WGNE Atmospheric Model Intercomparison Project

January 1994

An information summary and activities description for the Atmospheric Model Intercomparison Project (AMIP) of the Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE) in support of the World Climate Research Programme. Technical and computational support for AMIP is being provided by the Environmental Sciences Division of the U. S. Department of Energy through the Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI) at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), where this Newsletter is prepared by Larry Gates, Chairman, WGNE AMIP Panel, PCMDI, L-264, LLNL, P.O. Box 808, Livermore, CA 94550, USA.

AMIP Update

Progress continues to be made in the assembly of the AMIP standard output and AMIP/PCMDI history, although extensive quality control has been necessary in order to insure the completeness and accuracy of the datasets being archived. The current status of the AMIP simulations themselves is given in the table on page 2, in which it may be noted that 27 of the 30 participating GCM groups have now completed the AMIP integration, for 21 of which the standard output either has been completed or is in progress and for 10 of which the history either has been or is being generated. The 3 groups that have the AMIP integration "in progress" have indicated that they expect to have it completed in the near future. It may also be noted that since the previous Newsletter in August 1993, the Hydrometeorological Centre (HMC) and the Los Alamos National Laboratory

(LANL) have withdrawn from AMIP, while the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) have jointly entered the "Genesis" model.

With the AMIP integrations now nearly completed, PCMDI's attention is focussing on the acquisition of the still-missing standard output datasets and on the assembly of the simulation history. As may be seen in the table on page 2, much remains to be done in this area although it is hoped to have a complete set of standard output available early in 1994 and at least a useful subset of AMIP model history by mid-1994. It is anticipated, however, that some of the models, for a variety of reasons, will not be represented in the PCMDI AMIP history archive now being constructed. (See AMIP Newsletter No. 4).

Access to AMIP Results

In the interest of making at least some AMIP results available outside the AMIP in a timely fashion, many of the modeling groups have declared the standard output (i.e., the monthly-averaged means of selected variables—see AMIP Newsletter No. 2) from their AMIP integration to be an "open" dataset. The AMIP Panel urges those groups that have so far declined to do so to reconsider, in view of the current

trend toward a wider and more open distribution of model integrations in the climate modeling community.

As before, the AMIP history data are distributed outside the AMIP community only with the authorization of the modeling group(s), although it is hoped that these data will also be declared "open" in the future.

AMIP Reports and Publications

Although no protocol for the publication of AMIP results has been established, it is anticipated that each modeling group will publish their model's performance in AMIP as they see fit, while publication of the models' collective performance (as represented by the seasonally-averaged standard output) will be accomplished by PCMDI in cooperation with the AMIP modeling groups, in the form of a WCRP report in 1994. The AMIP Diagnostic Subprojects are also

expected to prepare reports for the WCRP series at an appropriate time, although this is not seen as precluding publication(s) in the reviewed literature. Hopefully, comprehensive assessments of simulation errors and insightful diagnoses of model performance will be presented at the AMIP Scientific Conference in 1995 (see page 16), whose proceedings are also expected to be published.

