

1 **Assessment of Climate Biases in OpenIFS Version 43R3 across Model Horizontal**
2 **Resolutions and Time Steps**

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4 Rahm^{1,2}, Sebastian Wahl¹ and Wonsun Park^{4,5}

6 **Referee #1**

7 Review of "Assessment of Climate Biases in OpenIFS Version 43R3 across Model Horizontal Resolutions and
8 Time Steps"

9 This study evaluates the sensitivity of an atmospheric general circulation model (OpenIFS cycle 43R3) to
10 different combinations of time-step and horizontal resolution. The authors evaluate several aspects of the mean
11 climate and variability in simulations with prescribed sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and sea-ice over the the
12 period 1979-2019. The authors identify several regions where reducing model time-step from 60 minutes to 15
13 minutes can have positive impacts on systematic biases that are comparable to the impact of increasing
14 resolution. The manuscript is clear and concise and the topic is within the scope of GMD. The results of this
15 study will likely be of interest to the many users of the IFS model in weather and climate sciences. In particular,
16 these results raise interesting questions about model development strategy when it is often necessary to work
17 with cheaper and/or reduced resolution surrogates of more expensive operational/production configurations. I
18 believe this manuscript can be suitable for publication in GMD but I have several comments that I think would
19 improve and clarify the current manuscript.

21 Thank you very much, and happy to hear that reviewer finds this manuscript interesting and relevant to IFS
22 modelling community.

24 **Major comments:**

25 (1) In section 3.1 the authors focus on biases of near-surface fields, and how these are alleviated with reduced
26 time-step and/or increased resolution.

27 I encourage the authors to extend their analysis to other levels in the atmosphere (e.g. zonal means of
28 temperature/wind against model/pressure levels). Given the changes in convection and vertical mixing identified
29 later in the paper, I think it is possible that the authors will find similar sensitivities in the troposphere. I also
30 think it is possible that changes at other levels may result in increased rather than reduced biases. This is fine, as
31 the most interesting aspect is the sensitivity to time-step and how this varies with region (e.g. is it limited to
32 near-surface/troposphere). I think it is unlikely that reducing time-step will improve biases in all regions/levels,
33 so it would also be interesting to discuss and interpret any regions of increased bias (e.g. whether they might
34 indicate a role for compensating errors).

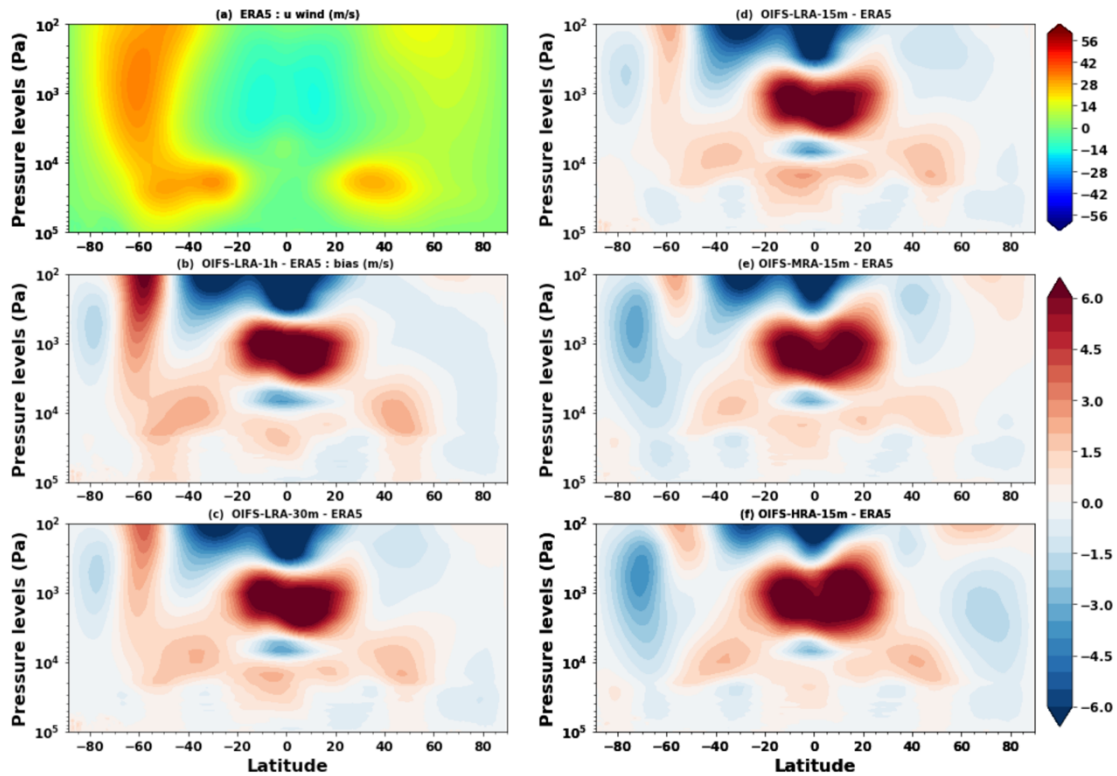
36 We have added an additional section addressing the zonal mean wind and temperature biases (lines
37 271-296):

