

ICON

**Its way towards operational numerical weather
prediction**

Günther Zängl, on behalf of the ICON development team

COSMO User Seminar, 19.03.2014





Outline

- **Introduction: Main goals of the ICON project**
- **Grid structure, dynamical core and physics parameterizations**
- **Model applications: from idealized tests to NWP**
- **Time plan towards operational use**





Primary development goals

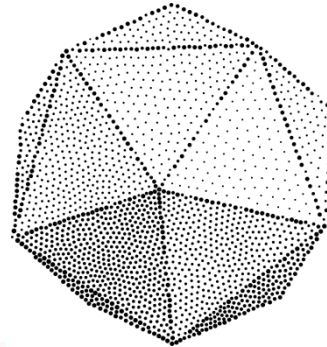
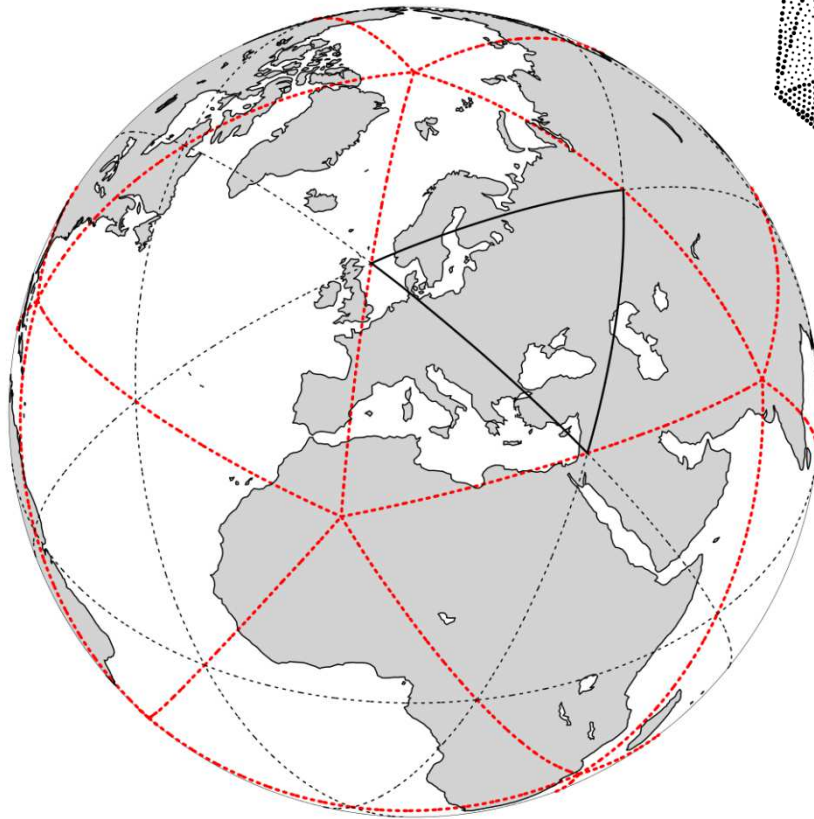
- **Unified modeling system for NWP and climate prediction in order to bundle knowledge and to maximize synergy effects**
- **Better conservation properties**
- **Flexible grid nesting in order to replace both GME and COSMO-EU in the operational suite of DWD**
- **Nonhydrostatic dynamical core for capability of seamless prediction**
- **Scalability and efficiency on $O(10^4+)$ cores**
- **Limited-area mode to achieve a unified modelling system for operational forecasting in the mid-term future**



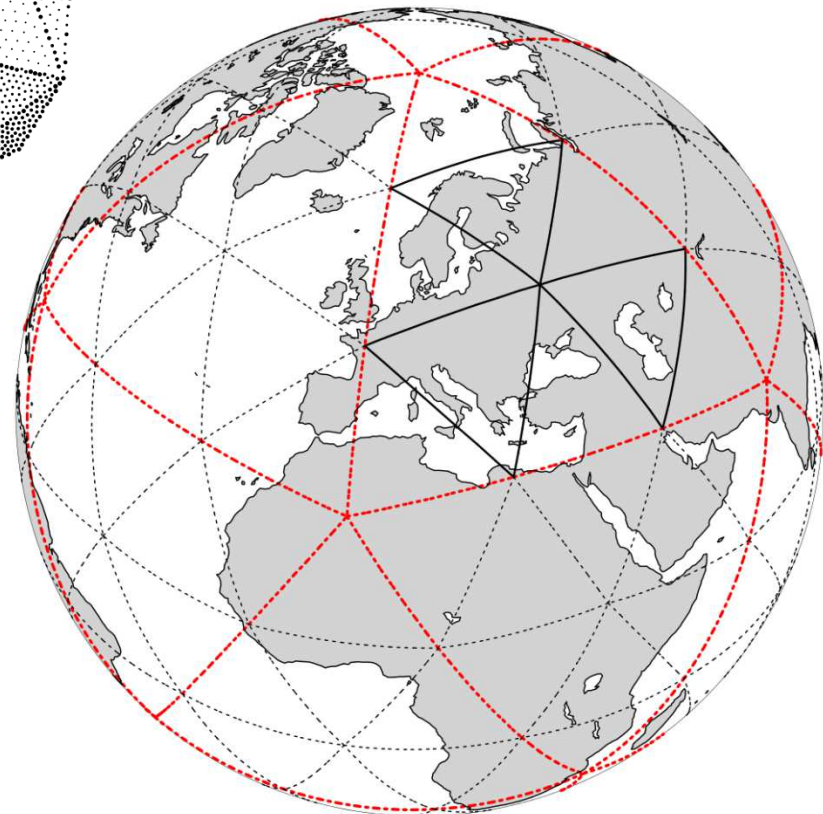


Grid generation is based on the icosahedron

R2B00



R3B00





Grid structure in the presence of nesting

Effective grid spacing
(distance between points):

$$\Delta x \approx 5050 / (n 2^k) \text{ [km]}$$

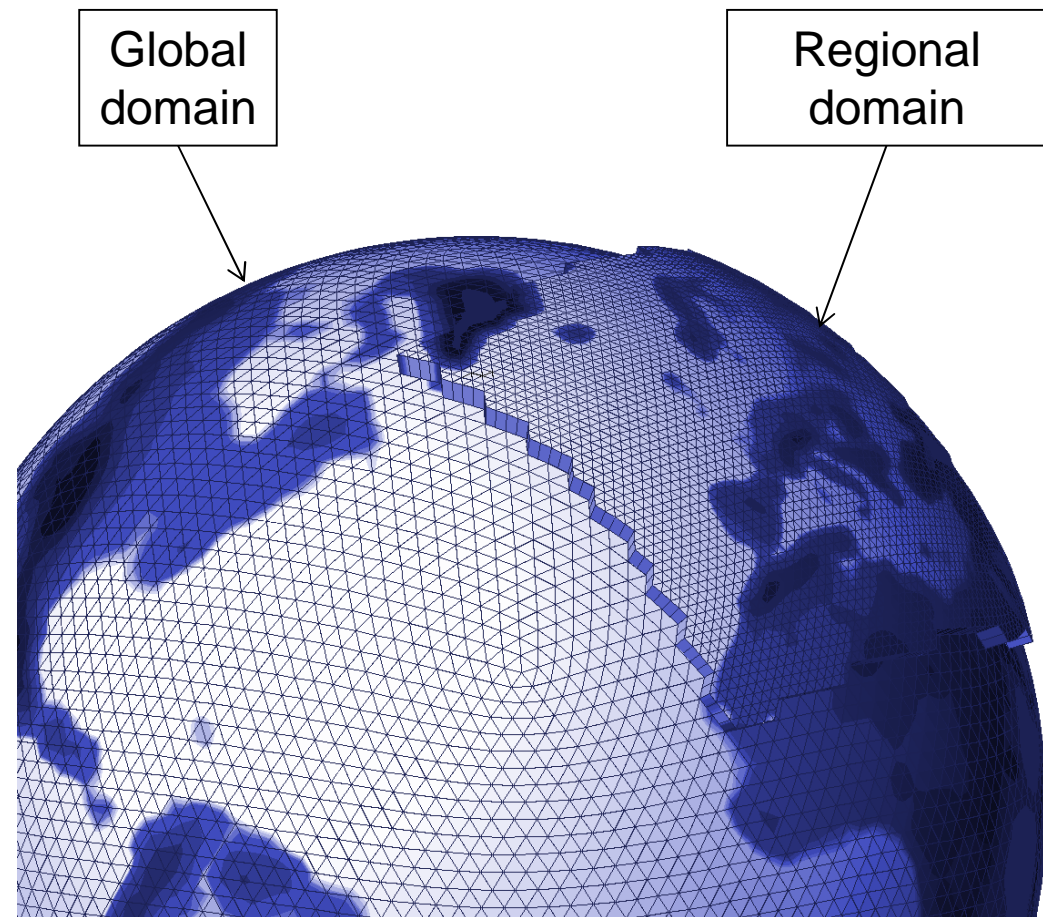
Example:

R2B7: $n = 2$, $k = 7$

Grid spacing: 20 km

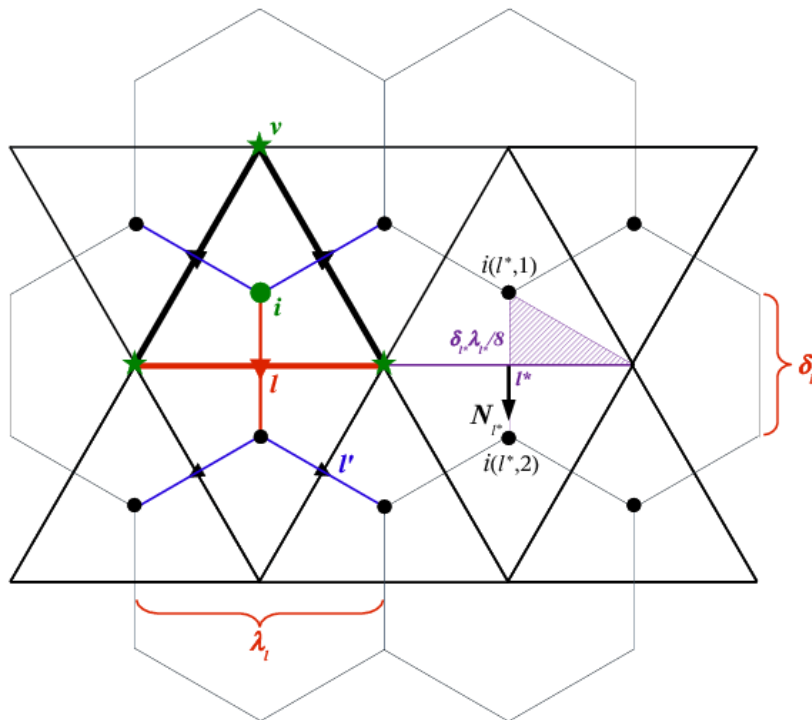
Global grid consists of
1.3 million spherical
triangles.

Regional domain with higher
horizontal resolution.

