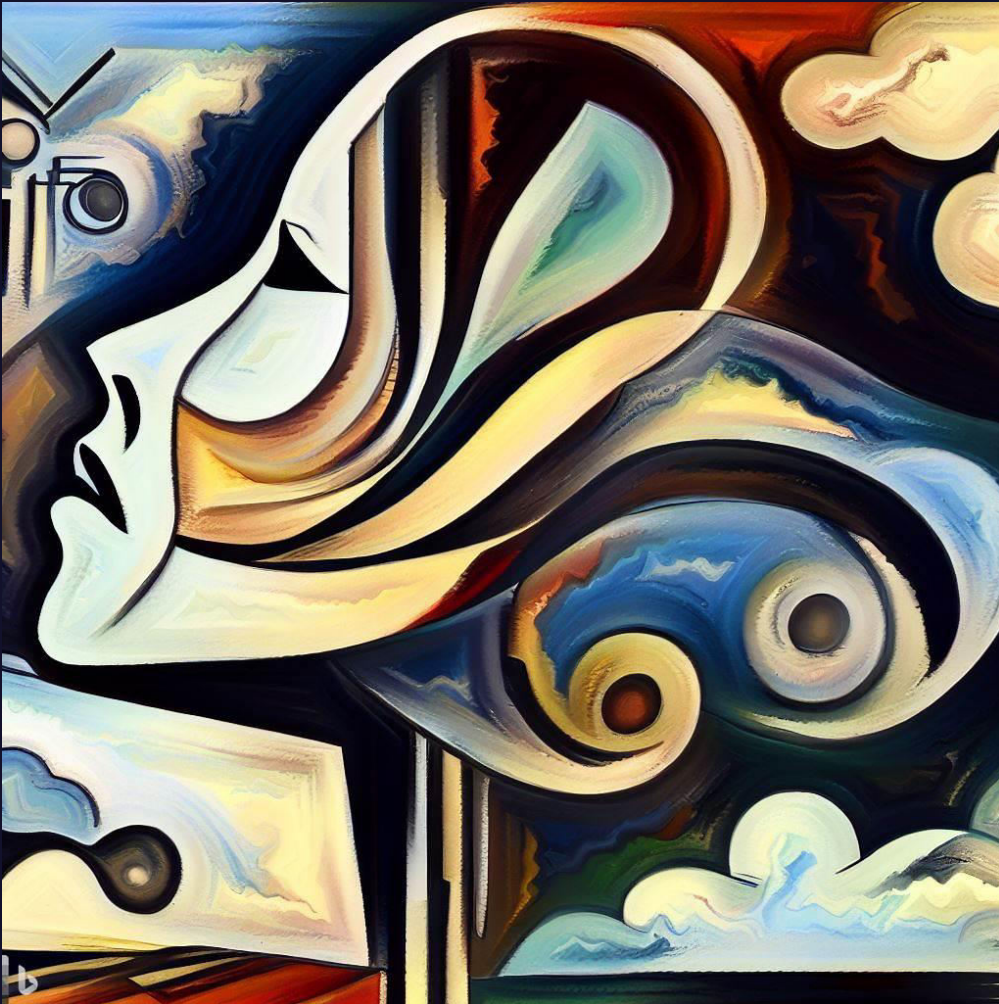


# The rise of machine learning in forecasting – HEPEXAI?



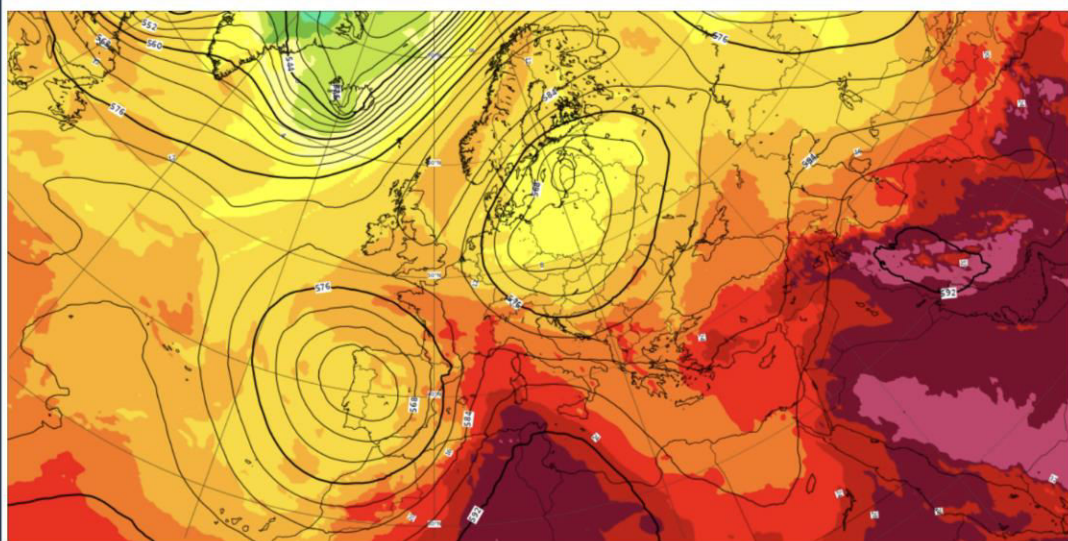
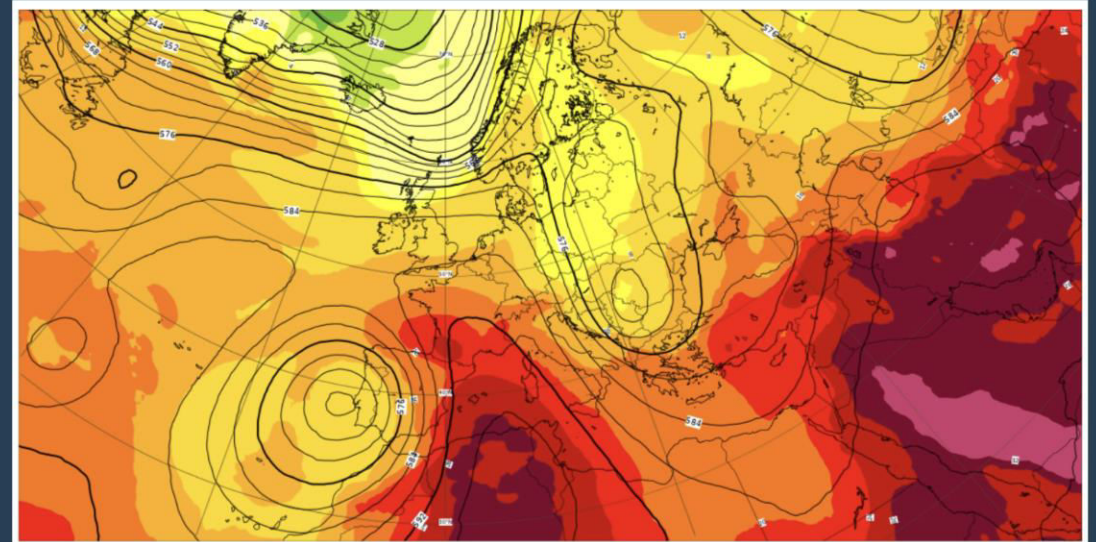
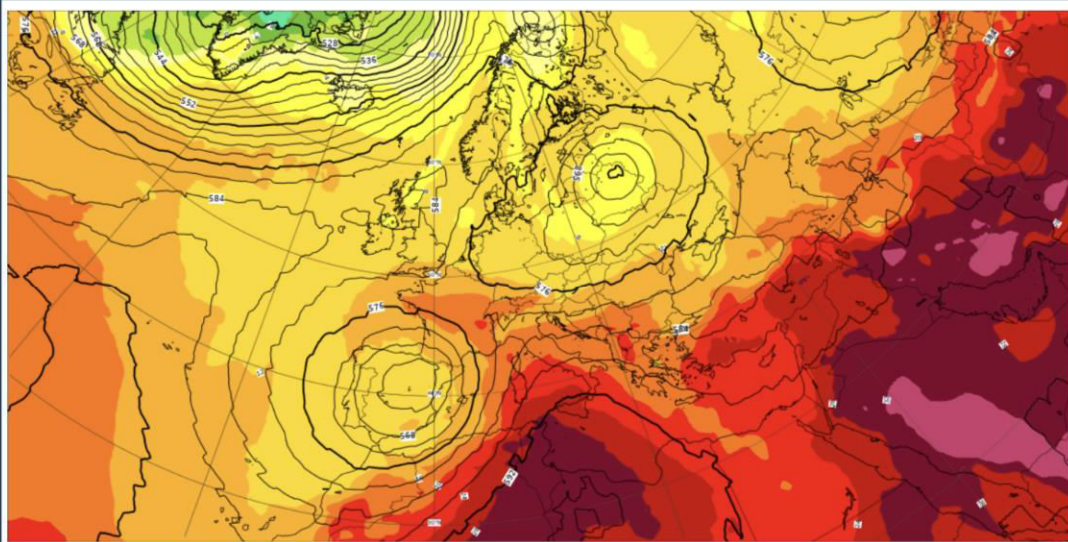
**Florian Pappenberger**

**Matt Chantry & many ECMWF colleagues**

**Deputy Director-General & Director of Forecasts**



# Day 6 forecasts over Europe (valid today, 4 Sept 2023 12UTC )



## 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature

Base time: Tue 29 Aug 2023 12 UTC Valid time: Mon 04 Sep 2023 12 UTC (+144h) Area : Europe



