

# Using Neural Networks to Improve Atmospheric Model Physics

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# Outline

- **Background**
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    - **Radiation**
    - **Convection**
  - **Neural Networks**
- **NN Emulations of Existing Model Physics:**
  - **Accurate and Fast NN Emulations of LWR and SWR Parameterizations**
  - **Validation in NCEP CFS**
- **New NN Parameterizations of Model Physics:**
  - **Stochastic NN ensemble Convection Parameterization**
  - **Validation in NCAR CAM**
- **Conclusions**

The background of the slide features the NOAA logo, which is a circular emblem. It contains a stylized white bird in flight over a blue globe. The text "NOAA" is prominently displayed in the center of the emblem. Surrounding the emblem is a circular border with the text "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" at the top and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE" at the bottom.

# **GCM Background**

# Global Climate/Circulation Model (GCM)

*The set of conservation laws (mass, energy, momentum, water vapor, ozone, etc.)*

- Deterministic First Principles Models, 3-D Partial Differential Equations on the Sphere:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + D(\psi, x) = P(\psi, x)$$

- $\psi$  - a 3-D prognostic/dependent variable, e.g., temperature
  - $x$  - a 3-D independent variable:  $x, y, z$  &  $t$
  - $D$  - dynamics (spectral)
  - $P$  - physics or parameterization of physical processes (1-D vertical r.h.s. forcing)
- *Continuity Equation*
  - *Thermodynamic Equation*
  - *Momentum Equations*

# GCM (2)

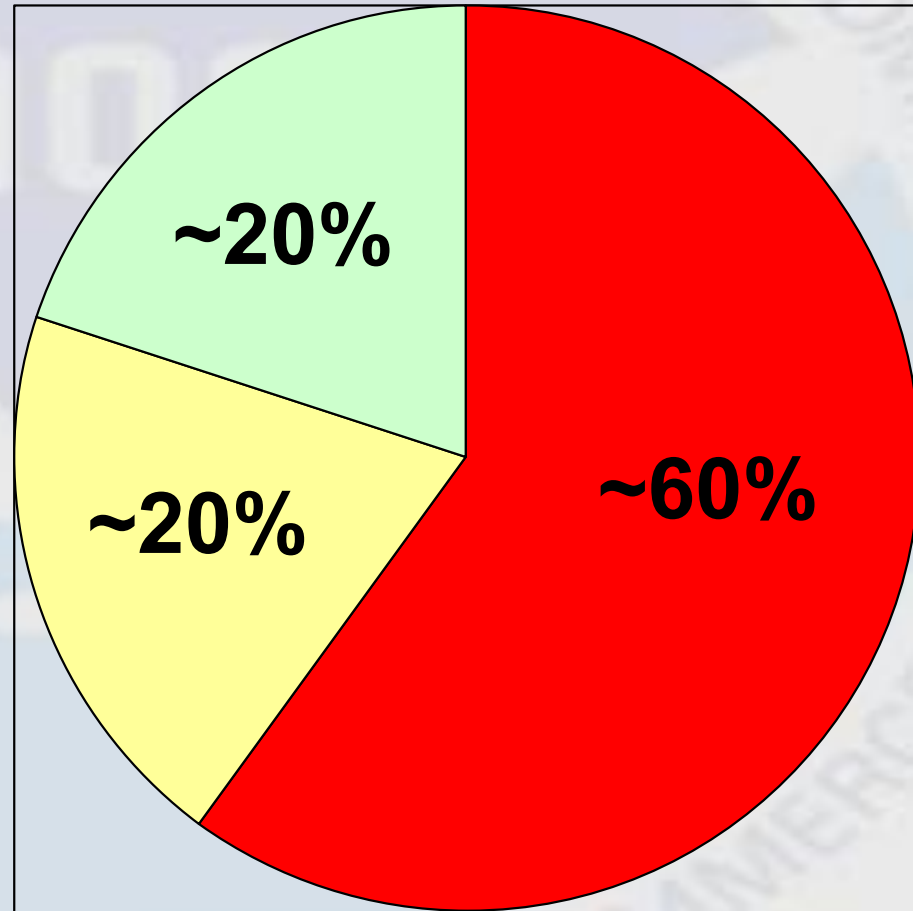
*Physics – P, currently represented by 1-D (vertical) parameterizations*

- Major components of  $P = \{R, W, C, T, S, CH\}$ :
  - $R$  - radiation (long & short wave processes): AER Inc. rrtm, ncep0, and ncep1
  - $W$  – convection, large scale precipitation processes & clouds
  - $T$  – turbulence
  - $S$  – land, ocean, ice – air interaction
  - $CH$  – chemistry (aerosols)
- Components of  $P$  are **1-D parameterization** of complicated set of multi-scale theoretical and empirical physical process models *simplified for computational reasons*
- $P$  is the **most time consuming and uncertain** part of climate/weather models!
- $W$  is one of the most uncertain parts of physics

# Distribution of NCEP CFS Calculation Time

## NCEP CFS T126L64

**Radiation is  
calculated  
every hour;  
however, the  
integration step  
is 10 min.**



**■ Radiation ■ Dynamics ■ Other**

The background of the slide features a large, faded NOAA logo. The logo is circular and contains the text "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" at the top and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE" at the bottom. In the center, the word "NOAA" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the text, there is a stylized graphic of a white bird, possibly a seagull, flying over a blue wave.

# NN Background



# Mapping and NNs

- **MAPPING** (continuous or almost continuous) is a relationship between two vectors: a vector of input parameters,  $X$ , and a vector of output parameters,  $Z$ ,

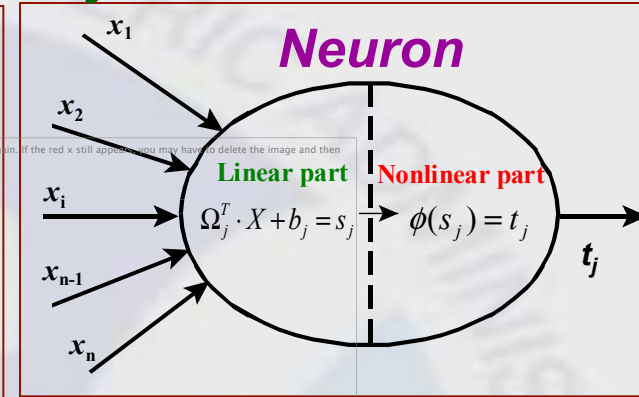
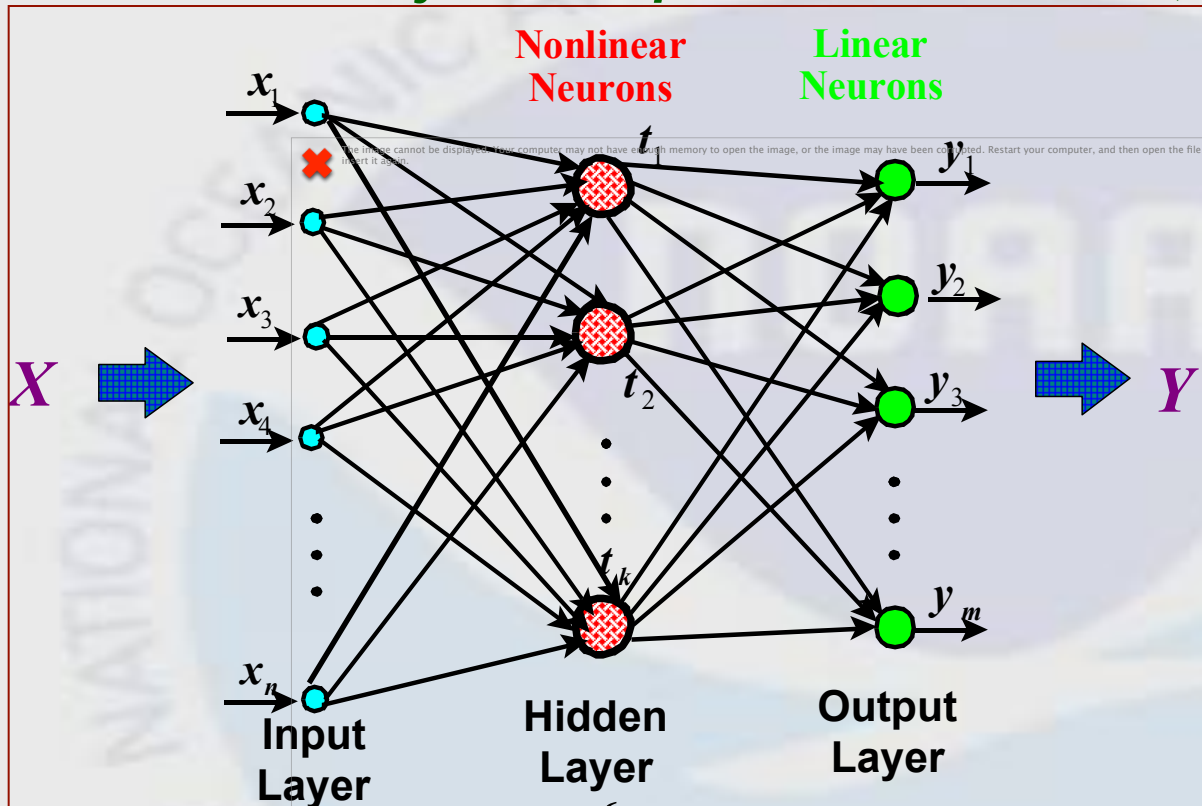
$$Z = F(X); \quad X \in \mathfrak{R}^n \text{ and } Z \in \mathfrak{R}^m$$

- NN is a **generic approximation** for **any** continuous or almost continuous mapping given by a set of its input/output records:

$$\text{SET} = \{X_i, Z_i\}_{i=1, \dots, N}$$

# NN - Continuous Input to Output Mapping

## Multilayer Perceptron: Feed Forward, Fully Connected



$$t_j = \phi\left(b_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \Omega_{ji} \cdot x_i\right) = \tanh\left(b_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \Omega_{ji} \cdot x_i\right)$$

$$Y = F_{NN}(X)$$

**Jacobian !**

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} y_q &= a_{q0} + \sum_{j=1}^k a_{qj} \cdot t_j = a_{q0} + \sum_{j=1}^k a_{qj} \cdot \phi\left(b_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \Omega_{ji} \cdot x_i\right) = \\ &= a_{q0} + \sum_{j=1}^k a_{qj} \cdot \tanh\left(b_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \Omega_{ji} \cdot x_i\right); \quad q = 1, 2, K, m \end{aligned} \right.$$

# NN as a Universal Tool for Approximation of Continuous & Almost Continuous Mappings

## Some Basic Theorems:

➤ **Any function or mapping**  $Z = F(X)$ , continuous on a compact subset, *can be approximately represented by* a  $p$  ( $p \geq 3$ ) layer **NN in the sense of uniform convergence** (e.g., Chen & Chen, 1995; Blum and Li, 1991, Hornik, 1991; Funahashi, 1989, etc.)