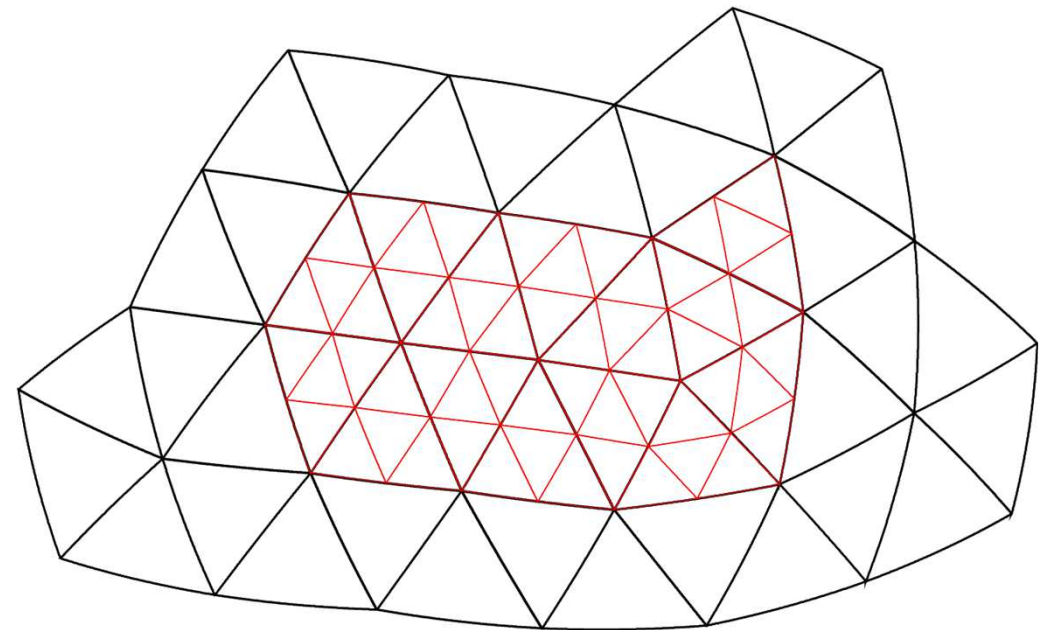




Staggering of variables and structure of nest interface



Triangles are used as primal cells
Mass points are in the circumcenter
Velocity is defined at the edge
midpoints



Red cells refer to refined domain
Boundary interpolation is needed from
parent to child mass points and velocity
points





Model equations, dry dynamical core

(see Zängl, G., D. Reinert, P. Ripodas, and M. Baldauf, 2014, QJRMS, revised version submitted)

$$\frac{\partial v_n}{\partial t} + (\zeta + f)v_t + \frac{\partial K}{\partial n} + w \frac{\partial v_n}{\partial z} = -c_{pd} \theta_v \frac{\partial \pi}{\partial n}$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + \vec{v}_h \cdot \nabla w + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = -c_{pd} \theta_v \frac{\partial \pi}{\partial z} - g$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{v} \rho) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho \theta_v}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{v} \rho \theta_v) = 0$$

v_n, w : normal/vertical velocity component

ρ : density

θ_v : Virtual potential temperature

K : horizontal kinetic energy

ζ : vertical vorticity component

π : Exner function

blue: independent prognostic variables





Numerical implementation

- **Two-time-level predictor-corrector time stepping scheme**
- **For thermodynamic variables: Miura 2nd-order upwind scheme for horizontal and vertical flux reconstruction; 5-point averaged velocity to achieve (nearly) second-order accuracy for divergence**
- **Horizontally explicit-vertically implicit scheme; larger time steps (default 5x) for tracer advection / physics parameterizations**
- **Numerical filter: fourth-order divergence damping**
- **Tracer advection with 2nd-order and 3rd-order accurate finite-volume schemes with optional positive definite or monotonous flux limiters**





Implementation of grid nesting

- **Basic flow sequence: 1 complete physics time step in parent domain, interpolation of lateral boundary fields/tendencies, 2 complete physics time steps in refined domain, feedback (in the case of two-way nesting)**
- **Difference between one-way and two-way nesting: feedback is turned off, nudging near the lateral boundaries of the nested domains is activated**
- **Vertical nesting: boundary condition for nest interface level is provided in addition by parent-to-child interpolation**
- **One-way and two-way nested domains can be combined**
- **Nested domains do not have to be contiguous, i.e. a logical nested domain (from a flow-control point of view) can consist of several physical nested domains**
- **Flow control also allows running the model in limited-area mode**





Process	Authors	Scheme	Origin
Radiation	Mlawer et al. (1997) Barker et al. (2002)	RRTM (later with McICA & McSI)	ECHAM6/IFS
	Ritter and Geleyn (1992)	δ two-stream	GME/COSMO
Non-orographic gravity wave drag	Scinocca (2003) Orr, Bechtold et al. (2010)	wave dissipation at critical level	IFS
Sub-grid scale orographic drag	Lott and Miller (1997)	blocking, GWD	IFS
Cloud cover	Doms and Schättler (2004)	sub-grid diagnostic	GME/COSMO
	Köhler et al. (new development)	diagnostic (later prognostic) PDF	ICON
Microphysics	Doms and Schättler (2004) Seifert (2010)	prognostic: water vapor, cloud water, cloud ice, rain and snow	GME/COSMO
Convection	Tiedtke (1989) Bechthold et al. (2008)	mass-flux shallow and deep	IFS
Turbulent transfer	Raschendorfer (2001)	prognostic TKE	COSMO
	Brinkop and Roeckner (1995)	prognostic TKE	ECHAM6/IFS
	Neggers, Köhler, Beljaars (2010)	EDMF-DUALM	IFS
Land	Heise and Schrodin (2002), Helmert, Mironov (2008, lake)	tiled TERRA + FLAKE + multi-layer snow	GME/COSMO
	Raddatz, Knorr	JSBACH	ECHAM6



Related projects



ICON-ART (KIT Karlsruhe):

aerosols and reactive trace gases

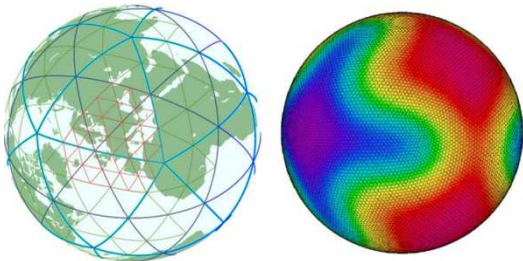
(B. Vogel, H. Vogel, K. Lundgren, D. Rieger, M. Bangert)



HD(CP)² (led by MPI-M, Hamburg):

High-definition clouds and precipitation for advancing climate prediction

(S. Brdar, M. Pondkule, D. Klocke, T. Göcke; T. Jahns, M. Hanke)



ICOMEX (led by DWD):

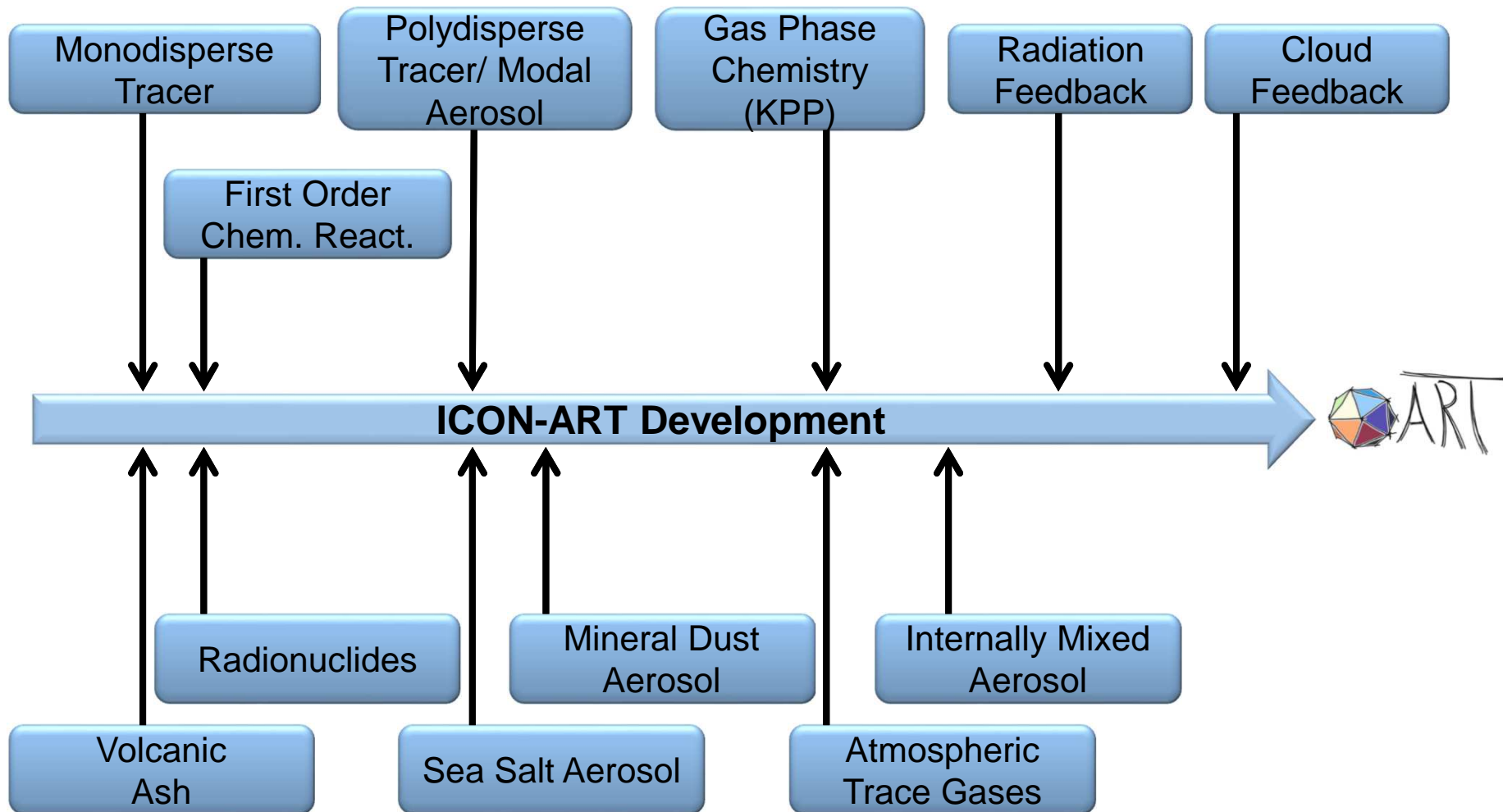
ICOsahedral-grid models for Exascale Earth-system simulations

(R. Torres, L. Linardakis)



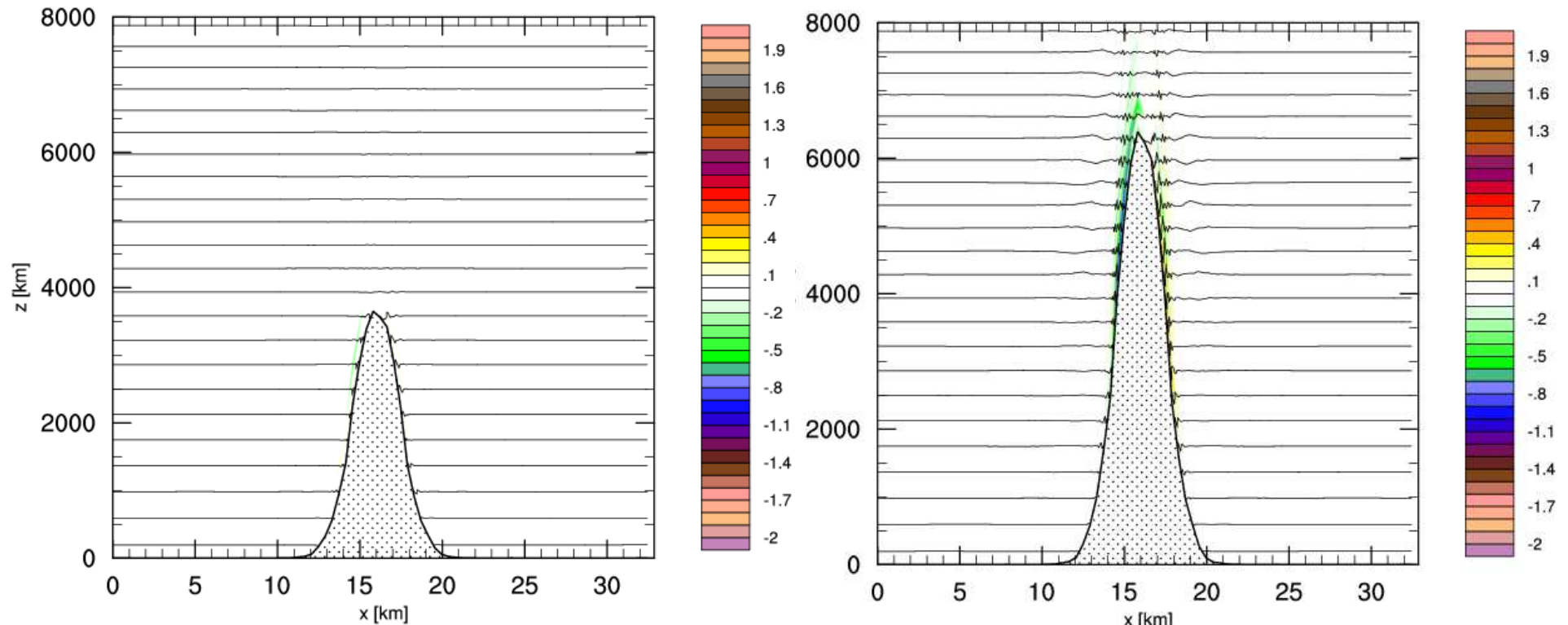


Structure of the ART module





Atmosphere-at-rest test, isothermal atmosphere, limited-area mode, mesh size 300 m



