

# **Ensemble of land-surface air temperatures between 1880-2022 using a revised pair-wise homogenization algorithm**

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*This manuscript is a non-peer reviewed preprint submitted to EarthArXiv. It is also submitted to submitted to Journal of Climate for peer review.*

8 ABSTRACT: Various observational estimates of historical land surface air temperature (LSAT)  
9 trends differ on account of differences in corrections. Relative to the most-recent estimate pro-  
10 vided by NOAA’s Global Historical Climatology Network Monthly Version 4 (GHCNm4), an  
11 estimate by Berkeley Earth is  $0.02^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer and one by the Climate Research Unit (CRUTEM5)  
12 is  $0.14^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer between 1880–1940. Such systematic offsets can arise in LSAT records as a  
13 result of poorly-documented changes in measurement characteristics, including changes in instru-  
14 mentation and movement of stations, as well as how these breakpoints are corrected for across  
15 different estimates. Building on an existing pair-wise homogenization algorithm (PHA<sub>0</sub> applied  
16 in GHCNmV4), we propose a revised version (PHA<sub>1</sub>) that accounts for autocorrelation in climate  
17 variables and iteratively operates to adjust breakpoints. Tests on synthetic data generated by adding  
18 breakpoints to CMIP6 simulations and realizations from a Gaussian process indicate that PHA<sub>1</sub>  
19 outperforms PHA<sub>0</sub> in identifying small breaks and recovering accurate climate trends. Applied  
20 to unhomogenized station temperatures compiled within GHCNmV4, PHA<sub>1</sub> is shown to detect  
21 breakpoints that correspond with available station metadata. Uncertainties associated with PHA<sub>1</sub>  
22 are estimated by randomly perturbing algorithmic parameters. The continental mean temperature  
23 warming found using PHA<sub>1</sub> is consistent with that of Berkeley Earth to within estimated uncer-  
24 tainties, despite using a different homogenization approach. Relative to unhomogenized data, the  
25 PHA<sub>1</sub> homogenization increases 1880–2022 temperature trend by  $0.18^{\circ}\text{C}$  per century, with a 95%  
26 confidence interval of  $0.11\text{--}0.24^{\circ}\text{C}$  per century, leading to a continental mean temperature warming  
27 of  $1.74^{\circ}\text{C}$  between 1880–1889 and 2012–2021 with a 95% confidence interval of  $1.63\text{--}1.90^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

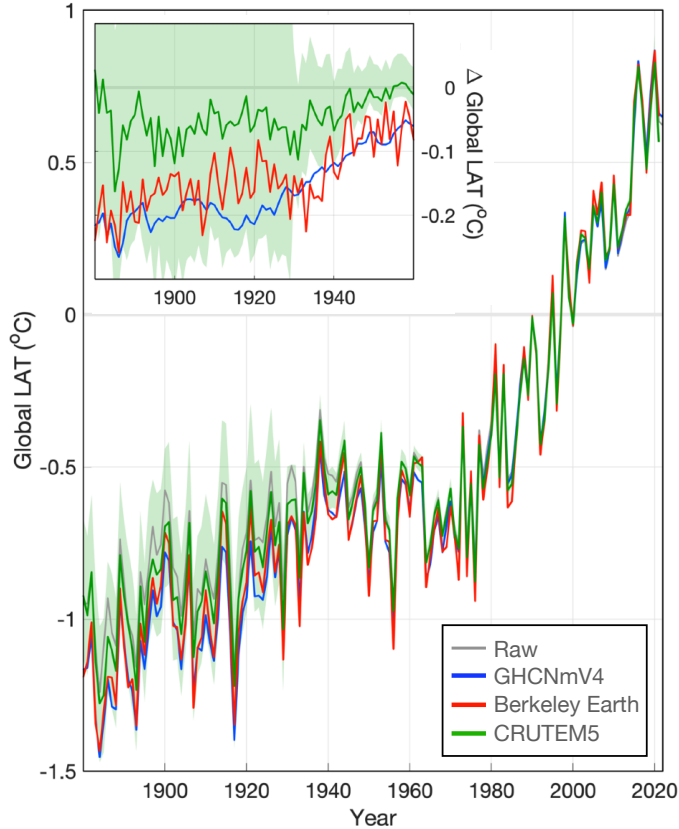
28 SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT: Accurately correcting for systematic errors in observational  
29 records of land surface air temperature (LSAT) changes is critical for quantifying historical warm-  
30 ing. Existing LSAT estimates are subject to systematic offsets associated with processes including  
31 changes in instrumentation and station movement. This study improves a pair-wise homogeniza-  
32 tion algorithm by accounting for the fact that climate signals are correlated over time. The revised  
33 algorithm outperforms the original in identifying discontinuities and recovering accurate warming  
34 trends. Applied to monthly station temperatures, the revised algorithm adjusts trends in continental  
35 mean LSAT since the 1880s to be  $0.18^{\circ}\text{C}$  per century greater relative to raw data. Our estimates are  
36 consistent with estimates from Berkeley Earth but indicate approximately  $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  greater warming  
37 since 1880 than those from the UK Met Office.

## 38 1. Introduction

44 Land surface air temperature (LSAT), as measured by weather stations, are crucial for monitoring  
45 long-term climate variations, but are also subject to systematic errors including those associated  
46 with changes in instrumentation, movement of stations, and changes in measurement environment  
47 (Trewin 2010). The process of detecting discontinuities in records and removing biases to recover  
48 underlying true climatic variations is generally called homogenization (Peterson et al. 1998; Costa  
49 and Soares 2009; Venema et al. 2012). Various homogenization approaches tend to find that  
50 temperature observations prior to the 1940s need to be adjusted several tenths of a degree Celsius  
51 cooler, thereby increasing the implied warming over the last century (Menne et al. 2018; Rohde  
52 et al. 2013b). Despite this agreement in the sign of adjustment, the magnitude of adjustments  
53 remain uncertain, leading to continental mean temperatures that differ by up to  $0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  between  
54 1880 to 1940 among existing estimates (Fig. 1).

55 The most commonly applied means of homogenizing LSATs is called pairwise station homog-  
56 enization (Menne and Williams Jr 2009, hereafter MW09). This method, which we refer to as  
57 the original version of the pairwise homogenization algorithm, or PHA<sub>0</sub>, is based on comparing  
58 individual stations with its neighbors. PHA<sub>0</sub> has been carefully tested and routinely used for over  
59 a decade (Menne and Williams Jr 2009; Lawrimore et al. 2011; Menne et al. 2018).

60 We briefly review PHA<sub>0</sub>, including to establish nomenclature. PHA<sub>0</sub> first identifies neighbors for  
61 each station according to distance between stations or correlation coefficient in temperature series.



39 **FIG. 1. Continental mean temperature anomalies in existing estimates.** Post-1880 temperatures from  
 40 raw GHCNmV4 (gray), homogenized GHCNmV4 (blue), Berkeley Earth Temperature (red), and CRUTEM5  
 41 (green). The green shading shows the 95% c.i. of a 200-member ensemble associated with CRUTEM5, derived  
 42 by subtracting HadSST4 (Kennedy et al. 2019) from non-infilled HadCRUT5 (Morice et al. 2021). The upper  
 43 left panel shows the adjustments to individual datasets relative to the raw GHCNmV4 estimate.

62 For each difference temperature series between a station and its neighbors, a standard normal  
 63 homogenization test (SNHT; Alexandersson 1986) is performed to find potential breakpoints. The  
 64 SNHT involves calculating the sum of the squared means of two consecutive segments of a time  
 65 series,

$$T_0 = \max_{1 \leq v < n} [v\bar{z}_1^2 + (n-v)\bar{z}_2^2], \quad (1)$$

66 where  $n$  is the length of the record,  $v$  is a time index, and  $\bar{z}_1$  and  $\bar{z}_2$  are, respectively, the mean over  
 67 months 1 to  $v$  and months  $v+1$  to  $n$ . In contrast to a weighted linear sum of the means that would

68 be invariant to the selection of breakpoint,  $T_0$  is maximized when either  $\bar{z}_1$  or  $\bar{z}_2$  become large. A  
69 null critical value for  $T_0$  is determined by repeatedly realizing  $T_0$  from randomly generated time  
70 series. As described further below, it is relevant that these time series are realized as white noise,  
71 or devoid of auto correlation. If the sample value of  $T_0$  exceeds the null critical value, the time  
72 series is broken into two segment at the index  $\nu$  that maximizes  $T_0$ . The test is performed iteratively  
73 between a splitting phase, where the algorithm tests whether each segment of time series contains  
74 any further breakpoints, and a merging phase, where the algorithm combines consecutive segments  
75 if the combined time series fail to pass SNHT. After this initial identification, PHA<sub>0</sub> double-checks  
76 each potential breakpoint using Bayesian Information Criteria (Schwarz 1978) to exclude cases of  
77 long-term trends and attributes confirmed breakpoints to stations that show the greatest difference  
78 with neighbors. PHA<sub>0</sub> then combines breakpoints that are temporally close to one another to  
79 account for uncertainties in the timing of identified breakpoints. Finally, an adjustment for each  
80 breakpoint is estimated by comparing the station to which a breakpoint is attributed with at least  
81 two homogeneous neighbors.

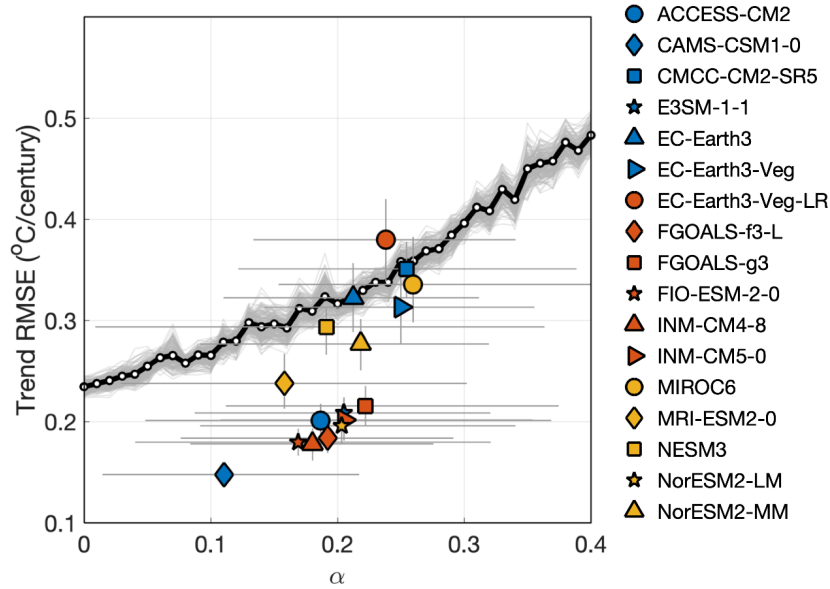
82 PHA<sub>0</sub> has been used to homogenize temperatures compiled under the Global Historical Climate  
83 Network Monthly Version 4 (GHCNmV4, Menne et al. 2018). In addition to central estimates  
84 generated using a default combination of PHA<sub>0</sub> parameters, an ensemble generated by perturbing  
85 algorithmic parameters in PHA<sub>0</sub> (Williams et al. 2012, hereafter WMW12) is used to quantify un-  
86 certainties in GHCNmV4 at global and regional scales. Because this GHCNmV4 homogenization  
87 ensemble is not yet publicly available, we reproduce PHA<sub>0</sub> using software made accessible from  
88 <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/v3/software/>.

