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Article

Atmospheric and ionospheric effects of La Palma volcano 2021 eruption

Hanshuo Zhang ¹, Kaiguang Zhu ¹, Yuqi Cheng ^{1,*}, Dedalo Marchetti ^{1,*}, Wenqi Chen ¹, Mengxuan Fan, ¹ Siyu Wang ¹, Ting Wang ¹, Donghua Zhang ¹ and Yiqun Zhang ¹

¹ College of Instrumentation and Electrical Engineering, Jilin University, Changchun 130061, China; zhanghs6518@mails.jlu.edu.cn (H.Z.); zhukaiguang@jlu.edu.cn (K.Z.); chengyuqi@jlu.edu.cn (C.Y.); dedalomarchetti@jlu.edu.cn (D.M.); wqchen21@mails.jlu.edu.cn (W.C.); mxfan19@mails.jlu.edu.cn (M.F.); siyuw22@mails.jlu.edu.cn (S.W.); tingwang20@mails.jlu.edu.cn (T.W.); zhangdh6518@mails.jlu.edu.cn (D.Z.); yiqun21@mails.jlu.edu.cn (Y.Z.);

* Correspondence: dedalomarchetti@jlu.edu.cn (D.M.); chengyuqi@jlu.edu.cn (C.Y.).

Abstract: On 19 September 2021, La Palma volcano (Canarias Archipelagos) started an eruption that persisted until 13 December 2021. Despite the Volcano Explosive Index (VEI) being estimated equal to 3, corresponding to not so powerful eruption, the long eruption activity posed much scientific interest in this natural hazard event. In this paper, we searched for possible effects of this eruption on the atmosphere and ionosphere, investigating the climatological archive and Swarm magnetic satellite data. In particular, we explored Aerosol, Sulphur Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide concentrations in the atmosphere identifying both the direct emissions from the volcano as well as the plume that drifted toward West-South-West and was reinforced during the eruption period. The vertical profile of temperature from the Saber satellite was analysed to search for the possible presence of acoustic gravity waves induced by volcanic activity. Compared with the year before without eruption in the areas, a lot of Saber profiles present an Energy Potential very much higher than the previous year, proposing the presence of Acoustic Gravity Waves (AGW) induced by volcano eruption activity. We also identified Swarm magnetic disturbances on the day of the eruption and in November. The mechanism of coupling could be different for the latter one, as there is no evidence for AGW. They may be due to a more complex of physical and chemical alterations that propagate from the lower atmosphere to the upper one into the ionosphere.

Keywords: La Palma; volcano eruption; lithosphere; atmosphere; ionosphere; AGW; LAIC

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction and motivation of the work

La Palma volcano started an eruption from the Cumbre Vieja vent on 19 September 2021 [1]. Some papers refer to this eruption also with the name Tajogaite [2]. In fact, the name of La Palma is referred the whole volcanic island, which has an extremely long eruptive history [3]. Cumbre Vieja and Tajogaite refer to more local volcanos on the Southern side of La Palma Island. The eruption was estimated as Volcanic Explosive Index (VEI) equal to 3. Such intensity is not so high, but surprisingly the eruption activity, including lava outflow of about 12 km², persisted for several months [4]. Our previous work concentrated on the study of the unrest of the volcano, investigating the lithosphere, atmosphere and ionosphere from six months or more before the eruption [5]. We clearly identified a migration of seismicity from a depth of about 40 km one year before up to a few km of depth in the days preceding the eruption. This seismic activity can underline the magma uplift, which firstly filled a magmatic deep (between ~20 km and 13km) chamber 10 months before the eruption and a smaller magmatic chamber placed a few km under

the Earth's surface in the last 10 days before the event. We also identified possible lithosphere atmosphere and ionosphere couplings (LAIC) phenomena explainable with pure electromagnetic interaction channel (as, for example, the theory of Molchanov and Hayakawa [6] or Freund [7]) or a more complex chain of anomalies in the geo-layers that requires several days of interactions as predicted by Pulinets and Ouzounov [8,9]. From the empirical pieces of evidence seems that both theories may explain different ways of coupling between the geo-layers.

1.2. Brief overview of previous studies about La Palma volcano eruption 2021

Several studies investigated the unrest of La Palma volcano as well as the dynamic and geophysical, and geochemical characteristics of the eruption itself. Torres-González et al. [10] backtracked the first seismic swarm in October 2017 and February 2018 at a depth of about 25 km, suggesting this as the first unrest of La Palma volcano after 46 years of quiescence. They also identified gas emissions (e.g., Helium and carbon dioxide) associated with such seismic swarms and explained these activities as a refilling of a deep magmatic chamber. Variations of isotopic composition and gases in groundwater before the 2021 eruption synchronously with seismic swarms have been reported by Amonte et al. [11]. The presence of a deep chamber as well as a possibly complex system of dikes has been confirmed by Di Paolo et al. [12], which made a magnetotelluric investigation of La Palma Island, providing an interesting resistivity map of the lithosphere. Padrón et al. [13] also investigated the gases emission, and in particular the ratio between ^3He and ^4He and confirmed the identification. Finally, D'Auria et al. [14] identified a rapid ascension of the magma in the last 7 days before the start of the eruption from a precise relocalisation of the earthquakes. They also provided shreds of evidence that there was a continuous interaction and uplift of magma from the mantle during the 85 days of eruption filling the magma plumbing system at several depths from 20 km to shallow magma chamber. The complex magmatic plumbing system under La Palma volcano has been widely investigated by del Fresno et al. in their recent paper [15]

Romerero et al. [16] studied the first phase of the 2021 eruption, identifying that after the initial activities of the volcano on 19 September 2021, a collapse of the west flank of the edifice occurred on 25 September 2021. After the collapse, there was a temporary reduction in the amount of lava erupted daily, associated with discharging of the shallow magma chamber, and later the volcano activity raised back to previous eruption levels following the same vent until it ceased on 13 December 2021. Bonadonna et al. [17] deeply investigated the material emitted in the form of rock from a volcano explosion (tephra) and compared it with the lava outflow. They also estimated an altitude of the plume of ashes and tephra within 1 and 6 km above sea level, with the mean height of the plume that reduced along the months (from ~4km at the end of September to ~2km at the mid of December, i.e., the end of the eruption).

Other researches focused on multiple varieties of La Palma 2021 volcano eruption, including the actions of tidal sea variation on the volcano system [18], impact on the air quality [19], petrographic and mineralogic investigations of the emitted materials [3,20] and seismological investigations [21].

1.3. Lithosphere atmosphere and ionosphere coupling associated with natural hazards

Several theories and empirical evidences proposed Lithosphere Atmosphere Ionosphere Coupling (LAIC) in the occasion of earthquakes and volcano eruptions (e.g., [22,23]). The coupling is to be intended as a transmission of perturbations or signals from the bottom layers towards the upper ones. The opposite coupling is also possible, for example, in the case of the impact of Sun's particles in Earth's geomagnetic field as during a geomagnetic storm (as the case of 26 August 2018 studied by Spogli et al. [24]) or interaction of pulsation of the magnetosphere that propagates in ionosphere up to Earth's surface, like Pi2 (as the case reported by Ghamry et al. [25]). Despite this, in this paper, we

concern only with coupling from the bottom (lithosphere) to the upper layers (atmosphere and ionosphere).

In particular, several mechanisms have been proposed for the coupling:

- A pure electromagnetic channel. In this case, electromagnetic (EM) waves are supposed to be generated by the separation of electrical charges due to micro-fracturing at fault level. Such EM waves can be potentially detected at ground level and ionosphere [6,26]. Another more recent explanation of seismo-electromagnetic phenomena relies on the generation of positive charges (p-holes) due to the stress increase, which is supposed to break peroxy links in the rocks [7,27]. Accumulation of p-holes at Earth's surface may induce ionospheric perturbations (such as plasma bubbles) as a consequence of alteration of atmospheric and ionospheric electrical circuits as simulated by Kuo et al. [28]
- A mix of chemical and physical processes. This mechanism involves more observable and has been proposed by Pulinets and Ouzounov [8]. The key phenomenon is the air ionisation induced by radon release. A similar action may also be induced by p-holes instead of radon. The consequences of the air ionisation would be an increase of temperature at Earth surface associated with a drop of humidity (for hydration of ionised particles in the air), formation of clouds, thermal emission (detected as Outgoing Longwave radiation) and electromagnetic alteration of the atmospheric and ionospheric global circuit [29,30].
- Acoustic gravity waves. Such mechanism has been demonstrated to occur during a volcano eruption [31] and earthquake occurrence [32], but it's debated if it could happen before an eruption or earthquake. The source mechanism is the explosion of the volcano that generates mechanical pressure waves in the atmosphere or seismic shaking of the ground. Such waves propagated vertical combined in the gravity field and so they combined an acoustic and gravity wave [33].

The existence of these LAIC phenomena, especially before the earthquake, is debated, and certain researchers propose that the empirical evidences are by chance before the specific events [34]. Despite this, a lot of recent studies identify not only empirical evidences before volcano eruptions [23,35–38] and earthquakes [39–48] but also statistical evidences [49–53].

In particular, in our previous work on activity before La Palma volcano eruption [5], we proposed that several channels of LAIC can coexist and describe different ways of geophysical interaction. A similar claim has been proposed by Zhang et al. [54], investigating in a systematic way the months that preceded the Mw6.7 Lushan (China) 2013 earthquake, identifying a clear chain of anomalies in the lithosphere atmosphere and ionosphere but with different LAIC mechanisms.

2. Materials and Methods

In this section, we illustrated specific methods used in this paper and further details are provided in the results sections.

2.1. Vertical temperature profiles to search for acoustic gravity waves

To estimate the Energy potential related to the Acoustic gravity wave, we retrieved the data from satellite SABER and applied the method proposed and used by several authors, including another paper in this Special Issue [55–58]. Essentially the temperature profiles are retrieved from satellite observation. This means that the line of view depends on satellite's orbit, and any day the point of observation is potentially different. The temperature vertical profile between 20 km and 150 km is retrieved, and according to previous studies, the section from 30 to 50 km is investigated. A polynomial fit of the third degree is performed on the temperature profile "T₀" and subtracted to obtain "T_p". We calculated the classic two quantities, i.e., the Brunt-Väisälä frequency "N" and Energy potential "E_p":

$$N^2 = \frac{g}{T_0} \cdot \left(\left| \frac{\partial T_0}{\partial z} \right| + \frac{g}{c_p} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$E_p = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{g}{N}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{T_p}{T_0}\right)^2 \quad (2)$$

where “ c_p ” is the heat capacity of dry air at constant pressure and set at 1006 J/K/kg; z is the altitude, and g is the gravity acceleration that we estimated considering the Earth mass $M_E = 5.97 \cdot 10^{24}$ kg and the universal constant of gravity $G = 6.67 \cdot 10^{-11}$ m³/kg/s²:

$$g = \frac{G \cdot M_E}{r^2} \quad (3)$$

r is the radius equal to the sum of Earth’s mean radius (6371 km) and altitude.

