Seasonal Forecast

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Outline

- Introduction
- Predictability and Ensemble Prediction
- Seasonal Forecast in Japan
- Procedure of Seasonal Forecast

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Introduction

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Short/Long Range Forecasts

Short range forecast

Tokyo Chiho	Three-hourly Forecasts	Probability of Precipitation		Temperature Forecast		
Today 21 November ☀	CLEAR	00-06 06-12 12-18 18-24	--% 0% 0% 0%	Tokyo		**Daytime High** 12°C
Tomorrow 22 November ☁/☂	CLOUDY, OCCASIONAL SCATTERED SHOWERS LATER	00-06 06-12 12-18 18-24	0% 10% 20% 50%	Tokyo	**Morning Low** 3°C	**Daytime High** 13°C

(/: to, |: occasionally or partly)

- Forecasting the actual weather parameters (e.g., weater, temp.)
- Deterministic forecast

Seasonal forecast

Temp.	40 %	40 %	20 %
Prec.	20	40	40
Sunshine	50	30	20

■ Below Normal   ■ Near Normal   ■ Above Normal

Above example shows a forecast in 3 categories: **Below**, **Near** and **Above normal**.

Probabilities of both below and near normal temp. are **40%**, and above normal temp. is **20%**.
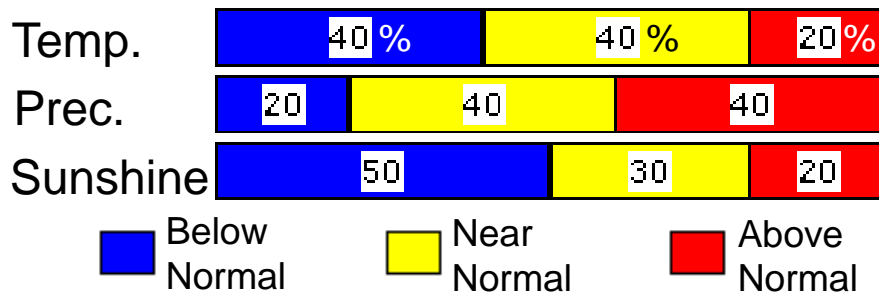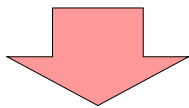
- Forecasting deviation from the climatological normal in categories (Not actual temp. or precip.)
- Probabilistic forecast (Not forecasting which category will happen, but forecasting probabilities of occurrence for each category)

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Anomaly in Seasonal Forecast

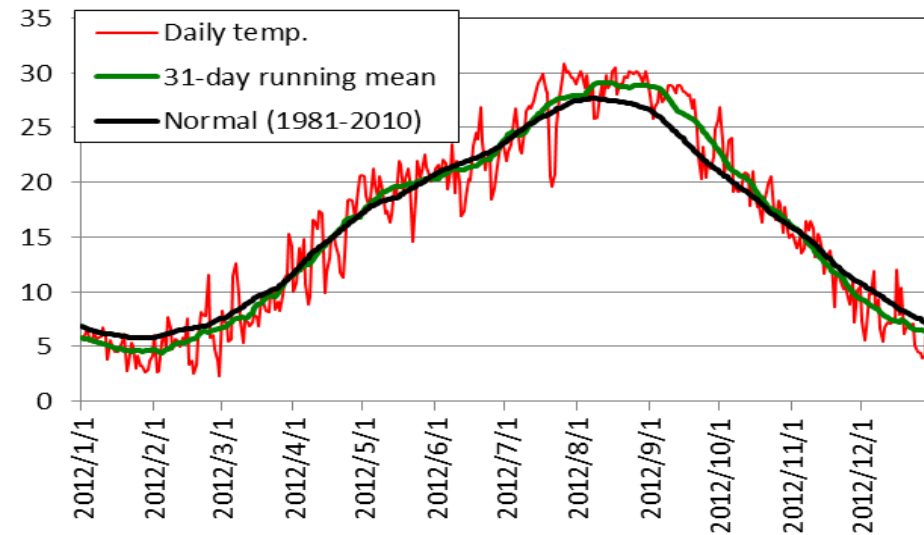**Normal**: Defined as 30-year average for 1981 – 2010

Anomaly: Deviation from the normal

[Anomaly] = [Actual Value] – [Normal]

- Weather condition changes from year to year (interannual variability)

- Anomalous climate may affects the lives of society (e.g., drought, flood, and hot spell)

**Anomaly** is the target of seasonal forecasting.

Temperature at Tokyo in 2012

Legend:
- Daily temp. (red)
- 31-day running mean (green)
- Normal (1981-2010) (black)

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Forecast Category

- JMA conducts seasonal forecast in **3 categories**: <u>**Above**</u>, <u>**Near**</u>, and <u>**Below Normal**</u>

- Arranging historical data for 30-year (e.g., 1981-2010) in ascending order,
  - 1 - 10th: **Below Normal**
 - 11 - 20th: **Near Normal**
  - 21 - 30th: **Above normal**

Time series of temp. anomaly (1981-2010)

Below Normal **Near Normal** **Above Normal**

33% 33% 33%
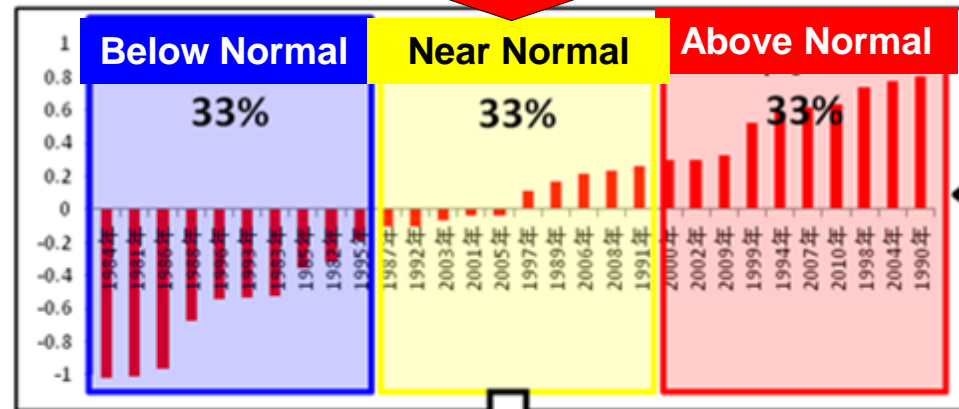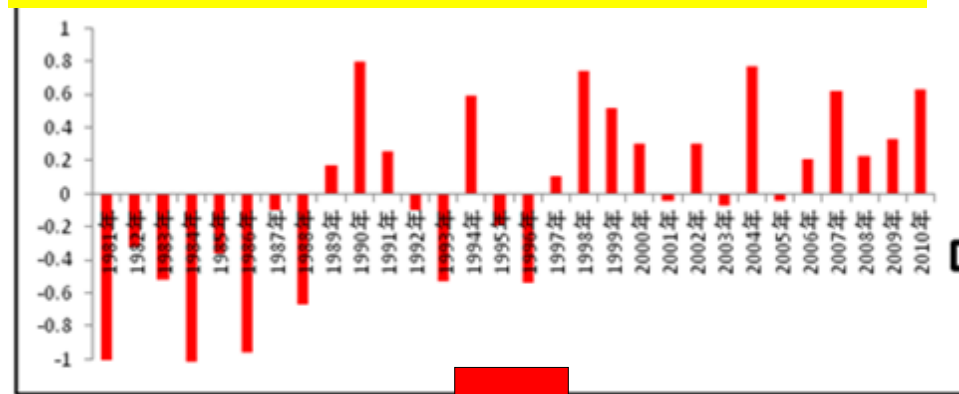
Range of Near normal: -0.1 to +0.3 ℃

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3-category Probabilistic Forecast

- In the seasonal forecast probability for each category is predicted.

