

## Transport and Residence Times of Tropospheric Aerosols Inferred from a Global Three-Dimensional Simulation of $^{210}\text{Pb}$ .

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A global three-dimensional model is used to investigate the transport and tropospheric residence time of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , an aerosol tracer produced in the atmosphere by radioactive decay of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emitted from soils. The model uses meteorological input with  $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$  horizontal resolution and 4-hour temporal resolution from the Goddard Institute for Space Studies general circulation model (GCM). It computes aerosol scavenging by convective precipitation as part of the wet convective mass transport operator in order to capture the coupling between vertical transport and rainout. Scavenging in convective precipitation accounts for 74% of the global  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  sink in the model; scavenging in large-scale precipitation accounts for 12%, and scavenging in dry deposition accounts for 14%. The model captures 63% of the variance of yearly mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations measured at 85 sites around the world with negligible mean bias, lending support to the computation of aerosol scavenging. There are, however, a number of regional and seasonal discrepancies that reflect in part anomalies in GCM precipitation. Computed residence times with respect to deposition for  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  aerosol in the tropospheric column are about 5 days at southern midlatitudes and 10-15 days in the tropics; values at northern midlatitudes vary from about 5 days in winter to 10 days in summer. The residence time of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  produced in the lowest 0.5 km of atmosphere is on average four times shorter than that of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  produced in the upper atmosphere. Both model and observations indicate a weaker decrease of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations between the continental mixed layer and the free troposphere than is observed for total aerosol concentrations; an explanation is that  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  is transported to high altitudes in wet convective updrafts, while aerosols and soluble precursors of aerosols are scavenged by precipitation in the updrafts. Thus  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is not simply a tracer of aerosols produced in the continental boundary layer, but also of aerosols derived from insoluble precursors emitted from the surface of continents. One may draw an analogy between  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and nitrate, whose precursor  $\text{NO}_x$  is sparingly soluble, and explain in this manner the strong correlation observed between nitrate and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations over the oceans.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Tropospheric aerosols increase the albedo of the Earth directly by scattering and also indirectly by modifying the microstructures of clouds. Several papers have argued that the increase in albedo due to anthropogenic aerosols over the past century could have largely offset the concurrent increase in greenhouse radiative forcing [Charlson *et al.*, 1991, 1992; Penner *et al.*, 1991]. This albedo effect depends critically on the extent of anthropogenic aerosol influence in the remote troposphere [Schwartz, 1988; Twomey, 1991; Kiehl and Briegleb, 1993], which may be limited by efficient scavenging of aerosols in precipitation. Literature estimates for the residence times of aerosols in the troposphere range from 4 to 60 days [Martell and Moore, 1974; Giorgi and Chameides, 1986; Graustein and Turekian, 1986]. At the low end of this range the aerosols are confined to their region of origin, while at the high end they may be transported on a hemispheric scale. The wide range of aerosol residence times reflects in part uncertainty in the estimates and in part a real dependence of the residence time on the origin of the aerosol, its size distribution,

and the regional frequency of precipitation [Giorgi and Chameides, 1986; Joussaume, 1990]. Improved understanding of aerosol transport and residence times is needed for assessing aerosol influences on climate.

We examine in this paper the atmospheric transport of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , an aerosol tracer produced in the atmosphere by radioactive decay of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emitted from soils. Because of its low vapor pressure,  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  attaches indiscriminately to aerosol surfaces; its size distribution is concentrated in the 0.1 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  range [Moore *et al.*, 1980; Sanak *et al.*, 1981; Bondietti *et al.*, 1987, 1988]. Our analysis is based on a three-dimensional chemical tracer model using meteorological input from a general circulation model (GCM) developed at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) [Hansen *et al.*, 1983]. This chemical tracer model has been applied previously to simulate the distributions of chlorofluorocarbons [Prather *et al.*, 1987],  $^{85}\text{Kr}$  [Jacob *et al.*, 1987], methylchloroform [Spivakovsky *et al.*, 1990],  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  [Jacob and Prather 1990; Balkanski and Jacob, 1990; Balkanski *et al.*, 1992], and  $\text{O}_3$  and its precursors over North America [Jacob *et al.*, 1993]. The  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  study was designed to test the ability of the model to simulate the transport and scavenging of soluble species. Long-term time series of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentration measurements are available from many sites around the world, offering good constraints for model evaluation. Our previous simulations of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  indicated good agreement with observed concentrations, lending confidence in the computation of the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  source.

The aerosol scavenging scheme used here improves on previous global three-dimensional models by computing scavenging in

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convective precipitation as part of the convective mass transport operator rather than separately as a first-order rainout loss. The latter approach has two major problems that could lead to overprediction of aerosol concentrations. First, it fails to capture the rapid processing of air through a convective updraft during a model time step, which increases the total mass of aerosol exposed to precipitation compared to that in a static atmosphere [Xing and Chameides, 1990]. Second, by splitting the convective mass transport and rainout calculations, it allows soluble tracers to be pumped in a convective updraft and disperse at the top without experiencing scavenging.

The need for coupling aerosol scavenging and wet convective mass transport in models has been pointed out previously by Rodhe [1983] and Feichter *et al.* [1991]. Feichter *et al.* [1991] presented a global three-dimensional simulation of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  using a first-order rainout scheme to compute aerosol deposition. Their simulated  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations in surface air were on average 40% too high, while their  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  deposition fluxes were 18% too low. They attributed the overprediction of concentrations to insufficient aerosol scavenging in convective updrafts. The underprediction of deposition fluxes is indicative of insufficient  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission; they assumed a uniform  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission flux of  $0.72 \text{ atom cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  from land, based on an estimate of the global mean by Lambert *et al.* [1982], but Lambert and his colleagues have since revised that estimate to  $0.95 \text{ atom cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (G. Polian, personal communication, 1992). Increasing  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission in the model of Feichter *et al.* [1991] would aggravate the bias in the simulation of observed  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations. Our model affords substantial improvement, as discussed below.

Section 2 describes the model with particular focus on the treatment of aerosol deposition. Model results are evaluated with observations in section 3. Aerosol residence times are discussed in section 4. Conclusions are in section 5.

## 2. MODEL DESCRIPTION

### General

Radon 222 (half-life, 3.8 days) is emitted from the Earth's surface and decays to  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  (half-life, 22 years), which is removed by deposition. Our model solves the mass conservation equations for  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  on a global three-dimensional grid with  $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$  resolution in the horizontal and nine layers in the vertical extending from the surface to 10 mb along a sigma coordinate. The grid replicates that of the GISS GCM II [Hansen *et al.*, 1983]. The three lowest layers extend approximately 500, 1200, and 2600 m above the Earth's surface; the tropospheric column is represented by six to eight layers depending on latitude and season. A 1-year archive of GCM output is used as input to the model (Table 1). The time step is 4 hours, and meteorological quantities are updated at the end of each time step.

The computation of mass transport is as described by Prather *et al.* [1987], with in addition a diurnal mixed layer as described by Jacob and Prather [1990]. Convective mass fluxes are computed with the procedures used in the GCM to transport heat and momentum [Hansen *et al.*, 1983]. When an air column is unstable with respect to the dry adiabat (dry convection), the air within that column is mixed uniformly over the time step. When an air column is unstable with respect to the wet adiabat (wet convection), 50% of the air in the lowest layer is moved directly to the highest layer, with no entrainment, and this is followed immediately by subsidence in the intermediate layers as necessary to conserve mass. The wet convection scheme allows for rapid injection of surface air to high altitudes in cloud updrafts.

TABLE 1. GISS GCM Archive Used as Model Input

| Variable                                  | Temporal Resolution |
|---|---------------------|
| Surface pressure                          | 4 hours             |
| Wind velocity                             | 4 hours             |
| Mixed layer depth*                        | 4 hours             |
| Convective events, column total†          | 4 hours             |
| Convective events, vertical distribution† | 5 days              |
| Precipitation, surface‡                   | 4 hours             |
| Precipitation, vertical distribution‡     | 5 days              |
| Cloud optical depth, total‡               | 4 hours             |
| Temperature, surface‡                     | 5 days              |

The archive contains 1 year of GCM data with  $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$  resolution in the horizontal and nine layers in the vertical.

\*Vertical extent of dry convective instability initiated by surface heating.

†Separate statistics are kept for the frequencies of dry, shallow wet, and deep wet convection events. Shallow wet convection is defined as not extending above layer 3 ( $\approx 2600 \text{ m}$  altitude). The vertical distribution of convective events between pairs of layers in a grid column is computed at each 4-hour model time step by scaling the 5-day mean vertical distribution to the 4-hour column totals. The convective mass fluxes are computed from the frequencies of convection events as described by Prather *et al.* [1987].

‡Separate statistics are kept for convective and large-scale precipitation. The vertical distribution of precipitation in a grid column is computed at each 4-hour model time step by scaling the 5-day mean statistics to the 4-hour precipitation at the surface.

