

## LIMITS ON CO<sub>2</sub> CLIMATE FORCING FROM RECENT TEMPERATURE DATA OF EARTH

David H. Douglass<sup>a</sup> and John R. Christy<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627, USA

<sup>b</sup>Department of Atmospheric Science and Earth System Science Center, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899, USA

### ABSTRACT

The global atmospheric temperature anomalies of *Earth* reached a maximum in 1998 which has not been exceeded during the subsequent 10 years. The global anomalies are calculated from the average of climate effects occurring in the tropical and the extratropical latitude bands. *El Niño/La Niña* effects in the tropical band are shown to explain the 1998 maximum while variations in the background of the global anomalies largely come from climate effects in the northern extratropics. These effects do not have the signature associated with CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcing. However, the data show a small underlying positive trend that is consistent with CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcing with no-feedback.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that Earth's mean global surface temperature has increased by about 1°C during the last century [IPCC, 2007]. Estimates of variations in the surface temperature from natural phenomena including solar, climate shifts from changes in ocean currents, atmospheric aerosols, clouds, changes in albedo, recovery from the "little ice age", and conversion of land to agricultural use are comparable in magnitude. A major interest, however, is in the possibility that climate forcing from atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> contributes some part of this increase. The IPCC report also states: "[M]ost of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations." The 'greenhouse gas' is mainly CO<sub>2</sub>.

Figure 1 shows the global temperature anomalies,  $\Delta T$ , from two commonly used data sets: HadCRUT3 surface measurements and UAH\_LT satellite values for the lower troposphere (LT) for the period January 1979 to July 2008. Both data sets show that  $\Delta T$  reached a maximum in 1998 and has not been exceeded in the subsequent 10 years. Also evident are oscillations of period 2 to 5 years which are associated with *El Niño/La Niña* effects. The data sets also show differences. The HadCRUT3 values are larger and have a generally increasing background. The MSU values have a smaller trend.

### Climate Theory

The influence of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on the atmosphere is expressed by what is called a climate forcing  $\Delta F$ . In general, climate theory defines  $\Delta F$  from any source in terms of an equivalent change in net irradiance (in Wm<sup>-2</sup>) referred to the top of the atmosphere [Shine *et al.*, 1995]. This forcing is assumed to cause a change in the mean temperature of the Earth. Climate models define a sensitivity parameter  $\lambda$  relating  $\Delta F$  and  $\Delta T$ :

$$\Delta T = \lambda \Delta F \quad (1)$$

[Note that in some of the earlier literature the symbol for climate sensitivity is the inverse of this IPCC definition.]

The climate sensitivity  $\lambda$  can be expressed as the product of two factors

$$\lambda = g \lambda_0 \quad (2)$$

where  $\lambda_0$  is the no-feedback sensitivity and  $g$  is the gain resulting from any feedback from the particular climate forcing being considered. For a large number of forcings (including CO<sub>2</sub>) the no-feedback value is  $\lambda_0 = 0.30$  K/(W m<sup>-2</sup>) [Kiehl, 1992; Shine *et al.*, 1995]. There is general agreement among climate scientists for the case of no-feedback. There is disagreement in regard to the validity of the *global warming hypothesis* that states that there are positive feedback processes leading to gains  $g$  that are larger than 1, perhaps as large as 3 or 4. However, recent studies suggest that the value of  $g$  is much smaller. In a recent study involving aerosols Chylek *et al.* [2007] obtain climate sensitivities of  $\lambda = 0.29$  to  $0.48$  K/(W m<sup>-2</sup>). Schwartz (2008) in a study of ocean heat content data reports a smaller value and Lindzen *et al.* [1998] and Douglass *et al.* [2005] report low values of  $\lambda$  from studies of the Pinatubo volcano event.

### Nature of the CO<sub>2</sub> response.

In order to determine if atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> can account for part of the  $\Delta T$  variations, it is important to characterize the nature of the CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcing. Even though the magnitude of the expected  $\Delta T$  signal is yet to be determined, one can, assuming a linear response, make certain assumptions about the signature of the expected CO<sub>2</sub> signal.

