The Development of the North Pacific Jet Phase Diagram at NCEP-WPC as an Objective Tool to Characterize the Upper-Tropospheric Flow Pattern

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### **Project Motivation**

- The antecedent environments associated with continental U.S. extreme temperature events are characterized by considerable North Pacific Jet (NPJ) variability during the medium-range forecast period
- This NPJ variability motivated the development of the NPJ phase diagram as an objective tool to characterize the instantaneous state of the upper-tropospheric flow pattern over the North Pacific

### **Project Motivation**

- The antecedent environments associated with continental U.S. extreme temperature events are characterized by considerable North Pacific Jet (NPJ) variability during the medium-range forecast period
- This NPJ variability motivated the development of the NPJ phase diagram as an objective tool to characterize the instantaneous state of the upper-tropospheric flow pattern over the North Pacific
- This presentation explores the potential of the NPJ phase diagram to increase confidence in operational probabilistic temperature forecasts during the medium-range period

# The Development of the NPJ Phase Diagram

- Removed the mean and the annual and diurnal cycles from 6-hourly, 250-hPa zonal wind data from the CFSR (1979–2014) (Saha et al. 2014)
- Restricted data to the cool season (Sept.–May)
- Performed an EOF analysis on the zonal wind anomalies within the domain: 10–80°N , 100°E–120°W

### Analysis techniques and resultant EOF patterns are consistent with related work on the NPJ:

- Athanasiadis et al. (2010)
- Jaffe et al. (2011)
- Griffin and Martin (2017)





Sept.–May 250-hPa zonal wind EOF 1 pattern: shading

– EOF 1: Jet Retraction



Sept.–May 250-hPa zonal wind EOF 1 pattern: shading

– EOF 1: Jet Retraction



















### Influence of the Prevailing NPJ Regime on North America

















## GEFS Forecast Skill in the Context of the NPJ Phase Diagram

### **NPJ Phase Diagram Forecast Skill**

Determined the position within the NPJ phase diagram for all 0-h forecasts during Sept.–May 1985–2014 in the GEFS Reforecast v2 (Hamill et al. 2013)



### **GEFS Ensemble Mean Error by NPJ Regime**



### **GEFS Ensemble Mean Error by NPJ Regime**



Forecasts verifying during equatorward shifts and jet retractions exhibit significantly larger errors than jet extensions and poleward shifts in the 96–216-h forecast period

### Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts

<u>**Criteria</u>**: Forecasts must rank in the top/bottom 10% in terms of *both*:</u>

- The average GEFS ensemble <u>mean</u> error for the Day 8 and 9 forecasts
- (2) The average GEFS ensemble <u>member</u> error for the Day 8 and 9 forecasts

Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts



- The best forecasts occur disproportionately more during jet extensions and poleward shifts
- The worst forecasts occur
   disproportionately
   more during jet
   retractions and
   equatorward shifts

### Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts

	Avg. ΔPC1	Avg. ΔPC2	Avg. 10-d Traj. Length.	Statistically
Best Forecasts (N=475)	0.09	0.16 Poleward Shift	3.50 PC units	significant at the 99.9% confidence interval
Worst Forecasts (N=763)	0.01	-0.21 Equatorward Shift	4.33 PC units	

- The best forecast periods are typically characterized by **poleward shifts** over the next 10 days and anomalously short trajectories within the NPJ phase diagram
- The worst forecast periods are typically characterized by equatorward shifts over the next 10 days and anomalously long trajectories within the NPJ phase diagram

Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts



What are the synoptic flow patterns associated with the best and worst forecasts initialized during a particular NPJ regime?

Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts



What are the synoptic flow patterns associated with the best and worst forecasts initialized during a particular NPJ regime?











- Relative to the best forecast periods, the worst forecast periods are frequently characterized by significantly higher heights at high latitudes and significantly lower heights at low latitudes over the North Pacific
- The above composite difference pattern suggests that the worst forecast periods are often associated with uppertropospheric blocking events over the North Pacific

### Summary

- Forecasts verifying during jet retractions and equatorward shifts are characterized by substantially larger errors than those verifying during jet extensions and poleward shifts
- The worst forecasts are more frequently initialized during jet retractions and equatorward shifts
- The worst forecast periods are associated with equatorward shifts and longer trajectories within the NPJ phase diagram during the 10-day period following forecast initialization
- The worst forecast periods are often associated with uppertropospheric blocking events over the North Pacific

### **NPJ Phase Diagram Web Interface**

#### This work is supported by NOAA Grant NA15NWS4680006

Real time Archive Verification Composites About

Phase Diagram (left): Shows the GFS analysis trajectory over the previous 10 days in black with diamonds corresponding to a position in the phase diagram at 00Z on the day labeled to the upper-right of its respective diamond. The red and blue symbols show the forecasted GFS and GEFS ensemble mean trajectories, respectively, within the phase diagram over the next 9 days with diamonds corresponding to a position in the phase diagram at 00Z on the day listed to the upper-right of its respective diamond. The green diamond shows the position within the phase diagram at 00Z on the day listed to the upper-right of its respective diamond. The green diamond shows the position within the phase diagram at 00Z on the day listed in the title.

