

State of the Community Earth System Model Project

David Lawrence
CESM Chief Scientist



NCAR

Welcome



Reminder on UCAR Code of Conduct

Be
Respectful

Be
Collaborative

Consider
differing
opinions

Communicate
openly

Be
mindful
of others

In-person or Conduct Issues: Reach out to Dave or Elizabeth or
cesm-workshop-support@ucar.edu (also for any technical issues)

Nursing Room: 2668
All-gender restrooms:
2024, 3048, 3052
Quiet Meeting Rooms:
Check at front desk


Some workshop logistics

In addition to the oral science sessions


- Group photo: Monday afternoon break, in the lobby; photo booth in lobby
- Poster session and reception this evening
- Faculty Network for Teaching with CESM meeting Tuesday lunchtime, Center Bay
- 30th Annual Workshop celebration Tuesday, open to anyone, including family and friends
- Cross working group sessions on Wednesday morning on AI/ML and High Resolution CESM
- **Wed. 4:15-5:00pm summary session**
 - Open session, mainly focused on community comments, questions, and discussion


YOU ARE INVITED TO THE:



CESM 30TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP CELEBRATION, DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF WARREN WASHINGTON



- Attendance is free, but registration is required by Monday, June 9th at 5:00 PM.
- Join us at 3:30 PM for history talks and a roundtable with former Chief Scientists followed by a reception, music, and self-paid food truck.
- www.cesm.ucar.edu/events/workshops/cesm

 **TUESDAY**
10 JUNE, 2025

 **3090 CENTER GREEN DR,
BOULDER, CO
80301**

Quiet Spaces

QUIET ROOM



Outdoor Seating



Walking Path



Thanks!



U.S. National
Science
Foundation

Workshop organization and support

- Elizabeth Faircloth
- CGD Admin team
- UCAR Multimedia and Events services



CESM Use and Impact Survey

As we celebrate the 30 year anniversary of CESM, we are seeking to characterize the ongoing value of the CESM activity, which includes the model, data, and support that is provided for its use.

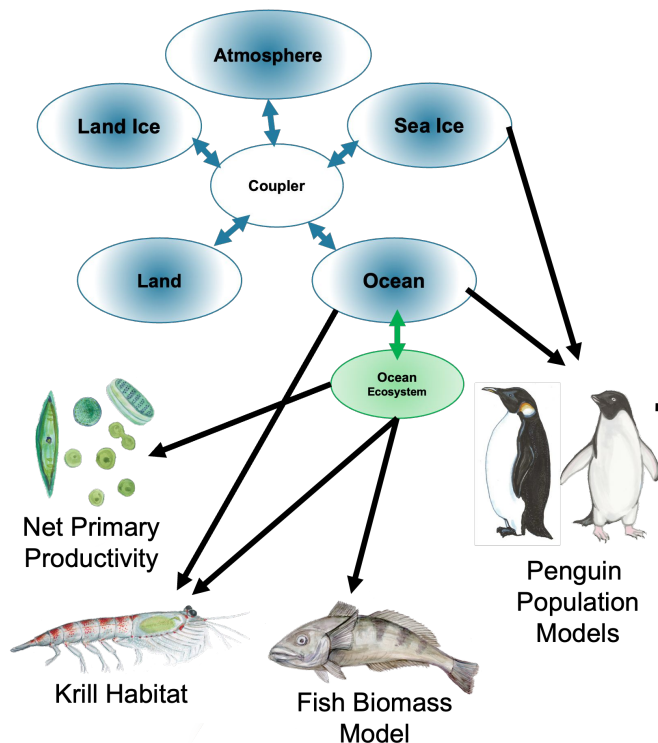
We are especially interested in how the activity supports users and stakeholders and how it is delivering impact for science and societally-beneficial applications.

<https://forms.gle/U5LeUQF6V7X35Gib6>



CESM is informing international Antarctic conservation initiatives

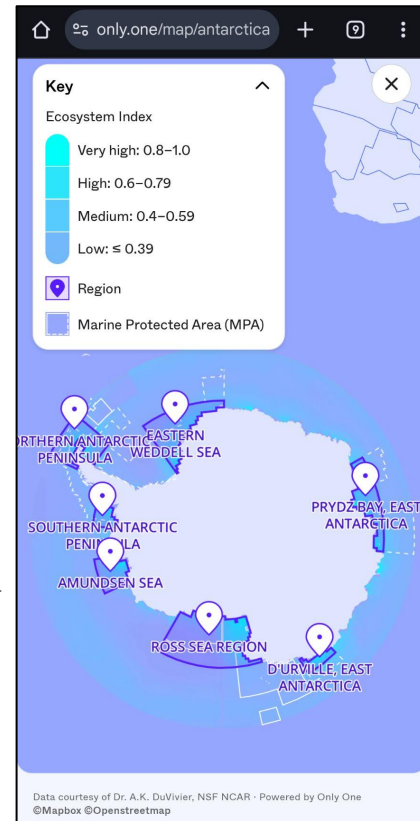
CESM2 – Large Ensemble



Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners



NGO developed Web-App



Alice DuVivier

Laura Landrum, Kristen Krumhardt, Marika Holland + external University and NGO collaborators

(Re)Insurance industry (Willis Towers Watson, QBE)

Time horizons:



1

2 – 10

10+

Insurance industry interested in frequency and intensity of weather events

- material to loss
- outliers, tails, not the mean (though in context that mean is changing)

CESM Large Ensembles, especially CESM1(HR) are used

Hurricane Otis, Mexico, Oct 2023. Image: NOAA

Companies are using CESM data when creating policy relevant platforms



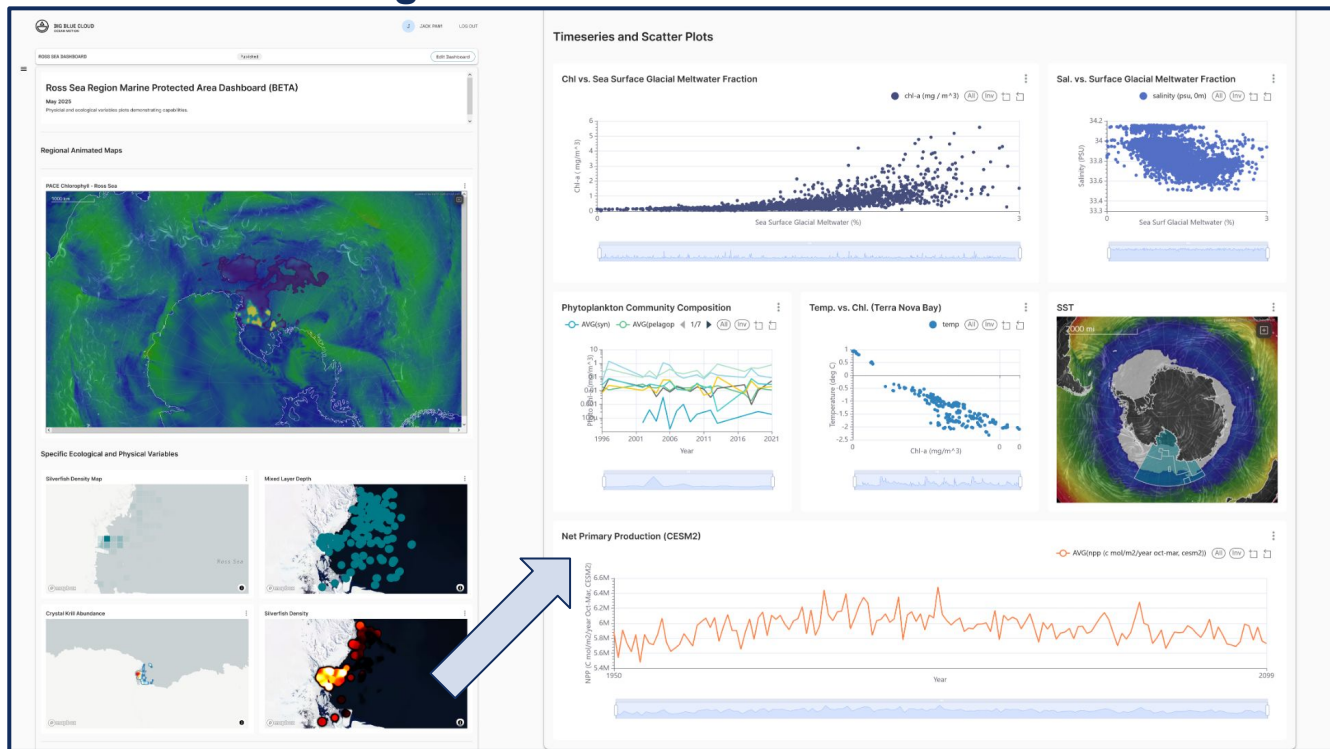
<https://www.oceanmotion.tech/>

Creating data tools requested by U.S. and international policy makers that are relevant for Marine Protected Areas and easy to use.



NSF NCAR partner: Alice DuVivier
+ Jack Pan and Alex Orona at Ocean Motion

Big Blue Cloud Data Dashboard



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<https://forms.gle/U5LeUQF6V7X35Gib6>



Please share survey link with
colleagues, especially
colleagues from the private
sector, NGOs, or other
stakeholders

Faculty Network for Teaching with CESM

Creating a **Faculty Network for Teaching with CESM** to facilitate sharing of information and resources to help faculty best utilize CESM and its component models in their curricula

- Survey to gauge needs/interest
- 70+ faculty responded
- Virtual forums in March, April to gather more feedback
- Meet-up session Tuesday lunchtime at CESM Workshop
- contact Elizabeth Faircloth (fair@ucar.edu)

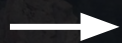


CESM3



NCAR

2024 CESM
Workshop



“Working Towards” CESM3





Finalizing CESM3



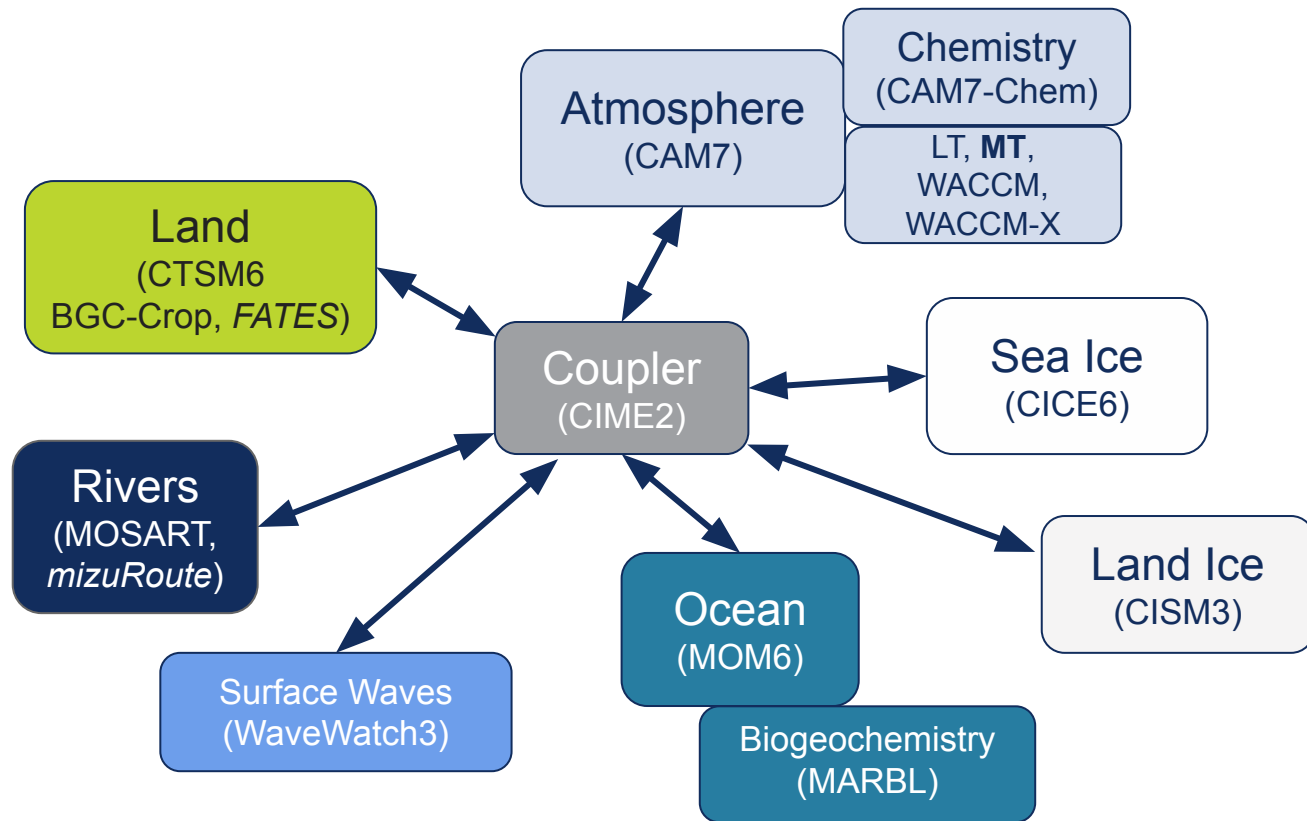
Finalizing CESM3



Significant updates to all component models

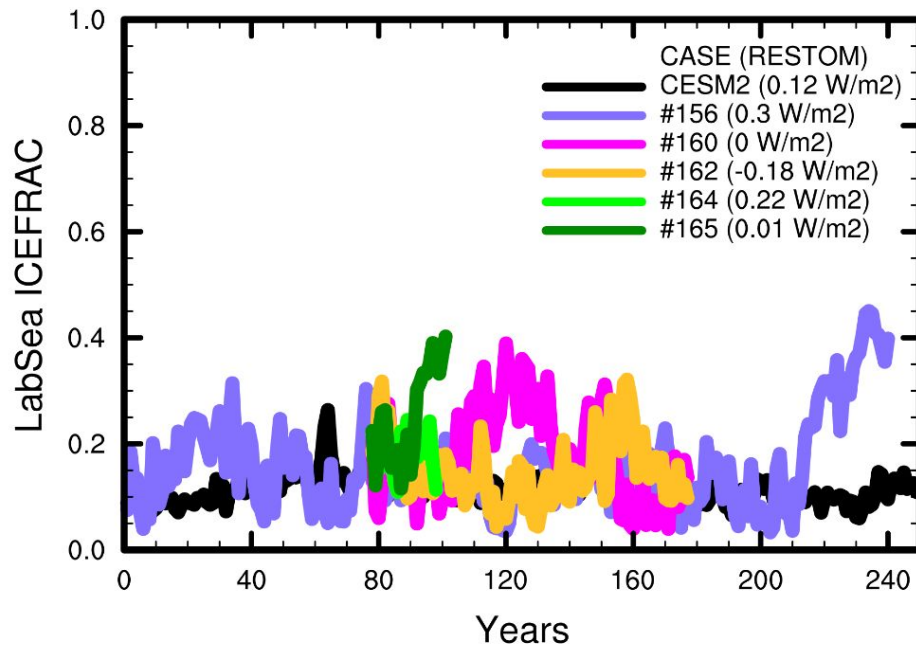
[Full list of changes](#)

Details provided during the Working Group sessions



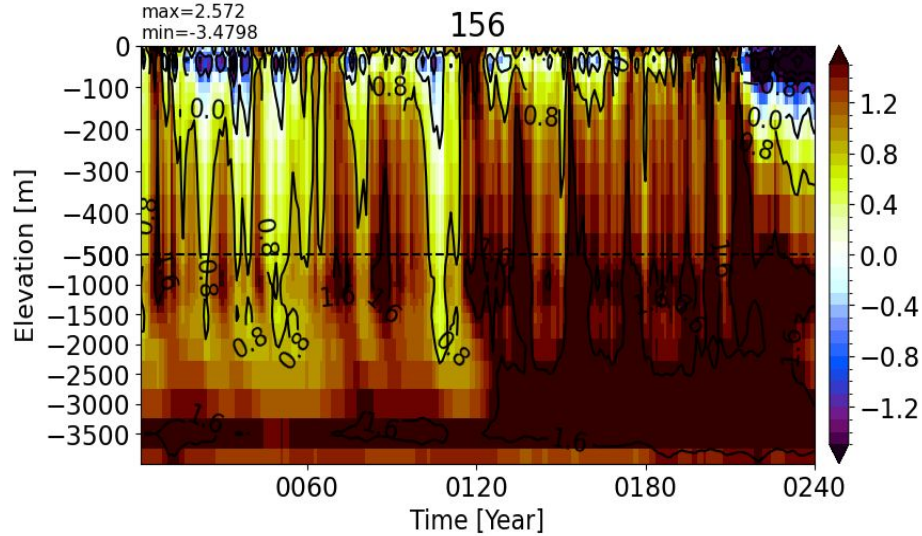
CESM3 Finalization

- Code bases for all component models are complete ('chilled', January 2025)
- But, the Lab sea freeze problem came back with that science code chill beta tag
- ... which is making it difficult to assess and resolve other issues and biases and to tune

