~  
241 ~~well in the lowermost mesosphere. The map of V6 temperature in Fig. 5 clearly indicates that~~  
242 ~~there are significant variations in the temperature field at 0.68 hPa near 35°N on December 15.~~  
243 ~~Still, there is little evidence of disagreement between V6 and CHEM ozone in Fig. 4 at 0.68 hPa,~~  
244 indicating that the temperature variations are well determined ~~well~~ along the LIMS view path for  
245 the forward radiance calculations of V6 ozone and that the retrieved V6 ozone should be nearly  
246 unaffected by temperature bias error. The map of V6 temperature (Fig. 5—bottom) shows zonal  
247 variations on December 15, although their meridional gradients are relatively weak above White  
248 Sands. Conversely, the ozone—profiles agree well near 0.68 hPa in Fig. 4, where there are  
249 apparent biases between the T(p) profiles. There are significant horizontal gradients near White  
250 Sands in the maps of T(p) at 0.68 hPa, but not in ozone (not shown). In fact, the V6 ozone field  
251 at that level has a nearly constant value, and ozone is less sensitive (by half) to changes in T(p) at  
252 0.68 hPa than at 4.6 hPa (Remsberg et al., 2007). Co-location is more important for the V6  
253 versus rocket comparisons of T(p) than of ozone in the lower mesosphere.

254

255 The two ~~late January~~ comparisons above Poker Flat, AK, occurred at the time of a stratospheric,  
256 zonal wave-1 warming event ~~and during a time of advection of air from lower latitudes to near~~  
257 ~~the Pole (Leovy et al., 1985).~~ (1985) provide a detailed discussion of the advective changes for

258 ~~ozone in the middle stratosphere during January 1979.~~ Figure 6 (top) shows three ~~co-located~~ V6  
259 ozone profiles from along a ~~nearby descending~~ ascending orbital segment ~~at 2204Z~~  
260 ~~(nighttime) on January 27.~~ The LIMS instrument was viewing from its ~~sub-~~satellite location of  
261 ~~(80.57°N, 130.113°E) at 2204Z,~~ and the ~~CHEM-~~rocket ozone launch was two hours earlier or at  
262 2005Z at a solar zenith angle of 84° or near the terminator; there is good agreement ~~for ozone of~~  
263 the structure between them, even in the mesosphere. A second rocket launch followed at 0833Z  
264 ~~of the next day, January 28 (Hilsenrath, 1980).~~ Since the ~~separate~~ V6/~~CHEM~~rocket ozone and  
265 T(p) comparisons are similar for the two days, ~~we show~~ Fig. 6 contains results for January 27  
266 only. The ~~CHEM sonde-~~rocket sounding recorded two ozone maxima, one near 15 hPa and  
267 another at about 0.6 hPa ~~and another near 15 hPa,~~ and the V6 profiles of Fig. 6 also have maxima  
268 ~~at those levels plus an ozone minimum at about 3 hPa. Agreement is good between the profiles,~~  
269 ~~although the CHEM profile has more vertical structure.~~ The ozone maximum at about 15 hPa is  
270 primarily due to advection of ozone of higher mixing ratios from lower latitudes just prior to the  
271 warming event. ~~Leovy et al. (1985) provide a more detailed discussion of the advective changes~~  
272 ~~for ozone in the middle stratosphere during January 1979.~~ The local maximum at 0.6 hPa was  
273 unexpected, based on findings from a larger set of rocket ozone soundings. There is a relative  
274 minimum for both V6 and rocket ozone through the upper stratosphere, although V6 ozone is  
275 larger. The map of V6 ozone at 4.6 hPa in Fig. 6 (bottom) indicates that the rocket measurement  
276 occurs at the center of the minimum, whereas the V6 profiles are averages across it. The ozone  
277 profiles in Fig. 6 (top) indicate the relative minimum in a low-ozone pocket (LOP) that extends  
278 from about 7 hPa to 2 hPa.

279  
280 Figure 7 (top) shows the V6 temperature profile comparisons; T(p) from the Datasonde ~~also~~ has  
281 more vertical structure, as expected from a localized measurement. ~~Although there is V6 T(p)~~  
282 values reach a maximum of order 250 K at about 3 to 4 hPa. They agree reasonably with the  
283 Datasonde values, given that there is significant horizontal structure in the temperature field  
284 surrounding Poker Flat, ~~the V6.~~ The apparent V6 minus Datasonde bias of order 5 K at 3 hPa  
285 ought to lead to a V6 minus rocket ozone bias of -40%, according to error estimates for retrieved  
286 V6 ozone. However, Fig. 7 (bottom left) indicates that LIMS was viewing Poker Flat across an  
287 area of higher temperatures, such that it is likely that there is a spatial mismatch for V6 and

288 ~~Datasonde T(p) values. The much smaller and positive ozone differences in Fig. 6 support that~~  
289 ~~likelihood. There may also be co-location differences between the rocket temperature profiles~~  
290 ~~agree reasonably with the Datasonde values and indicate that retrieved V6 ozone again has very~~  
291 ~~little bias due to temperature. T(p) values reach a maximum of order 250 K at about 3 to 4 hPa,~~  
292 ~~or where the ozone profiles in Fig. 6 reveal a relative minimum within a low ozone pocket~~  
293 ~~(LOP) that extends to other levels or from about 7 hPa to 2 hPa.~~

294  
295 ~~The polar vortex is located over northern Europe and Asia on January 27; it is shifted off the~~  
296 ~~Pole because of effects from large-scale, planetary waves on the development of SSWs (ozone~~  
297 ~~soundings in this instance. Andrews et al., 1987, Chapter 6). The polar vortex region has low~~  
298 ~~ozone and relatively cold temperatures; stratospheric temperatures over Alaska have a relative~~  
299 ~~maximum (the SSW). The sounding rocket profile from Poker Flat occurs near the center of an~~  
300 ~~anticyclone and in the region of relatively low ozone.~~

301  
302 ~~Figure 8 shows that there is concurrent cooling at 0.46 hPa or above the Alaskan anticyclone,~~  
303 ~~and the corresponding nighttime (or D) ozone field exhibits a local maximum at that same level.~~  
304 ~~Conversely, there is a major temperature increase in the Arctic region above the polar~~  
305 ~~stratospheric vortex over northern Europe, where ozone values remain relatively low. Since~~  
306 ~~ozone is an excellent tracer of transport processes in Arctic winter, it can reveal dramatic~~  
307 ~~changes with altitude, associated with this SSW event7 also. In summary, Figs. 4 through 8~~  
308 ~~show the utility of daily maps from LIMS Level 3 for the validation and interpretation of the~~  
309 ~~ozone fields during dynamically disturbed conditions. In the next section, we consider~~  
310 ~~sequences of polar plots of both GPH and ozone from January 27 through February 17, 1979, to~~  
311 ~~illustrate the value of the V6 Level 3 products for studies of ozone transport over time.~~

#### 312 313 **4. Variations of upper stratospheric ozone during stratospheric warmings**

314 ~~Manney et al. (1995) and Harvey et al. (2004, 2008) contain comprehensive analyses about the~~  
315 ~~occurrence of polar anticyclones and their associated LOPs from analyses of GPH and ozone~~

316 ~~fields from several different satellites. They determined the extent and character of the polar~~  
317 ~~vortex based on meteorological data from the UK Met Office and as obtained from relatively~~  
318 ~~low, vertical resolution radiance profiles from operational, nadir temperature sounders. Those~~  
319 ~~meteorological analyses extend through the stratosphere but only up to the lower mesosphere.~~  
320 ~~The V6 GPH coefficients extend through both the stratosphere and mesosphere, as derived from~~  
321 ~~the V6 T(p) profiles that have a vertical resolution of order 3.7 km. Thus, the LIMS dataset~~  
322 ~~offers potentially more detail about the occurrence of LOPs.~~

323  
324 ~~The first panel of Figure 9 shows a map of NH GPH at 4.6 hPa on January 27 for comparison~~  
325 ~~with the ozone map in Fig. 6 and the temperature map in Fig. 7-6. Lowest ozone values are in~~  
326 ~~the polar vortex, which where the GPH field is asymmetric about the Pole. A second, relatively~~  
327 ~~low value of ozone (or LOP) is associated with the anticyclone over the Alaskan sector. One can~~  
328 ~~determine horizontal winds from gradients of GPH on the 4.6-hPa surface and thereby estimate~~  
329 ~~the transport of ozone to first order. Qualitatively, the direction and strength of the large-scale~~  
330 ~~transport follows from the character of the cyclonic and anticyclonic features on the GPH map.~~  
331 ~~A~~The large-scale cyclonic circulation about the vortex transports air from middle latitudes to  
332 across the Pole on January 27. ~~The vortex region has low ozone and is relatively cold, whereas~~  
333 ~~stratospheric temperatures over Alaska show a maximum (the SSW), and the rocket profile~~  
334 ~~above Poker Flat, AK, was near the center of the anticyclone and in the region of relatively low~~  
335 ~~ozone (or LOP).~~

