Ozone responses in a model with and without interactive stratospheric chemistry

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Abstract

Using models to investigate the effect a volcanic eruption can have on the atmosphere might be of great assistance. However, not all models are suited for this depending on what type of model is used. In this work two models, one with and one without interactive stratospheric chemistry, is to be investigated for the variable ozone concentration and additionally the variables AOD (Aerosol Optical Thickness) and temperature. The variables are also investigated for whether the response for a volcanic eruption is amplified at the polar regions. The two models used in this work is CESM2 CAM and CESM2 WACCM, both of them have volcanic eruptions in the simulations but not all variables will display the impact of a volcanic eruption. Ozone and AOD is only affected by the eruption in the WACCM model, whereas the temperature response to a volcanic eruption is visible in both models.

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Introduction

Aerosol particles can have a large impact on the Earth's climate. For example, SO_2 from explosive volcanic eruptions can be injected into the stratosphere and later convert to aerosol particles which can have a lifetime of several years. These aerosols can affect the climate by scattering solar radiation, absorb longwave radiation and creating a surface for heterogeneous reactions to occur.(SPARC (2010)) These heterogeneous chemical reactions work in the same way as water and nitric acid does in polar stratospheric clouds, i.e liberating chlorine to deplete ozone. To further investigate the impact on the climate after a volcanic eruption, global Earth models can come into good use. However, to run a model can cost a lot of computational power and therefore it is not always desirable to include all calculations in a model. If the interest of a variable lies at the surface, a model without interactive stratospheric chemistry might be preferred since the computation is reduced compared to a model with interactive stratospheric chemistry. A model without interactive stratospheric chemistry uses prescribed stratospheric variables as input, meaning that the model does not calculate these variables like the model with interactive stratospheric chemistry does (G. Danabasoglu et al.(2020)). The downside of using a reduced model might be that some variables are not responding as expected. This work aims to investigate this potential downside. More specifically; investigate the response to a volcanic eruption by looking at the ozone, AOD (Aerosol Optical Thickness) and temperature of two models. One with interactive stratospheric chemistry and one without. The model without interactive stratospheric chemistry is CESM2 CAM, hereafter referred to as CAM, and the model with interactive stratospheric chemistry is CESM2 WACCM hereafter referred to as WACCM. The volcano chosen for this work is Mount Pinatubo which had an eruption in June 1991. The eruption is a well observed event, it reached the stratosphere and released about 18 ± 5 Mt SO_2 according to S. Guo et al. (2004). Mount Pinatubo is located at 15°08*N*, 120°21*E* in western Luzon, Philippines

To get a better overview of the work the following research questions were stated:

- 1. Does the response differ for ozone, AOD (Aerosol Optical Thickness) and temperature in models with and in models without interactive stratospheric chemistry?
- 2. Is the ozone, AOD (Aerosol Optical Thickness) and temperature response to volcanic eruptions amplified in the polar region?

1 Method

1.1 Packages used

```
[2]: import xarray as xr
    xr.set_options(display_style='html')
    import intake
    import cftime
    import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import cartopy.crs as ccrs
    import numpy as np
    from dask.distributed import Client
    import pprint
    # My funcions
    from eScienceCourse_2022_EmmaAxebrink_functions import *
    %matplotlib inline
    %load_ext autoreload
    %autoreload 2
```

