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## Satellite-based global volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and sulfate direct radiative forcing during 2005–2012

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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## Key Points:

- New global 2005–2012 volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> inventory from OMI and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> direct radiative forcing from GEOS-Chem
- The new emission inventory is more complete than the existing one for large volcanic eruptions
- IPCC's volcanic sulfate radiative forcing efficiency (with respect to AOD) has a factor of 2–4 low bias

## Supporting Information:

- Supporting Information S1

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Satellite-based global volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and sulfate direct radiative forcing during 2005–2012

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**Abstract** An 8 year volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emission inventory for 2005–2012 is obtained based on satellite measurements of SO<sub>2</sub> from OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) and ancillary information from the Global Volcanism Program. It includes contributions from global volcanic eruptions and from eight persistently degassing volcanoes in the tropics. It shows significant differences in the estimate of SO<sub>2</sub> amount and injection height for medium to large volcanic eruptions as compared to the counterparts in the existing volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> database. Emissions from Nyamuragira (DR Congo) in November 2006 and Grímsvötn (Iceland) in May 2011 that were not included in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 5 (IPCC) inventory are included here. Using the updated emissions, the volcanic sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup>) distribution is simulated with the global transport model Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS)-Chem. The simulated time series of sulfate aerosol optical depth (AOD) above 10 km captures every eruptive volcanic sulfate perturbation with a similar magnitude to that measured by Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO). The 8 year average contribution of eruptive SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> to total SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> loading above 10 km is ~10% over most areas of the Northern Hemisphere, with a maxima of 30% in the tropics where the anthropogenic emissions are relatively smaller. The persistently degassing volcanic SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> in the tropics barely reaches above 10 km, but in the lower atmosphere it is regionally dominant (60%+ in terms of mass) over Hawaii and other oceanic areas northeast of Australia. Although the 7 year average (2005–2011) of eruptive volcanic sulfate forcing of  $-0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in this study is comparable to that in the 2013 IPCC report ( $-0.09 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), significant discrepancies exist for each year. Our simulations also imply that the radiative forcing per unit AOD for volcanic eruptions can vary from  $-40$  to  $-80 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , much higher than the  $-25 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  implied in the IPCC calculations. In terms of sulfate forcing efficiency with respect to SO<sub>2</sub> emission, eruptive volcanic sulfate is 5 times larger than anthropogenic sulfate. The sulfate forcing efficiency from degassing volcanic sources is close to that of anthropogenic sources. This study highlights the importance of characterizing both volcanic emission amount and injection altitude as well as the key role of satellite observations in maintaining accurate volcanic emissions inventories.

## 1. Introduction

Large volcanic eruptions are not only known as significant hazards to aviation and health but also important contributors to the climate's natural variability [Carn *et al.*, 2009; Miller and Casadevall, 2000; Hansell and Oppenheimer, 2004; Robock, 2000; Schmidt *et al.*, 2011, 2012]. In the troposphere, sulfur compounds accelerate the oxidation of metals, and volcanic sulfate aerosol has been implicated in some aviation incidents [Fisher *et al.*, 2011; Miller and Casadevall, 2000]. In the stratosphere, volcanic sulfate aerosol can remain for months and even years, depending on the SO<sub>2</sub> injection altitude, total mass loading, latitudes, and dispersion pattern [Krotkov *et al.*, 2010; Wang *et al.*, 2013]. Graf *et al.* [1997] concluded that volcanic sulfur emissions are at least as important as anthropogenic sulfur emissions with regard to the global sulfur cycle and their contribution to the radiative forcing of climate. Major explosive volcanic eruptions have been the subject of intensive investigation for several decades [Robock, 2000]. Recently, estimating the atmospheric and climatic effects from moderate eruptive volcanoes and persistently degassing volcanoes is becoming a greater interest to the geosciences community [Chin and Jacob, 1996; Graf *et al.*, 1997, 1998; Stevenson *et al.*, 2003; Mather *et al.*, 2003; Textor *et al.*, 2004; Gasso, 2008; Yuan *et al.*, 2011; Oppenheimer *et al.*, 2011].

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Previous evaluations with satellite, airborne, and ground-based observations [Wang *et al.*, 2013; Haywood *et al.*, 2010; Webster *et al.*, 2012] found significant uncertainties in global climate models for simulating volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> and sulfate cloud dispersal. The key uncertainty arises from the specification of the time-variant volcanic emissions amount and injection altitude. In particular, the lack of observation-based characterization of SO<sub>2</sub> injection altitude has led to various discrepancies in the quantification of volcanic sulfate aerosols' climatic effect [Wang *et al.*, 2013; Devenish *et al.*, 2012; Robock, 2000]. The volcanic sulfate aerosols usually inject to higher altitudes compared with anthropogenic sulfate aerosols, so they are expected to be more efficient at exerting a global forcing (in terms forcing per unit emission). Persistently degassing volcanic emissions also could have long-term effects on the atmospheric composition and climate, especially at the regional scale. Hence, quantifications of volcanic emissions and the radiative effects of both eruptive and persistently degassing volcanoes are desirable toward an improved understanding of climate variability [Graf *et al.*, 1997; Robock, 2000].

The aim of this work is to model volcanic SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> distribution and contribution and quantify the corresponding radiative forcing for 2005–2012. A new satellite-based volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emission data set is introduced in this study. It includes both global volcanic eruptions and eight persistently degassing volcanoes in the tropical region. To characterize its range of uncertainty, we compare the new volcanic inventory and the volcanic sulfate forcing with some previous studies. In section 2, we describe the configuration of Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS)-Chem CTM (chemical transport model), the method for the aerosol radiative forcing calculations, and the CALIPSO (Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation) satellite observation data used for model evaluation. In section 3, the new volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emissions are presented and compared with the available volcanic emission database, which is compiled for Aerosol Comparisons between Observations and Models or AeroCom. The simulation results for volcanic sulfate aerosol optical depth (AOD) and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> vertical distribution are presented and compared with satellite data in section 4. The simulation results for sulfate aerosol forcing and forcing efficiency are given in section 5. Finally, a summary and discussion are provided in section 6.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. GEOS-Chem Model and Radiative Forcing Calculations

A global 3-D CTM (chemical transport model), GEOS-Chem [Bey *et al.*, 2001a], is used to simulate the transport, deposition, oxidation, and other related chemistry processes of volcanic SO<sub>2</sub>. The model is driven by assimilated meteorological data from the GEOS-5 (Goddard Earth Observing System) at the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office. In this study, GEOS-Chem version 9-01-03 (<http://GEOS-Chem.org>) is used at 2° × 2.5° resolution with GEOS-5 47-level 3-hourly meteorological fields. Anthropogenic emissions of CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub> in GEOS-Chem are used as default in the Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) 3.2-FT2000 global inventories (available for 1995–2000) [Olivier *et al.*, 2005]. Global ammonia emissions are from the Global Emissions Inventory Activity for the 1990s [Bouwman *et al.*, 1997]. A direct estimate of the emissions of many chemical species at global scale is not available for the very recent years, and emission is supposed to change along with economic development [Bey *et al.*, 2001b]. So based on the year that the available emission inventory is estimated for, the emission for subsequent years is scaled according to the economic data, such as population, urbanization, and gross domestic product [van Donkelaar *et al.*, 2008; Bey *et al.*, 2001b; Park *et al.*, 2004]. For example, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for some countries are scaled proportionally to changes in total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are obtained from the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center.

Regional emission estimates are used in GEOS-Chem [Benkovitz, *et al.*, 1996], particularly for the U.S. (National Emissions Inventory), Canada (the Criteria Air Contaminants), Mexico (Big Bend Regional Aerosol and Visibility Observational Study Emissions Inventory), Europe (European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme-European anthropogenic emissions), and East Asia [Streets *et al.*, 2006]. GEOS-Chem includes detailed HO<sub>x</sub>-NO<sub>x</sub>-VOC-ozone-BrO<sub>x</sub> tropospheric chemistry as originally described by Bey *et al.* [2001a]. GEOS-Chem includes all major sink terms for SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, including oxidation by the hydroxyl radical (OH) in the gas phase and by ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) in the aqueous phase [Chin and Jacob, 1996; Alexander *et al.*, 2009; Fisher *et al.*, 2011; Wang *et al.*, 2008a, 2008b].

The model configuration in this study is similar to Wang *et al.* [2013]. To understand the volcanic contribution to global atmospheric sulfate loading and forcing, we performed three simulations in this study for different emission

scenarios, respectively, referred to as (a) baseline simulation with anthropogenic and both eruptive and persistently degassing volcanic emissions, (b) sensitivity-1 (S1) simulation with both eruptive and persistently degassing volcanic emissions, and (c) sensitivity-2 (S2) simulation with persistently degassing volcanic emissions only.

Our radiative forcing calculation follows Wang *et al.* [2008b, 2013] but with several improvements to increase computational efficiency and also produce a high degree of accuracy [Gu *et al.*, 2011]. Particularly, new parameterizations for ice crystal effective size and single-scattering properties are included to represent more realistic radiative effects associated with cirrus clouds [Liou *et al.*, 2008]. The calculation is based on the delta-four-stream approximation for atmospheric radiative transfer [Liou *et al.*, 1988; Fu *et al.*, 1997]. The cloud fraction overlap scheme is adopted from Gu *et al.* [2011], and cloud single-scattering properties are from Fu and Liou [1993]. The radiative transfer model, monthly mean surface reflectance data [Koelemeijer *et al.*, 2003], and the simulated 3-D aerosol sulfate mass are employed for the forcing calculations [Fu and Liou, 1992; Wang *et al.*, 2004; Gu *et al.*, 2011]. The GEOS-Chem simulated volcanic sulfate mass is converted to AOD following Wang *et al.* [2008b] in which the hygroscopic effect on sulfate particle size and refractive index is considered. The difference between upwelling solar irradiances calculated in the presence and absence of sulfate aerosols is sulfate direct radiative forcing. In each grid cell, the forcing calculation is conducted every 6 h consistent with temporal resolution of the input cloud properties.

