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Title: Prospects of useful predictions for weeks 3 & 4?
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Abstract:
 NOAA's seamless suite of forecast products spanning weather and climate starting from hours through days, weeks, months, seasons and years, we now have official forecast products in all time spans except in the so called "3-4 weeks forecast hole" time period. While every effort continues to be made by researchers and forecasters alike to fill this void, reliable and useful forecasts in this 3-4 weeks period has always remained a major challenge. Forecasts for actual temperature and rainfall for every specific day up to 5 days or so, and then for averaged time periods such as for 6-10 days and week 2 (days 8-14) are among the most used of weather forecast products. There is a great need for some sort of weather guidance in upcoming weeks 3 and 4 for all sorts of planning purposes from average public to businesses alike. At present, the conventionally accepted evaluation measure such as traditional anomaly correlation coefficient for say, 500 mb geopotential height, 2m-temperature or rainfall for weeks 3 & 4 on the average is very low (0.0-0.25). In this talk, using NCEP CFS V2's 45day ensemble forecast runs available since 1999, full field (such as used in next few days weather forecasts) and an alternately defined "anomaly" forecast correlations in three basic variables noted above(H, T2m, P) will be presented. Historical evaluations of the full field and alternatively defined "anomaly" forecasts for the 12 year (1999-2010) period as well as for most recent months over the global domain and the United States will be made. With an open mind we will explore the potential usefulness of these forecasts for weeks 3 and 4.
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