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The generic MESSy submodel TENDENCY (v1.0) for process-based analyses in Earth System Models

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Abstract

The tendencies of prognostic variables in Earth System Models are usually only accessible, e.g., for output, as sum over all physical, dynamical and chemical processes at the end of one time integration step. Information about the contribution of individual processes to the total tendency is lost, if no special precautions are implemented. The knowledge on individual contributions, however, can be of importance to track down specific mechanisms in the model system. We present the new MESSy (Modular Earth Submodel System) infrastructure submodel TENDENCY and use it exemplarily within the EMAC (ECHAM/MESSy Atmospheric Chemistry) model to trace process-based tendencies of prognostic variables. The main idea is the outsourcing of the tendency accounting for the state variables from the process operators (submodels) to the TENDENCY submodel itself. In this way, a record of the tendencies of all process-prognostic variable pairs can be stored. The selection of these pairs can be specified by the user, tailor-made for the desired application, in order to minimise memory requirements. Moreover a standard interface allows the access to the individual process tendencies by other submodels, e.g., for on-line diagnostics or for additional parameterisations, which depend on individual process tendencies. An optional closure test assures the correct treatment of tendency accounting in all submodels and thus serves to reduce the models susceptibility. TENDENCY is independent of the time integration scheme and therefore applicable to other model systems as well. Test simulations with TENDENCY show an increase of computing time for the EMAC model (in a setup without atmospheric chemistry) of $1.8 \pm 1\%$ due to the additional subroutine calls when using TENDENCY. Exemplary results reveal the dissolving mechanisms of the stratospheric tape recorder signal in height over time. The separation of the tendency of the specific humidity into the respective processes (large-scale clouds, convective clouds, large-scale advection, vertical diffusion and methane-oxidation) show that the upward propagating water vapour signal dissolves mainly because of the chemical and the advective contribution. The TENDENCY submodel is part of version 2.42 or later of MESSy.

1 Introduction

In Earth System Models (ESMs) individual processes are described by various numerical algorithms for solving the underlying mathematical equations. Here, the term "process" describes any abstraction of a mechanism which alters the state of the system, those could be of physical, dynamical, chemical, biogeochemical, or even socio-economical nature. A corresponding "operator" describes the processes' algorithmic formulation, which yields a deterministic output for any given (reasonable) input. Finally, within the Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy) (Jöckel et al., 2005) we define any coded realisation of the corresponding operator as a "submodel"[1]. Thus, in a certain sense, the terms "process", "operator" and "submodel" can be used as synonyms (and will be herafter throughout the text).

The method of choice for the combination of the individual processes is the so-called *operator splitting concept*. In this method the contributing processes modifying a specific prognostic variable are calculated in sequence, each adding its individual contribution to the overall change over time (i.e., the total tendency). Depending on the chosen time integration scheme, these individual process tendencies (of a specific prognostic variable) depend on the initial condition (or the state of the prognostic variable at the end of one or more time steps before), and the sum of the process tendencies at the same time step in the sequence of operators before. Commonly in ESMs only the total tendency is analysed and the information about the individual contribution of a certain process to the change of a state variable is lost. Understanding the effects of individual processes on the state variables, however, is important for unravelling the driving mechanisms of patterns generated by ESMs. Moreover, the process-based tendencies of state variables can serve as input to further calculations of physical or chemical processes.

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[1]Not all the MESSy submodels, however, necessarily represent processes. Some are designed for diagnostic purposes, only, and a third class, comprising the here presented TENDENCY submodel provide some basic model infrastructure.

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Approaching the issue by excerpting every process tendency of each state variable directly from the operators would cause a range of technical problems like an excessive memory usage and a very inflexible data handling. Therefore we implemented a comprehensive and easily expandable infrastructure submodel, which is based on the outsourcing of the tendency accounting from every process submodel to it, and name it TENDENCY. Beginning with version 2.42 of MESSy (Jöckel et al., 2010) TENDENCY is part of the overall model infrastructure. TENDENCY operates on all prognostic variables, including tracers (generic submodel TRACER, Jöckel et al., 2008). The structure of TENDENCY is independent of the used time-integration scheme and thus the method is applicable to other model systems as well. Moreover, the process-based diagnostics can be set up by the user via namelist during runtime, tailor-made for the desired application, and thus avoiding a waste of memory. In Sect. 2 the implementation of TENDENCY is described, including specifics of the used EMAC model system (Jöckel et al., 2010). The benefits and the methods of the user-controlled diagnostics are described in Sect. 3. Furthermore in this section an optional closure test is explained, which is included in the TENDENCY submodel and makes the model less error-prone. A runtime performance analysis was carried out to determine the additional computing time arising from the increased usage of subroutine calls. Section 4 describes the test-method and the results which indicate an overhead of $1.8 \pm 1\%$. Exemplary results of the method are presented in Sect. 5.

A detailed reference manual of TENDENCY is available as Supplement.

2 Implementation

ESMs aim on representing the physical and chemical processes of the real world as realistic and complete as possible. To approach this aim these processes are solved numerically by individual algorithms. In the model the algorithms perform sequentially as operators which alter the prognostic variables. The common method of choice for

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the sequential combination of the operators is the operator splitting concept, which is illustrated in Fig. 1.

According to this principle a total tendency is computed for a given state variable (X in Fig. 1) by the different operators (OP 1 ... OP n in Fig. 1) in sequence and the sum ($\partial X/\partial t$) is added at the end of the time step to the value from the beginning of the time step ($X(t - 1)$). We explain exemplarily the operator sequence controlling the specific humidity q in EMAC. The first operator to be called is *advect* (OP 1), which simulates the advection of water vapour. As all the tendencies are set to zero at the beginning of the model time step, the *advect* tendency is based solely on the initial value ($X(t - 1)$). The next operator, e.g. *vdiff* (representing vertical diffusion) computes a tendency based on the initial value and the tendency calculated by the *advect* operator. The operator OP n, which in our example is *cloud*, hence bases on the initial value and the sum of the tendencies of all the previous operators. At the end of each time step the sum of all the tendencies calculated by the individual submodels results in the total change of the prognostic variable. The individual process-tendencies, however, are commonly computed within the respective operators and afterwards not used anymore. Thus these values are overwritten in the following time step and hence the information is lost.