1.2 Datasets

CMIP6 models CMIP6 is the sixth generation of the Coupeld Model Intercomparison Project, consisting of multiple models and a total of around one hundred runs. Both WACCM and CAM is part of the CMIP6 project. Although WACCM and CAM are similar there are some differences. CAM does not have interactive stratospheric chemistry, i.e CAM utilise a prescribed stratosphere which is obtained by averaging three-member ensemble of historical WACCM runs (G. Danabasoglu et al.(2020)). WACCM has a top altitude of \sim 140 km whereas CAM has a top altitude of \sim 40km. In this report three historical runs of CAM and three historical runs of WACCM, six in total, have been chosen to investigate a model with and without interactive stratospheric chemistry. The three runs for each model used have the member id r1i1p1f1, r2i1p1f1 and r3i1p1f1. Three latitudinal regions were looked at, the Arctic (lat > 60N), mid- and tropical region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). The variables investigated were od550aer, o3 and ta, i.e. (AOD) ambient aerosol optical thickness at 550nm, ozone, and temperature. The AOD can display if the volcanic eruption is visible in the model but also in what region the aerosol is located. The ozone and temperature are connected since the ozone absorb the solar radiation, heating the stratosphere, but the increase of ozone depletion after a volcanic eruption would mean a lower temperature in the stratosphere. A lower temperature in the stratosphere is however not expected in the results. The volcanic aerosols absorb the longwave radiation, leading to an increase in temperature of the stratosphere. This temperature increase is larger than the temperature decrease from the reduced ozone, hence a temperature increase after a volcanic eruption is expected as seen in SPARC (2010). The time range for these two models are monthly averages from 1850 to 2014 but only one subsets of eleven years have been used, namely January 1986 to December 1996 which is five years prior and five years post the Mount Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

The expected outcome for the three variables, ozone, AOD and temperature, is that the model without interactive chemistry (CAM) will have limited or no response to volcanic eruptions since it does not calculate the reactions in the stratosphere.

In this work the ozone is presented in Dobson unit and is calculate from mol/mol with the following equations:

Ozone concentration =
$$O_3[\frac{mol_{O_3}}{mol_{air}}]$$
 (1)

Molecular weight ozone =
$$48.0\left[\frac{g}{mol_{O_2}}\right]$$
 (2)

Molecular weight air =
$$28.94 \left[\frac{g}{mol_{air}} \right]$$
 (3)

Pressure = Pa =
$$\left[\frac{F}{m^2}\right] = \left[\frac{kg}{s^2m}\right]$$
 (4)

$$g = 9.81 \left[\frac{m}{s^2} \right] \tag{5}$$

$$1 DU = 2.1415 \cdot 10^{-5} \left[\frac{kg}{m^2} \right]$$
 (6)

with (2) and (3) yields:

$$Ozone = \frac{48.0}{28.94} \tag{7}$$

with (4), (5) and (6) yields:

$$Ozone [DU] = Ozone \cdot \frac{Pa}{g} \cdot \frac{1}{DU}$$
 (8)

Since the datasets are large and take some time to load Dask is used to speed the process up by parallel computing

The data for both CAM and WACCM are located in the CMIP6 PANGEO catalogue.

```
waccm_aod = col.search(source_id=['CESM2-WACCM'], experiment_id=['historical'],__
      →table_id=['AERmon'],
                            variable_id=['od550aer'],__
      →member_id=['r1i1p1f1','r2i1p1f1','r3i1p1f1'])
     cam_aod = col.search(source_id=['CESM2'], experiment_id=['historical'],__
      →table_id=['AERmon'],
                          variable_id=['od550aer'],_
      →member_id=['r1i1p1f1','r2i1p1f1','r3i1p1f1'])
     #Search the catalogue for temperature data
    waccm_t = col.search(source_id=['CESM2-WACCM'], experiment_id=['historical'],__
      →table_id=['Amon'],
                          variable_id=['ta'],
      →member_id=['r1i1p1f1','r2i1p1f1','r3i1p1f1'])
     cam_t = col.search(source_id=['CESM2'], experiment_id=['historical'],__
      →table_id=['Amon'],
                        variable_id=['ta'],__
      →member_id=['r1i1p1f1','r2i1p1f1','r3i1p1f1'])
[5]: dict_waccm_o3 = waccm_o3.to_dataset_dict(zarr_kwargs={'use_cftime':True})
    dict_cam_o3 = cam_o3.to_dataset_dict(zarr_kwargs={'use_cftime':True})
    dict_waccm_aod = waccm_aod.to_dataset_dict(zarr_kwargs={'use_cftime':True})
    dict_cam_aod = cam_aod.to_dataset_dict(zarr_kwargs={'use_cftime':True})
    dict_waccm_t = waccm_t.to_dataset_dict(zarr_kwargs={'use_cftime':True})
    dict_cam_t = cam_t.to_dataset_dict(zarr_kwargs={'use_cftime':True})
[6]: print(list(dict_waccm_o3.keys()))
    print(list(dict_cam_o3.keys()))
    waccm_o3 = dict_waccm_o3['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2-WACCM.historical.Amon.gn']
    cam_o3 = dict_cam_o3['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2.historical.Amon.gn']
    print(list(dict_waccm_aod.keys()))
    print(list(dict_cam_aod.keys()))
    waccm_aod = dict_waccm_aod['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2-WACCM.historical.AERmon.gn']
    cam_aod = dict_cam_aod['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2.historical.AERmon.gn']
    print(list(dict_waccm_t.keys()))
    print(list(dict_cam_t.keys()))
    waccm_t = dict_waccm_t['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2-WACCM.historical.Amon.gn']
    cam_t = dict_cam_t['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2.historical.Amon.gn']
    ['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2-WACCM.historical.Amon.gn']
    ['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2.historical.Amon.gn']
    ['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2-WACCM.historical.AERmon.gn']
    ['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2.historical.AERmon.gn']
```

```
['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2-WACCM.historical.Amon.gn']
['CMIP.NCAR.CESM2.historical.Amon.gn']
```