- Occurrence rate for each category is expected 33% in climatology.

- In certain forecasting, deviation from the climatological occurrence is important.

Climatological occurrence

BN	NN	AN
33%	33%	33%

Certain forecast

BN	NN	AN
20%	30%	50%
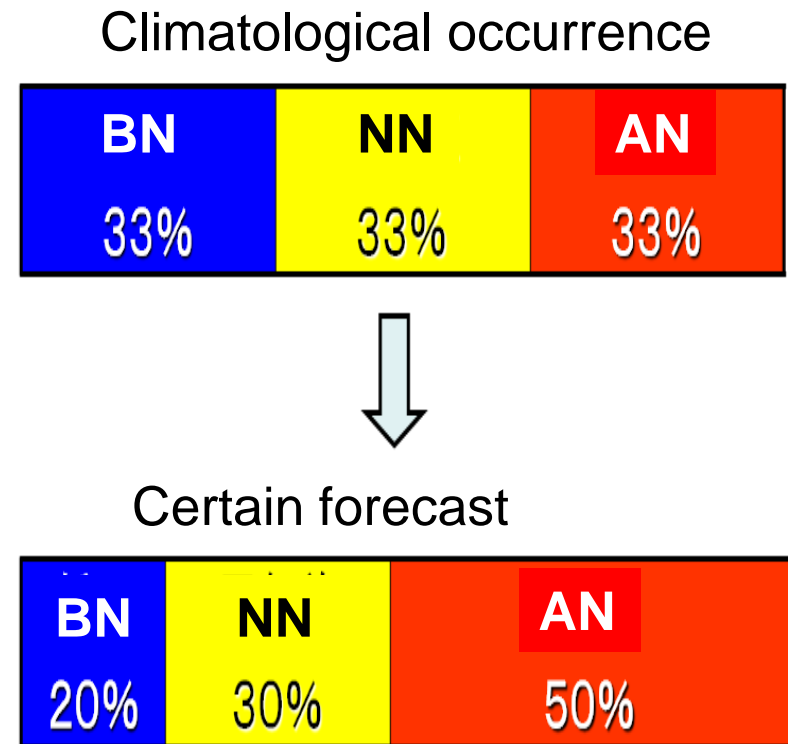
This forecast shows that above normal is *more likely* (50%), and below normal is *less likely* (20%) to occur than expected in climatology (33%).
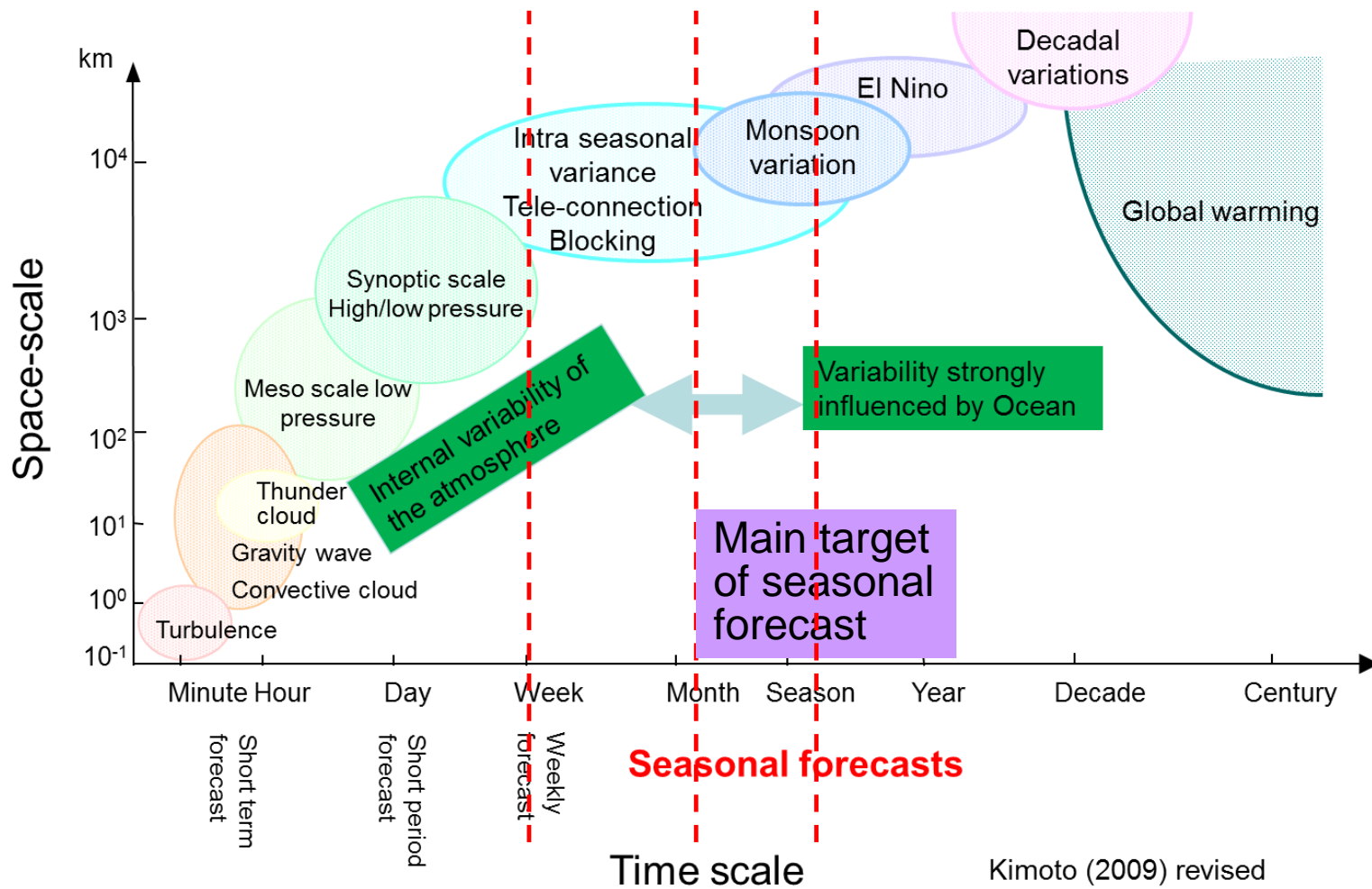
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Predictability and Ensemble Prediction

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Multiple Structure of Atmospheric Phenomena

- Variations in atmosphere consist various space- and time-scale phenomena.
- Targets for seasonal prediction are phenomena with large time- and space-scale (over about a month).

Kimoto (2009) revised

Signal and Noise for Each Kind of Forecast

Green boxes show signal for short-range forecast and noise for one-month forecast

| Kind of forecast	Signal	Noise
Medium-range (One-week forecast)	Shortwave disturbance dominating over daily variations of weather	
Extended –range (One-month forecast)	Low-frequency variation of atmosphere (meanderings of the jet, blocking, AO, MJO and so on)	Transient eddies (moving high, low)
Long-range (Three-month, Warm/Cold season forecast)	Low-frequency variation of tropical ocean and its influence, such as ENSO and Indian Ocean variation	Low-frequency variation of atmosphere

Blue box shows signal for seasonal forecast

Red boxes show signal for one-month forecast and noise for seasonal forecast

Noise can be reduced by time average (e.g., 3-month mean)

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Chaos in Atmosphere

- Due to chaotic behavior of atmosphere, errors rapidly grow during period of prediction.

Forecast

Forecast time

- To address this issue, ensemble prediction is essential for long-range forecasting.

