

Using Weather Regimes in the Context of Energy Meteorology

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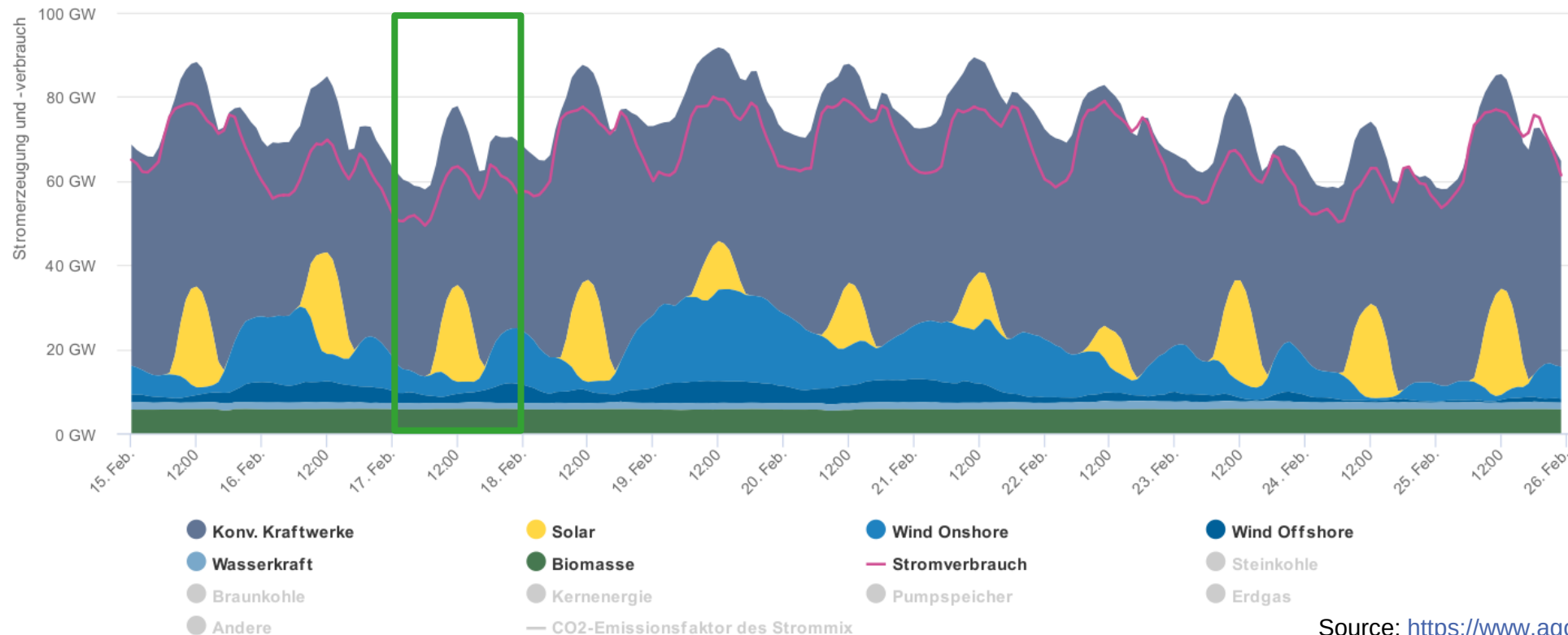
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Variability in the electricity mix

short-range variability (hours – days)

■ Generation mix for Germany 15 - 25 February 2019

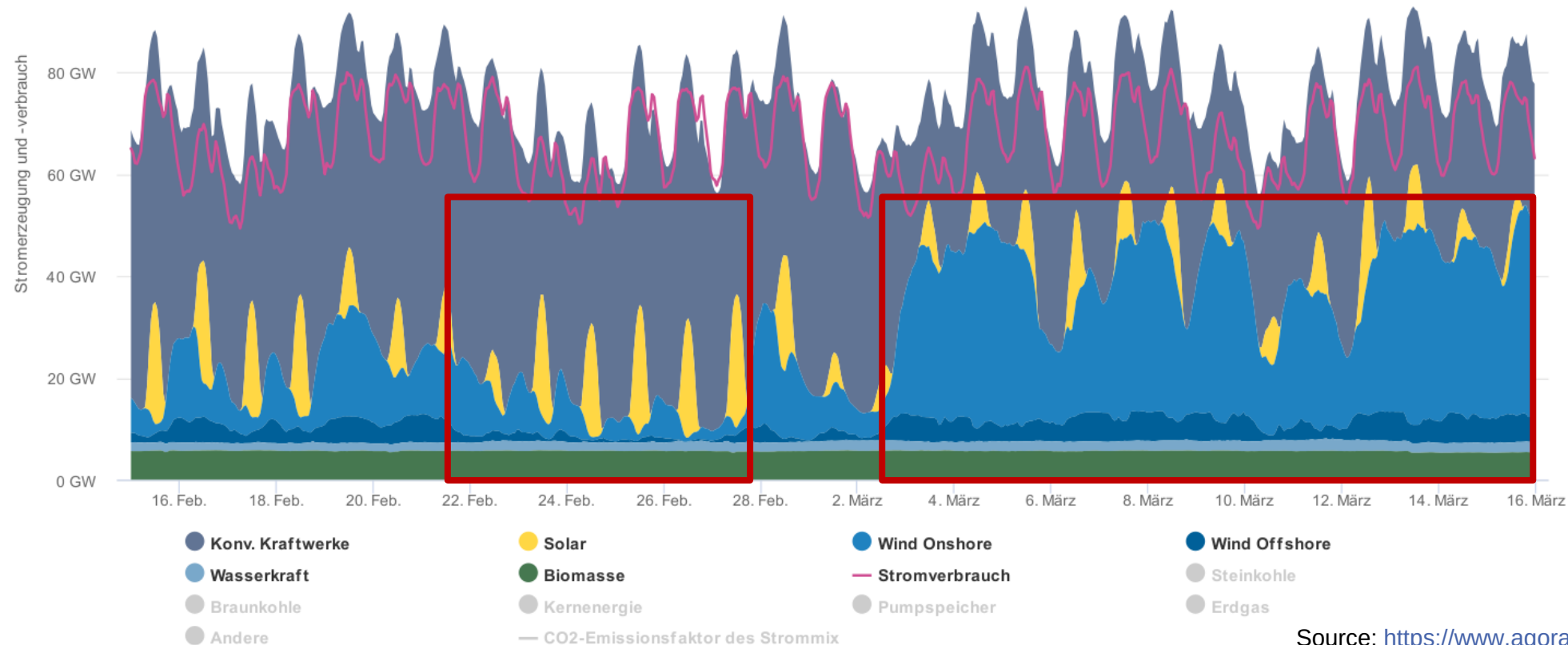


Source: <https://www.agora-energiewende.de>

Variability in the electricity mix

multi-day variability (days – weeks)

■ Generation mix for Germany 15 February - 15 March 2019

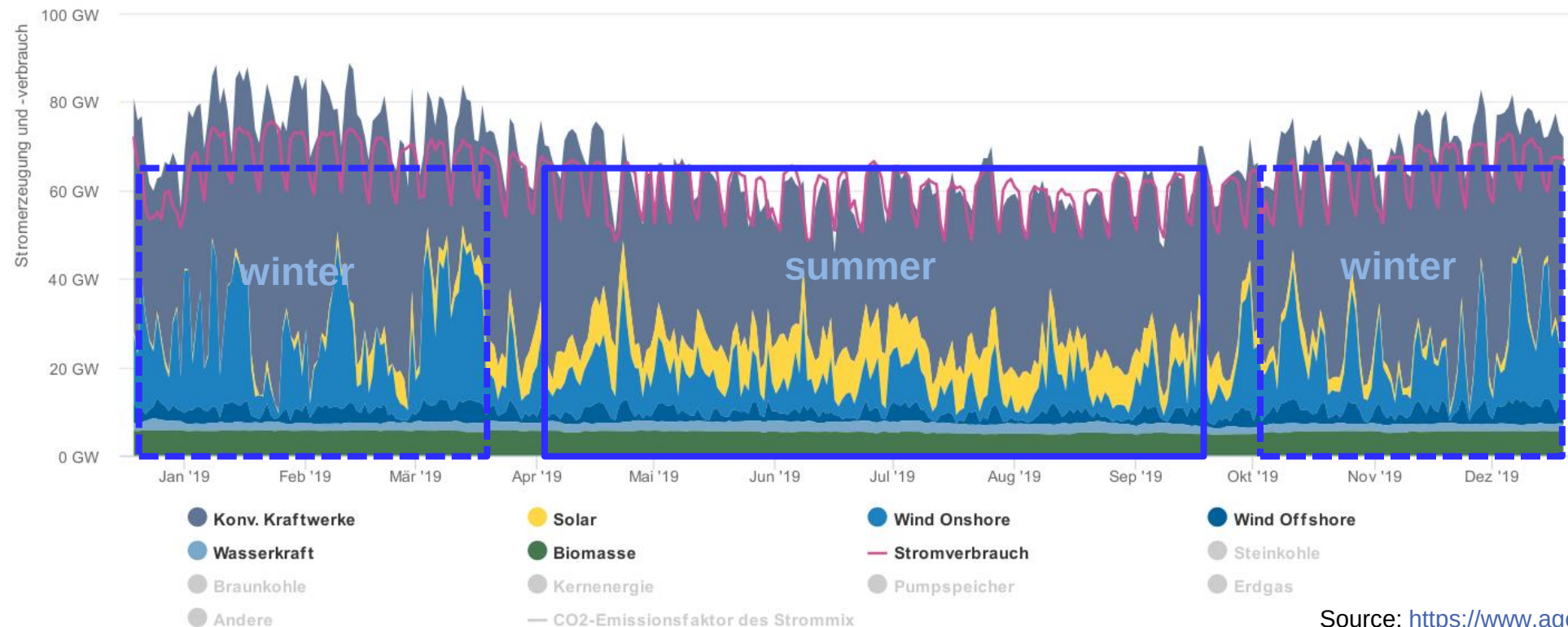


Source: <https://www.agora-energiewende.de>

Variability in the electricity mix

seasonal variability (months)

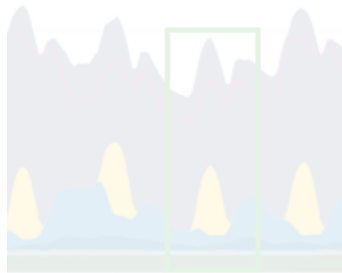
- Generation mix for Germany 1 January - 16 December 2019



Source: <https://www.agora-energiewende.de>

Weather variability affects renewables

short-range variability
(hours – days)

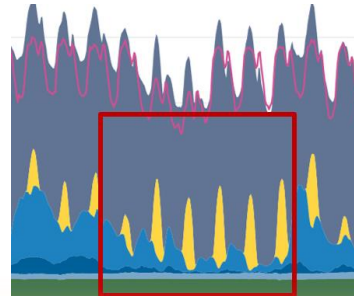


- $\Delta P = 0-30$ GW
- often matches peak demand



Storage and flexible
demand

multi-day variability
(days – weeks)



Balancing through knowledge
about weather regimes?

?

