

Investigating large-scale climate dynamics by using networks, information theory and symbolic analysis

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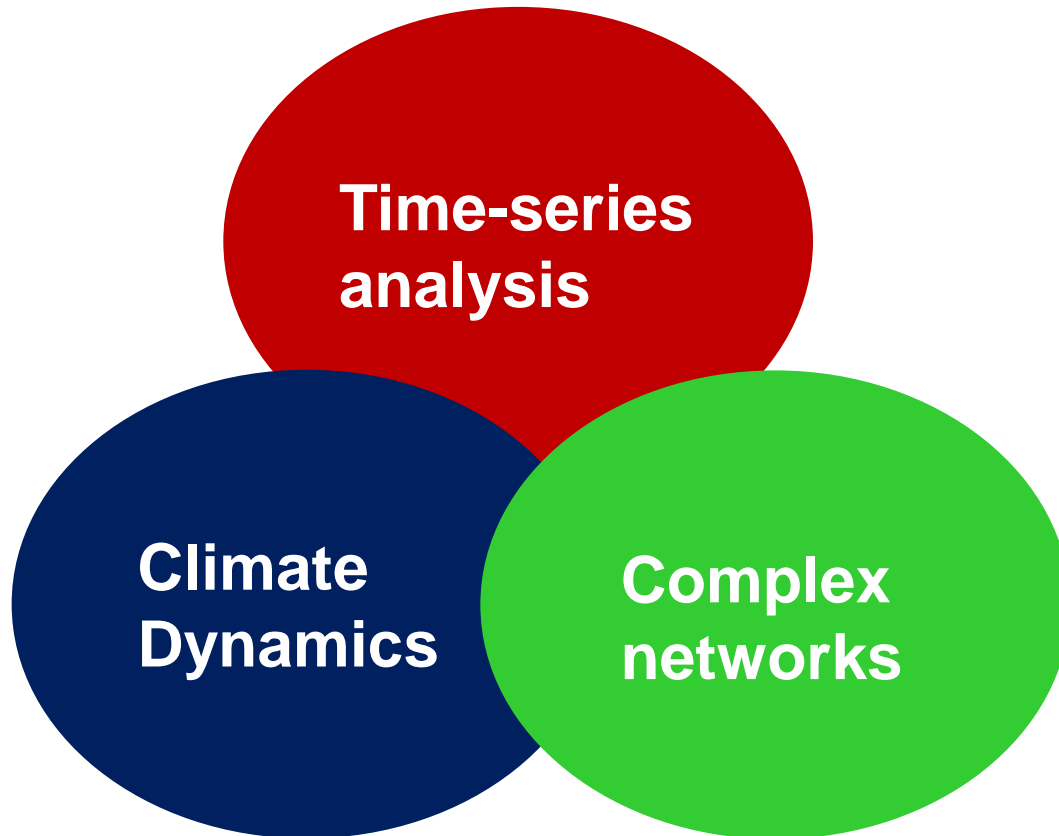
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**30 Years of Nonlinear Dynamics in
Geosciences**

Rhodes, Greece, July 2016





■ Introduction

- Climate networks
- Symbolic method of time-series analysis

■ Results

- Inferring the network connectivity
- Inferring climate communities

■ Summary

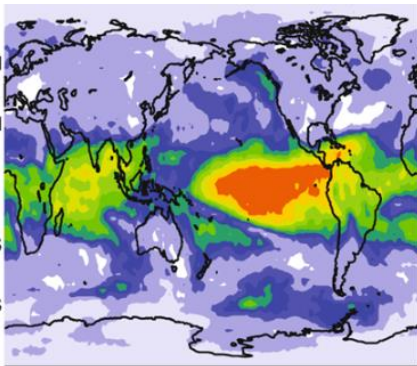
WHAT DO NETWORKS HAVE TO DO WITH CLIMATE?

BY ANASTASIOS A. TSONIS, KYLE L. SWANSON, AND PAUL J. ROEBBER

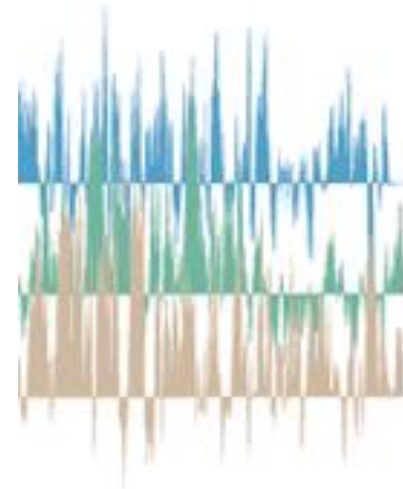
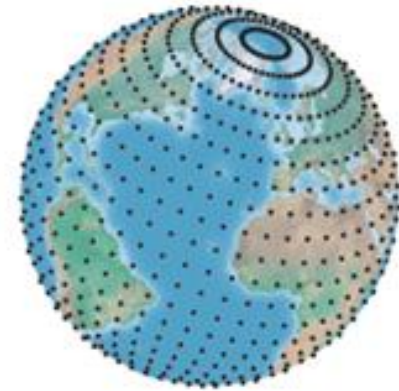
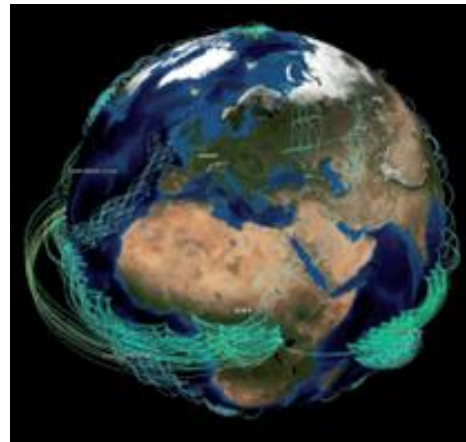
Advances in understanding coupling in complex networks offer new ways of studying the collective behavior of interactive systems and already have yielded new insights in many areas of science.

