List of Figures and Boxes

Figure 1.1 The Clausius-Clapeyron curve for saturated vapour pressure (e_s) and saturated specific humidity (q_s). The solid black line shows e_s with respect to water and the red line with respect to ice. The dashed grey line shows q_s with respect to water and the blue line with respect to ice. Each line represents e or q at 100 % RH. 26

Figure 1.2 Water Vapour and its role in the atmosphere. A simplified diagram adapted from Charlock (1982), Betts & Harshvardhan (1987), Ramanathan *et al*. (1989), Peixoto & Oort (1992), Harries (1997), Kiehl & Trenberth (1997), Barry & Chorley (1998), Ahrens (2000), and Minschwaner & Dessler (2004). 27

Figure 1.3 Global mean T anomalies and uncertainty estimates from HadCRUT3. The solid black line is the best estimate value, the red band gives the 95 % uncertainty range caused by station, sampling and measurement errors; the green band adds the 95 % error range due to limited coverage; and the blue band adds the 95 % error range due to bias errors (Brohan *et al*., 2006). 28

Figure 2.1 Comparison of equations for e. The difference series (in percentage error) between equation 2.1e (high accuracy) and equations 2.1b (thin black lines), 2.1c (thick grey lines) and 2.1d (thick black lines) are plotted. Dashed and solid lines refer to e calculated at atmospheric pressures of 750 hPa and 1040 hPa respectively. Note: equations 2.1b and 2.1c do not use P but are subtracted from timeseries created by equation 2.1e at two different levels of P. Equations are shown in Table 2.1. 39

Figure 2.2 Sensitivity of e (calculated from equation 2.1d) to different atmospheric P values. Percentage differences in e calculated for a range of pressures compared to a standard P of 1013 hPa are shown for T_{dw} values below (grey bars) and above (white bars) zero where the enhancement factor (f) in use is for ice-bulb and wet-bulb respectively. 39

Figure 2.3 Climatological annual mean sea level pressure over the period 1974 to 2003. Data are from the global sea level pressure dataset HadSLP2 (Allan & Ansell, 2006). Units are in hPa. 40

Figure 2.4 Trends in sea level pressure over the period 1973 to 2003. Units are in hPa $10yr^{-1}$. Data are from the global sea level 40

	pressure dataset HadSLP2 (Allan & Ansell, 2006). Trends are calculated using the MPS method (Box 3.4).	
Figure 2.5	Comparison of a sample set of T_w values provided by ICOADS with calculated T_w from simultaneous T and T_{dw} values. Crosses, circles and diamonds represent equation 2.4 using the standard atmospheric P of 1013 hPa, equation 2.4 using the ICOADS reported P and equation 2.3 respectively. Black symbols show values where ICOADS T_w and calculated T_w are of the same sign and red symbols show values where the sign differs.	41
Figure 2.6	Mean error range in conversions to e, q and RH from errors in source variables. A sample year (1980) of hourly T and T_{dw} data from station 037720 (Heathrow, UK) is converted to e (grey), q (thick black) and RH (thin black) at T_{dw}-0.05 and T_{dw}+0.05 to reflect the possible errors in T_{dw} from original measurement as T_w or RH and subsequent conversion. Solid lines show the error range averaged monthly and dashed lines show the error range averaged for the whole year. When analysed as ± percentage errors all are between 0.3 to 0.4 % for all three variables.	41
Box 3.1	Pentad and Monthly Mean Anomalies	46
Box 3.2	Observation Sampling Frequency	47
Box 3.3	Creating Neighbour Composites	67
Box 3.4	Three Methods of Trend Fitting	72
Figure 3*i*	Differences between monthly mean e from hourly data and from other sampling frequencies. Units are normalised to each station. The zero line represents monthly mean e from hourly data. Colours denote other observing frequencies. Pink = 3 hourly, blue = 6 hourly, orange = 12 hourly (00, 12 hrs), green = 12 hourly (06, 18 hrs) and grey = daily. a) High latitude station 042020 (Thule, Greenland). b) Mid-latitude station 108660 (Munich, Germany). c) Low latitude station 404160 (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia).	47
Figure 3.1	Spatial and temporal coverage of all stations reporting humidity in the ISH dataset. Regions are listed in order of appearance in the plot from top to bottom.	82
Figure 3.2	ISH stations reporting humidity with sufficient longevity to create 30-year climatologies by climatology period. Regions are listed in order of appearance in the plot from top to bottom.	82