Large-scale storage
not available!

seasonal variability
(months)



$\Delta P = 10-50$ GW
regular seasonal
anticorrelation of
wind and solar



Co-deployment of wind
and solar PV

- 1) Variability across scales
- 2) Weather regimes
- 3) Modulation of wind power
- 4) Forecasting regimes
- 5) Modulation on subseasonal time scales

Weather regimes

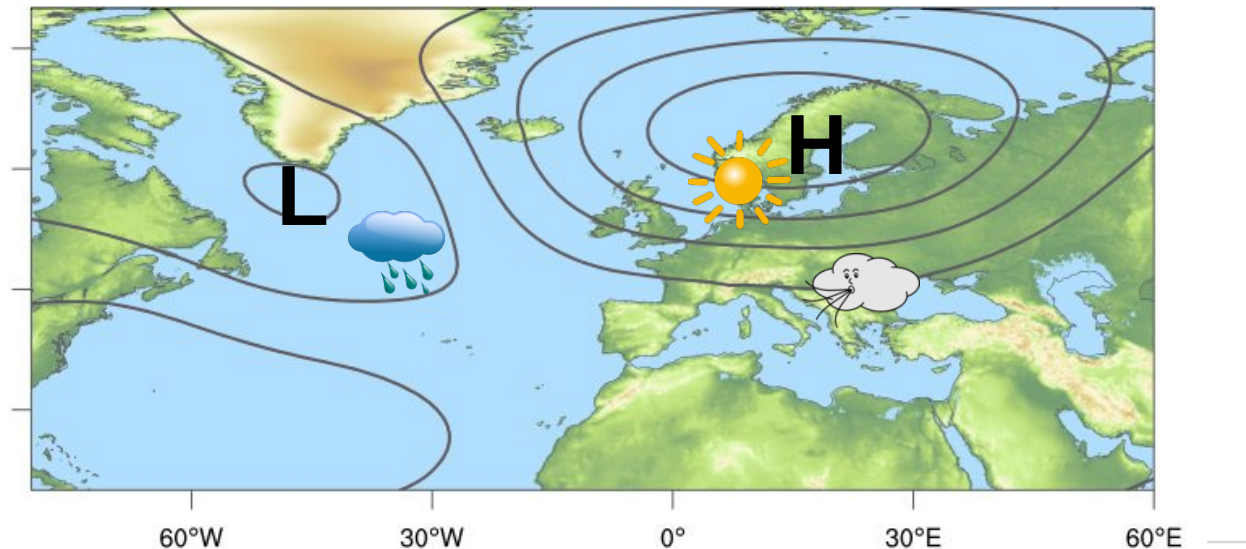
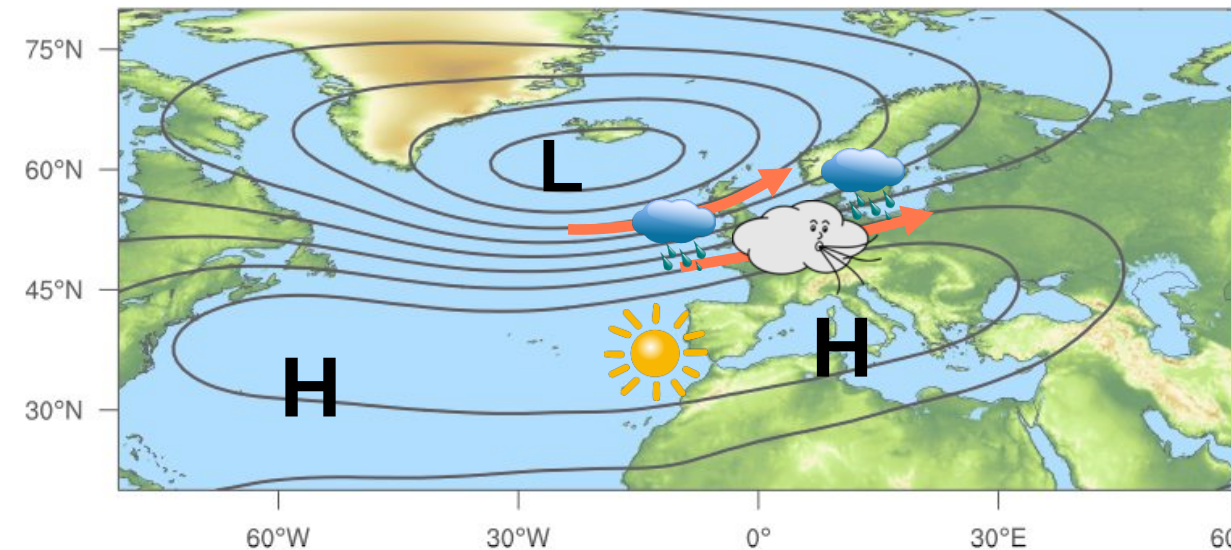
- are quasi-stationary, persistent, and recurrent flow patterns of the large-scale extratropical atmospheric circulation

(e.g. [Vautard 1990](#), [Michelangeli et al. 1995](#), [Hannachi et al. 2017](#))

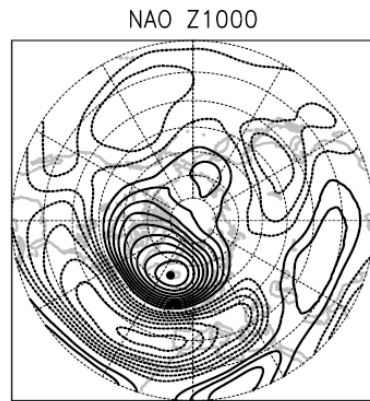
- explain character of weather on multi-day to multi-week time scales

cyclonic regimes

blocked regimes



Weather regimes – Definitions



[Fig. 1 from review by Hannachi et al. 2017](#)

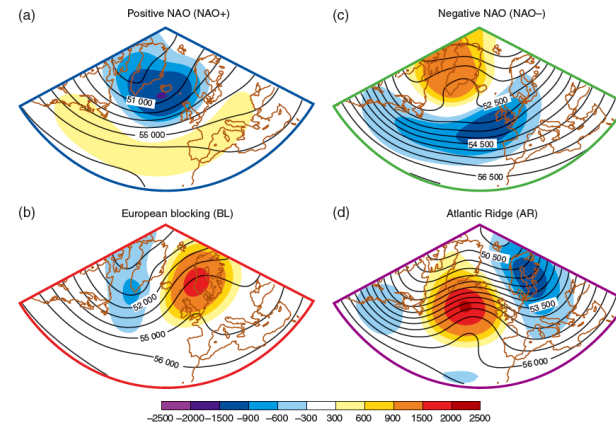
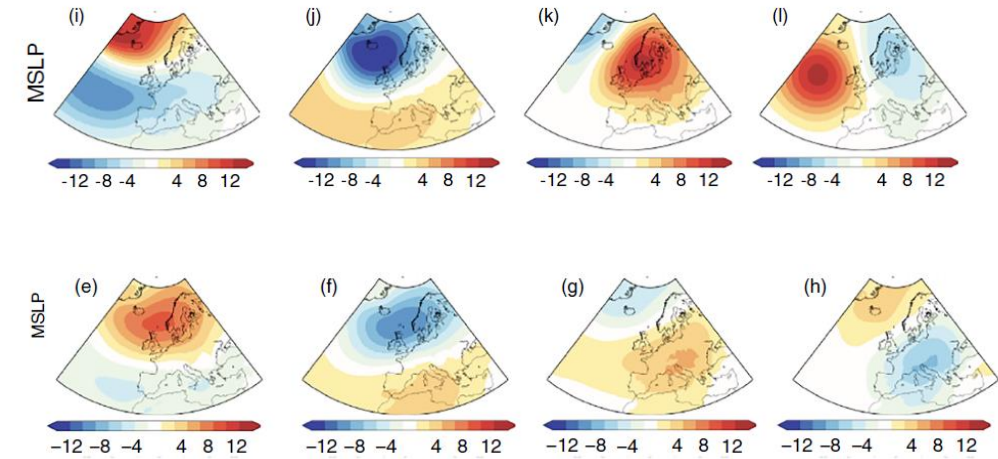


Figure 1. (a–d) Geographical patterns of the four Euro-Atlantic climatological regimes (both anomalies and full fields) for the October to April cold season. The geopotential anomalies (colour shading) and geopotential (contours) at 500 hPa are shown.

[Fig. 1 from Ferranti et al. 2015](#)



[Fig. 2i-l and 3e-h from Bloomfield et al. 2020](#)

- EOF analysis – clustering – persistence
- classification vs. physical grounding vs. targetted circulation types
- optimal number of regimes, seasonality (e.g. [Falkena et al. 2020](#))
- regional extent: weather regimes vs. weather typing (e.g. [Neal et al. 2016](#))

