



‘LENS’ing through Internal Variability in the Heat waves

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June 10th, 2025



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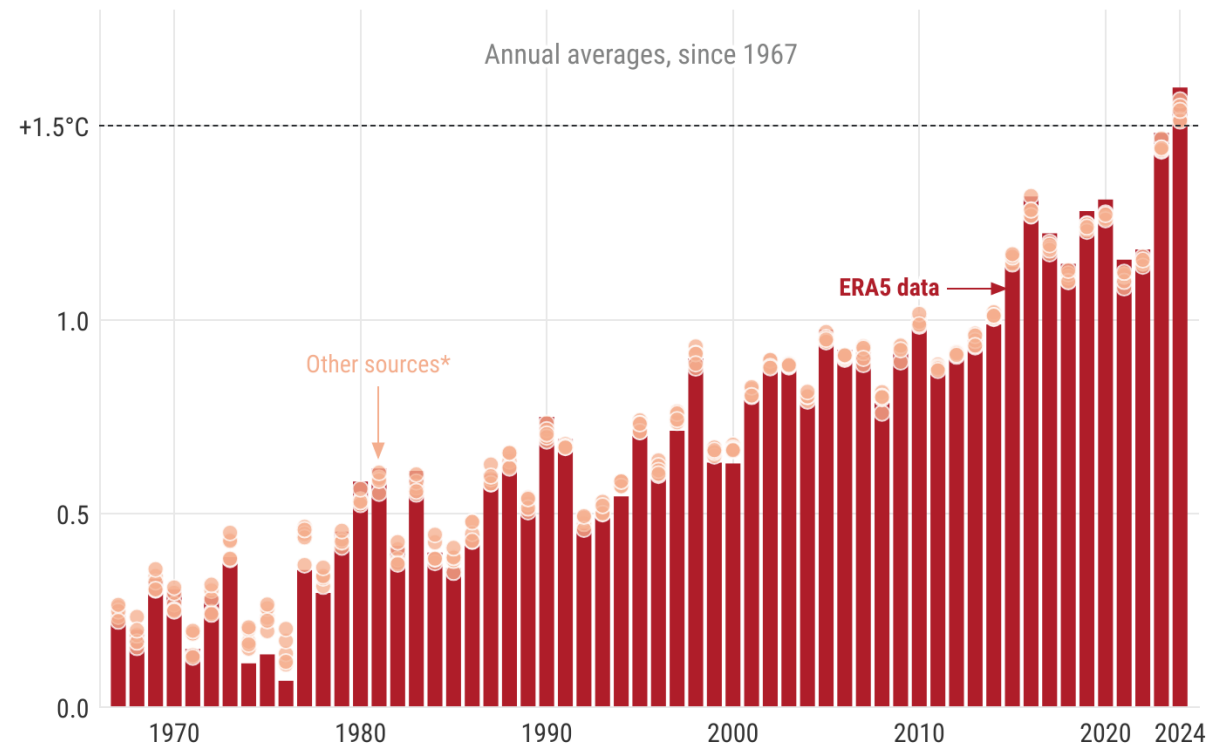


2024 – warmest year on record



Global surface temperature: increase above pre-industrial

Reference period: pre-industrial (1850–1900) • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



*Other sources comprise JRA-3Q, GISTEMPv4, NOAA GlobalTempv6, Berkeley Earth, HadCRUT5.



PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



10 km

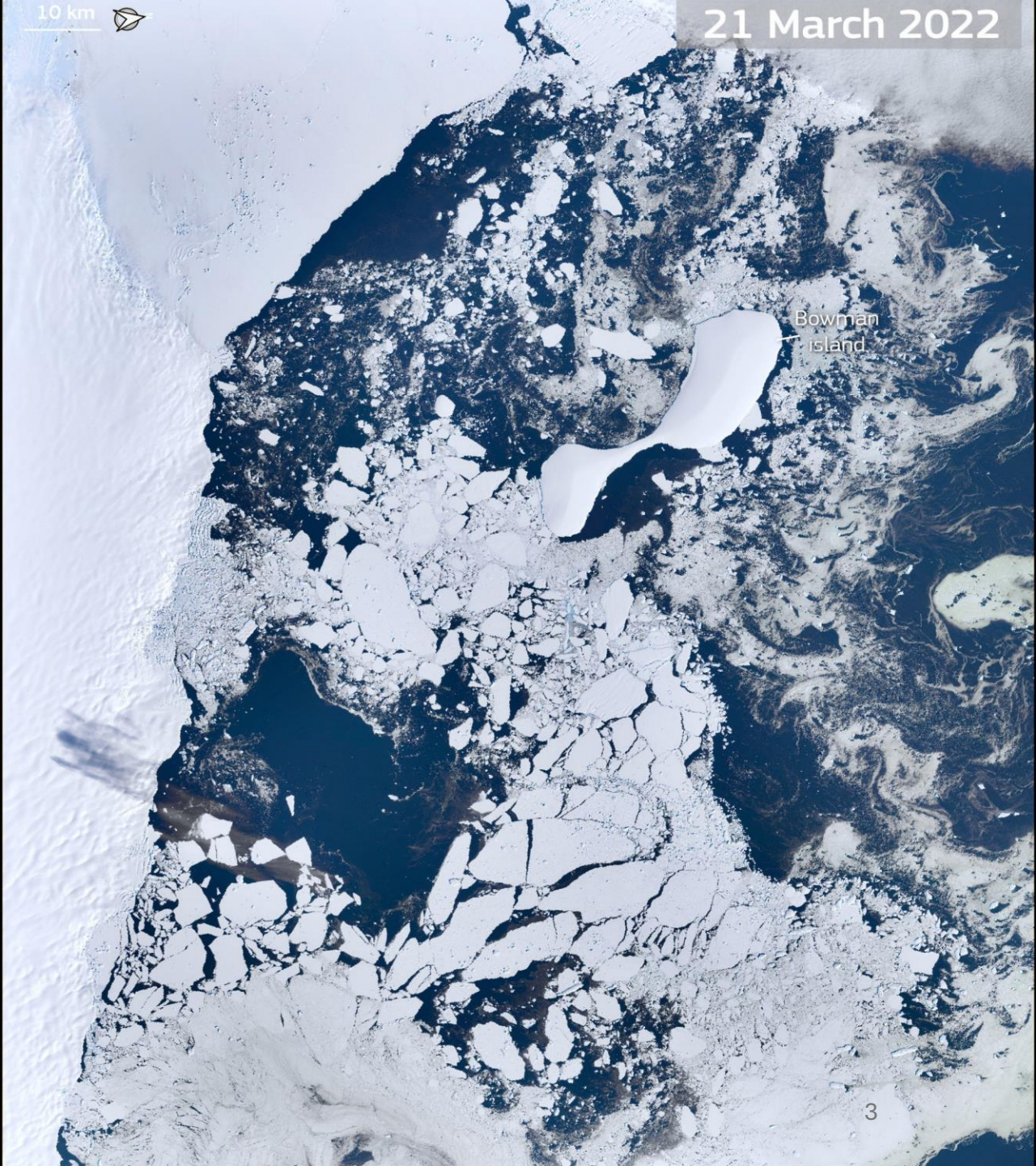
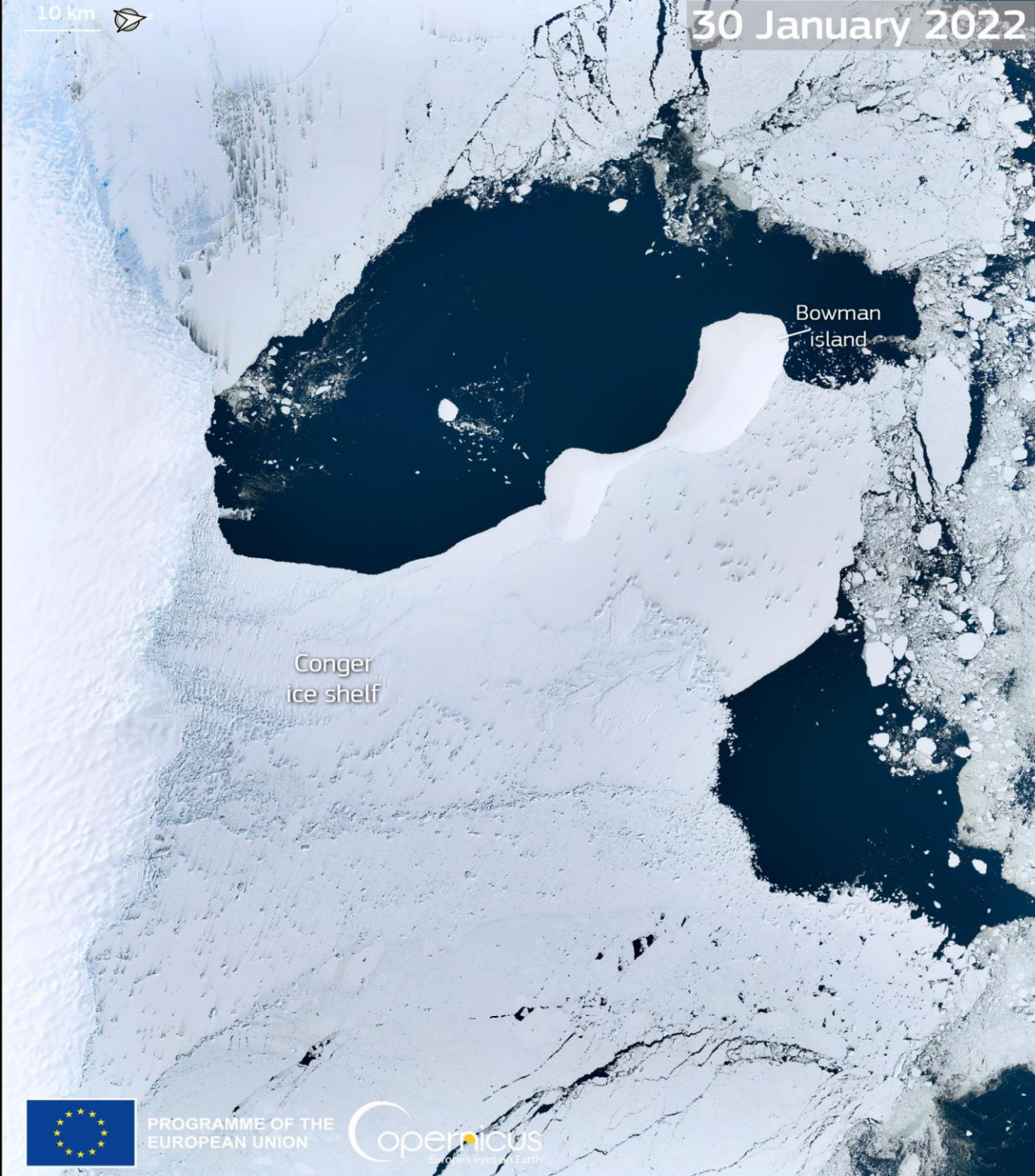


