

The role of the intra-daily SST variability in the Indian monsoon variability and monsoon-ENSO–IOD relationships in a global coupled model

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1	The role of the intra-daily SST variability
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ABSTRACT

The impact of diurnal SST coupling and vertical oceanic resolution on the simulation of the Indian
 Summer Monsoon (ISM) and its relationships with El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian

26 Ocean Dipole (IOD) events are studied through the analysis of four integrations of a high resolution

27 Coupled General Circulation Model (CGCM), but with different configurations. The only differences

28 between the four integrations are the frequency of coupling between the ocean and atmosphere for the

29 Sea Surface Temperature (SST) parameter (2 vs 24 hours coupling) and/or the vertical oceanic

30 resolution (31 vs 301 levels) in the CGCM.

Although the summer mean tropical climate is reasonably well captured with all the configurations of the CGCM and is not significantly modified by changing the frequency of SST coupling from once to twelve per day, the ISM-ENSO teleconnections are rather poorly simulated in the two simulations in which SST is exchanged only once per day, independently of the vertical oceanic resolution used in the CGCM.

36 Surprisingly, when 2 hours SST coupling is implemented in the CGCM, the ISM-ENSO 37 teleconnection is better simulated, particularly, the complex lead-lag relationships between the two 38 phenomena, in which a weak ISM occurs during the developing phase of an El Niño event in the 39 Pacific, are closely resembling the observed ones. Evidence is presented to show that these 40 improvements are related to changes in the characteristics of the model's El Niño which has a more 41 realistic evolution in its developing and decaying phases, a stronger amplitude and a shift to lower 42 frequencies when a 2-hourly SST coupling strategy is implemented without any significant changes in 43 the basic state of the CGCM. As a consequence of these improvements in ENSO variability, the lead 44 relationships between Indo-Pacific SSTs and ISM rainfall resemble the observed patterns more 45 closely, the ISM-ENSO teleconnection is strengthened during boreal summer and ISM rainfall power 46 spectrum is in better agreement with observations. On the other hand, the ISM-IOD teleconnection is 47 sensitive to both SST coupling frequency and the vertical oceanic resolution, but increasing the 48 vertical oceanic resolution is degrading the ISM-IOD teleconnection in the CGCM.

49 These results highlight the need of a proper assessment of both temporal scale interactions and 50 coupling strategies in order to improve current CGCMs. These results, which must be confirmed with 51 other CGCMs, have also important implications for dynamical seasonal prediction systems or climate 52 change projections of the monsoon.

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54 Keywords: Indian summer monsoon; El Niño-Southern Oscillation; long-range predictability; ocean 55 atmosphere interactions; coupled climate model.

57 **1. Introduction**

58

59 During the months of June through September, the rainfall associated with the Indian 60 Summer Monsoon (ISM) provides the main source of fresh water for millions of people over 61 the Indian subcontinent. Predicting ISM onset and amplitude, both on the seasonal and 62 interannual time scales, is thus not only a challenging scientific issue, but also a key societal need for South Asian countries. As such, the relative role of remote and local Sea Surface 63 64 Temperature (SST) forcing in shaping ISM rainfall anomalies was investigated by many observational and modeling studies (see Webster et al., 1998; Wang, 2006 for reviews). One 65 66 main conclusion from these previous works is that a primary key to cause ISM variability at 67 the interannual time scale arise from teleconnection with the tropical Pacific Ocean and is 68 related to the El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon in the Pacific. While ENSO 69 is still regarded as one of the main factors of ISM variability, the ISM-ENSO relationship has 70 weakened during recent decades or more exactly has changed in nature for reasons which are 71 still a matter of debate (Krishna Kumar et al., 1999, 2006; Gershunov et al., 2001; Ashok et 72 al., 2001, 2004; Kinter et al., 2002; Annamalai et al., 2007; Kucharski et al., 2007, 2008; 73 Xavier et al., 2007; Boschat et al., 2011a, 2011b).

74 Connections between tropical Indian Ocean variability, especially its dominant mode of 75 variability, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), tropical Atlantic and ISM have also been noticed by many recent studies (Meehl and Arblaster, 2002; Loschnigg et al., 2003, Li et al., 2006; 76 77 Meehl et al., 2003; Ashok et al., 2001, 2004; Gadgil et al., 2005; Kucharski et al., 2007, 2008; 78 Krishnan and Swapna, 2009). Several authors (Ashok et al., 2001, 2004; Abram et al., 2008) 79 have suggested that the frequent occurrence of IOD events is the cause for the recent 80 weakening of the ISM-ENSO relationship. However, a general consensus on the influence 81 exerted by IOD or Atlantic Ocean on ISM rainfall variability has not been established so far 82 from the observations or atmospheric forced simulations. Because of the dynamically 83 interactive nature of the tropical ocean-atmosphere system and the near-global patterns of the 84 teleconnections associated with the Asian monsoon, global Coupled General Circulation 85 Models (CGCM) are instrumental in clarifying the basic mechanisms and feedbacks involved 86 in ISM variability and ISM-ENSO-IOD interactions (Lau and Nath, 2004; Fischer et al., 87 2005; Behera et al., 2006; Wu and Kirtman, 2003, 2005, 2007; Terray et al., 2007; Bracco et 88 al., 2007; Krishnan et al., 2010). Thus, improving our understanding of ISM variability will 89 require the use of state-of-the-art CGCMs that attempt to represent all the processes that may

be important and that realistically simulate IOD, ISM and ENSO phenomena, a challenging
task for current CGCMs (Spencer et al., 2005; Joseph and Nigam, 2006; Annamalai et al.,
2007; Bracco et al., 2007; Cai et al., 2009). Based on all these concerns, we need to develop
accurate global CGCMs to gain more insight into the dynamics and predictability of ISM at
both the intraseasonal, interannual and decadal time scales (Wang et al., 2005; Krishna Kumar
et al., 2005; Wu et al., 2006; Wu and Kirtman, 2007).

96 However, the inherent limitations and flaws of current state-of-the-art CGCMs mean that 97 they cannot be exclusively relied upon for seasonal forecasting or climate change sensitivity 98 studies (Turner et al., 2005; Annamalai et al., 2007; Manganello and Huang, 2009; Cai et al., 99 2009). As an illustration, skill scores of dynamical seasonal prediction systems for ISM 100 rainfall are very limited and still inferior to simple statistical models, even in the European 101 DEMETER project where multi-model ensemble was created from seven different CCGMs 102 (Palmer et al., 2004). In particular, recovering the complex ISM-ENSO teleconnections, 103 which is of paramount importance for the seasonal forecasting of ISM rainfall, remains a very 104 difficult task for recent CGCMs, as exemplified by Figure 1, which shows the lead-lag 105 relationships between ISM rainfall and Niño-3.4 SSTs in observations and as simulated by 106 several CCGMs participating in the third Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP3; 107 Meehl et al., 2007). Most of the CMIP3 CGCMs are able to recover the negative correlation 108 between the two phenomena during the monsoon season (from June to September), but the 109 most striking feature is that almost all of the CMIP3 coupled models fail to recover the 110 observed lead-lag relationships between Niño-3.4 SSTs and ISM, including the spring 111 predictability barrier, which is manifested as the transition from positive to negative 112 correlations prior to the ISM onset (Webster et al., 1998). Starting six months before ISM, the 113 correlation between Niño-3.4 SSTs and ISM rainfall is already negative in nearly all CGCMs (Fig. 1). The amplitude of this negative correlation increases until the early ISM (June and 114 115 July) and fades away very rapidly during the late ISM and the following months in the 116 coupled simulations contrary to that observed. The physical factors, which are responsible of 117 this failure of most current CGCMs, must be investigated carefully if we want to improve the 118 skill of seasonal dynamical predictions or climate change projections for the ISM (Gadgil et 119 al., 2005). Furthermore, the realistic simulation of the relationships between ISM, ENSO and 120 IOD, which are indeed responsible for the main modes of interannual variability over India 121 and the tropical Indian Ocean, represents a unique benchmark for evaluating current state-of-122 the-art CGCMs (Saji et al., 2006; Joseph and Nigam, 2006; Annamalai et al., 2007; Cai et al., 123 2009).

124 The purpose of this paper is to investigate how accurately the relationships between ISM, 125 ENSO and IOD can be simulated by different configurations of the same CGCM with a 126 special focus on the impact of upper oceanic structures with small vertical and temporal scales 127 that can influence the development of large scale coupled phenomena such as ISM, IOD and 128 ENSO through scale interactions and ocean-atmosphere coupling (Meehl et al., 2001). To do 129 so, we analyze model outputs from four long integrations of the same CGCM, but with 130 different configurations differing only by the frequency of SST coupling and the vertical 131 oceanic resolution in the CGCM. A companion paper is specifically assessing how ENSO 132 structure, periodicity and feedbacks are modified in the different configurations of the same 133 CGCM (Masson et al., 2011).

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we will describe the CGCM, the experimental design for the different configurations of the CGCM, the datasets and the statistical tools used. Section 3 will look at the mean boreal summer climate as simulated by the different configurations of the CGCM, noting any significant differences between them. The changes in ENSO and IOD variability are documented in Section 4. The ISM interannual variability and the ISM-ENSO-IOD relationships as simulated in the different experiments are analyzed in Section 5. Conclusions follow in Section 6.

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142 **2.** Model, experimental set up, datasets and statistical tools

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144 (a) The SINTEX-F2 high-resolution coupled model

145

146 The CGCM used in this study belongs to the family of SINTEX models (Guilyardi et al., 147 2003; Gualdi et al., 2003; Luo et al., 2003). It is an upgraded version of SINTEX-F1 CGCM 148 (Luo et al., 2003; Luo et al. 2005). A new version has been developed (SINTEX-F2 149 hereafter). Its oceanic component is NEMO (http://www.nemo-ocean.eu; Madec, 2008; 150 Madec et al., 1998) including LIM2 (Timmermann et al., 2005) for the sea-ice model. We use 151 the configuration known as "ORCA05" which is a tri-polar global grid with a resolution of 152 0.5° by 0.5°cos(latitude). Vertical resolution (31 or 301 levels depending on the 153 configurations, see below) and mixing are similar to Molines et al. (2006). The atmospheric 154 component consists of ECHAM5.3 (Roeckner et al., 2003, 2004) with a T106 horizontal resolution and 31 hybrid sigma-pressure levels. A mass flux scheme (Tiedtke, 1989) is 155 156 applied for cumulus convection with modifications for penetrative convection according to 157 Nordeng (1994). The coupling information, without any flux correction, is exchanged every

two hours (24 hours for the SST parameter in the 24h31 and 24h301 configurations described
below) by means of the OASIS 3 coupler (Valcke, 2006). See Masson et al. (2011) for more
details.

161

162 (b) *Experimental set up*

163

164 Several previous studies have highlighted the potential role of the diurnal cycle on the mean state, intraseasonal and interannual variabilities of the Indo-Pacific climate through 165 166 nonlinear scale interactions (Slingo et al., 2003; Danabasoglu et al., 2006; Bernie et al., 2007, 167 2008; Kawai and Wada, 2007; Ham et al., 2010). Motivated by these evidences, four long 168 integrations of the updated SINTEX-F2 CGCM have been realized using different modeling 169 strategies with a special focus on the impact of diurnal SST coupling and vertical oceanic 170 resolution on ENSO, IOD and ISM. Table 1 summarizes the numerical experiments 171 performed and their main characteristics. As seen in Table 1, all the configurations share the 172 same atmospheric component at T106L31 resolution and differ only by the SST coupling 173 frequency (2 hours vs 24 hours) and/or the vertical oceanic resolution in the high-resolution 174 CGCM (31 vs 301 levels). Thus, it is important to keep in mind that the coupling frequency 175 for all other parameters than the SST remains to be 2 hours (see Table 1). No flux correction 176 was applied, and the CGCM does not exhibit significant climate drift in the four long-term 177 simulations used here (not shown). In all the following analyses, the first 10 years of the 178 simulations have been excluded in order to minimize the biases due to the spin-up of the 179 CGCM.

180 The pathways by which the diurnal cycle may impact longer time scales may be classified 181 in two categories (i) the atmospheric contribution represented by the role of the solar cycle in 182 the air-sea coupling (Danabasoglu et al., 2006; Ham et al., 2010), and (ii) the oceanic 183 contribution, which corresponds to the response of the coupled system to the SST diurnal 184 cycle and high frequency variability (Slingo et al., 2003; Bernie et al., 2007, 2008). Our main 185 focus here is to detail the response of the interannual variability of the coupled system to the 186 SST diurnal and high frequency variability (e.g. oceanic contribution) since this question has not been investigated in the previous studies (Slingo et al., 2003; Bernie et al., 2007, 2008). 187 188 Hence, the four experiments summarized in Table 1 were specifically designed to 189 discriminate the impact of the SST diurnal and high frequency variability from the solar cycle 190 response of the climate system. In this respect, it is worth noting that the experimental set up 191 used here is slightly different from those reported in Danabasoglu et al. (2006) or Ham et al.

