Case study on stratospheric and mesospheric concentric gravity waves generated by deep convection

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Key Points:

- The critical conditions of the based-ground phase speed and the background wind speed in multiple propagation directions to calculate the parameter characteristics of the gravity wave is proposed.
- The value of based-ground phase speed mainly depends on the change of the tropopause wind speed.
- Gravity waves detected by the AIRS and DNB are generated by the same convective system.

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Abstract: Concentric gravity waves (CGWs) in the middle and upper atmosphere show wave-coupling processes between the lower atmosphere and the middle and upper atmosphere. In this research, we analyzed a case of CGWs detected simultaneously by the AIRS (Atmospheric Infrared Sounder) and the VIIRS/DNB (Day/Night Band of the Visible Infrared Imager Radiometer Suite) in the stratosphere and mesosphere. Results showed that gravity waves (GWs) were generated by the collocated Hurricane Bejisa on the island of Mauritius. The AIRS data showed arc-like phase fronts of GWs with horizontal wavelengths of 190 and 150 km at 21:08 coordinated universal time (UTC) on 1 January 2014 and at 10:00 UTC on 2 January 2014, whereas the DNB observed arced GWs with horizontal wavelengths of 60 and 150 km in the same geographic regions at 22:24 UTC. The characteristics of CGW parameters in the stratosphere (~40 km) and the mesosphere (~87 km), such as the vertical wavelength, intrinsic frequency, and intrinsic horizontal phase speed, were first derived together with the background winds from ERA5 reanalysis data and Horizontal Wind Model data through the dispersion relationship of GWs and the wind-filtering theory.

Keywords: concentric gravity waves; wavelength; intrinsic frequency; phase speed

1. Introduction

Gravity waves (GWs) have been identified as one of the most important dynamic processes in the atmosphere. They have a significant effect on the structure and stability of atmospheric circulation (Charron and Manzini, 2002; Alexander et al., 2010) and play an important role in defining the wind, temperature, and vertical coupling of the atmosphere (Fritts and Alexander, 2003; Kaifler et al., 2015; Xu S et al., 2019). Deep convection, such as with thunderstorms, mesoscale convective complexes, and mesoscale convective systems, is believed to be the major source of GWs (Hoffmann and Alexander, 2010; Gong J et al., 2015; Perwitasari et al., 2016). Hurricanes (maximum wind speed of 32.7 m·s⁻¹, wind level 12), as strong tropical cyclone systems with complex evolutionary processes and internal structures, may be particularly intense sources. Convection-generated GWs propagating in the troposphere, stratosphere, and mesosphere may contribute to the stratospheric

Correspondence to: Z. G. Yao, zhigangyao@mail.iap.ac.cn Received 11 MAY 2020; Accepted 03 AUG 2020. Accepted article online 21 SEP 2020. ©2021 by Earth and Planetary Physics. quasi-biennial oscillation (Alexander and Holton, 1997; Piani et al., 2000; Huang KM et al., 2009), which modulates monsoonal precipitation; the Brewer–Dobson circulation (Alexander and Rosenlof, 2003; Stephan et al., 2016), which governs stratospheric ozone transport and mesosphere and lower thermosphere forcing and heating/cooling (Yamashita et al., 2010; Liu X et al., 2014); and secondary wave generation in the low and middle latitudes (Vadas and Becker, 2018; Vadas et al., 2018).

The characteristics of convection-generated GWs have been routinely observed by using airglow measurements in the mesosphere. Yue J et al. (2009) observed semiconcentric or concentric gravity waves (CGWs) generated by deep convective plumes in the lower atmosphere by using a ground-based full-sky hydroxyl airglow imager in the mesopause region (80 to 105 km). With a nadir-viewing airglow imager, these convection-generated GWs appear as circular rings traveling outward away from the center of the cone (Yue J et al., 2009; Miller et al., 2012; Yue J et al., 2014). Suzuki et al. (2013) used a ground-based airglow imager to observe a typhoon-generated GW with in the mesopause and estimated the horizontal wavelength, horizontal phase speed, and wave period as 34.5 km, 50.2 m·s⁻¹, and 11.5 min, respectively. Over the last decade or so, many three-dimensional spatial numerical models and nonlinear and linear models have simulated GWs generated by convection, and the characteristics of GWs have been further studied (Alexander et al., 2004; Vadas and Fritts, 2009). Because numerical simulation can yield a large quantity of high spatiotemporal resolution output results, researchers have increasingly adopted the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model and the three-dimensional mesoscale model (MM5) to research GWs (Kuester et al., 2008; Kim et al., 2009). Convectiongenerated GWs are observed in the lower stratosphere of the MM5 model at horizontal scales of 15-300 km, vertical scales of 4-8 km, and intrinsic periods of approximately 20-100 min. Kim and Chun (2010) used the mesoscale numerical model WRF-ARW (Advanced Research WRF) to simulate GWs in the stratosphere generated by Typhoon Saomai and demonstrated that the dominant propagation directions were eastward, northeastward, and southeastward because westward waves were mostly filtered by the background wind. Heale et al. (2017) conducted numerical simulations of the background wind-filtering effects on the CGWs and found that the winds control the dominant directionality, amplitude, and morphology of concentric patterns at a given altitude. Equinox months generally have smaller wind amplitudes and variability and thus more concentric patterns of CGWs, whereas solstice months have winds and shears leading to more arc-like patterns of CGWs.