336  
337 ~~Ozone is an approximate tracer of transport processes and reveals dramatic changes with altitude~~  
338 ~~associated with this SSW event, even through the winter lower mesosphere. As an example,~~  
339 ~~Figure S1 (in Supplemental Materials) shows a concurrent cooling at 0.46 hPa above the Alaskan~~  
340 ~~anticyclone on January 27, where the co-located ozone field exhibits a local maximum. There is~~  
341 ~~also a major temperature increase above the polar stratospheric vortex over northern Europe at~~  
342 ~~0.46 hPa, or where ozone values remain low. In summary, Figs. 4 through 7 and S1 indicate the~~  
343 ~~utility of daily maps from LIMS for analyses of the ozone fields during dynamically disturbed~~  
344 ~~conditions.~~

345

346 **4. Variation of a low ozone pocket (LOP) from LIMS Level 3**

347 The polar vortex on January 27 was located over northern Europe and Asia; it was centered off  
348 the Pole because of effects of large-scale, planetary waves in the development of the SSW  
349 (Andrews et al., 1987, Chapter 6). In this section, we show sequences of polar plots of both  
350 stratospheric GPH and ozone for February 1979. Manney et al. (1995) and Harvey et al. The  
351 other three panels of Figure 9 are a sequence of three daily NH maps of GPH from February 3 to  
352 February 17(2004, 2008) provide comprehensive analyses about the occurrence of polar  
353 anticyclones and their associated LOPs from studies of GPH and ozone fields from several  
354 different satellites. They determined the extent and character of the polar vortex based on  
355 meteorological data from the UK Met Office or as obtained from relatively low vertical  
356 resolution radiance profiles from operational, nadir temperature sounders. The V6 GPH profiles  
357 are derived from and have the same vertical resolution as the T(p) profiles. Manney et al. (1995)  
358 showed that water vapor is a useful tracer of the meridional transport of air, and the V6 H<sub>2</sub>O  
359 fields at 6.8 and 10 hPa indicate that low latitude air was transported to the region of the LOP in  
360 late January. But the V6 H<sub>2</sub>O fields are noisy at 4.6 hPa (not shown). Even so, the V6 Level 3  
361 ozone, T(p), and GPH data offer useful details about the occurrence of LOPs in the upper  
362 stratosphere.

363

364 Harvey et al. (2004) reported that LOPs occur nominally at about the 5-hPa level. Accordingly,  
365 the three panels of Figure 8 show three daily NH maps of V6 GPH from February 3 to February  
366 17 at 4.6 hPa; each successive map is spaced one week from the previous one. This sequence  
367 shows that both the vortex and anticyclone weaken during the three weeks following January 27  
368 at this level. The vortex ~~is re-centered~~centers on the Pole ~~on~~by February 17, and the anticyclone  
369 is nearly absent at ~~this level~~4.6 hPa following the two minor warming events. The map sequence  
370 of GPH indicates that there were significant changes in the horizontal transport of ozone in late  
371 January/early February. The corresponding three panels of ozone in Figure 9 show the further  
372 evolution of ozone, following that of January 27 (in Fig. 6). Even though the anticyclone had  
373 weakened during the first week, there was a deepening of the LOP from January 27 to February  
374 3 and a filling of it thereafter.

375

376 Was there some chemical loss of ozone from January 27 to February 3 in the region of the LOP?  
377 Morris et al. (1998) and Nair et al. (1998) conducted model calculations to show how that could  
378 happen. Ozone reactions are affected by changes with latitude of solar insolation, temperature,  
379 and loss via NO<sub>x</sub>. Nair et al. (1998) reported on the effect of a decrease in the production of  
380 ozone for the development of LOPs, as air parcels in the middle stratosphere move from low to  
381 high latitudes or to higher solar zenith angles in winter. Remsberg et al. (2018) analyzed air  
382 parcel trajectories that included chemistry, and they showed that there was some loss of ozone in  
383 the middle stratosphere, due to reactions with NO<sub>x</sub>. However, Holt et al. (2012) analyzed V6  
384 NO<sub>2</sub> in the winter polar vortex, and they did not find enhanced values at 4.6 hPa due to energetic  
385 particle precipitation (EPP) by late January.

386

387 Figure 10 (left) is a map of the V6 descending orbital (nighttime) NO<sub>2</sub> for January 27 at 4.6 hPa.  
388 Based on the corresponding map of GPH in Fig. 7, one can trace the horizontal advection of high  
389 NO<sub>2</sub> toward higher latitudes and toward the polar vortex as well as the advection of low NO<sub>2</sub> out  
390 of the vortex and about the anticyclone. Fig. The map sequence in Fig. 9 also indicates that there  
391 are significant changes in the horizontal transport of ozone during this dynamically active  
392 period. 10 (right) is a map of HNO<sub>3</sub> at 4.6 hPa. It has a weak, relative maximum above the  
393 anticyclone that appears as a residual from the advection of much higher vortex values from  
394 several days before. A closer inspection in time reveals that the NO<sub>2</sub> values in the LOP were a  
395 bit lower by January 31, when ozone had already declined to near its February 3 value. Thus,  
396 while an excess of HNO<sub>3</sub> in the region of the LOP is consistent with a conversion of NO<sub>2</sub> to  
397 HNO<sub>3</sub> above the isolated anticyclone, there is no clear evidence from the V6 map products that  
398 such chemistry led to significant changes in the ozone. One must conduct trajectory studies that  
399 include chemistry and that rely on the V6 species profiles as input for better, quantitative  
400 estimates. Unfortunately, the profiles of V6 NO<sub>2</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub> become noisy in the upper  
401 stratosphere. At a minimum though, one can follow the evolution of the LOP using the daily  
402 maps of V6 ozone and GPH. ~~Morris et al. (1998) conducted model calculations to show that~~  
403 ~~there can be chemical changes of ozone in the upper stratosphere at that time. Ozone reactions~~  
404 ~~are affected by changes with latitude in solar insolation, temperature, and NO<sub>x</sub>. As an example,~~

405 ~~Figure 10 (top left) is a map of the V6 descending (nighttime) NO<sub>2</sub> on January 27, and it shows~~  
406 ~~that air having larger NO<sub>2</sub> values was transported northward from middle latitudes toward the~~  
407 ~~anticyclone. Thus, it is likely that there is some loss of ozone due to reactions with NO<sub>x</sub> (and~~  
408 ~~NO<sub>2</sub>) in the middle stratosphere that is contributing to the LOP feature. The other three panels of~~  
409 ~~Figure 10 show the evolution of ozone for February 3 through 17, following that of January 27~~  
410 ~~(in Fig. 6). Based on the GPH panels of Fig. 9, there was a deepening of the LOP from January~~  
411 ~~27 to February 3, but a filling of it thereafter. Transport of air from middle to higher latitudes~~  
412 ~~decreased from February 3 to February 17, when the vortex and anticyclone weakened. But the~~  
413 ~~anticyclone also weakened from January 27 to February 3. Thus, a chemical loss of ozone due to~~  
414 ~~NO<sub>x</sub> may also have occurred during that first week. Although we do not show a sequence of~~  
415 ~~maps for other levels, the V6 Level 3 product indicates significant variations in ozone,~~  
416 ~~temperature, GPH, and NO<sub>2</sub> throughout the upper stratosphere.~~

## 418 5. Variations of the tertiary ozone maximum

419 Smith et al. (2018) describe the changing monthly, zonally averaged character of the wintertime  
420 tertiary ozone maximum of the polar upper mesosphere. They point out that the low latitude  
421 edge of the tertiary ozone maximum is where HO<sub>x</sub> radicals and the chemical loss of ozone due to  
422 reactions with them are reduced. ~~The Level 3 ozone and temperature products provide daily, 3-~~  
423 ~~dimensional information about those processes. The top two panels of Figure 11 are of upper~~  
424 ~~mesospheric ozone on the 0.022 hPa surface (~72 km) for January 13 and February 10,~~  
425 ~~respectively. The bottom two panels show the variations of temperature on those same days.~~  
426 ~~First, consider the two ozone plots, which are from only the descending (or nighttime) orbital~~  
427 ~~segments. V6 ozone radiance profiles have low signal-to-noise in the upper mesosphere; the~~  
428 ~~precision estimate for retrieved ozone and its Fourier coefficients is 0.32 ppmv at 0.022 hPa.~~  
429 ~~Therefore, we show gridded ozone maps in Fig. 11 based on just the zonal mean and the sine and~~  
430 ~~cosine coefficients for waves 1 and 2. Elevated values of ozone occur at a lower latitude on~~  
431 ~~January 13 than on February 10, which is consistent with the slightly different location of the~~  
432 ~~terminator on those two days. One can also see that the tertiary maximum has a larger value on~~  
433 ~~February 10 than on January 13 is 0.32 ppmv for retrieved ozone profiles. We show a map in~~  
434 ~~Figure 11 of the combined V6 ozone for December 15 at 0.022 hPa (~72 km), where its~~

435 distribution in the subpolar region is based on fewer than 13 zonal coefficients because some  
436 profiles do not extend to that pressure altitude. The corresponding map of temperature is also in  
437 Fig. 11, and one can see that there is significant non-zonal structure in its field at the latitudes  
438 where ozone is enhanced. While both V6 ozone and temperature are not highly accurate due to  
439 NLTE effects in the upper mesosphere, their maps reveal significant relative spatial structures  
440 indicating advective transport and its likely effects on ozone.