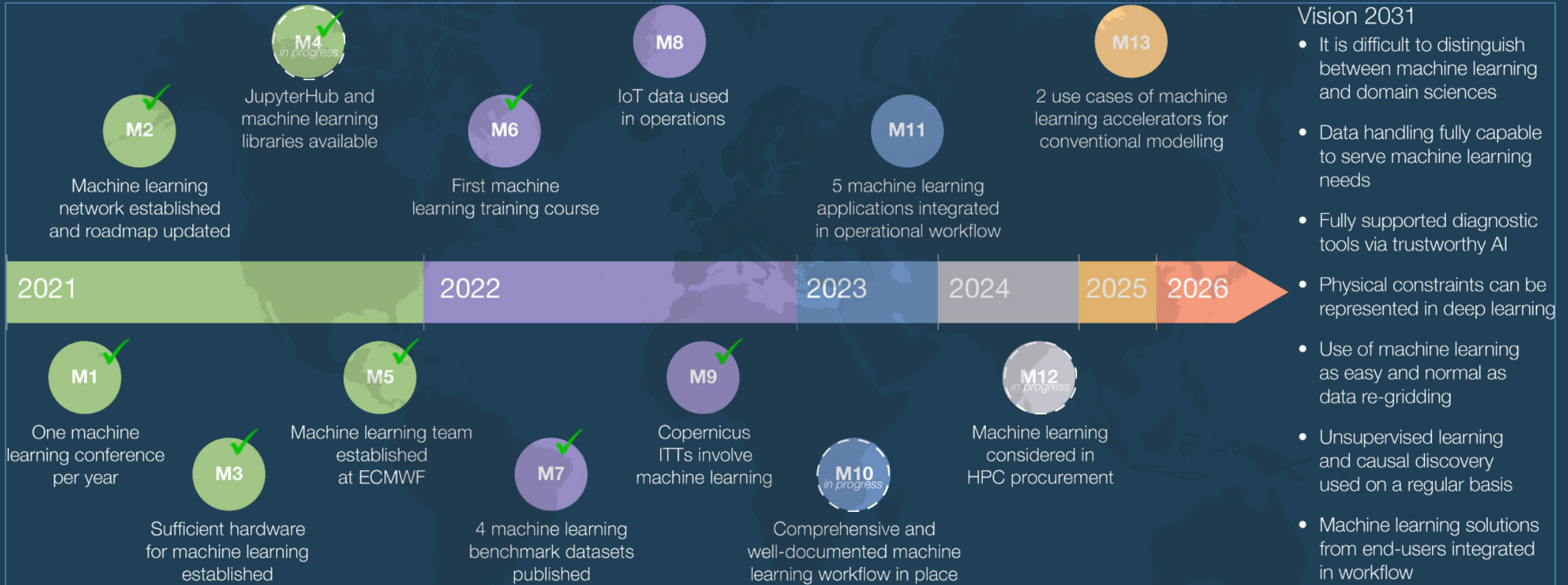
500 hPa geopotential (dm)

Two parallel black lines representing the contour interval for 500 hPa geopotential height in decimeters.

© 2023 European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)  
Source: [www.ecmwf.int](https://www.ecmwf.int)  
Licence: CC BY 4.0 and ECMWF Terms of Use (<https://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/licences/general/>)  
Created at 2023-09-31T06:52:13.254Z



# What the ML Roadmap has achieved so far



# ECMWF's ML Strategy: with a very busy and FAST evolving landscape

**ECMWF**  
Strategy to embed Machine Learning deeply into the ECMWF operational chain

Jan 2021

**Jua.ai**  
1x1km global  
48 hours lead time  
5 minute timesteps

Oct 2022

**Deepmind – GraphCast**  
0.25° 6-hour  
Many variables and pressure levels with comparable skill to IFS.

Dec 2022

**FengWu – China academia + Shanghai Met Bureau**  
0.25° 6-hour product  
Improves on GraphCast for longer leadtimes (still deterministic)

Apr 2023

**NVIDIA – SFNO**  
0.25° 6-hour product  
Extension of FourCastNet to Spherical harmonics, improved stability

Spherical harmonics

## Machine Learning Roadmap

Jun 2023

2018 ECMWF's ML scientific publication

**ECMWF's**  
Peter Dueben and Peter Bauer publish a paper on using ERA5 at ~500km resolution to predict future z500.

Feb 2022  
Full medium-range NWP

**Keisler - GraphNN**  
1°, competitive with GFS  
**NVIDIA – FourCastNet**  
Fourier+ , 0.25°  
**O(10<sup>4</sup>) faster & more energy efficient than IFS**

