



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Key Points:

- We describe an upgrade of the AWI Coupled Prediction System with new ocean and atmosphere models and more observations assimilated
- Independent evaluations show advances in the new version on the analysis of the sea-ice and ocean states against the old one
- Calibrated sea-ice edge forecasts outperform a climatological benchmark for around 1 month in both hemispheres

Supporting Information:

Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

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Sea-Ice Forecasts With an Upgraded AWI Coupled Prediction System

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Abstract A new version of the AWI Coupled Prediction System is developed based on the Alfred Wegener Institute Climate Model v3.0. Both the ocean and the atmosphere models are upgraded or replaced, reducing the computation time by a factor of 5 at a given resolution. This allowed us to increase the ensemble size from 12 to 30, maintaining a similar resolution in both model components. The online coupled data assimilation scheme now additionally utilizes sea-surface salinity and sea-level anomaly as well as temperature and salinity profile observations. Results from the data assimilation demonstrate that the sea-ice and ocean states are reasonably constrained. In particular, the temperature and salinity profile assimilation has mitigated systematic errors in the deeper ocean, although issues remain over polar regions where strong atmosphere-ocean-ice interaction occurs. One-year-long sea-ice forecasts initialized on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October from 2003 to 2019 are described. To correct systematic forecast errors, sea-ice concentration from 2011 to 2019 is calibrated by trend-adjusted quantile mapping using the preceding forecasts from 2003 to 2010. The sea-ice edge raw forecast skill is within the range of operational global subseasonal-to-seasonal forecast systems, outperforming a climatological benchmark for about 2 weeks in the Arctic and about 3 weeks in the Antarctic. The calibration is much more effective in the Arctic: Calibrated sea-ice edge forecasts outperform climatology for about 45 days in the Arctic but only 27 days in the Antarctic. Both the raw and the calibrated forecast skill exhibit strong seasonal variations.

Plain Language Summary Ocean data sparseness and systematic model errors pose problems for the initialization of coupled seasonal forecasts, especially in polar regions. Our global forecast system follows a seamless approach with refined ocean resolution in the Arctic. The new version presented here features higher computational efficiency and utilizes more ocean and sea-ice observations. Ice-edge forecasts outperform a climatological benchmark for about 1 month, comparable to established systems.

1. Introduction

With the increasing scientific and socioeconomic demands for long-term sea ice prediction (Jung et al., 2016), dynamical and statistical models are following different strategies to enhance prediction skill. When it comes to sea-ice forecasting with dynamical models, it is now common practice to assimilate remotely sensed sea ice concentration (SIC), ensuring a basic level of sea-ice forecast skill. With the advent of sea ice thickness (SIT) observations from satellites such as CryoSat-2 (Ricker et al., 2014), Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS), Tian-Kunze et al., 2014) and Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat-2, Petty et al., 2020) and their assimilation into forecast systems in recent years, increased sea ice forecast skill with lead times ranging from synoptic to seasonal time scale has been reported as a result of better SIT initialization (Blockley et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2019; Mu et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2014). This holds true in particular during the melt season when SIT anomalies are determining how long the ice can withstand the summer melt.

Perfect-model studies suggest that some predictive skill for sea-ice forecasts should be achievable even after a whole year due to the memory of sea-surface temperature (SST) and SIT anomalies (Blanchard-Wrigglesworth et al., 2011; Day et al., 2016; Goessling et al., 2016; Tietsche et al., 2014). However, a large gap between potential and actual forecast skill remains, due to the sparseness of ocean observations and because substantial systematic errors prevail in all models (Bushuk et al., 2019). Recent studies suggest that applying bias correction,

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commonplace in seasonal forecasting for other predictands, to sea ice can effectively remove the systematic drift and thereby substantially increase the long-term forecast skill (Director et al., 2017; Dirkson et al., 2019).

The sparseness of observations in the polar regions is another limiting factor for the skill of sea-ice predictions, and in some cases even a lack of quality of oceanic data poses problems. For instance, Xie et al. (2019) found that the satellite sea-surface salinity (SSS) observations are inaccurate in the Arctic Ocean when $SSS < 24$ psu. *T/S* profile observations are rather limited with only a handful of ice-tethered profilers deployed each year in the central Arctic, most of which are concentrated in the Beaufort Sea.

The first version of our forecast system, termed the Seamless Sea Ice Prediction System (SSIPS v1.0, Mu et al., 2020) (hereafter Mu2020), is based on the AWI Climate Model version 1.1 (AWI-CM1.1). The ocean/ice model component, FESOM (v1.4), employs an unstructured mesh with varying resolution ranging from about 25 km in the Arctic to about 100 km at lower latitudes and uses the finite-element method. The atmosphere component ECHAM (v6.3.02p4) is a spectral model with a resolution of T63L47, corresponding to about 200 km horizontal grid-point resolution and 47 vertical levels. SSIPS v1.0 assimilates SIC, SIT, sea ice drift (SID), and SST using the Local Error Subspace Transform Kalman Filter (LESTKF, Nerger et al., 2012). It employs only 12 ensemble members but is still computationally rather expensive, mainly due to intricacies of the finite-element method in FESOM1 as well as the requirement to use rather short time steps in ECHAM.

The availability of more efficient ocean and atmosphere model components has been identified as a promising way to increase the ensemble size and thereby to better represent the covariance of the state vector without compromising in terms of model resolution or throughput. We have thus upgraded our forecast system—now termed the AWI Coupled Prediction System (AWI-CPS)—based on AWI-CM3, which features more efficient ocean and atmosphere model components. This enables the use of higher atmospheric resolution as well as a larger ensemble without speed reduction.

Another major enhancement concerns the set of assimilated observations. Subsurface temperatures have been shown to yield significantly increased regional winter sea-ice extent forecast skill (Bushuk et al., 2017). We have thus incorporated in situ *T/S* profile assimilation in the new system, alongside the assimilation of satellite-derived SSS and sea-level anomaly (SLA) observations.

The paper is structured as follows. The model components and their coupling and the data assimilation are described in Section 2. Sections 3 introduces the forecast calibration method for sea ice and the metric for evaluations in the study. Section 4 provides the forecast experiment design. In Section 5 the forecast skill is evaluated. Summary and discussions are given in Section 6.

2. The AWI Coupled Prediction System

2.1. AWI-CM

A new version of the AWI Climate Model (AWI-CM3) has recently been developed (Streffing et al., 2022). The new ocean model is FESOM version 2.0, described in Danilov et al. (2017). The most important difference between FESOM version 1.0 and 2.0 is that the discretization method has been changed from finite elements to finite volumes, leading to a speed-up of integration by a factor 3–5. For the ocean model we still use the same CORE II mesh (<https://fesom.de/models/meshesetups/>) as in Mu et al. (2020) with a resolution of around 25 km in the tropical oceans, the northern North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean, and around 100 km in the subtropics and mid-latitudes. In the vertical, the ocean model employs Arbitrary Lagrangian Eulerian coordinates, here with 47 levels at fixed depths. The sea ice model component is the successor of the Finite-Element Sea-Ice Model FESIM (Danilov et al., 2015). A single ice thickness category, zero-layer thermodynamics, and the “standard” elastic-viscous-plastic (sEVP, Bouillon et al., 2013; Danilov et al., 2015) rheology are used. The prognostic snow layer follows Owens and Lemke (1990). Flooding happens when snow becomes thick enough to submerge.

The atmosphere component now replaces ECHAM with OpenIFS, the open version of the Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) maintained by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). The version v43r3 is used at TL159L60 resolution, which means vertically 60 levels and horizontally a triangular truncation of the spherical harmonics at wavenumber 159 for the dynamics paired with a linear reduced Gaussian grid corresponding to 110 km resolution for the physics. The model is forced by historical greenhouse-gas forcing before 2015, and follows the scenario of the Shared Socioeconomic Pathway 5 (SSP5), that is “a world of rapid

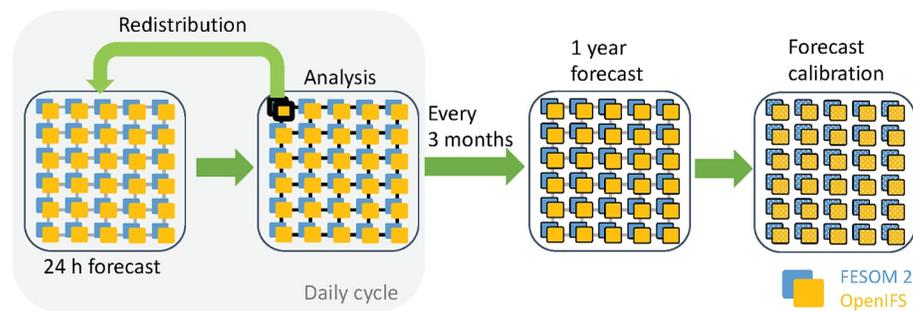


Figure 1. Schematic of the AWI Coupled Prediction System. The ensemble has 30 members with FESOM2 and OpenIFS shown in blue and orange, respectively. Communication between each coupled model instance through the Message Passing Interface is represented by the staggered mesh in the background, which is emphasized by black color when the communication is active. The coupled model instance with black border in the “Analysis” chip conducts the analysis and redistributes all the information to each processor. The seamless forecasts start from the analyzed states and run 1 year ahead. Forecast calibration is applied to correct for drift due to long-term systematic errors.

and unconstrained growth in economic output and energy use” (Kriegler et al., 2017), thereafter. A fixed aerosol climatology and land-use pattern is employed, which we consider acceptable given the moderate changes that occurred during the considered period which spans the first two decades of the twenty-first century.

FESOM2 integrates the model with a time step of 1,800 s with each run using 72 cores. OpenIFS uses 71 cores and has a large time step of 3,600 s, benefiting from the semi-Lagrangian, semi-implicit advection scheme. As a standalone executable, a runoff mapper maps the runoff from OpenIFS to FESOM2. The two components exchange information every hour through the recently released coupler OASIS3-MCT4 (Craig et al., 2017). In total, 144 cores are used for one coupled model instance. This computation cost is a dramatic reduction compared to that used for its predecessor (480 cores) in Mu et al. (2020). The spherical resolution in the atmosphere model in the current configuration is even higher than before, whereas the grid-point resolution is slightly lower. Overall, a larger ensemble with less computational cost and faster throughput is possible with the new system.

2.2. Data Assimilation

Like the first version of the forecast system described in Mu et al. (2020), the new AWI-CPS implements an Ensemble Kalman Filter with the Parallel Data Assimilation Framework (PDAF) (Nerger & Hiller, 2013, <http://pdfaf.awi.de>). We again adopt the online-coupled data assimilation (Nerger et al., 2020) feature, which provides high efficiency and full parallelization of the daily analysis and forecast steps. Again, the LESTKF (Nerger et al., 2012) that preserves and projects all the ensemble information onto the error subspace is used. The ensemble size is now 30, which is 2.5 times larger than that used in the first version (12). The online data assimilation enables direct MPI communication among all coupled-model instances. The processes owned by one coupled model gather information from all the processes, conduct the analysis step, and redistribute the updated state vector back to all the processes (gray box in Figure 1).

