



*Supplement of*

## **A computationally lightweight model for ensemble forecasting of environmental hazards: General TAMSAT-ALERT v1.2.1**

**Emily Black et al.**

*Correspondence to:* Emily Black (e.c.l.black@reading.ac.uk)

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## Usage guide for general\_tamsat\_alert

### S1 Installation

#### S1.1 From PyPI

```
pip install general-tamsat-alert
```

#### S1.2 From source

```
git clone https://github.com/brightlego/general_tamsat_alert.git
```

```
cd general_tamsat_alert
```

```
python3 -m build
```

```
python3 -m pip install dist/*.whl
```

### S2 Documentation

#### S2.1 Requirements

The code has been tested on Python version 3.11 and is not guaranteed to work with other python versions.

The following modules are required to install general\_tamsat\_alert:

- xarray
- numpy
- scipy
- fastroc

Additional requirement for setting input parameters for some functions:

- datetime

#### S2.2 Running the code

The code runs via the function `do_forecast()`, which takes in a netcdf file containing time series data and outputs an xarray object containing an ensemble forecast, and associated statistics.

Input parameters:

:param datafile: netcdf file containing the time series data on which to base the forecasts. The datafile must include a time axis, but the format is otherwise flexible

:param field\_name: name of the variable to be forecast

:param init\_date: initiation date of the forecast (datetime object)

:param poi\_start: date of the start of the period of interest (datetime object)

:param poi\_end: date of the end of the period of interest (datetime object)

:param time\_label [default 'time']: time axis label in the netcdf file

:param period [default 12]: period of the data to be used for deriving the climatology

:param weights\_flag [default 0]: type of ensemble weighting to be used:

- 0: No weighting
- 1: Weighting using the proximity of the ensemble member year to the initiation date
- 2: Weighting using a monthly data included in `weighting_data_file`

:param weighting\_data\_file [default 'None']: text file containing the data to be used for weighting. The data are in the format used for the NOAA composite and correlation site (format described here:

<https://psl.noaa.gov/data/composites/createtime.html>)

:param weighting\_strength [default 1]: coefficient specifying the strength of the weighting used when `weights_flag` is set to 1 or 2. 0 indicates no weighting; floats >0 indicates weighting is applied. Users should experiment to find the most appropriate weighting strength

:param do\_increments [default 1]: flag specifying whether or not the ensemble members should be incremented from the initial state. Set `do_increments` to 0 for no incrementing; 1 for incrementing

Returns:

xarray dataset on the same grid and using the same dimensions as datafile, with an additional dimension 'ensemble' specifying the ensemble number. The dataset includes the following variables:

`ensemble_out`: array containing the full forecast ensemble (dimensions <datafile geographical dimensions>, <datafile time dimension>, ensemble)

`weights`: array containing the the weights applied to each ensemble member at each point in space (dimensions <datafile geographical dimensions>, ensemble). Note that in the current version of the code, `weights` is constant over the geographical domain

`ens_mean`: weighted ensemble mean (dimensions <datafile geographic dimensions>)

`ens_std`: weighted ensemble standard deviation (dimensions <datafile geographic dimensions>)

`clim`: climatology of the data in datafile (based on the user specified periodicity)

### **S2.3 Example function call:**

```
import datetime as dtmod
from general_tamsat_alert import do_forecast

field_name='precip'
time_label='time'
datafile='pr_gpcc_africa.nc'
```

```

init_date=dtmod.datetime(1997,9,1)
poi_start=dtmod.datetime(1997,10,1)
poi_end=dtmod.datetime(1997,10,1)
period=12
weights_flag=2
weighting_data_file='oni.data'
do_increments=0
weighting_strength=1

tmpout=do_forecast(datafile,field_name,init_date,poi_start,poi_end,
                   time_label,period,weights_flag,weighting_data_file,
                   weighting_strength,do_increments)