38 "We examined the zonal mean u wind bias at different model levels, and it is shown in Figures 4. We find that
39 zonal mean u wind bias over the tropical region (40°S and 40°N) is positive and independent of model horizontal
40 resolution and model time step (Fig. 4b-f). The OIFS-HRA-15m configuration has a relatively large negative bias
41 in the Northern Hemisphere compared to the other configurations. The OIFS-LRA-15m and OIFS-HRA-15m
42 zonal mean u wind bias is similar to that in Robert et al. (2018). However, the zonal mean u wind bias in the
43 Southern Hemisphere is not consistent across horizontal resolution or model time step. The zonal mean u wind
44 bias in midlatitudes (i.e., 70°S to 50°S) is positive and large in the OIFS-LRA-1h configuration and reduces
45 throughout the pressure levels by shortening the model time step in the coarse resolution OpenIFS configuration
46 (i.e., OIFS-LRA-30m and OIFS-LRA-15m). Whereas, the negative zonal wind bias south 70°S in the coarse
47 resolution configuration is consistent across the different time steps (Fig. 3b-d). It is also interesting to note that
48 both OIFS-MRA-15m and OIFS-HRA-15m configurations exhibit a negative bias over the Southern Ocean (SO)
49 at most of the pressure levels, which is not seen in the standard OIFS-LRA-1h, nor in the OIFS-LRA-30m or
50 OIFS-LRA-15m configurations. Overall, we conclude that by reducing the model time step in the coarse
51 resolution configuration, we improve winds not only at the surface but also at higher model levels mostly over
52 the SO. A similar conclusion does not hold for the OIFS-MRA-15m and OIFS-HRA-15m configurations, as both
53 suffer from large negative bias over the SO.

55 We also examined the zonal mean temperature bias at different pressure levels. We find a cold bias (1.5 to 6 °C)
56 in the troposphere and lower stratosphere, and a warm bias (1.5 to 6 °C) above the stratosphere across the
57 configurations (Figure not shown). This indicates that OpenIFS simulations (independent of model time step and
58 horizontal resolution) are colder than observations in the lower stratosphere and warmer above. The cold bias in

59 the lower stratosphere is larger in the high resolution (i.e., OIFS-HRA-15m), and the warm bias above the
 60 stratosphere is smaller compared to the other configurations. Robert et al. (2018) noticed a similar zonal mean
 61 temperature bias and speculated that the zonal mean temperature bias is linked with the sensitivity of spurious
 62 mixing due to convection and diffusion.”

63



64 **Figure 4.** (a) Annual zonal mean ERA5 zonal wind [ms^{-1}]. (b-d) Annual zonal mean zonal wind [ms^{-1}] bias for
 65 different model time steps (1h (b), 30m (c), and 15m (d)) using ~ 100 km resolution, and (e-f) with different
 66 horizontal resolutions, ~ 50 (e) and ~ 25 km (f), respectively. Biases are computed with respect to ERA5 over the
 67 period 1979–2019.

68

69 (2) The abstract concludes with the general statement that "reducing the time step in the OpenIFS model, one
 70 can alleviate some climate biases at a lower cost than by increasing the horizontal resolution." I would like the
 71 authors to add some discussion of whether they expect their results to generalise to resolutions and/or time-
 72 steps not tested in this manuscript. For example, how far is the LR configuration from converging? Would
 73 reducing time-step in a much higher resolution model (e.g. 9km) bring similar benefits? Depending on these
 74 additions, the authors may wish to qualify the concluding line of the abstract.

75 As suggested by the reviewer, we have modified the general conclusion to more specific as (lines 28-29):
 76 “Reducing the time step in the coarse resolution (~ 100 km) OpenIFS model, one can alleviate some climate
 77 biases at a lower cost than by increasing the horizontal resolution.”

78

79 (3) What is the impact time-step/resolution on the representation of extremes? It is plausible that changes in
 80 time-step that improve the mean state have a limited impact on extremes that are more sensitive to horizontal
 81 resolution (e.g. orographic precipitation or tropical cyclones). As cited by the authors, the mean climate of the
 82 25km and 50 km HighResMIP configurations of IFS are very similar. However, the differences in horizontal
 83 resolution are evident in the representation of extremes (examples below):

84 <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2019JD032184>

85 Bador et al. (2020)

86 <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/clim/33/7/jcli-d-19-0639.1.xml>

87 Roberts J. et al (2020)

88 This is an excellent point. However, the main focus in this study is the mean state biases. The OpenIFS’ model
 89 time-step sensitivity to extremes will be discussed in detail in a separate manuscript.

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91 **Minor comments:**

92

93 Introduction: This section would benefit from an overview of the "expected" impacts of reducing time-step in
94 simple models in terms of truncation error and how this might not always hold true in a more complex system.
95 For example, in simple finite difference models, solutions converge as grid-spacing and time-step are decreased
96 due to reduced truncation errors. The choice of time-step and grid-spacing may also be constrained by stability
97 criteria. However, this intuition does not always hold in complex models due to the coupling between many
98 different elements. For instance, it is plausible that the unconditionally stable semi-implicit semi-Lagrangian
99 scheme used in the IFS allows a user to configure the model with a long time step to reduce the cost. Later
100 developments on top of this configuration introduce compensating errors in other aspects of the physics that
101 reduce biases. Reducing the time step at a later stage may then leads to increased biases as the model
102 configuration has been implicitly tuned for a particular combination of time-step and resolution.

