

# ECMWF: research developments and future plans

Irina Sandu

ECMWF, Shinfield Park, RG2 9AX, Reading, UK



# Outline

1. IFS upgrade Cy41r1 - 12 May 2015
2. Resolution upgrade Cy41r2 – 8 March 2016
3. Future challenges

# Performance summary (41r1)

Domain	Parameter	Level	Anomaly correlation										RMS error									
			Forecast day										Forecast day									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	Geopotential	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		1000 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Temperature	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wind	200 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Relative humidity	700 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Extratropical Northern Hemisphere	Geopotential	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		1000 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Temperature	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wind	200 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Relative humidity	700 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲

Cycle 41r1 versus Cycle 40r1 verified by analyses at 00 and 12 UTC; 493 days 2 January 2014 - 10 May 2015

Extratropical Southern Hemisphere	Geopotential	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		1000 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Temperature	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wind	200 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Relative humidity	700 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Tropics	Temperature	100 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		500 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wind	200 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
		850 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Relative humidity	700 hPa	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲

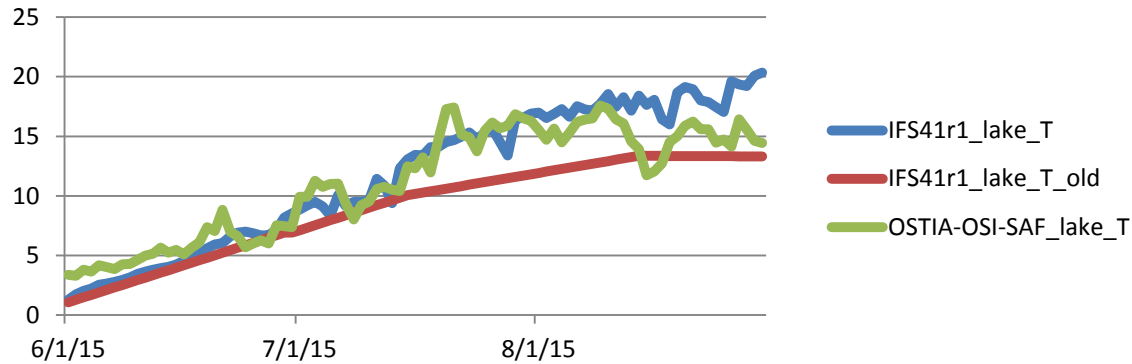
- ▲ Cy41r1 better than Cy40r1 – statistically highly significant
- ▲ Cy41r1 better than Cy40r1 – statistically significant
- ▲ Cy41r1 better than Cy40r1 – not statistically significant
- ▲ Little difference between Cy40r1 and Cy41r1
- ▲ Cy41r1 worse than Cy40r1 – not statistically significant
- ▼ Cy41r1 worse than Cy40r1 – statistically significant
- ▼ Cy41r1 worse than Cy40r1 – statistically highly significant

# Cy41r1 (May 2015) Highlights

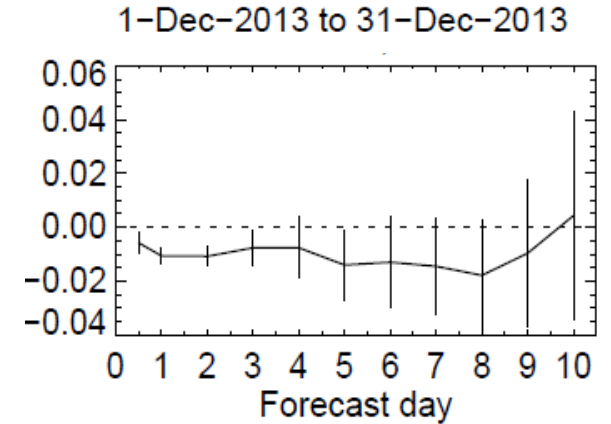
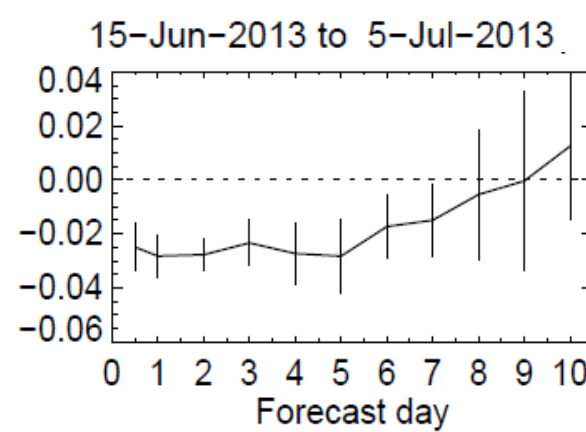
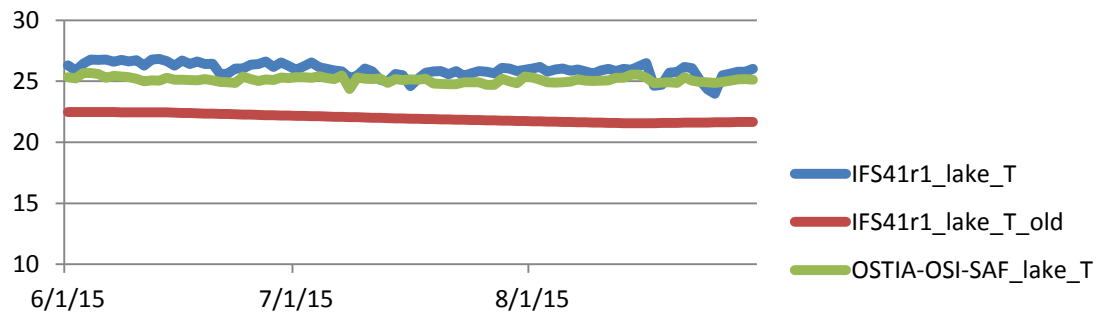
- MOD**
  - New surface climate fields (land-sea mask, sub-grid orography)
  - Improved SL-trajectory (stratospheric noise)
  - Microphysics upgrade (drizzle, heavy rain, precipitation-type)
  - Revised detrainment in convection scheme
  - MACC-II CO<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>3</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> climatologies; RRTM upgrade
  - Lake model: Flake
- SAT**
  - All-sky microwave humidity assimilation upgrade
- 4DVAR**
  - 4DVAR upgrade of inner loop resolutions (255L-255L-255L grid)
  - EDA improved noise filtering, reduced sampling window
  - ASCAT assimilation
- ENS**
  - ENS re-forecasts: from 5-member once to 11-member twice weekly
  - Monthly forecast (leg B) extended to D+46 (from D+32)
  - Active use of wave modified stress in coupled mode

# Impact of water bodies (lake model)

Lake Baikal



Lake Victoria



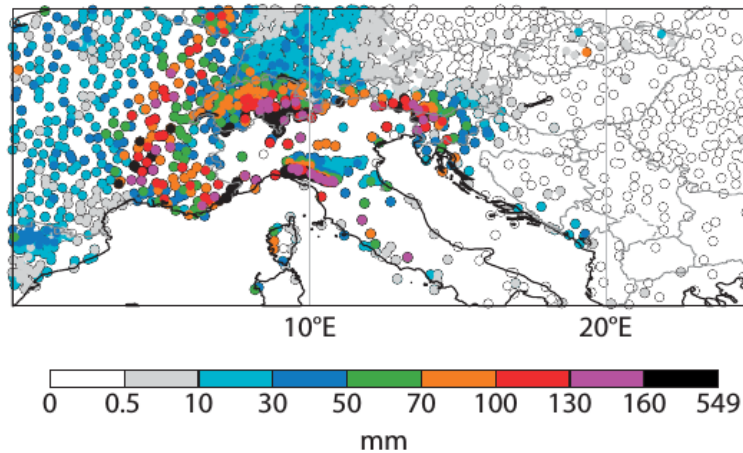
T 20N to 90N 1000hPa: Performance improved  
(2-3% in summer; 1% in winter )

# Microphysics upgrade – orographic precipitation

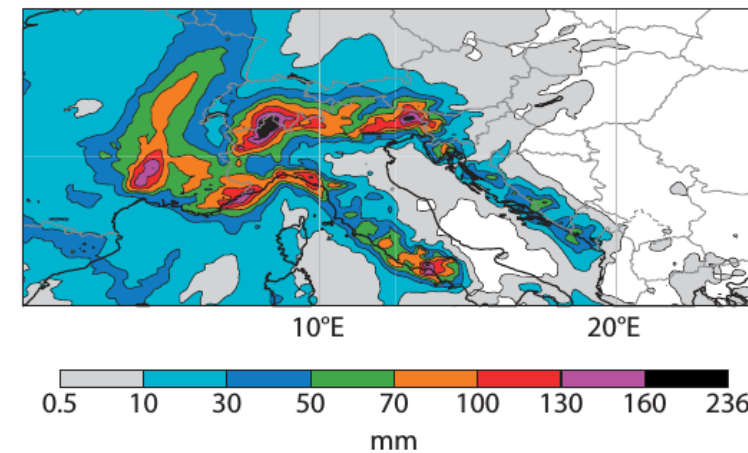
## Case study – Floods in Italy 3-5 Nov 2014