To define if the value of energy potential in 2021 was anomalous or not, we compared it with the same one in a comparison year (in this case the previous one, i.e., 2020). In particular, we estimated the mean “ μ ” and standard deviation “ σ ” of E_p in the same area and the same month during the comparison year and we define a threshold equal to $\mu + 2\sigma$. If a value overpasses such a threshold, we consider this value anomalous. This definition is different from the one used in the previous paper, but it’s considered to be more restrictive as the cited work used only a mean and not standard deviation, even if on more years of comparisons (e.g., [55]).

2.2. Atmospheric time series

The atmospheric time series of Aerosol, SO₂ and CO parameters have been investigated using a well-established algorithm MEANS [59] developed to investigate earthquakes and volcanoes. The purpose of MEANS is to determine the typical value of the atmospheric parameter in terms of mean and standard deviation for the specific day and region to define the so-called historical time series. If the year of investigation exceeded the mean plus or minus 2 standard deviations, then the particular day can be considered anomalous. Such an approach was derived from another very similar algorithm, CAPRI [60], with the main difference being the data source: MEANS investigate the climatological archive of MERRA-2 from NASA [61] (the one used in this paper) and CAPRI ERA-Interim and operational archive from ECMWF. Such algorithms have been successfully applied to several earthquakes in the world as well as volcano eruptions [39,54,59,60,62,63].

2.3. Swarm ionospheric magnetic data processing

Magnetic data from the Swarm satellite mission have been investigated to search for possible ionospheric anomalies induced by the La Palma volcano eruption. Swarm is a three-identical satellite (called Alpha, Bravo and Charlie) mission launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in November 2013 and still in orbit and is now planned to complete at least one solar cycle (11 year), extending its initial planned life of 4 years. Each satellite is equipped with several payloads as fluxgate magnetometers, absolute scalar magnetometers, Langmuir Probe, Thermal Ion Imager, accelerometers and GNSS receivers. In this paper, we analysed the data provided at precise o’clock GPS time with a frequency of 1Hz from Vectorial Field Magnetometer (VFM) and Absolute Scalar Magnetometer (ASM) instruments. For Charlie spacecraft, we calculated the scalar intensity as the vectorial sum of the three components due to the malfunction of its ASM.

The investigation of the data is based on the MASS algorithm fully described in De Santis et al. [49,64,65] and in Appendix B of Marchetti et al. [5]. It essentially removed the background field by approximative the time derivative of the data and removing a cubic spline. What is obtained is called residual signal, and it’s plotted for X-North, Y-East, Z-center and F-scalar components of the magnetic field. To search for eventual anomaly, a moving window of 3° latitudinal length is used. The root means square rms inside the window is compared with the Root Mean Square RMS of the whole track from -50° to +50°N geomagnetic latitude (shown in the upper panel), and if $rms > kt \times RMS$, the window is defined as anomalous. Here, we set $kt = 2.5$. This threshold is the one that statistically was found optimal for worldwide correlation investigations [49,50].

3. Results

In this section, we present the results of investigations of the lithosphere atmosphere and ionosphere during the eruption of La Palma volcano 2021, i.e., from 19 September to 31 December.

3.1. Results of the lithosphere

The lithosphere is investigated by looking at the earthquake localised by IGN. We retrieved the earthquake catalogue in the box delimited by $20^{\circ}\text{W} \leq \text{longitude} \leq 12^{\circ}\text{W}$ and $26^{\circ}\text{N} \leq \text{latitude} \leq 31^{\circ}\text{N}$ from 19 September to 31 December 2021. Then we selected only the events that occurred inside La Palma Island (or immediately outside, considering a circular area), and we plotted their epicentres in Figure 1 with the help of ZMap software [66]. The Northern side of the island is not represented because no earthquake was localised there in this period. We also noted that the Northern side of La Palma is the higher altitude and corresponds to the most ancient volcanic activity. So, it's reasonable that no seismicity has been detected on the North side.

To better understand the evolution of the underground activity during the eruption, we plotted the depth distribution versus the origin time of the earthquakes in Figure 2. Several considerations can be drawn from this picture: 1) the seismicity has been recorded mainly into two distinct depth ranges: from 40 to 30 km and from 15 to 8 km. 2) higher magnitude events occurred in the deeper section, and generally the magnitude is smaller as closer to the Earth's surface; 3) some seismicity has been recorded in the middle or in the shallow section of the crust and the first one may underline a transfer of magma from deep chamber or mantle in shallower reservoirs, while the second one could underline the immediately pre-effusion of the lava from the volcano vent; 4) in the last period from the first part of December the deep seismicity reduced and after the half of December also the shallow seismicity decreased underlying the end of the eruption activity. The reduction of seismicity in the last part of the graph is in agreement with the previous investigations and the fact that the eruption activity ended on 13 December 2021 [14,21].

Comparing with the earthquake recorded before the eruption, higher magnitude events occurred during the eruption. In fact, in the pre-eruption year maximum magnitude was 3.5 (shown in [5]), while during the eruption, some events of magnitude 4.9 have been reported.

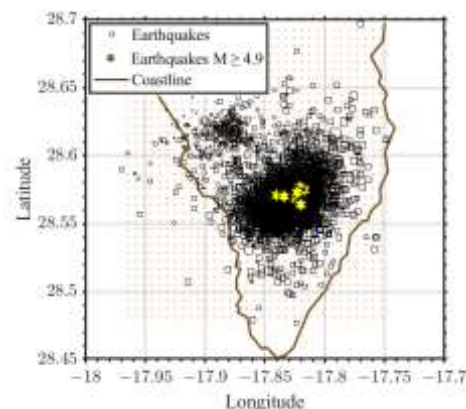


Figure 1. Map of the localisation of the earthquakes from 19 September 2021 until 31 December 2021 in La Palma Island.

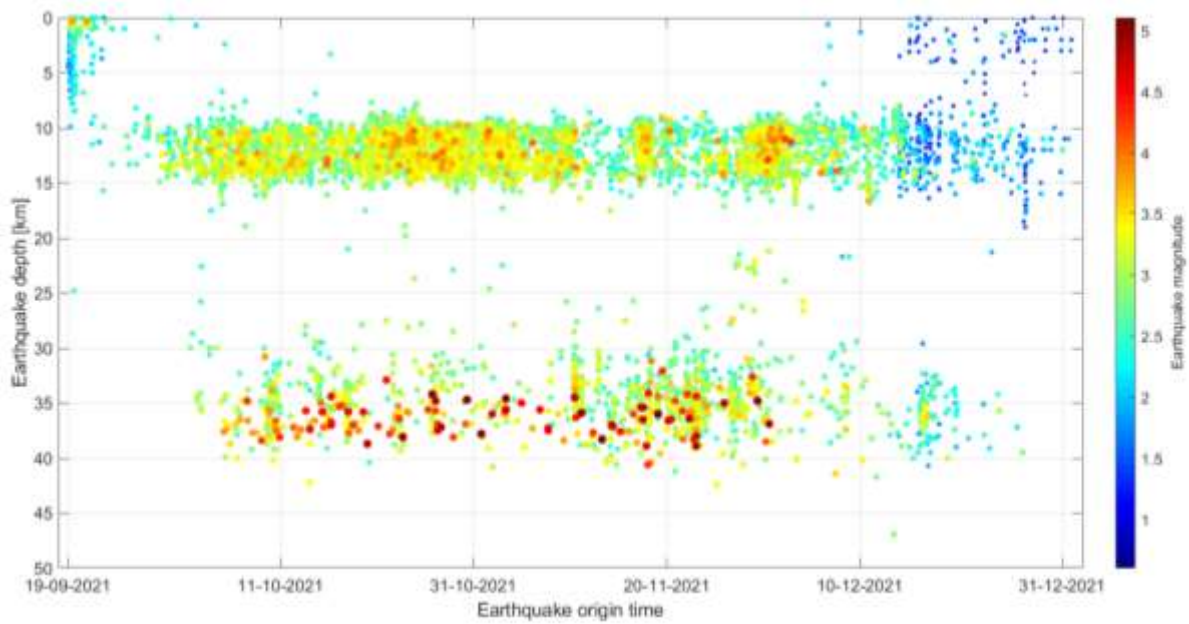


Figure 2. Earthquake depth versus origin time. The colour and size of each dot represent the earthquake magnitude.

3.2. Results of atmosphere

3.2.1. Research of possible acoustic gravity wave signature in vertical temperature profiles and comparison with Aerosol, SO₂ and CO maps on the same days

In this section, we present the investigation of vertical temperature profiles acquired by the SAbre satellite instrument and we retrieved the Energy potential related to the acoustic gravity wave as explained in the Method section. We presented all the obtained results, including atmospheric and ionospheric Swarm investigation in Table 1. Here we present some more interesting days, such as the 19 September 2021, i.e., the start of the eruption, 21 and 25 September 2021 in Figure 3. We show the corresponding maps of Aerosol, SO₂ and CO on the same days in Figure 4. For October, we selected a particular day with a high value of Energy potential and correspondence with the volcano or the plume on the 9, 20 and 24 October 2021, showing the results in Figure 5 and 6. November 2021 presented extremely high values of Energy potential very much higher than the comparison year and in particular the 10 and 13 November 2021. Together with 2 November, which shows some peculiarities, we present the graphs and maps in Figure 7 and 8, respectively.

We don't select any day of December 2021 as the vertical profiles don't present anomalous values (with very few exceptions). This is in agreement with the fact that in December the eruption was at its ending phase and stopped completely after 13 December 2021.