1. The atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is slowly increasing with time [Keeling *et al.* (2004)]. The climate forcing according to the IPCC varies as  $\ln(\text{CO}_2)$  [IPCC (2001)]. The  $\Delta T$  response would be expected to follow this function. A plot of  $\ln(\text{CO}_2)$  is found to be nearly linear in time over the interval 1979-2004. Thus  $\Delta T$  from CO<sub>2</sub> forcing should be nearly linear in time also.
2. The atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is well mixed and shows a variation with latitude which is less than 4% from pole to pole [Earth System Research Laboratory, 2008]. Thus one would expect that the latitude variation of  $\Delta T$  from CO<sub>2</sub> forcing to be also small. It is noted that low variability of trends with latitude is a result in some

coupled atmosphere-ocean models. For example, the zonal-mean profiles of atmospheric temperature changes in models subject to 20<sup>th</sup> Century forcing (includes CO<sub>2</sub> forcing) over 1979-1999 are discussed in Chap 5 of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program [Karl *et al.*2006]. The PCM model in their Fig 5.7 shows little pole to pole variation in trends below altitudes corresponding to atmospheric pressures of 500 hPa.

Thus, changes in  $\Delta T$  that are oscillatory, negative or that vary strongly with latitude are inconsistent with CO<sub>2</sub> forcing as indicated above.

### **Definition of temperature anomaly**

It is necessary to define temperature  $T$  and other quantities describing the climate system of Earth. The radiative-convective equilibrium concept in climate modeling is discussed in a recent National Research Council report [NRC 2005]. In this report, the radiation forcing, the heat content, and the changes in temperature  $\Delta T$  are all referenced to the tropopause. Note that the reference is not Earth's surface. Pielke *et al.* [2007] have pointed out that in this context that the  $\Delta T$  in the energy balance equations is a "...[t]hermodynamic proxy for the thermodynamic state of the *Earth system*". They then make the point that the surface temperature anomalies are not a good proxy for  $\Delta T$  because the measurements are made within the surface boundary layer (SBL) which can in many cases contain effects which result in a decoupling from  $\Delta T$ s higher in the troposphere. Lindzen [2007] makes the same point that the surface temperature anomalies are not a good proxy in a different way. He stresses that the radiation in the energy flux balance relations can be thought of as coming mostly from the atmospheric layer where the infrared optical depth is near 1. This characteristic emission layer (CEL) is above the boundary layer and is typically at an altitude of 7-8 km [pressure 400-300 hPa] in the tropics.

For these reasons temperature anomalies derived from surface measurements are not a suitable proxy (see also Christy *et al.* 2006). There are additional reasons for not using the surface temperature data that include non-uniform coverage of the globe.

The MSU satellite lower tropospheric (LT) temperature anomalies do cover the globe uniformly and are relatively free from SBL effects because the mean altitude associated with the anomalies is well above that of the SBL. Thus we choose the MSU\_LT temperature anomalies as a more suitable proxy. There are, however, two independent groups, University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and Remote Sensing Systems (RSS) which produce different version of LT that are close to each other. The small differences between the two regarding the study at hand do not affect the major conclusions. We choose UAH as the better data set as justified below.

In section 2 we describe the data sets. Section 3 examines the latitude dependence and the causes of the recent variations. Section 4 and 5 give the conclusions and summary.

## 2. SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODS.

### 2.1. Data sets

All data sets are monthly time series. The time interval of the data is from Jan 1979 to Dec 2007 and is referred to as the satellite era.

#### Surface temperatures

The surface temperature measurements are from HadCRUT3. [Jones and Moberg, 2003] This data set is used by the IPCC and by many others. As mentioned above the surface temperature is not a good proxy for the “thermodynamic” temperature that describes the Earth’s climate system.

#### Microwave sounding units (MSU) data from satellites

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) [Christy and Norris, 2006] and Remote Sensing Systems (RSS) (Mears and Wentz, 2005) provide two independent analyses of the same MSU data. The MSU\_LT anomalies used in this study represent the lower troposphere (LT) and are a weighted mean from the surface to a pressure of 350 hPa (mean altitude 2.5 km) [Spencer and Christy (1992)]. The importance of the MSU data sets is that all areas of the globe are sampled uniformly. There are small differences between the UAH and RSS data sets which are discussed in appendix A. However, one obtains the same conclusions of this research whichever data set is used. We use the UAH\_LT data.

*Latitude bands.* The temperature anomaly data can be partitioned into averages over latitude bands that are used in this paper. There are the familiar global (85 S-85 N) and tropical (20 S-20 N) latitude bands. North of the equator there are: NH (0-85 N), ExTropics (20 N-85 N), and NoPol (60 N-85 N). There are corresponding latitude bands south of the equator.

