

# Changes in sector-specific climate indices: an extension to HadEX3

**Robert Dunn<sup>1</sup>**, **Nicholas Herold<sup>2</sup>**, **Lisa Alexander<sup>3</sup>**, and **Markus Donat<sup>4</sup>**

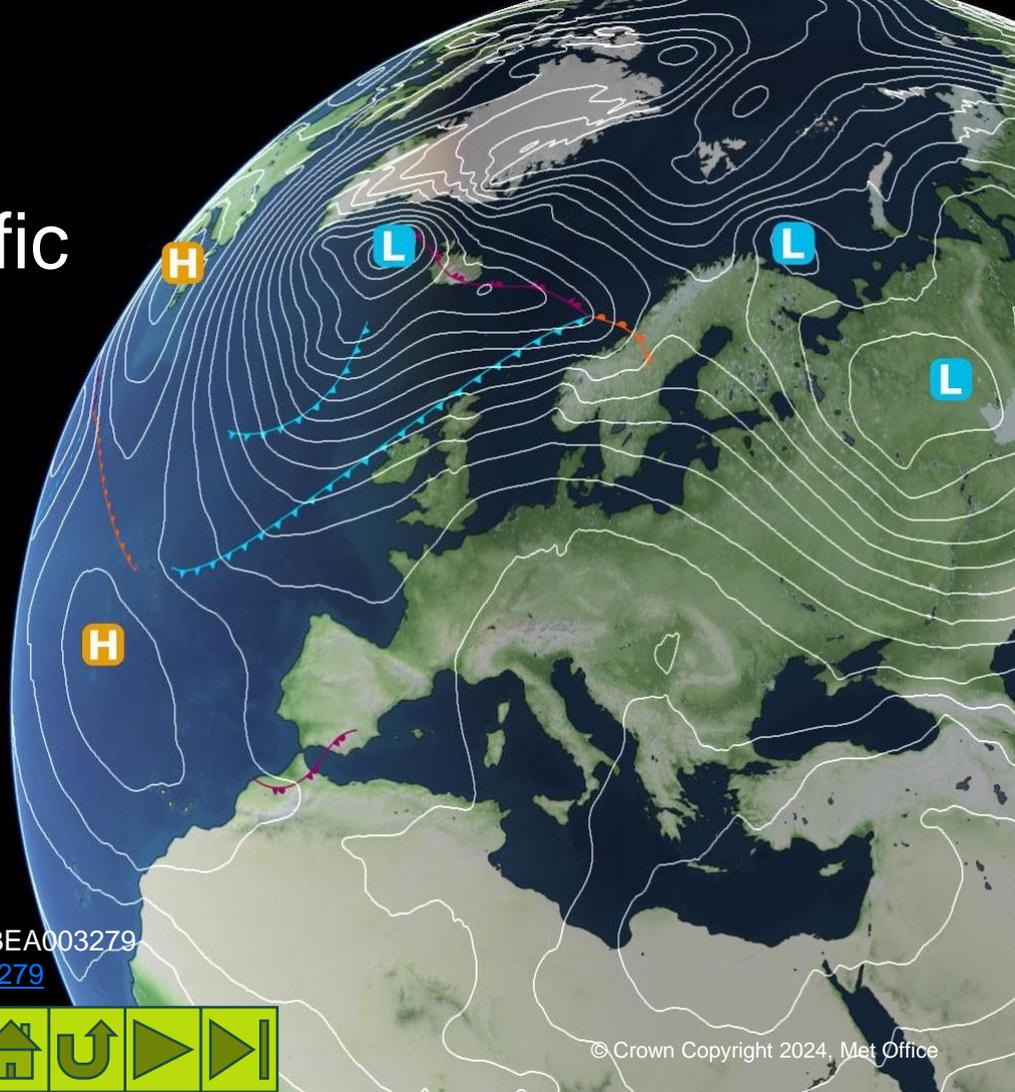
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Robert J. H. Dunn, et al., 2024 Earth and Space Science, 11, e2023EA003279  
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2023EA003279>



# Sector Specific Indices

- The ETCCDI set of climate indices for moderate extremes are widely used
  - Were developed for Detection & Attribution, as well as Climate Monitoring
  - Have a climatological focus
- The WMO ET-SCI have developed additional indices relevant for different sectors
  - Experts from Agriculture, Health, and Water Resources co-developed these additional indices
- Extension to global HadEX3 dataset of gridded extremes indices now includes these extra ET-SCI indices

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadex3>

## Heat and cold

FD	SU	ID	TR	GSL	TXx	TNx	TXn
TNn	TN10p	TX10p	TN90p	TX90p	WSDI		
CSDI	DTR	ETR	CDDcoldn	GDDgrown			
HDDheatn	TMge5	TMIT5	TMge10	TMIT10			
TMm	TXm	TNm	TXge30	TXge35	TXgt50p		
TNlt2	TNltm2	TNltm20	TXbdTNbd				

## Precipitation

Rx1day	Rx5day	SPI	SPEI	SDII	R10mm
R20mm	Rnnmm	CDD	CWD	R95p	R99p
R95pTOT	R99pTOT	PRCPTOT			

## Heat and cold waves

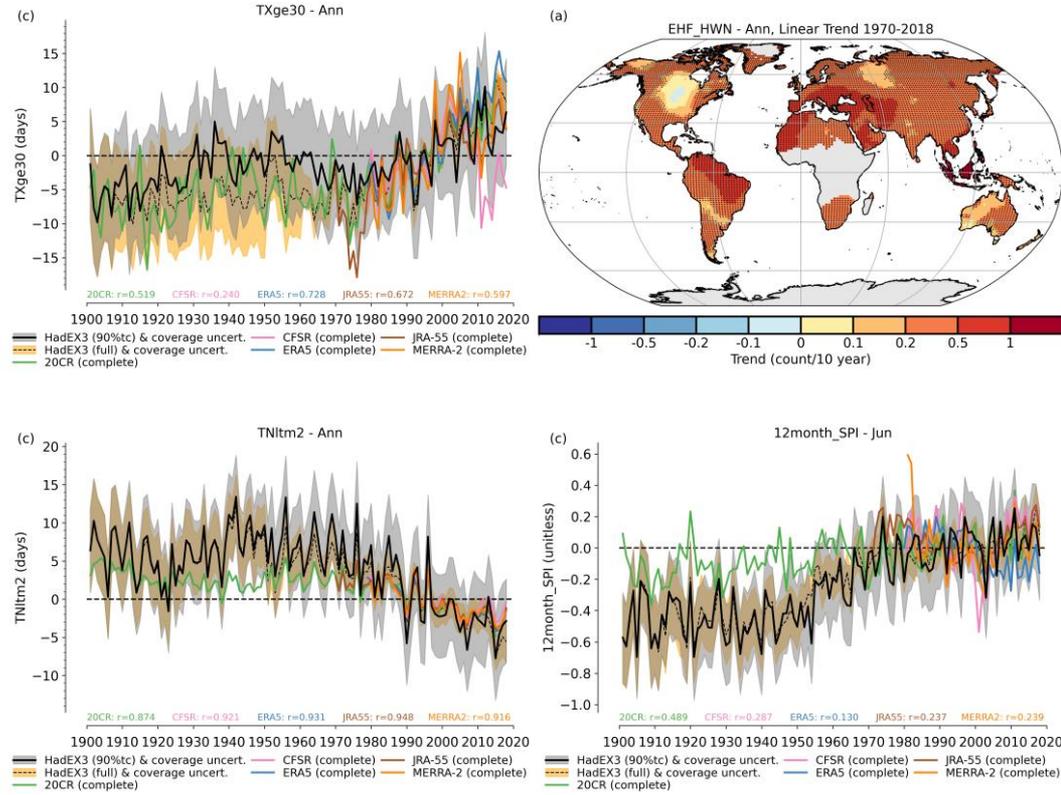
HWN	HWF	HWD	HWM	HWA	CWN_ECF
CWF_ECF	CWD_ECF	CWM_ECF	CWA_ECF		

<https://www.climdex.org/learn/indices/>



# HadEX3-ETSCI

- [Heat wave indices](#) show widespread increases in intensity, frequency and duration.
- Other temperature indices also consistent with warming world
  - Linked both to health and agricultural impacts
- Corresponding decreases in low temperatures, linked to reduced frosts
- Additional indices for water resources show no strong “global” trends
- Come talk to me about these 80 indices!



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## Sector specific extension to HadEX3

Robert Dunn, Nicholas Herold, Lisa Alexander et al., 2024  
Earth and Space Science, **11**, 4, e2023EA003279  
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2023EA003279>

EGU Abstract



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## HadEX3: history & methods

Robert Dunn, Lisa Alexander, Markus Donat et al, 2020  
JGR-Atmospheres, **125**, 16, e2019JD032263  
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2019JD032263>



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## Comparing extremes indices in recent observational and reanalysis products

Robert Dunn, Markus Donat, Lisa Alexander, 2022  
*Frontiers in Climate* **4**  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fclm.2022.989505/full>

Back to [ETISCI - indices for Health](#)



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## Interplay of reference periods and percentile-based extreme temperature indices

Robert Dunn & Colin Morice, 2022  
*Environ. Res. Lett.* **17** 034026  
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac52c8>



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EGU Abstract



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# Sector specific extension to HadEX3

Robert Dunn, Nicholas Herold, Lisa Alexander et al., 2024  
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<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2023EA003279>

EGU Abstract



# Why sector specific indices?

- Climate extremes indices allow for the characterisation of extremes and comparison of extremes across the globe
  - [ETCCDI](#) extremes indices have been used for >20yrs
  - Developed with Detection & Attribution, and Climate Monitoring in mind, from a climatological perspective
- ET on Sector-specific Climate indices (ET-SCI) held workshops with experts in Agriculture, Health and Water Resources to develop additional indices
  - Also relevant to DRR, Energy & Forestry
  - Can be used singly or in combination e.g. to identify climate risks



The World Meteorological Organization  
Commission for Climatology

## Expert Team on Sector-Specific Climate Indices

### OUR MISSION

- Promote the use of globally consistent, sector-specific climate indices to bring out variability and trends in climate of particular interest to socio-economic sectors, and to help characterize the climate sensitivity of various sectors.
- Further develop the ClimPACT software, which is used to generate sector-specific climate indices, including their time series based on historical data.
- Extend ClimPACT to include indices derived from other climate variables that are relevant for sector impacts.
- Develop the training materials needed to raise capacity and promote uniform approaches around the world in applying these techniques.
- Coordinate and lead regional workshops building on the experience gained from previous workshops.



