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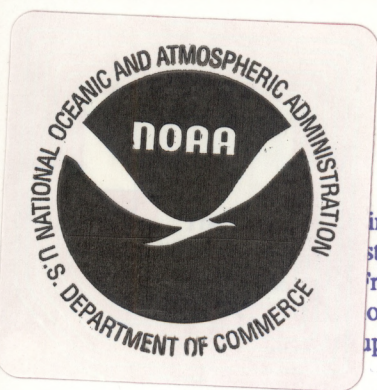
NOAA Technical Report NESDIS 84



SPURIOUS SEMI-DIURNAL VARIATION IN THE E.R.B.E. OUTGOING LONGWAVE RADIATION

Washington, D.C.
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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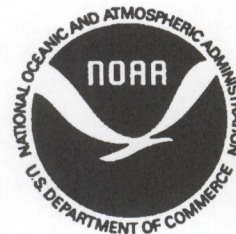
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SPURIOUS SEMI-DIURNAL VARIATION IN THE E.R.B.E. OUTGOING LONGWAVE RADIATION

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Abstract

The Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) data from the Earth Radiation Budget Experiment (ERBE) were analyzed for the period during which all three ERBE satellites were operating i.e. December 6, 1986 to January 19, 1987, to study the diurnal variation. A cubic spline interpolation technique was used to fill the gaps between the sampled hours of OLR. The interpolated data was composited to obtain mean diurnal time series of OLR. In order to extract the diurnally varying dominant modes, an Empirical Orthogonal Function (EOF) analysis technique was applied to the normalized anomalies of the composite daily OLR.

The first EOF mode explains 53.2% of the total normalized variance. Its spatial pattern is dominated by positive loadings located over the oceanic cloudy regions and its temporal variation indicate a strong semi-diurnal cycle with maxima and minima coinciding with the equator crossing times of the NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 satellites. It is argued that the semi-diurnal cycle noticed in this mode is not realistic and is caused by biases in retrieving OLR from different instruments on board NOAA-9 and NOAA-10. The temporal variation of the second EOF mode indicate a true diurnal signal with most of the spatial variation occurring over the dry continental regions. In the third EOF mode, most of the variation is over cloudy regions, whose temporal variation indicate a semi-diurnal variation modulated by a large amplitude diurnal cycle. The effect of this instrumental bias is clearly evident in the global averages of the OLR.

1. Introduction

The earth's climate system varies on various spatial and temporal scales. To fully understand the climate, knowledge of its spatial and temporal variation is crucial. Top of the atmosphere radiation budget parameters have proven to be good indicators of climate variations on annual and interannual time scales. Though these radiation budget parameters can be measured instantaneously with acceptable accuracy with current remote sensing techniques, their temporal sampling is inadequate especially on a diurnal time scale to obtain reasonable daily and monthly means. To rectify this diurnal sampling problem, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched an experiment called the Earth Radiation Budget experiment (ERBE) (Barkstrom, B. R., 1984). The ERBE is comprised of three satellites, one in a mid inclined (57°) precessing orbit and two in polar orbits with different equator crossing times. This orbital configuration was aimed at achieving diurnal sampling adequate enough to obtain reasonable diurnally averaged radiation budget parameters (Brooks and Minnis, 1984).

Each of these satellites carried scanning and non-scanning radiometers. The scanning instruments measured radiances in three spectral intervals viz. shortwave ($.2-5\mu\text{m}$), longwave ($5-50\mu\text{m}$) and total ($.2-50\mu\text{m}$). The non-scanning instruments are still operating and they measure radiances in two spectral intervals viz. shortwave ($.2-5\mu\text{m}$) and total ($.2-50\mu\text{m}$). The Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) from the scanner is obtained as a difference between the total and shortwave channel fluxes during daytime and the flux from the total channel during nighttime. Initially only two satellites were launched, one in polar orbit (NOAA-9: equator crossing time 2:30 P.M. local time) and the other in precessing orbit (Earth Radiation Budget Satellite, ERBS). It was not until November of 1986, when the third satellite (NOAA-10: equator crossing time 7:30 A.M. local time) was launched in a polar orbit. Unfortunately, the scanning instrument on the NOAA-9 ceased operating on January 19, 1987. As a result, there was only a period of 45 days, between December 6, 1986, and January 19, 1987, during which the scanner instruments on all three satellites were operating continuously. In this study, the OLR data obtained during this 45 day period were analyzed to study the diurnal variation.

Depending on the cloud and geographic scene types, the ERBE data processing scheme uses a combination of a linear and half sine diurnal model to fill in the missing longwave values (Brooks et al, 1986). The half-sine diurnal model with phase angle fixed at local noon is used for clear-sky conditions over land and desert geographic types. The criteria to apply this half-sine model are (i) there must be at least one daytime measurement located more than 1 hour from the terminator, (ii) there must be at least one nighttime measurement, (iii) the least square sine wave fit to the daytime data must have a positive amplitude, (iv) the peak value of the daytime fit must not exceed 400 Wm^{-2} and (v) the length of the day must exceed 2 hours. The linear interpolation technique is applied at all times and for all scene types. Though this diurnal scheme gives reasonable estimates of the monthly mean OLR, it does not necessarily represent the true climatological diurnal variation of the broadband OLR especially

over deserts and clear-sky land regions, because of its heavy dependence on the half sine model. Cheruy et al. (1991) analyzed NOAA-9 and ERBS combined data set for the months of April and July 1985 over tropical Africa and neighboring Atlantic regions and compared it with METEOSAT observations. They concluded that a combination of two Sun synchronous polar orbiting satellites and one mid inclined precessing satellite would eliminate most of the diurnal sampling errors. Motivated by their conclusion, we made an attempt to analyze the OLR data from the 45 day period during which all three ERBE scanners operated simultaneously.

2. Data and Analysis Procedure

The ERBE data analyzed in this study are top of the atmosphere radiation fluxes available on the ERBE S-9 data tape. It consists of monthly mean products, daily products which are based on observed and model built values, and actual sampled hourly values, on a 2.5° longitude x latitude resolution. A description of the archived ERBE data product, ERBE instruments and data processing is given by Barkstrom et al. (1989). Actual sampled hourly fluxes of OLR for average sky conditions were extracted from the S-9 data tape for the three satellite combination period, December 6, 1986 to January 19, 1987. First, sampling of OLR was examined to get an idea of the feasibility of performing a diurnal variation study. Sampling of the OLR from the three satellites was examined for every grid point in the latitudinal direction and every fifth grid point in the longitudinal direction. Table 1 shows the average sky OLR sampling of each local hour for every other latitude band centered at 1.25°E . The number in each column indicates the number of times that particular local hour was sampled by all three satellites together. As one can see from this table, sampling is good covering many local hours at higher latitudes where there is an overlap in the coverage by scanners on board polar orbiting satellites. As expected, high frequency of sampling is noticed at local hours approximately 1530 LST (0330 LST); and 1930 LST (0730 LST) during the ascending (descending) nodes of the NOAA-9 and the NOAA-10, respectively. The hours not sampled well by the polar orbiting satellites are filled by the ERBS. Since ERBS samples only up to 57° latitude in either hemisphere, one can notice gaps in sampling poleward of that latitude. The sampling pattern by polar orbiters is similar to this at other longitudes as well, except the local hours sampled by the ERBS change.

