

1 **Description and basic evaluation of Beijing Normal**  
2 **University Earth System Model (BNU-ESM) version 1**

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## 2 **Abstract**

3 An earth system model has been developed at Beijing Normal University (Beijing  
4 Normal University Earth System Model, BNU-ESM); the model is based on several  
5 widely evaluated climate model components and is used to study mechanisms of  
6 ocean-atmosphere interactions, natural climate variability and carbon-climate  
7 feedbacks at interannual to interdecadal time scales. In this paper, the model structure  
8 and individual components are described briefly. Further, results for the CMIP5  
9 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 5) pre-industrial control and historical  
10 simulations are presented to demonstrate the model's performance in terms of the  
11 mean model state and the internal variability. It is illustrated that BNU-ESM can  
12 simulate many observed features of the earth climate system, such as the  
13 climatological annual cycle of surface air temperature and precipitation, annual cycle  
14 of tropical Pacific sea surface temperature (SST), the overall patterns and positions of  
15 cells in global ocean meridional overturning circulation. For example, the El Niño-  
16 Southern Oscillation (ENSO) simulated in BNU-ESM exhibits an irregular oscillation  
17 between 2 and 5 years with the seasonal phase locking feature of ENSO. Important  
18 biases with regard to observations are presented and discussed, including warm SST  
19 discrepancies in the major upwelling regions, an equatorward drift of midlatitude  
20 westerly wind bands, and tropical precipitation bias over the ocean that is related to  
21 the double Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).

22

## 23 **1 Introduction**

24 Climate models are the essential tools to investigate the response of the climate

1 system to various forcings, to make climate predictions on seasonal to decadal time  
2 scales and to make projections of future climate (Flato et al., 2013). At Beijing  
3 Normal University, with collaboration from several model development centers in  
4 China, the BNU-ESM (Beijing Normal University Earth System Model) comprising  
5 atmospheric, land, oceanic, and sea ice components along with carbon cycles has  
6 recently been developed. The development of BNU-ESM was prompted by  
7 foundation of a new multidisciplinary research center committed to study global  
8 change and earth system science in Beijing Normal University. The BNU-ESM takes  
9 advantage of contemporary model achievements from several well-known modeling  
10 centers, and its components were chosen based on the specific expertise and  
11 experience available to the research center, and furthermore with an eye to how the  
12 research strengths of the center can improve and develop it.

13 The coupling framework of BNU-ESM is based on an interim version of the  
14 Community Climate System Model version 4 (CCSM4) (Gent et al., 2011;  
15 Vertenstein et al., 2010) developed at the National Center for Atmospheric Research  
16 (NCAR) on behalf of the Community Climate System Model/Community Earth  
17 System Model (CCSM/CESM) project of the University Corporation for Atmospheric  
18 Research (UCAR). Notably, BNU-ESM differs from CCSM4 in the following major  
19 aspects: i) BNU-ESM utilizes the Modular Ocean Model version 4p1 (MOM4p1)  
20 (Griffies, 2010) developed at Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL). ii)  
21 The land surface component of BNU-ESM is the Common Land Model (CoLM) (Dai  
22 et al., 2003, 2004; Ji and Dai, 2010) initially developed by a community and further  
23 improved at Beijing Normal University. iii) The CoLM has a global dynamic  
24 vegetation sub-model and terrestrial carbon and nitrogen cycles based on Lund-

1 Potsdam-Jena (LPJ) (Sitch et al., 2003) and LPJ-DyN (Xu and Prentice, 2008). The  
2 LPJ-DyN based terrestrial carbon and nitrogen interaction schemes are very different  
3 from the biogeochemistry Carbon-Nitrogen scheme used in CLM4 or CCSM4  
4 (Thornton and Rosenbloom, 2005; Oleson et al., 2010; Lawrence et al., 2011). iv) The  
5 atmospheric component is an interim version of the Community Atmospheric Model  
6 version 4 (CAM4) (Neale et al., 2010, 2013) modified with a revised Zhang-  
7 McFarlane deep convection scheme (Zhang and McFarlane, 1995; Zhang, 2002;  
8 Zhang and Mu, 2005a). v) The sea ice component is CICE version 4.1 (Hunke and  
9 Lipscomb, 2010) developed at Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), while the sea ice  
10 component of CCSM4 is based on Version 4 of CICE. These variations illustrate how  
11 the BNU-ESM adds to the much desired climate model diversity, and thus to the  
12 hierarchy of models participating in the Climate Model Intercomparison Projects  
13 phase 5 (CMIP5) (Taylor et al., 2012).

14 As a member of CMIP5, BNU-ESM has completed all core simulations within the  
15 suite of CMIP5 long-term experiments and some of related tier-1 integrations  
16 intended to examine specific aspects of climate model forcing, response, and  
17 processes. The long-term experiments performed with BNU-ESM include a group  
18 forced by observed atmospheric composition changes or specified concentrations (e.g.,  
19 *piControl*, *historical*, *rcp45* and *rcp85* labeled by CMIP5), and a group driven by  
20 time-evolving emissions of constituents from which concentrations can be computed  
21 interactively (e.g., *esmControl*, *esmHistorical* and *esmrcp85* labeled by CMIP5). At  
22 the same time, BNU-ESM joined the Geoengineering Model Intercomparison Project  
23 (GeoMIP) and completed its first suite of experiments (*G1-G4*; Kravitz et al., 2011)  
24 concentrating on Solar Radiation Management (SRM) schemes (e.g., Moore et al.,

1 2014). Data for all CMIP5 and GeoMIP simulations completed by BNU-ESM have  
2 been published via an Earth System Grid Data Node located at Beijing Normal  
3 University (BNU) and can be accessed at <http://esg.bnu.edu.cn>, as a part of  
4 internationally federated, distributed data archival and retrieval system, referred to as  
5 the Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF).

6 Many studies have utilized CMIP5 results from BNU-ESM, and the model has  
7 received comprehensive evaluations. For example, Wu et al. (2013) evaluated the  
8 precipitation-surface temperature (P-T) relationship of BNU-ESM among 17 models  
9 in CMIP5 and found BNU-ESM has better ability in simulating P-T pattern  
10 correlation than other models, especially over ocean and tropics. Bellenger et al.  
11 (2013) used the metrics developed within the Climate Variability and Predictability  
12 (CLIVAR) Pacific Panel and additional metrics to evaluate the basic ENSO properties  
13 and associated feedbacks of BNU-ESM and other CMIP5 models. BNU-ESM  
14 performs well on simulating precipitation anomalies over the Niño-4 region; the ratio  
15 between the ENSO spectral energy in the 1-3 year band and in 3-8 year band is well  
16 consistent with observational result, but the model has stronger SST anomalies than  
17 observational estimates over Niño-3 and Niño-4 regions. Fettweis et al. (2013)  
18 reported BNU-ESM can simulate the 1961-1990 variability of the JJA North Atlantic  
19 Oscillation (NAO) well and the sharp decrease of the NAO index over the last 10  
20 years as observed, and the model projects similar negative NAO values into the future  
21 under RCP 8.5 scenario. Gillett and Fyfe (2013) reported no significant Northern  
22 Annular Mode (NAM) decrease in any season between 1861 and 2099 in *historical*  
23 and *rcp45* simulations of BNU-ESM as with the other 36 models from CMIP5.  
24 Bracegirdle et al. (2013) assessed the model's simulation of near-surface westerly

1 winds over the Southern Ocean and found an equatorward bias in the present-day  
2 zonal mean surface jet position in common with many of the CMIP5 models. Among  
3 other studies, Chen et al. (2013) evaluated the cloud and water vapor feedbacks to El  
4 Niño warming in BNU-ESM. Vial et al. (2013) diagnosed the climate sensitivity,  
5 radiative forcing and climate feedback of BNU-ESM. Roehrig et al. (2013) assessed  
6 the performance of BNU-ESM on simulating the West African Monsoon. Sillmann et  
7 al. (2013) evaluated the model performance on simulating climate extreme indices  
8 defined by the Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices (ETCCDI).  
9 Wei et al. (2012) utilized BNU-ESM in assessment of developed and developing  
10 world responsibilities for historical climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation.

11 Although the simulation results from BNU-ESM are widely used in many climate  
12 studies, a general description of the model itself and its control climate is still not  
13 available. Documenting the main features of the model structure and its underlying  
14 parameterization schemes will help the climate community to further understand the  
15 results from BNU-ESM.

16 This paper provides a general description and basic evaluation of the historical  
17 climate simulated by BNU-ESM. Particular focus is put on the model structure, the  
18 simulated climatology, internal climate variability and terrestrial carbon cycle  
19 deduced from the *piControl* and *historical* simulations submitted for CMIP5. The  
20 climate response and scenario projections in BNU-ESM will be covered elsewhere.

21 The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, a general overview of BNU-ESM is  
22 provided, elaborating on similarities and differences between the original and revised  
23 model components in BNU-ESM. In section 3, the design of the *piControl* and  
24 *historical* model experiments is briefly presented, as well as the spin-up strategy. In

1 section 4, the general model performance is evaluated by using the Taylor diagram  
2 (Taylor, 2001). The following two sections focus on the model performance on  
3 simulating physical climatology and climate variability. Several key modes of internal  
4 variability on different timescales ranging from inter-seasonal to inter-decadal are  
5 evaluated. The terrestrial carbon cycle is evaluated in section 7, and particular focus is  
6 put on terrestrial primary productions and soil organic carbon stocks. Finally, the  
7 paper is summarized and discussed in section 8.

8

## 9 **2 Model description**

### 10 **2.1 Atmospheric model**

11 The atmospheric component in BNU-ESM is based on Community Atmospheric  
12 Model version 3.5 (CAM3.5), which is an interim version of the Community  
13 Atmospheric Model version 4 (CAM4) (Neale et al., 2010, 2013). Here, the main  
14 difference of the atmospheric component in BNU-ESM relative to the original  
15 CAM3.5 model is the process of deep convection. The BNU-ESM uses a modified  
16 Zhang-McFarlane scheme in which a revised closure scheme couples convection to  
17 the large-scale forcing in the free troposphere instead of to the convective available  
18 potential energy in the atmosphere (Zhang 2002; Zhang and Mu, 2005a). On the other  
19 hand CAM3.5 adopts a Zhang-McFarlane scheme (Zhang and McFarlane, 1995)  
20 modified with the addition of convective momentum transports (Richter and Rasch,  
21 2008) and a modified dilute plume calculation (Neale et al., 2008) following  
22 Raymond and Blyth (1986, 1992). BNU-ESM uses the Eulerian dynamical core in  
23 CAM3.5 for transport calculations with a T42 horizontal spectral resolution  
24 (approximately  $2.81^\circ \times 2.81^\circ$  transform grid), with 26 levels in the vertical of a hybrid

1 sigma-pressure coordinates and model top at 2.917 hPa. Atmospheric chemical  
2 processes utilize the tropospheric MOZART (TROP-MOZART) framework in  
3 CAM3.5 (Lamarque et al., 2010), which has prognostic greenhouse gases and  
4 prescribed aerosols. Note that the aerosols do not directly interact with the cloud  
5 scheme so that any indirect effects are omitted in CAM3.5, as well as in BNU-ESM.

## 6 **2.2 Ocean model**

7 The ocean component in BNU-ESM is based on the GFDL Modular Ocean Model  
8 version 4p1 (MOM4p1) released in 2009 (Griffies, 2010). The oceanic physics is  
9 unchanged from the standard MOM4p1 model, and the main modifications are in the  
10 general geometry and geography of the ocean component. MOM4p1 uses a tripolar  
11 grid to avoid the polar singularity over the Arctic, in which the two northern poles of  
12 the curvilinear grid are shifted to land areas over North America and Eurasia (Murray,  
13 1996). In BNU-ESM, MOM4p1 uses a nominal latitude-longitude resolution of  $1^\circ$   
14 (down to  $\frac{1}{3}^\circ$  within  $10^\circ$  of the equatorial tropics) with 360 longitudinal grids and 200  
15 latitudinal grids, and there are 50 vertical levels with the uppermost 23 layers each  
16 being 10.143 m thick. The mixed layer is represented by the K-profile  
17 parameterization (KPP) of vertical mixing (Large et al., 1994). The idealized ocean  
18 biogeochemistry (iBGC) module is used in BNU-ESM, which carries a single  
19 prognostic macronutrient tracer (phosphate,  $\text{PO}_4$ ), and simulates two main  
20 representative biogeochemical processes, i.e., the net biological uptake in the euphotic  
21 zone due to phytoplankton activity as a function of temperature, light and phosphate  
22 availability, and regeneration of phosphate as an exponential function below the  
23 euphotic zone.

## 24 **2.3 Sea ice model**



1 The BNU-ESM sea ice component is the Los Alamos sea ice model (CICE) version  
2 4.1 (Hunke and Lipscomb, 2010). The CICE was originally developed to be  
3 compatible with the Parallel Ocean Program (POP), but has been greatly enhanced in  
4 its technical and physical compatibility with different models in recently years. In  
5 particular, supporting tripolar grids makes it easier to couple with MOM4p1 code. In  
6 BNU-ESM, CICE uses its default shortwave scheme, in which the penetrating solar  
7 radiation is equal to zero for snow-covered ice, that is, most of the incoming sunlight  
8 is absorbed near the top surface. The visible and near infrared albedos for thick ice  
9 and cold snow are set to 0.77, 0.35, 0.96 and 0.69 respectively, slightly smaller than  
10 the standard CICE configuration, as they are used as tuning parameters during model  
11 control integration. The surface temperature of ice or snow is calculated in CICE  
12 without exploiting its “zero-layer” thermodynamic scheme, and the “bubbly brine”  
13 model based parameterization of ice thermal conductivity is used.

#### 14 **2.4 Land model**

15 The land component in BNU-ESM is the Common Land Model (CoLM), which was  
16 initially developed by incorporating the best features of three earlier land models: the  
17 Biosphere-Atmosphere Transfer Scheme (BATS) (Dickinson et al., 1993), the 1994  
18 version of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Atmospheric Physics LSM  
19 (IAP94) (Dai and Zeng, 1997) and the NCAR Land Surface Model (LSM) (Bonan,  
20 1996, 1998). The CoLM was documented by Dai et al. (2001) and introduced to the  
21 modeling community in Dai et al. (2003). The initial version of CoLM was adopted as  
22 the Community Land Model (CLM) for use with the Community Climate System  
23 Model (CCSM). The land model was then developed separately at NCAR and BNU.  
24 Currently, the CoLM is radically different from its initial version and the CLM (Dai et

1 al., 2004; Bonan et al., 2011); including: i) Improved two stream approximation  
2 model of radiation transfer of the canopy, with attention to singularities in its solution  
3 and with separate integrations of radiation absorption by sunlit and shaded fractions of  
4 canopy. ii) A photosynthesis-stomatal conductance model for sunlit and shaded leaves  
5 separately, and for the simultaneous transfers of CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor into and out of  
6 the leaf. iii) Lund-Potsdam-Jena (LPJ) model (Sitch et al., 2003) based dynamical  
7 global vegetation model and terrestrial carbon cycle, and LPJ-DyN (Xu and Prentice,  
8 2008) based scheme on carbon-nitrogen cycle interactions. Note that in all BNU-  
9 ESM's CMIP5 and GeoMIP simulations, carbon-nitrogen cycle interactions are  
10 turned off as the nitrogen cycle has not yet been fully evaluated.

## 11 **2.5 Component coupling**

12 The coupling framework of BNU-ESM is largely based on the coupler in NCAR  
13 CCSM3.5 (an interim version of NCAR CCSM4), with changes on grid mapping  
14 interpolation to allow for the identical tripolar grids used in both ocean and sea ice  
15 components. The time evolution of the whole model and communication between  
16 various component models are all synchronized and controlled by the coupler in the  
17 BNU-ESM. Since MOM4p1 and CICE4.1 are both Arakawa B-grid models, the  
18 coupling between them is efficient, and the exchanged fields need no transformation  
19 or additional treatment (e.g. vector rotation, grid remapping, grid-point shifting, etc.).  
20 The different model components are run simultaneously from their initial conditions.  
21 The atmospheric component uses a 1-hour time step for atmospheric radiation and 20-  
22 minute time step for other atmospheric physics. The ocean, sea ice and land  
23 components have a 2-hour, 1-hour and 30-minute time step respectively, while direct  
24 coupling occurs hourly among atmospheric, sea ice and land components, and daily

1 with the ocean component without any flux adjustment.  
2 All biogeochemical components are driven by the physical climate with the  
3 biogeochemical feedback loops combined. The terrestrial carbon cycle module  
4 determines the exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> between the land and the atmosphere. It is coupled to  
5 the physical climate through the vegetation distribution and leaf area index, which  
6 affects the surface albedo, the evapotranspiration flux and so on. As with the  
7 terrestrial carbon cycle module, the ocean biogeochemistry module calculates the  
8 ocean-atmosphere exchange of CO<sub>2</sub>, and both are coupled with the TROP-MOZART  
9 framework in the atmospheric component to form a closed carbon cycle.