441

442 The bottom two Figures S2 and S3 in the Supplemental Materials show additional panels at  
443 0.022 hPa of Fig. 11 are maps of ozone and temperature, respectively, for January 13 and  
444 February 10, respectively, for comparison and March 1. Elevated values of ozone occur at higher  
445 latitudes on February 10 and March 1 than on December 15 and January 13, which is consistent  
446 with the ozone fields, more northward position of the terminator away from winter solstice and  
447 the consequent effects for the chemical loss of ozone. The temperature maps fields are also  
448 perturbed on January 13 and February 10, but they are gridded from the zonal mean and  
449 coefficients out to zonal wavenumber 6. There is significant zonal structure in them, and  
450 temperatures are much warmer in the Canadian sector on January 13 than on February 10. There  
451 are more nearly zonal by March 1. However, there are meridional gradients of temperature on  
452 both all three days, in the region of the tertiary ozone maximum. On January 13 there is also a  
453 well-defined mesospheric vortex in GPH (not shown), and the highest values of ozone correlate  
454 reasonably with it; by February 10 the vortex was disturbed at this. The vortex is most disturbed  
455 and tertiary ozone maximum has largest values on February 10, perhaps in response to the  
456 upward propagation of wave activity following the minor SSW of late January.

457

458 Figure 12 shows time series of peak zonal mean ozone at 0.022 hPa and its latitude location for  
459 each week from November through mid-March. The separate time series are for peak ozone  
460 (bottom two series) and their latitude locations (top two). Dashed red curves represent zonal  
461 mean results for combined (A+D) ozone; solid black curves are results for nighttime (D) only.  
462 Blue horizontal lines represent the approximate latitude position of the terminator. Peak  
463 nighttime ozone values are based on just the 'zonal mean' and the cosine and sine coefficients  
464 for waves 1 and 2 because not all profiles reach to the 0.022-hPa level. Recall that Peak ozone



465 occurs at lower latitudes (~65°N) in December, increasing to ~75°N in early November and early  
466 February and to near 80°N by early March. The latitude time series of peak ozone values is  
467 reasonably coincident with the changing location of the terminator. Peak combined (A+D)  
468 ozone increases slowly from a minimum of 2.2 ppmv in November to 3.6 ppmv in late February  
469 and March. Descending (or nighttime only) ozone varies from 3.3 ppmv in November, to ~4.5  
470 ppmv in January, to a maximum of 6.3 ppmv in mid-February, and then declining to 3.5 ppmv  
471 by mid-March, although the time series shows rather large variations. Those maximum V6  
472 values are larger than reported by Lopez-Puertas et al. (2018), perhaps due to biases from V6  
473 T(p) and/or ozone at 0.022 hPa.

474  
475 The increasing V6 ozone in Fig. 12 during winter disagrees with that of Smith et al. (2018), who  
476 found decreasing ozone in February. They reported that, in most years, there is a slow descent of  
477 relatively dry air into the vortex region in late autumn and early winter in the upper mesosphere,  
478 and that the reduction in water vapor implies that there are fewer HO<sub>x</sub> radicals for the destruction  
479 of ozone near the terminator zone, leading to accumulations of ozone. However, there were two  
480 minor warmings and associated lower mesospheric cooling events during late January and early  
481 February, 1979 (Hitchman et al., 1989). The enhanced V6 ozone of February 1979 follows those  
482 SSW events. It is very likely may be that there were wave-driven disturbances in the upper  
483 mesosphere during that time, due to filtering of gravity waves and their and a dissipation of their  
484 energy in the upper mesosphere at higher latitudes at that time (e.g., Siskind et al. 2005). We  
485 infer that the warmer temperatures of mid-January at this level led to a radiative relaxation and a  
486 descent of relatively dry air into the vortex region. A reduction in water vapor will mean that  
487 there are fewer HO<sub>x</sub> radicals for the destruction of ozone near the terminator zone, leading to an  
488 accumulation of ozone by February 10. Although the seasonal One should be able to gain more  
489 information about the evolution of the tertiary ozone maximum is understood reasonably well  
490 (Smith et al., 2018), there is more information about this ozone feature in the winter of 1978-79  
491 from the daily maps of V6 ozone, T(p), and GPH from Level 3 (as in Figs. S2 and S3).

492

493 **6. Other aspects of V6 Level 3 ozone in**

494 ~~The combined (A+D) Level 3 coefficients are the lowermost stratosphere~~ basis for a gridding of  
495 daily synoptic maps at 1200Z of ozone and related parameters. The Level 3 product also  
496 contains coefficients from its separate A and D profiles; their ‘zonal mean’ values correspond to  
497 the local time-of-day of their respective measurements. Remsberg et al. (2007) noted that maps  
498 from V6 reveal more details about the variations of ozone. In Figure S4 of the Supplemental  
499 Material we compare a map of V6 ozone at 10 hPa on 27 January with a similar map for V5 of  
500 Leovy et al. (1985). The ozone gradients are more pronounced with V6 than with V5 at both the  
501 subtropical and vortex edges of the ozone field. The V6 maps make use of all profiles along the  
502 orbit, and the SE mapping algorithm was applied to them every 2° of latitude. However, the  
503 tighter gradients were also achieved with the V6 algorithm because it has a relaxation time (or  
504 memory) that is half that of V5. This means that the V6 maps are more representative of the  
505 rapidly changing atmospheric ozone fields on that day. Similar version differences are evident  
506 throughout winter, when the so-called ‘stratospheric surf zone’ develops and expands (Leovy et  
507 al., 1985).

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509 Significant exchanges of air and ozone occur from the extratropical stratosphere to the  
510 troposphere in winter and spring (Gettelman et al., 2011). ~~Figure 3 also showed that there~~ There  
511 are large zonal variations about the daily zonal means of ozone in the Arctic region of the lower  
512 stratosphere in Fig. 3. There are similar variations in GPH (and derived winds) and in zonal  
513 wave activity that lead to ozone transport. Zonal variations are resolved in the daily ozone maps  
514 down to the 146-hPa level. ~~In fact~~ Notably, Shepherd et al. (2014) integrated the V6 monthly  
515 zonal mean ozone above the tropopause and subtracted it from observed total ozone, as part of  
516 their assessment of long-term trends of tropospheric ozone from models. Their  
517 ~~calculation and determination~~ of extratropical tropospheric ozone based on LIMS agrees with that  
518 obtained from other ozone datasets.

519

520 There is also a relative excess of SD ozone values in Fig. 3 centered at 68 hPa at tropical  
521 latitudes, and similar anomalies occur in other LIMS months, ~~too~~ (not shown). As an example,  
522 Figure ~~4213~~ shows ~~ana map of V6~~ ozone map at 68 hPa (~18 km) for the correlative  
523 ~~measurement day of on~~ December 15, 1978, to give more insight about the source of the tropical

524 variations. Ozone mixing ratio values in Fig. 4213 are of order 2 to 3 ppmv at high latitudes,  
525 becoming much smaller in the subtropics. However, there is also an unexpected high value of 2  
526 to 3 ppmv at about 15°N, 150°E. Limb measurements in the ozone channel include radiance  
527 effects from cirrus particles that can occur along the tangent view path, although the retrieved  
528 ozone mixing ratio profiles were screened of those effects to first order (Remsberg et al., 2007).  
529 Even so, we note that ozone is easily affected by any excess radiance because of highly non-  
530 linear effects for retrievals of ozone from the radiances in the lower stratosphere. It is very likely  
531 that the anomalous ozone at 68 hPa is a result of residual effects from subvisible cirrus, which is  
532 nearly ubiquitous over the western tropical Pacific region (see SPARC, 2006, Fig. 1.8).

533  
534 While individual V6 ozone profiles may include such spurious features in the tropics, the Level  
535 3 ozone product at 68 hPa is affected mainly when there is an organized convection and outflow  
536 of air that persists for several days. The adjacent map of tropical ozone at 46 hPa appears  
537 unperturbed in that region (not shown), and tropical ozone at 100 hPa approaches zero. There  
538 are much smaller anomalies in maps of nitric acid, as its mixing ratio retrieval is very nearly  
539 linear. Anomalies are also not so apparent in maps of V6 H<sub>2</sub>O at 68 hPa because the  
540 cloud screening algorithm for H<sub>2</sub>O accounts for the larger vertical field-of-view and extent  
541 over altitude for the measurements of the water vapor channel of LIMS. To summarize, one  
542 must be mindful that the Level 3 product may show pseudo indicate excess, but spurious ozone at  
543 68 hPa in the tropics, but likely not in the extratropics.

