



Measurement of momentum flux using two meteor radars in Indonesia

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Abstract. Two nearly identical meteor radars were operated at Koto Tabang (0.20° S, 100.32° E), West Sumatra, and Biak (1.17° S, 136.10° E), West Papua, in Indonesia, separated by approximately 4000 km in longitude on the Equator. The zonal and meridional momentum flux, $u'w'$ and $v'w'$, where u , v , and w are the eastward, northward, and vertical wind velocity components, respectively, were estimated at 86 to 94 km altitudes using the meteor radar data by applying a method proposed by Hocking (2005). The observed $u'w'$ at the two sites agreed reasonably well at 86, 90, and 94 km during the observation periods when the data acquisition rate was sufficiently large enough. Variations in $v'w'$ were consistent between 86, 90, and 94 km altitudes at both sites. The climatological variation in the monthly averaged $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ was investigated using the long-term radar data at Koto Tabang from November 2002 to November 2013. The seasonal variations in $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ showed a repeatable semiannual and annual cycles, respectively. $u'w'$ showed eastward values in February–April and July–September and $v'w'$ was northward in June to August at 90–94 km, both of which were generally anti-phase with the mean zonal and meridional winds, having the same periodicity. Our results suggest the usefulness of the Hocking method.

Keywords. Meteorology and atmospheric dynamics (middle atmosphere dynamics)

1 Introduction

The interaction of various atmosphere waves with the background mean zonal winds is known to produce interesting wind variability in the middle atmosphere (10–100 km) as well as in the mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT) region (60–150 km) (e.g., Holton, 1983). In the equatorial atmosphere, the wave–mean flow interaction drives the quasi-biennial oscillation (QBO) in the lower stratosphere (e.g., Plumb, 1977), and a 6-month periodicity of zonal winds is also produced in the upper stratosphere and the mesosphere, which is called the stratosphere semiannual oscillation (S-SAO) and mesosphere semiannual oscillation (M-SAO), respectively (Groves, 1972; Hirota, 1978).

The M-SAO becomes westward twice a year, centered in January to April and August to September. However, a peculiar behavior of M-SAO was found by satellite and radar observations; that is, the westward phase of M-SAO was significantly enhanced only in January to April every 2 or 3 years (for example in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, and 2002) (Burrage et al., 1996; Garcia et al., 1997; Isoda et al., 2004; Sridharan et al., 2007; de Wit et al., 2013). This phenomenon was referred to as the mesospheric QBO (M-QBO), which was reported to essentially synchronize with the stratospheric QBO (Sridharan et al., 2007). However, M-QBO is different from the stratospheric QBO, which has an irregular periodicity of 22–34 months, in that the westward wind enhancement of M-QBO always occurred only in January to April, being synchronous with a seasonal cycle. Therefore, this phenomenon is also called the mesospheric quasi-biennial enhancement (M-QBE) (Venkateswara Rao et al., 2012b).

It has also been reported from medium-frequency (MF) radar observations at Pameungpeuk (7.4° S, 107.4° E), West

Java, Indonesia, that the westward enhancement of M-QBO coincided with large values of wind velocity variance with short-period (20–120 min) perturbations (Venkateswara Rao et al., 2012a). Recently, Moss et al. (2016) studied the M-SAO during the early months of 2002 and 2006 when the westward excursion of the M-SAO was enhanced. These periods coincided with increased negative zonal gravity wave momentum flux. The enhancement of momentum flux was significant but not related to increased convective activity or a different configuration in the underlying winds. Therefore, atmospheric gravity waves seem to affect the enhancement of westward wind velocity of M-QBO (e.g., Garcia and Sassi, 1999; Ern et al., 2015). In order to further understand the role of gravity waves in generating the M-QBO, we need to investigate the vertical flux of zonal momentum ($u'w'$), where u' and w' are the fluctuating components of zonal (eastward) and vertical wind velocity, respectively.

Vincent and Reid (1983) developed a unique radar technique to measure $u'w'$ in the MLT region using the Buckland Park MF radar, South Australia. A pair of narrow antenna beams were steered into the opposite azimuth direction, and then $u'w'$ was estimated by subtracting the radial wind velocity variance. This beam-pair method was also applied to the middle and upper atmosphere radar (the MU radar) in Japan, and the wave drag force was inferred in the mesosphere, which agreed well with theoretical prediction (Tsuda et al., 1990). Thus, the beam-pair method was verified as an accurate method to determine $u'w'$. However, this technique can only be applied to a large atmospheric radar with multiple antenna beams, which are few in number in the world.