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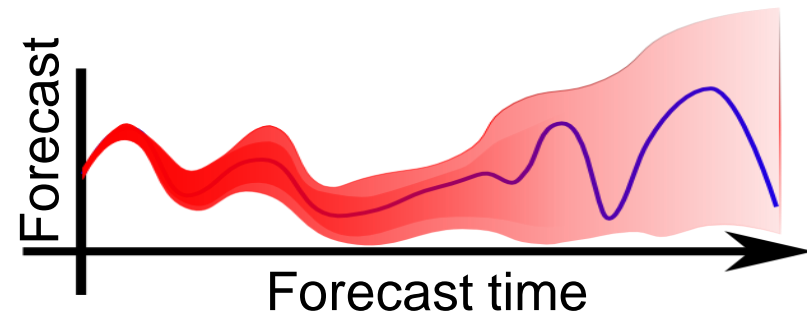
Ensemble Prediction

In **ensemble prediction**, the model is run many times from very slightly different initial conditions.

Forecast time
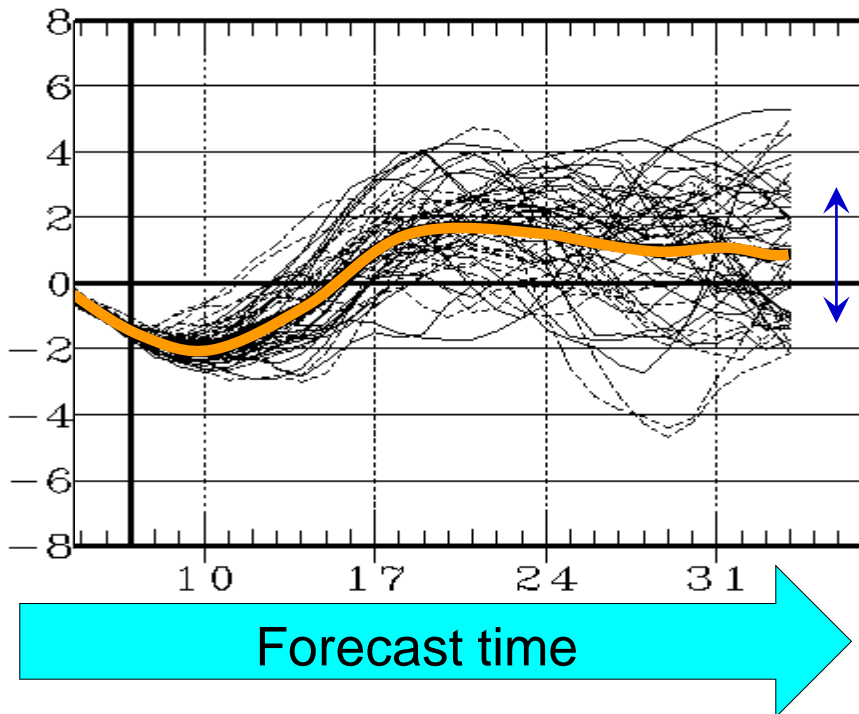
Ensemble Member = Individual solutions

**Ensemble spread** = Standard dev. among members, suggesting degree of **uncertainty**

Ensemble mean = Average of ensemble members, suggesting degree of **signal**

- Ensemble mean is statistically better than each member.
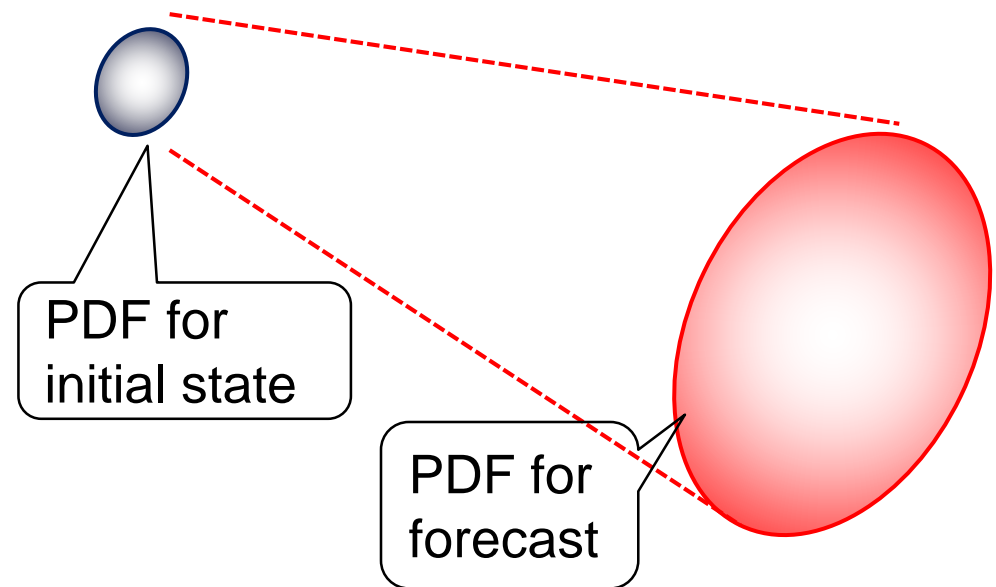- The more the number of members is, the better the prediction is.

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Deterministic and Probabilistic Forecast

Deterministic forecast

One initial state
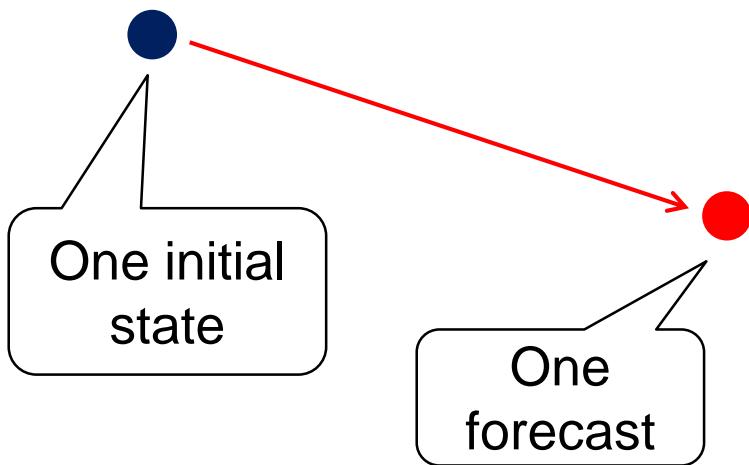
One forecast

Calculate one forecast using one initial state

Probabilistic forecast

PDF for initial state

PDF for forecast

- EPS derives PDF for forecast.
  - ➤ Possible to predict probability of the targeted phenomena, which add degree of reliability to deterministic forecasting.

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Probabilistic Forecast

- Ensemble prediction system (EPS) enables to derive PDF from the distribution of individual members.
- This denotes that long-range forecast is possible with not deterministic but probabilistic manner.

