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8 **A Pioneering**

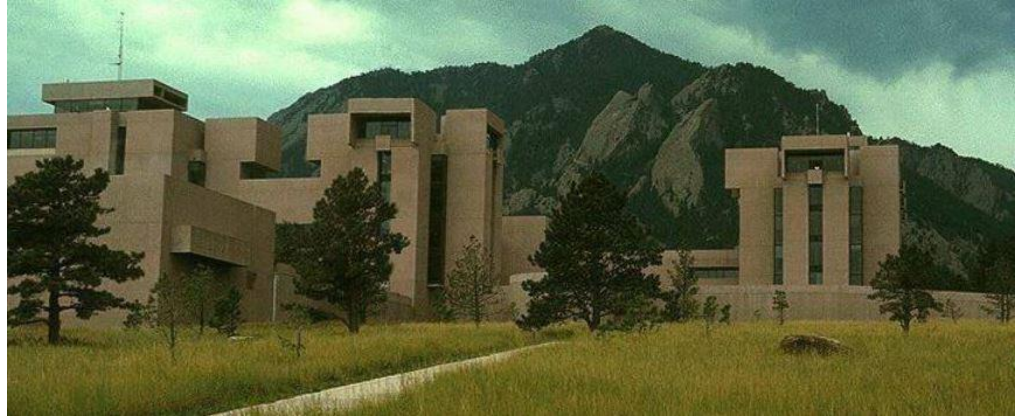
10 **Roland A. M**

1
2 Clarence Palmer, in his treatise on Tropical Meteorology, stated
3 that whenever we get more data from the tropics "...the results
4 usually astonish us" (Palmer, 1952). That certainly applied to the
5 decade of the 1960s. Tropical data were becoming more accessible in
6 digitized form suitable for treatment by computers that were also
7 becoming available to meteorologists. Proceeding logically from
8 Palmer's observation, the stage was set for us to be astonished and
9 astonished we were.

10
11 The decade opened with the discovery of the Quasi-Biennial
12 Oscillation (QBO) in the equatorial stratosphere. It is a most
13 amazing phenomenon. The QBO is remarkable in its approximate
14 26-month period, its regular downward propagation, and in its large
15 amplitude. By the mid-1960s efforts to explain the QBO led to two
16 of the earliest unambiguous identifications of large-scale
17 atmospheric waves predicted by theory. Simultaneously, a theory
18 tailored just for tropical regions was published. Spectral analysis, a
19 particularly powerful analysis tool for the tropics that sometimes
20 requires relating events at stations 1000s of kilometers apart, was
21 beginning to be used effectively by researchers. Also, in 1965 a fast
22 Fourier transform algorithm suitable for coding was published that
23 made spectral calculations orders of magnitude faster than
24 traditional ones.

25
26 Toward the end of the decade in early 1967 a large-scale field
27 program in the Equatorial Central Pacific was organized and carried
28 out by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (Zipser, 1970).
29 Work on data from this field program, the Line Islands Experiment
30 (LIE), introduced me, a rookie researcher at NCAR, to the
31 developments described above. In the fall of 1967,

32
33 Figure 1. *National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder,*
34 *Colorado USA (copyright UCAR).*



1
2 during my first days at NCAR, I sat in the temporarily vacant office
3 of an NCAR scientist who was spending a sabbatical year at the
4 University of Chicago from where, coincidentally, I had just left fresh
5 with a Masters Degree. That scientist was Paul Julian. We were
6 both now members of NCAR's Synoptic Meteorology Group and later
7 the Empirical Studies Group (Fig. 2).

8
9 *Figure 2. Empirical Studies Group: left to right, Paul Julian, Roland*
10 *Madden, Dennis Shea, Chester Newton (Group Head), and Harry*
11 *van Loon about 1980 (copyright UCAR).*
12



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14

1 Julian was a former student of Hans Panofsky who pioneered the
2 use of spectral analysis in meteorology (Panofsky, 1955). As a result,
3 Julian was well versed in the technique. He published a review of it
4 and showed how spectral analysis could be applied to geophysical
5 data (Julian, 1967). He had also done a spectral analysis of 21 years
6 of zonal index data (a measure of the strength of the westerlies) to
7 test quantitatively the notion of an index cycle of three to eight
8 weeks (Julian, 1966) that had been qualitatively accepted as real
9 (e.g. Petterssen, 1956). Results suggested that the zonal index could
10 be adequately modeled by a first order autoregressive process with
11 little evidence of a preferred three to eight week variation.