103 We added some text to the Introduction section (see below) (lines 75-82):

104 “While the semi-implicit semi-Lagrangian scheme, as used in OpenIFS, is unconditionally stable and the time
105 step can be chosen to be very long, a shorter time step generally leads to a decrease in truncation error in the
106 finite differences and thus a more accurate representation of the model dynamics. The physics
107 parameterisations, which are computed independently of each other in OpenIFS, also benefit from a shorter time
108 step as it will allow the various parameterisations to be coupled at a higher frequency (Beljaars et al. 2018).
109 However, model parameters for e.g., convection or diffusion may be tuned for a specific time step and
110 shortening the time step can therefore, in some cases, increase model error. Hence, a shorter model time step is
111 expected to reduce biases in model dynamics, e.g., winds, while the results for parameterised processes, e.g.,
112 precipitation, may be mixed”.

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114 Lines 110-119. The authors state that their "detailed analysis of phase speed in such a manner is novel in
115 literature". This may be the case, but I would like the authors to provide a more detailed summary of the method
116 used to diagnose the amplitude and phase speed of extratropical Rossby waves (e.g. a bullet point list of the
117 main processing steps). The current description is insufficient for reproduction of the analysis. In particular, it is
118 not clear from the text how wave packets and associated phase speeds are diagnosed.

119 We revised the texts so that we can reproduce the analysis by following the steps (lines 132-137)

120 “We then applied the Fourier decomposition analysis to determine amplitude and position for each Rossby wave
121 number at each latitude as a function of time. Phase speed is computed as the difference in the daily position of
122 each wave, and stored at the midpoints in the time dimension. For consistency, wave amplitudes are interpolated
123 to the midpoints in time as well. Lastly, seasonal averages are computed from the daily data for the boreal and
124 austral winter seasons over the time period 1979–2019. In the case of phase speed, it is weighed by the
125 corresponding daily (midpoint) amplitude squared when computing the seasonal averages in order to account for
126 the impact of higher-amplitude events.”

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128 Line 169. Typo? Should be "Roberts et al. (2018)" as in intro?

129 This has been fixed.

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131 Line 198. Is it correct to include Coriolis? Work done by Coriolis term should be zero since it acts perpendicular
132 to motion of air parcels.

133

134 Yes, the Coriolis term is included in the DYN part because we are analyzing zonal wind tendency. However, we
135 have not quantified the individual contribution of the Coriolis term to the DYN term.

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137 Lines 226-228: It is possible that the lower precipitation RMSE in OIFS-LRA-1h is due to a "double penalty"
138 effect that penalises higher resolution models, which have more structure in the precipitation fields. Is the
139 precipitation in the LR-1h experiment notably smoother? Other metrics (e.g. fractions skill score) may provide a
140 different ranking of models. More details on double-penalty effects and fraction skill score here:

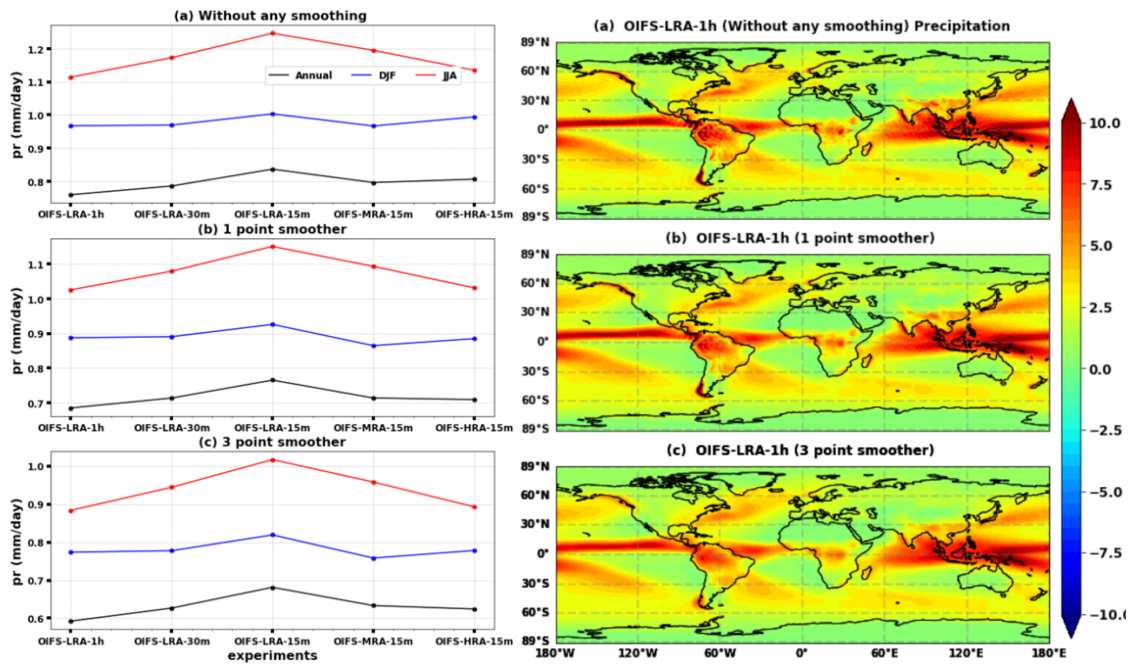
141 <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/media-centre/science-blog/2023/verifying-high-resolution-forecasts>

