

# Incidence des incertitudes de mesure sur l'exploitation scientifique

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Eric Goberville  
Peggy Rimmelin-Maury  
Guillaume Charria

Dans les études scientifiques ...

Fréquemment considéré ...

résolution des appareils

=

précision des mesures (1 ou 2 écarts-type considérés comme incertitude minimale)

... Incertitude aléatoire donc le grand nombre de mesures permet de réduire l'incertitude ...

... d'où une incertitude de la mesure (métrologie) non considérée



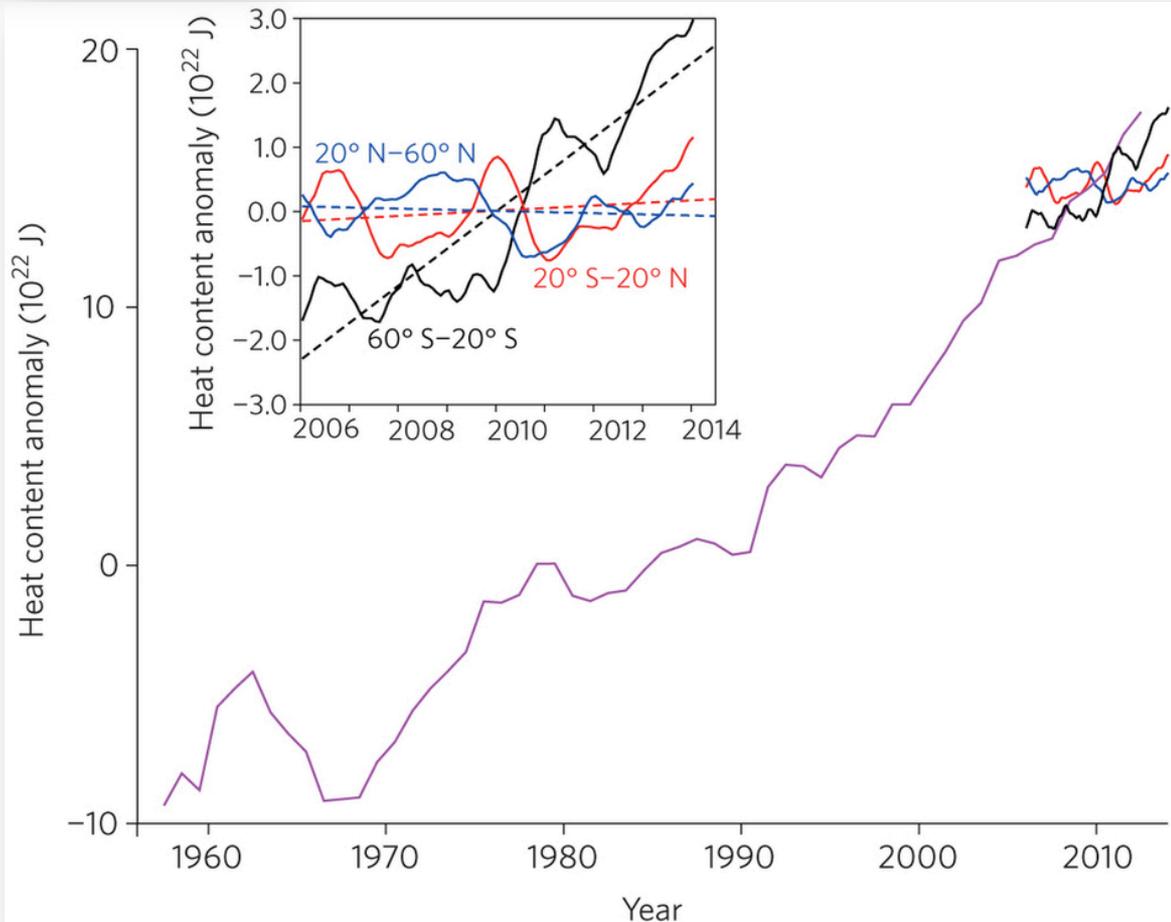
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for example,

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# Fifteen years of ocean observations with the global Argo array

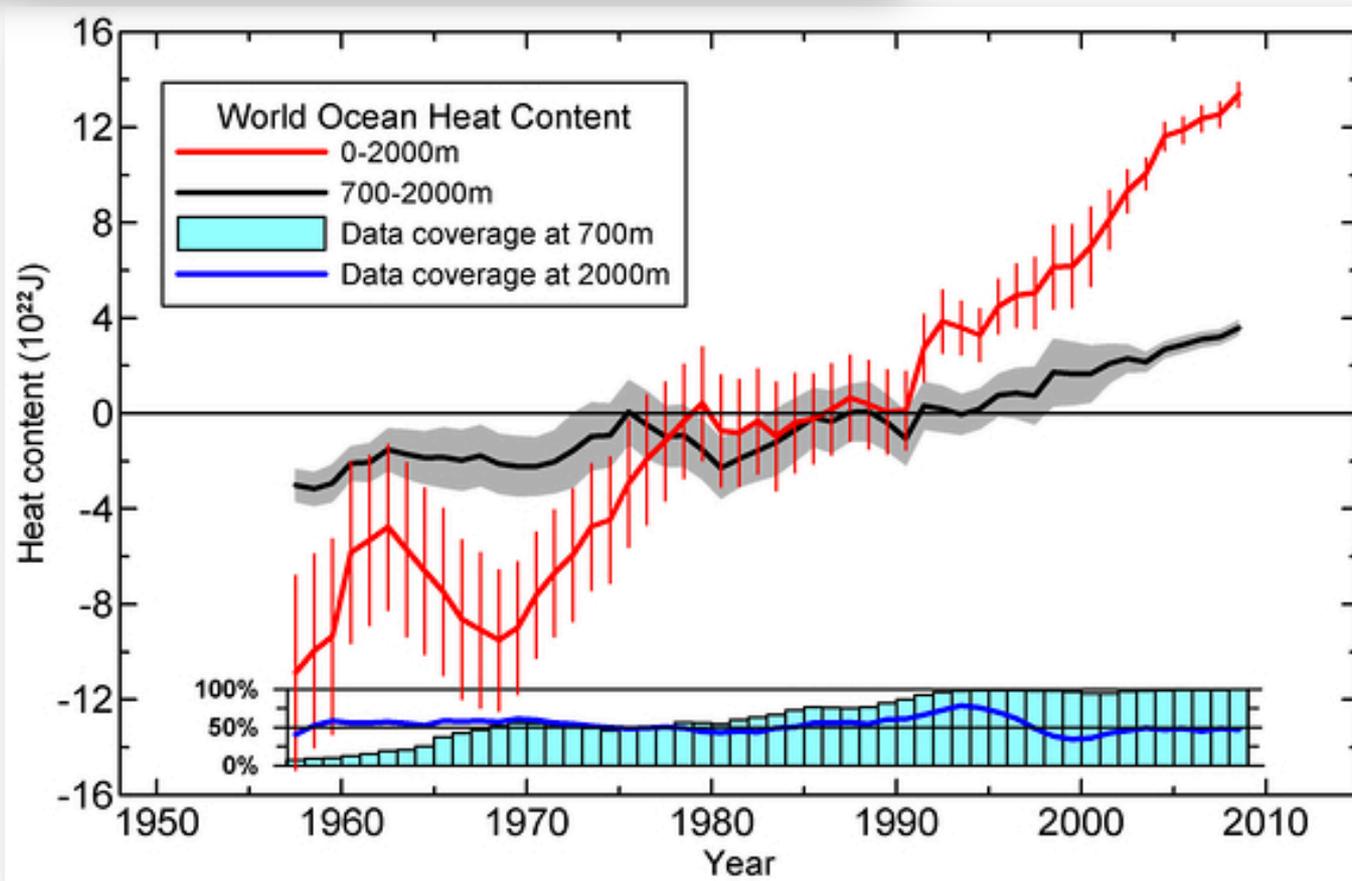
Stephen C. Riser<sup>1</sup>, Howard J. Freeland<sup>2\*</sup>, Dean Roemmich<sup>3</sup>, Susan Wijffels<sup>4</sup>, Ariel Troisi<sup>5</sup>, Mathieu Belbéoch<sup>6</sup>, Denis Gilbert<sup>7</sup>, Jianping Xu<sup>8</sup>, Sylvie Pouliquen<sup>9</sup>, Ann Thresher<sup>4</sup>, Pierre-Yves Le Traon<sup>10</sup>, Guillaume Maze<sup>9</sup>, Birgit Klein<sup>11</sup>, M. Ravichandran<sup>12</sup>, Fiona Grant<sup>13</sup>, Pierre-Marie Poulain<sup>14</sup>, Toshio Suga<sup>15</sup>, Byunghwan Lim<sup>16</sup>, Andreas Sterl<sup>17</sup>, Philip Sutton<sup>18</sup>, Kjell-Arne Mork<sup>19</sup>, Pedro Joaquín Vélez-Belchí<sup>20</sup>, Isabelle Ansorge<sup>21</sup>, Brian King<sup>22</sup>, Jon Turton<sup>23</sup>, Molly Baringer<sup>24</sup> and Steven R. Jayne<sup>25</sup>



