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# Climate Forecast Analysis hands-on tutorial: R tools

BSC Training Course 2023:  
Earth Sciences Simulation  
Environments

31st October, online

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# Outline

1. Introduction to Climate Forecasts
2. Introduction to the Climate Forecast Analysis Tools
3. Hands-On I: Load data by startR
4. Hands-On II: Data assessment with CStools and s2dv
5. Hands-On III: SUNSET

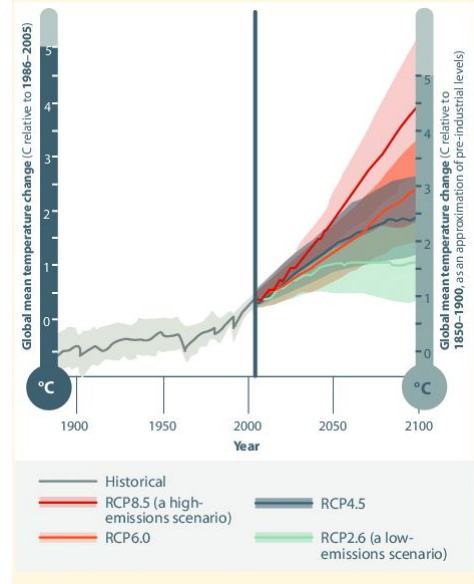
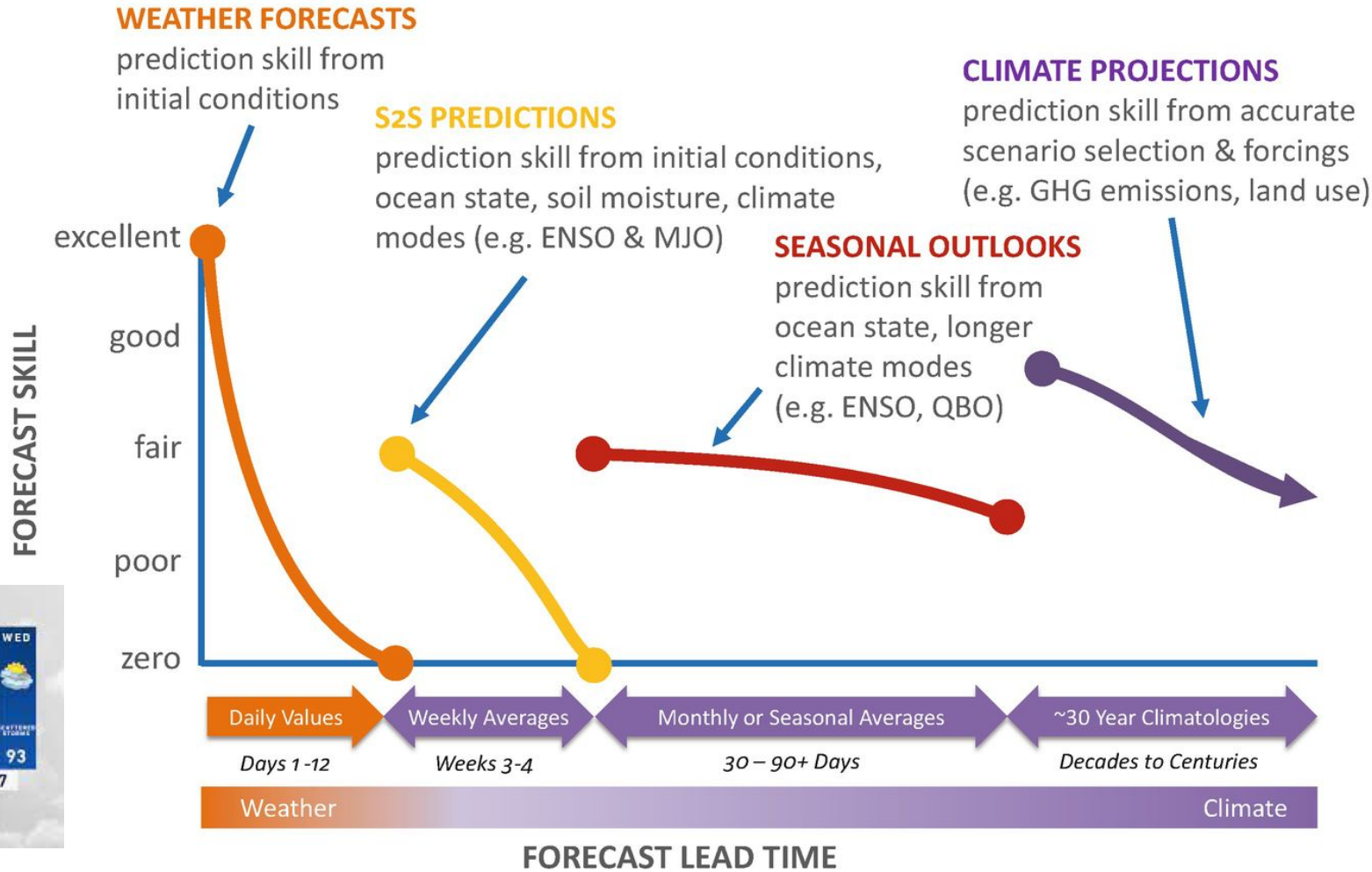
# 1. Introduction to Climate Forecasts



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# Climate Forecast: Forecast horizon

## Prediction Types, Skill, and Lead Times



Source: DOI:10.13140/RG.2.2.21145.62564



# Climate Forecast: Ensemble generation

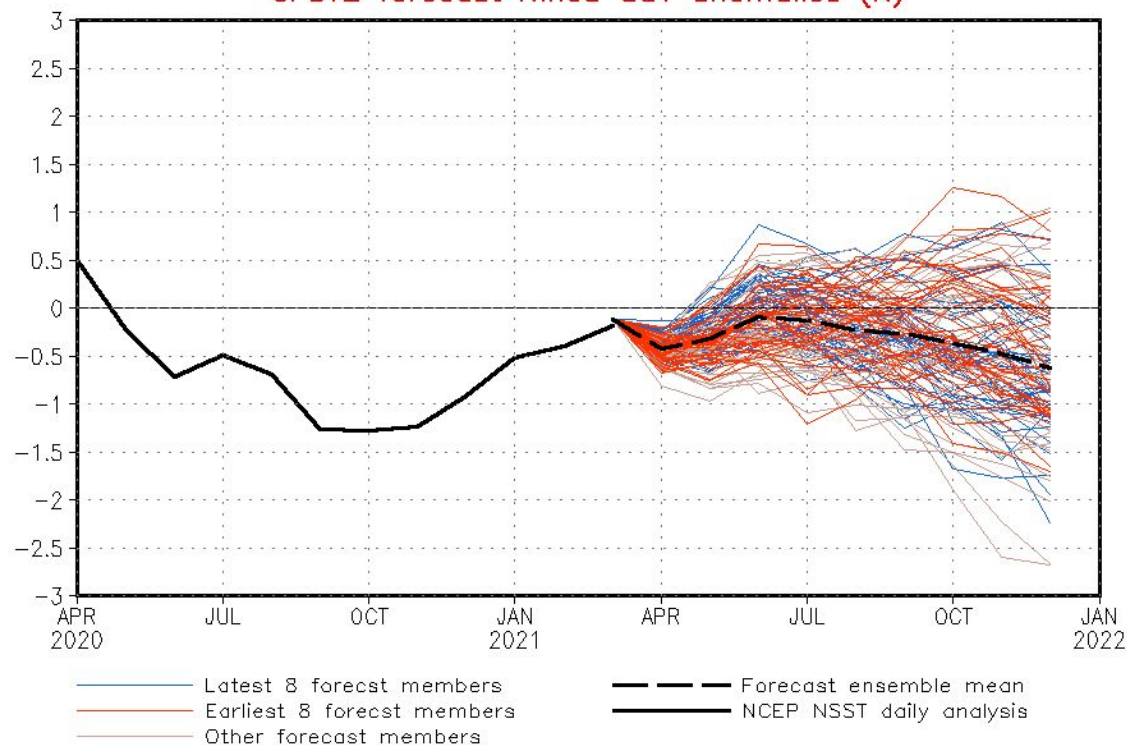
- Different models represent the equations using different parameterizations
- Perturbations on initial conditions are included to generate an ensemble of simulations



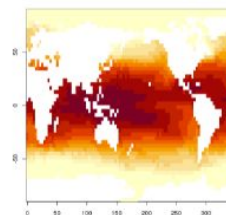
NWS/NCEP/CPC

Last update: Thu Apr 8 2021  
Initial conditions: 8Apr2021–17Apr2021

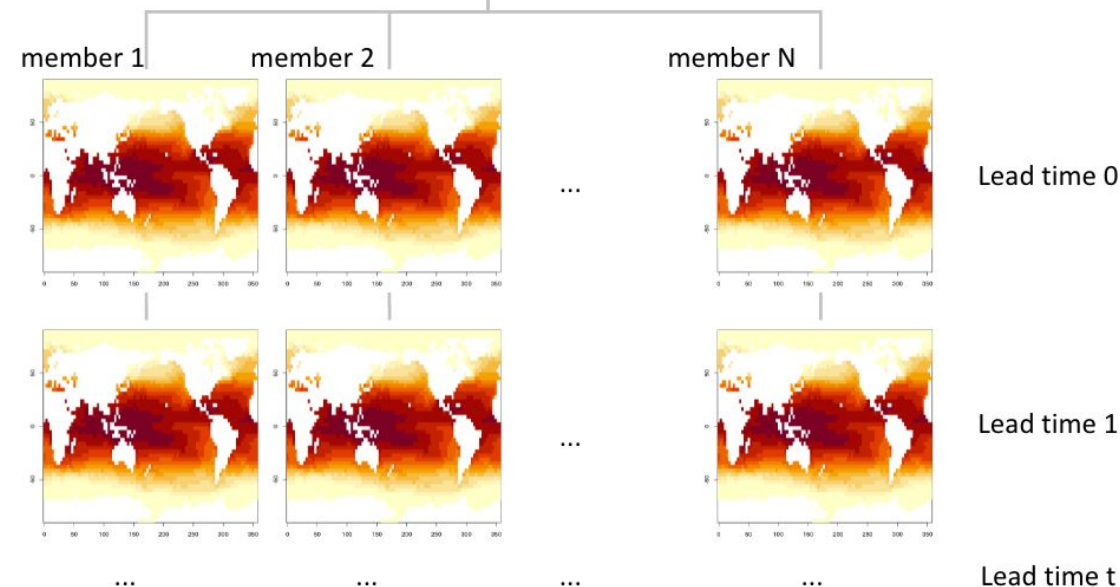
CFSv2 forecast Nino3 SST anomalies (K)