## 89 **2. Apply PHA<sub>0</sub> to perturbed CMIP6 simulations**

98 We evaluate PHA<sub>0</sub> using synthetic cases, where we introduced a fixed set of random breakpoints  
99 into temperatures from one simulation from each of 17 models from the Coupled Model Inter-  
100 comparison Phase 6 (CMIP6; Eyring et al. 2016) models<sup>1</sup>. We use surface air temperature from  
101 the r1i1p1f1 member of each model and concatenate the historical all-forcing experiment from  
102 1970–2015 and the SSP585 experiment from 2016–2020. Temperatures are interpolated to the lo-  
103 cation of US weather stations using a bi-linear method to retain the covariance and auto-correlation

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<sup>1</sup>Models we use are: ACCESS-CM2, CAMS-CSM1-0, CMCC-CM2-SR5, E3SM-1-1, EC-Earth3, EC-Earth3-Veg, EC-Earth3-Veg-LR, FGOALS-f3-L, FGOALS-g3, FIO-ESM-2-0, INM-CM4-8, INM-CM5-0, MIROC6, MRI-ESM2-0, NESM3, NorESM2-LM, and NorESM2-MM.



90 FIG. 2. **The skill of the original pair-wise station homogenization algorithm (PHA<sub>0</sub>) decreases with**  
 91 **auto-correlation of climatic signals.** The skill of PHA<sub>0</sub> is quantified using the station-wise root mean squared  
 92 error (RMSE) of long-term trends over the continental US after adjustment for 17 CMIP6 models (markers)  
 93 and synthetic analyses (black circles connected by a line). RMSE increases with the lag-1 auto-correlation ( $\alpha$ )  
 94 in the difference temperature series between neighbors. The horizontal bar on each marker represents the 95%  
 95 confidence interval for values of  $\alpha$  across individual stations, and the vertical bar is the 95% confidence interval  
 96 for mean RMSE over all stations. The confidence interval of RMSE is estimated by bootstrapping blocks of 100  
 97 stations with replacement.

104 structures in temperature field. A set of randomly timed breakpoints having random magnitudes  
 105 are then introduced to each simulation. Appendix A contains details regarding the distribution of  
 106 breakpoint timing and magnitude.

107 Breakpoints are identical across models but the skill of PHA<sub>0</sub> in recovering temperature trends,  
 108 as measured by station-wise root mean square error (RMSE), varies widely across models (Fig. 2).  
 109 CAMS-CSM1-0 has the lowest RMSE at 0.15 °C per century (1 s.d.), whereas EC-Earth3-Veg-LR  
 110 has the highest RMSE at 0.38 °C per century. We present evidence that the differences in the  
 111 skill of PHA<sub>0</sub> across models relates to differences in the auto-correlation of temperatures. Higher  
 112 auto-correlation leads to a higher chance of realizing values of  $T_0$  that exceed the critical value by

113 chance. There is a strong correlation across model of 0.76 between the mean lag-1 auto-correlation  
114 in the difference temperature series between neighboring stations, referred to as  $\alpha$ , and the RMSE  
115 between inferred and actual temperature trends (Fig. 2).

116 To further investigate the relationship between  $\alpha$  and the performance of PHA<sub>0</sub>, we conduct  
117 synthetic analyses using spatially and temporally correlated temperatures. Synthetic temperatures  
118 are generated from a multivariate Gaussian process with fixed  $\alpha$  values across all stations (see  
119 Appendix A for details). Synthetic ensembles having larger  $\alpha$  are systematically associated with  
120 higher RMSE, a trend also shown across CMIP6 simulations (Fig. 2), suggesting that differences  
121 in auto-correlation are a primary explanation for cross-model differences in skill. These results  
122 suggest that accounting for auto-correlation in climate signals may improve the skill of PHA<sub>0</sub> in  
123 detecting breakpoints and recovering long-term temperature trends. In this study, we test whether  
124 a revised algorithm that accounts for auto-correlation shows improved skill.

125 We also explore another modification to PHA<sub>0</sub> that may improve its performance. PHA<sub>0</sub> is  
126 only run once and could miss breakpoints, especially if multiple stations in a region, with some  
127 containing simultaneous but small breakpoints. Changes in measurement time and instrumentation  
128 that may be associated with breakpoints are known to be pervasive at least in the US weather network  
129 (Menne and Williams Jr 2009; Williams et al. 2012). The possibility of clustered breaks suggests  
130 using an iterative approach for breakpoint identification.

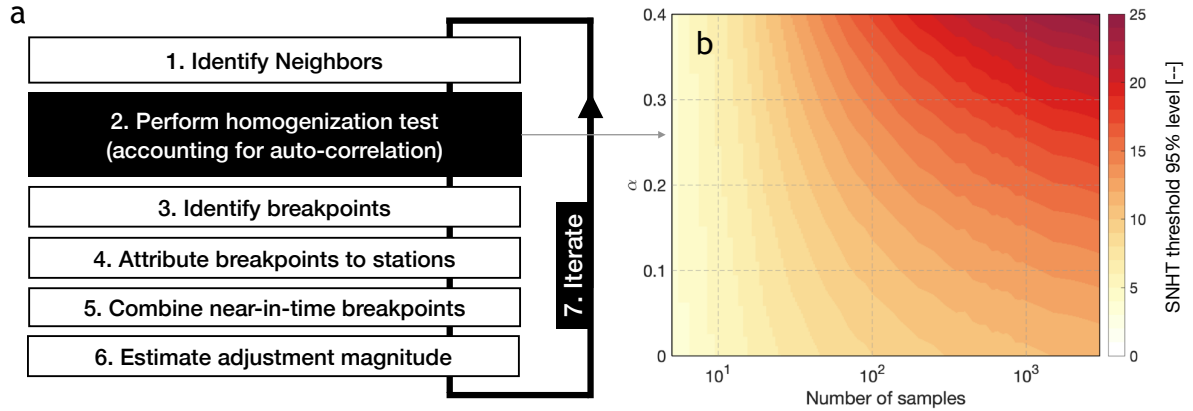
### 135 3. A revised pair-wise station homogenization algorithm

136 Our revised pairwise station homogenization algorithm, PHA<sub>1</sub>, is described briefly here in terms  
137 of revisions relative to PHA<sub>0</sub> (Fig. 3a) and in more detail in Appendix B. The most significant  
138 revision in PHA<sub>1</sub> involves accounting for auto-correlation in temperature differences between  
139 stations during the identification of potential breaks. The thresholds of  $T_0$  in SNHT is made a  
140 function of both series length,  $n$ , and lag-1 auto-correlation,  $\alpha$ .

141 To estimate critical values, we model temperature difference time series as an auto-regressive  
142 order one process,

$$X_{t+1} = \alpha X_t + \epsilon. \quad (2)$$

143 In Eq. 2,  $\alpha$  is the system memory and  $\epsilon$  is white noise drawn from a standard normal distribution,  
144  $N(0, 1)$ . We explore values of  $\alpha$  between 0 to 0.4, a typical range across CMIP6 simulations, and



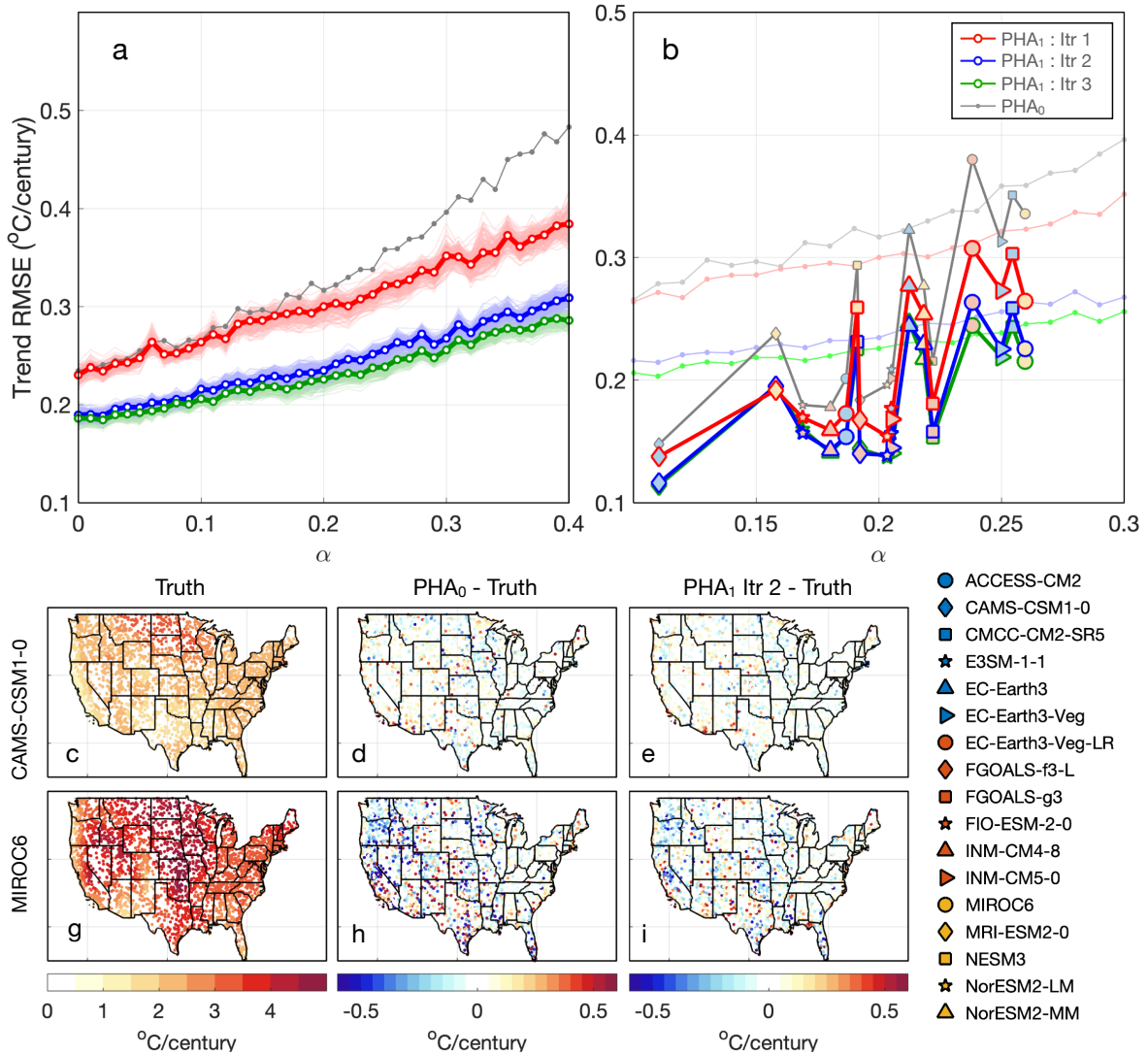
131 FIG. 3. **Schematic of PHA<sub>1</sub> – our revised pairwise homogenization algorithm.** (a) stream flow of individual  
 132 steps in the revised algorithm. Steps different from PHA<sub>0</sub> are in black boxes. (b) Critical value of standard  
 133 normal homogeneous tests. 95% critical value (heat map) shown as a function of time series length ( $n$ , x-axis)  
 134 and lag-1 auto-correlation (y-axis).

145 values of  $n$  between 5 and 3500. For each combination of  $\alpha$  and  $n$ , we generate 50,000 random  
 146 series and normalize each to calculate the SNHT statistics  $T_0$  following Eq. 1. Higher values of  $\alpha$   
 147 give greater autocorrelation and increased SNHT statistics. For example, the 95th percentile of  $T_0$   
 148 for  $\alpha$  equals to 0.3 and is up to 1.8 times of that when  $\alpha$  equals zero (Fig. 3b).

149 To estimate  $\alpha$  for difference series that contain potential breakpoints, we use a sliding window  
 150 because breakpoints in a time series tend to bias estimates high and because shorter segments  
 151 generally have fewer breaks. Assuming  $\alpha$  is temporally stationary but that a time series may  
 152 contain outliers associated with breakpoints, we use the median of calculated  $\alpha$  values from the  
 153 sliding window analysis. The length of the window is the shorter interval between 100 months and  
 154 one third of the time series. To account for a potential overestimation due to multiple breakpoints,  
 155 we update  $\alpha$  in each splitting phase of SNHT by excluding windows overlapping with any detected  
 156 breakpoints.

