



# Earth System Model Evaluation and Benchmarking with the *PCMDI Metrics Package (PMP)*

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*Along with contributors:*

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Michael Wehner (LBNL), Daehyun Kim (SNU),  
Elina Valkonen (NASA GSFC), Julie Caron (NCAR),  
and many others!

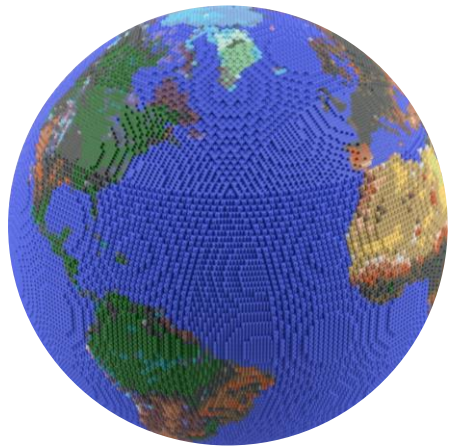




# Systematic Evaluation for Diverse Models



There are 1000s simulations from 100s of diverse models in CMIPs!



**Different resolution**



**Dynamics / Physics**



**Or, something unique!**

How can we **objectively evaluate** and **efficiently document** their **performance**?

# PCMDI Metrics Package (PMP)

Lee et al. 2024: Systematic and Objective Evaluation of Earth System Models: PCMDI Metrics Package (PMP) version 3. *Geoscientific Model Development*, 17, 3919–3948, doi: 10.5194/gmd-17-3919-2024



**PMP is:**

**Open-source Python package for objective evaluation and benchmarking of physical climate as simulated by models**



**PMP provides:**

**Reusable** software with documentation

Pre-calculated **database** of statistics and metrics for the CMIP archive

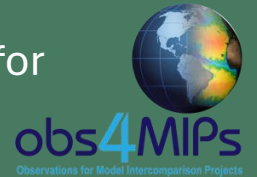


**PMP does :**

Assess model **performance** using diverse metrics

Ensure **reproducibility** with detailed **provenance** and **version** control (codes, data, and operating conditions)

Link to reference datasets from **obs4MIPs** for more robust evaluation and reproducibility



**Impacts:**

Quantitatively measure the performance evolution across **CMIP** generations

Provide objective goals for **model development**

Downloaded > 33,000 times and used for evaluation of DOE and other agencies' models



# PMP's primary building component: xCDAT

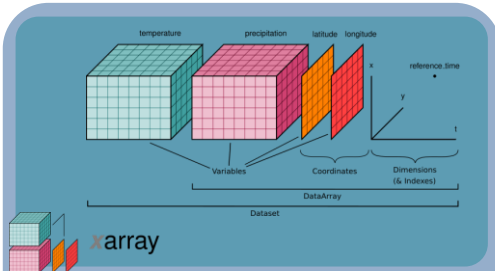


T. Vo, S. Po-Chedley, J. Boutte, J. Zhang, J. Lee (LLNL)

## xCDAT encourages reusable code and reproducible science

Pure Xarray

xCDAT



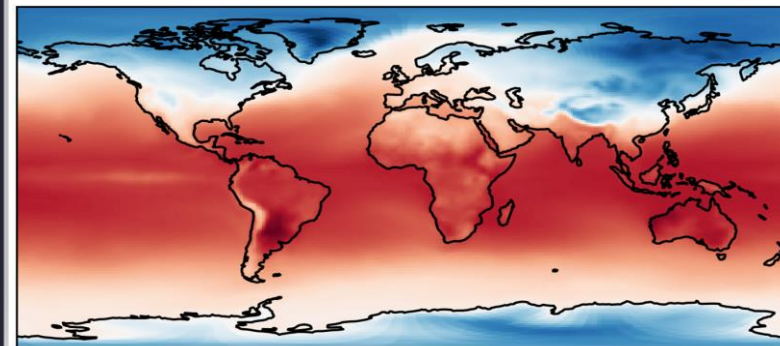
### xCDAT

- Geospatial weighted averaging
- Temporal averaging, climatologies, departures
- Dataset bounds and CF metadata handling
- Horizontal and vertical regridding

CF ESMF GCM

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import xarray as xr
3
4 # 1. Open the dataset.
5 dpath = (
6     "/p/user_pub/work/CMIP6/CMIP/E3SM-Project/"
7     "E3SM-2-0/historical/r1i1p1f1/Amon/ts/gr/v20220830/"
8 )
9 ds = xr.open_mfdataset(dpath + "*.nc")
10
11 # 2. Calculate monthly departures.
12 ts_mon = ds.ts.groupby("time.month")
13 ts_mon_clim = ts_mon.mean(dim="time")
14 ts_anom = ts_mon - ts_mon_clim
15
16 # 3. Compute global average.
17 coslat = np.cos(np.deg2rad(ds.lat))
18 ts_anom_wgt = ts_anom.weighted(coslat)
19 ts_anom_global = ts_anom_wgt.mean(dim="lat").mean(dim="lon")
20
21 # 4. Calculate annual averages.
22 # ncar.github.io/esds/posts/2021/yearly-averages-xarray/
23 mon_len = ts_anom_global.time.dt.days_in_month
24 mon_len_by_year = mon_len.groupby("time.year")
25 wgts = mon_len_by_year / mon_len_by_year.sum()
26
27 temp_sum = ts_anom_global * wgts
28 temp_sum = temp_sum.resample(time="AS").sum(dim="time")
29 denom_sum = (wgts).resample(time="AS").sum(dim="time")
30
31 ts_anom_global_ann = temp_sum / denom_sum
32
```