Lisa Alexander (co-lead), Australia

Jorge Vazquez Aguirre, Mexico

Adam Kalkstein (co-lead), USA

Danielle Barros Ferreira, Brazil

Atika Kasmi, Morocco

Lia Megreldiz, Georgia

Tosiyuki Nakaegawa, Japan

<https://climpact-sci.org/assets/etsci/etsci-what-en.pdf>



# Climpact indices

- ETCCDI + ET-SCI indices come to over 80 metrics.
  - Combined set termed “Climpact” indices
- Additional ones follow similar approach
  - Some extend the fixed threshold indices
    - ID [TXlt10], SU [TXgt25] now includes:
      - TNlt2, TNltm2 etc
  - Some have user defined thresholds
    - E.g. CSDId, TXdTNd
  - Include other well-known indices
    - E.g. CDDcoldn, GDDgrown, SPEI & SPI
  - Heatwave (and cold-wave) indices
    - Following Perkins & Alexander (2013)

## Heat and cold

FD	SU	ID	TR	GSL	TXx	TNx	TXn
TNn	TN10p	TX10p	TN90p	TX90p	WSDI		
CSDI	DTR	ETR	CDDcoldn	GDDgrown			
HDDheatn	TMge5	TMI5	TMge10	TMI10			
TMm	TXm	TNm	TXge30	TXge35	TXgt50p		
TNlt2	TNltm2	TNltm20	TXbdTNbd				

## Precipitation

Rx1day	Rx5day	SPI	SPEI	SDII	R10mm
R20mm	Rnmm	CDD	CWD	R95p	R99p
R95pTOT	R99pTOT	PRCPTOT			

## Heat and cold waves

HWN	HWF	HWD	HWM	HWA	CWN_ECF
CWF_ECF	CWD_ECF	CWM_ECF	CWA_ECF		

<https://www.climdex.org/learn/indices/>



# Extension to HadEX3

- HadEX3 initially a data set of gridded ETCCDI extremes indices (Dunn et al., 2020)
- Extending by including the ET-SCI indices in the same format
- Same method as HadEX3
  - Find out more about the HadEX datasets & methods [here](#)
- Indices which use a reference period in their construction are available with 1961-1990 and 1981-2010.
  - For more on reference periods see [here](#)

## Met Office Hadley Centre observations datasets

> [Home](#) > [HadEX3](#) >

### HadEX3: Gridded land surface extremes indices

The dataset contains land-based climate extremes produced through the coordination of the joint WMO CCI/WCRP/JCOMM Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices (ETCCDI) and the WMO Expert Team on Sector-specific indices (ET-SCI). It currently comprises of over 80 indices of temperature and precipitation on a 1.25° x 1.875° grid from 1901 to 2018. The indices represent seasonal and/or annual values derived from daily station data. Data are calculated using the [Climate2](#) software, or have been submitted to the project as pre-calculated indices.

**Brief description of the data**

Data have been supplied either as calculated indices or as timeseries of Tmax, Tmin and daily precipitation accumulations for each station. These data have been standardised, and for each index, the stations with sufficient data and coverage selected for inclusion in the dataset. A number of quality control checks are applied to test for reasonable values, for issues in the metadata and for duplicate stations (which may have been submitted via two different input data collections). We use the Angular Distance Weighting gridding method, which combines weighted averages of stations within a decorrelation length scale of a grid box centre. Final output netCDF files are produced, containing the annual, and where appropriate, monthly gridded fields. We automatically produce a number of plots and diagnostics as part of the creation scripts, and these are also available (ETCCDI, ET-SCI). However, as these have been created automatically, not all have been checked and so e.g. colour-scales may not be the most appropriate.

The current version is 3.0.4 (7th January 2022 for ETCCDI, extended 14th March 2024 for ET-SCI indices). For full details see the [ChangeLog](#).

HadEX3 is also available at [CEDA Archive](#) (Centres for Environmental Data Analysis): [HadEX3 at CEDA](#).

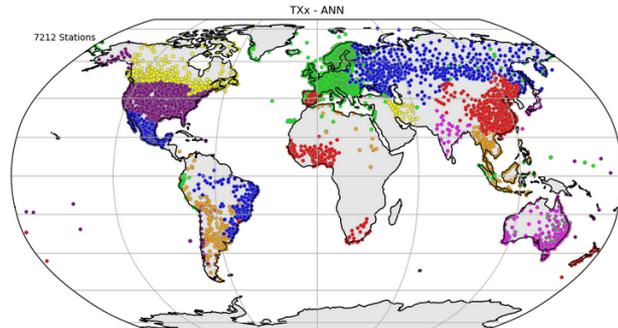
**Keep in touch**

Follow us on twitter: [@metofficeHadOBS](#) for updates, news and announcements.

For more detailed information, follow our HadEX [blog](#). Here we describe bug fixes, routine updates and other exploratory analysis.

Please [get in touch](#) if you have any feedback on the data files or plots.

**Figure** shows the distribution of HadEX3 stations for TXx (top), and TXge30 (bottom), both for annual indices.



**7212 Stations**

• ECAD (2991)	• DECADE (33)	• New Zealand (24)	• Russia (517)	• Malaysia (15)
• LACAD (63)	• South America (257)	• Australia (108)	• Iran (35)	• Myanmar (17)
• SACAD (50)	• Brazil (158)	• West Africa 2 (117)	• India (30)	• Vietnam (11)
• GHCND (942)	• Brazil Sp (3)	• South Africa (24)	• China (317)	• Philippines (4)
• GHCNDEX (150)	• Chile (16)	• Arabia (16)	• Japan (10)	• Thailand (44)
• Canada (276)	• Pacific (15)	• Spain (22)	• Brunei (1)	• Indonesia (40)
• Mexico (906)				

**DOWNLOAD DATA >>** Data are available from the [download page](#) without charge under the [Open Government License](#). Please read the [terms and conditions](#).

**References**

When using the dataset in a paper, the following are possible citations to use.

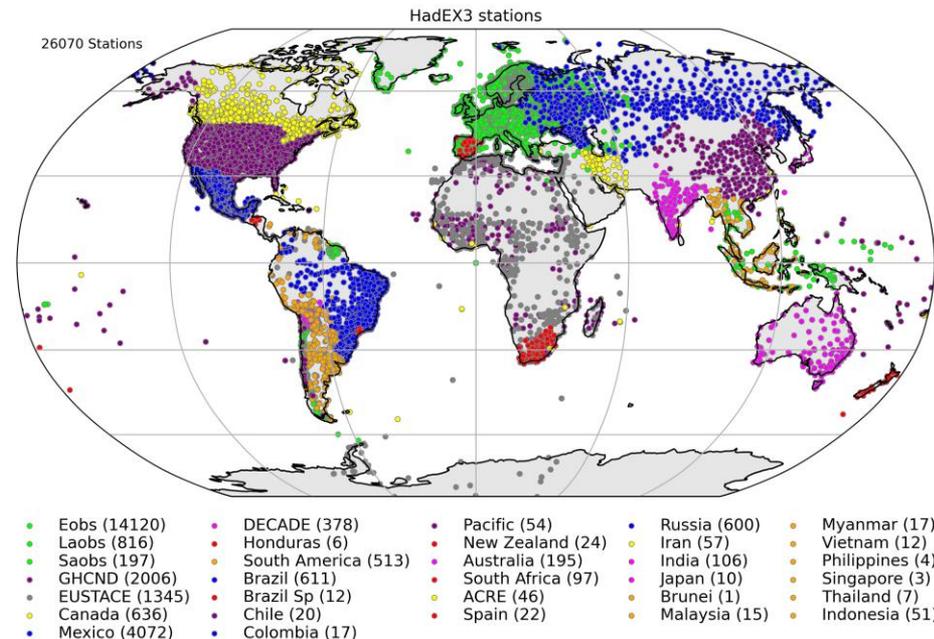
Dunn, R. J. H., et al. (2024), Observed global changes in sector-relevant climate extremes indices - an extension to HadEX3, *ESS* 11, e2023EA0003279

Dunn, R. J. H., Donat, M. G. and Alexander, L. V. (2022), Comparing extremes indices in recent observational and reanalysis products, *Frontiers*, 4

Dunn, R. J. H., et al. (2020), Development of an updated global land in-situ-based dataset of temperature and precipitation extremes: HadEX3, *JGR*, 125, e2019JD032263

