

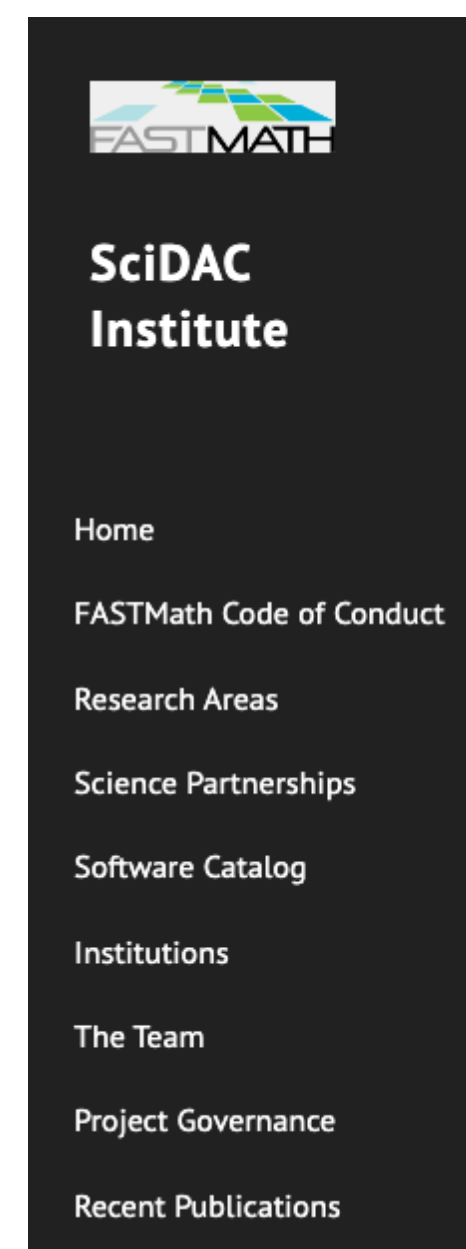
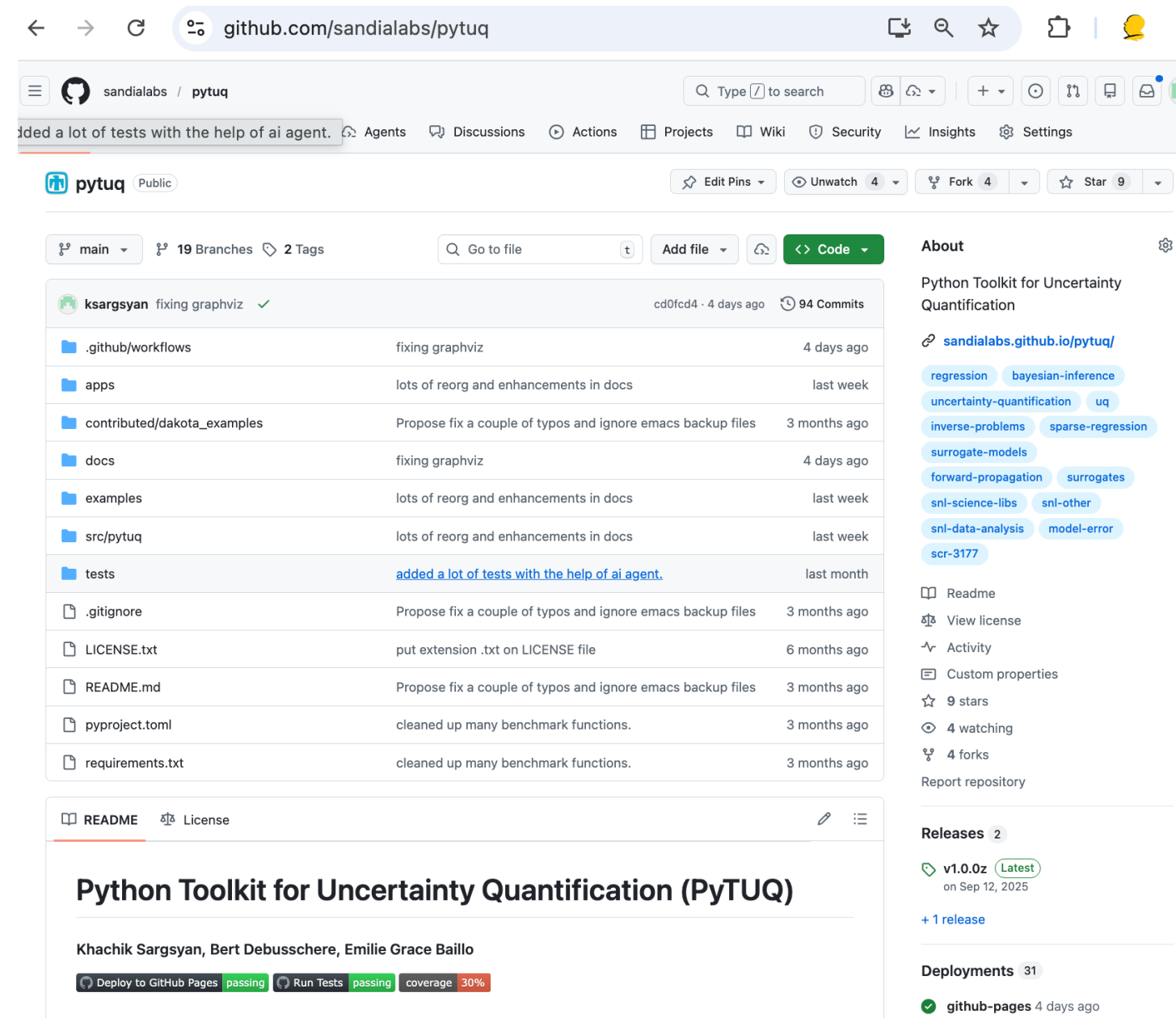
PyTUQ: Python Toolkit for Uncertainty Quantification

Khachik Sargsyan, Emilie Grace Baillo, Bert Debusschere



<https://github.com/sandialabs/pytuq>

<https://sandialabs.github.io/pytuq/>



The Python Toolkit for Uncertainty Quantification (PyTUQ) is a lightweight Python library for a range of uncertainty quantification tasks and workflows. Features include conventional tools such as polynomial chaos machinery with mixed bases, global sensitivity analysis, quadrature point generation, linear regression, Bayesian inference with various flavors of Markov chain Monte Carlo. PyTUQ also includes advanced methods such as Bayesian compressed sensing, sampling-based Rosenblatt transformation and embedded model error calibration.

PyTUQ was released on github in March 2025 under a BSD 3-Clause License. It has been used for various SciDAC partnership applications ranging from fusion to materials science to earth system modeling, as well as for the UQ needs of land modeling components of the DOE E3SM project.

[DOWNLOAD SITE](#)

- Released March 2025.
- Python-only offspring of UQTK.
- Part of SciDAC-6 FASTMath Software catalogue.
- Dependencies: numpy, scipy, matplotlib, (pytorch, quinn, pso, dill).
- License: BSD 3-Clause License.
- Pip installable <https://pypi.org/project/pytuq/>
- Part of Spack <https://packages.spack.io/package.html?name=py-pytuq>

PyTUQ for computational science

Toolbox for method development and
uncertainty quantification workflows
for black-box computational models

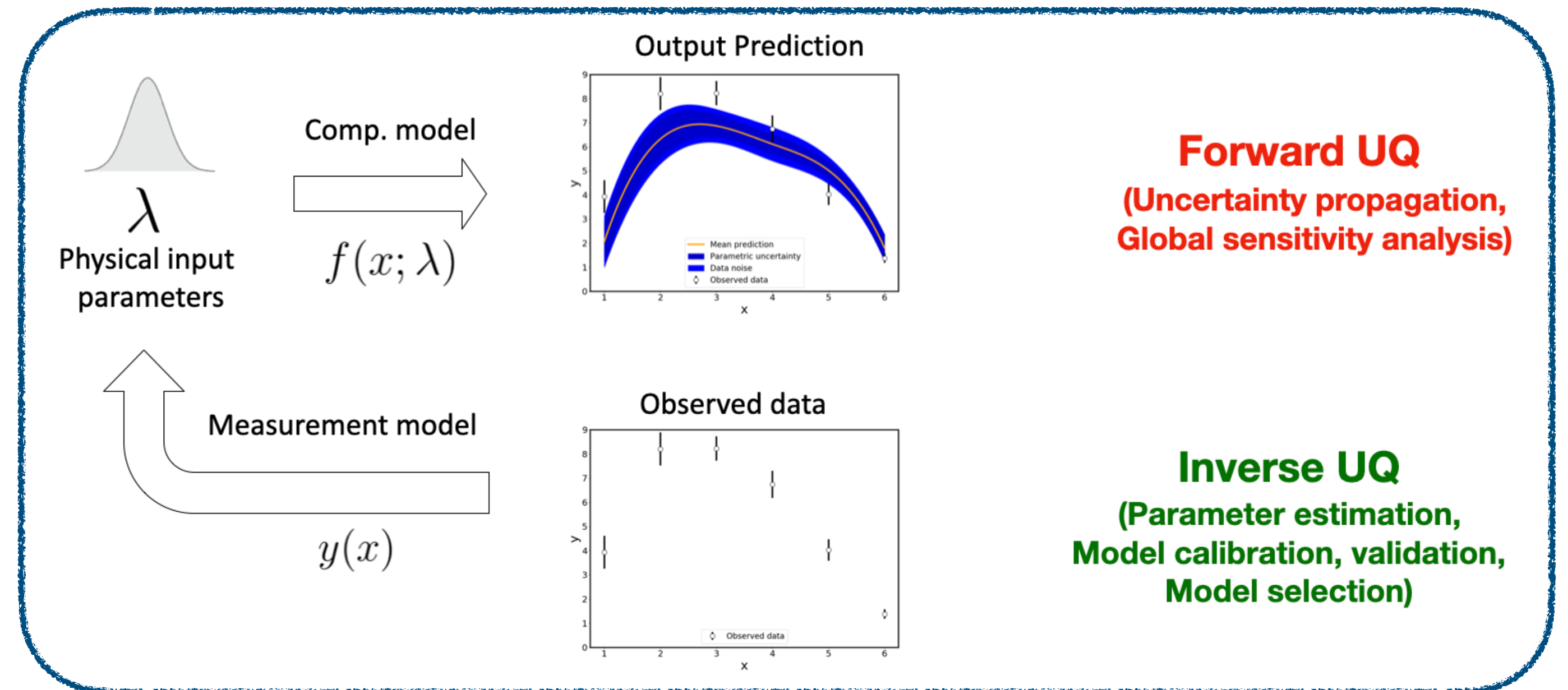


Forward UQ tools:

Surrogates; Sparse learning;
Karhunen-Loève; Rosenblatt;
PC; GP; GSA

Inverse UQ tools:

Bayesian inference; MCMC;
Variational; Model error



PyTUQ Capabilities

- Uncertainty propagation and global sensitivity analysis via polynomial chaos (PC)
- Regression (PC, custom bases, GP)
- Global Sensitivity Analysis (MOAT, Sobol, PC-based)
- Functional tools (Integration, Orthogonalization)
- Linear dimensionality reduction (**Karhunen-Loève**, SVD)
- Reduced-dimensional **KLPC** surrogates for multioutput models
- Bayesian linear regression (VI, Sparse/**Bayesian compressive sensing**, Embedded)
- Optimization (scikit wrappers, particle-swarm, gradient descent)
- Model calibration via Markov chain Monte Carlo (AMCMC, HMC, MALA), MFVI.
- **Embedded model error** estimation
- Random variables (**PC**, MCMC-RV, **Rosenblatt**, GMMs, ...)
- **Large library** of analytical benchmark functions
- Lots of command-line examples, apps and workflows for common UQ tasks

Documentation



Search docs

GETTING STARTED

⊕ Installation

⊕ About

EXAMPLES

⊕ Polynomial Chaos

⊕ Regression & Surrogates

⊕ Bayesian Inference

⊕ Sensitivity Analysis

⊕ Rosenblatt Transformation

⊕ Random Variables

⊕ Functions & Optimization

⊕ Plotting

APPS

⊕ Polynomial Chaos

⊕ Multioutput Fits

⊕ Plotting Apps

⊕ Forward UQ

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PyTUQ Documentation

tests

 Run Tests passing

 Deploy to GitHub Pages passing

coverage 30%

Last Updated: Mar 18, 2026

Version: 1.0.0

Hello, [PyTUQ](#) is a Python-only toolkit for uncertainty quantification in computational models. To explore the modules offered by PyTUQ, use the navigation panel on the left or below.

Check out the [Getting Started](#) section for further information, including how to [install](#) the project.

Getting Started

- [Installation](#)
 - [Install from source](#)
- [About](#)
 - [Overview](#)
 - [Authors](#)
 - [Contributors](#)
 - [Acknowledgements](#)

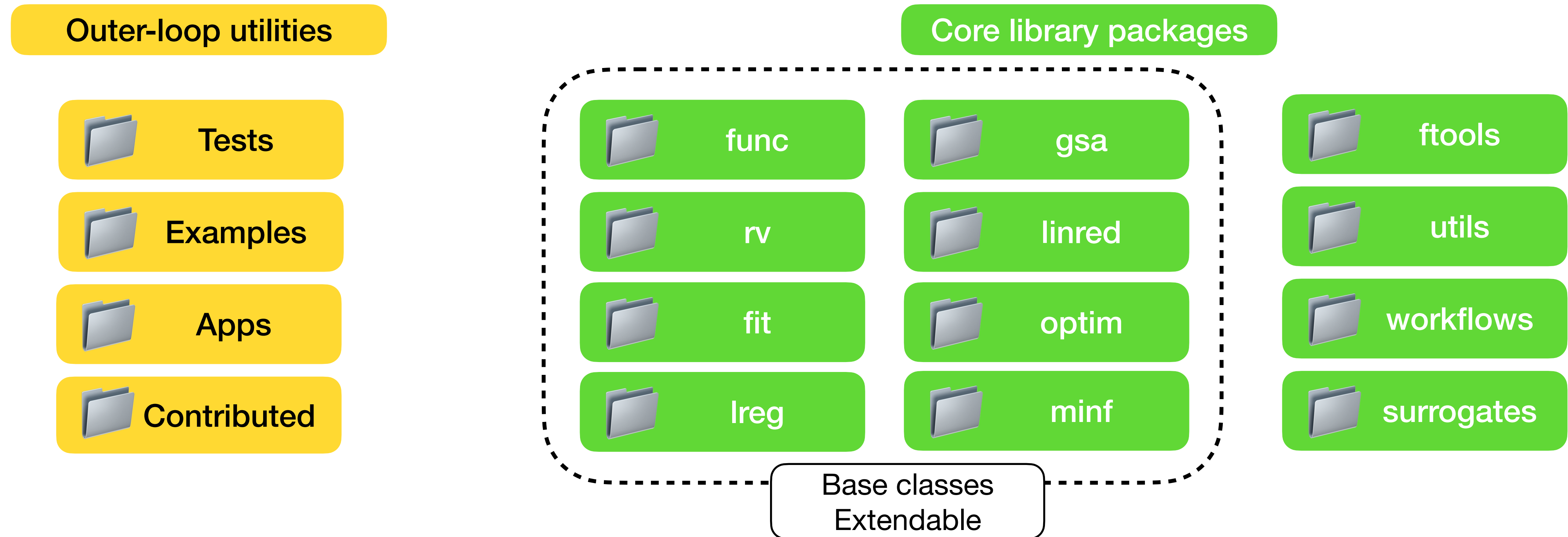
Examples

<https://sandialabs.github.io/pytuq/>

SIAM UQ26, March 25, 2026

K. Sargsyan (ksargsy@sandia.gov)

Overall Structure



- Not intended to comprehensively cover all methods: add functionality as needed.
- Key UQ functionalities written with OOP principles, with base classes: straightforward extensions via class inheritance.

Core library packages



func

Multivariate functions

$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^o$$



rv

Multivariate random variables (PCRV, GMM, ...)



lreg

Linear regression (ANL, LSQ, BCS, ...)



fit

Nonlinear fits (GP)



gsa

Global sensitivity analysis (Sobol, PC, MOAT, ...)



linred

Linear dimensionality reduction (PCA, KLE, ...)



optim

Optimization (GD)



minf

Model inference (Bayes/MCMC/Embedded Model error)



ftools

Function-based
methods



utils

Plotting, data
manipulation ...



workflows

Utilities chaining
a few tasks



surrogates

Surrogate
wrappers



rv

Random variable package

mrsv.py

pcrv.py

rosen.py

- Parent random variable class
- Multivariate random variables
- **PCRV**, GMM, MVN, MCMCRV
- Sample, evaluate pdf, cdf
- Operations on random variables: mixture, inverse
-
- Rosenblatt transformation



func

Function package

func.py

bench.py*

genz.py

toy.py

poly.py

chem.py

oper.py

- Parent function class
- Multivariate, multioutput functions $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^o$
- Lots of benchmark functions
- Gradients/Hessians
- **Operations on functions: compose, slice, partial, ...**
- Plotting routines of various slices
- See *ex_func.py*, *ex_funcall.py* and *ex_funcgrad.py*

```
Fcn1 = bench.Ishigami()
Fcn2 = benchNd.Ackley(d=3)
Fcn = Fcn1 * Fcn2
Fcn.grad(x)
Fcn.plot_2d(d1, d2)
```

```
pcrv = PCRv(nout, ndim, pctype)
pcrv.setFunction()
newfcn = pcrv.function + bench.Ishigami()
```

For most benchmark functions, credit to <https://github.com/Vahanosi4ek>



Examples of varying complexity

<code>ex_bcs*.py</code>	<u>Bayesian Compressive Sensing</u>
<code>ex_gp.py</code>	Gaussian Process regression
<code>ex_gsa*.py</code>	Global Sensitivity Analysis
<code>ex_*ros*.py</code>	<u>(Inverse) Rosenblatt transform</u>
<code>ex_kl*.py</code>	Karhunen-Loève decomposition
•	•
•	•
•	•
<code>ex_lreg*.py</code>	Linear regression
<code>ex_mcmc*.py</code>	Markov chain Monte Carlo
<code>ex_minf*.py</code>	<u>Embedded model error inference</u>
<code>ex_pcrv.py</code>	PC multivariate random variable
<code>ex_uprop.py</code>	Uncertainty propagation
•	
•	
•	

- Meant to be run as-is
- The right place to start
- Outputs *.png* and *.txt*



Apps and workflows

kl_fit.py

KL fit given data

kl_surr_fit.py

KL+PC/NN surrogate

wf_uqpc.x

pc_prep.py

pc_sam.py

pc_fit.py

Workflow for PC-based propagation

nn_fit.py

NN surrogate. Quick and dirty.

Relies on QUiNN library <https://github.com/sandialabs/quinn>

mr_run.py

Multithreading app:

Creates folders and runs a list of command lines

plot_ens.py

Creates regression
(supervised) data from
benchmark functions

plot_.py*

Plotting apps

- Typically command-line arguments
- Similar to command line 'apps' in UQ Tk



Apps and workflows

	<i>uqpc/</i>		workflow for PC-based uncertainty propagation of multoutput models
	<i>iuq/</i>		workflow for Bayesian calibration enabled by PC surrogate
	<i>awkies/</i>		useful awk-based command-line utilities for tabular data

Contributed packages/modules

Dakota wrapper examples for surrogate construction

Agentic MCMC proof-of-concept

PyTUQ MCMC — Agentic MCMC Workflow (Proof of Concept)

Note: To successfully build and run this example, copy the files over to another folder outside of the pytuq distribution"

This is a **proof of concept**. The current implementation uses a fixed synthetic dataset (a noisy linear model) and a hard-wired AMCMC sampler as a demonstration vehicle. It is deliberately designed to be extended: swap in your own model, likelihood, data, and sampler by modifying `mcmc_run.py` and the MCP server tools.

Overview

This folder implements an **agentic MCMC workflow** in which a large language model (LLM) autonomously manages an Adaptive Markov Chain Monte Carlo (AMCMC) calibration run via the [Model Context Protocol \(MCP\)](#). The agent can create run configurations, launch chains, evaluate convergence diagnostics (acceptance rate), tune hyperparameters, restart chains, and decide when to stop — all without manual intervention.