(2010) in which twin coupled experiments using 1-day vs diurnal air-sea coupling frequency
for all the parameters (and not only the SST) are compared. With diurnal coupling frequency
for all the air-sea fluxes it is not possible to differentiate the relative role of the SST high
frequency variability from the solar cycle response.

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197 (c) Datasets and statistical tools

198

Various datasets have been used to evaluate the model's performance and to provide a comprehensive description of ISM variability and its links with ENSO and IOD in the different configurations.

202 Monthly-mean winds are from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction/National 203 Center for Atmospheric Research reanalysis (NCEP/NCAR, Kalnay et al. 1996). The period 204 from 1979 to 2008 has been used to compute the wind climatology. Since precipitation is 205 regarded as one of the least reliable fields from reanalyses, we use the 1979–2008 monthly 206 mean data from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Merged Analysis of Precipitation for the 207 observed rainfall (CMAP, Xie and Arkin 1997). However, to study ISM variability and its 208 teleconnections with ENSO and IOD on longer periods comparable to the length of the four 209 integrations of the coupled model, the classical All-India-Rainfall (AIR) dataset, based on 210 rain-gauge data, has also been considered (Parthasarathy et al., 1994). The SST dataset 211 selected for the study is the Hadley Centre Sea Ice and sea surface temperature dataset 212 (HadISST1.1) developed by Rayner et al. (2003). The surface heat fluxes analyzed here are 213 derived from products of the objectively analyzed air-sea fluxes (OAFlux) for the Global 214 Oceans project (Yu et al., 2008) and are obtained from the Woods Hole Oceanographic 215 Institute through ftp://ftp.whoi.edu/pub/science/oaflux/data. Finally, the Simple Ocean Data 216 Assimilation (SODA) version 2.0.2 (Carton et al. 2005) is used for diagnosing the 217 thermocline depth in the eastern Indian Ocean in Section 3. SODA 2.0.2 covers the period 218 from 1958 to 2001.

The statistical tools used here include mainly spectral analysis based on a Fast Fourier Transform algorithm (Welsch, 1967) and a large battery of statistical tests to detect statistical significant differences in power density between two frequencies or two ranges of frequencies in different power spectra. For the sake of brevity, details about these statistical tests are not given here and the interested reader is referred to Masson et al. (2011). Standard correlation analysis has also been used to assess the ISM-ENSO-IOD relationships and the space-time evolution of Indo-Pacific SSTs associated with ENSO in Section 5. The statistical significance levels for the correlation coefficients have been estimated using the phasescrambling bootstrap test proposed by Ebisuzaki (1997) with 999 samples. This statistical test takes directly into account the autocorrelation characteristics of the time series for assessing the confidence level of the correlations.

230

3. The coupled GCM boreal summer mean climate

232

The overall performance of SINTEX-F2 has already been examined in Masson et al. (2011) and is thus not repeated here. Instead, we will mainly focus in this section on salient features of the simulated tropical climate that will be relevant to interpret the results reported in the next sections and, more particularly, on the significant differences, if any, between the basic state of the monsoon and the tropical Indian Ocean in the different configurations.

- 238
- (a) Boreal summer mean state
- 240

The observed boreal summer (i.e., during June to September - JJAS) mean climatologies and differences with the four configurations for SST, precipitation and 850 hPa wind are shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

244 SST biases have a longitudinal distribution with a warm bias in the tropics and a cold bias at mid-latitudes (Fig. 2). Note that contrary to many coupled models (Reichler and Kim, 245 246 2008), SINTEX-F2 does show only a weak "cold tongue" bias in the equatorial Pacific, 247 especially if the vertical oceanic resolution is increased (see Figs. 2d, e). However, the 248 tropical warm bias remains too strong and is more pronounced to the north of the equator and 249 in the upwelling regions of the three oceanic basins during boreal summer. Poor 250 representation of coastal regions and upwelling processes in coarse ocean model and a lack of 251 proper simulation of air-sea interactions are plausible causes for these large SST biases in the 252 western Indian, eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Note, however, that increasing the 253 vertical oceanic resolution (e.g. the 2h301 and 24h301) does not reduce the warm bias in the 254 upwelling regions (see Figs. 2d, e).

255 Over the Indian Ocean, the CGCM shows an overall overestimation of the SST 256 climatology in the western Indian Ocean, excepted in a narrow band along the Somali and 257 Arabian coasts which is affected by a cold bias of -1/2°C in the four simulations. The warm

(cold) bias of the western (eastern) Indian Ocean leads also to an erroneous weak or even
reversed equatorial SST gradient over the Indian Ocean (see Fig. 5). Furthermore, this bias is
slightly enhanced with increased oceanic resolution.

261 The coupled simulation of Indo-Pacific rainfall climatology has been proven to be a rather 262 difficult test for current CGCMs (Wang, 2006). However, in all the configurations, SINTEX-263 F2 reproduces a reasonable precipitation pattern during boreal summer (Fig. 3). As an 264 illustration, the CGCM simulates the maximum rainfall with more intensity to the north of the 265 equator and the large-scale spatial features associated with the Inter Tropical Convergence 266 Zone (ITCZ) band across the tropical Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans. For comparison, we 267 have also computed the differences between CMAP and Global Precipitation Climatology 268 Project (GPCP) analyses for the same base period (Fig. 3d). The rainfall amounts over the 269 ocean are systematically lower (about 15% lower) in the GPCP dataset (as already discussed 270 in Annamalai et al. (2007), these differences may be due to the fact that the GPCP data were 271 not tied as closely to atoll gauge estimates as CMAP data). Interestingly, in many regions, the 272 model's biases are of the same order of magnitude than the differences between GPCP and 273 CMAP datasets. However, as seen in Figure 3, there exists a tendency to a slight northward 274 shift of the ITCZ in all versions of the CGCM during boreal summer, even though this 275 systematic error is largely reduced if the GPCP dataset is used in the comparison (not shown). 276 In the western Pacific, 2h301 and 24h301 develop less precipitation than 2h31 and 24h31, 277 respectively, a feature consistent with the reduced "cold tongue" bias and zonal SST gradient 278 across the Pacific in the 2h301 and 24h301 configurations (Figs. 2 and 3).

279 Focusing now more specifically on the regional features associated with the ISM, we 280 observe that the CGCM fails to simulate the heavy rainfall band over the south equatorial 281 Indian Ocean, which is one of the important heat source for ISM rainfall variability 282 (Annamalai and Liu, 2005; Annamalai and Sperber, 2005; Goswami et al., 2006; Terray et al., 283 2007). Furthermore, all the configurations overestimate precipitation over the Indian Ocean, 284 north of the equator, while the Indian subcontinent is dryer than observed. These enhanced 285 rainfall in the western and central equatorial Indian Ocean and deficient rainfall over the 286 Western Ghats are well-known biases of the ECHAM atmospheric model (Roeckner et al., 287 1996) and are also found in previous versions of the SINTEX model (Terray et al., 2005b; 288 Cherchi et al., 2007). A possible explanation for this incorrect location of the ITCZ is that 289 SINTEX does not reproduce the correct pole-to-equator gradient in the Indian sector. 290 Unrealistic heavy rainfall over the northeastern part of the Indian subcontinent and the 291 Tibetan plateau is also seen in all configurations. This last problem may be related to model

precipitation parameterization or the representation of the orography and is also a common
bias of many current CGCMs (see Fig. 1 of Annamalai et al., 2007).

294 Over the tropical Indo-Pacific regions, the main features of the 850 hPa wind are 295 reasonably well captured by SINTEX-F2 (Fig. 4). Consistent with the reduced "cold tongue" 296 bias, the easterly trade winds are not too strong over the equatorial central Pacific. The 297 SINTEX-F2 model is also able to capture the major features of monsoon circulation, such as 298 the strong low-level jet from the Arabian Sea into South Asia and the southeasterly trade 299 winds in the south tropical Indian Ocean. The differences between NCEP and SINTEX-F2 300 850 hPa wind climatologies clearly show that the most important and robust systematic error 301 in the Indian region is the existence of an anomalous cyclonic cell over the equatorial western 302 and central Indian Ocean (Fig. 4). This cyclonic low-level circulation is consistent with the 303 rainfall biases discussed above. In all the configurations, the cross-equatorial component of 304 the flow extends too far eastward rather than being confined along the African coast. 305 Moreover, these strong winds increase evaporation over the eastern Indian Ocean, which in 306 turn may help maintain the erroneous SST gradient between the South-East Indian Ocean 307 (SEIO) and the western Indian Ocean (see Fig. 5f).

308 However, a known systematic error of the SINTEX model, which is probably the main 309 factor responsible for the SST biases in the eastern Indian Ocean, is the tendency to have a 310 shallow (deeper) thermocline in the eastern Indian Ocean during boreal summer and fall 311 (winter and spring). The thermocline-surface coupling is thus amplified in the annual cycle 312 with deeper and cooler water easily upwelled at the surface during boreal summer and fall, 313 cooling drastically the SEIO SSTs (Figs. 2 and 5; see also Fischer et al., 2005). In other 314 words, it is clear that the low-level wind, SST and precipitation errors in the eastern equatorial 315 Indian Ocean are intimately linked together. A warm bias, which is constant throughout the 316 annual cycle, is also found in the western Indian Ocean (Fig. 5a). This warm bias seems to be 317 the main factor responsible for the erroneous SST gradient over the equatorial Indian Ocean 318 during boreal summer (see Fig. 2). All these coupled errors are also seen when the vertical 319 oceanic resolution is increased (e.g. 2h301 and 24h301).

320

321 (b) *Climatological seasonal cycle in the Indian areas*

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The ISM and IOD are both strongly phase-locked to the annual cycle, so to simulate both phenomena accurately the CGCM must recover certain aspects of the seasonal cycle. 325

326 To look at the timing and extent of the monsoon in each of the configurations, Figure 6 327 shows the annual cycle of simulated and observed ISM rainfall indices. The ISM rainfall indices are defined as the area-averaged precipitation over all land grid-points in the domain 328 329 65°-95°E, 8°-35°N (CMAP is used for the observations). The model simulates a reasonable 330 rainfall annual cycle in the Indian areas with a summer precipitation maximum as in observed 331 climate. All the configurations underestimate the rainfall intensity during the monsoon season 332 consistent with the results of Figs. 3b-f. Another robust feature is that the magnitude of 333 simulated rainfall during the JJAS period is also more in 2h31 and 24h31 than in 2h301 and 334 24h301 configurations and are in better agreement with the observational estimates. Similar 335 results are obtained if an Indian monsoon dynamical index is used instead of a rainfall time 336 series in the analysis (not shown) or if the rainfall indices are defined as the area-averaged 337 over all land-ocean or ocean only grid-points (see Table 3).

338 Further information on the seasonal cycle in the Indian areas is obtained by plotting 339 monthly SST means for the boxes used to compute the traditional IOD index as defined by 340 Saji et al. (1999). In the observations, the zonal SST gradient over the equatorial Indian Ocean 341 is negative throughout all the year, excepted in April during the transition between the winter and summer monsoons (Fig. 5c). All the configurations are able to recover the shape of the 342 343 seasonal cycle of the Indian Ocean zonal SST gradient, but are affected by a strong positive 344 bias, which amplifies during late boreal summer and fall. Therefore, the simulated 345 climatological SST gradient is reversed compared to the observations. Moreover, this positive 346 bias is stronger when the vertical oceanic resolution is increased (e.g. 2h301 and 24h301). 347 This systematic error in the zonal SST gradient is due, on one hand, to a constant warm bias 348 in the western Indian Ocean throughout the seasonal cycle (see Fig. 5a) and, on the other 349 hand, to a cold bias in the eastern tropical Indian Ocean related to a shallower than observed 350 equatorial thermocline and increased evaporation during boreal summer and fall (see Fig. 5b). 351 The impact of the reversed SST zonal gradient on the IOD variability simulated by the 352 CGCM will be investigated in the next section.

353

354 (c) Configurations differences

355

The statistical significance of the differences among the boreal summer climatology in the different experiments was estimated through a permutation test with 9999 shuffles (see Terray

et al. 2003 for more details) and one main conclusion of these computations is that none of the differences between 2h31 (2h301) and 24h31 (24h301) SST, rainfall and surface wind climatologies are statistically significant at the 90% confidence level according to this permutation test (not shown). The comparison between the simulated climatologies has been further extended to other quantities such as ocean temperature and winds at different levels. Overall, all diagnostics confirm that the modification of the SST coupling frequency does not substantially alter the CGCM climatology.