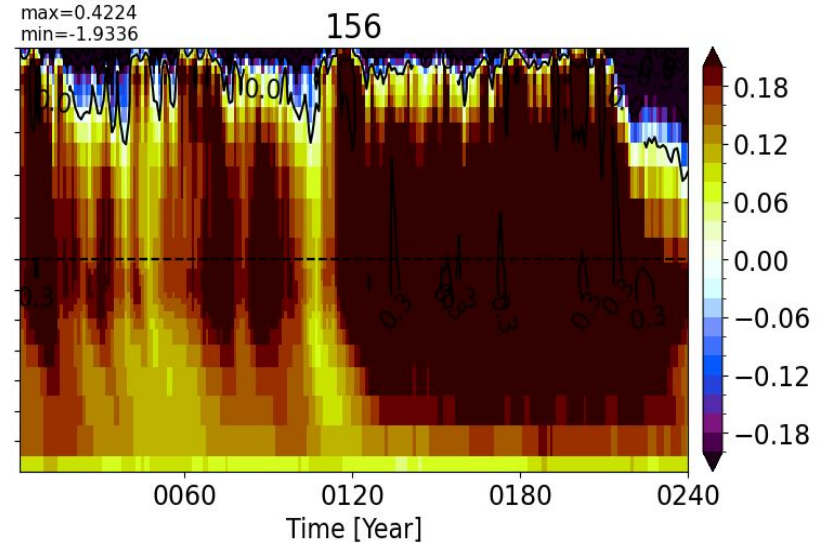


Ocean Plots (156): T & S biases in Lab Sea

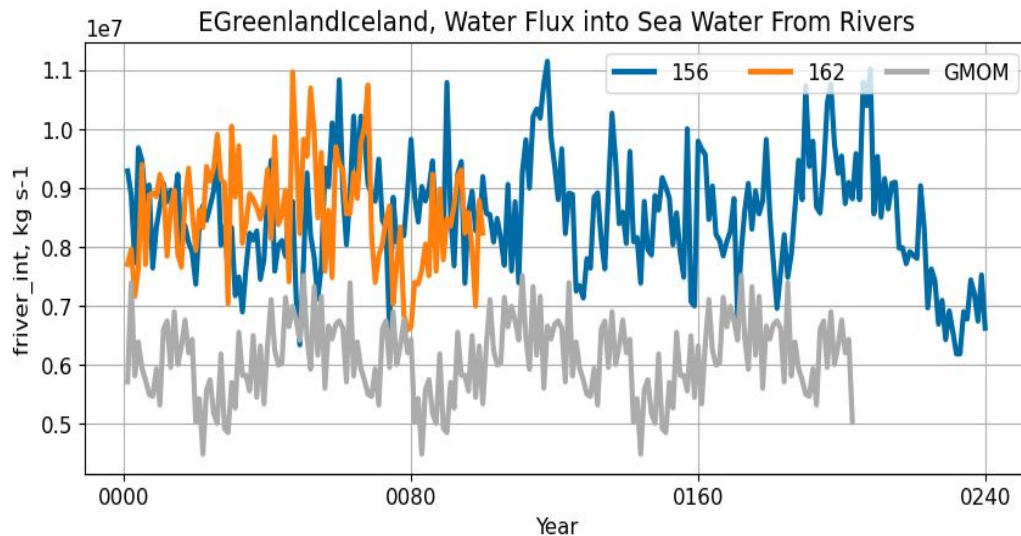
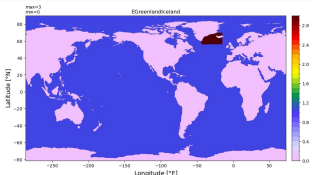
LabSea, Potential Temperature bias [C]



LabSea, Salinity bias [psu]



Liquid & frozen runoff into East Greenland



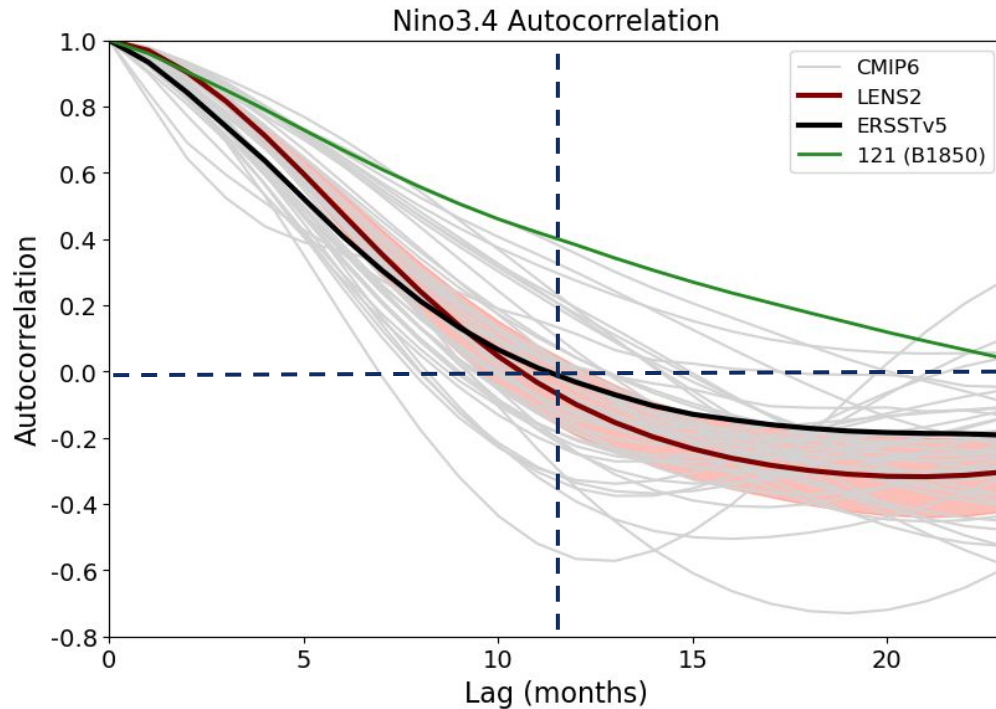
- Source of the Lab sea freeze problem *seems* fundamentally to be excess precipitation across the Arctic which manifests as excessive freshwater flux into the region
- CGD-Machine Learning group is starting to explore how/whether AI analysis methods could help us understand the precursor signatures of a Lab Sea freeze
- Recent run with Bodner sub-mesoscale mixing turned off in Lab Sea region is looking promising
- Also testing CLUBB explicit diffusion off, which may help with excess Arctic P

Some other (non Lab Sea freeze!) issues with CESM3

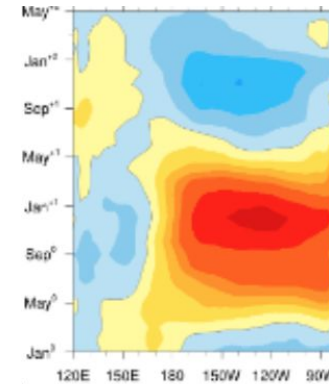
CESM Development team has identified three important biases that we would like to address

1. ENSO issues, especially El Nino to La Nina transitions
2. Amazon and Africa precipitation biases
3. Excessive Antarctic sea ice

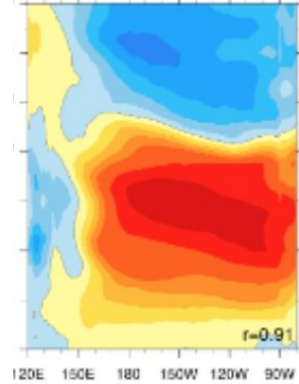
Nino3.4 autocorrelation and transition from El Nino to La Nina



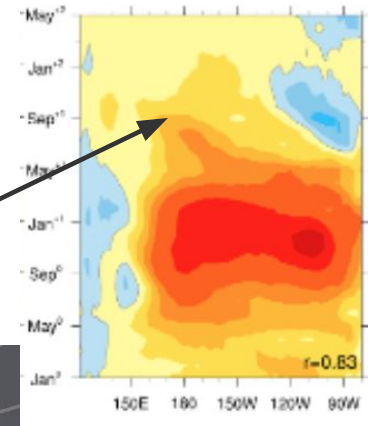
OBS



CESM2

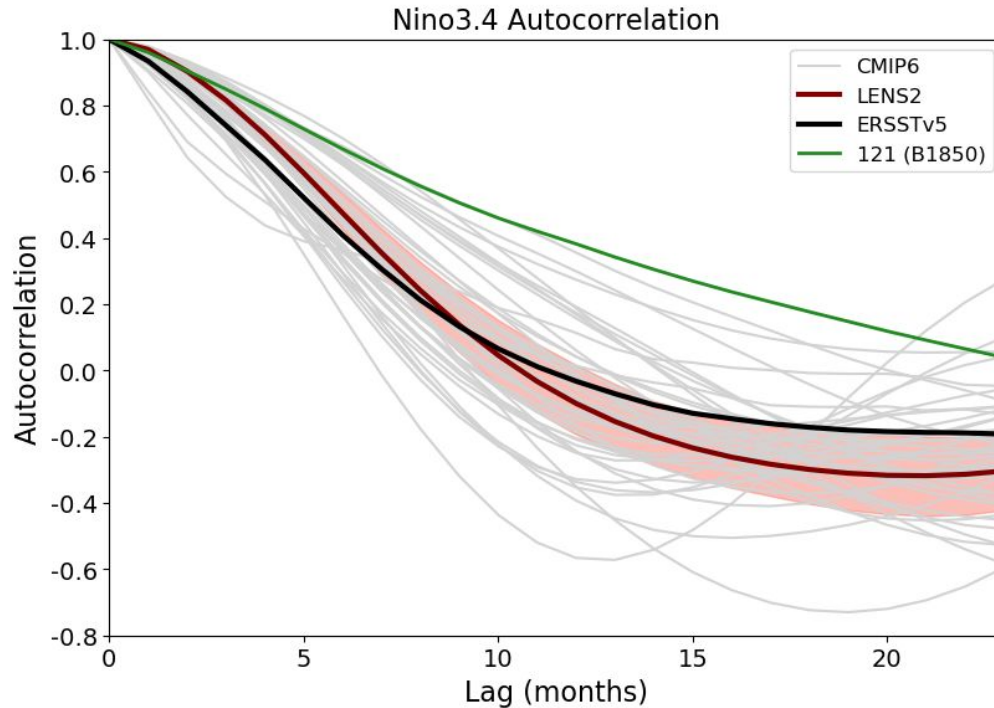


CESM3



It's not transitioning
into La Nina after
El Nino quickly
enough

Nino3.4 autocorrelation and transition from El Nino to La Nina

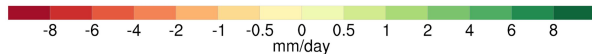
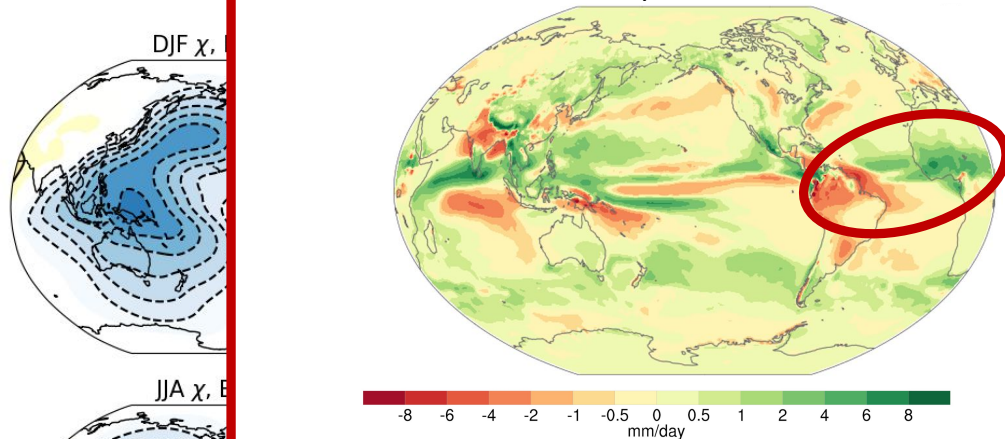


Strategies to resolve issues like this

- Salinity-restoring in Lab Sea is enabling long integrations without freezing
- CESM3 initialized predictions; currently setting up to run initialized predictions for 1997/98 El Nino

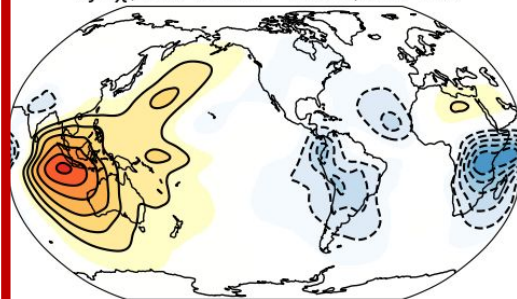
Amazon and Africa precip biases

JJA Precipitation bias in 121

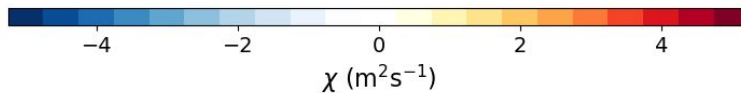
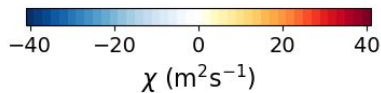
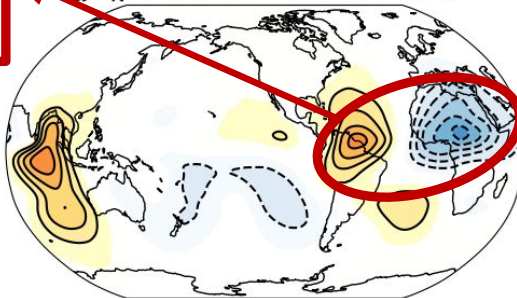


CESM3 – ERA5

DJF χ , 121 BHIST – ERA5, 250 hPa

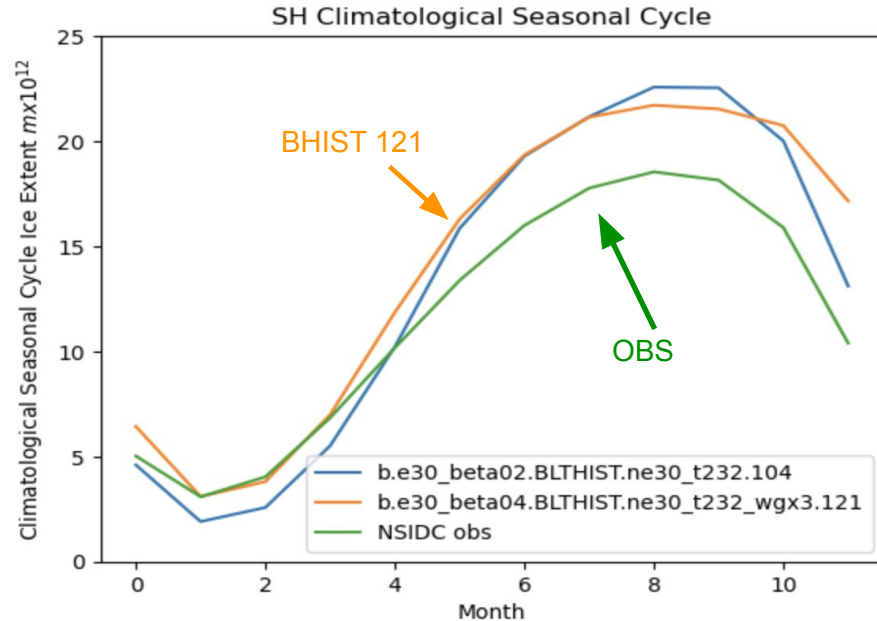


JJA χ , 121 BHIST – ERA5, 250 hPa



Southern Hemisphere Sea Ice is too extensive

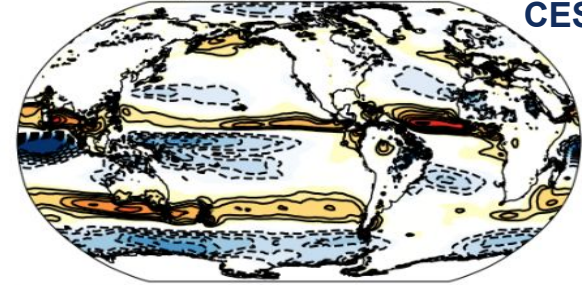
From Alice DuVivier:



950hPa Zonal Wind Biases

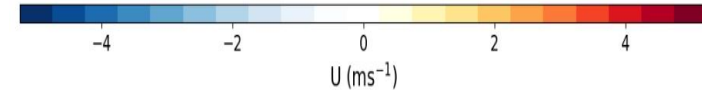
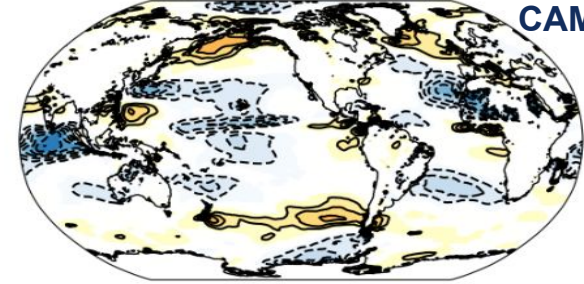
BLT1850 121 – ERA5, SON

CESM3 Beta



FLTHIST (121) – ERA5, SON

CAM7



Seems like a coupled problem, some combination of position of jet (run with nudged winds removed 50% of bias) along with ocean mixing

CESM_dev Issues

- Track runs

CESM_dev Discussions

- Discussion of coupled model runs / problems

CESM_dev Project (Biases)

- Tracking of progress for major biases
- Tracking of progress for other configurations (e.g., high res)

The screenshot shows the GitHub project page for CESM3 CMIP - Biases. The page has a dark header with navigation links: Product, Solutions, Resources, Open Source, Enterprise, and Pricing. A search bar is on the right. Below the header, the project name 'CESM3 CMIP - Biases' is displayed with a green badge indicating 'Increased items preview' and a 'Feedback' link. A filter bar shows 'Bias' selected and 'View 4' items. A search bar below the filter says 'Filter by keyword or by field'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Todo' (0 items), 'In Progress' (6 items), and 'Done' (3 items). Each column has a description: 'This item hasn't been started', 'This is actively being worked on', and 'This has been completed'. The 'In Progress' column lists six items, each with a 'Draft' status and a circular progress indicator. The 'Done' column lists three items, each with a 'Draft' status and a circular progress indicator.

Product Solutions Resources Open Source Enterprise Pricing

Search or jump to...

