

# Skill in Retrievals

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17 October 2008

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Retrieval Skill quantifies the ability of one retrieval to be more accurate than the best forecast relative to another retrieval with the same or another sounder.

# Skill in Forecasting

The skill for weather forecasting compares the accuracy of the forecast for day 1, 2, 3, ... to the difference between the actual conditions and the conditions expected from climatology.

The skill is measured using the anomaly correlation

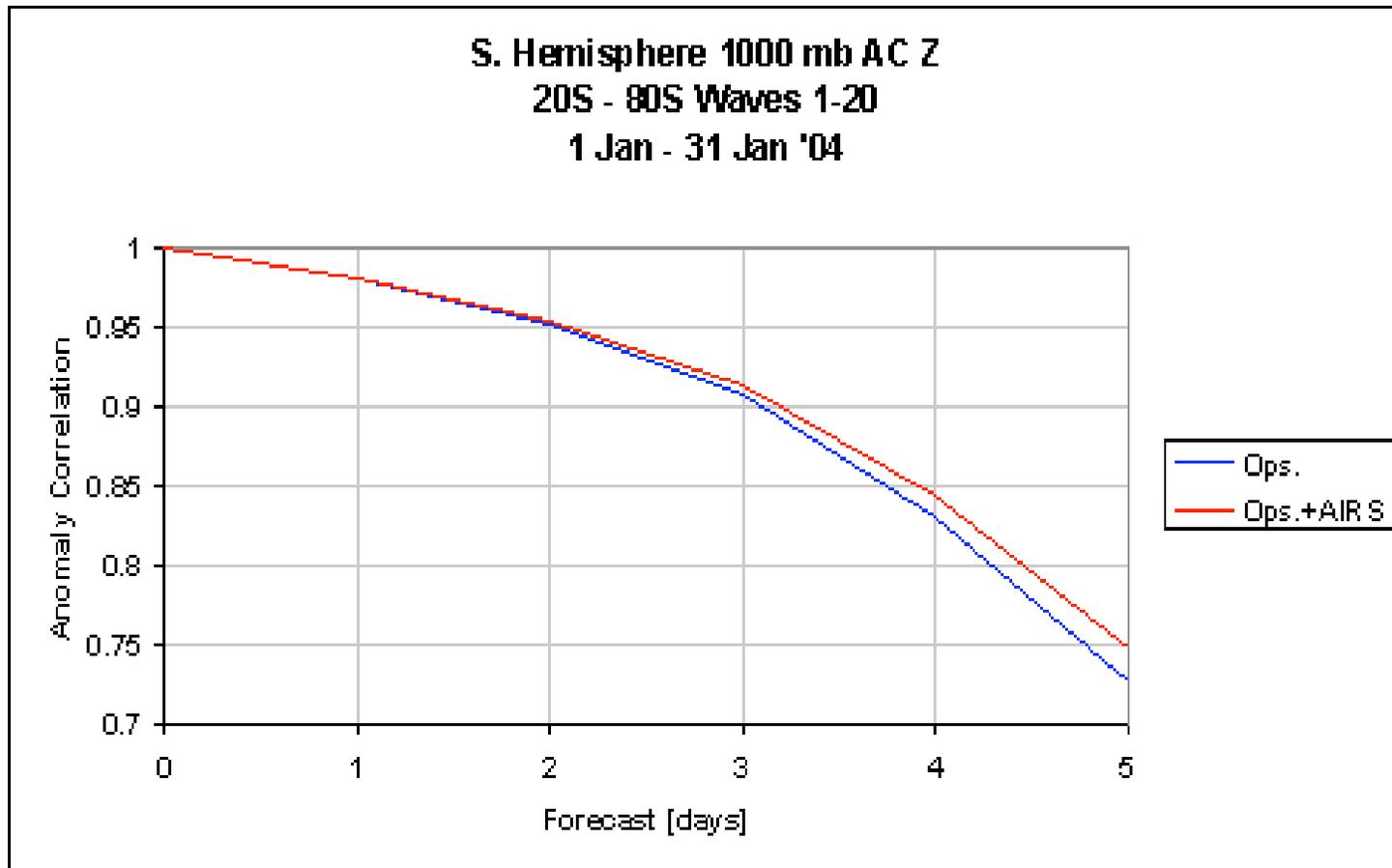
$$AC(t) = \text{Cor}(\text{forecast}(t)\text{-climatology}, \text{analysis-climatology})$$

Where  $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  are days for the forecast.