12
13 Upon Julian's return to NCAR in 1968 he guided me in my efforts
14 to apply spectral analysis to the LIE winds. By late 1970, our
15 collaboration had expanded and eventually led to a description of
16 what is now referred to as the MJO, or Madden and Julian
17 Oscillation after two papers in the early 1970s (Madden and
18 Julian:1971; 1972; hereafter MJ71 and MJ72). What follows is the
19 story, as I remember, of our collaboration that led to those two
20 papers and of the background outlined above that influenced us.

21 **2) Background**

22 **2-1) Discovery of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation**

23
24
25
26 Graystone presented a time-height diagram of zonal, or u-wind, in
27 the stratosphere over Christmas Island, 2N and 158W (Graystone,
28 1959). He had only two years of data and could not recognize the
29 amazing QBO which he was sampling. He only remarked that there
30 was an absence of annual cycle and a presence of large vertical
31 shears. Ebdon (1961) and Reed et.al. (1961) extended the record
32 beyond two years, and they were able to identify east and west wind
33 regimes propagating downward in the stratosphere that varied by as
34 much as 40 m/s. The average time scale of the wind shifts was 26
35 months. I am sure that Palmer, who left us in 1973, was astonished
36 along with most meteorologists by the amazing behavior of the QBO.
37 The QBO increased interest in tropical meteorology. Although the
38 QBO did not affect our later work directly, some subsequent research
39 aimed at explaining its behavior did.

40 41 **2-2) Theory of Waves in the Equatorial Atmosphere**

42

1 Matsuno (1966) published a theoretical paper specifically tailored
2 to the equatorial region. He showed how his approximate equations
3 are an asymptotic case of the Laplace Tidal Equations (LTE) that
4 address the behavior of a thin fluid on the full, rotating, spherical
5 earth. The wave solutions of the LTEs fall into two classes (Hough,
6 1898): The waves of the First Class are eastward and westward
7 traveling gravity waves; waves of the Second Class are westward
8 propagating, and called Rossby or normal mode Rossby-Haurwitz
9 waves (Rossby et.al., 1939; Haurwitz, 1940a ; 1940b). Similarly,
10 Matsuno's equations yield two classes of waves, inertia gravity waves
11 and Rossby waves, which are equivalent to approximate forms of
12 waves of the First and Second Class.

13
14 Two waves, or modes, described by Matsuno are of special interest.
15 One mode behaves like a gravity wave, or wave of the First Class, for
16 waves long relative to the fluid depth and like a Rossby wave, or
17 wave of the Second Class, for shorter waves (see Longuet Higgins,
18 1968: Fig. 5 for zonal wavenumber 4). This mixed Rossby gravity
19 wave (MRGW) is reflected in variations of the meridional, or v-wind.

20
21 The second important mode is a special type of wave of the First
22 Class, the atmospheric Kelvin wave. Unlike the MRGW, the
23 equatorial Kelvin wave is confined to variations in the u-wind. It
24 gets its name from work by Lord Kelvin (Thomson, 1879) who
25 studied waves that propagate parallel to sides of a canal. The
26 interesting aspect of atmospheric, equatorial Kelvin waves is the fact
27 that the change in sign of the Coriolis force at the equator acts
28 dynamically as the canal side (or a coast line).

29
30 In his 1966 paper, Matsuno posed the question of whether the
31 waves he described exist in actual atmospheric conditions. The
32 answer came back quickly in research aimed at explaining the QBO.

33 **2-3) Discovery of MRGWs and Kelvin Waves in Observations**

34
35
36 Yanai and Maruyama (1966), searching for evidence of eddy
37 disturbances that might converge enough momentum to drive the
38 QBO, discovered alternating downward propagating north and south
39 winds in the stratosphere over the central tropical Pacific during
40 northern spring and early summer of 1958. The average period of
41 the oscillating v-winds was around five days. These varying winds
42 were shown to behave similarly to those of MRGW (Maruyama,
43 1967).

1
2 The discovery of Kelvin waves soon followed (Wallace and Kousky,
3 1968). Like Yanai and Maruyama (1966), Wallace and Kousky were
4 initially motivated by problems related to the momentum budget of
5 the QBO. They found fluctuations in the u-wind in the stratosphere
6 at stations in the Pacific and Caribbean with an average period of 15
7 days. Wallace and Kousky showed that the structure and behavior
8 of the oscillations were consistent with those of the theoretically
9 predicted equatorial Kelvin wave.

