Evidence of tropospheric 90-day oscillations in the thermosphere

Federico Gasperini and Maura E. Hagan gasperini@usu.edu





*Gasperini et al. [2017], Evidence of tropospheric 90-day oscillations in the thermosphere, Geophys. Res. Lett., 2017GL074461 (submitted)

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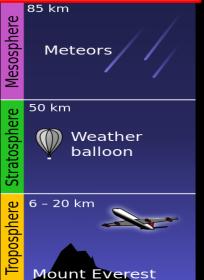
- Introduction
- Data
- Evidence of 90-day Oscillations in the Thermosphere
- Connection to the Troposphere
- Summary

10,000 km

Exosphere

Thermosphere Shuttle

Aurora 100 km (Kármán line)



10,000 km

Exosphere 690 km

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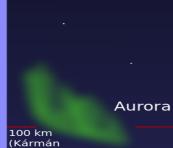
Sources from ABOVE

Intro

10,000 km

Exosphere

	690 km
Ś	Shuttle
Ξ	





Sources from ABOVE

Absorption of Solar EUV Radiation

Intro

10,000 km

690 km

Thermosphere

Exosphere

Shuttle

Sources from ABOVE

- Absorption of Solar EUV Radiation
- Joule Heating

- Aurora 100 km (Kármán line) 85 km
- Meteors 50 km 50 km Weather balloon 6 - 20 km

Mount Everest

Intro

10,000 km

690 km

Exosphere

Thermosphere

Shuttle

Sources from ABOVE

- Absorption of Solar EUV Radiation
- Joule Heating
- Particle Precipitation





Mount Everest

10,000 km

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Aurora 100 km (Kármán line)

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Sources from ABOVE

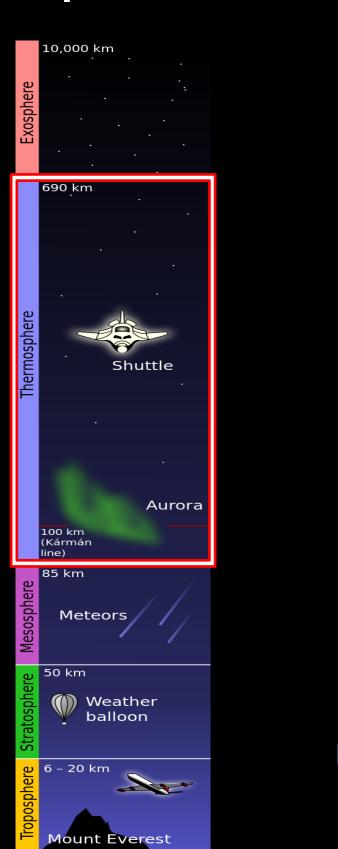
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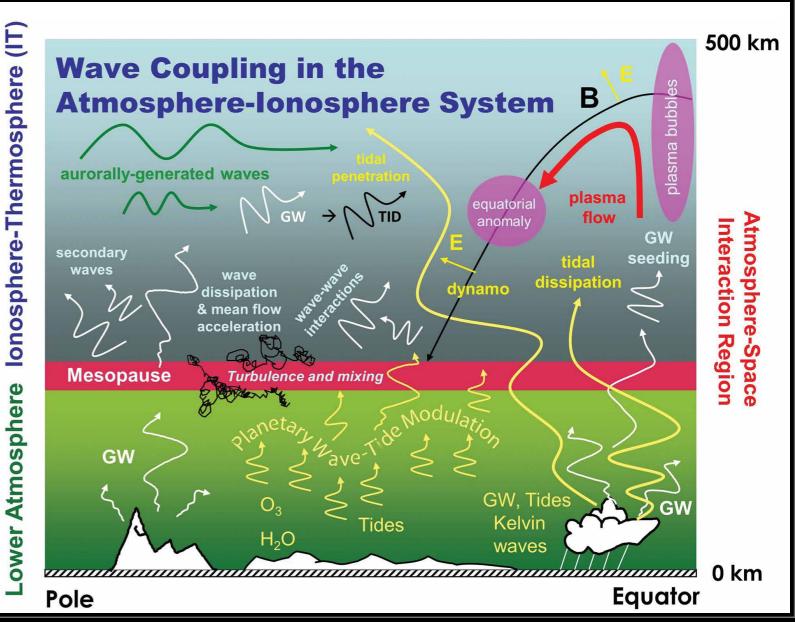




Dissipation of Upward Propagating Waves





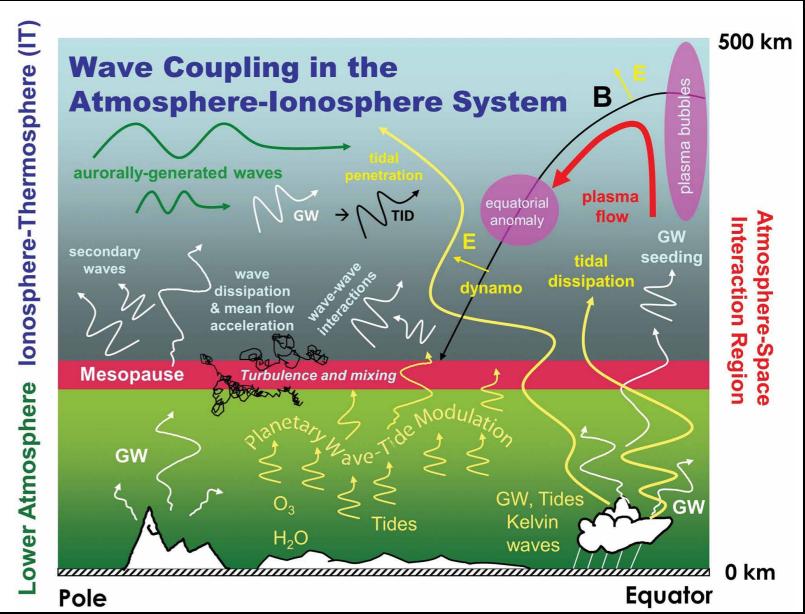


Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey, National Academy of Sciences, 2012.

Dissipation of Upward Propagating Waves Sources from BELOW

Lower Atmosphere Effects on Space Weather

- Electron density variability affects HF radio communications, satellite navigation and communications.
- Neutral density variability affects satellite drag, causing uncertainties in orbital and reentry predictions.



Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey, National Academy of Sciences, 2012.