Extracting always all process-tendencies for all state variables with a straightforward approach by making them globally available would cause several technical problems, for instance an excessive memory requirement. A more flexible method is therefore required. Hence, in order to retrieve the process-based model tendencies of the state variables in a standardised and configurable manner, additional code has to be included throughout the model system. Apart from the development of the TENDENCY module itself (details see Sect. 2.1), every subroutine which computes tendencies has to be modified: the tendency accounting is relocated to the TENDENCY module, where a user-defined record is kept. Details of the implementation are given in Sect. 2.2 and special notes concerning the EMAC model are documented in Sect. 2.3.

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Each MESSy submodel comprises subroutines for the initialisation, the time integration and the finalising phase. The submodels are connected via standardised interfaces and are controlled by a central unit (generic submodel SWITCH/CONTROL) calling one after the other. During the initialisation phase, among other things, the memory is set up, while during the integration phase the actual development of the state variables in space and time is calculated. The memory in the EMAC model is managed via the MESSy submodel CHANNEL (Jöckel et al., 2010), which we also utilise for TENDENCY.

Commonly, within each prognostic submodel a process tendency for a specific state variable is calculated and added directly to the total tendency. The TENDENCY submodel is based on the outsourcing of this tendency accounting (i.e., the addition to the total tendency) from the submodels to the TENDENCY module. Figure 2 illustrates this concept. The addition of the process tendency to the total tendency in a specific submodel is replaced by a call to an interface subroutine of TENDENCY, thus handing over the control over the tendency (Tend in Fig. 2). This allows to keep a record of the process-based tendencies of state variables. The output and corresponding memory requirements, however, can now be controlled via a namelist by the user. This generalised access to the process tendencies is less error-prone and more user-friendly, because no recoding is required for tailor-made tendency diagnostics. Additional submodels can easily be equipped with the TENDENCY feature by following the recipe in Sect. 2.2. The principle of the TENDENCY submodel is independent of the time-integration scheme and therefore can be applied to every model system. An overview about the TENDENCY module itself is given next.

2.1 The TENDENCY module

The TENDENCY module operates in all three phases of the model: the initialisation phase, the time integration phase, and the finalising phase.

The main entry points are called once from the basemodel interface layer (BMIL, for definition see Jöckel et al., 2010). In the initialisation phase the subroutine

- `main_tendency_initialize` reads the TENDENCY CPL-namelist and sets up the "handles" and prognostic variable registrations (both explained below) for those processes of the basemodel, which have not yet been re-implemented as MESSy submodels.

5 - `main_tendency_init_coupling` parses the TENDENCY coupling (CPL)-namelist entries and sets up internal data structures and memory (channels and channel objects, Jöckel et al., 2010), depending on the user request in the CPL-namelist.

In the time integration phase the subroutine

10 - `main_tendency_global_end` performs the internal closure test (explained below), if requested by the user in the CPL-namelist.

- `main_tendency_reset` resets the internal tendencies to zero at the beginning of the next time step.

And in the finalising phase the subroutine

15 - `main_tendency_free_memory` frees the non-channel object related memory and deletes the internal data structures.

Besides these main entry points, TENDENCY provides a number of functions and subroutines, which need to be called from within the various submodels (more precisely from their respective submodel interface layer, SMIL; for definition see Jöckel et al., 20 2010). During the initialisation phase, each submodel needs to

- be associated with a unique integer identifier (which we call "handle"). This is accomplished by calling the function `mtend_get_handle` as provided by the TENDENCY submodel. This function requires as argument a unique name of the process, which can be used in the user interface (see Sect. 3.1), i.e., the CPL-25 namelist.

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- register the prognostic variables, which are subject to be modified. This is done by calling the subroutine `mtend_register` with the process handle and a unique identifier (provided as integer parameter by TENDENCY) of the respective prognostic variable as arguments.

Note that for processes of the basemodel, which have not yet been re-implemented as MESSy submodels, these two steps are performed within `main_tendency_initialize` (see above). These initialisation procedures are used to set up an internal logical structure, which is used in combination with the user request (CPL-namelist), to set up the memory (in `main_tendency_init_coupling`) and to control the tendency accounting during the time integration phase.

During the time integration phase, mainly two subroutines are called by each submodel:

- `mtend_get_start` is called to calculate the up-to-date ("start") values of the respective prognostic variable.

- `mtend_add` is called to add the new process tendency to the total tendency.

Both subroutines need to be called for each prognostic variable to be modified. Details on the argument lists of TENDENCY subroutines are documented in the Supplement.

2.2 Equipping submodels with the TENDENCY feature

Table 1 shows the required submodel modifications exemplarily for the temperature as prognostic variable. As can bee seen, the TENDENCY approach has some advantages: the direct access (by Fortran USE) to the central prognostic variables and their corresponding tendencies (in the example *t m*1 and *tte*) is not longer required. The same holds for the time step length (*time_step_len*) for calculating the start value (*t*), which is potentially (in Table 1 not explicitly shown) required to calculate the process tendency *my_tte*. This is less error prone, since the correct calculation (last two rows in Table 1) is entirely hidden in the TENDENCY submodel.

As Table 1 shows, equipping a submodel with the TENDENCY option requires four main modifications. Two during the initialisation phase and two during the time-integration phase of the submodel. During the initialisation phase a handle (see Sect. 2.1, in the example *my_handle*) has to be assigned to each submodel by call-
ing the function `mtend_get_handle`. Additionally the subroutine `mtend_register` must be called for every variable which is going to be altered by the submodel (temperature in the example, selected via the identifier *mtend_id_t*). This registers the respective process-prognostic variable pair in the TENDENCY module and sets an individually assigned logical to "true". This is used for the definition of the respective channel object
(memory) as well as for controlling the calculations in the time integration phase.

During the integration phase of the model the computation of the start values of the prognostic variables as well as the addition of the process-based tendencies are replaced by calls of subroutines from the TENDENCY module. The subroutine `mtend_get_start` now computes the start values and the subroutine `mtend_add`
updates and records the tendencies. The respective start values represent the sum of the initial value (the value from the previous time step) and all the process tendencies of the submodels called prior to this submodel multiplied with the time step length.

