

# **Madden-Julian Oscillation:** Recent Evolution, Current Status and Predictions



**Update prepared by the Climate Prediction Center**  
Climate Prediction Center / NCEP  
11 November 2019

# Overview

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- The MJO is in RMM Phase 7 after moving anomalously quickly through Phase 6.
- All of the GFS and CFS ensemble members predict the MJO to remain strong and propagate through Phases 1 and 2 during Week-2.
- Although a few ECMWF ensemble members agree with the CFS & GFS's solution, most ECMWF members forecast the MJO to weaken during Week-2 as it moves over Africa.

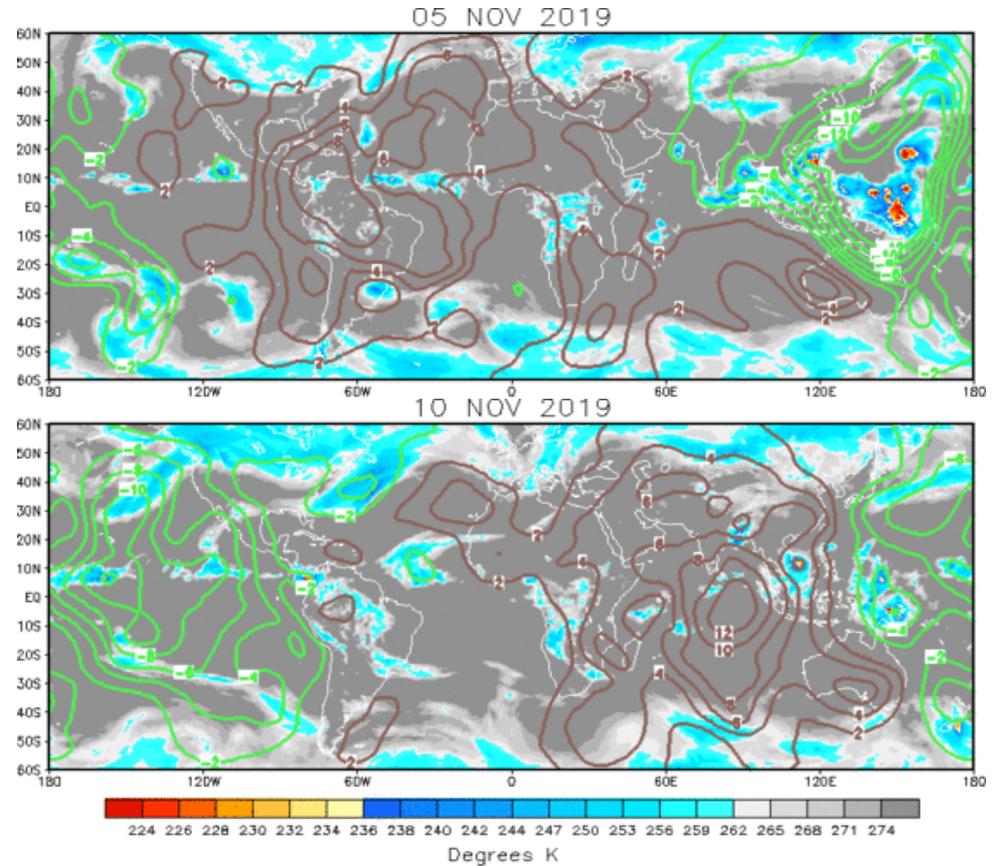
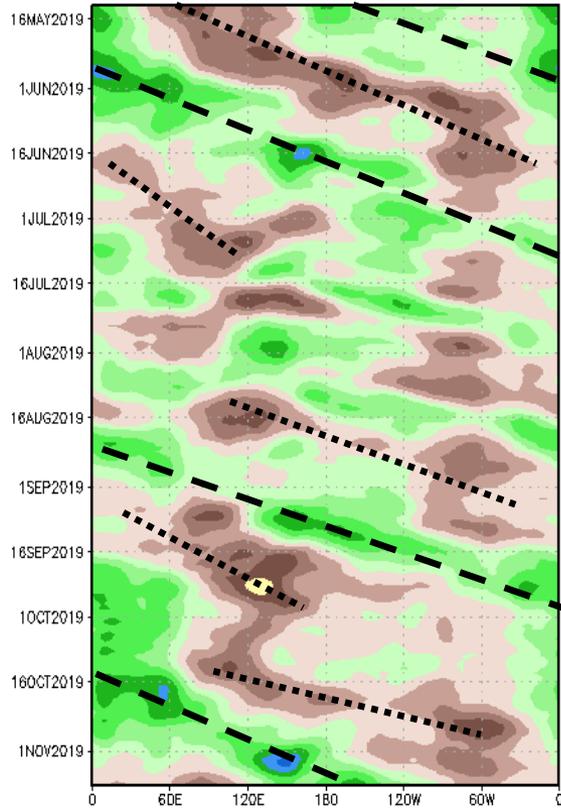
A discussion of potential impacts for the global tropics and those related to the U.S. are updated on Tuesday at:  
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/ghazards/index.php>

# 200-hPa Velocity Potential Anomalies

Green shades: Anomalous divergence (favorable for precipitation).

Brown shades: Anomalous convergence (unfavorable for precipitation).

