

1 **Intercomparison of Temperature Trends in IPCC**
2 **CMIP5 Simulations with Observations,**
3 **Reanalyses and CMIP3 Models**

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7 JIANJUN XU

8 *Environmental Science and Technological Center*
9 *College of Science, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia*
10 jxu14@gmu.edu

11
12 ALFRED M. POWELL, JR.

13 *NOAA/NESDIS/STAR, Camp Springs, Maryland*
14 Al.Powell@noaa.gov

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31 **Corresponding author contact information:*

32 **Dr. JIANJUN XU**, *Environmental Science and Technological Center*, College of Science,
33 George Mason University Email: Jianjun.Xu@noaa.gov

34
35 **Dr. ALFRED M. POWELL, Jr.**, NOAA/NESDIS/STAR, 5200 Auth Road, WWB, Camp
36 Springs, MD 20746. Email: Al.Powell@noaa.gov

39 **ABSTRACT**

40 On the basis of the fifth Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) and the
41 climate model simulations covering 1979 through 2005, the temperature trends and their
42 uncertainties have been examined to note the similarities or differences compared to the
43 radiosonde observations, reanalyses and the third Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
44 (CMIP3) simulations. The results show noticeable discrepancies for the estimated temperature
45 trends in the four data groups (Radiosonde, Reanalysis, CMIP3 and CMIP5) although similarities
46 can be observed.

47 Compared to the CMIP3 model simulations, the simulation in some of CMIP5 models
48 were improved. The CMIP5 models displayed a negative temperature trend in the stratosphere
49 closer to the strong negative trend seen in the observations. However, the positive tropospheric
50 trend in the tropics is overestimated by the CMIP5 models relative to CMIP3 models. While
51 some of the models produce temperature trend patterns more highly correlated with the observed
52 patterns in CMIP5, the other models (such as CCSM4 and IPSL_CM5A-LR) exhibit the reverse
53 tendency. The CMIP5 temperature trend uncertainty was significantly reduced in most areas,
54 especially in the Arctic and Antarctic stratosphere, compared to the CMIP3 simulations.

55 Similar to the CMIP3, the CMIP5 simulations overestimated the tropospheric warming in
56 the tropics and southern hemisphere and underestimated the stratospheric cooling. The crossover
57 point where tropospheric warming changes into stratospheric cooling occurred near 100 hPa in
58 the tropics, which is higher than in the radiosonde and reanalysis data. The result is likely related
59 to the overestimation of convective activity over the tropical areas in both the CMIP3 and
60 CMIP5 models.

61 Generally, for the temperature trend estimates associated with the numerical models
62 including the reanalyses and global climate models, the uncertainty in the stratosphere is much
63 larger than that in the troposphere, and the uncertainty in the Antarctic is the largest. In addition,
64 note that the reanalyses show the largest uncertainty in the lower tropical stratosphere, and the
65 CMIP3 simulations show the largest uncertainty in both the south and north polar regions.

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84 **1. Introduction**

85 The fifth phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) provided
86 quantitative data sets for estimating climate change based on a suite of climate models (Taylor et
87 al., 2011). Compared to the third phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP3),
88 conventional atmosphere-ocean global climate models (AOGCMs) and Earth System Models of
89 Intermediate Complexity (EMICs) are for the first time being joined by more recently developed
90 Earth System Models (ESMs). The reliability of the new climate model products is an important
91 question for the climate change detection. Evaluating climate model results using observational
92 data sets is necessary to understand the capabilities and limitations of climate change
93 simulations.

94 As the models get more complicated, they must handle a greater number of complex
95 processes that often interact. Subtle changes can lead to unintended results. Also, it is difficult to
96 rigorously test each process, each pathway in the software, and understand the way it is
97 represented in the model and how it interacts with the other modeled processes.

98 Temperature trend is an important component for measuring global climate change. It
99 provides evidence of both natural impacts and those from anthropogenic forcing. However, a lot
100 of evidence was found in the literature (Santer et al., 1999; Seidel et al., 2004; Christy et al.,
101 2006; Sakamoto and Christy, 2009; Xu and Powell, 2010) that the temperature trend estimation
102 is sensitive to the data source (radiosondes, satellite observations, and reanalysis products).
103 Radiosonde coverage extends back to the late 1950s. However, radiosondes only reach altitude
104 levels below 20 hPa and do not provide data over the ocean, Arctic and Antarctic zones. Also,
105 due to discontinuous observations caused by instrumentation changes, the raw radiosonde record
106 includes remarkable inhomogeneities (Lanzante et al., 2003; Seidel et al., 2004).

