

独特的青藏高原大气边界层

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摘要 青藏高原的大气边界层顶接近对流层上层和平流层下层, 使得其陆面-边界层-中上层大气的相互作用研究具有独特的科学意义. 近年来的研究表明, 青藏高原大气边界层厚度可达5000 m. 青藏高原平均海拔4000 m, 大气边界层顶往往延伸至对流层上部, 使得青藏高原的陆面、边界层和中上层大气相互作用显著区别于其他地区. 深厚边界层和陆面、中上层大气如何相互作用是值得探讨的一个重要科学问题. 多项研究从陆面加热和中上层大气动力过程的角度研究了深厚大气边界层的成因. 结果表明, 青藏高原的陆面过程不能单独解释造成高原深厚大气边界层的原因, 自由大气的稳定度对青藏高原深厚大气边界层的生长具有关键影响. 冬季, 高原上空的自由大气呈近中性特征, 该中性层由平流层向下侵蚀和西风引起的湍流混合作用共同造成, 为深厚边界层的生长提供了有利条件.

关键词 青藏高原, 大气边界层, 中上层大气, 自由大气, 稳定度, 地面加热

1 青藏高原大气边界层研究的科学意义

大气边界层是指受地面影响最强烈的底层大气. 青藏高原是世界上海拔最高的高原, 其对全球及区域气候系统的热力和动力作用主要通过大气边界层传递至自由大气. 青藏高原大气边界层的研究不仅有助于理解高原大地形在地气相互作用中的独特作用, 尤其是在气候变化背景下, 还能揭示高原大气边界层过程对大气环流和水循环等过程的重要调控机制. 通过对青藏高原大气边界层的研究, 我们可以更深入了解高原对区域大气热力和动力过程的影响, 为气候预测提供更准确的机理认识. 此外, 这一研究对于预测极端天气事件也具有重要科学意义. 青藏高原独特的大气边界层直接影响高原下游的天气系统. 研究青藏高原大气边界层的变化, 有助于更清晰地揭示高原在季风环流及热带-副热带大气环流中的调控作用. 这对于提高亚洲季风区气候模式的预测精度至关重要, 尤其是在气候变化导致极端气候事件日益频繁的背景下, 有助

于更准确地预测季风异常及其可能带来的影响.

青藏高原的高海拔和复杂地形, 使其大气边界层表现出显著不同于低海拔地区的特性. 研究高海拔大气边界层的热力和动力结构, 有助于揭示高原地气相互作用的特殊机制, 尤其是独特大气边界层在水汽输送、热量平衡和能量交换等方面的关键作用. 深入理解独特的高原边界层对能量和水分交换的影响, 不仅能够丰富地表-大气相互作用的理论认识, 还有助于改进数值天气预报模型关键物理参数化过程, 提高全球和区域气候模拟精度. 山地大气边界层研究是大气科学研究中的难点. 由于山地地形会造成复杂的局地环流, 山地地形的大气边界层研究比平坦地区更加具有挑战性. 迄今为止, 考虑山地地形对高原边界层影响的研究还相对匮乏, 因此, 在一个多山的青藏高原地区进行大气边界层研究更是值得国内外科学家努力攀登的高峰. 高原的特殊地形和气候条件使其成为高海拔大气湍流和边界层结构理想的自然实验室.

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高原大气边界层的研究还能为高原生态环境保护和气候适应策略提供科学依据。边界层结构对高原气候、土壤湿度、植被生长以及生态系统的碳循环等方面具有深远的影响。通过研究大气边界层的日变化、季节变化及其对气候变化响应,能够有效评估高原大气稳定度的变化,为应对全球变暖对大气环境的影响提供科学参考。本文将重点介绍青藏高原大气边界层的研究进展,并对未来可能的研究方向做了概述。

2 独特的青藏高原大气边界层

青藏高原是目前发现的全球陆地上的大气边界层最厚的地区之一,加上青藏高原本身的高海拔特点,青藏高原的大气边界层顶是全球最高的,因此,青藏高原大气边界层的独特性体现在高海拔地形上发展的超厚大气边界层。青藏高原多山地,高原山地地形与上空的西风相互作用也是高原大气边界层的独特研究领域。青藏高原地区还存在显著的平流层向下侵蚀作用(stratosphere intrusion),造成高原大气边界层与中上层过程的相互影响研究也是高原大气边界层独特的研究内容。