```
1 import xcdat as xc
2
3 # 1. Open the dataset.
4 dpath = (
5     "/p/user_pub/work/CMIP6/CMIP/E3SM-Project/"
6     "E3SM-2-0/historical/r1i1p1f1/Amon/ts/gr/v20220830/"
7 )
8 ds = xc.open_mfdataset(dpath)
9
10 # 2. Calculate monthly departures.
11 ds_anom = ds.temporal.departures("ts", freq="month")
12
13 # 3. Compute global average.
14 ds_anom_global = ds_anom.spatial.average("ts")
15
16 # 4. Calculate annual averages
17 ds_anom_global_ann = ds_anom_global.temporal.group_average(
18     "ts", freq="year")
19
```



More examples available at <https://xcdat.readthedocs.io>

Vo et al. (2024) xCDAT: A Python package for simple climate data analysis on structured grids. Journal of Open Source Software. DOI: 10.21105/joss.06426

*A comparison of code to calculate global-mean, monthly anomalies*

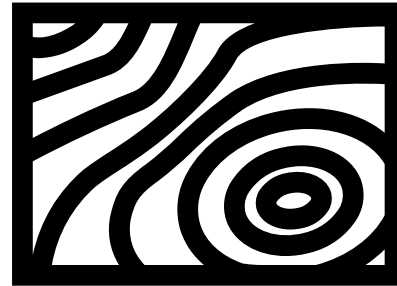
# What Do We Evaluate?



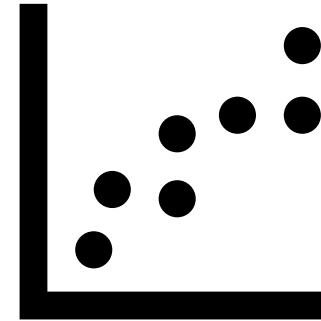
Average



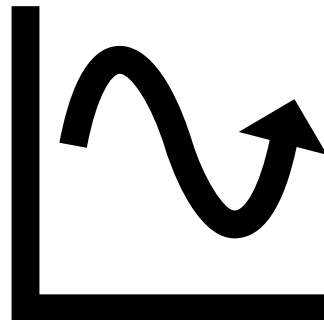
Pattern



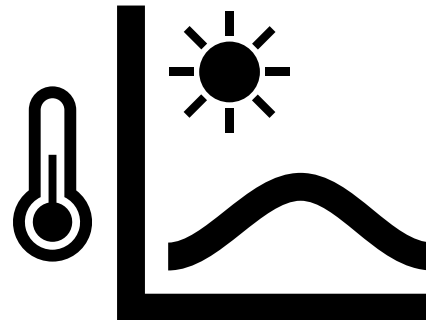
Physical Relationships



Variability



Extremes



Processes



*Evaluation needs to include diverse aspects of the simulated physical climate*



# Evaluation of Climatology

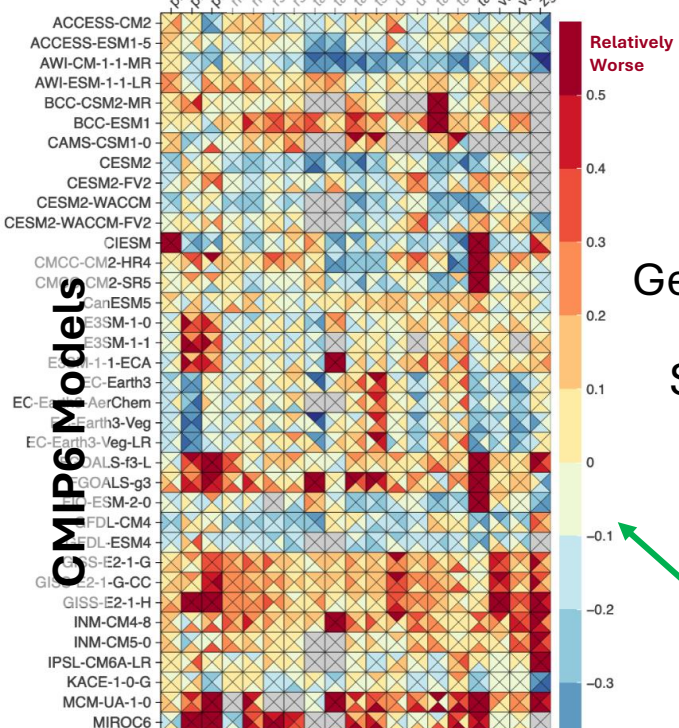


## High-level Performance Summary

Gleckler Plot (aka Portrait Plot)



### Variables



Sea-surface Temperature

Precipitation

Precipitable Water

Wind

Geopotential Height

Sea Level Pressure

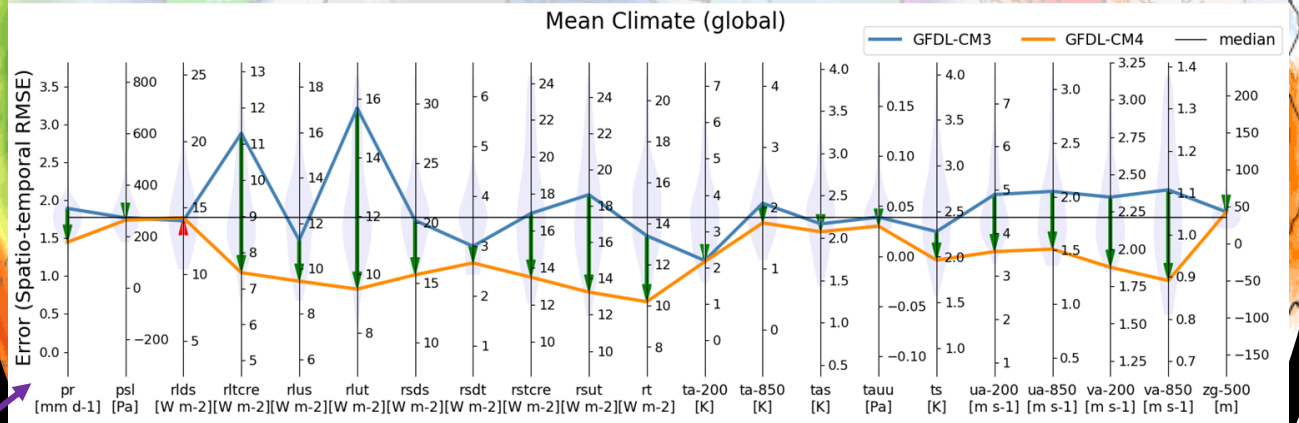
... and many others!

Relative Performance