CESM3 CMIP - Biases Increased items preview [Feedback](#)

Bias View 4

Filter by keyword or by field

Todo 0
This item hasn't been started

In Progress 6
This is actively being worked on

Done 3
This has been completed

Draft
Excess 20th century warming

Draft
Warm SST bias in MOM6 and Pacific precipitation

Draft
Impacts of convective gustiness

Draft
ENSO in cesm3

Draft
MT tuning

Draft
Positive RESTOM bias

Draft
Excessive aerosol burden in 98

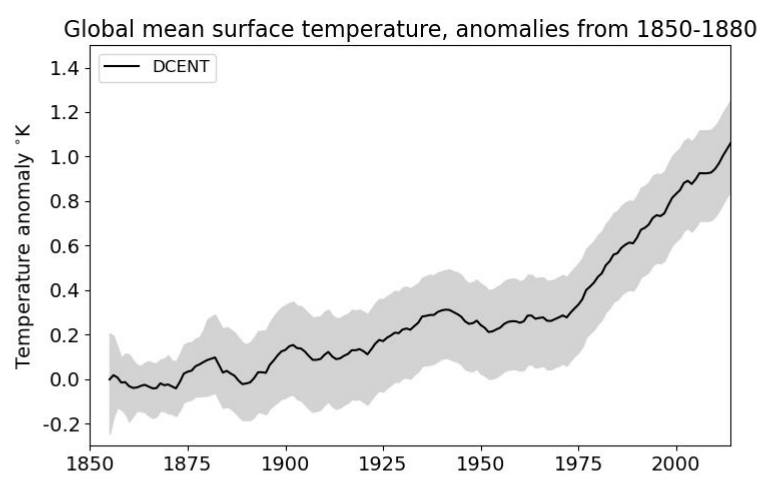
Draft
Compare BLTHIST to CESM2 forcing

Draft
Climate sensitivity assessment

Other features of CESM3 beta simulations (more analysis in Working Group sessions)

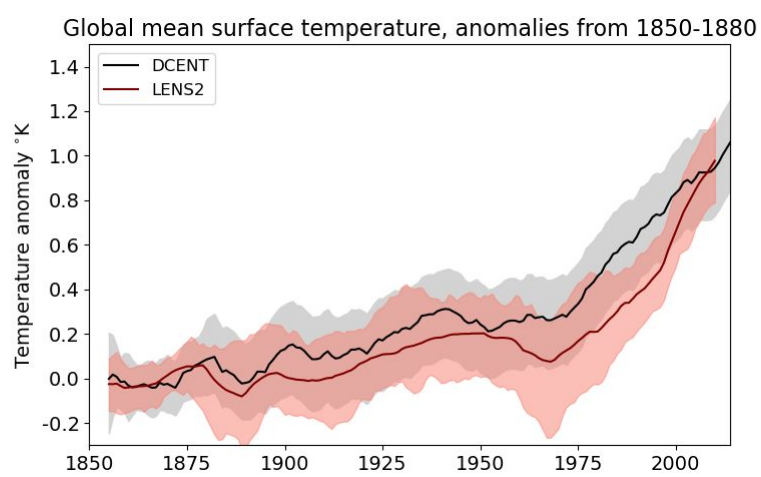


10 year running mean
global mean surface
temperature



↖ The DCENT observation-based
surface temperature
200 member ensemble
(Chan et al. 2024)

10 year running mean global mean surface temperature

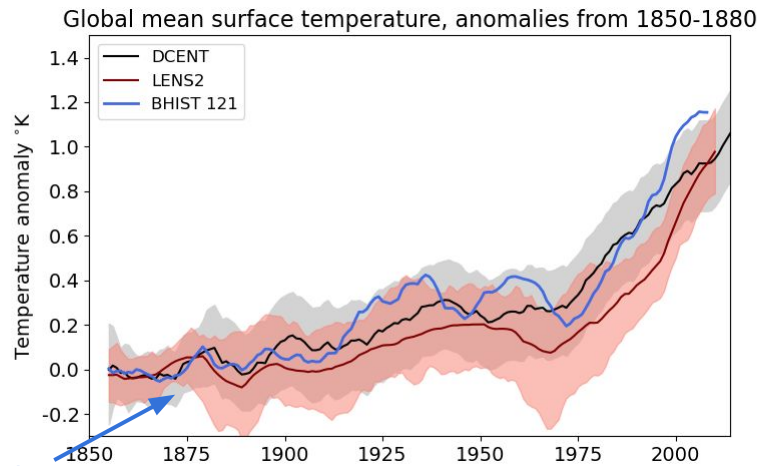


The DCENT observation-based SST
200 member ensemble
(Chan et al. 2024)

CESM2 large ensemble (first 50
members) i.e., not smoothed
biomass burning

(TREFHT over land, TS over
ocean)

10 year running mean global mean surface temperature



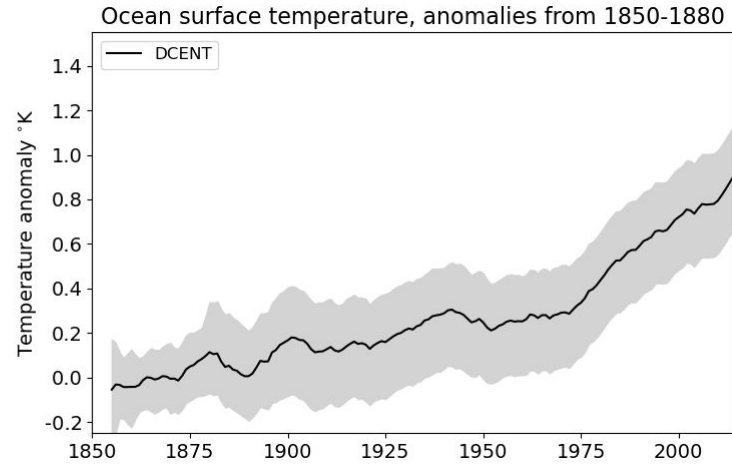
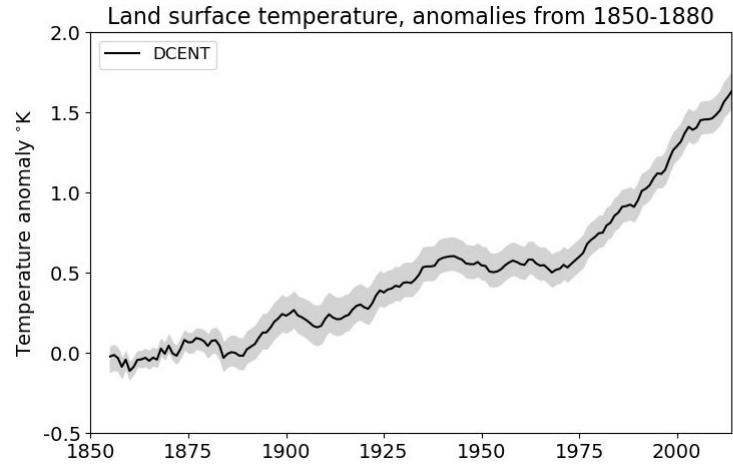
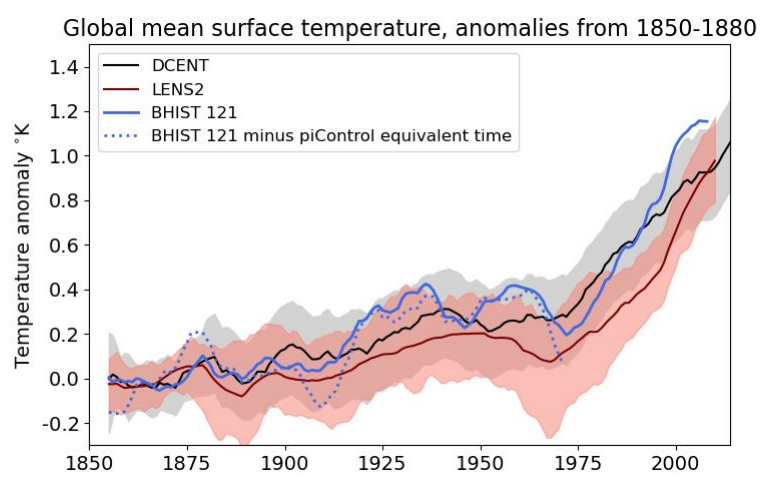
Recent CESM3
development simulation

The DCENT observation-based
surface temperature
200 member ensemble
(Chan et al. 2024)

CESM2 large ensemble (first 50
members) i.e., not smoothed
biomass burning

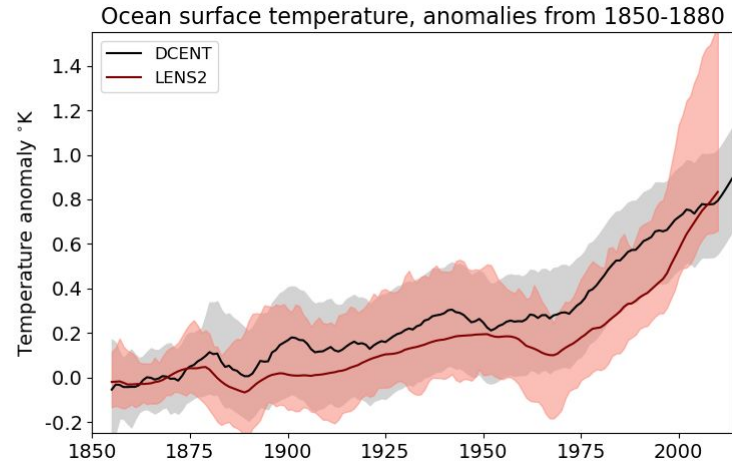
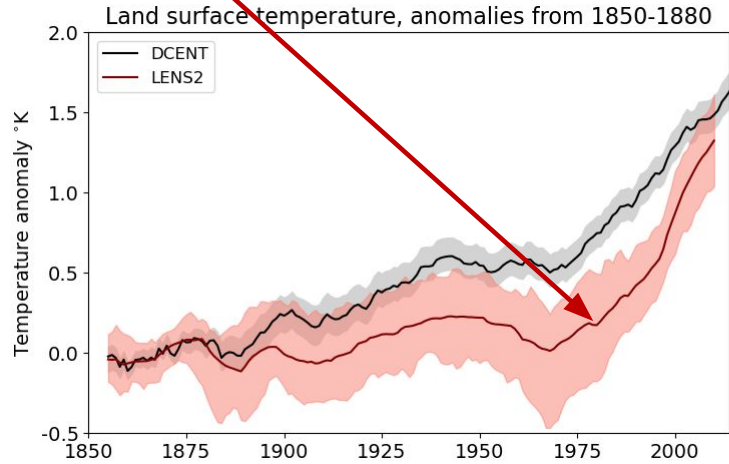
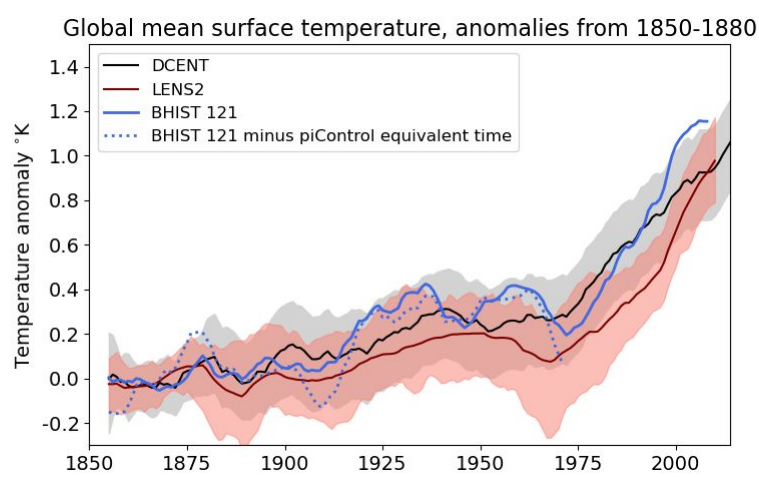
(TREFHT over land, TS over
ocean)

10 year running mean global mean surface temperature



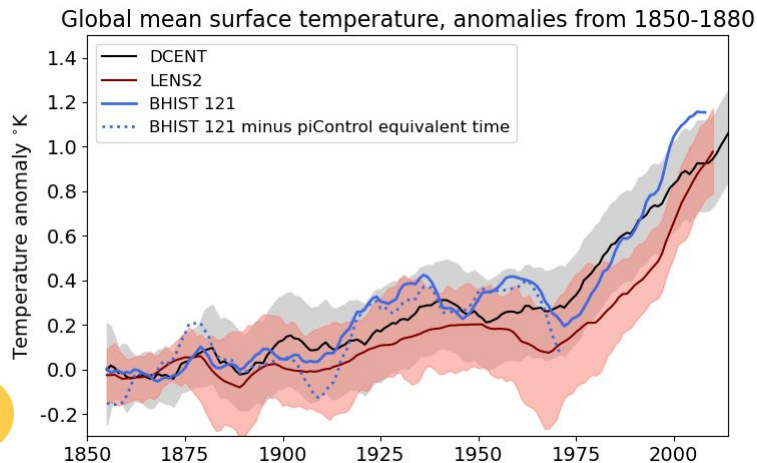
10 year running mean global mean surface temperature

CESM2 didn't warm
enough over the land
over much of the 20th
century



10 year running mean global mean surface temperature

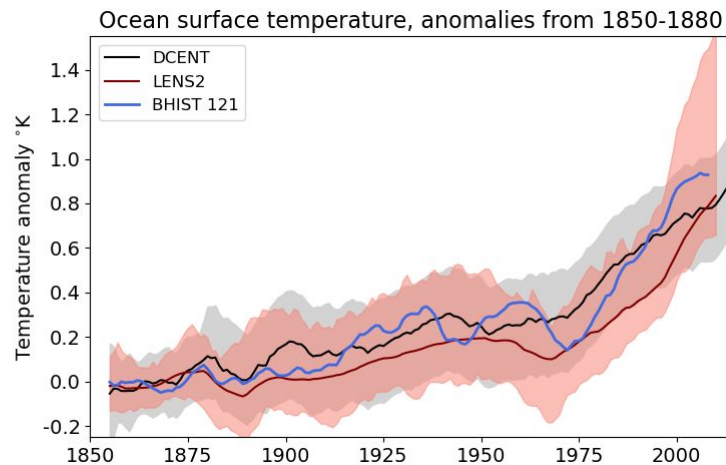
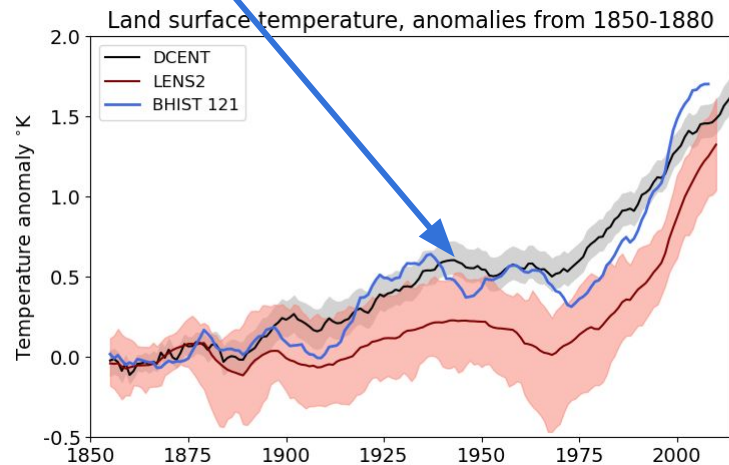
CESM3 development run
is much better!



We suspect these improvements are
related to changes in aerosol effects.

