

Likelihood-Weighted Active Selection of Training Data for Improved Prediction of the Statistics of Extreme Weather Events*

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Abstract. As a result of climate change, extreme weather events have increased in severity and frequency, making the rapid modeling of potential climate scenarios all the more essential for future resource management and planning. However, the broad range of dynamically relevant spatiotemporal scales in the atmosphere makes direct numerical simulations computationally expensive and simplified reduced-order approaches less accurate. Scientific machine learning (ML) methods are a promising alternative, but given the inherent limited representation of extreme events, comprehensive or well-specified training data sets are necessary for model generalizability. To avoid time-consuming learning brought about by large data sets, we use a model-agnostic active learning approach to sequentially select an optimal subset of the most valuable data points for model training. Points are iteratively scored via a likelihood-weighted uncertainty sampling acquisition function which prioritizes points that reduce model uncertainty and improve prediction in the tails of the distribution, i.e. most relevant to the dynamics of extreme events. We first validate the method on a well-studied problem, quantifying the maximum wave magnitude statistics in a synthetic turbulent system. Then, we apply the method to a real-world problem, learning a debiasing operator for coarse-resolution climate simulations. In both cases, the likelihood-weighted active data selection algorithm most accurately reproduces the extreme event statistics using a fraction of the original data points. Looking forward, the approach is useful for improved environmental sampling schemes, and can be used as a compression algorithm that preserves information associated with extreme events in vast data sets.

Key words. active learning, extreme events, climate modeling, dimensionality reduction, weather prediction, machine learning

MSC codes. 86A08, 86-08, 62G32, 60G70, 62L05

1. Introduction. Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as week-long heatwaves and major rainfall episodes [21, 15]. These events are leading to significant damage to critical infrastructure and numerous premature deaths, and most extremes are occurring in low latitude tropical regions with high population density [46]. To better prepare for and mitigate these catastrophic events, some of which are breaking records by three or more standard deviations, there is a need for high-resolution models that explore the outcomes of different possible greenhouse gas emission scenarios [44, 4, 14, 53]. Historically, researchers have used numerical solvers based on physical equations to emulate climate systems [54, 30, 31, 57, 13, 51, 51, 17]. However, the dynamics can be highly turbulent and involve spatial resolutions ranging from millimeters on the Kolmogorov dissipation scale to tens of thousands of kilometers on the global scale. Numerical solvers require significant computational resources, extensive parameter tuning, and complicated closure terms.

Machine Learning (ML) models provide a useful alternative for traditional computationally

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expensive and complex numerical solvers. Progress in the speed and capability of computers, combined with new ML architectures and algorithms, has improved our ability to create models of highly nonlinear and high-dimensional systems. As a result, significant research has been done on leveraging ML for climate and weather modeling [42, 40, 43, 24, 50, 33, 5, 9, 3, 10, 41, 25]. However, ML remains challenging and expensive when applied to applications for which the available data sets are large and high-dimensional. In many problems, not all points carry the same *value* of information, so it can be inefficient or ineffective to use the entire data set. For some physical systems, certain dynamical mechanisms might be represented by an imbalanced number of samples. Namely, in a system such as the climate, extreme weather events, events in the tails of the probability density function (PDF), are an important example of such dynamics [48]. To achieve adequate representation of these events and understand their relationship to the system, it is often necessary to collect large amounts of data consisting of nearly repetitive, and thus unnecessary, points. These data sets become even larger for problems in high dimensions. Standard neural network (NN) models — typically trained with mean squared error (MSE) — give emphasis to regions of the domain where most points exist, so predictions are worse for phenomena in the tails. This discrepancy is often manifested through slow convergence and bad generalizability properties of ML models with respect to observables that highlight the statistics of extremes [36]. Therefore, identifying a subset of data points most relevant to the dynamics of extreme weather events can reduce model training time while more accurately representing the distribution of the original data.

To overcome the challenges associated with training an ML model given a large data set, we present an adaptation of the active learning framework for effective training data selection. Our active selection framework, introduced in Section 2, is well-suited for systems with extreme events because it quantifies the value of data using a likelihood-weighted uncertainty sampling acquisition (scoring) function [47, 6, 49]. One requirement of the acquisition function is knowledge of epistemic uncertainty, so we provide an overview of probabilistic ML architecture with uncertainty quantification (UQ) capabilities in Section 2.3. In Section 2.4, we explain how to apply the framework to systems with high-dimensional functional inputs. In Sections 3 and 4, we demonstrate the proposed methodology for two applications: i) prediction of extreme events in the Majda-McLaughlin-Tabak (MMT) model, a one-dimensional model for dispersive wave turbulence and ii) a correction operator for coarse-resolution climate model outputs. In both examples, we introduce methods to interpret the optimal points and gain insights into the active selection algorithm.

Overall, we show how our method is able to i) identify the points in a large data set that carry the most valuable information for predicting a specific quantity of interest, ii) reduce the cost of training ML models by using only the most valuable data, iii) improve generalizability properties of the resulting ML models with emphasis on their capacity to capture extreme events, iv) interpret the optimally selected data. One important advantage of the method is that it is model agnostic, so it can be used on any forthcoming ML-based climate model.

2. Data Selection with Active Learning. Active Learning (AL) is a form of supervised ML in which new points are sequentially chosen to be added to the training set according to a criterion called the acquisition function [28, 11, 18]. Ren et al. provides a survey of AL in the context of ML classification models [45]. AL is part of the same family of algorithms

82 as Bayesian experimental design (BED) and Bayesian optimization (BO), algorithms that
 83 sequentially select the next-best point. However, we adapt the AL algorithm for the case
 84 where the new points must be selected from a preexisting, precomputed data set rather than
 85 from a continuous domain [39, 52, 2]. This distinction is sometimes referred to as active
 86 search, greedy approximations, optimal sampling, or active sampling, but we will refer to it
 87 as active data selection or active selection (AS).

88 **2.1. Active Data Selection Algorithm.** The AS algorithm (illustrated in Figure 1) is
 89 initialized with a small training set consisting of points randomly selected from the set of all
 90 candidate points. During each iteration, the model is trained and the acquisition function is
 91 evaluated at all remaining candidate training points. To compute the acquisition function, we
 92 make use of the predictions for the mean and epistemic uncertainty made by the probabilistic
 93 model. Candidate points resulting in the maximum value of the acquisition function are
 94 considered optimal, and they are added, as a batch, to the training set. Further details on
 95 batching are explained in [35]. The loop is repeated until the model error converges, or until
 96 the error reaches a desired threshold. The output of the algorithm is a ML model that has
 97 been trained with optimally selected data. At each iteration, the selected input points can be
 98 further analyzed to provide insights into what types of data are most useful for modeling.

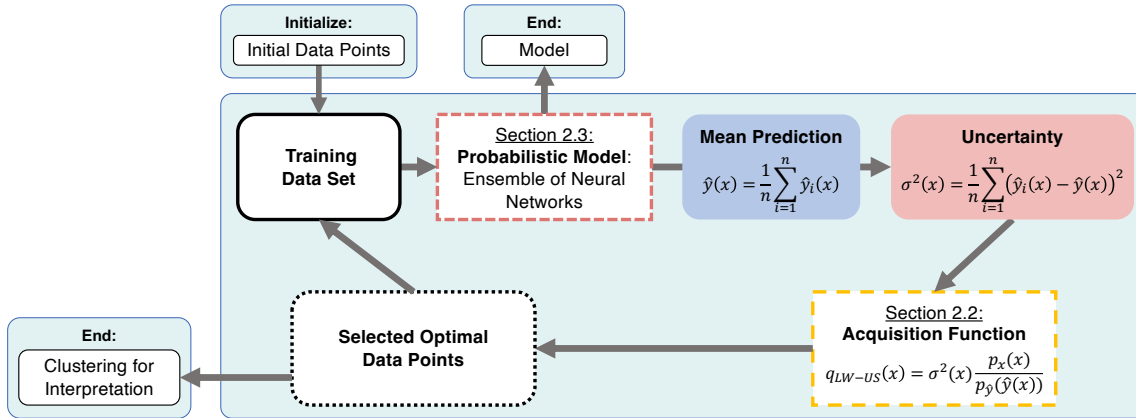


Figure 1. Active Data Selection Algorithm. Points are sequentially selected according to the acquisition function and added to the training set to improve model prediction. The output of the algorithm is a model that has been trained on an optimal subset of the data with respect to predicting the statistics of extreme events.

