Seasonal Climate Prediction at Climate Prediction Center CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA/DoC

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Menu of CPC predictions:

- 6-10 day (daily)
- Week 2 (daily)
- Monthly (monthly + update)
- Seasonal (monthly)
- Other (hazards, drought monitor, drought outlook, MJO, UV-index, degree days, POE, SST) (some are 'briefings')
- Informal forecast *tools* (too many to list)
- <u>http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/</u> tools/briefing/index.pri.html

Climate??

By example:

A <u>weather</u> forecast: Rain in the morning, sun in the afternoon. High in mid-fifties

A <u>climate</u> forecast: Temp in DJF 2009/10 will be in upper tercile with a 48% probability

Forecast Maps and Bulletin

•Each month, on the Thursday between the 15th and 21st, CPC, on behalf of NWS, issues a set of 13 seasonal outlooks.

•There are two maps for each of the 13 leads, one for temperature and one for precipitation for a total of 26 maps.

•Each outlook covers a 3-month "season", and each forecast overlaps the next and prior season by 2 months.

•Bulletins include: the prognostic map discussion (PMD) for the seasonal outlook over North America, and, for Hawaii.

•The monthly outlook is issued at the same time as the seasonal outlook. It consists of a temperature and precipitation outlook for a single lead, 0.5 months, and the monthly PMD.

•All maps are sent to AWIPS, Family of Services and internet.

•'Official' SST forecasts

























Fig. 9.2 A lay-out of the seasonal forecast, showing the averaging time, and the lead time (in red). Rolling seasonal means at leads of 2 weeks to 12.5 months leads are being forecast.

Distinguish 3 time scales:

- 1) Averaging time
- 2) Lead time
- 3) Time scale of physical process we try to predict
- Examples of 3rd point:
- -) ENSO (a few years)
- -) Inter-decadal (no name, trend, global change
- Reflect on definition of time scale.
- What is time scale of seasonal forecast? Fourier

| Element | \rightarrow | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------|--------|------------------|
| | US-T | US-P | SST | US-soil moisture |
| Method: | | | | |
| CCA | Х | Х | Х | |
| OCN | Х | Х | | |
| CFS | Х | Х | Х | |
| | | | | |
| Constructed Ana | log X | Х | Х | Х |
| Markov | | | Х | |
| ENSO Composite | e X | Х | | |
| Other (GCM) mo | dels (IR | I, ECHAI | M, NCA | R, CDC etc): |
| | Х | Х | | |
| Cane&Zebiak | | | Х | |
| Multiple Lin Reg | Х | Х | | |
| Consolidation | Х | Х | Х | |

CCA = Canonical Correlation Analysis OCN = Optimal Climate Normals CFS = Climate Forecast System (Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere Model)





Coupled Forecast System at NCEP History:

- MRF-b9x, CMP12/14 1995 onward (Leetmaa, Ji, etc
- SFM 2000 onward (Kanamitsu et al
- CFS, the 1st truly coupled global system at NCEP (aug 2004)
- Next CFS: Jan 2010

CFS Reference: Saha, S. Nadiga, C. Thiaw, J. Wang, W. Wang, Q. Zhang, H. M. van den Dool, H.-L. Pan, S. Moorthi, D. Behringer, D. Stokes, M.Pena, G. White, S. Lord, W. Ebisuzaki, P. Peng, P. Xie, 2006: The NCEP Climate

Forecast System. J. of Climate, 19, 3483-3517.

All CFS info is at http://cfs.ncep.noaa.gov/

Long Lead Predictions of US Surface Temperature using *Canonical Correlation Analysis*. Barnston(J.Climate, 1994, 1513)

Predictor - Predictand Configuration

PredictorsPredictand* Near-global SSTA

- * N.H. 700mb Z * US sfc T
- * US sfc T

four predictor "stacked" fields one predictand period

4X652=2608 predictors 102 locations

Data Period 1955 - last month



FIG. 3. Schematic of the timing of the predictor and predictand periods for the five lead times used in the study, for the example of forecasting Dec-Jan-Feb 1993/94. Each row illustrates a progressively larger lead time, with the four predictor periods (numbered beneath the month abbreviations) retreating farther into the past with increasing lead. The lead period is represented by lowercase month abbreviations with dots above them. A similar diagram could be drawn for other target seasons, or for fixed predictor periods and a variable target period as in real-time forecasting using the most recent 12 months of predictor data.