Since not all submodels could be modified for TENDENCY at once, and also to enable model configurations without the TENDENCY feature, we decided to encapsulate the submodel modifications in pre-processor directives. Additional code is introduced using

```
#ifdef MESSYTENDENCY
... new code ...
#endif
```

and code, which is modified for the usage of TENDENCY, looks like:

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```
  #ifndef MESSYTENDENCY
  ... original code ...
  #else
  ... TENDENCY specific code ...
5 #endif
```

Thus all modifications and the TENDENCY submodel are only active if the model is configured with `-enable-MESSYTENDENCY`. This structure is also recommended for equipping further submodels with the TENDENCY feature.

2.3 EMAC-specific implementation details

Since some processes of the physics in EMAC (v2.42) have not yet been re-implemented as independent MESSy submodels, they are still operated directly within the ECHAM5 basemodel. In the sequence of operations, the MESSy infrastructure initialises the memory before the remaining parts of the basemodel ECHAM5 are initialised. On the other hand, the process – prognostic variable pair registrations determine the memory (channel objects). Thus the function `mtend_get_handle` and the subroutine `mtend_register` would be called too late, if only called from the remaining parts of the ECHAM5 basemodel. Therefore these associated process identifiers (namely *advect*, *surf* [2], *vdiff, gwspect, ssodrag, dyn*) have to be assigned, and the possible process-prognostic variable pairs have to be registered already during the initialisation phase of the TENDENCY module itself (see also Sect. 2.1).

A second EMAC specific is owed to the spectral transform dynamical core of the ECHAM5 basemodel: the wind speed is usually in units of $m\,s^{-1}$, but to meet the needs of the spectral transform on the sphere, it has to be scaled with the cosine of the latitude. Various physical subroutines in the EMAC model, however, perform with the unscaled wind speed. Within TENDENCY always the scaled

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[2]In MESSy 2.50 *surf* has been replaced by the MESSy submodel *surface*

wind speed is used. To avoid inconsistencies, TENDENCY provides the subroutine `mtend_set_sqcst_scal`, which is used to set an internal logical switch telling TEN-DENCY if the incoming wind tendency is scaled or not.

The third EMAC specific is related to the dimensions of the prognostic variables in 3-dimensional grid-point space. The ECHAM5 base-model uses a specific order of dimensions ((h_1, z, h_2) where h_1 and h_2 denote the horizontal and z the vertical dimensions) for code optimisation. Hereby some of the processes perform within a loop over the outer horizontal dimension h_2. Therefore a distinction had to be made between those processes being called globally (outside the h_2 loop) and those being called locally (inside the h_2 loop). In the TENDENCY submodel this issue occurs during the time integration phase, i.e., concerning the `mtend_get_start` and the `mtend_add` subroutines. Here, the arrays have to be of rank 2 ((h_1, z)), if called inside the local loop, and of rank 3 ((h_1, z, h_2)), if called outside. Therefore both subroutines are found twice in the TENDENCY module suffixed by either `_l` (for local) or `_g` (for global), and differing only by the rank of the array arguments.

3 Diagnostic methods with TENDENCY

The implementation of the MESSy generic submodel TENDENCY provides several benefits concerning the handling of the process-based tendency data. The CHANNEL infrastructure allows a flexible and user-defined output of the information and thus the memory requirement can be minimised depending on the specific needs. This section describes the independent modes of operation, how the information can be extracted by the user and the optional closure test.

3.1 User interface

The TENDENCY submodel provides various options for the user to receive data output, which have to be set prior to the model simulation. This is realised via two interfaces

connected with the module, the corresponding coupling (CPL) namelist and the integrated subroutine `mtend_request`.

The CPL-namelist contains three logical parameters:

- – `l_full_diag` enables the full diagnostic output, i.e., channel objects (in a sep-
₅ arate output channel "tendency_full") for the tendencies of all possible process - prognostic variable pairs are created. This option requires considerably large memory and has been mainly implemented for debugging purposes.

- – `l_closure` enables the internal closure test and creates the additional channel "tendency_clsr" with objects required for the closure test (see Sect. 3.2). This test
₁₀ has been implemented to check if all submodels in a given model setup work correctly with respect to the tendency accounting.

- – `l_clos_diag` enables additional output of information during the model simulation into the log file. This contains the external and the internal tendencies (for explanation see Sect. 3.2) as well as their difference and is mostly used for devel-
₁₅ opment and debugging purposes, e.g., when including a new submodel.

Individual tendency diagnostics can be requested in the CPL-namelist with entries looking like