#### ENSO data

Anomalies in the sea surface temperature (SST) of particular regions of the *Pacific Ocean* show the **El Niño/La Niña** phenomena of alternating warm/cold regimes of period 2-5 years. Similar anomalies in pressure are observed across the southern *Pacific* in the *Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)*. Many investigations have demonstrated correlation between the two phenomena. The general phenomena are called *El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)*. Barnston et al. [1997] in a general study with the objective of finding an *ENSO* index in the tropical Pacific with the strongest correlation with the core *ENSO* phenomena found that a region which they named SST3.4 was best. They introduced a new index, nino3.4, straddling the equator [120° W-170° W] which “... [m]ay be regarded as an appropriate general SST index of the *ENSO* state by researchers, diagnosticians, and forecasters.” The *ENSO* indices are produced by the Climate Prediction Center of NOAA [NOAA/CPC] Values of the nino3.4 index and others are posted monthly.

#### CO<sub>2</sub> data

We use CO<sub>2</sub> concentration values (C) measured at Mauna Loa. The data are from *Scripta Institution of Oceanography (SIO)* [CDAIC, 2007] from 1958 to 2004.

### Aerosol optical density (AOD)

The AOD index (dimensionless) is generally accepted as the proxy for volcano climate forcing [Hansen *et al.* (2002)]. The most recent determination of AOD is by Ammann *et al.* [2003]. The effects from the two major volcanoes, El Chichón (1982), and Pinatubo (1991) are included in the AOD data tables. The decreases noted by Chylek (2007) are not included in the data tables.

### 2.2. Methods and definitions

In many geophysical data sets an interfering 12-month seasonal effect is a recognized problem. This seasonal effect is “removed” by a variety of schemes before indices of “anomalies” are prepared. However, these methods may not be completely successful. Therefore, we have applied a 12-point trailing average “box” digital filter,  $F$ , to all time-series considered in this paper. Such a filter is a low pass filter which has the added property of having a zero at a frequency of  $1/12 \text{ month}^{-1}$ . This filter preserves the monthly resolution of the original time series but produces a time shift such that all features occur 6 months earlier than the date assigned.

## 3. ANALYSIS.

### 3.1 Global

The global values of  $\Delta T$  in Figure 1 show for the period Jan 1979 to Jan 2008 that the anomalies reached a maximum in 1998 which has not been exceeded by later values. Also evident are the oscillations of 2-5 year period. The global values can be obtained by an average over the three latitude bands: NoExtropics (north of 20 N), tropics (20 S-20 N), and SoExtropics (south of 20 S). We show below that climate effects in these latitude bands “stay within the band”. To explain the global values one must examine the latitude bands separately. For example, the El Niño/La Niña effects originate in the tropics and are strongest there.

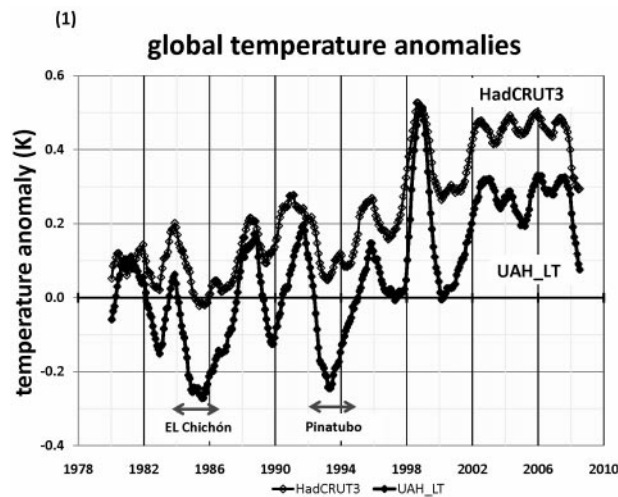


Fig 1. Global temperature anomalies for period 1979-2007 for the satellite UAH\_LT and the surface HadCRUT3