Hocking (2005) proposed another radar technique to measure momentum flux using a much simpler meteor radar. A meteor radar transmits VHF radio waves into wide directions, and detects scattering from an ionized meteor trail at 70–110 km altitude. The arrival angles of meteor echoes are determined by an interferometer receiving system. The antenna array is fairly compact, consisting of several crossed Yagi antennas. Fritts et al. (2010) applied this Hocking method to the Southern Argentina Agile Meteor Radar (SAAMER; 53.8° S, 67.8° W) for estimating $u'w'$. Andrioli et al. (2013) also analyzed $u'w'$ from meteor radar observations at Cachoeria Paulista (23° S, 45° W), Brazil, using the Hocking method. Thus, this technique is becoming widely used. Andrioli et al. (2015) analyzed long-term characteristics of the momentum flux using three meteor radar results at Cachoeria Paulista (23° S, 45° W), São João Do Cariri (7° S, 36° W), and Santa Maria (30° S, 54° W). Fritts et al. (2012) carried out modeling studies and concluded that conventional meteor radars that are used for this study are capable of momentum flux measurements. However, monthly estimates can only be made at heights with the highest meteor cut and with errors of 20–50 %.

The Hocking method is now widely used to study the behavior of momentum flux in the MLT region. However, Vincent et al. (2010) raised questions about the accuracy of the

Hocking method, claiming unclarified issues on the assumption of this technique, such as a necessary number of meteor echoes and a small contribution of vertical winds on the radial wind velocity because of wide antenna view angles. According to Vincent et al. (2010), momentum flux has a much wider distribution of values than any single component of the wind. Therefore, long averaging is needed to determine the mean value. The authors discuss that the averaging period of $u'w'$ should be longer than 1 month to obtain meaningful results. Note that Hocking (2005) suggested that more than 30 meteors are sufficient in 1 h.

It is assumed that the background mean winds are uniform over the entire radar observation area in the height–time bin of 4 km and 2 h. However, this assumption may not be always justified, because the antenna scan range of a meteor radar is 10–45°, which is much wider than that for the beam-pair method (normally less than 10°). Moreover, because of large zenith angles, the contribution of the vertical wind velocity component to the radial winds becomes relatively smaller, which is not beneficial for accurate $u'w'$ determination.

It seems difficult to show a deductive verification of the Hocking method; therefore, in this study, we compared the results of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ determinations from two meteor radars, both located on the Equator at Koto Tabang and Biak, Indonesia, with a longitudinal separation of approximately 4000 km. We also analyzed the climatological variations in $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ employing long-term meteor radar data collected at Koto Tabang from 2002 to 2013.

We describe in Sect. 2 the experimental setup of the two meteor radar systems in Indonesia. We also show the fundamental performance of the meteor echo observations, and a method for calculation of mean wind velocity from radial meteor winds. Section 3 concisely introduces the measurement technique proposed by Hocking (2005) for determining the momentum flux from meteor winds. The analyzed results are shown in Sect. 4, which presents two major issues. First, we compare the momentum flux between the two meteor radars in Indonesia, aiming at validation of the Hocking method. Secondly, we analyze momentum flux from 11-year meteor radar data at Koto Tabang, and discuss seasonal variations in momentum flux and mean winds.

2 Meteor wind radars in Koto Tabang and Biak, Indonesia

A meteor radar has been operated within the observatory of the Equatorial Atmosphere Radar (EAR) (Fukao et al., 2003) in Koto Tabang, West Sumatra, Indonesia (0.20° S, 100.32° E, 865 m a.s.l.), as a joint project between RISH and the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN) since November 2002. Another meteor radar, with the same system specifications, was installed at the LAPAN observatory in Biak, West Papua, Indonesia (1.17° S, 136.10° E, 45 m a.s.l.), in May 2011.

The transmitting frequencies of the meteor radars at Koto Tabang and Biak are 37.70 and 33.32 MHz, respectively, with a peak transmitting power of 13 kW. Details of the meteor radar system at Koto Tabang are described in Batubara et al. (2011). The meteor radars detect meteor echoes at 70–110 km altitude, and the location of meteor trails is determined by an interferometer receiving system. Because a single crossed Yagi antenna is used for transmission, pointed to the zenith, we detect meteor echoes in any azimuth direction. Elevation angles of echoes normally range widely, but only meteor echoes between 10 and 45° zenith angles were accepted.

