

Acronyms and notions

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| A | Above Normal Class (tercile) |
| AC | Anomaly Correlation |
| AMIP | Atmospheric Model Inter-comparison Project. In practice a multi-decadal model run with observed interannually varying global SST as lower boundary conditions. |
| AMS | American Meteorological Society |
| AO | Arctic Oscillation, renamed Northern Annular Mode (counterpart for SH's Southern Annual Mode) |
| B | Below Normal tercile |
| CA | Constructed Analogue |
| CAC | Climate Analysis Center (forerunner of CPC) |
| CCA | Canonical Correlation Analysis |
| CDAS | Climate Data Assimilation System, real time continuation of Reanalysis |
| CDC | Climate Diagnostics Center (renamed in October 2005 to:) |
| CLIPER | A method based on Climatology and Persistence |
| CFS | Climate Forecast System used at NCEP |
| CPC | Climate Prediction Center, one of the nine centers in NCEP |
| cpdf | conditional pdf |
| CV | cross-validation (in verification) |
| DEMETER | name of a European Seasonal Prediction Project |
| d.o.f. | Degrees of Freedom |
| E | Climatological Probability for the three class system (1/3rd) |
| ECD | Empirical Correlation Distribution |
| ECMWF | European Center for Medium-range Weather Forecasting |
| e.d.o.f. | Effective Degrees of Freedom |
| ENSO | Name for the combination of El Nino and Southern Oscillation |
| El Nino | Oceanic Phenomenon: Occasional warming of tropical Pacific ocean lasting months to a few years. |
| EMC | Environmental Modeling Center, one of the nine centers in NCEP |
| EOF | Empirical Orthogonal Function, also called Principal Component Analysis |
| EOT | Empirical Orthogonal Teleconnection |
| EOT2 | Extension of EOT2 across two dat sets |
| EV | Explained Variance |
| EWP | Empirical Wave Propagation |
| EWP1 | Empirical Wave Propagation using zonal harmonics |
| EWP2 | Empirical Wave Propagation using global spherical harmonics |
| GCM | General Circulation Model |
| IRI | International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (Palisades New York) |
| La Nina | Oceanic Phenomenon: Occasional cooling of tropical Pacific ocean lasting months to a few years. |
| LIM | Linear Inverse Model |
| l.o.p. | Limit of Predictability |
| mb | unit for pressure: the <i>millibar</i> (old unit; still allowed) equal to hectoPascal |
| MJO | Madden and Julian Oscillation |

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| MRK | Markov model |
| N | Near Normal Class |
| NA | Natural Analogues |
| NAO | North Atlantic Oscillation |
| NCEP | National Centers for Environmental Prediction, Washington DC (part of NWS). |
| NINO34 | Area in the Pacific Ocean from 5S to 5N and 170W to 120W. Usually the SST averaged over this area. |
| NOAA | National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, US Dept of Commerce |
| NWP | Numerical Weather Prediction |
| NWS | National Weather Service in the US. One of the major components of NOAA |
| OCN | Optimal Climate Normal |
| PCA | Principal Component Analysis (same as EOF) |
| pdf | probability density function |
| PER | Persistence (as forecast method) |
| PNA | Pacific North-American pattern |
| POP | Principal Oscillation Patterns |
| Reanalysis | Major international project to re-analyse weather maps up and down the atmosphere and the ocean retroactively from 1940's forward with a constant method |
| rms | root-mean-square |
| rmse | root-mean-square error |
| SC | squared covariance |
| SO | Southern Oscillation, a seesaw of mass between Indian and Pacific Ocean |
| SOI | Southern Oscillation Index |
| SST | Sea-Surface Temperature |
| STV | Space-Time Variance |
| SV | Spatial Variance |
| SVD | Singular Value Decomposition |
| QBO | Quasi-Biennial Oscillation |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organization |
| Z500 | the height at which pressure is 500mb |