107 The first generation of reanalysis products created by NCEP, NASA and ECMWF were
108 successfully used in the study of global atmospheric and oceanic processes and their dynamics,
109 especially over the data-sparse poles, southern hemisphere, and ocean regions. The updated or
110 second-generation reanalyses have been implemented by several weather and climate prediction
111 centers. However, the reanalysis products showed a number of uncertainties and deficiencies
112 (Kanamitsu *et al.* 2002, Trenberth 2001).

113 Because of these and other difficulties involved with complex data implementation,
114 observation systems, and processing algorithms, objectively identifying one or more reliable data
115 sets is a difficult task. This paper compares three types of data sets with the CMIP5 simulations
116 on the basis of the same fundamental analyses. The goal is to understand the similarities or
117 differences between the temperature trends in the CMIP5 simulations and those from the (1)
118 radiosonde observations, (2) reanalyses, and (3) the CMIP3 climate simulations.

119 To evaluate the capability of the CMIP5 climate models for simulating the historic
120 climate, an ensemble analysis for the temperature trends and spread will be implemented. The
121 data sets used here are described in the section 2. The analysis includes inter-comparisons
122 between the stratosphere and troposphere (section 3), and inter-comparisons between the tropics,
123 Arctic and Antarctic (section 4). Section 5 provides a final summary.

124

125 **2. Data and calculations**

126 The purpose of this research was to compare the temperature trends in the CMIP5 climate
127 model simulations with three groups of products: radiosonde observations, reanalysis products
128 and the CMIP3 model simulations. All data sets spanned the period from 1979 through 2005
129 between the levels of 850 and 30 hPa.

130 **2.1 Reanalysis and radiosonde data sets**

131 The eight reanalysis products used in this study include NCEP-R1, NCEP-R2, NCEP-
132 CFSR, ERA-40, ERA-Interim, JRA-25, MERRA and 20CR. The detailed information about
133 these reanalyses can be found in our previous publication (Xu and Powell, 2011). The five
134 radiosonde data sets used in this study include HadAT2, RATPAC, IUK, RAOBCORE and
135 RICH. More information about these radiosonde products can be also found in our previous
136 publication (Xu and Powell, 2010).

137 **2.2 The CMIP3 simulations**

138 The CMIP3 model simulations were introduced in the study by Meehl (2007). To get a
139 comparable number of climate and reanalysis products, eight climate models (Table 1) were
140 selected from the larger group and were matched with eight reanalyses using temperature fields
141 from the climate of the 20th century experiments (20C3M) (selected from 1979 through 1999)
142 and the committed experiment (COMMIT) (selected from 2000 through 2005).

143 **2.3 The CMIP5 simulations**

144 Similar to the CMIP3 experiments, the CMIP5 simulations provide a framework for
145 coordinated climate change experiments aimed at evaluating climate simulations of the recent
146 past, providing projections of climate change, and quantifying climate feedbacks (Taylor et al.,
147 2011). Compared to CMIP3, the CMIP5 simulations include more comprehensive and higher
148 spatial resolution models. Corresponding to the selected CMIP3 models, eight models from the
149 same group (Table 1) in the “historical” run in CMIP5 are used in this study. The “historical” run
150 (1860–2005) is forced by observed atmospheric composition changes (reflecting both
151 anthropogenic and natural sources) including time evolving land cover.

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153 ***2.4 Trend and Spread Calculation***

154 The annually-averaged data is first calculated based on the monthly dataset listed above. In
155 order to be consistent with the radiosonde data sets location, the annual data is then processed by
156 zonal-mean for land coverage only in the resolution of 10 latitudes.

157 The trend is computed with the methodology of linear least squares fitting. The ensemble
158 spread is described by the standard deviation among these data sets listed on Table 1. The t-test
159 analysis was employed to calculate the statistical significance of the temperature trends.

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161 **3. Intercomparison of temperature trends between the stratosphere and troposphere**

162 ***3.1 Vertical structure***

163 In terms of the linear least squares fitting of the temperature time series in the period
164 from 1979 through 2005 for the four data groups, Fig. 1 displays the vertical and latitudinal
165 distribution of the temperature trend for the levels between 850 hPa and 30 hPa.

