

# Transient behavior of the Asian summer monsoon anticyclone associated with eastward eddy shedding

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## Abstract

The Asian monsoon anticyclone (AMA) exhibits a trimodal distribution of sub-vortices and the western Pacific is one of the preferred locations. Amplification of the western Pacific anticyclone (WPA) is often linked with eastward eddy shedding from the AMA, although the processes are not well understood. This study investigates the dynamics driving eastward eddy shedding associated with the emergence of the WPA in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere on synoptic scales. Using reanalysis data during 1979 to 2019, our composite analysis reveals that amplified WPA events are closely related to the upstream Silk Road (SR) wave-train pattern over mid-latitude Eurasia as identified in previous studies. The quasi-stationary eastward propagating eddies result from baroclinic excitation along the westerly jet, as identified by coherent eddy heat fluxes and relaxation of the low-level temperature gradient. The upper-level westerly jet is important in determining the longitudinal phase-locking of wave trains, which are anchored and amplify near the jet exit. Occasionally enhanced convection near the Philippines also triggers anticyclonic eddies that propagate upward and northeastward via the Pacific-Japan (PJ) pattern, forming the WPA in the upper troposphere. Correlation analysis suggests that the SR and PJ mechanisms are not physically correlated.

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2 ~~anticyclone~~ ~~associated~~ ~~with~~ ~~eastward~~ ~~eddy~~ ~~shedding~~

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10 Key Points:

11 Eastward eddy shedding from the Asian monsoon anticyclone is often associated with  
12 the emergence of an isolated western Pacific anticyclone.

13 Western Pacific anticyclone is closely related to the Silk Road pattern. Eddies grow  
14 along the jet in a baroclinically unstable background.

15 Eastward eddy shedding occasionally occurs in association with the Pacific-Japan  
16 pattern forced by strong convection near the Philippines.

## Abstract

The Asian monsoon anticyclone (AMA) exhibits a trimodal distribution of sub-vortices and the western Pacific is one of the preferred locations. Amplification of the western Pacific anticyclone (WPA) is often linked with eastward eddy shedding from the AMA, although the processes are not well understood. This study investigates the dynamics driving eastward eddy shedding associated with the emergence of the WPA in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere on synoptic scales. Using reanalysis data during 1979 to 2019, our composite analysis reveals that amplified WPA events are closely related to the upstream Silk Road (SR) wave-train pattern over mid-latitude Eurasia as identified in previous studies. The quasi-stationary eastward propagating eddies result from baroclinic excitation along the westerly jet, as identified by coherent eddy heat fluxes and relaxation of the low-level temperature gradient. The upper-level westerly jet is important in determining the longitudinal phase-locking of wave trains, which are anchored and amplify near the jet exit. Occasionally enhanced convection near the Philippines also triggers anticyclonic eddies that propagate upward and northeastward via the Pacific-Japan (PJ) pattern, forming the WPA in the upper troposphere. Correlation analysis suggests that the SR and PJ mechanisms are not physically correlated.

## 1 Introduction

The Asian monsoon anticyclone (AMA) is the major circulation pattern in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UTLS) during Northern summer, covering large parts of Eurasia. Relatively high tropospheric trace gases (e.g., water vapor, carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide) and aerosol (e.g., sulfate, black carbon) concentrations are confined within the area of anticyclonic circulation, imposing a substantial effect on UTLS composition, and also potentially on the surface weather and climate (Randel et al., 2015; X. Wang et al., 2018; Randel & Park, 2006; Randel et al., 2010; Santee et al., 2017; Hopfner et al., 2019; Vernier et al., 2015; Solomon et al., 2011; Y. Wu et al., 2020).

Understanding the location and movement of the AMA is important for quantifying dynamical and trace gas evolution in the UTLS. Studying the behavior of AMA dates back to Tao and Zhu (1964) who found the opposite movement between the upper-level AMA and mid-level western North Pacific subtropical high in East Asia. Previous studies assuming the anticyclone has a single center reveal that the AMA exhibits a bimodal distribution over Iran and the Tibetan Plateau (Q. Zhang et al., 2002). The details of the bimodal

49 distribution are sensitive to the use of different reanalysis data sets (Nutzel et al., 2016),  
50 and bimodality is potentially driven by variations in convection (e.g., Garny & Randel,  
51 2013), monsoonal heating (e.g., P. Zhang et al., 2016), orographic effects (Q. Zhang et al.,  
52 2002; Liu et al., 2007), and large-scale dynamical variability (Amemiya & Sato, 2020). More  
53 recent analyses have highlighted that the AMA is subject to large dynamical variability on  
54 synoptic scales, constantly splitting, merging, and shedding anticyclonic eddies westward  
55 and eastward (Garny & Randel, 2013, 2016; Pan et al., 2016; P. M. Rupp & Haynes, 2020;  
56 Manney et al., 2021). C. J. Hsu and Plumb (2000) showed that an idealized monsoon anti-  
57 cyclone circulation periodically sheds secondary anticyclones due to dynamical instabilities,  
58 and observational confirmation of eddy shedding was first shown in Popovic and Plumb  
59 (2001). Siu and Bowman (2020) showed that anticyclonic sub-vortices often occur within  
60 the AMA at the same time with similar strength. Therefore, consideration of only a single  
61 center of the AMA belies the importance of its transient nature and smears out important  
62 details.