Weather regimes in other world regions

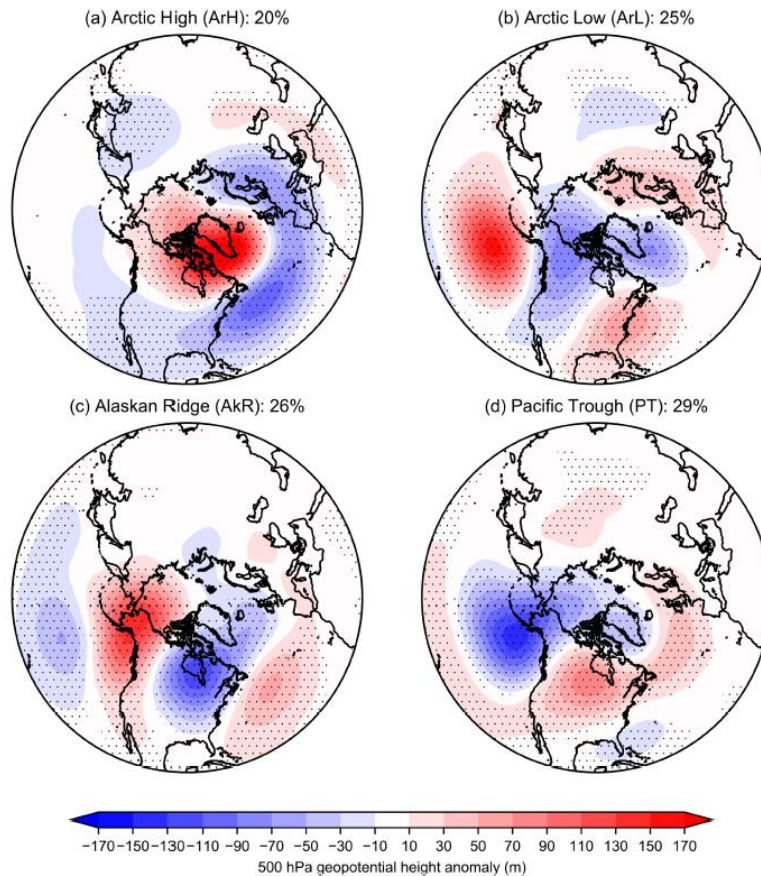


Fig. 1 from Simon Lee et al. 2019 , see also Vigaud et al. 2018

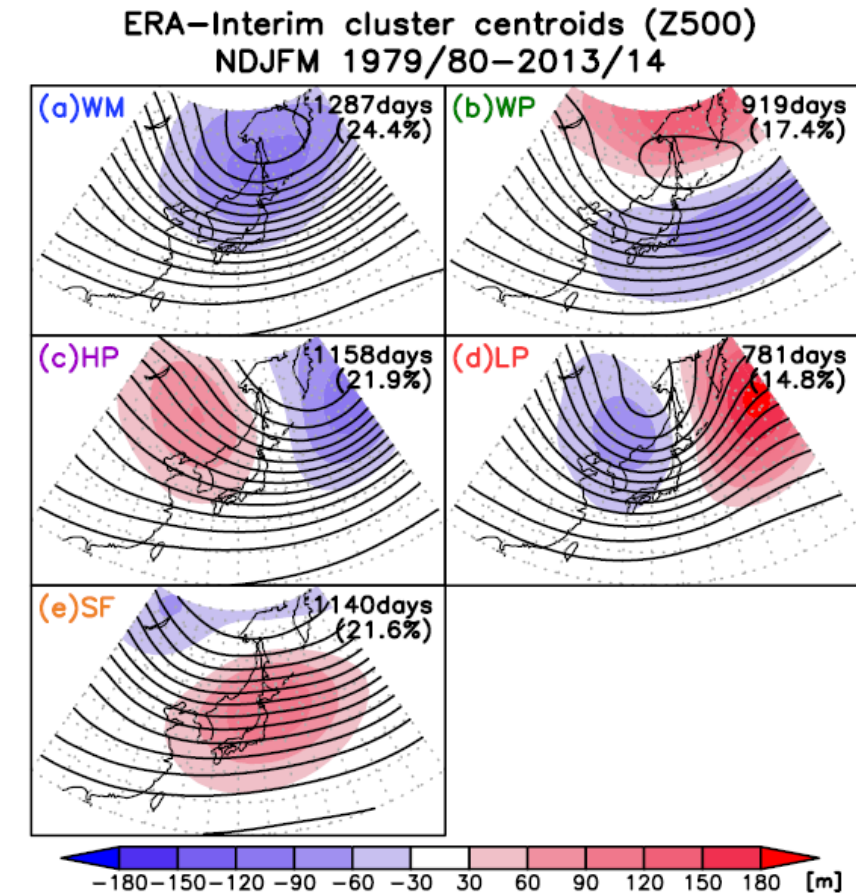
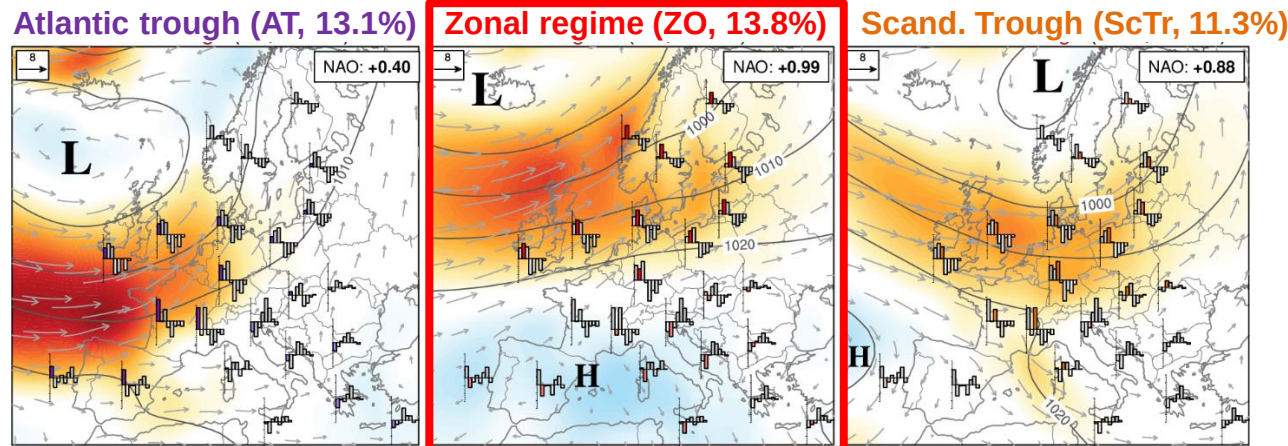


Fig. 1 from Matsueda and Kyouda 2016

- 1) Variability across scales
- 2) Weather regimes
- 3) Modulation of wind power**
- 4) Forecasting regimes
- 5) Modulation on subseasonal time scales

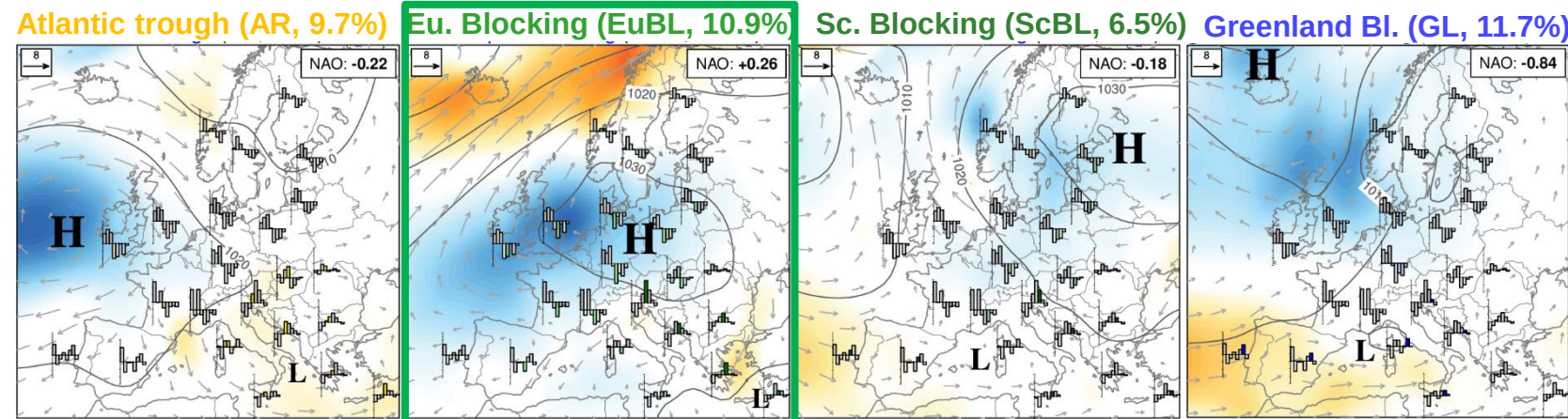
Weather regimes – 100m wind variability (winter)

Cyclonic

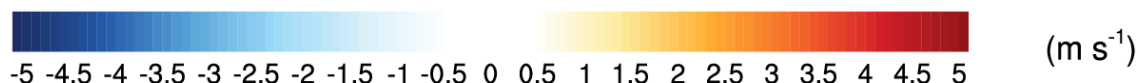


Cyclonic regimes go along with **above average wind speed** in most countries adjacent to the **North Sea**

Blocked



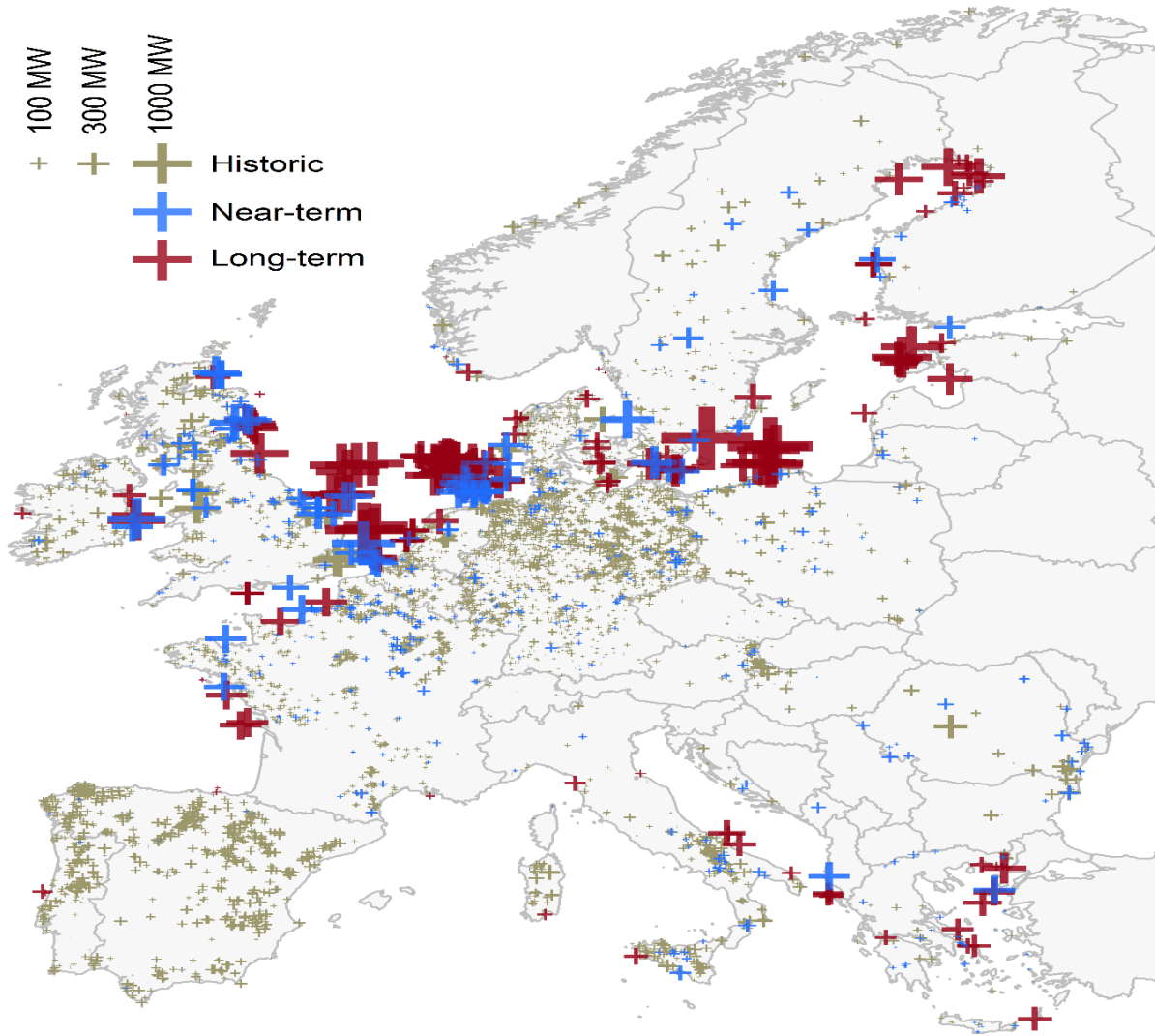
Blocked regimes go along with **below average wind speed** in most countries adjacent to the **North Sea**



Grams, C.M., et al. (2017), [doi:10.1038/nclimate3338](https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate3338).

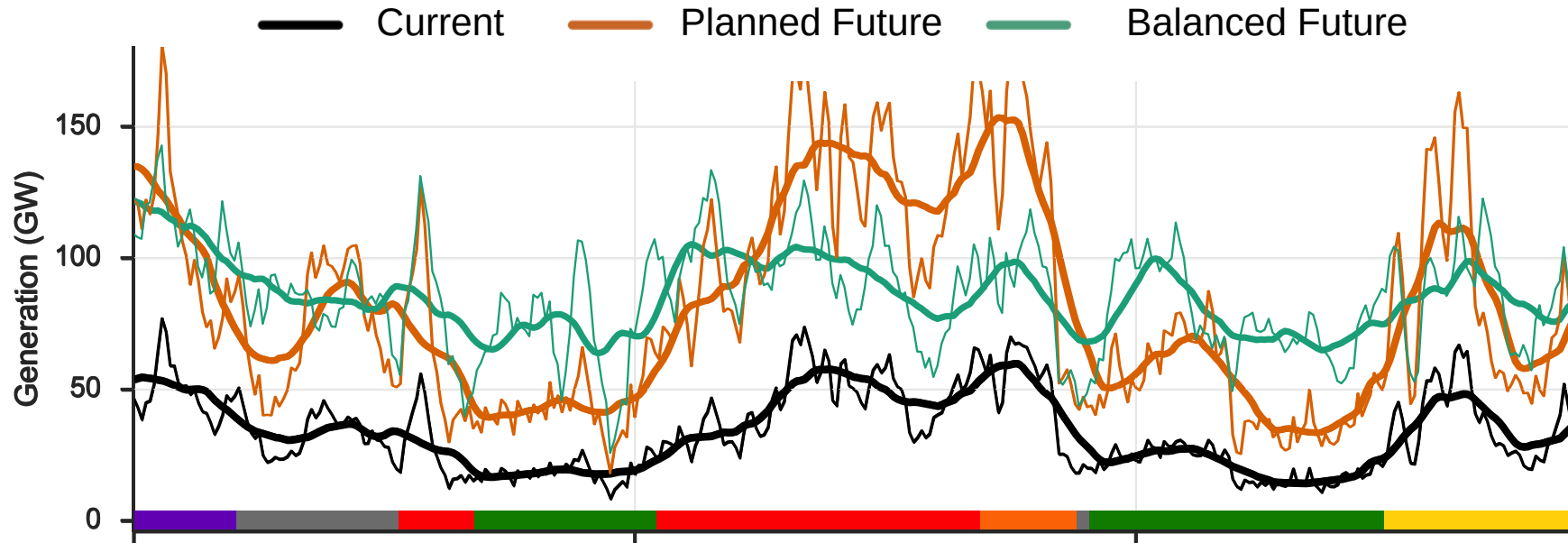
Blog: <https://christiangrams.wordpress.com/balancing-europes-wind-power/>
see also Zubiate et al. (2017) [doi:10.1002/qj.2943](https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.2943)