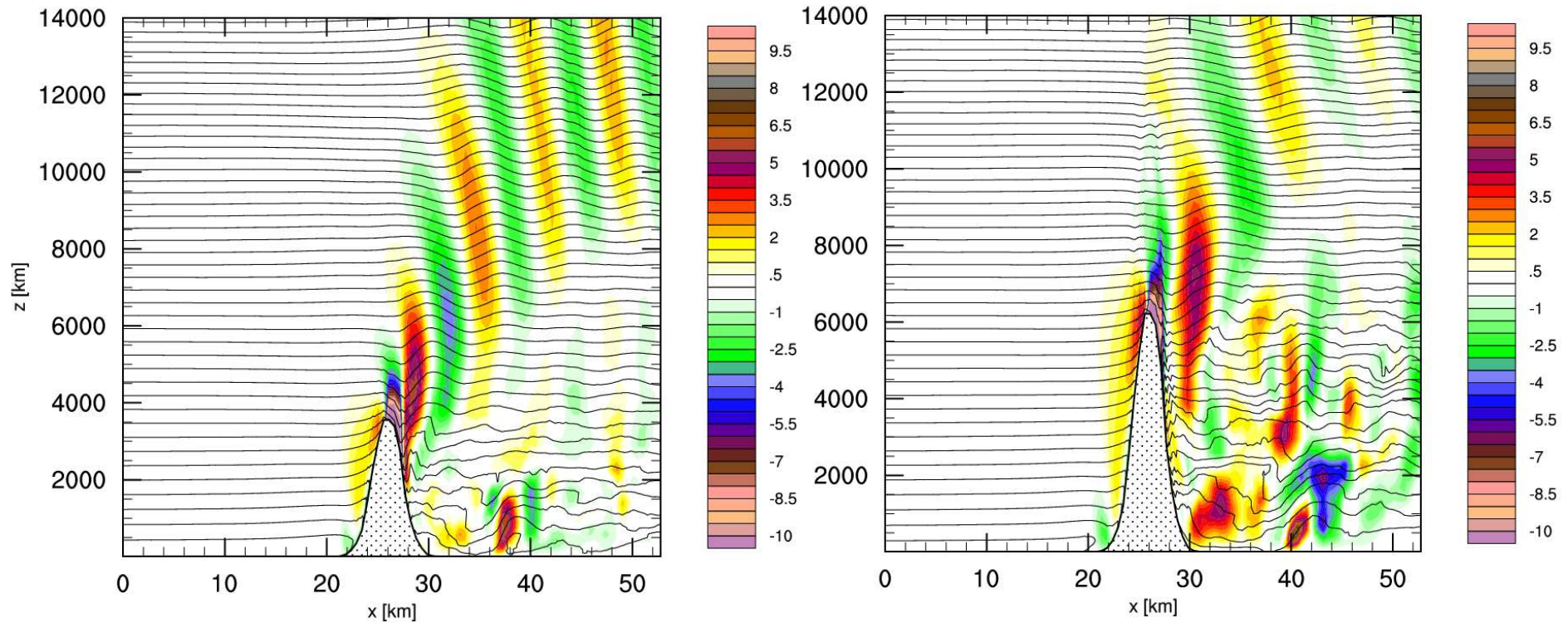
colours: vertical wind speed (m/s) contours: potential temperature (c.i. 4 K)

mountain height: 4.0 km / 7.0 km, maximum slope 59° / 71°





Constant wind speed 20 m/s, isothermal atmosphere, limited-area mode, mesh size 300 m



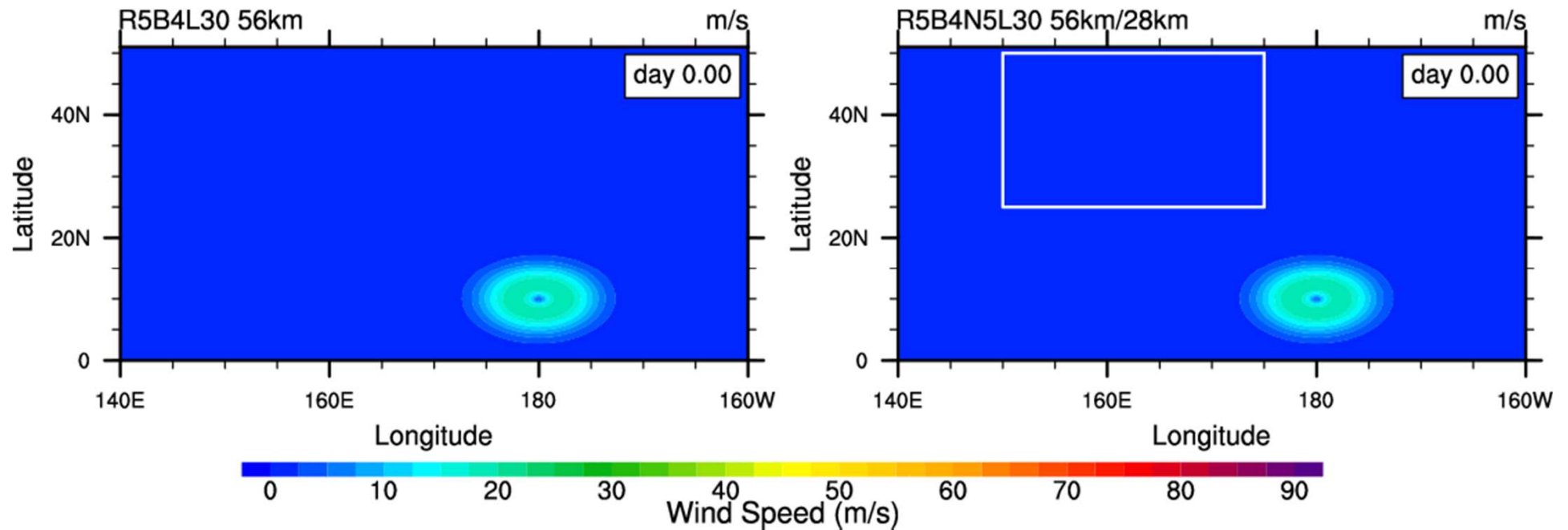
colours: vertical wind speed (m/s) contours: potential temperature (c.i. 4 K)

mountain height: 4.0 km / 7.0 km, maximum slope 59° / 71°





DCMIP-Test: Idealized tropical cyclone, 12-day-simulation



Horizontal wind speed (m/s)

Left: Global domain, $\Delta x \approx 56$ km; right: 2-Way-Nesting, $\Delta x \approx 56$ km / 28 km





Simulation of „super-typhoon“ Haiyan

- **Three-domain nested configuration with 10/5/2.5 mesh size, 90/60/54 model levels (4.1M grid points in the 2.5 km domain)**
- **NWP physics package, convection scheme turned off in 5 and 2.5 km domains**
- **Initialization from operational IFS analysis on 2013-11-05, 00 UTC, 168-hour forecast**
- **Thanks to Martin Köhler and Bodo Ritter!**



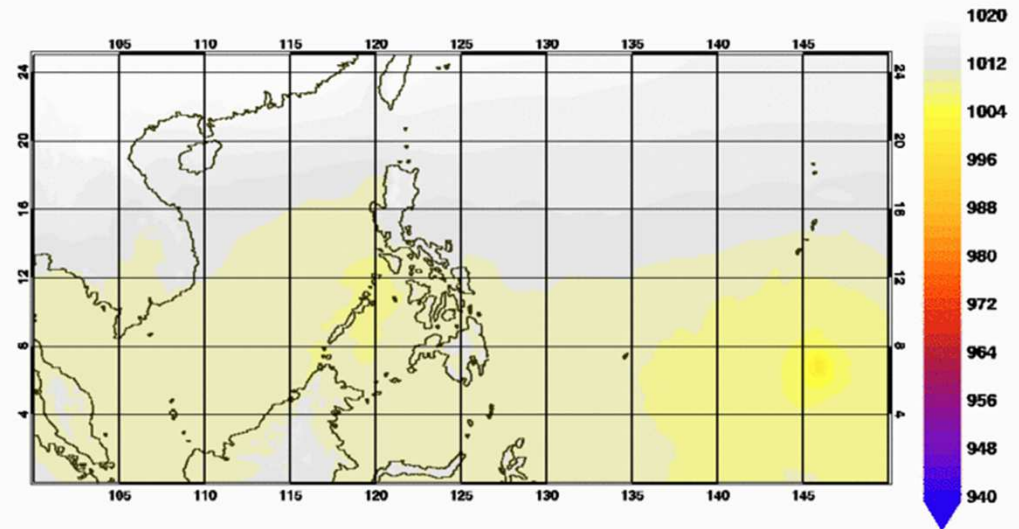


Sea-level pressure (hPa)

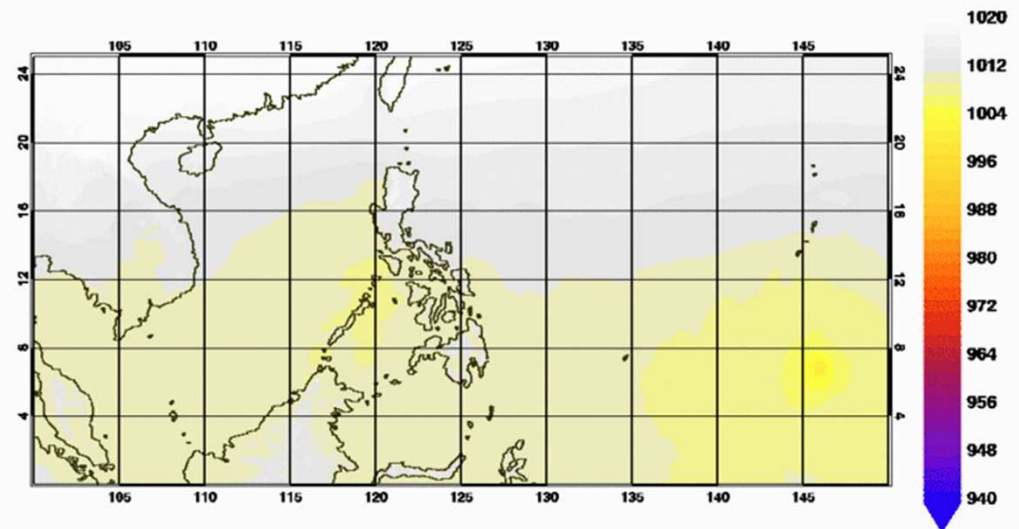
Top: 10-km domain

Bottom: 2.5-km domain

{ ICON R02B08/R02B10 PMSL Pa 20131105 00UTC + 000h global only } * 0.01
mean: 1013.14 std: 3.49 min: 1000.50 max: 1025.31