99 **2.2. Acquisition Function: Likelihood-Weighted Uncertainty Sampling.** The key ele-
 100 ment of the active data selection algorithm is the acquisition function which selects the most
 101 valuable points for model training. The choice of the acquisition function can depend on
 102 the nature of the system (e.g. nonlinear, high-dimensional, etc.), the goal of the modeling
 103 problem (e.g. optimization, extreme event identification, etc.), and many other constraints
 104 (e.g. computational costs, etc.). In general, the acquisition function should strike a balance
 105 between exploration and exploitation. In the most basic case of uncertainty sampling (US),

106 the acquisition function is the epistemic variance.

$$107 \quad (2.1) \quad q_{\text{US}}(\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2(\mathbf{X})$$

108 A modified version of uncertainty sampling (input-weighted) prioritizes points that have a
109 higher chance of occurring by multiplying the epistemic variance by the probability of the
110 input points.

$$111 \quad (2.2) \quad q_{\text{US}}(\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2(\mathbf{X})p_x(\mathbf{X})$$

112 However, input-weighted criteria do not take into account the expected output and therefore
113 do not account for the importance of extreme events. Here we choose to use a likelihood-
114 weighted uncertainty sampling (LW-US) criterion to sequentially select optimal training points
115 and quantify the value of points in the data set. The key idea behind the LW-US acquisition
116 function is to pick input points that are likely to occur and reduce uncertainty, but also to
117 take into account points that are likely to lead to extreme outputs. Acquisition functions that
118 take into consideration the output were first introduced in [32] and further improved in [47]
119 for applications to problems with high dimensional input spaces. In the original formulation,
120 the function considers the integrated absolute difference between the log of the distribution
121 of the prediction y_0 and the log of the distribution of a perturbed prediction y_+ made from a
122 model perturbed in the direction of most uncertainty.

$$123 \quad (2.3) \quad D_{\text{Log}^1}(y||y_0; h) = \int_{S_y} |\log p_{y_+}(y) - \log p_{y_0}(y)| dy$$

124 For a bounded domain S_y and a candidate sample point h , this acquisition function asymp-
125 totically converges to the desired output statistics, even in regions with low probability of
126 occurrence [49]. However, the function is expensive to compute, and its lack of smooth gra-
127 dients makes it unsuitable for gradient-based optimization. Instead, we use an upper bound
128 (derived in [47]), which has a lower cost of computation and is analytically differentiable

$$129 \quad (2.4) \quad q_{\text{LW-US}}(\mathbf{X}) = \int_{S_x} \sigma^2(\mathbf{X}) \frac{p_x(\mathbf{X})}{p_y(y(\mathbf{X}))}$$

130 In this modified version of the LW-US acquisition function, the epistemic variance $\sigma^2(\mathbf{X})$ is
131 multiplied by the probability of the input points $p_x(\mathbf{X})$ and divided by the probability of the
132 output points $p_y(y(\mathbf{X}))$ to prioritize candidate points that have the potential to reduce the
133 model uncertainty, have a high chance of occurring, and most importantly, result in extreme
134 events. Overall, these points are better able to represent of the tails of the distribution.
135 The criterion can also serve as a “scoring” function because it gives priority to data points
136 with the highest “value” with respect to improving the statistics of a specific observable (e.g.
137 minimizing the error in the probability density function).

138 We measure success in terms of minimizing the error in the tails of the PDF, and we
139 benchmark our method against a Monte Carlo (MC) acquisition function which selects points
140 at random from the available candidate training points. MC is a meaningful benchmark
141 because it is standard practice in many ML applications to randomly select a subset of data

142 for training and validation. A useful loss function to evaluate the quality of our model is the
 143 log-PDF error (LPE) which measures the integrated difference between the log of the true
 144 PDF obtained from the true y and the log of the estimated PDF obtained from the prediction
 145 \hat{y} .

$$146 \quad (2.5) \quad \text{LPE} = \int |\log p_y(y) - \log p_{\hat{y}}(\hat{y})| dy$$

147 This loss function is similar to the Kullback–Leibler divergence, but it more heavily penal-
 148 izes errors in the tails of the distribution because the metric is not weighted by the output
 149 distribution $p_y(y)$.

150 **2.3. Probabilistic Model: Ensemble of Neural Networks.** The acquisition function re-
 151 quires an estimate for the epistemic uncertainty of the model. In previous works, traditional
 152 Bayesian supervised learning methods such as Bayesian regression or Gaussian process re-
 153 gression have been used to quantify uncertainty for optimal sampling [47, 7, 6, 58]. However,
 154 these methods are limited: Bayesian regression can fail when modeling nonlinear systems while
 155 Gaussian process regression suffers from performance issues on high dimensional or large data
 156 sets. NN-based ML architectures that can quantify uncertainty are able to overcome these
 157 problems [34, 22, 19, 62, 37, 63, 26]. We will focus on ensembles of neural networks (E-NN)
 158 and dropout neural networks (D-NN), but other methods to create a heuristic measure for
 159 uncertainty are summarized in [1]. In the E-NN, multiple models with the same architecture
 160 and hyperparameters are trained with the same training data sets but with different random
 161 weight initialization. The resulting prediction \hat{y} is the mean of the n NN predictions \hat{y}_i

$$162 \quad (2.6) \quad \hat{y}(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{y}_i(\mathbf{X})$$

163 where \hat{y}_i is the prediction of the i^{th} NN of the ensemble. The model uncertainty can be
 164 quantified via the variance of the predictions

$$165 \quad (2.7) \quad \sigma^2(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i(\mathbf{X}) - \hat{y}(\mathbf{X}))^2$$

166 resulting in a probabilistic prediction. In a D-NN, only one model is trained, but the model
 167 includes dropout layers [55]. During the prediction step, multiple predictions are made with
 168 different randomly dropped nodes [16]. Again, the resulting prediction is the mean of all the
 169 predictions, and the variance of the predictions can be used to create a probabilistic prediction.
 170 The dropout layers require additional training time, but only one model is trained, so the
 171 overall computation time is lower for the D-NN.

172 **2.4. Application to Functional Inputs: Dimensionality Reduction.** While the framework
 173 is versatile, we explain how to apply it to an output which depends on a functional — a map-
 174 ping from a (possibly infinite-dimensional) space to a real number. In the MMT application
 175 in Section 3, the functional maps the high-dimensional initial conditions to the maximum
 176 wave amplitude reached over the given time horizon. In the climate modeling application in

177 Section 4, the functional maps the high-dimensional field consisting of temperature, humidity,
 178 and wind speed fields over the globe to a target quantity of interest, such as, for example,
 179 temperature at one spatial location. The challenge of using likelihood-weighted AS for a func-
 180 tional with a complicated input is that there may not be a straightforward or cost-effective
 181 way to compute $p_x(\mathbf{X})$.

182 **2.4.1. Weighted Principal Component Analysis.** In the applications we consider, the
 183 functional inputs are infinite or high-dimensional, so we first reduce the dimensionality by
 184 performing weighted principal component analysis (PCA). The spatial weights $w(\xi)$ depend
 185 on the problem of interest. For MMT, the weight is trivial $w(\xi) = 1$, so we perform standard
 186 principal component analysis to represent the inputs – the initial conditions. For the debiasing
 187 operator, we take into account the spherical geometry of the Earth: in the spherical coordinate
 188 system, the spatial coordinate ξ represents the polar coordinate $\theta \in (-90^\circ, 90^\circ)$ and azimuthal
 189 coordinate $\phi \in (0^\circ, 360^\circ)$. At each spatial point ξ , we define the weight $w(\xi) = w(\theta, \phi) =$
 190 $\sqrt{\sin\left(\frac{90^\circ - \theta}{180^\circ}\pi\right)}$.

