



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

Lab session on seasonal forecasting

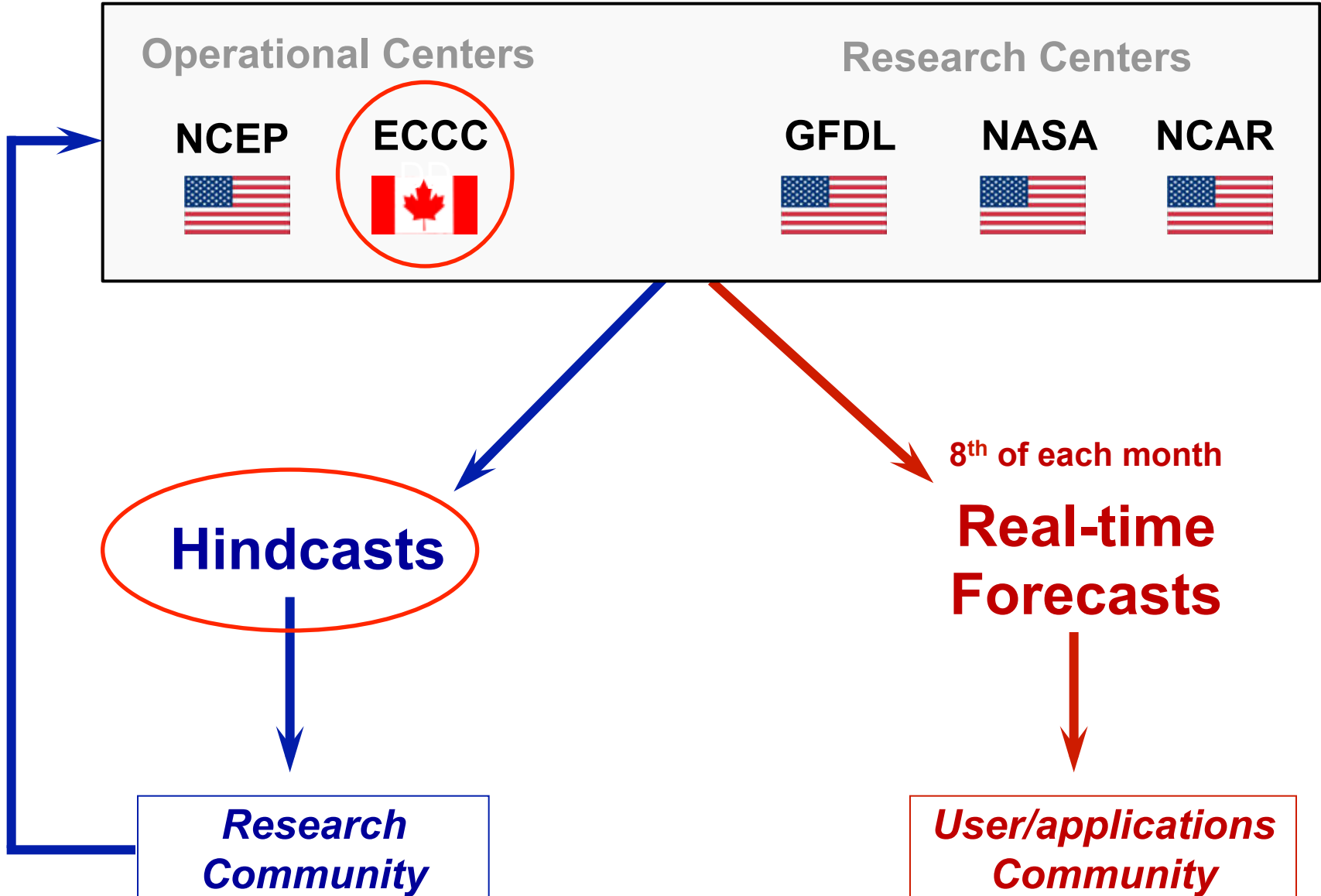
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Overview

- This lab will consider ensemble hindcast data from a multi-model forecast system: the Canadian Seasonal to Interannual Prediction System (CanSIPS)
- CanSIPS combines forecasts from two models, CanCM3 and CanCM4, which contribute to the WMO, APCC and NMME ensembles
- Instead of working with 2-dimensional forecast fields, this lab will consider **indices** representing SST or precipitation averaged over various regions

NMME





The Canadian models

The Canadian Seasonal to Interannual Prediction System (CanSIPS)

- Developed at CCCma
- Operational at CMC since Dec 2011
- 2 models CanCM3/4, 10 ensemble members each
- Hindcast verification period = 1981-2010
- Forecast range = 12 months
- Forecasts initialized at the start of every month



CanSIPS Models

CanCM3

CanCM4

CanAM3 *Atmospheric model*

- T63/L31 ($\approx 2.8^\circ$ spectral grid)
- Deep convection scheme of Zhang & McFarlane (1995)
- No shallow conv scheme
- Also called AGCM3

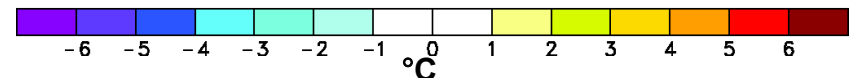
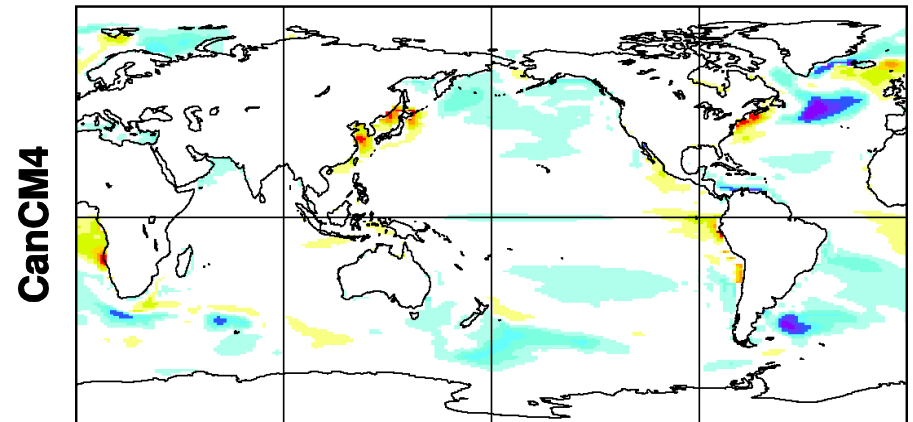
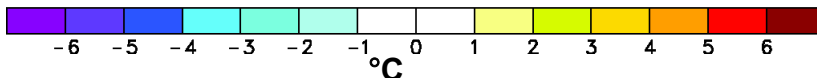
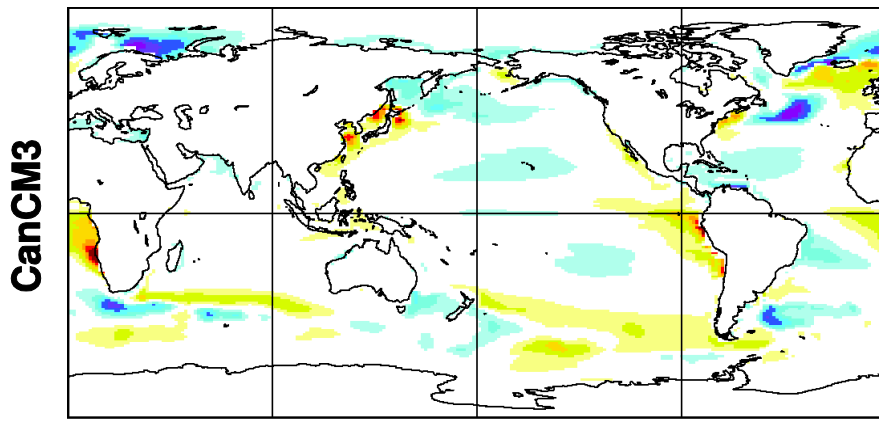
CanOM4 *Ocean model*

- $1.41^\circ \times 0.94^\circ \times L40$
- GM stirring, aniso visc
- KPP+tidal mixing
- Subsurface solar heating climatological chlorophyll

CanAM4 *Atmospheric model*

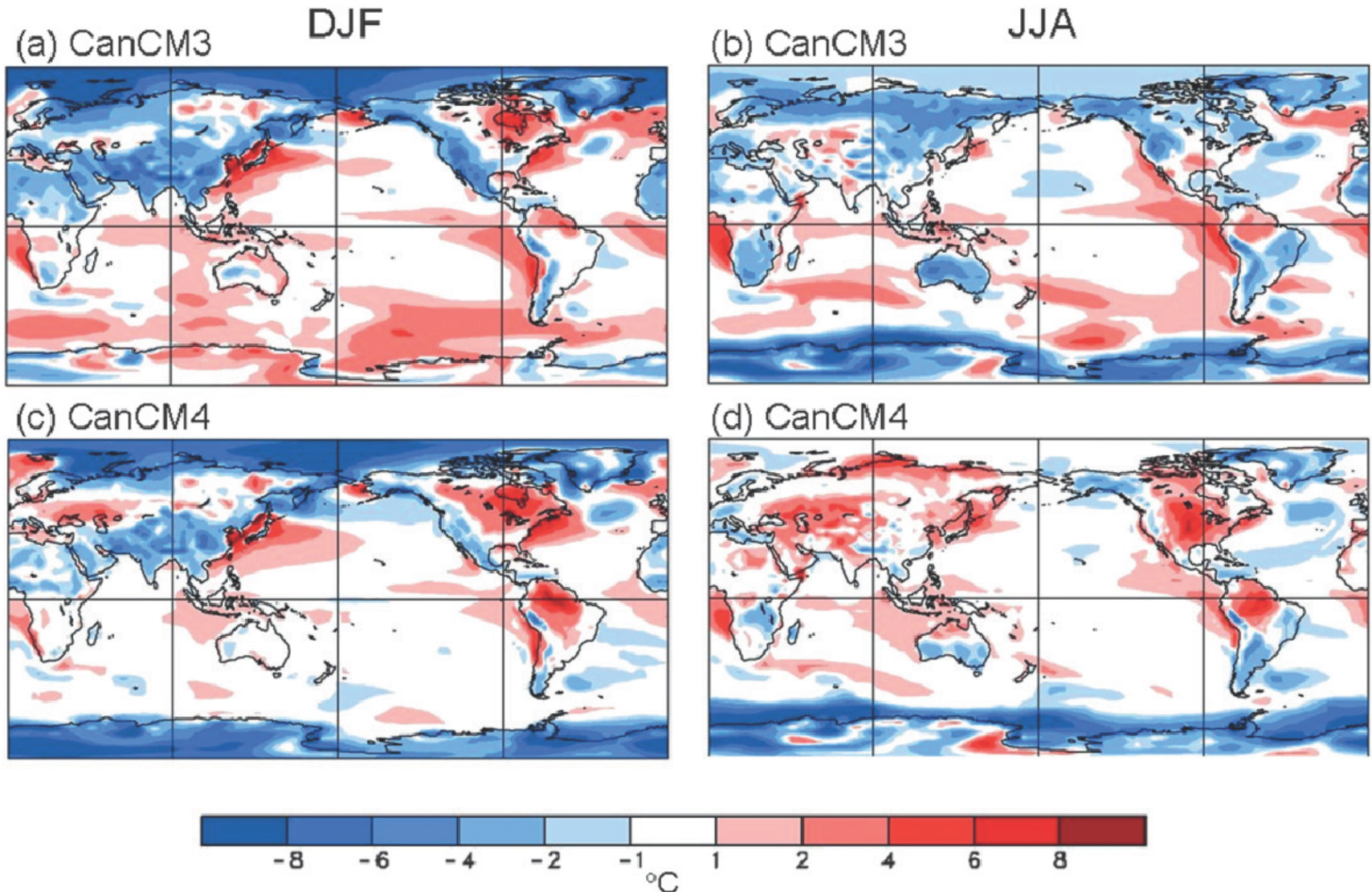
- T63/L35 ($\approx 2.8^\circ$ spectral grid)
- Deep conv as in CanCM3
- Shallow conv as per von Salzen & McFarlane (2002)
- Improved radiation, aerosols

SST bias vs obs (OISST 1982-2009)