§Used for computing resistances to dry deposition.

¶Emission of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  from land is reduced by a factor of 3 when the surface temperature drops below 273 K.

We assume a uniform  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission flux of  $1.0 \text{ atom cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  from land under nonfreezing conditions [Wilkening *et al.*, 1975; Turekian *et al.*, 1977; G. Polian, personal communication, 1992]. This flux is reduced by a factor of 3 under freezing conditions [Jacob and Prather 1990]. A weak emission flux of  $0.005 \text{ atom cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  is assumed from oceans and lakes [Wilkening and Clements, 1975]. Emission from ice sheets is negligible [Wilkening *et al.*, 1975]. Land, water, and ice surfaces are specified with  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  resolution [Matthews, 1983]. Our model shows no mean bias in the simulation of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  deposition fluxes, as discussed below, indicating that  $1.0 \text{ atom cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  is a good estimate for the global mean  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission flux from land.

Spatial and temporal variability of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  soil emission may be an important source of uncertainty in simulating the distribution of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ . Emission fluxes measured at individual sites vary over 3 orders of magnitude [Turekian *et al.*, 1977; Schery *et al.*, 1989; Graustein and Turekian, 1990], reflecting a number of factors that are difficult to constrain in models, including the soil abundance of the parent  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  and the location of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  in the soil grains. Observations further indicate a seasonal cycle of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission beyond that due to soil freezing [Dorr and Munnich, 1990; Jacob and Prather, 1990; Ussler *et al.*, 1993]; the amplitude and phase of this cycle varies from site to site in a manner that is not understood. Soil moisture could be an important factor affecting  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission, but the dependence of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission on soil moisture is complicated [Schery *et al.*, 1989; Jacob and Prather 1990, and references therein].

The ability of our model to reproduce observed  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  concentrations is in fact better than would be expected from the

above discussion. Mean monthly afternoon concentrations of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  observed at sites in the continental United States are reproduced to within 20% in most cases [Jacob and Prather 1990]. Amplitudes of high- $^{222}\text{Rn}$  episodes observed at islands in the Subantarctic Indian Ocean are simulated to within a factor of 2 [Balkanski and Jacob, 1990]. Mean  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  concentrations measured over the north Pacific from ships are reproduced to within 20%, while aircraft observations at 8-12 km over the same region are underpredicted by 30% [Balkanski et al., 1992]. The relatively good agreement between model and observations may be explained by regional-scale smoothing of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission. Some evidence for this smoothing is offered by a high-resolution map of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  soil concentrations in the western United States [Moed et al., 1984], which indicates a factor of 20 variation from site to site but less than a factor of 3 variation at the  $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$  scale. A detailed study of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission from Australian soils by Schery et al. [1989] indicates 3 orders of magnitude variation in fluxes from site to site but a continental mean flux of  $1.05 \text{ atoms cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  that is consistent with our model value.

#### Aerosol Deposition

The GISS GCM distinguishes between two types of precipitation, convective and large scale. Convective precipitation is triggered by conditionally unstable conditions in the GCM column, resulting in an immediate updraft with compensatory subsidence. Large-scale precipitation is triggered by water vapor saturation in a fraction of the grid box, as diagnosed from the mean grid box humidity and an assumed subgrid distribution of temperature. In both cases, any water in excess of saturation is precipitated immediately. The GCM precipitation is almost exclusively convective in the tropics and mostly large scale in polar regions; convective precipitation dominates at midlatitudes except in winter. Comparisons of the GCM precipitation with climatological observations have been presented by Hansen et al. [1983] for five GCM years and by Balkanski [1991] for the GCM year used in the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  simulation. Principal features of the observations are well simulated, but there are regional anomalies. Some of these anomalies as discussed in section 3.

Scavenging of aerosol by convective precipitation is computed in the model as part of the convective mass transport operator; air pumped in wet convective updrafts loses a fraction of its aerosol to deposition before dispersing at the top of the updraft. We call this fraction the scavenging efficiency. Because wet convection in the GISS GCM is always associated with precipitation, we apply the scavenging efficiency to all wet convective events. Field experiments using aerosol tracers indicate scavenging efficiencies ranging from 5 to 100%, with most values close to 100% [Gatz, 1977]. We adopt here a 50% aerosol scavenging efficiency in shallow wet convection (extending up to layer 3, or  $\sim 2600 \text{ m}$  altitude) and a 100% scavenging efficiency in deep wet convection. These values were chosen to optimize the simulation of observed  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations. Tests indicate that increasing the scavenging efficiency in shallow wet convection to 100% would decrease mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations in surface air by 10-40% depending on region, while decreasing the scavenging efficiency to 25% would increase concentrations by 20-80% in surface air over the oceans (effect over the continents would be less). Decreasing the scavenging efficiency in deep wet convection to 50% would increase mean concentrations by 20-100% in surface air over the ocean and by 40-140% in the upper troposphere.

Scavenging by large-scale precipitation cannot be computed in the above way because it is not associated with a convective mass

flux in the GCM. We use instead first-order loss operators to describe in-cloud scavenging (rainout) and below-cloud scavenging (washout). Because aerosol is efficiently scavenged from a precipitating cloud over a 4-hour time step, it is important to resolve the areal fraction  $F$  of a cloudy grid box that actually experiences large-scale precipitation. We use the parameterization of Giorgi and Chameides [1986]:

$$F = \frac{F_0 Q \Delta t}{L \beta T_c} \quad (1)$$

with

$$\beta = \beta_- + \frac{Q \Delta t}{L T_c} \quad (2)$$

where  $Q$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) is the mean water condensation rate (large-scale precipitation only) in the grid box over the model time  $\Delta t = 4$  hours,  $T_c$  is the duration of precipitation over the time step (here  $T_c = \Delta t$ ),  $L = 0.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  is a specified cloud liquid-water content,  $\beta$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) is the rate of conversion of cloud water to precipitation,  $\beta_- = 1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  is a minimum value for  $\beta$ , and  $F_0$  is a maximum value for  $F$  (here  $F_0 = 1$ ). Values of  $Q$  are computed in the model by difference between the large-scale precipitation rates through the bottom and top of the grid box. Similarity between rainout of aerosol and cloud water is assumed [Giorgi and Chameides, 1986], so that  $\beta$  represents the first-order rate constant for aerosol loss from the precipitating cloud. The large value of  $\beta_-$  ensures that most of the aerosol is scavenged from the precipitating cloud over a 4-hour time step; the scavenged fraction of aerosol in a grid box is thus largely defined by  $F$ . We find a median value  $F = 0.1$  for grid boxes experiencing large-scale precipitation in the GCM, with values exceeding 0.4 in only 10% of these grid boxes.

A check on the values of  $F$  computed in the GCM can be obtained by comparing the resulting frequency distribution of instantaneous precipitation rates to climatological observations. We compute the frequency of precipitation at a given site in the GCM by using the 4-hour time series of mean surface precipitation rates  $P$  in the  $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$  grid square, assuming for  $F$  the value computed from (1) in the lowest cloudy layer ( $Q > 0$ ) above the surface and further assuming that precipitation within the grid box is spatially random. The probability of precipitation occurring at the site during the 4-hour period is then  $F$ , and the associated precipitation rate is  $P \Delta t / F T_c$ . For evaluation with observed precipitation frequencies, we must compute  $F$  also for convective precipitation, and we use for this purpose equations (1) and (2) with  $T_c = 2$  hours,  $L = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ,  $\beta_- = 4.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and  $F_0 = 0.3$  [Giorgi and Chameides, 1986]. Note that the values of  $F$  for convective precipitation are used only to compare simulated and observed precipitation frequencies; they are not used to compute aerosol scavenging in the model. Figure 1 compares simulated precipitation frequencies in the GCM year to climatological observations at 12 temperate sites [Jones and Sims, 1976]. The model gives a credible representation of observations, lending support to the values computed for  $F$ .

