

CLASSIC meeting 2024

Snow cover heterogeneity and its impact on the Climate and Carbon cycle of Arctic regions

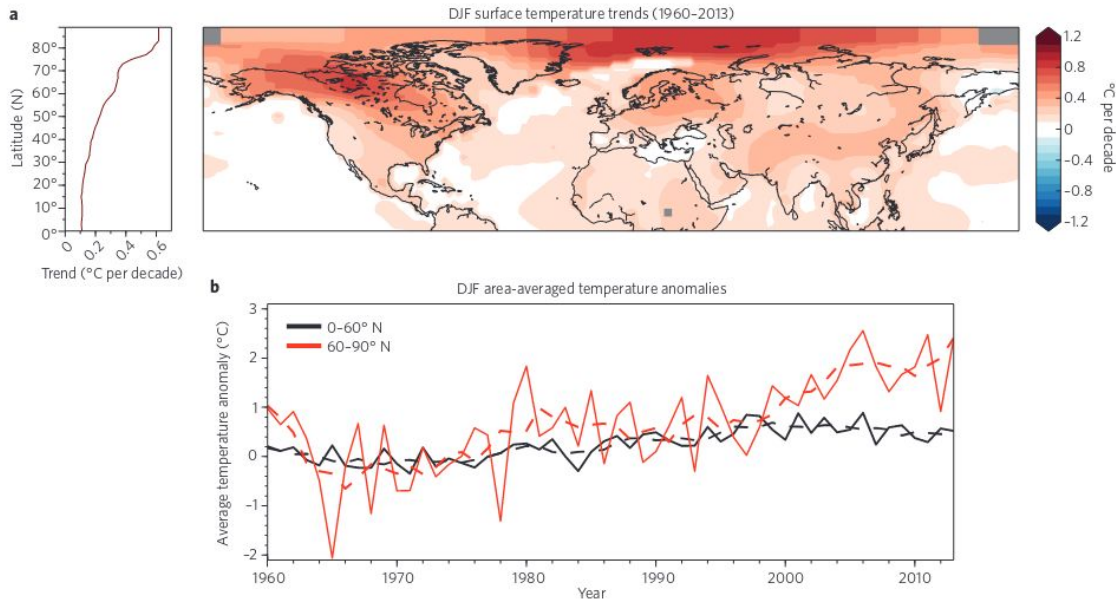
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Postdoc at UQTR / RIVE / GLACIOLAB

ESA CCI Fellowship — 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2025 (2 years)

supervised by Christophe Kinnard and Alexandre Roy

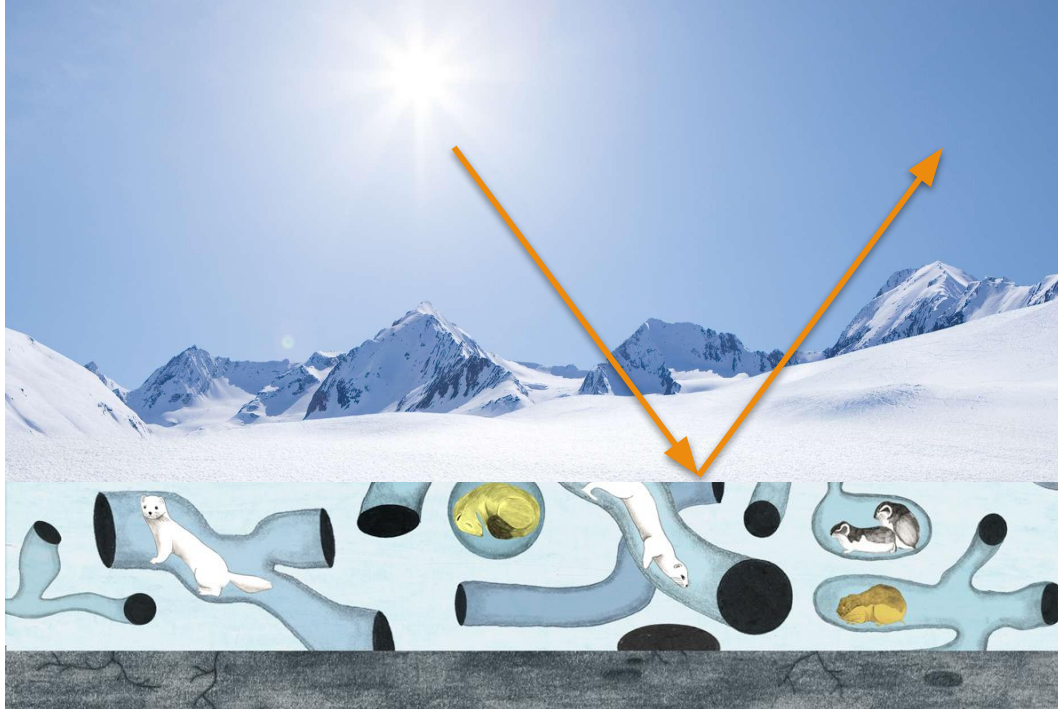
Context: Arctic Amplification



Cohen et al., (2014)

- The **Arctic** has warmed **2 to 3 times faster** than the global average (e.g., Cohen et al., [2014](#)) ; nearly **four times faster** than the globe since 1979 (Rantanen et al., [2022](#))
- ⇒ **melting** of **Arctic sea ice** and spring **snow cover**
- Impacts on **ecosystems** and **human activities** such as transportation, resource extraction, **water supply**, use of land and **infrastructure** among others.
- **1.035 Pg-C** (>66° N, 3m soil) - By 2100, **55 to 232 Pg C-CO₂-e** could be emitted via **permafrost degradation** (Schuur et al., [2022](#))

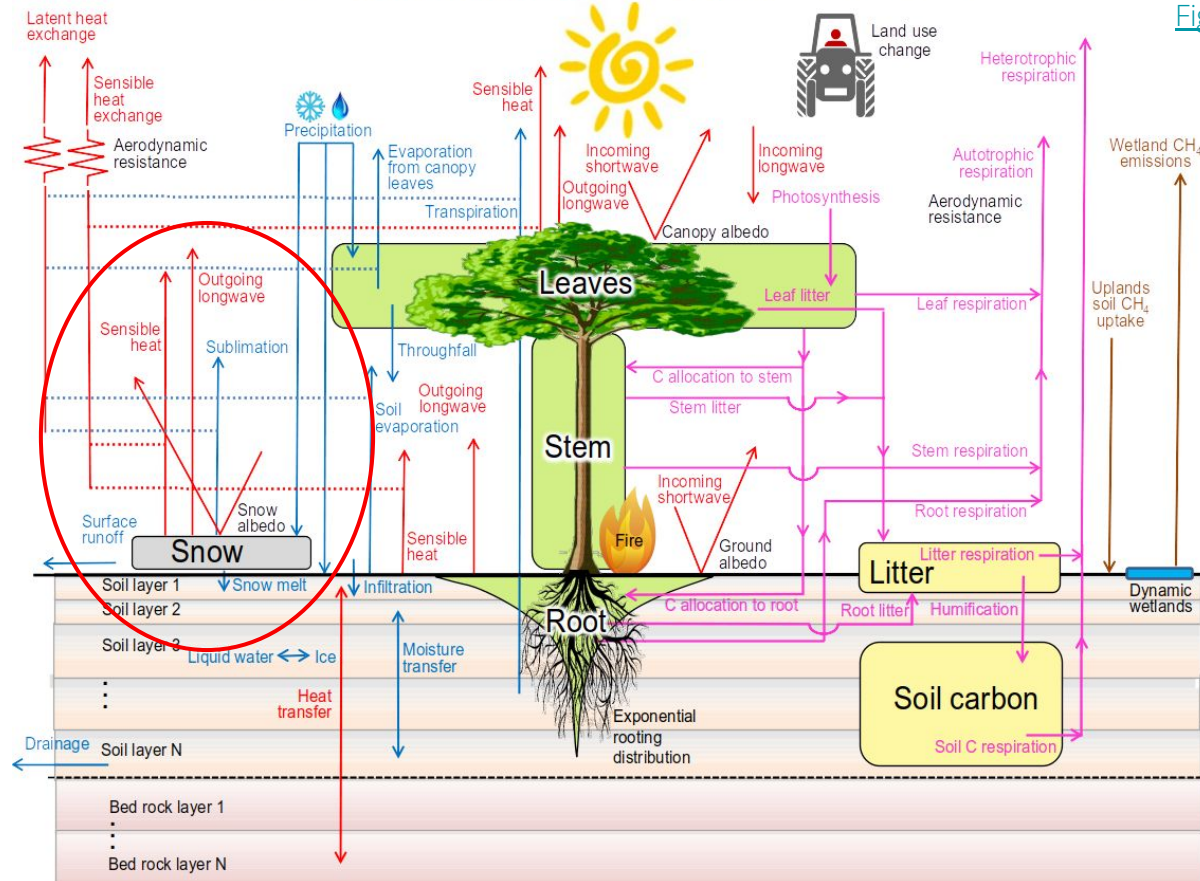
Snow: essential component of the climate system



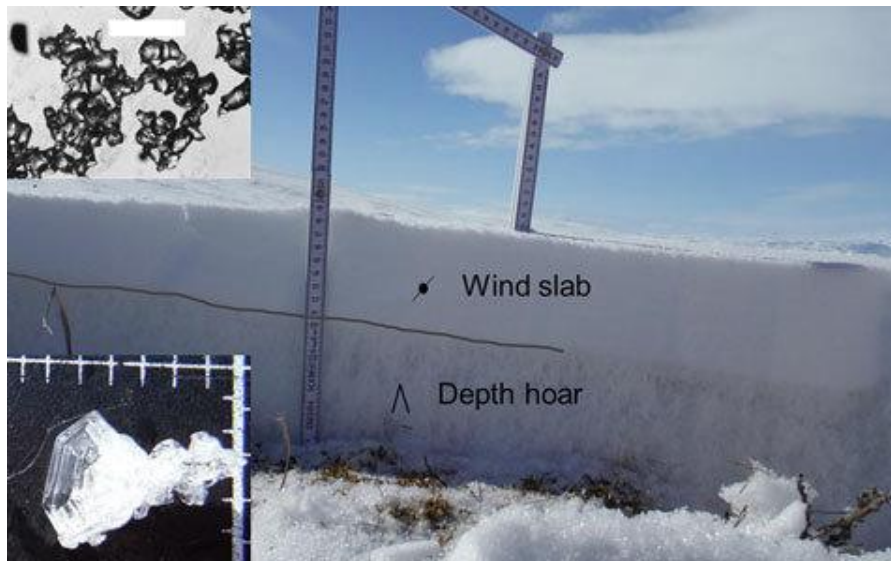
Snow model in CLASSIC: description

Primary water, energy, CO₂, and CH₄ fluxes in CLASSIC

Melton et al. (2020),
Fig. 1



Arctic snowpack



Domine et al., (2019)

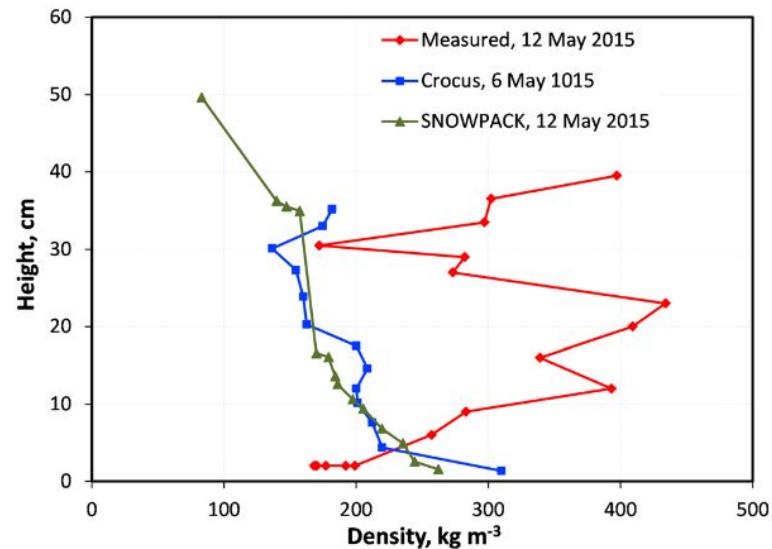


Figure 3. Comparison of measured snow density profiles at Bylot Island in May 2015 with those simulated using the detailed snow models Crocus and SNOWPACK. Crocus runs of 6 May are shown because Crocus simulates melting on 7 May, and this extra process makes comparisons irrelevant on 12 May.

Domine et al., (2018)

PHYSICAL SOLUTION

Implement the water vapor fluxes explicitly in the snowpack (→ snow mass redistribution):

- [IVORI](#) project (Marie Dumont, ERC ~2M €)
- Jafari et al., ([2020](#)): The Impact of Diffusive Water Vapor Transport on Snow Profiles in Deep and Shallow Snow Covers and on Sea Ice
- Simson et al. ([2021](#)): Elements of future snowpack modeling – Part 2: A modular and extendable Eulerian-Lagrangian numerical scheme for coupled transport, phase changes and settling processes

Arctic snowpack: solution?

PHYSICAL SOLUTION

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PRACTICAL SOLUTION

Increase the compaction due to the wind + reduce the density of the lower layers, e.g.:

- Royer et al. ([2021](#)): Improved Simulation of Arctic Circumpolar Land Area Snow Properties and Soil Temperatures
- Lackner et al., ([2022](#)): Snow properties at the forest-tundra ecotone: predominance of water vapor fluxes even in deep, moderately cold snowpacks

Challenge: never applied worldwide and often site specific...

Objectives of the project

1. Implement a **multilayer snowpack** in CLASSIC (1D simulations)
 - o technical challenges: model not so modular and snow is included in many files/routines
 - o physical challenges: include **Arctic snowpack** characteristics (if possible) + **blowing snow**, etc.
 - o → assess these changes at **site level simulations** (SnowMIP + 3 Arctic sites)

Model development and assessments

#1 Implement multilayer snow model in CLASSIC (site simulations)



Credit: Sawtooth Avalanche Center

New Arctic simulations

Objectives of the project

1. Implement a **multilayer snowpack** in CLASSIC (1D simulations)
2. Test new **snow cover fraction** parameterizations + multilayer snowpack in **spatial simulations** (Arctic) → use of **ESA CCI** data (snow, land type, etc.) to calibrate and assess these new developments

Model development and assessments

#1 Implement multilayer snow model in CLASSIC (site simulations)



#2 Snow cover param + multilayer snowpack (spatial simulations)



New Arctic simulations

Objectives of the project

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3. **New simulations over the whole Arctic** with new snowpack (assessment on the surfaces fluxes)

Model development and assessments

New Arctic simulations

#1 Implement multilayer snow model in CLASSIC (site simulations)

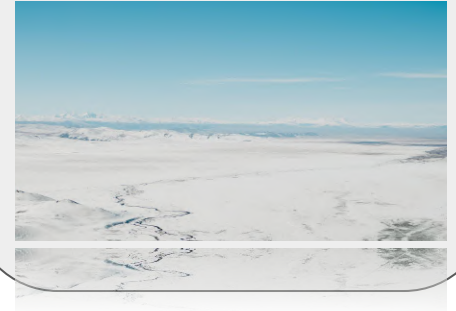


Credit: Sawtooth Avalanche Center

#2 Snow cover param + multilayer snowpack (spatial simulations)



#3 Improved Arctic simus (snow, energy/carbon fluxes, etc.)



