

Testing Recent and Future GCM Expressions of Antarctic Surface Melting Conditions

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*Funded by the Division of Polar Programs,
National Science Foundation*



Project Overview

- Three project goals
 - Relate observed surface melt to modeled meteorology
 - Evaluate CMIP5 GCM skill against modern
 - Predict future surface melt with CMIP5 projections
- Polar WRF 3.3.1* on 45/15 km continental grids

WRF(Reanalysis)
1989 - 2008

WRF(modern GCM)
1990 - 1999

WRF(future GCM)
2090 - 2099

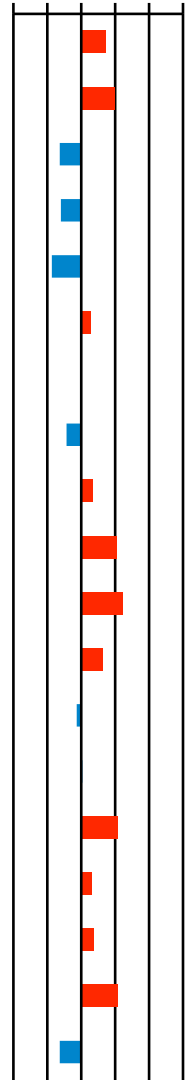
* WRF with modifications for polar conditions
Polar Meteorology Group, Byrd Polar Research Center, Ohio State

Talk Overview

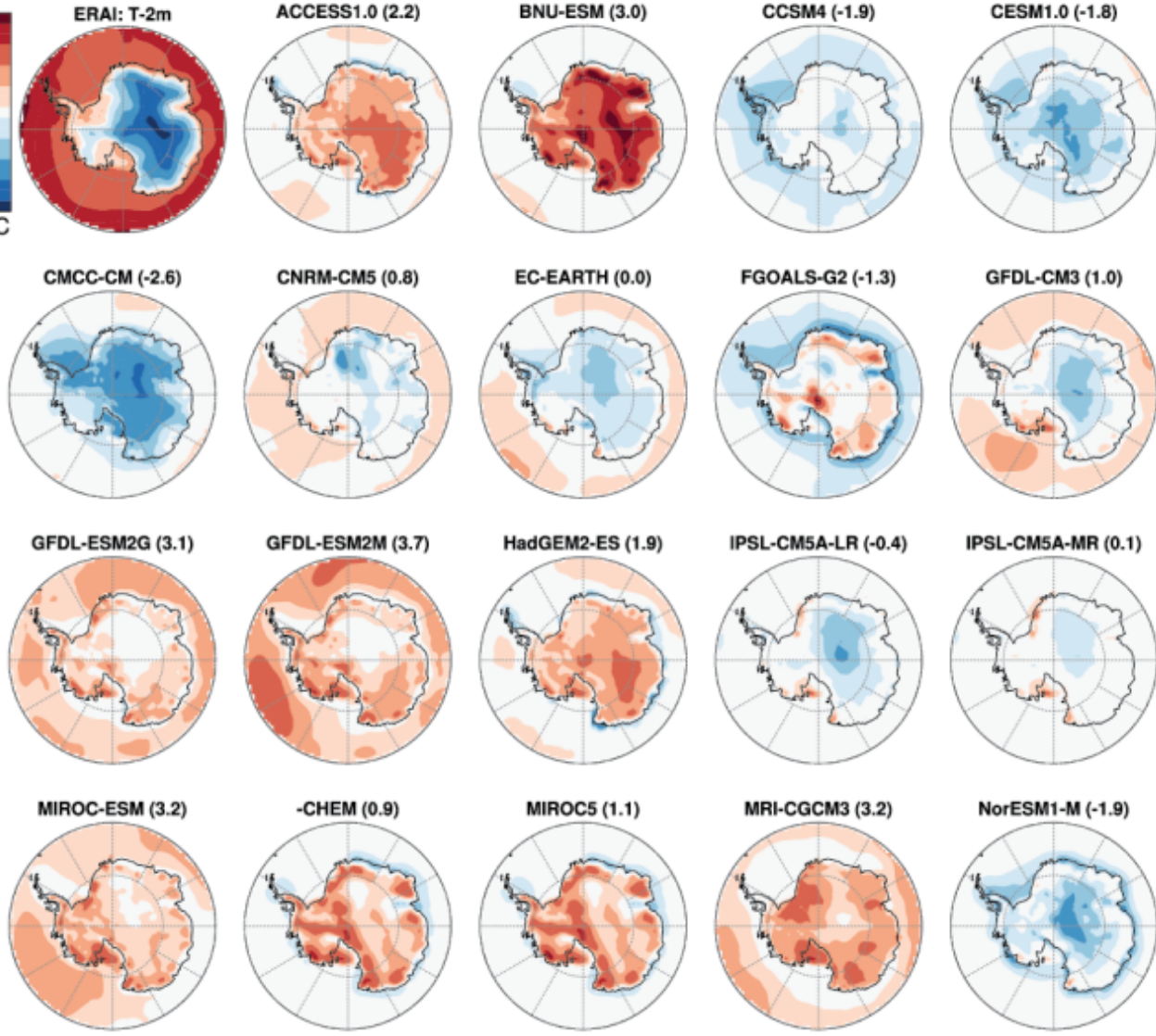
- Intermodel Uncertainty: CMIP5
- Melt Events & Meteorology
- Intramodel Uncertainty: CESM Large Ensemble

CMIP5 Models vs ERA-Interim tas (January 1981-2000)

