

Testing and Evaluation of WRF Reference Configurations

Michelle Harrold, Jamie Wolff, Zach Trabold, and
Louisa Nance

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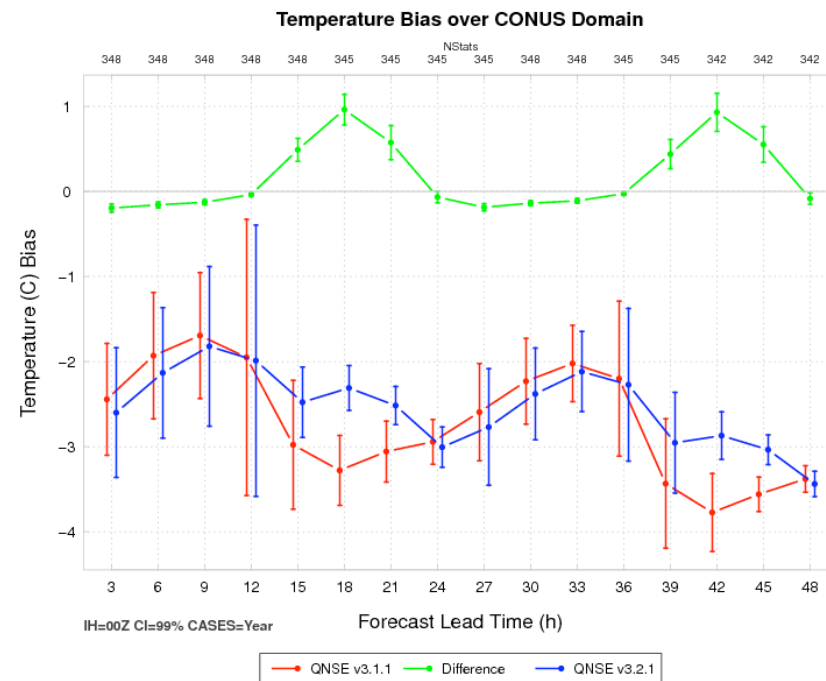


Developmental Testbed Center

Overview

- Description of Reference Configuration (RC) concept and the function of the Developmental Testbed Center (DTC) in RC efforts
- Verification results from two WRF-ARW configurations tested with version 3.1.1 and version 3.2.1

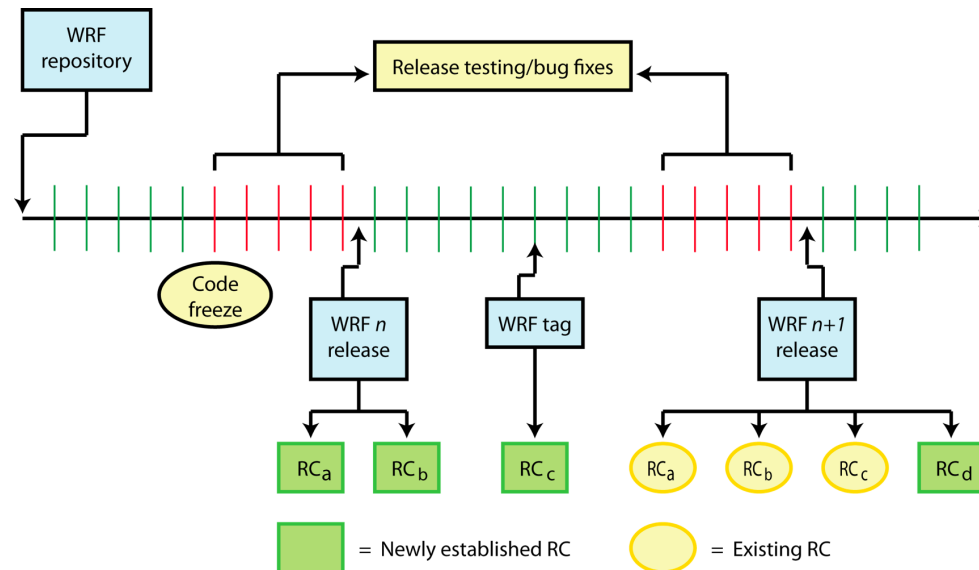
The screenshot shows the DTC website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for DTC Home, Reference Configurations, Testing & Evaluation, Community Codes, Verification, Visitor Program, and Events. The main content area is titled 'WRF Reference Configurations' and features a flowchart illustrating the process from 'Reference Configuration' to 'RC' and 'Developmental Testbed Center'. A sidebar on the right lists 'DTC Reference Configurations' with links to various WRF and ARW versions (e.g., WRF v3.2.1, ARW PS.4.1.1.1.2.1.1) and provides links to 'Community Contributed Reference Configurations' and 'Documentation'.