As a preliminary analysis, a composite diurnal variation of OLR was obtained by averaging all sampled observations at each local hour over the entire study period at a few selected grid points. This showed a sampling bias to the heavily sampled local hours by the NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 satellites. The local hours that were not sampled by either of these two satellites were sampled only once or twice during the entire study period by the ERBS. Some local hours were not sampled at all. Furthermore, due to the precessing nature of the ERBS, whatever values sampled by it are representative of the synoptic conditions present at the time of sampling rather than the average conditions of the entire study period. Therefore, the composite diurnal variation obtained by this procedure did not appear to be realistic.

Hence this analysis procedure was discarded and a different procedure was followed as described below.

All the sampled hourly OLR observations starting from December 6, 1986, to January 19, 1987, were arranged sequentially. A cubic spline interpolation technique was used to fill the data gaps. Cubic spline interpolation technique takes the slope of the observations into account when interpolating. A segment of the time series obtained from both the linear interpolation between the observations and the cubic spline technique are shown in figure 1, for a region over the Sahara where the diurnal variation of OLR clearly follows the diurnal variation of surface temperature. The time series obtained from cubic spline interpolation is smoother than the one obtained from the simple linear interpolation. A composite diurnal cycle using interpolated (cubic spline) data was obtained by grouping the observations by local hour and averaging them over all 45 days. The composite diurnal variation for the grid point over the Sahara is shown in figure 2. For comparison purposes, monthly mean (average of December '86 and January '87) OLR diurnal cycle extracted from the ERBE S-9 tape is also produced in figure 2. This diurnal cycle was constructed by the ERBE data processing algorithm (Brooks et al, 1986) and depends on the linear interpolation and half sine model when certain criteria, explained earlier, are met. The diurnal variation obtained from cubic spline (solid curve) shows a maximum in OLR at 1400 LST and a minimum around 0400 to 0500 LST. To a first approximation, this OLR diurnal behavior follows the diurnal surface temperature behavior over the deserts with peak occurring in the afternoon and slowly cooling off until after sunrise the following morning (Rosenberg et al., 1983; Riehl, 1979; and Harrison et al. 1988). The diurnal variation from the monthly means (dotted curve) show a peak at 1300 LST. This is biased to the half-sine diurnal model in the analysis, which uses a peak at local noon. It is evident from these curves that with the satellite configuration used in the ERBE, one can obtain a realistic diurnal cycle of the OLR without resorting to any diurnal modeling. The small differences in diurnal amplitude may be attributed to the differences in the analysis procedures.

In order to give equal importance to all grid points in the analysis, the composite daily mean was subtracted and the anomalies were normalized by the standard deviation at each grid point. An Empirical Orthogonal Function (EOF) analysis technique was applied to the normalized OLR anomalies to obtain diurnally varying dominant spatial modes. Unlike harmonic analysis whose temporal variation is constrained by sinusoidal diurnal, semi-diurnal etc. variations, the time variation of EOF modes are selected such that they represent the diurnal variation of the dominant modes with maximum explained normalized variance. This technique was applied widely in climate research to study the temporal and spatial variation of various parameters (for example, Kutzbach, 1967, Kidson, 1975, Smith et al, 1990, Kondragunta and Gruber, 1994) and also to obtain the systematic instrumental biases, especially in satellite data (Chelliah and Arkin, 1992).

3. Results

In order to give meaningful interpretation, the spatial patterns of the EOF modes are expressed in terms of correlation coefficients. These are the correlations between normalized anomaly time series and the respective eigen function at each grid point. A positive (negative) correlation coefficient in the spatial map indicates that the actual normalized anomaly time series is positively (negatively) correlated with the time variation of that eigen mode. For example, at a grid point where the correlation coefficient is positive in the spatial pattern (Fig. 3a), the diurnal variation of OLR is such that it has positive peaks at 0800 LST and 2000 LST (Fig. 3b). Similarly, at a grid point where the correlation coefficient is negative (Fig. 3a), the diurnal variation of OLR is such that it has positive peaks at 0400 LST and 1500 LST. These correlations can also give the local variance explained by that particular eigen mode at each grid point by simply taking the square of the correlation coefficient.

Presented in figs. 3a and 3b are the spatial patterns of the EOF-1 and its time variation, respectively. Most of the spatial loadings are positive and they occur mostly over the oceanic regions. The time variation of this pattern indicate a semi-diurnal variation, with maxima at 0800 LST and 2000 LST and minima at 0400 LST and 1500 LST. It is important to note that these maxima and minima coincide with the equator crossing times of the NOAA-10 and NOAA-9, respectively. The systematically positive correlations heavily weighted to the southern hemisphere, in this case, indicate some kind of bias in the data. Moreover, these high positive correlations occur mostly over the oceanic cloudy regions which indicate that the bias is related somehow to retrieval of OLR from cloudy scenes. At this point it is our conjecture that the semi-diurnal cycle shown in this mode is not the true diurnal variation of OLR and is caused by biases in retrieving OLR from different instruments. This point is discussed more extensively in the next section. There is also an indication that the semi-diurnal variation in this mode is modulated by a diurnal cycle. However, the phase of this diurnal cycle are not in agreement with the earlier studies (Gruber and Chen, 1989, Hartman and Recker, 1986, Kondragunta et al, 1993, Minnis and Harrison, 1984 and Meisner and Arkin, 1987). This disagreement again confirms that the diurnal variation shown in this mode is not realistic. This mode explains 53.2% of the normalized variance.

Presented in fig 4a and 4b are the spatial pattern of the EOF-2 and the associated time variation, respectively. The spatial pattern clearly shows high positive correlations over the dry continental regions. The time variation indicate a strong diurnal signal. This mode indicates that over the continental regions, OLR is maximum at 1500 LST and minimum at 0500 LST. The OLR in this mode is basically contributed by the surface emission. To a first approximation, the diurnal variation of OLR shown in this mode is a clear manifestation of diurnal variation of surface temperature, which rises rapidly until afternoon and cools off slowly till the Sunrise of next day morning (Rosenberg et al., 1983). The diurnal cycle shown in the time variation of this mode is an indication that the three satellite configuration employed by the ERBE is good enough to adequately represent the diurnal variation of OLR. This mode explains 27.2% of the total normalized variance.