The current state vector includes sea-ice concentration, sea-ice thickness, sea-ice velocity (u -component and v -component), 3D temperature, 3D salinity, and sea-surface height. A comparison of the state vector against the old version is shown in Table 1. The initialization of the ensemble at the very beginning of the assimilation procedure on 1 January 2002 is performed by adding perturbations generated by second-order exact sampling (Pham, 2001) onto the state that is reconstructed by the leading empirical orthogonal functions decomposed from a 30-year simulation of the free-running model.

Another notable upgrade is that more different types of observations are assimilated. Apart from the assimilation of sea-ice concentration, sea-ice thickness, sea-ice velocity and SST in the previous system, SLA, SSS and temperature/salinity profiles are now also used (Table 1). For sea-ice concentration (ranging from 0 to 1), we use the product “Interim Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Record from EUMETSAT Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility (OSI SAF)” with ID OSI-430-b (Lavergne et al., 2019). The spatial resolution is 25 km on the EASE grid. Given that the OSI-430-b is the extension of OSI-450, a discontinuity and deterioration of the ensemble spread and the analysis of sea-ice concentration over the transition period, as in (Mu et al., 2020), is

Table 1

The State Vector and Observation Vector for Current AWI-CPS and Its Predecessor Seamless Sea Ice Prediction System v1.0

	SIC	SIT	SID	SSH	T	S	
State vector	X	X	X	X	X	X	AWI-CPS v2.0
	X	X	X		T_{mix}	S_{mix}	SSIPS v1.0
Observation vector	X	X	X	SLA	SST&T profiles	SSS&S profiles	AWI-CPS v2.0
	X	X	X		SST		SSIPS v1.0

Note. SIC, SIT, SID, SSH, SLA, SST, and SSS are abbreviations for sea ice concentration, sea ice thickness, sea ice drift, sea surface height, sea-level anomaly, sea surface temperature and sea surface salinity, respectively. T and S represent the temperature and salinity, while T_{mix} and S_{mix} specifically stand for the temperature and salinity in the mixed layer.

avoided in the new system. The observation error for sea-ice concentration is state dependent with the maximum set to 0.15 (Figure S2 in Supporting Information S1).

For sea-ice thickness, the CS2SMOS sea-ice thickness product (Ricker et al., 2017) that merges data from CryoSat-2 and SMOS operationally is used. We use the daily product (v202) to meet the daily assimilation cycle in our system, as before. The observation errors in the product are directly used for the assimilation. In addition, the daily sea-ice thickness data on Level 2 derived from the EnviSat satellite (Paul et al., 2018) are assimilated to cover the pre-CryoSat-2 period. Note that no sea-ice thickness observations are assimilated in the Antarctic currently.

The sea-ice drift product from OSI SAF (OSI-405-c) constrains both components of the sea-ice drift. A constant uncertainty of 4.1 cm/s is prescribed. While no clear direct benefits have been reported from sea-ice drift assimilation due to the small inertia of sea-ice movements (Mu et al., 2020), we keep the assimilation of drift data because it provides benefits due to the impact on other, less volatile variables through cross-covariances.

For SST we use the product from the Operational Sea Surface Temperature and Sea Ice Analysis, as before. The Level-2 SSS data product from SMOS provided by European Space Agency (<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/>) is also assimilated in the system. Both the SST and the SSS product include error information explicitly.

The sea-level anomaly data are taken from the Copernicus Marine Service (GLOBAL OCEAN ALONG-TRACK L3 SEA SURFACE HEIGHTS REPROCESSED (1993-ONGOING) TAILORED FOR DATA ASSIMILATION). This product provides along-track data for individual sensor from all altimeter missions. The mean dynamic topography (MDT) is calculated by averaging the sea-surface height from a 30-year simulation of the free-running model, as in Skachko et al. (2019). Like for the SSS observations, data thinning is applied by averaging the observations that are located in the same triangle of the ocean mesh.

Lastly, the EN.4.2.1 profiles data from the Met Office Hadley Centre are also assimilated, as in Tang et al. (2020). A pre-processing step re-arranges the data along the time axis and distributes the profiles into mesh partitions. Uncertainties for the profiles decay with depth, as in Xie and Zhu (2010), with maximum values of 0.5° and 0.04 psu for temperature and salinity. Like in the previous version of our forecast system, no data constraints are applied in the atmospheric component here, although tests with nudging of the free-tropospheric winds are ongoing.

All these observations are quality-checked and pre-processed by applying physical limitations. Gridded data are interpolated by distance-weighted average remapping onto the unstructured mesh. To avoid the initial shock, during the post-processing step the system constrains the absolute analysis increments to not exceed twice the ensemble spread, as in Sakov et al. (2012). The localization radius is set to 200 km. Considering the largely random atmospheric states, no ensemble inflation is required. The daily data assimilation with 30 ensemble members at the chosen resolution uses a total of 4,320 cores in parallel. The typical wall-clock time required for the analysis of 1 year is about 4.5 hr.

2.3. Forecast

After the analysis step, forecasts are started directly from the analyzed fields with the same ensemble size (30). The same coupling frequency of 3,600 s is applied between OpenIFS and FESOM2. These seamlessly continuing forecasts are carried out to cover 1 year, initialized at different times of the year over numerous years (see Section 4).

3. Calibration and Metrics

Post-processing is applied to the sea-ice forecasts to correct systematic errors that occur in any climate model and gain importance the longer the forecast range. It has been shown that calibration can dramatically improve Arctic sea-ice forecasts (e.g., Krikken et al., 2016). To maintain the added-value of the forecast ensemble, a calibration method suitable for probabilistic forecasts is required. Therefore, we use the Trend-Adjusted Quantile Mapping (TAQM) method (Dirkson et al., 2019) to alleviate the forecast error. The TAQM method computes the probabilities of the historical observations and the historical forecasts after removing their linear trends and then maps the historical forecasted distribution to the historical observed distribution by quantiles. Subsequently, calibrated forecasts can be obtained by applying the reversed observed distribution function. The sea-ice concentration forecasts shown after Section 5.2.1 are all evaluated after calibration, unless stated otherwise.

To evaluate the analyzed states and forecasts, we first consider the well-known Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), defined as $\sqrt{\langle (x_f - x_o)^2 \rangle}$, where x_f is the analyzed or forecast value and x_o is the observed value of the considered variable (e.g., sea-ice concentration), and $\sqrt{\langle \cdot \rangle}$ denotes an average over multiple analysis or forecast cases. The RMSE is also used to evaluate in how far the ensemble spread is reliable. Moreover, in order to gain a more comprehensive and integrative picture of the forecast skill with respect to the ice-edge location, we consider the Spatial Probability Score (SPS, Goessling & Jung, 2018). This metric was designed to measure ensemble-based forecast skill of the sea-ice edge location from a probabilistic viewpoint. The SPS is defined as $\int_{\Omega} (P[sic > 0.15]_f - P[sic > 0.15]_o)^2 d\Omega$, where $P[sic > 0.15]_f$ is the probability of the sea-ice concentration to exceed 15% within the ensemble, $P[sic > 0.15]_o$ is the dichotomous probability of the observed sea-ice concentration to exceed 15%, and Ω is the integration area. In our study, we compute the Arctic sea-ice statistics over the area north of 40°N and the Antarctic statistics over the area south of 30°S once the sea-ice concentration is non-zero. The 15% sea-ice concentration contour is the most widely used definition of the ice-edge location.

We use the NOAA/NSIDC Climate Data Record (CDR) of Passive Microwave SIC, Version 4 (<https://nsidc.org/data/g02202/versions/4>) for independent evaluation. This data set is a combination of two products retrieved using the NASA Team (NT) algorithm (Cavalieri et al., 1984) and NASA Bootstrap (BT) algorithm (Comiso, 1986) and thus differs methodologically from the OSI SAF CDR used for data assimilation. For SIT, independent ice draft measurements from upward looking sonars (ULS) maintained by the Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project (BGEP) are converted into ice thickness as in Rothrock et al. (2008). To independently evaluate sea surface temperature and salinity we use the EN4 analysis data set (Good et al., 2013), which is compiled by multiple data sources from the World Ocean Database 2009 (WOD09), the Arctic Synoptic Basin Wide Oceanography project, the Global Temperature and Salinity Profile Program, and the Argo global data assembly centres. EN4 does not incorporate any satellite retrieved data and most Argo profiles used do not sample oceanic states close to the surface at 5 dbar (Wong et al., 2020), therefore the evaluation of sea surface temperature and salinity could be independent.

4. Experimental Design

The model and data assimilation system are initialized on 1 January 2002, as described above, but the first year is considered as spin-up and excluded from further analyses. The considered period thus starts on 1 January 2003 and ends on 31 December 2019. Restart files at the end of each month have been kept as initial states for free-running forecasts.

To assess the performance of the analysis results, it is useful to compare the analysis error with the error of an unconstrained control experiment (CTRL). However, since a single control simulation contains its own weather-related variability, this independent variability adds to the CTRL error, which can result in an overestimation of the bene-

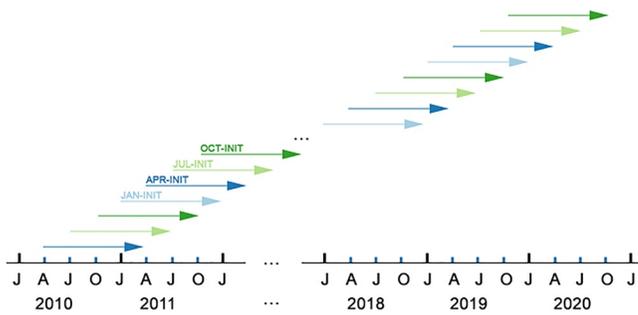


Figure 2. Timing of the forecast experiments. The light-blue arrows indicate forecasts starting from 1 January (Jan-init). The blue, light-green and green arrows indicate forecasts starting from 1 April (Apr-init), 1 July (Jul-init) and 1 October (Oct-init).

fit from the data assimilation. We have thus simulated five realizations, with hydrography slightly perturbed in the ocean component at the very beginning, and use the ensemble mean to derive the CTRL error.

Targeting on the subseasonal-to-seasonal time scale, we design four forecast experiments per year. For each year, the system restarts at the beginning of each season, that is, 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, and 1 October, and then continues the forecasts out to 1 year lead time. Such experiments are carried out from 2003 to 2019. The forecast results from 2011 to 2019 are evaluated in the study. Before 2011, the sea-ice forecasts are employed as the historical forecasts required for the TAQM calibration. Figure 2 illustrates the timing of the forecast experiments from 2010 to 2019. Hereinafter, these experiments are referred to as Jan-init, Apr-init, Jul-init, and Oct-init, starting from these 4 months of each year.