63 Recently, Honomichl and Pan (2020) tracked multiple simultaneous maxima of the AMA  
64 and identified a third preferred center near  $140^{\circ}$ W which is referred to as the western Pacific  
65 anticyclone (WPA) or the Bonin high (Enomoto et al., 2003; Enomoto, 2004). Chemical  
66 species and low potential vorticity (PV) air within the AMA are shed eastward associated  
67 with the emergence of WPA (Vogel et al., 2014; Honomichl & Pan, 2020; Fujiwara et al.,  
68 2021). The atmospheric composition and transport pathways associated with the WPA will  
69 be systematically investigated in the Asian Summer Monsoon Chemical and Climate Impact  
70 Project (ACCLIP) during July-August 2022 (<https://www2.acom.ucar.edu/acclip>).

71 While observational studies consistently highlight the chemical signature of the WPA,  
72 consensus is yet to be reached on the associated dynamics. This topic has a substantial  
73 history. For example, Tao and Zhu (1964) pointed out that the AMA moves in the opposite  
74 direction of the western Pacific subtropical high at 500 hPa, modulated by the precipitation  
75 in east China. Enomoto et al. (2003) used the primitive-equation model in Hoskins and  
76 Rodwell (1995) to study the formation mechanism of the (time-averaged) Bonin high. Their  
77 model sensitivity analysis showed that the Bonin high disappears by removing the diabatic  
78 cooling over the Asian jet while it still exists at monthly timescale when removing the  
79 heating in the western Pacific region. Thus, they emphasized the importance of the external  
80 Rossby wave source induced by the cooling due to the monsoon-forced descent over the  
81 eastern Mediterranean Sea. The wave disturbances along the Asian jet across Eurasia have

82 since been recognized as the "Silk Road (SR) pattern". In fact, the WPA over Japan  
83 was already simulated in Hoskins and Rodwell (1995) but considered to be a model defect  
84 after validation against reanalysis data. Further, Enomoto (2004) conducted a composite  
85 analysis to study interannual variability of monthly-mean stationary Rossby waves along  
86 the subtropical jet (including anticyclonic anomalies over Japan), emphasizing the role of  
87 an intensified jet in contributing to the eastward group velocity of stationary waves. Yasui  
88 and Watanabe (2010) used dry atmospheric general circulation model and identified the Silk  
89 Road pattern as a part of the circumglobal teleconnection. They performed a singular value  
90 decomposition (SVD) analysis for the diabatic heating and meridional wind anomalies, and  
91 concluded that the heating anomalies over the eastern Mediterranean is most responsible for  
92 the formation of the WPA, rather than cooling anomalies induced by the monsoon. P. Rupp  
93 and Haynes (2021) used a dry dynamical core model to simulate interactions of the Asian  
94 monsoon with baroclinic eddies on the westerly jet. They observed a transition from a steady  
95 circulation with westward eddy shedding to an unstable eastward eddy shedding state as the  
96 background meridional temperature gradient gradually increases. Their results imply that  
97 the WPA emerges in response to interaction between localized forcing by monsoon and the  
98 mid-latitude baroclinic eddies. Furthermore, Kosaka and Nakamura (2006) argued that the  
99 emergence of the Bonin high can be attributed to the western Pacific convective heating,  
100 contradicting the conclusion of Enomoto et al. (2003). The teleconnection between the  
101 convective activity in the tropical western Pacific and the upper-level anticyclone anomaly  
102 over Japan is called the "Pacific-Japan (PJ) pattern" (Nitta, 1987). R. Lu and Lin (2009)  
103 employed a baroclinic model and suggested that the latent heating released from the rainfall  
104 anomalies near the Philippine Sea facilitates the eastward wave propagation towards Japan  
105 and forms the WPA. Similarly, Ren et al. (2015) showed that the diabatic heating induced  
106 by enhanced rainfall over the south China Sea initiates the eastward extension of the AMA.  
107 In addition, Kosaka et al. (2009) applied the empirical orthogonal function on monthly-mean  
108 200 hPa meridional winds spanning over the Asian monsoon regions and indicated that the  
109 SR pattern and the PJ pattern coincide. Chen and Huang (2012) performed an SVD analysis  
110 between upper-level meridional wind across Asia and tropical rainfall on monthly scales and  
111 identified that the SR pattern also includes a signature of the PJ pattern. Thus, previous  
112 research has concluded that several different mechanisms can contribute to enhancement  
113 of the WPA, and our goals include revisiting these mechanisms in the context of transient  
114 WPA events. Moreover, the WPA has been mostly examined in the context of monthly and

115 seasonal time scales, but the transient behavior of the WPA associated with eastward eddy  
116 shedding has not been fully analyzed.