365 On the other hand, the use of an increased vertical oceanic resolution does change 366 significantly the modeled SST, rainfall and 850 hPa wind climatologies in the Pacific, as 367 illustrated in Figure 7 for 2h31 vs 2h301. Zonal SST gradient and the surface branch of the 368 Walker circulation along the equatorial Pacific are strengthened in 2h31 (24h31) compared to 369 2h301 (24h301). Consistently, the equatorial thermocline depth deepens in the western Pacific 370 and shoals in the eastern Pacific in 2h31 when compared to 2h301 (not shown). These 371 features explain why rainfall is increased over the western Pacific and the Maritime Continent 372 in 2h31 (24h31) in comparison to 2h301 (24h301) (Fig. 7b). Over the Indian sector, rainfall 373 average over India and the surface wind shear associated with the monsoon trough (over the 374 Indian subcontinent) are also increased in 2h31 (24h31) compared to 2h301 (24h301). Thus, 375 2h31 and 24h31 feature several indicators of significant differences toward a stronger 376 monsoon in its mean summer climate, which are in agreement with the enhanced Pacific trade 377 winds and Walker circulation. So, SINTEX-F2 exhibit some systematic differences when the 378 vertical oceanic resolution is increased, which may impact on the simulation of the ISM-379 ENSO-IOD relationships and this will be investigated in the following section.

Surprisingly, the significant differences, which emerge between 2h31 (24h31) and 2h301 (24h301), also imply that, in many regions, the climatology's biases of the coupled model are not necessarily reduced when the vertical oceanic resolution is increased.

383

384 **4. ENSO and IOD variability**

385

386 Prior to analyzing the ENSO-ISM and IOD-ISM relationships, we need to discuss the387 statistical properties of ENSO and IOD in the different simulations.

388

389 (a) *Amplitude*

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391 Standard-deviations of Niño-34 and IOD related bi-monthly (eg season of two months) 392 SST time series estimated from the four runs and the observations are shown in Table 2. 2h31 393 and 24h31 configurations have slightly larger Niño-3.4 SST variability than observed while 394 2h301 and 24h301 have slightly lower ENSO signal. This is consistent with the changes in 395 the mean state documented in Section 3, particularly, the strengthened Walker circulation and 396 the related modifications of SST gradient and thermocline depth in the equatorial Pacific in 397 2h31 and 24h31 configurations (e.g. when the vertical oceanic resolution is decreased). This 398 also suggests a plausible explanation for the increased Niño-3.4 SST variability in 2h31 and 399 24h31: the rise of the thermocline in the east found in 2h31 and 24h31 allows equatorial 400 upwelling to tap into sub-thermocline waters more easily for a given wind anomaly.

The standard deviation of the IOD index is much stronger in the four configurations than in observations (see Table 2). It is also noticed that the eastern node of IOD (EIOD hereafter) has greater interannual SST variability than the western node of IOD (WIOD hereafter) in all the configurations, consistent with observations. However, the SST variability of EIOD is also largely overemphasized compared to the observations as expected from the model biases described in Section 3. The 2h31 and 24h31 runs also produce stronger interannual SST variability in the equatorial Indian Ocean than 2h301 and 24h301, respectively (see Table 2).

408

Interestingly, the ENSO SST signal is also strengthened when 2-hourly SST coupling is
implemented instead of 1-day SST coupling and this result seems robust since it is verified for
both 31 and 301 vertical levels configurations of the CGCM (see Table 2).

412

413 (b) Seasonal phase-locking

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Numerous studies have pointed out that the amplitude of ENSO and IOD cycles are strongly phase-locked with the seasonal cycle (Chang et al., 2006). A good indicator of such seasonal dependence is the monthly standard deviations of our Niño-3.4 and IOD indices (Fig. 8). We have also plotted in this figure the monthly standard deviations of various important indices for the evolution of the IOD such as the latent heat flux over EIOD and the depth of the 20°C isotherm in the eastern equatorial indian Ocean (Spencer et al., 2005).

421

The observations indicate significant phase-locking of Niño-3.4 SST variability to the annual cycle, with weakest variability in April, and strongest in December-January (Fig. 8a). These well-known results suggest that the transition periods between the opposite phases of the ENSO cycle occurred in northern spring. 2h31 and 2h301 configurations capture reasonably well the observed phase of ENSO, peaking in boreal winter. However, there is also a tendency of the CGCM to produce a second peak of ENSO variability, during the early boreal summer, which is not seen in the observations (Fig. 8a). As we will demonstrate later, this bias is particularly detrimental to the simulation of the ISM-ENSO lead-lag relationships in 24h31 and 24h301 configurations.

431

432 The monthly standard deviations of IOD and EIOD SST time series rise between May and 433 October when dipole events occurred and fall afterward in both observations and the different 434 simulations (Figs. 8b, d). However, IOD standard deviation in all months is much higher in 435 the CGCM and is mostly driven by the EIOD SST variability. The worst results are obtained 436 with the low vertical oceanic resolution, but also when 2-hourly SST coupling is implemented 437 (e.g. 2h31 and 2h301 configurations). Most of these changes in EIOD SST variability may be 438 related to the strength of the wind-evaporation-SST and wind-thermocline-SST feedbacks in 439 the eastern Indian Ocean (Li et al., 2003; Spencer et al., 2005; Fischer et al., 2005).

440 The maximum of interannual variability of latent heat flux or thermocline depth in the eastern Indian Ocean is also anchored in the seasonal cycle; for the latent heat flux over EIOD 441 442 it is in the late boreal summer (August-September) and for the thermocline depth it arrives a 443 few months later in November (Figs. 8e-g). First, the differences between the model 444 configurations are far smaller than the errors relative to the observations. As an illustration, 445 the simulated latent heat flux variability is largely overemphasized in EIOD, but without any 446 clear differences with respect to the vertical oceanic resolution or the SST coupling frequency 447 (Fig. 8f).

448 Despite the large errors in the climatological thermocline depth (see Figs. 5d, e), the 449 seasonal cycle of thermocline depth variability in the equatorial eastern Indian Ocean (and off 450 Sumatra) is reproduced quite well in 2h31 and 2h301 configurations (e.g. when 2-hourly SST 451 coupling is used) with a maximum occuring in October-November, while 24h31 and 24h301 452 configurations have a tendancy toward a much weaker thermocline variability, especially over 453 the equatorial eastern Indian Ocean (Figs. 8e, f). This may explain why 2h31 and 2h301 have 454 a higher EIOD SST variability than 24h31 and 24h301, respectively, during boreal fall 455 through the Bjerknes-type positive feedback (Fig. 8d). The differences in SST variability over 456 the eastern Indian Ocean between the twin experiments with increased oceanic resolution (e.g. 457 2h31-2h301 and 24h31-24h301) may be also related to changes in thermocline variability 458 over the eastern Indian Ocean, especially off Sumatra (Fig. 8f).

All these features are consistent with the results of Fischer et al. (2005) who show that the wind-thermocline-SST positive feedback is an important dynamical mechanism at work in IOD growth in the SINTEX model. However, since the thermocline standard-deviation in the eastern equatorial Indian Ocean and off Sumatra is underestimated in the model, but the SST and latent heat flux standard-deviations are both overestimated, the wind-evaporation-SST feedback is probably also playing a key role in the simulated EIOD SST variability (Figs. 8dg).

466

467 (c) *Frequency*

468

469 Figure 9 shows the power spectra of Niño-3.4 SST and IOD time series from the model 470 experiments and the observations. Focusing first on the Niño-3.4 SST time series, 471 observations show a quite broad frequency peak between 3 and 5 yr. The 2h31 and 2h301 472 spectra are also significantly and strongly peaked at time scales around 4-5 years, while there 473 is a broader distribution of power across a range of frequencies both in 24h31 and 24h301. 474 Interestingly, the power spectra for 24h31 and 24h301 are near, or outside, the 99% 475 confidence interval of the observed Niño-3.4 SSTs power spectrum for frequencies 476 corresponding to the interannual time scale. Furthermore, 24h31 and 24h301 configurations 477 also miss the observed ratio between the energies associated with the annual cycle and the 478 interannual time scale which are thought to be important for a proper simulation of observed 479 ENSO variability (not shown; Guilyardi, 2006). In this respect, 2h31 and 2h301 spectra have 480 a highly realistic shape and dominant frequency, suggesting that the SST coupling frequency 481 plays an important role in making the ENSO signal in SINTEX-F2. On the other hand, 482 increasing the vertical oceanic resolution has only modest effects on spectral signature of the 483 simulated Niño-3.4 SSTs compared to the modifications induced by the 2-hourly SST 484 coupling.

485

Looking now to the IOD peridodicity, observations suggests two main modes of variability, e.g. the 4-7 years and biennial time scales. Consistent with the higher IOD standard-deviations in 2h31 and 24h31 (see Fig. 8b), the 2h31 and 24h31 spectra are above the upper 99% confidence limit estimated from the observations for frequencies in the interannual range; however both are also able to reproduce the overall shape of the observed spectrum. However, the diurnal SST coupling frequency has an impact in the simulated IOD spectrum if we look at the high oceanic vertical resolution runs: the power between the two

493 preferred bands of IOD variability has been reduced whilst it is increased in each band for494 2h301 compared to 24h301 (see Fig. 9d).

495

496 To further demonstrate the statistically significant effect of the diurnal SST coupling on 497 ENSO spectral characteristics, the log-ratios of power spectra for all the monthly SST time 498 series in the Indo-Pacific regions as simulated in the 2h31-24h31 and 2h301-24h301 499 experiments have been computed. These log-ratios have been squared and summed over the 500 range of frequencies corresponding to the interannual time scales (periods between 14 and 72 501 months) and the statistical significance of these sums has been tested against a Chi2 502 distribution (Fig. 10). More details on this Chi2 statistic and how to detect statistically 503 significant differences between two power spectra are given in Diggle (1990). Consistent with 504 our interpretation of the Niño-34 SST spectra, the power spectra of SST time series as simulated by 2h31 and 2h301 are significantly different from those derived from 24h31 and 505 506 24h301, respectively, over large portions of the eastern and central Pacific and also in many 507 regions which are known to be largely influenced by ENSO through remote teleconnections 508 (e.g. the North and South Pacific, the South Indian Ocean, Alexander et al., 2002), confirming 509 that all the differences suggested above are robust and may affect remote regions through 510 atmospheric or oceanic pathways.

511

512 In summary, the amplitude of ENSO and IOD signals is decreased when the vertical 513 oceanic resolution is increased (e.g. in 2h301 and 24h301), probably through the changes of 514 the mean state documented in Section 3. The strength, frequency, and phase locking to the 515 annual cycle of El Niño are more realistic in the 2h31 and 2h301 configurations (e.g. with 2-516 hourly SST coupling) than in the 24h31 and 24h301 configurations (e.g. with 1-day SST 517 coupling). Moreover, the seasonal phase-locking of eastern Indian Ocean SST or z20 518 variability is also improved with 2-hourly SST coupling, independently of the vertical oceanic 519 resolution used in the runs. We will now examine the possible impacts of these changes on 520 ISM and the ISM-ENSO-IOD relationships.

521

522 **5. ISM variability and ISM-ENSO-IOD relationships**

523

Numerous studies have pointed out the important role that ENSO and IOD play in regulating ISM interannual variability and investigated the physical processes at the base of the ISM-ENSO and ISM-IOD relationships using climate models (Ju and Slingo, 1995; 527 Ashok et al., 2004; Lau and Nath, 2004; Turner et al., 2005; Saji et al., 2006; Cherchi et al., 528 2007; Terray et al., 2007; Bracco et al., 2007; Annamalai et al., 2007; Cai et al., 2009; 529 Krishnan et al., 2010). Yet, the difficulties associated with the coupled modeling of the 530 observed signal have received relatively less attention in the literature (Wu and Kirtman, 531 2005; Spencer et al., 2005; Turner et al., 2005; Terray et al., 2005b; Bracco et al., 2007). A 532 key issue is then to quantify to what extent the significant differences between the simulated 533 mean state when the oceanic resolution is increased (i.e. 2h301 and 24h301 configurations) or 534 the significant changes in ENSO characteristics when 2-hourly SST coupling is implemented 535 (i.e. 2h31 and 2h301 configurations) may improve the coupled simulation of ISM variability 536 and ISM-ENSO relationships in SINTEX (Terray et al., 2005b; Cherchi et al., 2007).

537

538 (a) *ISM interannual variability*

539

540 As a first measure of ISM variability in the different configurations, we define ISM rainfall 541 indices as the area-average of June to September (JJAS) rainfall anomalies over land, ocean 542 or land-ocean in the region 8°-35°N and 65°-95°E. The mean and standard-deviation of the 543 various ISM rainfall time series are compared with the observations in Table 3. 2h31 544 configuration is displaying both the higher mean rainfall and stronger variability. However, 545 no obvious systematic changes on rainfall variability are apparent when contrasting the configurations with a modification of the vertical oceanic resolution or SST coupling 546 547 frequency. Overall, the variability of area-averaged ISM rainfall indices in the configurations 548 compares well with observations despite of the significant systematic errors in the mean state 549 described above.

