

1     **Formation of a mesospheric inversion layer and the subsequent elevated**  
2     **stratopause associated with the major stratospheric sudden warming in**  
3                     **2018/19**  
4

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11     **Key Points:**

- 12     • A hindcast of the 2018/19 stratospheric sudden warming was performed using a gravity-  
13     wave permitting high-top general circulation model.
- 14     • Planetary waves excited by gravity wave forcing cause the formation of a mesospheric  
15     inversion layer.
- 16     • Both planetary wave and gravity wave forcing contribute to the formation of the  
17     subsequent elevated stratopause.  
18  
19

## 20 **Abstract**

21 Since 2004, following prolonged stratospheric sudden warming (SSW) events, it has been  
22 observed that the stratopause disappeared and reformed at a higher altitude, forming an  
23 elevated stratopause (ES). The relative roles of atmospheric waves in the mechanism of ES  
24 formation are still not fully understood. We performed a hindcast of the 2018/19 SSW event  
25 using a gravity-wave (GW) permitting general circulation model that resolves the mesosphere  
26 and lower thermosphere (MLT) and analyzed dynamical phenomena throughout the entire  
27 middle atmosphere. An ES formed after the major warming on 1 January 2019. There was a  
28 marked temperature maximum in the polar upper mesosphere around 28 December 2018 prior  
29 to the disappearance of the descending stratopause associated with the SSW. This temperature  
30 structure is referred to as a mesospheric inversion layer (MIL). We show that adiabatic heating  
31 from the residual circulation driven by GW forcing (GWF) causes barotropic and/or baroclinic  
32 instability before the MIL formation, causing in situ generation of planetary waves (PWs).  
33 These PWs propagate into the MLT and exert negative (westward) forcing, which contributes  
34 to the MIL formation. Both GWF and PW forcing (PWF) above the recovered eastward jet play  
35 crucial roles in ES formation. The altitude of the recovered eastward jet, which regulates GWF  
36 and PWF height, is likely affected by the MIL structure. Simple vertical propagation from the  
37 lower atmosphere is insufficient to explain the presence of the GWs observed in this event.

## 38 **Plain Language Summary**

39 A stratospheric sudden warming (SSW), a rapid and strong warming in the winter polar  
40 stratosphere, occurred in January 2019. Following this event, the stratopause disappeared and  
41 reformed at a much higher altitude. This phenomenon is called an elevated stratopause (ES),  
42 whose formation mechanism is not fully understood. In this study, we conducted hindcast  
43 simulations of this SSW event using a high-resolution high-top general circulation model. Prior  
44 to the SSW onset, a marked temperature maximum characterized as a mesospheric inversion  
45 layer (MIL) appeared in the polar upper mesosphere. We examined the formation mechanisms  
46 of the ES and MIL quantitatively and three-dimensionally. The results shows that wave forcing  
47 of planetary-scale waves (PWs) caused the ES formation. The MIL is likely caused by both  
48 PWs and gravity waves (GWs) which are small-scale waves. In addition, it is inferred that these  
49 PWs responsible for the ES and MIL formation were excited from dynamical instability  
50 induced by primary GW and PW forcing. These findings indicate that the interplay of PWs and  
51 GWs is important for the variation of the stratosphere and mesosphere.

## 53 **Index Terms**

54 3334 Middle atmosphere dynamics, 3332 Mesospheric dynamics, 3363 Stratospheric dynamics,  
55 0342 Middle atmosphere: energy deposition, 3389 Tides and planetary waves

56

57 **Key words**

58 Stratospheric sudden warming, elevated stratopause, mesospheric inversion layer, middle  
59 atmosphere, gravity waves, planetary waves

60

61 **1 Introduction**

62 Dynamical events called stratospheric sudden warmings (SSWs) greatly alter the  
63 thermal and dynamical conditions in the winter stratosphere. They are results of the interaction  
64 between upward propagating planetary waves (PWs) and zonal mean fields (Matsuno, 1971).  
65 The occurrence of an SSW is indicated by a rapid increase in the temperature and the  
66 weakening or reversal of the eastward jet in the winter polar stratosphere. The World  
67 Meteorological Organization defines a positive poleward gradient of the zonal mean  
68 temperature from 60° latitude to the pole accompanied by a reversal of the zonal-mean zonal  
69 wind at 60° latitude at or below 10hPa as a major SSW; a minor SSW only satisfies the first  
70 condition. On the basis of the shape of the polar vortex, SSWs can also be classified into  
71 displacement and splitting events (e.g., Charlton & Polvani, 2007).

72 The stratopause descends during SSWs (e.g., Labitzke, 1981). After the onset of the  
73 SSWs of 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2018 and 2019, the lowered stratopause became  
74 indistinct and then reformed at an altitude above its climatological height. This phenomenon is  
75 called an elevated stratopause (ES) (e.g., Manney et al., 2008, 2009; Siskind et al., 2010).  
76 Several previous observational and numerical studies showed that gravity wave (GW) forcing  
77 (GWF) induces the formation and descent of the ES (e.g., Tomikawa et al., 2012; Siskind et al.,  
78 2007, 2010; Thuraijah et al., 2014). Thuraijah et al. (2014) provided observational evidence  
79 of the enhancement of GW activity after SSWs using global high-latitude temperature  
80 measurements from the Solar Occultation for Ice Experiment (SOFIE). Using a GW-  
81 permitting general circulation model (GCM) of the KANTO project (Watanabe et al., 2008),  
82 Tomikawa et al. (2012) analyzed a simulated major SSW event. They showed that positive PW  
83 forcing (PWF) leads to the quick recovery of the polar eastward jet after the major SSW  
84 (Orsolini et al., 2017), and negative GWF above the recovered jet contributes to the formation  
85 of the ES.

86 The crucial role of PWs in the initial phase of ES formation has also been suggested  
87 (e.g., Limpasuvan et al., 2012, 2016; Chandran et al., 2011, 2013). Limpasuvan et al. (2016)  
88 conducted a composite analysis of 13 SSW-ES events identified in the runs of the Whole  
89 Atmosphere Community Climate Model, Version 4 with specified dynamics (SD-WACCM)  
90 for 1990–2013. They showed that downward flow induced by negative PWF in the polar  
91 mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT) is responsible for ES formation. Several  
92 observational studies have pointed out that the amplitudes of PWs with zonal wavenumber  $s=$   
93 1–2 increase in the MLT when an ES event occurs (e.g., Stray et al., 2015). However, it has

94 also been indicated that PWF in the MLT is not necessarily strong during ES formation.  
95 Chandran et al. (2013) showed that in a few events in model simulations, the entire process of  
96 ES formation appears to be driven by GWF despite the climatological importance of PWF. The  
97 relative contributions of GWs and PWs to ES formation remain to be elucidated.

98 The ES phenomenon, which is accompanied by downwelling in the MLT, strongly  
99 influences downward material transport and thus the coupling between the MLT and the  
100 stratosphere (e.g., Randall et al., 2009). For example, NO<sub>x</sub> (=NO+NO<sub>2</sub>) produced by energetic  
101 particle precipitation (EPP) in the MLT is transported into the stratosphere, especially during  
102 ES events that occur in early winter. In the region under the influence of the polar night, NO<sub>x</sub>  
103 is long-lived and causes ozone depletion in the stratosphere (e.g., Holt et al., 2013; Randall et  
104 al., 2009). This effect, referred to as the EPP indirect effect, is very important in chemistry–  
105 climate models because it affects the dynamics of the stratosphere (e.g., Siskind et al., 2015).  
106 Smith et al. (2018) also pointed out that the enhanced downward flow associated with ES  
107 events results in a downward shift in the maximum altitude of ozone concentrations.

108 However, most high-top models tend to underestimate downward material transport in  
109 the MLT during ES events (e.g., Randall et al., 2015; Orsolini et al., 2017). In addition, ES  
110 height is generally lower in the model than in observational data. These model biases are the  
111 results of the underestimation (overestimation) of downward motion in the upper (lower)  
112 mesosphere (e.g., Funke et al., 2017). Meraner et al. (2016) showed that the intensity of the  
113 parameterized nonorographic GW sources affects the height of GWF in the MLT. The  
114 modulation of the height of GWF can affect the amount of downward material transport. They  
115 reported that weaker GW sources in the parameterization yield a better agreement of  
116 simulations with observations.

117 To elucidate the relative importance of PWs and GWs in dynamical variation in the  
118 middle atmosphere associated with an SSW, the in-situ generation of waves should be taken  
119 into consideration. Several studies showed that strong PW breaking causes the barotropic (BT)  
120 and/or baroclinic (BC) instability, which excites PWs (e.g., Baldwin & Holton, 1988; Hitchman  
121 & Huesmann, 2007; Greer et al., 2013). Smith (1996, 2003) and Lieberman et al. (2013)  
122 suggested that momentum deposition by the GWs that have been filtered by planetary-scale  
123 wind structures in the stratosphere lead to in situ generation of PWs in the middle and upper  
124 mesosphere. On the basis of a case study of a boreal winter using the KANTO model, Sato and  
125 Nomoto (2015) suggested the importance of the interplay of GWs and PWs in the middle  
126 atmosphere. They provided evidence of in-situ PW generation due to the BT/BC instability  
127 resulting from the generation of a potential vorticity (PV) maximum attributed to GWF.  
128 Positive and negative PWFs associated with the PW generation act to eliminate this PV  
129 maximum. Using the KANTO model, Watanabe et al. (2009) showed that in the Antarctic  
130 winter mesosphere eastward 4-day waves are generated by the BT/BC instability which

131 develops in the large-scale mean flow strongly distorted by GWF. Sato et al. (2018) and Yasui  
132 et al. (2018) showed that the BT/BC instability and shear instability caused by GWs originating  
133 from the lower atmosphere generate PWs and GWs in the mesosphere, respectively.

134 Most high-top GCMs include GW parameterizations. In general, GW parameterization  
135 schemes assume that GWs originate only from the lower atmosphere. In-situ generation of  
136 GWs in the middle atmosphere is ignored in these parameterizations. Recently, Vadas and  
137 Becker (2018) suggested that momentum deposition associated with the breaking of orographic  
138 GWs generates secondary GWs in the stratosphere and lower mesosphere in the southern polar  
139 region in winter. In addition, most standard GW parameterizations also assume that GWs  
140 propagate only vertically. However, using the KANTO model, Sato (2009; 2012) showed  
141 evidence of lateral propagation of GWs and provided theoretical explanations of the  
142 mechanisms involved. Conducting ray-tracing simulations, Yamashita et al. (2013) also  
143 suggested that high GW activity in the MLT during ES events observed by the Sounding of the  
144 Atmosphere using Broadband Emission Radiometry (SABER) on the Thermosphere,  
145 Ionosphere, Mesosphere Energetics Dynamics (TIMED) satellite is caused by poleward  
146 propagating GWs (Thurairajah et al., 2020). To understand the middle atmosphere dynamics  
147 in which behavior of the GWs is one of the key processes, state-of-the-art GW-permitting  
148 GCMs provide an effective approach.

149 In this study, we used a high-top and GW-permitting GCM to examine the SSW-ES  
150 event that occurred in January 2019. We focus on the relative roles of GWs and PWs to  
151 elucidate the mechanism of temperature variations in the middle atmosphere including the ES.  
152 Since GWs are explicitly resolved in the model, the in-situ generation and lateral propagation  
153 of GWs are also simulated. The 2018/19 SSW event is classified as a mixture of displacement-  
154 type ( $s=1$ ) and split-type ( $s=2$ ) SSW (Rao et al. 2019). Three-dimensional analysis methods  
155 are applied wherever possible because zonal asymmetry is pronounced especially in the ES  
156 structures associated with displacement-type SSWs (Chandran et al., 2014; France & Harvey,  
157 2013). The methods of analysis and details of the model used in this study are described in  
158 section 2. In section 3, the observed temperature variations associated with the SSW and their  
159 possible mechanisms are discussed. Section 4 focuses on the sources of PWs playing important  
160 roles in these mechanisms. Characteristics of both PWs and GWs observed in the middle  
161 atmosphere are shown in section 5. Summary and concluding remarks are given in section 6.  
162

## 163 **2 Methods and model description**

164 In this study, we simulated the 2018/19 SSW event using the Japanese Atmospheric  
165 General circulation model for Upper Atmosphere Research (JAGUAR) (Watanabe & Miyahara,  
166 2009). The model has 340 vertical layers from the surface to a geopotential height of  
167 approximately 150 km with a log-pressure height interval of 300 m throughout the middle

168 atmosphere and a horizontal, triangularly truncated spectral resolution of T639 that has a  
169 minimum resolvable horizontal wavelength of  $\sim 60$  km (a latitudinal interval of  $0.1875^\circ$ ). No  
170 parameterization for subgrid-scale GWs was used in this study.