*“ The original Argo target called for temperature and salinity accuracies of 0.005 °C and 0.01 salinity units, with a pressure accuracy of 2.5 dbars (equivalent to a depth error of about 2.5 m). Experience has shown that about 80% of the raw profile data transmitted from the floats meet these standards, with little or no correction required. “*

## World ocean heat content and thermosteric sea level change (0–2000 m), 1955–2010

S. Levitus,<sup>1</sup> J. I. Antonov,<sup>2</sup> T. P. Boyer,<sup>1</sup> O. K. Baranova,<sup>1</sup> H. E. Garcia,<sup>1</sup> R. A. Locarnini,<sup>1</sup>  
A. V. Mishonov,<sup>1</sup> J. R. Reagan,<sup>1</sup> D. Seidov,<sup>1</sup> E. S. Yarosh,<sup>1</sup> and M. M. Zweng<sup>1</sup>



Erreurs issues d'une simple analyse objective,  
pas d'erreur instrumentale prise en compte

Dans les études scientifiques ...

Fréquemment considéré ...

résolution des appareils

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... Incertitude aléatoire donc le grand nombre de mesures permet de réduire l'incertitude ...

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**Qu'en est-il des incertitudes systématiques (biais) de chaque dispositif ?**



**A journey through time ...**

# 1 $\sigma$ instrumental resolution: a journey through time



18<sup>th</sup> Century Min-Max:  
 $\pm 0.25^{\circ}\text{C}$

19<sup>th</sup> Century Land & SST:  
 $\pm 0.25^{\circ}\text{C}$

20<sup>th</sup> Century (Early-Mid)  
Land and SST LiG thermometers  
Smallest division:  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Resolution limit:  $\pm 0.25^{\circ}\text{C}$



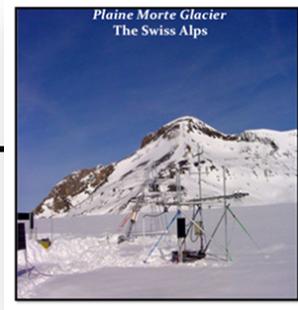
20<sup>th</sup> Century (Mid-Late)  
Land and SST LiG thermometers  
Smallest division:  $0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Resolution limit:  $\pm 0.125^{\circ}\text{C}$

20<sup>th</sup> Century (Late)  
MMTS PRT:  $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Buoy Thermister:  $\pm 0.002^{\circ}\text{C}$

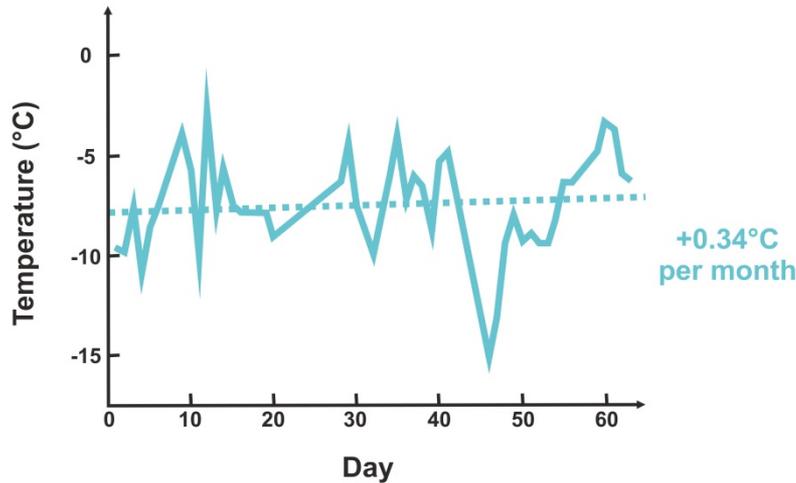


Entire 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Ship Engine Intake Thermometers  
Smallest division:  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Resolution limit:  $\pm 0.25^{\circ}\text{C}$

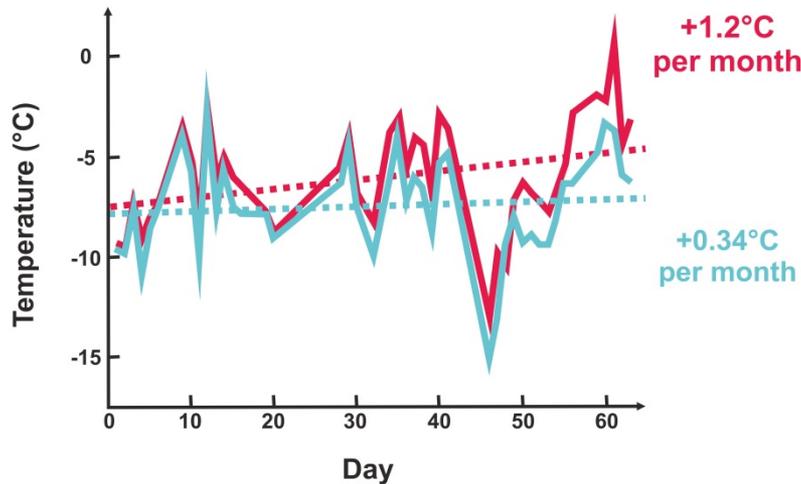
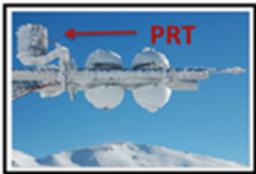
# Instrumental error in land surface temperature measurements in the Alpine Plaine Morte Glacier (Switzerland)