Dissipation of Upward Propagating Waves Sources from BELOW

DE3

i.e. Diurnal Eastward propagating wavenumber 3 tide

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 Excited in the tropical troposphere by latent heat release in deep convective clouds.



DE3

i.e. Diurnal Eastward propagating wavenumber 3 tide

- Excited in the tropical troposphere by latent heat release in deep convective clouds.
- Large source of variability in the thermosphere and ionosphere.



GOCE

Gravity Field and Steady-State Ocean Circulation Explorer



BIT near-circular 260 km dawn-dusk with *i*=96.7° (sun-synchronous)

Global

Cross-track (east-west) winds from accelerometer, ion thruster, and star camera data

LIFETIME

ORBIT

COVERAGE

DATA

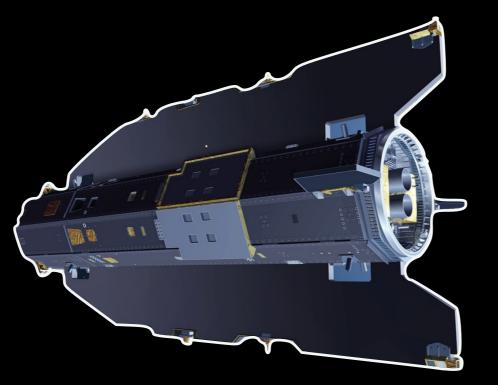
CHAMP

GOCE

Gravity Field and Steady-State Ocean Circulation Explorer

CHAllenging Minisatellite Payload





Jul 00 – Sept 10

near-circular 450-300 km with *i*=87° (slowly precessing)

±87° latitude

Cross-track (east-west) winds from accelerometer data

Mar 09 – Nov 13

near-circular 260 km dawn-dusk with *i*=96.7° (sun-synchronous)

Global

Cross-track (east-west) winds from accelerometer, ion thruster, and star camera data

LIFETIME

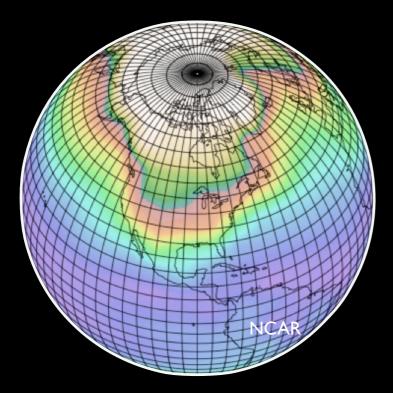
ORBIT

COVERAGE

DATA

TIME-GCM

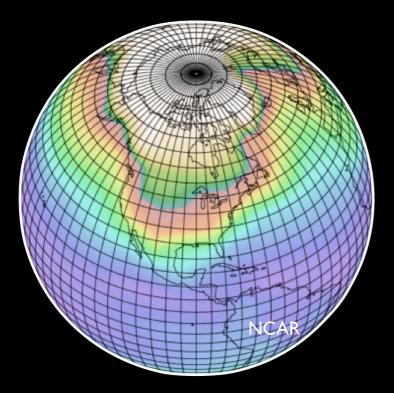
Thermosphere Ionosphere Mesosphere Electrodynamics General Circulation Model



- Global time-dependent model developed by NCAR.
- F10.7 and Kp indices are used to represent solar radiative and high-latitude forcing.
- Grid: 2.5°x2.5°, 4 points vertical (~30-500 km), 1-min time step.
- Lower boundary set with MERRA reanalysis data that provides realistic wave forcing.
- Field: zonal wind for 2009-2010.

TIME-GCM

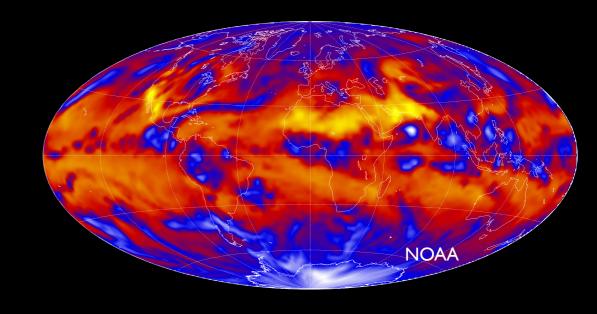
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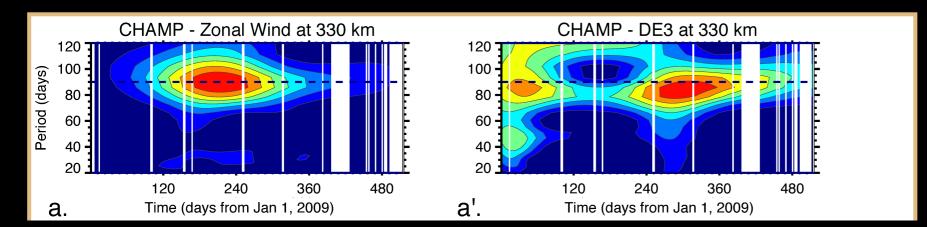
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OLR

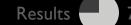
Outgoing Longwave Radiation

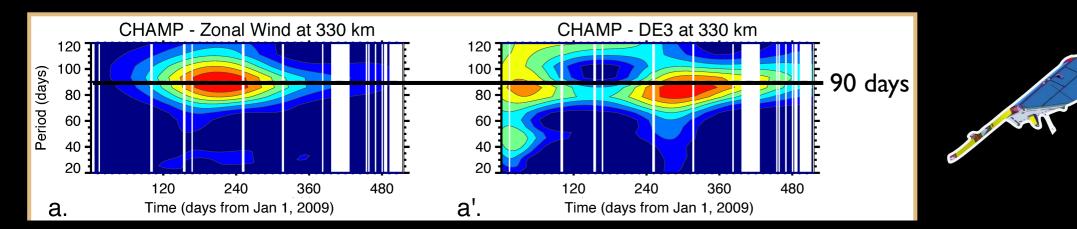


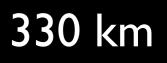
- Infrared radiation emitted from Earth and its atmosphere to space.
- Measured by radiometers onboard NOAA's polar orbiting satellites.
- Serves as proxy for tropospheric convection, because convective cloud tops are cold and thus emit little long-wave radiation.