171 It is considered that this model can resolve major part of GWs which can be inherently  
172 distributed over a wide horizontal wavelength range. Using continuous mesospheric wind  
173 observation data over 50 days from a mesosphere-stratosphere-troposphere radar called the  
174 PANSY radar at Syowa Station ( $69.0^\circ$  S,  $39.6^\circ$  E), where PANSY stands for Program of the  
175 Antarctic Syowa MST/IS radar, Sato et al. (2017) showed that GW momentum fluxes are  
176 mainly associated with waves having long periods of several hours to a day at the southern  
177 high latitudes in summer. Using observational data from the PANSY radar, Shibuya et al.  
178 (2017) and Shibuya and Sato (2019) showed the GWs having such long periods are dominant  
179 also in the winter mesosphere and their horizontal wavelengths are greater than 1,000 km and  
180 vertical wavelengths of about 14 km. Ern et al. (2018) analyzed the satellite observation data  
181 and showed that dominant GWs in the middle atmosphere on average have horizontal  
182 wavelengths greater than 1,000 km and vertical wavelengths in excess of 10 km, although the  
183 observational filter problem remains. In the lower stratosphere, Sato (2014) showed that  
184 dominant inertia-GWs have horizontal wavelengths of 300–400 km based on three-year  
185 observations by the MU radar ( $35^\circ$  N,  $136^\circ$  E) in Japan. These dominant horizontal and vertical  
186 wavelengths are resolvable by the model used in the present study.

187 The KANTO model, which is a prototype of JAGUAR, is T213L256 GCM whose  
188 minimum resolvable horizontal wavelength is 180 km. Watanabe et al. (2008) showed that GW  
189 amplitudes simulated by the KANTO model were consistent with the observations in the lower  
190 stratosphere by the MU radar (Sato, 1994) and those obtained by a radiosonde observation  
191 campaign in the middle Pacific over a wide latitudinal range from  $28^\circ$  N to  $48^\circ$  S (Sato et al.,  
192 2003). In addition, the model reproduced GWs having characteristic phase structure with  
193 horizontal wavelengths of  $\sim 300$  km in the middle stratosphere over the region near Patagonia  
194 and Antarctic Peninsula which are similar to the satellite (AIRS) observations with high  
195 horizontal resolutions (Sato et al., 2012). These facts mean that dominant GWs simulated by  
196 the KANTO model are realistic in terms of the wave structure and amplitude. In addition,  
197 Watanabe et al. (2008) demonstrated that the KANTO model could generally reproduce  
198 realistic zonal mean zonal wind in the middle and upper mesosphere in which GWF plays a  
199 critically important role. This fact suggests that the momentum transport and its deposition by  
200 all resolved GWs in the middle atmosphere in the model also quantitatively mimic the real  
201 atmosphere, and hence the simulation data can be used as a surrogate of the real atmosphere.  
202 The JAGUAR model was developed based on the KANTO model. Thus, it is considered that  
203 the model used in this study could also reproduce a major part of GWs in the middle atmosphere,  
204 but over a wider horizontal wavelength range than the KANTO model.

205 Koshin et al. (2020) recently developed a four-dimensional local ensemble transform  
 206 Kalman filter (4D-LETKF) assimilation system in a medium-resolution (T42L124, a latitudinal  
 207 interval of 2.8125°) version of the JAGUAR, which called Japanese Atmospheric GCM for  
 208 Upper Atmosphere Research-Data Assimilation System; JAGUAR-DAS. They assimilated the  
 209 PrepBUFR observational dataset provided by the National Centers for Environmental  
 210 Prediction (NCEP), including temperature, wind, humidity, and surface pressure from  
 211 radiosondes, aircrafts, wind profilers, and satellites, and satellite temperature data from the  
 212 Aura Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS). Koshin et al. (2021) improved the quality of the  
 213 analysis data by introducing a filter called incremental analysis updates (Bloom et al., 1996)  
 214 and assimilating the temperature data from SABER and brightness temperature data from  
 215 Special Sensor Microwave Imager/Sounder (SSMIS). Using the analysis data from December  
 216 2018 to January 2019 produced by the JAGUAR-DAS as initial values for the high-resolution  
 217 JAGUAR, a hindcast of the 2018/19 SSW event was carried out here. The time period of  
 218 simulation is from 5 December 2018 to 17 January 2019. This time period was divided into  
 219 consecutive periods of 4 days. An independent model run was performed for each 4-day period.  
 220 Each model run consists of 3-day spectral nudging and 4-day free run. We analyzed the output  
 221 data from the 4-day free runs.

222 The transformed Eulerian mean (TEM) primitive equations were used for diagnosing  
 223 wave forcing and residual mean circulation (e.g., Andrews & McIntyre, 1976). In the TEM  
 224 system, the Eliassen–Palm (EP) flux represents the direction of wave activity flux and its  
 225 divergence [EPFD =  $(\rho_0 a \cos \varphi)^{-1} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}$ , where  $\rho_0$  is reference density,  $\varphi$  is the latitude,  $a$   
 226 is the earth’s radius and  $\mathbf{F}$  is the EP flux] represents wave forcing. Positive (negative) EPFD  
 227 represents eastward (westward) momentum deposition by waves. In the present study, ‘positive  
 228 (negative)’ wave forcing means eastward (westward) momentum deposition.

229 In addition, to visualize the longitudinal structure of the residual mean circulation, we  
 230 calculated three-dimensional residual mean vertical flow using the formula derived by  
 231 Kinoshita et al. (2019):

$$\bar{w}^* = \bar{w} + \left( \frac{u_g \theta}{\theta_{0z}} \right)_x + \left( \frac{v_g \theta}{\theta_{0z}} \right)_y \quad (1)$$

232 where overbar represents the time mean, and  $u_g$  and  $v_g$  are geostrophic zonal and meridional  
 233 flows, respectively; the suffixes  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  denote the respective partial derivatives in the  
 234 zonal, meridional and vertical directions;  $\theta$  and  $\theta_0$  are the potential temperature and  
 235 reference potential temperature, which is defined as  $\theta_0 = (gH/R)e^{\kappa z/H}$ ;  $g$  represents the  
 236 gravitational acceleration;  $H$  is scale height (= 7 km);  $R$  is the gas constant of dry air;  $\kappa$  is  
 237 a dimensionless value and is defined as  $R/c_p$ , where  $c_p$  denotes specific heat at constant  
 238 pressure. Equation (1) is the deformed form of the original equation of  $\bar{w}^*$  in Kinoshita et al.  
 239 (2019), using  $[A]_x = 0$  and  $[v_g] = 0$ , where  $[A]$  denotes the zonal mean of  $A$ . This vertical

240 flow contains the Stokes drift associated with transient and stationary waves. Moreover,  
 241 adiabatic vertical motions along the undulated isentropic surfaces associated with the stationary  
 242 waves are excluded. Thus, equation (1) represents the diabatic flow crossing the isentropic  
 243 surfaces. In this study, we set the period of the time mean to four days.

244 To analyze three-dimensional wave propagation, we also used a three-dimensional  
 245 wave activity flux of Kinoshita and Sato (2013), namely 3D-flux-W. The components of 3D-  
 246 flux-W that are associated with the flux of zonal momentum are as follows:

$$\mathbf{F}_{W1} = \rho_0 \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \left( \overline{u'^2} - \overline{v'^2} + \frac{\overline{\Phi_z'^2}}{N^2} \right) \\ \overline{u'v'} \\ \overline{u'w'} - f \frac{\overline{v'\Phi_z'}}{N^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

247 where  $N^2$  is the static stability (the square of the Brunt-Väisälä frequency) and  $\Phi$  is  
 248 geopotential. The prime means wave component. This formula was originally derived for  
 249 transient waves, but they hold for stationary waves if the wave component is extracted properly  
 250 and an appropriate average is made (Sato et al., 2013). To analyze the wave activity fluxes  
 251 associated with both transient and stationary PWs, we examined components having zonal  
 252 wavenumbers  $s=1-3$  as the perturbation field and applied an extended Hilbert transform  
 253 proposed by Sato et al. (2013) to eliminate phase dependency of waves instead of time  
 254 averaging. Kinoshita and Sato (2013) showed that the 3D-flux-W approximately parallel to the  
 255 group velocity of Rossby waves. In the figures that follow, each component of  $\mathbf{F}_{W1}$  is shown  
 256 with the sign reversed to match the direction of the group velocity of Rossby waves.

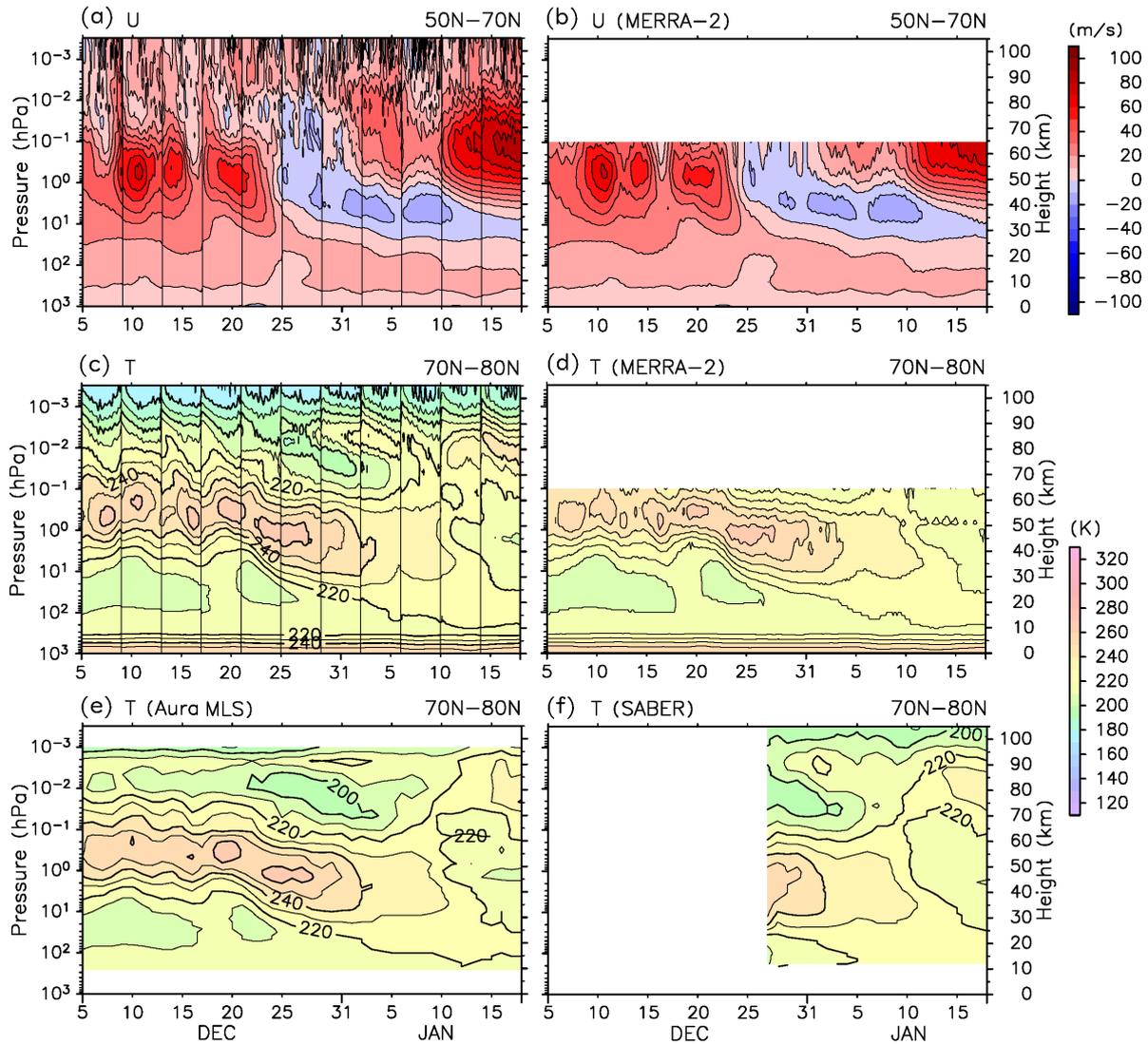
257 For the analysis of the dynamical stability of mean flow, we used the modified potential  
 258 vorticity (MPV) defined by Lait (1994) as the Ertel's potential vorticity weighted by  $\theta^{-9/2}$ . In  
 259 this paper, MPV is denoted by  $P_M$ . It roughly represents the product of absolute vorticity and  
 260  $N^2$  including perturbations (e.g., Sato & Nomoto, 2015).