550 To elucidate the temporal time scales involved in ISM rainfall variability, Figure 11 shows 551 the power spectra of ISM rainfall (over land) and normalized Niño-34 SST time series during 552 boreal summer (JJAS average) in observations and the different configurations. Interestingly, 553 the observed ISM rainfall time series is not basically biennial as it is assumed by many 554 studies (Yasunari, 1990; Meehl and Arblaster, 2002; Meehl et al., 2003), but rather exhibits a 555 quasi-triennial oscillation as many monsoon indicators (Bhalme and Jadhav, 1984). Focusing 556 now on the model's experiments, the results highlight that the dominant time scales of the 557 ISM rainfall indices have varied considerably and significantly between the 2h31 (2h301) and 558 24h31 (24h301) configurations. The ISM rainfall spectrum in 2h31 and 2h301 configurations 559 is strongly peaked at timescales between 2 and 6 years as the ENSO indices during boreal 560 summer. On the other hand, the ISM rainfall power spectrum in 24h31 or 24h301

561 configurations shows much decreased power across this range of frequencies and exhibits 562 more energy at very long periods. Moreover, the ISM rainfall power spectra of 2h31 and 563 2h301 are in reasonable and better agreement with the one estimated from the observations. 564 The log spectral ratios of ISM rainfall time series in the twin experiments 2h31-24h31 and 565 2h301-24h301 confirm the significant impact of 2-hourly SST coupling on the periodicity and 566 regularity of ISM rainfall indices (Figs. 11b, d). Furthermore, the corresponding results for 567 summer Niño-34 SSTs suggest that the improvements in ISM rainfall spectra simulated by the 568 2h31 and 2h301 configurations are linked to the fact that both versions of SINTEX-F2 perform better in their representation of ENSO and its spectral signature when compared with 569 570 the 24h31 and 24h301 configurations (Figs. 11.e-h).

- 571
- 572

2. (b) ENSO-ISM relationships

573

In order to corroborate this hypothesis, we now test the ability of SINTEX-F2 to reproduce the observed relationships between ISM and ENSO by computing the lead-lag correlations between the ISM rainfall (land-average over JJAS) and Niño-3.4 SST time series for all the configurations and observations (AIR index is used) in a three years window from the beginning of year -1 to the end of year +1, the year 0 referring to the year of the ISM season (Fig. 12a).

580 The strong and significant negative correlation between ISM rainfall and SSTs over 581 eastern and central Pacific during boreal summer of year 0 implies that warmer (cooler) SSTs 582 over these regions will suppress (enhance) monsoon rainfall over India, a well-known 583 relationship (e.g. Webster et al., 1998; Wang et al., 2001). All the configurations of SINTEX-584 F2 are able to reproduce this negative correlation between ISM rainfall and SSTs over eastern 585 and central Pacific during boreal summer (Fig. 12a). Consistent with the increased standard 586 deviation of Niño-3.4 SSTs (see Table 3) and the more energetic ENSO during boreal 587 summer when diurnal SST coupling is implemented (see Figs. 11.e-h), the magnitude of the 588 synchronous ISM-ENSO correlations is better simulated in the 2h31 and 2h301 589 configurations than in 24h31 and 24h301 experiments, respectively. Moreover, in the case of 590 24h31 and 24h301 configurations, the maximum negative correlation is just before the ISM 591 onset in May-June and the timing of the teleconnection is thus incorrect.

As can be clearly verified from Fig. 12a, the negative correlation between Niño-3.4 SSTs and ISM rainfall occur only after boreal spring and the highest negative correlations are noted during the late ISM and the following months. Surprisingly, the correspondence between the 595 model and the observations, as far as the ISM-Niño-3.4 SSTs lead-lag relationship is 596 concerned, is overall, very good and significantly improved only when 2-hourly SST coupling 597 is implemented (i.e. 2h31 and 2h301 configurations). Both in 2h31 and 2h301, the maximum 598 negative correlations for zero or slightly positive lags (i.e. for the ISM rainfall leading the 599 Niño-3.4 time series) are much better captured. This result suggests that the model's ENSO in 600 its development stage remotely influences the ISM dynamics and leads to a substantial 601 reduction of ISM rainfall as in observations. Furthermore, the 2h31 configuration is also able 602 to recover the seasonal modulation of the monsoon-ENSO relationship with the rapid change 603 of sign of the correlations from positive to negative from year -1 to year 0 as observed. On the 604 other hand, both the 24h31 and 24h301 configurations share the same deficiencies as the other 605 CMIP3 coupled models exemplified in Fig.1, fail to reproduce the "spring predictability 606 barrier" of ENSO (Webster and Yang, 1992) and show significant negative correlations with 607 the Niño-3.4 SSTs before rather than synchronous and after the ISM. This common spurious 608 ENSO influence on ISM variability may be plausibly attributed to an incorrect phase-locking 609 of the model's ENSO to the annual cycle as we will demonstrate below (i.e. anomalous 610 persistence of the model's ENSO events during spring or too early onset of the events before 611 boreal spring).

612

613 We verified the independence of the preceding results on the observed dataset used and 614 choice of the ISM rainfall index by duplicating the correlation analyses of Fig. 12a, but with 615 the CMAP dataset and the ISM rainfall indices computed as land, ocean and land-averages 616 both from the observations and the different configurations of SINTEX-F2 (not shown). The 617 main results are analogous to what was previously described in the sense that the 2h31 and 618 2h301 configurations are more realistically simulating the ISM rainfall variability and its 619 relationship with ENSO, including the asymmetry in the lead-lag correlations and the spring 620 predictability barrier, while the two other configurations with 1-day SST coupling do not 621 capture the overall shape of the observed seasonal modulation of the ISM-ENSO relationship 622 and, especially, the spring barrier.

The property to capture the seasonal evolution of the correlations between monthly Niño-34 SSTs and ISM rainfall is plausibly related to the ability of the 2h31 and 2h301 configurations to simulate correctly the space-time evolution of the SST anomalies and associated diabatic heating anomalies during El Niño events (Turner et al., 2005; Annamalai et al., 2007). Thus, we now focus on the SST patterns associated with Niño-3.4 SST time

series (Figures 13, 14 and 15) For the sake of brevity we show these diagnostics from only
two of the four model's configurations, but a similar correlation analysis has been
undertaken for the 2h301 and 24h301 configurations and we will also note any differences
between these runs and the twin experiments 2h31 and 24h31.

632 The correspondence between 2h31 (2h301) and the observations is striking during the 633 development stage of El Niño events. First, the observed correlation patterns before the El 634 Niño onset suggests the importance of extratropical latitudes, with possible precursory SST 635 signals stemming from the North Pacific and South Indian regions during February-March 636 (Terray et al., 2005a; Terray and Dominak, 2005; Terray et al., 2007; Vimont et al., 2003, 2009; Alexander et al., 2010). Interestingly, 2h31 is able to recover more precisely than 637 638 24h31, the SST precursory pattern found in the North Pacific region, which takes the form of 639 a warm C-shaped 'footprint' during AM both in observations and 2h31, consistent with 640 Vimont's "seasonal footprinting mechanism" (Vimont et al., 2003).

641 A clear ENSO signal is depicted with an eastward propagation of warm anomalies from 642 the west equatorial Pacific to the central and eastern Pacific from April-May to August-643 September in both observations and the simulations. This eastward propagating SST signal is 644 characteristic of the observed ENSO evolution only after the so-called 1976/77 climate shift 645 (Wang, 1995; Trenberth and Stepaniak, 2001; Terray et Dominak, 2005; Guilyardi, 2006), but 646 it is dominating the correlation patterns when the computations are undertaken on the full 647 1950-2005 period. During the peak phase of ENSO, the tongue of positive correlations 648 extends too far west in the simulations, a bias also shared by many current CGCMs 649 (AchutaRao and Sperber, 2002, 2006). Moreover, this tongue of positive correlations is too 650 meridionally confined and the negative correlations forming the two branches of the 651 traditional horseshoe pattern are also split and much less intense in 24h31 (24h301) than in 652 the observations or 2h31 (2h301).

Model performance in the Indian Ocean is far from the success of the Pacific Ocean. As in the period after the 1976/77 climate shift, El Niño (La Niña) onset is preceded by a basinwide Indian Ocean cooling (warming) in the simulations (Kug and Kang, 2006; Izumo et al., 2008; Boschat et al., 2011a). However, the precursory SST subtropical dipole pattern in the south Indian Ocean clearly visible during February-March in the observations (Terray and Dominak, 2005; Terray, 2011; Yoo et al., 2010) is missing in our simulations. Next, the 659 observed positive correlations over the western Indian Ocean, increasing from June-July to 660 October-November (related to the weaker ISM circulation observed during summer of El 661 Niño developing year), are strongly polluted by the negative correlations extending from the 662 eastern equatorial Indian Ocean associated with a too strong IOD signal in the simulations. 663 But, once again, one can observe that this bias is much stronger in 24h31 (24h301) than 2h31 664 (2h301). Consistent with the existence of a significant IOD-ENSO relationship in SINTEX 665 (Gualdi et al., 2003; Fischer et al., 2005), positive correlations are simulated in the western 666 Indian Ocean and negative correlations in the eastern Indian Ocean during boreal fall by all 667 the configurations. However, these regional signals are much stronger than observed and 668 occurred too early, during boreal summer, in all the configurations, but especially in the 669 24h31 and 24h301 configurations. Finally, all the configurations reproduce the basin-wide 670 warming of the tropical Indian Ocean, which is observed when El Niño is mature, but this 671 warming is too weak in 24h31 (24h301). All these results highlight the positive impact of the 672 SST coupling frequency on the precursors and temporal evolution of ENSO at the Indo-673 Pacific basin scale.

674

675 (c) *IOD-ISM relationships*

676 As in previous versions of the SINTEX model, all the integrations display a mode of 677 variability internal to the Indian Ocean with a dynamic comparable to the observed IOD (Fig. 678 8; see also Gualdi et al., 2003, Fischer et al., 2005; Behera et al., 2006). Maximum correlation 679 between ISM rainfall and monthly IOD occurs in September–November with an amplitude of 680 -0.3 (Fig. 12b). Interestingly, this season is also the period in which the ENSO-IOD 681 relationship is significant in the observations (Fischer et al., 2005; Behera et al., 2006). As is 682 clearly seen in Fig. 12b , the 2h301 and 24h301 configurations with increased vertical 683 oceanic resolution have problem in representing the teleconnections between ISM rainfall 684 and IOD during boreal summer of year 0. 24h31 configuration represents correctly some of 685 the features associated with the observed ISM-IOD relationship, but other aspects are less 686 well captured such as the tight phase-locking to the late boreal summer and fall season of 687 the correlations and spurious (significant) negative correlations before or near the ISM onset 688 are simulated. This is plausibly related to the too early IOD onset in 24h31 as discussed 689 above. The correlations are only realistically reproduced with the 2h31 configuration which 690 uses a reduced vertical oceanic resolution, but 2-hourly SST coupling. Overall, the vertical 691 oceanic resolution in the CGCM has a stronger (negative) impact than the SST coupling

692 frequency as far as the ISM-IOD relationships are concerned. Further work is needed to 693 understand the physical processes which are responsible of these important modifications in 694 the interannual variability of SINTEX-F2 in the Indian Ocean when changing the vertical 695 oceanic resolution.

696

697 6. Conclusions

698

There are numerous factors that may explain the current failure of CMIP3 coupled models in simulating the observed ISM-ENSO relationship including 1) the models' ability to simulate the mean Indo-Pacific climate, 2) the models' ability to simulate ENSO and 3) the models' ability to simulate a realistic ENSO-ISM teleconnection (Annamalai et al., 2007).

703

704 Most CGCMs develop significant systematic errors in the mean state climate, particularly 705 in the monsoon circulation and precipitation, and there is currently little confidence in 706 seasonal forecasts or climate change projections due to the inaccuracies in CGCMs. 707 Eliminations of these biases are therefore highly desirable. Flux corrections methods have 708 been suggested as a practical method for improving the quality of seasonal and interannual 709 variability in CGCMs (Turner et al., 2005; Bracco et al., 2007; Manganello and Huang, 710 2009). As striking examples, the studies of Turner et al. (2005), Bracco et al. (2007) or 711 Manganello and Huang (2009) have demonstrated that improvement in representing the mean 712 state of the tropical Pacific through the use of flux adjustments gave rise to a more realistic 713 ENSO, which in turn improved the monsoon-ENSO relationship in coupled simulations. 714 However, the results from flux-corrected experiments may be model-dependent and are very 715 difficult to interpret due to the inconsistency of the climate model introduced by the flux 716 corrections (Spencer et al., 2007; Manganello and Huang, 2009).