Figure 3.3 Spatial coverage of ISH stations with sufficient humidity data to create a 1974 to 2003 climatology. Stations shown in blue are those combined from identical stations reporting for shorter periods under different IDs (346 in total). 83

Figure 3.4 ISH monthly mean *e* compared to other sources for seven case study stations. Solid black lines represent the raw ISH data, short dashed red lines represent the HAHN data and long dashed blue lines represent the NEW data. Each station is identified by its six digit WMO number, the corresponding details of which can be found in Table 3.1. 84

Figure 3.5 Station locations and WMO IDs for the thirty three case study stations. 85

Figure 3.6 Occurrences of >12 hours continuous repeated values of *T* for all case study stations from 1973 to 2003. Stations are grouped latitudinally where green represents the Tropics (0 ^{o} – 20 ^{o}), orange represents the Extra-Tropics (20 ^{o} – 60 ^{o}) and blue represents the Poles (60 ^{o} – 90 ^{o}). Black spots mark the percentage of data removed from each station. Stations over 1000m elevation are suffixed with H and stations reporting only 6 hourly are suffixed with S. 85

Figure 3.7 Occurrences of >12 hours continuous zero *DPD* for all case study stations from 1973 to 2003. Stations are grouped latitudinally as described in Fig. 3.6. Black spots mark percentage of data removed. Stations over 1000m elevation are suffixed with H and stations reporting only 6 hourly are suffixed with S. 86

Figure 3.8 Frequency distribution of *T* values for case study station 702220 (Galena, Alaska, US) in 1974. Plot a) shows all *T* values and plot b) shows only *T* values that have simultaneously recorded T_{dw} values. 86

Figure 3.9 Example of the Timezones QC test for station (702220, Galena, Alaska, USA). Each black line represents an annual mean diurnal cycle as described in the text (section 3.2.1 *issue 5*) where the time shift of the maximum *r* value corresponds to the time of daily maximum when converted to GMT. The red line is the station mean diurnal cycle. The green lines show years that have failed one or more of the five tests (see section 3.2.1) that detect differences from each annual mean diurnal cycle to the station mean diurnal cycle (in this case 2000 and 2001, see Table 3.5). 87

Figure 3.10 Relationship between ventilation rate of a Stevenson Screen and mean wind speed (Folland, 1977). The red dashed line shows the commonly used ventilation rate of 1.25 ms^{-1} and corresponding wind speed. 88

Figure 3.11 Seasonal relationship between wind speed and observed *e* for the period 1995 to 2003 at case study station 404160 (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia). The colour of dots signifies the number of observations where black, blue, green and yellow represent 1, 2-10, 11-100 and >100 respectively. Wind speed is in ms $^{-1}$. 88

Figure 3.12 Comparisons of monthly mean anomaly timeseries between neighbouring high and low elevation case study stations. Plots a) to d) show Columbia, the USA, Europe and Japan respectively. Upper plots in each pair show high minus low elevation difference timeseries. Lower plots show both high and low elevation timeseries with the linear Pearson correlation coefficient *r* value. 89

Figure 3.13 Spatial coverage of all stations with sufficient data to create a 1974 to 2003 climatology coloured by elevation. Red dots represent low elevation stations (>1000 m), blue dots represent medium elevation stations (1000-2500 m) and aqua dots represent high elevation stations (>2500 m). 90

Figure 3.14 Identification and effect of outlier removal on the monthly mean anomaly timeseries using case study station 843770 (Iquitos, Peru) as an example. Panel a. shows the pentad mean anomaly *e* timeseries and identified outliers. Crosses mark pentads failing tests as described in section 3.2.1 where red crosses are test 1 (outlying individuals and groups), blue crosses are test 2 (sudden spikes), and yellow crosses are test 4 (sandwich outliers). There are no examples of test 3 in this timeseries section. Black crosses show gaps in the data. Panel b. shows the monthly mean anomaly timeseries before (black) and after (blue) the Outlier QC. 90