Sonic anemometer



RM Young PRT probe



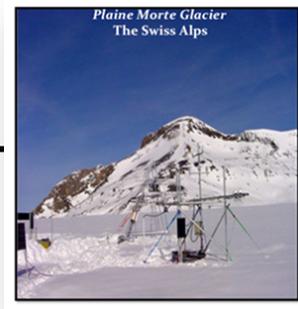
Same environmental conditions but

(1) warmer winter air temperatures

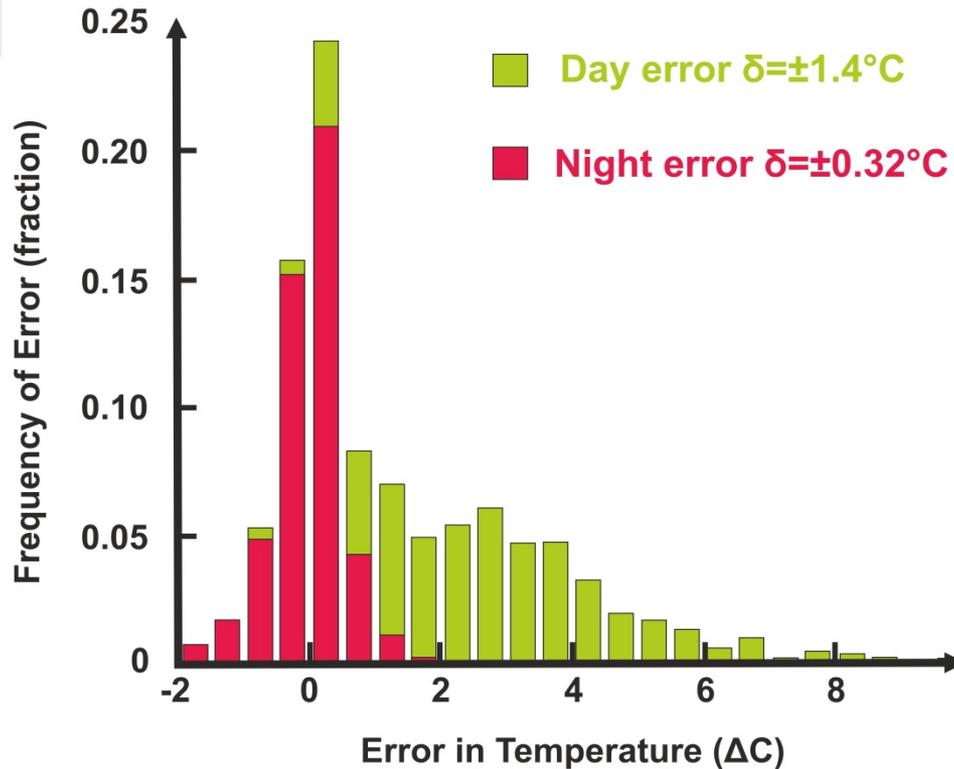
(2) trend is more than 3 times greater

**=> spurious warming trend into a global temperature average**

# Instrumental error in land surface temperature measurements in the Alpine Plaine Morte Glacier (Switzerland)



Sonic anemometer

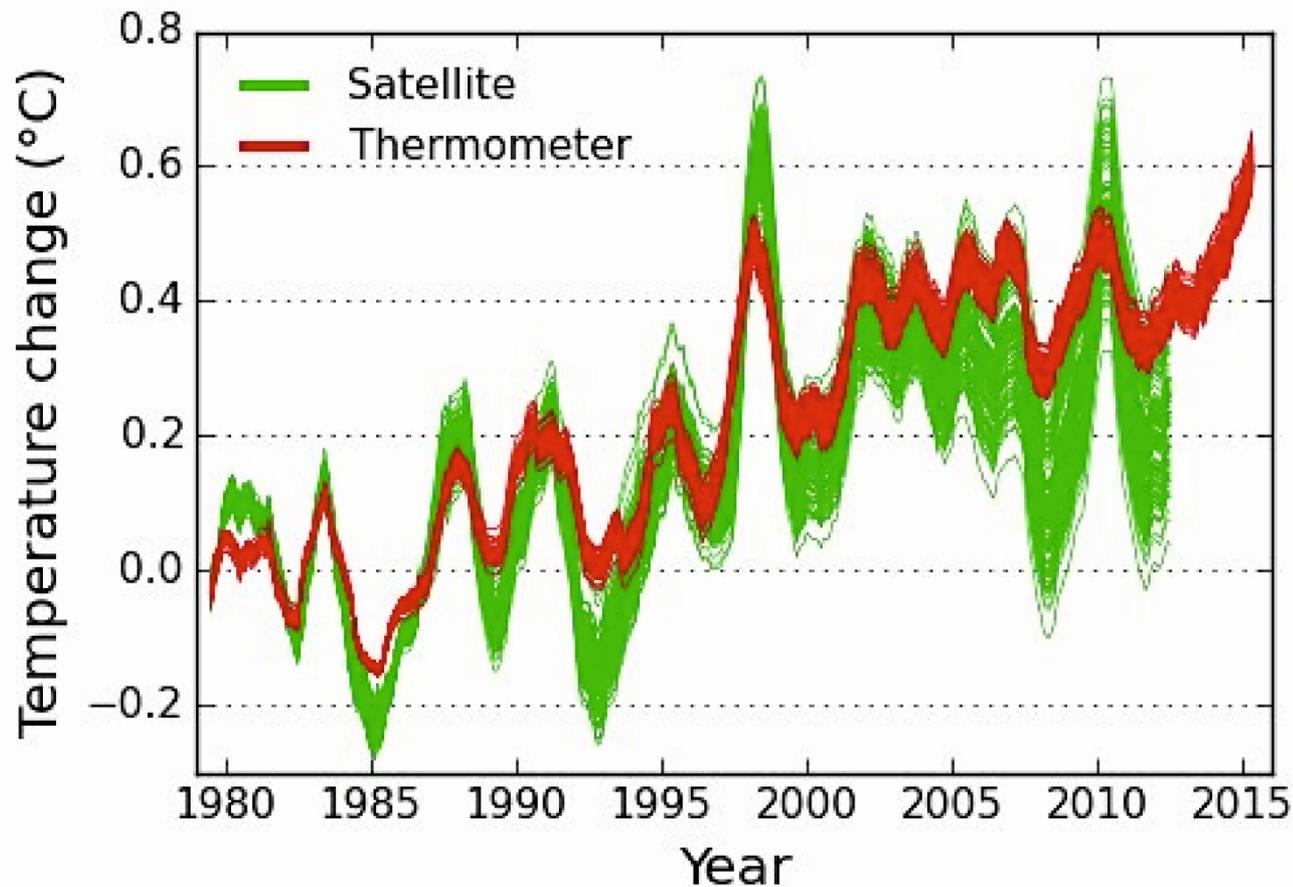


Uncertainty is neither randomly distributed nor constant



Cannot be removed by averaging individual measurements or by taking anomalies

## Satellite data vs surface temperature data

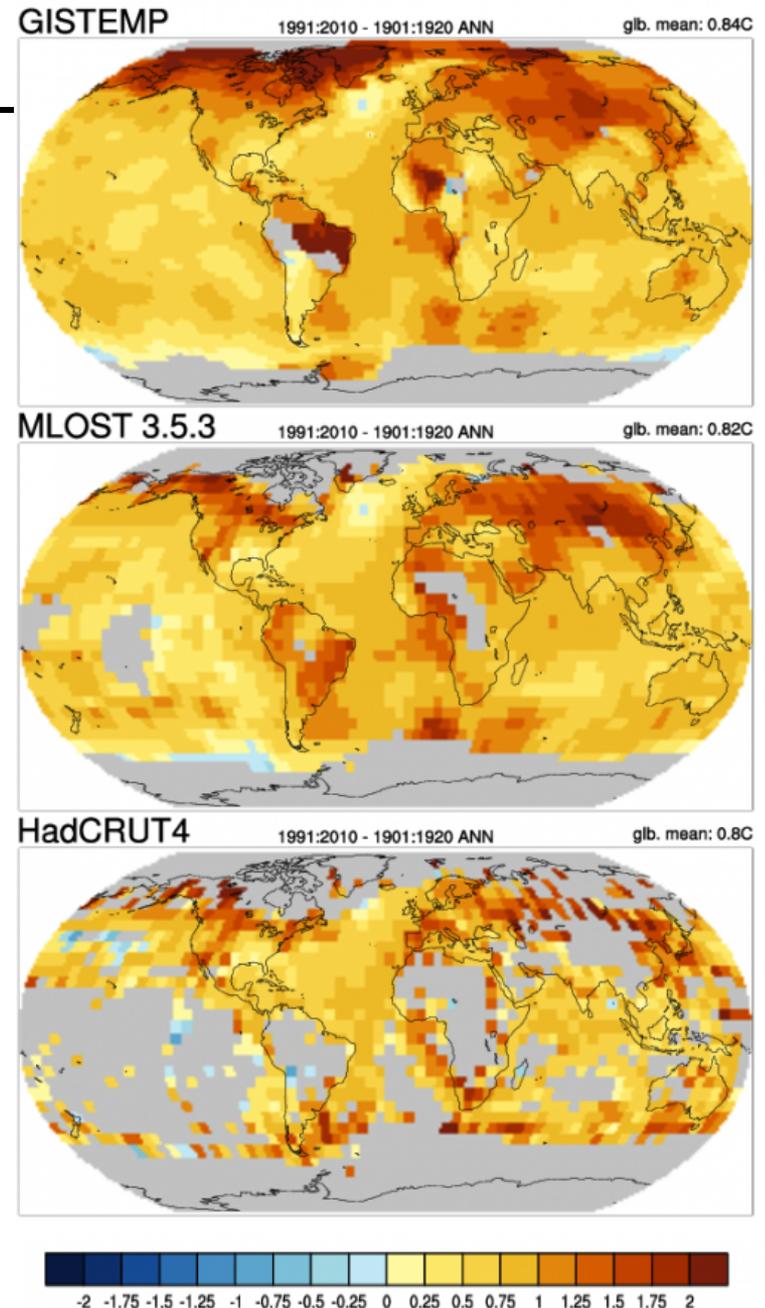


**=> The known uncertainties in the satellite trend are five times the uncertainties in the thermometer record trend**

# Different Global Temperature Data Sets

Global surface temperature data sets, which combine **historical observations from different sources**, are an essential for monitoring and understanding climate variability and climate change

Their construction is challenging, however due to **difficulties in obtaining data, documenting and accounting for changes in instrumentation and observing practices**



# Processing raw data to “build” Global Temperature Data Sets

## Improvements to NOAA’s Historical Merged Land–Ocean Surface Temperature Analysis (1880–2006)

THOMAS M. SMITH

NOAA/NESDIS/STAR/SCSD, and CICS/ESSIC, University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, Maryland

RICHARD W. REYNOLDS, THOMAS C. PETERSON, AND JAY LAWRIMORE

NOAA/National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina

## Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature Version 4 (ERSST.v4). Part I: Upgrades and Intercomparisons

BOYIN HUANG,\* VIVA F. BANZON,\* ERIC FREEMAN,<sup>†</sup> JAY LAWRIMORE,\* WEI LIU,<sup>‡</sup> THOMAS C. PETERSON,\*  
THOMAS M. SMITH,<sup>§</sup> PETER W. THORNE,<sup>¶</sup> SCOTT D. WOODRUFF,\*\* AND HUAI-MIN ZHANG\*

\* National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina

<sup>†</sup> National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina, and STG, Inc., Reston, Virginia