Washout by large-scale precipitation in grid boxes below cloud ( $Q \leq 0$ ) is computed as a first-order loss process applied to the precipitating fraction of the grid box (defined by the value of  $F$  in the lowest cloudy layer overhead). We adopt a washout rate constant of  $0.1 \text{ mm}^{-1}$  normalized to the precipitation rate [Dana and Hales, 1976]. For a typical large-scale precipitation rate of  $2 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ , the lifetime of aerosol in the precipitating column is 5 hours. Fractional or total evaporation of precipitation in a grid

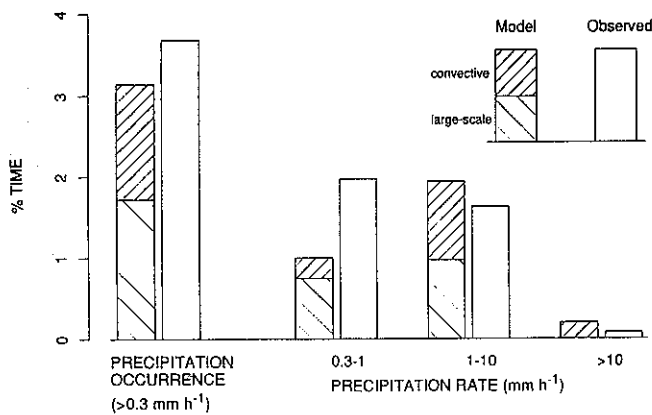


Fig. 1. Frequencies of precipitation occurrence and instantaneous precipitation rates at 12 temperate sites for which climatological observations are available [Jones and Sims, 1976]. The Figure shows the percentage of the time precipitation occurs at a given rate, averaged over all sites. The 12 sites are Reading and Preston, England; Paris, France; Freiburg and Koblenz, Germany; Okinawa, Japan; Woody Island, Alaska; Seattle, Washington; Bismarck, North Dakota; Urbana, Illinois; Franklin, North Carolina; and Island Beach, New Jersey.

box below cloud releases the corresponding fraction of the precipitating aerosol flux into the grid box.

Dry deposition of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  out of the lowest model layer is computed using a deposition velocity expressed as the inverse of the sum of an aerodynamic resistance and a surface resistance placed in series [Wesely et al., 1985; Voldner et al., 1986]. The aerodynamic resistance is computed for the air column extending from the surface to the midpoint of the lowest layer ( $\sim 250$  m) as a function of the friction velocity  $u_*$ , the Monin-Obukhov length  $\Lambda$ , and a roughness height dependent on surface type and season. Values of  $u_*$  and  $\Lambda$  over land are estimated from a Pasquill-Gifford parameterization as a function of GCM wind speed, insolation, cloud cover, and roughness height [Seinfeld, 1986]. Over water, a neutral atmosphere is assumed at all times ( $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ), and  $u_*$  is calculated from the local wind speed and roughness height. The surface resistance to deposition is calculated as a function of  $u_*$  and  $\Lambda$  using parameterizations given by Wesely et al. [1985] and Hicks et al. [1989] for sulfate deposition to grassland and forest. For want of better information, we extend

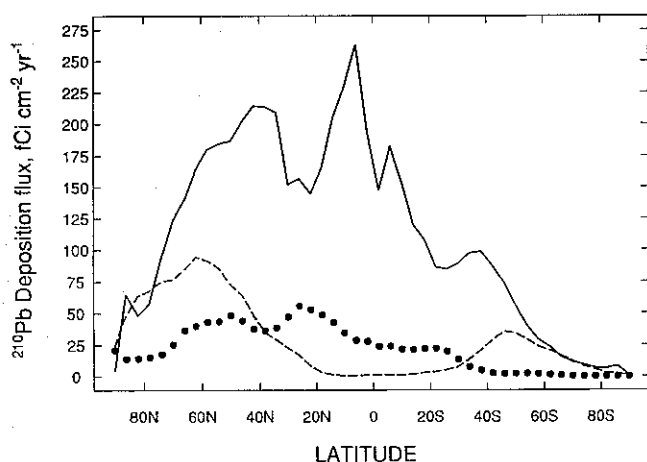


Fig. 2. Zonal mean deposition fluxes of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in the model contributed by convective precipitation (solid line), large-scale precipitation (dashed line), and dry processes (dotted line). Values are yearly averages.

these parameterizations to all surfaces. The resulting global mean dry deposition velocities are  $0.05 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  over oceans and  $0.2 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  over land.

We find in the model that scavenging in convective updrafts represents 74% of the global  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  sink and dominates at all latitudes except near the poles (Figure 2). Scavenging by large-scale precipitation represents only 12% of the global sink and is probably overpredicted at high northern latitudes, as discussed below. Dry deposition represents 14% of the global sink. Our results can be compared to the simulation of Feichter et al. [1991], which used a first-order rainout scheme to compute scavenging by convective precipitation; the global sink for  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in that simulation was dominated by large-scale precipitation (61%) followed by convective precipitation (26%) and dry deposition (13%). The first-order rainout scheme underestimates scavenging by convective precipitation, as pointed out above.

### 3. COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS

The model simulation was conducted for 15 months, starting from low  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations as initial conditions. The first 3 months are used for initialization, and we present results from the last 12 months. Figures 3a to 3c show the simulated global distributions of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in January and July: concentrations in surface air and at 6-km altitude and zonal mean concentrations as a function of latitude and altitude. The units are picocuries per standard cubic meter ( $\text{m}^3$  STP) of air for  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  ( $1 \text{ pCi/m}^3 \text{ STP} = 6.6 \times 10^{-22} \text{ vol/vol}$ ) and femtocuries per  $\text{m}^3$  STP of air for  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  ( $1 \text{ fCi/m}^3 \text{ STP} = 3.70 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Bq/m}^3 \text{ STP} = 1.41 \times 10^{-21} \text{ mol of } ^{210}\text{Pb per mol of air}$ ).

Our discussion here will be limited to the troposphere. The GCM resolves the stratosphere with only one to three layers and thus cannot provide a realistic description of cross-tropopause mass transport or stratospheric circulation. After 15 months of simulation we find that  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in the model stratosphere is near steady state, with concentrations averaging  $17 \text{ fCi/m}^3 \text{ STP}$  at 14-19 km and  $24 \text{ fCi/m}^3 \text{ STP}$  at 19-32 km. In comparison, observations indicate a mean concentration of  $8 \text{ fCi/m}^3 \text{ STP}$  at 15-19 km [Krey, 1975, as cited by Lambert et al., 1982]. The overprediction of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations in the stratosphere implies that air entering the stratosphere contains too much  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ . Injection of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  into the stratosphere during deep convective storms could be overestimated owing to the nonentraining nature of wet convection in the GISS GCM. The consequence for model results in the troposphere is negligible because the stratospheric inventory of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is small (only 1% of total atmospheric  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in the model is produced above the tropopause).

The GISS GCM is intended to simulate a typical meteorological year rather than a specific year; comparison of model results with observations must therefore rely on seasonal statistics rather than on data for any particular day. Figures 4a and 4b compare simulated and observed yearly mean concentrations and total deposition fluxes at sites around the world (85 sites for concentrations, 55 sites for fluxes; Figures 5a and 5b). The model captures 63% of the spatial variance of concentrations and 34% of the variance of fluxes (54% if the four sites with highest fluxes are excluded). We define the percent model bias as

$$\text{bias} = 100 \frac{C_S - C_O}{\max(C_O, C_S)} \quad (3)$$

where  $C_S$  and  $C_O$  are the simulated and observed  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations, respectively. We find negligible mean bias in the