261

### 262 **3 Overview of the 2018/19 SSW event**

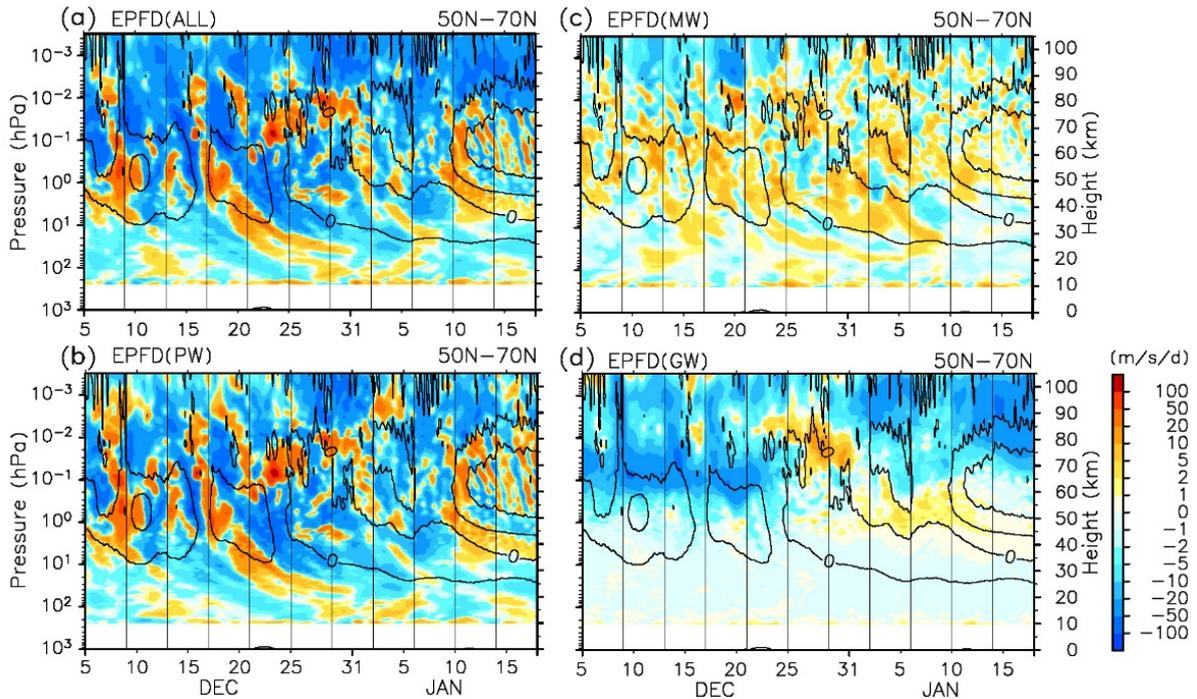
#### 263 **3.1 Time variations of the zonal mean fields**

264 The onset of the major warming occurred on 1 January 2019. Figure 1 shows the time–  
 265 height sections of zonal mean zonal wind [ $u$ ] and zonal mean temperature [ $T$ ] from the  
 266 model results (Figs. 1a and 1c), the Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for Research and  
 267 Applications, Version 2 (MERRA-2, Figs. 1b and 1d) and satellite temperature from the Aura  
 268 MLS and TIMED SABER. Temperature from the MLS has been bias-corrected with TIMED  
 269 SABER data (Koshin et al., 2020). The stratospheric [ $u$ ] and [ $T$ ] in the JAGUAR results  
 270 agree well with those in the MERRA-2.



271  
 272 **Figure 1.** Time–height sections of  $[u]$  averaged over  $70^{\circ}$  N– $80^{\circ}$  N from (a) the JAGUAR-  
 273 T639L340 simulation and (b) MERRA-2 reanalysis data, and  $[T]$  averaged over  $50^{\circ}$  N– $70^{\circ}$   
 274 N from (c) the JAGUAR-T639L340 simulation (d) MERRA-2, (e) Aura MLS and (f) SABER.  
 275 Vertical lines in (a) and (c) represent the boundaries of the model runs.

276



277

278 **Figure 2.** Time–height sections of EPFD averaged over  $50^{\circ}$  N– $70^{\circ}$  N of (a) all wave  
 279 components, (b) PW, (c) MW, and (d) GW (colors) and  $[u]$  averaged over  $50^{\circ}$  N– $70^{\circ}$  N  
 280 (contour interval:  $20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ). Vertical lines represent the boundaries of the model runs.

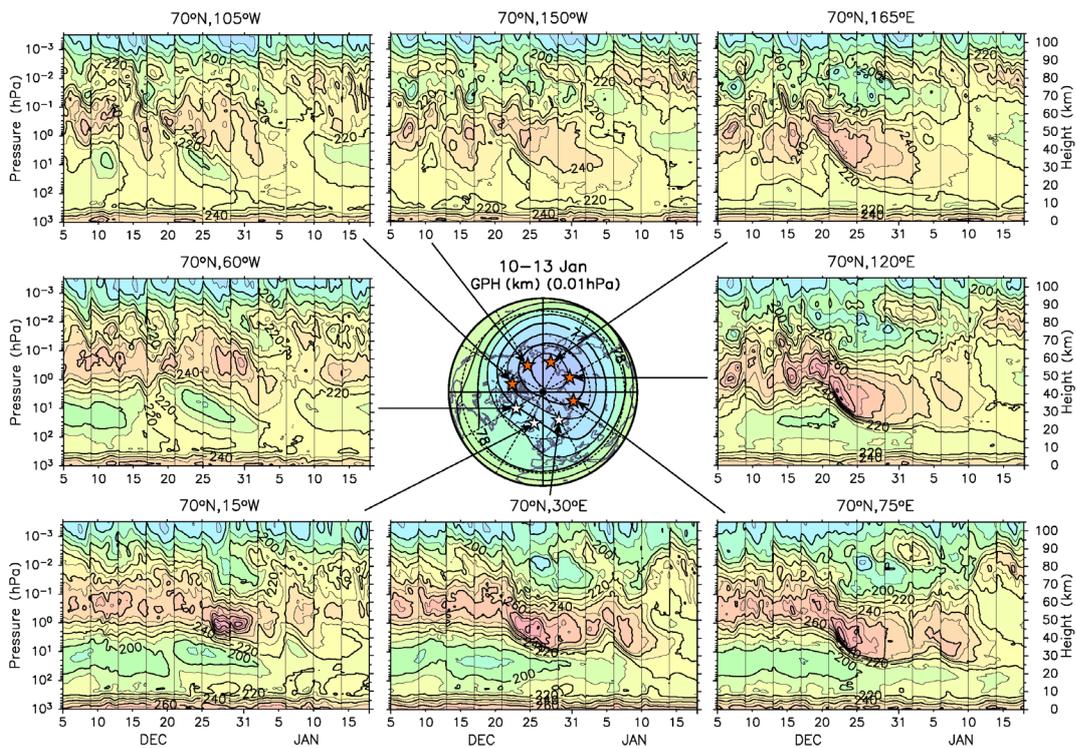
281

282 The stratopause begins to descend from a climatological height of  $z = \sim 55 \text{ km}$  in  
 283 association with the SSW around 22 December 2018 (Figs. 1c, 1d and 1e). Zonal mean zonal  
 284 winds  $[u]$  are reversed in the region of  $z = 40\text{--}80 \text{ km}$  around 25 December (Fig. 1a).  
 285 Following that, the stratopause and the peak of westward wind gradually descend to  $z = \sim 35$   
 286 km. A strong temperature maximum with an amplitude of 220 K is formed at  $z = \sim 85 \text{ km}$   
 287 around 28 December during the descent of the stratopause. This structure is also observed in  
 288 the satellite temperature (Figs. 1e and 1f). This characteristic vertical structure of temperature  
 289 is referred to as a mesospheric inversion layer (MIL). After 10 January, the eastward wind is  
 290 accelerated at  $z = \sim 65 \text{ km}$  and the ES is at  $z = \sim 80 \text{ km}$  with a peak of 230 K. The heights of the  
 291 MIL and ES in the model are consistent with those indicated by the satellite temperature data  
 292 (Figs. 1e and 1f) within  $z = \pm 5 \text{ km}$ . The temperature peak of the MIL is located at  $z = \sim 90$   
 293 ( $\sim 90$ ) km and the ES is at  $z = \sim 80$  (80–85) km in the Aura MLS (SABER) data. Other  
 294 temperature structures in the model results are generally consistent with the observation data  
 295 as well.

296 Waves were divided into three components and analyzed separately: PWs having zonal  
 297 wavenumber  $s = 1\text{--}3$ , medium-scale waves (MSWs) having  $s > 3$  and total horizontal  
 298 wavenumber  $n < 21$  and GWs having  $n = 21\text{--}639$ . Figure 2 shows the time–height sections of  
 299 EP flux divergence (EPFD) for respective wave components. The EPFD was smoothed with a

300 lowpass filter with a cutoff of one day. During 23–31 December including the period when the  
 301 MIL is present, GWF is strongly positive in the region of  $z=65\text{--}90$  km. Around the time of  
 302 the formation of the MIL, PWF is strongly negative ( $\sim -50\text{ m s}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$  above  $z=83$  km). This  
 303 negative PWF is physically consistent with warming at the pole and MIL formation. Around  
 304 10 January when the ES is formed, GWF and PWF are negative above  $z=70$  km and 80 km,  
 305 respectively, suggesting that both negative wave forcings are responsible for ES formation. The  
 306 sources of PWs responsible for the formation of the MIL and subsequent ES are discussed in  
 307 detail in section 4. Because forcing by MSWs is always weak at any height or time, the  
 308 following sections focus only on PWF and GWF.  
 309

### 310 3.2 Longitudinal structure of the MIL and ES

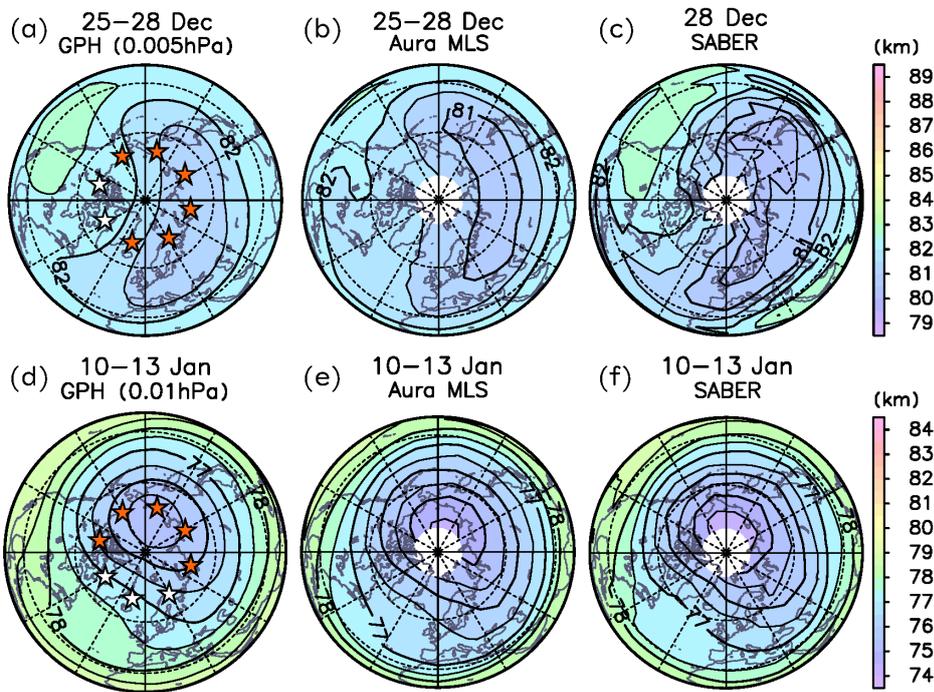


311  
 312 **Figure 3.** An orthographic projection map of the Northern Hemisphere showing 4-day mean GPH (unit: km)  
 313 at 0.01 hPa for 10–13 January 2019 and time–height sections of  $T$  (unit: K) smoothed with a lowpass filter  
 314 with a cutoff of one day at a latitude of  $70^\circ\text{ N}$  and longitudes of  $30^\circ\text{ E}$ ,  $75^\circ\text{ E}$ ,  $120^\circ\text{ E}$ ,  $165^\circ\text{ E}$ ,  $150^\circ\text{ W}$ ,  $105^\circ$   
 315  $\text{W}$ ,  $60^\circ\text{ W}$  and  $15^\circ\text{ W}$ . Star symbols in the GPH map denote the locations for the  $T$  figures. Orange stars  
 316 show the stations at which the ES appears clearly at  $z\sim 80$  km. Vertical lines in the  $T$  figures  
 317 represent the boundaries of the model runs.

318

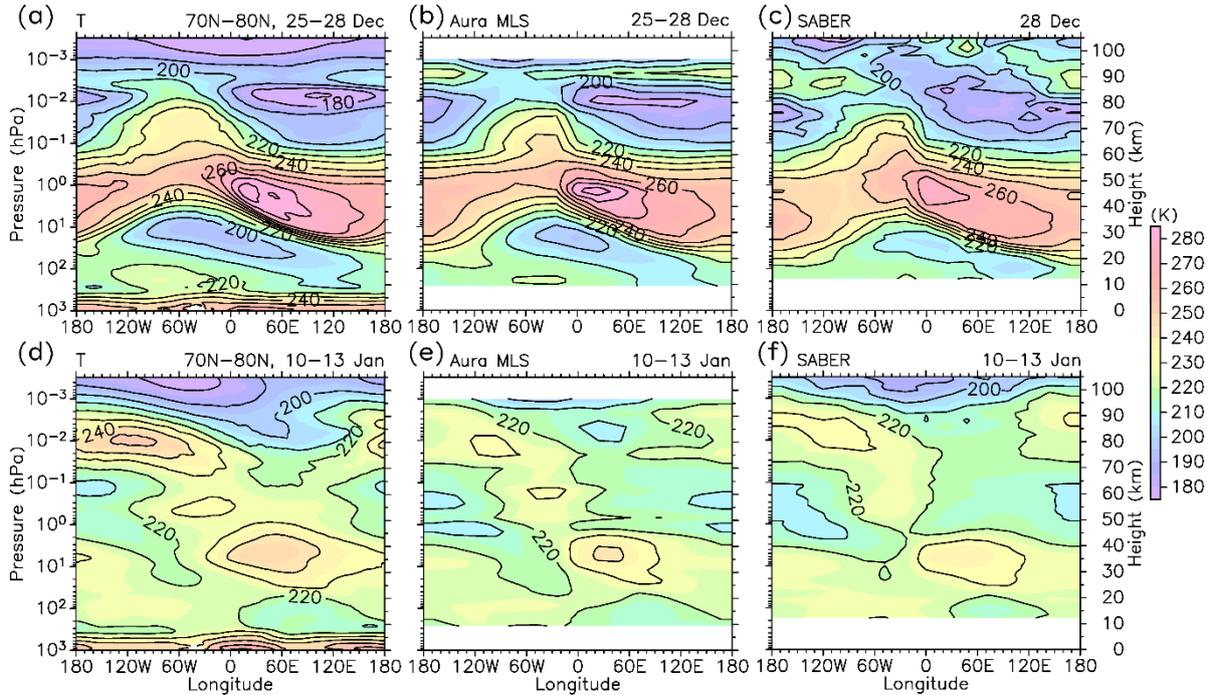
319 As shown in previous studies (e.g., France & Harvey, 2013), the ES often has zonal  
 320 asymmetry. To examine the longitudinal structure of the MIL and ES, the time-height sections

321 at stations arranged along a latitude of  $70^\circ$  N at a fixed longitudinal interval of  $45^\circ$  are shown  
 322 in Fig. 3. The MIL is clearly observed at  $15^\circ$  W,  $30^\circ$  E,  $75^\circ$  E,  $120^\circ$  E,  $165^\circ$  E and  $150^\circ$  W. The  
 323 ES is observed at  $75^\circ$  E,  $120^\circ$  E,  $165^\circ$  E,  $150^\circ$  W and  $105^\circ$  W. Figure 4 shows the orthographic  
 324 maps of geopotential height (GPH) at the MIL (0.005 hPa) and ES altitudes (0.01 hPa) for the  
 325 periods in which they were observed. In addition to the model results, MLS and SABER  
 326 observations are shown. Note that the SABER data in Fig. 4c is for 28 December 2018 because  
 327 the SABER switched to the observation in a northward-viewing yaw on 27 December 2018.  
 328 The model-simulated structure and location of the polar vortex agree with the satellite  
 329 observations for each case. The stations where the MIL or ES appear clearly, denoted by orange  
 330 stars in Figs. 4a and 4b, are located inside of the polar vortex. Thus, it is indicated that the MIL  
 331 and ES are not an apparent phenomenon that is only seen in the zonal mean field associated  
 332 with a shift of the polar vortex but is a real warming of the atmosphere inside of the polar  
 333 vortex.