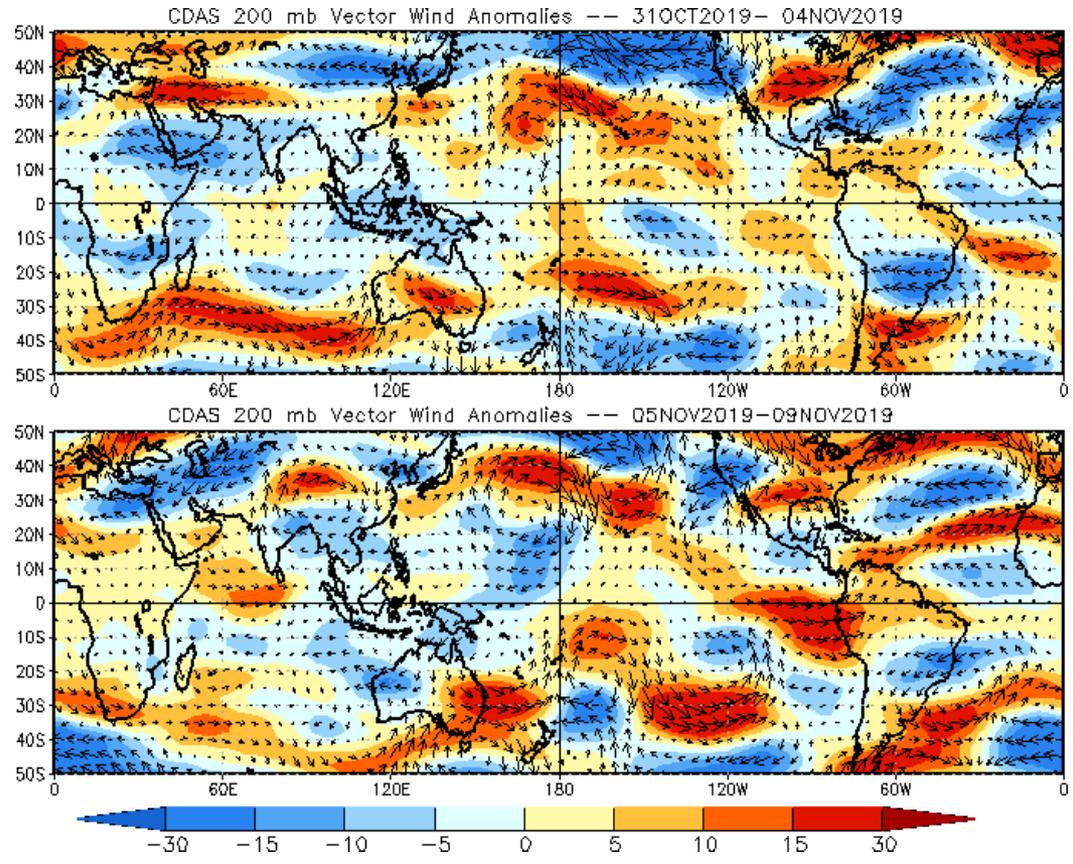
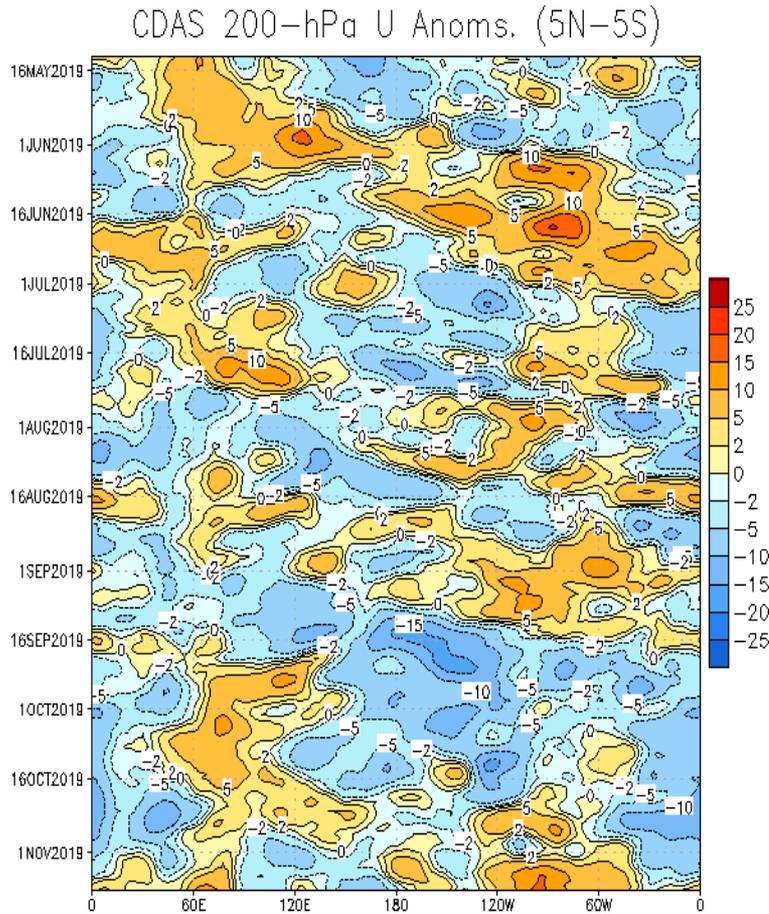
200-hPa Velocity Potential Anomaly: 5N-5S  
5-day Running Mean



- The upper-level velocity potential fields show an eastward propagating MJO.
- There is some additional convection over the western Pacific due to TC activity during the past week.

# 200-hPa Wind Anomalies

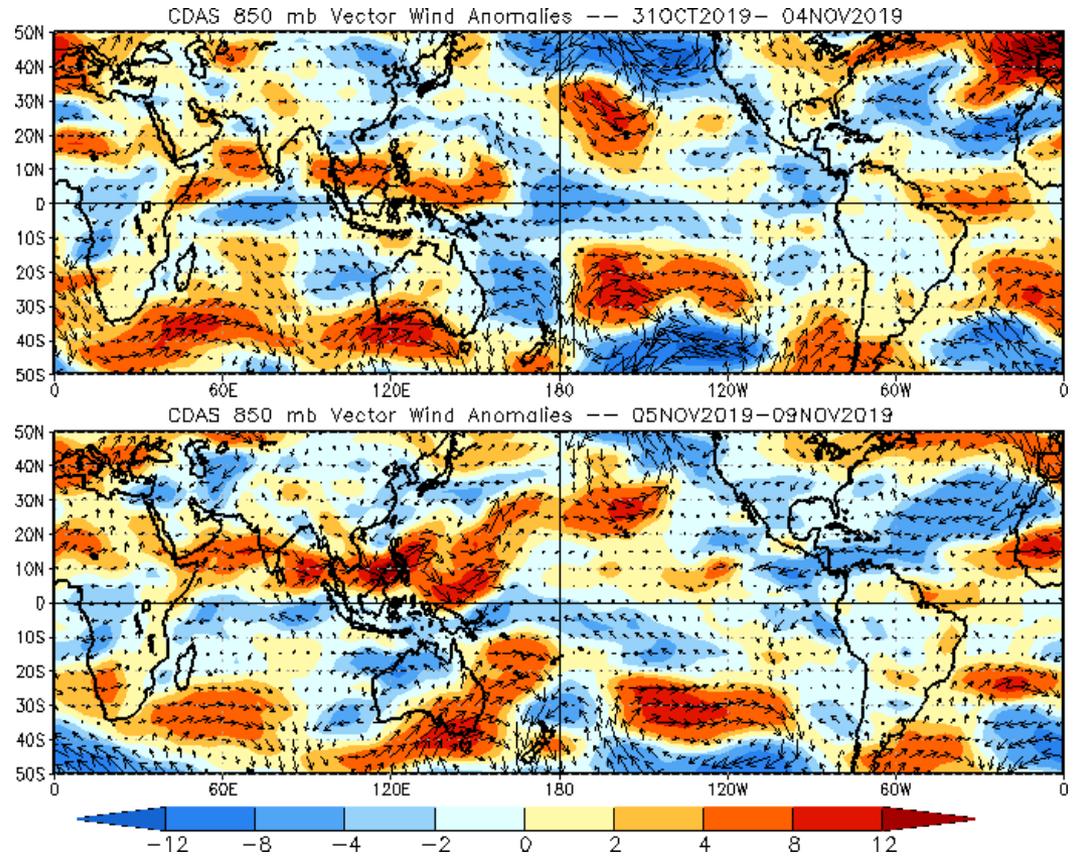
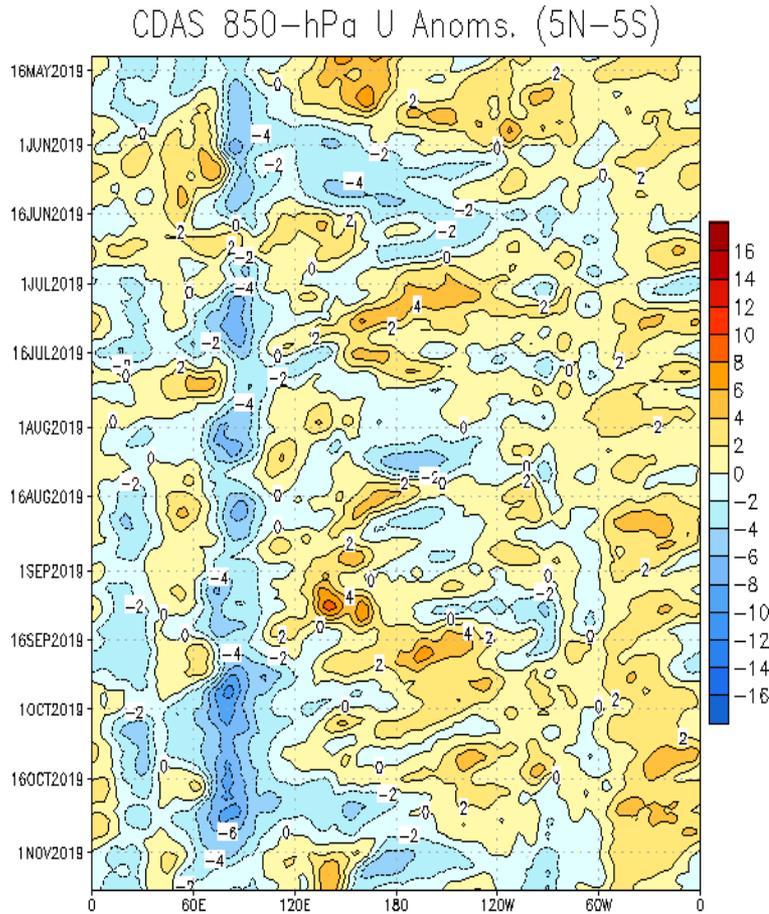
Shading denotes the zonal wind anomaly. **Blue shades:** Anomalous easterlies. **Red shades:** Anomalous westerlies.



