Onset of 2015-2016 El Niño and Other Unique Phenomena

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1997聖嬰 vs. 2015聖嬰









(RMM1,RMM2) phase space for 1-Jan-2015 to 28-Mar-2015





The MJO index hit 4.09 on March 15, 2015, beating the old record of 4.01 set on February 14, 1985. March 16, 2015, the MJO index set an even higher mark--4.67.

- MJO onset in early March near the Maritime Continent
- Convection and westerly prevailed in the Central/E.
 Pacific 2015



- MJO onset in early February in the Indian Ocean and propagated to the western Pacific
- Convection and westerly prevailed in the Central/E.
 Pacific 1997







MJO triggered El Niño onset ?

3

2

0

-2

-3

What triggered MJO? Extratropical forcing?



Hsu et al. 1990, JAS

11Feb.2015 - 15Feb.2015



The shading indicates 2-m temperatures (°C). The contours show sea level pressure at intervals of 4 hPa. The vectors denote 10-m wind (m/s) in the tropical region (30°N-30°S).

11Feb.2015 - 15Feb.2015



The shading indicates 2-m temperature anomalies (°C). The contours show normal sea level pressure anomalies at intervals of 2 hPa (1-hPa for 30-day mean). The vectors denote 10-m wind anomalies (m/s) in the tropical region (30°N-30°S).



North Pacific blocking associated northerly wind penetrated dry and cold air southward over warm and moist ocean that triggers the convective instability and MJO initiation





V and Omega averaged over150-180E



Hypothesis

150

500

 dry and cold northerly wind penetrated southward over warm and moist ocean;

(RMM1, RMM2) phase space

MJO initiated on 5 March

2

0

- triggered tropical convection over warm water →
 MJO onset, enhanced westerly and O-A interaction;
- 3. Eastward-propagating oceanic perturbation in response to anomalous westerly;
- 4. onset of 2015 El Nino

The convective instability further develop to MJO



Effect of extratropical Perturbation: Numerical experiment ECHAM5-SiT

Twice daily in first 5 days
 Once daily in 6-10 days
 Left: observation
 Middle: global nudging
 Right: tropical nudging

Results:

 Including extratropical nudging (middle), MJO onset time is properly simulated.
 Tropical pudging only:

Tropical nudging only:
 MJO onset is delayed.

3. Implication: extratropical forcing is critical.

3. Extratropical forcing helps simulate more realistic MJO after onset.

Eastward-moving warm water was realistically simulated by forcing POP with observed westerly wind stress over 140-180E, 3S-3N



Simulated propagation speed 1.7m/s

Observed propagation speed 2~3m/s

No TC in the WNP August 2014

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Hong, Lee, and Hsu (2016, JGR)



Different in WNP, Similar in eastern Pacific













Circulations during Canonical ISO



ISO in convection-inactive phase in WNP enhanced convection in the tropical eastern Pacific while suppressing convection and enhancing anticyclone in WNP? – "SPEEDY" cooling simulation



Effect SST gradient on the convection in the tropical eastern Pacific - ECHAM5 forced by SST anomaly in the eastern Pacific





Simulated Velocity potential for Aug2014



Emergence of Mutant El Niño?



Causes of 2015-2016 Warming? Relative contribution of El Nino and global warming?



YEAR

2015、1997聖嬰有何不同?

August-October 2014



海溫距平 August-October 1997







DJF Variance of stream function anomaly bandpass Lanczos filter: 10-30 day number of weights:61



全球暖化:聖嬰變種?變強? 全球暖化與聖嬰有加乘效果?