166 First, the vertical and latitudinal distributions of temperature trend in all five radiosonde
167 data sets (left panel in Fig.1) match quite well. Strong maximum cooling is clearly observed in
168 the tropical and subtropical stratosphere, while strong warming appeared in the lower
169 troposphere in the northern middle and high latitudes and the tropical upper troposphere. The
170 temperature trend switched from positive to negative at approximately 150 hPa. The strongest
171 warming in RAOBCORE was on the order of 0.5°C/decade, which occurred in the lower
172 northern high latitudes and was higher than that in the other four radiosonde data sets. The
173 largest cooling trend in the stratosphere reached -1.2°C/decade in the southern tropical
174 stratosphere in IUK. The results confirmed the high consistency among the five radiosonde data
175 sets revealed in our previous study (Xu and Powell, 2011) although there are some differences in

176 these five data sets. Unfortunately, based on current understanding, we cannot identify which
177 one is closest to the true observational temperature.

178 Second, within the group of reanalysis (left middle panel in Fig. 1), 20CR and JRA-25
179 reanalyses do not display the feature of tropospheric warming and stratospheric cooling that is
180 consistently seen in the other six reanalyses. The maximum cooling on the order of -1.6°C
181 /decade in the tropical tropopause layer is observed in the NCEP-R1 and NCEP-R2, which is
182 much stronger cooling than the other six reanalyses and all the radiosonde observations.
183 Relatively strong warming appeared in the upper tropical troposphere in the ERA40 and NCEP-
184 CFSR, while the warming at the lower northern high latitudes is comparable to the magnitude in
185 the radiosondes. Note the cooling in the northern stratosphere in 20CR shows abnormal values
186 compared to the other seven reanalyses. It is worth noting significant discrepancies can be found
187 between the different reanalyses, and it is hard to say which one best reproduces the true
188 atmospheric trends even with the new data sets and algorithms used in new data assimilation
189 systems. For example, the NCEP-CFSR is a new generation data assimilation system from
190 NCEP developed from NCEP-R1 and NCEP-R2. However, according to the radiosonde
191 observation measurements, the NCEP-CFSR reanalysis overestimated the tropospheric warming
192 compared to the previous system in NCEP-R1 or NCEP-R2.

193 Third, the CMIP3 simulations (right middle panel in Fig.1) show a similar transition from
194 tropospheric warming to stratospheric cooling in all eight models except for the tropical zone in
195 the CNRM_CM3 and the high latitudes in IPSL_CM4 and MRI_CGCM2. However, four of the
196 eight models (CCSM3, CNRM_CM3, CSIRO_MK3.5 and UKMO_HADCM3.1) indicated
197 relatively strong stratospheric cooling outside the tropical and subtropical areas, in contrast to the
198 radiosonde observations.

199 Compared to the CMIP3 simulations, the CMIP5 simulations (right panel in Fig.1) display
200 a better vertical and latitudinal structure, and all eight models show a relatively strong cooling in
201 the tropical and subtropical stratosphere, which matches the distribution in the radiosonde
202 observations. Similar to the reanalysis and CMIP3 simulations, the CMIP5 simulations portrayed
203 stronger warming in the upper tropical troposphere than in the radiosonde data sets.

204 The statistical significance at the 99% level, according to a T-test, shows (the line with the
205 value of ± 2.5 in Fig. 1) that the trends are believable in most of the troposphere and stratosphere.

206 However, ~~the a-weak~~ significance cannot be found in the tropopause layer.

207 The vertical and latitudinal structure indicates four significant characteristics. 1) The
208 temperature trends show noticeable discrepancies in the four data groups although
209 commonalities can be observed. 2) Most of the data sets exhibit a sharp cooling in the tropical
210 and subtropical stratosphere with a stronger warming in the lower troposphere in the northern
211 middle and high latitudes and the tropical upper troposphere. 3) Compared to the CMIP3
212 simulations, the CMIP5 simulations display a relatively strong cooling in the tropical and
213 subtropical stratosphere, which matches the distribution in the radiosonde observations. 4) The
214 height of the crossover point where tropospheric warming changes into stratospheric cooling
215 depends on the individual data set ranging from ~ 100 hPa in tropics to ~ 200 hPa in extratropics.

216 *3.2 Similarities and differences*

217 To quantify similarities and differences between these data sets, the global mean
218 temperature trend and spatial correlations between model simulations and observations were
219 calculated. The mean of all five radiosonde data sets is used to represent the observations.