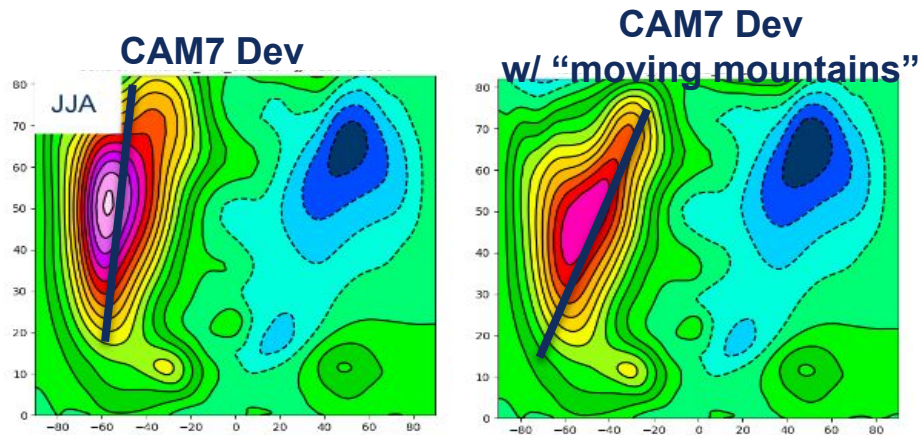
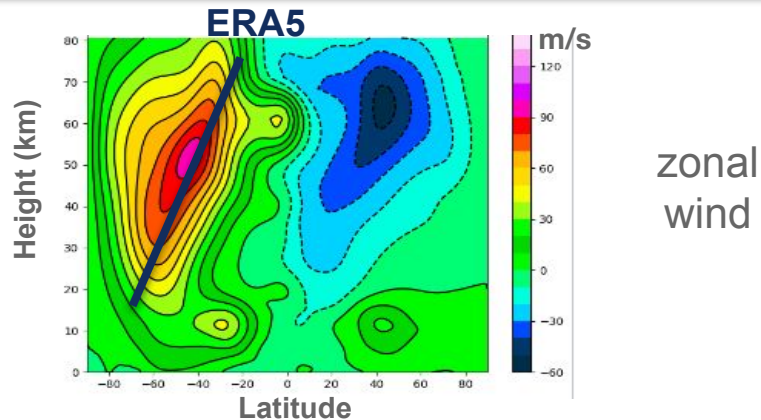
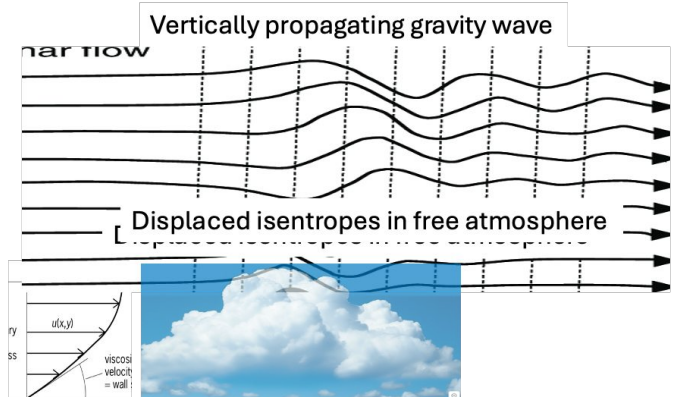
Aerosol Radiative Forcing:

-1.65 In CESM2 (Medeiros et al. 2020)
-0.5 in a beta version of CESM3
(though assessed in version before
new dust emissions)



Improvements to stratospheric jets with “moving mountains” GW param

New source of gravity waves
 (“moving mountains”)

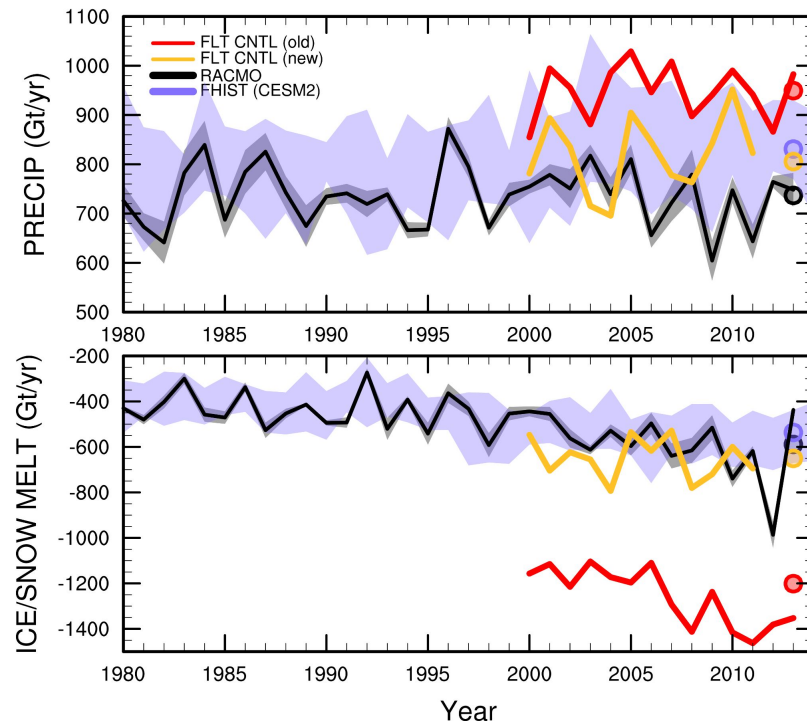


Greenland Surface Mass Balance (SMB)

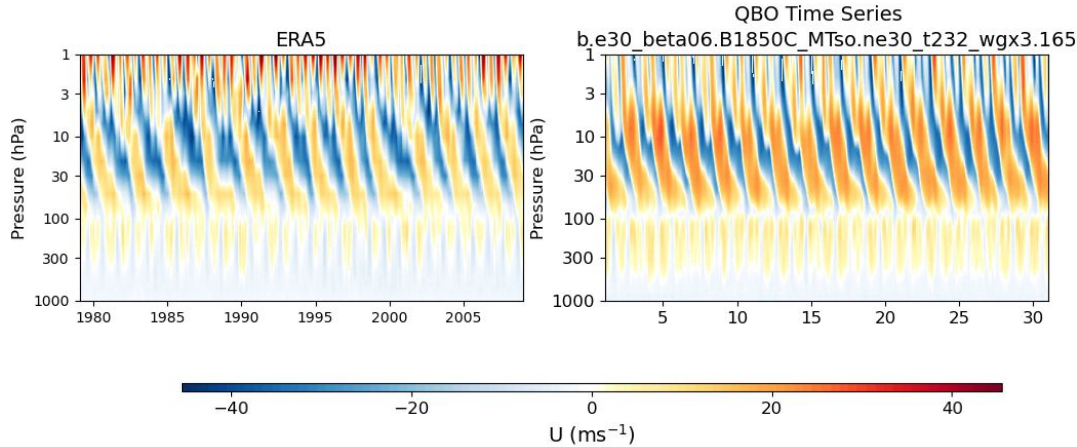
Improving biases in precipitation and melting over the Greenland Ice Sheet

- ❑ Reasonable SMB required to enable interactive ice sheet simulations
- ❑ As in CESM2, artificially enhance sub-grid orography along the Greenland coasts **reduces excessive precipitation**
- ❑ **Reduced excessive melting** through switching back to the Jordan snow conductivity scheme, just over ice sheets

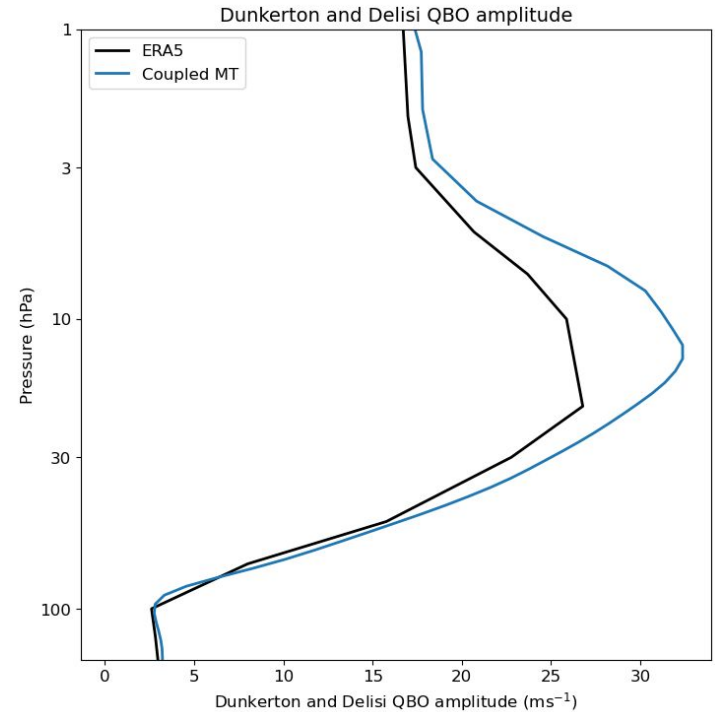
Ice Sheet-wide precipitation and ice+snow melt



Highlights of first coupled CESM3(MT) run

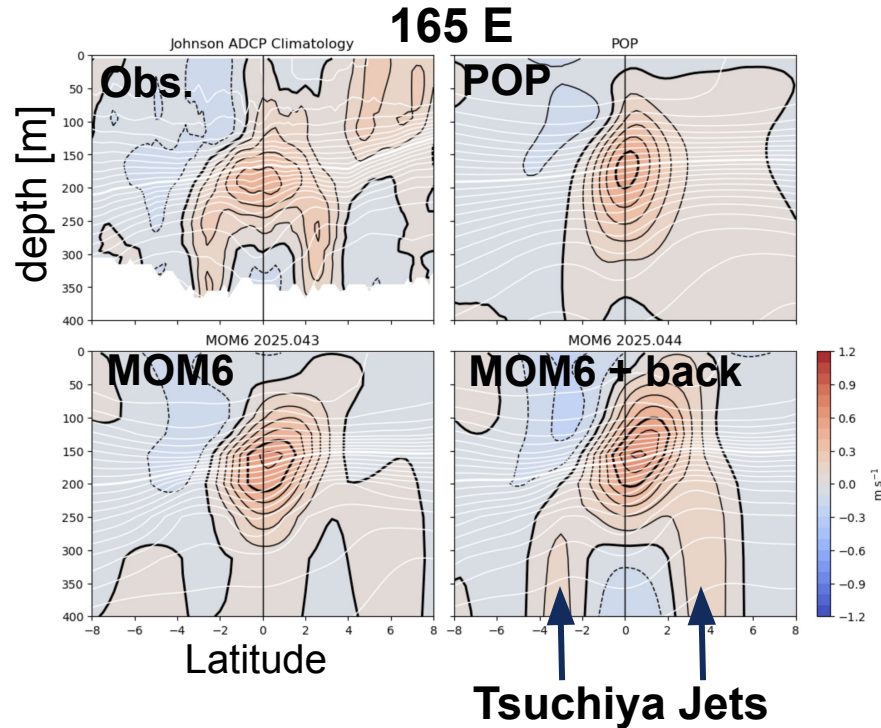


- QBO amplitude in good agreement with ERA5, especially below 30hPa
- QBO period too fast and westerly phase too strong; tuning?



Improved Equatorial Ocean Processes via Kinetic Energy Backscatter

Transects of zonal velocity



- Emergence of **Tsuchiya jets** when backscatter is applied
- These jets reduce biases in the extent of oxygen minimum zones (not shown), critical for ocean BGC



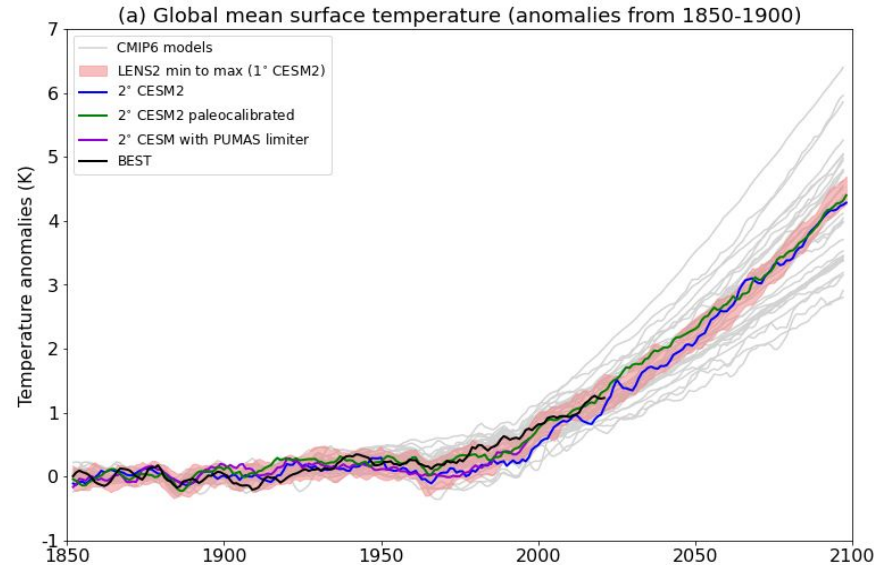
Is the high ECS in CESM2 degrading transient climate change projections over the 21st century?

Margaret L. Duffy^{1,2}, Isla R. Simpson¹, Christina S. McCluskey¹, Brian Medeiros¹, Jiang Zhu¹, Adam R. Herrington¹, Andrew Gettelman³, Bette L. Otto-Bliesner¹, John T. Fasullo¹, Peter H. Lauritzen¹, Richard B. Neale¹, Hui Wan³, and David M. Lawrence¹

Key Points

- CESM2's high Equilibrium Climate Sensitivity (ECS) and too-cold simulation of ice age climate have raised questions about its skill.
- Changes to CESM2's microphysical representation that improve its ice age climate and ECS **do not impact its Transient Climate Response**.
- **CESM2 is appropriate for studies of the historical climate and 21st century warming**, and we provide guidance on how to use CESM2 for studies of other climates.

Submitted to JAMES,
frist reviews received



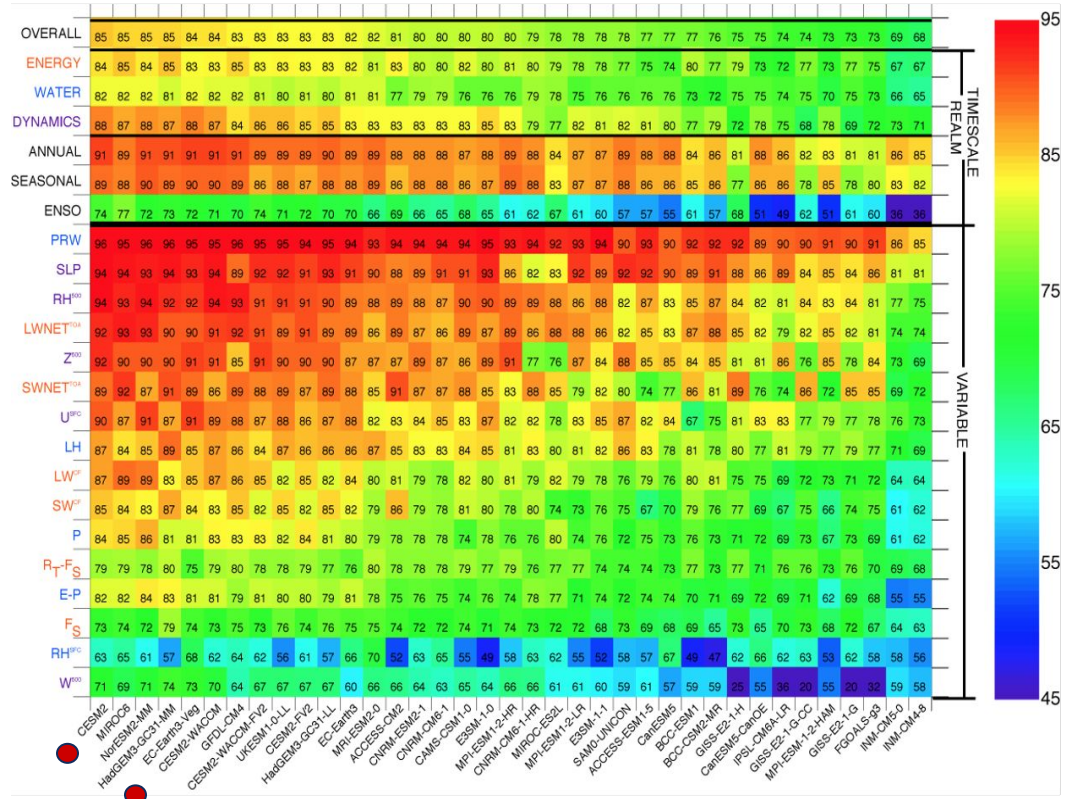
CESM3 assessment and tuning

As we finalize the science configuration, resolve issues, and tune the model, we will continue to evaluate against broad set of metrics

... but, CESM2 was/is a pretty good model, so ... we'll see

Scores for pattern correlations, seasonal contrasts, and ENSO teleconnections

CESM2 versions



better agreement with obs

CMAT analysis, Fasullo et al., 2020

CESM3 Tools



CMIP7 Forcings

CMIP7 Datasets

- Raw datasets: [Location on glade](#)
- CESM-ready forcing: [Tracking processing](#)
- Scripts: [Github repository](#) (in development)

Dataset			Raw Datasets			Processing (making datasets "CESM ready")			Testing (running cases)	
Name	Contact	Github	Status	Glade Location	Comments	Status	Scripts location	Comments (including Expected date)	Status	Case directory
Anthropogenic short-lived climate forcer (SLCF) and CO2 emissions	Louisa, Rebecca, and Ben	link	Preliminary dataset	glade/campaigns/cesm/data/input4MIPs_rawinput4MIPs_CMIP7Plus_CMIP7	There are 2 dates, only processing the latest (CESM-CMP-50a11-20) glade/bensch/scratch/gaberforts_p_output/01model_ready/	Done		Datasets are done but only tested for period 2010-2020 - didn't process airbrack emission yet	Done	glade/bensch/scratch/gaberfortshead_k2_F_Coupled_608_608_mg17_ah-ab_2000_corg_7_voc_anc_fm_001aemhas
Open biomass burning emissions	Louisa, Rebecca, and Ben + Nan (archiving present-day emissions)	link	Preliminary dataset	DRESORES-CMP-BB-CMIP7-1-0	Facultu expect CMIP7 to have smoothed emissions by the end of Feb. glade/bensch/scratch/gaberforts_p_output/01model_ready/ https://github.com/CMIP7Plus/CMIP7-Plus/tree/main/1418850460/20200404	In progress			Done	glade/bensch/scratch/gaberfortshead_k2_F_Coupled_608_608_mg17_ah-ab_2000_corg_7_voc_anc_fm_001aemhas
Land use	Peter	link	Preliminary dataset	UNIMQ/InMD-landState-3-0	https://github.com/CMIP7Plus/CMIP7-Plus/tree/main/1418850460/20200404	Unknown			Unknown	
Greenhouse gas concentrations	Doug Kinnison & Jun Zhang	link	Preliminary dataset	CRICR-CMP-3-4-0	This dataset has made fraction LRCs for Greenhouse gases. It also includes the halogens (CFCs, HCFCs, Bromine). OCS is also included.	In progress			Unknown	
CO2 isotopes	TBD (check with Will)	link	In preparation			Unknown			Unknown	
Photographic volcanic SO2 emissions and aerosol optical properties	Simone, Iaria	link	Preliminary dataset	usercenter/VOEXETER-CMP-1-1-3 usercenter/VOEXETER-CMP-1-2-0 usercenter/VOEXETER-CMP-1-3-0 (latest)	Simone had an issue with the files and was touch with the CMIP group. The new files have been posted. They changed the injection height, and Iaria has had problems processing it with the new heights.	In progress	glade/uhomes/qauglia/injection_files.py	The python script first produces a csv file that can be read with Mike's scripts, and continues with the creation of the netcdf emissions. The python output has been compared with Mike's netcdf. In addition to Mike's script here you can choose between a vertically uniform or gaussian injection.	Unknown	
Ozone concentrations		link	In preparation		We don't need those (datasets created with MI then used for T1). Need to discuss next time. Will be defined from ongoing WACCM simulations with CMIP7 forcings	In progress		Simulations will start 1st week of March.	Not started	