For each target month, four different forecasts with different lead times are available (Figure 2). The climatology of Jan-init forecasts is computed by averaging all forecasts over the 2011–2019 period starting from January 1st, and analogously for Apr-init, Jul-init and Oct-init forecasts. Note that for forecasts starting from the year preceding the target year, the forecast climatology averages the forecasts initialized from 2010 to 2018. Taking the forecast climatology in April as an example, we have four forecasts: the first one starts from July of the previous year with lead month 9 (blue arrow), the second one starts from October of the previous year with lead month 6 (light-blue arrow), the third one starts from January of the same year with lead month 3 (light-green arrow), and the last one starts from April of the same year with lead month 0 (green arrow). In such a case, the forecast climatology with lead months 0–2 is computed with output from 2011 to 2019 since they are all started in the current year, while for the other climatologies are computed over the period 2010–2018. For convenience, a table lists the lead time for each month (Table 2).

5. Results

5.1. Analysis State

We first examine the performance of the data assimilation system in AWI-CPS with respect to the analyzed state. Figure 3a shows the RMSE of the sea-ice concentration, measured against the OSI SAF satellite observations, in the Arctic and the Antarctic. The free-running CTRL experiment exhibits an area-averaged RMSE around 0.15–0.3 in both polar regions. In the Arctic, particularly high errors occur in September 2007 and 2012 when record-low sea-ice extent was observed which, not surprisingly, the free-running simulations do not capture. Overall, the free model exhibits an overestimation of sea-ice concentration in the melt season and an underestimation in the freezing season in both hemispheres (not shown). The assimilation reduces the sea-ice concentration RMSE by more than 80% for both the Arctic and the Antarctic. The RMSE of sea-ice concentration against independent observations from NOASS/NSIDC CDR is shown in Figure 3b. Compared to the previous version (SSIPS v1.0; Mu2020), the sea-ice concentration performs better in both hemispheres. Over the same period, the RMSEs for

Table 2
Lead Time in Months of the Forecasts for Each Month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L0-2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2
L3-5	3	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	5
L6-8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8
L9-11	9	10	11	9	10	11	9	10	11	9	10	11

Note. L0-2 indicates forecasts with lead times of 0, 1, and 2 months, and so forth for L3-5, L6-8, and L9-11. The months when the forecasts are initialized are marked in bold. Taking January as an example, it consists of four forecasts with lead times of 0, 3, 6, and 9 months that start in January of the same year and October, July and April of the previous year.

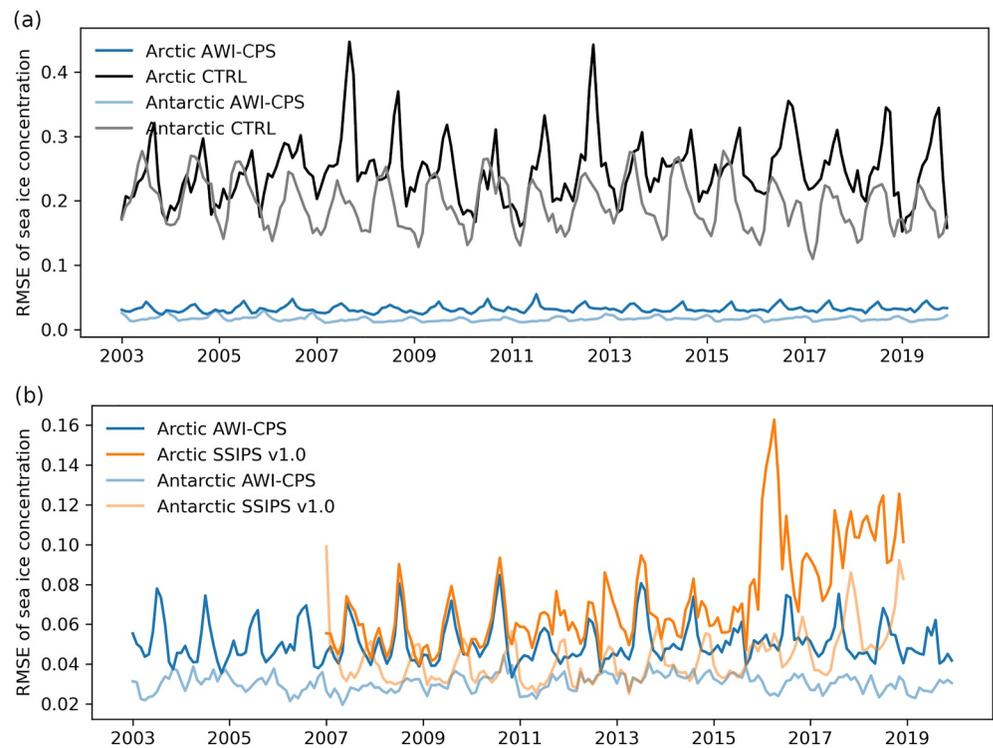


Figure 3. Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) of monthly mean sea-ice concentration in the Arctic and the Antarctic with respect to the Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility observations (a). The AWI-CPS analysis is shown in blue, while the control experiment ensemble run without data assimilation is shown in black. Root Mean Squared Error of monthly mean sea-ice concentration with respect to the independent NOAA/NSIDC Climate Data Record observations (b). The Seamless Sea Ice Prediction System v1.0 is shown in orange. Dark and light colors are used to discriminate Arctic and Antarctic regions.

AWI-CPS in the Arctic and Antarctic are 0.051 and 0.031, respectively, compared to 0.072 and 0.043 for SSIPS v1.0.

Strong error reduction is also found for the sea-ice thickness in the Arctic with respect to the assimilated data (not shown). While not surprising, this error reduction is an important sanity check. Independent sea-ice thickness observations from BGEP ULS confirm that the new AWI-CPS generates overall a more realistic sea-ice thickness estimate than SSIPS v1.0 (Figure 4). RMSEs against ULS observations for AWI-CPS and SSIPS v1.0 at location A are 0.45 and 0.63 m, respectively, while they are 0.5 and 0.78 m at location B and 0.61 and 0.85 m at location D. The improvement is prominent from September 2007 to September 2010 benefiting from the *EnviSat* thickness assimilation during that period in the new system. Less obviously, the sea-ice velocity is also well constrained by the observations (Figure S1 in Supporting Information S1), as in the first version (Mu2020), despite the small inertia of the sea-ice movement.

To evaluate the reliability of the assimilated model ensemble, we adopt the method introduced in Rodwell et al. (2016), where the RMSE of a reliable system should be close to the total uncertainty with contributions from the model bias, the standard deviation of ensemble anomalies, and the standard deviations of observation errors. Figure S2 in Supporting Information S1 shows that the RMSE is around 0.67 and 0.5 of the total uncertainty in the Arctic and the Antarctic, respectively. This suggests that our system is overdispersive. It is not specific in our system, as overdispersion is also observed in other forecast systems such as TOPAZ (Xie et al., 2018). For our system, the reason is that the SIC error is close to 0.15 for SIC below 0.3 as shown in the error function in the right panel of Figure S2 in Supporting Information S1, therefore large observation errors in statistics are introduced along the vicinity of sea ice edge. This error function is used taking into account that the SIC spread over the compact ice regions is generally small, which needs a smaller error to assimilate the observations. Meanwhile, over the area with more mobile sea ice, larger observation errors are specified to account for the larger uncertainties in remotely sensed products. A smaller threshold of the observation error could thus be applied.

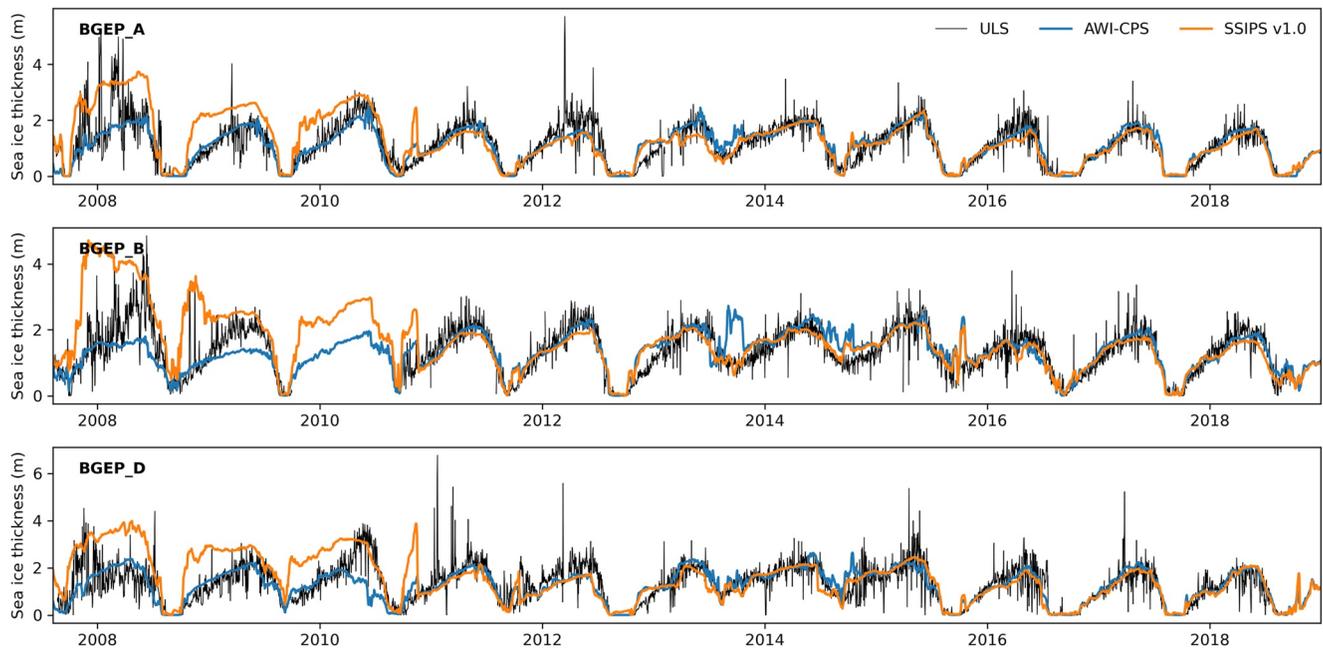


Figure 4. Time series of sea-ice thickness (m) for Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project upward looking sonar observation (black thin), AWI-CPS (blue), and Seamless Sea Ice Prediction System v1.0 (orange).