544

## 545 7. Conclusions ~~on the utility of LIMS V6 Level 3 ozone~~

546 This report provides guidance to researchers for their use of the LIMS V6 Level 3 product and  
547 for their generation of daily gridded distributions of its temperature, ozone, and GPH on pressure  
548 surfaces. H<sub>2</sub>O, NO<sub>2</sub>, and HNO<sub>3</sub> are also available for the stratosphere from the Level 3 product.  
549 The V6 dataset represents an early baseline for considering possible changes in the middle  
550 atmosphere from 1979 to today and into the future. Atmospheric concentrations of the  
551 greenhouse gases (GHG), CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CFCs, were smaller in 1979 versus now. As an  
552 example, the LIMS algorithm for retrieving T(p) profiles is based on a middle stratosphere CO<sub>2</sub>

553 ~~value of 327 ppmv, compared with 415 ppmv in 2021. As a result, middle atmosphere T(p)~~  
554 ~~distributions were warmer in 1979, which affects both the chemistry and transport of ozone.~~  
555 ~~LIMS also~~LIMS made measurements at a time when stratospheric effects from volcanoes were  
556 minimal and when catalytic effects of chlorine on ozone were relatively small. Accordingly,  
557 Stolarski et al. (2012) found small, but significant changes in the distribution of upper  
558 stratospheric ozone for recent decades compared with 1978-1979. The LIMS measurements  
559 were taken near solar maximum and when atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases  
560 (GHG), CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CFCs, were smaller than today. Middle atmosphere T(p) distributions  
561 were warmer in 1978-1979.

562  
563 The LIMS measurements in the winter Arctic region occurred when there was a lot of wave  
564 activity for the transport and mixing of ozone. ~~Ozone varies~~As a result, ozone varied  
565 dramatically in winter, particularly during times of stratospheric warming events. There was a  
566 so-called Canadian warming in early December 1978, two minor SSW events in late January and  
567 early February, and a final warming in late February 1979. We showed V6 comparisons with  
568 temperature and ozone profile data obtained using rocket-borne Datasonde and  
569 chemiluminescent ~~(CHEM) techniques~~instruments, and we pointed out how an examination of  
570 changes in their nearby fields are essentialis valuable for the interpretation and validation of V6  
571 profiles against those correlative measurements. The Level 3 dataset provides daily details on  
572 ~~those~~ variations ~~in~~of ozone with latitude, longitude, and altitude, along with related variations in  
573 temperature, geopotential height, NO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>HNO<sub>3</sub>. We noted also that there are instances of  
574 spurious, excess ozone from the Level 3 coefficients at 68 hPa in the tropics but not in the  
575 extratropical stratosphere. ~~One may find that there are regional changes in ozone in recent~~  
576 ~~decades compared with that in 1978-1979 from V6 (see, e.g., Sofieva et al., 2021).~~

577  
578 We displayed evidence of a low ozone pocket (LOP) during the minor SSW of late January  
579 above the Aleutian anticyclone, and we followed its evolution into mid-February. The V6  
580 nighttime ozone is accurate up through the middle mesosphere, and surface maps of the large-  
581 scale variations of ozone are relatively accurate through the upper mesosphere. Daily ozone and  
582 temperature maps reveal zonal wave featuresmesosphere in the regionArctic winter. We

583 provided time series of the wintertime, tertiary ozone maximum of the upper mesosphere- ~~from~~  
584 V6 data. Its ozone reached maximum values in February, perhaps as a response to enhanced  
585 wave activity in the mesosphere following several SSW events. Together with V6 maps of T(p)  
586 and GPH, one may explore further the daily evolution of that ozone maximum throughout the  
587 NH winter of 1978-1979.

588

### 589 **Data Availability**

590 The LIMS V6 Level 3 product is at the NASA EARTHDATA site of EOSDIS and its website:  
591 [https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datacollection/LIMSN7L3\\_006.html](https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datacollection/LIMSN7L3_006.html) (Remsberg et al., 2011). The  
592 SPARC-Data Initiative data are located at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4265393> (Hegglin et  
593 al., 2021). We acknowledge the individual instrument teams and respective space agencies for  
594 making their measurements available, and the Data Initiative of WCRP's (World Climate  
595 Research Programme) SPARC (Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate) project for  
596 organizing and coordinating the compilation of the chemical trace gas datasets used in this work.

597

598 *Author Contributions.* ER wrote the manuscript and prepared the figures with contributions from  
599 his co-authors. EH provided his rocketsonde data on ozone and temperature along with their  
600 error estimates.

601

602 *Competing interests.* The authors declare no competing interests for this study.

603

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613 Langley.

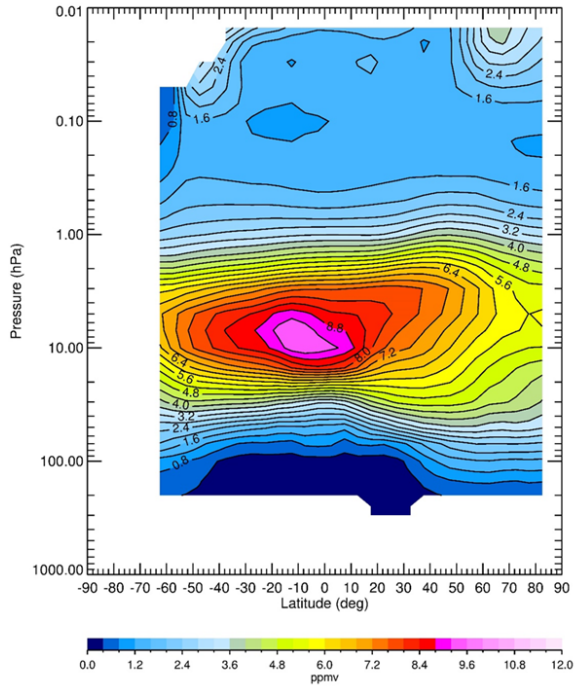
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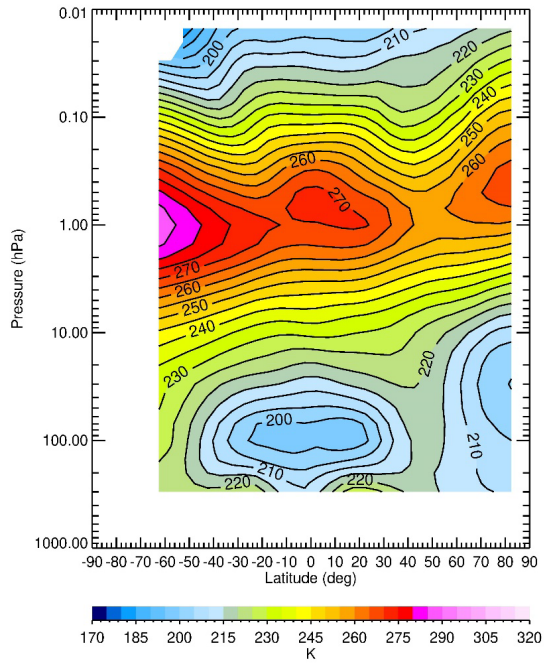
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620 Figure 1—LIMS V6 Level 3 monthly zonal mean ozone for descending-mode only (or nighttime  
621 equatorward of  $\sim 55^{\circ}\text{S}$ ) for January 1979. Contour interval (CI) is 0.4 ppmv.

622



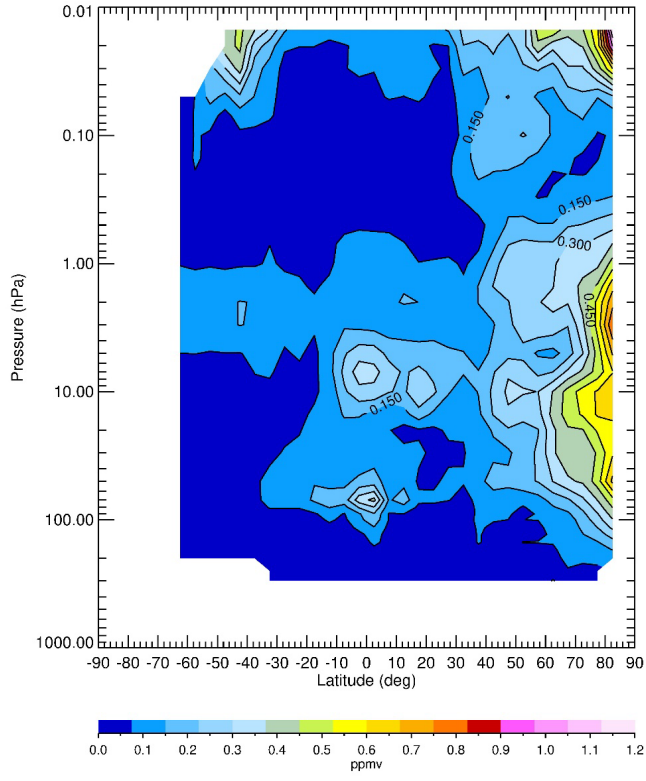
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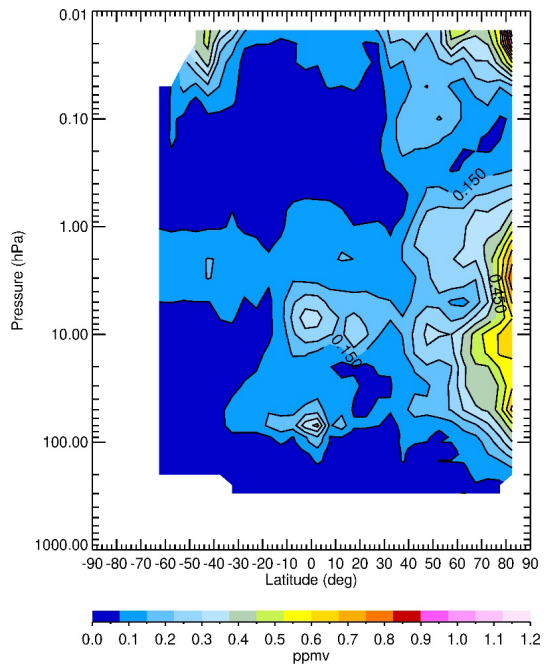


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625 Figure 2—Zonal average, descending-mode, temperature for January 1979. CI is 5 K.