```
TDIAG(i) = ``X'', ``p1;p2+p3; ... ;pn'',
```

₂₀ where `i` is an arbitrary but unique number, `X` is the name of the prognostic variable (or tracer), and `p1` to `pn` are the names of the processes (see Sect. 2.1). TENDENCY creates a new output channel (named "tendency_diag") and one channel object for each semicolon separated list of process sums. These objects either contain the individual tendency of the process-variable pair (example `p1`), or the sum of tendencies
₂₅ of the corresponding processes (example `p2+p3`). An additional "unaccounted" object is created, which contains the sum of all process tendencies missing in the list. If the "unaccounted" object is zero for all time steps in every grid box, all processes

influencing the variable `X` are within the set of processes `p1` to `pn`. With this feature, tailor-made diagnostics excerpting only the desired tendencies, thus with a minimised memory requirement, can be set up.

Besides the CPL-namelist controlled generation of new output objects containing individual process tendencies (or sums thereof), TENDENCY also provides an interface subroutine to enable the access to individual process tendencies by other submodels. Calling `mtend_request` from the entry point "init_coupling" of submodel *A* with the name of the desired submodel *B* and the identifier of the desired prognostic variable *X* will generate a new channel object in the channel "tendency_exch" (for exchange) and return a pointer to its memory. If the corresponding process submodel *B* will commit its tendency by calling `mtend_add`, this tendency will be copied into this new channel object and therefore be available in submodel *A* for further calculations.

As for each of the possible modes of operation of the TENDENCY submodel an individual channel is generated, they do not exclude or influence each other, but rather work independently.

3.2 Closure test

An optional closure test can be performed with the TENDENCY submodel for every time step during the simulation. The test is mainly implemented for development tasks like including new submodels to the TENDENCY structure. If activated via the namelist (see Sect. 3.1), two additional process handles (*I_HANDLE_SUM* and *I_HANDLE_DIFF*) are defined. Further, a separate channel "tendency_clsr" is created with corresponding channel objects, two ("sum" and "difference") for each prognostic variable. The "sum" objects are updated every time a tendency is updated in the `mtend_add` subroutines and thus display the total sum of tendencies, which are calculated only within the TENDENCY module (in the following called "internal tendency"). As with TENDENCY the total model tendency (in the following called "external tendency") should be calculated only within the TENDENCY submodel, those two values are supposed to be equal. If these two values differ, the respective variable must be

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altered by another process of which the tendency computation was not relocated to the TENDENCY submodel. Testing this denotes the closure test which is conducted as follows: the channel objects corresponding to the handle *I_HANDLE_DIFF* are used to store the difference between the two tendency values calculated in the subroutine `main_tendency_global_end` by subtracting the internal from the external tendency. This difference is used in the subroutine `compute_eps_and_clear`. In this subroutine an ε is calculated by

$$\varepsilon = (\max|xte_e|) \times 10^{-10}, \tag{1}$$

where xte_e denotes the external tendency of the variable or tracer x. Next, the difference between the two tendencies is challenged to be smaller than ε. If so, certainty is given that all processes changing the respective prognostic variable are properly captured by the TENDENCY submodel. If not, an error message will occur in the log file.

4 Runtime performance analysis

Including the TENDENCY submodel into the EMAC model leads to a number of additional subroutine calls during the simulation. To estimate the extra computing time the EMAC model requires for these, a runtime performance analysis has been conducted. For this, four model simulations (with EMAC version 2.42) over ten model days with a time step of 15 min were carried out on 1 node with 64 tasks per node on the "blizzard" IBM Power 6 of the DKRZ (Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum) in Hamburg. While in two of the four simulations the TENDENCY submodel was performing, in the other two it was switched off.

The model resolution of T42L90MA was chosen with a model setup including only the dynamical core of the ECHAM5 basemodel and the basic submodels of the MESSy system (namely: *cloud*, *convect*, *cvtrans*, *h2o* and *rad4all*) as well as the extra routines for the middle atmosphere (*gwspect*, *ssodrag*). In order to receive comparable results,

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apart from the wall clock no data output was enabled and due to the initialisation phase of the model the first time step was not taken into consideration. For the calculation, the sum of the wall clock time has been taken for every MPI[3] parallel task and for every time step of one model simulation. The equation

$$O = \left(\frac{\sum\limits_{p=1}^{P} \sum\limits_{n=2}^{N} t_{on}(p,n)}{\sum\limits_{p=1}^{P} \sum\limits_{n=2}^{N} t_{off}(p,n)} - 1 \right) \cdot 100 \qquad (2)$$

yields the averaged value of the overhead (O) produced by the additional submodel per time step in percent. Here, n indicates the time step, P the number of MPI tasks and t_{on} and t_{off} represent the wall clock time for the simulations with the TENDENCY submodel either switched on or off. In our tests the use of the TENDENCY submodel results in an additional $1.8 \pm 1\%$ of computing time for the EMAC model in the described setup.

5 Exemplary results

Exemplarily for presenting a possible application of the TENDENCY submodel the analysis of simulated stratospheric water vapour (q) has been chosen. Figure 3 shows the simulated representation of the well-known tropical (5° N–5° S) tape recorder signal between 100 hPa and 10 hPa for three simulated years, which was first discovered by Mote et al. (1995); Weinstock et al. (1995) and Mote et al. (1996). For this, we carried out a model simulation in T42L90MA resolution (2.8° × 2.8°, 90 vertical layers) initialised from a previous long-term simulation. Only the basic MESSy submodels (*convect, cloud, cvtrans, rad4all, tropop*) and the ECHAM5 basemodel are used plus the submodel *h2o*, which provides a simple prescribed water vapour production accounting for the methane oxidation in the stratosphere.

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[3]message passing interface

In Fig. 4 the total tendency of the water vapour is shown for the simulated time period. Here a fairly clear distinction can be made between reddish (increasing water vapour) and bluish (decreasing water vapour) patches. These in fact correspond to the increasing and decreasing specific humidity over time in Fig. 3. White patches in Fig. 4 correspond to the maxima and minima in Fig. 3. The signal of the total tendency also propagates upward in time, like the actual tape recorder signal. At a pressure lower than 30 hPa, the signal dissolves or mixes in with less clear patterns in the upper stratosphere.

Figures 5–9 show the process-based tendencies retrieved via the TENDENCY submodel. For this the line

