

Reply

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Dr. Court correctly points out that our method of describing interannual variability takes into account variance at all frequencies, except the lowest which we excluded by taking out the linear trend. The "mean absolute successive difference" which he refers to as the standard measure of interannual variability, stresses the very highest frequencies, namely, the difference from one year to the next. It is without doubt a valuable quantity for many

purposes. We see nothing wrong, however, in regarding interannual variability as covering both middle and high frequencies; that is, that the definition of interannual variability instead of the narrow "from one year to the following" is taken to be "among years". According to this definition there was no unique association between mean temperature and the variability of temperature and precipitation in the specified regions and periods.