626





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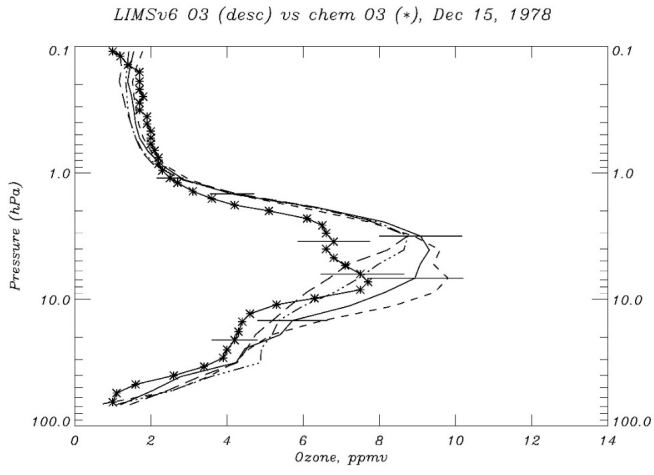
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631 Figure 3—Zonal standard deviation about ~~the average of~~ (A+D) zonal mean ozone for January

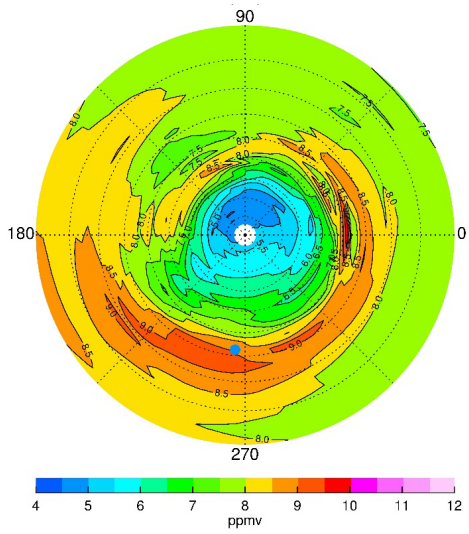
632 1979. Contour interval CI is 0.075 ppmv.

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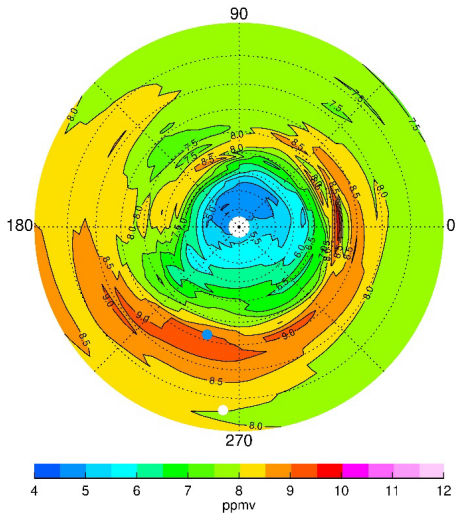
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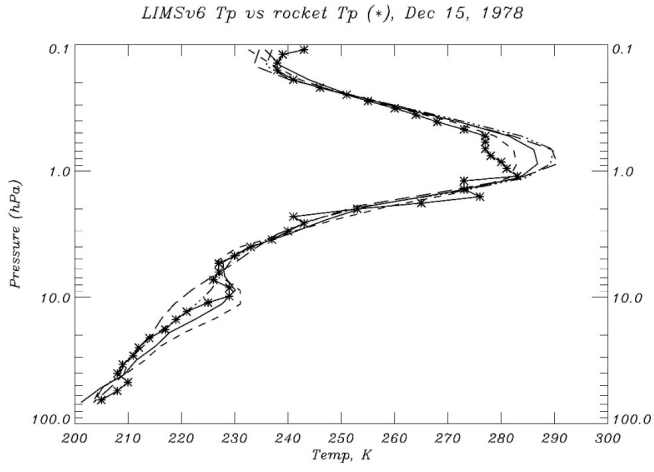
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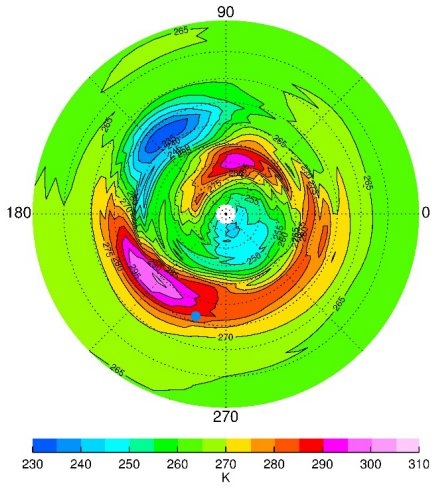
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638 Figure 4—(top) Profiles of V6 ozone compared with CHEM sonde (at 0611Z) versus rocket  
 639 chem ozone (\*) (\*) at 0541Z) on December 15. The four V6 profiles are separated by about have  
 640 separations of 2.56° latitude on the descending orbit, and the solid curve (at 31.8°N) is closest to  
 641 White Sands (WS, 32.4°N). Horizontal bars are estimates of ozone error errors. (bottom) NH V6  
 642 ozone distribution at 4.6 hPa; Greenwich (0°E) is at right, and contour interval (CI) CI is 0.5  
 643 ppmv. Latitudes Latitude (dotted circles) are spaced is every 10°. The Satellite location is white  
 644 dot (6°N, 265°E), and WS is blue dot denotes White Sands.

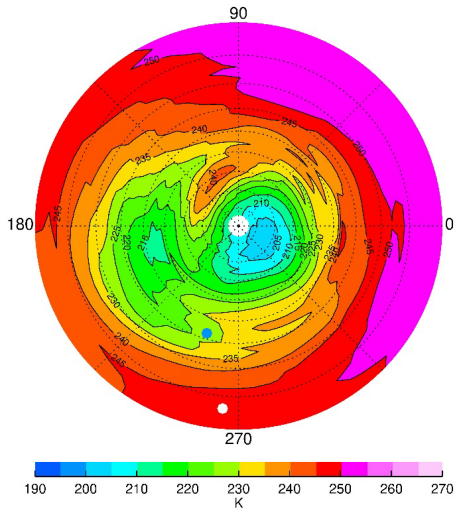
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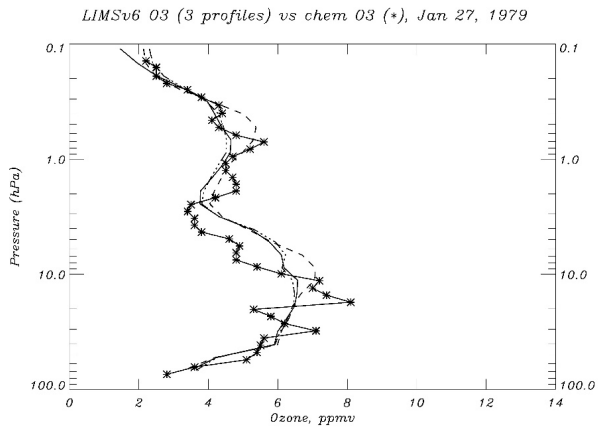
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649 Figure 5—(top) Profiles of V6 temperature compared with Datasonde values (\*) on December  
 650 15. The four V6 profiles are separated as in Fig. 4, where the short-dashed curve is for 29.2° and  
 651 the long-dashed curve is for 37.2°. (bottom) NH V6 temperature distribution at 0.684.6 hPa;  
 652 contour interval is 5 K, and satellite location is white dot and White Sands is blue  
 653 dot.