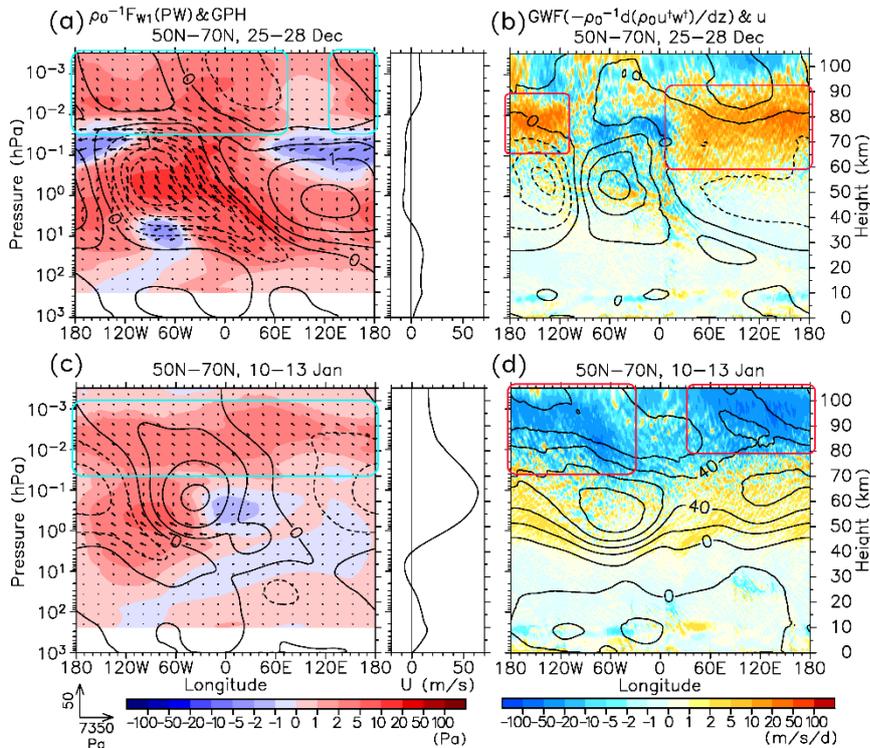
334  
 335 **Figure 4.** Orthographic projection maps of GPH at 0.005 hPa from (a) the JAGUAR and (b)  
 336 Aura MLS for 25–28 December 2018 and from (c) the SABER for 28 December, and at 0.01  
 337 hPa from (d) the JAGUAR, (e) Aura MLS and (f) SABER for 10–13 January 2019. Stars in  
 338 Figs. 4a and 4d represent the locations for the  $T$  figures in Fig. 3. Orange stars show the  
 339 stations at which the MIL or ES appears clearly.

340



341

342 **Figure 5.** Longitude-height sections of  $T$  averaged over  $70^\circ\text{N}$ – $80^\circ\text{N}$  from (a) the JAGUAR  
 343 and (b) Aura MLS for 25–28 December 2018 and from (c) the SABER for 28 December  
 344 2018, and from (d) the JAGUAR, (e) Aura MLS and (f) SABER for 10–13 January 2019.



345

346 **Figure 6.** Longitude-height sections at  $50^\circ\text{N}$ – $70^\circ\text{N}$  of (a, c) 3D-flux-W (vectors, colors:  
 347 vertical components) and GPH anomaly from the zonal mean (contour interval: 1 km) and (b,  
 348 d) GWF and  $u$  (contour interval:  $10\text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) for (a, b) 25–28 December 2018 and (c, d) 10–13  
 349 January 2019. The right panels in Figs. 6a and 6c show the  $[u]$  profiles.

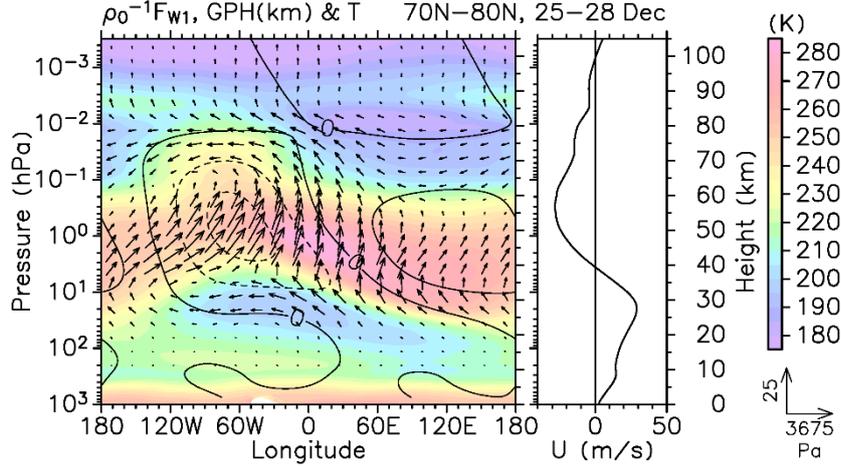
350 Figure 5 shows the longitude-height sections at 70° N–80° N of temperature during the  
 351 MIL and ES formation. The MIL appears in a thin layer at  $z \sim 90$  km in a longitude region of  
 352 100° E–180°–0° (Fig. 5a), which is consistent with the SABER observation (Fig. 5c). The ES  
 353 is observed at  $z = 75$ –85 km with slight dependence on the longitude (Fig. 5d). This structure  
 354 is consistent with the MLS and SABER (Figs. 5e and 5f). The temperature maximum of the ES  
 355 is  $\sim 250$  K at  $z \sim 80$  km, 120° W. The longitude-height structure of PW propagation  
 356 represented by 3D-flux-W and GWF  $-\rho_0^{-1}d(\rho_0 u^\dagger w^\dagger)/dz$ , where  $\dagger$  denotes the GW  
 357 components, during the MIL formation are shown in Figs. 6a and 6b. Positive GWF is observed  
 358 above the westward  $u$  (red boxes in Fig. 6b). The longitudinal distribution of GWF is  
 359 consistent with the cold region at  $z = 60$ –85 km (Figs. 5a–5c) considering the downward  
 360 control principle (Haynes et al., 1991). PWs propagating from the lower atmosphere are mostly  
 361 attenuated below  $z = 70$  km. This is likely due to the nearly zero or westward  $[u]$  at  $z = 40$ –  
 362 80 km (the right panel in Fig. 6a). According to the Charney and Drazin theorem (1961), PWs  
 363 cannot propagate upward in a westward wind. However, above  $z = 75$  km, strong upward PW  
 364 propagation is observed at longitudes where the  $T$  peak of the MIL is observed, which is  
 365 denoted by cyan boxes in Fig. 6a.

366 Figs. 6c and 6d are the same as Figs. 6a and 6b but for the ES formation. Upward  
 367 propagating PWs appear at  $z = 70$ –100 km at almost all longitudes. GWF is strongly negative  
 368 at longitudes of 30° E–180°–30° W (red boxes in Fig. 6d). This is because the polar night jet  
 369 has recovered and flow is eastward in this longitude sector (black contours). The ES has similar  
 370 longitudinal structure (Figs. 5d–5f). Thus, it is inferred that this GWF distribution is  
 371 responsible for the ES longitudinal structure, which is consistent with the suggestion in France  
 372 and Harvey (2013). Note also that the PWs from the lower atmosphere cannot reach above  $z =$   
 373  $\sim 35$  km where  $[u]$  is westward.

374 The characteristics of the MIL in this event differ significantly from those reported by  
 375 previous studies. Meriwether and Gerrard (2004) reviewed the two types of MILs, namely  
 376 “upper” and “lower” MILs. An upper MIL is typically observed at  $z = 85$ –100 km and formed  
 377 by tidal waves. The interaction between tidal wave and gravity wave intensifies this type of  
 378 MIL. Thus, the upper MILs should be washed out in daily mean (Meriwether & Gardner, 2000).  
 379 A lower MIL is observed at  $z = 65$ –80 km and formed by PWs. When a PW is strongly  
 380 attenuated below its critical layer, which is caused by GWF,  $T$  anomaly due to  $\Phi'_z$  of the PW  
 381 forms a MIL (Salby et al., 2002; Sassi et al., 2002; France et al., 2015).

382 The MIL in this SSW ES event appears at a similar altitude to typical upper MILs (Fig.  
 383 1c). However, it kept its strength for  $\sim 9$  days and does not have significant dependence on the  
 384 local time (not shown). The longitude-height structure of GPH anomaly and 3D-flux-W for  
 385 PWs is shown in Fig. 7. At most longitudes, except for  $\sim 60^\circ$  W, PWs from the lower atmosphere  
 386 are strongly attenuated at  $z = 40$ –60 km where  $[u]$  is westward. However, large  $\Phi'_z$  due to

387 the PWs is not fully observed over the longitude range of the MIL. Therefore, it is suggested  
 388 that this MIL formation is not explained by the mechanisms discussed by previous studies, but  
 389 due to adiabatic heating associated with  $\bar{w}^*$  induced by wave forcing as discussed above.



390

391 **Figure 7.** 3D-flux-W (vectors) and GPH anomaly associated with  $s = 1-3$  component  
 392 (contours, interval: 1 km) at  $50^\circ \text{N}-70^\circ \text{N}$ . Colors represent  $T$  shown in Fig. 5a. The right  
 393 panel shows the  $[u]$  profile.

394

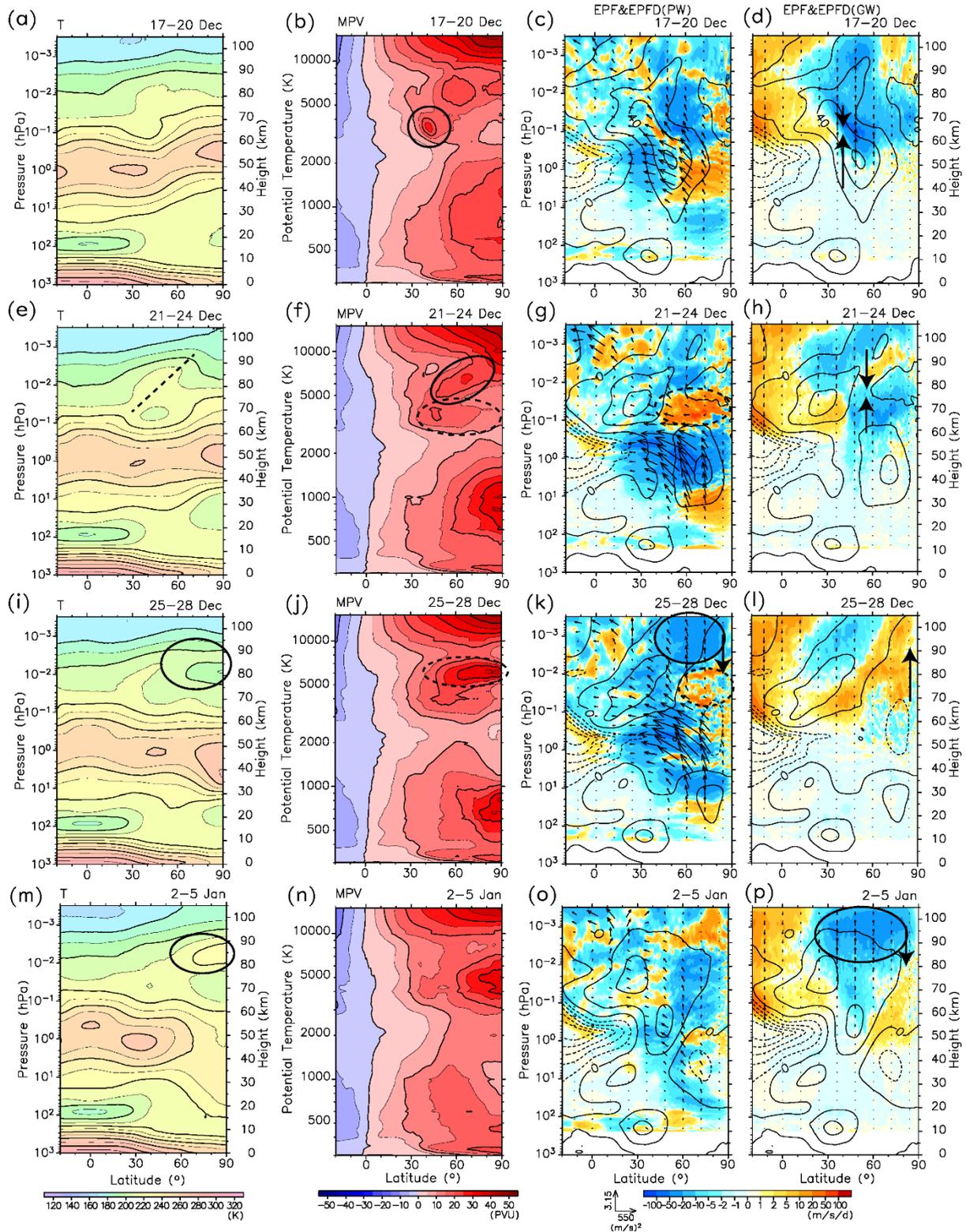
#### 395 **4 Sources of mesospheric PWs during the MIL and ES formation**

396 Both in the MIL and subsequent ES formation, PWs from the lower atmosphere hardly  
 397 reach the MLT. Thus, the sources of PWs which contribute to the formation of the MIL and ES  
 398 are examined in this section.