717

In this study, as an alternative to flux corrections, the impacts of oceanic diurnal cycle on the development of large-scale coupled phenomena such as ISM, IOD and ENSO are investigated through the comparison of four different experiments using the same state-of-theart high resolution CGCM. In the first experiment (2h31), diurnal coupling is applied in the CGCM by using 2-hourly coupling steps for all air-sea fluxes. A twin experiment (24h31) 723 using exactly the same CGCM, but with 1-day coupling frequency for the SST, has been 724 conducted in order to investigate whether diurnal SST high frequency variations may have an 725 effect on the simulated Indo-Pacific mean-state and variability. The interpretation of the 726 results is supported by a second ensemble with increased vertical oceanic resolution (e.g. 727 2h301 and 24h301 with 301 vertical levels in the ocean model). According to recent studies 728 (Danabasoglu et al., 2006; Bernie et al., 2008), the first two experiments (2h31 and 24h31) 729 with 31 vertical levels may not have a sufficient vertical resolution in the upper ocean to 730 allow a proper diurnal variability of the depth of the mixed layer, while the last two 731 experiments are able to capture this diurnal cycle of the mixed layer and may, consequently 732 have a more significant impact on the mean state and dynamics of the system through both 733 the diurnal rectification effect and other induced air-sea feedbacks (Ham et al., 2010). Despite 734 of this, the significant differences and improvements concerning the interannual variability of 735 the monsoon-ENSO system when comparing 2h31 to 24h31, on one hand, and 2h301 to 736 24h301 experiments, on the other hand, are very similar in many aspects.

737

As a first result, we found that increasing the vertical oceanic resolution in the CGCM has a significant impact on the mean state, especially in the tropical Pacific, but that 2-hourly SST coupling does not produce significant modulations of the background mean-state and seasonal cycle in the tropics. However, when we moved to interannual variability, our simulations point out to a reduction of coupled model biases when diurnal SST coupling is implemented, independently of the vertical oceanic resolution used in the CGCM.

744

745 In agreement with our companion study (Masson et al., 2011), we found that ENSO 746 variability is very sensitive to diurnal SST coupling. In 2h31 and 2h301 experiments, Niño-34 747 SSTs have a larger standard deviation, a power spectrum with a sharper peak corresponding 748 to a 4-5 years oscillation and a more realistic evolution of tropical Pacific SST and associated 749 precipitation anomalies. Focusing on Indian Ocean variability, we found that the phase 750 locking to the annual cycle of eastern Indian Ocean SST and thermocline depth is also 751 improved as are the power spectra of ISM rainfall indices when 2-hourly SST coupling is 752 implemented. In other words, both 2h31 and 2h301 performed better in their representations 753 of ENSO and ISM variability when compared, respectively, with 24h31 and 24h301 754 experiments without any significant changes in the basic state of the model.

756 The different nature of ENSO in the model's configurations may obviously have a global 757 impact through remote teleconnections associated with the redistribution of latent heat 758 sources and sinks in the equatorial Pacific (Annamalai et al., 2007). The current work 759 confirms this hypothesis by demonstrating that the interannual variability of the whole 760 ENSO-ISM system is very sensitive to diurnal SST coupling. With 2-hourly SST coupling, 761 the simulation of the lead-lag relationships between ENSO and ISM is dramatically improved 762 and the CGCM is able to capture much better the spring predictability barrier, which is of 763 paramount importance for dynamical seasonal prediction of the monsoon. Related to the 764 stronger ISM-ENSO coupling, the spectrum of ISM rainfall variability is also shifted to 765 ENSO-related frequencies. This suggests that ISM in 2h31 and 2h301 configurations can 766 respond much more realistically to east Pacific SSTs once some of the systematic errors in 767 ENSO's evolution have been removed. On the other hand, the ISM-IOD teleconnection is 768 sensible to both diurnal SST coupling and the vertical oceanic resolution, but increasing the 769 vertical oceanic resolution is degrading the ISM-IOD teleconnection in the CGCM. In other 770 words, we suggest that the factors that are responsible for the more realistic simulation of the 771 ISM-ENSO-IOD relationships in our experiments with 2-hourly SST coupling can be traced 772 back to a large extent to significant changes in ENSO characteristics, such as its amplitude, 773 periodicity and evolution.

774

775 There have been already several studies devoted to the impact of the diurnal cycle on the 776 mean state, intraseasonal and interannual variability of the tropical system as simulated by 777 state-of-the-art CGCMs (Danabasoglu et al., 2006; Bernie et al., 2009; Ham et al., 2010). 778 According to these recent studies, diurnal air-sea coupling improve the performance of the 779 CGCMs by changing the climatology of the coupled model and producing a warmer mean 780 state which help to reduce the "cold tongue" bias in the equatorial Pacific by a mechanism 781 involving the diurnal variability of the mixed layer (Danabasoglu et al., 2006; Bernie et al., 782 2009). These rectifications of the mean state may then modify both the intraseasonal and 783 interannual variabilities of the simulated system (Bernie et al., 2009; Ham et al., 2010).

However, if the diurnal oceanic cycle and the diurnal rectification mechanism of the mean state has some role to play in our results, the robustness and similarity of the differences between 2h31-24h31 and 2h301-24h301 configurations show that the diurnal oceanic cycle forms only part of the explanation of the substantial changes in the nature of ENSO and timing of the monsoon-ENSO teleconnections when 2-hourly SST coupling is implemented. Moreover, these significant impacts on the behavior of El Niño and the associated 790 teleconnection patterns are not related to changes in the mean state of the coupled model in 791 our experiments, leaving open the question of other amplification mechanisms due 792 specifically to a more accurate air-sea coupling strategy. These differences between our 793 results and previous studies are obviously related to the fact that, in our experiments, all air-794 sea fluxes other than SST are communicated using coupling steps of 2 hours, while other 795 studies have contrasted 1-day to 2-hourly coupling experiments for all the air-sea fluxes. This 796 leads to the hypothesis that other mechanisms must be at play for explaining our results, such 797 as a better simulation of temporal scale interactions when 2-hourly SST coupling is activated. 798 The implication of all these results, yet to be verified by a detailed analysis, is that large-scale 799 air-sea coupling and temporal scale interactions are prime mechanisms for the rectification of 800 the interannual variability of the coupled system in our coupled experiments instead of a 801 change of the mean state. Thus, our results emphasize the need for a better understanding of 802 the impact of the synoptic and intraseasonal time scales and their nonlinear scale interactions 803 with the interannual time scale as observed and simulated by CGCMs (Meehl et al., 2001). 804 The detailed analysis of these scale interactions in the tropical Indo-Pacific region in the 805 framework of our coupled model will be the subject of a forthcoming study. In any case, our 806 results highlight that air-sea coupling has to be represented as accurately as possible to 807 simulate the interannual variability of the ENSO-monsoon system and to correct present 808 model's deficiencies.

809 If we take into account that most of the CMIP3 coupled models fail to recover the complex 810 ISM-ENSO lead-lag relationships and produced similar results to the SINTEX-F2 model in 811 its 24h31 configuration, our results are intriguing. A plausible explanation for this general 812 failure is that most of the CMIP3 CGCMs still did not have the correct phase of ENSO with 813 respect to the annual cycle (Terray, 2006). The diversity in the simulation of ENSO variability 814 in the CMIP3 coupled models is still extremely high (Guilyardi, 2006), particularly with 815 respect to the phase-locking of ENSO on the annual cycle, and this shortcoming may 816 adversely affect the ability of the coupled models to simulate the monsoon-ENSO 817 teleconnection as seen in Fig. 1. However, it is also instructive to mention that a large 818 majority of the CMIP3 coupled models exchange atmospheric and oceanic parameters just 819 once a day. In such models, a poor representation of the diurnal air-sea coupling and related 820 scale interactions could also lead to errors than can be rectified into the interannual variability 821 of the system through non-linearities, even without any significant changes in the climatology 822 of the coupled model, as suggested by our results. Interestingly, three of four of the models

identified by Annamalai et al. (2007) that can successfully simulate the monsoon-ENSO
teleconnection also use 2-hourly coupling (see Fig. 1).

825 In conclusion, our study argues that important progress in simulating the interannual 826 variability of the tropical system can be achieved by modifications of the coupling strategies 827 currently used in CGCMs, without using any flux correction methods. Our model diagnostics 828 indicate that a proper simulation of the scale interactions embedded in the dynamics of the 829 climate system may also be a prerequisite to capture a realistic ISM-ENSO teleconnection, in 830 addition to a correct simulation of the basic state as suggested by others (Turner et al., 2005; 831 Annamalai et al., 2007). This emphasizes the need for a more detailed investigation of the 832 impact of coupling strategies on the simulation of Indo-Pacific interannual variability in 833 current CGCMs.

At the end, we want to emphasize that we do not argue that diurnal SST coupling will be equally important in other state-of-the-art CGCMs and the results presented here may be model-dependent. However, we do believe that coupling strategy is a relatively overlooked area and may be more thoroughly diagnose in current CGCMs if further progress in the simulation of the variability of the coupled climate system is to be achieved.

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 Project Technical Report. OA-2008-01, 64pp. Woods Hole. Massachusetts.
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1232 Figure captions

- 1233 Figure 1: Lead-lag correlations between the ISM rainfall and the monthly Niño-34 SSTs 1234 (SST averaged over 5°S–5°N, 170°–120°W) starting several months before the onset of the 1235 monsoon (January) and finishing several months after the withdrawal of the monsoon 1236 (December) in the twentieth century runs (20c3m) of the CMIP3 from 20 different state-of-1237 the-art coupled models and observational estimates. All the correlation coefficients are 1238 estimated from the 1870-2000 period both for observations and 20c3m simulations after 1239 detrending the SST time series. For each of the models one realization (the first) of the 1240 twentieth-century simulations were used to evaluate the ISM-ENSO relationship.
- Figure 2: (a) SST boreal summer climatology as derived from the HadISST dataset and estimated from the 1958-2008 period (b) (c) (d) (e) differences with the SST climatologies of 2h31, 24h31, 2h301 and 24h301, respectively.
- Figure 3: Same as Figure 2, but for the rainfall climatology estimated from CMAP on the
 1245 1979-2008 period. Differences between the GPCP and CMAP boreal summer rainfall
 climatologies are also shown in Fig. 3b.
- Figure 4: Same as Figure 2, but for the 850 hPa wind climatology estimated from NCEPreanalysis on the 1979-2008 period.
- 1249 Figure 5: (a) Climatological annual cycle of SST averaged over the eastern node of IOD (15°S-0°, 85°-110°E) computed from the HadISST dataset and the four SINTEX-F2 1250 1251 configurations (b) Same as (a), but for the western node of IOD $(15^{\circ}S-10^{\circ}N, 50^{\circ}-75^{\circ}E)$ (c) 1252 Climatological annual cycle of the IOD index from observations and the four configurations 1253 (d) Climatological annual cycle of the depth of the 20°C isotherm averaged over the eastern 1254 equatorial Indian Ocean (2°S-2°N, 90°-100°E) computed from SODA and the four 1255 configurations (e) Same as (d), but for the depth of 20°C over the Sumatra region (10°-2°S, 1256 95°-105°E) (f) Climatological annual cycle of latent heat flux averaged over the eastern node 1257 of IOD computed from OAFLUX dataset (Yu et al., 2008) and the four configurations of 1258 SINTEX-F2.
- Figure 6: Mean annual cycle of rainfall averaged over the Indian subcontinent (land grid points between 8-35°N and 65-95°E) for the observations (CMAP dataset) and the coupled model simulations.
- **Figure 7**: (a) Differences between the boreal summer SST climatologies of the 2h31 and 2h301 configurations (b) Same as (a), but for the rainfall climatologies (c) Same as (a), but for the 850 hPa wind climatologies. In panels (a) and (b), the differences which are significant at the 95% confidence level are underlined. In panel (c), the map only show 850 hPa wind differences which are above the 95% confidence level. These confidence levels have been assessed using a permutation procedure with 9999 shuffles; see Terray et al. (2003) for more details.
- Figure 8: (a) Monthly standard deviations of the Niño-34 SST time series from HadISST
 dataset and the four configurations (b) Same as (a), but for the IOD index (c) Same as (a), but
 for western node IOD (15°S-10°N, 50°-75°E) SST time series (d) Same as (a), but eastern
 node IOD (15°S-0°, 85°-110°E) SST time series d) Monthly standard deviations of the depth