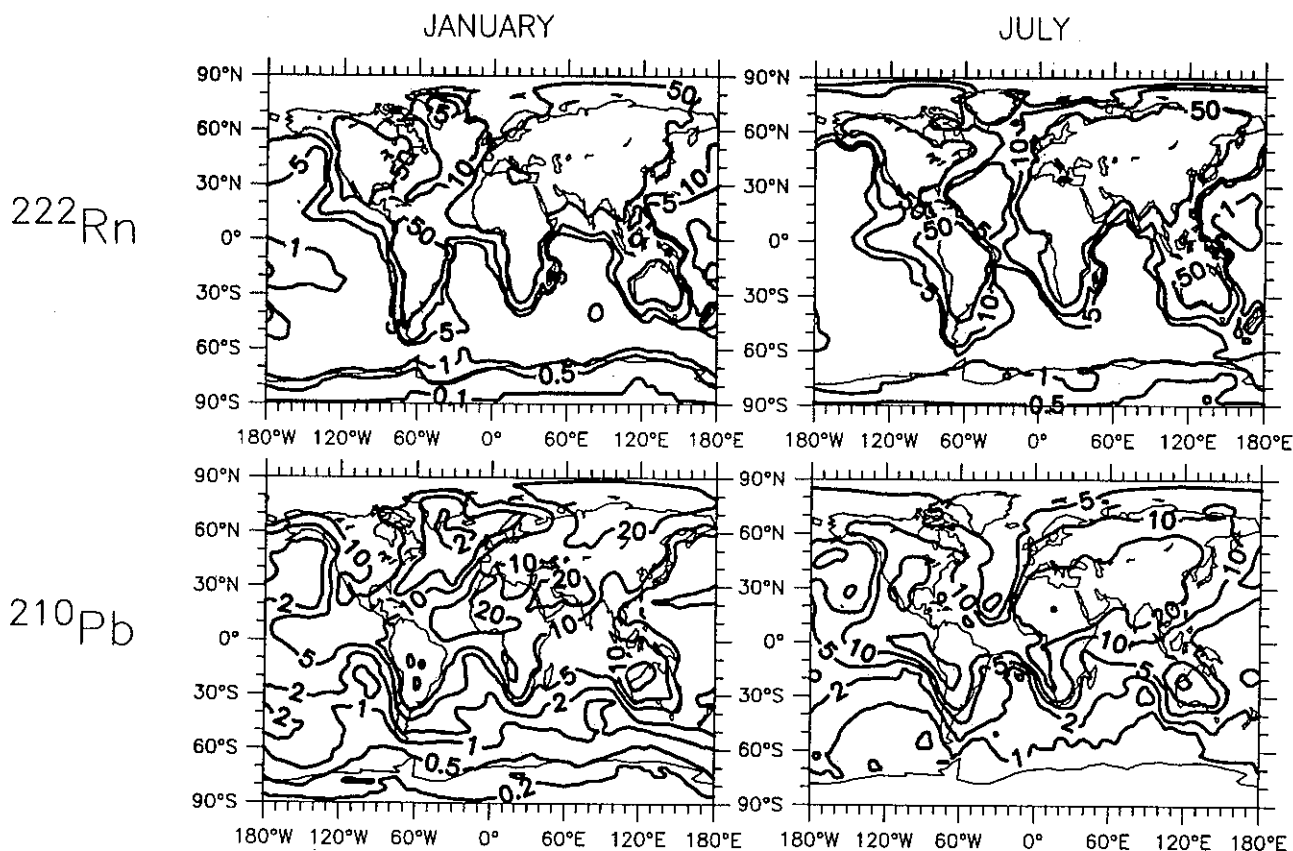


Fig. 3a. Monthly mean concentrations of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  ( $\text{pCi/m}^3$  STP) and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  ( $\text{fCi/m}^3$  STP) in surface air in the model for January and July.

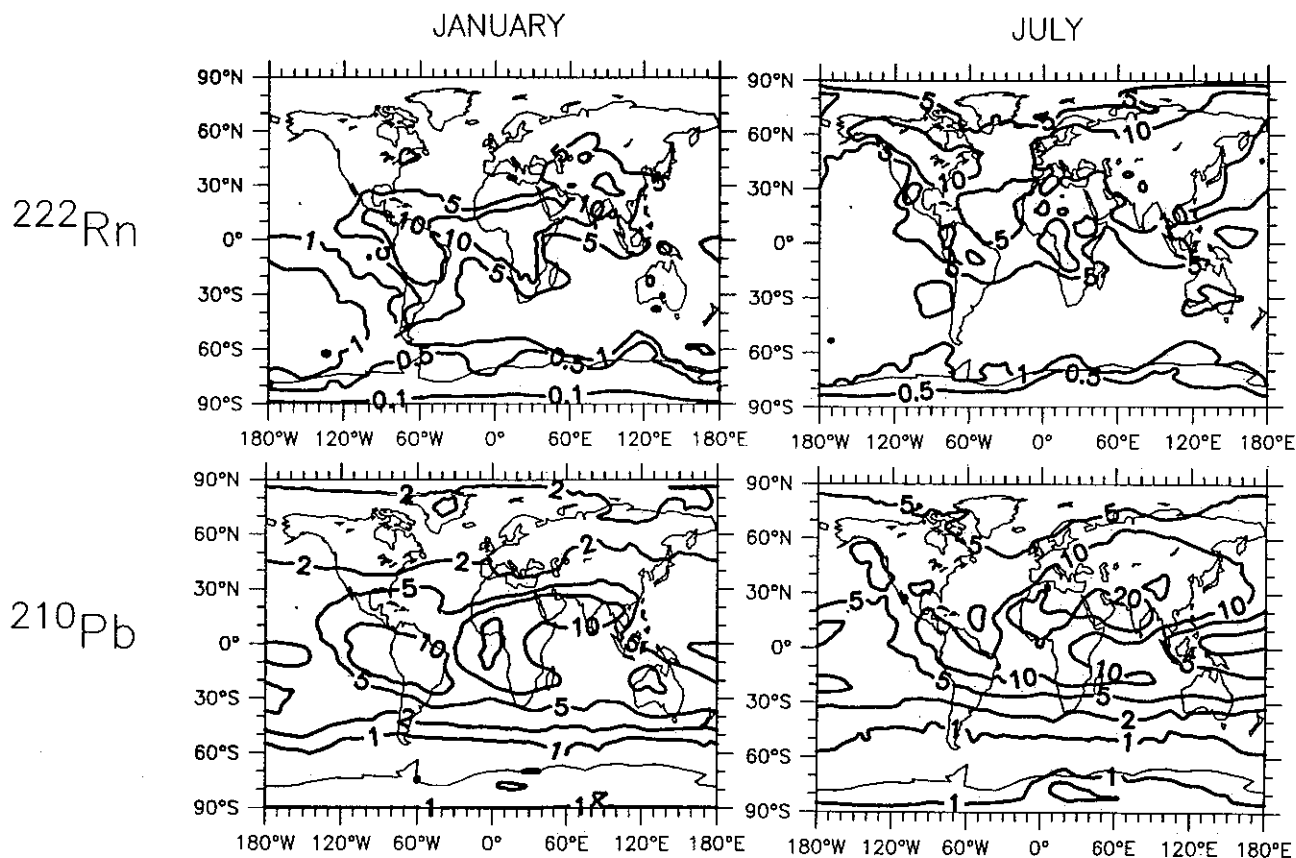


Fig. 3b. Monthly mean concentrations of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  ( $\text{pCi/m}^3$  STP) and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  ( $\text{fCi/m}^3$  STP) at 6-km altitude in the model for January and July.

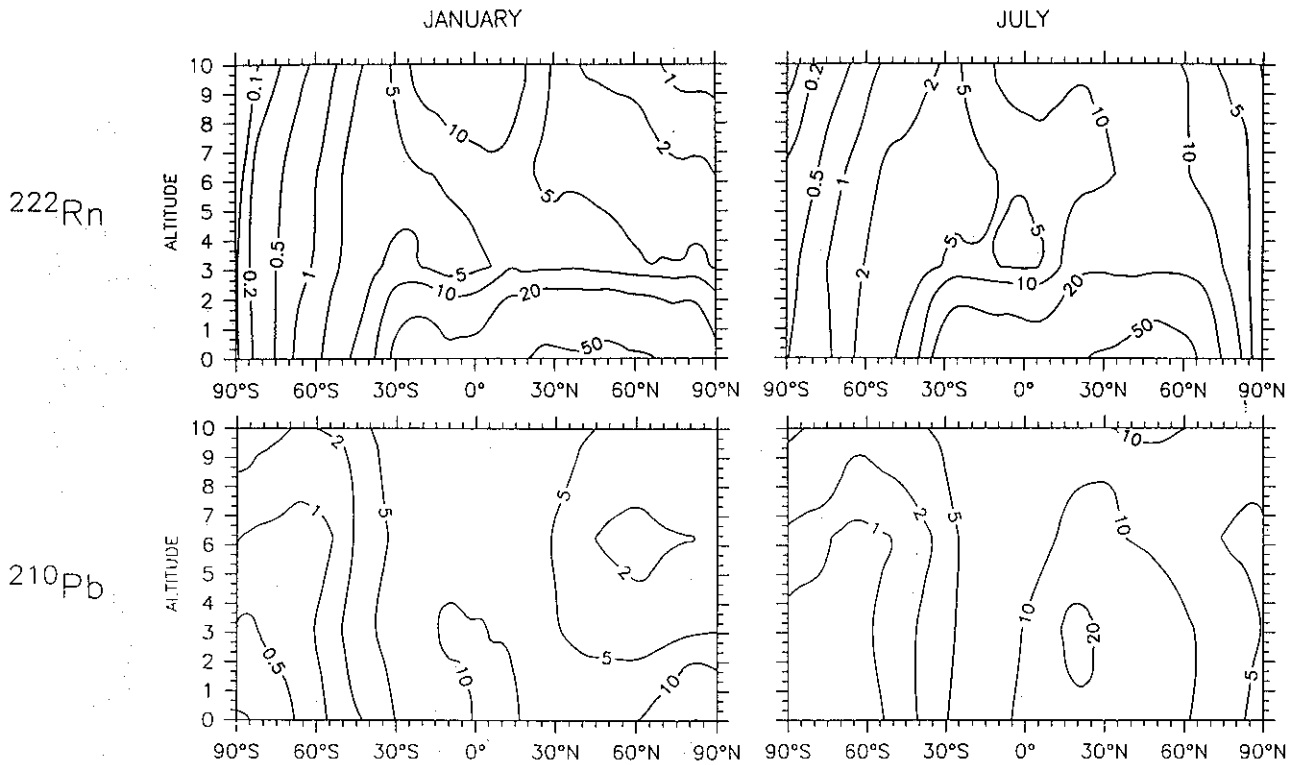


Fig. 3c. Zonal mean concentrations of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  ( $\text{pCi}/\text{m}^3$  STP) and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  ( $\text{fCi}/\text{m}^3$  STP) as a function of altitude and latitude in the model for January and July.

simulation of fluxes (-2%), providing a check on the magnitude of the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  source. We also find negligible mean bias in the simulation of concentrations (+3%), lending support to the computation of aerosol residence times.