##### 399 **4.1 The formation of the MIL during 25–28 December 2018**

###### 400 **4.1.1 Meridional cross sections**

401 Figure 8 shows the meridional cross sections of zonal mean and four-day mean fields  
 402 of temperature, zonal wind, MPV, and EP flux and EPFD of PWs and GWs for 17–20, 21–24  
 403 and 25–28 December 2018 and 2–5 January 2019. The MIL appears around 28 December (Fig.  
 404 1c). To accentuate vectors in the middle atmosphere, EP flux vectors are divided by  $\rho_0 a$  in all  
 405 the figures. From 17–20 December, there is a strong eastward polar night jet, and its axis is at  
 406  $\sim 50^\circ \text{N}$  and  $z = \sim 52 \text{ km}$  (contours in Fig. 8c or 8d). Westward wind is observed equatorward  
 407 of this eastward jet. GWF is strongly negative up to  $\sim 50 \text{ m s}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  at  $\sim 50^\circ \text{N}$  and  $z = \sim 65 \text{ km}$   
 408 above the eastward jet, and positive above the westward wind region (Fig. 8d). These GWF  
 409 patterns are due to the filtering effect by the eastward and westward mean wind below.



410

411 **Figure 8.** Latitude–height sections of (from left to right) 4-day mean  $[T]$ ,  $[P_M]$  and EP flux  
 412 scaled by  $\rho_0 a$  (vectors) and EPFD (shadings) of PWs and GWs for (a-d) 17–20, (e-h) 21–24,  
 413 and (i-l) 25–28 December 2018 and (m-p) 2–5 January 2019. Contours in the figures of EP flux  
 414 and EPFD denote  $[u]$  (contour interval =  $20 m/s^{-1}$ ).

415

416 There is a notable peak of  $[P_M]$  at  $\sim 40^\circ$  N and  $\theta = \sim 3,500$  K ( $z = \sim 65$  km) (shown by  
 417 the solid circle in Fig. 8b), where the GWF is negative poleward and positive equatorward from  
 418 17–20 December (Fig. 8d). Generally, wave-induced residual mean vertical wind  $\bar{w}^*$  is  
 419 upward in the lower region on the poleward (equatorward) side of positive (negative) wave  
 420 forcing (not shown, denoted by the lower arrow in Fig. 8d). Above this region, downward  $\bar{w}^*$   
 421 was observed (the upper arrow in Fig. 8d). This  $\bar{w}^* < 0$  seems due to tilted distribution of  
 422 negative GWF which spread equatorward above this  $\bar{w}^* < 0$  region. These GWF and  $[P_M]$   
 423 features suggest that the  $[P_M]$  peak is a result of an increase in  $N^2$  due to the convergence of  
 424  $\bar{w}^*$  at  $\sim 40^\circ$  N induced by GWF.

425 During 17–20 December, PWF is positive poleward of  $\sim 55^\circ$  N at  $z = 35$ – $55$  km. PW  
 426 packets propagate toward the region with weak  $[u]$  at  $\sim 30^\circ$  N,  $z = 40$ – $65$  km and toward  $40^\circ$   
 427 N– $70^\circ$  N,  $z = 60$ – $85$  km by way of the eastward jet, which has its axis at  $\sim 50^\circ$  N,  $z = \sim 52$  km  
 428 (Fig. 8c). In both regions, PWF is negative. The negative PWF in the latter region may also  
 429 contribute to the upwelling at  $\sim 40^\circ$  N and the increase in  $N^2$  and  $[P_M]$ . However, the  
 430 boundary of the positive and negative total wave forcing (not shown) matches well with that  
 431 of the positive and negative GWFs. Thus, the location and strength of the  $\bar{w}^*$  are mainly  
 432 determined by the GWFs.

433 During 21–24 December, the eastward jet is split into two segments (Fig. 8g or 8h).  
 434 One segment is shifted poleward and downward and located at  $\sim 72^\circ$  N,  $z = \sim 42$  km and the  
 435 other segment is tilted poleward from the equator at  $z = \sim 65$  km to the winter pole at  $z = \sim 100$   
 436 km with its axis at  $\sim 25^\circ$  N,  $z = \sim 72$  km. This segmentation of the jet may be caused by negative  
 437 GWF and PWF that are present during 17–20 December in the region where the split occurs  
 438 (Figs. 8c and 8d). During 21–24 December, GWF is negative (positive) above (below) the latter,  
 439 poleward-tilted eastward jet. It is consistent with the GW filtering effect of this jet (Fig. 8h).  
 440 Most PWs are refracted equatorward below  $z = 60$  km (Fig. 8g). The temperature cross section  
 441 shows relatively high temperature between  $30^\circ$  N,  $z = \sim 70$  km and  $70^\circ$  N,  $z = \sim 95$  km, denoted  
 442 by the dashed line in Fig. 8e. This temperature peak spread over nearly all longitudes with  
 443 height variation from 70–90 km (not shown). This warm layer corresponds to the area between  
 444 the negative and positive GWFs along the mesospheric jet. This fact suggests that the high  
 445 temperature is caused by adiabatic heating associated with residual mean downwelling (not  
 446 shown, denoted by the downward arrow in Fig. 8h) induced by these GWFs.

447 Poleward of  $10^\circ$  N in the middle and upper stratosphere at  $z = 35$ – $60$  km during 21–24  
 448 December, PWF is strongly negative with a maximum of over  $50 \text{ m s}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  and is present  
 449 continuously until 25–28 December (Fig. 8k). It is inferred that the SSW is caused by this PWF.  
 450 During 21–24 December, PWF is positive to the north of  $\sim 40^\circ$  N at  $z = 60$ – $80$  km (Fig. 8g),  
 451 and the  $[P_M]$  peak that is present during 17–20 December at  $\sim 40^\circ$  N and  $\theta = \sim 3,500$  K

452 becomes weak (Fig. 8f). According to the quasi-geostrophic theory, a positive EPFD is  
 453 equivalent to a poleward PV flux, while a negative EPFD indicates an equatorward PV flux  
 454 (e.g., Andrews et al., 1987). The observed PWF features suggest that the positive wave forcing  
 455 is associated with the PW generation due to the BT/BC instability weakening the negative  
 456  $[P_M]_y$ , which is a necessary condition for the BT/BC instability. During this period, a  $[P_M]$   
 457 peak becomes obvious from  $\sim 50^\circ$  N,  $\theta = \sim 5,500$  K ( $z = \sim 80$  km) to  $\sim 80^\circ$  N,  $\theta = \sim 7,000$  K ( $z =$   
 458  $\sim 85$  km, Fig. 8f). It is slightly below the region with relatively high temperature, which is  
 459 marked by the dashed line in Fig. 8e. Thus, it is implied that this  $[P_M]$  peak is caused by the  
 460 increase of  $N^2$  under the temperature maximum associated with the isothermal folding.

461 During 25–28 December, a westward jet with a peak at  $z = \sim 57$  km,  $\sim 80^\circ$  N is formed  
 462 in the polar upper stratosphere and mesosphere (Fig. 8k or 8l). The stratopause shifts downward  
 463 from  $z = \sim 52$  km in 21–24 December to  $z = 38$  km corresponding to the SSW (Fig. 8i). A  
 464 relatively weak maximum in the vertical profile of  $[T]$  is formed to the north of  $60^\circ$  N at  $z =$   
 465  $\sim 88$  km. This structure is the MIL. Poleward of  $55^\circ$  N at  $z = 67$ – $82$  km, where the  $[P_M]_y$  is  
 466 negative in 21–24 December (Fig. 8f), PWF becomes positive during 25–28 December (Fig.  
 467 8k) and the  $[P_M]_y < 0$  region almost disappears (Fig. 8j). These results suggest in-situ PW  
 468 generation due to BT/BC instability at  $z = 67$ – $82$  km during 25–28 December, which is similar  
 469 to the situation at  $> 40^\circ$  N,  $z = 60$ – $80$  km from 21–24 December.

470 During 25–28 December, a negative PWF of  $\sim -20$  m s<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> extends to the north of  $35^\circ$   
 471 N above  $z = 85$  km (Fig. 8k), and a positive GWF of  $\sim 10$  m s<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> is in the polar MLT (Fig.  
 472 8l). Because the positive GWF is weaker than the negative PWF, the total wave forcing is  
 473 negative in the polar MLT ( $z > 80$  km) (Fig. 2a), which cause downwelling in the polar MLT  
 474 and the subsequent adiabatic heating. Thus, it is considered that the initial formation of the MIL  
 475 is caused by PWF.

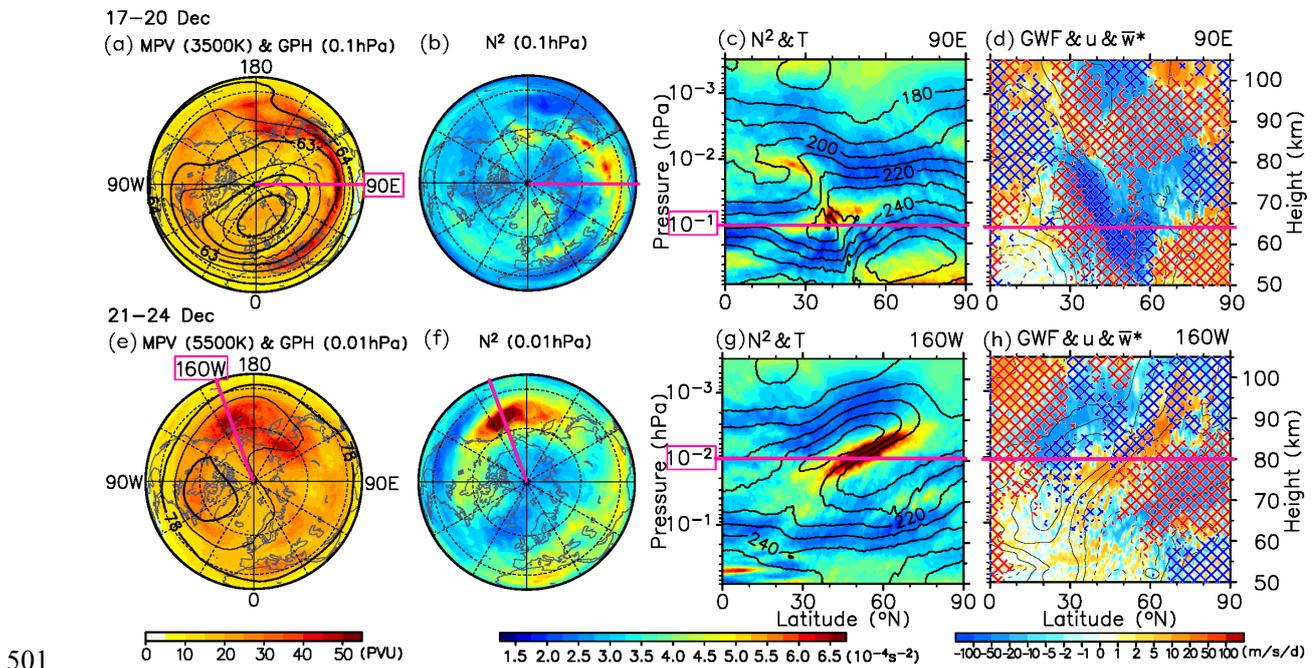
476 During 25–28 December,  $[u]$  is westward over a wide area above  $z > 40$  km in the  
 477 polar upper stratosphere and mesosphere. PWs from the lower atmosphere are strongly  
 478 refracted equatorward below this area as indicated by EP flux vectors in Fig. 8k, which can be  
 479 suggested by the attenuation of the vertical component of 3D-flux-W in Fig. 6a as well. Thus,  
 480 it is inferred that PWs responsible for the MIL formation originate from the BT/BC instability  
 481 during 17–20 and/or 21–24 December. Afterwards, GWF from 2–6 January is strongly negative  
 482 in the MLT (Fig. 8p). Downwelling induced by this GWF likely intensify the amplitude of the  
 483 MIL (Fig. 8m).

