

ACOM Seminar

All About Waves: Stratosphere-troposphere Coupling in the Southern Hemisphere

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Date: Monday, October 31st, 2022, 3:30pm – 4:30pm, in FL2-1022

Livestream: <https://operations.ucar.edu/live-acom>

ABSTRACT

While based on the same physics, stratosphere-troposphere coupling is different in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) compared to the Northern Hemisphere (NH). The polar vortex is much stronger, and that makes all the difference: it is all but impossible for waves smaller than wavenumber-1 to propagate into the stratosphere; the isolated vortex results in considerable ozone loss; Sudden Stratospheric Warmings (SSWs) are almost impossible; the polar vortex forms earlier and breaks down later. So, is the southern stratosphere boring? Not at all! I will show some of the interesting things which still happen, and that the stratosphere – even in the absence of SSWs – still has a strong influence on surface weather and climate. And of course, it's all about waves.