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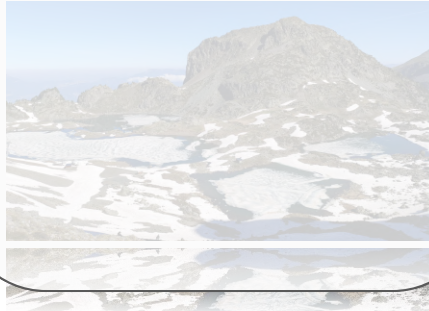
Model development and assessments

#1 Implement multilayer snow model in CLASSIC (site simulations)



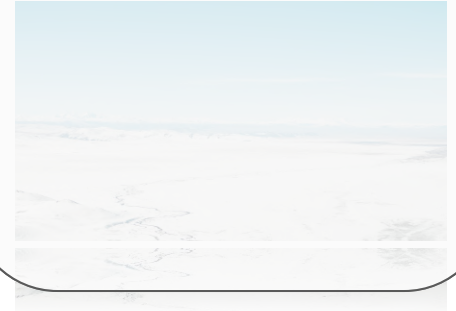
Credit: Sawtooth Avalanche Center

#2 Snow cover param + multilayer snowpack (spatial simulations)

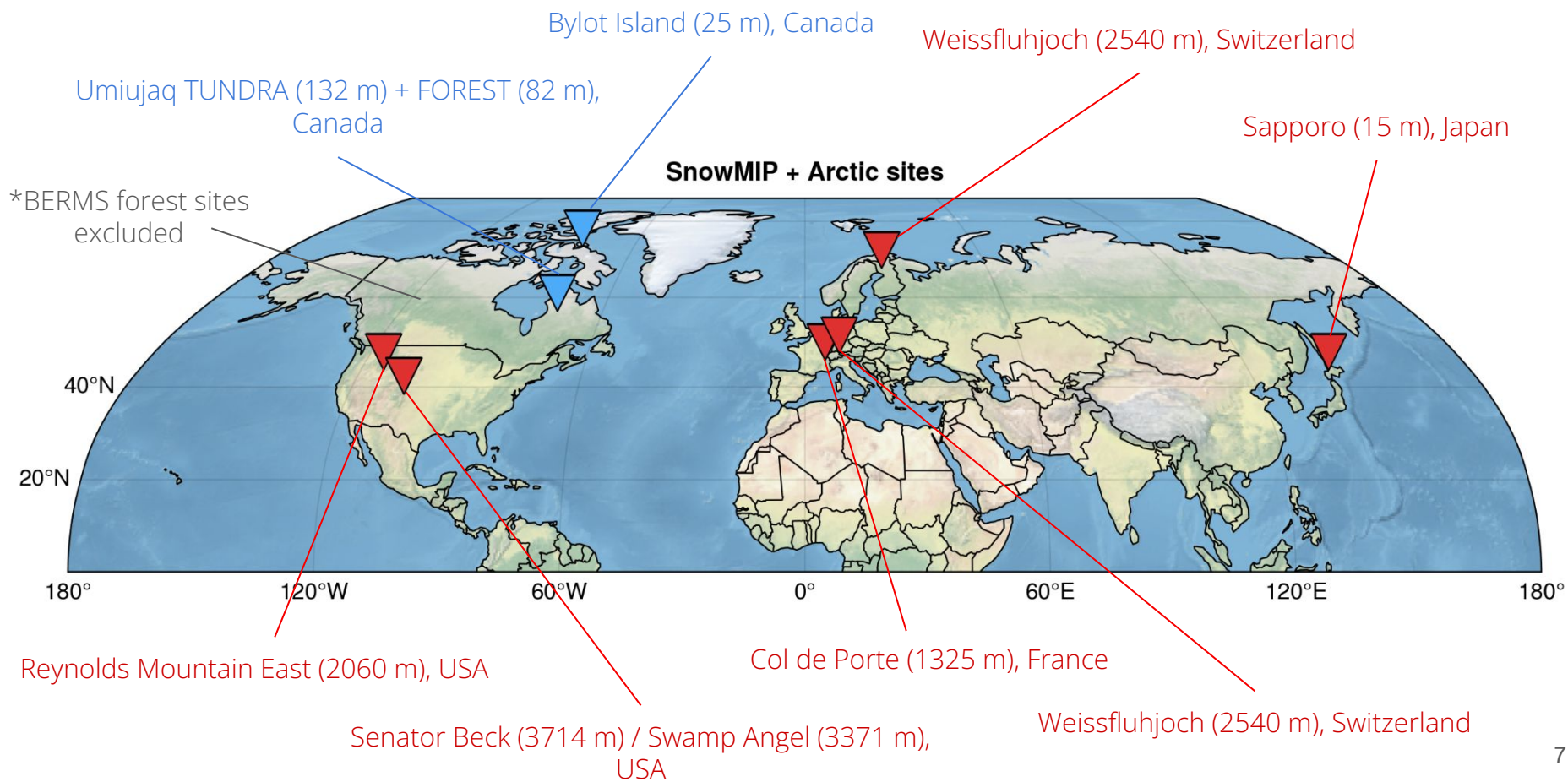


New Arctic simulations

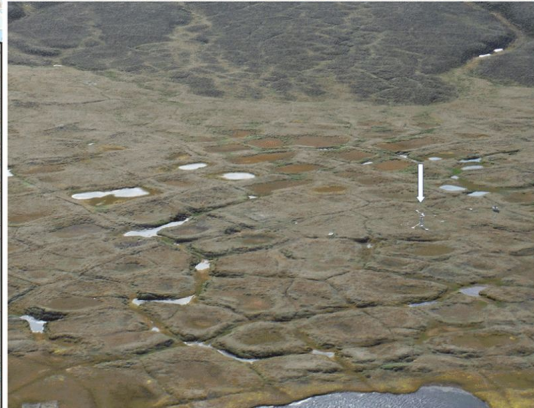
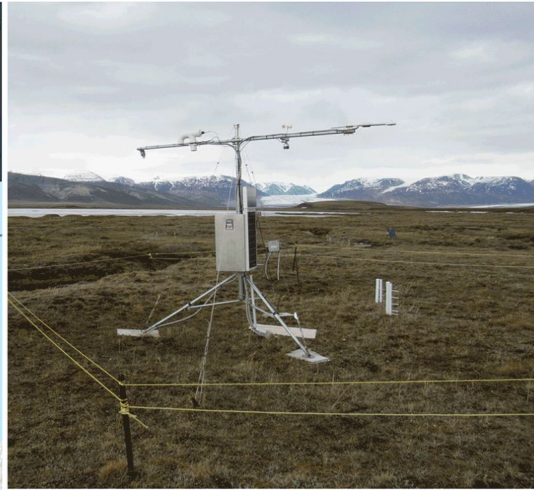
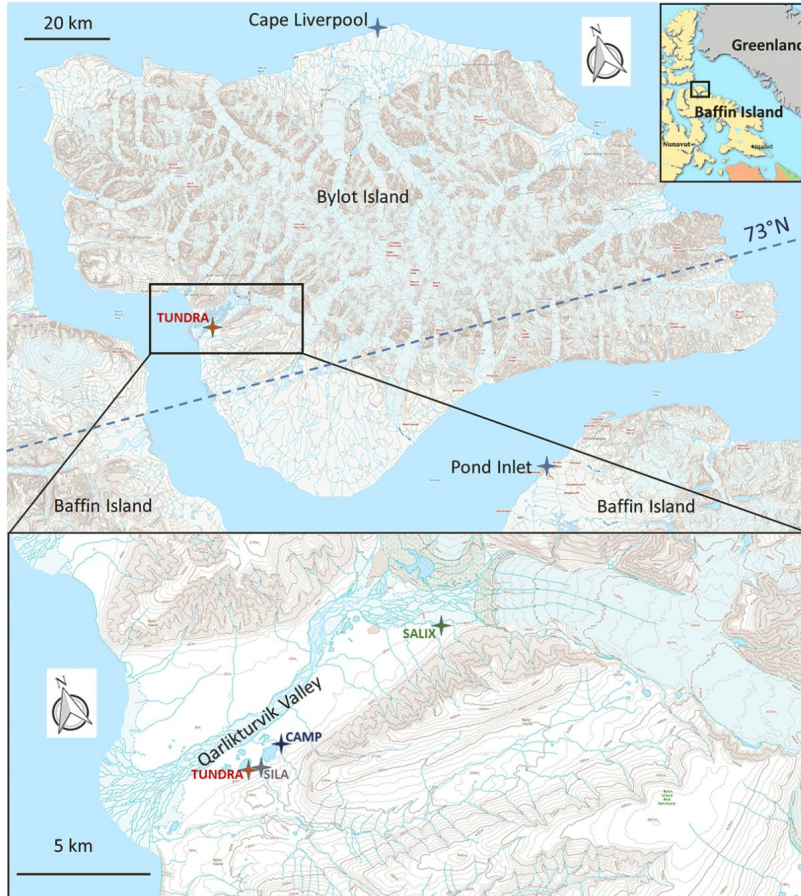
#3 Improved Arctic simus (snow, energy/carbon fluxes, etc.)