220 In the troposphere (500 hPa), the radiosonde trends range from $0.106^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ to
221 $0.129^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ (Table 2), which reflects consistency among the radiosonde data sets. The trends

222 in the reanalysis group show a significant divergence with the largest warming reaching
223 $0.24^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in the NCEP-CFSR while the trend value went down to $0.04^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in the
224 ERA40. However, compared to the radiosondes, the value in all eight CMIP3 simulations are
225 increased within values from $0.15^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in HADCM3 to $0.29^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in CCSM3. The
226 magnitude of the warming in the CMIP5 simulations is higher than the CMIP3 simulations
227 except for the MRI model and the temperature trend ranged from $0.17^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in MRI-
228 CGCM3 to $0.47^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in IPSL_CM5A-LR.

229 The mean trend and standard error show (Fig. 2a) that the tropospheric mean trend in the
230 CMIP5 ($0.293^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) is much larger than in the radiosonde observations ($0.12^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$)
231 and the CMIP3 simulations ($0.215^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) while the divergence in the eight CMIP5 models
232 is also larger than the other three data groups. In other words, the CMIP5 simulations show not
233 only the greatest tropospheric warming, but also the largest uncertainty for the temperature trend
234 estimation.

235 In contrast, in the stratosphere (50 hPa), the cooling trend in all the radiosonde data sets
236 are larger than $-0.70^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ (Table 2), which shows a strong similarity among the five
237 radiosonde data sets. Most of the reanalyses have a cooling trend larger than $-0.60^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$
238 except for the estimation from the 20CR and JRA25. However, the cooling trends in the CMIP3
239 simulations are significantly reduced except for the HADCM3 model, and five of the eight
240 CMIP5 models show that their cooling trend exceeds $-0.50^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$, which is closer to the
241 radiosonde observations than the cooling trends of the CMIP3 simulations. It is worth noting that
242 the uncertainty for the stratospheric cooling trend estimates in the CMIP5 models is significantly
243 decreased (Fig. 2b).

244 Similar to the CMIP3, the CMIP5 simulations overestimated the tropospheric warming and
245 underestimated the stratospheric cooling although the stratospheric estimates were improved in
246 comparison with the radiosonde observations (Figs. 2a,b). In addition, the large uncertainty for
247 the stratospheric cooling trend estimates in the reanalysis group is mainly due to the 20CR and
248 JRA25.

249 Furthermore, the spatial correlations between the model simulations and the radiosonde
250 observations indicate (Fig.3) that the temperature trend in most of the reanalyses is in very good
251 agreement with the radiosonde observations in both the stratosphere (100-30 hPa) and
252 troposphere (850-300 hPa), but the stratospheric trends in the 20CR, ERA40 and JRA25
253 significantly differ from the observations.(Fig. 3a). The CMIP3 simulations (Fig. 3b) have a
254 worse structure than the analyses especially in the stratosphere, four of the eight models show
255 negative correlations with the radiosonde observations. The correlations of the CMIP5
256 simulations with the radiosonde observations (Fig. 3c) in the stratosphere are higher than that in
257 the previous version in the CMIP3 simulations except for CCSM4 and IPSL_CM5A-LR (Fig.
258 3b). However, three of the eight CMIP5 models in the troposphere have negative correlations
259 with the radiosonde observations.

260 To summarize, while similar to the CMIP3 models, the CMIP5 simulations overestimated
261 the tropospheric warming and underestimated the stratospheric cooling. The tropospheric mean
262 temperature trend in the CMIP5 models is much larger than those in the radiosonde observations
263 and the CMIP3 simulations. The discrepancy among the eight CMIP5 models is also the highest
264 of all four data groups. In other words, the CMIP5 models show not only the biggest
265 tropospheric warming, but also the largest uncertainty for the temperature trend estimates. Based
266 on the spatial correlation with radiosonde observations, most of CMIP5 simulations have higher

267 correlations in the stratosphere but lower correlations in the troposphere compared to the CMIP3
268 simulations.