The workflow has three layers:

Jupyter notebook ↔ MCP client ↔ MCP server ↔ mcmc_run.py
(user / prompt) (LLM loop) (tools) (sampler)



Room for external contributions

Methodological Highlights

- Allows meaningful extrapolation
- Respects physics
- Disambiguates model and data errors
- Predictive uncertainty attribution

$$g(x_i) = f(\lambda + \delta_\alpha(x_i), x_i) + \epsilon_i$$

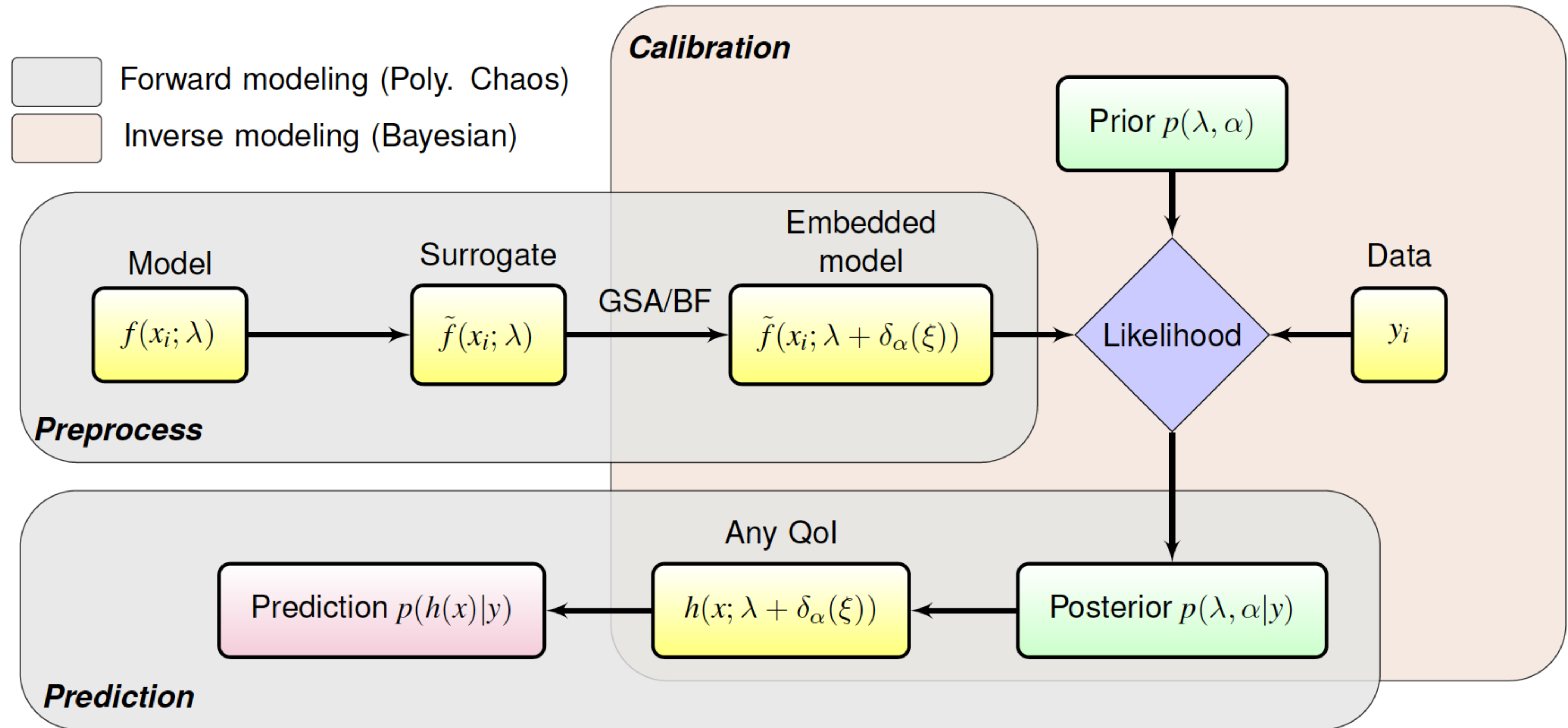
- Infer physical parameters λ and model-error parameters α together

- In practice, cast the parameters as a PC expansion $\lambda = \sum_k \alpha_k \Psi_k(\xi)$

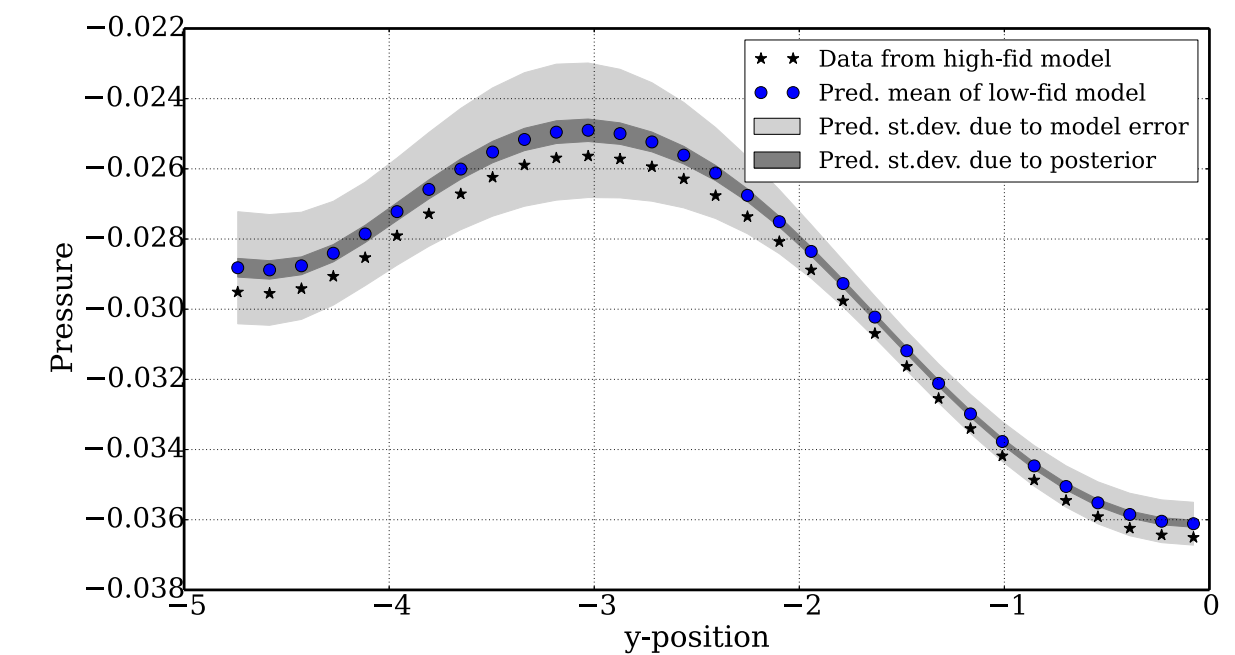
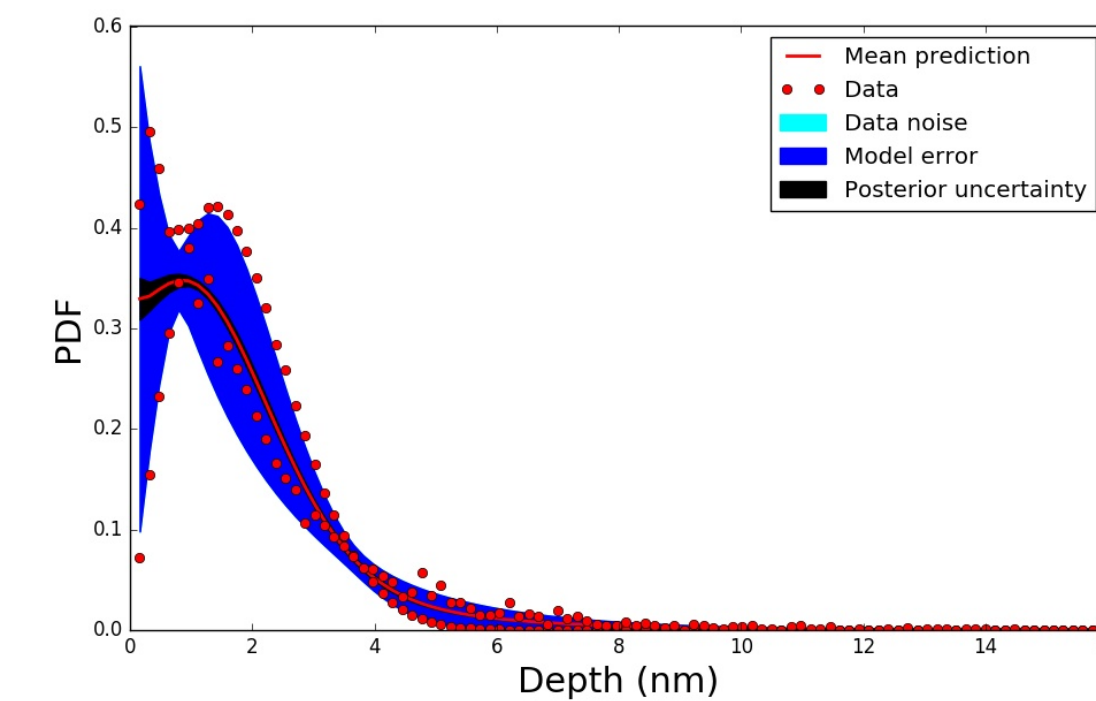
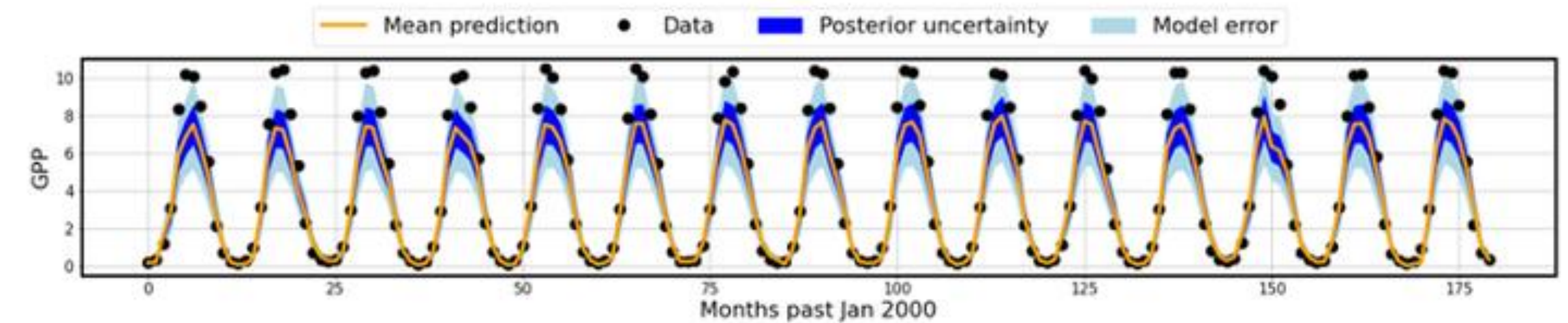
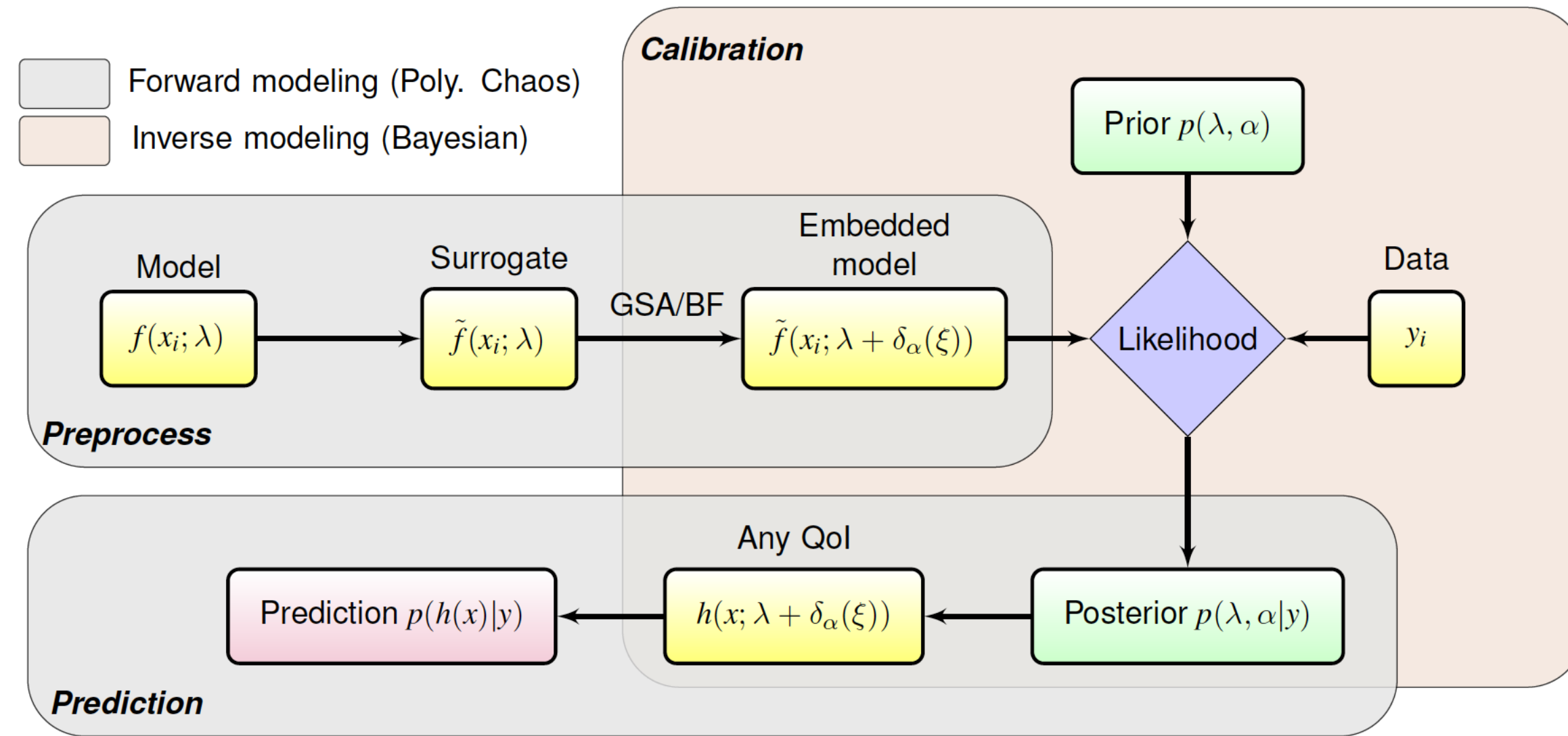
- Propagate (forward UQ) PC $f\left(\sum_k \alpha_k \Psi_k(\xi), x_i\right) \approx \sum_k f_k(\alpha) \Psi_k(x_i)$

- Build approximate likelihood functions based on data model $g(x_i) = \sum_k f_k(\alpha) \Psi_k(x_i) + \epsilon_i$
(e.g. match moments, or Gaussian iid approximation)

Inv UQ: Surrogate-based Bayesian Inference with Embedded Model Error



EME workflow and applications



[1] K. Sargsyan, H. N. Najm, R. Ghanem, "On the Statistical Calibration of Physical Models", International Journal for Chemical Kinetics, 47:4, pp. 246–276, 2015.

[2] K. Sargsyan, X. Huan, H. N. Najm. "Embedded Model Error Representation for Bayesian Model Calibration", International Journal of Uncertainty Quantification, 9:4, pp. 365–394, 2019.

[3] T.R. Younkin, K. Sargsyan, T. Casey, H.N. Najm, J.M. Canik, D.L. Green, R.P. Doerner, D. Nishijima, M. Baldwin, J. Drobny, D. Curreli, B.D. Wirth, "Quantification of the effect of uncertainty on impurity migration in PISCES-A simulated with GTR", Nuclear Fusion, 62:5, p.056007, 2022.

[4] O. Cekmer, K. Sargsyan, S. Blondel, H. Najm, D. Bernholdt, B.D. Wirth, "Uncertainty quantification for incident helium flux in plasma-exposed tungsten", International Journal for Uncertainty Quantification, 8:5, pp.429–446, 2018.

[5] X. Huan, C. Safta, K. Sargsyan, G. Geraci, M. S. Eldred, Z. P. Vane, G. Lacaze, J. C. Oefelein, Habib N. Najm, "Global Sensitivity Analysis and Estimation of Model Error, toward Uncertainty Quantification in Scramjet Computations" AIAA Journal, 56:3, pp.1170–1184, 2018.

[6] C. Safta, M. Blaylock, J. Templeton, S. Domino, K. Sargsyan, H. Najm, "Uncertainty Quantification in LES of Channel Flow", International Journal for Numerical Methods in Fluids, 83, pp.376–401, 2016.

[7] F. Ghahari, K. Sargsyan, G. Parker, D. Swensen, M. Celebi, H. Haddadi, E. Taciroglu, "Performance Based Earthquake Early Warning for Tall Buildings", Earthquake Spectra, 40:2, 2024.

[8] F. Ghahari, K. Sargsyan, M. Celebi, E. Taciroglu, "Quantifying modeling uncertainty in simplified beam models for building response prediction", Structural Control and Health Monitoring, 29:11, p.e3078, 2022.

[9] A. Hegde, E. Weiss, W. Windl, H.N. Najm, C. Safta, "A Bayesian Calibration Framework with Embedded Model Error for Model Diagnostics", International Journal for Uncertainty Quantification, 2024.

Embedded Model Error

Variational Inference

Casting physical parameters λ
as r.v. in PC family $\lambda = \sum_k \alpha_k \psi_k(\xi)$