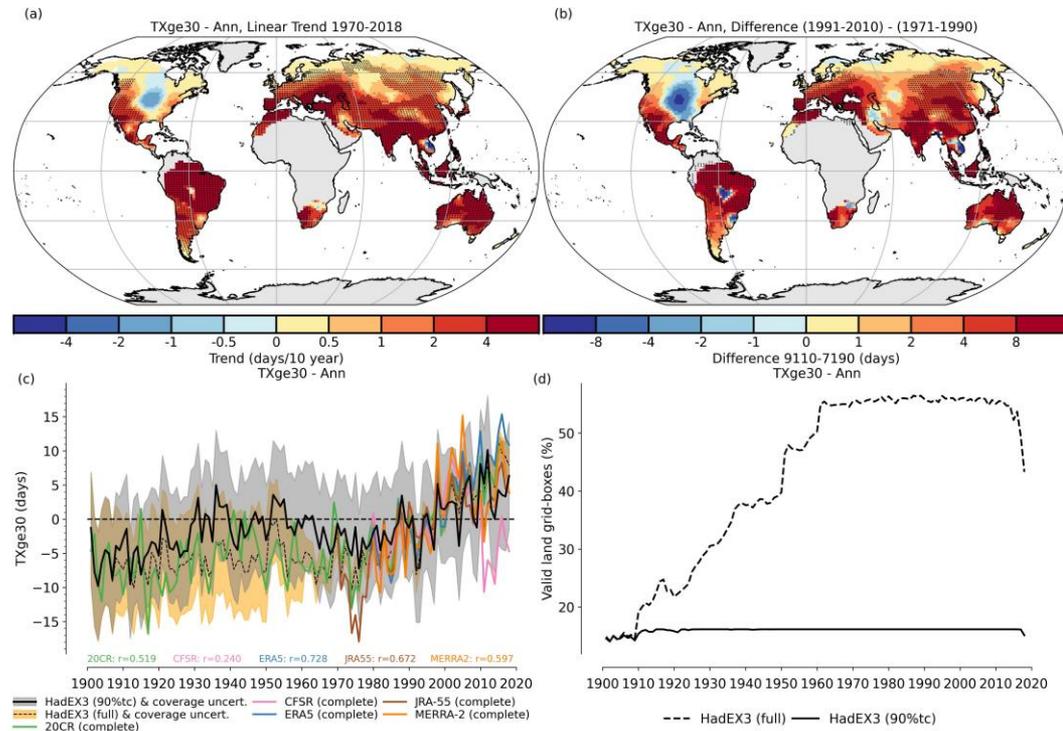
# Data sources

- Build on [HadEX3](#) (Dunn et al, 2020)
- Same data sources where possible
  - Daily Tmax, Tmin and precip data
  - Precalculated indices
- Additional sources
  - EUSTACE stations (Brugnara et al, 2019)
  - GHCNd (Menne et al., 2012) over China and Africa



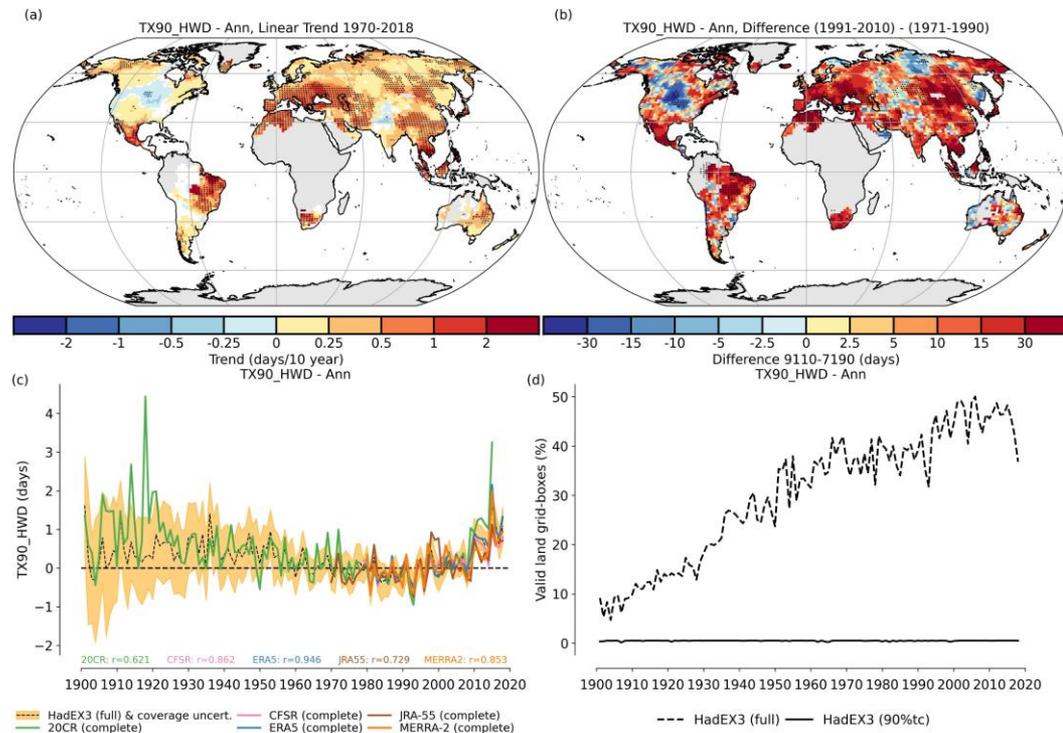
# Indices for Health 1

- Many ETCCDI indices already relevant to health
  - Fixed threshold (ID, FD etc), also duration (WSDI, CSDI) and percentile values (TX90p etc)
- TXge30, extends SU [TXge25]
  - Useful for high temperature in mid-latitudes
- Timeseries also showing
  - Coverage uncertainties
  - Modern reanalyses products
  - [More comparison to reanalyses](#)



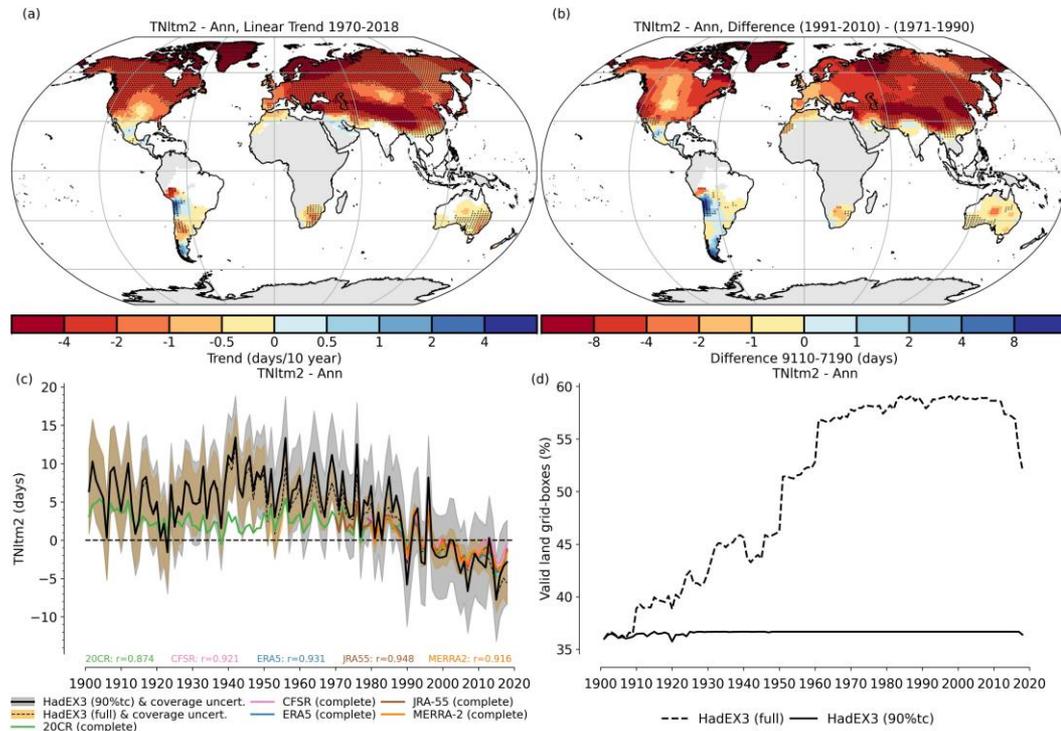
# Indices for Health 2

- Heatwave indices
  - Showing Heatwave Duration here (HWD; Perkins & Alexander, 2013)
- Heatwaves defined using periods above TX90
  - Can also use TN90 or Excess Heat Factor (EHF; Nairn & Fawcett, 2015)
- If no heatwave, then index undefined, so very little area (even in reanalyses) has >90% temporal completeness



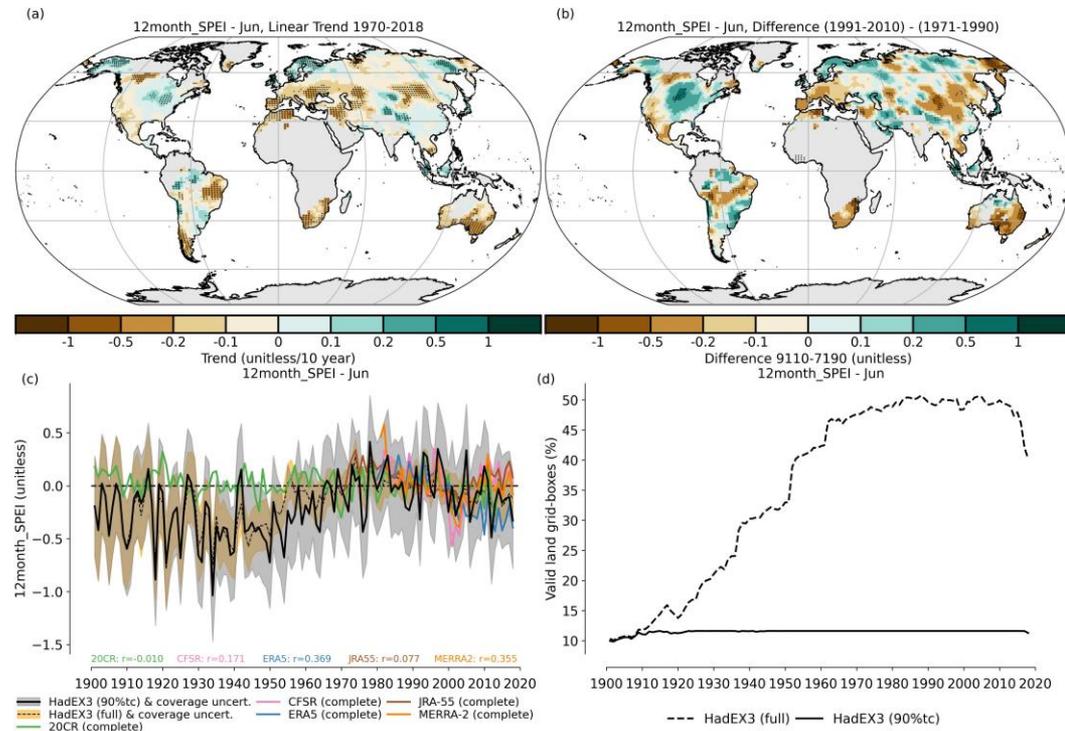
# Indices for Agriculture

- Many temperature indices useful e.g.
  - TNlt2, when the ground cools faster than the (2m) air, capturing grass frost.
  - FD (TNlt0) for air frost
  - TNltm2 for hard-freeze (shown right)
- Mean temperature indices now also available (e.g. TMlt5, TMgt10)
- GDDgrown (Growing Degree Days) builds on GSL (Growing Season Length)