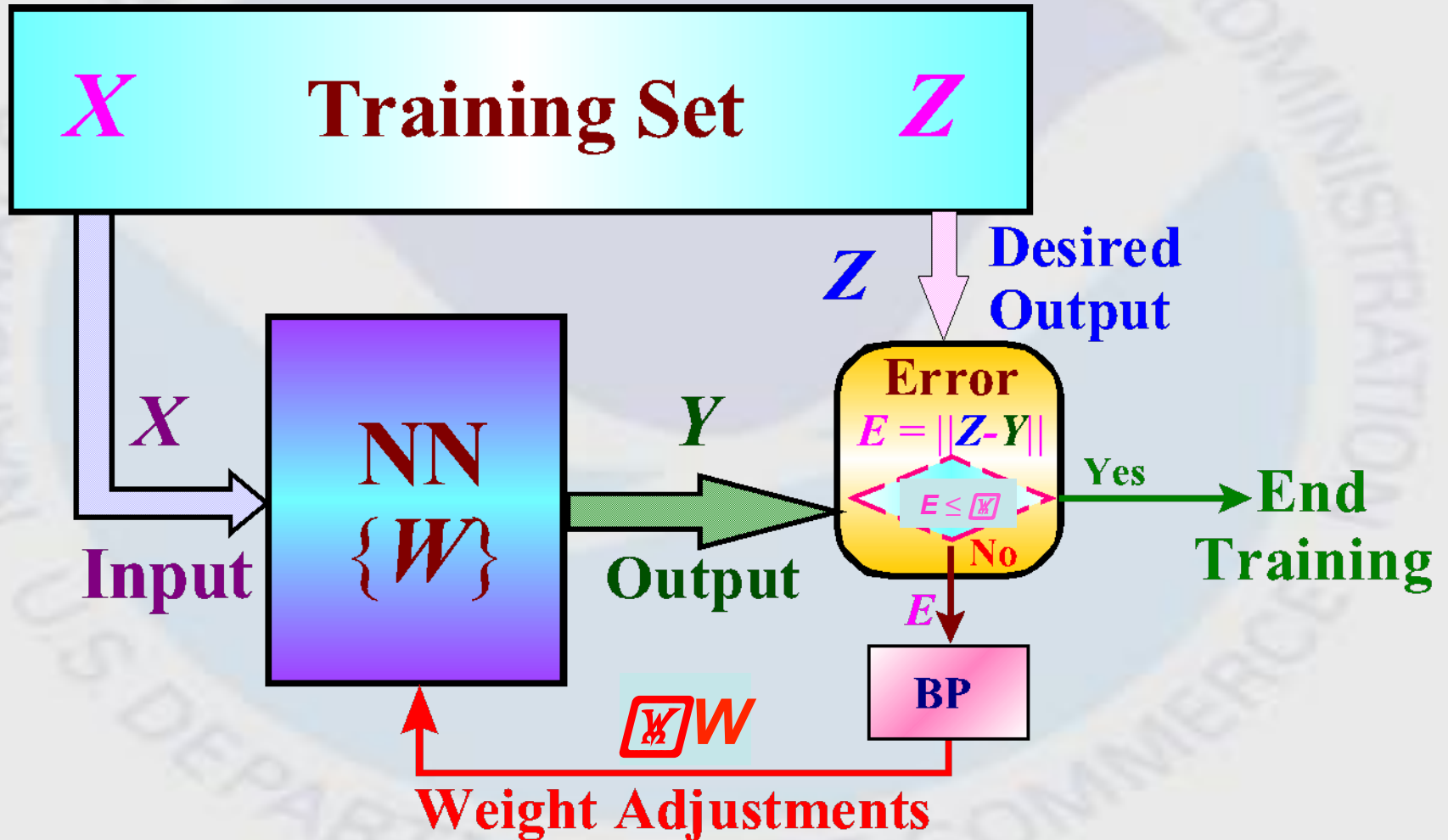
➤ The **error bounds** for the uniform approximation on compact sets (Attali & Pagès, 1997):

$$\|Z - Y\| = \|F(X) - F_{NN}(X)\| \sim O(1/k)$$

$k$  - number of neurons in the hidden layer

# NN Training

## One Training Iteration



# Major Advantages of NNs:

- NNs are *generic, very accurate and convenient* mathematical (statistical) models which are able to **emulate** complicated nonlinear input/output relationships (continuous or almost continuous mappings ).
- NNs are **robust** with respect to random noise and fault-tolerant.
- NNs are *analytically differentiable* (training, error and sensitivity analyses): **almost free Jacobian!**
- NNs emulations are **accurate and fast but NO FREE LUNCH!**
  - Training is complicated and time consuming nonlinear optimization task; however, training should be done only once for a particular application!
- NNs are **well-suited for parallel and vector processing**

# I. NN Emulations of Model Physics

- **Major Benefit :**  
Significant speeding up model integration
- **Auxiliary Benefit :**  
Improving Model Physics

# Motivation for Developing NN Emulations

- Calculation of **model radiation** is always a trade-off between the accuracy and computational efficiency:
  - NCEP and UKMO models reduce the frequency of calculations
  - ECMWF model reduces horizontal resolution of radiation calculations in climate and NWP models
  - Canadian Meteorological Service model reduces vertical resolution of radiation calculations
- All these approaches introduce **additional significant errors** in model physics

# Basis for Accurate and Fast NN Emulations of Model Physics

- Any parameterization of model physics is a continuous or almost continuous mapping

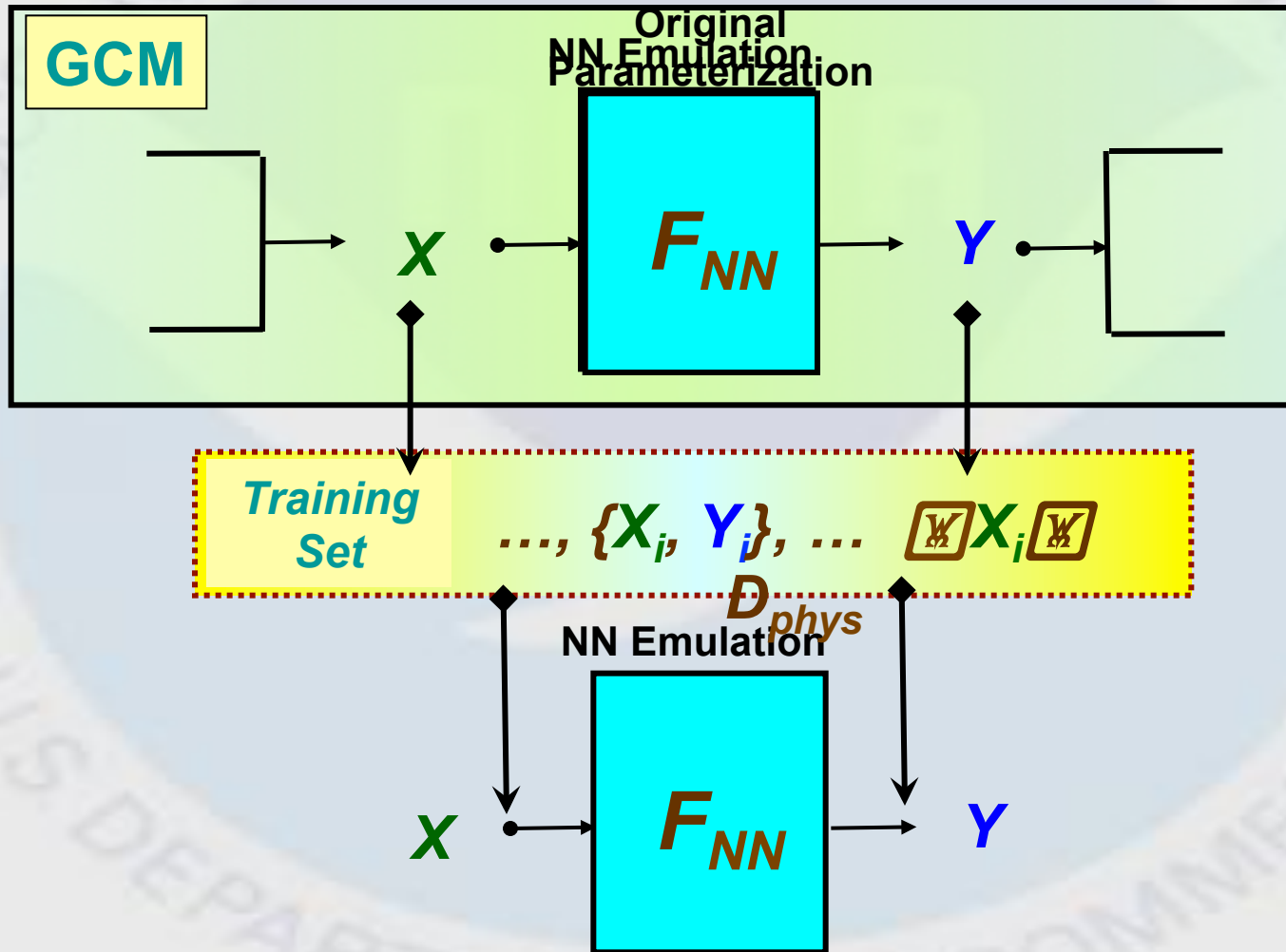
$$Z = F(X); \quad X \in \mathcal{R}^n \text{ and } Z \in \mathcal{R}^m$$