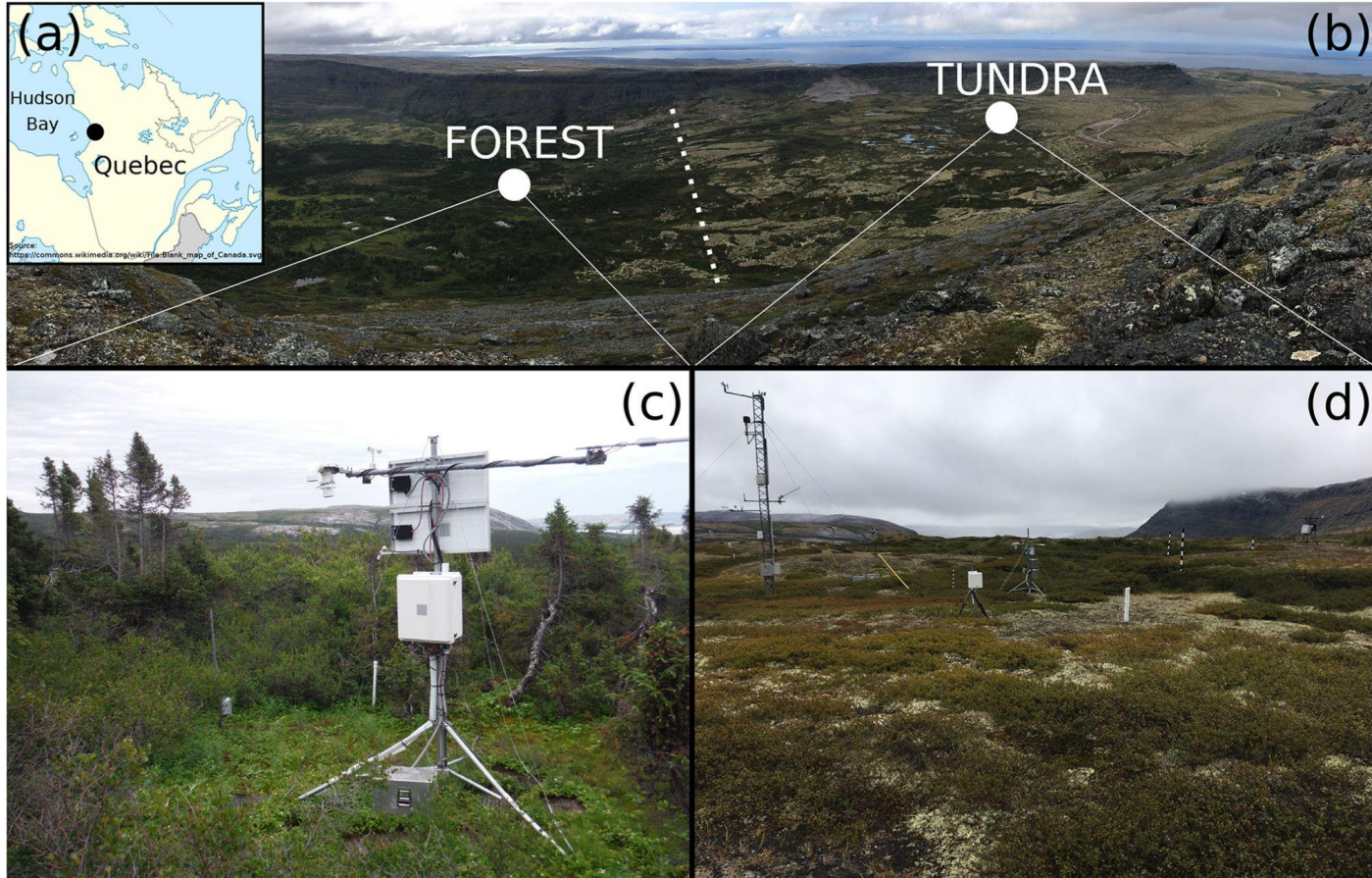
SnowMIP sites* + Arctic sites



Bylot Island, Canada



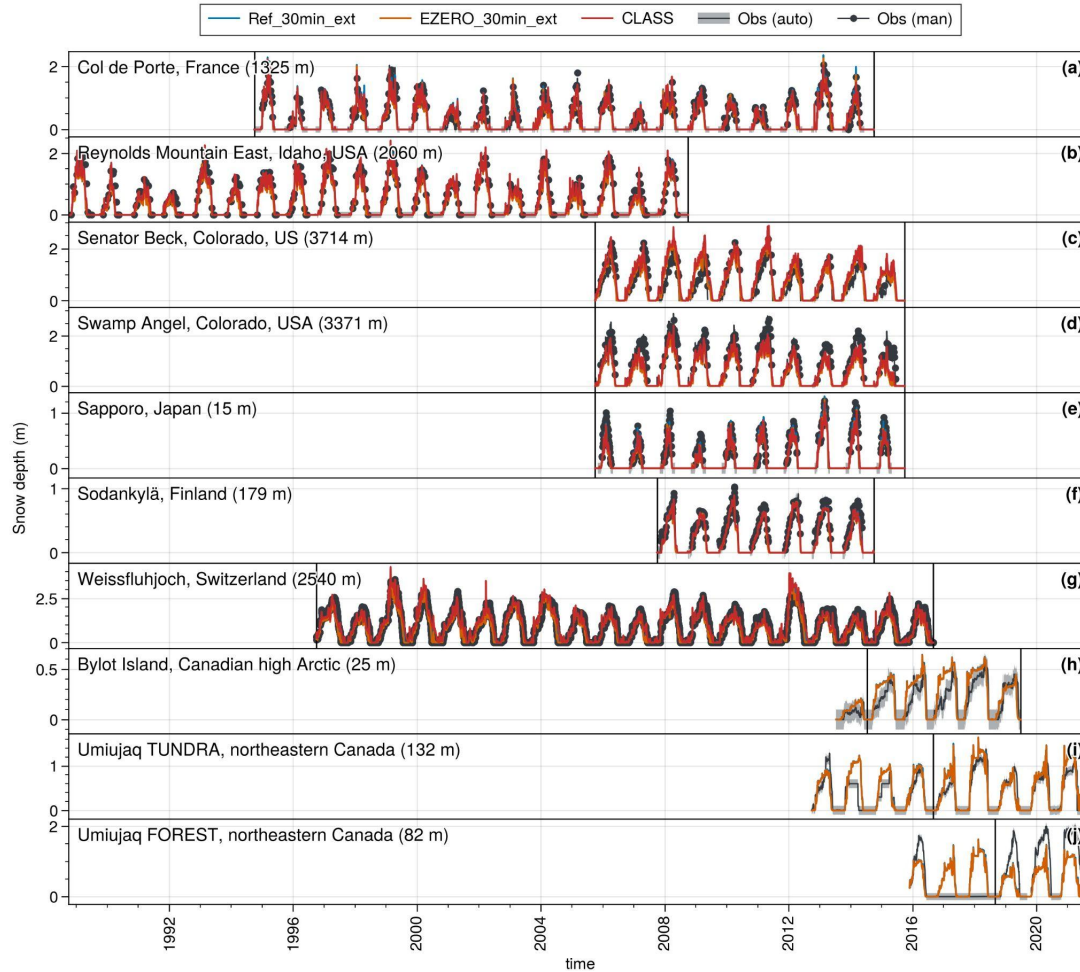
Umiujaq TUNDRA + FOREST, Canada



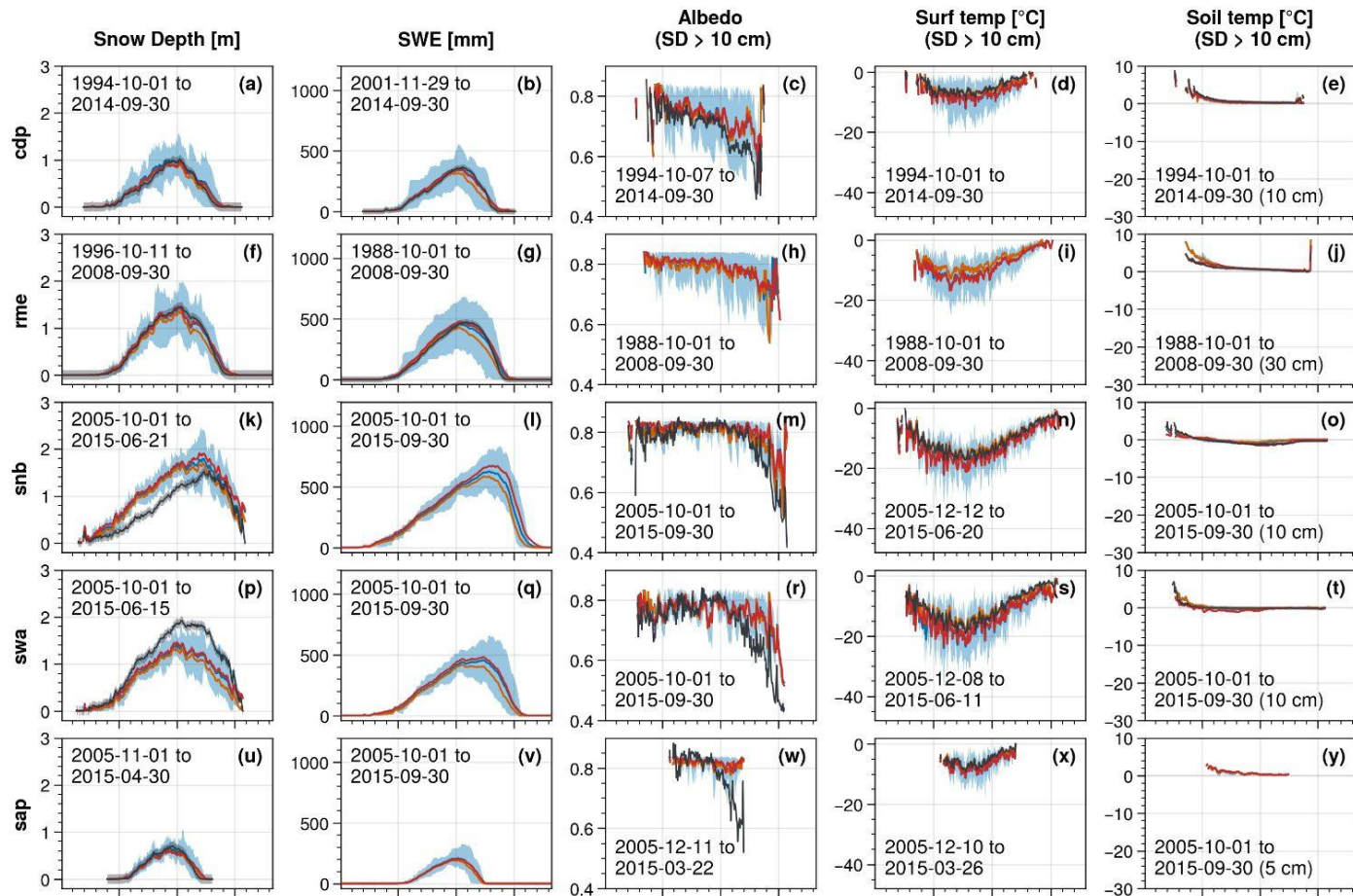
Model and simulation set up

- **CLASSIC v1.0** (Melton et al., [2020](#)) including **CLASS 3.6.2** (Verseghy et al., [2017](#)) and **CTEM 2.0** (Melton & Arora, [2016](#)) + **shrubs** (Meyer et al., [2021](#))
- **SnowMIP** forcing and evaluation data (Menard et al., [2021](#)) + **Arctic** (Domine et al., [2021](#), [2024](#)) (linearly interpolated from hourly to 30 minute time step → see [issue](#) on GitLab)
- **Soil properties**: mix of site information + satellite data / **PFTs** site information (+ peat sometimes)
- **Spin up**: ~100 to 300 years with spinfast = 10 (cycle over the forcing with CO2 fixed) + last cycle with spinfast = 1 (10-years averaged NEP/NPP and NBP close to 0; cSoil stable)
- **1D simulations**:
 - **Ref**: latest developing model version
 - **EZERO**: same as *Ref* but with a **windless exchange coefficient activated** in the calculation of the sensible heat fluxes for stable atmospheric conditions over snow (Brown et al., [2006](#))
 - **CLASS**: older model version that was used in the latest SnowMIP experiments (Krinner et al., [2018](#)) using **CLASS v3.6 not coupled to CTEM** (produced by Paul Bartlett)