CanSIPS model temperature biases

Biases of freely running models relative to ERA-Interim reanalysis 1981-2010



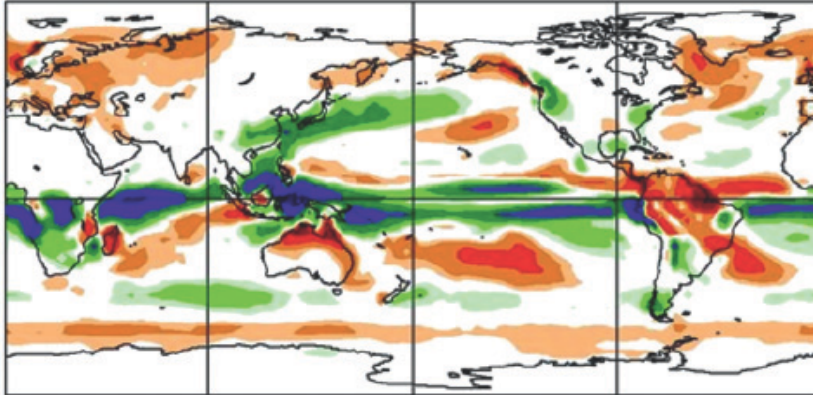
CanSIPS model precipitation biases

Biases of freely running models relative to GPCP2.1 1981-2010

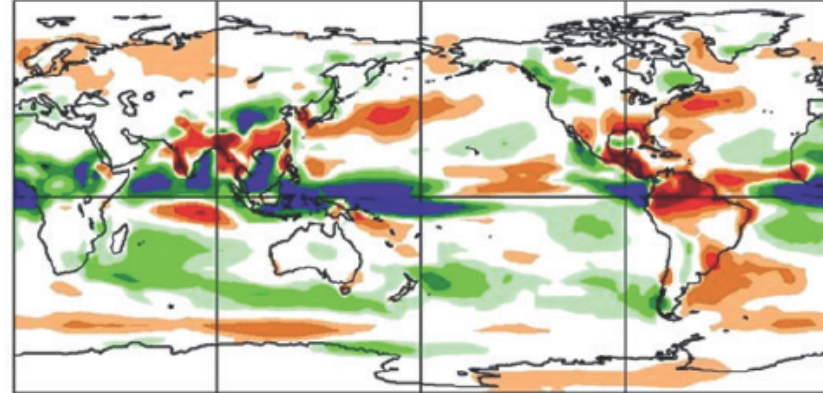
DJF

JJA

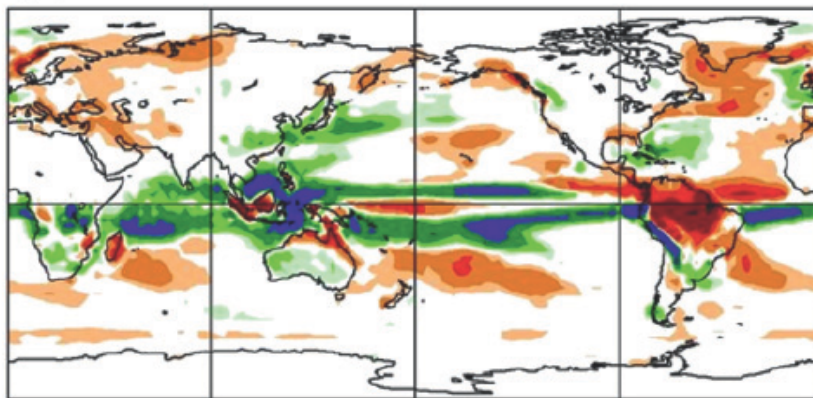
(c) CanCM3 bias



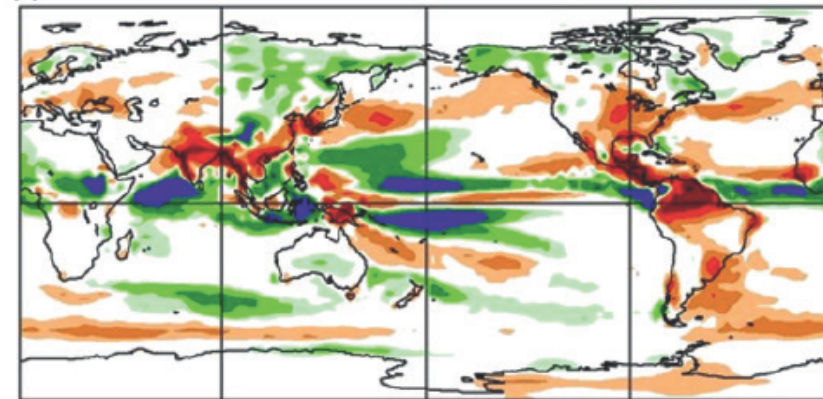
(d) CanCM3 bias



(e) CanCM4 bias

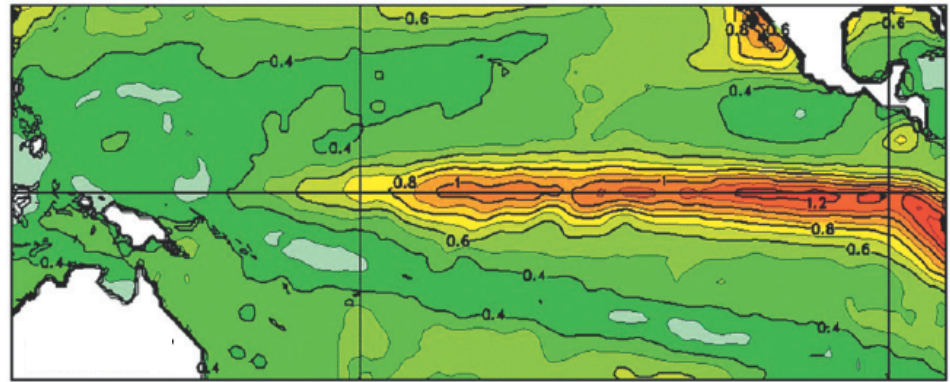


(f) CanCM4 bias



ENSO variability in models

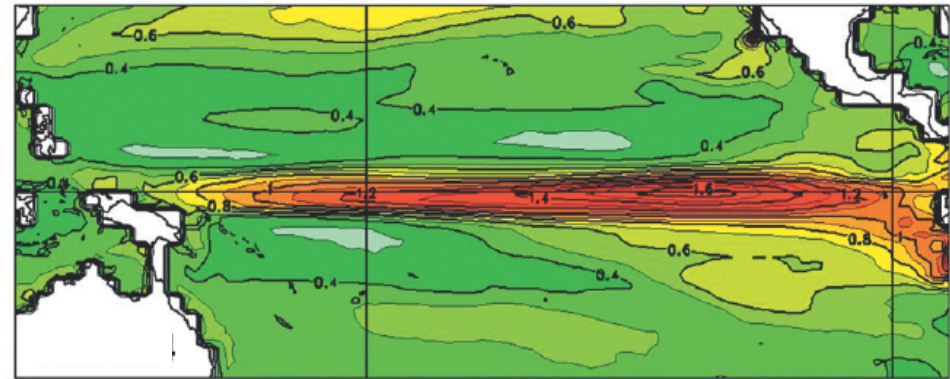
HadISST 1970-99
observed



CanSIPS / CanCM3
ENSO too weak



CanSIPS / CanCM4
ENSO too strong





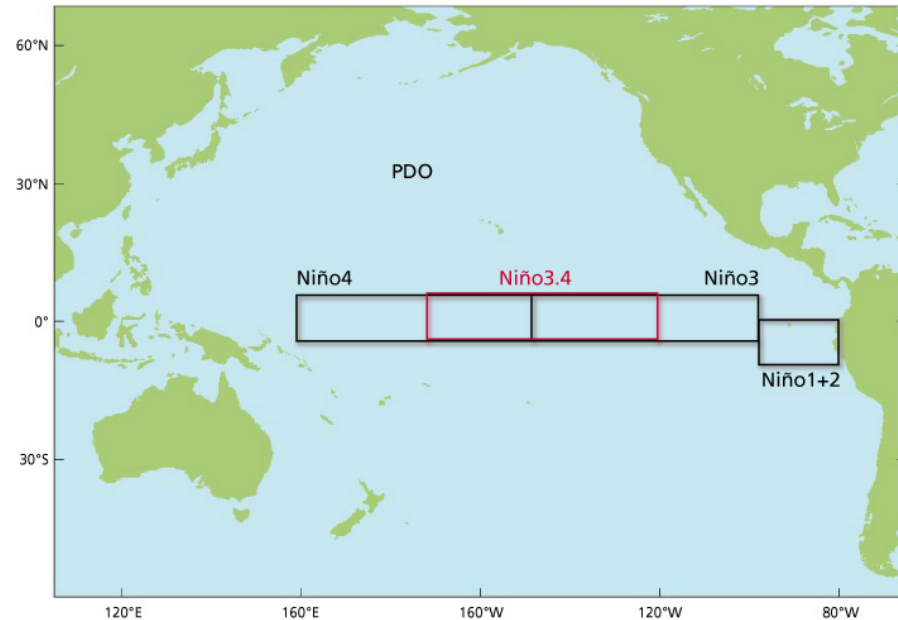
SST and precipitation indices

SST indices

http://ioc-goos-oopc.org/state_of_the_ocean/sur/

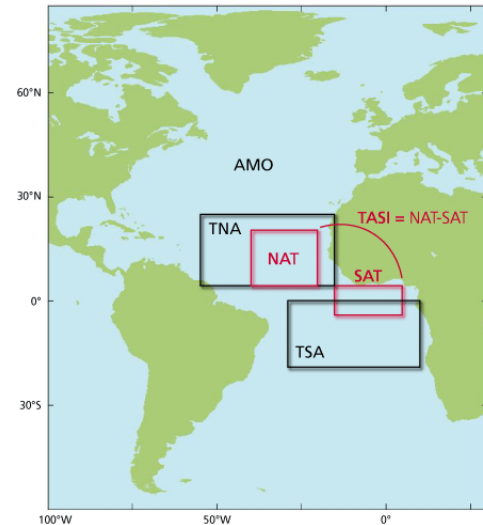
Pacific :

1. *Niño1+2* : SST Anomalies in the box 90°W - 80°W, 10°S - 0°.
2. *Niño3* : SST Anomalies in the box 150°W - 90°W, 5°S - 5°N.
3. *Niño4* : SST Anomalies in the box 160°E - 150°W, 5°S - 5°N
4. *Niño3.4* : SST Anomalies in the box 170°W - 120°W, 5°S - 5°N
5. *PDO* : Pacific Decadal Oscillation (EOF based)
6. *El Niño Modoki Index (EMI)*



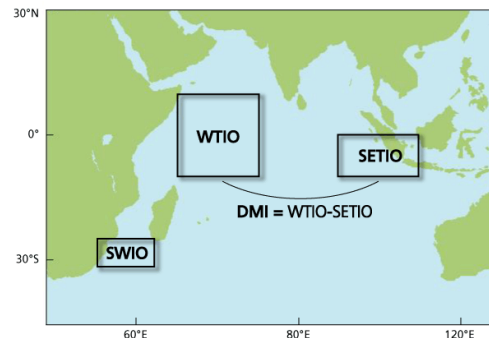
Atlantic :

1. *North Atlantic Tropical SST index(NAT)* ;
SST anomalies in the box 40°W - 20°W, 5°N - 20°N.
2. *South Atlantic Tropical SST index(SAT)*
SST anomalies in the box 15°W - 5°E, 5°S - 5°N.
3. *TASI = NAT – SAT*
4. *Tropical Northern Atlantic index(TNA)*
SST anomalies in the box 55°W - 15°W, 5°N -25°N.
5. *Tropical Southern Atlantic index(TSA)*
SST anomalies in the box 30°W - 10°E, 20°S - EQ.