## 2.2. CALIPSO Satellite Observation Data

To evaluate the model simulation of volcanic aerosols in the vertical direction, we compare model results with data from the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) instrument (<http://www-calipso.larc.nasa.gov/>) [Winker *et al.*, 2010] aboard CALIPSO satellite launched in 2006. CALIOP is a two-wavelength (532 and 1064 nm), polarization-sensitive (at 532 nm) lidar that measures atmospheric backscatter with a single-shot vertical and horizontal resolution of 30 m and 333 m, respectively. To fulfill feature finding and layer classification requirements, the current CALIPSO level 2 version 3 algorithm yields an aerosol profile product at a horizontal resolution of 5 km and vertical resolution of 60 m under 20 km altitude [Vaughan *et al.*, 2009]. In this study, the quality control flag in the CALIPSO level 2 product is used to ensure high-quality CALIPSO retrievals of aerosol layers for comparing volcanic sulfate aerosols from the GEOS-Chem simulations.

## 3. New Database of Volcanic Emission Amount and Injection Altitude

### 3.1. OMI-Based Volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions in This Study

The new volcanic emission inventory for SO<sub>2</sub> in this study is estimated by using the SO<sub>2</sub> data retrieved from Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) [Yang *et al.*, 2010] and the U.S. Geological Survey Weekly Volcanic Activity Report and Bulletin of the Global Volcanism Network issued through the Smithsonian Institution Global Volcanism Program (GVP) (<http://volcano.si.edu/>) [e.g., *Global Volcanism Program*, 2005a, 2005b, 2006, 2007, 2008a, 2008b, 2009a, 2009b, 2011a, 2011b]. This OMI-based SO<sub>2</sub> emissions inventory forms part of a larger, long-term volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emissions database derived from multiple satellite instruments since 1978 [Carn, 2015; Carn *et al.*, 2015a], which is described in detail by Carn *et al.* [2015b]. Because the emissions data are less complete prior to the OMI mission [Carn *et al.*, 2003, 2015b] and due to modeling limitations, our simulation focuses on the 8 year period from 2005 to 2012.

Two steps were taken to construct the OMI-based volcanic emissions inventory for 2005–2012. First, a database on the time and location of volcanic eruptions reported during 2005–2012 was created by compiling the information available from the GVP Weekly Report and Bulletin, and wherever possible, the corresponding values of volcanic plume height (and sometimes SO<sub>2</sub> amount if available) were also included. Second, the total SO<sub>2</sub> amount for each reported volcanic eruption (as listed in the database created in step 1) was estimated by using the SO<sub>2</sub> data retrieved using the operational OMI SO<sub>2</sub> algorithm [Yang *et al.*, 2007] and, for larger eruptions, an offline iterative spectral fitting technique [Yang *et al.*, 2010]. By combining the OMI SO<sub>2</sub> measurements with additional information from other satellite instruments where available (see Carn *et al.* [2015b] for further details), the best estimate of total SO<sub>2</sub> loading was derived. We briefly discuss the implementation of this inventory in GEOS-Chem as well as the limitation and uncertainties for this inventory below.

In the GEOS-Chem simulation, persistently degassing emissions are injected at the altitude of the volcanic crater, while eruptive emissions are divided evenly to each layer in the top third of the volcanic plume, as described in Chin *et al.* [2000]. Following other OMI volcanic case studies [Carn *et al.*, 2008, 2013; Bani *et al.*, 2009, 2012;

McCormick et al., 2012; Hayer et al., 2010], emissions for persistently degassing volcanoes used in this work are given as daily SO<sub>2</sub> mass loadings. For the volcanic eruptions, only total SO<sub>2</sub> amount for each volcano event is available instead of time-variant emissions. We put the total SO<sub>2</sub> amount on the first day of each eruption in the simulation. Various past studies have been conducted to convert mass loading of SO<sub>2</sub> to the emission rate of SO<sub>2</sub> [Campion, 2014; Campion et al., 2015; Carn et al., 2013; Hörmann et al., 2014; Lopez et al., 2013; McCormick et al., 2012, 2013, 2014; Merucci et al., 2011; Theys et al., 2013]. Although daily emission rates and injection altitudes are ideally recommended, such daily observations can be difficult to obtain because of the limitation in OMI-based SO<sub>2</sub> retrievals (affected frequently by row anomalies and cloud contamination; see Yang et al. [2010] and detailed discussion below). Therefore, the new inventory might be best used for global models that focus on the impact of volcanic eruptions on climate and chemistry on monthly-to-yearly scales. Nevertheless, a sensitivity experiment is conducted in section 4 to estimate the uncertainty induced by the lack of temporal variation in the emissions data; this sensitivity experiment is for the Sierra Negra eruption, where the OMI SO<sub>2</sub> data appear ideal to derive day-to-day emission.

Since late 2004, OMI has provided high-quality volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> measurements with near-continuous daily global coverage, good spatial resolution ( $13 \times 24 \text{ km}^2$  at nadir) [Carn et al., 2008, 2013, 2015b; McCormick et al., 2013]. Its increased sensitivity to SO<sub>2</sub> over previous satellite observations (from increased spectral and spatial resolution) permit the use of more sophisticated retrieval algorithms; for discussion of this technique and its application for volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> emission estimate, we refer the reader to Carn et al. [2013], Yang et al. [2007, 2009a, 2009b, 2010], and Carn et al. [2015b]. These papers provide the details of volcanic emission estimation schemes that consider the wind direction, wind speed, and lifetime of SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere (in addition to the OMI SO<sub>2</sub> data). There are several possible SO<sub>2</sub> dispersion and loss routes involved during volcanic activity, such as gas phase and aqueous phase oxidation to sulfate aerosol, wet/dry deposition, wind advection at different altitudes, and scavenging by ash. This means that estimating SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from satellite-retrieved SO<sub>2</sub> column amounts can be challenging, albeit lots of efforts were made [Campion, 2014; Campion et al., 2015; Hörmann et al., 2014; Lopez et al., 2013; McCormick et al., 2012, 2013, 2014; Merucci et al., 2011; Theys et al., 2013]. Case studies have demonstrated OMI's excellent performance for eruptions of Manam volcano, Papua New Guinea [Carn et al., 2009], Sierra Negra volcano, Galápagos Islands [Thomas et al., 2009].

Long-term OMI surveys of tropospheric SO<sub>2</sub> persistently degassing emissions have been published for Ecuador and southern Colombia [Carn et al., 2008], Vanuatu [Bani et al., 2012], and Papua New Guinea [McCormick et al., 2012], with new case studies presented in Carn et al. [2013] and McCormick et al. [2013]. Multiyear time series of OMI-measured SO<sub>2</sub> burdens over the regions were produced, and these show generally strong correlations with independent observations of volcanic activity [Carn et al., 2008; Bani et al., 2009, 2012; McCormick et al., 2012; Hayer et al., 2010].

Limitations in retrieval accuracy for volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> are expected for several reasons. The retrieval techniques assume an approximate linear relationship between SO<sub>2</sub> column and the residuals at a set of wavelengths, so nonlinear SO<sub>2</sub> absorption effects bring some issues [Yang et al., 2007]. Carn et al. [2013] discussed some sources of error in the derived SO<sub>2</sub> mass. For example, the overestimation of daily emissions may occur when a daily image also contains SO<sub>2</sub> emitted from a previous day. Also, it is difficult to distinguish the SO<sub>2</sub> mass from each volcano when the image represents the combined emissions from several active volcanoes. The cloud-related SO<sub>2</sub> retrieval errors depend chiefly on the relative vertical separation between the SO<sub>2</sub> and the cloud. When SO<sub>2</sub> is located below or at the same altitude as a subpixel cloud, larger cloud fractions reduce SO<sub>2</sub> measurement sensitivity. When SO<sub>2</sub> is located above clouds, SO<sub>2</sub> retrieval errors diminish slightly with increasing cloud fraction, owing to enhanced measurement sensitivity to SO<sub>2</sub> above highly reflective surfaces [Carn et al., 2013]. McCormick et al. [2013, and references therein] summarized key sources of potential interference into OMI retrievals including cloud cover, high plume ash content, row anomaly, and high total ozone column; they also showed that these sources of error can sometimes reduce the mass of SO<sub>2</sub> available for OMI detection, while conversely, minimal removal and dispersion could lead to overestimation. Further study by McCormick et al. [2014] compared the OMI-based estimate with the ground-based estimate of volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> for a specific event (Tungurahua volcano, Ecuador). They showed that day-to-day variability of SO<sub>2</sub> emission is larger than the postemission processing of SO<sub>2</sub> in atmosphere, and hence, they suggested that the long-term observation data sets from satellite-based instruments like OMI can be useful in providing