Climate networks

**Area-weighted
connectivity
(weighted degree)**



*Deza et al,
Chaos 2013*



*Donges et al,
Chaos 2015*

Our analysis: nonlinear in three aspects

- We use a **nonlinear measure** to quantify ‘statistical interdependency’ between the climate in different regions.

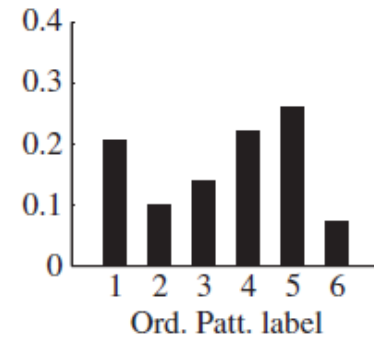
$$M_{ij} = \sum_{m,n} p_{ij}(m,n) \log \frac{p_{ij}(m,n)}{p_i(m)p_j(n)}$$

- We use a **threshold** to select the significant M_{ij} values (contrasting M_{ij} values obtained from original time-series with M_{ij} values obtained from surrogates).
- We use **symbolic** time-series analysis (ordinal patterns) to compute the probabilities.

Method of **symbolic** time-series analysis: ordinal patterns

■ $X = \{\dots x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, \dots\}$

Brandt & Pompe, PRL 88, 174102 (2002)



The OP probabilities allow to identify frequent patterns in the *ordering* of the data points

Random data
⇒ OPs are
equally probable

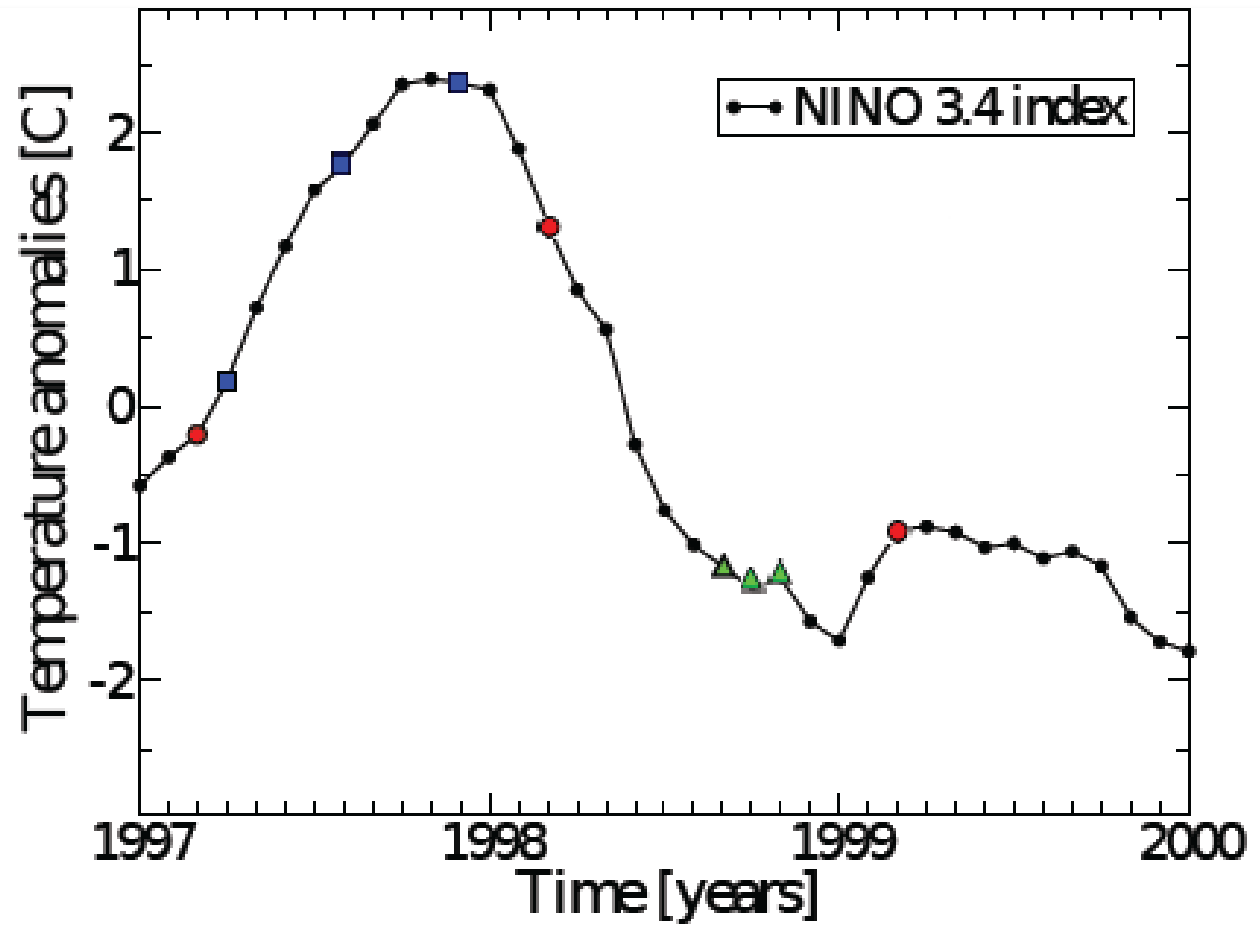
- Advantage: the probabilities uncover temporal correlations.
- Drawback: we lose information about the actual values.