Presented in fig. 5a and 5b are the spatial pattern and the associated time variation of the EOF-3, respectively. In this pattern most of the variation occurs over cloudy regions. The time variation of this mode show a semi-diurnal cycle modulated by large amplitude diurnal cycle with maximum at 2000 LST and minimum at 0500 LST. Negative loadings are found over the deep convective cloudy regions, such as, the Congo river basin in southern part of Africa, maritime continent, Amazon and in a scattered way along the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), South Atlantic Convergence Zone (SACZ) and the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). The time variation of this mode indicate a peak in the evening, which means over these regions low OLR occurs in the evening. This OLR is emitted from the high level cold clouds present over these regions whose diurnal variation is consistent with the diurnal variation of OLR in this mode (Hartman and Recker, 1986; Gruber and Chen, 1988; and Kondragunta and Gruber, 1994). Positive loadings in the spatial pattern are noticed mostly over the oceanic stratocumulus regions. Time variation indicates that minimum OLR occurs over these regions around 0500 LST. This is again in agreement with the low level cloudiness maximum over these regions which occurs around this time of the day (Hartman and Recker, 1986; Gruber and Chen, 1988; and Kondragunta and Gruber, 1994). So far, the diurnal part of variation in OLR is in excellent agreement with the earlier studies. However, the difficult part is accounting for the semi-diurnal variation most of which occurs in the negative side of time coefficients. Minnis et al. (1987) noticed semi-diurnal variation in cloudiness over the oceanic stratocumulus and trade cumulus regions. The phases of the semi-diurnal variation presented in this mode agree to some extent with those of Minnis et al. (1987) considering that they fitted a second harmonic to the data. They also suggested that the semi-diurnal pressure wave, forced by the atmospheric semi-diurnal tidal wave (Brier and Simpson, 1969), may be the likely cause for this variation. However, the discussion presented in the next section proved it to be otherwise. This mode explains 11.6% of the normalized variance.

4. Discussion

There are two possibilities that can cause the semi-diurnal variation noticed in the mode EOF-1. The first one is the differences in OLR retrieved from the instruments on board two different satellites. The second possibility is that the semi-diurnal variation is the true variation of the atmosphere and the possible cause is the atmospheric semi-diurnal tidal force. Strong evidence for the first possibility arises from a study by Minnis et al. (1991) who analyzed OLR from the NOAA-9, NOAA-10 and ERBS for the month of December, 1986. They found that over the oceanic regions, OLR fluxes retrieved from NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 are systematically lower and higher than the ones retrieved from the ERBS, respectively. In addition Gruber et al. (1994) and Ellingson et al. (1994) noticed that the daytime OLR fluxes from NOAA-9 are systematically lower than the nighttime ones. They also noticed that, in a zonal average sense, OLR fluxes from NOAA-9 are smaller than the ones from the ERBS during daytime. Furthermore, very convincing evidence was presented in a more detailed analysis performed by Thomas et al. (1994) where they investigated the biases in OLR retrievals from the ERBE scanners. They concluded that the daytime OLR retrievals from

NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 are biased and they are due to a longwave spectral correction. These biases are such that NOAA-9 under estimates and NOAA-10 over estimates with respect to the ERBS.

If one assumes that the OLR from the ERBS represents true fluxes at any instant, with the instrumental biases described before, the NOAA-9 fluxes will have lower than the true diurnal values around 0400 LST and 1500 LST and those from NOAA-10 will have higher than true diurnal values around 0800 LST and 2000 LST. Since the sampling is very high around the equator crossing times of the NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 compared to the ERBS, a semi-diurnal cycle with maxima at 0800 LST & 2000 LST and minima at 0400 LST and 1600 LST coinciding with the equator crossing times is expected in the OLR data. Also since Minnis et al. (1991) noticed the discrepancies over the oceanic cloudy regions, this kind of semi-diurnal cycle is expected mostly over the oceanic regions. The results presented in the first EOF mode are consistent with the above scenario. Therefore, we conclude that the semi-diurnal variation noticed in this mode is spurious. It is important to note that this type of semi-diurnal variation is predominant over the oceanic cloudy regions, especially over the stratocumulus regions, because the amplitude of the natural diurnal cycle itself is small over these regions. The possible reason for the large biases over the oceanic regions can be explained by referring to the OLR retrieval procedure in the ERBE algorithm. In the ERBE data processing algorithm, OLR is retrieved as a difference of total channel flux minus the shortwave channel during daytime and total channel flux itself during nighttime. If there is an error in retrieving reflected shortwave flux, that error will propagate into the longwave retrieval as well. This suggests that the biases in OLR come from the errors in retrieving reflected shortwave. This is confirmed by an independent analysis on the pixel scale by Thomas et al. (1994). Confirmation was also presented by the smaller instrumental biases in the relatively cloud free regions as shown in the EOF-2 mode which shows variation mostly over relatively cloud free continental regions. So the possible cause which could introduce biases in the OLR are consistent with the results presented in the first EOF mode. Moreover, a diurnal variation study of the International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project's (ISCCP) total cloudiness show a strong diurnal cycle as the dominant mode of variation in the first two EOF modes (Kondragunta and Gruber, 1994). Since OLR and cloudiness have inverse relationship, to a large extent in the tropical regions, the dominant modes of OLR also should show strong diurnal variation. If there were no instrumental biases in OLR, then the diurnal variation of OLR would have a minimum around 0500 LST and maximum around 2000 LST (Hartman and Recker, 1986; Gruber and Chen, 1988; and Kondragunta et al., 1993).

One might argue that the semi-diurnal variation shown in the EOF-1 is the true semi-diurnal mode of the atmospheric tidal oscillation. This possibility was checked by comparing our results with the existing literature on the semi-diurnal modes of the atmosphere (Chapman and Lindzen, 1970). The atmospheric semi-diurnal oscillations are caused by the atmospheric thermal tide. According to Brier and Simpson (1969), this tidal oscillation forces a semi-diurnal pressure wave in the tropics. These pressure fluctuations cause semi-diurnal variations in divergence and convergence fields, which in turn can cause fluctuations in cloudiness and

rainfall. The phases of these semi-diurnal variations in cloudiness occur at 0800 LST and 2000 LST (Brier and Simpson, 1969), which implies minimum OLR at these times. In the present study the phases of the semi-diurnal cycle shown in the EOF-1 mode do not agree with the phases of the diurnal cycle in the cloud field, supposedly forced by the atmospheric semi-diurnal tide. This rules out the possibility of the atmospheric semi-diurnal tidal wave as possible cause of the semi-diurnal oscillation noticed in the EOF-1 mode. This leaves us with the alternative that the retrieval bias is the main candidate responsible for the semi-diurnal variation noticed in the mode EOF-1.

To demonstrate that the semi-diurnal variation noticed in the first EOF mode is not an artifact of the analysis procedure employed in this study, composite diurnal variation of OLR at a few selected grid points were examined. Presented in figure 6a is the time series of composite OLR at a grid point over the stratocumulus cloudy region in the S.E. Atlantic. A semi-diurnal cycle whose maxima and minima coinciding with equator crossing times of the NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 is obvious in this curve. Both cubic spline and linear interpolation techniques clearly show similar variation. The difference between the maximum and minimum is about 9 Wm^{-2} . From the regression relationships given by Minnis et al., (1991) (for the month of December 1986, during daytime over oceanic regions: $\text{NOAA9} = -4.77 + 0.99 \cdot \text{ERBS}$ and $\text{NOAA10} = 3.93 + 0.99 \cdot \text{ERBS}$), for a given value of 270 Wm^{-2} from the ERBS, the bias in NOAA-9 is 7.5 Wm^{-2} lower and NOAA-10 is 1.2 Wm^{-2} higher, with respect to the ERBS. The net difference is 8.7 Wm^{-2} which is in close agreement with the amplitude of semi-diurnal cycle noticed in this time series. Since biases in the NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 are in opposite directions with respect to the ERBS, they add up and show up as a semi-diurnal cycle in the analysis presented in this study. Gruber et al. (1994) also noticed similar differences of the order of about 4 Wm^{-2} between NOAA-9 and ERBS ($\text{NOAA} < \text{ERBS}$) during daytime in zonal averages for the month of April 1985. Minnis et al. (1991) also reported that the differences in OLR fluxes between NOAA-9 and ERBS during daytime have almost doubled since the beginning of the experiment to demise of the NOAA-9 scanner.