30 January 2022

10 km



21 March 2022



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EUROPEAN UNION



Approach

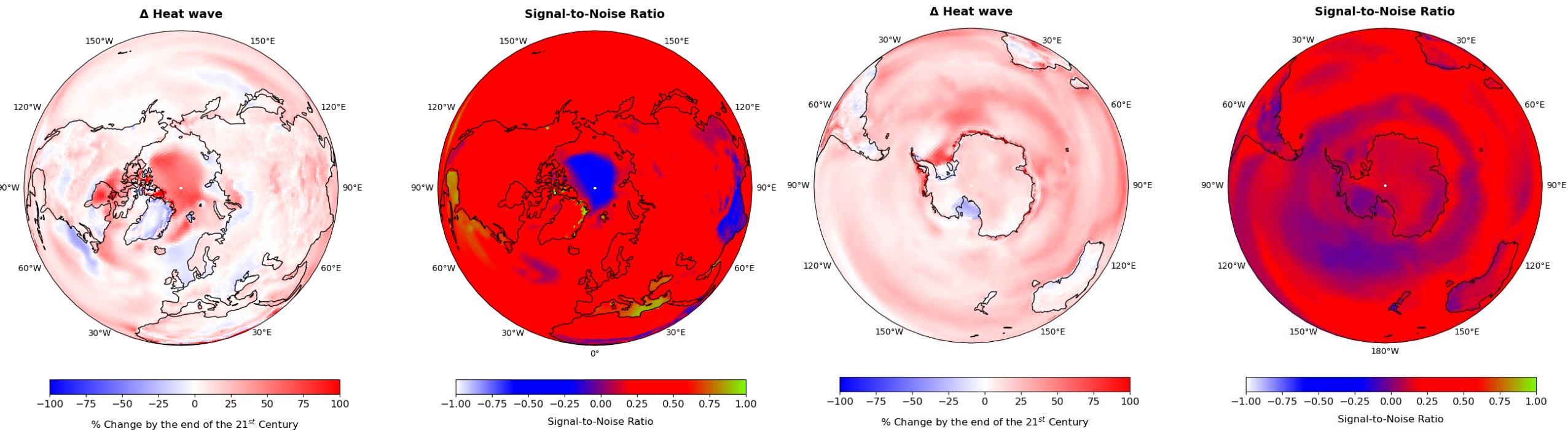
Community Earth System Model 2
Large Ensemble (LENS2)¹

NCEP-DOE Reanalysis II (NCEP2)²

Heat wave³

- If $TMAX(\phi, \lambda) > TMAX_CLIM(\phi, \lambda)$ for 3 or more days \rightarrow considered as a heat wave.
- $TMAX_CLIM(\phi, \lambda)$ considered as a 90th percentile threshold (15 days window) for a calendar day.
 $\phi = \text{Latitude}, \lambda = \text{Longitude}$

Signal-Noise Ratio (SNR) =
Forced trend / Standard deviation



Mean Increase in Heat waves by **+18%** in the NH

Higher Internal Variability and trend mismatch over Arctic, Indian subcontinent

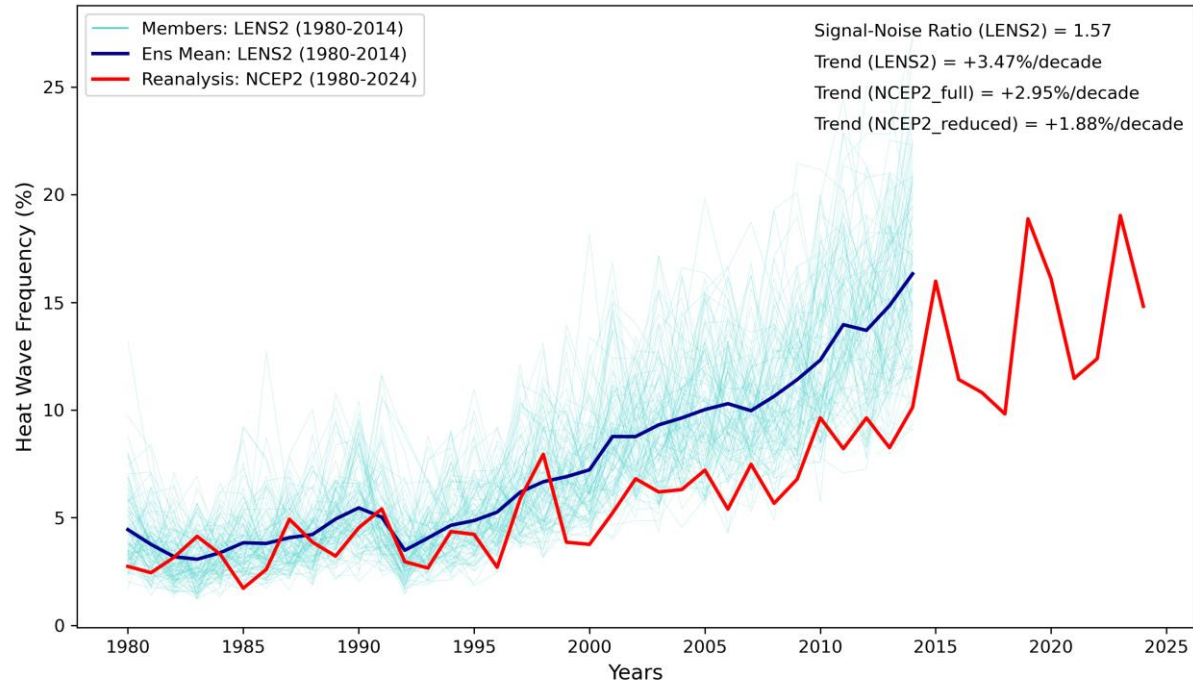
Mean Increase in Heat waves by **+18%** in the SH

