

OBSERVATION OF STRATOSPHERIC NO₂ AT SYOWA STATION,
ANTARCTICA (ABSTRACT)

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Ground based observations of NO₂ and O₃ using visible spectrometers have been made at Syowa Station (69°S) since March 1990. The NO₂ slant column amounts observed at the solar zenith angle of 90° (sunrise and sunset) exhibit a large seasonal variation, decreasing with shortening daylight hours in fall, reaching a minimum of about $1 \times 10^{16} \text{cm}^{-2}$ in midwinter and increasing to a maximum of about $16 \times 10^{16} \text{cm}^{-2}$ in midsummer. The recovery of NO₂ in spring is 2–3 times slower than the fall decay, because the heterogeneous chemistry on PSCs, the conversion of NO_x into HNO₃, is effective from midwinter to early spring, and NO_y is removed from the stratosphere through gravitational sedimentation of PSCs particles. In late spring the PSCs decrease and NO₂ increases because of the transport of air from lower latitudes. Following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo (15°N) in June 1991, the NO₂ amounts in midsummer of 1991 were lower by 20–30% than those in 1990. The NO₂ amount in midsummer increased year after year and recovered to the 1990 level by 1994. The NO₂ amount in fall also recovered since 1992; however, the rate of recovery is smaller than in summer. The NO₂ level in fall of 1993 was as low as those in 1992. On the other hand, the rate of recovery in the box model using the observed aerosol surface areas by SAGE (S. SOLOMON *et al.*, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **99**, 3509, 1994) is larger than that observed at McMurdo and Syowa Stations. This may suggest that another factor delays the NO₂ recovery in fall. NO₂ levels in winter have a positive correlation with temperature at 20 and 70 hPa (about 25 and 18 km, respectively). In colder winters such as 1990 and 1993, the NO₂ levels were lower than those in other years. This may be due to the difference in the location of the polar vortex boundary relative to Syowa Station. The NO₂ amount and the temperature are considered to be lower deep inside the vortex as compared to near the boundary. In spring, the NO₂ and O₃ amounts and the temperature largely change when the vortex boundary crosses over Syowa Station. The vortex boundary can be clearly seen in the total O₃ maps obtained by TOMS. The monthly mean O₃ values suggest that Syowa Station was located deep inside of the vortex in October 1992 when the NO₂ level was lower than in other years. In contrast, Syowa Station was located near the edge of the vortex in October 1991 when the NO₂ level was much higher.

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