Absolute error

## Objective Performance Tracking during Model Development

Parallel Coordinate Plot



Collective evaluation of multiple climate fields enables objective performance tracking

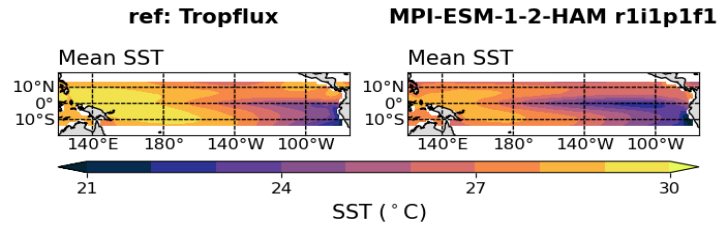




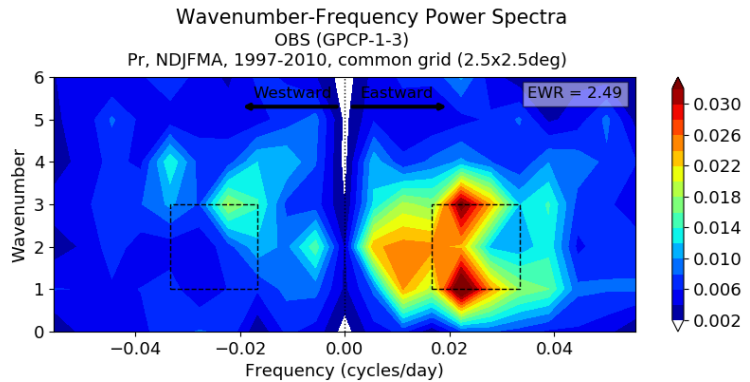
# Climate Variability



## Tropics

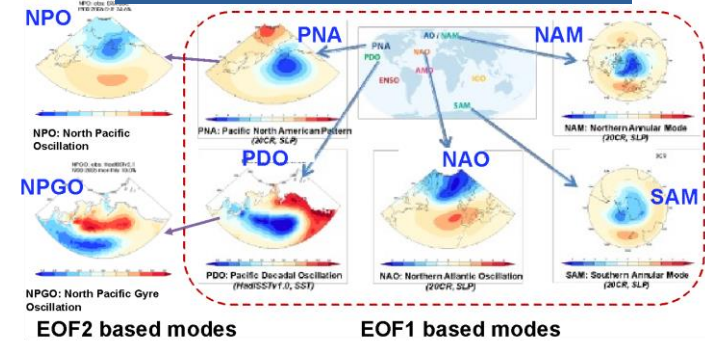


ENSO metrics developed by the collaboration with CLIVAR Pacific Region Panel

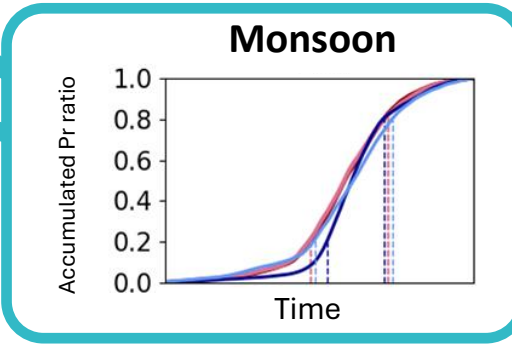
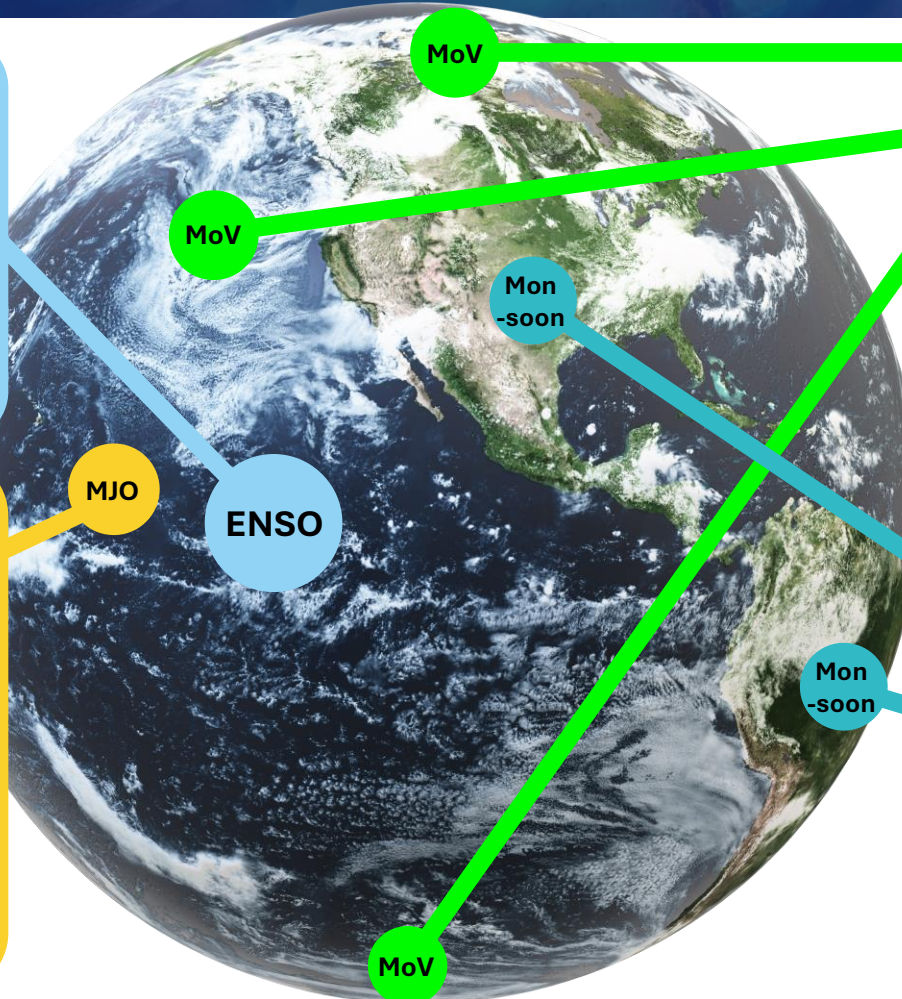


MJO propagation metrics developed by the collaboration with CLIVAR MJO Task Force

## Mid-to-High Latitude



Extratropical Modes of Variability using EOF and CBF



Evaluation of climate variability allows us to explore connectivity in the climate system

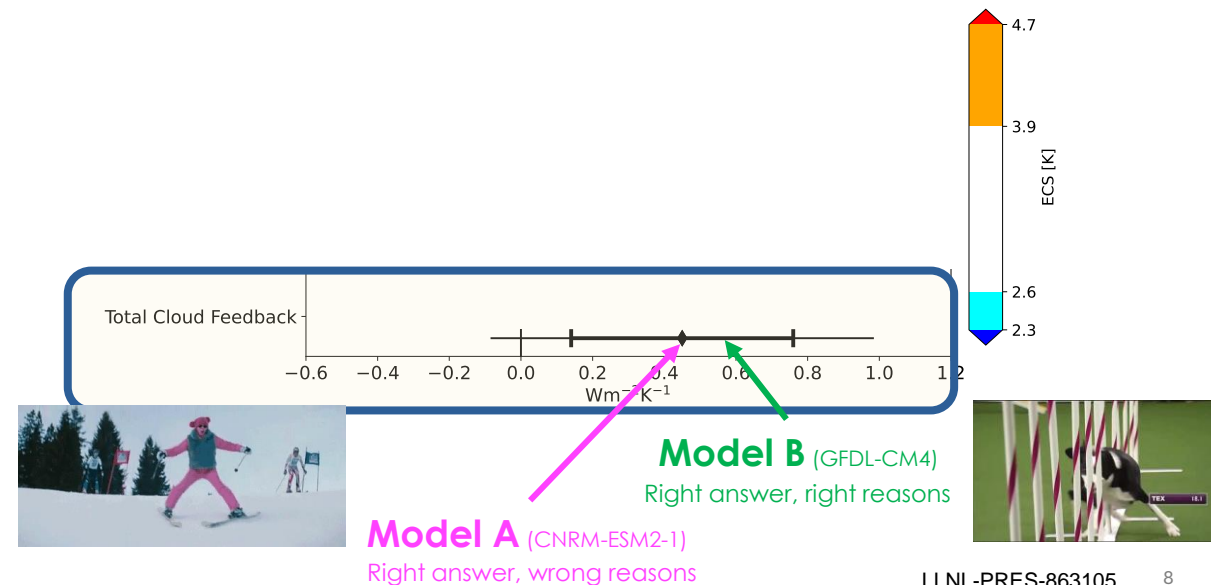
# Cloud Feedbacks

Implementation contributed by Mark Zelinka and Li-Wei Chao



- ✦ **Cloud feedbacks** are broken down into individual components quantified in the WCRP Climate Sensitivity assessment. (Sherwood et al. 2020)
- ✦ An overall cloud feedback error metric is computed for each model based on the RMSE across the individual cloud feedback components.
- ✦ **Mean-state cloud property** error metrics (Klein et al. 2013) are also computed as part of this package.

- CMIP5
- CCSM4
  - ▽ CanESM2
  - △ HadGEM2-ES
  - ◁ MIROC-ESM
  - ▷ MIROC5
  - MPI-ESM-LR
  - ⊗ MRI-CGCM3
- CMIP6
- CNRM-CM6-1
  - ⊙ CNRM-ESM2-1
  - ▽ CanESM5
  - ★ E3SM-1-0
  - ⊕ GFDL-CM4
  - △ HadGEM3-GC31-LL
  - ◇ IPSL-CM6A-LR