Posterior $p(\lambda | D)$ is apprx.
in a variational family $q_\alpha(\lambda)$

Infer α
Bayesian/MCMC

Infer α
Optimization/SGD

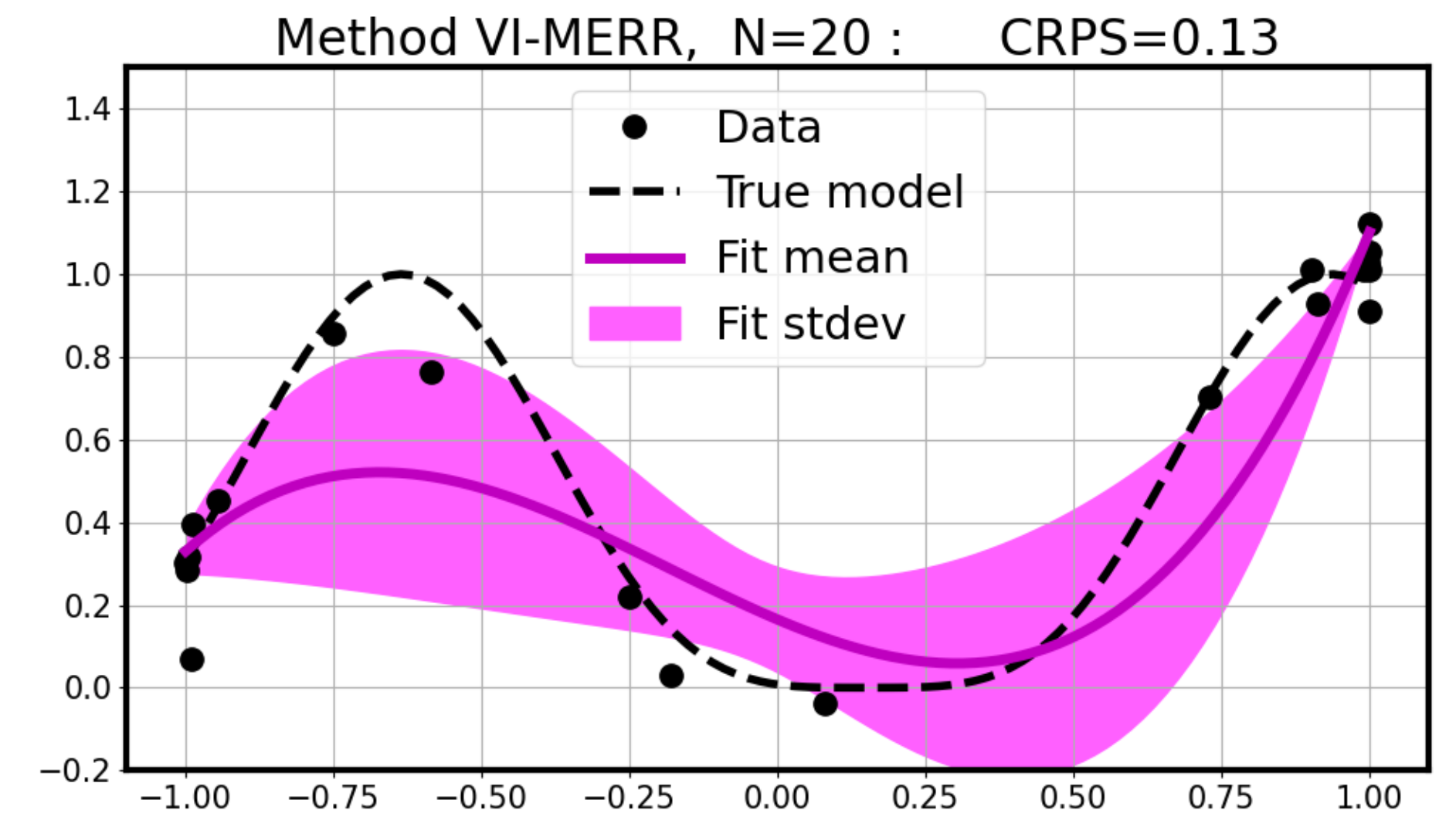
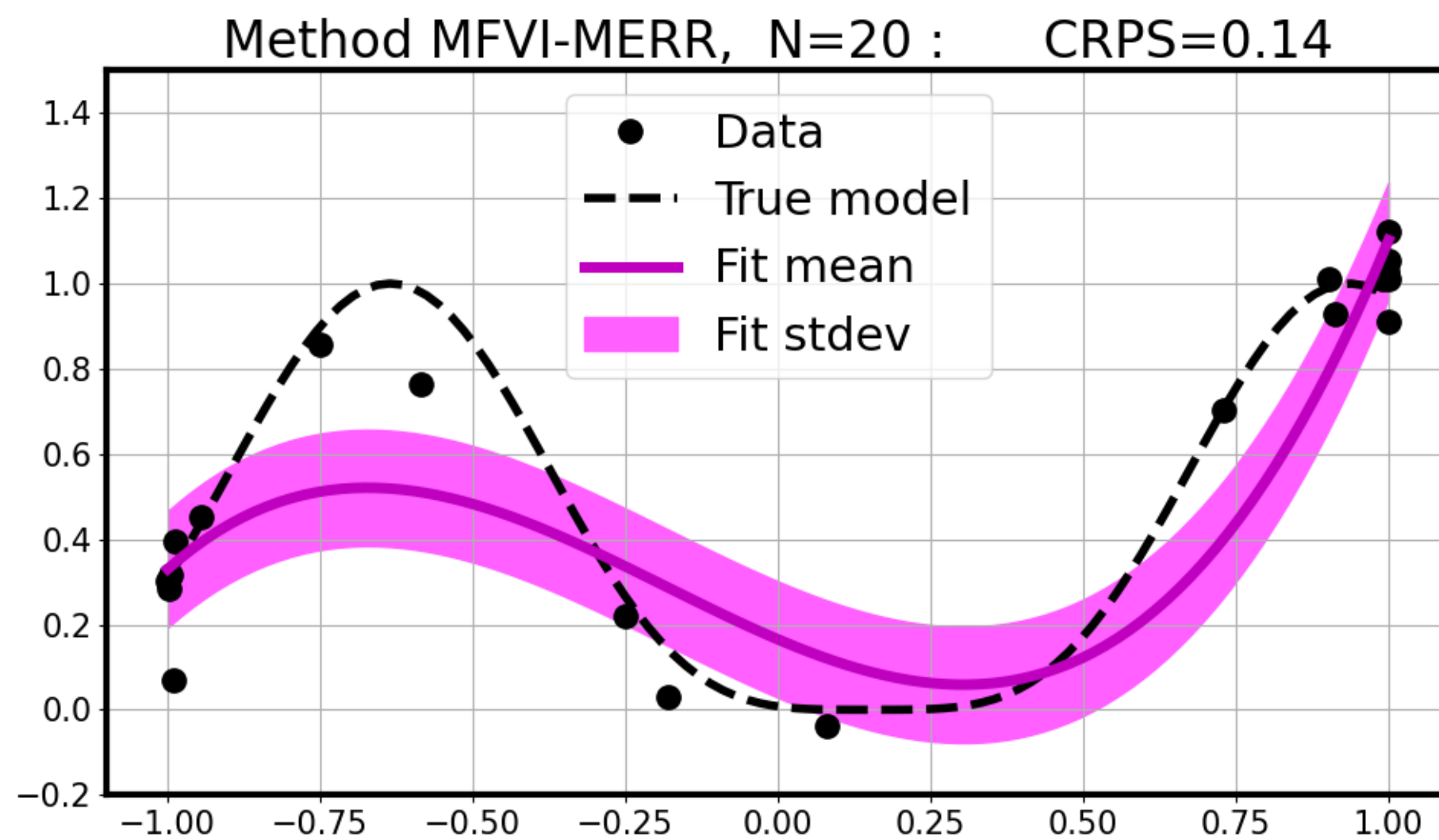
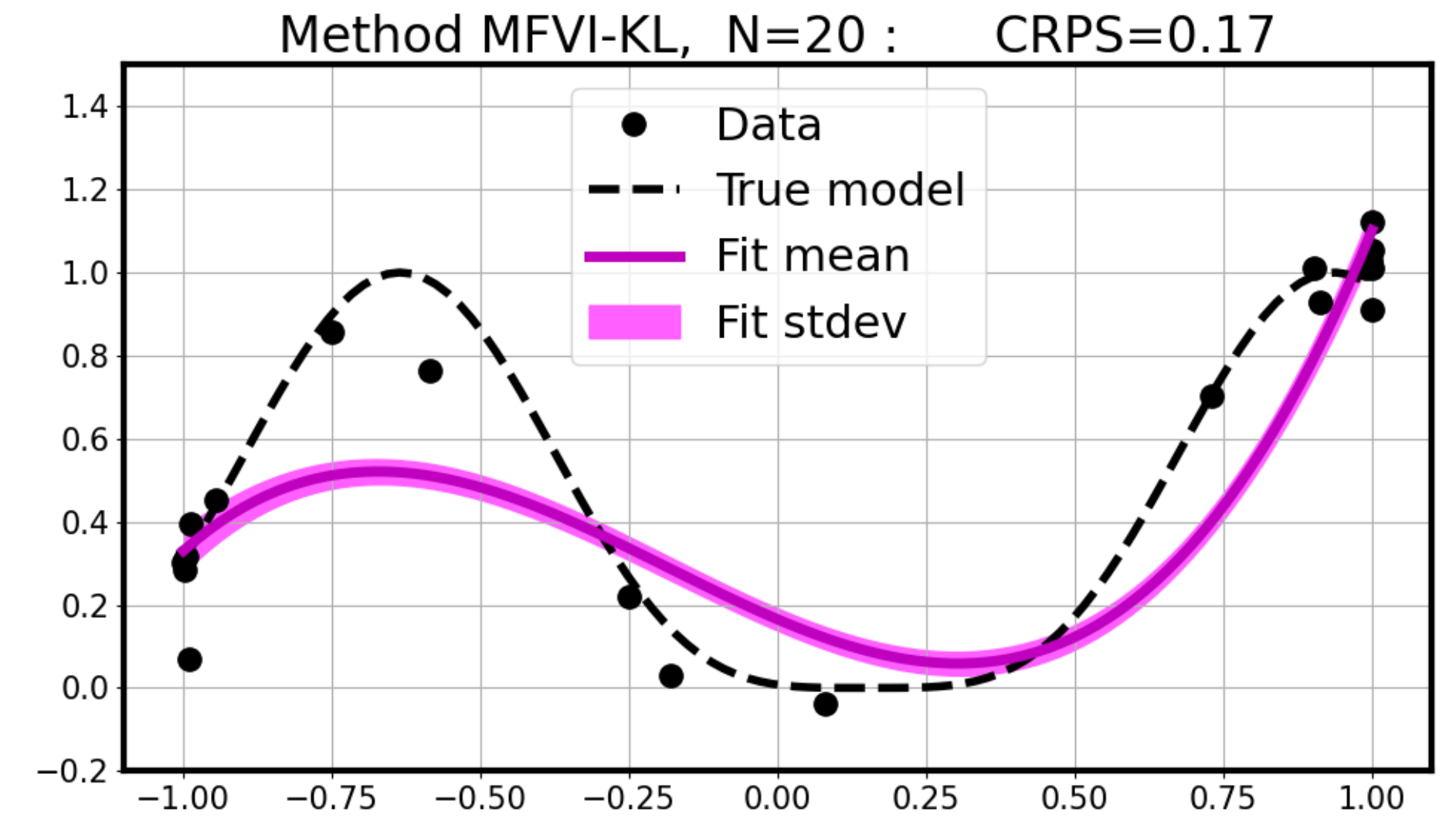
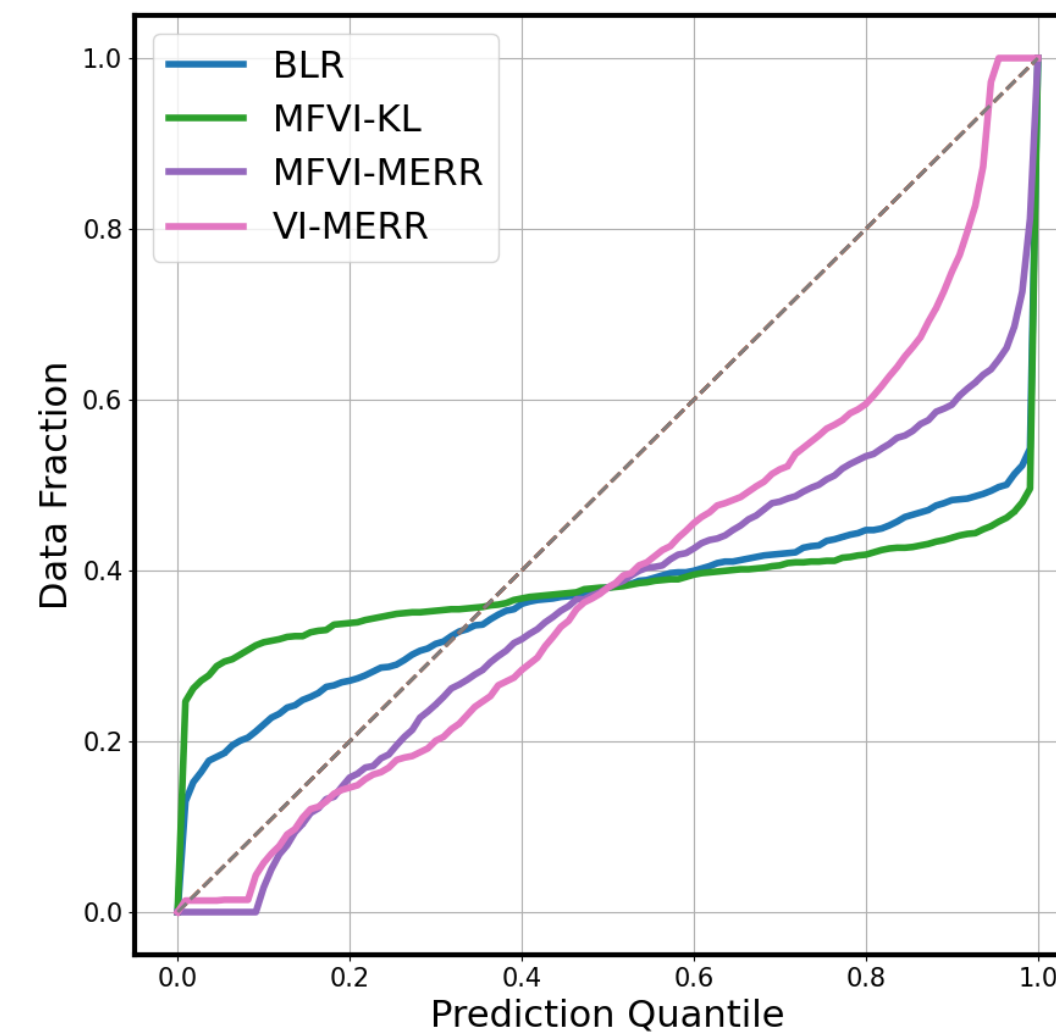
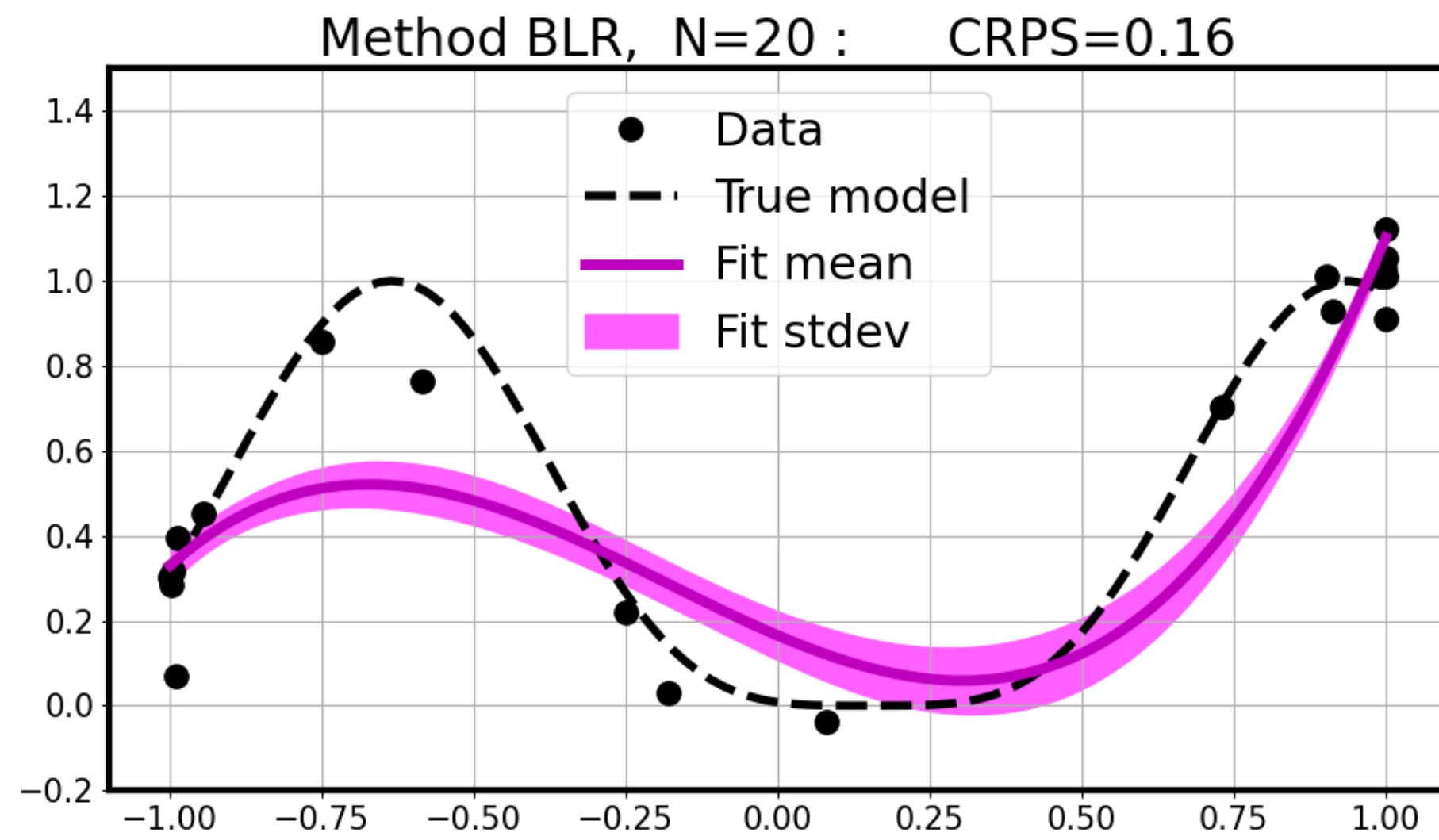
Uses ABC/Moment matching
in the outputs

KL distance
of inputs

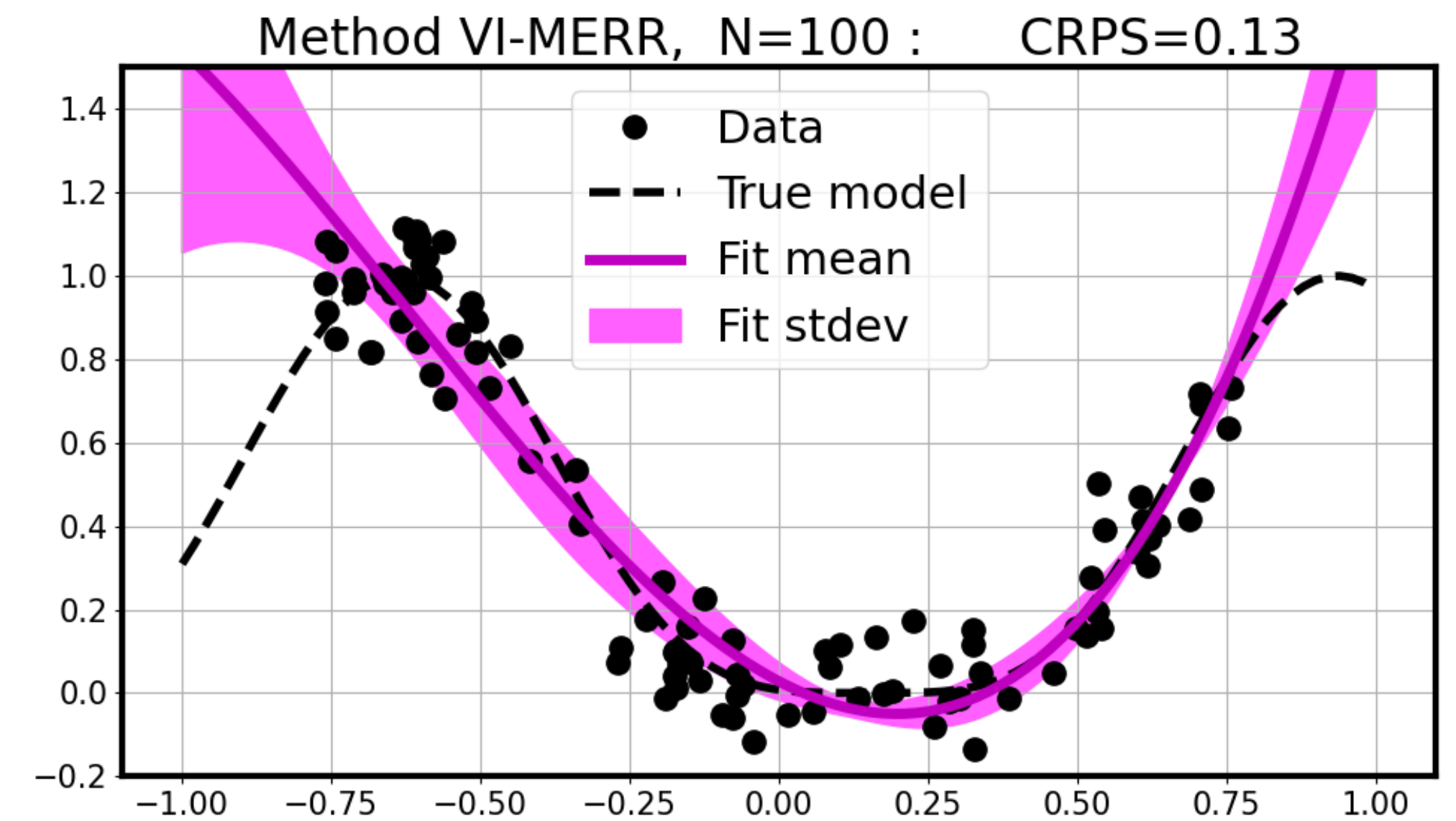
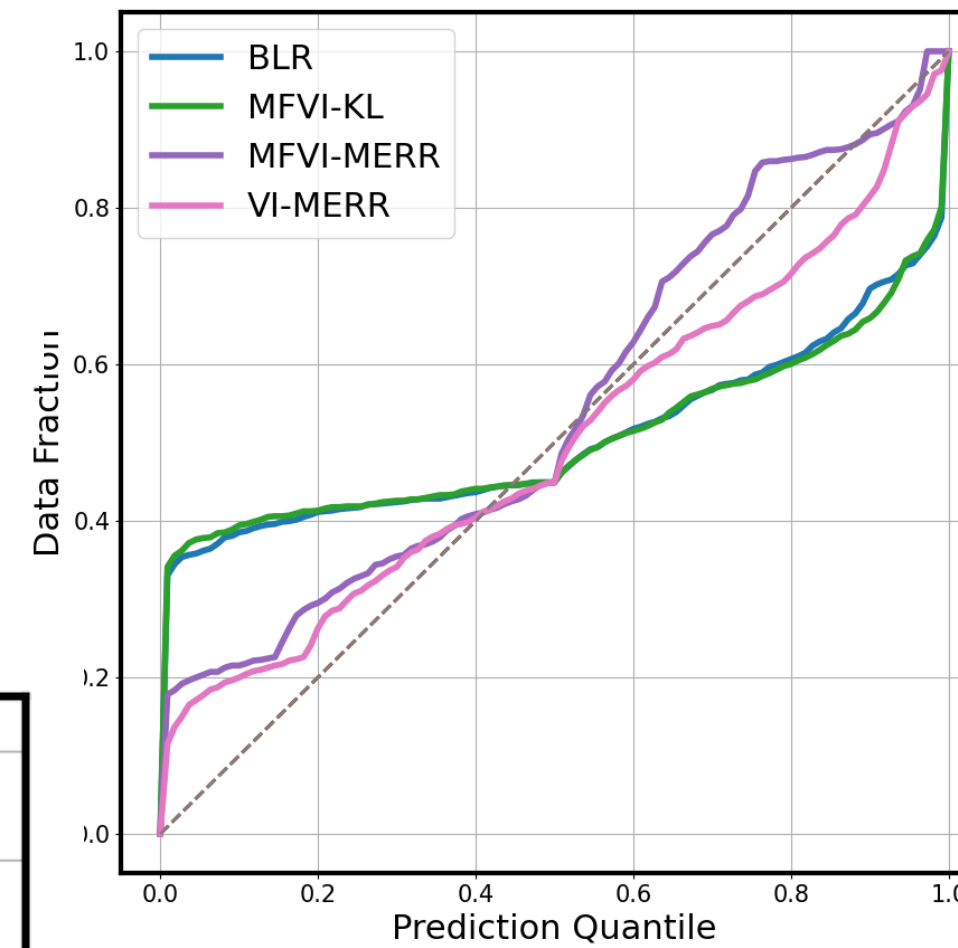
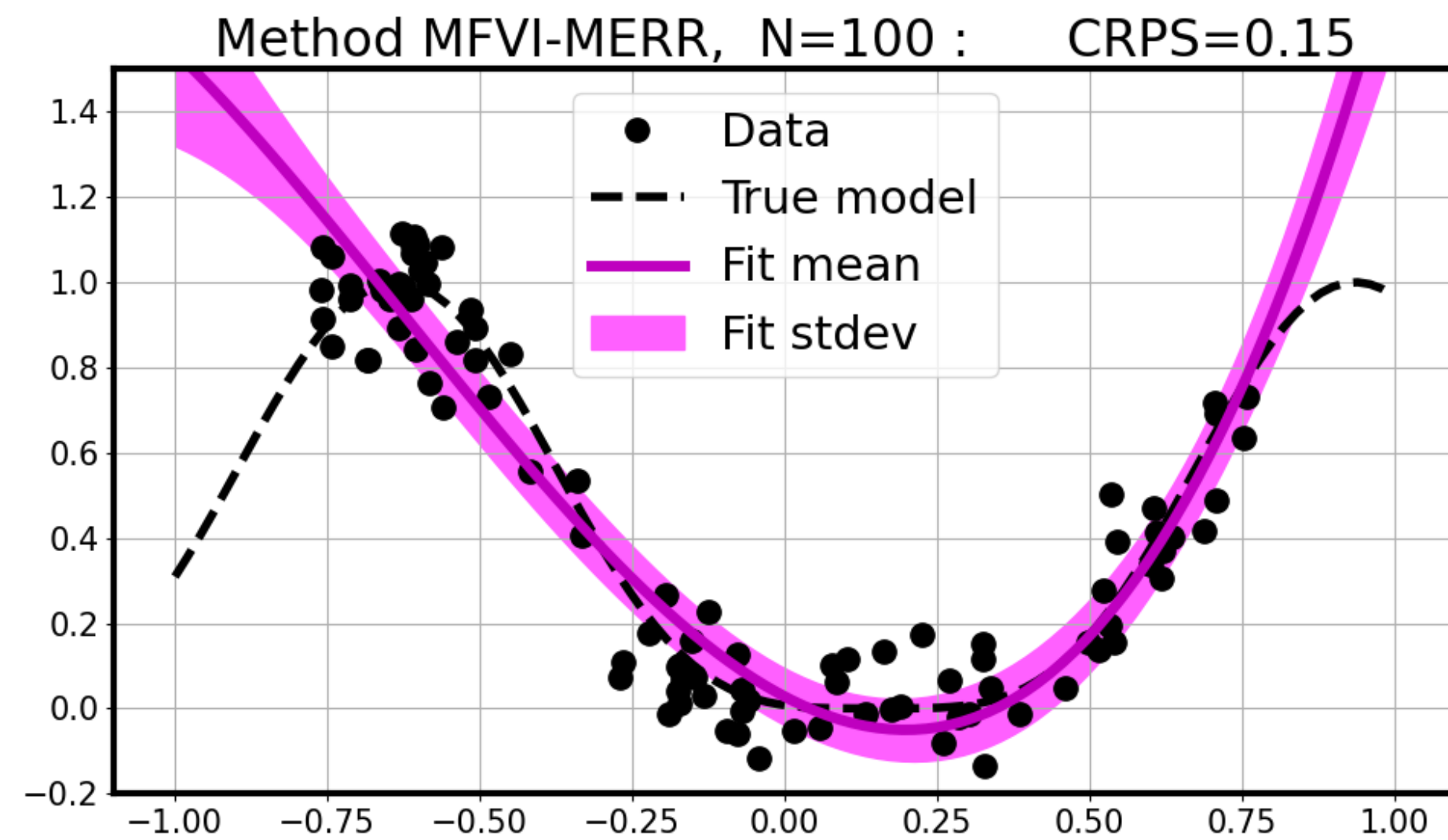
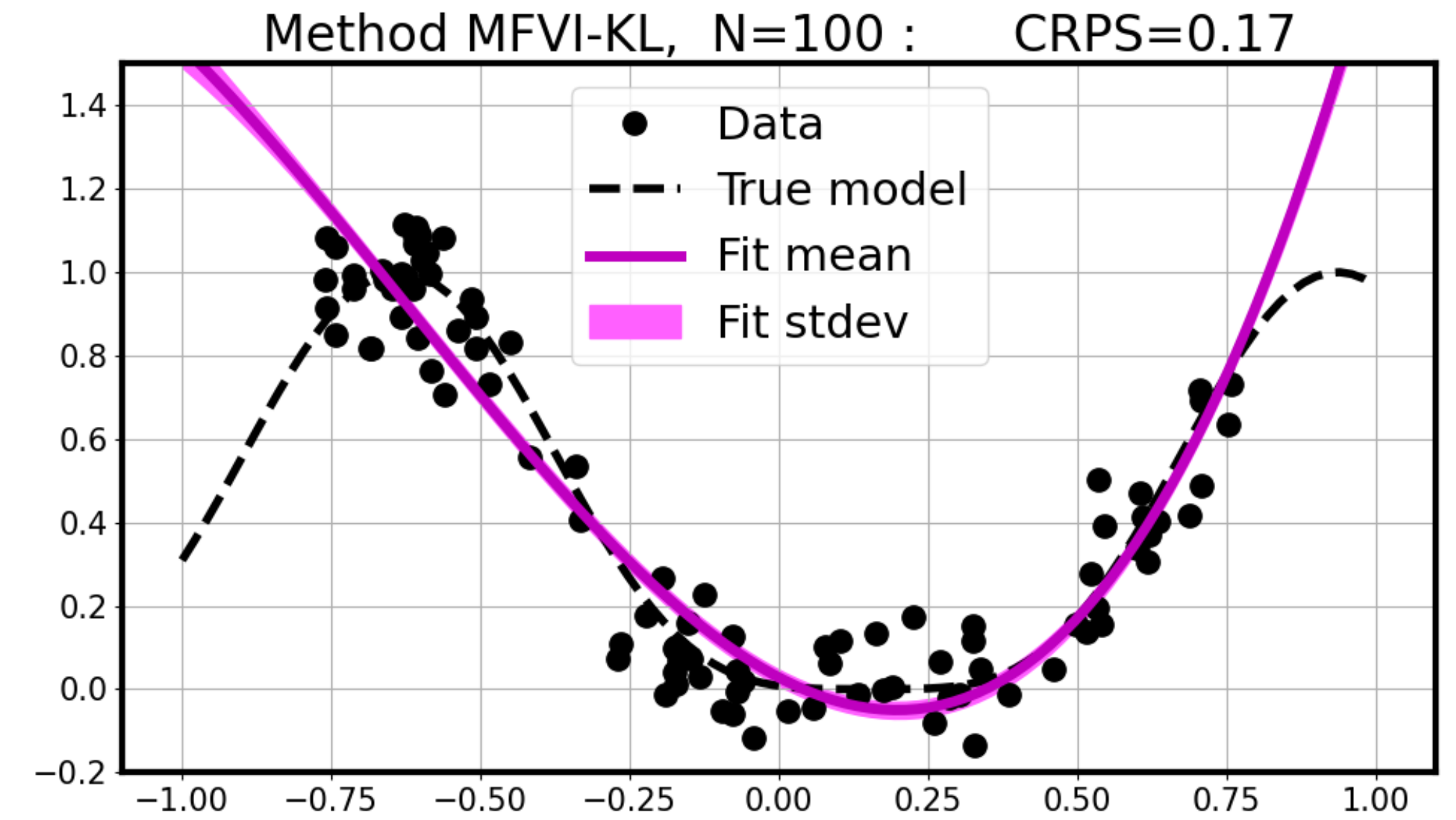
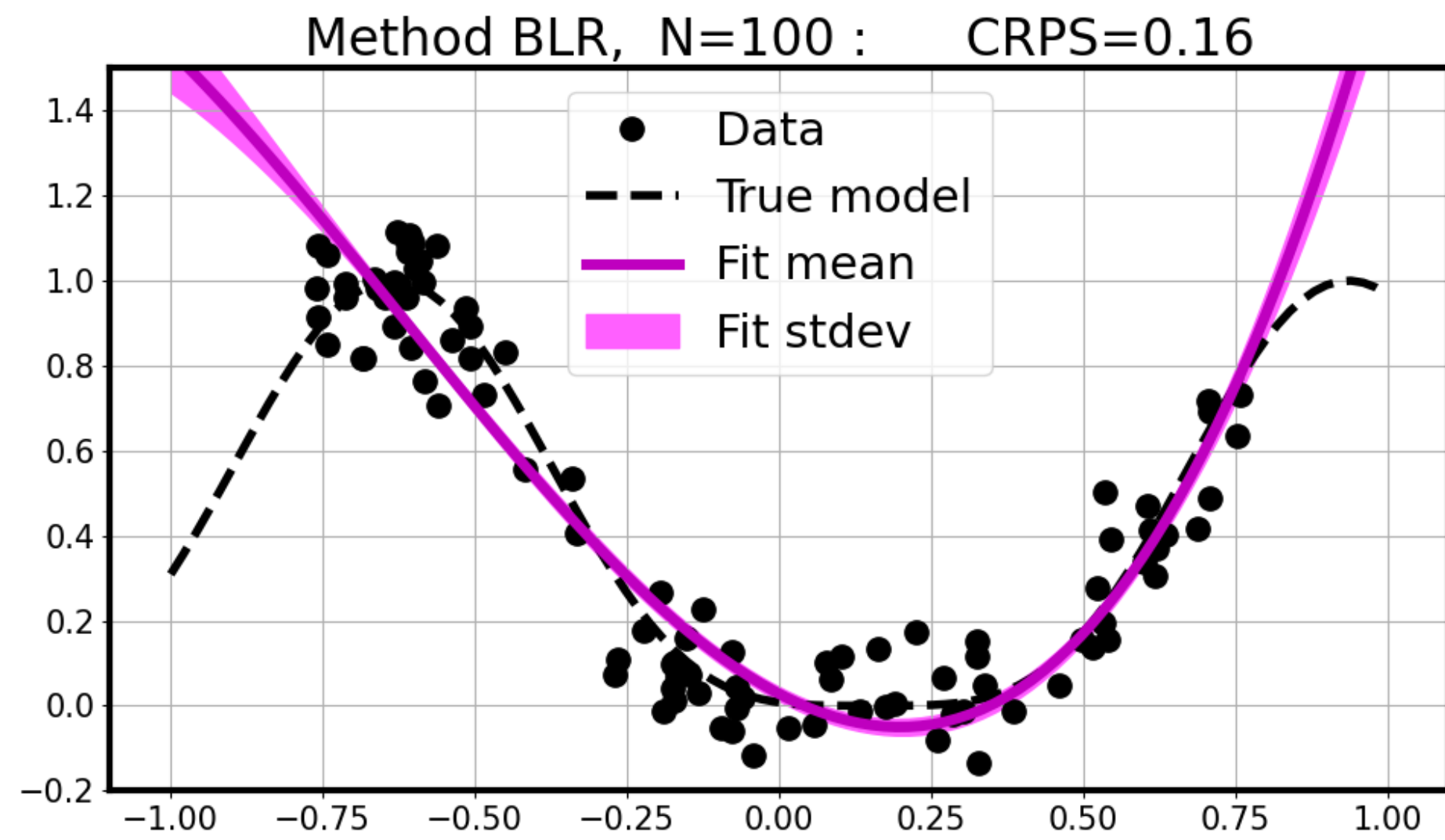
Needs PC-based propagation