10

### 11 **3 Experiments**

12 Following CMIP5 specifications (Taylor et al., 2009), BNU-ESM has performed all  
13 CMIP5 long-term core experiments and part of the tier-1 experiments. The CMIP5  
14 specification requires each model to reach its equilibrium states before kicking off  
15 formal simulations, especially for long-term control experiments. BNU-ESM adopted  
16 a two-step spin-up strategy to achieve model equilibrium. Firstly, the land component  
17 including vegetation dynamics and terrestrial carbon cycle, and the ocean component  
18 including biogeochemical module were separately spun-up to yield an initial estimate  
19 of equilibrium states. In these off-line integrations of the first step spin-up, surface  
20 physical quantities such as winds, temperature, precipitation, moisture, and radiation  
21 flux are taken as the climatology of a pre-industrial run of the fully-coupled BNU-  
22 ESM with carbon cycles turned off. Then, the resultant equilibrated physical and  
23 carbon cycle states were fed into the coupled model as initial conditions to do on-line  
24 spin-up to achieve final equilibrium states. During the second stage, the coupled

1 model was forced with constant external conditions as specified for CMIP5 pre-  
2 industrial control simulation as stated below.

3 In this paper, we focus on the 559-year (from model year 1450 to 2008) pre-industrial  
4 control simulation (*piControl*) and 156-year *historical* simulation representing the  
5 historical period from year 1850 to 2005. The *piControl* simulation is integrated with  
6 constant external forcing prescribed at 1850 conditions (the solar constant is  
7  $1365.885\text{W/m}^2$ , the concentrations of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  are 284.725ppmv, 790.979ppbv,  
8 and 275.425ppbv respectively, CFC-11, CFC-12 and volcanic aerosols are assumed to  
9 be zero.). In terms of energy balance and model stability, the global mean TOA net  
10 radiation flux over *piControl* period is  $0.88\text{ W/m}^2$ , while the global mean surface net  
11 radiation flux is  $0.86\text{ W/m}^2$ . The global mean sea surface temperature over *piControl*  
12 period is  $17.69\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with a warming drift of  $0.02\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  per century (Fig. 1). The *historical*  
13 simulation is initialized with the model states of 1850 year from *piControl* simulation,  
14 and forced with natural variation of solar radiation (Lean et al., 2005; Wang et al.,  
15 2005), anthropogenic changes in greenhouse gases concentrations, stratospheric  
16 sulphate aerosol concentrations from explosive volcanoes (Ammann et al., 2003), and  
17 aerosol concentrations of sulfate, black and organic carbon, dust and sea salt  
18 according to Lamarque et al. (2010). Note that there is no land cover change related to  
19 (anthropogenic) land use because the vegetation distributions evolve according to the  
20 model simulated climate, and the areal fraction of non-vegetated regions (lake,  
21 wetland, glacier and urban) are fixed according to the Global Land Cover  
22 Characterization (GLCC) Database. Therefore, changes in physical and  
23 biogeochemical properties of the vegetation due to actual land-cover changes are  
24 excluded by design.

1

## 2 **4 General model performance**

3 To systematically evaluate the general performance of BNU-ESM, we use the Taylor  
4 diagram (Taylor, 2001; Gleckler et al., 2008), which relates the “centered” root-mean  
5 square (RMS) error, the pattern correlation and the standard deviation of particular  
6 climate fields. We selected 24 fields (Table 1) and compared model simulations with  
7 two different reference data sets (only one data set was available for gross primary  
8 production over land and surface CO<sub>2</sub> flux over ocean). The selection rationale for the  
9 fields and reference data sets follows Gleckler et al. (2008), where most of reference  
10 data sets are briefly described. One notable difference is that we use ERA-Interim  
11 (Dee et al., 2011) and JRA-55 (Ebita et al., 2011) reanalysis data instead of ERA40  
12 and NCEP to reflect recent advances in reanalysis systems. We use estimates of  
13 specific humidity from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
14 Modern Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications (MERRA,  
15 Rienecker et al., 2011) instead of the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS)  
16 experiment, as Tian et al. (2013) indicated MERRA specific humidity probably has a  
17 smaller uncertainty than the AIRS data set. The International Satellite Cloud  
18 Climatology Project (ISCCP, Rossow and Schiffer, 1999; Rossow and Dueñas, 2004)  
19 D2 and CLOUDSAT (L'Ecuyer et al., 2008) data sets are used to examine the total  
20 cloud cover. The Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System - Energy Balanced  
21 and Filled (CERES-EBAF) data set (Loeb et al., 2009) is used instead of the CERES  
22 observations, because the energy balanced characteristics of CERES-EBAF made it  
23 more suitable for the near balanced energetics of the earth system. Two carbon cycle  
24 fields (gpp and fgco2) were added to fill the gap between climate system model and

1 earth system model. The reference data used to examine gross primary production  
2 (gpp) over land is FLUXNET Model Tree Ensembles (FLUXNET-MTE) estimates  
3 (Jung et al., 2011), which are restricted to vegetated land surface. The reference data  
4 used to examine surface CO<sub>2</sub> flux over ocean (fgco2) is from Lamont-Doherty Earth  
5 Observatory (LDEO, Takahashi et al., 2009), this climatology data set was created  
6 from about 3 million direct observations of seawater pCO<sub>2</sub> around the world between  
7 1970 and 2007.

8 Figure 2 shows six climatological annual-cycle space-time Taylor diagrams for the 24  
9 selected fields in Table 1 for the tropical (20°S-20°N) and the northern extra-tropical  
10 (20°N-90°N) zones. It is clear from Fig. 2 that the accuracy of the model varies  
11 between fields and domains. Some simulated fields over the northern extra-tropics  
12 have correlations with the reference data of greater than 0.95 (e.g., zg-500hPa, ta-  
13 850hPa, rlut, rsnt, tos), and most of fields have correlations with the reference data of  
14 greater than 0.8, whereas one field has much lower correlation of 0.38 (fgco2 over the  
15 northern extra-tropics). The amplitude of spatial and temporal variability simulated by  
16 the model is reasonably close to that of observationally based reference data. The  
17 normalized standard deviations between the simulation and the reference data of most  
18 fields have a bias of less than 0.25, and several fields have a bias of less than 0.1 (e.g.,  
19 ta-850hPa, hus-850hPa, rlut, rsnt, psl, tos). One outlier in Fig. 2 (NHEX G3 and  
20 TROP G3) is the sensible heat flux over ocean (hfss) examined with NOCS reference  
21 data [Josey et al., 1999]. The model shows better skills when compared to ERA-  
22 Interim reanalysis, although the pattern correlations against two reference data sets are  
23 both of about 0.6. Previous studies suggest that there are large uncertainties in NOCS  
24 data set, and their pattern has better agreement with reanalysis products than the

1 magnitude of their fluxes (e.g., Taylor, 2000). In general, most of fields over the  
2 tropics are closer to reference data than those over the northern extra-tropics in Taylor  
3 diagrams, but some fields with relatively high correlations in the northern extra-  
4 tropics have a lower skill in the tropics. These features are consistent with Gleckler et  
5 al. (2008).

6

## 7 **5 Climatology in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century**

### 8 **5.1 Atmospheric mean state**

9 Figure 3 shows the zonally averaged mean atmospheric temperature, zonal wind and  
10 specific humidity for the *historical* simulation of the BNU-ESM and its deviations  
11 from the ERA-Interim reanalysis (Dee et al., 2011). The air temperature in the  
12 troposphere is in general cold for both boreal summer and winter, especially during  
13 the boreal summer (Fig. 3a). Near the polar tropopause (about 250 hPa) there is a  
14 relatively large cold bias up to 8 K over the Arctic during JJA, and up to 10 K over  
15 the Antarctica during DJF. This tropospheric cold bias is one common problem in  
16 many CMIP5 models (Charlton-Perez et al., 2013; Tian et al., 2013). In the lower  
17 polar troposphere during JJA, there is a notable cold bias over the Antarctic. In the  
18 stratosphere, the very low winter temperature at 50 hPa in the Southern Hemisphere  
19 associated with the polar night jet is overestimated in the model.

20 With respect to zonally averaged winds (Fig. 3b), the seasonal mitigation of the  
21 northern tropospheric jet is well captured in the simulation, but the westerlies at 200  
22 hPa in this jet are too strong by up to 4 m/s during DJF and 8 m/s during JJA  
23 compared with ERA-Interim reanalysis. The southern tropospheric jet during DJF is  
24 also too strong by up to 12 m/s, while the westerlies from the surface to about 100 hPa

1 at 60°S during DJF are weak relative to the reanalysis. The westerly wind maximum  
2 in the Southern Hemisphere during JJA extends upward into the stratosphere at higher  
3 latitudes as is observed. In the stratosphere, the polar-night jets in both hemispheres  
4 are shifted slightly polewards relative to the reanalysis. Over the equator in the upper  
5 tropopause the model overestimates the easterly velocities, the largest biases occur at  
6 roughly 50 hPa.

7 Figure 3c shows the modeled zonally averaged specific humidity and their differences  
8 relative to the ERA-Interim reanalysis shown as percentages because the relative error  
9 provides a better measure of the water vapor's impact on the radiative transfer than  
10 does the absolute errors (Soden et al., 2005). The model can simulate the strong  
11 meridional and vertical gradients in tropospheric specific humidity that decrease with  
12 both latitude and altitude. For example, the specific humidity decreases from around  
13 14 g/kg at 1000 hPa near the equator to around 1 g/kg at 1000 hPa near the poles and  
14 around 0.5 g/kg at 300 hPa over the equator. In comparison with ERA-Interim  
15 reanalysis, the model has a moist tendency in the southern tropical upper troposphere  
16 (above 700 hPa) and a slightly dry tendency in the tropical lower troposphere. In  
17 terms of relative difference, the model's dry bias in the tropical lower troposphere  
18 approaches 15%, and the wet bias in the tropical upper troposphere approaches 50%.  
19 This humidity bias pattern is also presented in many CMIP5 models (Tian et al.,  
20 2013).

21 Clouds are always a major source of uncertainty in climate models. In BNU-ESM the  
22 total cloud fraction is generally underestimated (Fig. 4a), the global mean value for  
23 the years 1976-2005 of the *historical* simulation gives a bias of -14% with a RMSE of  
24 18% compared with the ISCCP observational data set. A notable exception is



1 Antarctica where there are too many clouds. The tropical central eastern Pacific and  
2 southern Africa also have more clouds than observations. The latitudinal averaged  
3 cloud fraction bias within the tropics and subtropics is much lower than at higher  
4 latitudes (Fig. 4b), and is similar to results from the original CAM3.5 and CAM4 at  
5  $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$  horizontal resolution (Neale et al., 2013). At the same time, the liquid water in  
6 clouds over ocean is generally exaggerated in the simulation (Fig. 4c), and is  
7 particularly pronounced in the extratropical storm track regions.

8 Clouds have a significant impact on the global radiative balance that is often assessed  
9 using TOA shortwave cloud forcing (SWCF) and longwave cloud forcing (LWCF)  
10 (Ramanathan et al., 1989). In BNU-ESM, the simulated shortwave cooling effect of  
11 clouds is too strong in the tropics and too weak in the mid-latitudes (Fig. 5b),  
12 especially over oceans, these biases are common in climate models (Trenberth and  
13 Fasullo, 2010). BNU-ESM also overestimates LWCF in the tropics due to the  
14 presence of a double ITCZ (Fig. 5d), and it largely offsets the bias of SWCF in the  
15 tropics. In AMIP simulation with sea surface temperature and sea ice boundary  
16 conditions specified, the SWCF biases in BNU-ESM (not shown) resemble that in  
17 CAM4, except for Eurasian continent (Kay et al., 2012). Over Eurasia, BNU-ESM  
18 simulates moderate shortwave cooling effects, while CAM4 simulates opposite  
19 warming effects. In South Africa and Amazon regions, both models exhibit strong  
20 shortwave cloud cooling effects.

21

## 22 **5.2 Surface temperature and precipitation**

23 The mean observed and modeled climatological annual cycles of surface air  
24 temperature and precipitation for nine representative land regions are shown in Figs. 6

1 and 7. The most prominent differences from observations in modeled surface air  
2 temperature are a positive bias in Europe of up to 4 °C and negative bias in Eastern  
3 Siberia up to nearly 7 °C. In Central Canada, China, India, the biases are relatively  
4 small. In addition to Europe, eight of nine regions exhibit cold biases in annual mean  
5 surface air temperature, and the model generally underestimates the annual  
6 temperature over the global land area (excluding Antarctica) by -0.47 °C (-0.28 °C)  
7 with a root-mean-square error (RMSE) of 2.25 °C (2.40 °C) compared with CRU  
8 TS3.1 (MW) data. Compared with two observational precipitation data sets, BNU-  
9 ESM has a wet bias at high latitudes. Excessive rainfall during winter seasons in  
10 Europe results from too strong mid-latitude westerlies, in particular over the North  
11 Atlantic, which carry moist maritime air to the continent. The wet season precipitation  
12 in the Amazon exhibits a dry bias, and this tendency extends to August. In  
13 Southeastern Asia, the monsoon rainfall in India is more realistic than in China; this is  
14 consistent with Sabeerali et al. (2013), who found that the BNU-ESM can simulate a  
15 climatologically realistic spatial pattern of June to September precipitation over the  
16 Asian summer monsoon region. Globally, BNU-ESM overestimates the annual  
17 precipitation over the land (excluding Antarctica) by 0.47 mm/day (0.44 mm/day)  
18 with a RMSE of 1.42 mm/day (1.33 mm/day) compared with CMAP (MW) data.  
19 These regional biases may cause dynamic vegetation models in BNU-ESM to produce  
20 unrealistic vegetation in affected regions.

21 In Fig. 8, global surface temperature for the period 1976-2005 of *historical* simulation  
22 is compared with observations. The globally averaged bias is -0.17 °C with a RMSE  
23 of 1.83 °C. Over ocean, positive sea surface temperature (SST) biases are seen in the  
24 major eastern coastal upwelling regions; probably due to coastal winds that are not

1 favorable for upwelling or underestimation of stratocumulus cloud cover, which is  
2 also an issue with other models (e.g. Washington et al., 2000; Roberts et al., 2004; Lin,  
3 2007; Gent et al., 2011). Negative SST biases are mainly found in South Atlantic,  
4 South Indian, and subpolar North Pacific Oceans. Another notable negative SST bias  
5 is seen in a narrow region associated with East Greenland and Labrador cold currents.  
6 In South Atlantic and South Indian Oceans, a tendency for negative SST biases along  
7 the northern flank of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) are mostly due to  
8 insufficient southward transport of heat out of the tropics and a positioning error of  
9 the ACC caused by equatorward shift of the westerlies; although there is a small  
10 positive bias of the shortwave cloud radiation effect at the cold band between 40°S  
11 and 50°S (Fig. 5b). Gupta et al. (2009) noted that relatively small errors in the  
12 position of the ACC lead to more obvious biases in the SST. Over continents, the  
13 temperature biases are likely consistent with cloud fraction and TOA shortwave cloud  
14 forcing (SWCF) biases (Fig. 8b and Fig. 5b). Such as the negative temperature bias  
15 over South Africa is likely linked to the negative SWCF bias and excessive cloud  
16 fraction, and the positive temperature bias over central USA is probably linked to less  
17 cloud fraction (Ma et al., 2014).