484

#### 485 4.1.2 Three-dimensional structure

486 In addition to the discussion above about zonal mean fields, the three-dimensional  
 487 structure of  $P_M$  and wave forcing is also analyzed in this section. Orthographic projection

488 maps of the Northern Hemisphere for  $P_M$ , GPH and  $N^2$  at  $\theta = \sim 3,500$  K and 0.1 hPa ( $z = \sim 65$   
 489 km) during 17–20 December are shown in Figs. 9a and 9b. A strip of high  $P_M$  at  $\sim 40^\circ$  N (Fig.  
 490 9a), which corresponds to the region of  $[P_M]$  maximum in Fig. 8b, matches with the region of  
 491 high  $N^2$  (Fig. 9b) and does not match with the region of the center of the polar vortex in the  
 492 GPH maps (Fig. 9a). This  $P_M$  peak along the edge of the polar vortex is consistent with the  
 493 result by Harvey et al. (2009). The latitude-height sections along a longitude of  $90^\circ$  E of  $N^2$ ,  
 494  $T$ , GWF,  $u$  and  $\bar{w}^*$  are shown in Figs. 9c and 9d. The blue (red) hatched areas represent  
 495 regions of  $\bar{w}^* < (>) -2$  cm s $^{-1}$ . GWF and  $\bar{w}^*$  were zonally smoothed with a lowpass filter with  
 496 a cutoff of  $s = 6$  to show large-scale structures more clearly. High  $N^2$  in Fig. 9c appears where  
 497  $\bar{w}^*$  converges, i.e.,  $\bar{w}^*$  is upward below and downward above, along with the equatorial side  
 498 of negative GWF in Fig. 9d. These features indicate that the  $[P_M]$  enhancement in the zonal  
 499 mean field (Fig. 8b) is mainly caused by  $N^2$  increase in the region of  $\bar{w}^*$  convergence  
 500 induced by GWF, which is similar to the mechanism shown by Sato and Nomoto (2015).



502 **Figure 9.** Orthographic projection maps of the Northern Hemisphere of (a, e)  $P_M$  and GPH  
 503 and (b, f)  $N^2$  at (a, b) 0.1 hPa and  $\theta = 3,500$  K ( $z = \sim 65$  km) for 17–20 December 2018 and  
 504 (e, f) 0.01 hPa and  $\theta = 5,500$  K ( $z = \sim 80$  km) for 21–24 December 2018. (c, g)  $N^2$  (colors)  
 505 and  $T$  (contours, interval: 10 K) (d, h) GWF (colors),  $u$  (contours, interval: 10 m s $^{-1}$ ) and  $\bar{w}^*$   
 506 (cross-hatched, red:  $\bar{w}^* > 2$  cm s $^{-1}$ , blue:  $\bar{w}^* < -2$  cm s $^{-1}$ ) at longitudes of (c, d)  $90^\circ$  E for 17–  
 507 20 December and (g, h)  $160^\circ$  W for 21–24 December. GWF and  $\bar{w}^*$  have been zonally  
 508 smoothed with a lowpass filter with a cutoff of  $s = 6$ .

509

510 Figures 9e–9h are the same as Figs. 9a–9d but for 21–24 December at  $\theta = \sim 5,500$  K

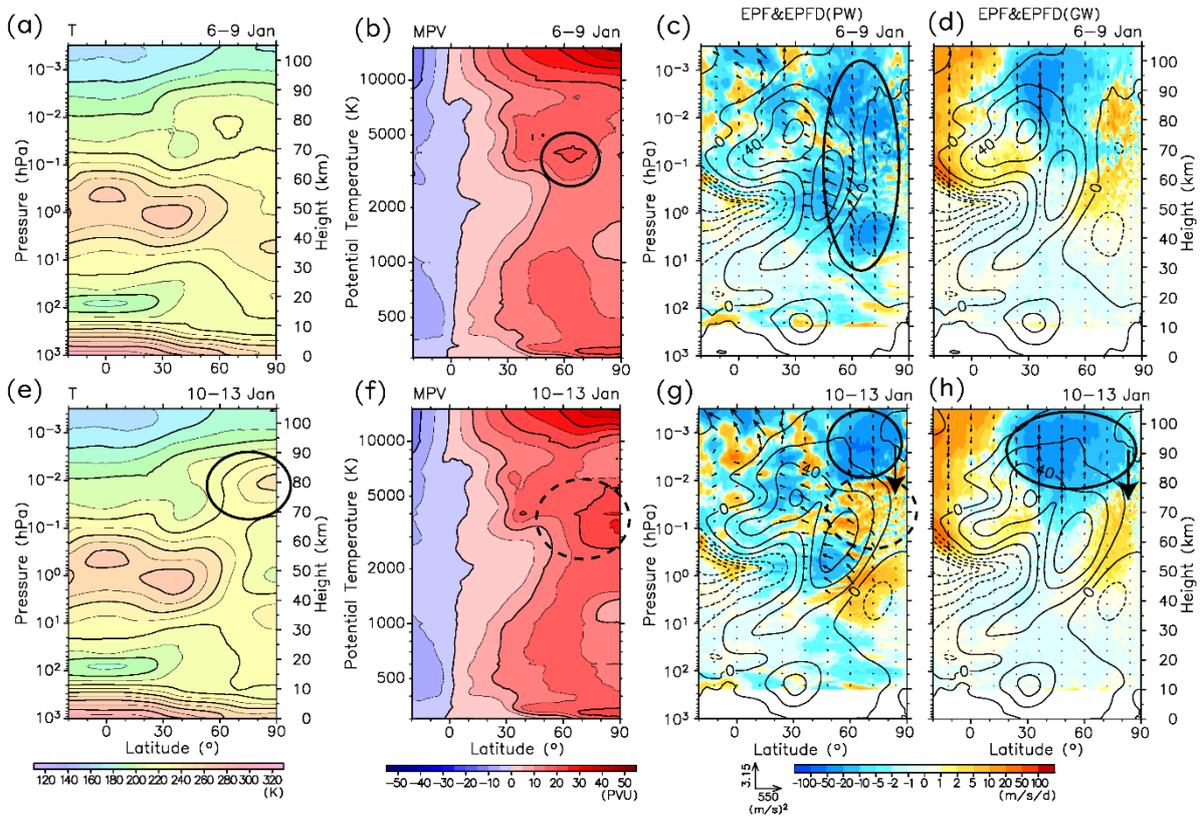
511 and 0.01 hPa ( $z \sim 80$  km) and at  $160^\circ$  W, the longitude where the  $P_M$  and  $N^2$  peaks. Similar  
 512 to the period of 17–20 December, the region of high  $P_M$  at  $\sim 50^\circ$  N,  $120^\circ$  E– $120^\circ$  W roughly  
 513 corresponds to the region of high  $N^2$ . This  $N^2$  peak is observed along the bottom of an  
 514 isothermal folding in Fig. 9g. This folding well corresponds to the distribution of  $\bar{w}^*$ . GWF  
 515 has a tilted structure along with the mesospheric jet. The distribution of  $\bar{w}^*$  is consistent with  
 516 the GWF considering the downward control principle. Thus, it is inferred that the features  
 517 observed in these maps support the inference from the zonal mean fields that the  $P_M$  peak is  
 518 formed as a result of  $N^2$  increase induced by the GW-driven  $\bar{w}^*$  convergence.

519

## 520 4.2 The formation of the ES during 10–13 January 2019

### 521 4.2.1 Meridional cross sections

522 To examine the mechanism of ES formation, latitude–height sections of  $[T]$ ,  $[u]$ ,  
 523  $[P_M]$  and EP flux and EPFD of PWs and GWs after the SSW onset on 1 January for the time  
 524 periods of 6–9 and 10–13 January are shown in Fig. 10. The ES becomes visible at  $z \sim 80$  km  
 525 to the north of  $70^\circ$  N during 10–13 January (Fig. 10e).



526

527 **Figure 10.** Same as Fig. 8 but for (a–d) 6–9 and (e–h) 10–13 January 2019.

528 During 6–9 January, the prevailing PWF through the entire winter polar middle

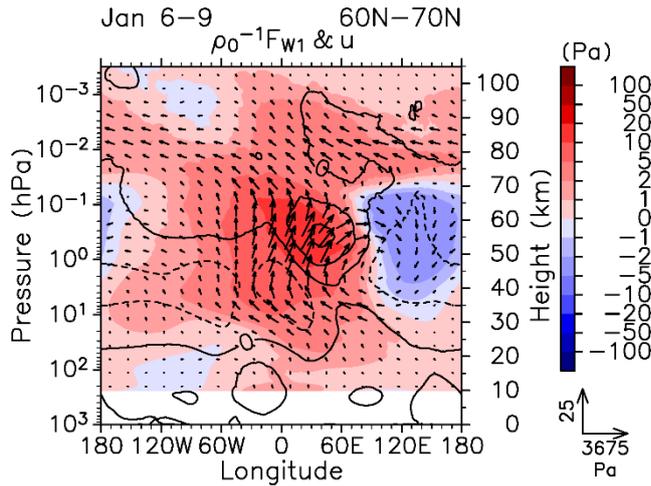
529 atmosphere is negative with values of about  $-10$  to  $-20 \text{ m s}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  (Fig. 10c). After the SSW  
 530 onset, westward wind has descended to the stratosphere, and is reinforced during 6–9 January  
 531 (Fig. 1a). Thus, it is implied that the prevailing mesospheric westward wind during this period  
 532 is caused by this negative PWF. In the  $[P_M]$  cross section in Fig. 10b, there is a peak at  $\sim 60^\circ$   
 533 N and  $\theta = 3,000\text{--}6,000 \text{ K}$  ( $z = 60\text{--}80 \text{ km}$ ) denoted by a solid circle.

534 The negative or near zero  $[P_M]_y$ , which is poleward of  $\sim 60^\circ$  N and over the wide region  
 535 of  $\theta = 500\text{--}6,000 \text{ K}$  ( $z = 22\text{--}80 \text{ km}$ ) during 6–9 January (Fig. 10b), has disappeared from  $\theta =$   
 536  $1,200\text{--}6,000 \text{ K}$  ( $z = 40\text{--}80 \text{ km}$ ) in 10–13 January (the dashed circle in Fig. 10f). During 10–13  
 537 January, PWF is strong and positive poleward of  $60^\circ$  N at  $z = 35\text{--}80 \text{ km}$  (Fig. 10g). This region  
 538 of positive PWF roughly matches the region where the negative  $[P_M]_y$  in 6–9 January  
 539 becomes positive in 10–13 January. These features suggest in-situ PW generation due to the  
 540 BT/BC instability.

541 As seen in contours of Fig. 10g or 10h, during 10–13 January, the eastward jet becomes  
 542 stronger and extends to the polar mesosphere. The PWs and GWs provide strong negative  
 543 forcing at  $z > 80 \text{ km}$  poleward of  $50^\circ$  N and  $20^\circ$  N, respectively (Figs. 10g and 10h). There is  
 544 a  $[T]$  maximum corresponding to the ES poleward of  $\sim 60^\circ$  N at  $z = \sim 80 \text{ km}$ . Thus, it is  
 545 considered that both negative PWF and GWF are responsible for the ES formation by causing  
 546 downwelling below and poleward of the forcing regions. As discussed in section 3.2 (Fig. 6c),  
 547 PWs from the lower atmosphere hardly reach the MLT during 10–13 January. Thus, it is  
 548 inferred that the in-situ generated PWs contribute to the ES formation.

549 During 6–9 January, PWF is observed in the mesosphere despite the westward wind in  
 550 the polar stratosphere. The longitude-height sections of 3D-flux-W  $\rho_0^{-1}\mathbf{F}_{W1}$  averaged over  
 551  $60^\circ\text{N--}70^\circ\text{N}$  for 6–9 January are shown in Fig. 11. The vectors represent the zonal and vertical  
 552 components of the flux, the colors represent the vertical components of  $\rho_0^{-1}\mathbf{F}_{W1}$  and the  
 553 contours represent the zonal wind averaged over  $60^\circ\text{N--}70^\circ\text{N}$  at each longitude. The upward  
 554 propagation of PWs occurs mainly in the region of  $60^\circ\text{W--}60^\circ\text{E}$ , where the zonal wind has a  
 555 westward-tilted structure at  $z = 20\text{--}55 \text{ km}$ . This structure is consistent with that of upward  
 556 propagating PWs and similar situation was observed during the major SSW in February 2018  
 557 (e.g., Harada et al., 2019). Thus, the westward winds in this region can be regarded as part of  
 558 the PWs. It is inferred that PWs propagate upward in the region of  $60^\circ\text{W--}60^\circ\text{E}$ , even though  
 559  $[u]$  is westward.