  - ◇ IPSL-CM6A-LR-INCA
  - ◁ MIROC-ES2L
  - ▷ MIROC6
  - ⊗ MRI-ESM2-0
  - UKESM1-0-LL



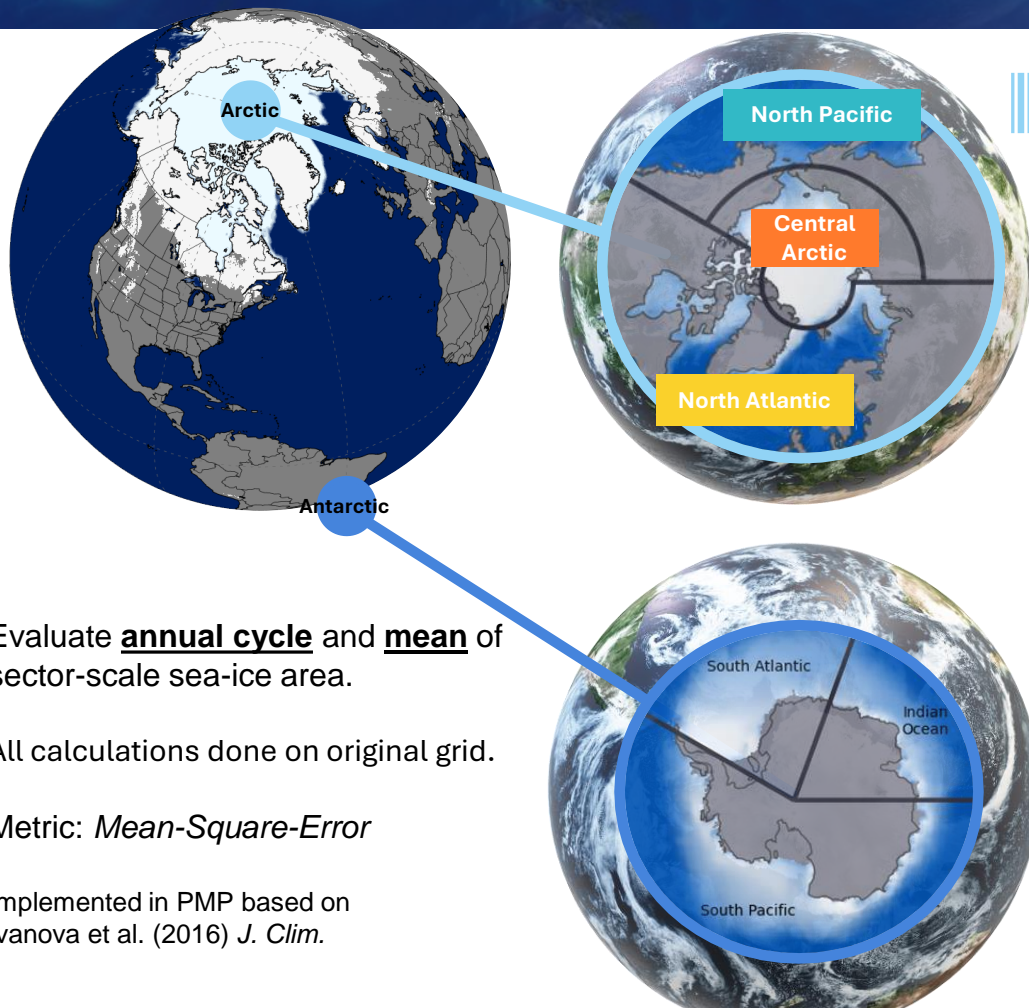


# Recent addition: Sea Ice Area

Sector scale analysis: Moving beyond total hemispheric sea-ice extent



Ana Ordonez, Jiwoo Lee, Paul Durack, Peter Glekler

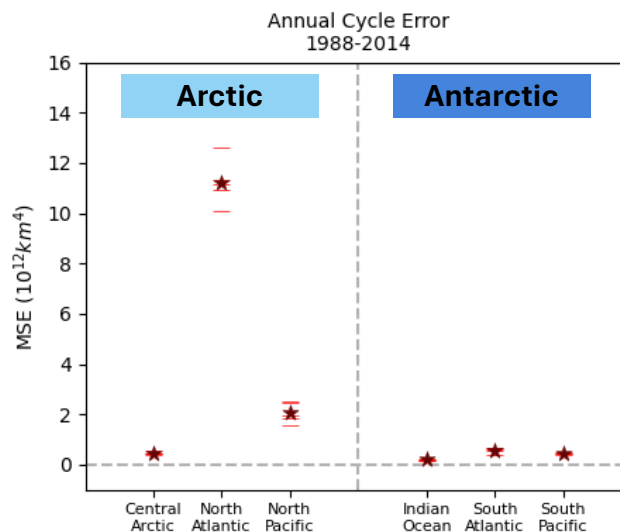
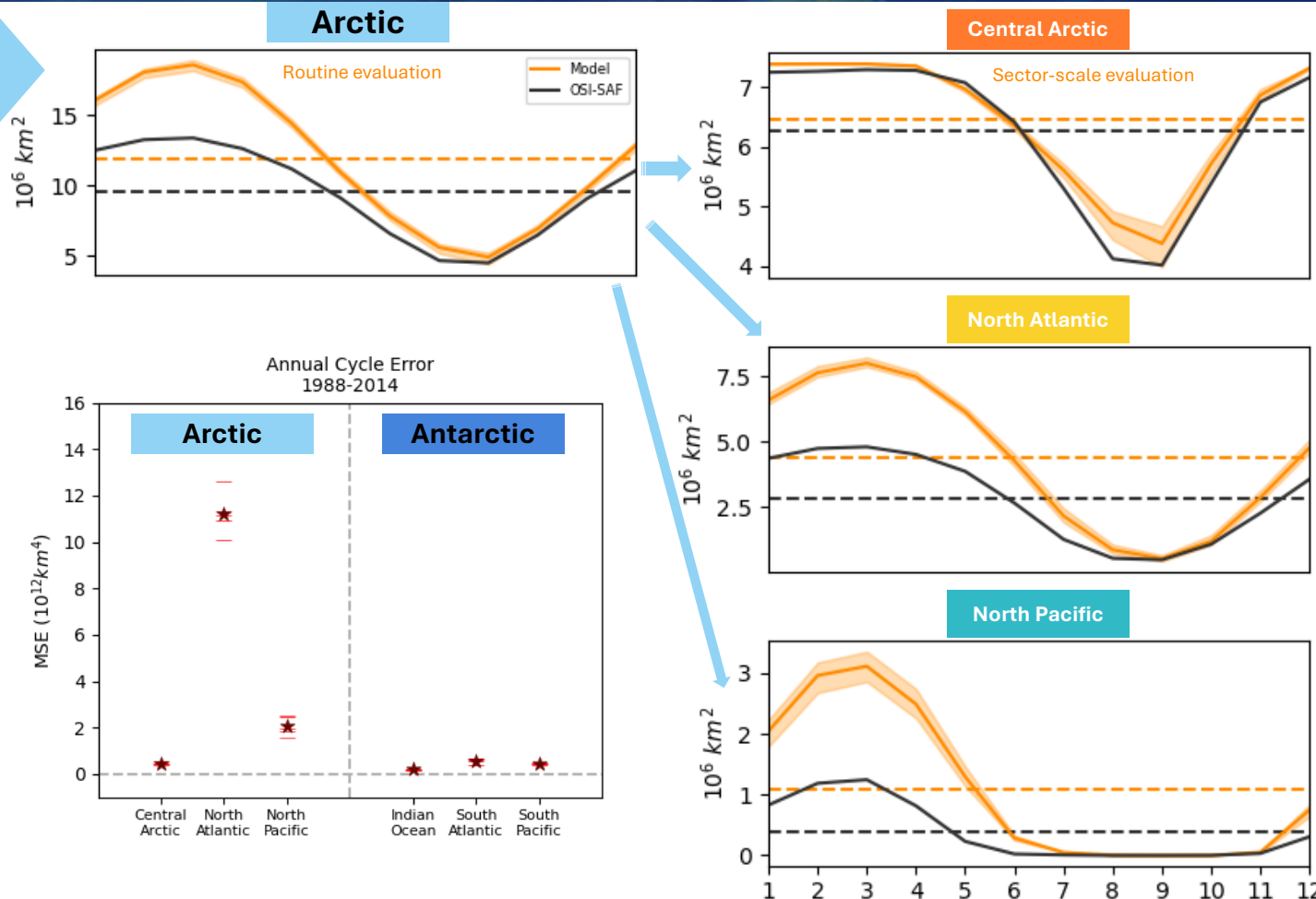


Evaluate **annual cycle** and **mean** of sector-scale sea-ice area.

All calculations done on original grid.

Metric: *Mean-Square-Error*

Implemented in PMP based on Ivanova et al. (2016) *J. Clim.*



Evaluation efforts have expanded to include more components of the climate system

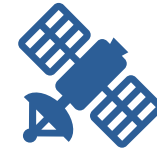




# Collaborative additions (on-going and planned)



## Large-scale Meteorology Driving Extremes



## Stratosphere-troposphere Connections



## Cryosphere

Lead by Dong (LLNL postdoc) w/ LBNL

Image : DOE E3SM

### Atmospheric Rivers

Narrow and stretched strong rain band

Landfall frequency, Length and width, etc.

Collaboration w/ CSU (Valkonen, Barnes)

Image : NOAA

### Atmospheric Blocking

Traffic jam in the atmosphere

Frequency, duration, etc.

Collaboration w/ NCAR (Caron)

Image credit: @Zack Labe

### Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO)

Stratosphere oscillation impacting weather

Amplitude, QBO-MJO teleconnection, etc.

Collaboration w/ LANL (HiLAT)

### Polar Metrics

Diverse metrics for Arctic/Antarctic regions

We are working on identifying potential candidate metrics