Strategy for testing

- Test in CESM2-WACCM (*in progress*)
 - B1850 + CMIP6 forcing: **Done**
 - B1850 + CMIP7 forcing: **Done**
 - BHIST + CMIP6 forcing: **Running**
 - BHIST + CMIP7 forcing: **Start this week**
- If no issues arise, test in CESM3-beta

MIP Workflow (Input data, MIP prep, Production, Post-process, CMORization, Publication)

Prerequisites

CMIP7 forcing

- ↻ raw -> CESM-ready
- ↻ forcing testing

MIP prep

- ✓ Data request
-> CESM variables
- ✓ Volume calculator
- ↻ Storage

CESM Unified Postprocessing
and Diagnostics (CUPiD)



Workflow

Production

Postprocess

CMORization

Publish

- ✓ Database
- ⌚ Scripts development

- ↻ Timeseries Tools
- ↻ CUPiD

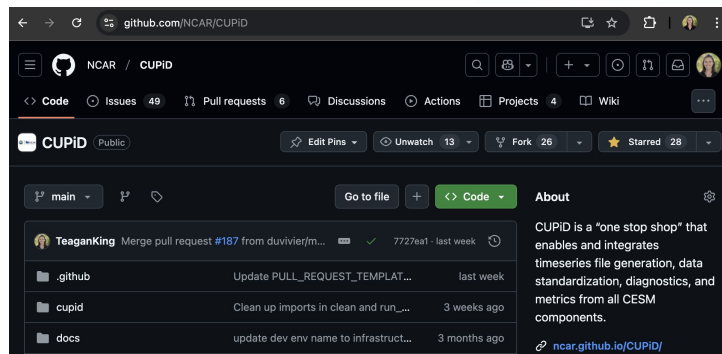
- ↻ CMOR tool

Legend

- ✓ → Done
- ↻ → In Progress
- ⌚ → Not Started

CUPiD (CESM Unified Post-processing and Diagnostics package)

- ☒ Key metrics for most components which can run in parallel
- ☒ Internal and External diagnostic packages
- ☒ Command line arguments
- ☒ Common environment
- ☒ Documentation
- ☐ Part of CESM Workflow
- ☐ Support for machines other than Casper / Derecho
- ☐ Include additional packages (CVDP / MDTF)



CUPiD Update

External Diagnostic Packages

Search

Atmosphere

Link to ADF output

Land

[Link to ILAMB output](#)

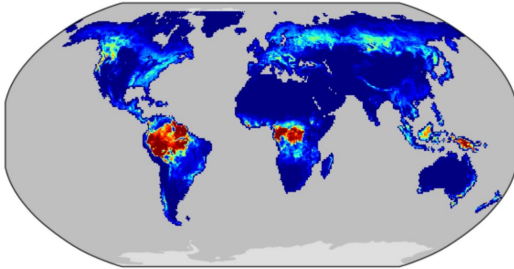
[Link to Full ILAMB output](#)

Key Metrics from ILAMB

Some important things to look at from ILAMB:

Show code cell source

```
.../examples/external_diag_packages/ILAMB_output/EcosystemandCarbonCycle/Biomass/ESACCI/Be
```



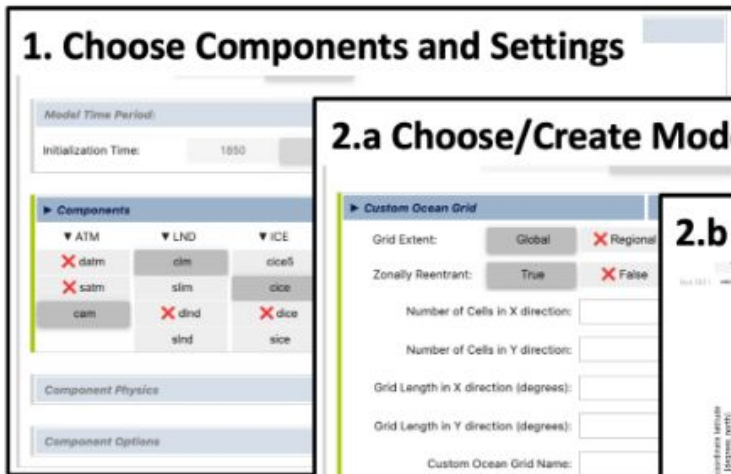
CUPiD is now included in the [ccs_config_cesm](#) workflow. This is available in beta05 enabling CUPiD to be run directly within CESM workflow (in testing).

ILAMB Benchmarking	
Overall Score	
Global - Land	
CTSM51	
Ecosystem and Carbon Cycle	
Biomass	
Burned Area	
Carbon Dioxide	
Gross Primary Productivity	
FLUXNET2015	
FLUXCOM	
WECANN	
GBAF	
Leaf Area Index	
Global Net Ecosystem Carbon Balance	
Net Ecosystem Exchange	
Ecosystem Respiration	
Soil Carbon	
Nitrogen Fixation	
Hydrology Cycle	
Evapotranspiration	
Evaporative Fraction	
Latent Heat	
Runoff	
Sensible Heat	

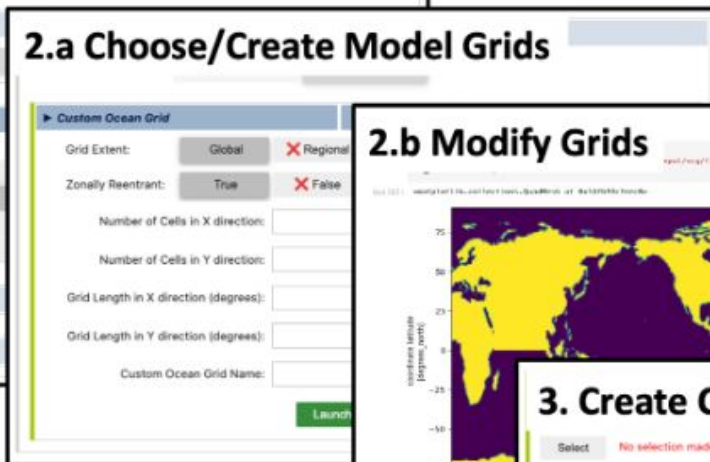
visualCaseGen released

A typical visualCaseGen Workflow

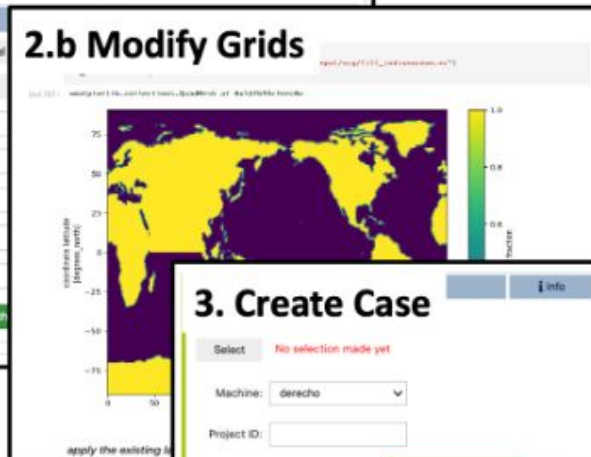
1. Choose Components and Settings



2.a Choose/Create Model Grids



2.b Modify Grids



3. Create Case



A user-friendly graphical interface (GUI) to assist users in creating CESM experiments

Key features:

- Easy exploration and setup of CESM configuration options
- Rapid generation of custom configurations:



Alper Altuntas,

Sam Levis, Isla Simpson, Gokhan Danabasoglu, Scott Bachman, Brian Dobbins

<https://esmci.github.io/visualCaseGen/>

CESM3 Release Timing



- Need to finish CESM3 for many reasons; enabling new science, setting new baseline for CESM3-MLe and High Resolution configurations, MIPs
- CESM Working Group co-chairs, SSC, and CAB is working towards a plan to finalize CESM3
- Likely will include firm deadlines and accepting that some biases cannot be resolved

How to resolve the “final mile(s)” coupled development problem?

- Idea from arising from CESM2 development to couple early and often hasn't solved all our problems
- New strategies to emphasize: AI/ML assistance? Initialized predictions?

Other CESM activities



Forces driving the future of Earth System modeling

- Urgent need for actionable climate change information (climate risks, consequences of intervention/mitigation)
- *Earth System* prediction across timescales (ESPAT), S2S → S2D → 30-yr projections (ideally, seamless)
- Increasing demand for high-resolution ($\sim 0.25^\circ$) and ultra high-resolution (km-scale) configurations in modeling hierarchy
- Growth and potential of machine learning, hybrid modeling, and emulators to transform models
- Changing computing architectures → need for code modernization
- Calls for improved accessibility of ESMs and output (e.g., to global south)



CESM high-resolution (HR) simulations

CESM1.3(HR): 0.25° atm/Ind, 0.1° ocn

500-year PI control

1%CO₂, 4xCO₂

10-member 1850-2100 transient (RCP6, RCP8.5)

All HighResMIP Coupled and AMIP

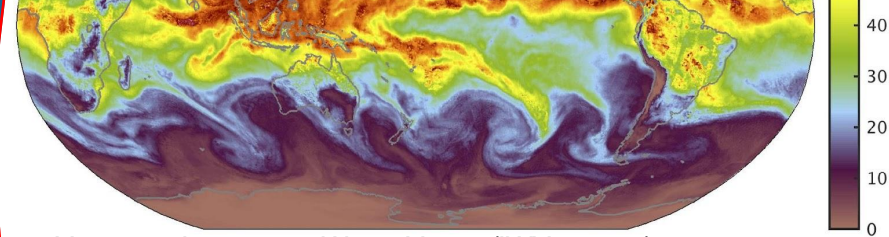
5 cycles of 1958-2018 OMIP (w/ BGC)

3-member 1970-2020 Ozone withholding

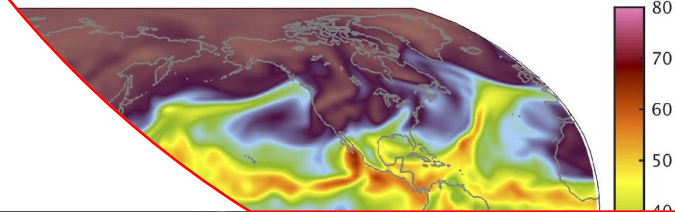
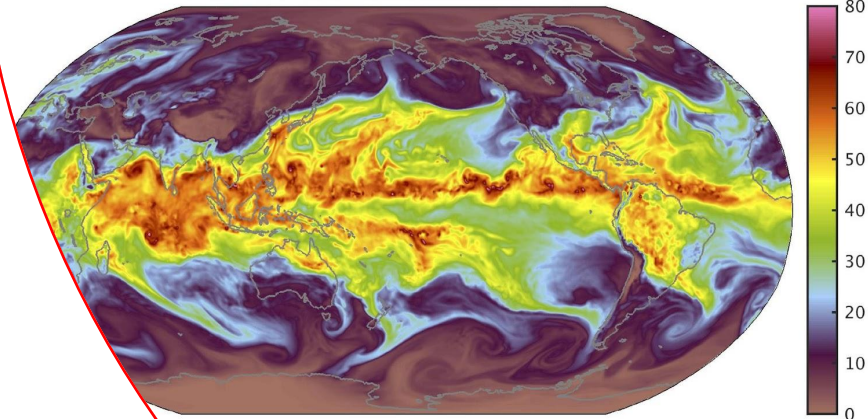
3-member 1950-2014 AMIP

Decadal Predictions (1980-2023)

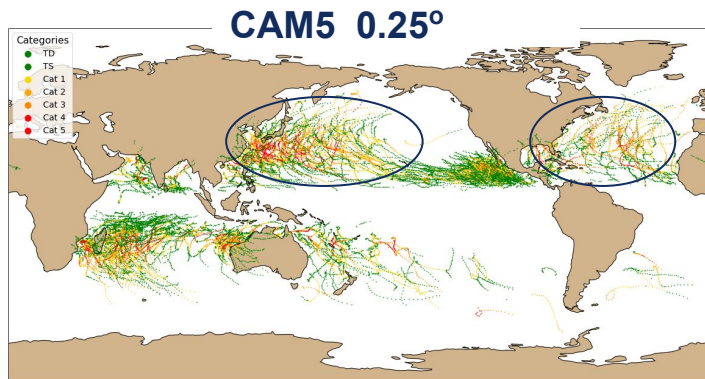
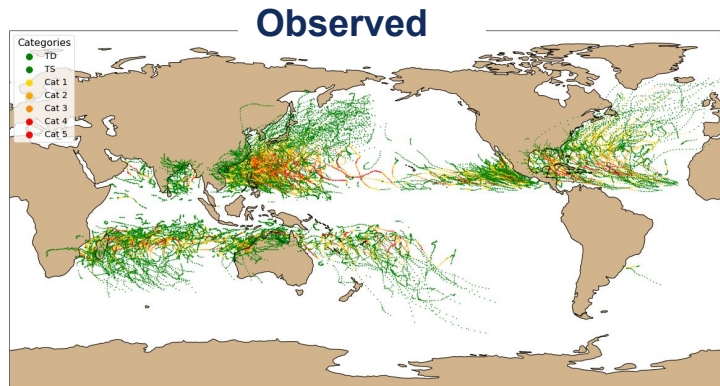
PaleoCWG: 60-year high- and low-CO₂ past periods



Vertically Integrated Water Vapor (IWV, in mm)

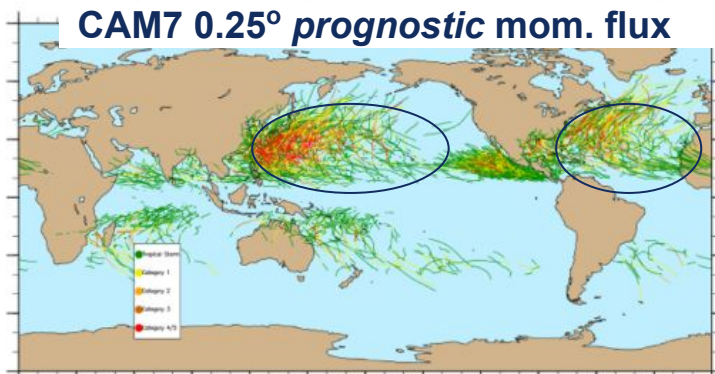


Preliminary work towards a CESM3 HR configuration (CAM7 simulations)



Tropical Cyclone tracks (2000-2010)

- Action is shifted west and south w/resp to what it was in CAM5
- Recurvature is better in CAM7
- Implies landfall/impact statistics might be better in CAM7
- TC counts too high: ~160% of obs



On-going work:

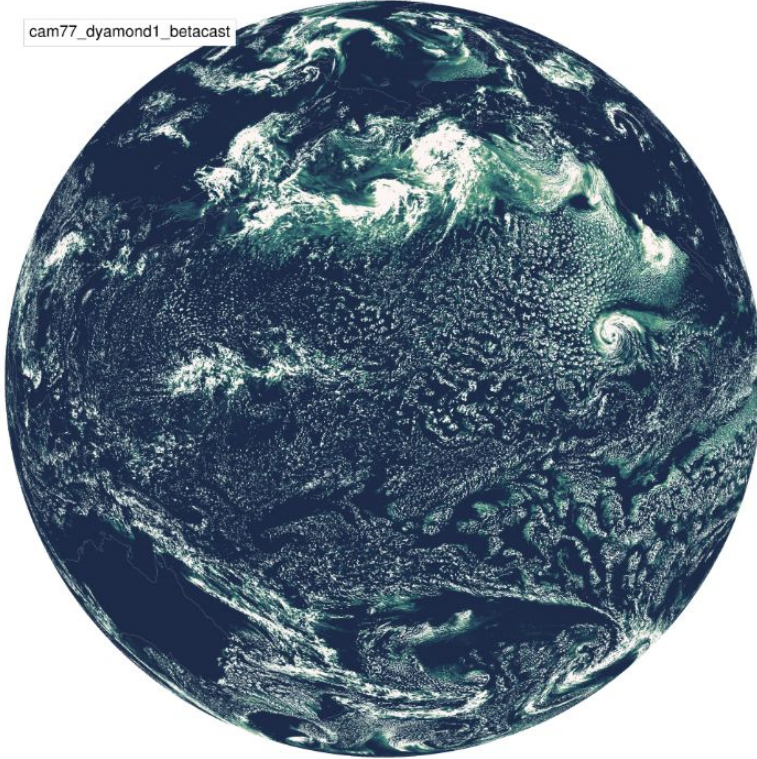
- Exploring sensitivity to convective time scale
- NH focused variable resolution domain (1/3 cost)
- Recent results in excellent agreement w/ NH TC counts ~50/year

CESM km-scale capabilities

cloud water path (kg/m²)

day: 20160804 sec: 21600

cam77_dyamond1_betacast



Joint effort:

**CSEG, SIMA, Earthworks, StormSPEED
CGD, CISL, MMM**

Km-scale efforts are a
cross-lab, cross institution,
activity

CAM-MPAS DYAMOND simulations

DYAMOND = DYnamics of the Atmospheric general circulation Modeled On Non-hydrostatic Domains

- ❑ Provides a framework for the intercomparison of global storm-resolving models (Stevens et al., 2019)

- ❑ DYAMOND1 (summer) 40-day run starting on 1 August 2016
 - ❑ Completed
 - ❑ Bug in diagnostic pressure field, add'l sponge layer diffusion
- ❑ DYAMOND2 (winter) 40-day run starting on 20 January 2020
 - ❑ 30 of 40 days completed
 - ❑ Snow depth bug in CLM
- ❑ DYAMOND3 (annual) 1-year run starting on 1 March 2020
 - ❑ NSC allocation awarded (A. Herrington, Y. Tian, H. Li, D. Leung, P. Lauritzen, F. Judd)
 - ❑ Plan to start in the winter, after a tuning & calibration effort