157 Following the discussion near the end of section 2, after estimating and performing adjustments  
 158 (step 7), we also run a second iteration of the algorithm (step 8) to check for breakpoints relative  
 159 to neighbors whose breakpoints may have been adjusted in the first iteration.





160 **FIG. 4. Skill of the revised pair-wise station homogenization algorithm (PHA<sub>1</sub>) in recovering long-term**  
 161 **temperature trends.** (a) RMSE in temperature trends for the Multivariate Gaussian Process ensemble after  
 162 running PHA<sub>1</sub> for one (red), two (blue), and three (green) iterations. Results from PHA<sub>0</sub> (gray) are included for  
 163 comparison. (b) Similar to (a), but for the CMIP6 ensemble, with the number of iterations denoted using colors  
 164 of the edge of markers. Results from PHA<sub>0</sub> (gray) and the Multivariate Gaussian Process ensemble (thin lines)  
 165 are also shown for comparison. Note that panel (a) and (b) have different axis ranges. (c-i) Maps of long-term  
 166 trends. Each column shows trends for simulated temperatures, errors of PHA<sub>0</sub>, and errors of PHA<sub>1</sub> with two  
 167 iterations. The upper row displays results from CAMS-CSM1-0, the model with the lowest auto-correlation,  
 168 while the lower row shows results from MIROC6, the model with the highest auto-correlation.

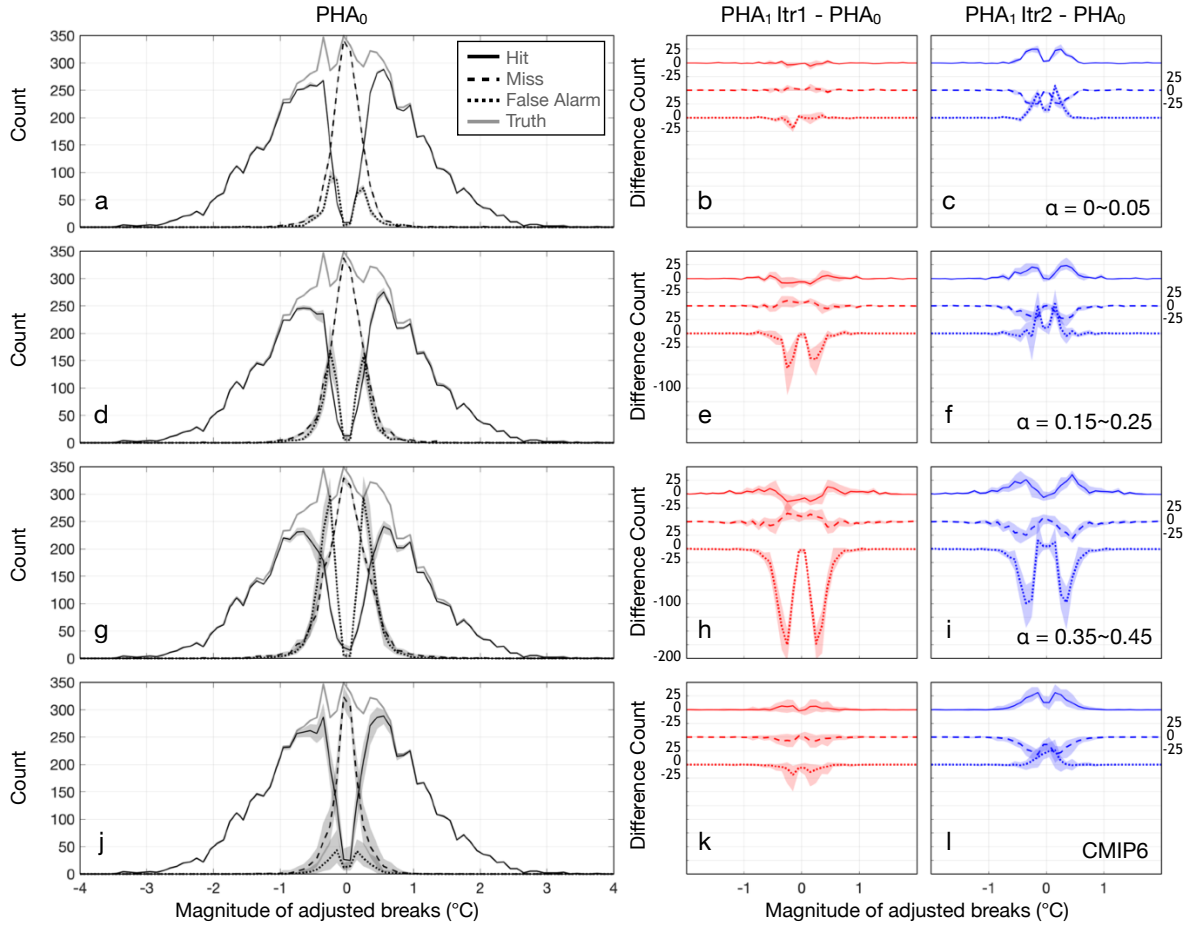
#### 169 **4. Applying PHA<sub>1</sub> to simulations and synthetic data**

170 We first assess the skill of PHA<sub>1</sub> relative to PHA<sub>0</sub> using perturbed CMIP6 simulations and a  
171 synthetic data ensemble generated from a multivariate Gaussian processes (MGP). We show that  
172 each revision in PHA<sub>1</sub> improves skill. We also show that the reason for improved skill is that PHA<sub>1</sub>  
173 correctly identifies more breakpoints while being subject to fewer false alarms, or false alarms  
174 that are of small magnitude and, thus, have little effect on long-term trends. Unless otherwise  
175 stated, PHA<sub>1</sub> is run using a default parameter combination as in Williams et al. (2012, also listed  
176 as ensemble 1 in Table B2).

##### 177 *a. RMSE of Long-term Trends*

178 To evaluate the performance of PHA<sub>1</sub>, we begin by comparing the root mean square error (RMSE)  
179 of long-term temperature trends between PHA<sub>1</sub> and PHA<sub>0</sub> on the MGP-based synthetic ensemble  
180 (Fig. 4a). After a single iteration, trend RMSE values in PHA<sub>1</sub> are, on average, 0.30 °C per century,  
181 a value that is 0.03 °C per century lower than PHA<sub>0</sub>. The reduction in RMSE increases with the  
182 strength of the auto-correlation,  $\alpha$ , from zero when  $\alpha$  is zero to 0.10 °C per century when  $\alpha$  is 0.4.  
183 Running PHA<sub>1</sub> multiple times leads another systematic reduction in RMSE that is less dependent  
184 on auto-correlations. The second iteration of PHA<sub>1</sub> reduces RMSE, on average over  $\alpha$  from zero  
185 to 0.4, by 0.06 °C per century. A third iteration only leads to diminishing further reduction by, on  
186 average, 0.01 °C per century.

187 The improvement in skill shown by PHA<sub>1</sub> is consistent when applied to perturbed CMIP6  
188 simulations (Fig. 4b). When running PHA<sub>1</sub> for one iteration, the reduction in RMSE ranges from  
189 0.01 °C per century in CAMS-CSM1-0 (the model with the lowest  $\alpha$ ) to 0.07 °C per century in  
190 EC-Earth3-Veg-LR (the model with the forth highest  $\alpha$ ). The fact that the RMSE reduction across  
191 CMIP6 models nearly follows a one-to-one relationship with that of the MGP synthetic ensemble  
192 indicates that PHA<sub>1</sub> improves trend recovery regardless of the underlying temperature evolution  
193 and regardless of the distribution of  $\alpha$  across regions within a simulation. Running PHA<sub>1</sub> multiple  
194 times further reduces RMSE in the CMIP6 ensemble, with an average reduction of 0.03 °C per  
195 century for the second iteration and no significant changes for the third. Together with reduced  
196 RMSE, PHA<sub>1</sub> also increases the spatial correlation of long-term trends from an average of 0.95  
197 across models in PHA<sub>0</sub> to 0.97 in PHA<sub>1</sub> with two iterations (Fig.4 c-1).



198 **FIG. 5. The identification of breakpoints using the histograms of hits, misses, and false alarms.** The left  
 199 column shows the histogram of hits (solid), misses (dashed), and false alarms (dotted) using PHA<sub>0</sub>. The middle  
 200 column shows the difference between PHA<sub>1</sub> with one iteration minus PHA<sub>0</sub>. Lines are offset for visibility. The  
 201 right column is as the middle but for PHA<sub>1</sub> with two iterations. From top to bottom, each row shows synthetic  
 202 analyses for  $\alpha = 0-0.05$ ,  $\alpha = 0.15-0.25$ ,  $\alpha = 0.35-0.45$ , and the CMIP6 ensemble. The shadings indicate the  
 203 range across MGP ensemble members or CMIP6 models.

204 *b. Hits, Misses, and False Alarms*

205 Improved skill in PHA<sub>1</sub> comes from decreasing the number of false alarms and better identifying  
 206 breakpoints. To demonstrate improvements in breakpoint identification, we develop a scoring  
 207 system by counting the number of hits, misses, and false alarms. Specifically, a hit is if a  
 208 breakpoint is identified within a one-year epoch that centers on the timing of a true breakpoint. If

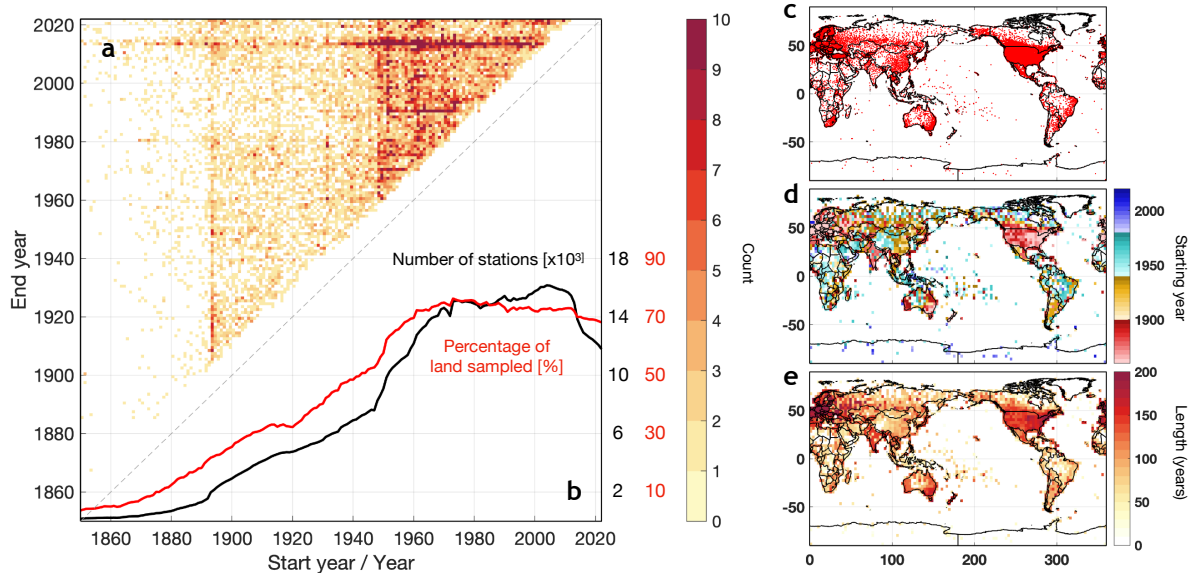
209 two epochs overlap, the overlapping months are assigned to the epoch of the nearest true break.  
210 Breakpoints identified outside of an epoch are considered false alarms, and epochs not identified  
211 to have a breakpoint are misses. When an epoch contains multiple identified breakpoints, the  
212 breakpoint with the highest estimated magnitude is taken as a hit and others as false alarms. The  
213 length of this epoch does not qualitatively change our results.

