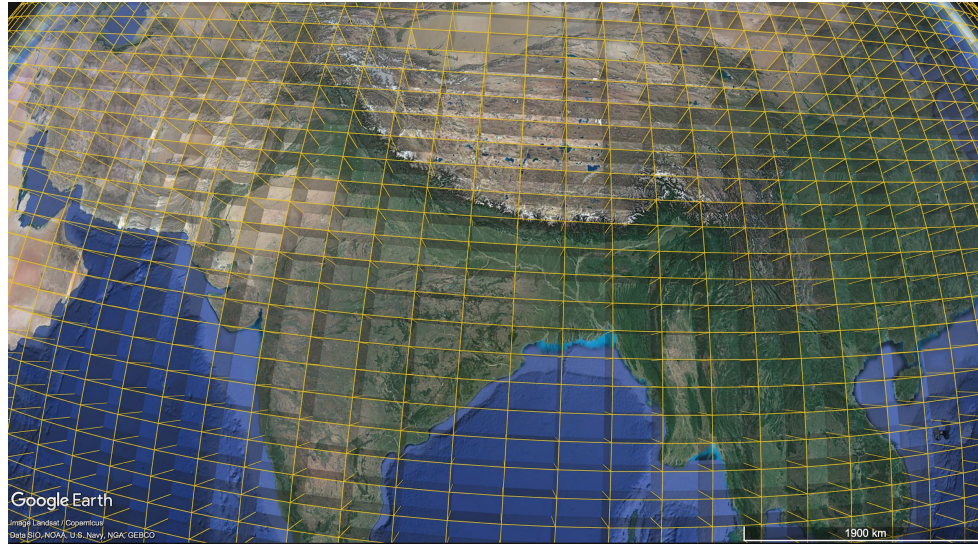


# Adaptation of a snow cover scheme for complex topography areas: regional calibration over High Mountain Asia and application in global models



Mickaël Lalande<sup>1</sup>, Martin Ménégoz<sup>1</sup>, Gerhard Krinner<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Ottlé<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, IRD, G-INP, IGE, 38000 Grenoble, France

<sup>2</sup> LSCE-IPSL (CNRS-CEA-UVSQ), Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

EGU22-615 | Presentations | CR3.1 — 24/05/2022

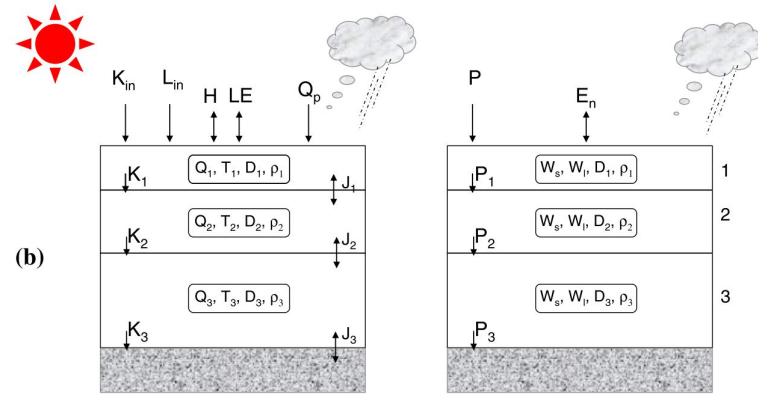
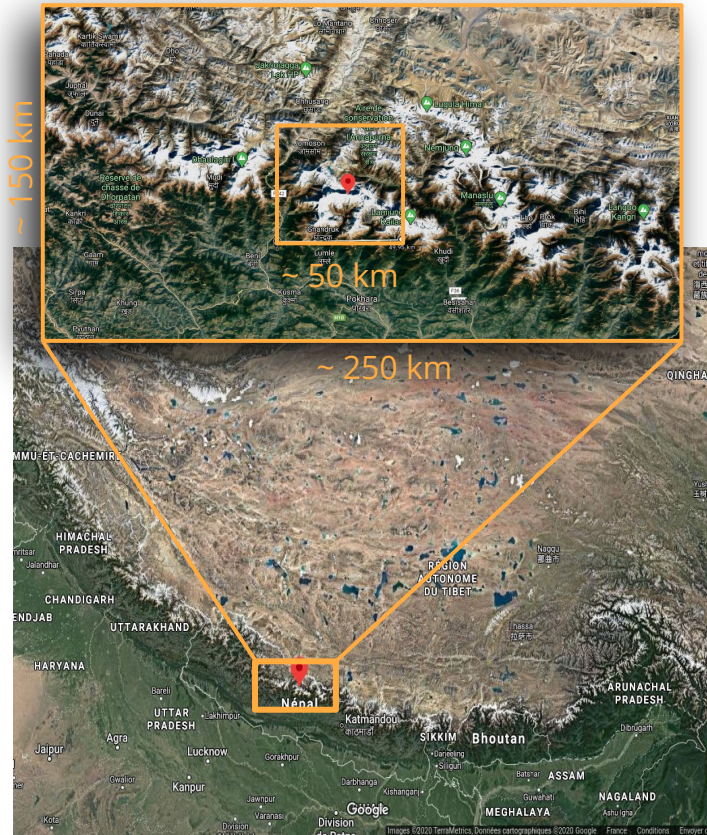


# Snow cover parameterization in global models



**How does the  
snow cover fraction (SCF)  
evolves over mountainous  
areas?**

# Snow cover parameterization in global models



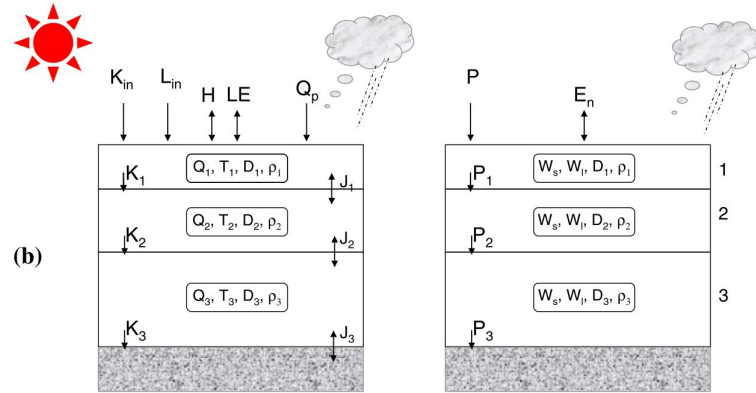
$K_{in}$  (short wave radiation),  $L_{in}$  (longwave radiation),  $H$  (sensible heat flux),  $LE$  (latent heat flux),  $J$  (conduction heat flux),  $Q$  (snow layer heat content),  $Q_p$  (advective heat from rain and snow),  $W$  (snow layer SWE),  $W_l$  (snow layer liquid water content),  $D$  (snow layer depth),  $\rho$  (snow layer density),  $P$  (precipitation),  $E_n$  (evaporation)

snow scheme in the ORCHIDEE land surface model  
(Wang et al., [2013](#))

# Snow cover parameterization in global models



IPSL-CM6A



$K_{in}$  (short wave radiation),  $L_{in}$  (longwave radiation),  $H$  (sensible heat flux),  $LE$  (latent heat flux),  $J$  (conduction heat flux),  $Q$  (snow layer heat content),  $Q_p$  (advective heat from rain and snow),  $W$  (snow layer SWE),  $W_l$  (snow layer liquid water content),  $D$  (snow layer depth),  $\rho$  (snow layer density),  $P$  (precipitation),  $E_n$  (evaporation)



snow scheme in the ORCHIDEE land surface model (Wang et al., 2013)

Snow Depth

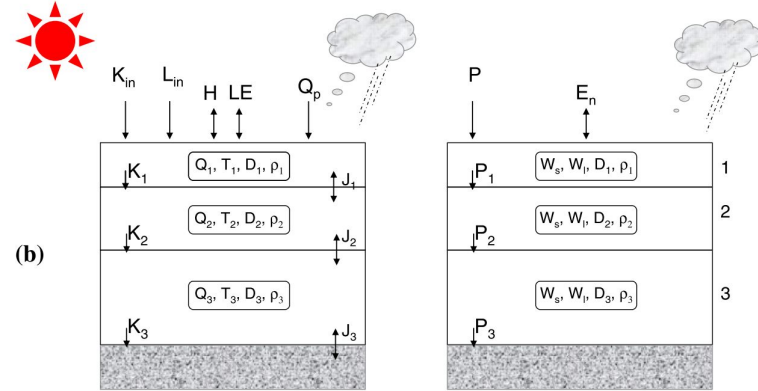
Snow Water Equivalent

Snow Density

# Snow cover parameterization in global models



IPSL-CM6A



$K_{in}$  (short wave radiation),  $L_{in}$  (longwave radiation),  $H$  (sensible heat flux),  $LE$  (latent heat flux),  $J$  (conduction heat flux),  $Q$  (snow layer heat content),  $Q_p$  (advective heat from rain and snow),  $W$  (snow layer SWE),  $W_l$  (snow layer liquid water content),  $D$  (snow layer depth),  $\rho$  (snow layer density),  $P$  (precipitation),  $E_n$  (evaporation)

snow scheme in the ORCHIDEE land surface model (Wang et al., 2013)