For easier computation, merge the three datasets into one.

1.3 Analysis method

To reduce the size of the datasets a specific time range is selected. In this work the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, January 1986 to December 1996 is selected. This time span will allow for calculations of the anomaly by taking the mean of 5 years prior the eruption, i.e the climatology, and subtracting that from the remaining 6 years to remove any seasonal variations. The code for calculating the anomaly is located in the eScienceCourse_2022_EmmaAxebrink_functions.py file.

```
[8]: # Select the starting year 5 years prior to the eruption
start_pina = cftime.DatetimeNoLeap(1986,1,15)
end_pina = cftime.DatetimeNoLeap(1996,12,15)

# WACCM
waccm_1986_1996 = waccm.sel(time=slice(start_pina, end_pina))
# CAM
cam_1986_1996 = cam.sel(time=slice(start_pina, end_pina))
```

Before calculating the anomaly for the three variables the ozone variable need to be converted from mol/mol to Dobson units (DU). This is done by using the function *calculate_total_ozone_p* located in the eScienceCourse_2022_EmmaAxebrink_functions.py file. This function will create a new variable called *totO3*.

```
[8]: waccm_1986_1996 = calculate_total_ozone_p(waccm_1986_1996)
cam_1986_1996 = calculate_total_ozone_p(cam_1986_1996)
```

```
[10]: # Weight the variables in the three regions before plotting
      # Yearly
     # WACCM
     yr_waccm_arc = computeWeightedMean(year_waccm_anom_1986_1996.
       →where(year_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']>60.)).compute()
     yr_waccm_mid = computeWeightedMean(year_waccm_anom_1986_1996.
       \rightarrowwhere((year_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']<60.) &
      yr_waccm_ant = computeWeightedMean(year_waccm_anom_1986_1996.
       →where(year_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']<-60.)).compute()</pre>
      # CAM
     yr_cam_arc = computeWeightedMean(year_cam_anom_1986_1996.
       →where(year_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']>60.)).compute()
     yr_cam_mid = computeWeightedMean(year_cam_anom_1986_1996.
       \rightarrowwhere((year_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']<60.) &
       yr_cam_ant = computeWeightedMean(year_cam_anom_1986_1996.
       →where(year_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']<-60.)).compute()</pre>
[10]: # Weight the calculated anomaly variables before plotting
      # Monthly
      # WACCM
     mon_waccm_arc = computeWeightedMean(mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996.
      →where(mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']>60.)).compute()
     mon_waccm_mid = computeWeightedMean(mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996.
       →where((mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']<60.) &</pre>
       \hookrightarrow (mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']>-60.))).compute()
     mon_waccm_ant = computeWeightedMean(mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996.

→where(mon_waccm_anom_1986_1996['lat']<-60.)).compute()
</pre>
      # CAM
     mon_cam_arc = computeWeightedMean(mon_cam_anom_1986_1996.
       →where(mon_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']>60.)).compute()
     mon_cam_mid = computeWeightedMean(mon_cam_anom_1986_1996.
       →where((mon_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']<60.) &</pre>
       →(mon_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']>-60.))).compute()
     mon_cam_ant = computeWeightedMean(mon_cam_anom_1986_1996.
       \rightarrowwhere (mon_cam_anom_1986_1996['lat']<-60.)).compute()
[14]: # Weight the variables before plotting
      # Monthly
```

```
# WACCM
mon_w_arc_abs = computeWeightedMean(waccm_1986_1996.
→where(waccm_1986_1996['lat']>60.)).compute()
mon_w_mid_abs = computeWeightedMean(waccm_1986_1996.
→where((waccm_1986_1996['lat']<60.) &</pre>
mon_w_ant_abs = computeWeightedMean(waccm_1986_1996.
\rightarrowwhere(waccm_1986_1996['lat']<-60.)).compute()
# CAM
mon_c_arc_abs = computeWeightedMean(cam_1986_1996.where(cam_1986_1996['lat']>60.
→)).compute()
mon_c_mid_abs = computeWeightedMean(cam_1986_1996.where((cam_1986_1996['lat']<60.
→) &
mon_c_ant_abs = computeWeightedMean(cam_1986_1996.where(cam_1986_1996['lat']<-60.
 →)).compute()
```