3-MO MEAN CCA SSTX2 AVG SKILL OVER U.S.



FIG. 6. CCA forecast skill averaged over the United States for 3month mean temperature (as in Fig. 4a) except the SST field is weighted double its natural value.

FIG. 6. CCA forecast skill averaged over the United States for 3month mean temperature (as in Fig. 4a) except the SST field is weighted double its natural value. About OCN. Two contrasting views:

- Climate = average weather in the past
- Climate is the 'expectation' of the future

30 year WMO normals: 1961-1990; 1971-2000 etc

OCN = Optimal Climate Normals: Last K year average. All seasons/locations pooled: K=10 is optimal (for US T).

Forecast for Jan 2010

= (Jan00+Jan01+... Jan09)/10. – WMO-normal plus a skill evaluation for some 50 years.

Why does OCN work?

1) climate is not constant (K would be infinity for constant climate)

- 2) recent averages are better
- 3) somewhat shorter averages are better (for T)
- →see Huang et al 1996. J.Climate. 9, 809-817.

NCEP's old (Two-Tier) Coupled Model Forecast



NCEP (One-Tier) Coupled Model Forecast



Major Verification Issues

- 'a-priori' verification (used to be rare)
- After the fact (fairly normal)

(Seasonal) Forecasts are useless unless accompanied by a reliable a-priori skill estimate.

Solution: develop a 50+ year track record for each tool. 1950-present. (Admittedly we need 5000 years)



FIG. 6. CCA forecast skill averaged over the United States for 3month mean temperature (as in Fig. 4a) except the SST field is weighted double its natural value.

Seasonality SS2 OCN seasonal from 1962 - July 2000 T(12.8) & P(



CFS AC SKILL (%) SFC TEMP FOR LEAD 1 FORECAST (AVERAGED OVER 1981-2003) 15 IC_s for MAY : (A) 9-13 APR, (B) 19-23 APR, (C) 29-30 APR + 1-3 MAY 15 IC_s for NOV : (A) 9-13 OCT, (B) 19-23 OCT, (C) 30-31 OCT + 1-3 NOV





(B+A) AUL







Fig. 9 Spatial distribution of retrospective (1981-2003) forecast skill (anomaly correlation in %) over the United States for lead 1 seasonal mean JJA temperature (left panel) and DJF temperature (right panel).

From top to bottom, the number of members in the CFS ensemble mean increases from 5 to 15. Values less than 0.3 (deemed insignificant) are not shown. The period is 1981-2003

1981-2003 (now 2006) is not much! if 5000 years is needed. Main limitation: ocean analysis CFS AC SKILL (%) PRECIP FOR LEAD 1 FORECAST (AVERAGED OVER 1981-2003) 15 IC_s for MAY : (A) 9-13 APR, (B) 19-23 APR, (C) 29-30 APR + 1-3 MAY 15 IC_s for NOV : (A) 9-13 OCT, (B) 19-23 OCT, (C) 30-31 OCT + 1-3 NOV





As in Fig.9, but now for Precipitation.









AC SKILL (%) FOR SFC TEMP FOR FORECAST LEAD 1 MONTH



OFS FOR JUN-JUL-AUG



OFS FOR SEP-OCT-NOV



OFS FOR DEC-JAN-FEB





Fig. 11 Left column: Spatial distribution of retrospective ensemble mean CFS forecast skill (anomaly correlation in %) for lead 1 seasonal mean temperature over the United States. The target seasons are, from top to bottom, MAM, JJA, SON and DJF. The CFS (left) is compared to CCA, in the right column. Note that CCA is based on a longer period, 1948-2003. Correlation less than 0.3 are not shown

AC SKILL (%) FOR PRECIP FOR FORECAST LEAD 1 MONTH



OFS FOR JUN-JUL-AUG



OFS FOR SEP-OCT-NOV



OFS FOR DEC-JAN-FEB





80 70 80

60

As in Fig.11, but now for precipitation.