The daily total meteor echo counts varied from 8000 to 12 000 per day in July 2005 at Koto Tabang, and the mean hourly echo rate was 330–500. The height distribution of the meteor echoes shows a bell shape at 70–110 km altitude. We averaged meteor echo rate for the Koto Tabang radar results in 2002–2013, and found that the number of meteor echoes became a maximum at approximately 89 km with a half-amplitude width of about 5.5 km. The meteor echo rate was reduced to 78 and 60% at 86 and 94 km, respectively, relative to the value at 90 km. The local time dependence of the meteor echo rate showed a diurnal variation, although it was not a clear sinusoidal curve; however, an enhanced peak appeared at 06:00 LT (local time), and a relatively broader minimum occurred at 17:00–18:00. The ratio of the hourly meteor echo rate between minimum and maximum ranged from approximately 5.9 to 6.0 at 86 and 94 km, and it was as large as 9.0 at 90 km. Because the data rate rapidly decreases below approximately 80 km and above 100 km, we limited the height range for our analysis to 78–102 km.

A meteor radar detects the radial wind velocity for individual meteor trails that appear sporadically with random directions. We calculated the zonal and meridional wind velocities from the radial winds in a height–time bin of 4 km and 2 h, assuming a constant and uniform wind in the bin and no vertical wind velocity. When the number of meteor echoes in each bin was less than five, we did not calculate the horizontal wind velocity. The two meteor radars at Koto Tabang and Biak have nearly the same system configuration, and were manufactured by the same company (Genesis Software Pty Ltd). The horizontal separation of the radars provides a unique opportunity to compare similarities and differences in the wind field over the equatorial region. Unfortunately, the observation periods coincided for only 3 years from 2011 to 2013. In particular, we can compare the results of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ obtained from these meteor radars by employing the Hocking method. One of the major contributions of this study is to validate the Hocking technique.

The meteor radar at Koto Tabang accumulated long-term radar data for 11 years from November 2002 to November 2013, which are archived in the data storage and exchange system called the Inter-University Upper Atmosphere Global Observation Network (IUGONET) (Hayashi et al., 2013; Abe et al., 2014). We investigated the climatological

characteristics of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ variations in the equatorial MLT region.

3 Application of the hocking method for calculating momentum flux

The Hocking (2005) technique for estimating momentum flux with a meteor radar is an appealingly simple concept. However, a large matrix needs to be inverted to obtain the momentum flux components. The technique will not be fully described here, since Hocking (2005) does this in detail. The technique is based on least-squares minimization of the quantity

$$\Lambda = \sum \left(v_r^2 - \bar{v}_r^2 \right)^2,$$

where

$$v_r = u \sin \theta \cos \varphi + v \sin \theta \sin \varphi + w \cos \theta$$

is the radial wind velocity in the direction with the elevation (θ) and azimuth (φ) angles. Here the overbar denotes time-averaged wind estimates that are resolved into the individual meteor detection angles. Note that time-averaged velocity estimates are derived with conventional meteor radar processing where w is assumed to be zero.

We compared $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ as observed at Koto Tabang and Biak in 2011–2013. We first selected the time interval for data analysis as 2 h, covering 1 h each before and after the nominal time, and the nominal time was shifted every 1 h. The thickness of a height bin was 4 km, and the center of the bin was shifted every 2 km from 80 to 100 km; therefore, the successive bins partially overlap each other. When the number of meteor echoes was less than 30 in the 2 h \times 4 km bin, we discarded that bin. We finally selected the results in five height bins centered at 86, 88, 90, 92, and 94 km, considering smaller meteor echo rate below/above 86/94 km. Note that the lowest and highest bins correspond to the height range at 84–88 and 92–96 km.

We first determined monthly mean $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ for all available periods. We used the monthly mean data for investigation of long-term variations in momentum flux as well as their frequency spectral analysis when the number of bins was greater than 100 in each month.

4 Results and discussion

4.1 Comparison of the momentum flux between the two meteor radars

Figure 1 shows comparison of the observed momentum flux between Biak and Koto Tabang from January 2011 to November 2013. Figure 1a and b show the monthly mean $u'w'$ and $v'w'$, respectively, at 86, 90, and 94 km altitudes.