Ordinal analysis allows selecting the time scale of the analysis

**Intra-
season 102**

**Intra-
annual 012**

**Inter-
annual 120**



Graphical representation of the climate network

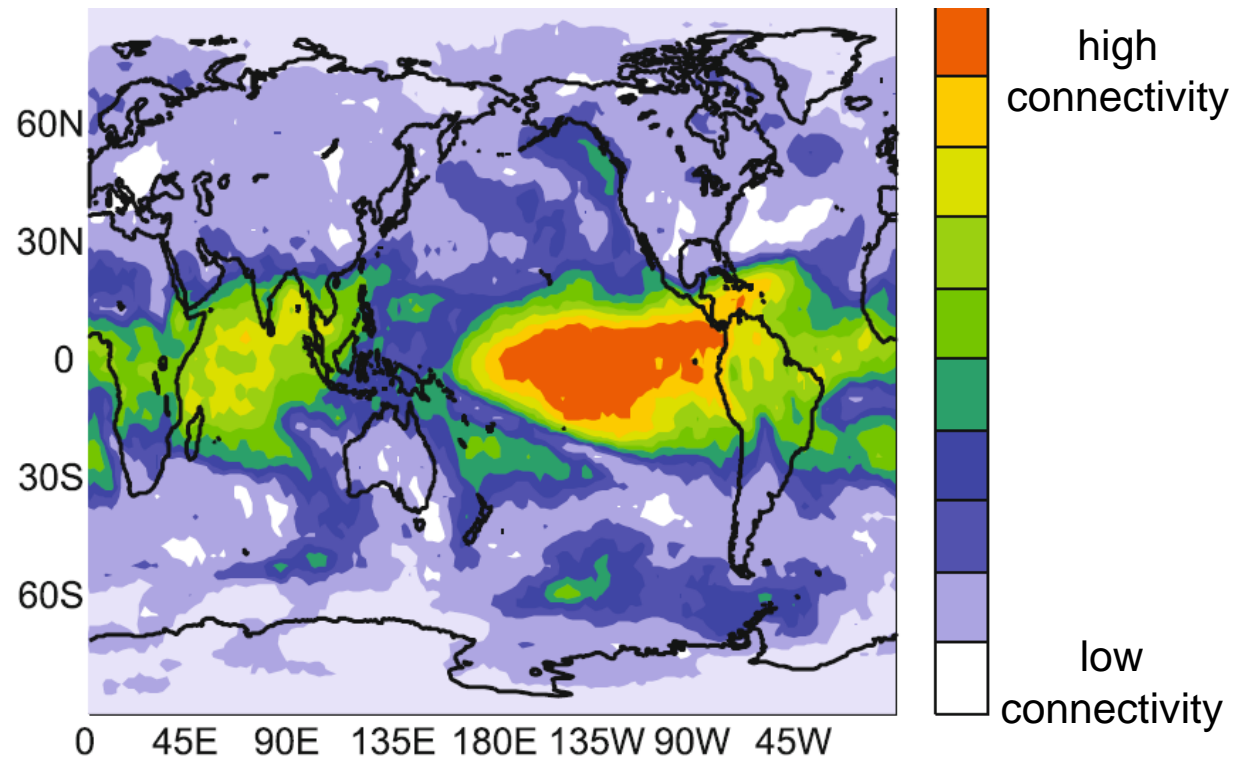
$$AWC_i = \frac{\sum_j^N A_{ij} \cos(\lambda_j)}{\sum_j^N \cos(\lambda_j)}$$

Network obtained with ordinal analysis using inter-annual time-scale (3 consecutive years). The color-code indicates the Area Weighted Connectivity (weighted degree)

DATA:
Monthly SAT anomalies
(NCEP-NCAR reanalysis)

2.5 resolution \Rightarrow ~10000
nodes

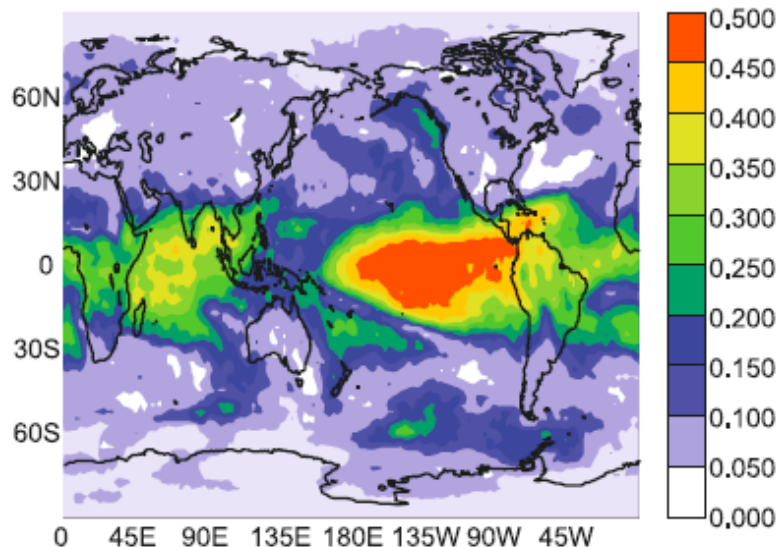
January 1949 to
December 2006 \Rightarrow ~ 700
data points



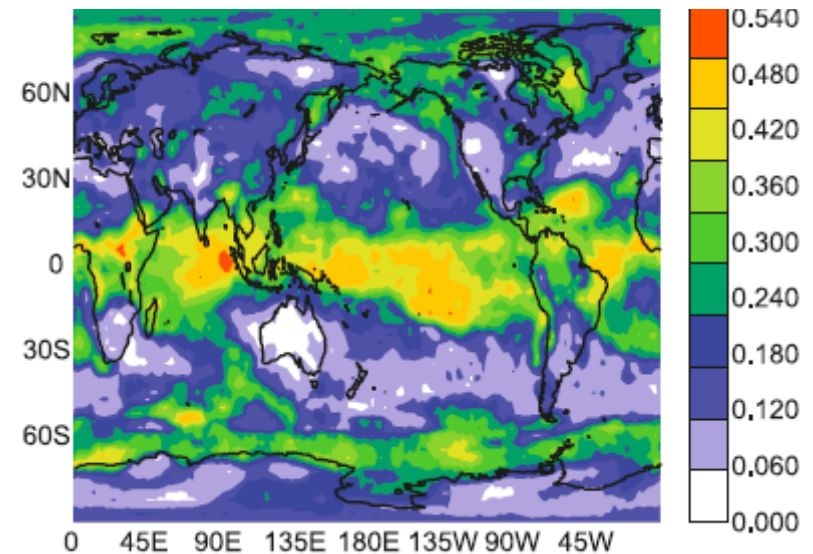
Contrasting two methods for inferring the climate network