AMIP Simulation and Output Status

Group	Contact(s)	Model	Integration	Standard Output	History
BMRC	McAvaney	R31 L9	completed	completed	Δ
CCC	Boer	T32 L10	completed	completed	
CNRM	Mahfout/Cariolle	T42 L30	completed	completed	
COLA	Straus	R40 L18	completed		t
CSIRO	Hunt	R21 L9	completed	completed	1
CSU	Randall	4°x5° L17	completed	completed	Δ
DNM	Galin/Dymnikov	4°x5° L7	completed	completed	
ECMWF	Ferranti/Burridge	T42 L19	completed	completed	Δ
GFDL	Wetherald	R30 L14	completed	Δ	
GFDL/DERF	Miyakoda	T42 L18	completed	completed	10
GISS	Lo/Del Genio	8°x10° L9	completed		
GLA	Lau/Fiorino	4°x5° L17	completed	completed	1
GSFC	Park	4°x5° L20	completed	completed	
IAP	Wang/Zeng .	4°x5° L2	completed		
JMA	Sato	T42 L21	completed	Δ	
LMD	Le Treut	3.6°x5.6° L11	completed	Δ	
MGO	Meleshko	T30 L14	completed	Δ	
MPI	Dümenil/Schlese	T42 L19	completed	completed	
MRI	Kitoh/Tokioka	4°x5° L15	completed	completed	Δ
NCAR	Williamson	T42 L18	completed	completed	
NMC	van den Dool/Kalnay	T40 L18	completed	completed	+
NRL	Rosmond	T42 L18	completed	Δ	1
RPN	Ritchie	T42 L21	completed		
SUNYA	Wang/Liang	R15 L12	completed	completed	
SUNYA/NCAR	Wang/Thompson	T31 L18		TO BETTE STATE OF THE STATE OF	
UCLA	Mechoso	4°x5° L15			1
UGAMP .	Blackburn/Slingo	T42 L19	completed		+
UILL	Schlesinger	4°x5° L7	completed	Δ	
UKMO	Rowell	2.5°x3.75° L20	completed	Δ	1
YONU	Oh	4°x5° L5			

^{*} denotes integration in progress

[†] denotes history assembly in progress

Δ denotes standard output/history undergoing quality control at PCMDI

Preliminary AMIP Results

A preliminary indication of the performance of those AMIP models whose standard output has been completed (see page 2) is shown on pages 4– 7 in terms of the mean seasonal zonal averages of sea-level pressure, precipitation, OLR and 200 hPa zonal wind over the AMIP decade.

The results for mean sea-level pressure given on page 4 show that most of this first subset of AMIP models agree rather closely with the observed zonally-averaged distribution in both December-January-February (DJF) and June-July-August (JJA), although a few models show large-scale systematic departures from the observations (which are from ECMWF analyses for the period 1980-87). The correspnding results for precipitation are given on page 5. Here there is also overall agreement among the models and the observations (which are from Legates and Willmott for the period 1951-70) in terms of the large-scale seasonal distributions, although there are several models that appear to be outliers in high and/or low latitudes. If the observations are to be believed (and recall that they are not for the AMIP decade), there is preliminary evidence

of a systematic oversimulation of average precipitation in the extratropical Northern Hemisphere.

As further examples of the preliminary AMIP results, the seasonal zonally-averaged outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) and 200 hPa zonal wind are given on pages 6 and 7. With the exception of one or two outliers, the position and strength of the mean seasonal jets in both hemispheres agree closely with observations (which are from NMC analyses for the AMIP decade 1979–88). This is testimony to the overall correctness of the models' simulation of the average tropospheric meridional temperature gradient (with a common observed sea-surface temperature distribution). The mean seasonal distribution of most of the models' OLR also agrees well with observations (which are from ERBE results for 1985–88).

Analysis and validation of these and other AMIP model results is continuing at PCMDI, together with estimates of observational and simulation uncertainties.

Request for AMIP "Ensemble" and Revised Model Output

Several modeling groups have performed one or more repetitions of their AMIP integration using different initial conditions, in order to study the levels of natural or internal variability inherent in the model. So that AMIP may include such variability in its measures of model performance, it is requested that the monthly-averaged standard output variables for each additional simulation of the AMIP decade that has been made with the original AMIP model be submitted to PCMDI.