受地形影响,青藏高原的大气边界层展现出深厚混合层的特征^[1-4],其厚度远高于平原地区。研究表明,高原改则地区的大气边界层厚度可达5000 m^[5]。随后多次观测试验也证实,高原西部和中部地区普遍存在较厚的大气边界层。在高原北部干旱地区亦观察到类似现象。例如韦志刚等人^[6]在河西走廊金塔地区发现大气边界层顶高度约为3000~3600 m;张强等人^[7]则观测到敦煌夏季对流边界层厚度超过4000 m,且夜间形成深厚的残留层。这些残留层为白天对流边界层的发展提供了有利的热力环境。更为显著的是,在青藏高原西部,冬季观测到的大气边界层高度最高可达海拔9200 m^[1]。Stephan和Meinolf^[8]也认为这些高原观测试验证明了高原上深厚大气边界层的存在。高原西部深厚大气边界层的形成与中上层大气的过程有紧密联系,鉴于青藏高原深厚大气边界层的重要科学意义,2014年上海召开的中国大气边界层战略研讨会将青藏高原深厚大气边界层列为我国大气边界层领域优先研究的方向之一^[9]。

大气边界层的高度是反映地表将接收的太阳能转换成能量输送到低层大气的高度,对理解大气边界层的物理过程很重要^[10]。一些学者对全球陆地大气边界层高度的对比分析,证实青藏高原的边界层高度显著高于其他地区^[11-14]。表1详细总结了高原及其他地区

观测到的深厚边界层现象。这些结果显示青藏高原的大气边界层顶是全球最高。

由于过去高原地气相互作用研究多集中于平坦下垫面,缺乏对山地复杂地形的观测研究,这在一定程度上制约了高原复杂地形地气相互作用的科学认知。近年来,研究人员通过地面气象站、高空观测数据以及再分析资料等,对珠峰北坡南北走向山谷的大气边界层向上增长机制展开研究^[26,27]。研究表明,当大尺度西风环流与河谷走向一致时,高空西风动量更易传输至山谷内,从而增强山谷内边界层风速,降低地表湍流传输的空气动力学阻抗并增加感热,感热的增加促进了山谷内湍流边界层的进一步向上发展,而边界层的向上扩展又增强了西风湍流动量向下传输的效率,进一步提升地表风速和感热,最终形成了一个“地表感热增加促进边界层向上发展并吸引了西风动量的向下传输”的正反馈机制。该研究揭示了高原山谷地形与西风相互作用在高原深厚大气边界层增长中的关键作用。

青藏高原的深厚边界层与中上层大气之间存在显著的物质交换^[1,5]。Chen等人^[28]利用高垂直分辨率的观测数据分析了高原地区不同季节的多对流层顶特征,发现冬季多对流层顶的发生频率高达70%,显著高于基于卫星和再分析资料得出的40%的结果。这表明高原中上层大气物理过程的某些关键特性仍未被充分认识。青藏高原西部低对流层顶的形成主要由于强烈的平流层向对流层的向下侵蚀作用(stratosphere intrusion)造成。该过程将平流层的物质成分由北到南向下倾斜输送,导致高原上空等位温线弯曲。观测的垂直温度廓线上也观测到与强侵蚀相对应的逆温结果,厚的逆温层最终呈现多对流层顶的现象。由于平流层的向下侵蚀与西风急流有紧密联系,当西风急流减弱并向北移动时,高原上空平流层的向下侵蚀作用减弱,平流层大气难以进入高原的对流层大气,使得高原的垂直温度廓线不能看到较低的逆温层,造成高原对流层顶升到了15 kPa的高度。平流层的向下侵蚀对自由大气稳定度具有重要影响,进而影响边界层向上发展的动力机制。平流层入侵气流与对流层大气混合,形成中性或弱不稳定的气层,这层大气可能与高原探空观测常见的“深厚残留层(residual layer)”有关。这种深厚残留层或中性气层易与其下部向上发展的对流边界层相连,最终形成下午观测到的深厚大气边界层^[1]。

与此同时,科学家对高原中上层大气物质输送过程的认识逐渐清晰。例如,丛春华等人^[29]指出,夏季青

表1 无线电探空观测到的深厚大气边界层现象

Table 1 Observations of the deep atmospheric boundary layer phenomena using radiosonde technology