```
TDIAG(2) =
  ''q'', ''vdiff;cloud;convect;advect;h2o'',
```

was included into the CPL namelist. As explained in Sect. 3 this generates an output file for the process tendencies of the specific humidity q for each of the five stated submodels, involved in controlling the prognostic development of q. The sixth generated output object accounting for the unaccounted submodels was tested to be zero at any time and location, to assure that all the processes influencing the specific humidity have been captured.

Figures 5 and 6, showing the tendencies caused by large-scale clouds (*cloud*) and convective clouds (*convect*) show no signal above the tropopause or the lower stratosphere, as expected. The mostly bluish colour at the bottoms of the images accounts for condensating and re-sublimating water vapour and cloud formation, which reduces the specific humidity of the vapour. The small red spots (hardly visible) on top of the blue colour are due to water vapour transport in the convection submodel (*convect*) and due to evaporation and sublimation of transported liquid or ice water in the *cloud* submodel.

Figure 7 shows the impact of the vertical diffusion (*vdiff*). A strong signal goes up to 80 hPa. Above that region, the signal is considerably weaker. The vertical diffusion tendencies are about three orders of magnitude smaller than the total tendencies. Above

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50 hPa there are almost no changes caused by vertical diffusion, apart from a downward propagating signal. It seems to be in phase with the quasi-biannual oscillation (QBO), which may influence the strength of the tape recorder signal (Niwano et al., 2003).

5   The prescribed water vapour production caused by methane oxidation is shown in Fig. 8. The continuous production of water vapour from the chemical reactions increases with height and varies slightly with season. The magnitude of the tendencies are about one order of magnitude smaller than the maxima of the total tendencies.

    The advection tendency of the specific humidity can be seen in Fig. 9. It reproduces
10 the tendency tape recorder signal from the total specific humidity tendency in Fig. 4 fairly well, but is weaker. The advection tendency indicates upward propagation from 80 hPa to 30 hPa where it fades out. In the upper stratosphere the advection tendencies also resemble the total tendencies, but with reduced magnitude.

    Figure 10 shows the three-year temporal and zonal averages of the individual ten-