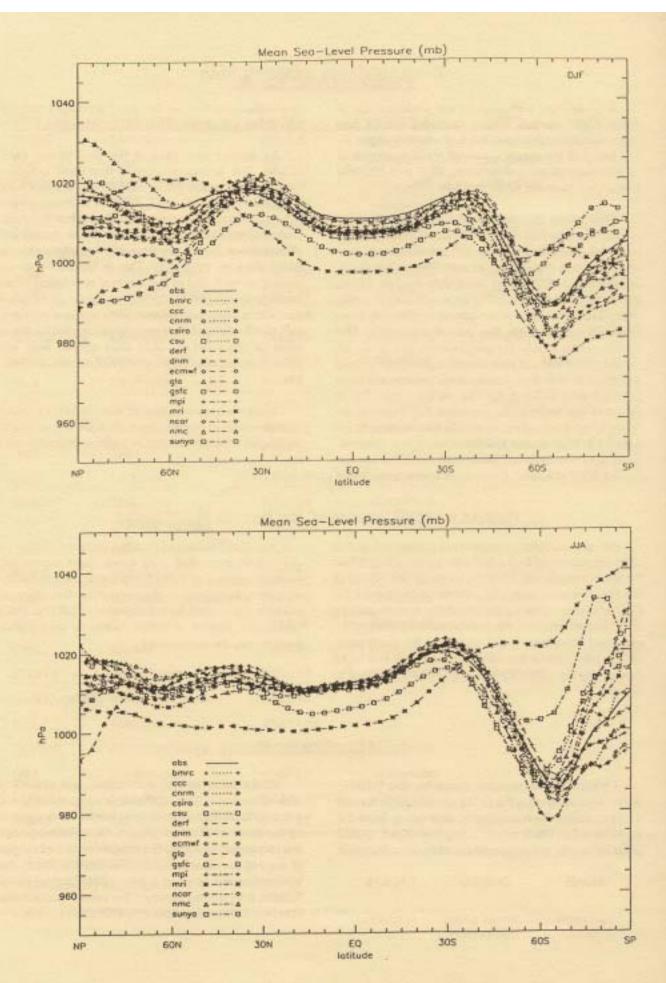
It is also requested that the standard output for any AMIP runs that may have been made with revised versions of the originally-documented AMIP models (along with a description of the changes made to the model) be submitted to PCMDI so that a systematic record of model versions and performance may be maintained.