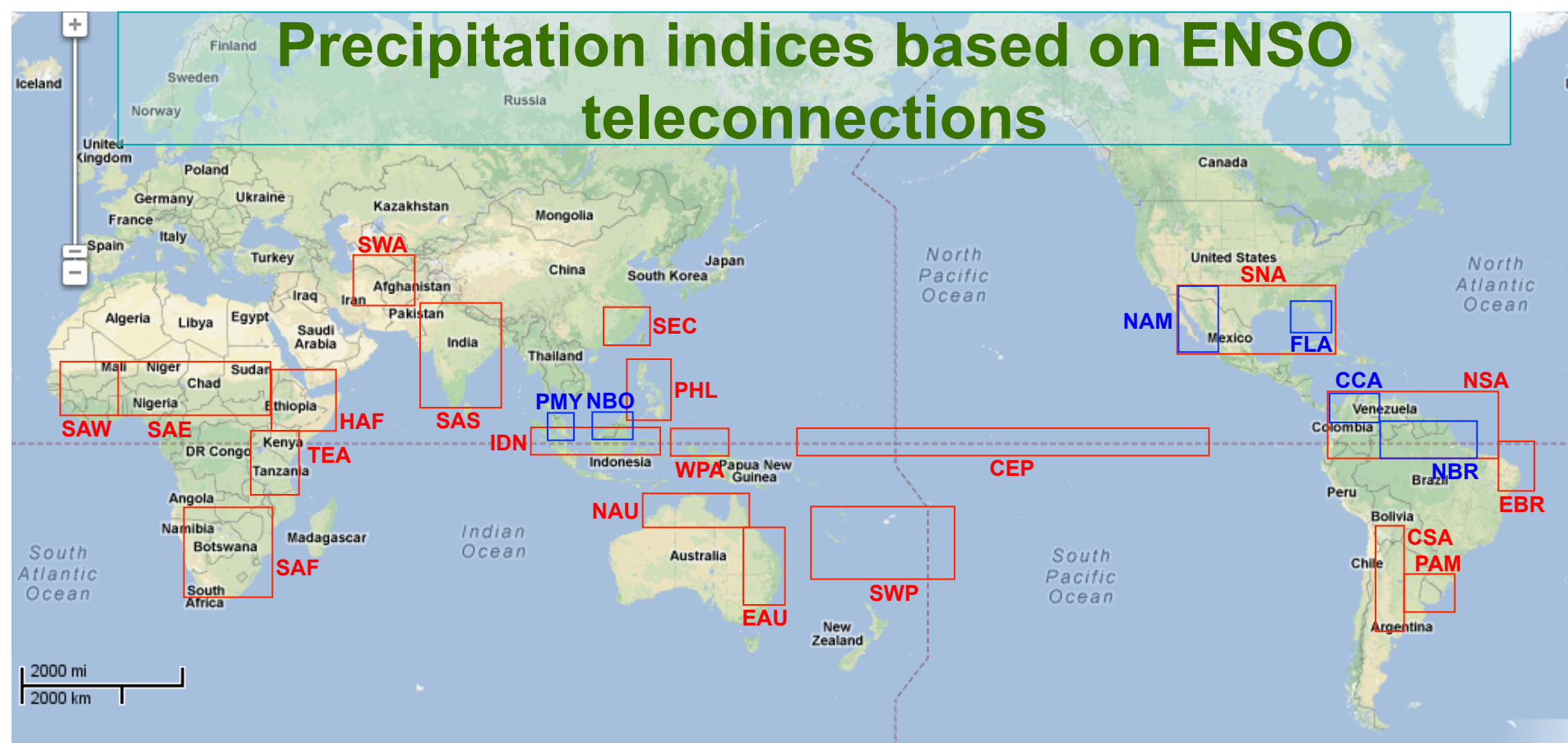


Indian Ocean :

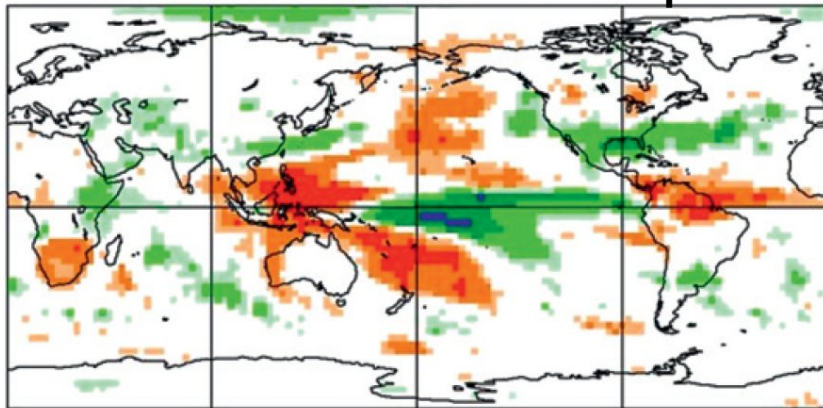
1. *Western Tropical Indian Ocean SST index (WTIO)*
: SST anomalies in the box 50°E - 70°E, 10°S - 10°N
2. *Southeastern Tropical Indian Ocean SST index(SETIO)*
: SST anomalies in the box 90°E - 110°E, 10°S - 0°
3. *South Western Indian Ocean SST index(SWIO)*
: SST anomalies in the box 31°E - 45°E, 32°S - 25°S
4. *Indian Ocean Dipole Mode Index (IOD)*
: WTIO - SETIO



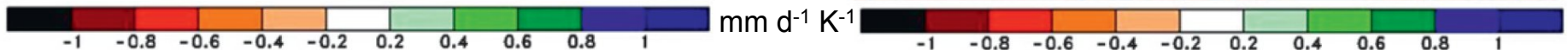
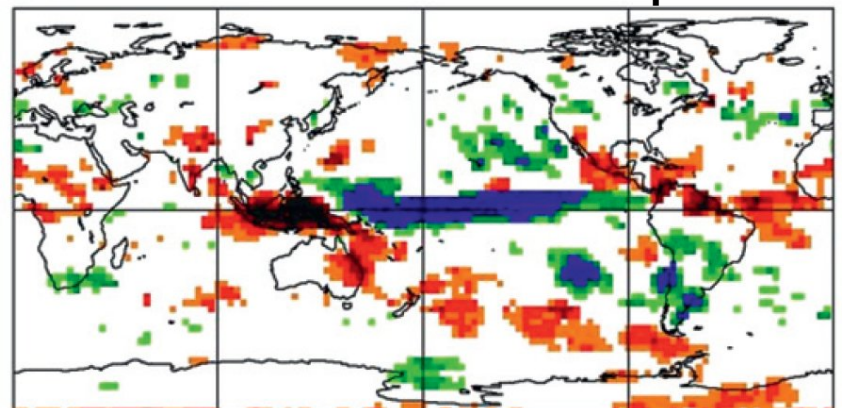
Precipitation indices based on ENSO teleconnections



Observed DJF teleconnection pattern



Observed JJA teleconnection pattern





Data structure

Overview of data

- Data for each of the 15 SST and 28 precipitation indices is available in four formats:
 - full values, ascii format
 - anomalies, ascii format
 - full values, csv format
 - anomalies, csv format
- Observed values are also available, based on
 - NCEP OISSTv2 for SST
 - GPCP2.2 for precipitation
- Data is in the form of **seasonal means**: JFM, FMA, ... DJF

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- Data is in the form of **seasonal means**: JFM, FMA, ... DJF
- Data can be loaded from USB device or downloaded by ftp at

ftp://ftp.cccma.ec.gc.ca/pub/bmerryfield/ICTP_SCHOOL

File structure

- Each **forecast** file contains, for a particular index,
 - data for all seasons JFM...DJF
 - data for all lead times 0...9 months (months 1/2/3...10/11/12 of forecast)
 - for each lead time, data for all years 1981...2010
 - for each year, values for 10 ensemble members for each of the two models
- Each **observation** file contains, for a particular index,
 - data for all seasons JFM...DJF
 - for each season, observed values for all years 1981...2010

File names

- **SST forecast** files, for example for nino34 index, are named
 - canm3_canm4_seas_full_1981_2010_sst_nino34.dat (full values & anomalies, ascii)
 - canm3_canm4_seas_anom_1981_2010_sst_nino34.dat
 - canm3_canm4_seas_full_1981_2010_sst_nino34.csv (full values & anomalies, csv)
 - canm3_canm4_seas_anom_1981_2010_sst_nino34.csv
- **SST observation** files, again for nino3.4, are named
 - oisst_seas_full_1981_2010_sst_nino34.dat
 - oisst_seas_anom_1981_2010_sst_nino34.dat
 - oisst_seas_full_1981_2010_sst_nino34.csv
 - oisst_seas_anom_1981_2010_sst_nino34.csv
- **Precipitation forecast** files, for example for sae index, are named
 - chfp2dc_seas_full_198101_201101_pcp_sae.dat
 - chfp2dc_seas_anom_198101_201101_pcp_sae.dat
 - chfp2dc_seas_full_198101_201101_pcp_sae.csv
 - chfp2dc_seas_anom_198101_201101_pcp_sae.csv
- **Precipitation observation** files, again for sae index, are named
 - gpcp2.2_seas_full_198101_201101_pcp_cca.dat
 - gpcp2.2_seas_anom_198101_201101_pcp_cca.dat
 - gpcp2.2_seas_full_198101_201101_pcp_cca.csv
 - gpcp2.2_seas_anom_198101_201101_pcp_cca.csv

Forecast file contents

- SST forecast files**

Season 1...12 (1=JFM, 2=FMA ... 12=DJF)

Lead time 0...9 months

CanCM3 ensemble members 1-10

CanCM4 ensemble members 1-10

1	0																				
1981		.20	.26	.23	.06	.15	.22	.25	-.01	.18	.05	.35	.12	.28	.15	.10	.05	.27	.01	.06	.07
1982		.16	.17	.11	.04	.16	.00	.04	.13	.05	.09	.20	.50	.18	.36	.50	.26	.26	.29	.44	.18
1983		1.95	1.80	1.94	1.78	1.78	2.02	1.85	1.87	1.76	1.82	2.39	2.62	2.31	2.48	2.49	2.32	2.44	2.60	2.48	2.41
1984		-.81	-.74	-.72	-.70	-.84	-.96	-.84	-.49	-.72	-1.09	-1.66	-1.58	-1.75	-1.77	-1.61	-1.24	-1.22	-1.31	-1.21	-1.23
...																					
2009		-.34	-.30	-.37	-.73	-.55	-.52	-.53	-.49	-.52	-.81	-.65	-1.01	-.95	-.90	-1.05	-.91	-1.10	-.92	-.79	-.97
2010		1.38	1.14	1.21	1.26	1.07	1.11	1.20	1.13	1.19	1.16	1.65	1.39	1.51	1.53	1.55	1.51	1.63	1.66	1.49	.86
2	0																				
1981		-.01	-.16	-.08	.03	-.08	-.16	-.16	.01	.06	-.18	.05	.15	.13	.02	.06	-.15	-.02	.10	-.02	-.13
1982		.17	.33	.15	.15	.26	.27	.22	.23	.23	.17	.58	.58	.55	.42	.45	.41	.64	.65	.45	.44
1983		1.47	1.53	1.29	1.18	1.37	1.29	1.38	1.27	1.34	1.29	1.57	1.57	1.56	1.47	1.59	1.65	1.48	1.49	1.70	1.73
...																					
2009		1.31	1.34	1.44	1.33	1.31	1.37	1.26	1.35	1.45	1.46	1.92	1.94	2.03	1.82	1.96	1.68	1.99	1.89	1.83	1.81
2010		-1.49	-1.91	-1.39	-1.18	-1.44	-1.82	-1.48	-1.66	-1.36	-1.62	-2.61	-2.16	-2.12	-2.31	-2.31	-2.09	-1.98	-2.28	-2.06	-2.49
1	1																				
1981		.05	.33	.00	.27	.21	.30	-.03	.15	.30	.03	-.08	.00	.14	-.13	-.01	-.09	.16	.03	.20	.15
1982		1.53	1.74	1.62	1.77	1.72	1.91	1.51	1.55	1.65	1.55	2.78	2.56	2.85	2.90	2.56	2.93	2.74	2.77	2.64	2.46
1983		-.60	-.47	-.76	-.86	-.81	-.68	-.74	-.58	-.98	-.61	-1.33	-1.49	-1.81	-1.37	-1.75	-1.54	-1.38	-1.25	-1.80	-1.01
...																					
2009		.96	1.78	.98	.88	2.32	1.35	-.29	1.86	1.56	1.07	.54	.21	-.45	.61	.30	1.40	1.06	-.03	1.52	.58
2010		-.61	-2.14	.45	-.83	-1.01	-.74	-.74	1.86	1.56	1.07	-.54	-.21	.45	-.61	-.30	-1.40	-1.06	.03	-1.52	-.58
12	9																				
1981		.96	.76	.84	.25	-.67	.42	1.34	1.90	.20	-.09	-.67	.89	-.05	.77	-.87	.35	-.25	-.32	-.22	1.02
1982		1.41	1.15	1.62	.97	2.46	1.45	.97	.75	1.58	.70	1.39	2.23	2.01	1.46	2.40	1.16	1.03	1.26	-.59	.39
1983		-1.80	-1.64	-1.15	-1.85	-1.27	-.73	-2.30	-.95	-.99	-.40	-.69	-.06	-2.01	-.93	-1.04	-.92	-1.47	.18	-1.48	-2.32
...																					
2008		-.31	1.54	.98	1.09	.67	.67	.70	.26	1.64	1.51	-.57	-.23	-.77	-1.48	-.17	.34	-1.36	-.64	-.24	1.11
2009		1.57	.56	.62	-.03	.14	-.50	.87	1.27	.69	1.01	1.02	1.16	1.10	1.21	.97	.15	-1.13	.07	-.24	.18
2010		-1.67	-.51	-.07	-1.31	-1.23	-.71	-.50	-1.46	-.99	-1.17	-1.87	-2.26	-1.36	-2.17	-2.28	-2.88	-1.96	-2.79	-1.69	-3.18