10 .
11 It should be said that the discovery of MRGW and Kelvin waves
12 were among the first unambiguous identifications of large-scale
13 atmospheric waves predicted by theory. With the exception of the
14 findings of Kubuto and Iida (1954) that showed the presence of
15 normal mode Rossby-Haurwitz waves, in the mid-60s there was little
16 observational evidence of theoretically predicted large-scale waves.
17 The important papers of Eliason and Machenhauer (1965; 1969)
18 identifying normal mode Rossby-Haurwitz waves were either just
19 being disseminated or still on the drawing boards, as was Ray
20 Deland's work (e.g. Deland, 1965).

21 22 **2-4) Use of Spectral Analysis in Studying Tropical Data**

23
24 Besides showing the similarity between Yanai-Maruyama waves
25 and Matsuno's MRGWs, Maruyama (1967) used spectral analysis in
26 the diagnosis of the data. It showed spectral peaks, or extra
27 variance, in the 4-5 day period range quantifying the subjectively
28 estimated period in Yanai and Maruyama (1966).

29
30 Wallace and Kousky (1968) used spectral analysis to identify
31 aspects of the theoretical Kelvin wave in the upper air data that they
32 were examining. For example, cross-spectra between zonal wind and
33 temperature quantified a quadrature relationship predicted by
34 theory and underscored the power of spectral analysis when
35 diagnosing wave-like behavior.

36
37 Yanai and colleagues at the University of Tokyo and Wallace and
38 colleagues at the University of Washington then expanded their use
39 of spectral analysis to further diagnose tropical wave motions. Yanai
40 et.al. (1968) computed spectra and cross-spectra of the v-wind
41 between 17 Pacific stations at 34 levels from the surface to the lower
42 stratosphere. Data were from the period April to July of 1962. The
43 analyses allowed them to estimate vertical and horizontal structures

1 of 4-5 day period disturbances. Among other things, they found that
2 in the lower troposphere, the v-wind spectra had spectral peak near
3 4-days and phase angles that suggested an eastward slope with
4 height.

5
6 Wallace and Chang (1969) studied data from the July to December
7 1963 period. They concentrated on the troposphere below 500hPa.
8 They saw little evidence of vertical propagation in the 4-5 day v-wind
9 variations in contrast to that in the 1962 data examined by Yanai
10 et.al. (1968). Wallace and Chang looked at three additional six
11 month periods during the two years 1963 through 1964 at Truk
12 Island (7N, 152E, now Chuuk). They determined that besides the
13 vertical structure changing with time, the 4-5 day spectral peak in
14 the v-wind itself varied with time as well.

15
16 Wallace and Chang also detected the 5-day normal mode Rossby-
17 Haurwitz wave that had recently been identified by Eliassen and
18 Machenhaur (1965; 1969) and Deland (1965). Most important for the
19 MJO story is that they reported on a low frequency oscillation
20 "...which could not be adequately resolved with the limited period of
21 record" (Wallace and Chang, 1969). Like Graystone's limited look at
22 the QBO, Wallace and Chang's low frequency oscillation may have
23 been the MJO awaiting a longer record to be recognized.

24
25 Spectral analyses by Yanai, Wallace, and colleagues had a major
26 influence on our later studies. Much of the work described above was
27 summarized by Wallace (1969) along with examples of the use of
28 spectral analysis. Innovative uses of spectral analyses of these
29 tropical data were further summarized by Wallace (1971) and by
30 Julian (1971).

31 32 **2-5) The Fast Fourier Transform**

33
34 Spectral analysis and cross-spectral analysis involve Fourier
35 transforming the time series data directly (direct method), or Fourier
36 transforming the auto-covariance function determined from the time
37 series data (indirect method). In either case the traditional Fourier
38 transform requires considerable multiplications. In 1965, Cooley
39 and Tukey (1965) published an algorithm suitable for computer
40 calculations of a fast Fourier transform (FFT). The FFT sped up
41 computations enormously. For a time series N values long the
42 traditional transform required N^2 multiplications. Depending on
43 how factorable N is, the FFT required about $N \cdot \log_2(N)$ or a speed up

1 factor of $N/\text{Log}_2(N)$ (Cooley and Tukey, 1965; Cooley, 1987). For
2 $N=1000$ the speed up factor is 100. So the door was opened for much
3 faster transforms.