- NN is a generic tool for emulating such mappings

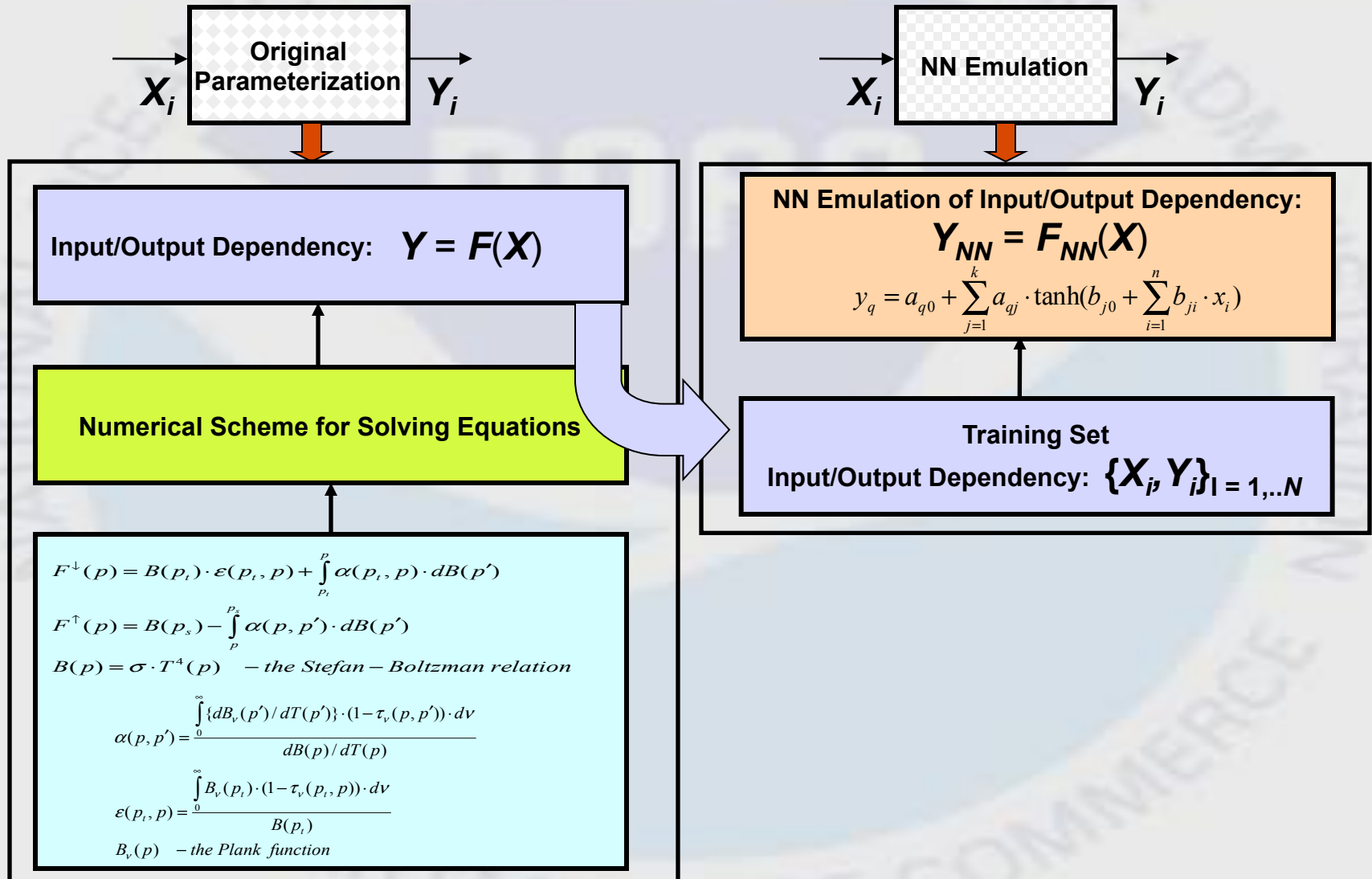


# NN Emulations of Model Physics Parameterizations

## Learning from Data



# The Magic of NN Performance



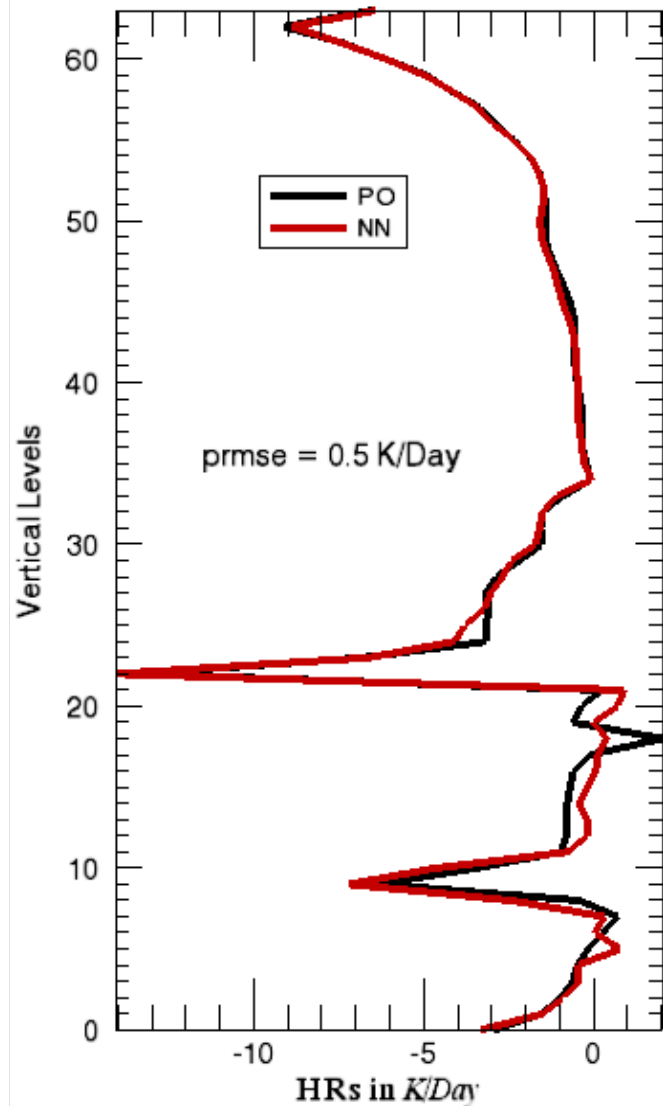
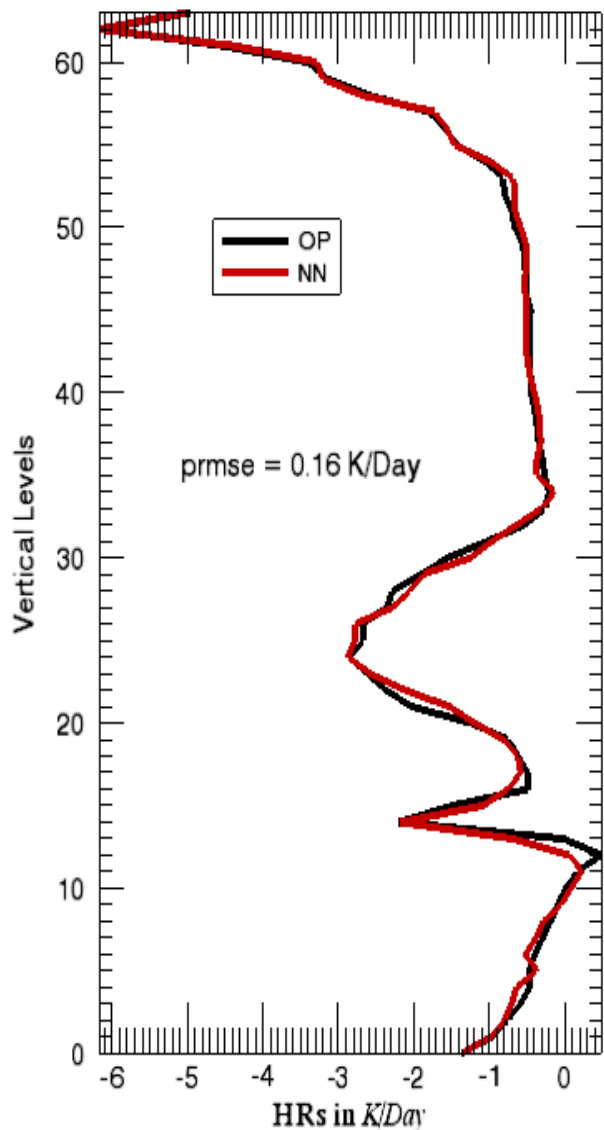
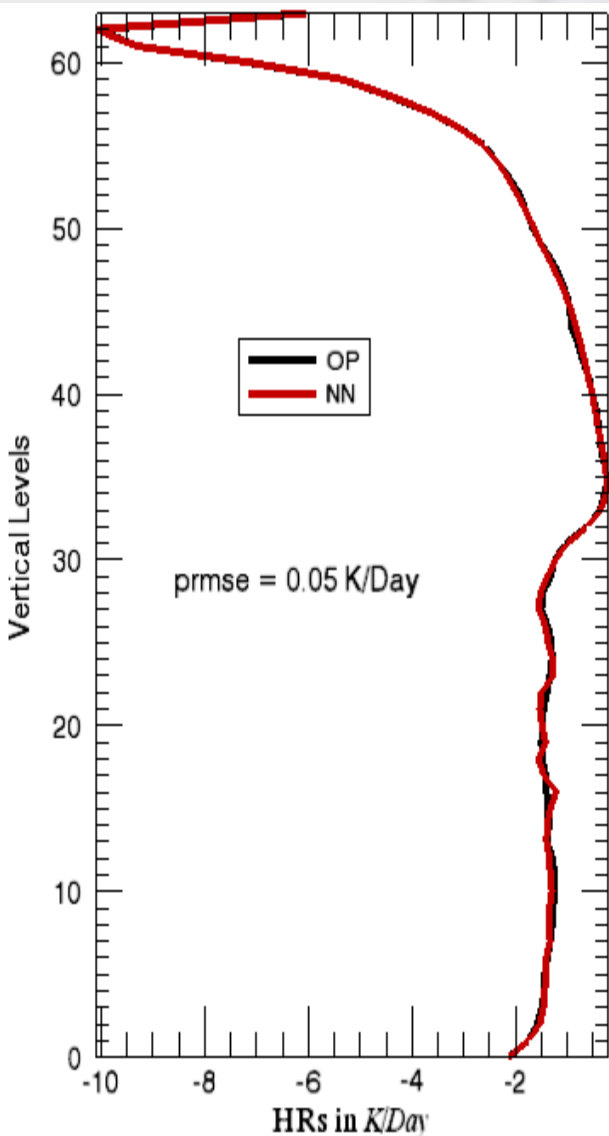
# NCEP CFS LW (SW) Radiation and NN Characteristics

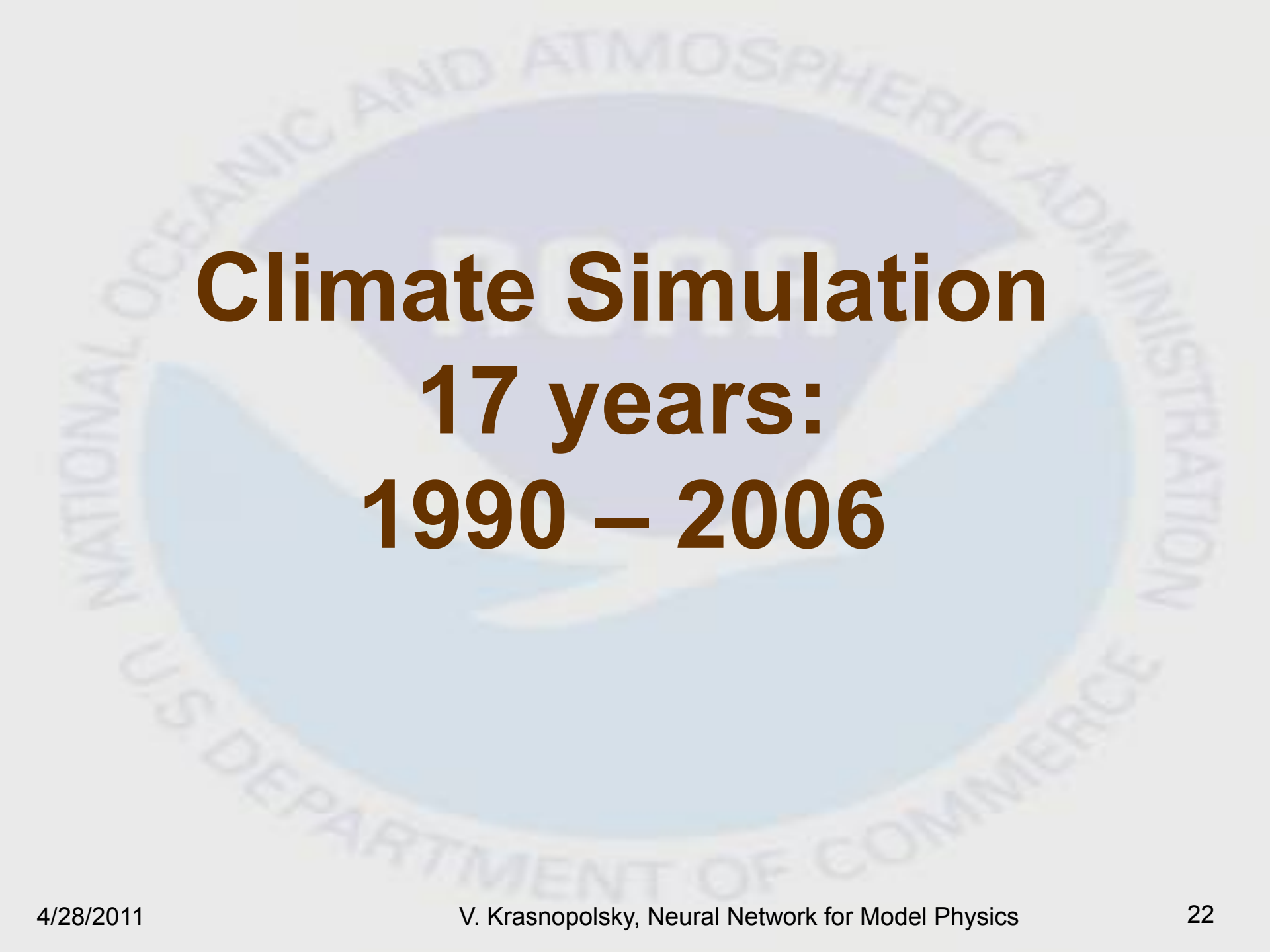
- **612 (650) Inputs:**
  - *10 Profiles:* temperature, humidity, ozone, pressure, cloudiness, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc
  - *Relevant surface and scalar characteristics*
- **69 (73) Outputs:**
  - Profile of heating rates (64)
  - 5 (9) LW (SW) radiation fluxes
- **Hidden Layer:** One layer with 50 to 300 neurons
- **Training:** *nonlinear optimization in the space with dimensionality of 15,000 to 100,000*
  - **Training Data Set:** Subset of about 200,000 instantaneous profiles simulated by CFS for 17 years
  - Training time: about 1 to several days
  - Training iterations: 1,500 to 8,000
- **Validation on Independent Data:**
  - **Validation Data Set (independent data):** about 200,000 instantaneous profiles simulated by CFS

