



Climate Modes evaluation datasets from CMIP6 pre-industrial control simulations and observations

Sandeep Mohapatra^{1,2}, Alex Sen Gupta^{1,3}, Nathaniel L. Bindoff^{1,2,4}, Yuxuan Lyu^{1,2}

¹ Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

² Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

³ Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

⁴ Australian Antarctic Program Partnership, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Correspondence to: Sandeep Mohapatra (sandeep.mohapatra@utas.edu.au)

Abstract

Internal climate variability encompasses processes ranging from daily weather fluctuations to multidecadal interactions within the climate system. A large component of internal variability on sub-seasonal to multi-decadal time scales is associated with recurring patterns or “climate modes”. In this study we provide an openly available dataset of eight major climate modes: Eastern Pacific El Niño (EP-El Niño), Central Pacific El Niño (CP-El Niño), Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO), Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), Subsurface Dipole Mode (SDM), Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO), North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and Southern Annular Mode (SAM). These modes were derived from 23 Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6 (CMIP6) models, each with over 500 years of simulation data, ensuring robust statistical insights into their spatial and temporal structures. The datasets were validated against observational data, revealing broad-scale consistency and highlighting biases in regional features and amplitudes. However, regional discrepancies, like exaggerated warming or cooling in specific areas, were found. Despite these limitations, the datasets provide an important resource for understanding climate variability, conducting detection and attribution studies, and improving climate projections. All datasets are publicly accessible (Mohapatra et al. 2025; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17337105>), supporting future research and policy development to address climate variability and its implications for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Short Summary



This study provides a new open-access datasets that capture how natural climate patterns shape the global climate. The datasets are built from climate model simulations and observations, allowing researcher to see how well models reproduce natural climate behaviour.

35 Our openly available datasets will help researchers to better distinguish natural climate variability from human-caused changes. These resources also provide a foundation for improving climate models and long-term projections.

1 Introduction

1.1 Internal variability and Climate Modes

40 Identifying internal variability is crucial for isolating the anthropogenic climate change signal, which can enhance or mask the long-term trend (Deser et al., 2012; Kay et al., 2015). A better understanding of internal processes is an important factor in reducing the uncertainty of climate projections. The internal variability of the climate system can be described, to a large extent, as a combination of climate modes. A climate mode is a recurring pattern of climate
 45 variability that typically spans large geographical areas and influences weather and climate over weeks to decades. These patterns emerge from complex interactions between the atmosphere, oceans, and sometimes land or ice systems. Each mode is usually characterized by specific spatial patterns (such as sea surface temperature or sea level pressure anomalies) and temporal behaviour (how often it occurs and how long it lasts).

50 1.2 Climate Modes across the Globe

Different ocean basins host various climate modes operating at multiple time scales, ranging from sub-seasonal to interannual, decadal, and multidecadal. For instance, the Pacific Ocean, being the largest ocean basin, exhibits key climate modes such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), and the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO; Henley et al., 2015, 2017;
 55 Power et al., 1999; Folland et al., 2002). Among them, ENSO stands out as the strongest interannual climate mode in tropical Pacific Ocean and has substantial global impact. ENSO is commonly separated into two types based on the region of greatest anomalous activity: Eastern Pacific (EP) El Niño and Central Pacific (CP) El Niño. EP (CP) El Niño is characterized by eastern (central) tropical Pacific warming during its positive phase. On the other hand, the IPO
 60 is a multidecadal climate mode with SST anomalies that extend more broadly than ENSO into the subtropics. During the positive phase of the IPO, sea surface temperature warm in the tropical eastern and central Pacific, while the subtropical central and western Pacific experience cooling (Henley et al., 2015).

The Indian Ocean displays distinct climate modes, including the Indian Ocean Dipole
 65 (IOD; Saji et al., 1999; Webster et al., 1999), and Subsurface Dipole Mode (SDM; Sayantani



& Gnanaseelan, 2015; Mohapatra & Gnanaseelan, 2021). The IOD and SDM vary from interannual to decadal time scales, with IOD defined using tropical Indian Ocean SST, while SDM is defined based on thermocline depth and 500 m ocean heat content (OHC500). The IOD is characterised by contrasting warming and cooling in the western and southeastern equatorial Indian Ocean during its positive phase. The SDM is characterised by the southwestern Indian Ocean warming and eastern and central equatorial Indian Ocean cooling during its positive phase.

The Atlantic Ocean exhibits two main climate modes: the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO; Hurrell et al., 2003; Hurrell & Deser, 2009) and the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO; Deser et al., 2010). The NAO is an atmospheric mode of variability characterised by fluctuations in the sea level pressure difference between the Icelandic Low and the Azores High. The AMO is an oceanic mode of multidecadal variability in North Atlantic SST, marked by uniform warming and cooling during warm and cold phases.

In the southern hemisphere, the Southern Annular Mode (SAM; Gong & Wang, 1999; Marshall, 2003) represents an important atmospheric mode of variability in sea level pressure and is characterised by the north-south movement of the westerly wind belt over the mid and higher latitudes. In its positive phase, the SAM is associated with lower pressure over Antarctica and stronger poleward-shifted westerlies. Overall, these climate modes are regionally based and defined by specific spatial patterns and time evolution.

These modes have a substantial impact on the global climate through oceanic and atmospheric channels across multiple timescales. They are responsible for internal changes in regional and global teleconnection processes, including key systems such as monsoon dynamics, Walker and Hadley circulation, ocean circulation, sea level, and heat content (Arblaster et al., 2002; Taschetto et al., 2015; Dong & McPhaden, 2017; IPCC, 2023; Mohapatra et al., 2023). These modes interact with each other, either amplifying or suppressing one another, thereby further influencing climate dynamics at both regional and global scales (IPCC, 2023; Meehl & Arblaster, 2012; Park et al., 2023).

1.3 Representation of climate modes in CMIP

Past research indicates that while the simulation of various climate modes has improved across successive CMIP generations, notable biases remain (Lee et al., 2021; Bracegirdle et al., 2020; Fasullo et al., 2020; Flato et al., 2013; Coburn & Pryor 2021). Most CMIP5 models reproduce the AMO spatial pattern (Chen et al., 2018) but underrepresented low-frequency hemispheric teleconnections (Kavvada et al., 2013). Based on historical simulations, CMIP6 exhibits clear advances, for instance, improved representation of several ENSO characteristics,



100 more realistic IOD spatial patterns, and better reproduction of AMO variability, yet persistent issues remain, such as biases in IOD amplitude and weak coupling between near-surface and subsurface processes for ENSO (Planton et al., 2021; McKenna et al. 2020).

To better evaluate these natural climate patterns, piControl simulations provide long-term datasets of unforced climate variability, offering a stable baseline for the assessment of
105 climate modes. By comparing CMIP6 outputs with observations and across models, these datasets enable systematic validation of climate modes, quantification of individual model limitations.

1.4 Objective of climate mode datasets from CMIP6

Many analyses in climate science require information on climate modes, for example,
110 when assessing their impacts, conducting attribution studies, or investigating mode dynamics. It is often useful to have information on the modes uncontaminated by a global warming signal. However, these piControl outputs are large datasets and processing times can be long, especially for metrics such as subsurface temperature. To address this need, we provide an open dataset along with a detailed description of the derivation of eight key climate modes (EP-El
115 Niño, CP-El Niño, IPO, IOD, SDM, AMO, NAO, and SAM) based on 23 CMIP6 piControl simulations and observations. Section 2.1 outlines the datasets used to derive these climate modes, including details of the CMIP6 models and observational products. Section 2.2 describes the methodologies adopted and the standard definitions employed to identify the climate modes and techniques adopted for validation. Section 3 presents the technical
120 validation and quality control of the derived datasets, providing a detailed discussion of the spatial and temporal structures of the eight climate modes, highlighting their consistency and limitations when compared with observational data. Section 4 summarizes the key dataset characteristics and findings. Section 5 highlights the utility of climate modes indices, and outlines their potential applications for studying internal climate variability and supporting
125 future climate assessments. Finally, section 6 provides the data availability statement for derived and original datasets.

2 Data and Methods

2.1 Data Description

Monthly CMIP6 sea surface temperature (SST; variable: tos), sea level pressure (SLP;
130 variable: psl), and potential temperature (variable: thetao) are obtained from the Earth System Grid Federation (<https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/projects/cmip6>). The present study considers 23 CMIP6 models. Only models with 500 or more years of piControl runs are considered to ensure robust statistics. This criterion ensures that the derived indices capture statistically robust



characteristics of internal climate variability, independent of externally forced signals. Each
 135 model contributes continuous monthly fields from the ocean and atmosphere components,
 allowing for consistent computation of climate mode indices.