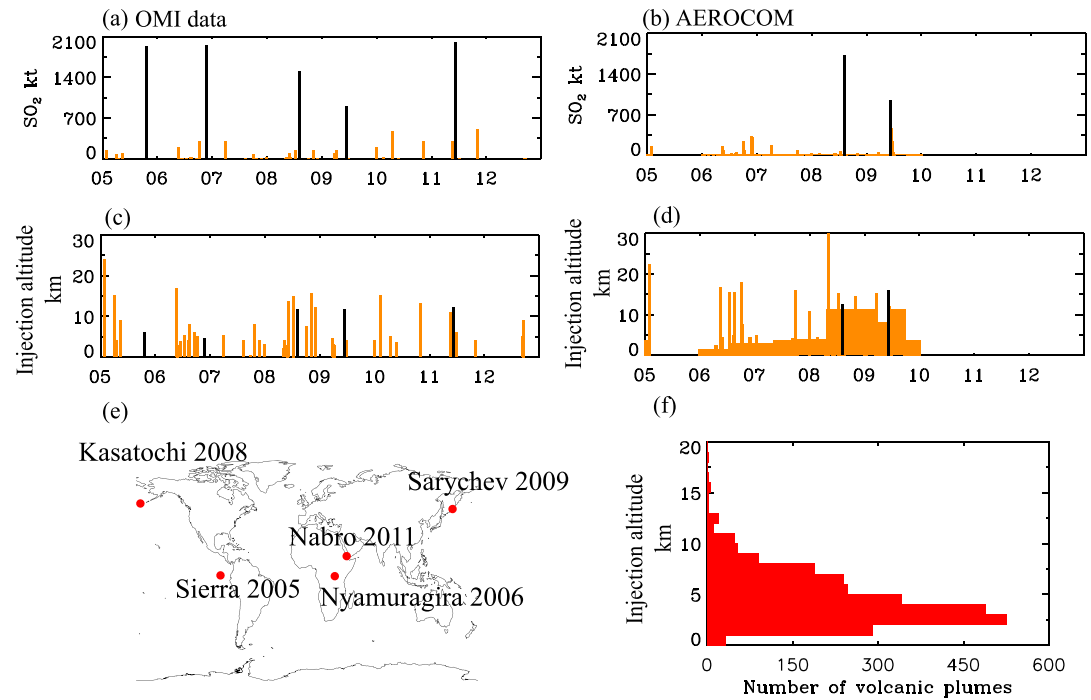
good first-order constraints on the variability of volcanic emissions in otherwise poorly monitored regions. However, this suggestion is based on their studies for 2 months of eruptions up to the midtroposphere (5–7 km altitude) and needs to be further evaluated with other cases in future studies.

It is noted that even with advanced algorithms such as the hyperspectral fitting algorithm by *Yang et al.* [2010] for SO<sub>2</sub> retrievals, retrieval uncertainties from OMI can be large and uncertainties in the conversion of OMI SO<sub>2</sub> amount to the volcanic emissions can be larger, mostly because a satellite provides a near-instantaneous measurement of SO<sub>2</sub> loading. The uncertainty of the SO<sub>2</sub> loading of a volcanic plume estimated from satellite remote sensing is usually less than 20% and often likely ~10% for the cases of significant volcanic eruptions (loading exceed 100 kt). This uncertainty estimate is based on the intercomparison of satellite retrieval from different instruments we have performed retrievals from, including the OMI/Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment 2/Ozone Mapping and Profiler Suite observations for the same events using our advanced SO<sub>2</sub> algorithm; the results from these different satellites usually agree to within 20% [*Yang et al.*, 2010; *Carn et al.*, 2015a, 2015b]. This shows that differences in satellite pixel sizes and view geometries do not change the total amount of SO<sub>2</sub> by more than 20%. We point out that the uncertainty in the estimate of total loading is inherently less than the individual uncertainty associated with each pixel (which is estimated to be no more than 20% for VCD > 2 Dobson units and height above 3 km). The total loading is the summation of pixel values, which tend to reduce the uncertainty as the summation can cancel out some random errors of individual measurements [*Yang et al.*, 2010]. For a large explosive eruption, the highest loading (of SO<sub>2</sub> summed over all pixels affected by volcanic SO<sub>2</sub>) observed by the satellite is usually considered to be the lower bound of the emission. Converting loading to emission incurs additional errors from the parameters used in the conversion (as discussed above), including wind speed and direction, SO<sub>2</sub> oxidation rate and time from the time when it is emitted to the time when it is observed by OMI, and the limitation in OMI's spatial and temporal availability. Overall, various past studies suggest that the underestimation of emission estimates can be up to 50% [*Theys et al.*, 2013] and often likely no more than 25% that varies with each case [*Carn et al.*, 2013; *Yang et al.*, 2007, 2009a, 2009b, 2010; *Telling et al.*, 2015; *Carn et al.*, 2015b].

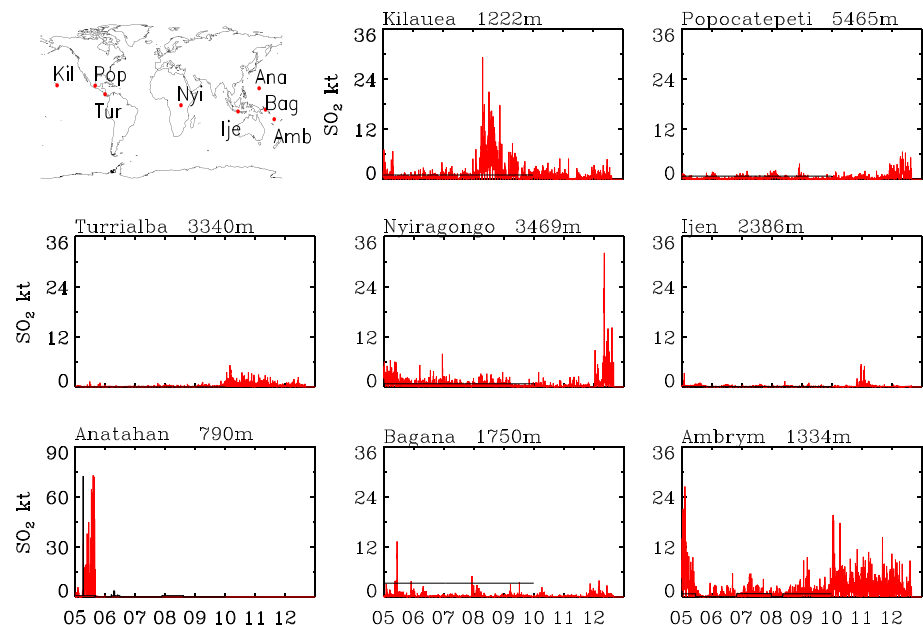
The injection altitude data from GVP are accumulated from a global network of contributors and through analysis in the literature as well as observations, e.g., from radar, satellites, and pilot reports. The GVP reports current worldwide eruptions dating back to 1968, and further details of each event have been added to the website over time. Figure 1f is a histogram of volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> plume injection altitudes of 3000+ volcanic eruptions between 2005 and 2012 collected from GVP. We find that ~4% of volcanic plumes are injected above 10 km, ~88% are injected above 2 km, and 49% are injected above 4 km. Given that their injection altitude is usually higher than industrial SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, resulting in a longer lifetime of sulfate aerosol, the volcanic sulfate aerosols are more likely to exert bigger forcing than the anthropogenic counterpart.

*Graf et al.* [1997] pointed out that most of the volcanic emissions are located in the Northern Hemisphere and only 18% active volcanoes are concentrated in the Southern Hemisphere. Consistent with *Graf et al.*'s study, we found only 24% of reported volcanic events occurred in the Southern Hemisphere based on ground-based observations of 3000+ volcanic eruptions between 2005 and 2012. In contrast to the anthropogenic emissions that have regional maxima in the eastern United States, Europe, and increasingly, China, the volcanic sources are mostly located at the edges of crustal plates and oceanic areas (Figures 1e and 2). Figures 1a and 1c respectively represent OMI SO<sub>2</sub> mass loading and GVP SO<sub>2</sub> injection altitude for volcanic eruptions during 2005–2012. In total, OMI observed nearly 50 eruptive events. There are three major volcanic eruptions in 2005, 2006, and 2011 that emitted ~2000 kt SO<sub>2</sub> with injection altitudes varied from 2 km to 15 km. Because the geographical locations are highly variable, the evolution and transport of SO<sub>2</sub> plumes, as well as the radiative effect of the resultant sulfate aerosol, can be quite different. In this context, this study focuses on the average volcanic effects over multiple years. The case study for each individual eruption is not emphasized here and indeed was investigated by several previous studies [*Wang et al.*, 2013; *Bourassa et al.*, 2012, 2013; *Vernier et al.*, 2011, 2013a, 2013b; *Fromm et al.*, 2013, 2014; *Robock*, 2000; *Forster et al.*, 2007; *Timmreck*, 2012].

Data for eight persistently degassing volcanoes in the tropics are also estimated, representing the largest degassing volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> sources detected by OMI during 2005–2012 (Figure 2). Although OMI also detects SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from many weaker volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> sources (and the work to include these sources in the emissions database is ongoing), we focus here on the strongest sources likely to dominate regional volcanic aerosol forcing. Like erupting volcanoes, most persistently degassing volcanoes are also situated at continental



**Figure 1.** SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and injection altitude for volcanic eruptions during 2005–2012 (a and c) from OMI data and (b and d) from AeroCom data. Black lines are for eruptive volcanoes with more than 700 kt SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. (e) Locations of the eruptive volcanoes in Figure 1a and (f) the histogram of volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> injection altitude based upon GVP (Global Volcanism Program) reports of 3000+ volcanic eruptions between 2005 and 2012. Note that the same data in Figures 1a and 1b are also shown in logarithmic scale (in y axis) in Figure S1.