# NN Approximation Accuracy and Performance vs. Original Parameterization (on independent data set)

Parameter	Model	Bias	RMSE	RMSE <sub>t</sub>	RMSE <sub>b</sub>	Performance
<b>LWR</b> (⌘ K/day)	NCEP CFS AER rrtm	$2. \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.40	0.09	0.64	⌘ 12 times faster
	NCAR CAM W.D. Collins	$3. \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.28	0.06	0.86	⌘ 150 times faster
<b>SWR</b> (⌘ K/day)	NCEP CFS AER rrtm	$5. \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.20	0.21	0.22	~45 times faster
	NCAR CAM W.D. Collins	$-4. \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.19	0.17	0.43	⌘ 20 times faster

# Individual Profiles (NCEP CFS)



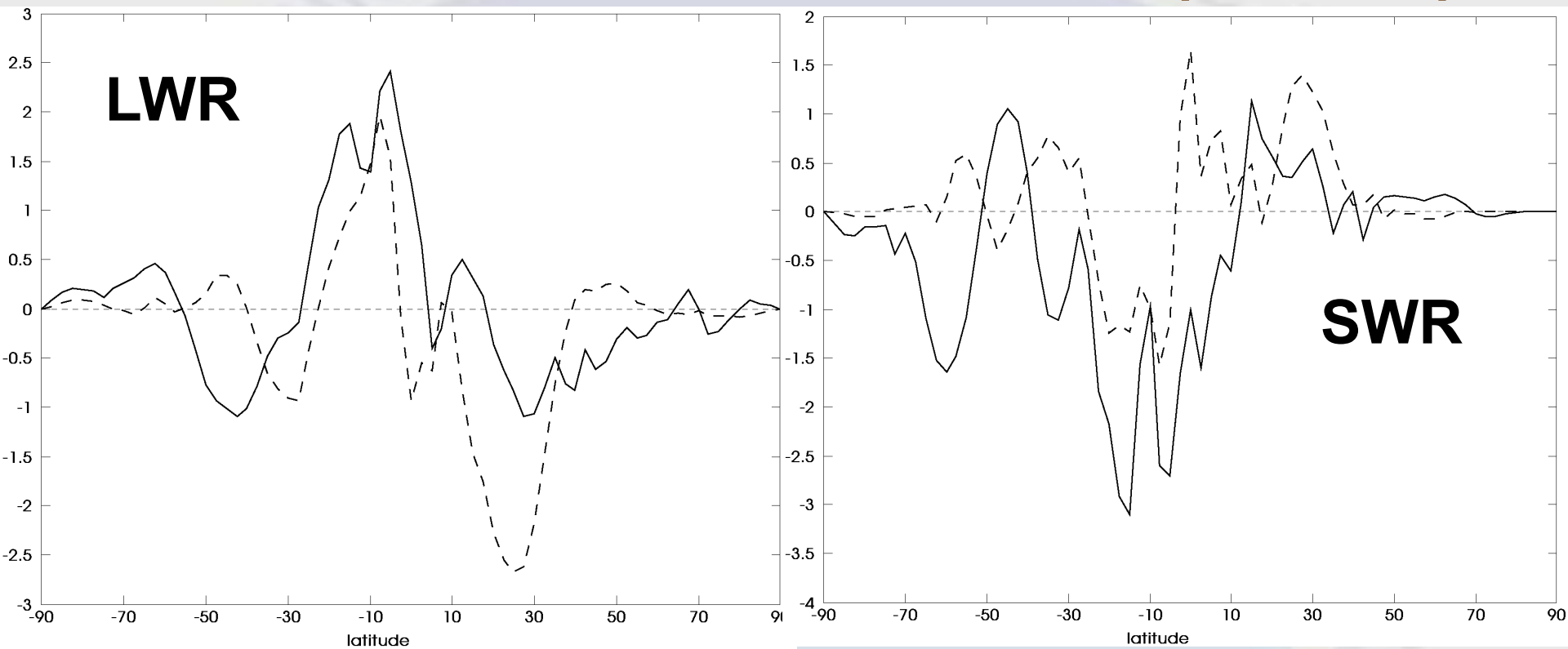


**Climate Simulation**  
**17 years:**  
**1990 – 2006**

# Validation of Full NN Radiation in CFS

- The **Control CFS run** with the original LWR and SWR parameterizations is run for 17 years (1990 – 2006).
- The **NN Full Radiation run: CFS with LWR and SWR NN emulations** is run for 17 years.
- **Another Control CFS Run** after updates of FORTRAN compiler and libraries
- Validation of the **NN Full Radiation** run is done against the **Control** run. The differences/biases are less than/within observation errors and uncertainties of reanalysis
- **The differences between two controls** (“butterfly” or “round off” differences or “model internal variability”) have been also calculated and shown for comparison.

# Zonal and time mean Top of Atmosphere Upward Fluxes (Winter)



**The solid line – the difference (the full radiation NN run – the control (CTL)),  
the dash line – the background differences (the differences between two  
control runs). All in W/m<sup>2</sup>.**



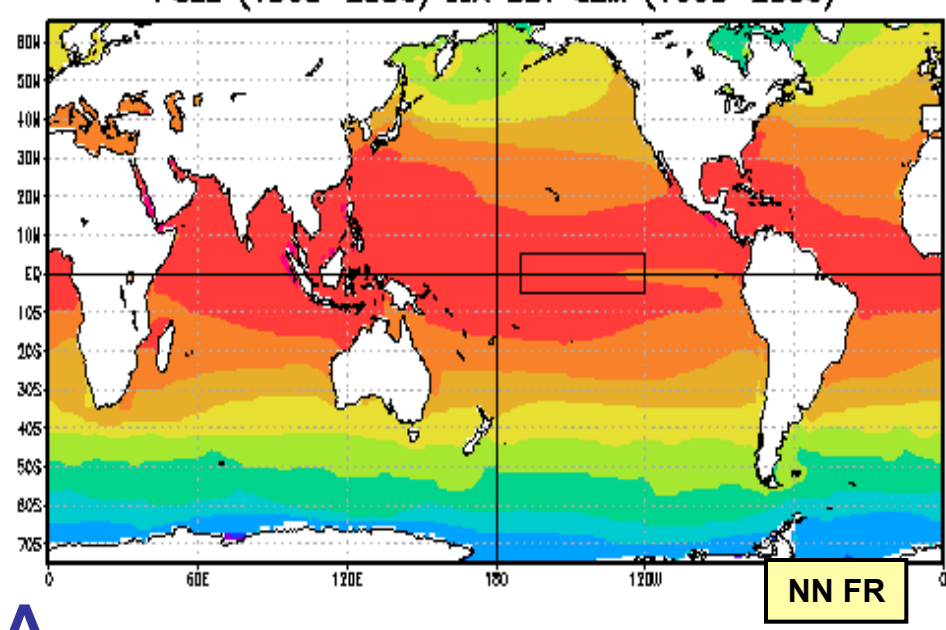
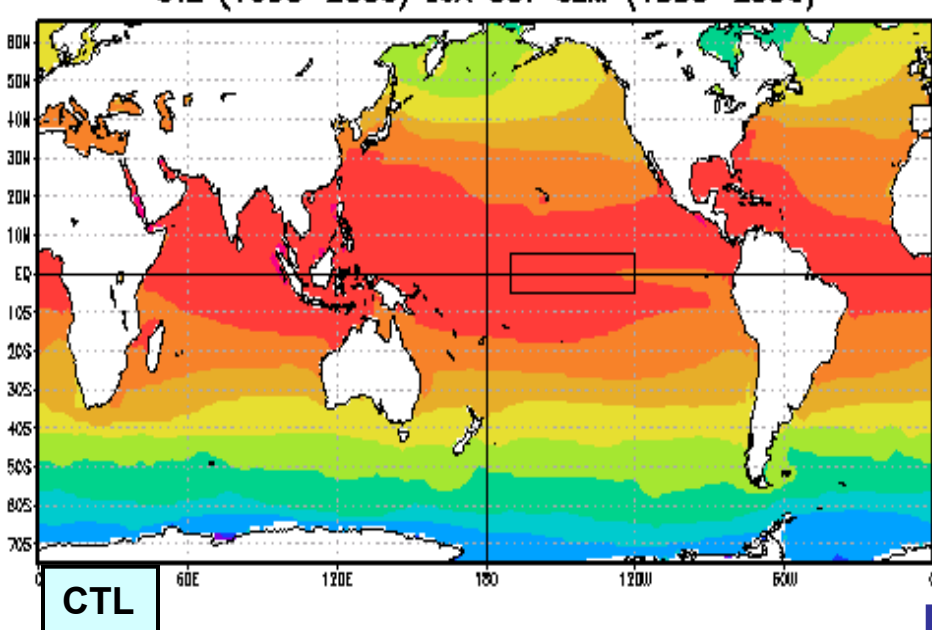
# The time mean (1990-2006) SST statistics for summer