Initial

Forecast

Probability Density Function (PDF)

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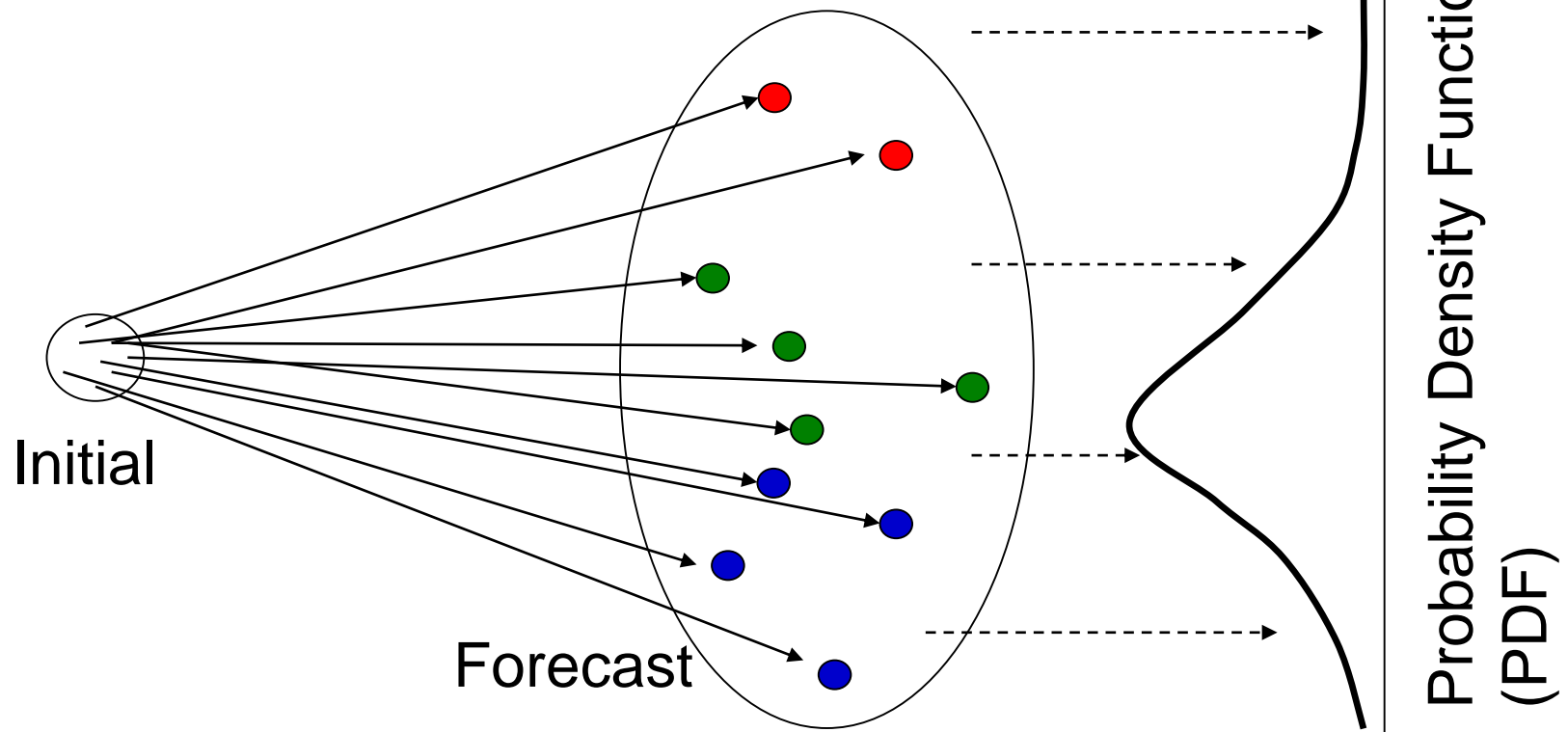
Initial and Boundary Condition

Due to the chaotic nature of the atmosphere, the limit for deterministic forecasting is about two weeks.

Information by atmospheric initial value

The influence of boundary conditions is important for longer-range forecasting

Information by boundary conditions (SST, sea ice)

Strength of signal

Hour   Day   Week   Month   Season   Year
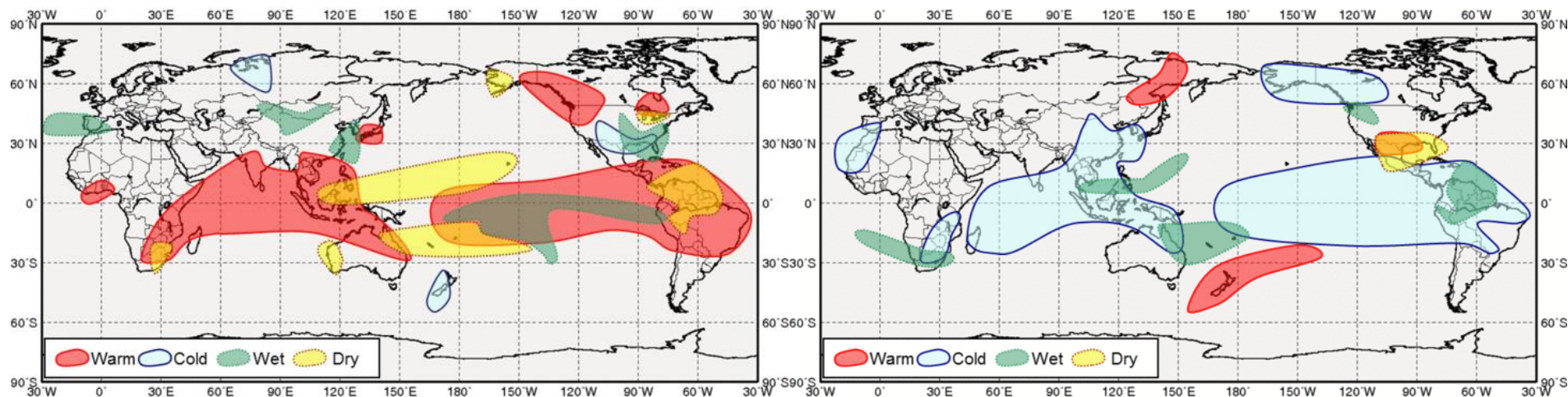
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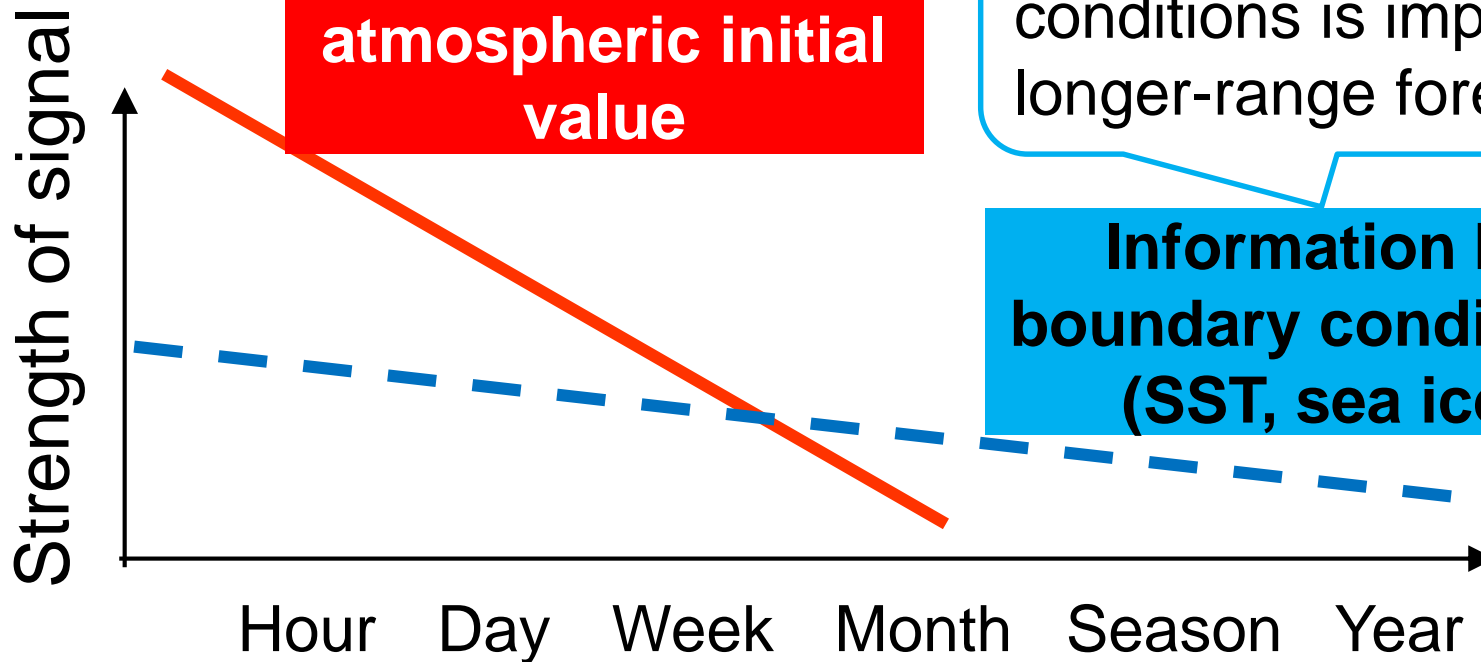
Boundary Condition – ENSO

- ENSO brings large impact on the global climate.