The scatter in Figure 4 indicates, however, a number of regional discrepancies between model and observations that may reflect in part variability of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission but also point to anomalies in

GCM precipitation. We present in Figure 6 a more detailed evaluation of the model using monthly mean concentrations.

Figure 6a compares simulated and observed concentrations at North American and Arctic sites. The model does not capture the observed winter maximum at high northern latitudes which is due to long-range boundary layer transport of Eurasian air over the

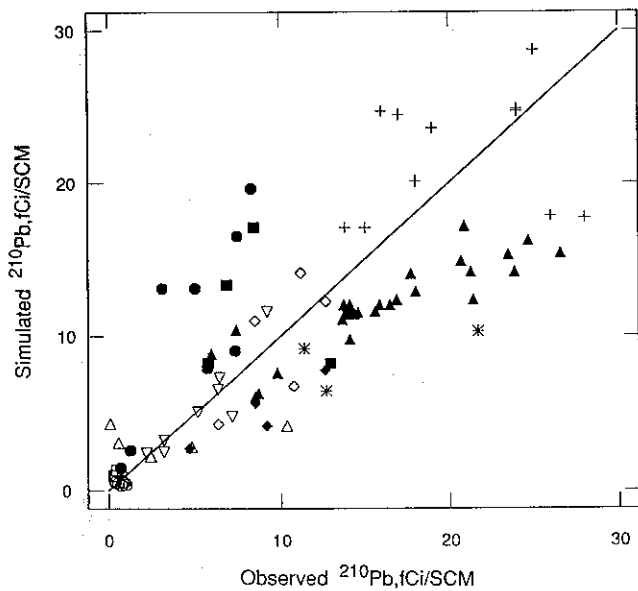


Fig. 4a. Scatterplot of simulated versus observed yearly mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at 85 sites around the world for which at least one full year of observations is available. The 1:1 line is also shown. Site locations and references are given in Figure 5a.

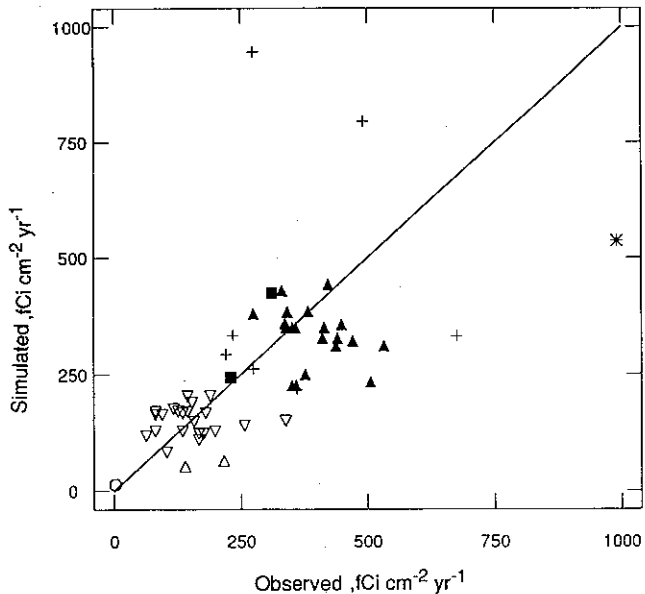


Fig. 4b. Scatterplot of simulated versus observed yearly mean total deposition fluxes of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  at 55 sites around the world for which at least one full year of observations is available. The 1:1 line is also shown. The measurements are from open buckets and soil inventories. Site locations and references are given in Figure 5b.

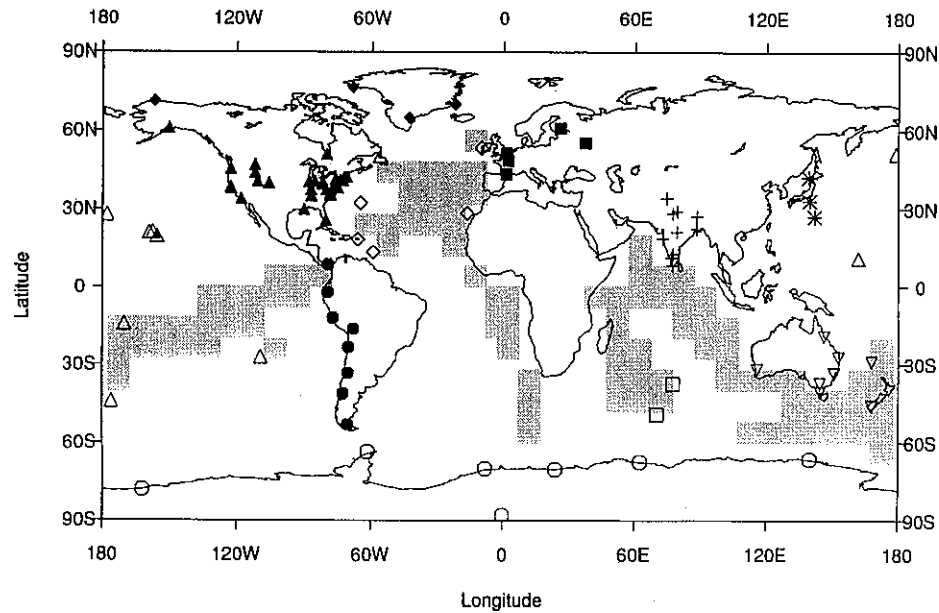


Fig. 5a. Sites of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  air concentration measurements. The symbols identify 88 sites; 3 of these (Midway, Oahu, and Enewetak) have less than 1 year of observations and are therefore not included in Figure 4a (they are included in Figure 6c). Closed diamonds, Arctic (DJ93, F88); closed triangles, North America (F88, GT86, GT93, L82); closed squares, Europe (L82); closed octagons, South America (F88, L82); plus signs, India (M80); asterisks, Japan (T88); open inverted triangles, Oceania (B72, F88, T90); open diamonds, north Atlantic (F88, GT93); open triangles, Pacific (F88, L82, T90); open squares, Indian Ocean (L82); open octagons, Antarctica (F88, L82, W88); shaded areas, ship measurements (L82). Reference code: B72 Bonnyman *et al.* [1972]; DJ93 Dobb and Jaffrezo [1993]; F88 Feely *et al.* [1988] and references therein; GT86 Graustein and Turekian [1986]; GT93 W.C. Graustein and K.K. Turekian, unpublished data; L82 Lambert *et al.* [1982] and references therein; M80 Mishra *et al.* [1980]; T88 Tsunogai *et al.* [1988]; T90 Turekian *et al.* [1990]; W88 Wagenbach *et al.* [1988].

Arctic with little precipitation along its trajectory [Barrie, 1986] (the Dye 3 site on the Greenland plateau is isolated from this Eurasian pollution, perhaps because of its high elevation). We have previously found in simulations of  $^{85}\text{Kr}$  and CO that the model reproduces well the wintertime transport of pollution from Eurasia to the Arctic [Jacob *et al.*, 1987; J. A. Logan, personal

communication, 1993], but  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is scavenged from the model Eurasian plume because of anomalously high precipitation in the Arctic winter in the GCM [Hansen *et al.*, 1983]. Figure 6a shows that  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at United States sites in winter also tend to be underpredicted, possibly because mixing depths in that season are too shallow to be resolved by the model.

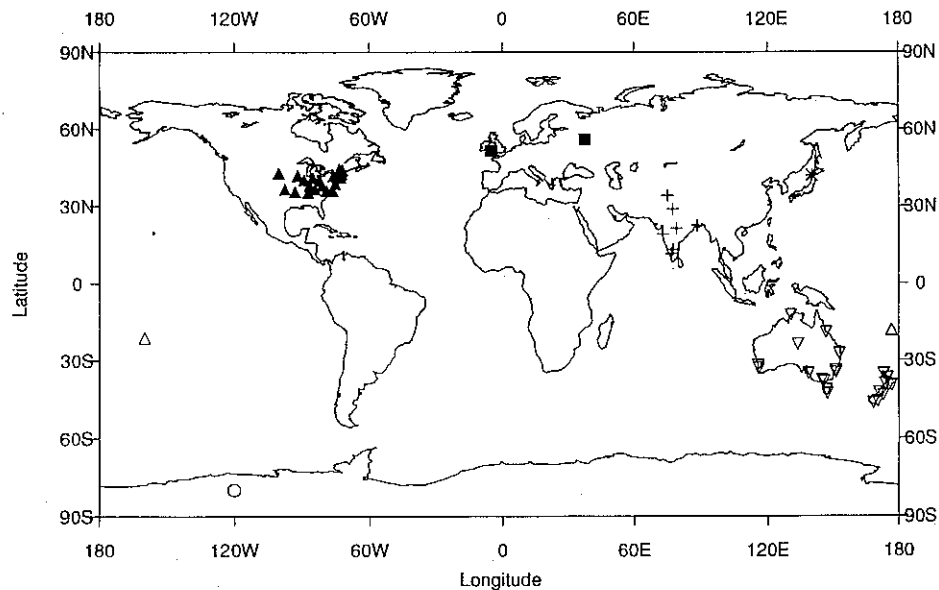


Fig. 5b. Sites of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  deposition flux measurements. The data are from Turekian *et al.* [1977] and references therein, with additional North American data from Olsen *et al.* [1985], Graustein and Turekian [1986], and Todd *et al.* [1989]. Symbols are as in Figure 5a.