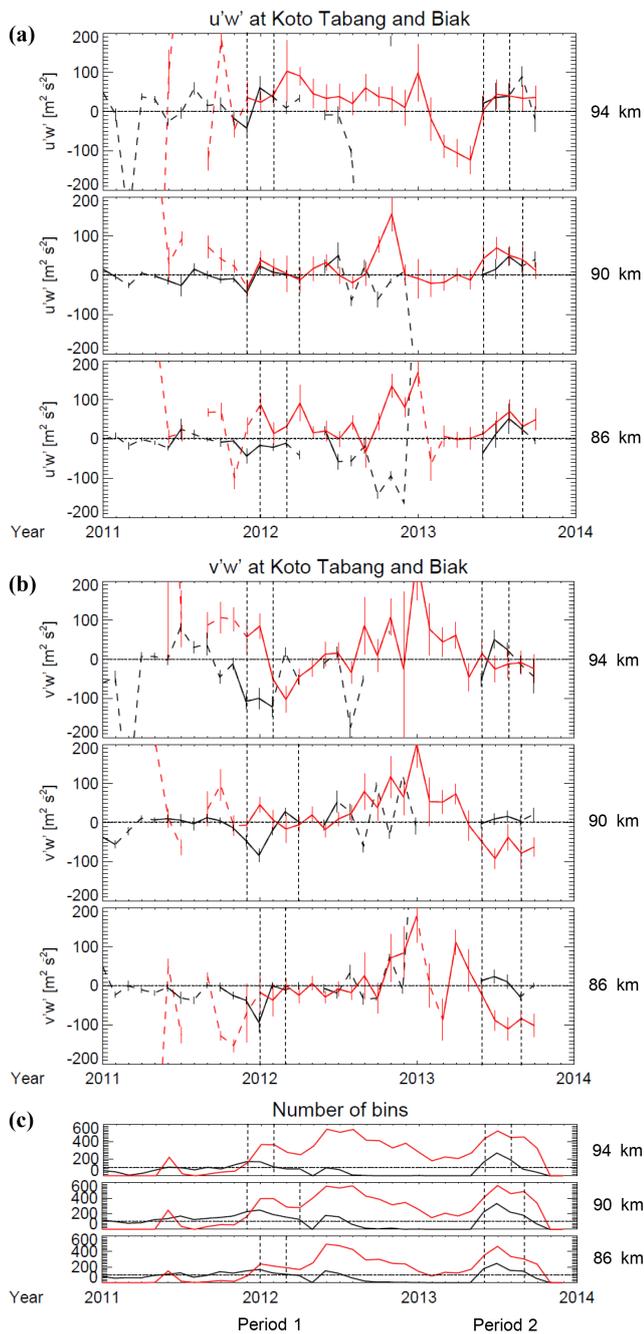


Figure 1. Monthly mean (a) $u'w'$ and (b) $v'w'$ at Koto Tabang (black line) and Biak (red line) at 86, 90, and 94 km, and (c) the number of bins used to determine $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at 86, 90, and 94 km. Error bars of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ indicate the 95 % confidence interval. The solid line for $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ corresponds to the observation period when the number of bins was larger than 100, while the dashed line for $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ indicate the period with the fewer than 100 bins. The vertical dotted lines show the observation period when the number of bins was greater than 100 for both sites at each altitude.

In Fig. 1c we show the number of bins in each month at 86, 90, and 94 km. The Biak meteor radar started operation in May 2011, and the number of bins became stably large after December 2011. On the other hand, the Koto Tabang meteor radar stopped operation in May 2012 and became unstable from September 2012 to May 2013. Therefore, unfortunately, the two radars were simultaneously operated in two short periods: (i) from December 2011 to April 2012 and (ii) from June 2013 to September 2013. Solid lines in Fig. 1a and b correspond to observation periods when the number of bins was greater than 100, while dashed lines indicate the observation periods when this criterion was not satisfied. Note that duration of the analysis period varied at different altitudes, being narrower at 86 and 94 km.

During period (i), $u'w'$ over Koto Tabang and Biak shows a similar variation at the three heights, with agreement being best at 90 km. The variation in $u'w'$ agreed better during period (ii) at all three heights. Earlier studies of stratospheric gravity waves over the maritime continent that used GPS radio occultation temperature data indicated that the horizontal extent of both tropical convection and stratospheric gravity wave activity was wide enough to cover the whole of Indonesia (e.g., Tsuda et al., 2009). Therefore, we consider the excitation source of gravity waves to be similar between Biak and Koto Tabang, although the magnitude of the generation sources may have some regional differences, depending on intensity of tropical convection.

The distribution of horizontal propagation directions of gravity waves in the MLT region is predicted to become azimuthally inhomogeneous because of the filtering effects due to wave–mean flow interaction by QBO and S-SAO (e.g., Plumb, 1977; Garcia and Sassi, 1999). Therefore, the dominant direction of $u'w'$ near the mesopause also depends on season. Because the filtering mechanism of gravity waves is caused by the global-scale dynamics, such as QBO and S-SAO, we can expect the behavior of $u'w'$ to be similar within 4000 km along the Equator. The results in Fig. 1 indicate a reasonable agreement of the observed $u'w'$ between Biak and Koto Tabang.

On the other hand, we may not expect similar behavior of $v'w'$ between the two radar sites, because there are no common mechanisms to affect meridional propagation directions of gravity waves. Therefore, $v'w'$ may not necessarily be correlated between Biak and Koto Tabang. The results of $v'w'$ in Fig. 1, however, show consistency at the three heights at each radar site.