# Indices for Water Resources

- Standardised Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)
  - Available monthly only for 3, 6, 12 and a user-defined accumulation (24 months here)
  - Drought measure extending the SPI by including temperature information
- Consistent global long-term changes are not that apparent in the time series



# More resources

- Find out more about [HadEX3 and how it was built](#)
- Find out more about [comparisons with reanalyses](#)
- Find out more about the [impact of reference periods](#)
- Find out more about the [heatwave metrics](#)
- Selected references:
  - EUSTACE: Brugnara, Y., Good, E., Squintu, A. A., van der Schrier, G., & Brönnimann, S. (2019). The Eustace global land station daily air temperature dataset. *Geoscience Data Journal*, 6(2), 189–204
  - GHCNd: Menne, M. J., Durre, I., Vose, R. S., Gleason, B. E., & Houston, T. G. (2012). An overview of the global historical climatology network-daily database. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*, 29(7), 897–910



- Authors: Robert Dunn, Nicholas Herold, Lisa Alexander, Markus Donat, Rob Allan, Margot Bador, Manola Brunet, Vincent Cheng, Wan Maisarah Wan Ibadullah, Muhammad Khairul Izzat Bin Ibrahim, Andries Kruger, Hisayuki Kubota, Tanya J. R. Lippmann, Jose Marengo, Sifiso Mbatha, Simon McGree, Sandile Ngwenya, Jose Daniel Pabon Caicedo, Andrea Ramos, Jim Salinger, Gerard van der Schrier, Arvind Srivastava, Blair Trewin, Ricardo Vásquez Yáñez, Jorge Vazquez-Aguirre, Claudia Villaroel Jiménez, Russ Vose, Mohd Noor'Arifin Bin Hj Yussof, Xuebin Zhang
- Other data suppliers: Thelma Cinco, Rosaline de Guzman (PAGASA-DOST, Philippines), Imke Durre, Matthew Menne (NOAA-NCEI), Tin Mar Htay (Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Myanmar), Mahbobeh Khoshkam (I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization), Gerald Lim, Lim Li-Sha (Meteorological Service Singapore, Singapore), Maria de los Milagros Skansi (Servicio Meteorológico Nacional, Argentina), Chalump Oonariya, Nichanun Trachow (Thai Meteorological Department, Thailand), Cham Pham (National center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting of Vietnam, Vietnam), Fatemeh Rahimzadeh (formerly Atmospheric Science and Meteorological Research Center, Iran), Ernesto Salgado Rubio (Servicio Meteorológico Nacional, Honduras), Ardhasena Sopaheluwakan (Agency for Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), Indonesia), Lucie Vincent (Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada).
- Data from Southeast Asia (excl. Indonesia) was supported by work on using ClimPACT2 during the Second Workshop on ASEAN Regional Climate Data, Analysis and Projections (ARCDAP-2), 25–29 March 2019, Singapore, jointly funded by Meteorological Service Singapore and WMO through the Canada-Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative.
- Daily data for Mexico were provided by the Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN) of Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA).
- The Pacific data is associated with an ET-SCI workshop in Fiji over 7–11 December 2015 funded by Environment Canada. Additional detail available via <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-18-0748.1>
- We acknowledge the data providers in the ECA&D project (<http://www.ecad.eu>), the SACA&D project (<https://sacad.database.bmkg.go.id>), and the LACA&D project.
- We also thank all those who have supplied data for all the HadEX datasets over the past two decades.





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# HadEX3: history & methods

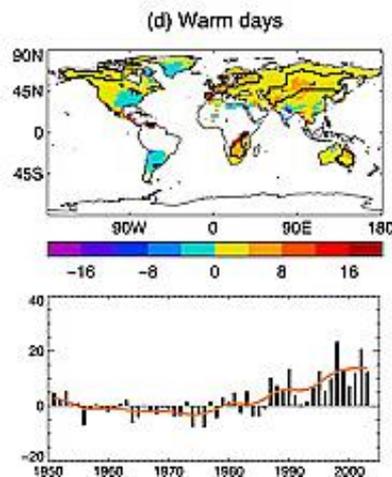
Robert Dunn, Lisa Alexander, Markus Donat et al, 2020  
JGR-Atmospheres, **125**, 16, e2019JD032263

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2019JD032263>

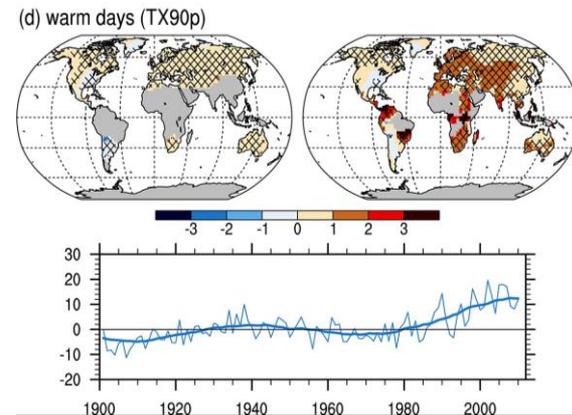


# HadEX datasets

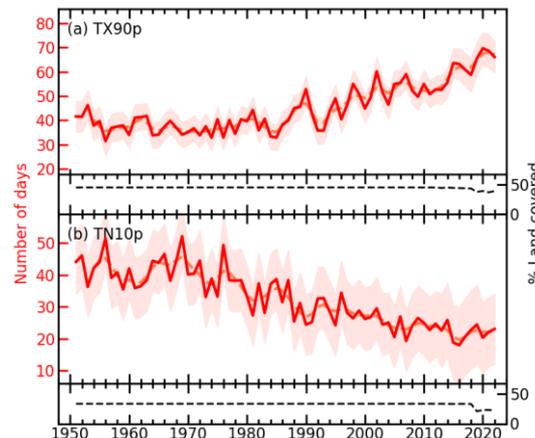
- HadEX (Alexander et al., 2006)
  - First dataset using the ETCCDI extremes indices
  - 1951-2003, static, used in IPCC AR4
- HadEX2 (Donat et al., 2013a)
  - Improved spatial and temporal coverage
  - 1901-2010, static, used in IPCC AR5
- GHCNDEX (Donat et al., 2013b)
  - Based on GHCND stations only
  - Updated, so useful for monitoring
  - Used in BAMS State of the Climate



HadEX



HadEX2



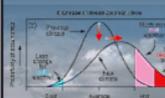
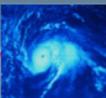
**GHCNDEX**  
(from BAMS  
SoC 2022)



# ETCCDI Indices

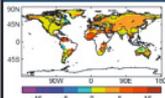
- The WMO/CLIVAR/JCOMM Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices (ETCCDI)
  - Measure moderate temperature and precipitation extremes
  - Based on daily Tmax, Tmin and precipitation accumulation
  - Some available as monthly, as well as annual indices
- Some based on peak values (TXx, Rx1day)
- Some based on percentile thresholds (TX90p, R95p)
- Some based on fixed thresholds (SU, R10mm)
- Some are aggregated indices (WSDI, CWD)
- And some others are less easily categorised (DTR, ETR, PRCPTOT)
- There are 29 in total which have been widely used
- See <https://www.climdex.org/learn/indices/> for more information

## ETCCDI Climate Change Indices







Indices
Definition
Calculation
Homogeneity
Examples
Software
Data
Workshops
Home




### Climate Change Indices

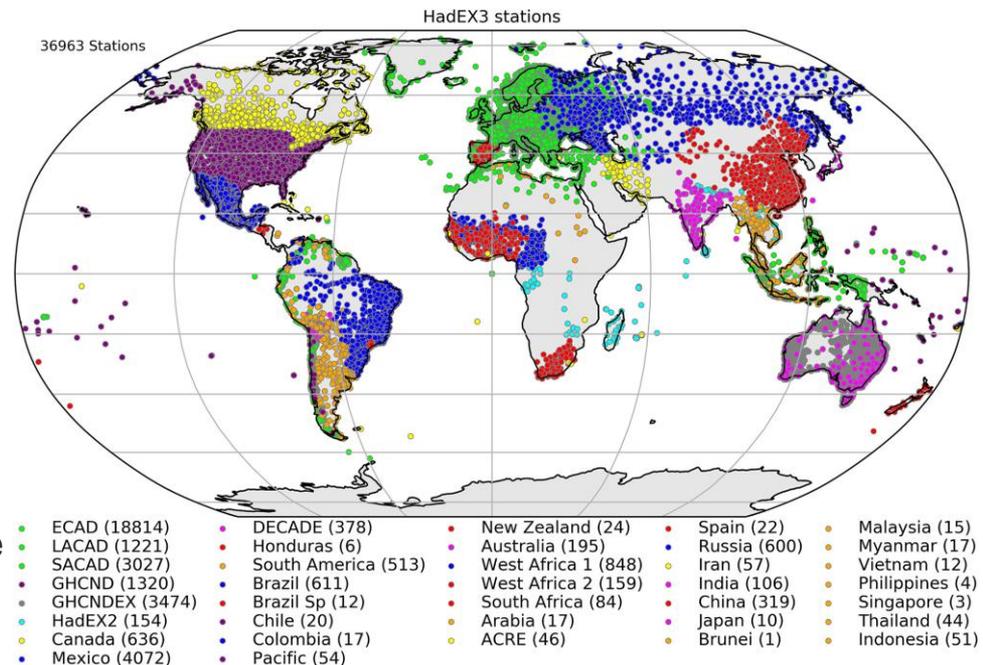
#### Definitions of the 27 core indices

- FD, Number of frost days:** Annual count of days when TN (daily minimum temperature) < 0°C.  
  