560

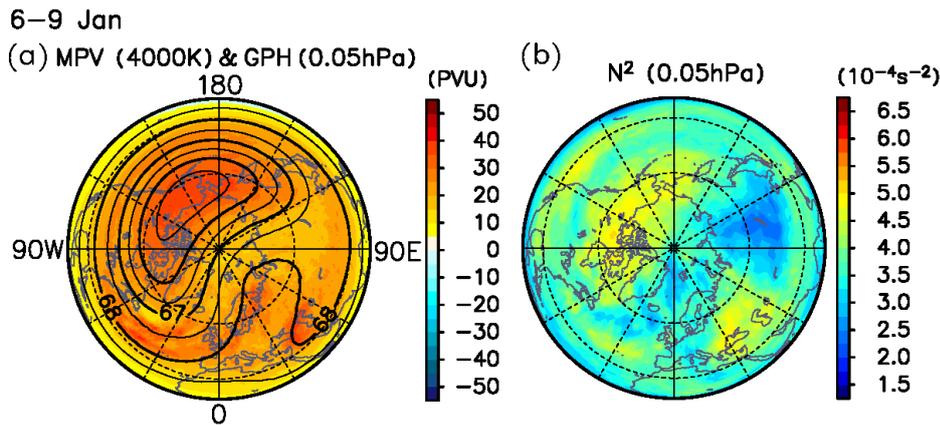


561

562 **Figure 11.** Longitude–height section of the 3D-flux- $W$   $F_{w1}$  weighted by  $\rho_0^{-1}$  (colors and  
 563 vectors) averaged over  $60^\circ$  N– $70^\circ$  N for 6–9 January 2019. Colors indicate the vertical  
 564 component of  $\rho_0^{-1}F_{w1}$ . Contours indicate  $u$  averaged over the same region (contour interval  
 565 =  $20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ). Dashed contours indicate negative values.

566

567 4.2.2 Horizontal structure



568

569 **Figure 12.** Orthographic projection maps of the Northern Hemisphere showing 4-day mean  
 570 (left to right)  $P_M$ , GPH and  $N^2$  at 0.05 hPa and  $\theta = 4,000 \text{ K}$  ( $z \sim 70 \text{ km}$ ) for 6–9 January  
 571 2019.

572

573 To examine the formation of the  $[P_M]$  peak at  $\sim 60^\circ$  N,  $\theta = 3,000$ – $6,000 \text{ K}$  ( $z = 60$ – $80$   
 574 km) during 6–9 January in terms of the horizontal structure, orthographic projection maps of  
 575  $P_M$ , GPH and  $N^2$  at  $\theta \sim 4,000 \text{ K}$  and 0.05 hPa ( $z \sim 70 \text{ km}$ ) are shown in Fig. 12. In contrast  
 576 to the results from 17–20 and 21–24 December (Fig. 4), high  $P_M$ , low GPH (i.e., the center of  
 577 the polar vortex) and high  $N^2$  appear roughly in the same regions. The polar vortex is shifted

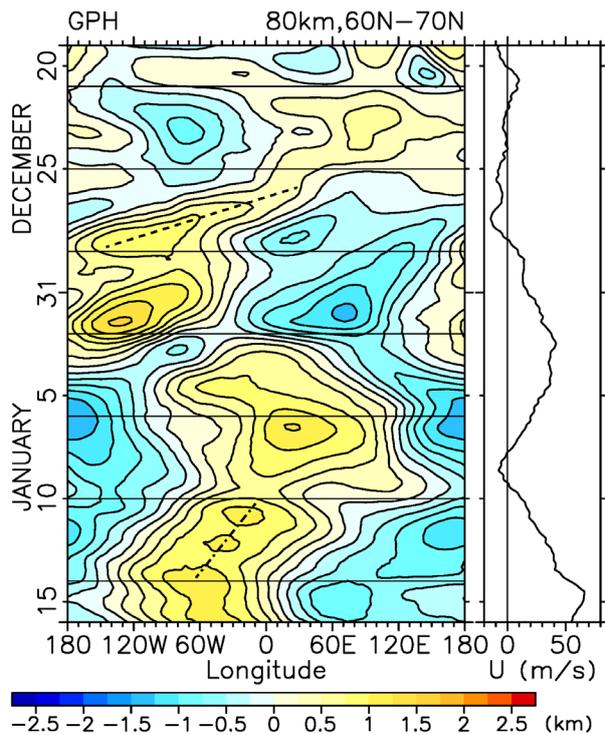
578 equatorward at  $\sim 135^\circ$  W. This shift of the polar vortex is consistent with the MLS and SABER  
 579 observations (not shown). The region of low GPH is stretched and distorted into a comma-like  
 580 shape at  $\sim 60^\circ$  E. This is a typical structure for PW breaking. Thus, it is inferred that the mixing  
 581 caused by PW breaking eliminates the expected  $P_M$  minimum at  $\sim 60^\circ$  E associated with the  
 582 phase of the PWs which had to be observed without breaking, and only the  $P_M$  maximum at  
 583  $\sim 135^\circ$  W remains.

584

## 585 5 Characteristics of PWs and GWs

### 586 5.1 Characteristics of PWs generated in the middle atmosphere

587 To examine the PW periods, the longitude–time section of GPH deviation from zonal  
 588 mean at  $60^\circ$  N– $70^\circ$  N,  $z = 80$  km is shown in Fig. 13. During 21–24 December, when positive  
 589 PWF appears north of  $\sim 40^\circ$  N at  $z = 60$ – $80$  km (Fig. 8g), stationary PWs with  $s = 1$  are  
 590 dominant. During 25–28 December, when PWF is positive poleward of  $55^\circ$  N at  $z = 67$ – $82$  km  
 591 and the MIL is formed (Fig. 3c), westward propagating PWs have periods of  $\sim 6$  days (indicated  
 592 by the dashed line in Fig. 13) and wavenumbers of  $s = 1$ – $2$ . During 10–13 January, when  
 593 positive PWF is observed poleward of  $60^\circ$  N at  $z = 35$ – $80$  km, PWs have periods of  $\sim 24$  days  
 594 (the dash-dotted line) and wavenumbers of  $s = 1$ .



595

596 **Figure 13.** Left panel: longitude–time section of GPH anomaly from zonal mean averaged over  
 597  $60^\circ$  N– $70^\circ$  N,  $z = 80$  km. Thin horizontal lines represent the boundaries of the model runs. A  
 598 dashed line and a dash-dotted line denote propagations with periods of 6 days and 24 days,

599 respectively. Right panel: variations with height of  $[u]$  averaged over the same latitudinal  
 600 region.

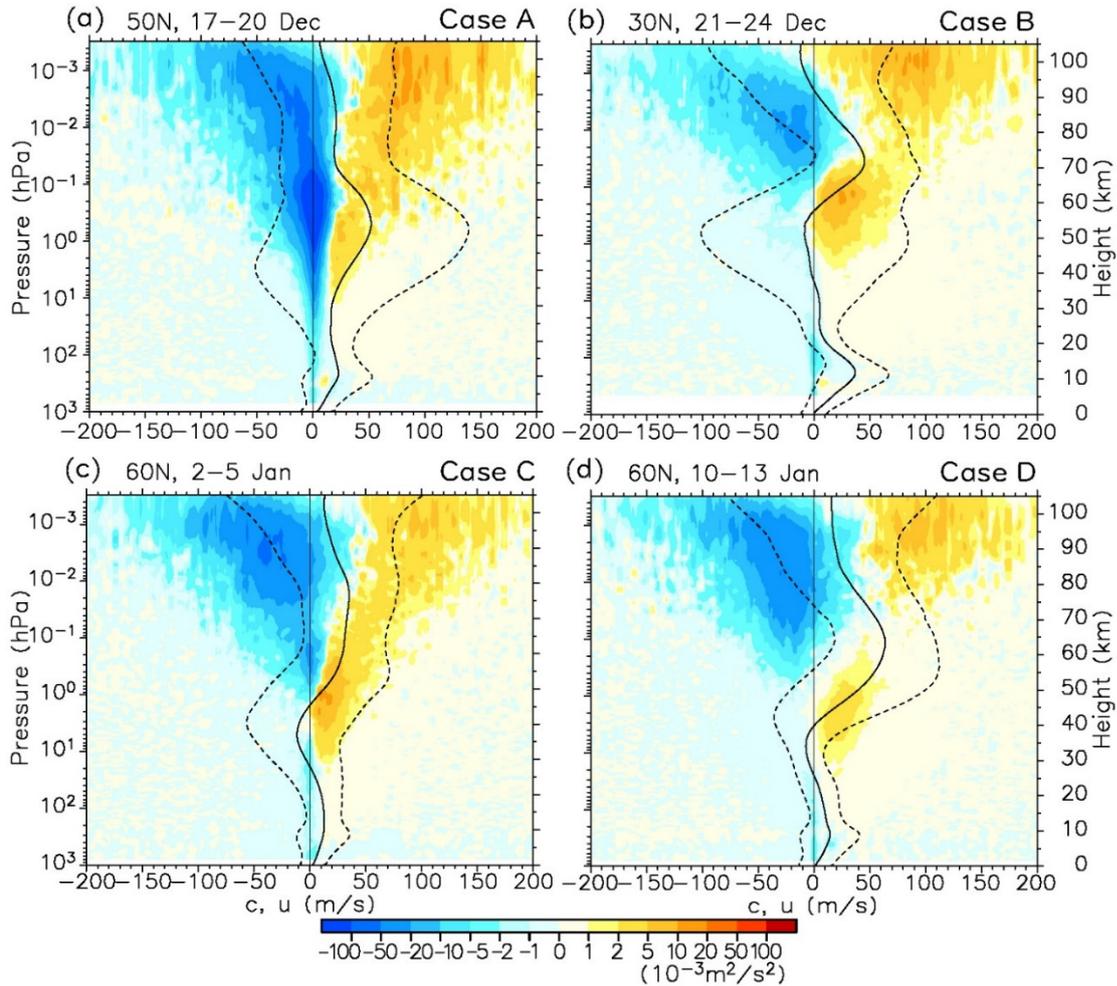
601

## 602 5.2 Propagation of GWs

603 To examine the contribution of GWs which are generally ignored in GW  
 604 parameterizations, the GWs which play crucial roles in the formation of the MIL and ES are  
 605 further analyzed. Figure 14 shows the vertical flux of zonal momentum  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  of GWs as a  
 606 function of the ground-based phase velocity  $c$  at each height. The solid and dashed curves  
 607 denote the mean  $[u]$  and  $[u] \pm 1.65\sigma$  over a  $20^\circ$  latitude range centered around  $50^\circ$  N (Fig.  
 608 14a),  $30^\circ$  N (Fig. 14b),  $60^\circ$  N (Fig. 14c), and  $60^\circ$  N (Fig. 14d). Assuming normal distribution  
 609 for  $[u]$ , the area between each pair of dashed curves encompasses 90% of the values of  $[u]$ .  
 610 Figures 14a, 14b, 14c and 14d are the profiles for GWs at  $50^\circ$  N for 17–20 December (Case  
 611 A),  $30^\circ$  N for 21–24 December (Case B),  $60^\circ$  N for 2–5 January (Case C) and  $60^\circ$  N for 10–13  
 612 January (Case D), respectively. As discussed in section 4.1, it is likely that in Cases A and B,  
 613 GWs are responsible for the  $[P_M]$  peaks that appear before the formation of the MIL. The GW  
 614 momentum flux in Case C is likely related to the reinforcement of the MIL structure after SSW  
 615 onset. In case D, GWs exert strong negative forcing in the MLT during the formation phase of  
 616 the ES.

617 The vertical flux of zonal momentum  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  for Case A (Fig. 14a) is strongly  
 618 negative around  $c = \sim 0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  at all altitudes. At its strongest, its absolute value exceeds  $\sim 0.1$   
 619  $\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$ . In Cases B, C and D, the negative  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  peaks around  $c = \sim 0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  in the troposphere  
 620 and the lower stratosphere are absent in the upper stratosphere. This is likely because of weak  
 621 wind layers in the lower or middle stratosphere.

622 In Case B, there is a weak wind layer with  $[u] = \pm 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  at  $z = 20\text{--}55 \text{ km}$ ; in addition  
 623 to the small  $[u]$ , the variation of  $[u]$ , as indicated by the area between the two dashed lines is  
 624 also small at  $z = 20\text{--}30 \text{ km}$ . In Cases C and D, the weak wind layers of  $[u] = \pm 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  are at  
 625  $z = 25\text{--}50 \text{ km}$  and  $z = 20\text{--}45 \text{ km}$ , respectively. Because the meridional wind is generally weaker  
 626 than  $[u]$  and the meridional component of the ground-based phase velocity of a GW is smaller  
 627 than the zonal component in most cases, GWs having  $c = \sim 0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  such as orographic waves  
 628 break down at a critical layer, a layer with  $[u] = \sim 0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . However,  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  of GWs having  
 629  $c = \sim 0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  above these layers is strongly negative at  $z = 65\text{--}100 \text{ km}$  in Case B,  $z > 47 \text{ km}$  in  
 630 Case C and  $z > 55 \text{ km}$  in Case D. The lowest values of  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  are  $\sim -1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$  at  $z =$   
 631  $70\text{--}90 \text{ km}$  in Case B,  $\sim -1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$  at  $z = 75\text{--}95 \text{ km}$  in Case C and  $\sim -1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$  at  $z =$   
 632  $75\text{--}95 \text{ km}$  in Case D. These negative momentum fluxes of GWs having  $c = \sim 0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  cannot be  
 633 explained only by pure vertical propagation from the lower atmosphere, which is the  
 634 assumption that is made in most GW parameterizations. This result indicates that these waves  
 635 propagate from other latitudes and/or are excited in the middle atmosphere.