Current and Future wind deployment

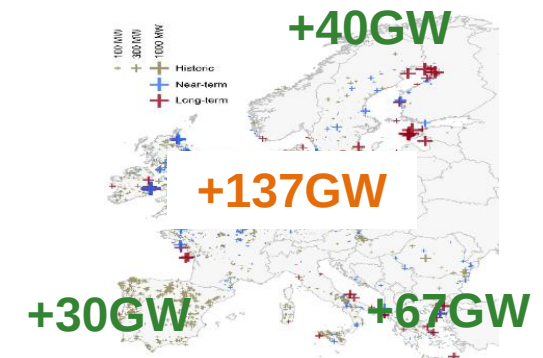
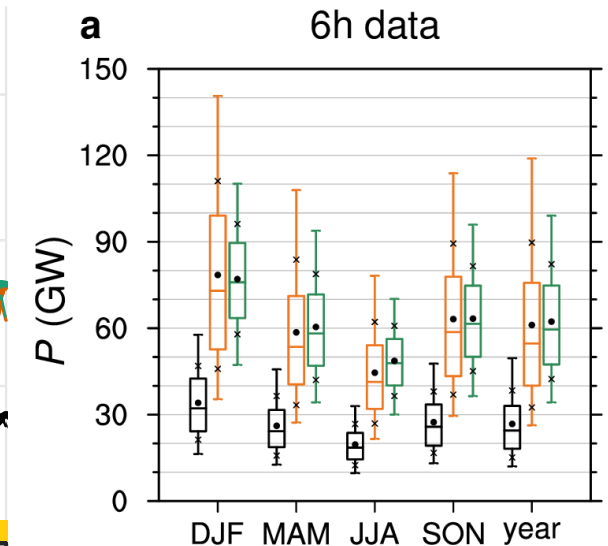


- Predominant offshore deployment in North Sea and Baltic Sea
- Hardly new deployment in Spain
- Little new deployment in Balkans

Example – winter 1992/93



→ Multi-day variability in European wind power could be balanced through spatial deployment informed by weather regimes



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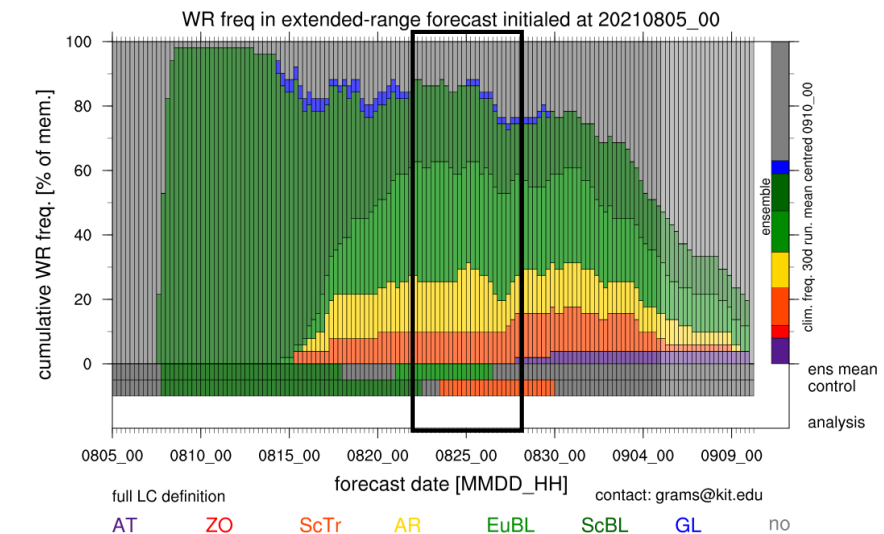
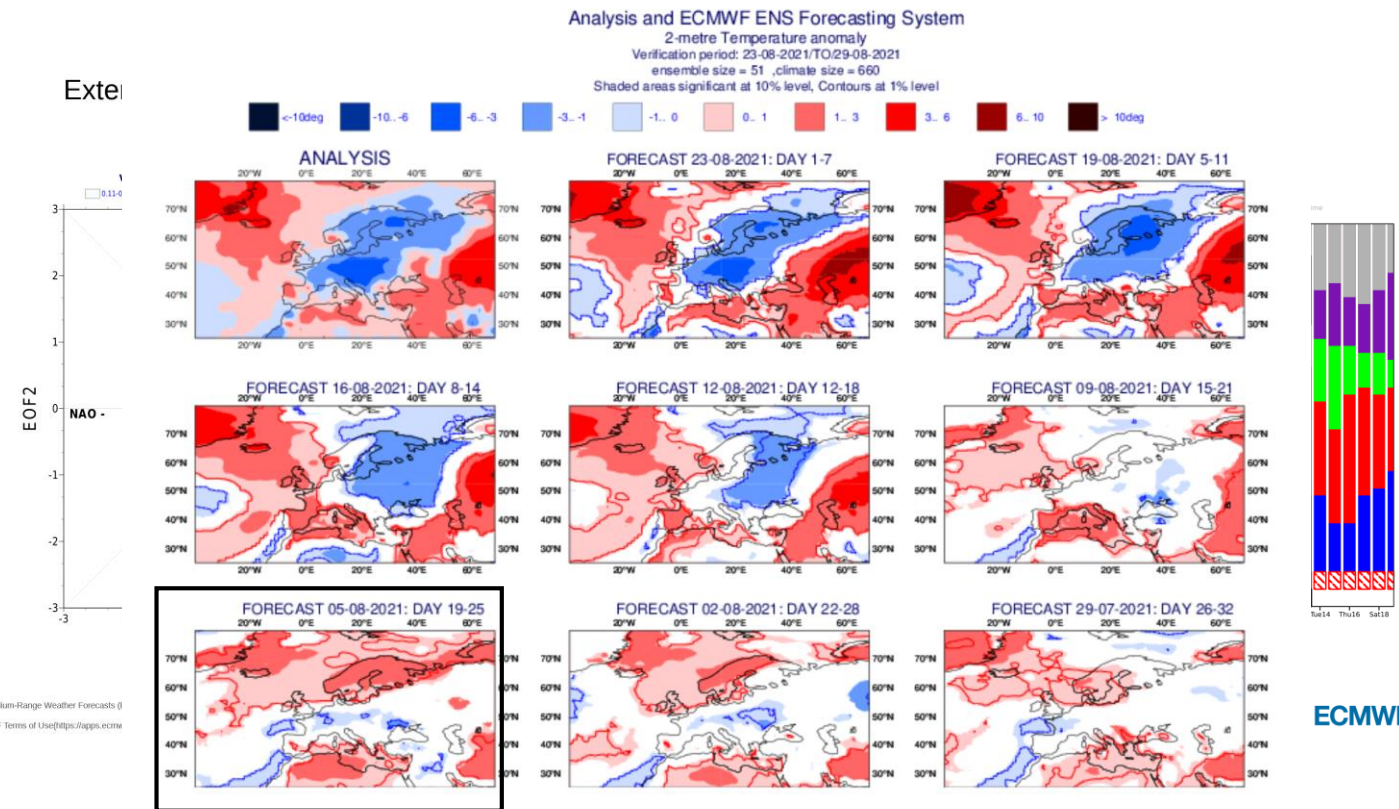
Weather regimes – forecast product examples