When it comes to the global ocean surface state, the RMSE of the SST and salinity is strongly reduced by the assimilation (Figure 5a). The systematic errors of SST exhibit remarkable seasonality for both the northern and the southern hemisphere. The average assimilation increment for temperature during the analysis step (Figure 5b) is negative during the respective summer months in both hemispheres, and positive during winter. This indicates that the system systematically tends toward warmer SST in summer, which the data assimilation needs to work against. This is more pronounced in the northern hemisphere. The reliability of sea surface temperature is diagnosed like that for SIC but using a monthly snapshot. Upon the assumption that the model bias changes little in a month, we got a reliability of SST ($RMSE/\sigma_{diag}$) around 0.77 excluding the technical problem for observation errors in the product before 2014 (Figure S3 in Supporting Information S1). Larger interannual variability of the RMSE is found for the salinity due to the sparser along-track SMOS SSS data. In our system the assimilation generally increases the SSS along the tracks, which is in accordance with the on-average positive increments of salinity brought through the cross-covariances from the SST assimilation (not shown). In terms of the sea surface salinity, Figure S3 in Supporting Information S1 demonstrates a well constrained reliability ($RMSE/\sigma_{diag} \approx 0.9$), where the SSS observation errors contribute most to the total uncertainty. This is even more noticeable when comparing the sea surface temperature and salinity to independent EN4 analysis data (Figure S4 in Supporting Information S1), AWI-CPS has comparable sea surface temperature errors but smaller sea surface salinity errors than SSIPS v1.0 (Mu2020) over most of the ocean. The SLA assimilation using the model-derived MDT field shows pronounced sea level increments in the sub-polar regions specifically the North Atlantic and the Southern Ocean where strong currents prevail due to the large sea level gradients (Figure 5d).

Figure 6 shows the vertical profiles of the RMSE for temperature and salinity in different oceans. The temperature profile assimilation improves the temperature state in the water column below 400 m depth in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, albeit the sparseness of the spatial distribution of the profiles. That is, the deep ocean can be reasonably constrained with a smaller density of profiles than we expected. With only SST assimilation, the improvements are limited to the mixed layer and do not penetrate to the deeper ocean. The simultaneous assimilation of SST and profiles brings these temperature errors down, which has also been reported in Tang et al. (2020). In the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean, improvements with respect to temperature are mostly found in the upper ocean. Here, slight RMSE increases are found in the deep ocean. Even larger detrimental effect of the assimilation in AWI-CPS occur in the Southern Ocean, where the temperature RMSE reveals a substantial deterioration of the state compared to the CTRL run. In contrast, the temperature variability in the upper Southern Ocean is very effectively constrained, given that the RMSE is strongly reduced while only small changes are

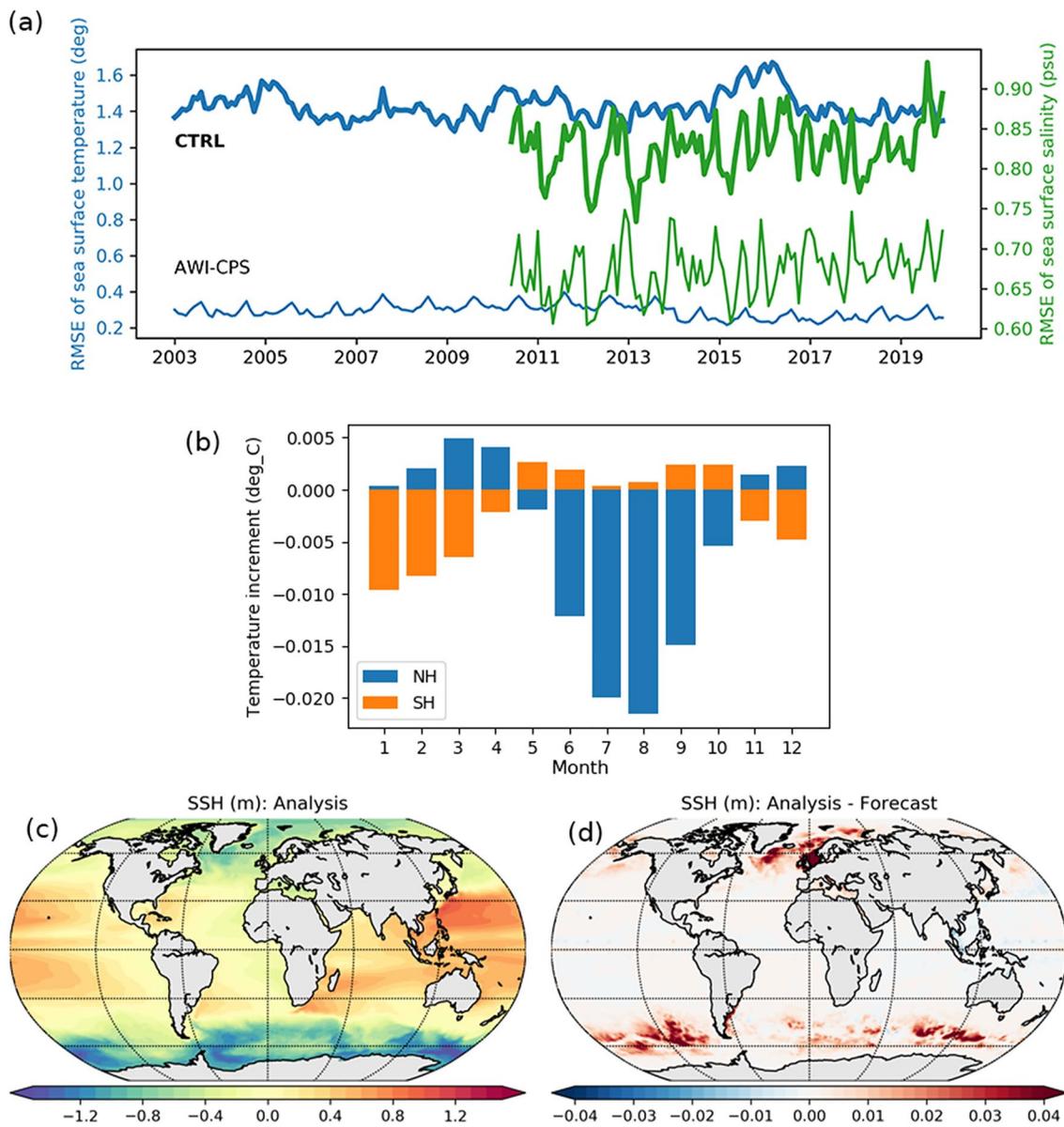


Figure 5. Root Mean Squared Error of monthly mean sea-surface temperature (SST)/salinity relative to the Operational Sea Surface Temperature and Sea Ice Analysis/Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity observations (a). AWI-CPS results are shown by thin lines, control experiment results are shown by thick lines. Annual cycle of the mean SST assimilation increments for the two hemispheres (b). Mean sea surface height averaged from 2011 to 2019 (c) and the corresponding increments (d).

found for the mean state (Figure 7). With respect to the vertical salinity profiles, the RMSE is reduced at almost all depths in all ocean basins, besides the Southern Ocean. Without salinity assimilation, we have not found such improvements in our previous system (SSIPS v1.0; Mu2020) where only SST and sea-ice observations are assimilated (Table 1).

5.2. Sea-Ice Forecasts

5.2.1. Forecast Spread

The ensemble spread provides a measure for the forecast uncertainty, which we consider here in terms of the ensemble standard deviation. Figure 8 shows the forecast spread of sea-ice and ocean variables. For sea-ice concentration, sea-ice thickness, SST and SSS, the state is initially rather well constrained and generally shows a gradually growing spread, superimposed by seasonal variations. The initial spread corresponds to the spread of

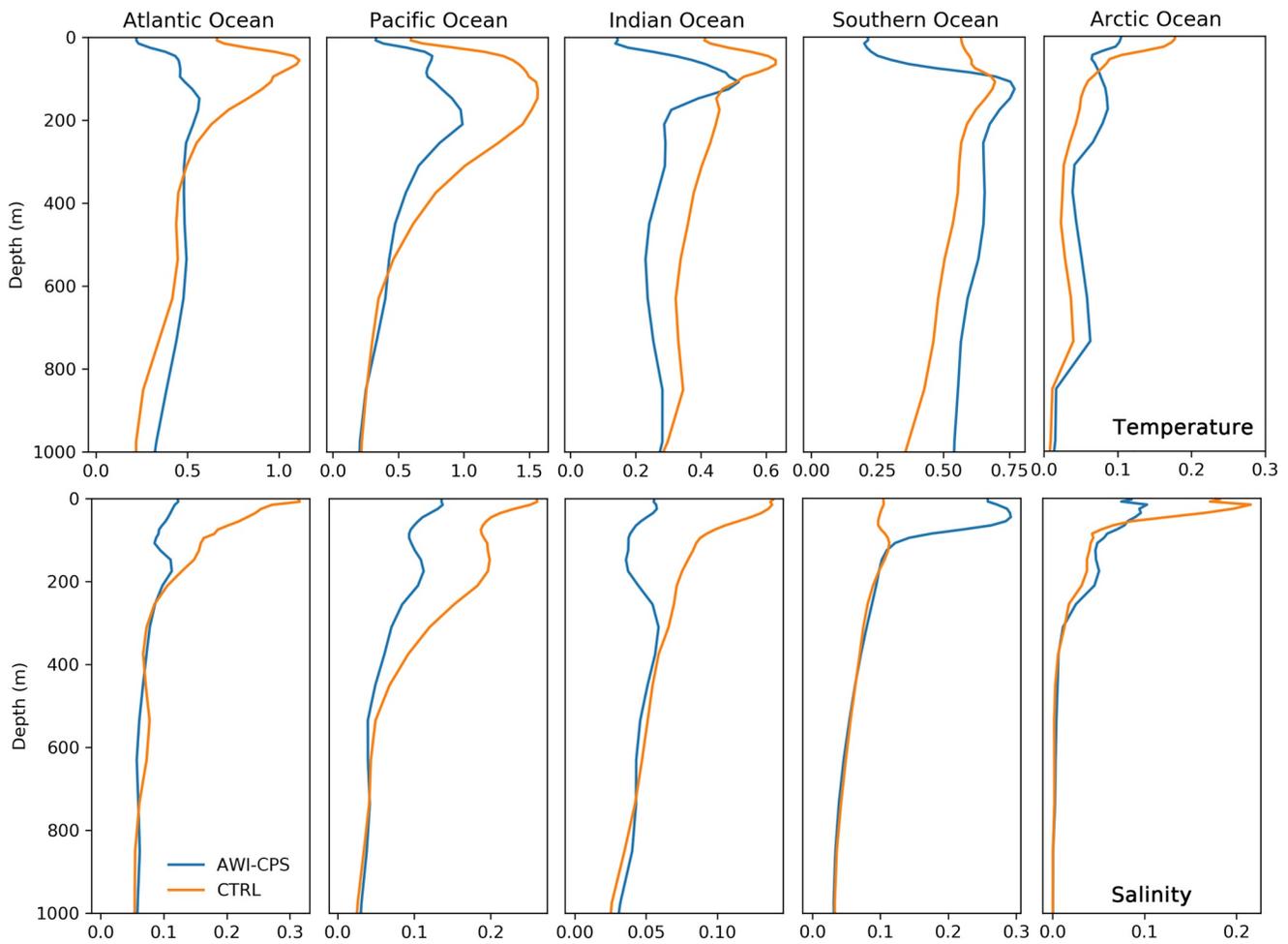


Figure 6. Root Mean Squared Error of temperature (degree Celsius, first row) and salinity (psu, second row) with respect to the World Ocean Atlas 2018 data which are constructed by observations over the period 2005–2017 for different ocean basins.

the assimilation ensemble at the respective initial times. Taking SST as an example, the initial standard deviation (variance) is about 35% (12%) of the final standard deviation (variance) after 1 year of integration. The spread tends to converge toward a seasonally varying upper envelope that corresponds to the interannual spread of the unconstrained free-running model. Only for SSS the spread after 1 year has not yet converged to a common envelope.