Domain
-6 -3 0 3 6 9

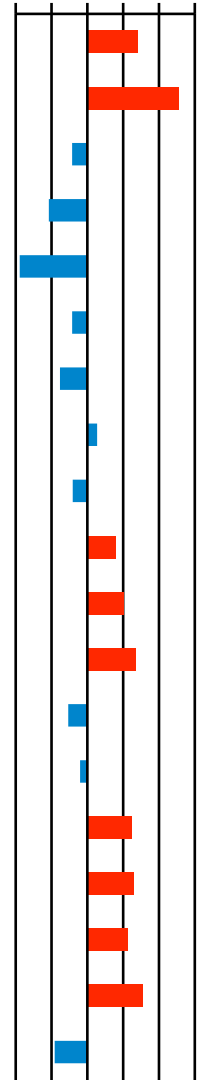


2
-6
-14
-22
-30
°C

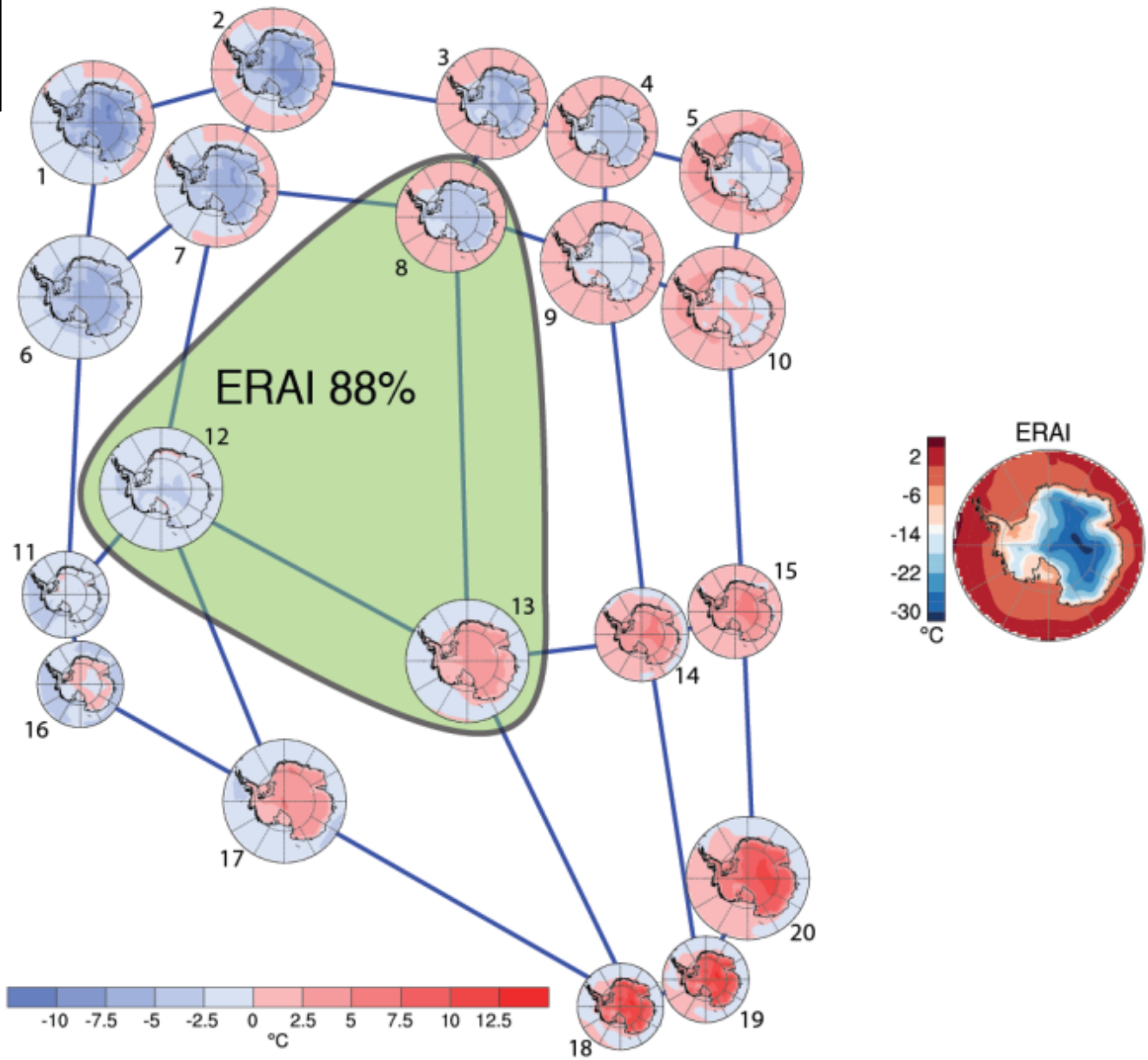


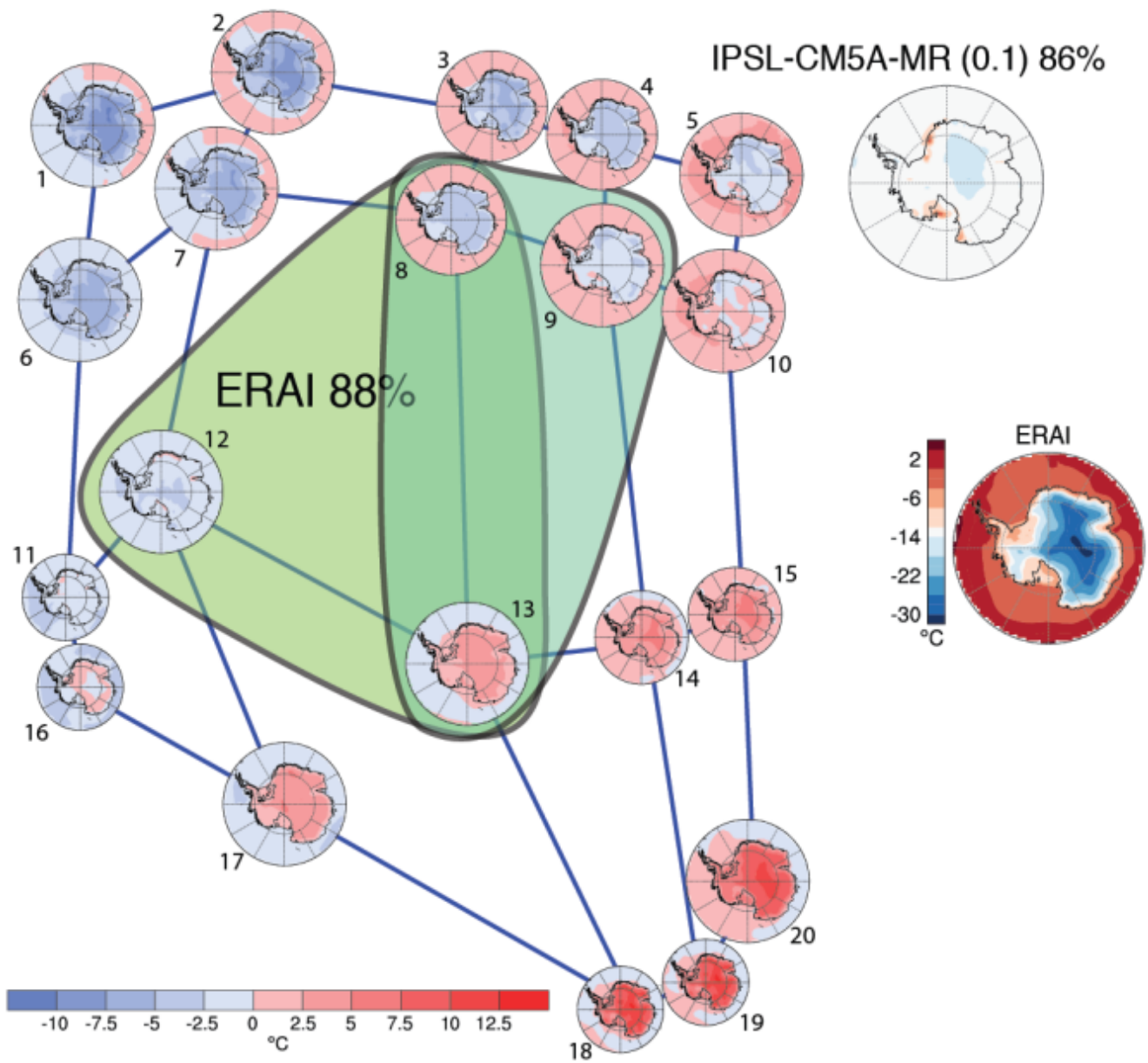
-12 -10 -8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12
°C