Precipitation accumulation 3-5 Nov 2014

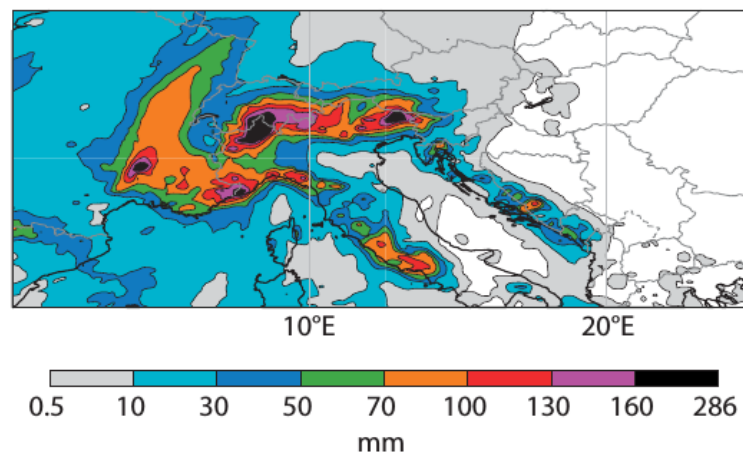
**a** Observations



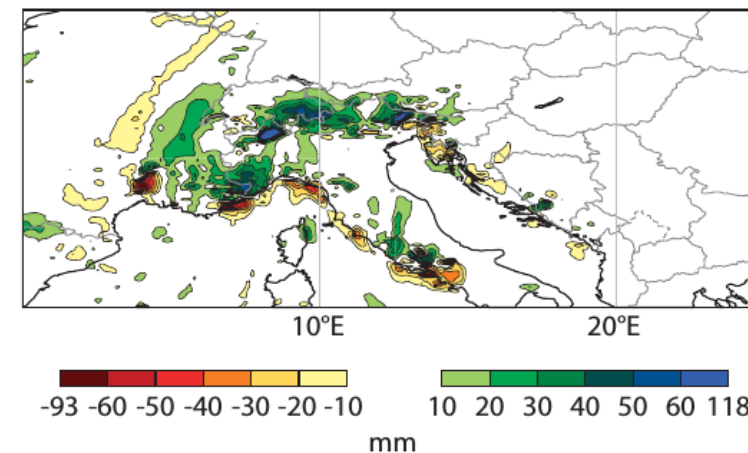
**b** IFS Cycle 40r1



**c** IFS Cycle 41r1

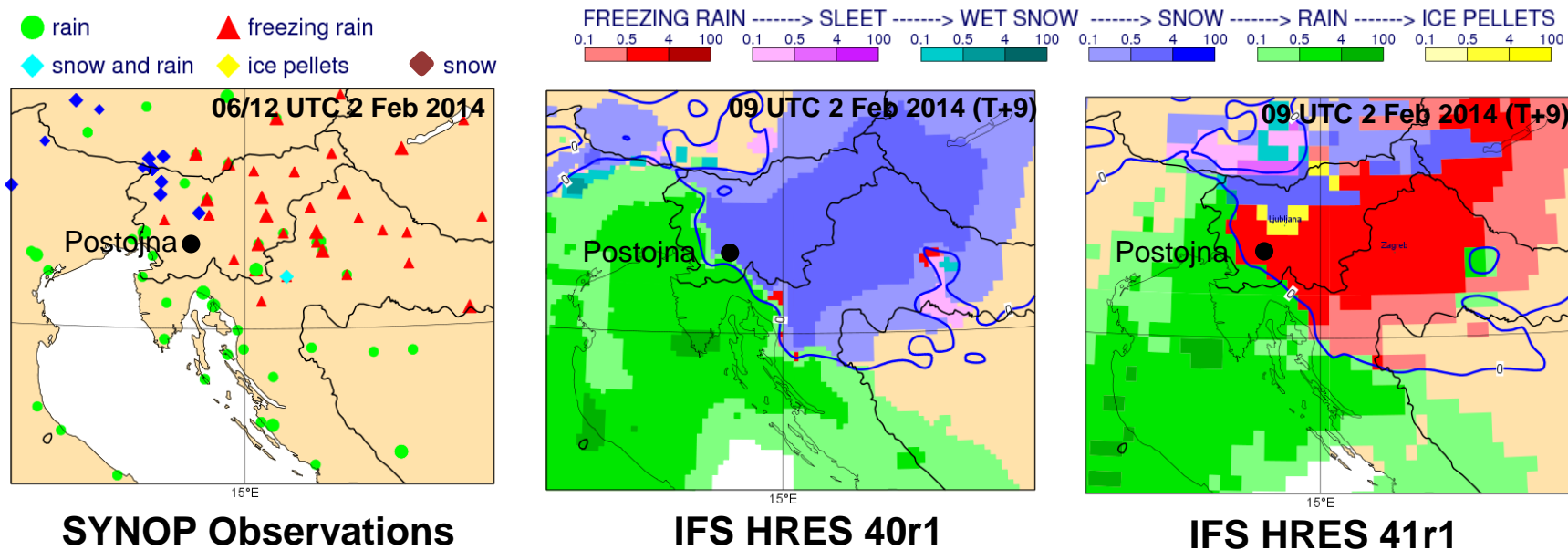


**d** Difference between 41r1 and 40r1



# Microphysics upgrade & new diagnostics for precipitation types – predicting high-impact freezing rain events

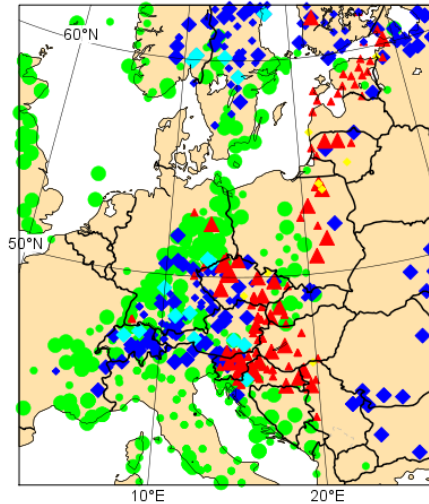
- Case Study: Slovenia/Croatia 02 Feb 2014
- Freezing rain caused severe disruption and damage, transports/power/forests...
- IFS physics at the time (40r1) not able to predict
- New physics in 41r1 allows prediction of freezing rain events
- Evaluation in HRES/ENS shows potential for useful forecasts





# Probability of freezing rain accumulation from the IFS ensemble

Case Study: 02 Feb 2014



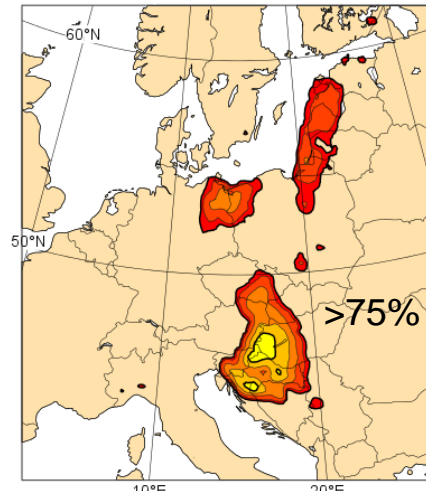
Obs

- rain
- ◆ snow
- ▲ freezing rain
- ◆ snow and rain
- ◆ ice pellets

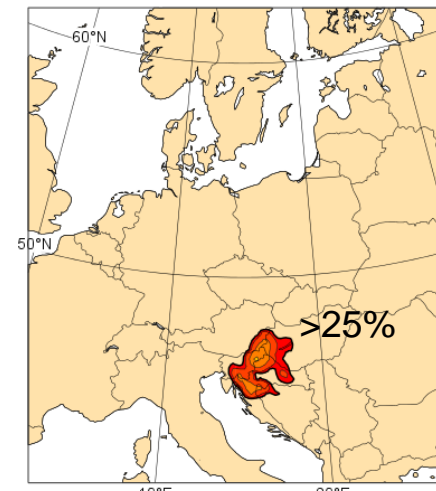
Prob (fzra > 1mm)



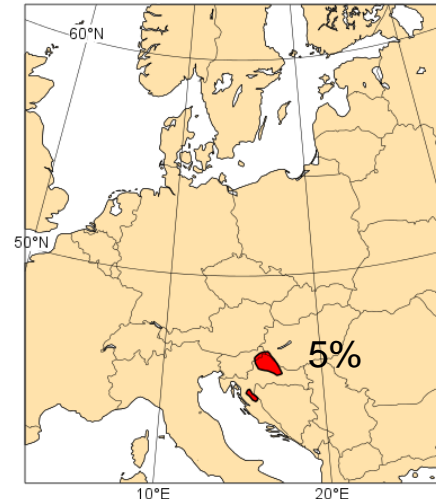
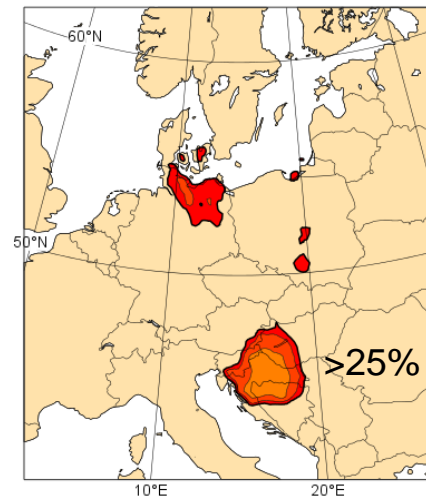
Day 3  
forecast



Prob (fzra > 5mm)



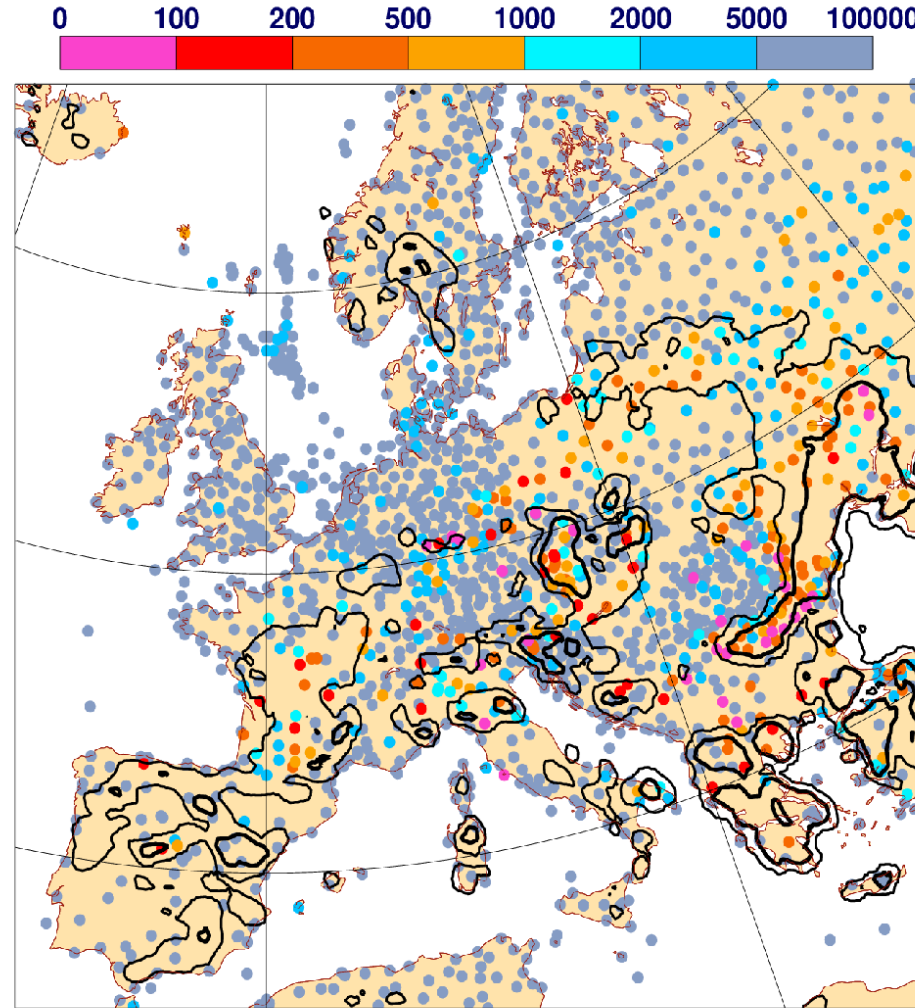
Day 5  
forecast





# New diagnostic: Visibility/Fog

Case study: 15 Dec 2014, 3 day probability forecast from IFS ensemble



Observed visibility (m) at 06Z 15 Dec 2014 (dots)  
ENS 3-day forecast probability of fog (<1000m) >10% (thin), >50% (thick)

