

1           **Analysis of air quality observations with the aid of the source–receptor**  
2                                   **relationship approach**

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## Abstract

26 In this study an attempt was made to analyze time series of air quality  
27 measurements ( $O_3$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $NO_x$ ) conducted at a remote place in the Eastern  
28 Mediterranean (Finokalia at Crete Island in 1999) to obtain concrete information on  
29 potential contributions from emission sources. For the definition of a source-receptor  
30 relationship, advanced meteorological and dispersion models appropriate to identify  
31 “areas of influence” have been used. The model tools used are the advanced  
32 atmospheric modeling system RAMS and a Lagrangian-type particle dispersion  
33 model-LPDM (forward and backward in time) with capabilities to derive influence  
34 functions and definition of “areas of influence”. When high levels of pollutants have  
35 been measured at the remote location of Finokalia, particles are released from this  
36 location (receptor) and they are traced backward in time. The influence function  
37 derived from particle distributions characterizes dispersion conditions in the  
38 atmosphere and also provide information on potential contributions from emission  
39 sources within the modeling domain to this high concentration. As it was shown in the  
40 results from the simulations, the experimental site of Finokalia in Crete is influenced  
41 during the selected case studies, primarily by pollutants emitted from the urban  
42 conglomerate of Athens. Secondly is influenced by polluted air masses arriving  
43 from Italy and/or the Black Sea Region. For some specific cases air pollutants  
44 monitored at Finokalia were possibly related to war activities in the West Balkan  
45 Region (Kosovo).

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49 **Keywords:** Air quality measurements; influence function; modeling, source-receptor  
50 relationship; impact assessment

51 **INTRODUCTION**

52 Measurements of conventional air pollutants such as O<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NO<sub>x</sub>, black  
53 carbon, in specific locations provide the basic information on the air quality at local  
54 and regional scale. When levels of high pollutants cannot be sufficiently interpreted  
55 by taking into account local emission sources, emphasis is given on the study of long  
56 range transport of pollutants to the areas of interest. Meteorological and air quality  
57 models are very useful tools for the interpretation of air quality measurements and the  
58 verification of the reasons leading to increased air pollutant concentration in the  
59 remote areas of the world <sup>1,2,3</sup>.

60 The identification of sources influencing the air quality over a specific area is  
61 performed with the aid of dispersion models. In this paper a Lagrangian dispersion  
62 model is used in combination with a regional atmospheric model. The key factor of  
63 choosing this method is the ability to perform simulations backward in time, starting  
64 from specific areas that are considered as receptors of possible transport of pollutants  
65 from remote locations. This method in contrast with the well known simulation  
66 forward in time can be used as a tool for investigating the possible origin of air  
67 masses, when a long range transport is most likely to have occurred. In that manner  
68 such simulation can offer a great assistance in the interpretation of measurements of  
69 high pollutant concentration in specific areas. The performance of simulations  
70 backward in time with a dispersion model combined with an atmospheric model,  
71 offers an opportunity to identify the origin of air masses influencing the air quality of  
72 a certain receptor area.

73 The main purpose of this study is the analysis of available air quality  
74 measurements at a remote location using the source-receptor relationship approach,  
75 through the combined use of two arithmetic models, the Regional Atmospheric  
76 Modeling System (RAMS) and the Lagrangian Particle Dispersion Model (LPDM-  
77 with the implementation of turbulent diffusion), to evaluate the long range transport  
78 influencing this location. Measurements have been provided by the Environmental  
79 Chemical Processes Laboratory (ECPL), Department of Chemistry, at University of  
80 Crete, from the air quality station of Finokalia, located in a coastal area. No major  
81 emission sources of air pollution exist in the greater area around the station.

82 A brief description of the models used in this study follows, as well as a  
83 description of the method used for the performance of the measurements of specific

84 pollutants. In addition, the configuration of the simulations is presented focusing on  
85 the input data used for each simulation. The results from the simulations are discussed  
86 thoroughly, focusing on some case studies on spring 1999.

87

## 88 **DATA AND MODELS USED**

89

### **Air Quality Measurements**

90 O<sub>3</sub>, aerosol and other gaseous pollutants measurements (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>), have been  
91 conducted at Finokalia (35°30'N, 25°70'E) located 70 Km East-Northeast of  
92 Heraklion, at the northern coast of Crete (Figure 1). The station is located at the top of  
93 a hilly elevation (150 m) facing the sea within the sector of 270° to 90°. The nearest  
94 village has less than 10 inhabitants and it is situated at a distance of 3 km to the south  
95 of the station. No tourist or other types of human activities occur at a distance shorter  
96 than 20 km within the above mentioned sector. The remoteness of the Finokalia  
97 station and its representativity of its measurements on regional basis have been  
98 demonstrated in a number of articles published up to day. Below a short overview will  
99 be given:

100 - NO and NO<sub>2</sub> are monitored using a Thermo Environmental Model 42C high  
101 sensitivity chemiluminescence instrument with detection limit of 50pptv<sup>4</sup>. Long-term  
102 measurements (more than 6 years) at Finokalia show that NO levels (a pollutant  
103 clearly indicating local and/or regional anthropogenic influence from combustion,  
104 traffic etc) has a range between the detection limit (most of the time) and 100 pptv.  
105 The highest levels always occur during sunrise and can be explained by  
106 photochemical conversion of NO<sub>2</sub> to NO, indicating thus absence of any local source  
107 of combustion close to the station.

108 - At Finokalia, ozone measurements are made by using a Dasibi 1080 AH  
109 analyzer<sup>4</sup>. The long-term measurements of O<sub>3</sub> at Finokalia (from 1997 today) point  
110 out (i) the existence of a well defined seasonal cycle with maximum during summer  
111 months, (ii) the presence of elevated O<sub>3</sub> levels (up to 80 ppbv) during summer-time  
112 and over time-periods of several days, (iii) the absence of any important diurnal cycle  
113 indicating that local photochemistry has a rather weak impact on O<sub>3</sub> levels<sup>4, 5, 6</sup>.

114 -During a 14-month period O<sub>3</sub> concentrations have been simultaneously  
115 monitored at Finokalia and onboard of the passenger vessel “El Greco” traveling in

116 the Aegean Sea in the S-N direction. A total of 120 round-trips have been performed  
117 and the observed O<sub>3</sub> concentrations ranged from 10 to 93 ppbv (average 50 ± 8 ppbv).  
118 The O<sub>3</sub> levels observed above the Aegean Sea are comparable to those measured at  
119 Finokalia at the NE coast of Crete during the same period (51 ± 8.5 ppbv), indicating  
120 that the O<sub>3</sub> observations at the monitoring station of Finokalia are representative of the  
121 regional background in the Eastern Mediterranean.

122 -Measurements of black carbon have been performed at Finokalia using a PSAP  
123 analyzer (Particle Scattering Absorption Photometer). Measurements of black carbon  
124 using this technique have been successfully compared with the results obtained using  
125 the thermo-optical determination technique<sup>7</sup>.

126 -Bulk aerosols were collected on open face 0.45 μm Gelman Zefluor PTFE  
127 filters placed on the same mast with the inlets of O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. Using a flow rate of  
128 1.45 m<sup>3</sup>h<sup>-1</sup>, the mean sampling interval varied between 3 and 48 hours. Filter analysis  
129 was conducted in the laboratory using ion chromatography. A Dionex AS4A-SC  
130 column with ASRS-I suppressor in auto suppression mode of operation was used for  
131 the analysis of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>. The measured mean nss-SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> concentration is among the  
132 highest reported for rural areas in Europe. The highest concentrations are associated  
133 with transport from Western and Central Europe and occur during the dry period  
134 when dry deposition is the main removal mechanism for aerosol particles<sup>6</sup>.