18 The global average precipitation in BNU-ESM is 0.18 mm/day larger over the period  
19 of 1979-2005 year (Fig. 9) than the Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP)  
20 data set, which combines surface observations and satellite precipitation data (Adler et  
21 al., 2003). While the GPCP data has been claimed to be an underestimate over ocean  
22 by Trenberth et al. (2007), the magnitude of tropical precipitation is clearly  
23 overestimated by BNU-ESM. In common with many climate models (e.g. Li and Xie,  
24 2014, Lin, 2007), we note a bias in precipitation, characterized by a double

1 Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) structure over much of the Tropics. This  
2 produces excess precipitation over the Northern Hemisphere's ITCZ, Southern  
3 Hemisphere's South Pacific convergence zone (SPCZ), the Maritime Continent and  
4 the tropical Indian Ocean, together with insufficient precipitation over the equatorial  
5 Pacific. BNU-ESM displays the characteristic pattern of the double ITCZ problem  
6 with too much precipitation in the central Pacific near 5°S and too little precipitation  
7 in the west and central Pacific between 15°S and 30°S which is similar to CCSM4  
8 (Gent et al., 2011). BNU-ESM underestimates precipitation at 5°N latitude but  
9 overestimates it along the 5°S parallel in the tropical Atlantic. Compared with  
10 observations, the BNU-ESM develops too weak a latitudinal asymmetry in tropical  
11 precipitation and SST over the eastern Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The negative  
12 precipitation bias in South and Northwest Atlantic is closely associated with local  
13 negative SST biases (Fig. 8). The band of excessive precipitation over the Southern  
14 Ocean between the southernmost of Southern Africa (about at 35°S, 30°E) to  
15 southwest of Australian is consistent with the spatial pattern of warm SST biases and  
16 is along the northern flank of a cold SST bias, which probably produces more  
17 convective precipitation. Over continents, there is excessive precipitation in India,  
18 northern China, western USA, South Africa and west coast of South America, and  
19 less precipitation in southern China and Amazon.

20 The frequency and intensity of precipitation in the model is highly dependent on the  
21 formulation of the convection parameterization (Wilcox and Donner, 2007). Figure 10  
22 shows frequency versus daily precipitation rate over land in the tropics between 20°N  
23 and 20°S, and compared with the observational estimates from the GPCP one-degree  
24 daily data set (Huffman et al. 2001) and the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission

1 (TRMM) satellite observations (Kummerow et al., 2000). It is clear that BNU-ESM  
2 produces a realistic number of precipitation events at a wide range of precipitation  
3 rates, although the model has a tendency to underestimate extreme precipitation  
4 events (over 50 mm day<sup>-1</sup>). We note that CCSM4 also produces similar precipitation  
5 characteristics at 1° and 2° resolutions (Gent et al., 2011).

6

### 7 **5.3 Tropical Pacific SST**

8 The tropical Pacific SST is closely associated with the El Niño–Southern Oscillation  
9 (ENSO), and exerts a strong influence on the East Asian monsoon (Change et al.,  
10 2000; Li et al., 2010). Figure 11 shows the 20<sup>th</sup> century mean and annual cycle of  
11 SSTs along the equator averaged between 2°S and 2°N in the Pacific Oceans from  
12 HadISST observations and the BNU-ESM *historical* run. The modeled mean SST is  
13 colder by about 0.4 °C than the observations over most of the western Pacific and by  
14 nearly 1.3 °C over the eastern basin, while warmer than reality at both the western and  
15 eastern boundaries of the Pacific (Fig. 11a). These biases are caused by the strong  
16 easterly winds in the central and western Pacific and weaker zonal wind at the  
17 equatorial boundaries of the Pacific, which result in cold and warm SST biases  
18 through enhanced or weakened Ekman pumping in these regions. The different cold  
19 SST biases in the central-eastern Pacific along the equator result in a stronger  
20 equatorial westward SST gradient than observed. In terms of seasonal variation, the  
21 observations show a dominant annual cycle in SST in the eastern Pacific Ocean, with  
22 anomaly patterns propagating westward across the central Pacific (Fig. 11b). BNU-  
23 ESM reasonably reproduces features of the annual cycle structure in the eastern  
24 Pacific (Fig. 11c); such as its transition phases and the amplitude and the position of

1 the cold tongue, but the warm season peak is one month later in the model than in  
2 observations. The westward propagation of positive SST anomaly patterns in BNU-  
3 ESM is at about the correct speed between April and November, with 0.5 °C seasonal  
4 warming extending to a little west of 160°W while the observed anomaly remains east  
5 of 160°W. On the other hand, the observed 0.5 °C seasonal cooling near the dateline  
6 in March is not seen in the model. The semiannual cycle in SST that dominates in the  
7 western Pacific in the HadISST observations is also reasonably simulated in BNU-  
8 ESM.

#### 9 **5.4 Sea ice extent**

10 Sea ice has long been recognized as a critical aspect of the global heat balance.  
11 Unrealistic simulation of sea ice usually exposes deficiencies in both atmospheric and  
12 oceanic forcing (e.g., Losch et al., 2010). The observational data used to evaluate the  
13 BNU-ESM is monthly climatological sea ice concentrations from the Special Sensor  
14 Microwave Imager (SSM/I) data set (Comiso, 1999), obtained from the National  
15 Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). We also use the NSIDC's Sea Ice Index (Fetterer  
16 et al., 2002), which contains monthly values of sea ice extent and sea ice area. Figure  
17 12 shows the climatological sea ice concentration in the Arctic and Antarctica for the  
18 period 1979-2005 of BNU-ESM *historical* simulation, and the solid black lines are  
19 the 15% mean concentration values from SSM/I satellite observations. The sea ice  
20 extent is overestimated in March (Fig. 12a) and slightly underestimated in September  
21 (Fig. 12b) following the summer in the Northern Hemisphere (the average mean sea  
22 ice extents of March and September are 18.46 and 5.87 million km<sup>2</sup>, while the NSIDC  
23 sea ice extents for the same periods are 15.48 and 6.67 million km<sup>2</sup>). In the Southern  
24 Hemisphere both March (Fig. 12c) and September (Fig. 12d) extents are

1 overestimated (the average mean sea ice extents of March and September are 4.96 and  
2 25.94 million km<sup>2</sup>, while the NSIDC sea ice extents are 4.02 and 18.45 million km<sup>2</sup>).  
3 The excessive sea ice extent following the winter in the Northern Hemisphere is  
4 mostly due to too much sea ice in the Labrador Sea, Bering Sea, Sea of Okhotsk and  
5 adjacent North Pacific. The modeled geographic distribution of ice in the Northern  
6 Hemisphere is close to observations in summer. In the Southern Hemisphere, the main  
7 overestimation in summer is in Weddell Sea. The too extensive sea ice simulated in  
8 both hemispheres is consistent with the cold SST bias found in corresponding areas  
9 (Fig. 8). The simulated atmospheric fields are at least partly responsible for the  
10 Southern Hemisphere sea ice bias. One notable bias is that the annual average zonal  
11 wind stress from about 35°S to 55°S latitudes over ocean is 23.2% stronger compared  
12 with ERA-Interim reanalysis and 42.8% stronger compared with NCEP reanalysis,  
13 which likely inhibits sufficient southward transport of heat, and contributes to cold  
14 surface temperatures that are directly linked to a biased ice extent.

15 In terms of seasonal cycle of sea ice extent, the simulated Arctic sea ice extent for the  
16 period 1980-1999 is within the range of 42 CMIP5 models reported by Flato et al.  
17 (2013). In Antarctica, BNU-ESM estimates reasonable sea ice extents for February,  
18 but overestimates them in September (26 million km<sup>2</sup>), which is somewhat above the  
19 range of 42 CMIP5 models. BNU-ESM and CCSM/CESM adopt similar sea ice  
20 schemes, and both models can simulate both the September Arctic sea ice extent and  
21 the rate of Arctic sea ice decline over recent decades better than many other CMIP5  
22 models (Liu et al., 2013). While for Antarctica BNU-ESM and CCSM both have a  
23 tendency to overestimate sea ice extent.

24

## 1 **5.5 Ocean meridional overturning circulation**

2 The meridional overturning circulation (MOC) of the global ocean is a system of  
3 surface and deep currents encompassing all ocean basins. It transports large amounts  
4 of water, heat, salt, carbon, nutrients and other substances around the globe, and is  
5 quite important for the chemical and biological properties of the ocean. The Atlantic  
6 MOC (AMOC) is an important part of the system and is responsible for a  
7 considerable part of northward oceanic heat transport. Figure 13 shows 30 year means  
8 of the global MOC and the AMOC over the 1976-2005 period of the BNU-ESM  
9 *historical* run; the overall patterns and positions of cells, water masses, and  
10 overturning are similar to observed patterns (Lumpkin and Speer, 2007). North  
11 Atlantic deep-water circulation can reach most of the ocean bottom between 30°N and  
12 60°N. The maximum overturning of Atlantic water occurs near 35°N and is 28.4 Sv  
13 ( $1 \text{ Sv} = 10^6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) at a depth of about 1.5 km. Many other models have maximum  
14 overturning at a depth of 1 km; the reason for the deeper position in BNU-ESM is not  
15 well understood. The maximum annual mean AMOC strength at 26.5°N in BNU-  
16 ESM is about 25.4 Sv, which is somewhat above the estimate of  $18.7 \pm 4.8$  Sv for the  
17 AMOC strength at the same latitude found by the RAPID/MOCHA monitoring array  
18 for the years 2004-2011 (Rayner et al., 2011). Over the *historical* simulation period  
19 (1850-2005), the maximum annual mean AMOC strength at 26.5°N decreases 12.6%  
20 from 26.9 Sv to 23.5 Sv.

21 The BNU-ESM global MOC possesses a strong Deacon cell of about 40 Sv between  
22 60°S and 45°S, which penetrates to 4 km depth and is a result of increased zonal wind  
23 stress driving the ocean. The mean transport of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current  
24 (ACC) through Drake Passage is about 101.7 Sv. This is less than the measured value



1 of  $134 \pm 11$  Sv (Cunningham et al., 2003) and at the low end of the range of 90-264 Sv  
2 from 23 CMIP5 models (Meijers et al., 2012). One reason for weaker ACC transport  
3 through the Drake Passage is that the model-simulated westerly wind stress maximum  
4 is shifted equatorward. The mean zonal wind stress over ocean is 26% lower than  
5 ERA-Interim reanalysis products at the latitude of the Drake Passage. Antarctic  
6 Bottom Water (AABW) is located north of  $50^{\circ}\text{S}$  at depths greater than 3.5 km, and  
7 the deep MOC in the Southern Hemisphere is about 4 Sv and weak compared with  
8 estimates of 8-9.5 Sv from observations (Orsi et al., 1999).

9

## 10 **6 Climate variability**

### 11 **6.1 Tropical intraseasonal oscillation**

12 The dominant component of the tropical intraseasonal oscillation (ISO) is the  
13 Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) (Madden and Julian, 1971, 1972) which affects  
14 tropical deep convection and rainfall patterns. During the boreal winter an eastward  
15 propagating component affects rainfall over the tropics while during the boreal  
16 summer a northward propagating ISO affects much of southern Asia (e.g.,  
17 Krishnamurti and Subrahmanyam, 1982; Lau and Chan, 1986; Annamalai and  
18 Sperber, 2005; Yang et al., 2008). The MJO plays the prominent role in tropical  
19 climate variability, but is still poorly represented in climate models (Lin et al., 2006;  
20 Kim et al., 2009; Xavier et al., 2010; Lau and Waliser, 2012; Sperber and Kim, 2012).  
21 Here, we adopt the set of community diagnostics developed by the CLIVAR MJO  
22 Working Group to examine simulated MJO characteristics. In BNU-ESM, the winter  
23 eastward propagation is well detectable in zonal winds at 850 hPa (U850) over a  
24 region from the maritime continent to the western Pacific, but is absent over the

1 Indian Ocean and not evident in precipitation (Fig. 14a and 14b). Meanwhile, the  
2 northward propagation in summer can be realistically simulated; particularly in the  
3 off-equatorial region from 5°N to 20°N (Fig. 14c and 14d). The quadrature  
4 relationship between precipitation and U850 is also well reproduced in northward  
5 propagation signals, consistent with observations.

6 The observed MJO (Fig. 15a) exhibits peak power at zonal wavenumber 1 at a period  
7 of 30-80 days in both boreal winter and summer (e.g., Weickmann et al., 1985;  
8 Kiladis and Weickmann, 1992; Zhang et al., 2006). The power spectrum of BNU-  
9 ESM shows that the zonal wave number power distribution is well captured during  
10 boreal winter (Fig. 15b); but the eastward propagating power tends to be concentrated  
11 at lower than observed frequencies (periods > 80 days). The power density for  
12 westward propagation is overestimated, and consequently the east-west ratio of MJO  
13 spectral power is smaller than observed. As with BNU-ESM, the power spectra  
14 maximum produced by CCSM3.5 using its default convection parameterization is also  
15 greater than 80 days (Kim et al., 2009), while spectra computed by Zhang and Mu  
16 (2005b) for CCM3 adopting the same convection parameterization scheme as BNU-  
17 ESM peaks at approximately 40 days. These studies suggest that the ability of a  
18 climate model to simulate realistic MJO depends not only on its convective  
19 parameterization, but also on interactions between convection and other physical  
20 processes in the model. BNU-ESM simulation shows a northward propagating mode  
21 of precipitation during boreal summer at wavenumber 1 with a maximum variance  
22 between 30 and 50 days (Fig. 15d), but the northward propagating band is weaker  
23 than observed (Fig. 15c). Sabeerali et al. (2013) analyzed the boreal summer ISO of  
24 BNU-ESM along with 32 CMIP5 models. They found that BNU-ESM is one of six

1 models which captures the three peak centers of boreal summer ISO variance over the  
2 Indian summer monsoon region adequately.

3 We also compared space-time spectra of daily tropical precipitation from BNU-ESM  
4 with observed precipitation estimates from GPCP one-degree daily data set from 1997  
5 to 2005 using the methodology of Wheeler and Kiladis (1999). Figure 16 shows the  
6 results of dividing the symmetric raw spectra by estimates of their background spectra.  
7 Kelvin, equatorial Rossby (ER), westward inertia-gravity (WIG) waves and the MJO  
8 are readily identified in the observational GPCP symmetric spectra. Signals of  
9 convectively coupled Kelvin and ER waves appear in the model, and the spectral  
10 signature of the MJO is also represented. In observations there is a clear distinction  
11 between eastward power in the MJO range (20day-80day) and westward power  
12 associated with ER waves. The BNU-ESM model exhibits this distinction to some  
13 extent, with the eastward power lying at a constant frequency across all wavenumbers  
14 and the westward power lying more along the ER dispersion curves. BNU-ESM  
15 represents signals of convectively coupled equatorial waves (CCEWs) similarly as  
16 CCSM4 (Hung et al., 2013), such as the equivalent depth of the waves and the low  
17 power of WIG waves (Fig.4 in Hung et al., 2013). The powers of eastward  
18 propagating components near the MJO spatial and temporal scale in BNU-ESM are  
19 more distinctive than that of their westward propagating counterparts compared with  
20 CCSM4 (Hung et al., 2013).

21

## 22 **6.2 El Niño-Southern Oscillation**

23 The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon is the dominant mode of  
24 climate variability on seasonal to interannual time scales (Zhang and Levitus, 1997;

1 Wang and Picaut, 2004; Zhang et al., 2013). Bellenger et al. (2013) analyzed several  
2 aspects of ENSO from the BNU-ESM, and here we present several different aspects  
3 of Niño-3.4. Figure 17 shows time series of detrended monthly SST anomalies of the  
4 Niño-3.4 region (5°S-5°N, 170°W-120°W) for the HadISST observations and BNU-  
5 ESM *historical* simulation for the years 1900-2005, as well as SST anomalies from  
6 the corresponding years of BNU-ESM *piControl* simulation. Overall, the BNU-ESM  
7 exhibits strong interdecadal variations in the amplitude and period in the ENSO  
8 frequency band. The model overestimates the amplitude of Niño-3.4 SST variability  
9 considerably with respect to HadISST observations, with a standard variability 1.47 K  
10 for both the *piControl* and *historical* simulations compared with the standard  
11 deviation of HadISST of 0.75 K. A well-known characteristic of observed ENSO  
12 events is the tendency for phase-locking to the seasonal cycle. The standard deviation  
13 of the observed Niño-3.4 SST index maximizes (0.97 K) in December and reaches a  
14 minimum (0.56 K) in May, and the Niño-3.4 SST index of BNU-ESM *historical* run  
15 also maximizes (1.71 K) in December and reaches a minimum (1.21 K) in May.  
16 BNU-ESM exhibits realistic timing of the seasonal cycle with one peak and one  
17 minimum, but the amplitude is much stronger than in observations.

18 Figure 18 shows the power spectra of the normalized time series of Fig. 17 (the  
19 detrended SST anomalies normalized by their long-term standard deviation). The  
20 observation based Niño-3.4 index has most power between 3 and 7 years, while both  
21 BNU-ESM indices have the most prominent variability between 2 and 5 years with a  
22 narrow peak at 3.5 years. On timescales longer than 10 year, the *piControl* and  
23 *historical* simulations have similar power spectra but less power compared with  
24 HadISST observations. The presence of variability in the external forcing during the

1 *historical* simulation does not induce significant changes in decadal and longer period  
2 variability.