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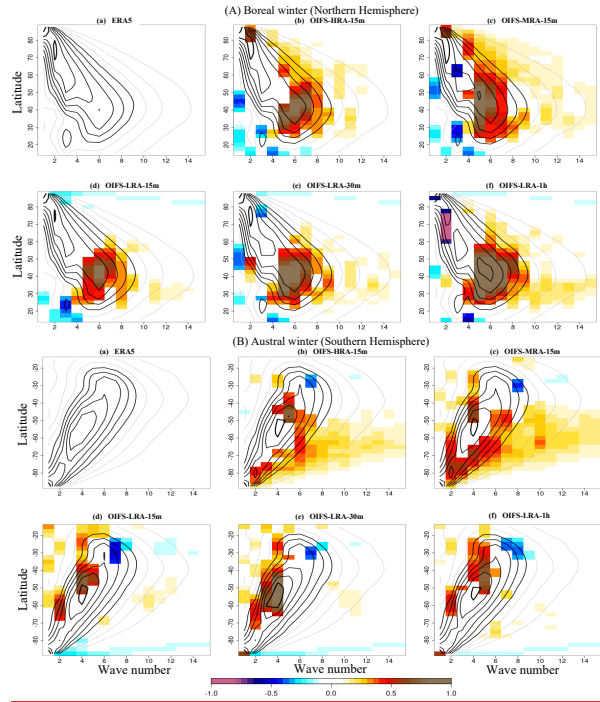
143 To verify our result, we computed the RMSE by smoothing the data and found a similar conclusion. However,
144 the RMSE values differ in magnitude if we compare them with without smoothing. We have not computed the
145 fraction skill score as our conclusions are insensitive to the double penalty effect (see the figure below; (left)
146 RMSE and (right) time mean Precipitation). We now added this information in the main text as well (lines 259-
147 263).

148 “We have computed the SAT and precipitation biases with a 3-point smoothing, i.e., approximately 3x3 degree
149 spatial smoothing, which eliminates the wiggles near steep topography arising from the Gibbs’ phenomenon in
150 the model spectral fields. We find that smoothing the fields does not change the main result that precipitation

151 biases increase with shorter time step in Tco95 and then decreases somewhat with higher horizontal resolution.
 152 Hence, the wiggles are not the main source of precipitation biases and their presence does not impact the
 153 findings in this study.”
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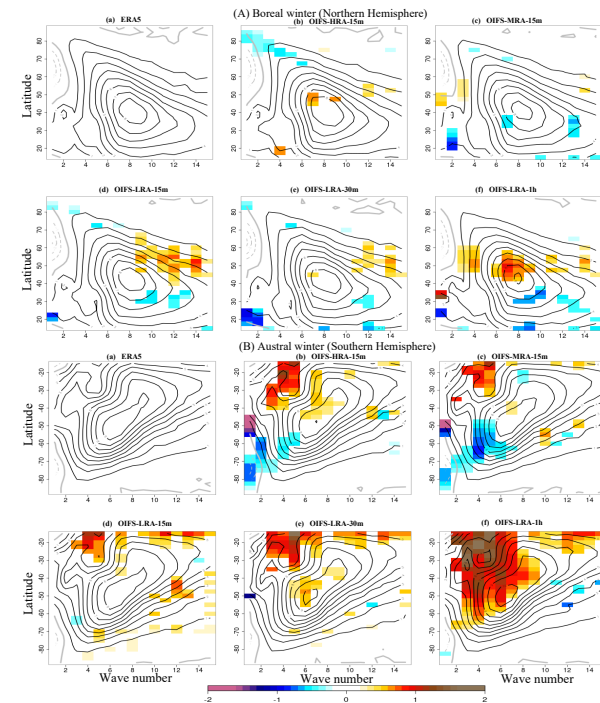


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 159 Lines 237-238 and figure 4: Why do the authors standardise the wave amplitude biases in figure 4 instead of
 160 showing the absolute values? This standardisation emphasises errors in regions the authors argue are
 161 unimportant, which complicates interpretation of the plots. Specifically, the authors focus their analysis of
 162 Rossby waves on the "region where the wave amplitude is larger than 5 ms⁻¹ is termed core region, which
 163 mostly covers the area that is occupied by the thick black contours in Fig. 4". However, biases are presented
 164 "relative to ERA5 (model – ERA5), normalized by the ERA5 detrended variability expressed by the standard
 165 deviation", which highlights errors in the high-latitude high-wavenumber waves that are dismissed by the
 166 authors as "unimportant as these waves have a small amplitude and little effect on variability".
 167 We updated the figures with absolute error and modified the texts accordingly (pages 9-10 and also provided
 168 texts below).
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Figure 5. (A) The Rossby wave amplitude (contours) for different wave numbers in the Northern Hemisphere at 300 hPa (a) in ERA5 observation and (b-f) in the OIFS model simulations during 1979-2019 in DJF (i.e., boreal winter). The color shows difference of wave amplitude between the model and ERA5 where it is significant on the 95 % confidence level. The wave amplitude and contour interval are shown in ms^{-1} . The grey contours start from 2 ms^{-1} and the black contours from 5 ms^{-1} and the contour interval is 1 ms^{-1} . (B) is similar to (A), but for JJA (i.e., austral winter).