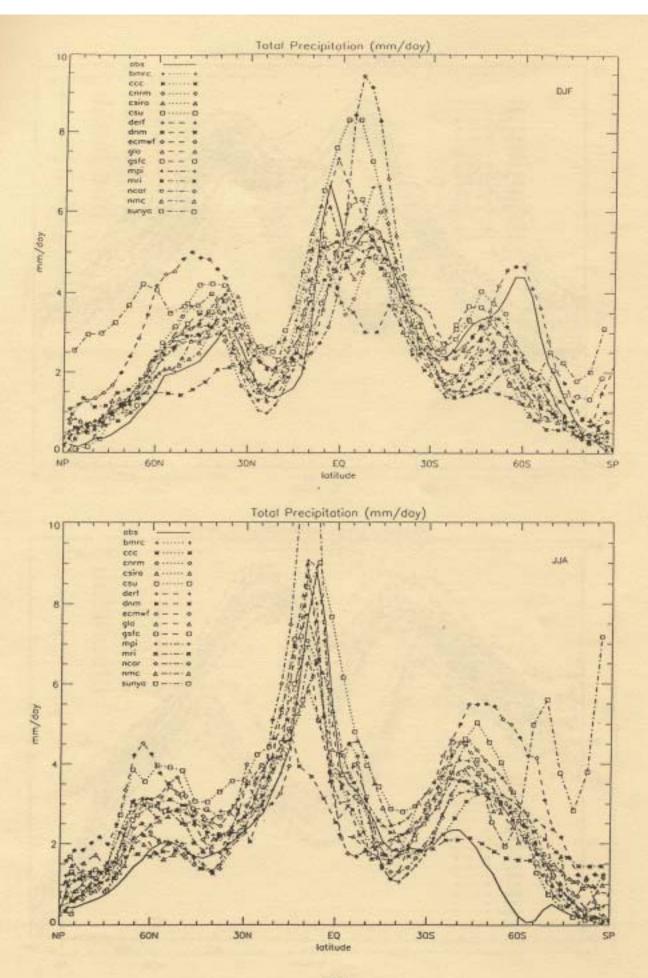
GCM Identification Format

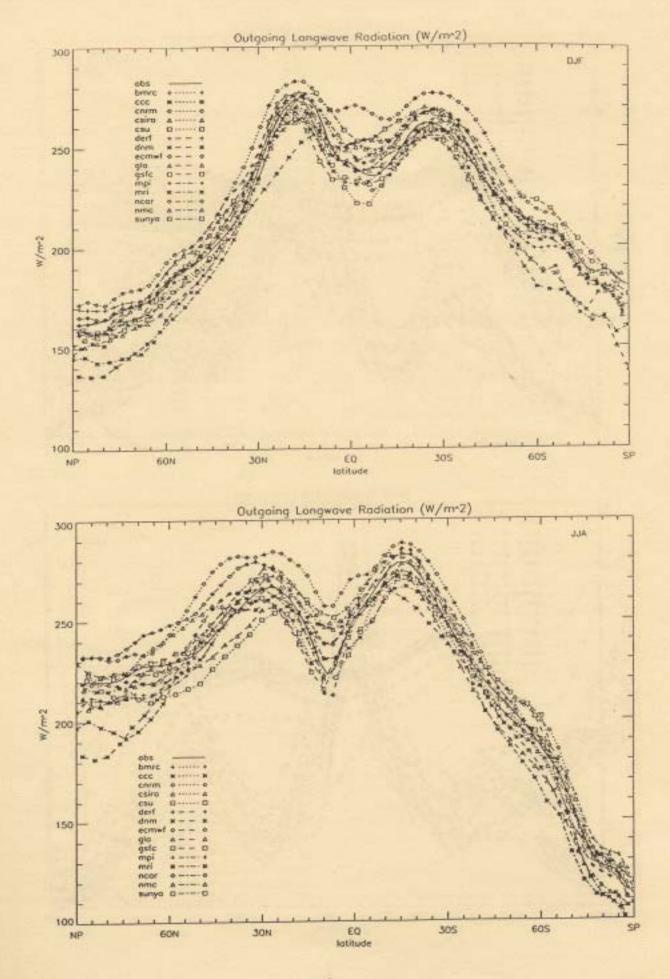
Following a suggestion made by the WGNE, AMIP wishes to adopt a GCM identification format that separates the modeling or user group from the model version being used, Using the NCAR CCM2 as an example, the suggested identification format is

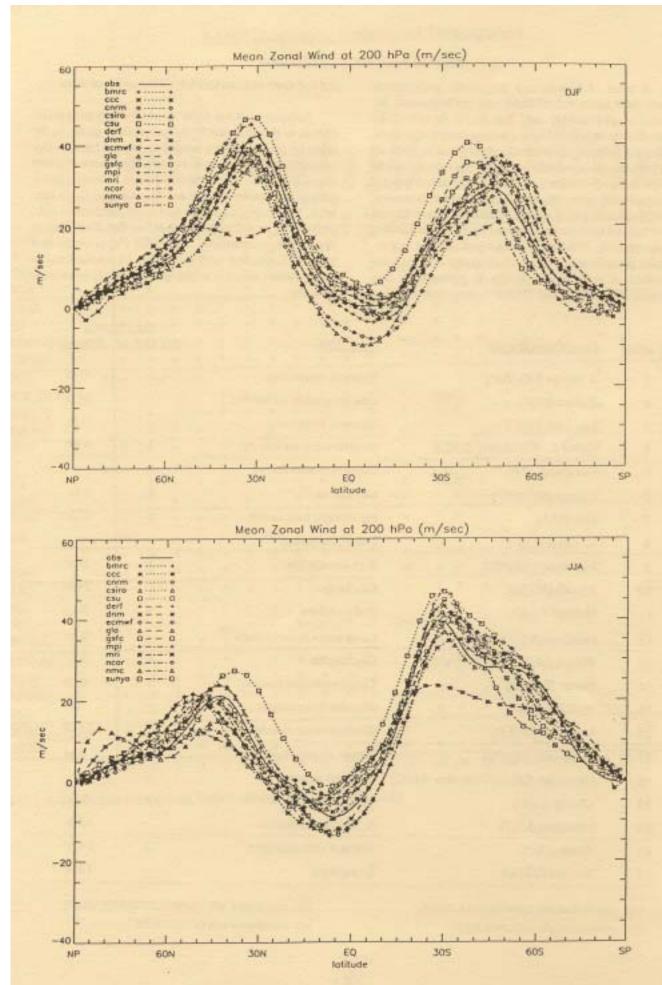
NCAR	CCM2.0	T42 L18
institution or group	model name and version	resolution

While parts of this convention are already in widespread use, its adoption as a compact model ID will help to distinguish between model versions used by the same or different groups. All modeling groups are requested to supply the model name and version (if any) of the atmospheric GCM used in AMIP; this information will be used in future AMIP model identification and will supplement the model documentation now being assembled by PCMDI.