**Fields** →

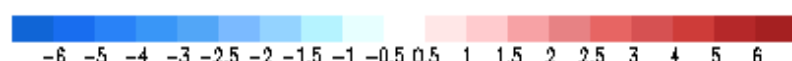
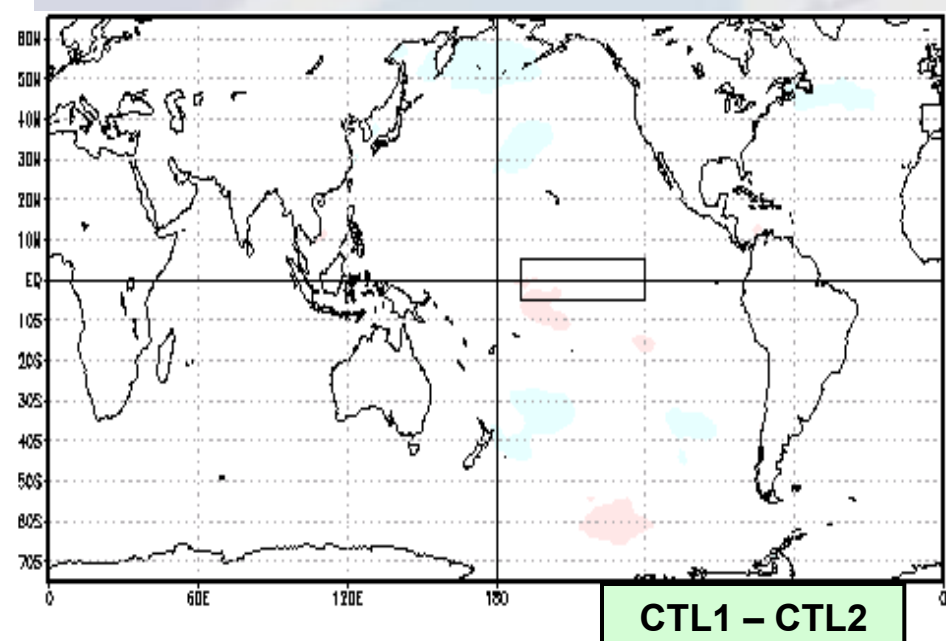
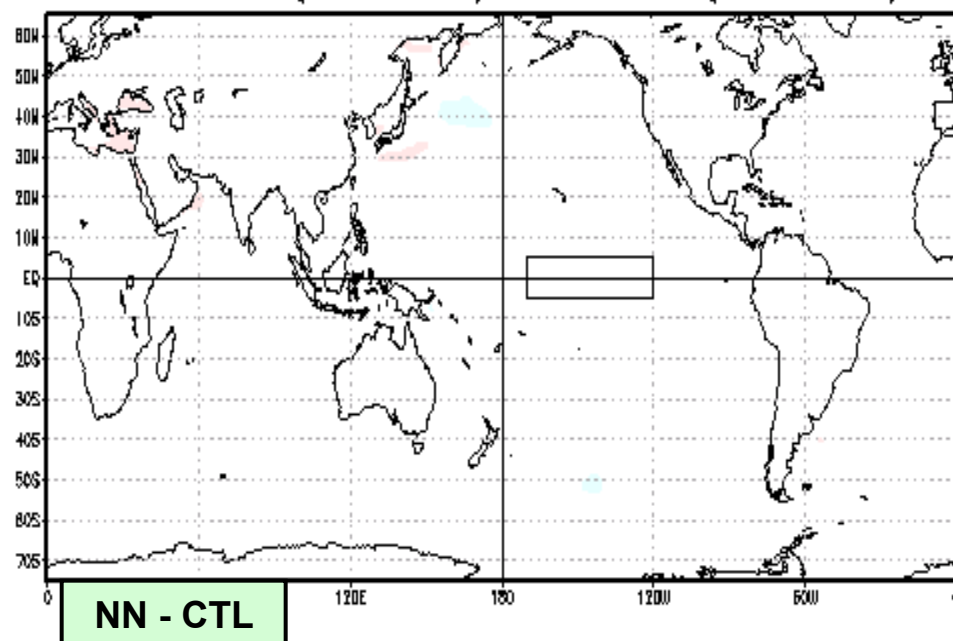
<b>Control Run</b>	<b>NN Full Radiation Run</b>
<b>NN - Control</b>	<b>Control1 - Control2</b>

**Differences** →

The contour intervals for the SST fields are  $5^{\circ}$  K and for the SST differences are  $0.5^{\circ}$  K.



**JJA**



# The time mean (1990-2006) **total precipitation rate (PRATE)** statistics for summer

**Fields**



**Control Run**

**NN Full  
Radiation  
Run**

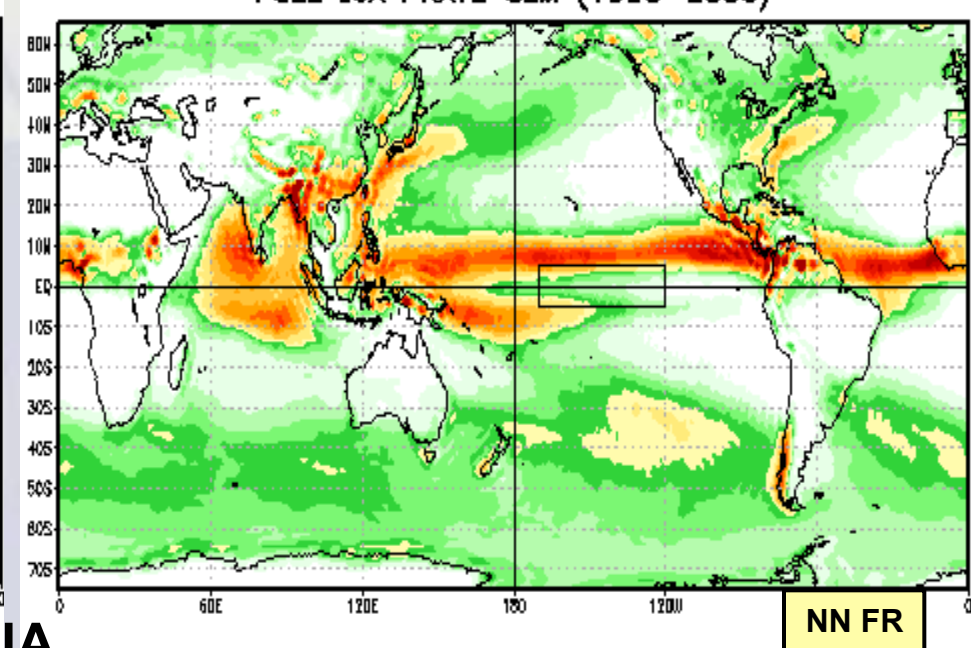
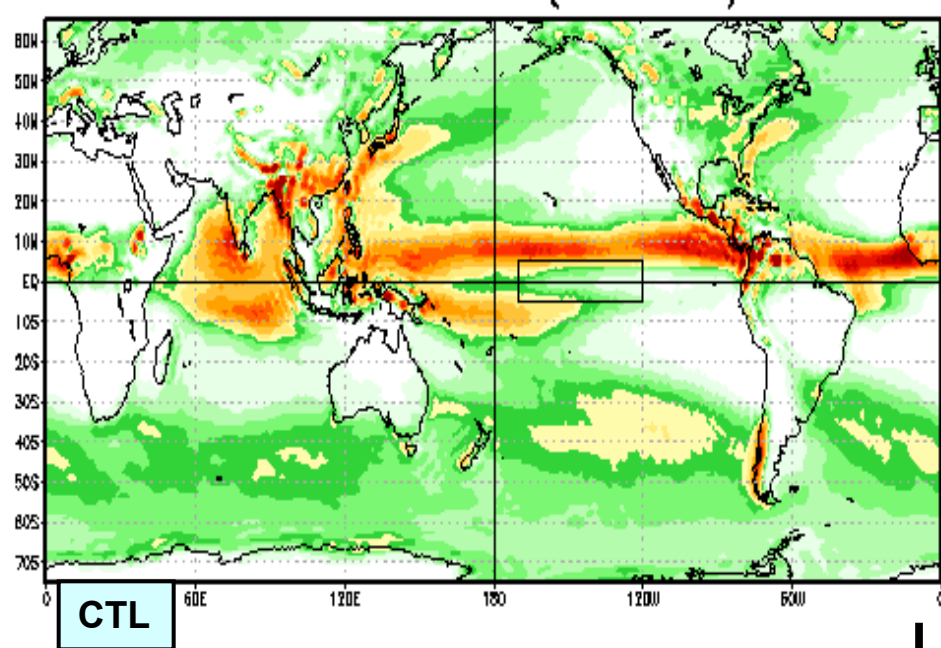
**Differences**



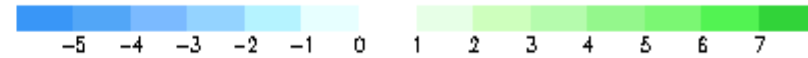
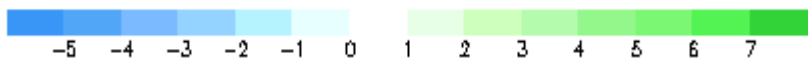
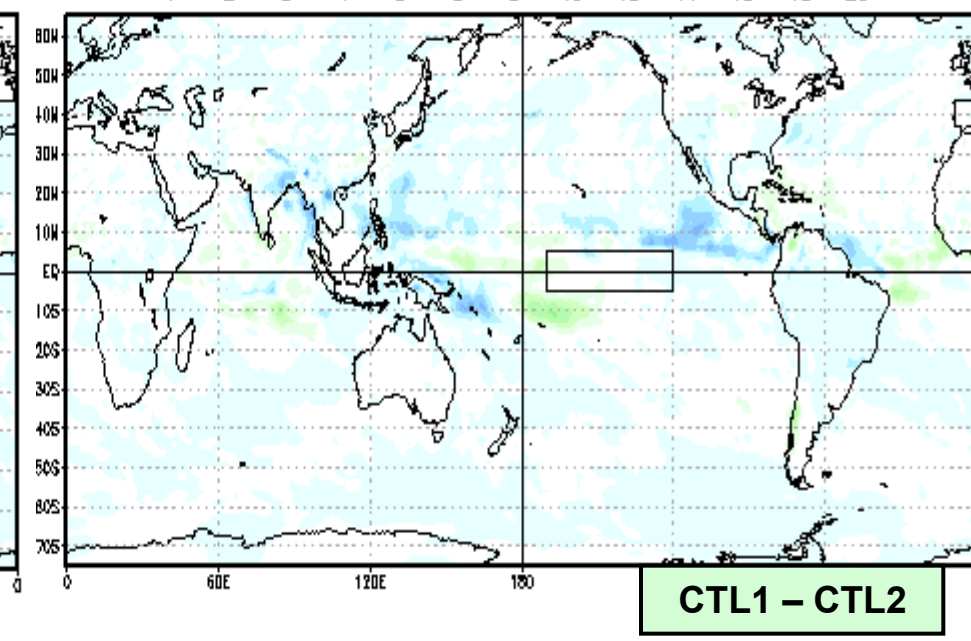
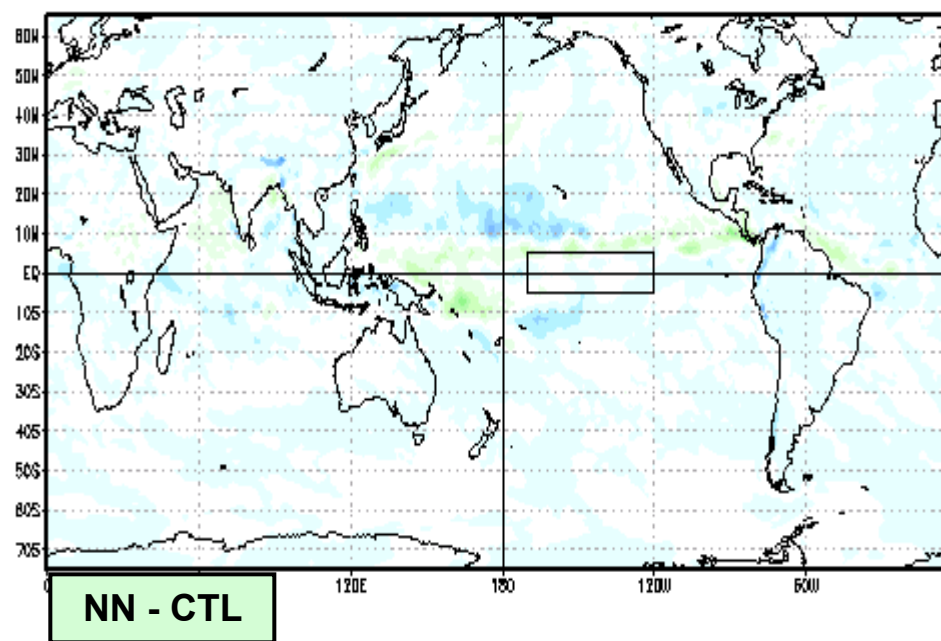
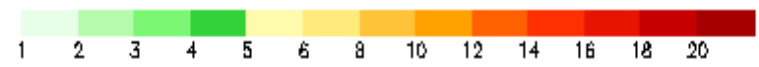
**NN - Control**