The selected models represent a diverse range of modelling centres and configurations,
 encompassing different resolutions, parameterizations, and coupled components. This diversity
 provides a comprehensive basis for evaluating model consistency and spread in representing
 140 climate modes. Model details, including the originating centres, ocean-atmosphere resolutions,
 and total simulation lengths are listed in Table 1.

Model name	Model Centres	Ocean Component (Horizontal Resolution)	Atmospheric Component (Horizontal Resolution)	Duration (years)
CanESM5	Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis (CCCma)	NEMO3.4.1 (361*290)	CanAM5 (128*64)	1000
HadGEM3-GC31-LL	UK Met Office Hadley	NEMO-HadGEM3-GO6.0 (ORCA1 1°)	MetUM-HadGEM3-GA7.1 (192*144)	500
EC-Earth3-CC	EC-Earth Consortium	NEMO3.6 (362*292)	IFS cy36r4 (512*256)	505
CMCC-CM2-SR5	Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici (CMCC)	NEMO3.6 (ORCA025 0.25°)	CAM5.3 (288 x 192)	500
CNRM-CM6-1	Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques (CNRM-CERFACS)	NEMO3.6 (ORCA1 1°)	Arpege 6.3 (T127, 150km)	500
GISS-E2-1-G	NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies	GISS Ocean (1°)	GISS-E2.1 (144 x 90)	851
CMCC-ESM2	Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici (CMCC)	NEMO3.6 (ORCA1 1°)	CAM5.4 (288*192)	500
EC-Earth3	EC-Earth Consortium	NEMO3.6 (ORCA1 1°)	IFS cy36r4 (512*256)	501



E3SM1-0	U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)	MPAS-Ocean v6.0 (resolution 60 km to 30 km)	E3M v1.0 C90	500
MIROC6	JAMSTEC, AORI, NIES (Japan)	COCO4.9 (360*256)	CCSR AGCM (256*128)	800
MRI-ESM2-0	Meteorological Research Institute (MRI)	MRI.COM4.4.2 (360*364)	MRI-AGCM3.5 (320*160)	500
HadGEM3- GC31-MM	UK Met Office Hadley Centre	NEMO-HadGEM3- GO6.0 (ORCA025 0.25°)	MetUM-HadGEM3- GA7.1 (432*324)	500
BCC- CSM2-MR	Beijing Climate Center (BCC)	MOM4 (1°)	AGCM3 (T106, 46)	600
IPSL- CM6A-LR	Institute Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL)	NEMO3.6 (362*332)	LMDZ (144 * 143)	2000
MPI-ESM1- 2-HR	Max Planck Institute for Meteorology (MPI-M)	MPIOM1.6.3 (802*404)	ECHAM6.3 (384*192)	500
ACCESS- ESM1-5	ACCESS, CSIRO (Australia)	GFDL-MOM5 (360*300)	HadGAM2 (192*145)	1000
ACCESS- CM2	ACCESS, CSIRO (Australia)	GFDL-MOM5 (360*300)	HadGEM3-GA7.1 (N96)	500
CESM2	National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)	POP2 (320*384)	CAM6 (288*192)	1200
GFDL-CM4	NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL)	GFDL-MOM6 (1440*1080)	GFDL-AM4.0.1 (360*180)	500
CIESM	Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences	CIESM-OM (720*560)	CIESM-AM (288*192)	500
FGOALS-g3	Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IAP-CAS)	LICOM3.0 (360*218)	GAMIL2 (180*90)	700
SAM0- UNICON	Seoul National University (SNU)	POP2 (320*384)	CAM5.3 with UNICON (320*384)	700
CNRM- ESM2-1	Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques (CNRM- CERFACS)	NEMO3.6 (e- ORCA1 1°)	Arpege 6.3 (T127)	500

Table 1. List of CMIP6 model with their organisation.



Observation and reanalysis datasets are used for validating the climate modes. Monthly SST data is taken from Extended Reconstructed SST version5 (ERSSTv5) for the period 1900-2023. The latest version of ERSSTv5 incorporates updated datasets, including SST from ICOADS Release 3.0, Argo floats (above 5 m), and sea-ice concentration from HadISST2. It improves spatial and temporal variability by refining Empirical Orthogonal Teleconnections (EOTs) and correcting ship SST biases using buoy-based references and an unadjusted first-guess approach. The detailed description of ERSSTv5 is provided by Huang et al. (2017). The present study also considers the monthly potential temperature data from the Ocean Reanalysis System 5 (ORAS5) during 1958-2018. ORAS5 adopts 3DVar-FGAT mode with ensemble based bias correction scheme. Observations from satellite instruments and in-situ measurements like CTD, Mooring etc. are assimilated into the Nucleus for European Modelling of the Ocean versions 4.0 (NEMO4) ocean model (Zuo et al. 2018). Our study includes the monthly Sea level pressure data from ERA5 reanalysis product for the period 1940-2023. ERA5 is the 5th generation reanalysis project from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECWMF). ERA5 is produced using 4D-Var data assimilation and model forecasts in CY41R2 of the [ECMWF Integrated Forecast System \(IFS\)](https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/ifs) (Hersbach et al. 2020). The dataset incorporates updated analyses of sea-surface temperature, sea-ice concentration, and multiple observational records using an ocean-wave optimal interpolation scheme, providing global hourly/monthly data since 1940 at ~ 31 km ($0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$) resolution, along with uncertainty estimates to assess data quality and reliability.

Using the above datasets, we derived eight climate modes in NetCDF format. All files, together with the generating codes, are publicly archived on Zenodo (Mohapatra et al. 2025; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17337105>). Detailed descriptions of the data processing steps, including preprocessing, statistical derivation, and consistency checks, as well as a comprehensive evaluation against observational and reanalysis datasets, are provided in the Methodology and Technical Validation sections.

2.2 Methodology

As the first step, all observational, reanalysis, and CMIP model datasets were regridded to a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid using bilinear interpolation before any further processing.

2.2.1 Ocean Heat Content

The 500m upper Ocean Heat Content (OHC500) in reanalysis and models is computed as follows:

$$OHC500 = \rho_0 C_p \int_0^{500} T(z) dz$$



where $C_p=4186 \text{ J Kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ is the specific heat capacity of the sea water and $\rho_0=1026 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ is the reference sea water density, $T(z)$ is the vertical profile of regridded potential temperature.

2.2.2 Drift correction

Variables from piControl simulations, that are not subject to transient forcing, should
 180 be stationary over time. However, a common issue in climate models is the drift. Drift is a
 spurious trend in different state variables that are unrelated to changes in external forcing (Sen
 Gupta et al. 2013). Drift may occur for various reasons such as insufficient spin up and errors
 in the model's energy budget (Hobbs et al. 2016). This shortcoming in the models when
 integrated over century scales can result large changes in ocean temperature, and ocean heat
 185 content etc (Sen Gupta et al. 2013; Hobbs et al. 2016). To remove model drift, a linear trend
 was fitted and removed at each grid cell over the full duration of the piControl simulations for
 regridded SST, OHC500, and SLP.

2.2.3 Climate modes

We have calculated eight widely used climate modes (IPO, EP and CP El Niño, AMO,
 190 NAO, IOD, SDM, and SAM), using standard definitions of these modes in the literature (Table
 2). First, monthly anomalies are calculated by subtracting the long-term (duration of piControl)
 monthly mean climatology from the SST, SLP, and OHC500, after the data had already been
 regridded and linearly detrended as described above.

A Lanczos filter was applied to the above processed datasets prior to computing the
 195 AMO, ENSO and IPO indices. For the AMO and IPO, a 10-year low-pass filter with a 10-year
 cut-off and a filter length of 121 months was used, which removes approximately five years of
 data from the beginning and end of the record. For ENSO, a band-pass filter with lower and
 upper cut-offs at 24 months and 108 months respectively, and a filter length of 109 months,
 was applied. The Lanczos filters (low-pass and band-pass) were chosen to retain only the
 200 desired frequency ranges required for defining climate mode (AMO, ENSO and IPO). To
 maintain consistency, we removed five years from the start and end of the record used for
 computing each of the climate mode index (Table 2). While the AMO is defined as the average
 of 10year low pass filtered SST anomaly over the North Atlantic as preferred in most literature,
 the other seven climate modes are defined based on Empirical Orthogonal Function (EOF) and
 205 applied separately to different regions/variables (as mentioned in Table 2).