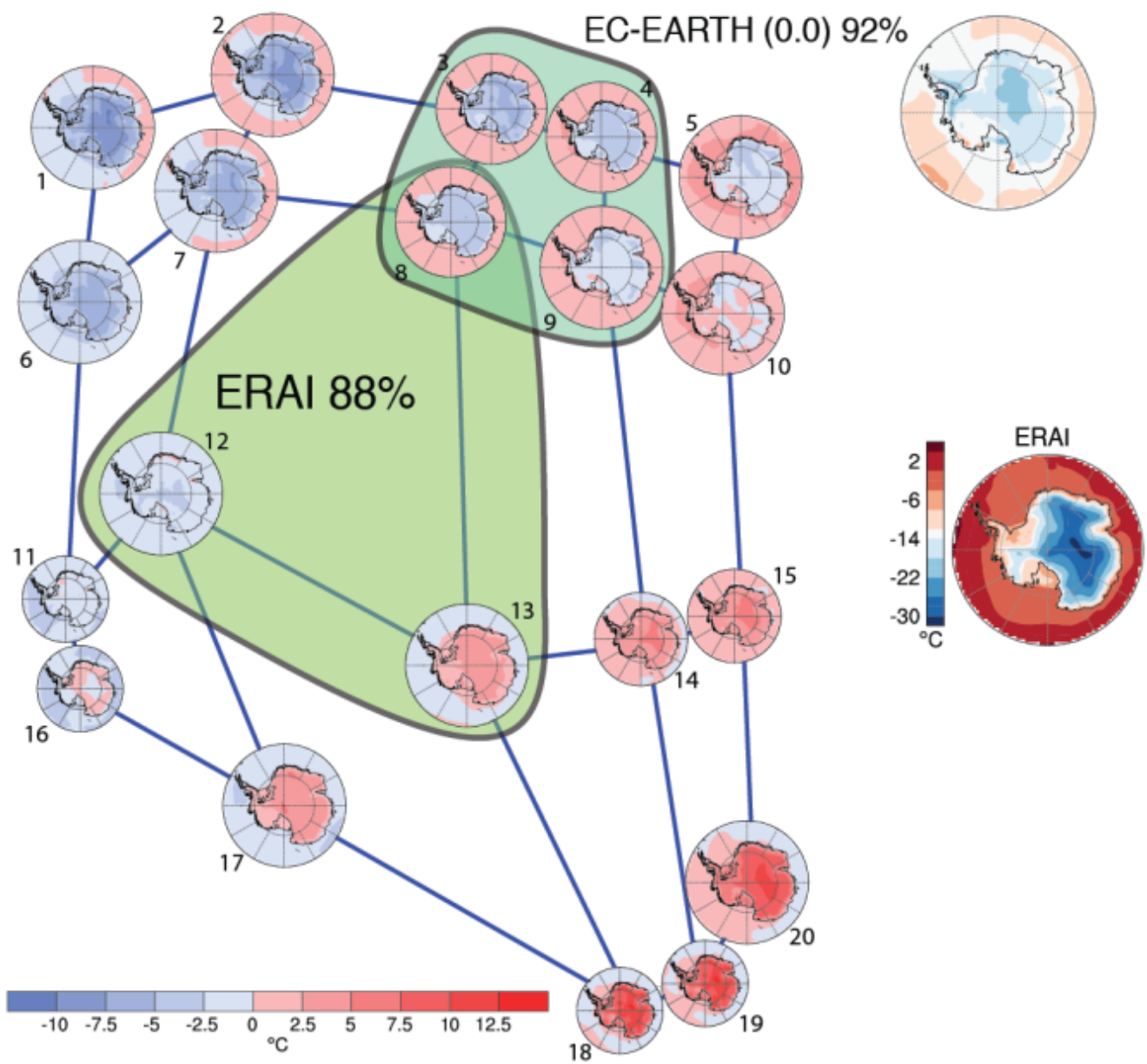
Land-only
-6 -3 0 3 6 9

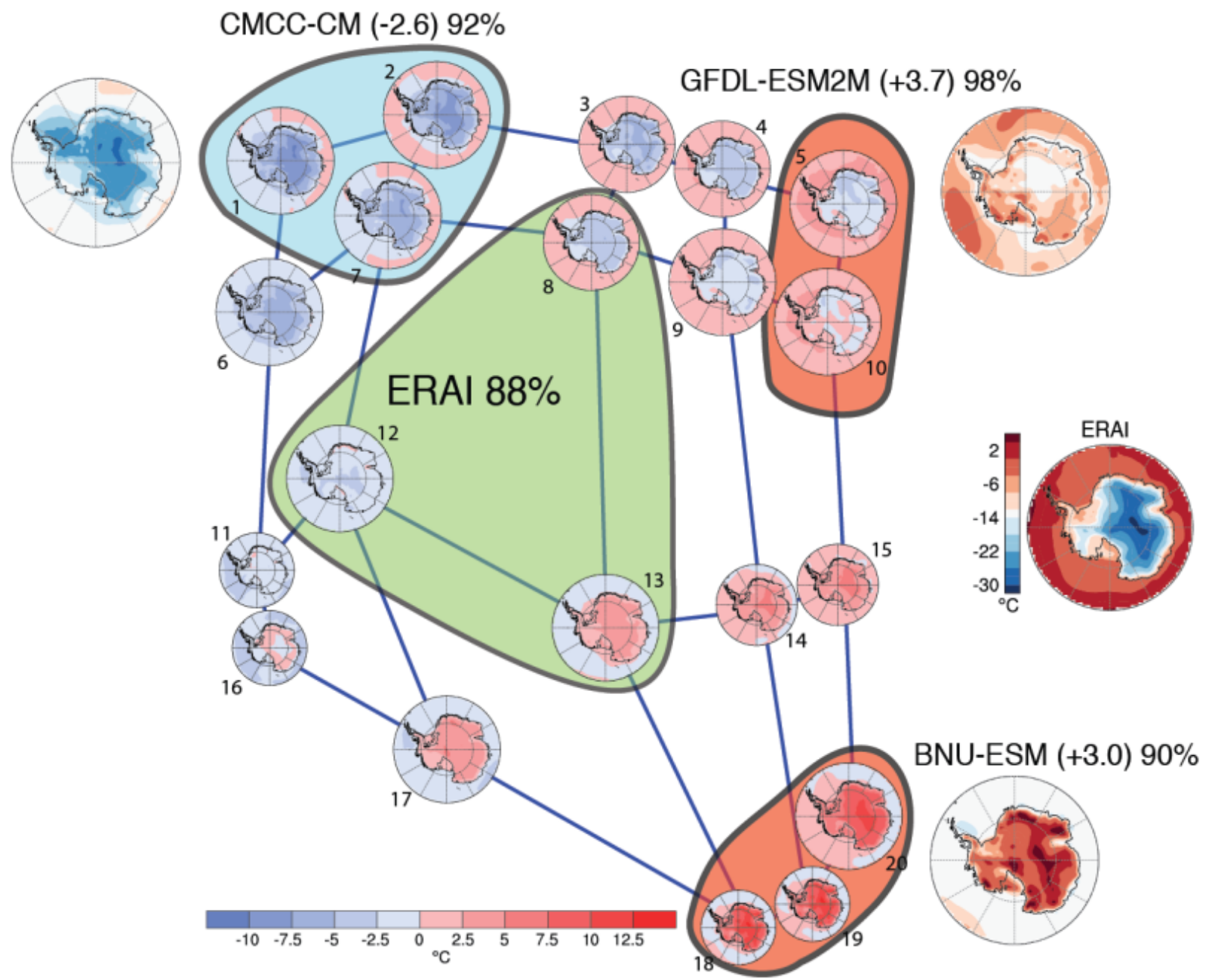


20 years x 31 days
x 20 datasets:
12,400 days

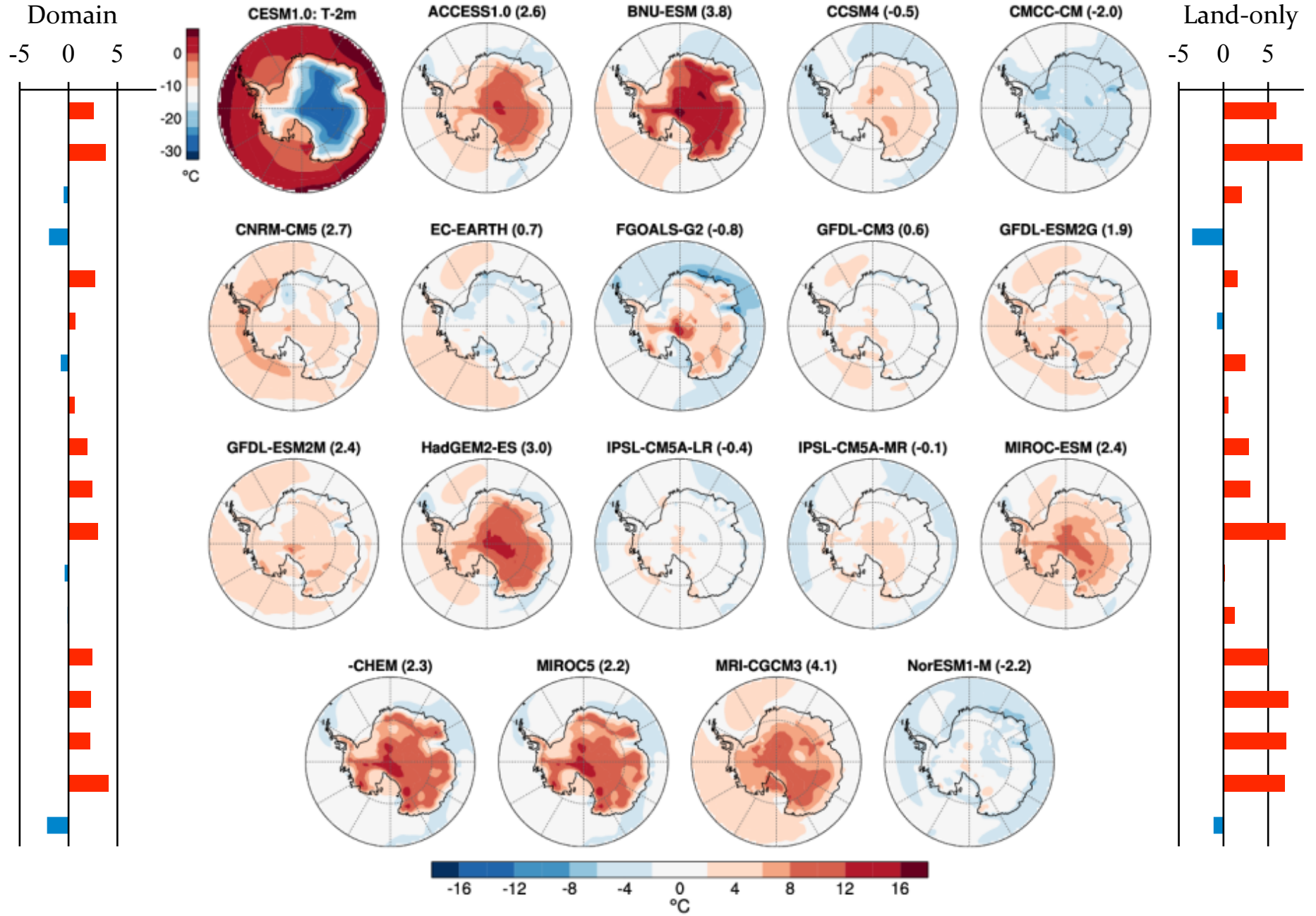


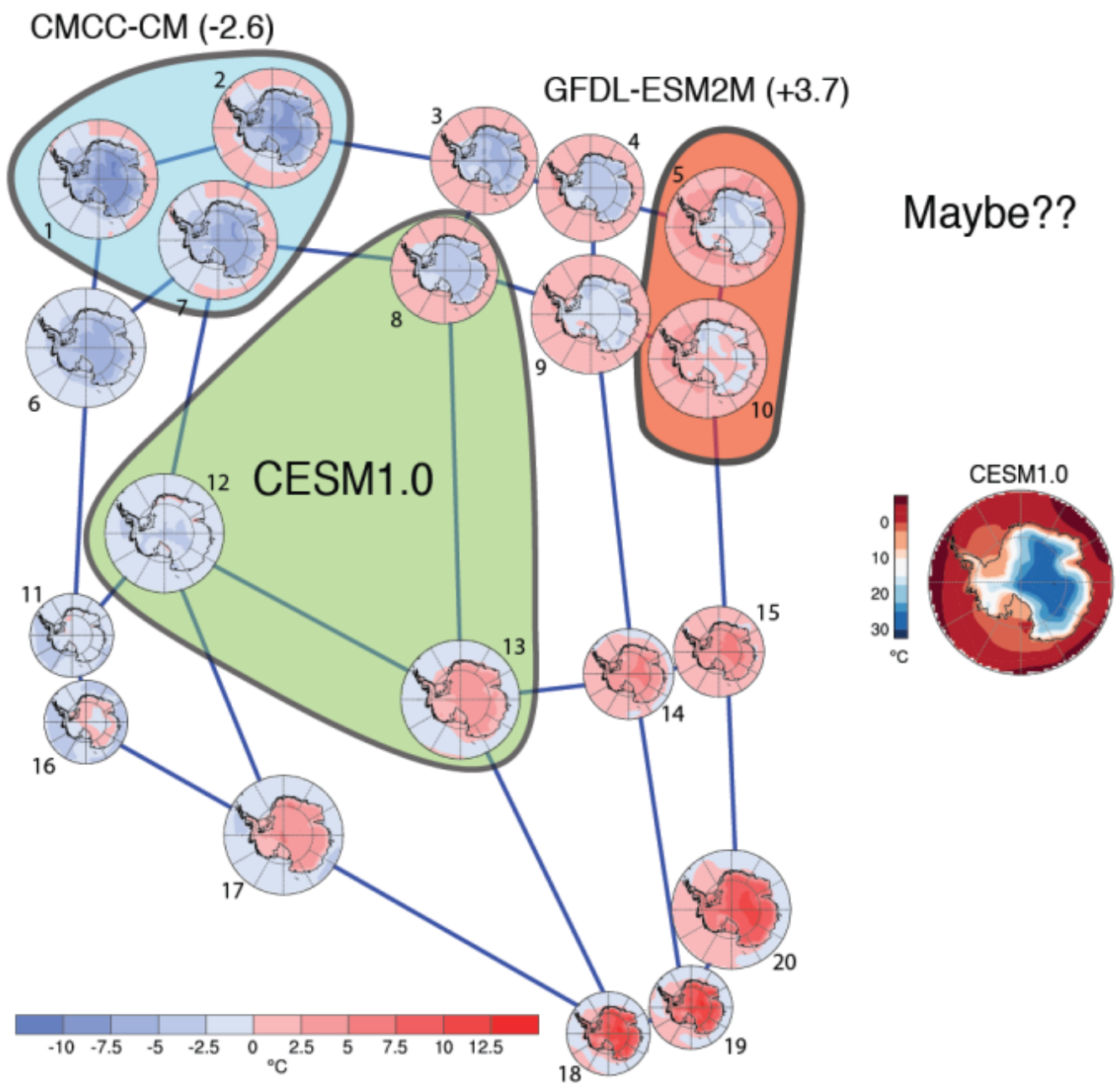




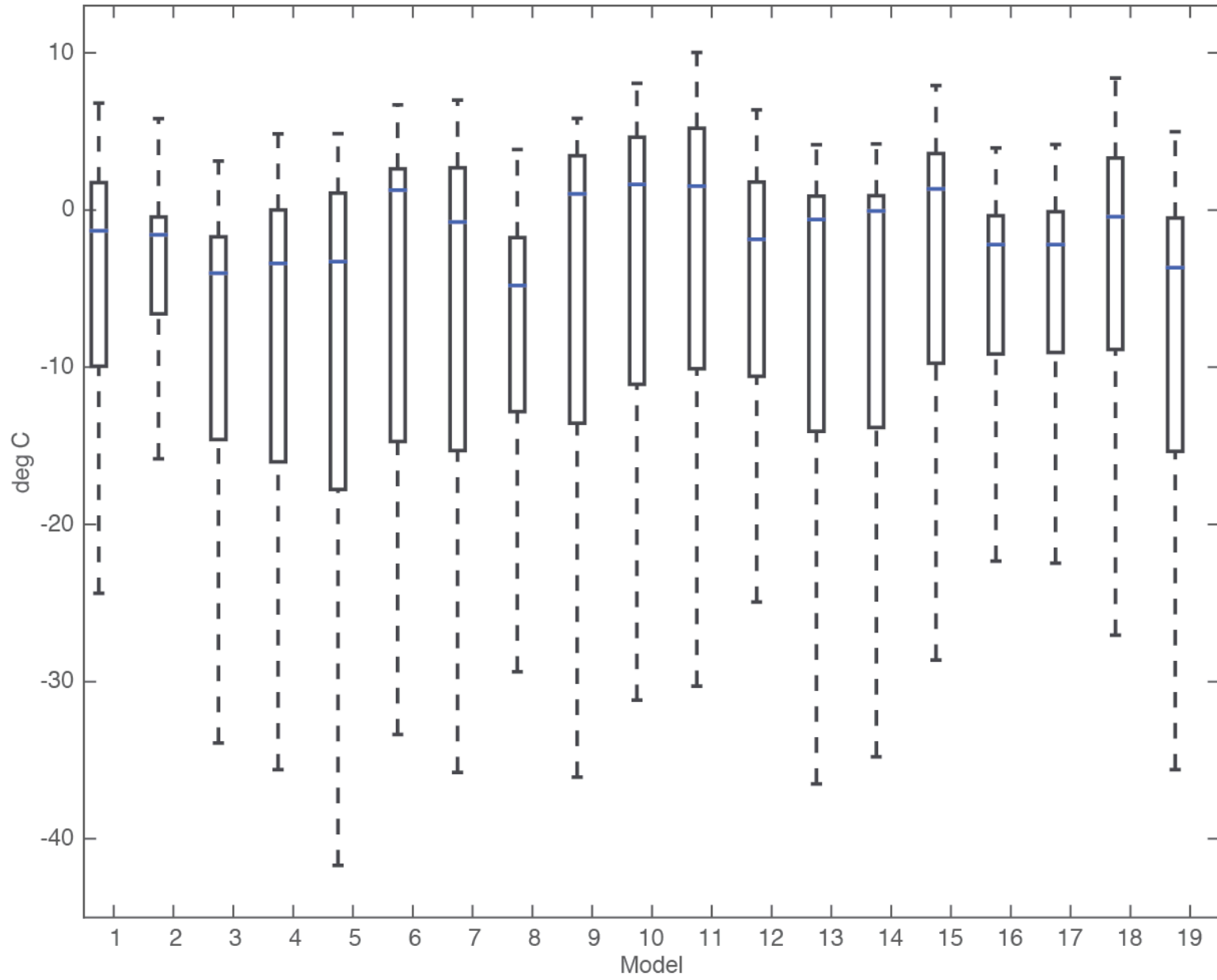


CMIP5 Models vs CESM1.0 tas (January 2081-2100)