- Its evolution is predictable several month ahead.

- Its timescale is several month to a year.

➡ ENSO is the most important BC for seasonal forecast.

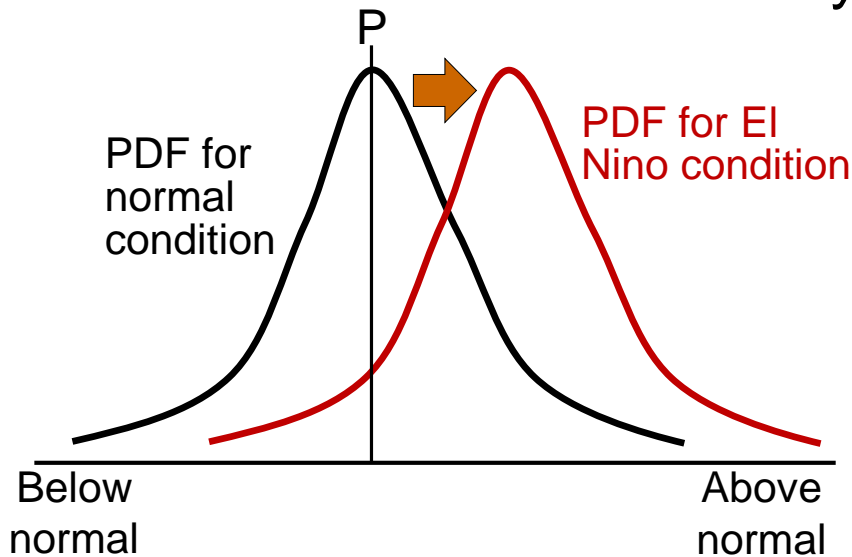Typical anomaly patterns during **El Nino** (boreal winter)

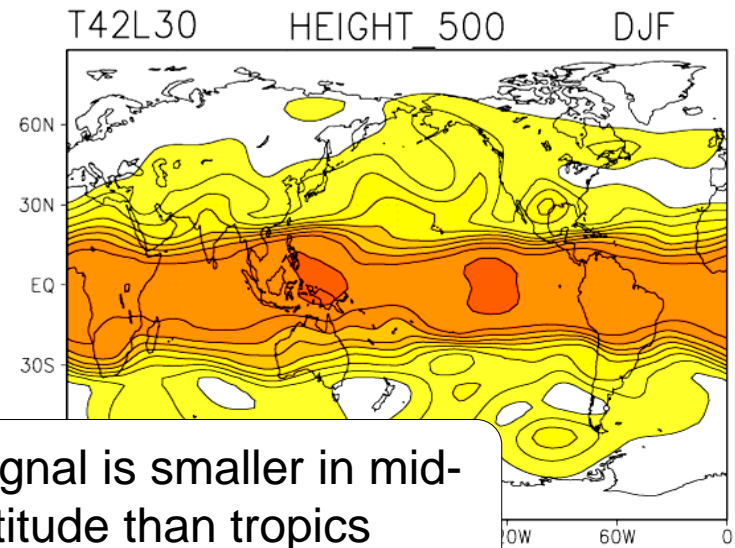Typical anomaly patterns during **La Nina** (boreal winter)

Boundary Condition – ENSO

- Typical anomaly pattern (**signal**) tends to appear during El Nino (or La Nina), but not always due to the internal variability (**noise**).

- Seasonal forecast must be issued with probabilistic forecast because of the uncertainty from the noise.

P

PDF for El Nino condition

PDF for normal condition

Below normal

Above normal

In this case, El Nino brings more (less) probability for above (below) normal category than normal condition

Ratio (signal / (signal + noise)

T42L30   HEIGHT_500   DJF

60N
30N
EQ
30S

0W   60W   0

10 30 50 70 90

Signal is smaller in mid-latitude than tropics

Seasonal Forecasts in Japan

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Japan's seasonal forecast started in 1942 for the purpose to reduce agricultural damages associated with cooler summers.

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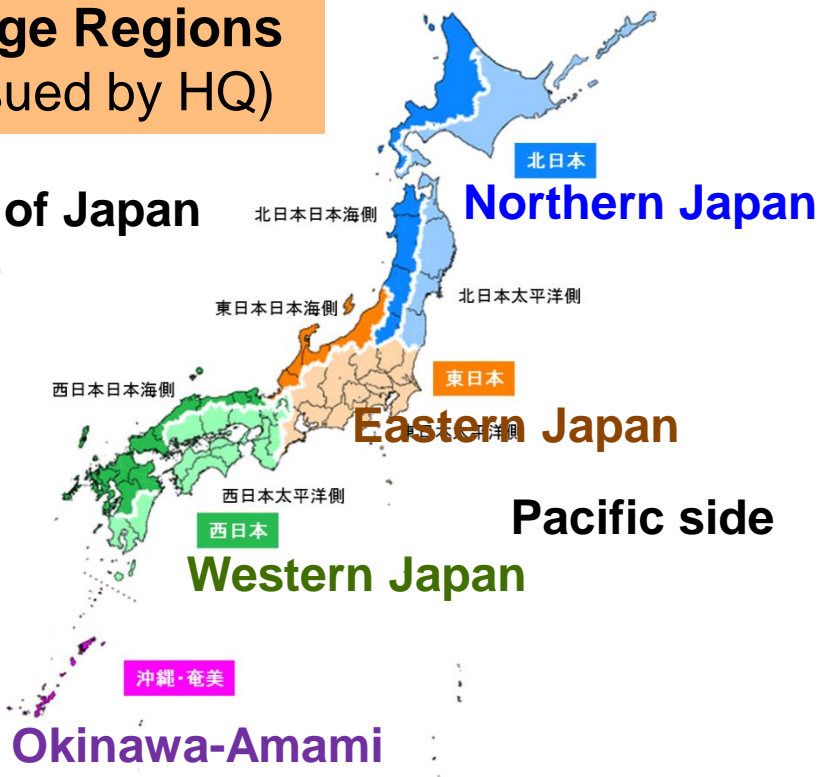
Seasonal Forecast at JMA

	Date of issue	Forecast Period	Forecast Item
1-month Forecast	Every Thursday	1-month mean	Temperature, Precipitation, Sunshine, Snowfall
		Weekly mean (1st, 2nd, 3rd-4th week)	Temperature
3-month Forecast	Around 25th of every month	3-month mean,	Temperature, Precipitation, Snowfall
		Monthly mean (1st, 2nd, 3rd month)	Temperature, Precipitation
Warm Season Forecast	Around 25 Feb.	3-month mean (Jun. – Aug.)	Temperature, Precipitation
		Rainy season (Jun. – Jul.)	Precipitation
Cold Season Forecast	Around 25 Sep.	3-month mean (Dec. – Feb.)	Temperature, Precipitation, Snowfall

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Forecast Region

- Forecast is issued for sub-regions divided based on the climate characteristics.