Hindcast skill of US temperature by SFM for February ICs





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Bose Period 1971-2000



Huug van den Dool, CPC/NCEP/NWS/NQAA

Bose Period 1971-2000



Huug van den Dool, CPC/NCEP/NWS/NQAA

Bose Period 1971-2000



OFFicial Forecast(element, lead, location, initial month) = a * A + b * B + c * C +

Honest hindcast required 1950-present. Covariance (A,B), (A,C), (B,C), (A, obs), (B, obs), (C, obs) allows solution for a, b, c (element, lead, location, initial month)
SST Consolidation Forecast Nino 3.4

Fcst. Made: 5 Mar 2004



SST Consolidation Forecast Nino 3.4

2 1.5 1 Anomaly 0 2.0-2.0--1 -1.5 -2 M J J A S O S O N И D J J A S D J F J F M J J A A J J A J A S 0 M J J М F M A M A A M J M J N D А М м Target Month 2004 2005 --- Cons --- CCA --- NCEP --- CA --- MKV --- CFS OBS

Fcst. Made: 9 JUN 2004



SST CONSOLIDATION NINO 3.4



SST CONSOLIDATION NINO 3.4



SST CONSOLIDATION NINO 3.4













Last update: Wed Apr 18 2007 Initial conditions: 22Mar2007-10Apr2007



Forecast initial conditions: 22Mar2007 to 10Apr2007.

Base period for climatology is 1971-2000. Base period for bias correction is 1982-2003.







Assume a method in the madness:

OFF(icial) = CON(solidation) = $\alpha * \text{Tool } A +$ $\beta * \text{Tool } B +$ $\gamma * \text{Tool } C + \text{etc}$

where the coefficients are determined (each month again) from a track record for each tool, 1981-present for Nino3.4, and 1955-present for US T&P.

A-posteriori verification:

The bottom line (all leads/all seasons); JFM95-FMA2002, Skill of CPC TEMPERATURE Forecasts:

| | SS1 | SS2 | Coverage |
|---------|------------|-----|--|
| OFF | 22.7 | 9.4 | 41.4% |
| CCA | 25.1 | 6.4 | 25.5 |
| OCN | 22.2 | 8.3 | 37.4 |
| CMF (no | w old) 7.6 | 2.5 | 32.7 (1 st 4 leads only) |

SS2=SS1*coverage (for 3 equal class system

Skill in SST Anomaly Prediction Nino-3.4 (DJF 97/98 to DJF 03/04)



Skill in SST Anomaly Prediction Nino-3.4 (DJF 81/82 to DJF 03/04)



Issues of 'format' and protocol

- Article of faith: uncertainty shall be conveyed by a probability format
- Except for a few specialized users we cannot provide a full prob.density function.
- Protocol to make a pdf palatable (on a map)
- Three classes (B, N, A); equal classes
- Absolute probability, probability anomaly
- CL-option (I, CP, CL, EC)



Source: Dave Unger. This figure shows the probability shift (contours), relative to $100*1/3^{rd}$, in the above normal class as a function of a-priori correlation (R, y-axis) and the standardized forecast of the predictand (F, x-axis). The prob.shifts increase with both F and R. The R is based on a sample of 30, using a Gaussian model to handle its uncertainty.



Fig. 9.3: The climatological pdf (blue) and a conditional pdf (red). The integral under both curves is the same but due to a predictable signal the red curve is both shifted and narrowed. In the example the predictorpredictand correlation is 0.5 and the predictor value is +1. This gives a shift in the mean of +0.5, and the standard deviation of the conditional distribution is reduced to 0.866. Units are in standard deviations (x-axis)







Trends revisited

| B |] | N | Α | at 1 | 02 US locations |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|
| (assumed t | to be | 1/3rd, | 1/3rd, | 1/3rd, b | based on 30 year normals period) |
| 26 | 5 2 | 28 | 46 | 199: | 5 |
| 36 | 5 . | 34 | 30 | 199 | 6 |
| 27 | 7 🤇 | 32 | 41 | 199′ | 7 |
| | | | | | |
| 08 | 3 | 17 | 75 | 199 | 8 |
| 13 | 3 2 | 24 | 63 | 199 | 9 |
| 22 | 2 2 | 20 | 58 | 200 | 0 |
| | | | | | |
| 15 | 5 3 | 32 | 53 | 200 | 1 (Normals changed!) |
| 19 | 9 3 | 36 | 46 | 2002 | 2 |
| 15 | 5 3 | 38 | 47 | 200 | 3 |
| 20 |) (| 33 | 47 | 2004 | 4 |
| 07 | 7 🤇 | 34 | 59 | 200 | 5 |
| 1 | 1 | 34 | 55 | 200 | 6 |
| 10 | 0 | 34 | 56 | 200 | 7 |
| | | | | | |
| 19 | 9 2 | 30 | 50% | 5 199 | 95-2007 |
| B | 3 | Ν | Α | at 1 | 02 US locations |
| -14 -3 +17 | | | | ('Pr | obability anomalies' ; SS2=~26) |