Another such time series is presented in figure 6b which shows the variation of composite OLR at a grid point over the S.E. Pacific. This also clearly shows the effect described above. A grid point over the Andes (fig. 6c) was chosen to demonstrate that such instrumental bias is minimum over relatively cloud free regions. The time series at this grid point show the true diurnal variation of OLR remarkably well. Excellent agreement of this with the results of Harrison et al (1988) based on GOES data confirms the validity of the analysis presented in this study. It is interesting to note that the OLR peak in this time series occurs near noon, unlike over the Sahara (fig. 2) where the peak occurs in the afternoon. This suggests that over elevated places OLR peak occurs near noon. Of course, it should be noted that the phase of the OLR over dry continental regions depends on the soil type and soil moisture content, in addition to the elevation. In summary, instrumental biases are noticed only over cloudy regions as depicted by EOF-1 and EOF-3 modes (also figures 6a and 6b) and virtually absent over relatively cloud free regions as depicted by EOF-2 (also figs. 2 and 6c).

What makes this study more interesting is the effect of the instrumental bias, as presented in this study, on the global averages of OLR. Figure 7 shows the time series of monthly mean global averages of OLR from the NOAA-9 and ERBS combined (February 1985 to January 1987), and NOAA-10 and ERBS combined (December 1986 to May 1989) period. Note that December 1986 and January 1987 have data from all three satellites. The dominant oscillation of this time series is the annual cycle. In addition, there is a sudden jump in the time series from the period NOAA-9 and ERBS combined to NOAA-10 and ERBS combined. This sudden jump in the time series is consistent with the biases in the OLR retrieval from the different instruments discussed in this paper. Kyle et al. (1993) showed that global (60°N to 60°S) longwave mean of NOAA-9 is smaller by 5.2 Wm^{-2} and of NOAA-10 is larger by 3.1 Wm^{-2} with respect to the ERBS for December 1986. Though they attributed these differences to different diurnal sampling times, they did not rule out the possibility of diurnal averaging methods and calibration differences. This study mainly points to the biases present in the OLR data and not aimed at making any corrections. Nevertheless, the biases in the OLR data, as presented in this study, have significant contribution to the biases in the global means as shown in figure 7. In order to maximize utilization of the ERBE OLR data for climate change detection or model validation, it is necessary that these biases be corrected. Since there are no ground truth measurements for the top of the atmosphere radiation budget parameters, one way to adjust these biases is to consider the OLR from the ERBS as standard. This enables the OLR data to be uniform throughout the experiment period. Additionally, one may consider using alternative methods for obtaining OLR when reprocessing the data.

5. Concluding Remarks

The OLR data from the ERBE three satellite combination were analyzed to study the diurnal variation. The first EOF mode which explains the largest normalized variance indicates a strong semi-diurnal signal. It was argued that this semi-diurnal signal is not realistic and is caused by the systematic biases in the retrieval of the OLR from different instruments on board different satellites, viz., NOAA-9 and NOAA-10. This conclusion was drawn based on the facts that (i) the phases of the semi-diurnal variation noticed in the first EOF mode agree with the equator crossing times of the NOAA-9 and NOAA-10 satellites, (ii) There was ample evidence for systematic biases in OLR retrieval from earlier studies and (iii) the semi-diurnal cycle shown in the first EOF mode is not supported by the atmospheric tidal theory as a possible mechanism. A true and strong diurnal signal over the relatively cloud free continental regions, as shown by the second EOF mode, presents strengths to the analysis procedure employed in this study. This also confirms that the three satellite orbital configuration employed by the ERBE gives reasonable diurnal sampling of OLR approximately over a period of a month. This study calls for reprocessing of the OLR from the ERBE scanner instruments with the biases corrected. A reprocessed OLR data set during the period when all three ERBE satellites were operating will be useful to obtain diurnal variation without resorting to any artificial modeling and hence invaluable for climate model validation purposes.

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Table 1. Latitude versus local solar time OLR sampling at longitude 1.25°E. The number in each column indicates the number of times that particular local hour was sampled by one of the three ERBE satellites during the entire study period. Data are shown at alternate latitude bands.

LAT.	LOCAL SOLAR TIME																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
88.75	32	35	34	32	34	34	36	34	35	34	34	36	34	37	34	34	35	34	36	32	34	32	31	36
83.75	19	22	17	20	25	28	32	32	38	36	36	39	36	39	33	34	38	34	26	17	17	2	0	5
78.75	0	13	20	26	26	26	31	33	38	36	37	39	36	39	36	34	33	27	25	20	6	0	0	0
73.75	0	2	21	29	25	27	29	35	38	36	37	42	37	39	37	37	29	26	26	23	5	0	0	0
68.75	0	0	20	28	26	27	27	35	38	37	37	42	30	25	29	34	28	27	23	27	2	0	0	1
63.75	8	9	22	30	33	31	30	28	29	30	14	27	28	27	26	22	21	26	25	27	1	3	5	7
58.75	10	10	23	29	33	34	17	26	32	27	12	11	29	29	29	20	4	25	26	25	2	5	6	7
53.75	11	11	24	29	32	31	14	30	33	20	14	10	25	29	29	19	1	19	24	25	3	6	7	9
48.75	11	13	23	31	35	22	16	29	35	18	13	11	16	30	29	20	2	10	25	26	3	7	8	9
43.75	8	8	22	30	32	14	14	24	36	9	10	7	5	26	30	21	1	5	25	26	4	7	7	6
38.75	6	6	22	29	25	9	11	30	25	8	8	5	3	21	28	23	3	3	25	28	5	4	5	5
33.75	5	4	19	31	22	9	9	32	26	6	6	5	4	17	28	22	3	3	22	28	6	5	5	4
28.75	5	5	20	30	19	7	8	32	25	4	4	4	4	14	30	23	4	4	20	28	6	4	4	4
23.75	4	4	19	29	16	8	7	31	25	3	4	4	4	13	28	24	3	5	16	29	6	5	4	3
18.75	4	4	20	29	11	7	7	32	20	4	4	4	4	9	28	21	3	5	13	30	6	3	4	3
13.75	3	4	20	27	8	6	10	31	19	4	3	3	4	8	28	24	3	5	14	30	9	2	4	4
8.75	2	3	24	28	9	6	13	29	16	4	4	3	4	4	27	23	3	5	14	29	9	3	4	4
3.75	3	4	26	28	4	5	12	30	10	4	3	3	4	4	28	24	4	5	15	28	11	3	3	3
-1.25	3	4	27	26	4	7	13	30	8	4	4	3	3	4	26	28	4	7	14	28	10	3	3	4
-6.25	3	3	28	27	3	5	16	30	8	3	4	3	4	3	26	28	4	5	12	28	12	4	3	4
-11.25	4	5	28	26	2	3	19	27	8	4	3	3	4	3	25	28	6	8	9	29	13	3	3	4
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-31.25	4	13	28	21	4	5	24	28	5	4	5	5	5	4	25	30	19	8	8	29	24	6	4	4
-36.25	5	17	30	19	3	3	25	29	5	5	4	5	5	5	25	30	23	9	9	29	29	7	4	5
-41.25	5	22	29	21	2	6	26	29	5	6	6	7	7	6	24	33	30	11	16	26	29	13	9	6
-46.25	9	27	29	22	2	9	27	29	4	7	7	10	12	13	33	36	33	19	16	30	31	20	10	8
-51.25	17	27	29	22	1	16	26	29	3	5	7	10	12	12	31	36	33	20	15	31	31	25	13	10
-56.25	28	26	27	22	0	25	26	30	2	4	6	9	11	11	30	35	33	24	14	31	30	30	12	10
-61.25	31	24	28	20	12	28	26	28	1	3	5	7	10	9	30	33	31	27	22	31	32	27	20	23
-66.25	26	26	28	31	27	27	27	26	1	1	2	5	7	6	28	30	28	27	31	40	27	29	41	35
-71.25	29	26	30	23	24	28	26	26	3	0	0	0	0	1	24	25	28	26	26	29	27	28	34	29
-76.25	40	34	37	36	27	27	26	25	5	0	0	0	0	9	22	26	27	26	27	37	35	37	38	35
-81.25	38	35	37	38	35	33	26	21	10	0	0	0	4	20	20	24	26	27	29	33	35	35	39	36
-86.25	38	35	30	31	33	38	32	30	24	29	19	24	20	22	19	18	29	39	33	32	34	37	39	34