4
5 It is interesting to note that Cooley reports that his first
6 interaction with Tukey was at Princeton's Institute for Advanced
7 Study Program in 1953 where Tukey was a consultant and he,
8 Cooley, was a programmer in Von Neuman's Numerical Weather
9 Prediction Group. Cooley programmed a spectral analysis routine for
10 Tukey (Cooley, 1987). Ten years later the two would team up to
11 forever alter the way we compute a Fourier transform.

12 13 **3) Work Leading to the Identification of the MJO**

14 15 **3-1) The Line Islands Experiment Upper Air Data and the** 16 **Honolulu Tropical Meteorology Conference of 1970**

17
18 The above happenings laid the groundwork for Julian and my
19 work that led to a description of the MJO. The role that spectral
20 analysis played in the discoveries of MRGWs and Kelvin waves, and
21 its demonstrated value describing tropical, tropospheric
22 disturbances suggested that we should apply it to the LIE data.

23
24 Backing up a little, in early 1967 I was anticipating completing
25 the requirements for a Masters Degree at the University of Chicago.
26 I had spent the prior two years studying under Professor Tetsuya
27 Fujita and had learned a lot about Satellite Meteorology. Given a
28 satellite's attitude in space and its subpoint, I had learned to "grid"
29 or add latitude/longitude lines to any picture. This skill put me in a
30 good position to qualify for a job opening at the newly started NCAR.
31 NCAR was in the process of carrying out the LIE under the direction
32 of Chief Scientist Ed Zipser. The LIE was motivated in part to
33 provide ground truth for ATS-1, the first equatorial geosynchronous
34 meteorological satellite. It was launched in December 1966 (Zipser,
35 1970). When I arrived in Boulder in September of 1967, my first
36 assignment was to grid pictures taken by ATS-1 earlier that year
37 during the LIE.

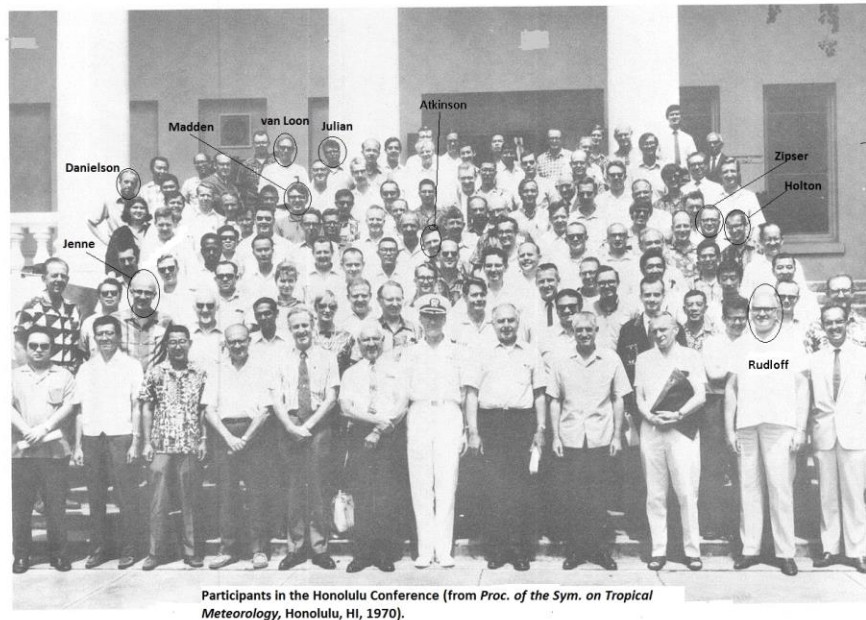
38
39 As the picture gridding neared completion, probably in late
40 October 1967 a large shipping crate appeared in the hall outside my
41 office. I learned that it was full of punch cards containing
42 thermodynamic, azimuth, and elevation information of more than
43 800 rawinsondes recorded during the LIE. It was then my

1 responsibility to turn these raw data into wind speed and direction,
2 temperatures, and moisture variables. Fortunately, NCAR scientist
3 Ed Danielson and summer student Bob Gall, who years later would
4 become a Division Director at NCAR, had written a computer
5 program to do just that for the LIE data. I teamed with Dennis
6 Joseph, a data expert and member of NCAR's Computing Facility's
7 Data Support Section, to finish the job. The thermodynamic and
8 wind data were published in February 1971 (Madden et.al., 1971).