*We are leveraging collaborations with the community to incorporate advanced performance measures*

# Reference datasets

The PMP leverages data products provided by obs4MIPs



- ✦ Obs4MIPs accelerates model evaluation, research and development, via:
  - Technical alignment of **observations** and selected **reanalysis** with CMIP
  - Detailed **provenance** including product origins, data preparation, and unified version control
  - Delivery on ESGF side-by-side with CMIP
- ✦ PMP uses dozens of obs4MIPs datasets including daily and 3hr products
- ✦ A suite of new obs4MIPs compliant products are now staged for **ESGF** publication
- ✦ As a WCRP project, obs4MIPs is expected to be a critical resource for **CMIP benchmarking**
- ✦ PCMDI, NASA and ESA are providing leadership



*For further information contact Peter Gleckler ([gleckler1@llnl.gov](mailto:gleckler1@llnl.gov))*



# Database of pre-calculated metrics provides a foundation for benchmarking

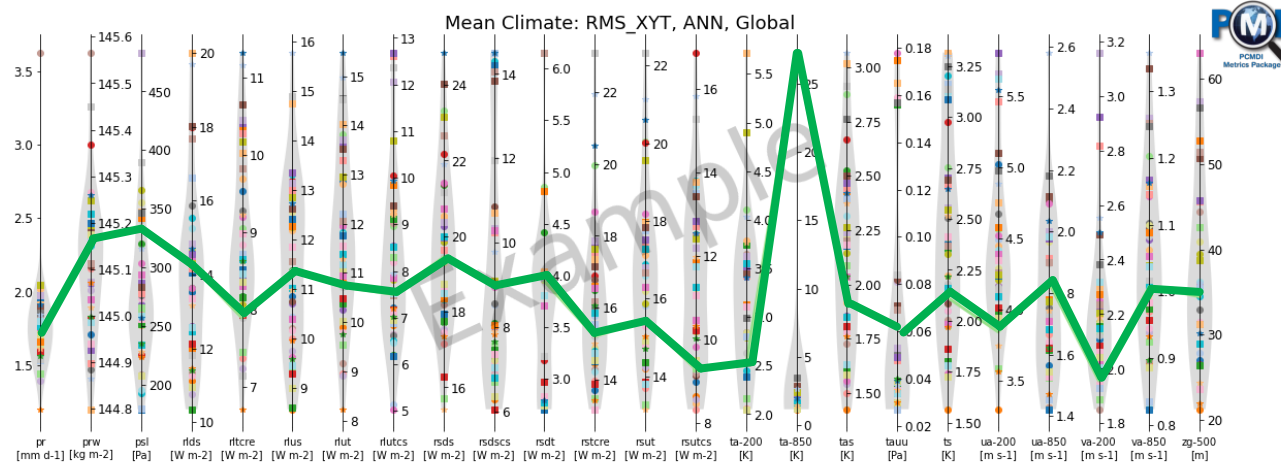


- ✦ We release a **database of pre-calculated PMP metrics for CMIP5/6**  
[https://github.com/PCMDI/pcmdi\\_metrics\\_results\\_archive](https://github.com/PCMDI/pcmdi_metrics_results_archive)
- ✦ which enables **objective benchmarking** (i.e., comparing the user's model with other CMIP models) *without massive downloading of CMIP models* to calculate the same metrics for them.
- ✦ **Provenance** information ensures robust **reproducibility** of the statistical numbers of metrics.

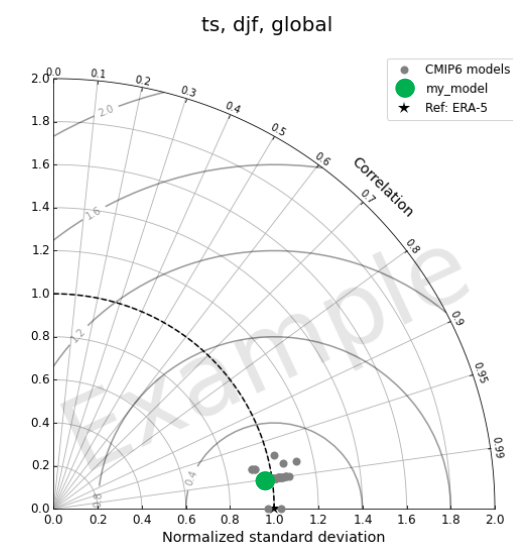
```