EOF analysis decomposes spatiotemporal data into orthogonal spatial patterns and
 corresponding temporal coefficients, known as principal components (PCs), ranked by the
 variance they explain (Hannachi et al., 2007). We have not included the Niño 3.4 (for ENSO),
 DMI (Dipole Mode Index for IOD) indices in this study because they rely on specific, small-



210 area averages. Since models have biases in accurately representing these regions, we instead use EOF based PCs as indices, which better account for regional biases while capturing variability across the full basins.

Index	Definition
AMO (Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation)	Average of 10 years low pass filtered detrended monthly SST Anomaly average over the North Atlantic (0-60°N, 75°W-7.5°W) (Enfield et al. 2001; Wang et al. 2009; Deser et al. 2021)
IPO (Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation)	1 st EOFPC of 10 years low pass filtered detrended monthly SST anomaly averaged over the Pacific Ocean (70°S-70°N, 120°E-80°W). (Dong and McPhaden 2017; Han et al. 2014; Power et al. 1999)
El Niño (EP El Niño and CP El Niño)	1 st and 2 nd EOFPC of 2-9 years band pass filtered detrended monthly SST anomaly over the tropical Pacific Ocean (120°E-80°W, 30°S-30°N). EOFPC1 (EOFPC2) represents EP El Niño (CP El Niño). (Xu et al 2017) Here EP El Niño is denoted as ENSO1 and CP El Niño is denoted as ENSO2.
SAM (Southern Annular Mode)	1 st EOFPC of detrended monthly sea level pressure anomaly south of 20°S (Cai and Cowan 2007; Miller et al. 2006)
NAO (North Atlantic Oscillation)	1 st EOFPC of detrended monthly sea level pressure anomaly over the North Atlantic Ocean (90°W-40°E, 20°N-80°N) (Hurrel et al. 2003; Hurrel & Deser 2009)
SDM (Subsurface Dipole Mode)	1 st EOFPC of detrended monthly upper 500m OHC anomaly over the tropical Indian Ocean (40°E-110°E, 20°S-25°N) (Mohapatra & Gnanaseelan, 2021)
IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole)	2 nd EOFPC of detrended monthly SST anomaly over the tropical Indian Ocean (40°E-110°E, 20°S-25°N). (Krishnamurthy & Kirtman, 2003)

Table 2. Definition of various regional climate modes and their domains.

2.2.4 Model Skill score

215 To compare the spatial patterns of climate modes extracted from CMIP6 models with those from observations, we have employed Taylor diagrams. Taylor diagrams provide a concise visual representation of the spatial correlation coefficient (r) and the standard deviation (STD) between a model field and an observed field, while also incorporating their combined measure, the root-mean-square difference (RMSD) (Izzaddin et al., 2024; Taylor, 2001). The
 220 RMSD is calculated as:

$$\text{RMSD}^2 = \sigma_m^2 + \sigma_r^2 - 2 \sigma_m \sigma_r r$$

Where σ_m and σ_r are the standard deviations of the model and observed patterns, respectively, and r is their spatial correlation coefficient.

In our analysis, the model results were standardised relative to observation. This allows
 225 the distance from each model point to the reference (observed) point on the diagram to directly indicate the overall agreement between the simulated and observed spatial patterns.



2.2.5 Spectral analysis and Monte Carlo significance test

We analysed the periodic variability of the climate mode indices time series using the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) and tested the statistical significance of spectral peaks via Monte Carlo simulation. For each time series, the mean was removed, and the series was normalised to unit variance before spectral estimation. The power spectrum was computed using the variance-normalised periodogram with a Hanning window and normalised such that.

$$\sum_{k=1}^K P(f_k) = 1$$

Where $P(f_k)$ is the power at frequency f_k , and K is the number of positive frequency bins.

To construct the null distribution, we fitted a first-order autoregressive (AR(1)) model to each series by estimating its lag-1 autocorrelation coefficient α (Wilks, 2011). A total of 1000 Monte Carlo time series were generated with the same length as the original data following the approach of Schulz & Mudelsee (2002):

$$x_t = \alpha x_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$$

The FFT is applied to each surrogate, and the resulting simulated spectra are used to estimate the mean $\bar{P}(f)$, standard deviation $\sigma_P(f)$, and the effective degrees of freedom (EDF) at each frequency (Bretherton et al., 1999):

$$\text{EDF}(f) = \left[\frac{\bar{P}(f)}{\sigma_P(f)} \right]^2$$

The significance threshold at each frequency was then calculated as

$$T(f) = \bar{P}(f) + \frac{\sigma_P(f)}{\sqrt{\text{EDF}(f)}}$$

And peaks in the observed spectrum exceeding this threshold (mean + standard error) are considered statistically significant. This procedure is repeated for all CMIP6 models, observational and reanalysis datasets to assess the robustness of periodic signals in the extracted climate mode indices. For the heat maps, we plot the fraction of significant spectral power in each period bin for every dataset. Within each dataset, these fractions are normalized to sum to 1 (i.e., we condition on the significant part of the spectrum), so the heat map reflects the relative distribution of significant power across periods rather than absolute magnitude. Bins with no significant power are left blank.

3 Technical Validation

3.1 Spatial and Statistical Quality Control of Simulated Climate Modes

3.1.1 Pacific Ocean Basin



3.1.1.1 ENSO (EP El Niño and CP El Niño)

The tropical Pacific Ocean exhibits a dominant interannual climate mode known as El Niño Southern Oscillation, comprising of two types of EP and CP El Niño. These two types of modes are defined as the first two leading modes of SST anomaly in the tropical Pacific within 30°S-30°N (Xue et al. 2017). The EP El Niño represents the primary leading mode and is characterized by warming in the eastern tropical Pacific and explains 63.4% of the variance of tropical Pacific SST anomaly in observation (Fig. 1a). Spatial expression, obtained by regressing SST anomaly against the normalised time series of mode indices (EOFPC1) show that most models capture the broad scale features, particularly warming in the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean during its positive phase (Fig. 1a). All the models reproduce the observed wedge-shaped warming in the central and eastern Pacific, with a weaker cooling signal in the surrounding regions. Pattern correlations range between 0.7 to 0.95 with RMSE error ranging between 0.35°C to 0.55°C (Fig. 4a). Models (particularly CanESM5, BCC-CSM2-MR, IPSL-CM6A-LR, ACCESS-ESM1.5, and SAM0-UNICON) present warming signal that extends too far to the west along the equator and show maximum anomalies too far to the west. Despite these limitations, all the models broadly replicate the observed spatial pattern, with RMSE values around 0.5°C.

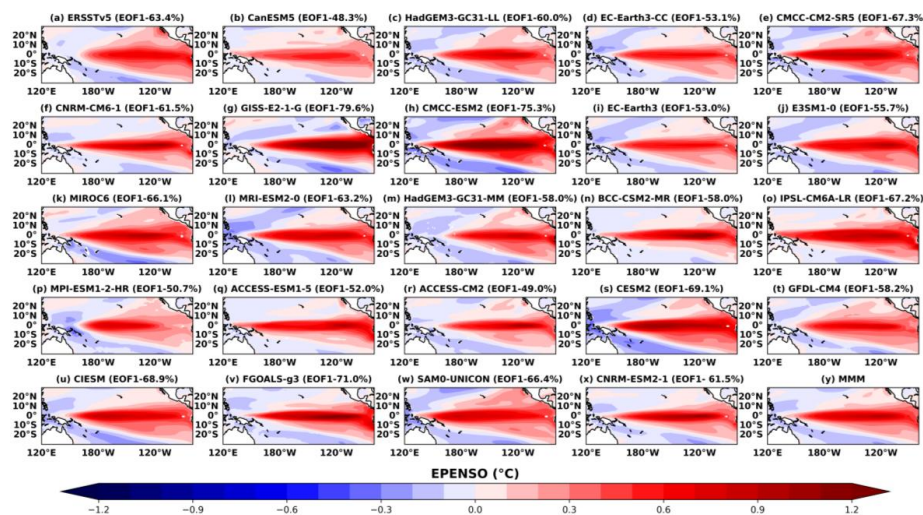


Fig. 1 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the Eastern Pacific El Niño (EP El Niño: ENSO1). Values are sea surface temperature (2-9year band pass filtered) anomalies (in °C) regressed against the EOFPC (ENSO1) time series from (a) ERSSTv5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The



bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing ENSO1
 280 between observations and models.

