Impact of Stratospheric Quasi-Biennial Oscillation on Subseasonal Variability over East Asia

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Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO)

• The QBO is the variability of zonal winds over the equatorial lower stratosphere.



Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO)

- The QBO is the variability of zonal winds over the equatorial lower stratosphere.
- The zonal winds propagate downward, alternating its direction between easterly and westerly with a period of about 28 months (*Baldwin et al., 2001*).



Possible pathways for QBO influence



Contents

QBO-MJO link and its influence on east Asia surface climate

QBO-SSW link and its influence on east Asia surface climate

Preview of 2018/19 winter

QBO

Definition: 50-hPa zonal-mean zonal wind anomalies averaged over the tropics (10°S-10°N)

1979/80-2015/16 winters (37 winters) are mainly analyzed. The period is subtly different between studies, but the result is not changed.



QBO-MJO convection

*MJO filtered OLR'



MJO convections are enhanced during EQBO winters.

QBO-MJO activity

MJO convections persist longer and propagate farther eastward during EQBO winters.



Correlation coefficient Shading: $OLR'_{15^\circ S-5^\circ N, 100-130^\circ E}$, $OLR'_{15^\circ S-5^\circ N}$ Contour: $OLR'_{15^\circ S-5^\circ N, 100-130^\circ E}$, 850-hPa U'_{15^\circ S-5^\circ N}

QBO-MJO prediction skill

Even in the operational models, the QBO-MJO link is partly shown. The MJO is better predicted during EQBO winters in the S2S models.



MJO impact on east Asia

The boreal winter precipitation anomalies over east Asia are dependent on the MJO phase (Jeong et al. 2005).



*MJO filtered observational PRCP' & OLR'

MJO impact with QBO



Not only the MJO activity but also its impact is modulated by the QBO.

Stratospheric Sudden Warming (SSW)

Arctic stratospheric temperature rapidly increases by extratropical wave driving, often resulting in a zonal-wind reversal from westerly to easterly.



SSW downward coupling

Stratospheric vortex weakening propagates downward to the surface within a week from the onset, resulting in a significant decrease in NAM index at the surface.



SSW impact on east Asia



Song et al. (2015)

Cold northeast Asia after SSW events; the surface response is stronger for stronger SSW events.

QBO-SSW frequency



During EQBO winters, SSW events are more frequently occurred by controlling the direction of wave propagation (e.g., Holton and Tan 1980).

It may result in colder northeast Asia due to more SSW events.

Summary



MJO activity is enhanced during EQBO winters than during WQBO winters.

SSW is more frequently occurred during EQBO than during WQBO.



Preview of QBO in 2018/19 winter



Easterly phase of QBO will be presented in this upcoming winter.

Preview of QBO in 2018/19 winter

Easterly QBO in 2018/19 winter

- \rightarrow Enhanced MJO events & more frequent SSW events
- \rightarrow Large subseasonal variabilities in east Asian surface climate

Possible impact of El Niño



"El Niño in 2018/19 winter"

Stratospheric pathway

→ More frequent SSW events (Song and Son 2018) Tropospheric pathway

→ Warmer east Asia through teleconnection

ightarrow Colder northeast Asia

Large uncertainty over east Asia is expected.

Thank you

Supplements

QBO vs. ENSO

- QBO modulates the MJO activities during the boreal winter (*Yoo and Son 2016*).
- ENSO controls the extent of MJO (*Woolnough et al. 2000; DeMott et al. 2018*).



DJF MJO filtered OLR Var.

QBO-MJO: Seasonality



QBO-MJO circulations

 ψ' 250



QBO-MJO circulations

ω**'500**



(lag+5d) (lag+5d)

SSW impacts

30-day average after SSW



EQBO-WQBO: [U] -90-60-30 0 30 60 90

Gray et al. (2018)

QBO-SSW

Impact of El Niño



A weak relationship between El Niño and the surface air temperature over east Asia is observed in January (Son et al. 2014; Kim et al. 2017).