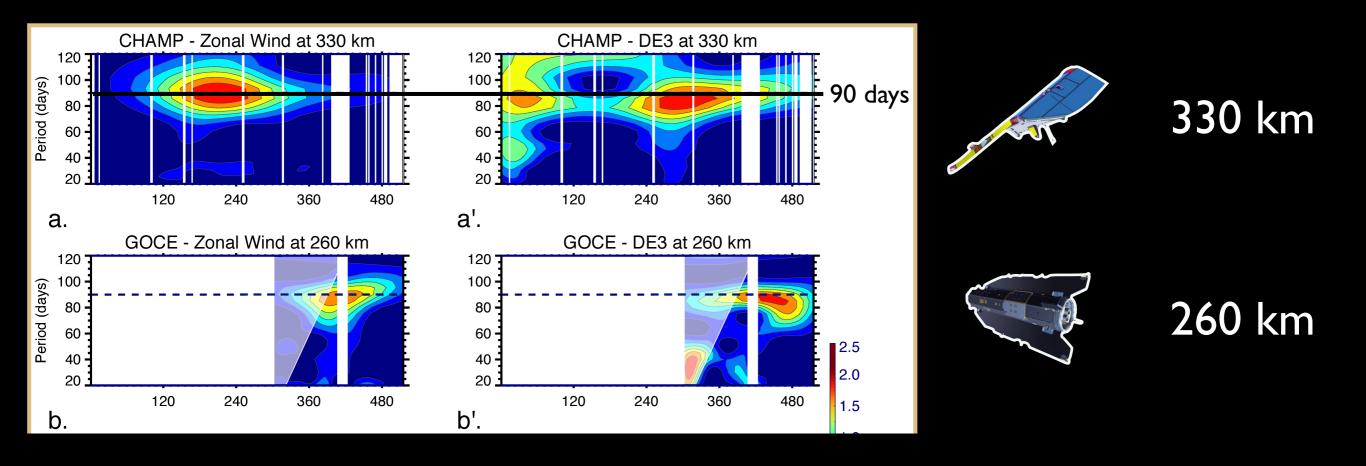


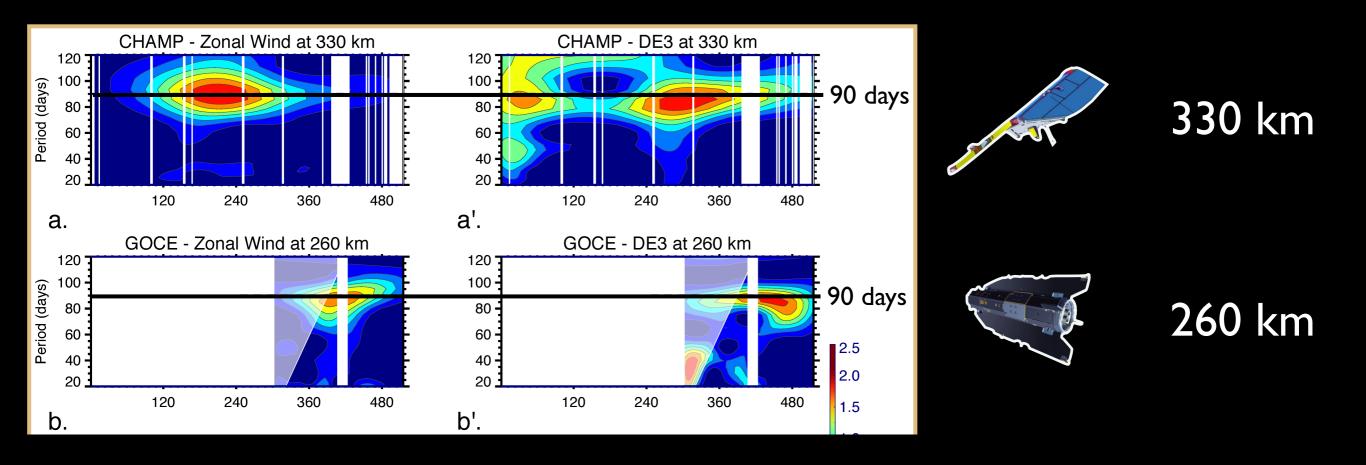


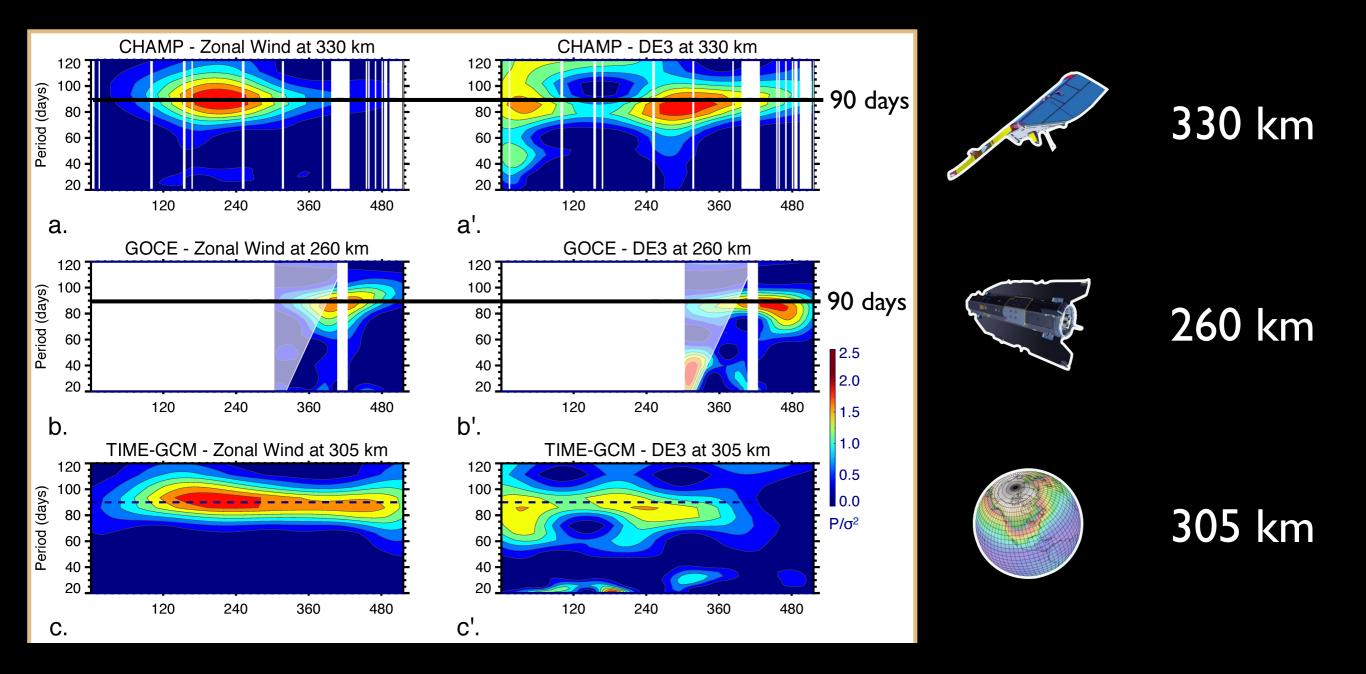




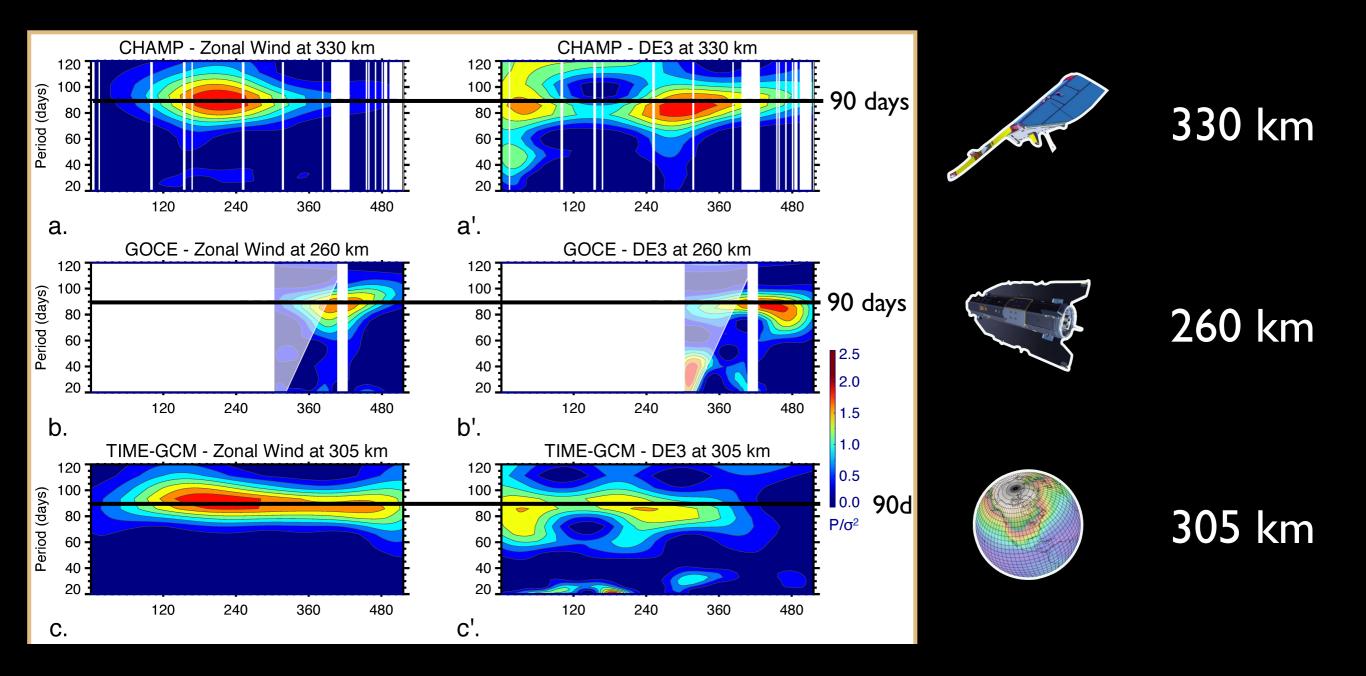