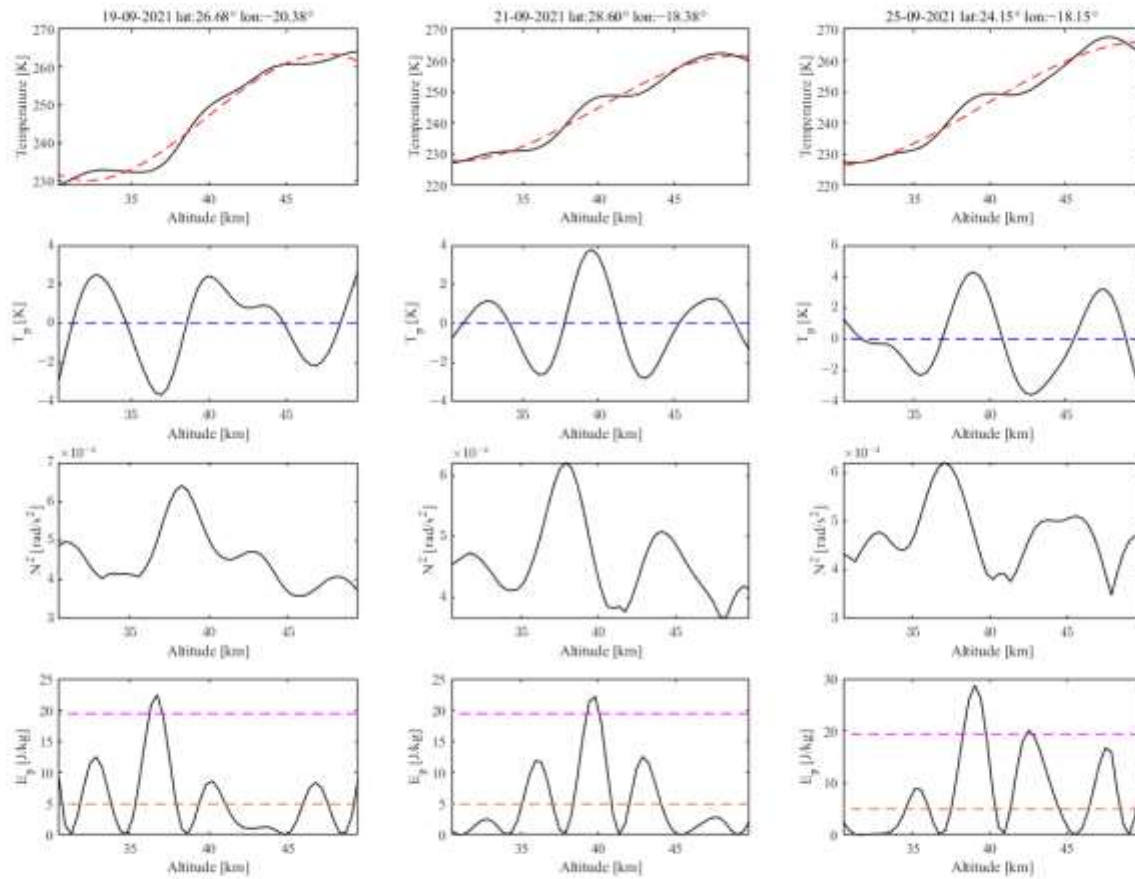
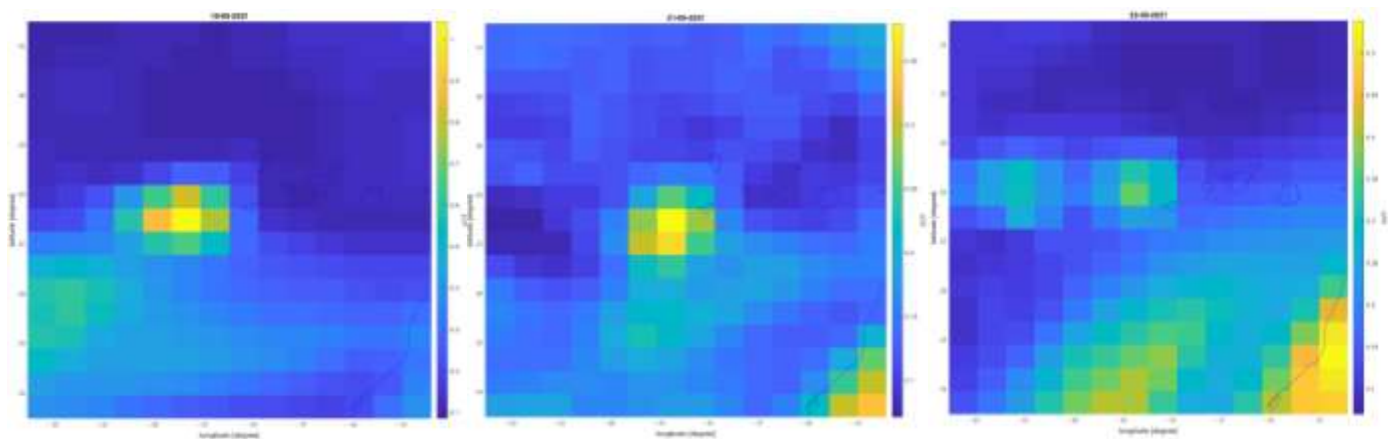


Figure 3. Temperature vertical profile in Kelvin (black solid curve) with 3rd order polynomial fitted value (red dashed curve), perturbation temperature T_p (solid black curve) around reference level (blue dashed line), Brunt Vaisala Frequency N^2 in rad/s^2 , calculated potential energy E_p in J/kg , and threshold E_p (The orange dotted line is the mean of previous years, and the purple dotted line is the mean plus two standard deviations) from 30 to 50 km on 19-09-2021, 21-09-2021 and 25-09-2021.



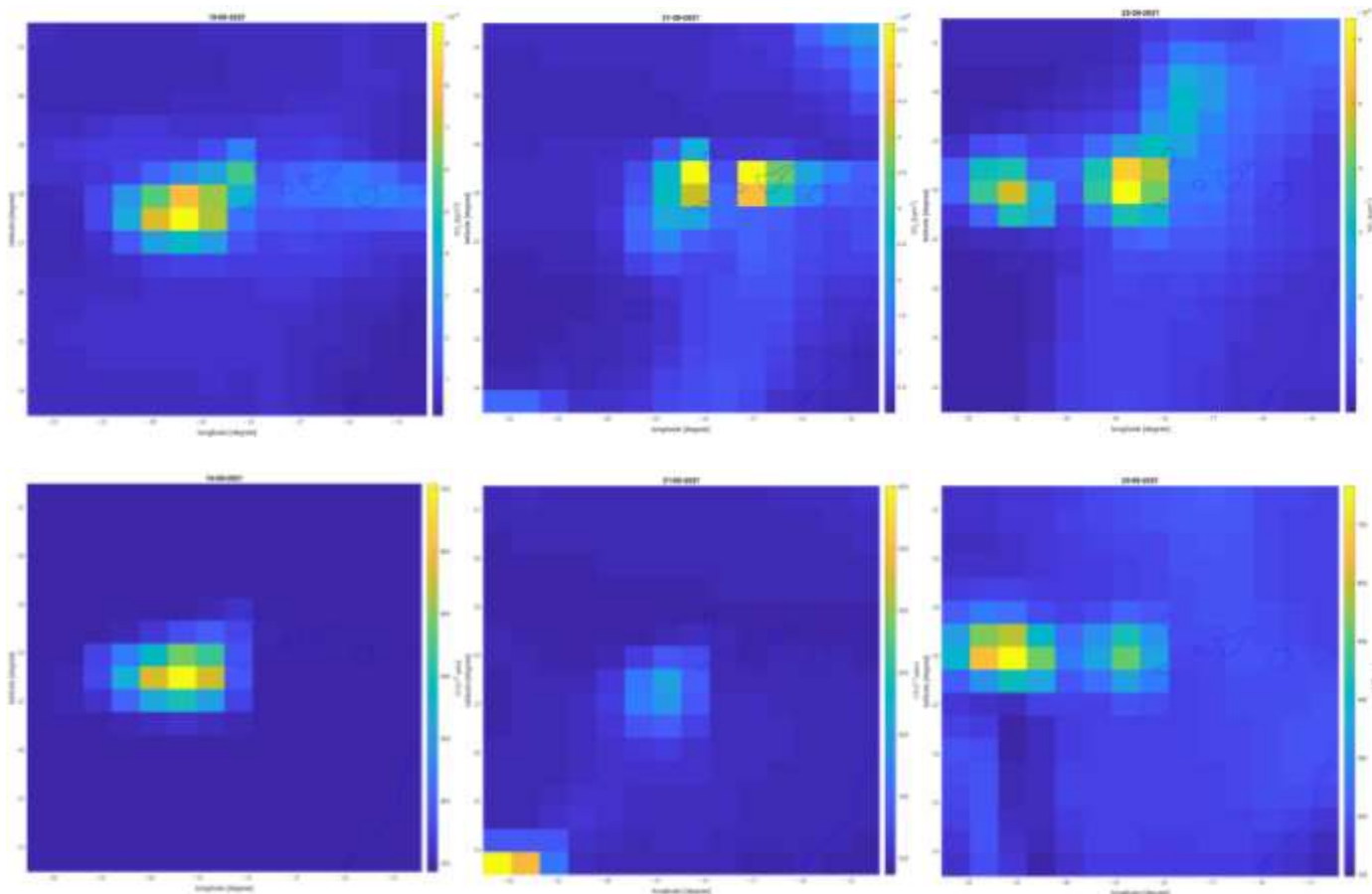


Figure 4. Distribution maps of AOT, SO₂ and CO on 19-09-2021,21-09-2021 and 25-09-2021.