Nov 2022  
Tropical cyclones

**Huawei – PanguWeather**  
0.25° hourly product  
"More accurate tracks" than the IFS.

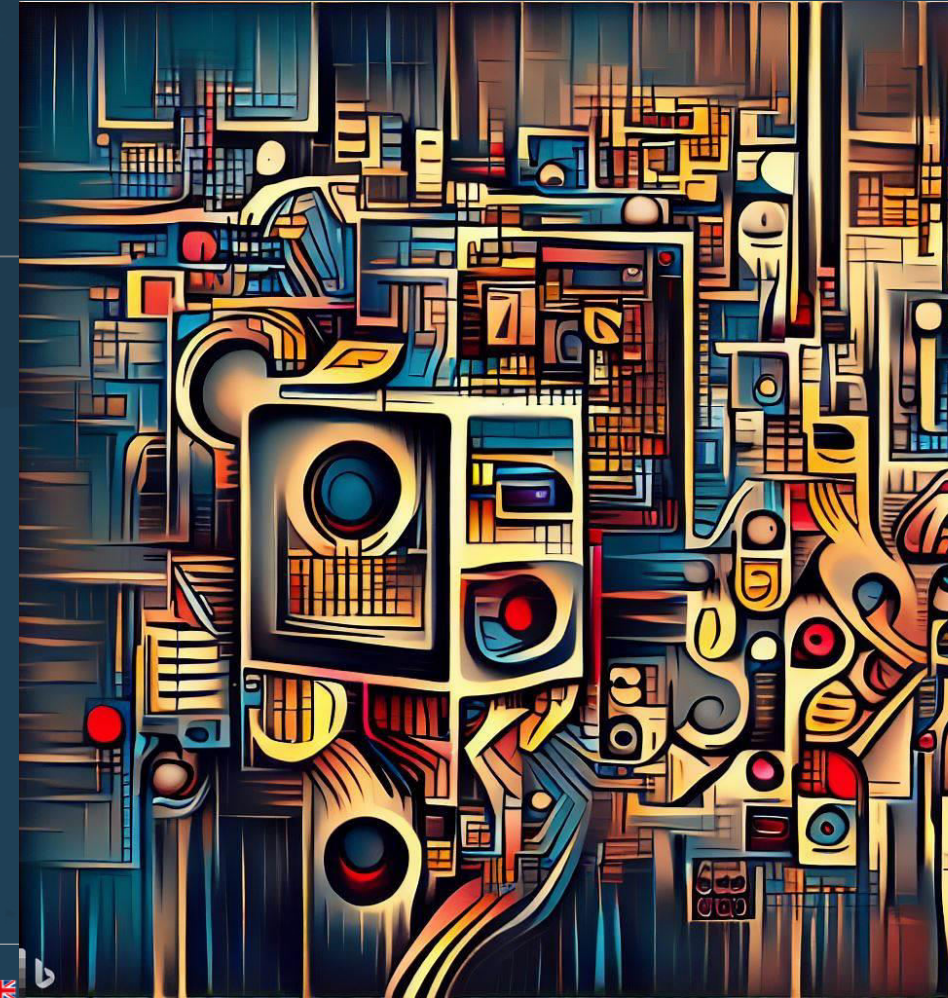
Jan 2023  
Global & Limited Area

**Microsoft – ClimaX**  
Forecasting various lead-times at various resolutions, both globally and regionally

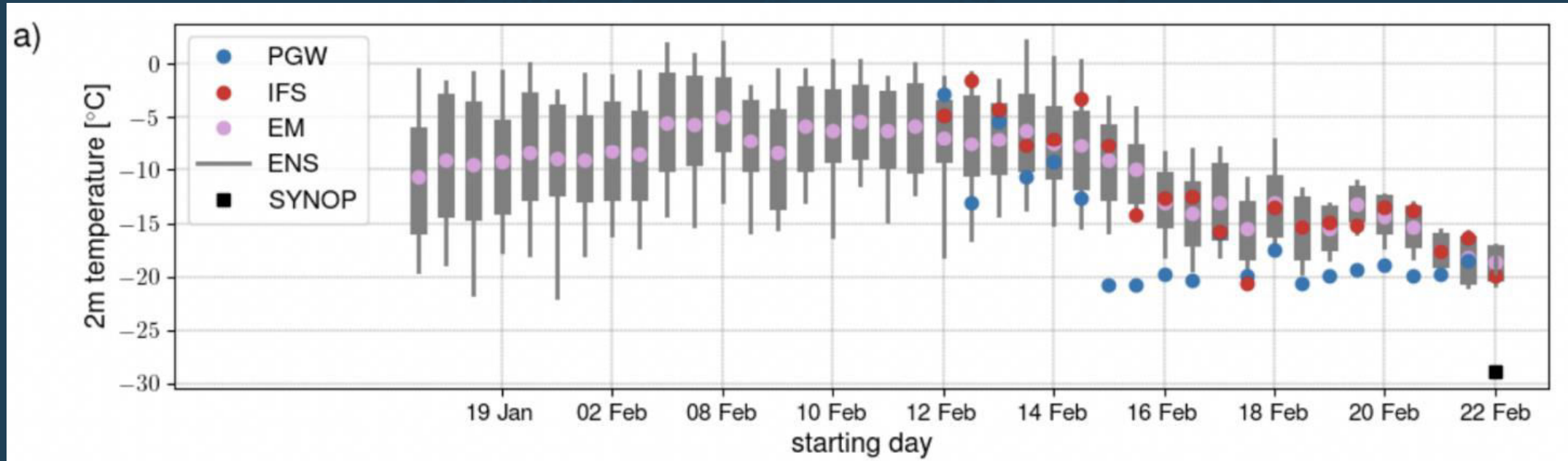
Diffusion modelling

**Alibaba – SwinRDM**  
0.25° 6-hour product  
Sharp spatial features

# What ML models are showing...



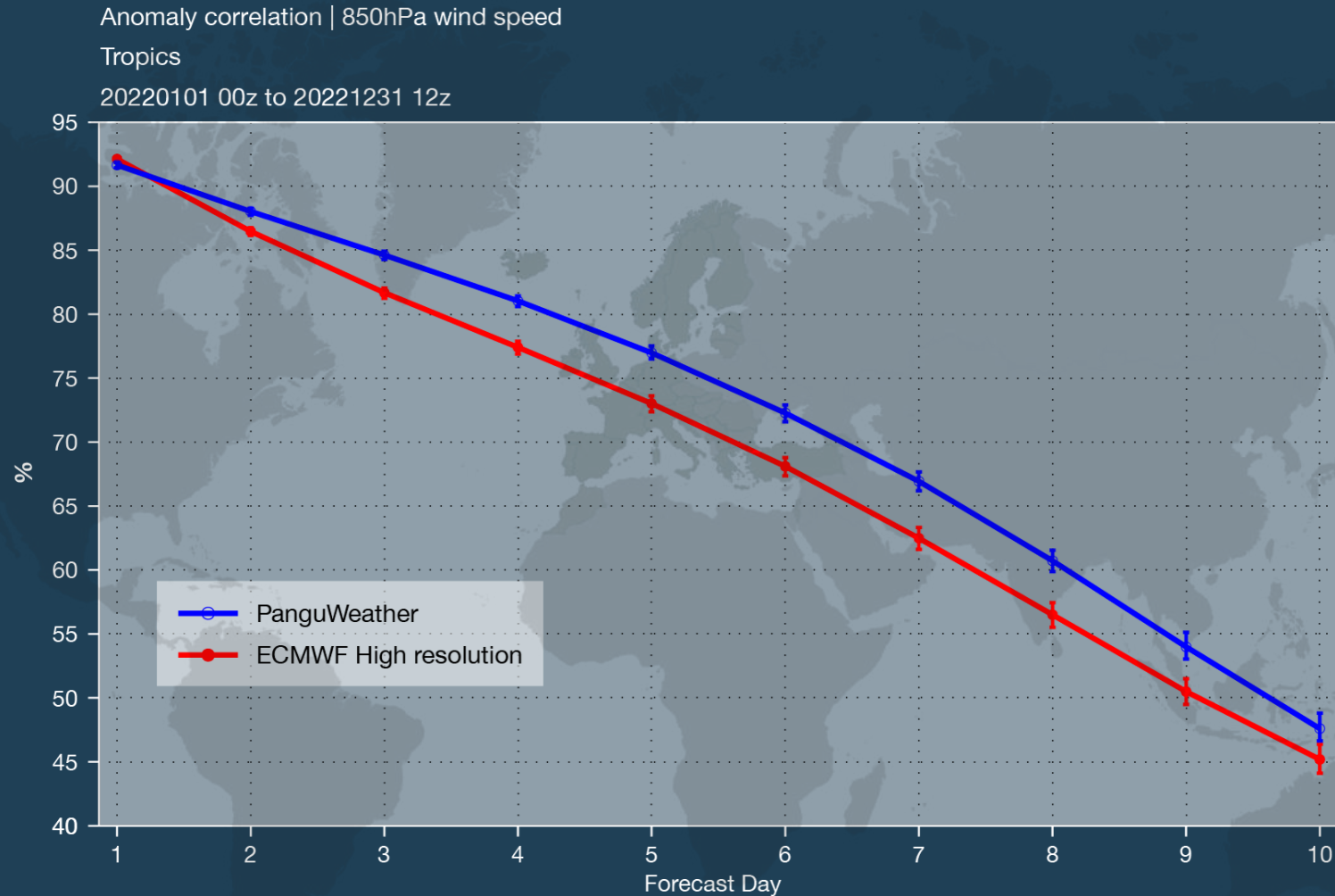
# What the forecasts are showing: Sodankylä, Finland, 22 Feb 00UTC



To explore the ability of data-driven models to capture extreme events we examine a case study from Finland from earlier this year, when -29C was observed.

We find that Pangu recognised the severity of this event earlier, however both the IFS and Pangu underestimated the temperature significantly, to a similar degree.

# What the analysis is showing: an undeniable skill

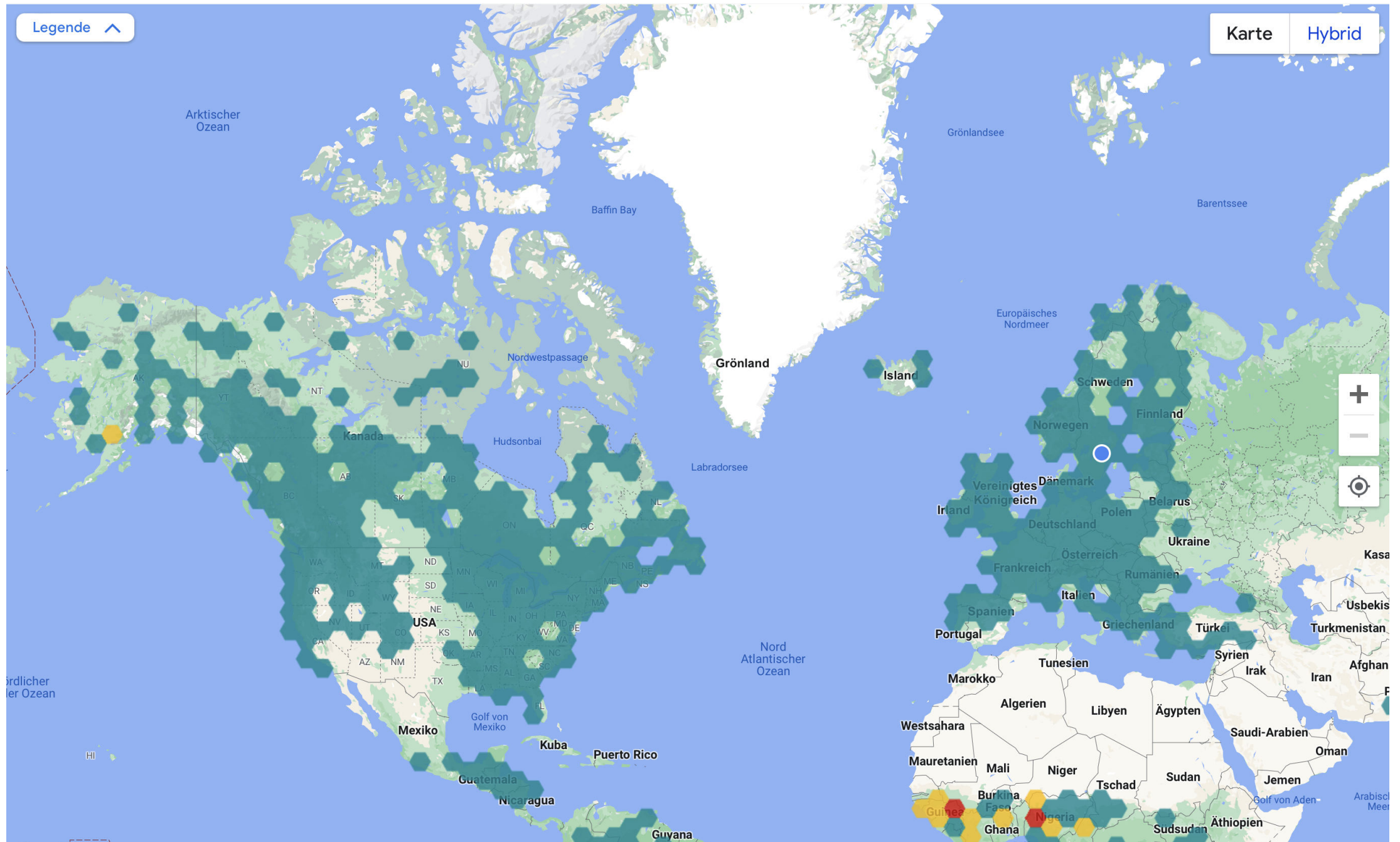


BUT Evaluation of surface parameters against observations demonstrates that the IFS is superior.