214 The improvement associated with running PHA<sub>1</sub> for the first iteration comes mainly from re-  
215 ducing false alarms. As  $\alpha$  increases, PHA<sub>0</sub> makes fewer hits but significantly more false alarms.  
216 Among the 8188 introduced breaks, the number of hits decreases from 6476 when  $\alpha = 0$  to 5727  
217 when  $\alpha=0.4$ , whereas false alarms increases from 426 to 1785 (Fig. 5a,d,g). When  $\alpha = 0$ , PHA<sub>1</sub>  
218 behavior is the same as PHA<sub>0</sub> (Fig. 5b). However, as  $\alpha$  increases, PHA<sub>1</sub> apparently makes fewer  
219 false alarms than PHA<sub>0</sub>, with 260 fewer when  $\alpha = 0.2$  (Fig. 5e) and 1057 fewer when  $\alpha = 0.4$   
220 (Fig. 5h). Such a reduction is consistent with accounting for auto-correlations, which uses a higher  
221  $T_0$  threshold and prevents SNHT from mis-identifying large climatic variations as breakpoints. On  
222 the other hand, we find no apparent change in the number of hits or misses (Fig. 5e,h).

223 The improvements associated with running PHA<sub>1</sub> for the second iteration comes mainly from  
224 increasing the hit rate. Over all  $\alpha$  values examined, PHA<sub>1</sub> with two iterations makes 211 [168, 273]  
225 (95% c.i.) more hits than PHA<sub>0</sub> (Fig. 5c,f,i). There is, however, a trade-off between increasing  
226 the hit rate and increasing the rate of false alarms (Fig.5c, f, i). That said, the median absolute  
227 magnitude of additional hits is 0.20°C, as compared to 0.14°C for false alarms. As a result, the effect  
228 of increasing hitting rate wins, and running a second iteration still reduces RMSE. Qualitatively  
229 similar decreases in false alarms and increases in the hit rate are also found in the CMIP6 ensemble  
230 (Fig. 5j-l).

## 231 5. Analysis of GHCN monthly temperatures

237 Having established that PHA<sub>1</sub> shows improvements in skill in trials on synthetic data, in this  
238 section, we apply it to monthly air temperatures compiled within the Global Historical Climatology  
239 Network (GHCNM) version 4 (Menne et al. 2018). GHCNmV4 contains monthly mean temper-  
240 atures from approximately 27,850 stations (Fig. 6c). The number of stations increases from the  
241 1850s to the 1970s, plateaus from the 1970s to the 2000s, and declines thereafter (Fig. 6b). Records  
242 prior to the 1900s are mainly from Europe, US, India, coastal Australia, and Japan (Fig. 6d). More

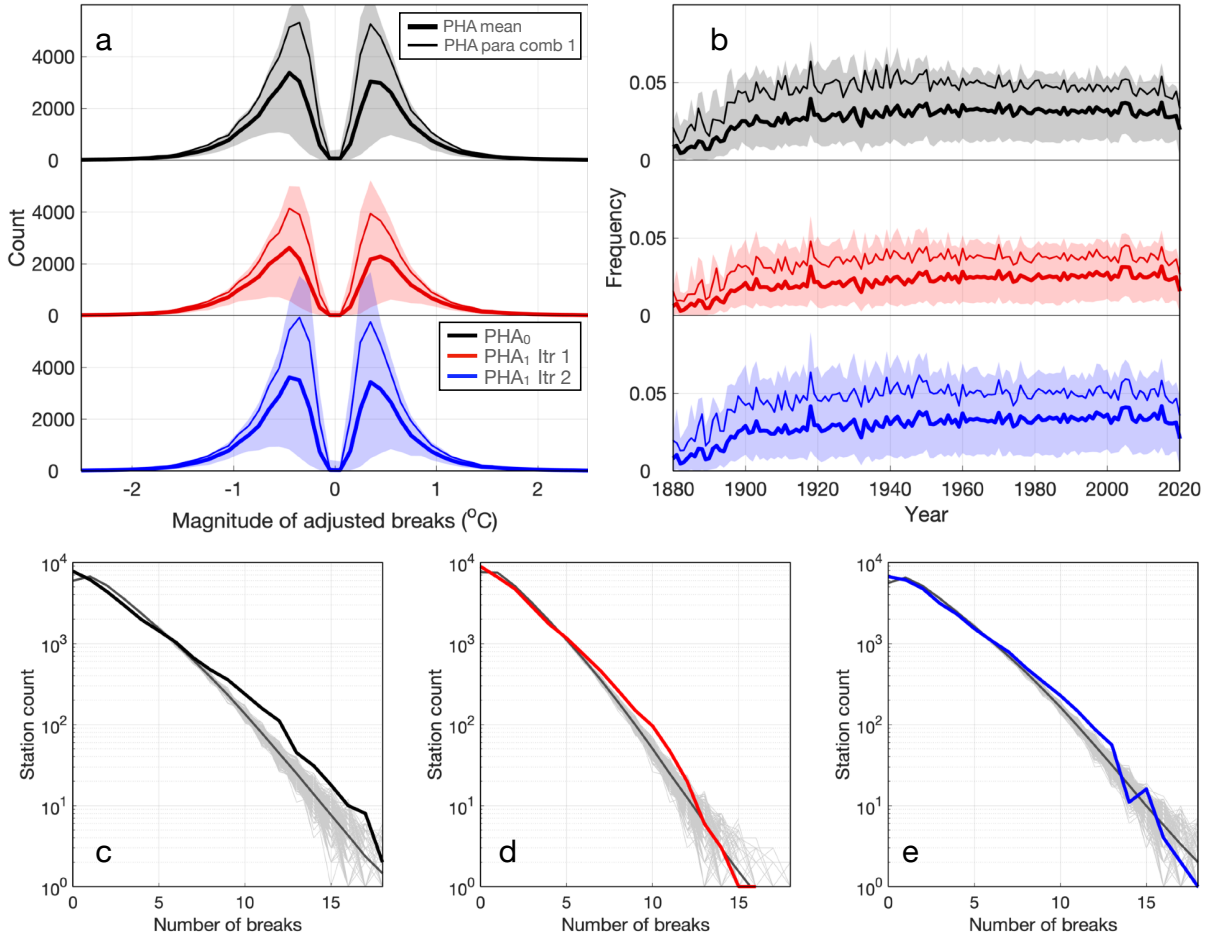


232 **FIG. 6. Statistics of GHCNmV4.** (a) Histogram of the starting and ending year of weather stations used in this  
 233 study (heat map). (b) Number of stations as a function of year (black, unit: thousand stations) and the percentage  
 234 of land areas sampled (red). This percentage is calculated after binning the station coverage to  $3^\circ \times 3^\circ$  grids. (c)  
 235 Distribution of all 27,618 weather stations used. (d) The earliest sampled year in each  $3^\circ \times 3^\circ$  grid box. (e) The  
 236 length of sampled period of each grid box.

243 than 3000 stations have records longer than 100 years (Fig. 6a&e). Despite the recent drop in total  
 244 number of stations, the percentage of sampled land area, calculated by counting  $3^\circ \times 3^\circ$  grid boxes,  
 245 remains approximately 70% throughout the past sixty years (Fig. 6b). To perform an initial quality  
 246 screening, we exclude records having QC flags that identify possible issues including duplication,  
 247 outlier behavior, spatial inconsistency, and isolation (Menne et al. 2018), such that our analysis is  
 248 based on 27,808 stations.

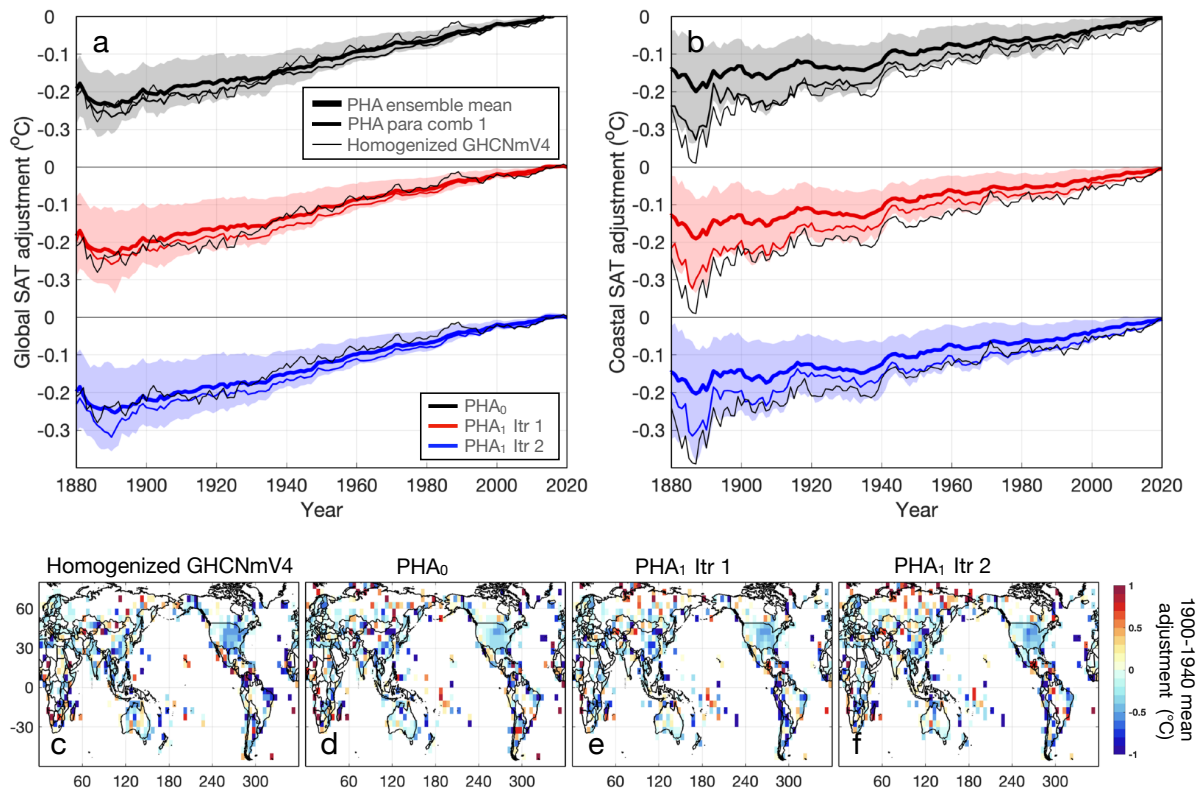
#### 257 *a. Breakpoint Detection and Temperature Adjustments under the Default Parameter Combination*

258 Under the default parameter combination (Table B2, ensemble 1), applying PHA<sub>0</sub> to the quality-  
 259 controlled stations leads to identification of 63,492 breakpoints between 1880 to 2023. In compar-  
 260 ison, Menne et al. (2018) reported NOAA’s homogenized GHCNmV4 product contains approxi-  
 261 mately 71,000 breaks from 1880 to 2016. We are unsure as to the origin of the discrepancy in the



249 **FIG. 7. Adjusted breakpoints in GHCNmV4.** (a) Histogram of the magnitude of adjusted breakpoints for  
 250 PHA<sub>0</sub> (black) and PHA<sub>1</sub> running for one (red) and two iterations (blue). Results are for the default parameter  
 251 combination (solid curves) and 95% c.i. (shadings) across a 200-member ensemble. (b) as a, but for rate of  
 252 adjusted breakpoints. (c-e) histogram of detected number of breaks in each station (thick curves) for PHA<sub>0</sub> (c),  
 253 PHA<sub>1</sub> with one (d), and PHA<sub>1</sub> with two iterations under the default parameter combination (e). Also shown are  
 254 the mean count (gray curve) over a 500-member ensemble generated from binomial distributions, assuming the  
 255 occurrence of breakpoints within a station is independent in time (null-hypothesis). The light gray lines show  
 256 individual members of the binomial ensemble.