- Precipitation forecast files** have the same structure as above except values are formatted as floating point, for example 0.561784E+01. Values are in mm per day

Observation file contents

- **SST observation files:**

Season 1...12 (1=JFM, 2=FMA ... 12=DJF)
(ignore)

```
1 0
1981 -.46
1982 .04
1983 2.33
...
2009 -.76
2010 1.26
2 0
1981 -.48
1982 .07
1983 1.78
...
2009 1.60
2010 -1.60
12 0
1981 -.04
1982 2.62
1983 -.73
...
2008 -.82
2009 1.50
2010 -1.49
```

- **Precipitation observation files:**

Season 1...12 (1=JFM, 2=FMA ... 12=DJF)

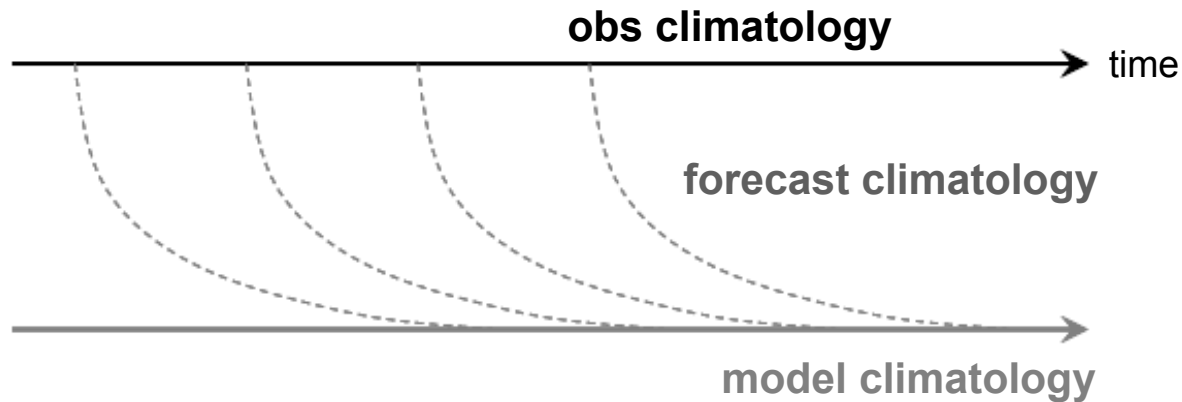
```
1981 1 0.381642E+01
1982 1 0.285093E+01
1983 1 0.812642E+01
1984 1 0.137127E+01
...
2009 1 0.161505E+01
2010 1 0.752517E+01
1981 2 0.446875E+01
1982 2 0.349676E+01
1983 2 0.670259E+01
...
```



Correcting for model biases

1) Correction for model biases

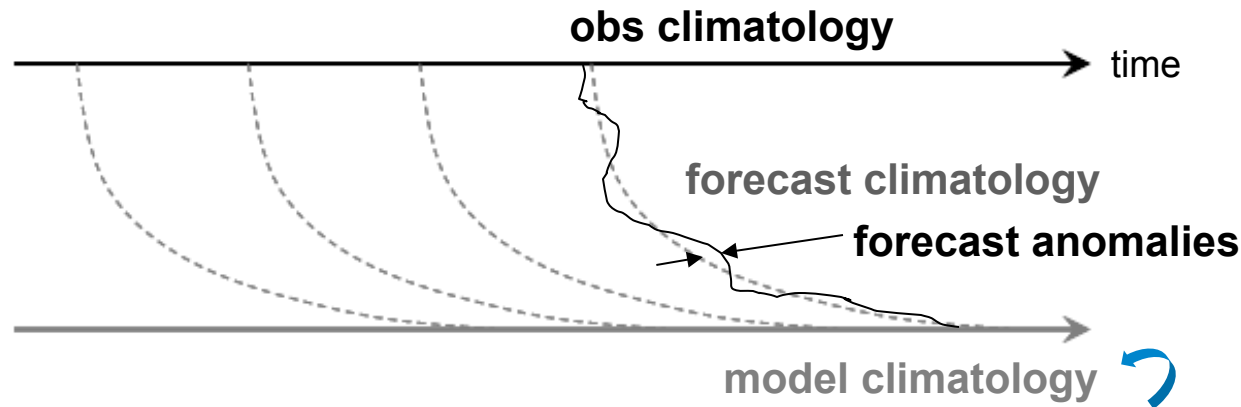
- Because climate models are imperfect, each model has its own climate that differs from that of the real world
- Thus, models initialized near observed climate state will progressively *drift* towards biased model climate:



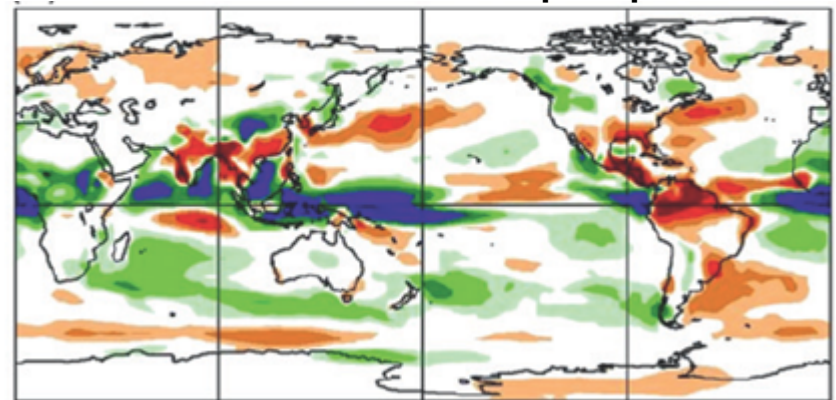
- These biases can be factored out by computing *anomalies* with respect to forecast climatology that is a function of forecast time and lead time, & comparing with observed anomalies

1) Correction for model biases

- Because climate models are imperfect, each model has its own climate that differs from that of the real world
- Thus, models initialized near observed climate state will progressively *drift* towards biased model climate:



CanCM3 JJA precipitation bias



- These biases can be factored *anomalies* with respect to forecast function of forecast time and with observed anomalies

Correction for model biases (cont.)

- Observed anomalies:

$$O'(t_{\text{forecast}}, y_i) = O(t_{\text{forecast}}, y_i) - \langle O(t_{\text{forecast}}, y_i) \rangle$$

- Forecast anomalies:

$$F'(t_{\text{forecast}}, t_{\text{lead}}, y_i) = F(t_{\text{forecast}}, t_{\text{lead}}, y_i) - \langle F(t_{\text{forecast}}, t_{\text{lead}}, y_i) \rangle$$

where $\langle \rangle$ indicates averaging over some standard set of years (e.g. 1981-2010)

t_{forecast} = target period for forecast, for example JFM
 t_{lead} = lead time

- This is the simplest and most frequently applied bias correction, although others are sometimes used



Suggested exercises

1) Calculate observed anomalies

- a) Choose one or more precipitation and/or SST indices
- b) Choose one or more target seasons, for example JFM
- c) Using the full observed values $O(y_i)$, calculate the observed climatological mean

$$\langle O \rangle = \text{average over 30 values } y_i = 1981 \dots 2010$$

- d) Calculate the observed anomalies for each year 1981...2010:

$$O'(y_i) = O(y_i) - \langle O \rangle$$

2) Multi-model deterministic forecast

- Choose one or more precipitation and/or SST indices
- Choose one or more target seasons t_{forecast} and lead times t_{lead} , for example JFM at lead 0 months
- Using the full forecast values, calculate for each year $y_i = 1981 \dots 2010$ the ensemble mean values *separately* for CanCM3 and CanCM4:
 CanCM3 ensemble means $F3(y_i) =$ averages over forecast values 1...10
 CanCM4 ensemble means $F4(y_i) =$ averages over forecast values 11...20

	CanCM3 ensemble members 1-10										CanCM4 ensemble members 1-10									
1981	.20	.26	.23	.06	.15	.22	.25	-.01	.18	.05	.35	.12	.28	.15	.10	.05	.27	.01	.06	.07
1982	.16	.17	.11	.04	.16	.00	.04	.13	.05	.09	.20	.50	.18	.36	.50	.26	.26	.29	.44	.18
1983	1.95	1.80	1.94	1.78	1.78	2.02	1.85	1.87	1.76	1.82	2.39	2.62	2.31	2.48	2.49	2.32	2.44	2.60	2.48	2.41
1984	-.81	-.74	-.72	-.70	-.84	-.96	-.84	-.49	-.72	-1.09	-1.66	-1.58	-1.75	-1.77	-1.61	-1.24	-1.22	-1.31	-1.21	-1.23

- Calculate the forecast climatologies separately for each model:
 CanCM3 forecast climatology $\langle F3 \rangle =$ average of F3 over forecast years 1981-2010
 CanCM4 forecast climatology $\langle F4 \rangle =$ average of F4 over forecast years 1981-2010

2) Multi-model deterministic forecast (cont.)

- e) Calculate the ensemble mean anomalies for each year 1981...2010 separately for each model:

$$\text{CanCM3 anomalies } F3'(y_i) = F3(y_i) - \langle F3 \rangle$$

$$\text{CanCM4 anomalies } F4'(y_i) = F4(y_i) - \langle F4 \rangle$$

- f) Average the ensemble mean anomalies across the multi-model ensemble:

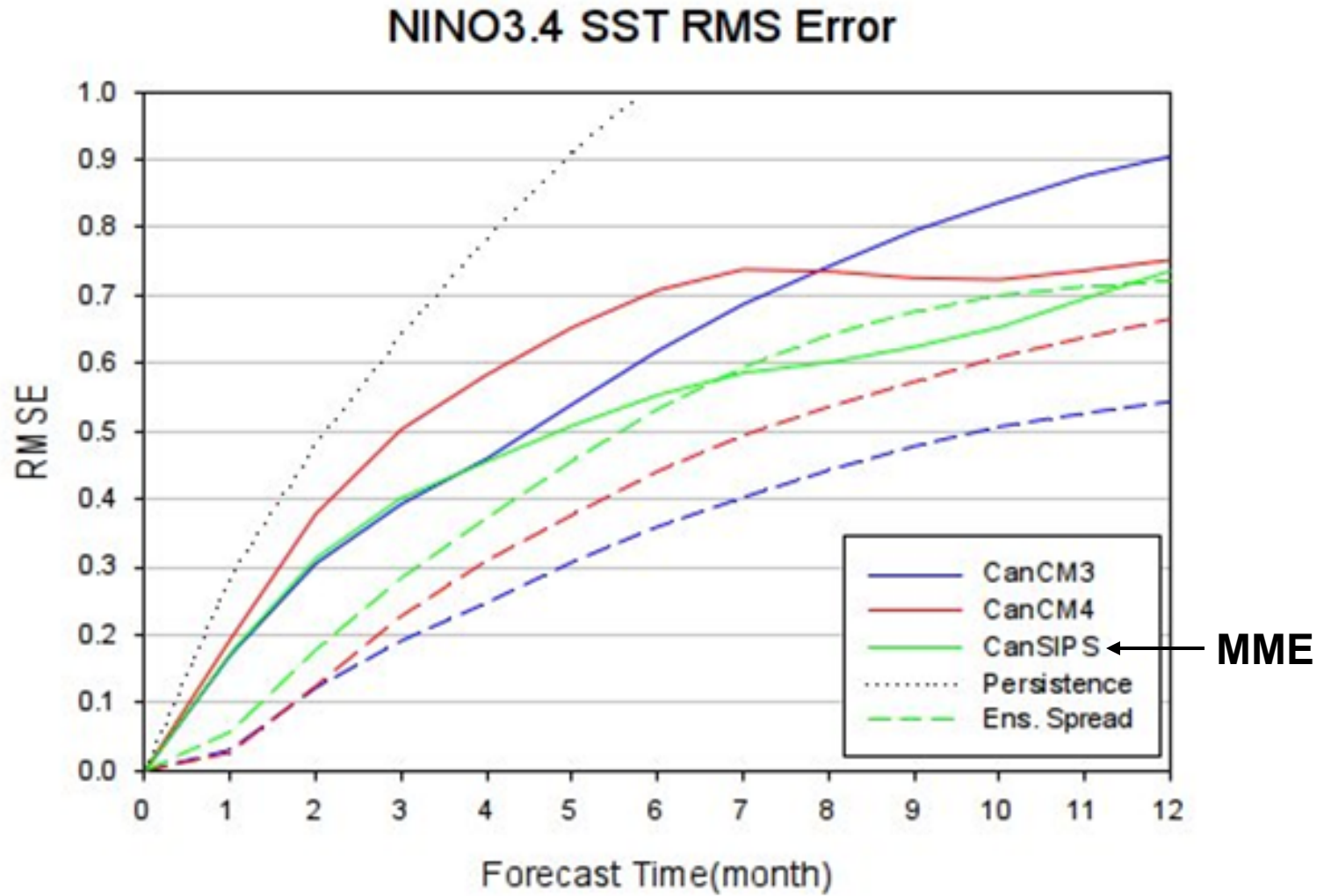
$$F'(y_i) = [F3'(y_i) + F4'(y_i)]/2$$

4) Compare RMSE and ensemble spread

Requires (1), (2) and (3) to be done first

- a) Consider the RMSE values for the multi-model forecast values F' and the single-model forecast values $F3'$ and $F4'$ obtained from (2)
- b) For the same variable, season and lead time, compute the multi-model ensemble variance $\text{var}(y_i)$ for each year based on the 20 anomaly values for the multi-model forecast
- c) Compute its average over 30 forecast years $\langle \text{var}(y_i) \rangle$
- d) Compute the multi-model ensemble spread as $S = [\langle \text{var}(y_i) \rangle]^{1/2}$
- e) Repeat (b)-(d) for CanCM3 and CanCM4 only based on the 10 ensemble members for each model
- f) Compare S to RMSE for the multi-model ensemble, and for CanCM3 and CanCM4 individually.
- g) Overconfident forecasts tend to have $S < \text{RMSE}$. What do these results say about the level of overconfidence and hence reliability for CanCM3 and CanCM4 alone compared to the multi-model ensemble?

Results for the Nino3.4 SST index



5) Construct a simple probabilistic forecast

Requires (1) and (2) first

- a) Consider the 20 multi-model ensemble forecast anomalies for one or more indices, target seasons, lead times and forecast years (one or more single forecasts)
- b) Consider observed values for same index and season for 30 years 1981-2010, and sort these 30 values from lowest to highest $O'_1, O'_2, \dots, O'_{30}$ (labeling according to this order)

- c) Calculate approximate tercile boundaries as

$$X_B = (O'_{10} + O'_{11})/2 \quad \text{between below normal and middle terciles}$$

$$X_A = (O'_{20} + O'_{21})/2 \quad \text{between middle and above normal terciles}$$

- d) For a particular forecast, count how many of the 20 forecast anomalies fall in each climatological tercile category:

$$N_B = \text{number of ensemble members } < X_B$$

$$N_N = \text{number of ensemble members } > X_B \text{ and } < X_A$$

$$N_A = \text{number of ensemble members } > X_A$$

- e) Convert to probabilities: $P_B = N_B/20$, $P_N = N_N/20$, $P_A = N_A/20$

6) Correlation and regression coefficients between SST-precipitation index pairs

Requires (1) and (2) first

- Consider ensemble-mean anomalies for paired SST and precipitation indices, for one or more seasons and lead times
- Based on 30 years of paired observed values $[O'_{\text{SST}}(y_i), O'_{\text{Precip}}(y_i)]$, compute correlation and regression coefficients as

$$AC = \frac{\langle O'_{\text{SST}} O'_{\text{Precip}} \rangle}{\sigma(O'_{\text{SST}}) \sigma(O'_{\text{Precip}})}$$

← average over 30 years 1981-2010

$$R = \frac{\langle O'_{\text{SST}} O'_{\text{Precip}} \rangle}{\sigma^2(O'_{\text{SST}})}$$

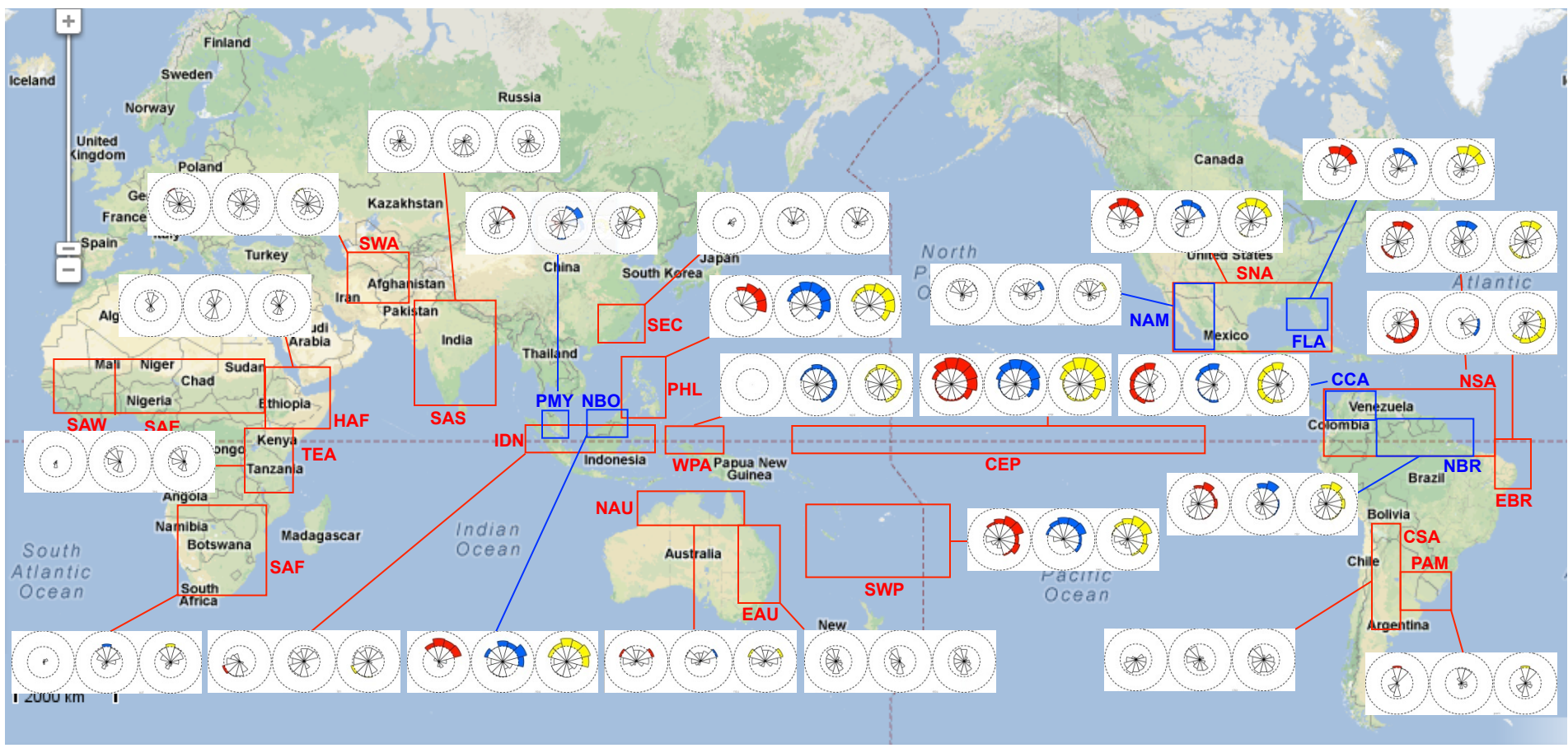
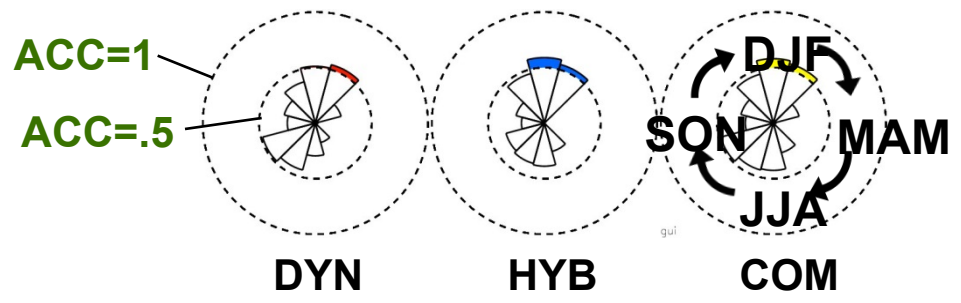
← average over 30 years 1981-2010

- If AC is sufficiently high, forecast SST anomaly F_{SST}' could be used to make a hybrid (dynamical + statistical) forecast of precipitation:

$$(F_{\text{Precip}}')_{\text{hyb}} = F_{\text{SST}}' \times R$$

- Which is more skillful, $(F_{\text{Precip}}')_{\text{hyb}}$ or F_{Precip}' ?

Dynamical and hybrid skills for SST index=nino3.4



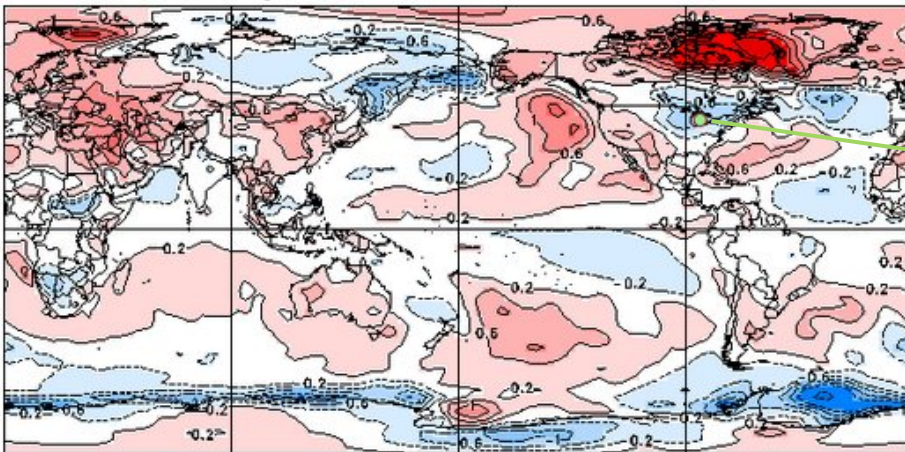
CanSIPS Explorer

- Developed and maintained at CCCma by Slava Kharin
- Displays all monthly, seasonal hind/forecasts + verifications 1979-present + skills
- Probabilistic/deterministic forecasts (maps & local PDFs) for many variables, regions (including Africa), indices

CMC/CCCma (Environment Canada) [CanSIPS Experimental 12-month Forecasts issued monthly](#)
 [related: [CanSIPS 3-month forecasts issued daily](#)] [contact: slava.kharin@ec.gc.ca]

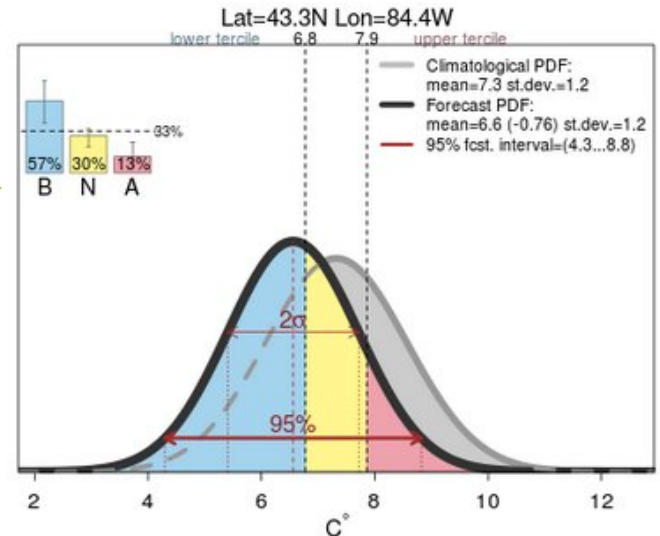
Variable	Time avg.	Time lead	Prev./Next	First year/month	Version
Temperature	Seasonal	0-month	<< >>	2014 Mar	cmc(d+e)
Region	Forecast Type	Observ. Type	Show PDF/Obs.	Calibration/Observations	
Globe(0..360)	Anomaly	N/A	Show PDF	Calibrated(constant)	eraint

Temperature, Anomaly Forecast
year=2014, MAM, 0-month lead



12-season calibrated ensemble mean anomaly forecast.