- 1273 of the 20°C isotherm averaged over the eastern equatorial Indian Ocean (2°S-2°N, 90°-100°E)
- 1274 computed from SODA and the four configurations (e) Same as (d), but for the depth of 20°C
- 1275 over the Sumatra region $(10^{\circ}-2^{\circ}S, 95^{\circ}-105^{\circ}E)$ (f) Monthly standard deviations of latent heat
- 1276 flux averaged over the eastern node of IOD computed from OAFLUX dataset (Yu et al.,
- 1277 2008) and the four configurations of SINTEX-F2.
- 1278 Figure 9: (a) Power spectra of seasonally adjusted and detrended bi-monthly Niño-34 SST 1279 time series for observations (black line) 2h31 (red line) and 24h31 (green line) configurations (b) Same as (a) but for 2h301 (red line) and 24h301 (green line) configurations (c) Same as 1280 (a), but for the IOD index (d) Same as (b), but for the IOD index. The bottom axis of each 1281 panel is the period (unit: year), the left axis is variance (unit: $^{\circ}C^{2}$) and both axes are in 1282 logarithm scale. The power spectrum is estimated using a FFT algorithm on overlapping 1283 1284 segments (Welch, 1967) and the 99% confidence interval for the spectra estimated from the 1285 observations is plotted in black dashed lines in each panel.
- Figure 10: (a) Sum of squared log-ratios of the power spectral densities (Chi2 statistic) of 2h31 and 24h31 grid-point SST time series over the Indo-Pacific region (color shading) for the periods between 14.4 and 72 months and associated 90% confidence level for testing the hypothesis of a common spectrum for the two estimated spectra between 2h31 and 24h31 (b) Same as in (a), but for the 2h301 and 24h301 configurations.
- 1291 Figure 11: (a) Normalized power spectra of ISM rainfall time series for observations (black 1292 line) 2h31 (red line) and 24h31 (green line) configurations. The bottom axis is the period (unit: year), the left axis is variance (unit: $(mm/day)^2$) and both axes are in logarithm scale. 1293 1294 The power spectrum is estimated using a FFT algorithm on overlapping segments (Welch, 1295 1967) and the 99% confidence interval for the spectra estimated from the observations is 1296 plotted in black dashed lines (b) Logarithm of the ratio of the power spectra of 2h31 and 1297 24h31 and point-wise 90% confidence intervals for the logarithms of the spectral ratios for a 1298 postulated common spectrum of the ISM rainfall time series in 2h31 and 24h31 (c) and (d) 1299 Same as (a) and (b), respectively, but for the 2h301 and 24h301 configurations. (e), (f), (g) 1300 and (h) Same as (a), (b), (c) and (d), respectively, but for the boreal summer (JJAS) Niño-3.4 1301 SST time series.
- 1302 Figure 12: (a) Lead-lag correlations between ISM rainfall and monthly Niño-3.4 for observations (black line), 2h31 (blue line), 24h31 (green line), 2h301 (yellow line) and 1303 1304 24h301 (red line) configurations of SINTEX-F2, starting from the beginning of the previous 1305 year (e.g. year -1) to the end of the following year of the monsoon (e.g. year +1). IITM 1306 rainfall and HadISST datasets for the period 1900-2005 are used to estimate the correlation 1307 coefficients. X-axis indicates calendar month for a 36 months period starting one year before 1308 the developing year of ISM and Y-axis is the amplitude of the correlation. Thus, the 1309 coefficients corresponding to -1, 0, +1 month lags refer, respectively, to the correlations 1310 between (JJAS) ISM rainfall in year 0 and may, june and july Niño-34 SST index, also 1311 during year 0, and so on. (b) Same as (a) but, between ISM rainfall and the monthly IOD 1312 index. Diamond symbols indicate correlations that are above the 95% significance confidence 1313 level according to a phase-scramble bootstrap test (Ebisuzaki, 1997).
- Figure 13: Lagged correlations between bi-monthly averaged Indo-Pacific SSTs and the
 December-January Niño-3.4 SST for the HadISST. The correlations are calculated beginning

- 1316 in February-March, prior to the El Niño onset, and ending in December-January at the peak
- 1317 season of El Niño events. Correlations that are above the 95% significance confidence level
- 1318 according to a phase-scramble bootstrap test (Ebisuzaki, 1997) are underlined.
- **Figure 14**: Same as Fig. 13, but for 2h31 configuration.
- **Figure 15**: Same as Fig. 13, but for 24h31 configuration.

1323	Table captions
1324	
1325	Table 1: Summary of the numerical experiments with their main characteristics, including
1326	length, horizontal and vertical resolutions and frequency of coupling for the different air-sea
1327	fluxes.
1328	
1329	Table 2 : Standard-deviations (in °C) of Niño-3.4, IOD, Eastern (EIOD) and Western (WIOD)
1330	nodes of IOD bi-monthly SST time series in the four runs and HadISST dataset (1958-2008).
1331	These values are computed after the removal of the long-term mean annual cycle and the
1332	contribution of timescales longer than 20 years.
1333	
1334	Table 3: Comparison of means and standard-deviations (in mm/day) of ISM rainfall in the
1335	SINTEX runs and CMAP (period 1979-2008) for land only, land-sea and ocean only averages
1336	in the domain 8°-35°N and 65°-95°E.
1337	
1338	
1339	
1340	

Table 1

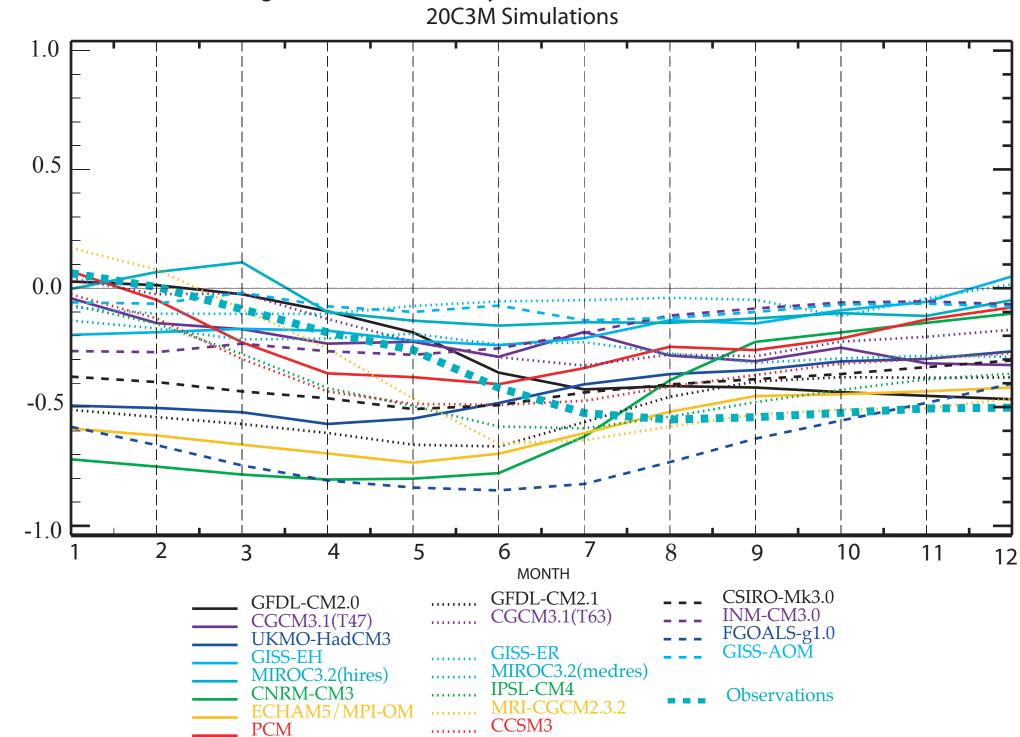
Experience name	2h31	24h31	2h301	24h301
Oceanic vertical resolution	31 (10m)	31 (10m)	301 (1m)	301 (1m)
SST coupling frequency	2h	24h	2h	24h
Other data coupling frequency	2h	2h	2h	2h
Experience length (in years)	110	110	75	75

Table 2

Indices/Configs	2h31	24h31	2h301	24h301	HADiSST
Niño-34 SST	0.87	0.71	0.68	0.59	0.70
IOD	0.51	0.49	0.44	0.45	0.26
EIOD	0.50	0.47	0.45	0.42	0.23
WIOD	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.22	0.21

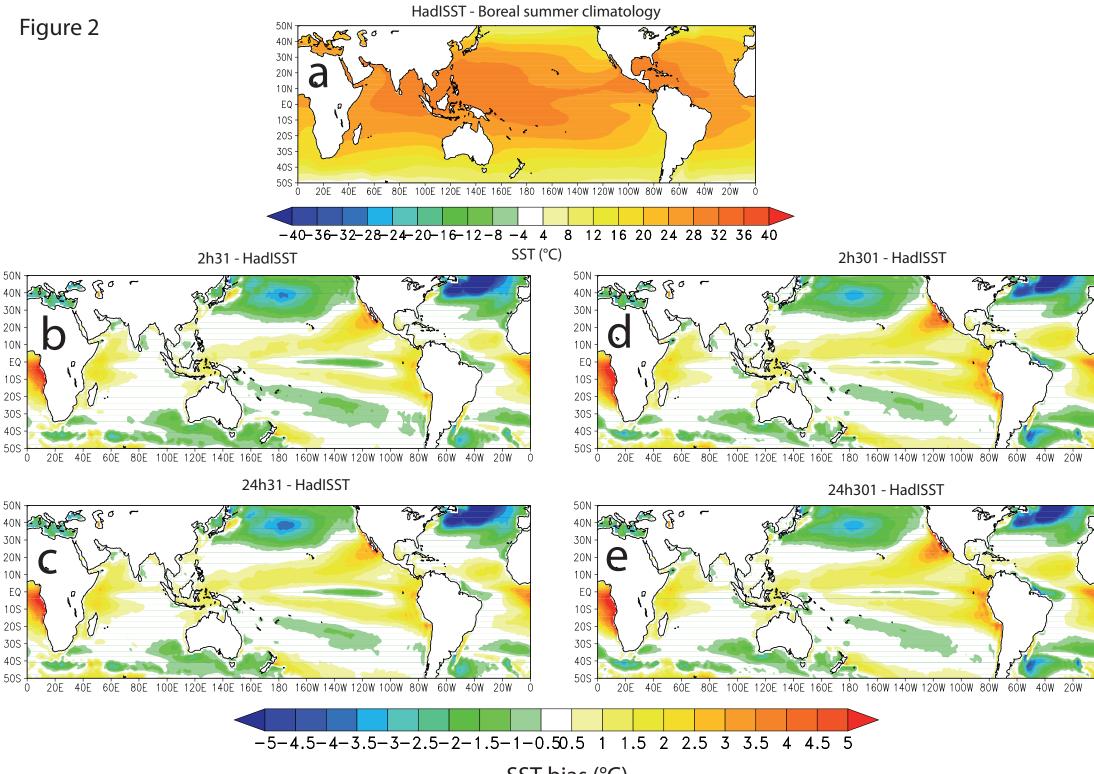
Table3

Configuration	Land-average		Land-Ocean-average		Ocean-average	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
СМАР	4.73	0.45	6.94	0.54	9.69	0.91
2h31	4.58	0.43	6.65	0.59	10.52	1.03
24h31	4.21	0.38	6.07	0.39	9.18	0.73
2h301	4.12	0.35	5.99	0.32	9.13	0.57
24h301	4.15	0.38	5.98	0.49	9.05	0.78

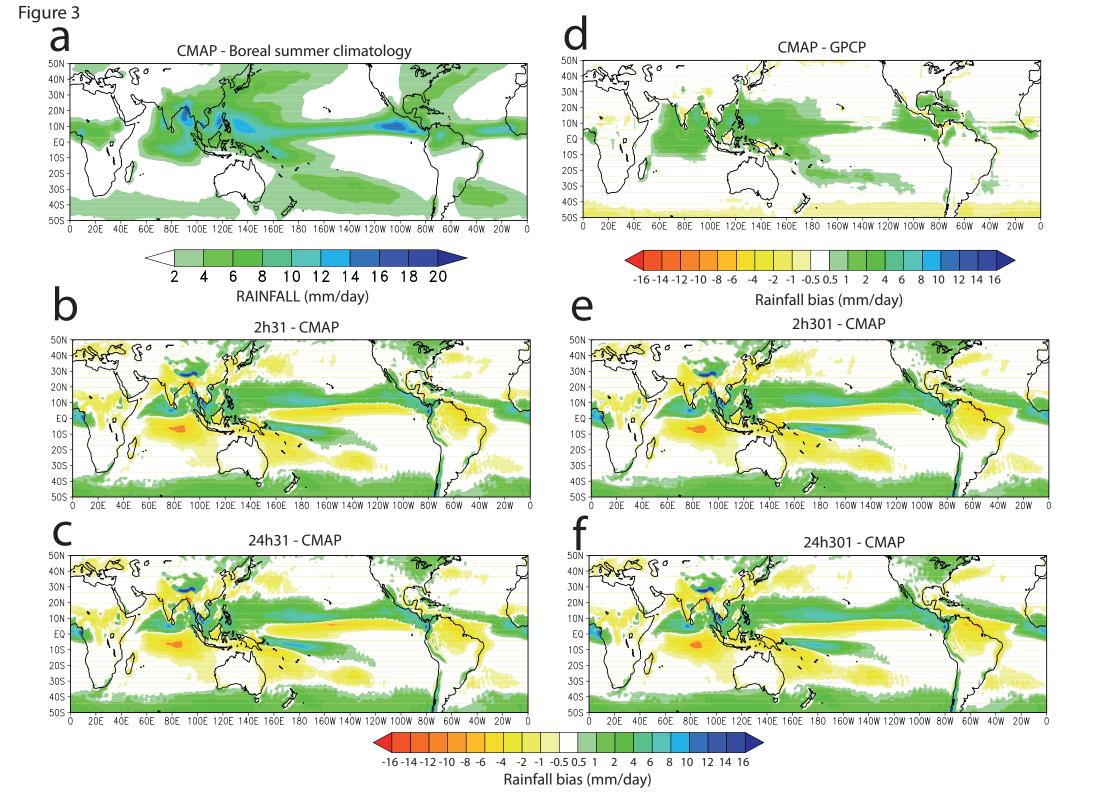


Lead-lag correlations - Monthly Nino-3.4 SST with ISM rainfall (detrended data) 20C3M Simulations