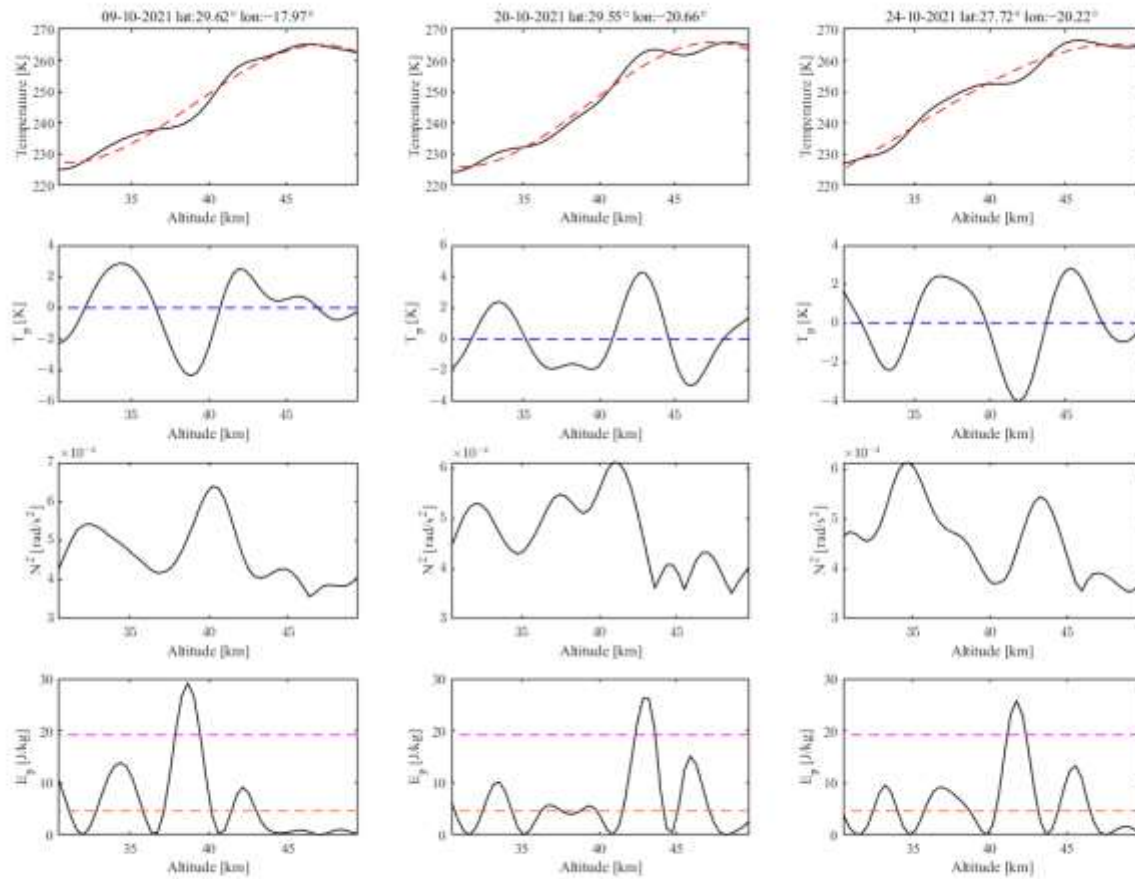
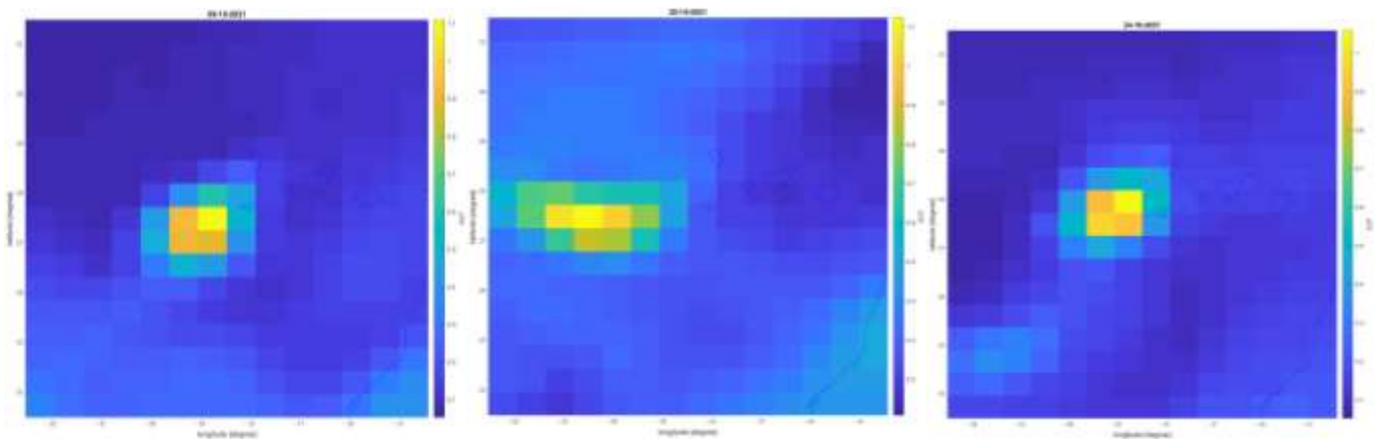


Figure 5. Temperature vertical profile in Kelvin (black solid curve) with 3rd order polynomial fitted value (red dashed curve), perturbation temperature T_p (solid black curve) around reference level (blue dashed line), Brunt Vaisala Frequency N^2 in rad/s^2 , calculated potential energy E_p in J/kg , and threshold E_p (The orange dotted line is the mean of previous years, and the purple dotted line is the mean plus two standard deviations) from 30 to 50 km on 09-10-2021, 20-10-2021 and 24-10-2021.



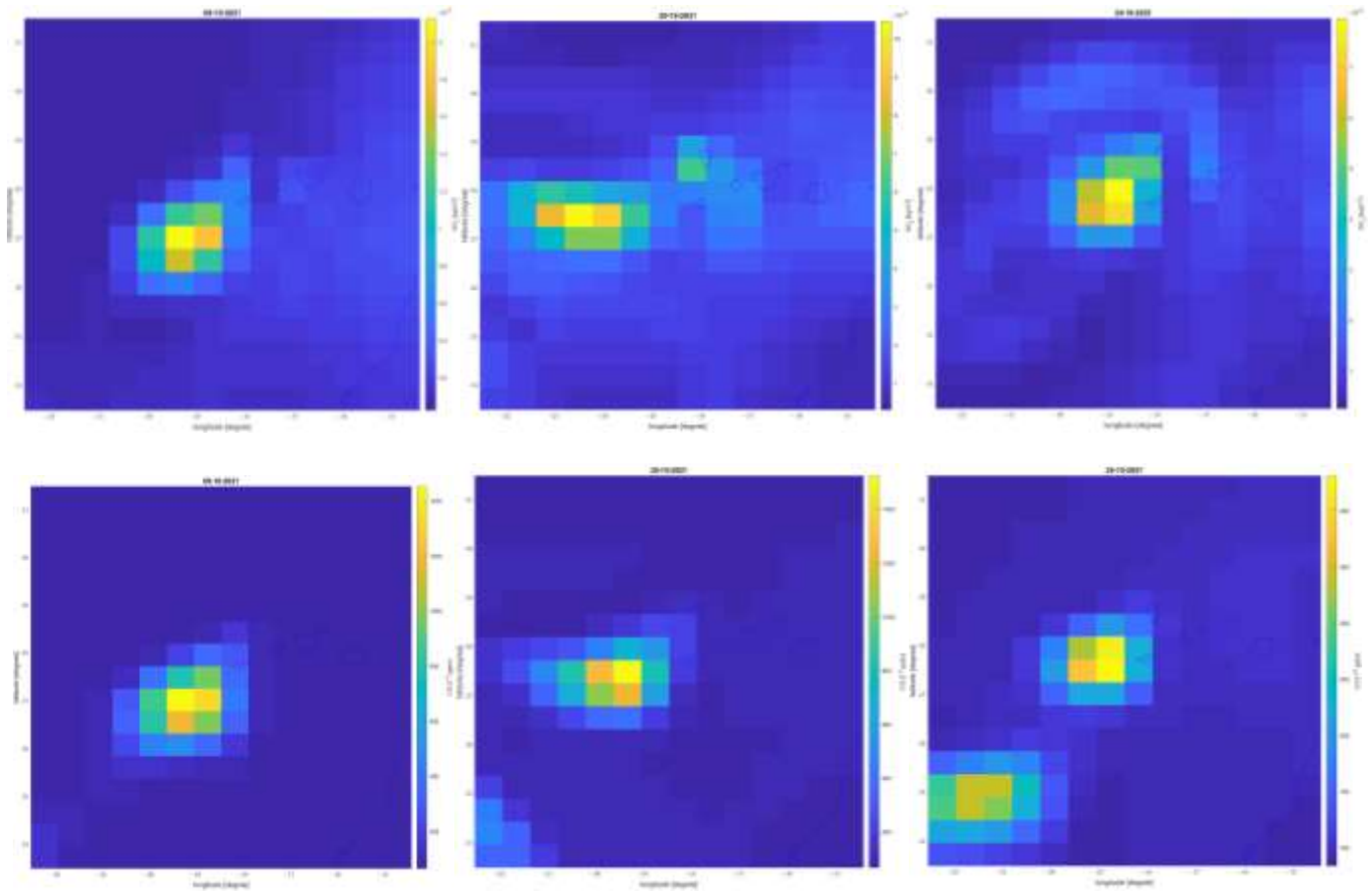


Figure 6. Distribution maps of AOT, SO₂ and CO on 09-10-2021, 20-10-2021 and 24-10-2021.