AMIP Diagnostic Subprojects

A total of twenty-two diagnostic subprojects have now been established (see table below). Instead of distributing only the standard output as specifically requested by each diagnostic subproject, the complete set of standard output for all models so far processed (see table on page 2) is now available to the subprojects (as well as to the modeling groups themselves) upon request. It is assumed, however, that each subproject will maintain its approved focus and will not undertake analyses that are the primary responsibility of another subproject without appropriate coordination. The subprojects are also reminded of their responsibility to prepare in due course a report for the WCRP report series and to

submit their results to PCMDI for archival storage.

An update of the AMIP modeling groups' participation in the diagnostic subprojects is given in the table on page 9. Many modeling groups have designated specific persons to serve as their contacts with those subprojects in which they are actively participating, and other groups are encouraged to do likewise. While proposals for additional diagnostic subprojects are welcome from either the modeling or diagnostics community, the AMIP Panel urges that further diagnoses and validation be carried out in cooperation with the existing subprojects whenever feasible.

			Data N		
umber	Lead Organizer(s)	Short Title	Std. Output	History	
1	J. Slingo (UGAMP)	Synoptic variability		6 hr	
2	Zwiers (CCC)	Low frequency variability	-	24 hr	
3	Lambert (CCC)	Cyclone frequency	-	12 hr	
4	Duvel (LMD)/Cheruy (LMD)	Greenhouse sensitivity	×	6 hr	
5	Randall (CSU)	Surface ocean fluxes	×	7	
6	Palmer (ECMWF)	Monsoons (1)	×	6 hr	
7	Lau (GLA)	Hydrologic processes	×	6 hr	
8	Walsh (UILL)	Polar processes (2)	×	24 hr	
9	McAvaney (BMRC)	S.H. circulation	×	6 hr	
10	Tibaldi (ADGB)	Blocking		24 hr	
11	Robock (UMD)	Soil moisture	×	6 hr	
12	Henderson-Sellers (MACU)	Land surface processes (3)	×	6 hr	
13	Weare (UCD)/Mokhov (RAS)	Cloudiness	x	-	
14	Potter (PCMDI)	Cloud-radiative forcing	×	6 hr	
15	Hide (UKMO)	Angular momentum	-	6 hr	
16	Mechoso (UCLA)	Stratospheric circulation	+	24 hr	
17	Robertson (MSFC)	Water, energy balances (4)	×	6 hr	
18	Meleshko (MGO)/Trosnikov (HMC)	Extreme events	×	-	
19	Christy (UAH)	MSU validation	×	6 hr	
20	Hewitson (UCT)	S. Africa circulation		12 hr	
21	Jones (UEA)	Surface climatologies	x	24 hr	
22	Tanaka (UTSU)	Energetics	-	12 hr	