For day=0  $AC(0)=1$ .

The length of the useful forecast is the number of days with  $AC > 0.6$

# Skill in Forecasting



# Skill in Retrievals

We want to use a similar approach for the evaluation of the skill of retrievals of  $T(p)$ ,  $q(p)$ , ozone, etc.

# Skill in Retrievals

The skill score has a range from zero to 1

Skill is zero when the product

- matches the background
- gives no answer
- has zero correlation with the truth

Background = the best solution obtainable in real time

For T(p) and q(p) this is the NCEP or ECMWF forecast

# Skill in Retrievals

Retrieval Anomaly Skill Score

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Where  $f$  = the ratio of accepted to the possible retrievals  
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For retrieval evaluation truth=RAOB,  
ground truth or NCEP analysis  
depending on the quantity

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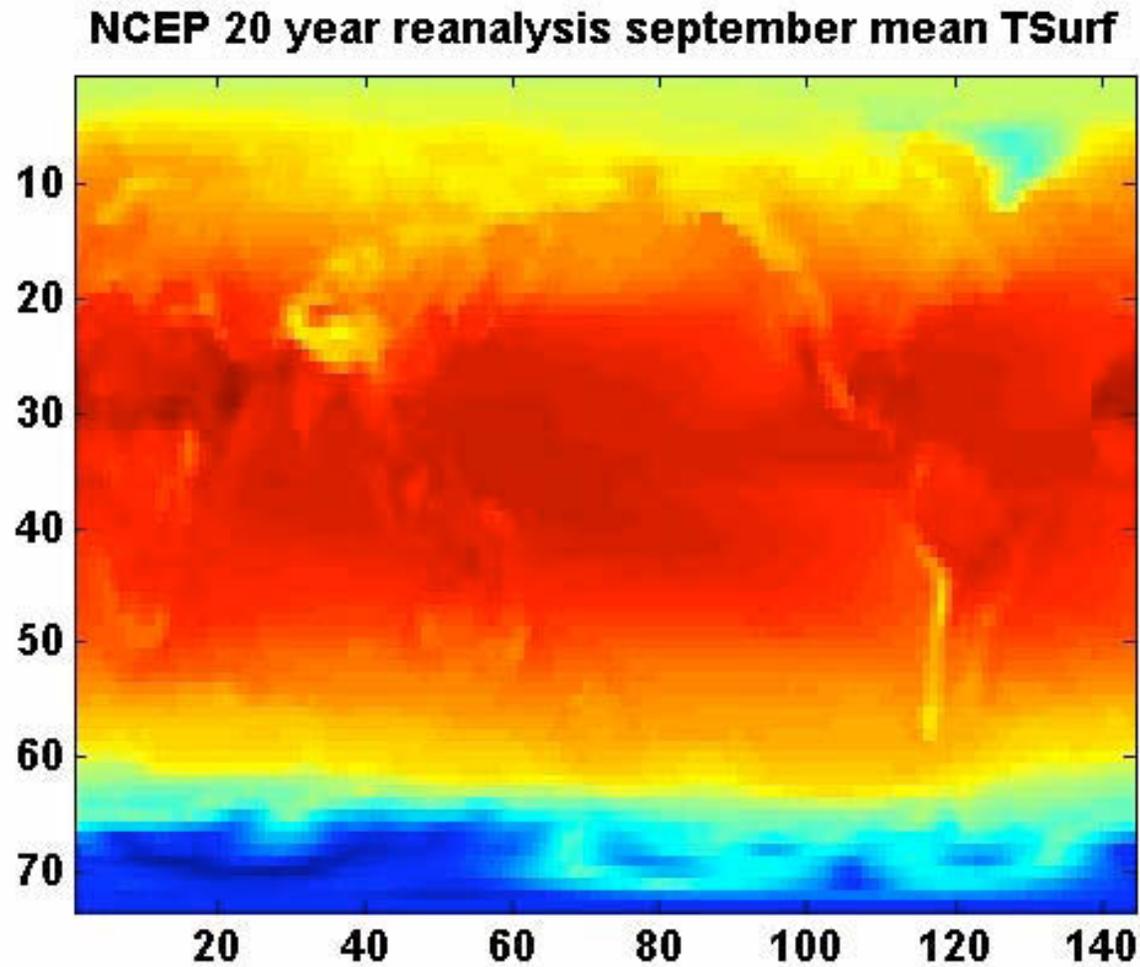
**The NCEP 15 year reanalysis was selected because it is readily available for quick results and should be reasonable good for the tropical ocean.**