Let  $TN_{ij}$  be daily minimum temperature on day  $i$  in year  $j$ . Count the number of days where:  
  
 $TN_{ij} < 0^\circ\text{C}$ .
- SU, Number of summer days:** Annual count of days when TX (daily maximum temperature) > 25°C.  
  
Let  $TX_{ij}$  be daily maximum temperature on day  $i$  in year  $j$ . Count the number of days where:  
  
 $TX_{ij} > 25^\circ\text{C}$ .
- ID, Number of icing days:** Annual count of days when TX (daily maximum temperature) < 0°C.  
  
Let  $TX_{ij}$  be daily maximum temperature on day  $i$  in year  $j$ . Count the number of days where:  
  
 $TX_{ij} < 0^\circ\text{C}$ .
- TR, Number of tropical nights:** Annual count of days when TN (daily minimum temperature) > 20°C.  
  
Let  $TN_{ij}$  be daily minimum temperature on day  $i$  in year  $j$ . Count the number of days where:  
  
 $TN_{ij} > 20^\circ\text{C}$ .

From [https://etccdi.pacificclimate.org/list\\_27\\_indices.shtml](https://etccdi.pacificclimate.org/list_27_indices.shtml)

# HadEX3 Data

- ETCCDI indices supported by standardised software
- Training workshops assist with data exchange
- Allowed widest possible set of contributors to HadEX datasets
- Used international, regional and national collections
- Both daily data and precalculated indices were supplied by contributors
- See the contributors [here](#)

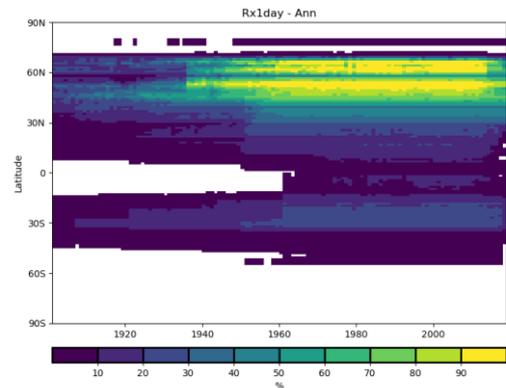
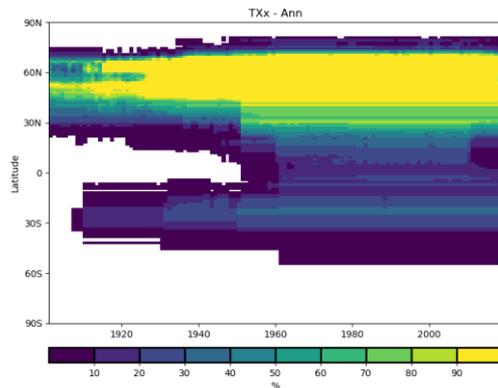
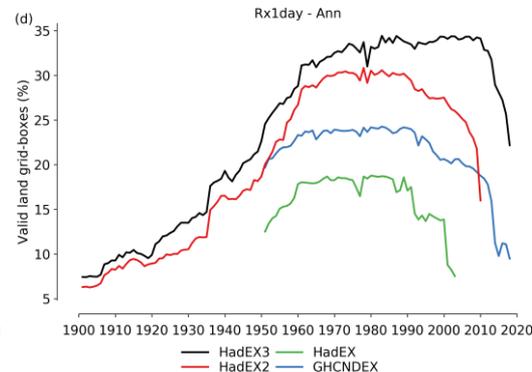
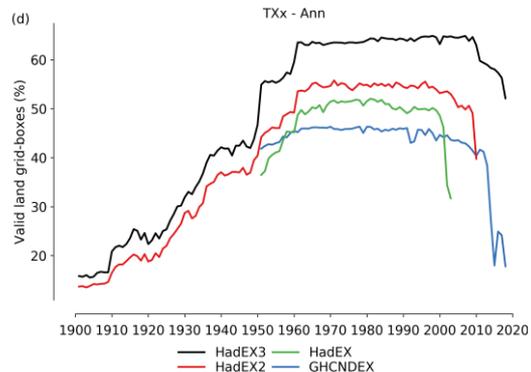


# HadEX3

- Update on HadEX2
- Covers 1901-2018 as a static set for 29 ETCCDI indices
- Increased spatial coverage from more station data
- Smaller latitude-longitude grid ( $1.25^\circ \times 1.875^\circ$ )
- Quality control tests on station-level indices
- Currently at v3.0.4, available from:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadex3>

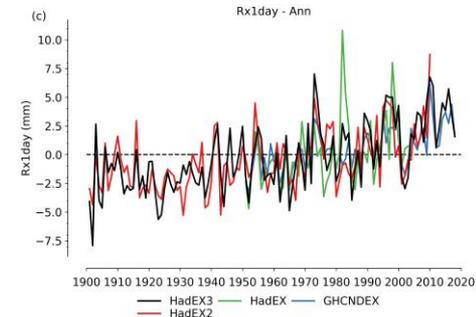
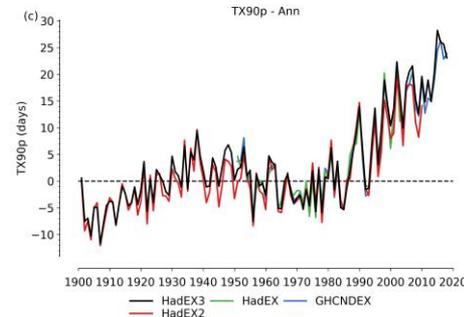
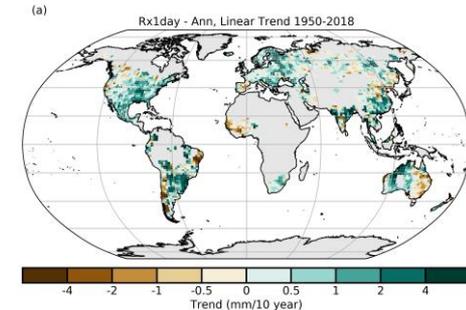
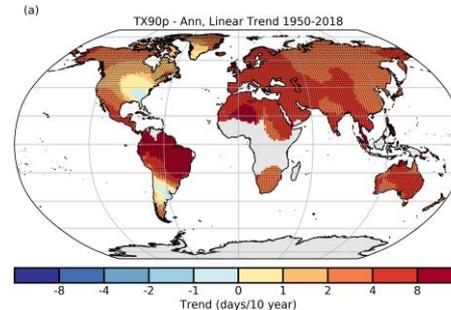
Dunn et al. 2020. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 125, e2019JD032263 <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JD032263>



# HadEX3

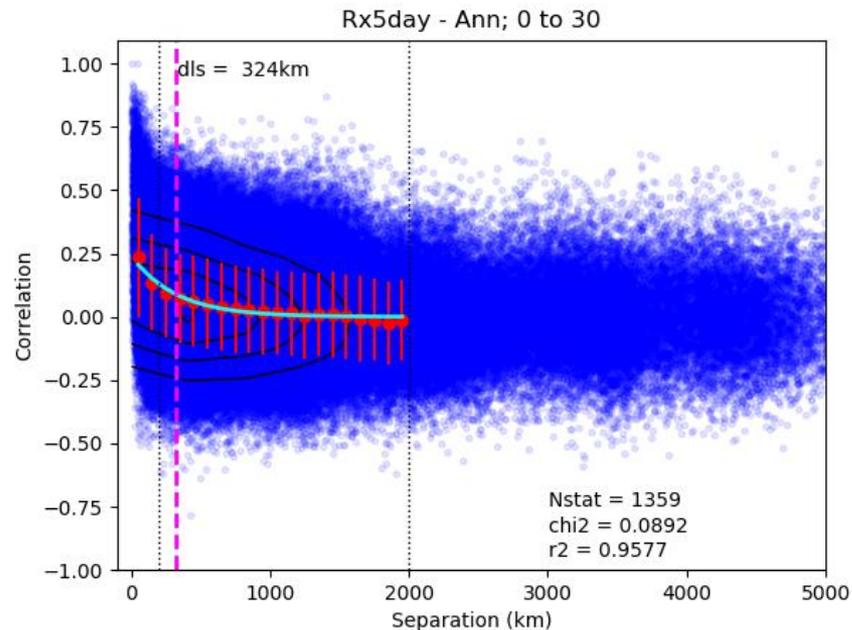
- Widespread increase in intensity and frequency of warm temperature extremes
- Corresponding decrease in cool temperature extremes
- Increased intensity of heavy precipitation events
- For indices which use a reference period, netCDF files available for 1961-90 and 1981-2010 reference periods at

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadex3>



# Methods – Angular Distance Weighting

- To convert from station data to space-filling data set
- Angular distance weighting (Shepard 1968).
- Uses a search radius to select stations contributing to grid box
- Radius set by correlation structure of all stations within a latitude band
- Minimum 200km, maximum 2000km
- At least 3 stations with this radius for a grid box to have a value.