Higher Internal Variability in Southern Hemisphere

Changes in Global Heat Extremes (Summer) by the end of the 21st century

Summer Heat Wave frequency in CESM-LENS2

Northern Hemisphere

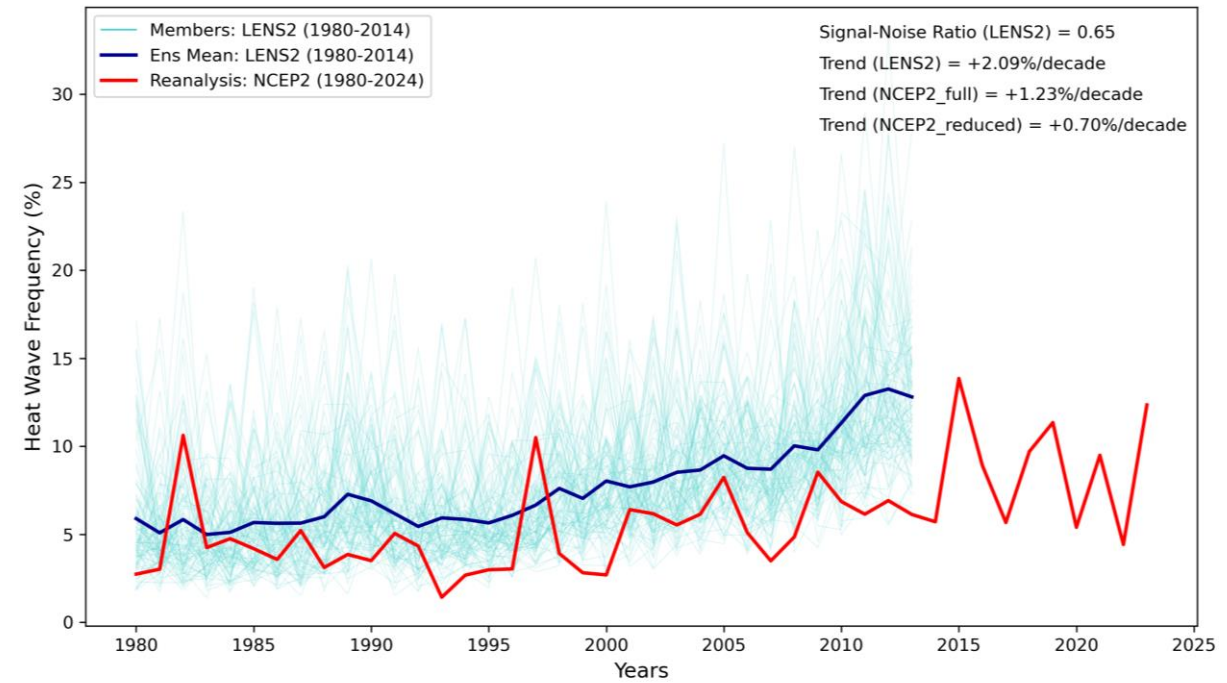


Stronger trends than
observed



LENS2 simulated More
heat waves in the early
21st century

Southern Hemisphere



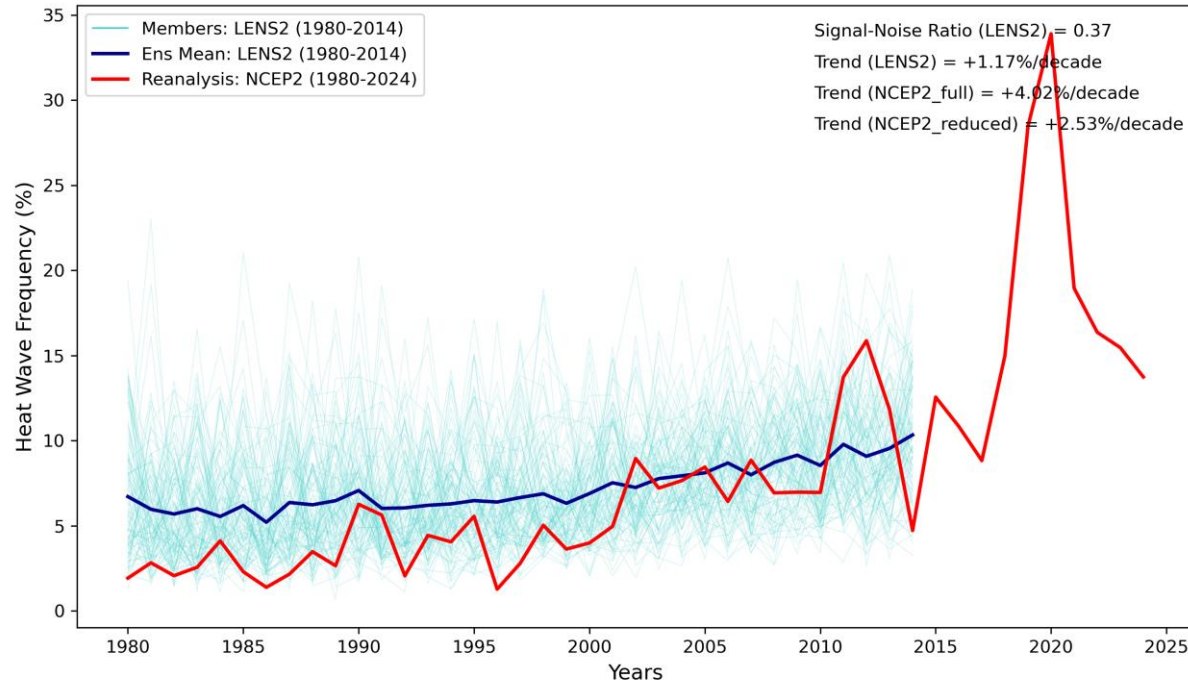
Stronger trends,
Higher Internal Variability