**Control1 –  
Control2**

The contour intervals for the PRATE fields are 1 mm/day for the 0 – 6 mm/day range and 2 mm/day for the 6 mm/day and higher; for the PRATE differences the contour intervals are 1 mm/day



**JJA**



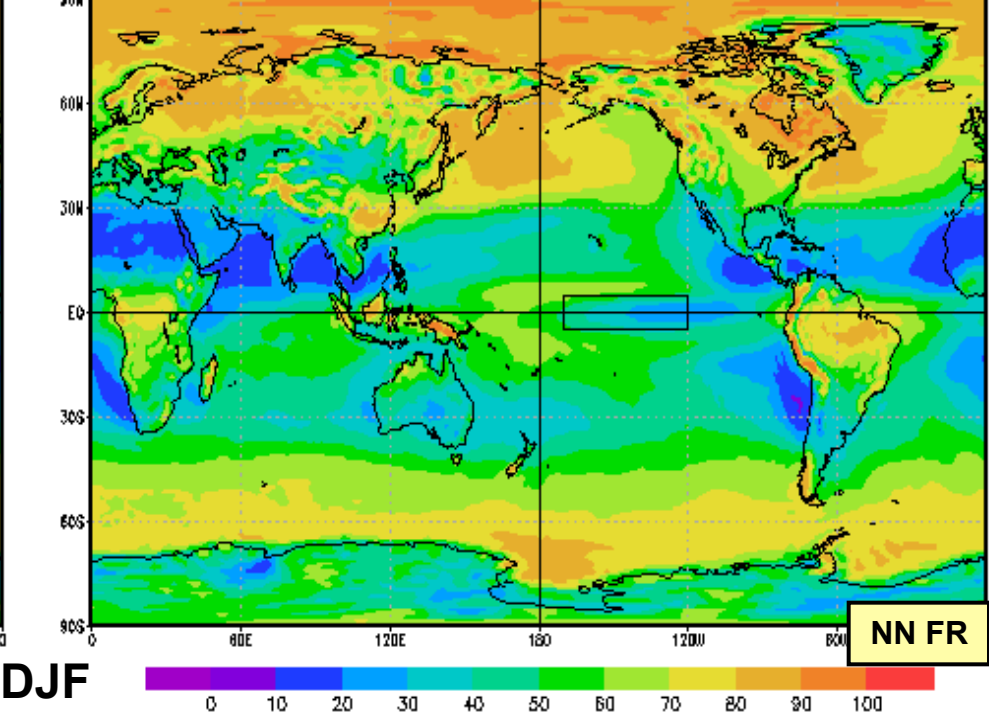
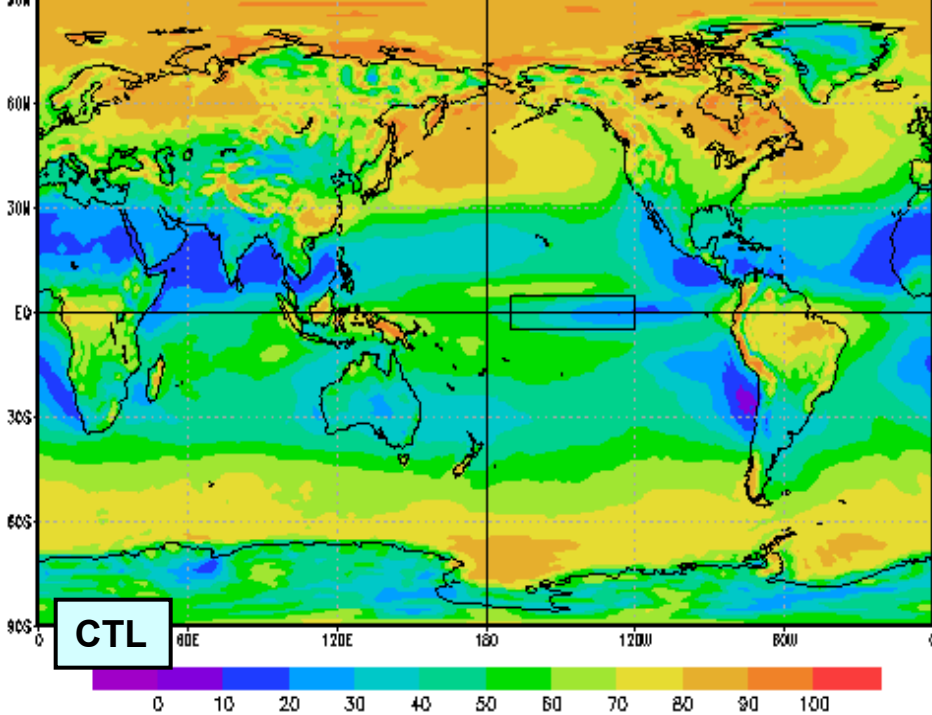
# The time mean (1990-2006) total) **total clouds** statistics for winter

**Fields** →

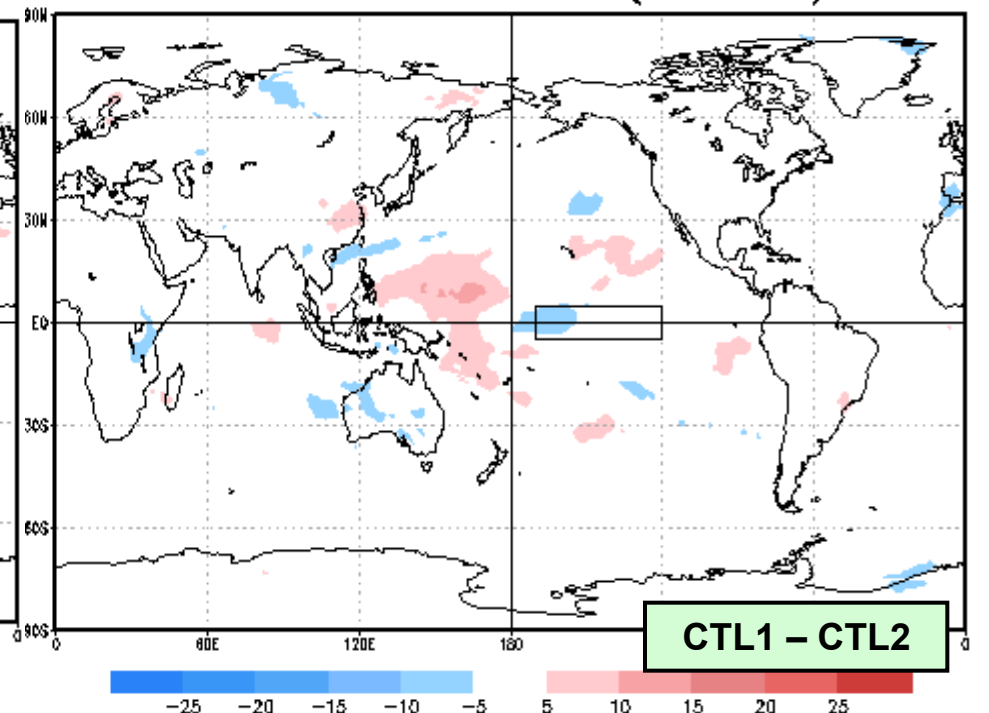
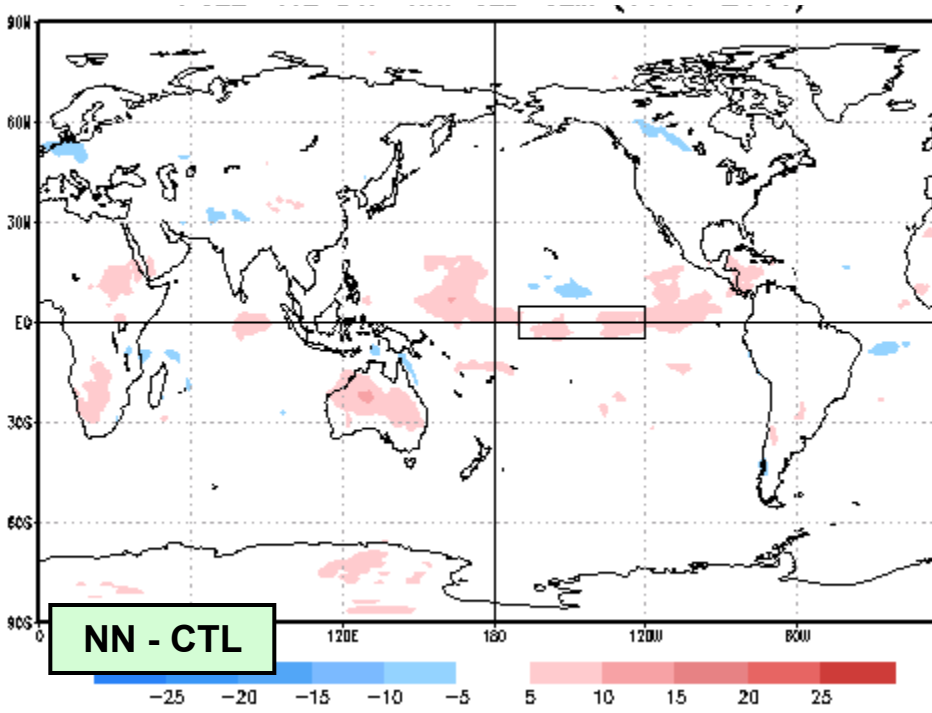
<b>Control Run</b>	<b>NN Full Radiation Run</b>
<b>NN - Control</b>	<b>Control1 – Control2</b>

**Differences** →

The contour intervals for the total clouds fields the cloud fields are 10% and for the differences – 5%.



**DJF**



# NN Emulations of Model Physics

## *Conclusions – 1*

- NN is a powerful tool for speeding up calculations of model physics through developing **NN emulations**
  - Accurate and fast NNs emulations have been successfully developed for:
    - NCEP LWR & SWR parameterizations
    - NCAR CAM LWR & SWR parameterizations
    - NASA LWR parameterization
  - The simulated diagnostic and prognostic fields are very close for the parallel climate (and seasonal prediction) runs performed with NN emulations and the original parameterizations
- NN emulations approach also can **improve model physics** allowing to use new, more advanced and complex parameterizations that are otherwise **computationally prohibitive**.