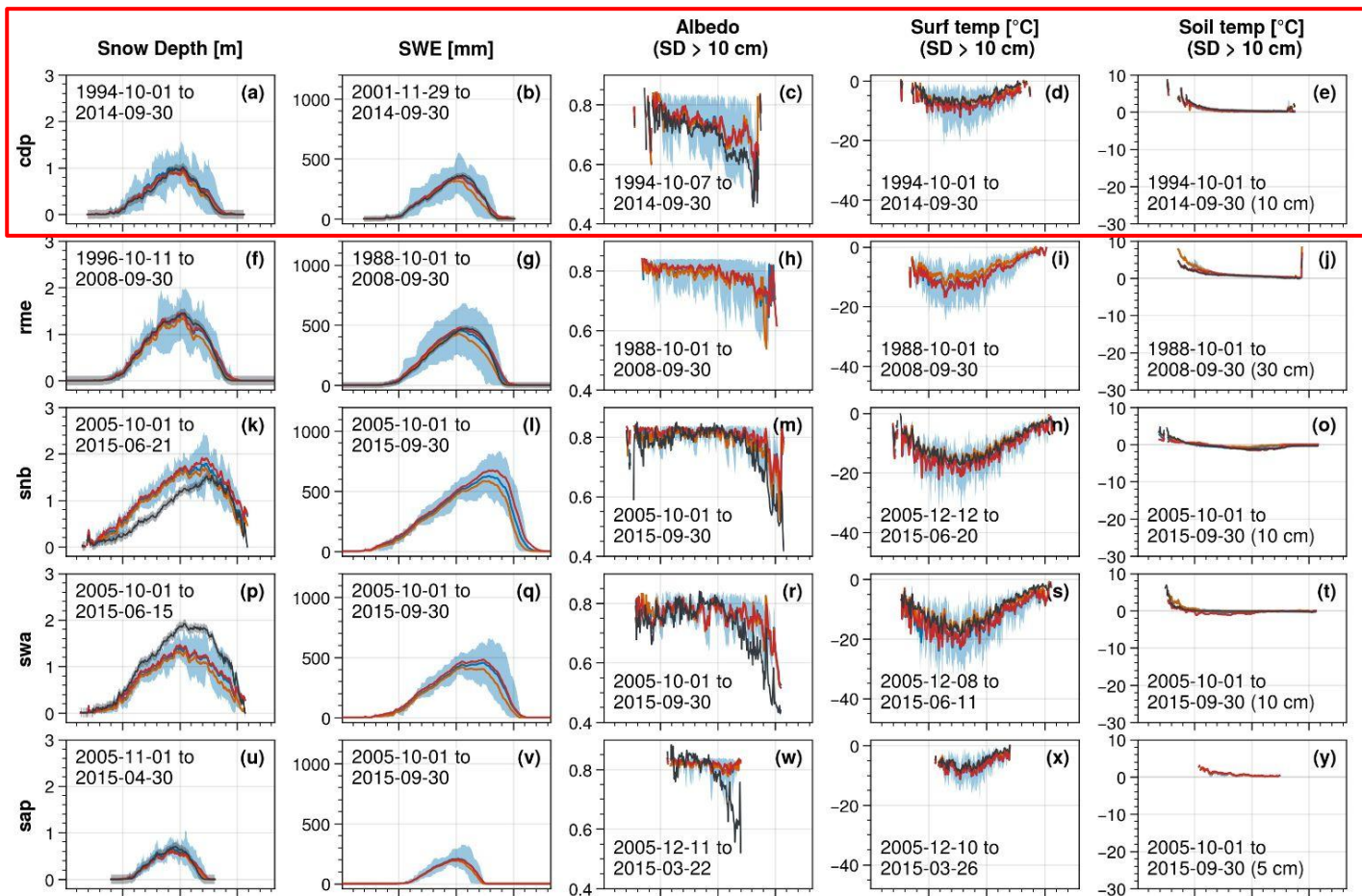
Snow depth time series



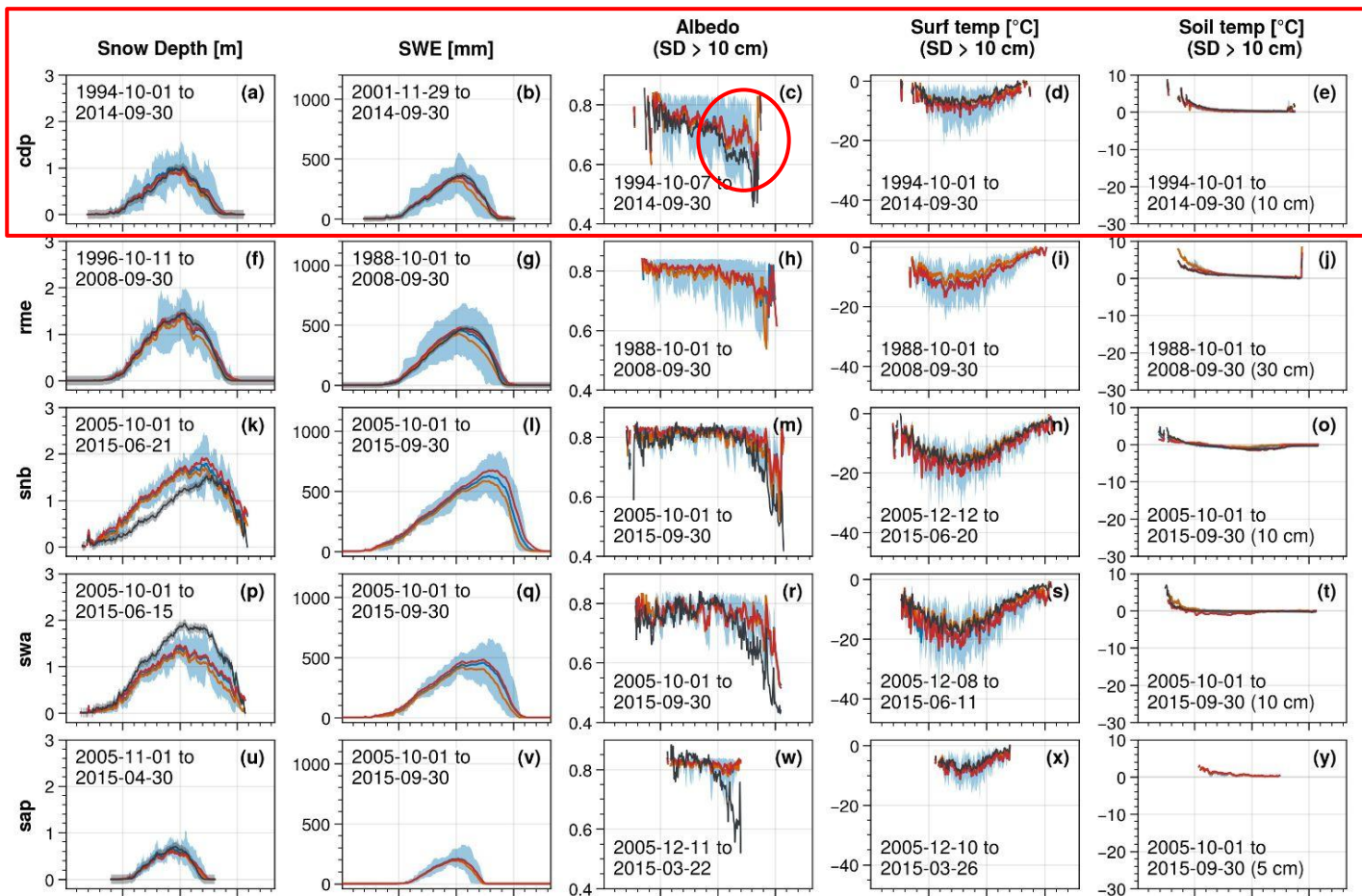
Annual cycles



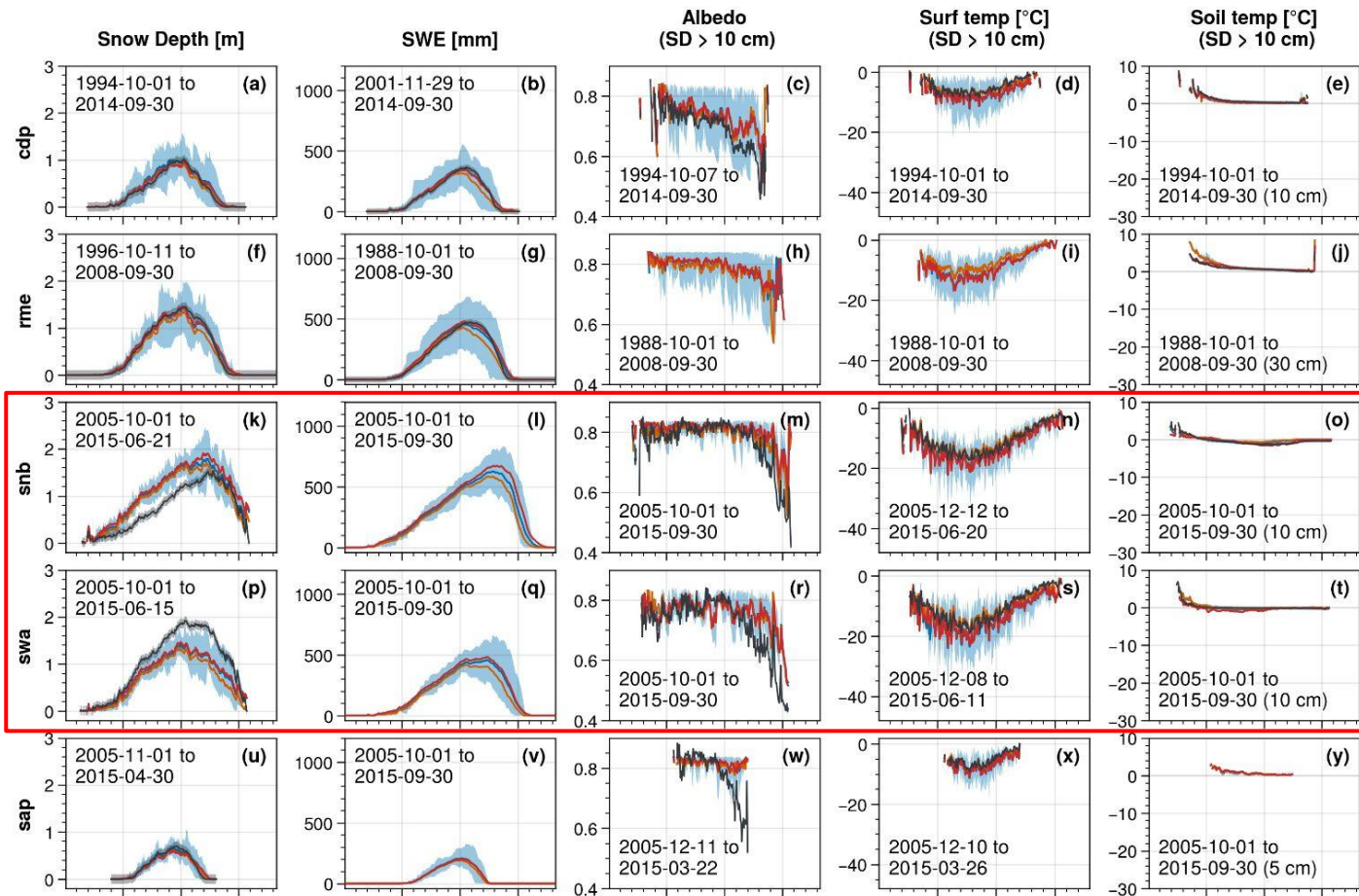
Annual cycles



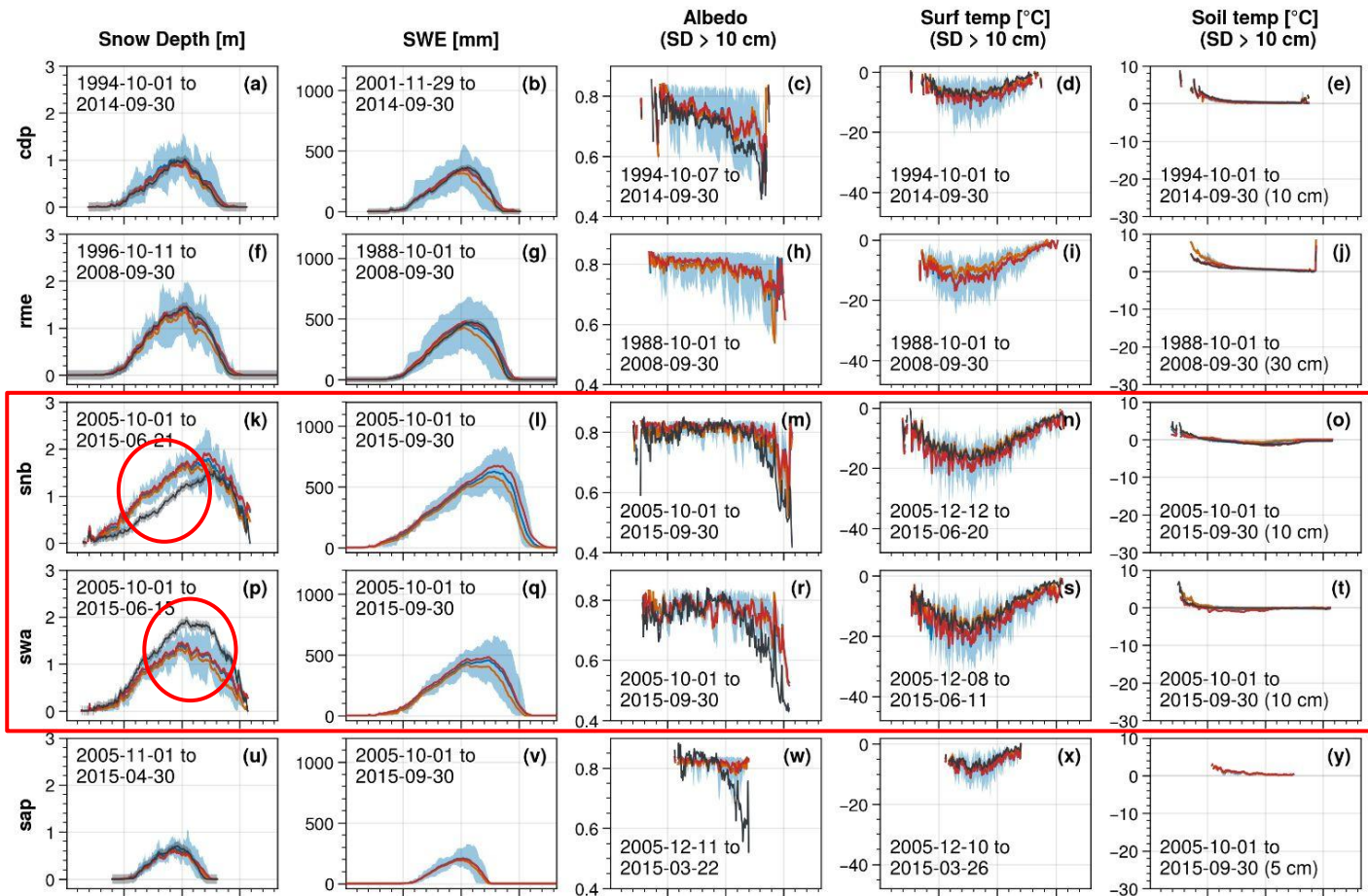
Annual cycles



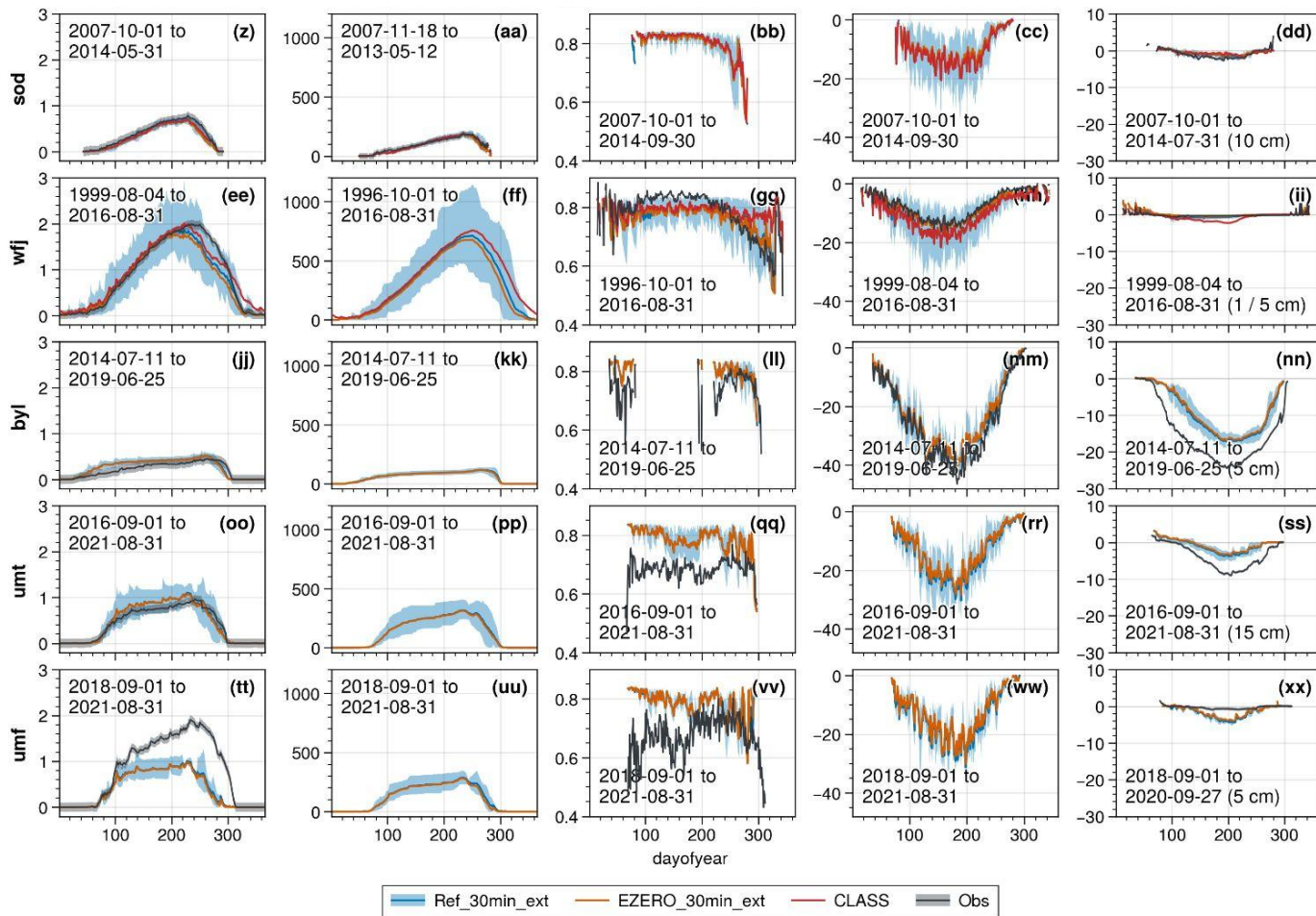
Annual cycles



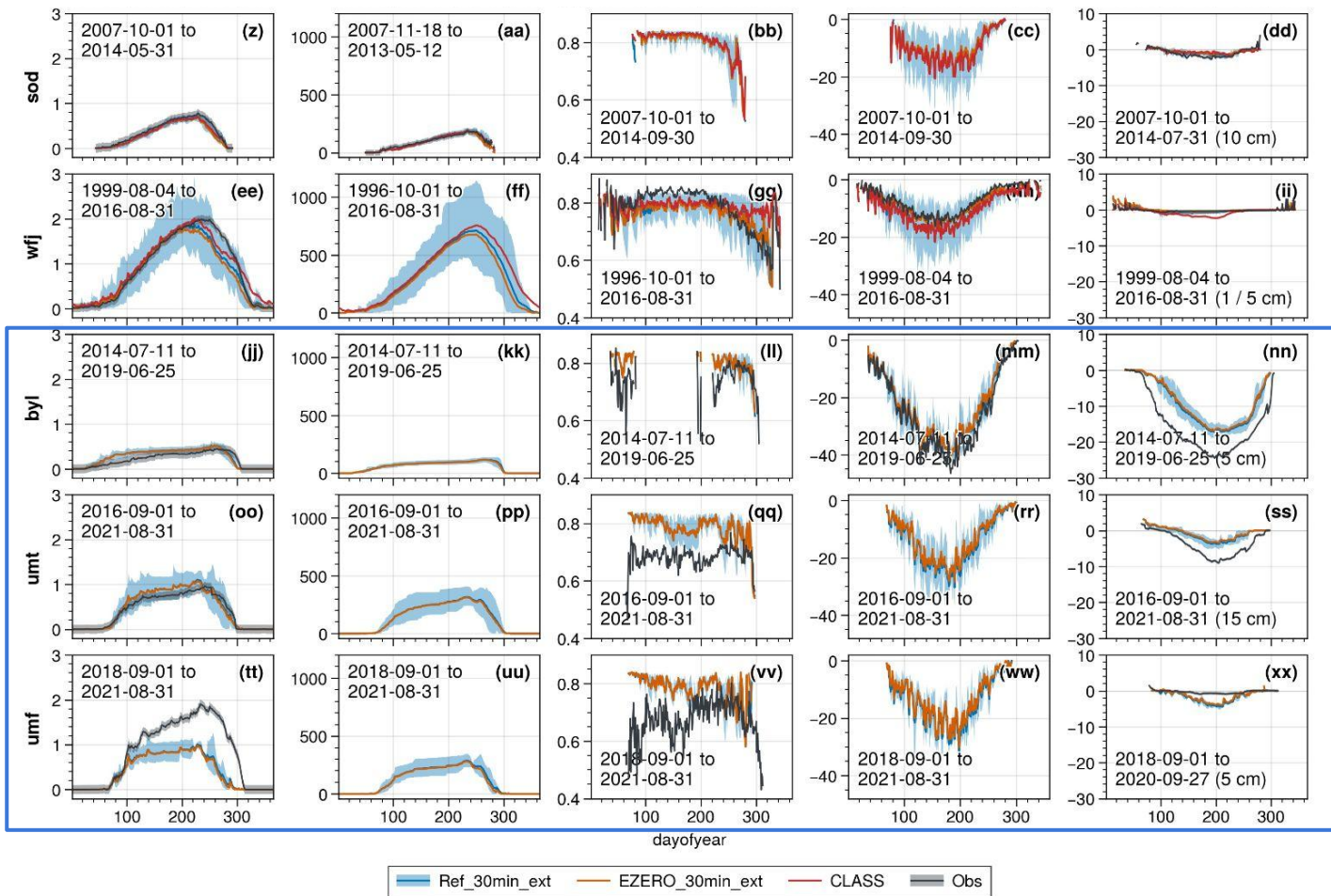
Annual cycles



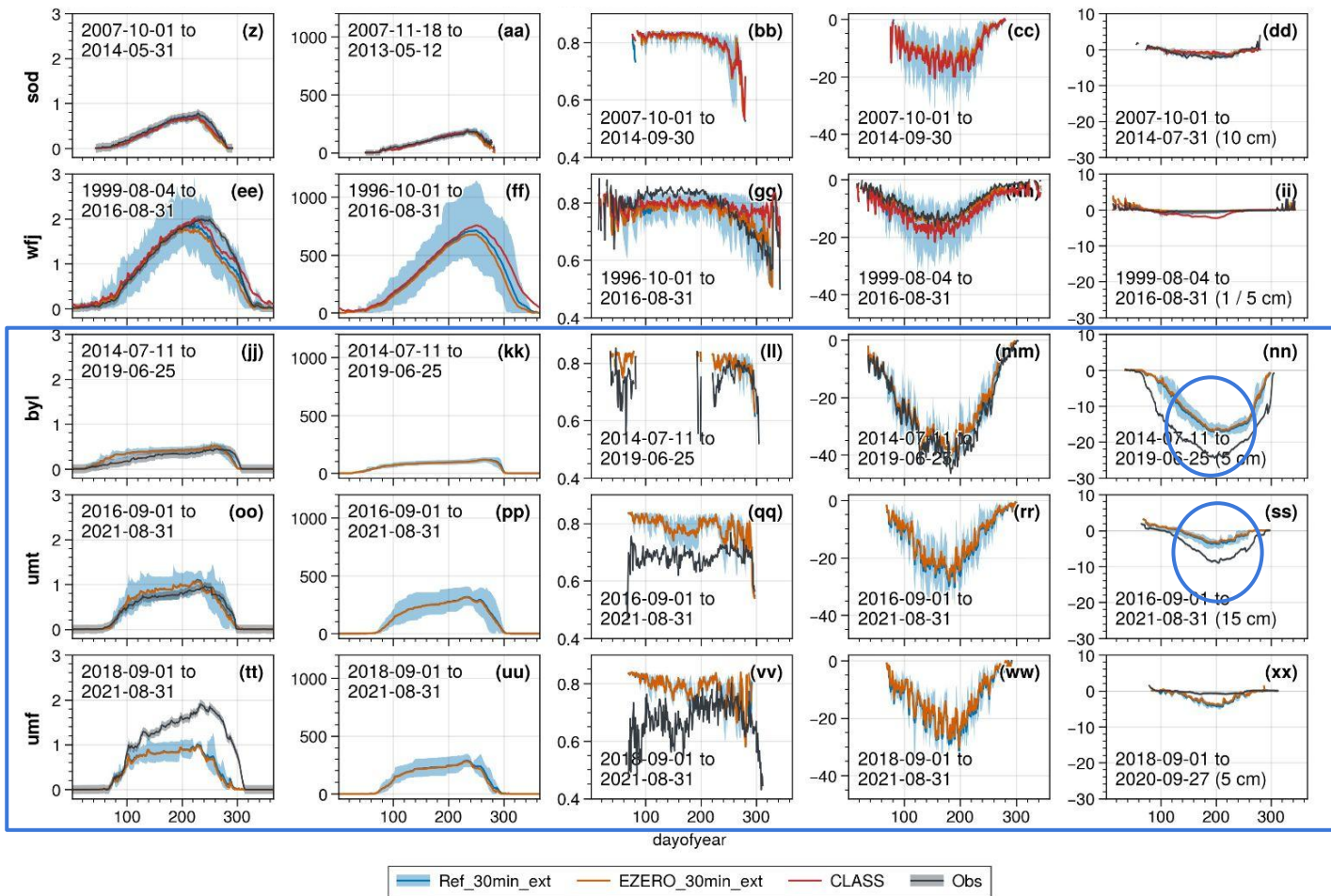
Annual cycles



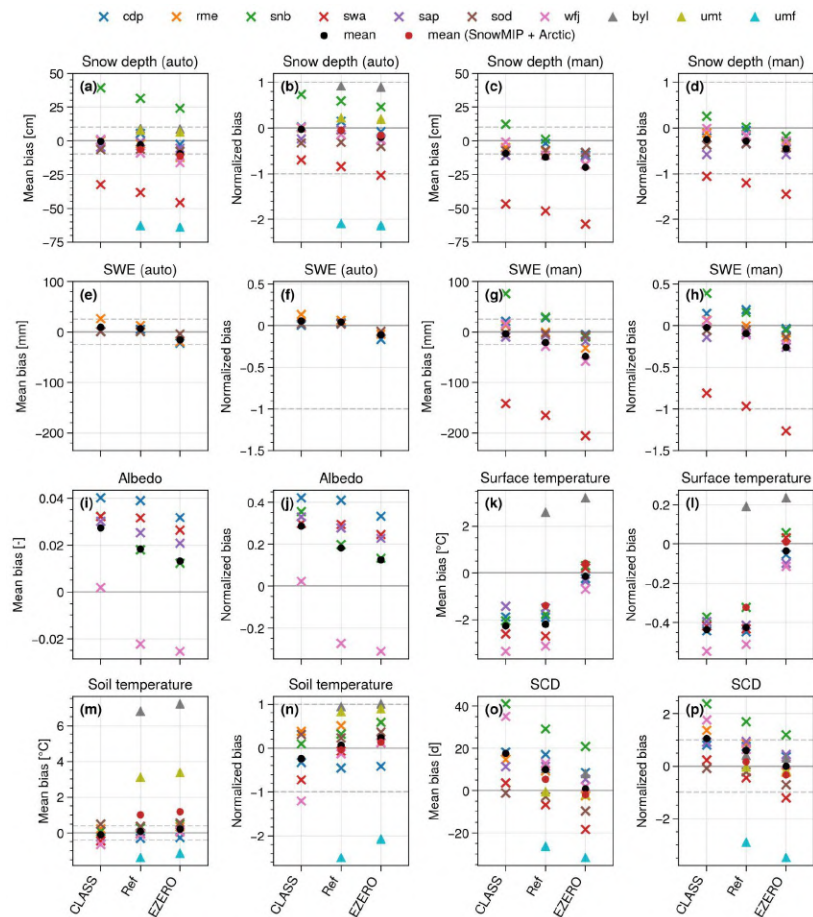
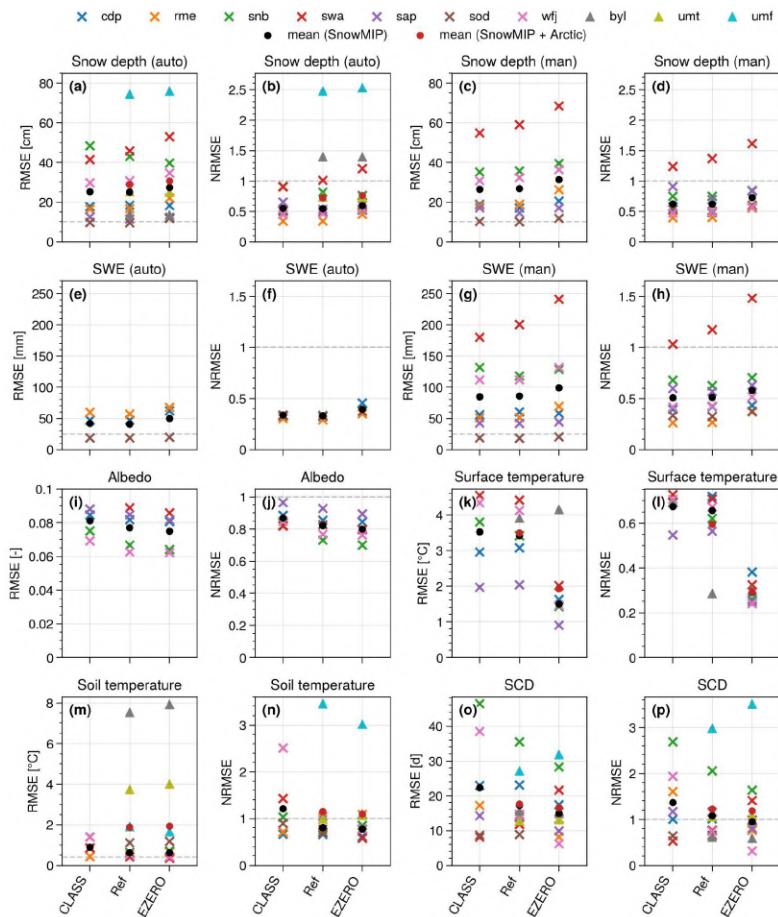
Annual cycles



