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Error, accuracy and reliability in seasonal-to-interannual forecasting

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Probabilistic forecasting of seasonal-to-interannual forecasts is based on either statistical/empirical or dynamical methods, or both. Regardless of the method, these forecasts suffer from a relatively low accuracy, so that a clear understanding of the measures used to estimate it is paramount. Probability forecasts at these time scales are essentially employed in forcing subsidiary models (e.g. crop yield forecast models) and in decision making. Both uses require a careful assessment of the trustworthiness, also known as reliability, of these forecasts. Besides, dynamical models are affected by non-negligible systematic errors, which some times affect accuracy. These ideas will be illustrated using state-of-the-art predictions produced by different forecast systems.