3 Another aspect of the BNU-ESM ENSO *historical* simulation, shown in Fig. 19, is  
4 the correlation of monthly mean Niño-3.4 SST anomalies with global SST anomalies  
5 compared with that from HadISST observations. The figure shows a realistic but  
6 narrower meridional width of the positive correlations in the central and eastern  
7 tropical Pacific. A horseshoe pattern of negative correlations in the western tropical  
8 Pacific is seen in HadISST but is less pronounced in the model. The positive  
9 correlation in the western part of the Indian Ocean is well simulated in BNU-ESM,  
10 but the extension of this positive pattern into the Bay of Bengal, Gulf of Thailand and  
11 South China Sea is missing from the model. The correlation patterns in the Atlantic  
12 Ocean are similar between HadISST and BNU-ESM, but more pronounced in the  
13 model.

14 The Southern Oscillation is the atmospheric component of El Niño. Figure 20 shows  
15 the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) from BNU-ESM compared to observation. The  
16 observed SOI is calculated using station data from Darwin and Tahiti. For the model,  
17 areal averages of mean sea-level pressure over 125°E-135°E, 17°S-7°S and 155°W-  
18 145°W, 22°S-12°S (10°×10° areas centered close to the Darwin and Tahiti stations)  
19 are used. The interannual variability in the modeled SOI due to ENSO events is well  
20 reproduced and shows the expected negative correlation with Niño-3.4 SST anomalies  
21 (Fig. 17). The modeled regression coefficient between monthly deseasonalised SOI  
22 and Niño3.4 SST anomalies is -0.52 hPa/K while the observed is -1.52 hPa/K. Hence,  
23 the model underestimates the strength of the atmospheric response to ENSO.

24

1 **6.3 Pacific Decadal Oscillation**

2 Another prominent structure of low-frequency climate variability in the North Pacific,  
3 with extensions to the tropical Indo-Pacific, is the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)  
4 (Mantua et al., 1997). PDO and ENSO exhibit similar spatial patterns of SST  
5 variability but with different regional emphasis (Zhang et al., 1997; Deser et al., 2007).  
6 During the positive (negative) phase of PDO, waters in the east tropical Pacific and  
7 along the North American west coast are anomalously warm (cool) while waters in  
8 the northern, western, and southern Pacific are colder (warmer) than normal. Coupled  
9 climate models can simulate some aspects of PDO, although linkages between the  
10 tropical and North Pacific are usually weaker than observed (Stoner et al., 2009;  
11 Furtado et al., 2011). Figure 21 shows the regression maps of monthly SST anomalies  
12 upon the normalized leading principal component time series of monthly SST  
13 anomalies over the North Pacific domain (20°N-40°N). The first empirical orthogonal  
14 function (EOF) mode of BNU-ESM and HadISST observations explains 22.4% and  
15 25.8% variance respectively. BNU-ESM exhibits generally realistic PDO spatial  
16 patterns and its connections to the tropical Pacific are of comparative strength with  
17 respect to HadISST observations, but with a narrower meridional extent in the tropical  
18 Pacific region. The maximum amplitude of the negative SST anomalies in the North  
19 Pacific shifts a little too far west, to the east of Japan, rather than in the central basin.  
20 Figure 22 shows time series of the normalized first EOF mode of SST anomalies of  
21 BNU-ESM and HadISST observations over the North Pacific domain. It is evident  
22 that both patterns show prominent decadal variability.

23

24 **7 Terrestrial carbon cycle**

## 1 **7.1 Terrestrial primary production**

2 Carbon flux components are hard to measure directly, presenting a challenge in  
3 evaluating the model performance. Global products for land gross primary production  
4 (GPP) and net primary production (NPP) exist but are model-based and have large  
5 uncertainties (Anav et al., 2013; Ito, 2011). Figure 23 shows regional averages of  
6 monthly land gross primary production (GPP) for BNU-ESM compared with  
7 FLUXNET-MTE estimates (Jung et al., 2011). BNU-ESM replicates the annual cycle  
8 of GPP in arctic, mid-latitudes, and tropical regions, but the model has a tendency for  
9 underestimation during boreal summer, especially over Alaska, the eastern USA, and  
10 Europe. Differences between the estimates from our model and those from  
11 FLUXNET-MTE may be caused both by differences in the near surface climatology  
12 and land cover characteristics, as BNU-ESM dynamically simulates vegetation  
13 characteristics as a function of climate and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. In Alaska,  
14 the model simulates more C<sub>3</sub> arctic grass and less boreal shrub compared with the  
15 observed IGBP vegetation distribution (not shown). While in the Europe, although the  
16 model simulates more broadleaf deciduous temperate tree cover and less grassland,  
17 the biased high temperature and low precipitation during boreal summer suppress  
18 GPP significantly. In the Amazon, the model simulates a reasonable vegetation  
19 distribution of broadleaf and evergreen tropical trees, but the wet season precipitation  
20 suffers a dry bias until August (Fig. 7), and the model systematically underestimates  
21 GPP. The interannual variability of the GPP estimated by the model is larger than the  
22 observational estimates from FLUXNET-MTE and this may be connected with the  
23 stronger interannual variability of the physical fields.

1 The global terrestrial GPP simulated in the BNU-ESM is  $106.3 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$  over the  
2 period 1986-2005. Various studies estimated the global terrestrial GPP to be about  
3  $120 \pm 6 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$  over similar periods (Sabine et al. 2004; Beer et al. 2010; Jung et al.  
4 2011). However, these are well below the range of 150-175  $\text{Pg C yr}^{-1}$  from recent  
5 observational estimates (Welp et al., 2011). The global simulated NPP over the period  
6 1986-2005 is  $49 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$ , which is consistent with the range of 42-70  $\text{Pg C yr}^{-1}$  from  
7 earlier studies (Schimel et al., 2001; Gruber et al., 2004; Zhao et al., 2005; Ito, 2011).  
8 Net biosphere production (NBP) simulated in the model for the 1990s and 2000-2005  
9 are  $1.6 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$  and  $1.4 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$ , which is also consistent with estimates of  $1.5 \pm 0.8$   
10  $\text{Pg C yr}^{-1}$  and  $1.1 \pm 0.8 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$  respectively reported by Ciais et al. (2013).

11

## 12 **7.2 Soil organic carbon**

13 Soil organic carbon is a large component of the carbon cycle that can participate in  
14 climate change feedbacks, particularly on decadal and centennial timescales (Todd-  
15 Brown et al., 2013). The amount of soil organic carbon simulated by models is  
16 strongly dependent on their design, especially the number of soil carbon pools,  
17 turnover rate of decomposition and their response to soil moisture and temperature  
18 change. Figure 24a, 24b show the distribution of global soil organic carbon content,  
19 including litter, from BNU-ESM compared with the most recent high-resolution  
20 observation-based Harmonized World Soil Database (HWSD;  
21 FAO/IIASA/ISRIC/ISSCAS/JRC, 2012). The HWSD data provides soil carbon  
22 estimates for topsoil (0-30 cm) and subsoil (30-100 cm) at 30-arc-second resolution.  
23 Overall, the ecosystem carbon content follows the precipitation and temperature  
24 distribution (Fig. 8 and Fig. 9). The BNU-ESM model can capture the large store of



1 soil organic carbon in the boreal and tundra regions of Eurasia and North America,  
2 and the small storage in tropical and extra-tropical regions (Fig. 24b). The model  
3 underestimates soil carbon density in the upper 1 m globally compared with the  
4 HWSD (Fig. 24a), especially in boreal regions. Soil carbon is overestimated in the  
5 model on the Tibetan plateau, because the coarse horizontal resolution does not  
6 correctly represent the rugged terrain and overestimates vegetation cover.

7 The total simulated soil organic carbon, including litter, is 700 Pg C for the period  
8 1986-2005, is well below the 1260 Pg C (with a 95% confidence interval of 890-1660  
9 Pg C) estimated from HWSD data (Todd-Brown et al., 2013), and 1502 Pg C  
10 estimated by Jobbágy and Jackson (2000) for the upper 1 m of soil. However, there is  
11 still considerable uncertainty for those observation-based estimates because of limited  
12 numbers of soil profiles with organic carbon analyses (Tarnocai et al., 2009). In  
13 addition, the soil carbon sub-model of BNU-ESM is not yet designed to simulate the  
14 large carbon accumulations in organic peat soils, or the stocks and dynamics of  
15 organic matter in permafrost, a common failure of many CMIP5 models. It is thus to  
16 be expected that simulations without these processes underestimate the global soil  
17 organic carbon stock. Especially, the temperature sensitivity of soil carbon  
18 decomposition is described by the  $Q_{10}$  equation (Lloyd and Taylor, 1994) in BNU-  
19 ESM, and the environmental controls of moisture and temperature are diagnosed at  
20 0.25 m depth. In Figure 24c, the zonally averaged soil carbon density from BNU-  
21 ESM is compared with those from HWSD and IGBP-DIS for upper 0.3 m and upper  
22 1.0 m depth ranges. The model simulates substantially less soil carbon than those  
23 from the HWSD and IGBP-DIS for the upper 1.0 m, but agrees much better with  
24 upper 0.3 m soil carbon density estimates on magnitude and latitudinal gradients.

1

## 2 **8 Summary and discussion**

3 In this study, the BNU-ESM is described and results for the CMIP5 pre-industrial and  
4 *historical* simulations are evaluated in terms of climatology and climate variability.  
5 The climatological annual cycles of surface air temperature and precipitation  
6 generally agree with observations, but with the annual temperature underestimated  
7 and the annual precipitation overestimated over global land areas (excluding  
8 Antarctica). The sea ice extent of both polar regions agrees better with the  
9 observations in summer seasons than in winter seasons, and the model has a tendency  
10 to have excessive ice extent during winter seasons. The global and Atlantic ocean  
11 meridional overturning circulation patterns are similar to those observed. With respect  
12 to climate variability, BNU-ESM captures some features of tropical intraseasonal  
13 oscillation such as the quadrature relationship between precipitation and zonal wind in  
14 the northward propagation direction. The MJO signal in large-scale circulation (U850)  
15 is not as well simulated as it is in convection (precipitation), but the northward and  
16 eastward propagating motions are both weaker than observed. The annual cycle  
17 patterns of tropical equatorial Pacific SST, the periods of ENSO, and the leading EOF  
18 mode of PDO in the *historical* simulation are reasonably well simulated. As BNU-  
19 ESM has similarities and some heritage in common with CCSM4, in particular for the  
20 atmosphere, land and sea ice components, many characteristics in BNU-ESM are  
21 probably shared by CCSM4, such as some notable surface climate biases over land  
22 (Lawrence et al., 2012) and the dipole precipitation bias in the Indian Ocean.  
23 BNU-ESM has significant biases that need to be improved, such as the tropical  
24 precipitation bias over ocean related to the double ITCZ that has long been a problem

1 among many climate models (Lin, 2007). Note that BNU-ESM uses the revised  
2 Zhang-McFarlane scheme on deep convection (Zhang, 2002; Zhang and Mu, 2005a),  
3 and CCSM4 also uses a revised Zhang-McFarlane scheme but with different emphasis  
4 (Richter and Rasch, 2008; Neale et al., 2008). It turns out that neither of them  
5 eliminates the double ITCZ problem (Gent et al., 2011), so further parameterization  
6 improvements are certainly required. Land surface air temperature simulated for the  
7 last few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century exhibit a mean bias greater than 2 °C over  
8 significant regions compared with observations, which also shows room for further  
9 improvements. Another related discrepancy is that modeled temperatures increase  
10 significantly during the last few years of the *historical* simulation relative to  
11 observations (not shown). This is very likely related to the lack of indirect aerosol  
12 effects in the atmospheric component (e.g., Gent et al., 2011), and we note that  
13 NorESM, which is also based on CCSM4, but which includes indirect of aerosol  
14 effects, does not exhibit similar problems (Bentsen et al., 2013).

15 The positive SST biases prevailing at major coastal upwelling regions are clearly  
16 related with the relatively coarse horizontal resolution used by the atmospheric  
17 component. According to Gent et al. (2010), the most important factor for SST  
18 improvements in CCSM3.5 is the finer resolution and better representation of  
19 topography, which produces stronger upwelling and favorable winds right along the  
20 model coasts rather than being located somewhat offshore. The cold biases in mean  
21 SST along the equator in the Pacific Ocean have several causes. One is the stronger  
22 easterly winds on the equator which result in stronger equatorial upwelling; another  
23 may be weaker activity of tropical instability waves in the ocean. The ocean  
24 component MOM4p1 uses the horizontal anisotropic friction scheme from Large et al.

1 (2001), which induces more frictional dissipation and prohibits vigorous tropical  
2 instability wave activity (Wittenberg et al., 2006). Stronger activity of tropical  
3 instability waves could prevent the cold tongue water from cooling down by mixing  
4 with the warm off-equatorial water (Jochum and Murtugudde, 2006; Menkes et al.,  
5 2006; Seo et al., 2006; Zhang and Busalacchi, 2008). The negative SST bias in the  
6 southern ocean and excessive sea ice extent in the Antarctic suggest a need to correct  
7 the wind stress field to ensure sufficient southern ocean heat transport and proper  
8 ocean gyre boundaries.

9 The strength and frequency of ENSO variability in BNU-ESM highlights potential  
10 improvements. The model has a robust ENSO with an irregular oscillation between 2  
11 and 5 years and a peak at about 3.5 years, whereas the HadISST observations show an  
12 oscillation between 3 and 7 years. The seasonal phase locking feature of ENSO is  
13 well captured in the model, although the standard deviation of Niño-3.4 SST  
14 anomalies from the *historical* simulation is significantly large than in the observations.  
15 The causes of biases in ENSO occurrence and amplitude in BNU-ESM may involve  
16 many different physical processes and feedbacks. Because of the dominant role of the  
17 atmospheric component in setting ENSO characteristics (Schneider, 2002; Guilyardi  
18 et al., 2004; Kim et al., 2008; Neale et al., 2008; Wu and Kirtman, 2007; Sun et al.,  
19 2009), previous studies have diagnosed the dynamical Bjerknes feedback (Bjerknes,  
20 1969; Neelin and Dijkstra, 1995) and the heat flux feedback (Waliser et al., 1994; Jin  
21 et al., 2006) during ENSO. Bellenger et al. (2013) found that BNU-ESM  
22 underestimates both the positive Bjerknes and the negative heat flux feedbacks by  
23 about 45% and 50% respectively, which could be the major causes of the ENSO  
24 biases in the model. This also raises the importance of further improvements on the

1 deep convection parameterization scheme, as the representation of deep convection is  
2 central in defining both the dynamical and the heat flux atmospheric feedbacks  
3 (Guilyardi et al., 2009). Another possible cause for the excessive ENSO amplitude is  
4 the lack of a sufficient surface heat flux damping of SST anomalies in the model, as  
5 weaker heat flux damping tends to destabilize and amplify ENSO (Wittenberg, 2002;  
6 Wittenberg et al., 2006). Further studies on these topics are warranted.

7 Despite the drawbacks of the model in simulating some details of the climate system,  
8 BNU-ESM has proven to be a useful modelling tool, and is being actively used by  
9 many researchers in prognostic simulations for both anthropogenic and  
10 geoengineering forcing scenarios. The BNU-ESM represents an addition to the  
11 diversity of earth system simulators, and currently is evolving in many respects. As  
12 global biogeochemical cycles are recognized as being evermore significant in  
13 mediating global climate change, improvements of BNU-ESM are underway in the  
14 terrestrial and marine biogeochemistry schemes. On terrestrial biogeochemistry, the  
15 LPJ-DyN based carbon-nitrogen interaction scheme (Xu and Prentice, 2008) will be  
16 evaluated and activated in the future. The soil carbon scheme will be further improved  
17 to simulate the large carbon accumulations in organic peat soils, the stocks and  
18 dynamics of organic matter in permafrost. A dynamic marine ecosystem scheme will  
19 replace the current iBGC module, the new marine ecosystem scheme has improved  
20 parameterizations of dissolved organic materials and detritus (Wang et al., 2008), a  
21 phytoplankton dynamic module that produces a variable of carbon to chlorophyll ratio  
22 (Wang et al., 2009a), and refined nitrogen regeneration pathways (Wang et al., 2009b).  
23 Additionally, a three-dimensional canopy radiative transfer model (Yuan et al., 2014)  
24 will be adopted to replace the traditional one-dimensional two-stream approximation

1 scheme in the land component to calculate terrestrial canopy radiation more  
2 realistically. The spatial resolution of the BNU-ESM will be increased to better the  
3 simulation of surface physical climate, especially for the atmospheric and land  
4 components. Currently a  $0.9^{\circ}\times 1.25^{\circ}$  resolution land and atmosphere components  
5 adapted from the finite-volume dynamic core in CAM is being tested. We also note  
6 that CAM5 has made significant progress, such as correcting well-known cloud biases  
7 from CAM3.5 (Kay et al., 2012). Further discussions of how to incorporate these  
8 developments from CAM5 into BNU-ESM are underway.