Snow Depth

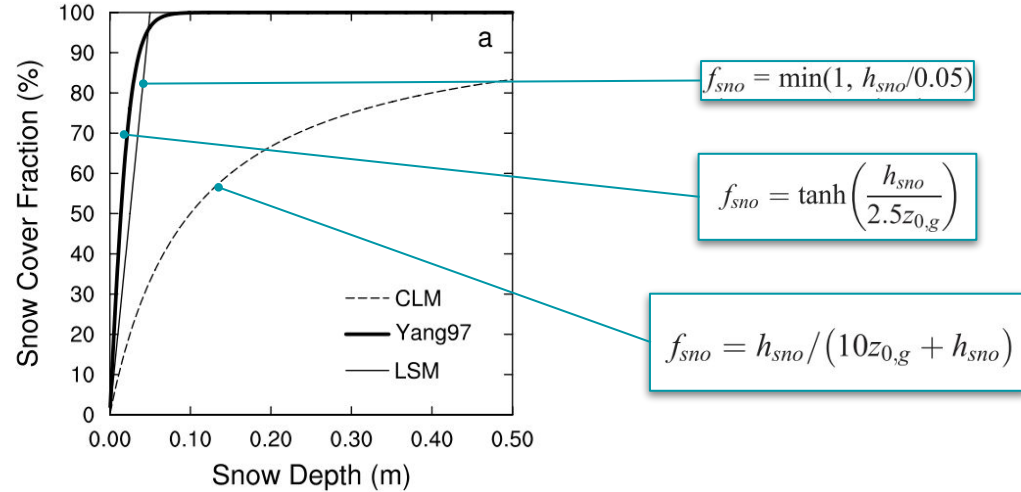
Snow Water Equivalent

Snow Density



Snow Cover Fraction

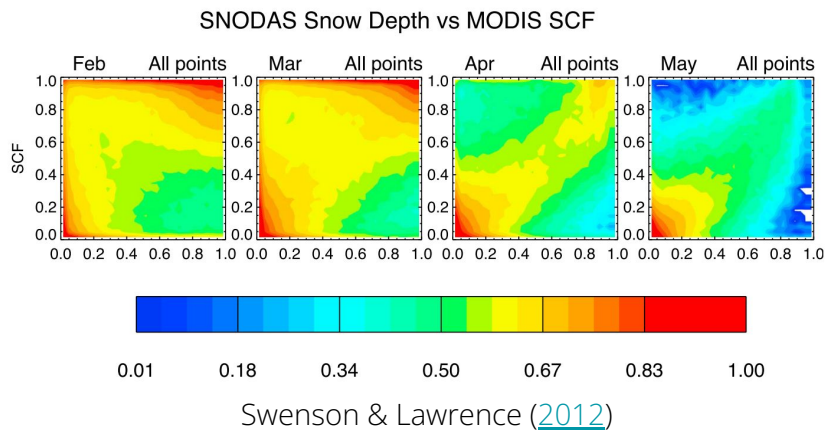
# Snow cover real world vs global models



**Figure 1.** (a) SCF (or  $f_{sno}$ ) computed from equation (2) (used in the default CLM and BATS), equation (3) of Yang *et al.* [1997], and a formulation used in the NCAR LSM1.0,  $f_{sno} = \min(1, h_{sno}/0.05)$ , where  $h_{sno}$  is snow depth (m) and (b) SCF as a function of ground surface roughness, snow depth, and snow density computed from equation (4) with new snow density  $\rho_{new} = 100 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and  $m = 1.6$ . The thick line (i.e.,  $\rho_{sno} = 100 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ) is equivalent to equation (3).

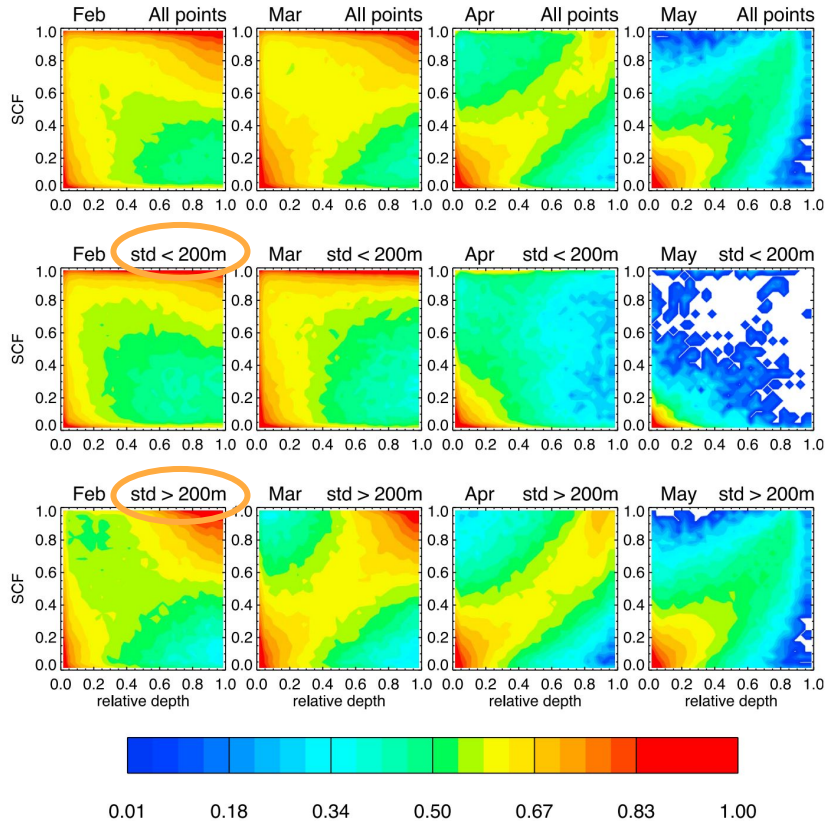
Niu and Yang (2007)

# Snow cover in mountainous area: Swenson & Lawrence (2012) - SL12



# Snow cover in mountainous area: Swenson & Lawrence (2012) - SL12

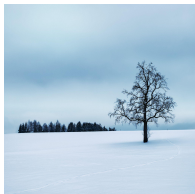
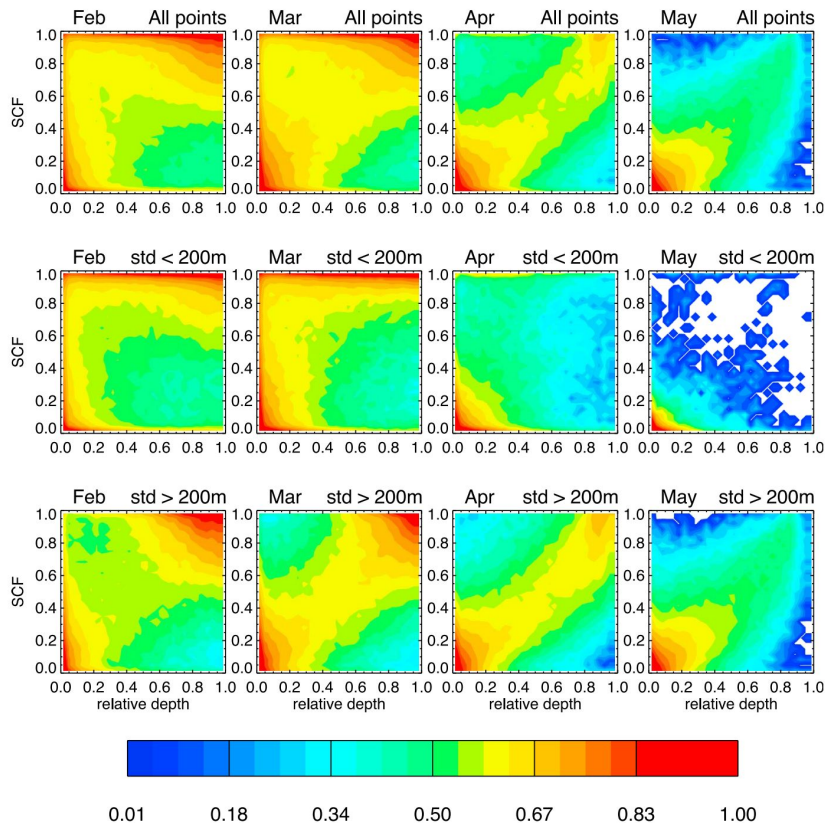
SNODAS Snow Depth vs MODIS SCF





# Snow cover in mountainous area: Swenson & Lawrence (2012) - SL12

SNODAS Snow Depth vs MODIS SCF



Standard deviation of topography ( $\sigma_{\text{topo}}$ ) in SCF parameterization first introduced by Douville et al. (1995), then Roesch et al. (2001), etc.

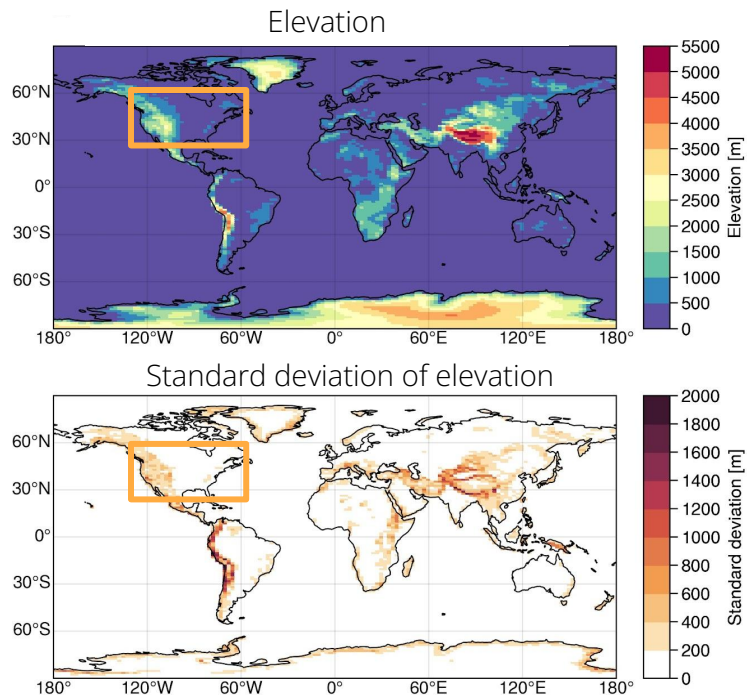
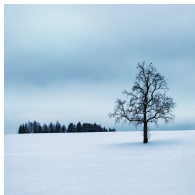
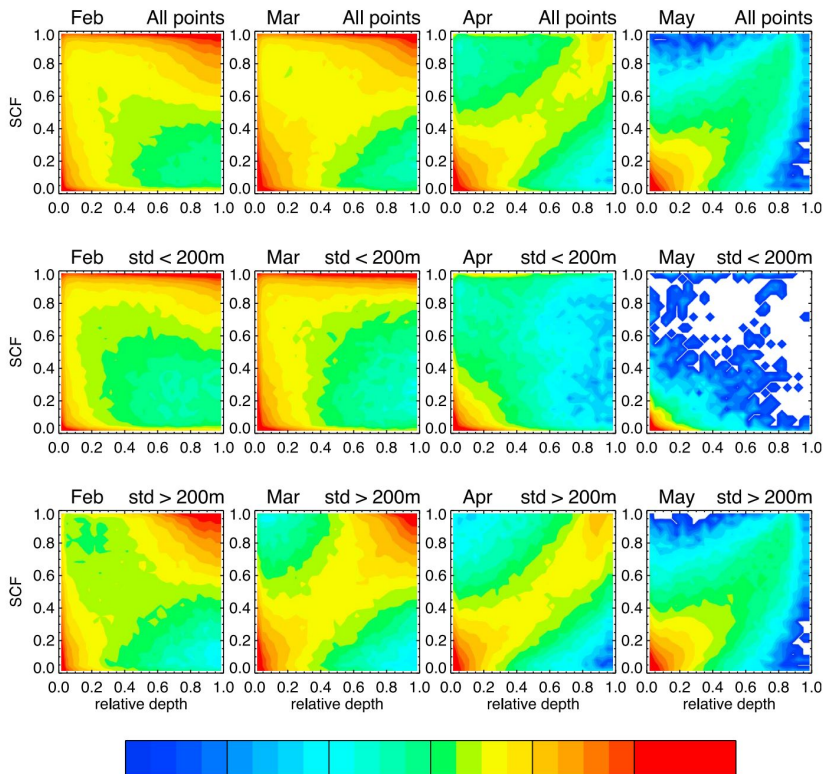
$$\text{SCF} = 1 - \left[ \frac{1}{\pi} \arccos \left( 2 \frac{\text{SWE}}{\text{SWE}_{\text{max}}} - 1 \right) \right]^{N_{\text{melt}}}$$

