

Monitoring of Observations and Data Assimilation System

mohamed.dahoui@ecmwf.int

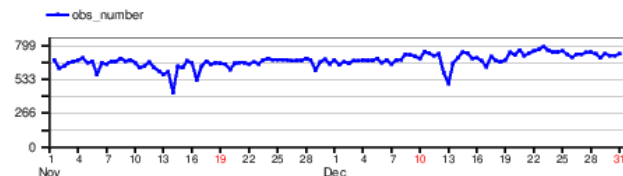
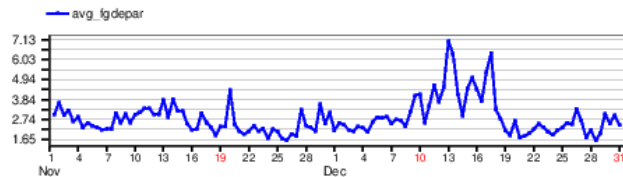
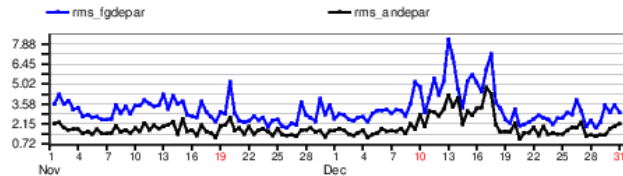
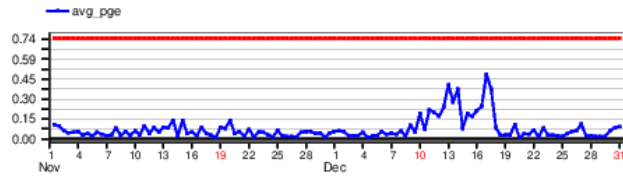
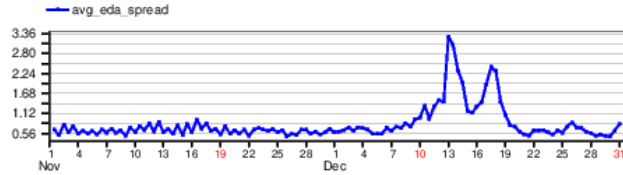
Outline

1. **Monitoring of observations: Why and how ?**
2. **Observation monitoring capabilities**
3. **Machine learning for Anomaly detection and classification**
4. **Observation based diagnostics**
5. **Conclusion**

TC JASPER (13/12/2023 00)

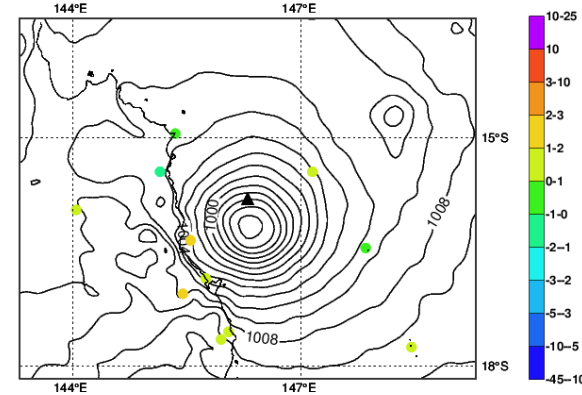
Profiler 94288

European Wind Profiler Wind_vecdiff Layer: 600_900 hPa ID 94288
All data, EXP =
16017_6_2_0_94288 (used)



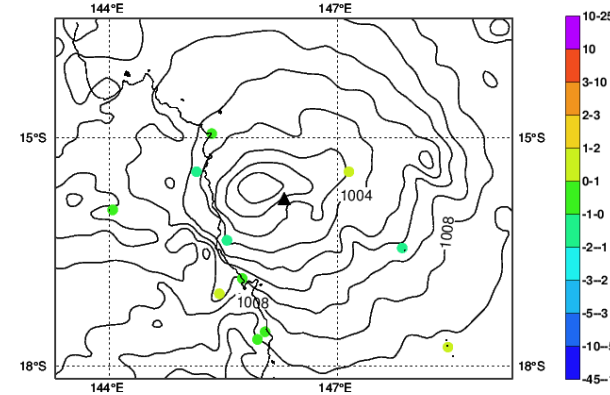
FG

Surface pressure OBS-FG (Surface Surface) hPa [All 21H to 9H]
ib4j 06h MSLP from 20231212 18 LWDA [JASPER(995.53375)]
[contour interval every 1 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (990)]
Mean: 0.266618 StDev: 0.997655 Data Count: 151



Analysis

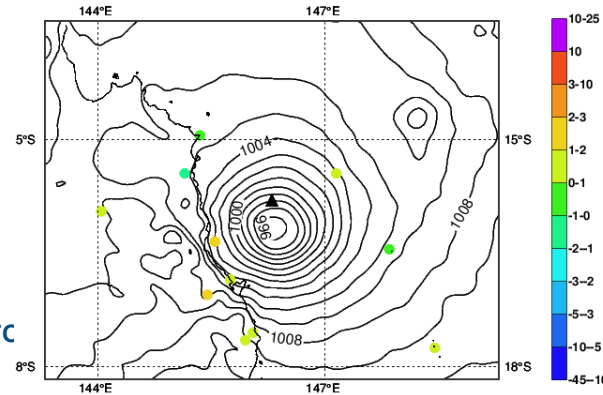
Surface pressure OBS-AN (Surface Surface) hPa [All 21H to 9H]
ib4j AN MSLP for 20231213 00 [JASPER(1000.139375)]
[contour interval every 1 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (990)]
Mean: -0.539823 StDev: 1.05955 Data Count: 151



Remove profiler 94288 (ib4j)

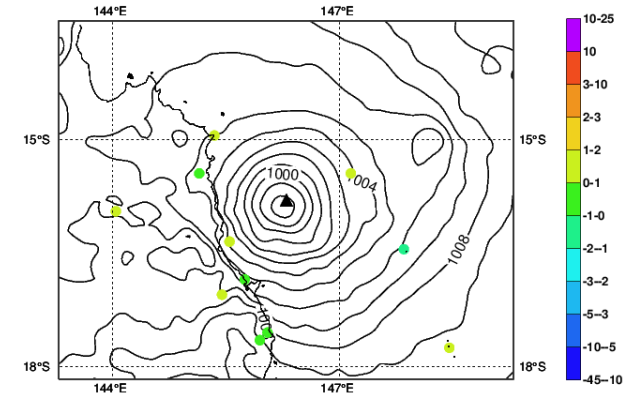
FG

Surface pressure OBS-FG (Surface Surface) hPa [All 21H to 9H]
ib4j 06h MSLP from 20231212 18 LWDA [JASPER(995.53375)]
[contour interval every 1 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (990)]
Mean: 0.266618 StDev: 0.997655 Data Count: 151

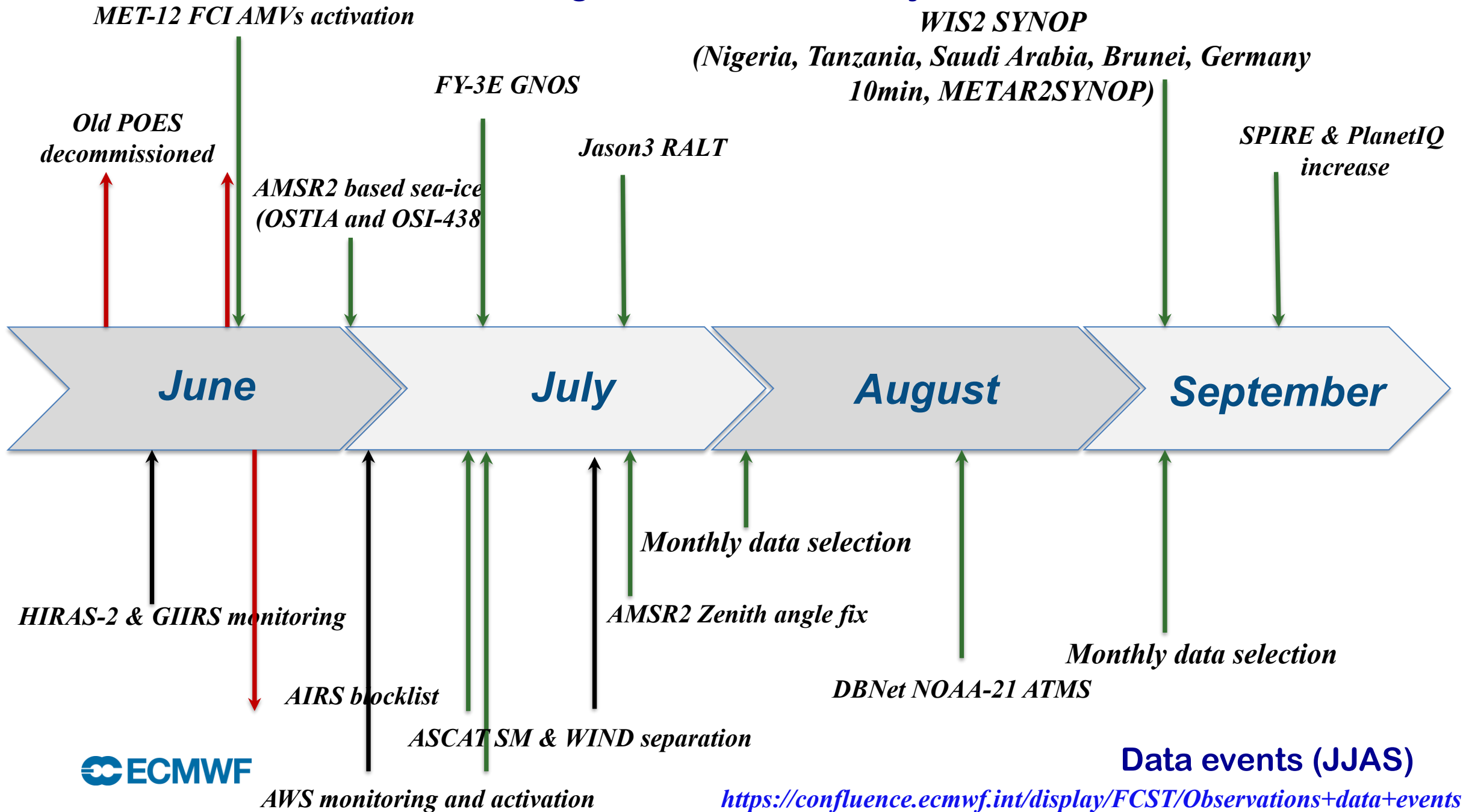


Analysis

Surface pressure OBS-AN (Surface Surface) hPa [All 21H to 9H]
ib4j AN MSLP for 20231213 00 [JASPER(997.561875)]
[contour interval every 1 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (990)]
Mean: -0.100489 StDev: 0.639321 Data Count: 151

