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About 90% of ozone (O₃) is in the stratosphere, with only about 10% in the troposphere. The tropospheric O₃, however, causes harmful effects on human health and plants. It has been identified as a major greenhouse gas as well. Additionally, tropospheric O₃ and its byproducts, such as hydroxyl radicals, play essential roles in controlling oxidizing capacity of the troposphere and thus controlling oxidation pathways of trace gases, such as NO_X (NO_X = NO + NO₂) and SO₂.

Because the stratosphere is a large reservoir of O_3 , stratosphere-troposphere transport (STT) is one of the most important factors controlling the levels of tropospheric O_3 . However, the STT events are sporadic and not well characterized. Therefore, to better understand the factors controlling the levels of tropospheric O_3 , I must clarify the origin and behavior of O_3 in the troposphere, especially the temporal changes in STT.

Traditionally, radionuclide Beryllium-7 (⁷Be; half-life of 53.3 days) has been used to trace stratospheric O_3 in the troposphere. Because of its short half-life and well-

学位関係

defined source term, the naturally occurring radionuclide ⁷Be can be a sensitive indicator for quantifying the influence of STT in each tropospheric air. However, besides STT, both the long-range transport and in-situ photochemical reactions (such as the photolysis of NO₂) are responsible for the concentration of tropospheric O₃. Therefore, the correlations between the concentrations of tropospheric O₃ and ⁷Be are often unclear. As a result, it was difficult to quantify the influence of STT on tropospheric O₃.

The stable isotopic compositions of the trace gases have been widely used to identify the origin and the oxidation mechanisms of these gases. Unique and distinctive triple oxygen isotopes (Δ^{17} O) of O₃ provide a powerful tool in studies of the origin and behaviors of O₃, particularly in the mixing from the stratosphere. However, due to (i) the low O₃ collection efficiency and the interference of atmospheric Xe using the cryogenic trapping technique (ii) and significant nitrate blank produced ($2NO_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow 2NO_3^-$) using the single nitrite-coated filter method, it is difficult to quantify an accurate Δ^{17} O of O₃ from ambient air using these two classical methods.

Here, I developed a method to determine the triple oxygen isotopic composition $(\Delta^{17}O)$ of tropospheric O_3 in the terminal positions $[\Delta^{17}O(O_3)_{term}]$ using a multistep nitrite-coated filter-pack system by transferring the O-atoms in the terminal positions of O_3 to nitrite on each filter $(NO_2^- + O_3 \rightarrow NO_3^- + O_2)$. The NO_3^- produced by this reaction is chemically converted to N_2O , and continuous-flow isotope ratio mass spectrometry (CF-IRMS) is used to determine the oxygen isotopic compositions. Artificial O_3 gas with known oxygen isotopic compositions was also

measured to verify the accuracy of the $\Delta^{17}O(O_3)_{term}$ obtained using my filter-pack system.

Then by using this new method, I measured the Δ^{17} O of tropospheric O₃ at Niigata and Nagoya of Japan from 2017 to 2020. By using the relationship between the reciprocal of concentrations and $\Delta^{17}O_{term}$ of tropospheric O₃, I estimated the $\Delta^{17}O$ of stratospheric O₃ supplied through the STT ($\Delta^{17}O_{STT}$), together with that produced through the photochemical reactions at surface altitude ($\Delta^{17}O_{sur}$). Moreover, using the $\Delta^{17}O_{STT}$ and $\Delta^{17}O_{sur}$, I estimated the mixing ratios of stratospheric O₃ (i.e., O₃ produced in stratosphere and supplied to troposphere through STT) in each tropospheric O₃ (t_{STT}), as well as the absolute concentrations of stratospheric O₃ supplied through STT in troposphere ([O₃]_{STT}).

As a result, the reciprocal of the NO₃⁻ quantities on the nitrite-coated filters in each sample showed a strong linear relationship with $\Delta^{17}O$ of NO₃⁻. Using the linear relation, I corrected the changes in $\Delta^{17}O$ of NO₃⁻ on the filters owing to nitrate blank. I verified the accuracy of this new method by measuring artificial O₃ with a known $\Delta^{17}O(O_3)_{term}$ determined from the changes in $\Delta^{17}O$ of O₂. Moreover, my new method provided a reliable $\delta^{18}O$ of O₃ in the terminal positions from which the kinetic isotope fractionation associated with O₃ collection on filters had been corrected successfully. Therefore, I conclude that the multistep nitrite-coated filterpack system technique is a sufficiently robust and reliable method for accurately and precisely determining the oxygen isotopic compositions of tropospheric O₃.

The $\Delta^{17}O(O_3)_{term}$ determined in this study [+37.5 ± 1.4‰ (1 σ) for Nagoya; +37.0 ± 1.6‰ (1 σ) for Niigata] was in agreement with previous studies. Moreover,

学位関係

measurements of $\Delta^{17}O(O_3)_{term}$ showed 1.3 ± 0.7‰ (1o) diurnal variations between daytime (higher) and nighttime (lower) in Nagoya, due to the formation of the stable boundary layer during nighttime, which hindered the vertical convection in the troposphere.

The δ^{18} O of O₃ in terminal positions (δ^{18} O_{term}) determined in this study was somewhat higher than the previous studies. The kinetic isotope fractionation during the collection was responsible for this discrepancy. Moreover, The isotope enrichment factors (ϵ) determined through my multistep nitrite-coated filter-pack method (-7.5 ± 1.6‰) implied that the kinetic isotope fractionation during the collections on the filters was considerable.

Additionally, I found a significant normal correlation between ⁷Be concentrations and $\Delta^{17}O(O_3)_{term}$, implying that the STT process was highly responsible for the elevated $\Delta^{17}O_{term}$ of O₃ in the troposphere, especially in April. Moreover, the $[O_3]_{STT}$ exhibited minimum values in summer (5.3 ± 1.0 ppb) and maximum in late winter to spring (15.9 ± 2.1 ppb). Although the f_{STT} values were higher than those estimated using the chemistry climate models in past studies, the trend of the seasonal variations was consistent with them. I concluded that the $\Delta^{17}O$ successfully provided observational constraints on the STT of O₃. Overall, my study provided an observational constraint on STT of O₃ using this new index, and such identification of the transport processes provides an important basis for a better understanding of the O₃ behavior in the troposphere.