Local probability forecast



http://www.cccma.ec.gc.ca/cgi-bin/data/seasonal_forecast/sf2 ← Monthly to 12 mon

username: **cccmasf**
 password: **seasforum**

“ “ sf2_daily

↑
 Daily N-day, monthly & seasonal forecasts

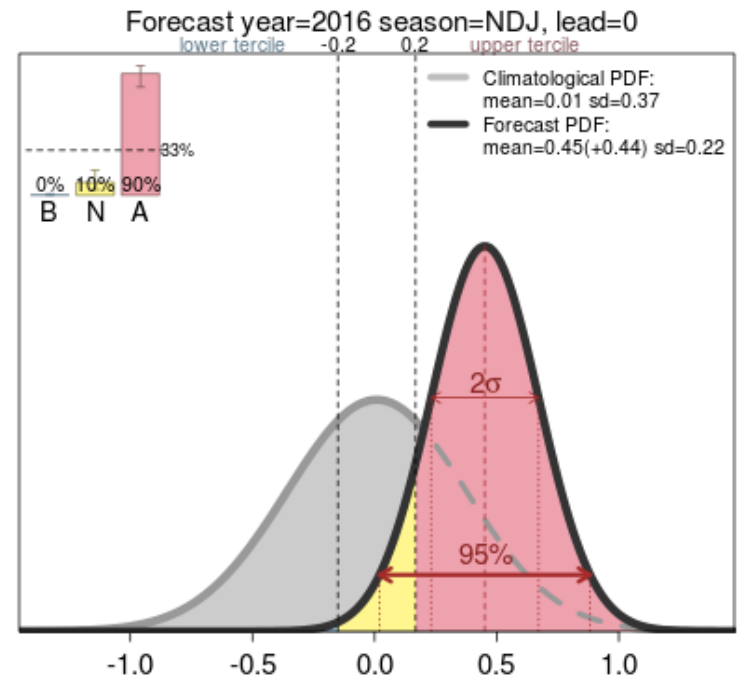
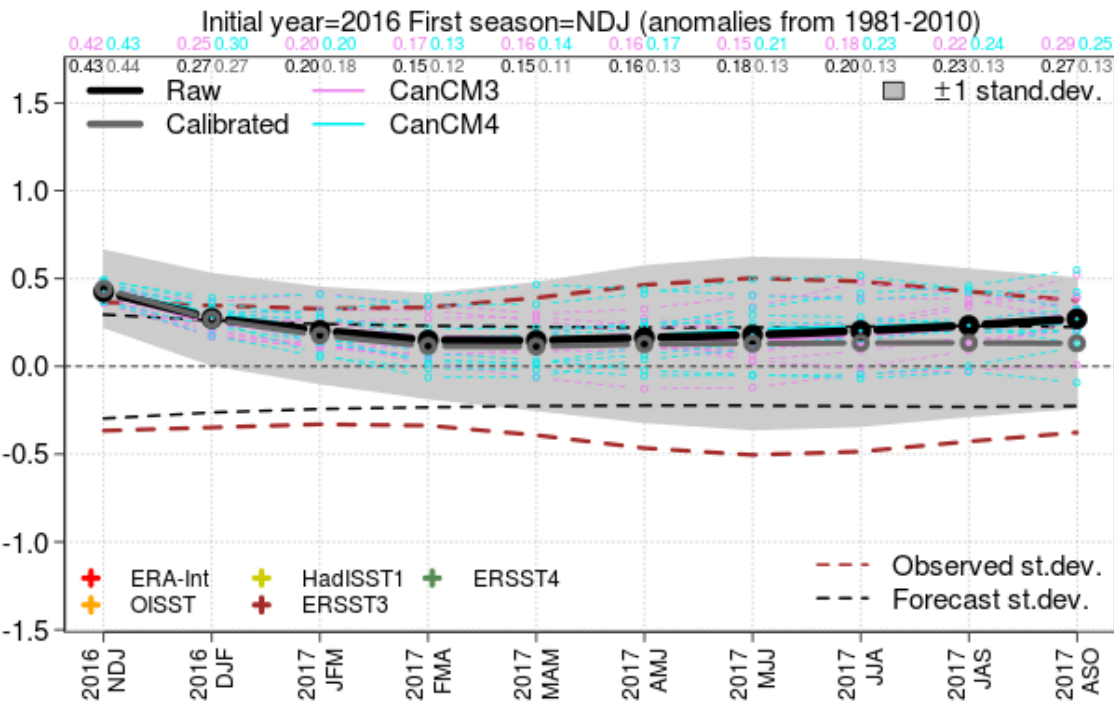
CanSIPS Explorer

Example: SAT SST index current forecast

CMC/CCCma (Environment Canada) CanSIPS Experimental 12-month Forecasts issued monthly

[related: CanSIPS 3-month forecasts issued daily] [contact: slava.kharin@ec.gc.ca]

Variable	Time avg.	Prev./Next	First year/month		Issue date	Time lead	Version	Base period	
S.Atl.Trop.Indx.(SAT)	Seasonal	<< >>	2016	Nov	Month end	0-month	cmc(d+e)	1981_2010	
Calibration Dataset/Type			Update						
oisst			Calibrated(constant)						Force update



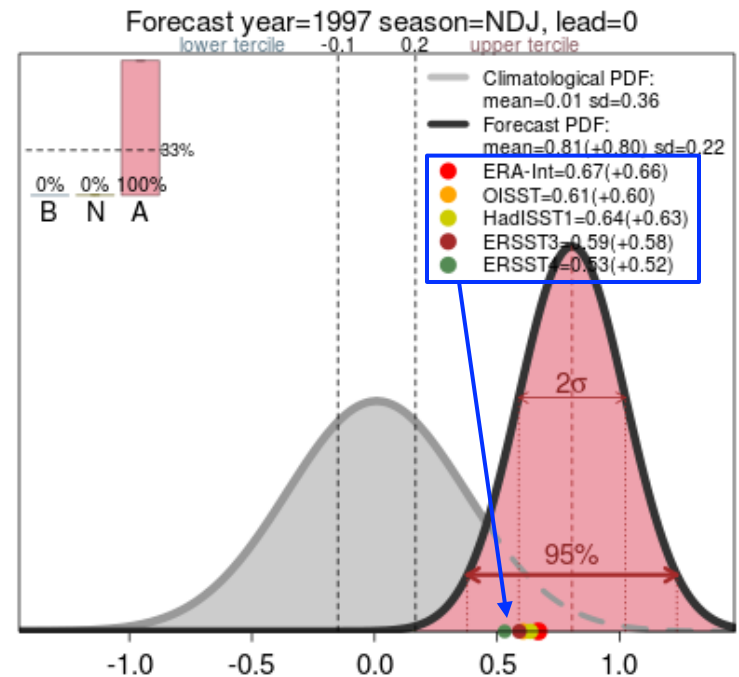
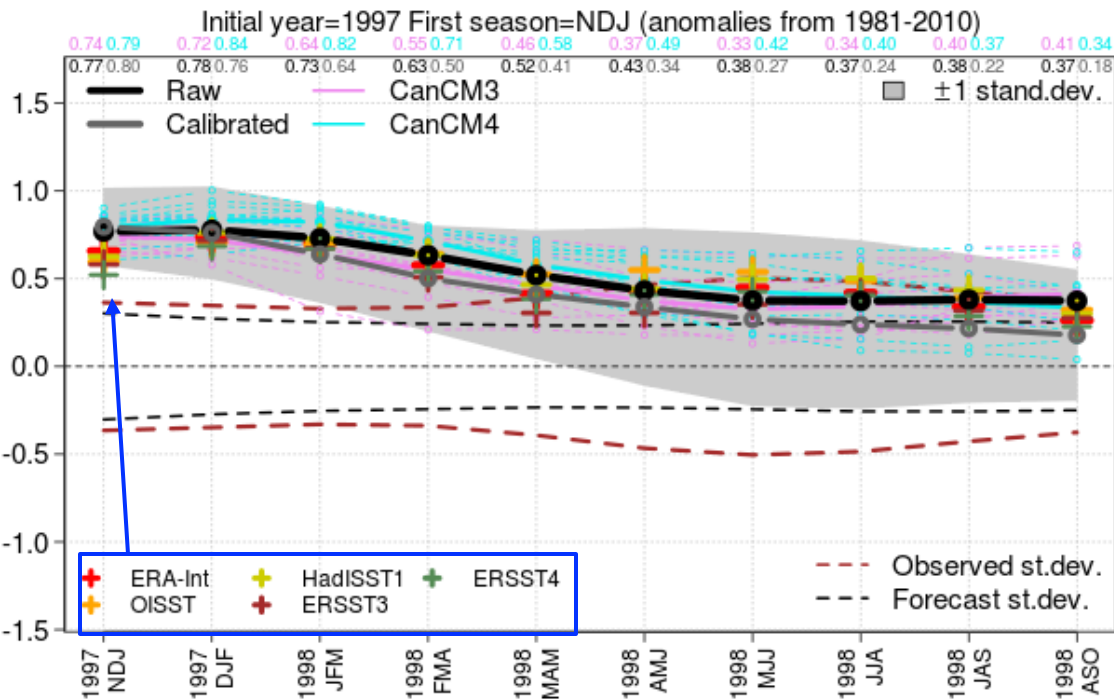
CanSIPS Explorer

Example: SAT SST index hindcast from Nov 1997 + verification

CMC/CCCma (Environment Canada) CanSIPS Experimental 12-month Forecasts issued monthly

[related: [CanSIPS 3-month forecasts issued daily](#)] [contact: slava.kharin@ec.gc.ca]

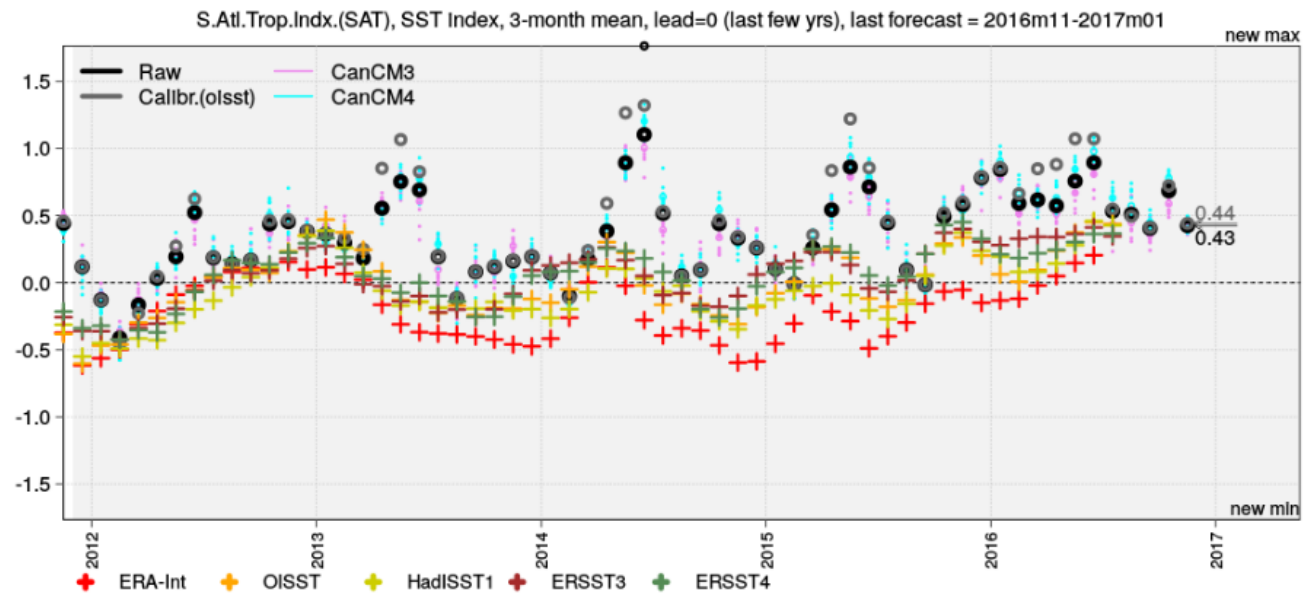
Variable	Time avg.	Prev./Next	First year/month		Issue date	Time lead	Version	Base period
S.Atl.Trop.Indx.(SAT)	Seasonal	<< >>	1997	Nov	Month end	0-month	era(d+c)	1981_2010
Calibration Dataset/Type		Update						
oisst		Calibrated(constant)		Force update				