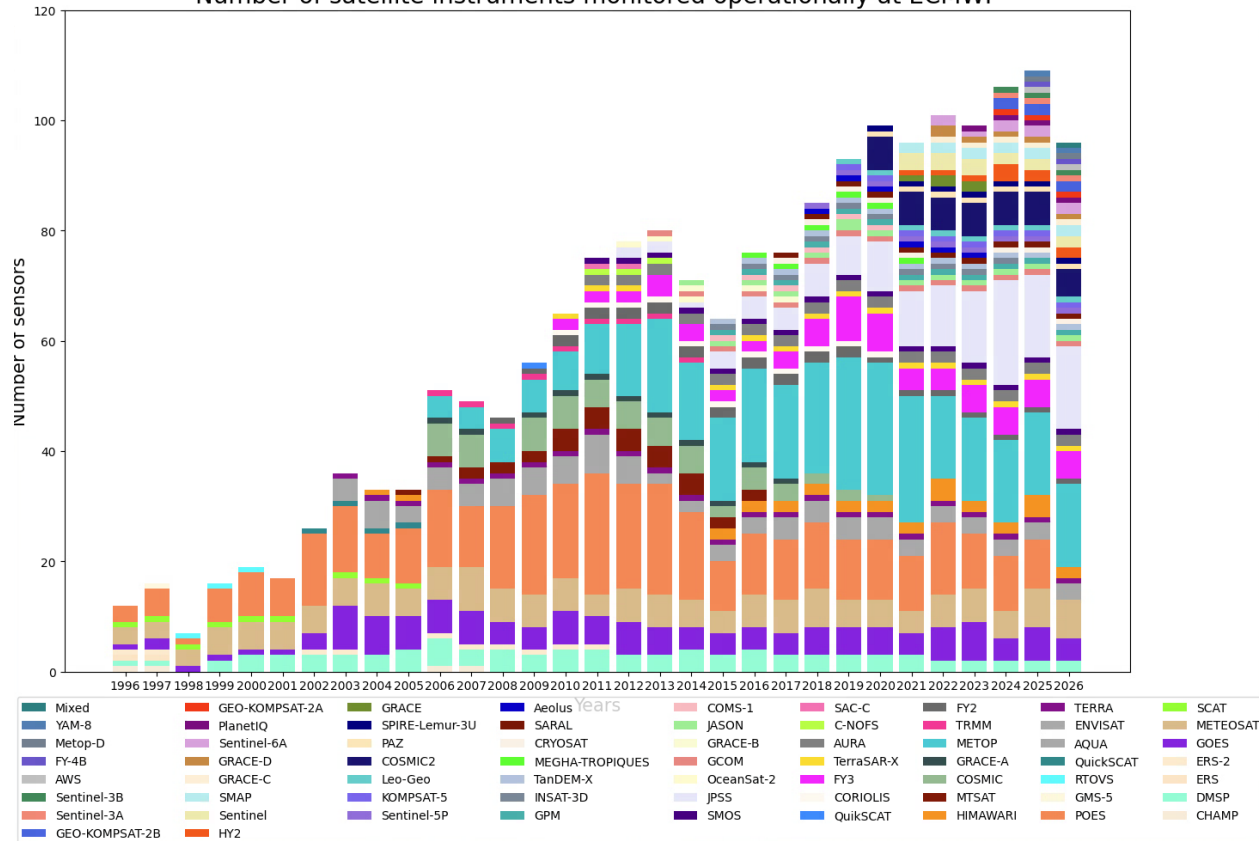


Monitoring of observations: Why ?

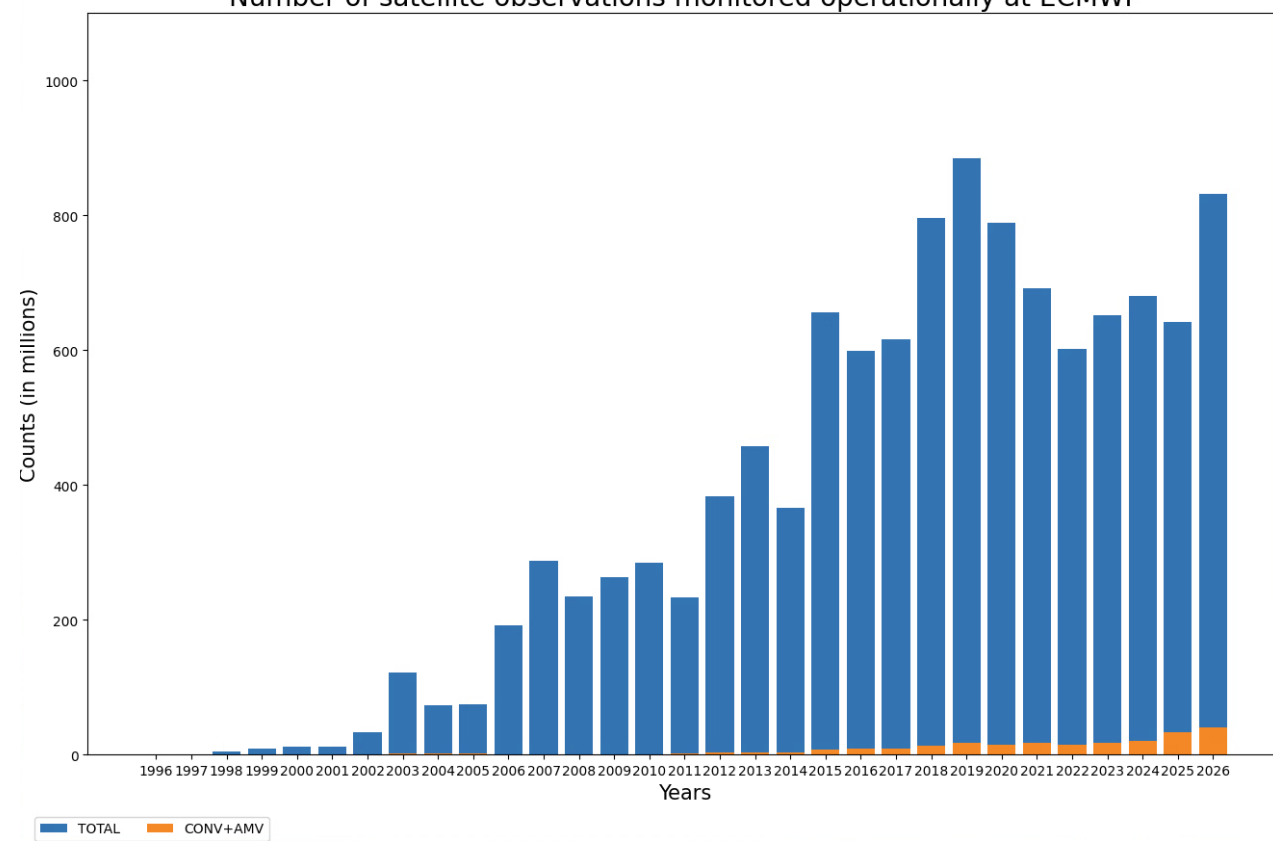


Evolution of data counts and diversity

Number of satellite instruments monitored operationally at ECMWF

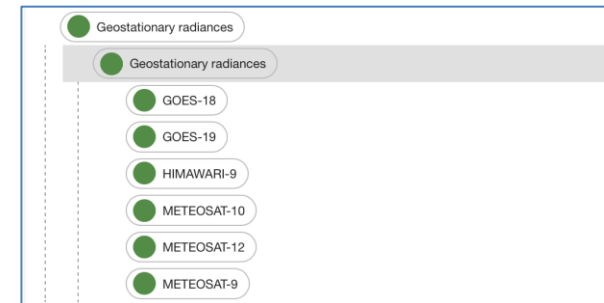
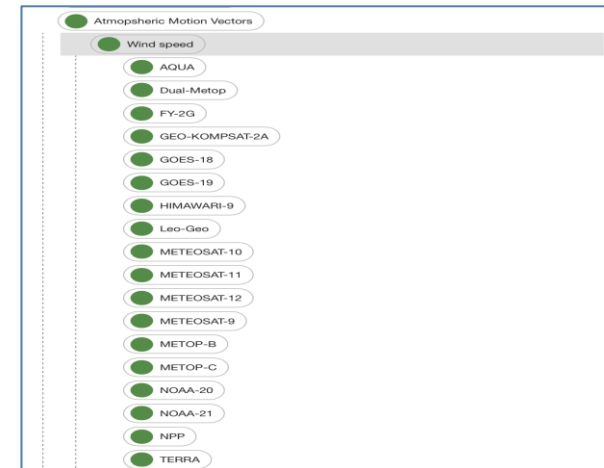
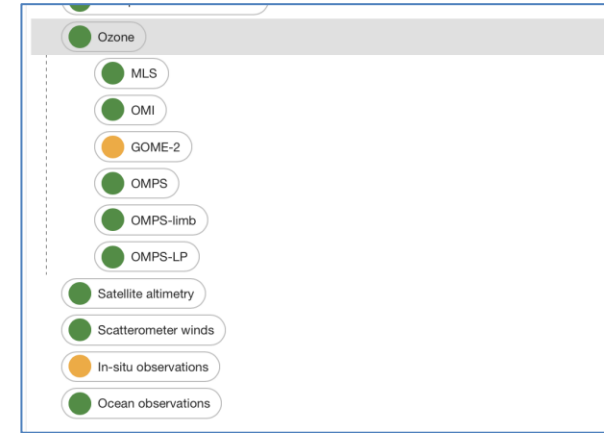
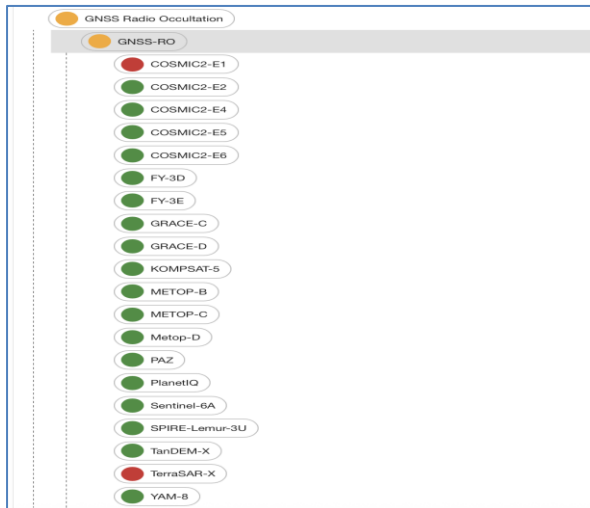
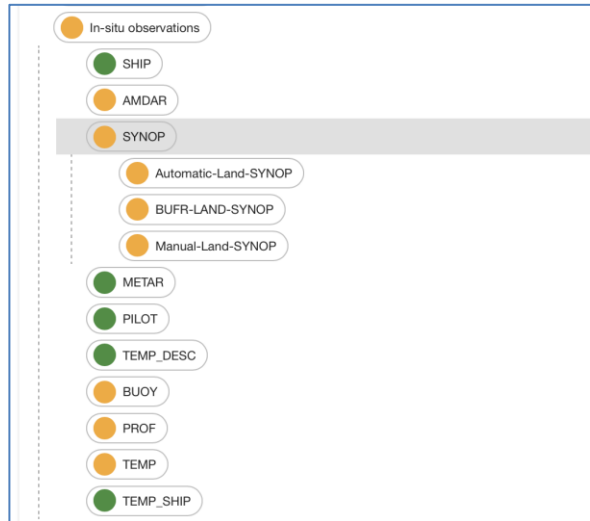
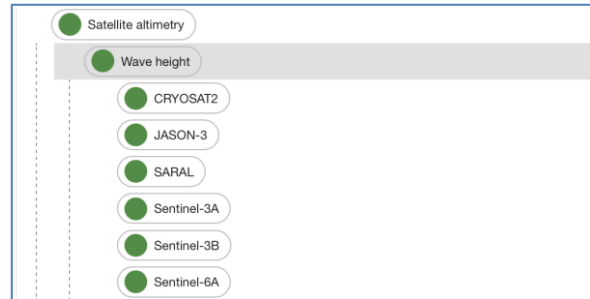
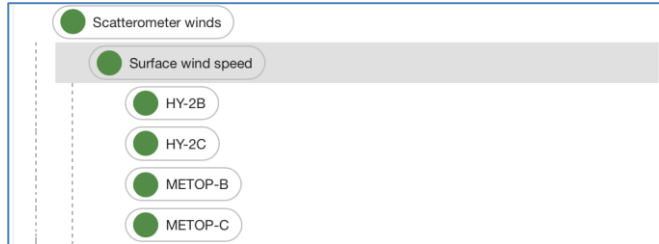
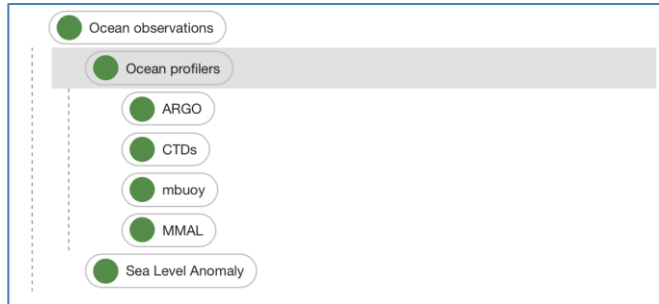
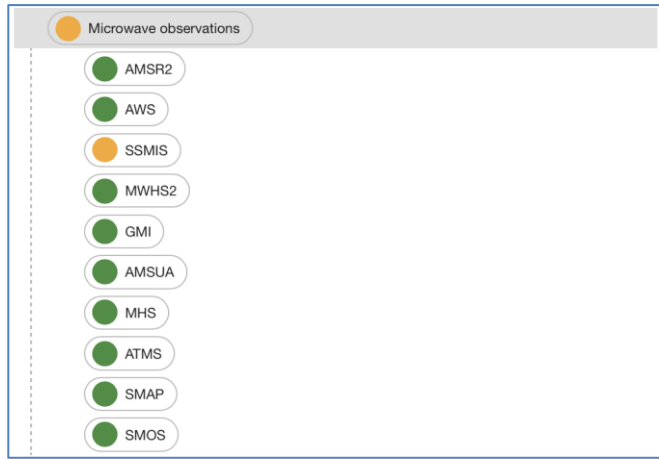