2 Results and discussion

```
[49]: var = 'od550aer'
w1 = mon_waccm_arc[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
w2 = mon_waccm_mid[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
w3 = mon_waccm_ant[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
c1 = mon_cam_arc[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
c2 = mon_cam_mid[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
c3 = mon_cam_ant[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)

plot3_month_mean(w1, w2, w3, c1, c2, c3,'\nMember mean anomaly',1991)
```

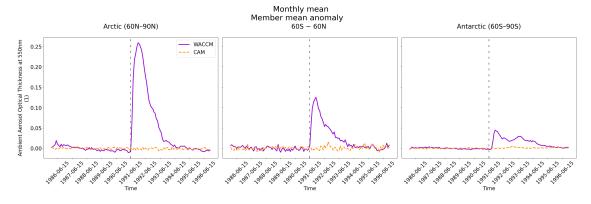


Figure 1 Monthly member mean anomaly for AOD (Aerosol Optical Thickness) from January 1986 to December 1996 in the Arctic (> 60N), mid- and tropical region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). The vertical dashed black line represents the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, June. The solid purple line represent the mean of the three WACCM runs and the dashed orange line represent the mean of the three CAM runs.

Figure 1 clearly shows increase of the AOD after the Mount Pinatubo eruption in June 1991 in WACCM but not in CAM. We can also see, for WACCM, a stronger AOD signal in the Arctic compared to the mid- and tropical region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). This could potentially be explained by the location of the volcano, $15^{\circ}08N$, $120^{\circ}21E$ in western Luzon, Philippines, but a more likely cause is the direction of winds simulated in the WACCM model, not explored in this work. The lack of response in CAM is due to CAM not having interactive stratospheric chemistry but instead uses mean values from WACCM runs as input.

```
[53]: var = 'tot03'
w1 = yr_waccm_arc[var]
w2 = yr_waccm_mid[var]
w3 = yr_waccm_ant[var]
c1 = yr_cam_arc[var]
c2 = yr_cam_mid[var]
c3 = yr_cam_ant[var]
plot3_year(w1, w2, w3, c1, c2, c3, 'anomaly')
```

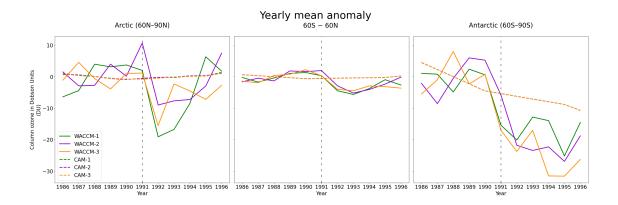


Figure 2 Yearly mean anomaly for column ozone over the years 1986 to 1996 in the Arctic (> 60N), mid- and tropical region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). The vertical dashed black line represent the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo. The solid colored lines represent the three WACCM runs and the dashed colored lines represent the three CAM runs.

```
[51]: var = 'tot03'
w1 = mon_waccm_arc[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
w2 = mon_waccm_mid[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
w3 = mon_waccm_ant[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
c1 = mon_cam_arc[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
c2 = mon_cam_mid[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
c3 = mon_cam_ant[var].mean('member_id',keep_attrs=True)
plot3_month_mean(w1, w2, w3, c1, c2, c3,'\nMember mean anomaly',1991)
```