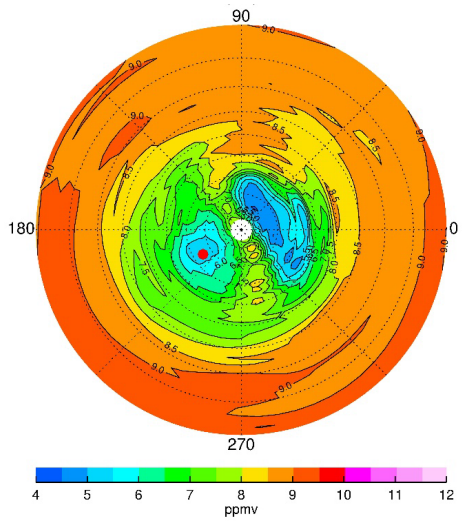
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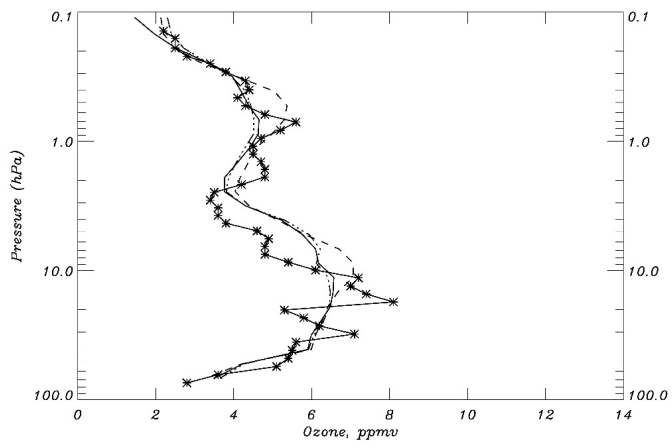
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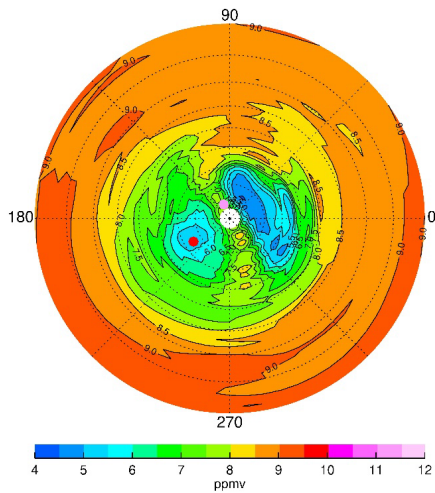
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*LIMSv6 O3 (3 profiles) vs chem O3 (\*), Jan 27, 1979*



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661 Figure 6—(top) As in Fig. 4, but for January 27, 1979, at Poker Flat, AK (65°N, 212.5°E);

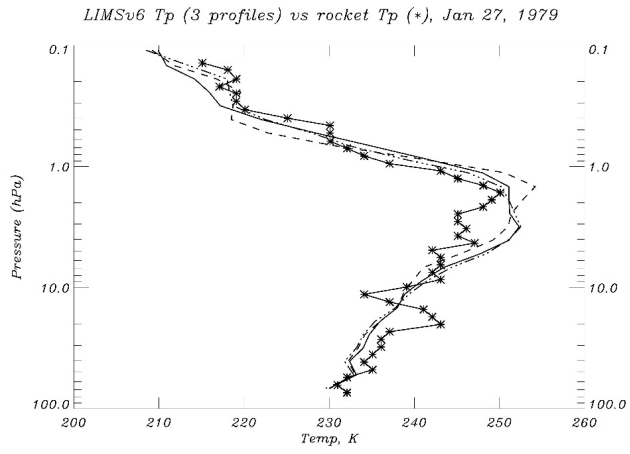
662 (bottom) NH V6 distribution of ozone at 4.6 hPa; where CI is 0.5 ppmv and red dot is

663 Latitudes (dotted circles) are spaced every 10°; Poker Flat is red and satellite position (81°N,

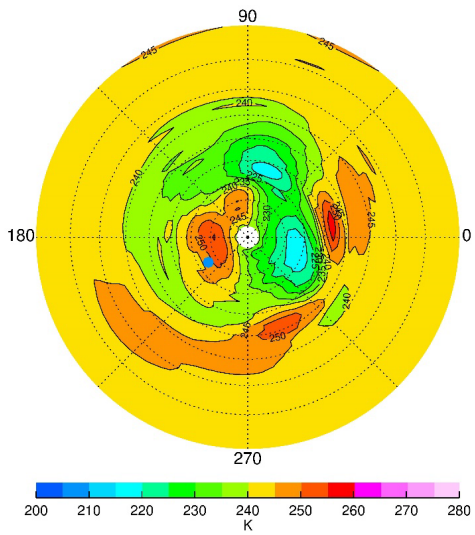
664 113°E) is pink.

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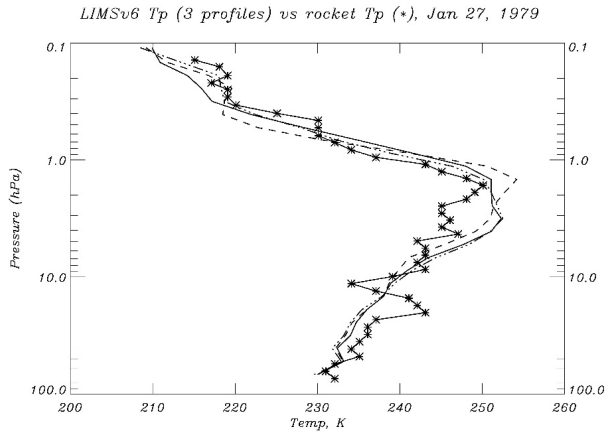
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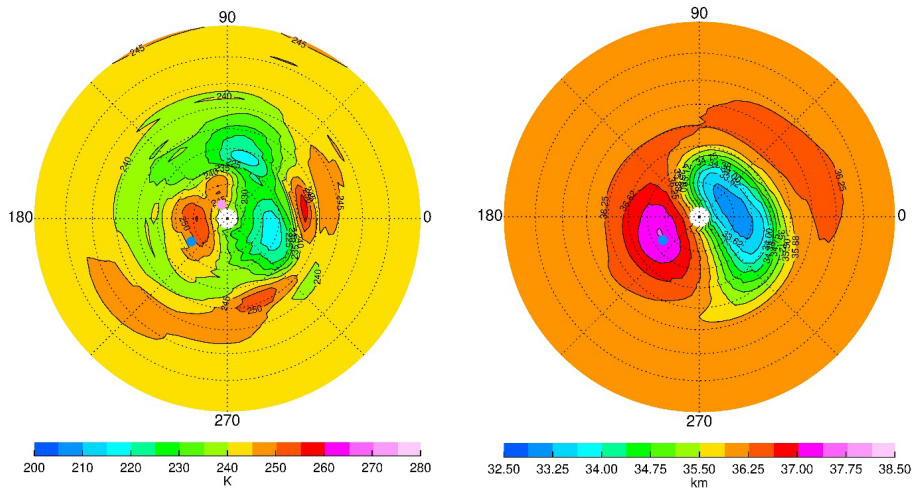
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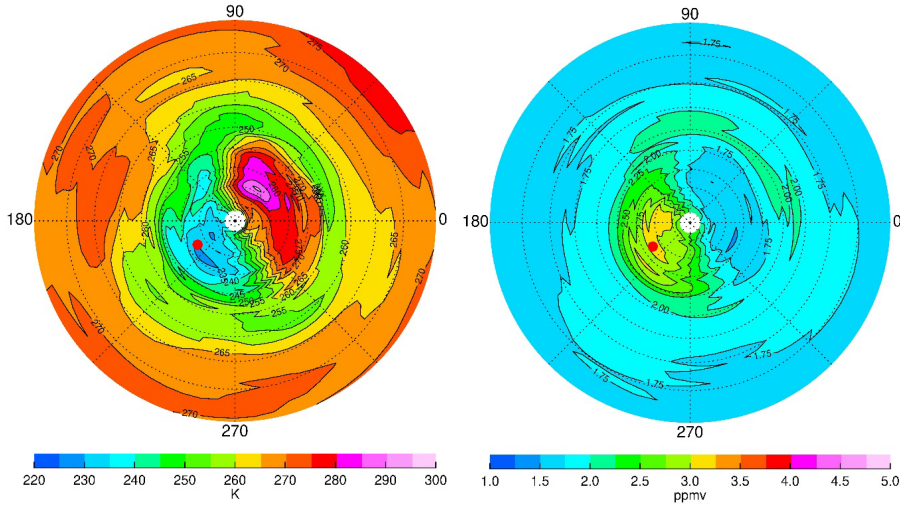
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675 Figure 7—(top) As in Fig. 5, but for January 27, 1979. (bottom-left) NH V6 temperature at 4.6  
 676 hPa on January 27; Contour interval; CI is 5 K. Blue dot is location of Poker Flat.