Number of satellite observations monitored operationally at ECMWF

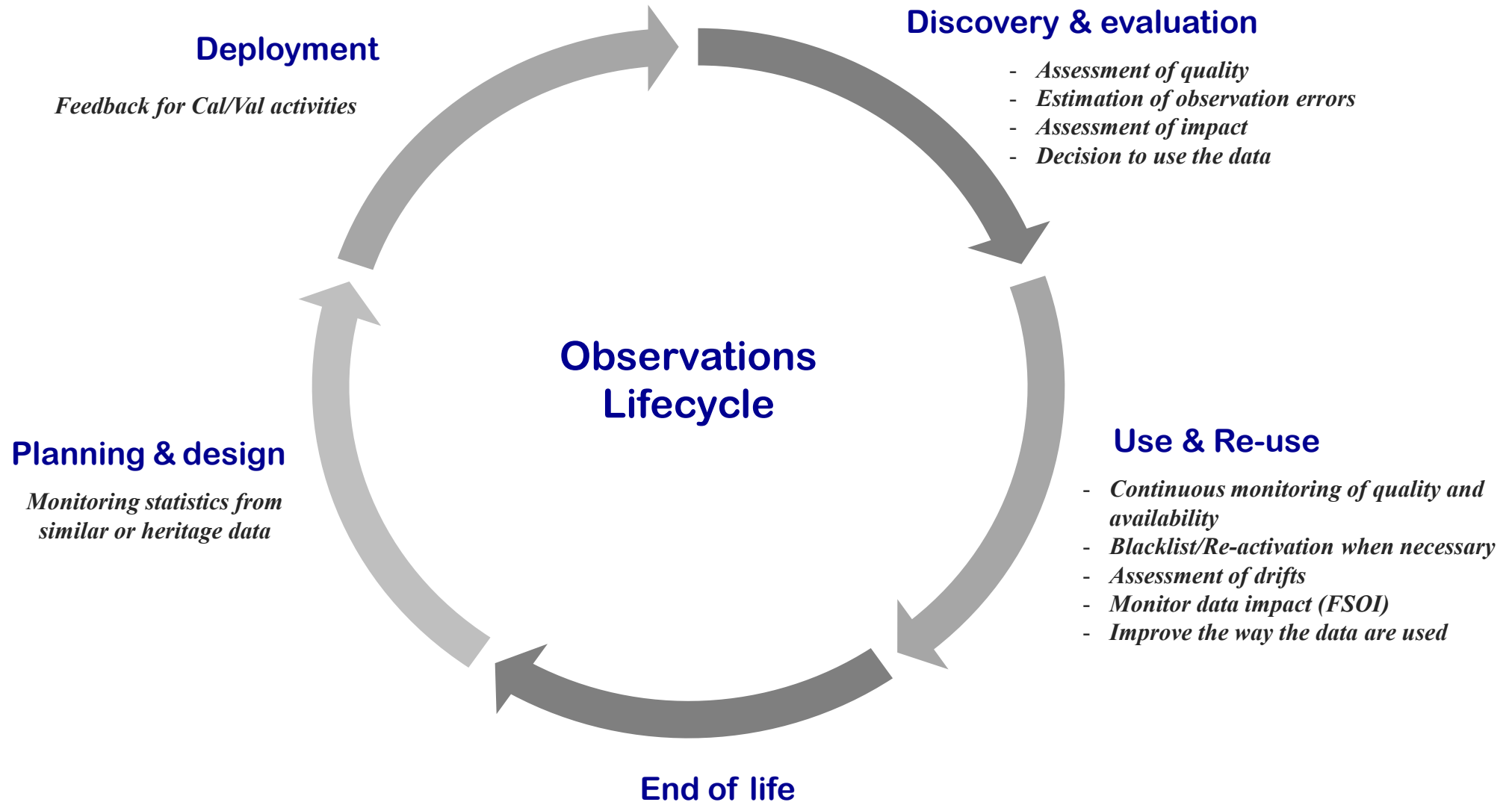


- ~ 700 million pieces of observations received daily and ~40 millions active . A lot of potential
- Data characteristics are subject to variation with possible consequences on the data impact (statistical on scores or localised).

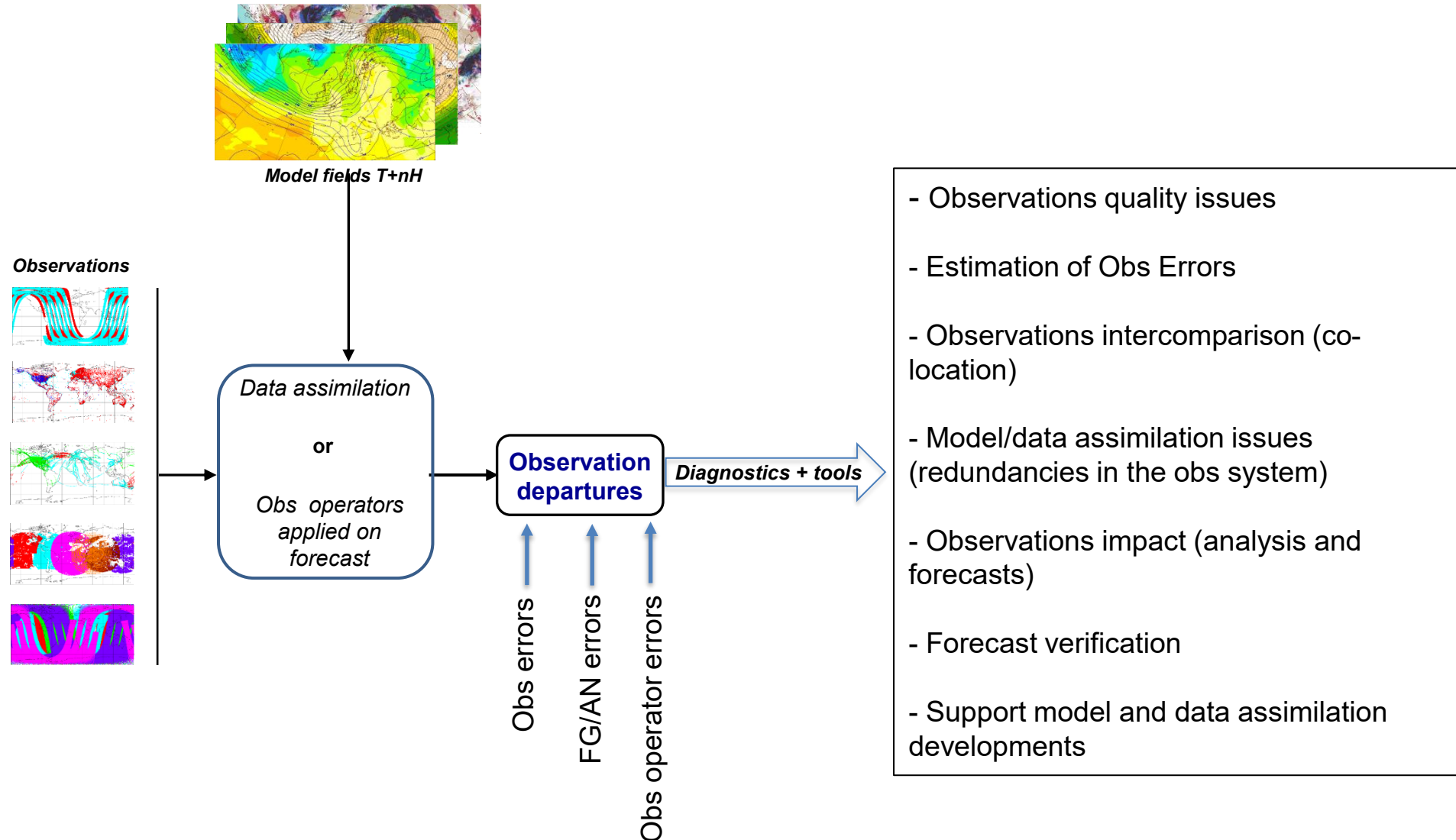
Current NWP Observing system



Monitoring of observations: Why ?



Monitoring of observations: how ?



Observations monitoring: how ?

- Routine production and display of statistics over large data samples
- Statistics are generally computed for observation quantities related to the data assimilation: departures, bias correction, data counts, etc.
- Statistics are produced for various data selection criteria (crucial for data usage monitoring and quality assessment)
- Availability of statistical tools to generate products allowing the investigation of data from various perspectives: time, area, vertical, FOV, etc.
- Availability of tools allowing generic comparison of statistics from different data assimilation setups
- Tools Should be generic and future proof (easy to maintain) to support new instruments

Outline

1. Monitoring of observations: Why and how ?
- 2. Observation monitoring capabilities**
3. Observation based diagnostics
4. Conclusion

Observations monitoring resources

- Operational monitoring suite: repository of generic monitoring statistics for almost all observations (internal and external use)
- Automatic detection of quality/availability issues
- Research monitoring suite: systematic for all experiments and allows inter-comparison (data impact on short ranges)
- Standalone monitoring tools: allow users to explore and investigate other aspects of data usage
- Other sources of information (data providers notifications, external monitoring resources, cross-activities monitoring, etc)

Charts

Our Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) provides forecasts and associated verification at different resolutions and for multiple time ranges. The verification provides essential feedback on the [quality of the forecasting system](#).

Medium range

Extended range

Long range

Quick access:

ecCharts 🔒



Datasets

Real-time and archive forecasts, analyses, climate re-analyses, reforecasts and multi-model datasets.

Real-time datasets

Archive datasets

Open data

Quick access:

Public Datasets >

Data in the MARS Catalogue 🔒 >

Monitoring of the observing system

We continually monitor the quality and availability of the different components of the global observing system used at ECMWF.