Compared with ground-based data, the earth-viewing polar-orbit satellite instruments for the middle and upper atmospheric GWs have the advantages of relatively high horizontal and vertical resolution and global coverage in regions where oceans and sounding data are scarce (Kim et al., 2009; Yue J et al., 2013). Satellite instrument observations have shown that GWs are highly localized, a feature that can be used to provide information on their sources (Alexander and Teitelbaum, 2007), especially whether the GWs in the stratosphere and the mesosphere have the same excitation source. Most recently, data from the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) instrument (Aumann et al., 2003) on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Aqua satellite were used to image GWs at an altitude of approximately 40 km (Alexander and Teitelbaum, 2007). The phenomena of CGWs have been simultaneously observed by the AIRS and the Day/Night Band (DNB) of the Visible Infrared Imager Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) detecting instruments in the stratosphere and mesosphere over the Indian Ocean (Yue J et al., 2014), but they have not given the parameters of the CGWs, such as the phase speed and period.

Because AIRS and VIIRS can provide a snapshot of the CGW images at a point in time but not the temporal variations of CGW images at a fixed location, it is difficult to obtain all the parameters of GWs with only satellite image data. To investigate the characteristics of CGWs in the satellite image data, background wind data and the wind-filtering theory were initially used in this research to derive the GW parameters. We attempted to use data from multiple satellites to investigate the characteristics of GW parameters generated by Hurricane Bejisa in the stratosphere and mesosphere. The characteristics of GW parameters at different heights were diagnosed in detail in conjunction with using background wind speed data to further understand the coupling process from the source regions to the upper atmospheric regions in the troposphere–stratosphere–mesosphere atmospheric system. In Section 2, we briefly describe Hurricane Bejisa, which occurred from 1 to 6 January 2014 on the island of Mauritius. In Section 3, we introduce the AIRS detectors on the Aqua satellite and the DNB detectors on the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (NPP) satellite as well as the ERA5 reanalysis data and Horizontal Wind Model (HWM) data used in this study. In Section 4, we provide an analysis of CGWs according to the dispersion relationship and the wind-filtering theory of CGWs in the stratosphere and mesosphere. Finally, we present our conclusions in Section 5.

2. Description of Hurricane Bejisa

Hurricane Bejisa is a powerful and deep tropical cyclone that reached Reunion Island and Mauritius Island in January 2014. The formation process was as follows: in late December 2013, under advantageous conditions, a tropical storm that occurred in northern Madagascar continued to develop and intensify into a mesoscale tropical storm on 29 December 2013. It then intensified rapidly and developed into a strong tropical cyclone that reached a peak maximum sustained wind speed of 165 km·h⁻¹ on 30 December 2013. For most of the time, the hurricane moved in a south-southeast direction. Figure 1 shows the cloud images obtained via the Fengyun polar-orbiting satellite. At 18:20 UTC on 1 January 2014 (Figure 1a), the eye of the hurricane was at (19.3°S, 53.6°E), and the maximum speed was 144 km·h⁻¹. At 05:30 UTC on 2 January 2014, it became a category 2 hurricane (Figure 1b). The hurricane reached category 3 when the eye of the hurricane was at (20.4°S, 54.2°E), and it continued to move to the southeast. At 18:20 UTC, the eye was located at (22.5°S, 55°E) (Figure 1c), and on 3 January 2014, it turned southwest. Figure 2 shows the six-day trajectory of Hurricane Bejisa provided by the Japan Meteorological Agency. The white crosses indicate the eyes of the hurricane from 00:00 UTC on 1 January 2014 to 00:00 UTC on 6 January 2014. The four stages in the life span of the hurricane (tropical storm, hurricane, tropical depression, and extratropical cyclone) are shown by the orange, purple, red, and yellow portions of the trajectory, respectively.

3. Data Sets

To study the CGWs generated by deep convection, data from the AIRS and DNB were analyzed to determine the CGWs at different altitudes. The ERA5 reanalysis data and the HWM data were used to provide the background winds, with which the parameters of the CGWs could be derived.