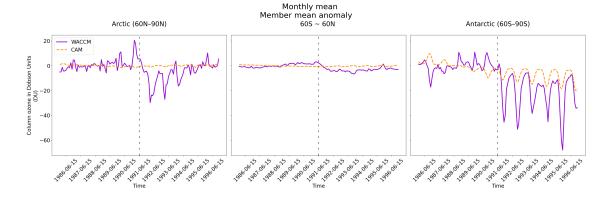


Figure 3 Monthly member mean anomaly for column ozone from January 1986 to December 1996 in the Arctic (> 60N), mid- and tropical region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). The vertical dashed black line represents the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, June. The solid purple line represents the mean of the three WACCM runs and the dashed orange line represent the mean of the three CAM runs.

```
[50]: var = 'tot03'
w1 = mon_w_arc_abs[var].mean(['member_id'],keep_attrs=True)
w2 = mon_w_mid_abs[var].mean(['member_id'],keep_attrs=True)
w3 = mon_w_ant_abs[var].mean(['member_id'],keep_attrs=True)
c1 = mon_c_arc_abs[var].mean(['member_id'],keep_attrs=True)
c2 = mon_c_mid_abs[var].mean(['member_id'],keep_attrs=True)
c3 = mon_c_ant_abs[var].mean(['member_id'],keep_attrs=True)
plot3_month_mean(w1, w2, w3, c1, c2, c3,'',1991)
```

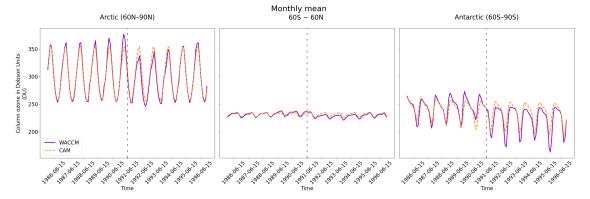


Figure 4 Monthly member mean for column ozone from January 1986 to December 1996 in the Arctic (> 60N), mid- and tropical region (60S >lat < 60N) and the Antactic (lat < 60S). The vertical dashed black line represent the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, June. The solid purple line represent the mean of the three WACCM runs and the dashed orange line represents the mean of the three CAM runs.

After the eruption of Mount Pinatubo a decrease of ozone is expected due to the provided surface from the volcanic areosols for heterogeneous chemical reactions to occur. These reactions allows chlorine to break free from its reservoir species and destroy ozone (SPARC (2010)). This is visible in figure 1 for WACCM but not for CAM. We can also see that the column ozone in the southern polar region continue to decrease years after the eruption whereas in the northern polar region the column ozone seams to increase again after \sim 5 years. The continuation of decreased ozone in the southern polar region is due to the ozone hole, created by emissions of CFC's (S. S. Dhomse et al. (2019)). The anomaly in the mid- and tropical (60S \sim 60N) region is smaller compared to the Arctic and Antarctic region in figure 1, indicating that the depletion is greather at the poles. A reasoning for this is because that the majority of ozone is produced at the equator and then transported to the polar region in the respective winter season by the Brewer-Dobson circulation (BDC)(U. Langematz (2019)), hence the largest anomaly for ozone depletion is in the polar regions. Another factor that would reduce the concentration of ozone at the poles is that the polar vortex, which can be described as a barrier preventing new air parcels to enter the polar regions, can become stronger after a volcanic eruption (SPARC (2010)). The polar vortex is however not explored in this work. Figure 3 shows similar results as figure 2 but as the mean over the three member runs of CAM and WACCM respectively and instead of yearly mean we have monthly means. Both figure 2 and figure 3 show that CAM has a very small ozone response after the volcanic eruption. This means that CAM does not consider the affect that volcanic eruption has on the ozone, such as volcanic aerosols providing surface for heterogeneous chemical reactions, freeing chlorine and then destroy ozone. The fluctuations in figure 3 for the Arctic and Antarctic can possibly be explained by the selection of years for the climatology, which is used to calculate the anomaly. The climatology is monthly averaged over five years prior to the eruption, which can be considered as a calm period. This time period might not have been optimal since the seasonal fluctuations from the CFC's ozone depletion is still visible to some extent. However the main investigation of comparing two models, with and without interactive stratospheric chemistry, is not affected by this. In the Arctic the average column ozone is around 300 DU, according to figure 4, and together with figure 3 we can see the decrease of column ozone by \sim 30 DU a year after the eruption. A column ozone value of 220DU is considered a hole according to U. Langematz (2019), which means that the column ozone in Antarctica in figure 4 might not be accurate, this is not explored in this work. However, the decrease of ozone after a volcanic eruption of 30 DU could mean the difference of a ozone hole or not.