No need for uncertainty propagation

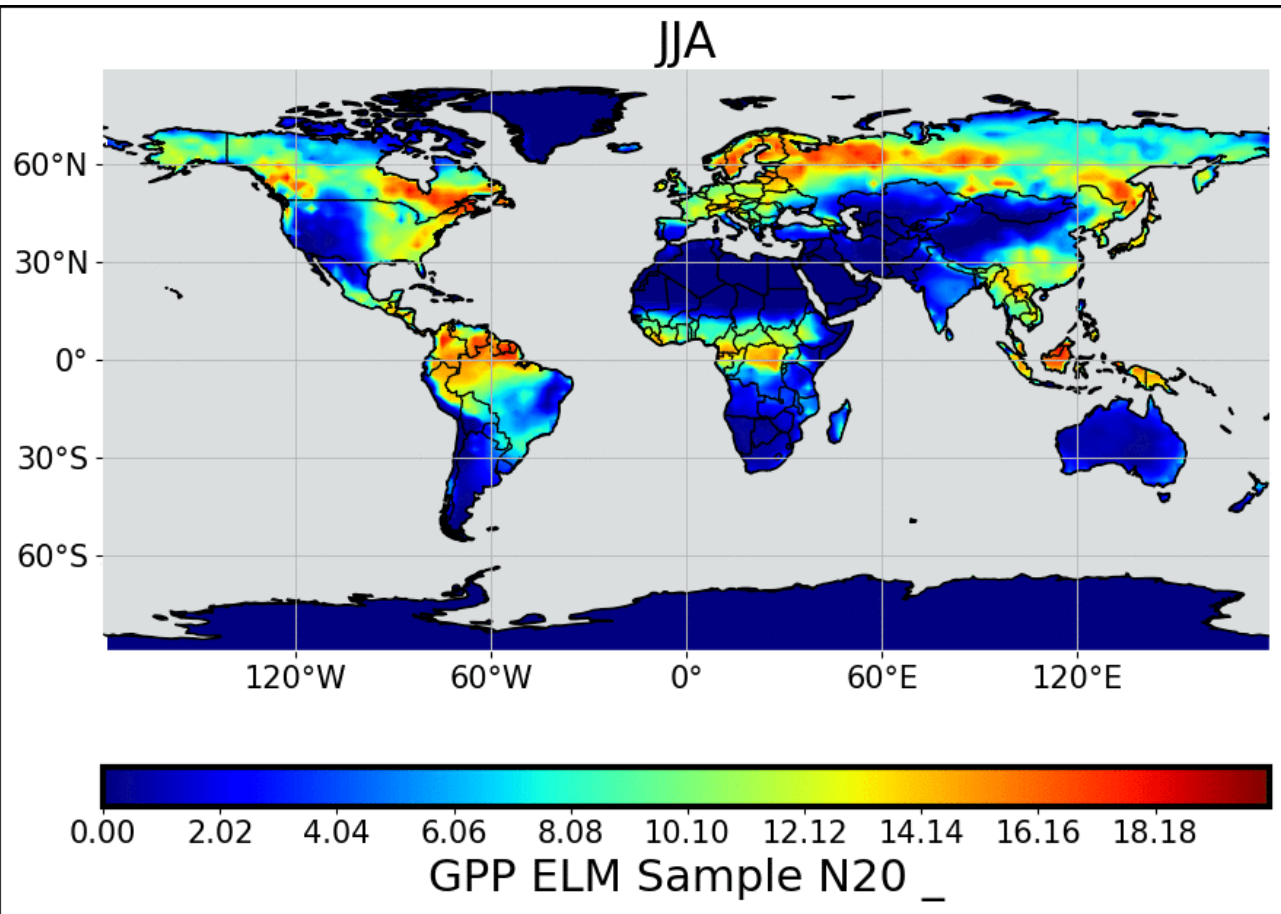
N=20, o=3



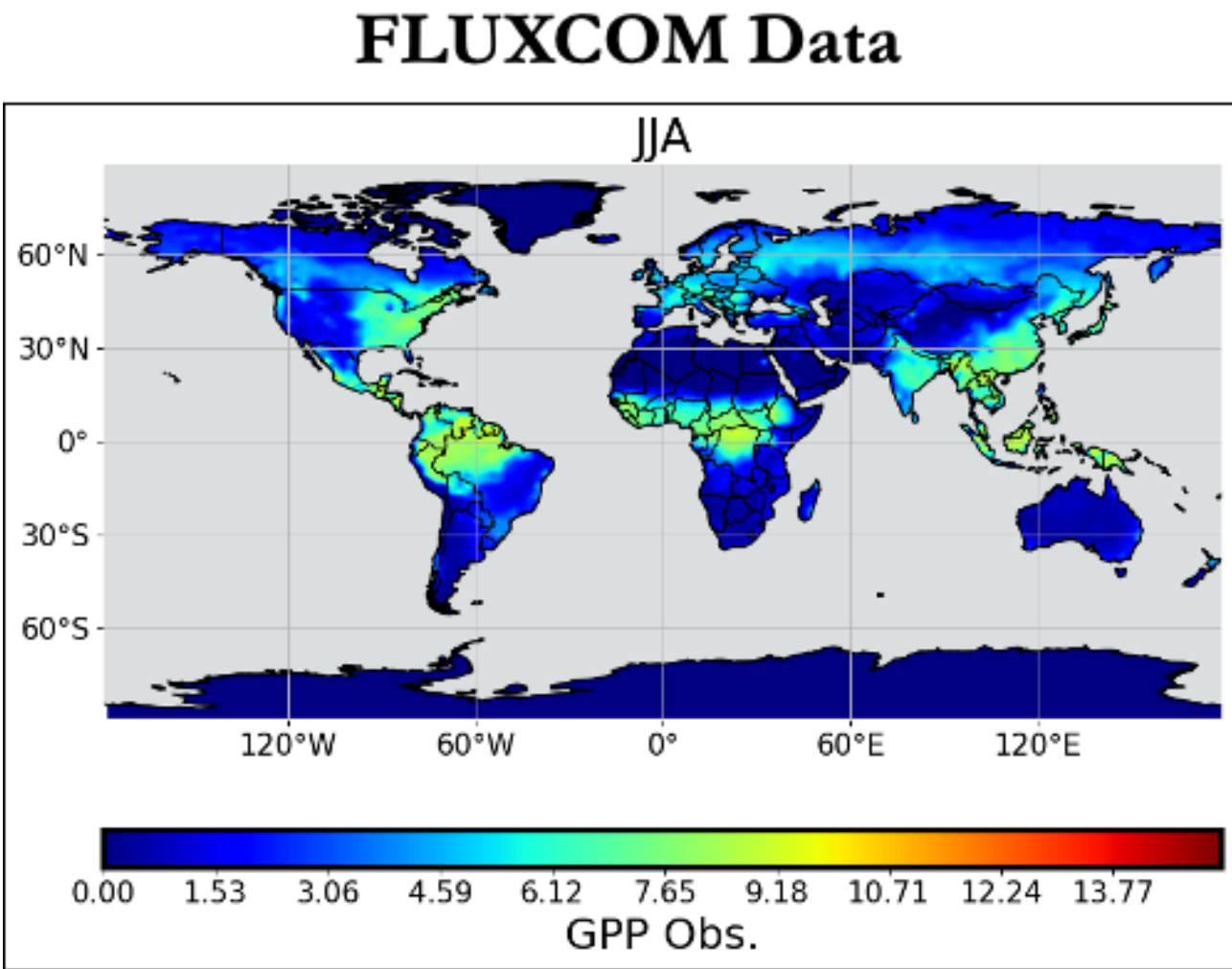
N=100, $\sigma=3$



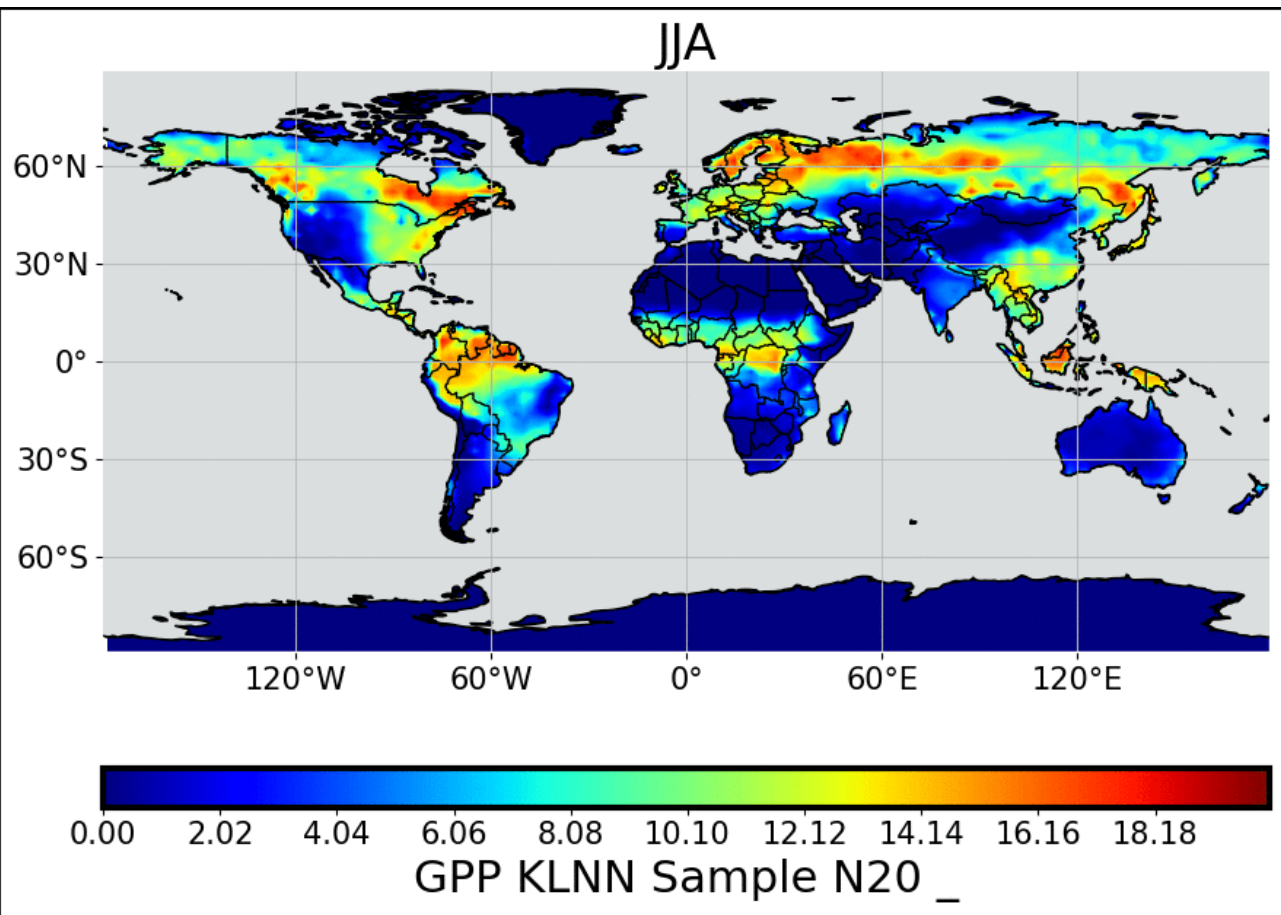
Application Examples



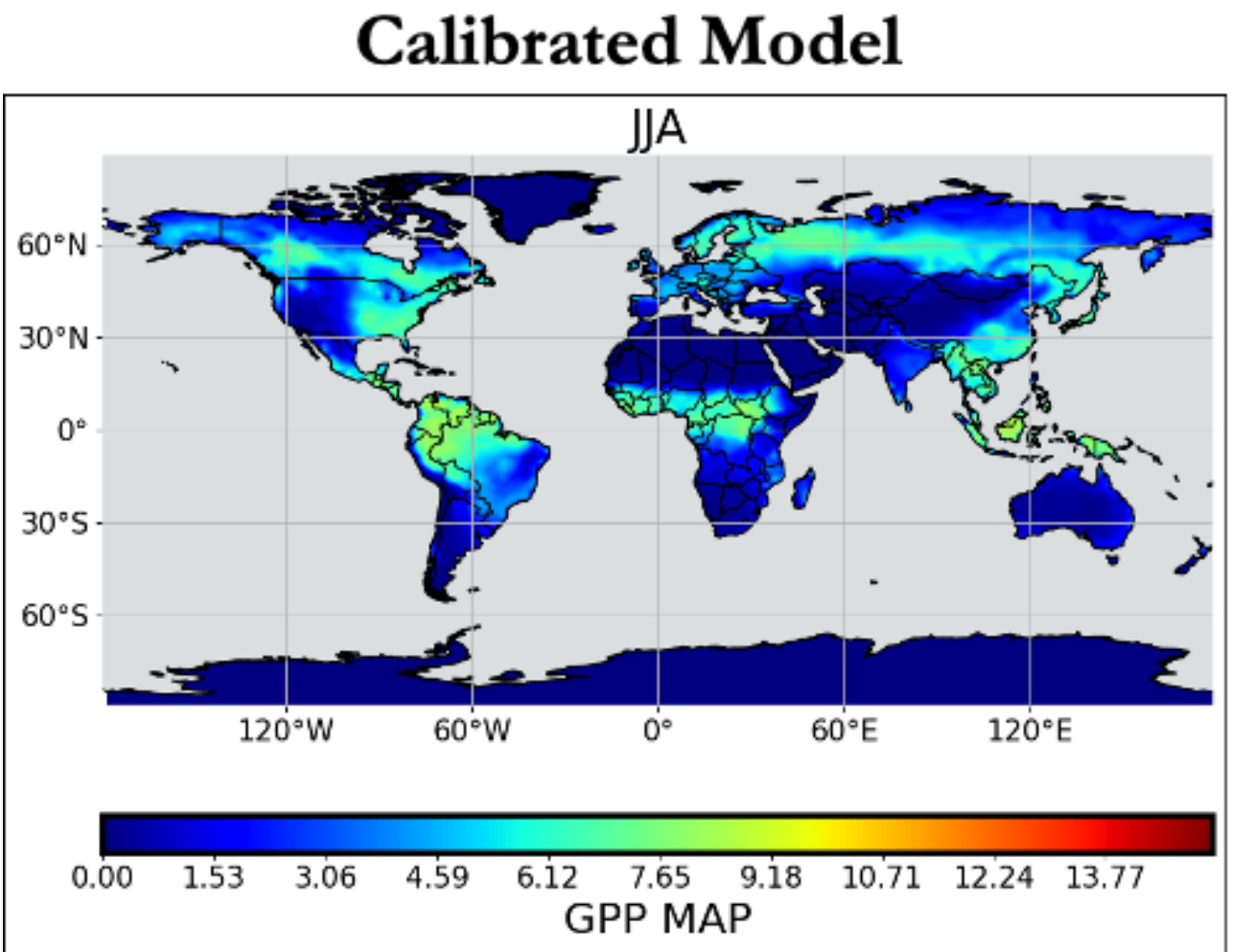
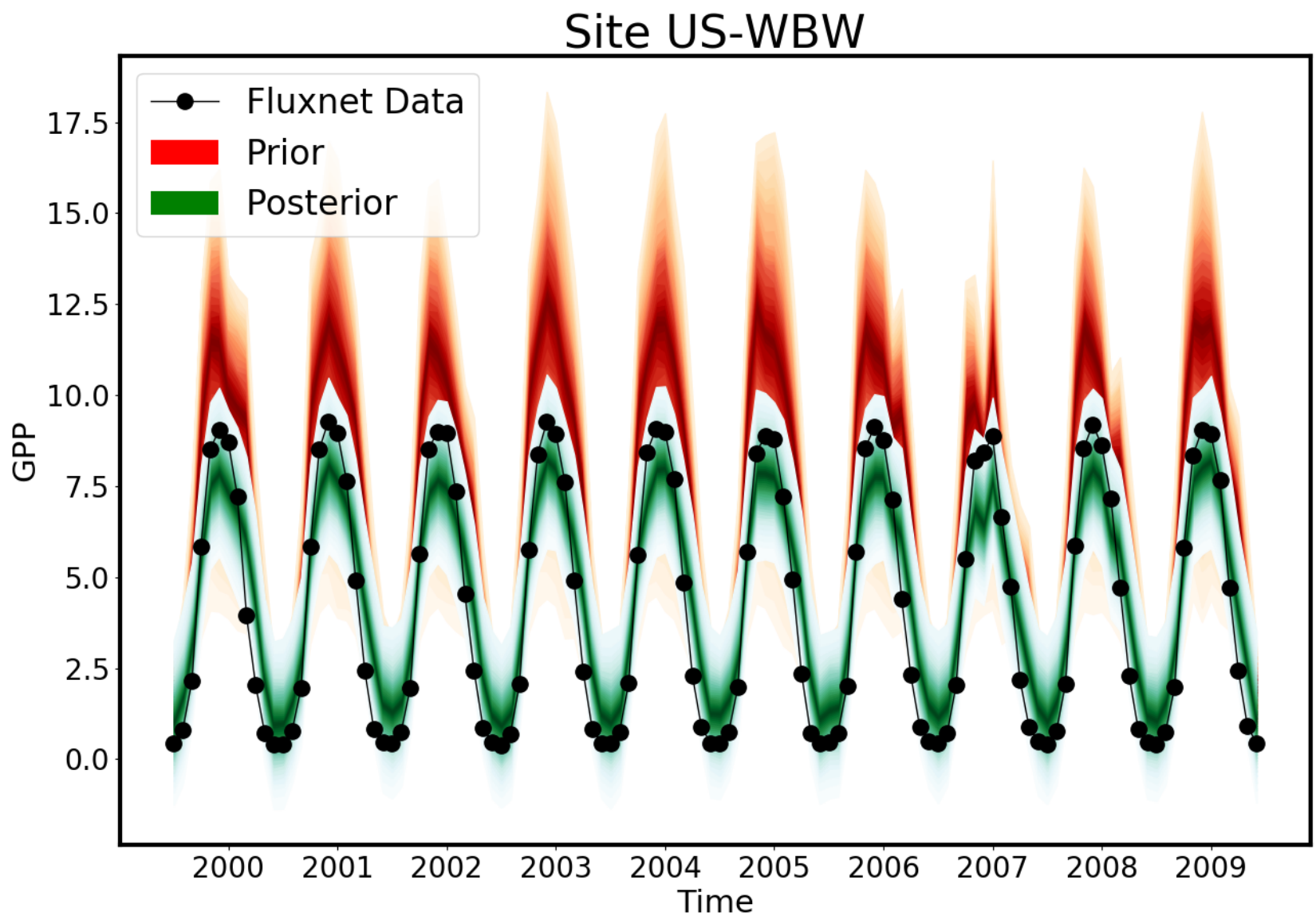
Spatial slice of
calibrated model