In contrast to the previously mentioned variables, snow thickness is nearly completely unconstrained by the assimilation of the other variables. This is not a surprise as we neither assimilate snow observations, nor update the snow state through the covariances with the other variables because the snow is not included in the state vector. However, we do assimilate sea-ice drift observations, but due to the small inertia of the sea-ice motion this has almost no effect on the sea-ice velocity spread, even on the respective first day. Besides the lack of a direct influence from the assimilation on snow thickness and sea-ice drift, the unaffected spread also reveals that indirect constraints that could in principle be communicated through the atmosphere, for example, because SST patterns might influence the atmospheric circulation and humidity content, are at most very weak.

For the sea-ice variables, the seasonal cycle of the upper spread envelope generally corresponds to the seasonal cycle of the sea-ice state. The spread of the sea-ice variables shown in Figure 8 is small in the respective freezing season and becomes large in summer. The seasonality is also prominent in the SST but not in the SSS. The two peaks of the temperature spread per year are the result of the phase shift of the seasonal cycle between the two hemispheres.

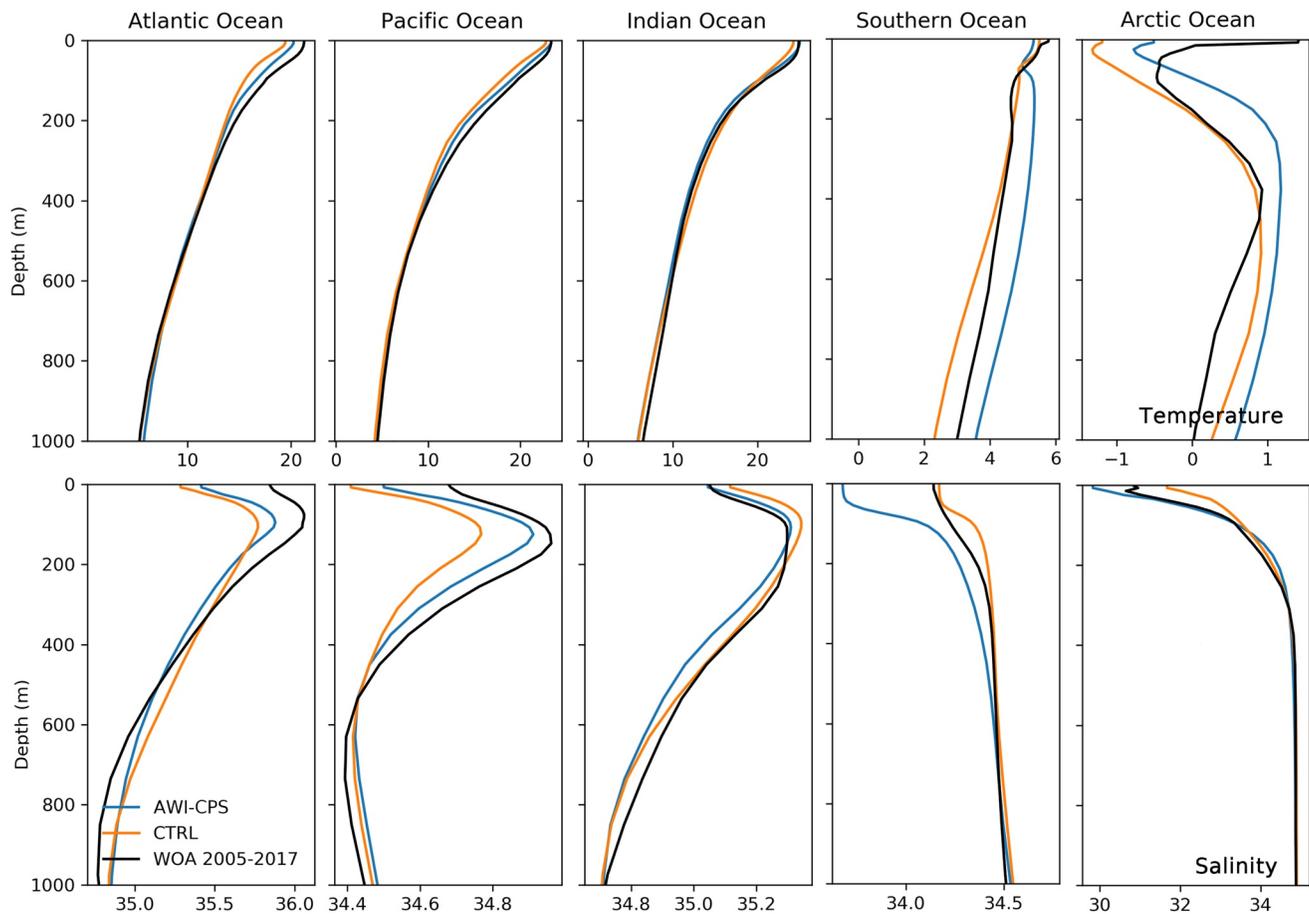


Figure 7. Mean temperature (degree Celsius, first row) and salinity (psu, second row) with respect to the World Ocean Atlas 2018 data (black), constructed by observations over the period 2005–2017 for different ocean basins.

5.2.2. Forecast Climatology Before and After Calibration

Comparing the multi-annual raw forecast climatology and the observed climatology (Figure 9) of sea-ice concentration reveals a strong positive bias in the Arctic along the marginal ice zones in both March and September already after 2 months. In particular in the East Greenland Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk the ice cover in the raw forecasts is significantly overestimated, resulting in sea-ice concentration climatology differences exceeding 0.5. In September, the regions of dense ice cover in the central Arctic however exhibit too low sea-ice concentrations in the raw forecasts. In contrast, the raw forecasts in the Antarctic tend to underestimate the sea-ice extent almost all around the continent in March, both after 2 and 8 months lead time. In September, when the ice extent here reaches its annual maximum, the bias pattern after 2 months is less uniform, with a tendency toward too loose ice closer to the continent and too dense ice along the sea-ice margins. At 8 months lead time, however, the September bias is predominantly negative around the Antarctic. This suggests that the sea ice might be transported away from the continent too quickly, resulting in a dipole pattern at first and, due to faster melting, a more uniform negative bias later.

The forecast calibration effectively reduces these systematic errors in both hemispheres (Figure 10), which confirms that most of the trend-adjusted differences are robust between the periods used to determine the calibration (2003–2010) and for the evaluation (2011–2019). After calibration, the average forecast sea-ice concentration however still exceeds the observed values by up to about 0.2. A slight underestimation of the sea-ice concentration is still found in the central Arctic in September. The average errors of sea-ice concentration forecasts in the Antarctic are also strongly reduced, although with a slightly more prominent growth with lead time. Positive bias of the calibrated forecasts in March is found in the Ross Sea and north of the Weddell Sea, and a negative bias is present in the interior Weddell Sea.

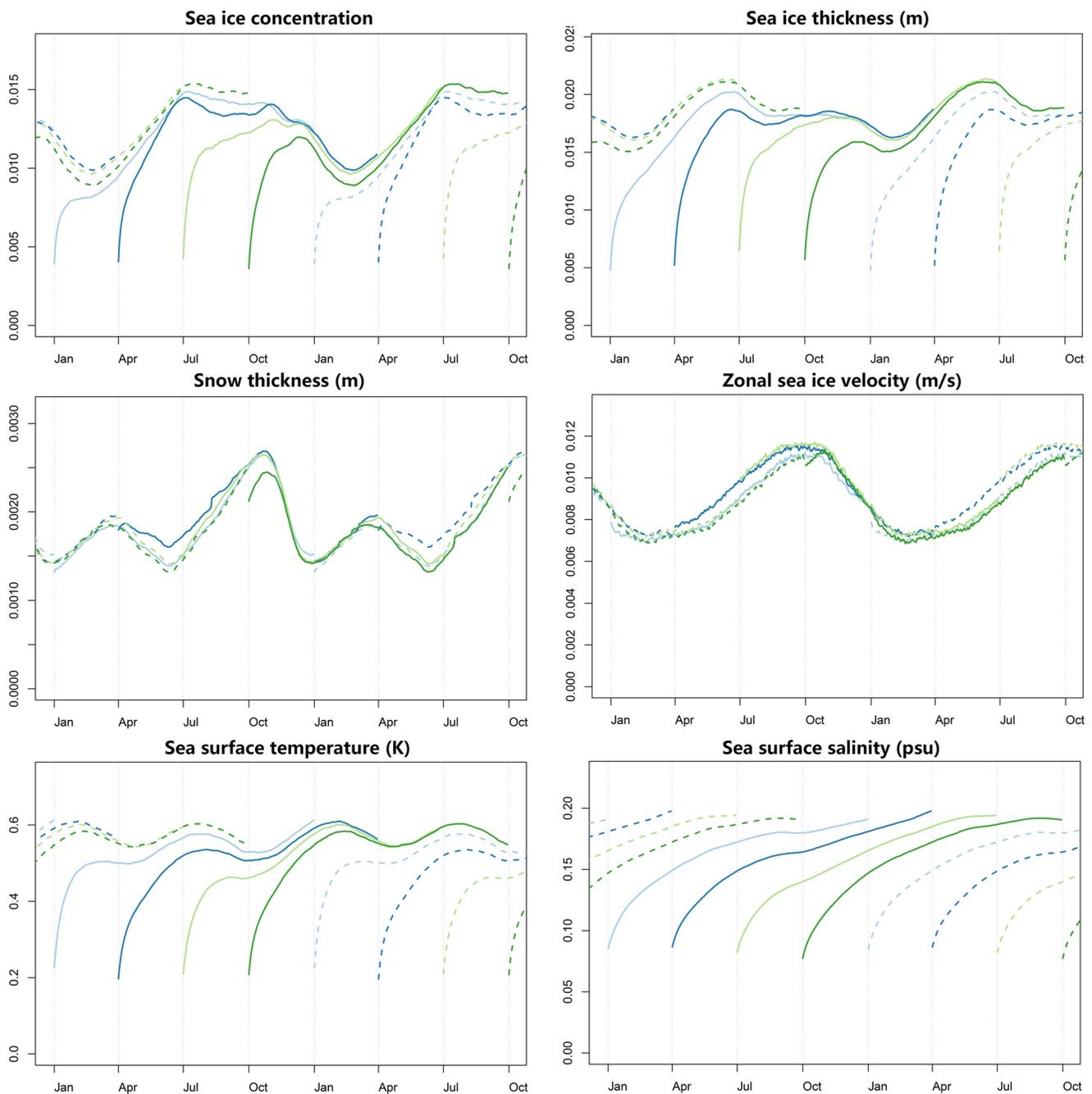


Figure 8. Evolution of the forecast ensemble spread (standard deviation) for ocean and sea-ice variables. Different colors mark the forecasts with different initial times as in Figure 2. All variables are averaged globally, which explains the small numerical values for the sea-ice variables. Note that only the zonal component is shown for the sea-ice velocity.