262 number of reported breaks, though one possible reason is that we do not use metadata in our PHA  
 263 analyses. Nevertheless, we have made the PHA<sub>0</sub> code we run and detailed results available in order  
 264 to facilitate inter-comparison going forward. Running PHA<sub>1</sub> with the same parameter combination



267 **FIG. 8. Adjustments at global and regional scales.** (a) Continental-mean station adjustments for PHA<sub>0</sub>  
 268 (black) and PHA<sub>1</sub> running for one (red) and two iterations (blue). Results are for the mean over a 200-  
 269 member parameter perturbation ensemble (thick colored curves) and the default parameter combination (thin  
 270 colored curves). Shadings show 95% c.i. across the 100-member ensemble. Also show is the adjustment in  
 271 homogenized GHCNmV4 (thin black curve). (b) as a, but for coastal mean adjustments. (c-f) spatial distribution  
 272 of 1900-1940 mean adjustments for homogenized GHCNmV4 (c), PHA<sub>0</sub> (d), PHA<sub>1</sub> with one (e), and PHA with  
 273 two iterations (f).

265 gives 50,105 breakpoints between 1880–2023 using one iteration. A second iteration of PHA<sub>1</sub>  
 266 identifies an additional of 16,894 breaks whose median adjustment magnitude is 0.29°C (Fig. 7a).

274 Similar to Menne et al. (2018) and PHA<sub>0</sub>, PHA<sub>1</sub> detects more negative than positive breakpoints,  
 275 and the mean of detected breaks for two iterations is negative (Fig. 7a). It follows that continental  
 276 mean temperature adjustments show positive linear trends of 0.19 and 0.21°C per century over  
 277 1880–2022 for respective iterations of PHA<sub>1</sub> (Fig. 8a). These trends are qualitatively consistent  
 278 with the 0.19°C per century found using PHA<sub>0</sub> and reported for the GHCNmV4 product (Fig. 8a).



279 The spatial pattern of our adjustments in the early 20th century (Fig. 8e,f) is generally negative  
280 across the globe, with apparent patches of negative values over the Eastern US, Alaska, coastal  
281 South America, Eastern China, and Europe. Positive adjustments are found over Siberia, Hawaii,  
282 and part of Africa. Compared with NOAA’s homogenized GHCNmV4 (Menne et al. 2018), the  
283 mean adjustment over three iterations is smaller over, for example, the central and eastern US  
284 (Fig. 8d). That said, PHA<sub>1</sub> still captures the spatial distribution of data biases estimated by Menne  
285 et al. (2018), with the spatial correlation between the two patterns of 1900–1940 mean adjustments  
286 being 0.57 (Fig. 8c-f).

### 287 *b. Comparison with Station Metadata*

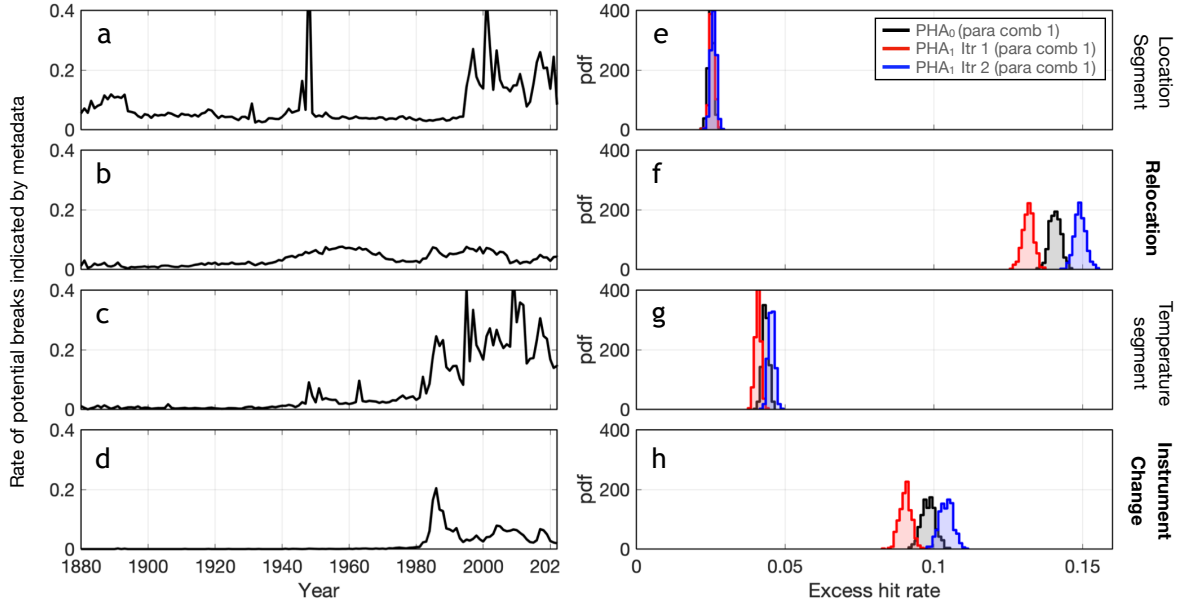
288 The frequency of detecting breakpoints is consistent throughout the 20th century, with the first  
289 iteration detecting breaks at an average rate of once per 25 years of station data (red curve in  
290 Fig. 7b). This rate increases to about once per 20 years after running an additional iteration.

291 Some level of breakpoints are expected. For example, the US historical climate network has  
292 experienced a shift from liquid in glass (LiG) thermometers in Stevenson screens to the elec-  
293 tronic resistance thermometer known as the Maximum-Minimum Temperature Sensor (Menne and  
294 Williams Jr 2009; Williams et al. 2012).

295 To more-specifically examine the rate and pattern of breakpoints that are algorithmically iden-  
296 tified, we compare detected breakpoints with potential breaks suggested by available station  
297 history data compiled under the Historical Observing Metadata Repository (HOMR, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/homr/>), and record, for each station, the timing when metadata  
298 suggests potential changes in temperature measurement technique or location. A total of four  
299 categories of metadata information are investigated: segmented location information, record re-  
300 location, segmented temperature information, and recorded instrument changes. Station metadata  
301 is limited. Among the 27,755 GHCNmV4 stations, only 10,227 have metadata indicating at least  
302 one potential discontinuity throughout their entire station history, and more than 99% of these  
303 stations are from the US or US affiliated islands.  
304

309 The rate at which available metadata indicates potential discontinuities varies with time, and the  
310 temporal evolution is unique among different sources of information. For example, relocation rates  
311 increase in the late 1930s, drop in the 1970s, and again peak in the 1990s and 2000s (Fig. 9b). On





305 FIG. 9. **Comparison with metadata.** (a-d) frequency of metadata-suggested potential breaks when using  
 306 (a) segmented location information, (b) recorded relocation, (c) segmented temperature information, and (d)  
 307 recorded instrument changes. (e-h) excess hit rate of PHA<sub>0</sub> (black), PHA<sub>1</sub> with one (red), and PHA<sub>1</sub> with two  
 308 iterations (blue). The excess rate is relative to a null hypothesis that adjustments are made at random timing.

312 the other hand, instrument changes are rare before they peak in the 1980s (Fig. 9d). We are unaware  
 313 of whether changes in reported rates among the records with station data reflect changes in the  
 314 actual rates of relocation and instrumentation change or, instead, the recording of such changes. For  
 315 this reason, we only focus on the rate at which metadata-indicated discontinuities correspond with  
 316 identified breakpoints. Specifically, if a metadata-indicated discontinuity lies within the 1-year  
 317 epoch of detected breaks, as defined in section 4, we count it as a hit. For purposes of comparison,  
 318 we also estimate a null-hypothesis hit rate, where meta-data adjustments occur at random timing.  
 319 The null is constructed by randomly shuffling the timing of metadata-indicated discontinuities  
 320 within each station and repeating the process 1000 times to obtain a distribution.

321 The hit rate of meta-data indicated changes with PHA identified breakpoints is significantly  
 322 higher than expectations from randomized meta-data for each category of metadata ( $P < 0.001$ ),  
 323 indicating the skill of PHA-based methods. Averaging across stations and PHA approaches, the  
 324 correspondence of meta-data indicated changes with breakpoints is 3%, 14%, 4%, and 10% higher

325 than adjustments with random timing for segmented location information, record re-location,  
326 segmented temperature information, and recorded instrument changes, respectively (Fig. 9e-h).  
327 These results suggest that moving stations and changing measurement approaches are more likely  
328 to result in identifiable breakpoints. Moreover, although PHA<sub>1</sub> with one iteration generally yields  
329 lower excess hit rate than PHA<sub>0</sub>, PHA<sub>1</sub> running for two iterations gives a higher hit rate than PHA<sub>0</sub>  
330 for all metadata types. These results help confirm the skill of PHA<sub>1</sub>.

331 It can also be emphasized, given that 94% of breakpoints identified by PHA<sub>1</sub> are not associated  
332 with an event indicated by relocation or instrumental changes, that using a homogenization algo-  
333 rithm is important for uniform treatment of the data. This inference is already obvious, however, in  
334 that even in the U.S. where most meta-data is available, meta-data rates (relocation or instrumental  
335 change) range from 2% per year between 1900–50 and 8% per year between 1980–2023, whereas  
336 the ratio of PHA-identified breakpoints between these two intervals remains relatively stable at  
337 about 6% per year.

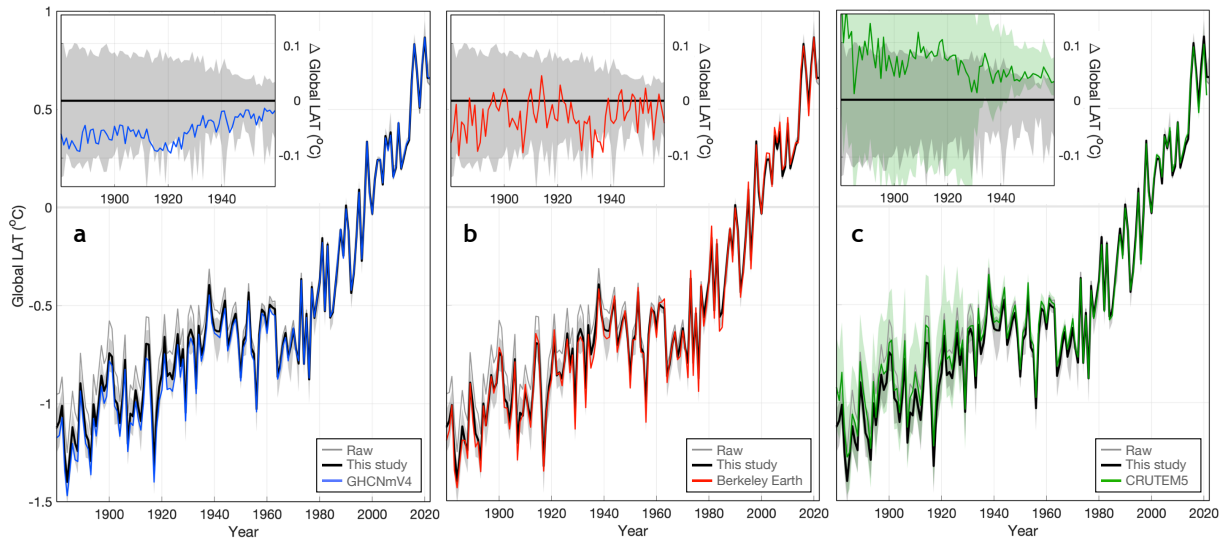
338 Although the rate of PHA-detected breakpoints is stable in time, stations with one breakpoint  
339 are more likely to experience other breaks. To demonstrate this point, we compare the number of  
340 breaks per station between GHCN and a null hypothesis assuming the occurrence of breakpoints is  
341 independent across time and stations. To construct this null hypothesis, we draw, for each station,  
342 a number of breakpoints from a binomial distribution  $B(p_B, n_B)$ , where the success rate or average  
343 percentage of years having breaks is  $p_B$  and  $n_B$  is the number of years with data. We repeat the  
344 process 500 times to obtain a distribution assuming independent breakpoint occurrence. GHCN  
345 homogenized using either PHA<sub>0</sub> or PHA<sub>1</sub> has significantly more stations without breaks, fewer  
346 stations with fewer than six breakpoints, and more stations with seven or more breakpoints (Fig. 7c–  
347 f). A possible explanation involves that some discontinuities detected by PHA<sub>0</sub> are associated with  
348 problematic segments that recover later in time, such that breakpoints may have the tendency of  
349 appearing in pairs.