4.2 Seasonal variations in the momentum flux

Figure 2 shows the monthly mean $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at 86 to 94 km altitude obtained from the meteor radar at Koto Tabang from 2002 to 2013. We estimated the variation range of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$, obtained using more than 100 bins as $\mu \pm \sqrt{2}\sigma$ (μ : mean value; σ : standard deviation). The results for $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at 90 km were from -35 to $+42$ $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$

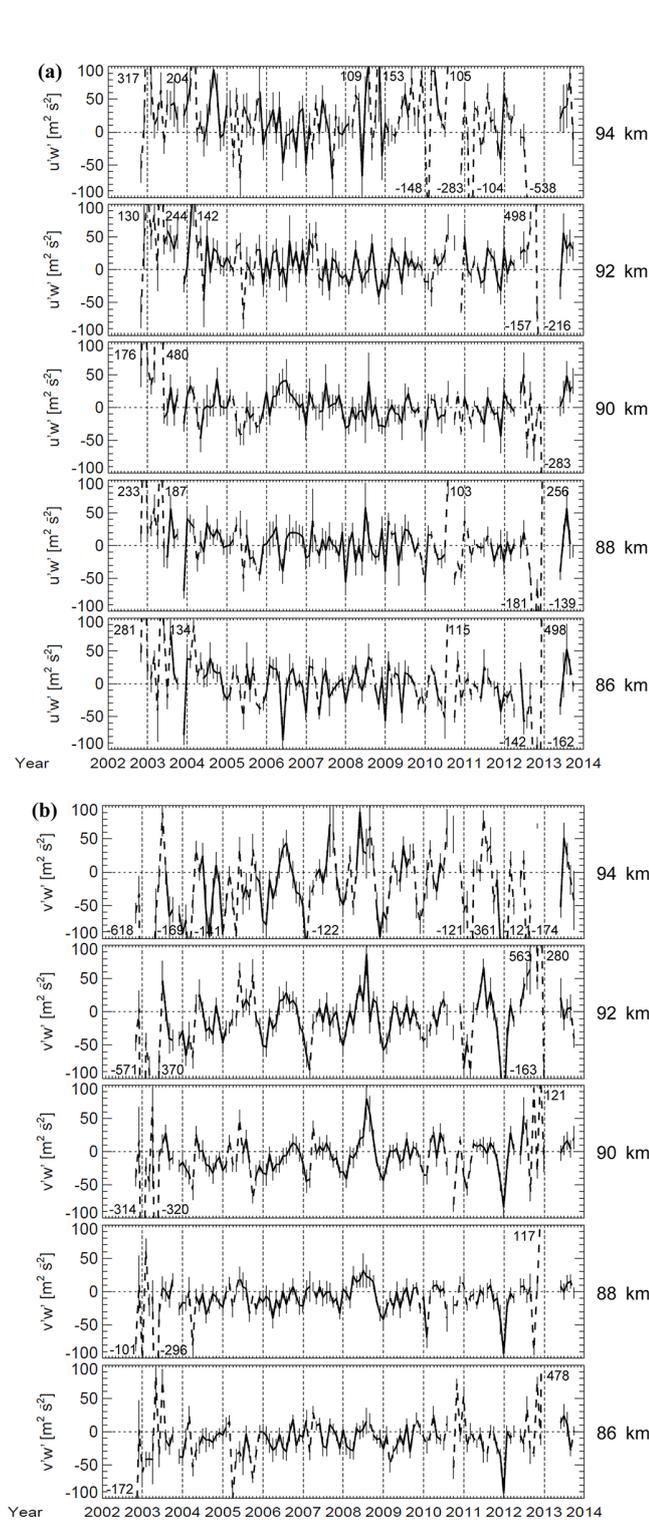


Figure 2. Monthly mean (a) $u'w'$ and (b) $v'w'$ obtained from the meteor radar at Koto Tabang from November 2002 to November 2013 at 86–94 km. Solid and dashed lines show $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ when the number of bins was larger or smaller than 100, respectively. The numbers in each panel indicate an exceeded value.