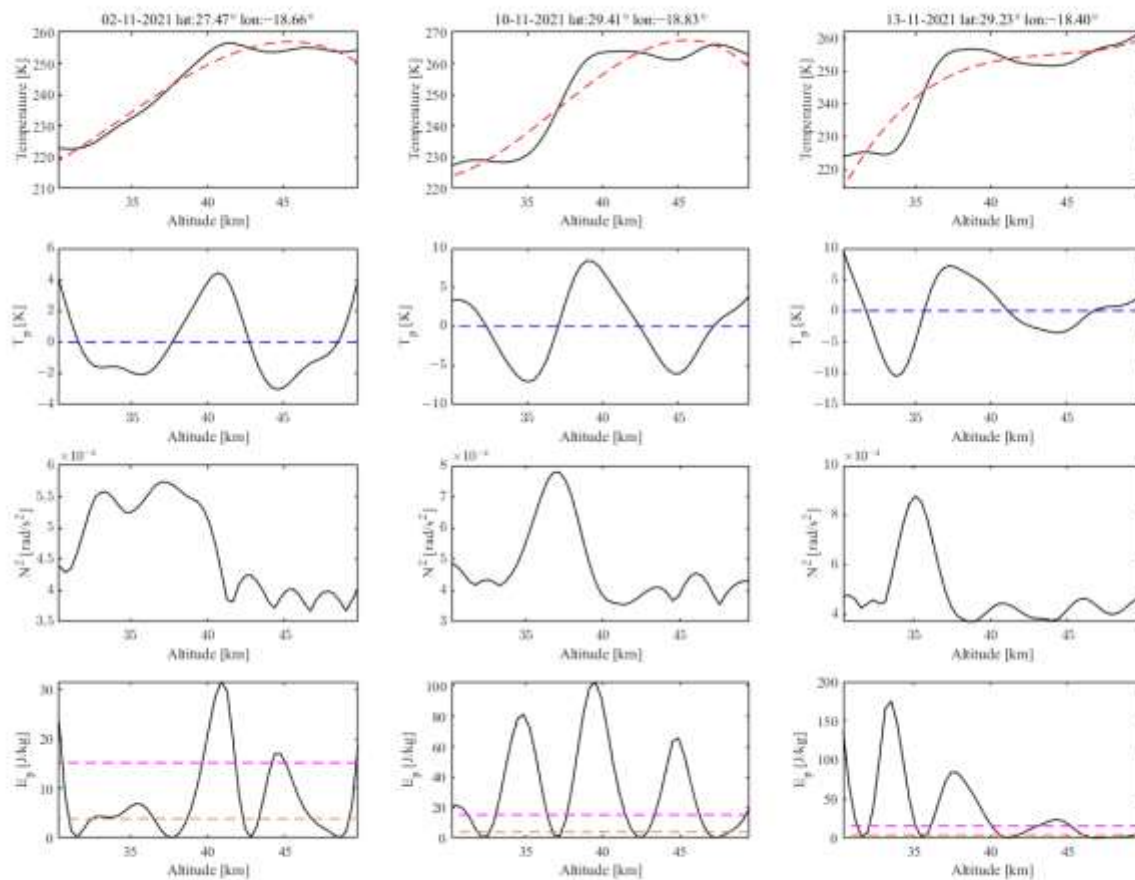
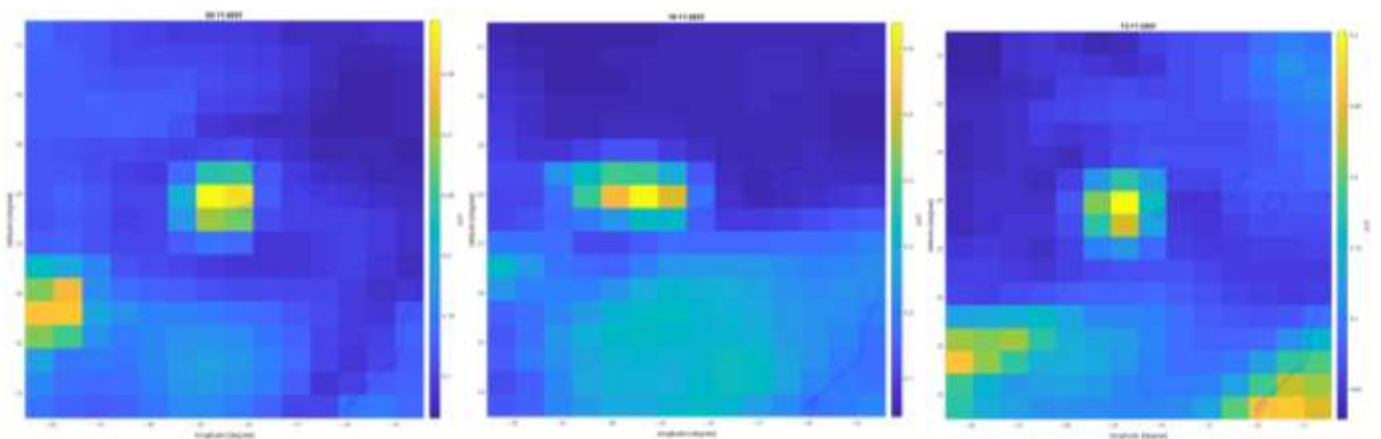


Figure 7. Temperature vertical profile in Kelvin (black solid curve) with 3rd order polynomial fitted value (red dashed curve), perturbation temperature T_p (solid black curve) around reference level (blue dashed line), Brunt Vaisala Frequency N^2 in rad/s^2 , calculated potential energy E_p in J/kg , and threshold E_p (The orange dotted line is the mean of previous years, and the purple dotted line is the mean plus two standard deviations) from 30 to 50 km on 02-11-2021, 10-11-2021 and 13-11-2021.



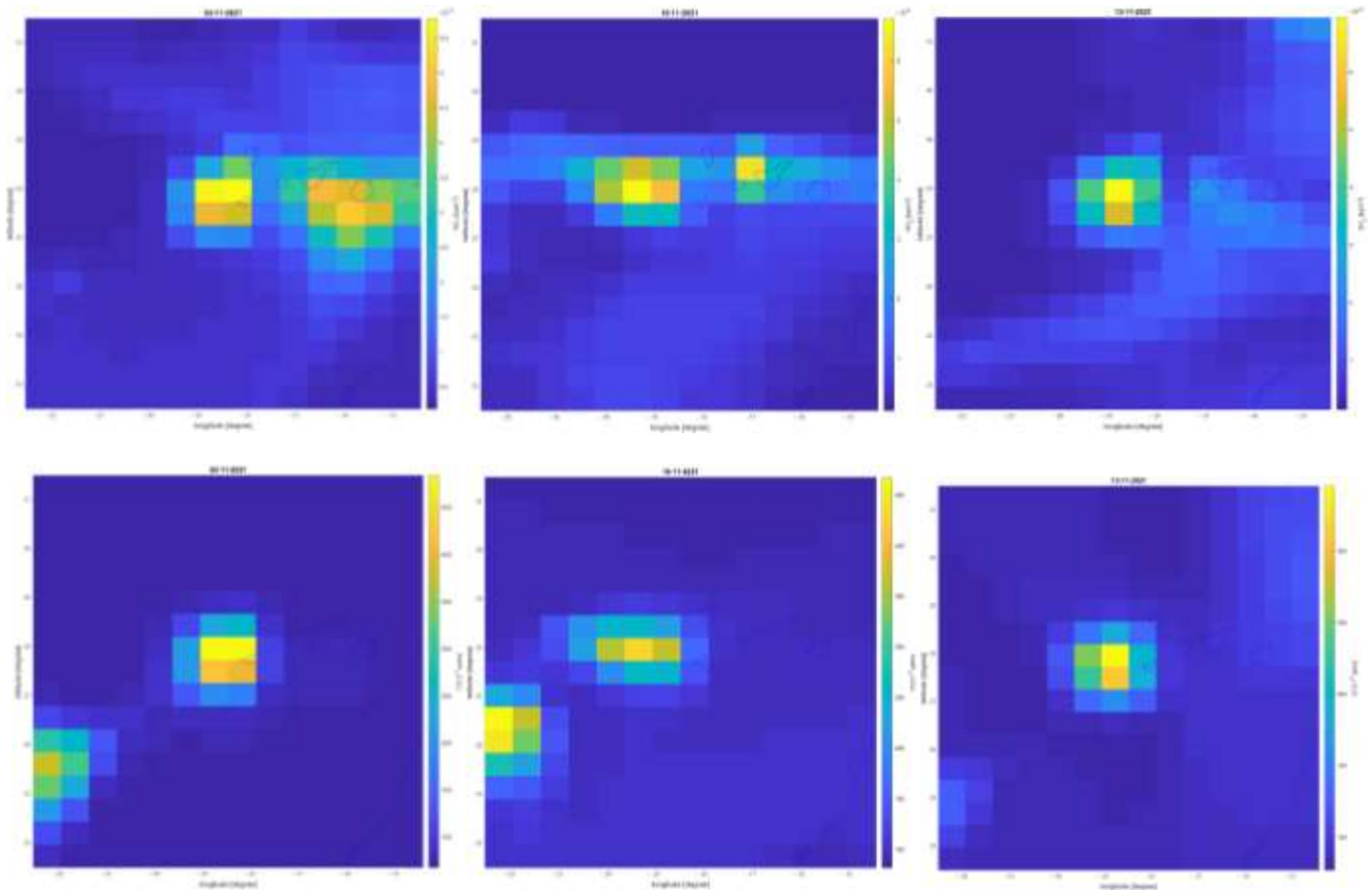


Figure 8. Distribution maps of AOT, SO₂ and CO on 02-11-2021,10-11-2021 and 13-11-2021.

3.2.2. Investigation of the evolution of the volcanic plume

In this section, we investigate the maps of Aerosol, SO₂ and CO, searching automatically to identify the volcanic plume. In particular, we extracted the maximum value of the atmospheric parameters, the area of the plume (see Figure 9) and the position of the maximum value (see Figure 10).

Each parameter has been investigated in the box delimited by $22^{\circ}\text{W} \leq \text{longitude} \leq 14^{\circ}\text{W}$ and $23^{\circ}\text{N} \leq \text{latitude} \leq 32^{\circ}\text{N}$. The maximum value is the original maximum value of the map. For the research of its position and the extension of the plume, the data have been firstly interpolated to increase of 4 times the spatial resolution and after the 2 quantities are extracted. In particular, the area is computed by counting all the pixels that have a value equal to or greater than half of the maximum value (of the original image). So the area is to be considered equivalent to FWHM (Full Width Half Maximum).

The time series of the estimation of the area of the plume is cut off after 13 December 2021, as after the eruption, the obtained values were unrealistic. In fact, as the value is determined as the number of pixels that are higher or equal to half of the maximum value in the box, then a low maximum value decreases the general threshold counting pixels that are unrelated to the volcano.

In the time series of maximum values of the three atmospheric parameters, it's still possible to confirm that after the last half of December their values were significantly lower following the end of the eruption. Larger peaks in the time series of the area in December 2021 correspond to a dilution of the plume in the wide area, increasing its dimensions, but as it's associated with lower maximum values, it doesn't correspond to an increase in volcano activity.

From the map of Figure 10, it's possible to note that most of the points are located in the West-South-West of La Palma volcano, indicating that the trend (due to the wind) was

to transport the volcanic plume above this side that corresponded to the central Atlantic Ocean.