Legende ^

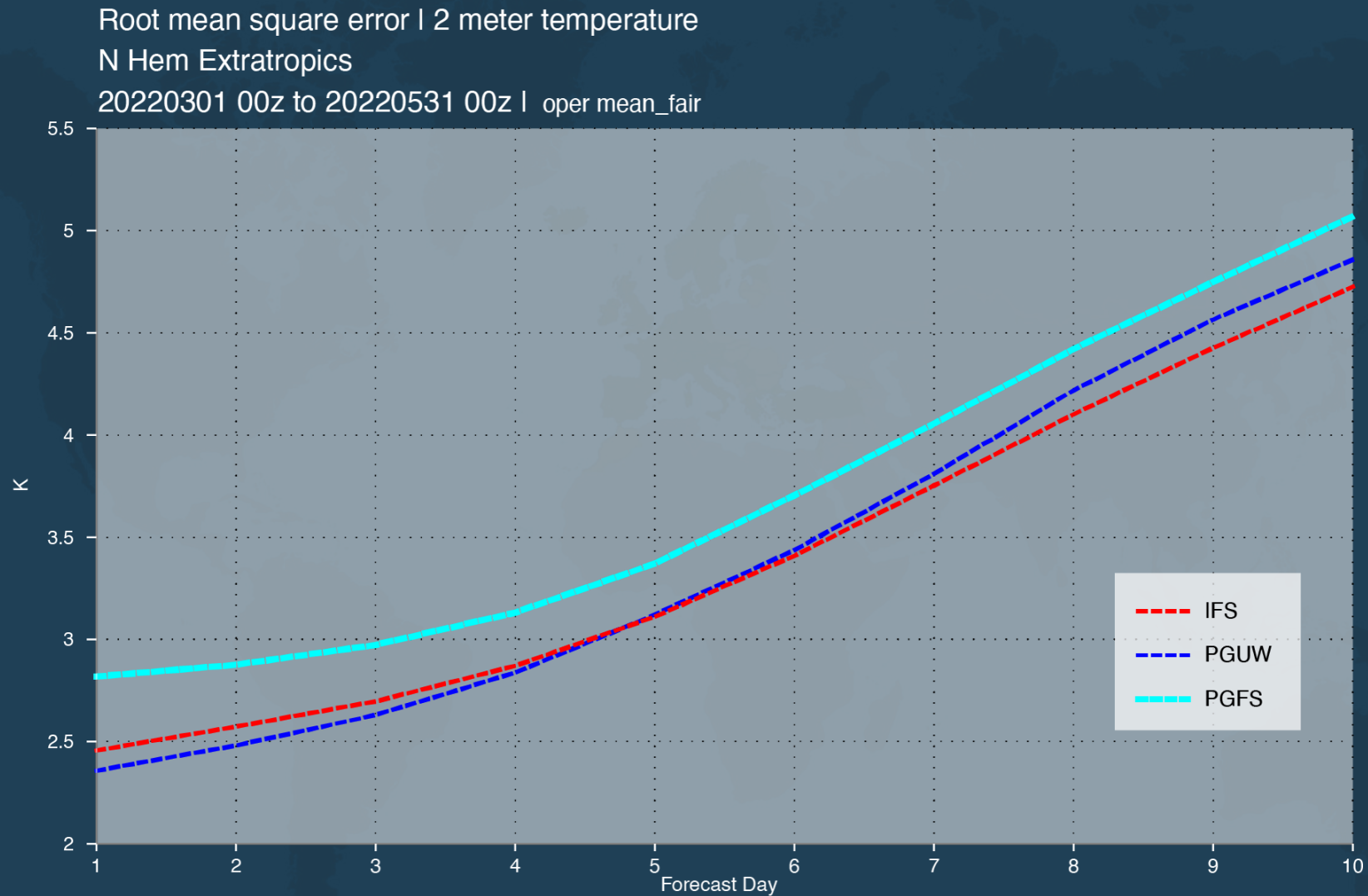
Karte

Hybrid





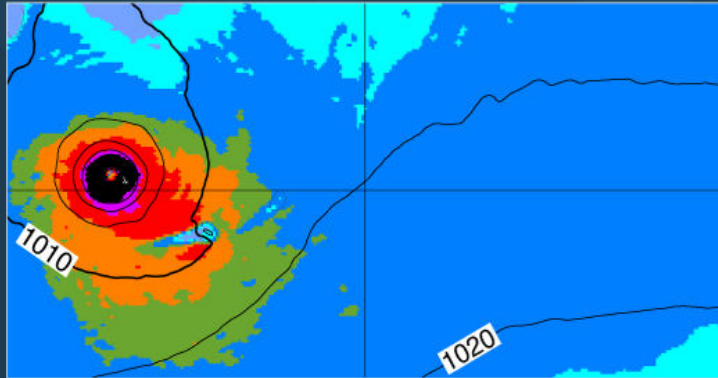
# What the analysis is showing: the importance of Initial Conditions



# What the forecasts are showing: Tropical cyclone Freddy (19 Feb 00UTC)

+48h

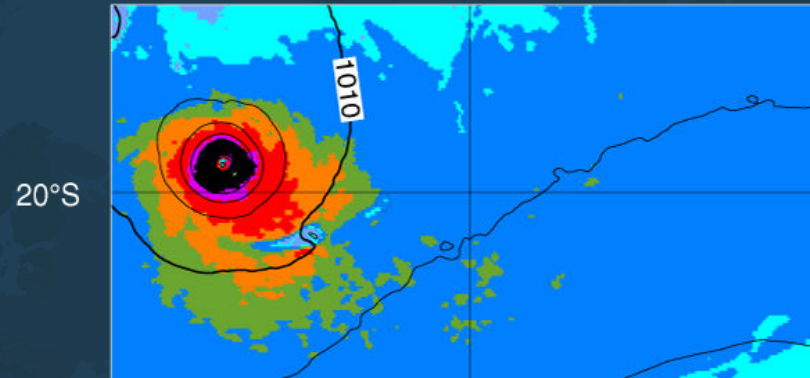
Analysis



Pangu

60°E

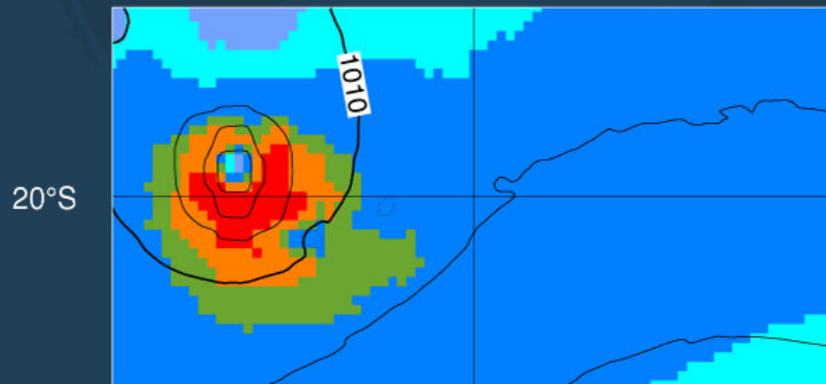
HRES



20°S

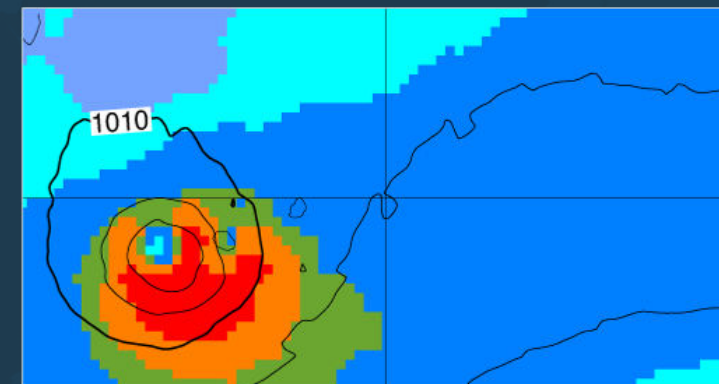
FourCastNet

60°E



20°S

60°E

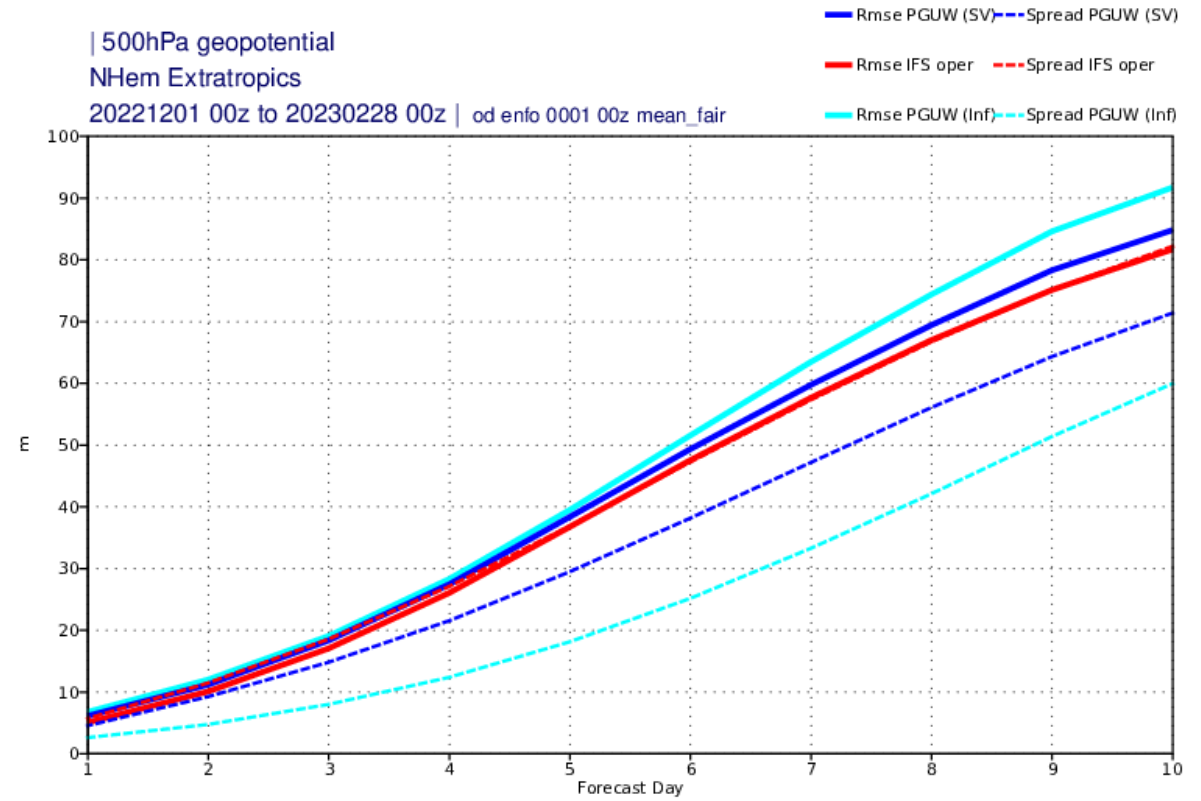
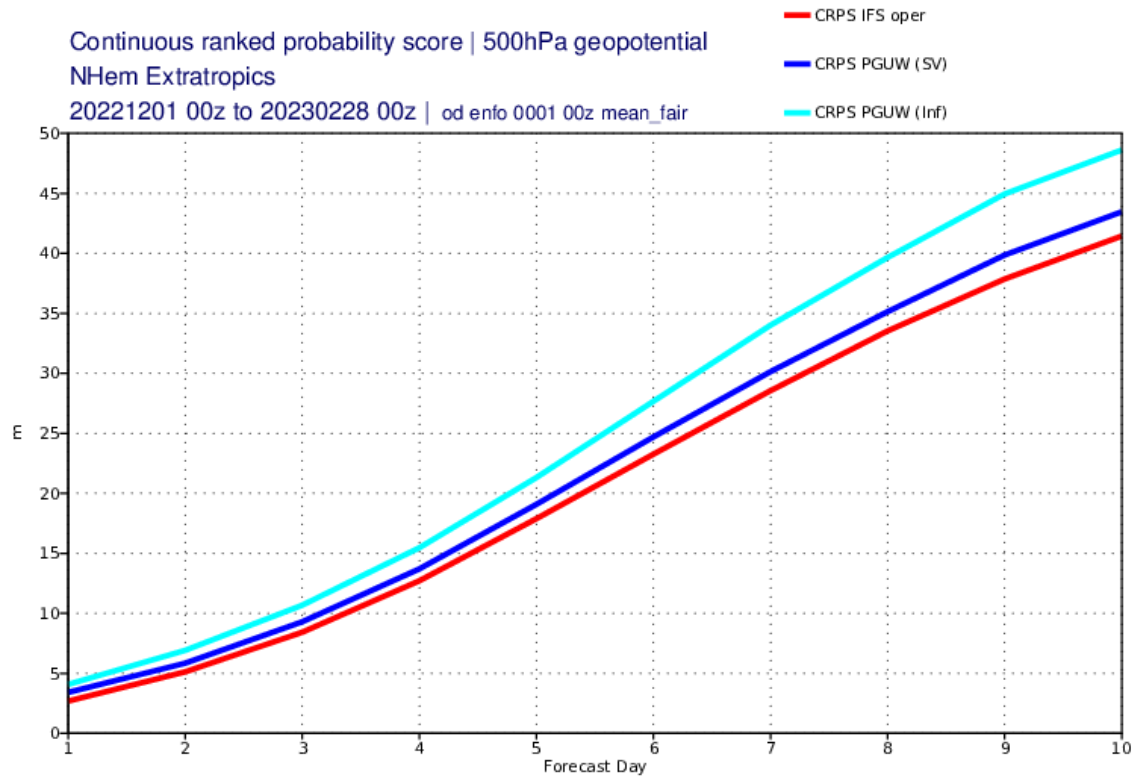