Results



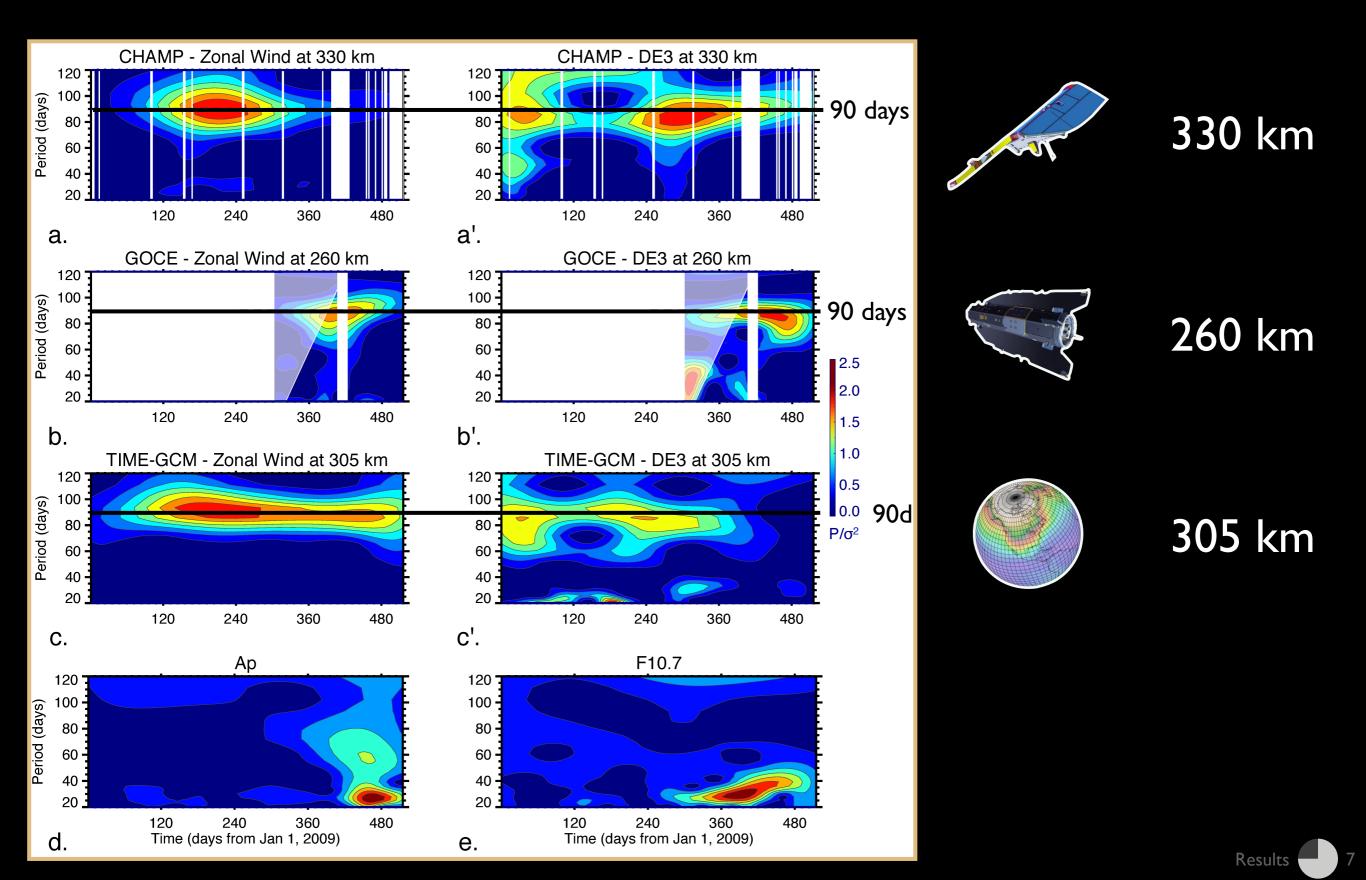


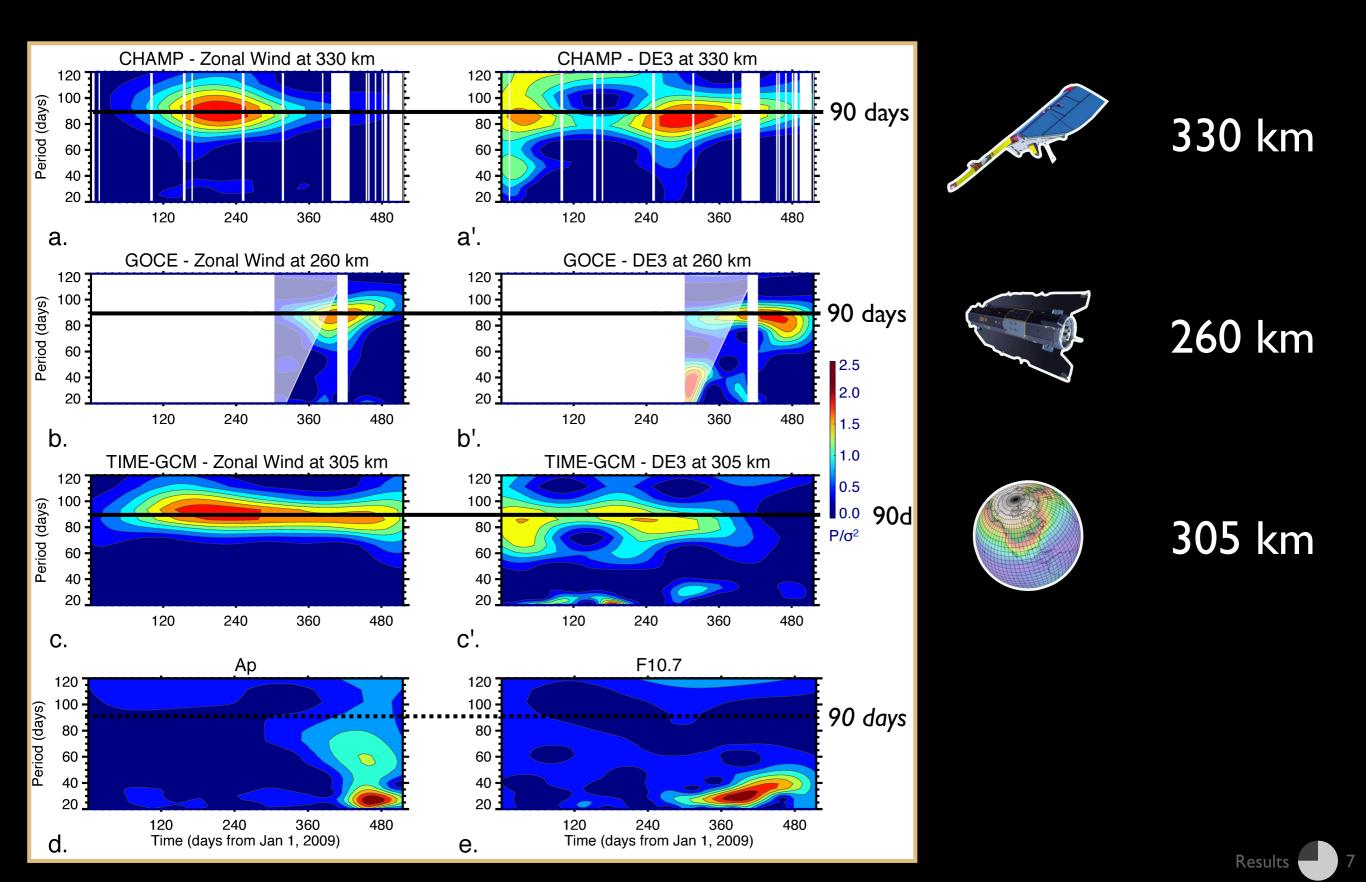


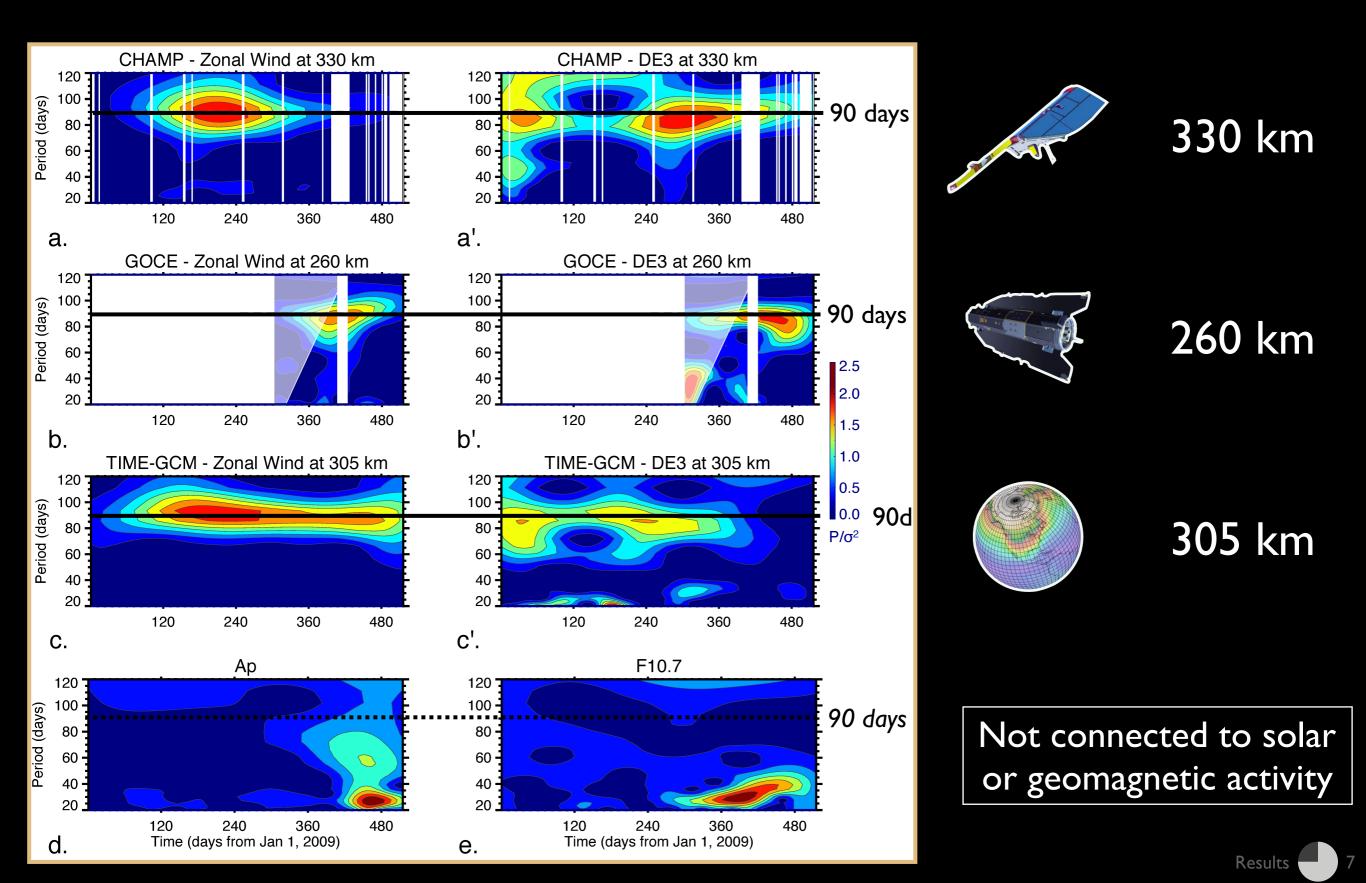
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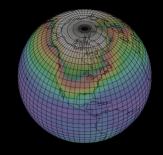
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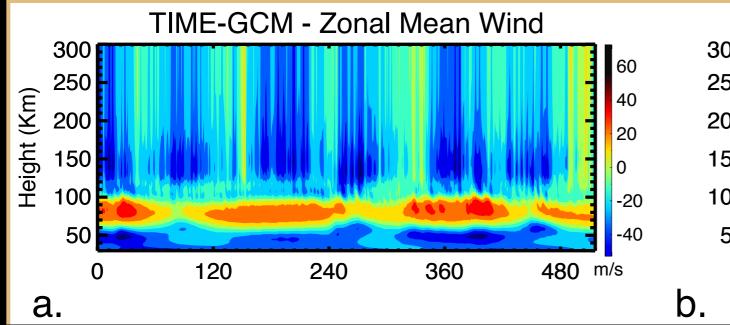