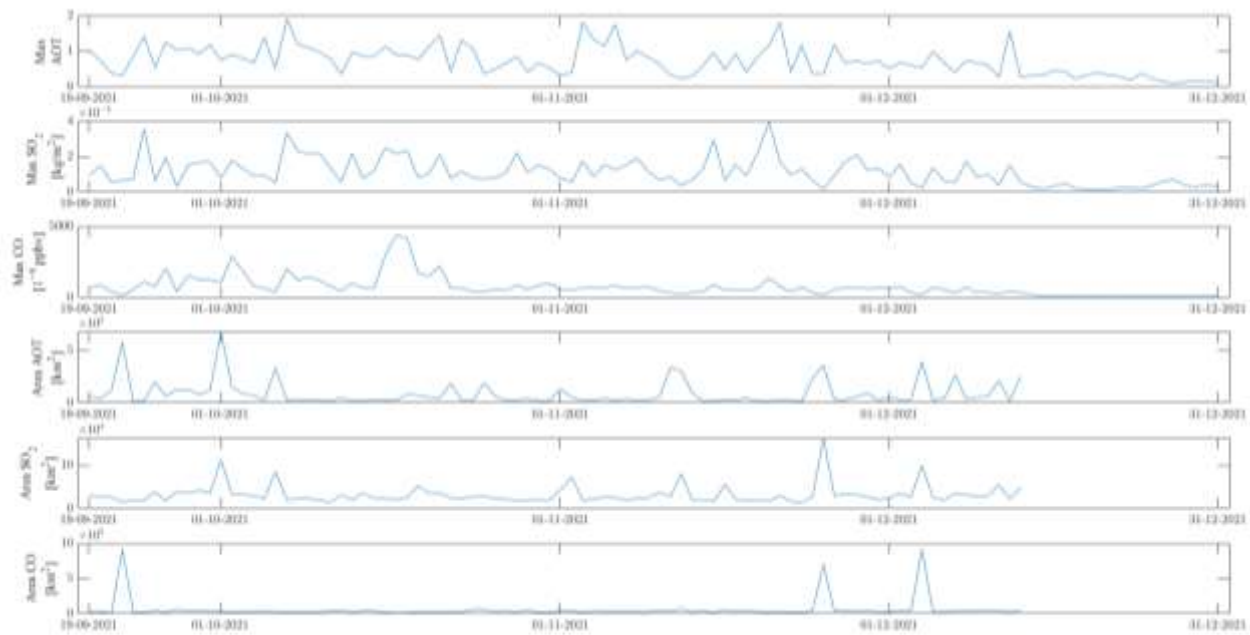


Figure 9. Variations over time of maximum value and extension area (half-maximum area) of Aerosol, SO₂ and CO were recorded in the studied region. Time series are plotted from 19 September to 31 December 2021. The time series of the estimation of the area of the plume is performed only during the eruption, i.e., from 19 September to 13 December 2021.

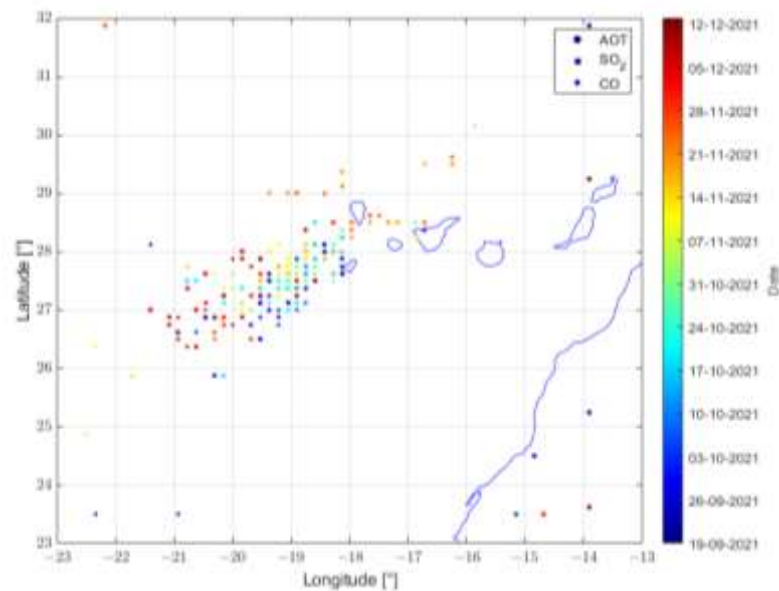


Figure 10. Map of the interpolated maximum value of Aerosol, SO₂ and CO. The time of acquisition of the data is represented with colour.

3.2.3. Atmospheric time series

Here we present the results of the application of the MEANS algorithm to the aerosol, SO₂ and CO parameters retrieved from MERRA-2 in Figures 11, 12, 13, respectively. All the parameters present anomalous values which underline the substances emitted by the volcano in the atmosphere. In particular, the most anomalous is the carbon monoxide

(CO) which is always above the thresholds until November and in December 2021 it went back inside the typical value for this region. This is well in agreement with the seismicity trend shown in Figure 2.

For the aerosol time series, it's outstanding to note that the anomalous days tend to concentrate in the first half of the time series, as visible in Figure 11. A similar consideration can be drawn out for SO₂, but in this case, the value presents more anomalies for a longer time. In fact, the last larger anomaly was recorded on 21 November 2021, and smaller anomalies can be depicted on 23 and 24 November and isolated one on 13 and 28 December 2021.

The aspect of the CO time series of Figure 13 is very peculiar, and this is due to the fact that background is calculated in years without eruption, and so the value during the eruption is extremely higher than the typical one for this region (and time). This is the reason why the algorithm MEANS automatically checks for possible outliers in the background year that generally are due to volcanic eruptions and excludes such a year from the historical mean [59]. Despite this, the year that must be investigated is always excluded from the background, and in this case, this study coincides with the La Palma eruption. At the same time, even though Aerosol and SO₂ didn't present such extreme values also, CO concentration after the end of the eruption in December decreased inside the typical values (i.e., inside 2 standard deviations of historical values).

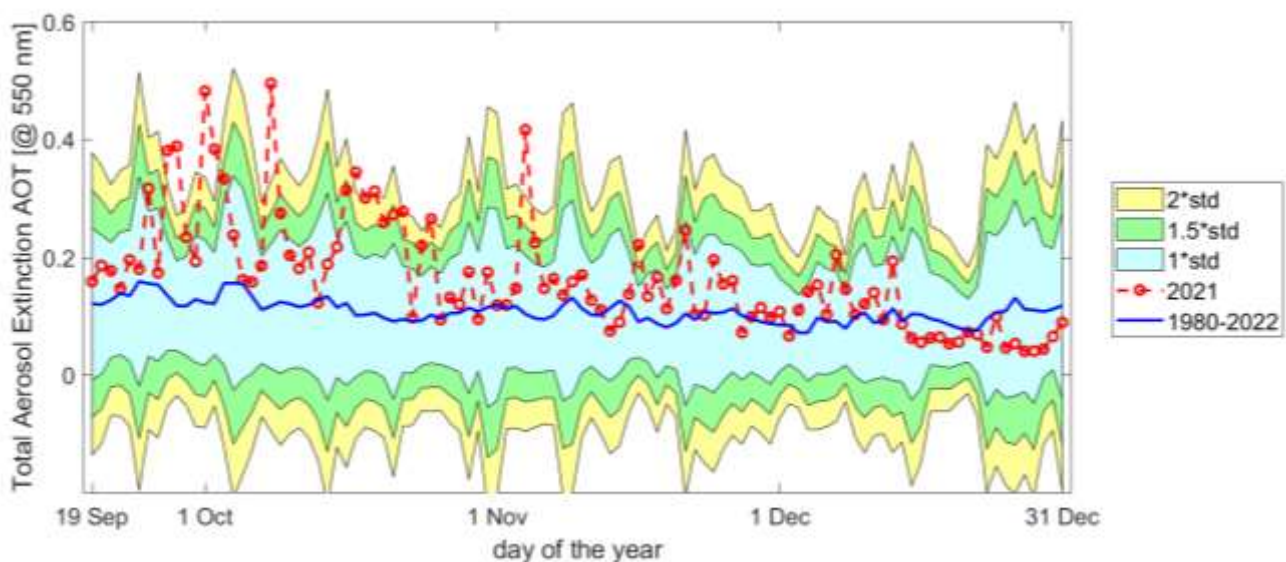


Figure 11. Time series of aerosol from 19 September to 31 December 2021 compared with historical time series. The years of 1980 and 1987 have been automatically excluded for the presence of outliers in the original data.

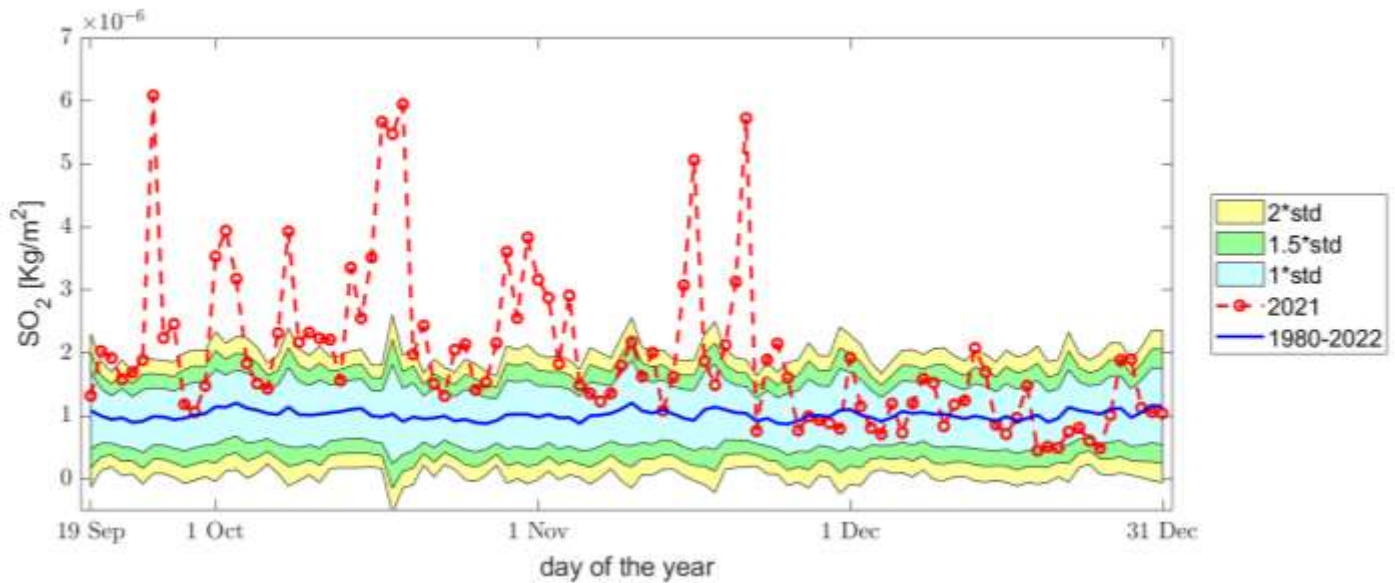


Figure 12. Time series of SO_2 from 19 September to 31 December 2021 compared with historical time series.