# Outline

1. IFS upgrade Cy41r1 - 12 May 2015
2. Resolution upgrade Cy41r2 – 8 March 2016
3. Future challenges

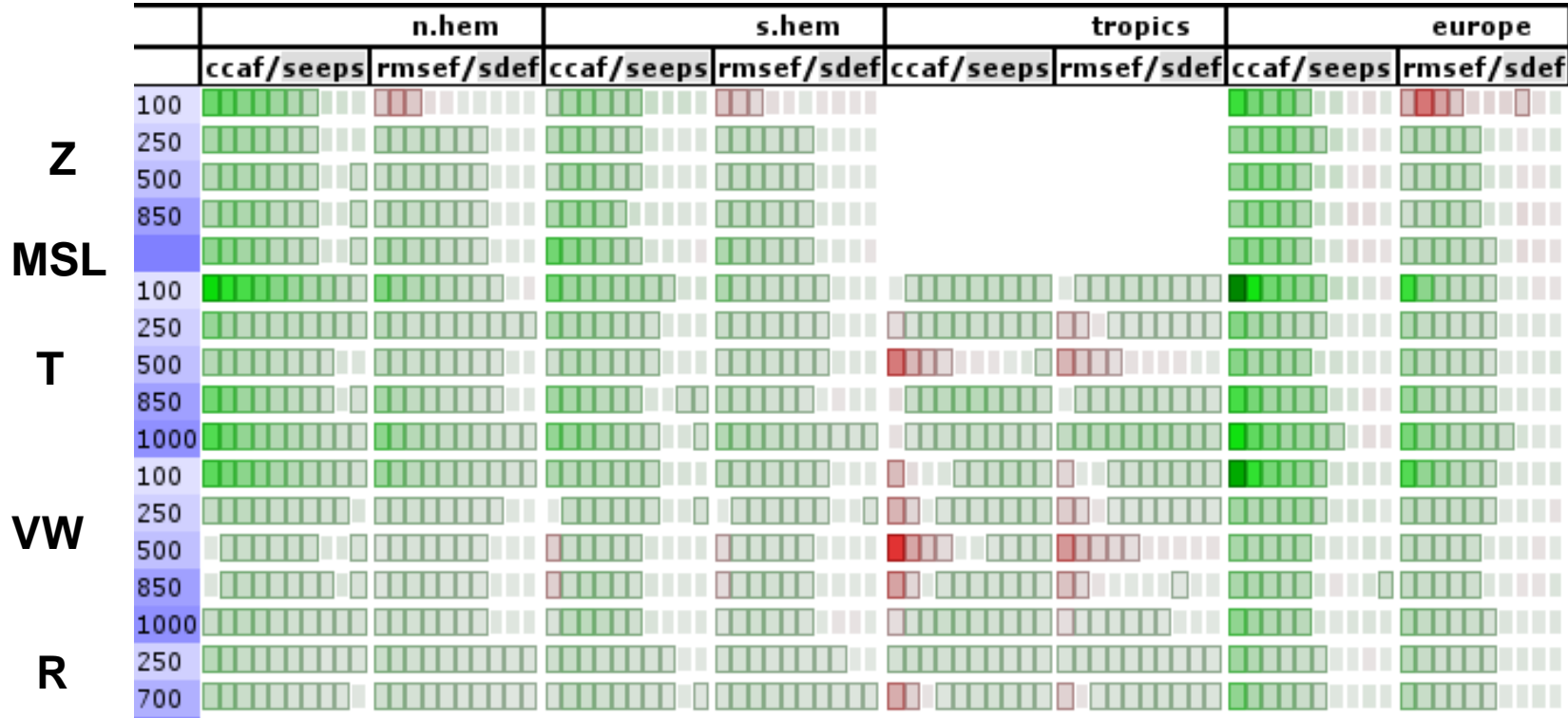
# Resolution upgrade – 8 March 2016

41r1 → 41r2

Grid res.	HRES	ENS LegA LegB/M'ly	4DV inner loops 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>			EDA Outer 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
128 km							TL159	TL159
							TL191	TL191
64 km			TL255	TL255	TL255			
				TL319				
32 km					TL399			
		TL639				TL399		
16 km	TL1279	LegA+B TCo639				TCo639		
9 km	TCo1279							

# Performance summary: 41r2 (08.15-03.16)

## HRES



Z500 : 7-4% AC  
3-2% RMSE

T2m, D2m, v10m 1-4% RMSE decrease

## ENS



T850 : 4-2%

Z500 : 3-2%

# Cy41r2 (Highlights)

## MOD

Higher resolution 8/16km, new cubic-octahedral reduced Gaussian grid  
Number of iterations in SL trajectory  
Radiation-surface LW/SW updating, radiation-surface LW tiling  
Improved physics for freezing rain  
TL/AD surface and VDF, non orographic drag

## SAT

GPSRO observation error adjustment  
Improved data coverage (screening and obs error changes)  
Observation operator improvements

## 4DVAR

EDA resolution TCo639 fc/outer loop, TL191/T191 inner loops  
Same hybrid B both in EDA and HRES  
4DVAR configuration TL255/TL319/TL399

## ENS/WAV

Various technical changes preparing for the resolution upgrade

## TECH

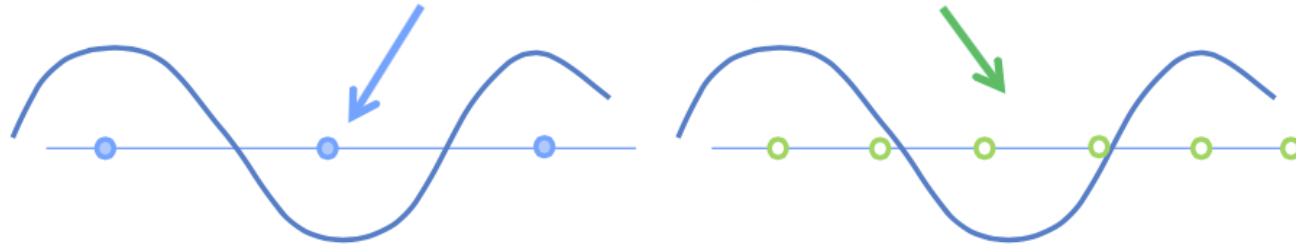
Efficiency gains, HugePages, vectorisation, optimisation, IOSERV

# Resolution upgrade: cubic grids

$2N+1$  gridpoints to  $N$  waves :  $T_L$  linear grid

$4N+1$  gridpoints to  $N$  waves :  $T_c$  cubic grid

Where  $T_L$  refers to **linear grid** and  $T_c$  to **cubic grid**, respectively



- Mathematically more correct in the presence of cubic non-linearities in the eqns
- Less numerical filtering – almost no numerical diffusion, no dealiasing
- Better mass conservation
- Less expensive than the equivalent linear grid (TC1023 cheaper than TL2047)

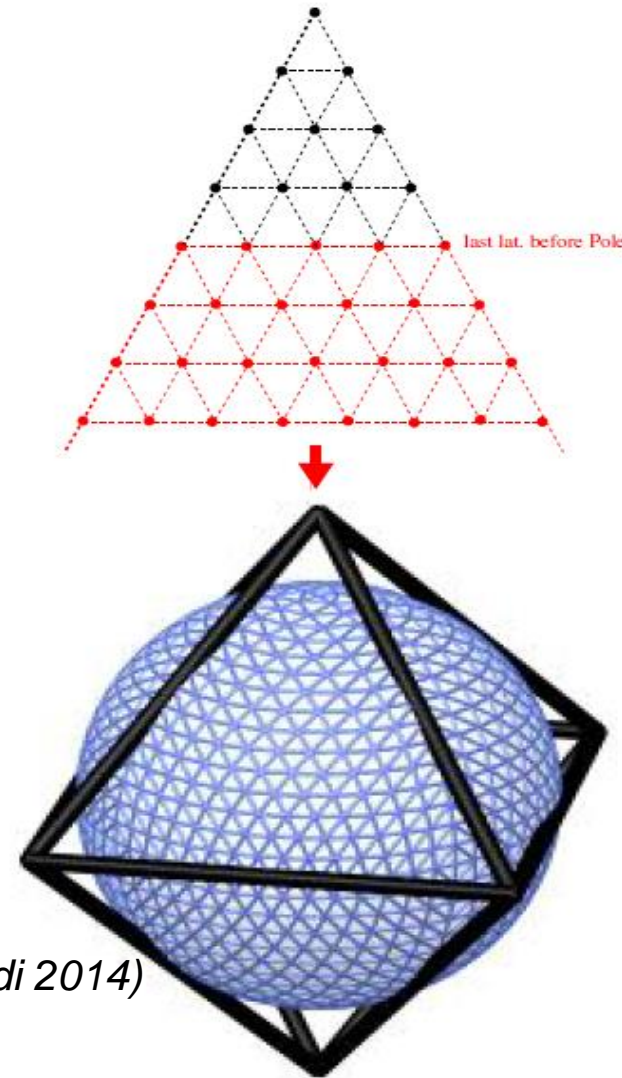
# Resolution upgrade: octahedral reduced Gaussian grid

It is a reduced Gaussian grid with the same number of latitude circles ( $NDGL$ ) than the standard Gaussian grid ( $\leftrightarrow$  Gaussian weights) but with a new rule to compute the number of points per latitude circle.

## Number of points per latitude

$NLOEN(lat_N) = 20 \rightarrow \text{Poles}$

$NLOEN(lat_i) = NLOEN(lat_{i-1}) + 4$



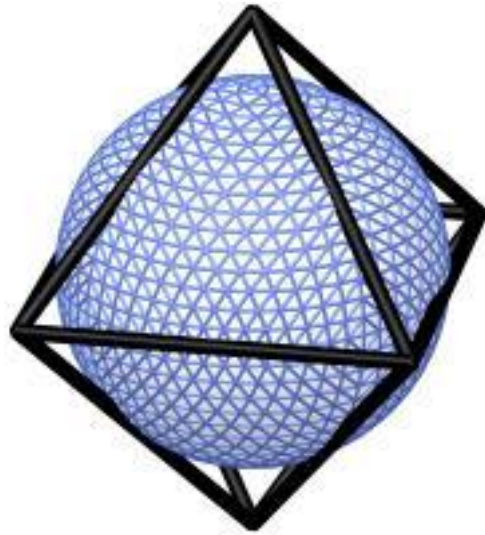
*Re-think the spectral wave number truncation to gridpoint number ratio (Wedi 2014)*

*The cubic-octahedral grid (TCo1279) at ECMWF (Wedi et al 2015)*

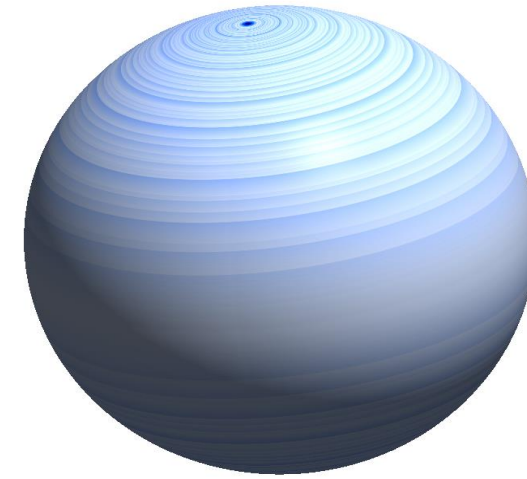
*A new grid for the IFS (Malardel et al., ECMWF Newsletter 146)*