Initialization  
(start date)



Perturbation

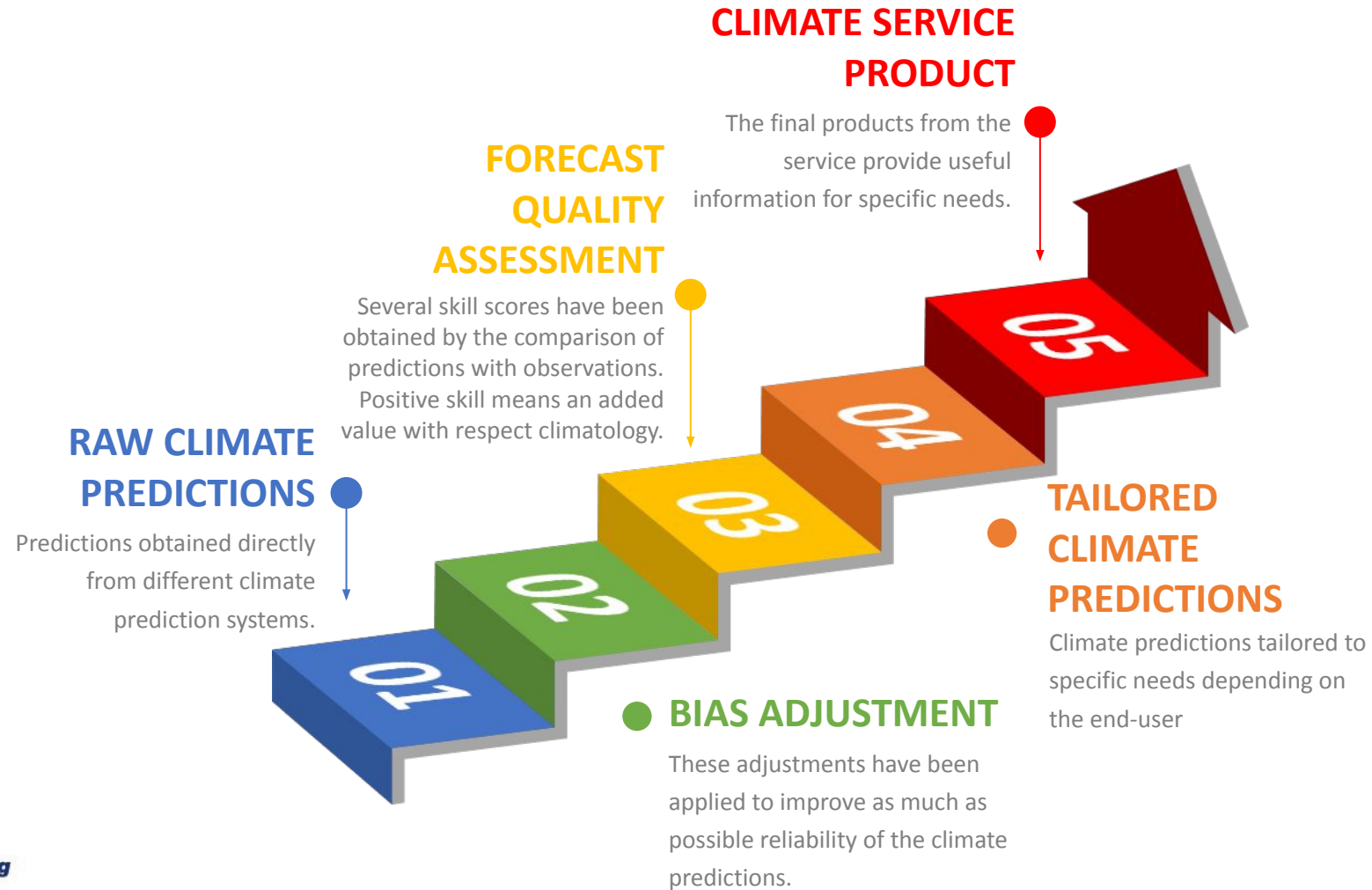


**Multi-dimensional array with named dimension:**

e.g.: [model = 2, sdates = 30, members = 25, ftime = 7, lat = 90, lon = 360, levels = 10]

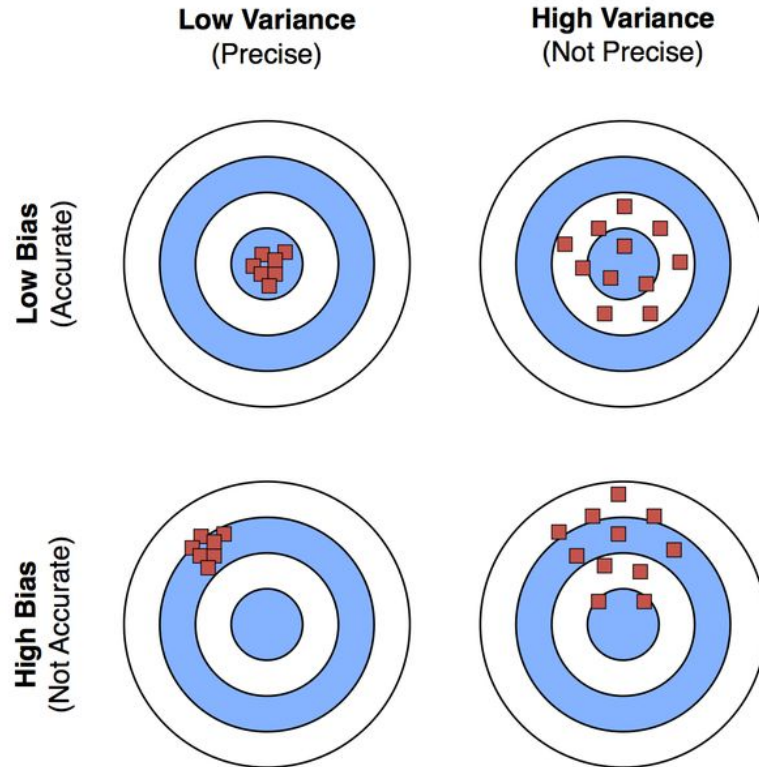
# Climate Forecast: From Climate data to Climate product


## How to turn climate data into useful result or products?



# Climate Forecast: Bias adjustment

- The raw experimental output may have room to be improved by reference data (e.g., observation)
- Many methods can improve the quality of forecast, e.g., bias correction, variance inflation, minimized mean-squared error, etc.



 This work by Sebastian Raschka is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