Unlike the EP El Niño, models demonstrate a large inter-model spread in representing
 the observed warming in the central Pacific expanding to lower latitudes towards the east and
 with cooling in the eastern and western tropical Pacific Ocean which are the characteristics of
 the positive phase of CP El Niño (Fig. 2, Fig. 4b). This mode explains only 8.1% of the variance
 285 in the observation, which is much less than the EP El Niño. Similarly low variances are seen
 across the models varying between 5%-15% (Fig. 2). With respect to observation, 14 out of 23
 models have correlations that exceed 0.5, whereas 6 models show lower correlations in between
 0.2-0.5 and 2 models (CESM2 and CIESM) show negative correlation (Fig. 4b). Models such
 as CanESM5, CMCC-CM2-SR5, BCC-CSM2-MR, ACCESS-ESM1-5 and MIROC6 show the
 290 central Pacific warming extending into the western Pacific, whereas EC-Earth3-CC, E3SM1-
 0, CESM2, and CIESM display warming in the central and eastern Pacific, which deviates from
 the conventional CP El Niño spatial features, as indicated by RMSE values exceeding 1°C.
 These deviations are likely due to the smaller variance associated with this mode. Despite these
 issues, the MMM effectively captures the observed climate mode by reducing non-systematic
 295 biases coming from individual models and a lower RMSE of around 0.5°C (Fig. 4b).

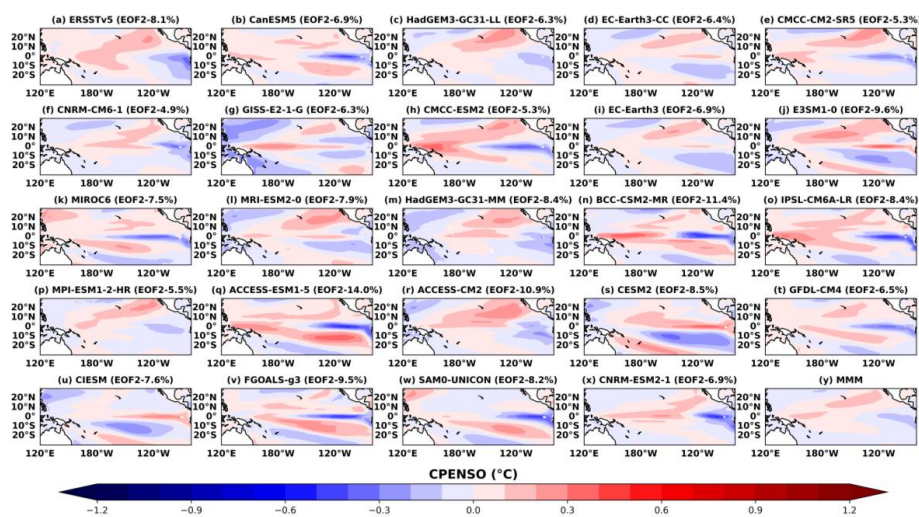


Fig. 2 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the Central Pacific El Niño (CP El Niño:
 ENSO2). Values are sea surface temperature (2-9 years band pass filtered) anomalies (in °C) regressed
 300 against the EOFPC (ENSO2) time series from (a) ERSSTv5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM.
 Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The



bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing ENSO2 between observations and models.

3.1.1.2 Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO)

305 The IPO is a multidecadal climate mode and captured as the first leading mode of
variability in low frequency SST anomaly in the Pacific Ocean (Dong and McPhaden 2017;
Han et al. 2014; Power et al. 1999), accounting for 32.3% of variance in observation (Fig. 3a).
However, for EC-Earth3 and HadGEM3-GC31-LL, IPO appears as the second and third
leading modes of SST, respectively (Fig. 3c, i), as indicated by the corresponding EOFs that
310 show strong correlations with the observed IPO spatial pattern. In most CMIP6 models, the
IPO explains 25–35% of the variance, consistent with observations, though models such as
CNRM-CM6-1, GISS-E2-1-G, FGOALS-g3, and CNRM-ESM2-1 show lower values (<20%),
while CESM2 shows higher variance (44%). The observed IPO pattern exhibits a characteristic
tripolar structure with warming in the central to eastern tropical Pacific and cooling in the
315 western-central North and South Pacific, corresponding to the positive phase of the IPO (Fig.
3a).

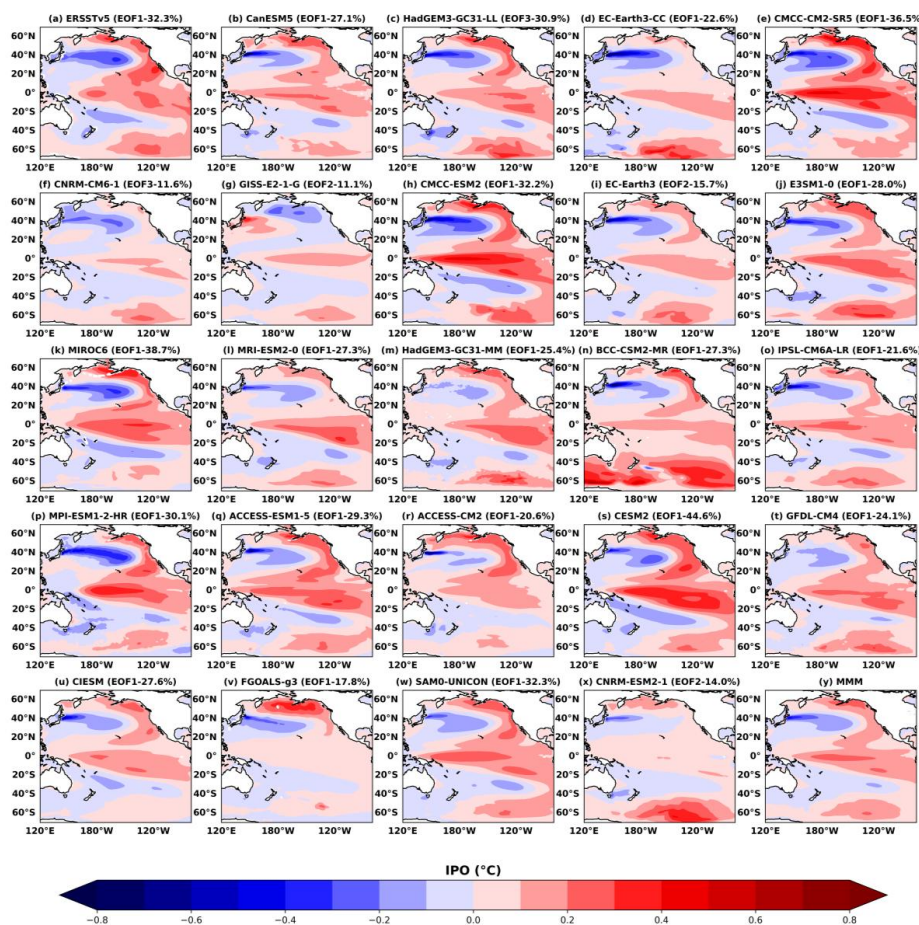


Fig. 3 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO). Values are sea surface temperature (10year low pass filtered) anomalies (in °C) regressed against the EOFPC (IPO) time series from (a) ERSSTv5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing IPO between observations and models.

To examine the robustness of spatial pattern, we have calculated the spatial correlation between the observed and modelled IPO pattern (Fig. 4c), revealing that 19 CMIP6 models exhibit strong correlations ranging from 0.7 to 0.9, with low RMSE around 0.5°C. However, most models simulate the characteristic warming in the equatorial eastern Pacific extending westward, though with varying amplitudes compared to observation. For example, GISS-E2-1-G simulates positive anomalies over the western North Central Pacific (Fig. 3g), in contrast to the observed negative anomalies. Similarly, BCC-CSM2-MR shows basin-wide warming



across the South Pacific (Fig. 3n). Overall, the MMM reproduces the IPO spatial pattern and variance reasonably well, demonstrating robust representation of the observed low-frequency Pacific variability.