SAHARA (1.25E, 23.75N)

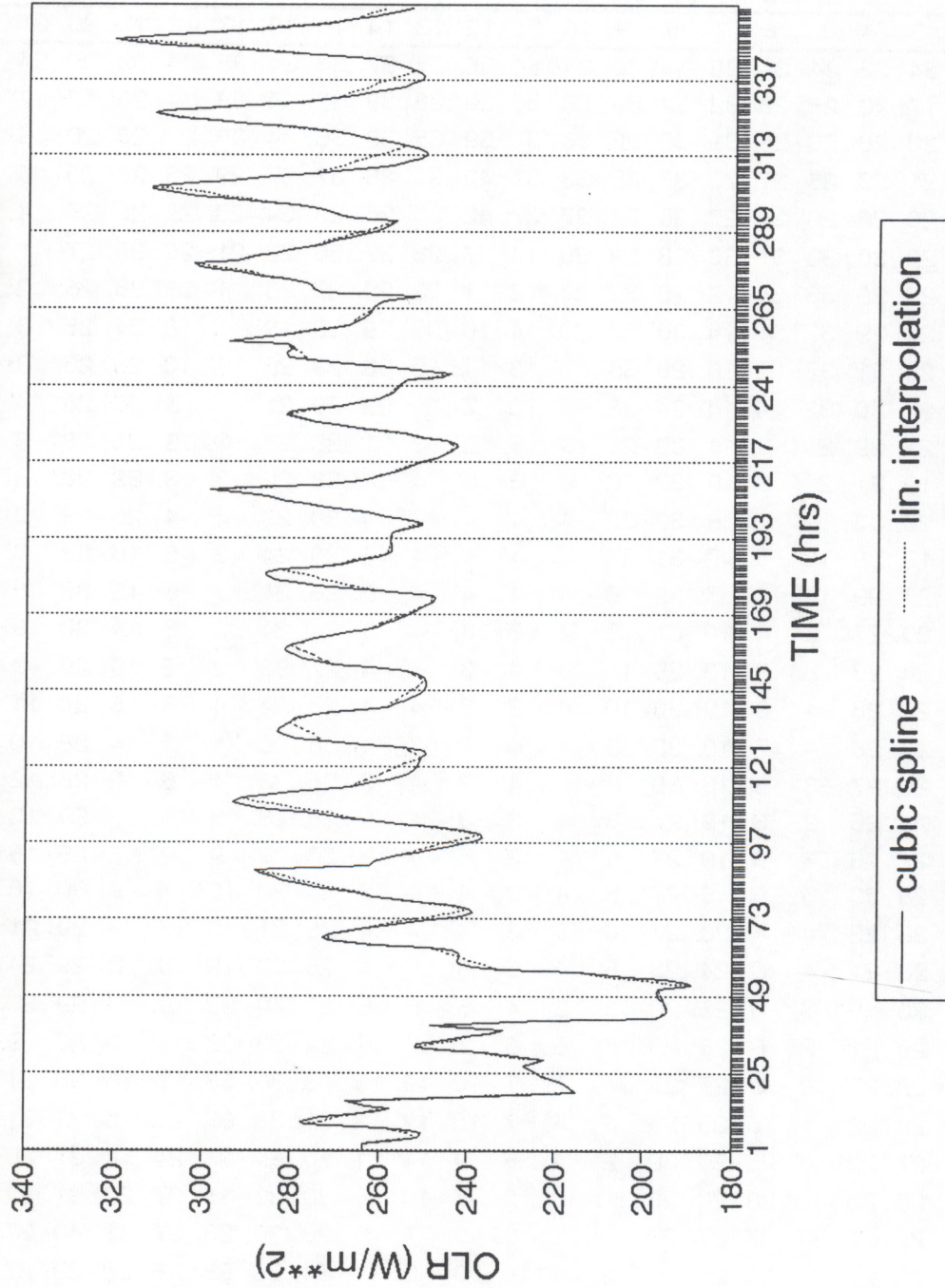


Figure 1. Time series of the hourly OLR obtained from the cubic spline interpolation (solid) and linear interpolation (dotted) over the Sahara desert at 1.25°E, 23.75°N. Only a segment of the time series is shown.