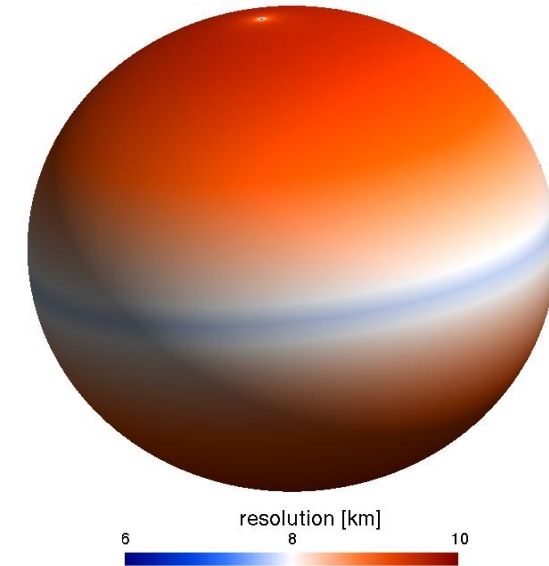
# Resolution upgrade: cubic-octahedral reduced Gaussian grid



Spectral truncation: T1279  
but four points describing the shortest wave



T<sub>L</sub> 1279: old reduced Gaussian Grid for HRES

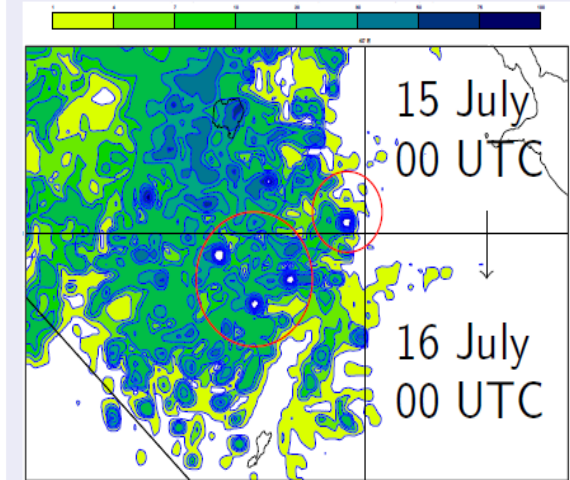


T<sub>co</sub> 1279: New octahedral grid for HRES

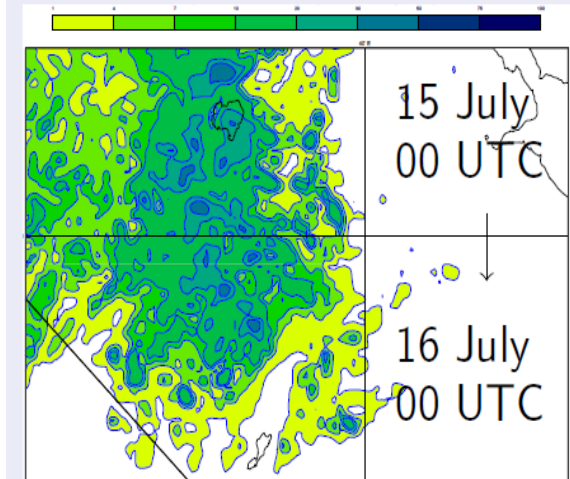
# Precipitation spectra: Oper TL1279 and TCo1279

“Grid point storms” seen in resolved precipitation (LSP) in certain regions have gone in TCo1279

24 LSP+CP oper East Africa

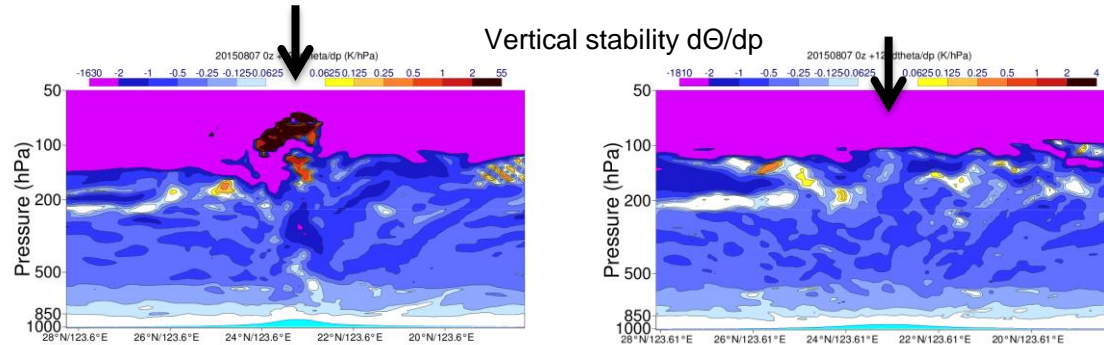


24 LSP+CP e-suite



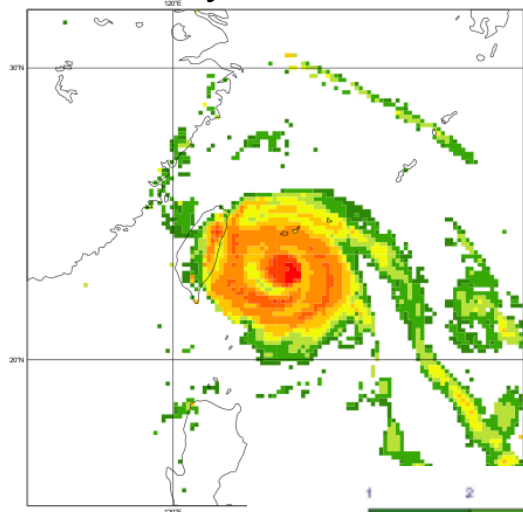
# Improved semi-Lagrangian scheme

Instability with 3 iterations for semi-Lagrangian departure point in extreme situations (gravity waves above Himalayas, tropical cyclones); increasing to 5 iteration considerably improves the results

