



Fig. 1. Time evolution of NINO3.4 forecasts up to 12 lead months by the Markov model initiated monthly up to November 2004. Shown in each panel are the forecasts grouped by three consecutive starting months: (a) is for December, January and February, (b) is for March, April and May, (c) is for June, July and August and (d) is for September, October and November. The observed NINO3.4 SST anomalies are shown in the heavy-dashed lines.