**It is adequate for relative skill comparisons, but not for absolute skill.**

# Features of RASS

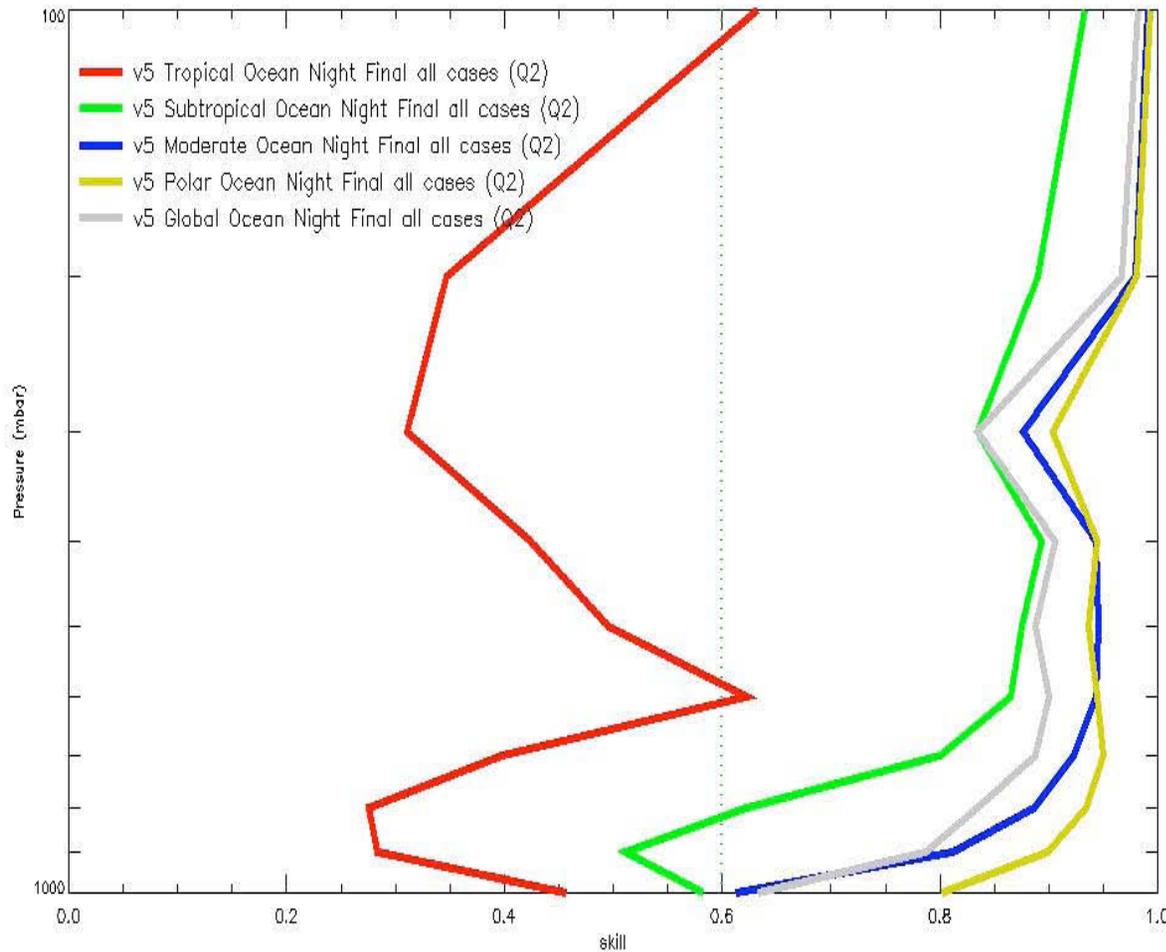
- We've been struggling to balance yield vs. error levels in comparing versions. RASS automatically includes yield.
- But RASS gives zero weight to bias and scaling. It does not replace scoring retrievals for accuracy and bias.