20°S

60°E

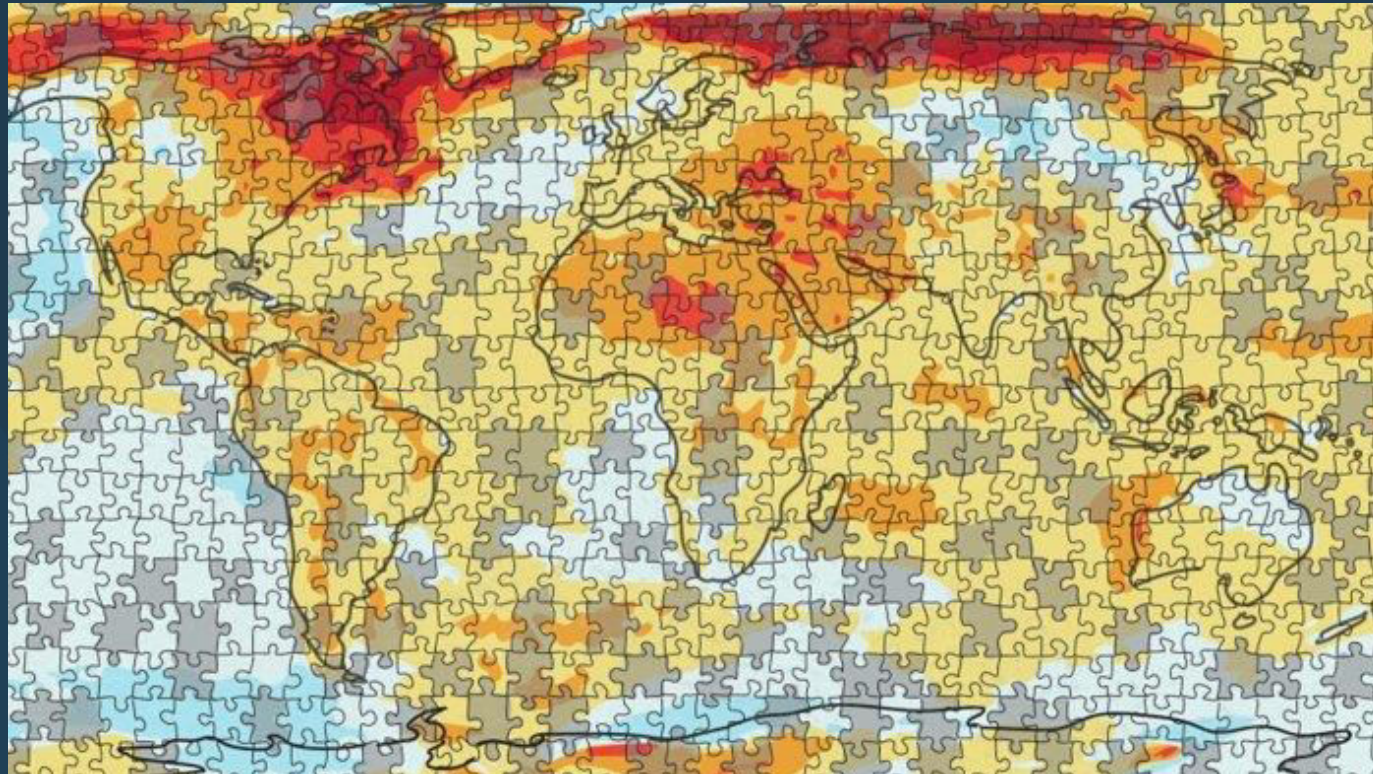


# What about Uncertainties?



# Why is Reanalysis used to train ML models?

Reanalysis combines observations with cutting-edge weather models, to provide maps without gaps.



*ERA6 coming out in 2026...*

# What the ML forecasts are showing: potential gain in time and energy

**ERA5:**  
15 billion (one off)  
(\$7.4Mio (compute only))



**ECMWF HRES:**  
180 000 (\$90)  
per forecast

**Pangu:**  
0.3 (<math>\phi 1</math>)  
per forecast



# Impacts .....



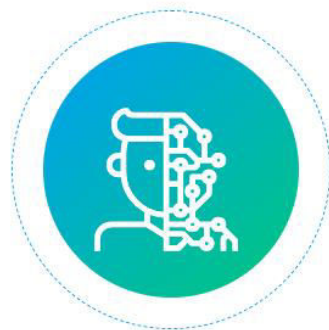
## MOOC Machine Learning in Weather & Climate



Tier 1 introduces you to Machine Learning in weather and climate



Tier 2 takes a deeper look at the concepts of Machine Learning



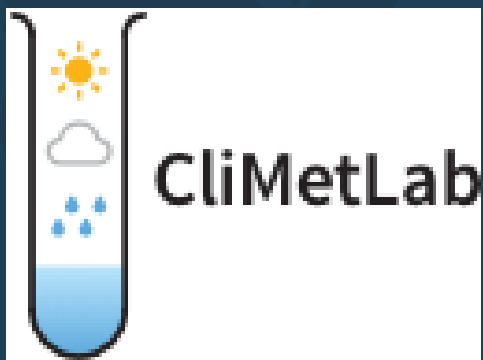
Tier 3 demonstrates practical Machine Learning applications in weather and climate



# Impact: Software

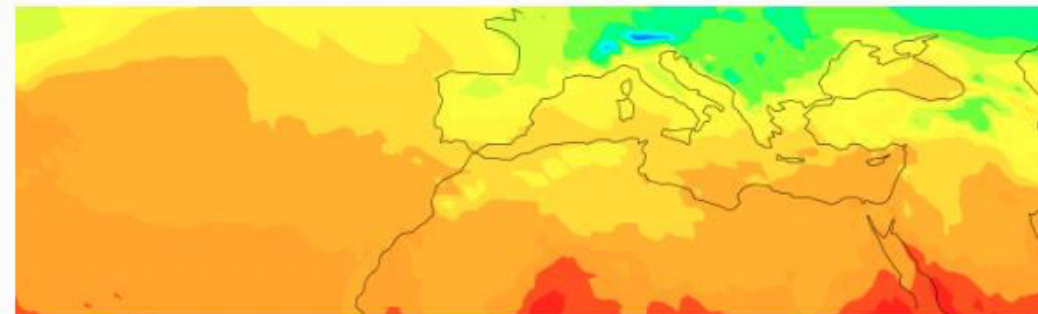
CliMetLab simplifies access to meteorological datasets.

Data downloading and loading is handled for the user.  
After first download, data is cached locally.