Consistent
overestimation of the
heat waves

Summer Heat Wave frequency in CESM-LENS2

Arctic

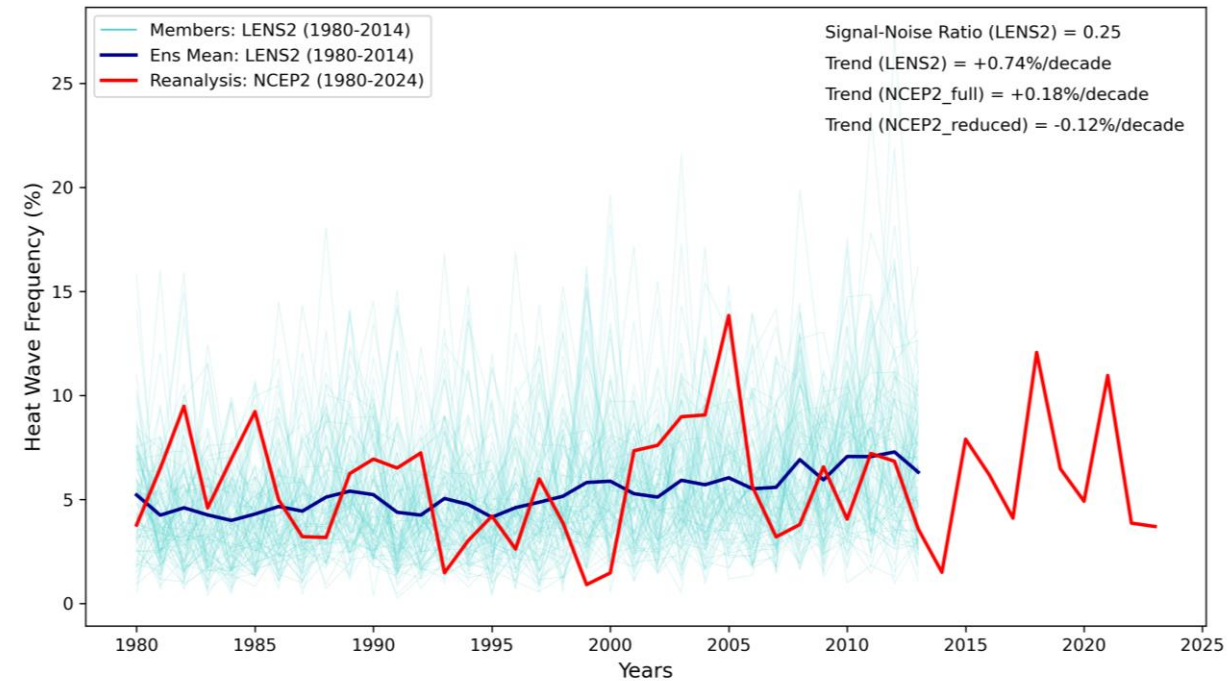


Weaker trends than
observed



Higher Internal
Variability

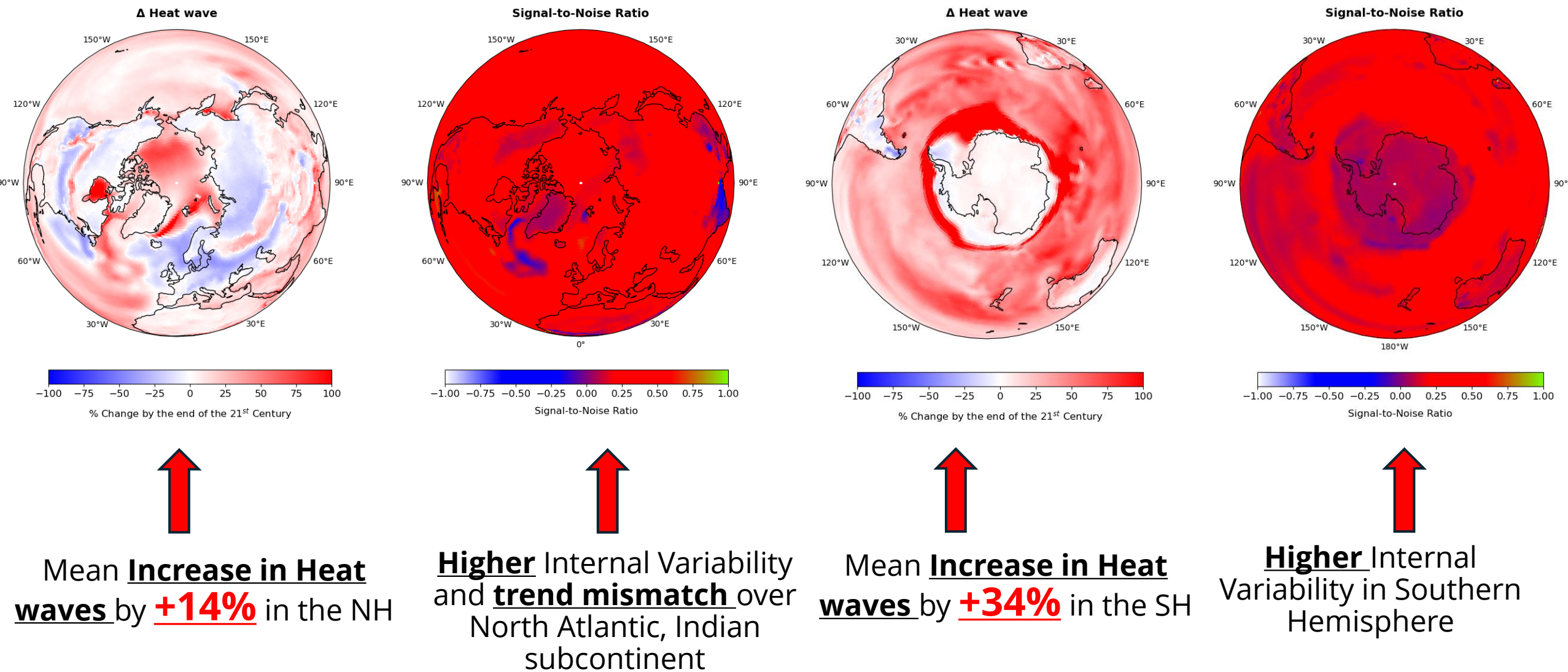
Antarctica



Stronger trends,
Higher Internal Variability



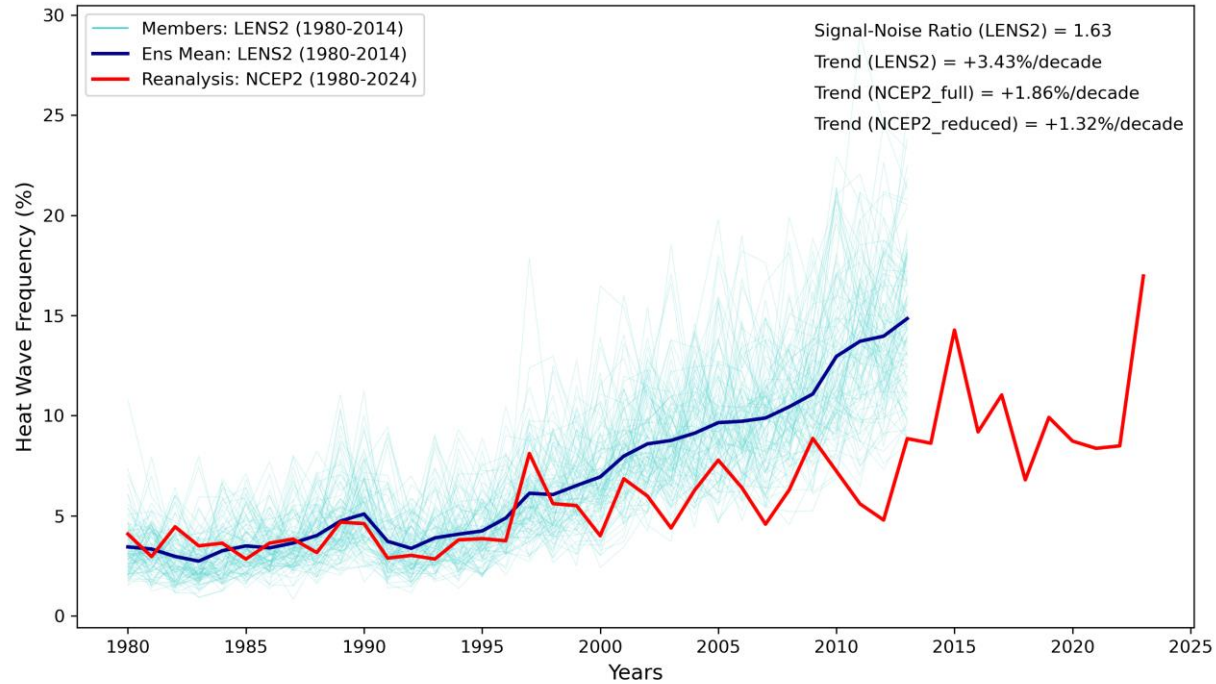
Opposite Trend shown