## The September mean T<sub>surf</sub> from the 1978-1998 NCEP Reanalysis



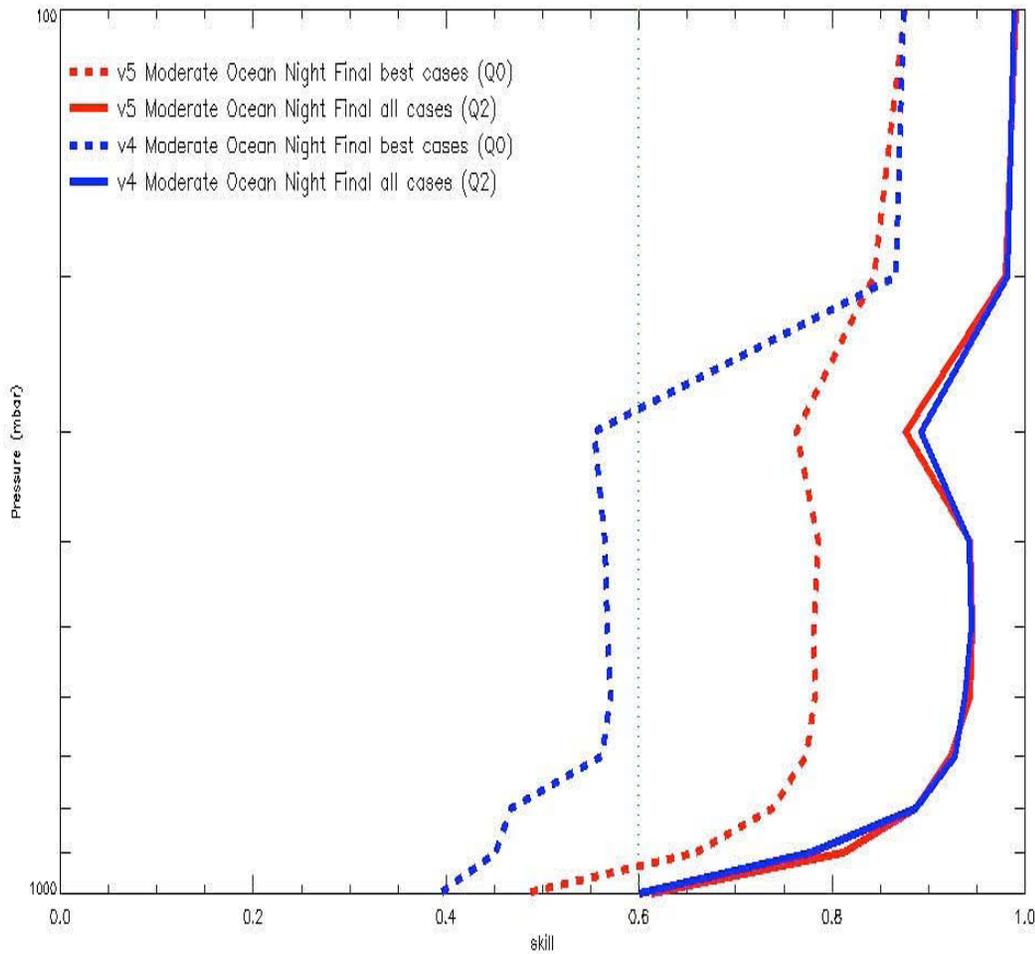
RTGSST.sept2002 -Tsurf\_1995 bias = 0.00 stdev=1.1 K for all non-frozen oceans.