135 More detail about the station and the meteorological conditions encountered in  
136 this area are given in <sup>4,5,6</sup>.

137

## 138 **Model Description**

### 139 *Regional Atmospheric Modeling System – RAMS*

140 RAMS is a highly versatile numerical code developed by scientists at Colorado  
141 State University and ASTER, Inc. for simulating and forecasting meteorological  
142 phenomena<sup>8,9,10</sup>. It is considered as one of the most advanced modeling systems  
143 available today. It has been developed in order to simulate atmospheric phenomena  
144 with resolution ranging from tens of kilometers to a few meters. There is no lower  
145 limit to the domain size or to the mesh cell size of the model finite difference grid. A  
146 general description of the model and its capabilities is given in <sup>9,10</sup>. However, over the  
147 most important features of RAMS is the use of a two-way interactive nesting with any  
148 number of either telescoping or parallel fine nest grids, terrain following coordinate

149 surfaces with Cartesian or polar stereographic horizontal coordinates, the use of non-  
150 hydrostatic or hydrostatic time-split time differencing. RAMS also performs cloud  
151 microphysics parameterization at various levels of complexity, uses various  
152 turbulence parameterization schemes, radiative transfer parameterizations (short and  
153 long wave) through clear and cloudy atmospheres. Various options are used for upper  
154 and lateral boundary conditions and for finite operators, various levels of complexity  
155 for surface-layer parameterization (soil model, vegetation etc.). European Centre for  
156 Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and National Center for Environmental  
157 Predictions (NCEP) analysis files can also be used for initialization. In general,  
158 RAMS is a highly versatile tool that can be used in air quality studies and in a wide  
159 variety of other atmospheric phenomena.

160

#### 161 *Lagrangian Particle Dispersion Model - LPDM*

162 The LPDM is a simulation tool to investigate atmospheric flow and pollution  
163 dispersion over complex terrain for domains up to several hundred kilometers. It is  
164 based on the work performed by Marek Uliasz<sup>11, 12</sup> initially. Further development was  
165 performed at University of Athens, by the Atmospheric Modeling and Weather  
166 Forecasting Group. The LPDM allows one to simulate releases of pollution from  
167 arbitrary emission sources by tracking the motion of particles.

168 The unique feature of the LPDM is its ability to use two different options for  
169 dispersion modeling: the source-oriented and the receptor-oriented mode. The  
170 traditional source-oriented approach consists in solving dispersion model equations  
171 forward in time for given sources of pollutant. As a result a time- and space-  
172 dependent concentration field  $C$  is obtained. In order to investigate another emission  
173 scenario the solution of the model equations must be repeated.

174 In many practical applications, air pollution at a given receptor is of primary  
175 interest and the alternative receptor oriented modeling should be considered as a more  
176 effective approach. Air quality at the receptor is characterized by an integral of  
177 pollution concentration over the modeling domain and time of simulation. In the  
178 receptor-oriented modeling method an influence function  $C^*$  is determined instead of  
179 concentration. The influence function can be calculated from backward trajectories of  
180 particles or puffs when Lagrangian dispersion models are used. If Eulerian models are  
181 used, the influence function is obtained as a solution of adjoint equations backward in

182 time with the receptor function as a source term. The influence function calculated for  
183 a given receptor depends on meteorology and transformation of pollutant in the  
184 atmosphere but is independent of emission sources. Receptor-oriented modeling is  
185 especially relevant to such applications as emission control, planning locations of new  
186 emission sources and assessing contributions from different sources to air pollution in  
187 a given area.

188 The LPDM model uses the meteorological fields (wind, potential temperature,  
189 turbulent kinetic energy) calculated by RAMS. The LPDM and the receptor-oriented  
190 approach in dispersion modeling are discussed in more detail in Uliasz<sup>11, 12</sup>.

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192

### **Model Configuration**

193 The simulations with RAMS discussed in this paper were performed for three  
194 selected periods during 1999. The selection was based on the dates where high  
195 pollutant concentrations were measured in the areas characterized as receptors of air  
196 pollution. The first simulation was performed for the period March 28 to April 2,  
197 1999. The second period is April 6 to 9, 1999 and the third is April 27 to 29, 1999.  
198 During spring of 1999, war operations in Kosovo of the 'Allied Force' have been  
199 performed. Under selected days during that period very high values of ozone and  
200 sulfate were measured in Finokalia station (compared to the long-term measurements  
201 available for this area and period of time).

202 The main purpose of implementing a Lagrangian dispersion model is to identify  
203 the origin of air masses that influence the air quality of a receptor area and thus to  
204 examine if any relation between the increased values and the war operations exist.  
205 Previous work<sup>13</sup> showed evidence of pollution transport in Balkans during the war  
206 operations. The performance of a simulation backward in time with the dispersion  
207 model provides the identification of temporal and spatial origin of air masses ending  
208 up at the receptor area.

209 A nested grid configuration was implemented, with the coarse grid covering the  
210 greater Mediterranean Area and one finer telescoping grid covering Greece, as shown  
211 in Figure 1. The coarse grid has a mesh of 113x61 points and 48 km horizontal grid  
212 increment; the coordinates of the center of the domain were 39,0°N and 20,0° E. The  
213 finer grid has a mesh of 152x164 points and 8km horizontal grid increment; the  
214 coordinates of the center of the domain were 37,5° N, 24,5°E. In the vertical, 31

215 vertical layers of variable resolution were applied. The vertical structure was denser in  
216 the lower levels while it became increasingly coarser toward the top of the model  
217 domain. For initial and lateral boundary conditions the 0.5x0.5 degrees latitude-  
218 longitude gridded analysis dataset of ECMWF was used with time increment of 6  
219 hours. The original topography dataset is from United States Geological Survey  
220 (USGS) with resolution of 30x30 arc seconds. Similar dataset from the same origin  
221 was used for vegetation coverage and land-use.

222

## 223 **CASE STUDIES**

224

### **Case Study 1: March 28 – April 2, 1999**

225 During the period of March 28 to April 2, 1999, high sulfate aerosol and black  
226 carbon concentration (Figure 2a, b) but low O<sub>3</sub> levels (Figure 7a) were measured at  
227 Finokalia station compared to the seasonal average<sup>4,6</sup>. The synoptic conditions  
228 prevailing in the area during the period under investigation are characterized mainly  
229 by a high pressure system covering the Central Mediterranean, traveling NE by the  
230 end of March. A high pressure system appears at April 2 in Western Mediterranean  
231 traveling east, affecting the Ionian Sea and the island of Crete. At the upper  
232 atmosphere a trough over Northern Mediterranean Area weakly affects the area. The  
233 low pressure system over Northern Aegean at March 28 weakens through the next  
234 days, and high pressure system affects the area. The near surface (z=43m) wind fields  
235 for selected and representative hours are illustrated in Figure 3. Model output  
236 evaluation showed a quite good agreement with observations from the World  
237 Meteorological Organization (WMO) network. This evaluation is a standard  
238 procedure that is beyond the scope of the present work and is not included here.