**Figure 2.** SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from eight persistently degassing volcanoes over tropical area during 2005–2012. Red lines are OMI data, and black lines are from AeroCom database.



margins or in oceanic (intraplate) regions. The range of persistently degassing volcanic emission altitudes in this study is from 800 m to 5500 m. Anatahan emitted relatively large daily amounts ( $\sim 40$  kt) of  $\text{SO}_2$  for several days in 2005, when the volcano was effectively in a state of continuous eruption. For a more detailed description of the Anatahan behavior, please refer to McCormick *et al.* [2015] in which they integrated 10 years of satellite data sets and activity histories for Anatahan. For the other persistently degassing volcanoes, the daily  $\text{SO}_2$  amounts are less than  $\sim 40$  kt. However, because of their persistence, their environmental influence on regional scales and in the troposphere could be important. The OMI  $\text{SO}_2$  data presented in this paper are part of a long-term multisatellite volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  database [Carn, 2015a; Carn *et al.*, 2015b] that is available from [ftp://measures.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/s4pa/SO2/MSVOLSO2L4.1/MSVOLSO2L4\\_v01-00-2014m1002.txt](ftp://measures.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/s4pa/SO2/MSVOLSO2L4.1/MSVOLSO2L4_v01-00-2014m1002.txt).

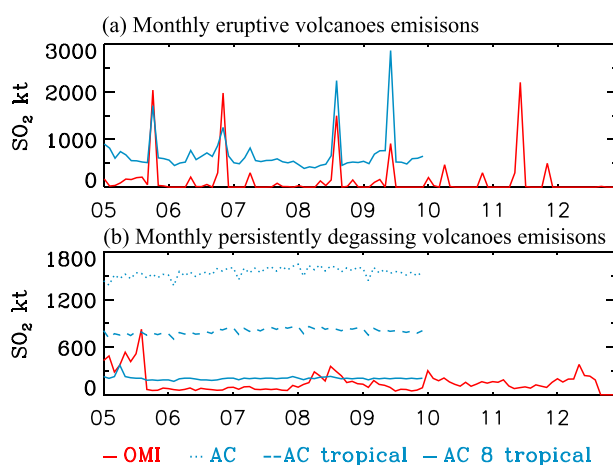
### 3.2. Comparison With AeroCom Volcanic $\text{SO}_2$ Inventory

An existing and widely used volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  flux inventory has compiled as part of the AeroCom international model intercomparison [Diehl, 2009; Diehl *et al.*, 2012] ([http://aerocom.met.no/download/emissions/AEROCOM\\_HC/](http://aerocom.met.no/download/emissions/AEROCOM_HC/)). It includes both eruptive and persistently degassing volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions from 1 January 1979 to 31 December 2009 for nearly all historic eruptions. Currently, AeroCom volcanic emission data from 1979 to 2009 are implemented into GEOS-Chem [Fisher *et al.*, 2011]. An updated version of the AeroCom database, which includes the year 2010, was endorsed for usage within Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution phase 2 experiments and can be accessed at <http://aerocom.met.no/download/emissions/HTAP/>, and the document is available at <http://iek8wikis.iek.fz-juelich.de/HTAPWiki/WP2.2/>. This study only compares with the earlier version of AeroCom data.

AeroCom's estimates of volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emission and injection height are primarily based on volcanic explosivity index (VEI) compiled by Global Volcanism Program, with some supplementary information from Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer and OMI's  $\text{SO}_2$  data. The estimates differ from the new inventory here in two aspects: (a)  $\text{SO}_2$  heights are taken from reported plume heights available in the GVP's database, while in AeroCom,  $\text{SO}_2$  plume heights are estimated primarily based on VEI, which is not a good indicator of plume height [Robock, 2000], and (b) the OMI  $\text{SO}_2$  loadings used in our database are retrieved from iterative spectral fitting algorithm [Yang *et al.*, 2010] for large ( $> \sim 250$  kt) explosive eruptions and from the linear fit algorithm [Yang *et al.*, 2007] for the smaller eruptions observed by OMI. Both algorithms are shown to be more accurate than older version of OMI  $\text{SO}_2$  data used by AeroCom.

Figures 1b and 1d show volcanic emissions from AeroCom database. In total, AeroCom data include 1166 volcanic events worldwide during 2005–2012 and nearly for each day when there are no big eruptions; the global (and total) emissions are often reported in the range of 13–18 kt for presumably small eruptive volcanoes (Figures 1b and S1b in the supporting information). Since using OMI data to verify the emission from these very small eruptive emissions (with high injection height  $\sim 10$  km) is challenging, these emissions are not included in our new database (Figures 1a and S1a). The basis of AeroCom's assumptions of background volcanic activity for these many small daily eruptions is unclear in the literature. Further study is needed to evaluate AeroCom's estimates of  $\text{SO}_2$  amount and injection height for those small and very eruptive emissions because these emissions, while small for each eruption, are frequent and are often injected above 10 km in AeroCom's database, especially during from the second half of 2008 to the first half of 2010. During the whole study period (2005–2012), these day-to-day small emissions accumulate to about 80% of AeroCom's total emission (Figure S1c), and because of this, the total emission from eruptive volcanoes in AeroCom is a factor of 4 larger than ours (as shown in the cumulative curve of  $\text{SO}_2$  emission for the whole database, Figure S1c). Indeed, if we remove those estimates ( $< 10$  kt) from AeroCom and replot the cumulative curve of  $\text{SO}_2$  emission (Figure S1d), we found general agreement between AeroCom's and our estimate of total  $\text{SO}_2$  emission from medium to large eruptions (10 kt or larger). But the significant difference exists in the estimate of emission from each individual large eruption (100 kt and above, Figure S1d).

There are two big eruptions (with  $\text{SO}_2$  emission greater than 700 kt) in the AeroCom database, namely, Kasatochi in August 2008 and Sarychev Peak in June 2009. However, AeroCom data have no data for Sierra Negra eruption in October 2005, and the  $\text{SO}_2$  emission amount by AeroCom is less for Nyamuragira by  $\sim 1800$  kt in November of 2006. Further differences can be found between the AeroCom data set and the data set in this study (Figures 1a and 1c), both in terms of  $\text{SO}_2$  loading and injection altitude. For example, the  $\text{SO}_2$  emission amount by AeroCom is lower for some smaller eruptions such as Soufriere Hills in May 2006 and



**Figure 3.** Monthly and global mean volcanoes  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions during 2005–2012 for (a) eruptive volcanoes and (b) persistently degassing volcanoes. AC indicates AeroCom.

Okmok in July 2008. No sufficient data are available in the literature for us to reconcile these differences or to understand why some big eruptions are missed in AeroCom database.

For injection altitude, we found no significant discrepancies for bigger volcanic eruptions between the two data sets perhaps because those injections of  $\text{SO}_2$  from large eruptions are well documented. However, for some smaller events such as the events during June 2006 and December 2006, the AeroCom's injection altitudes are nearly 100% higher (up to the stratosphere) than the ones in our database, reflecting in part the difference between the AeroCom's use of VEI to derive injection height and

our use of directly reported values. As discussed in Robock [2000], the VEI contains limited and inaccurate information on the volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  injection height and amount, and the "stratospheric injection" is indeed the least reliable criteria (out of 11) in assigning a VEI.

For persistently degassing volcanoes, the temporal variation of  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions is depicted in OMI data. Some peak values can be seen in Figure 2 for Anatahan (early 2005), Kilauea (2008), and Ambrym (2005 and post-2010). The variations of  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions are closely related to the changing activity of each volcano and are also consistent with some previous studies [McCormick *et al.*, 2012, 2013; Bani *et al.*, 2009; Carn *et al.*, 2013]. Generally, the AeroCom persistently degassing volcano inventory presents the emissions as constant values. Because of this assumption, the AeroCom (black lines in Figure 2) persistently degassing  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions are maintained at constant levels, with the exception of some higher values for Anatahan in 2005. In addition, AeroCom  $\text{SO}_2$  data for Ambrym show some temporal variability.

To compare the OMI volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emission budgets with AeroCom data, we show monthly and global total volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions in Figure 3. While the eruptive volcanic emissions from the two emission data sets exhibit similar temporal variations, there is a major difference in the magnitude of volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  production, mainly because AeroCom in each day includes a total of (a)  $\sim 10$  kt emission from those presumably small eruptive volcanoes around the globe (Figure S1) whose individual eruption is difficult to be detected by OMI and (b) 51–54 kt for persistently degassing volcanoes as a background volcano emission level. So as shown in Figure 3a, AeroCom's monthly total eruptive and persistently degassing volcanic emissions of  $\text{SO}_2$  are above 500 kt and 1500 kt, respectively, year round. Figure 3b is for persistently degassing volcanic emissions. The AeroCom global total emission (blue dot line), total emission from tropical region (blue dash line), and eight volcanoes over tropical region matching our OMI database (blue solid line) are shown in Figure 3 as well. OMI persistently degassing volcanic emissions reflect reasonable variations of volcanoes activities (Figure 3b), while no distinct fluctuation can be seen from most of the AeroCom data. During the year 2005, due to the higher persistently degassing emission from Anatahan and Ambrym (shown in Figure 2), the maximum of OMI degassing  $\text{SO}_2$  is above 600 kt, while AeroCom data are mostly below 300 kt.