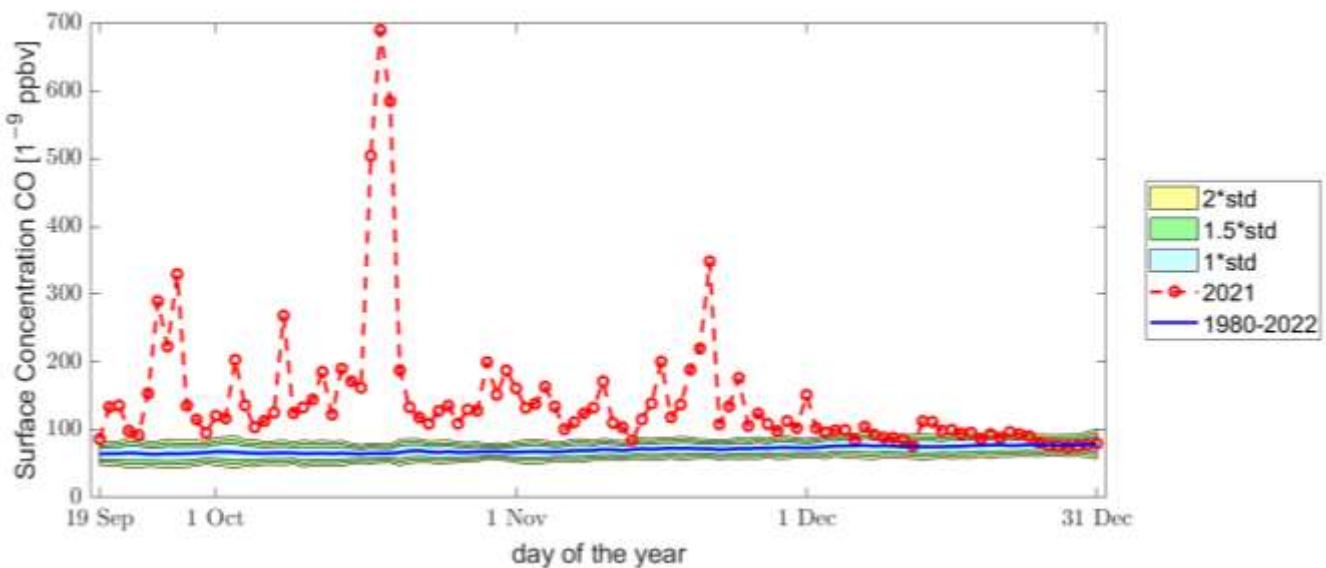


Figure 13. Time series of CO from 19 September to 31 December 2021 compared with historical time series.

3.3. Results of the ionosphere

In order to investigate the lithosphere, a circular research area centred on La Palma volcano has been considered. For the extension of the area, we take into account that firstly, the satellites are flying at an altitude of about 500km, so a smaller diameter would not be reasonable, as stated in [67]. We also need to consider that the plume has been transported by the wind during this period, and we may expect a possible coupling with the atmosphere both straight with the volcano activity (so above La Palma Island) or at above the plume as possible coupling with the volcano activity may be indirect as in the case of Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'Apai that was reported a possible LAIC in ionosphere with the pressure wave produced by the extreme explosion [68,69]. A radius of 380 km was finally selected. Only tracks acquired during the quiet geomagnetic time ($|\text{Dst}| \leq 20$ nT and $a_p \leq 15$ nT) are taken into account to search for anomalies.

Figure 14 shows a track that contains anomalous values of Y, East and Z, vertical components of the geomagnetic field on the first day of the starting of the La Palma eruption. It's interesting to note that the Y component is the one with a higher intensity peak to peak of the identified anomaly (about 1.5 nT/s), and this is a typical feature that in the previous study on possible LAIC or geomagnetic jerks poses toward the internal origin of the signal [39,70]. We also noted that this is the stronger perturbation among the section of the tracks between -50° and $+50^\circ$ geomagnetic latitude. The projection of the anomaly on the ground is in Las Canarias Archipelagos but on the East side, opposite the one of La Palma. Despite this, considering the strong eruption activity that started on this day, a link with this event cannot be excluded.

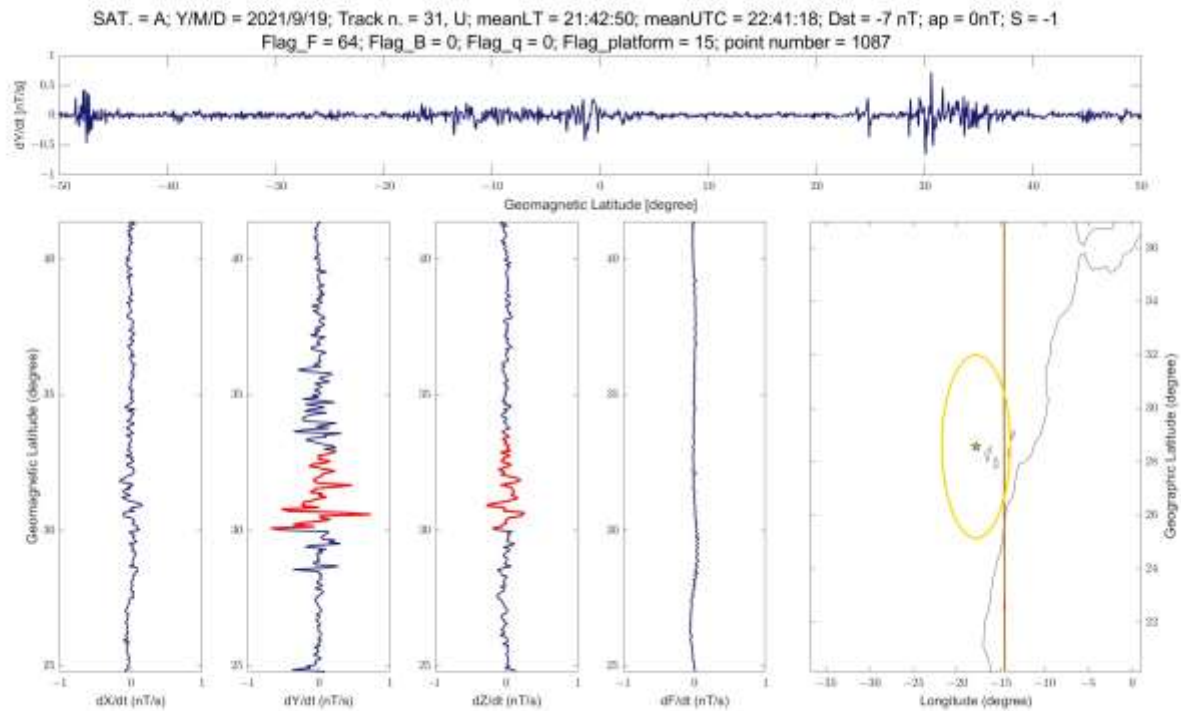


Figure 14. Swarm Alpha magnetic data was acquired on 19 September 2021 at 22:41 UT (centre of the shown track) for X-North, Y-East, and Z-center components and F, the scalar intensity of geomagnetic field residuals.

Figure 15 shows an anomalous track of Swarm Bravo acquired on 21 September 2021, on the same day shown in the centre column of Figures 3 and 4. Similar considerations of the previously analysed track can be made, but in this case, the Y anomaly seems very fast and isolated. A small disturbance is also present in the Z component but is small not to overpass the threshold to be defined anomaly. We note that there is a spatial correspondence with aerosol map concentration on the same day (see Figure 4). Despite all of these coincidences, it doesn't seem easy to explain such a quick variation (in the order of the second) in the track with an impact of acoustic gravity wave in the ionosphere. It's still possible that a combination of acoustic gravity wave with a second propagation mechanism, for example, after hitting the F2 layer in the ionosphere, better describes this possible coupling (as proposed for earthquakes by Hayakawa [71] and investigated by Marchetti et al. [72]).

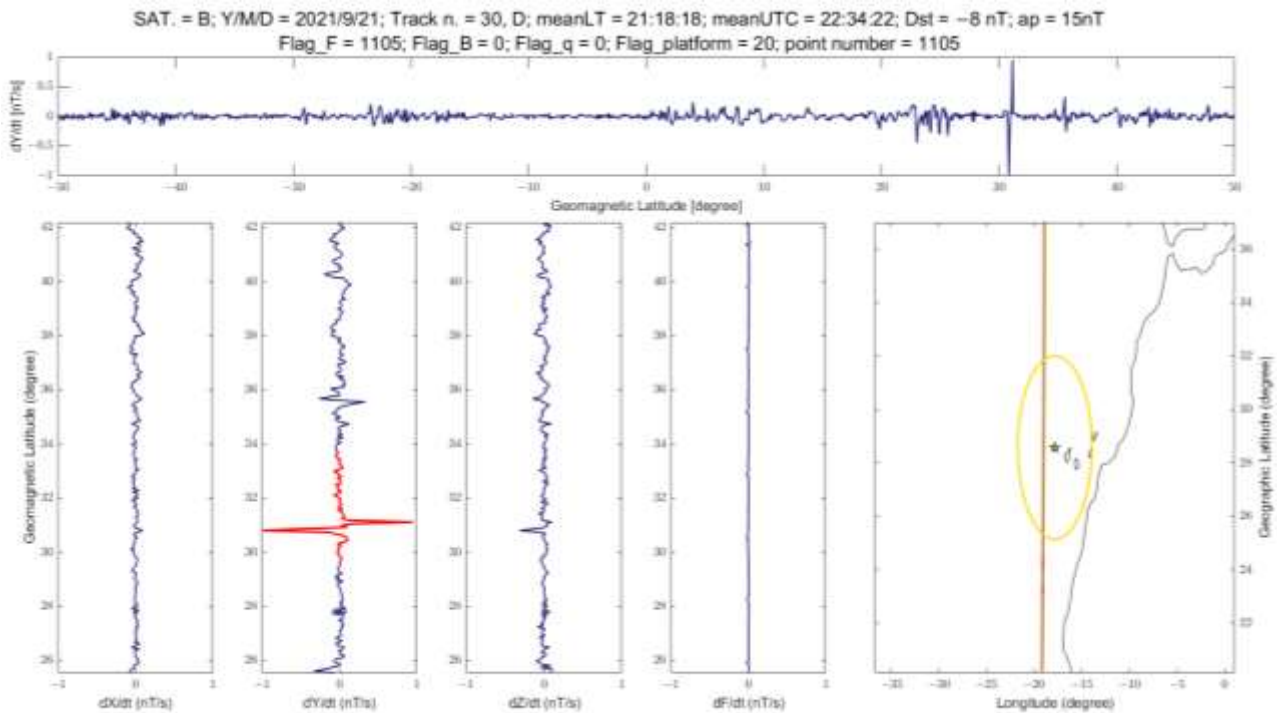


Figure 15. Swarm Bravo magnetic data acquired on 21 September 2021 at 22:34 UT (center of the shown track) for X-North, Y-East, Z-center components and F the scalar intensity of geomagnetic field residuals.