Temporal slice of
calibrated model



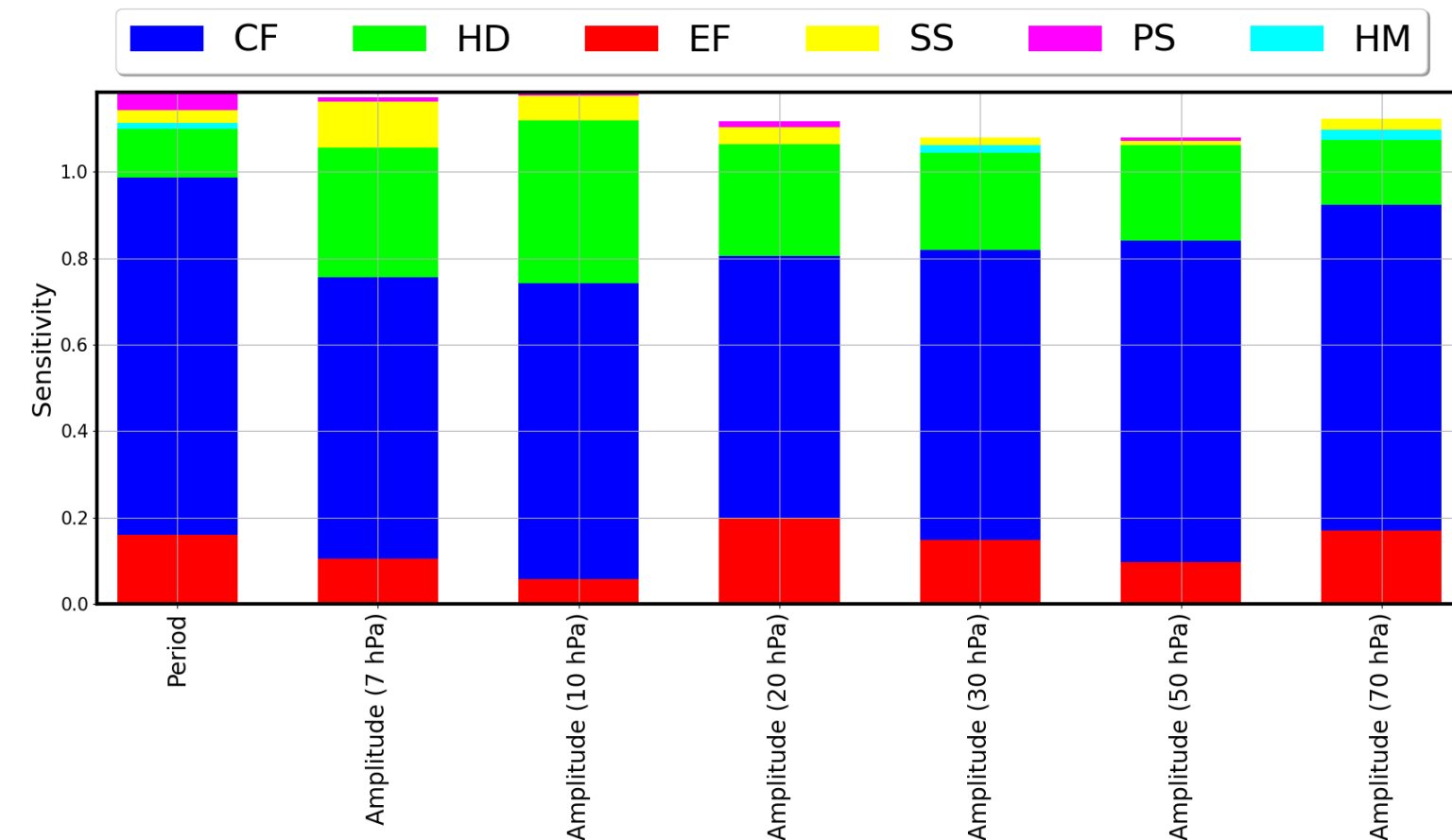
KL+NN spatiotemporal
surrogate, 10 params



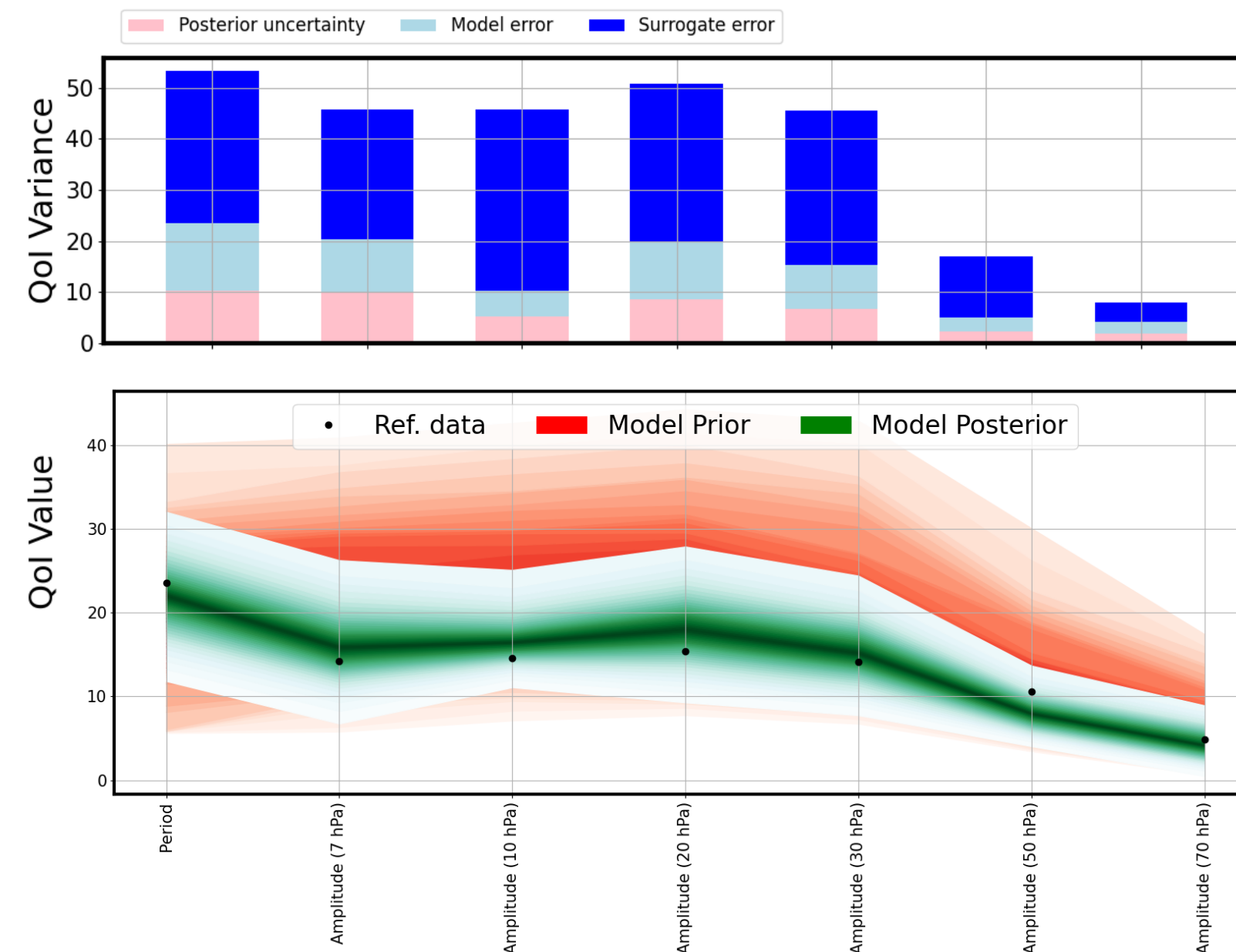
Model error estimation

E3SM: Quasi-biennial Oscillation

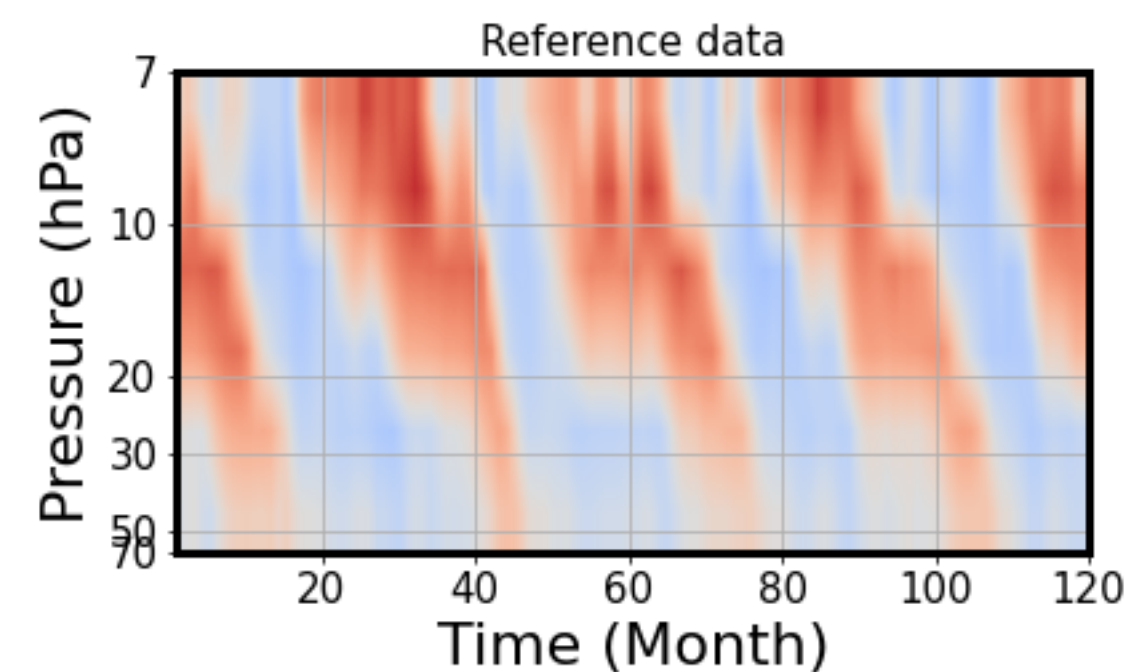
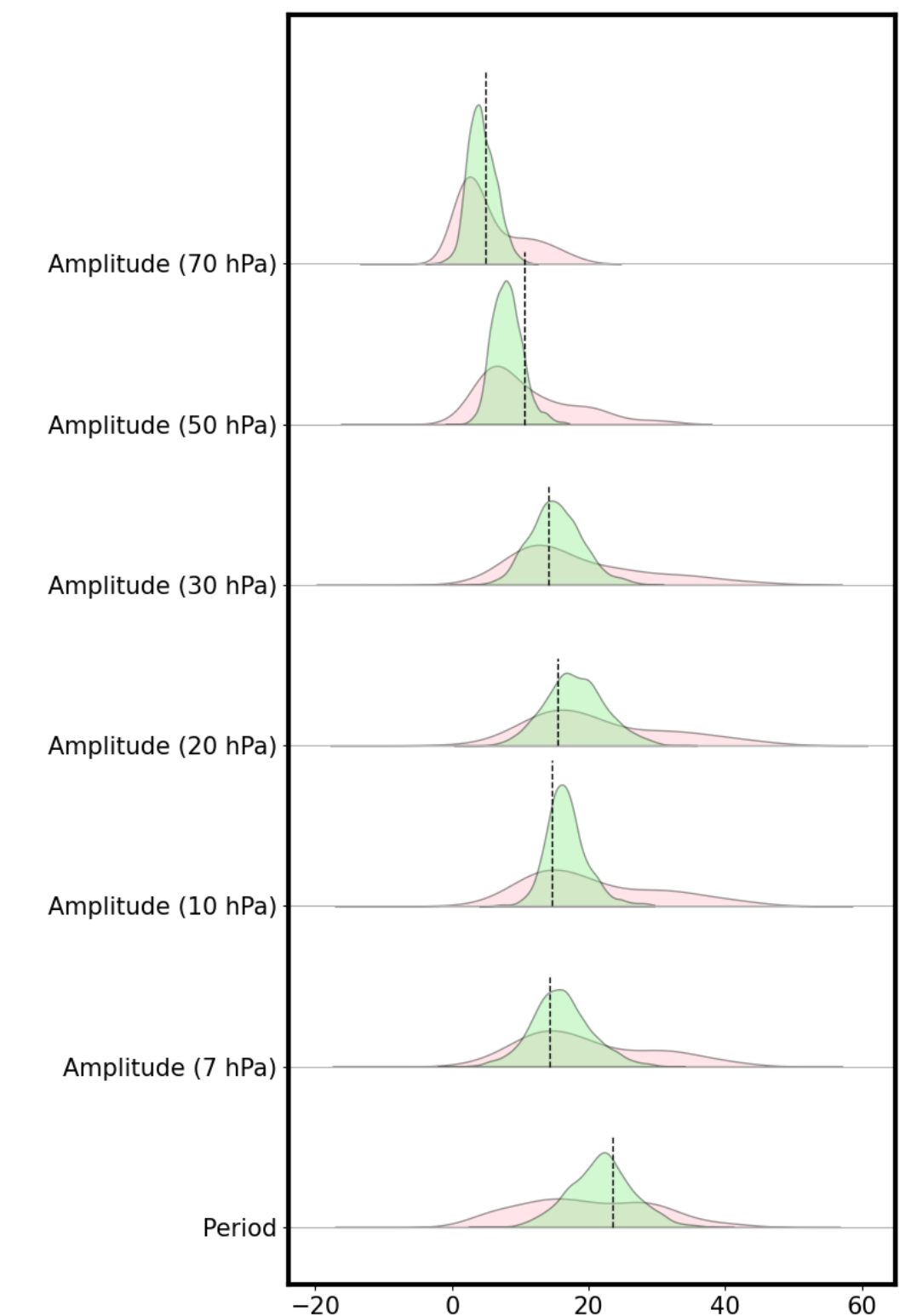
6-param perturbed ensemble,
PC surrogate + GSA



Calibration with model error
and uncertainty attribution



Marginal posterior
predictives



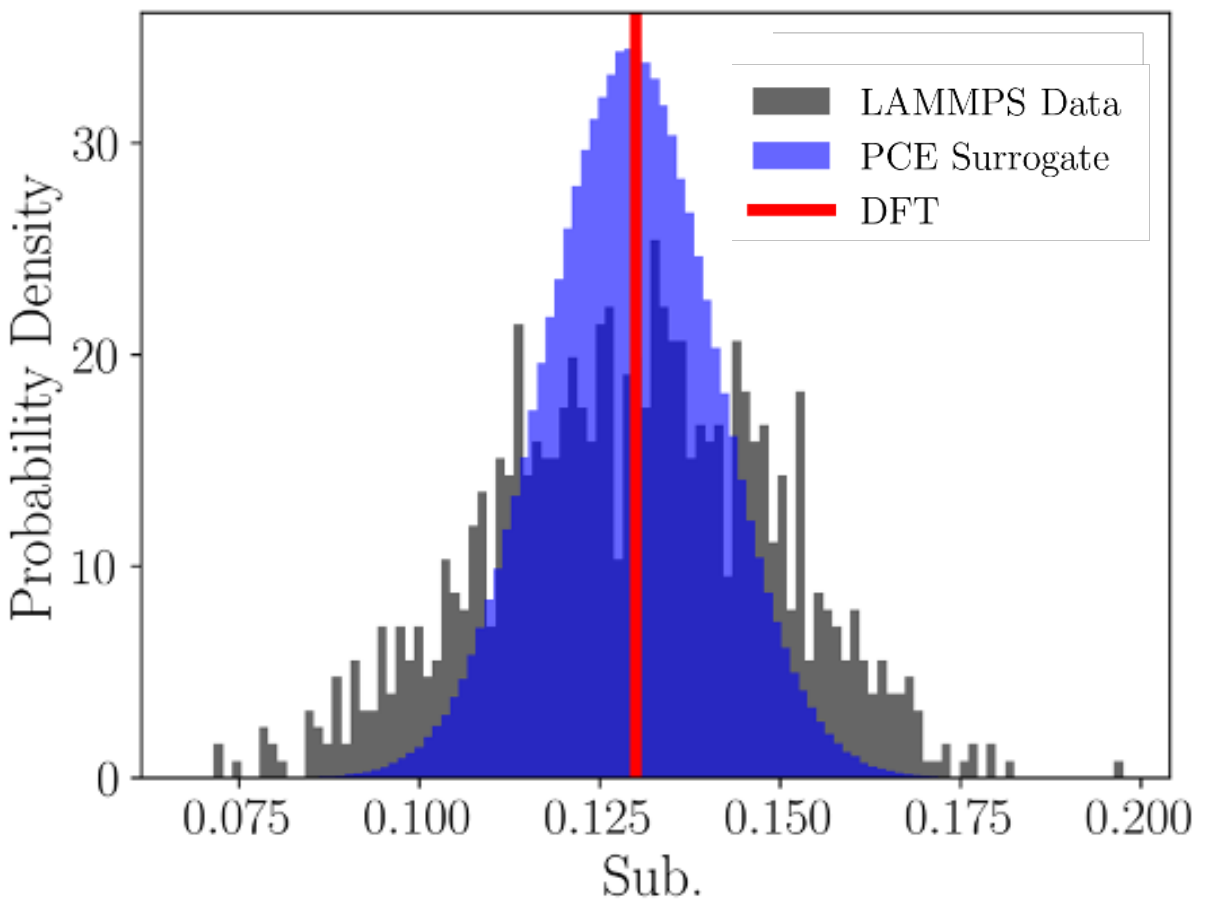
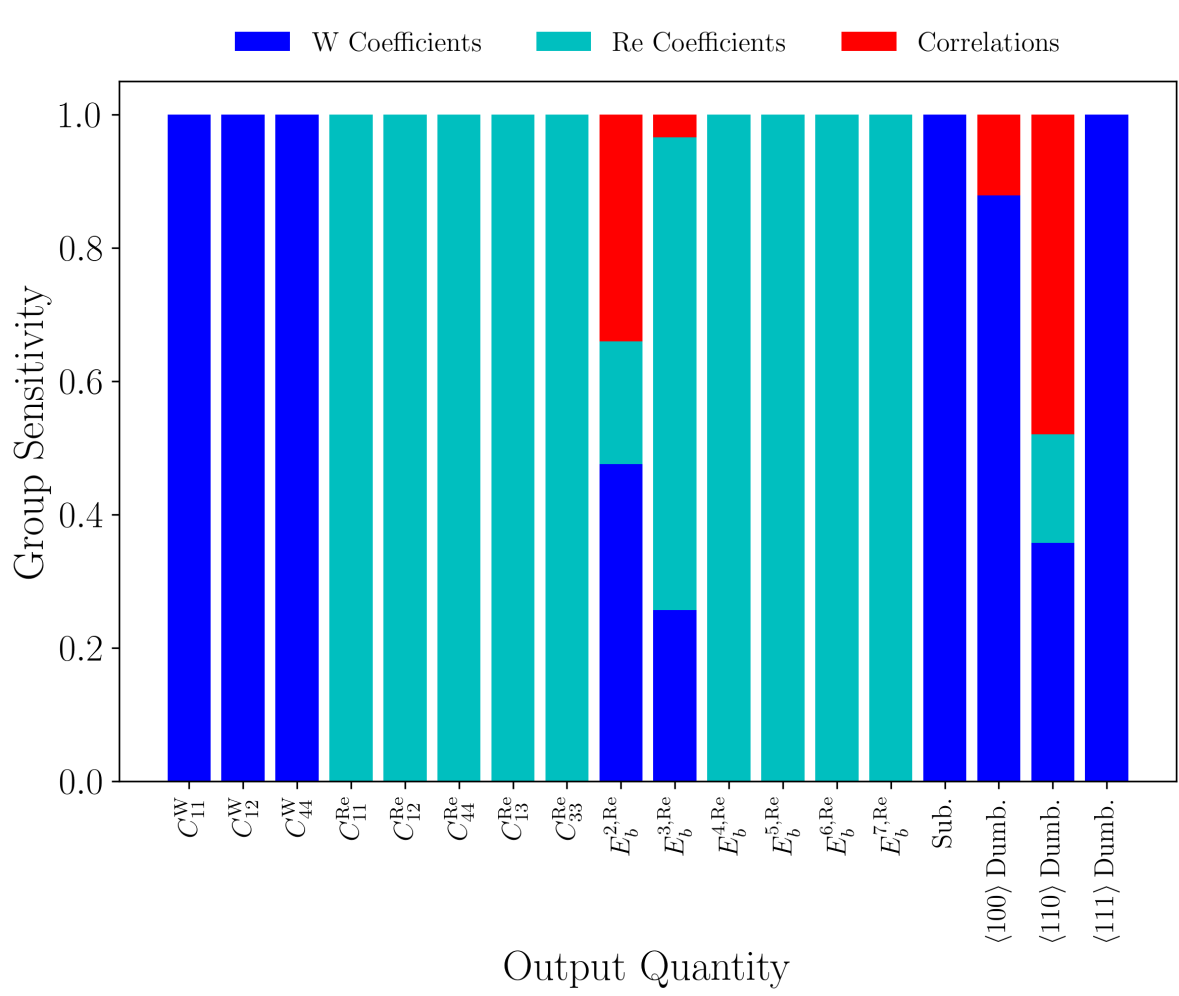
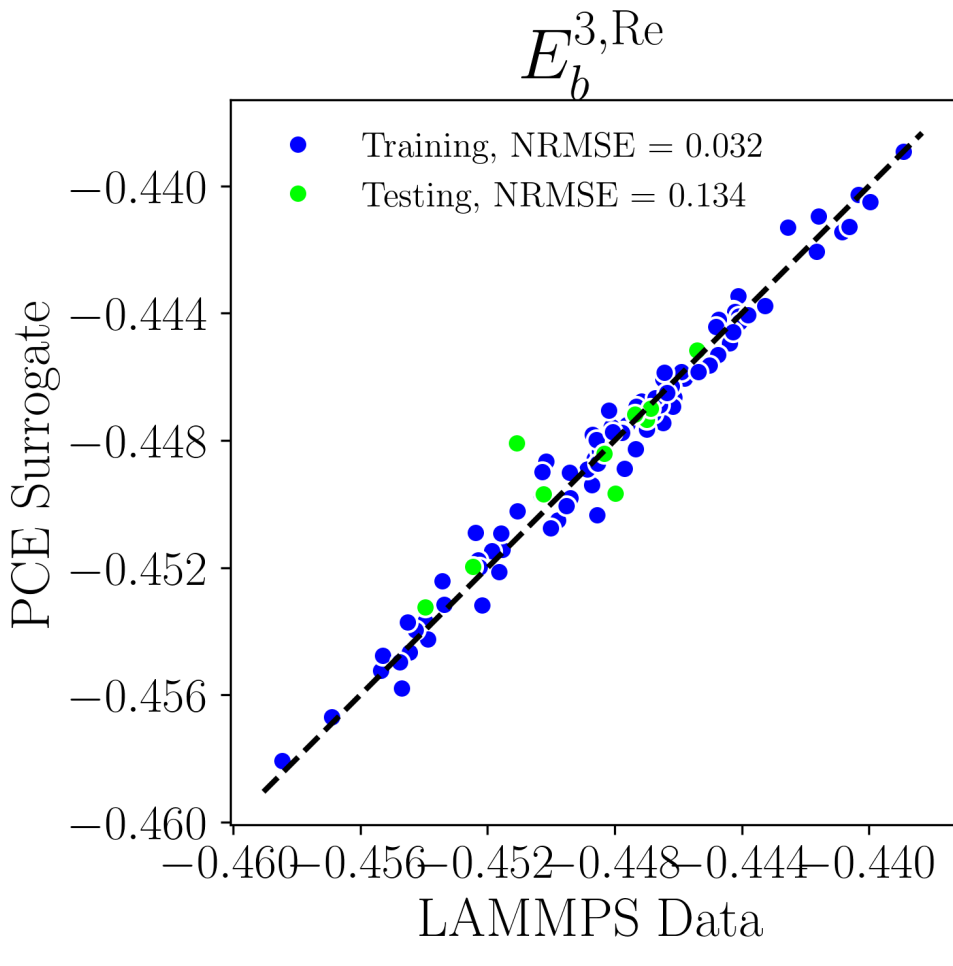
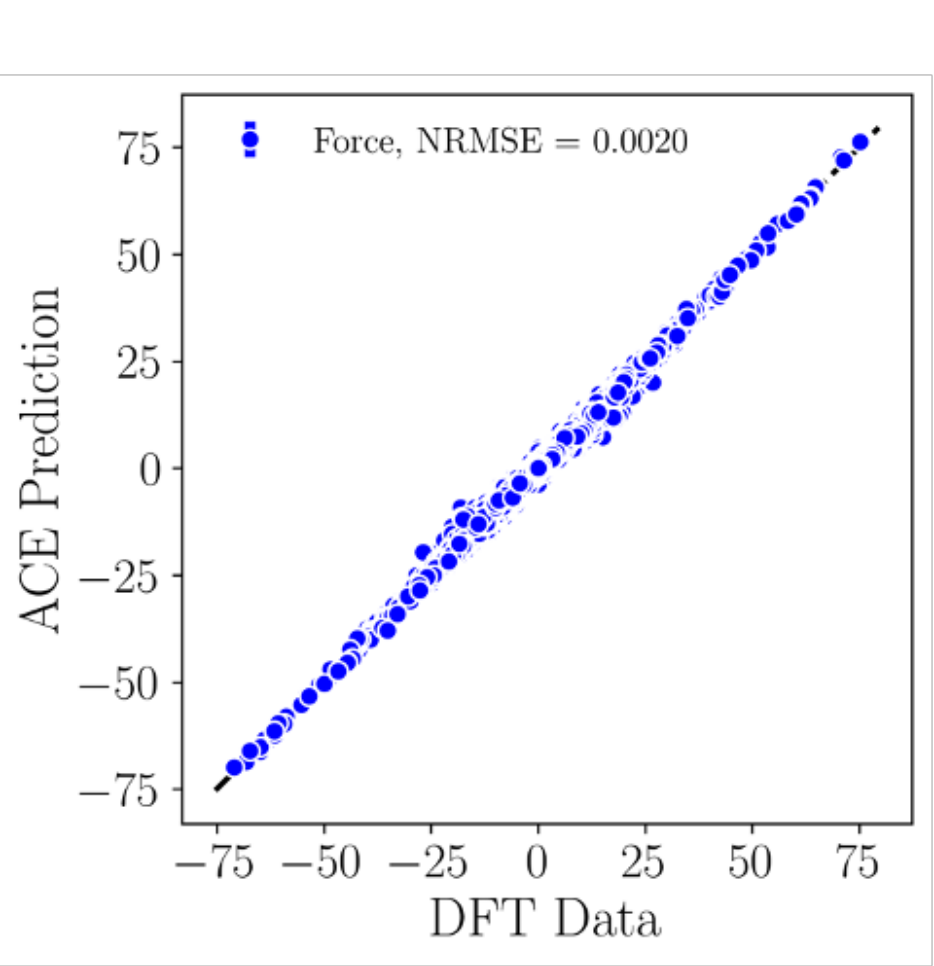
KL dimensionality reduction of
wind fields, KL+PC surrogate
to enable calibration