### 350 *c. Uncertainty Quantification*

351 Similar to Williams et al. (2012), we use an ensemble method to quantify parametric uncertain-  
352 ties in PHA<sub>1</sub> associated with errors in the timing of breakpoints and the magnitude of required  
353 adjustments. That is, in addition to the default parameter combination, we randomly perturb all

354 parameters in the algorithm (Table B1). Note that randomized parameter combinations tend to give  
355 higher error rates, often because of conservative breakpoint adjustments that relax the magnitude  
356 of trend adjustments towards zero (Williams et al. 2012). To account for this potential bias, we first  
357 run a 500-member randomized parameter ensemble on the MGP synthetic data where  $\alpha = 0.2$ , the  
358 median across CMIP6 models. The resulting mean station-wise RMSE over two iterations ranges  
359 from 0.24 to 2.12°C per century, while the default combination gives an RMSE of 0.27°C per  
360 century. The high error for some combinations is associated with insufficiently adjusting breaks,  
361 which could be associated with SNHT identifying too many or too few breakpoints in the initial  
362 screening. Whereas too few initial breakpoints naturally results in fewer adjustments, too many  
363 initial breakpoints would result in insufficient numbers of homogeneous neighbors required for  
364 estimating adjustments. We then subset the 100 combinations that gives the lowest RMSE (Table  
365 B2) and run with each combination with up to two iterations to generate a 200-member LSAT  
366 ensemble. The RMSE of the 100 used combinations ranges from 0.24 to 0.39 °C per century, with  
367 11 giving lower RMSE than the default combination.

368 Applying the trimmed parameter ensemble to GHCNmV4, we detect 32,216 [11,458, 61,581]  
369 (median and range across 100 parameter combinations) and 43,386 [14,605, 83,769] breakpoints  
370 for one and two iterations, respectively (Fig. 7a). The mean of detected breakpoints ranges between  
371 -0.12 and -0.04°C. Thus, accounting for timing and magnitude uncertainties still suggests that the  
372 raw GHCNmV4 underestimates long-term trends in temperature warming on continental and global  
373 scales. Estimated global-average adjustments have 1880–2022 trends ranging between 0.08 and  
374 0.27 °C per century (Fig. 8a). Note that, compared with estimates using the default parameter  
375 combination, 0.19 and 0.21°C per century for one and two iterations respectively, the uncertainty  
376 estimate is asymmetric, but less than would be the case if not first sub-selecting for plausible  
377 parameter combinations. It is also worth noticing that although the homogenized GHCNmV4 is  
378 consistent with our ensemble for continental mean temperatures (Fig. 8a), the adjustments found  
379 in homogenized GHCNmV4 for coastal stations are more negative than our ensemble throughout  
380 1880–2023 (Fig. 8b). In a recent paper, we showed that discrepancies exist between SSTs and  
381 LSATs near coastlines during the early 1900s (Chan et al. 2023). An associated implication is that,  
382 if coastal LSATs are used to estimate biases in sea-surface temperature (SST) measurements, using



385 **FIG. 10. Comparison of continental mean temperature anomalies with existing estimates.** (a) Homoge-  
 386 nized temperatures using our revised algorithm (black), homogenized GHCNmV4 (blue), and raw GHCNmV4  
 387 (gray). Anomalies are relative to the mean over 1982–2014 and are calculated using a pairing and matching algo-  
 388 rithm following Chan et al. (2023). Shading shows the 95% confidence interval over the 200-member ensemble.  
 389 Coverage uncertainties are not accounted. Shown in the panel on the left top corner is the difference from the  
 390 central estimate of our adjusted temperatures. (b) as a, but for comparison with Berkeley Earth Temperature  
 391 (red). Berkeley temperature is masked to have the same data coverage as GHCNmV4. (c) as a, but for CRUTEM5  
 392 (green). The green shading shows the 95% c.i. over a 200-member ensemble derived from subtracting HadSST4  
 393 (Kennedy et al. 2019) from non-infilled HadCRUT5 (Morice et al. 2021).

383 homogenized GHCNmV4 would result in an SST trend that is about  $0.07^{\circ}\text{C}$  per century higher  
 384 than using our LSAT ensemble.

## 394 6. Discussion and Conclusion

395 To further improve the detection and adjustment of discontinuities in historical temperature  
 396 records from weather stations, we propose a revised pairwise homogenization algorithm that  
 397 accounts for auto-correlation in time series. Testing on perturbed CMIP6 simulations and synthetic  
 398 data with different levels of autocorrelation indicates that our revised algorithm identifies more  
 399 breaks and generally produces fewer false alarms, thereby showing better skill in recovering long-

400 term temperature trends. We are also able to show a significant relationship between events  
401 recorded in metadata and breakpoints found using PHA<sub>1</sub>.

402 Applying PHA<sub>1</sub> to unhomogenized GHCNmV4 station temperatures increases the 1800–2022  
403 trend in continental mean temperature by 0.18 [0.11, 0.27]°C per century (95% c.i.). Our estimates  
404 suggest that the continental mean temperature over 2012–2021 has been 1.74 [1.63, 1.90]°C (95%  
405 c.i.) warmer than the 1880s. The uncertainty of our estimates is quantified using a 200-member  
406 ensemble that accounts for parametric uncertainties of PHA<sub>1</sub>. The code and detailed results of our  
407 algorithm are publicly accessible at <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/AA00M0>.

408 We compare our continental mean temperatures with three existing estimates (Fig. 10) from  
409 GHCNmV4 (Menne et al. 2018), Berkeley Earth (Rohde et al. 2013a), and CRUTEM5 (Osborn  
410 et al. 2021). To facilitate direct comparison, we average only over grid boxes where all products  
411 have observations after re-gridding to the CRUTEM5 5x5° resolution. GHCNmV4 is closely  
412 consistent with our PHA<sub>1</sub>-based ensemble after the 1960s. Between 1880 to 1940, however,  
413 GHCNmV4 is at the 10th percentile of our estimates (Fig. 10a), implying greater warming between  
414 the 1880s and 2012–2021 at 1.82°C than the central estimate from PHA<sub>1</sub>.

415 In contrast, CRUTEM5 has a central estimate that is at the 95% quantile of the PHA<sub>1</sub>-based  
416 ensemble between 1880 to 1940 (Fig. 10c). This discrepancy leads CRUTEM5 to show the least  
417 amount of warming since the 1880s of only 1.62 [1.38, 1.81]°C. Such differences may arise from  
418 the fact that CRUTEM5 used homogenization efforts by national or regional initiatives as opposed  
419 to a global statistical algorithm (Osborn et al. 2021). Note that CRUTEM5 also makes an ensemble  
420 characterization of uncertainties publicly available. In addition to the homogenization uncertainties  
421 that we account for, the CRUTEM5 ensemble also accounts for sampling and measurement errors  
422 within individual grid boxes and instrumental exposure biases from nonstandard screenings (Osborn  
423 et al. 2021), leading to a larger 95% confidence interval, particularly prior to the 1930s.

424 The Berkeley Earth temperature estimate is closely consistent with our ensemble throughout  
425 1880–2022 (Fig. 10b) and indicates a warming of 1.78 °C since the 1880s. Note that Berkeley  
426 Earth temperature detects breakpoints using a method similar to step 1–5 of PHA<sub>0</sub>, but rather  
427 than explicitly adjusting temperatures, it simply splits records into two descendants containing  
428 data before and after detected breakpoints and treat them as different records when calculating  
429 temperature anomalies relative to some climatological periods (Rohde et al. 2013a). On account of

430 the greater skill shown by PHA<sub>1</sub> than PHA<sub>0</sub> and consistency with the Berkeley Earth temperature  
431 dataset, we suggest that the present ensemble gives a credible — and, arguably, the most credible  
432 — estimate of LSAT warming since 1880. It will be useful to integrate these land-based estimates  
433 of warming with recent and ongoing work to combine land and sea-surface temperature datasets  
434 (e.g. Cowtan et al. 2018; Chan et al. 2023) as well as to infill for missing regions (Kadow et al.  
435 2020; Meinshausen et al. 2022, e.g.) in order to obtain consistent estimates of global temperature.

436 *Acknowledgments.* D. Chan is supported by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Weston  
437 Howland Jr. Postdoctoral Fellowship. G. Gebbie is supported by NSF OCE-82280500. P. Huybers  
438 is supported by NSF Grant 2123295. The authors have no conflict of interests to declare.

439 *Data availability statement.* All datasets used in this study are available as follows:  
440 GHCNmV4 (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/v4/>; last access, May. 31,  
441 2023). HOMR (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/homr/>; last access, May. 31,  
442 2023). Berkeley Earth Monthly temperature ([https://berkeley-earth-temperature.s3.  
443 us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Global/Gridded/Complete\\_TAVG\\_LatLong1.nc](https://berkeley-earth-temperature.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Global/Gridded/Complete_TAVG_LatLong1.nc); last access,  
444 Jul. 11, 2022). CRUTEM5.0.1.0 ([https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/crutem5/  
445 data/CRUTEM.5.0.1.0/download.html](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/crutem5/data/CRUTEM.5.0.1.0/download.html); last access, Jun. 11, 2022). HadSST4.0.1.0 200-  
446 member ensemble ([https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadsst4/data/download.  
447 html](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadsst4/data/download.html); last access, May. 20, 2022). HadCRUT5.0.1.0 200-member ensemble ([https:  
448 //www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadcrut5/data/current/download.html](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadcrut5/data/current/download.html); last access,  
449 Jun. 11, 2022). Monthly CMIP6 outputs are from the ESGF portal ([https://esgf-node.llnl.  
450 gov/search/cmip6/](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/); last access, Aug. 16, 2021). PHA<sub>1</sub> code and our 200-member ensemble of  
451 monthly station LSAT temperature are at <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/AA00M0>.

## 452 APPENDIX A

### 453 **Developing synthetic data**

454 We develop synthetic data using both CMIP6 simulations and draws from a multivariate Gaussian  
455 process. For CMIP6, we interpolate simulated temperatures using a bi-linear method to locations  
456 of weather stations and add a random number of breakpoints with random timing and random  
457 magnitude. The number of breakpoints for a given time-series,  $n_b$ , is specified by drawing a

458 random number from a normal with a mean of 3 and standard deviation of one, truncating values  
 459 to range between 0 and 6, and then rounding. We next draw  $n_b$  independent times across possible  
 460 time steps with uniform probability and assign a magnitude to each breakpoint that is drawn  
 461 from  $N(-0.05, 1)$ . The mean and standard deviation of breakpoint magnitudes are comparable to  
 462 those reported in Menne et al. (2018), and the non-zero centered distribution introduces biases in  
 463 long-term trends.