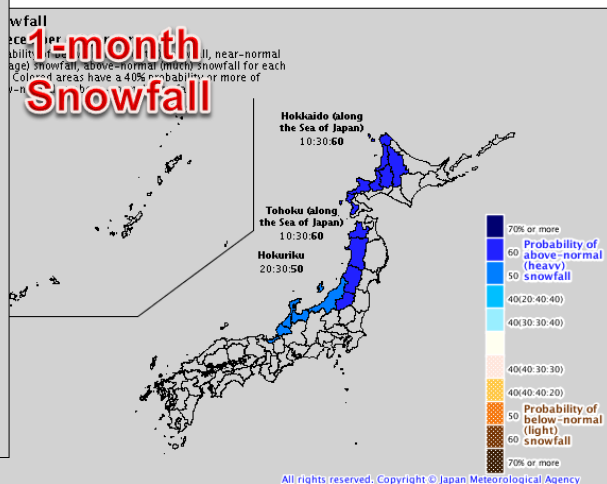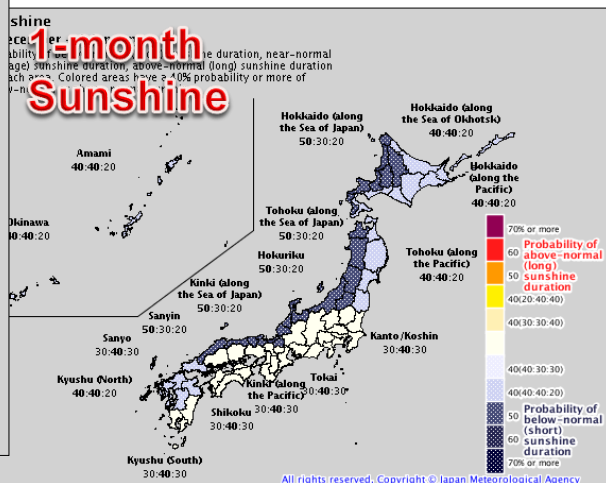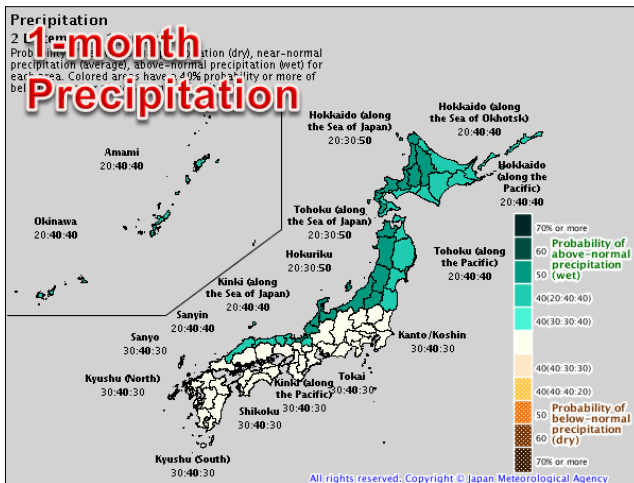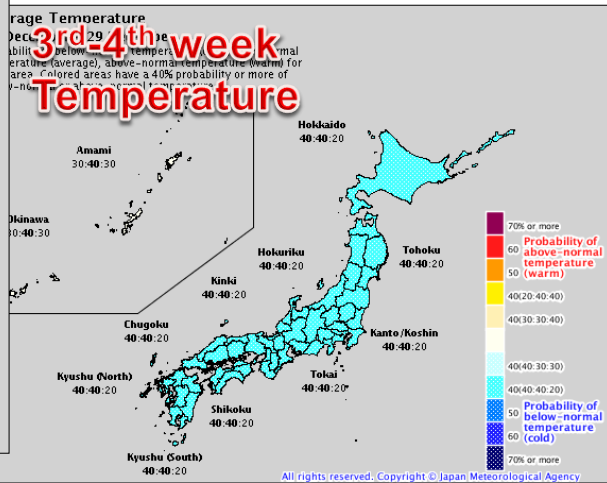**Large Regions** (issued by HQ)

Sea of Japan side

北日本
Northern Japan

北日本日本海側

北日本太平洋側

東日本日本海側

西日本日本海側

東日本
Eastern Japan

Pacific side

西日本太平洋側

西日本
Western Japan

沖縄・奄美
Okinawa-Amami

Small Regions (issued by the regional offices)

北海道オホーツク海側

北海道日本海側

北海道地方

北海道太平洋側

東北日本海側

東北地方

東北太平洋側

北陸地方

近畿日本海側

山陰

中国地方

関東甲信地方

山陽

九州北部地方

東海地方

近畿地方

近畿太平洋側

九州南部

四国地方

九州南部・奄美地方

奄美地方

沖縄地方

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One-month Forecast

Example issued on 30 Nov. 2017

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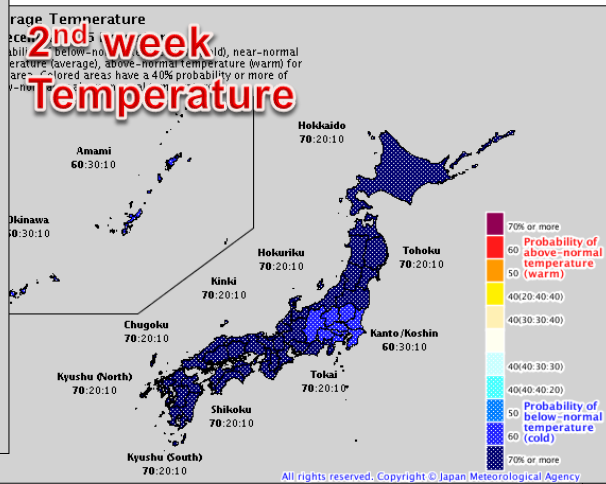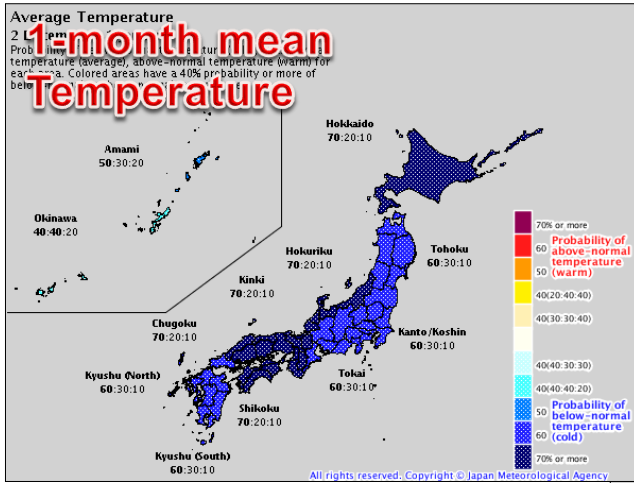
Three-month Forecast