In terms of annual mean  $\text{SO}_2$  amount during 2005 to 2009, the estimates from AeroCom volcanic emission inventory are 8180 kt and 18,520 kt for eruptive volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  and for persistently degassing volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$ , respectively, and the eight persistently degassing  $\text{SO}_2$  amounts in tropical region is 2110 kt (Table 1). Our OMI-based new inventory shows an annual mean of 1870 kt and 1900 kt  $\text{SO}_2$  for eruptive and eight persistently degassing volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$ . Our OMI  $\text{SO}_2$  database only includes eight volcanic persistently degassing sources over the tropical region and nearly 50 volcanic events, so OMI data should be considered as the lower limit for the global volcanic emissions because it lacks the sensitivity to those very small eruptions.

**Table 1.** Annual and Global Total Volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (kt/yr)

	Year	Eruptive	Persistently Degassing
AeroCom <sup>a</sup>	2005–2009	8180	18,520 (Trop <sup>b</sup> : 2110)
OMI	2005–2009	1870	(Trop <sup>b</sup> : 1900)
OMI	2005–2012	1670	(Trop <sup>b</sup> : 1850)

<sup>a</sup>1979–2009, [http://aerocom.met.no/download/emissions/AEROCOM\\_HC/](http://aerocom.met.no/download/emissions/AEROCOM_HC/). And an updated version of the AeroCom database (including the year of 2010) can be accessed at <http://aerocom.met.no/download/emissions/HTAP/>.

<sup>b</sup>Trop: tropical. Subset of eight persistently degassing volcanoes over tropical area as presented in our OMI data.

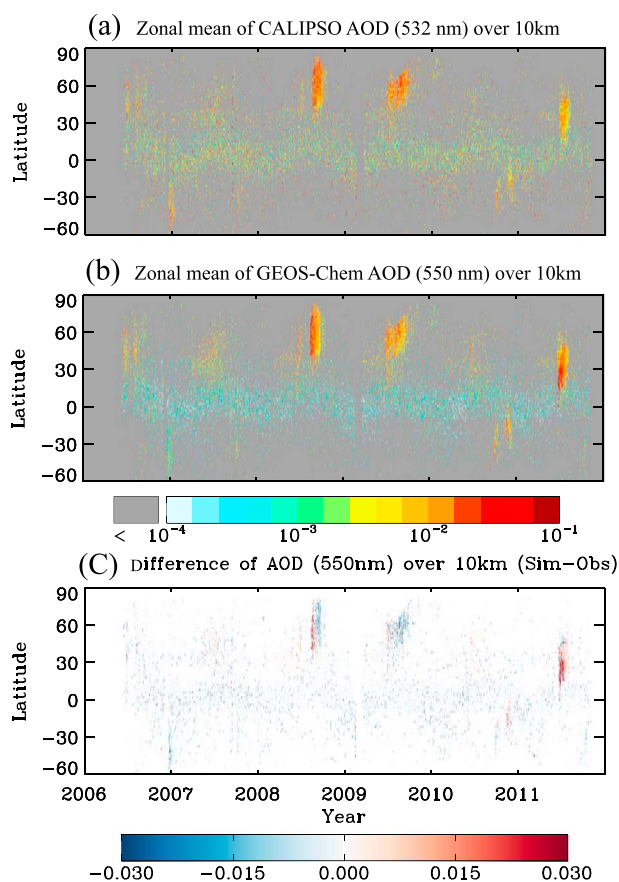
and CALIPSO data consistently show that the lifetime of eruptive volcanic sulfate often can last for a couple of months. Generally, the model sees a lower AOD, especially over tropical region. CALIPSO AOD is mostly above  $10^{-3}$  over tropical region, while the simulated AOD is mostly above  $10^{-4}$ . The lack of some small volcanoes in OMI volcano emissions is the main reason for the underestimation of simulation. In addition, the highly reflective band of clouds is consistently dominant over tropics, and it is well known that CALIPSO product has some limitations in detecting layers of scattering particles and in distinguishing clouds from aerosols [Sassen *et al.*, 2009]. Consequently, CALIPSO-measured AOD may have cloud contamination that can result in an overestimation of AOD observation over tropic region [Huang *et al.*, 2012]. The AOD difference between simulation and CALIOP is presented in Figure 4c. Generally, GEOS-Chem-simulated AOD is smaller than CALIOP

#### 4. Volcanic Sulfate Aerosol Optical Depth and Vertical Distribution of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup>

The temporal evolution of zonally averaged sulfate AOD simulated by GEOS-Chem is compared with CALIPSO AOD data, all above 10 km (Figure 4). The simulation captures the high eruptions such as Kasatochi in August 2008, Sarychev Peak in June 2009, and Nabro in June 2011. The simulation

AOD with a maximum difference of  $-0.03$ . For Kasatochi in August 2008 and Sarychev in June 2009, the simulated results slightly overestimate AOD in the beginning of each eruption and underestimate it afterward. The possible reason for this is that the total SO<sub>2</sub> amount is put on the first day of the eruption instead of using daily varied emission. For Nabro volcano in June 2011, the model simulation is larger than CALIOP AOD with a maximum difference of 0.03. The injection altitudes of Nabro have a big range from 6.1 to 13.7 km (Table 2), and the eruption took place during several days from 13 to 16 June 2011. We use the average value of 12.3 km in the simulation that is not appropriate for such long-lasting volcano (longer than 24 h) with different injection stages and injection altitudes. Although the detailed day-by-day analysis of volcanic eruptions is not the goal of the current study, we are aware that the application of daily varied altitudes would particularly improve model performance. Uncertainty discussion regarding the lack of daily varied volcano information is addressed at the end of this section.

Figure 5 shows the zonal eruptive and persistently degassing volcanic sulfate



**Figure 4.** (a) Temporal evolution of CALIPSO zonally averaged aerosol optical depth (AOD) above 10 km with the consideration of data quality flags. (b) AOD from GEOS-Chem simulations sampled along the CALIPSO ground track. (c) The difference of zonal AOD above 10 km between CALIPSO products and GEOS-Chem simulation.

**Table 2.** Locations, Emissions, and 30 Days Average  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  Radiative Forcing of Volcanoes<sup>a</sup>

Volcano	Latitude	Longitude	Main Eruption	Total $\text{SO}_2$ (kt)	Altitude (km)	Forcing ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )
Sierra Negra	−0.83	−91.17	2005/10/23	1928	2.0–15.0	−0.48
Nyamuragira	−1.41	29.20	2006/11/27	1960	3.0–6.1 (4.6)	−0.22
Kasatochi	52.18	−175.51	2008/8/7	1500	9.1–13.7 (11.8)	−0.70
Sarychev Peak	48.09	153.20	2009/6/11	900	9.7–13.7 (11.7)	−0.46
Nabro	13.37	41.70	2011/6/13	2000	6.1–13.7 (12.3)	−1.03

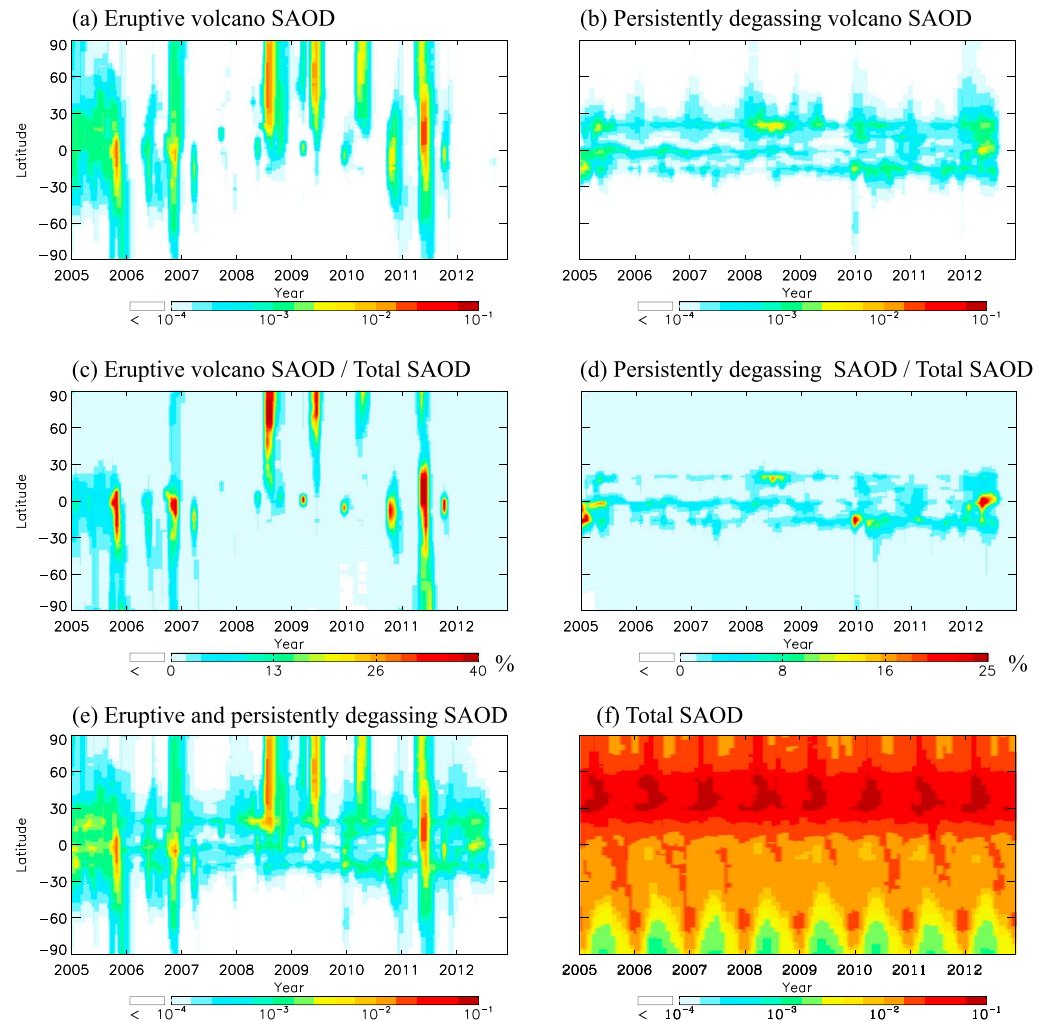
<sup>a</sup>The injection altitude in bracket is the averaged value used in the simulation.