15 dencies at the equator, to provide a picture of the net effect of the processes over the entire simulated period. Here again can be seen, that the influence of the two cloud processes and of the vertical diffusion fade out above the tropopause and the water vapour production by methane oxidation simply increases with height. The averaged advection tendency changes from positive to negative values at around 50 hPa and
20 above balances the chemically produced water vapour. As the methane oxidation provides a constant signal it has the same net effect as the advective impact when temporally averaged, even though the maxima are one order of magnitude smaller. Without the chemical production of water vapour, the advection tendencies would become zero above around 30 hPa from where on the specific humidity is fairly constant over time
25 for a given altitude.

6   Summary

We developed the generic submodel TENDENCY for accessing process-based tendencies of state variables (including tracers) for Earth System Models in a well structured manner, with minimum memory requirements and maximum flexibility and user friendliness. Implemented in the EMAC model this enables us to diagnose and to use these process tendencies and thus to simplify the analyses of mechanisms as well as the computation of dependent processes. Another advantage of the new submodel is the reduced error susceptibility of the model system, obtained by the standardisation of the start value calculation and tendency accounting and by the additional, optional closure test.

The implementation is based on the relocation of the state variable tendency accounting from the submodel of the respective process to the tendency module itself. This allows us to directly keep a record of all the process – variable tendency pairs and to output and transfer tailor-made subsets for diagnostics and further analyses. This generalised approach is less error-prone and more user-friendly, because no re-coding is required to set up specific tendency diagnostics. New submodels can easily be equipped with the TENDENCY feature by following a simple coding standard. Due to the independence of the time integration scheme TENDENCY is also applicable to other basemodels.

With a computing time overhead of less than 2 % in average for a setup without atmospheric chemistry of the EMAC model due to the additional subroutine calls, we achieved a computationally light implementation of the additional tool. Exemplary results from a three year model simulation show the different process tendencies of water vapour in the stratosphere. Here we see that it is the chemical and the advection tendencies, which control the dissipiation of the tropical tape recorder signal with height over time.