$$N_{\text{melt}} = \frac{200}{\max(30, \sigma_{\text{topo}})}$$

Swenson & Lawrence (2012)

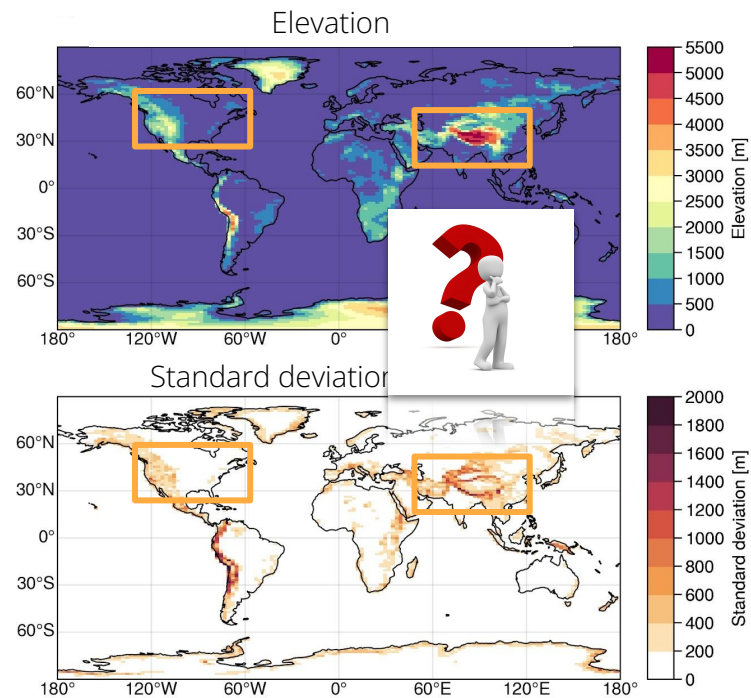
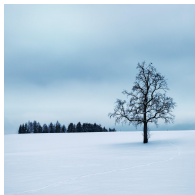
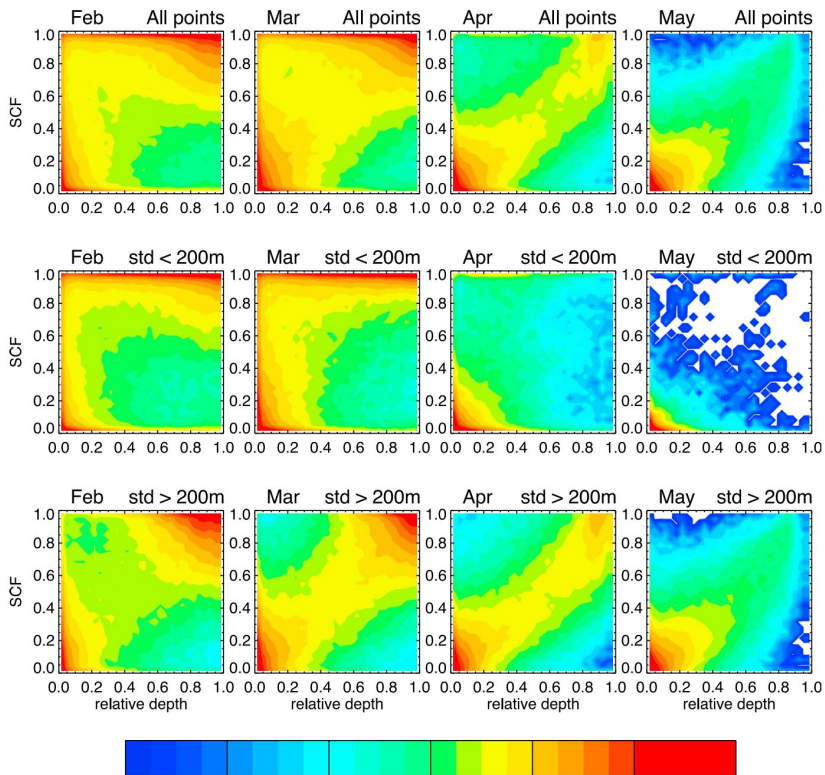
# Snow cover in mountainous area: Swenson & Lawrence (2012)

SNODAS Snow Depth vs MODIS SCF



# Snow cover in mountainous area: Swenson & Lawrence (2012)

SNODAS Snow Depth vs MODIS SCF



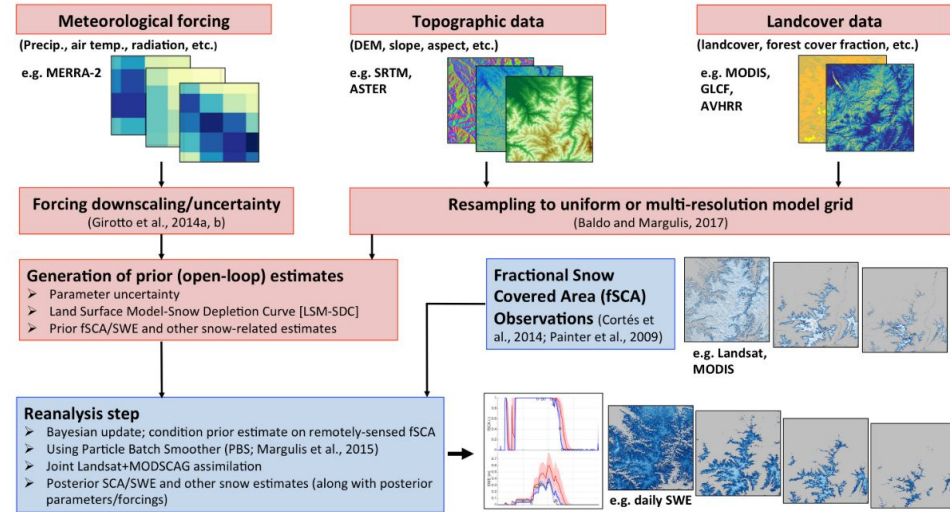
# High Mountain Asia UCLA Daily Snow Reanalysis ([HMASR](#))

- **Problem:**

- No global reliable product of **SD/SWE** over **mountainous areas**
- To better test/calibrate SCF param -> need **SD and SWE** (or density)

- **New snow reanalysis over HMA:** [HMASR](#)

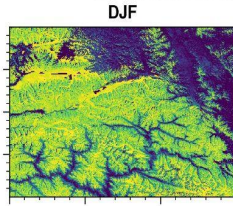
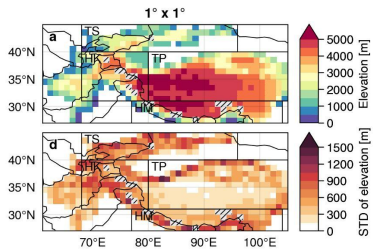
- downscale meteorological forcing + topo/landcover -> prior SCF/SWE
- assimilate Landsat/MODIS -> posterior SCF/SWE
- provides daily SCF/SWE at 500 m
- not validated over HMA / Sierra Nevada (Margulis et al., [2016](#)) and Andes (Cortés and Margulis, [2017](#))



**FIGURE 2** | Schematic representation of the Bayesian snow reanalysis framework that consists of an ensemble-based prior modeling system (red boxes) and a posterior update component for assimilating remotely sensed fractional snow covered area (SCA) data from Landsat and MODIS (blue boxes).