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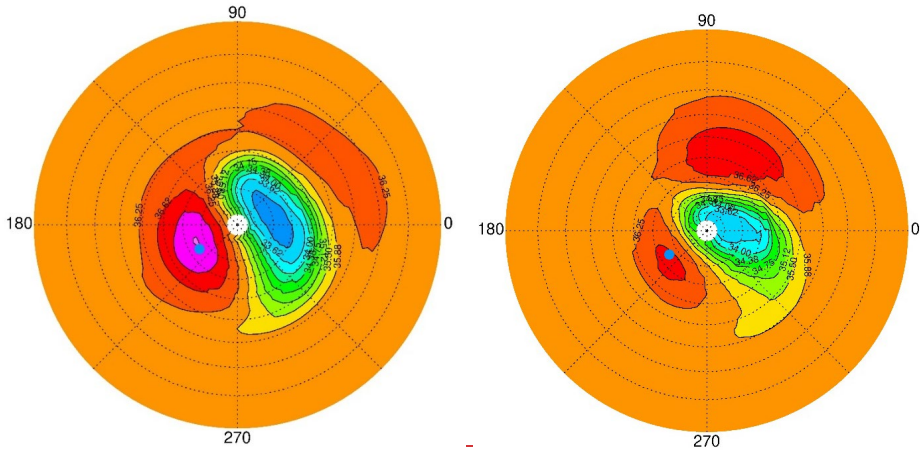
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681 Figure 8 — (left) Temperature at 0.46 hPa for January 27, 1979, for comparison with ~~is blue~~ Fig.  
682 7. (right) Ozone at 0.46 hPa for comparison with Fig. 6. Contour interval for T(p) is 5 K and for  
683 ozone is 0.25 ppmv. Red dot is location of Poker Flat.

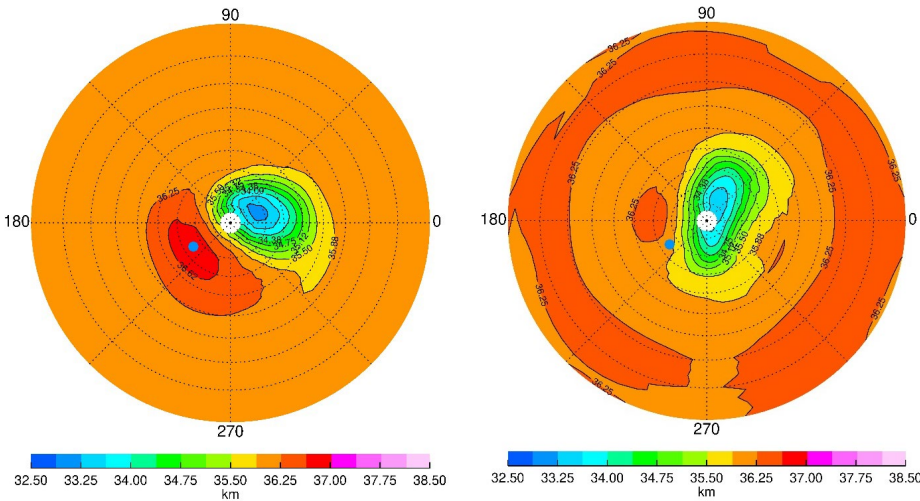
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689 satellite position is pink. (bottom-right)

690 ~~Figure 9~~ NH V6 GPH at 4.6 hPa; contour interval (CI) is 0.375 gpm.

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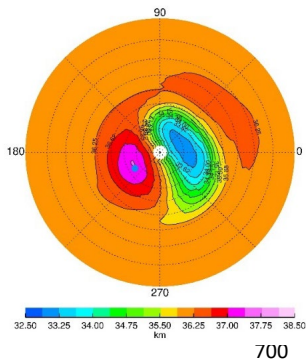
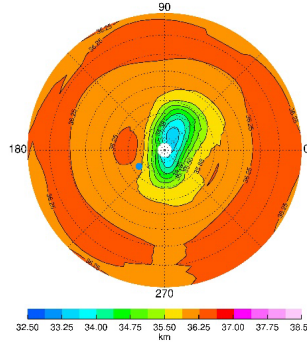


Figure 8—NH V6  
 GPH at 4.6 hPa: CI is  
 location of 0.375 gpkm.  
 Poker Flat is blue dot.  
 Panels are spaced one week  
 apart; (top-left) January 27;  
 (top-right) February 3;  
 (bottom-left/middle) February  
 10; and (bottom-right) February 17.

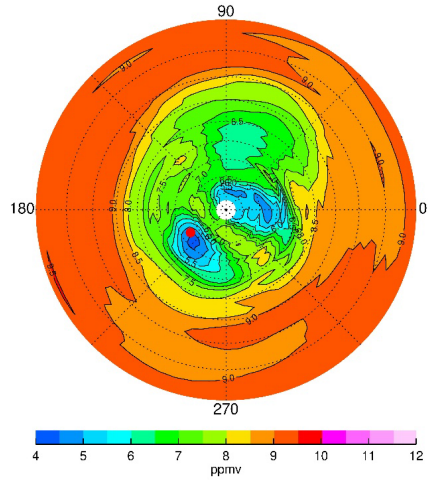
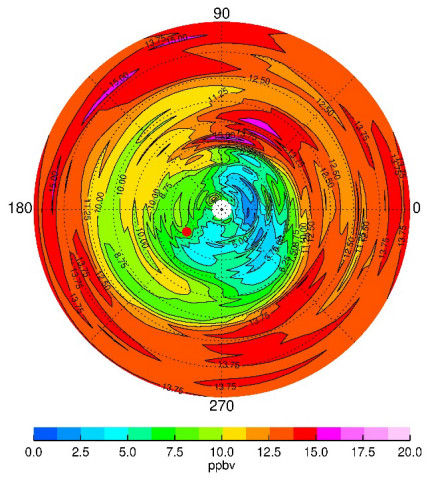


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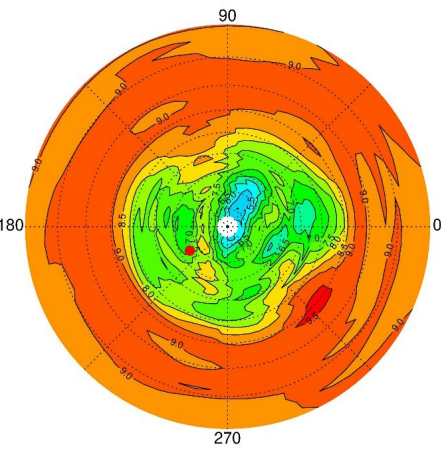
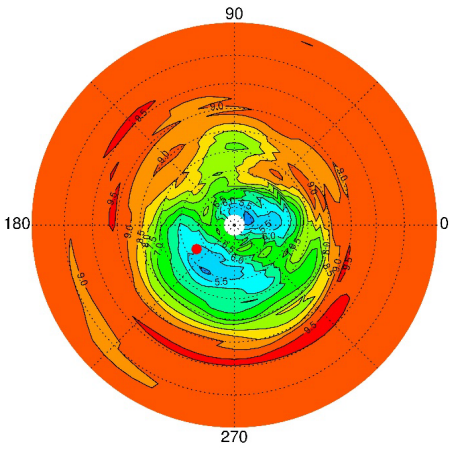
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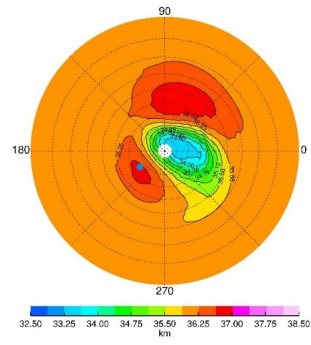
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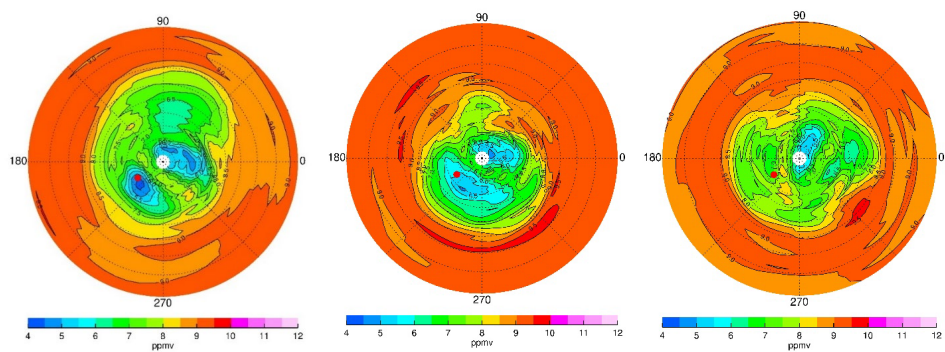


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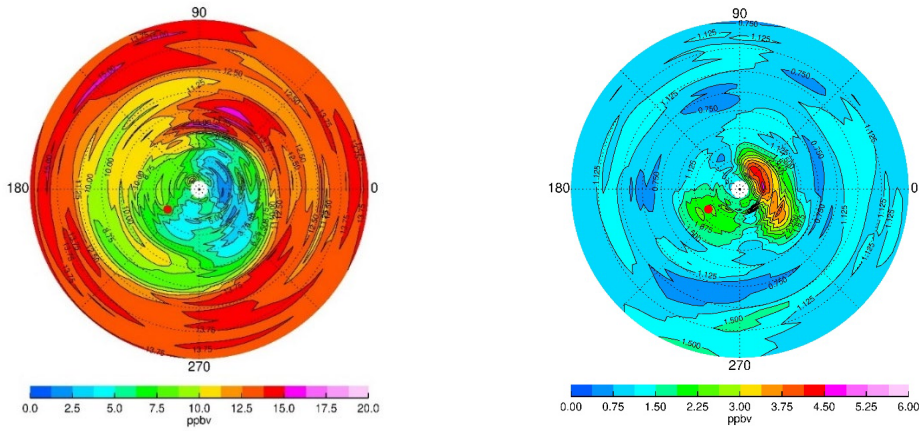






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 711 Figure 109—Maps for 4.6 hPa of (top left) nighttime NO<sub>2</sub> on January 27, CI is 1.25 ppbv and red  
 712 dot is Poker Flat; (top right) ozone of ozone at 4.6 hPa (left) on February 3; (bottom left) ozone  
 713 (middle) on February 10; and (bottom-right) ozone on February 17; CI is 0.5 ppmv and red dot  
 714 is Poker Flat.