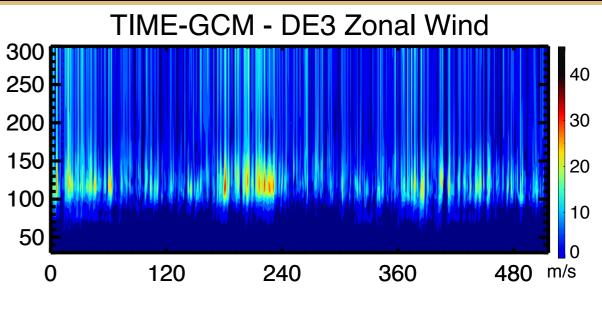




Vertical structure

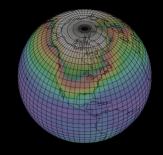


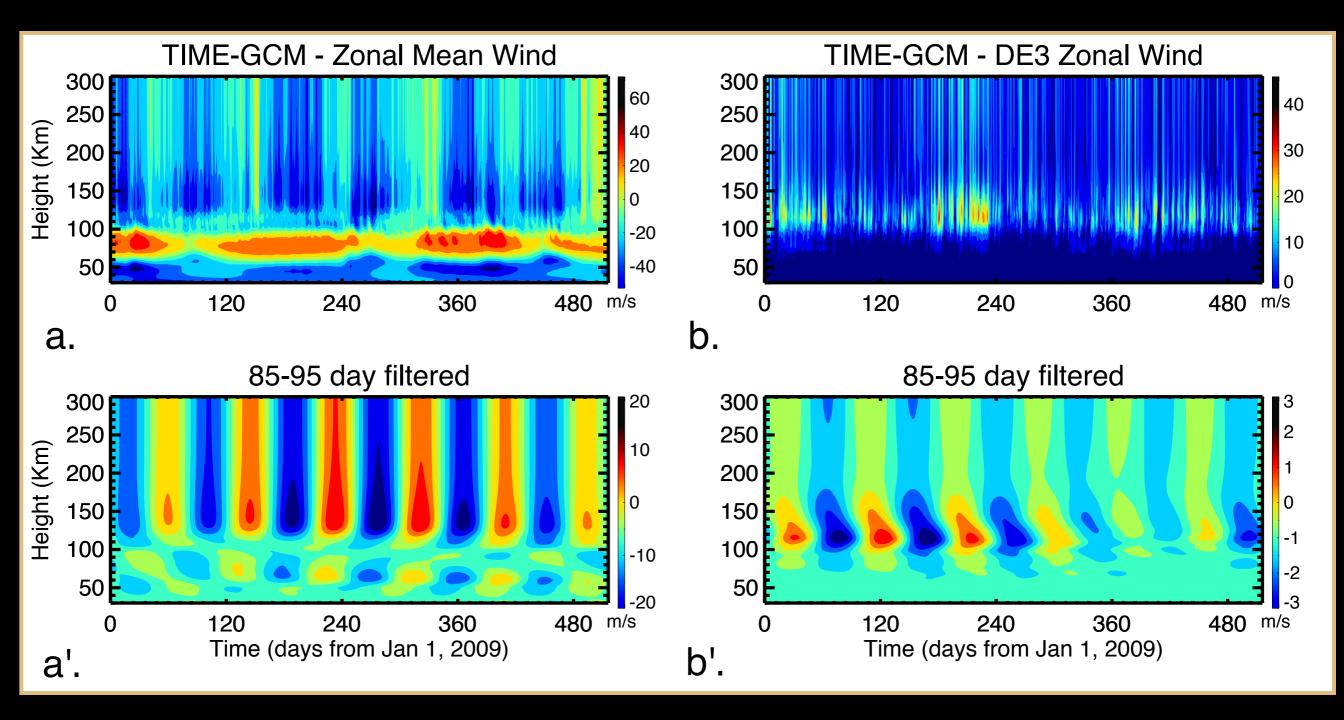


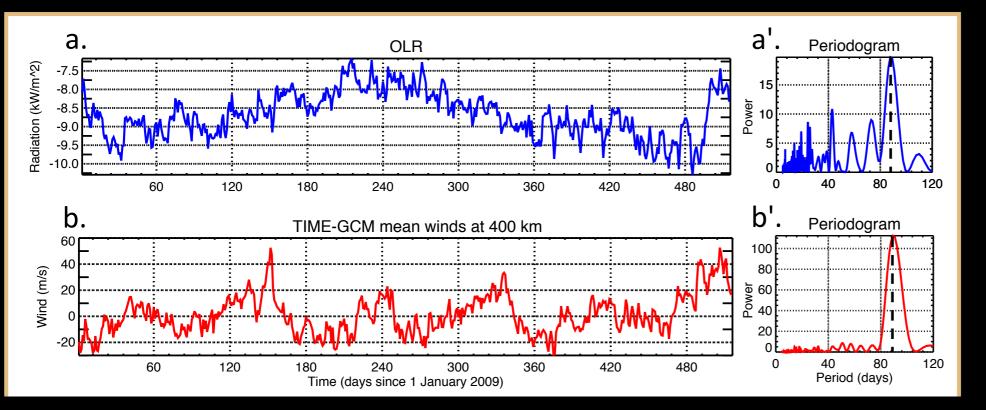


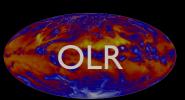
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Vertical structure