参考文献	观测区域	观测季节	站点海拔高度 (km)	混合层厚度 (km)	边界层顶海拔 高度 (km)	备注
李茂善等人 ^[15]	珠峰地区(28.14°N, 86.85°E)	5月	4.7	3.8	8.5	青藏高原
Zuo等人 ^[4]	安多(31.23°N, 91.62°E)	6~7月	4.7	3.5	8.2	青藏高原
Zhang等人 ^[16]	当雄(30.47°N, 91.10°E)	6月	4.2	2.3	6.5	青藏高原
Yang等人 ^[3]	那曲(32.24°N, 91.64°E)	6月	4.7	3.0	7.7	青藏高原
Chen等人 ^[5]	改则(32.17°N, 84.03°E)	2月	4.4	5.0	9.4	青藏高原
Cuesta等人 ^[17]	撒哈拉(22.79°N, 5.53°E)	6月	1.1	6.0	7.1	撒哈拉沙漠
Han等人 ^[18]	巴丹吉林(39.28°N, 102.22°E)	8月	1.4	3.0	4.4	巴丹吉林沙漠
Wang等人 ^[19]	塔克拉玛干沙漠(39.03°N, 83.63°E)	7月	1.1	5	6.1	塔克拉玛干沙漠
张强等人 ^[7]	敦煌(40.15°N, 94.68°E)	夏季	1.1	4	5.1	戈壁沙漠
李建刚等人 ^[20]	巴丹吉林(39.46°N, 102.36°E)	8月	1.4	3	4.4	戈壁
Takemi ^[21]	银川(38.49°N, 106.24°E)	5月	1.1	4.0	5.1	河套平原
Raman 等人 ^[22]	新德里(28.43°N, 77.18°E)	6月	0.2	4.7	4.9	印度
Whiteman等人 ^[23]	墨西哥(19.43°N, 99.07°E)	2~3月	2.3	2.2	4.5	墨西哥高原
Nyeki等人 ^[24]	阿尔卑斯山(46.55°N, 7.98°E)	7月	1-3.6	0.6-3.2	4.2	地中海
王继志等人 ^[25]	南极(80.37°S, 77.37°E)	1~2月	4	3.4	7.4	南极

藏高原及邻近地区以对流层气体穿越对流层顶进入平流层的输送为主，而冬季则以平流层气体下沉进入对流层的输送为主。周顺武等人^[30]分析了高原对流层顶的季节变化，发现暖季(6~10月)对流层顶高度较高。青藏高原上对流层-下平流层(upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, UTLS)交换过程不仅具有显著的区域特征，还可能对全球平流层-对流层交换产生重要贡献。陈斌等人^[31]强调了青藏高原在全球对流层向平流层物质传输中的重要地位；而夏昕等人^[32]认为，高原热源从春至夏的迅速发展，是导致对流层顶高度变化的主要原因。

此外，Chen等人^[28]讨论了高原上空与西风急流耦合的对流层顶折叠现象，发现高原冬季的对流层顶折叠频繁发生。由于高原地形向上的抬升作用，加上冬季经常发生的平流层的向下侵蚀过程，非常容易造成大气边界层过程和中上层大气过程发生交换^[5]，造成高原地区是全球的边界层向平流层和平流层向边界层的物质输送的热点区域^[33]。由于中上层的向下侵蚀作用会输送平流层大气到大气边界层，该交换过程对边界层的大气臭氧环境有一定的影响^[34]，另外向下侵蚀把平流层和对流层混合在一块，进而有可能在发生强的向下侵蚀的地区形成稀薄的总臭氧量，造成臭氧空洞或低谷^[35]。

观测表明，3月份的大气边界层高度常与对流层顶

的高度接近，而夏季两者高度差距较大，因此边界层大气与平流层大气交换难以发生^[5]。Ma等人^[36]指出，高原地形与深厚边界层使得平流层物质得以输送至边界层中。Škerlak等人^[33]进一步确认，高原的特殊地形和深厚边界层共同塑造了青藏高原在全球平流层向对流层传输中的关键地位。Itoh和Narazaki^[37]认为，高原的深厚边界层使得平流层向对流层的输送显著区别于其他地区，Rotach等人^[38]强调，高原独特的平流层与对流层的物质交换对大气化学研究具有重要意义。

3 青藏高原大气边界层未来研究方向

为揭示陆面、边界层和中上层大气之间的相互作用机制，科学家利用地表湍流通量观测、边界层增长模型、中尺度区域数值模拟及再分析数据，从陆面加热和中上层大气的动力过程上深入探讨了高原深厚大气边界层的成因^[1]。研究表明，高原陆面过程不足以单独解释深厚边界层的形成，自由大气的稳定度对其增长起关键作用。当高原上空背景风场较强时，中性层结的发生概率更高，这也解释了青藏高原深厚边界层主要出现在冬春季节的原因。冬季，平流层的向下侵蚀形成近中性自由大气层，进一步影响了边界层的向上发展。深入研究高原地气相互作用需要将陆面与边界层过程耦合起来进行综合模拟分析。