$$M_{ij} = \sum_{m,n} p_{ij}(m,n) \log \frac{p_{ij}(m,n)}{p_i(m)p_j(n)}$$

Network when the probabilities are computed with ordinal analysis

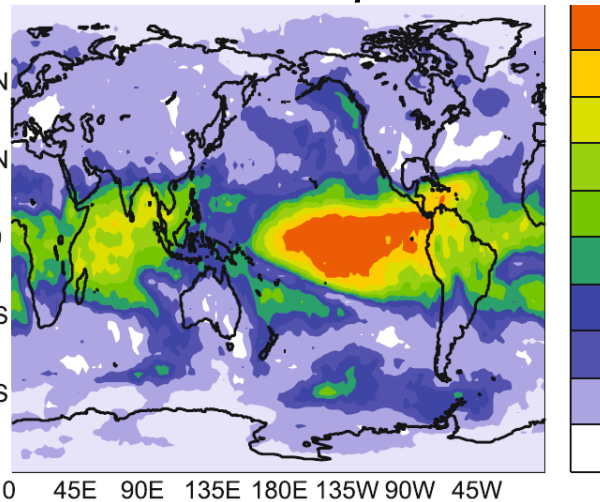


Network when the probabilities are computed with histogram of values

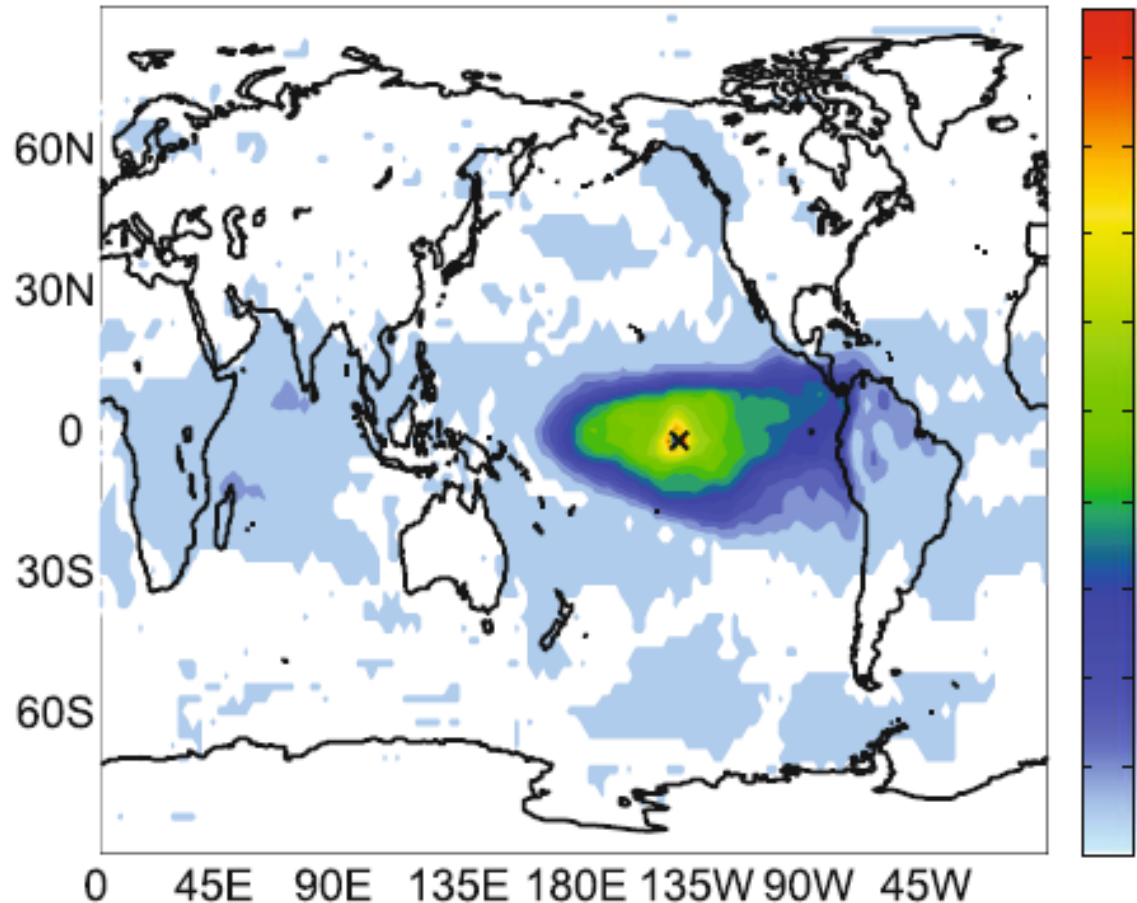


Who is connected to who?