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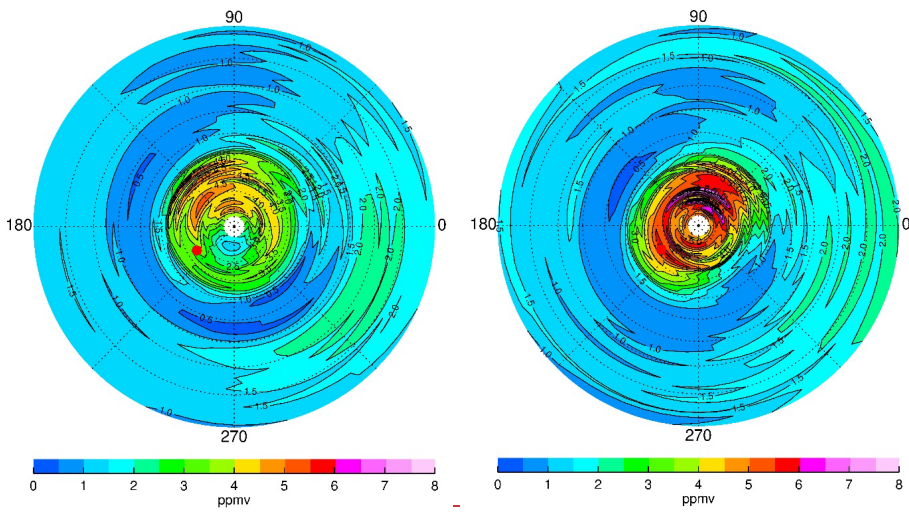
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728 Figure 10—(left) Nighttime NO<sub>2</sub> on January 27 at 4.6 hPa; CI is 1.25 ppbv. (right) HNO<sub>3</sub> at 4.6  
 729 hPa; CI is 0.5 ppmv. Ozone color bar applies to the bottom two panels, as well  
 730 375 ppbv. Red  
 731 dot is Poker Flat.

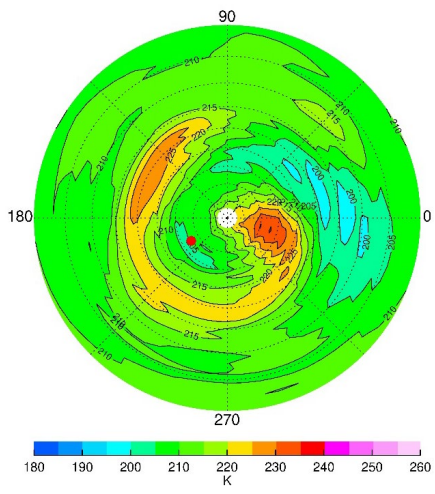
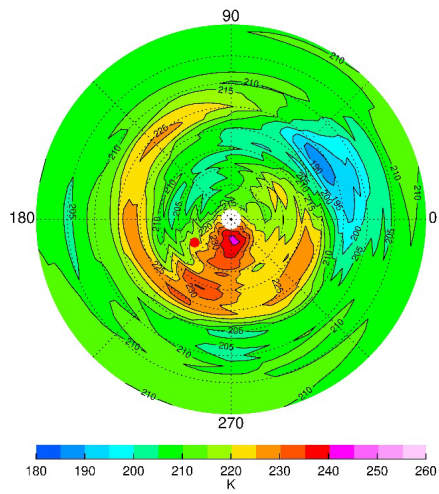
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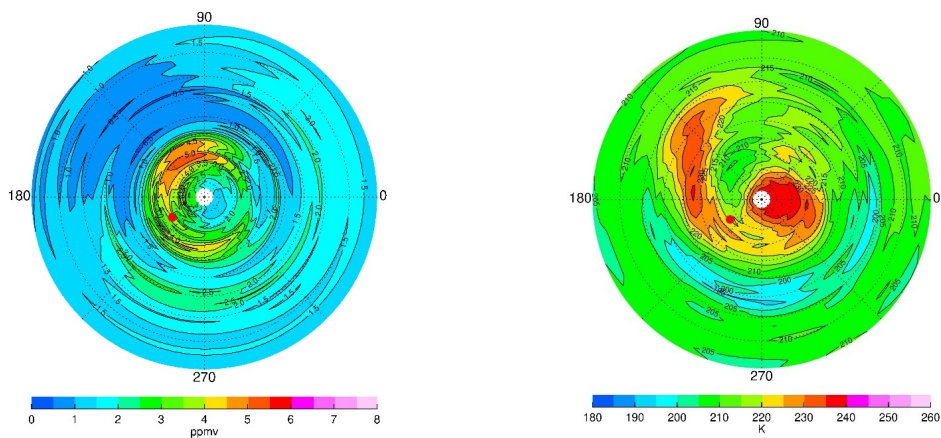


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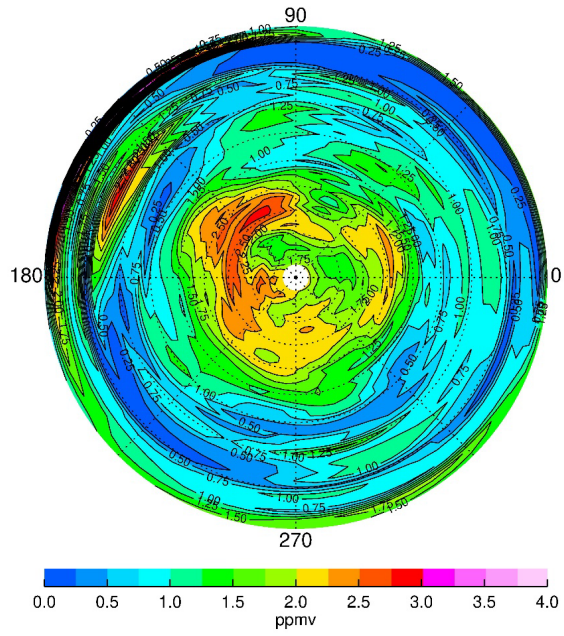


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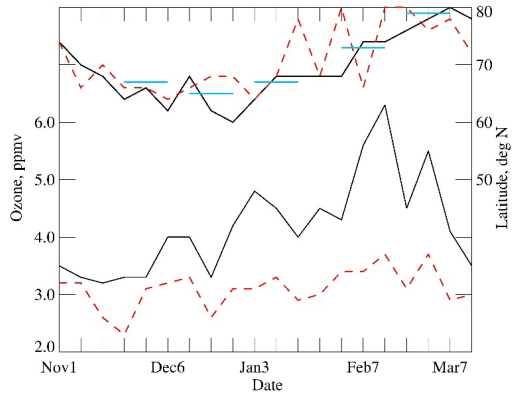
744  
 745 Figure 11—(top) ~~Distributions of NH ozone distributions for December 15~~ at 0.022 hPa on  
 746 ~~January 13~~ for (left) ozone and ~~February 10~~ (right), respectively; contour interval is 0.5 ppmv.  
 747 ~~(bottom) NH for (right) temperature at 0.022 hPa on January 13~~ (left); CIs are 0.5 ppmv and  
 748 ~~February 10~~ (right); contour interval is 5 K. ~~5 K~~, respectively. Red dot denotes location of Poker  
 749 Flat.

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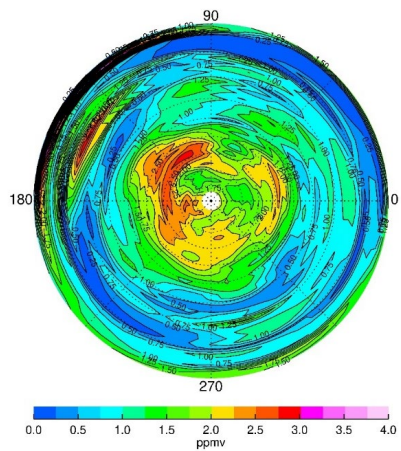


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758 Figure 12—Time series of peak V6 ozone (bottom two curves) and its latitude location (top two  
759 curves) at 0.022 hPa. Dashed red curves are for combined ozone, while solid curves are for  
760 descending (nighttime) ozone only. Horizontal blue lines indicate the latitude of the terminator.

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765 Figure 13—NH V6 combined (A+D) ozone distribution at 68 hPa for December 15, 1978.

766 Contour intervalCI is 0.25 ppmv.

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