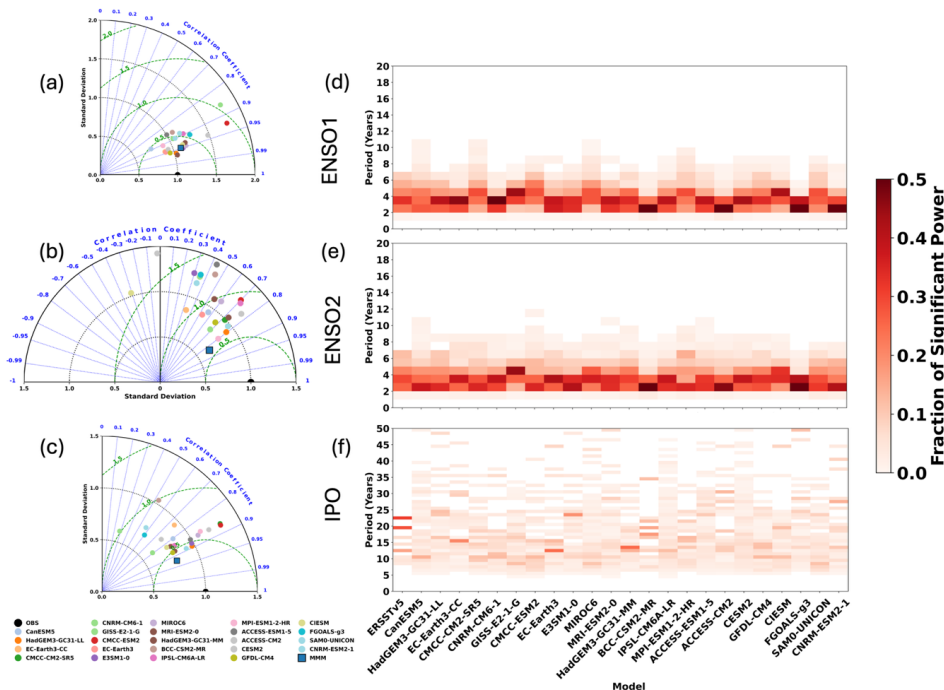


Fig. 4 Taylor diagram for regression based spatial pattern of (a) ENSO1 (b) ENSO2 (c) IPO from observation, 23 CMIP6 models and MMM. (d, e, f) Power spectrum of normalised time series for (d) ENSO1, (e) ENSO2 and (f) IPO climate mode indices from observation and 23 CMIP6 models. The power is plotted for values above a threshold (mean + standard error) after performing power analysis using a Monte Carlo-based significance test.

3.1.2 Indian Ocean basin

3.1.2.1 Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

The IOD, an internal mode of variability in tropical Indian Ocean SST, is characterised by warming (cooling) in the WEIO (EEIO) during its positive phase (Krishnamurthy and Kirtman 2003; Saji et al. 1999). Most models represent the IOD as the second leading mode of variability in SST anomaly, while 7 models (CMCC-CM2-SR5, BCC-CSM2-MR, ACCESS-ESM1-5, CESM2, CIESM, FGOALS-g3, SAM0-UNICON) exhibit the IOD as 1st leading mode (Fig. 5). Observed IOD accounts for 12.7% of the total SST anomaly variance in the tropical Indian Ocean (Fig. 5a). The explained variance in CMIP6 models varies widely, from



350 9.5% (CanESM5) to 31.5% (CIESM), while 8 models explain within the observed range of 10%-15%. A strong agreement exists between the simulated and observed spatial patterns of the IOD, with pattern correlations ranging from 0.4 to 0.9 across all the models (as shown in Taylor diagram in Fig. 7a), though notable regional differences remain in reproducing the magnitude of warming and cooling over the western and eastern IO. For instance, a subset of 355 seven models (CMCC-ESM2, EC-Earth3-CC, EC-Earth3, E3SM1-0, CIESM, MIROC6, and SAM0-UNICON) simulates strong cooling over Java and Sumatra region, resulting in high RMSE ranging between 1.0 and 1.5°C. Conversely, models like CMCC-CM2-SR5 and CESM2 produce exaggerated warming in the western IO. The MMM mitigates these individual model biases and achieves a closer representation of the observed IOD spatial pattern, demonstrated 360 by a strong pattern correlation (0.7) and a substantially lower RMSE (0.6°C).

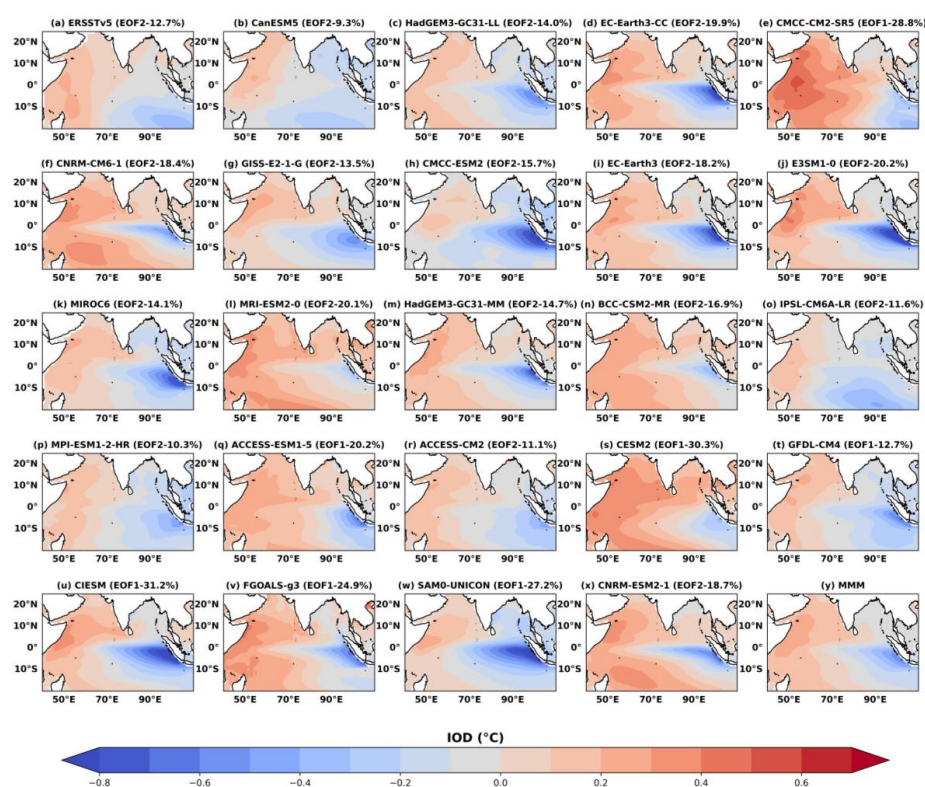


Fig. 5 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Values are sea surface temperature anomalies (in °C) regressed against the EOFPC (IOD) time series from (a) ERSSTv5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern 365 of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing IOD between observations and models.



3.1.2.2 Subsurface Dipole Mode (SDM)

The SDM is an internal mode of variability in the upper 500m OHC of the tropical Indian Ocean, characterised by a distinct dipolar pattern with warming in the south-western Indian Ocean (SWIO) and cooling in the EEIO during its positive phase (Mohapatra and Gnanaseelan 2021). All 23 models, along with reanalysis data (ORAS5), represent the SDM as the dominant EOF in OHC500 anomaly (Fig. 6). Reanalysis data accounts for 21% of the total variance. The explained variance in CMIP6 models varies widely from 14.4% in HadGEM3-GC31-MM to over 40% in CIESM and FGOALS-g3. The SDM pattern in reanalysis shows warming (cooling) in the SWIO (EEIO) (Fig. 6a). Most models reproduce the observed SWIO and EEIO dipole structure of SDM, though a few models underestimate the observed warming over the Arabian Sea (Fig. 6).