### 3.2 Latitude effect

We have examined the temperature anomalies at the various latitudes enumerated above for three data sets: HadCRUT3v, and MSU\_LT from UAH and from RSS. All show similar behavior. However, as explained above, we only present the results from MSU\_LT\_UAH. Figure 2 shows the UAH\_LT anomalies for NoExtropics, Tropics, SoExtropics and Global. The average trends over the range 1979-2007 are 0.28, 0.08, 0.06 and 0.14 K/decade respectively. If the climate forcing were only from CO<sub>2</sub> one would expect from response No. 2 a small variation with latitude. However, it is noted that NoExtropics is 2 times that of the global and 4 times that of the Tropics. Thus one concludes that the climate forcing in the NoExtropics includes more than CO<sub>2</sub> forcing. These non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects include land use [Peilke et al. 2007]; industrialization [McKittrick and Michaels (2007), Kalnay and Cai (2003), DeLaat and Maurellis (2006)]; high natural variability, and daily nocturnal effects [Walters et al. (2007)].

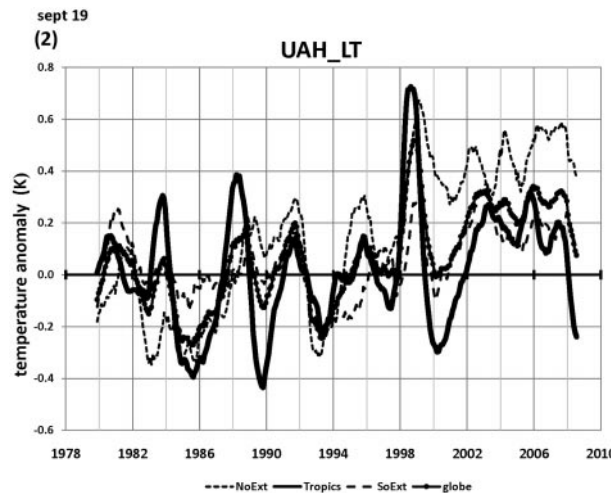


Fig 2. UAH\_LT temperature anomalies: northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere, tropics and global from 1979-2007.

### 3.3 The tropical band

Fig 3 shows the tropical UAH\_LT data and the *nino3.4* time-series. One sees that for UAH\_LT that the value at the end of the data series is less than at the beginning. However, one should not conclude from this observation that the trend is negative because of the obvious strong correlation between UAH\_LT and *nino3.4*. The exception to this correlation occurs in time-segments following the volcanic eruptions of El Chichón [1982-86] and Pinatubo [1991-95] which cooled the troposphere [see Christy and McNider (1994)]. A quick estimate of the magnitude of the correlation can be made by removing the volcano segments and doing a standard correlation calculation. The result is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{UAH} &= 0.288 * \text{nino3.4} + 0.044 & (1) \\ R^2 &= 0.864; \text{ delay of UAH by 4 months,} \end{aligned}$$

where  $R^2$  is the coefficient of determination. The correlation of the RSS temperature anomalies vs. *nino3.4* also was studied. The coefficient was nearly the same. However, the value of  $R^2$  for RSS was 0.678 which is smaller than for UAH. Under the assumption that  $\Delta T$  variations in the tropics are due mainly to ENSO then the data set which showed the higher correlation would be better.

This calculation quantifies the high correlation of  $\Delta T$  and *nino3.4* but does not yield the underlying temperature trend. This is determined by multiple regression analysis in the next section.

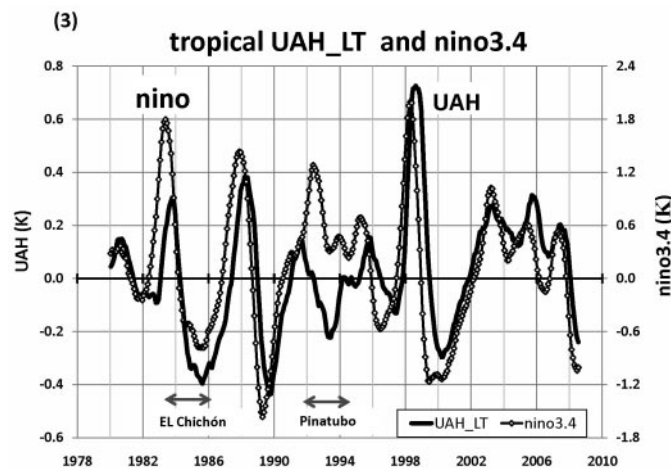


Fig 3. UAH\_LT temperature anomalies: northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere, tropics and global from 1979-2007

### 3.4 Underlying linear temperature trend

The expected signature of CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcing is a linear time dependence of the temperature anomalies. The global values, however, are not suitable to analyze for that signal because they contain effects from the NoExtropic latitude band which were not consistent with the assumption of how Earth's temperature will respond to CO<sub>2</sub> forcing.