117 In this study, we examine the dynamical mechanisms of eastward eddy shedding asso-  
118 ciated with the formation of WPA, in particular for transient variability. Calculations are  
119 based on the latest high resolution reanalysis products from ERA5 (section 2). In section 3,  
120 we first analyze the statistical occurrence of enhanced Bonin high events and isolated large  
121 amplitude WPA, and their relationships to eastward eddy shedding. Composite patterns  
122 of large WPA are analyzed to illustrate the time evolution of shedding events. We define  
123 an index to measure the strength of the Bonin high, select isolated large amplitude WPA  
124 events, and quantify links with the SR and the PJ patterns, respectively. The dynamics of  
125 eastward shedding are then thoroughly investigated with the help of these indices. The goal  
126 is to incorporate the synoptic eddy regime into the existing literature. Section 4 concludes  
127 the paper.

## 128 2 Reanalysis data

129 We use European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA5 me-  
130 teorological products (Hersbach et al., 2020), including geopotential ( $z$ ), potential vorticity,  
131 zonal and meridional ( $u$  and  $v$ ) wind fields, and temperature. We employ top net thermal  
132 radiation (the negative of outgoing longwave radiation, OLR) as a proxy for deep convec-  
133 tion. Reanalyses are used at 6-hourly intervals (0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 UTC) with  
134 a horizontal resolution of  $2.5^\circ$  latitude  $\times$   $0.25^\circ$  longitude on 37 standard pressure levels.  
135 Our investigation focuses on the eastward eddy shedding at 100 hPa during the months of  
136 July{August over forty-one years (1979{2019).

## 137 3 Results

### 138 3.1 Overview of the WPA

139 Several previous studies of the Asian summer anticyclone identified a single maximum  
140 along the geopotential ridge line and found a bimodality behavior, referred to as the Tibetan  
141 Plateau (TP) mode and the Iranian Plateau (IP) mode (Q. Zhang et al., 2002; Nutzelt et al.,  
142 2016). Honomichl and Pan (2020) identified multiple simultaneous anticyclonic circulation  
143 centers at 100 hPa, and highlighted frequent occurrence of a third center over the western  
144 Pacific. We follow their method to identify localized anticyclones, slightly modifying the