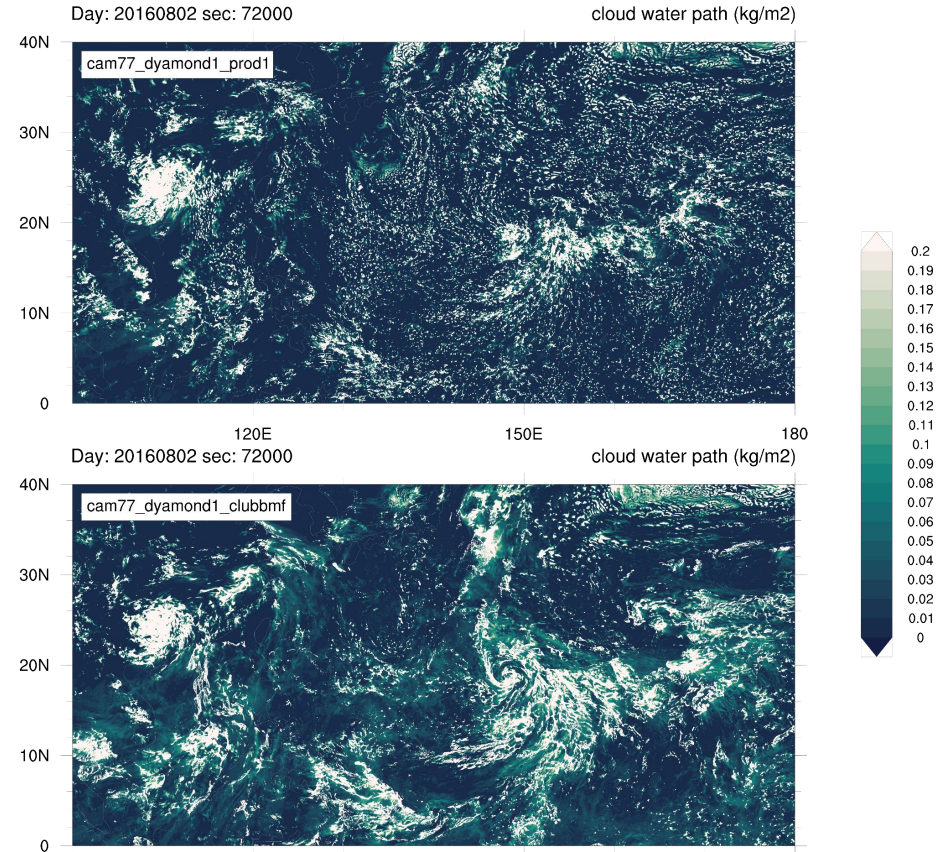
Huge thanks to Brian Dobbins, Adam Herrington, and many others in EarthWorks, SIMA, and StormSPEED projects to make this happen

CLUBB+MF in km-scale CESM3

Using *CLUBB+MF in 3.75 km CAM-MPAS improves transitional cumulus regimes with less 'patchy' deep convection and more realistic spectrum of clouds

Simulation 1:
CLUBB shallow convection is the only convection scheme active

Simulation 2:
Same as 1, but with CLUBB+MF

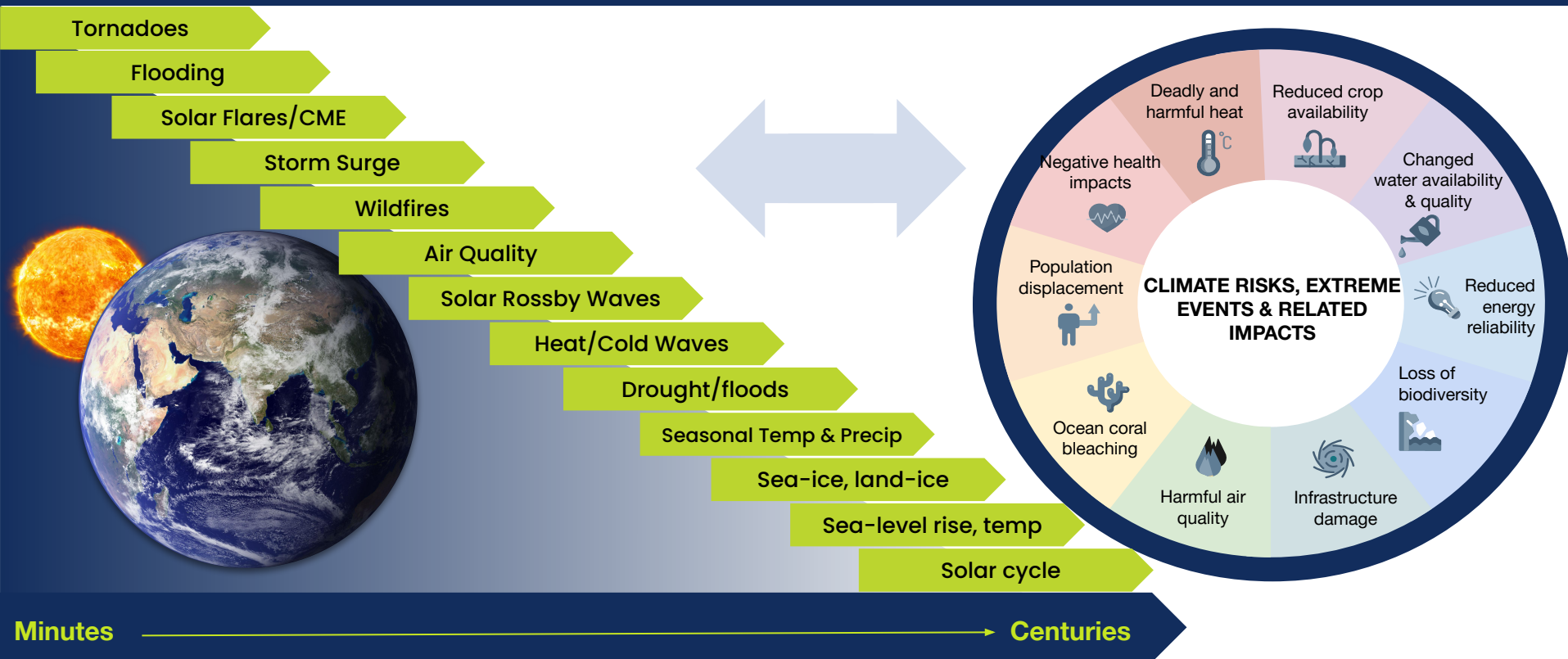


*CLUBB+MF is CLUBB augmented with an ensemble of stochastic mass flux plumes (Suselj et al. 2019; Witte et al. 2022)

Adam Herrington

NSF NCAR priority: Earth System Predictability Across Timescales (ESPAT)

Guided by societal needs, spanning minutes to centuries



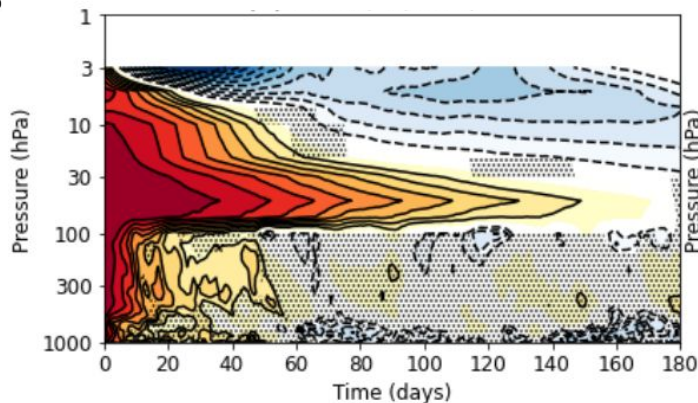
A new seasonal prediction hindcast suite with high vertical resolution



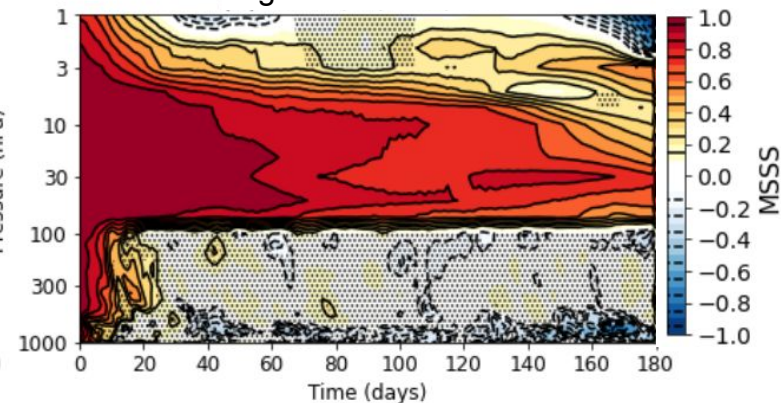
CESM2 but with CESM3's vertical resolution
Initialized Nov 1st, Feb 1st, Sept 1st 1970-2020
6 month long simulations
Standard L32 hindcast suite for comparison

Significantly enhanced skill in the QBO on 6 month timescales with potential influence elsewhere

Standard low vertical resolution



New higher vertical resolution



Mean squared skill score of 5S-5N zonal mean zonal wind



Description paper being finalized. Dataset coming soon.

Land 'expected' to be a key source of predictability at subseasonal-seasonal (S2S) timescales ...

but CESM2 does not support this hypothesis ... why?

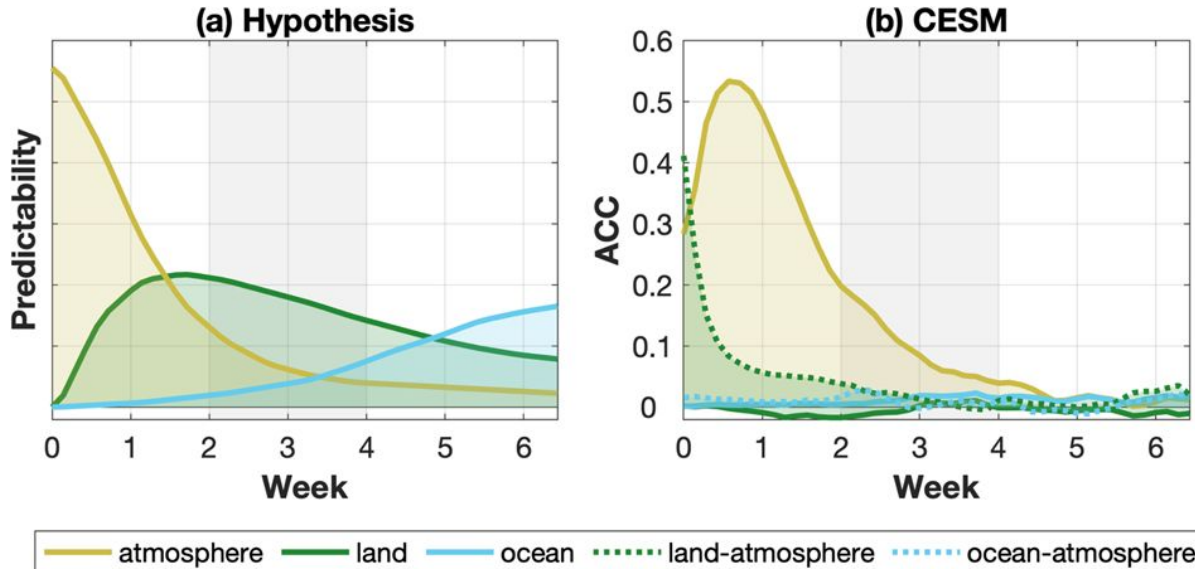


Figure 1 of Richter et al. (2024)

**L-A interactions in S2S
ESPAT Working Group**

Workshop next week

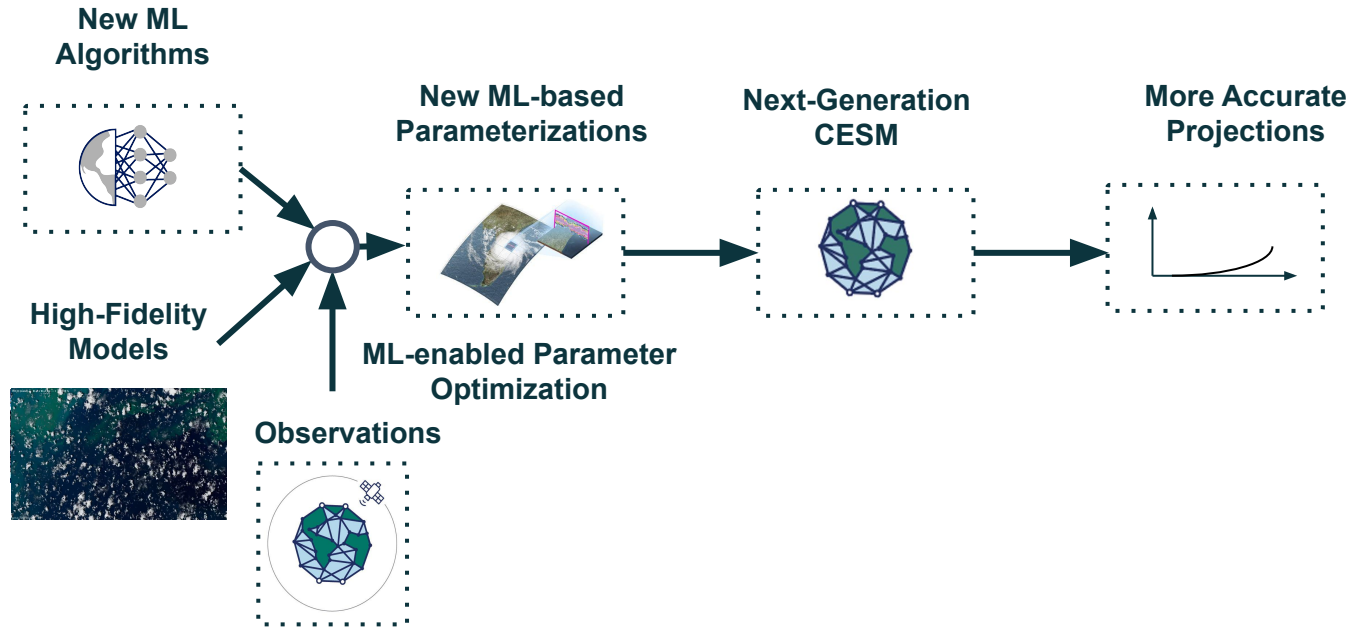
Contact Meg Fowler
(mdfowler@ucar.edu) if
interested in topic

Towards a machine learning enhanced version of CESM (CESM3-MLe)



Learning the Earth with Artificial
intelligence and Physics
NSF Science and Technology Center

M²LInES
Schmidt Sciences

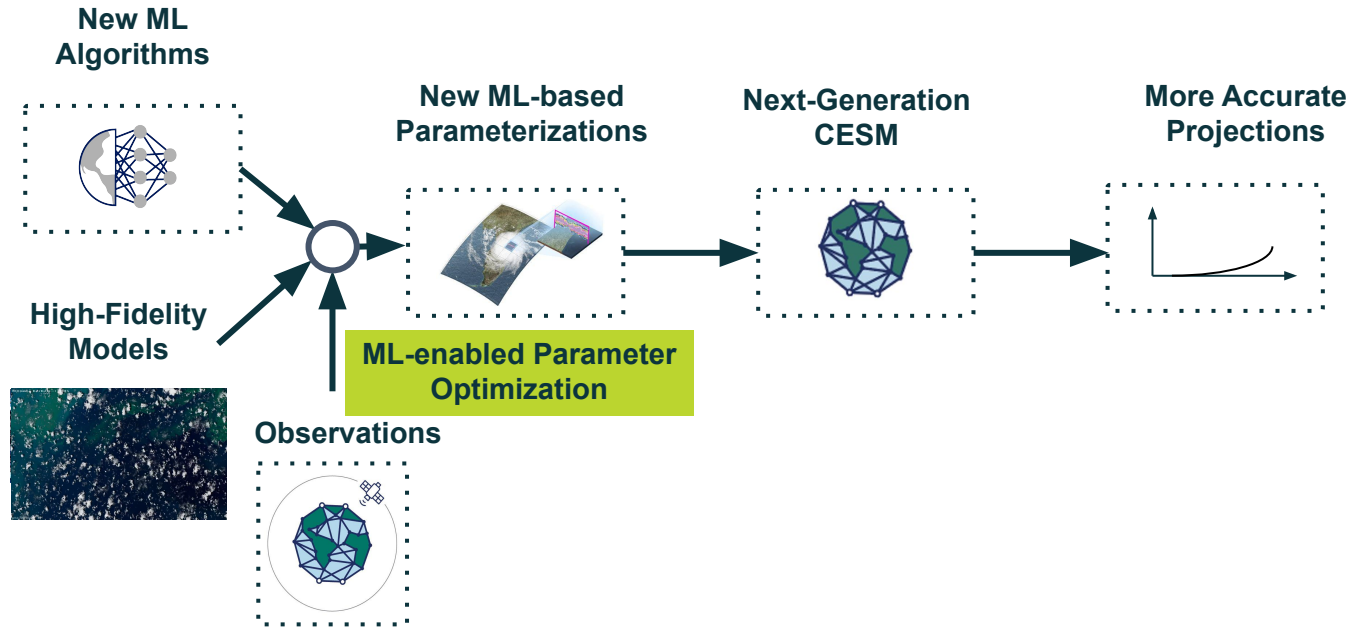
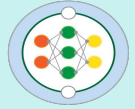


Towards a machine learning enhanced version of CESM (CESM3-MLe)



Learning the Earth with Artificial
intelligence and Physics
NSF Science and Technology Center