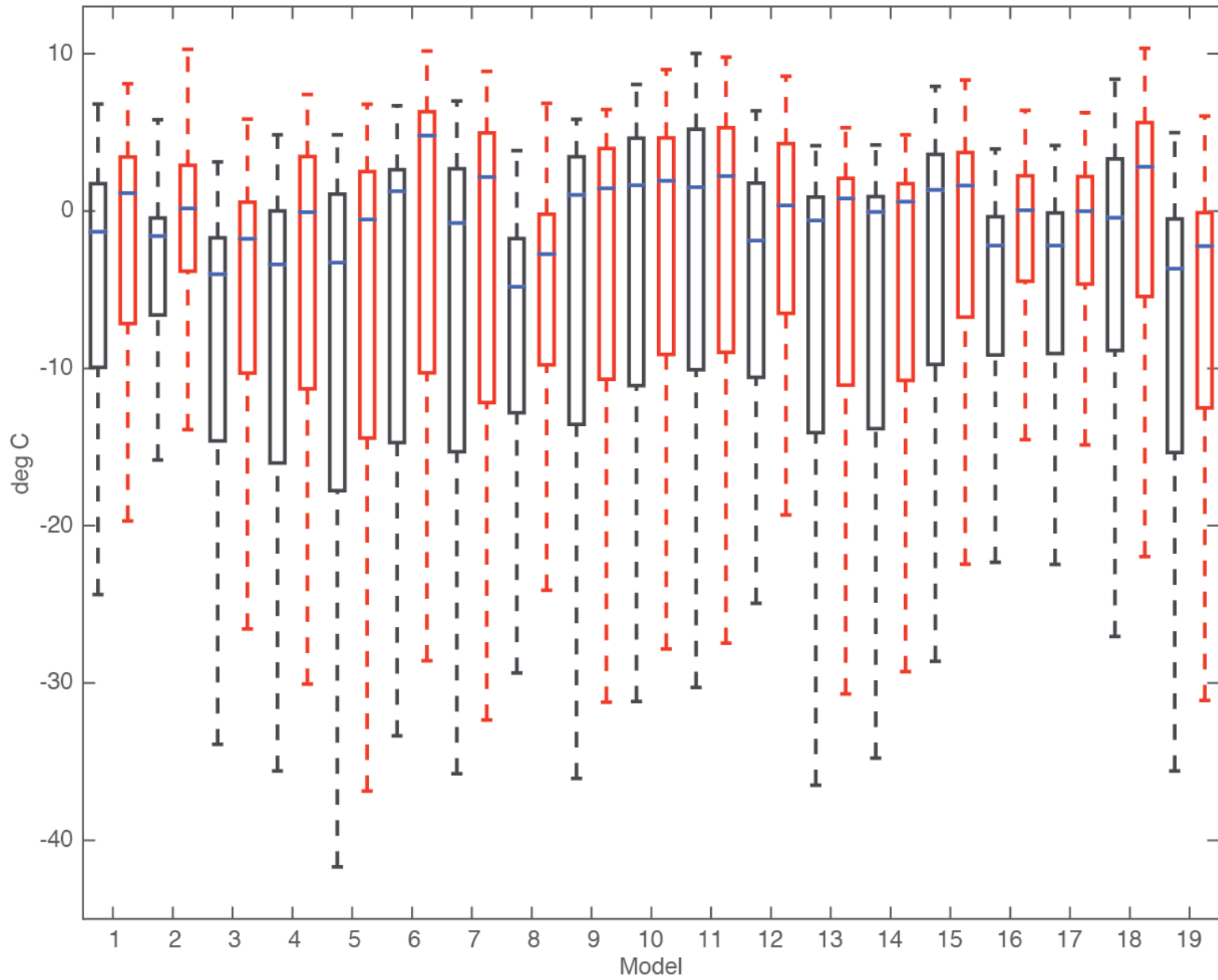




CMIP5 Historical 1981-2000 (July)



CMIP5 Historical (1981-2000) & RCP85 (2081-2100), January

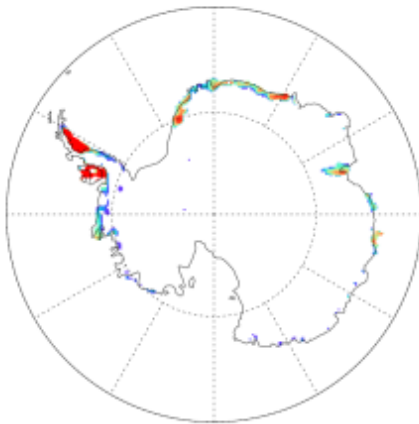


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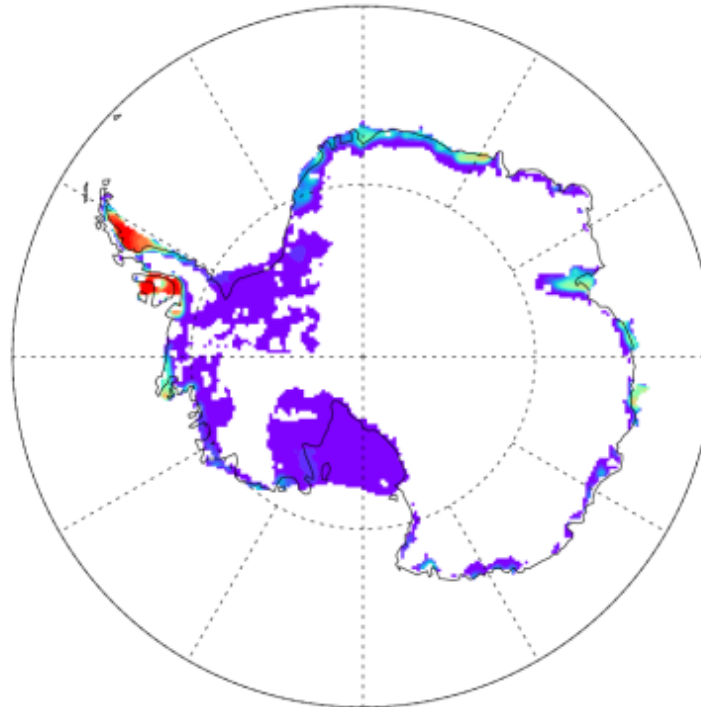
Observed Melt Occurrence

Days Melt Detected (%) January 1988



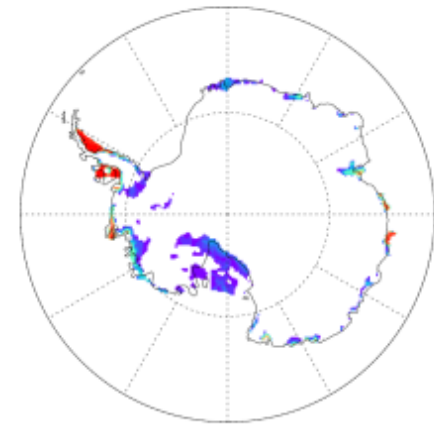
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95
percent

Days Melt Detected (%) January 1981-2000



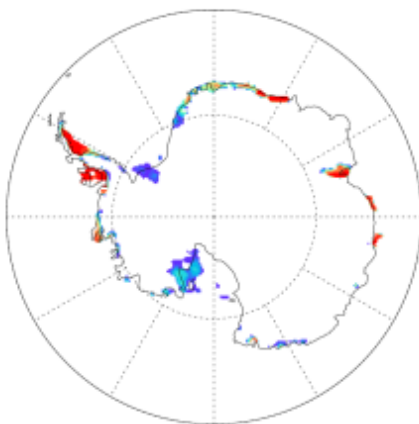
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95
percent

Days Melt Detected (%) January 1993



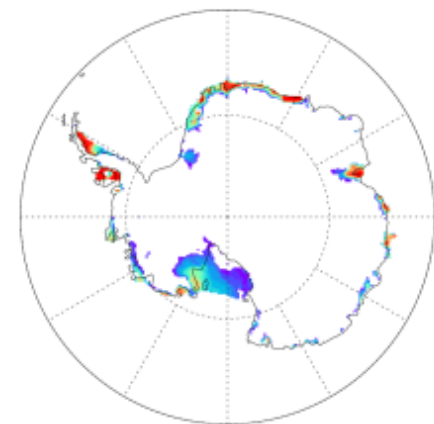
5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95
percent