3.1 Aqua/AIRS

The AIRS is a hyperspectral infrared spectrometer onboard the Aqua satellite launched by NASA in 2002 (Aumann et al., 2003). Its spectral measurements cover the wavelength ranges of 3.74–4.61 µm, 6.20–8.22 µm, and 8.8–15.4 µm, with an observation error on the order of 0.2 K. The nominal resolving power of the hyperspectral infrared radiometer is $\lambda/\Delta\lambda = 1,200$ (Aumann et al., 2003). The horizontal spatial resolution of AIRS footprints is 13.5 × 13.5 km at the nadir view and 41 × 21.4 km at the scan edges, respectively.Thespectrometercandetectheightsfromthegroundupto



Figure 1. Fengyun polar-orbiting satellite cloud image (a) at 18:20 UTC on 1 January 2014; (b) at 05:30 UTC on 2 January 2014; and (c) at 18:20 UTC on 2 January 2014. The clouds are shown in white, and brighter colors indicate a higher cloud top.



Figure 2. The trajectory of Hurricane Bejisa from observations by the Japan Meteorological Agency from 1 to 6 January 2014.

65 km. AIRS makes a cross-track scan every 2.67 s that includes 90 footprints on the ground. The outermost scan angle is ±48.95° from nadir, which provides a ~1800 km wide swath given Aqua's 705 km orbital altitude. The AIRS measurements are gathered in "granules," each of which covers 6 minutes of measurement time, that is, 135 scans or 12,150 footprints. The along-track size of a granule is 2,400 km. The weighting function peaks at different altitudes (~3–10 hPa) of the 15 μ m, and the 4.3 μ m CO₂ strong absorption band channel radiances can be used to observe the GW activity in the middle and upper atmosphere (Hoffmann and Alexander, 2010; Hoffmann et al., 2013).

The AIRS data were obtained from NASA's Goddard Earth Sciences Data Information and Services Center. In this research, we used the 79th channel radiance of the AIRS instrument to detect the GWs in the stratosphere. The corresponding wavenumber was 667.76 cm⁻¹, and the altitude of the weighting function peak was 41 km. Alexander and Barnet (2007) provided a detailed calculation process between the measured radiance and derived brightness temperature perturbations, as well as the GW amplitudes and wavelengths extracted from these data based on their wavelet analysis. The brightness temperature perturbance was calculated by adopting a classic method. First, the observed brightness

temperature on each scan line was fitted to the scan angle with a fourth-order polynomial fitting to obtain the background brightness temperature. The observed brightness temperature was then subtracted from the background brightness temperature to obtain the brightness temperature perturbance value (Hoffmann and Alexander, 2010). Through these steps, they were able to remove signals that changed slowly, such as those caused by planetary waves or large temperature gradients (Hoffmann and Alexander, 2010; Hoffmann et al., 2013).

3.2 Suomi NPP/VIIRS DNB

The Suomi NPP satellite, which was developed by NASA and is operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was launched on 28 October 2011. The Suomi NPP carries the VIIRS, a 22-band imaging radiometer that measures radiation and the infrared and visible light (Lee et al., 2006; Miller et al., 2013). It is able to collect radiation images from the land, atmosphere, ice, and ocean in the visible/infrared bands. The VIIRS is a scanning optical sensor with a very high spatial resolution of 0.724×0.724 km and a 12-km-long and 3,000-km-wide acrosstrack swath width by synchronous scan. The DNB is a low-light sensor on the next-generation VIIRS; it has a spectral band pass of 505-890 nm. Its sensitivity is 106 times that of most visible light sensors, with observed ground- and lunar-reflected shimmer. The primary source of illumination is atmospheric nightglow emission, predominantly from excited hydroxyl (OH*), molecular (O₂), and atomic oxygen (O). The signal magnitudes range from 10⁻¹¹ to 10⁻⁹ W·cm⁻²·sr⁻¹, or roughly 100 times fainter than moonlight (Miller et al., 2012).

Because the DNB detects the principal nightglow emission layer (~85–90 km), it can observe the mesoscale GWs (scale of ~10–100 km) propagating through the free atmosphere or traveling along ducting layers, as well as the large-scale GWs (scale ~1,000 km) caused by patterns of nightglow variability (Miller et al., 2012). One limitation of the DNB is its coarse time resolution, which provides only one overpass per night at lower latitudes.

Data from the VIIRS sensor data record are distributed by the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) Atmosphere Product and Evaluation and Test Element (PEATE) and the NOAA Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System (CLASS). In this research, the DNB detected regions of the direct nightglow emission from near the mesopause (~85–90 km) to demonstrate the GW phenomenon. As part of the ongoing polarorbit program, the DNB airglow imaging capability with a high spatial resolution enables continuous study of GWs above the stratosphere on a global scale. This continuity provided the opportunity to integrate the DNB with GW observations from other satellite systems.

Table 1 summarizes some of the principal differences between the AIRS and VIIRS/DNB, especially the spectral range of the GWs measured. The principal objective of this comparison is to illustrate the nuances of each measurement in terms of GW sensitivity and characterization and to provide a context for the capabilities and limitations of the AIRS and VIIRS/DNB while contributing to the analysis of GW characteristics. Accuracy was also improved for the VIIRS/DNB compared with the AIRS. Without the higher tem-

Table 1.	Comparison between the Aqua/AIRS and the Suomi
NPP/VIIRS	S DNB.