# HadEX3

- Other resources:

- Alexander, L. V., et al. (2006). Global observed changes in daily climate extremes of temperature and precipitation. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 111, D05109. [*HadEX*]
- Donat, M. G., et al, (2013a). Updated analyses of temperature and precipitation extreme indices since the beginning of the twentieth century: The HadEX2 dataset. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 118, 2098–2118.
- Donat, M. G., et al. (2013b). Global land-based datasets for monitoring climatic extremes. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, 94(7), 997–1006. [*GHCNDEX*]
- Shepard, D. (1968). A two-dimensional interpolation function for irregularly-spaced data. In Proceedings of the 1968 23rd ACM national conference (pp. 517–524). [*ADW gridding*]
- <https://www.climdex.org/learn/indices/>



# Comparing extremes indices in recent observational and reanalysis products



Sharing is  
encouraged

Robert Dunn, Markus Donat, Lisa Alexander, 2022

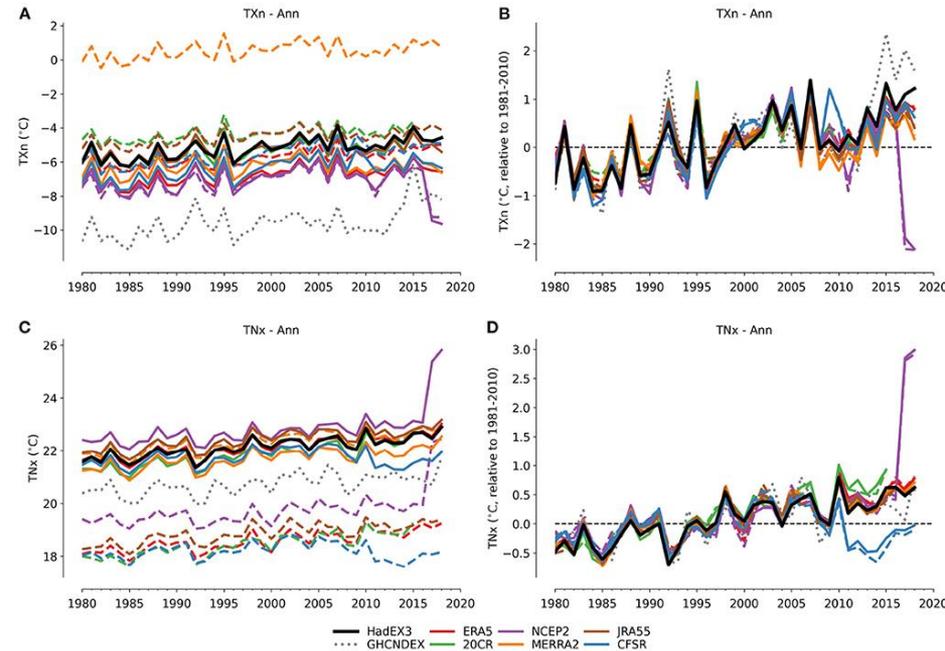
*Frontiers in Climate* 4

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fclim.2022.989505/full>



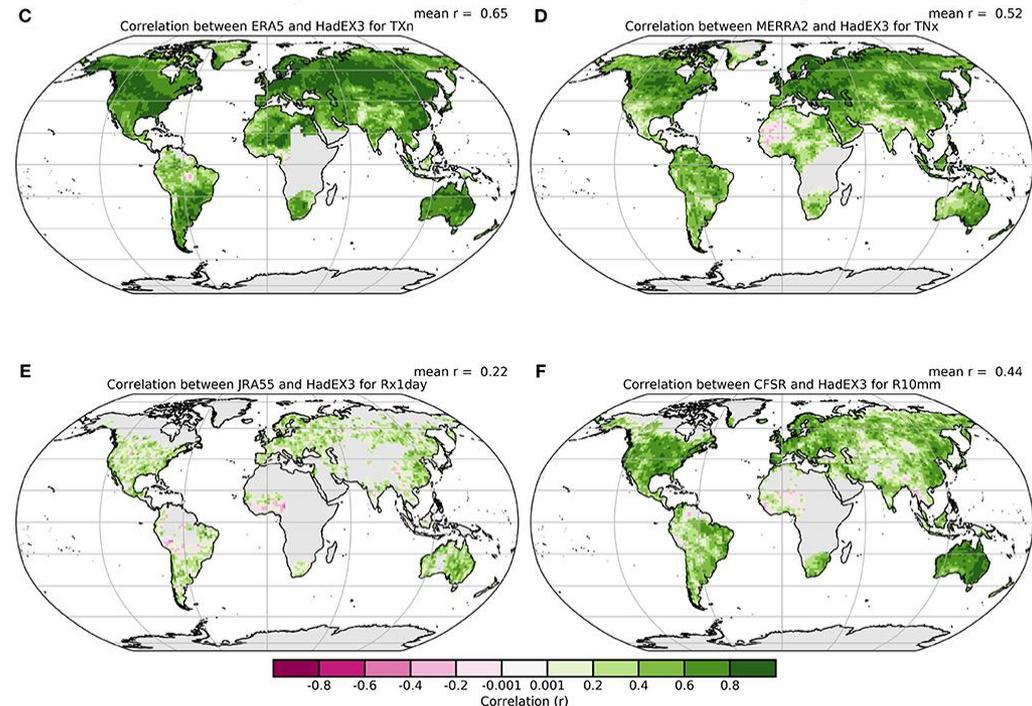
# Comparisons to Reanalyses

- Calculate ETCCDI indices on set of recent reanalysis products.
  - Match grid size and to common temporal period
- Good agreement for temperature indices between reanalyses and HadEX3
  - Especially when masked to the same coverage
- Normalised curves agree well on interannual variations and also longer-term changes
- Some reanalyses (NCEP2, CFSR) appear to have inhomogeneities when compared to others.



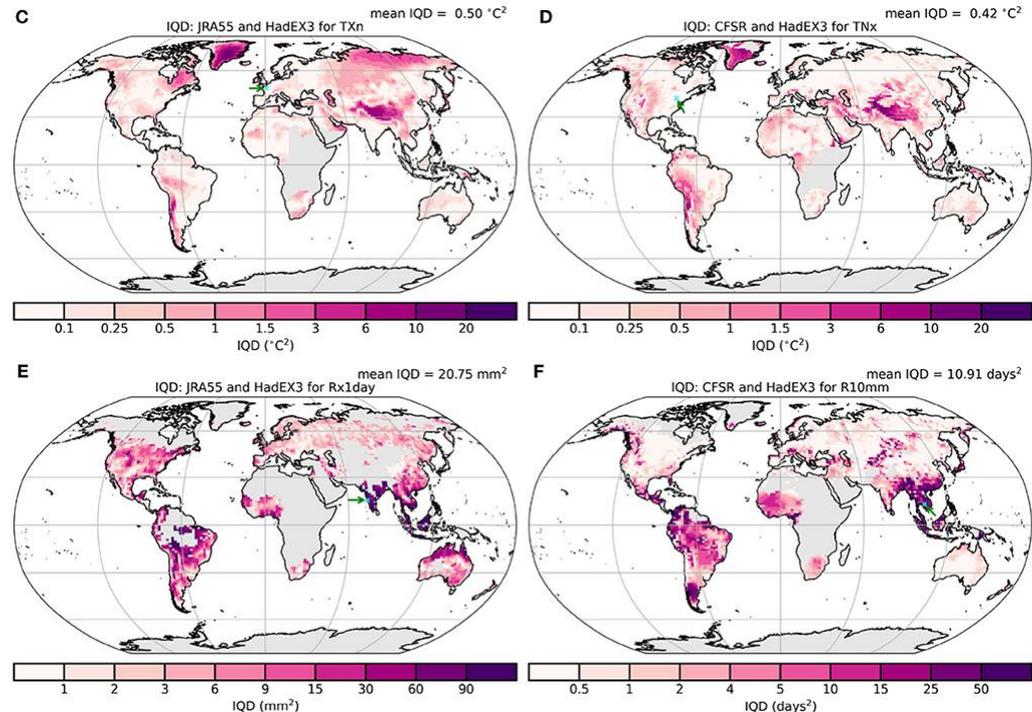
# Comparisons to Reanalyses

- Correlation on grid-box basis, masked to observational coverage.
- Spatially temperature (C, D) shows greater correlations than precipitation (E, F) indices.
- Precipitation is a more heterogeneous metric, so this is expected
- Anticorrelations seen in some indices (e.g. western Africa in TNx in D)
  - Likely due to interpolation of HadEX3 stations from other climates (e.g. Canary Islands).