9
10 In the meantime, we had the opportunity to look at the data. I am
11 not certain, but I think it is likely that when I arrived at NCAR in
12 1967, I was unaware of the important discoveries summarized above.
13 Probably in early 1968, one of my new NCAR colleagues drew my
14 attention to the Yanai and Maruyama (1966) paper because of its
15 relevance to LIE stratospheric data. .Certainly by early 1969, I had
16 learned of the innovative ways that Yanai, Wallace and colleagues
17 were using spectral analysis in their work. It was natural to do
18 similar analyses for the LIE period.

19
20 By mid-1968, I had been moved to a more permanent office and
21 Julian had returned from Chicago. In the months to follow, with his
22 help, I computed spectra of LIE upper air meridional winds and was
23 preparing a paper to be delivered at the Honolulu Tropical
24 Meteorology Meeting planned for June of 1970. Figure 3 is a
25 photograph of meeting participants (American Meteorological
26 Society/World Meteorological Organization, 1970). Many who are
27 mentioned in the text are circled. My paper was entitled "Wave
28 Disturbances over the Equatorial Pacific during the Line Islands
29 Experiment" (Madden, 1970). Results did not show the 4-5 day
30 spectral peaks in the lower troposphere that were present during
31 April-July of 1962 reported by Yanai et.al. (1968) further confirming
32 the variability of the tropospheric spectra.

33
34 Figure 3. *Participants in the Honolulu Conference, 1970. (photo*
35 *credit American Meteorological Society/World Meteorological*
36 *Organization, 1970). Key to all in the photo can be seen in the*
37 *AMS/WMO reference or in the Bulletin of the American*
38 *Meteorological Society Supplemental Materials (Madden, 2019).*
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In the discussion that followed my talk, Gary Atkinson from the U. S. Air Force made the observation that the nascent spectral studies of the tropics had been based on relatively short time series (the LIE time series were only 47 days long). He suggested that there now were long time series available from Pacific stations and it would be good to compute spectra based on them to better assess the “...variability and/or stability...” of results. We knew that Atkinson was right and that Julian and I were in the perfect position to look at longer time series. The NCAR Data Support Section headed by Roy Jenne had begun to collect some of these long series. Julian had a FFT code based on Cooley and Tukey’s algorithm, and we had access to a Control Data Corporation 6600. The CDC 6600 had a clock speed of 10MHz and a memory of 65kb, 60-bit words (NCAR,2022) which, though orders of magnitude slower and smaller than a modern cell phone, made it the most powerful computer available for meteorological research at the time. Upon our return from Honolulu I turned my attention to investigating the longest time series available from the equatorial region.

Figure 4. *CDC 6600 (copyright UCAR).*



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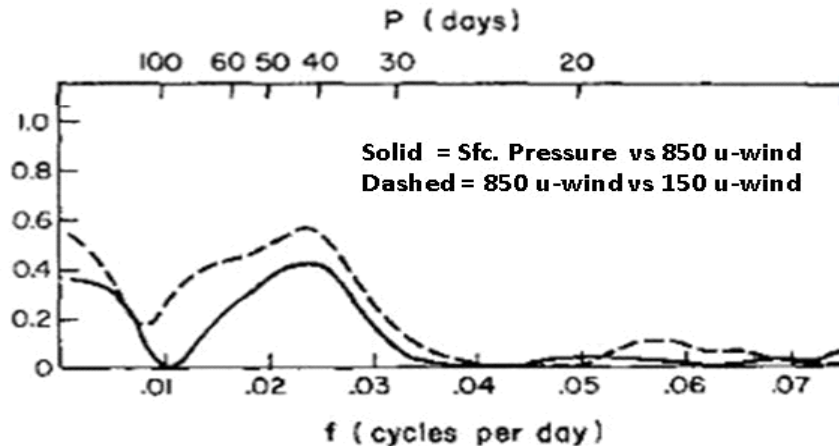
3-2) Studying Longer Time Series

3-2-1) MJ71

Our motivation was to examine time variation in the spectra of tropical observations in the 4-5 day period range. The longest record available for this purpose was rawinsonde data from 3584 days measured at Canton Island (3S, 172W, now Kanton). With the long record we could resolve lower frequency variations that had not yet been investigated. Almost immediately our attention shifted from documenting time variations in 4-5 day disturbances to investigating variations in the 40-50 day range because of results typified by Fig. 5. Coherence squared shown in Fig. 5 is similar to correlation as a function of frequency. It shows a broad maximum with largest values in the 40-50 day range. Corresponding phase angles (not shown) indicated that surface pressures and 850 hPa u-winds were in phase and 850 and 150 hPa u-winds were out-of-phase.