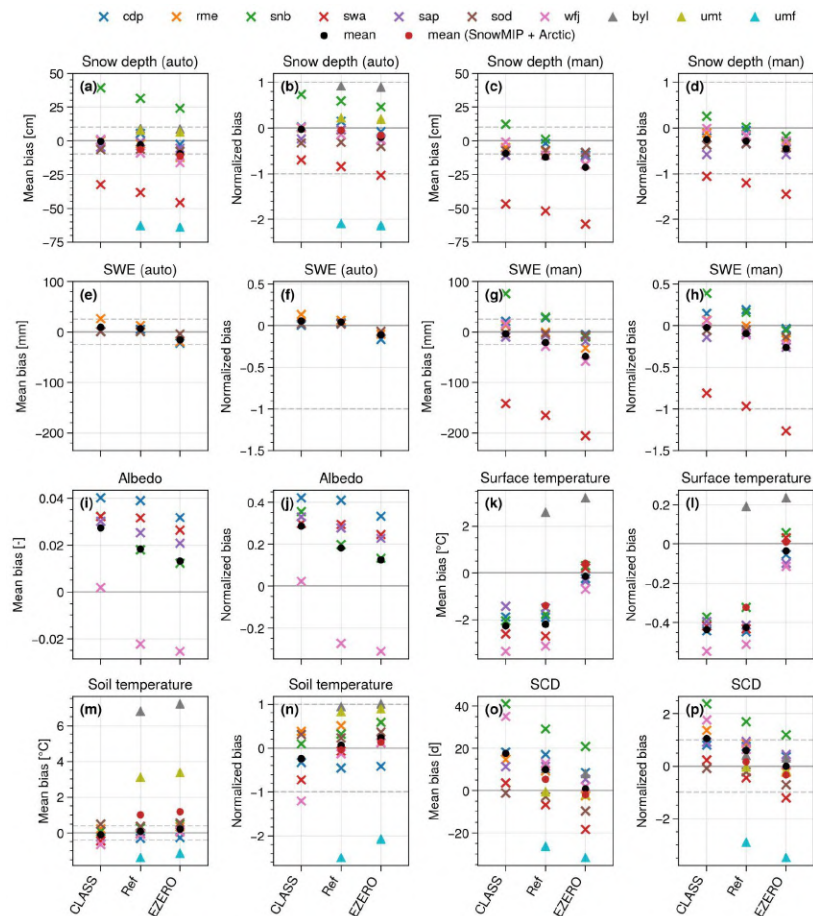
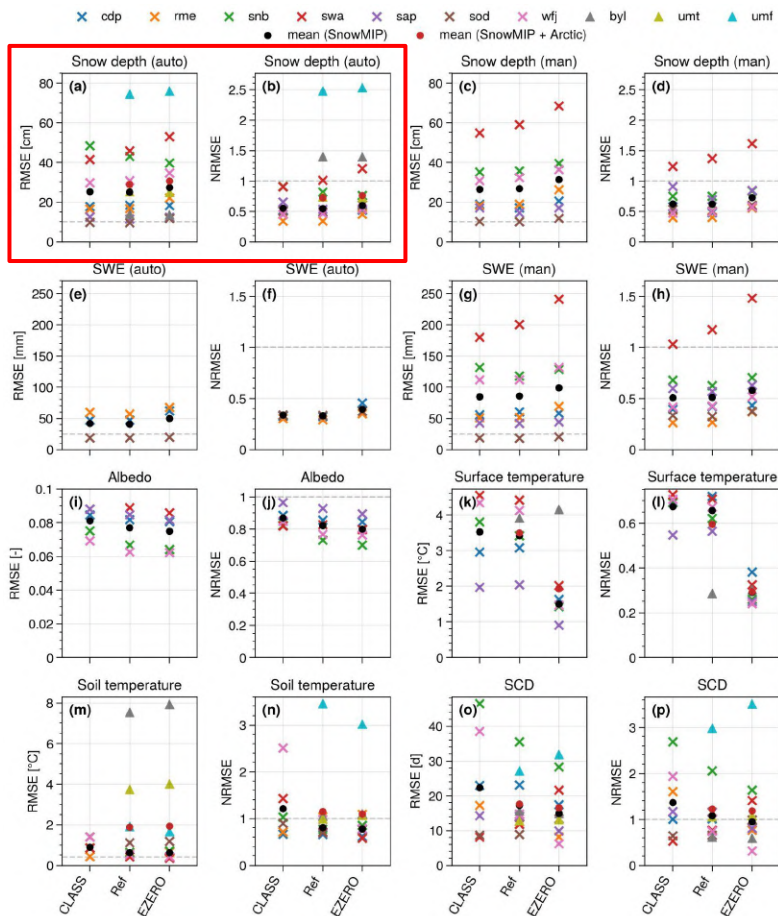
Annual cycles



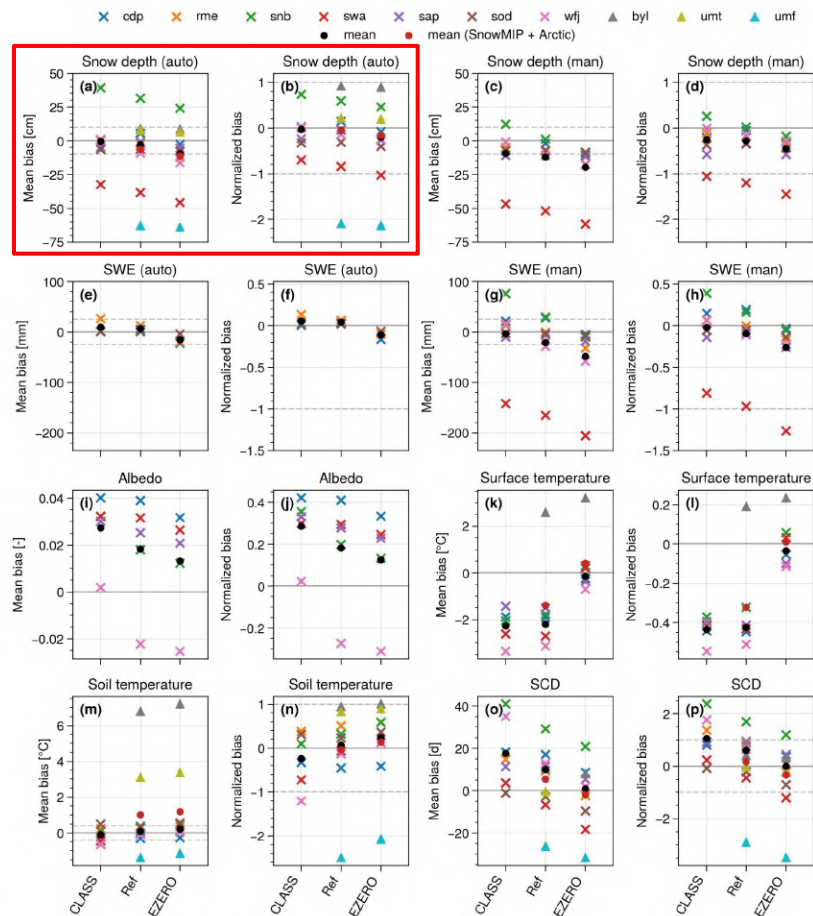
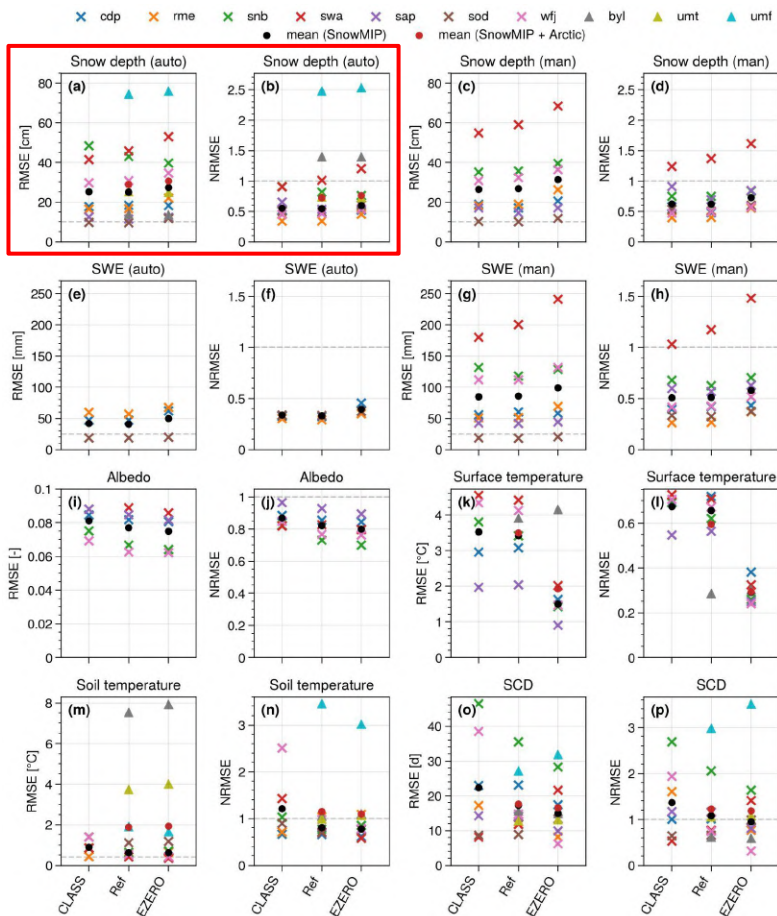
Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



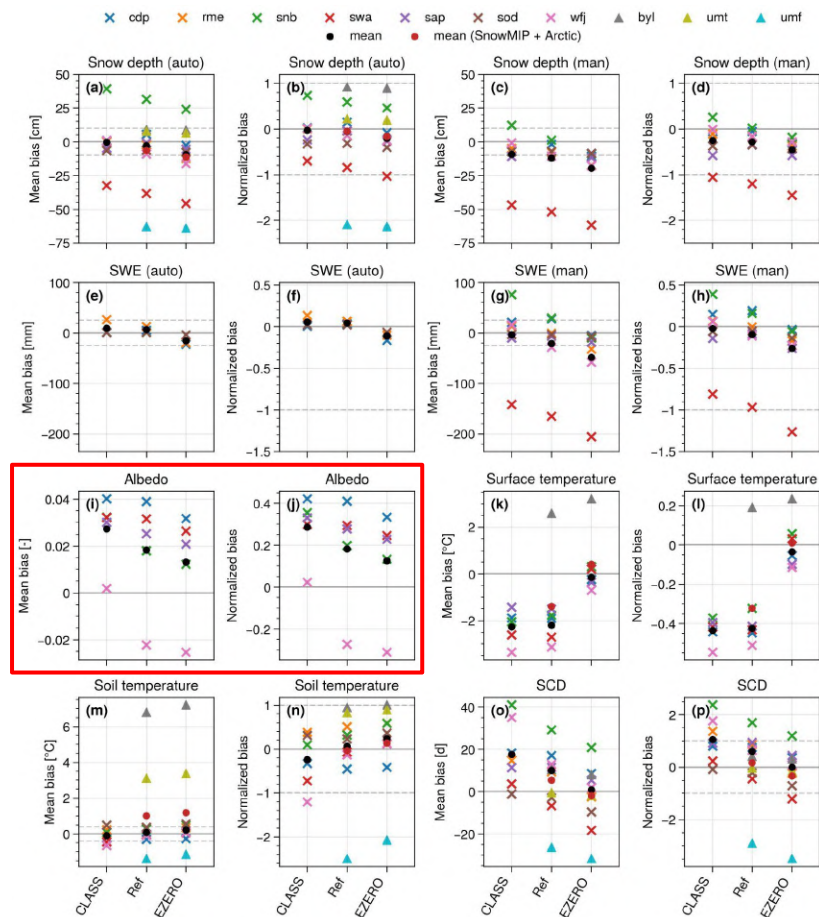
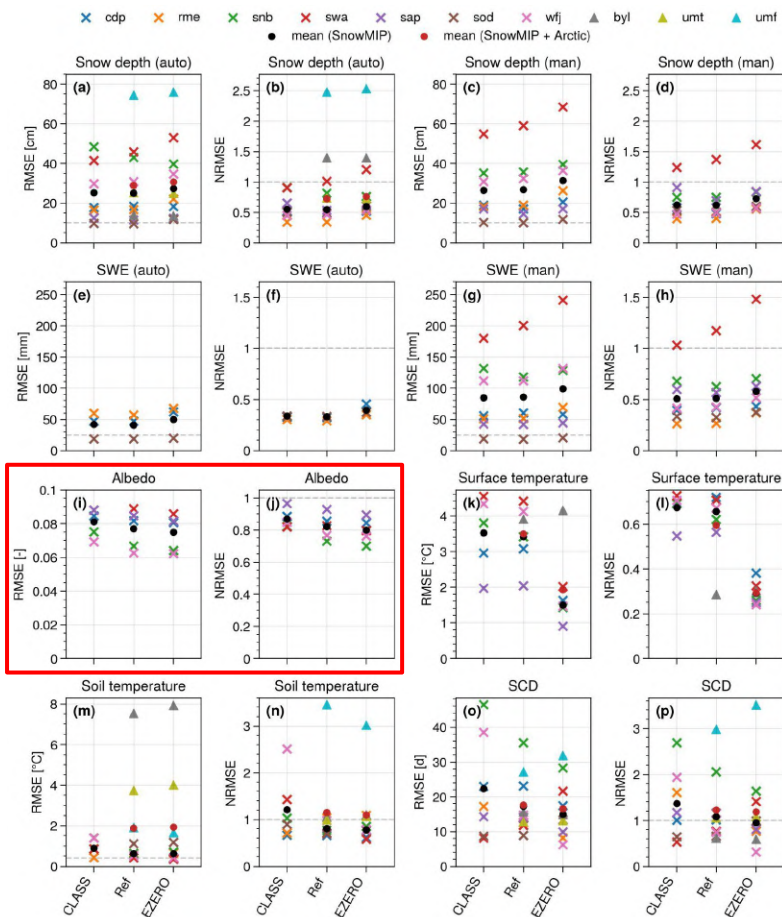
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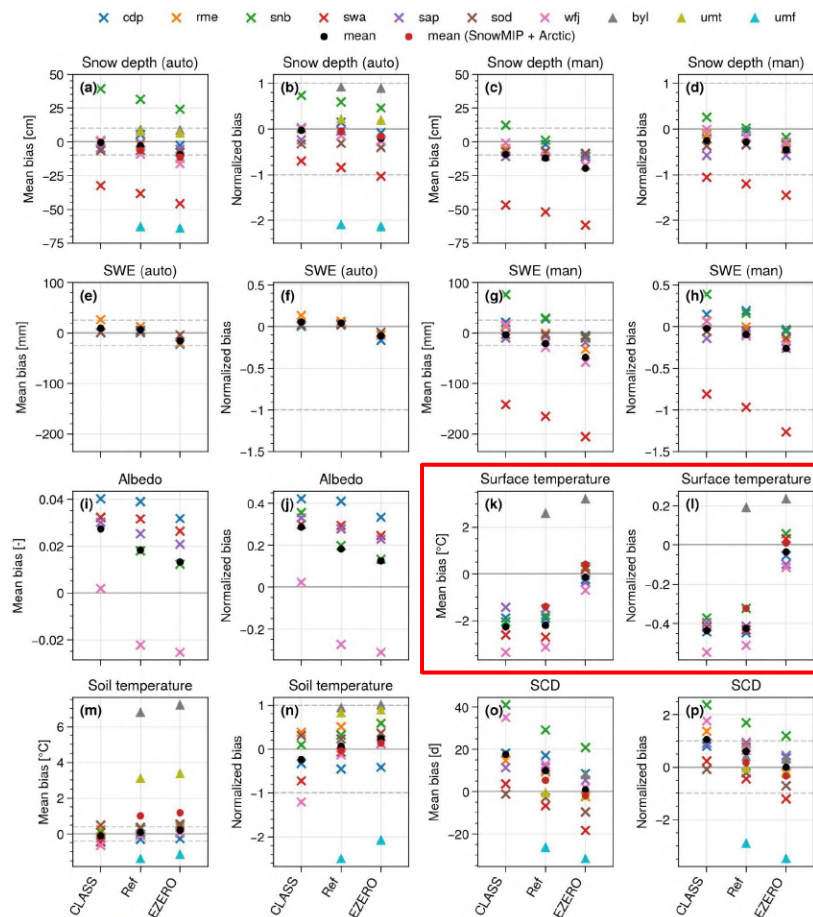
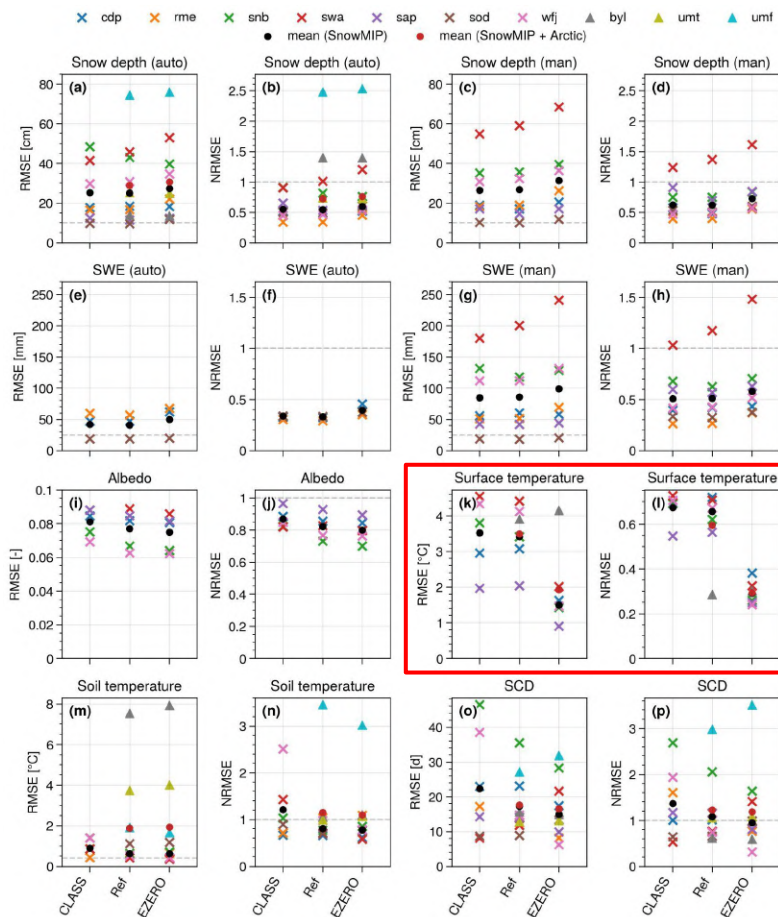
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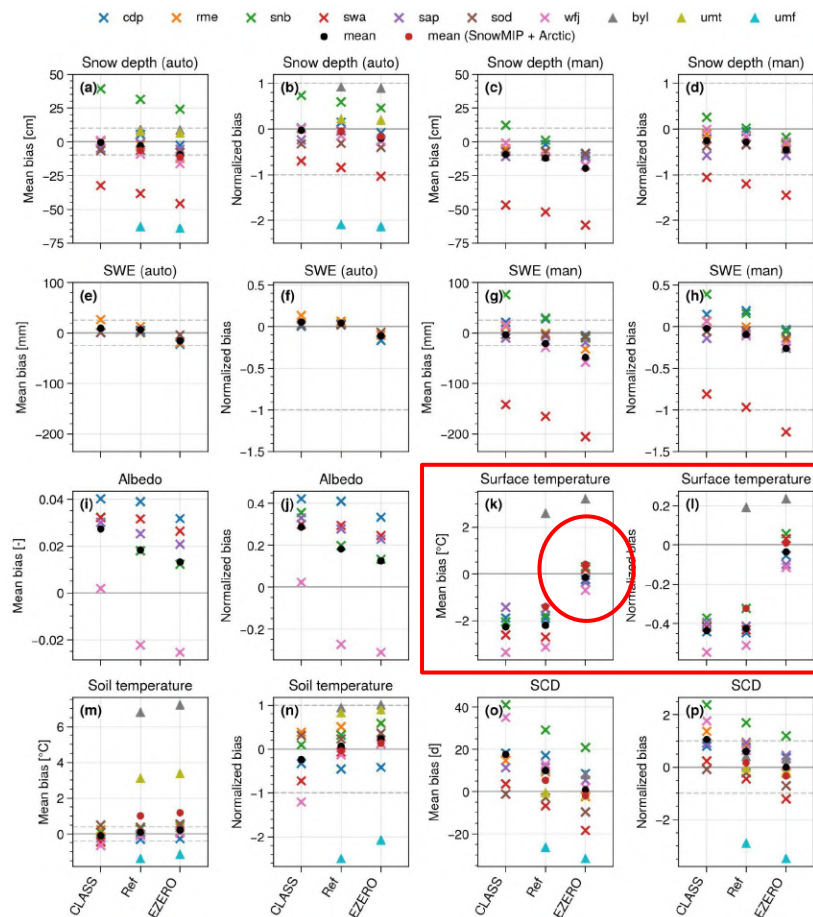
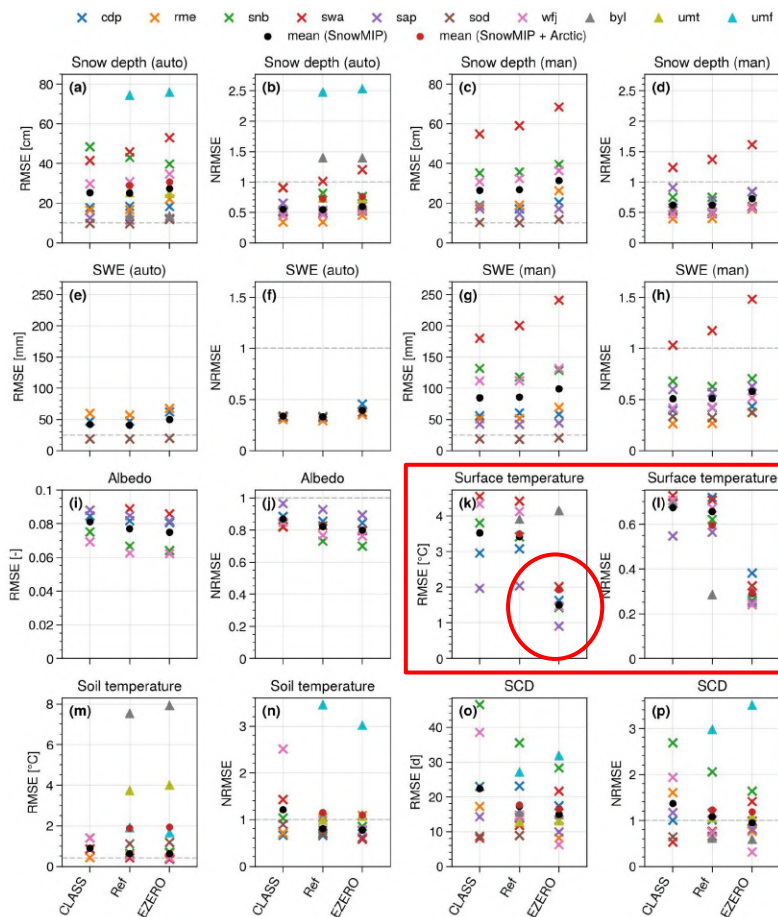
Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