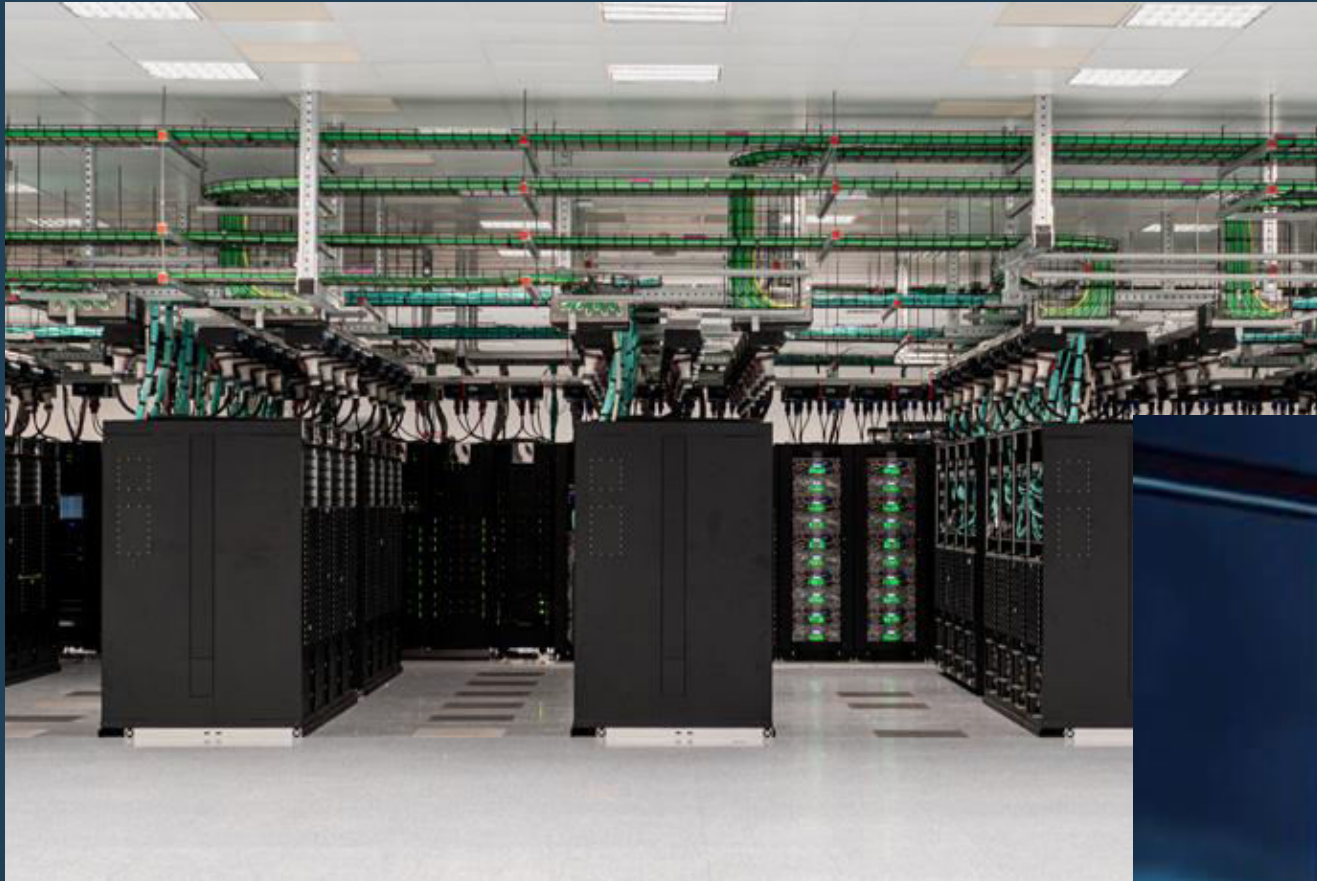
```
[2]: import climetlab as cml

[6]: source = cml.load_source(
    "cds",
    "reanalysis-era5-single-levels",
    variable=["2t", "msl"],
    product_type="reanalysis",
    area=[50, -50, 20, 50],
    date="2012-12-12",
    time="12:00",
)
for s in source:
    cml.plot_map(s)
```





# Impact: HPC & Anyone Can do it



# ECMWF Experimental Chatbot

Chat.ECMWF.int

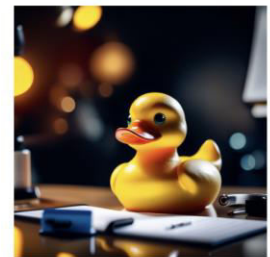


13:54 Dienstag 5. Sept. chat.ecmwf.int 63%

## Welcome to ECMWF's experimental AI-based assistant.

Type a question in the box below and click "Submit question". Examples:

- Дайте ми метеograma за София.
- Adj nekem egy meteogramot Budapestre.
- Gib mir einen Meteogramm für Bonn.
- Donnez-moi un météogramme pour Paris.
- Anna minulle meteogrammi Helsingille.
- Wie verwendet man das GRIB-Format?
- Will it rain tomorrow in Bonn?
- Geben Sie mir ein Meteogramm für Wien.
- أعطني ميثيوجرام للرباط
- Dê-me um meteograma para Lisboa.



Model: gpt-4  
Temperature: 0.5

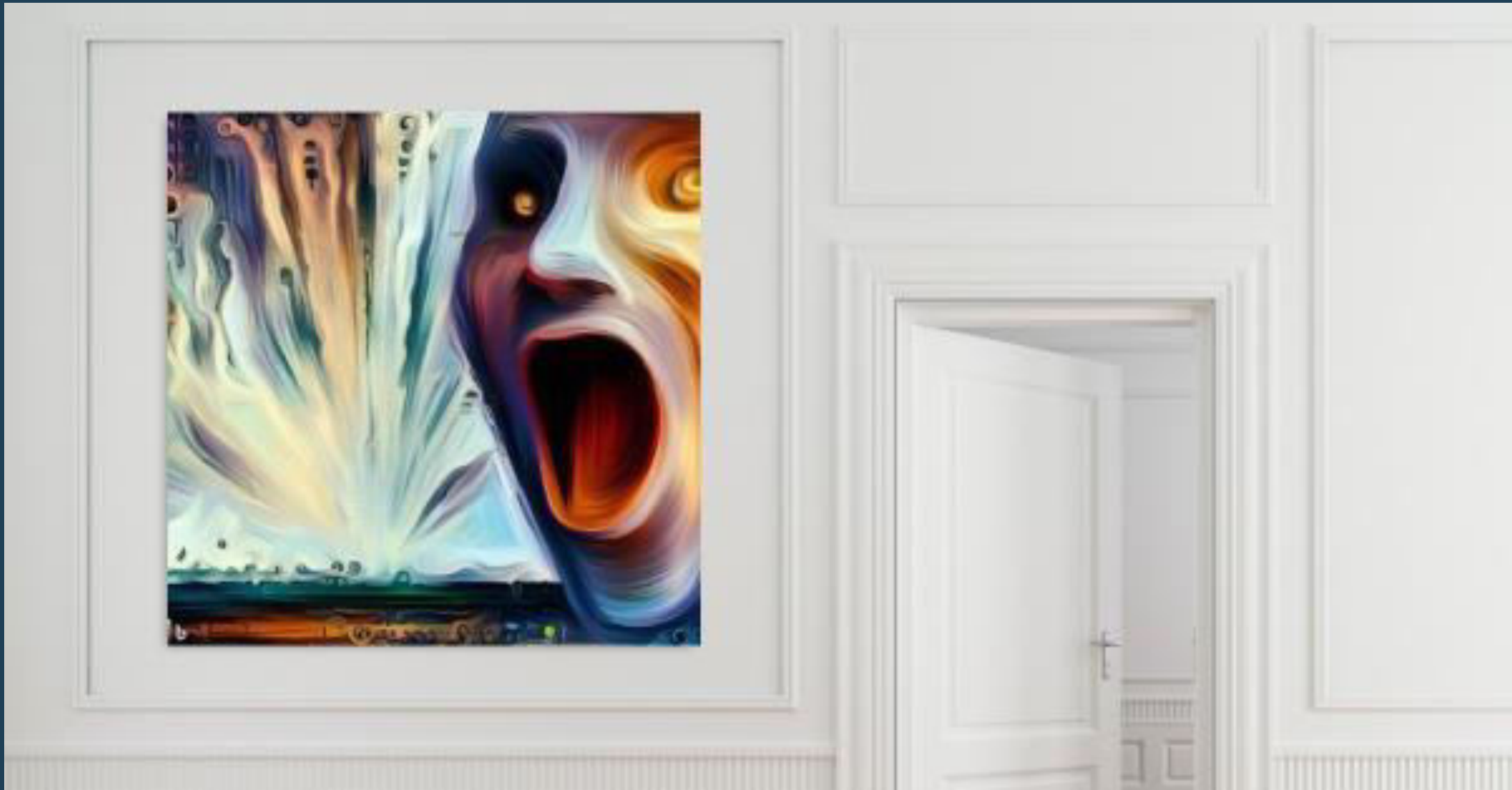
*Make sure questions ends with a question mark. Be as precise a possible. For example, instead of asking "What is the weather in Reading?", ask "What is the temperature forecast in Reading?" You may also try to ask question in different languages. The same question may lead to different answers. If you get an error, simply try again.*

Was ist dir Co2 Vorhersage für Bratislava

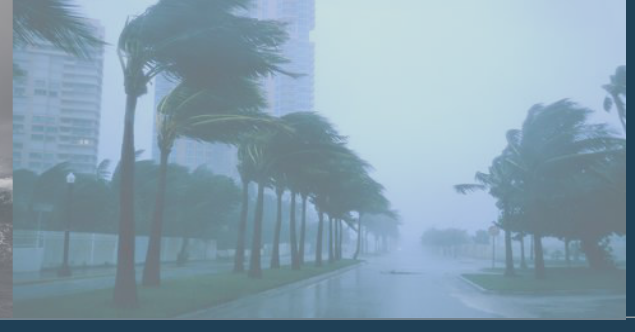
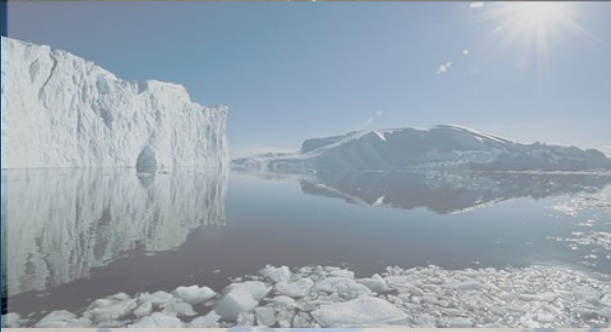
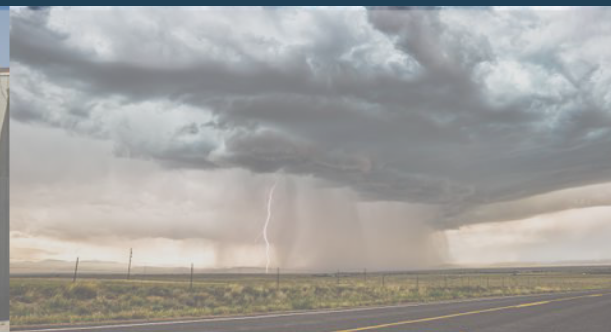
Submit question

Die CO2-Vorhersage für Bratislava am 5. September 2023 beträgt 447,98 ppmv.