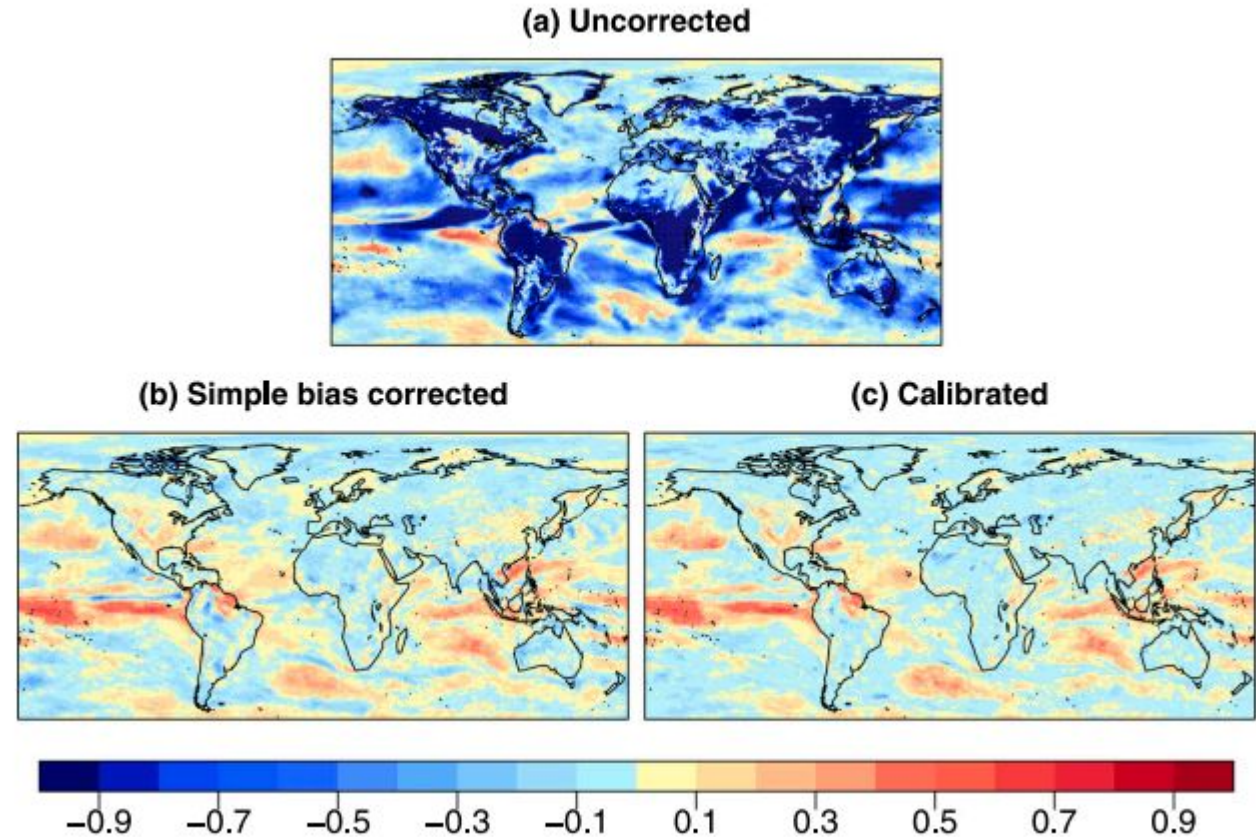


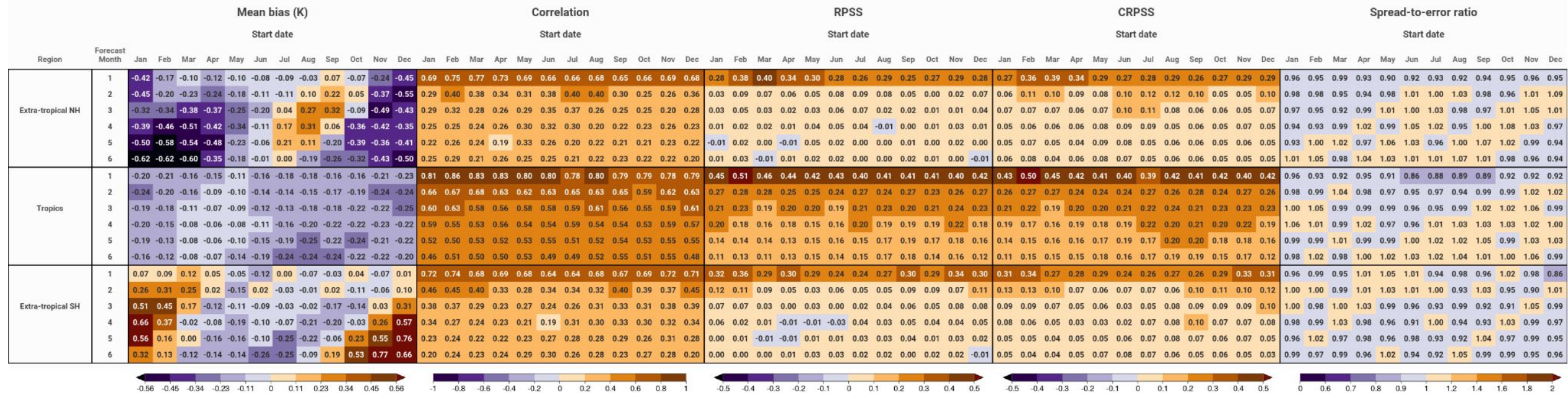
FIG. 4. Fair RPSS for tercile events of 10-m wind speed forecasts from ECMWF System 4 and ERA-Interim reanalysis in winter (DJF). These predictions have been initialized on 1 Nov for the period of 1981–2012.

# Climate Forecast Quality assessment

- When issuing a climate product, it is important to provide information about its **reliability**.
- For every initialization, a climate prediction will include two time periods: a forecast and a hindcast. The hindcast is a simulation covering a historical period, which can be compared to the observational information of the same time period to **evaluate the quality of the model**. This is called a Skill Assessment.

Near-Surface Air Temperature of ECMWF SEAS5 (Interpolation = to system, Aggregation level = score, Cross-validation = anomalies & terciles & crps\_clim)

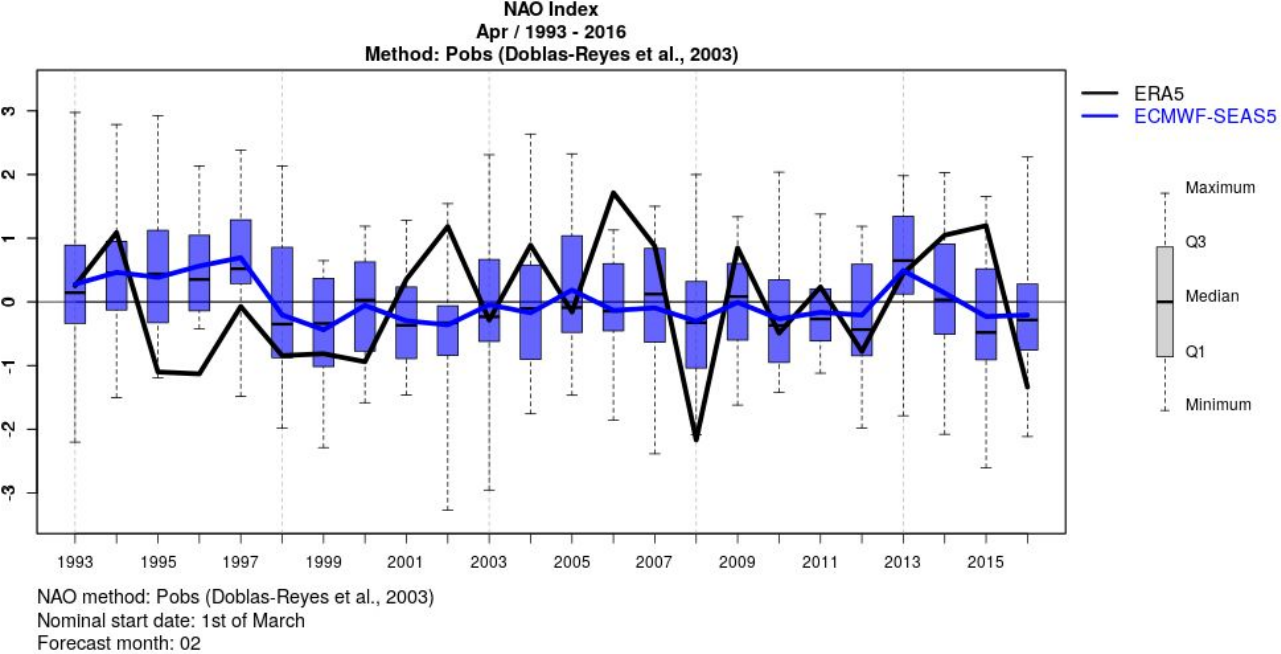
(Ref: ERA5 1993-2016)



‘Scorecard’ plot showcasing different prediction skill metrics (credit: Nadia Milders)