Margulis et al. ([2019](#))

# Calibration with new snow reanalysis HMASR

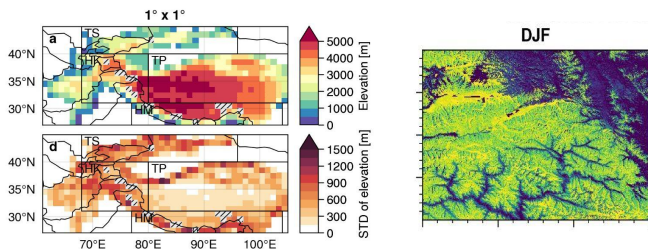


HMASR  
SD / SWE / density  
+ STD topo  
at 1°x1°



SCF

# Calibration with new snow reanalysis HMASR



HMASR  
SD / SWE / density  
+ STD topo  
at 1°x1°



SCF

R01 ([Roesch et al., 2001](#))

$$SCF = 0.95 \cdot \tanh(100 \cdot SWE) \sqrt{\frac{1000 \cdot SWE}{1000 \cdot SWE + \varepsilon + 0.15 \cdot \sigma_z}}$$

NY07 ([Niu and Yang, 2007](#))

$$SCF = \tanh\left(\frac{SD}{2.5 \cdot z_{0g}(\rho_{\text{snow}}/\rho_{\text{new}})^m}\right)$$

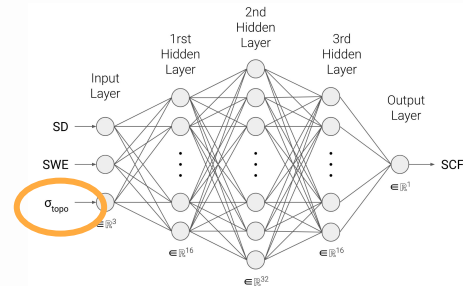
SL12 ([Swenson and Lawrence, 2012](#))

$$SCF = 1 - \left[ \frac{1}{\pi} \arccos\left(2 \frac{SWE}{SWE_{\text{max}}} - 1\right) \right]^{N_{\text{melt}}}$$

$$N_{\text{melt}} = \frac{200}{\max(30, \sigma_{\text{topo}})}$$

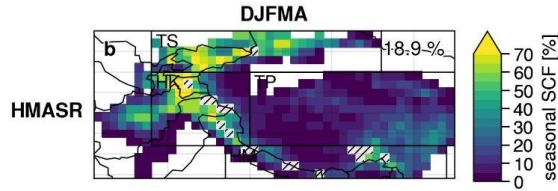
$$SWE_{\text{max}} = \frac{2 \cdot SWE}{\cos[\pi(1 - SCF)^{1/N_{\text{melt}}}] + 1}$$

DNN (deep neural network)

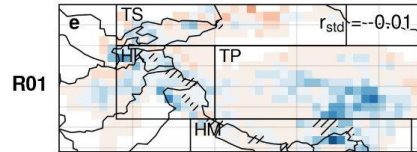


# Calibration with new snow reanalysis HMASR

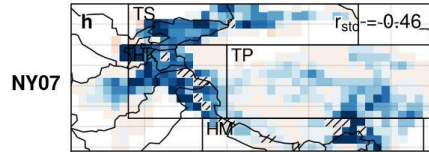
HMASR winter SCF



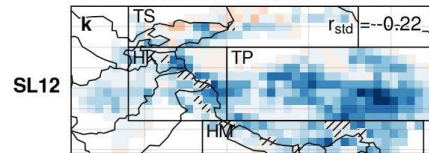
MB = 2.4% RMSE = 7.7%  $r = 0.94$



MB = 11.5% RMSE = 18.6%  $r = 0.95$



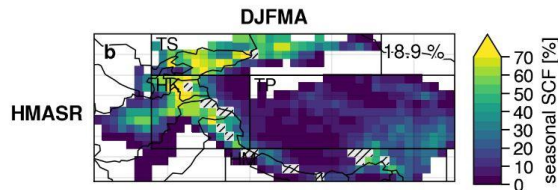
MB = 11.6% RMSE = 15.8%  $r = 0.87$



SCF Bias  
(param - HMASR)

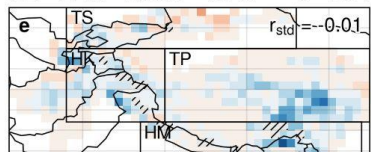
# Calibration with new snow reanalysis HMASR

HMASR winter SCF



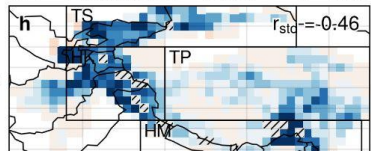
MB = 2.4% RMSE = 7.7%  $r = 0.94$

R01



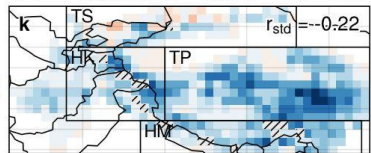
MB = 11.5% RMSE = 18.6%  $r = 0.95$

NY07



MB = 11.6% RMSE = 15.8%  $r = 0.87$

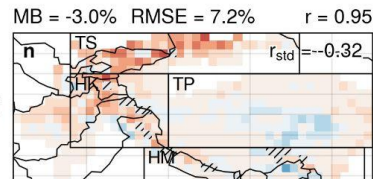
SL12



SCF Bias  
(param - HMASR)

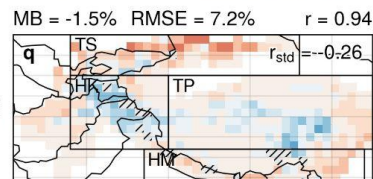
Optimization

R01\_opti



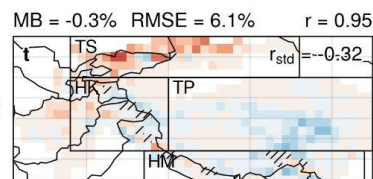
MB = -3.0% RMSE = 7.2%  $r = 0.95$

LA22



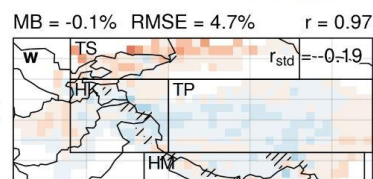
MB = -1.5% RMSE = 7.2%  $r = 0.94$

SL12\_opti

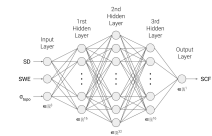


MB = -0.3% RMSE = 6.1%  $r = 0.95$

DNN



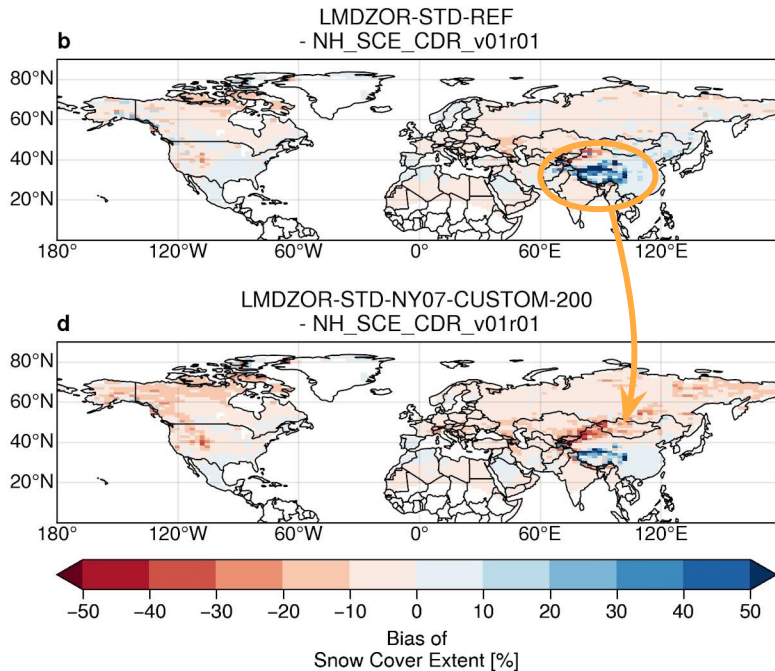
MB = -0.1% RMSE = 4.7%  $r = 0.97$



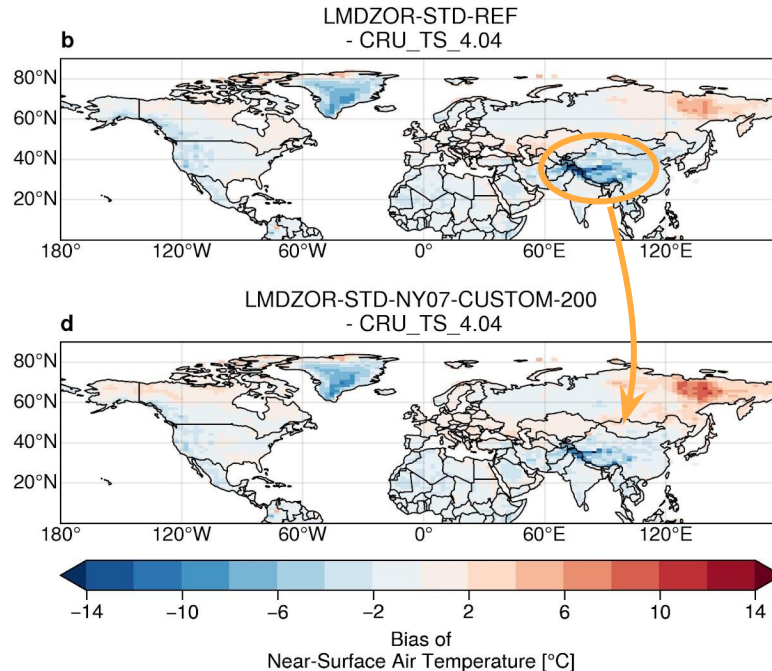


# Application in GCM (LMDZ/ORCHIDEE)

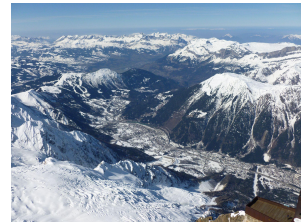
## Bias of Snow Cover Fraction



## Bias of Temperature



- Taking into account the **sub-grid topography** in **SCF parameterization** is essential for **mountainous areas**
- **Other processes** might be involved in current **biases over HMA**:
  - precipitation (orographic drag; e.g, Wang et al., [2020](#)) / aerosol deposition on snow (e.g., Usha et al., [2020](#)) / boundary layer (e.g., Serafin et al., [2020](#)) / tropospheric cold bias, etc.
- Further **calibration** -> **other regions** / **datasets** (+ forested areas?, etc.)
- Limitation over **permanent snow** areas? (glaciers, etc.)
  - elevation bands (e.g., Walland and Simmonds, [1996](#); Younas et al., [2017](#))
- Other parameterizations not tested, e.g.: Liston ([2004](#)), Helbig et al. ([2021](#)), etc.
- **Deep learning** very **promising** to replace such parameterization (+ test the influence of other parameters)