Days Melt Detected (%) January 1983



5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95
percent

Days Melt Detected (%) January 1992

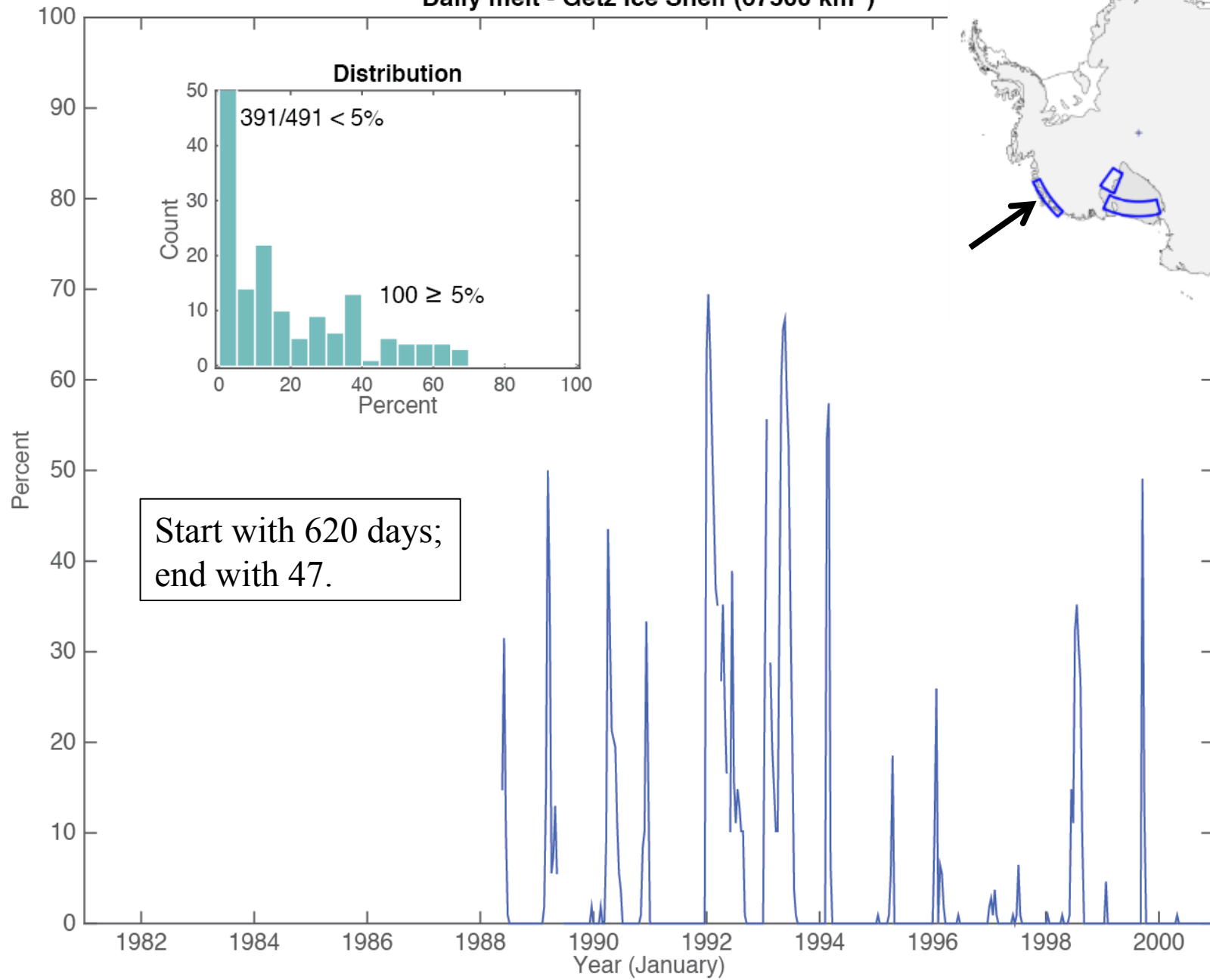


5 15 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95
percent

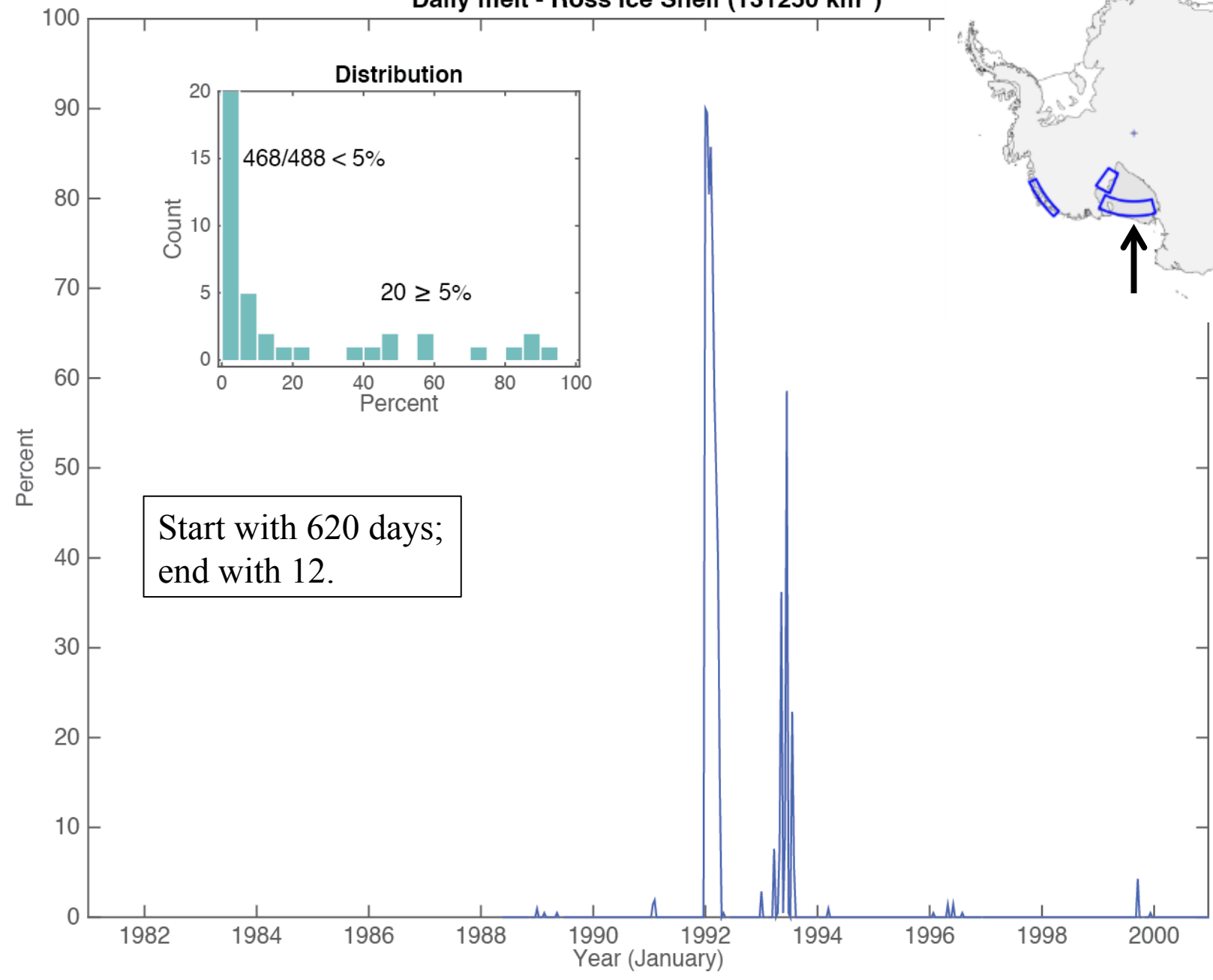
G. Picard, M.Fily, 2006, Surface melting observations in Antarctica by microwave radiometers: correcting 26 year-long timeseries from changes in acquisition hours. Remote Sensing of Environment.

<http://lgge.osug.fr/~picard/melting/>

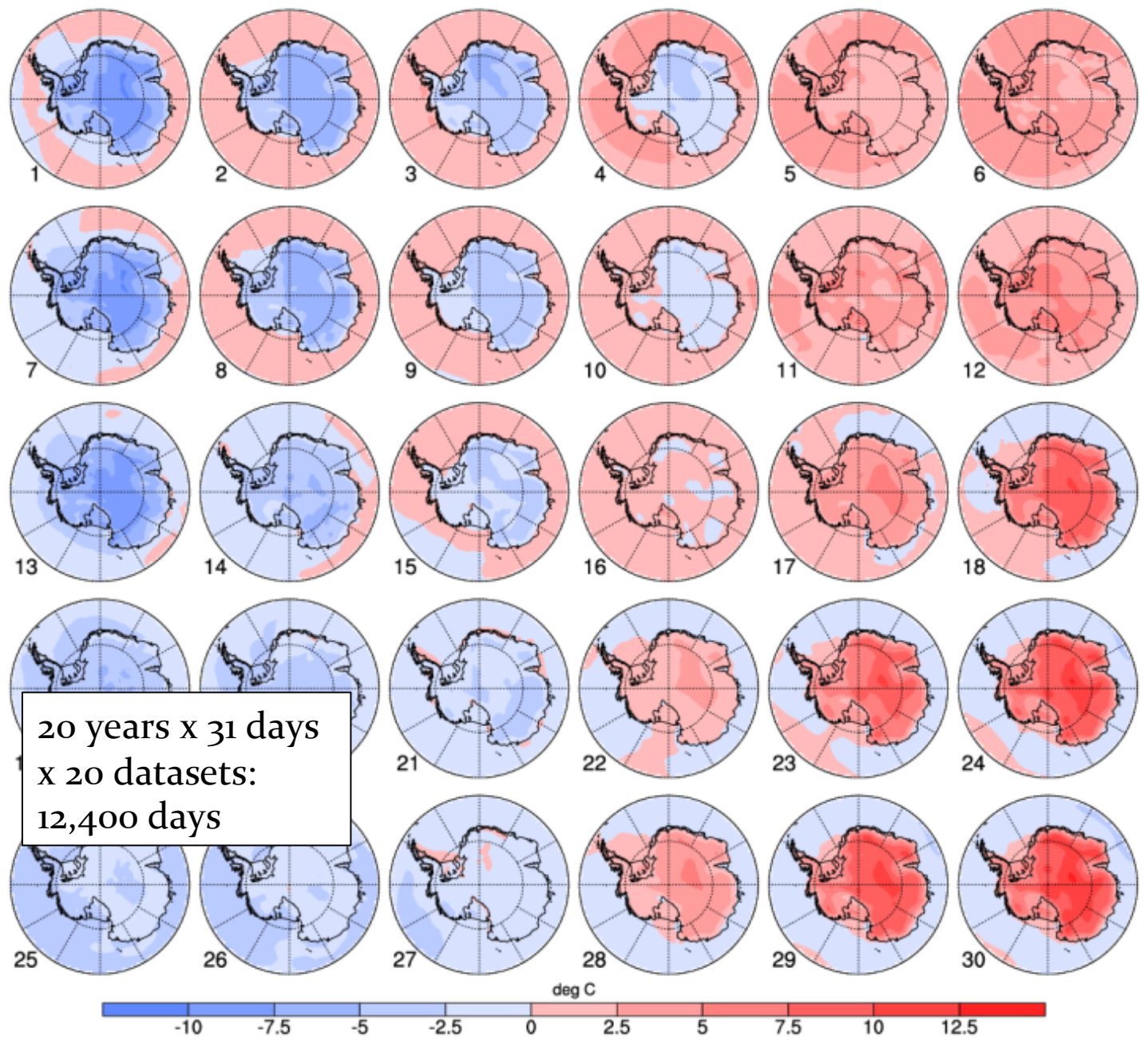
Daily melt - Getz Ice Shelf (67500 km²)