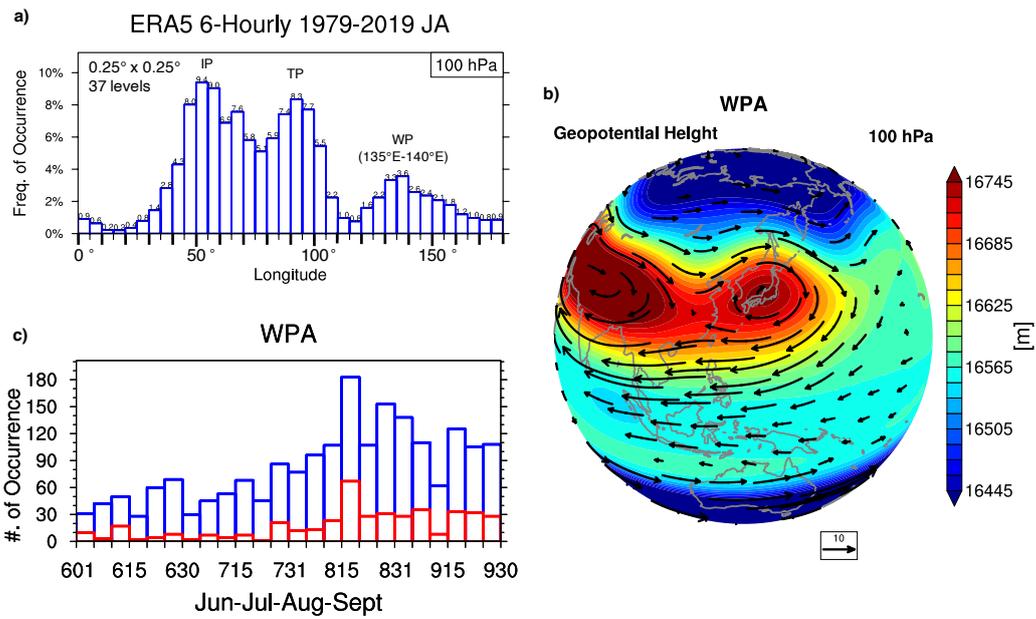


Figure 1. (a) The frequency distribution of the anticyclone centers vs. longitude at 100 hPa compiled using ERA5 6-hourly Geopotential during July-August, 1979-2019 (2542 days in total). Values above each bar indicate the frequency of occurrence in (numbers/2542 days). "IP" refers to the Iranian Plateau mode, "TP" refers to the Tibetan Plateau mode, and "WP" refers to the western Pacific mode. (b) 100 hPa geopotential height (in color) and horizontal circulation (in arrows,  $m/s$ ) for composites associated with WPA events. (c) The distribution of WPA occurrence dates during June to September of 1979-2019. Blue bars indicate overall histograms while red bars indicate stronger anticyclonic events when the v wind threshold is 6

145 details to eliminate any localized small-scale circulations in the higher resolution ERA5  
 146 data. Specifically, maxima are selected only if the meridional wind within 1500 km of the  
 147 center along the ridge was greater than  $3(-3\text{ m s}^{-1})$  on the west (east) side. Note that  
 148 we have adopted a more strict criterion ( $3$  vs.  $0\text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) threshold as in Honomichi &  
 149 Pan, 2020) for selecting local maxima due to the finer horizontal grid resolution of ERA5  
 150 than ERA-Interim. Fig. 1a shows the histogram of frequency and longitude of transient  
 151 anticyclone centers at 100 hPa for July-August. In addition to the IP mode near  $50^{\circ}\text{E}$   
 152 and TP mode near  $90^{\circ}\text{E}$ , a third preferred center is found over the western Pacific (WP)  
 153 peaking around  $135^{\circ}\text{E}$ . The frequency distribution is almost identical to the previously  
 154 calculated result (Fig. 3a, Honomichi & Pan, 2020), and similar to the results of Siu and  
 155 Bowman (2020). We've repeated the analysis on meteorological fields at 150 hPa level and  
 156 found that the locations for the WPA remain the same (not shown).

157 To gain a better understanding of the dynamical processes leading to the eastward eddy  
 158 shedding, we define the WPA event as anticyclonic center that falls within the  $135-140^{\circ}\text{E}$   
 159 longitudinal bin during July-August. This analysis selects 614 samples using 6-hourly data  
 160 over 41 years and construct 100 hPa geopotential composite; these 614 samples represent  
 161 140 separate events during 1979-2019, i.e. typically 3-4 events per year. As displayed  
 162 in Fig. 1b, a localized maximum of geopotential and associated meridional winds identifies  
 163 a separate anticyclone is prominent in the western Pacific region, adjacent to the AMA.  
 164 Figure 1c shows the number of WPA events during June to September during 1979-2019,  
 165 suggesting that the occurrence of WPA peaks in late August and drops in September.  
 166 Sensitivity test shows that doubling the v wind criterion to  $6\text{ m s}^{-1}$ , i.e., selecting stronger  
 167 localized anticyclones, doesn't change the shape of the distribution as indicated by red bars.  
 168 We note that the distribution of anticyclonic centers for June-September is similar to that  
 169 in Fig. 1a (not shown), and the composited signals are about the same as for July-August.

170 To quantify the strength of the anticyclone over Japan, a Bonin high Index (BHI) is  
 171 defined as the regional averaged geopotential height with  $5-50^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $135-140^{\circ}\text{E}$ . Figure  
 172 2 shows time series of the BHI during July and August 1979-2019, along with identified WPA  
 173 events. The curves exhibit substantial intraseasonal and yearly variabilities in frequency and  
 174 intensity. Overall, the WPA events typically coincide well with peaks in BHI, although not  
 175 for all events. It is because we require the WPA to be an anticyclonic cell while the BHI  
 176 does not indicate a closed contour, e.g., a strong ridge can create large BHI but not WPA.