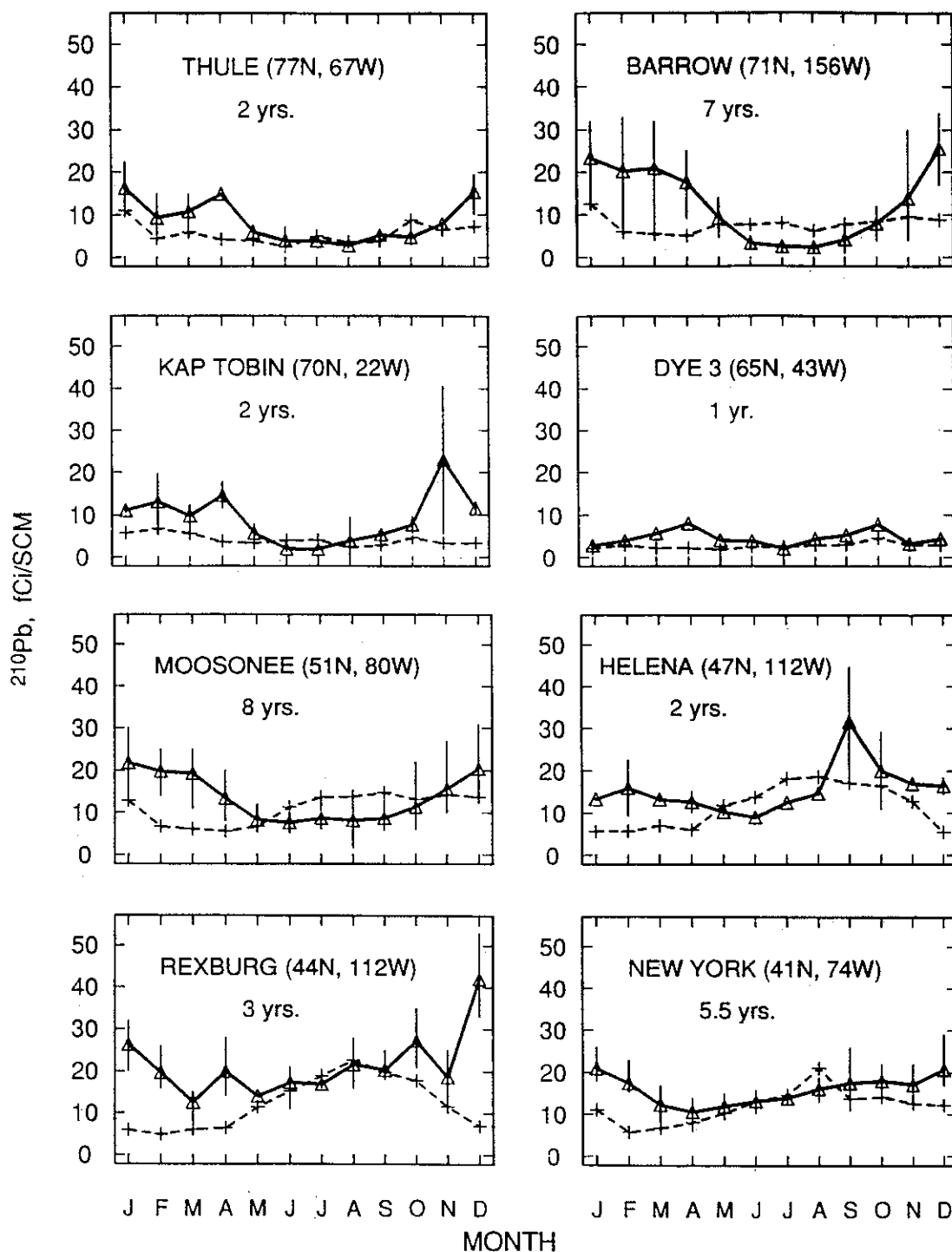


Fig. 6a. Seasonal variations of simulated (dashed lines) and observed (solid lines) monthly mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at Arctic and North American sites. Interannual ranges in the observations are shown for sites for which several years of data are available (the number of years of data is given in the figure). Observations are from Dobb and Jaffredo [1993] for Dye 3 and Feely *et al.* [1988] for other sites.

Results for north Atlantic sites are shown in Figure 6b. Concentrations at Bermuda are underpredicted, especially in winter, because of excessive GCM precipitation off the east coast of North America. Simulated concentrations at Izania (Canary Islands, 2400 m altitude) peak in October, when a weakening of the GCM Azores High allows advection of the Saharan plume to the Canary Islands. The plume is usually deflected to the south,

both in the model and in the observations [Sancho *et al.*, 1992]. The July-September maximum in the observations at Izania probably reflects the same mechanism as in the model but occurs 1-3 months earlier [Sancho *et al.*, 1992]. The summertime maximum at Barbados in the model is caused by subsidence of the Saharan plume over the Caribbean following its transport over the Atlantic in the middle troposphere. It is consistent with the



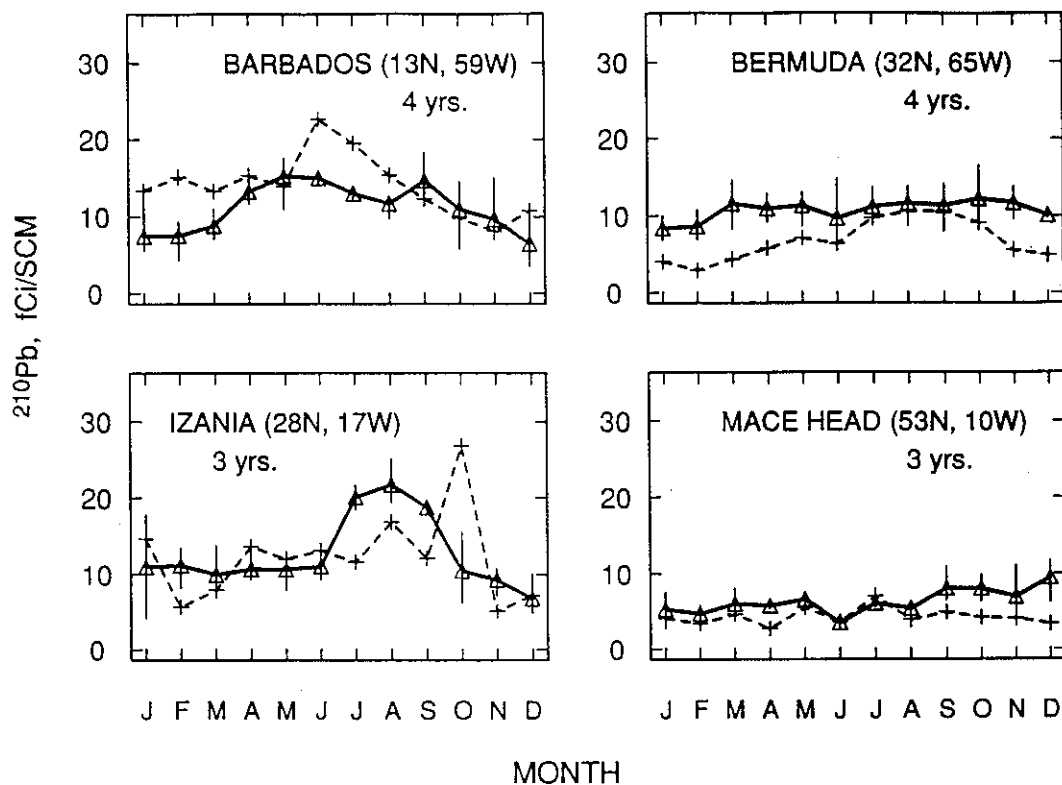


Fig. 6b. Seasonal variations of simulated (dashed lines) and observed (solid lines) monthly mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at north Atlantic sites. Interannual ranges in the observations are shown. Observations are from W.C. Graustein and K.K. Turekian (unpublished data, 1993).

observed summer maximum of Saharan dust influence at Barbados [Prospero and Nees, 1986]. The observations for  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  at Barbados show, however, only a weak summer maximum, perhaps because emission of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  from the Sahara is weak (H. Dorr, personal communication, 1993). Concentrations at Mace Head (west coast of Ireland) are lower than at other north Atlantic sites and show little seasonality, either in the model or in the observations.