191 In the general case, we start with the vector space $\mathbf{x}(\xi, t)$ with temporal mean $\bar{\mathbf{x}}(\xi)$ where
 192 ξ is the spatial coordinate. We aim to represent the vector space with an optimal set of N
 193 spatial modes (basis functions of dimension N) $\nu_j(\xi)$ with N corresponding time-dependent
 194 expansion coefficients $\alpha_j(t)$ (dimension n_t).

$$195 \quad (2.8) \quad \mathbf{z}(t, \xi) \triangleq \mathbf{x}(t, \xi) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}(\xi) = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j(t) \nu_j(\xi)$$

196 We define the weighted inner product between two fields, $\mathbf{x}_1(\xi)$ and $\mathbf{x}_2(\xi)$

$$197 \quad (2.9) \quad \langle \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \rangle_w \triangleq \int_{\xi} w^2(\xi) \mathbf{x}_1(\xi) \mathbf{x}_2(\xi) d\xi$$

198 As an example, we show the resulting discretization for the spherical coordinate

$$199 \quad (2.10) \quad \langle \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \rangle_w \simeq \sum_{\xi_{ij}} w^2(\xi_{ij}) \mathbf{x}_1(\xi_{ij}) \mathbf{x}_2(\xi_{ij}) \delta\theta \delta\phi, \text{ where, } \xi_{ij} = (\theta_i, \phi_j).$$

200 We then define the spatial covariance by averaging over time

$$201 \quad (2.11) \quad \mathbf{R}(\xi_1, \xi_2) \triangleq \frac{1}{T} \int_t (\mathbf{x}(t, \xi_1) - \bar{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{x}(t, \xi_2) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}) dt \simeq \frac{1}{n_t} \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{Z}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N},$$

202 where \mathbf{Z} is the concatenated matrix in discrete space time:

$$203 \quad (2.12) \quad \mathbf{Z} = [\mathbf{z}(t_1) \ \mathbf{z}(t_2) \ \dots \ \mathbf{z}(t_{n_t})] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n_t}$$

204 Next, we set up the eigenvalue problem

$$205 \quad (2.13) \quad \langle \mathbf{R}(\cdot, \xi), \psi_j(\cdot) \rangle_w = \lambda_j \psi_j(\xi), \psi_j \in \mathbb{R}^N, \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_N \geq 0$$

206 Finally, we obtain the quantity of interest (observable), the time-dependent PCA coefficient

$$207 \quad (2.14) \quad y = \alpha_j(t) = \langle \mathbf{z}(t, \cdot), \psi_j(\cdot) \rangle_w$$

208 If the target quantity is the first PCA coefficient, we use ψ_1 . However, we can adjust the mode
 209 ψ to focus on other quantities, such as, for example, a specific spatial location. The analysis
 210 works for any target quantity of interest that can be described as a functional $\langle \mathbf{z}(t, \cdot), \cdot \rangle$.

211 **2.4.2. Evaluation of the Acquisition Function for Functional Inputs.** We now explain
 212 the process of computing the acquisition function in the case of applying the method to a
 213 system with a functional input. We highlight that in many problems, the test set (denoted
 214 TS) is possibly different from the training set (denoted TR), which means that the target
 215 quantity of interest can be generated with input points that are different from the input
 216 points in the training set. The likelihood-weighted acquisition function depends on both an
 217 input \mathbf{X} and the predicted \hat{y} , and it is made up of i) the uncertainty $\sigma^2(\mathbf{X})$, ii) the weight
 218 from the inputs $p_x(\mathbf{X})$, and iii) the weight from the outputs $p_{\hat{y}}(\hat{y}(\mathbf{X}))$.

$$219 \quad (2.15) \quad q_{\text{LW-US}}(\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2(\mathbf{X}) \frac{p_x(\mathbf{X})}{p_{\hat{y}}(\hat{y}(\mathbf{X}))}$$

220 We first define some relevant quantities for our problem set up. We start with a training
 221 set \mathcal{D}^{TR} consisting of candidate samples \mathcal{X} and a test set \mathcal{D}^{TS} consisting of the points at which
 222 we wish to evaluate the model. The set $\mathcal{U} = [\mathcal{X}_1 \dots \mathcal{X}_p]$ consists of the p points that were
 223 selected from all candidate points to train the model. The overall goal is to find which samples
 224 \mathcal{X} from \mathcal{D}^{TR} we should add to \mathcal{U} to improve the prediction of the target output y . At each
 225 iteration of the algorithm, we train a model $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}$ trained with the selected samples \mathcal{U} , a subset
 226 of \mathcal{D}^{TR} . We use $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}$ to make two sets of predictions: i) predictions for the candidate training
 227 points $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}_{\text{tr}} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{X})$ and ii) predictions for the test points $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}_{\text{ts}} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{D}^{\text{TS}})$. Then, we use
 228 PCA to evaluate the quantities of interest \hat{y}_{tr} and \hat{y}_{ts} which are the mean of the predictions
 229 of all n members in the NN ensemble

$$230 \quad (2.16) \quad \hat{y}_{\text{tr}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \hat{\mathcal{Y}}_{\text{tr}}^j, \psi \rangle_w, \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{y}_{\text{ts}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \hat{\mathcal{Y}}_{\text{ts}}^j, \psi \rangle_w$$

231 We obtain an estimate for the uncertainty of the predictions made with the candidate
 232 training points $\sigma^2(\hat{y}_{\text{tr}}(\mathcal{X}))$ from the model $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}$. The uncertainty is the variance of the pre-
 233 dictions made by each member $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}^j$ of the ensemble.

$$234 \quad (2.17) \quad \sigma^2(\mathcal{X}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\hat{y}_{\text{tr}}^j(\mathcal{X}) - \hat{y}_{\text{tr}}(\mathcal{X}) \right)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\langle \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}^j(\mathcal{X}), \psi \rangle_w - \overline{\langle \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{X}), \psi \rangle_w} \right)^2$$

235 The distribution of the input points $p_{\mathcal{X}}$ is approximated by the distribution of the first
 236 k PCA coefficients of the input data set \mathcal{X} where k is selected according to the decay of the
 237 eigenvalues. We refer to the truncated version of \mathcal{X} as \mathbf{x} , and we estimate its kernel density
 238 estimate (KDE) $p_{\mathbf{x}}$ using the python function FFTKDE from the package KDEpy.

$$239 \quad (2.18) \quad p_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{X}) \approx p_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{x} = \langle \mathcal{X}, \{\psi\}_{i=1}^k \rangle_w$$

240 The single time distribution $p_{\hat{y}_{\text{ts}}}$ is estimated with the predictions \hat{y}_{ts} . Like $p_{\mathcal{X}}$, $p_{\hat{y}_{\text{ts}}}$ is also
 241 computed with KDEpy. We then compute the weight for the output, by evaluating $p_{\hat{y}_{\text{ts}}}$ at the
 242 predictions made from the candidate training points $\hat{y}_{\text{tr}}(\mathcal{X})$.

$$243 \quad (2.19) \quad p_{\hat{y}_{\text{ts}}}(\hat{y}_{\text{tr}}(\mathcal{X})) = p_{\hat{y}_{\text{ts}}}(\langle \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{X}), \psi \rangle_w)$$

244 In the end, the acquisition function for the candidate training points \mathcal{X} is computed using all
 245 of the quantities above

$$246 \quad (2.20) \quad q_{\text{LW-US}}(\mathcal{X}) = \sigma^2(\mathcal{X}) \frac{p_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{X})}{p_{\hat{y}_{\text{ts}}}(\hat{y}_{\text{tr}}(\mathcal{X}))}$$

247 As a result, we can evaluate the acquisition function at a low cost for high-dimensional func-
 248 tional inputs \mathcal{X} .

249 **3. Application to the Majda-McLaughlin-Tabak (MMT) Model.**

250 **3.1. MMT System.** We first apply the described method to the MMT model, a one-
 251 dimensional dispersive nonlinear wave model that, given certain parameters, is useful for
 252 studying turbulence and rogue waves [29]. More details on the overall system can be found in
 253 [8, 59, 38, 12, 60]. The system is described by the governing equation

$$254 \quad (3.1) \quad iu_t = |\partial_x|^\alpha u + \lambda |\partial_x|^{-\beta/4} \left(\left| |\partial_x|^{-\beta/4} u \right|^2 |\partial_x|^{-\beta/4} u \right) + iDu$$

255 where the output u is a complex scalar representing the wave amplitude, α and β are param-
 256 eters of the system, and D is a selective Laplacian which eliminates high wave numbers. For
 257 $\alpha = 1/2$ and $\beta = 0$, the equation can be rewritten in the wave number space with forcing $f(k)$
 258

$$259 \quad (3.2) \quad \hat{u}(k)_t = -i|k|^{1/2} \hat{u}(k) - i\lambda |\hat{u}(k)|^2 \hat{u}(k) + \widehat{D}u(k) + f(k)$$

260 where the selective Laplacian is defined as

$$261 \quad (3.3) \quad \widehat{D}u(k) = \begin{cases} -(|k| - k^*)^2 \hat{u}(k) & \text{if } |k| > k^* \\ 0 & \text{if } |k| \leq k^* \end{cases}$$

262 This operator $\widehat{D}u(k)$ prevents wave numbers above a threshold k^* : for small wave amplitudes,
 263 the output PDF appears to be Gaussian, but for large wave amplitudes, the output PDF is
 264 very heavy-tailed. The stochastic complex initial conditions $u(x, t = 0)$, which are Gaussian,
 265 are obtained from the covariance

$$266 \quad (3.4) \quad k(x, x') = \sigma_u^2 \exp(i2 \sin^2(\pi(x - x'))) \exp\left(-\frac{2 \sin^2(\pi(x - x'))}{l_u^2}\right)$$