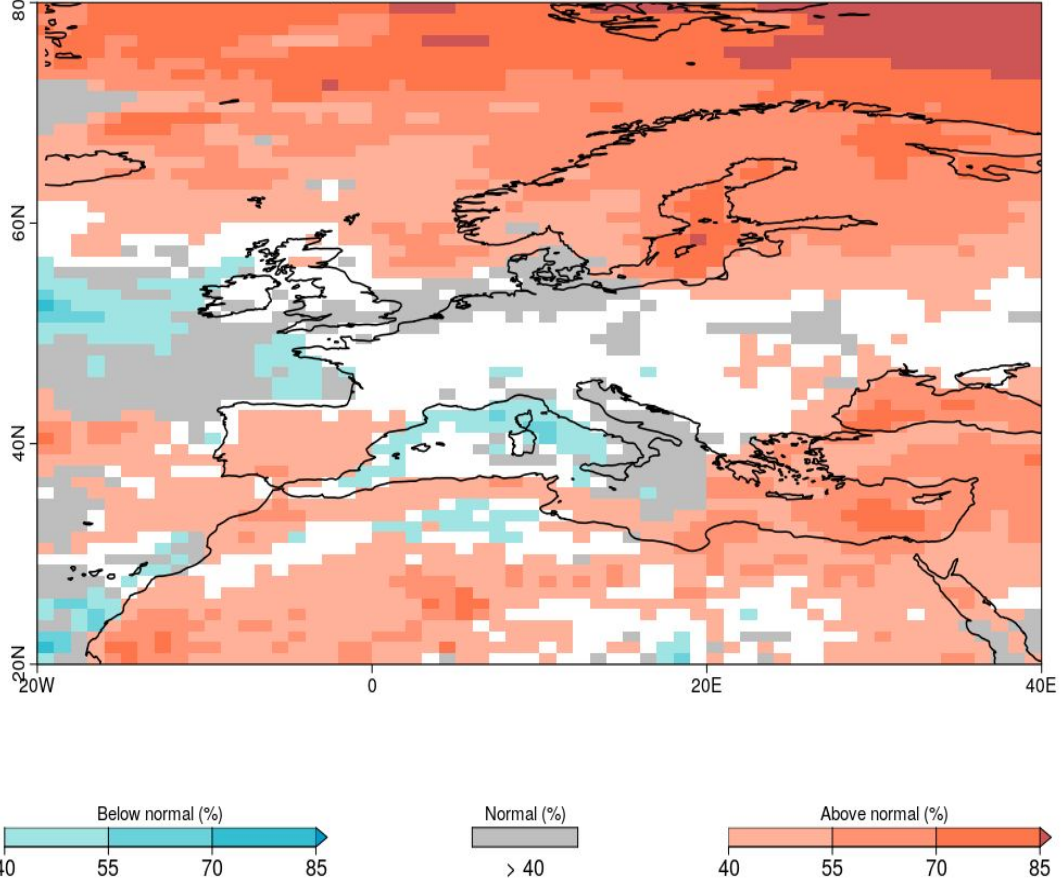


# Tailored climate prediction



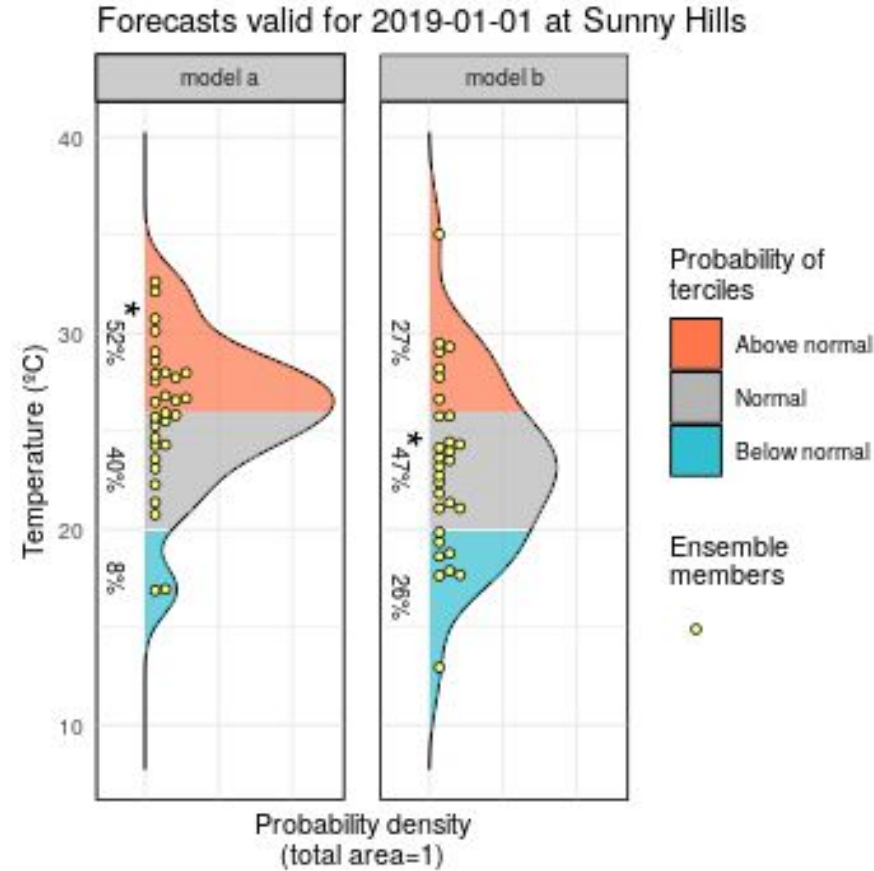
**NAO Index time series box plot**  
(credit: Núria Pérez-Zanón)

Meteo-France System 7 / 2 Metre Temperature  
Most Likely Tercile / November 2020 / Start date: 01-11-2020

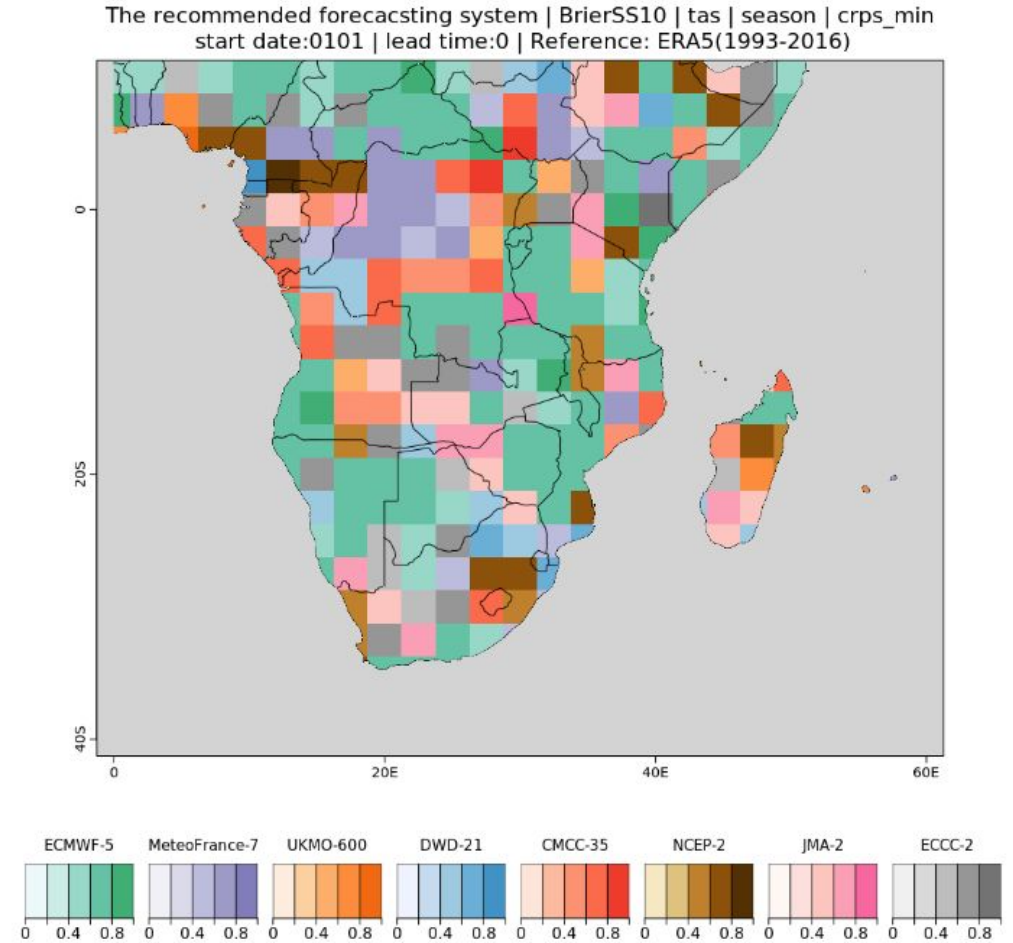


**Map of the Most Likely Terciles**  
(by `CSTools::PlotMostLikelyQuantileMap`)

# Tailored climate prediction



**Probability distribution of ensemble forecast**  
(by `CSTools::PlotForecastPDF.R`)



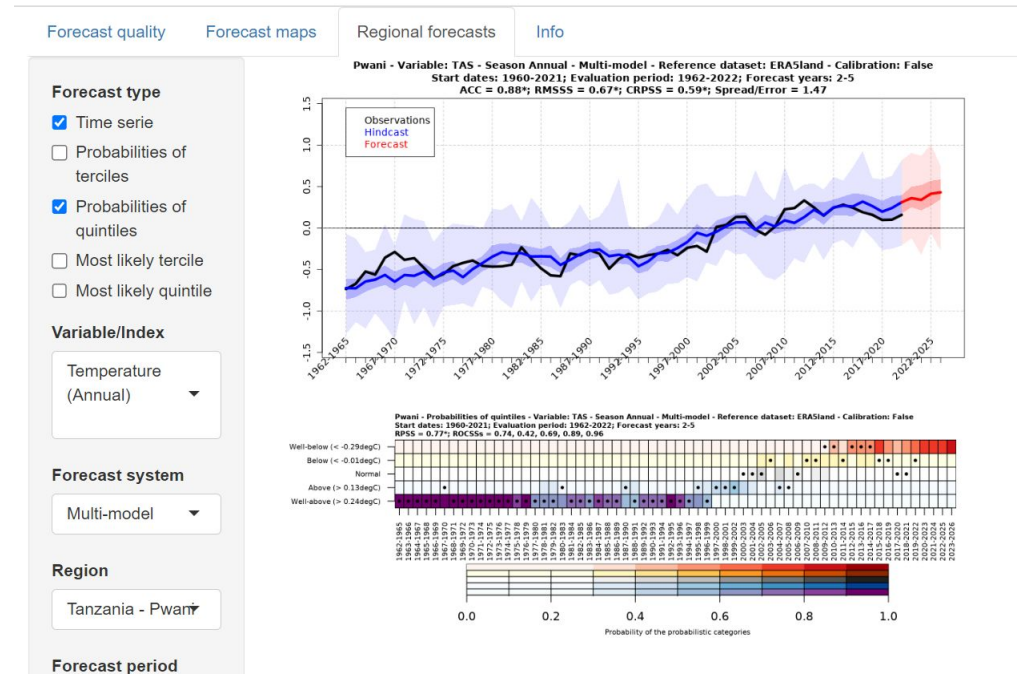
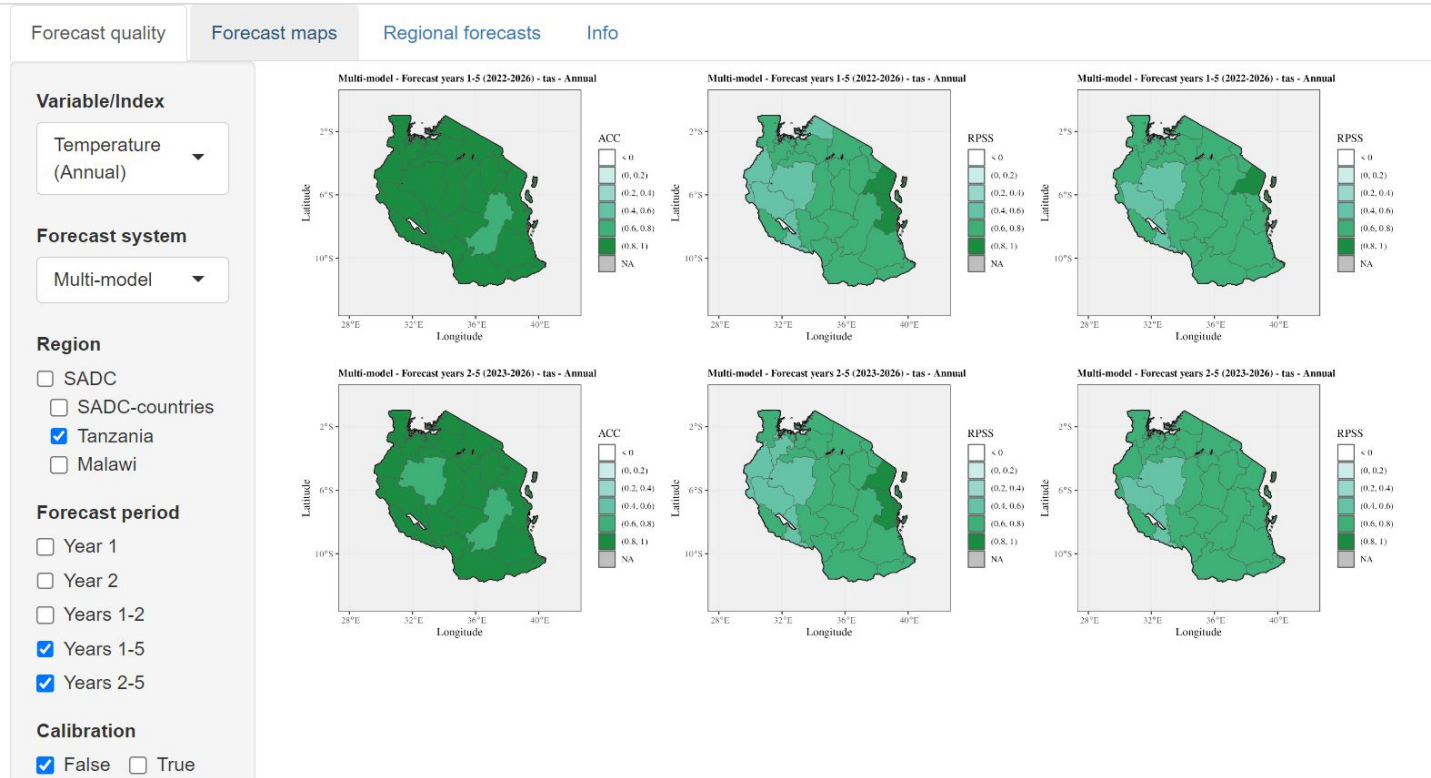
**Recommended forecast system based on Brier skill score**  
(credit: Chihchung Chou)