SAHARA

(1.25E, 23.75N)

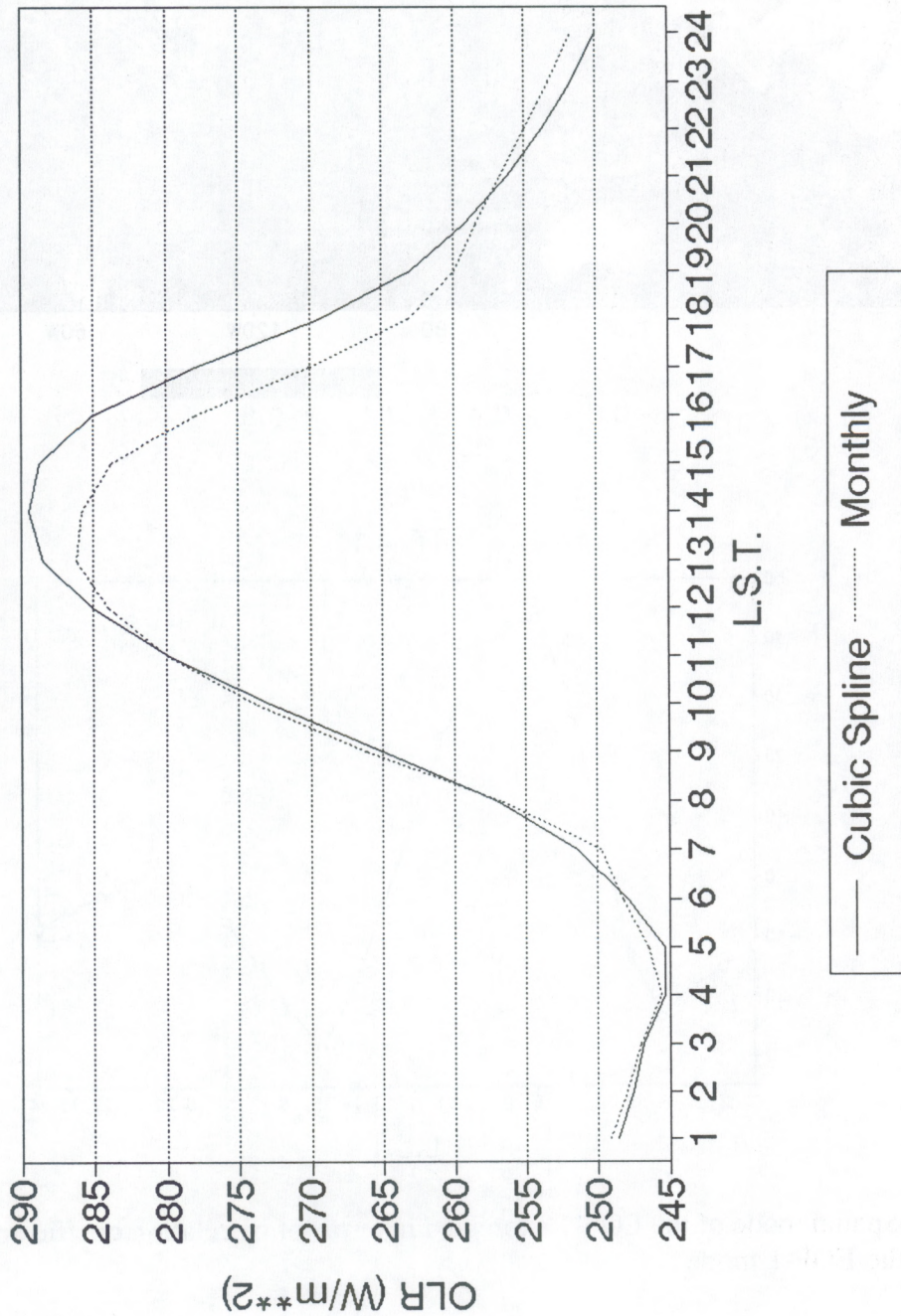


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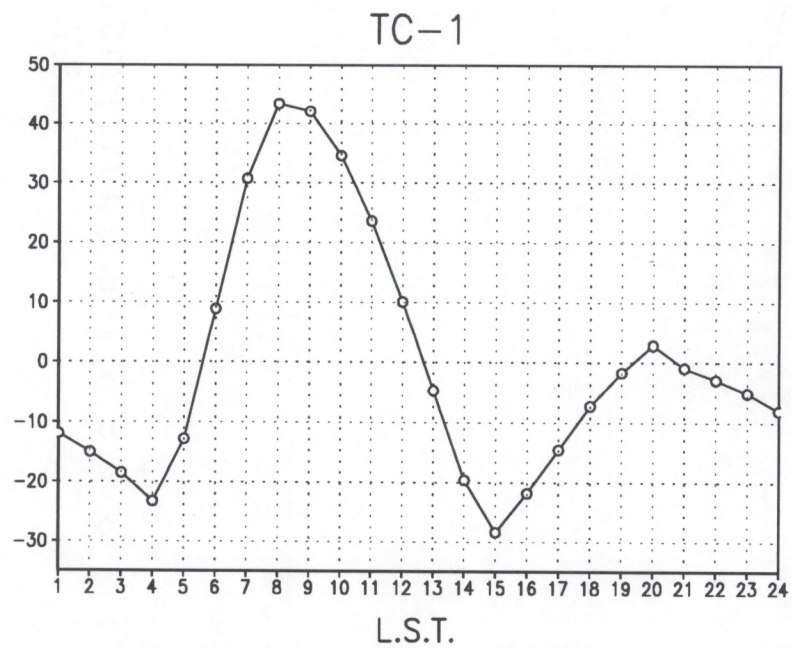
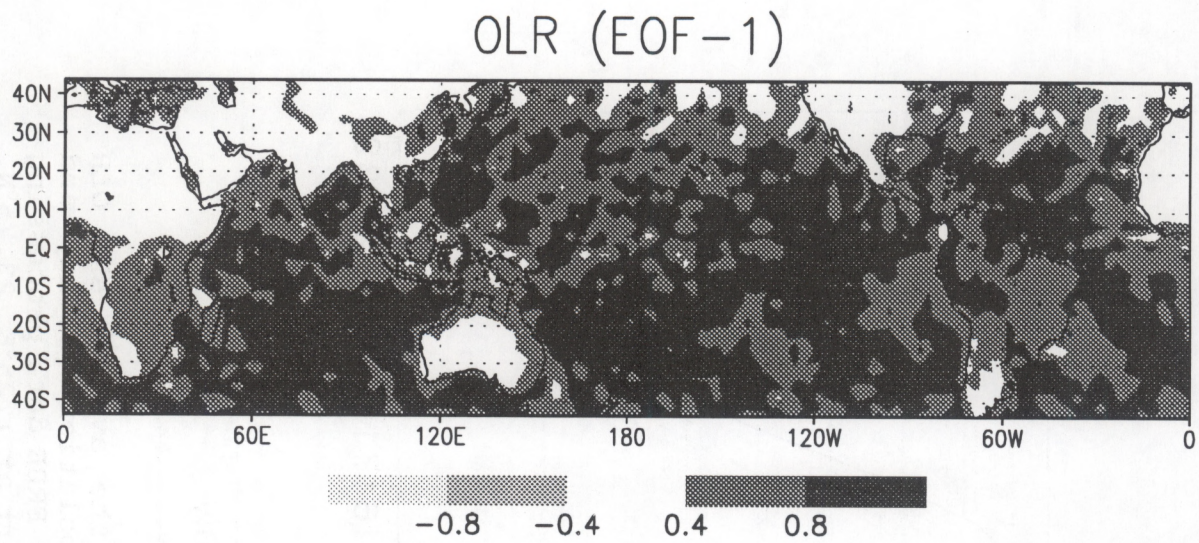
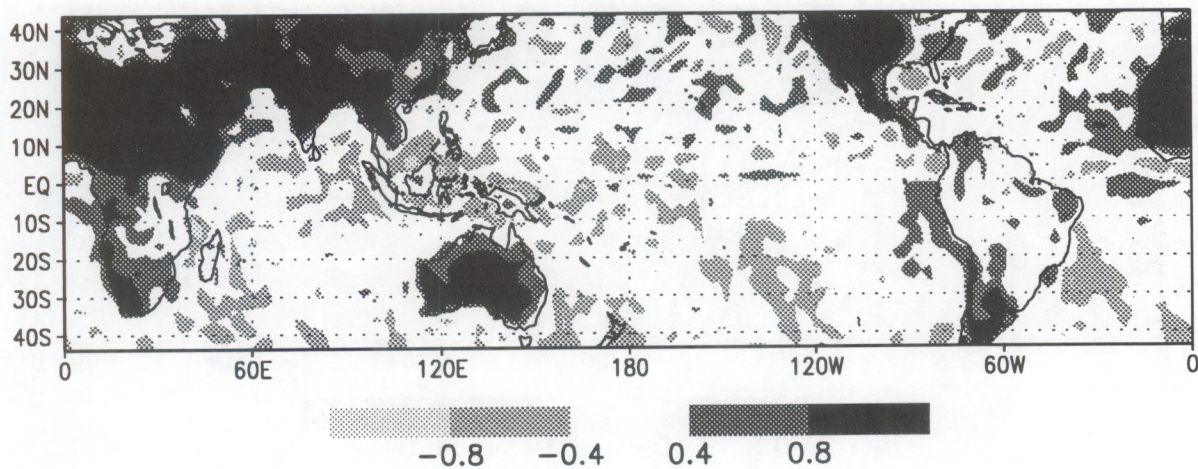


