

Answer to referee comments

Dear referees,

Thank you for your valuable feedback and input you provided! We really appreciate the positive remarks and the time you spent reviewing our work.

Since both referees suggested publishing the manuscript as is, we have not implemented any changes prompted by referee comments.

Additional changes by the authors

Given the fast-evolving nature of the field, we saw fit to make some minor updates to our manuscript to reflect the most recent developments in the field. Specifically, the following changes were implemented:

- References to preprints which have now been published in peer-reviewed journals have been changed to instead cite the corresponding peer-reviewed articles.
- Mentions of Fuxi (Chen et al., 2023) and the Weatherbench 2 (Rasp et al., 2024) have been added to the manuscript, to provide the reader with information on those recent works.
- Fuxi (Chen et al., 2023) has also been added to Table 1, including the models rivalling ECMWF HRES in performance.
- Minor grammar/form revisions.

All changes are clearly marked in the attached track-changes document.

Thank you for your attention,

The authors