⁽¹⁾ coordinated with MONEG/TOGA, WGNE

⁽²⁾ coordinated with SIOMP/ACSYS

⁽³⁾ coordinated with PILPS/GCIP/GEWEX, WGNE

⁽⁴⁾ coordinated with GCIP/GEWEX

AMIP Diagnostic Subproject Participation

	Slingo	Zwiers	Lambert	Duvel / Cheruy	Randall	Palmer	Lau	Walsh	McAvaney	Tibaldi	Robock	Henderson- Sellers	Weare/Mokhov	Potter	Hide	Mechoso	Robertson	Meleshko/ Trosnikov	Christy	Hewitson	Jones	Tanaka
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
BMRC	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+		-	-	+	+	H	+
CCC	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-		=		*
CNRM	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-		-	_		
COLA	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	=	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	77	-	+
CSIRO	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	7	+	+	+	+	+	+
CSU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-		+	+
DNM	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	1	+	-	-	-	17
ECMWF	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
GFDL	-	-	94	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	5	=	-	-	+		-	-
GFDL/DERF	-	-		-	+	+	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GISS	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	*	-		17
GLA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	- 200	-	-	-	-
GSFC	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
IAP	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
JMA	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
LMD	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	-	+	+
MGO	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	;±	+	*	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
MPI	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
MRI	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	*	+	**	10	-	+	+
NCAR	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-00		-	-	-	-
NMC	+	+	#	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	. 047	-	-
NRL.	-	-	-	_	1	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	77	1	-
RPN	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	73	-	-	-	+
SUNYA	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	112	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SUNYA/NCAR	-	-	_	+	+		+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	=	-	-
UCLA	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	+	-	-	-	-
UGAMP	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-		+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
UILL	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	**	-	+	+:	+	+	-	+	-	+	++)	-	*	-
UKMO	+	+	34	+	+	+	+	+	#	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
YONU	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Here + denotes active participation, while - denotes data availability only

Addresses of AMIP Modeling Group Representatives and Diagnostic Subproject Leaders

In the interest of facilitating contact within the AMIP community, the complete postal and electronic addresses of the modeling group representatives and of the leaders of the diagnostic subprojects are given below in alphabetical order, with the modeling group and/or diagnostic subproject (DS) number given at the left.

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AMIP Validation Data

The availability of observational datasets that will serve to validate model performance is essential to meeting the goals of AMIP. To this end PCMDI has acquired a number of major climate datasets that are generally global in extent, gridded, and temporally averaged to monthly time scales covering the AMIP period (Jan 1979 to Dec 1988). These DRS format-

ted files are now available in a single directory stored on optical disk that permits ready access. Over and above conventional climatological datasets that do not address specific AMIP months, the major datasets now in the AMIP data archive at PCMDI are given in the table below. Unless otherwise indicated, these datasets are global.

Variable	Source	Period	Resolution
Temperature	ECMWF analyses	1980-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
	NMC analyses	1979-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
Geopotential	ECMWF analyses	1980-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
	NMC analyses	1979-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
Mean sea-level pressure	SIO	1979-1988	5° x 5° 72N-42S
Wind	ECMWF analyses	1980-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
	NMC analyses	1979-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
Relative humidity	ECMWF analyses	1980-1988	2.5° x 2.5°
Cloudiness	ISCCP	19831988	2.5° x 2.5°
Precipitation	CAC	1986-1991	2.5° x 2.5°, 40N-40S
	CRU	1979-1988	5.0° x 5.0°, land only
	GSFC	1979-1988	2.0° x 2.5°, land only
Surface temperature (2m)	GSFC	1979–1988	2.0° x 2.5°, land only
Precipitable water	SIO	1987-1990	2.5° x 2.5°, SSMI/RAWINDSONDE
	GSFC/ECMWF	1980-1988	4° x 5°
Surface evaporation	GSFC	1979-1988	2.0° x 2.5°, land only
Streamfunction, velocity potential	GSFC/ECMWF	1980–1988	4° x 5°
Net TOA longwave radiation	ERBE	1985–1988	1.25° x 1.25°
Net TOA shortwave radiation	ERBE	1985–1988	1.25° x 1.25°

AMIP Scientific Conference

It is planned to hold an AMIP Scientific Conference at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California during 15-19 May 1995. At this conference it is expected that comprehensive reports will be presented by both the AMIP modeling groups and the diagnostic subprojects, and that the proceedings will be published as a book or in a special issue of a scientific journal. As at previous

AMIP meetings, the PCMDI will support the participation of a representative from each AMIP modeling group and diagnostic subproject, although the conference will be open to any interested participant. Further information on the conference will be distributed in due course, although preliminary inquiries may be directed to Lori McDowell at PCMDI.

AMIP Contacts

Questions, suggestions and comments on AMIP are welcome, and may be directed to the following:

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