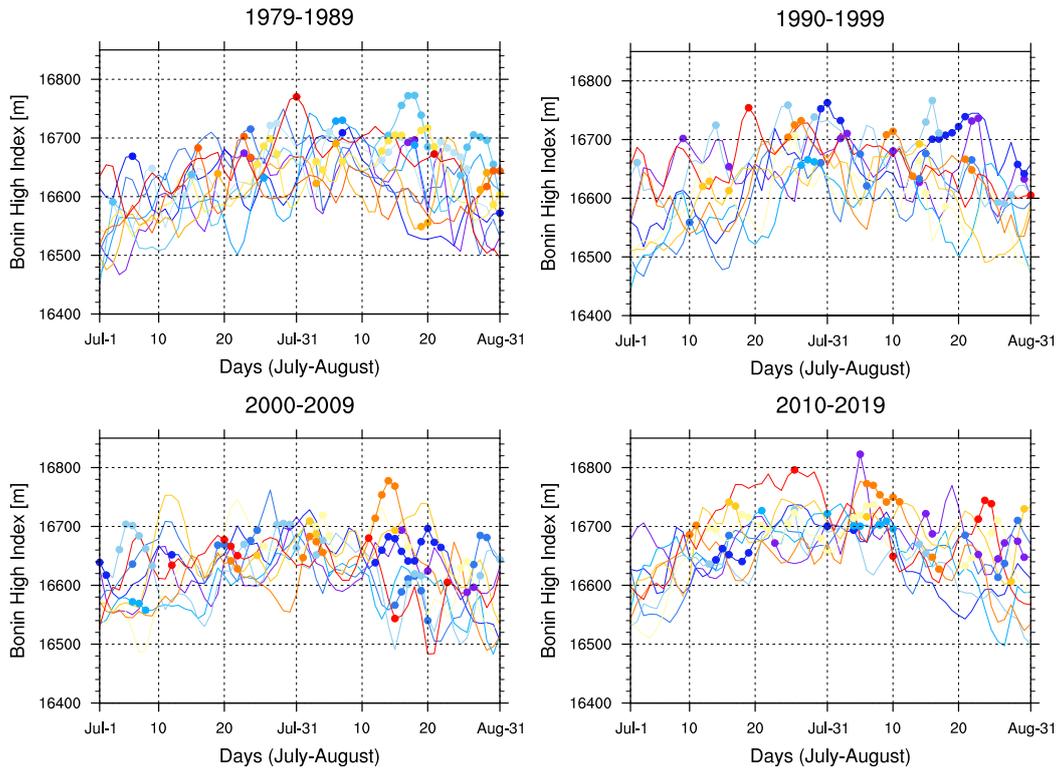


Figure 2. The color curves show the time series of the BHI in July-August over 41 years. Each color curve represent one year. Colored dots indicate the identified WPA events.

177 The 100 hPa geopotential and meridional wind anomalies composited for the WPA  
 178 events are shown in Fig. 3a and b, respectively. We subtract the climatological mean value  
 179 for each time step to derive a deseasonalized anomaly. Here Day 0 denotes the day the WPA  
 180 event occurs. The composited wave packet structure shows disturbances embedded along  
 181 the climatological westerly flow with an approximate zonal scale of wavenumber 6. Positive  
 182 geopotential coupled with intensified anticyclone occurs near the jet exit above Japan. The  
 183 composite features are not sensitive to the choice of the longitude range in defining the WPA  
 184 events (not shown). Time development of geopotential height averaged over 45-46°N along  
 185 the upper-level jet at 100 hPa is depicted by the Hovmöller diagram in Fig. 3c, highlighting  
 186 coherent upstream wave structure beginning 4 days prior to the WPA events. The wave  
 187 packet has near zero phase velocity, but a clear eastward group velocity near 21°E.  
 188 The wave packet propagates downstream through the waveguide of the jet core, and amplifies  
 189 near the jet exit on Day 0. The quasi-stationary zonal wavenumber 6 structure identified  
 190 in Fig. 3 is consistent with the SR behavior analyzed in Kosaka et al. (2009), interpreted  
 191 as a stationary Rossby wave on the background westerly jet. During Day +1 to +4, wave  
 192 packets develop successively downstream and reach the Pacific coast of the United States.