# II. New NN Based Parameterizations of Model Physics

- **Major Benefit** : Improving Model Physics
- **Auxiliary Benefit**: Significant speeding up model integration



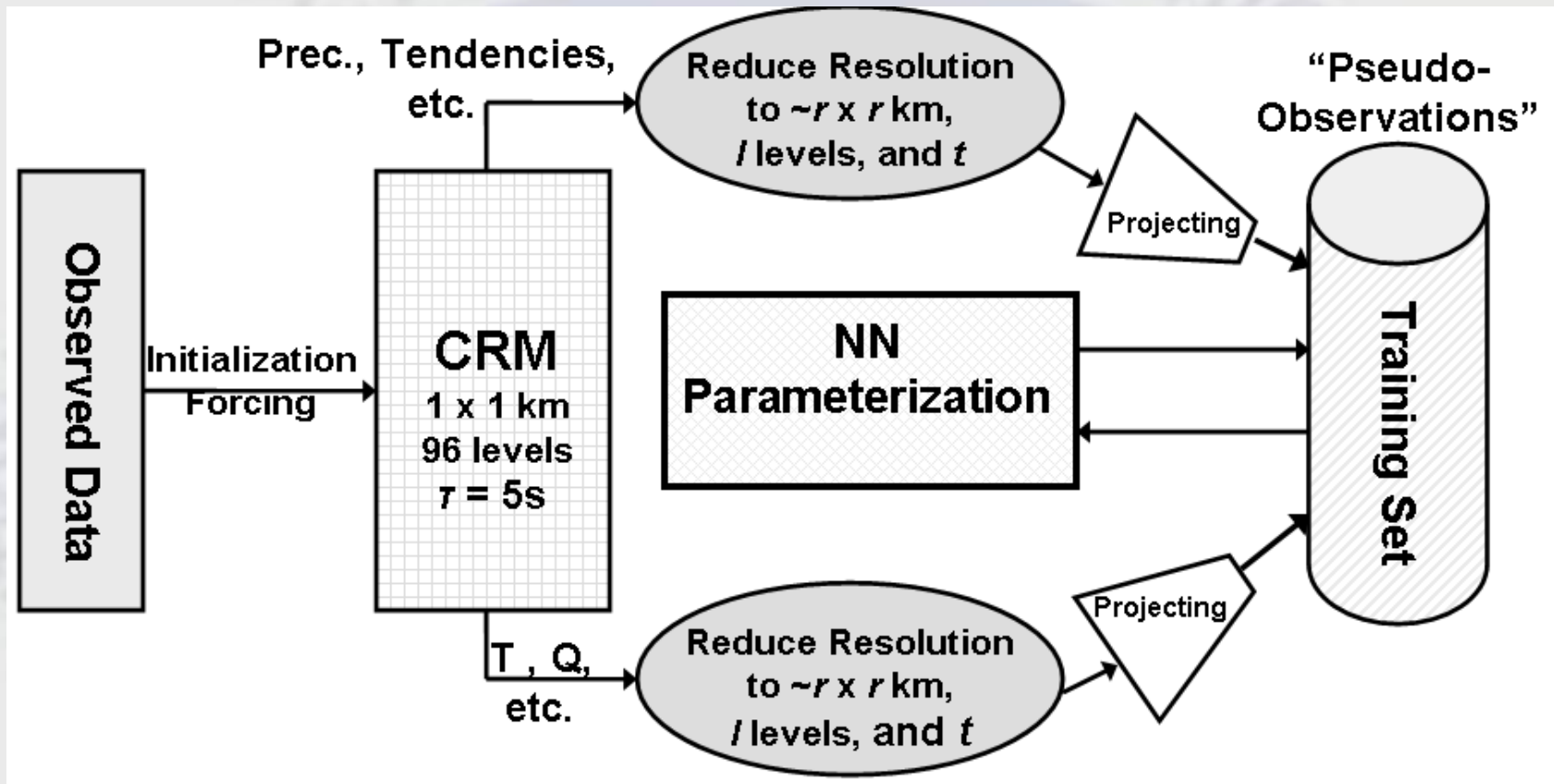
# Motivations for Using NNs

- **Uncertainty in convection, large scale precipitation processes & clouds is high:**
  - Existing parameterization are simplified
  - Vast range of time and space scales involved
- **Alternative approaches are prohibitively time consuming:**
  - Global Cloud System Resolving Models (GCSRMs or GCRM):  $10^5 - 10^7$  more expensive than regular parameterizations
  - Multiscale Modeling Framework (MMF) or “Super-parameterization” – 2D CRM imbedded into GCM: still  $10^2 - 10^3$  more expensive than parameterizations

# New NN Parameterization

- **New NN parameterizations** of model physics can be developed based on:
  - Data simulated by first principles models like CRM (e. g., Khairoutdinov and Randall 2003)).
  - Observations (e.g., ARM, TOGA COARE)
- Our approach is aimed at developing ***new more sophisticated and fast model convection schemes*** based on using NNs for **direct learning cloud physics from simulated CRM** and observed data.
- NN serves as an **interface** transferring information about sub-grid scale processes from fine scale data or models (CRM) into GCM (upscaling)

# Creating Development Set for Stochastic Parameterization



- Horizontal resolution  $1 \text{ km} < r \leq R$
- Vertical resolution  $96 \text{ layers} < l \leq L$
- Averaging time –  $\tau < t \leq T$
- **Projecting** – reducing the number of variables

# Data Evolution and Emerging Uncertainties

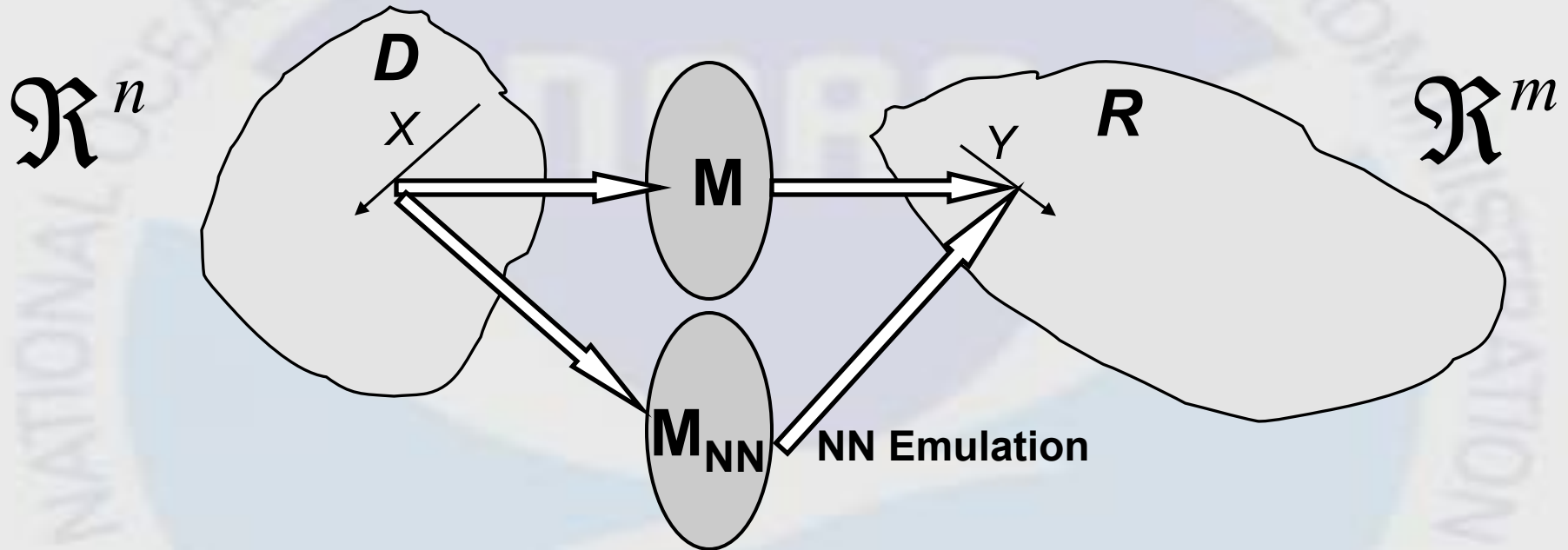
We start with:  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{M}_{\text{CRM}}(\mathbf{x})$ ,  
 $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are high resolution CRM  
simulated data (in CRM space)

We (1) reduce resolution to  $r$ ,  $l$ , and  $t$ ;  
(2) reduce the number of variables  
(project). Thus, we get “pseudo-  
observations”  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  (in GCM space)

$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{M}_{\text{GCM}}(\mathbf{X}) + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$   
 $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$  is uncertainty and  
 $\mathbf{M}_{\text{GCM}}(\mathbf{X})$  is a stochastic mapping

# Mapping & NN Emulation

Exact Mapping:  $Y = M(X)$



Mapping with uncertainty (stochastic):

$$Y = M(X) + \varepsilon$$

Requires an ensemble of emulating NNs:

$$Y = M^i_{NN}(X), i = 1, 2, \dots$$

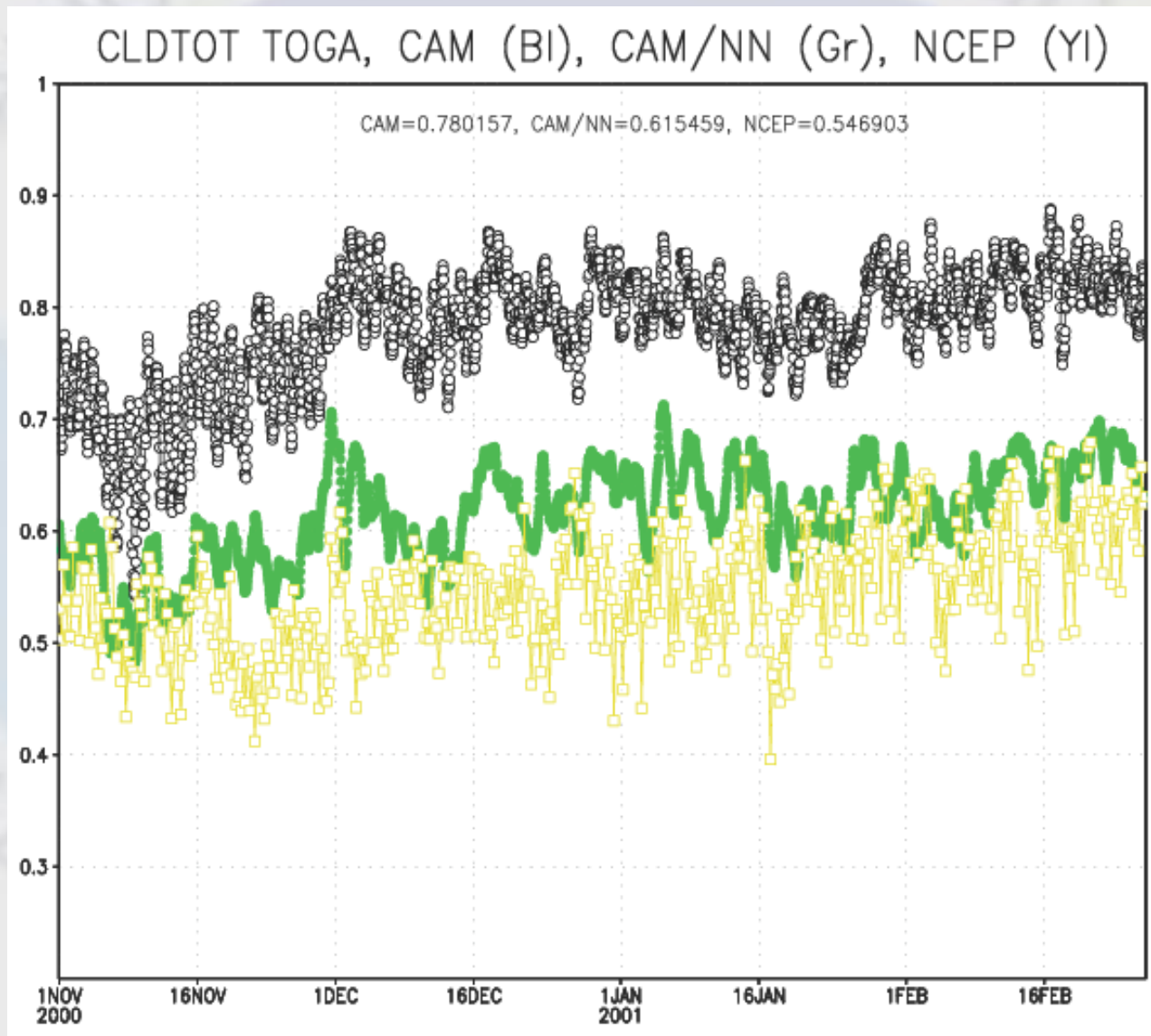
# NN Convection Parameterization

- **Data** (for CRM initialization and forcing): TOGA-COARE
- **CRM**: SAM CRM (Khairoutdinov and Randall, 2003).
  - Hourly data: over 120 days for TOGA-COARE
  - Resolution: 1 km over the domain of 256 x 256 km
  - 96 vertical layers (0 – 28 km)
- **“Pseudo-observations”**
  - **Resolution** of (averaged CRM data) over TOGA COARE location:
    - Horizontal: 256 x 256 km (close to NCAR CAM)
    - Vertical: 26 vertical layers (as in NCAR CAM)
  - a **limited training data set (120 days, over one location)** used for the initial development of NN convection
- **NN inputs**: temperature and water vapor profiles;
- **NN outputs**: the tendencies of T and q, or “apparent heat source” (Q1C), “apparent moist sink” (Q2), precipitation & cloud fractions (CLD)
- **Ensemble of NNs has been trained (10 NN members)**

# Validation of NN convection in NCAR CAM

- NN convection was introduced in CAM and run during a 10-year period (1990 – 2001, excluding TOGA COARE winter) in a diagnostic mode and analyzed for winters, NDJF:
  - Over a TOGA COARE location
  - Over the  $120^{\circ} \times 30^{\circ}$  area in the Tropical Pacific
- At each time step in at each grid point all 10 NN ensemble members were applied and averaged.
- Results are compared with a parallel CAM run and with the NCEP reanalysis

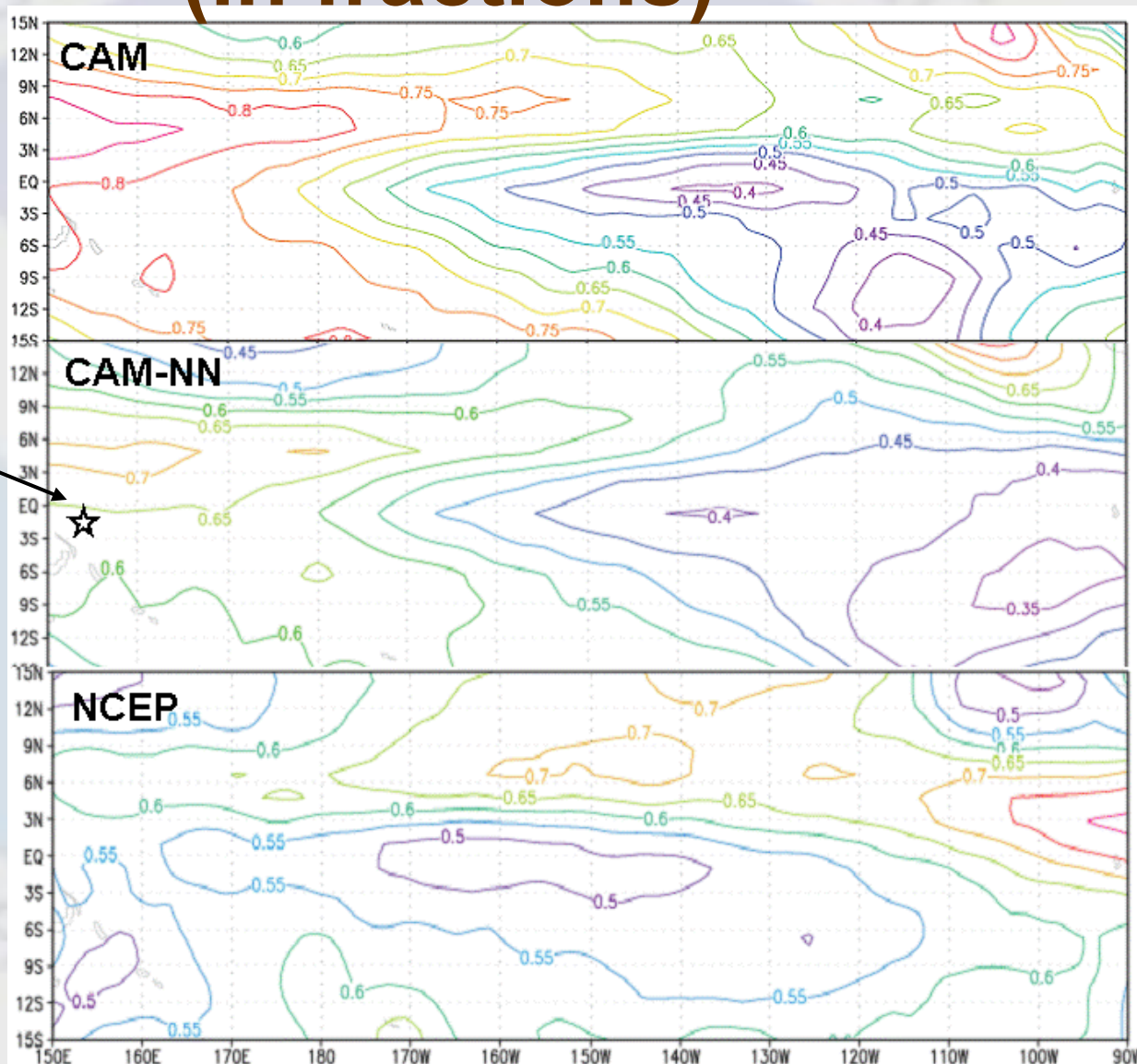
# Decadal mean total cloudiness (in fractions) for the TOGA-COARE location





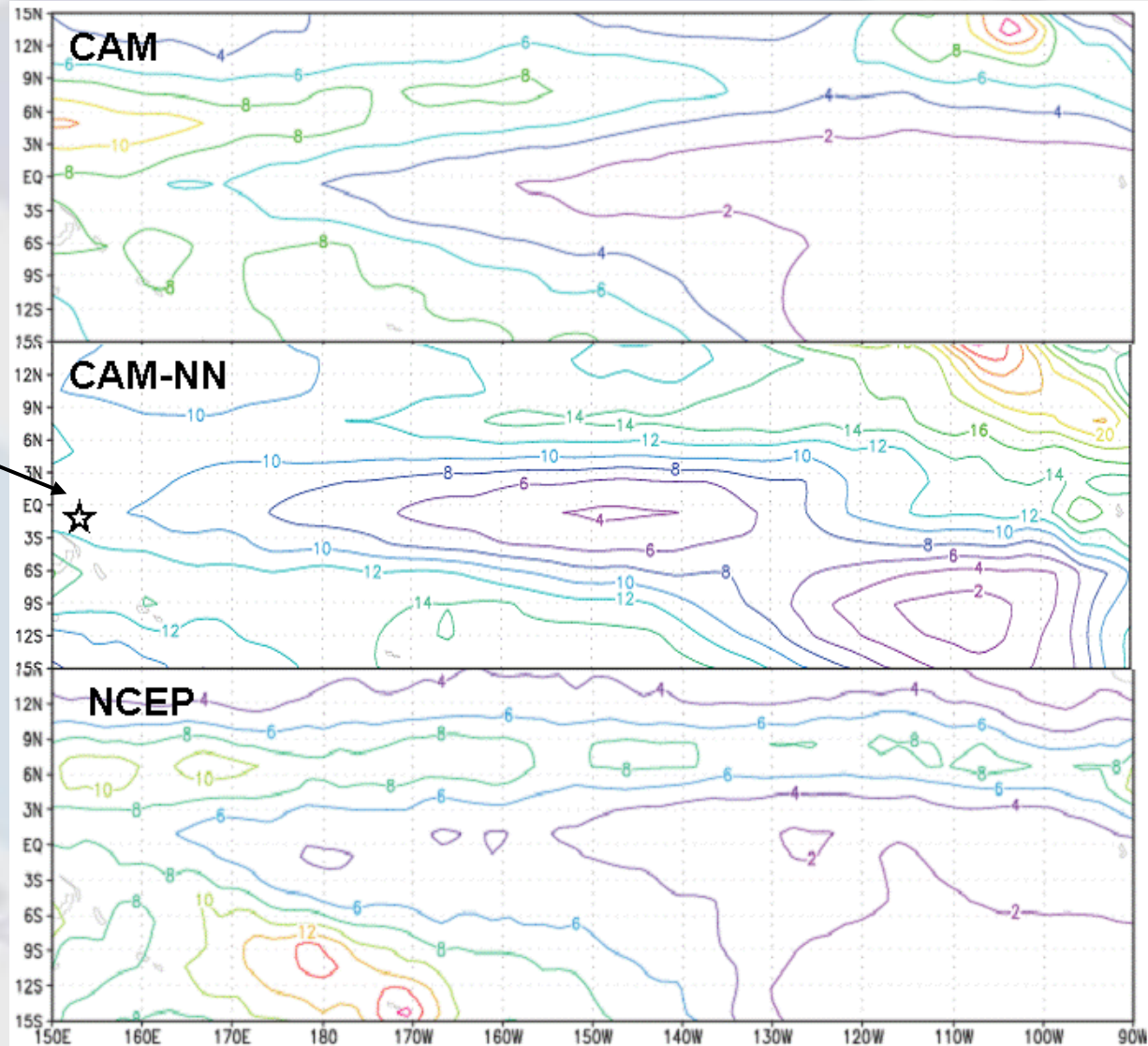
# Decadal mean cloudiness distribution (in fractions)

TOGA COARE  
location



# Decadal mean precipitation distribution (in mm/day)

TOGA COARE  
location



# Conclusions: new NN parameterizations

- Approach has been **conceptually formulated**:
  - “Pseudo-observations”
  - Stochastic parameterization/mapping
  - NN ensemble as a tool for approximating stochastic mapping
  - Correcting biases between CRM and GCM
- A prototype NN convection parameterization has been developed and tested in NCAR CAM
- Further plans:
  - Validate NN convection in the prognostic mode
  - Simulate data using CRM forced by CAM
    - Broader/global geographical representation
    - Broader/all seasons range of regimes
    - Longer period of integration
  - **GOAL**: Develop a new NN convection parameterization for global applications in GCMs.