# Bibliography

---

# References

- Cortés, G., & Margulis, S. (2017). Impacts of El Niño and La Niña on interannual snow accumulation in the Andes: Results from a high-resolution 31 year reanalysis. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 44(13), 6859–6867. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2017GL073826>
- Douville, H., Royer, J.-F., & Mahfouf, J.-F. (1995). A new snow parameterization for the Météo-France climate model. *Climate Dynamics*, 12(1), 37–52. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00208761>
- Helbig, N., van Herwijnen, A., Magnusson, J., & Jonas, T. (2015). Fractional snow-covered area parameterization over complex topography. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 19(3), 1339–1351. <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-19-1339-2015>
- Liston, G. E. (2004). Representing Subgrid Snow Cover Heterogeneities in Regional and Global Models. *Journal of Climate*, 17(6), 1381–1397. [https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442\(2004\)017<1381:RSSCHI>2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2004)017<1381:RSSCHI>2.0.CO;2)
- Liu, Y., Fang, Y., & Margulis, S. A. (2021). Spatiotemporal distribution of seasonal snow water equivalent in High Mountain Asia from an 18-year Landsat–MODIS era snow reanalysis dataset. *The Cryosphere*, 15(11), 5261–5280. <https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-15-5261-2021>
- Margulis, S. A., Cortés, G., Giroto, M., & Durand, M. (2016). A Landsat-Era Sierra Nevada Snow Reanalysis (1985–2015). *Journal of Hydrometeorology*, 17(4), 1203–1221. <https://doi.org/10.1175/JHM-D-15-0177.1>
- Margulis, S. A., Liu, Y., & Baldo, E. (2019). A Joint Landsat- and MODIS-Based Reanalysis Approach for Midlatitude Montane Seasonal Snow Characterization. *Frontiers in Earth Science*, 7(October), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feart.2019.00272>
- Niu, G.-Y., & Yang, Z.-L. (2007). An observation-based formulation of snow cover fraction and its evaluation over large North American river basins. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 112(D21), D21101. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2007JD008674>

# References

- Roesch, A., Wild, M., Gilgen, H., & Ohmura, A. (2001). A new snow cover fraction parametrization for the ECHAM4 GCM. *Climate Dynamics*, 17(12), 933–946. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s003820100153>
- Serafin, S., Rotach, M. W., Arpagaus, M., Colfescu, I., Cuxart, J., De Wekker, S. F. J., ... Zardi, D. (2020). Multi-scale transport and exchange processes in the atmosphere over mountains. In *Multi-scale transport and exchange processes in the atmosphere over mountains*. <https://doi.org/10.15203/99106-003-1>
- Swenson, S. C., & Lawrence, D. M. (2012). A new fractional snow-covered area parameterization for the Community Land Model and its effect on the surface energy balance. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 117(D21), n/a-n/a. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012JD018178>
- Usha, K. H., Nair, V. S., & Babu, S. S. (2020). Modeling of aerosol induced snow albedo feedbacks over the Himalayas and its implications on regional climate. *Climate Dynamics*, (0123456789). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00382-020-05222-5>
- WALLAND, D. J., & SIMMONDS, I. (1996). SUB-GRID-SCALE TOPOGRAPHY AND THE SIMULATION OF NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SNOW COVER. *International Journal of Climatology*, 16(9), 961–982. <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/%28SICI%291097-0088%28199609%2916%3A9%3C961%3A%3AAID-IOC72%3E3.0.CO%3B2-R>
- Wang, T., Ottlé, C., Boone, A., Ciais, P., Brun, E., Morin, S., ... Peng, S. (2013). Evaluation of an improved intermediate complexity snow scheme in the ORCHIDEE land surface model. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 118(12), 6064–6079. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jgrd.50395>
- Wang, Y., Yang, K., Zhou, X., Chen, D., Lu, H., Ouyang, L., ... Wang, B. (2020). Synergy of orographic drag parameterization and high resolution greatly reduces biases of WRF-simulated precipitation in central Himalaya. *Climate Dynamics*, 54(3–4), 1729–1740. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00382-019-05080-w>

# References

Younas, W., Hay, R. W., MacDonald, M. K., Islam, S. U., & Déry, S. J. (2017). A strategy to represent impacts of subgrid-scale topography on snow evolution in the Canadian Land Surface Scheme. *Annals of Glaciology*, 58(75pt1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aog.2017.29>

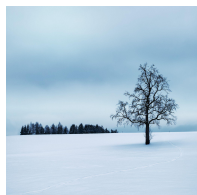
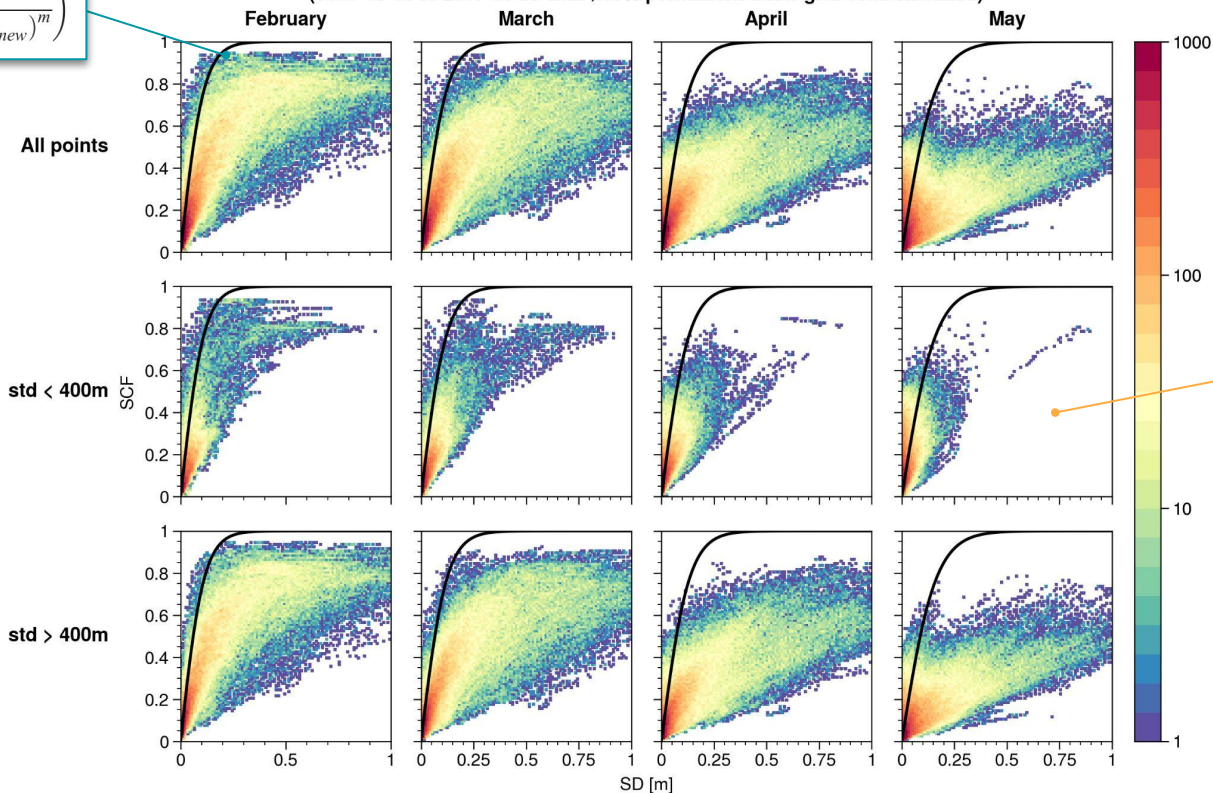
## Complementary Slides

---

# Snow cover in mountainous area: HMASR

$$f_{sno} = \tanh\left(\frac{h_{sno}}{2.5z_{0g}(\rho_{sno}/\rho_{new})^m}\right)$$

HMASR seasonal daily SD vs SCF aggregated at 1°x1°  
(1999-10-01 to 2017-09-30 with >30% permanent snow grid cells excluded)



HMASR might be not representative of flat areas (TP mostly have STD >200m and dry)

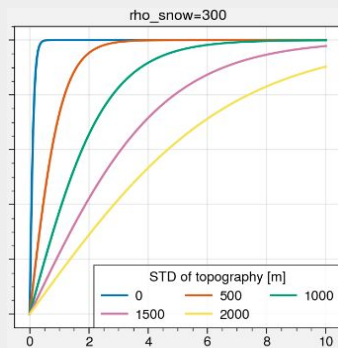


# Other snow cover parameterizations

## Niu and Yang (2007) custom

$$F = \tanh\left(\frac{d}{2.5z_{0g}(\rho_{snow}/\rho_{new})^m}\right)$$

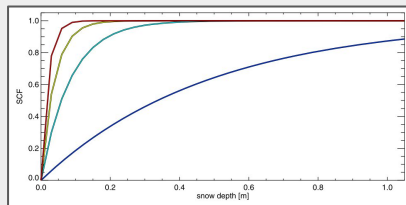
STD  
topo



## Swenson and Lawrence (2012)

### Accumulation

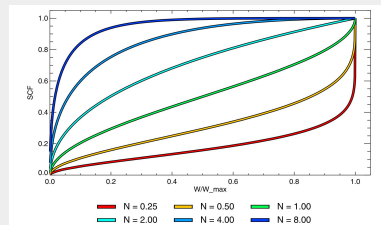
$$F_{N+1} = 1 - (p_{N+1})(p_N) = 1 - (1 - s_{N+1})(1 - F_N)$$



### Depletion

$$F = 1 - \left[ \frac{1}{\pi} \arccos\left(2 \frac{W}{W_{\max}} - 1\right) \right]^{N_{melt}}$$

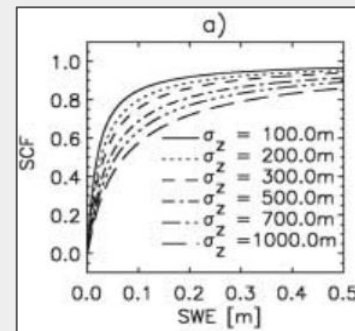
$$N_{melt} = \frac{200}{\sigma_{topo}}$$



