

Dear Editor,

please find enclosed the revised manuscript which has been modified according to the comments of Reviewer#2, i.e:

**Reviewer2: “Results and discussion only report whether or not AUCSS, CRPS, or BSS are above zero, but there seems to be no attempt to report or discuss why/when/where a score is 0.2, 0.4, or 0.6, which IMO is a missed opportunity. Any additional use of these 'hues of green/red' would be appreciated.”**

Reply: In order to meet this request, in the new version of the manuscript the plots showing BSS, AUCSS, CRPSS (Figure 8, 10 and 12) have been updated. In the new plots we used a discretised scale with thresholds of 0,  $\pm 0.2$ ,  $\pm 0.4$  and we introduced a new classification of the forecast skill, distinguishing between “fair”, “good”, and “remarkable” skill: “fair” corresponds to skill score (SS)  $0 < SS \leq 0.2$ , “good” corresponds to  $0.2 < SS \leq 0.4$ , and “remarkable” corresponds to  $SS > 0.4$ ). This approach allowed to extract the information requested by the reviewer concerning “when” and “where” skill scores lie in those ranges; we could not discuss “why” the skill scores lie in those ranges since it would have required extensive work and new analysis, and this would be probably more appropriate for a separate paper. The information inferred from the new plots has been added in the manuscript in the corresponding sections. Lastly, concerning the new plots, we changed the color palette in order to meet the Color Blindness requirements.

**Reviewer2: “Please correct 'adjustment' in Line 549”**

Reply: Done

We hope that the revised version of the manuscript will be positively considered.

With kind regards

Silvia Terzago and coauthors