RC Description

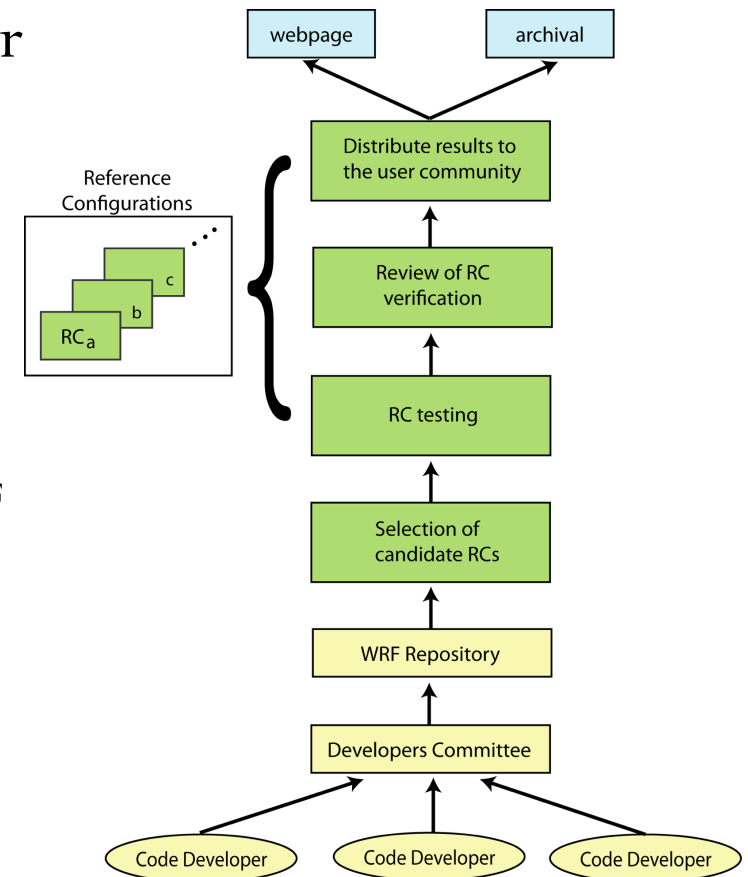
RC Concept

- **Concept:** Rigorously test and evaluate select WRF configurations
- **Goal:** Provide well-documented baseline verification results for specific configurations of WRF that are broadly distributed to the numerical weather prediction community
- Beneficial to both the operational and research communities



RC Concept: Function of the DTC

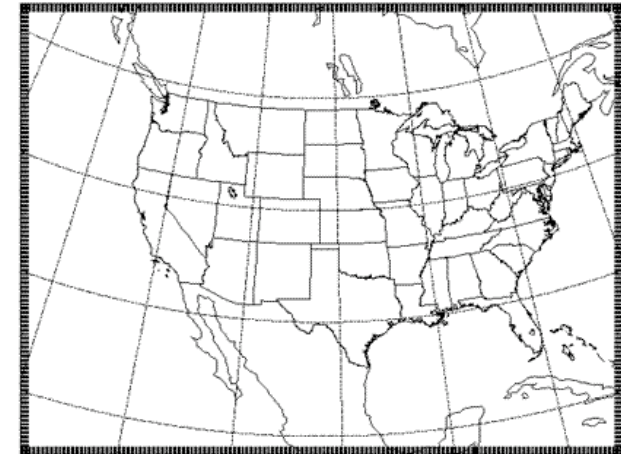
- The Developmental Testbed Center
 - Establishes RCs, performs testing and evaluation, and disseminates results
 - Runs end-to-end system and generate verification results using appropriate verification techniques
 - Retest relevant RCs based on latest WRF release
 - Solicits and facilitates input from user community for Community Contributed Reference Configurations (CCRCs)