Attribute	AIRS	VIIRS/DNB	
Technique	Spectrometer	Radiometer	
Horizontal resolution (km)	13.5 0.75		
Swath width (km)	1,765	3,000	
Horizontal wavelength (km)	50-1,000	10-1,000	
Vertical wavelength (km)	>15	>10	
Temporal coverage	Two overpasses per day	One overpass per night	
Altitude (km)	20–65	85–90	

poral resolution, the AIRS and VIIRS/DNB could have been used to measure only the horizontal wavelength but could not have resolved the wave period and phase velocity. Thus, the vertical wavelength could not have been obtained from the dispersion relationship with only the known horizontal wavelength, which is their limitation.

3.3 ERA5 Reanalysis Data

In November 2016, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) released the first 2-month fifth-generation reanalysis product: the ERA5 (Hersbach and Dee, 2016). ERA5 is produced using 4D-Var data assimilation in CY41R2 of ECMWF's Integrated Forecast System (IFS), with 137 hybrid sigma/pressure (model) levels in the vertical, with the top level at 0.01 hPa. Its horizontal and temporal resolutions are 31 km and 1 h, respectively. In this research, we used the ERA5 reanalysis data from 1 January 2014 and the areas (15–30°S, 40–60°E) as the atmospheric background wind field in the stratosphere to analyze the GWs. The vertical range was from the surface of the earth to the level at 1 hPa (~48 km).

3.4 Horizontal Wind Model

The seventh-generation HWM (HWM07) is a relatively new empirical model of the horizontal neutral wind from the ground to 500 km in the Earth's atmosphere. The first edition of the model, released in 1987 (HWM87), was intended for winds at greater than 220 km. The HWM07 is based on wind data obtained from the AEE (Atmospheric Explorer-E) and DE 2 (Dynamics Explorer 2) satellites. The modeling method describes a limited set of meridional and zonal wind components based on space-based and ground-based detection data through the expansion of a vector spherical harmonic function. With the development of the detection level, and with wind data from ground-based incoherent scatter radar and Fabry-Perot optical interferometers, the 1990 model (HWM90) was extended down to 100 km, and with the use of medium-frequency radar and meteor wind data, the 1993 model (HWM93) was extended down to the ground. The latest version of the HWM07 solves some of the defects of HWM90 and HWM93 and can provide global wind field information from the ground to the thermosphere. With the HWM07, we obtained the background wind through the use of Matlab with original programs. This research mainly used data at 22:24 UTC on 1 January 2014 at (20°S, 56°E) in the calm mode.

4. Analytical Results

4.1 Stratospheric CGWs in the AIRS Observation

Figure 3 shows the AIRS brightness temperature collocated with Hurricane Bejisa as sampled over the period from 1 to 2 January 2014. The red crosses denote the central position of CGWs at 21:08 UTC (Figure 3a) and 10:00 UTC (Figure 3b), approximately when the satellite was passing over the hurricane region. Waves with brightness temperature amplitudes of 1 K can be seen in Figure 3. To investigate the concentric patterns in greater detail, we fit circles of varying radii and centers to each ring and looked for optimal matches (Yue J et al., 2009; Suzuki et al., 2013). Determining the central position of CGW1 (19°S, 53.5°E) approximated the eye of the hurricane (19.3°S, 53.6°E) at 18:20 UTC (Figure 1a) on 1 January 2014. Similarly, the central position of CGW2 (20.3°S, 54.2°E) approximated the eye of the hurricane (20.4°S, 54.2°E) at 05:30 UTC (Figure 1b) on 2 January 2014. We estimated the entire wave structure from the fragments of the arc observed by AIRS by assuming that the wave had circular wave fronts that expanded concentrically from a point. According to spherical trigonometry, R_k can be written as follows (Suzuki et al., 2013):

$$R_k = R_e \cos^{-1} \left[\sin\phi_c \sin\phi_k + \cos\phi_c \cos\phi_k \cos\left(\lambda_k - \lambda_c\right) \right], \tag{1}$$

where R_k is the distance from an assumed center at latitude λ_c and longitude ϕ_c to the determined point on the *k*th wave front (λ_k , ϕ_k), and R_e is the radius of the Earth.

The black concentric circles shown in Figure 3a and 3b denote two wave fronts at 21:08 UTC on 1 January 2014 and at 10:00 UTC on 2 January 2014, respectively. The center of the CGW runs along a line ~45° to the southeast because the arc is clear in this direc-

tion. These wave fronts are centered on the deep convection regions of the hurricane, which suggests that CGWs propagating in the stratosphere are associated with Hurricane Bejisa. The radius R is the distance between the eye of the hurricane (19°S, 53.5°E) and the wave fronts in Figure 3a. The radii were calculated by Equation (1), indicating the stratospheric propagation distance in the horizontal direction, as about 220 km and 410 km, respectively. We also performed this procedure that calculates the distance between the eye of the hurricane (20.3°S, 54.2°E) and the wave fronts in Figure 3b. The characteristics of the CGWs were readily discernable through visual inspection, and the CGWs mainly spread to the southeast, as shown in Figure 3. The horizontal wavelength (the distance between the two wave fronts) of CGW1 was estimated as ~190 km (~410-220 km), as shown in Figure 3a. Using the same calculation method, the horizontal wavelength of CGW2 was estimated as 150 km (~462-312 km), as shown in Figure 3b. The characteristics of CGWs generated by deep convection were easily recognizable with the naked eye, and the CGWs mainly propagated southeastward. The GWs were initially ring shaped but were changed by strong disturbance winds during upward propagation (Vadas and Fritts, 2009).