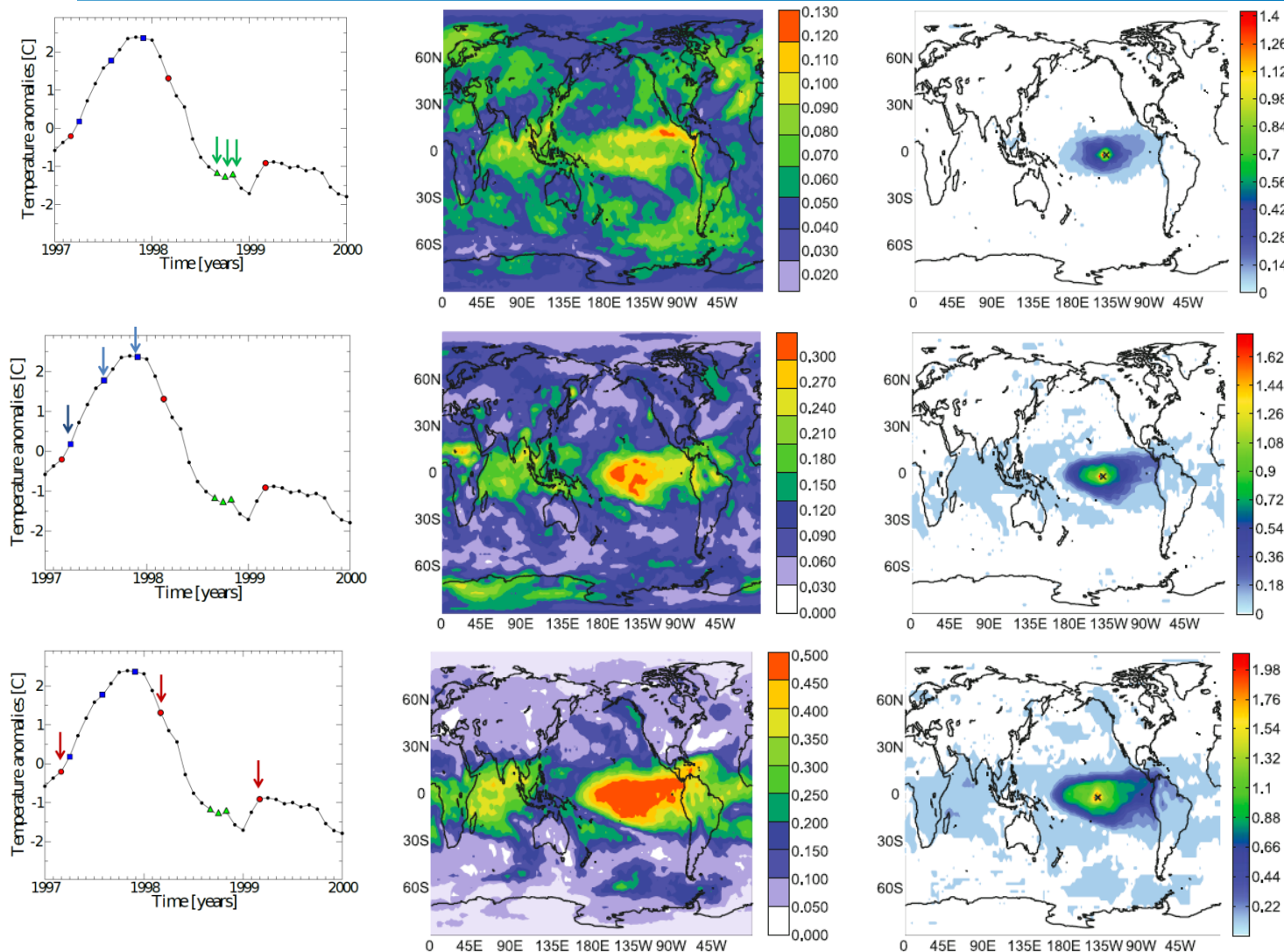
AWC map



color-code indicates the MI values (only significant values)



Influence of the time-scale of the symbolic ordinal pattern



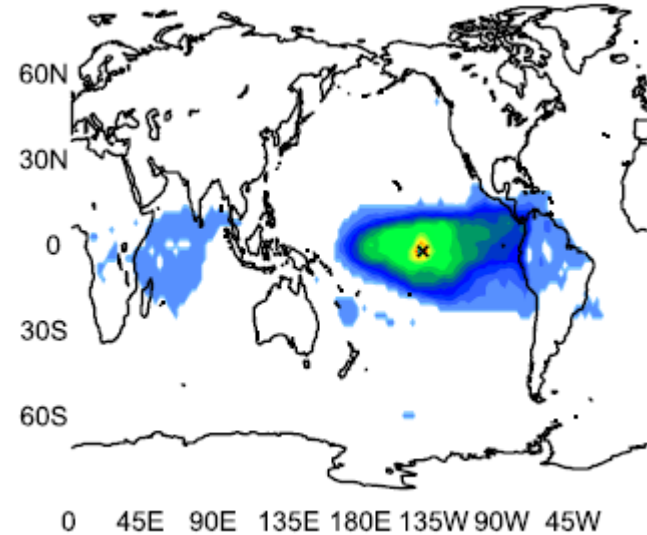
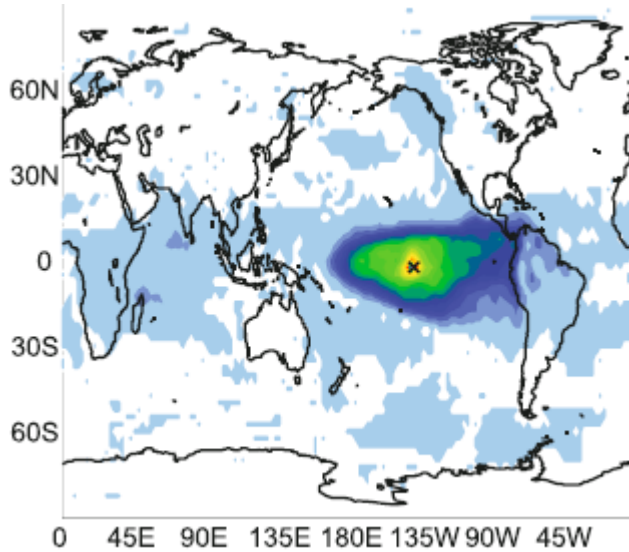
Longer time-scale \Rightarrow increased connectivity