Figure 3.15 Percentage of data removed by the Outlier QC for all case study stations. Stations are grouped latitudinally as in Fig. 3.6. The proportion of data removal due to each of the four tests (section 3.2.1 and Fig. 3.12) is also shown where black is test 1, grey (slash) is test 2, grey (chequered) is test 3 and grey (solid) is test 4. 91

Figure 3.16 Flow diagram of the land quality control process. 91

Figure 3.17 Percentage of data removed by the quality control process for all case study stations and all ISH stations. Black bars show percentages for the case study stations and grey bars show percentages for all ISH stations. 92

Figure 3.18 Monthly mean anomaly *e* timeseries before and after the quality control for four case study stations. Panels a) to d) show stations 042020 (Thule, Greenland – Polar), 404160 (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia – Extra-tropical), 726650 (Gillette, 93

	USA – Extra-tropical) and 783970 (Kingston, Jamaica – Tropical) respectively. Blue and red lines show the raw and quality controlled data respectively.	
Figure 3.19	Geographical distribution of data removal due to the Zero *DPD* QC test by percentage per station.	94
Figure 3.20	Spatial coverage of the land data after quality control. Panel a) shows all stations passing quality control and remaining in pentad dataset (3514). Panel b) shows stations that after quality control have insufficient data to create a 1974 to 2003 climatology (1246).	95
Figure 3.21	Flow diagram of the homogenisation process for the land data.	96
Figure 3.22	Example of the homogenisation process panel for manual scrutiny for case study station 747320 (Holloman, New Mexico, USA). Dashed lines show potential breakpoints. Those with red circles are accepted and those with blue triangles are rejected.	97
Figure 3.23	Comparison of monthly mean anomaly *q* before and after homogenisation and with the neighbour composite timeseries for four case study stations. The pre-homogenised, post-homogenised and neighbour composite timeseries are shown in black, green and pink respectively. Trends are calculated using a least-squares polynomial fit routine.	98
Figure 3.24	Spatial coverage of stations after homogenisation of *q*. Panel a) shows stations remaining after homogenisation (3243 stations) and panel b) shows stations deleted during homogenisation (148 stations).	99
Figure 3.25	Frequency distribution of accepted breakpoints over time for the 1st iteration *q* homogenisation by region.	100
Figure 3.26	Frequency distribution of adjustment quantities for the 1st iteration *q* homogenisation by region.	100
Figure 3.27	Frequency distribution of adjustment quantities for the 1st and 2nd iteration *RH* homogenisation for all stations. Plot a) shows 1st iteration adjustments and panel b) shows 2nd iteration adjustments.	101
Figure 3.28	Comparison of monthly mean anomaly *RH* before and after homogenisation and with the neighbour composite timeseries for four case study stations. The pre-homogenised, post-homogenised and neighbour composite timeseries are shown in black, green and pink respectively. Trends are calculated using a least-squares polynomial fit routine.	102
Figure 3.29	Average monthly station density per grid-box for the quality-	103

controlled and homogenised land data 1973 to 2003.

Figure 3.30 Monthly climatology for *q* over the period 1974 to 2003. Units are in g kg^{-1}. 104

Figure 3.31 Monthly climatology for *RH* over the period 1974 to 2003. Units are in %. 105

Figure 3.32 Regionally averaged monthly mean anomaly *q* timeseries and trends from 1973 to 2003. Trends are fitted and significance tested using the REML method (Box 3.4) where ** denotes significance at the 1 % level and * denotes significance at the 5 % level. Monthly mean anomaly timeseries are in red and the blue lines are a 21 point Gaussian weighted filtering for the low frequency component of the timeseries. 106

Figure 3.33 Regionally averaged monthly mean anomaly *RH* timeseries and trends from 1973 to 2003. Trends are fitted and significance tested using the REML method (Box 3.4) where ** denotes significance at the 1 % level and * denotes significance at the 5 % level. Monthly mean anomaly timeseries are in red and the blue lines are a 21 point Gaussian weighted filtering for the low frequency component of the timeseries. 107

Figure 3.34 Grid-box trends for *q* for the period 1973 to 2003 calculated for the whole annual cycle and seasonal averages. Units are in g kg^{-1} $10yr^{-1}$. Trends are calculated using the MPS method (Box 3.4). At least 50 % of months (seasons) must be present to calculate trends for the whole (seasonal) timeseries. As only two months per season are required to create seasonal averages a grid-box may have a trend present in all seasons but not when trends are calculated over the whole dataset. 108