RC Testing & Evaluation

Experiment Design

- **End-to-end system:** WPS, WRF, WPP, and MET (v3.0.1)
- **Test Period:** 2 June 2008 – 31 May 2009
- **Retrospective forecasts:** 48-h forecasts initialized every 36 h
- **Domain:** 15-km CONUS grid
- **Physics suite** for each configuration:



WRF-ARW computational domain

Physics Suite	AFWA Configuration	QNSE-replacement Configuration
Microphysics	WRF Single-Moment 5	WRF Single-Moment 5
Radiation (SW/LW)	Dudhia/RRTM	Dudhia/RRTM
Surface Layer	Monin-Obukhov similarity theory	Quasi-Normal Scale Elimination
Land Surface Model	Noah	Noah
PBL	Yonsei University	Quasi-Normal Scale Elimination
Convection	Kain-Fritsch	Kain-Fritsch

Model Verification

- **Verification stratifications** include temporal and spatial aggregations
- **Grid-to-point** verification for surface and upper-air temperature, dew point temperature, winds
 - Bias-corrected root mean square error (BCRMSE) and mean error (bias)
- **Grid-to-grid** verification for 3-h and 24-h QPF
 - Gilbert Skill Score (GSS) and frequency bias
- **Confidence intervals (CIs)** computed at the 99% level
- **Pair-wise difference** technique applied by computing difference between versions (v3.2.1 – v3.1.1)