Thus we look to the tropical anomalies. If one is able to determine an underlying trend in the tropics, then assuming that the latitude variation of the intrinsic CO<sub>2</sub> effect is small (CO<sub>2</sub> response No. 2), then the global trend should be close to this value. The trend,  $k$ , of the unprocessed tropical data shown in Fig. 3 is  $0.076 \text{ K/decade}$ . This is obviously not a proper estimate of any underlying trend because of the ENSO effect (*nino3.4*) and the two volcanoes, El Chichón and Pinatubo, which occurred during this time period.

The desired underlying trend, the ENSO effect and the volcano effect can all be determined by a multiple regression analysis [Douglass and Clader (2002)]. The method assumes that  $\Delta T$  depends linearly as

$$\Delta T = k \cdot \text{time} + k_1 \cdot \text{nino3.4} + k_2 \cdot \text{AOD}. \quad (2)$$

where the first term is the linear temperature trend, the second is the proxy for ENSO effects and the third term is the proxy for the volcanoes. The trend  $k$  and the sensitivity coefficients  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  are results which come from the regression analysis. Before beginning the analysis the appropriate time delays must be determined. From the results in section 3,  $\Delta T$  was shown to follow nino3.4 by 4 months and we determine separately that the delay for AOD is 12 months. There is no delay associated with the linear term.

The regression analysis yields  $k$ , the underlying trend:

$$k = 0.062 \pm 0.010 \text{ K/decade} \quad (3)$$

The uncertainty is statistical. The coefficient of determination is  $R^2 = 0.886$ , showing that most of the variance is removed by the regression analysis. The values of the other coefficients from the regression analysis are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Multiple regression analysis of UAH tropical  $\Delta T$  anomalies.  $\Delta T = k \cdot \text{time} + k_1 \cdot \text{nino3.4} + k_2 \cdot \text{AOD}$ . For the values below, the coefficient of determination is  $R^2 = 0.886$

predictor	linear time	nino3.4	AOD
symbol	$k$	$k_1$	$k_2$
units	$^{\circ}\text{K}/\text{year}$	$\text{K}/^{\circ}\text{K}$	$^{\circ}\text{K}/\text{unit AOD}$
value of coefficient	$0.00620 \pm 0.0010$	$0.281 \pm 0.012$	$-2.60 \pm 0.24$
delay (months)	na	4	12

There are other systematic climate effects not considered above which could affect the value of the trend shown by Eq (3). One example is the solar irradiance which has decreased slightly during this time period. Using results of Douglass and Clader [2002] the effect is estimated to be less than 20%. A second example is from a paper by Chylek et al. [2007]. They report a secular decrease in AOD of  $-0.0014/\text{year}$  in recent data. Using the value  $k^2 = -2.3 \text{ K}$  that we have found for the AOD sensitivity, we calculate a contribution to the trend of  $0.036 \text{ K/decade}$ . Although this is a subtraction from the value in Eq (3), it is best thought of as one more example of a systematic effect that must be considered. A third effect is black carbon aerosol. Ramanathan and Carmichael [2008] estimate that the climate forcing from absorption of visible light by atmospheric black carbon soot can be as high as 55% of that from  $\text{CO}_2$ . There could be other effects not enumerated. This value, given by Eq(3), is a candidate for a  $\text{CO}_2$  signal

#### 4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

##### Warming from $\text{CO}_2$ forcing

How big is the effect from  $\text{CO}_2$  climate forcing? From IPCC [2001]:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta T(\text{CO}_2) &\approx \lambda * \Delta F(\text{CO}_2) \\ \Delta T(\text{CO}_2) &\approx 5.33 \ln(C/C_0) \end{aligned} \quad (4ab)$$



where  $\lambda$  is the climate sensitivity parameter whose value is 0.30 K/(Wm<sup>-2</sup>) for no-feedback;  $C$  is the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>, and  $C_0$  is a reference value. From the data the mean value of the slope of  $\ln(C(t)/C(t_0))$  vs. time from 1979 to 2004 is 0.044/decade.