Are the links significant? Influence of the threshold

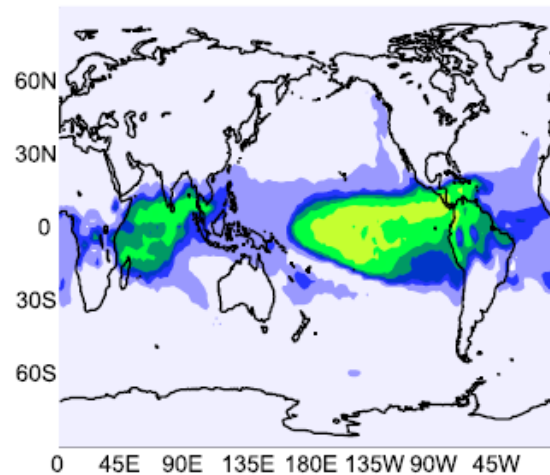
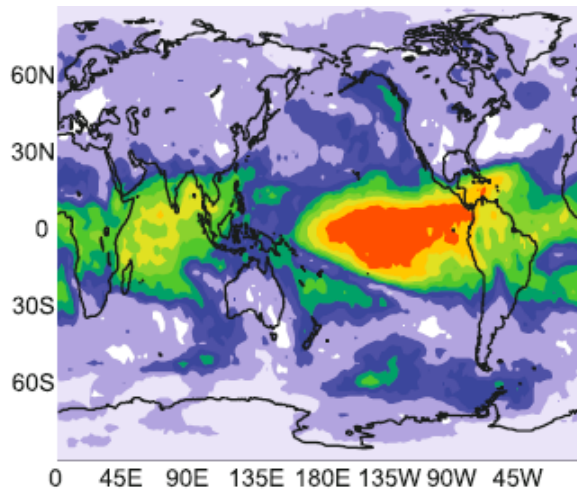
Low threshold (11% link density)

High threshold (3% link density)

Color code:
MI



Color code:
AWC



How to improve climate predictability?

Assessing the directionality of the links

- $I_{xy}(\tau)$: conditional mutual information
- τ : *time-scale* of information transfer
- D : net direction of information transfer

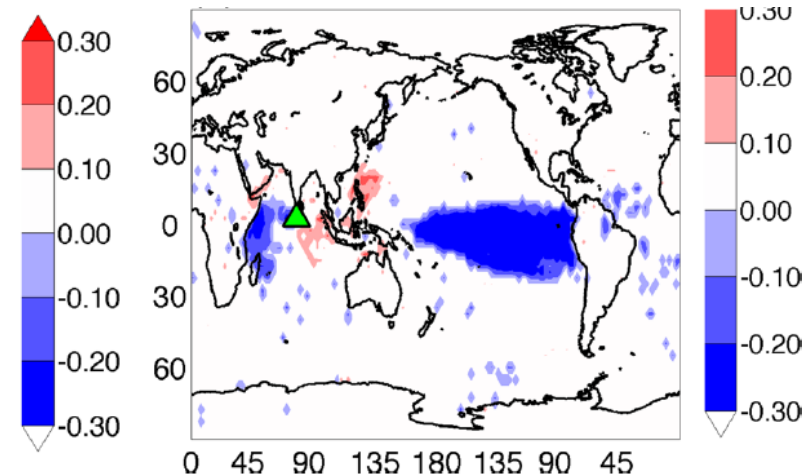
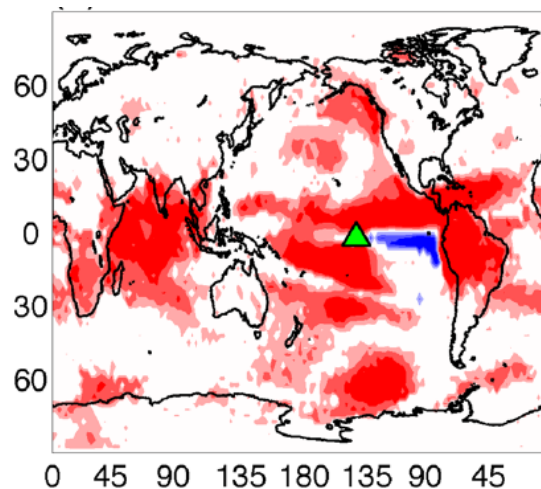
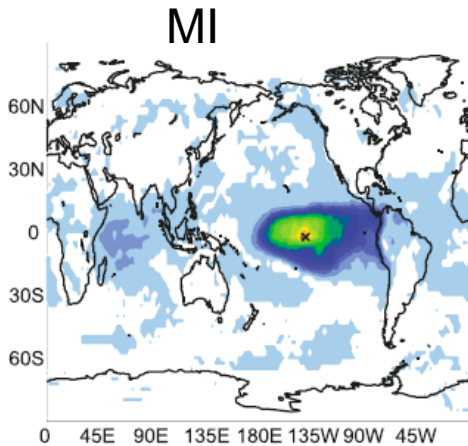
$$D_{XY}(\tau) = \frac{I_{XY}(\tau) - I_{YX}(\tau)}{I_{XY}(\tau) + I_{YX}(\tau)}$$