AOD. The monthly eruptive volcano sulfate aerosol optical depth (SAOD) can be up to 0.05, and the persistently degassing volcanic SAOD are consistently around 0.0005 (Figure 5). *Kravitz et al.* [2010, 2011] conducted simulations by using a general circulation model, and they showed a range of 0.003–0.04 zonally and monthly AOD anomalies for Kasatochi volcano and 0.005–0.04 for Sarychev volcano. A similar magnitude of AOD from our simulation is presented in Figure 5. The contributions of eruptive sulfate AOD and persistently degassing sulfate AOD to total sulfate AOD are shown in Figures 5c and 5d. Total sulfate AOD includes both anthropogenic and volcanoes sulfate AOD (Figure 5f). The highest value is located in the middle latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere every summer, and it reflects persistent anthropogenic  $\text{SO}_2$  sources over some polluted middle-latitude countries such as China and a higher formation rate of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  from  $\text{SO}_2$  in northern summer [*Carmichael et al.*, 2002; *Ge et al.*, 2011]. For the big volcanic eruptions listed in Table 2, the monthly ratios of eruptive SAOD/total SAOD are larger than 40%. The higher eruptive SAOD/total SAOD ratio lasts longer than 2 months for Kasatochi in August 2008 and Nabro in June 2011. Persistently degassing volcanoes generally contribute about 5% to the total SAOD. The maximum ratio of persistently degassing SAOD/total SAOD can reach to 25% (Figure 5d). For example, the degassing volcanoes of Anatahan and Ambrym are quite active during the early months of 2005, and Nyiragongo had higher emission in the middle of 2012.

The vertical profile and transport of volcanic sulfate aerosol is an interesting topic. Direct injection of  $\text{SO}_2$  into the stratosphere from explosive eruptions was observed for some volcanoes [*Vernier et al.*, 2013a]. Some studies [*Bourassa et al.*, 2012, 2013; *Fromm et al.*, 2013, 2014] also pointed that  $\text{SO}_2$  injected into the upper troposphere could be lifted into the stratosphere by deep convection and the large-scale Asian summer monsoon circulation. Hence, characterizing the vertical distribution of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  aerosol is a fundamental step toward understanding the radiative forcing effect. The 8 year average climatology of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  at different altitude levels from different sources is shown in Figure 6. The top row is the total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass, and the middle row and bottom row are ratios in percentage of eruptive volcanic and the persistently degassing volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  to the total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass loading. Because the anthropogenic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  contribution is large, most of the total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass resides below 5 km and decreases significantly with altitude above 5 km. The contribution of eruptive volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is mainly above 10 km, with a maximum ratio of ~30% in the tropic region where the anthropogenic emissions are relatively low. During the 8 years studied, only two volcanoes (Kasatochi and Sarychev Peak) are located at high latitude around 50° north where the anthropogenic emissions are relatively higher. It is found that in 8 year average, eruptive volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  on average contribute ~10% in the most area of Northern Hemisphere above 10 km. For persistently degassing volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , because the emissions are released around the vent elevation with a maximum of 5500 m in this study, the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is barely evident above 10 km; however, below 5 km and locally, it dominates the sulfate loading over Hawaii and in oceanic areas northeast of Australia, representing nearly 60% of the total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass.

The vertical profile of 8 year zonal mean  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  from volcanic eruptions is shown in Figure 7a. Generally, most of the sulfate aerosol mass resides in the Northern Hemisphere troposphere. The high value of sulfate aerosol mass can be seen around 800 hPa and lower altitude; this is contributed by eruptive events with lower injection altitude (Figures 1a and 1c) including two larger ones (Sierra Negra and Nyamuragira, Table 2). The ratio of eruptive sulfate to total sulfate (Figure 7c) is more than 20% between 800 hPa and 200 hPa over equatorial regions, increasing to 30% around the tropopause. There are three eruptions over the tropical area in October 2005,

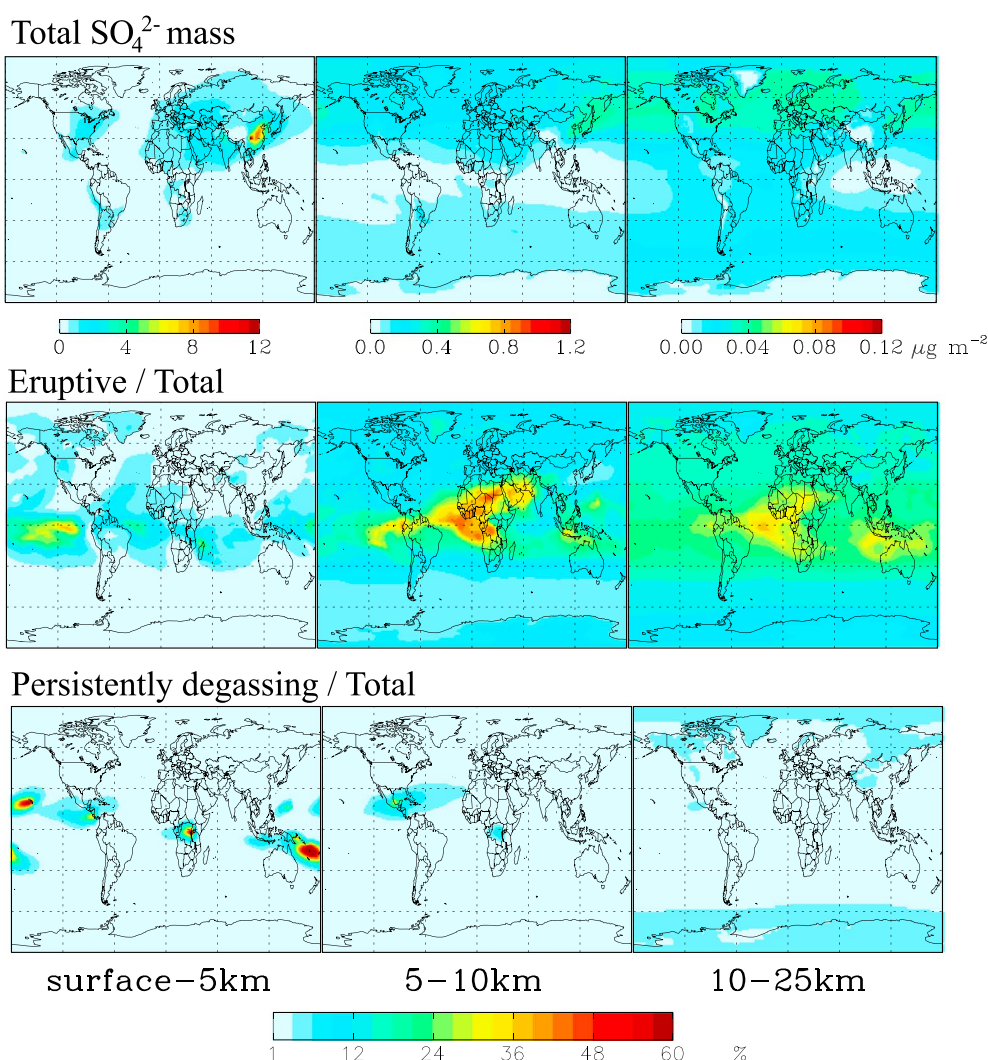




**Figure 5.** Monthly and zonal mean of GEOS-Chem simulations sulfate AOD (SAOD) from (a) eruptive volcano, (b) persistently degassing volcano, (c) the SAOD ratio of eruptive/total, (d) the SAOD ratio of persistently degassing/total, (e) the SAOD ratio of (both eruptive and persistently degassing)/total, and (f) total SAOD.

November 2006, and June 2011 with total  $\text{SO}_2$  amount around 6000 kt (Table 2). There are only two high-latitude eruptions in the Northern Hemisphere, and the total  $\text{SO}_2$  amount is around 2400 kt (Table 2). Since the concentration of anthropogenic sulfate aerosol is quite small around the tropical area compared with middle to high latitudes (Figure 6), bigger ratios of eruptive sulfate to total sulfate take place over the tropical area. In contrast, the ratio of sulfate derived from persistently degassing volcanic emissions to total sulfate is only around 7% in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere and can be 10% over some equatorial regions.

