

A framework to characterize and communicate uncertainty

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Kennedy, R.E., Serbin, S.P., Dietze, M.C., Andersen, H.-E., Babcock, C., Baker, D.F., Brown, M.E., Davis, K.J., Duncanson, L., Feng, S., Hudak, A.T., Liu, J., Patterson, P.L., Raczka, B., Cochrane, M.A., Sepúlveda Carlo, E.A., Vargas, R., 2024. **Characterizing and communicating uncertainty: lessons from NASA’s Carbon Monitoring System.** Environ. Res. Lett. 19, 123003. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ad8be0>

Motivation

- Uncertainty is not monolithic across or within disciplines
- In CMS, we all characterize it, **but we mean different things**
- The Uncertainty Working Group argued for several years to develop **a framework to partition and communicate uncertainty**

Approach

- Posit a generic workflow that applies to all of our projects
 - Predictors, Models, Observations
- Find overarching language interpretable across disciplines
- Consider both spatial and temporal autocorrelation

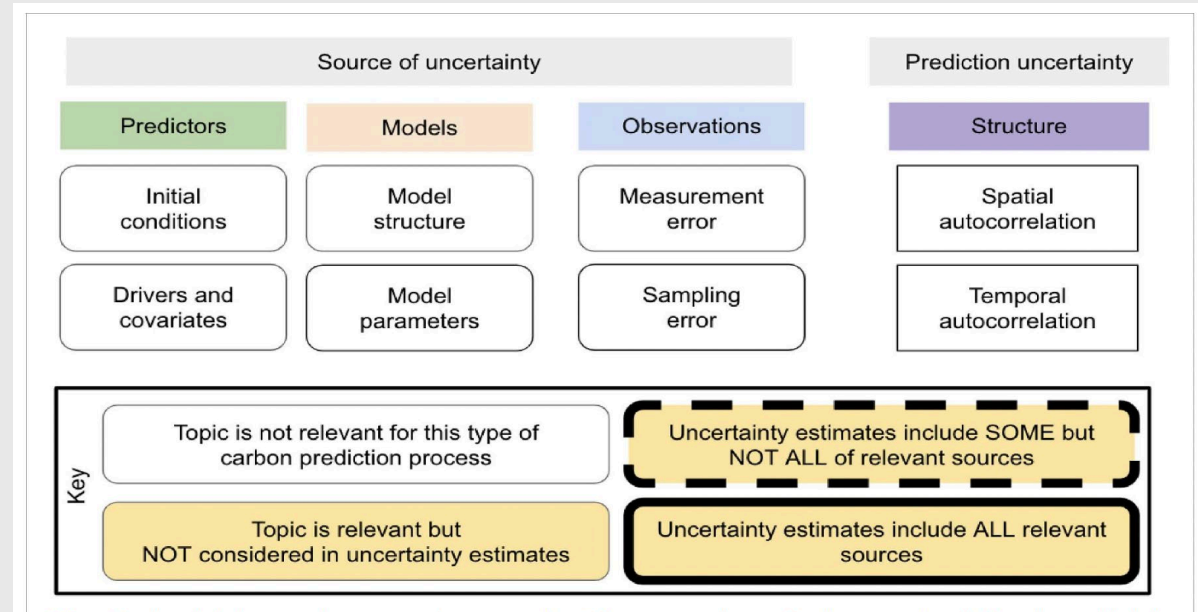
Result

- Heuristic framework with graphical (symbolic) component →
- and an associated narrative describing rationale

Significance

- Read it and see what you think. Can we consider using this framework to accompany CMS-associated datasets?

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Uncertainty heuristic: For any product where we produce spatially explicit predictions of uncertainty, we use the symbolism to indicate which sources of uncertainty are considered and – more importantly – which sources are relevant but not considered. This provides a means of managing expectations for users and to introspect on which factors we might want to better characterize in the future.