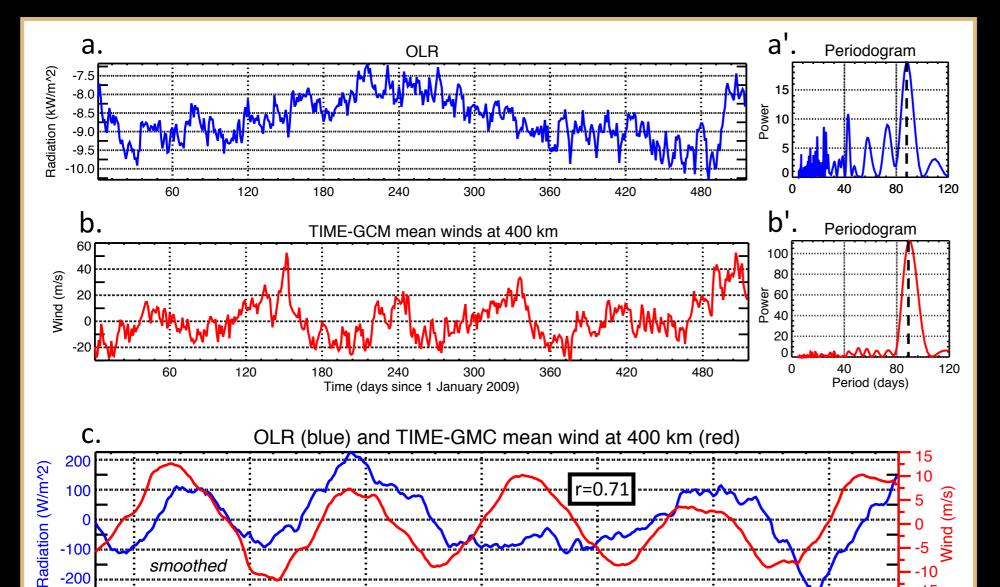






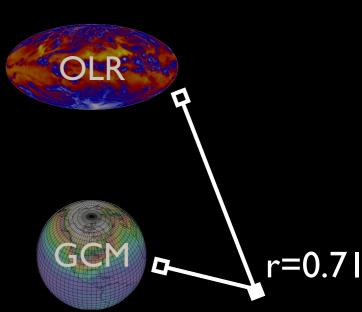


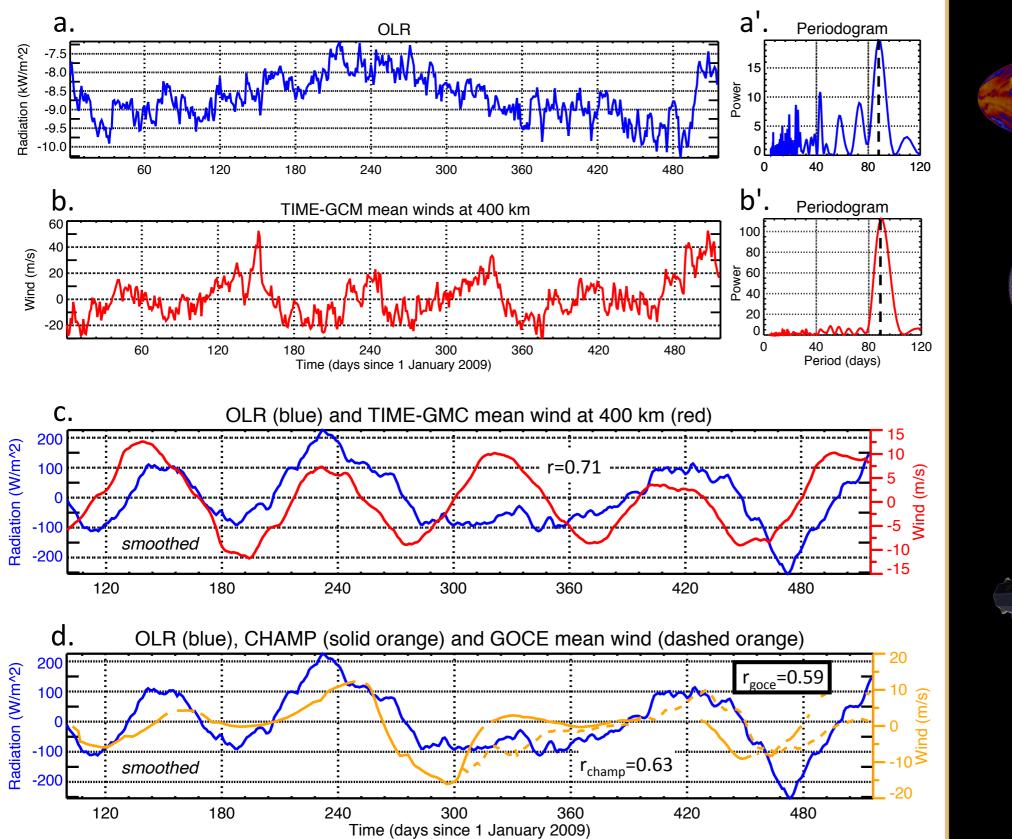


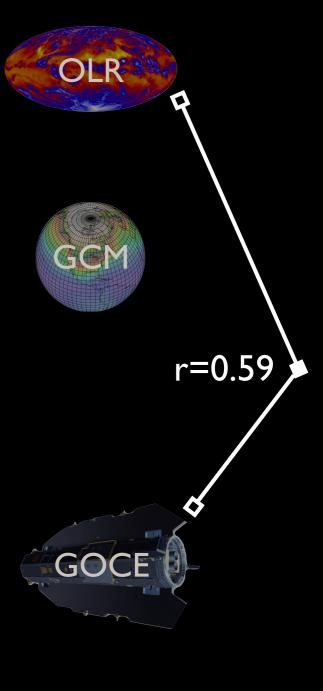


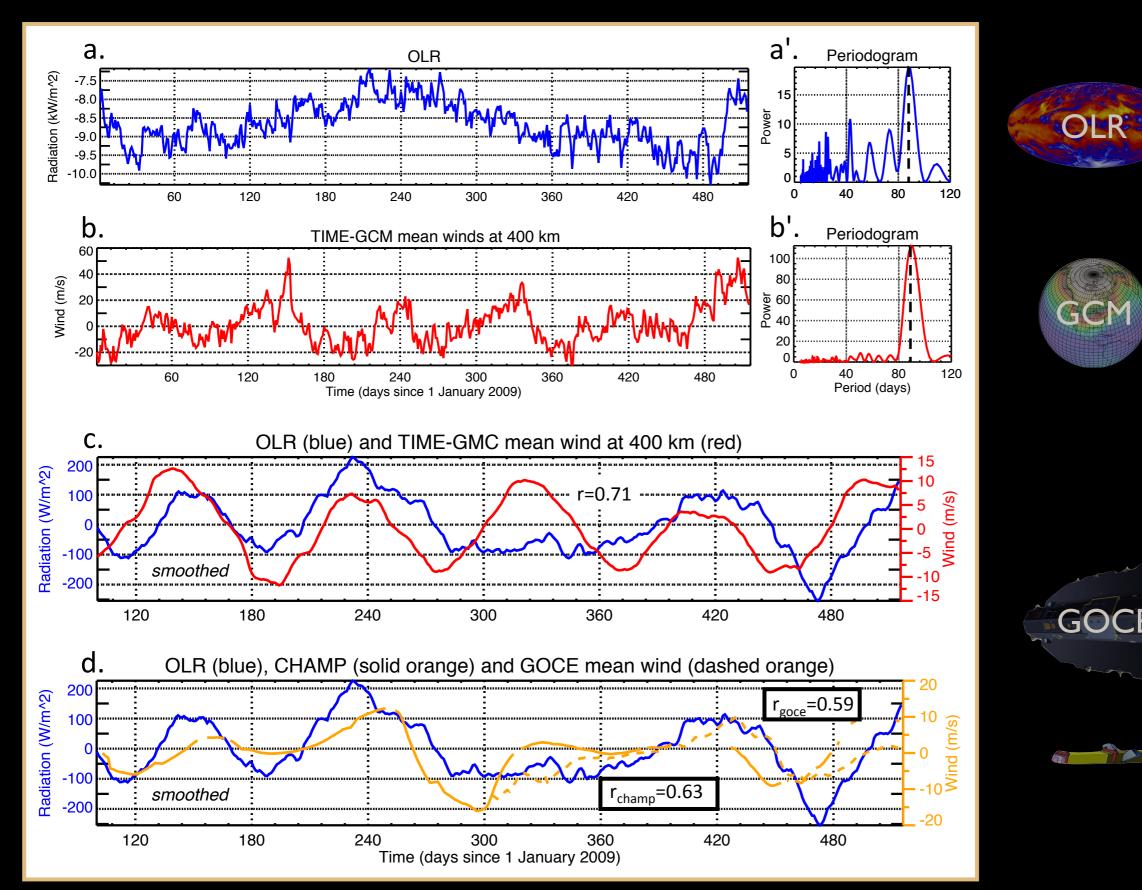
smoothed

-200









Results _____

HAMP

r=0.63

r=0.59



01



CHAMP and GOCE cross-track winds reveal the existence of A strong 90-day variation in the thermospheric mean winds (±20 m/s) and DE3 (3 m/s) during 2009-2010.





- CHAMP and GOCE cross-track winds reveal the existence of A strong 90-day variation in the thermospheric mean winds (±20 m/s) and DE3 (3 m/s) during 2009-2010.
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- Tropospheric convection (i.e., OLR) displays the same 90-day oscillations, which are found to correlate with the observed (r=0.59-0.63) and modeled (r=0.71) thermospheric winds.



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- Our results suggest that tides and GW are modulated by tropospheric convection at a period of 90 days and transfer this periodicity to the mean circulation of the thermosphere via dissipation and energy/momentum deposition.



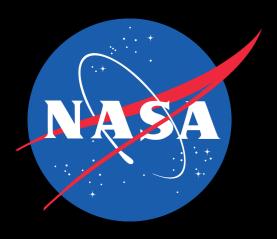
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Troposphere

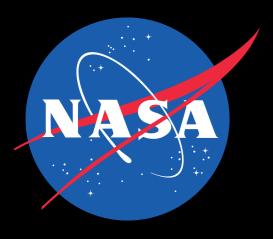
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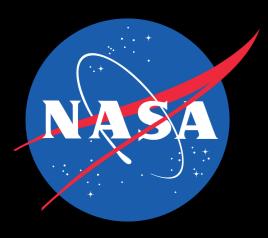


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Questions? gasperini@usu.edu

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