Synoptic Maps (right): Depicts GFS deterministic forecasts of (1) 250-hPa wind speed, geo. heights, and standardized geo. height anomalies, (2) 500-hPa relative vorticity, geo. heights, and standardized geo. height anomalies (3) mean sea level pressure, 1000-500-hPa thickness, and 850-hPa standardized temperature anomalies, and (4) 24-h accumulated precipitation. The 24-h forecasted accumulated precipitation is also used as 'verification' in Days -10 to 0.

 Deterministic Forecast
 Probabilistic Forecast
 Ens. Spread Forecast
 D(prog)/Dt

 Arrow keys for navigation
 Space = play/pause
 Swipe for navigation on touchscreen

 250-hPa Jet/Hght/Hght'
 10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9

 500-hPa Vort/Hght/Hght'
 10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9

 MSLP/Thick/Temp'
 10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9

 24-h Accum. Precip
 10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9


#### **NPJ Phase Diagram Web Interface**

• A web interface has been developed that offers real time NPJ phase diagram forecasts and extreme event composites:

#### http://www.atmos.albany.edu/facstaff/ awinters/realtime/About\_EOFs.php

#### **Contact:** <u>acwinters@albany.edu</u>

**Collaborators:** Mike Bodner (WPC), Arlene Laing (NOAA), Dan Halperin (ERAU), Bill Lamberson (WPC), Josh Kastman (WPC), and Sara Ganetis (WPC)

## **Supplementary Slides**

#### References

- Athanasiadis, P. J., J. M. Wallace, and J. J. Wettstein, 2010: Patterns of wintertime jet stream variability and their relation to the storm tracks. *J. Atmos. Sci.*, **67**, 1361–1381.
- Griffin, K. S., and J. E. Martin, 2016: Synoptic features associated with temporally coherent modes of variability of the North Pacific jet stream. *J. Climate*, **29**, in press.
- Hamill, T. M., G. T. Bates, J. S. Whitaker, D. R. Murray, M. Fiorino, T. J. Galarneau, Y. Zhu, and W. Lapenta, 2013: NOAA's Second-Generation Global Medium-Range Ensemble Forecast Dataset. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, 94, 1553–1565.
- Jaffe, S. C., J. E. Martin, D. J. Vimont, and D. L. Lorenz, 2011: A synoptic climatology of episodic, subseasonal retractions of the Pacific jet. *J. Climate*, **24**, 2846–2860.
- Saha, S., and Coauthors, 2014: The NCEP Climate Forecast System Version 2. J. Climate, **27**, 2185–2208.

## **NPJ Regime Composite Patterns**



- The worst forecast periods are frequently characterized by significantly higher heights over the North Pacific and lower heights over North America
- The composite difference pattern suggests that the worst forecast periods are often associated with upper-tropospheric blocking events





- The worst forecast periods are typically characterized by an equatorward shifted trajectory within the NPJ phase diagram
- The best forecast periods are typically characterized by a poleward shifted trajectory within the NPJ phase diagram





 Relative to the best forecast periods, the worst forecast periods are frequently characterized by significantly higher heights over the eastern North Pacific at the time of forecast initialization

#### **Composite Difference: (Worst – Best) at 0 h**



• Relative to the best forecasts, the worst forecast periods exhibit significantly higher heights over the eastern North Pacific irrespective of the NPJ regime at the time of forecast initialization

#### **Composite Difference: (Worst – Best) at 192 h**



 The composite differences suggest that the worst forecast periods are often associated with upper-tropospheric blocking events over the North Pacific 8 days following forecast initialization irrespective of the NPJ regime at the time of forecast initialization

## **NPJ Regime Distributions**

#### **NPJ Regime Characteristics**



• The frequency of each NPJ regime exhibits considerable inter-annual and intra-annual variability

#### **NPJ Regime Frequency and ENSO**



- Jet Extensions
   and Equatorward
   Shifts are
   favored during
   an El Niño
- Jet Retractions
   and Poleward
   Shifts are
   favored during a
   La Niña

#### **NPJ Regime Frequency and the MJO**



- Jet Retractions are favored during Phases 2, 3, and 4
- Poleward Shifts are favored during Phases 5 and 6
- Jet Extensions
   are favored
   during Phases 7,
   8, and 1

#### **NPJ Regime Frequency and the PNA**



- Jet Extensions and Poleward Shifts are favored during a positive PNA
- Jet Retractions
   and Equatorward
   Shifts are
   favored during a
   negative PNA