# Climate service product: Shiny app

**Shiny** is an R package that makes it easy to build **interactive web apps** straight from R & Python.

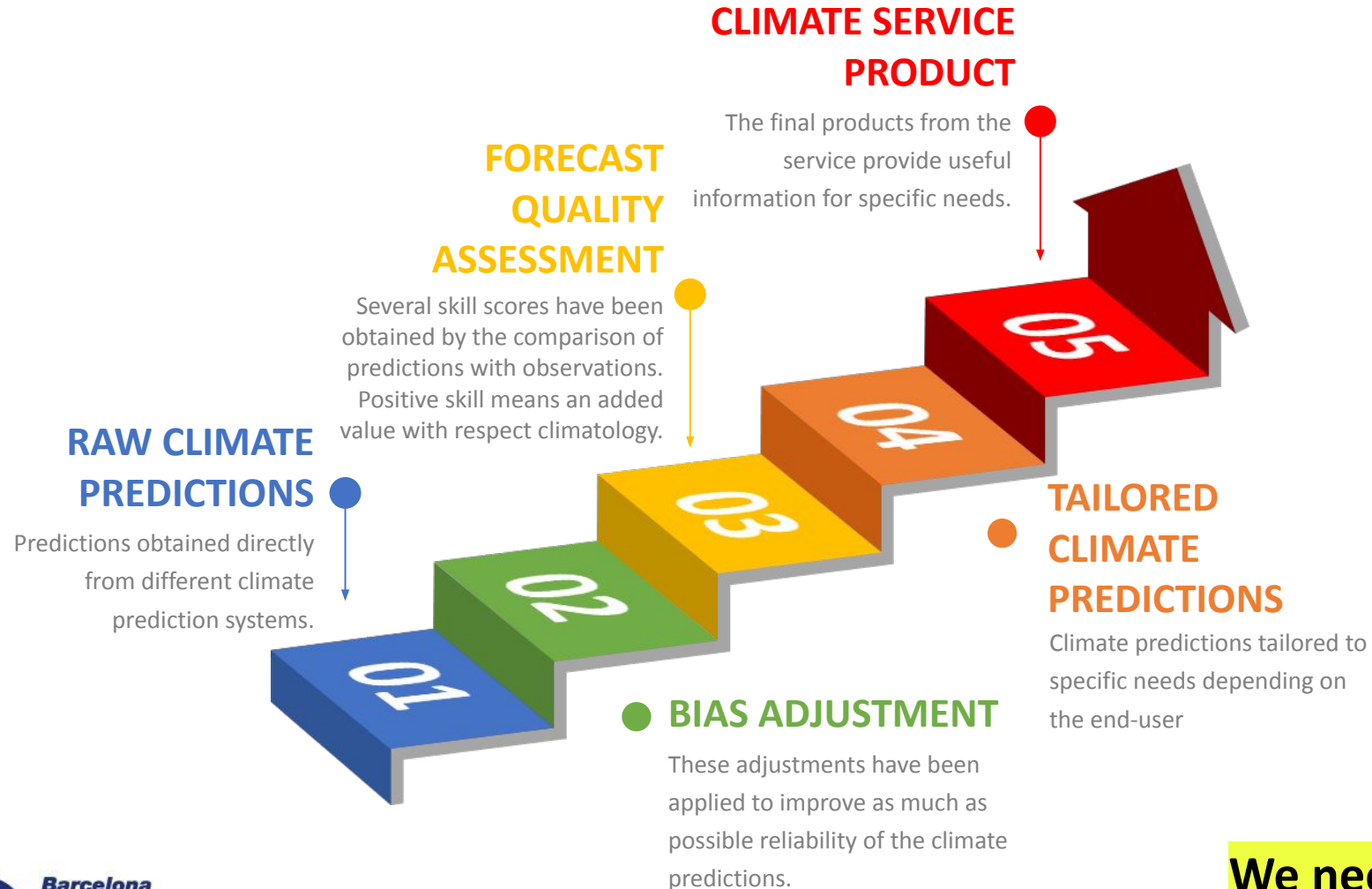
Example: [https://earth.bsc.es/shiny/cdelgado\\_FOCUS-Africa-casestudy/](https://earth.bsc.es/shiny/cdelgado_FOCUS-Africa-casestudy/) (credit: Carlos Delgado)

- ❖ user: focus-africa-casestudy
- ❖ password: climateservices



# Climate Forecast: From Climate data to Climate product

How to turn climate data into useful result or products?



**We need TOOLS for data processing.**

# 2. Introduction to Climate Forecast Analysis Tools



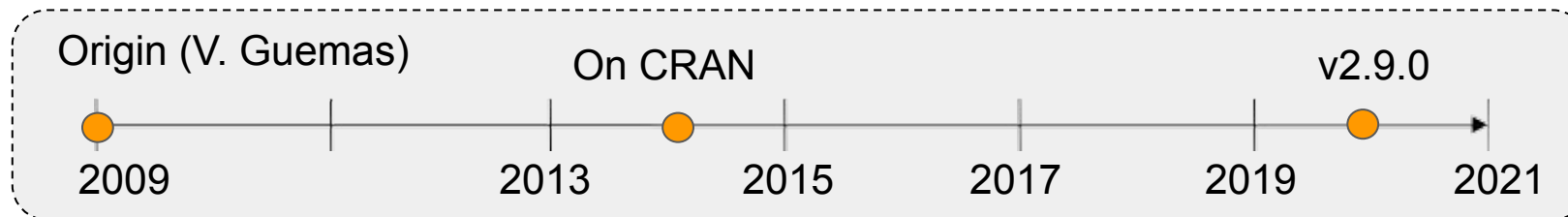
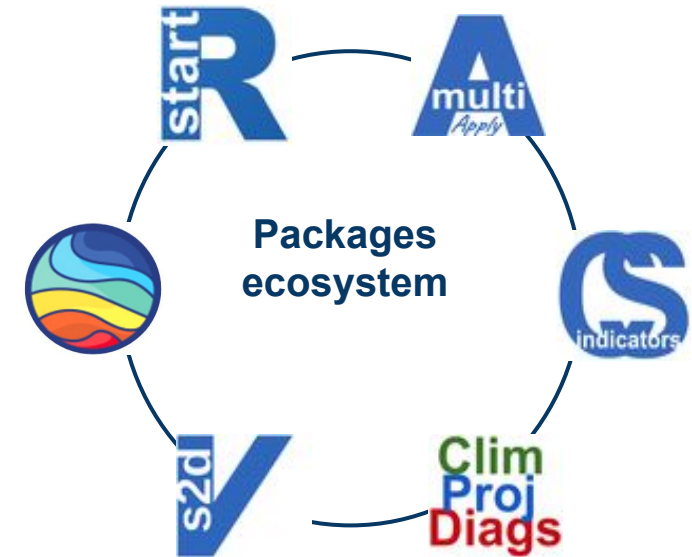
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**R** is a generic programming language, especially features in a strong framework for statistical computing and graphics.