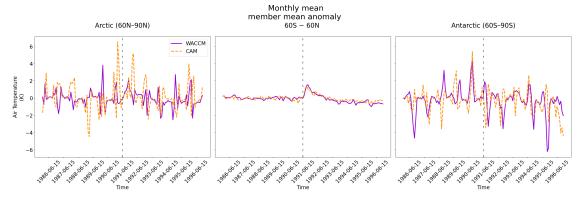


Figure 5 Monthly member mean anomaly, averaged over the pressure level 10000Pa to 100 Pa, for temperature from January 1986 to December 1996 in the Arctic (> 60N), mid- and tropical

region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). The vertical dashed black line represents the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, June. The solid purple line represents the mean of the three WACCM runs and the dashed orange line represents the mean of the three CAM runs.

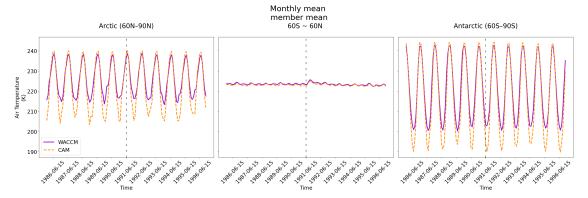


Figure 6 Monthly member mean, averaged over the pressure level 10000 to 100 Pa, for temperature from January 1986 to December 1996 in the Arctic (> 60N), mid- and tropical region (60S > lat < 60N) and the Antarctic (lat < 60S). The vertical dashed black line represents the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, June. The solid purple line represents the mean of the three WACCM runs and the dashed orange line represent the mean of the three CAM runs.

According to A. Gettelman, et al. (2019) ozone fluctuations together with increasing greenhouse gases affect the temperature trends. Figure 1 to 4 have shown that ozone and AOD in WACCM seems to respond to volcaninc reactions whereas CAM does not, but the temperature curves in figure 5 and figure 6 indicate that CAM does have volcanic eruptions in the model since we can clearly see a response, temperature increase, in the mid- and tropical region.

3 Conclusions

From the figures presented in the result section it first appears that the CAM simulations does not respond to the Mount Pinatubo eruption as expected. The column ozone for CAM in figure 1 and 2 does not seem to react at all after the eruption, whereas for WACCM there is a clear decrease of ozone the following years in all three regions after the eruption. The same conclusion can be drawn for the AOD, CAM does not respond to the Mount Pinatubo eruption, whereas WACCM does. The air temperature however shows that both CAM and WACCM respond to the Mount Pinatubo eruption. This indicates that both of the models have volcanic eruptions in the simulations but is only visible in some variables, such as the air temperature, for the model without stratospheric chemistry. Out of the two models and variables selected, the volcanic eruption is best represented in the WACCM model. This is due to WACCM having an interactive stratospheric chemistry which calculates many of the variables based on input files, whereas CAM uses prescribed variables as input. For the AOD and ozone variable, the Mount Pinatubo eruption in 1991 seems to affect the polar regions more than the mid- and tropical region. For the temperature variable however, the effect from the volcanic eruption is more visible in the the mid- and tropical region compared to the polar regions. CAM will save computational power and is best suited for variables in the lower atmosphere region, whereas WACCM is capable of displaying responses of variables high up in the atmosphere. Both of the models do however represent the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

4 References

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