Climate models generally have difficulties in simulating Antarctic sea ice (Rackow et al., 2022; Shu et al., 2020) due to the complex ocean-atmosphere-ice interactions in the Southern Ocean. In particular, the well-documented SST bias in the Southern Ocean observed nearly in all the climate models deteriorates the sea-ice simulation in the models. This also holds for AWI-CM3, where these discrepancies lead to a non-uniform error distribution along the ice edge in September that persists also after calibration.

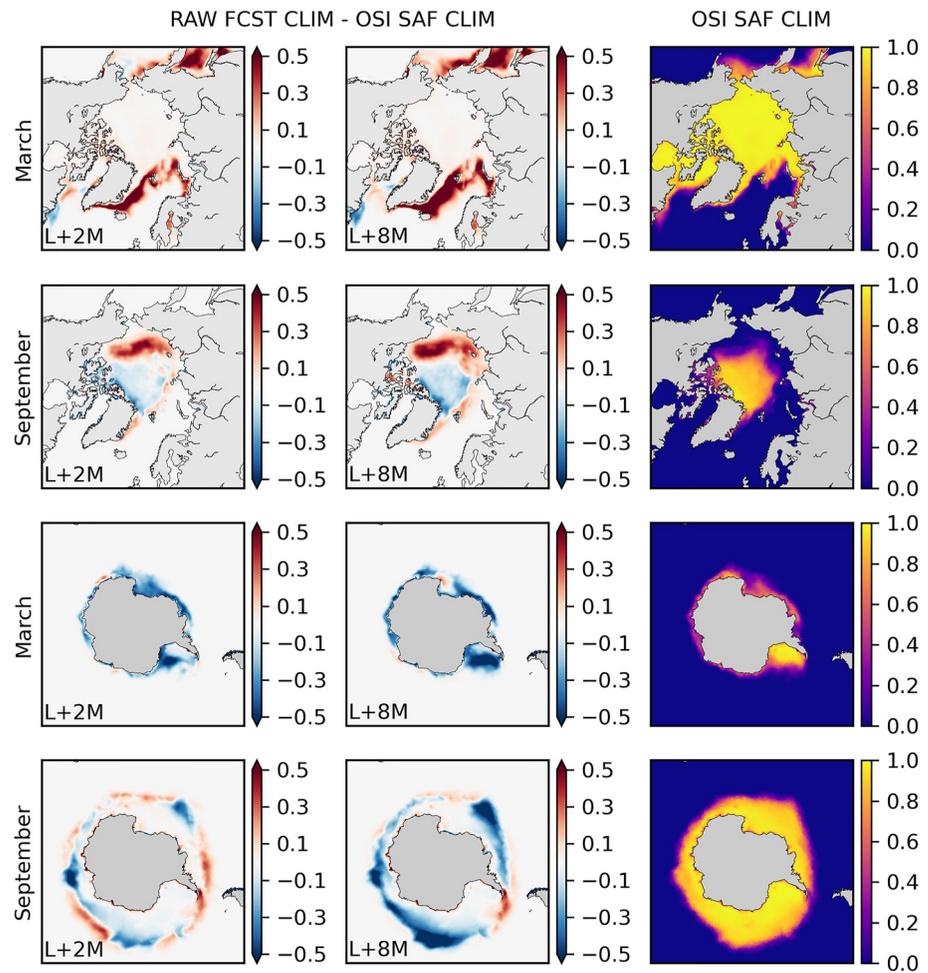


Figure 9. Climatological difference of the sea-ice concentration raw forecasts and Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility satellite observations in the Arctic (first and second row) and Antarctic (third and fourth row) in March (first and third row) and September (second and fourth row), with two (left column) and eight (middle column) months lead time, averaged over the period 2011–2019. The right column shows the corresponding observed climatologies.

5.2.3. Calibrated Forecast Skill

The RMSE of the calibrated daily sea-ice concentration forecast against the OSI SAF observations for the Arctic and the Antarctic, arranged in groups corresponding to different lead-time ranges, is shown in Figure 11. Note that the calibration is applied on the daily forecast field. As a reference, the OSI SAF climatology forecast for each target year is computed simply using the average of the observed values in the previous 9 years. For example, to get the climatology forecast in January 2018, we average the January observations from 2009 to 2017. The same approach is applied for the historical forecasts to obtain the distributions. The climatology forecast is normally employed as a benchmark to assess when a forecast system completely loses its skill (Goessling & Jung, 2018; Goessling et al., 2016; Zampieri et al., 2018). The comparison suggests that in the Arctic, AWI-CPS forecasts averaged over lead times of 0–2 months (L0-2 in the figure, less than 90 days) have an RMSE of 0.167, thus beating the climatology forecast with a RMSE of 0.172 only slightly. Indeed, the time series reveals that the RMSE is substantially lower than the climatological error only during approximately the first half of each first season, implying that most of the L0-2 skill derives only from the first weeks. AWI-CPS forecasts with longer lead time tend to be worse than the climatology forecast, despite the forecast calibration. In the Antarctic, AWI-CPS forecast skill averaged over L0-2 does not exceed the skill of the climatology forecast (RMSE = 0.221 > 0.208). Here, the stronger biases result in errors at longer lead times exceeding the climatological error by an even larger margin.

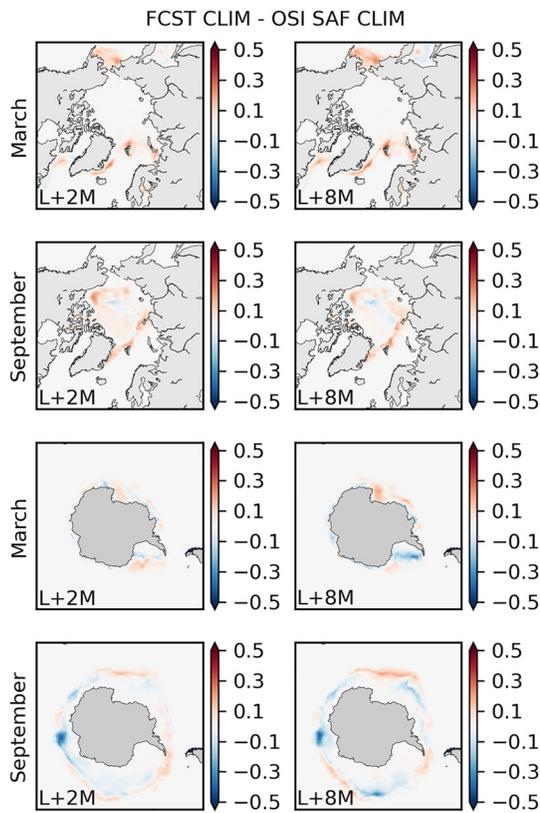


Figure 10. Same as Figure 9, but after calibration and without the observed climatologies.

The annual cycle of the SPS for the ice-edge location of the OSI SAF climatology forecast is shown in the upper panel of Figure 12. The SPS exhibits strong seasonal variability. The lowest SPS is observed in late summer (March) in the Antarctic, corresponding to the shortest ice-edge length. In the Arctic, the lowest SPS is found in late autumn and winter (November, December, and January), again corresponding to the time of the year with the shortest ice edge (Goessling & Jung, 2018; Zampieri et al., 2019). The SPS in the Antarctic is up to twice as large as that in the Arctic, largely due to the longer ice edge. In the following we therefore always compare the SPS of the forecast system to the corresponding climatological error.

The SPS for the different initial months, averaged over the evaluation period (Figure 12), is largely consistent with the results obtained for the RMSE of the sea-ice concentration. The AWI-CPS forecasts outperform the climatological forecast during the first month (labeled L0 above) but perform worse than climatology from the third month (labeled L2 above) onward; whether or not the forecast outperforms climatology during the second month depends on the hemisphere and the time of the year.

The forecasts tend to perform better in the Arctic, where in particular those initialized in April remain skillful also during the second month. It appears that Arctic sea-ice conditions in May are generally better forecast compared to other months in our system, as the SPS difference from climatology exhibits a temporal local minimum in May, independent of lead time. This minimum is very pronounced in the Arctic forecasts initialized in January; in this case the skill gain in May can be attributed partly to a phenomenon termed re-emergence of skill that occurs when the marginal ice zone returns to the same regions where it was at the time of initialization over the course of the seasonal cycle (Blanchard-Wrigglesworth et al., 2011, 2017; Goessling et al., 2016). Re-emergence of skill is even more prominent in November for the Arctic forecasts initialized in July. Finally, the Arctic forecasts initialized in April, although maintaining skill longest initially, exhibit a peculiarity around the following September, when the Arctic sea-ice minimum occurs: Here they perform even worse than those forecasts initialized already 3 months earlier, in January. This is likely related to the seasonal cycle of model biases.

In the Antarctic, the ice-edge forecasts initialized around the sea-ice minimum, in January and April, exhibit reasonable skill during the first month (labeled L0 above) and neutral skill relative to climatology during the second month (labeled L1 above). In contrast, the forecasts initialized around the sea-ice maximum, in July and October, are only marginally skillful already during the first month and worse than climatology during the second. The negative skill relative to climatology is generally most severe around December, which can be partly explained by the corresponding seasonal cycle of the ice-edge length (see above). Here we again observe a case where the forecasts initialized earlier, in July, perform less bad than those initialized later, in October, again presumably due to the seasonality of model biases.

The low forecast skill beyond 2 months lead time, remaining even after calibration, exposes plainly a gap in forecast skill compared to the potential predictability found in perfect-model studies (Day et al., 2016; Goessling et al., 2016; Tietsche et al., 2014). In the following we thus consider forecast skill during the first 3 months more closely, at daily resolution, for both the raw and the calibrated forecasts, and relative not only to climatology but also to a benchmark based on persistence of the observed initial state.