- Free software (under the GNU GPL license.) You can install R from <https://cran.r-project.org/>
- Provides a wide variety of statistical techniques (linear and non-linear modelling, classical statistical tests, classification and simulation...)
- Well developed plotting tools (e.g., [ggplot2](#))
- Once R is installed, the base R packages are installed along. But you can further install other packages. See the list of all the available packages on CRAN [https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/available\\_packages\\_by\\_name.html](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/available_packages_by_name.html)

# Climate Forecast Analysis Tools: Early version

- ★ Methods developed by the department to assess the quality of the forecast were gathered in s2dverification R package
- ★ Researchers could easily share their methods and replicate colleagues analysis on their own data
- ★ Common needs detected



***New packages and tools for different needs are being developed continuously.***

# Climate Forecast Analysis Tools: Table of packages

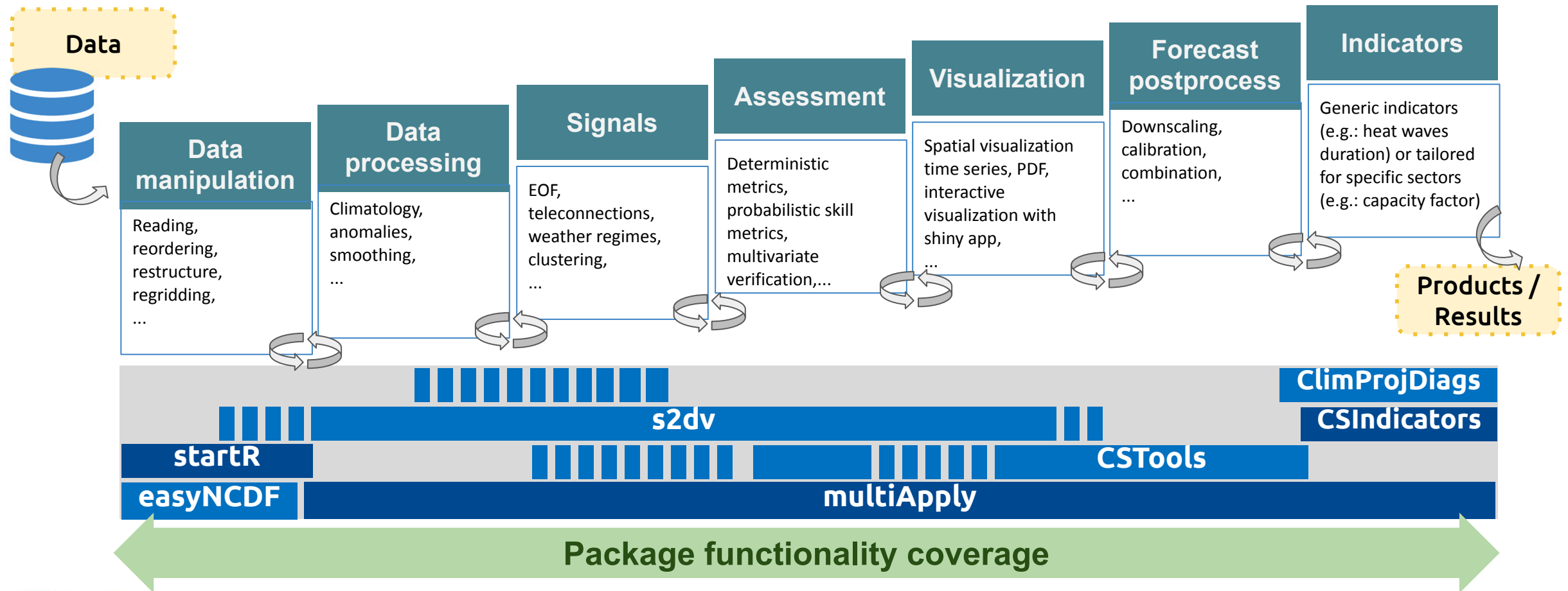
- ★ Functions are split into packages depending on their objective or project requirement
- ★ Functions from different packages can be used together to perform analyses or obtain climate service products

	Package name	Short description	Link to CRAN and GitLab
Data loading and manipulation	<b>easyNCDF</b>	Read/write netCDF files into/from multidimensional R array	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=easyNCDF">CRAN.R-project.org/package=easyNCDF</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/easyNCDF">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/easyNCDF</a>
	<b>startR</b>	Data retrieval and processing tools	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=startR">CRAN.R-project.org/package=startR</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/startR">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/startR</a>
	<b>multiApply</b>	Apply functions to multiple multidimensional arrays or vectors allowing parallel computation	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=multiApply">CRAN.R-project.org/package=multiApply</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/ces/multiApply">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/ces/multiApply</a>
Analysis and processing	<b>s2dv</b>	Functions for Forecast Verification and visualization	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=s2dv">CRAN.R-project.org/package=s2dv</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/s2dv">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/s2dv</a>
	<b>CSTools</b>	Methods for forecast calibration, statistical and stochastic downscaling, optimal forecast combination and tools to obtain tailored products.	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=CSTools">CRAN.R-project.org/package=CSTools</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/external/cstools">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/external/cstools</a>
Climate indicators	<b>CSIndicators</b>	Sectorial Indicators for Climate Service	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=CSIndicators">CRAN.R-project.org/package=CSIndicators</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/csindicators">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/csindicators</a>
	<b>ClimProjDiags</b>	Climate extreme indices, evaluation of the agreement between models, weight and combination functions.	<a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=ClimProjDiags">CRAN.R-project.org/package=ClimProjDiags</a> <a href="https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/ClimProjDiags">earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/ClimProjDiags</a>



# Climate Forecast Data Analysis Procedure and Tools

- ★ The package ecosystem aims to cover the whole data analysis cycle.
- ★ The tools can be used interchangeably, depending on the needs.



# Important Features in Our Tools

## LOADING

- Input data format: **netCDF**
- Different **datasets under convention** can be loaded
  - Data loading flexibility required

## ANALYZING

- Accepted R object type by functions:  
**Named multi-dimensional array** mainly
- Different **forecast horizons** and **frequency** to be analyzed
  - Function flexibility required
- Multiple-core/node and parallel computation on HPCs
  - use package “multiApply”

## Data providers



## Data pre-processing



## Analytical Tools



## Research & Services



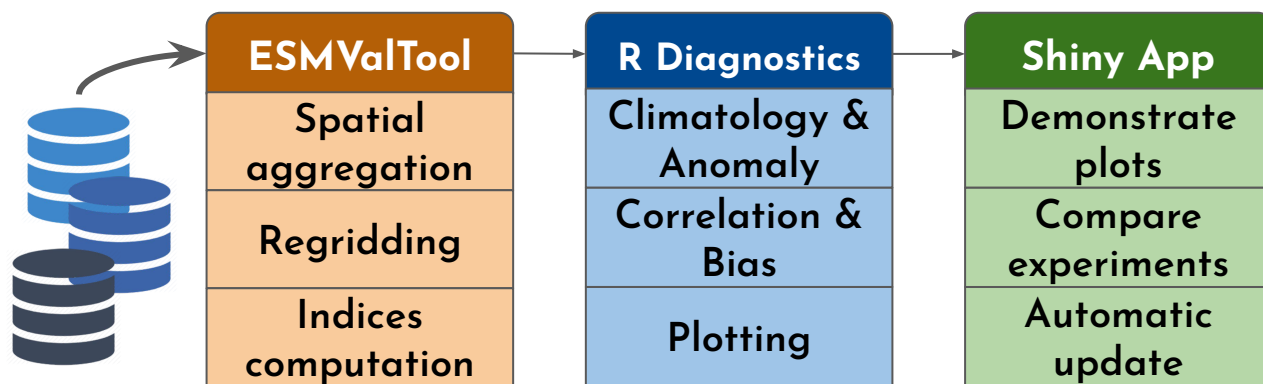
# Climate Forecast Analysis Tools: Integration

The packages are individual, but they can be integrated into a comprehensive data analysis workflow.

## EXAMPLE 1 s2d Experiment Monitoring Tool

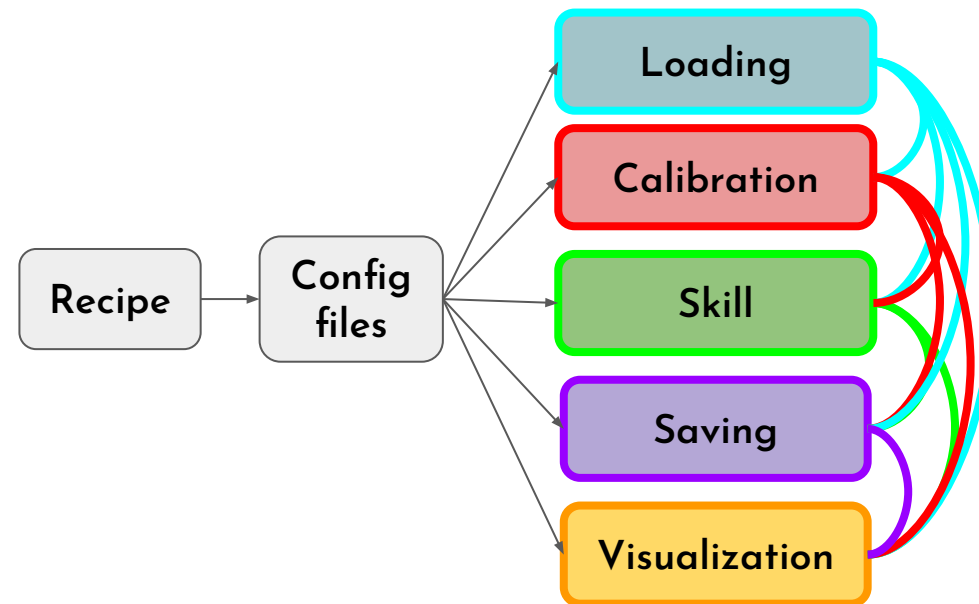
A workflow to monitor the seasonal/decadal predictions while they run. It consists of three parts:

- (1) Raw data pre-processing by ESMValTool
- (2) Diagnostics computed and plotted by our R packages
- (3) Shiny app to show the plots



## EXAMPLE 2 SUNSET: Climate Services Suite

This suite intakes a user-defined **recipe** and relies on **configuration** files. It has a **modularized** structure providing flexibility, so that parts of the workflow can be skipped or reordered.