267 with $\sigma_u = 1$ and $l_u = 0.35$, and they are reduced to $2m$ dimensions, m real and m imaginary,
 268 using the Karhunen-Loeve (KL) expansion,

$$269 \quad (3.5) \quad u(x, t = 0) \approx \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_j \sqrt{\lambda_j} \phi_j(x), \quad \forall x \in [0, 1)$$

270 which transforms the original high-dimensional data into a set of orthogonal components. The
 271 KL expansion is a dimensionality reduction method that maximizes the amount of retained
 272 information by only using the most important features of the data. The grid is periodic over

273 $[0, 1)$ and discretized into 512 points, m is set to 4, the timestep is $dt = 0.001$, the parameters
 274 of the equation are $\lambda = -0.5$ and $k^* = 20$, and there is no forcing, $f(k) = 0$. As in [35]
 275 and [19], we seek to train a standard fully-connected NN (FC-NN) to predict the maximum
 276 future wave amplitude over a given time horizon, an extreme event, as a function of the $2m$
 277 stochastic initial conditions $\vec{\alpha}$

$$278 \quad (3.6) \quad y(\vec{\alpha}) = \|\text{Re}(u(x, T = 50; \vec{\alpha}))\|$$

279 **3.2. MMT Data Sets.** To better mimic the characteristics of data sets that are found in
 280 the real world, we make use of two data sets: points obtained from inputs that follow a Gauss-
 281 ian distribution, \mathcal{D}_{p_X} , and points obtained with Latin hypercube sampling, \mathcal{D}_{LHS} . For Monte
 282 Carlo sampling, we select candidate training points from \mathcal{D}_{p_X} because this distribution more
 283 closely resembles naturally-occurring data sets. As a result, we compare our proposed method
 284 to a more rigorous benchmark (the Monte Carlo sampling performs worse when applied to
 285 points from \mathcal{D}_{LHS}). For US/LW-US sampling, we select candidate training points from \mathcal{D}_{LHS}
 286 because this data set more completely represents all the achievable values, including the tails
 287 of the distribution. We evaluate the error metrics on the test set \mathcal{D}_{LHS} to measure the ability
 288 of the models to capture the tails of the distribution.

289 **3.3. MMT Machine Learning Architecture and Active Learning Hyperparameters.** We
 290 test both the E-NN and the D-NN described in Section 2.3. For the E-NN, we use an ensemble
 291 of size 2, and for the D-NN, we use an ensemble of size 5. Even though the size of the D-NN
 292 ensemble is higher, the overall process takes less time because only one model is trained. From
 293 the results of a simple hyperparameter grid search, we set the number of layers to eight, the
 294 number of neurons to 250, the activation to ReLU, the number of epochs to 3000, and the
 295 batch size to the floor of half the number of points in the training set. For the D-NN, we set
 296 the dropout rate to 50%, a standard choice in many ML papers. The batch size is the only
 297 hyperparameter that changes at each iteration, and we choose to update the batch size at
 298 each iteration to keep the training error within a reasonable range given a growing data set
 299 size and a constant number of epochs. We initialize the algorithm with a training set of 10
 300 randomly chosen points. At each iteration, we add a batch of 10 points to the training set
 301 (points that correspond to the maximum value of the acquisition function), and we re-initiate
 302 the model to avoid getting stuck in any bad local minima found during early iterations.

303 **3.4. MMT Results.** The results obtained from carrying out the algorithm for 150 itera-
 304 tions (up to 1500 points — 1.5% of the full data set) for randomly chosen points (MC), input-
 305 weighted uncertainty sampling (US), and likelihood-weighted uncertainty sampling (LW-US)
 306 are shown in Figure 2. Because we compute the mean squared error (MSE) with the Latin
 307 hypercube sampling data set \mathcal{D}_{LHS} , we weight the error by the input distribution as follows

$$308 \quad (3.7) \quad \text{MSE} = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i(\vec{\alpha}_i))^2 p_X(\vec{\alpha}_i)$$

309 The LW-US outperforms MC and US with respect to minimizing the error in the tail of the
 310 PDF, and this is seen again in Figure 3. The E-NN outperforms the D-NN, but the D-NN
 311 training is faster, making it a useful architecture for more computationally expensive problems.

312

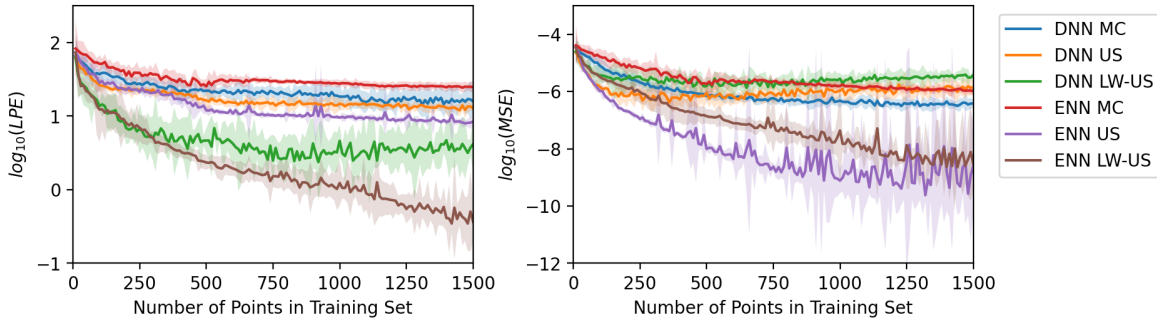


Figure 2. Error Convergence Curves of the MMT Predictions. The log of the LPE error (left) and log of the MSE (right) are plotted as a function of the number of points in the training set for both the E-NN and D-NN implementations of the MC, US, and LW-US acquisition functions. LW-US (both E-NN and D-NN) significantly outperforms the other acquisition functions with respect to LPE. E-NN US initially achieves a better MSE, but E-NN LW-US eventually achieves a similar error.

313 **3.5. Interpreting the Selected Points: Multidimensional Scaling.** To gain insights into
 314 the behavior of the LW-US active search algorithm, we visualize the eight-dimensional selected
 315 input points with multidimensional scaling (MDS). MDS projects high-dimensional points to
 316 a two-dimensional subspace with the requirement that a chosen distance metric be preserved
 317 between points — points that are more spread apart in the original space must be spread apart
 318 in the lower-dimensional space, and vice versa. As is typically done, we use the Euclidian
 319 distance as the distance metric. The two-dimensional projection shown in Figure 3 reveals
 320 that points chosen by the LW-US acquisition function are farther apart than points chosen by
 321 other acquisition functions. The results of MDS suggest that drawing points that are more
 322 “spread out” with respect to each other can be helpful for predicting extreme events.

323 **4. Application to Debiasing Operator for Coarse-Resolution Climate Model Outputs.**
 324 We now show how likelihood-weighted active selection can be used to speed up the training
 325 of ML climate models while improving the prediction of extreme weather events. We focus on
 326 the model in [3] which learns a debiasing operator that maps trajectories from a free-running
 327 coarse-resolution climate simulation to trajectories from a high-resolution fully-resolved cli-
 328 mate reanalysis data set [3, 61, 9]. The advantage of this model is that the operator can be
 329 used to correct less computationally expensive low-resolution climate simulations. While we
 330 focus on this one model, the algorithm is model agnostic and can be used for any ML-based
 331 climate model for which the set of possible training points is very large. In addition to re-
 332 ducing computational time and costs, the likelihood-weighted criterion is able to determine
 333 which points are most relevant to the dynamics of target extreme weather events.