- A Rossby wave train is evident over the Northern Hemisphere. There appear to be connections to the Indian Ocean and western Pacific, suggesting a mid-latitude influence from the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and MJO.
- There is evidence of wave breaking over the central Pacific from both hemispheres, which is common this time of year.

# 850-hPa Wind Anomalies

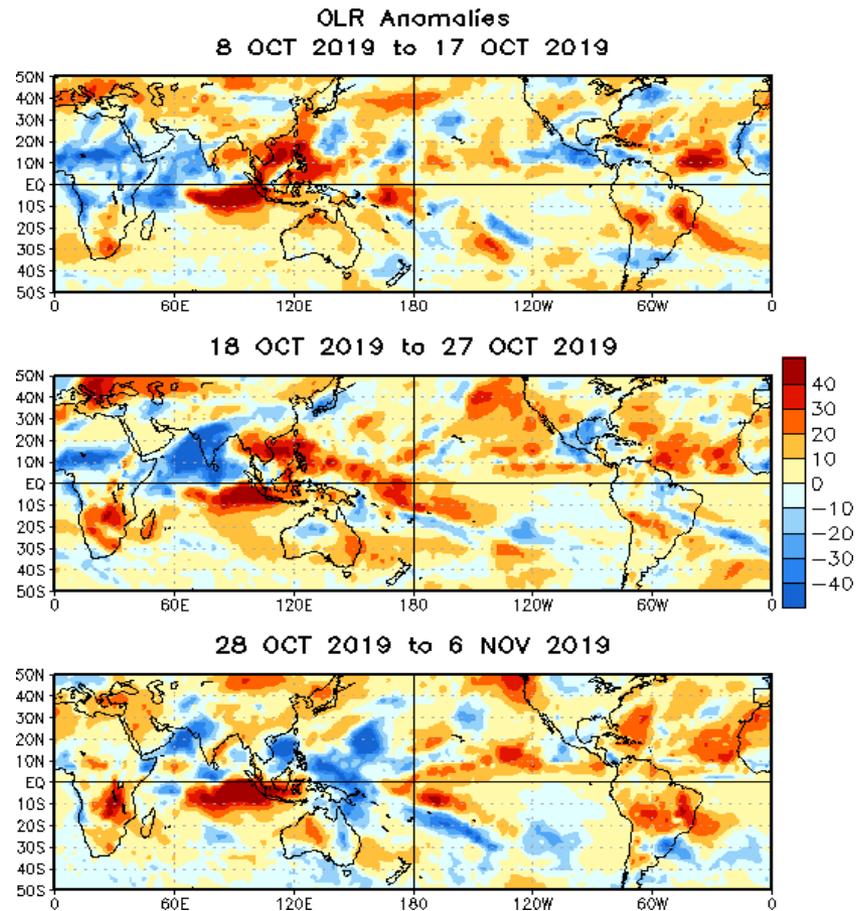
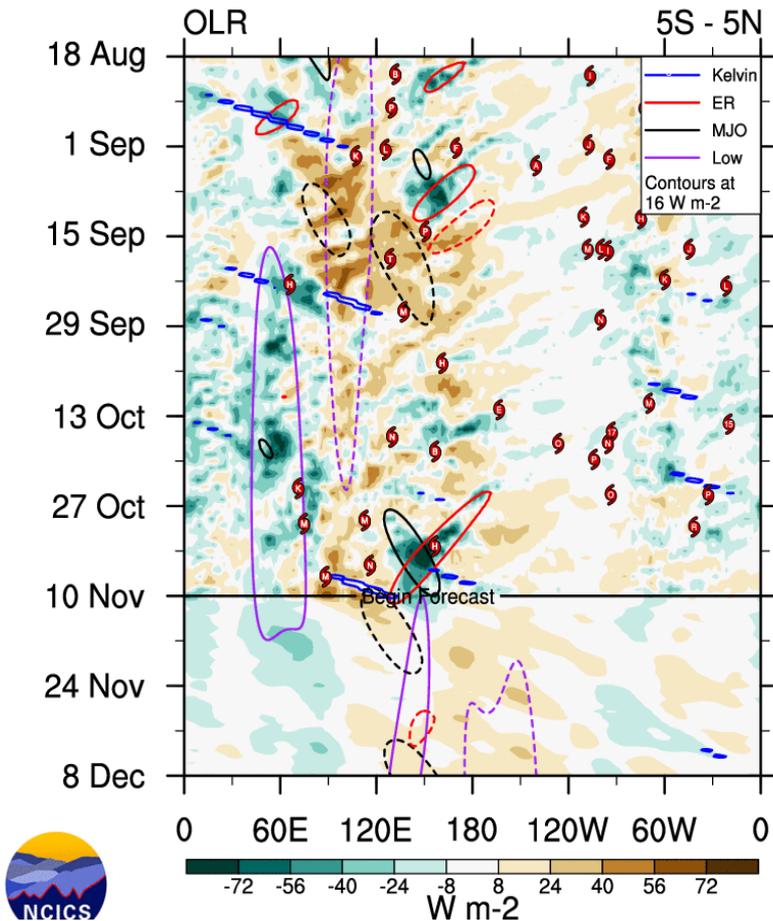
Shading denotes the zonal wind anomaly. **Blue shades:** Anomalous easterlies. **Red shades:** Anomalous westerlies.



