# Towards an improved climate event attribution framework

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#### The early 2000s Eurasian Winter Cooling

Thanks to all CAS members and to T. Sheperd

## The early 2000s « Hiatus »

#### Cowtan&Way 2001-2013 linear trend



#### Observed Winter T2m trend 2001-2013



#### 0 С 5 4.5 4 Globe Eurasia 3.5 3 2.5 2 1.5 .5 0 -.5 Hiatus -1 1900 1960 2020 1920 1940 1980 2000

#### Observed T2m in winter (JFM)

### Science current status ?

- (2014): « tropical Pacific forcing of the atmosphere such as that associated with a negative phase of the PDO produces many of the pronounced atmospheric circulation anomalies observed globally during the hiatus »
- (2014): « Here we use a 100-member ensemble of simulations ... to show that as a result of sea-ice reduction in the Barents–Kara Sea, the probability of severe winters has more than doubled in central Eurasia. »
- (2015): « Our experimental results suggest that the Arctic sea ice loss does not drive systematic changes in the Northern Hemisphere large-scale circulation in the past decades.
- (2016): « In our atmospheric-only simulations, we find no evidence of Barents and Kara seas sea-ice loss having impacted Eurasian surface temperature »
- (2016): « The findings confirm that sea-ice concentrations in Autumn in the Barents and Kara seas are an important driver of winter circulation in the midlatitudes. »
- External forcing (volcanic & solar), atmospheric internal variability ...

# 2001-2013 Eurasian cooling: -2.87° C/13 years

Processes/ Causes	Thermodynamical	Dynamical
Forced	???°C	???°C
Free	???°C	???°C

Quantify the different factors with their mechanisms
 Give uncertainty estimates !

## Methods

- External forcing: use Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition (EEMD) to derive the forced response
- Dynamical adjustment: use a non-linear regression method (gradient boosting regression trees) to predict temperature from sea level pressure (20CR)
- Use leave-one-out method to derive circulation-related temperature for each month





# 2001-2013 Eurasian cooling: -2.87° C/13 years

Processes/ Causes	Thermodynamical	Dynamical
Forced	[ <mark>0.29</mark> , 0.43] °C	~ 0. ° C
Free	[-1., -0.75] °C	[-2.41; -2.3] °C

Origin of the anomalous circulation pattern ?
 Mechanisms of the thermodynamical part ?

### Siberian High: westward shift and intensification



#### The Tropical forcing hypothesis



- •Can be tested with the CESM LENS and Pacemaker (PCMK) ensembles
- Tropical forcing ~ Emean(PCMK) Emean(LENS)
  Observations and role of IPV







IPV influence: Cold(2001-2013) – Warm(1977-1998)

#### IPV influence: Cold(2001-2013) – Warm(1977-1998) Temp. (Cowtan&Way) SLP (20CR)





#### The Barents-Kara sea-ice hypothesis



- Anomalous circulation pattern related to seaice decline ?
- Contribution of Barents-Kara seas sea-ice decline to thermodynamic component ?

#### Winter coupled response to Arctic sea ice loss



#### T2m (color) heat flux (color) 925hPa wind (arrow) sea-ice (contour) **CI: 0.1** C / 13 years 0 $W.m^{-2}/13$ years -35 -30 -25 -20 -15 -10 -5 35 2 3 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 0

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### Summary

- Causes of a climate event: need to quantify contributing factors and uncertainties (as in D&A studies)
- Combine a purely data-driven approach with well-designed (multi-)model experiments
- Dynamical adjustment can be used to separate large-scale circulation effects from land/ocean surface forcing contributions
- Neither tropical forcing nor Barents-sea ice retreat seem to have significantly contributed to the anomalous Siberian High
- The early 2000s Eurasian Cooling is mostly due to a chaotic, non predictable atmospheric fluctuation

Thanks, Questions ?





## The External Forcing contribution

- > Can be estimated with models or observations
- **Observations**: use a purely data-driven and non parametric approach, the *Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition* (EEMD) technique
- EEMD decomposes any time series in a suite of amplitude-frequency modulated oscillatory components and a secular (non linear) trend
- Apply EEMD to the Cowtan&Way data set

#### EEMD decomposition of temperature