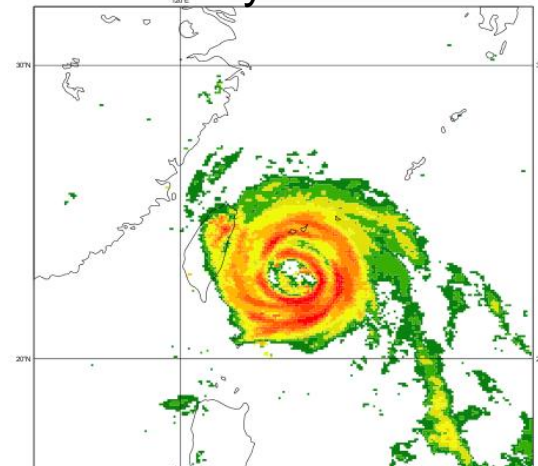


Tropical Cyclone Soudelor  
Aug 2015

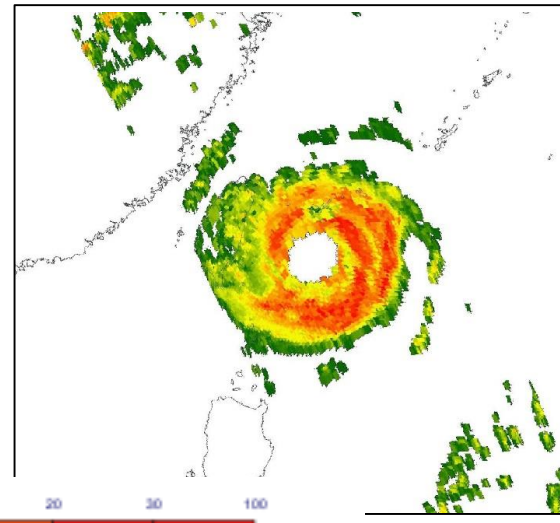
HRES TL1279  
Cy41r1



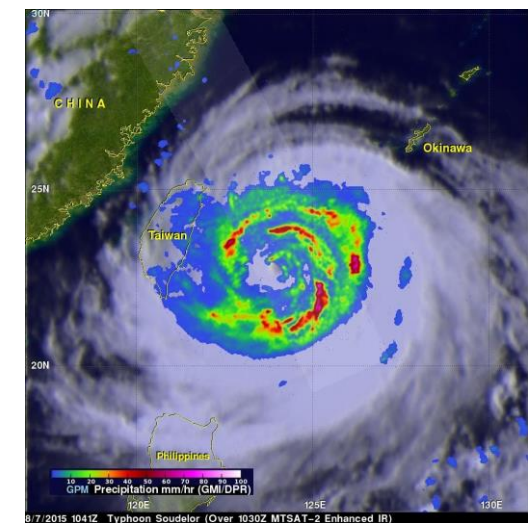
HRES TCo1279  
Cy41r2



GPM observations



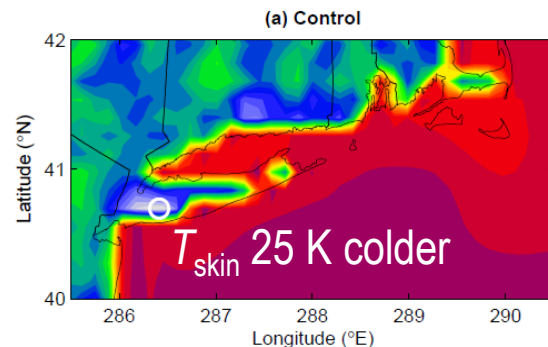
RADAR



# Radiation approximate update: 41r2 T1279 (case 4 Jan 2014)

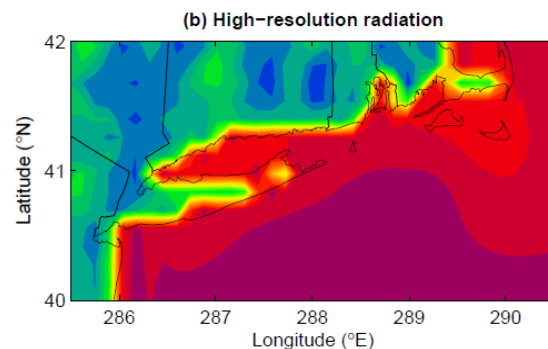
Control: radiation at T639/every 1h

*Radiation 12.5% of model time*



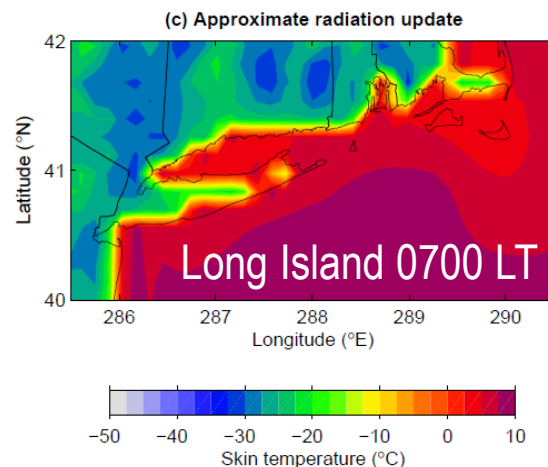
Radiation every timestep/gridpt

*Radiation 12 times more expensive*

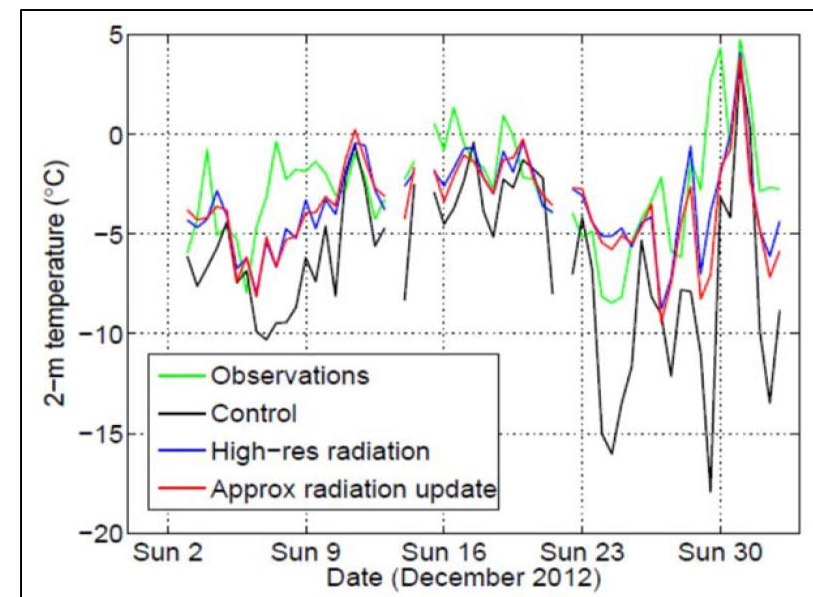


New scheme

*Radiation 2% more expensive*



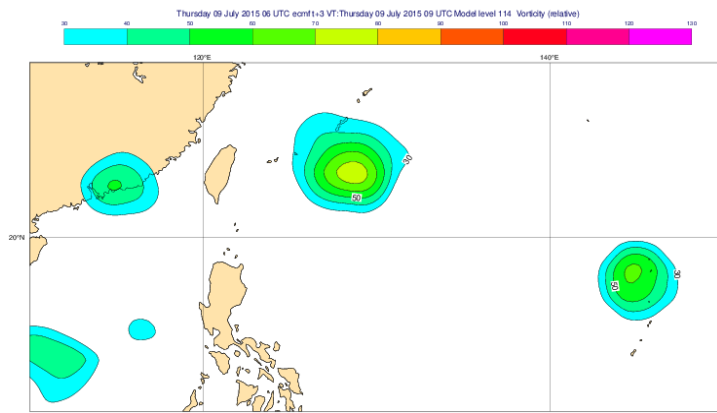
- Update surface LW&SW fluxes every timestep and gridpoint according to  $T_{\text{skin}}$  and albedo.
- Removes spurious cold/warm coastal T anomalies with minimal cost.



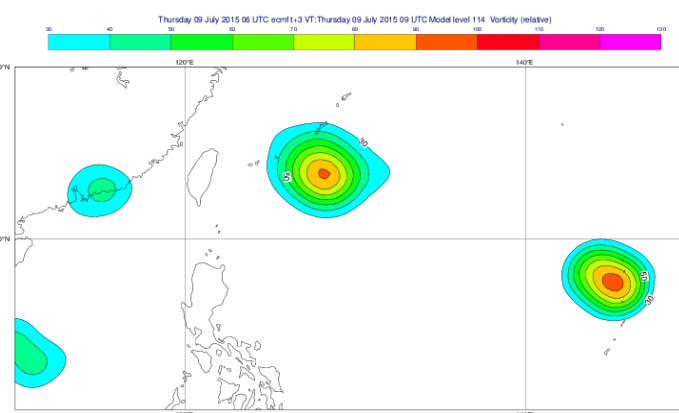


# EDA improvements, TCo639 + B

Higher TCo639 resolution, smaller-scale variance and B heavily weighted towards the days errors at smaller scales gives more accurate analysis/forecasts—almost TL1279—and more spread where it matters.



41r1 TL399  
20150709  
0900z



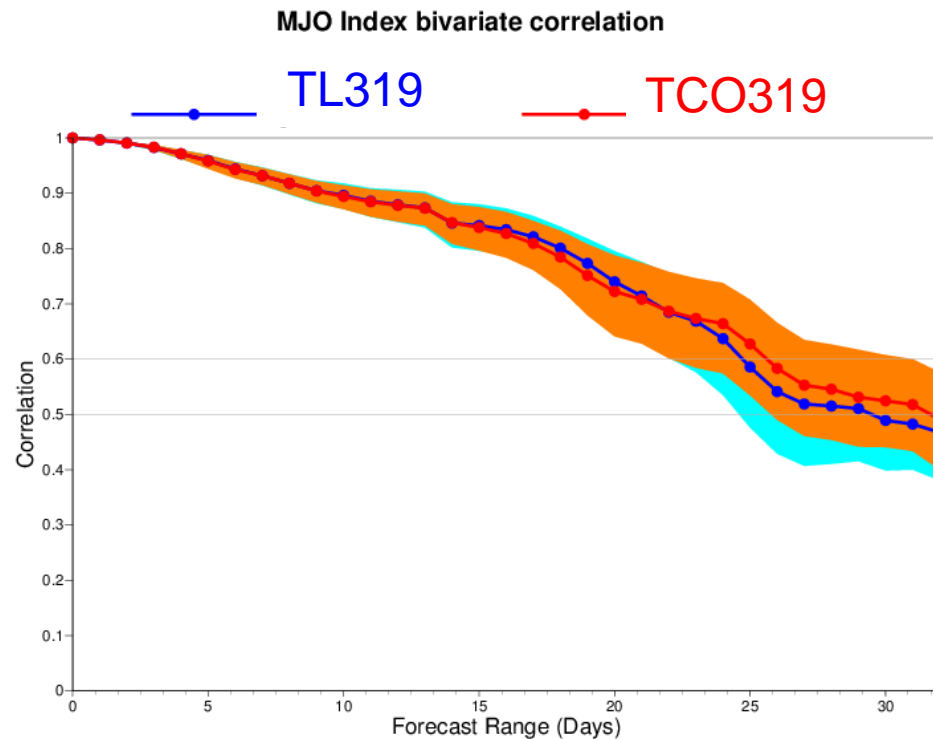
41r2 TCo639  
20150709  
0900z



“Linfa, Chan-hom, and Nangka”

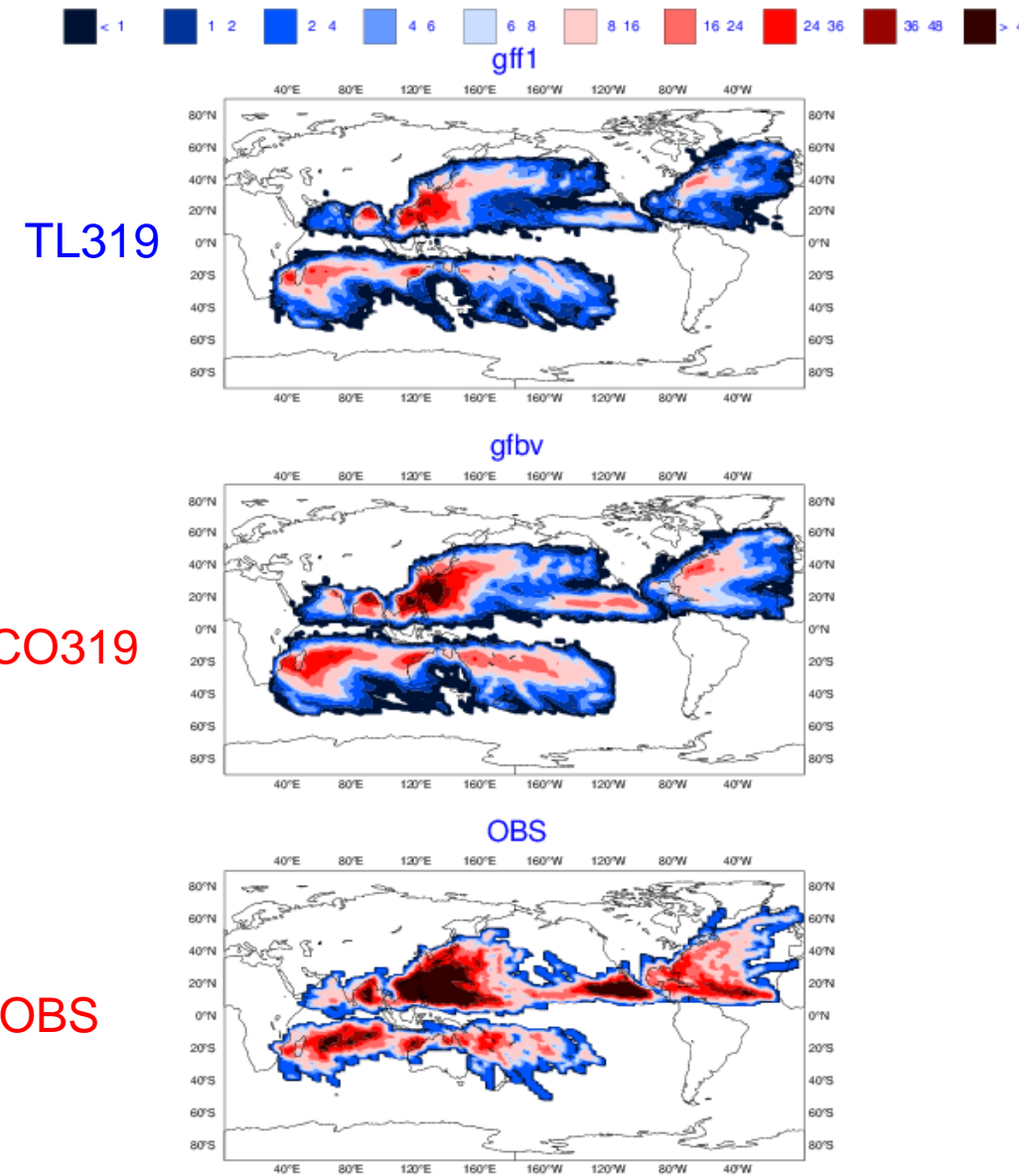
# Monthly forecast: resolution upgrade

41r1: TL639 day 0-10, TL 319 day 10-46  
41r2: Tco639 day 0-15, TCO 319 day 10-46

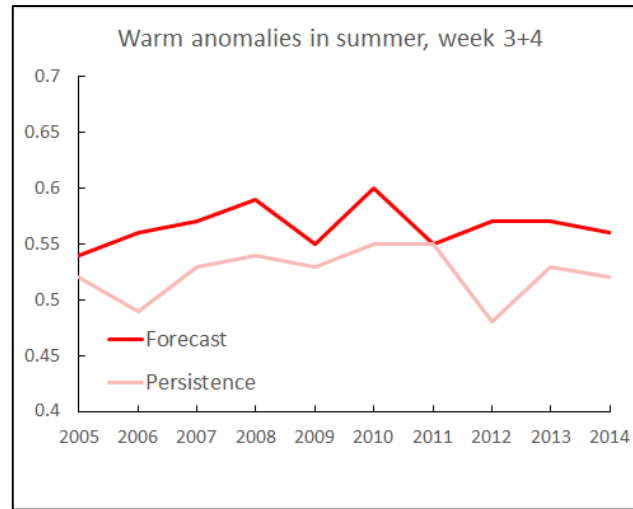
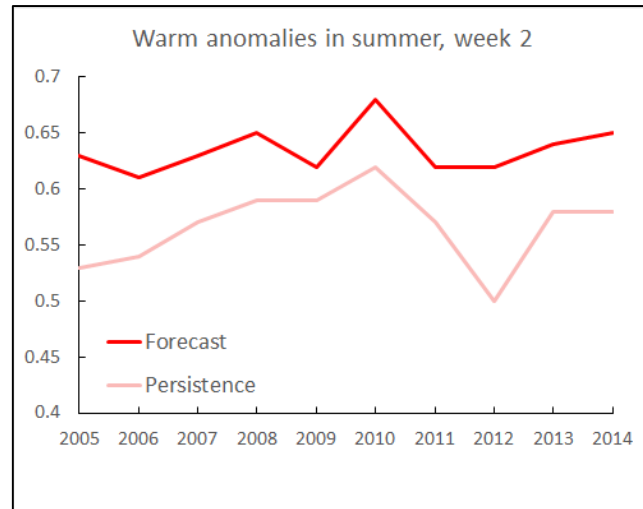