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7 Code availability

TENDENCY is part of the Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy) since version 2.42. MESSy is continuously further developed and applied by a consortium of institutions. The usage of MESSy and access to the source code is licensed to all affiliates of institutions which are members of the MESSy Consortium. Institutions can be a member of the MESSy Consortium by signing the MESSy Memorandum of Understanding. More information can be found on the MESSy Consortium Website (http://www.messy-interface.org).

Supplementary material related to this article is available online at http://www.geosci-model-dev-discuss.net/7/2217/2014/ gmdd-7-2217-2014-supplement.pdf.

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Table 1. Required modification of submodels. The example shows the modification of the total temperature tendency tte. The left column shows the typical classical code, the right column the TENDENCY approach. The value from the time step before is $tm1$, the local variable t is the current (start) value, and my_tte is the new, additional tendency, also a local variable. The time step length is $time\_step\_len$ and $modstr$ denotes the name of the respective submodel. Note that the "_l" suffix of mtend_add and mtend_get_start are due to different possible entry points with access to different ranks of the variables (here 2 dimensional, see Sect. 2.3).

without TENDENCY	with TENDENCY
	initialisation phase
	USE messy_main_tendency_bi, ONLY: mtend_get_handle, & mtend_register, mtend_id_t
	INTEGER :: my_handle
	my_handle = mtend_get_handle(modstr) CALL mtend_register(my_handle, mtend_id_t)
	time integration phase
USE messy_main_data_bi, ONLY: tte, tm1 USE messy_main_timer, ONLY: time_step_len	USE messy_main_tendency_bi, ONLY: mtend_add_l, mtend_get_start_l
t(:,:) = tm1(:,:) + tte(:,:) ∗ time_step_len	CALL mtend_get_start_l(mtend_id_t, v0 = t(:,:))
tte(:,:) = tte(:,:) + my_tte(:,:)	CALL mtend_add_l(my_handle, mtend_id_t, px = my_tte(:,:))
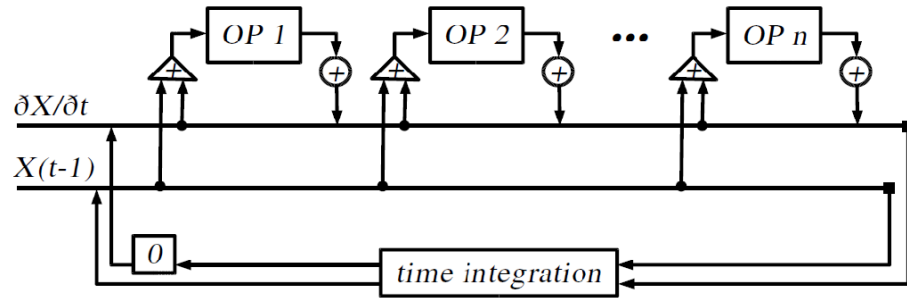
Fig. 1. Operator splitting concept (image taken from Jöckel et al., 2005). For explanation see text.
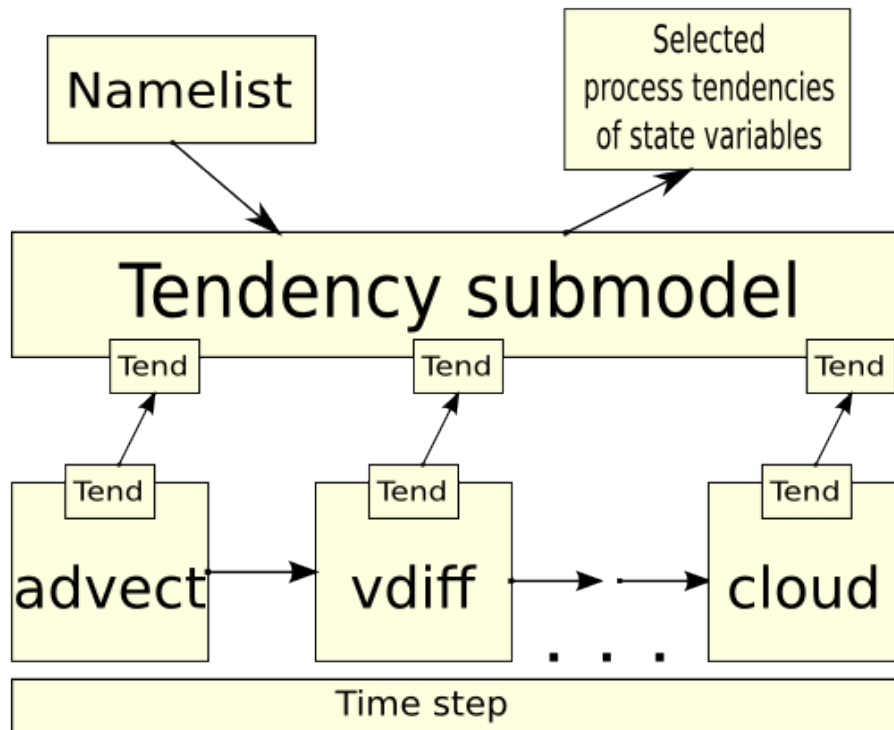