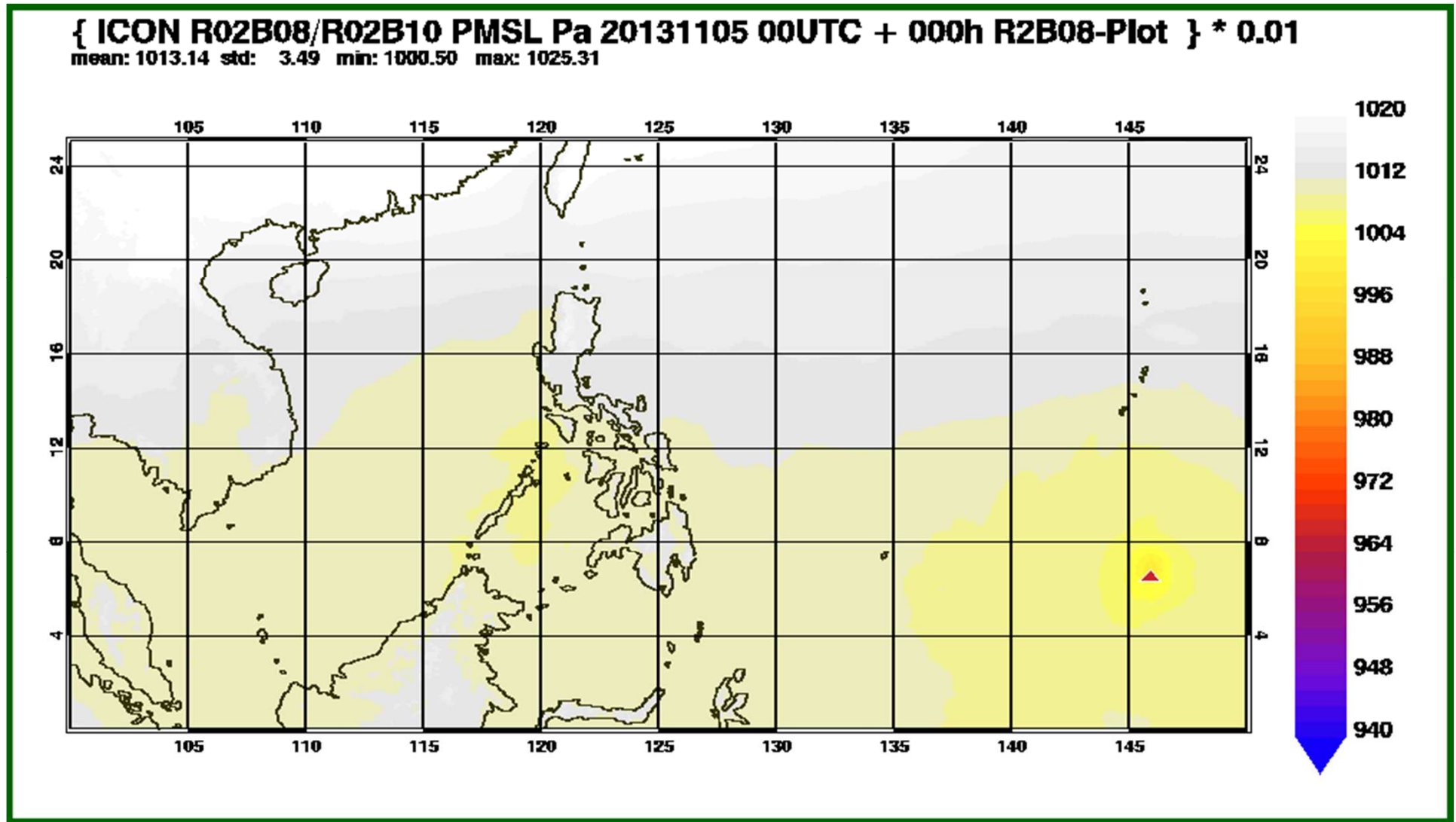


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mean: 1013.14 std: 3.49 min: 1000.44 max: 1026.76



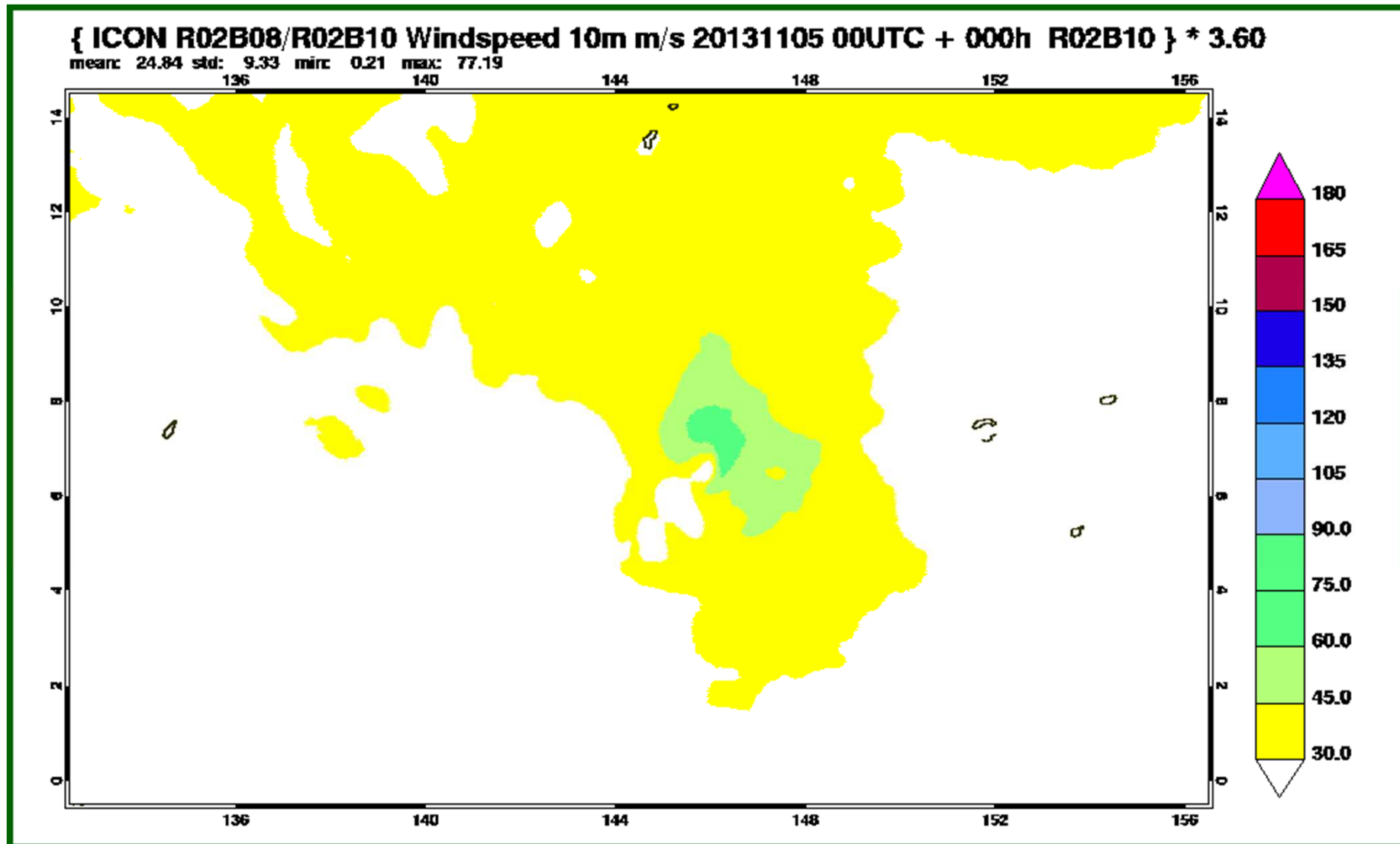


Comparison with observed track





10-m wind speed (m/s), 2.5-km domain



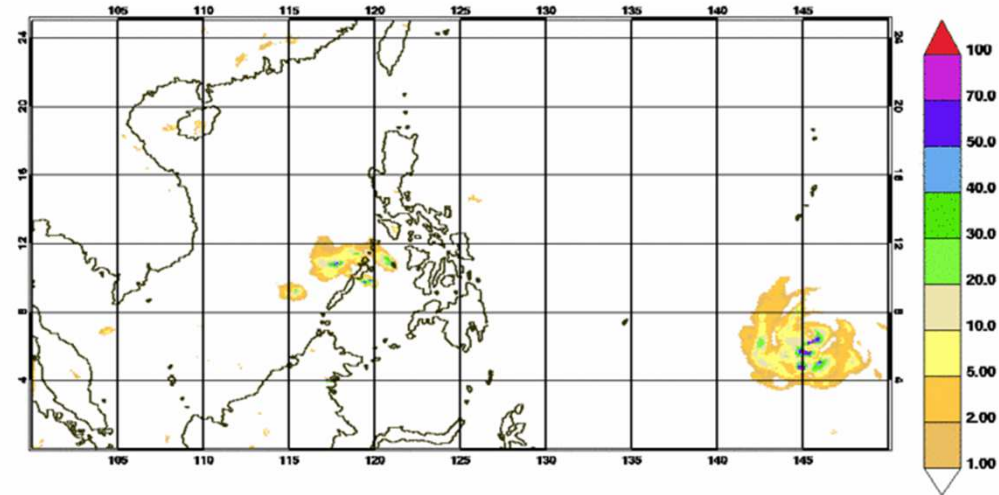


Two-hourly rainfall
accumulation (mm)

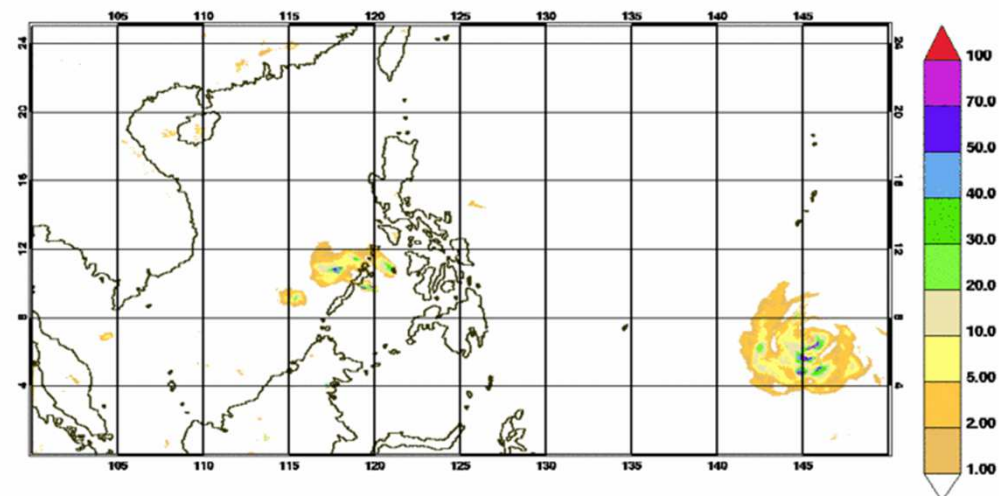
Top: 10-km domain

Bottom: 2.5-km domain

ICON R02B08/R02B10 TOT PREC kg/m**2 20131105 00UTC + 002h minus 000h R02B08-Plot
mean: 0.24 std: 2.05 min: 0.00 max: 105.33



ICON R02B08/R02B10 TOT PREC kg/m**2 20131105 00UTC + 002h minus 000h R02B10-Plot
mean: 0.24 std: 2.13 min: 0.00 max: 141.76