9

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21

## 22 **Code Availability**

23 Please contact Duoying Ji (E-mail: [duoyingji@bnu.edu.cn](mailto:duoyingji@bnu.edu.cn)) to obtain the source code  
24 of BNU-ESM.

1

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12

1 **Tables**

2

3 Table 1. Observationally Based Reference Data Sets

Variable I.D.	Description	Reference1/Reference2	Domain
<b>ta</b>	Temperature [°C]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	200, 850 hPa
<b>ua</b>	Zonal wind [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	200, 850 hPa
<b>va</b>	Meridional wind [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	200, 850 hPa
<b>zg</b>	Geopotential height [m]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	500 hPa
<b>hus</b>	Specific humidity [kg kg <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>3</sup> MERRA	400, 850 hPa
<b>rlut</b>	TOA outgoing longwave radiation [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>4</sup> ERBE/ <sup>5</sup> CERES-EBAF	
<b>rsnt</b>	TOA net shortwave radiation [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>4</sup> ERBE/ <sup>5</sup> CERES-EBAF	
<b>rlwcrf</b>	Longwave cloud radiative forcing [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>4</sup> ERBE/ <sup>5</sup> CERES-EBAF	Equatorward of 60°
<b>rswcrf</b>	Shortwave cloud radiative forcing [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>4</sup> ERBE/ <sup>5</sup> CERES-EBAF	Equatorward of 60°
<b>pr</b>	Total precipitation [mm day <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>6</sup> GPCP/ <sup>7</sup> CMAP	
<b>clt</b>	Total cloud cover [%]	<sup>8</sup> ISCCP-D2/ <sup>9</sup> CLOUDSAT	
<b>prw</b>	Precipitable water [g kg <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>10</sup> RSS(v7)/ <sup>11</sup> NVAP	
<b>psl</b>	Sea level pressure [Pa]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	Ocean only
<b>uas</b>	Surface (10m) zonal wind speed [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	Ocean only
<b>vas</b>	Surface (10m) meridional wind speed [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>2</sup> JRA-55	Ocean only
<b>tos</b>	Sea surface temperature [°C]	<sup>12</sup> HadISST/ <sup>13</sup> OISST(v2)	Ocean only, equatorward of 50°
<b>tauu</b>	Ocean surface zonal wind stress [Pa]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>14</sup> NOCS	Ocean only
<b>tauv</b>	Ocean surface meridional wind stress [Pa]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>14</sup> NOCS	Ocean only
<b>hfls(ocn)</b>	Ocean surface latent heat flux [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>14</sup> NOCS	Ocean only
<b>hfss(ocn)</b>	Ocean surface sensible heat flux [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>14</sup> NOCS	Ocean only
<b>hfls(lnd)</b>	Land surface latent heat flux [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>15</sup> FLUXNET-MTE	Land only
<b>hfss(lnd)</b>	Land surface sensible heat flux [W m <sup>-2</sup> ]	<sup>1</sup> ERA-Interim/ <sup>15</sup> FLUXNET-MTE	Land only
<b>gpp</b>	Gross primary productivity [kg m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>15</sup> FLUXNET-MTE	Land only
<b>fgco2</b>	Surface CO <sub>2</sub> flux [kg m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	<sup>16</sup> LDEO	Ocean only

4 <sup>1</sup>ERA-Interim (Dee et al., 2011); <sup>2</sup>JRA-55 (Ebita et al., 2011); <sup>3</sup>MERRA (Rienecker et al., 2011); <sup>4</sup>ERBE (Barkstrom, 1984);

5 <sup>5</sup>CERES-EBAF (Loeb et al., 2009); <sup>6</sup>GPCP (Adler et al., 2003); <sup>7</sup>CMAP (Xie and Arkin, 1997); <sup>8</sup>ISCCP-D2 (Rossow and

6 Schiffer, 1999; Rossow and Dueñas, 2004); <sup>9</sup>CLOUDSAT (L'Ecuyer et al., 2008); <sup>10</sup>RSS (Wentz, 2000, 2013); <sup>11</sup>NVAP

7 (Simpson et al., 2001); <sup>12</sup>HadISST (Rayner et al., 2003); <sup>13</sup>OISST (Reynolds et al., 2002); <sup>14</sup>NOCS (Josey et al., 1999);

8 <sup>15</sup>FLUXNET-MTE (Jung et al., 2011); <sup>16</sup>LDEO (Takahashi et al., 2009);

9



1 **Figure Captions**

2 Figure 1. The global mean TOA and surface net radiation flux, global mean SST over  
3 the *piControl* simulation period. The black lines are linear regressions.

4

5 Figure 2. Multivariate Taylor diagrams of the 20<sup>th</sup> century annual cycle climatological  
6 (1986-2005) for the tropical (20°S-20°N, TROP) and the northern extra-tropical  
7 (20°N-90°N, NHEX) zones. Each field is normalized by the corresponding standard  
8 deviation of the reference data, which allows multiple fields to be shown in each sub-  
9 figure. Red/Blue markers represent the simulation field evaluated against the  
10 Reference1/Reference2 data defined in Table 1.

11

12 Figure 3. Zonally averaged air temperature (a), zonal wind (b) and specific humidity  
13 (c) climatology from BNU-ESM *historical* simulation (black contours) and bias  
14 relative to the ERA-Interim climatology (color filled, color bar is of same units except  
15 as % for specific humidity) for 1986-2005.

16

17 Figure 4. (a) Total cloud fraction bias relative to ISCCP D2 retrievals (Rossow and  
18 Schiffer, 1999; Rossow and Dueñas, 2004). (b) Zonally averaged total cloud fraction  
19 compared with ISCCP D2 retrievals and CLOUDSAT retrievals (L'Ecuyer et al.,  
20 2008.) (c) Zonally averaged total liquid water path (LWP) compared with SSM/I  
21 retrievals (Wentz, 2000, 2013) over oceans.

22

23 Figure 5. Global map of shortwave cloud forcing (SWCF) and longwave cloud  
24 forcing (LWCF): (a) SWCF of observed CERES-EBAF, (b) BNU-ESM SWCF bias

1 relative to CERES-EBAF, (c) LWCF of observed CERES-EBAF, (d) BNU-ESM  
2 LWCF bias relative to CERES-EBAF.

3

4 Figure 6. Climatological annual cycle of 2-m air temperature for selected regions for  
5 BNU-ESM and two observational estimates for the period 1976-2005. Color shading  
6 indicates interannual variability (standard deviation). MW denotes version 2.01,  
7  $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$  monthly time series from Matsuura and Willmott (2009a). CRU is the  
8 Climatic Research Unit  $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$  TS 3.1 data set (Harris et al., 2014). Regions are  
9 defined as follows: Alaska ( $56^{\circ}$ - $75^{\circ}$ N,  $167^{\circ}$ - $141^{\circ}$ W), Central Canada ( $46^{\circ}$ - $61^{\circ}$ N,  
10  $123^{\circ}$ - $97^{\circ}$ W), Eastern Siberia ( $51^{\circ}$ - $66^{\circ}$ N,  $112^{\circ}$ - $138^{\circ}$ E), eastern United States ( $27^{\circ}$ -  
11  $47^{\circ}$ N,  $92^{\circ}$ - $72^{\circ}$ W), Europe ( $37^{\circ}$ - $57^{\circ}$ N,  $0^{\circ}$ - $32^{\circ}$ E), China ( $18^{\circ}$ - $42^{\circ}$ N,  $100^{\circ}$ - $125^{\circ}$ E),  
12 Amazon ( $14^{\circ}$ S- $5^{\circ}$ N,  $74^{\circ}$ - $53^{\circ}$ W), Sahel ( $4^{\circ}$ - $19^{\circ}$ N,  $0^{\circ}$ - $32^{\circ}$ E), and India ( $4^{\circ}$ - $28^{\circ}$ N,  $68^{\circ}$ -  
13  $94^{\circ}$ E).

14

15 Figure 7. As for Figure 6, but for precipitation for the period 1979-2005. Color  
16 shading indicates interannual variability (standard deviation). CMAP comes from the  
17 Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Merged Analysis of Precipitation 1979-2009  
18 “standard” (no reanalysis data) monthly time series at  $2.5^{\circ} \times 2.5^{\circ}$  (Xie and Arkin,  
19 1997). MW is version 2.01,  $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$  monthly time series from Matsuura and  
20 Willmott (2009b) for the years 1979-2005.

21

22 Figure 8. Climatological mean surface temperature from the  $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$  CRU TS 3.1  
23 (Harris et al., 2014) and  $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$  HadISST (Rayner et al., 2003) observations for the  
24 period 1976-2005 (a). Annual mean surface temperature bias ( $^{\circ}$ C) of BNU-ESM

1 relative to the CRU TS 3.1 and HadISST data sets for the period 1976-2005 (b). All  
2 data sets are regridded to  $1^{\circ}\times 1^{\circ}$  resolution. Dotted area indicates non-significant  
3 regions at the 95% confidence level.

4

5 Figure 9. Climatological mean precipitation from the GPCP observations (a) and  
6 annual mean precipitation bias (mm/day) of BNU-ESM relative to the GPCP  
7 climatology for the period 1979-2005 (b). Dotted area indicates non-significant  
8 regions at the 95% confidence level.

9

10 Figure 10. Frequency (%) of daily precipitation rate over land between  $20^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $20^{\circ}\text{S}$   
11 from BNU-ESM *historical* simulation over the period 1990-1999, the GPCP one-  
12 degree daily data set and TRMM 3B42 daily observations over the period 1999-2008.  
13 All data are regridded to the T42 spectral resolution (approximately  $2.81^{\circ}\times 2.81^{\circ}$   
14 transform grid).

15

16 Figure 11. Mean SST ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) along the equator in the Pacific Ocean (a), color shading  
17 indicates interannual variability (standard deviation). Annual cycle of SST anomalies  
18 for the period 1976-2005 from HadISST (b) and the BNU-ESM *historical* run (c).

19

20 Figure 12. Mean sea ice concentration (%) over years 1976-2005 of the BNU-ESM  
21 *historical* run for both hemispheres and for March (a,c) and September (b,d). The  
22 solid black lines show the 15% mean sea ice concentration from SSM/I observations  
23 (Comiso, 1999).

24

1 Figure 13. Atlantic MOC (Sv) and global MOC (Sv) for the period 1976-2005 from  
2 the BNU-ESM *historical* run.

3

4 Figure 14. November-April lag-longitude diagram of 10°S-10°N averaged  
5 intraseasonal precipitation anomalies (colors) and intraseasonal 850-hPa zonal wind  
6 anomalies (contours) correlated against intraseasonal precipitation in the Indian  
7 Ocean reference region (10°S-5°N, 75°-100°E) for NCEP observation (a) and BNU-  
8 ESM (b). May-September lag-latitude diagram of 65°-95°E averaged intraseasonal  
9 precipitation anomalies (colors) and intraseasonal 850-hPa zonal wind anomalies  
10 (contours) correlated against intraseasonal precipitation at the Indian Ocean reference  
11 region for NCEP observation (c) and BNU-ESM (d). The averaging period is 1980-  
12 2005 for BNU-ESM *historical* run, and 1997-2006 for observations.

13

14 Figure 15. November-April wavenumber-frequency spectra of 10°S-10°N averaged  
15 daily zonal 850-hPa winds NCEP observation (a) and BNU-ESM (b). May-September  
16 wavenumber-frequency spectra of 15°S-30°N, 65°-95°E averaged daily precipitation  
17 for GPCP observation (c) and BNU-ESM (d). Individual spectra were calculated for  
18 each year and then averaged over all years of data. Only the climatological seasonal  
19 cycle and time mean for each November-April or May-September segment were  
20 removed before calculation of the spectra. The averaging period is 1980-2005 for  
21 BNU-ESM *historical* run, and 1997-2006 for observations.

22

23 Figure 16. Space-time spectrum of the 15°N-15°S symmetric component of  
24 precipitation divided by the background spectrum. Superimposed are the dispersion

1 curves of the odd meridional mode numbered equatorial waves for 12, 25, and 50 m  
2 equivalent depths. Frequency spectral width is 1/128 cpd.

3

4 Figure 17. Time series of detrended monthly SST anomalies of the Niño-3.4 region  
5 (5°S-5°N, 170°W-120°W) from HadISST, the BNU-ESM *historical* and *piControl*  
6 runs. The anomalies are found by subtracting the monthly means for the whole time  
7 series. The bottom sub-figure is standard deviation of monthly Niño-3.4 SST  
8 anomalies from HadISST and the BNU-ESM *historical* run.

9

10 Figure 18. Power spectra of the Niño-3.4 index (the SST anomalies of Figure 17  
11 normalized with the standard deviation) using the multitaper method (Ghil et al., 2002)  
12 with resolution  $p=4$  and number of tapers  $t=7$ .

13

14 Figure 19. Correlation of monthly mean Niño-3.4 SST anomalies with global SST  
15 anomalies for the HadISST and BNU-ESM. The anomalies are found by subtracting  
16 the monthly means for the whole time series that span the years 1900-2005. Hatched  
17 area indicates regions where the correlation is not significantly different from zero at  
18 the 95% confidence level.

19

20 Figure 20. Time series of Southern Oscillation index (5 month running mean) from  
21 1951 to 2005. The observed SOI is calculated using station data from Darwin and  
22 Tahiti. Absolute rather than normalized time series are used here.

23

24 Figure 21. Leading EOF of monthly SST anomalies for the North Pacific domain

1 (outlined by the box) for HadISST and the BNU-ESM *historical* run over the period  
2 1900-2005. The results are shown as SST anomaly regressions upon the normalized  
3 principal component time series ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$  per standard deviation). The numbers at the  
4 bottom left corner of each panel denote the percentage of variance explained by the  
5 leading EOF.

6

7 Figure 22. Time series of the normalized leading EOF mode of SST anomalies in the  
8 North Pacific domain (as Fig. 21) over the period 1900-2005 for HadISST and BNU-  
9 ESM. The solid black lines show decadal variations after 10 year running average.

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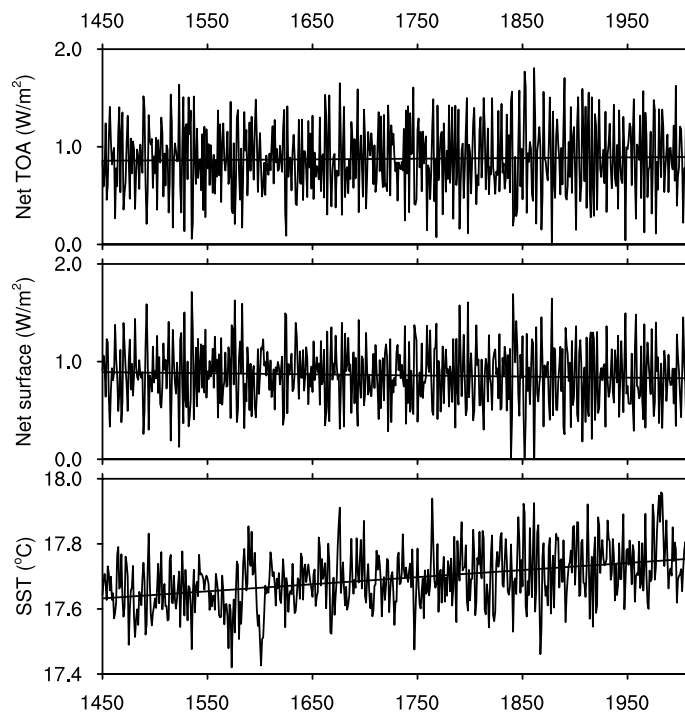
11 Figure 23. As for Fig. 6, but for GPP for the period 1986–2005. The observations  
12 (MTE) are from FLUXNET-MTE estimates (Jung et al., 2011).

13

14 Figure 24. Soil carbon density in the top 1 m depth from the HSWD (a) and BNU-  
15 ESM (b), and zonal average soil carbon density of BNU-ESM compared with that of  
16 upper 0.3 m and upper 1 m soil from HSWD, IGBP-DIS data sets.