269 **3.3 Ensemble mean and spreads**

270 Fig. 4 shows the height-latitude distribution of the ensemble mean of temperature trends for
271 the four data groups. All exhibit predominant warming in the troposphere with cooling in the
272 stratosphere. However, the discrepancy among these data sets is very clear although the mean
273 temperature trends are in reasonable agreement. In the radiosondes (Fig. 4a), the cooling center
274 appeared in the tropical stratosphere (30-50 hPa), while the warming center is observed in the
275 northern middle and high latitudes. Compared to the radiosondes, the stratospheric cooling in
276 the tropics and the northern tropospheric warming in high latitudes is slightly decreased in the
277 reanalyses (Fig.4b). In contrast, the strongest cooling is found over the Antarctic in the
278 stratosphere in CMIP3 (Fig. 4c), and the tropical upper tropospheric warming over the southern
279 hemisphere significantly increased. Similar to the CMIP3, the additional strong warming center
280 in CMIP5 (Fig. 4d) is observed over the southern tropical upper troposphere, and the cooling
281 structure in the stratosphere is improved.

282 At the same time, the ensemble spread among the radiosondes (Fig. 5a) remains nearly
283 constant near $\sim 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ from the troposphere to the stratosphere except for part of the
284 southern hemisphere and Arctic zone in the stratosphere, which displays high consistency
285 among the five radiosonde observation sets. However, the ensemble spread in the reanalyses
286 (Fig. 5b) is substantially increased in the stratosphere. The maximum spread value reached 0.4°C
287 $/\text{decade}$ in the tropics in the lower stratosphere. The large ensemble spread mainly is due to the
288 overestimated cooling in both the NCEP-R1 and NCEP-R2 reanalyses around 100 hPa. The
289 stratospheric warming in the 20CR and JRA25 and the overestimated upper tropospheric

290 warming in the ERA-40 reanalysis (left middle panel in Fig. 1) contribute most to the
291 discrepancies with the radiosondes. In the CMIP3 climate model simulations, the ensemble
292 spread (Fig. 5c) in the tropical stratosphere is much smaller than in the reanalyses. It is worth
293 noting the ensemble spread is large over both polar regions in the stratosphere. This result
294 indicates that the CMIP3 models contain large uncertainties in the polar stratosphere. In contrast,
295 the discrepancy in the CMIP5 simulations is significantly reduced except for a small portion of
296 the southern high latitudes in the stratosphere.

297 Generally, the tropospheric warming is overestimated in the tropics of the southern
298 hemisphere in both the CMIP3 and CMIP5 simulations compared to the radiosonde observations.
299 The reanalyses show a large uncertainty in the trend estimates in the lower tropical stratosphere,
300 and the CMIP3 simulations show a large uncertainty in both the south and north polar regions in
301 the stratosphere. The recent effort in the CMIP5 simulation indicates that the uncertainty is
302 significantly reduced for most areas especially in the tropical and the northern high latitudes.

303

304 **4 Intercomparison Between Tropics, Arctic and Antarctic**

305 Fig. 6 shows the vertical profiles of the temperature trend that represents the three
306 latitudinal bands including the Arctic (60-90°N), tropics (15°S-15°N) and Antarctic (60-90°S) in
307 the four data groups. The distribution is zonally averaged, and the period of 1979–2005 is used
308 with altitudes ranging from the 850 to 30 hPa. The five radiosonde data sets agree reasonably
309 well with each other in the Arctic and tropics (Fig. 6a, e) in both the troposphere and stratosphere.
310 However, a large discrepancy can be found in the Antarctic (Fig. 6i), where the Hadat2 shows a
311 noticeable difference from the other two available data sets in the stratosphere.

312 For the reanalyses, the trends in the tropics and Antarctic (Fig. 6f,j) displayed a large
313 divergence, and the discrepancy among the eight reanalyses is much larger than shown in the

314 radiosondes. In the tropical tropopause layer (~ 100 hPa), the trend ranges from $\sim 0.3^\circ\text{C}/\text{decade}$
315 in the ERA40 to $\sim -1.4^\circ\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in the NCEP-R1 and NCEP-R2 (Fig. 6f). In the tropics, the
316 JRA-25 shows a significant warming in the stratosphere while the 20CR exhibits a warming in
317 the study domain from troposphere to stratosphere. In the Antarctic (Fig. 6j), most of the
318 reanalyses show cooling in the troposphere except for the ERA40, and the warming trend is
319 observed again in the stratosphere in JRA25. However, the trends are highly consistent in the
320 Arctic except for the 20CR reanalysis (Fig. 6b).