239 The duration of the dispersion simulations was either two or five days according  
240 to the strength of the horizontal component of transport and the origin of the air  
241 masses. When the air masses were outside the domain under consideration or from  
242 locations with no major sources, the simulation was terminated. The influence  
243 function calculations indicate the areas where the air masses were located at the time  
244 intervals indicated. For example, when we present simulations starting at 12:00UTC  
245 (Figure 4) with a time interval of 6 hours, the reader should interpret the figures as  
246 follows: The first frame starting from the top left indicates where the monitored  
247 masses were located during the previous 6 hours, meaning 12:00-6:00UTC, April 2,



248 1999. The second frame on top line indicates where the air masses were located  
249 during the time increment between 0:00-6:00UTC, April 2, 1999. That means 6 to 12  
250 hours before they were monitored at Finokalia station. The third frame of the top line  
251 indicates the position of the monitored air masses during the time increment of 0:00-  
252 18:00UTC of the previous day. That means 12-18 hours before the sampling time.  
253 The same way the simulation continues up to the time increment of 114-120 hours. It  
254 must be clearly stated that the figures indicate the position of the air masses (and  
255 therefore the existence or not of various-type of sources) and not the concentration or  
256 apportionments of pollutants monitored.

257       The first simulation started on April 2, 1999, at 12:00UTC, continued for 5 days  
258 backwards in time, considering the station at Finokalia as the receptor area. The date  
259 is chosen for the analysis of a high concentration value of particulate sulfate measured  
260 at Finokalia station for that period of year<sup>6</sup>, as shown in Figure 2a (denoted with a  
261 white dot). The air masses ending up at Finokalia at that specific date are located in  
262 the maritime area west of Crete during the last 24hr (Figure 4). Looking at 36 to 40  
263 hours backwards in time (00:00 and 06:00 UTC, 1/4/1999), the air masses are  
264 traveling through the greater Athens area as well as western Greece. In that point the  
265 air masses are divided into two different paths. The first path, looking back in time for  
266 3 days is located in NW Turkey, Black Sea SE Bulgaria. The second smaller path  
267 comes from the area of Ionian Sea and West Balkan Region. Results from the  
268 atmospheric model showed strong NE flow for April 30 and 31, in the area of  
269 northern Aegean Sea, which weakens the next day. On April 2 appears a strong  
270 western flow pattern in the area west of Crete Island.

271       The second simulation started on April 1, 1999, at 00:00UTC and continued for  
272 4 days backwards in time, considering Finokalia as the receptor area (Figure 5). The  
273 simulation is performed for the analysis of the second peak of sulfate during that  
274 period, as shown in Figure 2a (denoted with a white square). The air masses located at  
275 Finokalia for the starting date, 24hr backwards in time (31/3, 00:00UTC) were located  
276 in the Adriatic Sea while 48hr backwards in time (30/3, 00:00UTC) are traced in  
277 Western Balkans. 3 to 4 days backwards in time the air masses were located outside  
278 the modeling domain. War operations in Kosovo during the operation 'Allied Force'  
279 as recorded in several publications<sup>14</sup>, included bombing of aircraft factory and  
280 household appliances factory in central Serbia (Cacak, Pancevo) at March 29 and 30,  
281 1999. The wind flow pattern calculated by the RAMS model showed significant

282 north-northwest flow in the maritime area of western Greece, leading the air masses  
283 towards western Crete and the area of Finokalia station in a time scale of about 12hr.

284 The third simulation of this case study started on March 31, 1999, at 12:00UTC,  
285 with Finokalia station being the receptor area. This date was chosen due to the peak  
286 value of black carbon concentration measured at Finokalia (Figure 2b). The influence  
287 function calculated (Figure 6) exhibits a similar pattern as the one described in Figure  
288 5 for the first two days of the simulation. The pattern changes as we move backwards  
289 in time, where 72hr before (28/3, 12:00UTC), the air masses are located at the west  
290 part of Greece, having a major influence from southern Italy and the Adriatic Sea.

291 In the first case study, during the period March – April 1999, the measurements  
292 of air pollutants from Finokalia (receptor) are possibly related to certain source areas  
293 through long range transport of air masses. Possible source area is the city of  
294 Heraklion in a short time scale (about 6hours), and the coastal areas of Ionian and  
295 Adriatic Sea in a longer time scale (about 36hours) when west, northwest flow  
296 dominates in the area (Figures 5-6). Another flow pattern influencing the receptor area  
297 at Finokalia is the northern flow pattern, where air masses are traveling through the  
298 Aegean Sea, ending up in Finokalia (Figure 4). In several cases the air masses are  
299 traveling through the greater Athens area before they arrive in northern Crete (Figures  
300 4, 9). Such flow pattern is predominant in the area mostly in the summer, due to the  
301 appearance of Etesians (strong northern flow) in the Aegean Sea. In several  
302 simulations the well known flow pattern from the Black Sea and Bulgaria becomes  
303 evident, affecting the areas chosen as receptors in this study.

304

### 305 **Case Study 2: April 6 – April 9, 1999**

306 During this period measurements of ozone concentration exhibit a peak value  
307 for two days, reaching 80ppb approximately (Figure 7). Simulations with the  
308 dispersion model in combination with the atmospheric model were performed for the  
309 selected period April 6 to 9, 1999.

310 The synoptic conditions during this time of the year are characterized mainly by  
311 a high pressure system in the area of Eastern Mediterranean, which remains in the  
312 area until April 9. On April 7, a cold front of a trough moving northeast affects  
313 Greece. At the surface weak wind flow of western direction is the main pattern in the  
314 area, developing local circulations due to the physiographic characteristics in each

315 region. The wind flow pattern described above is clearly indicated from the RAMS  
316 simulations (Figure 8).

317 The first simulation with the dispersion model started on April 8, 1999, at  
318 12:00UTC, and continued for 48hr backwards in time, considering Finokalia as the  
319 receptor area. The influence function as shown in Figure 9 provides with a clear  
320 image of the traveling path of the air masses ending up at Finokalia at the desired  
321 time. Each frame represents a 6hr interval. It becomes evident that the air masses were  
322 located in the greater Athens area during the past 12hr, while 36hr before (April 7,  
323 1999, 6:00UTC) a part of the air masses is located in the area of western Balkans and  
324 the second one in the area of Albania. Possible sources of influence of the air masses  
325 are considered: the target-areas of war operations in Kosovo <sup>15</sup>(reports on bombing in  
326 fuel storage in Pristina and in central storage depot in Novi Sad at April 7, 2:40LST,  
327 and in chemical industry in central Serbia at April 6, 20:35LST). Another possible  
328 source is considered the greater Athens area and Adriatic Sea since the air masses  
329 remain in the area for almost 24hr. The results from RAMS model clearly indicate the  
330 northwest flow which seems to act in a very catalytic way upon the movement of the  
331 air masses.

332 The second simulation of this case study is performed for the analysis of the  
333 second peak of ozone during the period of April 6-9, 1999 (Figure 10). The simulation  
334 started on April 9, 1999 at 12:00UTC, continued for 48hr backwards in time,  
335 considering Finokalia as the receptor area. 24hr earlier, the air masses are located west  
336 of Crete Island, while looking back 42hr the air masses are located south, in the  
337 maritime area near Libya. There is no connection with the war operations in Kosovo,  
338 while it is considered possible that the peak of ozone has its origin in the area of  
339 Heraklion, west of Finokalia when west winds are prevailing in the area at this time.  
340 At this point it is useful to mention the differences appearing in the traveling path of  
341 the air masses when they travel through land or sea. In the first simulation the  
342 landscape variability has a major influence in the movement of the air masses as  
343 expected. In the second simulation the air masses are traveling all the way in the  
344 maritime area, where the stable marine boundary leads to the smooth movement of the  
345 air masses during the 48hr of the simulation period.