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Figure 6. (A) The Rossby wave phase speed (contours) for different wave numbers at 300 hPa in the Northern Hemisphere in ERA5 (a) observation and (b-f) in the OIFS model simulations during 1979-2019 in DJF (i.e., boreal winter). The color shows the difference of wave phase speed between model and ERA5 where it is significant on the 95 % confidence level. The wave phase speed and contour interval are shown in ms^{-1} . The black

186 contours start from 1 ms^{-1} and the contour interval is 1 ms^{-1} . Panel (B) is similar to panel (A), but for JJA (i.e.,
187 austral winter). The dashed contours show a negative phase speed and a grey contour shows a zero-phase speed.
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191 “Fig. 5 shows the Rossby wave amplitude (gray and black contours) for ERA5 and the individual OIFS
192 simulations for the boreal winter (Fig. 5A, DJF, Northern Hemisphere; NH) and austral winter (Fig. 5B, JJA,
193 Southern Hemisphere; SH). The color in Fig. 5 denotes the wave amplitude bias relative to ERA5 (model –
194 ERA5). We focus only on those wave numbers and latitudes that have the highest wave amplitude, because these
195 waves explain most of the variability. The region where the wave amplitude is larger than 5 ms^{-1} is termed “core
196 region”, which mostly covers the area that is occupied by the thick black contours in Fig. 5. In DJF (NH), at north
197 of 70° N , the Rossby wave numbers $k=1$ and $k=2$ have the largest amplitude in ERA5 whereas at the mid-latitudes
198 (30° N to 60° N), the wave numbers between about $k=3$ and $k=9$ have large amplitude with the largest amplitude
199 amounting to 8 ms^{-1} at about 40° N for the wave number $k=6$ (Fig. 5Aa). During JJA (SH), the wave amplitude is
200 located in a similar core region (Fig. 5Ba) as that in DJF (NH). The amplitude is largest south of 70° S for the
201 wave numbers $k=1$ and $k=2$ whereas at the mid-latitudes (45° S to 65° S), the wave numbers between about $k=3$
202 to 5 have large amplitude with the largest amplitude amounting to 9 ms^{-1} is found at 57.5° S for the wave number
203 $k=4$ (Fig. 5Ba).
204

205 In DJF (NH) the OIFS-LRA-1h configuration exhibits a positive bias of $\sim 1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ in Rossby wave amplitude (i.e.,
206 the waves amplitude bias in OIFS-LRA-1h is larger than the ERA-5) in the core region, in particular for wave
207 numbers $k=3-8$ at latitudes between 25° N to 55° N and a negative bias at latitudes between 60° N to 80° N for
208 waver number 2 (Fig. 5Af). The wave amplitude biases around the core region in OIFS-LRA-1h in the
209 midlatitudes (20° N to 40° N) are small (~ 0.2) for the higher wave numbers and get better with a shorter time step
210 configuration (OIFS-LRA-15m).
211

212 The Rossby wave amplitude biases in the OIFS-HRA-15m configuration are strongly reduced compared to the
213 OIFS-LRA-1h configuration over the core region (Fig. 5Ab and 5Af). The Rossby wave amplitude bias reduction
214 in the OIFS-MRA-15m configuration is mostly similar to that in the OIFS-HRA-15m configuration except for the
215 wave number $k=7$ at 45° N , where the wave amplitude bias is larger in the OIFS-HRA-15m configuration (Fig.
216 5Ab and 5Ac). The OIFS-HRA-15 m and OIFS-MRA-15m configurations also exhibit a positive bias for wave
217 number 2 at high-latitudes 60° N to 80° N . The OIFS-MRA-15m configuration also show a negative bias for the
218 wave number 3 at latitudes between 60° N to 65° N in the core region, which is not present in the other
219 configurations. The OIFS-HRA-15m and OIFS-MRA-15m configurations show similar bias around the core
220 region as in the OIFS-LRA-1h configuration, i.e., high resolution and OIFS-LRA-1h configurations overestimate
221 wave amplitudes for the higher wave numbers. The Rossby wave amplitude biases are progressively reduced from
222 the OIFS-LRA-1h configuration to the OIFS-LRA-30m and OIFS-LRA-15m configurations (Fig. 5Ad-Af),
223 indicating a sensitivity of model bias to the time step. The wave amplitude bias for wave number $k=7$ at 45° N
224 exists in all the configurations, and it is smaller in the OIFS-LRA-15m and OIFS-MRA-15m configuration than
225 in the other configurations. Overall, both OIFS-LRA-15m and OIFS-HRA-15m configurations are able to
226 reproduce the observed Rossby-wave amplitudes in DJF (NH) better than OIFS-LRA-1h.
227

228 In JJA (SH), the Rossby wave amplitude bias in the core region is smaller than in DJF (NH) for all the
229 configurations (Fig. 5A and 5B). OIFS-LRA-1h exhibits a positive bias of $\sim 0.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ in JJA (SH) for the wave
230 number $k=2$ at latitude between $\sim 50^\circ \text{ S}$ and $\sim 62.5^\circ \text{ S}$ and for wave numbers $k=4$ to 5 between 30° S and 40° S
231 (Fig. 5Bf). The OIFS-LRA-30m configuration shows a positive bias for the wave number $k=2$ to 5 at latitudes
232 between 40° S and 70° S , which is larger than other configurations.