Example issued on 24 Nov. 2017

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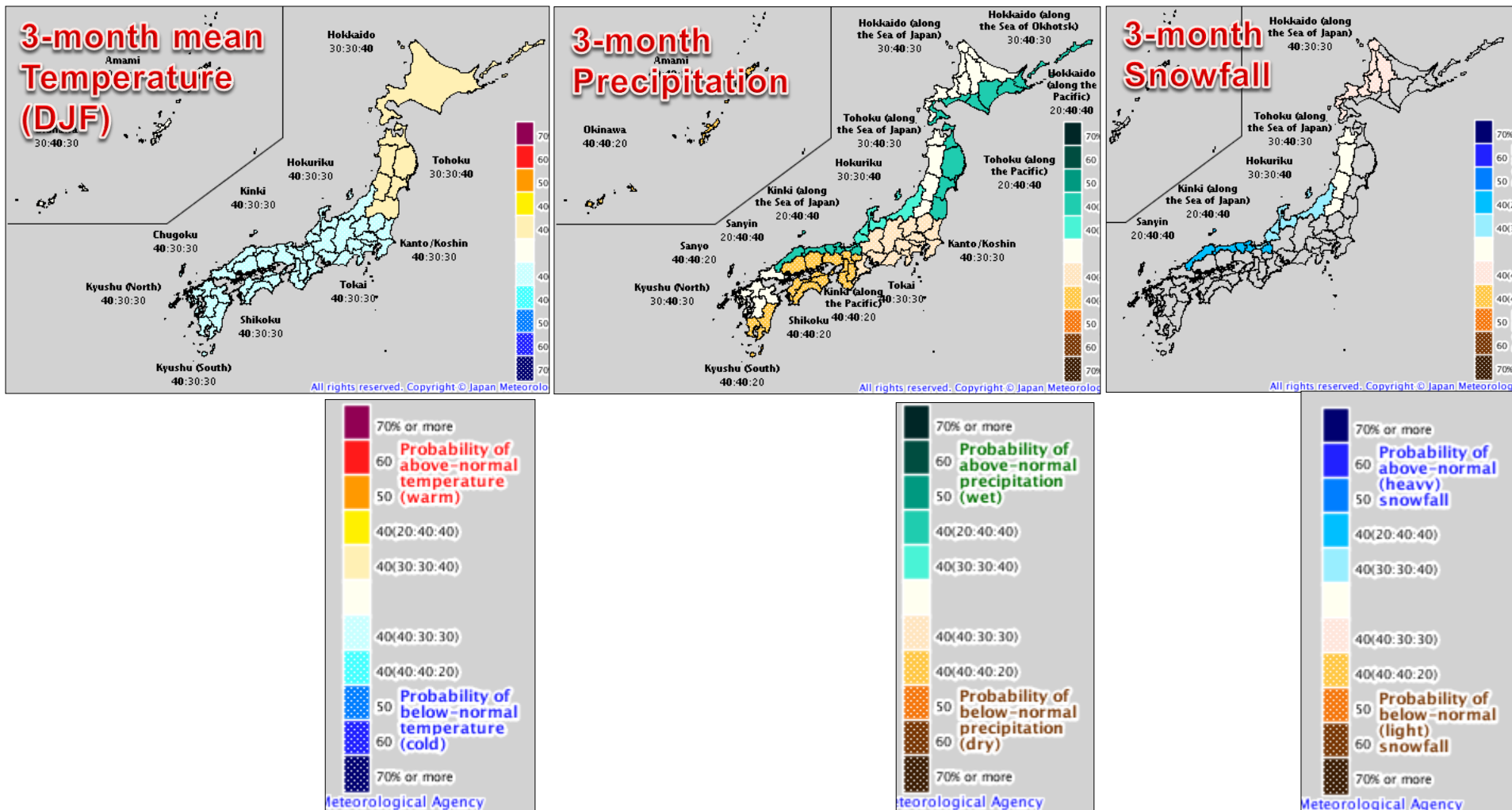
Commentary on 3-month Forecast

Commentary material is also provided from JMA HP

Summary of the forecast

Expected weather

3-month forecast (probability)

Expected oceanic and atmospheric pattern

> In western Japan, cold temperature is expected in this winter due to strong cold airflow...

> On the Pacific side of northern Japan, sunny days will be less likely to appear than normal in January due to the enhanced cyclonic activities...

> Tropical SST is expected to higher than normal….
> Jet stream meanders southward around Japan….
> The Siberian High extends southward…
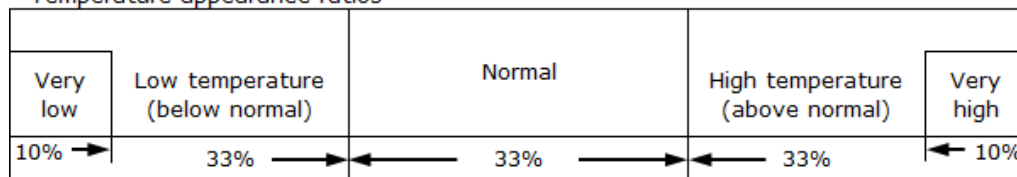
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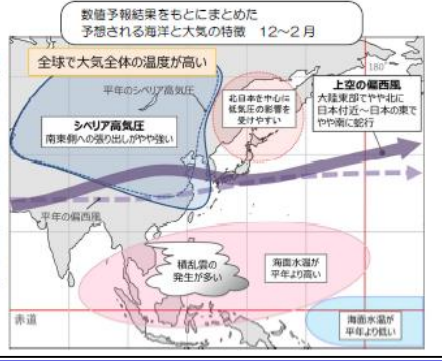
Early Warning Information for Extreme Weather

- **Objective:** Mitigation of the adverse impacts from extreme weather events (hot/cold spell, heavy snow) on socio-economic activities such as agriculture and disaster prevention in early stage (1-2-week ahead).

- **Targeted event:** An extreme 7-day averaged temperature or 7-day snowfall amounts event which appears once per decade in climatology (i.e., 10%).

- **Timing of issuing:** When targeted event is expected to happen 5-14-day ahead with the probability of 30% or more (i.e., 3 times more likely to happen than normal).

Temperature appearance ratios

Very low	Low temperature (below normal)	Normal	High temperature (above normal)	Very high
10% →	← 33% →	← 33% →	← 33% →	← 10%

In this example, information for significantly cold weather from 9 Dec. onward was issued on 4 Dec.

7-day Averaged Temperature (Issued: 4 December 2017)
Forecast period: 9 – 18 December
This chart shows areas where the expected probability of very high or very low seven-day average temperature is 30% or more.
The period of the prediction is given below the name of the area.

Amami
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Hokkaido
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Okinawa
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Hokuriku
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Kinki
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Tohoku
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Chugoku
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Kanto/Koshin
N/A

Tokai
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Kyushu (North)
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Shikoku
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Kyushu (South)
For about a week from 9 Dec onward

Probability of very high temperature
30% or more
Less than 30%

Probability of very low temperature
30% or more

Utilization of Seasonal Forecast

JMA is promoting the utilization of long-range forecast (mainly 2-week/1-month prediction) in various sectors such as agriculture.

Examples

- Prediction data is used at local governments to estimate the adequate timing of rice and fruit harvesting.

- Advisory information is provided by a research organization to reduce damage from significant cold/hot weather on rice farming.

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Procedure of Seasonal Forecast

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Flow of Making Seasonal Forecast