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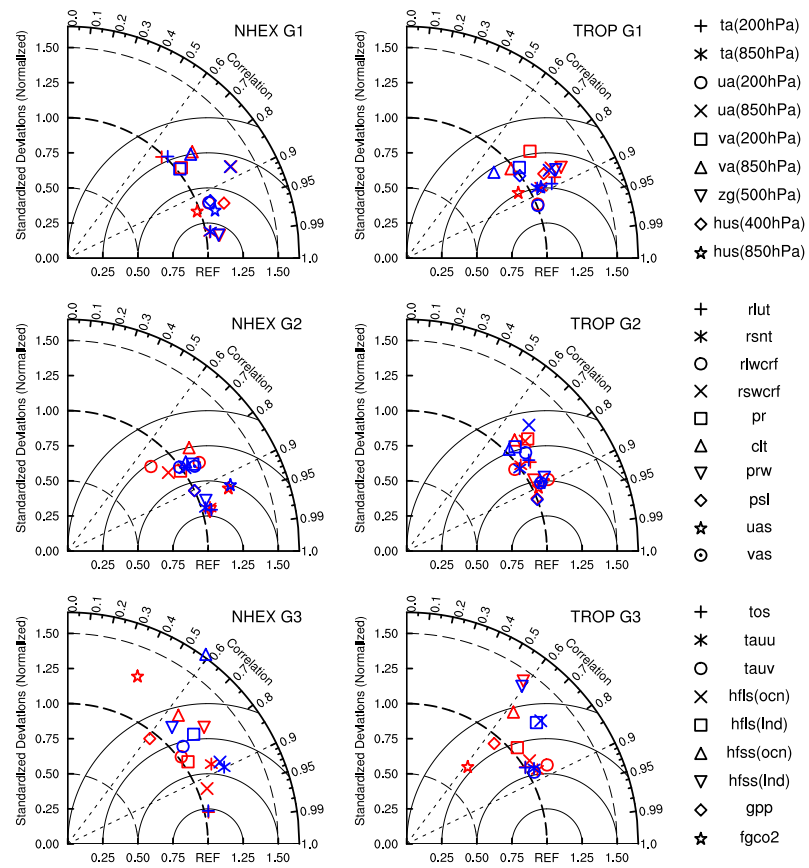
1 Figure 1



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1 Figure 2

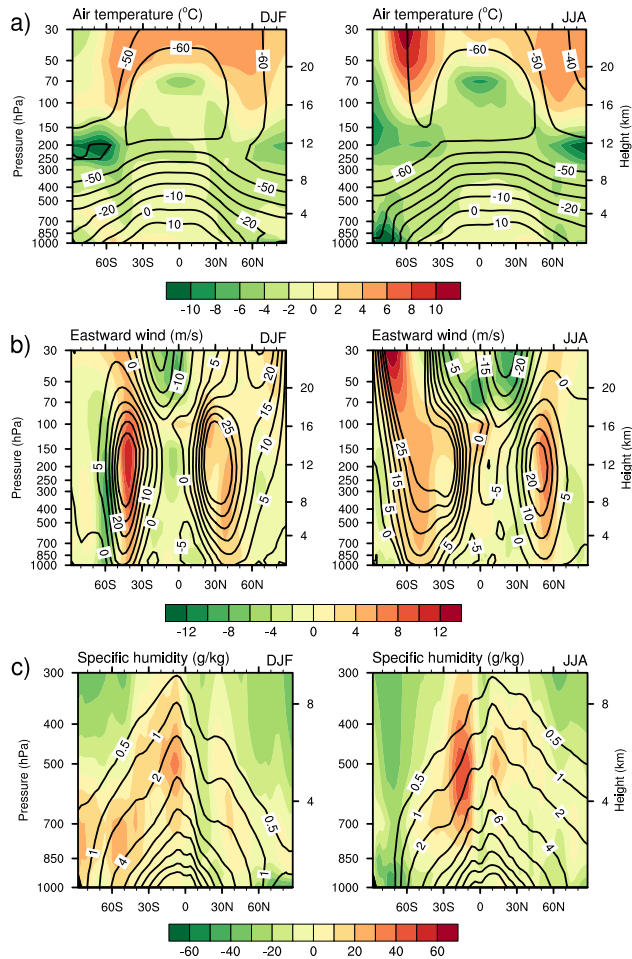


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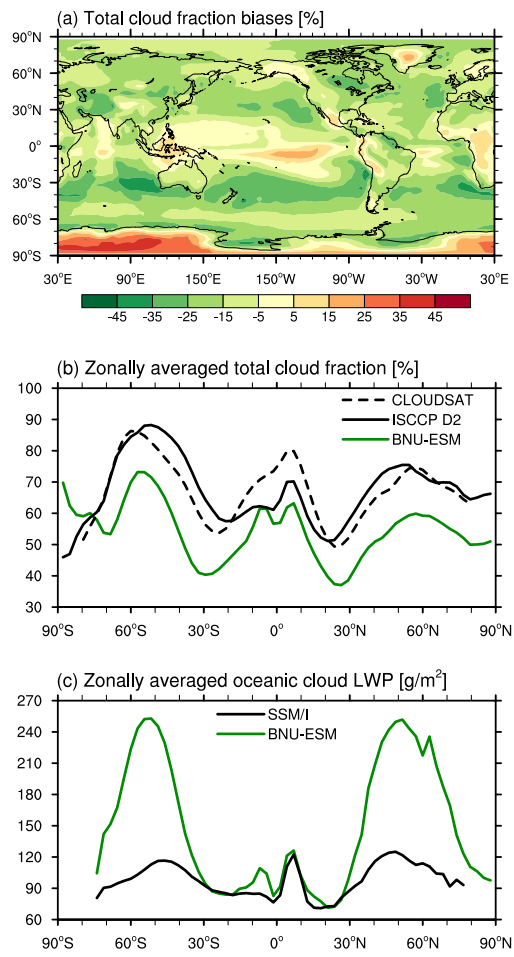
1 Figure 3



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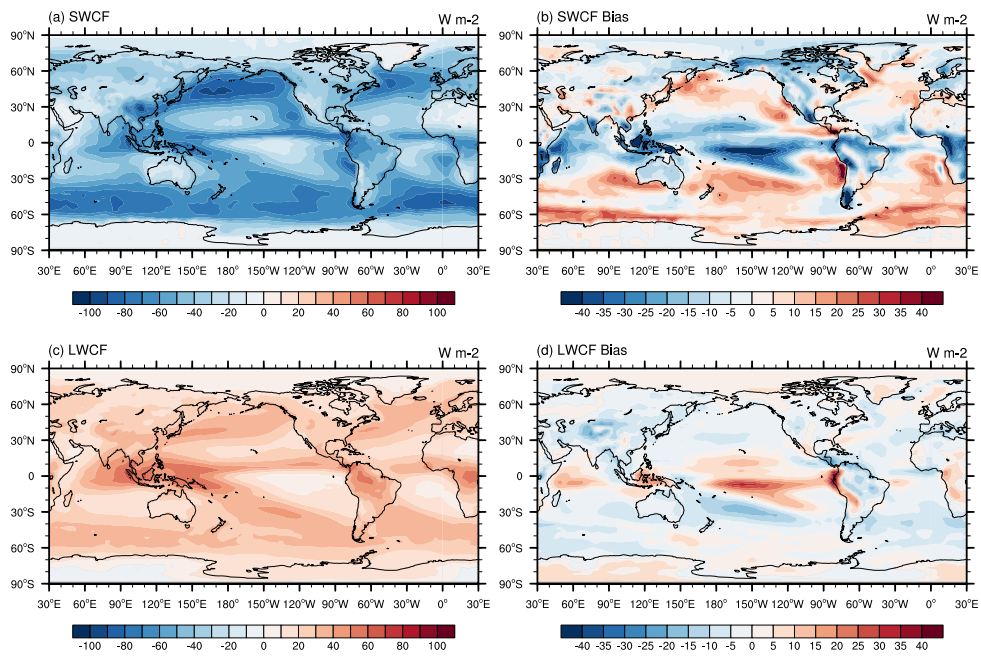
1 Figure 4



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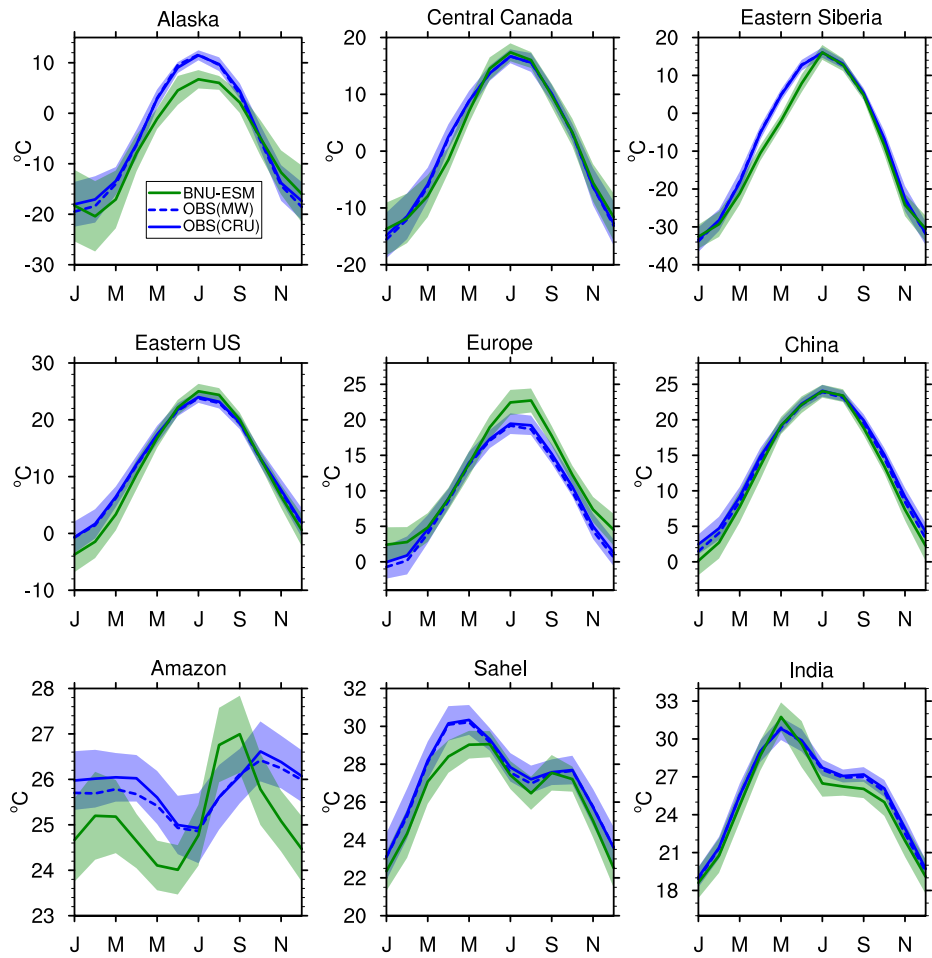
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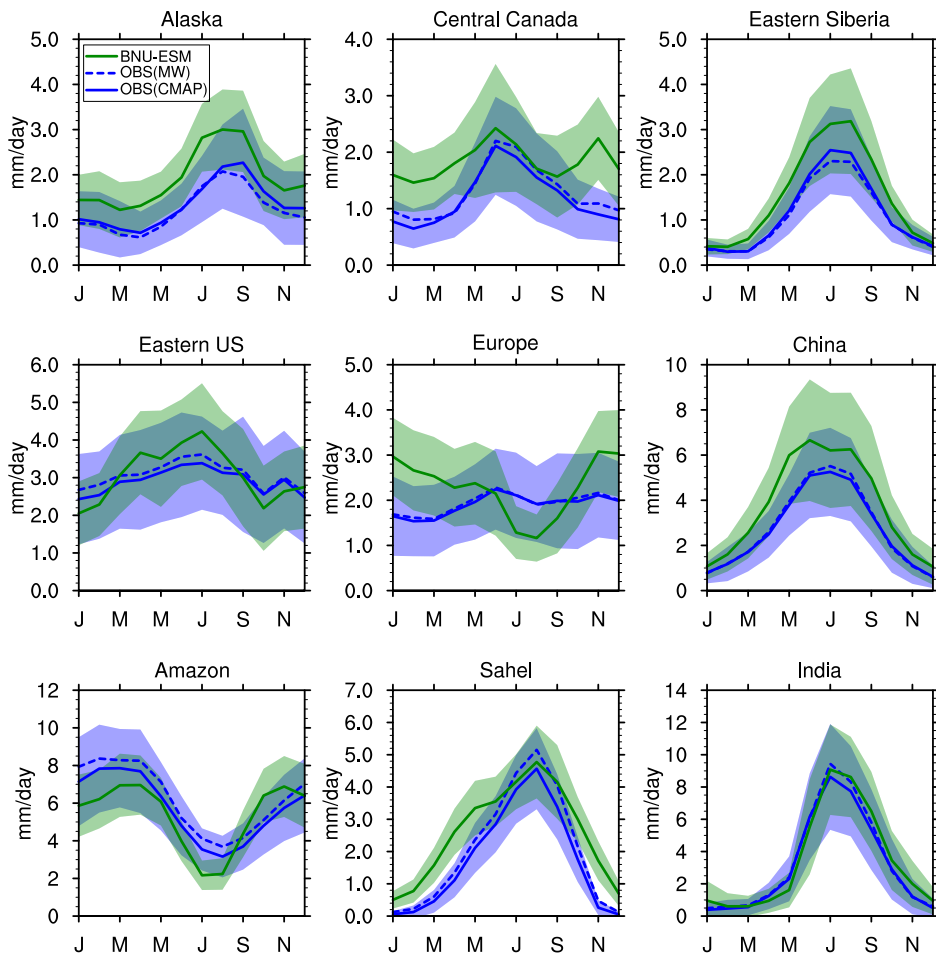
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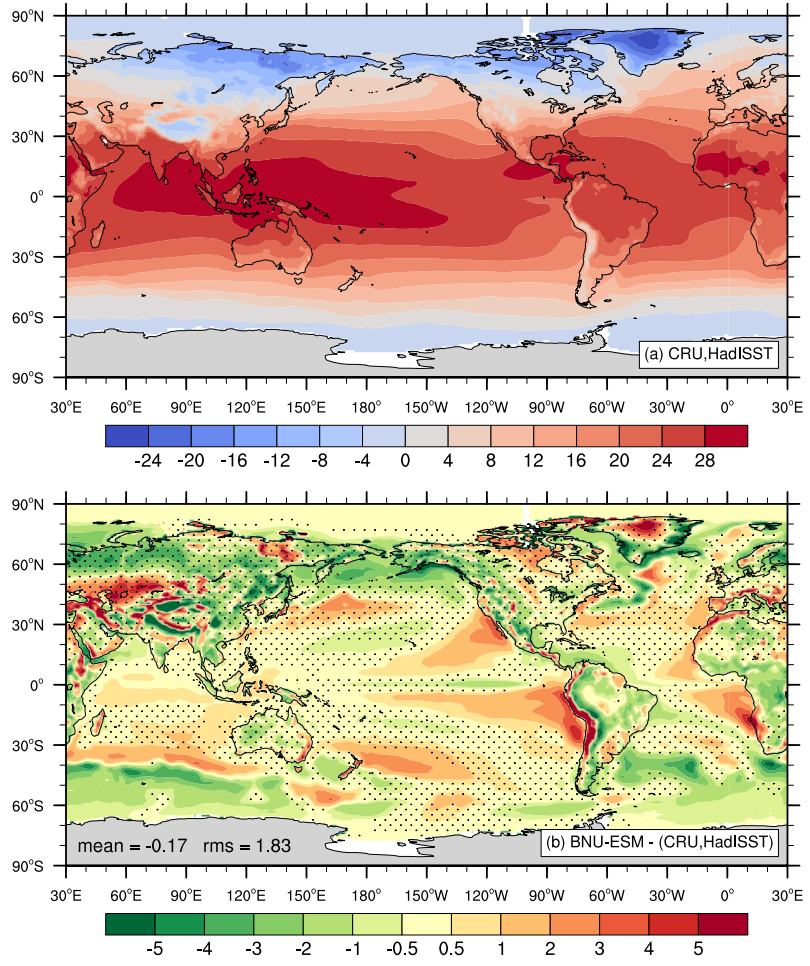
1 Figure 7