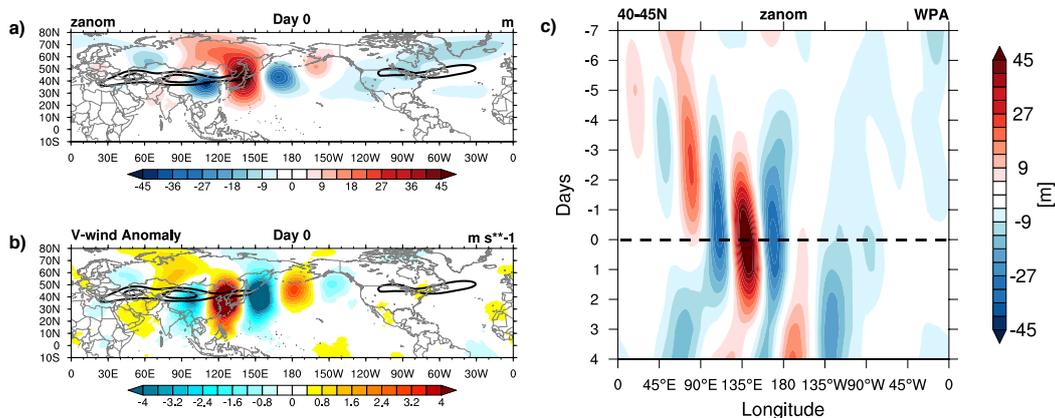


Figure 3. Composites of 100 hPa geopotential and meridional wind anomalies (zanom and vanom) for the WPA events on Day 0 in (a) and (b), respectively. Regions where anomalies are not significant at the 95% level using t-test are shaded white. Black contours highlight the 200 hPa climatological westerly jet of 24 and 180°S. (c) Hovmöller diagram of zanom at 100 hPa averaged over 40-45°N from Day -7 to +4.

193 Fig. 4a displays the time evolution of PV interpolated to 360 K isentropes for the  
 194 composited WPA events. The anticyclone is associated with a region of relatively low PV,

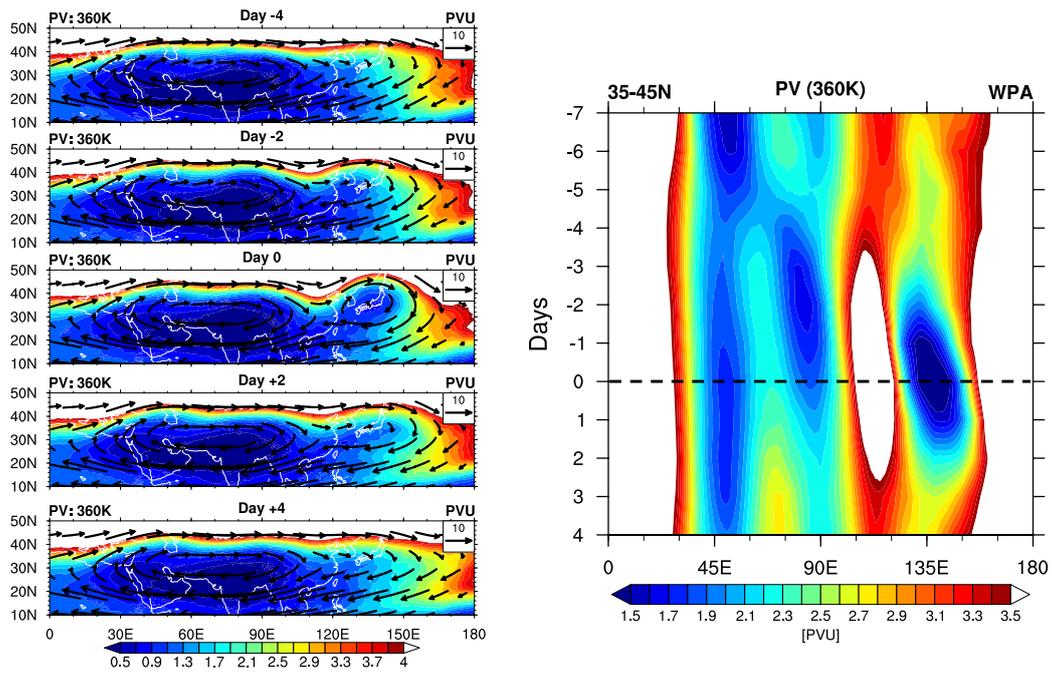


Figure 4. (a) Composite patterns of PV (in colors, PVU) at 360 K overlaid with the winds at 100 hPa (in vectors, m/s) on Day -4, Day -2, Day 0, Day +2, and Day +4 of the WPA events, respectively. (b) Hovmöller diagram of PV at 360 K averaged over 35-45N from Day -7 to Day +4.

195 e.g. Garny and Randel (2016) and Ploeger et al. (2017). Low PV patches develop on the  
 196 eastern side of the anticyclone during the WPA events, in a manner consistent with wave  
 197 trains seen in Fig. 3. Fig. 4b shows a Hovmöller diagram of PV at 360 K averaged over 35  
 198 45N from Day -7 to +4, highlighting development of low PV air over the composite WPA  
 199 life cycle. During Day -4 to +2, the low PV air associated with the eastward shedding is  
 200 connected between 120°50E and remains quasi-stationary, consistent with the geopotential  
 201 signature in Fig. 3. The PV evolution is consistent with the developing WPA transporting  
 202 air masses with elevated mixing ratios of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> rapidly into the extratropical lower  
 203 stratosphere (Ploeger et al., 2015; Pan et al., 2016). We note that while the WPA is  
 204 quasi-stationary, air parcel trajectories can move through the circulation and transport  
 205 constituents towards the east, e.g. Honomichl and Pan (2020), their Fig. 7.