## Roesch et al. (2001)

### Mountainous areas

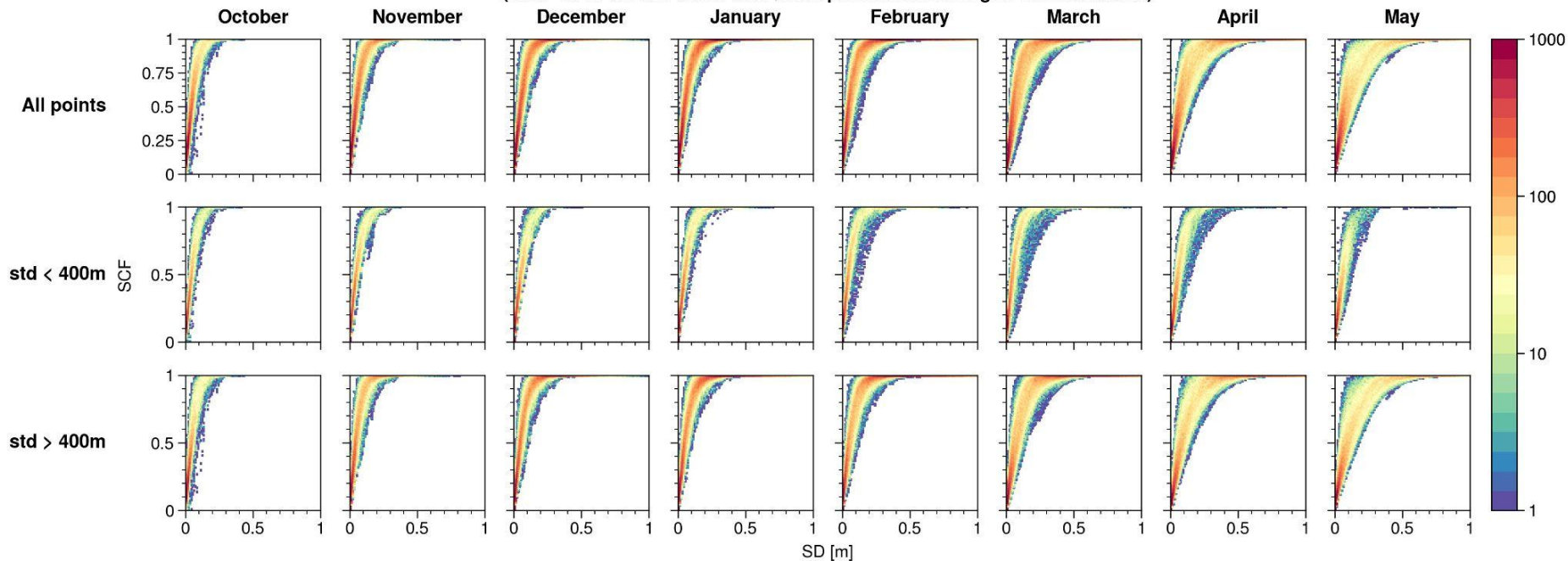
$$f_s = 0.95 \cdot \tanh(100 \cdot S_n) \sqrt{\frac{1000 \cdot S_n}{1000 \cdot S_n + \epsilon + 0.15\sigma_z}}$$



Depends only on SWE so no hysteresis

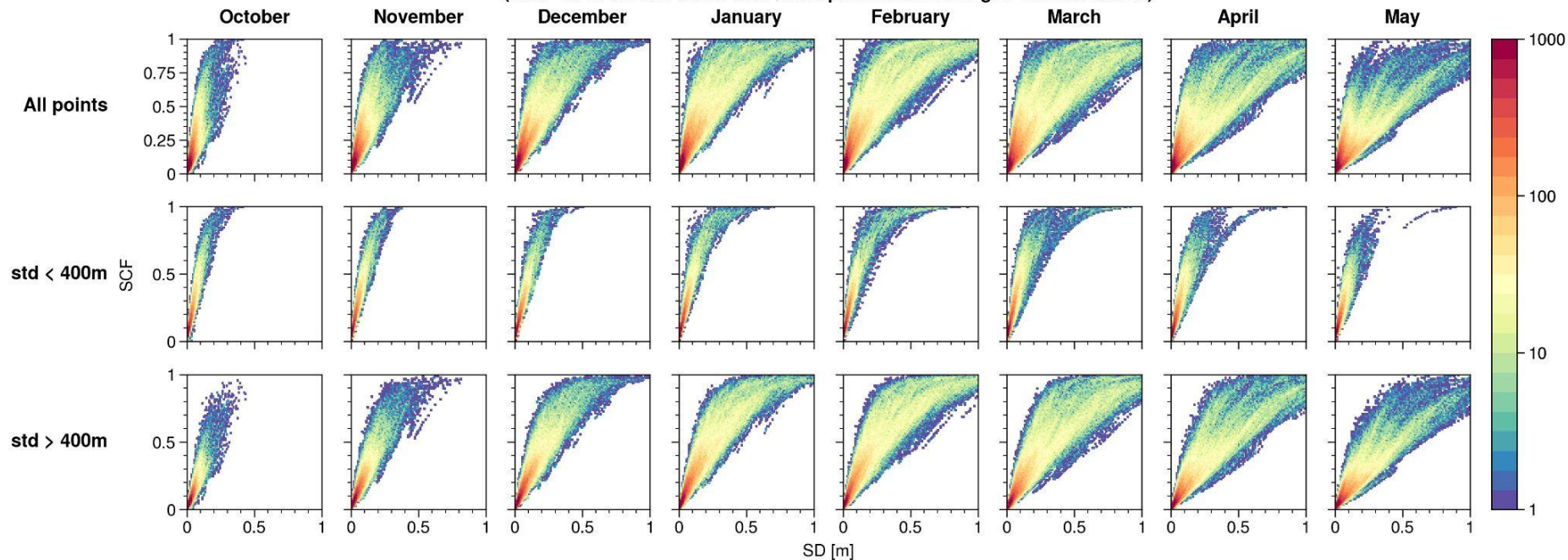
# High Mountain Asia UCLA Daily Snow Reanalysis

NY07\_orig non-permanent daily SCF (predicted from HMASR inputs) vs HMASR SD at  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$   
(1999-10-01 to 2017-09-30 with  $>30\%$  permanent snow grid cells excluded)