233 The OIFS-HRA-15m and OIFS-MRA-15m configurations exhibits a positive bias $\sim 0.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ around the core
234 region and latitude 50° S to 70° S , which does not exist in the other coarse resolution configurations (Fig. 5Bb-
235 Bf). The Rossby wave amplitude biases around the core region at the midlatitudes in the high-resolution
236 simulations are consistent and large in the SH than the NH (Fig. 5Ab-c and 5Bb-c).
237

238 We also analyze the phase speed of Rossby waves for ERA5 and across the OIFS' configurations for DJF (NH)
239 and JJA (SH) seasons (Fig. 6). In the ERA5 dataset (Fig. 6Aa), the Rossby wave phase speed is positive (i.e.,
240 eastward moving, solid contour) for wave numbers greater than 2 (i.e., $k>2$) at most latitudes. The wave numbers
241 $k=1$ to 2 have a positive wave phase speed from the equator to 55° N and a negative wave phase speed (i.e.,
242 westward moving, dashed contours) between 60° N and 80° N in DJF (NH) (Fig. 6Aa). The maximum phase
243 speed is found at wave number $k=8$ at 40° N , while the minimum is found at wave number $k=1$ at 60° N (Fig.
244 6Aa). In JJA (SH) (Fig. 6Ba), the wave phase speeds are mostly positive and large for all the wave numbers and

245 at each latitude, with the maximum phase speed is observed for the wave numbers between $k=6$ and $k=8$ and
 246 latitudes between 40° S and 60° S, and these waves are moving faster than that in DJF (NH).
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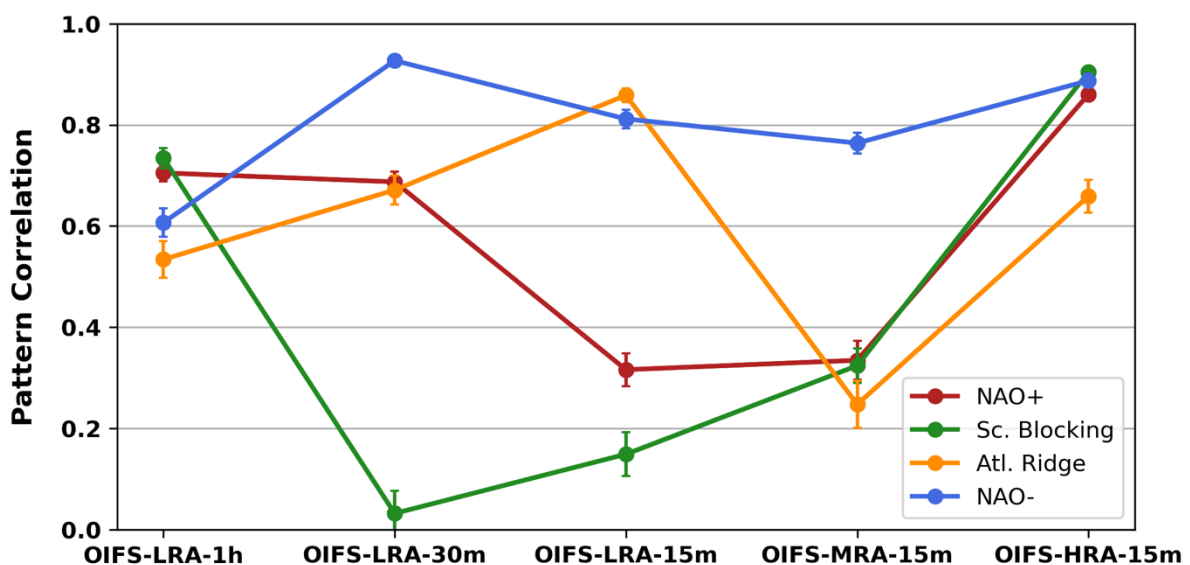
248 The OIFS-LRA-1h configuration suffers from positive phase speed bias for wave numbers $k=4$ to 8 at latitudes
 249 between 42.5° N and 60° N, i.e., waves move faster eastward than in ERA5, and the bias is larger than 1 ms^{-1} . The
 250 bias of $\sim 1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ for wave number $k = 6$ to 8 at 40° N and 60° N is of particular concern as it is near the maximum
 251 wave amplitudes in DJF (Fig. 6Af). In general, phase speed biases in the OIFS-LRA-1h configuration are strongly
 252 reduced as either horizontal resolution is increased or time step is shortened (Fig. 6Ab-5Af). In JJA (SH), the
 253 OIFS-LRA-1h configuration exhibits a very large (between ~ 1.5 - 2 ms^{-1}) Rossby wave phase speed bias for most
 254 of the wave numbers, which is largest for the wave numbers $k=2$ to 8 between 15° S to 55° S (Fig. 6Bf). Large
 255 biases can be found between 15° S and 25° S ($\sim 1.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$) for most of the wave numbers, but the wave activity is
 256 low there (Fig. 6Bf). The large phase speed biases are strongly reduced in the OIFS-LRA-30m and OIFS-LRA-
 257 15m configurations (Fig. 6Bd-Bf), indicating a strong sensitivity to the reduced biases in mean winds and wind
 258 speeds (Fig. 1). Overall, the Rossby wave speed bias in the OIFS-HRA-15m configuration is smaller than in the
 259 OIFS-LRA-1h configuration (Fig. 6Bb and 6Bf). However, we note that both the OIFS-MRA-15m and OIFS-
 260 HRA-15m configurations exhibit negative biases south of 55° S for wave numbers $k= 1$ to 5 , that is, the eastward
 261 moving waves are slower than in the ERA5 (Fig. 6Bb).
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263 The wave phase speed analysis reveals a clear improvement in the representation of the Rossby waves in the
 264 boreal winter (i.e., NH) when increasing the horizontal resolution and shortening the model time step compared
 265 to OIFS-LRA-1h configuration. In austral winter, however, the representation of Rossby wave amplitudes and
 266 phase speeds are the most realistic in OIFS-LRA-15m configuration, with longer time steps introducing too fast
 267 phase speeds and higher horizontal resolution introducing too slow phase speeds at wave number less than 6 (i.e.,
 268 $k < 6$).”
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270 Section 3.2. How do the authors interpret the impact on Rossby wave amplitude/phase speed biases? For
 271 example, is it related to the representation of tropospheric jets and associated wave guides and their biases?
 272 The representation of tropospheric jets and associated wave guides can be related to biases in Rossby wave
 273 packets (e.g., Giannakaki and Martius, (2016), Hakim, 2005 and Baumgart et al., 2018). We evaluate the
 274 amplitude and speed of each wavenumber individually that indicating at which scale the model biases occur.
 275 RWPs are then the combination (or sum) of the intermediate ones (e.g. wavenumbers 4-15), but
 276 diagnosing/tracking RWPs is a different analysis, and there's no consensus on the best method (Wolf and Wirth,
 277 2017).
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279 Section 3.3 and figure 7. What is the sampling uncertainty in these composites and estimates of pattern
 280 correlation (e.g. estimated using bootstrap resampling of available dates)? Are the differences between
 281 configurations significant?