# RASS -- Regional Variation



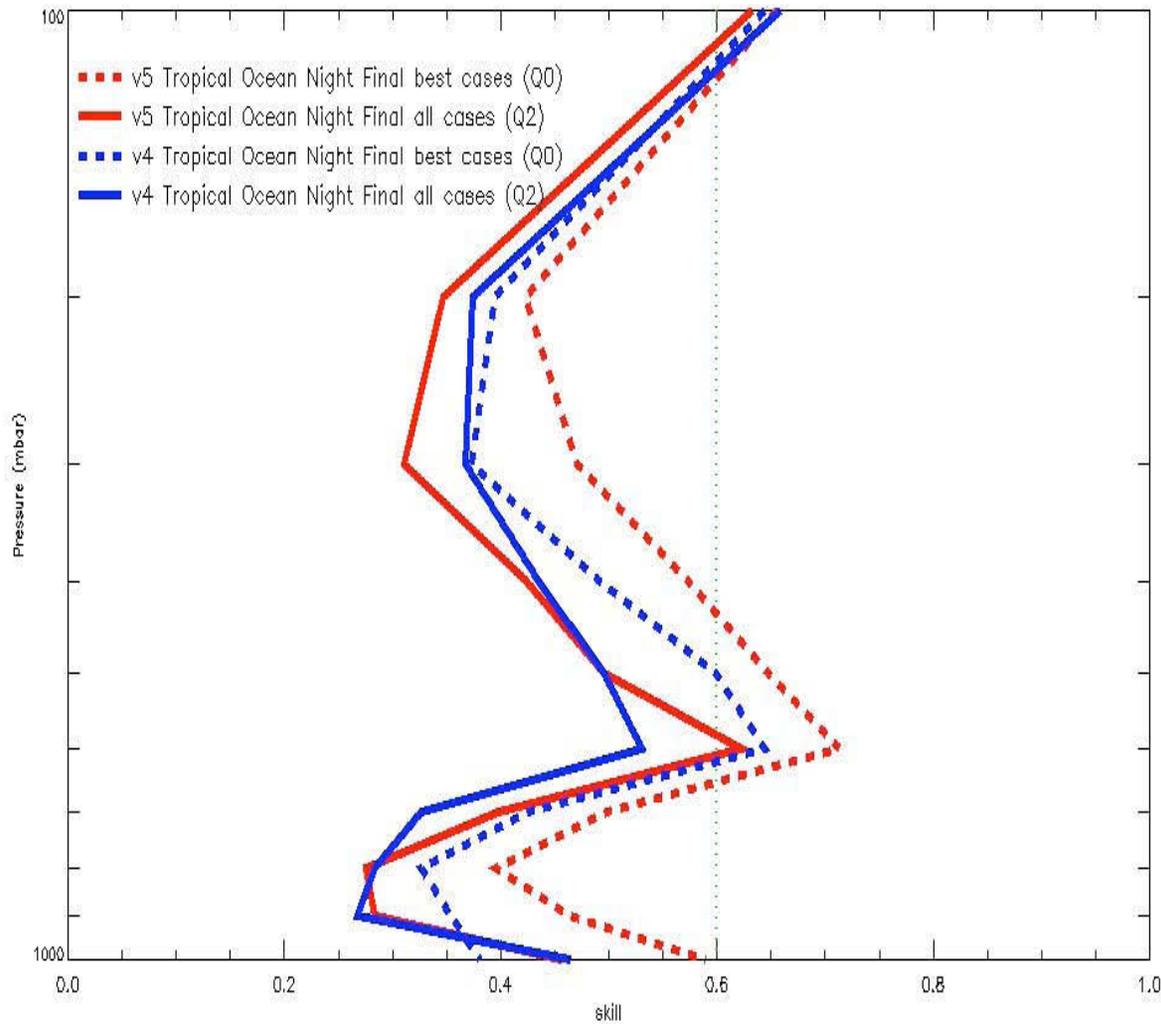
Retrieval Anomaly Skill Score is generally lowest in the tropics because climatology is a good first guess there.