334 **4.1. Climate Data Sets.** The coarse-resolution simulations are obtained from version 2
 335 of the Energy Exascale System Model (E3SM) Atmosphere Model (EAMv2) [13, 17, 56]. The
 336 data set consists of temperature (T), specific humidity (Q), zonal velocity (U), and meridional
 337 velocity (V) at a 1° (approximately 110km) resolution, and we only consider the vertical layer
 338 closest to the surface of the Earth. The high-resolution target data set is the European Centre

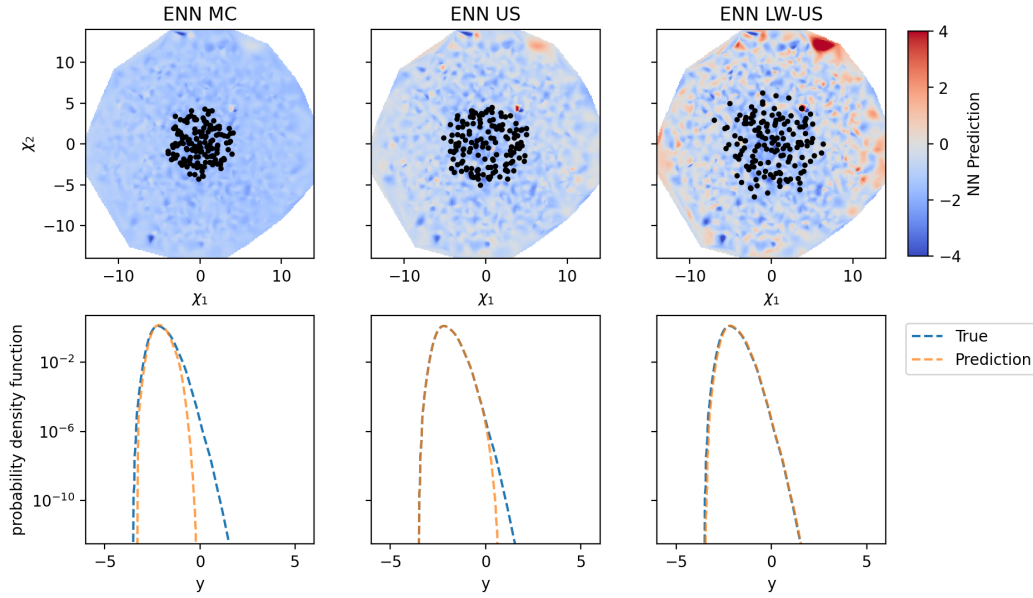


Figure 3. Visualization of Selected MMT Input Points. In the top row, the 8D space is projected to a 2D space with multi-dimensional scaling. Each plot shows the spread of the optimally selected points in black over the prediction made from the neural network trained after 150 iterations with training data obtained from MC, US, and LW-US (left to right). The rightmost plot suggests that points chosen by LW-US are more spread out. In the bottom row, the predicted PDF is compared to the true PDF after 150 iterations for MC, US, and LW-US, and LW-US best matches the tail of the distribution.

339 for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) Reanalysis version 5 (ERA5) [20]. ERA5
 340 has a resolution of 0.25° (approximately 31km), but it is projected onto the E3SM grid for the
 341 purpose of this model. For all data sets, we use 10 years of data from 2007 to 2017, sampled
 342 8 times per day.

343 During the training phase, the output is the fine-scale reanalysis data set (denoted ERA5),
 344 and the input is the free-running data set from the coarse-scale climate solver that has been
 345 nudged (denoted NUDG) to match the output. We will not go into the details of the nudg-
 346 ing procedure, but it is comprehensively described in [3]. During the testing phase, we use
 347 the trained model to predict high-resolution field given the *un-nudged* free-running coarse-
 348 resolution climate simulation (denoted CR for coarse-resolution). Each data set ($\mathcal{D}^{\text{ERA5}}$,
 349 $\mathcal{D}^{\text{NUDG}}$, and \mathcal{D}^{CR}) is a field over space ξ and time t . Figure 4 shows the mean of the reference
 350 reanalysis data set and the mean of the model output given the test data CR as input.

351 **4.2. Machine Learning Architecture and Active Learning Hyperparameters.** The NN
 352 architecture, in Figure 5, is an encoder-decoder consisting of 2D convolutional layers. The
 353 globe is divided into 25 sections (5×5 grid), the sections are padded to satisfy spherical
 354 periodicity (the Earth is a globe), and the encoding convolutions are applied to each section
 355 independently. The encoder is made up of one layer to split the globe, one layer to spherically
 356 pad the sections, three convolutional layers applied to each section to capture anisotropic local
 357 features, one layer to merge the section. Next, the decoder applies “deconvolutional” layers

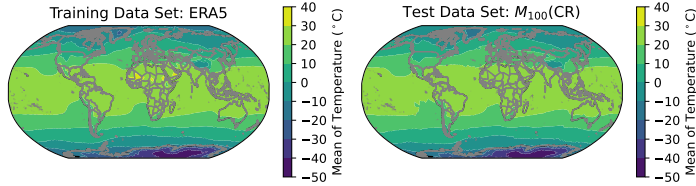


Figure 4. *Mean of ERA5 and Mean of $\mathcal{M}_{100}(\text{CR})$ for temperature.* During the training phase, the nudged data set is mapped to the ERA5 data set. During the testing phase, the coarse-resolution (CR) data set is provided as input to the trained model.

358 (or transpose convolutional layers) to map the latent space back to the desired dimension.
 359 Finally, the 25 sections are combined to recreate the full field. The batch size is set to 8, and
 360 the number of epochs is set to 150, as was done in [3]. The loss function is the MSE for which
 361 spatial points are weighted by latitude θ : $w(\theta) = \sqrt{\sin\left(\frac{90^\circ - \theta}{180^\circ} \pi\right)}$.

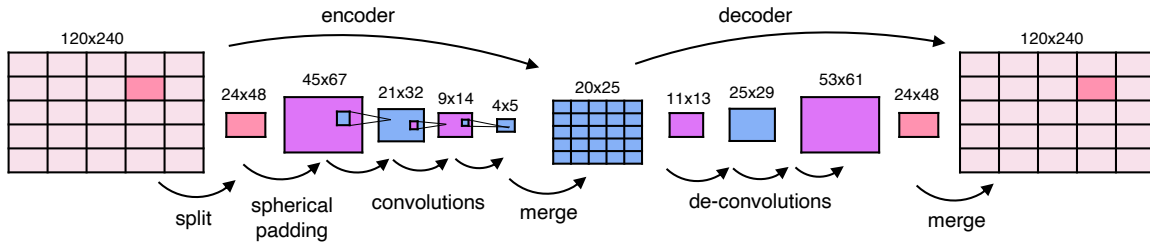


Figure 5. *Climate Debiasing Operator Neural Network Architecture.* The NN architecture splits the Earth into sections which are individually passed through convolutional encoder-decoder layers.

362 The model $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}$ is trained to map samples \mathcal{U} from $\mathcal{D}^{\text{NUDG}}$ to the output $\mathcal{D}^{\text{ERA5}}$. During
 363 the testing phase, the input of the model is \mathcal{D}^{CR} , and the resulting functional output is the
 364 field $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{D}^{\text{CR}})$. To evaluate the framework, we generate “ground truth” data by training
 365 a model with 100% of the samples in $\mathcal{D}^{\text{NUDG}}$ and $\mathcal{D}^{\text{ERA5}}$: we call this model \mathcal{M}_{100} . Then,
 366 we use the model \mathcal{M}_{100} to make a prediction from the un-nudged coarse resolution data set
 367 \mathcal{D}^{CR} : we call this prediction $\mathcal{M}_{100}(\mathcal{D}^{\text{CR}})$. At each iteration, we compute error metrics for
 368 $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathcal{D}^{\text{CR}})$ with respect to $\mathcal{M}_{100}(\mathcal{D}^{\text{CR}})$.

369 The probabilistic model is an E-NN of size two, a choice that was shown to be preferable
 370 in [35]. The prediction is the mean of the outputs of each member of the ensemble, and the
 371 uncertainty is their variance. We initialize the algorithm with a training set of ten randomly
 372 chosen points, and at each iteration, we add ten points to the training set (points that corre-
 373 spond to the maximum value of the acquisition function). For the MC case, we add twenty
 374 random points at each iteration because future iterations do not depend on previous iterations.
 375 There are 29,200 (10 years \times 365 days \times 8 measurements per day) possible samples that can
 376 be chosen by the acquisition function, but we only evaluate the method up to 750 points in
 377 the training set (2.6% of all data). For each test case, we perform five or six experiments so

378 that we can take the average MSE and LPE over the different experiments.

379 **4.3. Results.** For the climate application, we test the method on three cases: i) the first
 380 PCA coefficient for temperature over the entire globe (Figure 6), ii) temperature in Paris
 381 (Figure 9), and iii) specific humidity in Miami (Figure 12). These last two locations were
 382 chosen randomly from a list of cities that have experienced extreme heat waves (in the case
 383 of temperature) or extreme floods (in the case of specific humidity) in the last few decades.

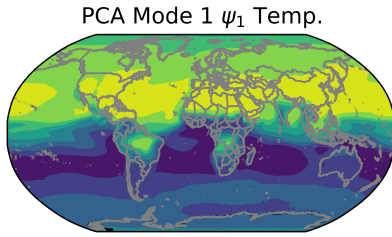


Figure 6. First weighted PCA mode of the global temperature field.