- The anomalous easterlies over the western Indian Ocean weakened slightly during the past week.
- Anomalous westerlies stretch from the east coast of Africa to the Date Line, just north of the Equator.

# Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) Anomalies

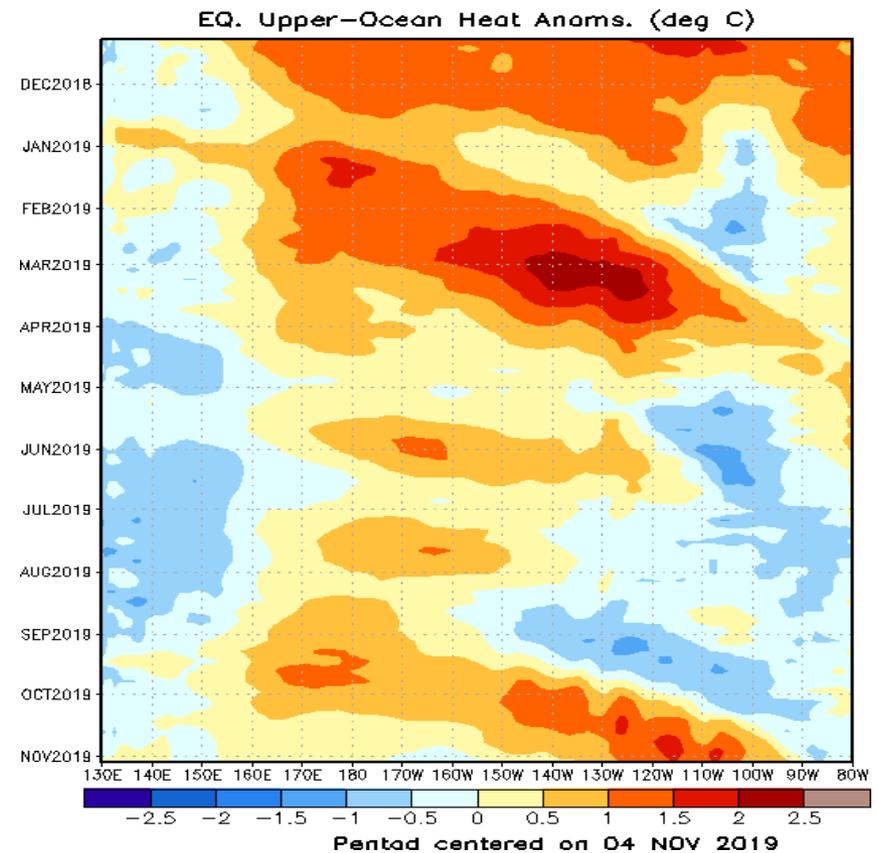
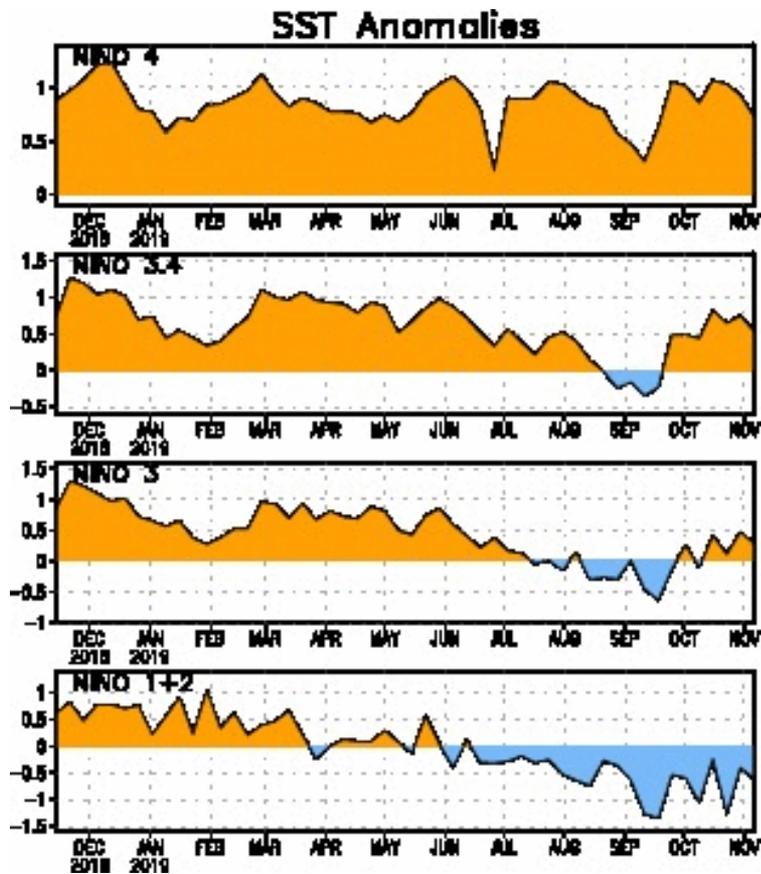
**Blue shades: Anomalous convection (wetness).** **Red shades: Anomalous subsidence (dryness).**



- The area of anomalous convection over the western Indian Ocean, associated with the +IOD, has weakened during the past week. This is probably due to interference from the suppressed part of the MJO; the IOD remains strongly positive.



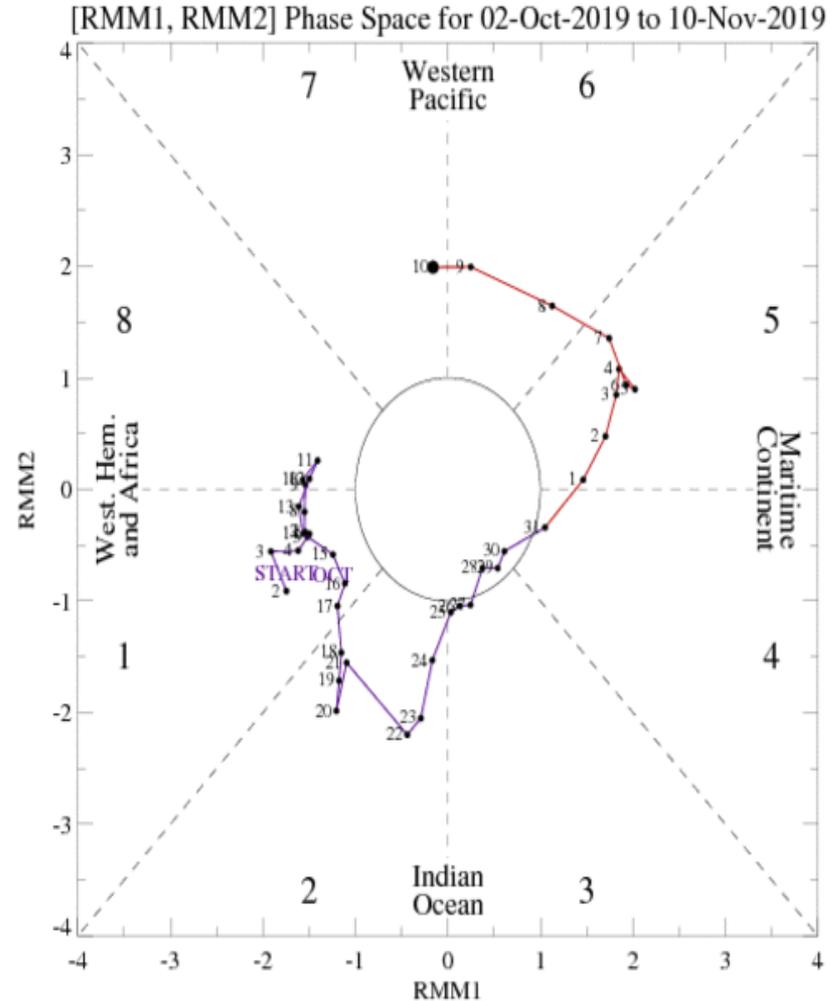
# SSTs and Weekly Heat Content Evolution in the Equatorial Pacific