by LENS2 and NCEP2



Changes in Global Heat Extremes (Winter) by the end of the 21st century

Winter Heat Wave frequency in CESM-LENS2

Northern Hemisphere

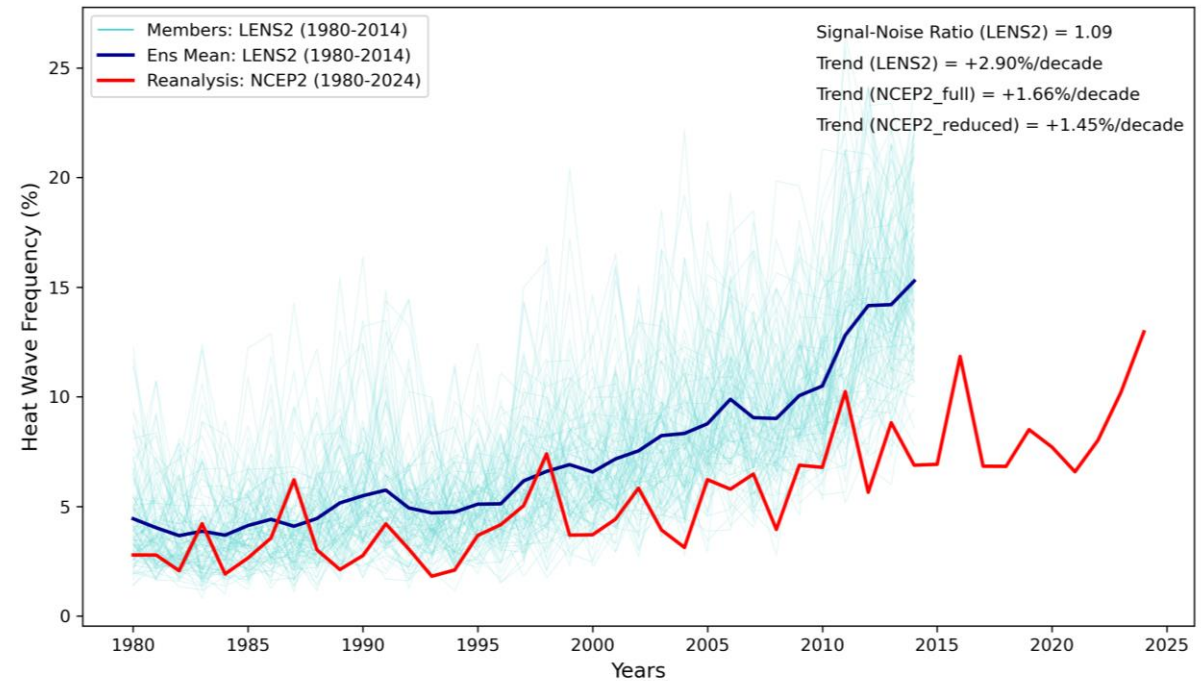


Stronger trends than
observed



LENS2 simulated More
heat waves in the early
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Southern Hemisphere