## Additional NPJ Phase Diagram Verification Statistics

#### **GEFS Ensemble Mean Error by NPJ Regime**



#### **GEFS Ensemble Mean Error by NPJ Regime**



Forecasts initialized during **jet retractions** exhibit significantly larger errors than **jet extensions** in the 192–216-h forecast period

#### **NPJ Phase Diagram Forecast Skill**



 Forecasts initialized during jet retractions are characterized by larger errors than those initialized during jet extensions and poleward shifts

#### **NPJ Phase Diagram Forecast Skill**



 Forecasts verifying during jet retractions and equatorward shifts are characterized by substantially larger errors than those verifying during jet extensions and poleward shifts

#### **NPJ Phase Diagram Forecast Skill**



 Jet retractions and equatorward shifts are often characterized by high-amplitude and/or short-wavelength flow patterns over the North Pacific, which may be a contributing factor to the reduced skill



- The worst forecasts are most frequently initialized during jet retractions and equatorward shifts
- The worst forecast periods frequently feature equatorward shifts during the 10-day period following forecast initialization



 The worst forecast periods are associated with longer trajectories through the NPJ phase diagram following forecast initialization, suggestive of rapid NPJ regime change

#### **NPJ Regime Forecast Frequency**

The percent frequency that an NPJ regime is over/under forecast relative to verification at various forecast lead times in the GEFS ensemble mean reforecasts



#### **NPJ Regime Forecast Frequency**

The percent frequency that an NPJ regime is over/under forecast relative to verification at various forecast lead times in the GEFS ensemble mean reforecasts



- Equatorward shifts are substantially under forecast at every forecast lead time compared to all other NPJ regimes
- The degree to which
  equatorward shifts are
  under forecast
  corroborates the
  reduced skill of forecasts
  verifying during
  equatorward shifts

#### **Reliability Diagram**



#### **GEFS Ensemble Mean Error – Season**



#### **GEFS Ensemble Mean POD by NPJ Regime**



#### **Frequency of Best/Worst NPJ Forecasts**



#### **Frequency of Worst NPJ Forecasts**



#### **Frequency of Best NPJ Forecasts**



#### Jet Regime-Dependent Forecast Skill

Percent Difference Between the Frequency of Forecasts with Below-Normal and Above-Normal RMSE over North America



#### Jet Regime-Dependent Forecast Skill

Percent Difference Between the Frequency of Forecasts with Below-Normal and Above-Normal RMSE over North America



# Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts

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**Hypothetical Best Forecast** 





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# Represents a forecast with negligible ensemble mean error

(1) Ens. Mean error  $\approx 0$   $\checkmark$ 





**Hypothetical Best Forecast** 

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(2) Avg. Ens. Member error ≈ 0



**Hypothetical Best Forecast** 





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Hypothetical Intermediate Forecast


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#### Represents a forecast with considerable ensemble member error

- (1) Ens. Mean error  $\approx 0$
- (2) Avg. Ens. Member error >> 0 🗙



#### **Hypothetical Intermediate Forecast**



# Comparison between the periods characterized by the best/worst medium-range forecasts

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**Hypothetical Worst Forecast** 



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#### Represents a forecast with considerable ensemble member error

(1) Ens. Mean error >> 0 X
(2) Avg. Ens. Member error >> 0 X







# Real time NPJ Phase Diagram Verification Statistics 2016–2017

### Reliability Diagram (Sept 1 – May 31)



Perfect Reliability

The GEFS appears to be underdispersive with respect to medium-range forecasts of the NPJ within the phase diagram

### **GEFS Ensemble Mean Error – Regime**



### **GEFS Probability of Detection – Regime**



#### **Real Time NPJ Phase Diagram Forecasts**

#### Time series of 2016–2017 GEFS ensemble mean 9-day forecast error classified by initialization date



### **NPJ Phase Diagram and ETE's**









### **West Coast Extreme Precipitation Events**



Events during Sept. – May 1979–2014 projected onto the NPJ phase diagram (N=154)

Each "**x**" is an average of the PCs 3–7 days prior to a precip. event

West Coast Extreme Precipitation Events are most often preceded by Jet Extensions

## NPJ Phase Diagram Technical Slides

### **Real Time North Pacific Jet Phase Diagram**



### **Real Time North Pacific Jet Phase Diagram**

 Each point on the phase diagram is a weighted average of the principal components within +/- 1 day of the time under consideration



#### Example: 0000 UTC 8 November 2014

### **Real Time North Pacific Jet Phase Diagram**





#### 250-hPa Zonal Wind Anomalies and EOF1: 0000 UTC 2 Jun



250-hPa zonal wind anomalies at 0000 UTC 2 Jun project strongly onto EOF2 > 0

