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Jun Ying

Sources of Uncertainty  
in the Tropical Pacific  
Warming Pattern  
under Global Warming  
Projected by Coupled  
Ocean-Atmosphere  
Models

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Sources of Uncertainty  
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Doctoral Thesis accepted by  
Institute of Atmospheric Physics,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

*Author*

Dr. Jun Ying  
State Key Laboratory of Satellite Ocean  
Environment Dynamics, Second Institute  
of Oceanography  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Hangzhou, China

Southern Marine Science and Engineering  
Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai)  
Zhuhai, China

*Supervisors*

Prof. Ping Huang  
Center for Monsoon System Research  
Institute of Atmospheric Physics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Beijing, China

Prof. Ronghui Huang  
Center for Monsoon System Research  
Institute of Atmospheric Physics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Beijing, China

ISSN 2190-5053

Springer Theses

ISBN 978-981-32-9843-9

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-32-9844-6>

ISSN 2190-5061 (electronic)

ISBN 978-981-32-9844-6 (eBook)

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# Supervisors' Foreword

The global mean temperature increase induced by the increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has been a widely accepted conclusion in recent decades. However, the regional climate changes in a warmer climate are often controversial due to the complexity of climate systems. The zonal pattern of the tropical Pacific Sea surface temperature (SST) warming is one of the most controversial, and crucial, issues, because of its dominant impacts on the pan-Pacific climate systems. However, the models participating in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Projects (CMIPs) of generations project different warming patterns among each other.

In September of 2013, Dr. Jun Ying joined our group as a Ph.D. candidate in Center for Monsoon System Research, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Science, led by Prof. Rong-Hui Huang and Prof. Ping Huang. His work focused on the formation of the tropical Pacific SST warming pattern in the CMIP5 models. Differing from the simple analyses on the model-projected SST warming, his work developed a framework to analyze the physical processes which can influence the SST warming pattern, including the cloud–shortwave-radiation–SST feedback effect, wind-induced evaporation cooling effect, background evaporation capability effect, ocean dynamical effect, etc. Based on these analyses, Dr. Ying studied the common formation mechanisms of the tropical Pacific SST warming pattern among CMIP5 models and revealed two leading sources of intermodel uncertainty in projecting the tropical Pacific SST warming pattern, the cloud radiation feedback, and ocean dynamical effect. When considering these two leading sources and the models' common climatological biases, Dr. Ying corrected the previous multi-model ensemble projections and suggested that the tropical Pacific SST warming is more likely to be an El Nino-like pattern. Dr. Ying published lots of high-quality papers in top journals in the fields of atmosphere and climatology research.

Dr. Ying's Ph.D. thesis suggests that improving our understanding of the tropical cloud system and equatorial ocean overturning circulation are the two effective ways to reduce the intermodel discrepancy in the projections of tropical Pacific SST warming pattern. This hint is crucial for the model developers to improve the state-of-the-art climate models more effectively. Moreover, this thesis

also provides an efficient framework to analyze the physical processes of tropical SST warming pattern under global warming, which can be used to study the various aspects—such as: features, formation mechanisms, and sources of uncertainty—of regional SST change pattern under global warming. I believe this thesis will make a long-standing and significant contribution to the regional climate change study.

Beijing, China  
July 2019

Prof. Ping Huang  
Professor of Climatology

Prof. Ronghui Huang  
Professor of Atmospheric dynamics

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The original version of the book frontmatter was revised: Modifications have been made to the Acknowledgement and affiliation. The correction to the book frontmatter is available at [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-32-9844-6\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-32-9844-6_7)



# Acknowledgements

The completion of this Ph.D. thesis is attributed to the professional and zealous supports by many people. Firstly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my two supervisors, Prof. Rong-hui Huang and Prof. Ping Huang, for all of their time and efforts in guiding me during my Ph.D. study. Prof. Rong-hui Huang provided me with encouragement and constructive suggestions when my study remains stagnant. He always made insightful comments about my work in every routine meeting and gave me excellent solutions. Professor Ping Huang has walked me through all the stages of my Ph.D. study. He routinely provided me with professional statistical techniques, excellent research ideas, and improved article writing. Without his constant help and encouragement, this Ph.D. thesis could not be accomplished on time.

Secondly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Bang-liang Yan for the model help and Prof. Ren-Guang Wu for helpful discussions. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to study with colleagues at CMSR, CAS.

Thirdly, I would like to express my special thanks to my family. My mother, Mei-yun Wang, has always provided me with much love and support. My wife, Jing Zhou, helped me get through many difficulties during these years. And my lovely daughter, Yue Ying, brought endless happiness to my life.

I would also like to thank the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grants 41706024, 41690121, 41690120, 41621064) and Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai) for supporting this work.

Jun Ying

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