346 In certain case studies of this work, appears a well indicated flow pattern of the  
347 air masses through the area of Kosovo and central Serbia, in a time scale of 48 to 72  
348 hours before they are traced in Crete (Figure 9). When these dates coincide with war

349 operations in Yugoslavia, with possible emission of pollutants capable of long range  
350 transport, there can be a relationship between the war operations and the pollutant  
351 measurements in the receptor areas. Further proof of such relation, needs a detailed  
352 examination of wet and dry deposition covering the entire traveling path of the air  
353 masses, as well as the contribution of a photochemical model for the accurate  
354 simulation of the chemical reactions and transformation of the pollutants in the  
355 atmosphere.

356

### 357 **Case Study 3: April 27 – April 29, 1999.**

358 The third case study focuses on the analysis of a peak concentration of ozone  
359 measured at Finokalia station on April 28, 1999 (Figure 11). The synoptic conditions  
360 during this period of the year are characterized mainly by the passage of a trough in  
361 Western Europe, with its eastern part being above northern Italy during April 27. A  
362 second trough is located in Eastern Mediterranean, influencing the Aegean Sea, but  
363 weakens until April 29. Then the Aegean Sea is mainly influenced by the first trough  
364 which has moved southeast at the time. At the surface there is the presence of a  
365 depression at April 27, moving east through west Italy, and at April 29 the cold front  
366 of the depression is located above western Greece.

367 The synoptic conditions mentioned above, lead to the appearance of certain  
368 wind flow patterns in the area of the Aegean Sea. Such patterns are well demonstrated  
369 with the aid of the atmospheric model RAMS. On April 27, at 12:00UTC a weak  
370 north-northwest flow is evident at central and south Aegean Sea, which turns to south-  
371 southeast for the next 6hr (Figure 12a). During the next day appears a strong  
372 northwest flow prevailing in the area of NW Aegean Sea and Crete Island (Figure  
373 12b).

374 The simulation with the dispersion model started on April 28, 1999, at  
375 22:00UTC, and continued for 43hr backwards in time considering Finokalia as the  
376 receptor area. The air masses are located in Bulgaria and near the Dardanelles gat  
377 looking back 43hr in time, as evident in Figure 13. They were transferred south, along  
378 the Aegean Sea and were traced finally at Finokalia. The air masses when entering  
379 Northern Aegean Sea stayed in the area for about 30hr, due to the light winds  
380 prevailing in the area. When reaching central Aegean Sea at April 28, the air masses  
381 are influenced by a northwest flow, which guides them to the Island of Crete. There is

382 no significant vertical transport during the travel of the air masses, except when sea-  
383 land distribution forces them to move upwards or downwards.

384

385

## 386 **CONCLUSIONS**

387 During this study an attempt was made to analyze air quality measurements  
388 from a remote station at Finokalia, Crete. The time series available covered a period  
389 of two years continuous measurements (1999 and 2000) and simulations were  
390 performed for all the available measurements. Paths and scales of transport during the  
391 warm period of the year have been studied extensively in the past for the area of East  
392 Mediterranean<sup>16,17</sup>. In this paper the analysis is focusing on spring cases because  
393 dispersion and transport patterns are more complicated. Several other cases during  
394 other seasons of the year have been also performed but either the patterns are well  
395 known from existing publications<sup>16,17</sup> or are during rainy episodes where the washout  
396 effects are not included in this version of the dispersion model.

397 The simulations with the dispersion model are performed for time periods of 2  
398 to 5 days backwards in time to account for the possible long range transport of air  
399 masses. There is an evident relationship between air masses traveling through Greece  
400 and those coming from the Balkan Region, Eastern Europe and Central Mediterranean  
401 Region. Such relation is always relevant with the prevailing atmospheric conditions in  
402 the area.

403 The determination of the transport pattern of air masses from remote locations  
404 and the identification of the areas of origin both in space and time was gained with the  
405 use of the modeling approach. It was also possible to verify the characteristic  
406 transport paths and scales of air masses in space and time for the specific time of the  
407 year. This was feasible due to the inclusion of turbulent diffusion in the dispersion  
408 model. There are clear differences in the results of such model in conjunction with the  
409 simple back trajectory models, where turbulence is not taken under consideration. The  
410 results of these simulations are considered as more accurate, concerning the  
411 movement of air masses in the atmosphere.

412 This modeling approach in combination with a photochemical model and high  
413 frequency pollutants measurements, can contribute in the management of various

414 sources affecting the air quality of area(s) of interest. It can assist also in the impact  
415 assessment of various hazardous environmental incidents.

416

#### 417 **Acknowledgements**

418 The authors of this paper acknowledge the support from the EU (DG XII and DG Research)  
419 projects SUBAERO (EKV2-1999-00052), ADIOS (EVK3-CT-2000-00035) and MERCYMS (EVK3-  
420 2002-00070). We would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments and  
421 suggestions.

422

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483



1 **Figure 1:** a) Grid configuration for the simulation period of March, April 1999. b)  
2 Location of the measuring site at Finokalia, Crete.

3 **Figure 2:** a) Measurements of particulate sulfate  $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$  at the station of Finokalia for  
4 the period March – April 1999. b) Measurements of black carbon at the station of  
5 Finokalia for the period March – April 1999. The hours indicate local time.

6 **Figure 3:** Temperature (contours) and wind field (arrows) at 43.7m above sea level,  
7 on a) March 28, 1999, at 12:00UTC, b) March 29, 1999, at 12:00UTC, c) March 30,  
8 1999, at 12:00UTC, d) March 31, 1999, at 12:00UTC, e) April 1, 1999, at 12:00UTC,  
9 f) April 2, 1999, at 12:00UTC.

10 **Figure 4:** Influence function calculated for 5 days backwards in time, starting on  
11 April 2, 1999, at 12:00UTC. Receptor = Finokalia (35,32° E, 25,67° N). Each frame  
12 presents a 6hr interval. The sequence is from top left to bottom right.

13 **Figure 5:** Influence function calculated for 4 days backwards in time, starting on  
14 April 1, 1999, at 00:00UTC. Receptor = Finokalia (35,32° E, 25,67° N). Each frame  
15 presents a 6hr interval. The sequence is from top left to bottom right.

16 **Figure 6:** Influence function calculated for 84hrs backwards in time, starting on  
17 March 31, 1999, at 12:00UTC. Receptor = Finokalia (35,32° E, 25,67° N). Each frame  
18 presents a 6hr interval. The sequence is from top left to bottom right.

19 **Figure 7:** a) Ozone measurements at Finokalia station, for April 1999. (UTC=LST-  
20 3h). b) Ozone measurements at Finokalia station, for April 8, 1999. c) Ozone  
21 measurements at Finokalia station, for April 9, 1999.

22 **Figure 8:** Temperature (contours) and wind field (arrows) at 43.7m above sea level,  
23 on a) April 7, 1999, at 00:00UTC, b) April 8, 1999, at 12:00UTC, c) April 9, 1999, at  
24 00:00UTC.