# RASS -- Skill vs. Yield



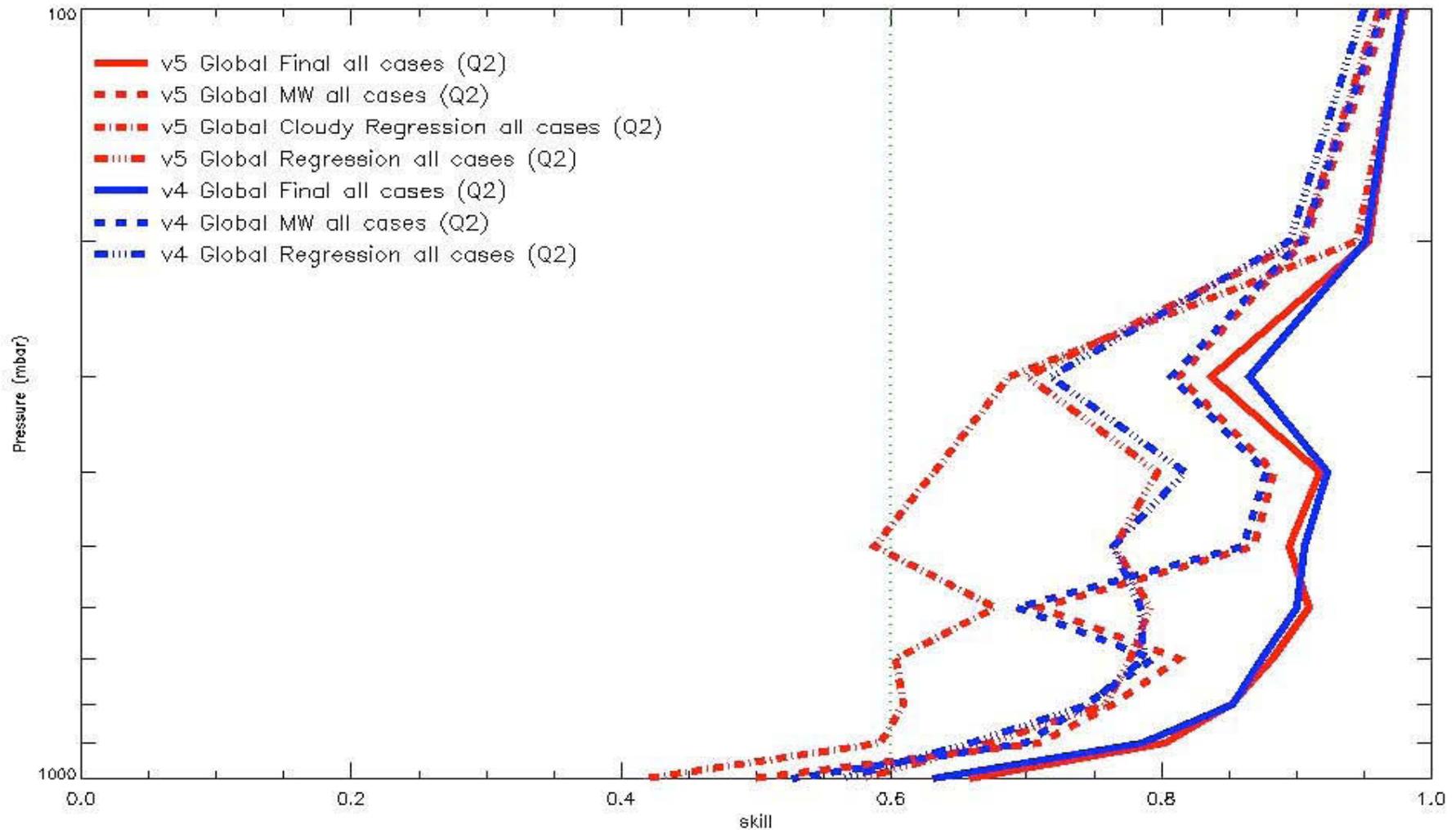
The lower yield of Q0 (best data only) gives Q2 (all data) generally a higher Retrieval Anomaly Skill Score

# RASS -- Skill vs. Yield



But in the Tropics Q0 (Best Data Only) Gets the Best Retrieval Anomaly Skill Score