[Availability](#)

Satellite data monitoring

Conventional data monitoring

Ocean observation monitoring

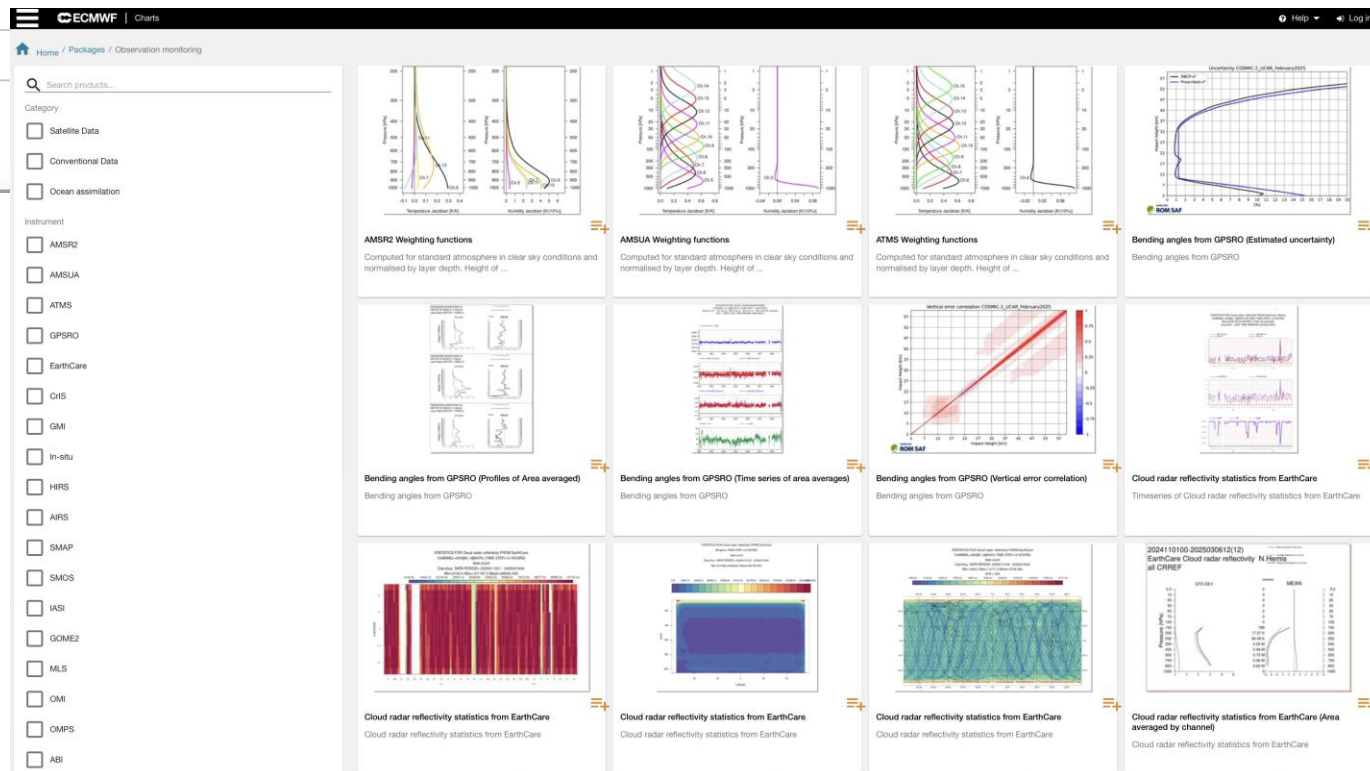
Data automatic checking

Monitoring of GUAN stations

Observation Monitoring Dashboard >

- Almost all earth system observations supported
- Various types of plots for each data type
- Public access

<https://charts.ecmwf.int/catalogue/packages/obstat/>

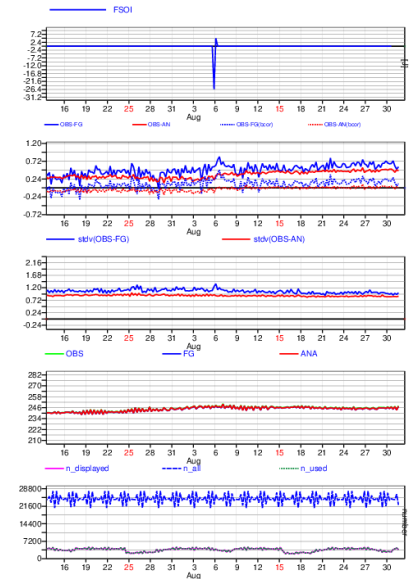
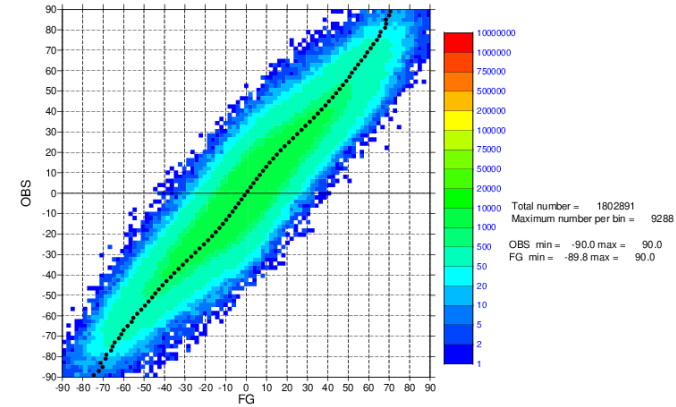


Selected monitoring products

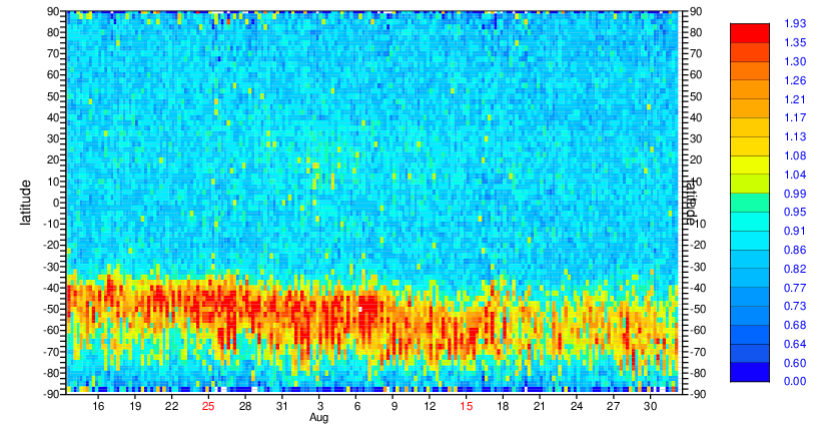
STATISTICS FOR RADIANCES FROM METOP-A/AMSUA (GLOBAL)
 CHANNEL = 14, USED DATA [TIME STEP = 6 HOURS]
 Area: lon_w= 0.0, lon_e= 360.0, lat_s= -70.0, lat_n= 17.5 (over All_surfaces)
 EXP = 0001 (LAST TIME WINDOW: -1)

STATISTICS FOR RADIANCES FROM METOP-A
 STDV OF FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE (USED)
 DATA PERIOD = 2021-06-30 21 - 2021-08-27 21
 EXP = CHANNEL = 14
 Min: 0.475 Max: 1.960 Mean: 0.930
 GRID: 2.00x 2.00

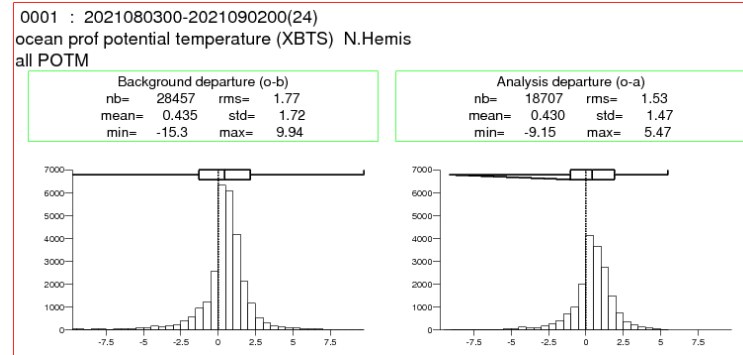
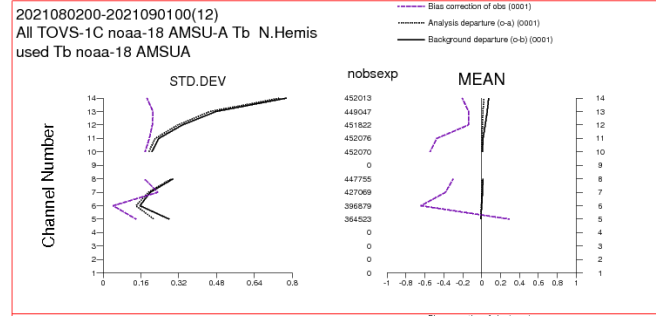
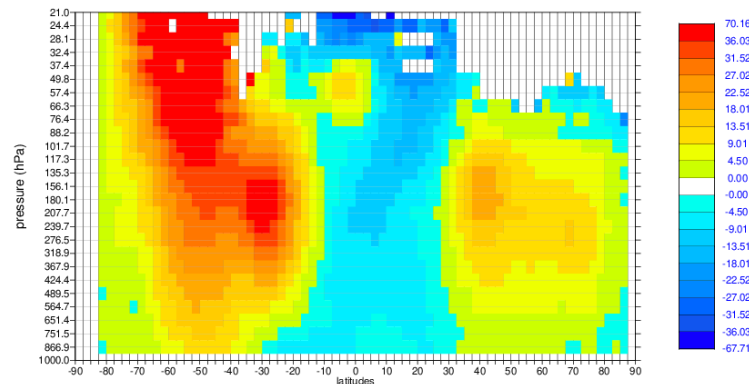
SCATTER PLOT OF FG VERSUS OBS
 AEOLUS HLOS WINDS RAYLEIGH CLEAR
 EXP = 0001 ; PERIOD = 2021080812 - 2021082712
 ALL - GLOBE



STATISTICS FOR RADIANCES FROM METOP-A/AMSUA
 CHANNEL = 14 [TIME STEP = 6 HOURS]
 STDEV FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE , USED
 EXP = 0001, DATA PERIOD = 2021071309 - 2021090115, AREA = 90S - 90N/ 00 - 360
 Min: 0.000 Max: 1.931 Mean: 0.916



STATISTICS FOR HLOS FROM AEOLUS/RAYLEIGH CLEAR (ASCENDING NODE)
 LEVEL = 21.00 - 1000.00 HPA [TIME STEP = 3 HOURS]
 MEAN OBSERVATION VALUE , ALL (QC FILTERED)
 EXP = 0001, DATA PERIOD = 2021080809 - 2021082809, AREA = 90S - 90N/ 00 - 360
 Min: -67.710 Max: 70.160 Mean: 8.371



<https://obsstatus.ecmwf.int/>

Observations Monitoring Dashboard

Showing data from **2025/03/19 step 12:00 UTC (latest)**

hide channels with no anomalies

- Microwave observations
- Infrared observations
- GNSS Radio Occultation
- Geostationary radiances
- Atmopsheric Motion Vectors
- Ozone
- Satellite altimetry
- Scatterometer winds
- In-situ observations
- Ocean observations

This dashboard provides a summary of availability, quality and usage of observations received at ECMWF. Observations are grouped in categories to reflect the data type and observed geophysical parameters. The availability and quality status is provided by the ECMWF automatic data checking system. The status is displayed using a traffic light system:

- The product group is Nominal.
- The product group is degraded. Click on the group to reveal the sub-groups affected.
- The product group is affected by severe anomalies or quality or availability. Click on the group to reveal the sub-groups affected.
- The channel/layer is monitored only.