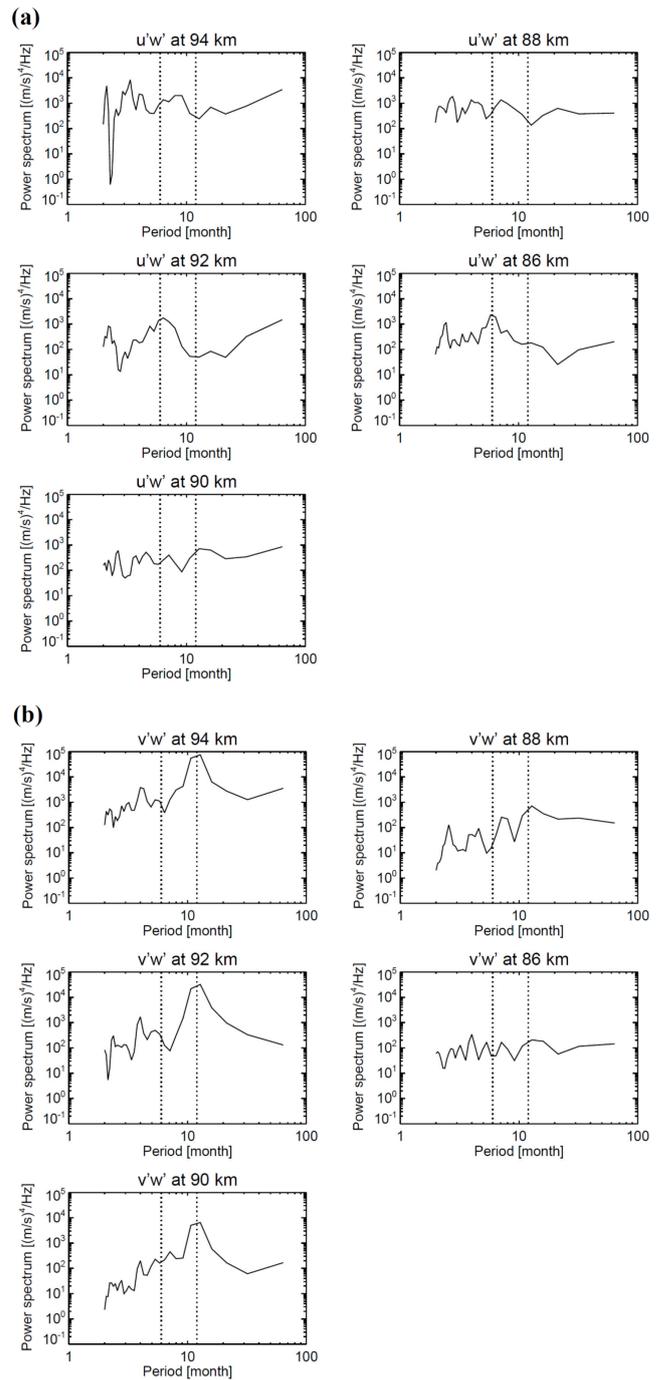


Figure 3. Power spectrum of (a) $u'w'$ and (b) $v'w'$ at 86–94 km altitudes at Koto Tabang. The two dashed lines in each panel indicate periodicity of 6 and 12 months, respectively.

and from -41 to $+28 m^2 s^{-2}$, respectively. The amplitudes of the momentum flux at 90 km were relatively smaller compared with those at other heights. Later we show statistics of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ by averaging the results in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2a, the values of $u'w'$ at 86 km had local maxima in February to March and August to September during