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  },
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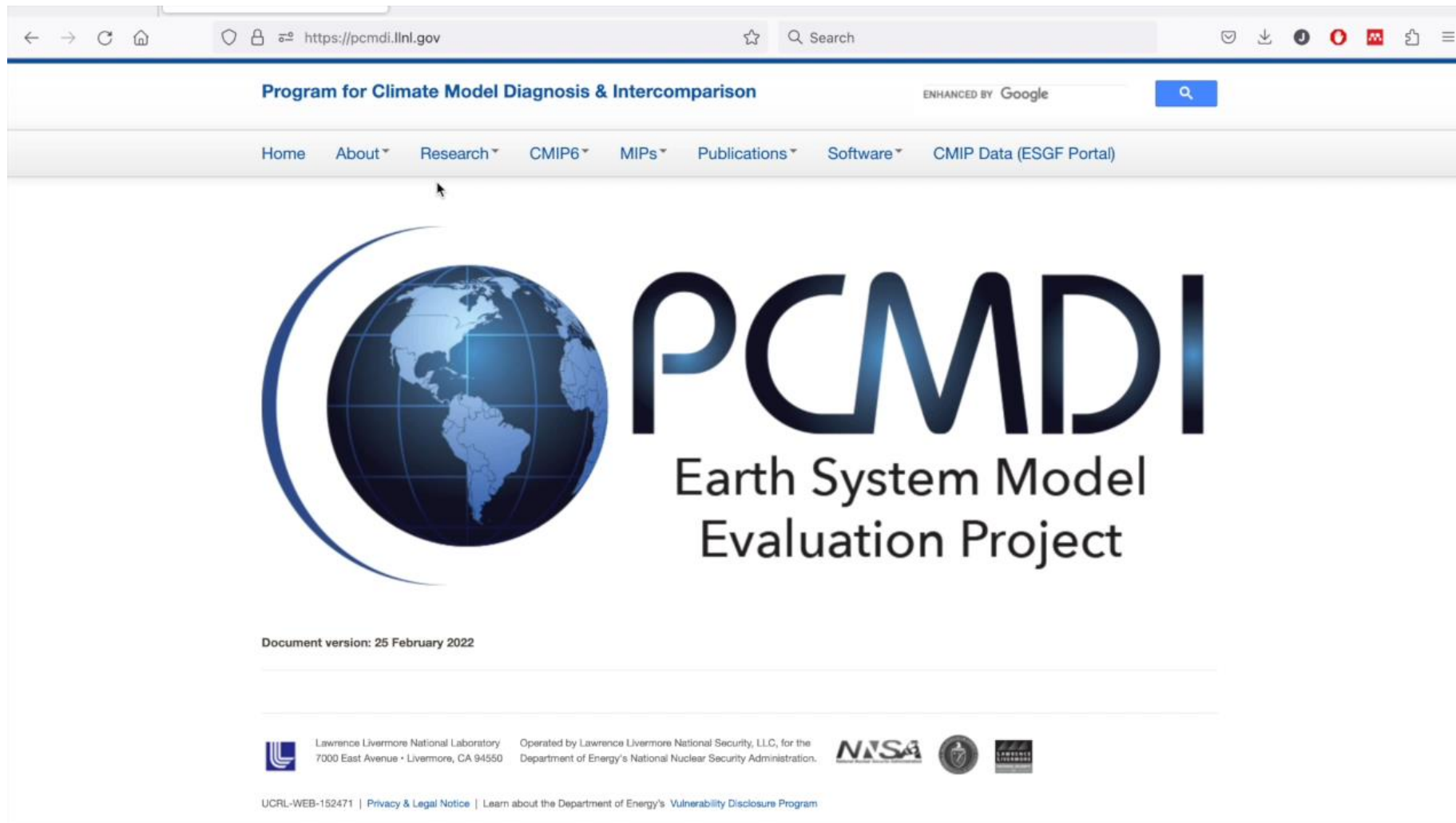
## Provenance information



