

2.6 Is WRF getting better?

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Every year there are two new versions of WRF, providing increasingly sophisticated physics and bug fixes. But does increasing complexity improve model verifications? Does the latest version of WRF produce more accurate predictions than versions from several years ago? This talk will address these issues.

In this presentation, we will examine the changes in WRF prediction skill over the Pacific Northwest during the past decade in a variety of ways. First, the UW WRF forecasts at 36, 12, and 4 km grid spacing are verified at the same collection of high-quality observing stations (ASOS) for the operational UW WRF system since 2006, a period in which WRF has undergone substantial changes and upgrades. Second, since the synoptics were obviously not identical for the operational system over that period, a series of multi-week seasonal simulations were made using the same large-scale forcing but with varying versions of WRF, as well as MM5. Finally, our results are compared to some of the limited version testing of the Developmental Testbed Center (DTC).