NWP test suite

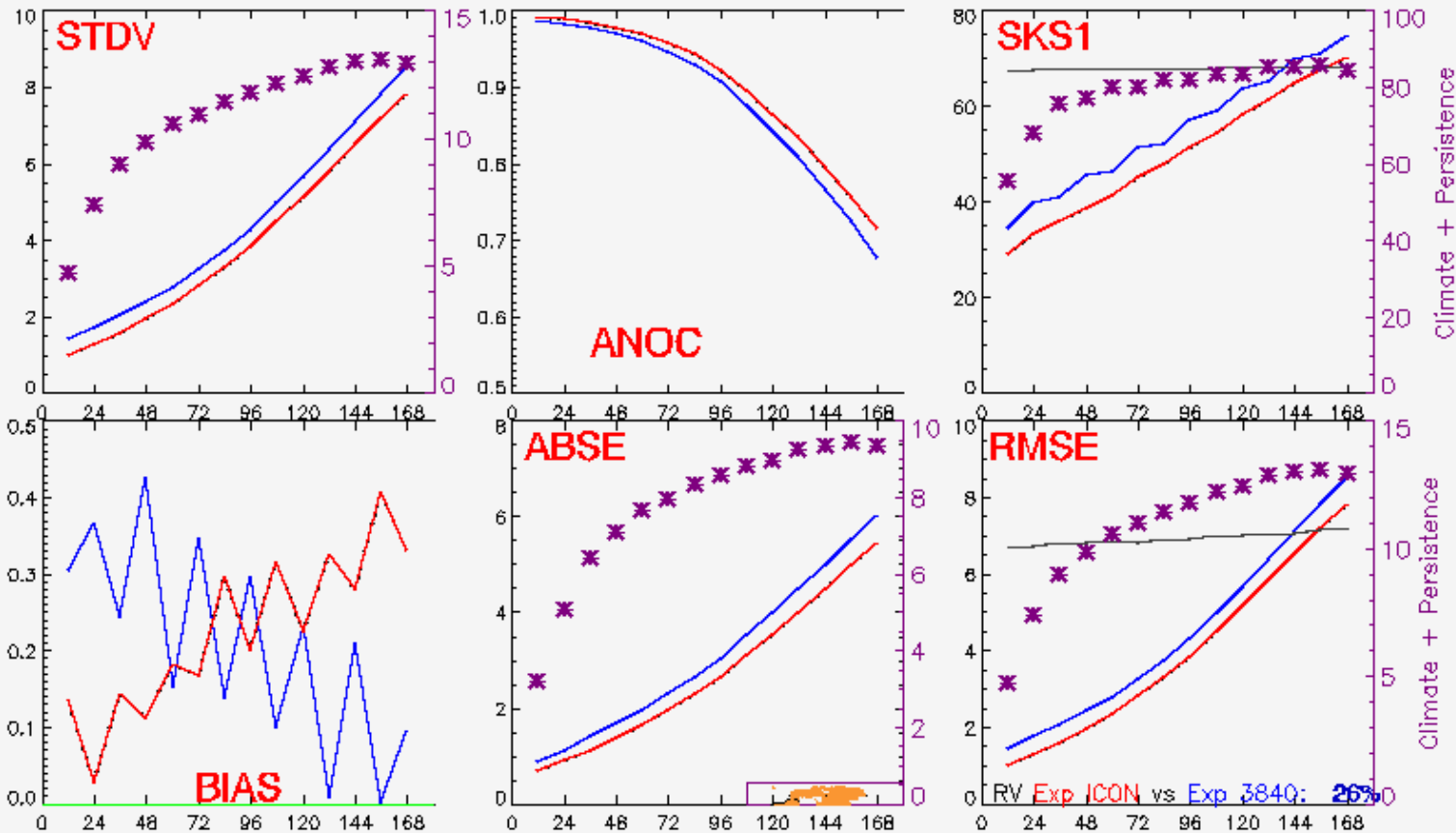
- **Real-case tests with interpolated IFS analysis data**
- **7-day forecasts starting at 00 UTC of each day in January and June 2012**
- **Model resolution 40 km / 90 levels up to 75 km (no nesting applied in the experiment shown here)**
- **Reference experiment with GME40L60 with interpolated IFS data**
- **WMO standard verification on 1.5° lat-lon grid against IFS analyses (thanks to Uli Damrath!)**





WMO standard verification against IFS analysis: sea-level pressure, NH

blue: GME 40 km with IFS analysis, red: ICON 40 km with IFS analysis



Verifikation der Vorhersagen vom 01.01.2012 00UTC bis 31.01.2012 00UTC Experiment ICON, Experiment 3840, Persistenz, Linien: Klim
Parameter: Bodendruck, Gebiet: NH

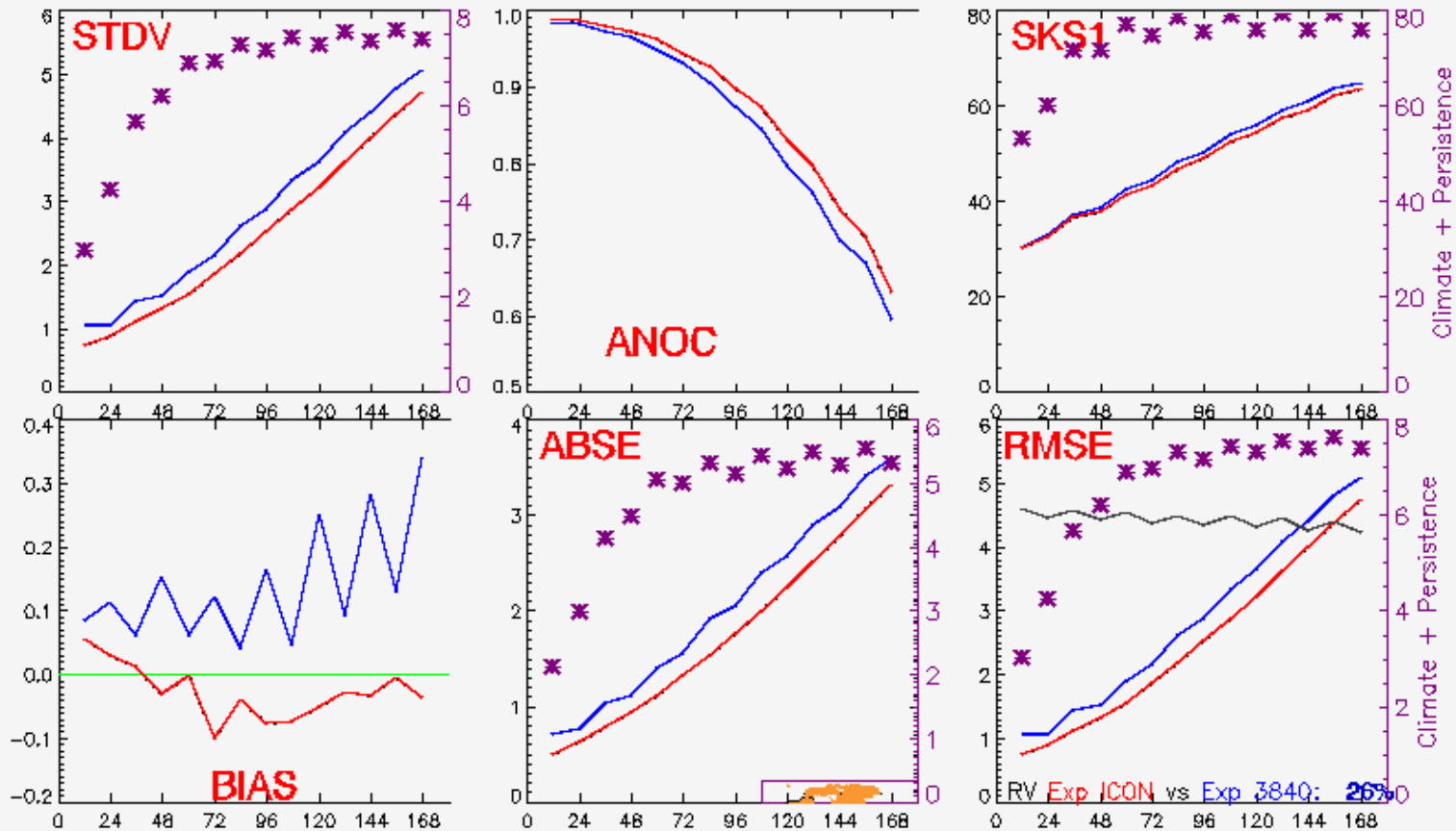
January 2012





WMO standard verification against IFS analysis: sea-level pressure, NH

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Verifikation der Vorhersagen vom 01.06.2012 00UTC bis 30.06.2012 00UTC Experiment ICON, Experiment 3840, Persistenz, Linien: Klim
Parameter: Bodendruck, Gebiet: NH

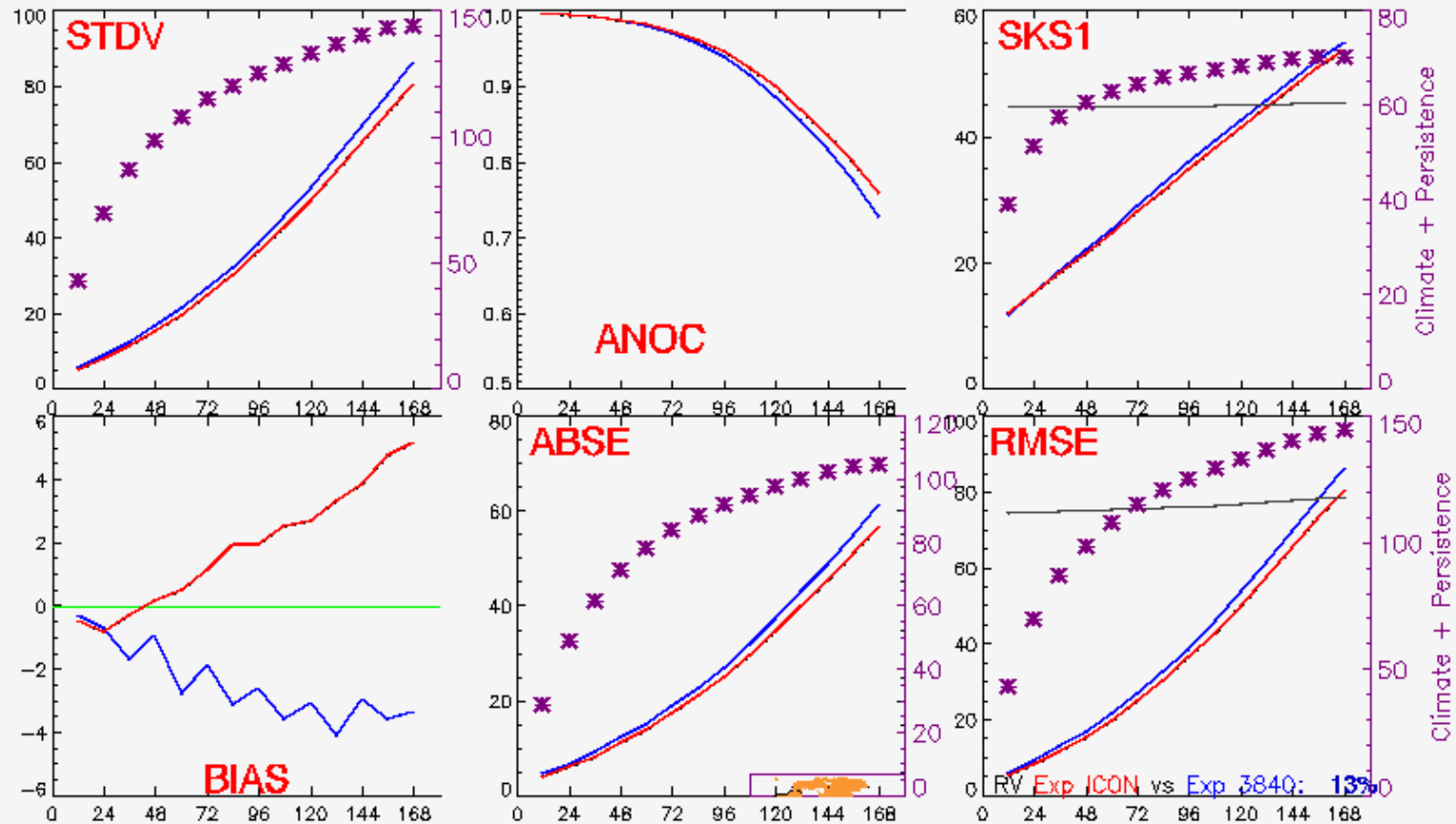
June 2012





WMO standard verification against IFS analysis: 500 hPa geopotential, NH

blue: GME 40 km with IFS analysis, red: ICON 40 km with IFS analysis



Verifikation der Vorhersagen vom 01.01.2012 00UTC bis 31.01.2012 00UTC Experiment ICON, Experiment 3840, Persistenz, Linien: Klim
Parameter: Geopotential, Gebiet: NH, Druckfläche 0500 hPa