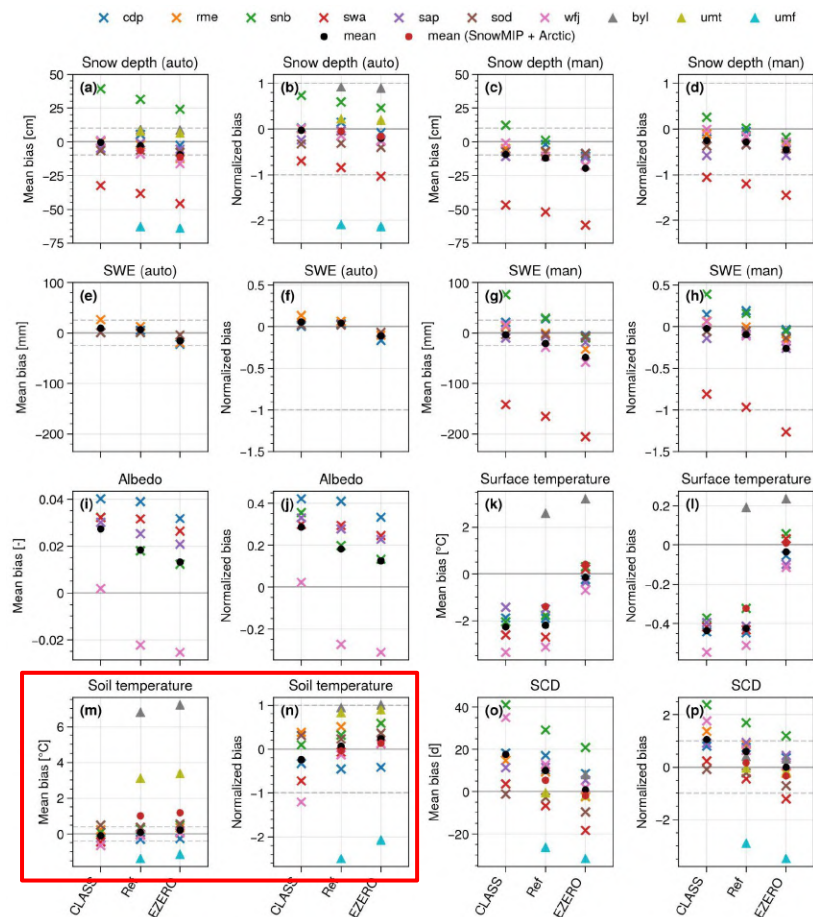
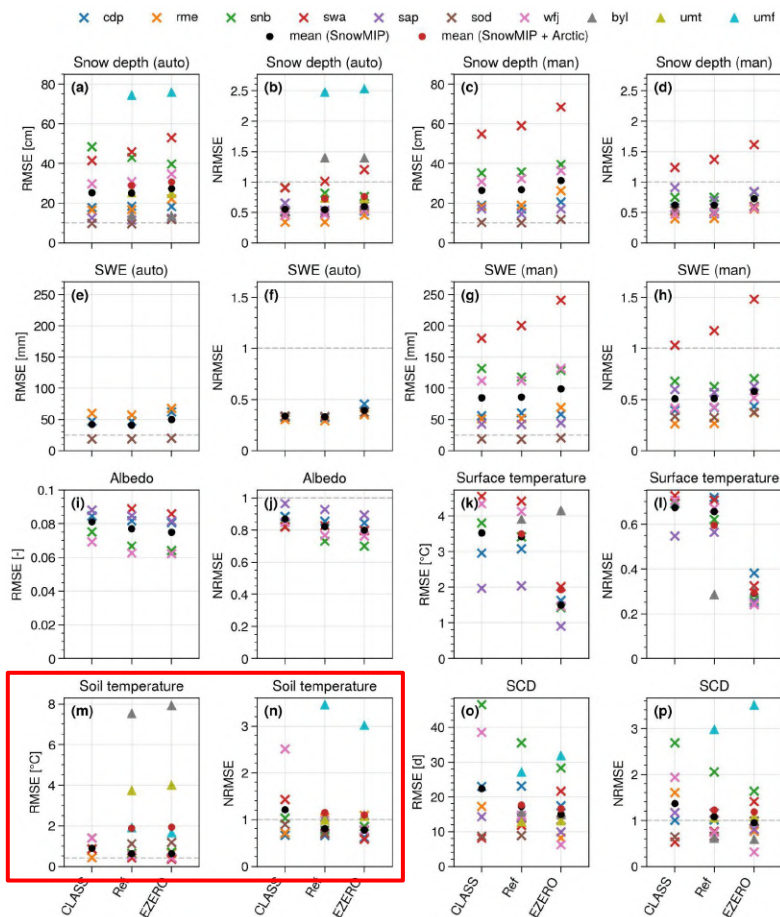
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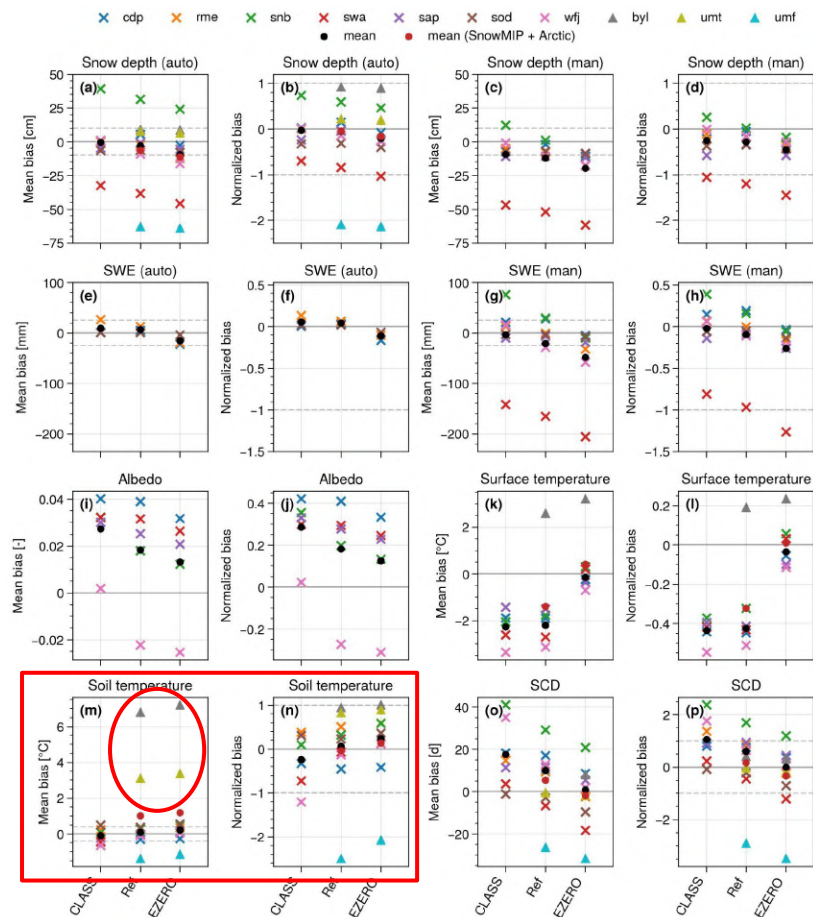
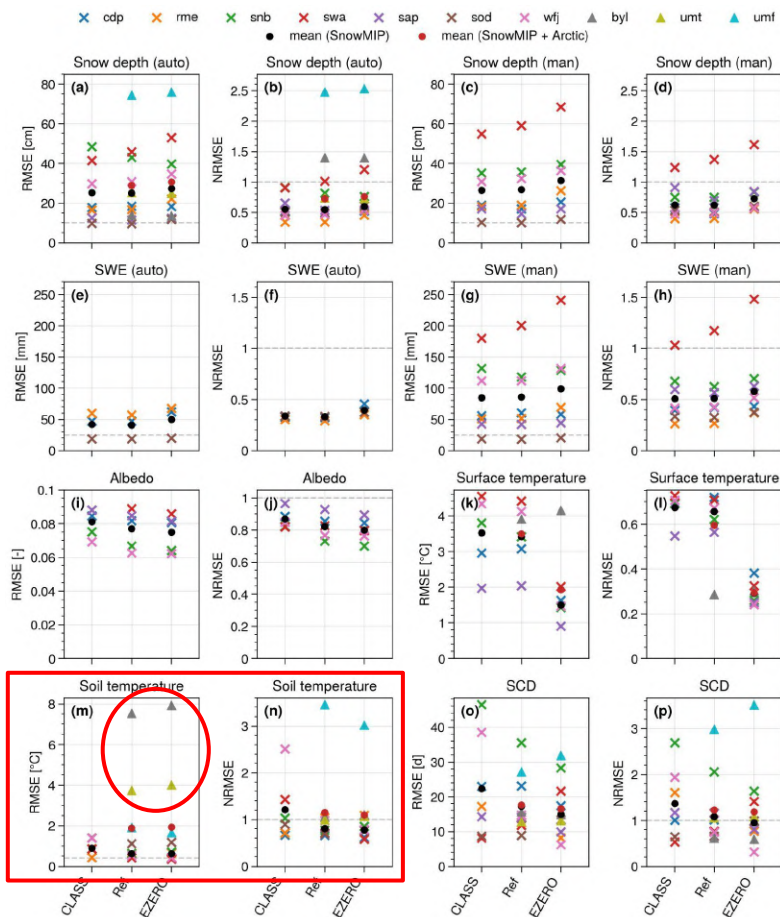
Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