$x \rightarrow y$

$x \rightarrow z$

$y \leftrightarrow z ??$

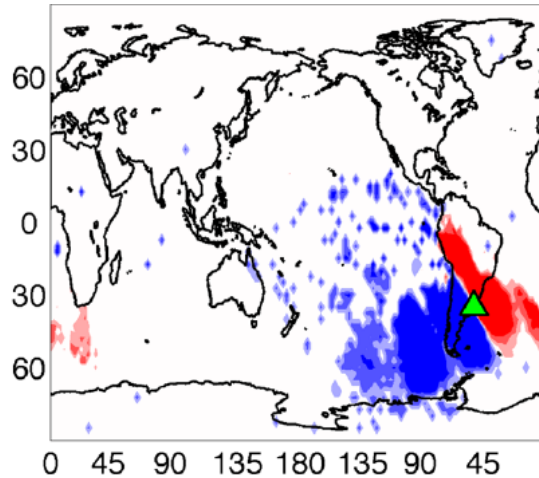
DI



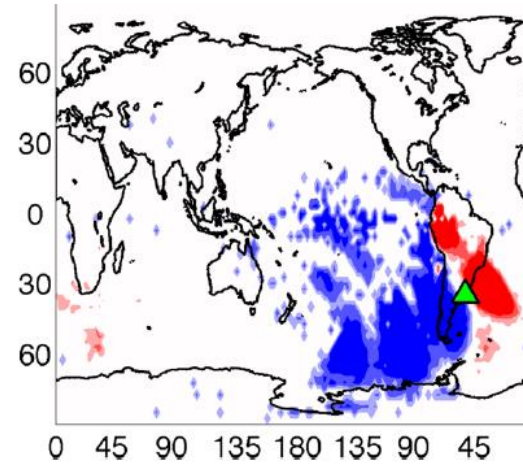
Computed from daily SAT anomalies, PDFs estimated from histograms of values.
MI and DI are both significant ($>3\sigma$, bootstrap surrogates), $\tau=30$ days.

Time-scale of interactions

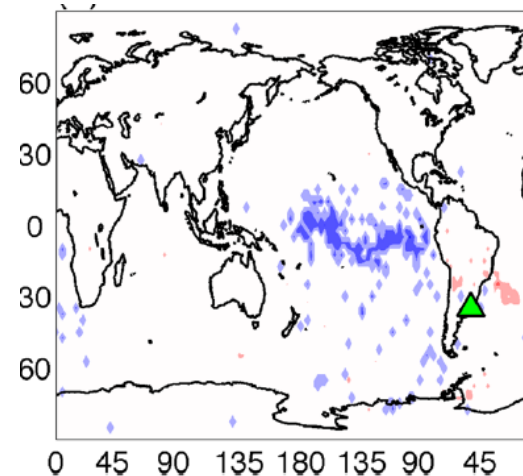
$\tau=1$ day



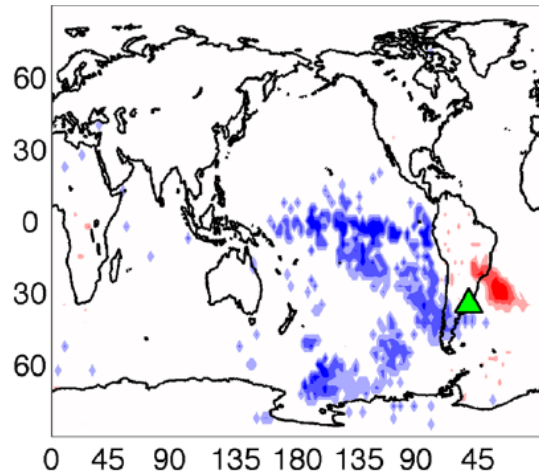
$\tau=3$ days



$\tau=30$ days



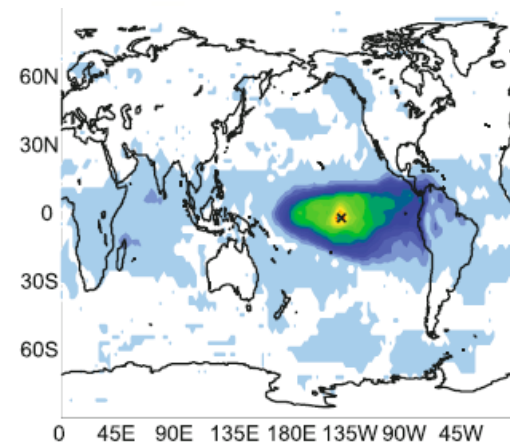
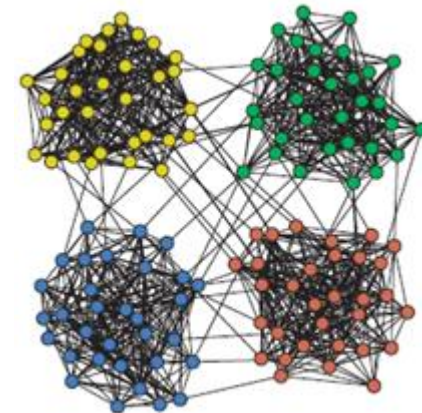
$\tau=7$ days



Link directionality reveals wave trains propagating from west to east

How to identify regions with similar climate?

- Goal: to construct a network in which regions with similar climate (e.g., continental) are in the same “community”.
- Problem: not possible with the “usual” method to construct the network because NH and SH are only indirectly connected.



Network construction based on similar symbolic dynamics

- Step 1: transform SAT anomalies in each node in a sequence of symbols (we use ordinal patterns)

$$s_i = \{012, 102, 210, 012, \dots\} \quad s_j = \{201, 210, 210, 012, \dots\}$$

- Step 2: in each node compute the transition probabilities

$$TP_{\alpha\beta}^i = \#(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) / N$$