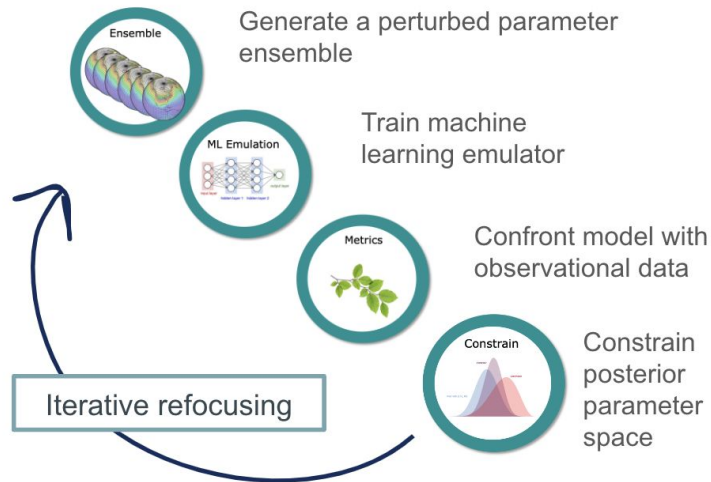
M²LInES
Schmidt Sciences



Towards a machine learning enhanced version of CESM (CESM3-MLe)

Parameter estimation methodologies have been developed for land (CLM) and atmosphere (CAM) model components

CLM



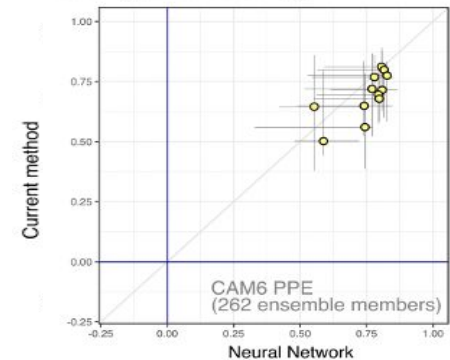
Linnia Hawkins, Daniel Kennedy, Katie Dagon,
Dave Lawrence

CAM

Additive Gaussian Process Emulator

Designed for sparse state spaces:

- Additive and simple
- Parameter interaction considered
- Less likely to overfit



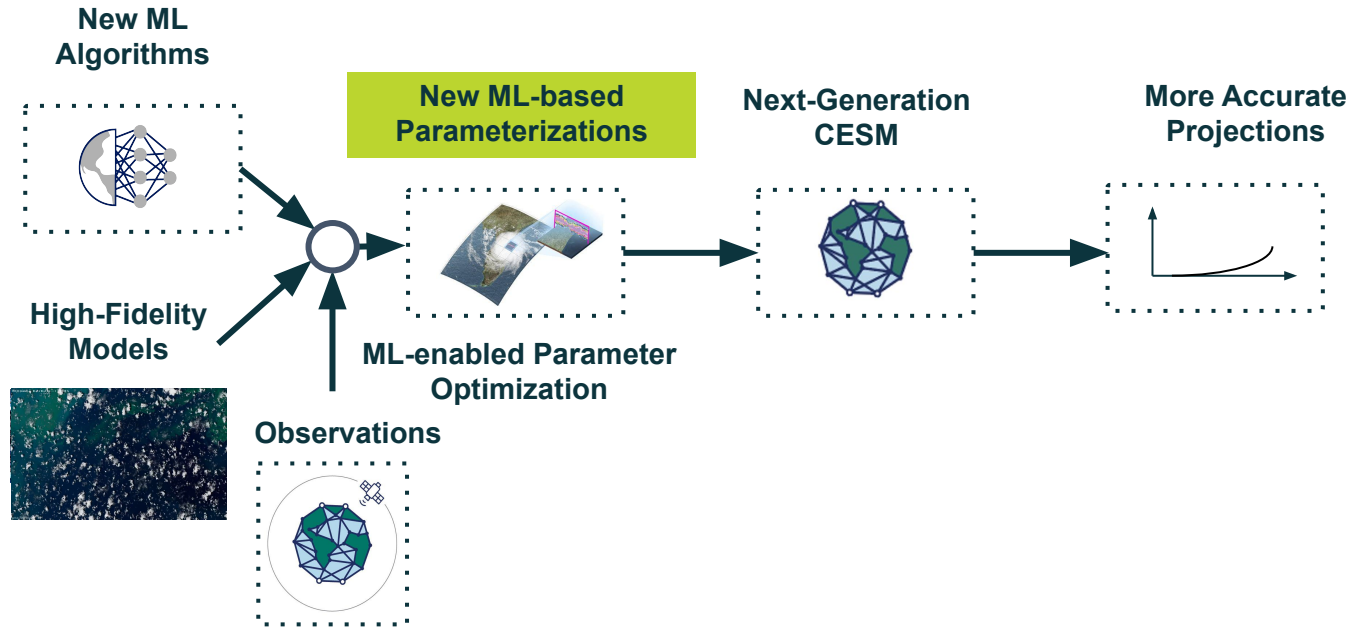
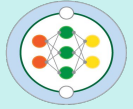
Qingyuan Yang, Greg Elsaesser, Brian Medeiros,
Addisu Semie, Marcus van Lier-Walqui

Towards a machine learning enhanced version of CESM (CESM3-MLe)



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Candidate ML-based parameterizations and tools for CESM3-MLe

Radiation

Phenology

Pedotransfer
functions

Fire

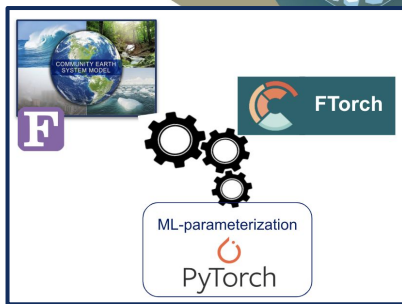
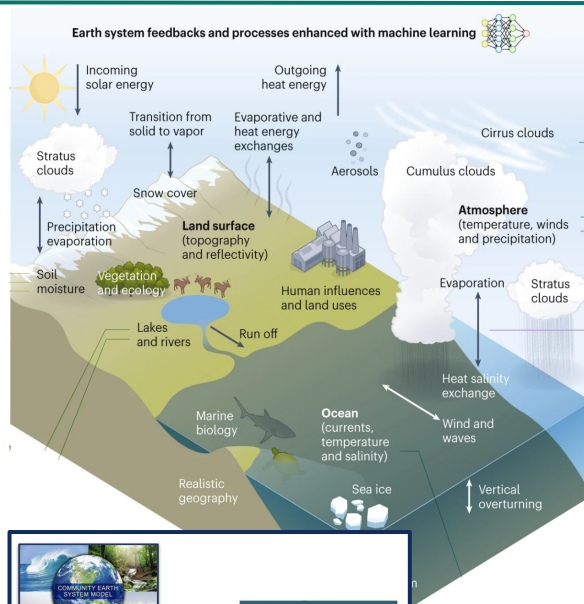
Sea ice heat conduction

Ice sheet friction

LEAP

M²LInES

ICON, E3SM, lit.



Warm rain microphysics

Ice microphysics

Turbulence

Convection

Cloud cover

Atmospheric Chemistry

Vertical Mixing (KPP)

Ocean Mesoscales

Air-sea turbulent fluxes

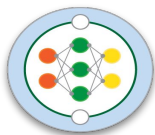
Candidate
parameterizations for
CESM-MLe

→ **LEAP and M²LInES**
are enabling the
platform for flexible
adoption and
experimentation of **ML**
parametrization &
calibration into CESM
from LEAP, M²LInES,
and other projects

CESM-MLe Integration Team

Identified need

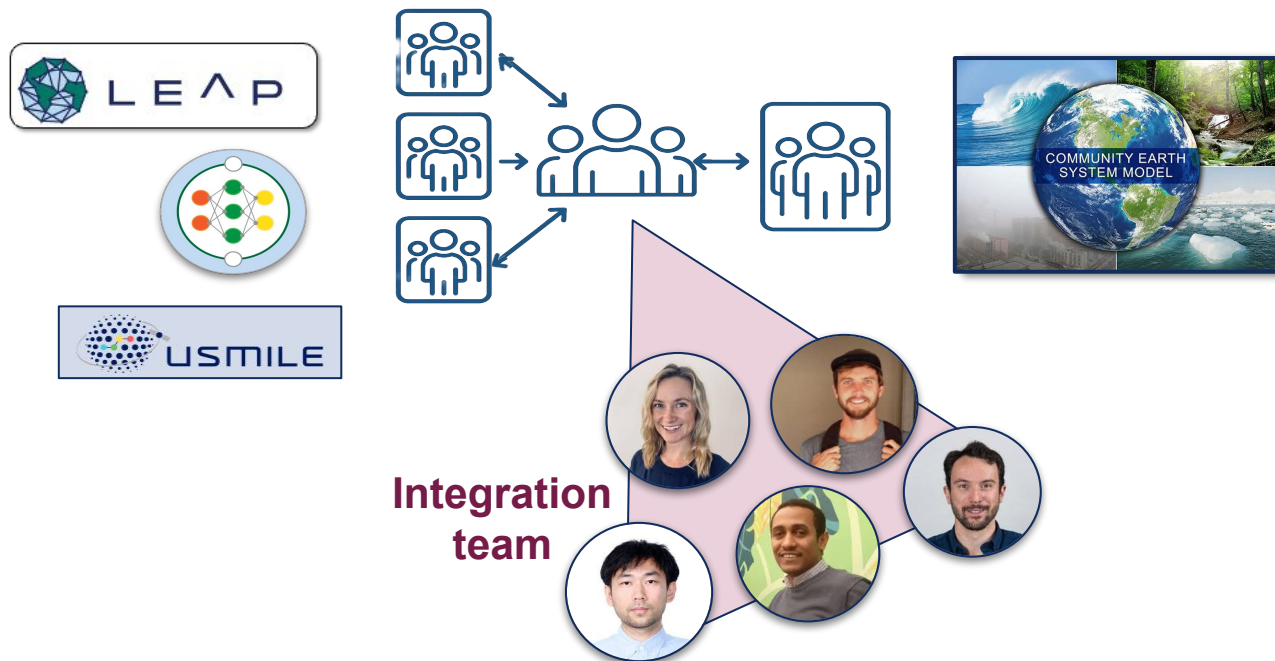
More productive and sustained interactions between LEAP and M²LInES projects and CESM scientists and developers



CESM-MLe Integration Team

Identified need

More productive and sustained interactions between LEAP and M²LInES projects and CESM scientists and developers



Next-generation Earth System modeling

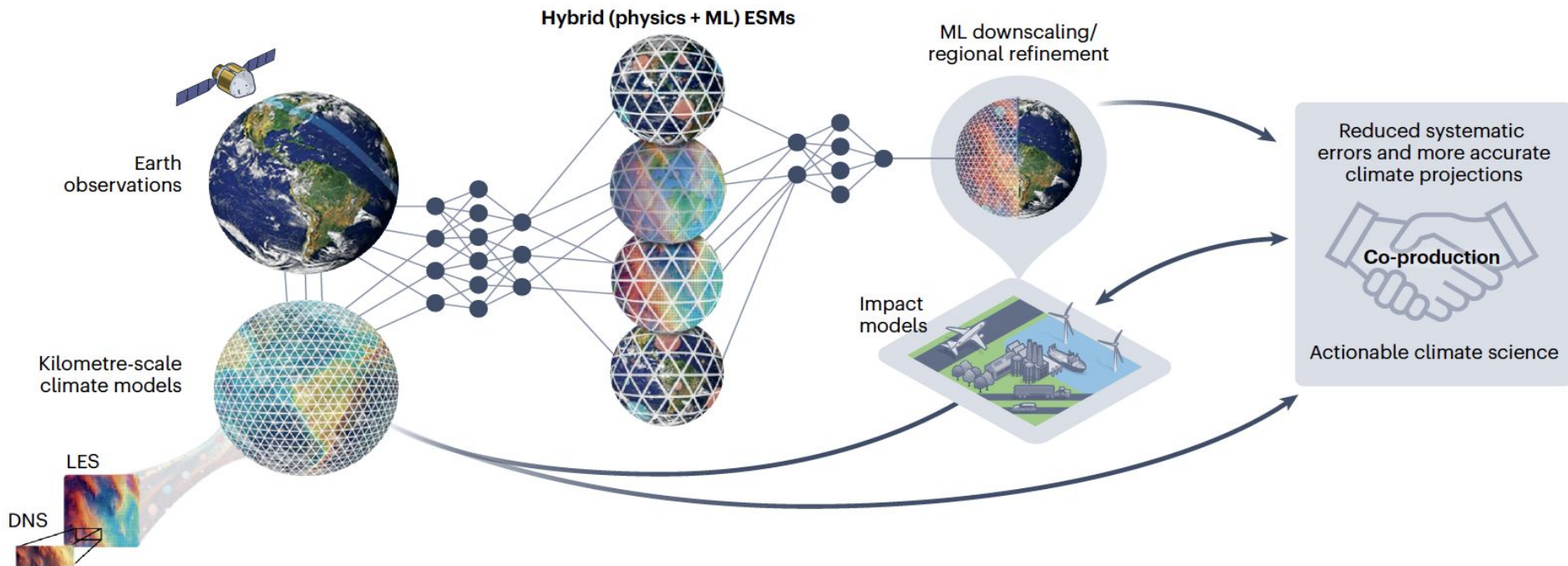


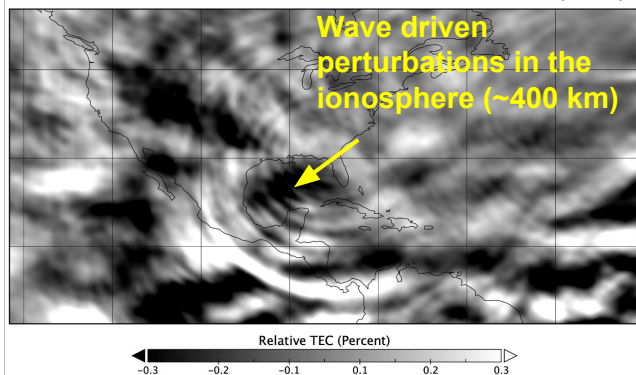
Figure from Eyring, Gentine, Camps-Valls, Lawrence, Reichstein (Nature Climate Change, 2024)

A few recent CESM science highlights



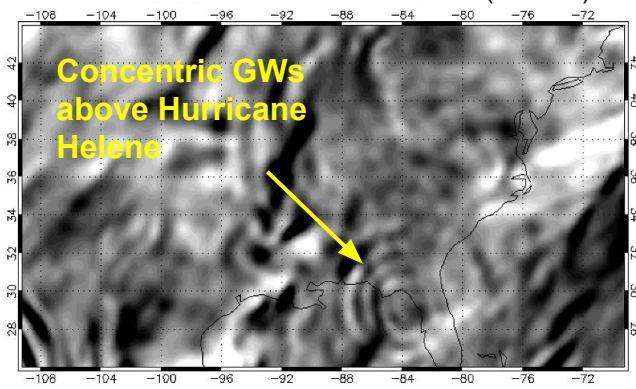
High-resolution WACCM-X simulations of hurricane-induced gravity waves from troposphere to space

WACCM-X Simulated Total Electron Content (TEC)

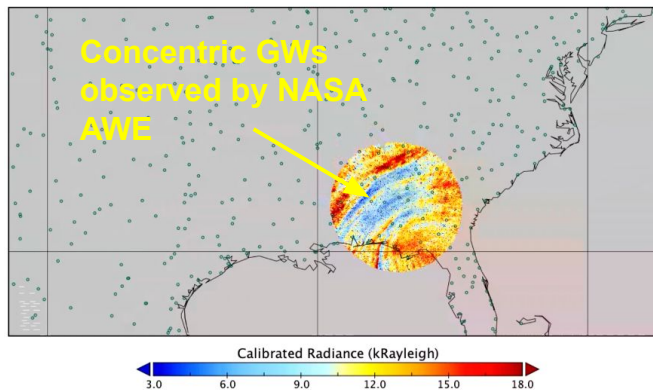


- High-resolution (NE120, 0.25°) WACCM-X simulations of Hurricane Helene show that the hurricane induced gravity waves reach the upper atmosphere (~400 km)
- NASA AWE mission observed concentric GWs near ~87 km altitude similar to the WACCM-X simulations
- Gravity waves generate small-scale perturbations in the ionosphere which can impact communications and navigation signals

WACCM-X Simulated Vertical Wind (~87 km)

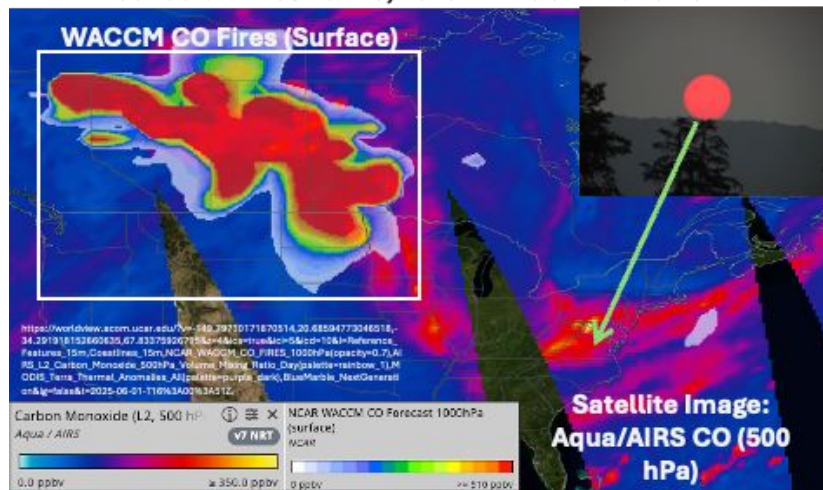


Gravity waves observed by NASA AWE (~87 km)



The CESM Chemistry Forecast System

Canadian Fires 1 June, 2025 – WACCM Worldview



Forecast Usage Statistics

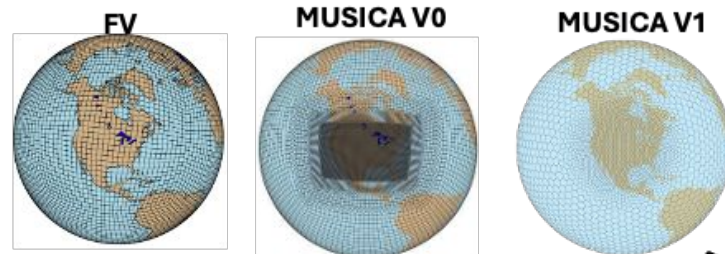
- ACOM Server:
 - ~17,000 downloads since 2018.
 - Over 1500 User unique registrations since 2019.
- NCAR RDA:
 - ~300 Unique users in 2024
 - 4x increase from 2023.