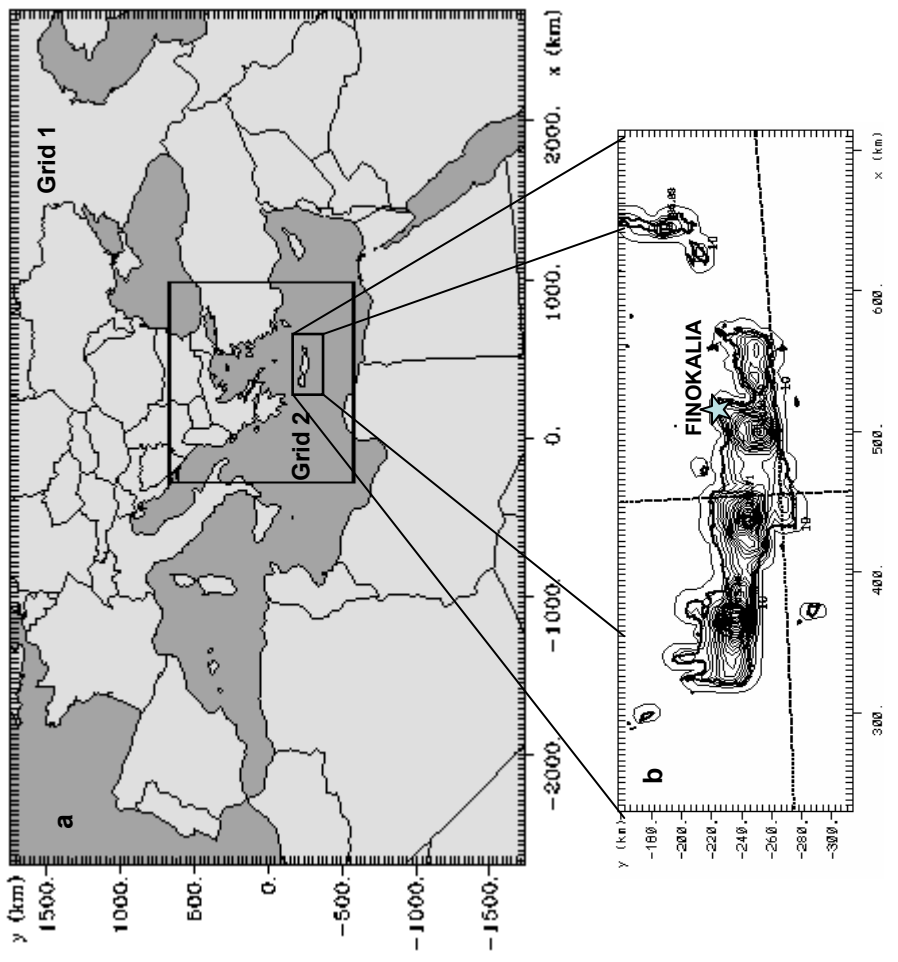
25 **Figure 9:** Influence function calculated for 48hrs backwards in time, starting on April  
26 8, 1999, at 12:00UTC. Receptor = Finokalia (35,32° E, 25,67° N). Each frame  
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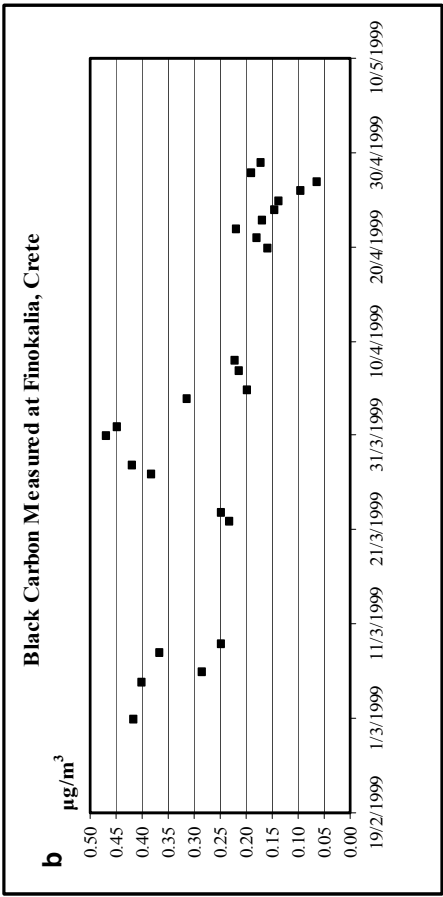
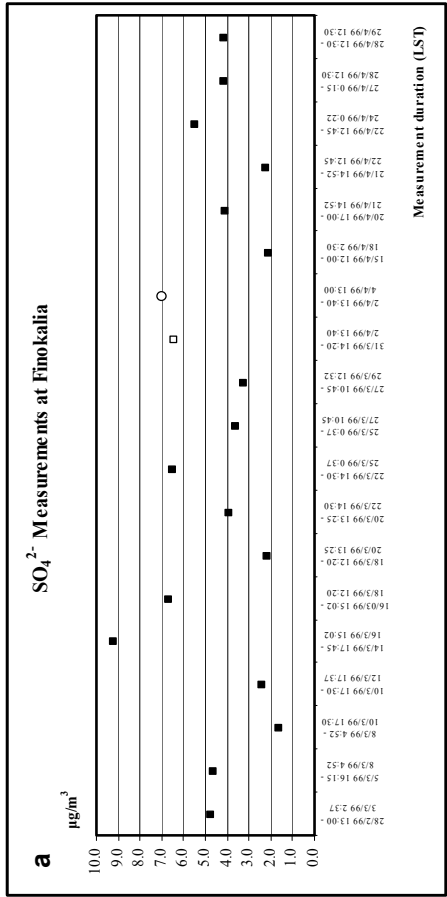
28 **Figure 10:** Influence function calculated for 48hrs backwards in time, starting on  
29 April 9, 1999, at 12:00UTC. Receptor = Finokalia (35,32° E, 25,67° N). Each frame  
30 presents a 6hr interval. The sequence is from top left to bottom right.