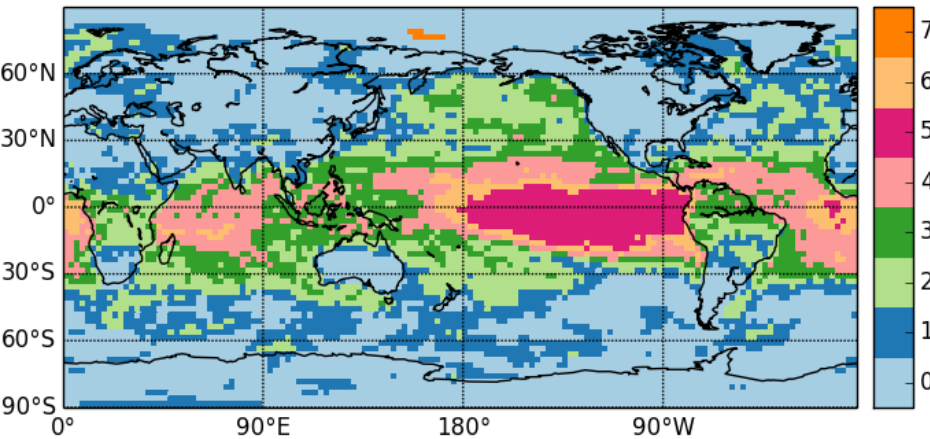
- Step 3: define the weights

$$w_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{\alpha\beta} (TP_{\alpha\beta}^i - TP_{\alpha\beta}^j)^2}$$

**High weight
if similar
symbolic
“language”**

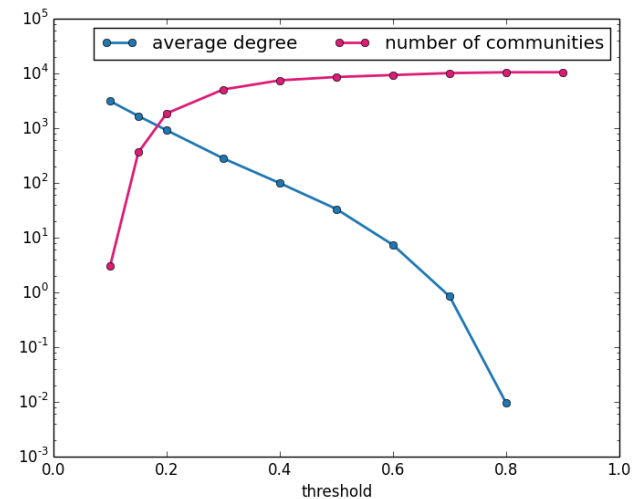
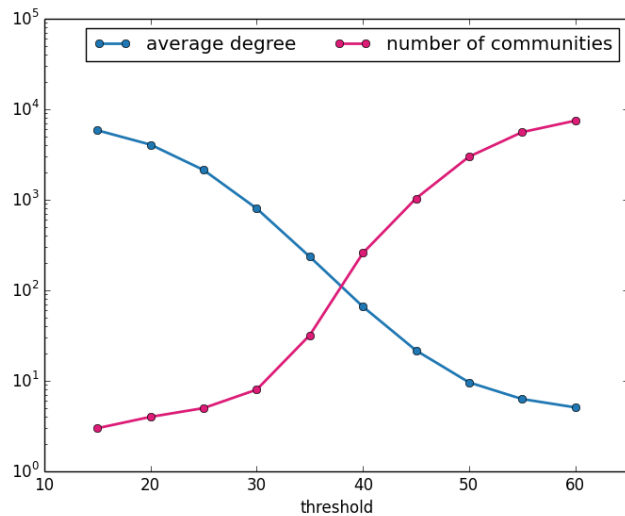
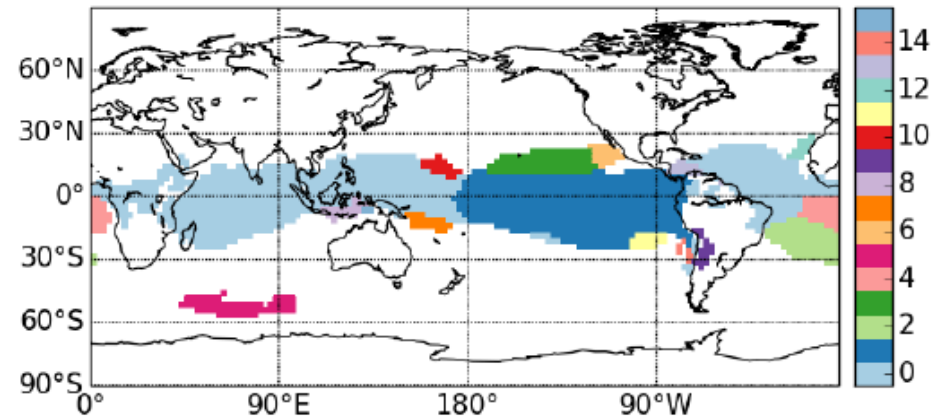
- Step 4: threshold w_{ij} to obtain the adjacency matrix.
- Step 5: run a community detection algorithm (Infomap).

TP Network



CC Network

(only the largest 16)



- Introduction
- Results
- **Summary**



■ Take home message:

- The network approach provides an opportunity for improving our understanding of climate phenomena.
- The challenge: use networks to advance predictability

■ A few specific conclusions:

- Ordinal analysis allows identifying climate communities and time-scales of climate interactions.
- Conditional mutual information allows identifying net direction of climate interactions.

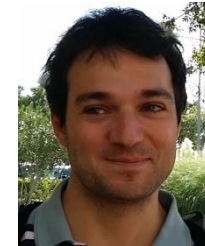
■ Ongoing work:

- Potential of Hilbert transform to gain more information from climate data?
(***Dario Zappala's talk: Wednesday, July 6***)



Collaborators & funding

- Ignacio Deza
- Giulio Tirabassi
- Dario Zappala
- Marcelo Barreiro
(Universidad de la República, Uruguay)



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ICREA





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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Papers at: <http://www.fisica.edu.uy/~cris/>

- M. Barreiro et al, Chaos 21, 013101 (2011).
- J. I. Deza et al, Eur. Phys. J. Special Topics 222, 511 (2013).
- J. I. Deza, M. Barreiro and C. Masoller, Chaos 25, 033105 (2015).
- G. Tirabassi and C. Masoller, Sci. Rep. in press (2016).