4.2 Mesospheric CGWs in the VIIRS/DNB Observation

Gravity wave propagation into the mesopause can produce fluctuations in the brightness of the airglow. Figure 4a shows a glimmer image of CGWs over Mauritius (12°S–24°S, 50°E–60°E) captured by the VIIRS/DNB detector at 22:24 UTC on 1 January 2014. At that moment, two obvious groups of waveforms of this CGW event were chosen, as shown in Figure 4b. The enlarged image of the designated area in Figure 4b shows the fit of the arced waveforms in group A and group B. The center of the two groups of CGWs is adjacent to the trajectory of Hurricane Bejisa, thus showing they were part of the same CGW event.



Group A propagated mainly in a southeasterly direction. Above

Figure 3. The AIRS disturbance of brightness temperature at the 15-µm band (a) at 21:08 UTC on 1 January 2014 and (b) at 10:00 UTC on 2 January 2014. The black curve is the trajectory of Hurricane Bejisa. The eye of the hurricane is shown with a red cross. The black circles are (a) CGW1 and (b) CGW2, respectively. DBT: Disturbance of Brightness Temperature.

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Figure 4. (a) Concentric gravity wave detected by VIIRS/DNB measurements at 22:24 UTC on 1 January 2014. (b) The fit of the arced waveforms in group A and group B is shown in an enlarged image of the designated area (gravity wave ripples). The red cross is the approximate location of the eye of the hurricane. The crests are marked by red dots, and the troughs are marked by blue dots.

the regions affected by Hurricane Bejisa, these small-scale CGWs may have been excited by deep convective activity or strong latent heat release (Kuester et al., 2008; Yue J et al., 2009). This view is consistent with the observation results of AIRS, suggesting that the CGWs originated from the same convective source. The horizontal resolution of VIIRS/DNB was much higher than that of AIRS, so the finer wave structure could be seen in the DNB measurements. For the horizontal wavelengths, values were measured as the distance between two consecutive wave crests in the images (marked by red dots in Figure 4b). The horizontal wavelengths were ~60–70 km.

Group B propagated mainly in a northeasterly direction. Some large-scale wavelength fluctuations can also be seen in Figure 4b. These ripple structures are distributed to the northeast of the eye of the hurricane and have horizontal wavelengths of ~150 km. From the distribution of the arc-shaped structure of GWs on the image, we can see both small-scale and large-scale waves, and the horizontal wavelengths were estimated to be roughly 60 km and 150 km. Group B, with longer horizontal wavelengths, could reach a greater horizontal distance than group A.

4.3 Wave Parameters Derived Together with Background Winds

Atmospheric GWs can often be described by a simple linear theory that treats them as small departures from a stably stratified background state, varying only vertically. Here we applied the general GW solution to the linearized forms of the fundamental conservation equations. The basic form of the dispersion relationship of GWs was then derived to diagnose further characteristics associated with the GWs (Fritts and Alexander, 2003). The intrinsic frequency ω is given as the frequency that would be observed in a frame of reference moving with the background wind:

$$\omega^{2} = \frac{N^{2}k_{h}^{2} + f^{2}\left(m^{2} + \frac{1}{4H^{2}}\right)}{k_{h}^{2} + m^{2} + \frac{1}{4H^{2}}} = (\omega_{r} - k_{h} \cdot U_{h})^{2}, \qquad (2)$$

or

$$m^{2} = \frac{k_{h}^{2} \left(N^{2} - \omega^{2} \right)}{\omega^{2} - t^{2}} - \frac{1}{4H^{2}},$$
 (3)

where ω is the intrinsic frequency of the wave and *N* is the Brunt–Vaisala frequency. The horizontal and vertical wave numbers are $k_h = 2\pi/\lambda_h$ and $m = 2\pi/\lambda_z$, where λ_h and λ_z are the horizontal and vertical wavelengths, respectively. Variable ω_r is the ground-based wave frequency, U_h is the background horizontal wind in the direction of wave propagation, $f = 2\Omega \sin\phi$ (where $\Omega = 2\pi/24$ hr) is the Earth's rotational frequency, ϕ is the latitude, and H = 7 km is the scale height.