<sup>‡</sup> National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, and Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites, Raleigh, North Carolina

<sup>§</sup> NOAA/STAR/SCSB, and CICS/ESSIC, University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, Maryland

<sup>¶</sup> Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, Bergen, Norway

\*\* National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina, and Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, Boulder, Colorado

## Quantifying uncertainties in global and regional temperature change using an ensemble of observational estimates: The HadCRUT4 data set

Colin P. Morice,<sup>1</sup> John J. Kennedy,<sup>1</sup> Nick A. Rayner,<sup>1</sup> and Phil D. Jones<sup>2,3</sup>

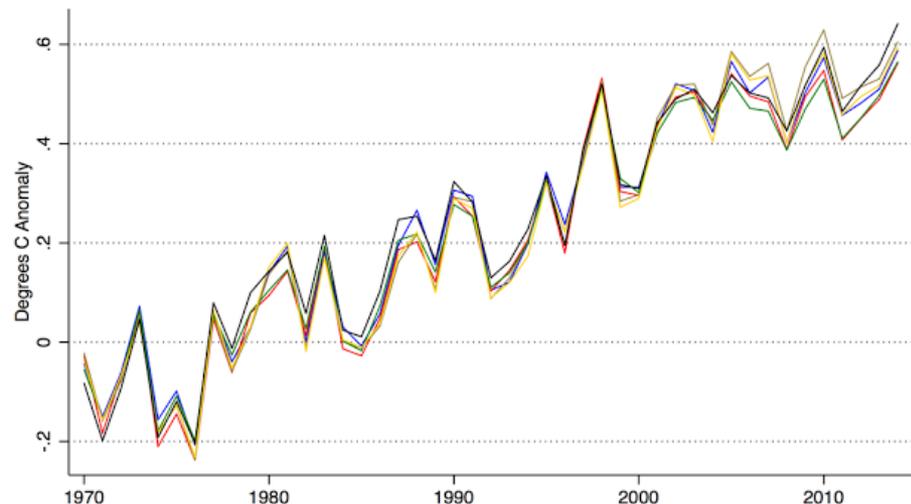
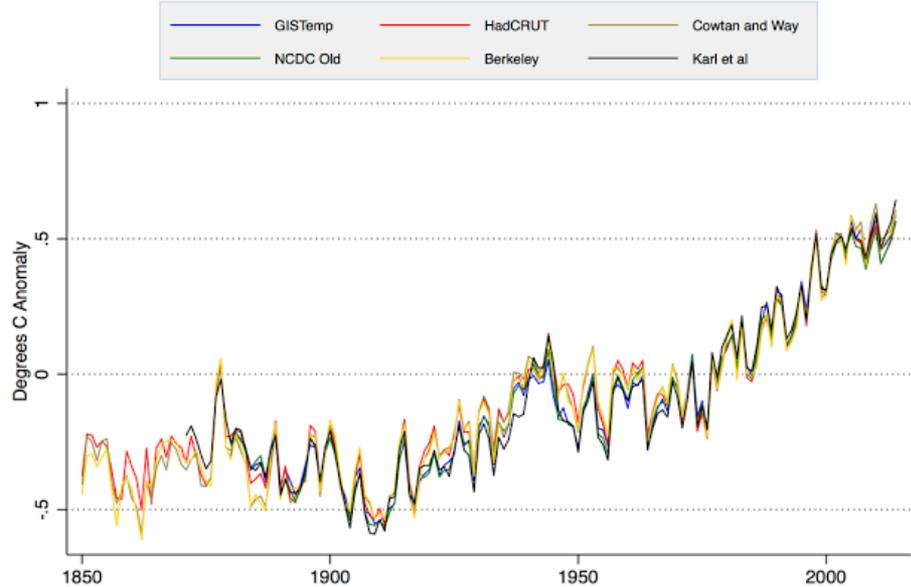


NASA, NOAA, Met Office, Japan Meteorological Agency... process the same raw data with different methodology

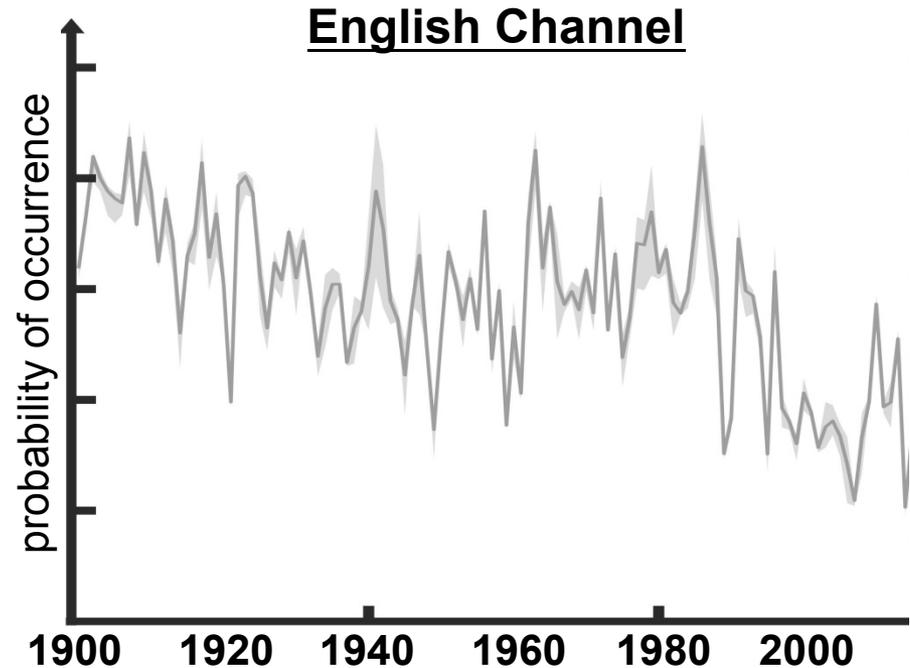
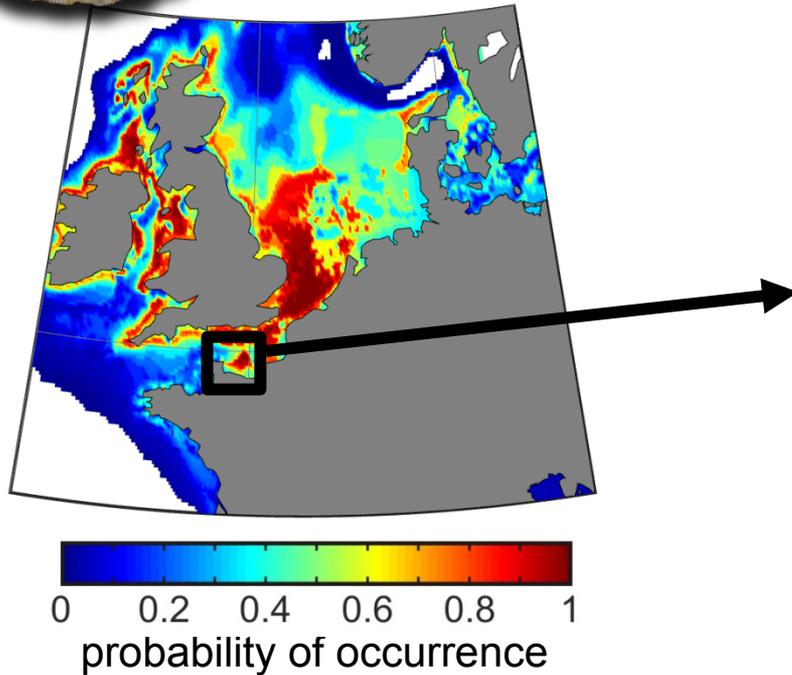
but

Consistent temperature estimates

Global Average Temperature by Year



# Influence of these different datasets on ecological niche modeling ex: the great scallop



**=> Main patterns of historical changes in the occurrence of species  
are equivalent among the different global temperature datasets  
(NOAA, ICOADS, Cobe)**

# Time series, trend and noise: a case study

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A simple case study of a theoretical time series using classical seasonal decomposition approaches (e.g. decompose package with R)