Several studies [e.g., Hegerl *et al.*, 2006] have pointed out that the uncertainty is large in both emissions amount and altitude of the volcanoes. To estimate the uncertainty range caused by the lack of daily varied emissions and injection altitudes, we use Sierra Negra as an example here. OMI-retrieved daily  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions and injection altitude for Sierra Negra during 23–29 October 2005 are listed in Table S1. We did a control run with day-to-day varied emission and injection height ranging from 2 to 15 km (as in Table S1) and the sensitivity run with other three simulations in which we put the total  $\text{SO}_2$  amount for the first day of the eruption and vary the injection altitudes from the lowest (2 km), averaged (as 6 km over multiple days based on Table S1) to the highest value (15 km) in GEOS-Chem respectively. Figure S3 shows 30 day average  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  AOD after Sierra Negra volcano eruption from the four simulations. The global averaged AOD value is also listed for each panel. Along with the increased injection altitude (from 2 km to 15 km) the averaged AOD increased from 0.003 to 0.010. The simulation with averaged injection altitude is close to the control run from the aspects of both global distribution and globally averaged



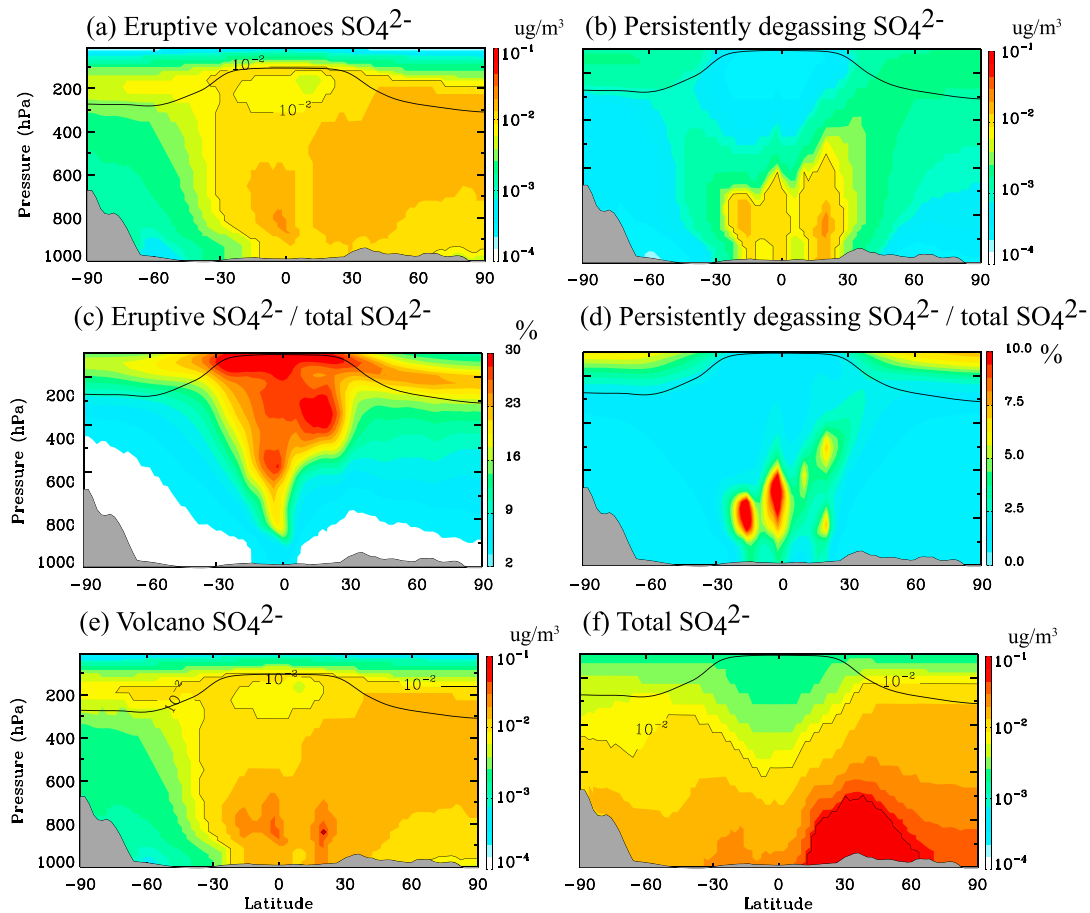
**Figure 6.** Eight years (2005–2012) average at different levels: (top row) the total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass (micrograms per square meter) and (middle and bottom rows) ratios in percentage of eruptive volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and eight persistently degassing volcanic to the total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass loading.

AOD (Figures S3a–S3c). The simulation with the lowest altitude (2 km) shows that the sulfate aerosol is more localized, and the simulation with highest altitude (15 km) shows that sulfate aerosol impacted a much wider area. In global averages, the simulation with average altitude overestimates the monthly AOD by 12.5% (Figure S3a versus Figure S3c) and monthly forcing by ~5% (Figure S5a versus Figure S5c) compared with the control run. Figure S4 shows the vertical profile of zonal and 30 days mean  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  AOD from the four simulations. The simulation with lowest and highest injection altitude failed to reproduce the main feature of the vertical profile compared with the control run. The simulation with the averaged injection altitude captures the main structure between surface and 600 hPa while missing the high value of AOD above 300 hPa (Figures S4a and S4c). Overall, the results here suggest that for long-term climate studies that concern global and monthly average of aerosol forcing, using averaged injection height and setting all the emissions in the first day of the volcanic eruption is appropriate unless the time-variant injection height and emission are available with high accuracy. However, for those model studies concerning the altitude-dependent atmospheric chemistry and transport in regional and day-to-day scales, the time-variant injection height and emission of volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  is highly needed.

## 5. Sulfate Aerosol Forcing and Forcing Efficiency

Volcanic sulfate forcing is highly episodic but can have strong and rapid impacts on climate [Robock, et al., 2000; Wang et al., 2013]. The temporal evolution of global mean sulfate forcing contributed by specific sources is

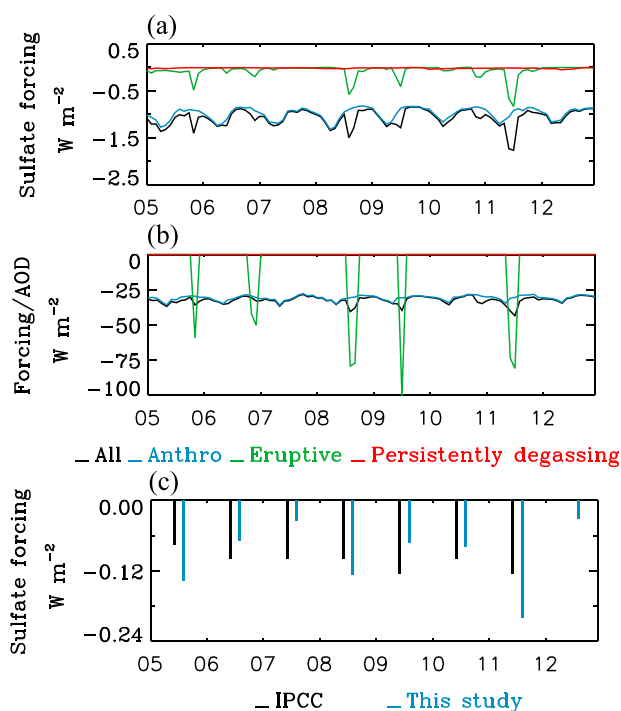




**Figure 7.** Vertical profile of zonal and annual mean (a)  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentration from eruptive volcano, (b)  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  from persistently degassing volcanoes, (c) eruptive volcanoes/total, (d) persistently degassing volcanoes/total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentration, (e) eruptive and noneruptive  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and (f) total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentration. The black line is the tropopause height. The gray shaded area is the zonally averaged topography. The positive (negative) latitudes in x axis refer to Northern (Southern) Hemisphere.

shown in Figure 8a, based on GEOS-Chem simulations. In global and monthly averages, the range of anthropogenic sulfate forcing is  $-0.82$  to  $-1.32 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . The anthropogenic sulfate forcing displays a clear seasonal pattern with a summer peak, and it starts to increase in early spring and gradually decrease after summer. Most anthropogenic sulfate is from the Northern Hemisphere, especially East Asia (Figure 6). Generally, the water vapor content is elevated in summer over the Northern Hemisphere which results in a higher formation rate of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  from  $\text{SO}_2$  [Carmichael *et al.*, 2002; Ge *et al.*, 2011]. The largest monthly mean eruptive volcanic sulfate forcing in recent years is  $-0.83 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in June 2011 when Nabro erupted, and it doubled the anthropogenic sulfate forcing during that month. The annual average of persistently degassing sulfate forcing is around  $-0.02 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , and this might be a slight underestimation because only the largest eight tropical persistently degassing volcanoes are considered in this study. Figure 8c shows the annual sulfate forcing calculated in this study along with the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimations. Table All 1.2 in IPCC, 2013 lists annual mean radiative forcing due to different sources (e.g., trace gases, aerosols, black carbon, and volcano) during 1750–2011. Note that IPCC's [2013] radiative forcing (RF) estimates are calculated with the formula  $\text{RF} = \text{AOD} \times (-25.0) \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . The IPCC global mean volcanic sulfate AOD for recent years (1950–2011) is from surface and satellite observations [Sato *et al.*, 1993; Schmidt *et al.*, 2011]. And in the formula,  $-25 \text{ W m}^{-2}/\text{AOD}$  is considered as the average forcing efficiency of volcanic sulfate aerosols.

