Changes in action of atmospheric blockings

I.I. Mokhov, A.A. Vetrova

A.M. Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics RAS, Moscow, Russia
mokhov@ifaran.ru

Changes in atmospheric blockings action $S$ for the Northern Hemisphere during 1968-2007 were analyzed (Mokhov, 1999; Mokhov, 2006a,b).

Action $S$ of individual climate structure, in particular for atmospheric blocking, is defined as $\int E(t)dt$, where integration on time $t$ is performed from 0 to $\tau$, $\tau$ – vortex life time, $E$ – blocking energy. Kinetic energy of extratropical (geostrophical) vortex can be expressed via $(\Delta P)^2$, where $\Delta P$ is a pressure difference between centre and periphery of the vortex (Akperov et al., 2007; Golitsyn et al., 2007). Integral action $S$ for ensemble of vortices is defined by the sum of values of action for individual vortices.

Action $S$ of individual blockings was estimated as proportional to $I^2 \tau$ with mean intensity $I$ ($I$ related with $\Delta P$) and duration $\tau$ of blocking determined according to Wiedenmann et al. (2002).

Figure 1 shows changes of atmospheric blockings action $S$ (normalized on the mean value for 1971-2000) in the Northern Hemisphere during 1968-2007 for annual means, winter and summer. General increase of $S$ during last decades is accompanying by significant interannual variations especially during last years. Tendency of the increase during last decades (at least since1980s with a general warming) was obtained in the Northern Hemisphere for all seasons but with different level of significance. The most significant trend of $S$ was estimated for spring season.

It should be noted that the most significant mean contribution to the annual blockings action is associated with winter season. The least values of $S$ were obtained for summer season. Extreme value of $S$ in summer was noted in 2003. This summer was extremely warm in Europe (with drought and fire conditions related with blocking conditions).

This study was supported by the RFBR and RAS programs.

References


Figure 1. Changes of atmospheric blockings action (normalized on the mean value for 1971-2000) in the Northern Hemisphere during 1968-2007 for annual means (a), winter (b) and summer (c).