Figure 1



SST bias (°C)



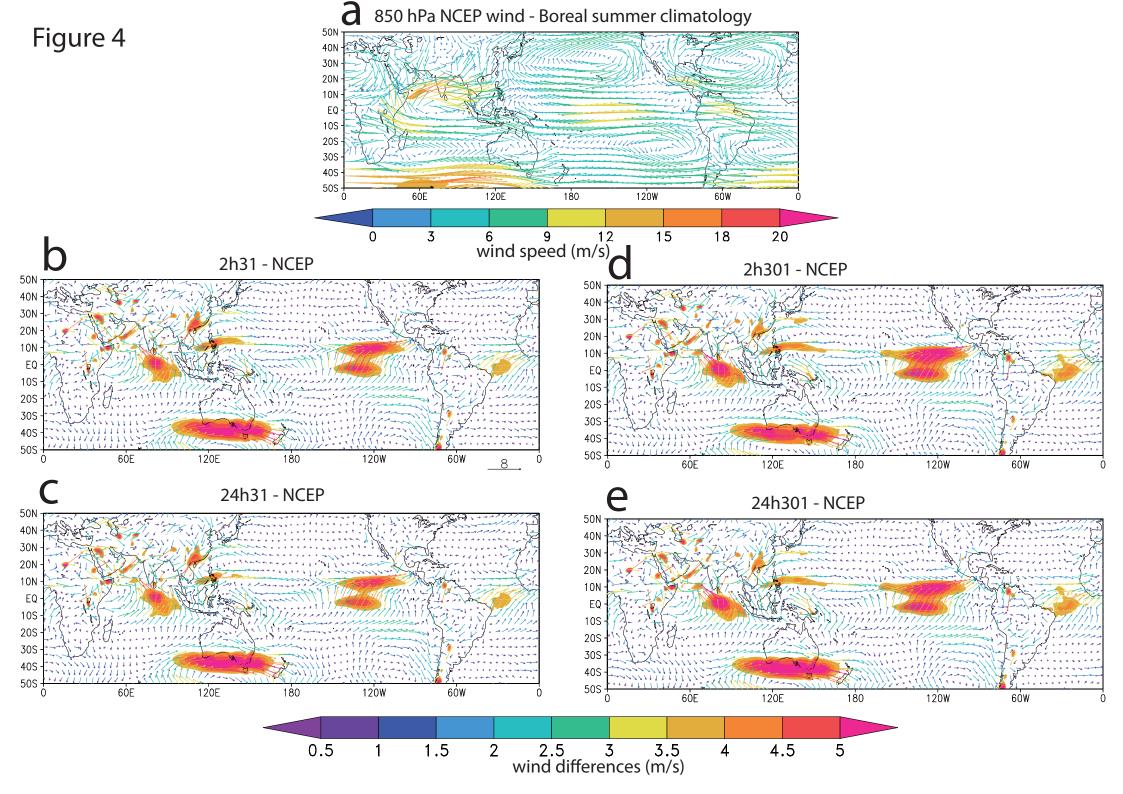
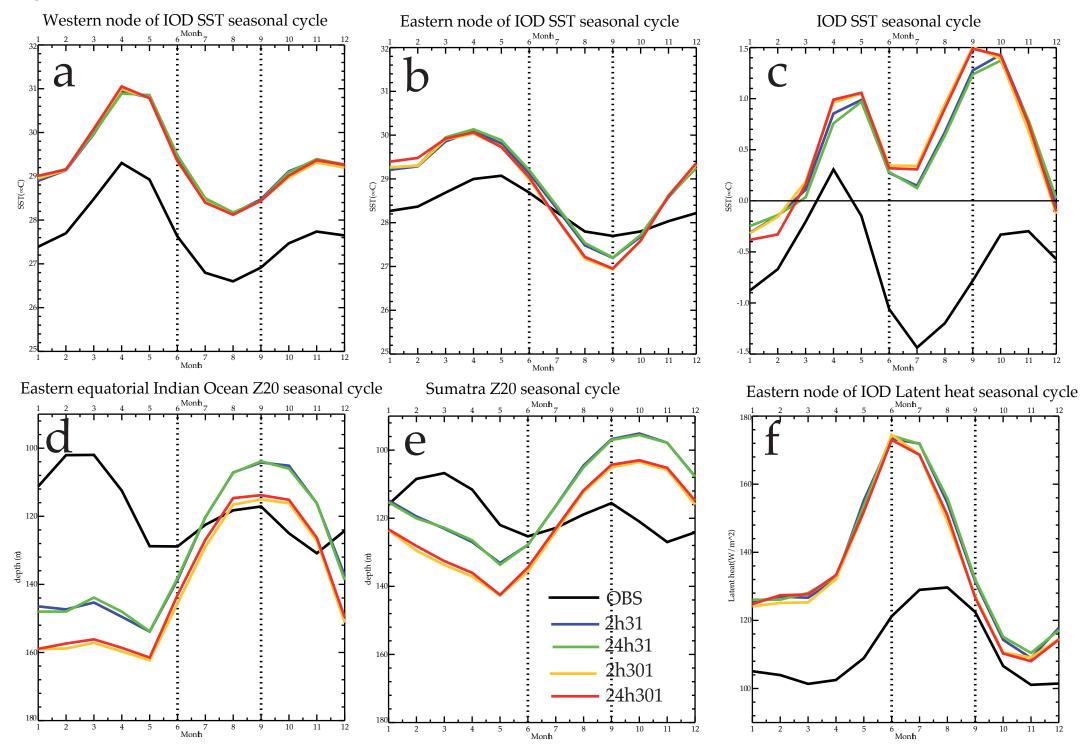
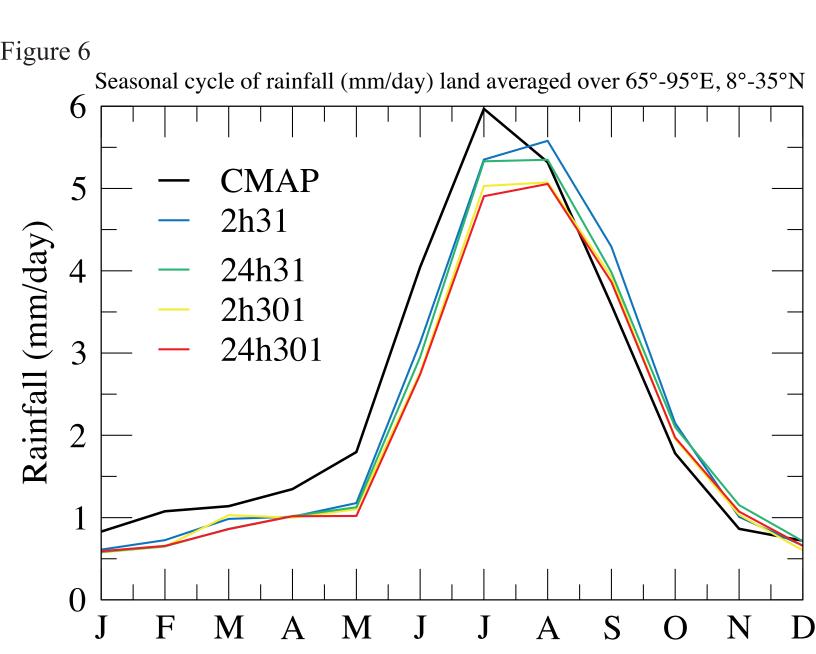
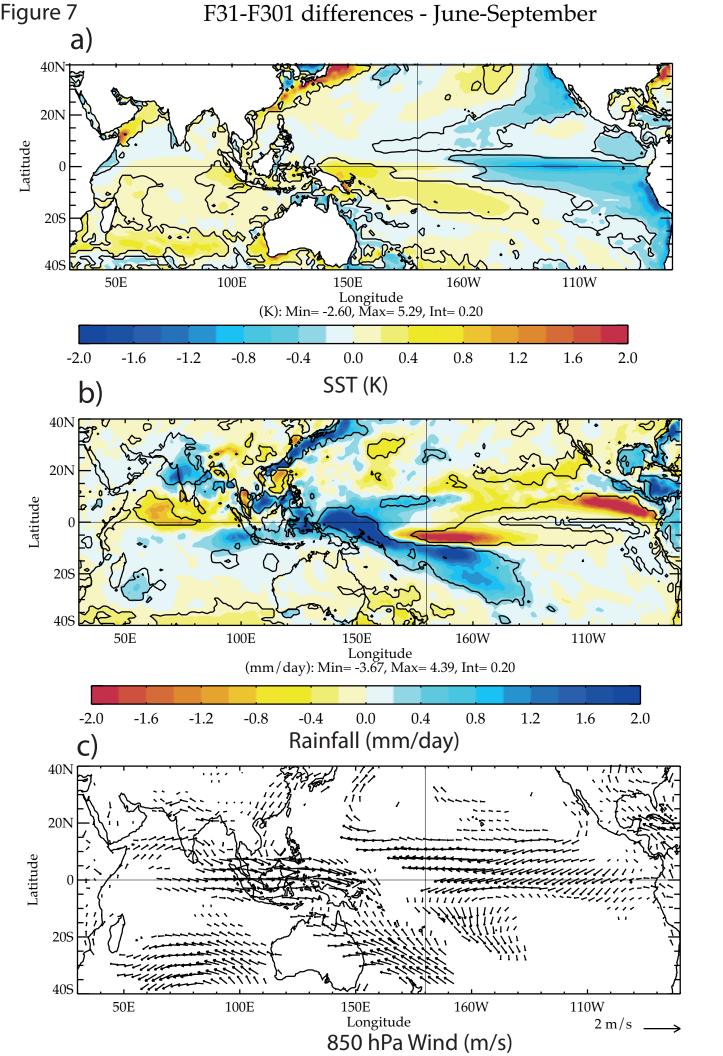
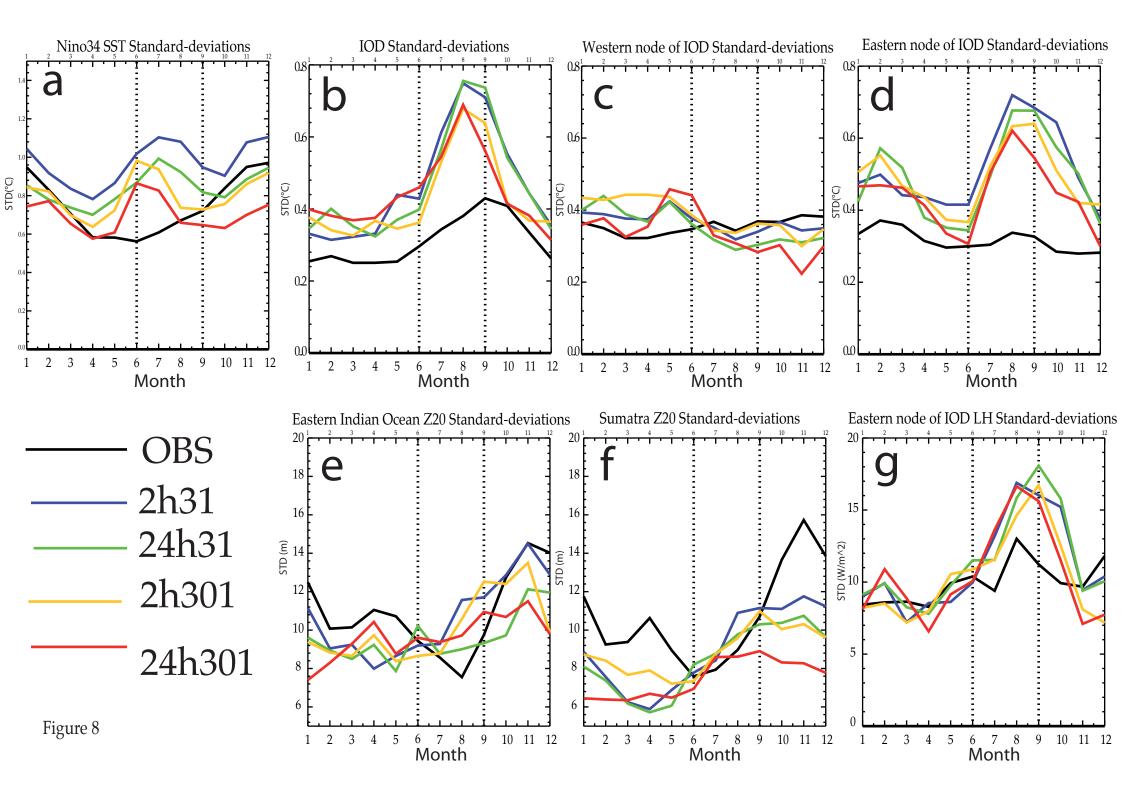