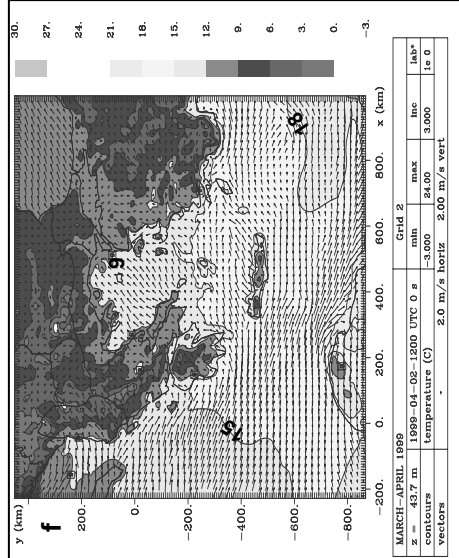
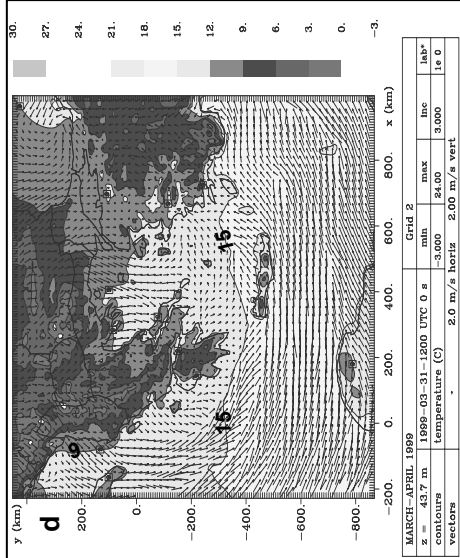
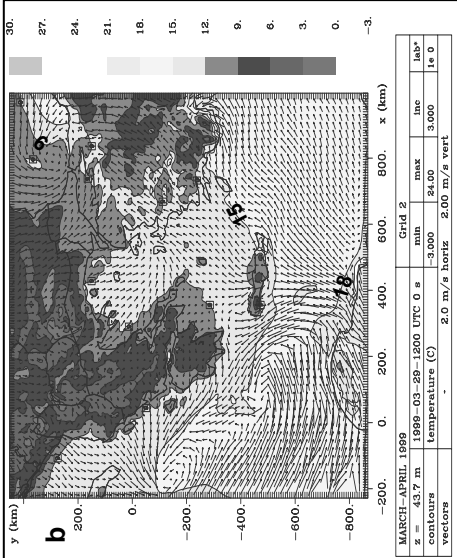
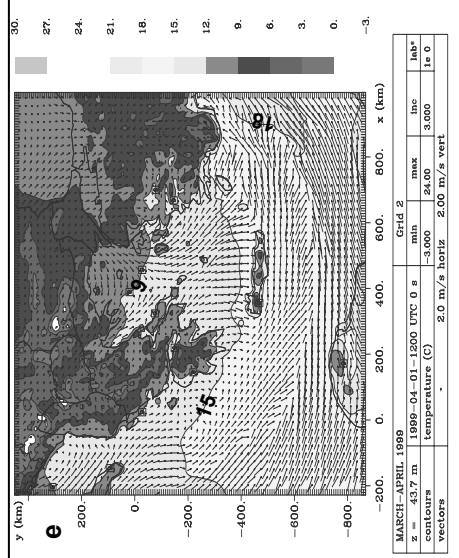
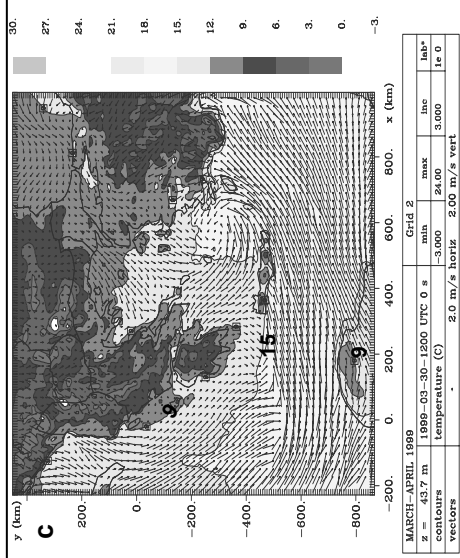
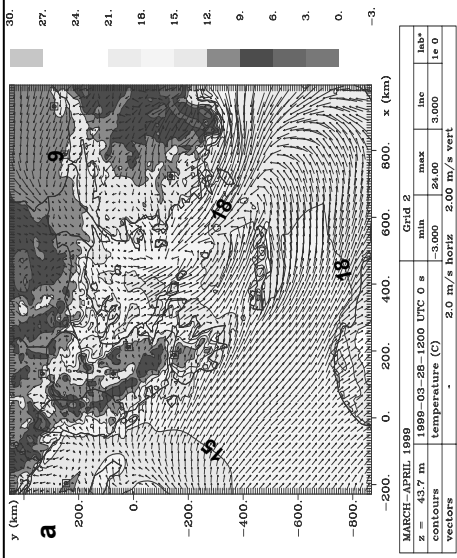
31 **Figure 11:** Ozone measurements at Finokalia station, for April 29, 1999.

32 **Figure 12:** Temperature (contours) and wind field (arrows) at 43.7m above sea level  
33 on a) April 27, 1999, at 12:00UTC and b) April 28, 1999, at 12:00UTC.

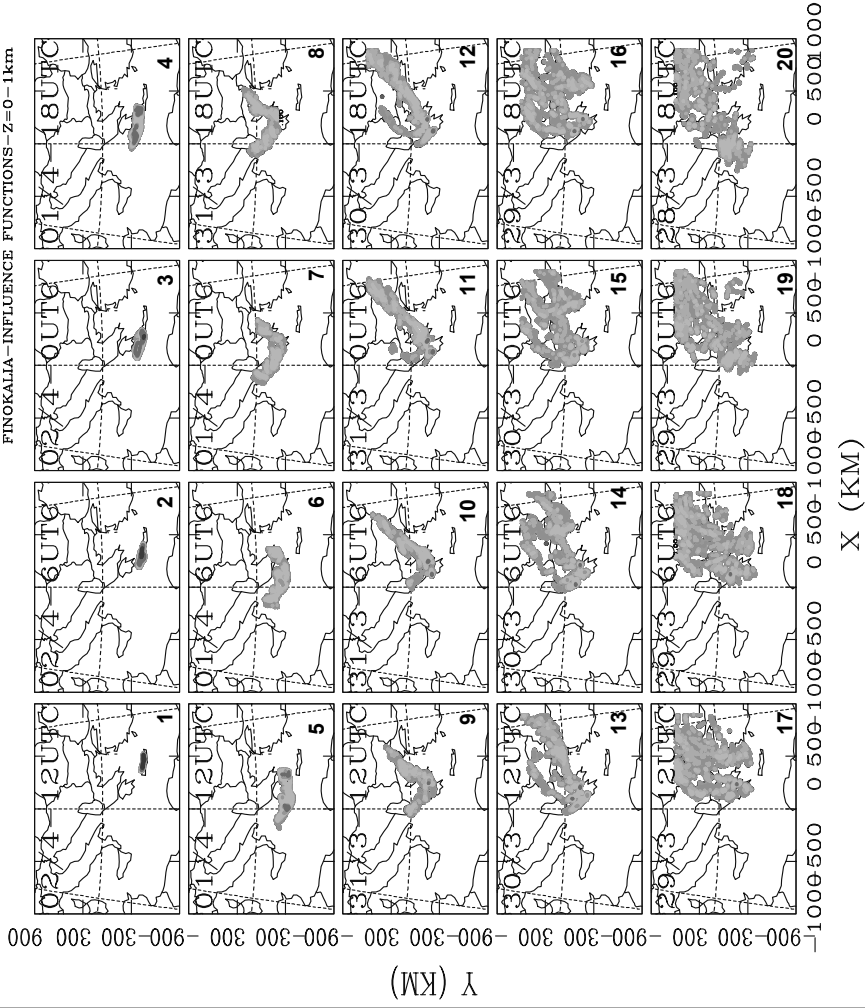
34 **Figure 13:** Influence function calculated for 43hrs backwards in time, starting on  
35 April 28, 1999, at 22:00UTC. Receptor = Finokalia (35,32° E, 25,67° N). Each frame  
36 presents a 6hr interval. The sequence is from top left to bottom right.  
37