Figure 3.35 Grid-box trends for *RH* for the period 1973 to 2003 calculated for the whole annual cycle and seasonal averages. Units are in % $10yr^{-1}$. Trends are calculated using the MPS method (Box 3.4). At least 50 % of months (seasons) must be present to calculate trends for the whole (seasonal) timeseries. As only two months per season are required to create seasonal averages a grid-box may have a trend present in all seasons but not when trends are calculated over the whole dataset. 109

Figure 3.36 Flow diagram for building the land component of HadCRUH. 110

Figure 4.1 Frequency of marine observations by platform type for 1973 to 2003. SHIP refers to merchant ships, military ships, ocean station vessels (on or off station), lightships and general ships. BUOY refers to moored buoys, drifting buoys and ice buoys. STATION refers to ice, oceanographic, coastal or island stations and fixed ocean platforms (rigs). OTHER refers to 128

	unknown, bathythermographs (MBT and XBTs) and Coastal Marine Automated Network platforms.	
Figure 4.2	Average sampling density of marine humidity observations per year and per season from 1973 to 2003. All grid-boxes with a mean number of observations of less than 1 are shown as blank.	129
Figure 4.3	Flow diagram of the marine data system for HadCRUH.	130
Figure 4.4	Percentage of all humidity observations failing quality control tests over the period 1973 to 2004. See Fig. 4.2 for a comparison with original data coverage and Table 4.2 for a description of tests.	131
Figure 4.5	Difference between observation based monthly mean climatologies (1974 to 2003) and those derived from NCEP Reanalyses for *q*. NCEP Reanalyses climatologies are subtracted from observation based climatologies. Units are in g kg^{-1}.	132
Figure 4.6	Percentage of humidity observations failing the Outlier QC test over the period 1973 to 2004. This includes observations that have already been flagged in other tests. See Fig. 4.2 for a comparison with original data coverage.	133
Figure 4.7	Percentage of humidity observations failing the *q* Neighbour Check QC test over the period 1973 to 2004. This includes observations that have already been flagged in other quality control tests. See Fig. 4.2 for a comparison with original data coverage.	134
Figure 4.8	Observation density and removal by month.	135
Figure 4.9	Average sampling density of the quality controlled and homogeneity checked humidity observations per year and per season from 1973 to 2003. See Fig. 4.2 for a comparison with original data coverage. All grid-boxes with a mean number of observations of less than 1 are shown as blank.	136
Figure 4.10	Monthly climatologies derived from observational marine data monthly mean *q* fields (gaps filled with NCEP Reanalyses) over the period 1974 to 2003. Units are in g kg^{-1}.	137
Figure 4.11	Monthly climatologies derived from observational marine data monthly mean *RH* fields (gaps filled with NCEP Reanalyses) over the period 1974 to 2003. Units are in %.	138
Figure 4.12	Regionally averaged monthly mean anomaly *q* timeseries and trends from 1973 to 2003. Trends are significance tested using REML (Box 3.4) where ** show significance at the 1 % level,	139

* shows significance at the 5 % level. Red lines are the monthly mean anomaly timeseries and blue lines are the 21 point Gaussian weighted filtering for the low frequency component of the timeseries.

Figure 4.13 Regionally averaged monthly mean anomaly *RH* timeseries and trends from 1973 to 2003. Trends are significance tested using REML (Box 3.4) where ** show significance at the 1 % level, * shows significance at the 5 % level. Red lines are the monthly mean anomaly timeseries and blue lines are the 21 point Gaussian weighted filtering for the low frequency component of the timeseries. 140

Figure 4.14 Grid-box trends for *q* for the period 1973 to 2003 calculated for the whole annual cycle and seasonal averages. Units are in g kg^{-1} $10yr^{-1}$. Trends are calculated using the MPS method (Box 3.4). At least 50 % of months (seasons) must be present to calculate trends for the whole (seasonal) timeseries. As only two months per season are required to create seasonal averages a grid-box may have a trend present in all seasons but not when trends are calculated over the whole dataset. 141