As discussed in Section 3, the radii and horizontal wavelengths of CGWs were obtained in the stratosphere and mesosphere, as were their horizontal propagation directions. With the dispersion Equation (3), we attempted to derive the other parameters, such as the vertical wavenumber and intrinsic frequency for back-ground winds.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the structures of the CGWs changed to an elliptical shape or arced ring pattern, and the GWs were not observed in some regions because of background wind filtering in the stratosphere and mesosphere. The GWs principally propagated in a southeasterly direction, and some of them were filtered. The intrinsic frequency of a GW can be explained by a Doppler shift with background winds:

$$\omega = \omega_r - k_h \cdot U_h, \tag{4}$$

where U_h is the background horizontal wind component along the observed wave propagation direction. Equation (4) can also be expressed as

$$c = c_h - U_h, \tag{5}$$

where c and c_h are the horizontal intrinsic phase speed and the ground-based phase speed, respectively.

At an altitude of $c_h = U_h$, c approaches zero, which suggests the wave can no longer propagate. The level at which $c_h = U_h$ is called the critical level. According to the linear GW theory, when a GW propagates upward and encounters its critical level, it will be reflected downward or absorbed completely. This GW will be filtered away by the critical level and will not be seen above that level. Therefore, the background winds account for the arc-like CGW structures under the critical-level filtering theory and can provide horizontal phase speed information on the CGW parameters observed in the stratosphere and mesosphere. The value

ranges of c_h and ω were obtained, depending on the background wind. After c_h and ω were obtained, Equation (3) was used to calculate the vertical wavelength. Finally, the three-dimensional structural parameter of the GW in the stratosphere and mesosphere was obtained.

First, we discuss the effect of the background wind speed on the propagation of GWs from the convective source to the stratosphere. Profiles of the mean zonal and meridional wind with altitude over the hurricane area (15°S-30°S, 40°E-60°E) at 21:00 UTC on 1 January 2014 from the ERA5 data and U_h as a function of the altitude and azimuth θ (in degrees clockwise from the north) are shown in Figure 5a and 5b. As shown in Figure 3, azimuths θ of 30°, 45°, 60°, 75°, 90°, 105°, 120°, 135°, and 150° were the directions of wave propagation observed in the stratosphere (z of 40 km). As shown in Figure 5a, the zonal wind increased from the low stratosphere to the stratosphere with an altitude z of 40 km, and the maximum value was ~42 m·s⁻¹. The change in the meridional wind was always small, and the wind speed was less than 5 m·s⁻¹. All the directional winds shown in Figure 5b were positive at 12 km and decreased linearly to negative with increasing height.

The wind speed at an altitude of 40 km, $U_{z=40 \text{ km}}$, was approximately -24.4 to -55.3 m·s⁻¹. For all the directions shown in Figure 5b, CGWs were clearly observed in the stratosphere, which suggests that under the critical-level horizontal filtering theory, CGWs had a ground-based phase speed of $c_h > 0$ and $c_h >$ maxim-

um wind speed (maximum U_h) over altitudes from 12 to 40 km. The maximum U_h among the all altitudes and directions was ~14.6 m·s⁻¹ at 12 km and the θ was 75°. Therefore, we can infer from Figure 5b that the ground-based phase speed c_h must have been greater than 14.6 m·s⁻¹.

For the directions opposite all the directions shown in Figure 5b, CGWs were not observed clearly in the stratosphere, which suggests a ground-based phase speed of $c_h > 0$ and $-c_h(\theta) \le \max(-U_h(\theta))$, judging that $c_h \le \min(c_h(\theta))$ over all the altitudes from 12 to 40 km under the wind-filtering theory. The minimum $(-c_h(\theta))$ was ~24.4 m·s⁻¹ at 40 km, and θ was 210°. Therefore, it could be inferred that c_h must be less than 24.4 m·s⁻¹. Thus, the ranges obtained for the ground-based phase speed were 14.6 m·s⁻¹ < $c_h \le 24.4 \text{ m·s}^{-1}$.

Figure 6 shows the profiles of the mean zonal and meridional wind with altitude over the hurricane area (15°S–30°S, 40°E–60°E) at 10:00 UTC on 2 January 2014 from the ERA5 data and as a function of the altitude and azimuth θ (in degrees clockwise from the north). The wind speed at an altitude of 40 km, $U_{z=40 \text{ km}}$, was approximately –18.5 to –39.6 m·s⁻¹. The ranges obtained for the ground-based phase speed were 13.9 m·s⁻¹ < $c_h \leq 18.5 \text{ m·s}^{-1}$ under the same theory.

According to the preceding analysis, for example, given the direction of θ of 90°, where $U_{z=40\text{km}} = -55.3 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ (Figure 5b) and -39.6 m·s⁻¹ (Figure 6b), the intrinsic horizontal phase speed *c*



Figure 5. (a) Changes in mean zonal and meridional winds with altitude over the hurricane region $(15-30^\circ\text{S}, 40-60^\circ\text{E})$ at 21:00 UTC on 1 January 2014 from ERA5 data. (A positive zonal wind represents a west wind, and a positive meridional wind represents a south wind.) (b) Background horizontal wind U_h as a function of the altitude and azimuth θ (as shown in degrees clockwise from the north). The solid blue, green, red, yellow, and black curves denote azimuths θ of 30°, 45°, 60°, 75°, and 90°, and the corresponding dotted curves denote θ of 105°, 120°, 135°, and 150°.