Verification domain

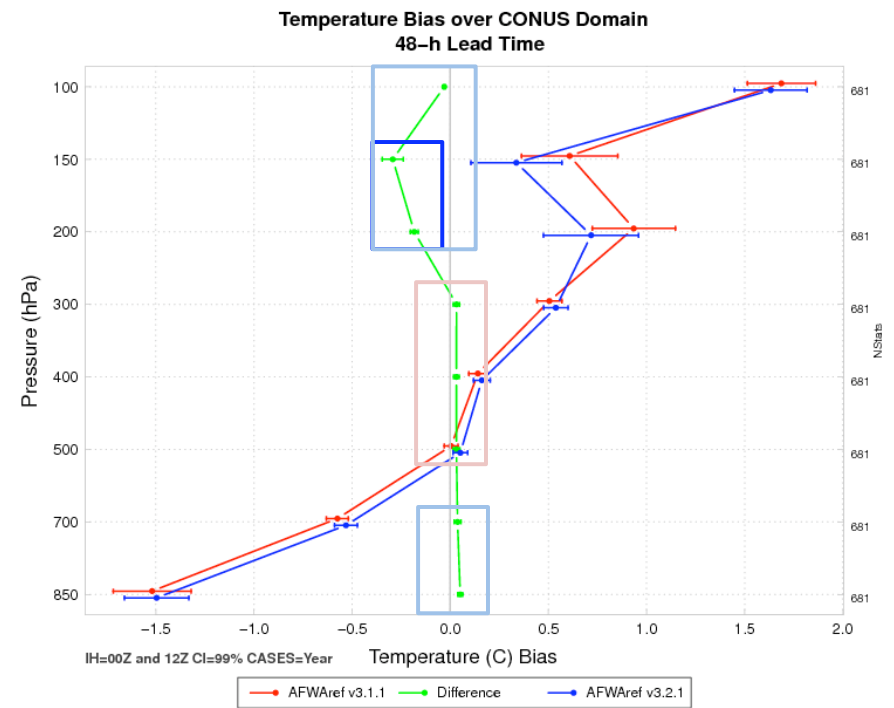
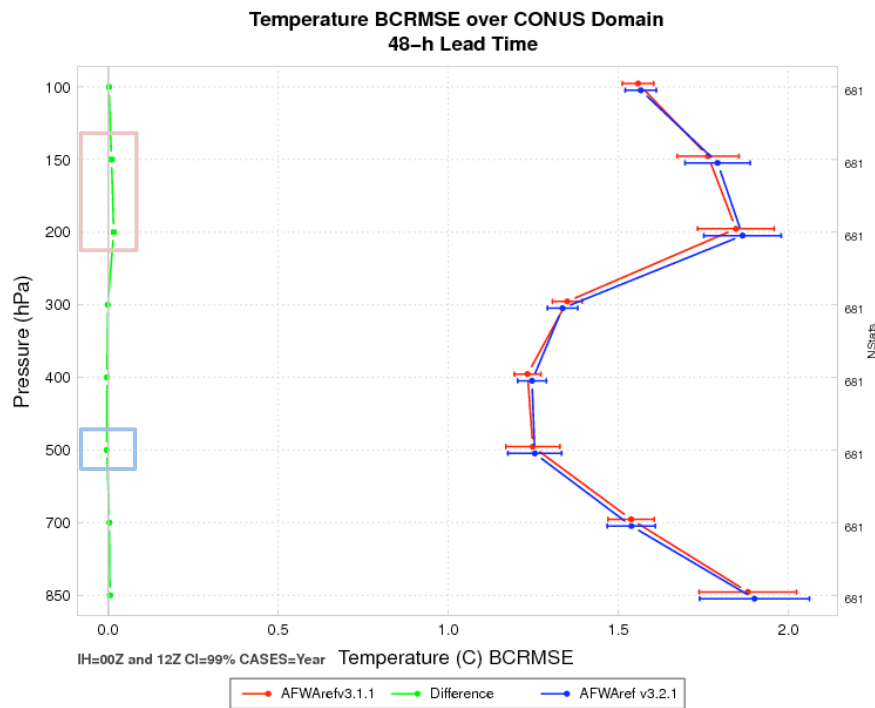
Establishing Significance

- Identified **statistically significant (SS)** differences between configurations as well as **practically significant (PS)** differences
 - Large dataset increases number of pair-wise differences - not always practically meaningful
 - SS: Objectively determined by using pair-wise difference technique
 - PS: Censored data to highlight pair-wise differences greater than a specified value
 - WMO requirements for operational measurement uncertainty:
 $T/T_d > 0.1$ K, wind > 0.5 ms⁻¹, and precip. accumulation > 0.1 mm



Verification Results

AFWA: Upper Air Temperature



Upper Air SS/PS Tables

SS (light shading) and PS (dark shading) differences for the annual aggregation of upper air temperature, dew point temperature, and wind *BCRMSE* and *bias*