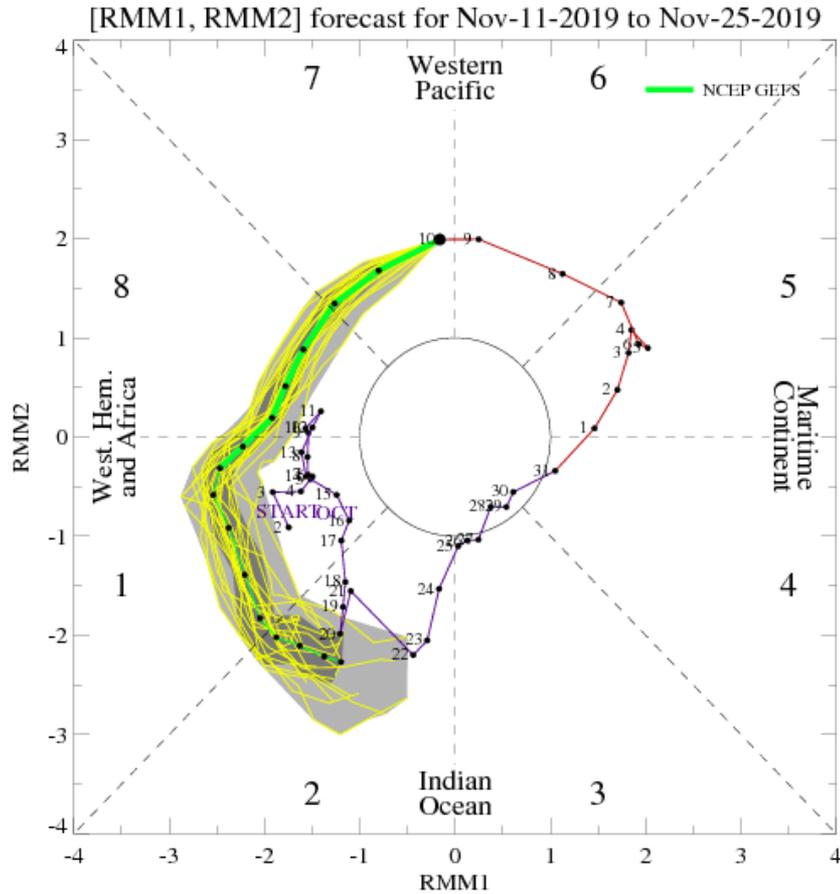
- SSTs in the eastern Pacific remain above normal from the Niño 3 and 4 regions.
- There is evidence of a downwelling oceanic Kelvin wave during the past 1.5 months.

# MJO Index: Recent Evolution

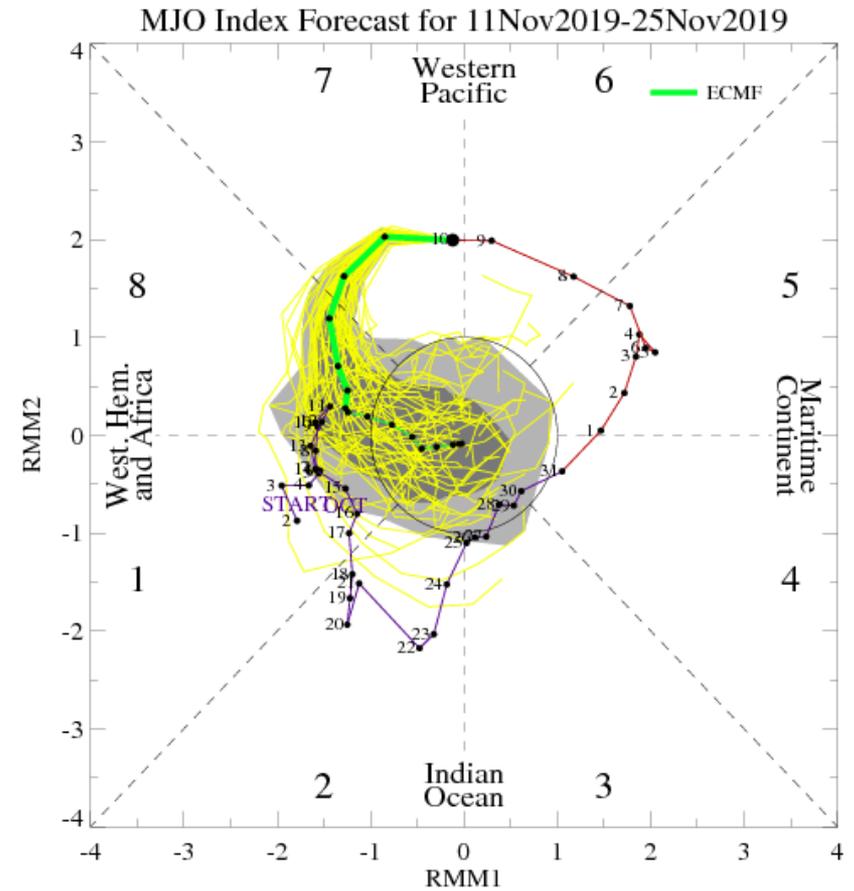
- The RMM index places the MJO in Phase 7.
- The MJO moved through Phase 6 especially quickly.