Figure 6. Same presentation as in Figure 5 but at 10:00 UTC on 2 January 2014.

could be estimated as within (69.9 m·s⁻¹, 79.7 m·s⁻¹] and (53.5 m·s⁻¹, 58.1 m·s⁻¹] by Equation (5), and the intrinsic frequency ω could be calculated by Equation (4) as (45 min, 40 min) and (47 min, 43 min). In addition, the calculated vertical wavelengths λ_z were (21.12 km, 24.34 km) and (16.00 km, 17.41 km) for CGW1 and CGW2, respectively.

Second, we discuss what changes in the background wind speed influenced results in the mesosphere. Profiles of the mean zonal and meridional winds with altitude from the eye of the hurricane (19.3°S, 56.6°E) at 22:24 UTC on 1 January 2014 using HWM07 model data and U_h as a function of altitude and azimuth θ are shown in Figure 7a and 7b. As shown in Figure 7b, θ of 45°, 60°, 75°, 90°, 105°, 120°, and 135° were the directions of wave propagation in the mesosphere (*z* of 87 km). Similar to the preceding process, we could infer that the horizontal phase speed of CGWs with a horizontal wavelength of 60 km for small-scale waves or 150 km for large-scale waves could be derived as within 8 m·s⁻¹ < $c_h \leq$ 43 m·s⁻¹.

On the basis of the preceding analysis, for example, taken the direction of $\theta = 135^{\circ}$ (small-scale waves) and $\theta = 75^{\circ}$ (large-scale waves), where $U_{z=87\text{km}} = -15 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ and $-13 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$, the intrinsic horizontal phase speed *c* could be estimated as within (23 m $\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$, 58 m $\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$] and (21 m $\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$, 56 m $\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$] by Equation (9), and the intrinsic frequency ω could be calculated as (43 min, 17 min) and (119 min, 45 min) by Equation (8). In addition, the calculated vertical wavelengths λ_z were (6.98 km, 18.63 km) and (6.31 km, 17.26 km), for the small-scale (~60 km) and large-scale (~150 km) waves, respectively. Table 2 shows the calculation results for wave parameters observed at different altitudes, depending on the back-

ground wind.

Despite the comparatively coarse resolution of the AIRS data, the horizontal wavelengths and propagation directions of these GWs are known. Wave periods or velocities could not be determined by AIRS. Using the method above, we estimated the vertical wavelength of the southeast-propagating CGW1 as 21-24 km (Table 2). In this study, we used the 79th channel radiance of the AIRS, and the corresponding wavenumber was 667.76 cm⁻¹. It was difficult to capture waves with a vertical wavelength of less than 12 km by AIRS. We can confidently say that the vertical wavelengths must be greater than 15-20 km because of the lower detection threshold of AIRS (Hoffmann and Alexander, 2010). For later calculations, we used an average vertical wavelength of 23 km and a horizontal wavelength of 190 km. Because the generation mechanism of GWs is deep convection, we assumed that GWs are emitted from the tropopause (about 12 km in this study). This was a good assumption because the fluid below the tropopause is generally unstable when convection is occurring and therefore cannot support the propagation of GWs below the deep convection. Because it takes minutes for GWs with long vertical and short horizontal wavelengths to travel upward from their convective sources near the tropopause to ~40 km altitude, these GWs were actually excited by the hurricane earlier than 21:08 UTC on 1 January within the same deep convective system.

Gravity waves are quite dispersive in the atmosphere. As illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, when GWs propagate from the convective source into higher altitudes, they spread to a larger area on the horizontal plane. Gravity waves with different periods have different propagation zenith angles and radii. To estimate the propaga-



Figure 7. (a) Changes in mean zonal and meridional winds with altitude from the eye of the hurricane (19.3°S, 56.6°E) at 22:24 UTC on 1 January 2014 by using HWM07 model data. (b) Background horizontal wind U_h as a function of the altitude and azimuth θ . The green, red, yellow, and black solid curves denote azimuths θ of 45°, 60°, 75°, and 90°, and the corresponding dashed curves denote θ of 105°, 120°, and 135°.

Table 2. Results calculated for concentric gravity wave (CGW) parameters of the stratosphere and mesosphere.