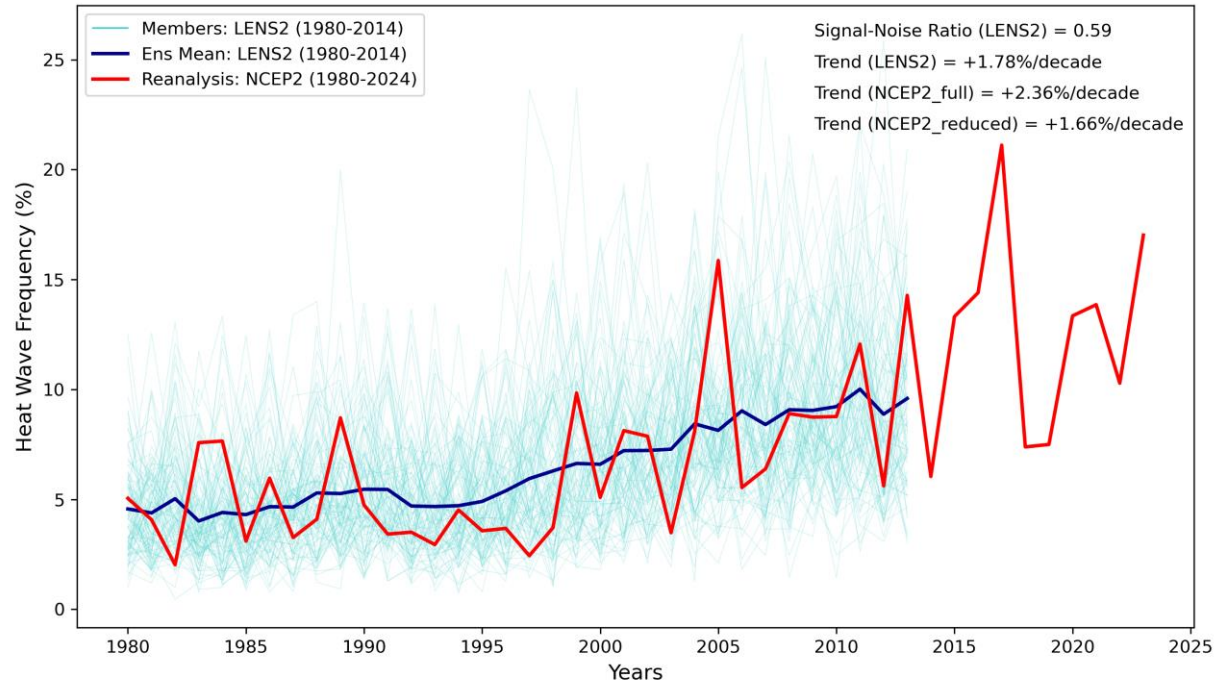
Stronger trends than
NCEP2



LENS2 simulated More
heat waves in the early
21st century

Winter Heat Wave frequency in CESM-LENS2

Arctic

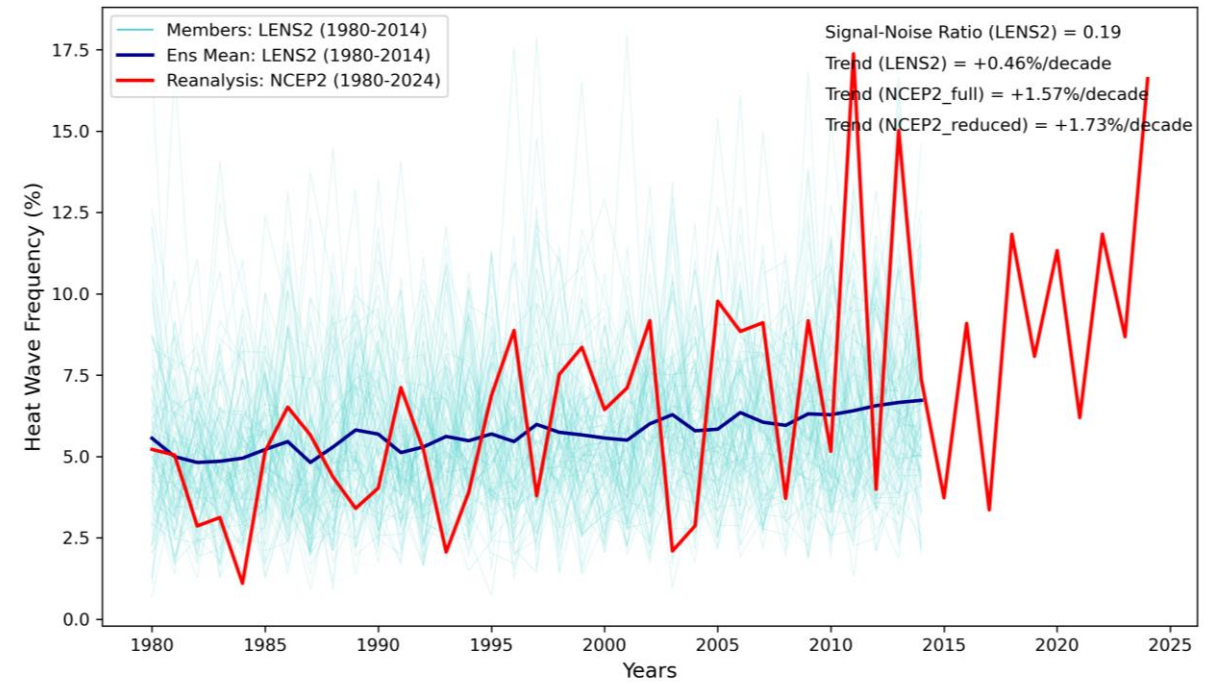


Trend closer to NCEP2



Higher Internal
Variability

Antarctica



Weaker trends,
Higher Internal Variability



Consistent
underestimation of the
heat waves

Perspectives

- LENS2 suggests **18% increase** in NH summer heat wave frequency but **trends are overestimated** compared to NCEP2.
- High internal variability in LENS2 leads to **inconsistent Arctic summer and Antarctic winter heat wave trends** (weaker than observed).
- LENS2 shows positive trend over Antarctic summer heat waves opposite to NCEP2.
- LENS2 suggest overall **increase in SH winter heat waves by 34%** (forced response dominates).
- LENS2 shows consistently **higher internal variability in the SH and Antarctica** across seasons.

“Behind every groundbreaking invention lies a team of brilliant minds working tirelessly.

A special shout-out to all NCAR scientists for their collaborative efforts in building CESM awesome!”



References

1. Rodgers, K. B., Lee, S.-S., Rosenbloom, N., Timmermann, A., Danabasoglu, G., Deser, C., et al. (2021). Ubiquity of human-induced changes in climate variability. *Earth System Dynamics*, 12(4), 1393–1411. <https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-12-1393-2021>
2. Kanamitsu, M., Ebisuzaki, W., Yang, S.-K., Hnilo, J. J., Fiorino, M., & Potter, G. L. (2002). NCEP-DOE AMIP-II REANALYSIS (R-2).
3. Perkins, S. E., and Alexander, L. V. (2013). On the measurement of heat waves. *Journal of Climate*, 26(13), 4500–4517. <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00383.1>

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