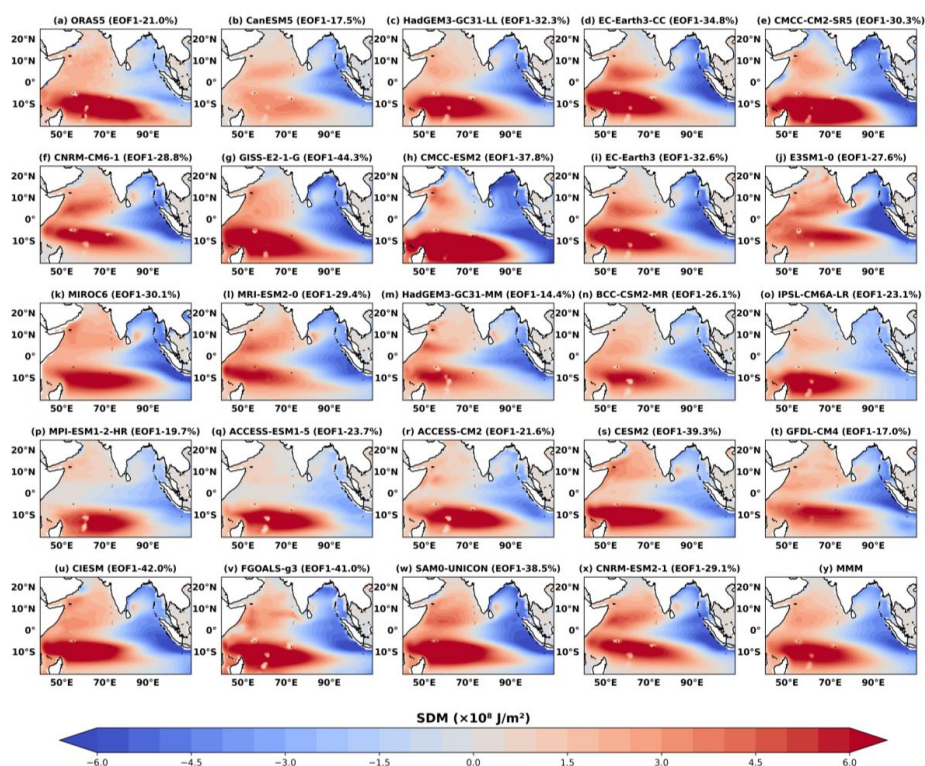


Fig. 6 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the Subsurface Dipole Mode (SDM). Values are sea surface temperature anomalies (in 10^8 J/m^2) regressed against the EOFPC (SDM) time series from (a) ORAS5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing SDM between observations and models.



All the models exhibit a strong correlation with reanalysis, ranging from 0.6 to 0.9 (Fig. 7b). The majority of models also display low RMSE values, around $0.5 \times 10^8 \text{ J/m}^2$. In contrast, CMCC-ESM2 exhibits a notably higher RMSE, exceeding $1 \times 10^8 \text{ J/m}^2$ (Fig. 7b), primarily due to its exaggerated amplitude in the SWIO relative to reanalysis (Fig. 6b). Overall, the CMIP6 models demonstrate good skill in capturing the SDM's spatial characteristics, underscoring their ability to represent key OHC variability in the tropical Indian Ocean.

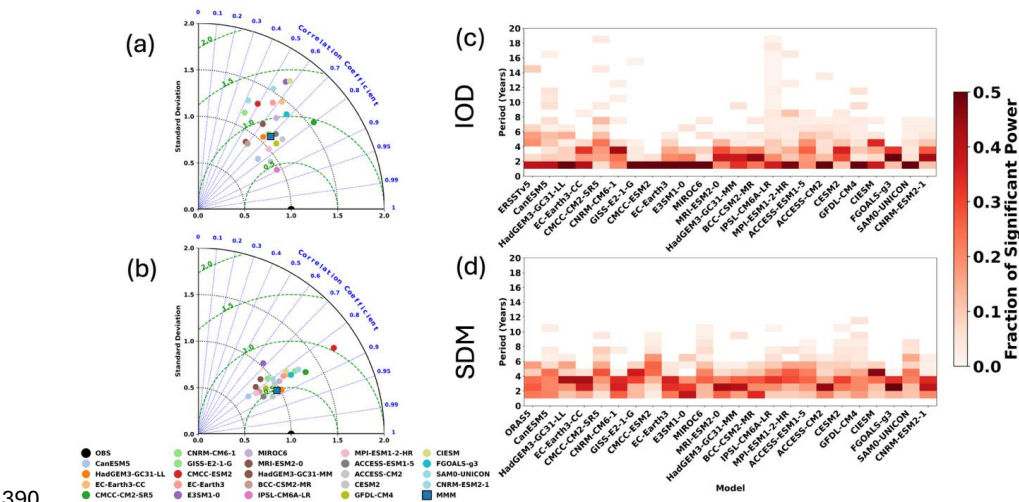


Fig. 7 Taylor diagram for regression based spatial pattern of (a) IOD from ERSSTv5 (b) SDM from ORAS5, 23 CMIP6 models and MMM. (c, d) Power spectrum of normalised time series for (c) IOD and (d) SDM climate mode indices from observation and 23 CMIP6 models. The power is plotted for values above the threshold (mean + standard error) after performing power analysis using a Monte Carlo-based significance test.

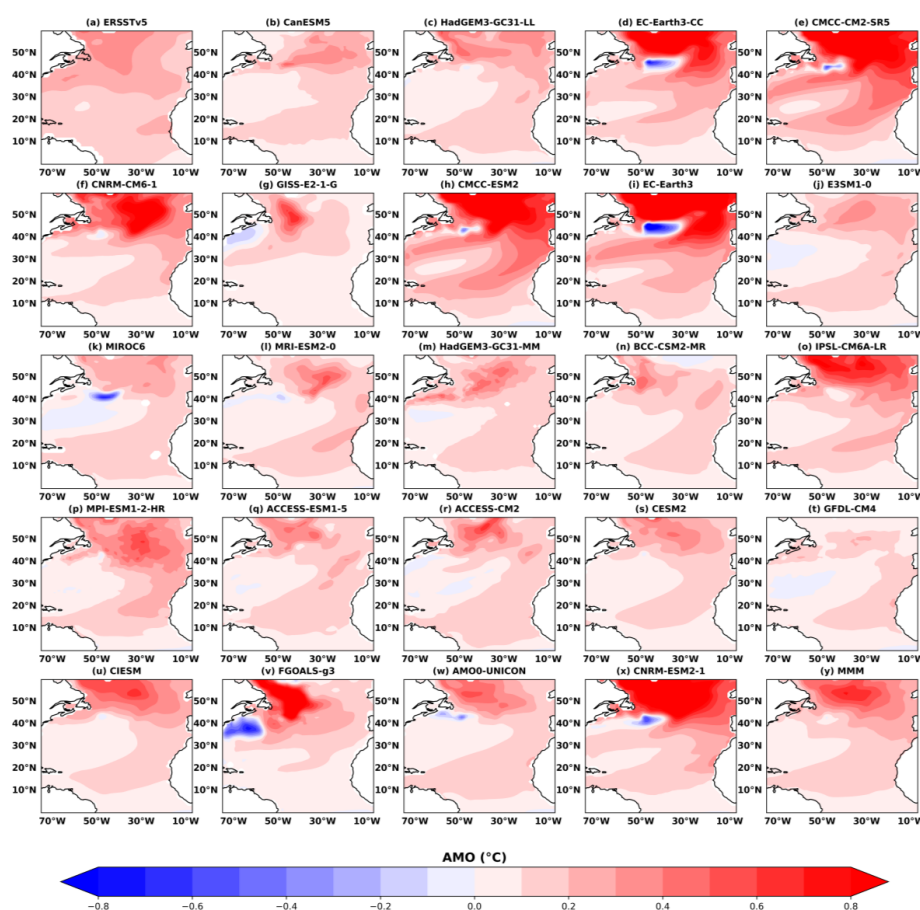
3.1.3 Atlantic Ocean basin

3.1.3.1 Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO)

The AMO is an important multidecadal oceanic climate mode in the North Atlantic Ocean, characterised by basin-wide warming in the North Atlantic Ocean (Fig. 8a). All the models display the large-scale features of the observed AMO pattern (Fig. 8), through several show regional deviations. 10 out of the 23 models (EC-Earth3-CC, GISS-E2-1-G, EC-Earth3, E3SM1-0, MIROC6, MRI-ESM2-0, GFDL-CM4, FGOALS-g3, SAM0-UNICON, CNRM-ESM2-1) exhibit a cooling pattern in the western-central North Atlantic Ocean. Several models also show amplitude deviations from observation, particularly north of 40°N , where the warming is either stronger or weaker than observed. These differences are reflected in the broader correlation range (0.2 to 0.7) between the models and observation (Fig. 11a). For



example, eight models (EC-Earth3, CMCC-CM2-SR5, CMCC-ESM2, CNRM-ESM1-0, FGOALS-g3, CNRM-CM6-1, and IPSL-CM6A-LR) show excessive warming north of 40°N, while FGOALS-g3 exhibits strong cooling in the western-central North Atlantic with RMSE values exceeding 2°C, and even exceeding 6°C (for EC-Earth3) (Fig. 11d). The MMM
410 effectively mitigates these discrepancies, providing a more consistent representation of the observed AMO pattern, with a correlation of 0.6 and RMSE below 2°C, demonstrating improved overall skill relative to individual models.



415 Fig. 8 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO). Values are sea surface temperature (10year low pass filtered) anomalies (in °C) regressed against the AMO time series from (a) ERSSTv5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models.

