

Author Comment to Referee #1

Egusphere-2025-1670, ‘Interannual variability of the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone’ by O. Kachula et al.

We thank Referee #1 for the positive review and for further guidance on how to revise our manuscript. Our reply to the reviewer comments is listed in detail below. Questions and comments of the referee are shown in bold face.

1. **Q: The authors present the ASMA interannual variability and properties based on an ERA5 climatology of the time period 1980-2023. They introduce a novel technique to derive the edge of the ASMA region, which is applicable on all time scale and was used in the past to described the polar vortex.**

A: Many thanks for this summary, but it seem that there is a misunderstanding, our method was *not* used to describe the polar vortex. The technique in the present work is based on Matthewman et al. (2009), but our study is about the Asian Monsoon anticyclone. The reviewer is correct insofar as Matthewman et al. (2009) used absolute vortex moments and applied them to describe the polar vortex.

2. **Q: Currently, I am wondering why this method should give a threshold that serves the purposes described in L108, i.e. outlining the strongest confinement of the anti-cyclone. How do we know, that this novel analysis is better than the analyses presented before? At various instance it is written that these previous methods produce “noise”. Connected to this how do we know, that the ASMA area actually decreases as stated in the abstract?**

A: We agree that this is an important issue. Our method was compared with two previous studies the PV-based method presented by Ploeger et al. (2015) and the method based on correlations between the Montgomery streamfunction (MSF) and wind speeds presented by Santee et al. (2017) . In contrast to Manney et al. (2021) we don’t fix a single background (threshold) value for the MSF per vertical level, which Manney et al. (2021) took from Santee et al. (2017) work. To demonstrate the differences between the approach used in Manney et al. (2021) and our approach, we also calculated the background values for each day using the Santee et al. (2017) methodology and compared it with our method as shown in Fig. 1 of this reply.

Choosing then a specific background value for the both methods for one day from the formation phase of the ASMA (in this time period our method produces values higher than Santee et al. (2017)) and subtract it from the MSF grid values, our method preserves less noise compared to the background value calculated using the Santee et al. (2017) methodology as shown in Fig. 2. In our method, the residual MSF values are limited on the Asian monsoon anticyclone, in contrast to Santee et al. (2017) where also positive values for the residual MSF values are present throughout the tropics.

If we choose the background values from the peak phase of the ASMA (our method produces residual MSF values lower than Santee et al. (2017)) our method preserves more information inside of the ASMA box (Fig. 3).

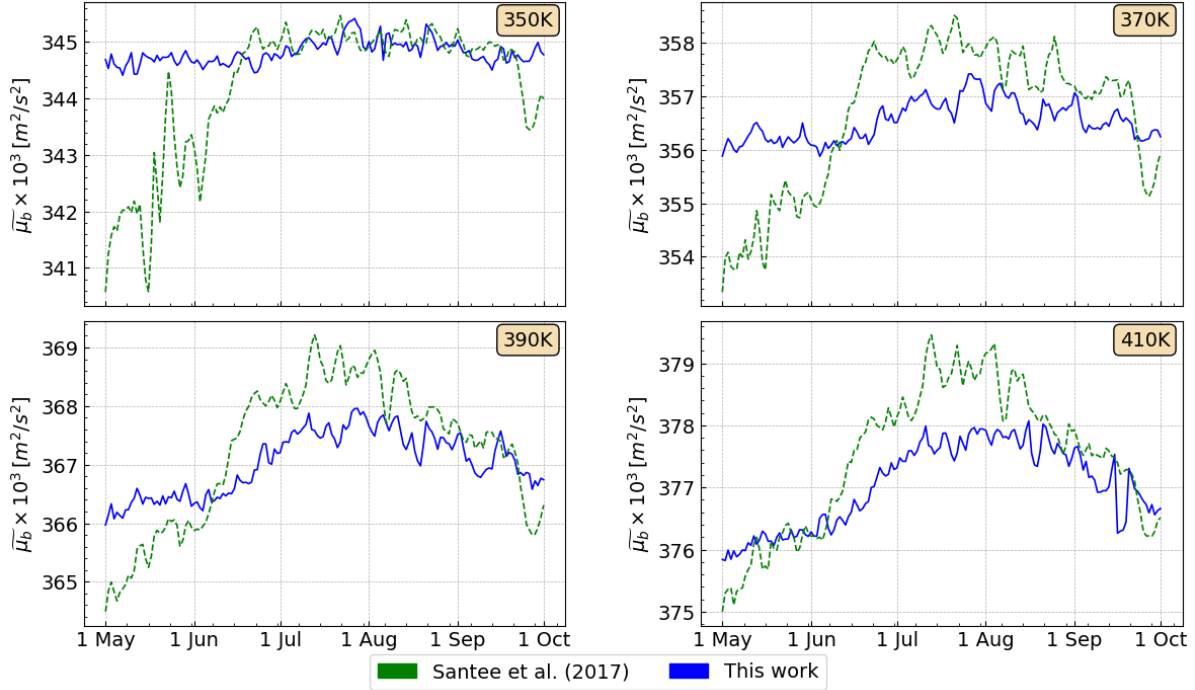


Figure 1: Comparison of the background values μ_b using our approach (blue line) and according to Santee et al. (2017) (green dashed line) at 350, 370, 390 and 410 K for the Asian monsoon season 2023.

As a conclusion – we cannot take a single background value because this leads to no information inside of the ASMA box on some days, especially during the formation phase of the ASMA. At the same time using the Santee et al. (2017) methodology to calculate multiple background values leads to some “noise” or loss of information.