Observations Monitoring Dashboard

Showing data from **2025/03/19 step 12:00 UTC (latest)**

hide channels with no anomalies

- Microwave observations
 - AMSR2
 - SSMIS
 - MWHS2
 - GMI
 - GPM
 - Global
 - Channel 1
 - Channel 2
 - Channel 3
 - Channel 4
 - Channel 5
 - Channel 6
 - Channel 7
 - Channel 8
 - Channel 9
 - Channel 10
 - Channel 11
 - Channel 12
 - Channel 13
- AMSUA
- MHS
- ATMS
- Infrared observations
- GNSS Radio Occultation
- Geostationary radiances
- Atmopsheric Motion Vectors
- Ozone
- Satellite altimetry

Automatic data checking system

- The large amount, of active observations makes it difficult to timely detect availability/quality issues
- An automatic data checking system is implemented at ECMWF to continuously monitors satellite and in-situ data (main trigger for corrective actions). Warnings available to internal and selected external users, at user specified levels of detail
- The same system is used to detect improved in-situ data that are currently excluded (timely activation of improved observations)
- Detects data problems but informs also when extreme events are taking place or in case of issues with the model/DA

Observations with model feedback info (ODB)

Current statistics
Selected Obs quantities

Past statistics
Selected Obs quantities

ML training

anomaly detection

ML based tests
Static tests
Filters

Weather events

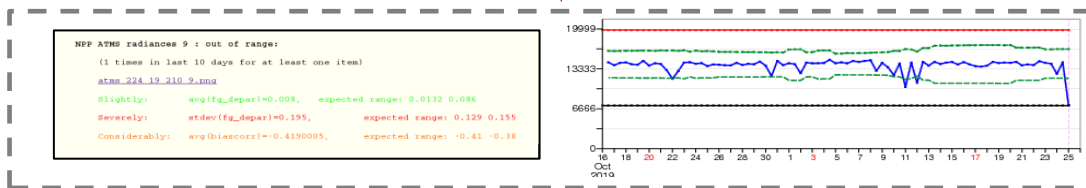
Past warnings

Metadata

ML Classifier (all warnings)

Ignore facility

Record of new/missing datasets



Periodic reporting

Email

Dashboard

Web

Event Data base

Blocklist procedure

Automatic data checking system

Three-component system

All observations

Detects widespread **availability** and **quality** problems over selected **areas**

Based on FG and Analysis departures, bias correction, data counts, etc

In-situ observations

Detects severe **quality** problems affecting **individual stations**

Detect stations persistently missing

Detect new stations

Based on FG departures and the IFS produced PGE

In-situ observations

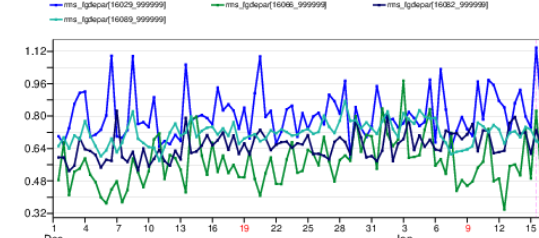
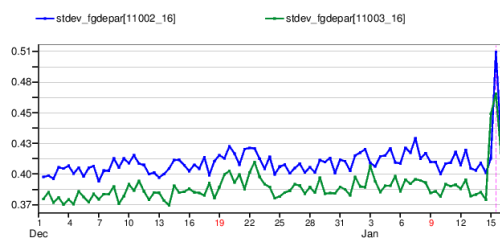
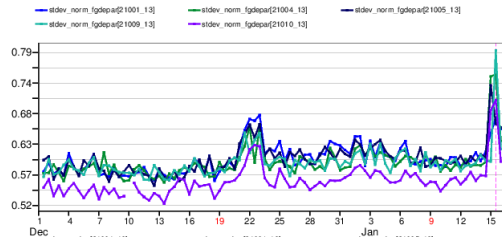
Detects persistent **quality** improvements of “blacklisted” stations

Based on an estimated PGE

What ML can offer ?

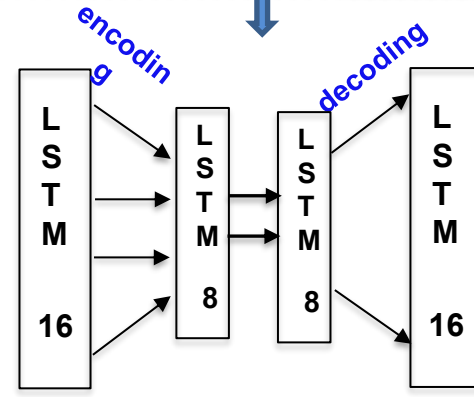
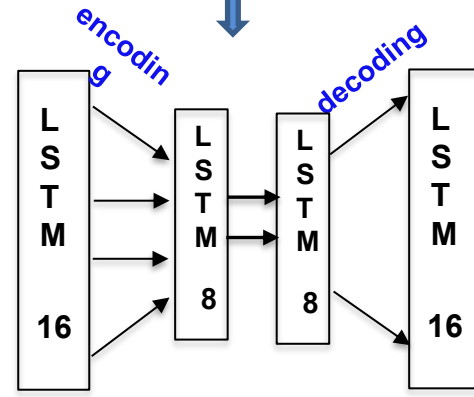
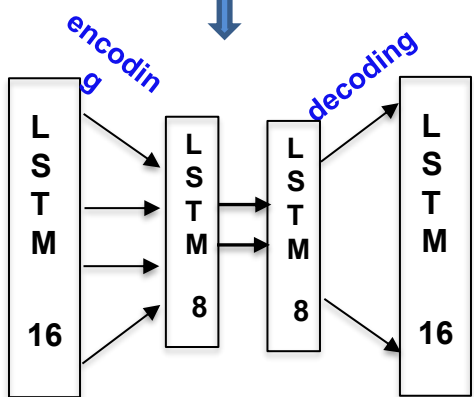
- Perform **anomaly detection** from time series (unsupervised learning):
 - better handling of limits
 - Reduce false alarms
 - Learn from past events
- **Improve classification** of warnings (supervised learning): Severity, likely cause, need for action, etc
 - Cross-checking of warnings from all components of the observing system
 - Consider significant weather events (TC, areas of significant increments, strong winds, heavy rain, etc)
 - Understand patterns from Analysts judgment or simulations

Observation stats



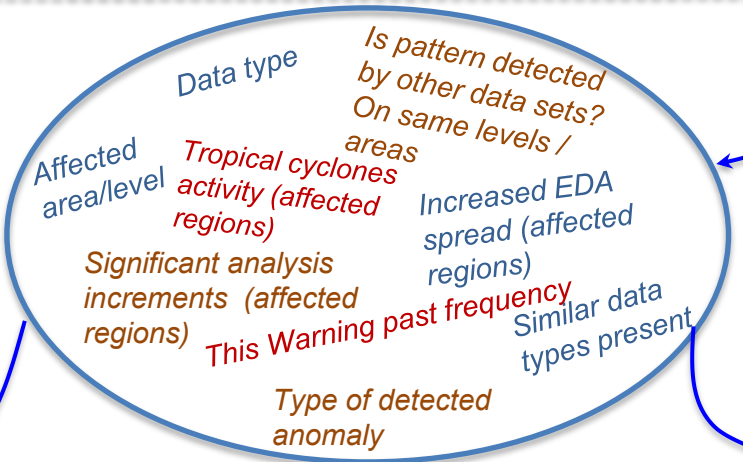
TensorFlow
(LSTM
autoencoder)
Detect Anomalies

Re-training
performed
periodically



ML classifier (random
forests)
Improves
classification

Training based on labelled
warnings populated from the
operational alarm system)



Feedback
Improve training

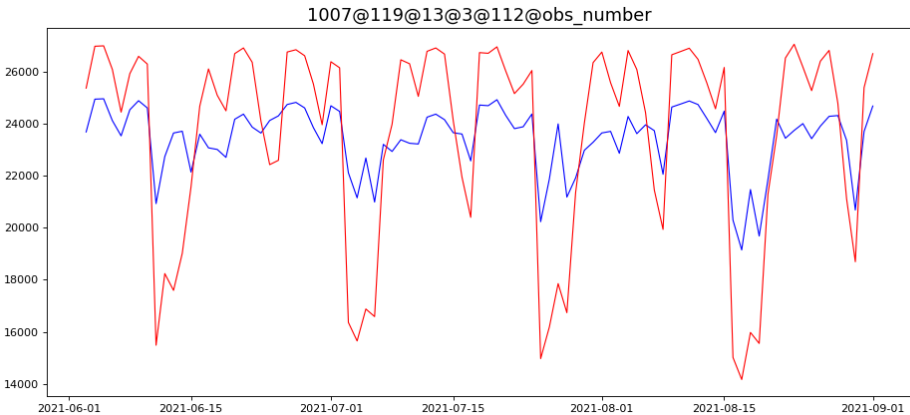
Consolidate warnings and assign
severity per data type

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severity per data type

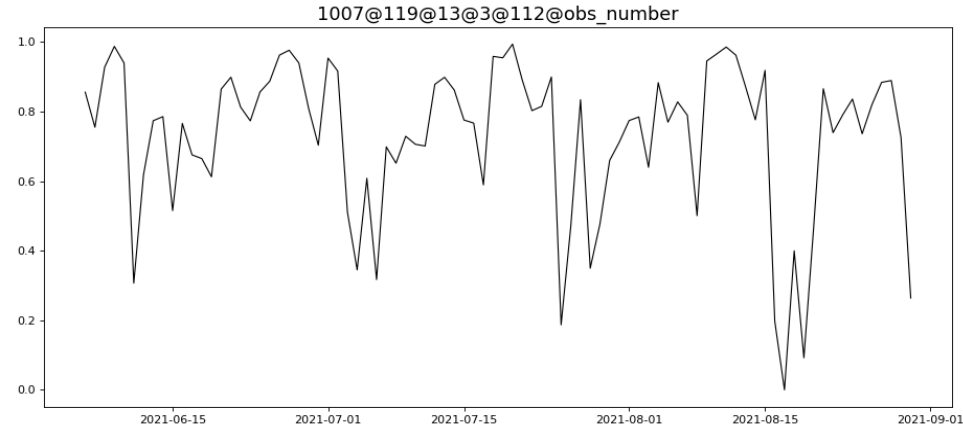
Consolidate warnings and assign
severity per data type



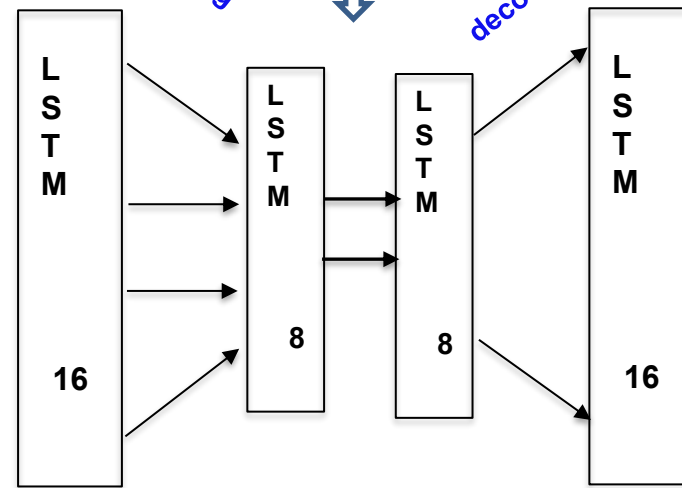
Smoothing (adjust periodic signals) and removal of previous events