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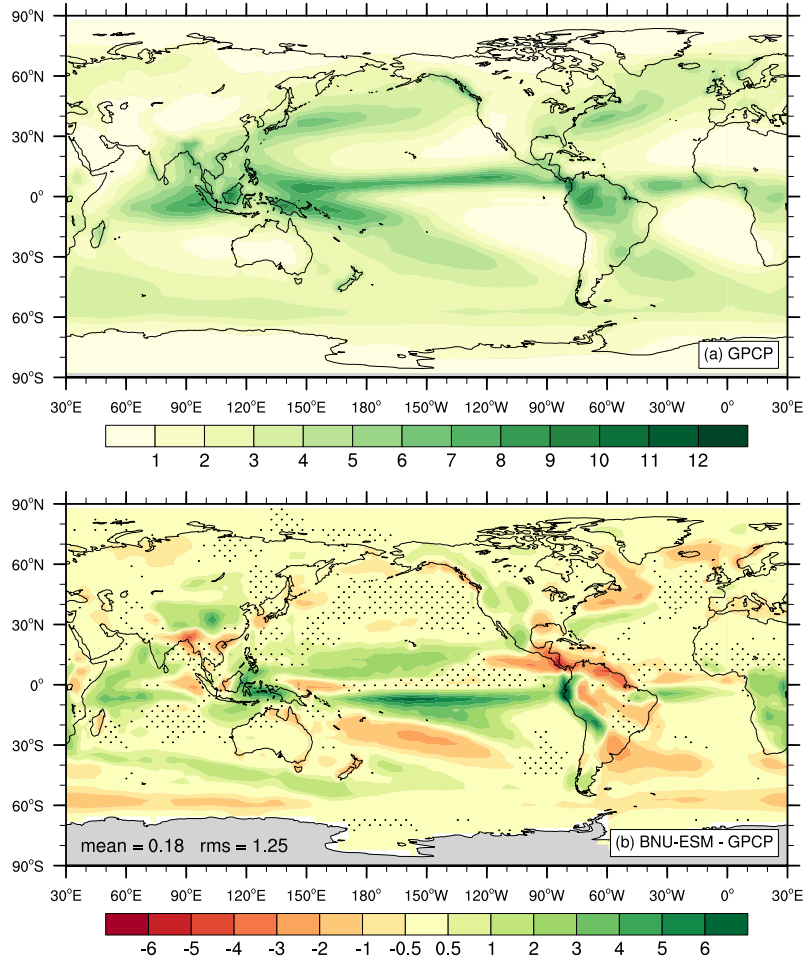
1 Figure 8



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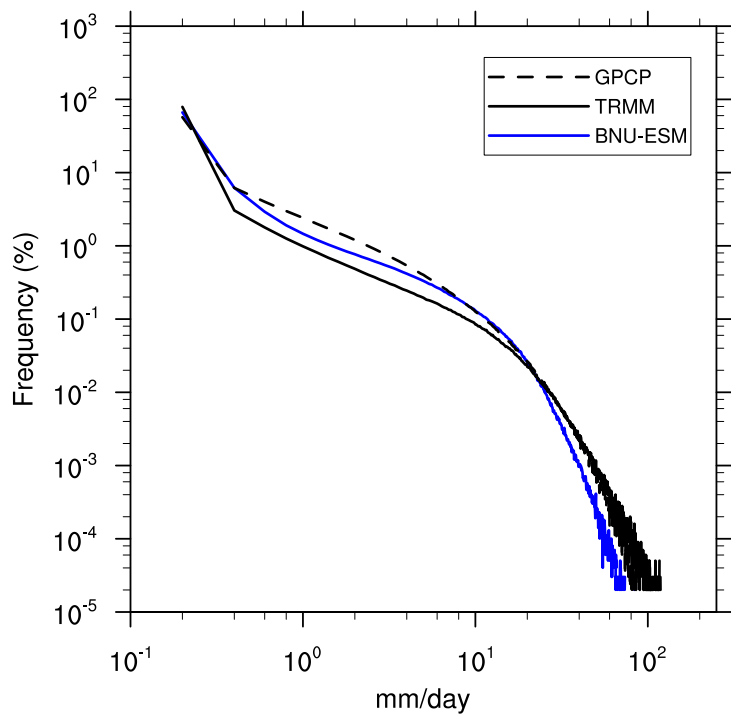
1 Figure 9



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1 Figure 10

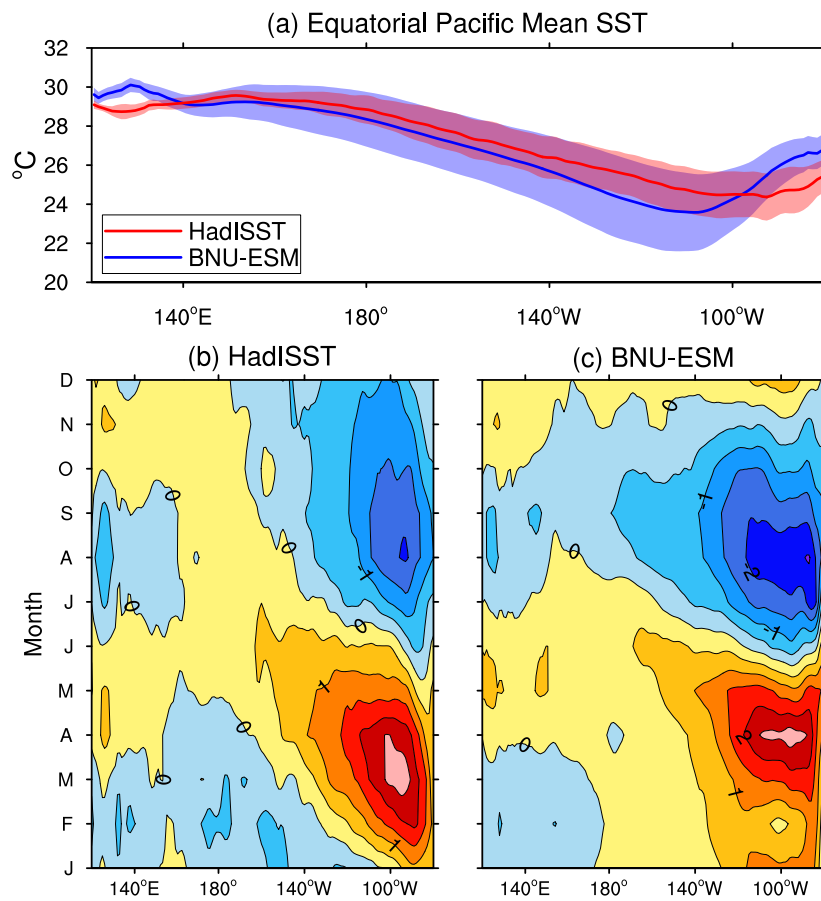


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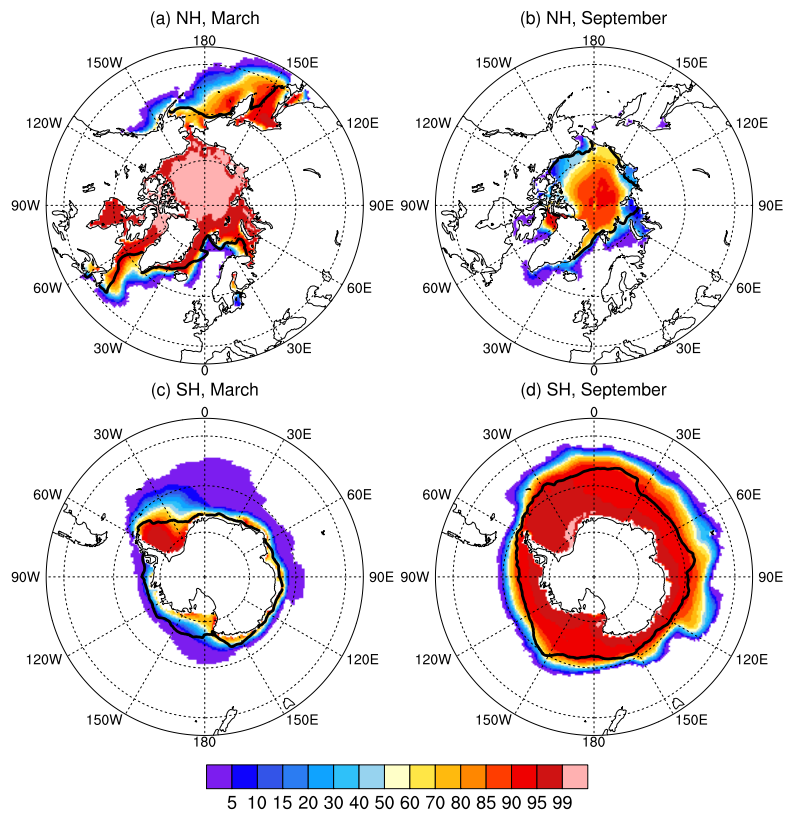
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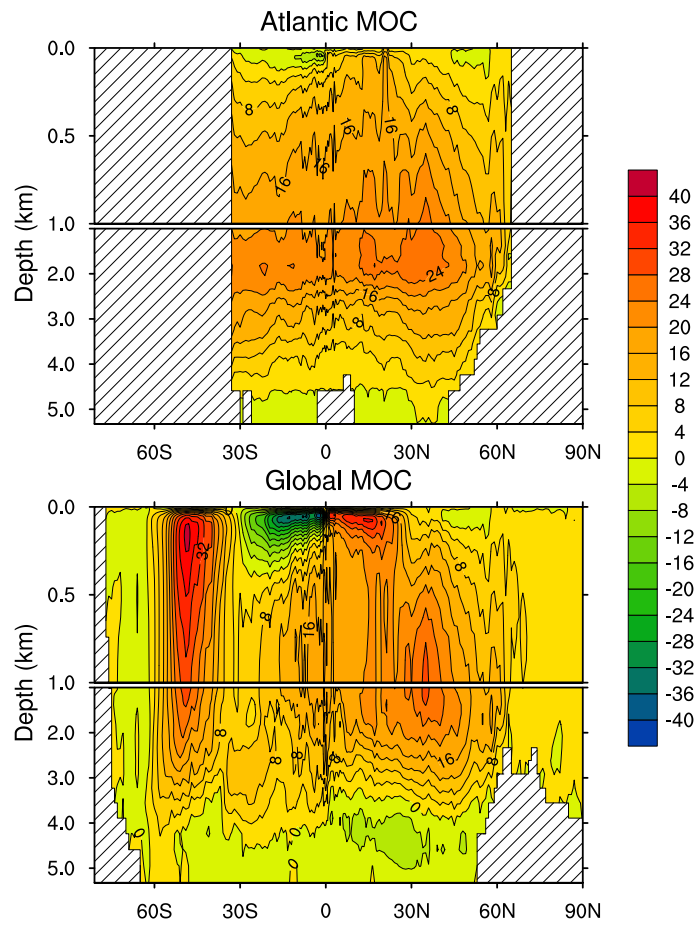
1 Figure 12



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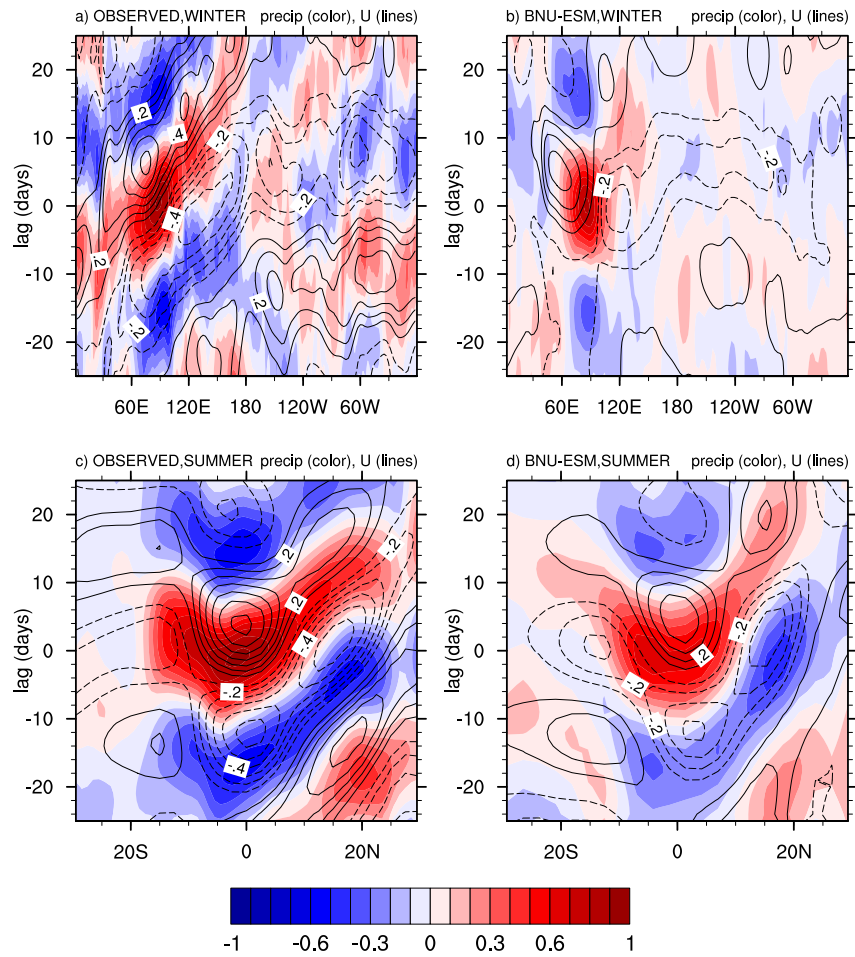
1 Figure 13



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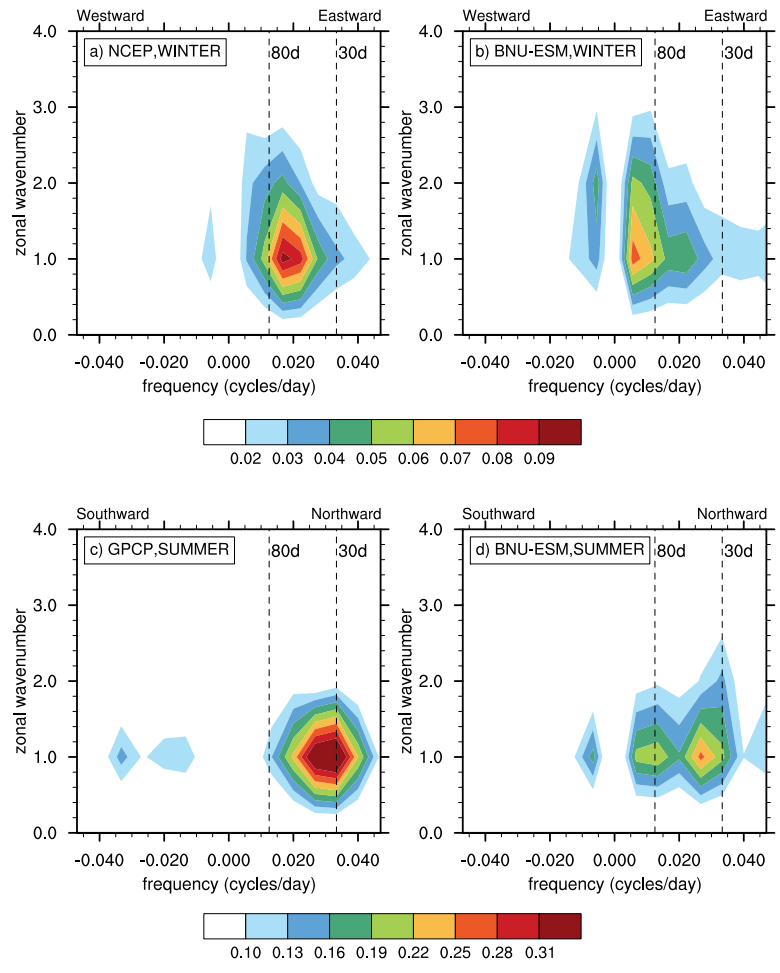
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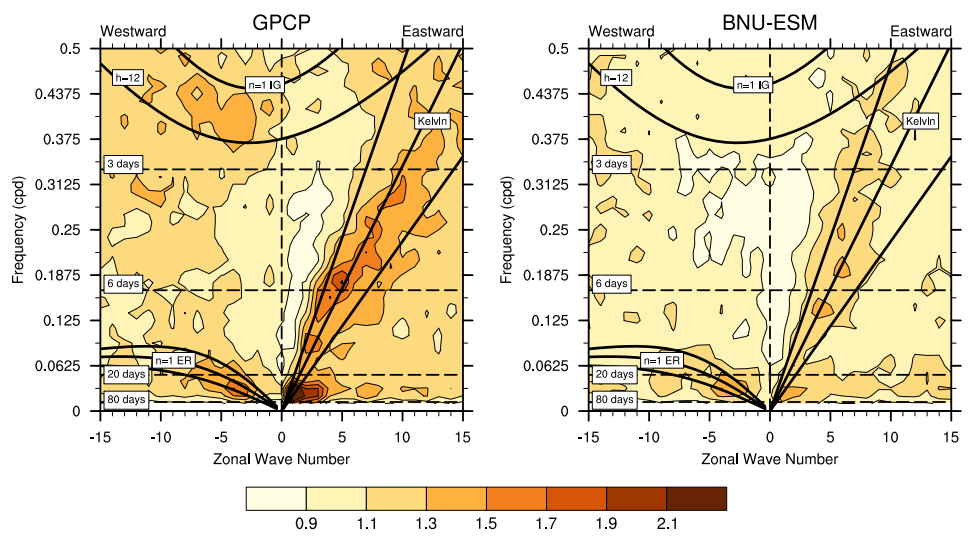
1 Figure 15