To avoid any misunderstandings we revised page 4 lines 108-110 as follows:

The analysis of the interannual variability of the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone depends on the choice of enclosing boundaries of the ASMA. The method proposed here to define the boundaries of the ASMA is based on the absolute vortex moment method that was already used to define the polar vortex.

3. **Q:** Furthermore, does the optimization method really work to serve the purpose of finding a physically based boundary or does it simply (most of the time) lead to selecting the MSF threshold value that is the maximum value outside of the ASMA box. Then, to me it is not clear why this value should be connected to the strongest circulation.

A: We agree that is an important point. We cannot just simply take the maximum value outside of the ASMA box because there exist strong circulation outside of the ASMA box which, if taken as a background value, would eliminate (or drastically decrease) any information inside of the ASMA box.

4. **Q:** Is the detailed information on the campaigns needed? Currently, there is a lack of motivation for this and also for showing the 3 [ist seems that some text is missing here]

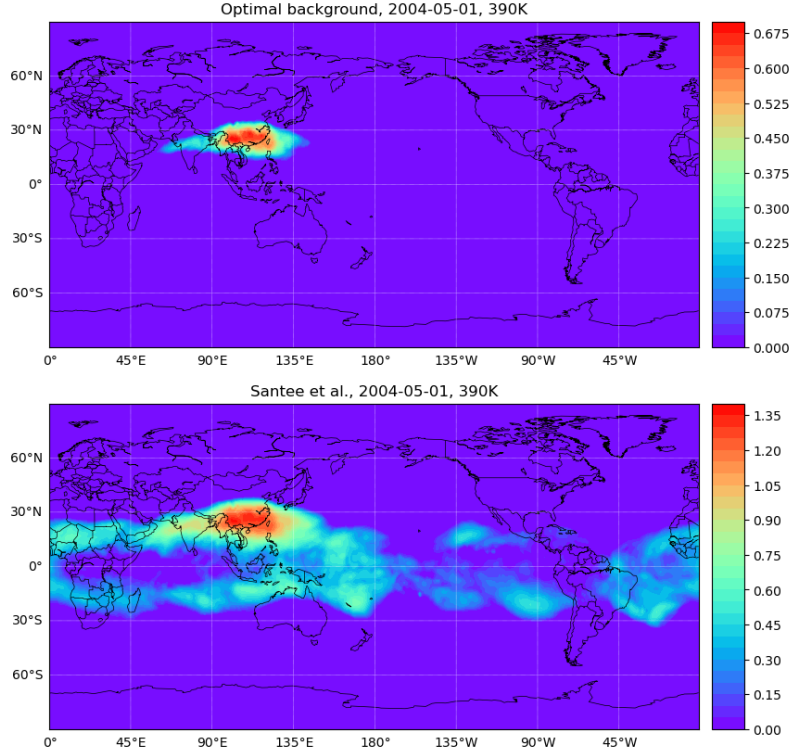


Figure 2: Comparison of residual MSF values between this work (top) and Santee et al. (2017) (bottom) during the formation phase of the ASMA.

A: We agree that motivation is needed. To clarify this point, we added the following paragraph to Section 3.3:

Three years are highlighted to show that it is possible to provide a comprehensive analysis on a finer time-scale without the need to fix one specific constant value of the MSF. This might help the scientific community to thoroughly analyse the results of those campaigns in future work. This is also the motivation why we need a method that works on any time-scale without depending on averaging the data.

5. **Q: It is stressed, that the novel method works on any time scale. So, do the methods in Manney and Santee as well, correct?**

A: Manney et al. (2021) works with constant climatological background values that might not enclose the boundary during some periods in time as was stated above. The Santee et al. (2017) methodology can be applied to any time scale but as was proved above (Figs. 1, 2 and 3) it preserves “noise” or reduces the information inside of the ASMA box.

6. **Q: This is a personal view: you write about background values (maybe was this the term used before?). I would suggest to call it a threshold value. But at least make clear why the term “background”**

A: We agree both terms are possible, but to be consistent with Matthewman et al. (2009) we decided to preserve their terminology and use the term “background value”. We added to the text of the paper:

After calculating MSF background values (the terminology used in Matthewman et al. (2009) to describe the threshold), see page 2.

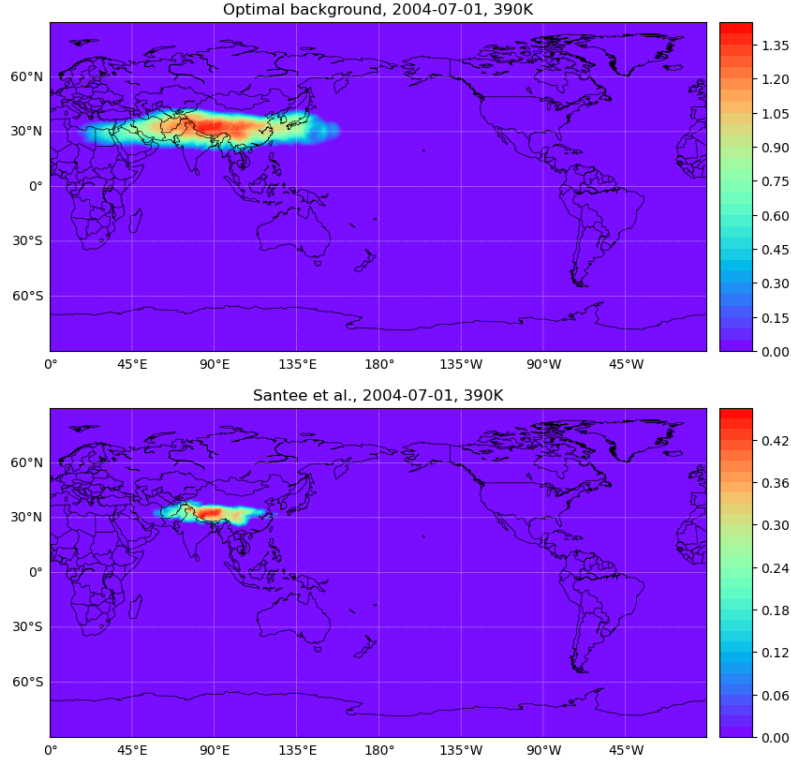


Figure 3: Comparison of residual MSF values between this work (top) and Santee et al. (2017) (bottom) during the peak phase of the ASMA.