Bayesian linear regression (BLR) to fit, with UQ, interatomic potential to DFT data

PC-based propagation of uncertainty through MD Qols

GSA and uncertainty attribution

Validation with DFT data

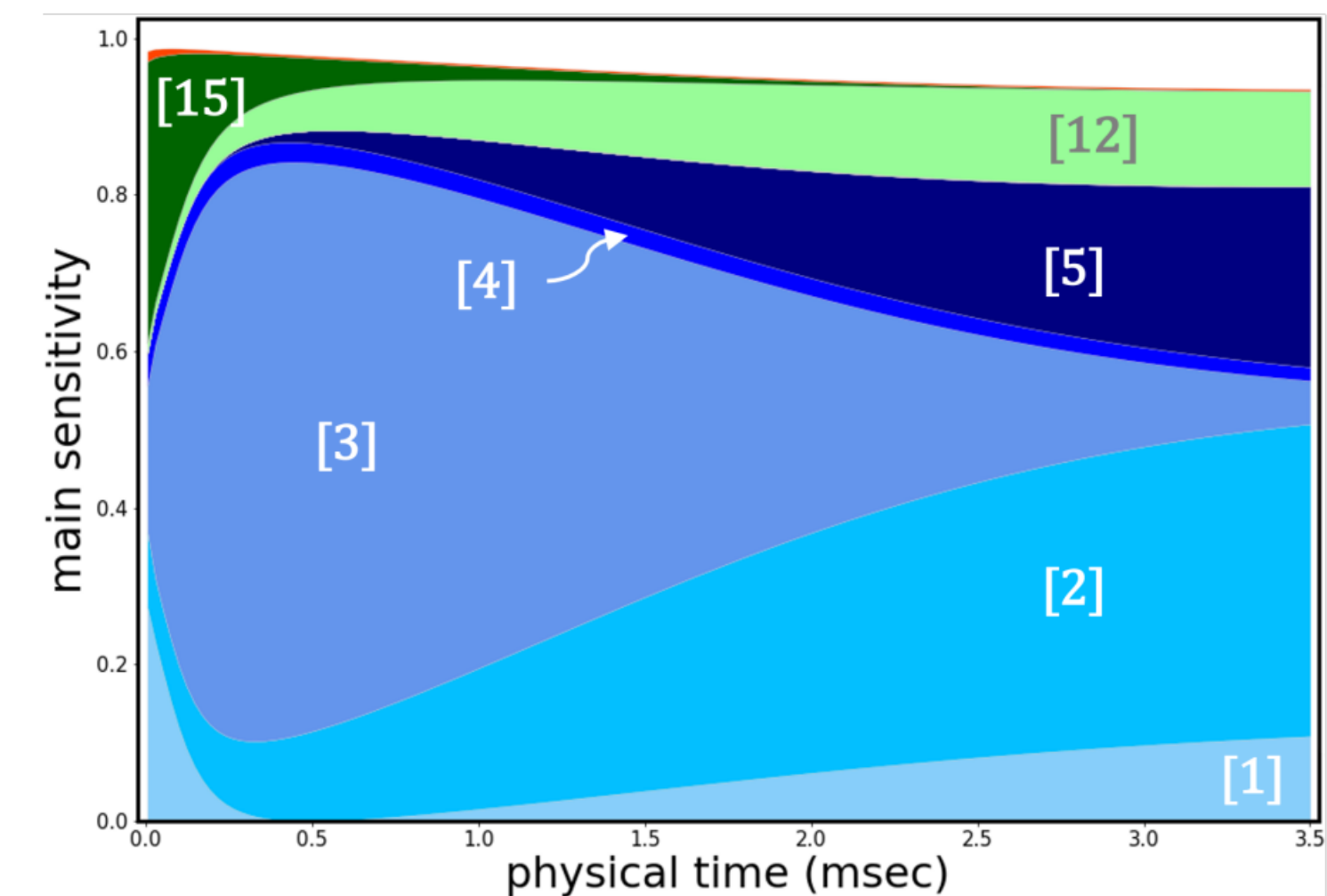
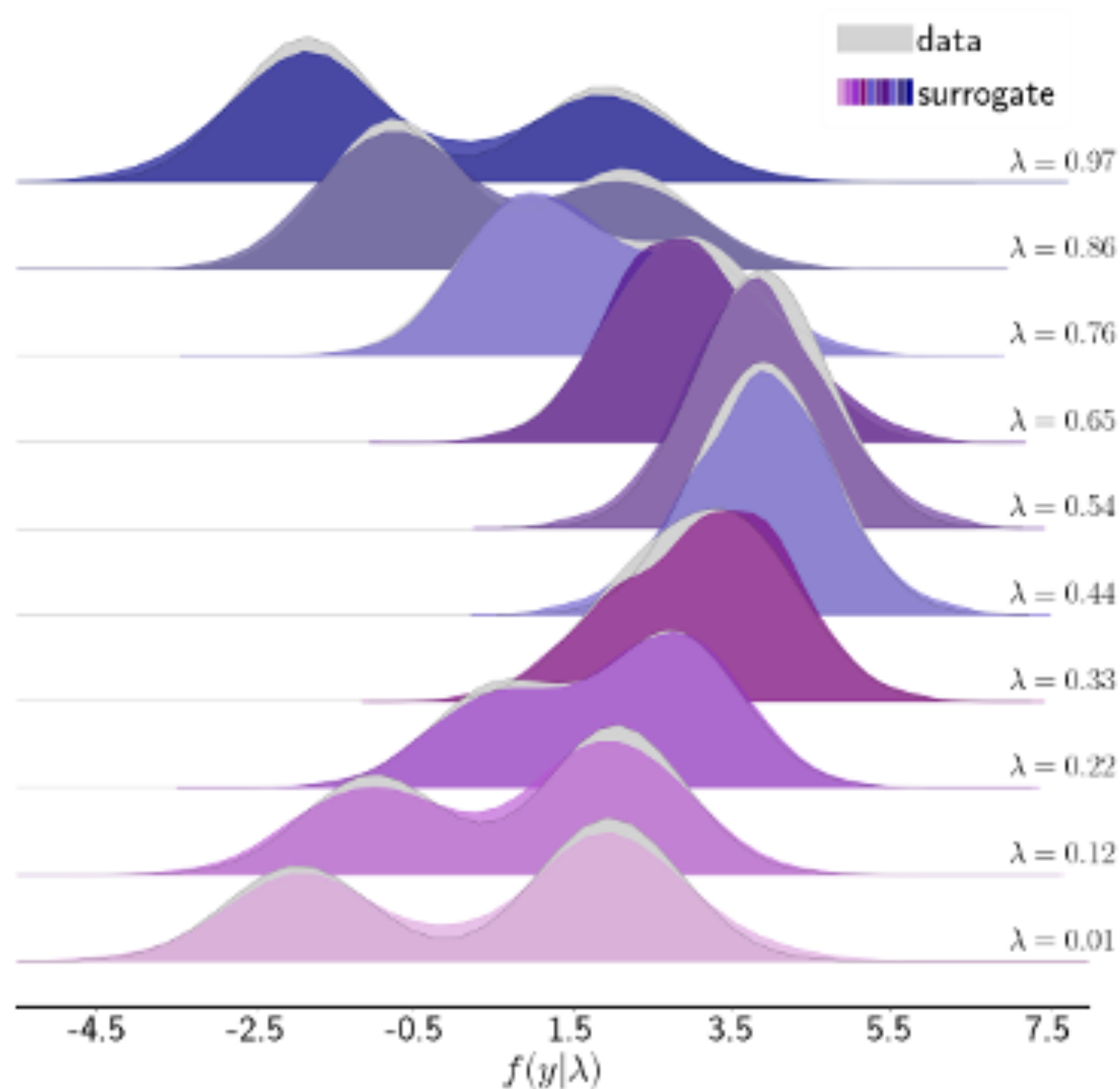


Figs courtesy of Cristian Lacey

Rosenblatt transformation merged with parametric fit to build a joint stochastic-parametric PC surrogate

Karhunen-Loève expansion to extend it to random fields

Global sensitivity analysis of parameteric and stochastic uncertainties wrt time-dependent Qols



Figs courtesy of Joy Bahr-Mueller

Summary and Future

- Lightweight, python-only UQ library
- Standard methods as well as advanced method development
- OOP allows extending with new methods via inherited wrappers
- Part of SciDAC FASTMath software catalogue
- Serves a large set of DOE applications of interest

Coming up:

Math documentation/manual

Usage tutorials

Weighted BCS

Intrusive PC arithmetics

Sparse quadrature

Low-rank tensors

Trunk



Examples of varying complexity

ex_evidence.py
ex_func.py*
ex_integrate.py
ex_genz1d.py
ex_mindex.py*
•
•
•
ex_optim.py
ex_mixture.py
ex_quad.py
ex_sampling.py
ex_slice.py

•
•
•

- Meant to be run out of the box
- Usually refer to one of these if requests come
- ... or write a quick one per request
- Produce screen outputs, and *.png* (and some *.txt*) files
- Script to run all examples together

```
run_examples.sh
1  #!/bin/bash -e
2
3  mkdir -p runex
4  cd runex
5
6  SCRDIR=$(dirname "$0")
7
8
9  echo $SCRDIR
10 for ex_scr in "$SCRDIR"/../examples/*.py; do
11     echo "=====
12     start=$SECONDS
13     ex_scr_name=$(basename "$ex_scr" .py)
14     echo "Running $ex_scr"
15     "$ex_scr" > ${ex_scr_name}.log
16     duration=$(( SECONDS - start ))
17     echo "It took $duration sec."
18     #echo "=====
19 done
```

$$f(\lambda; z) \approx \bar{f}(z) + \sum_{m=1}^M \eta_m(\lambda) \sqrt{\mu_m} \phi_m(z)$$

↑ **Uncertain Parameters** ↑ **“Certain” Conditions**

- High-d output, i.e. $N \gg 1$ different operating conditions, e.g. spatio-temporal output $z = (x, y, t)$
- Eigen-pairs $(\mu_m; \phi_m(z))$ are found via eigensolves
- Reduces the analysis to $M \ll N$ latent-space
- Parallel to SVD, except...
 - is centralized (first subtract the mean)
 - often comes with the continuous form
 - has random variable interpretation for the latent features (aka left singular vectors) η_m

$$F_{ki} = \sum_{m=1}^M U_{km} \Sigma_{mm} V_{im}$$

Fwd UQ:

Rosenblatt Transformation

- Multivariate generalization of CDF thm [Rosenblatt, 1952].
- KDE-based method, given samples [Sargsyan, 2010].
- Conditional CDFs are hard to evaluate in high-d.

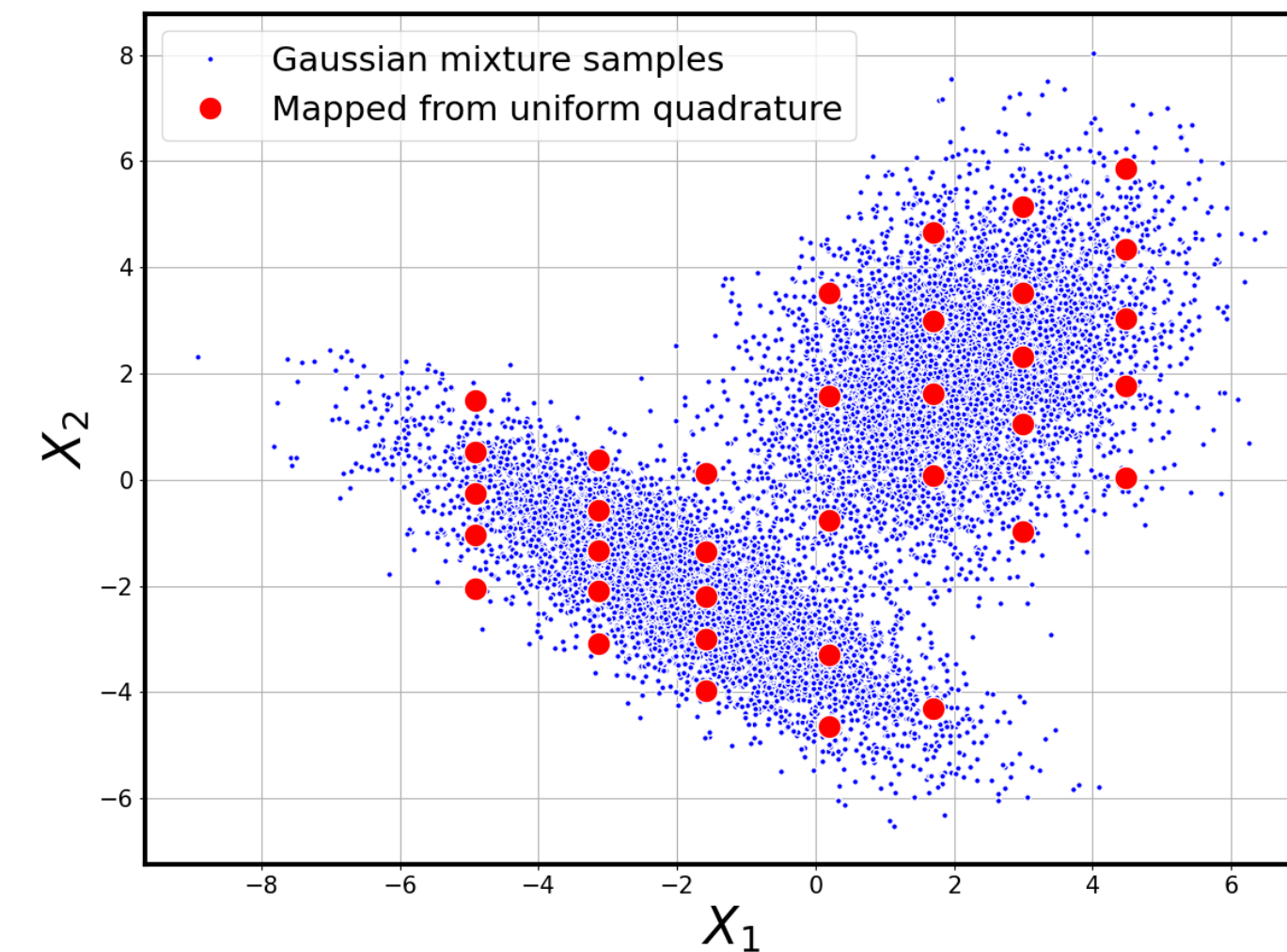
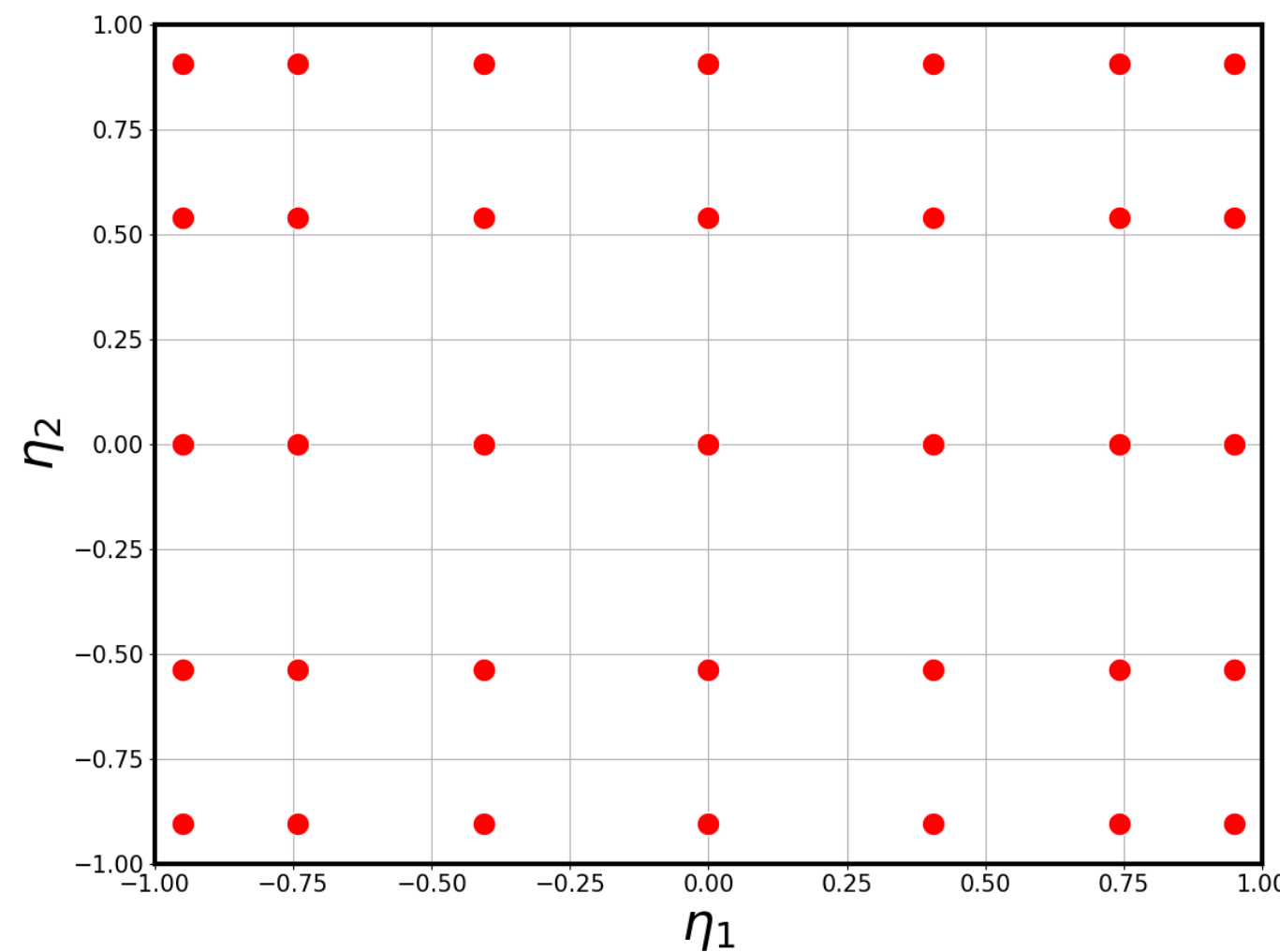
$$\xi_1 = F_1(x_1)$$

$$\xi_2 = F_{2|1}(x_2 | x_1)$$

⋮

$$\xi_n = F_{n|n-1,\dots,1}(x_n | x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1)$$

$$\frac{\sum_{s=1}^S \exp \left(-\frac{(x_1 - x_1^{(s)})^2 + \dots + (x_{n-1} - x_{n-1}^{(s)})^2}{2h^2} \right) \times \Phi \left(\frac{x_n - x_n^{(s)}}{h} \right)}{\sum_{s=1}^S \exp \left(-\frac{(x_1 - x_1^{(s)})^2 + \dots + (x_{n-1} - x_{n-1}^{(s)})^2}{2h^2} \right)}$$



- As soon as this $X \leftrightarrow \xi$ map is built, PC construction becomes a polynomial fit problem.