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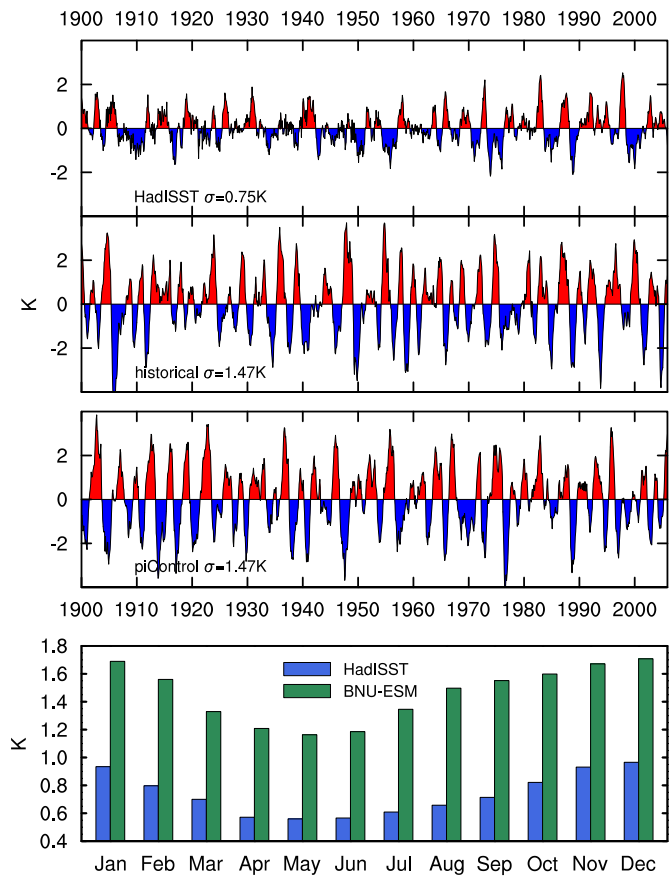
1 Figure 16



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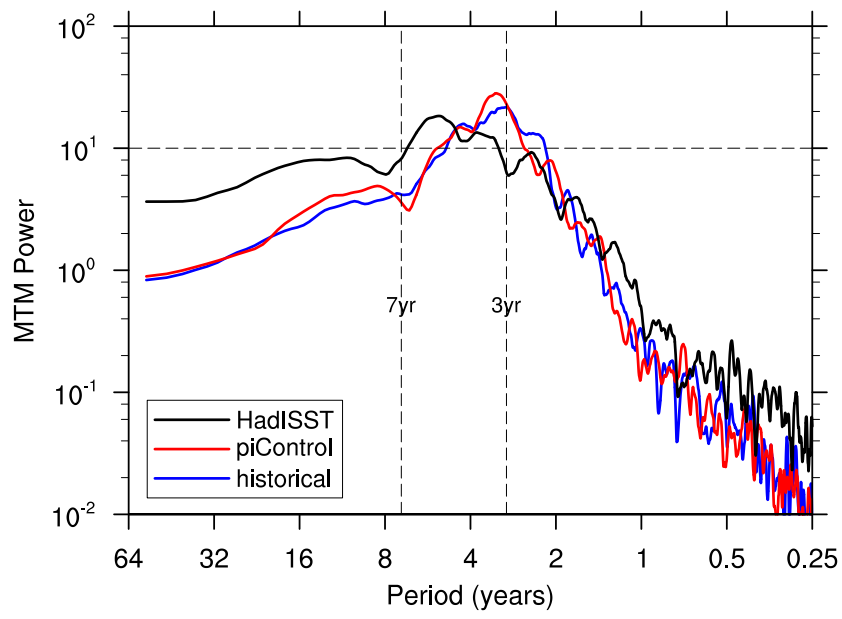
1 Figure 17



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1 Figure 18

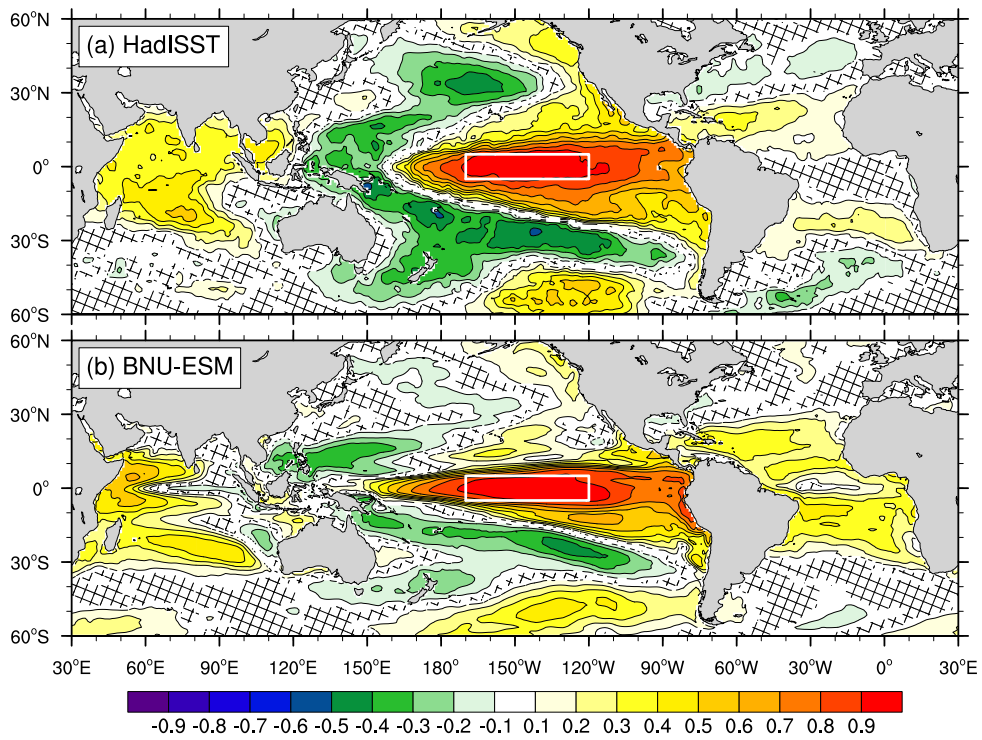


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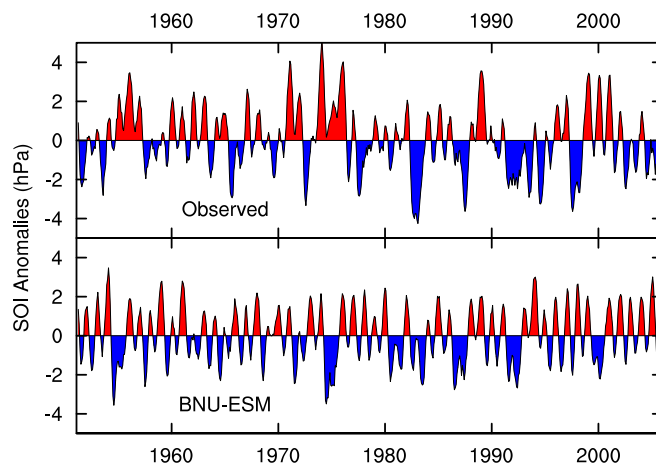
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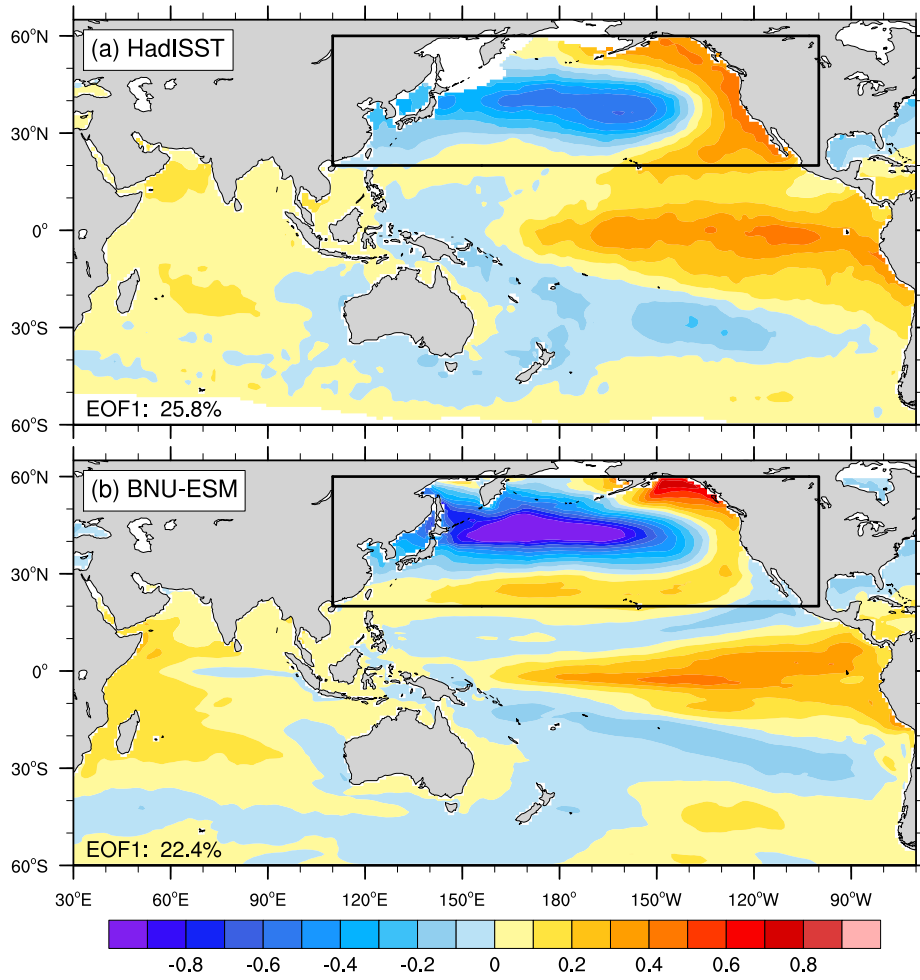
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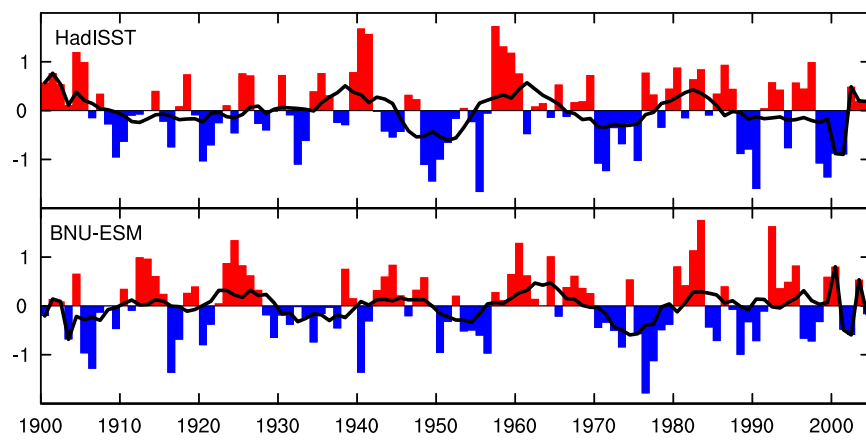
1 Figure 21



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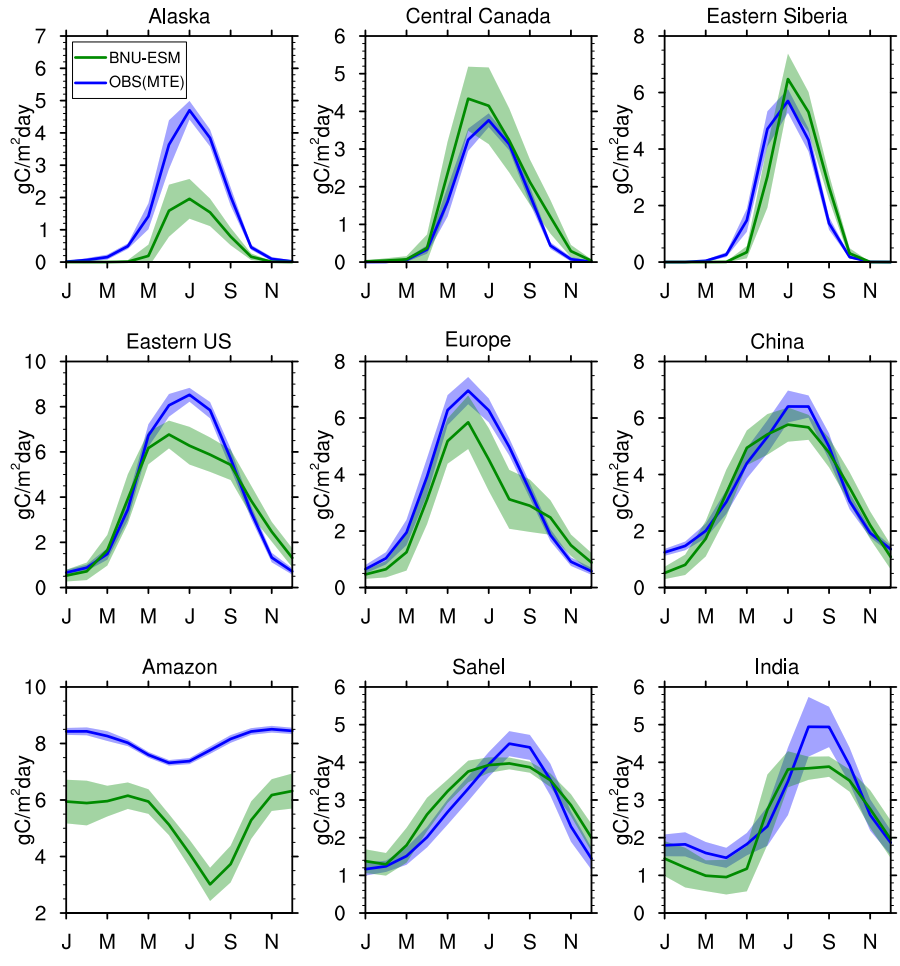
1 Figure 22



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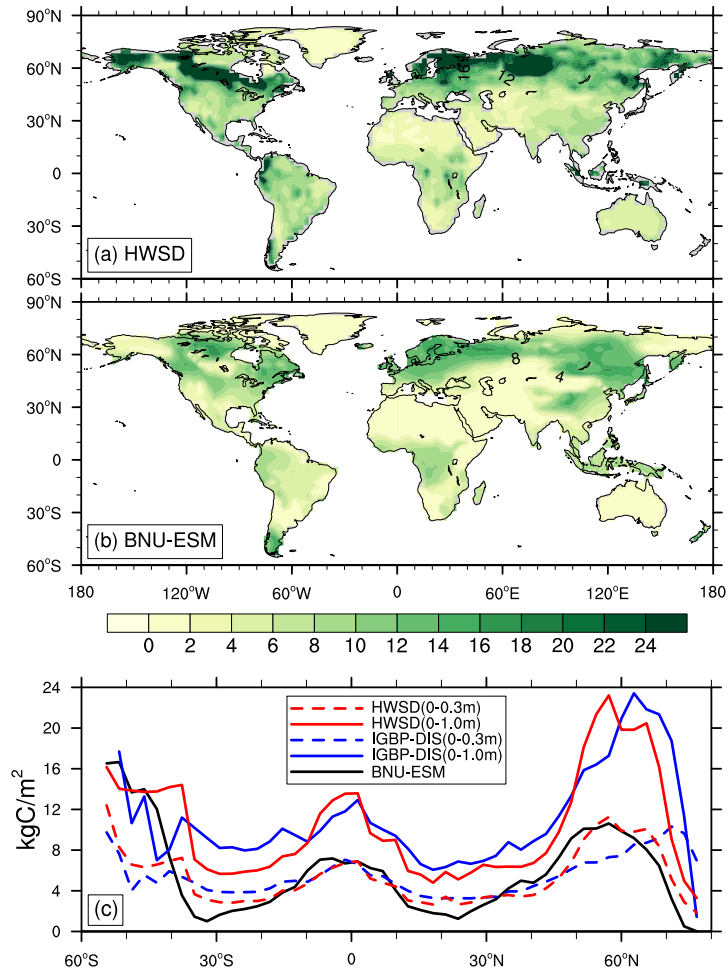
1 Figure 23



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1 Figure 24



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