Current Forecast Configuration

- CESM 2.2.2
- FWSD Specified dynamics
- F09 (0.9x1.25) horizontal
- 88 vertical levels
- Meteorology: GEOS-FP
- Emissions: FINN, QFED, CAMS

Future

- CESM 3.x
- FWHIST
- MUSICAv0, MUSICAv1



Long Term: Transition to MUSICAv1

Shawn Honovich
Simone Tilmes, Rebecca Buchholz, Louisa Emmons,
Garth D'Attilio, & Carl Drews
NCAR/ACOM



<https://www.acom.ucar.edu/waccm/forecast/>

Science

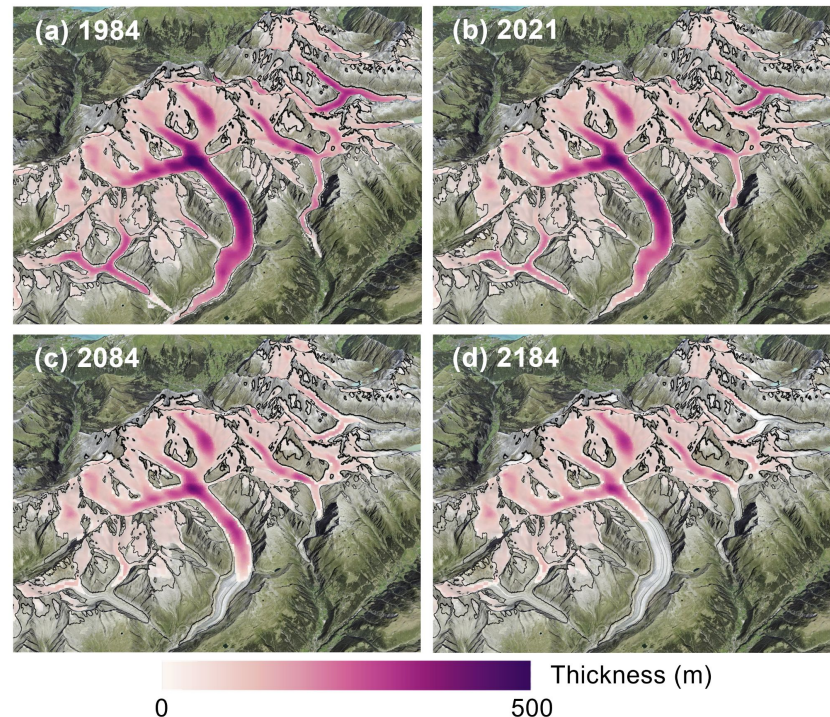
Glacier preservation doubled by limiting warming to 1.5°C versus 2.7°C

- First ESM to include dynamic simulation of mountain glaciers!
- Can now use CESM (CTSM-CISM) for regional glacio-hydrological assessments
- Currently, expanding the work for the North American and Himalaya-Karakoram glaciers

Samar Minallah*, William Lipscomb*, Gunter Leguy, and the GlacierMIP3 team

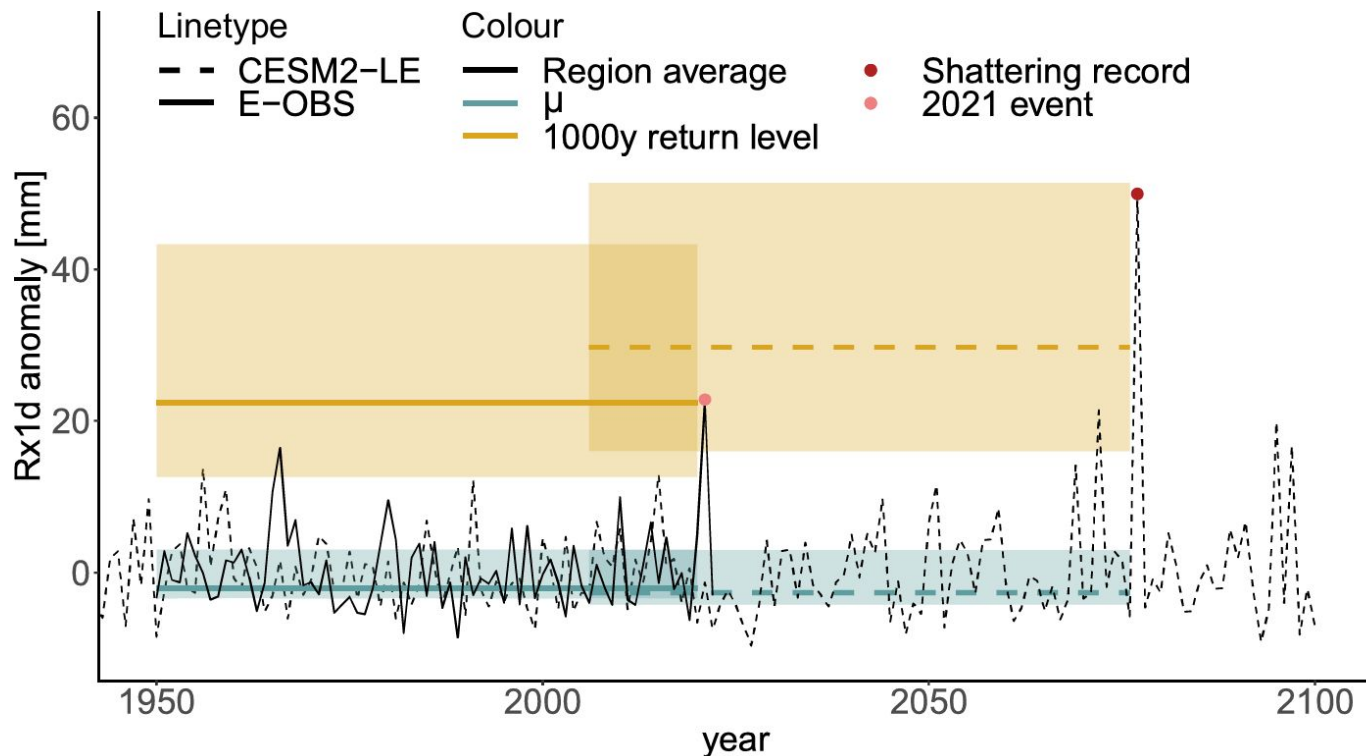
- [GlacierMIP paper](#) by Zekollari, Schuster et al. in *Science*
- CISM paper in review at *Geosci. Model Dev.*

Aletsch Glacier in the Bernese Alps Commitment loss



Record-shattering rain events (Rx1d) (CESM2 large ensemble SSP3-7.0)

Observed (solid) and simulated (dashed) Rx1d record-shattering in European floods region

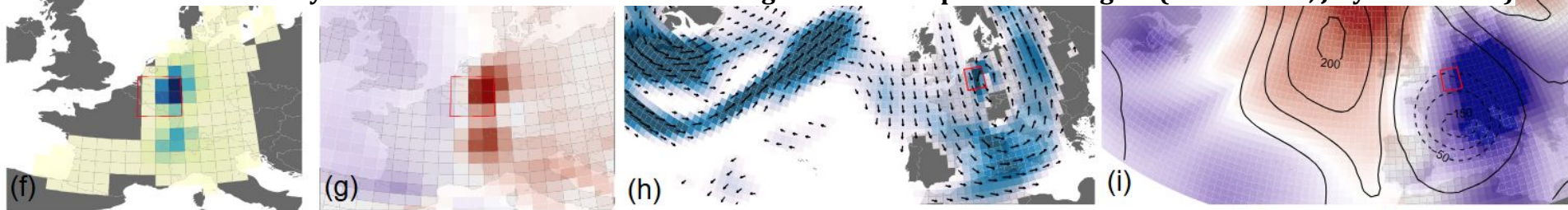


Record-shattering rain events (Rx1d) (CESM2 large ensemble SSP3-7.0)

Observation (b,c) & reanalysis (d,e) data for European floods, July 15th 2021



CESM2 data for day with most extreme record-shattering event in European flood region (member 40, July 22nd 2077)



Precip. [mm/day]
50 100 150

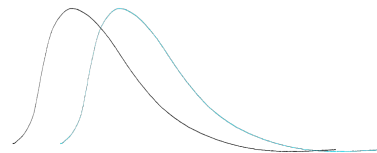
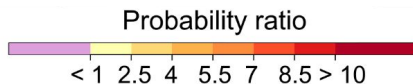
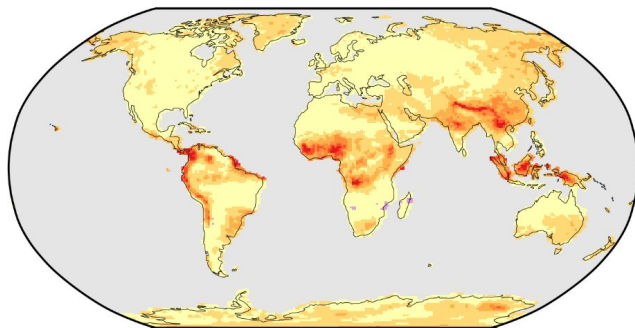
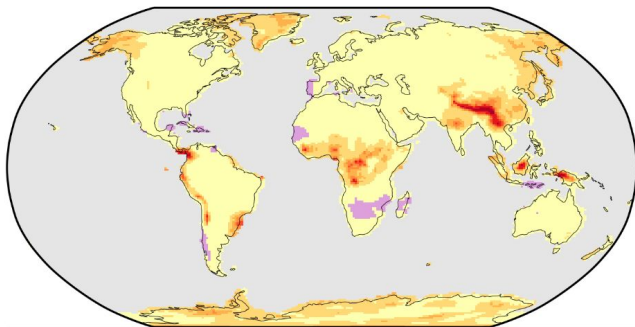
W anom. [m/s]
-0.10 -0.05 0.00 0.05 0.10

IVT [kg/ms]
200 300 400 500

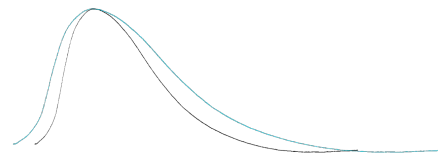
SLP anom. [hPa]
-15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15
Z500 anom. [m]
---- Negative — Positive

Changes in variability are as or more important than changes in mean

MJJAS



Extreme value distribution shift

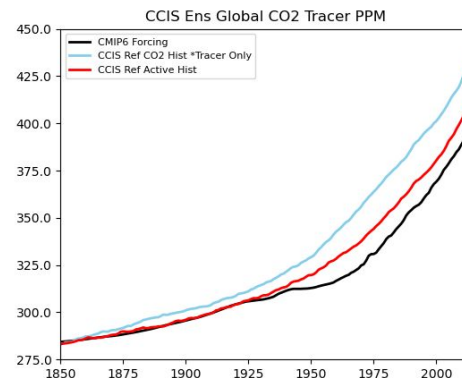
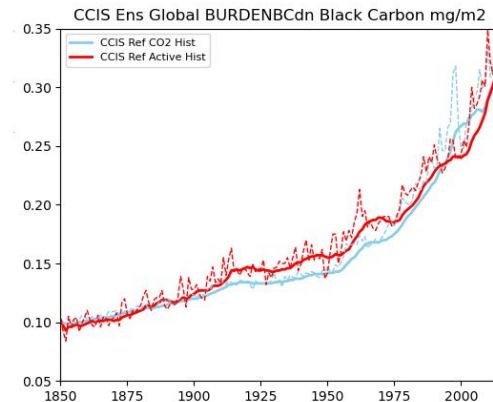


Extreme value distribution widening

$$\text{Probability ratio} = \frac{P(\text{shatter}) \text{ in 2100 with climate change}}{P(\text{shatter}) \text{ in 2100 without climate change}}$$

Novel emissions-driven CESM 2.1.5 configuration simulation ensemble

- CESM 2.1.5 (LENS2 config)
- **Historical, SSP 1-1.9, SSP 2-4.5 and SSP 3-7.0**
- Active Fire Aerosol Emissions
- Active Biogenic Volatile Organic Compound (BVOC) Emissions
- Marine Coccolithophores in New Ocean BGC – FEISTY Fish Model
- Basis for a range of climate intervention research (SRM, CDR)



Thank you!



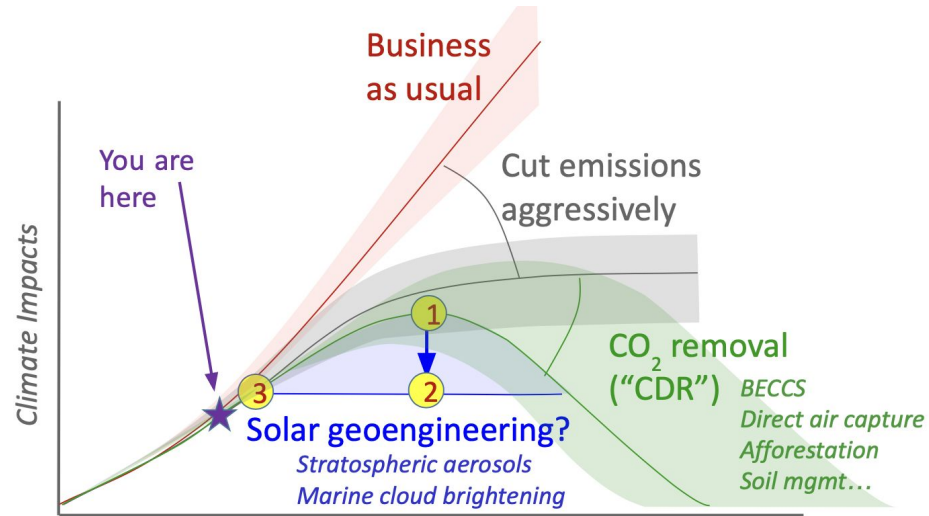
2025 CESM Distinguished Achievement Award



2024 CESM Graduate Student Awards



How to protect lives and environment?

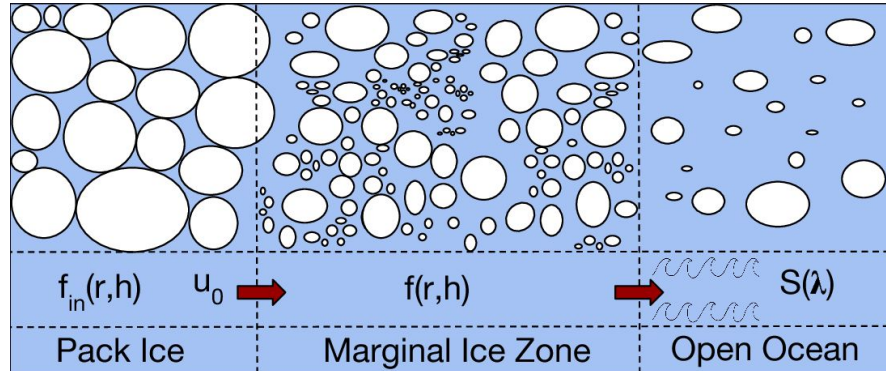


- **Whole Earth System Modeling:**
Key to predicting consequences & effectiveness of strategies
- Requires collaboration with **broad research community** for understanding, **impacts assessment** & uncertainty communication

Solar Radiation Management & CDR

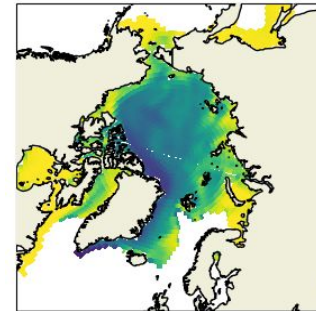
Sea ice floe size distribution in CESM3 will enable science

Joint floe size & ice thickness distribution

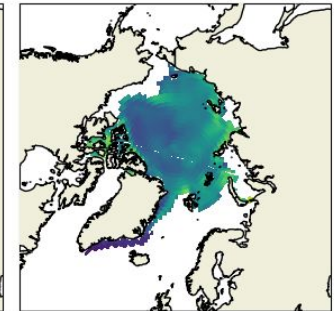


- Coupling of ocean wave field affects sea ice floes
 - Fracture of sea ice floes
 - Floe welding
- May impact sea ice predictability
- Will be available in CESM3

fsdwave2025 March

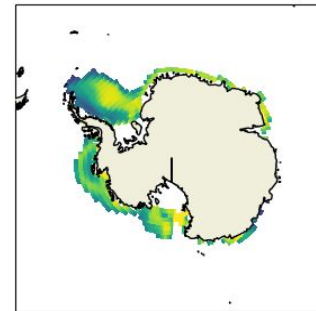


fsdwave2025 September

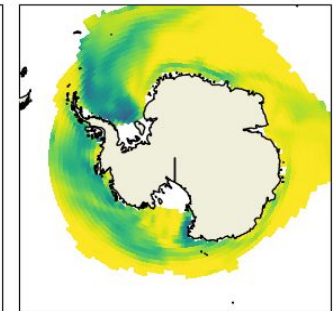


Representative radius (m)
0 200 400 600 800

fsdwave2025 March



fsdwave2025 September



Representative radius (m)
0 200 400 600 800

PCWG

Special thanks to Lettie Roach, Cecilia Bitz, and David Bailey