AFWA: v3.2.1 – v3.1.1

QNSE: v3.2.1 – v3.1.1

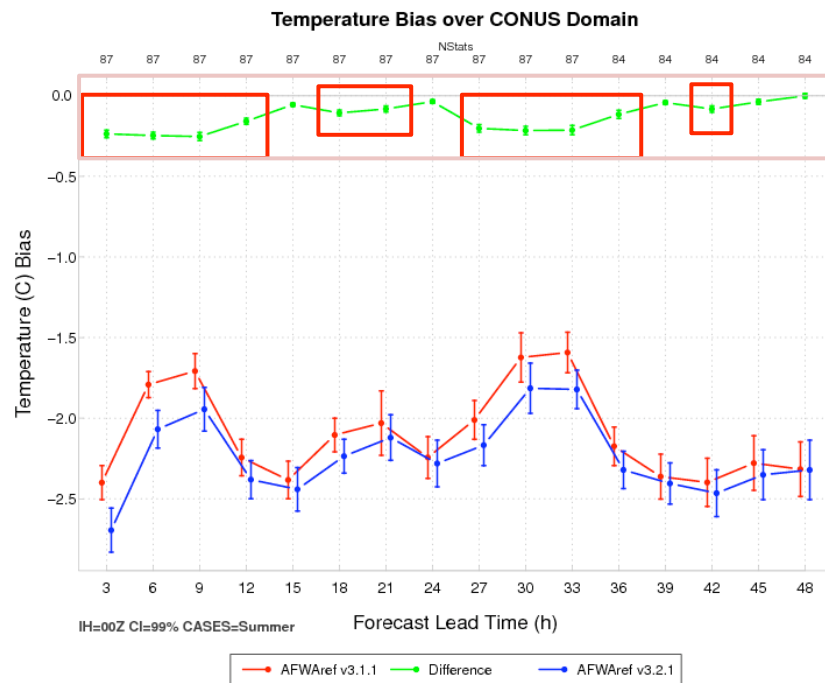
		Annual											
		Temperature				Dew Point Temperature				Wind			
		f12	f24	f36	f48	f12	f24	f36	f48	f12	f24	f36	f48
BCRMSE	850	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1
	700	--	--	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	--
	500	--	--	--	v3.2.1	--	--	--	--	v3.2.1	--	--	v3.2.1
	400	--	--	--	--					--	--	--	v3.2.1
	300	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--					v3.2.1	--	v3.2.1	--
	200	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					--	--	--	--
	150	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					v3.2.1	--	--	--
	100	--	--	--	--					v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	--
Bias	850	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1
	700	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1
	500	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	--	--	--
	400	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					v3.2.1	--	--	--
	300	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
	200	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--
	150	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1
	100	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1

		Annual											
		Temperature				Dew Point Temperature				Wind			
		f12	f24	f36	f48	f12	f24	f36	f48	f12	f24	f36	f48
BCRMSE	850	--	--	--	v3.2.1	--	--	--	--	--	v3.2.1	--	--
	700	--	v3.2.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	500	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	--	v3.2.1	--	--	v3.2.1	--
	400	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--
	300	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1
	200	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					--	--	--	v3.2.1
	150	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					v3.2.1	--	--	--
	100	--	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1					v3.2.1	--	--	--
Bias	850	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.2.1	--
	700	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	--	--	--
	500	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	--	--
	400	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	--
	300	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
	200	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
	150	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1					--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1
	100	v3.2.1	--	--	--					--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1