# MJO Index: Forecast Evolution



**GEFS Forecast**



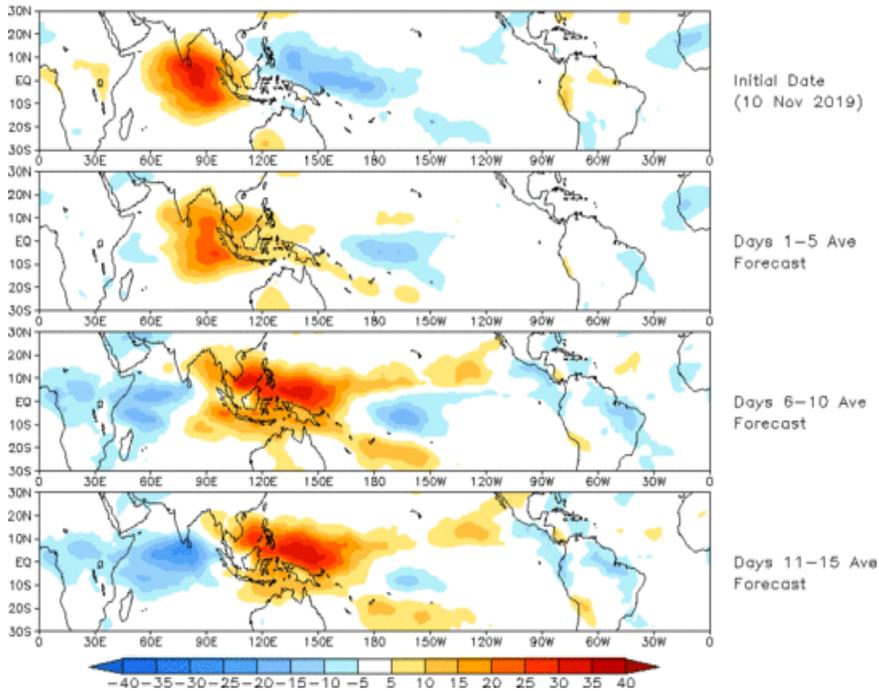
**ECMWF Forecast**

- Every ensemble member from the GEFS forecasts the MJO to continue eastward propagation during the next two weeks.
- There is a split amongst ECMWF ensemble members; some are similar to the GEFS but most weaken the MJO during Week-2.

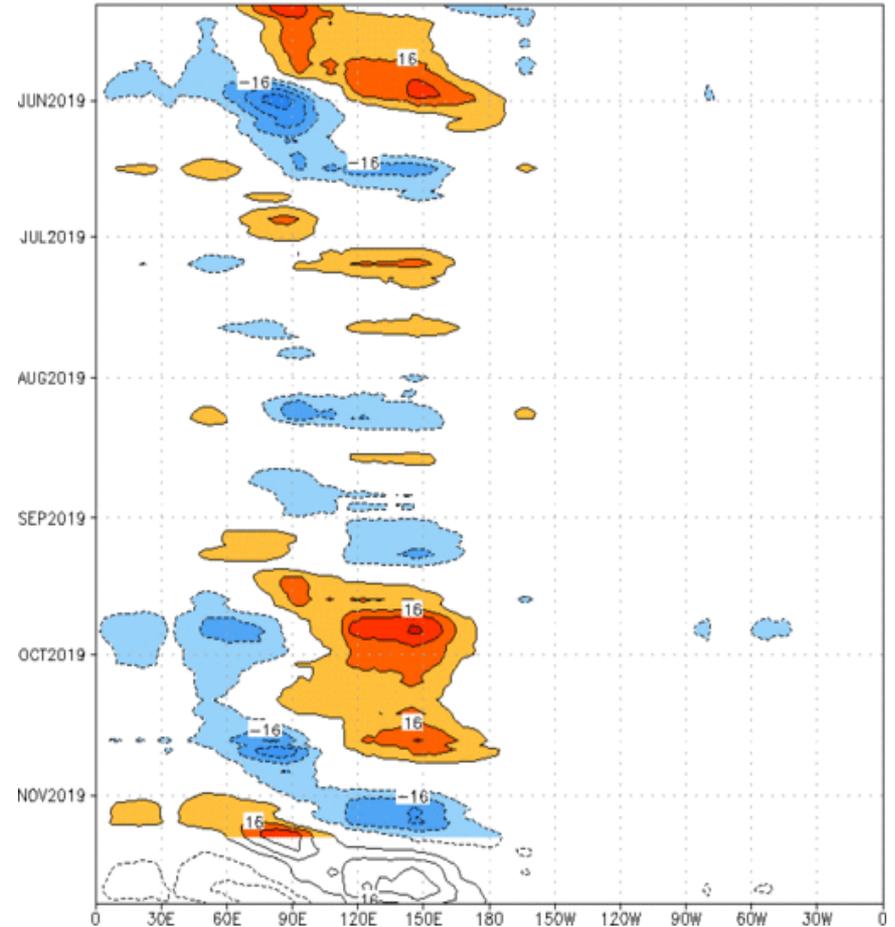
# MJO: GEFS Forecast Evolution

Figures below show MJO associated OLR anomalies only (reconstructed from RMM1 and RMM2) and do not include contributions from other modes (*i.e.*, ENSO, monsoons, etc.)

Prediction of MJO-related anomalies using GEFS operational forecast  
Initial date: 10 Nov 2019  
OLR



Reconstructed anomaly field associated with the MJO using RMM1 & RMM2  
OLR [7.5°S,7.5°N] (cint:4Wm<sup>-2</sup>) Period:11-May-2019 to 10-Nov-2019  
The unfilled contours are GEFS forecast reconstructed anomaly for 15 days

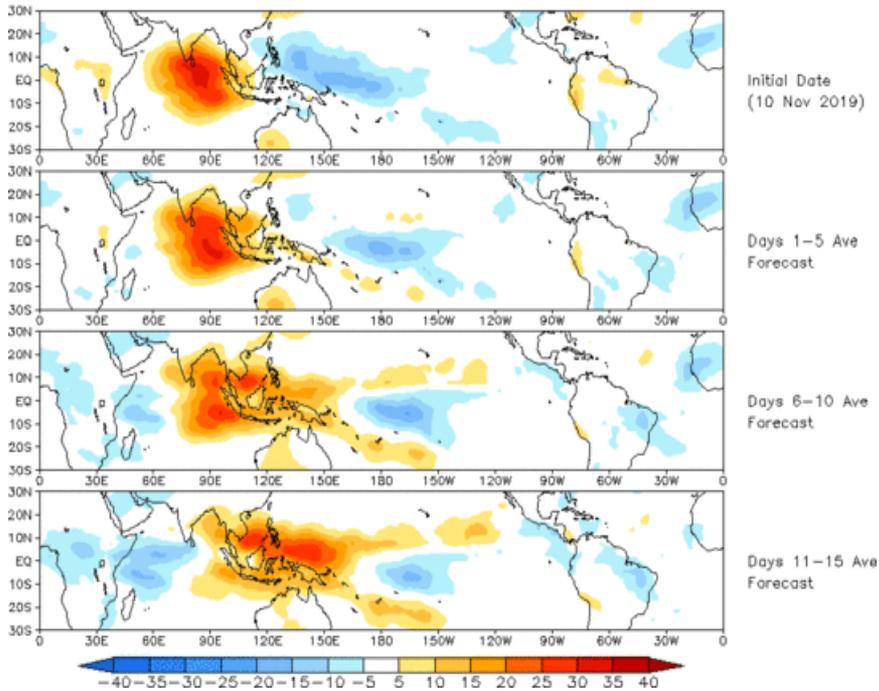


- The GEFS propagates the MJO in a canonical manner, albeit a bit faster than usual.