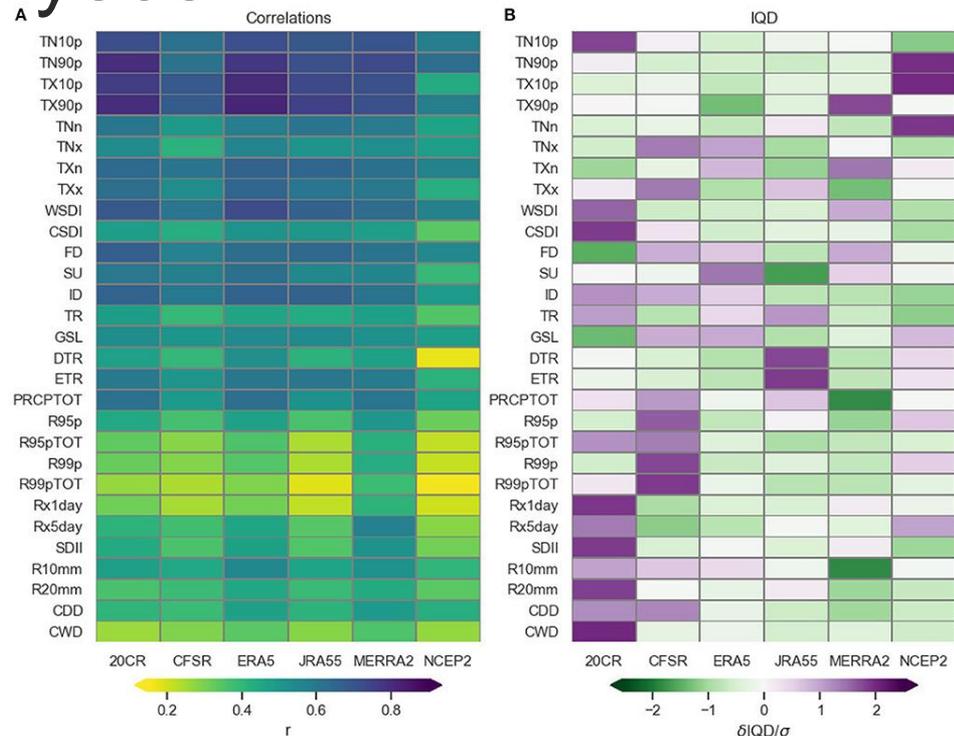
# Comparisons to Reanalyses

- [Integrated Quadratic Distance](#) (Thorarinsdottir et al, 2013) measures areas a between cumulative distribution functions.
- Many areas for temperature and precipitation indices show good agreement between the CDFs.
- Others stand out, with some linked to areas of high elevation (mountain ranges)
- But some are linked to intrinsically higher values for these indices in certain locations



# Comparisons to Reanalyses

- Summary plots to show how average spatial correlations and integrated quadratic distances (IQD) vary across reanalyses and indices.
- Temperature indices have on average higher correlations.



# Comparisons to Reanalyses

- Many modern reanalyses compare well to HadEX3, though there is variation amongst all products
- Future work will investigate where some of these differences arise.
- Other resources
  - Donat, M. G., Alexander, L. V., Herold, N., and Dittus, A. J. (2016). Temperature and precipitation extremes in century-long gridded observations, reanalyses, and atmospheric model simulations. *J. Geophys. Res.* 121, 11,174–11,189
  - Thorarinsdottir, T. L., Gneiting, T., and Gissibl, N. (2013). Using proper divergence functions to evaluate climate models. *SIAM/ASA J. Uncertain. Quant.* 1, 522–534
  - Thorarinsdottir, T. L., Sillmann, J., Haugen, M., Gissibl, N., and Sandstad, M. (2020). Evaluation of CMIP5 and CMIP6 simulations of historical surface air temperature extremes using proper evaluation methods. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 15:124041



# Interplay of reference periods and percentile-based extreme temperature indices



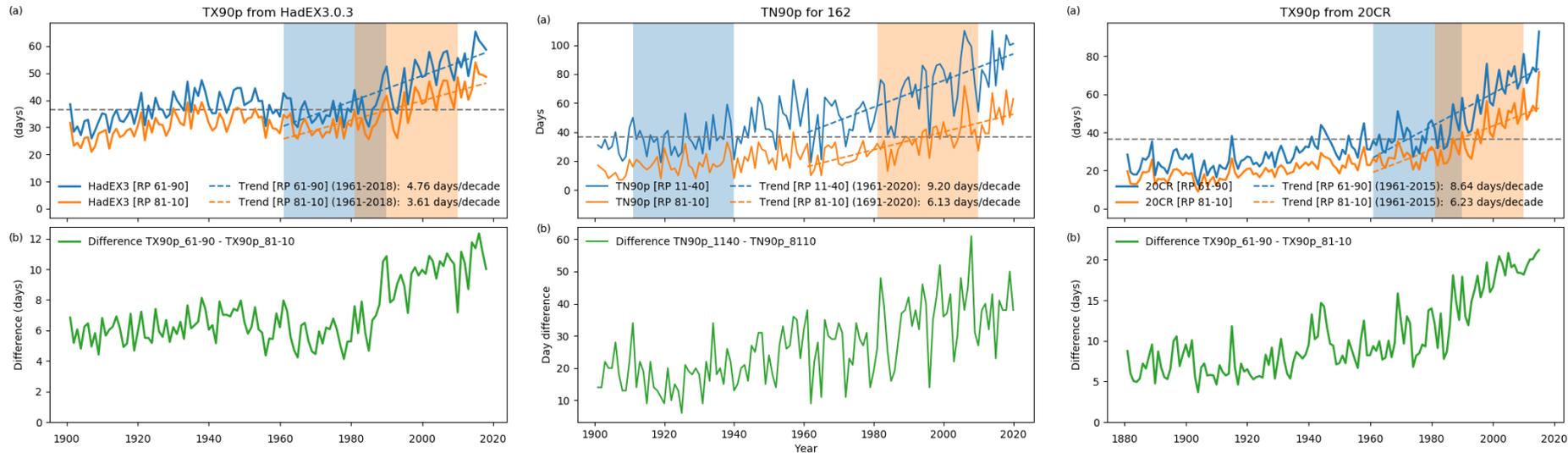
Robert Dunn & Colin Morice, 2022

*Environ. Res. Lett.* **17** 034026

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac52c8>



# Reference periods & percentile-based indices

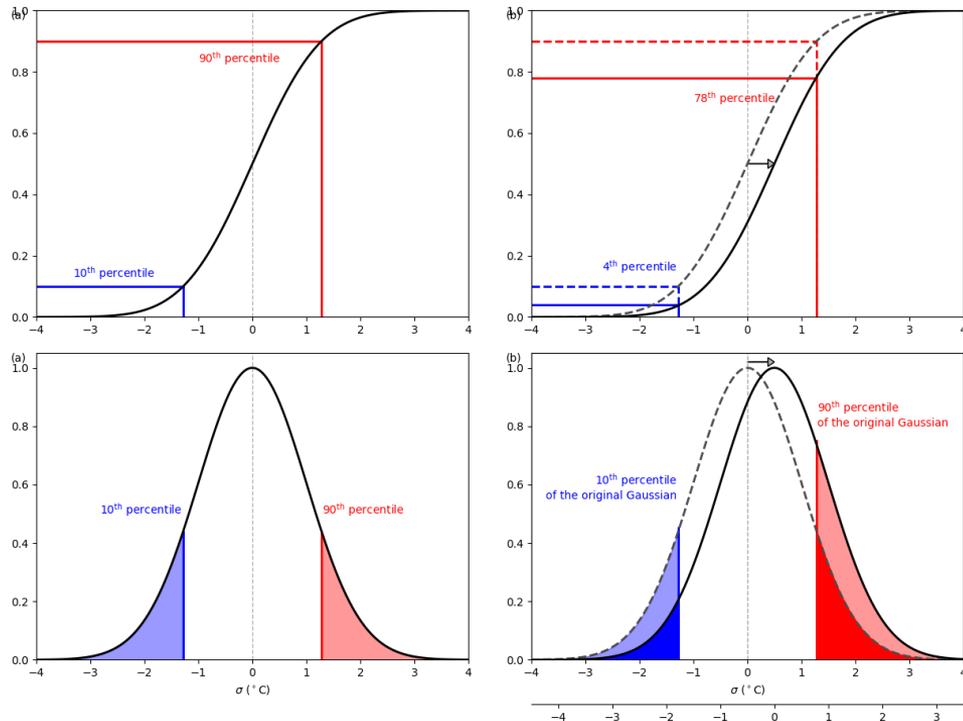


- Non-stationary difference when comparing TX90p across reference periods
- Seen for “global” averages from obs & single station (ECAD162), and for reanalyses
- Linear trends over same period differ when using same daily data.



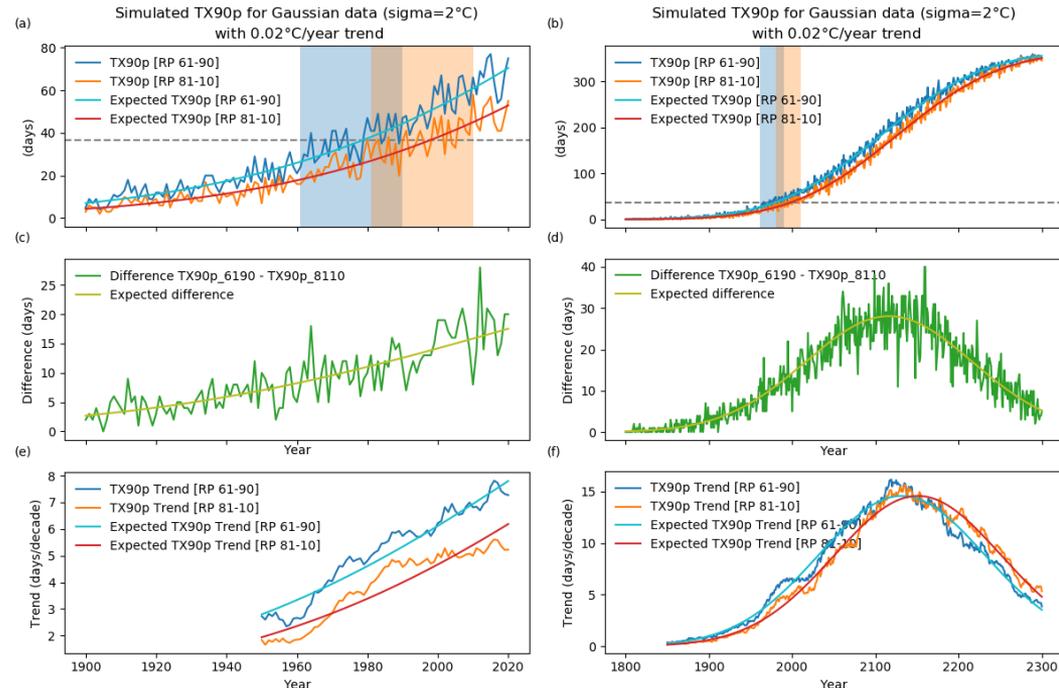
# Reference periods & percentile-based indices

- A warming climate affects how reference periods influence indices
- In the example, using an earlier reference period (corresponding to cooler conditions) means that the thresholds are not at 10 & 90%, but 4 & 78%
- This is not symmetric (6% change in lower, 12% change in upper) or monotonic.