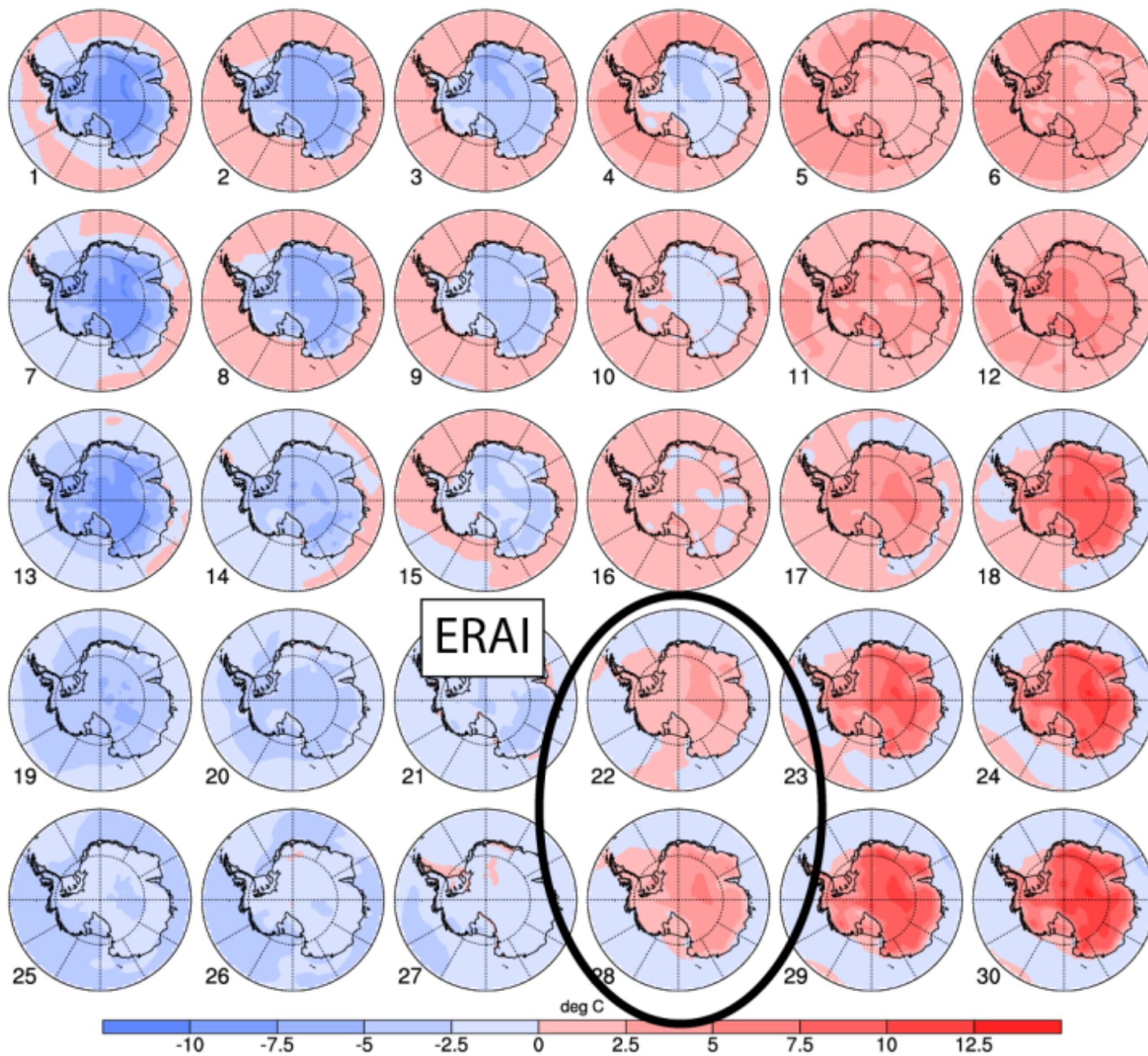
Daily melt - Ross Ice Shelf (131250 km²)

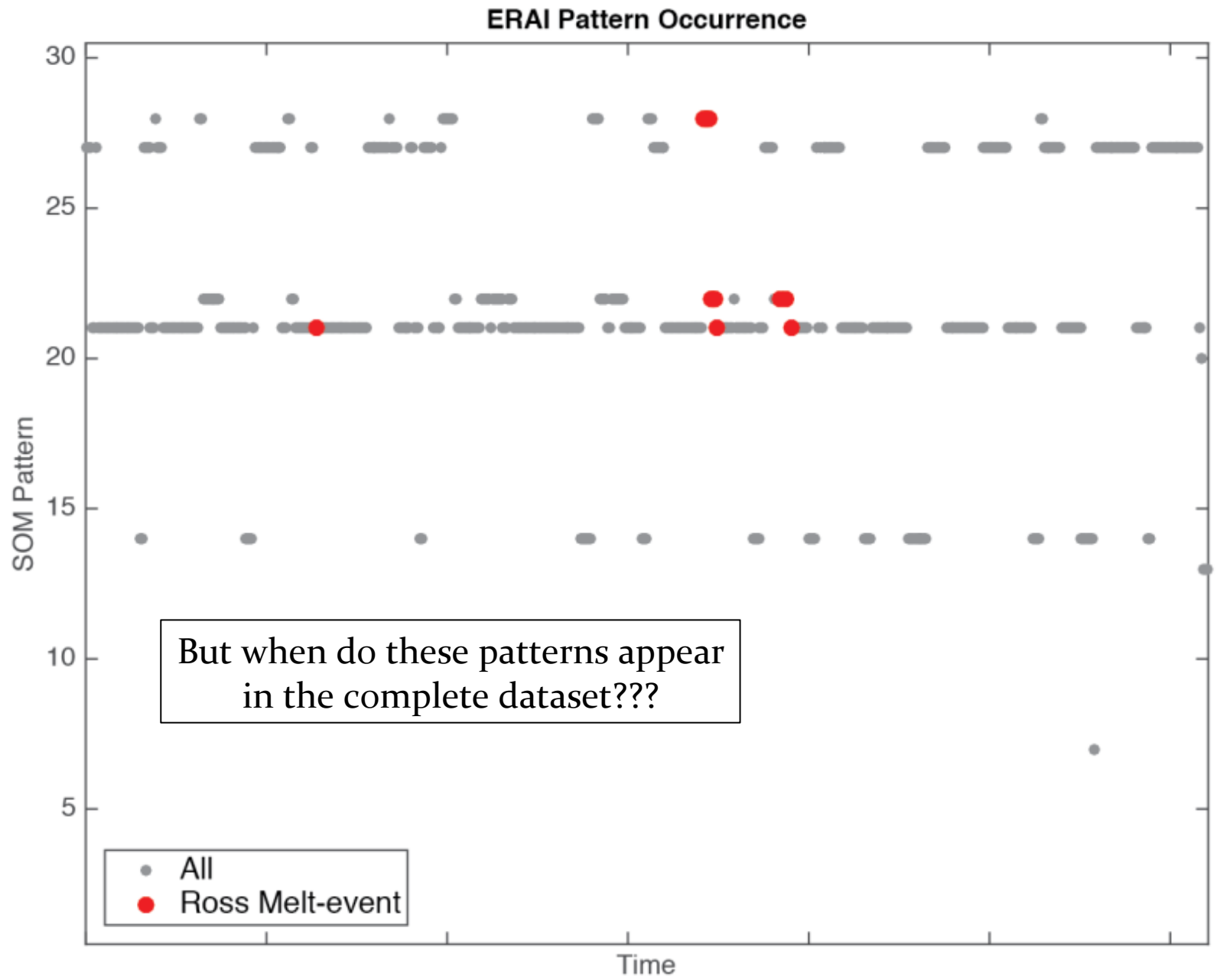


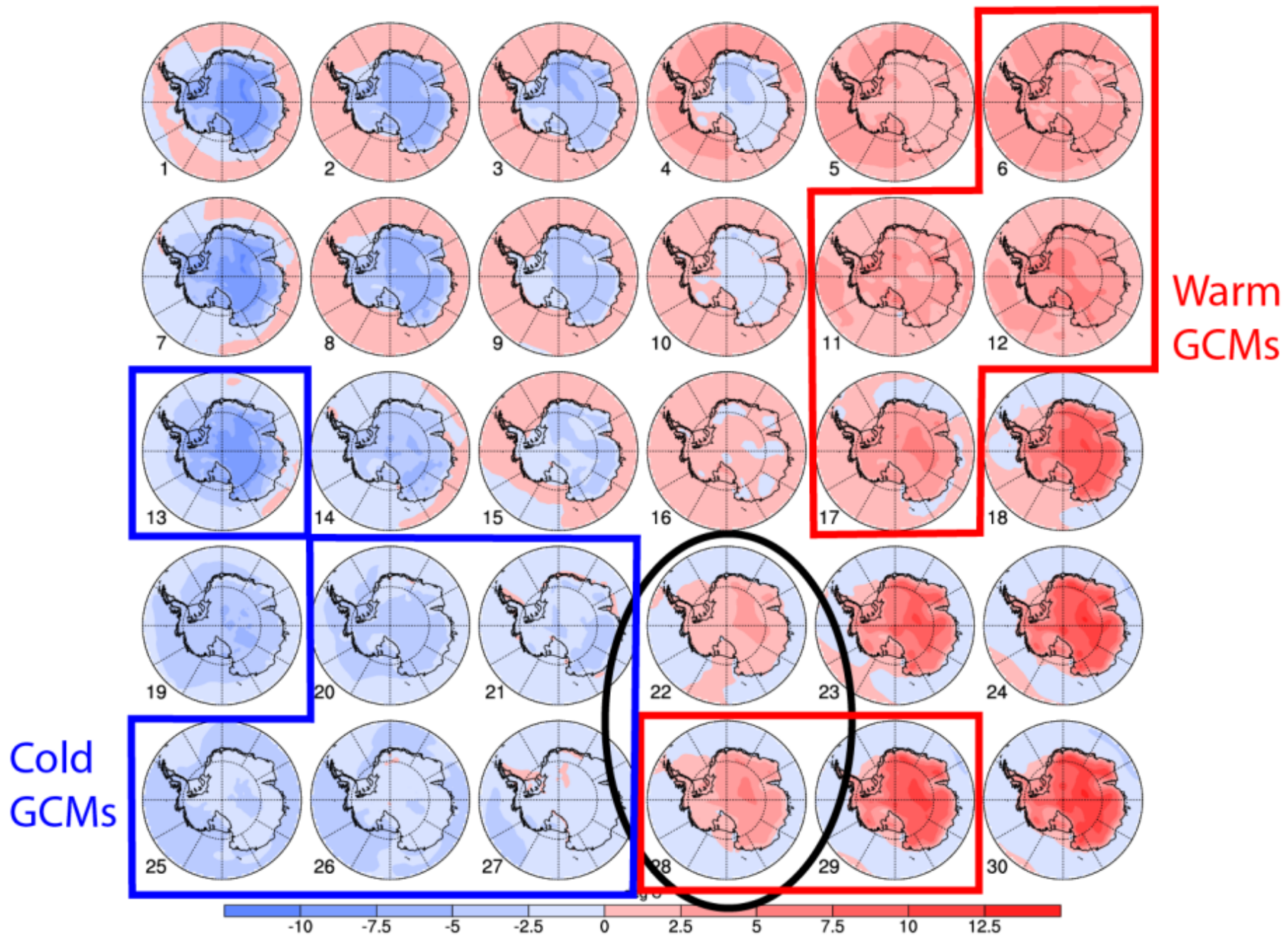
Universal SOM (ERA-Interim with 19 GCMs)