Although the 7 year average (2005–2011) of global volcanic sulfate forcing ( $-0.09 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) from this study is found to be slightly smaller than that reported by the IPCC ( $-0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), the discrepancy could be seen for each year (Figure 8c). It should be noted that we did simulation for 8 years (2005–2012), while IPCC [2013] only includes 7 years (2005–2011) forcing data. The discrepancy between the two forcing estimations could

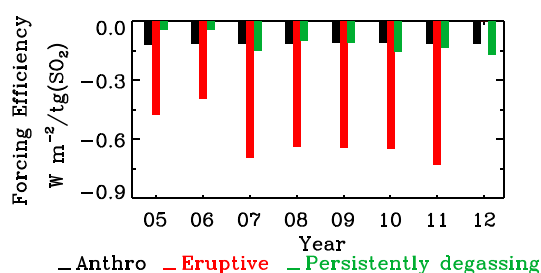


**Figure 8.** (a) Temporal evolution of GEOS-Chem simulated global and monthly mean sulfate forcing, (b) ratio of global and monthly mean sulfate forcing/AOD, and (c) global and annual mean volcanic sulfate forcing from this study and IPCC.

be partly explained by the RF/AOD ratio. Figure 8b shows the RF/AOD ratio for the sulfate aerosols from volcanic eruptions, persistently degassing volcanoes, anthropogenic sources, and all sources. The ratio of volcanic eruptions is between  $-40$  and  $-80 W m^{-2}$  and of anthropogenic sulfate is around  $-30 W m^{-2}$ . So the RF/AOD ratio of  $-25 W m^{-2}$  used in the IPCC calculation is very small in magnitude for volcanic eruptions aerosols, which leads to an underestimation of the eruptive volcanic sulfate radiative forcing. Since the IPCC estimation flattens the episodic perturbation by volcanic eruptions by using the smaller RF/AOD ratio, the IPCC RF does not show much variation ( $0.075$ – $0.125 W m^{-2}$ ) during 2005–2011. The annual averaged RF from IPCC [2013] is  $-0.100 W m^{-2}$  for 4 years (2006–2008 and 2010). This is not reasonable because large eruptions (Nyamuragira and Kasatochi, respectively) took place in 2006 and 2008 but no comparable events occurred in 2007 based on OMI data.

The radiative forcing and emission information for each volcano with  $SO_2$  emission larger than 700 kt during 2005–2012 are listed in Table 2. Three large eruptions producing emissions of  $\sim 2000$  kt  $SO_2$  are Sierra Negra in October 2005, Nyamuragira in November 2006, and Nabro in June 2011. These three volcanoes are all in tropical region and hence have a larger impact over subtropical area rather than high-latitude area. Of these eruptions, Nyamuragira has the lowest sulfate forcing of  $-0.22 W m^{-2}$  due to a relatively low  $SO_2$  injection altitude (Table 2). Nabro in June 2011 has the largest forcing of  $-1.03 W m^{-2}$  among all recent eruptions. There are two high-latitude volcanoes with significant  $SO_2$  emissions and injection altitude: Kasatochi in August 2008 and Sarychev Peak in June 2009. The  $SO_2$  emissions from these volcanoes are 900 kt to 1500 kt, and the  $SO_2$  injection altitudes are  $\sim 12$  km, which is close to tropopause of middle- to high-latitude region. Furthermore, these two eruptions took place in the boreal summer season, increasing their forcing ( $-0.46$  to  $-0.70 W m^{-2}$ , Table 2) due to prolonged interactions with solar radiation. Several past studies also reported these volcanoes with similar results of this study. For example, Geist *et al.* [2008] reported an injection altitude of 2–15 km for the volcano of Sierra Negra. Kravitz *et al.* [2010, 2011] conducted a series of simulations to test the climate response to the eruptions of Kasatochi volcano and Sarychev volcano. Along with the study of Haywood *et al.* [2010], they reported 1.5 Tg  $SO_2$  emission and 10–16 km injection altitude for Kasatochi and 1.2 Tg  $SO_2$  and 11–16 km altitude for Sarychev.

Based on the above facts, conclusions could be drawn that the volcano radiative forcing depends on location (high latitude or low latitude), season (summer or winter), deposition or lifting mechanisms and chemical mechanisms, and the favorable conditions for large volcanic forcing, which are high  $SO_2$  emissions, high injection altitude, and high solar radiation season. There are also some papers that gave further verification of this conclusion. For example, Kravitz and Robock [2011] tested the climate effects of high-latitude volcanic eruptions with regard to the eruption time of the year. They found that high  $SO_2$  emissions amount and high solar radiation season are the main characteristics that produce large volcanic forcing. Sulfate aerosol in the stratosphere has a much longer lifetime than in the troposphere, so injection altitude could lead to large differences in sulfate forcing [Wang *et al.*, 2013]. Wang *et al.* [2013] found that every 2 km decrease of  $SO_2$  injection altitude in the GEOS-Chem simulations for Kasatochi eruption resulted in a  $\sim 25\%$  decrease in volcanic



**Figure 9.** Annual  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  forcing efficiency of three sources during 2005–2012.

Grímsvötn in May 2011, were omitted in those studies. The Nyamuragira eruption (Table 2) has high total  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions (1960 kt) and a relatively low injection altitude (4.6 km), so the local pollution impact near the surface could be large. The information of Grímsvötn could be seen in Table S2, and it has 300 kt  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions and relatively high injection altitude (11.0 km). The radiative forcing attributable to these two volcanoes are  $-0.22 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Nyamuragira) and  $-0.15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Grímsvötn), respectively.

The global, annual mean sulfate forcing efficiency with respect to  $\text{SO}_2$  emission is calculated for three categories (Figure 9). The forcing efficiency is defined as forcing per unit of  $\text{SO}_2$  emission ( $\text{W m}^{-2}/\text{tg}(\text{SO}_2)$ ). The annual sulfate forcing efficiency due to volcanic eruptions is much larger than that due to persistently degassing volcanoes, and generally, the sulfate forcing efficiency from anthropogenic  $\text{SO}_2$  sources is close to that from persistently degassing volcanoes. For the 8 years average, the forcing efficiency of eruptive volcanic sulfate ( $0.53 \text{ W m}^{-2}/\text{tg}(\text{SO}_2)$ ) is nearly 5 times larger than that of the anthropogenic sulfate ( $0.11 \text{ W m}^{-2}/\text{tg}(\text{SO}_2)$ ), and for the eight persistently degassing volcanoes their forcing efficiency ( $0.11 \text{ W m}^{-2}/\text{tg}(\text{SO}_2)$ ) is close to that for anthropogenic sulfate. This indicates that the injection altitude is an important factor determining the volcanic sulfate forcing efficiency.

## 6. Summary and Discussion

A new volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emission inventory for 2005–2012 is produced in this study based on the integration of satellite-based (OMI)  $\text{SO}_2$  amount and GVP-based database of volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  plume altitude. After comparing with the AeroCom inventory, the new inventory is used in the GEOS-Chem CTM to simulate the distribution and contribution of volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ . Also, the corresponding  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  radiative forcing is estimated. We summarize our results as follows:

1. The new volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emission inventory includes contributions not only from global volcanic eruptions but also from eight persistently degassing volcanoes. The new inventory represents the largest volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  sources detected by OMI in 2005–2012. Emissions from Nyamuragira in November 2006 and Grímsvötn in May 2011 that were excluded from the IPCC 5 inventory are now included. Both volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emission amount and injection altitude are included in the new inventory, and the new emission database is available upon request.
2. A good agreement is found for the temporal evolution of zonal AOD above 10 km between CALIPSO retrievals and GEOS-Chem simulation with the new volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  emission inventory. The 8 year average contribution of eruptive  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  to total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  loading is  $\sim 10\%$  over most areas of Northern Hemisphere above 10 km and can be up to 30% in the tropics where the anthropogenic emissions are relatively lower. Eight years averagely, tropical persistently degassing volcanic  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is a regionally dominant type of aerosols, contributing 60%+ in terms of mass in the lower atmosphere over Hawaii and in oceanic regions northeast of Australia.
3. While 7 year average (2005–2011) of volcanic sulfate forcing of  $-0.09 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  is similar to the counterpart ( $-0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) in the latest report by IPCC [2013], our estimates revealed a much larger interannual variability than that in IPCC report, likely because IPCC used a constant forcing efficiency per unit sulfate AOD. Furthermore, this study found the eruptive volcano forcing efficiency ranges from  $-40$  to  $-80 \text{ W m}^{-2}/\text{AOD}$  that are much larger than the constant value ( $-25 \text{ W m}^{-2}/\text{AOD}$ ) used by IPCC.
4. The global and monthly mean sulfate forcing efficiency to  $\text{SO}_2$  emission was calculated for three emission categories. The forcing efficiency for eruptive volcanic sulfate is nearly 5 times that of the anthropogenic

sulfate forcing. Solomon *et al.* [2011] pointed that volcano eruptions in the tropics are especially important for climate change because the injected material can be transported into the stratospheres of both hemispheres and affect the entire globe.

Comparison of our results with IPCC 5 Figure 8.13 and Santer *et al.* [2014] revealed that the two eruptions, namely, Nyamuragira in November 2006 and

sulfate. In contrast, the forcing efficiency for eight tropical persistently degassing volcanic sulfates, on average, is close to the anthropogenic sulfate forcing efficiency. This study further confirms that the  $\text{SO}_2$  injection altitude is a key factor determining volcanic sulfate forcing efficiency and should be a key parameter in the emission inventory. Satellite remote sensing techniques that can routinely measure the vertical profile of  $\text{SO}_2$  therefore are urgently needed.

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