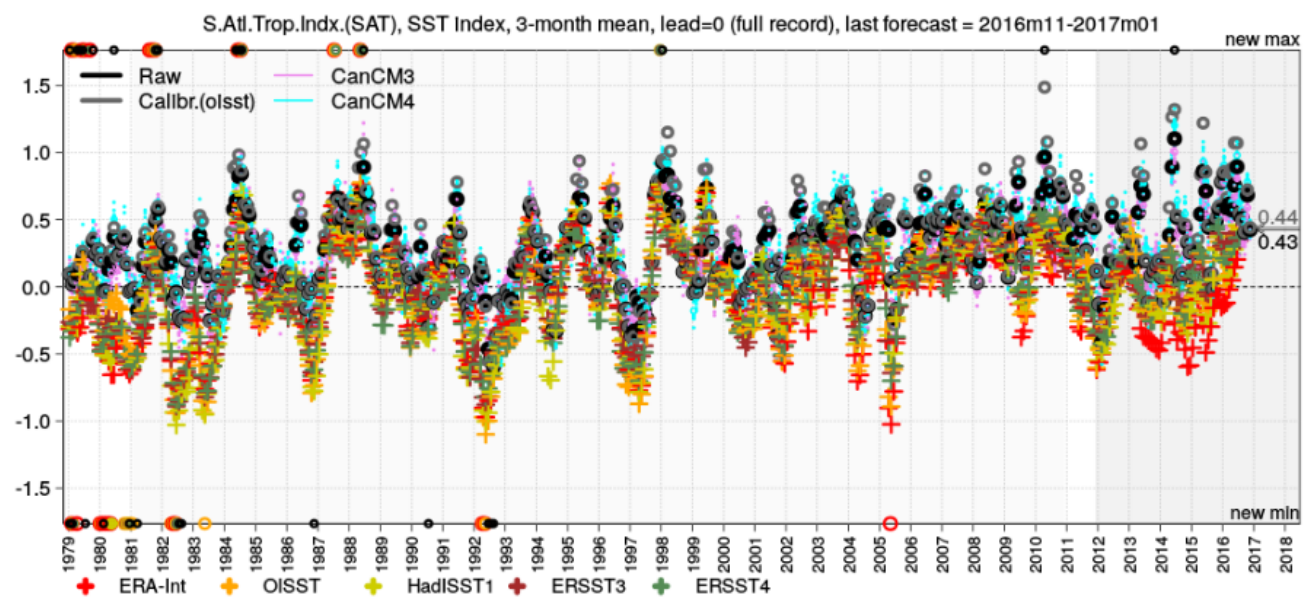
CanSIPS Explorer

Example: SAT SST index all hindcast + real time forecast verification

forecasts

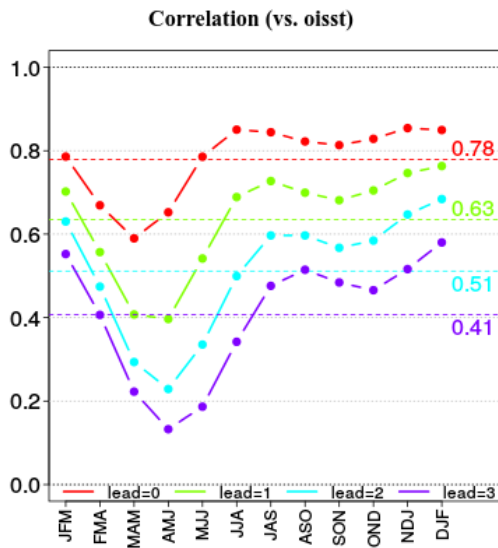


hindcasts

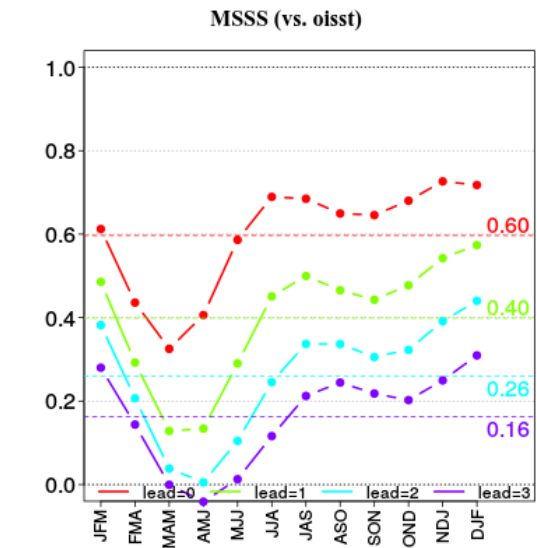


CanSIPS Explorer

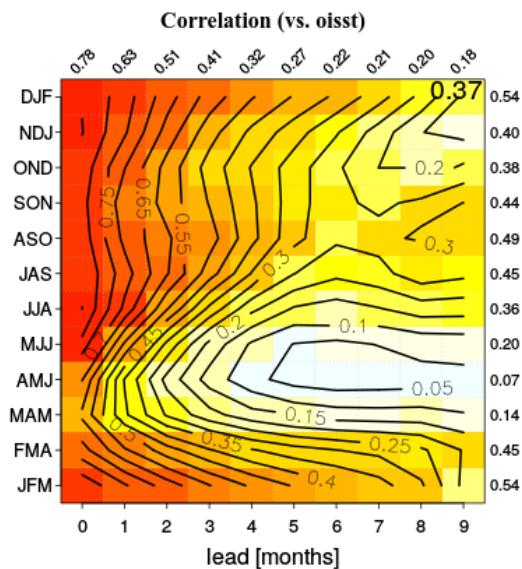
Example: SAT SST index hindcast verification skill scores



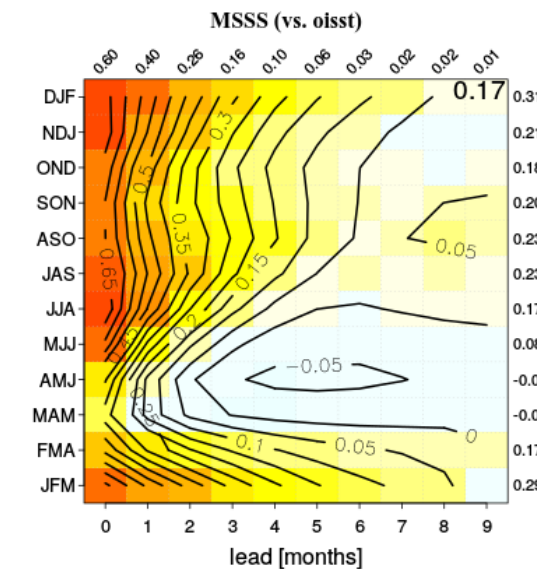
Correlation skill score of the multimodel mean forecast as function of lead and month/season.



Mean Square Skill Score of the linearly rescaled multimodel mean forecast as function of lead and month/season.



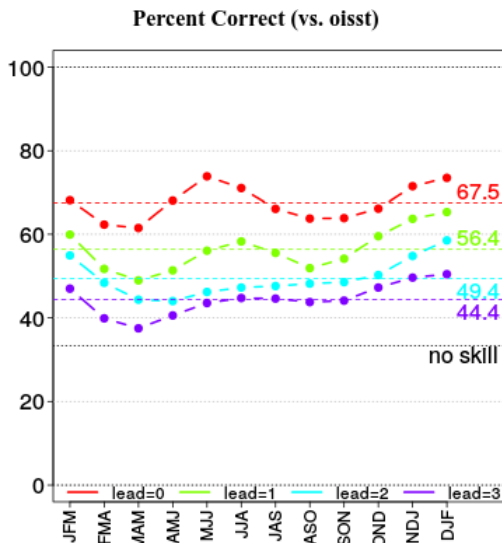
Correlation skill score of the multimodel mean forecast as function of lead and month/season.



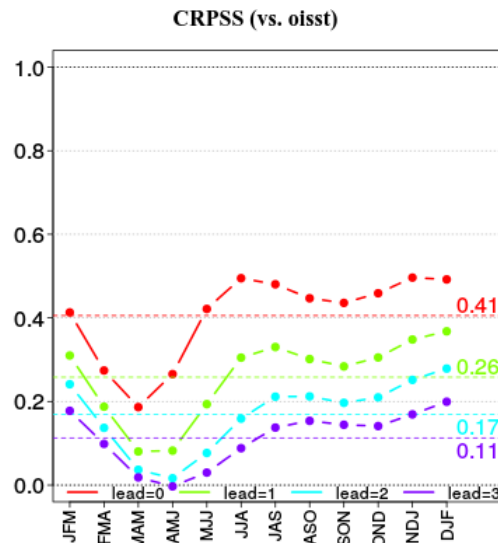
Mean Square Skill Score of the linearly rescaled multimodel mean forecast as function of lead and month/season.

CanSIPS Explorer

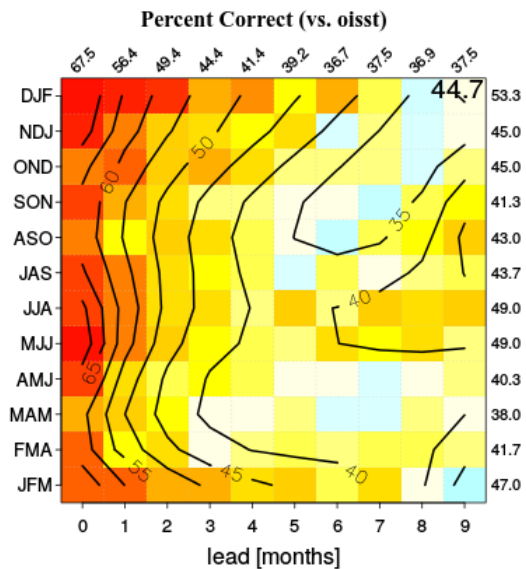
Example: SAT SST index hindcast verification skill scores



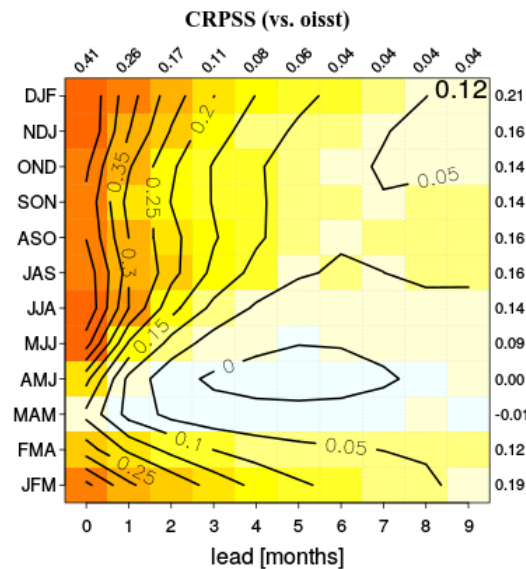
Percent correct is defined as the percentage of correctly predicted categories.
The percent correct of a random categorical forecast is 33.3%.



Continuous Ranked Probability Skill Score (oisst).



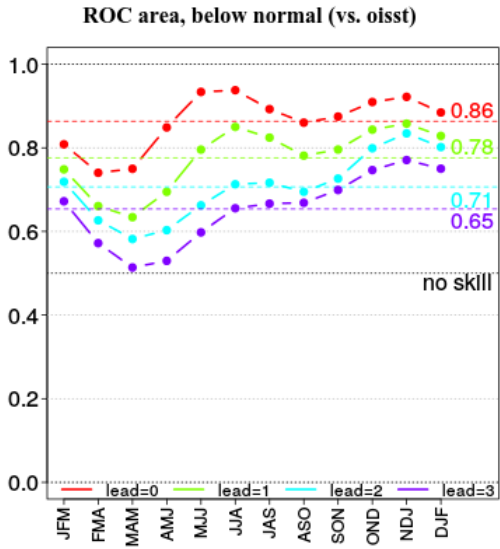
Percent correct is defined as the percentage of correctly predicted categories.
The percent correct of a random categorical forecast is 33.3%.