ECMWF Ensemble Prediction System  
Number of Tropical storms within 2 degree (x100)  
Forecast start reference is 1st Feb-May-Aug-Nov 1989-2008  
ensemble size = 15

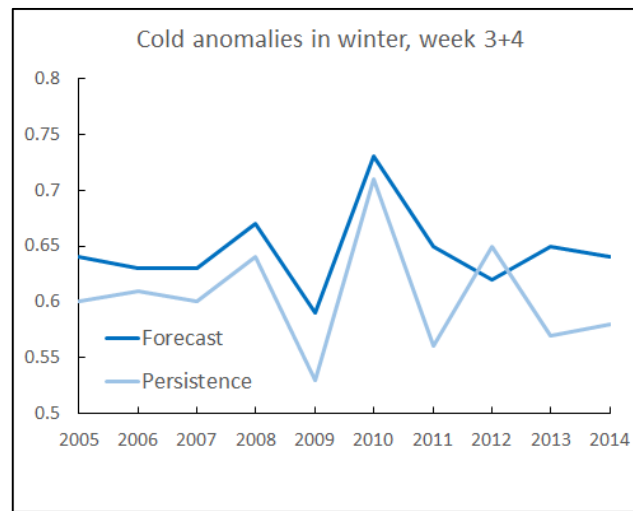
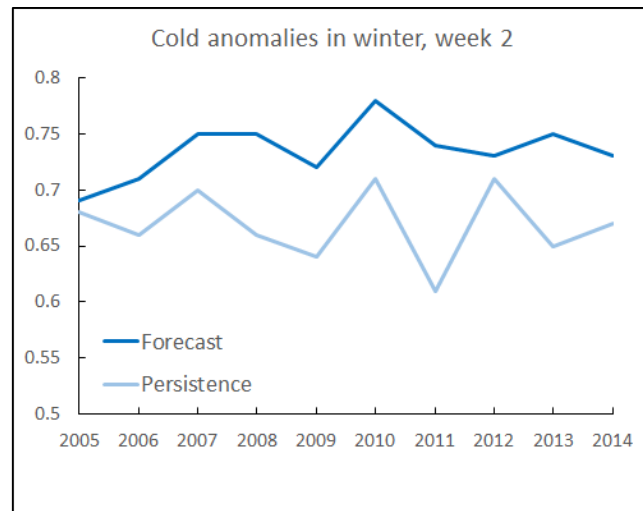
DAY 1-30



# Monthly forecast – User oriented verification



2m temperature anomalies



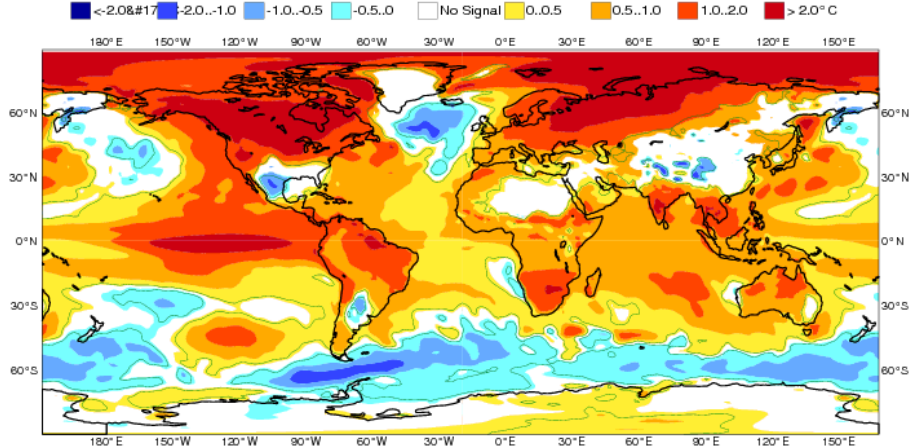
Verification metric: ROC area



# Seasonal forecast

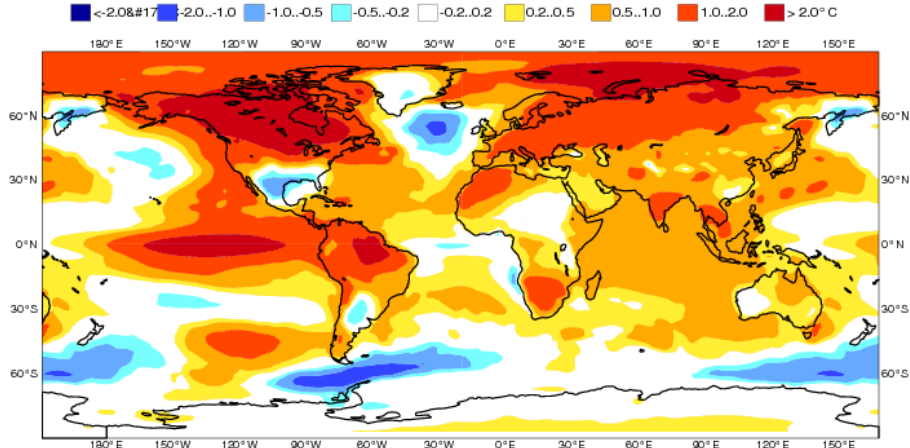
ECMWF Seasonal Forecast  
Mean 2m temperature anomaly  
Forecast start reference is 01/11/15  
Ensemble size – 51, climate size – 450

System 4  
DJF 2015/16  
Shaded areas significant at 10% level  
Solid contour at 1% level

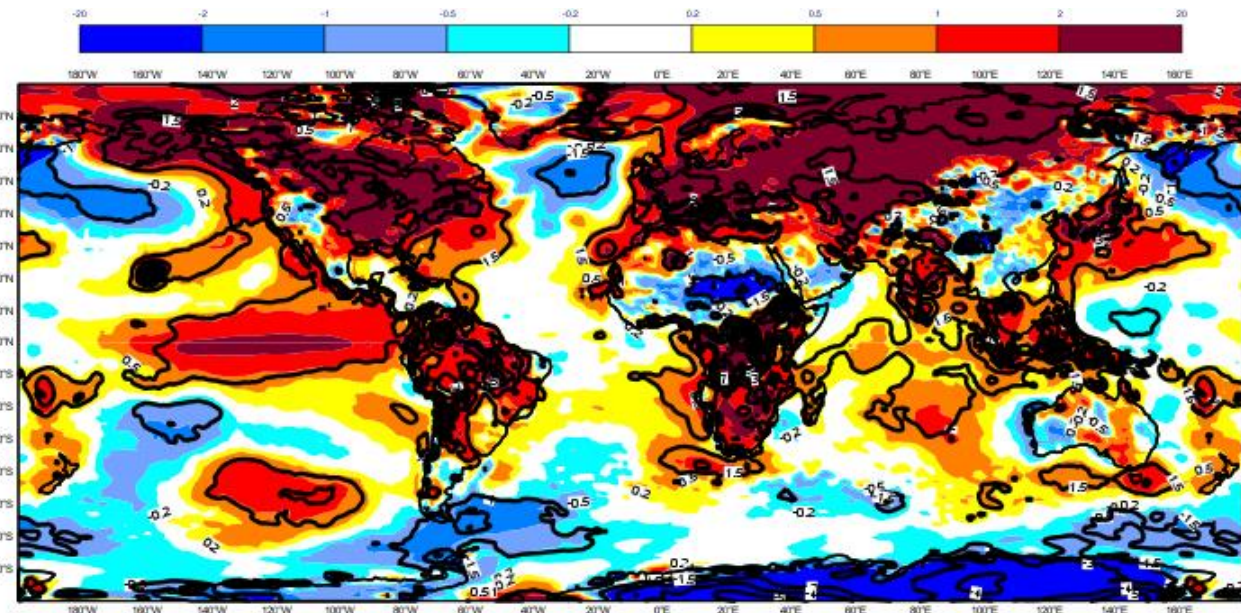


EUROSIP multi-model seasonal forecast  
Mean 2m temperature anomaly  
Forecast start reference is 01/11/15  
Variance-standardized mean

ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/NCEP  
DJF 2015/16



# 2mt anomalies for DJF 2016: analysis



# Seasonal forecasts - System 5 configuration

		S4	ERA-5	S5 Y1 (end '16)	S5 Y2 (end '17)
Atm	Cycle	36r4	41r2	43r1 (or 42r1)	
	Hor. resolution	T <sub>L</sub> 255	T <sub>L</sub> 639	TCo319 (or TL511)	
	Vert. resolution	L91	L137	L137 (or L91)	
	ICs forecast	Ope-an	--	Ope-an	
	ICs reforecast	ERA-I	--	ERA-I	
Land	ICs forecast	Ope-an	Ope-an	Nudging to Ope-an	
	IC reforecast	ERA-I/Land	--	Nudging to ERA-I/Land	
Ocean	Cycle	NEMO 3.0/3.1	--	NEMO 3.4	
	Resolution	ORCA100z42	--	ORCA025z75	
	ICs	ORAS4	--	ORAS5	
Sea Ice	Model	--	--	LIM2	
	ICs	--	--	ORAS5	
Config	Size forecast	51	--	51	
	Size reforecast	15	--	25	25 (51 every quarter)
	Forecast length	7m (13m)	--	7m (13m every quarter)	
	Reforecast years	1981-2010	--	1993-2015 (23y)	1981-2015 (35y) ?

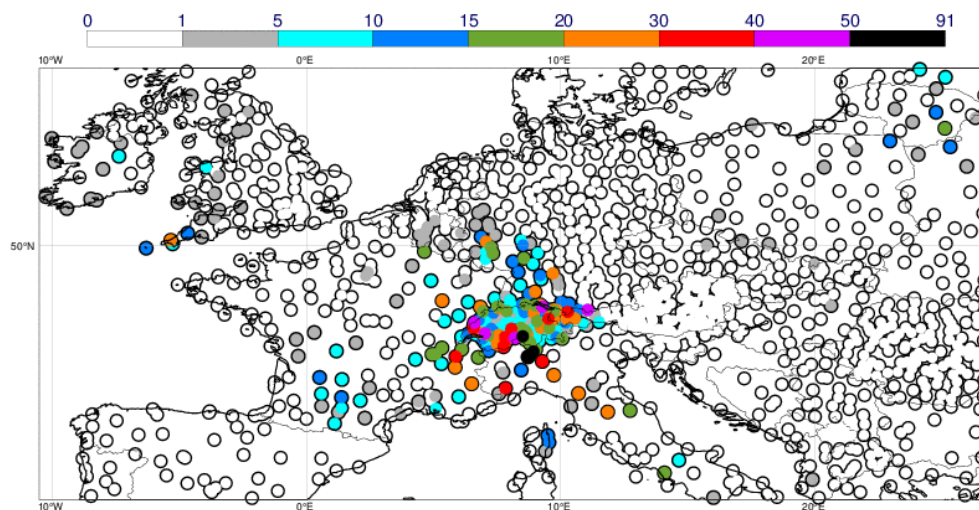
## Just some of the forthcoming challenges...