321 For the CMIP3 simulations, the trends are in very good agreement in the tropics (Fig. 6g)
322 but don't show similar agreement in the stratosphere in both polar areas (Figs. 6c, k). For
323 example, in the Arctic, the CNRM_CM3 and MRI_CGCM2 simulations displayed a warming
324 in the stratosphere compared to the cooling in the other six models (Fig. 6c), with the
325 UKMO_HadCM3 simulation having the most extreme stratospheric cooling of $-1.4^\circ\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in
326 the Antarctic (Fig. 6k). Compared to the CMIP3 simulations, the CMIP5 simulations have very
327 good agreement in the three selected regions (Figs. 6d,h,l) except for the strong cooling ($-$
328 $1.4^\circ\text{C}/\text{decade}$) in the Antarctic lower stratosphere in the GISS_E2-R simulation (Fig. 6l) and a
329 strong warming ($0.7^\circ\text{C}/\text{decade}$) in the tropical upper troposphere in the IPSL_CM5A-LR (Fig.
330 6h). The trend range in the stratospheric Arctic and Antarctic zone among the CMIP5 models is
331 significantly reduced; these results imply that the uncertainty in the CMIP5 models was
332 improved, especially in the stratosphere.

333 Furthermore, the vertical profile of the ensemble mean and spread show (Fig. 7) that there
334 is a clear difference among the three regions in the vertical trend structure (Fig. 7a-d) and the
335 ensemble spreads (Fig. 7e-h). First, in the radiosondes, the warmest trend appeared in the lower
336 tropospheric Arctic zone and the coldest occurred in the tropical middle stratosphere (Fig. 7a). In

337 contrast, in the reanalyses, the whole atmospheric layer in the Antarctic shows a cooling with the
338 coldest trend occurring in the lower stratosphere (Fig. 7b). The tropospheric vertical trend profile
339 in the Antarctic looks reasonable in the CMIP3 simulation (Fig. 7c) but the stratospheric cooling
340 is much higher than in the radiosonde and reanalysis data sets. In the CMIP5 simulation, the
341 vertical trend structure in the Antarctic is slightly improved, but the upper tropospheric warming
342 exceeds the other three data groups (Fig. 7d). Second, the crossover point, that expresses the
343 transition from tropospheric warming to stratospheric cooling, is largely different in the tropics.
344 The crossover point in the CMIP3 and CMIP5 simulations occurs near 100 hPa, which is higher
345 than in the radiosonde and reanalyses. The high crossover point is likely related to an
346 overestimation of convective activity over the tropical areas in both the CMIP3 and CMIP5
347 models.

348 Finally, the ensemble spread among the radiosondes (Fig. 7e) remains nearly constant near
349 $\sim 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ from the troposphere to the stratosphere except for the lower stratosphere in the
350 Antarctic. However, in the reanalyses, the ensemble spread (Fig. 7f) increases substantially with
351 height reaching a maximum value of $0.6^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in the tropical lower stratosphere. The large
352 ensemble spread mainly is due to overestimating the cooling in both the NCEP-R1 and NCEP-
353 R2 around 100 hPa, the warming in the 20CR, ERA40, and JRA-25. Note that the uncertainty for
354 the trend in the Antarctic is much larger than the Arctic in the stratosphere. In the CMIP3
355 simulations, the trends (Fig. 7g) show a substantial spread with $0.8^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ in the Antarctic
356 stratosphere. The spread at both poles is significantly reduced in the CMIP5 simulations (Fig.
357 7h). It is worth noting that the spread in the tropics retains similar values in the CMIP3 and
358 CMIP5 simulations. This result implies that the uncertainty in the CMIP5 simulation over the
359 Arctic and Antarctic was significantly improved compared to the CMIP3 simulations.

360 In summary, the CMIP5 model trend uncertainty in the Arctic and Antarctic zones in the
361 stratosphere is improved compared to the CMIP3 models. The crossover point in the CMIP3 and
362 CMIP5 simulations occurs near 100 hPa, which is higher than in the radiosonde and reanalysis
363 data sets. The result is likely related to overestimated convective activity over the tropical areas
364 in both the CMIP3 and CMIP5 models.