EC

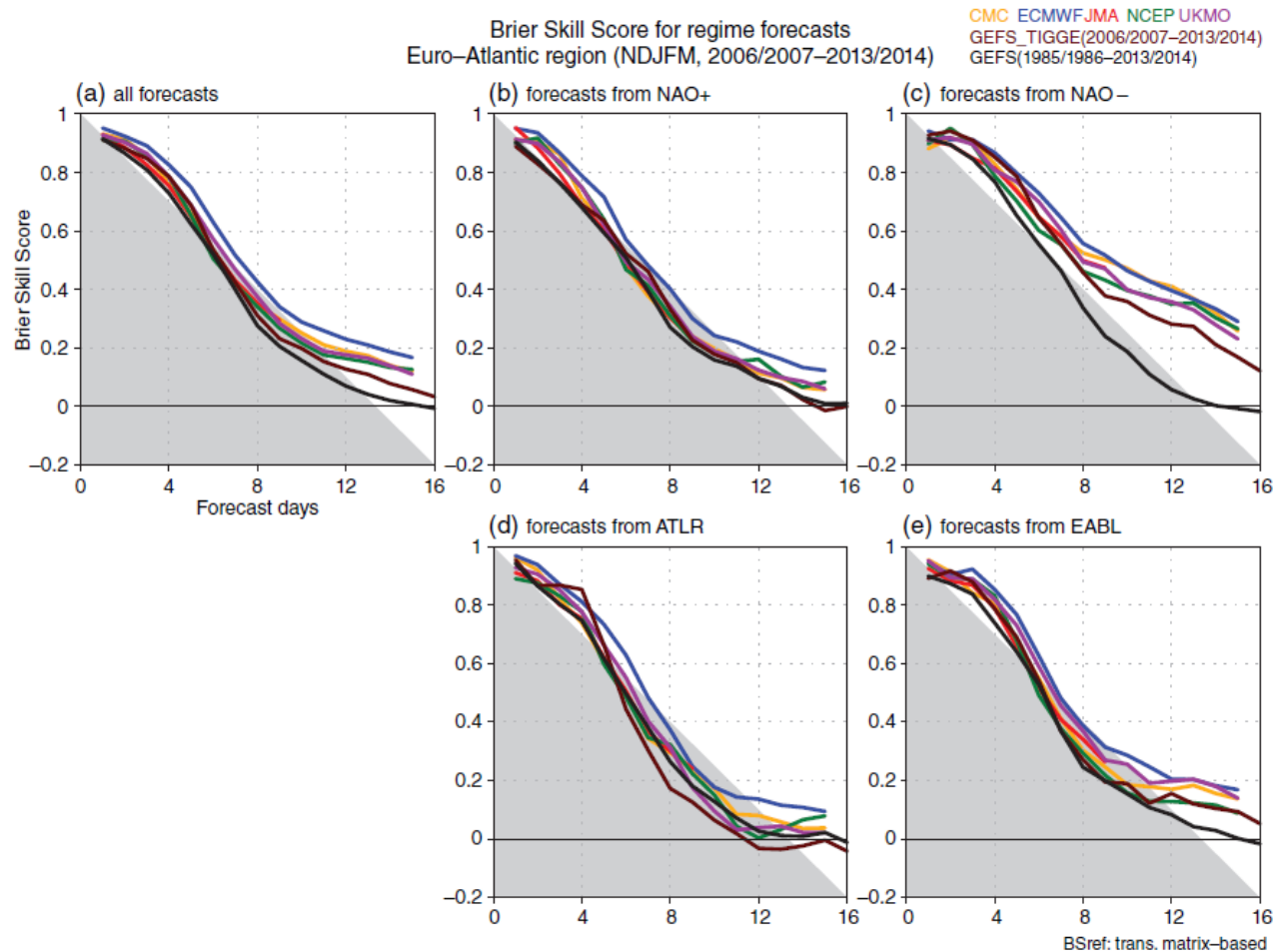
Global and regional anomaly

7WR lifecycles

Extel



Weather regimes – (flow-dependent) forecast skill



year-round BSS for individual regimes in ECMWF reforecasts

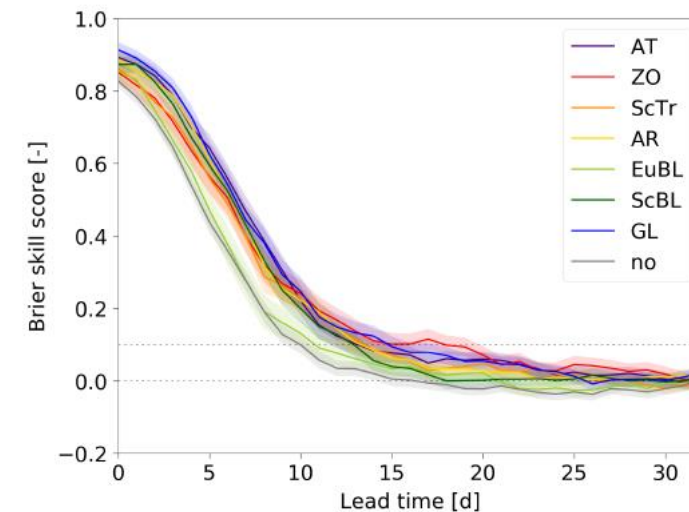


Fig. 6 from Büeler et al. 2021, *in revision*

Fig. 6 from [Matsueda and Palmer 2018](#), see also [Ferranti et al. 2015](#)

- 1) Variability across scales
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Weather regimes – sources of S2S predictability

■ Stratosphere

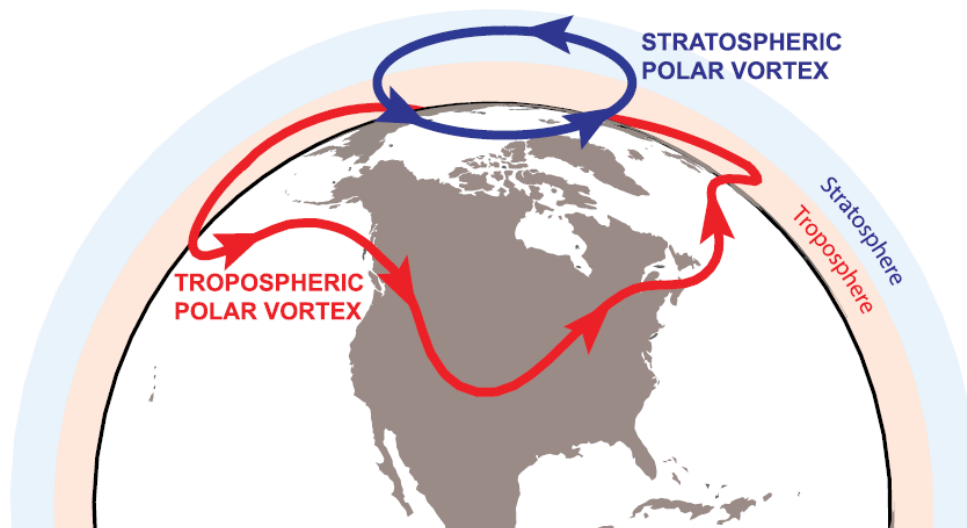
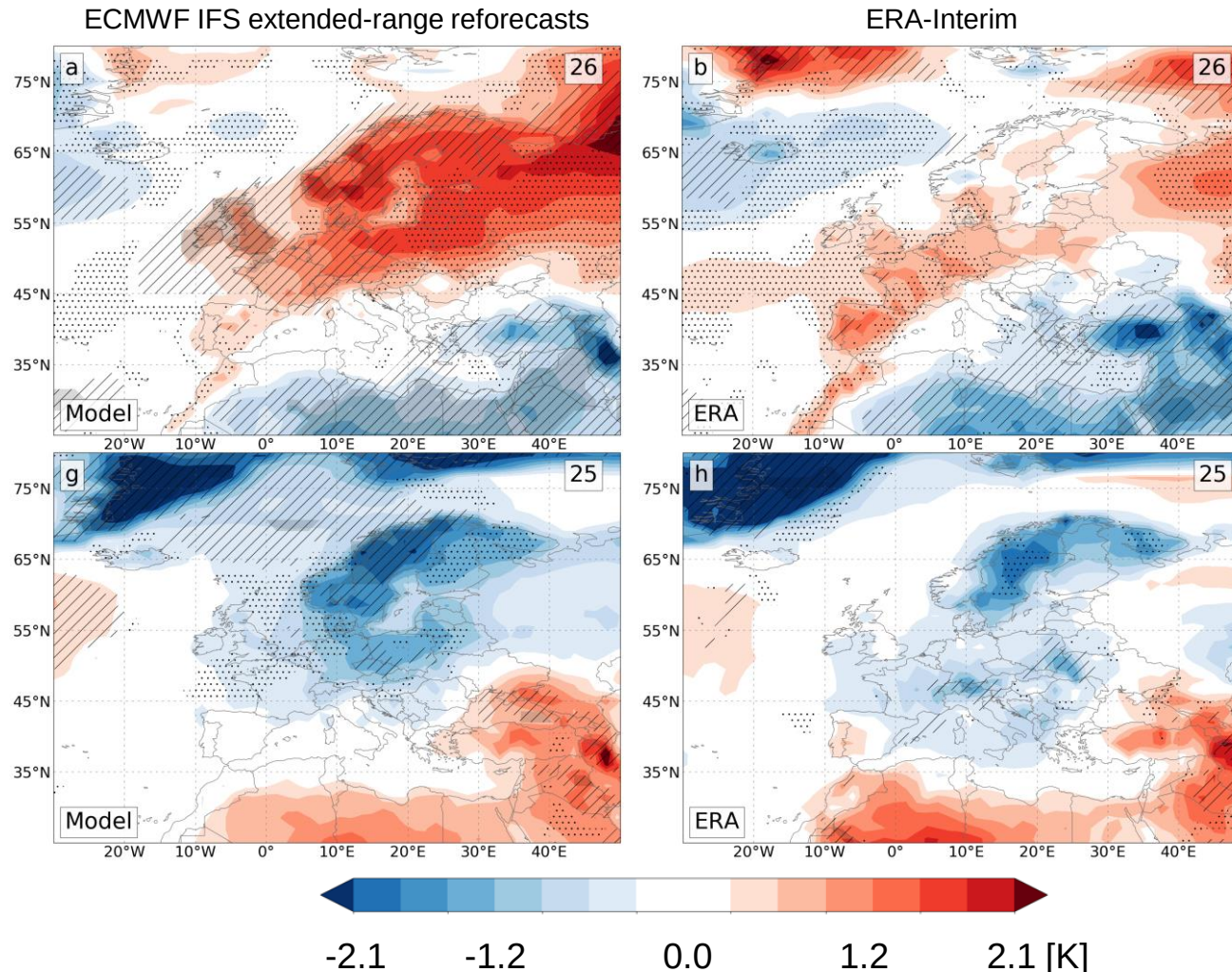


FIG. 1. Schematic of stratospheric and tropospheric polar vortices.

Fig. 1. from [Vaugh et al. 2016](#)

- symmetric **SPV**
- westerly polar night jet in 10-50 km height
- **tropospheric westerly jet** meanders around globe
- 5-10km height

Systematic biases in S2S model response

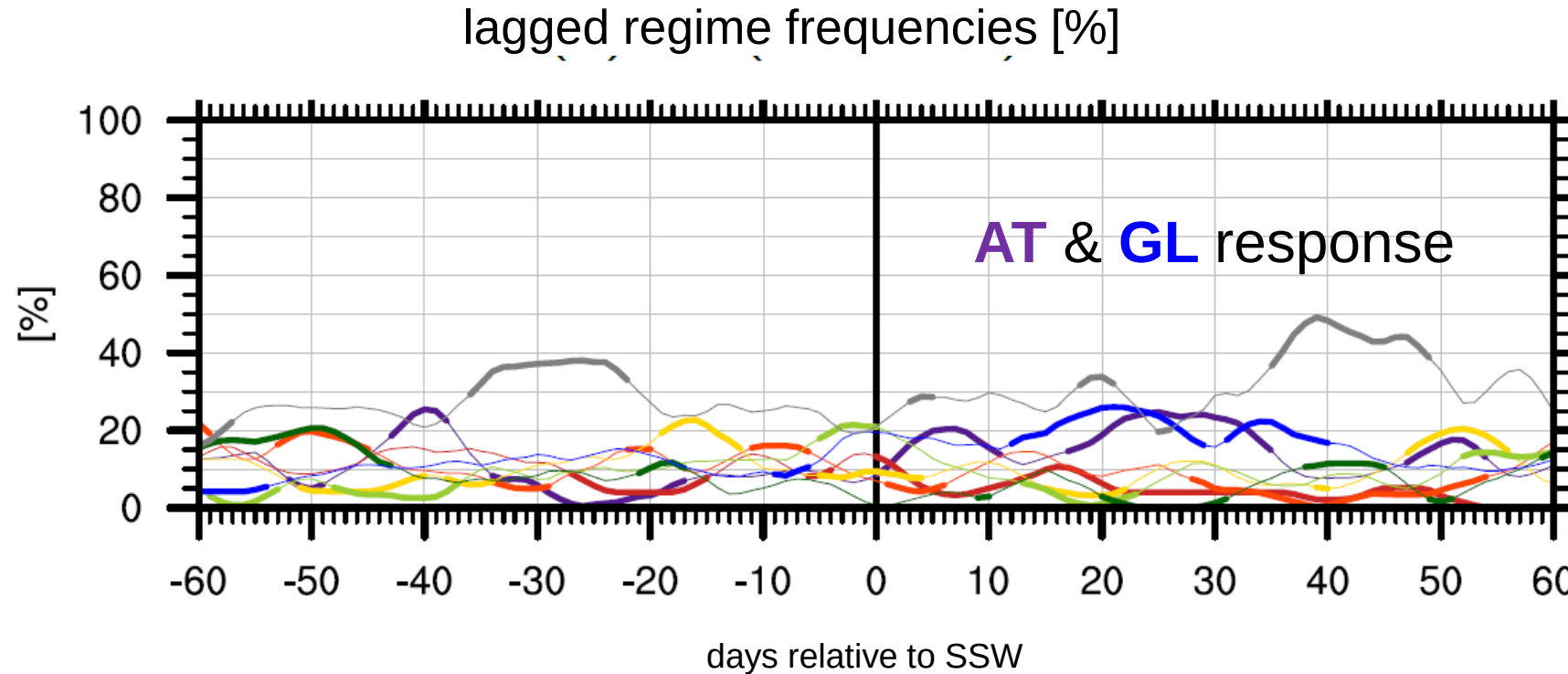


2m temperature anomaly 0-30d after 2% strongest/weakest SPV

- Left: ECMWF reforecasts tend to unambiguous warm/cold response
- Right: reality shows weaker anomalies