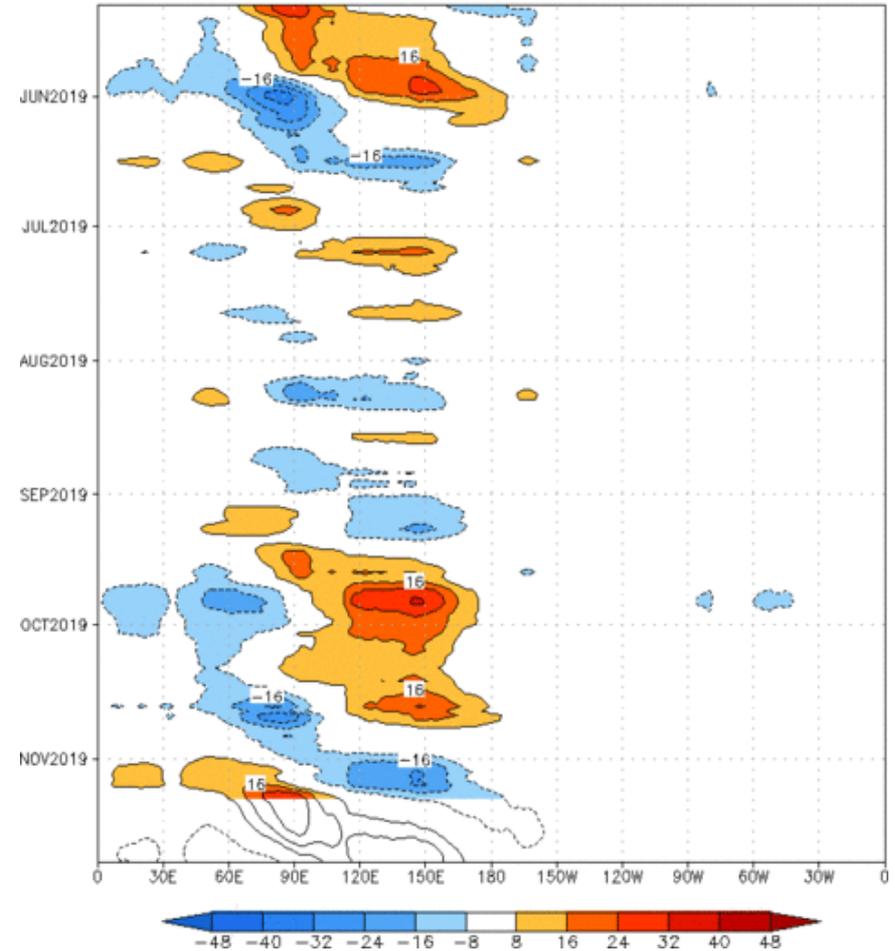
# MJO: Constructed Analog Forecast Evolution

Figures below show MJO associated OLR anomalies only (reconstructed from RMM1 and RMM2) and do not include contributions from other modes (*i.e.*, ENSO, monsoons, etc.)

OLR prediction of MJO-related anomalies using CA model reconstruction by RMM1 & RMM2 (10 Nov 2019)



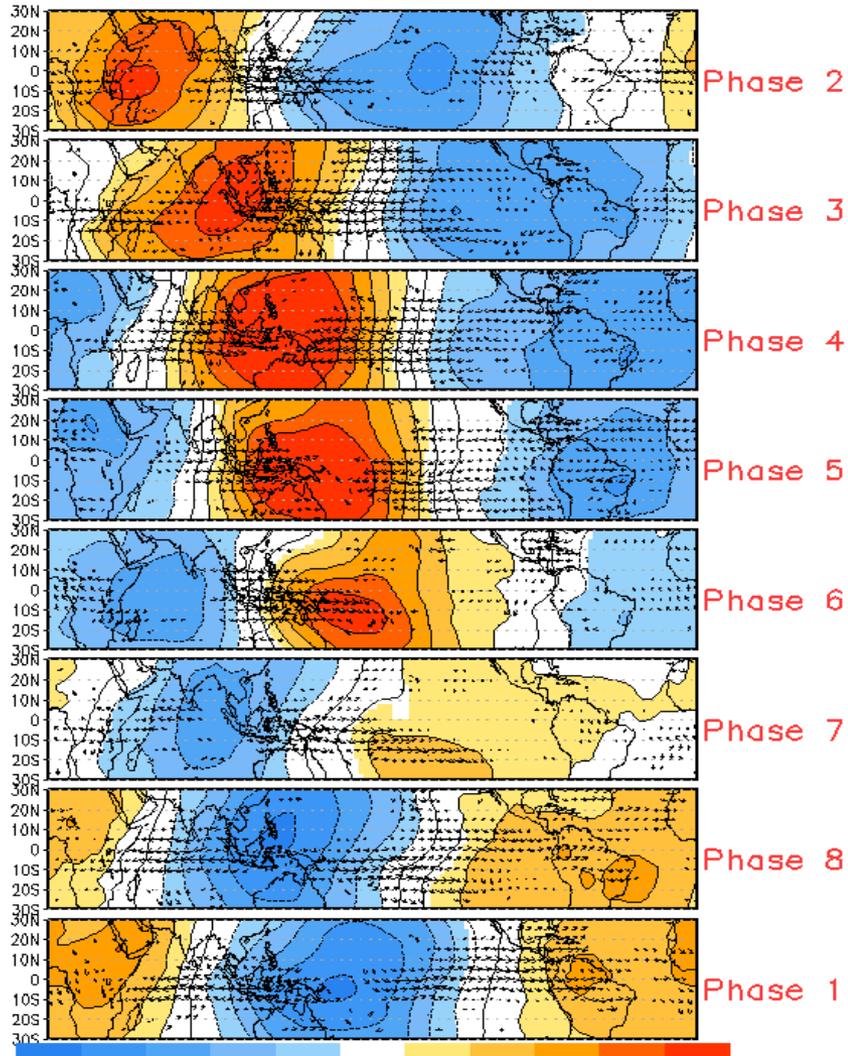
Reconstructed anomaly field associated with the MJO using RMM1 & RMM2 OLR [7.5°S,7.5°N] (cont:4Wm<sup>-2</sup>) Period:11-May-2019 to 10-Nov-2019  
The unfilled contours are CA forecast reconstructed anomaly for 15 days