3.1.4 Atmospheric Modes

420 3.1.4.1 North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO)



The NAO, an atmospheric mode of variability in SLP over the North Atlantic Ocean, is defined as a distinct north-south dipolar SLP pattern, with high (low) SLP anomaly in the north (south) of the North Atlantic Ocean during its positive phase (Hurrell et al. 2003; Hurrell & Deser 2009). Reanalysis (ERA5) and all 23 models represent the NAO as the leading mode
 425 of variability in SLP anomaly (Fig. 9). Reanalysis data explains 33.1% of the total variance, while models account 28%-35% in SLP anomaly, indicating a strong imprint of the NAO in atmospheric circulation over this region. Models successfully reproduce this canonical NAO spatial pattern with varying amplitude across the basin. All the models exhibit very strong spatial correlation (>0.95) with reanalysis and maintain very low RMSE values (< 5 Pa),
 430 underscoring the overall robustness and consistency of CMIP6 models in representing the observed NAO structure (Fig. 11b).

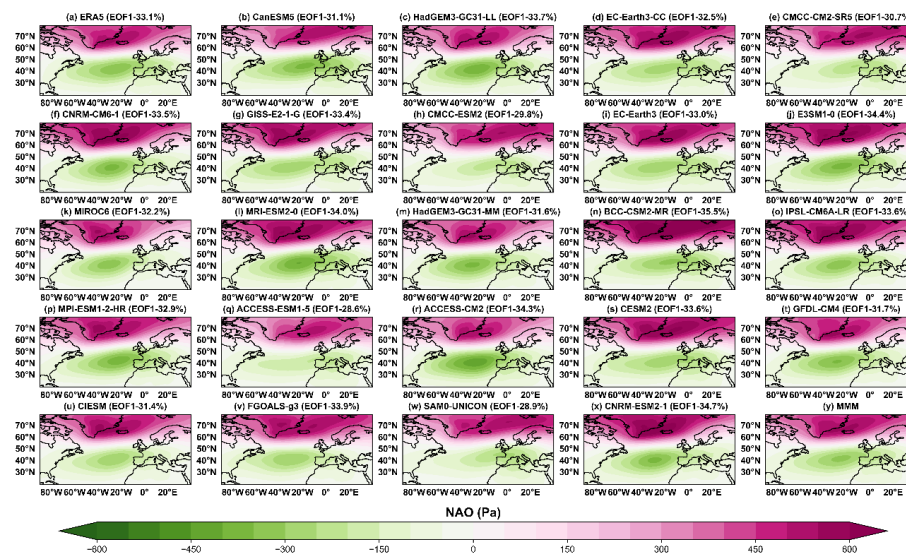


Fig. 9 Spatial pattern of regression-derived ocean response for the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). Values are sea level pressure anomalies (in Pa) regressed against the EOFPC (NAO) time series from
 435 (a) ERA5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing NAO between observation and models.

3.1.4.2 Southern Annular Mode (SAM)

The southern hemisphere extra-subtropics are dominated by an atmospheric mode
 440 known as the SAM, which is characterised by a north-south shift in westerly wind belts. Reanalysis (ERA5) and all CMIP6 simulations capture SAM as the primary climate mode in SLP anomaly. Reanalysis explains 26% of total variance, while models capture 26%–35%. The



regression based spatial pattern of the SAM shows negative SLP anomalies over the polar region and positive anomalies over the extra-subtropical latitudes, a feature reproduced by the
 445 models (Fig. 10). All models show strong correlation (>0.97) and low RMSE (<5 Pa) with reanalysis (Fig. 11c), confirming the robustness of SAM representation and the reliability of the CMIP6-derived SAM index for studying southern hemisphere climate variability.

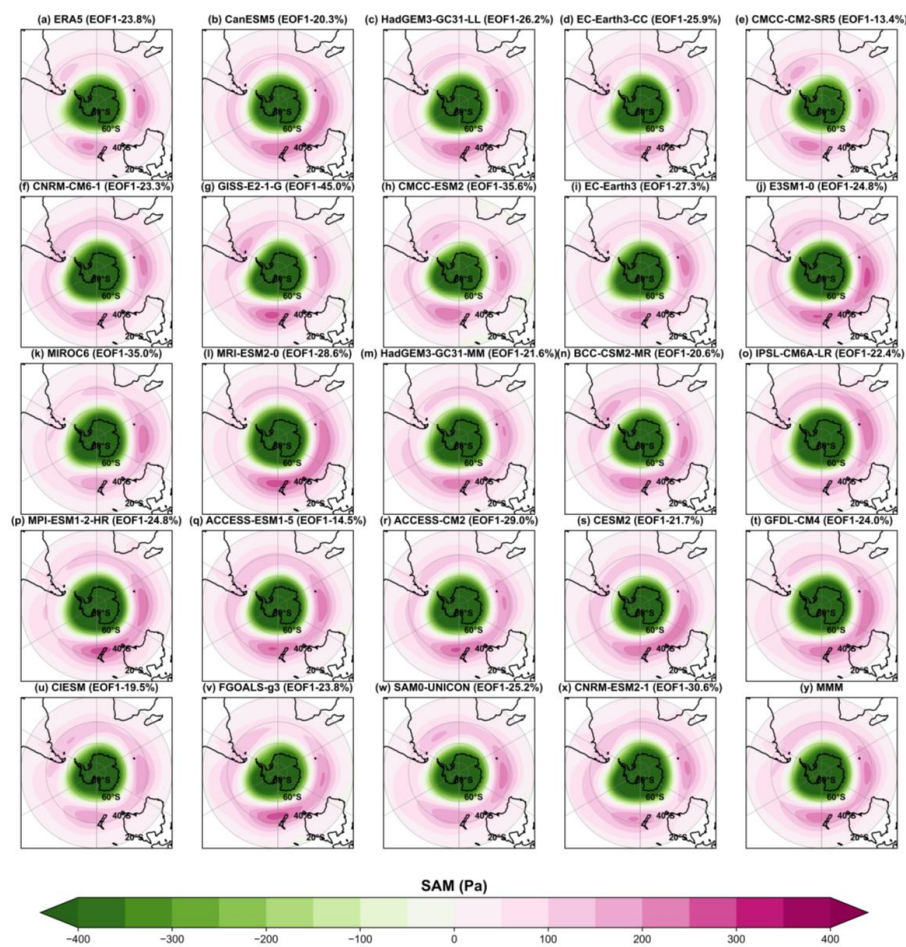


Fig. 10 Spatial pattern of regression-derived atmospheric response for the Southern Annular Mode (SAM). Values are sea level pressure anomalies (in Pa) regressed against the EOF1 time series
 450 from (a) ERA5, (b-x) 23 CMIP6 models and (y) MMM. Here MMM represents the average of spatial pattern of regression from 23 CMIP6 models. The bracketed text and numbers in black are the mean variance explained by the EOF representing SAM between observation and models.

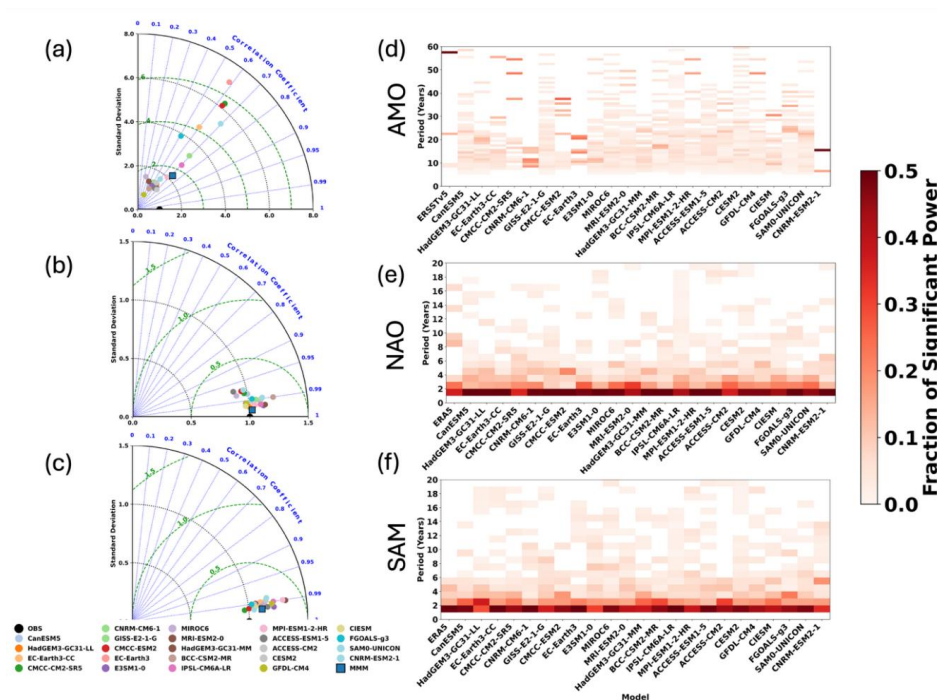


Fig. 11 Taylor diagram for spatial pattern (regression based) of (a) AMO (b) NAO, and (c) SAM in observation, 23 CMIP6 models and MMM. (d, e, f) Power spectrum of normalised time series for (d) AMO, (e) NAO and (f) SAM climate mode indices from observation and 23 CMIP6 models. The power is plotted for values above the threshold (mean + standard error) after performing power analysis using a Monte Carlo-based significance test.