Figure 3. (a) Spatial mode of the EOF-1 expressed in terms of correlation coefficient and (b) time variation of the EOF-1 mode

OLR (EOF-2)



TC-2

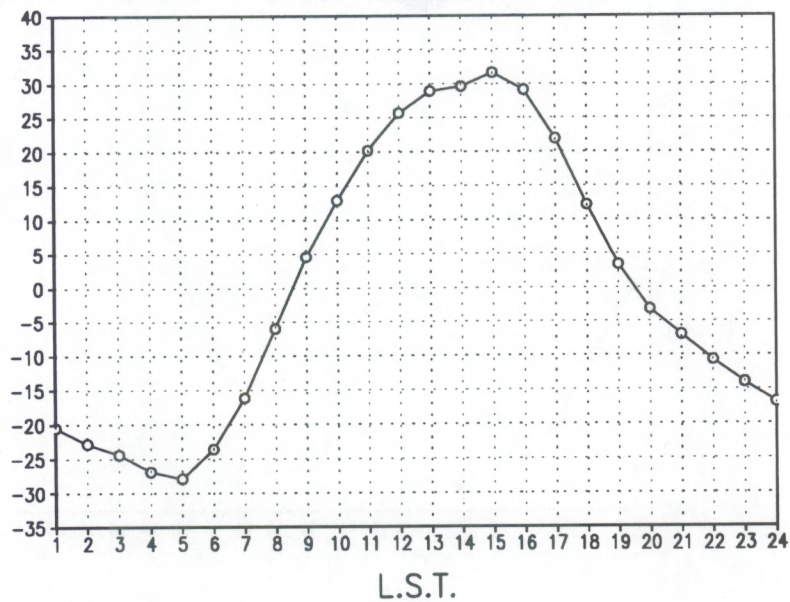


Figure 4. Same as in figure 3, except for the mode EOF-2

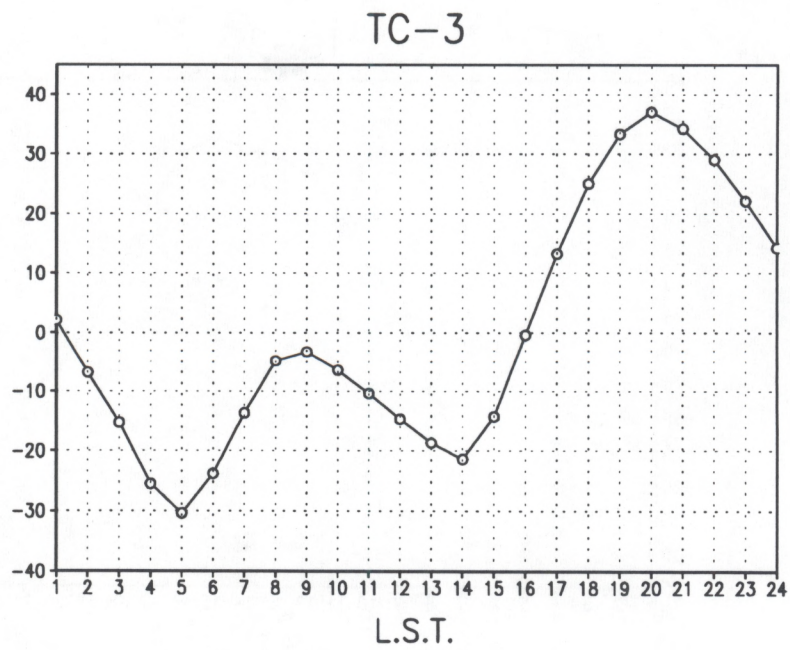
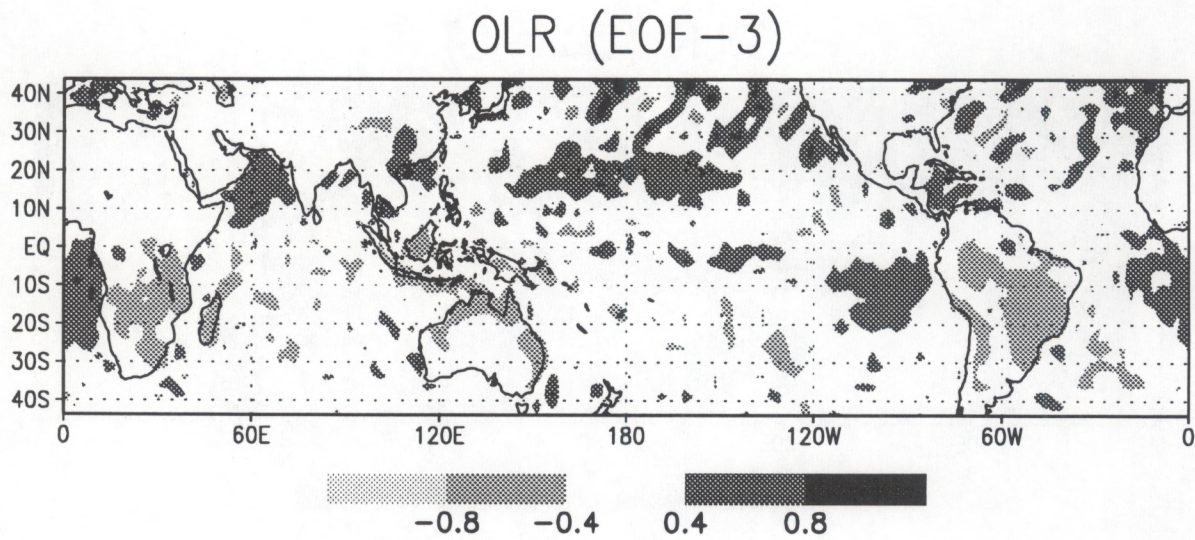


