

# **The Japanese 55-year Reanalysis “JRA-55”: General Specifications and Basic Characteristics**

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The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) conducted the second Japanese global atmospheric reanalysis, called the Japanese 55-year Reanalysis or JRA-55. It covers the period starting in 1958, when regular radiosonde observations began on a global basis. JRA-55 is the first comprehensive reanalysis that has covered the last half century since the ERA-40 reanalysis, and is the first one to apply four-dimensional variational analysis (4D-Var) to this period. The main objectives were to address issues found in previous reanalyses and to produce a comprehensive atmospheric dataset suitable for studies of multidecadal variability and climate change.

This presentation is a brief introduction to the observations, the data assimilation and prediction system used in JRA-55 and the basic characteristics of the JRA-55 product.