365

366 **5. Summary**

367 Based on the four data groups (Radiosonde, Reanalysis, CMIP3 and CMIP5) from 1979
368 through 2005 at levels between 850 and 30 hPa, the results are summarized as follows:

369 1) The temperature trends show a noticeable discrepancy in the four data groups although
370 similarities can be observed. Most of the data sets exhibit a sharp cooling ($\sim -1.0^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) in the
371 tropical and subtropical stratosphere and a strong warming ($\sim 0.6^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) in the lower
372 troposphere in the northern middle and high latitudes and the tropical upper troposphere. The
373 CMIP5 simulations display a relatively strong cooling in the tropical and subtropical
374 stratosphere, which matches the distribution in the radiosonde observations.

375 2) Similar to the CMIP3, CMIP5 models overestimated the tropospheric warming and
376 underestimated the stratospheric cooling. The eight CMIP5 simulations show not only the
377 largest tropospheric warming, but also the largest uncertainty for the estimated temperature
378 trend. The uncertainty in the CMIP5 simulations was improved in the stratosphere but worse in
379 the troposphere compared to the CMIP3 simulations.

380 3) The tropospheric warming is overestimated in the tropics in the southern hemisphere by
381 the CMIP3 and CMIP5 simulations compared to the radiosonde observations. The reanalyses

382 show a large uncertainty in the estimated trends in the lower tropical stratosphere, and the
383 CMIP3 simulations show a large uncertainty in the Arctic and Antarctic stratosphere.

384 4) The trend uncertainty in the stratospheric Arctic and Antarctic zones among CMIP5 models
385 was improved compared to the CMIP3 models. The crossover point in the CMIP3 and CMIP5
386 simulations occurs near 100 hPa in the tropics, which is higher than in the radiosonde and
387 reanalysis data sets. The result is likely related to overestimating the convective activity over
388 the tropical areas in both CMIP3 and CMIP5 models.

389

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393 reanalysis data were obtained from the ECMWF; JRA-25 reanalysis was obtained from Japan
394 Meteorological Agency; MERRA reanalysis was obtained from NASA. The HADAT2,
395 RAOBCORE and RICH radiosonde data sets were obtained from the Met Office Hadley Centre
396 website and RATPAC was obtained from NOAA. The Program for Climate Model Diagnosis
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404

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451 **Caption of Figures**

452 **Fig.1** Vertical - latitude distribution of zonal mean temperature trend ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) from 1979 to
453 2005. Radiosonde: left panel; Reanalysis: left middle panel; CMIP3 models: right middle
454 panel; CMIP5 models: right panel. The dashed line with the value of ± 2.5 indicates the
455 statistical significance t-test at 99% level

456 **Fig.2** The global mean temperature trend ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) and standard deviation for the four data
457 groups in the period of 1979-2005. (a) 500 hPa; (b) 50 hPa.

458 **Fig.3** The spatial correlation of temperature trends between reanalysis, CMIP3, CMIP5 and the
459 radiosonde mean trends from 1979 to 2005. (a) reanalysis; (b) CMIP3; (c) CMIP5.

460 **Fig.4** Vertical - latitude distribution of ensemble mean trends ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) from 1979 to 2005.
461 (a) Radiosonde; (b) reanalysis; (c) CMIP3; (d) CMIP5. The dashed line with the value of
462 ± 2.5 indicates the statistical significance t-test at 99% level

463 **Fig.5** Vertical - latitude distribution of ensemble spread trends ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) from 1979 to 2005.
464 (a) Radiosonde; (b) reanalysis; (c) CMIP3; (d) CMIP5.

465 **Fig.6** Vertical profile of the trends ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) for the Arctic, tropics and Antarctic temperature
466 from 1979 through 2005. Arctic: (a) radiosonde, (b) reanalysis, (c) CMIP3 and
467 (d) CMIP5; tropics: (e) radiosonde, (f) reanalysis, (g) CMIP3 and (h) CMIP5;
468 Antarctic: (i) radiosonde, (j) reanalysis, (k) CMIP3 and (l) CMIP5.

469 **Fig.7** Vertical profile of the ensemble mean trends and spreads ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$) for the Arctic,
470 tropics and Antarctic temperature from 1979 through 2005.

471 Ensemble mean trends: (a) radiosonde, (b) reanalysis, (c) CMIP3 and (d) CMIP5;
472 Ensemble spread trends: (e) radiosonde, (f) reanalysis, (g) CMIP3 and (h) CMIP5.

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474 **List of Tables**

475 **Table 1** Lists of the CMIP3 and CMIP5 model simulations

476 **Table 2** Temperature mean trend in the stratosphere (50 hPa) and the troposphere (500 hPa) in
477 the four data groups

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