Thus:

$$\Delta T (CO_2) \approx 0.070 \text{ K/decade} \quad (5)$$

This estimate is for no-feedback. If there is feedback leading to a gain  $g$ , then Eq(5) should be multiplied by  $g$ .

The underlying trend, Eq(3), estimated from the tropical anomalies is consistent with CO<sub>2</sub> forcing with no-feedback. It is frequently argued that the gain  $g$  is larger than 1, perhaps as large as 3 or 4. This possibility requires there to be some other climate forcing of negative sign to cancel the excess. From the results of Chylek [2007], this cancellation cannot come from aerosols. One candidate is the apparent negative feedback associated with changes in cirrus clouds when warmed [Spencer *et al.* 2007].

#### **Is the underlying trend linear?**

Seidel and Lanzante [2004] consider three alternate statistical models for temperature changes different from simple linear trends. Based upon break-points (abrupt changes) the three are: flat steps, piecewise linear and sloped steps. They show that for a number of temperature data sets these models of temperature changes give a better fit. For example, “[R]esults for the tropospheric data suggest that it is reasonable to consider most of the warming during 1958-2001 to have occurred at the time of the abrupt climate regime shift in 1977.”

We have considered this possibility for the UAH tropical data in Fig 3. Assuming the “flat step” (‘flat’ means 0 slope) model with just one step we find a unique solution. There is a step in 1997 of magnitude of  $\approx 0.2$  K. The choice between a model of a linear trend and one with abrupt changes depends on ones understanding of the measurement techniques and physical processes of the climate system. Randal and Herman [2008], in fact, used such a breakpoint analysis of measurement techniques to conclude that the UAH temperature data is better than that of RSS. In the appendix, we find one such break-point in the RSS temperature data.

#### **5. SUMMARY**

The recent atmospheric global temperature anomalies of the Earth have been shown to consist of independent effects in different latitude bands. The tropical latitude band variations are strongly correlated with ENSO effects. The maximum seen in 1998 is due to the El Niño of that year. The effects in the northern extratropics are not consistent with CO<sub>2</sub> forcing alone

An underlying temperature trend of  $0.062 \pm 0.010$  K/decade was estimated from data in the tropical latitude band. Corrections to this trend value from solar and aerosols climate forcings are estimated to be a fraction of this value. The trend expected from CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcing is  $0.070g$  K/decade, where  $g$  is the gain due to any feedback. If

the underlying trend is due to CO<sub>2</sub>, then  $g \sim 1$ . Models giving values of  $g$  greater than 1 would need a negative climate forcing to partially cancel that from CO<sub>2</sub>. This negative forcing cannot be from aerosols.

These conclusions are contrary to the IPCC [2007] statement: “[M]ost of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.”

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank R. S. Knox and J.J. Hnilo for helpful discussions.

#### APPENDIX A. COMPARISON OF MSU AND RSS

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) [Christy and Norris, 2006] and Remote Sensing Systems (RSS) (Mears and Wentz, 2005) provide two independent analyses of the same MSU data [1979-2007]. The MSU\_LT anomalies used in this study represent the lower troposphere (LT) and are a weighted mean from the surface to a pressure of 350 hPa (mean altitude 2.5 km) [Spencer and Christy (1992)]. The importance of the MSU data sets is that all areas of the globe are sampled uniformly. A weakness is that the record does not begin until 1979.

Randall and Herman [2008] report a detailed comparison of UAH and RSS in an effort to determine the causes of the discrepancies between the two data sets. They found that the discrepancies were associated with adjustments from one satellite to another and with diurnal corrections. Comparison with radiosonde data sets “[i]ndicated that RSS’s method ... of determining diurnal effects is likely overestimating the correction to the LT channel.” In other words, Randall and Herman state that the RSS methods lead to warm biases and thus the UAH data set is likely better. In particular, they state that the largest discrepancies [RSS larger than UAH] in the LT channel are centered on 1993 in both the global and tropical data. There are also other smaller discrepancies.