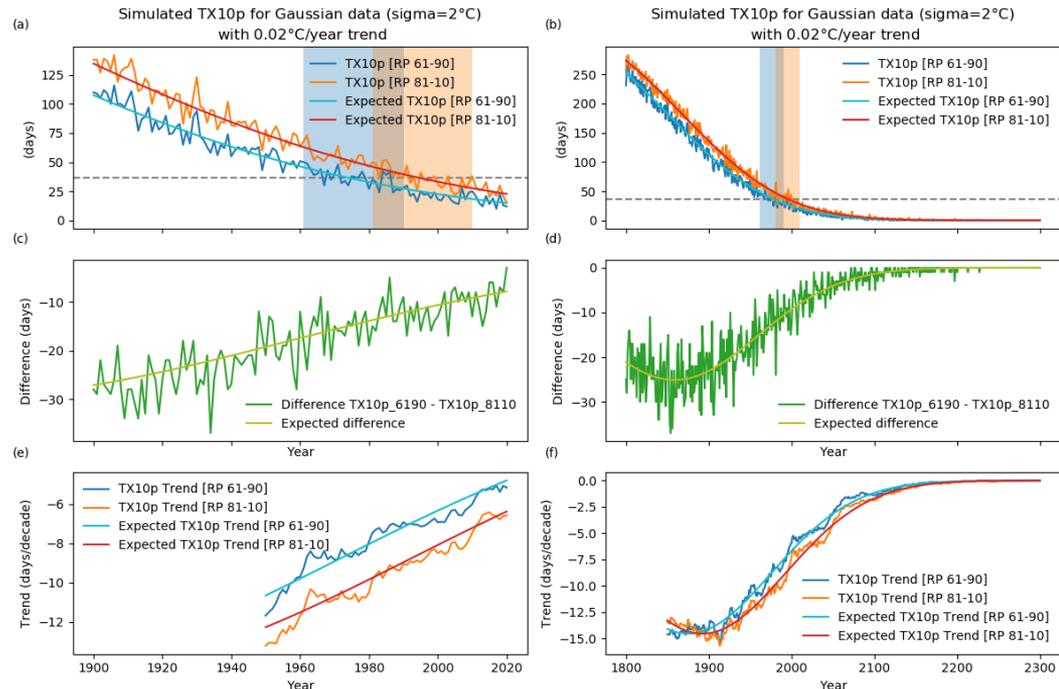
# Reference periods & percentile-based indices

- Simple simulation of daily data (mean increasing by  $0.02^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{yr}$ ), out to 2300 to create artificial curves of TX90p (& TN90p)
- Also showing empirically expected values as solid lines
- Timeseries (a, b) follow a CDF form as the Gaussian moves past the threshold
- Difference (c, d) between timeseries follows Gaussian, and so is non-linear
- Linear trends (e, f) lag by temporal difference in reference periods.
  - Also follow Gaussian form, so show “acceleration” despite linear change in underlying temperature distribution



# Reference periods & percentile-based indices

- At lower percentile, zero bounding plays a part
- Under warming climate can reach time where no days are cooler than a 10% set in an earlier reference period
- Index becomes asymptotically less useful
- WMO recommends use of 1961-90 period for long-term climate monitoring
- Lower values of TX10p & TN10p show effect of warming, but no longer measure against current 10<sup>th</sup> percentile values.



# Reference periods & percentile-based indices

- Comparison of percentile-based indices (e.g. TX90p, WSDI) between different reference periods is non-trivial
- Same underlying daily data can result in very different linear trends, up to 50% larger.
- Recommendations:
  - Reference period used is always clearly stated in any work
  - Trends in these indices are not compared across reference periods
- Other resources:
  - Yosef Y, Aguilar E and Alpert P 2021 Is it possible to fit extreme climate change indices together seamlessly in the era of accelerated warming? *Int. J. Climatol.* 41 E952–63



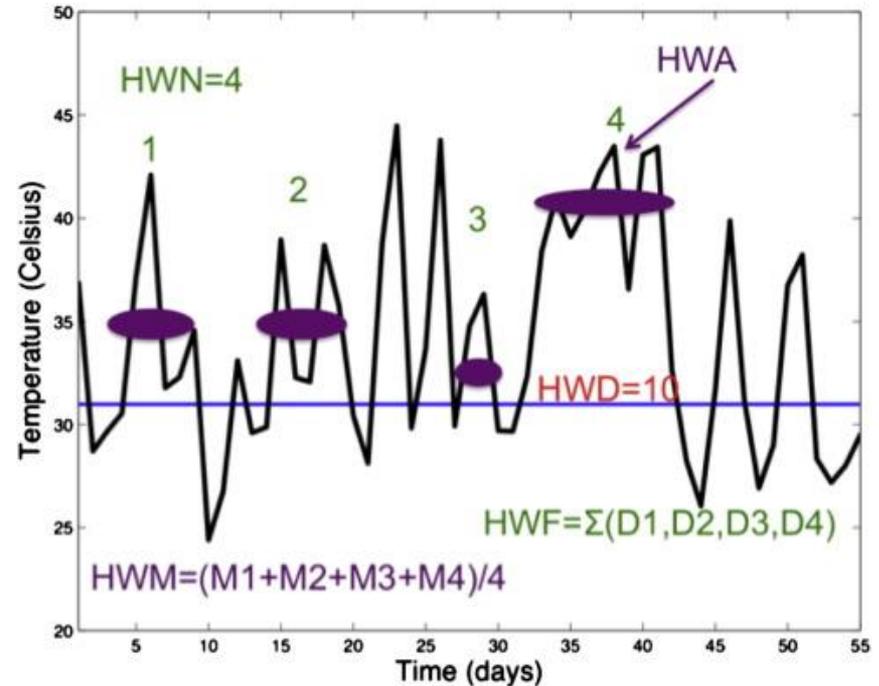
# Other Material

Useful background slides



# Heat wave definitions

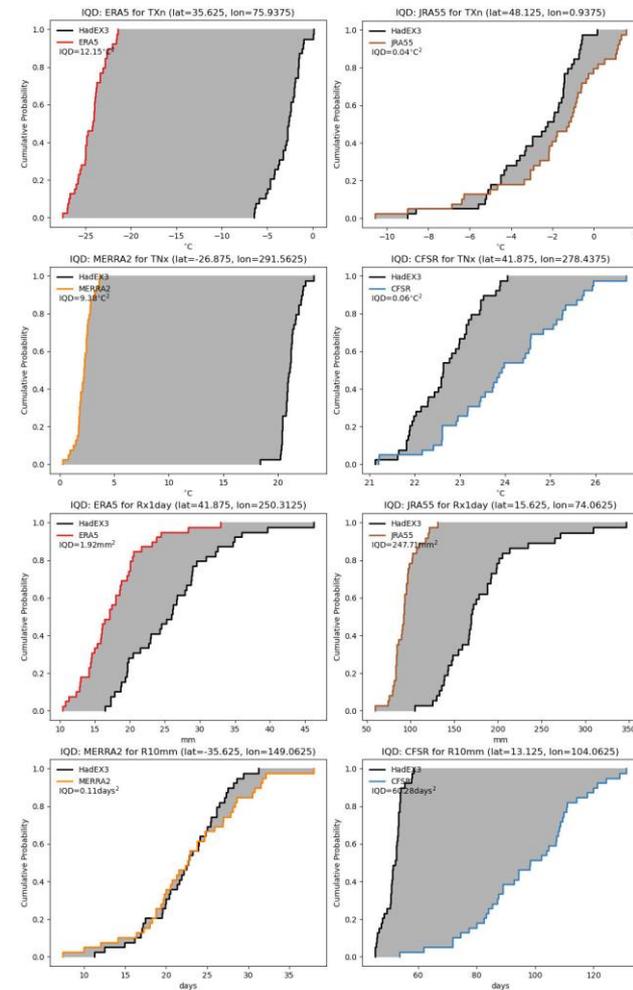
- A heatwave occurs when at least 3 days in a row are considered above the respective threshold. In this figure the threshold is represented by the blue line.
- There are 4 discrete events (HWN)
- The length of the longest event is 10 days (HWD)
- The number of heatwave days in the sum of the duration of all four events (HWF)
- The average heatwave magnitude is the average temperature across all for events (HWM)
- The heatwave amplitude is the hottest day of the event with the hottest average (HWA).



Perkins, S. E., 2015, Atmospheric Research, 164-65, 242-67,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2015.05.014> (Fig 2)

# Integrated Quadratic Distance

- Is a measure of the separation of two cumulative probability distributions
- It captures both if they are well separated (top left panels)
- And if they have different shapes (bottom right panels)
- Further information at:
  - Thorarinsdottir, T. L., Gneiting, T., and Gissibl, N. (2013). Using proper divergence functions to evaluate climate models. *SIAM/ASA J. Uncertain. Quant.* 1, 522–534. doi: 10.1137/130907550
  - Thorarinsdottir, T. L., Sillmann, J., Haugen, M., Gissibl, N., and Sandstad, M. (2020). Evaluation of CMIP5 and CMIP6 simulations of historical surface air temperature extremes using proper evaluation methods. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 15:124041. doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/abc778



# End of presentation

If you have any feedback on the accessibility or other features of my presentation, please do get in touch:

[robert.dunn@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:robert.dunn@metoffice.gov.uk)