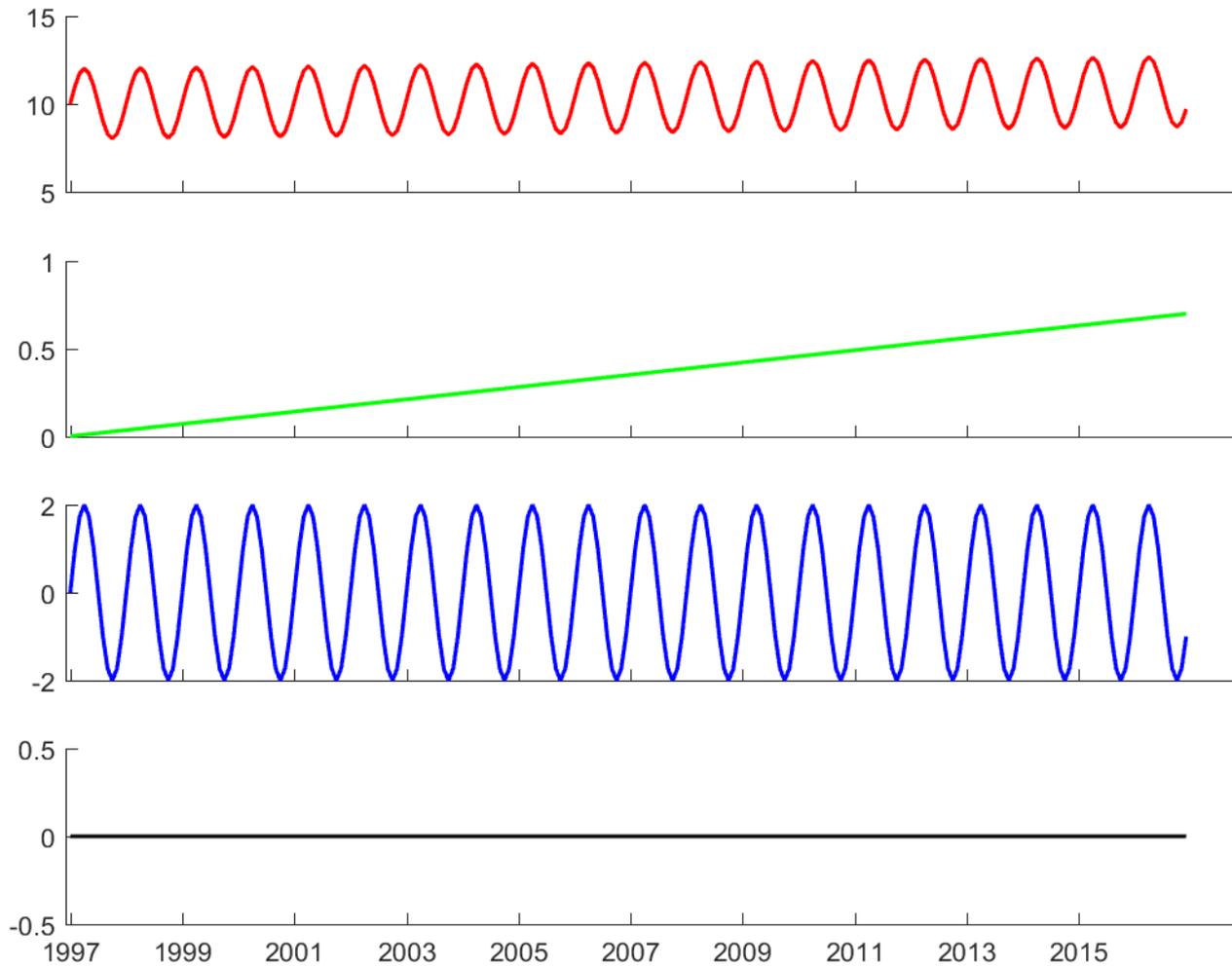
- (1) without uncertainty (no error measurement, no stochasticity)
- (2) with error measurement (no stochasticity)
- (3) with both error measurement and stochasticity



**Consequences on trend estimation?**

# A simple case study: Additive model $x_t = \text{Trend} + \text{Seasonal} + \text{Random}$

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**My time series:  
temperature**

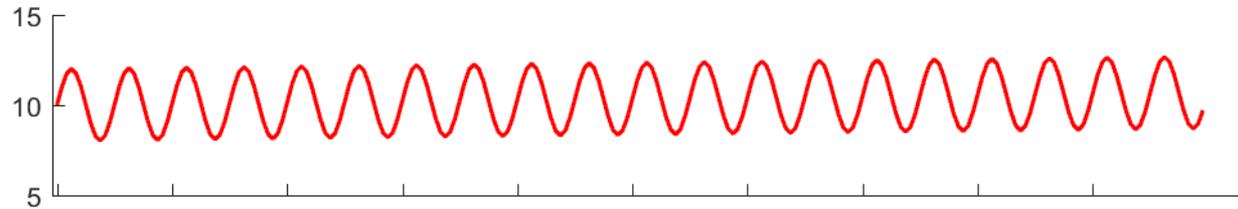
**Trend =  
+0.700°C over the period**

**Seasonal component**

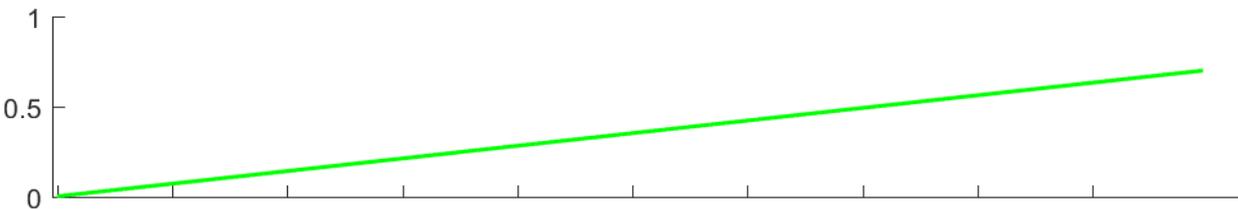
**Noise**  
no error measurement  
no stochasticity

# A simple case study: I add error measurement: $\pm 0.0025^{\circ}\text{C}$

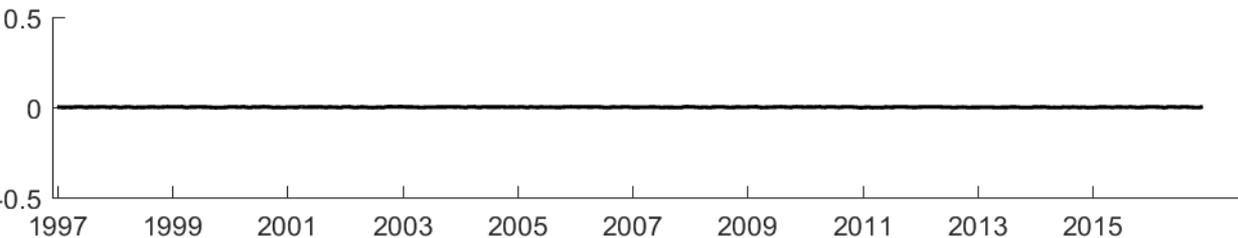
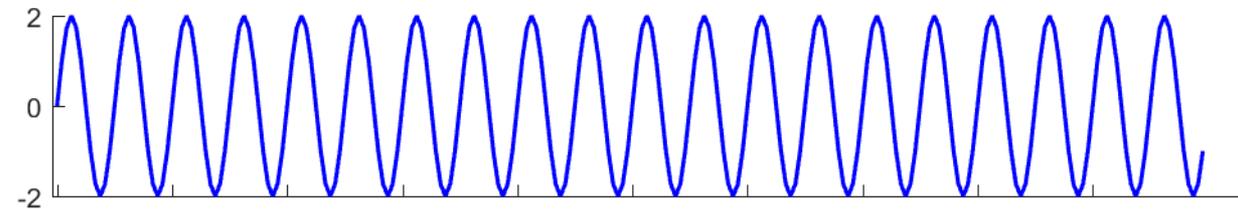
**Expectation: trend =  $+0.700^{\circ}\text{C}$**