地表的动量和热量直接决定了其上边界层内湍流

扩散的强度及稳定性,反过来,边界层内的风速、温度和湿度的湍流运动也会显著影响地表的水热传输。为理解陆地与大气圈的相互作用机理,并构建合理的数学模型来探讨青藏高原气候系统的变化规律,必须深入研究陆面与边界层的耦合过程。以往的高原研究中,陆面过程与边界层过程的耦合研究较少,而构建适用于高原特色的边界层-陆面耦合模型,对于研究该地区的天气与气候变化具有重要意义。陆面非均匀性对大气的作用由下向上产生影响,而天气状态的变化对陆气相互作用由上向下产生影响。然而,目前关于大气边界层顶部动量、能量与物质输送的特征及其与陆面过程的联动机制尚不明确,地气相互作用对局地环流及区域大气运动的影响也缺乏深入探讨。

一个完整的大气边界层-陆面模型能够涵盖更丰富的地气相互作用物理过程。该耦合模型可用于研究边界层-陆面系统受西风、季风影响的物理机制。特别是,大气边界层-陆面耦合系统与中上层大气过程(如西风急流、平流层向对流层的侵蚀)的联动效应,是未来研究的重要方向。构建适合于高原特色的边界层-陆面耦合系统,将促进陆气交换与低对流层大气的相互作用的研究,尤其是深厚边界层与陆气碳、水等交换的相互影响。同时,这种模型还可用于全球变化背景下大气边界层-陆面耦合系统的情景模拟分析,为预测全球变暖对高原陆面、边界层环境变化的影响提供参考。过去的研究多集中于陆面对边界层发展的影响,而未来需要从边界层湍流对陆气耦合的反向影响角度进行探讨。

边界层-陆面耦合系统能够整合地表湍流水热交换和大气边界层湍流向上发展的过程,能够通过调整系统的初始场或背景场观测不同过程的反馈效应。这种耦合系统可以用于气候变化背景下大气边界层和陆面变化的情景模拟,例如,当全球气温升高 2°C 时,引起的土壤温湿度的变化是什么?引入土壤的冻土模块后,可以模拟升温对冻土温度的具体影响。这些敏感性模拟将为研究全球气候变化对高原陆面和边界层环境的影响提供重要参考。

边界层-陆面耦合模型是一个一维的理想模型,可近似模拟三维模型中抽取的一个垂直气柱。周围的大气对该气柱的作用可以通过强迫场直接给定,从而更简便地测试边界层和陆面物理方案的准确性。而在三维模式中要做到这一点就比较困难,该耦合系统的优点是能够检验大气过程对陆面过程的影响。当前数值

同化系统在模拟高原陆气相互作用时还存在系统性的偏差,这可能与山地边界层湍流过程相关。近年来,我国科学家在珠穆朗玛峰南北坡、雅鲁藏布大峡谷等区域建立了大气边界层综合观测网络^[39,40],为研究山地边界层-陆面耦合过程提供了宝贵数据。利用耦合模型研究高原山地地形的水热交换通量以及对边界层发展的影响,可以为中尺度数值天气、气候预报模型在高原山地模拟的改进提供新思路。

目前,关于高原边界层增长的能量来源研究尚处于初步阶段。例如,Zhao等人^[41]分析了狮泉河、改则、九龙3个站点的大气边界层发展的热量来源,发现地表感热通量对狮泉河、改则和九龙站的大气边界层发展的能量贡献分别为62.5%、45.6%和73%。此外,残余层和边界层夹卷的感热和潜热也对边界层增长提供了一定能量。然而,这些因素尚未完全解释高原边界层增长所需的全部能量来源,未来需进一步深入研究。此外,定量估算边界层与自由大气的物质交换还存在一定的不确定性^[42]。大气边界层的主要运动形式是湍流传输,因此湍流成为研究大气边界层物理过程的基础问题。高海拔地区的湍流运动是否与低海拔的湍流运动有显著的差异,这一方向的研究一直未曾开展。

强对流天气事件与边界层过程存在密切的联系,国内外学者围绕边界层和云降水相互作用开展了一些研究^[43],如何借助目前在高原建立的地面通量和大气垂直探测网^[44,45],发展自主知识产权的边界层参数化方案,尤其是边界层-积云一体化参数化方案,也是今后高原边界层领域值得关注的问题。