λ_h (km)	c_h (m·s ⁻¹)	<i>c</i> (m·s ^{−1})	Intrinsic period (min)	Intrinsic frequency (Hz)	λ_z (km)		
Altitude $z = 40$ km, $N = 0.0215$ s ⁻¹ , $\theta = 90^{\circ}$							
190 (CGW1)	(14.6, 24.4]	(69.9, 79.7]	(45, 40)	(0.0023, 0.0026)	(21.12, 24.34)		
150 (CGW2)	(13.9, 18.5]	(53.5, 58.1]	(47, 43)	(0.0022, 0.0024)	(16.00, 17.41)		
Altitude $z = 87$ km, $N = 0.0209 \text{ s}^{-1}$, $\theta = 75^{\circ}$ and $\theta = 135^{\circ}$							
60 (small-scale wave)	(8, 43]	(23, 58]	(43, 17)	(0.0024, 0.0062)	(6.98, 18.63)		
150 (large-scale wave)	(8, 43]	(21, 56]	(119, 45)	(0.00088, 0.0023)	(6.31, 17.26)		

tion time of the GWs propagating from the stratosphere to the mesosphere, we first calculated the vertical group velocity c_{gz} by using Equation (6) (Fritts and Alexander, 2003):

$$c_{gz} = -\frac{Nk_h m}{\left(k_h^2 + m^2 + \frac{1}{4H^2}\right)^{3/2}},$$
(6)

where c_{gz} was estimated as 8 m·s⁻¹, given that $\lambda_h = 2\pi/k_h$ is 190 km and $\lambda_z = 2\pi/m$ is 23 km. The Brunt–Vaisala frequency *N* is $2\pi/5 \text{ min}^{-1}$. Thus, to propagate from ~ 40 km, where the AIRS GW measurements took place, to ~87 km, where the DNB measurements were taken, took about 98 min. The GWs seen in the AIRS observations at 21:08 UTC should therefore appear in the DNB images around 22:46 UTC. However, the GWs observed by the DNB imaging at 22.24 UTC were likely not the same GWs as seen by AIRS, although they were likely to have been excited by the same

convective source.

As shown in Table 2, note that the calculated vertical wavelengths of the smale-scale and large-scale CGWs in the mesosphere had lower vertical wavelength limits of greater than 6.98 km and 6.92 km, respectively. According to the existing research (Yue J et al., 2014), CGWs excited by tropical cyclones should be observed by the DNB as having vertical wavelengths of more than 10 km because of the thick airglow layer. If we adopt the lower limit that $\lambda_z > 10$ km because of the airglow layer, through the theoretical calculation, the lower limit of the ground-based horizontal phase speed of CGWs detected by the DNB could be $c_h > 25$ m·s⁻¹. Most of the differences in results between the stratosphere and mesosphere could be explained by Doppler shifting by the convective source. The calculated results in Table 2 show that the wind speed at the tropopause played an important role in the GW parameters

in the stratosphere and the mesosphere. Research by Zhang SD and Yi F (2007) indicated that the tropospheric jet is the most important excitation source for GWs in both the troposphere and lower stratosphere and that it plays different roles in determining the morphology of GWs in these two segments. These results suggest that to attain a more realistic source parameterization for GWs propagating in the middle and upper atmosphere, more attention should be paid to characterizing the troposphere. By measuring the background wind field and GW parameters more accurately with sophisticated and comprehensive instrumentation (lidar, radar, and satellite sensors) can reduce additional assumptions and study the detailed process of vertical propagation of GWs generated by deep convection.

5. Conclusions

In this research, we analyzed the simultaneous observations of CGWs in the stratosphere and mesosphere generated by Hurricane Bejisa over the island of Mauritius on 1 January 2014 in an effort to present a new case of CGWs generated by a hurricane. In addition, we attempted for the first time to derive all the parameters of the CGWs from the AIRS and DNB data sets, ERA5 reanalysis data, and HWM07 empirical model.

The horizontal wavelengths of the satellite-observed GWs were estimated as approximately 190 km and 150 km for the two cases of CGW1 and CGW2 in the stratosphere and as 60 km for the small-scale waves and 150 km for the large-scale waves in the mesosphere.

In reality, the background wind speeds change with altitude; thus, the functions of the critical-level filter of CGWs and Doppler effect propagation processes were analyzed with the stratosphere and mesosphere winds. The ERA5 data and HWM07 model data were used to determine the background horizontal wind component at the observed altitude of waves along the wave propagation direction. From the conditions of background wind speed in multiple propagation directions, we estimated the ground-based phase speed, intrinsic phase speed, period, and vertical wavelength for the observed CGWs in the stratosphere and mesosphere. The characteristics of these parameters provided further information on the multilayer couplings through vertical wave propagation. According to the vertical wavelengths at ~21-24 km in the stratosphere, the images in the AIRS and DNB data may not show exactly the same GWs because the time offset between the different observations may not match the exact propagation time from the stratosphere to the mesosphere. Just ~22 min before the AIRS observation, VIIRS/DNB observed both the small-scale and largescale CGWs with horizontal wavelengths of ~60 km and ~150 km simultaneously in the nightglow structures. Therefore, the morphology and time of the altitudes of observed GWs suggest that they were likely excited by the same convective system, but further confirmation is needed that they were produced by the same convective source.

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