# Hands-On Preparation



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# Prepare the environment on VM and MN4

1. If you use Windows, remember to open **Xming** first for showing the plots on the fly later.

(download [here](#))

2. log in VM: `ssh -XY patc{xx}@bsceshandson01.bsc.es`

3. ssh to mn4: `ssh -XY mn4 (passwordless)`

4. Require resources:

```
salloc -t 02:00:00 -n 1 -c 16 -J patc_test --x11 --qos=training
```

5. Load the required modules:

```
module load gcc/7.2.0 pcre2 intel R/4.1.2 mkl impi CDO/1.8.2  
netcdf/4.4.1.1
```

6. Open R: R

# 3. Hands-On I: Load data by startR



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- ★ An R package for data retrieval and processing into [multi-dimensional array](#)
- ★ Accepted data format: [netCDF](#)
- ★ Apply [multiApply](#) paradigm, which provides flexibility in multi-dimensional data processing and multiple-core usage
- ★ Pre-processing: data [regridding](#) and [reordering/reshaping/renaming](#) dimensions along with data loading
- ★ Automatically chunk the data and dispatch on HPCs for [parallel data-processing](#) and combine chunks back together in the end
- ★ Well-preserved metadata from netCDF files
- ★ Use [ecFlow](#) or [Autosubmit](#) for job dispatch and monitoring on HPCs



# Hands-on 1 overview

- ★ Goal: Use the package startR to load and pre-processing data

## Tools needed:

- R, NCO
- startR package (v2.3.0)
- lubridate

## Follow the Markdown file:

[https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/startR/-/blob/master/inst/doc/tutorial/PATC2023/hands\\_on\\_1-data-loading.md](https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/startR/-/blob/master/inst/doc/tutorial/PATC2023/hands_on_1-data-loading.md)

(Check the [answer](#) if needed)

**NOTE:** Don't close the session when you finish the exercise! We will use the data in the next hands-on.



# 4. Hands-On II: Data assessment with CSTools and s2dv

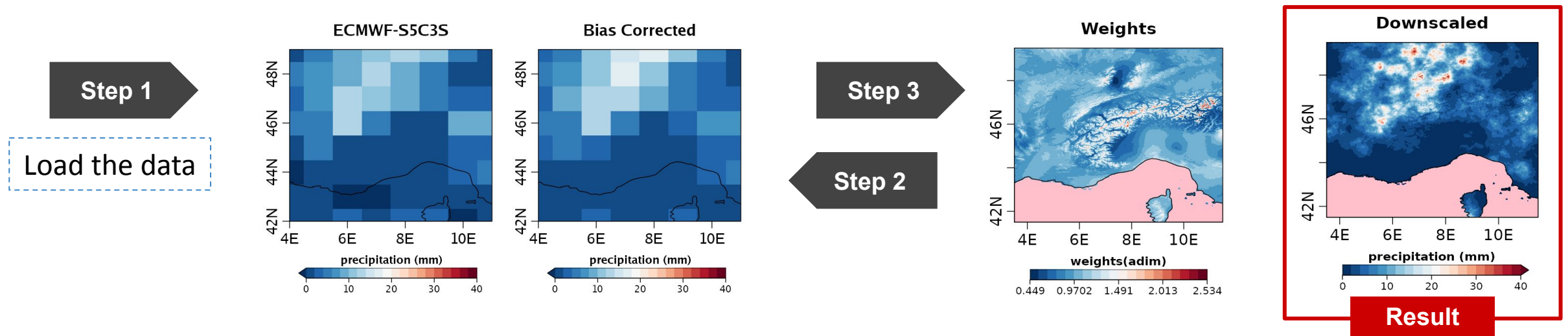


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# CSTools package

★ Climate forecast data can be postprocessed to obtain relevant information for the end-users.

Basic functions	Correction	Downscaling	Evaluation	Plotting	Classification
CST_Start CST_SaveExp CST_SplitDim CST_MergeDims ...	CST_BEI_Weighting CST_BiasCorrection CST_QuantileMapping CST_Calibration ...	CST_Analogs CST_RainFARM CST_AdamontAnalog CST_RFTemp ...	CST_MultiMetric CST_MultivarRMSE	PlotCombinedMap PlotForecastPDF PlotPDFsOLE PlotWeeklyClim ...	CST_MultiEOF CST_WeatherRegimes CST_RegimsAssign CST_EnsClustering ...



- GitLab repo: <https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/external/cstools>
- On CRAN: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/CSTools/index.html>

- ★ This package is designed to compare experimental and observational datasets. It covers from data retrieval, data post-processing, skill scores against observation, to visualization.

## Verification

Compute deterministic and probabilistic scores and skill scores and correlation with reliability indicators such as p-values and confidence intervals.

- **Functions:** NAO, RMSSS, RMS, BrierScore, RPS, RPSS, CRPSS, MSE, RPS, RPSS, ...

## Statistics

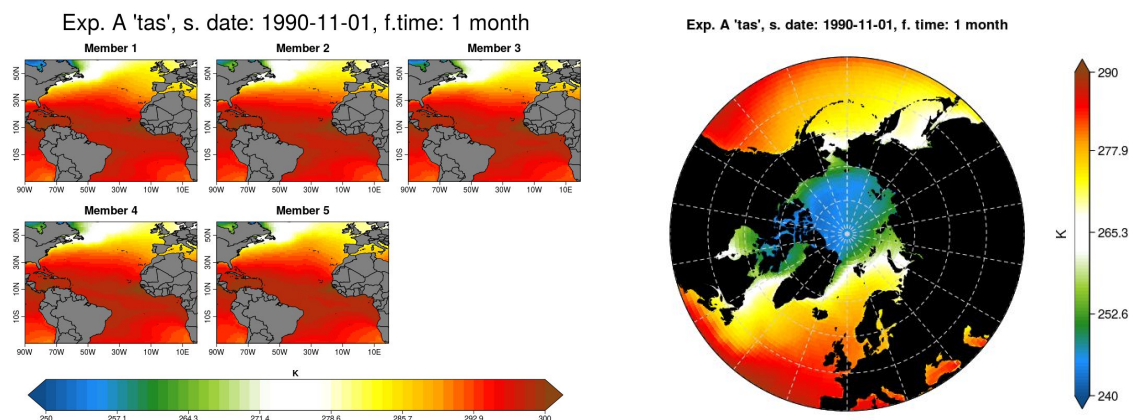
Functions that are commonly used in the forecast verification process to modify, describe or generate fields, a field being a series of modelled or observed measurements for a certain physic variable of interest.

- **Functions:** Clim, Ano, Trend, Consist\_Trend, Regression, Eno, Trend, ProbBins, ...

## Visualisation

Plotting functions are also provided to plot the results obtained from any of the modules above.

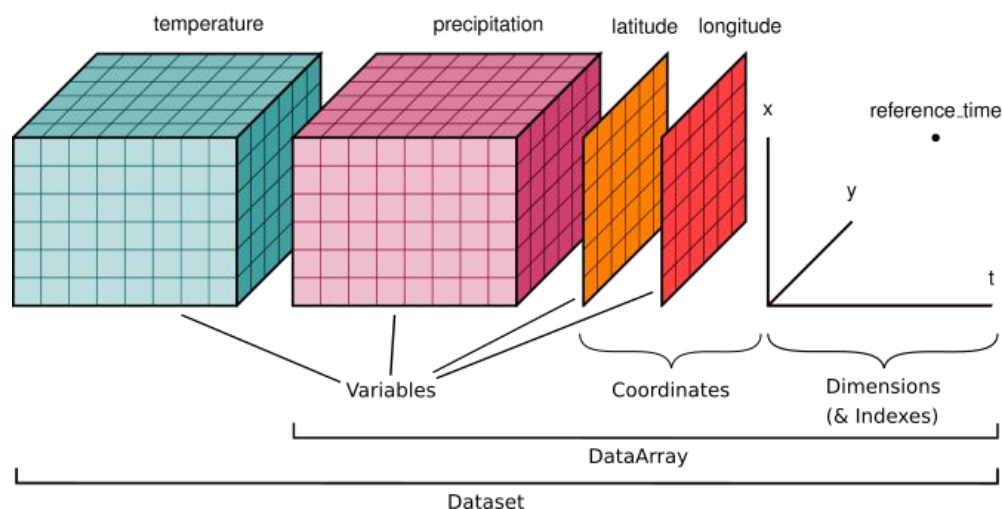
- **Functions:** PlotClim, PlotAno, PlotACC, PlotEquiMap, PlotStereoMap, AnimateMap, PlotLayout, ...



- GitLab repo: <https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/es/s2dv>
- On CRAN: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/s2dv/>

# s2dv\_cube object

- ★ **s2dv\_cube** is an object to store ordered multidimensional array with named dimensions, specific coordinates and stored metadata.
- ★ Its “methods” are **CST** prefix functions from **CSTools** and **CSIndicators**



's2dv\_cube'

**Data** [294.97520446, 295.9965820, 296.99915313, 296.87461853, ... ]

**Dimensions** (syear = 24, ensemble = 25, time = 2, lat = 61, lon = 61)

**Coordinates**

\* syear : 19931101, 19941101, 19951101, 19961101, 19971101, ...

ensemble : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ...

time : 1, 2

\* lat : 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, ...

\* lon : -20, -19, -18, -17, -16, -15, ...

**Attributes**

Dates : 1993-11-30 1994-11-30 1995-11-30 1996-11-30 1997-11-30 ...

varName : tas

metadata :

time

units : hours since 1993-11-01 00:00:00

tas

units : K

long name : 2 metre temperature

Datasets : dat1

when : 2023-10-21 17:40:59

source\_files : /exp/meteofrance/system7c3s/monthly\_mean/tas\_f6h/ ...

load\_parameters :

( dat1 ) : dat = dat1, var = tas, syear = 19931101 ...