464 Synthetic temperatures that are correlated in space and time are generated using an AR-1 Multi-  
 465 variate Gaussian Process (MGP),

$$\mathbf{T}_{t+1} = \alpha \mathbf{T}_t + \epsilon. \quad (\text{A1})$$

466 Vector  $\mathbf{T}_t$  represents temperatures at time  $t$  in a network of weather stations, for which we choose  
 467 continental U.S. stations in GHCNmV4. We run Eq. A1 for 700 time steps and discard the first  
 468 100 warm-up steps. Varying the system memory,  $\alpha$ , permits controlling the auto-correlation of  
 469 generated time series and their differences.

470 The noise innovation vector,  $\epsilon$ , follows a Multivariate Gaussian distribution,

$$\epsilon \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma), \quad (\text{A2})$$

471 where  $\Sigma$  is a covariance matrix generated according to  $\Sigma_{ij} = (1 - \alpha)^2 \exp(-|\Delta d|/\tau)$ . The variable  
 472  $|\Delta d|$  is the arc length, in degrees, between stations  $i$  and  $j$ , and  $\tau$  is the decorrelation distance,  
 473 for which we choose  $5^\circ$ , approximately half of the Rossby deformation radius for the mid-latitude  
 474 atmosphere. The variance of the noise innovations is a decreasing function of  $\alpha$  such that the  
 475 expected variance of  $T$  is constant for  $\alpha$  between 0 and 1.

476 The same seeding of random numbers is used for all synthetic experiments, such that identical  
 477 breaks are introduced to both CMIP6 models and synthetic data generated from multivariate  
 478 Gaussian processes.

## 479 APPENDIX B

### 480 Revised pair-wise station homogenization algorithm (PHA<sub>1</sub>)

481 A step-by-step description of PHA<sub>1</sub> is provided for purpose of reproducibility. PHA<sub>1</sub> generally  
482 follows that of Menne and Williams Jr (2009, hereafter PHA<sub>0</sub>) and Williams et al. (2012, hereafter  
483 WMT12). We note where our approach differs from PHA<sub>0</sub> and WMT12.

#### 484 *1. Identify neighbors*

485 Neighboring stations are first identified. For each target station, we first identify the nearest  
486 "NEIGH CLOSE" (80 / **100** / 150 / 200) stations. Numbers in the parenthesis denote possible  
487 values of the algorithm parameter inside quotation marks, whereas the one in boldface is our  
488 default value (Ensemble member 1 in Table B2). The distance, "NEIGH DIS", is evaluated using  
489 one of the following metrics — **difference correlation (1 diff)**, Pearson's correlation (corr), or  
490 physical distance on the sphere (near). Where difference correlation is the correlation between  
491 month-to-month temperature changes, which minimizes the impact of abrupt breaks in determining  
492 the correlation (Peterson et al. 1998).

493 Before evaluating correlations, temperatures from two stations are masked using the least com-  
494 mon coverage, and seasonal cycles are removed, respectively, by subtracting the mean temperature  
495 in each month over the entire unmasked period. Note that a small sample size could result in  
496 high correlations due to random noise, which is not preferred for station intercomparison. As a  
497 result, stations having fewer than "NUM4COV" (60 / **120** / 180) overlapping months with the target  
498 station are excluded. When evaluating correlations (1 diff and corr), we also exclude stations whose  
499 correlations are smaller than "CORR LIM" (**0.1** / 0.5 / 0.7) with the target station. When using  
500 spherical distance (near), we remove seasonal cycles and do not use the "CORR LIM" parameter.

501 Among eligible neighboring stations, the top "NEIGH FINAL" (20 / **40** / 60 / 80) are first selected.  
502 Our algorithm then loops over the remaining stations in descending order. If adding this station  
503 increases the number of neighbors for any month that has fewer than "MIN STNS" (5 / **7** / 9)  
504 neighbors, the least correlated or the furthest station is replaced. Difference monthly temperature  
505 anomalies between the target station and each selected neighbor are calculated.

#### 506 *2. Perform standard normal homogenization test*

507 For each difference series, we apply an iterative standard normal homogeneity test (SNHT). The  
508 test is performed iteratively between a splitting phase, where the algorithm tests whether each



509 segment of time series contains any further breakpoints, and a merging phase, where the algorithm  
510 combines consecutive segments if the combined time series fail to pass SNHT. This process repeats  
511 until no more breakpoints can be identified or the number of iterations reaches ten.

512 Unlike the PHA<sub>0</sub> algorithm, which uses the 95% confidence level estimated from white noise  
513 series, the revised algorithm uses "SNHT levels" (80%/ **90%** / 95%) estimated from auto-correlated  
514 random series.

515 To estimate updated SNHT thresholds, we first generate n-sample red noise series using an order  
516 one auto-regressive process,  $X_{t+1} = \alpha X_t + \epsilon$ , where  $\alpha$  is the memory of the system, for which we  
517 loop over 0 to 0.4 at an increment of 0.01, and  $n$  is the length of time series that we vary between  
518 5 and 3500. For each combination of  $\alpha$  and  $N$ , 50000 random series are generated and then  
519 normalized to zero mean and unit variance.

520 For each synthetic series, we then calculate lag-1 auto-correlation  $\alpha$  and the SNHT statistics,  
521  $T_0 = \max_{1 \leq v < n} [v\bar{z}_1^2 + (n-v)\bar{z}_2^2]$  (Alexandersson 1986). Here  $\bar{z}_1$  and  $\bar{z}_2$  are, respectively, the mean over  
522 the two periods before and after time step  $v$ , and the calculation loops  $v$  over 1 to  $n-1$  to find the  
523 maximum value. For each  $n$  value, we calculate the revised SNHT threshold as the 80%, 90%, and  
524 95% quantiles of  $T_0$  within 0.1 incremental bins of  $\alpha$ .

525 When performing SNHT using revised thresholds, we first evaluate  $\alpha$  for each difference series  
526 using a sliding window of 100 months, or one third of the time series if shorter than 100 months.  
527 We take the median value of the  $\alpha$  values sampled across the time series.  $\alpha$  is updated in every  
528 splitting phase of SNHT, and windows overlapping with any detected breakpoints are discarded in  
529 the calculation of median values. This method reduces biases in auto-correlation estimates due to  
530 artificial discontinuities. Specific SNHT thresholds not explicitly for a given  $n$  and  $\alpha$  are estimated  
531 using bilinear interpolation (Fig. 3b).

### 532 3. Identify breakpoints rather than trends

533 A check is made as to whether breakpoints identified in step 2 reflect breaks or long-term trends  
534 using a Bayesian Information Criterion approach (BIC; Schwarz 1978). Specifically, for a potential  
535 breakpoint,  $k$ , whose timing is  $t_k$ , we take the two segments on which it centers and calculate the  
536 BIC for seven different models. In addition to the five candidate models tested in Menne and

537 Williams Jr (2009), PHA<sub>1</sub> also tests two other models,

$$y_t = \begin{cases} \mu_1 + k_1 t + \epsilon_t & t_{k-1} < t \leq t_k \\ \mu_2 + \epsilon_t & t_k < t \leq t_{k+1}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{B1})$$

538

$$y_t = \begin{cases} \mu_1 + \epsilon_t & t_{k-1} < t \leq t_k \\ \mu_2 + k_2 t + \epsilon_t & t_k < t \leq t_{k+1}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{B2})$$

539 We fit models using the Theil–Sen estimator (Theil 1950), which uses the median value of slopes  
 540 between every possible pair of data to obtain a robust fitting that is less affected by outliers. After  
 541 fitting each model we calculate BIC following,

$$BIC(p) = -n' \log\left(\frac{SSE}{n'}\right) + \log(n')p, \quad (\text{B3})$$

542 where  $p$  is the number of parameters in a model,  $n'$  is the number of time steps from  $t_{k-1} + 1$  to  
 543  $t_{k+1}$ , and SSE is the sum of squared error for a particular model fit. A breakpoint is confirmed  
 544 if any models other than straight lines has the lowest BIC. Otherwise, we exclude it from further  
 545 analysis. For each confirmed breakpoint, we also record estimates of its normalized magnitude,  
 546  $\hat{m} = (\mu_2 - \mu_1) / \sqrt{SSE / (n' - 1)}$ . Unlike as in PHA<sub>0</sub>, we do not test models containing both a  
 547 break and long-term trends because such a model results in noisier estimates of the magnitude of  
 548 breakpoints (see step 7).

#### 549 4. Attribute breakpoints to stations

550 Breakpoints confirmed in a difference series can be due to breaks in either station involved. As  
 551 a result, we follow PHA<sub>0</sub> to attribute breaks to individual stations using a count-down method  
 552 that prioritizes stations having identifiable breakpoints in step 3 against more neighboring stations.  
 553 This procedure is performed across all time steps. Specifically, at time step  $t$ , we count the number  
 554 of neighbors,  $\tilde{n}$ , with which a particular station shows a break. When two breaks involve stations  
 555 that are mutually targets and neighbors, we exclude one of them to avoid double counting.

556 After forming a list of breakpoint counts, we find the station and the timing having the highest  
 557 count and associate it with the breakpoint. The counts of neighboring stations that were originally

558 associated with this breakpoint at this timing are decreased by one. Furthermore, the count of the  
559 station originally having the highest count is decreased by  $\tilde{n}$  in order to facilitate finding the next  
560 highest count. The procedure is repeated until no count is greater than one, reflecting the fact that  
561 we require two neighboring stations at a time step to confirm a target as the source of a break.

## 562 *5. Combine near-in-time breakpoints*

563 Although breakpoints are assigned to individual stations, the identified timing maybe uncer-  
564 tain. We, therefore, combine near-in-time breakpoints to account for timing errors. (Menne and  
565 Williams Jr 2009) estimated the timing error by realizing 100-sample random time series with  
566 breakpoints of different magnitudes added at the 50th time step. They performed SNHT to each of  
567 the synthetic series and calculated the error of the timing of identified breakpoints, which decreases  
568 with the magnitude of breaks. Although timing error would depends on autocorrelation, we keep  
569 its estimation to be the same as Menne and Williams Jr (2009) for simplicity.

570 For each station, each attributed breakpoint is assigned with an epoch, whose length is the 90%  
571 / **92%** / 95% interval of timing error, "AMPLOC PCT". Breakpoints whose confidence intervals  
572 overlap within a particular station record are combined together. Starting from the breakpoint that  
573 has the largest absolute magnitude, we combine all breakpoints whose epoch overlap with that of  
574 the selected breakpoint. The process the continues with selecting the largest magnitude among  
575 uncombined breakpoints until no further combinations are possible.

## 576 *6. Estimate adjustment magnitudes*

577 Steps 1–5 identify a collection of undocumented breakpoints in a network of temperature series,  
578 which is then used to estimate required adjustments. The same as PHA<sub>0</sub>, we adjust the combined  
579 effect when breakpoints cluster within "ADJ MINLIN" (12 / **24** / 36) months.

580 We estimate the required adjustments for each breakpoint independently. Taking breakpoint  $k$   
581 for station  $S$  as an example, we first subset the time interval  $t_{k-1} + 1$  to  $t_{k+1}$ . If a neighbor of station  
582  $S$  does not contain any breaks during this interval, we then use the corresponding difference series  
583 from  $t_{k-1} + 1$  to  $t_{k+1}$  to estimate the magnitude using the change point model in step 3 that has  
584 the lowest BIC for this breakpoint. If a neighbor contains breakpoints, but none are within "ADJ  
585 WINDOW" (**6** / 12 / 24 / 36) months before and after the target break, we estimate an adjustment

586 using the difference series from the neighbor's last break before the target and the first break after.  
587 Otherwise, no adjustments are estimated. Looping over all neighbors results in a collection of  
588 estimated adjustments. The method then can choose whether or not to trim, "ADJ OUTLIER" (0 /  
589 1), these estimates using a Tukey method (Tukey 1977). The Tukey method first finds the median  
590 ( $Q_2$ ) and the first ( $Q_1$ ) and third quartiles ( $Q_3$ ). It then trims off all samples that are smaller than  
591  $Q_1 - k(Q_2 - Q_1)$  or larger than  $Q_3 + k(Q_3 - Q_2)$ , where  $k = 1.64$ , a value used by Williams et al.  
592 (2012). If more than "ADJ MINPAIR" (2 / 3 / 4 / 5) samples remain, another Tukey method is  
593 applied to these remaining samples. If  $Q_1 - k(Q_2 - Q_1)$  and  $Q_3 + k(Q_3 - Q_2)$  are of the same sign,  
594 we use "ADJ EST" (median / mean / average of the 25% and 75% quartiles) as the final adjustment.  
595 Otherwise, this breakpoint is discarded. The estimation of adjustments runs two times, with the  
596 first time discarding unadjustable breaks, and the second time estimating adjustments using only  
597 adjustable breaks. Following  $PHA_0$ ,  $PHA_1$  also adjusts temperature series relative to values in the  
598 ending period.