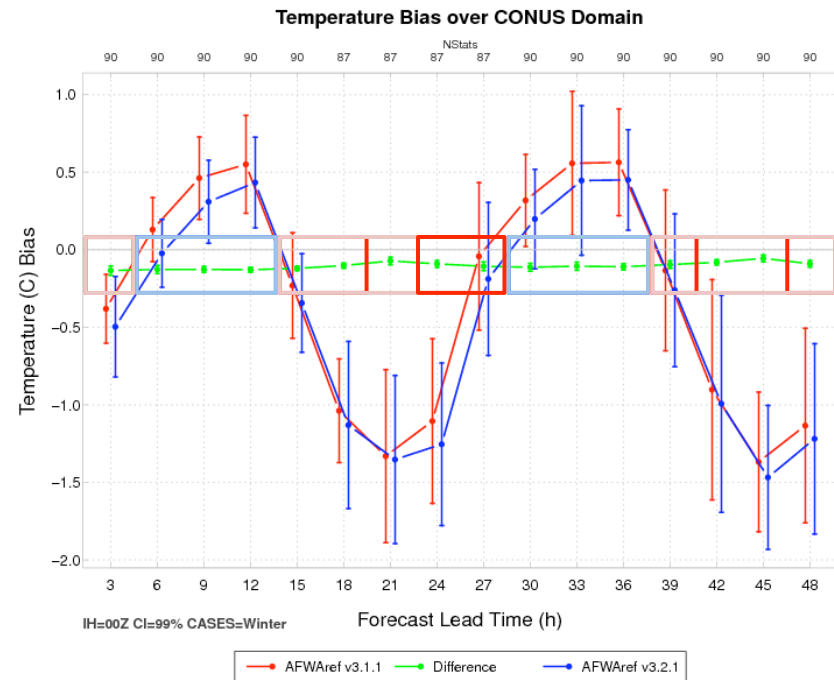


AFWA: 2-m Temperature

Summer Season

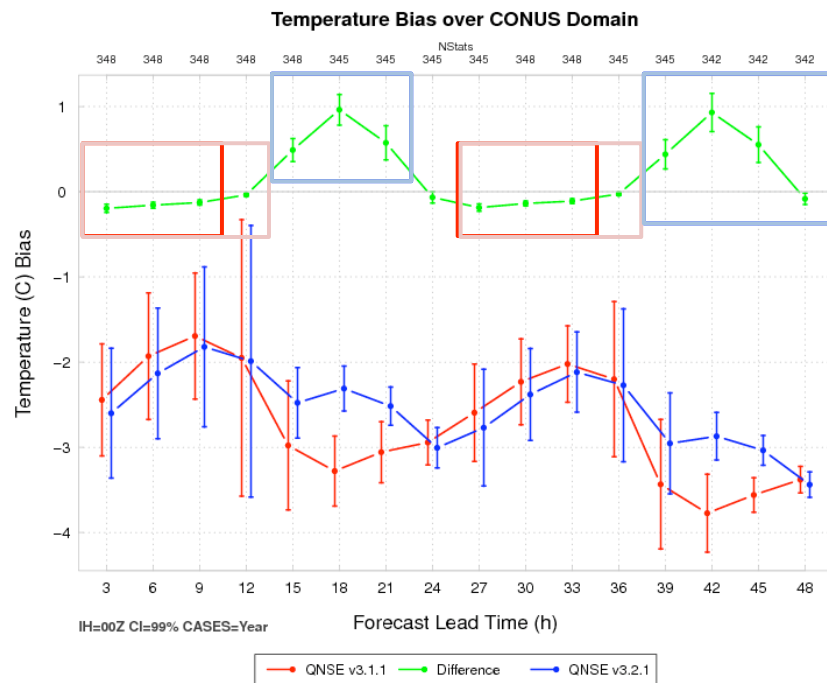


Winter Season

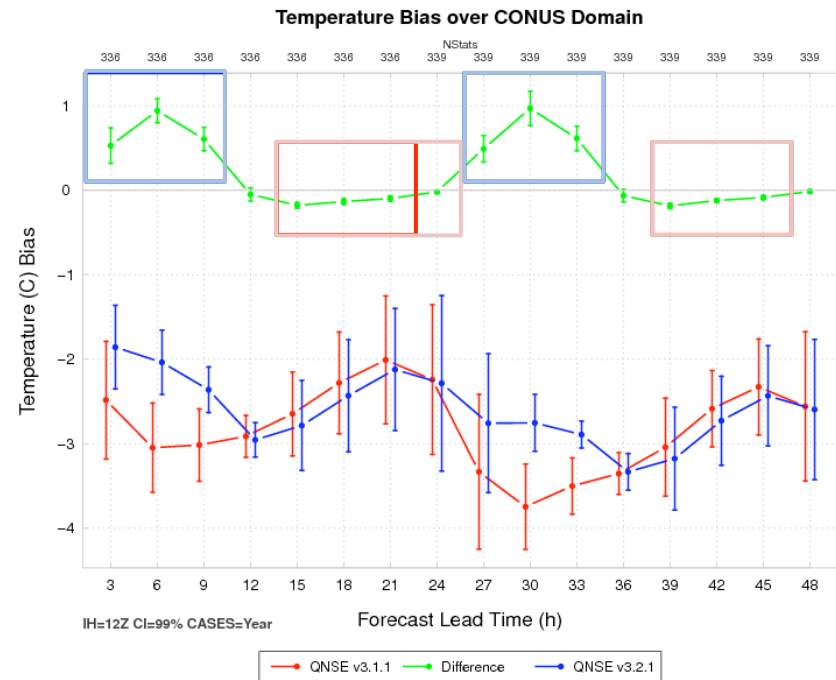


QNSE: 2-m Temperature

00 UTC initialization



12 UTC initialization



2-m Temperature SS/PS Tables

SS (light shading) and PS (dark shading) differences for *BCRMSE* and *bias* by init time, lead time, and season