- |            |               |               |                |             |          |             |       |           |             |                 |      |              |              |         |          |          |              |           |                   |               |                  |             |           |             |          |           |             |                |             |           |           |              |            |            |        |                 |               |               |            |       |         |            |             |         |          |
|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|------|--------------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| ACCESS-CM2 | ACCESS-ESM1-5 | AWI-CM-1-1-MR | AWI-ESM-1-1-LR | BCC-CSM2-MR | BCC-ESM1 | CAMS-CSM1-0 | CESM2 | CESM2-FV2 | CESM2-WACCM | CESM2-WACCM-FV2 | QESM | CMCC-CM2-HR4 | CMCC-CM2-SR5 | CanESM5 | E3SM-1-0 | E3SM-1-1 | E3SM-1-1-ECA | EC-Earth3 | EC-Earth3-AerChem | EC-Earth3-Veg | EC-Earth3-Veg-LR | FGOALS-f3-L | FGOALS-g3 | FIO-ESM-2-0 | GFDL-CM4 | GFDL-ESM4 | GISS-E2-1-G | GISS-E2-1-G-CC | GISS-E2-1-H | INM-CM4-8 | INM-CM5-0 | IPSL-CM6A-LR | KACE-1-0-G | MCM-UA-1-0 | MIROC6 | MPI-ESM-1-2-HAM | MPI-ESM1-2-HR | MPI-ESM1-2-LR | MRI-ESM2-0 | NESM3 | NorCPM1 | NorESM2-MM | SAM0-UNICON | TaiESM1 | my_model |
|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|------|--------------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|----------|