MinMax scaling



tensorflow keras



Reconstructed timeseries

→ Anomaly detection

Actual timeseries

Training period

Forecasting period

Building of the RNN model

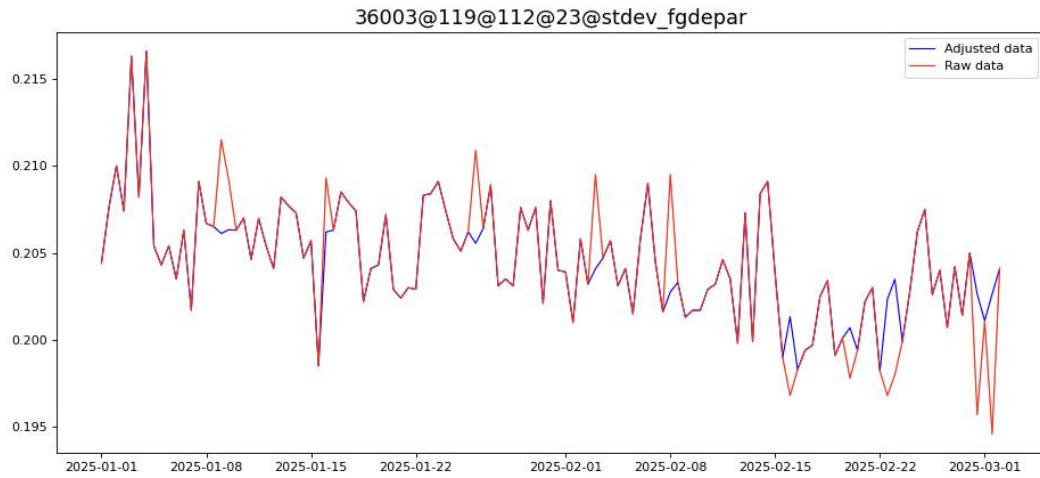
Estimation of thresholds based on reconstruction errors

For each data type two RNN models are trained on short (all data types) and long timeseries (satellite only):

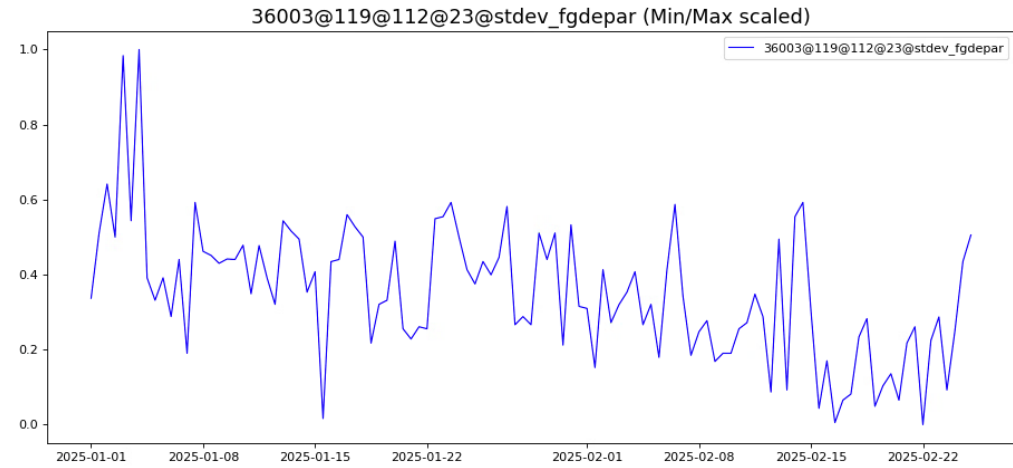
- RNN model trained on short timeseries (2 months):
 - Designed to detect sudden changes
 - staggered re-training schedule where each time series is updated once every 20 days.
 - Thresholds are estimated from the reconstruction loss distribution (from training dataset)
 - Periodicity adjustment applied to data counts only
 - A preliminary severity level is assigned based on how far the reconstruction error from thresholds (again based on loss distribution)

NOAA-21 CrIs Channel 23

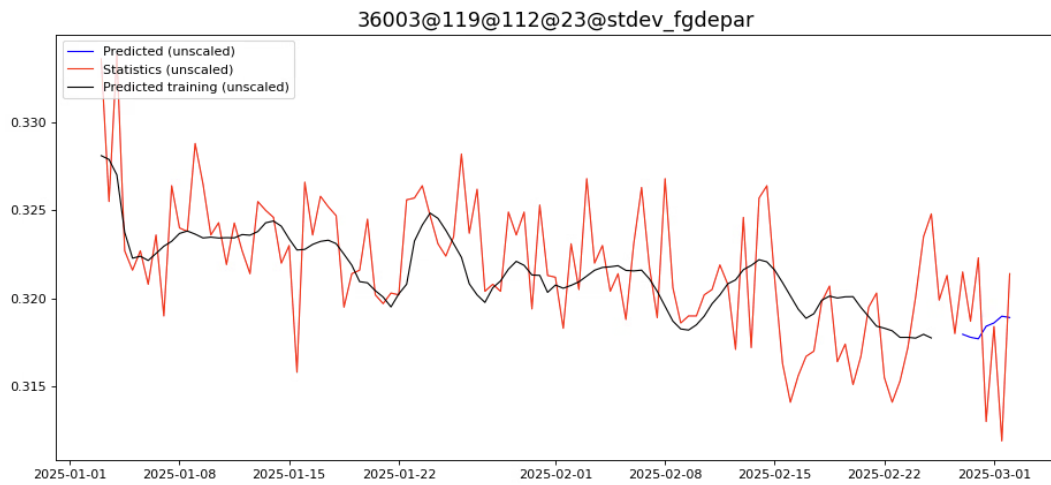
Raw and adjusted stats



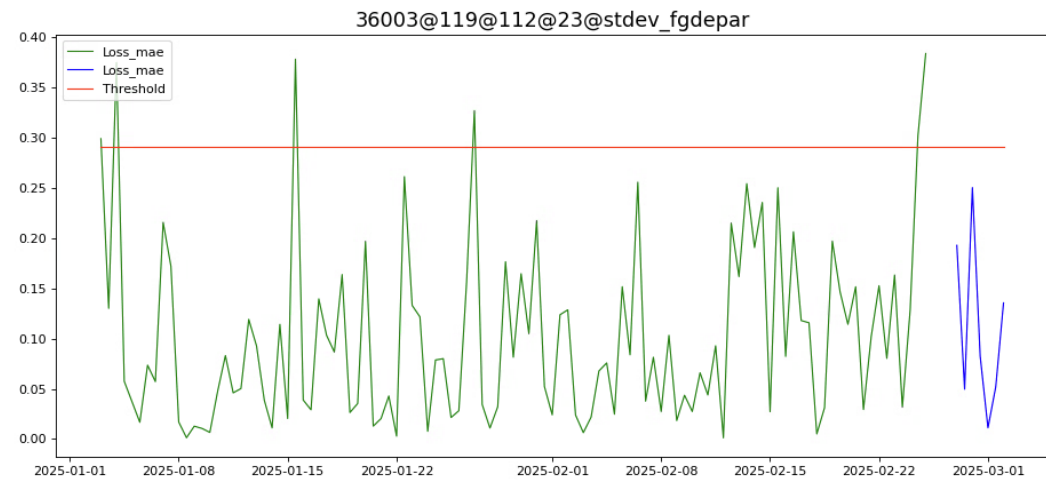
Scaled stats



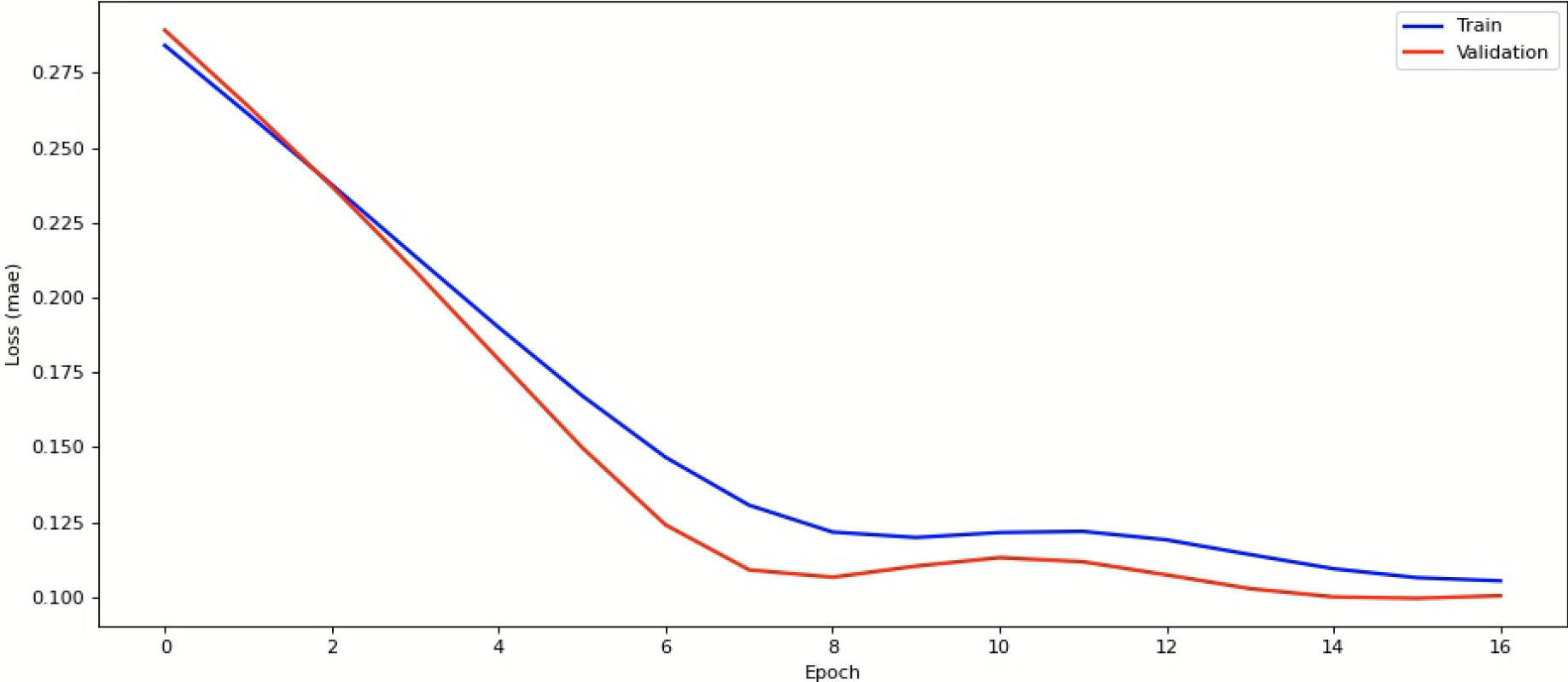
Predicted vs Observed stats



Detection step



Model loss

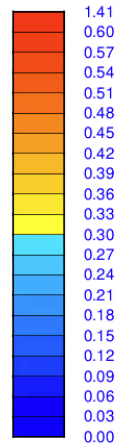
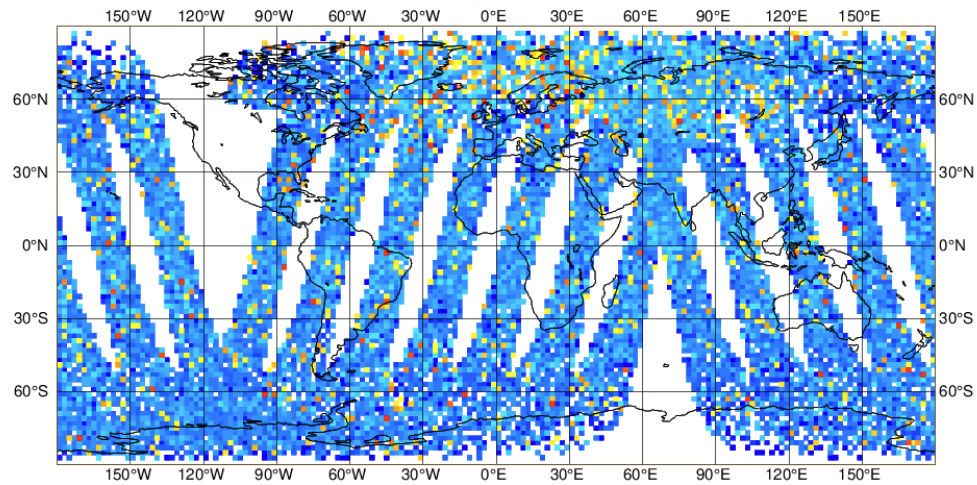