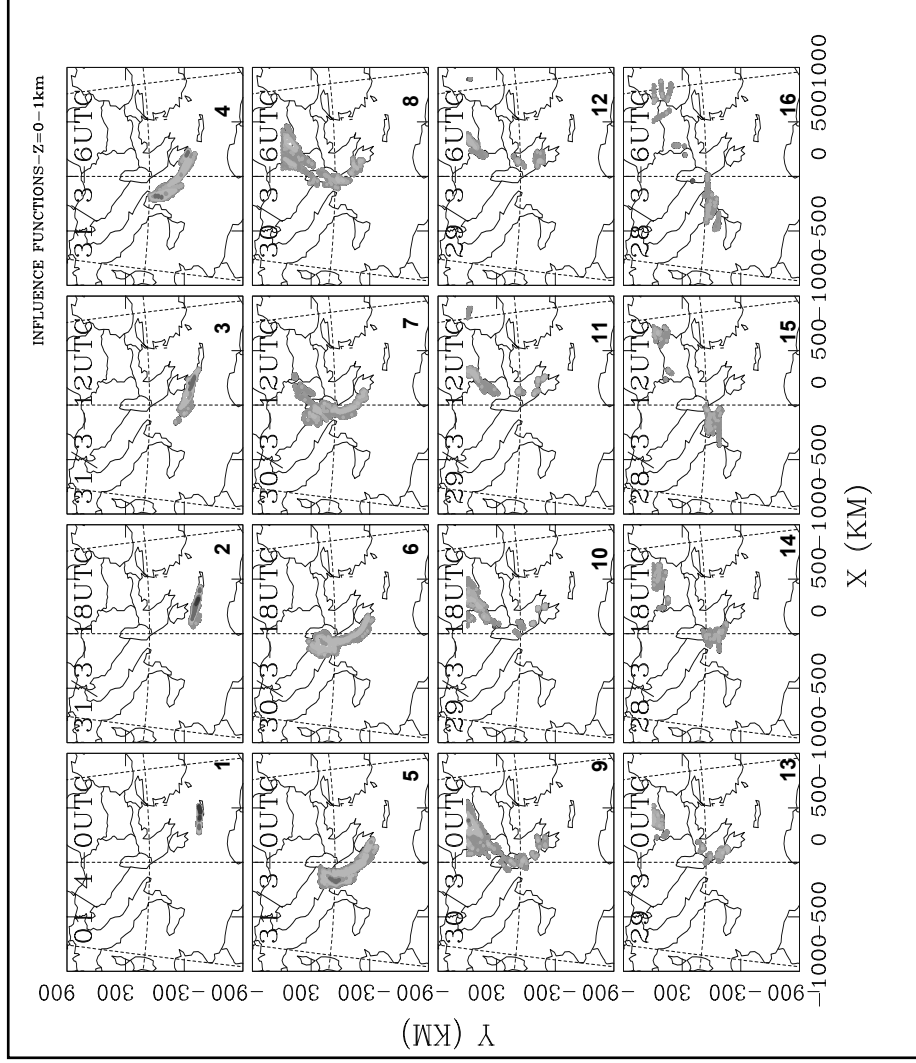




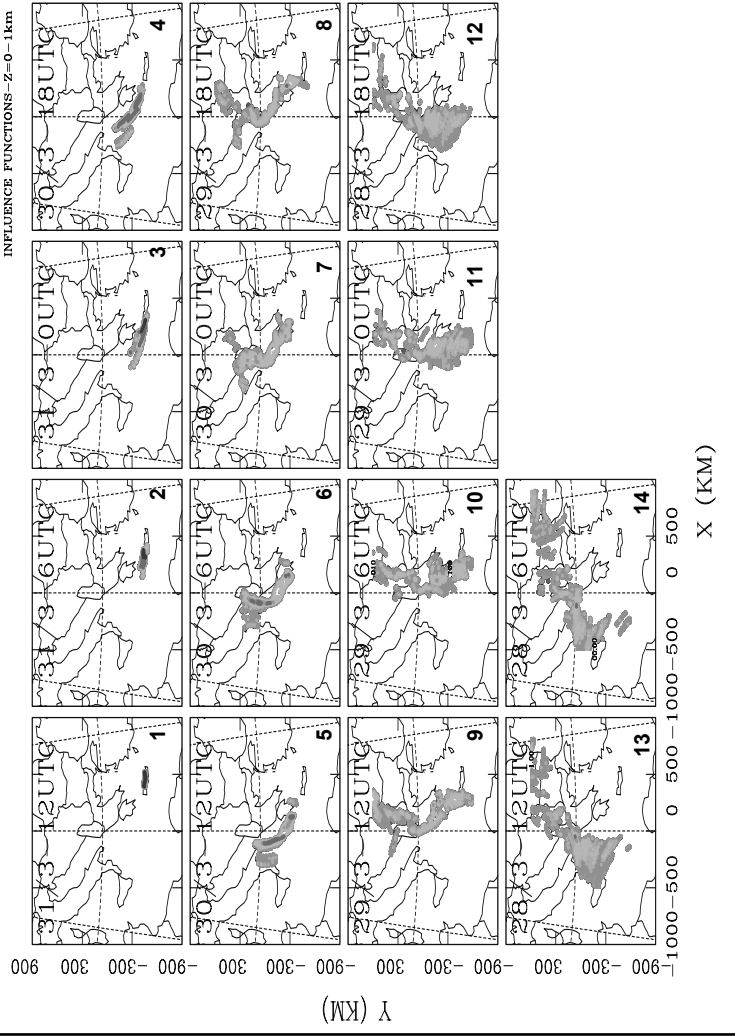


FINOKALIA-INFLUENCE FUNCTIONS-Z=0-1km



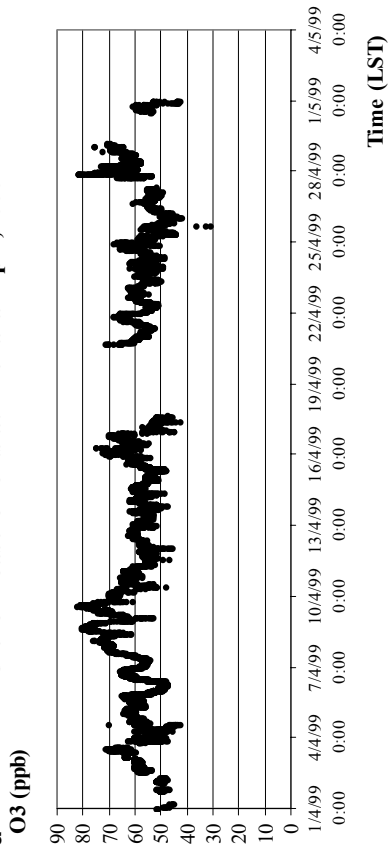


INFLUENCE FUNCTIONS - Z=0-1km

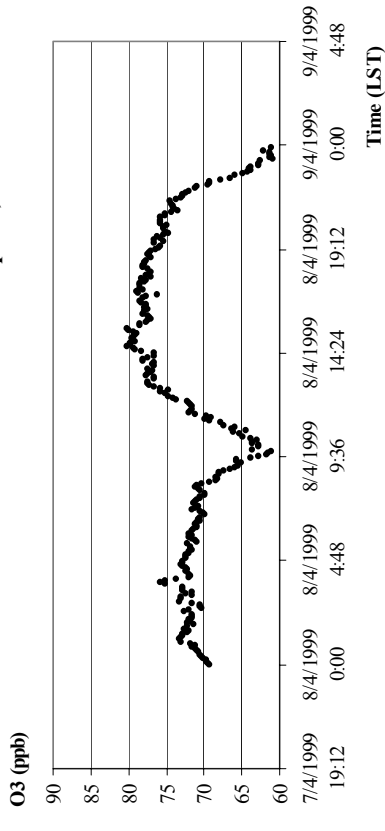




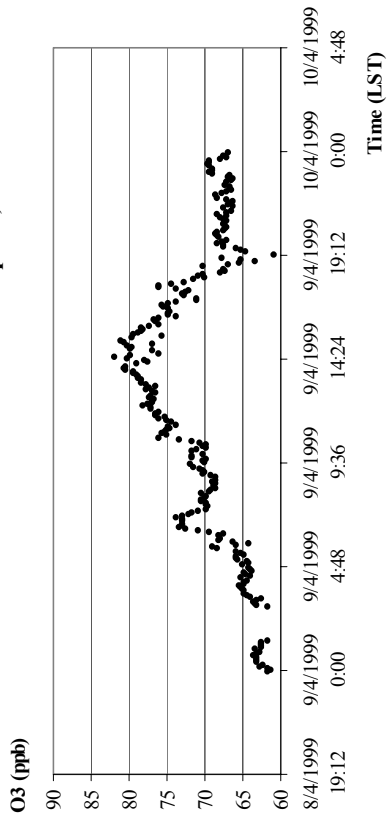
**a** Ozone Measurements at Finokalia- April, 1999