Averaged over all initial times across seasons and measured by the SPS for the ice-edge location, the raw forecasts outperform climatology only for about 12 days (Figures 13a and 13b). The calibrated forecasts beat the climatology out to 45 days; however, beyond 2 weeks the advantage relative to climatology is marginal. At short lead times up to about 6 days, the calibration in fact deteriorates the forecast skill. What is more, for up to about 8 days, both the raw and calibrated forecasts are outperformed by persistence of the observed initial state. The superiority of the initial-state persistence may be partly due to the fact that OSI SAF observations are essentially evaluated against the same data set, albeit at different times, but still this implies that the period where the

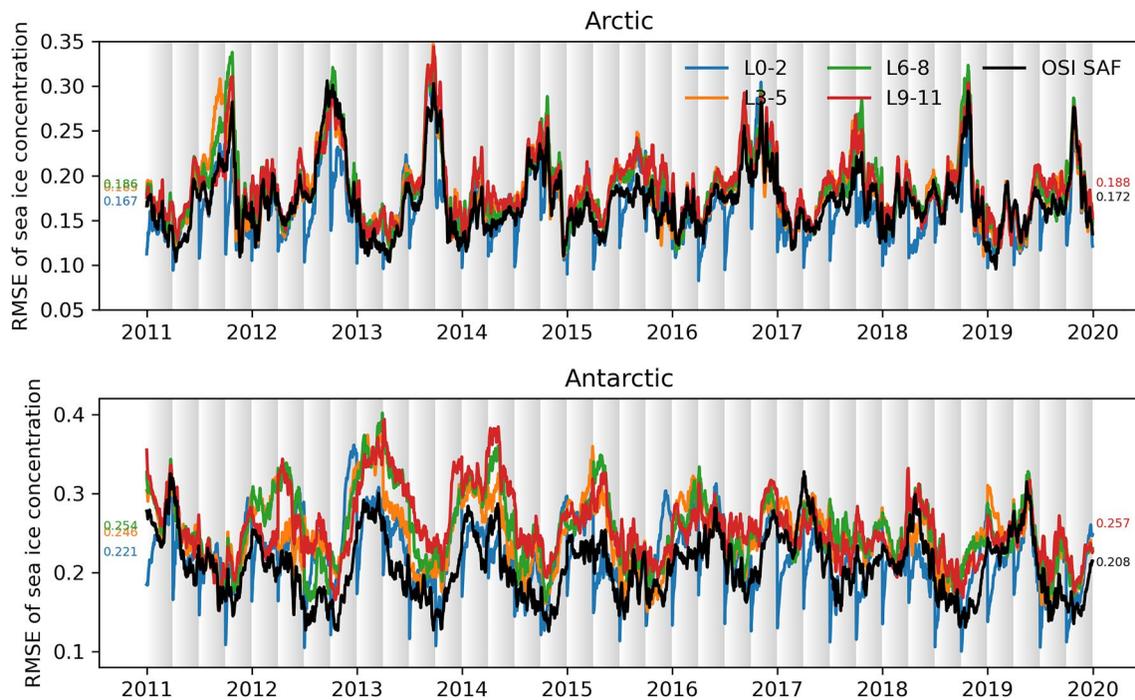


Figure 11. Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) of the sea-ice concentration (0 ~ 1.0) forecasts with respect to the observations in the Arctic (top) and the Antarctic (bottom). L0-2, L3-5, L6-8, and L9-11 represent forecasts with lead time of 0–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–11 months, respectively. Note that, for example, forecasts in January, February, and March on line L0-2 are all initialized on January 1st and thus have lead months of 0, 1, and 2. The lead time for the very first month of each forecast is labeled “0 months.” Stronger shading in the background indicates longer lead time. The Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility climatology forecast, derived from the preceding 9 years for each year individually, is shown in black. The mean RMSEs of each time series, grouped by lead time, are annotated in the corresponding color and located vertically at their value, to the left and right of the time series.

(calibrated) forecasts are better than any of the two benchmarks by more than a small margin is limited to a short time window between about 8 and 14 days. Note that a relatively high initial error in terms of SPS has been found across existing forecast systems (Zampieri et al., 2018, 2019).

In the Antarctic, the raw forecasts outperform the climatological benchmark for about 19 days and thus slightly longer than in the Arctic. In contrast, the calibration delays the lead time at which the climatological SPS is surpassed only by about 1 week. Moreover, the deterioration brought about by the calibration at short lead times is even more severe than in the Arctic, so that the calibration becomes on average beneficial only after about 14 days, just a few days before the calibrated forecast error surpasses the climatological error. On the other hand, the raw forecasts outperform the initial-state persistence already after 4 days, implying that the period of forecast skill beyond both benchmarks is broader in the Antarctic compared to the Arctic. Consistent with the monthly results based on RMSE and SPS discussed above, the Antarctic calibrated forecasts however develop even a large skill gap relative to climatology at long lead times beyond 1–2 months.

It is noted that if we compute the SPS metric over a different mask area where the standard deviation of sea-ice concentration is larger than 0.025 in the observations as in Dirkson et al. (2019), that is to measure the sea-ice concentration changes by more than 5%, the skill for all the forecasts shown in Figures 13c and 13d is improved in both the Arctic and Antarctic. The AWI-CPS raw forecast beats the climatology forecast with a lead time for more than 40 days in the Arctic and 35 days in the Antarctic. The calibrated forecasts however exhibit overwhelmingly better skill upon the climatology forecasts over 3 months.

As has become apparent already from the monthly analysis, the ice-edge forecast skill is initial-date dependent (Figure 14). The raw forecasts outperform the climatology forecast for a longer lead time when initialized in April and October in the Arctic; the same holds in January and April in the Antarctic. This seasonal contrast is partly transferred also to the calibrated forecasts. For both hemispheres, the calibrated forecasts initialized in April show the longest lead time during which they outperform climatology—more than 45 days—although still only marginally beyond about 2 weeks. Moreover, there are considerable seasonal variations of the effect of

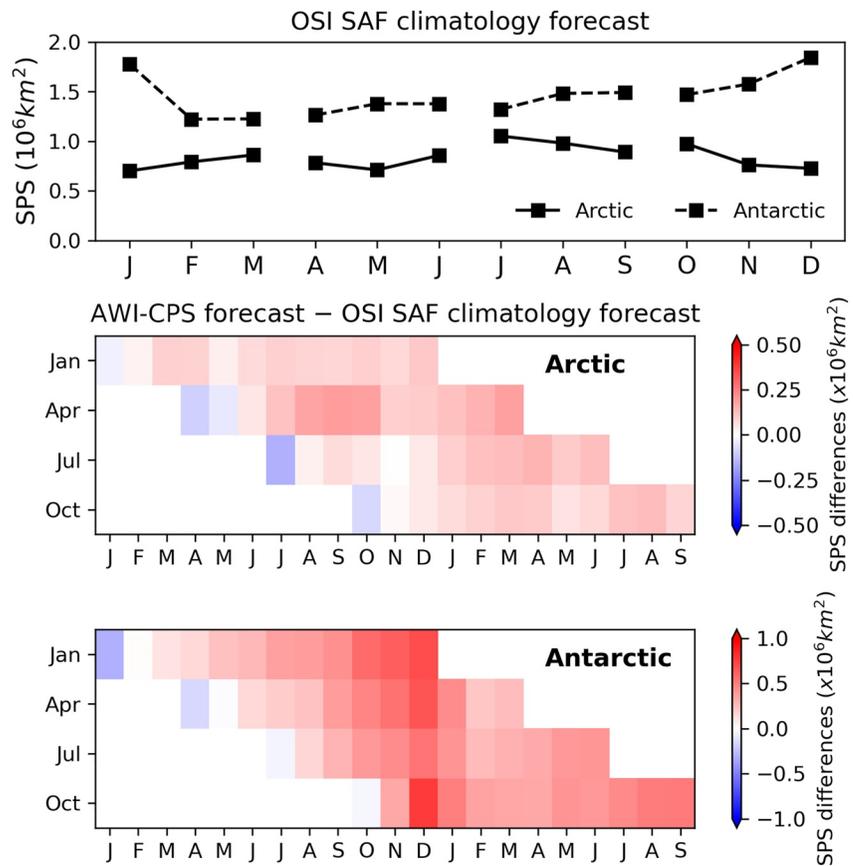


Figure 12. Monthly Spatial Probability Score (SPS) of sea-ice forecasts averaged over 2011–2019, relative to Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility (OSI SAF) observations. The seasonal cycle of the absolute SPS of the OSI SAF climatology forecasts is shown in the upper panel. SPS differences between AWI-CPS forecasts and the OSI SAF climatology forecasts are shown in the middle and bottom panels.

the calibration, in particular in the Arctic at short lead times. In January and July the calibration barely deteriorates the Arctic ice-edge forecast skill at all, but significantly improves the skill already after 1–3 days. In July this results in an extended time window during which the calibrated forecasts outperform the two benchmarks, whereas this is not the case for the January forecasts which exhibit too large errors already at initial time.

6. Summary and Discussion

A new version of the AWI Coupled Prediction System based on the AWI Climate Model (AWI-CM3.0) with ocean and sea-ice data assimilation has been developed. The main upgrades compared to the old version are: (a) the atmosphere model has been replaced by OpenIFS, with finer spectral resolution, and the ocean model now uses the finite-volume method; (b) the speed-up of both the ocean and the atmosphere model enables us to have an ensemble size more than two times larger than before while using less computing resources; (c) the online data assimilation now includes essentially all relevant large-scale observations for the ocean and sea ice. Moreover, we now use more sophisticated post-processing, namely: (d) sea-ice calibration by TAQM is now applied to account for systematic errors for long-term prediction.