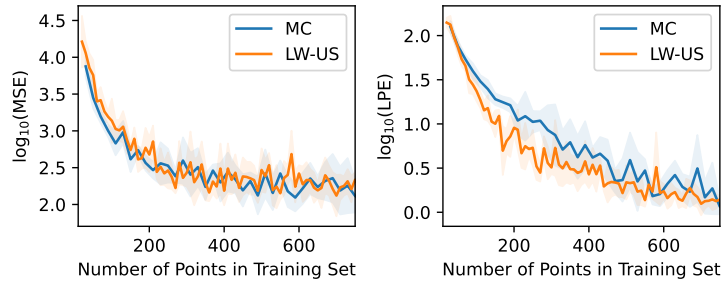


Figure 7. The log of the MSE and LPE are shown for MC and LW-US with respect to predicting the first PCA coefficient for temperature given a global model.

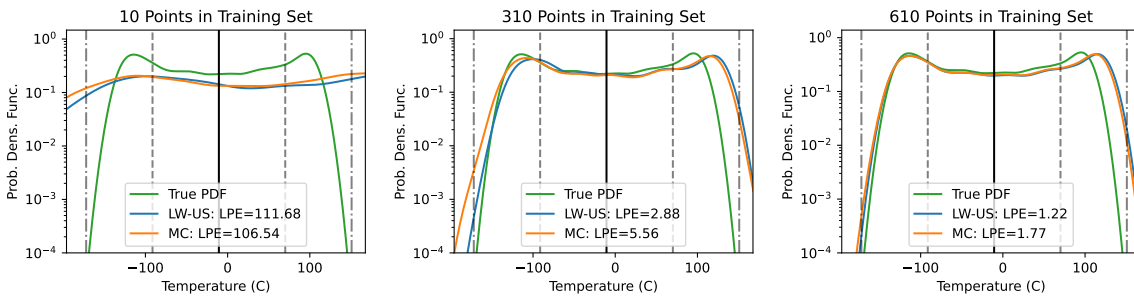


Figure 8. The true PDF of the first PCA coefficient for temperature is compared to the PDF obtained from predictions made with MC and LW-US. The black vertical line denotes the mean of the true distribution, and the dashed lines denote the 1σ and 2σ . LW-US is able to better match the left tail of the true PDF.

384 Looking at the LPE as a function of number of points in the training set in Figures 7, 10,
 385 and 13, we see that LW-US outperforms MC in all cases. In some cases, the improvement
 386 is more significant (e.g. temperature in Paris Figure 10). The improvement obtained from
 387 using LW-US can also be seen in the plots of the PDF (Figures 8, 11, and 14)— LW-US does
 388 a better job at matching the tails of the distribution. We also observe that the improvement
 389 obtained from using LW-US occurs at different number of iterations for different test cases. In
 390 the case of MSE, the error is similar for cases involving temperature (Figures 7 and 10), but
 391 worse for cases involving humidity (Figure 13). When using LW-US to improve the prediction
 392 of temperature, there are no losses in the MSE and great improvement in the LPE. We note
 393 that as the number of data points increase, the two methods give very similar results, as
 394 expected.

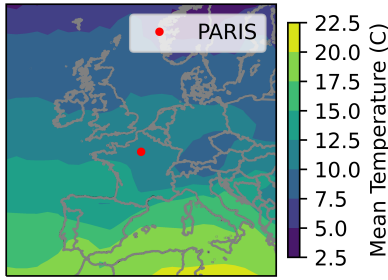


Figure 9. Mean temperature in the region surrounding Paris, France.

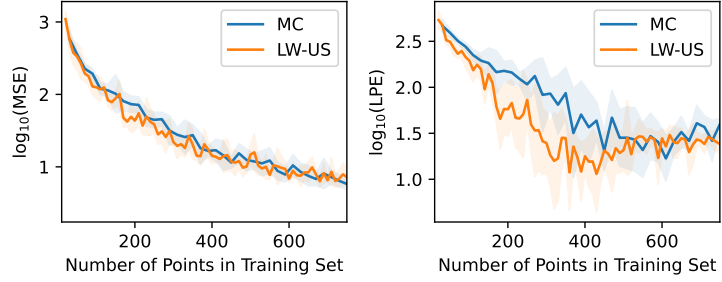


Figure 10. The log of the MSE and LPE are shown for MC and LW-US with respect to predicting the temperature in Paris given a global model.

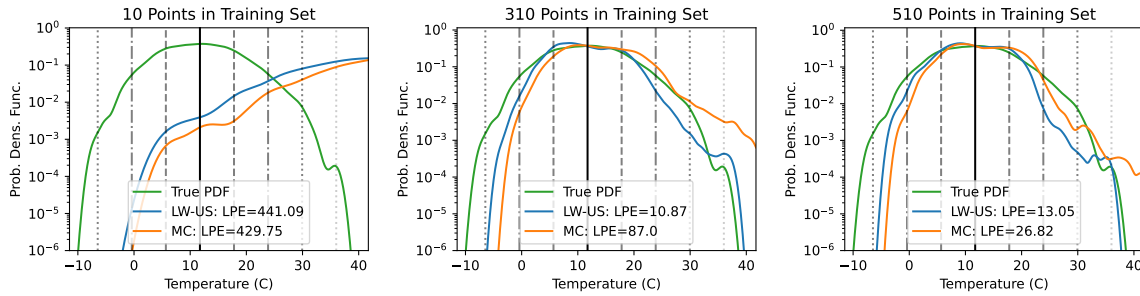


Figure 11. The true PDF of the temperature in Paris is compared to the PDF obtained from predictions made with MC and LW-US. The black vertical line denotes the mean of the true distribution, and the dashed lines denote the 1σ , 2σ , 3σ , and 4σ . LW-US is able to better match the tails of the true PDF with just 310 points.

395 **4.4. Interpreting the most informative data points: Clustering.** Upon selecting the
 396 training points, the subsequent goal is to determine if the points that were chosen by the
 397 algorithm have any relevant physical meaning. For example, scientists could be interesting in
 398 determining if these points are related to important system dynamics, if they can be attributed
 399 to physical phenomena (e.g. turbulence, atmospheric rivers, tropical cyclones, etc.), or if their
 400 physical interpretation depends on the target’s predicted output. Understanding why the
 401 optimal points were selected also reduces some of the “black box” nature of the ML-based
 402 algorithm.

403 We present a clustering framework to mechanistically identify and define the dynamics of
 404 these points of interest. Clustering, a form of reduced-order modeling in which observations
 405 are clustered around centroids, has been used for climate data sets in other applications [27].
 406 In the case of a dynamic system like the climate, the observations (or samples) are snapshots
 407 in time of the system. We select cluster centroids from the entire reference data set of PCA
 408 time coefficients $\alpha_j(t) = \langle \mathcal{D}^{\text{ERA5}}, \psi_j^{\text{ERA5}} \rangle_w$ using the standard k -means algorithm with k -
 409 means++ for seed initialization. We set the number of clusters to six for all cases. The
 410 resulting cluster centroids are projected back onto the PCA modes to visualize the spatial

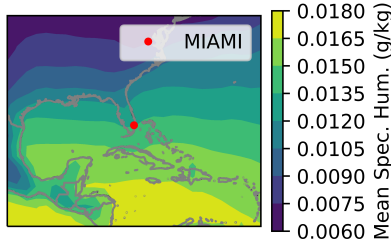


Figure 12. Mean specific humidity in the region surrounding Miami, USA.

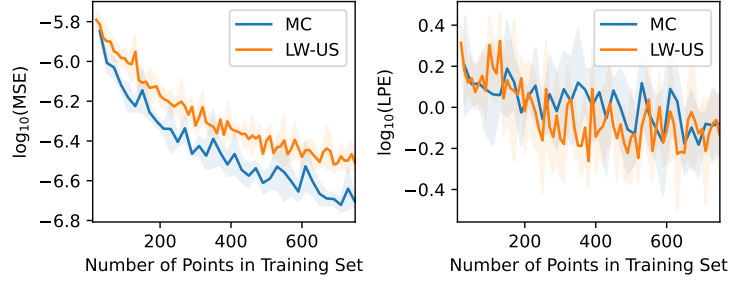


Figure 13. The log of the MSE and LPE are shown for MC and LW-US with respect to predicting the specific humidity in Miami given a global model. LW-US is better for minimizing LPE, but worse for minimizing MSE in the case of specific humidity.