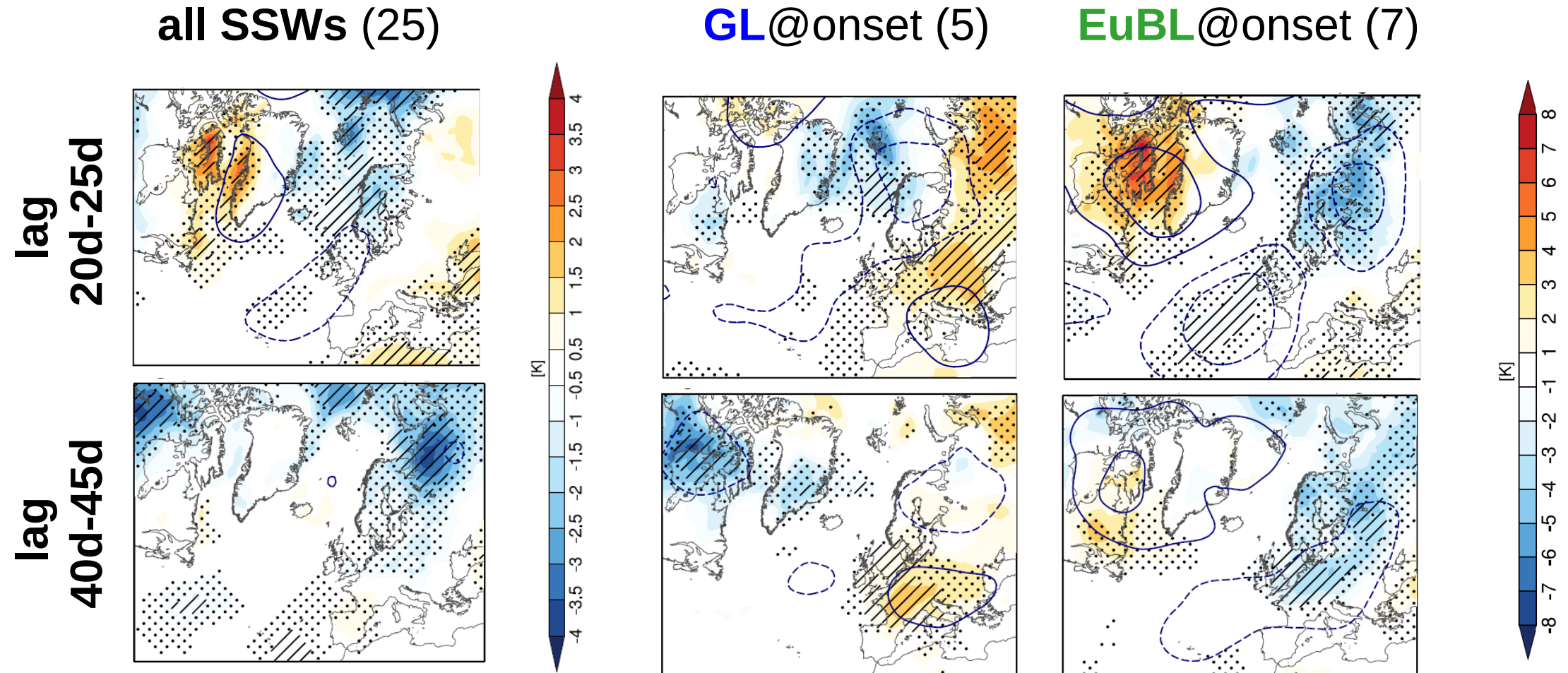
Büeler et al. (2020) *QJRM*S, [doi:10.1002/qj.3866](https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.3866)

Regime response to extremely weak SPV (SSW)



taken from Domeisen, Grams, and Papritz 2020, see also Beerli and Grams 2019, Beerli et al. 2017, Büeler et al. 2020, Charlton-Perez et al. 2018, Papritz and Grams 2018

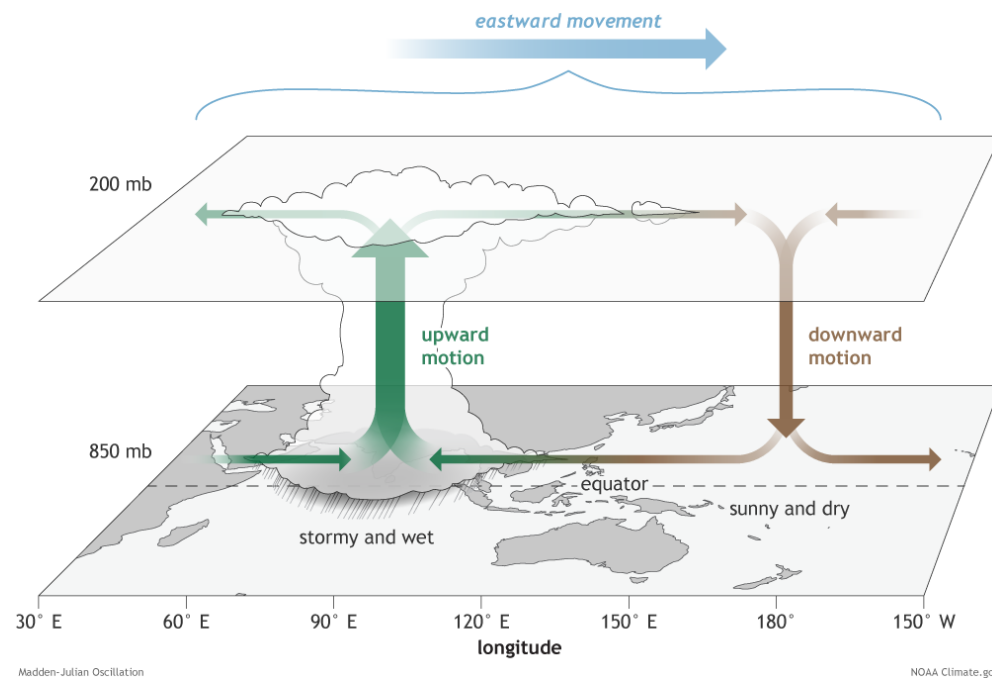
Surface impact of SSWs – 2m temperature



taken from [Domeisen, Grams, and Papritz 2020](#)

Weather regimes – sources of S2S predictability

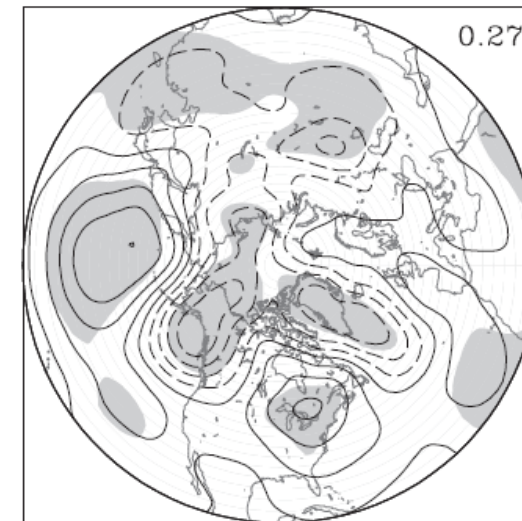
■ Madden-Julian-Oscillation



[Climate.gov](https://climate.gov) drawing by Fiona Martin

Z500 anomalies after MJO Phase 3

b) PHASE 3 lag=1



c) PHASE 3 lag=2

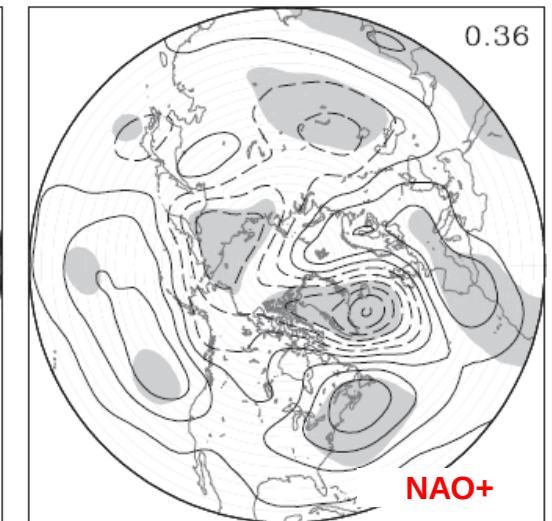


Fig 3 from [Lin et al. 2009](#), see also [Cassou et al. 2008](#), [Robert Lee et al. 2019](#)

Weather regimes – sources of S2S predictability

■ Joint forcing by MJO – ENSO – stratosphere

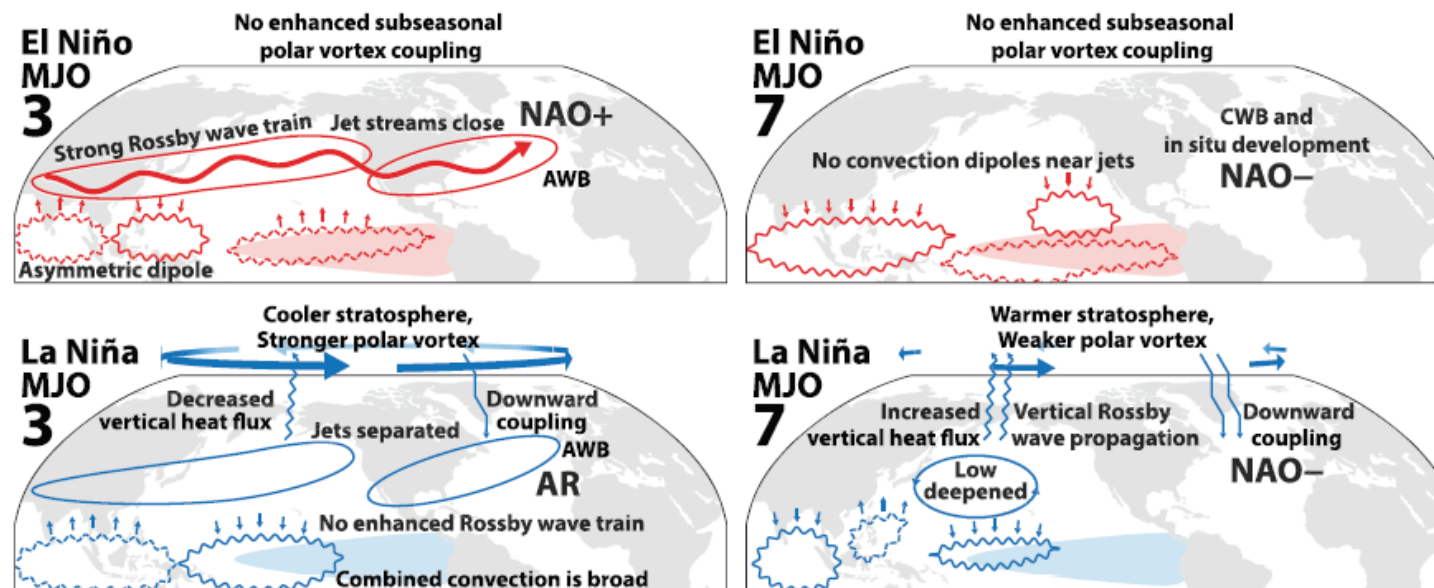


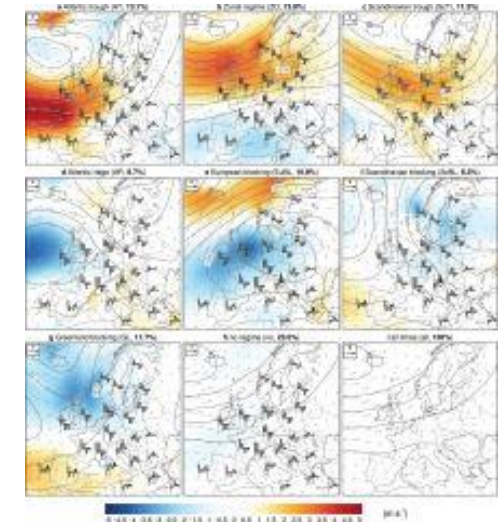
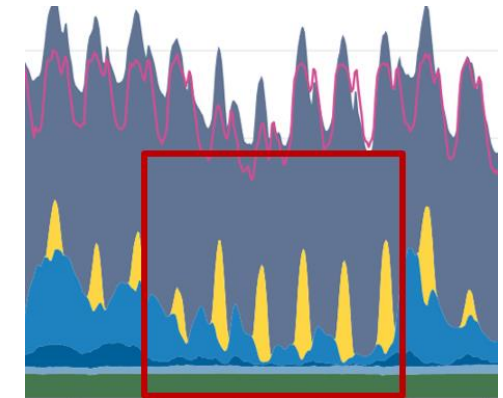
Figure 4. Schematic of ENSO modulation of subseasonal teleconnections from the MJO to the NAE region (narrative: Text S7). El Niño (upper panels; red) and La Niña (lower panels; blue) states are illustrated following MJO phases 3 (left panels) and 7 (right panels). AWB and CWB refer to anticyclonic wave breaking, and cyclonic wave breaking, respectively. The anomalous convection signals (solid: enhanced; dashed: suppressed) comprise the MJO, in the given phases, as modified by the large-scale ENSO circulation.