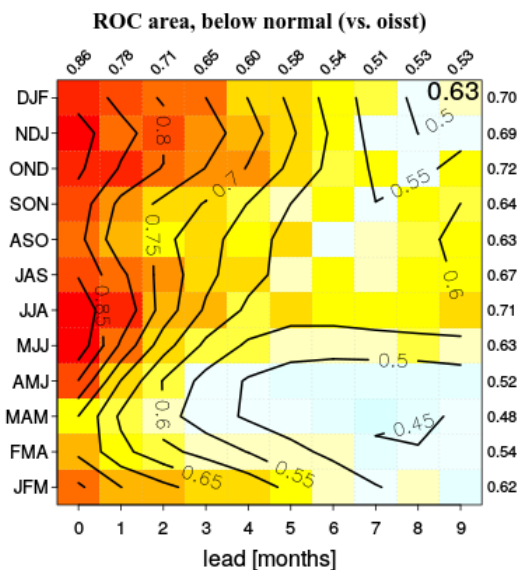
Continuous Ranked Probability Skill Score (oisst).

CanSIPS Explorer

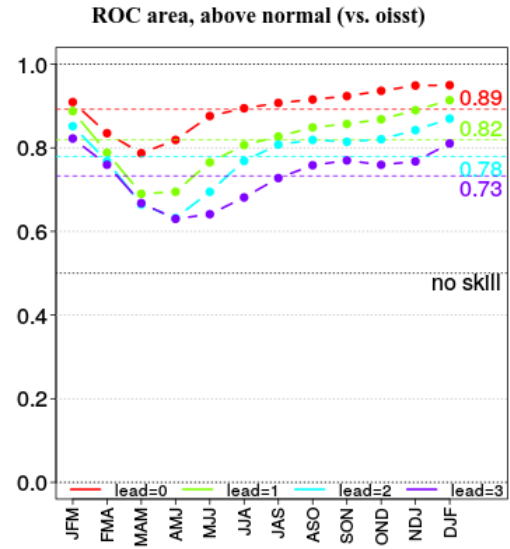
Example: SAT SST index hindcast verification skill scores



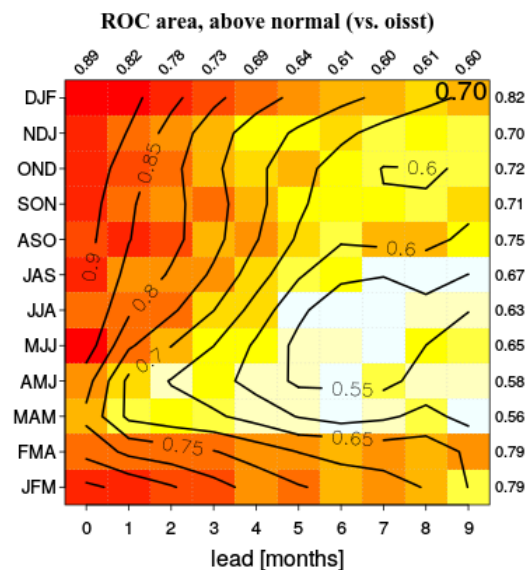
Area under the ROC curve for the below normal category.



Area under the ROC curve for the below normal category.



Area under the ROC curve for the above normal category.



Area under the ROC curve for the above normal category.

Eumetcal course on forecast verification

<http://www.eumetcal.org/resources/ukmeteocal/verification/www/english/courses/msgcrs/crsindex.htm>

(web search “eumetcal verification”)

Forecast Verification

Welcome to the modules on forecast verification. The modules are designed both for users of verification results, who wish to understand what the results really mean, and those who wish to dabble in verification methodology themselves.

There are 4 modules in this course. The introductory module covers general issues about reasons for verifying, and the different types of forecast and observation data used in verification. The other modules are organized by type of forecast. If you are new to the subject of verification, then it is highly recommended that you complete the introductory module, which will help put the other modules into better perspective. If, on the other hand, you already know what a "deterministic forecast of a continuous variable", or a "probability forecast of a categorical variable" is, then feel free to skip the generalities of the introduction and go directly to the modules on the various forecast types.

You can return to this index page at any point by clicking on the icon on the left hand side which looks like this:



Credits

Content Laurence Wilson (Environment Canada) and Pertti Nurmi (Finnish Meteorological Institute)

Storyboards Laurence Wilson (Environment Canada)

IT authoring Sigbritt Näsman (Finnish Meteorological Institute)

Project Manager Pertti Nurmi (Finnish Meteorological Institute)



Module Index

○—○ [Introduction](#)

○—○ [Verification of continuous variables](#)














○—○ [Verification of categorical forecasts](#)

○—○ [Verification of probability and ensemble forecasts](#)














Index of /pub/bmerryfield/ICTP_SCHOOL/

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 DATA_SST/		

Index of /pub/bmerryfield/ICTP_SCHOOL/DATA_PRECIP/

Name	Size	Date Modified
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 ASCII_FULL/		
 CSV_ANOM/		
 CSV_FULL/		
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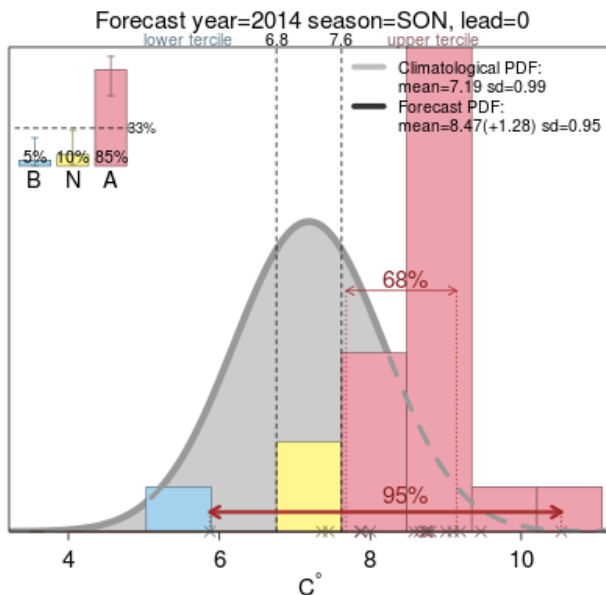
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Construction of PDF

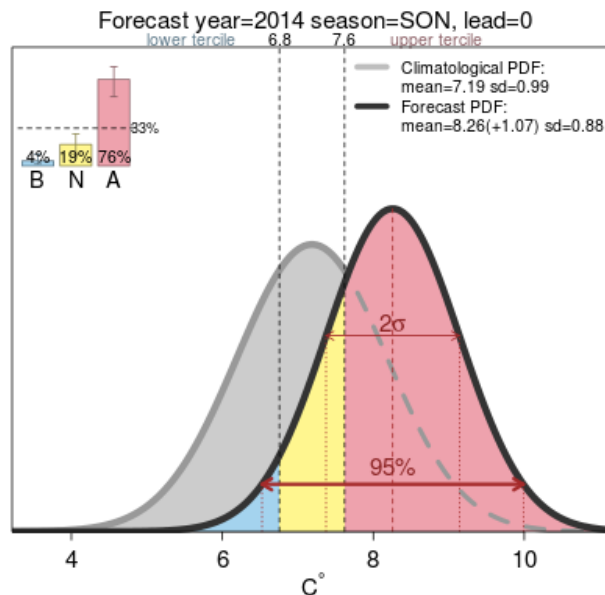
Example: lead 0 SON 2014 temperature forecast for Montreal

Anomalies for each ensemble member



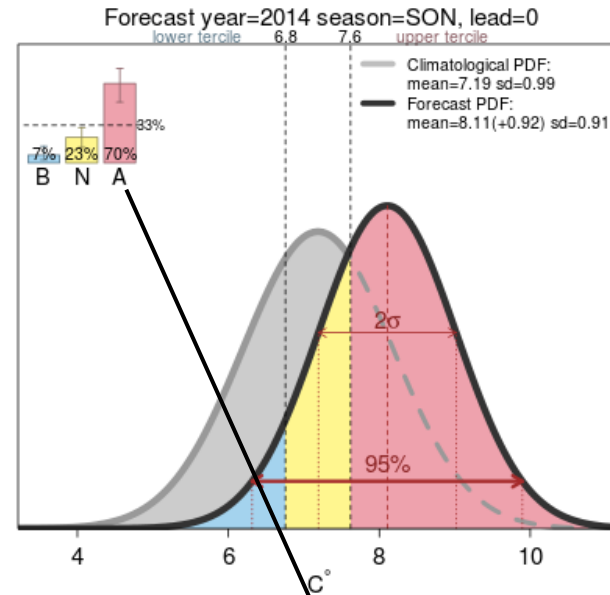
85% prob above normal

Gaussian fit



76% prob above normal

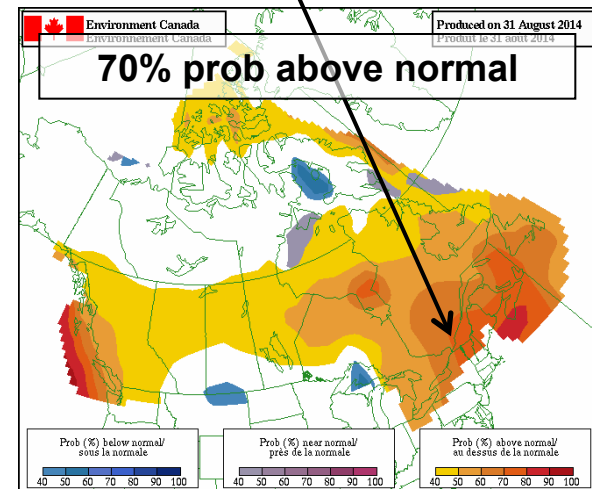
Calibrated PDF



70% prob above normal

Calibration: From hindcasts, find optimal rescaling of Gaussian mean and σ that maximizes probabilistic skill score

Details: Kharin et al. (A.-O., 2009)



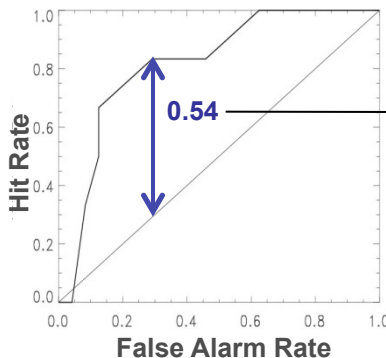
Calculation of relative value score

Cost and loss for different outcomes

		Adverse event occurs	
		No	Yes
Action taken	No	0	L ← Loss if event occurs and action not taken
	Yes	C ← Cost of taking action	C

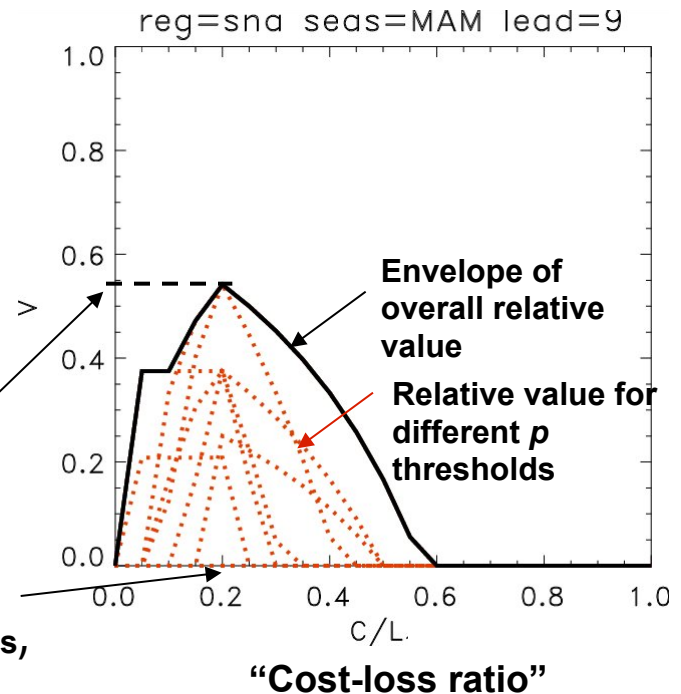
Example: prediction of extreme quintile

- Consider probability p of occurrence
- Hindcasts provide hit & false alarm rates for different p thresholds
- V is fraction of potential mitigation realized, vs $C/L = \text{cost/mitigation}$



$V_{\max} = \max(\text{Hit Rate} - \text{False Alarm Rate})$

V_{\max} occurs when $C/L = \text{climatological probability of occurrence (0.2 for quintiles,}$



Envelope of overall relative value

Relative value for different p thresholds

"Cost-loss ratio"