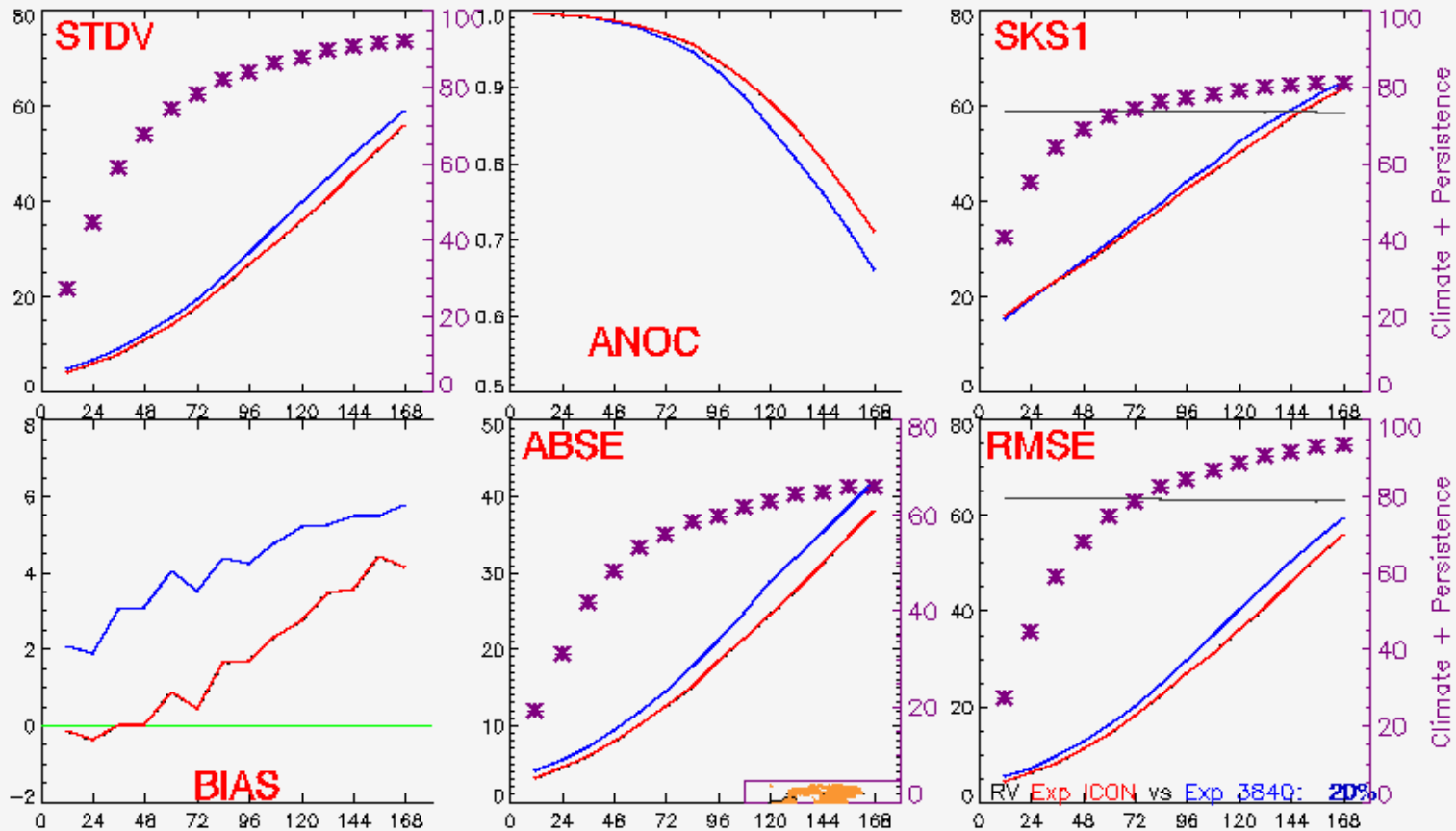
January 2012





WMO standard verification against IFS analysis: 500 hPa geopotential, NH

blue: GME 40 km with IFS analysis, red: ICON 40 km with IFS analysis



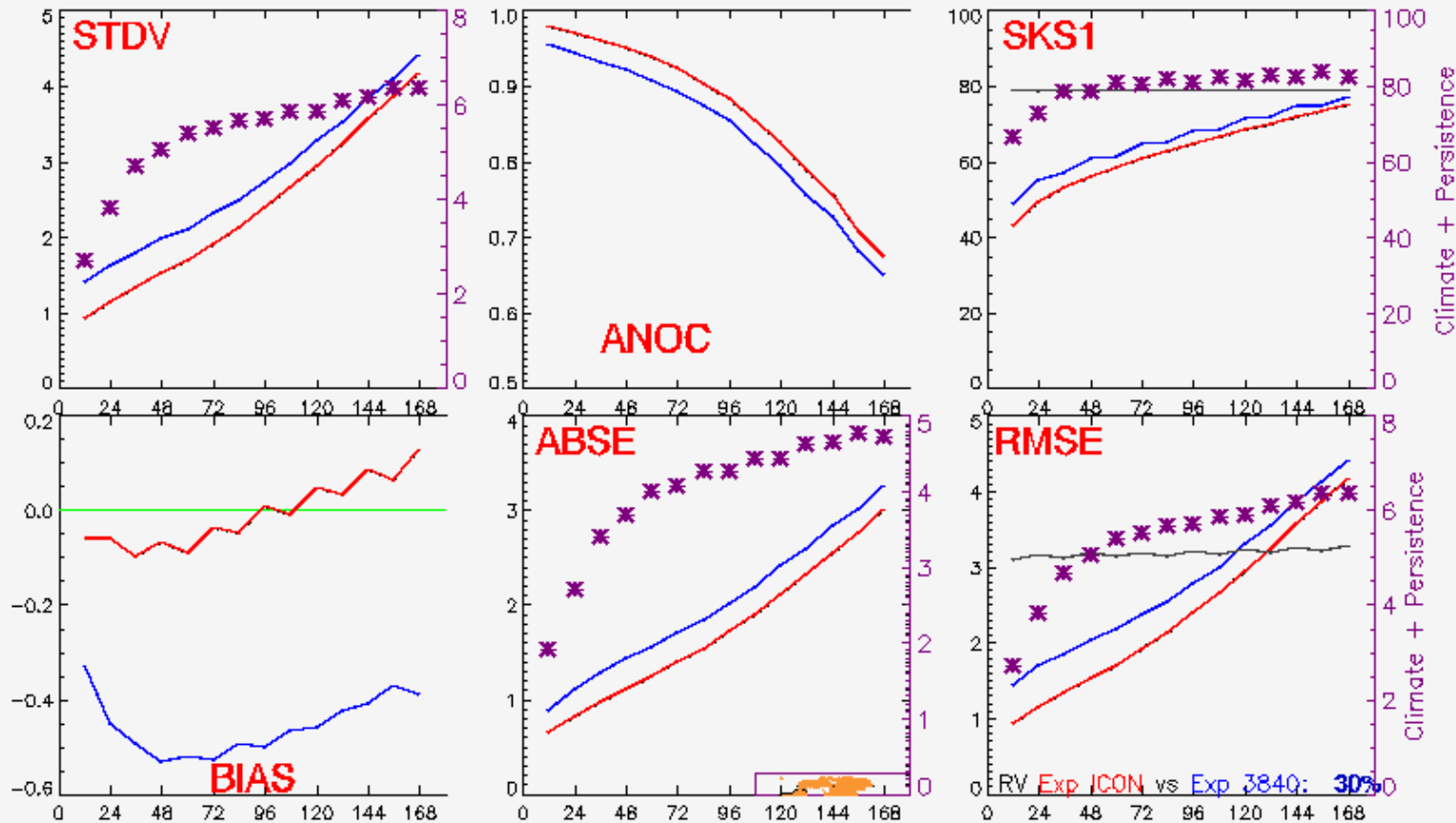
Verifikation der Vorhersagen vom 01.06.2012 00UTC bis 30.06.2012 00UTC Experiment ICON, Experiment 3840, Persistenz, Linien: Klim
Parameter: Geopotential, Gebiet: NH , Druckfläche 0500 hPa

June 2012





WMO standard verification against IFS analysis: 850 hPa temperature, NH blue: GME 40 km with IFS analysis, red: ICON 40 km with IFS analysis



Verifikation der Vorhersagen vom 01.01.2012 00UTC bis 31.01.2012 00UTC Experiment ICON, Experiment 3840, Persistenz, Linien: Klim
Parameter: Temperatur, Gebiet NH, Druckfläche 0850 hPa