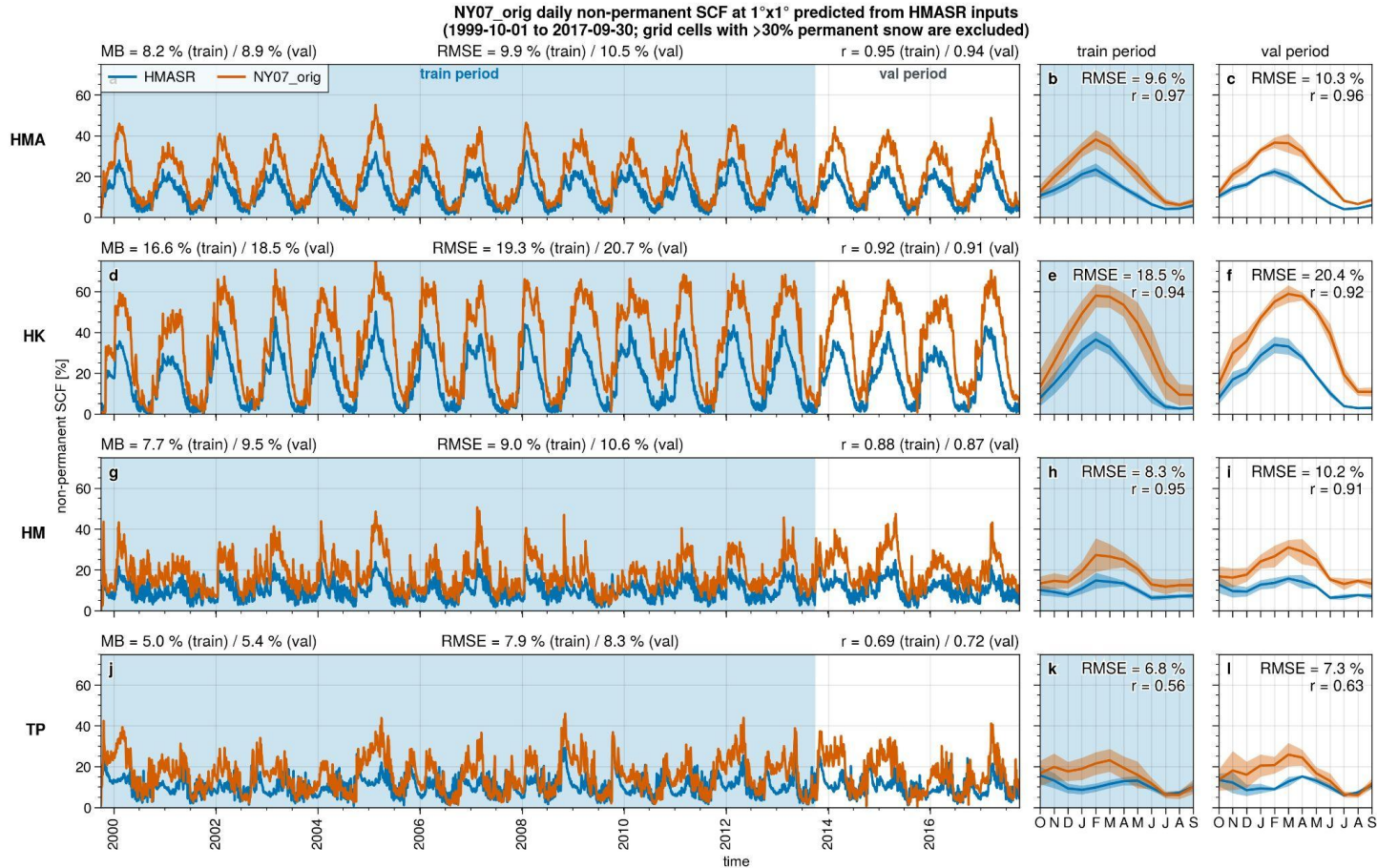


# High Mountain Asia UCLA Daily Snow Reanalysis

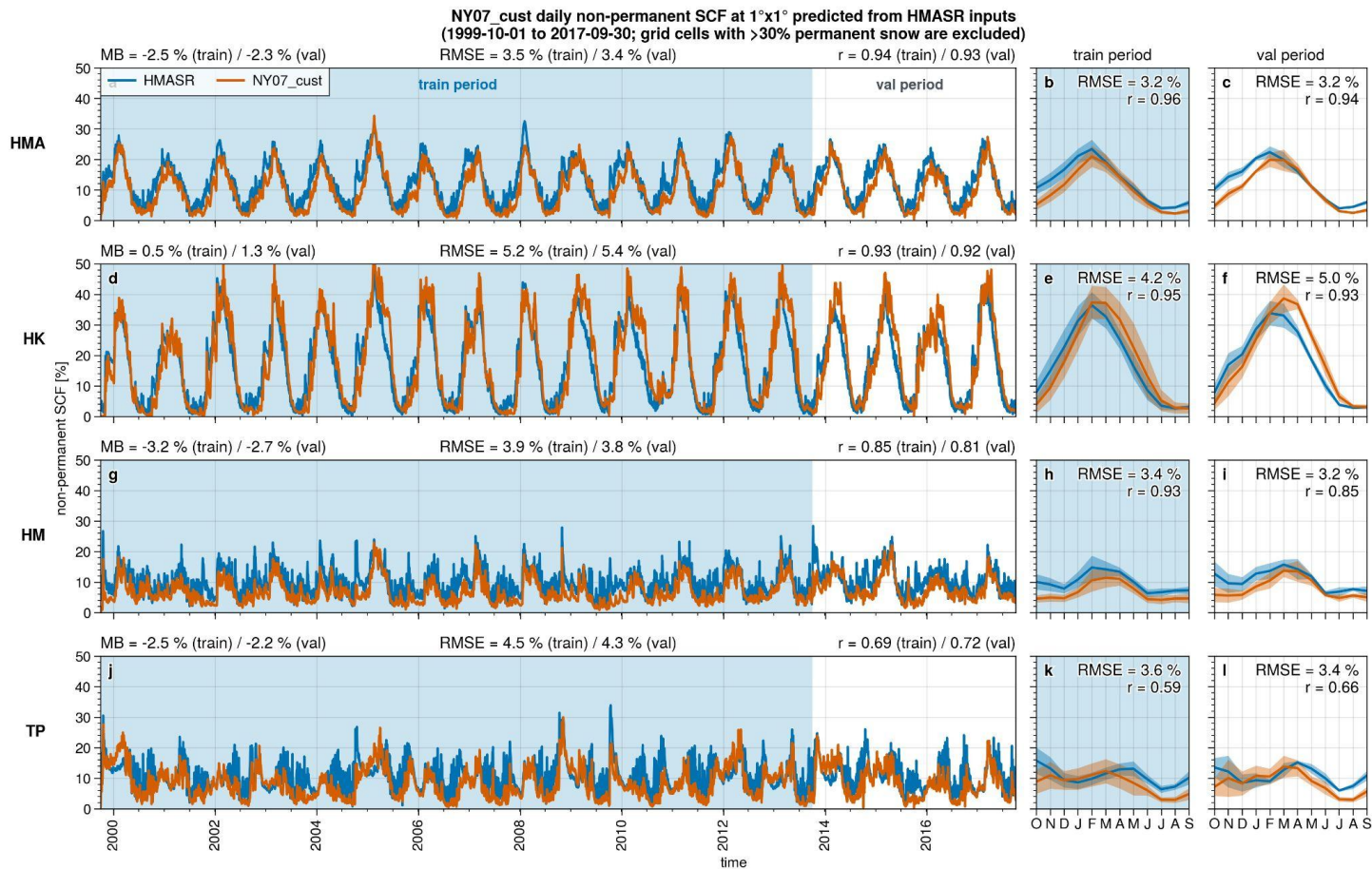
NY07\_cust non-permanent daily SCF (predicted from HMASR inputs) vs HMASR SD at  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$   
(1999-10-01 to 2017-09-30 with >30% permanent snow grid cells excluded)



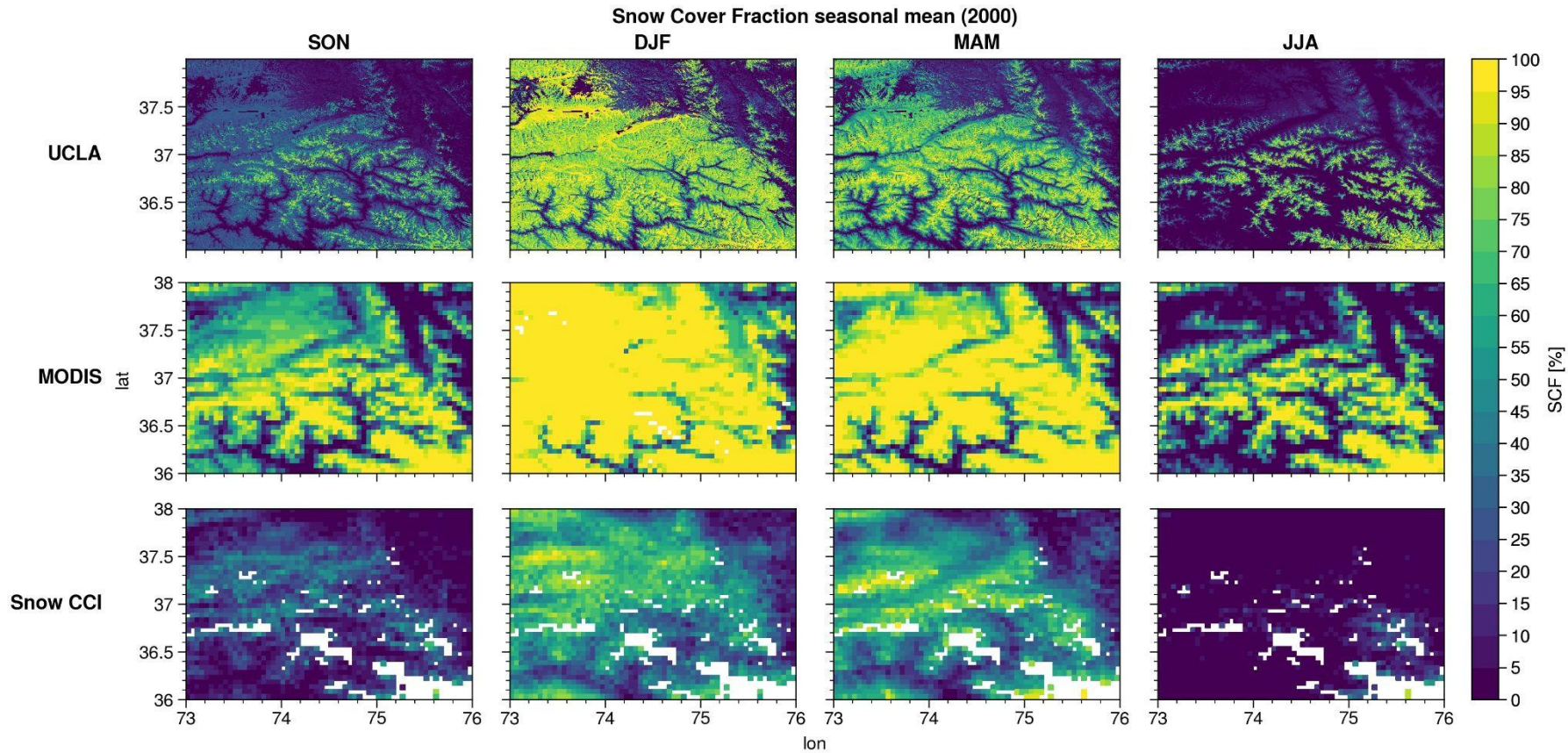
# High Mountain Asia UCLA Daily Snow Reanalysis