We had no a priori reason to expect this result so usual statistical tests were not appropriate. Julian discussed prior versus posterior

1 statistical tests in the paper we prepared (MJ71), and demonstrated
2 that it would be rare to have such high coherence values if the time
3 series were not related. He expanded on this argument in his paper
4 published in 1971 (Julian, 1971).



5
6 Figure 5. *Coherence squared between 850 and 150 u-winds (dashed)*
7 *and between surface pressure and the 850 u-winds (solid) based on*
8 *Kanton pressure and upper air data . The 0.1% prior confidence*
9 *level assuming a null of no Coherence is 0.25. (adapted from MJ71)*
10

11 Considering phase angles between participating variables we
12 concluded the evidence pointed to a large circulation cell orientated
13 in the equatorial plane with a node where the u-wind switches
14 direction in the 600-500 hPa region. Neither the spectra nor cross-
15 spectra involving the v-wind showed maxima in the 40-50 day range
16 so we concluded that it was not involved. We will see that data from
17 more stations confirmed that the oscillation was indeed the
18 manifestation of large circulation cells, but, because none of our
19 spectra differentiated between seasons, our conclusion about v-wind
20 was wrong.

21
22 The paper describing the results from Kanton was submitted to
23 the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences on 21 December 1970. A
24 letter dated 12 March 1971 from editor S. I. Rasool stated that
25 reviews, plural, were in but relatively minor comments from only one
26 review were attached. We addressed the reviewer's comments and
27 the paper was published in July 1971 (MJ71).

28
29 **3-2-2) MJ72**

30

1 Working to get a full picture of the phenomenon that we were
2 seeing at Kanton, we assembled station pressure data from 25
3 tropical stations (16 were within 15° of the equator) and upper air
4 data from six stations all located within 15° of the equator and
5 spaced around its full circumference. Cross-spectra of the pressure
6 data revealed that the 40-50 day disturbance propagated eastward
7 and spread poleward but was strongest within 10° of the equator.
8 Based on cross-spectra of upper air data from the six stations, we
9 made a figure that summarized the status at all stations and levels
10 that were coherent with Kanton pressure when Kanton pressure was
11 a relative maximum (Fig. 6 of MJ72). That helped us to envision the
12 zonally orientated circulation cells and their eastward movement.

13
14 To supplement the spectral evidence with a synoptic picture of the
15 disturbance based directly on time-series data, we turned to data
16 from the International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958. (IGY). Willy
17 Rudloff had presented a paper at the Honolulu meeting titled
18 “Measurable Seasonal Variations in the Total Mass of the
19 Atmosphere” (Rudloff, 1970) which was based on gridpoint pressure
20 data digitized from IGY World Weather Maps prepared by his office,
21 the Seewetteramt in Hamburg. I wrote to him on 12 March 1971
22 about our interest in the tropical zone and he kindly sent us the grid
23 point sea level pressure data on computer cards which was a
24 standard way of storing and transferring data. We also tabulated
25 and prepared punched cards containing IGY upper air data from
26 printouts available in the NCAR library. In 1970, all of our
27 programs and much of our data were contained on punch cards.
28 Typical of the time, Fig.6 shows two NCAR programmers submitting
29 their card decks to be read into the CDC 6600.

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Figure 6. *Two programmers (left) submitting their card decks to the operator for reading into the CDC 6600 about 1970 (copyright UCAR).*