# The Physical Retrieval gets Consistently Higher RASS than v4 & v5 Regressions

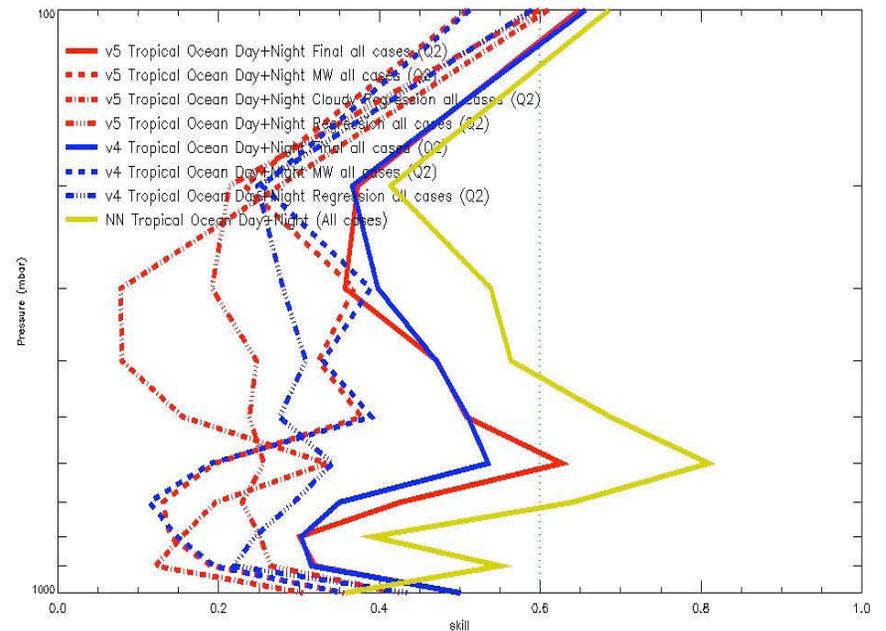
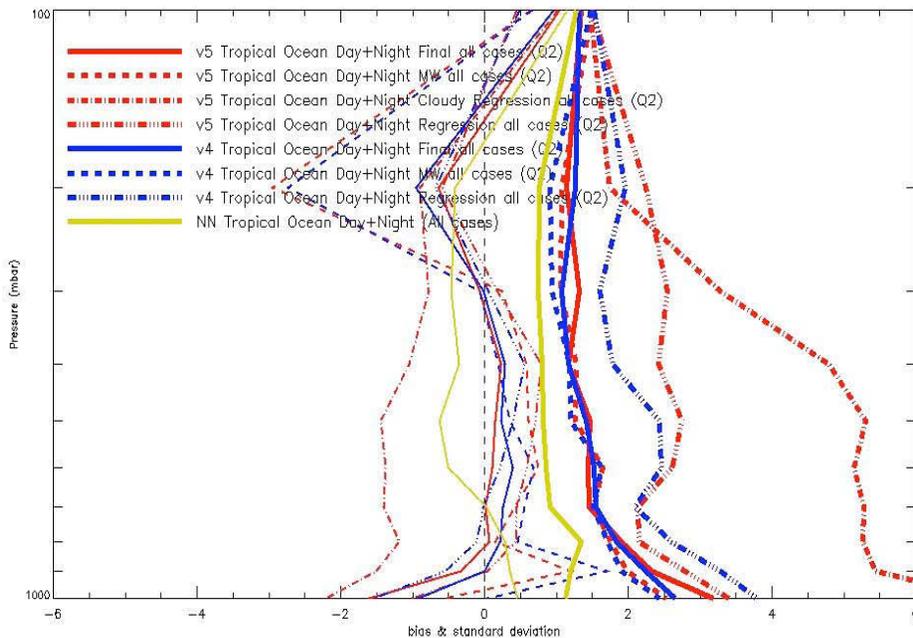