**+ error measure  
=  $0.0025^{\circ}\text{C}$**

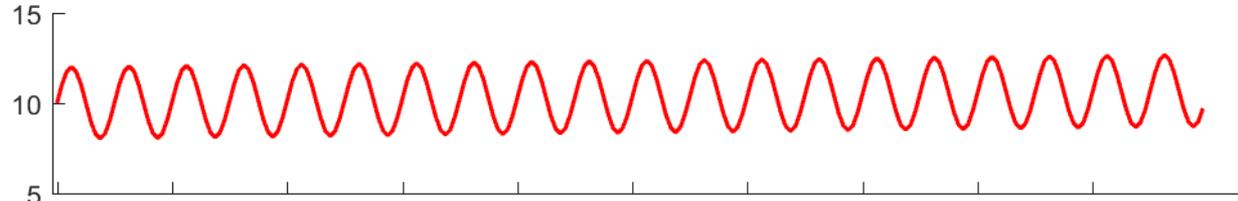


**Trend =  
 $+0.700^{\circ}\text{C}$  over the period**

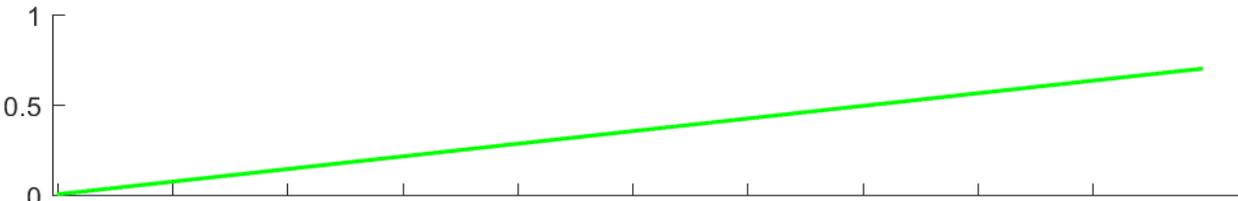


# A simple case study: I add error measurement: $\pm 0.01^\circ\text{C}$

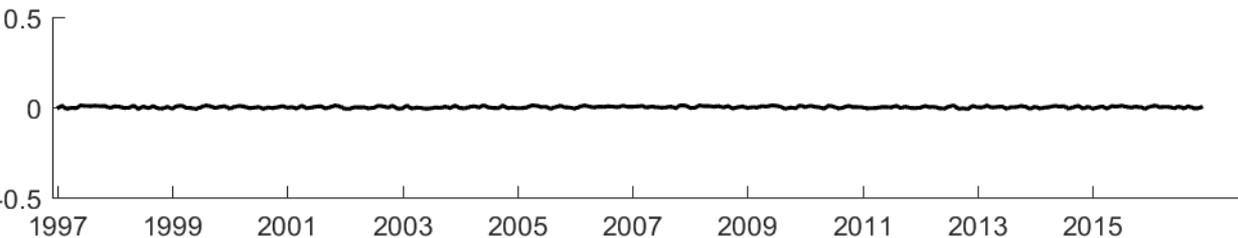
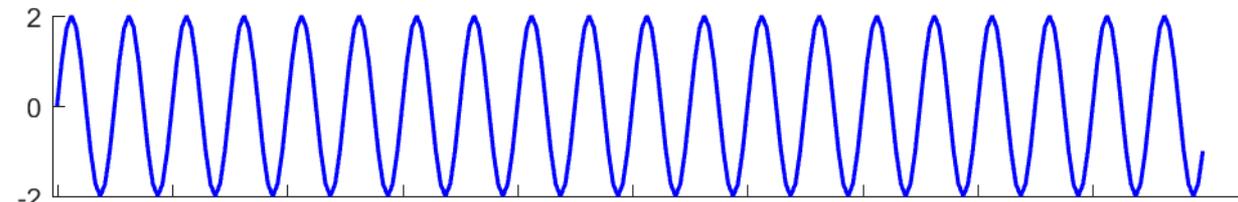
**Expectation: trend =  $+0.700^\circ\text{C}$**



**+ error measure  
=  $0.01^\circ\text{C}$**

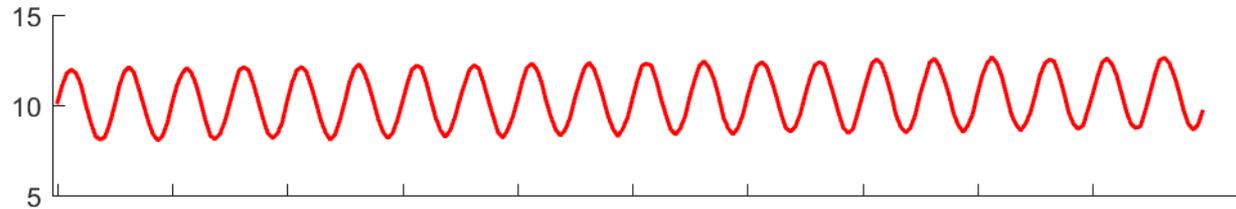


**Trend =  
 $+0.705^\circ\text{C}$  over the period**

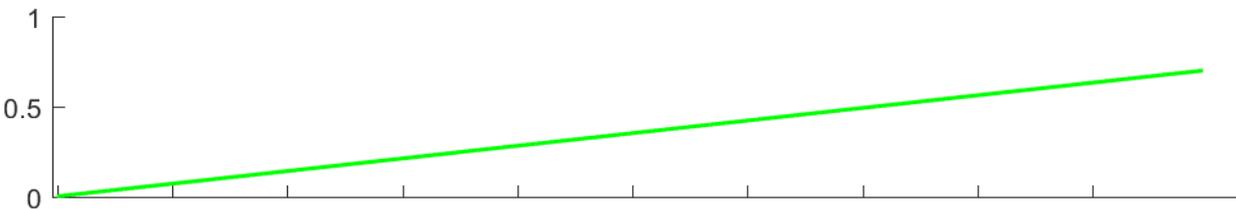


# A simple case study: I add error measurement: $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$

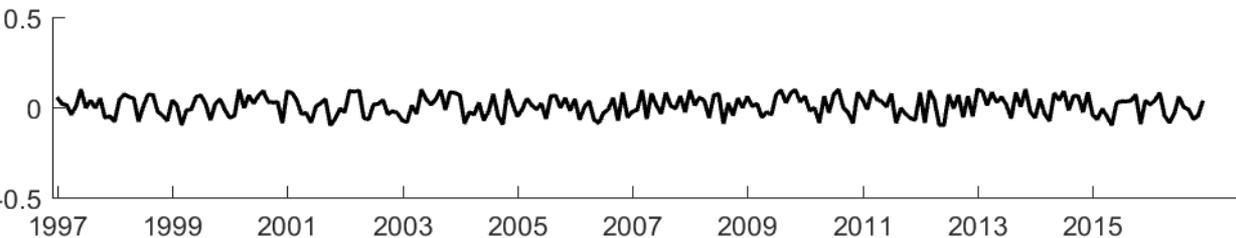
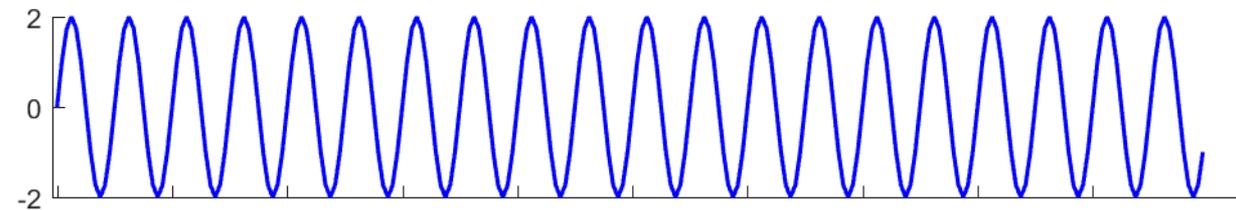
**Expectation: trend =  $+0.700^\circ\text{C}$**