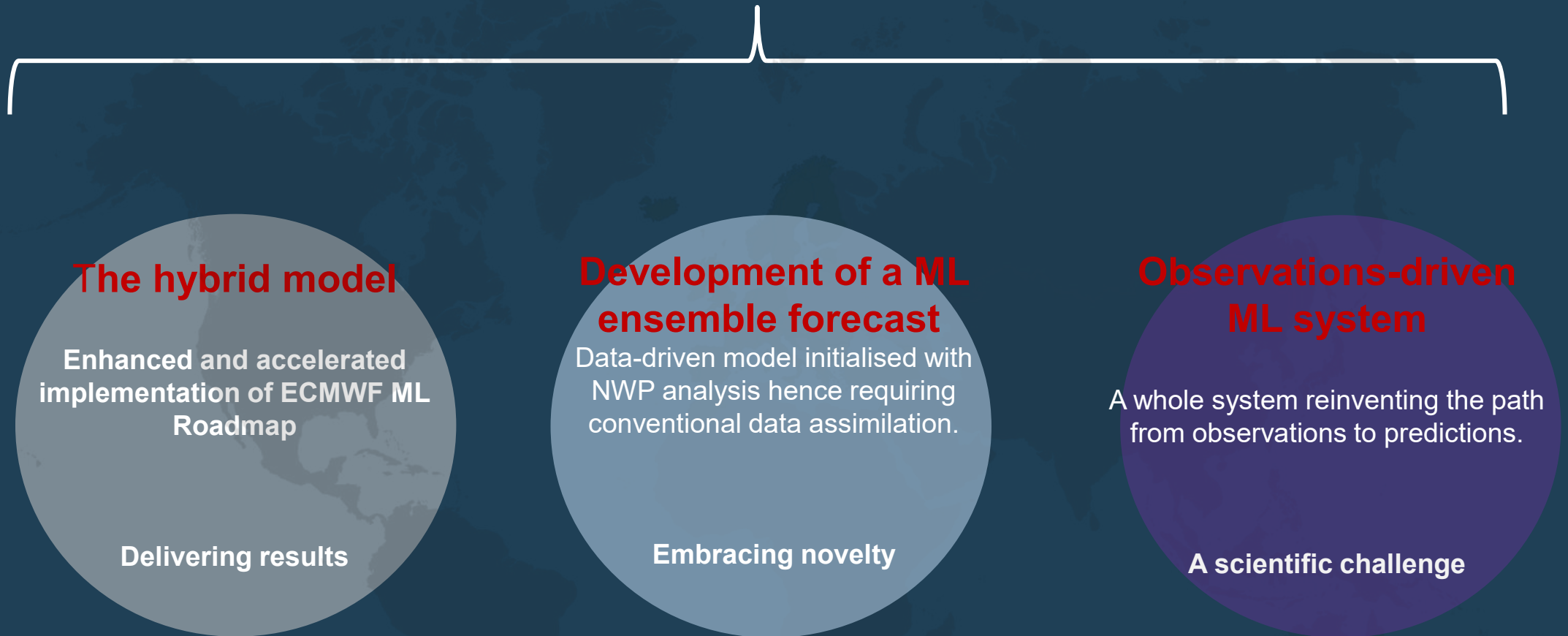
# Impact tbc



# What's next?



# Project overview: different paths towards a ML ensemble prediction at ECMWF



# Check them out yourselves .....

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Search products...

Range

- Medium (15 days)
- Extended (42 days)
- Long (Months)

Type

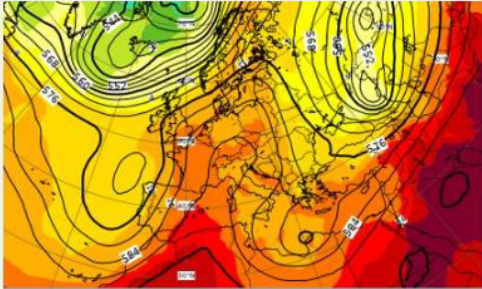
- Forecasts
- Verification

Component

- Surface
- Atmosphere

Product type

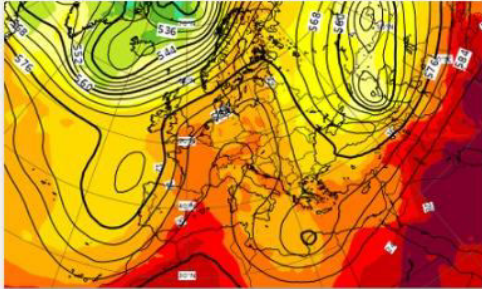
- High resolution forecast (HRES)
- Ensemble forecast (ENS)
- Combined (ENS + HRES)
- Extreme forecast index
- Point-based products
- Experimental: Machine learning models
- Atmospheric composition



Latest forecast

**(FourCastNet machine learning model: Experimental): 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature**

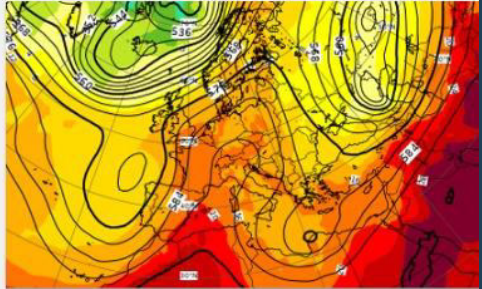
FourCastNet v2-small: a deep learning-based system developed by NVIDIA in collaboration with researchers at several US universities. It is initialised with ECMWF HRES analysis. FourCastNet operates at 0.25° resolution.



Latest forecast

**(GraphCast machine learning model: Experimental): 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature**

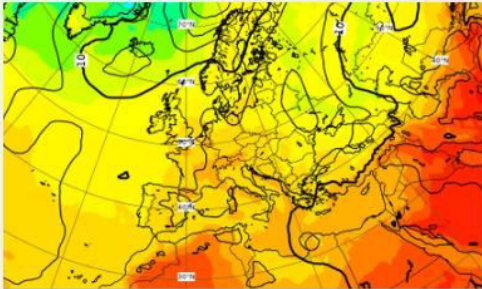
GraphCast (Google DeepMind): a deep learning-based system developed by Google DeepMind. It is initialised with ECMWF HRES analysis. GraphCast operates at 0.25° resolution.



Latest forecast

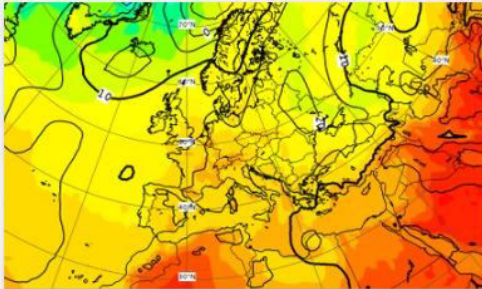
**(Pangu-Weather machine learning model: Experimental): 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature**

Pangu-Weather: a deep learning-based system developed by Huawei. It is initialised with ECMWF HRES analysis. Pangu-Weather operates at 0.25° resolution.



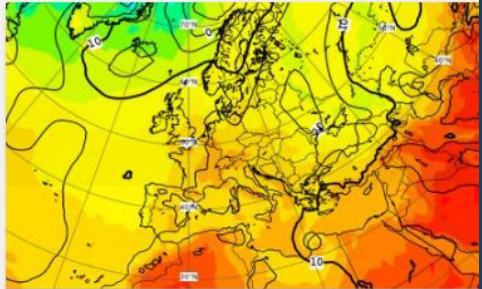
Latest forecast

**(FourCastNet machine learning model: Experimental): 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature**



Latest forecast

**(GraphCast machine learning model: Experimental): 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature**



Latest forecast

**(Pangu-Weather machine learning model: Experimental): 500 hPa geopotential height and 850 hPa temperature**

# Run them yourselves .....

ecmwf-lab / ai-models Public

<> Code Issues 4 Pull requests Actions Projects Security Insights

main 2 branches 12 tags Go to file Code

floriankrb Update README.md ✓ c22c655 2 days ago 84 commits

.github/workflows	Update pipy token	2 weeks ago
ai_models	prov	5 days ago
tests	Missing tests	4 months ago
.gitignore	prov	5 days ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	4 months ago
README.md	Update README.md	2 days ago
setup.py	provenance	5 days ago
tox.ini	QA	4 months ago

README.md

## ai-models

The `ai-models` command is used to run AI-based weather forecasting models. These models need to be installed independently.