高原边界层对天气、气候和环境的影响亦是值得加强的领域。例如,李怡霖等人^[46]研究发现,青藏高原边界层高度的东西差异有助于高原低云的形成。Zhao等人^[47]指出,高原西部边界层高度的增长可能引发从南亚到青藏高原的异常逆时针经向垂直环流,加强了南亚对流层水汽向高原的输送,最终导致高原对流性降水发生。此外,何金海等人^[48]分析了高原边界层加热对我国东部天气的影响;李跃清等人^[49]研究了青藏高原东侧大气边界层风场演变与长江上游暴雨及洪水的关系;段安民等人^[50]探讨了青藏高原边界层感热加热对东亚降水及大气环流异常的影响。高原平流层臭氧入侵能加强大气氧化性,促进二次气溶胶形成^[51],可能进一步影响高原天气气候变化。这些研究均表明,青藏高原边界层的气候效应对区域和全球气候系统具有重要意义。

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Summary for “独特的青藏高原大气边界层”

The unique atmospheric boundary layer over the Tibetan Plateau

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This study explores the distinctive characteristics and scientific significance of the deep atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) over the Tibetan Plateau. The Tibetan Plateau has an average altitude of 4000 m. The Plateau hosts the world's highest and thickest ABL, which can extend up to 5000 m above the plateau ground. The top of the ABL often extends into the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, resulting in interactions between the land surface, boundary layer, and upper atmosphere, which are distinctly different from those in other regions. The study of land surface–boundary layer–upper atmosphere interactions on the Tibetan Plateau has unique scientific significance. This unique feature makes the plateau an ideal natural laboratory for studying land surface–boundary layer–upper atmosphere interactions, which are crucial for understanding global and regional climate systems. Understanding the mechanisms of the interactions between the deep boundary layer, land surface, and upper atmosphere on the Tibetan Plateau remains a critical scientific question.

The ABL over the Tibetan Plateau exhibits unique properties due to its high altitude and complex topography. The plateau's ABL is significantly thicker than that of low-altitude regions, with observations showing that the boundary layer can reach heights of up to 9200 meters above sea level in winter. Several studies have explored the causes of the deep ABL from the perspectives of land surface heating and dynamic processes in the upper atmosphere. These findings indicate that land surface processes alone cannot fully explain the development of the deep ABL on the Tibetan Plateau. Instead, the stability of the free atmosphere plays a key role in its growth. During winter, the free atmosphere over the plateau exhibits a near-neutral stratification, formed through a combination of stratospheric downward intrusion and turbulent mixing driven by westerlies. This near-neutral layer provides a unique favorable condition for the growth of the deep ABL. The ABL on the Tibetan Plateau is influenced by both surface heating and dynamic processes in the upper atmosphere. Although surface heating contributes to the development of the ABL, the stability of the free atmosphere plays a critical role.

The interaction between the ABL and the upper atmosphere is another unique aspect of the Tibetan Plateau's atmospheric dynamics. The plateau experiences significant stratosphere-troposphere exchange, with winter months showing frequent tropopause folding events that facilitate the exchange of air masses between the boundary layer and the stratosphere. This exchange has implications for atmospheric chemistry, including ozone distribution and the formation of secondary aerosols.

Current research gaps include an incomplete understanding of the energy sources that drive ABL growth. While surface sensible heat flux is a significant contributor, residual layers and entrainment of heat and moisture from the free atmosphere also play roles. However, the exact mechanisms and energy contributions remain areas of ongoing research. Uncertainties remain in quantifying mass exchange between the ABL and free atmosphere, as well as potential differences in turbulence dynamics between high- and low-altitude regions. Furthermore, the plateau's ABL impacts regional climate through mechanisms such as low-cloud formation, meridional circulation shifts, and convective precipitation enhancement. Recent studies have highlighted its role in influencing rainfall and atmospheric circulation anomalies in East Asia. Future efforts should prioritize developing a robust boundary layer–land surface coupled model to better understand the interactions between the ABL, land surface processes, and upper atmospheric phenomena such as jet streams and stratosphere-troposphere exchanges. These advancements will aid in predicting the impacts of global warming on plateau environments and their broader climatic significance. A robust boundary layer–land surface coupled model is crucial for studying ABL growth mechanisms influenced by westerlies and monsoons, as well as interactions with upper-atmospheric phenomena, such as jet streams and stratosphere-troposphere exchanges. In addition, investigation of the relationship between the boundary layer and cumulus clouds using plateau-based observation networks will benefit the refinement of numerical weather and climate models.

In summary, the Tibetan Plateau ABL is a unique and complex system that plays a critical role in regional and global climate dynamics. Understanding its mechanisms and interactions with the land surface and upper atmosphere is essential for advancing climate science and improving predictive models, particularly in the face of climate change.

Tibetan Plateau, atmospheric boundary layer, upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, free atmosphere, stability, surface heating

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