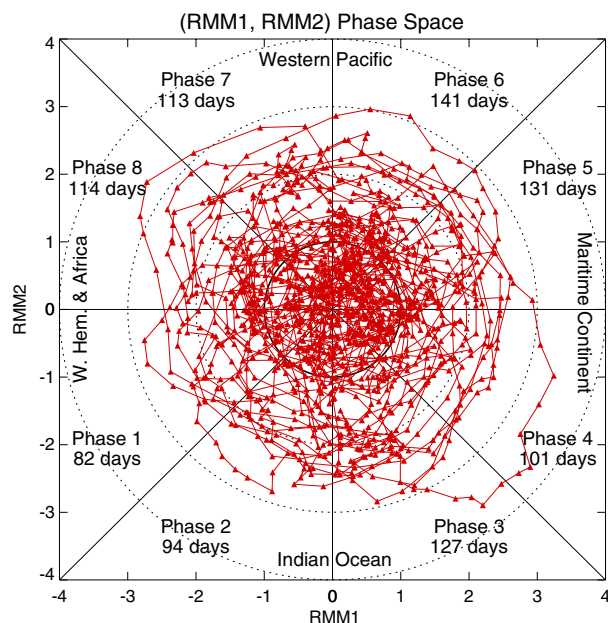
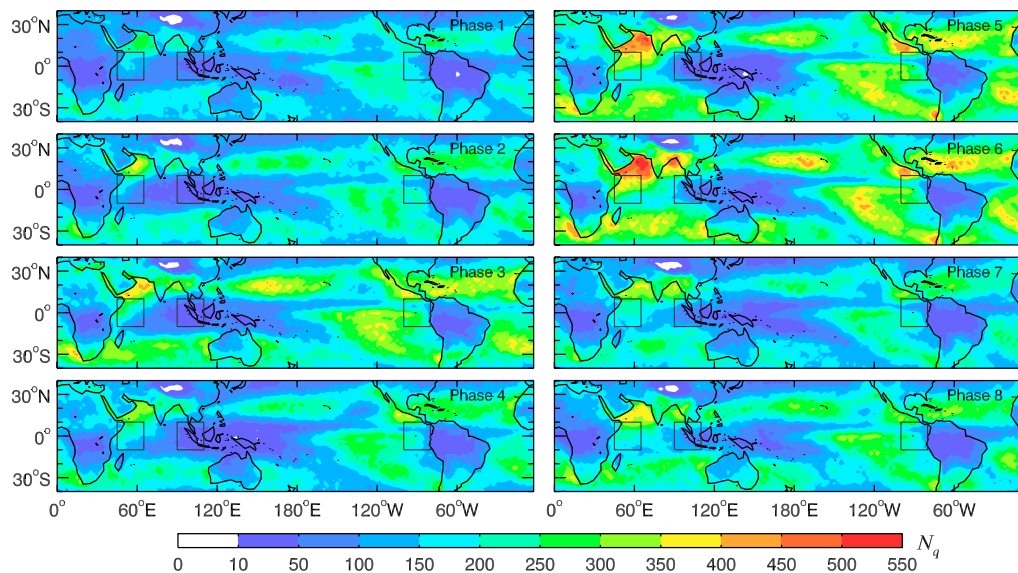


# Supporting Information

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**Fig. S1.** Real-time multivariate Madden-Julian oscillation ( $RMM_1$ ,  $RMM_2$ ) phase space for all days in boreal winter from November 2002 to February 2010 and the number of days for each phase of the composite Madden-Julian oscillation (MJO) cycle. Each triangle represents one day. The solid circle defines the threshold  $RMM_1^2 + RMM_2^2 \geq 1$  for strong MJO events. Only days outside the threshold were included in the MJO-composite average shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and S3.



**Fig. S2.** Total number of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS)  $CO_2$  retrievals  $N_q$  being averaged for each phase of the composite MJO cycle on the  $2.5^\circ$  longitude  $\times$   $2^\circ$  latitude grid. No spatial smoothing has been applied. The spatial variations are due mainly to the local cloud conditions that affect the cloud-cleared radiances for AIRS  $CO_2$  retrievals. Note that depending on the local cloud conditions, there may be zero or multiple  $CO_2$  retrievals at each grid point on each individual day. Hence  $N_q$  may be less or more than the number of days in each MJO phase of the composite MJO cycle shown in Fig. S1.  $N_q$  may range from  $\sim 10$  for cloudy regions (e.g., eastern Indian Ocean) to  $\sim 500$  for cloud-free regions (e.g., eastern Pacific). The  $20^\circ \times 20^\circ$  square boxes enclose the representative regions for Fig. 5. The total number of retrievals being averaged in each square box  $\bar{N}_q$  is the sum of  $N_q$  at individual grid points within that box.

