

Long-term analysis of disturbance in the winter middle atmosphere over Alaska

Kazuyo Sakanoi[1]; Yasuhiro Murayama[2]; Richard L. Collins[3]; Kohei Mizutani[4]; Seiji Kawamura[2]

[1] Komazawa University; [2] NICT; [3] UAF; [4] CRL

In this presentation, we present results of long-term analysis of the disturbed conditions and the atmospheric waves in the mesosphere associated with stratospheric sudden warmings (SSWs) over Poker Flat Research Range (65.1N, 147.5W). So far we analyzed mesospheric temperature and wind data observed with the NICT Rayleigh lidar and MF radar, and stratospheric assimilation data provided by the United Kingdom Meteorological Office on a period that extends from November 1998 to April 2006.

Six major SSWs occurred during analyzed period. Before major SSWs temperature increasing of 10 - 30 K in the lower mesosphere was observed by the NICT lidar, which observations were conducted only at two major events, and intermittent reversals of East-West wind were also observed by the NICT MF radar at all major SSW events. Just before major SSWs disappear of temperature peak as stratopause and temperature was almost constant from 40 - 80 km altitude range was seen in the results of two-event observations by the NICT lidar. During major SSWs temperature decreasing of 10 - 20 K in the lower mesosphere was observed by the NICT lidar at two events. At all major events East-West wind reversal (eastward to westward) from 30 - 90 km altitude range was seen by the NICT MF radar observations. This wind reversal starts and descends from mesosphere to upper stratosphere and occasionally to troposphere. Remarkable elevation of the stratopause (~55km to 70km) and the center altitude of middle atmosphere jet occurred in the 2003/2004 winter. The similar elevation of the center altitude of middle atmosphere jet was observed in the 2005/2006 winter.

In addition, we analyzed wind data observed by the NICT MF radar in order to investigate characteristics of atmospheric waves in the mesosphere. For example, following results were obtained about analysis of activities of short period waves of E-W direction in 1998/1999 winter. Decreasing of activity of those waves was observed at two major SSWs. On the other hand increasing of activity was seen before those SSWs, during which enhancement of eastward wind occurred in the upper stratosphere. Decreasing of activity, however, also observed at the period of intermittent reversal of E-W wind (eastward to westward) in the mesosphere. High activity of short period waves after major warmings and existence of planetary wave with wavenumber 5 in upper stratosphere in 2003/2004 is not as usual.

We will analyze more data and discuss relationship between characteristics of planetary/tidal/gravity waves in the mesosphere, background wind and temperature in the mesosphere and large scale disturbance in the upper stratosphere such as SSWs in terms of long-term trend.