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Ensemble Prediction for Earth Orientation Parameters

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Ensemble prediction, a technique gaining prominence in the meteorological and hydrological communities, offers the possibility of improved prediction accuracy and robustness. As part of the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) Working Group on Prediction (WGP), the IERS Rapid Service/Prediction Center has made a preliminary investigation into the efficacy of ensemble prediction for Earth orientation parameters (EOP), specifically, polar motion and UT1-UTC. Initial results, based on roughly a year's worth of data collected by the EOP Prediction Comparison Campaign, indicate that ensemble prediction produces results similar to the best prediction methods over a given data span. These results and their implications for the prediction process, in general, and for the IERS WGP, in particular, are presented.