# Three Imperatives for Climate and Sustainability

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### Imperative 1: Making the Most of Earth System Models



# Earth System Models are Incredibly Sophisticated



Image Credit: UK Met Office

# Requiring the Most Powerful Computers on the Planet



Image Credit: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

# **Problem: Models Can Only Attain a Fraction of the Ultimate Capability of Today's Machines**



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#### Why is this Important?





te, Meteorology & : Sciences

Image Credit: IPCC Fourth Assessment

# Current Computer Power Limits Model Resolution & Physics Image: Biases, Uncertainties, Inability to Capture Details



Image Credits: Andy Prein and Richard Neale, NSF UCAR/NCAR

### Details Matter: Extreme Weather Events Attributed to Climate Change



Image Credit: Carbon Brief

#### INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON A SPECIAL PURPOSE COMPUTATIONAL SYSTEM FOR FRONTIER EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE AND CLIMATE SIMULATION & PROJECTION

When: September 29 – October 2, 2024

Where: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign USA



# Imperative 2: Speaking of Extreme Events! How Do they Change in a Changing Climate?





Image Credit: NOAA

#### Attributing Extreme Weather Events to a Changing Climate is Key Going Forward



National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2016. Attribution of Extreme Weather Events in the Context of Climate Change. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/21852.

#### The Impacts are Far Reaching and \$\$\$





Health

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Transportation



**Energy/Utilities** 



Construction



Recreation



**National Security** 



The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is Developing a Concept for a National Center for Extreme Events in a Changing Climate (E2C2)

- Driven by stakeholder needs, fundamental research questions, emerging technologies
- Highly interdisciplinary, convergent research approach
- Cornerstone is global fine-scale simulations capable of capturing high-impact weather over long periods of time



# Imperative 3: Understanding the Predictability of the Earth System



# What is the ONE Thing We All Want to Know? • THE FUTURE!!

#### Numerous examples

- Spread of infectious disease
- Degree of personal educational attainment
- State of Earth's climate & associated impacts
- Individual susceptibility to disease
- The economy
- Arcs of technological evolution
- Political and military plans of adversaries
- Drug discovery
- Molecular fabrication
- Genomic evolution



- Reliability of infrastructure
- Stock market
- Invasive species
- Likelihood of mass shootings
- Election outcomes
- Many others...



#### We Predict the Fuure in Many Ways, From Weather to Elections to the Stock Market to Sports



Image Credit:

# We All Want to Know the Future!

# But HOW KNOWABLE is it??



#### **The First Step**



EARTH SYSTEM PREDICTABILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND ROADMAP

A Report by the FAST TRACK ACTION COMMITTEE ON EARTH SYSTEM PREDICTABILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

of the NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

October 2020

Image Credit: OSTP



#### **The Second Step**

Earth System Predictability: Earth to Sun

Guided by societal needs, spanning minutes to centuries



Image Credit: NSF UCAR/NCAR

#### **The Third Step**

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is Developing a Concept for a National Center for Predictability Science and its Applications (NCPSA)

- Across all disciplines
- Theory to application



Department of Climate, Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences

Image Credit: NSF UCAR/NCAR

#### What Does this Mean for Brazillinois?

- These 3 imperatives link to 2 of the Brazillinois themes:
  - Climate and Sustainability
  - Public Health and Medicine
- Brazil has a variety of extreme weather events
- How they change in a changing climate will be critical to Brazil's future
- Numerous opportunities for collaboration in the public and private sectors!