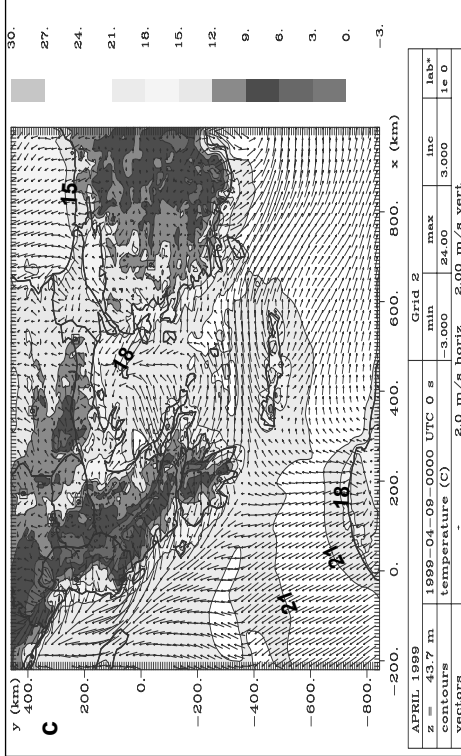
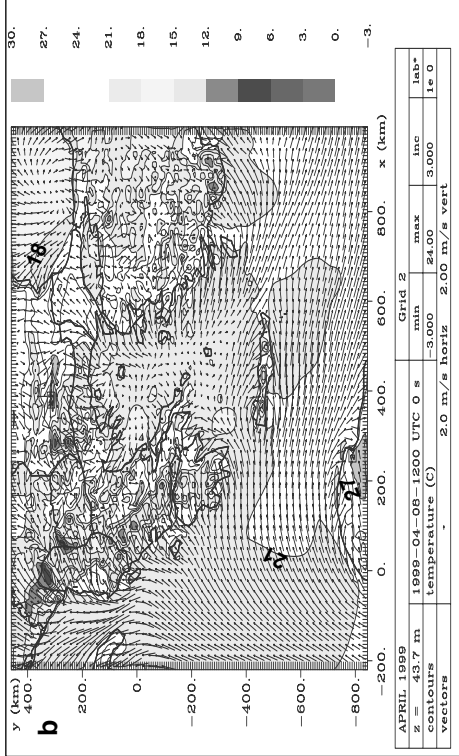
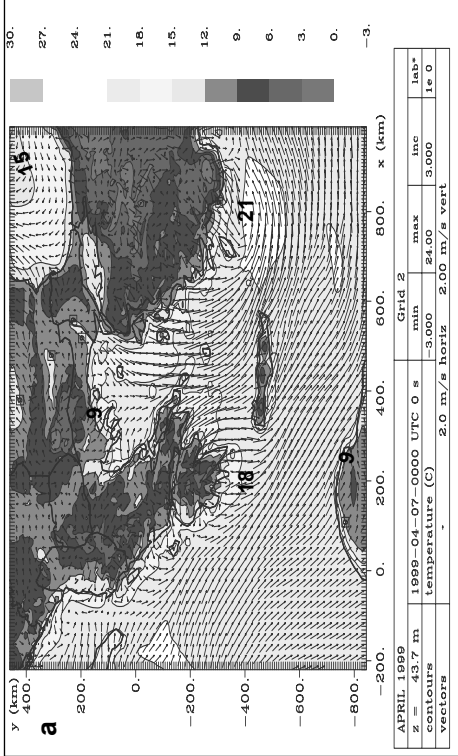


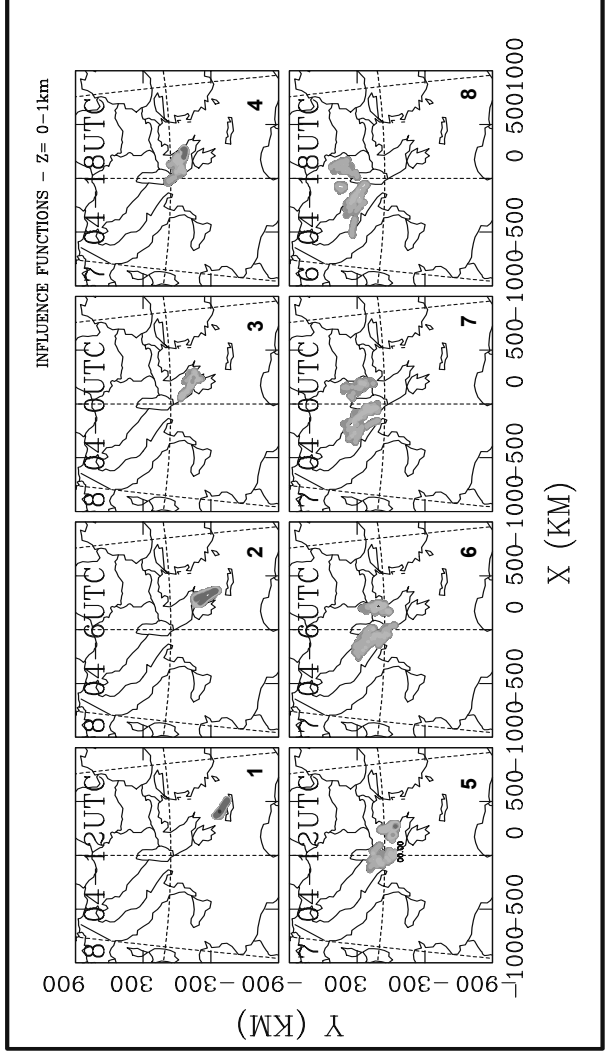
**b** Ozone Measurements at Finokalia- April 8, 1999

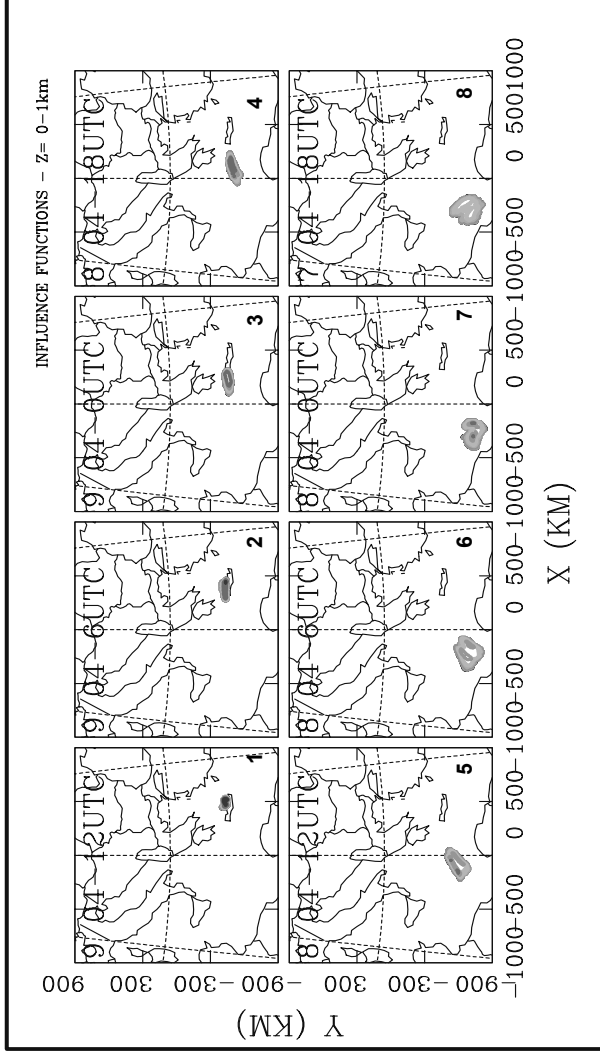


**c** Ozone Measurements at Finokalia- April 9, 1999









### Ozone Measurements at Finokalia- April 29, 1999