An interesting anomaly in the research area was identified by Swarm Bravo on 28 September 2021 as shown in Figure 16. During the time of acquisition, geomagnetic conditions were quiet: Dst = 1nT and ap = 12 nT. Among the whole orbit, there are other anomalous signals, especially at about 12°N geomagnetic latitude, but the most intense signal in the residual is exactly at the volcano latitude. To this day, no vertical thermal profiles show the possible presence of anomalous Ep, so if this anomaly has been induced by the volcanic eruption, the coupling mechanism cannot be an AGW.

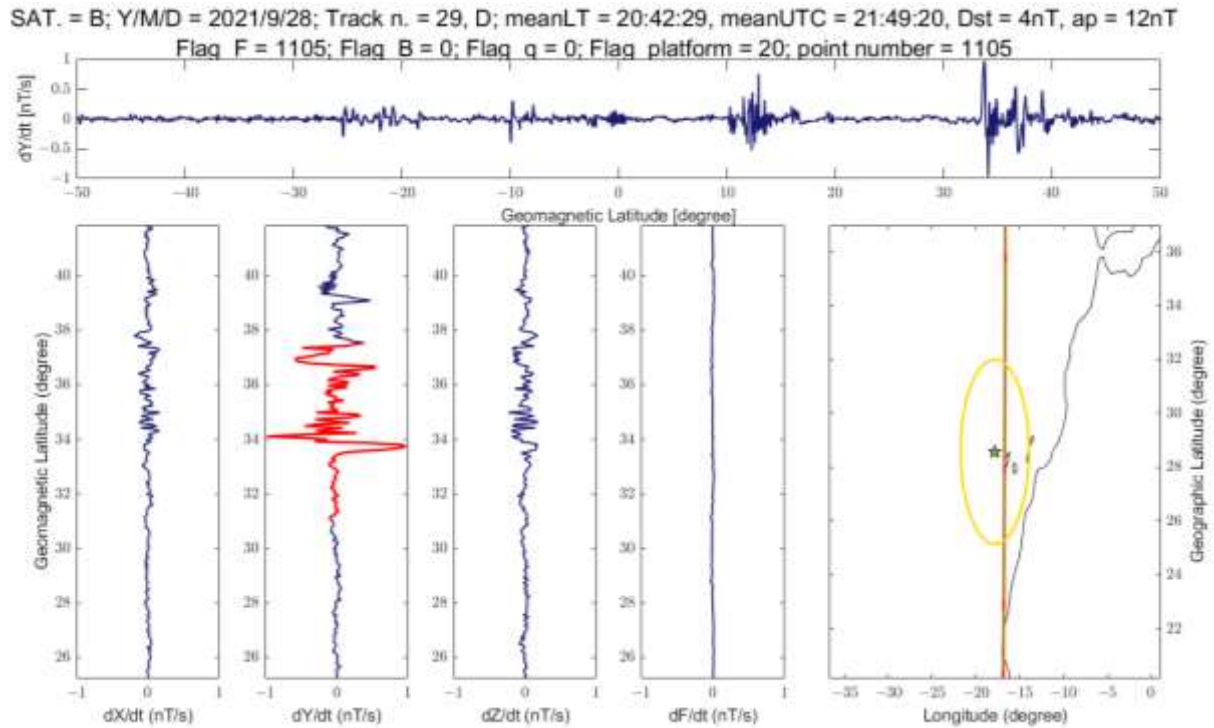


Figure 16. Swarm Bravo magnetic data was acquired on 28 September 2021 above Las Canarias Archipelagos. A green star marked the position of the volcano. X (North), Y (East) and Z (centre) components were measured by VFM, while F was measured by ASM payloads.

Table 1. List of days with abnormal vertical temperature profiles. For each day, temperatures are screened for anomalies based on mean and standard deviation and distance from the atmospheric anomalies.

Day	E_p	Swarm mag, Sat A	Swarm mag, Sat B	Swarm mag, Sat C	AOT ¹	SO ₂ ¹	CO ¹
19-09-2021	20:39	Track :31 Time: 21:42	\	Track:31 Time: 22:41	Same	Same	Same
21-09-2021	06:15	\	Track :30 Time: 22:34	\	Same	Same	Same
25-09-2021	05:25, 05:27	\	\	\	\	Same	Same
27-09-2021	18:59	\	\	\	\	\	Same ²
28-09-2021	\	\	Track :29 Time: 21:49	\	Same	Same	Same
01-10-2021	18:17	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
09-10-2021	16:37	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
20-10-2021	00:51	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
24-10-2021	23:37	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
02-11-2021	08:32	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
10-11-2021	06:56, 06:58	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
13-11-2021	22:43	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
14-11-2021	06:07	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
22-11-2021	04:31	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
25-11-2021	20:20	\	\	\	Same	\	Same
26-11-2021	03:43	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
27-11-2021	03:56	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
29-11-2021	19:34	\	\	\	Same	Same	Same
01-12-2021	03:09	\	\	\	\	Same	Same
19-12-2021	22:25	\	\	\	\	Same	Same
23-12-2021	11:42	\	\	\	\	Same	Same
27-12-2021	10:52	\	\	\	\	Same	Same

¹ "Same" means that the three atmospheric parameter anomalies are located in the same location.

² In this case, "same" means the same location of Ep.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

In this work, we have investigated possible alterations of the atmosphere and ionosphere during La Palma 2021 volcanic eruption. This work can be considered a compendium of our previous publication, where we investigated the lithosphere, atmosphere and ionosphere in the 6 months preceding this eruption [5]. The approaches we used in this work are similar but not exactly the same, and this is also due to the totally different nature of the object of study. In fact, in pre-volcano, the disturbances that we may expect are weak signals, mainly due to the magma uplift in the lithosphere and magma chambers filling. During the eruption, not only at Earth's surface is the presence of effusive and explosive activity, but a considerable layer of the atmosphere (of several km) is affected by the presence of the volcanic plume.

In this paper, we also investigated the vertical profile of temperature measured by Saber satellite to search for possible evidence of acoustic gravity waves. In fact, it's well established that during volcano eruption, some ionospheric disturbances (Co-Volcanic Ionospheric Disturbances = CVID) can be induced [31]. In particular, on the day of the starting of eruption, 19 September 2021, there were anomalies in all layers, including evidence of AGW in the atmosphere. In this light, we would re-draw the picture of the possible coupling we presented in the previous paper, adding the acoustic gravity wave as a possible further channel in Figure 17.

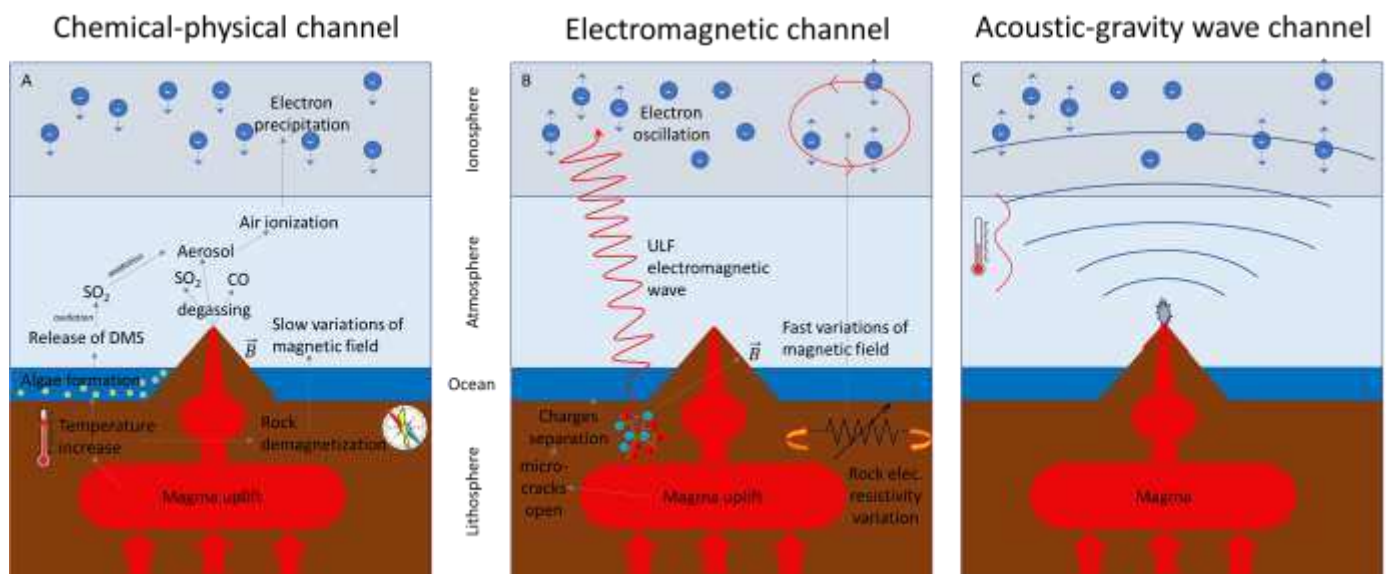


Figure 17. Possible mechanisms of lithosphere atmosphere and ionosphere Coupling (LAIC) in the occasion of volcano eruption. The image has been readapted from Marchetti et al. [5] and shows a chemical-physical channel (A), electromagnetic channel (B) or Acoustic Gravity Wave AGW (C) channel.

We also monitored the direction and extension of the volcanic plume by analysing the maps of aerosol SO₂ and CO. It was found that the plume was transported by the wind in a West-South-West direction and reinforced several times as the eruption was ongoing until 13 December 2021.

Finally, it's possible to confirm the huge impact in the atmosphere of La Palma volcano eruption 2021, and we offer some empirical shreds of evidence for possible impact in the ionosphere explainable by AGW or a more complex chain of phenomena. We identify a great accordance between the atmospheric investigation and the underground seismicity trend, confirming that the atmospheric anomalies are likely induced by La Palma 2021 volcano eruption. Further studies are necessary to better understand the geophysical

interaction between the lithosphere atmosphere and ionosphere in the occasion of volcano eruptions and earthquakes.

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