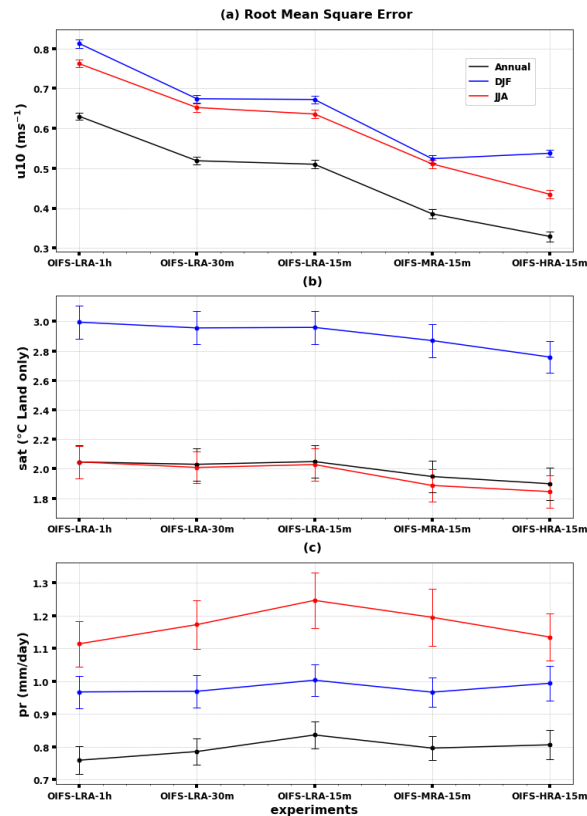
282 We added sampling uncertainty using bootstrapping method with random 2000 iterations.



283 Figure. 8. Pattern correlation coefficient of the individual weather regime between OIFS model configurations
 284 and ERA5 for the period 1979-2019 for the DJF season. The error bars represent a 95% confidence interval.
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287 Table 1. What is the HPC cost of the different configurations (e.g. core hours per model year)? Do they scale as
 288 expected from changes in time-step and number of grid points?
 289 As the reviewer suggested, we added this information to Table 1 (lines 694-698).
 290

291 Figure 2. What is the sampling uncertainty in these estimates of RMSE? Are the differences in RMSE between
 292 configurations significant?
 293 We added the figure depicting RMSE with sampling uncertainty using bootstrapping method with random 2000
 294 iterations (see below and page 22).
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296
 297 Figure 2. Root mean squared error of surface zonal wind (a), SAT (b), and precipitation (c) over the period 1979-
 298 2019 for all the configurations: annual (black) and seasonal mean (DJF: blue, JJA: red). The error bars represent
 299 a 95% confidence interval.
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321 **Referee #2**

322 Overall the manuscript is clear, concise, to the point and relevant. I appreciated the final recommendations on the
323 recommended resolutions and timestep settings. One thing I did miss is a discussion on the wiggles in the surface
324 fields in the LRA and MRA configurations.