Results for Pacific and Antarctic sites are shown in Figure 6c. Good agreement between model and observations is found in the southern hemisphere, but simulated concentrations over the north Pacific are too low; in particular, the model does not capture the observed winter-spring maximum that is due to Asian influence [Merrill, 1990]. We have previously found in simulations of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and CO that the model reproduces the observed strength and seasonality of Asian influence over the north Pacific [Balkanski et al., 1992; J.A. Logan, personal communication, 1993]. However,  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is scavenged from the Asian plume in the model because of anomalously frequent wet convection off the coast of Japan.

Mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations measured over the oceans from ships have been compiled by Lambert et al. [1982] on a  $10^\circ \times 10^\circ$  grid. The compilation includes 943 samples from 24 ship cruises (shaded areas in Figure 5). The model captures only 24% of the observed spatial variance of concentrations at the  $10^\circ \times 10^\circ$  scale, certainly in part because the observations are sparse. Figure 7 shows the data averaged over  $30^\circ$ -wide latitudinal bands; both model and observations indicate higher concentrations in the northern hemisphere than in the south and higher concentrations in the tropics than at extratropical latitudes. The maximum in the northern tropics reflects strong continental influence over the

Atlantic and Indian oceans, where most of the observations were collected. The model overpredicts this maximum.

Measurements of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at altitude are few, scattered, and often affected by sample contamination [Lambert et al., 1982]. The most extensive and widely used data are from 11 flights over the west central United States by Moore et al. [1973]. Figure 8 compares the measured profiles, grouped by season, to the model means for the corresponding locations and months. Simulated concentrations are consistent with the observations except at high altitude (8-9 km), where the model is about a factor of 3 too high. Unpublished aircraft measurements taken recently by J.E. Dibb offshore from Asia indicate  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations in the upper troposphere that are higher than those observed by Moore et al. [1973] and more consistent with the values found in our model.

A striking feature of model results is the weak gradient of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations between the continental mixed layer and the free troposphere. Simulated concentrations at 6-km altitude are ~50% of continental mixed-layer values over much of the northern hemisphere in summer, and over large areas of the tropics year around (Figure 3b). This result is consistent with the few observations available for the free troposphere [Moore et al., 1973; J.E. Dibb, personal communication, 1993]. In contrast, total aerosol concentrations measured from aircraft over continental regions typically show an order of magnitude decrease from the mixed layer to the free troposphere [Gregory et al., 1990, 1992]. An explanation is that convective precipitation scavenges aerosols and soluble aerosol precursors but not  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ ;  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  pumped in convective updrafts supplies a source of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  at high altitudes where precipitation is infrequent. The importance of wet convection as a mechanism for rapid transport of insoluble tracers

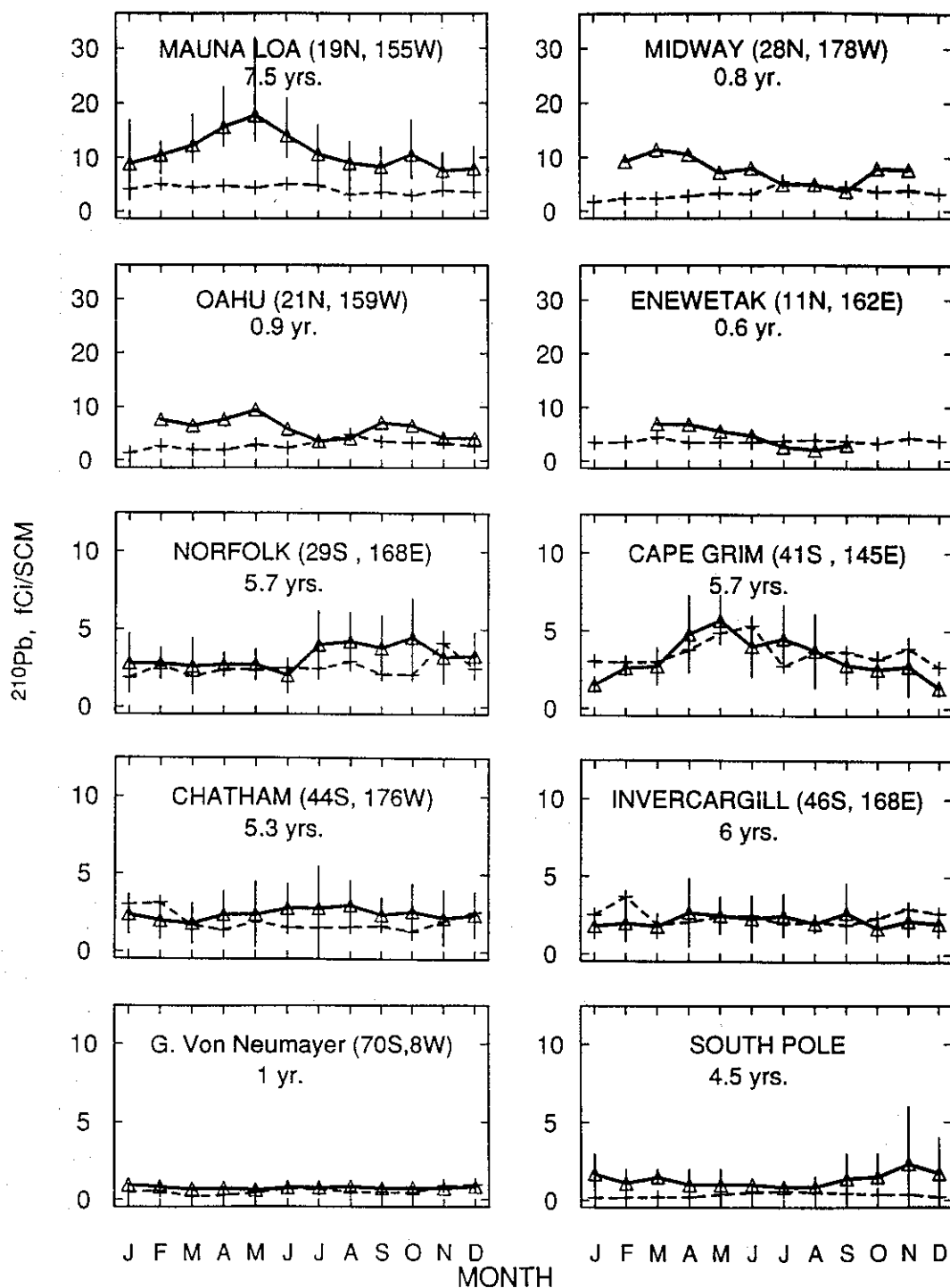


Fig. 6c. Seasonal variations of simulated (dashed lines) and observed (solid lines) monthly mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at Pacific and Antarctic sites. Interannual ranges in the observations are shown when several years of data are available. Note the difference in scale between northern and southern hemispheres. Observations are from Wagenbach *et al.* [1988] for G. Von Neumayer; Turekian *et al.* [1990] for Midway, Oahu, and Enewetak; and Feely *et al.* [1988] for other sites.

to high altitudes has been pointed out before [Chatfield and Crutzen, 1984; Dickerson *et al.*, 1987; Kritz *et al.*, 1990]. It appears that  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  should not be viewed as a generic tracer of continental aerosols. We may, however, draw an analogy between  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and nitrate, for which the precursor  $\text{NO}_x$  is sparingly soluble. Long-range transport at high altitudes of nitrate of continental origin followed by subsidence over the oceans would

explain the strong correlation observed between  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and nitrate at Samoa and Barbados [Savoie *et al.*, 1989, 1992].

#### 4. AEROSOL RESIDENCE TIMES

We define the residence time of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  aerosol in the tropospheric column as  $\tau = C/\Phi$ , where  $C$  is the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  column

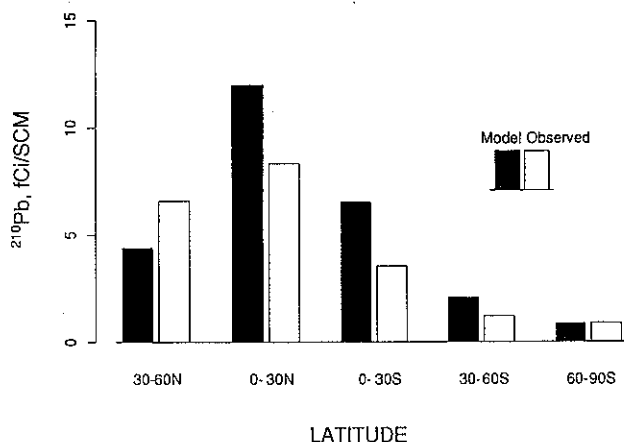


Fig. 7. Simulated and observed concentrations of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in surface air over the oceans as a function of latitude. The observations represent 943 individual measurements from 24 ship cruises covering the shaded area shown in Figure 5 and averaged over  $30^\circ$ -wide latitudinal bands. The model results are monthly means for the locations of the measurements averaged over the same latitude bands.

extending from the surface up to the model layer just below the tropopause, and  $\Phi$  is the deposition flux out of the column. Figure 9 shows the mean variation of  $\tau$  with latitude in the model for January and July; tropopause heights used to compute  $\tau$  were derived from monthly mean GCM temperature profiles as a function of latitude. High values of  $\tau$  are found in the southern tropics where a relatively large fraction of the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is produced at high altitudes, as discussed above, and eventually subsides over dry regions. Residence times at southern midlatitudes are particularly short (about 5 days) because of frequent precipitation. Residence times at northern midlatitudes vary from about 5 days in winter to 10 days in summer, reflecting the seasonality in convection. Moore *et al.* [1973] previously estimated a tropospheric residence time of 8 days for  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  over the west central United States, based on radioactive equilibrium of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  with its short-lived daughters. Our results are consistent with that estimate. The data of Moore *et al.* [1973] show no evidence for a seasonal dependence of residence time, but their standard deviations are large.