- ★ **CSTools::CST\_Calibration** - Used to correct biases as well as dispersion errors of the model. This function contain different methods of member-by-member bias correction.
- ★ **CSTools::CST\_Anomaly** - Compute deviations from the average conditions. This function computes the anomalies relative to a climatology computed along the selected dimension.
- ★ **s2dv::RPSS** - Is the skill score based on the Ranked Probability Score. It can be used to assess whether a forecast presents an improvement or worsening with respect to a reference.
  - The RPSS ranges between minus infinite and 1. If the **RPSS > 0**, the forecast has higher skill than the reference, if **RPSS < 0** means that it has a lower skill.

- ★ **Goal:** Use the package CTools and s2dv to perform the hindcast quality assessment

## Tools needed:

- R
- CTools package v5.1.0
- s2dv package v2.0.0

## Follow the Markdown file:

[https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/external/cstools/-/blob/doc-bsc\\_training\\_2023/inst/doc/tutorial/PATC2023/handson\\_2-data-assesment.md](https://earth.bsc.es/gitlab/external/cstools/-/blob/doc-bsc_training_2023/inst/doc/tutorial/PATC2023/handson_2-data-assesment.md)

(Check the [answer](#) if needed)

# 5. Hands-On III: SUNSET



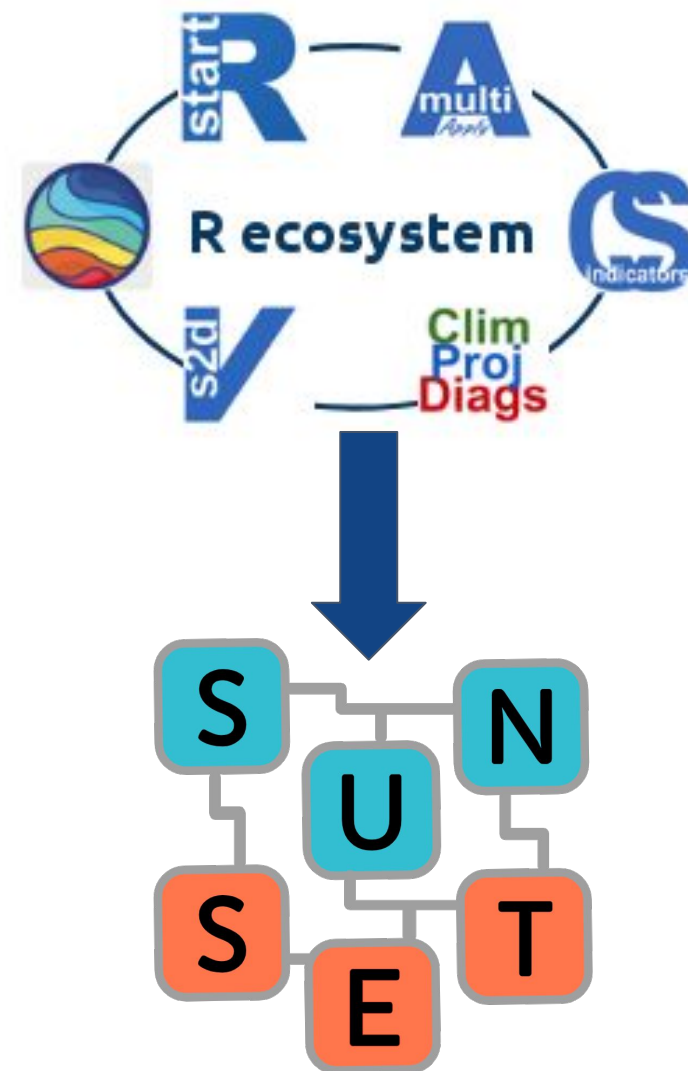
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# Introduction to SUNSET

SUNSET, or “ SUBseasonal to decadal climate forecast post-processing and asSEssment suite”, is an **R-based tool for forecast post-processing and skill assessment workflows** that takes advantage of the R ecosystem in the Earth Sciences department.

The purpose of this tool is to foster collaboration among people working on forecast verification analysis within the department, to facilitate code reusability and a common framework.

It **integrates** startR, CStools, s2dv, multiApply... and many other packages in our R ecosystem.

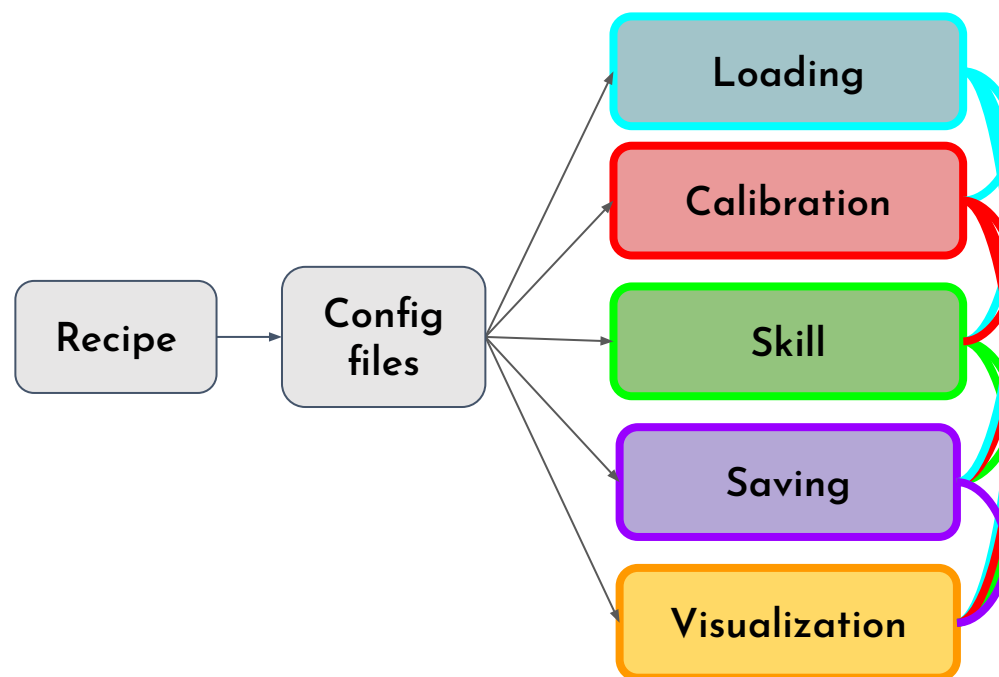




# Using SUNSET: Modular structure

SUNSET intakes a user-defined **recipe** with the information of the data to be loaded, and relies on configuration files and **modules**. Each module performs a different task: **Loading**, **Downscaling**, **Calibration**, **Anomalies**, computing **Indices** or **Indicators**, **Skill Assessment**, **Visualization**... The sequence of tasks in an analysis is called the **workflow** and is defined in an R script by the user.

The modularized structure provides flexibility, so that parts of the workflow can be skipped or executed at different points.



# How do we run SUNSET?

SUNSET is designed for Climate Services applications and therefore can be run in two ways:

1. **Parallelizing workflows:** Creating a recipe with one or multiple datasets that require the same analysis. When launching SUNSET, the recipe is split into individual verifications that are run in parallel on a computer cluster, with the option to use Autosubmit as a workflow manager.
2. **Interactively on the terminal:** Create an individual recipe directly and run the functions on the terminal (for small tests and individual one-time analysis).

For the hands-on tutorial, we will focus on the second approach, which allows us to observe every step of the workflow.

# Method 1. Splitting the recipe and parallelizing workflows

USER

## RECIPE

Specifies the assessment to carry on a model output. For example:  
2 variables (e.g. temperature at surface and mean sea level pressure) and  
2 different initialization dates (e.g. 1st of May and 1st of November)  
for 1 region (e.g. Europe).

AUTOSUBMIT

### Atomic recipe 1

Assessment of 1st of May  
initialization day of the air  
**temperature** at surface

### Atomic recipe 2

Assessment of 1st of May  
initialization day of the mean  
sea level **pressure**

### Atomic recipe 3

Assessment of 1st of **November**  
initialization day of the air  
**temperature** at surface

### Atomic recipe 4

Assessment of 1st of **November**  
initialization day of the mean  
sea level **pressure**

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

Save logs and outputs

# Method 2. Running an individual workflow interactively

## RECIPE

Specifies the assessment to carry on a model output for two variables (e.g. temperature at surface and mean sea level pressure) and 2 different initialization dates (e.g. 1st of May and 1st of November) on global scale.

USER

AUTOSUBMIT

### Atomic recipe 1

Assessment of 1st of May initialization day of the air **temperature** at surface

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

### Atomic recipe 2

Assessment of 1st of May initialization day of the mean sea level **pressure**

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

### Atomic recipe 3

Assessment of 1st of **November** initialization day of the air **temperature** at surface

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

### Atomic recipe 4

Assessment of 1st of **November** initialization day of the mean sea level **pressure**

Load

Calibration

Anomalies

Skill scores

Probability computation

Spatial visualization

Save logs and outputs

- ★ Goal: Create a SUNSET recipe and use the SUNSET functions to perform a climate forecast analysis

## Tools needed:

- R
- R packages: yaml, startR, CStools, s2dv, docopt, log4r, multiApply, easyNCDF, abind, lubridate, PCICt, RColorBrewer, stringr

## Steps

1. Copy and edit the SUNSET recipe template
2. Load the data and run the workflow
3. Review the output files and plots

[SUNSET Hands-on tutorial](#)



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# Thank you

If you have any question, feel free to contact us on GitLab or through email.

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