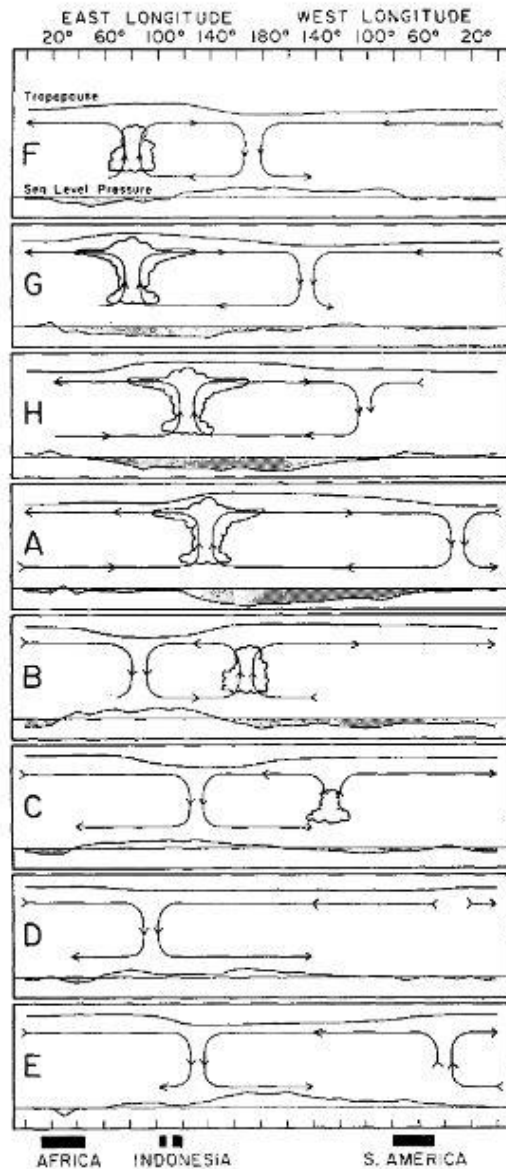


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We computed a composite wave by first selecting dates during the IGY period when 45-day band-pass filtered Kanton pressure was at a relative minimum, and separately at a maximum and at six more intermediate times. The IGY data were then averaged for each of the set of eight dates separately. A picture emerged that was consistent with the spectral results. The sea level pressure perturbations moved eastward as did those of the zonal wind. There was a wave on the tropopause and some evidence of water vapor mixing ratio variations consistent with eastward moving deep convection. A more detailed discussion of the first time we saw eastward propagation in the IGY pressures is contained in Hand (2015).

This spectral and synoptic evidence led to a description of the 40-50 day oscillation that is contained in Fig. 7. Phase E corresponds to the time when station pressure is a relative maximum at Kanton and Phase A when it is a minimum. We had no precipitation or cloud data at the time but included an indication of varying convection because of the low level convergence in the u-wind, mixing ratio changes, and the changing height of the tropopause.

1 Figure 7. Schematic depiction of the time and space variations of the
 2 oscillation. Phase "A" ("E") is the time of lowest ("highest") pressure
 3 at Kanton. Other phases are intermediate times and for a 48-day
 4 period are approximately six days apart. Anomaly pressures are
 5 indicated at the bottom of each panel with negative anomalies
 6 shaded. Circulation cells are based on u-wind variations. Regions of
 7 enhanced convection are proposed based on u-wind
 8 convergence/divergence, tropopause height differences (top line), and
 9 mixing ratio changes.
 10



11
 12 We submitted our paper describing the above results on 6 April
 13 1972. Editor Rasool, in a letter dated 8 May 1972, stated that "...

1 your paper has been found acceptable for publication ...” This time
 2 comments from two reviewers were included. Reviewer 1 accepted
 3 the paper on the condition that results from Gan Island (0.7S, 73.2E)
 4 are included. The reviewer stated that “... Gan Island is strongly
 5 affected by the Asian Monsoon which seems to possess a 30-40 day
 6 period”, a qualitative assessment which was quantitatively
 7 documented by Yasunari (1979; 1980).

8
 9 Fortunately, during the review process we had begun to examine
 10 spectra and cross-spectra for Gan data, and results were easily added
 11 to Figs. 1 and 4 of MJ72. Reviewer 2 gave us eight constructive
 12 comments which required only small changes. The paper was
 13 published in September 1972. We pointed out that the oscillation
 14 was a broad-band one, but called it the “40-50 Day Oscillation”
 15 because spectral maxima of the various variables most often fell in
 16 that range. The “MJO” reference began being used more frequently
 17 after it appeared in the title of two papers (Swinbank et. al., 1988;
 18 Lau et. al., 1988).

19
 20 Table 1 shows the sequence of submission and publication dates
 21 for some of the relevant papers. Recently, Li et.al. (2018) have
 22 brought to the attention of the international meteorology
 23 community a paper relating low latitude basic flow and the
 24 occurrence of typhoons written in Chinese and published already in
 25 1963 that shows MJOs in the zonal wind during the 1958 – 1960
 26 period. In the paper, which is not listed in Table 1 but is now a part
 27 of the history, Xei et.al. (1963) observed that the u-wind exhibited
 28 an oscillatory period of about one and a half month.