7. **The title could be updated to directly mention that an new/updated method is introduced here. This seems to be one of the core information in this manuscript but this is not reflected in the title.**

A: Thank you for this suggestion. The new title reads now:

“An optimization-based approach to track the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone across daily and interannual variability”

8. **Next to the climatology over the time period 1980 to 2023, three specific years are picked for comparison. The three years are motivated with the aircraft measurement campaigns that took place in the years. However, no data and no conclusions from the campaigns are used for instance to validate the novel method. This raises the question, if the focus on these three years is necessary. It leads to unfulfilled expectations. If these years are given to be able to reference this paper in potential upcoming papers from these missions, then this should be stated.**

A: Please, see question 4.

9. **Q: In figure 10, the presence of bimodality of the ASMA is shown per season. The bimodality is something shown in observations and therefore should be found in the analysis of the ASMA? There is no statement about whether this is more reasonable than former methods.**

A: In addition to per season analysis in our method the days when two peaks are present

in the ASMA are counted, proving that the ASMA often exists as two co-existing clusters rather than one oscillating back and forth that indeed might be seen on per season figures, which was shown as an introduction to the investigation of possible bimodality of ASMA.

10. **Q: Absolute Vortex momentum method by Matthewman et al. (2009): Is it applicable for the ASMA in the first place? What are the differences in the polar vortex and the ASMA?**

A: It is not directly applicable to the ASMA because the way how the background value is chosen for the polar vortex fails to be useful for the ASMA (also see the answer to your comment 27).

11. **Q: Is it planned to provide the data used for this work along with the paper?**

A: Yes, the data and calculated background values will be provided. The data will be easily accessible via web page.

12. **L5-6: Remove “A 44-year ... by ECMWF.” And add info on ERA5 from ECMWF to the next sentence?**

A: Done.

13. **Q: L14: In my opinion traditionally “two modes” are not the same as “two centres” or “two anticyclones”; the method by Zhang et al. does not allow for multiple centres.**

A: Yes , we agree “two modes” and “two centers” are not the same. However, both a western and eastern mode as well as two centers are found in our analysis, in agreement with other previous studies (e.g., Vogel et al., 2015; Ploeger et al., 2015).

14. **Eq. 1: Could be introduced in the methodology instead of the introduction? This part feels a little jumpy**

A: Done.

15. **L20-21: Add references to this sentence.**

A: Done.

16. **L25-28: Please link to the previous sentence to make clear why it is “important”**

A: Done.

17. **Q: L40: tautology: defining the edge influences the edge of the anticyclone...; I think the question is rather that you would like to find the boundary of maximum confinement and that there is a debate on how to do that in the best way**

A: We agree that the formulation should be changed. But the boundary can still influence the further analysis because the method also provides the residual MSF values encapsulated inside the boundary and hence the position of the edge can impact the center of the mass of the residuals (and the rest of the moments). We changed lines 40-43 accordingly:

There is a debate how to define the edge of the anticyclone best (e.g., Ploeger et al. 2015). The definition impacts the moment quantities in the following analysis and the conclusions that could be drawn on its interannual variability.

18. **Q: L53: “background” value sounds strange “threshold value”**

A: The question was answered above (see point 6). We want to use a formulation consistent with Matthewman et al. (2009).

19. **Q: L56: do they use different values for different monsoon seasons, please clarify**

A: No, Manney et al. (2021) use the same constant climatological value for all years and seasons per altitude.

20. **Q: L57: to not enclose the boundaries: do you mean that there is no closed contour?**

A: That means that residual values (Eq. 6) inside of the ASMA box might be zero or near zero. The revised sentence reads now:

*The main challenge is to describe the ASMA during development and break-up phases, where MSF background values might be too small **to highlight the anticyclone or too large to provide the boundaries at all e.g., residual MSF values inside of the ASMA box might be zero or near zero.***

21. **Q: L104: what is daily data at noon? Could the results be influenced by this choice instead of taking full daily averages or performing the analysis on more timesteps per day?**

A: We tried to avoid any averaging routines because we wanted to provide a useful tool to study the ASMA during campaigns which might occur on short time-scales. We did our analysis for noon time every 24 hours, but it is also possible to do our analysis for other time points or use more frequent time steps (e.g., every 6 hours). We added to this sentence:

For our analysis we use ECMWF data at noon (12:00 UTC) but more frequent time-steps (say every 6 hours) are also possible. By using single points in time we tried to avoid any averaging routines because we wanted to provide a useful tool to study the ASMA during short time-scale campaigns.

22. **L106: First two sentences sound very much like in the introduction. Can be removed?**

A: We updated the sentences accordingly.

23. **Q: Eq. 2: Is there any area weighting included? Following the description this does not seem to be since delta x is in degree instead of km. Not performing any area weighting while calculating half hemispheric or 3/4 global means seems sounds wrong and potentially affects the results! There is some motivation necessary why the original method of Matthewman is applicable for the ASMA in the first place.**

We applied Lambert’s azimuthal equal-area projection and compared the data with and without correction. Figure 4 shows MSF residuals at 390K for 06.09.2008. It is evident that the boundary did not change much, although the values near 90°E were weighted down. We also provide comparison table for moments quantities of the same data in Table 1.