Fig. 4 from Robert Lee et al. 2019

Summary

- a note on regimes and climate change
- weather regimes are quasi-stationary, persistent, and recurrent flow patterns in the extratropics
- weather regimes govern variability of weather on sub-seasonal time scales (10-30 days)
- interesting for country-aggregated or continent-scale forecast in the energy sector
- windows of forecast opportunity beyond 2 weeks due to slower climate modes (MJO, stratosphere)

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Modulation of regime occurrence and predictability on S2S time scales (often in context of energy meteorology)

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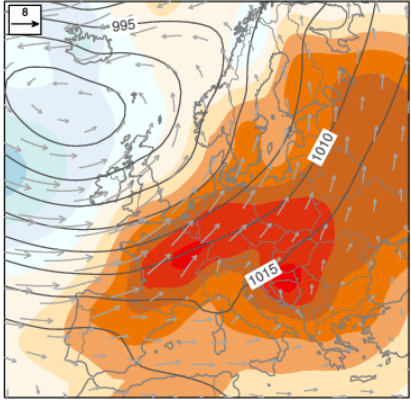
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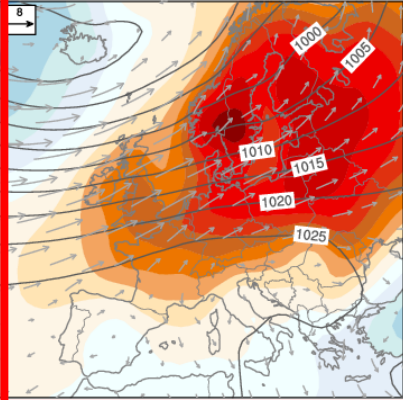
Weather regimes – 2m temperature variability (winter)

Cyclonic

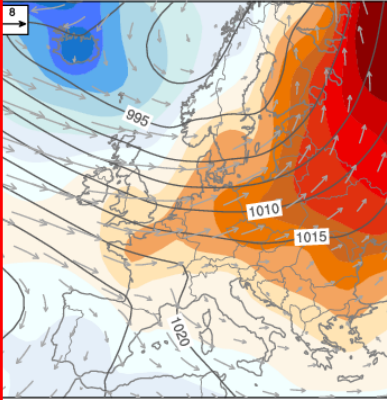
Atlantic trough (AT, 13.1%)



Zonal regime (ZO, 13.8%)



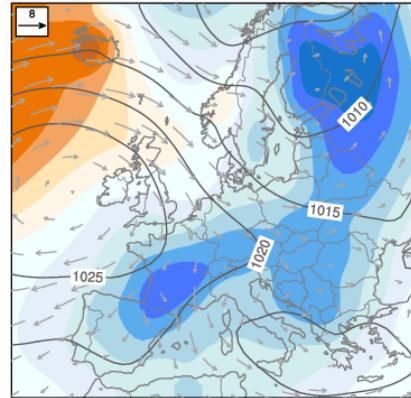
Scand. Trough (ScTr, 11.3%)



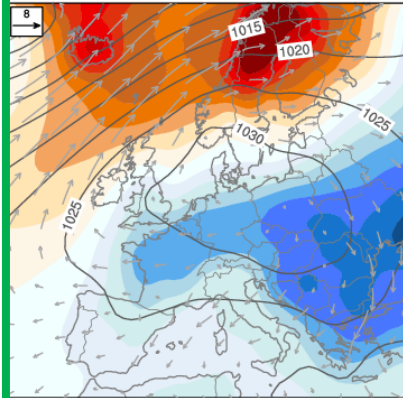
Cyclonic regimes go along with **mild conditions** in most parts of **Europe**

Blocked

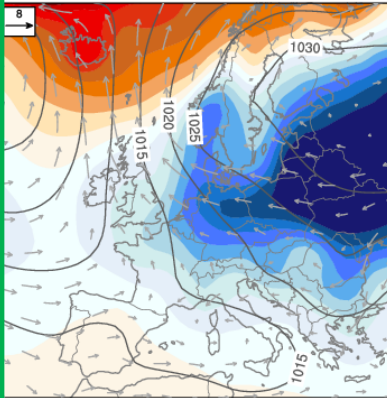
Atlantic trough (AR, 9.7%)



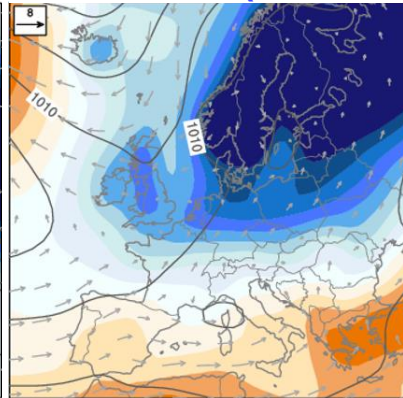
Eu. Blocking (EuBL, 10.9%)



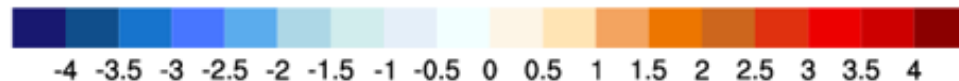
Sc. Blocking (ScBL, 6.5%)



Greenland BL (GL, 11.7%)



Blocked regimes go along with **cold conditions** in many parts of **Europe**

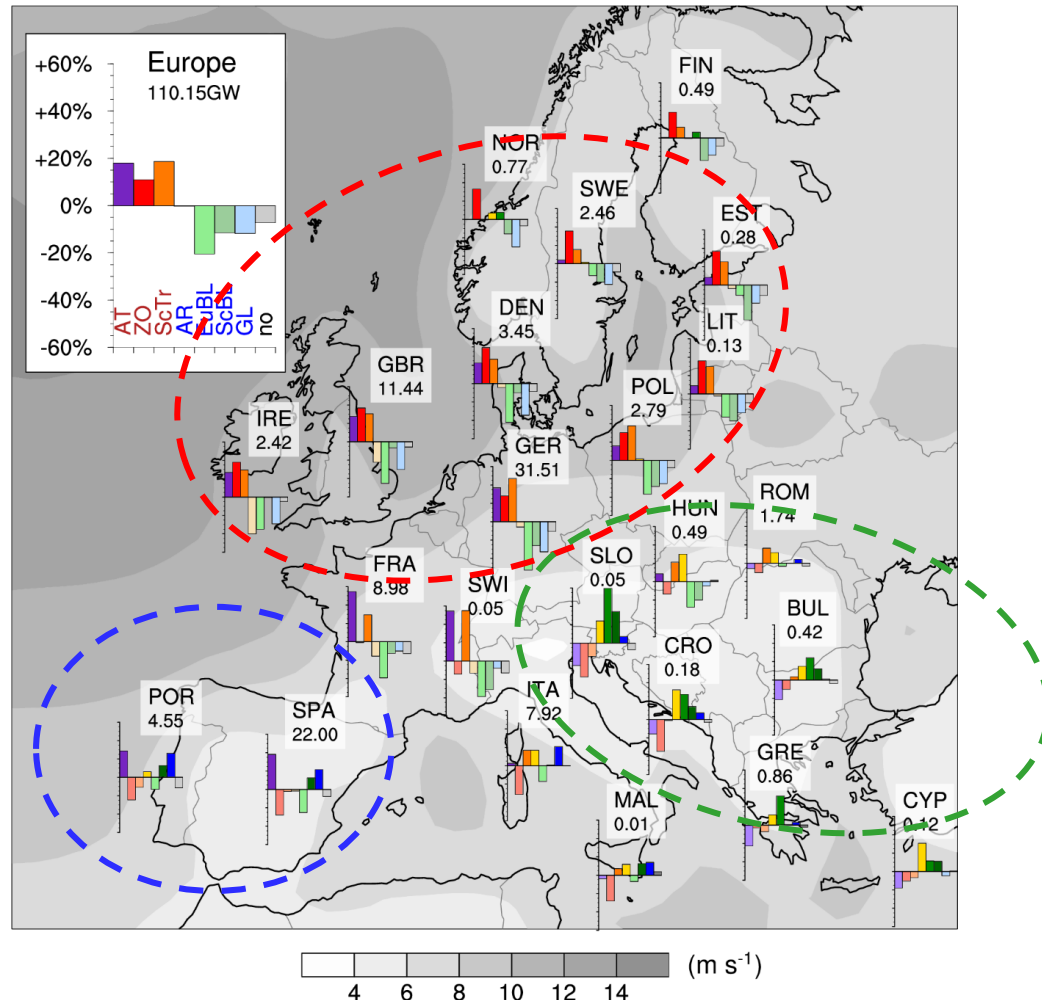


(K)

Grams, C.M., et al. (2017), [doi:10.1038/nclimate3338](https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate3338).

Blog: <https://christiangrams.wordpress.com/balancing-europes-wind-power/>

Modulation of wind power potential



Bars for each country of

ΔCF : wind power output change wrt. winter mean

numbers: country's IC in GW
gray shading: DJF mean 100m wind

Grams, C.M., et al. (2017), [doi:10.1038/nclimate3338](https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate3338).

Blog: <https://christiangrams.wordpress.com/balancing-europes-wind-power/>

Weather regimes – sources of S2S predictability

■ Stratosphere

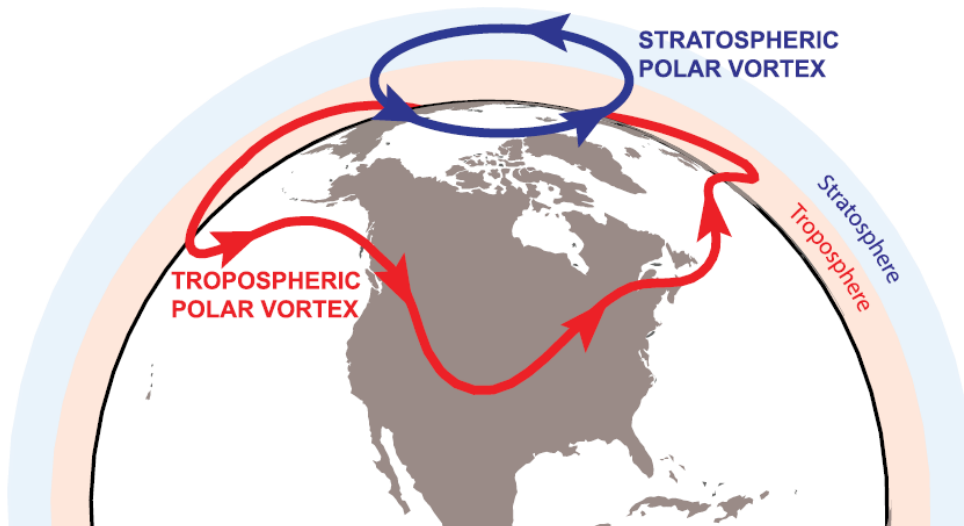


FIG. 1. Schematic of stratospheric and tropospheric polar vortices.