3.2 Verification of Temporal Variability of Simulated Climate Modes

Following our examination and evaluation of the spatial patterns of climate modes, we also investigate their temporal structure. ENSO is the strongest climate mode, with a periodicity on interannual time scales ranging from 2–7 years (Xu et al. 2017). Both observed ENSO1 and ENSO2 show a clear periodicity between 2–7 years, which is broadly captured by all the models, though several extending beyond 7 years. The broader distribution of power in the models reflects their substantially longer simulation periods compared to the relatively short observational record. Notably, ENSO1 periodicity extends beyond 10 years in CanESM5, CMCC-CM2-SR5, and MIROC6, while for ENSO2, CanESM5, CMCC-ESM2, MRI-ESM2-0, and ACCESS-ESM1-5 show periodicities exceeding 10 years. Similarly, the observed IPO exhibits a multidecadal periodicity in the 10–30 years range (Fig. 4f). The models also capture this periodicity, though it extends beyond 30 years, and shows a greater number of significant power peaks than observations. In contrast, the extended model simulations show more



significant power, extending up to 50 years reflecting their longer integration periods, but mostly concentrated within the 10-20 years range. Models such as CanESM5 (1000 years),
 475 MIROC6 (800 years), IPSL-CM6A-LR (2000 years), CESM2 (1200 years), that have long simulation lengths, exhibit a higher number of spectral peaks compared to other models.

The observed IOD shows periodicity at interannual time scale, with decadal fluctuations at 15 years (Fig. 7c). It exhibits strong power at Year 2, which is also reflected in most models. Models such as CanESM5, CMCC-CM2-SR5, IPSL-CM6A-LR, and MPI-
 480 ESM1-2-HR exhibit broader spectral power up to 20 years, whereas IPSL-CM6A-LR, with its 2000-year simulation, shows significant spectra over the entire 20 years period. For the SDM, the reanalysis (ORAS5) based index exhibits significant spectral power within 6 years (Fig. 7d), while models display this range with additional peaks extending up to 12 years. For instance, the periodicity of SDM extends beyond 10 years in CanESM5, IPSL-CM5A-LR,
 485 CESM2 and GFDL-CM4.

Spectral analysis of the observed AMO index indicates clear periodicity in the 10-60 years range (Fig. 11d) represented by three significant power peaks. The extended piControl simulations show a broader distribution of power across this range, with several significant peaks spread throughout. CNRM-CM6-1, EC-Earth3, CMCC-ESM2 and CNRM-ESM2-1
 490 show comparatively fewer spectra than other models, with EC-Earth3 and CNRM-ESM2-1 showing peaks limited to 10-25 years range (Fig. 11d). For NAO, the reanalysis data exhibits a dominant spectral peak within 4 years, and more peaks scattered between 8 and 15 years, indicating variability spanning both interannual and decadal timescales (Fig. 11e). The Reanalysis shows strong power at the 2-year period, which gradually weakens but remains
 495 significant, a feature that is more prominent across all the models. Most models display significant spectral power concentrated within the 7-year range, with additional peaks unevenly distributed between 10 and 20 years (Fig. 11e).

The SAM shows a pronounced spectral peak within a 6-year period in the reanalysis, reflecting strong interannual variability (Fig. 11f). The reanalysis also indicates notable power
 500 at the 2-year period, which diminishes with increasing period yet remains statistically significant, a pattern consistently reproduced by the models. Across the CMIP6, most models exhibit dominant power beyond 6 years, with several displaying additional, unevenly distributed peaks between 6 and 20 years.

Overall, this temporal assessment demonstrates that CMIP6 models capture the
 505 observed periodicity and variability of major climate modes across interannual to multidecadal timescales. While differences remain in amplitude and spectral spread, the general agreement



across models, observations and reanalyses indicates a consistent and physically realistic representation of internal climate variability.

4 Conclusion

510 Here, we provide datasets for eight different climate modes (EP-El Niño, CP-El Niño, IPO, IOD, SDM, AMO, NAO, and SAM) from 23 CMIP6 piControl simulations. Our findings suggest that the spatial and temporal structures of these climate modes in the piControl simulations, spanning 500 to 2000 years, broadly resemble the observed patterns, with models showing higher skill in representing atmospheric modes than oceanic modes. However, there are notable differences in capturing the amplitude and regional structure of these modes due to the model resolution, missing physics, and inadequate parameterization. Although the models reproduce many key features seen in observations, the wide differences in their representation of CP El Niño and AMO highlight greater uncertainties compared to the other climate modes.

5 Data Usage

520 These standardised pre-processed datasets will allow researchers to bypass the time-consuming step of processing raw outputs, enabling them to focus on scientific inquiry and interpretation. The uniform definitions and methodologies embedded in this dataset ensure that analyses across different studies and climate models are comparable and consistent, fostering collaborative research and cross-validation of results. Moreover, it provides a crucial benchmark for evaluating climate model performance, helping identify limitations and guiding future improvements. This resource is potentially useful for detection and attribution studies, where distinguishing internal variability such as ENSO, SAM or IOD that alias into anthropogenic influences is essential for understanding short-term trends in observed climate records. These data products are suitable for exploring the influence of internal modes such as ENSO, SAM, and IPO on global and regional climate variability of sea level, and ocean heat content. By enabling robust statistical analysis and more precise attribution, these climate modes database can become a useful tool for both climate research and assessments informing IPCC reports and climate impact evaluations.

Furthermore, the dataset can serve as a benchmark for future climate model development and tuning, as it highlights both the strengths and limitations in simulating key climate modes. It also provides an empirical foundation for improving multi-model ensemble analyses, and long-term climate projections. The inclusion of associated scripts ensures transparency and allows users to extend or modify the analysis framework for their specific research needs.

540 6 Data Availability Statement



The resulting datasets, generated in NetCDF format, are publicly available via Zenodo (Mohapatra et al. 2025; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17337105>). This includes EOFs, mode indices including PCs, normalised PCs and regression based spatial pattern files from 23 CMIP6 piControl simulations, observations and reanalysis. The Zenodo archive also contains
545 the codes used to generate these datasets. The 23 CMIP6 model directory contains datasets that includes the spatial, temporal, and normalized temporal components of eight commonly examined climate modes. The Observation_Reanalysis directory provides equivalent datasets from observational and reanalysis products for comparison and validation. The Regression_Based_Spatial_Patterns directory includes regression-derived spatial patterns
550 based on key variables such as sea surface temperature (SST), sea level pressure (SLP), and ocean heat content (OHC). The Codes directory contains the NCL and Ferret scripts that is used for data processing, EOF analysis, regression computation.

The original CMIP6 monthly outputs are available at <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/projects/cmip6>. ERA5 Sea level pressure data is taken from
555 <https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-levels-monthly-means?tab=overview> and ERSSTv5 sea surface temperature data are provided by NOAA/PSL (<https://downloads.psl.noaa.gov/Datasets/noaa.ersst.v5/>). ORAS5 monthly potential temperature reanalysis data can be accessed from Asia-Pacific Data-Research Center (<http://apdrc.soest.hawaii.edu/las/v6/dataset?catitem=16535>).

560 **Code Availability Statement**

All the programming codes used in preparing figures in this study are publicly available and can be downloaded from <https://github.com/sandeep801/ClimateMode-Analysis.git>.

Author Contributions

SM, ASG and NLB conceived the idea and designed the study. SM carried out the work and
565 derived all datasets, with ASG and NLB providing scientific input to refine the methodology and analysis. YL computed and prepared the Taylor diagram, and Power spectrum. SM wrote the first draft of the paper with inputs from ASG, NLB and YL. All authors contributed to improving the quality of the manuscript.

Competing Interests

570 The authors declare no personal, professional competing interests.

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