

Reply¹

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We appreciate Dr. Khandekar's interest in our paper. In retrospect, we should have referred specifically to the Northern Hemisphere winter season in the title of our paper. Possible relationships between the Southern Oscillation and the Indian summer monsoon are of considerable importance and deserve additional study.

Khandekar commented on the fact that we presented *linear* correlations between tropical indices and 700 mb height, and we compared the correlations to results derived from *linear* models. A composite of Northern Hemisphere 700 mb height based on six warm sea-surface temperature episodes shows a teleconnection pattern identical to the one based on the linear correlations (Douglas and Englehart, 1981). The results of steady-state linear models are relevant to the Southern Oscillation problem, since they show the importance of the basic state upon which the in-

terannual variability is superimposed. For example, they suggest reasons why the teleconnections are strongest in winter (see p. 825 of Horel and Wallace, 1981). General circulation models with their more complicated physics may be able to simulate the Southern Oscillation better; however, the interpretation of their results is often as difficult as that of the observations. Khandekar's estimate of the amount of winter temperature variance, which can be explained by tropical indices, is virtually the same as our own (p. 827). Madden (1981) has provided a better estimate of the potential predictability of U.S. winter temperature forecasts.

REFERENCES

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