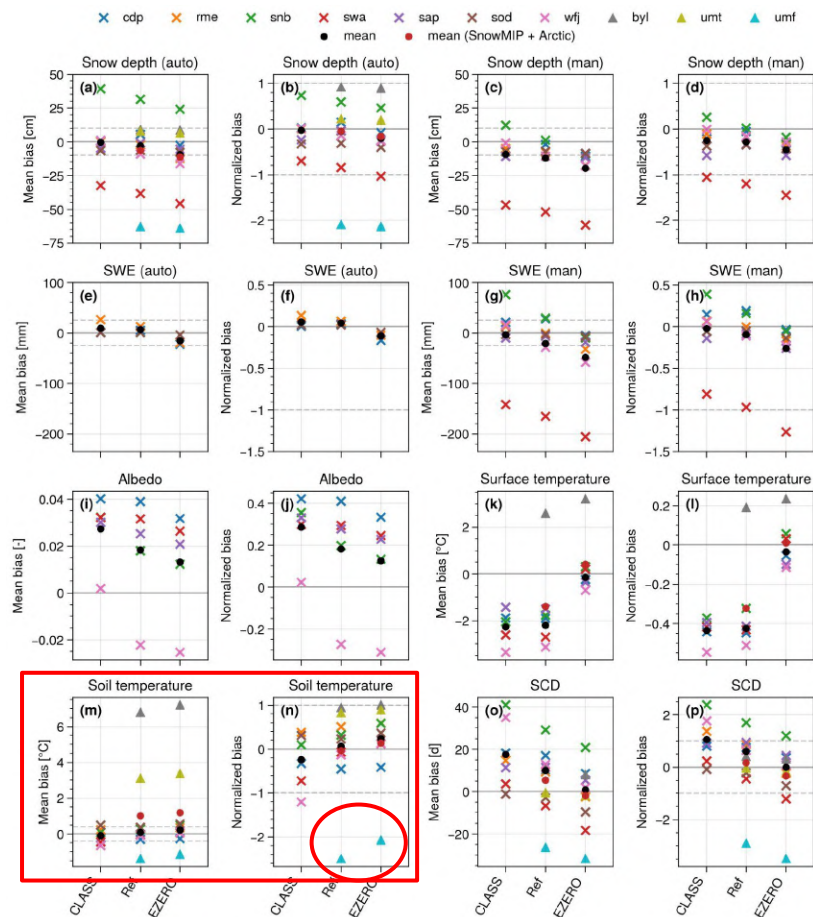
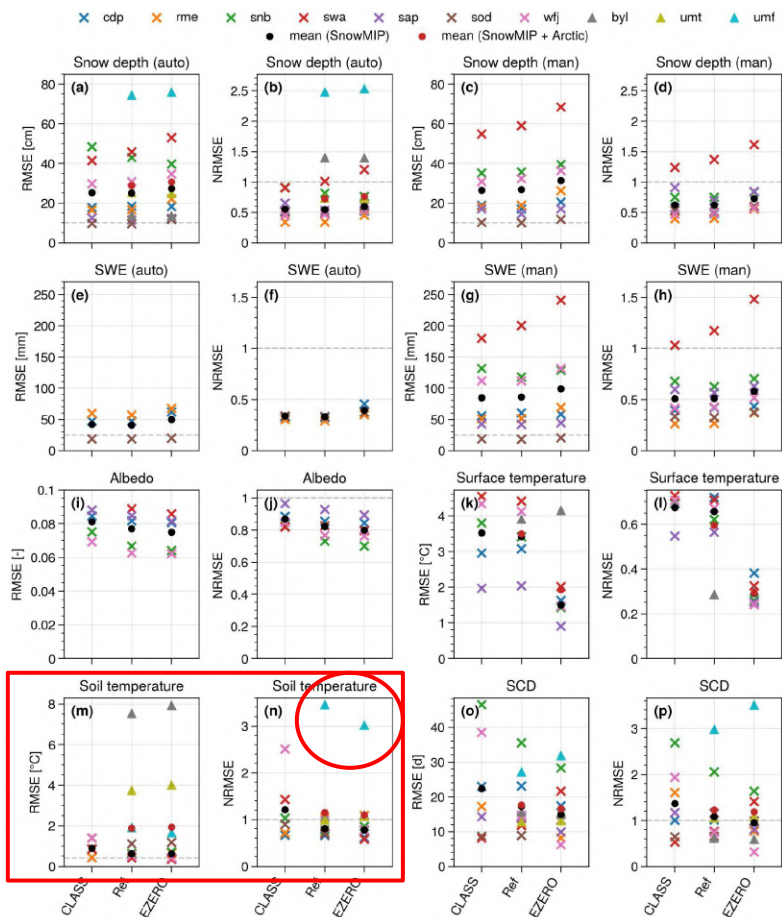
Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



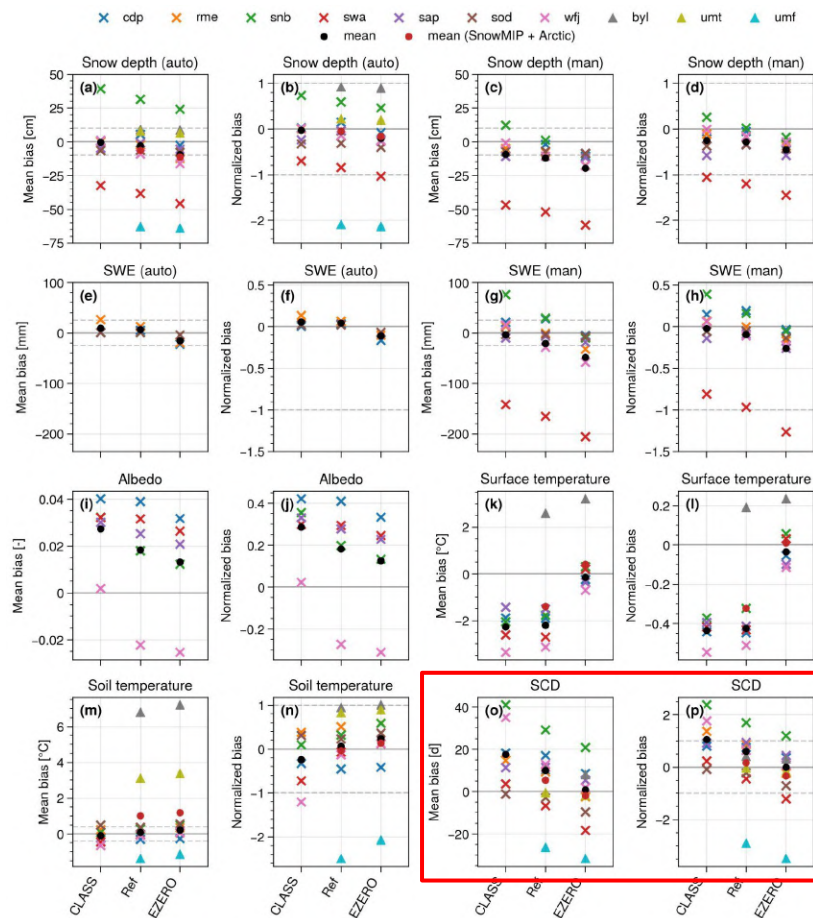
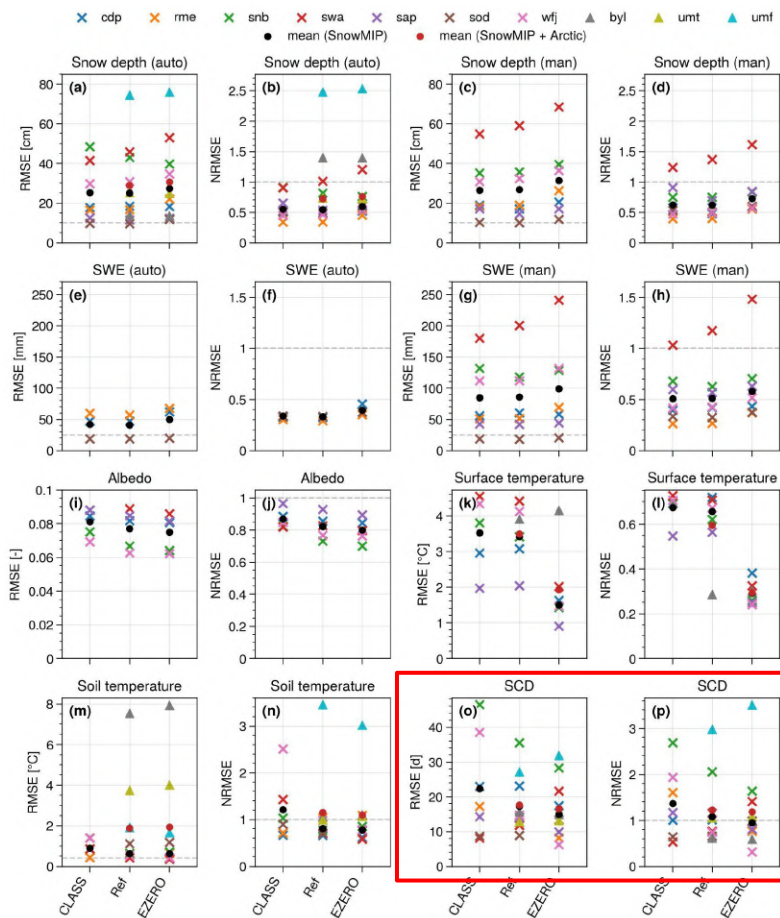
Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



Metrics (SD > 10 cm)



Main results

- **CLASS v3.6** → **CLASSIC v1.0** overall slight improvement (albedo, surface/soil temperatures, SCD)
- **EZERO** improves significantly the simulated surface temperature (but slight deterioration for SD/SWE)
- Large snow depth biases at **Senator Beck**, **Swamp Angel**, and **Umiujac FOREST**
 - issues with **wind-driven snow redistribution** (possible solution, e.g., Lackner et al., [2022](#) → correct precipitation rates during high wind-speed events)
 - e.g. Lackner et al. ([2022](#)) made 172 measurements of the snow height within a 100 m radius of Umiujaq TUNDRA on 12 April 2018 and observed heights varying between 50 and 210 cm
 - blowing snow sublimation losses? (Gordon et al., [2006](#))
- Large soil temperature biases at **Arctic sites**
 - non-consideration of **Arctic snowpack characteristics**? (e.g., Gouttevin et al., [2018](#); Royer et al., [2021](#))
 - other issues?
- Further investigation needed → **snow profiles** (density, thermal conduction, temperature, etc.) at several sites (e.g., Col de Porte and Arctic sites) + CO2 at Umiujac (+ add TVC?)

Model development work

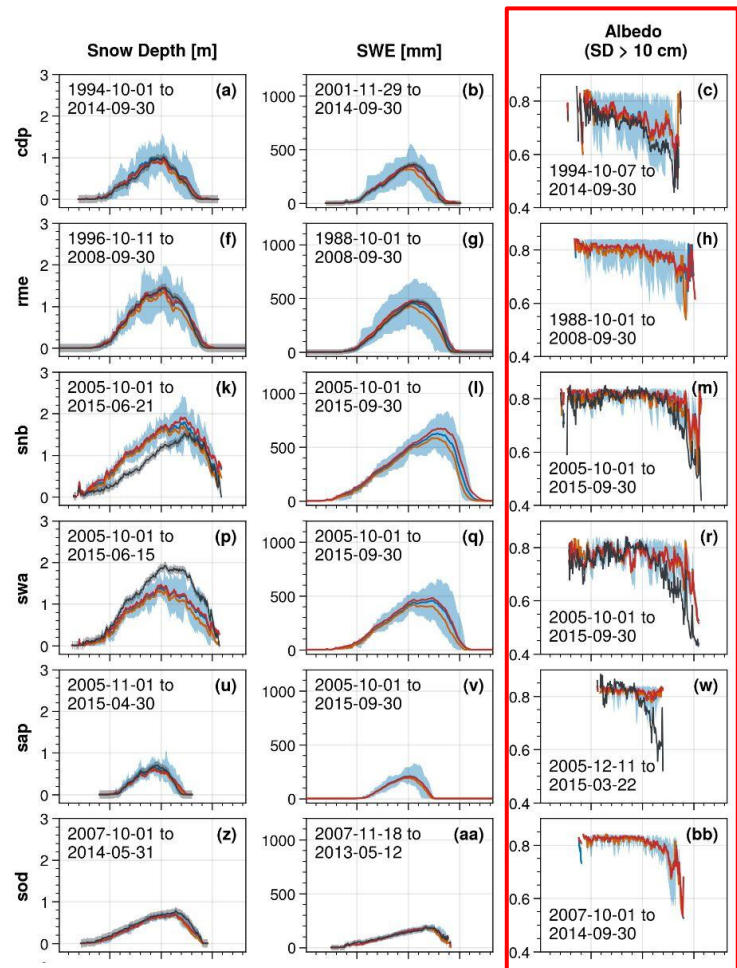
- **Planned improvements (1D):**
 - **multilayer snowpack** 3 to 12 layers? (e.g., Boone & Etchevers, [2001](#); Wang et al., [2013](#); Decharme et al., [2016](#))
 - **Arctic snowpack adaptations** → increasing **wind-induced surface snow compaction** to simulate the **wind slab** and **reducing the density of lower layers** through the vegetation height to approximate the **depth hoar** formation (e.g., Barrere et al., [2017](#); Gouttevin et al., [2018](#); Royer et al., [2021](#); Lackner et al., [2022](#))
 - **blowing snow sublimation losses** (Gordon et al., [2006](#))
- **After this first study (spatial):**
 - + new **snow cover fraction parameterizations** (e.g., Roesch et al., [2001](#); Liston, [2004](#); Niu & Yang, [2007](#); Swenson & Lawrence, [2012](#); Lalande et al., [2023](#))

!/\ vertical energy and water fluxes are modeled separately in CLASSIC for **four subareas** in each grid cell: vegetated, bare soil, vegetated with snow cover, and bare soil with snow cover !/\

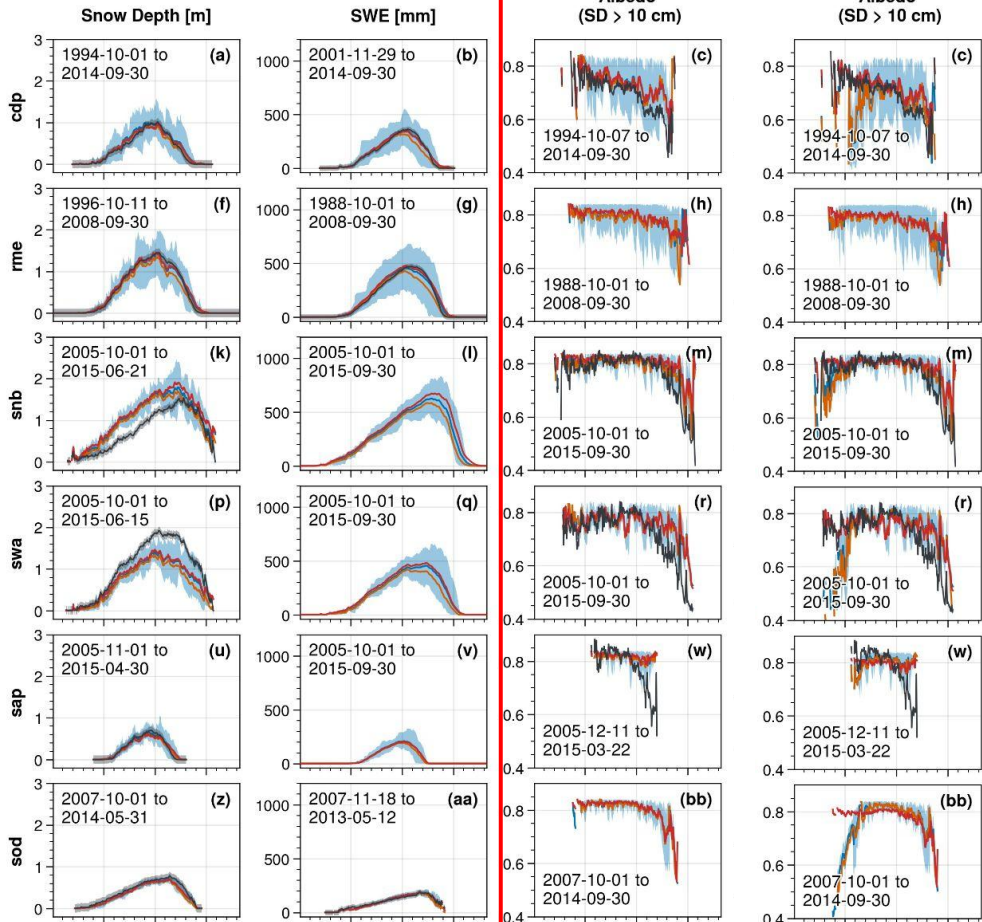
Model development work

- **Current CLASSIC v1.0 snow model** (Verseghy et al., [2017](#)):
 - **single layer** with fitted quadratic temperature curve (first-order way of accounting for the characteristic sharp near-surface temperature gradient in snow packs)
 - **snow albedo** / **snow density** → exponential empirical functions (Tabler et al., [1990](#); Brown et al., [2006](#))
 - **fresh snow density** → function of the air temperature (Pomeroy & Gray, 1995)
 - snow **thermal conductivity** (Sturm et al., [1997](#))
 - takes into account **melting**, **infiltration**, and **refreezing** (Bruce & Clark, 1966)
 - **interception** of snowfall **by vegetation** is explicitly modeled (depending on the LAI) (Hedstrom & Pomeroy, [1998](#); Bartlett et al., [2006](#); Bartlett & Verseghy, [2015](#)).
 - **snow cover** is assumed to be complete if the diagnosed snow depth is equal to or greater than a **threshold value of 0.10 m**; if it is less, the snow depth is set to this threshold value, and the fractional snow cover is determined based on the conservation of snow mass.