The assimilation results are evaluated by the metric of RMSE. We observe strong error reductions and well constrained ensemble spread after data assimilation. The seasonal cycle of mean surface temperature increments points to model discrepancies related to surface flux errors, in particular in summer. The assimilation of temperature and salinity profiles tends to improve the ocean state even in deep levels where no observations are assimilated. However, complex processes within the ocean, atmosphere and sea-ice system in the Arctic Ocean and Southern Ocean may introduce spurious covariances. Here, further relaxation of the Gaussian error distribution

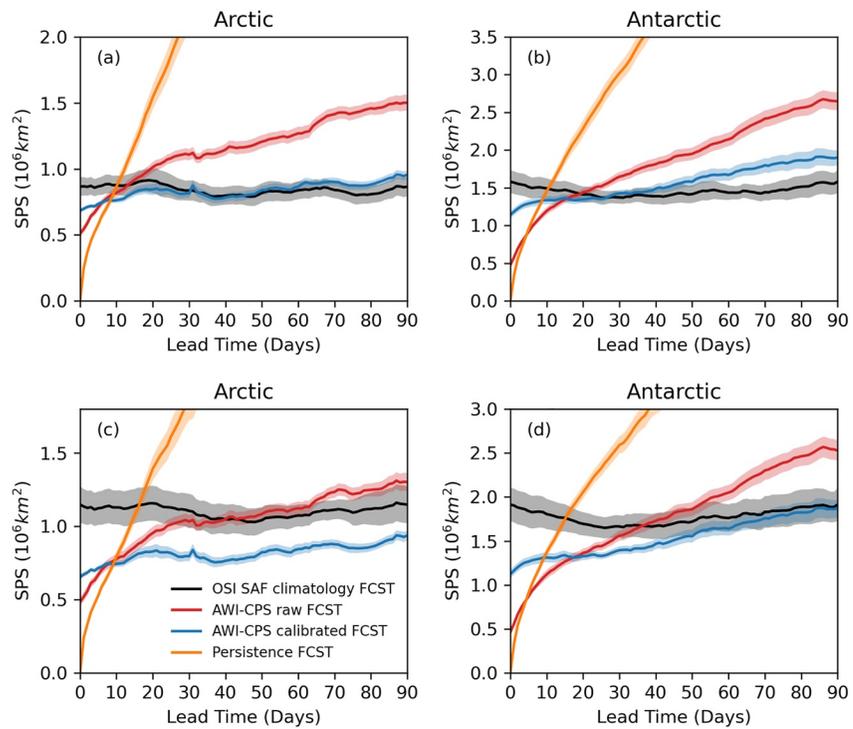


Figure 13. Daily Spatial Probability Score of AWI-CPS forecasts as a function of lead time over the area where sea ice concentration (SIC) is non-zero (a, b) and where SIC standard deviation is larger than 0.025 as in Dirkson et al. (2019) (c, d). The errors of forecasts with the same lead time (see Table 2) have been averaged over the period 2011–2019 and all initial seasons. The shading area indicates their standard errors (approximate 67% confidence intervals) over that period. The Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility (OSI SAF) climatology forecast (OSI SAF CLIM, black) and the persistence forecast, which keeps the observed state on the initial day, serve as benchmarks. AWI-CPS forecasts are evaluated before (AWI-CPS RAW) and after (AWI-CPS CALI) calibration with the Trend-Adjusted Quantile Mapping method.

assumption or a smaller localization radius are options that should be explored. Compared to the old version, when evaluating against independent observations, the analysis performance of the sea-ice concentration, sea-ice thickness and sea surface salinity has been improved mostly. With respect to the independent NSIDC/CDR sea-ice concentration, the AWI-CPS has reduced the RMSE by nearly 30% relative to the old version. The sea-ice thickness analysis has been improved by around 0.2 m over three independent observations in the BGEF project. The assimilation of remotely sensed sea surface salinity in the AWI-CPS yields almost exclusively smaller errors over the oceans apart from the polar oceans, as discussed above.

Forecast experiments over the period 2003–2019, of which we use the first 8 years to derive the calibration parameters, show an overestimation of sea-ice concentration in the marginal ice zone in the Arctic in both March and September. The errors in the Antarctic are spatially less uniform, possibly due to different processes involved over different parts of the Southern Ocean. Calibrated sea-ice concentration and ice-edge forecasts in AWI-CPS outperform a climatological benchmark for about 45 days in the Arctic and about 30 days in the Antarctic, albeit with seasonal variations. The sea-ice forecast calibration performs better in the Arctic than in the Antarctic, which is possibly related to the different basin geometries, specifically the semi-closed basin in the Arctic. When the SPS metric is computed over the region where sea-ice concentration changes by more than 5%, the raw forecast has a lead time of 25 and 15 days longer in the Arctic and Antarctic, respectively. Our evaluation reveals that the calibration considerably deteriorates the forecasts at short lead times, implying that the raw forecast without calibration should be trusted over the calibrated one during the first week after initialization in the Arctic, and during the first 2 weeks in the Antarctic. This unwanted side effect is possibly related to the rather short time period used to derive the calibration parameters. It also calls for an advanced application of the calibration that gradually takes effect in a more seamless way.

In our forecast system the atmosphere is still evolving without any constraint, except for the influence of the constrained ocean and sea-ice surface states. Efforts are currently ongoing to explore how sea-ice forecasts and

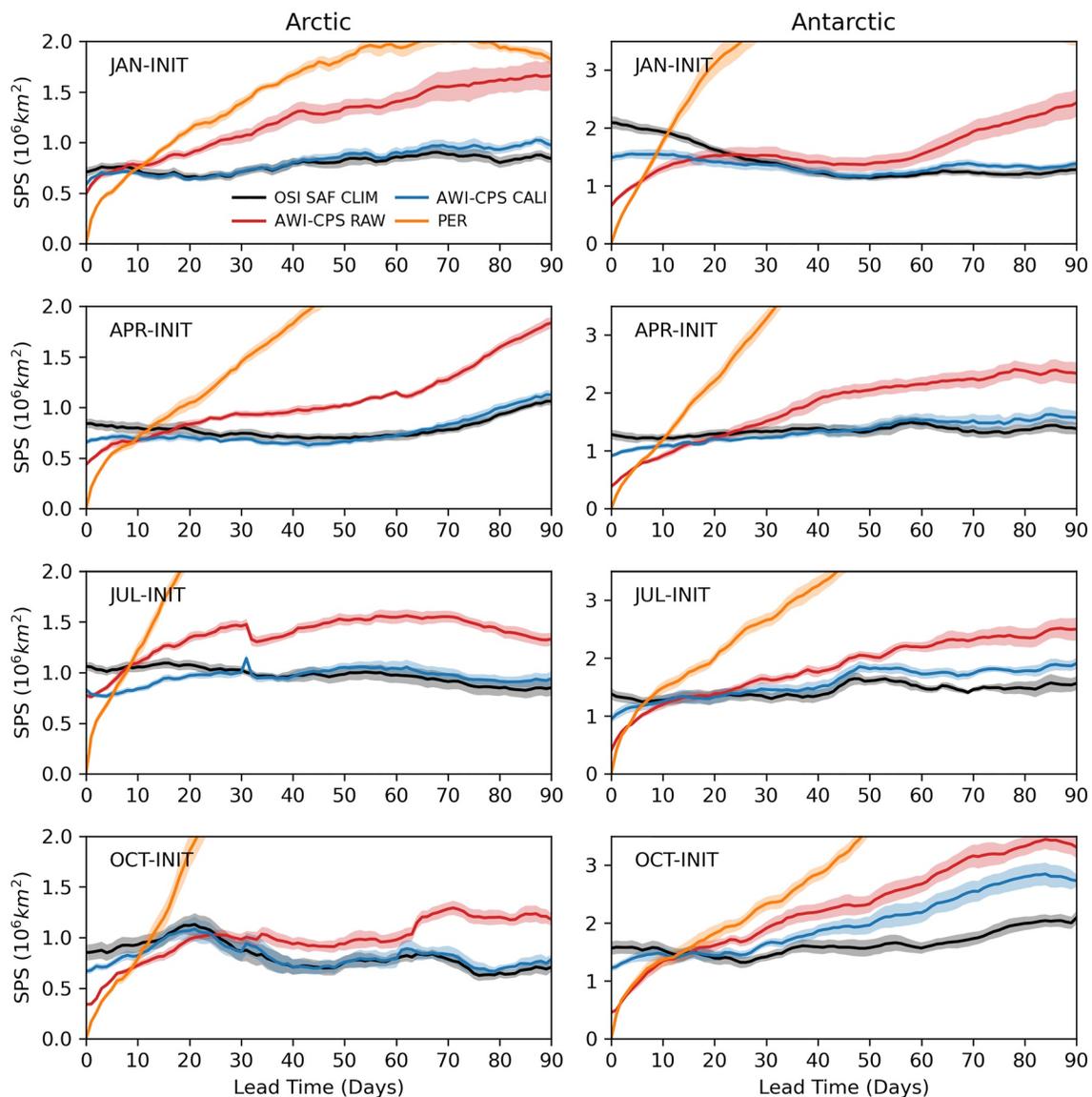


Figure 14. Same as Figures 13a and 13b but separately for the different initial seasons.

climate forecasts more generally can be improved by also constraining the atmosphere directly. While improvements at short, weather-related lead times are to be expected rather obviously, it is not clear to what extent such improvement can also sustain for longer times where model biases become the dominant matter of concern. Another aspect coming into play when the atmosphere is simultaneously constrained is how this affects the oceanic data assimilation, specifically the spread of the model background. Replacing the currently largely random atmospheric weather states in the different ensemble members by more coherent states might necessitate to re-introduce a forgetting factor to prevent the ocean model spread from collapsing. At the same time, the more realistic atmospheric states are expected to help drive ocean and sea-ice anomalies, reducing the corrections to be introduced by the data assimilation. These aspects should be explored in future studies.

The skill of the raw forecasts from our system is largely comparable to that from operational subseasonal-to-seasonal (S2S) forecast systems, even though the atmosphere models in these S2S systems are generally initialized by atmospheric data assimilation. This strongly indicates that constraining the atmosphere alone will not be sufficient to achieve major forecast performance gains at longer lead times. Rather, the correction of systematic errors will be critical, in general and in our forecast system specifically. The climate model used in our system, AWI-CM3, is a rather new combination of its model components and is still undergoing major tuning and even

more fundamental developments at the moment. The co-development of our forecast system—the AWI Coupled Prediction System—is a major opportunity to help inform the development of the underlying climate model and, vice versa, to benefit from these developments. While the present study is primarily documenting our in-house developments and progress, we expect that the combination of comprehensive ocean and sea-ice datasets and how we assimilate them can serve already as an example and possibly as a starting point for new forecast system developments elsewhere. At the same time, we envisage generating more concrete lessons learned for the coupled-model forecast community as we move forward with constraining the atmosphere and exploring and optimizing aspects related to coupled data assimilation.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest relevant to this study.

Data Availability Statement

The ocean model FESOM2 source code (Scholz et al., 2022) is available on Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6335383> and at https://github.com/FESOM/fesom2/releases/tag/AWI-CM3_v3.0. OpenIFS is not publicly available but rather subject to licensing by ECMWF. However licences are readily given free of charge to any academic or research institute. All modifications (Streffing & Fladich, 2022) required to enable AWI-CM3 simulations with OpenIFS CY43R3V1 as provided by ECMWF can be obtained on Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6335498>. The OASIS coupler (Craig et al., 2017) is available upon registration at <https://oasis.cerfacs.fr/en/>. The XIOS source code (Meurdesoif, 2017) is available on Zenodo (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4905653>) and on the official repository (<http://forge.ipsl.jussieu.fr/ioserver>, last access: 24 November 2022). The runoff mapper scheme (Wyser, 2022) is available on Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6335474>. PDAF (Nerger & Hiller, 2013) is available at <http://pdaf.awi.de>. The experiment output data (Mu et al., 2022) and model mesh are archived on Zenodo (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6481116>).

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