At the same time after applying area weighting we see a difference in ASMA duration analysis where the end dates are now in late August instead of September. For detailed discussion, please see 55.

The centroid latitude position of the ASMA changed only for 0.7° , the centroid longitude shows that correction shifts the position further to the east with the difference equal to 5.6° . The change of the excess kurtosis is due to the gap near 90°E after applying the correction. The angle and aspect ratio are not affected by the correction much.

We recalculated all results using the area weighting technique and mentioned it in the methodology section:

We use a regular grid $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ resolution. To account for the variation in grid-cell area with latitude, we applied area weighting derived from Lambert Cylindrical Equal-Area projection in our regional calculations.

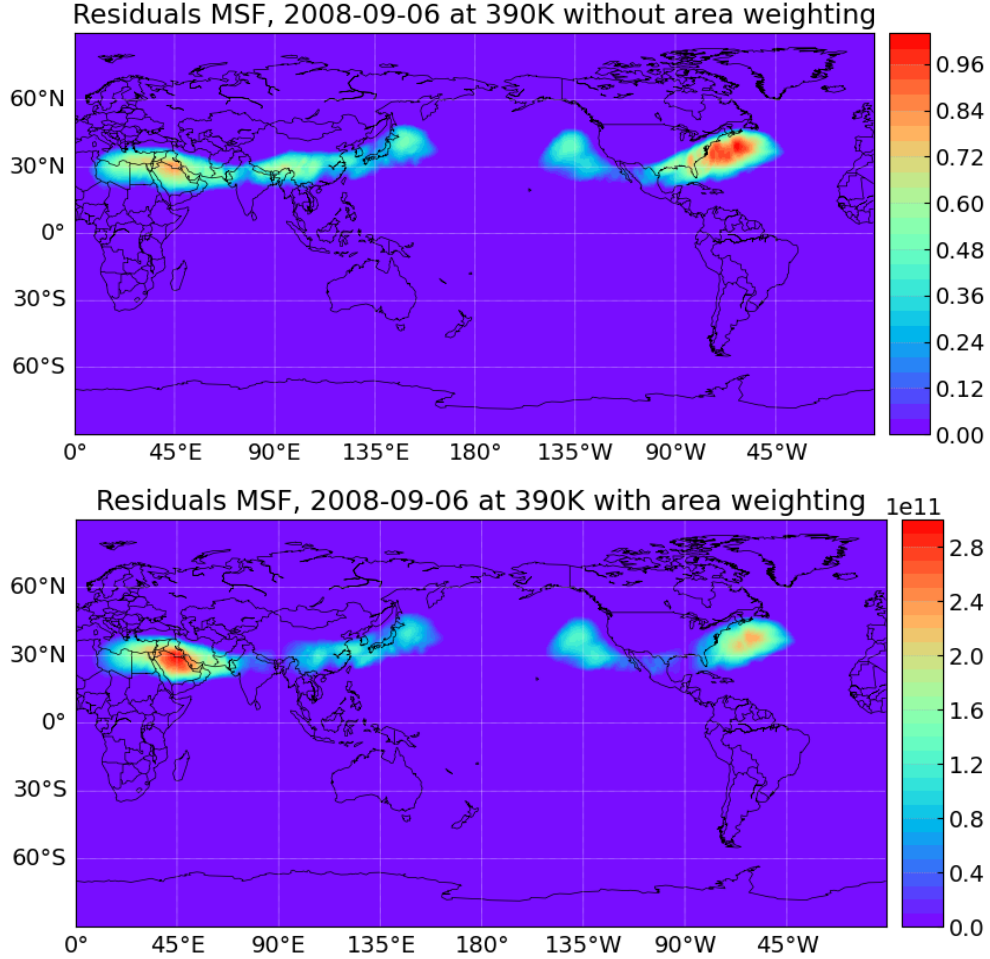


Figure 4: Comparison of the residual MSF values with (bottom figure) and without (top figure) the area weighting.

24. Q: L117: integers k and l are not introduced appropriately. Integers “depending on what we want to calculate” – please elaborate further

A: In our opinion the purpose of k and l is self explanatory from Eq. 2. These two integers are just a way to compactly write one equation instead of multiple and this notation was taken from Matthewman et al. (2009).

Consider the case when $k = 0$ and $l = 0$:

	Without correction	With Correction
Centroid Latitude	30.6°	29.9°
Centroid Longitude	74.8°	69.2°
Excess kurtosis	-0.08	0.15
Angle	-0.06°	-0.06°
Aspect ratio	8.97	8.92

Table 1: Comparison of the moments quantities after applying the area weighting correction.

$$M_{00} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (\hat{\mu}_{i,j} - \mu_b) \Delta y \Delta x, \quad (1)$$

y_i^k and x_j^l vectors are equal to 1 so we can omit them from the equation. What is left is just a double sum over residuals. If we want to calculate a weighted arithmetic mean of the coordinate we “switch on” k or l e.g.,

$$M_{10} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (\hat{\mu}_{i,j} - \mu_b) y_i \Delta y \Delta x, \quad (2)$$

or

$$M_{01} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (\hat{\mu}_{i,j} - \mu_b) x_j \Delta y \Delta x. \quad (3)$$

See updated page 5.

25. Q: L125 What is meant with “bipolarity”.

A: In this context it means the splitting-like behavior of the two centers.