Bayes formula

$$\underbrace{p(\lambda|y)}_{\text{Posterior}} = \frac{\underbrace{p(y|\lambda)}_{\text{Likelihood}} \underbrace{p(\lambda)}_{\text{Prior}}}{\underbrace{p(y)}_{\text{Evidence}}}$$

- Collected data $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$
- Data model $y_i = f(\lambda; x_i) + \epsilon_i$

- Denominator $p(y)$ is not important
- Likelihood derived from data model assumptions
- For example, gaussian i.i.d. noise ϵ_i leads to

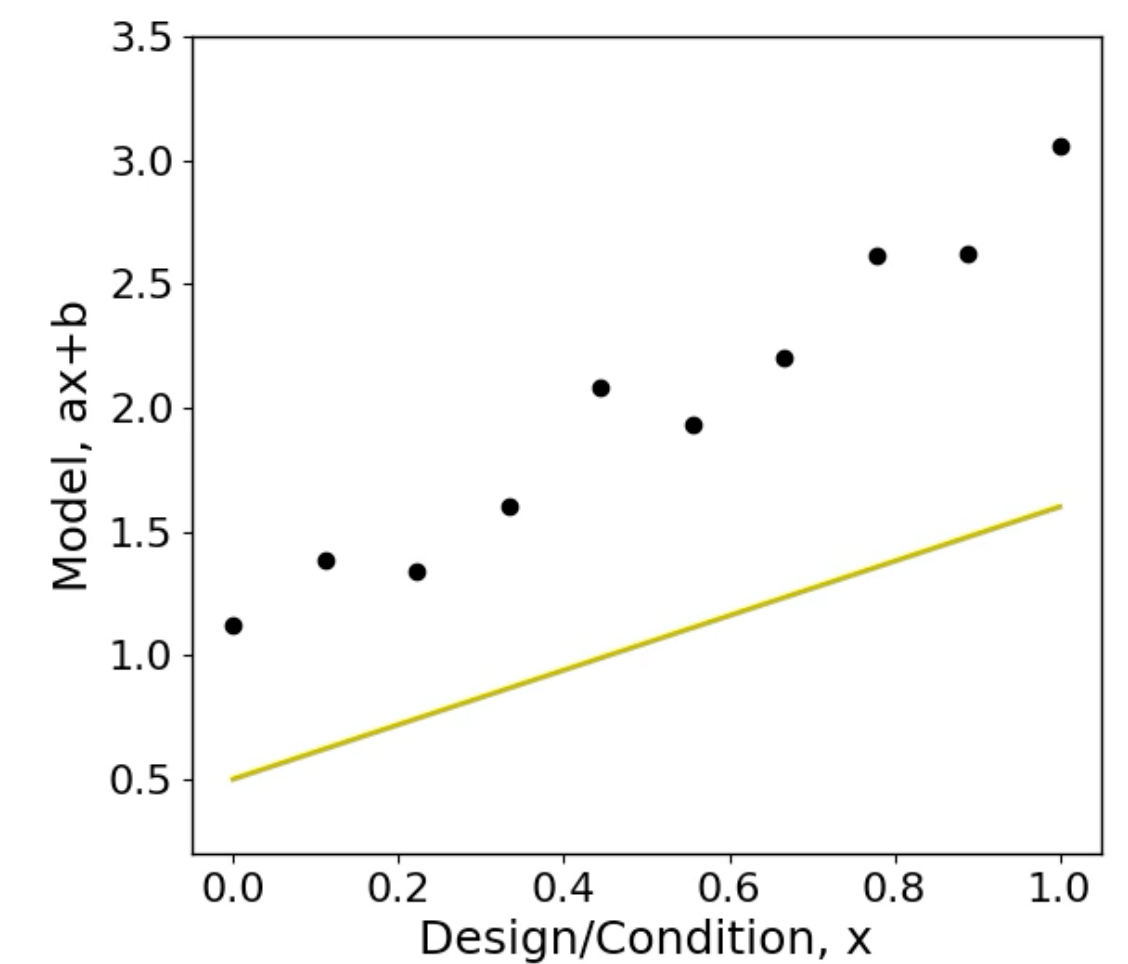
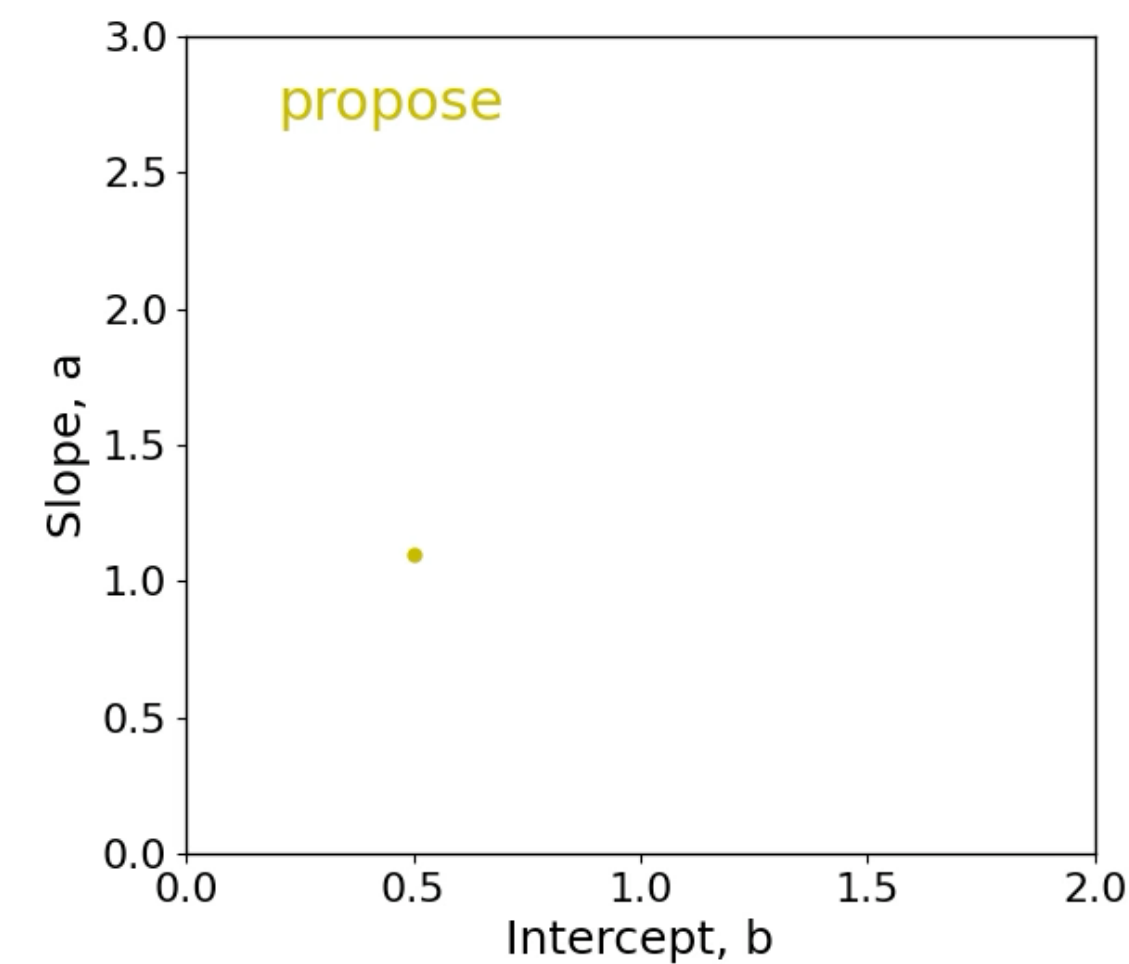
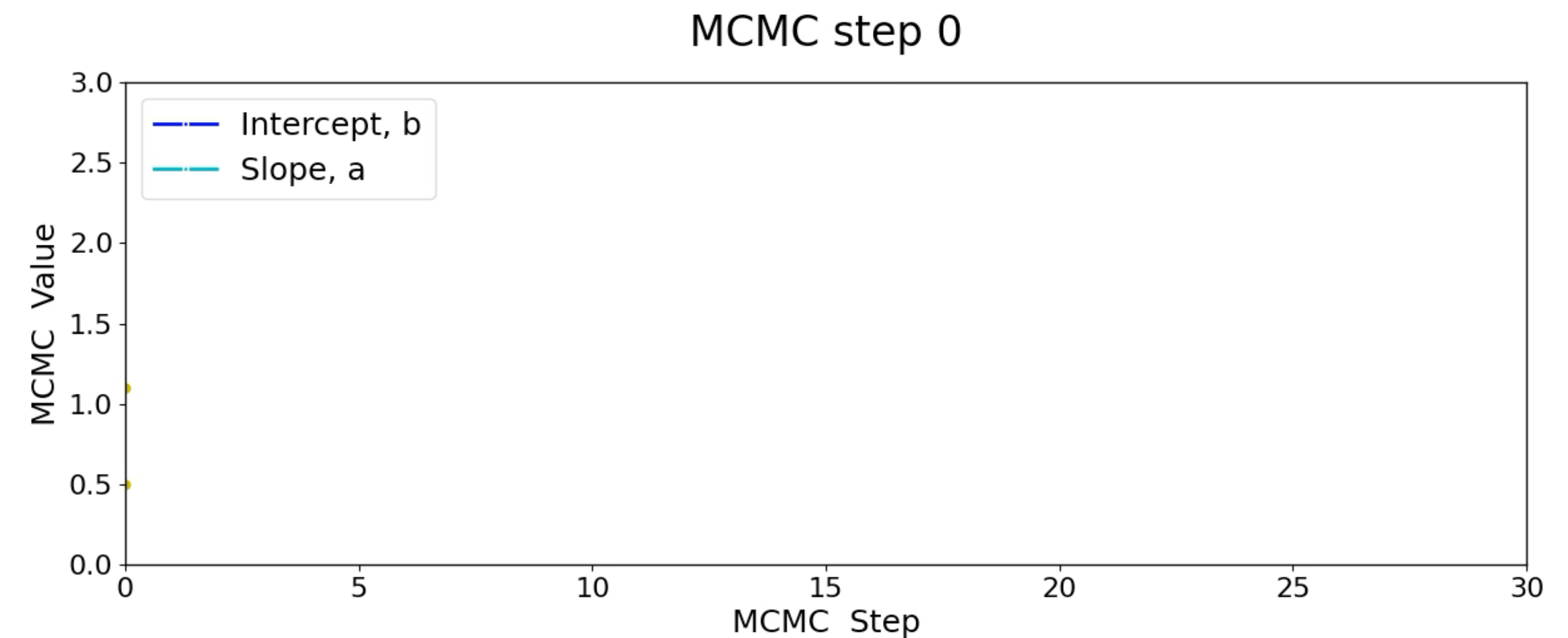
$$L(\lambda) = p(y | \lambda) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y_i - f(\lambda; x_i))^2 \right)$$

- **Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)** samples from posterior by marching in the λ -space.
- **Likelihood** is key:
 - It incorporates statistical assumptions about the discrepancy between model and data.
 - It requires model evaluation at a proposed parameter value λ .

... but it is often infeasible to use model online in an MCMC loop,
hence we pre-construct a model surrogate.

Linear
Model: $f(\overbrace{a, b}^{\lambda}; x) = ax + b$

- Metropolis-Hastings algorithm
- Accept/reject mechanism in the parameter space
- Generate a random candidate at step t ,
 $\lambda' \sim \pi(\lambda' | \lambda_t)$
- Calculate the acceptance probability
$$\alpha = \min \left(1, \frac{p(\lambda' | y)}{p(\lambda_t | y)} \frac{\pi(\lambda_t | \lambda')}{\pi(\lambda' | \lambda_t)} \right)$$
- Accept with probability α and move to step $t + 1$.



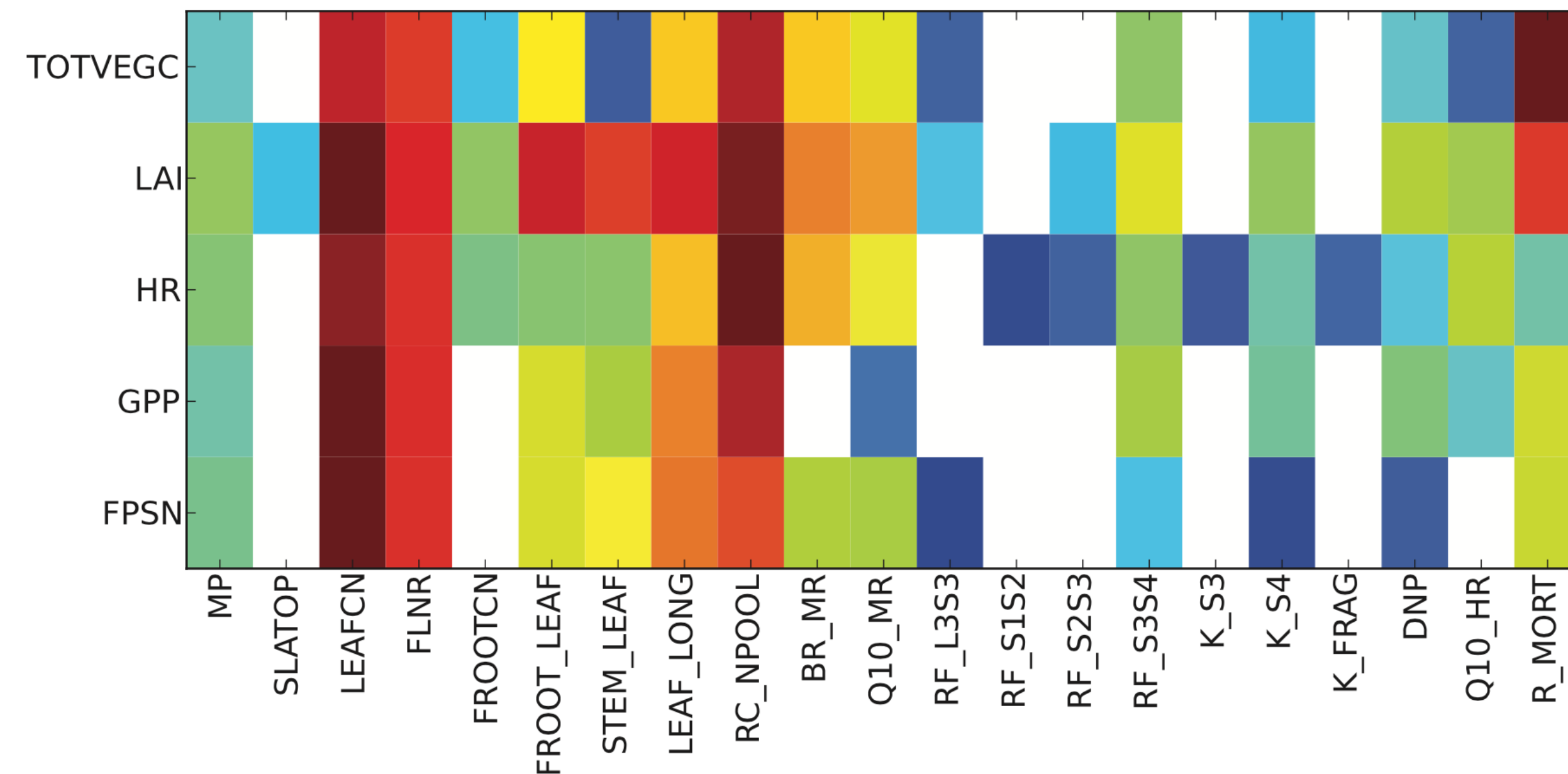
*Note: only posterior ratio matters

E3SM Land Model (ELM)

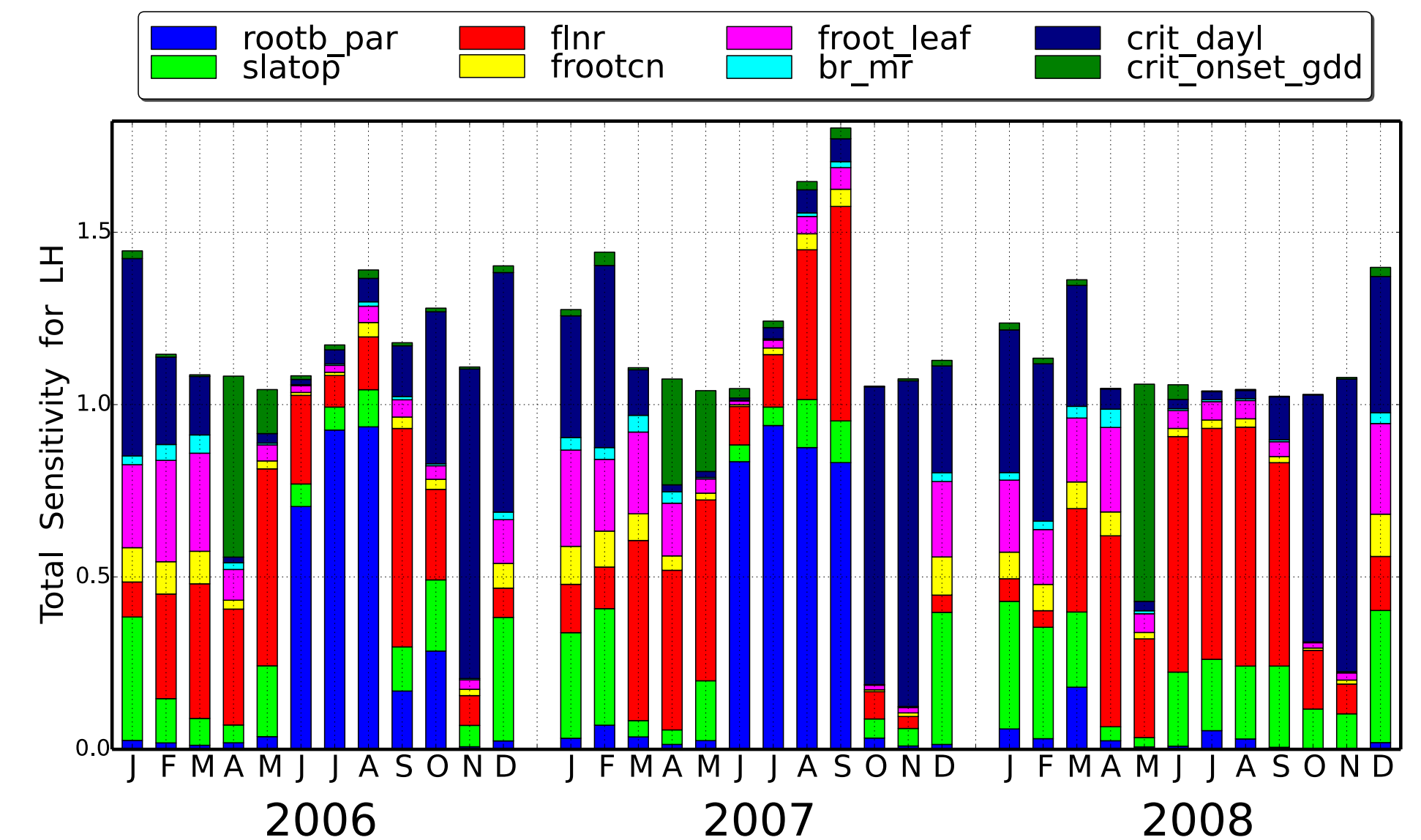
- US Dept of Energy (DOE) sponsored Earth system model
- Land, atmosphere, ocean, ice, human system components
- High-resolution, employ DOE leadership-class computing facilities



