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Teleconnection Patterns: An Overview

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Abstract:

A brief review of some of the major teleconnection patterns that have appeared in the literature will be presented, drawing a distinction between those purported to be a reflection of the atmosphere's own internal variability and those that can be viewed as responses to external forcing. This review will be accompanied by a discussion addressing the questions: Why do teleconnection patterns exist in nature? What methodologies are most appropriate for defining them? What have we learned about atmospheric dynamics by studying them? Why have they received so much attention in research communities external to atmospheric dynamics? How many teleconnection patterns is enough? Have we placed too much emphasis on "brand name" teleconnection patterns? Will they continue to be on the forefront of atmospheric dynamics research?