Text changed in response:

The excess kurtosis (EK) serves as a measure of how far the shape is from the ellipse and can be used to investigate the bipolarity (in other words the splitting like behavior of the centroid) of the MSF distribution, ASMA splitting behavior into two anticyclones or strong eddy shedding events

26. Q: L126: What are eddy shedding events? They are not mentioned in the results, but in the section title.

A: Eddy shedding events are now mentioned in the introduction and (in response) we added here references (e.g., Popovic and Plumb (2001); Vogel et al. (2014); Riese et al. (2025)).

27. Q: L132-137: I do not understand what these lines are supposed to tell the reader.

A: This lines answers the question (see 10) why Matthewman et al. (2009) method is not applicable to the ASMA in the first place.

28. **Q: L142: Necessary to define the ASMA region over the quarter of the globe? 60/65°N would be enough? Following Fig. 6, the region should reach eastward of 0° E.**

A: In our opinion it was interesting to encapsulate as much information inside of the ASMA box as possible. At the same time the sensitivity analysis illustrated on Fig. B1 shows that shifting the box southward (hence removing 65°N-90°N part) does not affect the optimized background value.

29. **Q: L145: Don't understand what k and l mean. It is M_{in} and M_{out}**

A: Please see point 24.

30. **Q: L146: So, the idea means, that the other regions of the globe with larger streamfunctions are weighted down by the large area (3/4 of the globe) with low Montgomery streamfunction?**

A: There seem to be a misunderstanding here. Two cases were described in the paper. Case one is when MSF values inside of the ASMA box are higher than values outside of the box. Case 2 is when there is a cluster of high values outside of the ASMA box. In both cases the method tries to find such a background value that maximizes the objective function. The value for MSF originating from this optimization can then enclose the ASMA and in addition (if present) the cluster outside of the box.

31. **Q: Caption Fig. 1: The statement “There MSF values inside of the box are larger than outside.” is wrong as this statement is too simplified.**

A: Consider MSF value for 25.06.2022 at 390 K. Table 2 (of this reply) shows max, min and mean values inside and outside of the box.

	MSF inside of the ASMA box, $10^3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2$	MSF outside of the ASMA box, $10^3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2$
Max	368.3	366.7
Min	360.5	346.1
Mean	364.6	359.8

Table 2: Values of the MSF grid data for 25.06.2022 at 390 K.

Obviously, there are values inside of the ASMA box that are higher than values outside of the box. Thus we don't see that the last sentence in the caption is incorrect.

32. **L152: Introduce/cite Dual Annealing algorithm**

A: Done.

33. **Q: L154: time dependence of Eq. 1 not mentioned before. Add it or mention it**

A: Are you referring to Eq. 2? There is no time dependence. L154 just states that we work with the same MSF grid values during the optimization step. We changed text in response on page 6.

34. **Q: L164f: I can hardly imagine, that (almost) all MSF outside of the ASMA box are zero, and none inside is. The sum is maxed to differ the most. Not necessary for such an absolute statement**

A: We provide an animation (Animation1.gif in the attachments) to prove our point. The illustrated example shows how subtracting different background values (slowly increasing and starting from $340 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2$) affects the residual values. As can be seen the residual values of the MSF outside of the ASMA box during the optimization process converge to zero faster than the residual values inside of the ASMA box.

35. **Q: L174: “small noise”: Is this really small noise? Isn’t this how the optimization is supposed to work. Otherwise simply the maximum value outside the ASMA box could be used as threshold value. (see general comment)**

A: This means that optimized background value sometimes preserve non zero residual values outside of the box e.g., within the tropics. Also, see points 2 and 3.

The sentence was changed to:

Sometimes even $\tilde{\mu}_b$ preserves small non-zero residual values (i.e., noise) outside of the box or another circulation is also present as was noted before

36. **L180 onwards strange?**

Please, clarify.

37. **Q: L196 (and following): “unwanted noise” in Santee et al. 2017 How can you be sure, that this is true? Why can you be sure that your method is really better.**

A: The question was answered above. See point 2

38. **Q: Fig. 3: Why only Santee and not (also) Manney? This is the only time Santee is used as comparison. Why dashed line? To account for colour-blindness?**

A: Manney et al. (2021) work uses the background values provided by Santee et al. (2017). Yes, the dashed line is used to account for colour-blindness. We added to the sentence:

(note that Manney et al. (2021) use the background value μ_b provided by Santee et al. (2017))

39. **Q: L203f: Show results of Ploeger et al. (2015) in Fig. 3 as well?**

A: The results of Ploeger et al. (2015) cannot be shown in Fig. 3 because this method is based on PV and not on Montgomery streamfunction. We only can qualitatively compare the boundaries of both methods which are shown in Fig. 8 and C2.

40. **Q: L213: What does robust mean in this case?**

A: The area time-series in our work are different compared to Manney et al. (2021) and following their methodology requires much more assumptions and preprocessing and still led to wrong results where start dates were in September or end dates were in May for some years. Using our methodology to find start/end dates we achieved smaller standard deviation and for majority of years the starting dates end up in May-June range and end dates – in late August-September range. This is what robust means here.

41. **Q: L213: What index? The anticyclone area? Clarify. Can you explain why robust start end days could not be identified via the area? Also, the PCA is not described in detail and it would be good to know why 14 days are set.**

A: The index here means the first principal component that we get after applying PCA. The impossibility to get start/end dates from the area time-series is explained above. PCA is

widely used technique and its description can be found in specialized literature. We tried different number of consecutive days and found that 14 days yields results that are similar to Manney et al. (2021).

42. **Q: L215: Is it reasonable to average pressure and PV over 1/4 of the globe?**

A: To retrieve the index we tried different sets of parameters and found that the described set works better in our case.