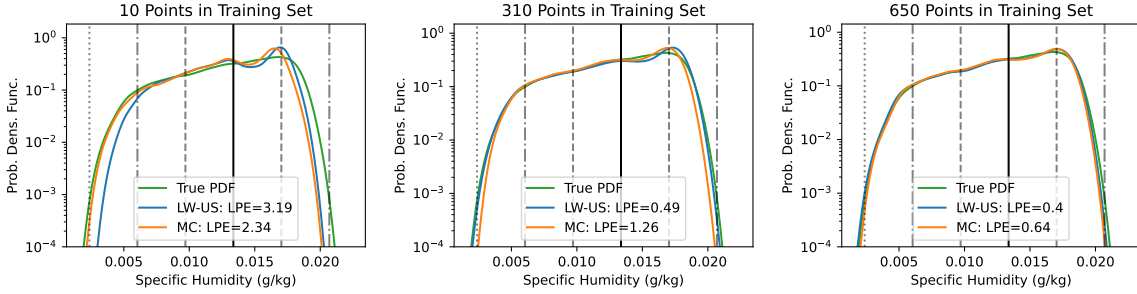


Figure 14. The true PDF of the specific humidity in Miami is compared to the PDF obtained from predictions made with MC and LW-US. The black vertical line denotes the mean of the true distribution, and the dashed lines denote the 1σ and 2σ . LW-US is able to better match the tails of the true PDF.

411 patterns. These cluster centroids are then used to predict the cluster labels of the new subset
 412 of the data chosen by the algorithm. This step assigns the optimal points to relevant cluster
 413 centers which allows us to determine if the points chosen by the algorithm are associated with
 414 noteworthy dynamical phenomena. The ultimate goal is to interpret the physical meaning of
 415 the points that were chosen for training.

416 In Figures 15 and 16, the six clusters are mapped in order of most occurring in the whole
 417 data set (Cluster #1) to least occurring in the whole data set (Cluster #6). For temperature
 418 in Paris (Figure 15), we found that points belonging to Cluster #6 are more relevant to the
 419 dynamics of extreme weather events (Figure 15). Upon further examination, the shape of
 420 Cluster #6 suggests a potential heat dome over Paris and the surrounding region [23]. By
 421 using clustering, we are able to pick out extreme weather events using the active search as
 422 an unsupervised algorithm. For specific humidity in Miami (Figure 16), we observe a similar
 423 behavior: around 30% of the optimal points belong to Cluster #1 which resembles standard
 424 zonal flow while around 50% of the optimal points belong to Cluster #6 which resembles a
 425 blocking pattern. We also observe that only Clusters #1 and #6 are well-represented in the
 426 optimal points which might provide an explanation as to why the MSE from LW-US is higher

427 for humidity in Miami.

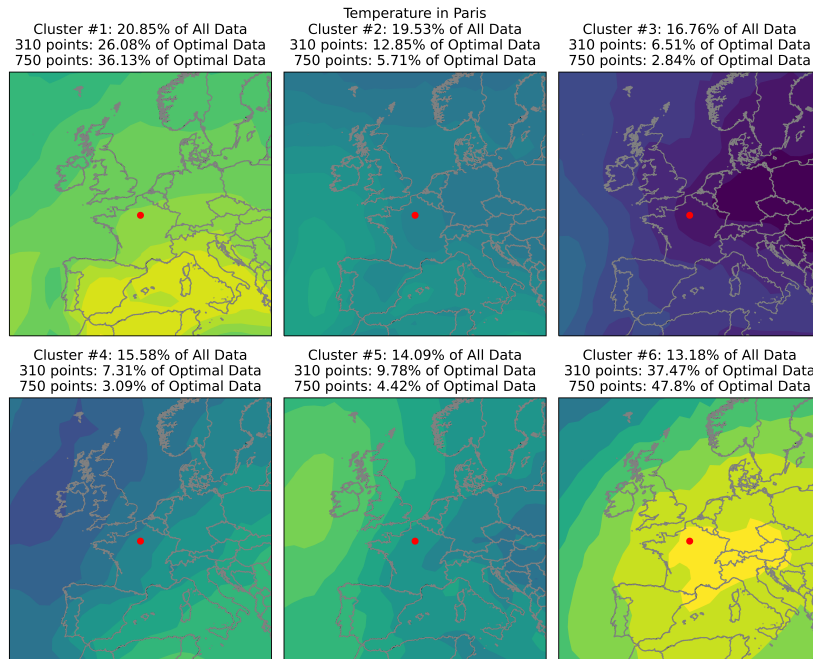


Figure 15. *Clusters for Temperature in Paris With 310 points in the training set, Cluster #6 only represents 13.18% of all data but 37.47% of the optimal data. Cluster #6 exhibits a blocking pattern over most of France. The next most occurring cluster is Cluster #1 which represents standard zonal flow, typical for normal weather events.*

428 **5. Conclusions.** To better prepare for the impacts of climate change on humans, infra-
 429 structure, and ecosystems, there is a pressing demand for improved climate models. These
 430 models need to be fast so that they can be used for a variety of potential emission scenarios,
 431 and they need to be accurate, even with respect to capturing the statistics of lower-probability
 432 extreme weather events. Given both i) the rise in ML-based weather and climate models and
 433 ii) the vast number of samples in high-resolution comprehensive climate data sets, our ability
 434 to develop models can be significantly improved by more intelligently selecting training data.
 435 To address this gap in the field, we introduced a likelihood-weighted active data selection
 436 framework which sequentially selects optimal training points to improve prediction of extreme
 437 event statistics (i.e. tails of the distribution). The framework is model agnostic and suitable
 438 for high-dimensional data sets. We demonstrated the success of the framework on both a
 439 synthetic problem and a real-world problem. In both cases, the likelihood-weighted active
 440 data selection achieved a lower error in the tails of the probability distribution with fewer
 441 training points, which reduces model uncertainty and brings down computational costs. In
 442 the real-world problem, our method was also able to identify the dynamics relevant to extreme
 443 weather events for added interpretability. The developed approach has the potential to be
 444 useful for improved environmental sampling schemes, as well as compression algorithms that
 445 preserve the information associated with extreme events in extensive data sets.

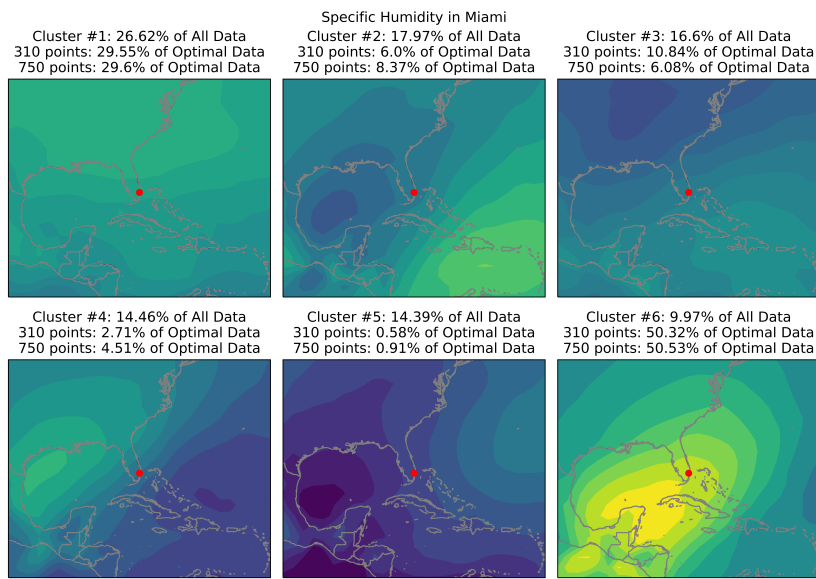


Figure 16. Clusters for Specific Humidity in Miami With 310 points in the training set, Cluster #6, which resembles a blocking pattern, only represents 9.97% of all data but 50.32% of the optimal data. The next most occurring cluster is Cluster #1 which resembles standard zonal flow, typical for normal weather events. The spread of the frequency of optimal points does not change much between 310 points and 750 points.

Appendix A. Supplementary Figures.

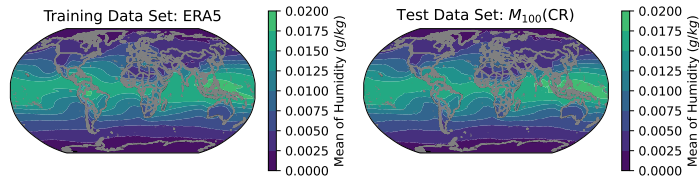


Figure 17. Mean of ERA5 and Mean of $M_{100}(\text{CR})$ for humidity. During the training phase, the nudged data set is mapped to the ERA5 data set. During the testing phase, the coarse-resolution (CR) data set is provided as input to the trained model.