AFWA: v3.2.1 – v3.1.1

		f03	f06	f09	f12	f15	f18	f21	f24	F27	f30	f33	f36	f39	f42	f45	f48		
BCRMSE	00 UTC	Annual	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	
		Summer	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.2.1	--	
		Fall	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1
		Winter	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.2.1	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
		Spring	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.1.1
	12 UTC	Annual	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	
		Summer	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	
		Fall	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	
		Winter	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	
		Spring	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1

QNSE: v3.2.1 – v3.1.1

		f03	f06	f09	f12	f15	f18	f21	f24	F27	f30	f33	f36	f39	f42	f45	f48	
BCRMSE	00 UTC	Annual	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	
		Summer	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.2.1	--	--	v3.1.1
		Fall	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1
		Winter	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
		Spring	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	--	v3.1.1
	12 UTC	Annual	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
		Summer	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
		Fall	--	v3.2.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
		Winter	v3.1.1	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1
		Spring	--	v3.2.1	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	--	--	v3.2.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1	v3.1.1

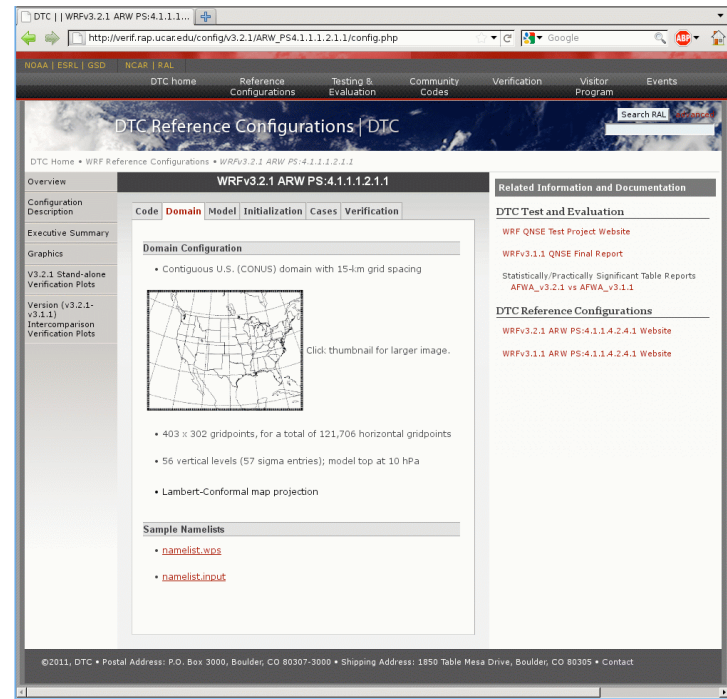


Summary

- Results from the two RCs vary based on forecast variable, initialization, temporal/spatial aggregations, etc.
- Configuration descriptions, executive summaries, graphics, documentation, and a full suite of verification results are found at:

AFWA: http://verif.rap.ucar.edu/config/v3.2.1/ARW_PS4.1.1.4.2.4.1/index.php

QNSE: http://verif.rap.ucar.edu/config/v3.2.1/ARW_PS4.1.1.1.2.1.1/index.php



Current/Future Activities

- Reference Configuration efforts with WRF v3.3
 - Retest AFWA and QNSE RCs
 - Assess performance of each configuration individually
 - Comparison of each configuration for v3.2.1 versus v3.3
 - Test new RCs
 - Hurricane WRF (HWRF) 2011 Operational Baseline
 - North American Mesoscale (NAM) model physics suite
 - WRF Rapid Refresh (RR) physics suite
- Solicit WRF community for additional RCs and CCRCs
- For more information: <http://www.dtcenter.org/config/>



Developmental Testbed Center

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