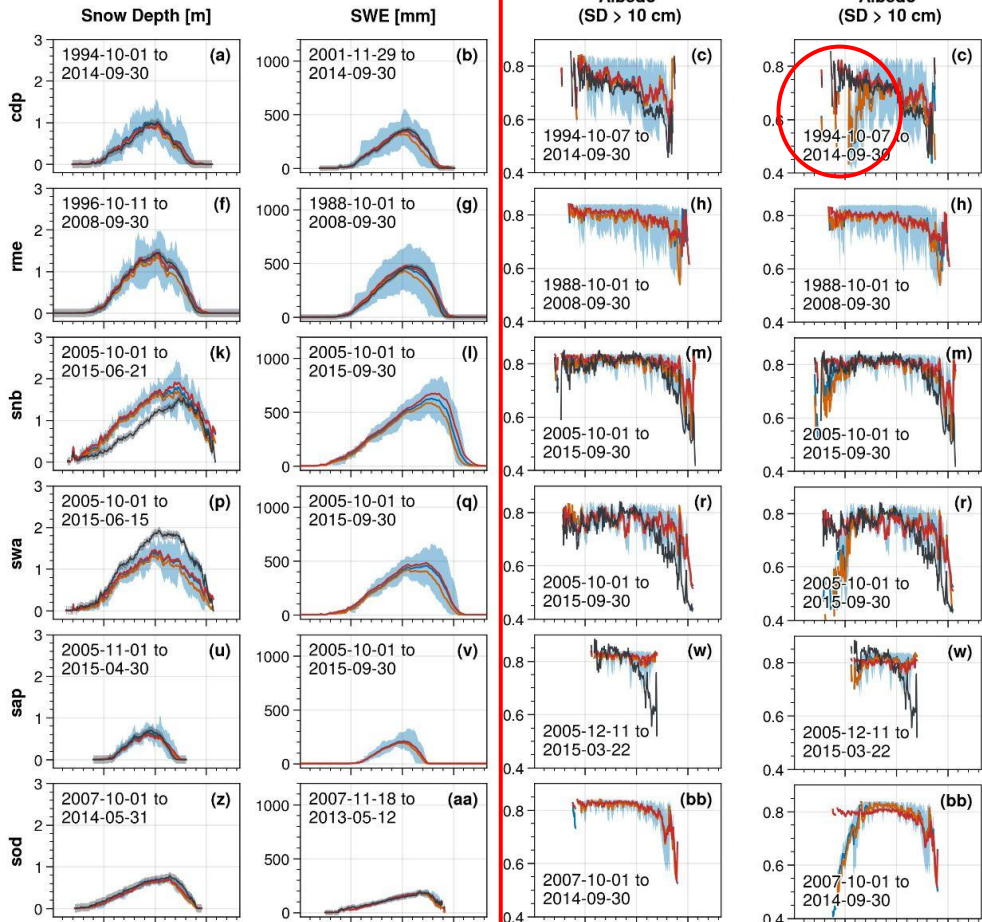
Discussion: albedo



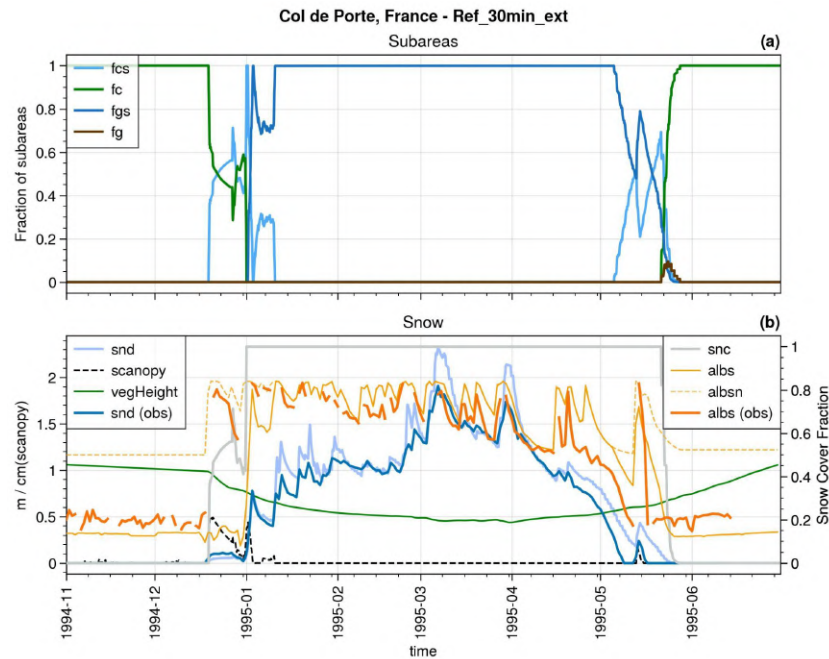
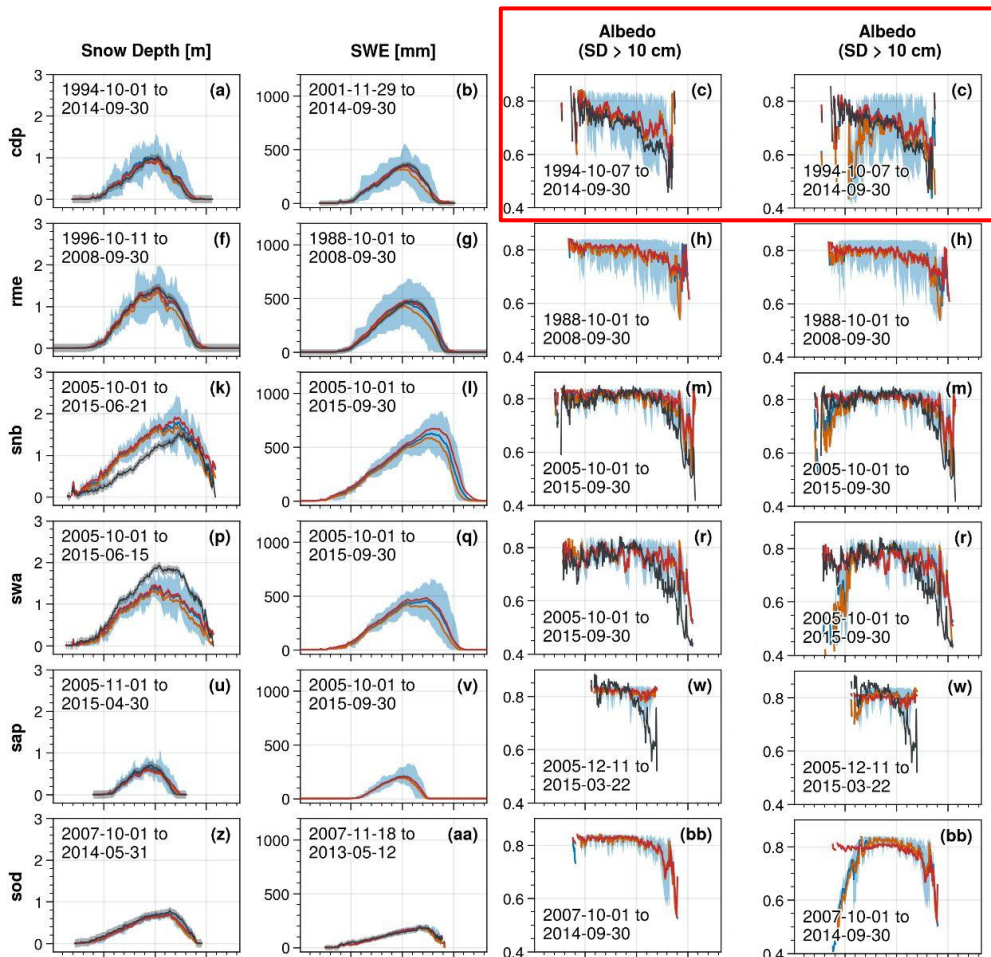
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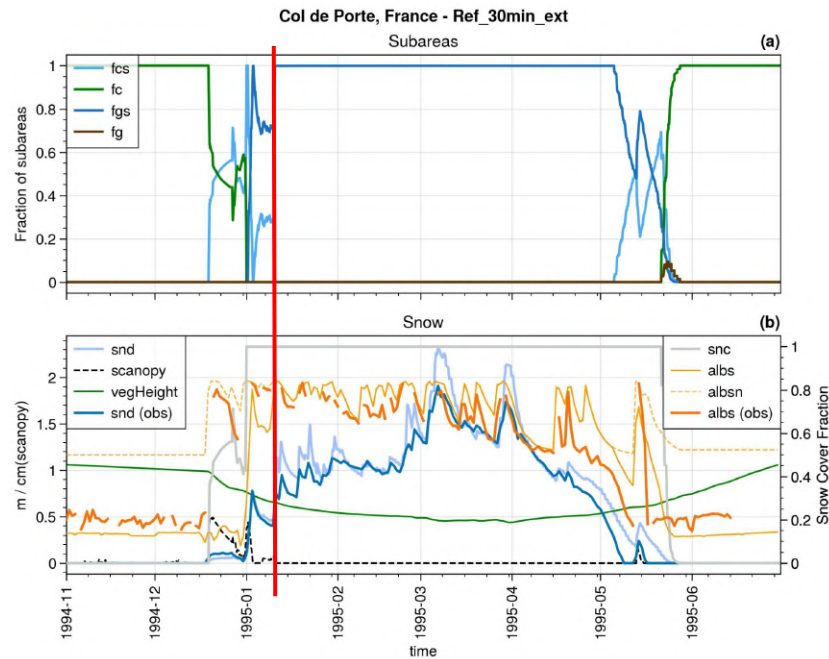
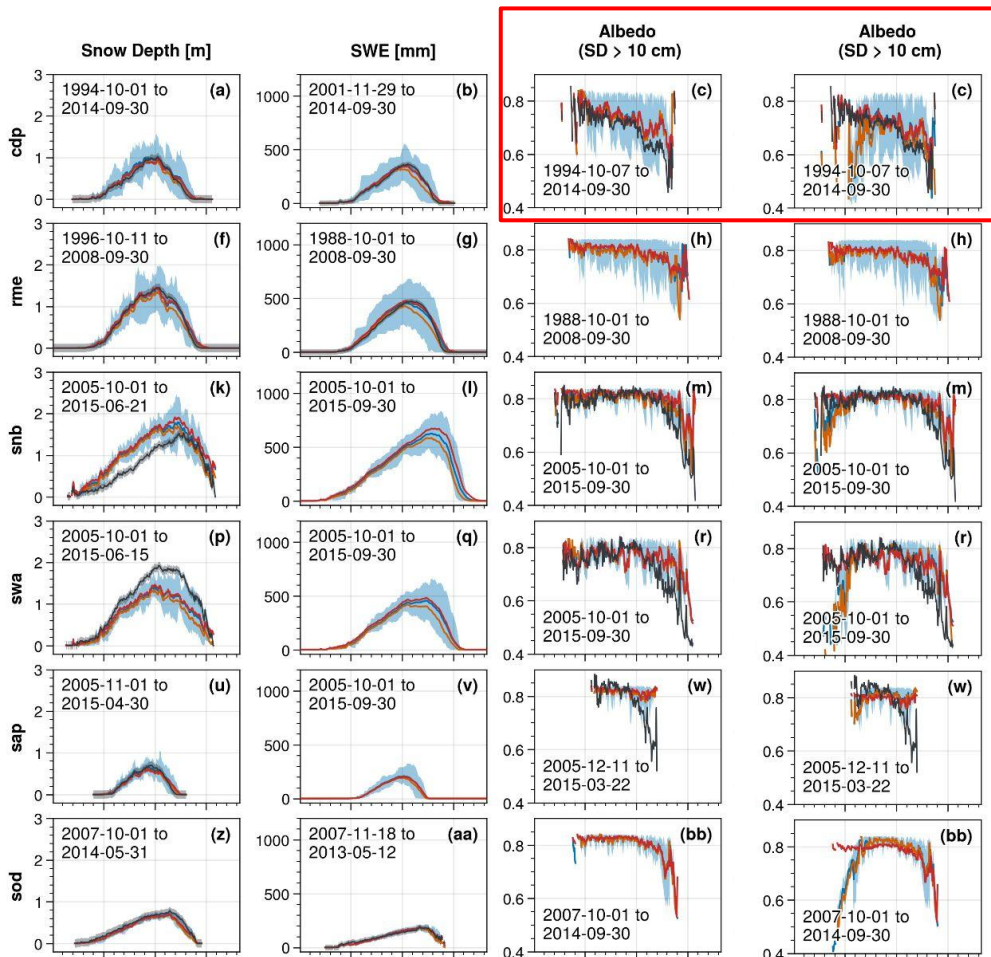
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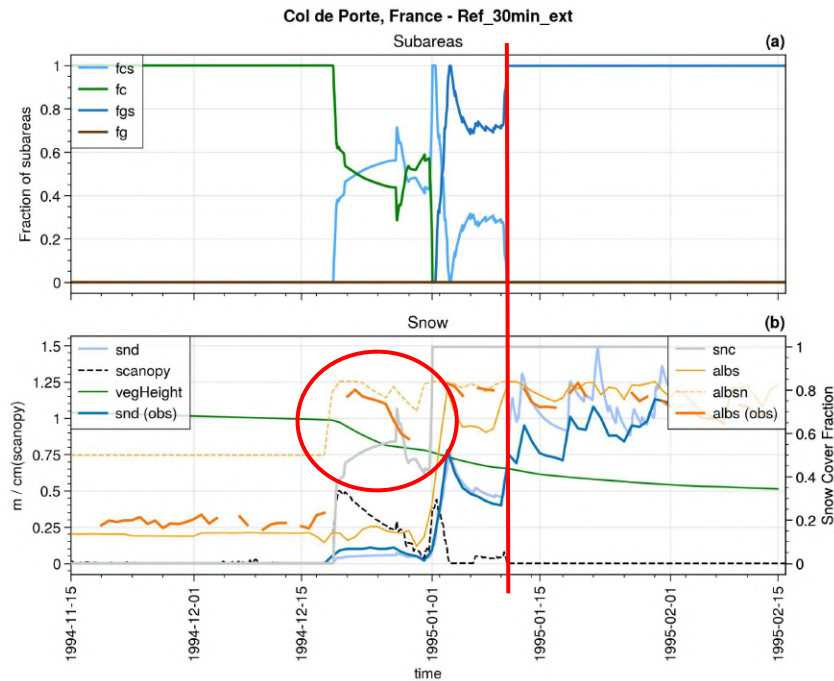
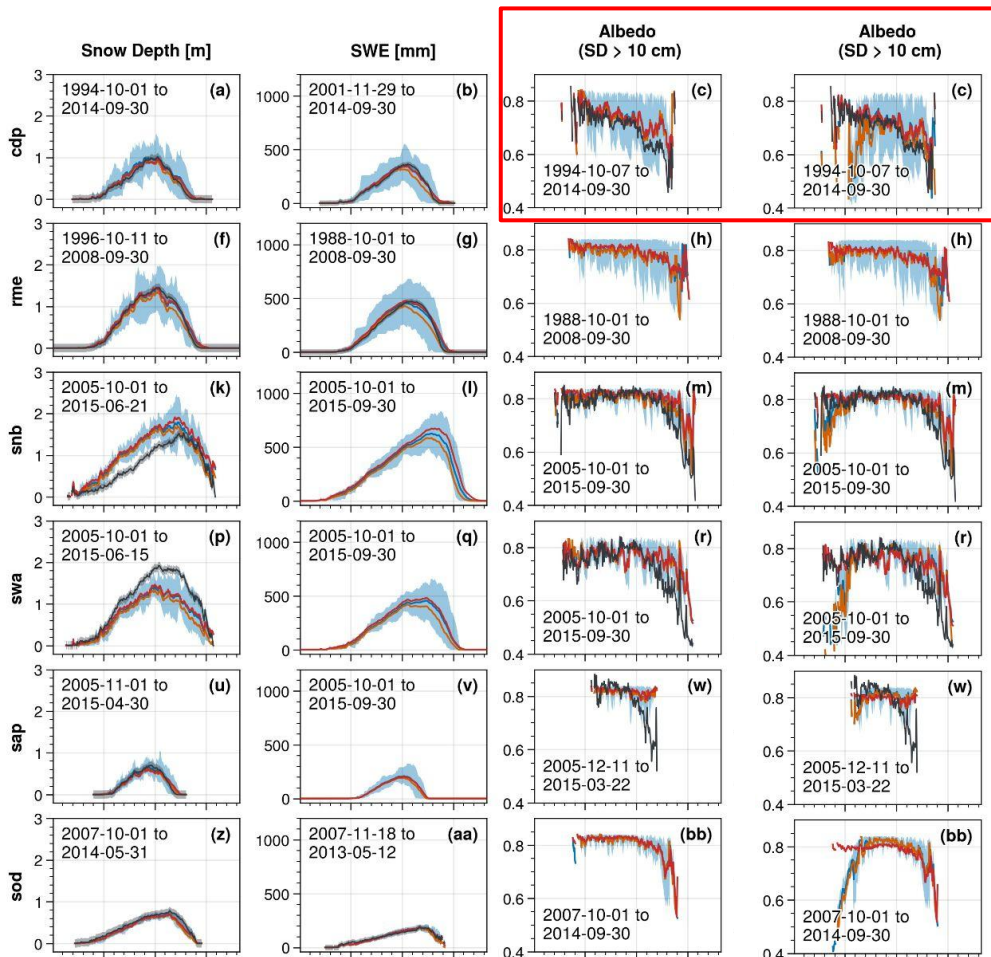
Discussion: albedo



Discussion: albedo



Discussion: albedo





MICKAËL LALANDE



SOCIAL NETWORKS



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Supplementary slide