- Dynamical core
- DA science (oper & reanalysis; maximize use of in situ and satellite obs, algorithms, EDA, higher res inner loops)
- Physical processes (resolved and unresolved)
- Increased coupling (land/ocean/atmospheric composition/meteorology)
- Uncertainty – parameter perturbations, ENS, EDA
- Predictability and seamless ensembles (EDA/ENS/monthly/seasonal)
- Climate monitoring, ERA-Interim replacement: ERA5
- Scalability

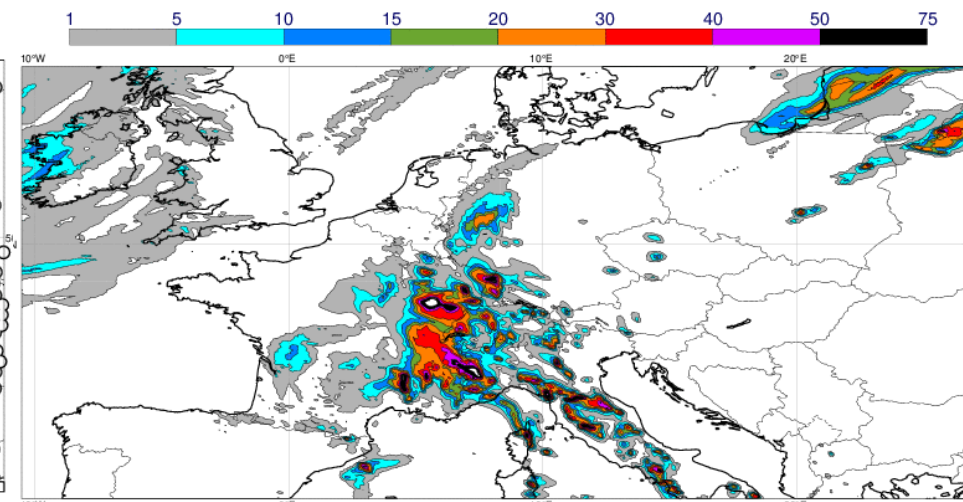


# A bit of light in the grey-zone

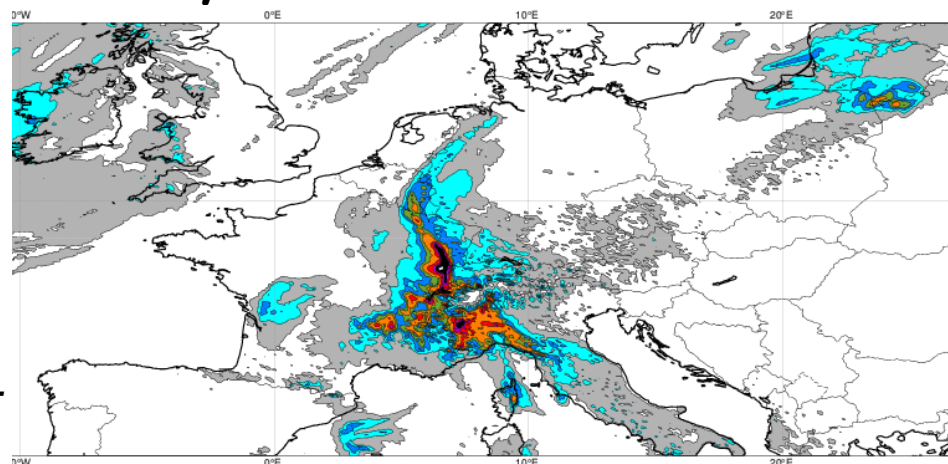
Obs 9 Aug 2015



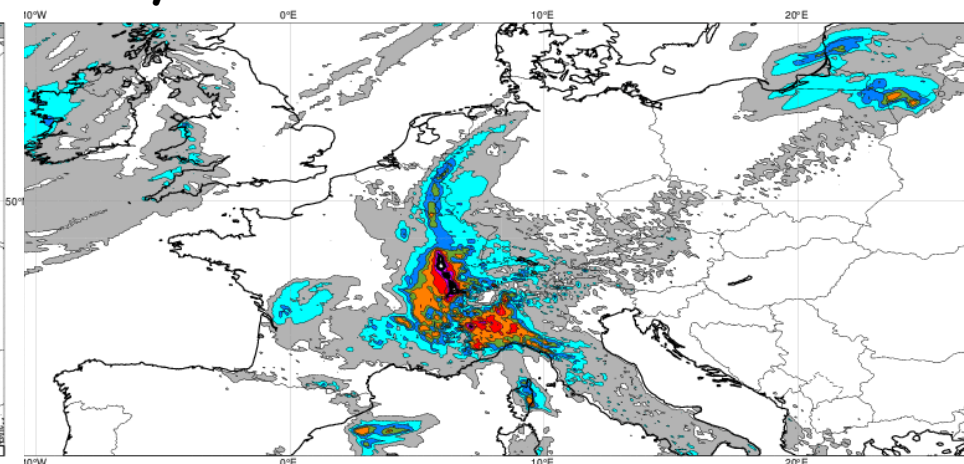
Cy42r1 Tco1999 no deep



Cy42r1 TCo1999 5 km



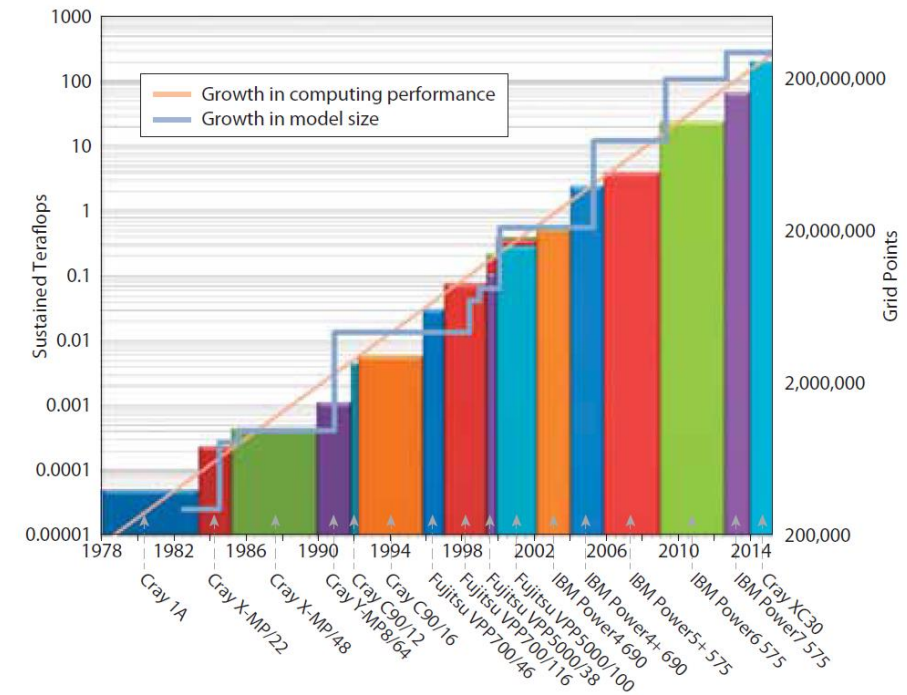
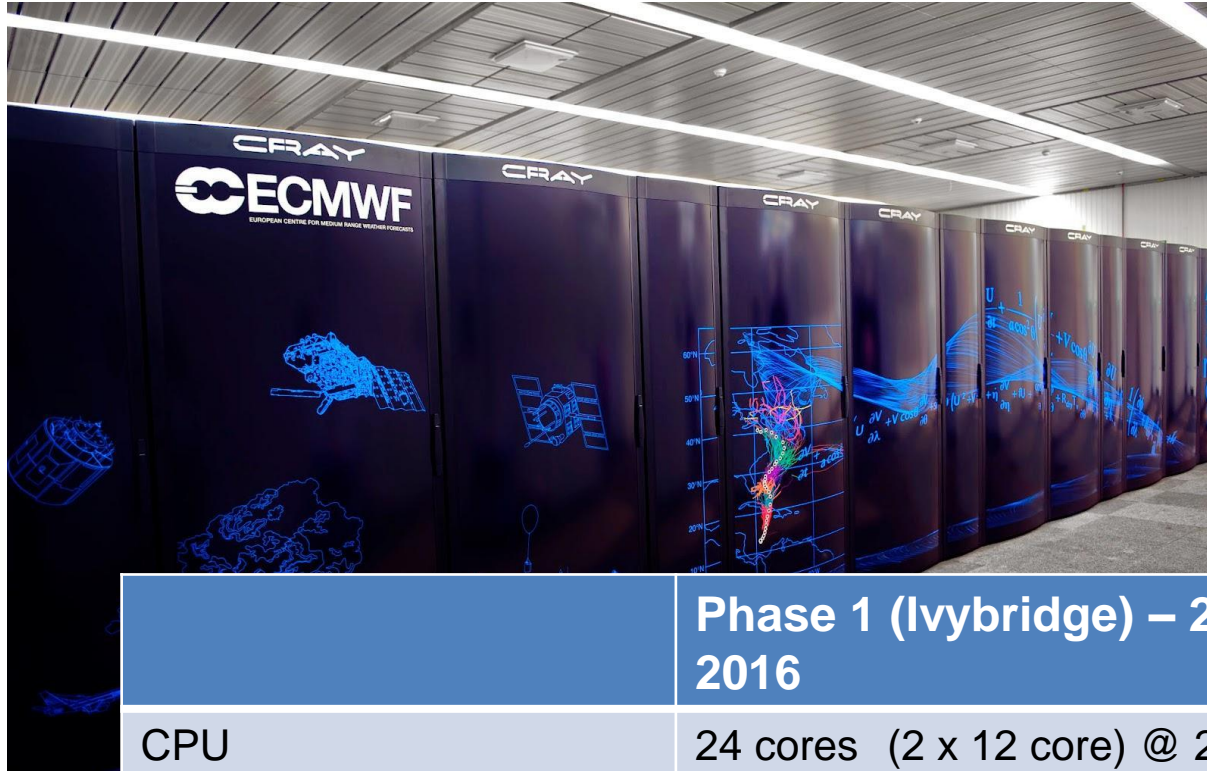
Cy42r1 TCo1999 5 km scaled Mfl



Convection  
parameterisation  
at 5km resolution

*P. Bechtold in  
collaboration with DWD  
presented more  
examples in ECMWF's  
Annual Seminar on  
physical processes in  
present and future large-  
scale models, 2015*

# ECMWF HPC



	Phase 1 (Ivybridge) – 2014-2016	Phase 2 (Broadwell) – 2016-2020	<b>Overall increase ~ 1.5</b>
CPU	24 cores (2 x 12 core) @ 2.7GHz	36 cores (2 x 18 core) @ 2.1 GHz	
Memory/Node	64 Gb (1866 MHz DDR3)	128Gb (2400 MHz DDR4)	
Memory/Core	2.6 Gb	3.5Gb (+35% cf Phase 1)	
Parallel Nodes (per cluster)	3,400	3,513 (+3% cf Phase 1)	
Total Cores (per cluster)	84,096	130,212 (+55% cf Phase 1)	
Tf sustained (both clusters)	200	320 (+60% cf Phase 1)	