Figure 4.15 Grid-box trends for *RH* for the period 1973 to 2003 calculated for the whole annual cycle and seasonal averages. Units are in % $10yr^{-1}$. Trends are calculated using the MPS method (Box 3.4). At least 50 % of months (seasons) must be present to calculate trends for the whole (seasonal) timeseries. As only two months per season are required to create seasonal averages a grid-box may have a trend present in all seasons but not when trends are calculated over the whole dataset. 142

Figure 4.16 Globally averaged difference series and trends of (land – marine) monthly mean anomaly *q* and *RH* for coastal grid-boxes. Trends are fitted using the REML method (Box 3.4) where ** shows significance at the 1% level. 143

Figure 4.17 Difference maps of mean anomaly *q* 1983-1986 minus 1978-1981. Units are in g kg^{-1}. Crosses show grid-boxes with significantly different timeseries (at the 0.05 level (t test)) before and after the shift. 144

Figure 4.18 Decimal place distribution in the marine data. Plot a) shows data for nine years before and after 1982. Plot b) shows data for six years before and after 1998. Black (grey) solid bars show *T* (T_{dw}) data before the shift and black downwards (grey upwards) slashed bars show *T* (T_{dw}) data after the shift. 145

Figure 4.19 Decimal place distribution for the marine humidity data by deck. Grey solid (dashed) bars show T_{dw} data for nine years before (after) 1982. Frequency is in % of data. Decks are described in Table 4.6. 146

Figure 4.20	A comparison of the regionally averaged *q* monthly mean anomaly timeseries with truncation and rounding up applied to 1983-1984 data sections. Orange lines denote rounded up and green lines denote truncation of all available humidity data at the time.	147
Figure 4.21	A comparison of the regionally averaged *RH* monthly mean anomaly timeseries with truncation and rounding up applied to 1983-1984 data sections. Orange lines denote rounded up and green lines denote truncation of all available humidity data at the time.	148
Figure 5.1	Regionally averaged monthly mean anomaly timeseries for *q*, *RH* and *T* with smoothing. *RH* (green) and *q* (blue) timeseries are from HadCRUH and *T* (red) timeseries are from HadCRUT3. The *T* data have been re-zeroed to the 1974 to 2003 climatology period. The data have been smoothed using a 21 point Gaussian weighted filter for the low frequency component of the timeseries. *T-q* and *T-RH* correlations are shown in blue and green respectively. Units are in % for *RH*, ^{o}C for *T* and g kg^{-1} for *q*.	163
Figure 5.2	Map of the twenty nine regions and abbreviations. ALA = Alaska and North West Canada. AMZ = Amazonia. CAM = Central America. CAR = Caribbean. CAS = Central Asia. CGI = East Canada, Greenland and Iceland. CNA = central North America. EAF = East Africa. EAS = East Asia. ENA = eastern North America. IND = Indian Ocean. MED = Mediterranean. NAS = North Asia. NAT = North Atlantic. NAU = North Australia. NEU = North Europe. NPA = North Pacific. SAF = South Africa. SAH = Sahara. SAS = South Asia. SAT = South Atlantic. SAU = South Australia. SEA = South East Asia. SEU = South Europe and North Africa. SPA = South Pacific. SSA = southern South America. TIB = Tibetan Plateau. WAF = West Africa. WNA = western North America.	164
Figure 5.3	Regional analyses of monthly mean anomaly timeseries (smoothed) and trends in *q*, *RH* and *T*. *RH* (green) and *q* (blue) timeseries are from HadCRUH and *T* (red) timeseries are from HadCRUT3. The *T* data have been re-zeroed to the 1974 to 2003 climatology period. The data have been smoothed using a 21 point Gaussian weighted filter for the low frequency component of the timeseries. Trends are calculated using the LSR method (Box 3.4). Significance at 5 % is indicated by * and at 1 % by **. Region abbreviation descriptions can be found in Figure 5.2. *T-q* and *T-RH* linear Pearson correlation coefficients (*r*) are shown in blue and green respectively. Units are in % for *RH*, ^{o}C for *T* and g kg^{-1} for *q*.	165-166
Figure 5.4	Estimated and observed absolute *q* trends based on observed	167-

