Hypothesis: Reforecasts from May ICs are influenced more strongly by initial shock than Feb ICs leading to reduced prediction skill for Indian summer monsoon rainfall (ISMR)

Conclusions:
1. A fundamental difference between predictability runs and reforecasts is that the latter are strongly influenced by the model climate drift, including the initial shock, while those influences are practically absent in the former.
2. This analysis supports the hypothesis that the stronger influence of the initial shock in the NCEP CFSv2 hindcasts with May initial states, particularly over the Arabian Sea, inhibits prediction skill for the Indian monsoon, in comparison to those with February initial states.

Implications for Observations:
1. Initialization shock stems from model error and insufficient observations, primarily of the upper ocean, to constrain initial conditions. Addressing the first will require improved parameterizations of processes controlling tropical circulation and convection.
2. Also need more complete and accurate observations of the upper Indian Ocean and surface fluxes.