NOAA-21 CrIS Channel 23

20250301 21 – 20250302 09

STATISTICS FOR CRIS FROM NOAA-21
STDV OF FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE [K] (ALL)
DATA PERIOD = 2025-03-01 00 - 2025-03-02 00

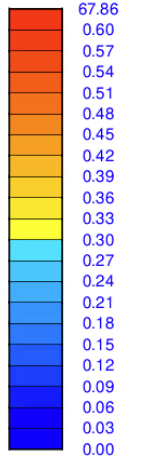
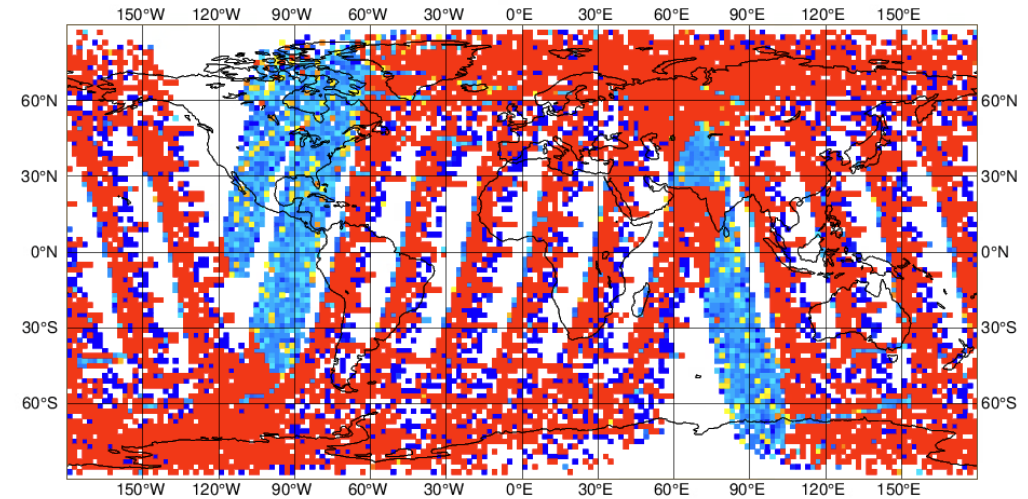
EXP =, CHANNEL = 23
Min: 0.000 Max: 1.377 Mean: 0.202
GRID: 2.00x 2.00



20250302 21 – 20250303 09

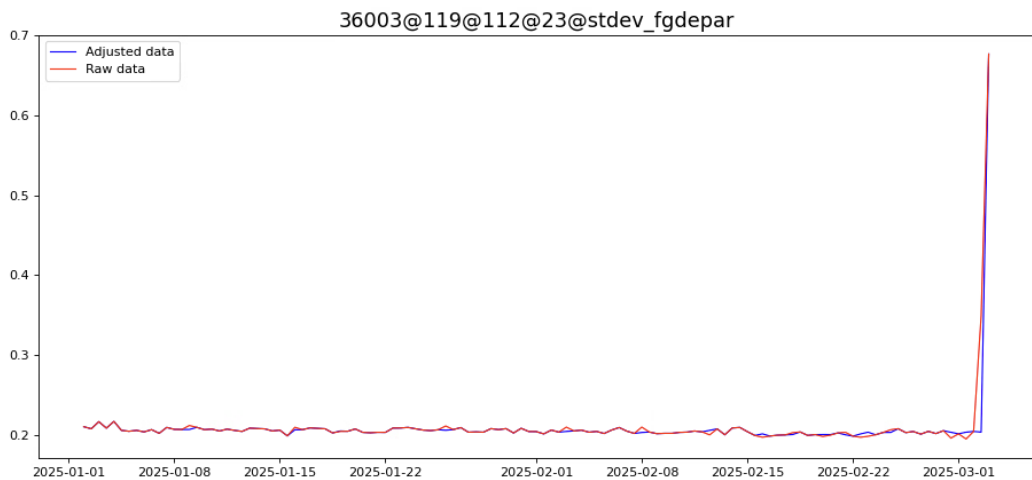
STATISTICS FOR CRIS FROM NOAA-21
STDV OF FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE [K] (ALL)
DATA PERIOD = 2025-03-01 00 - 2025-03-03 00

EXP =, CHANNEL = 23
Min: 0.000 Max: 67.833 Mean: 11.585
GRID: 2.00x 2.00

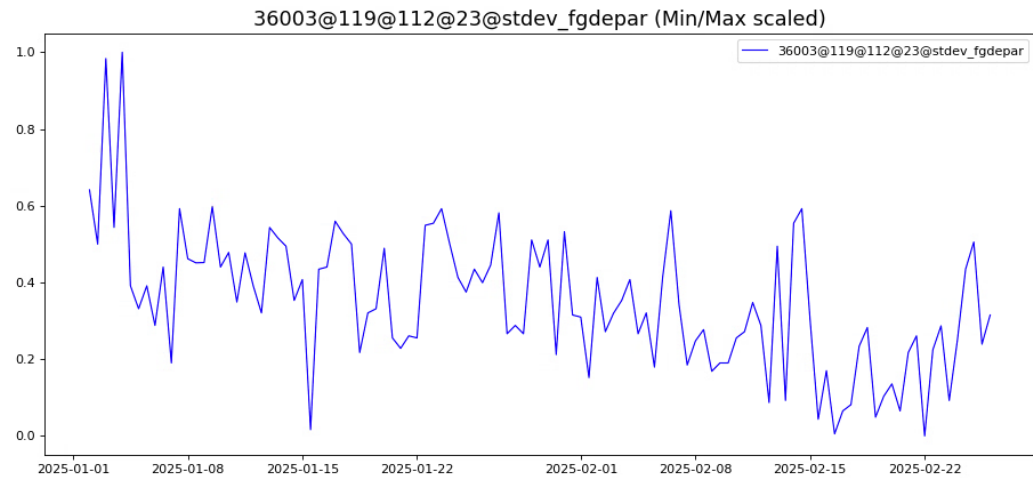


NOAA-21 CrIS Channel 23

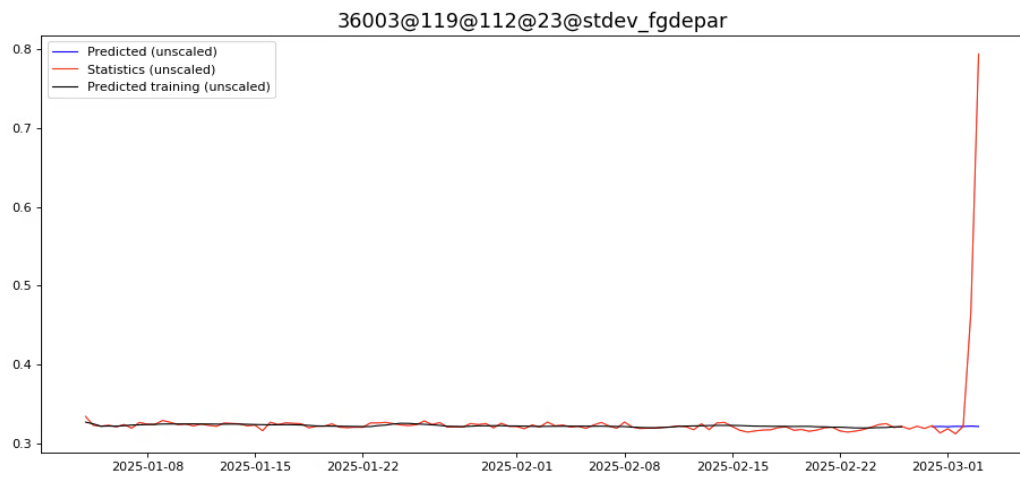
Raw and adjusted stats



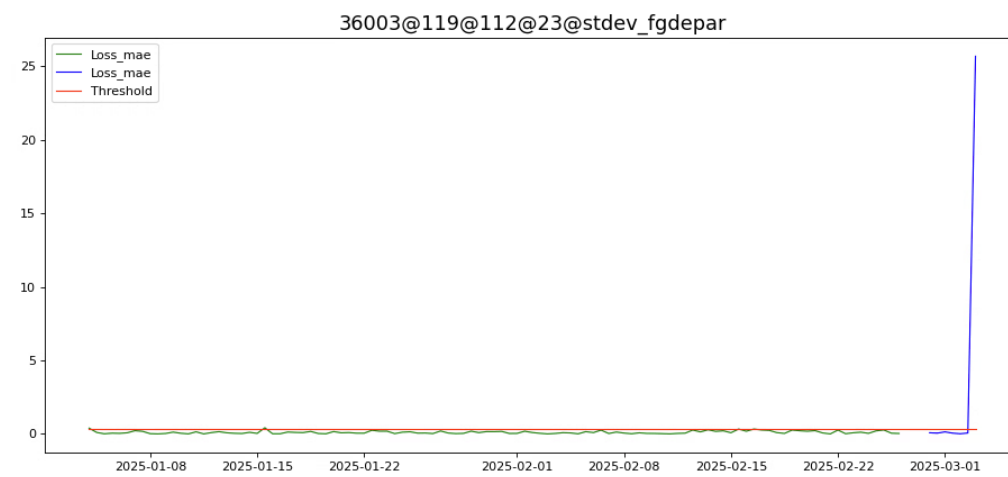
Scaled stats



Predicted vs Observed stats

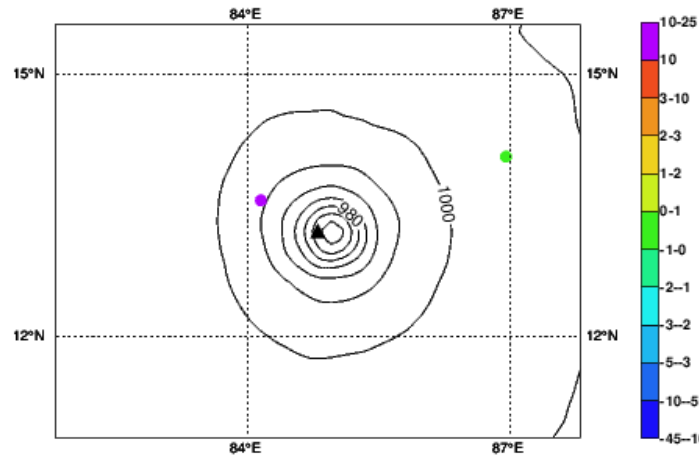


Detection step

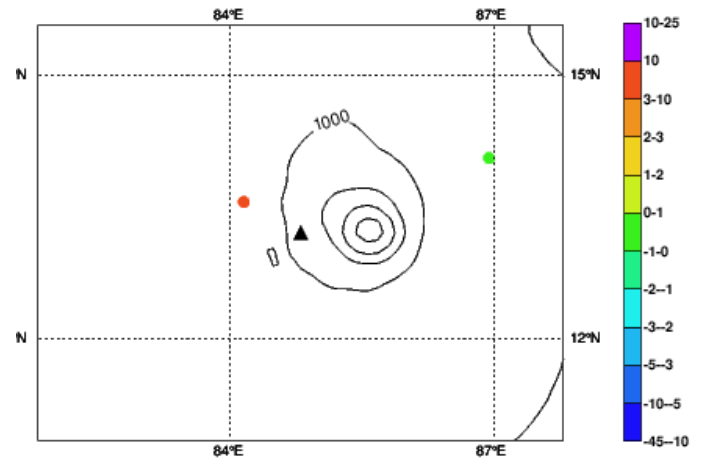


Faulty moored buoy (23094)