43. **Q: L217: larger than zero?**

A: We want to find the time points when the data goes above and below horizontal line at zero for 14 consecutive days.

44. **Q: L217: Why 14 days? Did you test other time periods? How sensitive is your results on this threshold?**

A: Yes, we tried different number of days. Unfortunately, even after PCA the data has high variability and it indeed is sensitive to smaller number of days. Two weeks give results similar to Manney et al. (2021).

45. **Q: L238f: Shift is present in Northward as well as Eastward direction. Why only northward shift mentioned?**

A: We agree, we should be more accurate here. We revised this sentence as follows.

A northward shift of the ASAM center is found at the beginning of the Asian summer monsoon and a southward shift is found at the end of the monsoon season in agreement with previous studies (e.g., Vogel et al., 2015; Goswami, 2012, and references therein)

46. **Q: L258: “does not capture the western tail of the ASMA”. This is present in this work, but not certain, that it should be there. Rephrase it, so it is more objective. You find a difference.**

A: We changed the text:

In contrast to Ploeger et al. (2015) our method suggest a western tail of the ASMA between $0^{\circ}\text{E} - 10^{\circ}\text{E}$.

47. **Q: Fig. 9: Caption. Reddish colour is probably not the centroid longitudinal position, but the cluster of the maximum residual MSF. Otherwise this does not make sense for bimodal case. Would agree to L285**

We agree with this comment. The revised caption now reads:

Reddish colors indicate where the maximum residual MSF values tend to cluster.

48. **Q: Fig. 10: To optimized background values are shown, but not/ helpful to understand the left plot. Nothing necessary to see directly. Put into appendix?**

A: We agree with this comment and have moved the subplots to the appendix.

49. **Q: L284: The threshold is set arbitrarily?**

A: We agree in principle; in this case finding an objective threshold is not possible. We explain better now:

(50% of the max value as a reasonable threshold to check where the residual MSF values at least as half of its maximum are placed)

50. **Q: L327: “despite their higher variability”. Is this not always true?**

A: In general individual years always have high standard deviation, so this part of the sentence was omitted, in response:

The highlighted years (2017, 2022, 2023) generally tend to group around the climatology.

51. **Q: L343ff: I do not understand the message of the sentence**

A: During the formation and break-up phases the excess kurtosis cannot be a reliable description of the ASMA. The revised text:

During the developing phase of the ASMA up to until June and also during the break up phase after September the standard deviation of EK (and thus its variability) is higher than in the ASMA peak phase during the June-September period at all vertical levels and cannot be viewed as a reliable description of the ASMA evolution.

52. **Q: L354-L359: This part can be shortened. Good agreement with Manney et al 2021.**

A: We agree. We changed this part with the following text:

Figures 12, 13 and 14 show a good overall agreement with the results of the study by Manney et al. (2021). Our method gives us an indication of the ASMA’s evolution between May and September despite a relatively strong variability. Both centroid latitude and longitude and the aspect ratio show similar temporal evolution as the Manney et al. (2021) findings. Although the area of the ASMA occupies around 10% of the hemisphere in the beginning of August in our results and Manney et al. (2021) (MERRA-2), the shape of the time-series is more flat in this work during the peak phase of the ASMA compared to Manney et al. (2021).

53. **Q: L362ff: Generally true, but the focus on the years does not suit the overall results**

A: In response we changed the text accordingly:

Because we provide individual campaign years in addition to climatological time-series, our results show oscillations of excess kurtosis and angle quantities compared to Manney et al. (2021), who focus on the climatological feature of the ASMA behavior.

54. **Q: L369: What is the index? “the/a” PCA technique. Not well enough introduced in Sec. 2**

A: This was explained above. Please see point 41. In response we clarified “the index”:

The time-series of first principal component (the index) was calculated using PCA technique.

55. **Q: L379: Did you test for statistical significance?**

A: We performed permutation analysis for start, end dates and duration period at 370, 390 and 410 K (Fig. 5 of this reply). For each case a set of randomly permuted time-series was created with 100 000 elements. Then we calculated the slope for each time-series in a set and built a histogram that shows the distribution of slopes. The red vertical line denotes the slope of the original time-series. We also calculated two-sided p-values that can be seen on each subfigure.

Figure 5 shows that only 370 K has a low p-value. The slopes of the time-series at 370 K for end dates and duration show relative strong trend and hence are statistical significant. The

time-series at 390 K and 410 K in contrast has small variability between years, and hence the high p-values tell us that further analysis is needed to make any conclusions about the duration of the ASMA.

We added the following text to the section:

We performed permutation test on the ASMA start, end dates and the duration at 370, 390 and 410 K to assess statistical significance. Only time-series at 370 K was statistical significant ($p < 0.05$). Time-series at the higher altitudes (390 K and 410 K) showed limited interannual variability and weak trends, indicating that additional analysis is needed before drawing any conclusions about ASMA duration at those levels.

At the same time the calculation of the ASMA duration is not robust. It is sensitive to initial conditions which also can be seen in Manney et al. (2020) work where slopes of the start, end and duration data vary with chosen reanalysis. We added the following text to the section:

Our calculations (Fig. 14) show similar results at 370 K where we found largest trends (we do not provide the data for 350 K because this level is below the main anticyclone). There are mixed results at higher altitudes where end dates show negative trend at 390 K and positive trend at 410 K. Overall, the duration is sensitive to initial conditions (e.g., the quantity time-series or the threshold). Manney et al. (2020) show that the slopes of the duration also vary respect to the reanalysis (MERRA-2, ERA-I or JRA-55).