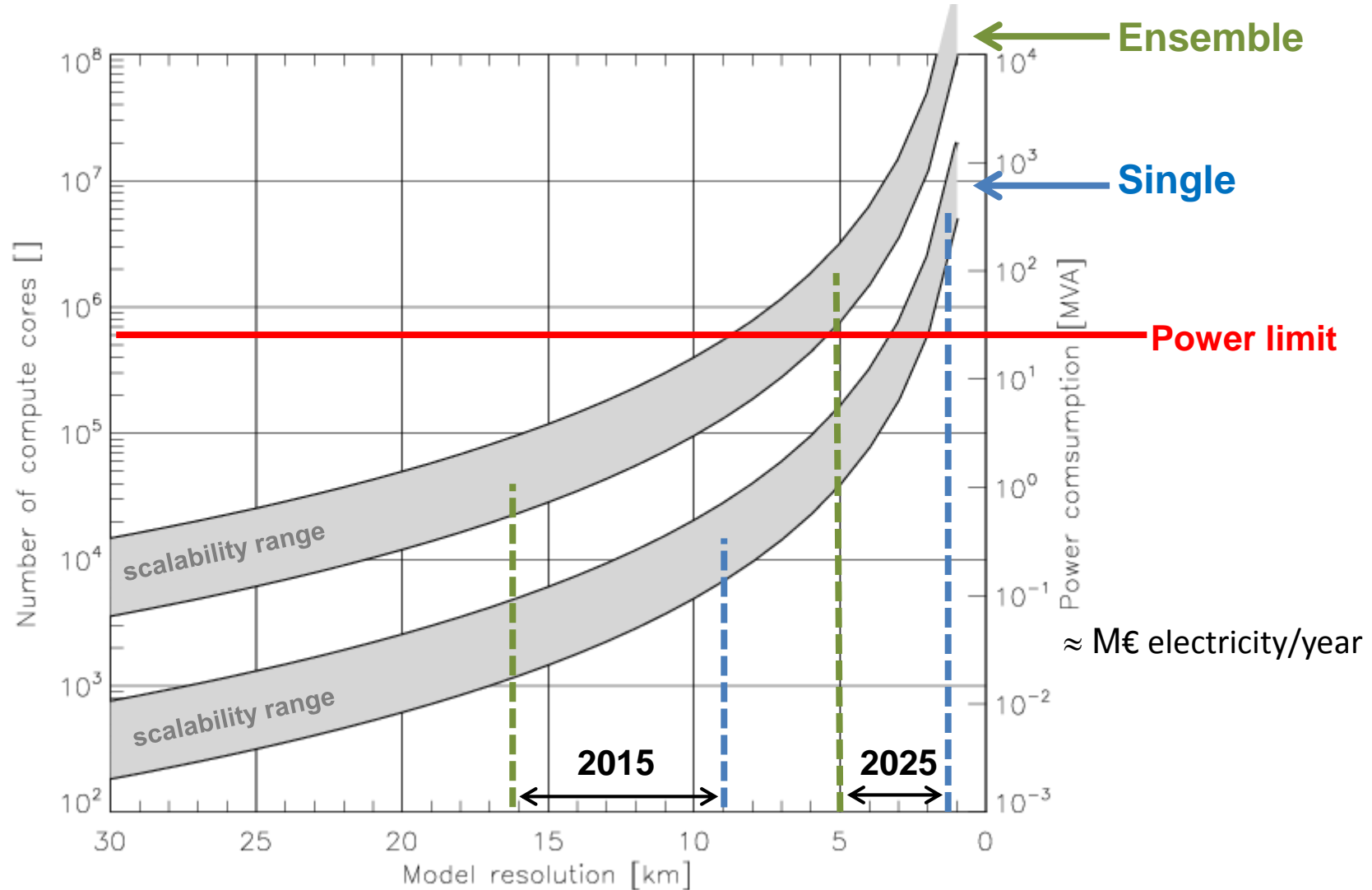
# Four-year plan: Projected HPC cost

**Strategic target:**  
Global 5km,  
seamless analysis-  
forecast ensemble  
in 2025

EDA:		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	H resolution o/l	TCo639				TCo1279
	H resolution i/l	TL191	TCo191			
	V resolution	L137				
	Coupling			orca025I75		
	Ensemble size	M25	M50			
	Window length	2x12h	4x6h			
	Efficiency gains					
	Nodes:	1600	2560	5120	5632	28160
	Factor:	1	1.6	2.0	1.1	5.0
	<b>Acc. factor:</b>	1	1.6	3.2	<b>3.5</b>	<b>17.6</b>

ENS/legA:		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	H resolution	TCo639				TCo1279
	V resolution	L91		L137		
	Coupling	orca100I42	orca025I75			
	Forecast range	d10	d15			
	Ensemble size	M51				
	Rerecast ensemble size	M11			M15	
	Efficiency gains					
	Nodes:	1530	1683	2525	3787	21774
	Factor:	1	1.1	1.5	1.2	5.0
	<b>Acc. factor:</b>	1	1.1	1.7	<b>2.8</b>	<b>14.2</b>

# Simple compute projection (only resolution)



[Bauer et al. 2015]

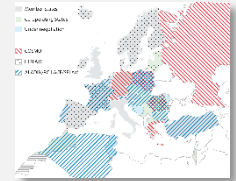
nature



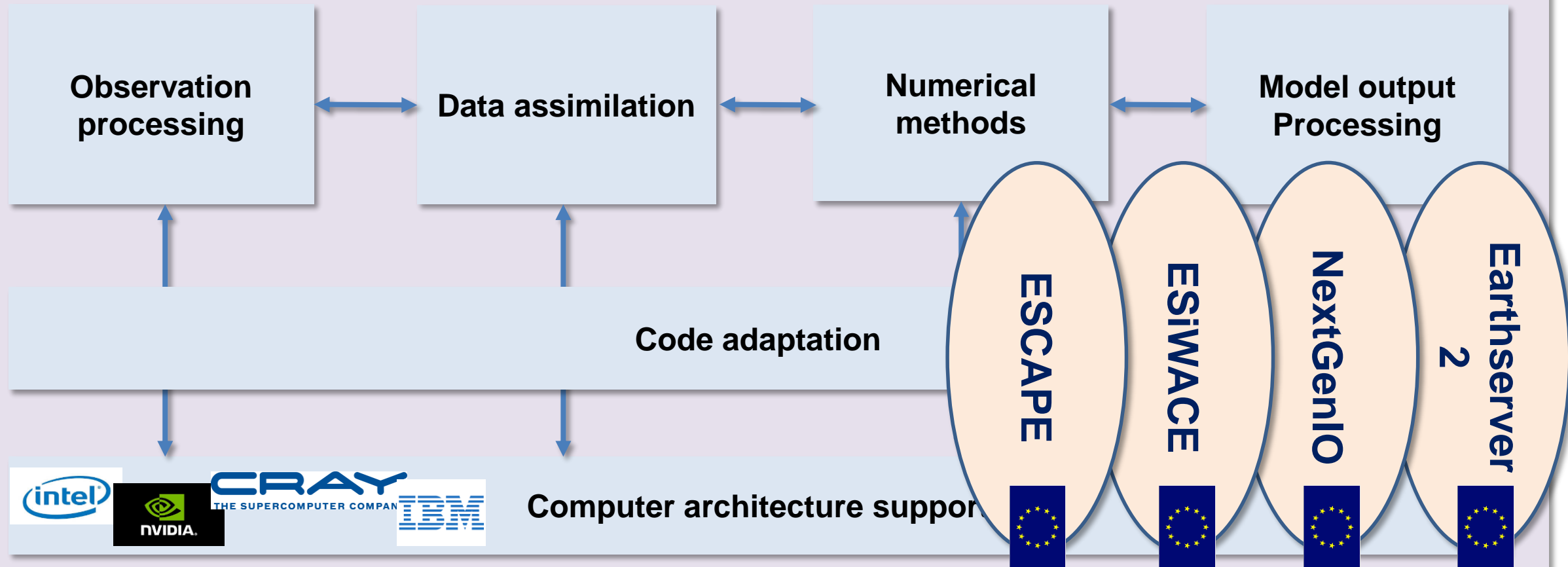
# ECMWF Scalability Programme

Governance:

ECMWF, Member states, Regional consortia



Projects:



# Liaisons with ECMWF data and services users

Member and Co-operating States visits: reviewed format to address needs of ECMWF data users.

Using ECMWF's Forecasts (UEF June 2015)

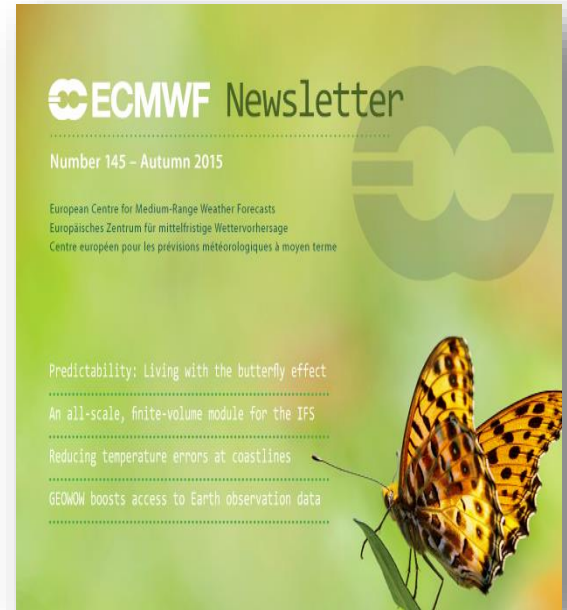
Quantifying and communicating uncertainty

Using ECMWF's Forecasts (UEF 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

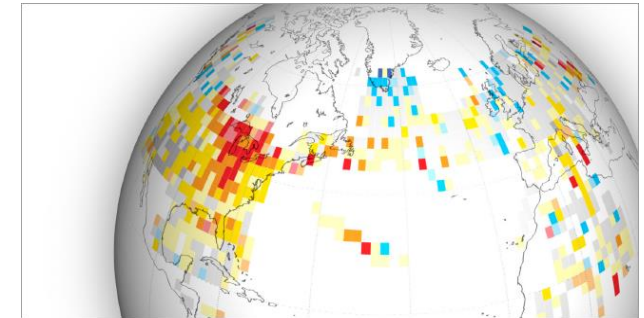
## “Shaping future approaches to evaluating high impact weather forecasts”

- High impact weather forecasts: measuring long term improvement
- User-oriented
- Seamless verification across different time scales

**Website:** <http://www.ecmwf.int/en/learning/workshops-and-seminars/n/using-ecmwf%27s-forecasts-uef2016>



#uef2016



**22 April 2016** - Abstract submission deadline

**3 May 2016** - Acceptance notifications

# Outreach and training

## Training Catalogue

- Computing
- Meteorology
- Software packages and applications

<http://www.ecmwf.int/en/learning/training/training-catalogue>

**Research annual seminar:** 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

*Earth system modelling for seamless prediction: on which processes should we focus to further improve atmospheric predictive skill?*

## Workshops

Research and technical topics

<http://www.ecmwf.int/en/learning/workshops-and-seminars>



Thank you for your attention ...