**+ error measure  
=  $0.1^\circ\text{C}$**

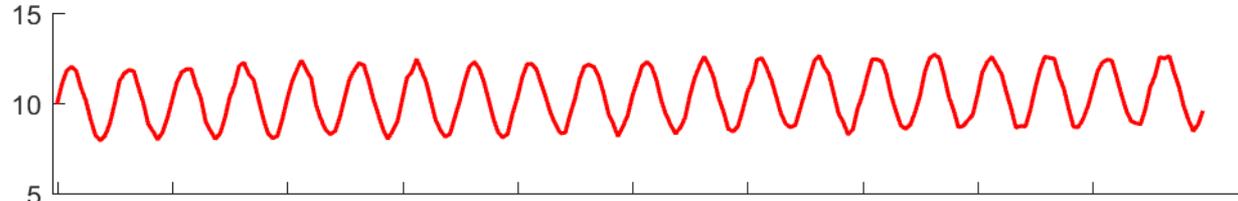


**Trend =  
 $+0.696^\circ\text{C}$  over the period**

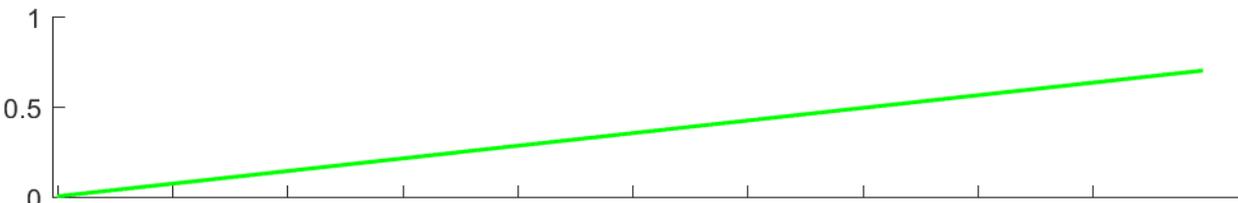


# A simple case study: I add error measurement: $\pm 0.25^\circ\text{C}$

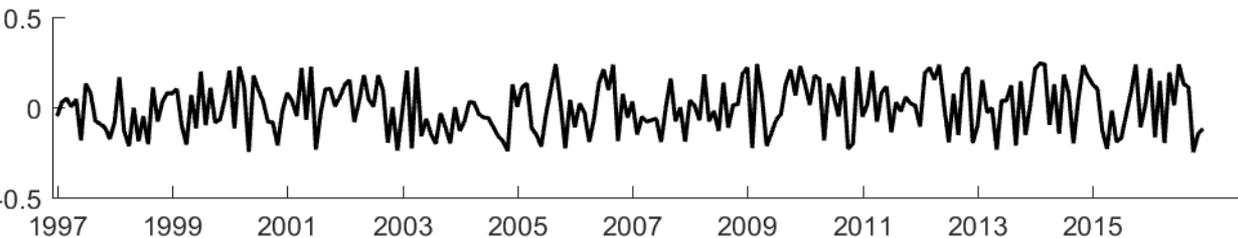
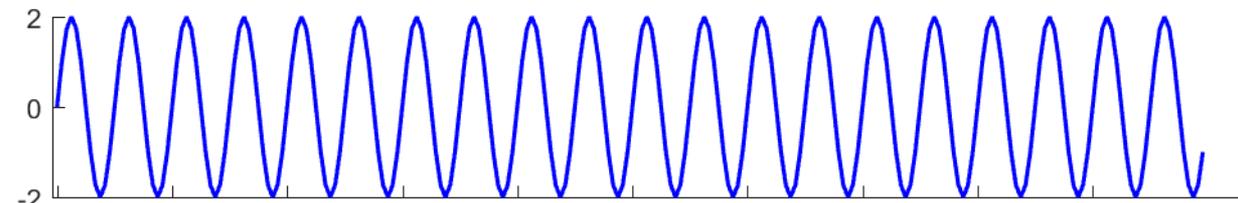
**Expectation: trend =  $+0.700^\circ\text{C}$**



**+ error measure  
=  $0.25^\circ\text{C}$**

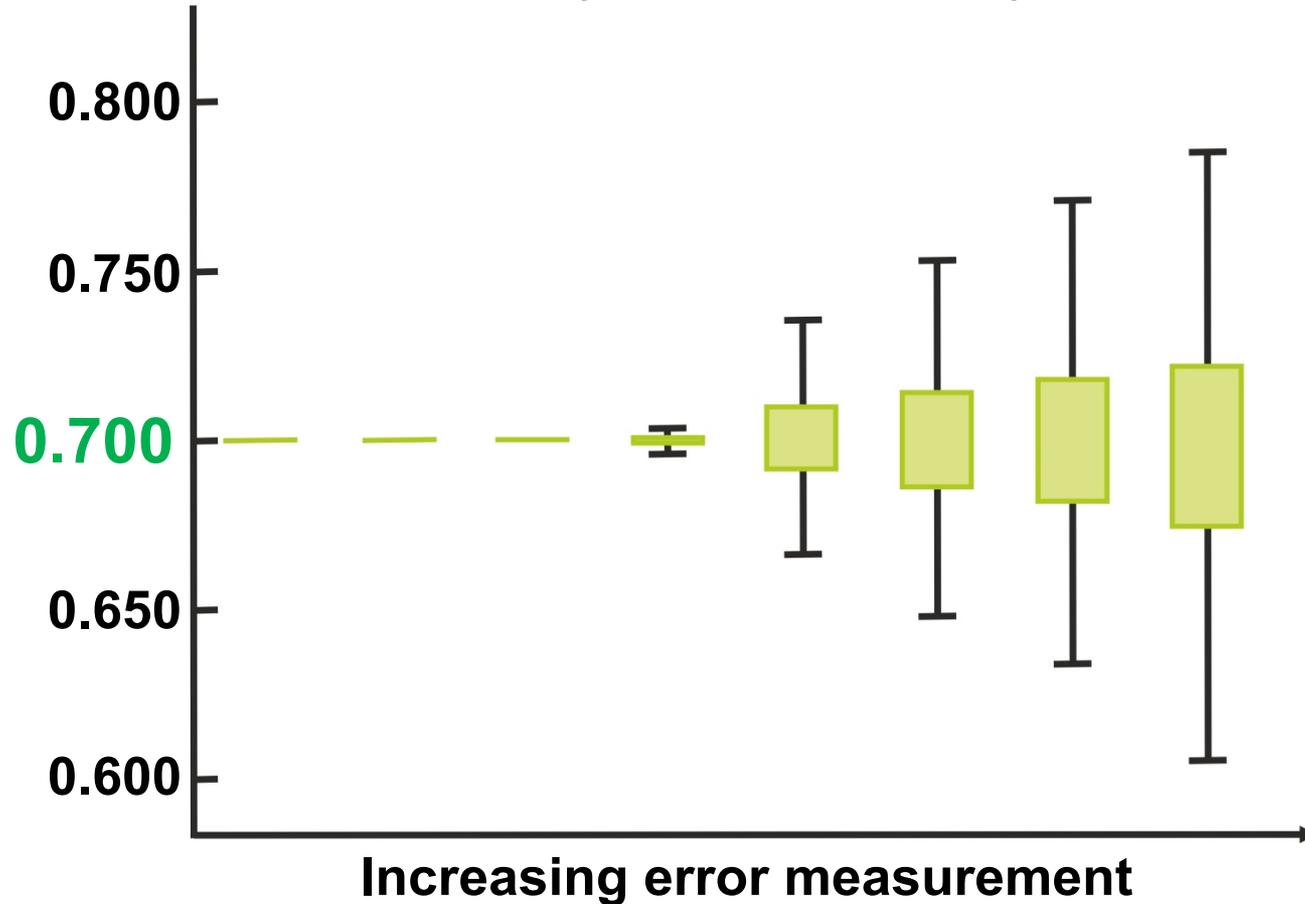


**Trend =  
 $+0.763^\circ\text{C}$  over the period**



# A simple case study: adding only error measurement

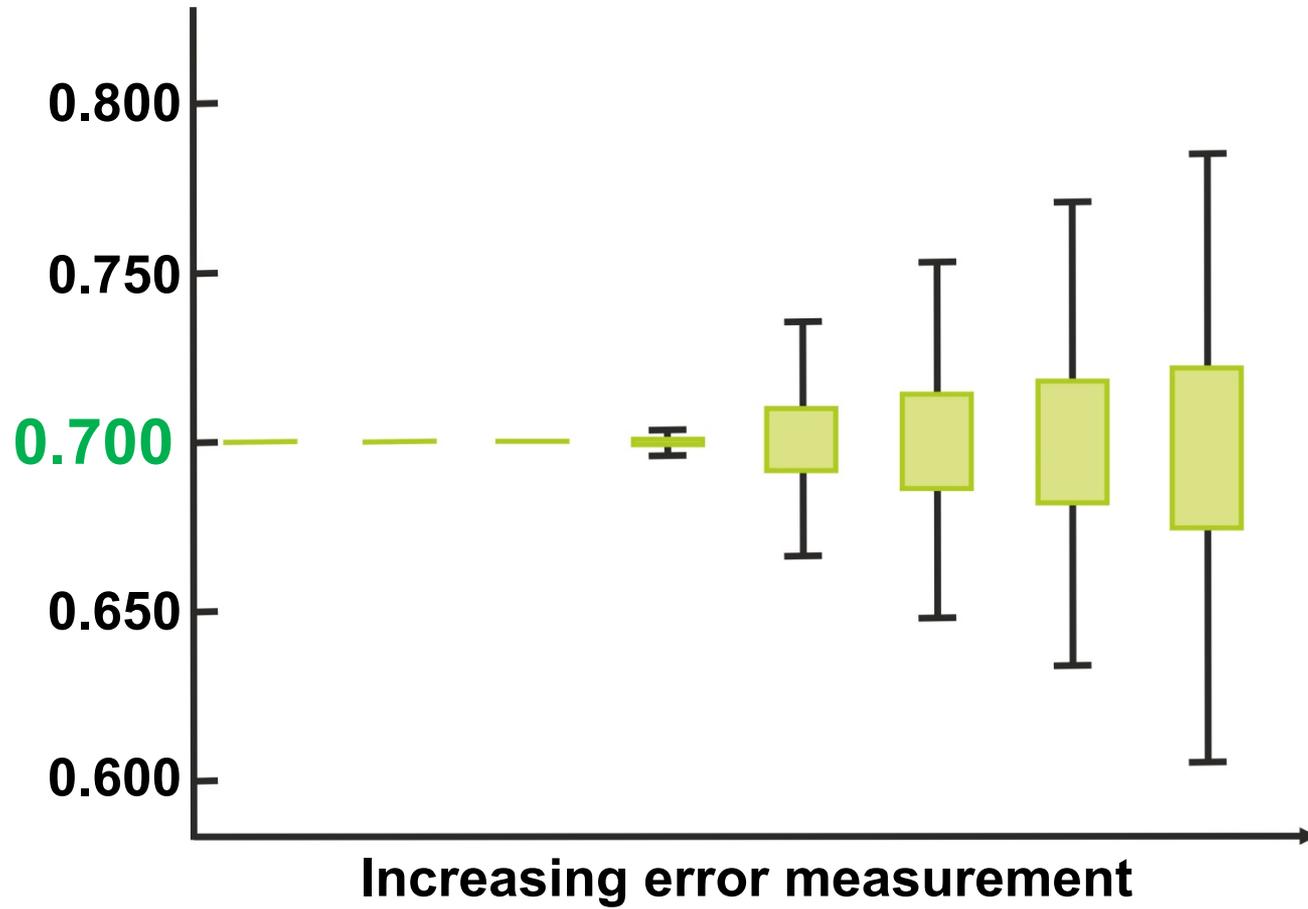
By performing the procedure iteratively (i.e. 999 simulations) with different error values, we detect that the noise induced by error measurement might also have consequences on trend quantification