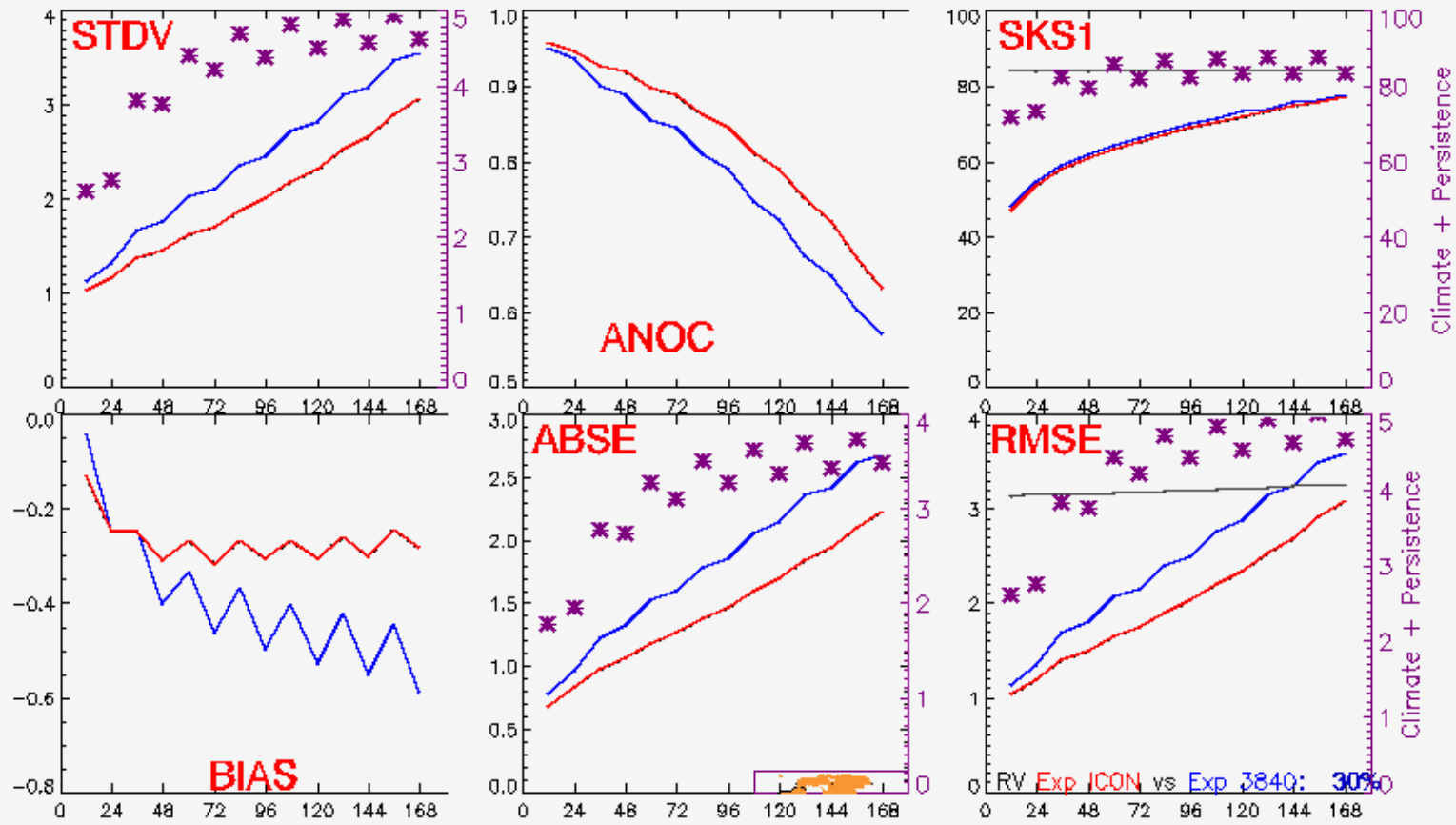
January 2012





WMO standard verification against IFS analysis: 850 hPa temperature, NH

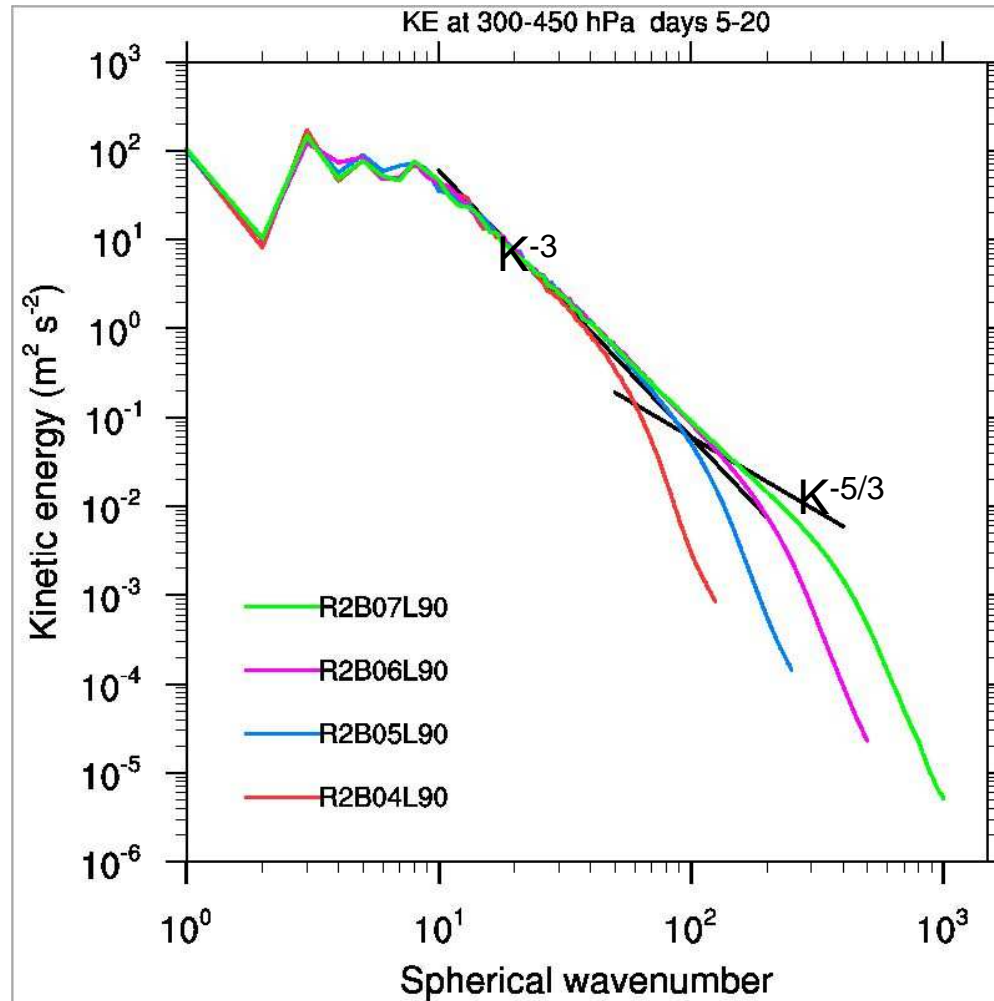
blue: GME 40 km with IFS analysis, red: ICON 40 km with IFS analysis



Verifikation der Vorhersagen vom 01.06.2012 00UTC bis 30.06.2012 00UTC Experiment ICON, Experiment 3840, Persistenz, Linien
Parameter: Temperatur, Gebiet: NH, Druckfläche 0850 hPa

June 2012





Kinetic energy spectra
between 300 and 450 hPa
for ICON at a grid spacing
of

- 158 km (red)
- 79 km (blue)
- 40 km (magenta)
- 20 km (green)

Effective model resolution
about **6-8 x grid spacing!**





Limited-area experiments with time-dependent boundary conditions

- **Developments within HD(CP)² project (Slavko Brdar, Daniel Klocke, Mukund Pondkule)**
- **a) Coarse-resolution (20 km) limited-area experiment over Europe, comparison against global one-way nested (40-20 km) run**
- **b) High-resolution (625 m) limited-area experiments over Germany, driven by COSMO-DE analyses, comparison of precipitation / radar reflectivity against observations and COSMO-DE**



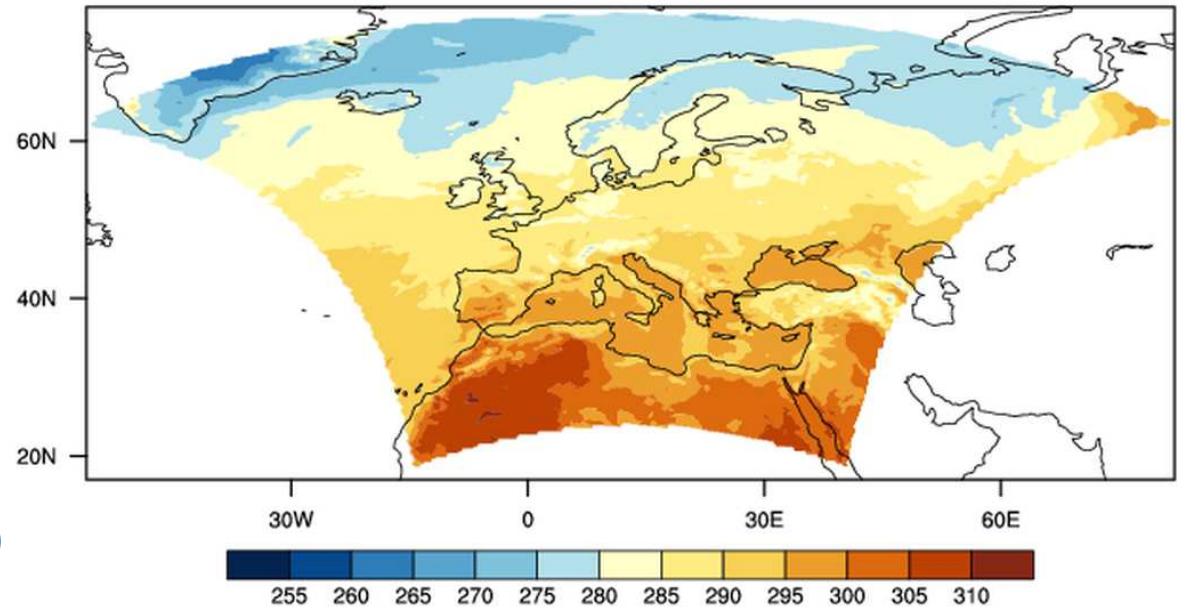


**Temperature at lowest model
level (10 m AGL), four-day
forecast**

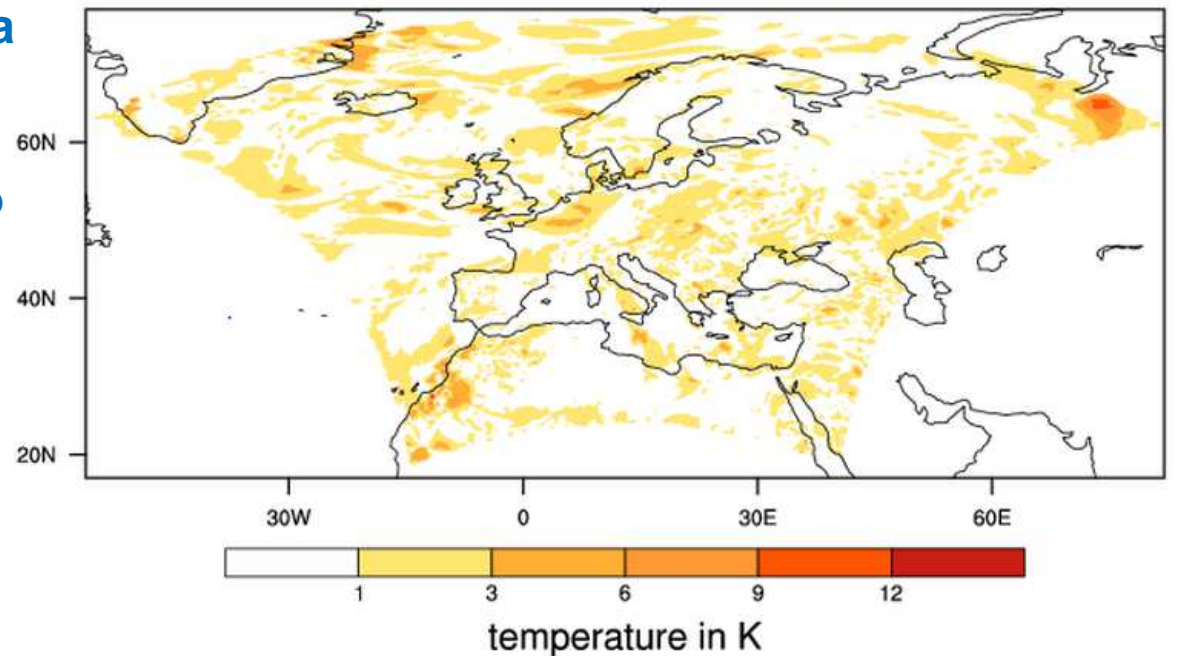
**top: coarse-resolution (20 km)
limited-area run,
lateral boundary conditions
from 3-hourly IFS analysis data**

