



Baroclinic closure and stratosphere-troposphere exchange

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Recent work which throws light on the role of water vapour in determining the mean state of the mid-latitude atmosphere will be reviewed. The dominance of the meridional heat flux by large scale eddies led to the neglect of water vapour in many attempts to explain the mean structure of the atmosphere in the baroclinic zone. Taking water vapour into account brings convection into the picture. The convection also impacts on stratosphere troposphere-exchange.