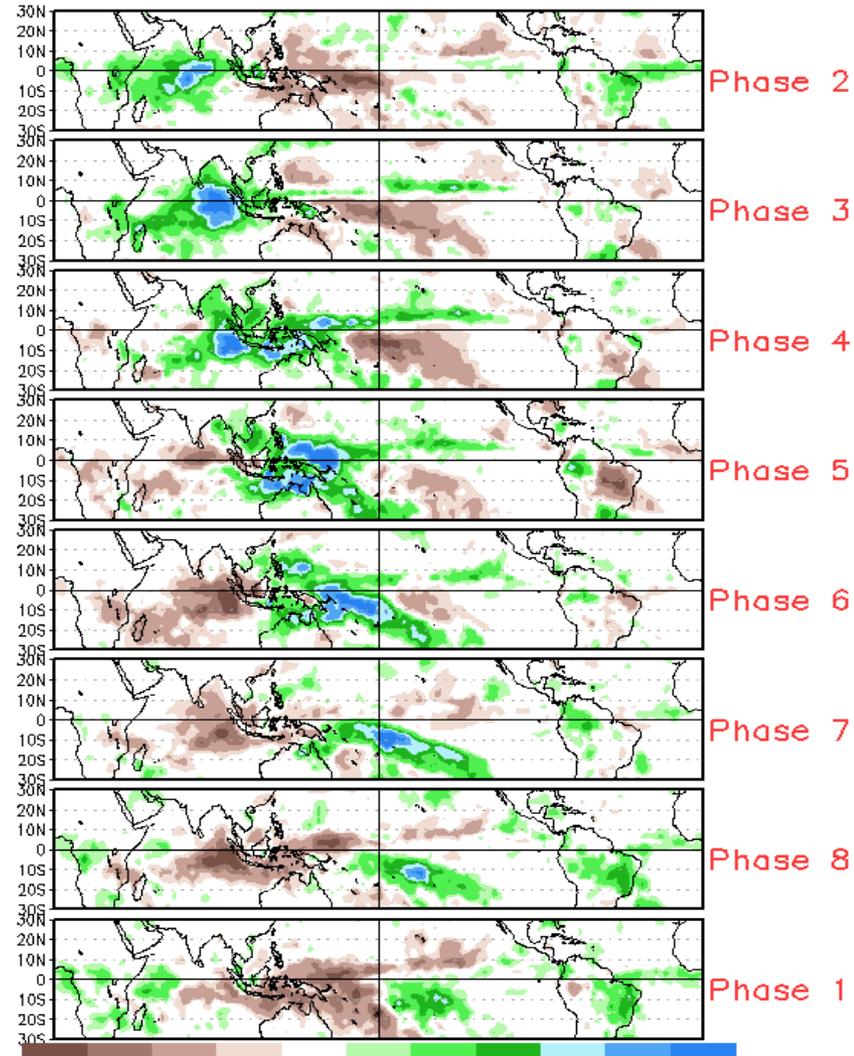
- The constructed analog looks similar to the GEFS.

# MJO: Tropical Composite Maps by RMM Phase

## 850-hPa Velocity Potential and Wind Anomalies



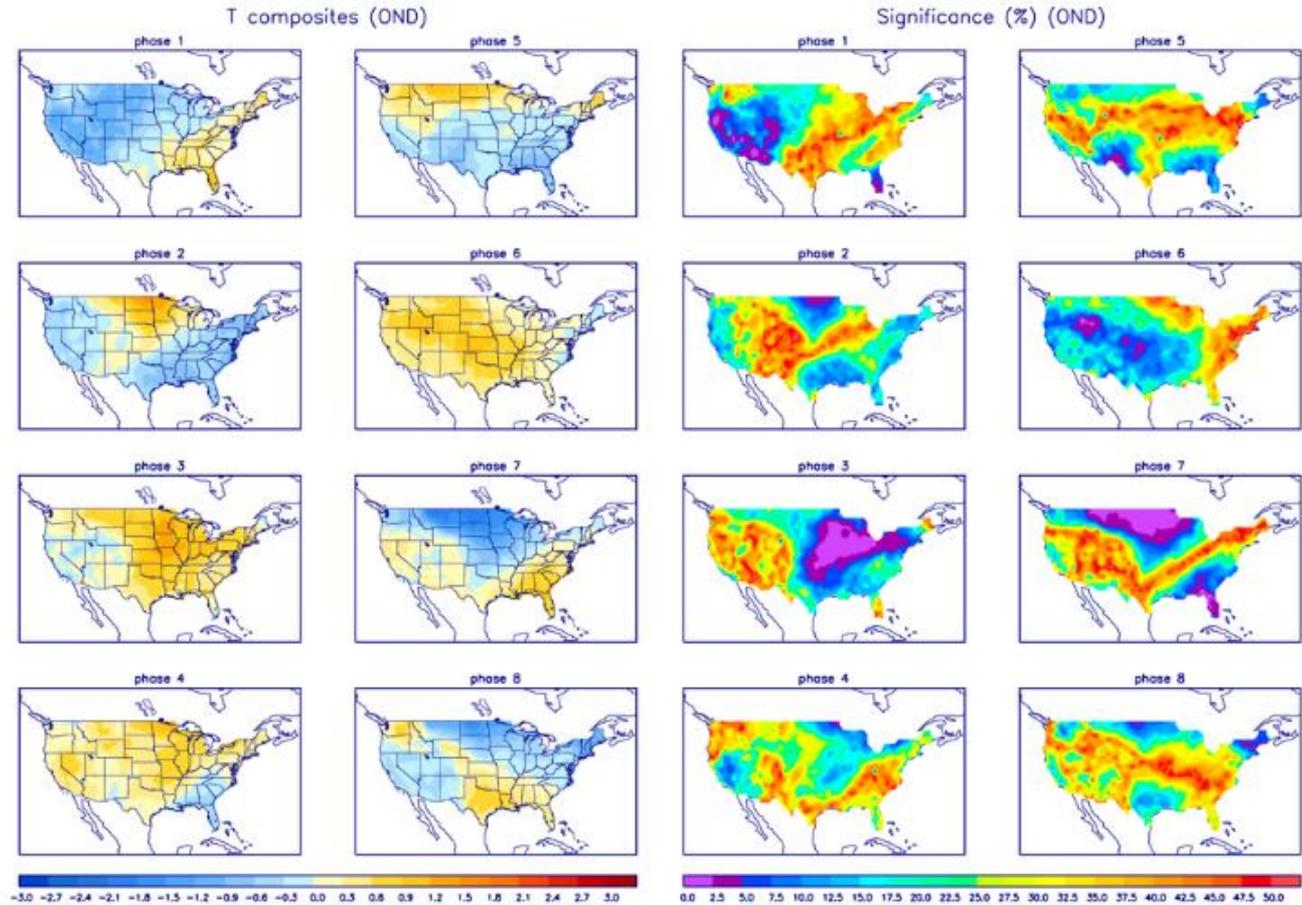
## Precipitation Anomalies



# MJO: CONUS Composite Maps by RMM Phase - Temperature

Left hand side plots show temperature anomalies by MJO phase for MJO events that have occurred over the three month period in the historical record. Blue (red) shades show negative (positive) anomalies respectively.

Right hand side plots show a measure of significance for the left hand side anomalies. Purple shades indicate areas in which the anomalies are significant at the 95% or better confidence level.



# MJO: CONUS Composite Maps by RMM Phase - Temperature

Left hand side plots show precipitation anomalies by MJO phase for MJO events that have occurred over the three month period in the historical record. Brown (green) shades show negative (positive) anomalies respectively.

Right hand side plots show a measure of significance for the left hand side anomalies. Purple shades indicate areas in which the anomalies are significant at the 95% or better confidence level.