56. **Q: Fig. 16: Neutral ENSO case is for exactly for value 0.5? So many cases are neutral?**

A: There is a typo in the caption, La Niña years are considered when the temperature is less than -0.5°C , so the neutral years are in the range $[-0.5, 0.5]$. The typo is corrected. The new caption reads now:

Trends of the ASMA area, centroid latitude and longitude for JJA based on ERA5 reanalysis. Color marks ENSO type of a year based on ONI index (using DJF, from the winter before the considered monsoon period). The year is marked as El Niño if the index is $> 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, La Niña if the index is $< -0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, otherwise the year is marked as neutral e.g., $[-0.5, 0.5]$.

57. **Q: L437: shedding events are not mentioned in this work other than an epithet**

A: This work is not focused at studying the eddy-sheddings in detail and was mentioned just as part of an introduction.

58. **Q: L451f: Influence of ENSO is not analysed! Compare to statement in L382f. This finding is not supported in that strength**

A: This is a preliminary conclusion that will be investigated in more detail in further work. However, we are convinced that it worth to mention the impact of ENSO on the ASAM trends in our paper (Fig. 16).

We added: *This issue needs to be analysed in more depth in further studies.*

59. **Q: Fig. E1: caption. Last sentence probably not correct**

A: We agree with this comment. The corrected sentence reads now:

Mean JJA optimized background values (right) and Hovmöller diagram of normalized zonal mean ($15^{\circ}\text{N} - 45^{\circ}\text{N}$) of the residual MSF for 1980-2023 period at 350 K. Reddish colors indicate where the centroid longitudinal position of the ASMA tends to cluster.

60. **L93: comparison to Manney et al. 2021 instead of Santee et al. 2017?**

A: In this case the comparison is to Santee et al. (2017).

61. **L138f: Sentence is hard to follow. Suggestion: splitting the globe into the ASMA box and the rest, defining the ratio of the individual absolute vortex moments as objective function**

A: Thank you for this suggestion. The revised sentence reads now:

The novelty compared to Manney et al. (2021) of the method proposed here consists of splitting the globe into the ASMA box and the rest, defining the ratio of the absolute vortex moments (when k and $l = 0$) as objective function.

62. **L183: \lesssim is not smaller equal that is typically used**

A: By using \lesssim we want to underline that the values might be smaller or approximately comparable to the background value. The equality here would be misleading.

63. **L298f: Sentence is redundant, has nothing to do with work**

A: Please, see the answer to question 4.

64. **E1. A5: what is this? Kappa_4 is not further mentioned or explained**

A: Thank you for this question. κ_4 is the excess kurtosis. We updated the Appendix A accordingly.

65. **L306: Is the interseasonal variability not also/already indicated by the standard deviation?**

A: Yes, indeed the standard deviation indicates the intraseasonal variability. However, the years 2022 and 2023 have even stronger variability which can be seen in Fig. 12.

66. **Fig.8: For clarification, PV colormap is also based on data from Plöger et al. 2015?**

Yes, this is mentioned in the caption: “potential vorticity colormap (PV_MEAN as defined in Ploeger et al. (2015))”

The rest of the comments were taken into account and corrected accordingly.

References

- Goswami, B. N.: Intraseasonal Variability in the Atmosphere-Ocean Climate System, chap. 2: South Asian monsoon, pp. 21–72, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2nd edn., editors: W. K. M. Lau and D. E. Waliser, 2012.
- Manney, G. L., Livesey, N. J., Santee, M. L., Froidevaux, L., Lambert, A., Lawrence, Z., Millan, L., Neu, J. L., Read, W. G., Schwartz, M. J., and Fuller, R.: Record-low Arctic stratospheric ozone in 2020: MLS observations of chemical processes and comparisons with previous extreme winters, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 47, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GL089063>, 2020.

- Manney, G. L., Santee, M. L., Lawrence, Z. D., Wargan, K., and Schwartz, M. J.: A Moments View of Climatology and Variability of the Asian Summer Monsoon Anticyclone, *Journal of Climate*, 34, 7821 – 7841, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-20-0729.1>, 2021.
- Matthewman, N. J., Esler, J. G., Charlton-Perez, A. J., and Polvani, L. M.: A New Look at Stratospheric Sudden Warmings. Part III: Polar Vortex Evolution and Vertical Structure, *Journal of Climate*, 22, 1566 – 1585, <https://doi.org/10.1175/2008JCLI2365.1>, 2009.
- Ploeger, F., Gottschling, C., Griebbach, S., Grooß, J.-U., Günther, G., Konopka, P., Müller, R., Riese, M., Stroh, F., Tao, M., Ungermann, J., Vogel, B., and von Hobe, M.: A potential vorticity-based determination of the transport barrier in the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15, 13 145–13 159, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-15-13145-2015>, 2015.
- Popovic, J. M. and Plumb, R. A.: Eddy Shedding from the Upper-Tropospheric Asian Monsoon Anticyclone, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 58, 93–104, 2001.
- Riese, M., Hoor, P., Rolf, C., Kunkel, D., Vogel, B., Köllner, F., Pöhlker, M., Ploeger, F., Ungermann, J., Woiwode, W., Johansson, S., Bauer, R., Barmounis, K., Borrmann, S., Brauner, P., Clemens, J., Dragoneas, A., Ekin, F., Emig, N., Engel, A., Eppers, O., Fadnavis, S., Friedl-Vallon, F., Geldenhuys, M., Günther, G., Grooß, J.-U., Hegglin, M. I., Hoepfner, M., Jesswein, M., Joppe, P., Kaumanns, J., Kachula, O., Keber, T., Kretschmer, E., Lachnitt, H.-C., Lauther, V., Lloyd, P. E., Molleker, S., Müller, R., Neubert, T., Ort, L., Pöschl, U., Pöhlker, C., Rapp, M., Retzlaff, M., Rhode, S., Schneider, J., Schuck, T., Sinnhuber, B.-M., Spelten, N., Strobel, J., Tomsche, L., Turhal, K., van Luijt, R., Versick, S., Voigt, C., Volk, M., von Hobe, M., Weyland, F., Zahn, A., Ziereis, H., and Zlotos, L.: Long-range transport of polluted Asian summer monsoon air to high latitudes during the PHILEAS campaign in the boreal summer 2023, *Bull. Am. Meteorol. Soc.*, in review, BAMS-D-24-0232, 2025.
- Santee, M. L., Manney, G. L., Livesey, N. J., Schwartz, M. J., Neu, J. L., and Read, W. G.: A comprehensive overview of the climatological composition of the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone based on 10 years of Aura Microwave Limb Sounder measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 122, 5491–5514, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016JD026408>, 2017.
- Vogel, B., Günther, G., Müller, R., Grooß, J.-U., Hoor, P., Krämer, M., Müller, S., Zahn, A., and Riese, M.: Fast transport from Southeast Asia boundary layer sources to northern Europe: rapid uplift in typhoons and eastward eddy shedding of the Asian monsoon anticyclone, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 14, 12 745–12 762, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-14-12745-2014>, 2014.
- Vogel, B., Günther, G., Müller, R., Grooß, J.-U., and Riese, M.: Impact of different Asian source regions on the composition of the Asian monsoon anticyclone and of the extratropical lowermost stratosphere, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15, 13 699–13 716, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-15-13699-2015>, 2015.

