Understanding, communicating, and mitigating forecast uncertainties: What we learned from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma so far and beyond

Owing to their significant impacts on human activities and property damages, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma received much attention from public recently. The accuracy of weather forecasting has become a primary concern during the severe weather warning and emergency evacuations. From a science perspective, this talk will introduce fundamental causes of forecasting uncertainties, beginning with the central role of the numerical weather prediction in daily weather forecasting. The current progress that addresses forecast uncertainties in the operational environment will be demonstrated. The common needs, methodologies, and challenges to communicate forecasting uncertainties to the public will be highlighted. Finally, the specific scientific problems and recent research progress in improving landfalling hurricane forecasting will be discussed.

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Refreshments and Meet the Speaker at 3:00pm