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ATMO 529

I chose a very simple data set that is used very often in my own research as well as many other tropical researchers. I picked the NHC best track data set from the tropical cyclone reports, which can be found at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pastall.shtml. The best tracks for an entire season can be found by entering the year for either the Atlantic or the eastern Pacific basin. Then there is a list of all tropical disturbances and named storms that reached tropical depression (TD) status (closed surface circulation with winds exceeding 33 kts) or greater. Each storm has its own Tropical Cyclone Report containing a summary of the system, the large scale pattern during its existence, and other distinct features of that particular disturbance including 6 hourly observations of latitude, longitude, central pressure, wind speed, and stage of the storm (e.g. - TD, tropical storm, hurricane). Best track data is available for all storms from 1995, to the present online, and it is available for 1958-1994 as scanned images of the original tropical reports. At this site there are also many sources of data associated with the development of these storms, such as: seasonal climatology of the basin, an aircraft reconnaissance archive, a US landfall archive, and many others summaries and groupings of tropical disturbances.