Intercomparison of Ice Edge between analysis and observational datasets

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Seamless Sea Ice Prediction



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Background



Niraula et Goessling, 2021





Methodology

- All data remapped to common grid (25 km EASE-2) and land mask for equal coverage.
- Ice presence using 15% SIC threshold (except IMS)
- Measure Integrated Ice Edge Error (IIEE) for each pair at each date



$$O = \int_{A} \max(c_{f} - c_{t}, 0) \, dA$$

(area units)
$$U = \int_{A} \max(c_{t} - c_{f}, 0) \, dA$$

IIEE of **ORAS*** against observation (OSISAF)



*control run from ORAS5

IIEE of **ORAS*** against observation (OSISAF)



*control run from ORAS5

IIEE of **ORAS** against observations



IIEE of **ORAS** against observations



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IIEE of **ORAS** against observations



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Mean Ice Presence bias (**ORAS** minus observations) for July



Mean Ice Presence bias (**ORAS** minus observations) for December



(Halfway) Summary

- Daily analysis from ORAS5 shows considerable ice edge error against several observations
- Mismatch (measured as IIEE) is highest during the summer in both hemispheres, led by underestimation of ice (negative bias).
- Some regions have consistent issues (e.g. Ross and Weddell Sea).
- ...but some observations showed more error than others.. Do they actually agree?



IIEE of **OSISAF** against other observations



IIEE computed pairwise between all datasets



Seasonality of Overestimation of ice by OSISAF



Mean Ice Presence bias for July



Mean Ice Presence bias for Dec



Summary

- There are considerable differences in sea ice presence between different observational datasets, highest in the summer.
- Comparing the mean bias maps between different pairs suggests where certain datasets have issues (e.g. overestimation by OSISAF in the Gulf of Finland, Underestimation by AMSR in Cape Poinsett/West Antarctica)
- It is likely that disagreement and errors in observations persist as disagreement with analysis and eventually forecasts. Addressing these differences will most likely improve forecast performance, in this case for ECMWF.

Summary

Sea ice presence and ice edge between different observational datasets have considerable differences.

Mean bias maps suggest issues in particular location for some datasets.

Forecast skills might improve if observational biases are accounted for.

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