206 The composited WPA meteorological features include combined effects of the SR and PJ  
 207 teleconnections { wave trains in the upper troposphere together with enhanced convection  
 208 over the tropical western Pacific (Fig. S1). However, the SR and PJ patterns do not always  
 209 coincide in individual cases, which motivates us to evaluate the WPA events in terms of  
 210 relations to the SR and PJ indices and examine their dynamics separately.

### 211 3.2 WPA Relationships to the Silk Road Pattern

#### 212 3.2.1 SR Index

213 The most striking feature in Fig. 3 is the quasi-stationary wave along the upper-level  
 214 jet, resembling the SR pattern (R.-Y. Lu et al., 2002; Enomoto et al., 2003). To quantify  
 215 the occurrence of the Silk Road wave trains, we construct a time varying Silk Road Index  
 216 (SRI). As indicated by the composite map of geopotential height averaged over Day -4 to  
 217 -1 preceding the WPA events in Fig. 5, we see that the SR pattern consists of four zonally  
 218 oriented anomaly centers connected to 55N, located over A the Caspian Sea (40°55E),  
 219 B central Asia (70°85E), C Mongolia (95°115E), and D east China (120°140E). Two  
 220 negative geopotential centers are marked as A and C while two positive centers are marked  
 221 as B and D. We define  $a_i$  as the maximum anomaly value in each box and SRI is the sum  
 222 of absolute values of the four boxes as in Eq. 1:

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{i=A;C} a_i + \sum_{i=B;D} a_i \quad (1)$$

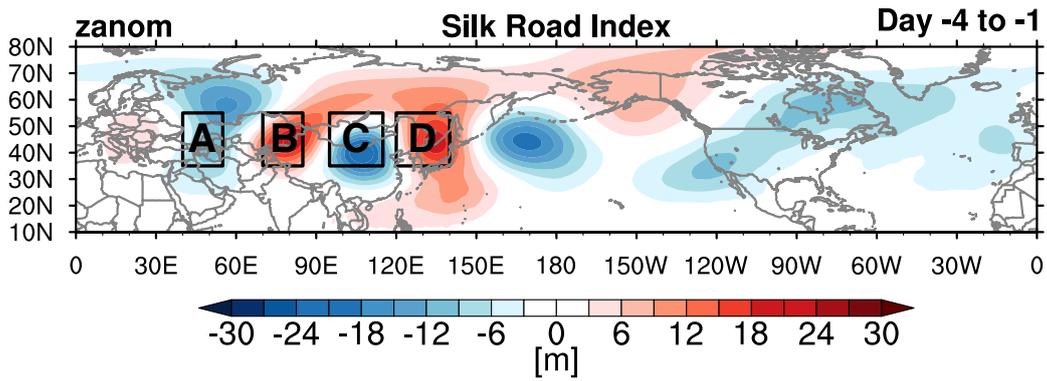


Figure 5. Schematic illustrating four centers where the SRI is constructed. The zanom composites (in colors) are averaged during Day -4 to -1 prior to the WPA events.