Fig. 1. from [Vaugh et al. 2016](#)

regime frequency in **strong** / **neutral** / **weak** SPV states. Pale below winter (DJF) mean.

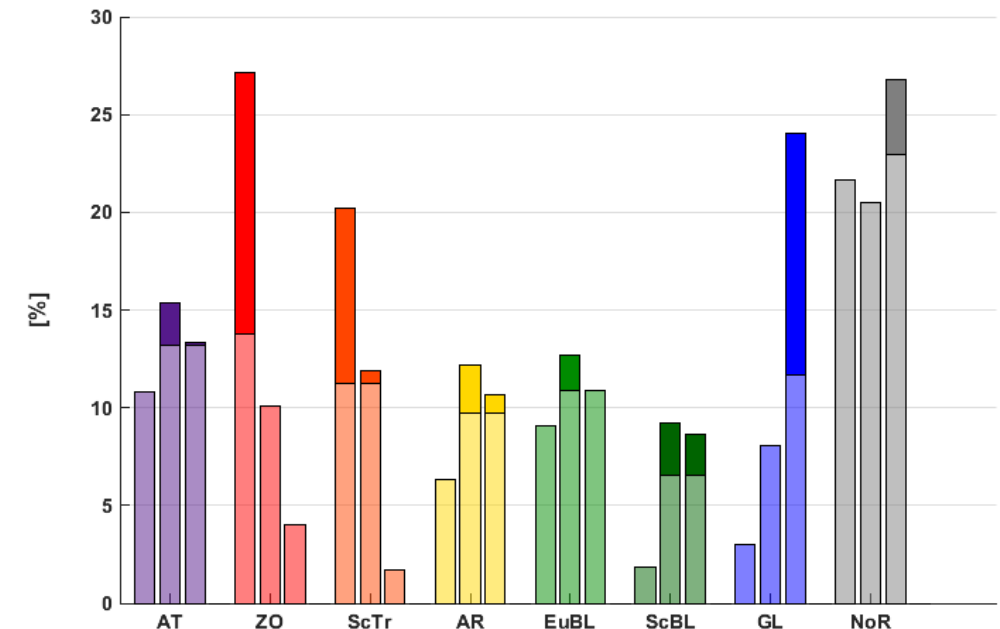
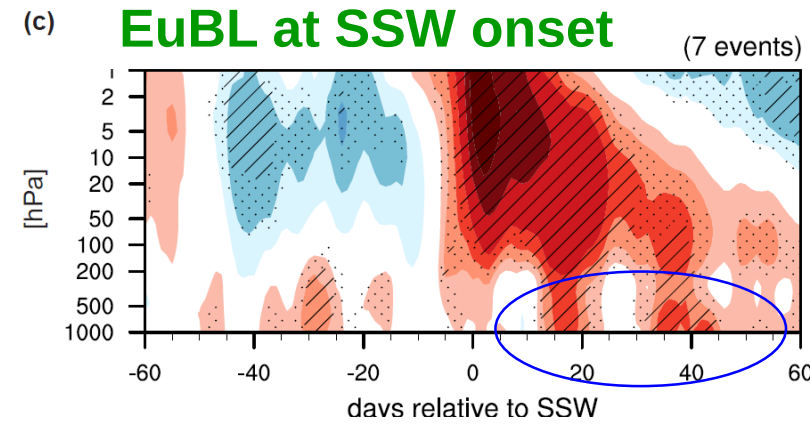
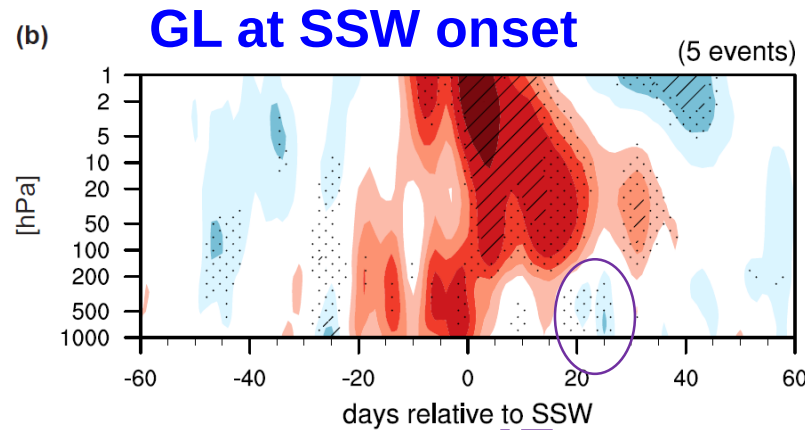
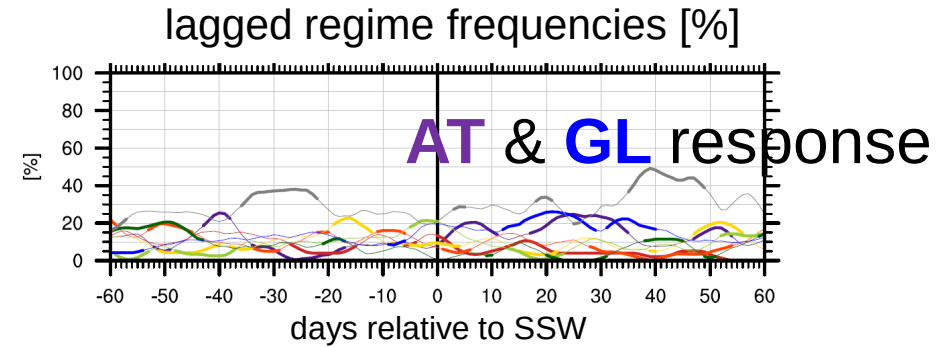
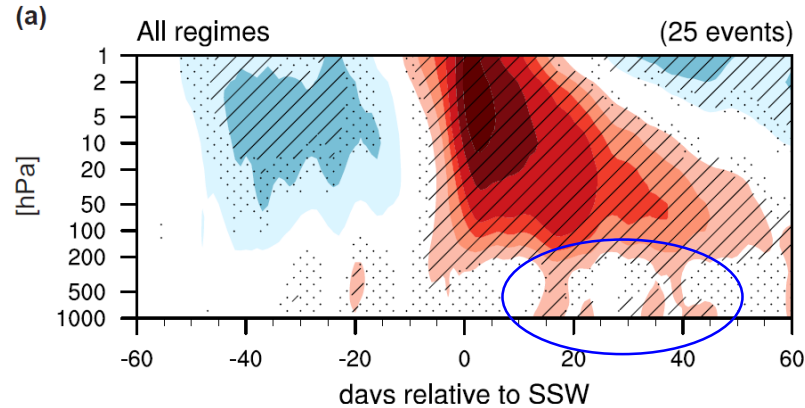


Fig. 6 from [Beerli and Grams 2019](#), see also [Beerli et al. 2017](#), [Büeler et al. 2020](#), [Charlton-Perez et al. 2018](#), [Domeisen, Grams, and Papritz 2020](#), [Papritz and Grams 2018](#)

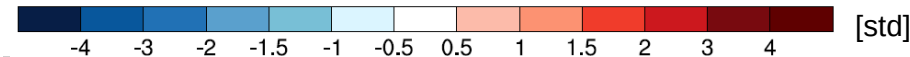
Downward impact of extremely weak SPV (SSW)



AT response

GL response

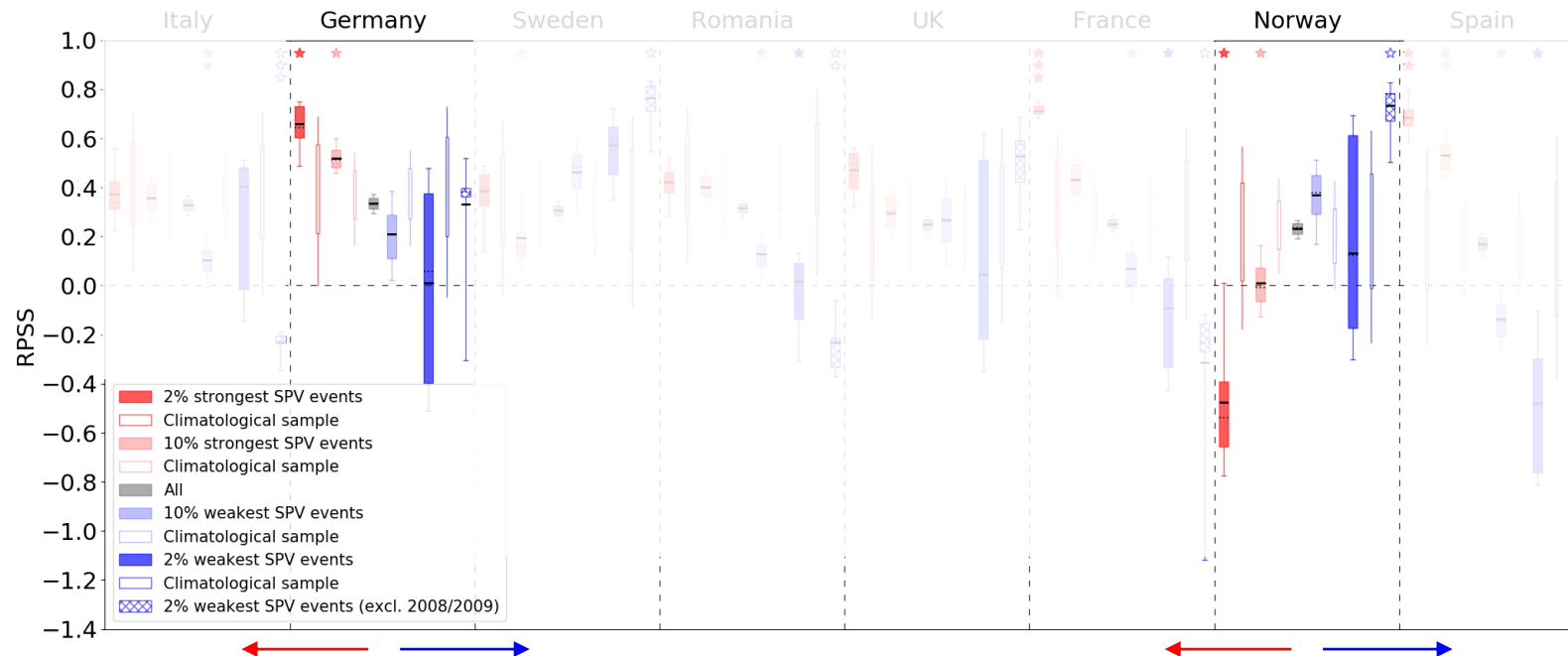
60-90°N GPH anomaly NATL sector



taken from [Domeisen, Grams, and Papritz 2020](#)

Stratosphere-dependent forecast skill

RPSS distributions for month ahead, country-aggregated 2mT forecasts



stronger SPV weaker SPV

stronger SPV weaker SPV

Adapted from Figure 4 in Büeler et al. (2020): **RPSS distributions for month ahead, country-aggregated 2mT forecasts** (categorical in upper, middle, lower terciles) initialized in different SPV states. Box-and-Whisker Plots show the 10, 25, 50, 75, 90% percentiles, dashed line the mean of the RPSS distribution. Thin box-and-whiskers show 10, 25, 75, 90% percentiles of distributions from random forecasts with similar sample size. One (two/three) stars denote overlap of less than 25% (10% / 5%) with the random distribution.

Büeler et al. (2020) *QJRMS*, doi:[10.5194/wcd-2019-16](https://doi.org/10.5194/wcd-2019-16)