325 This is in fact a known issue that one of the co-authors complained about in the OpenIFS CONFLUENCE page
326 <https://confluence.ecmwf.int/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=188034913>. In this page it is described that the Tco
327 (octahedral reduced Gaussian grid) grid is a poor choice for the low resolution configurations, instead I would
328 encourage the use of compatible TL (reduced Gaussian grid) such as TL159 and TL399. Nevertheless, the findings
329 of this study are valid and I do not recommend repeating the exercise using the TL grids, but I would expect some
330 discussion on this in the introduction, why the authors did not use the TL grids for the LRA and MRA
331 configurations, despite the known issues? Also this should be pointed out in the results section.

332
333 Thank you very much for raising this concern. Our choice of grid was motivated by finding a usable low resolution
334 for atmosphere-only and coupled experiments that uses little resources. Tco95 was deemed to be the lowest
335 acceptable resolution as the available lower-resolution configurations, e.g., TL95 and Tq42, were too coarse for
336 our interests. As presented in this paper and elsewhere, the lack of spectral filtering introduces spectral wiggles.
337 As shown in this paper, however, these wiggles are not the main source of model biases. For example, RMSE of
338 T2m and precip biases are relatively insensitive to spatial smoothing. We have now added some motivation for
339 our grid choices in sec 2 (lines 108 to 114).

340
341 “Our study is partly motivated by evaluating the suitability of various OpenIFS configurations for coupled climate
342 simulations with FOCI-OpenIFS (Kjellsson et al., 2020) with an atmosphere horizontal resolution higher than that
343 of ECHAM6 Tq63/N48 (~200km) in FOCI (Matthes et al., 2020). Our choices thus fall on three different
344 horizontal resolutions: a low-resolution (Tco95, ~100 km), a medium-resolution (Tco199, ~50 km), and a high
345 resolution (Tco399, ~25 km). The Tco95 grid is the lowest acceptable resolution since the supported lower-
346 resolution grids, e.g., Tl95/N48 and Tq42/F32, are either similar to Tq63 in ECHAM6 or coarser. The Tco399
347 grid was chosen as an upper limit of what is computationally feasible for AMIP integrations and century-long
348 coupled integrations given our computer resources.”

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350
351 - p. 2 line 38 correct "have been widely used"
352 [It is fixed now.](#)

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354 - p. 2 line 41 correct "which lead to"
355 [It is fixed now.](#)

356
357 - p. 2 line 60 correct "while increasing from"
358 [It is fixed now.](#)

359
360 - p. 2 line 63 correct "when increasing from"
361 [It is fixed now.](#)

362
363 - p. 2 line 66 correct "IFS models"
364 [It is fixed now.](#)

365
366 - p. 3 line 76 cite Döscher et al (2022) (Döscher et al., 2022)in which the timestep of various resolutions is given,
367 instead of Van Noije et al (2021).
368 [Thank you very much for noticing it, we have fixed it.](#)

369
370 - p. 4 line 103, explain which CMIP6 forcings are used ? mole fraction of CO2? authors only specify that aerosol
371 and ozone concentrations are from climatology

372
373 [We modified the sentence:](#)
374 [“The external forcing is identical to that used in the CMIP6 AMIP simulation except for the aerosol and ozone](#)
375 [concentrations”](#)

376
377 - p. 4 line 105, which scenario exactly ? SSP5-8.5 ?
378 [It is fix now.](#)

379
380 - p. 4 line 111, correct "OIFS simulation datasets"

381 It is fixed now.
382
383 - p. 4 line 130, please confirm that the Pearson's correlation is computed
384 The missing information is added.
385
386 - p. 5 line 156, authors should justify in the intro. why they did not run OIFS-HRA at 1h timestep (i.e. for numerical
387 stability) in order to evaluate if the improvements are due to resolution or timestep
388 We have not done performed time-step sensitivity experiments using OIFS-HRA configuration due to computer
389 restrictions (very expensive).
390
391 - p. 5 line 162, correct "large difference"
392 It is fixed now.
393
394 - p. 6 line 194, black lines are not visible, authors should give their values
395 We have now provided the net tendencies range in the text.
396
397 - p. 7 line 205, correct "lower stratosphere and troposphere"
398 It is fixed now.
399
400 - p. 7 line 215, is there any plausible explanation for this? predominance of ocean surface over continental ones?
401 The tendency magnitudes are stronger over the Southern Ocean than the Northern Hemisphere due to less rough
402 surface in the Southern Hemisphere.
403
404 - p. 7 line 220, There is an abrupt transition from analysis of winds to that of temperature, a proper sentence to
405 indicate this change of focus is needed.
406 We added a sentence to show the transition from wind to temperature.
407
408 - p. 7 line 224, Fig. 2b indicates there is no notable improvement in RMSE from the shortened timestep.
409 We modified this sentence as:
410 "Compared to the OIFS-LRA-1h, the SAT RMSE decreases with increased horizontal resolution (OIFS-HRA-
411 15m and OIFS-MRA-15m), and there is no notable improvement when shortened the time step (OIFS-LRA-30m
412 and OIFS-LRA-15m) (Fig. 2b)." (lines 255-257)
413
414 - p. 11 line 345, correct "accounting for most variability"
415 It is fixed now.
416
417 - p. 12 line 369, cite cite Doscher (et al 2022) instead or, or in addition to, Haarsma et al 2020
418 It is fixed now.
419