

Impact of the extratropics on the MJO forecast skill scores

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The skill of the ECMWF monthly forecasts to predict the onset and evolution of the Madden-Julian Oscillation has been assessed using the methodology described in Wheeler and Hendon (2004). Results show that ECMWF ensemble forecasting has skill to predict the MJO for about 25 days. A series of hindcast experiments has been performed with the Northern or Southern Extratropics relaxed towards analysis. Results indicate that both Northern and Southern Extratropics have a significant impact on the MJO forecast skill scores and that their impact is additive. Additional experiments in which the relaxation is confined to different areas of the Extratropics have been performed to assess which region has the strongest impact.