# High Mountain Asia UCLA Daily Snow Reanalysis

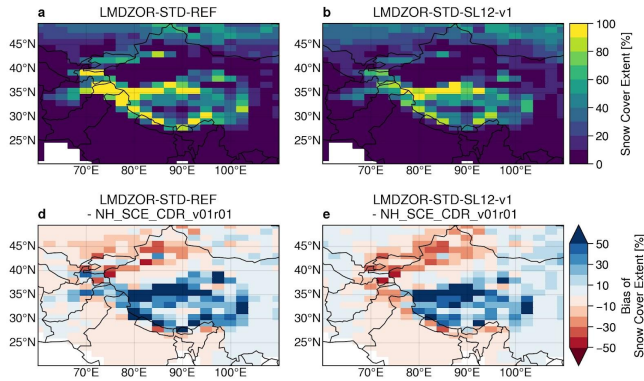


# High Mountain Asia UCLA Daily Snow Reanalysis

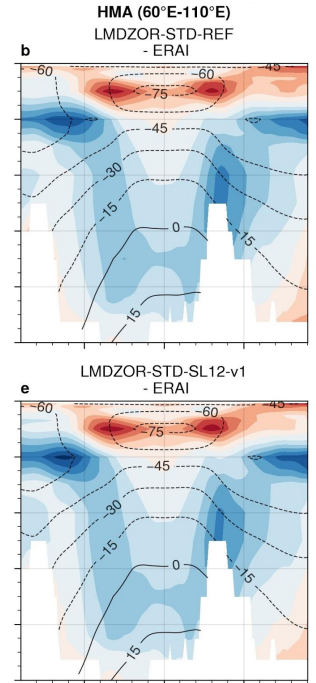
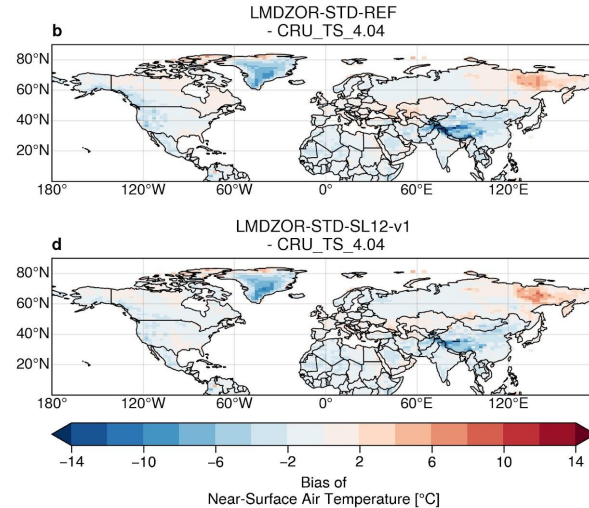
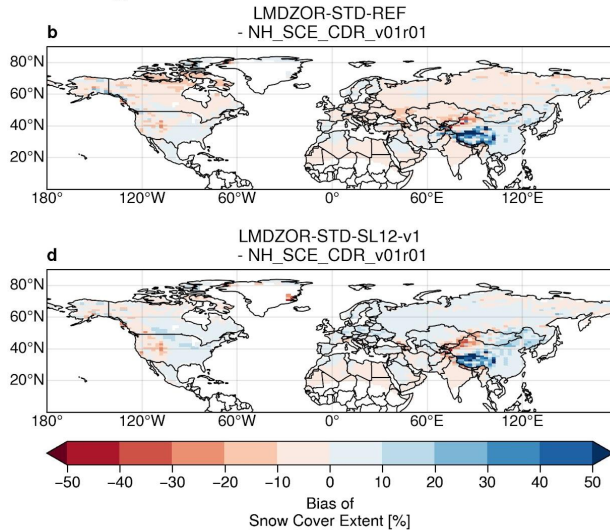
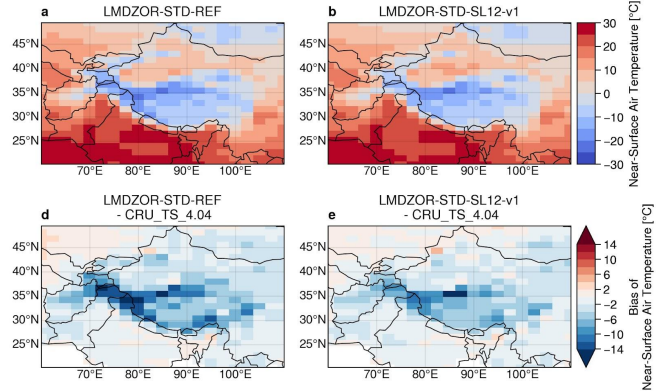


# Swenson and Lawrence (2012): commits [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [thredds](#)

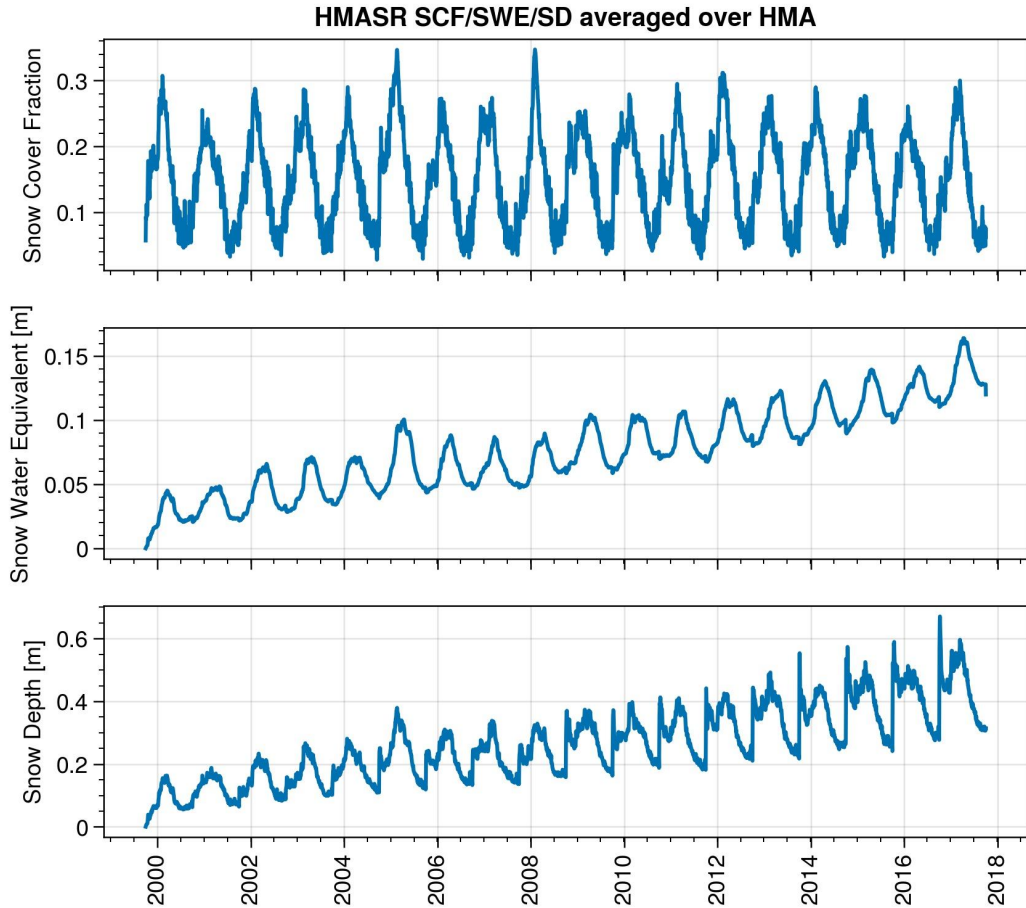
Snow Cover Extent annual climatology: 1981-1989



Near-Surface Air Temperature annual climatology: 1981-1

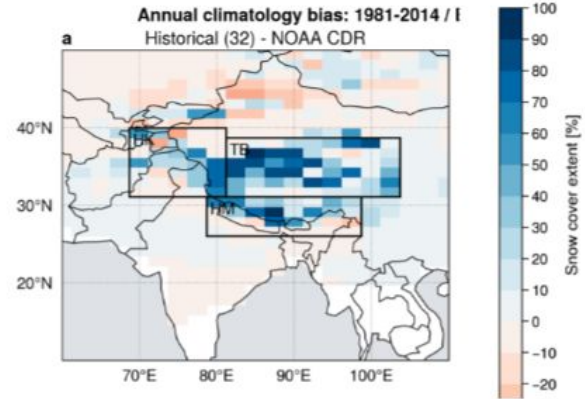
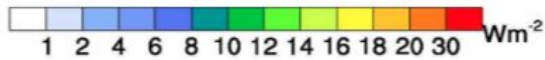
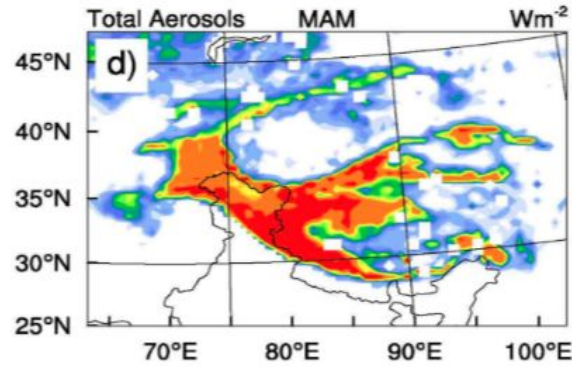
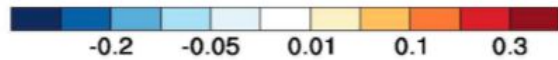
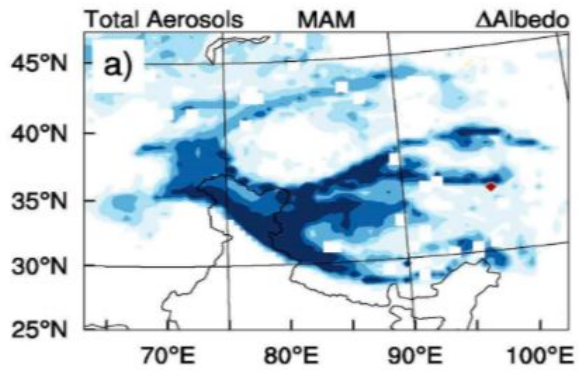


# Permanent snow area: problem?





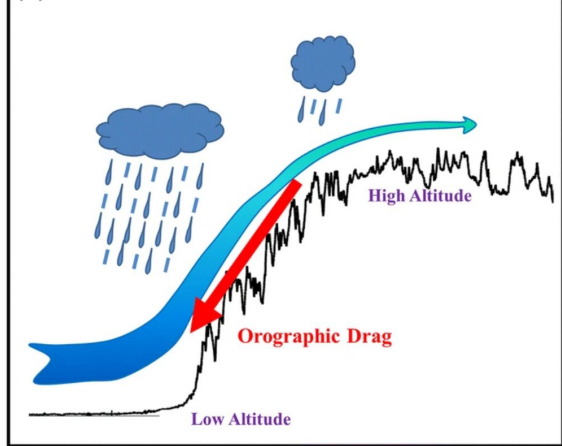
# Dépôt aérosols



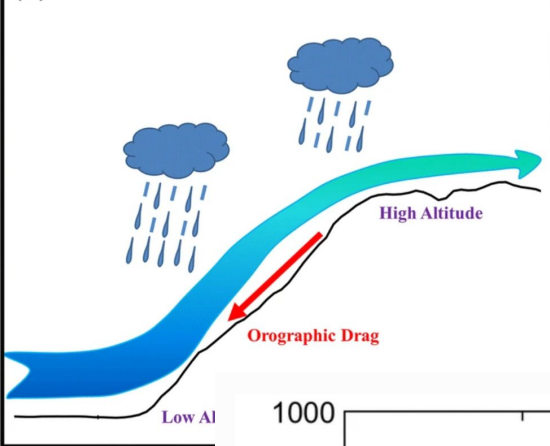
Usha et al., ([2020](#), Fig 7)

# TOFD

(a) Real Terrain



(b) Smooth Terrain



Wang et al., (2020, Fig 5 & 9)