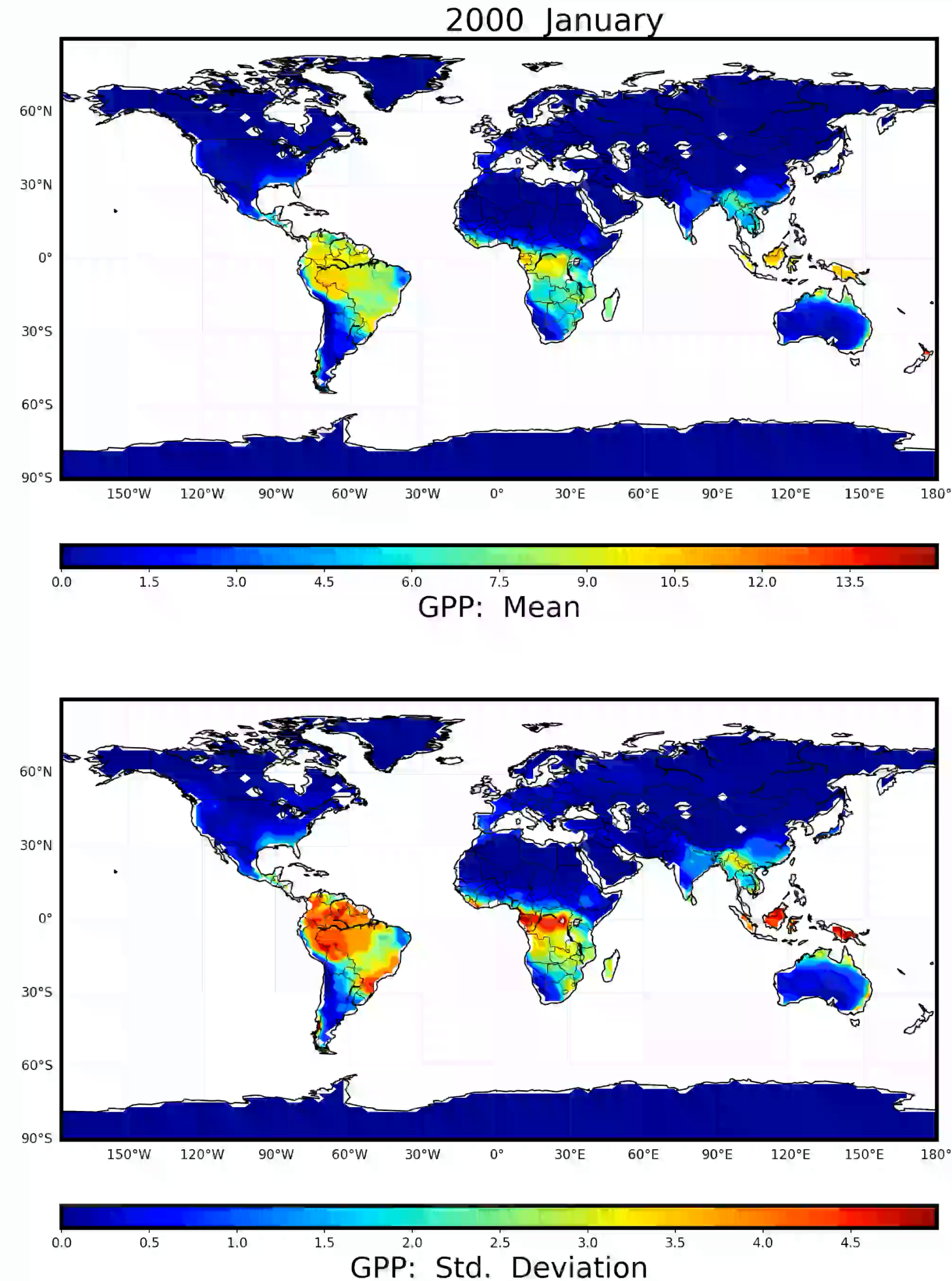
~50 inputs; 5 averaged outputs



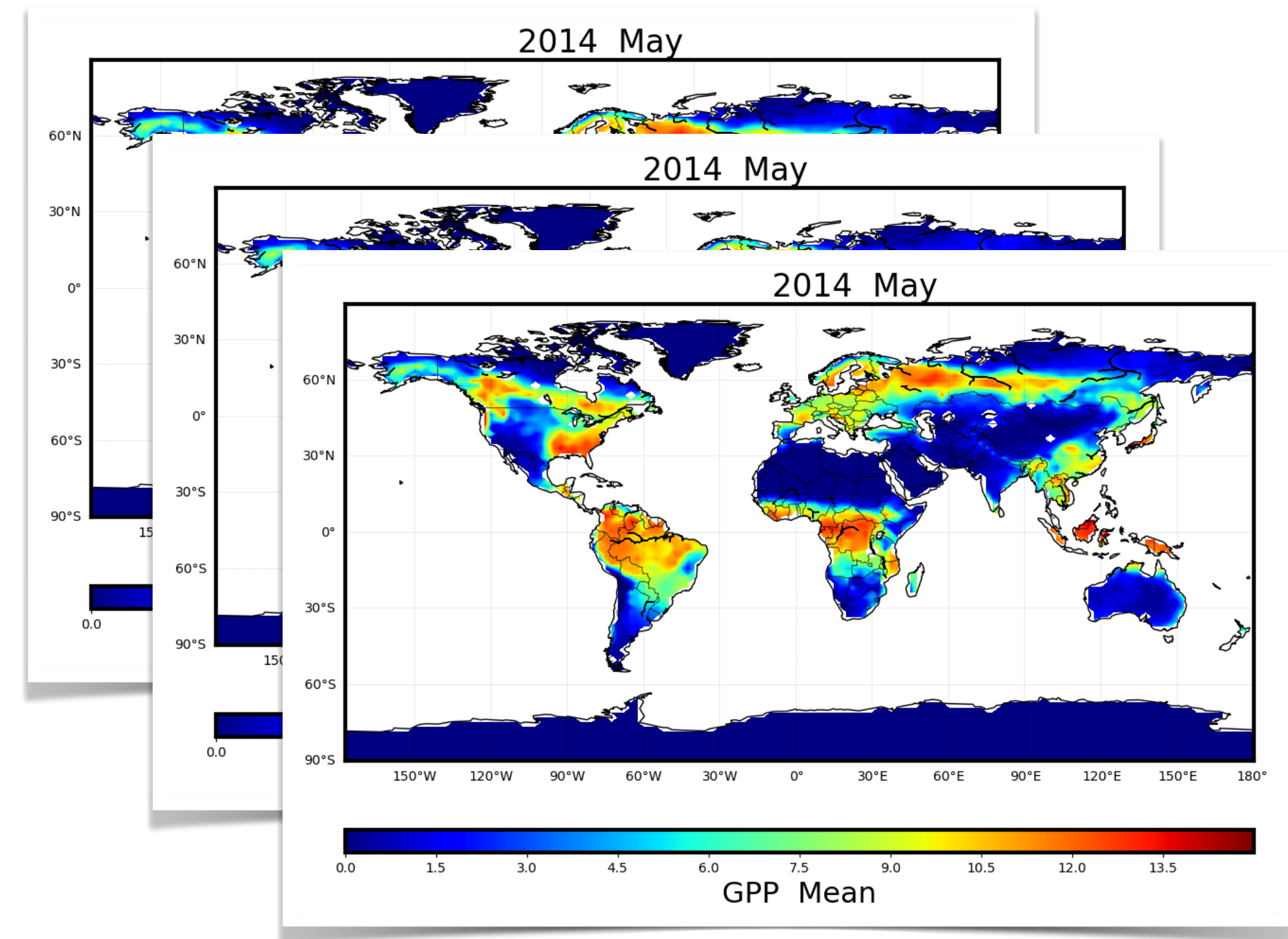
~15 inputs; 60 temporal outputs



E3SM Land Model: Gross Primary Productivity



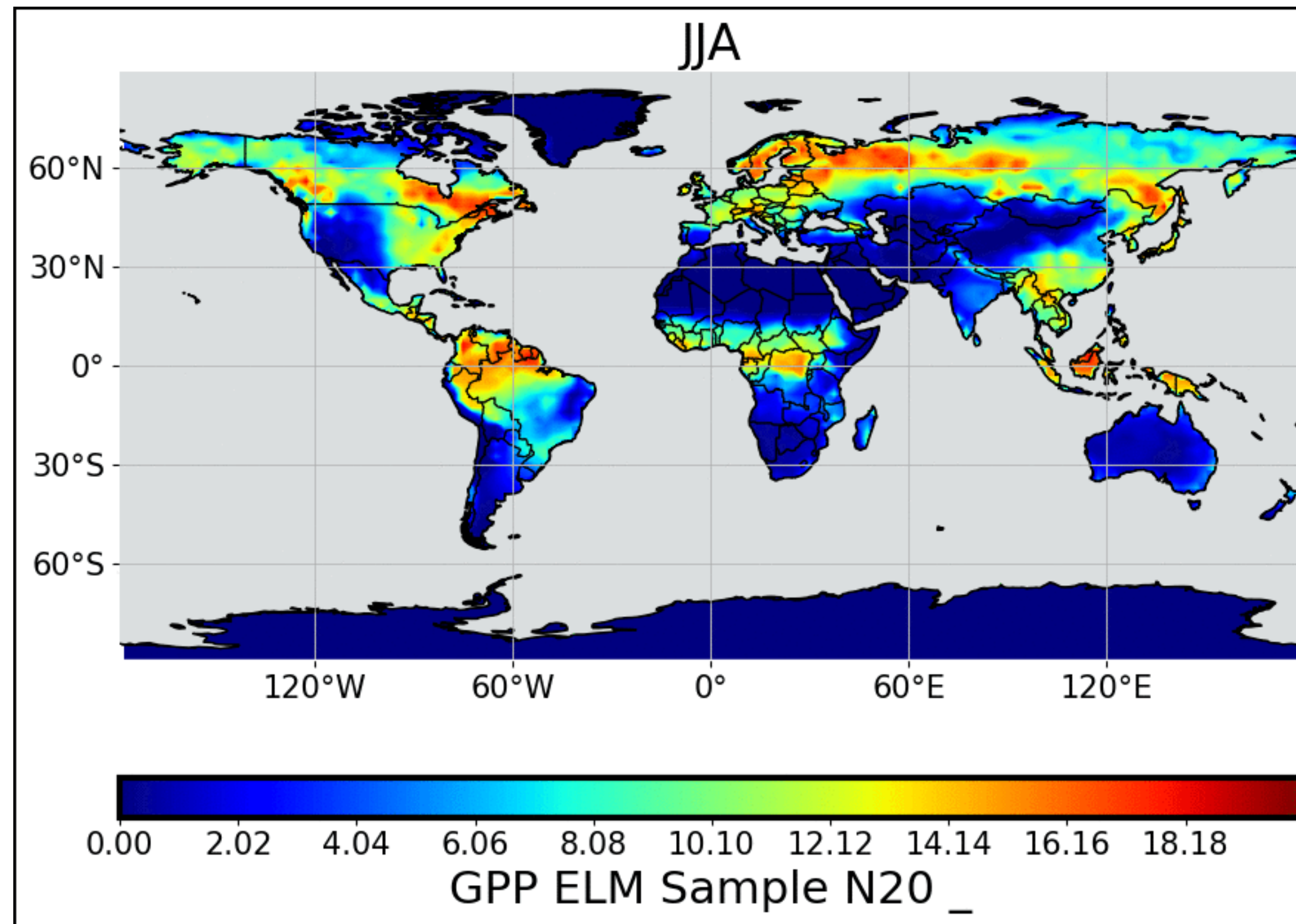
10 inputs; spatio-temporal output 4000 cells x 180 months



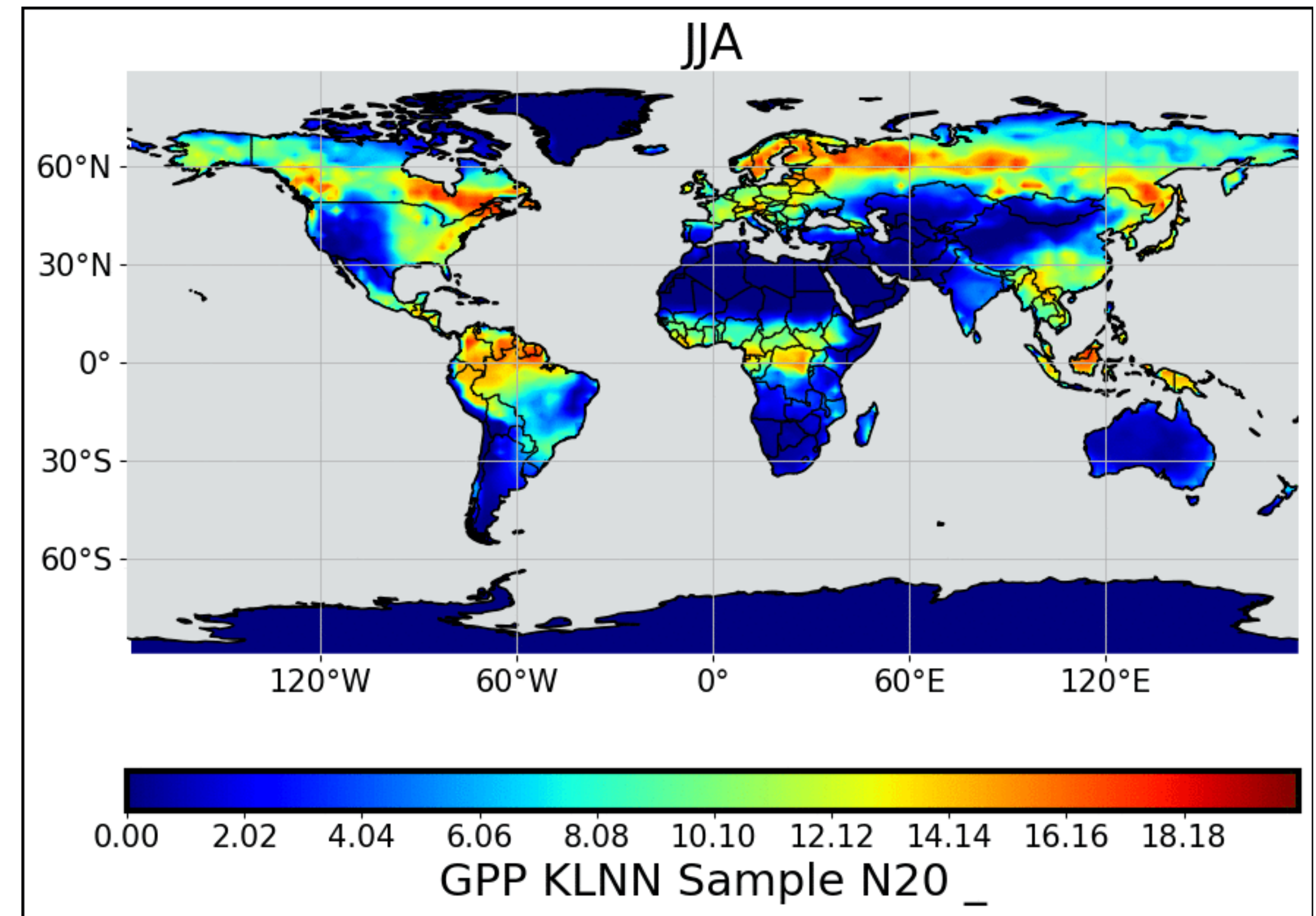
Model Ensemble (275 samples)

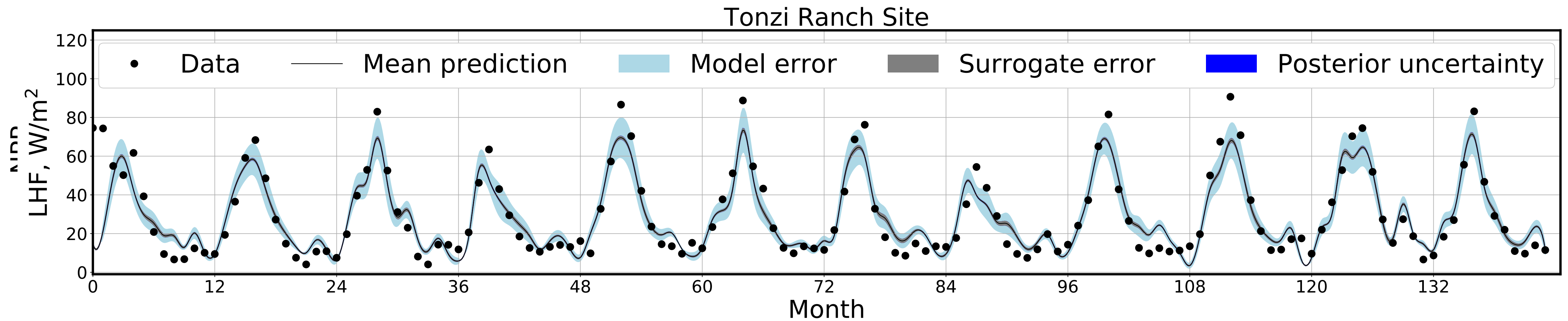
E3SM Land Model: Gross Primary Productivity

ELM: Single simulation several hours



KL+NN Surrogate: Single simulation ~1 sec





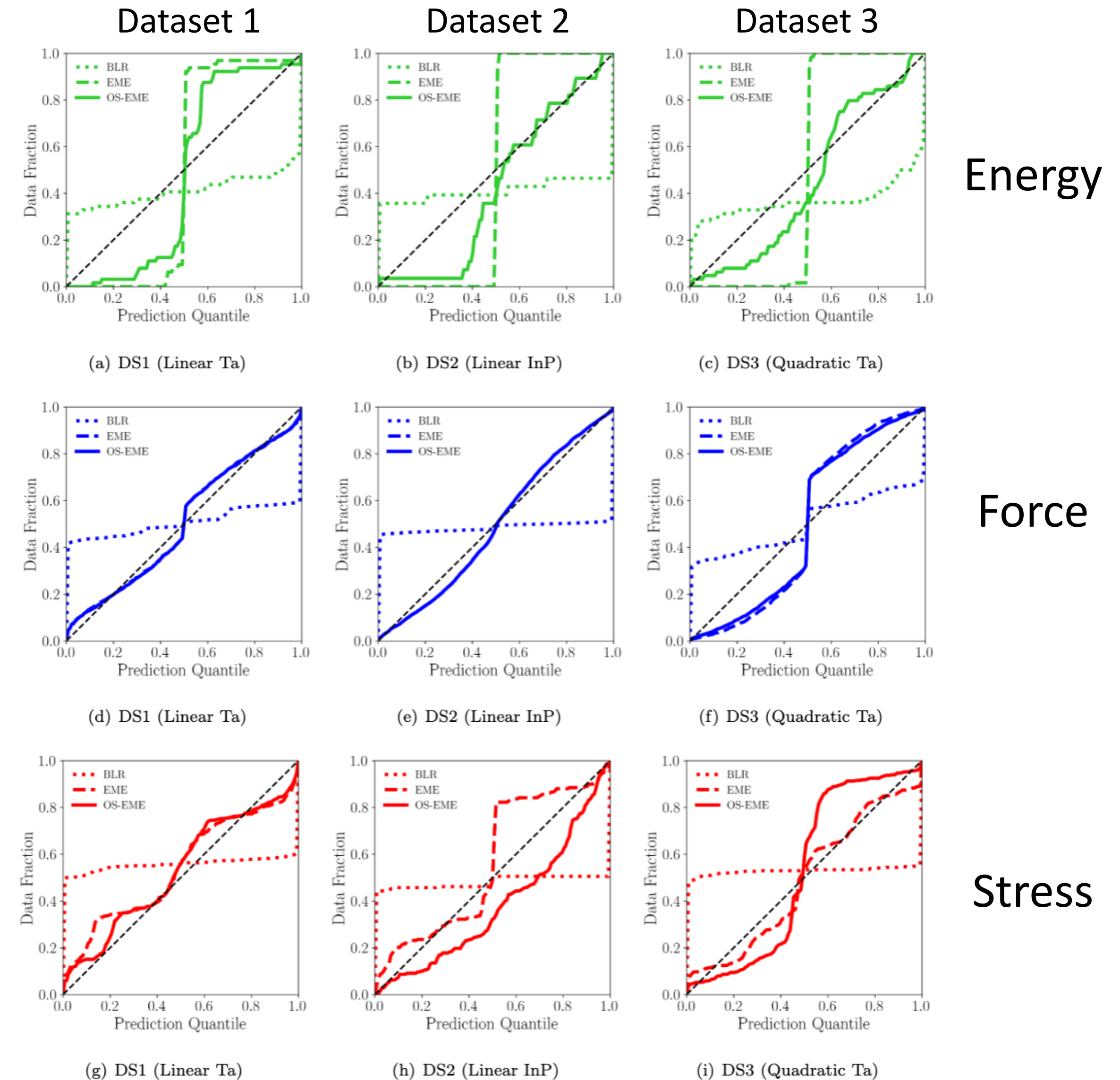
Allows Prediction of uncertainty at locations with no data

- LHF = Latent Heat Flux
- NPP = Net Primary Productivity

MLIAP Uncertainty estimation with embedded model error

FES Partnership ThermChem: Integrated Thermomechanical Model of First-wall Components Under Evolving Chemistry and Microstructure During Fusion Reactor Operation

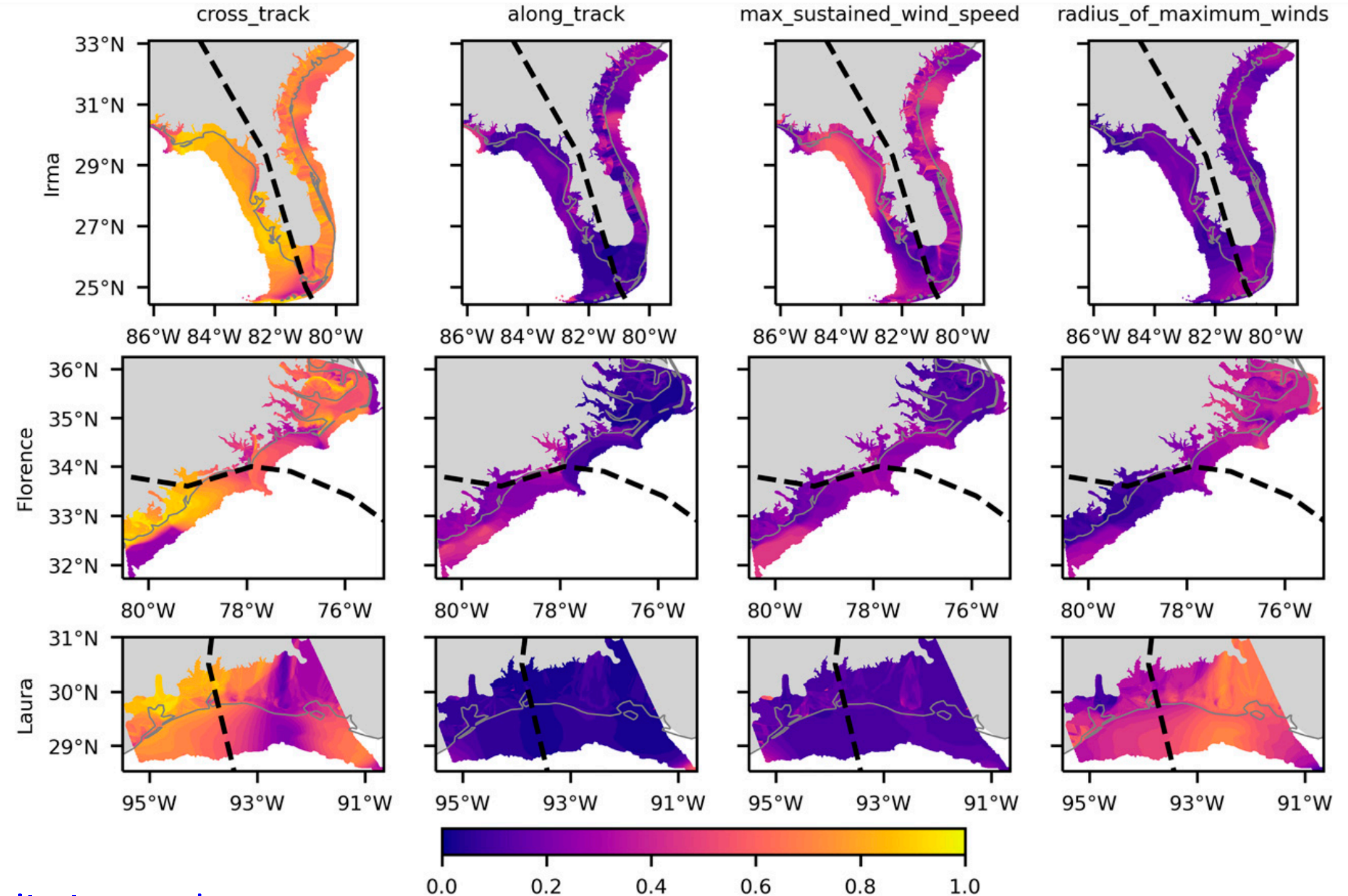
- Develop ML Interatomic Potentials (MLIAPs) with embedded model error uncertainties.
- Extend EME with output-type specific corrections.
- Demo improved (better calibrated) uncertainties, capturing discrepancy between DFT data and MLIAP.



Figs courtesy of Cristian Lacey

Hurricane Modeling

Sensitivity indices of
maximum water surface
elevation to
4 parameters
for 3 hurricane forecasts.



[Pringle et al., “Efficient Probabilistic Prediction and Uncertainty Quantification of Tropical Cyclone–Driven Storm Tides and Inundation”, *AI4ES*, 2023]

PyTUQ's current usage

- BER: E3SM Land Model UQ
Reduced-dimensional surrogate, calibration,
embedded model error, GSA
- BER Partnership: Quasi-biennial Oscillation
- BES: Exascale Catalytic Chemistry
Stochastic surrogate, GSA,
covariance estimation
Linear regression,
Bayesian compressive sensing,
Uncertainty propagation, GSA
- FES Partnership: ThermChem-FW
Optimization, Inference/MCMC,
Variational inference
-

Summary and Future

What is in UQTk but not in PyTUQ:

Low-rank tensor (canonical) decomposition

Sparse quadrature

Weighted BCS

PC germ maps

Non-standard, custom PC

Transitional MCMC, Single-site MCMC

Some evidence computation scripts

Data-free inference

Intrusive arithmetics

Coming up:

Math documentation/manual

Usage tutorials