Distribution of B, N and A in the last 14 years:

B N A at 102 US locations (assumed to be 1/3rd, 1/3rd, 1/3rd, based on 30 year normals period)
26 28 46% 1995
36 34 30 1996 These three years were not very biased
27 32 41 1997

| 08 | 17 | 75 | 1998 | suddenly | strongly A, | Kicked off by ENSO??? |
|----|----|----|------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 13 | 24 | 63 | 1999 | | | |
| 22 | 20 | 58 | 2000 | | | |

| 15 | 32 | 53 | 2001 | (Normals changed!, but not much relief) |
|----|----|----|------|---|
|----|----|----|------|---|

19 36 46 2002

15 38 47 2003 Bias only mild for these three years. Official gipper came down because trend wasn't that strong!!!

| 20 | 33 | 47 | 2004 | | | | | |
|----|-------|----|------|-----|-------|------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 07 | 34 | 59 | 2005 | acc | elera | ting | warming???? | |
| 10 | 28 | 62 | 2006 | | | | | |
| 10 | 34 | 56 | 2007 | | | | | |
| 31 | 41 | 27 | 2008 | В | Ν | А | at 102 US locations | (assumed to be 1/3rd, |
| | 1 4 1 | | | • | | | • • • | |















SS2 of retro-OCN JFM OVERALL: Temp SS2=15.4



Seasonality SS2 OCN seasonal from 1995 - 2 - Mar 2007 T(12.5) & P(3



Seasonality SS2 OCN seasonal from 1962 - July 2000 T(12.8) & P(


SS2 of OCN 1962-2006 year b overall: Temp SS2=12.5 Precip SS2=5.1



Table 1. Weights (X100) of the constructed analogue on global SST with data thru Feb 2001. An example.

| sum | -24 | sum | -7 | sum | +4 | sum | +86 |
|-------|------------------|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | |
| 66 | -5 | 77 | 1 | 88 | 0 | 99 | 26 |
| 65 | -8 | 76 | 5 | 87 | 5 | 98 | 2 |
| 64 | -3 | 75 | 2 | 86 | 12 | 97 | 14 |
| 63 | -1 | 74 | 1 | 85 | 3 | 96 | 2 |
| 62 | -1 | 73 | 1 | 84 | -1 | 95 | 7 |
| 61 | 1 | 72 | 6 | 83 | 0 | 94 | 2 |
| 60 | -3 | 71 | -2 | 82 | 1 | 93 | -6 |
| 59 | -7 | 70 | -5 | 81 | -8 | 92 | 11 |
| 58 | -4 | 69 | -3 | 80 | -4 | 91 | 7 |
| 57 | 2 | 68 | -5 | 79 | -3 | 90 | 13 |
| 56 | 5 | 67 | -8 | 78 | -1 | 89 | 8 |
| Yr(j) | Wt(α_i) | Yr | Wt | Yr | Wt | Yr | Wt |

CA-SST(s) = 3 α_j SST(s,j), where α_j is given as in the Table.

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| 56 | 5 | 67 | -8 | 78 | -1 | 89 | 8 |
| Yr(j) | Wt(α_i) | Yr | Wt | Yr | Wt | Yr | Wt |

CA-SST(s) = 3
$$\alpha_j$$
 SST(s,j), where α_j is given as in the Table.
j
OCN-SST(s) = 3 α_j SST(s,j), where α_j =0 (+1/K) for older(recent) j.
j

Trends in lower boundary conditions?: global SST

SST EOF NDJ 1955-2006 - data thru Jan2007











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EOFs for NDJ global SST 1948-2006

Trends in lower boundary conditions?: global Soil Moisture





normal EOT JFM 1948-2004 HGT 500 mb EOT2 (16.2 %EV) (bspnt=45N,160W)(partial 1) EOT1 (21.1%EV) (bspnt=65N,50W)

The rest is extra

Metric

48 MRM Sfc. T. Heidke Skill





Correlation (upper panel) between OCN forecast and observed values of seasonal temperature and the optimal K (lower panel). Local significance levels are shown for 99%, 95% and 90%. K is zero if the skill in not significant.

