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Climate Prediction Division
Global Environment and Marine Department
Japan Meteorological Agency

A bug in JRA-25/JCDAS isobaric three-dimensional diagnostics (fcst_phy3m25)

A bug was recently found in the isobaric three-dimensional diagnostics (fcst_phy3m25) of the JRA-25 reanalysis / the JMA Climate Data Assimilation System (JCDAS), by which their vertical profiles were erroneously shifted downward by half a model layer. This is due to an error in the vertical interpolation process, which has affected the fcst_phy3m25 data over the whole reanalysis period of JRA-25/JCDAS. See the supplement for further details.

JMA sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this problem, and remains committed to implementing all necessary measures for the prevention of any recurrence.

As already announced, the update of JRA-25/JCDAS was terminated in January 2014 and its succeeding product, the JRA-55 reanalysis, is currently available to the public. JRA-55 is a reanalysis covering the period from the year 1958 onward. Its quality is considerably better than that of JRA-25/JCDAS and it is unaffected by the aforementioned bug. Users are advised to use the JRA-55 data when reanalysis data are needed for research or other objectives. For further details of JRA-55, see the website below.

Questions regarding this matter can be directed to jra@met.kishou.go.jp.

- JRA-55 website
  http://jra.kishou.go.jp/JRA-55/index_en.html

- Supplement
  Details of the bug in JRA-25/JCDAS isobaric three-dimensional diagnostics (fcst_phy3m25):
  20171020_JRA-25_supp_en.pdf