**bottom: absolute difference to
one-way-nested (40-20 km)
reference**

3h IFS T1279 bnd. data 2012-06-25 T00:00 mean = 286.92 K



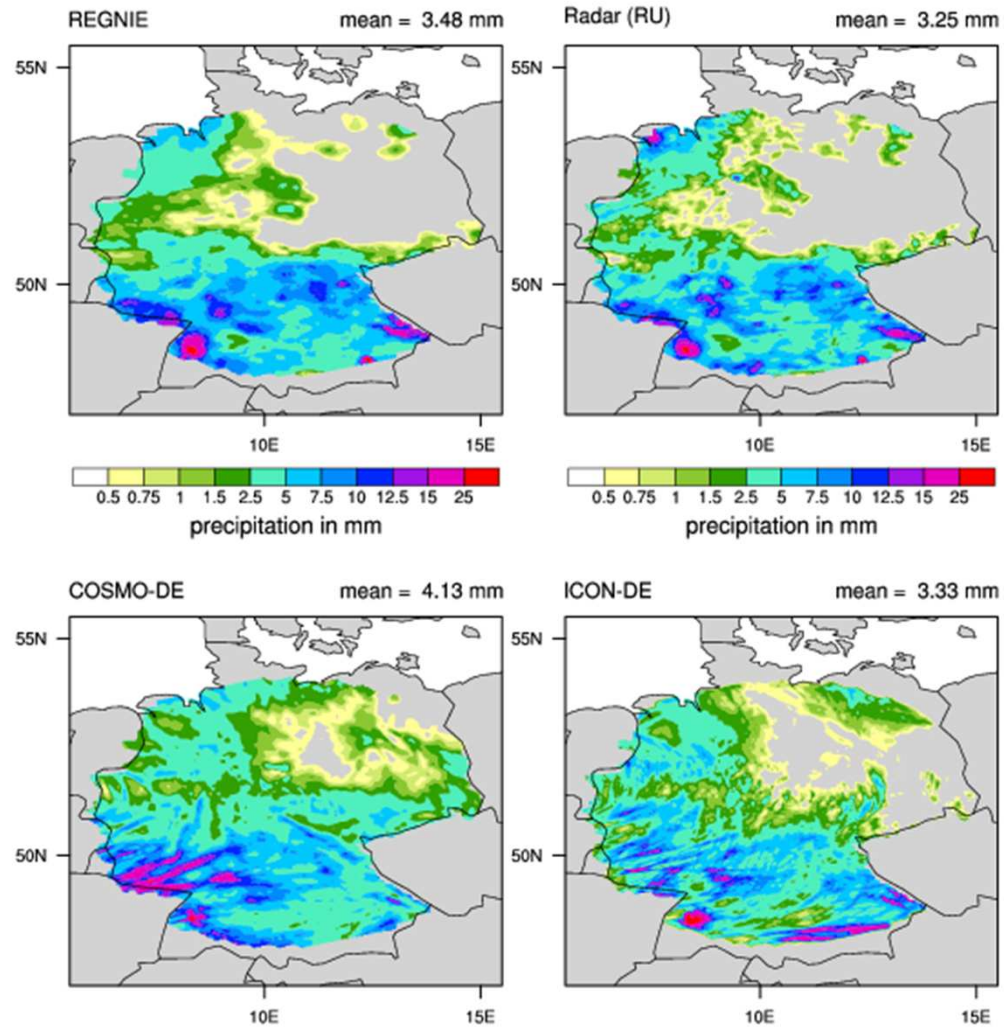
3h IFS T1279 bnd. data 2012-06-25 T00:00 mean = 0.92 K





date = 20130409

24-hour accumulated precipitation (mm)





Animation of 15-min radar reflectivity

Measurements

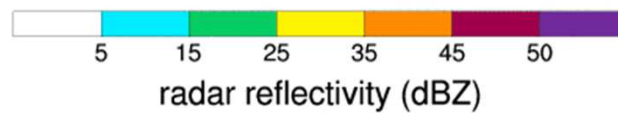
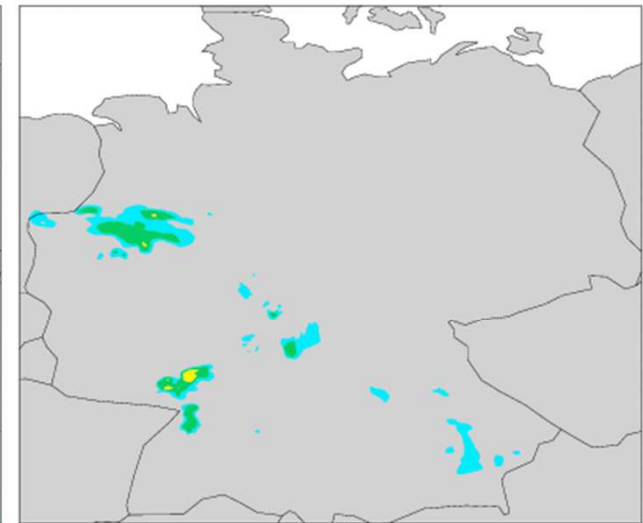
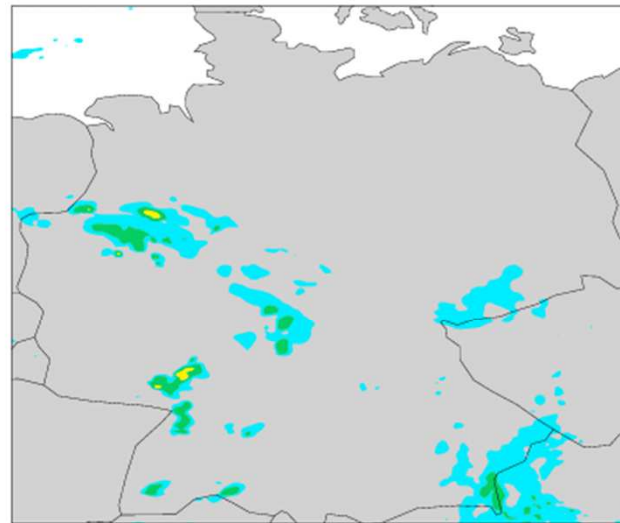
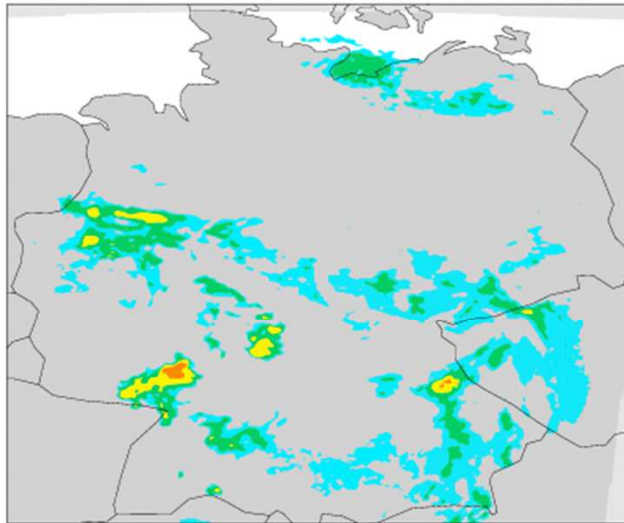
COSMO-DE

ICON

20130409, 00:00

20130409, 00 UTC + 0.25 h

20130409, 00 UTC + 0.25 h



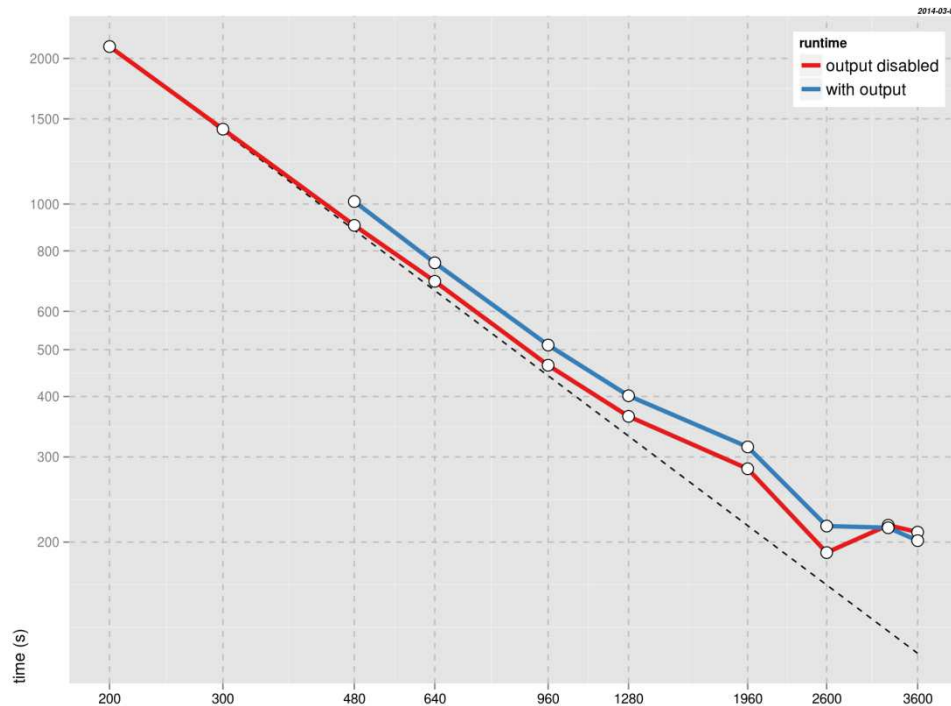


Scaling test



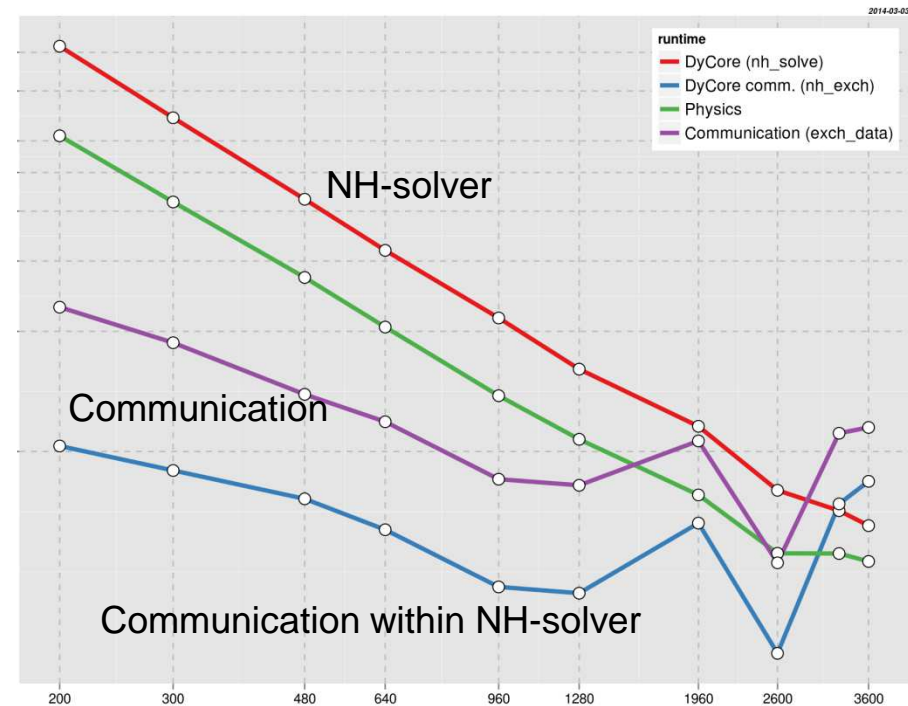
- Mesh size 13 km (R3B07), 90 levels, 1-day forecast (3600 time steps)
- Full NWP physics, asynchronous output (if active) on 42 tasks
- Range: 20–360 nodes Cray XC 30, 20 cores/node, 10 MPI-tasks/node

total runtime



MPI tasks, hybrid parallelization with 4 threads/task

sub-timers



MPI tasks, hybrid parallelization with 4 threads/task



Thanks to Florian Prill!



Time schedule

Q1 / 2014

Start of pre-operational phase with full data assimilation (only global)

Q3 / 2014

ICON available for research including documentation / training

Q4 / 2014

Start of operational phase with grid spacing 13 km L90; replacement of GME

Q2-Q4 / 2015

Start of operational phase with grid spacing 6.5 km over Europe; replacement of COSMO-EU

Q4 / 2015

Test version of limited-area mode will be provided to COSMO partners



Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