Fig. 2. Schematic of the MESSy TENDENCY submodel within the framework of the EMAC model system. The addition of the individual process tendencies to the total tendency is now outsourced from the respective submodels to the TENDENCY submodel. A user-controlled namelist provides several possibilities for the output of the process tendencies of state variables.
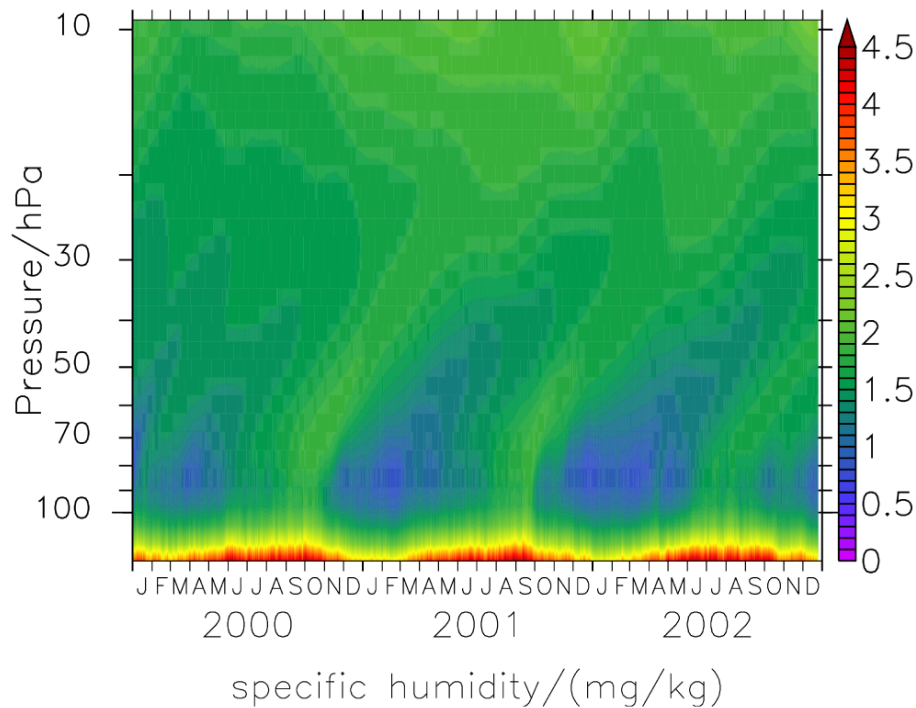
Fig. 3. Time series of the average over the 5° S–5° N latitudinal band of the specific humidity (in $mg\,kg^{-1}$).

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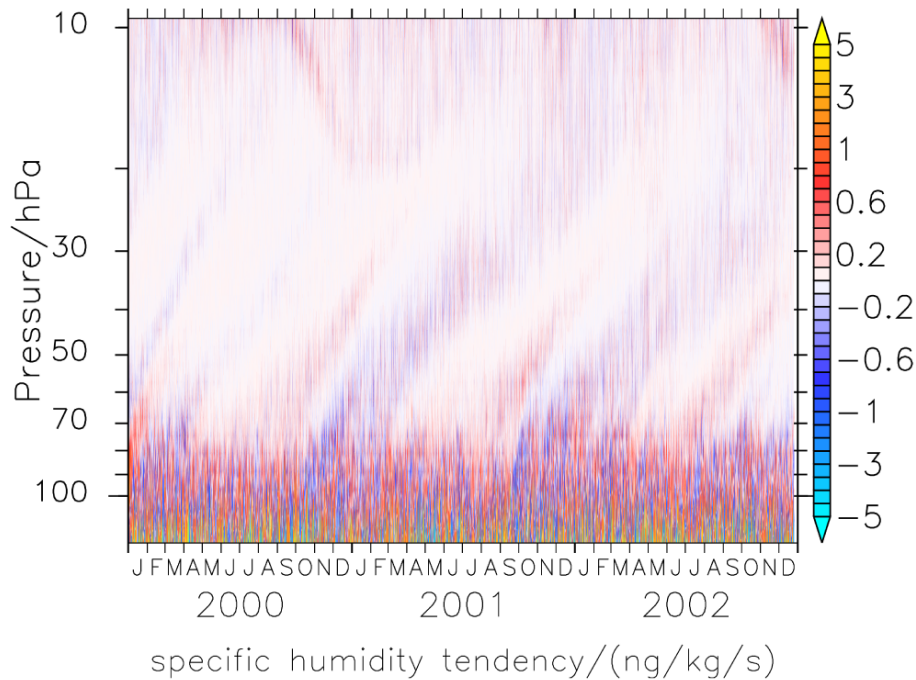
Fig. 4. Time series of the average over the 5° S–5° N latitudinal band of the total tendency (in $\mathrm{ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}}$) of the specific humidity.

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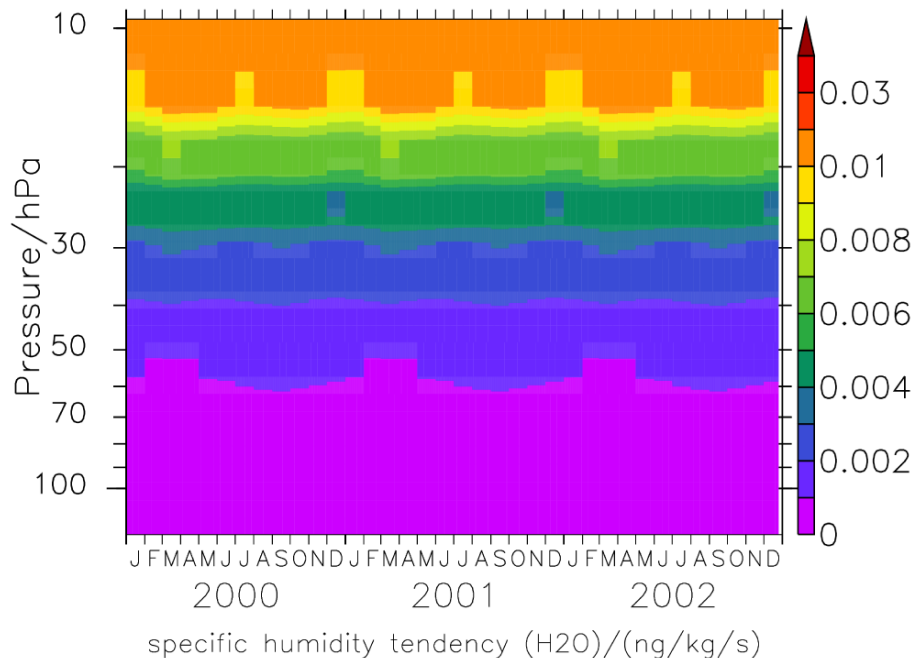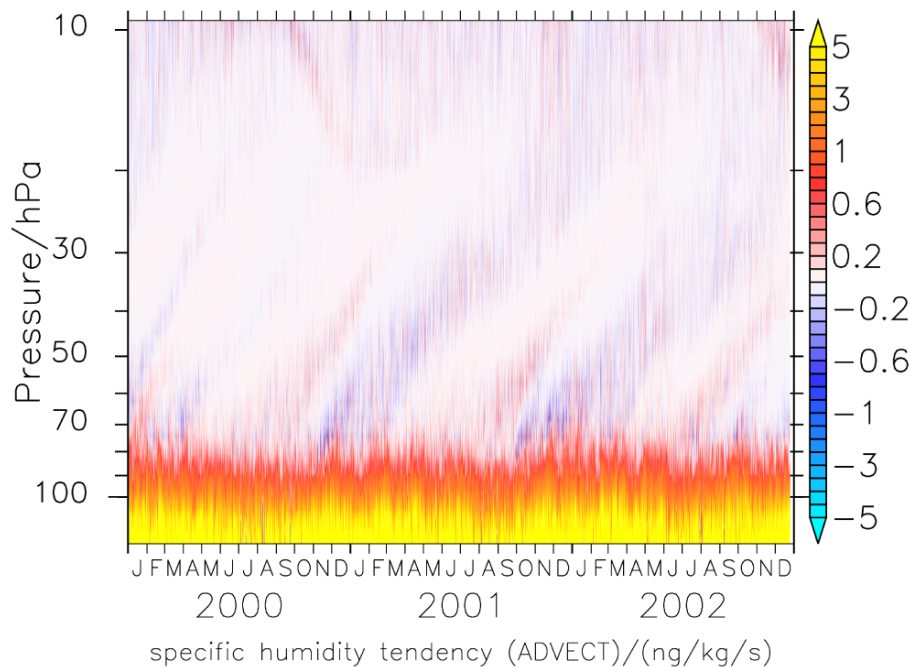
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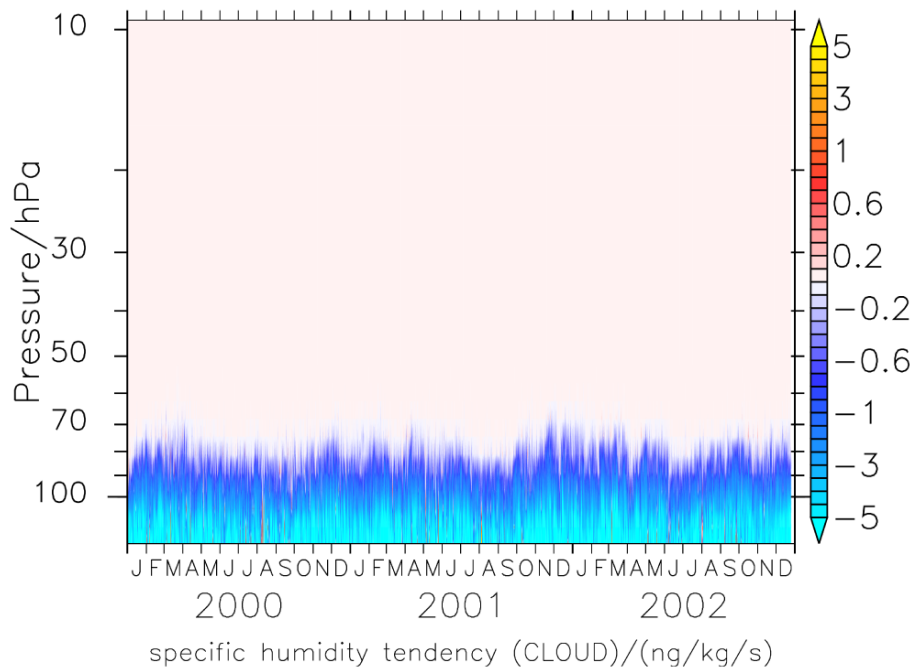
Fig. 5. Time series of the average over the 5° S–5° N latitudinal band of the large-scale cloud tendency (in $ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}$) of the specific humidity.
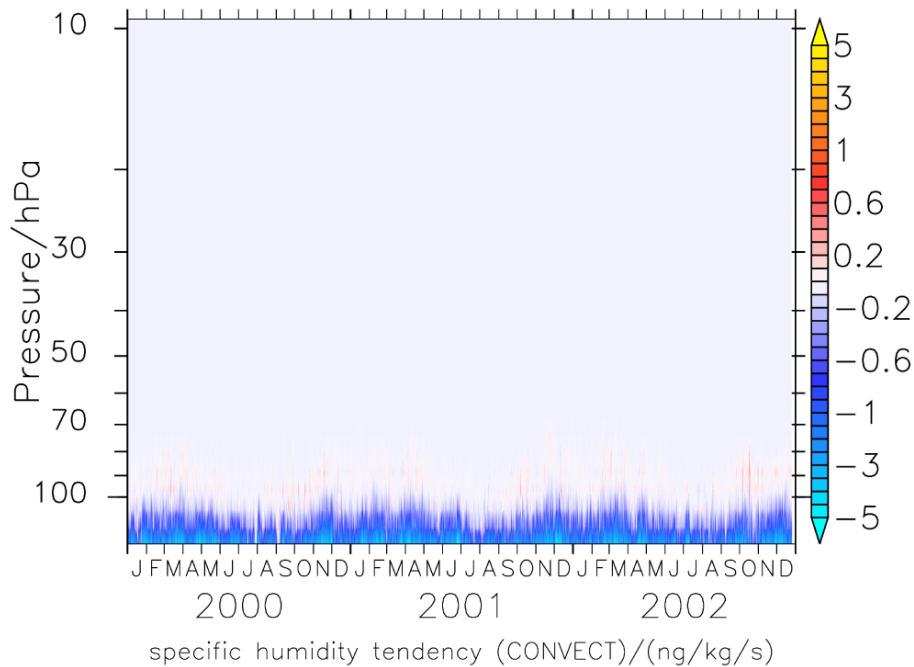
Fig. 6. Time series of the average over the 5° S–5° N latitudinal band of the convective cloud tendency (in $ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}$) of the specific humidity.
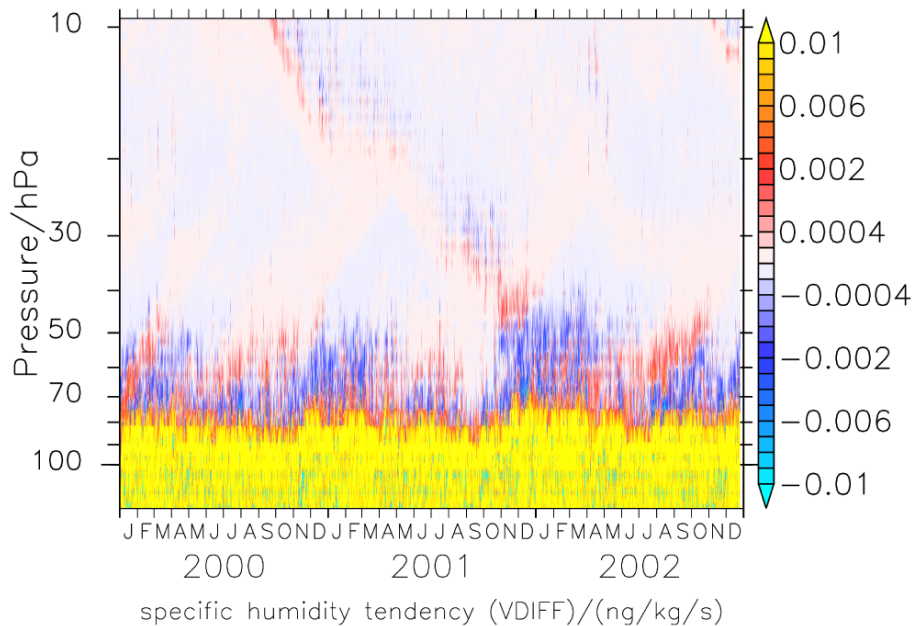
Fig. 7. Time series of the average over the 5°S–5°N latitudinal band of the vertical diffusion tendency (in $\mathrm{ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}}$) of the specific humidity.

Fig. 8. Time series of the average over the 5° S–5° N latitudinal band of the methane oxidation tendency (in $ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}$) of the specific humidity.

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Fig. 9. Time series of the average over the 5° S–5° N latitudinal band of the advection tendency (in $ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}$) of the specific humidity.

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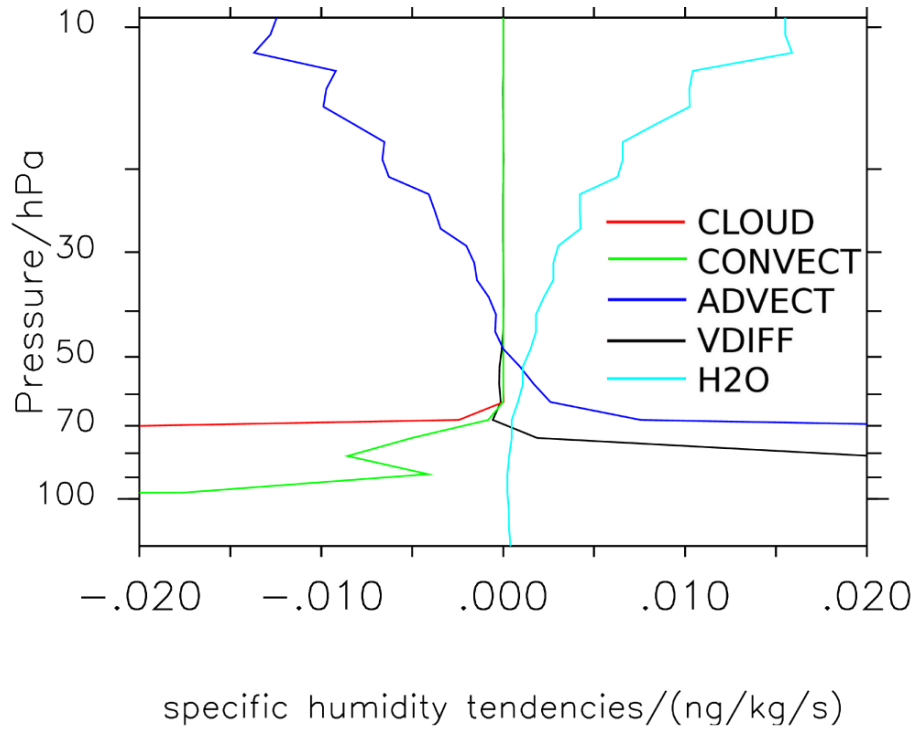
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Fig. 10. Zonally averaged process tendencies of the specific humidity (in $\mathrm{ng\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-1}}$) at the equator, averaged over the three year time period.

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