Numerical Model

Hindcast

Ensemble Forecast

Statistical Downscale

Verification Map

- Verification of model results

Forecast Map

Guidance

Below normal	Near normal	Above normal
13%	33%	54%

- Probability

Forecaster

Seasonal Forecast

- ENSO
- Precipitation
- Atmospheric response

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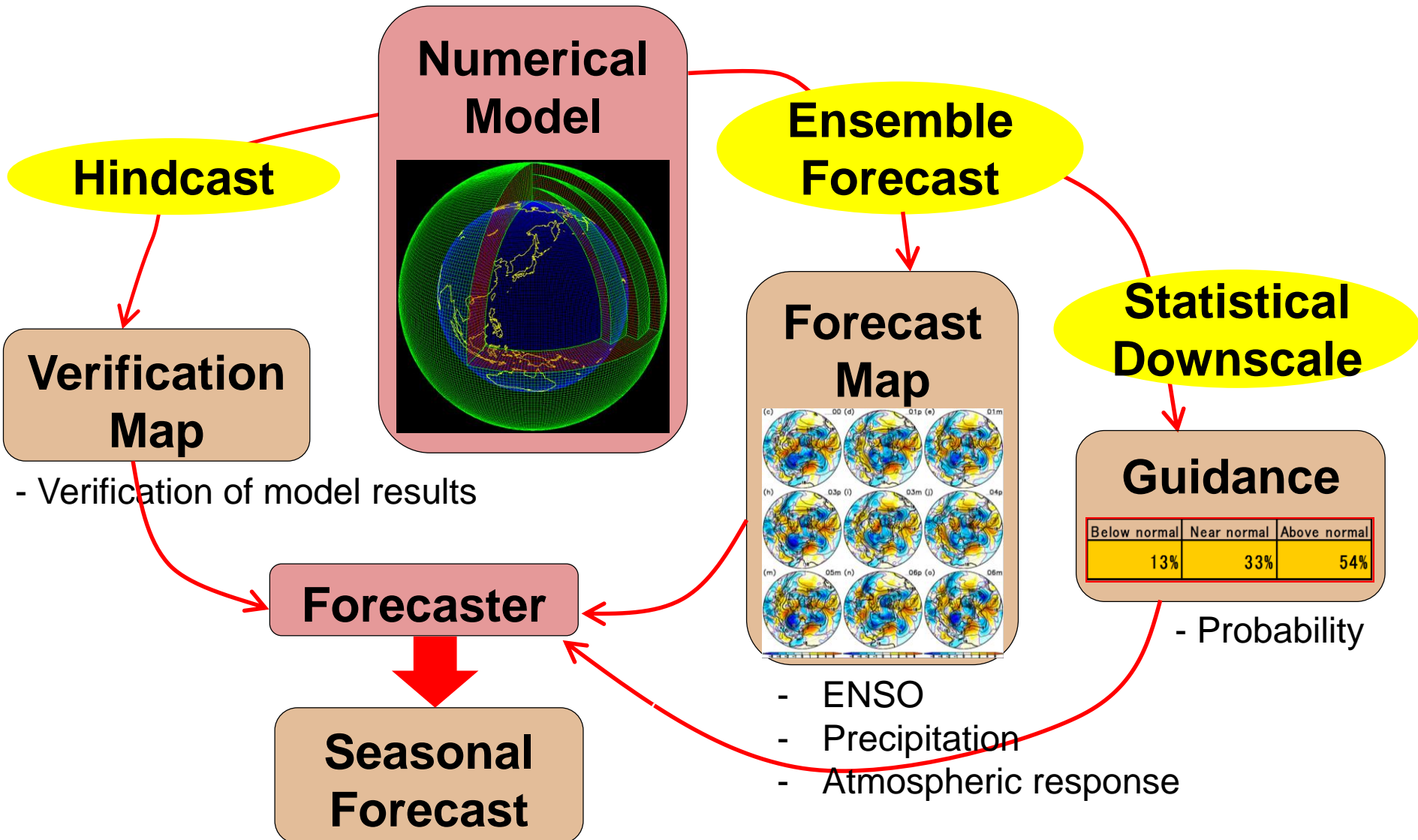
Procedure of Seasonal Forecast (1)

1. Understand the current status of ocean and atmosphere

2. Check the numerical model results   **Exercise on Thursday**

   – SST in the tropics (ENSO, Indian Ocean,…)

   – Convective activity (Precipitation)

   – Atmospheric circulation (response to the convection)

3. Check the prediction skill of the numerical model

   – Which model results should be taken to the forecast?

These will be introduced during the seminar…

Products for seasonal forecast provided at TCC-HP

Forecast Map

Hindcast Verification Charts

Monthly Discussion

El Nino Outlook

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Procedure of Seasonal Forecast (2)

4. Check the **guidance** to estimate probability

5. Decide forecast | **Goal of this seminar** |

  – Modify the guidance based on the prediction skill of the model results and the guidance

| **Exercise on Wednesday** |

Guidance is an application to translate model output values into target of forecasting with statistical relationship between forecast and observation

OUTPUT

INPUT

Numerical model

Statistical downscale

Probabilistic forecast
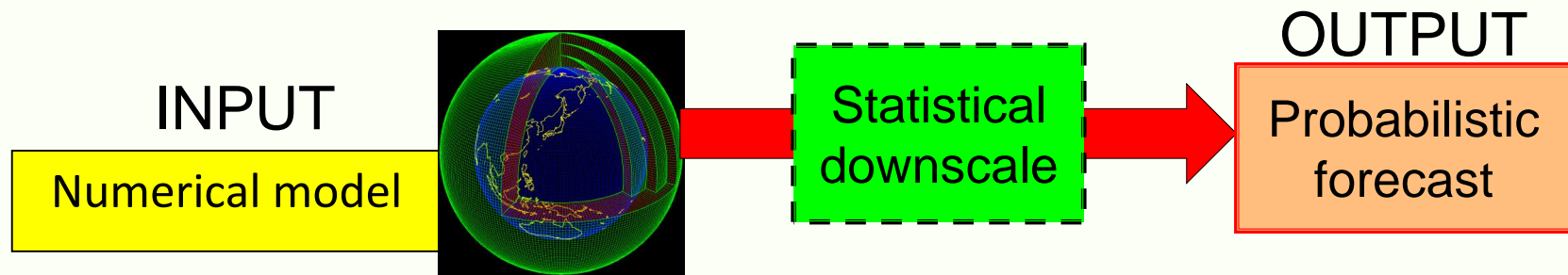
Monthly Discussion – TCC-HP Product

Material issued every month (around 25th) in order to assist NMHSs in interpreting season prediction products.

Monthly Discussion on Seasonal Climate Outlook

(25 December 2017

Tokyo Climate Center (
Japan Meteorological Agen

Latest state of the climate system

Explanatory comments on the latest model's output

\<November 2017\> Precipitation

- Precipitation amounts were above normal over Southeast Asia and the eastern part of Europe.

- Precipitation amounts were below normal over the eastern part of East Asia, Middle East, the western part of Europe, Western Africa, the southern part of North America, the northern part of Central America, and the southern part of South America.

Monthly precipitation ratio
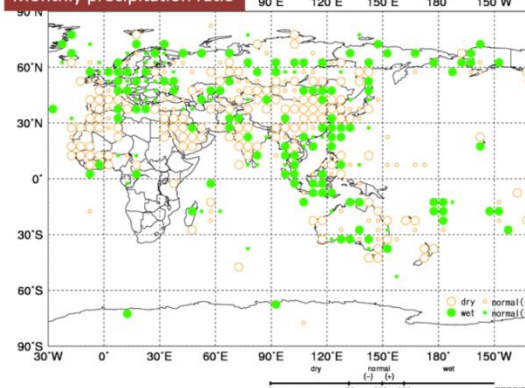
\<JFM 2018 \> Global Circulatio

- In the 200-hPa velocity potential field, negative (large-scale divergence) anomalies are predicted from the northern part of the Bay of Bengal to the seas east of Japan, and over South America, while positive (large-scale convergence) anomalies are predicted from the western equatorial Pacific to the area east of the dateline.

- In the 200-hPa stream function field, anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator from the Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent are predicted, while cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator are predicted from the seas west of the dateline to the eastern tropical Pacific.

- These patterns of circulation anomalies are consistent with common patterns observed in past La Niña events.

Three month mean
200-hPa velocity potential
Contour: 200-hPa velocity potential (10^6 m²/s)
Shading: 200-hPa velocity potential anomalies (10^6 m²/s)

Three month mean
200-hPa stream function
Contour: 200-hPa stream function (10^6 m²/s)
Shading: 200-hPa stream function anomalies (10^6 m²/s)

Verification based on hindcast

Latest one was issued on 24 Jan., so you can refer to it.

http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/monthly_discussion/latest.pdf