Christy and Norris [2006] and Christy *et al.* [2007] provide additional evidence that UAH is preferred over RSS. Their conclusions are based upon (a) An examination of specific time periods (b) A study of the inter-relationships between MSU bulk layer temperatures and (c) In a comparison with a uniform dataset of U.S. radiosondes, RSS tropospheric temperatures revealed a significant upward shift of about 0.1 K in the early 1990s. Further comparisons with tropical radiosondes and surface temperature datasets indicated the same result, that in comparison with all others, RSS displayed a relative positive shift of 0.07 to 0.13 K. In absolute terms, RSS was the only tropical tropospheric dataset which indicated 3-year average temperatures were significantly warmer after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo than before. Finally, in a test of inter-layer consistency (i.e. the relationship between temperatures of satellite products measuring different vertical layers), RSS data were outside the statistical estimates calculated by radiosonde measurements (Christy *et al.* 2007).

In the text of this paper we showed that the anomalies in the tropics are strongly correlated with ENSO and since ENSO effects obviously have no break-points or diurnal corrections, then the data set that best processed the break points and diurnal corrections would have the highest correlation with nino3.4. UAH had the larger  $R^2$ .

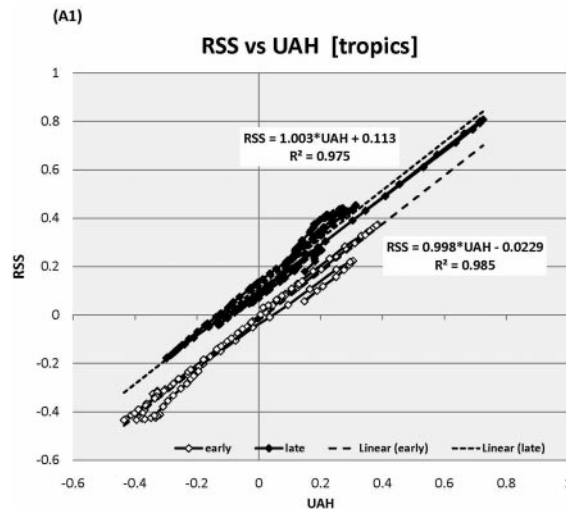


Fig A1. Comparison of tropical UAH\_LT and RSS\_LT data sets from 1979 to 2007

Table A1. Comparison of tropical UAH and RSS

	Early period	Late period	
Time segment	1979 to mid-1992	Mid-1994 to 2007	2 year segment removed
equation	$RSS=0.998*UAH-0.023$	$RSS=1.00*UAH+0.113$	Jump of 0.136 K
$R^2$	0.985	0.975	

Can we determine where the differences between UAH and RSS are and their magnitude? Since RSS has the more positive linear trend, published evidence shows that there is a “jump” between the two data sets sometime during the early-mid 1990s. This possibility was tested on the tropical data. In particular, the total time-segment was divided into an early period and a late period separated by a short time-segment that was removed. Fig. A1 shows a plot of RSS vs. UAH. The early time-segment are the open diamonds and the late time-segment are the closed diamonds. The beginning and end of the removed segment were varied to give the largest coefficient of determination,  $R^2$ , while keeping the slope near 1. This procedure leads to a unique removed-segment from mid-92 to mid-94 (see Christy and Norris [2006], Christy et al. [2007] and Randal and Hermann [2008] for more detail). The jump was 0.136°K. This and other results are tabulated in Table A1.

By these tests we view UAH as the better data set.