Ross Ice Shelf Events







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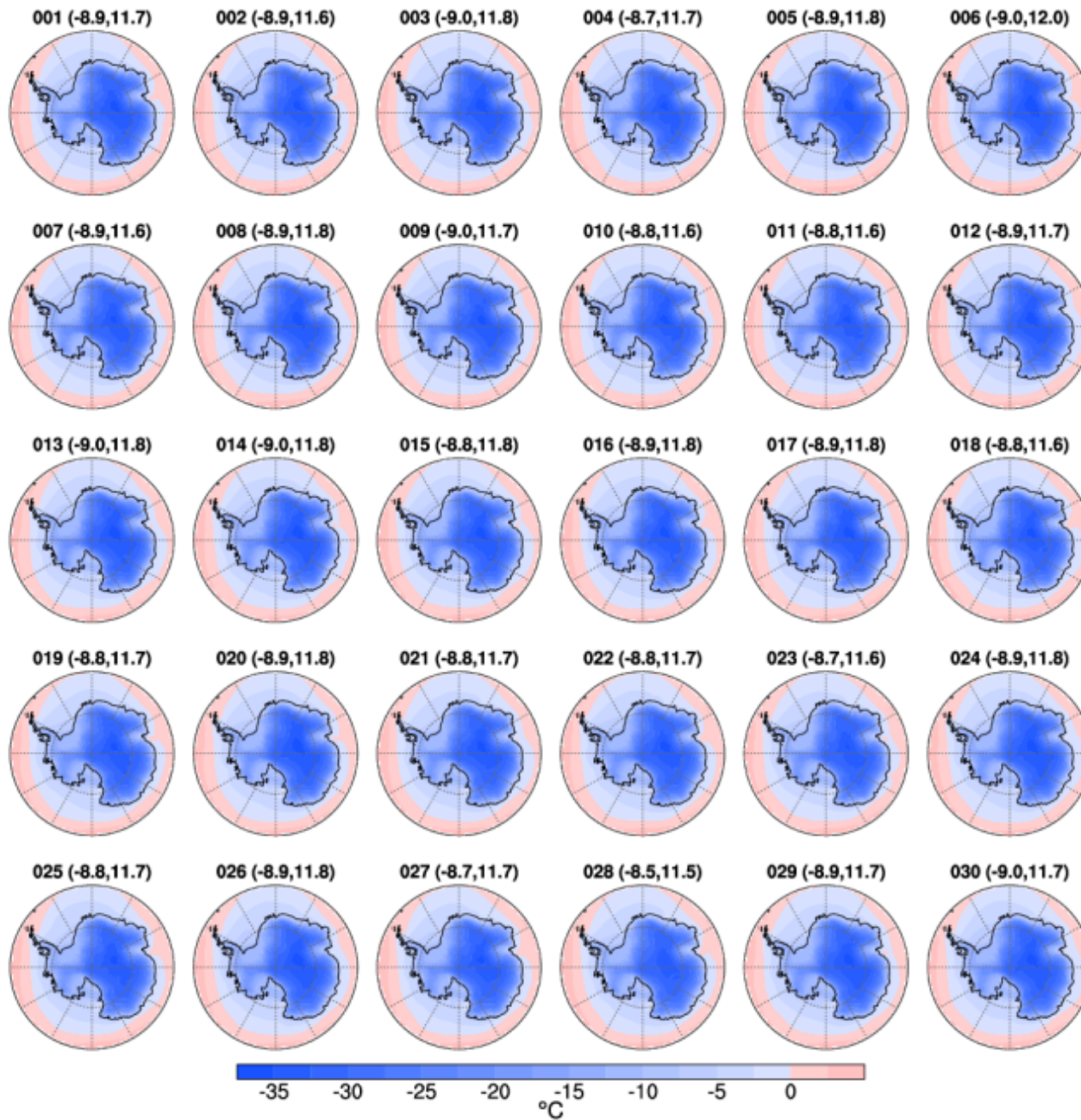
CESM₁(CAM₅) Large Ensemble

- Same GCM (CESM 1.0-CAM₅-BGC), multiple runs
- 30-plus ensemble members, 1850-2100
- Ensemble spread is generated using round-off differences in the initial atmospheric state
- Looks at internal model uncertainty

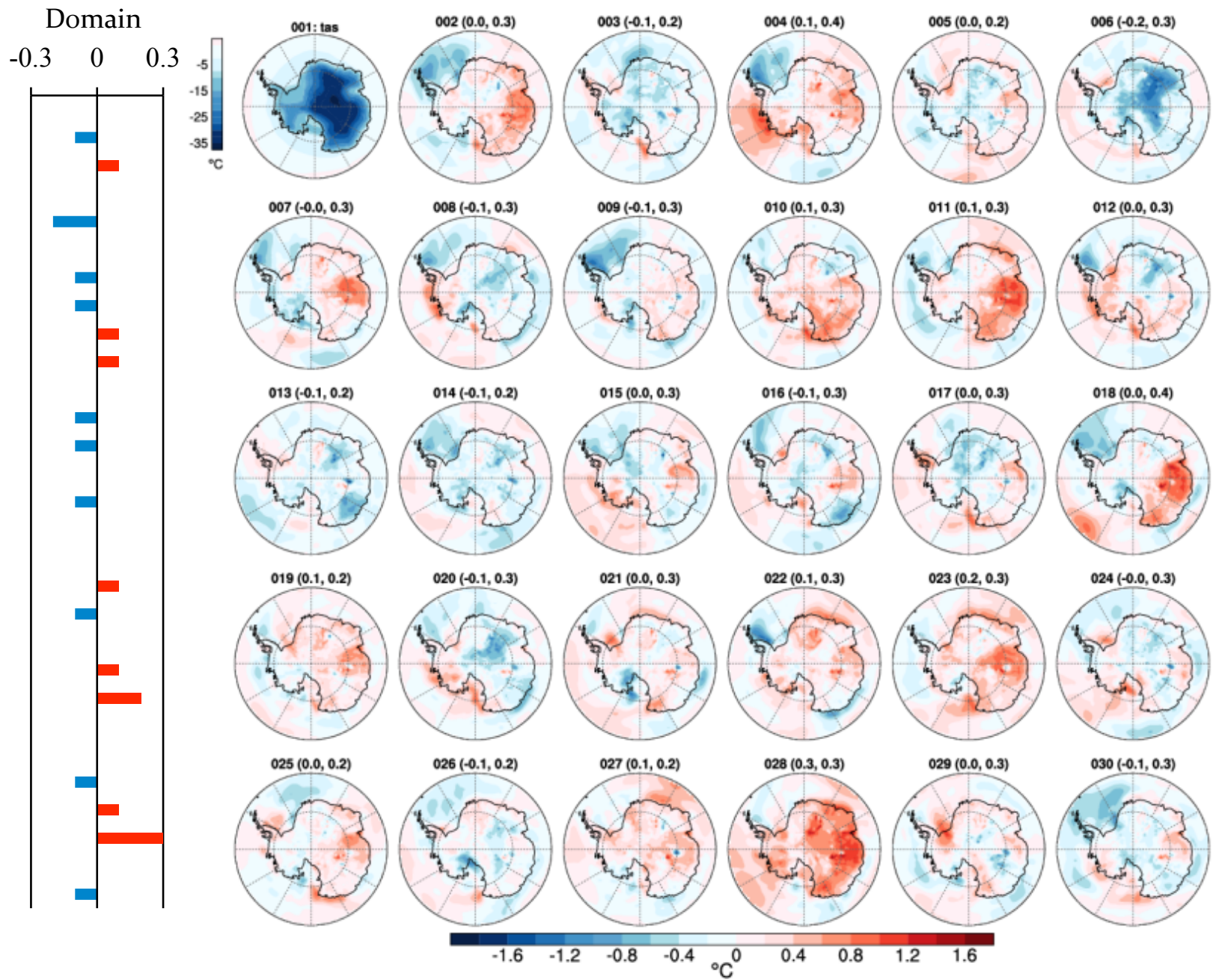
Acknowledgements:

- CESM₁(CAM₅) Large Ensemble Community Project and supercomputing resources provided by NSF/CISL/Yellowstone
- Kay, J. E., et al, The Community Earth System Model (CESM) Large Ensemble Project: A Community Resource for Studying Climate Change in the Presence of Internal Climate Variability, Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, doi: 10.1175/BAMS-D-13-00255.1, 2015, in press.