### 599 7. Iterate

600 Step 1-6 removes heterogeneity in a network of station temperatures. Whereas the original  
601 algorithm only runs one iteration, the revised algorithm allows for running multiple iterations,  
602 and the new iteration simply starts from adjusted temperatures in the last iteration. Empirically,  
603 running two iterations would be sufficient, because the third iteration only leads to minor changes  
604 (see section 4).

Table B1. Parameters in the revised algorithm. Except for the first three rows, other parameters are identical to those in Williams et al. (2012).

Parameter	Meaning
ADJ EST	Methods to determine adjustments from multiple pairwise estimates
ADJ MINLEN	Minimum length of data period that can be adjusted
ADJ MINPAIR	Minimum number of non-problematic neighbors to estimate adjustments
ADJ OUTLIER	Whether trim breakpoint magnitude estimate before calculate mean values
ADJ WINDOW	Minimum number of months on two sides of breakpoints to estimate adjustments
AMPLOC PCT	Confidence window used to conflate breakpoints
BIC PENALTY	Regulation approach when fitting seven change-point models
CONFIRM	Number of neighbors required to confirm a breakpoint
CORR LIM	Minimum correlation to be identified as a neighbor
MIN STNS	Minimum number neighbors with coincident data
NEIGH CLOSE	Maximum number of neighboring series to consider
NEIGH CORR	Similarity matrix used for ranking neighbors
NEIGH FINAL	Final (maximum) number of neighbors per station
SNHT THRES	Confidence level of the standard normal homogeneous test (SNHT)

Table B2. Parameters in individual ensemble members. Member 1 is the parameter combination for the original algorithm, whose values are from Williams et al. (2012). Member 2–99 form randomly perturbing PHA parameters.

En. No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ADJ EST	Med	Avg	Qavg	Avg	Med	Qavg	Med	Qavg	Med	Med	Qavg	Med	Qavg
ADJ MINLEN	18	18	18	24	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	24	24
ADJ MINPAIR	2	4	4	4	2	5	5	4	5	2	5	3	3
ADJ OUTLIER	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
ADJ WINDOW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMPLOC PCT	92	95	92	90	95	95	95	92	95	92	90	90	92
BIC PENALTY	BIC	none	BIC	BIC	BIC	none	AIC	none	AIC	BIC	none	none	none
CONFIRM	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	3	3
CORR LIM	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5
MIN STNS	7	7	7	9	9	5	7	5	9	9	5	9	7
NEIGH CLOSE	100	80	80	80	100	100	100	200	150	100	200	150	80
NEIGH CORR	1diff	1diff	near	1diff	1diff	near	near	1diff	near	near	near	1diff	near
NEIGH FINAL	40	20	20	20	20	40	20	20	40	40	40	40	20
SNHT THRES	95	97.5	97.5	97.5	95	90	90	90	97.5	95	90	95	95
En. No.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
ADJ EST	Qavg	Qavg	Avg	Avg	Med	Qavg	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Med	Qavg	Avg	Avg
ADJ MINLEN	24	24	18	24	24	18	18	24	24	24	18	18	18
ADJ MINPAIR	4	4	2	5	2	2	5	3	2	3	5	4	2
ADJ OUTLIER	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
ADJ WINDOW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120
AMPLOC PCT	90	95	95	92	95	92	95	90	90	95	90	92	92
BIC PENALTY	none	AIC	BIC	AIC	BIC	none	none	BIC	none	BIC	AIC	AIC	none
CONFIRM	3	3	3	4	4	2	4	2	4	3	5	5	2
CORR LIM	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
MIN STNS	5	7	5	7	9	9	5	9	7	7	9	9	7
NEIGH CLOSE	150	100	150	80	80	200	200	200	150	100	150	80	200
NEIGH CORR	near	near	1diff	1diff	near	1diff	near	corr	1diff	near	1diff	near	1diff
NEIGH FINAL	40	40	20	40	60	40	40	20	60	20	80	60	20
SNHT THRES	95	90	95	95	95	95	97.5	90	95	97.5	90	95	97.5
En. No.	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
ADJ EST	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Avg	Qavg	Med	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Med	Qavg	Med	Qavg
ADJ MINLEN	24	18	24	18	18	18	18	36	18	18	36	36	24
ADJ MINPAIR	5	5	3	4	5	4	4	2	2	5	4	4	2
ADJ OUTLIER	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
ADJ WINDOW	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMPLOC PCT	92	92	92	92	95	95	92	90	92	95	92	95	90
BIC PENALTY	none	AIC	AIC	AIC	AIC	BIC	BIC	AIC	BIC	BIC	AIC	BIC	none
CONFIRM	3	5	5	3	2	3	4	2	5	3	2	2	3
CORR LIM	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5
MIN STNS	5	5	9	7	5	7	9	9	7	7	7	9	9
NEIGH CLOSE	200	100	80	200	150	100	100	200	150	100	200	200	200
NEIGH CORR	corr	near	corr	corr	1diff	1diff	near	near	1diff	corr	1diff	1diff	near
NEIGH FINAL	40	80	80	60	20	60	80	20	80	40	20	20	80
SNHT THRES	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	95	90	90	95	90	97.5	90	97.5	95
En. No.	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
ADJ EST	Qavg	Med	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Avg	Med	Med	Avg	Med	Avg
ADJ MINLEN	24	24	24	36	36	24	24	18	18	24	18	18	24
ADJ MINPAIR	4	4	3	3	4	2	5	3	5	5	5	4	5
ADJ OUTLIER	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
ADJ WINDOW	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	120	0	120	120	0
AMPLOC PCT	95	92	95	92	90	92	90	92	95	92	95	90	95
BIC PENALTY	none	AIC	BIC	AIC	AIC	none	AIC	AIC	BIC	BIC	BIC	none	none
CONFIRM	5	4	3	3	2	2	4	5	3	5	4	2	2
CORR LIM	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5
MIN STNS	5	9	5	7	7	5	5	7	7	7	9	5	7
NEIGH CLOSE	200	150	150	100	80	100	80	100	80	200	200	80	200
NEIGH CORR	1diff	1diff	near	1diff	corr	near	1diff	corr	1diff	corr	1diff	near	corr
NEIGH FINAL	40	80	80	40	20	40	80	60	20	60	40	40	60
SNHT THRES	95	90	95	95	90	97.5	90	97.5	90	95	90	97.5	97.5

Table B2. Continue.

En. No.	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
ADJ EST	Med	Qavg	Med	Qavg	Avg	Med	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Avg	Qavg	Qavg
ADJ MINLEN	36	36	36	24	36	18	18	36	36	36	24	36	36
ADJ MINPAIR	3	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	4	3	5	5	4
ADJ OUTLIER	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
ADJ WINDOW	120	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	120	0	0
AMPLOC PCT	95	92	95	95	95	92	92	92	92	92	95	90	95
BIC PENALTY	AIC	AIC	BIC	AIC	none	BIC	AIC	AIC	BIC	none	BIC	none	AIC
CONFIRM	2	2	3	2	4	5	2	3	2	3	4	4	3
CORR LIM	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
MIN STNS	9	5	7	7	7	7	9	9	5	5	5	9	7
NEIGH CLOSE	100	200	100	80	100	80	150	150	150	100	80	200	80
NEIGH CORR	near	1diff	1diff	1diff	near	corr	1diff	near	corr	1diff	1diff	1diff	1diff
NEIGH FINAL	20	80	40	80	60	60	40	60	40	60	60	60	20
SNHT THRES	97.5	97.5	97.5	90	90	90	90	90	97.5	90	90	95	97.5
En. No.	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
ADJ EST	Qavg	Med	Med	Med	Avg	Med	Med	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Avg
ADJ MINLEN	24	36	36	36	18	18	36	24	36	36	36	18	36
ADJ MINPAIR	3	3	5	5	2	2	5	4	2	2	3	5	3
ADJ OUTLIER	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
ADJ WINDOW	120	120	0	0	120	120	0	0	120	0	0	120	0
AMPLOC PCT	92	92	95	95	90	90	95	92	95	95	95	90	90
BIC PENALTY	BIC	none	none	BIC	BIC	AIC	AIC	none	none	BIC	AIC	AIC	none
CONFIRM	4	2	5	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	4
CORR LIM	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
MIN STNS	7	9	7	5	7	9	9	9	9	5	7	9	5
NEIGH CLOSE	80	80	150	80	80	80	150	80	200	150	200	80	150
NEIGH CORR	near	1diff	near	near	near	corr	1diff	near	1diff	corr	near	corr	corr
NEIGH FINAL	40	20	80	80	60	60	60	80	40	40	80	20	40
SNHT THRES	97.5	90	90	95	90	97.5	95	90	97.5	90	90	95	95
En. No.	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
ADJ EST	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Qavg	Med	Med	Med	Med	Qavg	Avg
ADJ MINLEN	18	24	36	18	24	18	18	18	18	24	24	18	24
ADJ MINPAIR	5	2	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	2	3	2	2
ADJ OUTLIER	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
ADJ WINDOW	120	120	0	60	120	120	0	120	120	120	0	60	120
AMPLOC PCT	95	92	92	90	90	92	95	95	95	95	90	95	95
BIC PENALTY	none	BIC	BIC	BIC	none	BIC	none	AIC	BIC	none	AIC	none	AIC
CONFIRM	5	4	3	2	5	3	4	5	5	5	4	2	5
CORR LIM	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.1
MIN STNS	9	5	7	5	5	9	7	5	5	5	5	7	9
NEIGH CLOSE	150	100	200	100	80	80	150	80	80	100	150	100	80
NEIGH CORR	1diff	1diff	near	near	1diff	corr	1diff	near	1diff	corr	near	1diff	1diff
NEIGH FINAL	60	80	80	20	60	60	20	40	60	80	20	20	80
SNHT THRES	95	97.5	90	90	97.5	95	95	97.5	97.5	95	97.5	90	97.5
En. No.	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100				
ADJ EST	Qavg	Med	Avg	Med	Qavg	Qavg	Med	Med	Med				
ADJ MINLEN	24	18	24	18	36	18	36	18	36				
ADJ MINPAIR	5	2	4	3	4	5	4	2	2				
ADJ OUTLIER	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0				
ADJ WINDOW	0	120	60	60	120	120	0	120	120				
AMPLOC PCT	95	92	95	90	90	95	95	90	92				
BIC PENALTY	none	none	BIC	BIC	BIC	BIC	BIC	BIC	none				
CONFIRM	4	5	2	2	2	2	4	2	4				
CORR LIM	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.1				
MIN STNS	5	5	9	9	5	5	9	9	5				
NEIGH CLOSE	150	200	200	100	150	100	80	150	80				
NEIGH CORR	near	1diff	1diff	1diff	1diff	1diff	1diff	1diff	1diff				
NEIGH FINAL	20	80	20	20	80	80	40	80	40				
SNHT THRES	95	95	95	97.5	97.5	95	90	90	90				

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