**REFERENCES**

- Ammann C. M., G. A. Meehl, and W. W. Washington (2003). A monthly and latitudinal varying forcing data set in simulations of the 20th century climate, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 30, no 12 1657, doi: 10.1029/2003GL016875.
- Barnston, Anthony C. et al. (1997) Documentation of a Highly ENSO-Related SST Region in the Equatorial Pacific. *Atmosphere-Ocean* (3), 35:367-383.
- CDAIC (2007). Monthly CO<sub>2</sub> values at <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/co2/sio-mlo.htm>
- Chylek, P. et al. (2007). Limits on climate sensitivity derived from recent satellite and surface observations. *J. Geophys. Res.* 112 D24S04, doi:10.1029/2007JD008740.
- Christy JR, Norris WB, Spencer RW, Hnilo JJ. 2007. Tropospheric temperature change since 1979 from tropical radiosonde and satellite measurements. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 112: D06102, DOI:10.1029/2005JD006881
- Christy, J. R., and R. T. McNider, Satellite Greenhouse Signal, *Nature*, 367, 325- 367, 1994.
- Christy, J. R., and W. B. Norris (2006), Satellite and VIZ-radiosonde intercomparisons for diagnosis of nonclimatic influences, *J. of Atmos and Oceanic Tech*, 23, 1181-1194.
- De Laat A.T.J. and A. N. Maurellis (2006). Evidence for influence of anthropogenic surface processes on lower tropospheric and surface temperature trends. *Int. J. Climate* 26 897-913 doi:10.1002/joc.1292
- Douglass, D.,H. And B. D. Clader (2002). Climate sensitivity of the Earth to solar irradiance. *Geophys Res. Letts.* 29. doi:1029/2002GL015345.
- Douglass D.H., R.S.Knox, B.D. Pearson and A.C. Clark (2006) Thermocline flux exchange during the Pinatubo event. *Geophys Res. Lett.* 33 doi:10.1029/2006GL026355
- Earth System Research Laboratory (2008). Global distribution of atmospheric carbon dioxide. NOAA. <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov>.
- IPCC (2001) *Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis*. Edited by Houghton JT, Ding Y, Griggs DJ, Noguer M, Linden PJ, Dai X, Maskell K, editors. Cambridge Univ. Press.
- IPCC, (2007): Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*. Contribution of Working Group I. [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press,
- Jones P.D, A. Moberg. (2003). Hemispheric and large-scale surface air temperature variations: an extensive revision and an update to 2001. *Journal of Climate* 16: 206-223, HadCRUT3v is the designation for version 3.
- Kalnay E, and M. Cai (2003) Impacts of Urbanization and land use change on climate. *Nature* 423. 528-531
- Karl TR, Hassol SJ, Miller CD, Murray WL (eds). 2006. *Temperature Trends in the Lower Atmosphere: Steps for Understanding and Reconciling Differences*. A Report by the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). Washington, DC, US Government.(Report at <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/sap/sap1-1/finalreport/default.htm>).

- Keeling C. and T. P. Whorf (2004) Atmospheric carbon dioxide record from mauna Loa. Trends: Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide. <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/co2/sio-mlo.htm>
- Lindzen, R. S., and C. Giannitsis (1998), On the climatic implications of volcanic cooling, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 103(D6), 5929-5941.
- Lindzen R, S. (2007) Taking Greenhouse warming seriously. *Energy & Environment* 18 935-948.
- McKittrick R., P. Michaels (2007) Quantifying the influence of anthropogenic surface processes and inhomogeneities on gridded global climate data. *J. Geophys. Res.* 112 doi:10.1029/2007JD008465.
- Mears, C. A., and F. J. Wentz (2005), The effect of diurnal correction on satellite-derived lower tropospheric temperature, *Science*, 309, 1548-1551
- Pielke R. A. et al. (2007) Unresolved Issues with the Assessment of Multi-Decadal Global Land-Surface Temperature Trends. *Geophys. Res.* 112, doi:10.1029/2006JD008229
- Ramanathan V. and G. Carmichael (2008) Global and regional climate change due to black carbon. *Nature Geo Sci* 1 156-159. Doi:10.1038/ngeo156
- Randall R. M. and B. M. Herman (2008) Using Limited Time Period Trends as a Means to Determine Attribution of Discrepancies in Microwave Sounding Unit . *J. Geophys. Res - Atmospheres* 113 D05105, doi:10.1029/2007JD008864.
- Schwarz S.E. (2008) Response to " Heat capacity, time constant, and sensitivity of Earth's climate system" in press *J. Geophys. Res.* doi:10.1029/2007JD009872
- Seidel D.J. and J.R. Lanzante (2004) An assessment of three alternatives to linear trends for characterizing global atmospheric temperature changes. *J. Geophys. Res.* 108 D14108 doi:10.1029/2003JD004414.
- Spencer RW, Christy JR. 1992. Precision and radiosonde validation of satellite gridpoint temperature anomalies. Part I: MSU Channel 2. *Journal of Climate* 5: 847-857.
- UAH. 2007. MSU\_LT anomalies are found at <http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/public/msu/>.
- Spencer R., W. Braswell, J. Christy and J. Hnilo (2007) Cloud and radiation budget changes associated with tropical intraseasonal oscillations. *Geophys Res Letts* 34 L15707, doi:10.1029/2007GL029698.
- Walters J.T., R.T. McNider, X. Shi, W. B. Norris, and J. R. Christy (2007) Positive surface temperature feedback in the stable nocturnal boundary layer. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 14 doi:10.1029/2007GL029505.