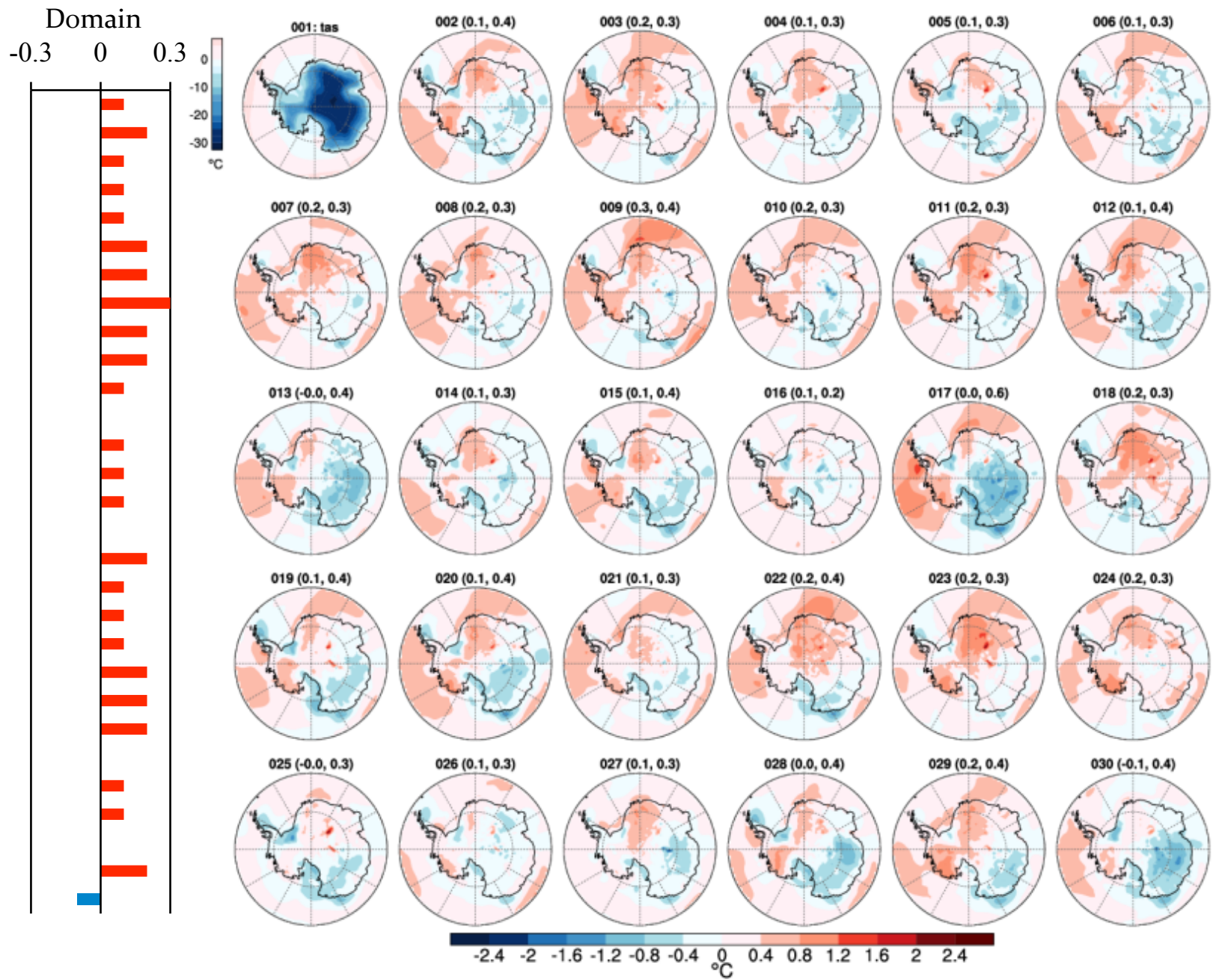
CESM LE January 1981-2000 Average tas



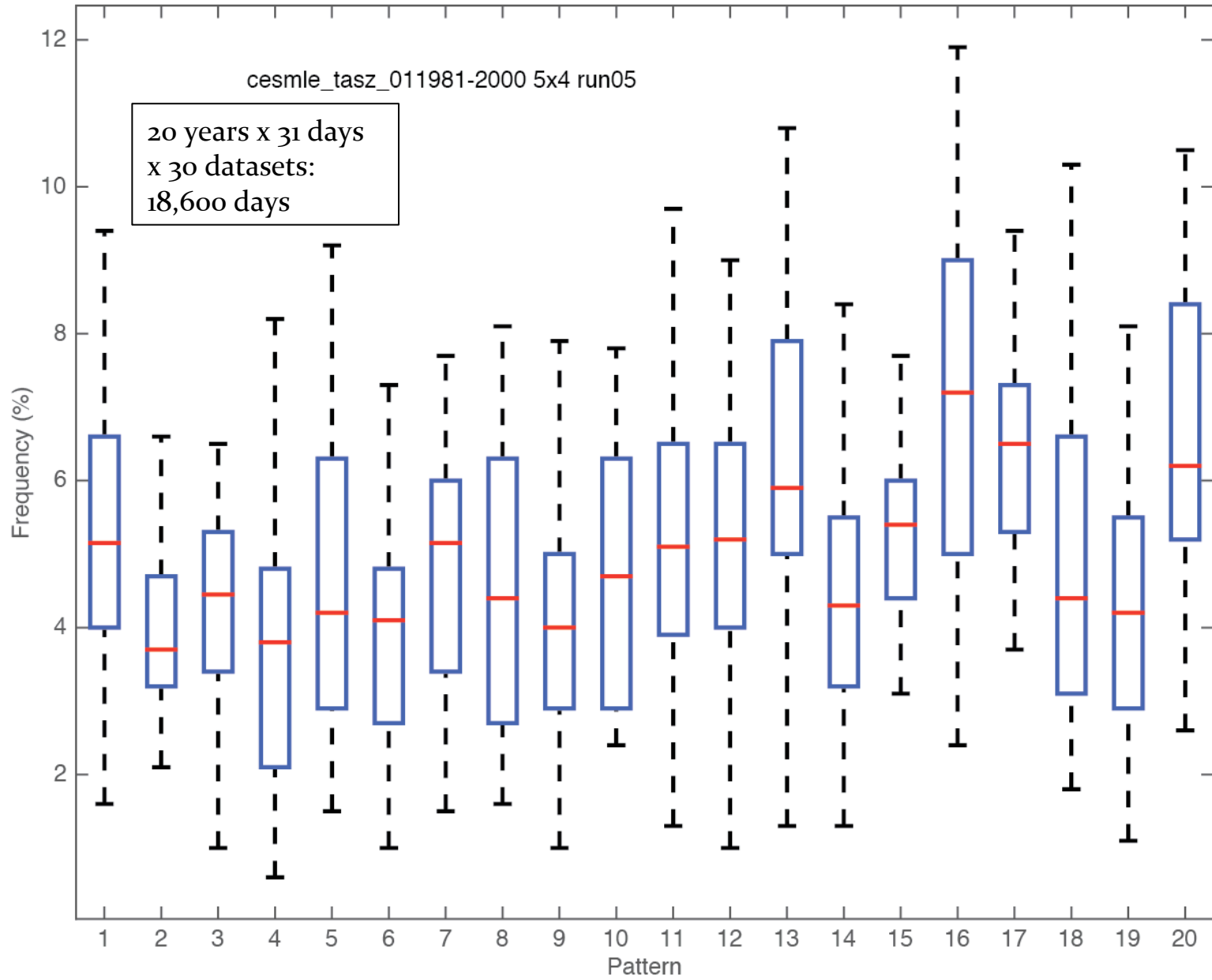
CESMLE Ensembles vs Ensemble 001 tas (January 1981-2000)



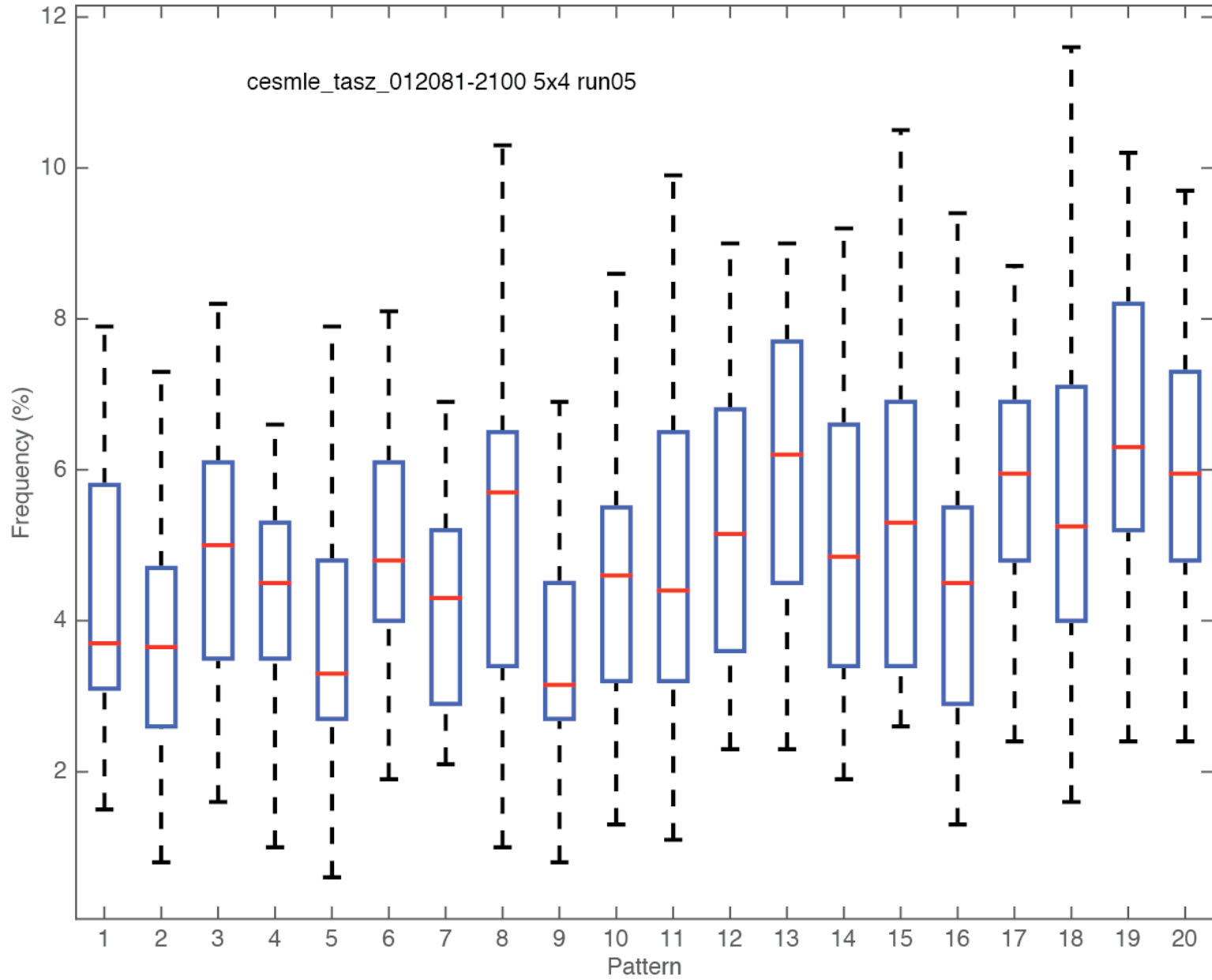
CESMLE Ensembles vs Ensemble 001 tas (January 2081-2100)



CESM LE 1981-2000: SOM Pattern Frequency Statistics



CESM LE 2081-2100: SOM Pattern Frequency Statistics



Conclusions

- SOMs help evaluate intermodel uncertainty through analyses of daily data, not just 20-year averages
- CESM LE is a valuable resource for estimating intramodel uncertainty, SOMs can help make that manageable
- These analyses can help us understand why models are wrong *and* why they are right (or at least close...)
- SOMs *should be* a useful tool (among many) for decoding melt event complexity but not there quite yet