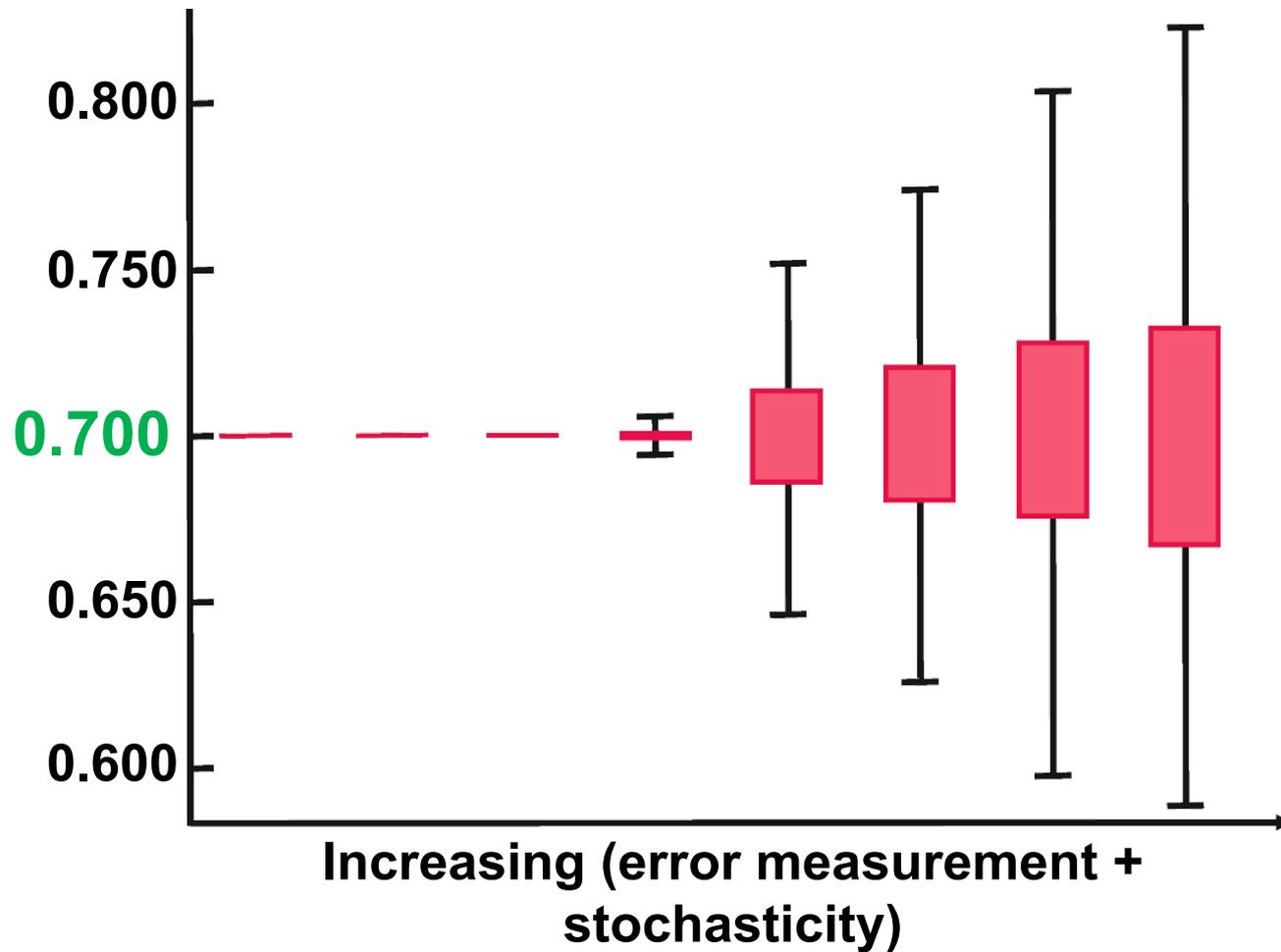
**=> Although the random noise is supposed to be removed!**

# And now, with a part of environmental stochasticity...

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# And now, with a part of environmental stochasticity...

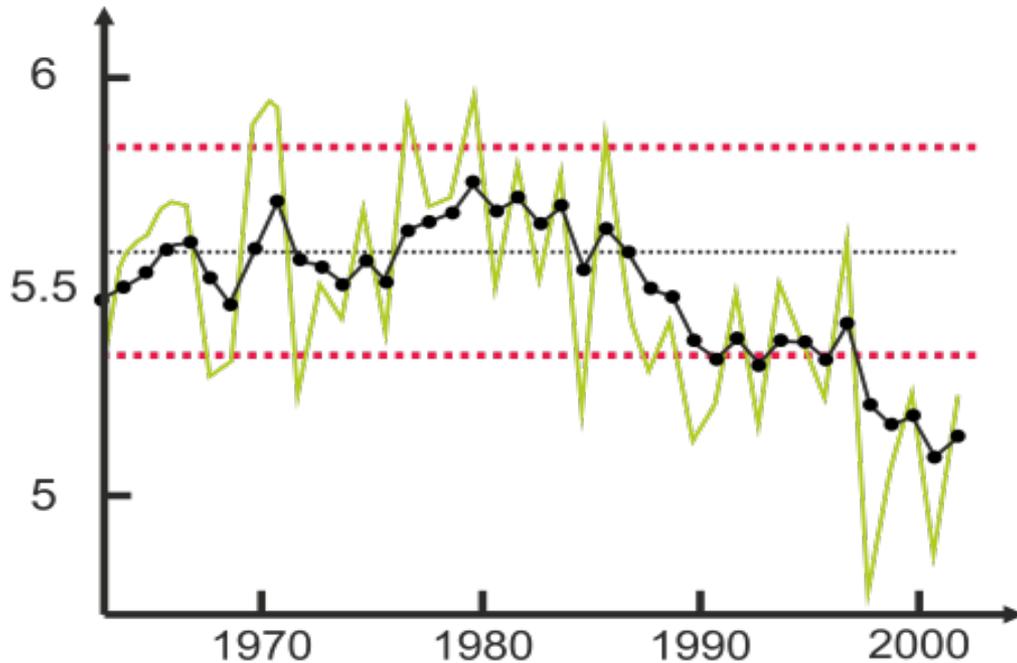


**=> It is essential to be cautious when a trend is quantified...  
Although they are able to remove noise, decomposition approaches  
do not guarantee a precise estimation of the trend**

# Considering the range of uncertainty to « better » detect changes

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**Control charts procedures:**  
Shewhart-style charts, EWMA chart, Cusum  
chart...



Depending on the  
method, algorithms  
are more or less  
sensitive to small and  
large changes in the  
state of a system

But several methods  
can also be  
combined

**=> Only if the range of uncertainty is known and constant over time**

# Conclusions & perspectives

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**Considération des incertitudes dans exploration scientifique:**

**Variable et sujet à discussion**

(car incertitudes encore mal cernées notamment sur la composante systématique)

**Importance d'une concertation  
analyse scientifique et métrologie**

# Conclusions & perspectives

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## Considération des incertitudes dans exploration scientifique:

### Variable et sujet à discussion

(car incertitudes encore mal cernées notamment sur la composante systématique)

Importance d'une concertation  
analyse scientifique et métrologie

## De possibles recommandations:

- Avoir une approche « **en pleine conscience** » des incertitudes
- Améliorer les **meta-données** incluant des informations sur les incertitudes
  - Proposer des **méthodes d'intercomparaison**
- Explorer les observations en relation avec les experts en **métrologie**