636

637 **Figure 14.** Vertical profiles of  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  of GWs as a function of the ground-based zonal phase  
 638 velocity at each height (shading) at (a)  $50^\circ \text{ N}$  for 17–20 December 2018 (Case A), (b)  $30^\circ \text{ N}$   
 639 for 21–24 December 2018 (Case B), (c)  $60^\circ \text{ N}$  for 2–5 January 2019 (Case C), and (d)  $60^\circ \text{ N}$   
 640 for 10–13 January 2019 (Case D). The values  $[u^\dagger w^\dagger]$  are smoothed by the 3-point moving  
 641 average in the phase velocity direction. Solid curves denote the mean  $[u]$  over a  $20^\circ$  latitude  
 642 range centered around (a)  $50^\circ \text{ N}$ , (b)  $30^\circ \text{ N}$ , (c)  $60^\circ \text{ N}$ , and (d)  $60^\circ \text{ N}$ . Dashed curves on either  
 643 side of the solid curve denote  $[u] \pm 1.65\sigma$ , where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation. Assuming  
 644 normal distribution for  $[u]$ , the area between each pair of dashed curves encompasses 90% of  
 645 the values of  $[u]$ .

646

## 647 6 Summary and Conclusions

648 By analyzing outputs from a hindcast of the SSW ES event in 2018/19 using a GW-  
 649 permitting model that covers the ground surface to the lower thermosphere, crucial importance  
 650 of the interplay between PWs and GWs in the three-dimensional structure and formation of the  
 651 ES and another characteristic temperature maximum observed during the event have been

652 shown quantitatively. While the heights of ESs simulated by most of the state-of-the-art high-  
 653 top models tend to be lower than those observed, the ES reproduced by the model used in the  
 654 present study appeared at a similar height to that observed by the satellites: MLS and SABER.  
 655 Since GWs in the model used in this study are all resolved, quantitative study including GWs  
 656 generated in the middle atmosphere can be carried out.

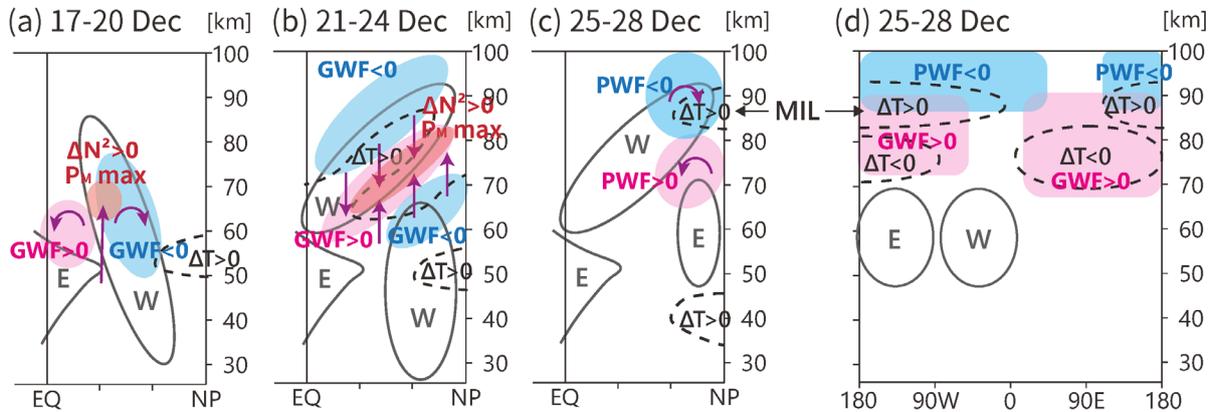
657 A characteristic temperature maximum appeared at a height of  $z \sim 85$  km in the polar  
 658 region prior to the disappearance of the lowered stratopause associated with the SSW and  
 659 subsequent ES onset (Figs. 1c, 1e and 1f). The existence of such a temperature maximum  
 660 during an SSW event has not been reported so far. This temperature maximum was observed  
 661 both in the model results and in the satellite observations and can be regarded as a MIL (e.g.,  
 662 Meriwether & Gerrard, 2004). However, the formation mechanism differs from those of the  
 663 MILs discussed in previous studies, as summarized in the following.

664 The MIL was observed inside of the polar vortex and its three-dimensional structure in  
 665 the model mostly agreed with the satellite observations. To examine the mechanism of the  
 666 formation, a schematic is shown in Fig. 15. Prior to the MIL formation, during 17–20 December,  
 667 GWF above the eastward polar night jet was strongly negative at  $\sim 50^\circ$  N,  $z \sim 65$  km (Fig.  
 668 15a); GWF was positive above the westward wind at  $< 35^\circ$  N and  $z \sim 65$  km, equatorward of  
 669 the negative GWF. Because of the convergence of  $\bar{w}^*$  induced by GWF,  $N^2$  and thus  $P_M$   
 670 increase at  $\sim 40^\circ$  N,  $z \sim 65$  km.

671 During 21–24 December, negative (positive) GWF appeared above (below) the  
 672 eastward jet with its axis at  $\sim 25^\circ$  N and  $z \sim 72$  km in the mesosphere. This GWF distribution  
 673 can be explained by a filtering effect by the mesospheric eastward jet. This jet was tilted from  
 674 the equatorial region in the lower mesosphere to the winter polar region in the upper  
 675 mesosphere. A weak temperature maximum extending toward higher altitudes and latitudes  
 676 was formed at the height of  $\bar{w}^* < 0$ , which was located between the negative and positive GWFs  
 677 in the mesosphere. There was also  $\bar{w}^* > 0$  on the polar side of the positive GWF. Then, a  $[P_M]$   
 678 peak caused by high  $N^2$  appeared in the region of  $\bar{w}^*$  convergence (Fig. 15b). Poleward of  
 679 this peak,  $[P_M]_y$  was negative, which satisfied the necessary condition of the BT/BC  
 680 instability.

681 During 25–28 December, PWF was positive poleward of the  $[P_M]$  peaks (Fig. 15c).  
 682 These features suggest that PWs were generated due to the BT/BC instability induced by the  
 683 GWFs. In addition, PWF in the MLT was strongly negative. This negative PWF was likely a  
 684 result of the PWs generated in the mesosphere because the prevailing wind was westward in  
 685 the stratosphere and PWs excited in the troposphere hardly propagated through into the MLT.  
 686 It is inferred that a downward flow induced by the negative PWF in the polar MLT caused the  
 687  $T$  maximum of the MIL at  $z \sim 85$  km. The longitudinal distribution of PWF indicated by PW  
 688 upward propagation in the MLT was mostly consistent with the longitudinal structure of the

689 MIL (Fig. 15d). The above mechanism significantly differs from that of previously reported  
 690 MILs: “upper” and “lower” MILs (e.g., Meriwether & Gerrard, 2004). The MIL in this event  
 691 is caused by wave-driven residual mean flow, similarly to the winter polar stratopause.  
 692 Considering this mechanism and the fact that this MIL forms the second  $T$  peak in the vertical  
 693 along with the lowered stratopause, this morphological MIL can be also referred to as the  
 694 “second stratopause”.



695  
 696 **Figure 15.** A schematic of the formation mechanism of the MIL (a–c) in the latitude–height  
 697 sections and (d) in the longitude–height section; W and E denote westerly (eastward) and  
 698 easterly (westward) winds;  $\Delta$  represents the anomaly of each value; purple vectors indicate  
 699 the residual mean flows. Note that the zonal winds, PWF and GWF are for  $50^{\circ}$  N– $70^{\circ}$  N and  
 700  $\Delta T$  is for  $70^{\circ}$  N– $80^{\circ}$  N in Fig. 15d.

701

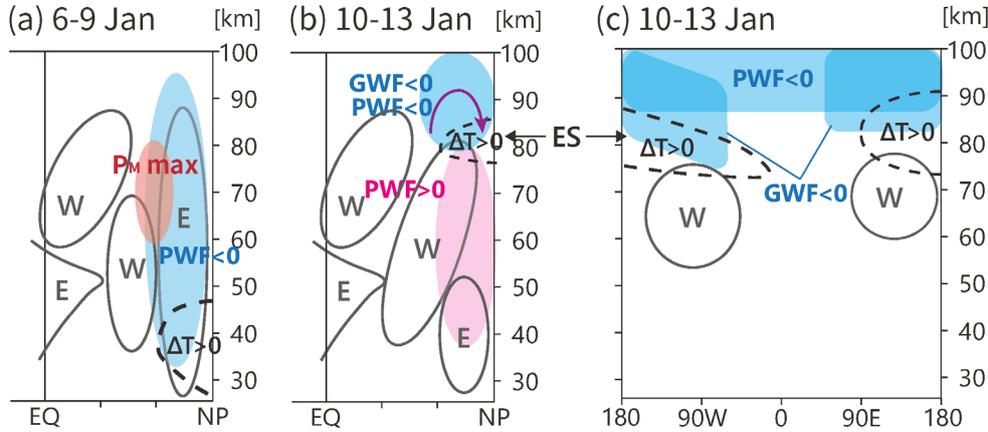
702 To examine the mechanism of the formation of the ES, a schematic is shown in Fig. 16.  
 703 Then, PWF was negative throughout the entire polar middle atmosphere during 6–9 January  
 704 (Fig. 16a). A  $[P_M]$  maximum appeared at  $\sim 60^{\circ}$  N and  $\theta = 3,000$ – $6,000$  K ( $z = 60$ – $80$  km). The  
 705 orthographic projection map of  $\theta = 4,000$  K ( $z = \sim 70$  km) shows high  $P_M$  inside of a comma-  
 706 like polar vortex, which is a typical feature of PW breaking.

707 During 10–13 January, PWF was positive poleward of  $60^{\circ}$  N at  $z = 35$ – $80$  km (Fig.  
 708 16b), in a region that roughly matches the region of  $[P_M]_y < 0$  in 6–9 January (Fig. 16a). These  
 709 features suggest that PWs were generated in-situ by the BT/BC instability. During 10–13  
 710 January, GWF and PWF were negative at  $z > 80$  km above the recovered eastward jet in the  
 711 polar mesosphere (Fig. 16b). These wave forcings were comparable in strength and had values  
 712 of  $-20$  to  $-50$   $\text{m s}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$  in the polar MLT. The ES was formed at  $z = \sim 80$  km during 10–13  
 713 January. The three-dimensional PW flux suggests that PWs from the lower atmosphere cannot  
 714 propagate upward through the prevailing westward wind in the stratosphere. Thus, the PWF is  
 715 likely from PWs generated at  $> 60^{\circ}$  N,  $z = 35$ – $80$  km during 10–13 January. These results  
 716 indicate that both GWF and PWF played significant roles in the formation of the ES. Observed  
 717 longitudinal structure of the polar temperature suggests that the zonally asymmetric ES was a

718 warming inside of the polar vortex. The structure of the ES was likely to be determined by the  
 719 zonally asymmetric GWF (Fig. 16c).

720

721



722

723 **Figure 16.** A schematic of the formation mechanism of the ES (a, b) in the latitude–height  
 724 sections and (c) in the longitude–height section. Symbols are the same as those in Fig. 15. Note  
 725 that the zonal winds, PWF and GWF are for  $50^{\circ}$  N– $70^{\circ}$  N and  $\Delta T$  is for  $70^{\circ}$  N– $80^{\circ}$  N in Fig.  
 726 16c.

727

728 Our results also suggest that the MIL structure may have affected the process of ES  
 729 formation. The reformation of the mesospheric westward wind during 6–9 January prevented  
 730 upward PW propagation. Without adiabatic heating associated with wave forcing, the  
 731 latitudinal gradient of zonal mean temperature  $[T]_y$  tends to decline gradually because of  
 732 radiative relaxation in the polar night region. The height dependency of  $[T]_y$  may be affected  
 733 by the temperature structure associated with the MIL. The MIL structure had a  $[T]$  minimum  
 734 at  $z = 65\text{--}77$  km and a maximum at  $z = 80\text{--}90$  km. At the altitudes where the  $[T]$  minimum  
 735 was present,  $[T]_y$  became strongly negative. The altitude of the recovered eastward jet was  
 736 determined by  $[T]_y$  via the thermal wind balance. Thus, the height of the eastward jet was  
 737 probably modified by the MIL. The eastward jet affected the propagation of GWs and PWs and  
 738 their forcings in the polar MLT, leading to the formation of the ES. In this way, it is likely that  
 739 the height of the ES was affected by the MIL.

740

741 From the relationship between phase velocity spectra of GW momentum fluxes and the  
 742 vertical profile of zonal-mean zonal wind, it is shown that vertical propagation from the lower  
 743 atmosphere alone is insufficient to explain the presence of the GWs, which play important roles  
 in the formation of the MIL and ES. It is suggested that a part of these GWs propagated laterally

744 and/or were generated in the middle atmosphere. This result indicates that the assumptions  
745 generally underlying GW parameterizations are not necessarily appropriate for representing  
746 GWs in the MLT.

747 Results from the high-resolution JAGUAR are generally consistent with  
748 observations and enable quantitative analysis of the middle atmosphere dynamics including  
749 GWs. Although this study focused on the dynamics in the Northern Hemisphere, JAGUAR  
750 provides promising data that can be used to examine the mechanisms of various dynamical  
751 phenomena observed in the entire middle atmosphere, such as interhemispheric coupling (e.g.,  
752 Körnich & Becker, 2010).

753

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762 [tokyo.ac.jp/en/archive\\_data/Okui\\_etal\\_2021/](https://pansy.eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/archive_data/Okui_etal_2021/). The Aura MLS observation data can be obtained  
763 from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Earth Science Data and Information Services  
764 Center (GES-DISC, <https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). The SABER observation data are available  
765 from <http://saber.gats-inc.com/data.php>. This manuscript was grammatically edited by T. Tin  
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