# Using RASS to Investigate SCNN as a possible Regression Replacement

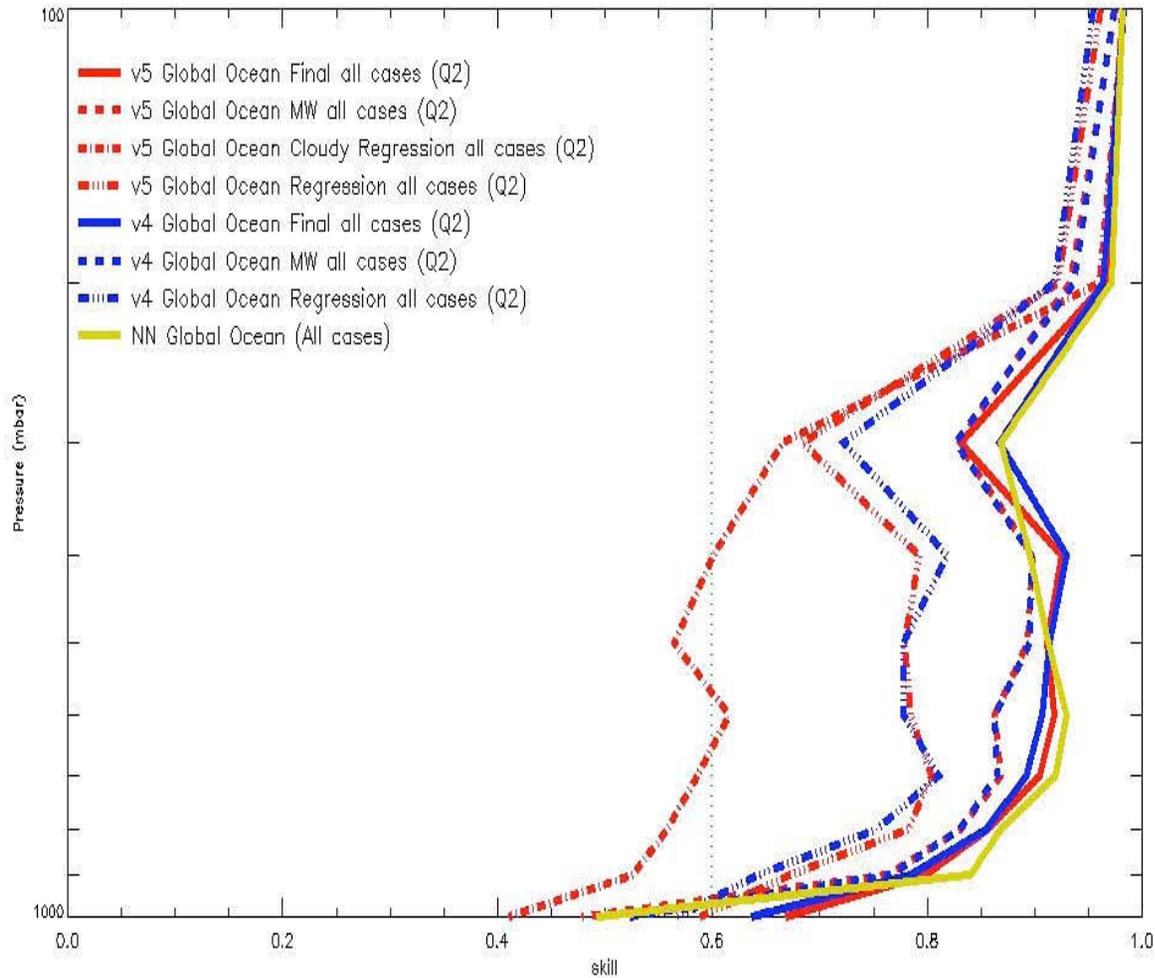
- Bill Blackwell of MIT has produced a stochastic cloud clearing plus neural network retrieval (SCNN).
- SCNN is a candidate to replace the current regression as a first guess into the physical retrieval for v6.
- A bug in the output translator for SCNN cuts out the lowest levels of the atmosphere.
- We compare temperature profile performance of SCNN with the current first guess algorithm using traditional bias & standard deviation and with skill score.
- All cases are included (Q2) because no quality control is available for SCNN.

# Comparing SCNN with Current Algorithms in the Tropics

- SCNN looks best by either methodology
- RASS punishes SCNN near the surface for its low yield
- MW-Only is almost as good as final physical retrieval according to deviation but not by skill
  - Optimal estimation gives good statistics but AMSU-A provides relatively little information



# RASS for SCNN Globally



Globally  
SCNN is better  
than all other  
first guesses  
and  
competitive  
with physical  
retrieval

# SCNN Next Steps

- From this analysis SCNN seems like a promising candidate to replace regression as a first guess.
- But this is a case study of SCNN, not a full evaluation.
- Bill Irion is leading an effort to do a robust evaluation including algorithmic review and implications for trends.

# RASS Next Steps

- The Retrieval Anomaly Skill Score methodology should be extended to other AIRS products:
  - Surface temperature
  - Lapse Rate
  - Water vapor
- RASS cannot be used globally for these because truth is rare:
  - Trace gasses
  - Clouds
- Test RASS on other AIRS retrievals:
  - Allen Huang of UW
  - Xu Liu and Daniel Zhou of LARC
- For a realistic assessment of absolute skill replace the NCEP 15 year reanalysis with the NCEP forecast as background and replace ECMWF analysis with Radiosondes as truth.
- Test the skill of retrievals with IASI

# Conclusions

- With the operational availability of very accurate forecasts improvement in skill is more important than improvements in accuracy.
- RASS is an important tool for comparing retrieval versions.
- RASS with climatology background is straightforward to implement.
- Bias and accuracy remain important metrics