Figure 5. Same as in figure 3, except for the mode EOF-3

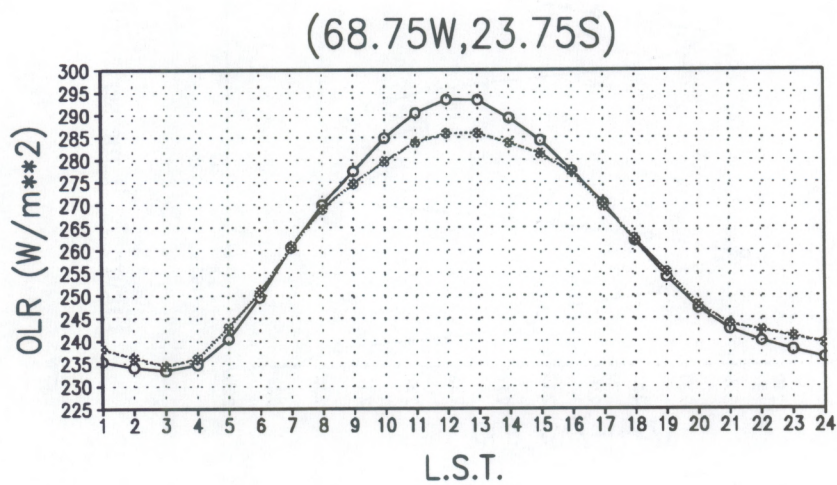
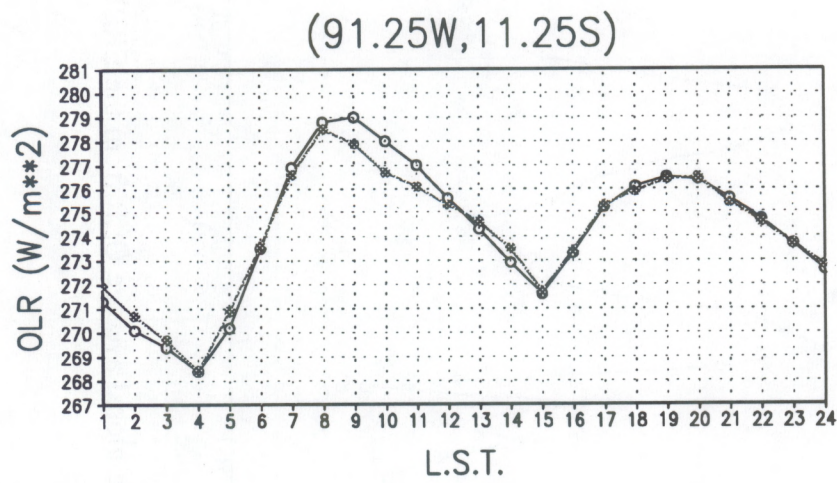
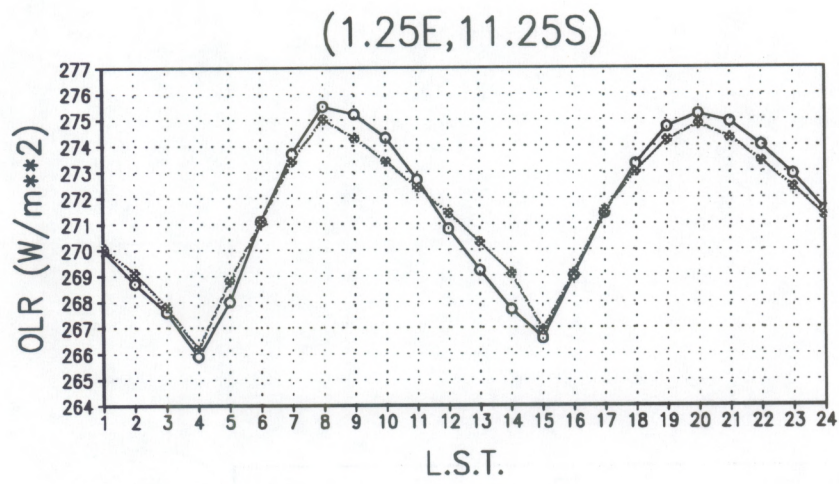


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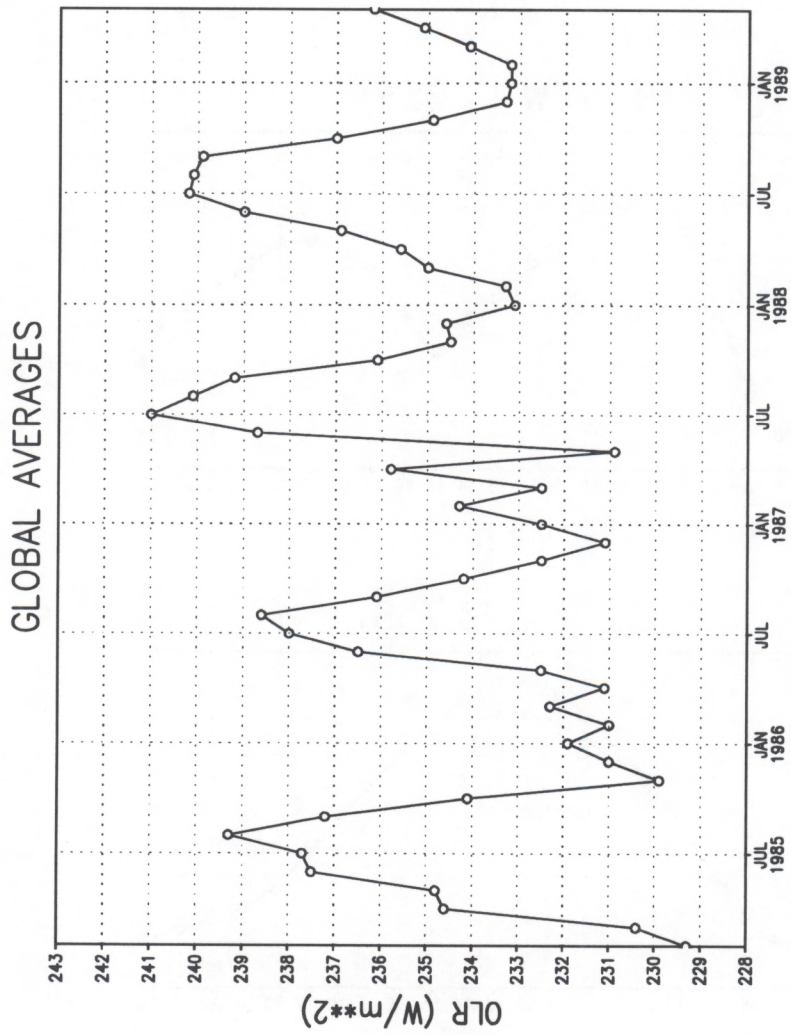


Figure 7. Time series of the global average OLR from the ERBE

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