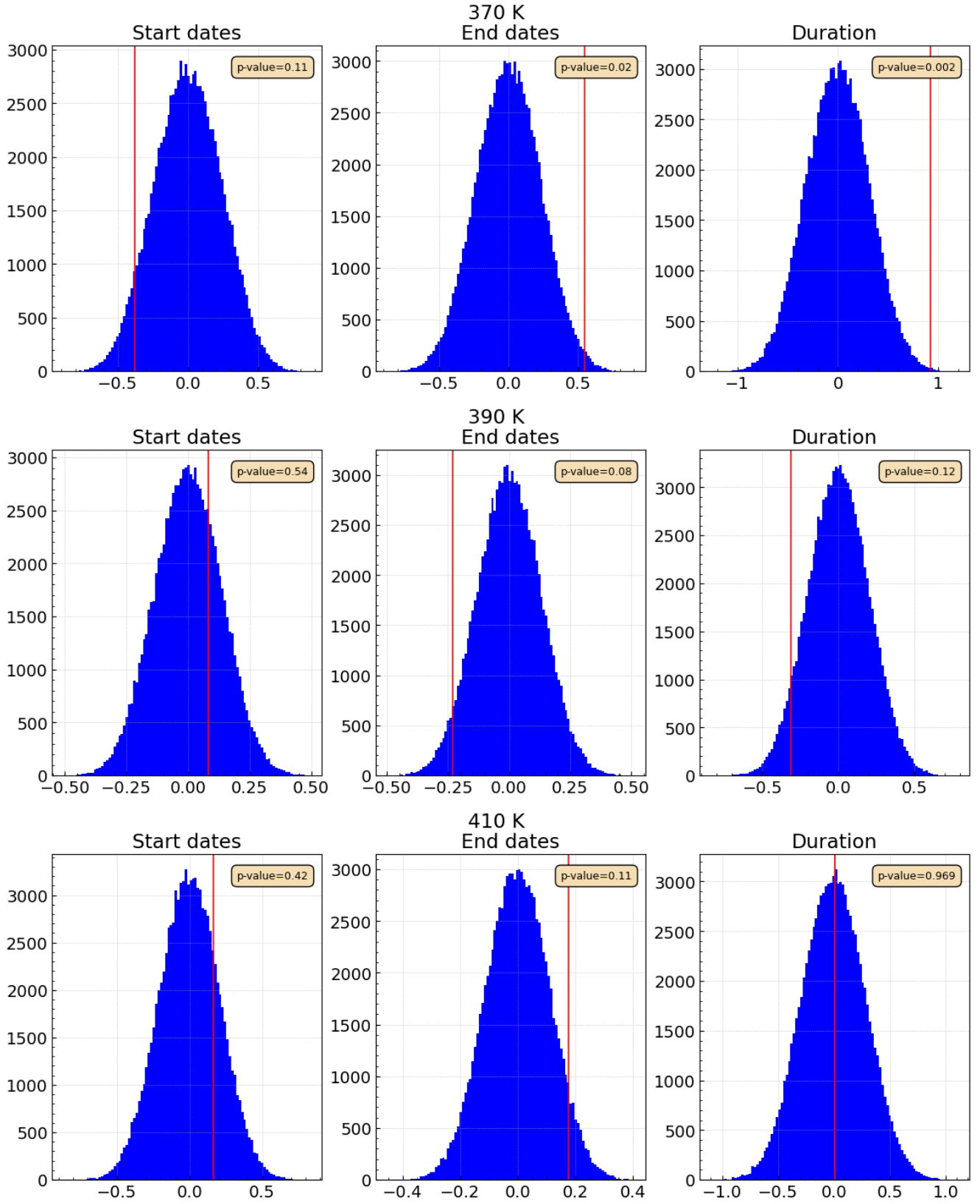


Figure 5: Permutation analysis of the slopes of the start, end dates and the duration of the ASMA at 370, 390 and 410 K. The red line denotes the slope of the original time-series. Two-sided p-value is showed in the upper-right corner of each subfigure.