```

The example function call uses regridded and subset GPCP precipitation data, and the Oceanic Nino Index provided by NOAA. Convenience copies of these datasets can be found in [https://gws-access.jasmin.ac.uk/public/tamsat/tamsat\\_alert/example\\_data/](https://gws-access.jasmin.ac.uk/public/tamsat/tamsat_alert/example_data/)

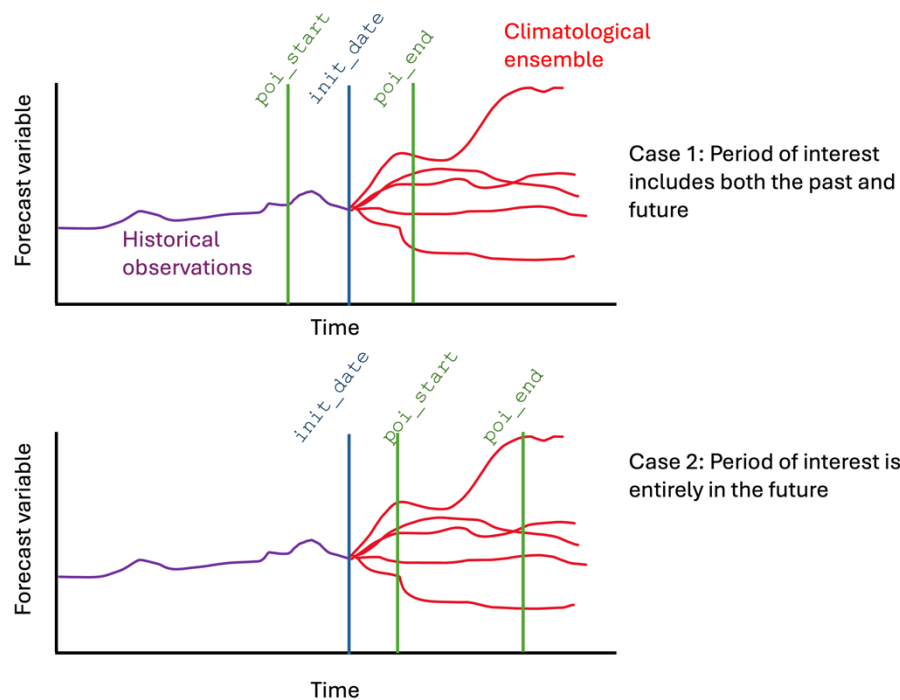
### **S3 Further details about the date inputs and the ensemble statistics**

Three dates need to be specified by the user:

- `init_date` is the date on which the user sets off the forecast. It is assumed that the values of variable to be forecast are unknown after `init_date`
- `poi_start` is the start of the user's period of interest (for example, the start of the growing season)
- `poi_end` is the end of the user's period of interest (for example, harvest date)

Note that:

1. the period of interest can be either entirely in the future (i.e. after `init_date`) or partially in the past and partially in the future. The system does not allow users to specify a period of interest entirely in the past. These concepts are illustrated below in Figure 1.
2. If the period of interest start and end (`poi_start` and `poi_end`) are set to the same date, a snapshot forecast is produced for a single date in the future.
3. The ensemble statistics output by `do_forecast()` are derived for the period of interest only - i.e. `ens_mean` and `ens_std` are the ensemble mean and standard deviation of all of the ensemble members during the period of interest.
4. The length of the forecast is determined automatically by the system as the maximum period encompassed by `poi_start`, `init_date` and `poi_end`. It is not possible to run the forecasts beyond the end of period of interest.



**Fig. S1:** Sketch of TAMSAT-ALERT ensemble forecast output, illustrating the dates input by the user

#### **S4: Demo**

A demonstration of the code for making SST and precipitation forecasts is available at: [https://gws-access.jasmin.ac.uk/public/tamsat/tamsat\\_alert/gmd\\_paper/demo.zip](https://gws-access.jasmin.ac.uk/public/tamsat/tamsat_alert/gmd_paper/demo.zip)  
 The demo includes a jupyter notebook and the required netcdf data files