Figure 5











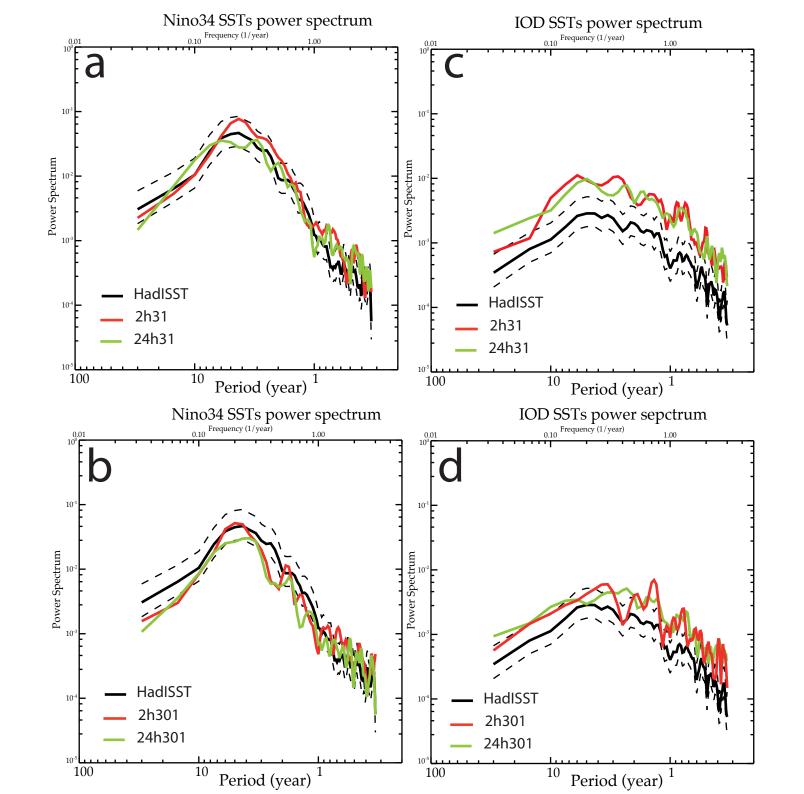


Figure 10

Spectrum difference - SST - SINTEX - 2h31 vs 24h31

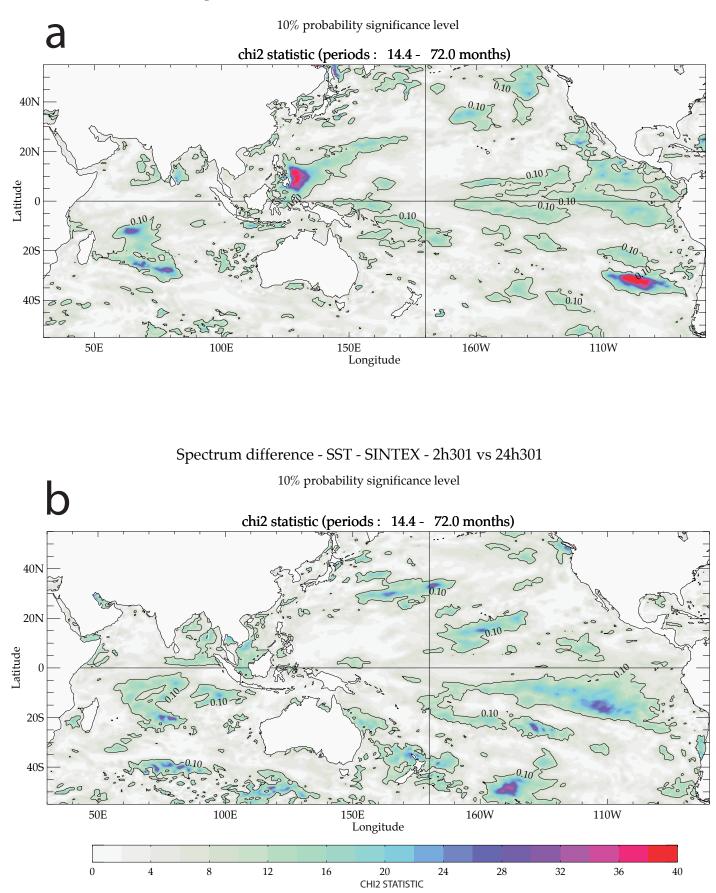
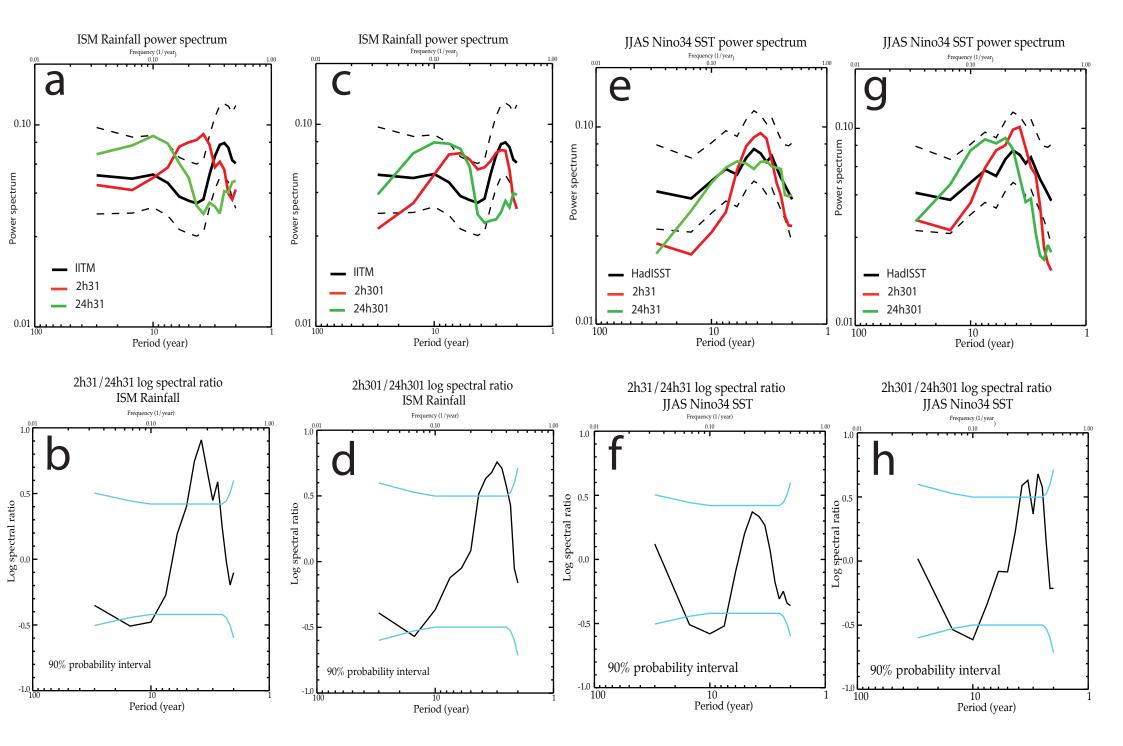
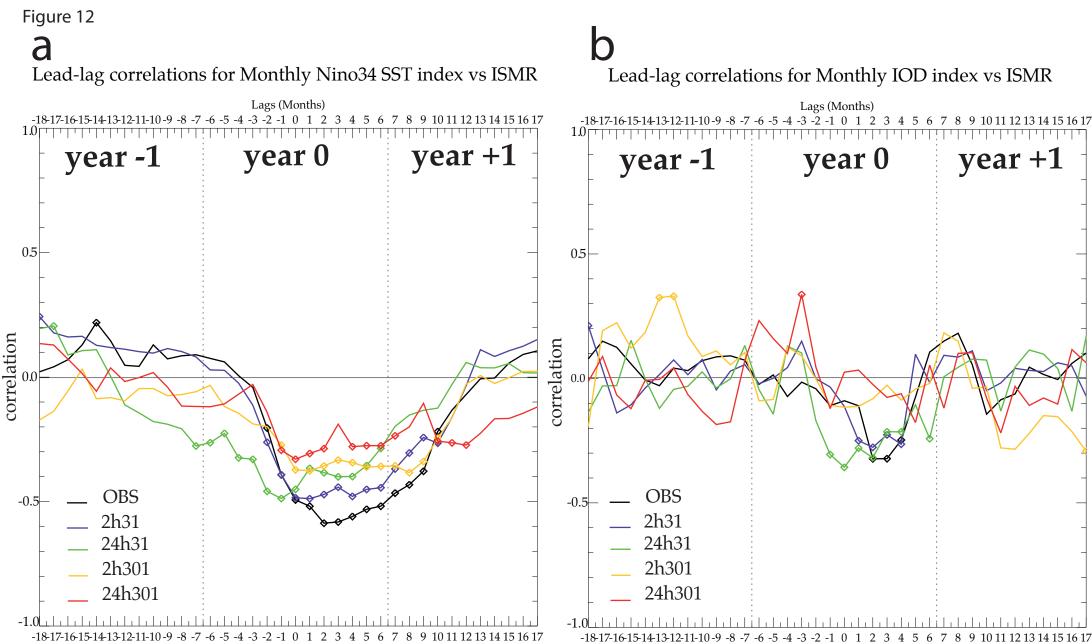


Figure 11

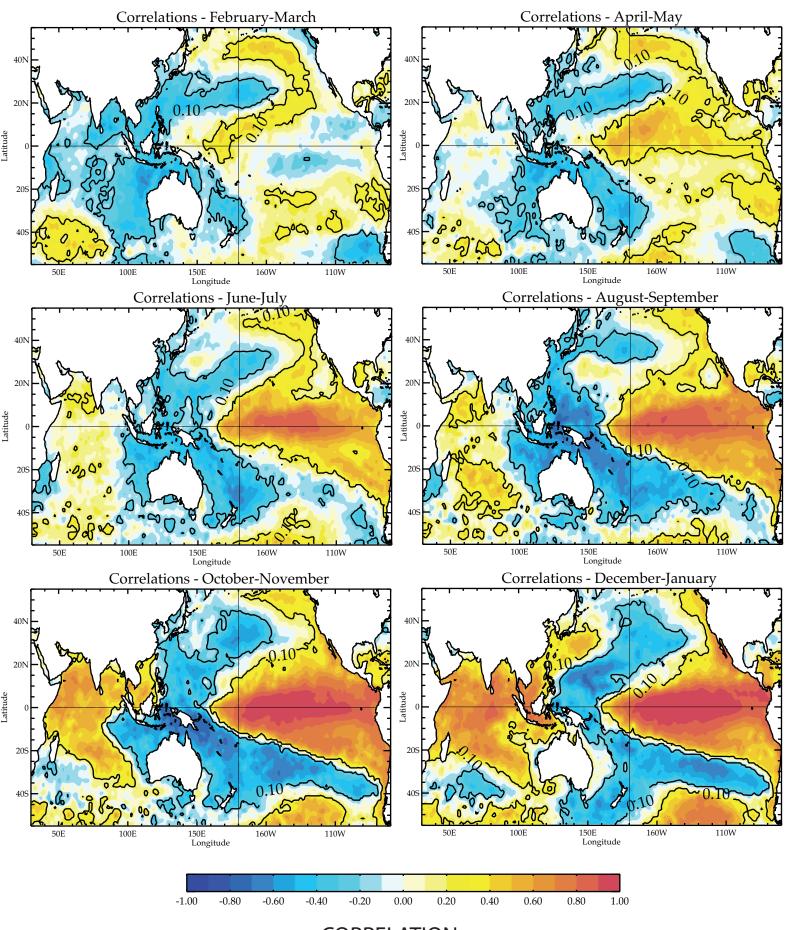




Lags (Months)

Lags (Months)

Correlations Nino34 SST (12-1) Indo-Pacific SSTs - HadISST1 1950-2005 - Year 0



CORRELATION

