Seasonal Evolution of 21st Century Atmospheric Circulation Trends in the Southern Hemisphere: Mechanisms and Uncertainties

40-member coupled model ensemble (CCSM3) A1B SRES GHG Forcing and Ozone recovery 2000-2061

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Southern Annular Mode Monthly Trends 2000-2061



See also Son et al. (2009)

Ensemble Mean Sea Level Pressure Trends 2000-2061



Stippling indicates ensemble mean trend is statistically significant at the 5% confidence level relative to the spread of the 40 individual trends

Ensemble Mean Trends: Contributing Factors CAM3 SST CAM3 GHG CAM3 O₃ CCSM3 Nov-Feb Mar-Jun Jul-Sep

Trend Uncertainties



Nov-Feb Sea Level Pressure Trends 2000-2061

Why so different?

Standard Deviation of 62-yr Trends



Lack of stippling indicates standard deviations are not significantly different between CCSM3 and CAM3 control integration (i.e., spread in CCSM3 trends is consistent with internal atmospheric variability or "noise")

EOF Decomposition of SLP Trends

Example for November-February; similar results for other 2 seasons







- 1) Ensemble mean response due to seasonally-dependent ozone (direct radiative) and GHG (indirect SST) forcing
- 2) Scatter due in large part to internal atmospheric "noise"