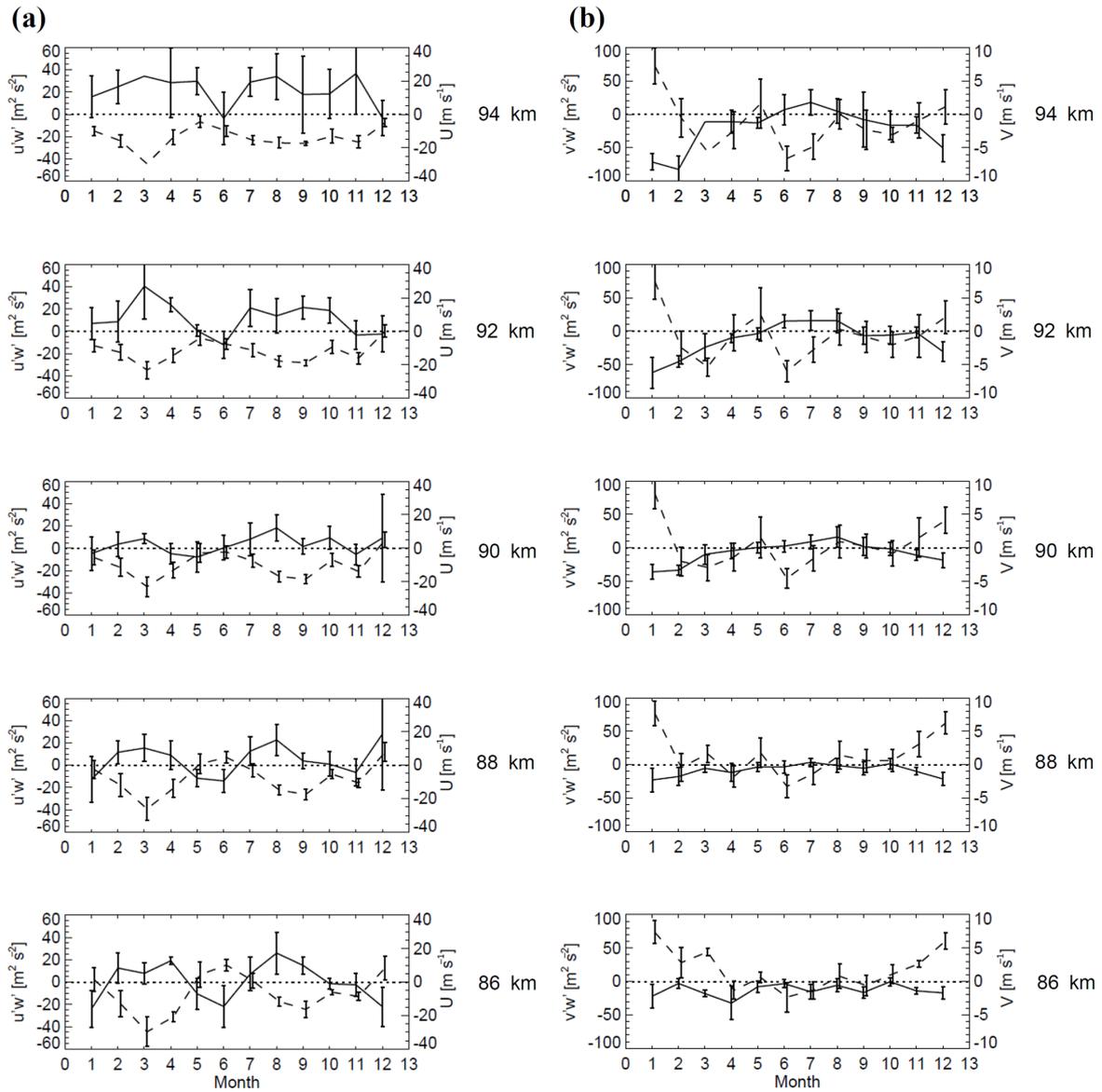


Figure 4. Seasonal variation in (a) $u'w'$ (solid line) and mean zonal (eastward) wind velocity (U) (dashed line), and (b) $v'w'$ (solid line) and mean meridional (northward) wind velocity (V) (dashed line) at 86–94 km after calculating the monthly mean values in 2002–2013 at Koto Tabang. Error bars show the 95 % confidence interval.

Table 1. Mean value, standard deviation (σ), and variation range of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at the height range of 86–94 km at Koto Tabang.

Altitude [km]	Mean of $u'w'$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$]	σ of $u'w'$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$]	Range of $u'w'$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$]	Mean of $v'w'$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$]	σ of $v'w'$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$]	Range of $v'w'$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$]
94	21.8	13.6	2.6–41.0	–20.8	31.0	–64.6–23.0
92	11.5	14.6	–9.2–32.1	–12.1	24.5	–46.7–22.6
90	3.0	7.9	–8.2–14.2	–6.9	15.8	–29.2–15.4
88	4.9	14.1	–15.0–24.8	–8.0	8.7	–20.3–4.3
86	0.4	17.0	–23.7–24.5	–12.9	9.3	–26.0–0.3

Table 2. Cross-correlation coefficient and time lag between momentum flux and mean horizontal wind at the height range of 86–94 km at Koto Tabang.

Altitude [km]	Cross-correlation coefficient between $u'w'$ and U	Time lag [month]	Cross-correlation coefficient between $v'w'$ and V	Time lag [month]
94	-0.58	0.0	-0.67	-0.4
92	-0.68	0.0	-0.51	-1.0
90	-0.70	1.0	-0.56	-0.4
88	-0.50	1.0	-0.64	-0.4
86	-0.77	0.0	-0.29	-2.5

2006–2010, whereas they had local minima in June to July and December to January in the same period. A semiannual oscillation in the $u'w'$ was present at 86 km. However, $v'w'$ in Fig. 2b exhibited an annual cycle with northward maximum in June–August, which became more evident at higher altitudes. Large values sometimes appeared, and they were consistent between different height regions.

We investigated the dominant periodicity of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ shown in Fig. 2 by applying a frequency spectral analysis. Figure 3 shows power spectra of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at 86 to 94 km altitude over Koto Tabang. In this calculation, we used the monthly mean $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ when the number of bins is greater than 100 in each month. The power spectrum of $u'w'$ at 86 km had a peak at a 6-month period, i.e., a semi-annual oscillation. At 92 km, the period was slightly longer than 6 months. On the other hand, the spectral peak at a 6-month period was not clearly found at other heights. The frequency spectrum of $v'w'$ shows a clear peak at 12 months above 90 km, while shorter periodicities are also recognized at 86 and 88 km, in addition to the annual cycle.