Global mean values of  $\tau$  computed in the model are 8.8 days in January and 10.5 days in July. In comparison, Lambert *et al.* [1982] estimated a global mean  $\tau = 6.5$  days by using atmospheric inventories of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  extrapolated from observations and computing the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  deposition sink to balance  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  decay. The longer residence time in our model reflects a higher  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  inventory, due principally to higher concentrations in the tropics. Lambert *et al.* [1982] estimated  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  columns in the tropics by extrapolating the data of Moore *et al.* [1973] taken over the United States (Figure 8), but our model results indicate that  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  columns in the tropics are substantially higher than those at northern midlatitudes because of more frequent convective transport of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  (Figure 3c).

The dependence of aerosol residence time on altitude is of particular interest in terms of assessing the potential for long-range transport. The atmospheric residence time  $\tau_z$  of an aerosol at altitude  $z$  can be defined in a number of ways. Ehhalt [1973] used as definition  $\tau_z = C_z/\Phi$ , where  $C_z$  is the aerosol column extending from the surface to  $z$ , and reported values for  $\tau_z$  ranging from 5 days at 2-km altitude to 25 days at 10 km for  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  bomb debris over Nebraska. Moore *et al.* [1973] defined  $\tau_z$  as the age of

the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  aerosol at altitude  $z$ , based on radioactive equilibrium of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  with its daughters; they found values of 4 days or less in the lower troposphere and 6-9 days in the upper troposphere over the west central U.S. Giorgi and Chameides [1986] defined  $\tau_z$  on the basis of the first-order, irreversible rainout scheme used in their three-dimensional model, and obtained global mean values ranging from 2-12 days at 1 km to 10-35 days at 8 km depending on the origin of the aerosol. We choose to define  $\tau_z$  here as the tropospheric residence time  $C/\Phi$  of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  computed in a simulation where production of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is confined to altitude  $z$ ; we find global mean values for  $\tau_z$  in July of 4.4 days in the lowest 0.5 km of atmosphere, 11 days at 4 km, and 17 days at 9 km, which is qualitatively consistent with values derived by previous authors. Aerosol produced in the mixed layer is thus largely confined to its region of origin, whereas aerosol produced in the upper troposphere can be transported on a hemispheric scale.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

We have used a global three-dimensional model based on the GISS GCM to simulate the transport and residence time of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  aerosol in the troposphere. Our work improves on previous global models by computing aerosol scavenging in convective precipitation as part of the operator for wet convective mass

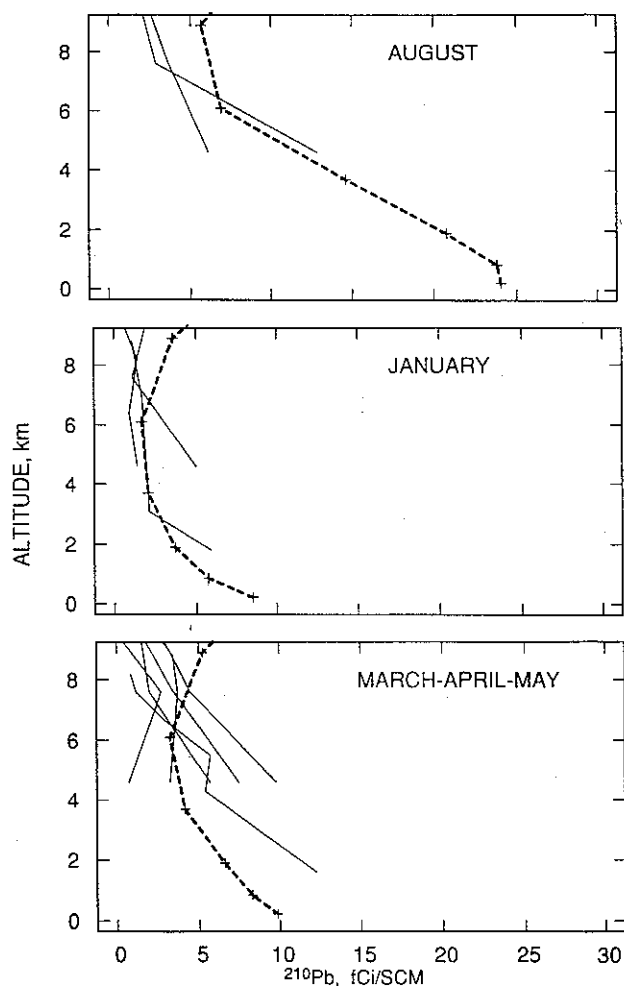


Fig. 8. Vertical profiles of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations over the west-central United States. The solid lines are observations from 11 aircraft flights by Moore *et al.* [1973]. The dashed lines are model means for the appropriate months and for the grid boxes sampled by the flights.

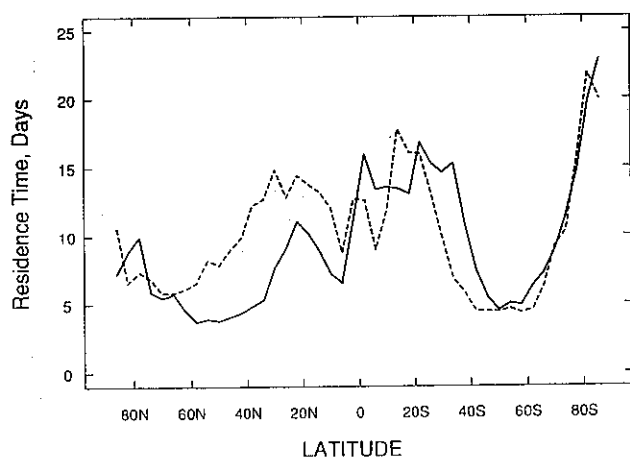


Fig. 9. Zonal mean tropospheric residence time of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in the model as a function of latitude for January (solid line) and July (dashed line).

transport rather than separately with a first-order rainout scheme. The model captures 63% of the variance of yearly mean  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations measured at 85 sites around the world and 34% of the variance of total deposition fluxes measured at 55 sites (54% if the four sites with highest fluxes are excluded). There is negligible mean bias on the global scale in the simulations of concentrations and total deposition fluxes, leading some confidence in the scheme used to compute aerosol scavenging.

We have reported a number of regional and seasonal discrepancies between model and observations. These discrepancies may reflect in part the variability of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  emission, which needs to be better understood. Anomalies in GCM precipitation are another source of discrepancy. Indeed, the difficulty of representing precipitation in global meteorological models probably limits our ability to describe the details of the spatial distribution of soluble tracers. Climatological precipitation data are of little help in that regard, as the critical variables determining aerosol scavenging are the convective mass flux and the precipitation frequency, for which no routine observations are available.

A salient feature of our model results is the prediction of relatively high  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations in the free troposphere, consistent with the few measurements of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  concentrations at altitude. By contrast, total aerosol concentrations measured over continents typically show an order of magnitude decrease between the continental mixed layer and the free troposphere. An explanation is that aerosols and soluble aerosol precursors are scavenged in wet convective updrafts but  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  is not. Thus  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  should not be viewed as a generic tracer of continental aerosols. An analogy can, however, be drawn between  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and nitrate, whose precursor ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) is sparingly soluble. Long-range transport of continental nitrate at high altitudes followed by subsidence over the oceans could explain the strong correlations between  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and nitrate concentrations observed at island sites. Concurrent measurements of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and nitrate concentrations at high altitudes would test this hypothesis.

Mean residence times of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  aerosol in the tropospheric column in the model are 20 days over Antarctica, 5 days at southern midlatitudes, and 10-15 days in the tropics. Residence times at northern midlatitudes vary from about 5 days in winter to 10 days in summer. The long residence times in the tropics and at northern midlatitudes in summer are due to frequent convective pumping of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  to high altitudes. The mean residence time for aerosol produced at 9-km altitude is about four times longer than that for aerosol produced in the lowest 0.5 km of atmosphere.

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