### Prerequisites

Before using the `ai-models` command, ensure you have the following prerequisites:

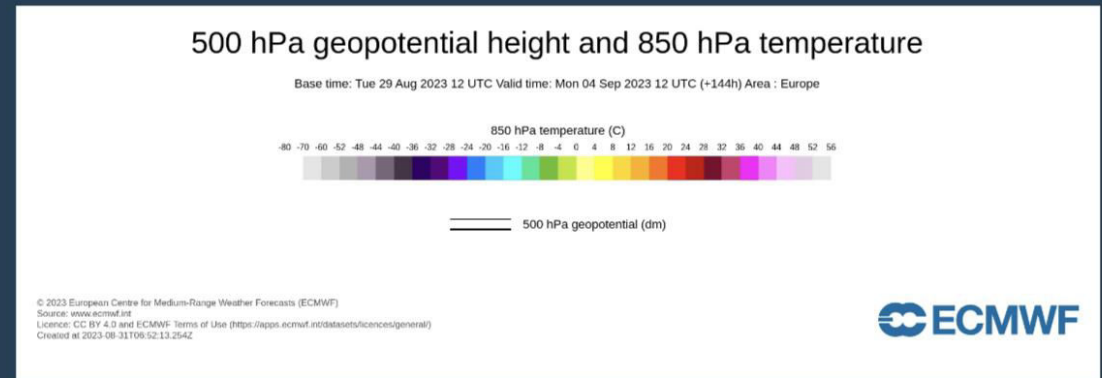
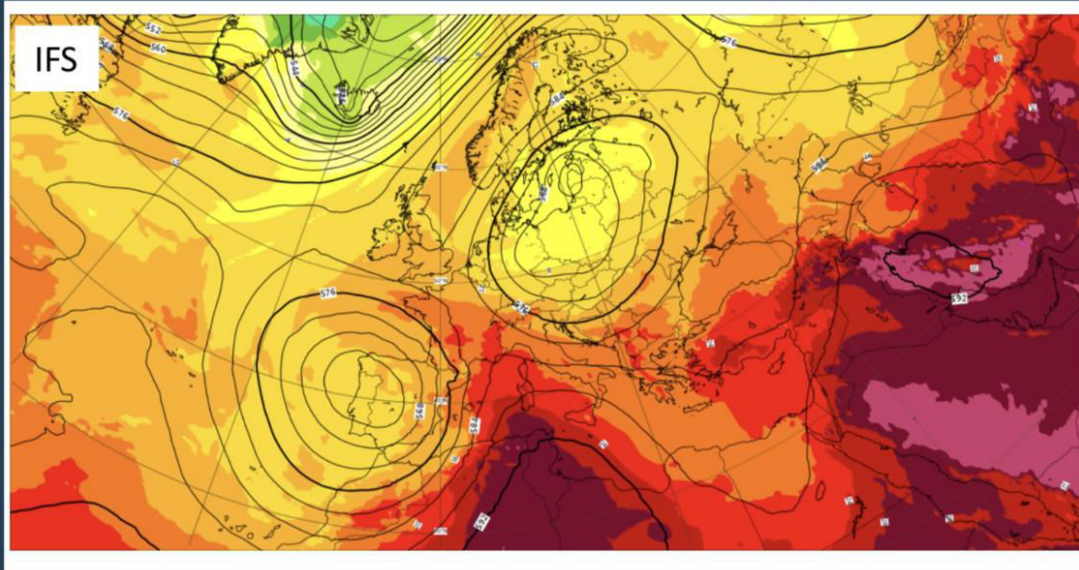
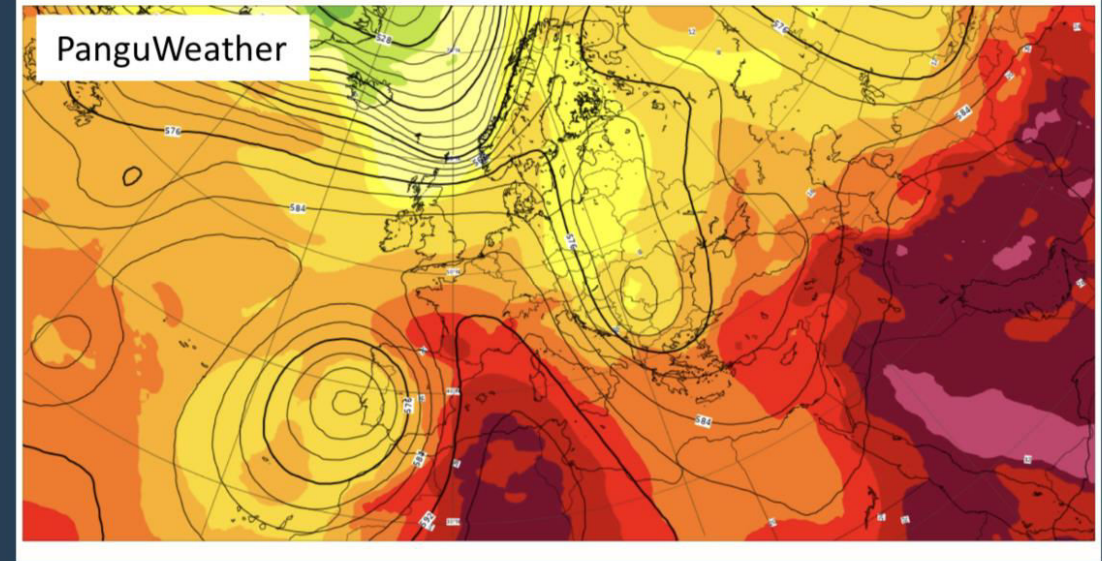
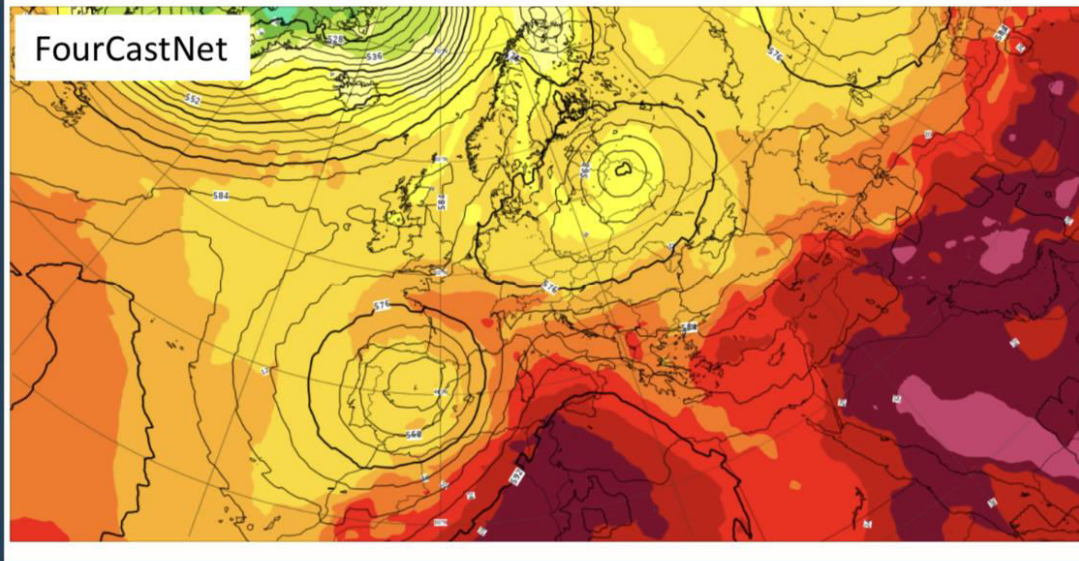
- Python 3.10 (it may work with different versions, but it has not been tested with 3.10).
- An ECMWF and/or CDS account for accessing input data (see below for more details).
- A computer with a GPU for optimal performance (strongly recommended).

## Available Models

Currently, four models can be installed:

```
pip install ai-models-panguweather
pip install ai-models-fourcastnet
pip install ai-models-graphcast # Install details at https://github.com/ecmwf-lab/ai-models-graphcast
pip install ai-models-fourcastnetv2
```

# Day 6 forecasts over Europe (valid today, 4 Sept. 2023 12UTC )





# Did you pass the test? Congratulations, you are invited to apply



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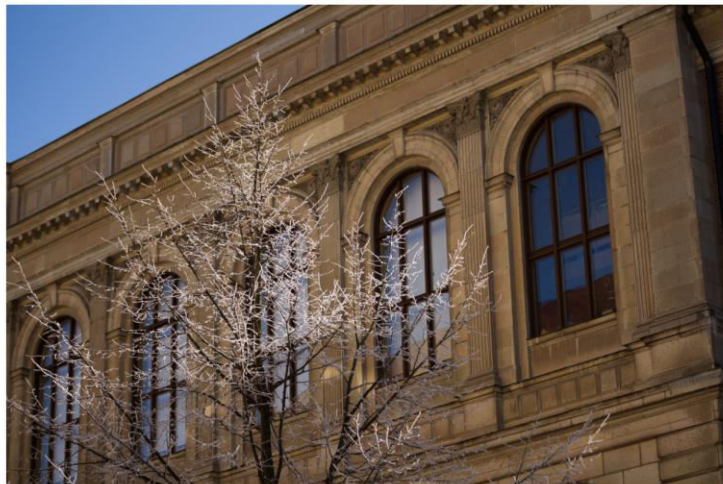
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Denna sida på svens

Jobs and vacancies

## Postdoctoral position in surface hydrology, with focus on modeling human-water systems

Published: 2023-08-29



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### Scientist/Engineer for Machine Learning (multiple vacancies)

Apply for job

Job reference: VN23-41

**Salary and Grade:** Grade A2: EUR 83,888 (DE) or GBP 68,374 (GB);  
Grade A3: EUR 103,517 (DE) or GBP 84,368 (GB) NET of tax

**Deadline for applications:** 17/09/2023

**Department:** Research or Forecast

**Location:** Reading, UK or Bonn, Germany

# Working together to improve weather predictions