absolute *T* from five regions. Estimated *q* is calculated based on observed absolute *T* from HadCRUT3 and a constant *RH* of 70 % (dotted green) and 100 % (dashed green). Observed *q* is in blue and observed *RH* in red. MPS trends (Box 3.4) are calculated for estimated *q* at 100 % *RH* (top), estimated *q* at 70 % *RH* (bottom) and observed *q* (middle). The South Europe and North African region (SEU) is chosen as an example of a region of significantly increasing *q* and significantly decreasing *RH*. The Tibetan Plateau (TIB) and easter North American (ENA) regions are chosen as landlocked and coastal regions respectively of significantly increasing *q* and *RH*. The Indian Ocean (IND) and East Canada, Greenland and Iceland (CGI) regions are chosen as marine and land based regions respectively of significantly increasing *q* and constant *RH*. Region abbreviation descriptions can be found in Figure 5.2. 168

Figure 5.5 Linear Pearson correlations coefficients of monthly mean anomaly *T* and *q* and seasonal anomaly *T* and *q* at the grid-box scale. Observed *T* values are from HadCRUT3, normalised to the 1974 to 2003 climatology and matched spatially and temporally to the HadCRUH *q* dataset coverage. 169

Figure 5.6 January and July climatologies in *q* for HadCM3 CONTROL and HadCRUH minus HadCM3 CONTROL. For the CONTROL a mean climatology is taken from the climatologies for all 27 segments of the control run where the climatology period is from year 2 to 27 (out of a 31 year period) to correspond with the climatology period 1974 to 1999 in the observations. This period is used for comparison with model output. Units are in g kg^{-1}. 170

Figure 5.7 Regionally averaged monthly mean anomaly timeseries and trends for observed and ensemble model runs in *q*. HadCRUH *q* (black) is re-zeroed to a 1974 to 1999 climatology period inkeeping with ensemble model runs. Twenty-seven HadCM3 control runs (yellow) are used to provide a measure of natural variability with which to gauge significance of trends in *q*. ANTHRO, NATURAL and ANT+NAT ensemble timeseries are shown in red, blue and green respectively. MPS trends (Box 3.4) are calculated over the period 1973 to 1999 and shown in respective colours. Maximum and minimum (95^{th} and 5^{th} percentiles) trends are shown for CONTROL runs in black. 171

Figure 5.8 Comparison of observed and model *q* trends for twenty nine regions. MPS trends (Box 3.4) are calculated over the period 1973 to 1999 for the observations (red diamonds), ANTHRO ensemble (blue squares), NATURAL ensemble (orange triangles) and ANT+NAT ensemble (green crosses). The range of trends (95^{th} and 5^{th} percentiles) from the CONTROL segments is also shown as a measure of natural variability. For 172

a summary of findings refer to Fig. 5.9. Region abbreviation descriptions can be found in Figure 5.2.

Figure 5.9 Comparison of observed and model *q* trends for the twenty nine regions. Plot a) shows regions where the observed trends are greater than that expected due to natural internal variability as prescribed by the 5th to 95th percentile range of the 27 CONTROL segment trends. Plot b) shows regions where the ANT+NAT trends are closest to the observed trends. Plot c) shows regions where the ANTHRO trends are closest to the observed trends. Plot d) shows regions where the NATURAL trends are closest to the observed trends. For plots b to d thick lines show regions where observed and modelled trends are within 0.02 g kg^{-1}. For actual values see Fig. 5.8 and for region acronym definitions see Fig. 5.2. 173

Figure 5.10 Comparison of observed and modelled *q* trends at the grid-box scale. MPS trends (Box 3.4) are calculated for the period 1973 to 1999 and units are in g kg^{-1} $10yr^{-1}$. In the case of OBS vs CONTROL the greyed out grid-boxes represent regions where observed trends are within the range of natural variability for that grid-box. Non-greyed trends represent regions of significant climate change signal such that it cannot be expected to occur due to natural variability. For all other plots greyed out areas are where the difference between observed and modelled trends is within the measure of natural variability for that grid-box. Natural variability is estimated from the 5th and 95th percentile trends from 27 CONTROL segments. 174

Figure 6.1 Potential additional data to HadCRUH. Stations from the ISH dataset are shown in sky blue and black where black dots identify stations that also feature in other datasets. All other non-black dots denote additional data provided by the NEW (pink) and HAHN (royal blue) datasets over the 1973 to 2003 period. 182