# PMP results interactive visualization



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://pcmdi.llnl.gov>. The page title is "Program for Climate Model Diagnosis & Intercomparison" and it is "ENHANCED BY Google". The navigation menu includes: Home, About, Research, CMIP6, MIPs, Publications, Software, and CMIP Data (ESGF Portal). The main content area features the PCMDI logo, which consists of a blue globe with a white arc to its left, followed by the text "PCMDI Earth System Model Evaluation Project". Below the logo, it states "Document version: 25 February 2022". The footer contains the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory logo and address (7000 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550), along with logos for NASA and the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. It also includes the text "UCRL-WEB-152471 | Privacy & Legal Notice | Learn about the Department of Energy's Vulnerability Disclosure Program".

<https://pcmdi.llnl.gov/metrics/>







[http://pcmdi.github.io/  
pcmdi\\_metrics/](http://pcmdi.github.io/pcmdi_metrics/)

# Thank You!

Lee et al. 2024  
Systematic and Objective Evaluation of Earth System Models: PCMDI  
Metrics Package (PMP) version 3. *Geoscientific Model Development*, 17,  
3919–3948, doi: [10.5194/gmd-17-3919-2024](https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-17-3919-2024)

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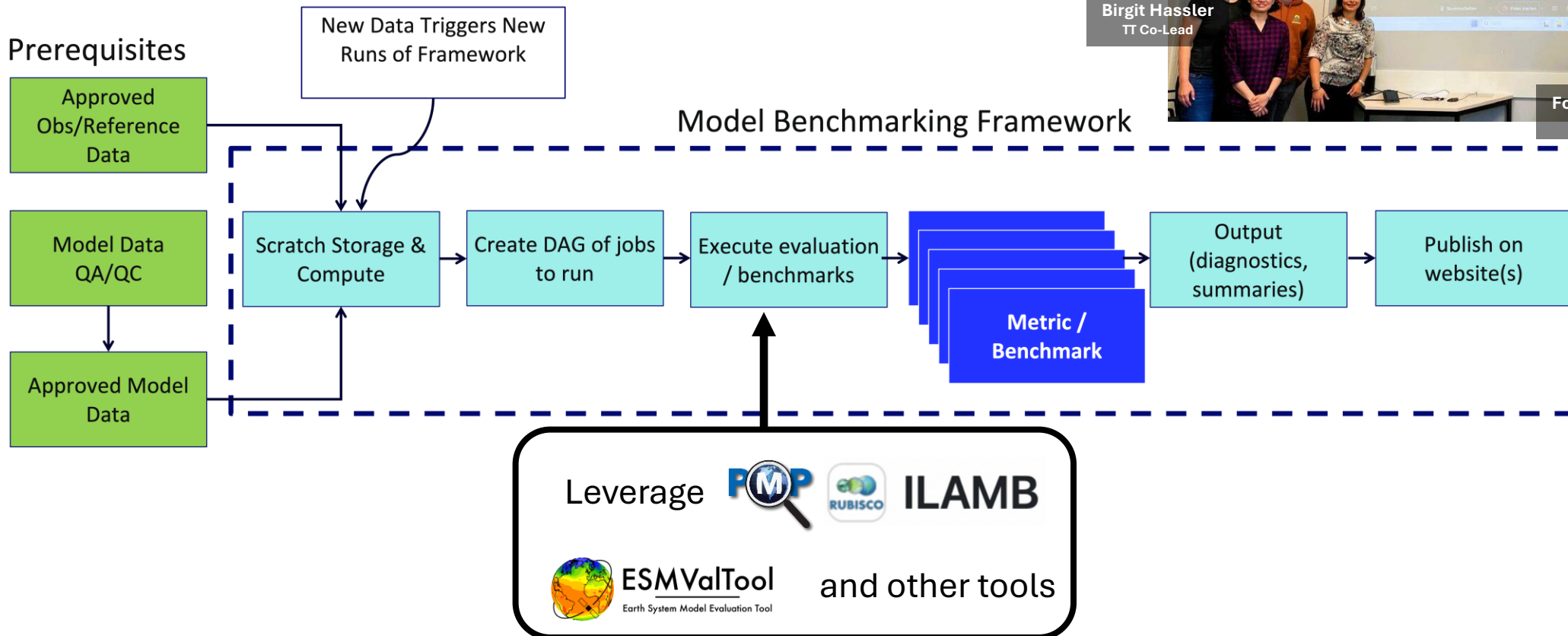


# PMP contributes to CMIP Model Benchmarking



Engagement with the CMIP Benchmarking Task Team

## Proposal for CMIP7 Rapid Evaluation Framework



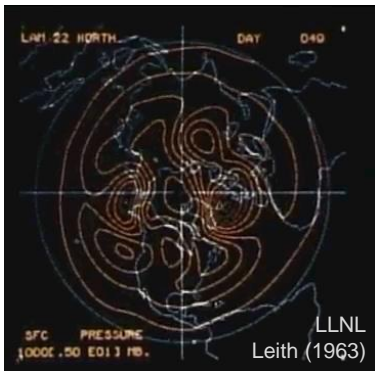


# Climate Models are Essential Tools for Understanding Climate Change

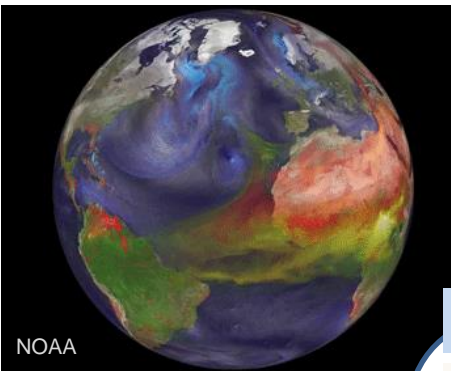


## Evolutions of Earth System/Climate Models

In 1960s

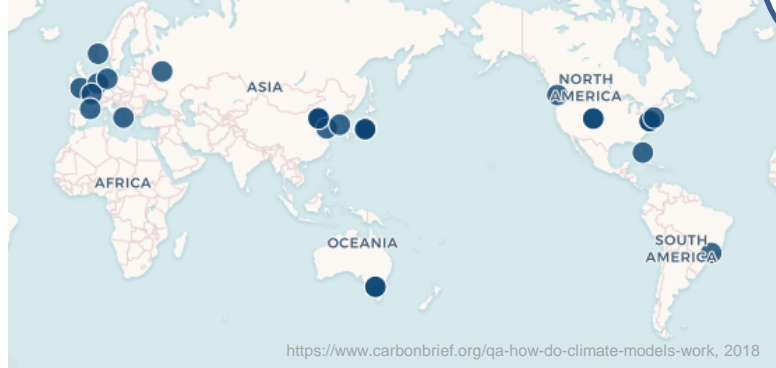


Current



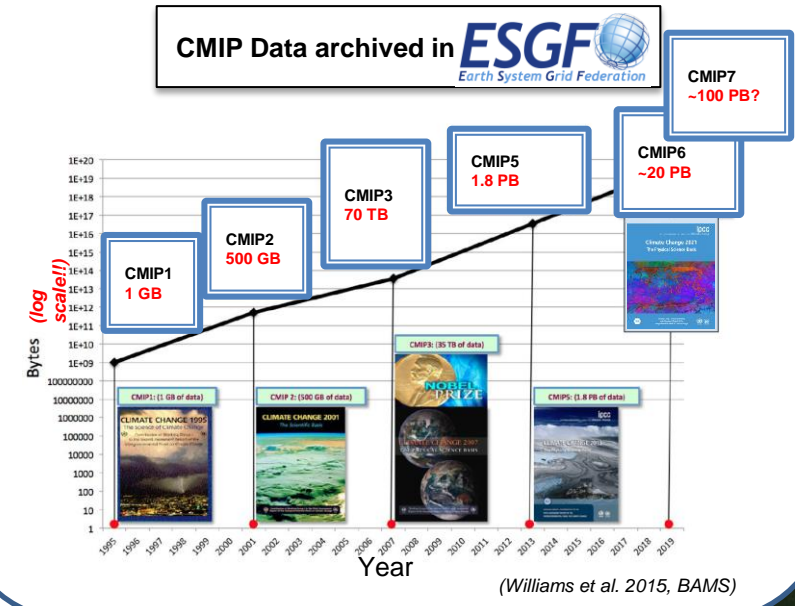
## Diversified Earth System/Climate Models

Increasing number of CMIP participants



<https://www.carbonbrief.org/qa-how-do-climate-models-work, 2018>

## Outburst of Data



(Williams et al. 2015, BAMS)