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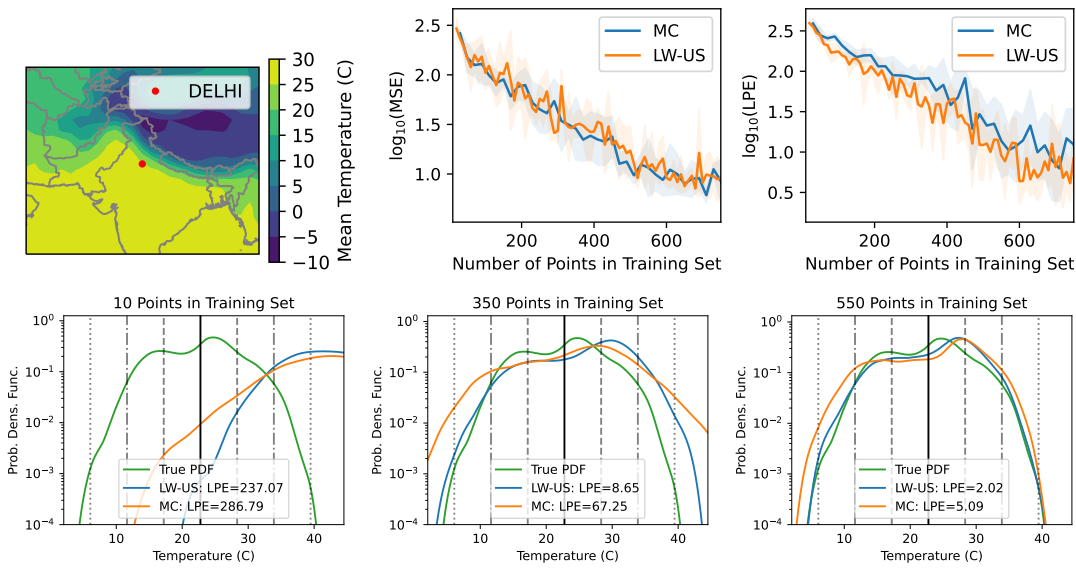


Figure 18. Temperature in Delhi. In the top row, the MSE and LPE are shown for MC and LW-US. In the bottom row the true PDF is compared to the PDF obtained from predictions made with MC and LW-US. The black vertical line denotes the mean of the true distribution, and the dashed lines denote the 1σ , 2σ , and 3σ .

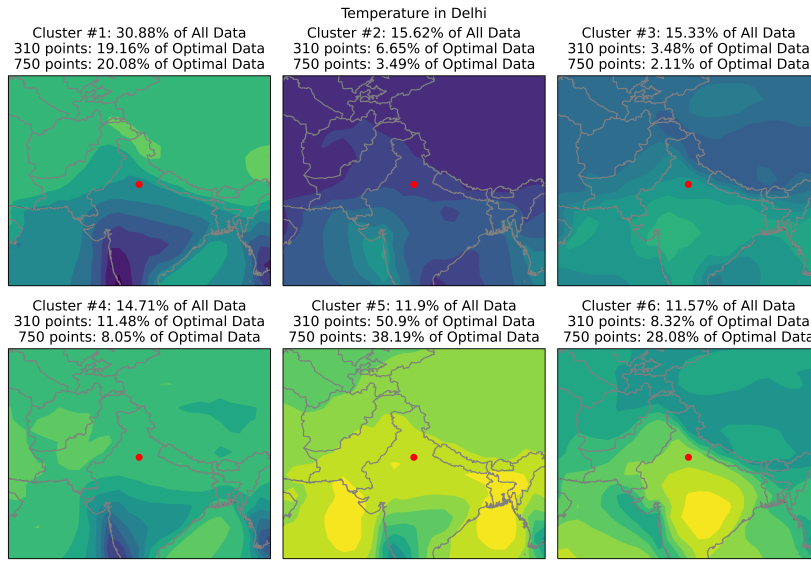


Figure 19. Temperature in Delhi: With 310 points in the training set, Cluster #5 only represents 11.9% of all data but 50.9% of the optimal data. The next most occurring cluster is Cluster #1. With 750 points in the training set, there is a significant increase in the presence of Cluster #6.

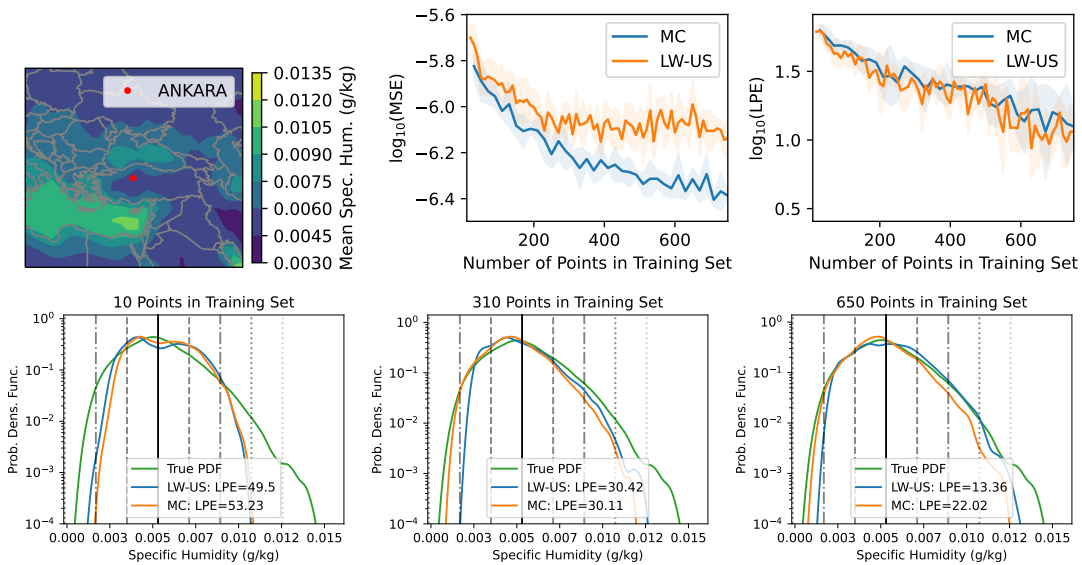


Figure 20. Specific Humidity in Ankara. In the top left, the MSE and LPE are shown for MC and LW-US. In the bottom row the true PDF is compared to the PDF obtained from predictions made with MC and LW-US. The black vertical line denotes the mean of the true distribution, and the dashed lines denote the 1σ , 2σ , 3σ , and 4σ .

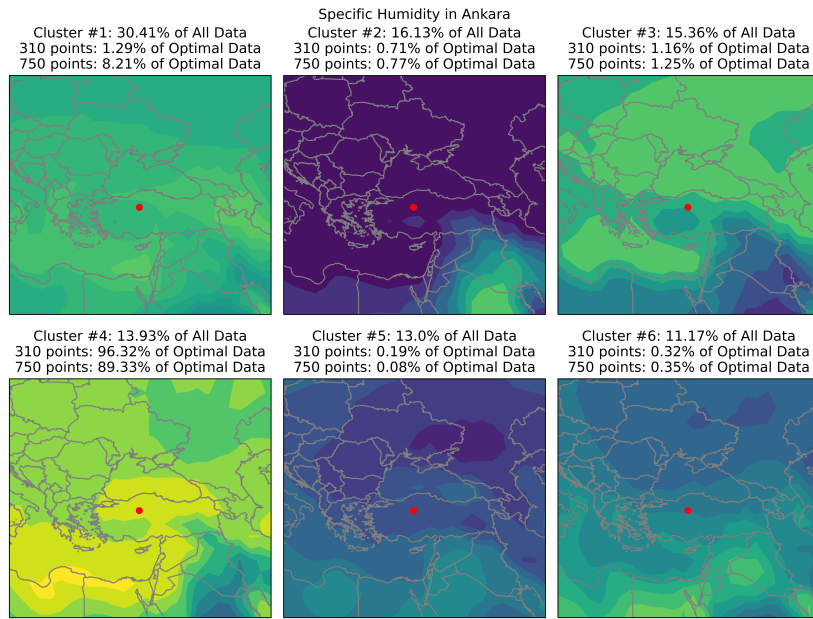


Figure 21. Humidity in Ankara: With 310 points in the training set, Cluster #4 only represents 13.93% of all data but 96.32% of the optimal data. With 750 points in the training set, Cluster #4 remains heavily represented, but a larger portion of the optimally selected points are coming from Cluster #1.

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