In order to investigate a seasonal variation in $u'w'$ and $v'w'$, we calculated the climatological mean from the observed results in Fig. 2. In each month, we averaged all available monthly results in 2002–2013. Figure 4 shows $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at 86, 88, 90, 92, and 94 km, where the number of total months for available data was 80, 93, 97, 95, and 68 months out of a total of 133 months, respectively.

The mean eastward (U) and northward (V) mean wind velocities are also plotted in Fig. 4. In Fig. 4a, $u'w'$ at 86 km was eastward in February to April and July to September, and westward in May to June and October to January, respectively. The seasonal variation in $u'w'$ at this height indicated a clear semiannual oscillation as suggested in Fig. 3. This feature can be seen also in a height range of up to 92 km. On the other hand, $u'w'$ was almost always eastward at 94 km throughout a year.

Figure 4b show results for $v'w'$ and V , in which an annual cycle was recognized for $v'w'$ above 90 km. The meridional wind, V , also shows a clear annual cycle at all heights, but shorter periodicity, such as 4 months, overlaps at 92 and 94 km.

Statistics of $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ shown in Fig. 4 are summarized in Table 1, showing the annual mean value, standard deviation (σ), and the range of variations at five altitudes. $u'w'$ was biased toward east at all heights, with σ ranging from approximately 8 to 17 m² s⁻². However, $v'w'$ was negative (southward) in the entire height ranges.

The half-year cycle of $u'w'$ in Fig. 4 suggests that MSAO is related to gravity waves. We calculated the cross-correlation function (CCF) between $u'w'$ and the eastward wind velocity in Fig. 4. The CCF analysis summarized in Table 2 indicates a clear anti-phase relation between $u'w'$ and U . The large magnitude of negative CCF values was detected with a time lag of 0.0 to 1.0 months. Anti-phase relation between $v'w'$ and V was also seen in Table 2 with a time lag of 0.4 to 2.5 months.

The monthly mean $u'w'$ at 86–92 km altitude in Fig. 4 generally ranged from approximately -25 to +40 m² s⁻² as in Table 1. Using the beam-pair method with the MU radar, Tsuda et al. (1990) reported that mean $u'w'$ at 70 km ranged from approximately -1 to +2 m² s⁻² for perturbations with periods from 5 min to 2 h. If gravity waves do not attenuate through vertical propagation, the magnitude of $u'w'$ increases as $\exp(z/H)$, where z and H are the altitude and the scale height. Assuming H is 6 km, the increase from 70 to 90 km becomes $\exp(20/6) \sim 28$. We can infer that $u'w'$ could range from -28 to +56 m² s⁻², which shows a reasonable agreement with the observed $u'w'$ at 90 km at Koto Tabang.

5 Concluding remarks

In order to test the new method to derive the momentum flux with a meteor radar (Hocking, 2005), we compared $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ at 86–94 km between Koto Tabang and Biak, Indonesia, both located on the Equator. Because these meteor radars have the same observation system, the effects of instrumental bias are minimized, and therefore similarity in the results suggests that statistical errors in the measurements are being overcome.

The $u'w'$ variations agreed reasonably well during the period when the number of bins used to derive $u'w'$ was more than 100. Likewise, $v'w'$ at both sites behaved consistently at successive heights. This suggests that the wave momen-

tum flux was effectively determined by the Hocking method. We also investigated a climatological variation in $u'w'$ and $v'w'$ using the long-term observation data at Koto Tabang in 2002–2013. Spectral analysis of $u'w'$ indicated a semiannual cycle at most heights, which was clearly recognized at 86 and 92 km. The $u'w'$ variation at 86 km altitude showed a clear seasonal variation with eastward (February to April and July to September) and westward (May to June and October to January) directions. As the observation height increased, the amplitude of the seasonal variation in $u'w'$ became small, and $u'w'$ at 94 km height is directed mostly eastward for over a year. The seasonal variation in $v'w'$ was dominated by an annual cycle, in particular above 90 km altitudes. Good (anti-phase) correlation between the seasonal cycle of momentum flux and the mean winds was recognized for both zonal and meridional components.

Although the accuracy of the Hocking method (2005) is controversial (Vincent et al., 2010), we found consistency of the momentum flux observed with two meteor radars in Indonesia, verifying the relevance of this method. Many meteor radars operated worldwide can be used to study the effects of gravity waves in driving the general circulation and long-period oscillations of zonal winds near the mesopause, which will contribute to clarifying atmospheric coupling processes.

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