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North Atlantic decadal variability in the CMIP3 multi-model dataset

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This study focusses on the characteristics of North Atlantic decadal variability in data simulated by five different coupled models included in the CMIP3 database. The presence of possible decadal oscillations is examined through Multi-channel Singular Spectrum Analysis of the annual sea surface temperature anomalies in the North Atlantic basin; the same technique is applied to the HadISST dataset to obtain an observational reference. The results from different models and simulations, regarding the spatial and temporal structure of the decadal variability, are compared. The analysis is then extended to other atmospheric and oceanic fields in order to gain insight into the physical mechanisms that might operate in different simulations and account for divergences among them.