29
 30
 31 *Table 1 Chronology of Some Relevant Papers Ordered by*
 32 *Submission Date*

34 Paper	Date Submitted	Date Published
35 Cooley and Tukey (1965)	17 August 1964	April 1965
36 Matsuno (1966)	15 November 1965	February 1966
37 Julian (1966)	6 December 1965	May 1966
38 Yanai and Maruyama (1966)	19 July 1966	October 1966
39 Longuet-Higgins (1968)	28 November 1966	February 1968
40 Julian (1967)	1 February 1967	September 1967
41 Maruyama (1967)	28 April 1967	October 1967
42 Wallace and Kousky (1968)	1 February 1968	September 1968
43 Yanai et. al. (1968)	26 February 1968	August 1968

1	Wallace and Chang (1969)	24 February 1969	September 1969
2	Wallace (1969)		October 1969
3	Wallace (1971)	December 1970	August 1971
4	Madden and Julian (1971)	21 December 1970	July 1971
5	Julian (1971)	23 February 1971	December 1971
6	Madden and Julian (1972)	6 April 1972	September 1972

7
8

9 **4) Epilogue**

10

11 **4-1) Developments Related to Two of Our Conclusions**

12

13 The clouds in Figure 7 were based on circumstantial evidence.
 14 During the decade after MJ72, published papers using wavenumber-
 15 frequency analysis of satellite brightness data (Gruber, 1974;
 16 Zangvil, 1975); case studies and spectral analysis (Yasunari, 1979;
 17 1980); and compositing (Julian and Madden, 1981), provided
 18 evidence of cloud behavior consistent with Fig. 7

19

20 Secondly, we concluded in MJ71 that the spectral results
 21 suggested that the v-wind was not involved in the oscillation.
 22 Specifically, coherence squares between the v-wind and u-wind were
 23 not significantly different from zero. Fifteen years later, we learned
 24 that u and v are coherent and out-of-phase in Northern Winter and
 25 coherent and in-phase in Northern Summer. This in- and out-of-
 26 phase switch between seasons resulted in small cospectra and a
 27 resulting small coherence when, in MJ71, we averaged over the
 28 entire year. The seasonal phase variations are consistent with
 29 surges in the wind from summer to winter hemispheres (see
 30 arguments in Madden, 1986).

31

32 **4-2) Reception of MJ71 and MJ72**

33

34 From 1972 through 1979, MJ71 and MJ72 were cited 17 and 19
 35 times respectively according to the Web of Science. It is interesting
 36 to note that five of the MJ71 citations did not mention the oscillation
 37 itself, but rather they referenced the spectral analysis method or
 38 Julian's discussion about posterior statistical tests. Jim Holton at
 39 the University of Washington found the oscillation interesting and
 40 in a letter to me shortly after MJ71 appeared offered prescient ideas
 41 about its spatial structure based on some of his modeling work (see
 42 Wallace, 2014); ideas which, unfortunately, we did not follow up on.

43

1 Interest in the two papers picked up in the 1980s when MJ71 and
2 MJ72 were cited 136 and 140 times respectively. A circumstance
3 that led to increased interest was the summer MONEX experiment
4 during May through July of 1979. The MJO was active during that
5 period. (e.g. Krishnamurti and Subrahmanyam,1982).

6 7 **5) Conclusions**

8
9 The path to the initial description of the MJO starts with the
10 discovery of the QBO in 1961. The QBO stimulated studies aimed at
11 explaining its remarkable behavior. These studies applied spectral
12 analysis in innovative ways to describe tropical waves. The
13 availability of relevant data was increasing along with the computer
14 power needed for efficient analyses. The fast Fourier transform
15 which sped up spectral calculations was first coded for computers in
16 mid-1960. The descriptions contained in MJ71 and MJ72 relied on
17 the power of spectral analysis.

18
19 Considerable advances in understanding of the MJO have been
20 made in the 50 intervening years since MJ72. For up to date
21 information look at:

22 WGNE MJO Task Force – a Working Group of the WMO,
23 <https://wgne.net/activities/on-going-activities/wgne-mjo-task-force/>
24 MJO work at the United States Climate Prediction Center,
25 <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/mjo.shtml>
26 [ml](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/mjo.shtml)

27 MJO monitoring and research at Australian BOM,
28 <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/mjo/>
29 S2S Prediction Project, <http://s2sprediction.net>
30

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