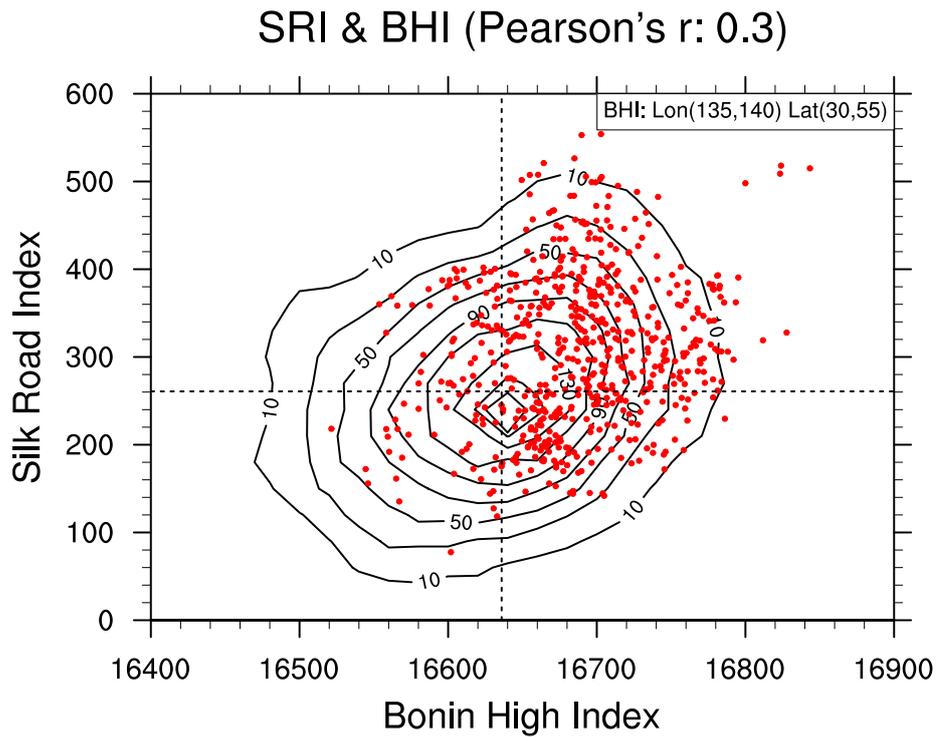


Figure 6. Two dimensional distribution of the SRI against the BHI compiled using all July-August data during 1979-2019. Red dots indicate the WPA events. Dashed reference lines indicate the median values. Correlation coefficient is given in the figure title.

223 Figure 6 shows a 2D distribution of SRI vs. BHI for all daily samples over July-August  
 224 1979-2019. Contours represent the density of scatter points. There is a weak but statistically  
 225 significant correlation in the distribution ( $r = 0.3$ ), as expected from the results in Fig. 3.  
 226 The red dots in Fig. 6 represent the WPA events, primarily falling in the upper right-  
 227 hand quadrant, i.e. large amplitude BHI and SRI. These statistics are consistent with an  
 228 amplified Silk Road pattern typically preceding the strong anticyclone above Japan by 1 to  
 229 4 days.

### 230 3.2.2 Dynamics in Relation to the Silk-Road Pattern

231 We apply composite analysis to obtain the essential circulation patterns of the WPA  
 232 with reference to the intensity of the SR pattern. To sharpen the composited features,  
 233 variables whose SRI fall above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile are selected. Wave activity flux (WAF)  
 234 vectors are computed to identify the origin and propagation of Rossby waves associated  
 235 with the WPA events coinciding with the pronounced SR pattern. The calculation is based  
 236 on the methods of Takaya and Nakamura (2001), which generalizes Plumb fluxes (Plumb,  
 237 1979) to allow for transient eddies propagating in a zonally varying mean state. The WAF  
 238 is designed in the quasi-geostrophic (QG) framework, whose direction is parallel to the  
 239 wave group velocity and the divergence (convergence) implies source (sink) of Rossby waves  
 240 (H.-H. Hsu & Lin, 2007; Gu et al., 2018).

Figure 7. Cross sections of QG streamfunction anomalies (in colors, unit:  $10^6 \text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and WAF (in vectors, unit:  $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$ ) (a) averaged over 120°-140°E and (b) at 40°N composited for the WPA events which coincide with pronounced Silk Road pattern.

303 statistical significance at the 95% confidence level), although there is stronger relationship  
 304 for extreme PJ patterns. For instance, red dots represent the WPA events whose PJI falls  
 305 above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile and suggest a positive correlation with the intensity of the WPA.  
 306 Figure 11b shows only the significant correlation coefficients between the PJI and the BHI  
 307 as the PJI increases from -30, -20, ..., 20, 30  $W=m^2$ . The correlation is in fact maximized  
 308 when the PJI falls above the upper 30<sup>th</sup> percentile (0.47\*) while becomes insignificant as  
 309 the PJI reaches 20  $W=m^2$ . The upper 30<sup>th</sup> percentile agrees well with statistics of back  
 310 trajectories initialized within the WPA in Honomichl and Pan (2020), where one third of  
 311 air parcels trace back to the Philippine Sea.

Figure 11. (a) Scatterplot between the BHI ( $m$ ) against the PJI ( $W=m^2$ ) composited for a total  
 of 614 Bonin high events. Red dots highlight the Bonin high events whose PJI falls above the 75<sup>th</sup>  
 percentile. Correlation coefficients are given in the figure title. Gray reference lines indicate the  
 10<sup>th</sup> (p10), the 25<sup>th</sup> (p25), the median (p50), the 67<sup>th</sup> (p67), the 75<sup>th</sup> (p75), and the 90<sup>th</sup> (p90)  
 percentiles of the PJI, respectively. (b) Curve indicates the significant correlation between subsets  
 of the BHI and PJI, which are regrouped as the PJI increases.

### 312 3.3.2 Dynamics in Relation to the Pacific-Japan Pattern

313 We apply composite analysis to identify the circulation patterns with reference to the  
 314 intensity of the PJ pattern. Similar to Section 3.2.2, variables composited for the WPA  
 315 events on Day 0 are averaged when the corresponding PJI falls above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile,  
 316 i.e. enhanced convection as in Fig. 10a (represented by gray contours in Fig. 12b). Fig. 12a

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