



How useful was ENSO in predicting Northern Hemisphere climate anomalies over the past two winters?

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Boreal winter 2009/10 featured a strong El Nino while winter 2010/11 featured a strong La Nina. But during both winters the North Atlantic or Arctic Oscillation (NAO/AO) was observed to be predominantly in the negative phase. Comparison of both winters makes an interesting test case of the influence of El Nino Southern Oscillation on hemispheric climate anomalies in comparison to those anomalies associated with the NAO/AO climate mode. Furthermore I will compare operational forecasts that predominantly rely on using ENSO as a predictor with a forecast using Siberian snow cover as a predictor. I will also explore the possible influence of stratospheric variability and Arctic sea ice on observed climate anomalies for both winters.