

Interactive comment on “Root mean square error (RMSE) or mean absolute error (MAE)?” by T. Chai and R. R. Draxler

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Both RMSE and MAE have been widely used in model performance evaluation. After reading this article and the article by Willmott et al., 2009, I would think this article further enhance our understanding on the statistic factors used in numerical model evaluations. The publication of this article can improve the use of these statistic items in Geosciences. I did not find any possible mistakes in this article. The math and logicity in this article is accurate and consistent. Therefore, I favor a final publication after addressing a series of issues that can improve the expression on this topic and may improve the feeling of readers on this article.

1. Both this article and the article by Willmott et al., 2009 did not strictly and clearly define the problems and impact regime. The article by Willmott et al., 2009 may have

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problem in using samples to derive its conclusion, so that the conclusion on RMSE is loaded too broad. My experience in using RMSE really have better functions in evaluation of weather models than that of MAE, especially for extreme events simulations. This article did not directly point the possible problem in Willmott et al., 2009. Therefore, I suggest further revision on this part to provide a clear analysis of possible problems that may affect the misleading conclusion in the article by Willmott et al., 2009.

2. Some parts of expressions and statements in this article may need to be revised, so that the valuable part of previous works can be better cited. This include using soft language in commenting the problems by the target article (Willmott et al., 2009), and convince the valuable part of previous studies.

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