Surface pressure OBS-FG (Surface Surface) hPa [All 9H to 15H]
 0001 06h MSLP from 20190430 06 LWDA [FANI(967.475625)]
 [contour interval every 5 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (964)]
 Mean: 4.33054 StDev: 7.45137 Data Count: 3



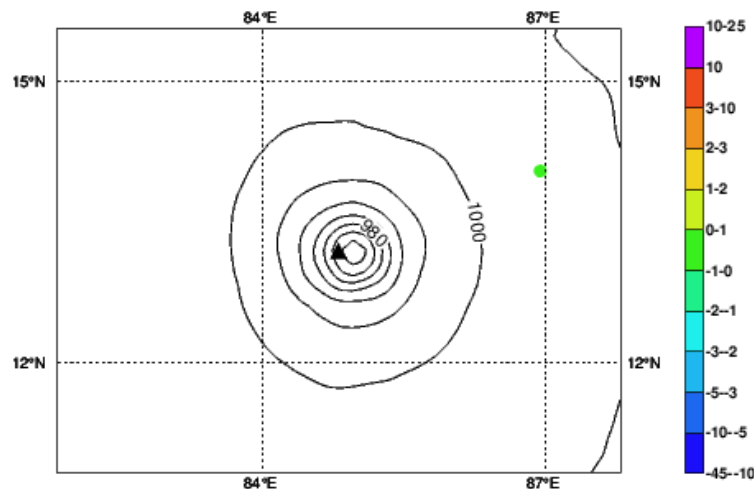
Surface pressure OBS-AN (Surface Surface) hPa [All 9H to 15H]
 0001 AN MSLP for 20190430 12 [FANI(983.350625)]
 [contour interval every 5 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (964)]
 Mean: 230.3904266 StDev: 4.57726 Data Count: 3



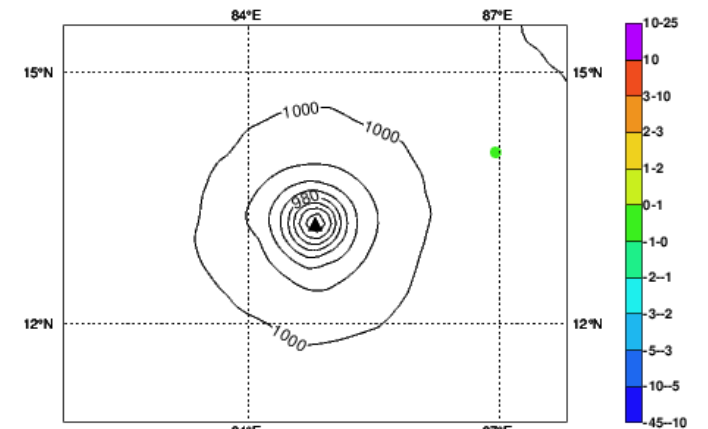
The forecast was also - impacted

Denial of the buoy 23094

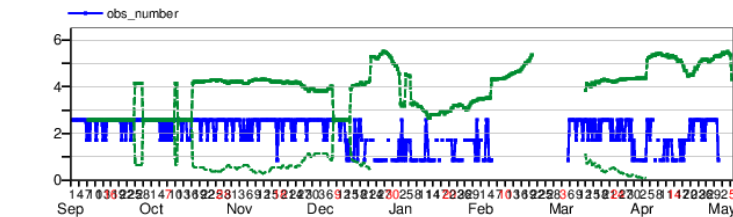
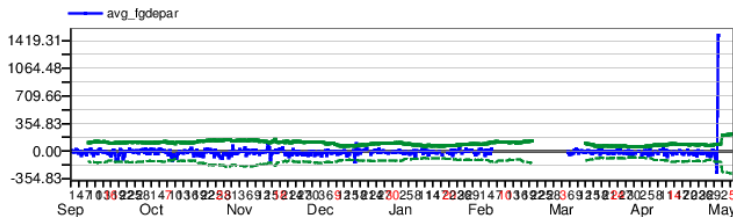
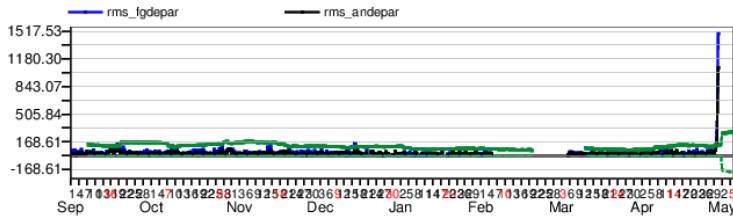
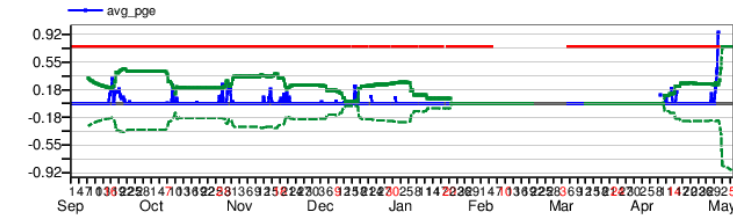
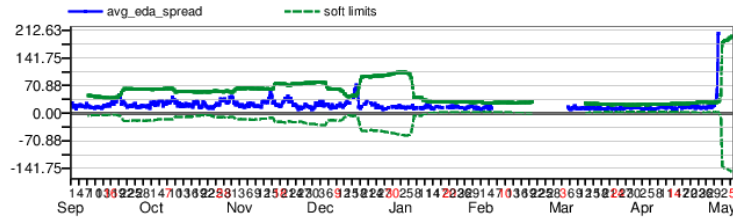
Surface pressure OBS-FG (Surface Surface) hPa [All 9H to 15H]
 h6py 06h MSLP from 20190430 06 LWDA [FANI(967.475625)]
 [contour interval every 5 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (964)]
 Mean: -0.93544 StDev: 0.304465 Data Count: 2



Surface pressure OBS-AN (Surface Surface) hPa [All 9H to 15H]
 h6py AN MSLP for 20190430 12 [FANI(961.315625)]
 [contour interval every 5 hPa/ observed position in black triangle (964)]
 Mean: -79.390976 StDev: 0.205471 Data Count: 2

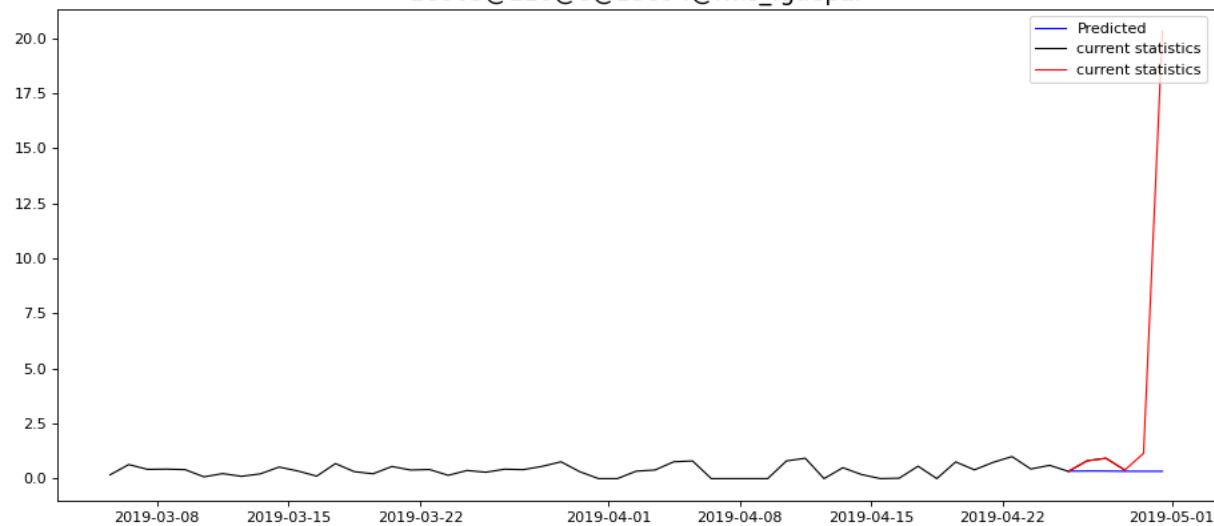


DRIBU Surface_pressure ID 23094
 All data, EXP =0001
 16005_110_0_23094 (used)



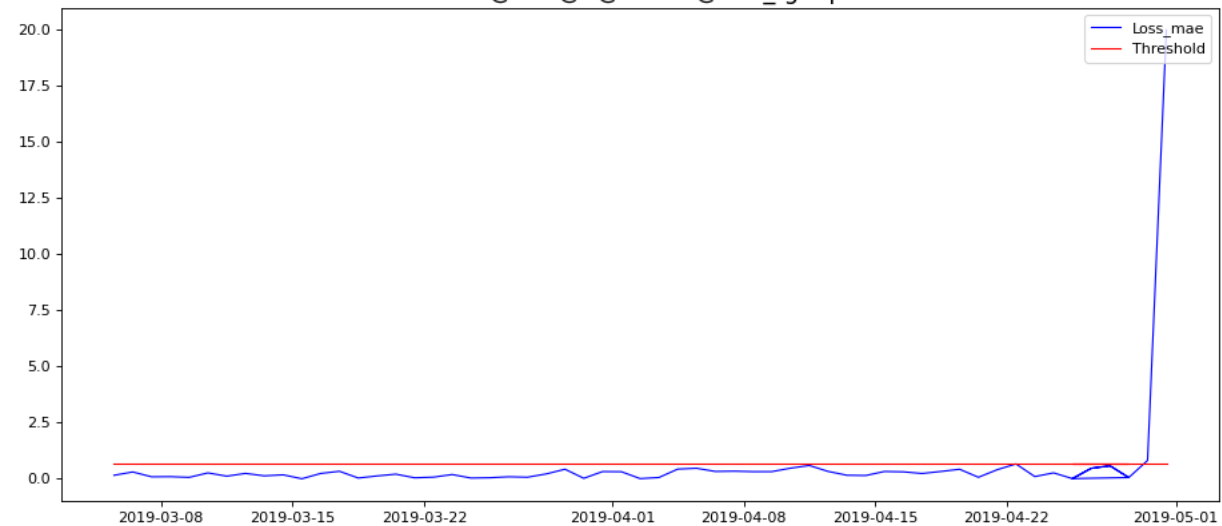
Predicted and current stats (short timeseries)

16005@110@0@23094@rms_fgdepar



Re-construction error (short timeseries)

16005@110@0@23094@rms_fgdepar

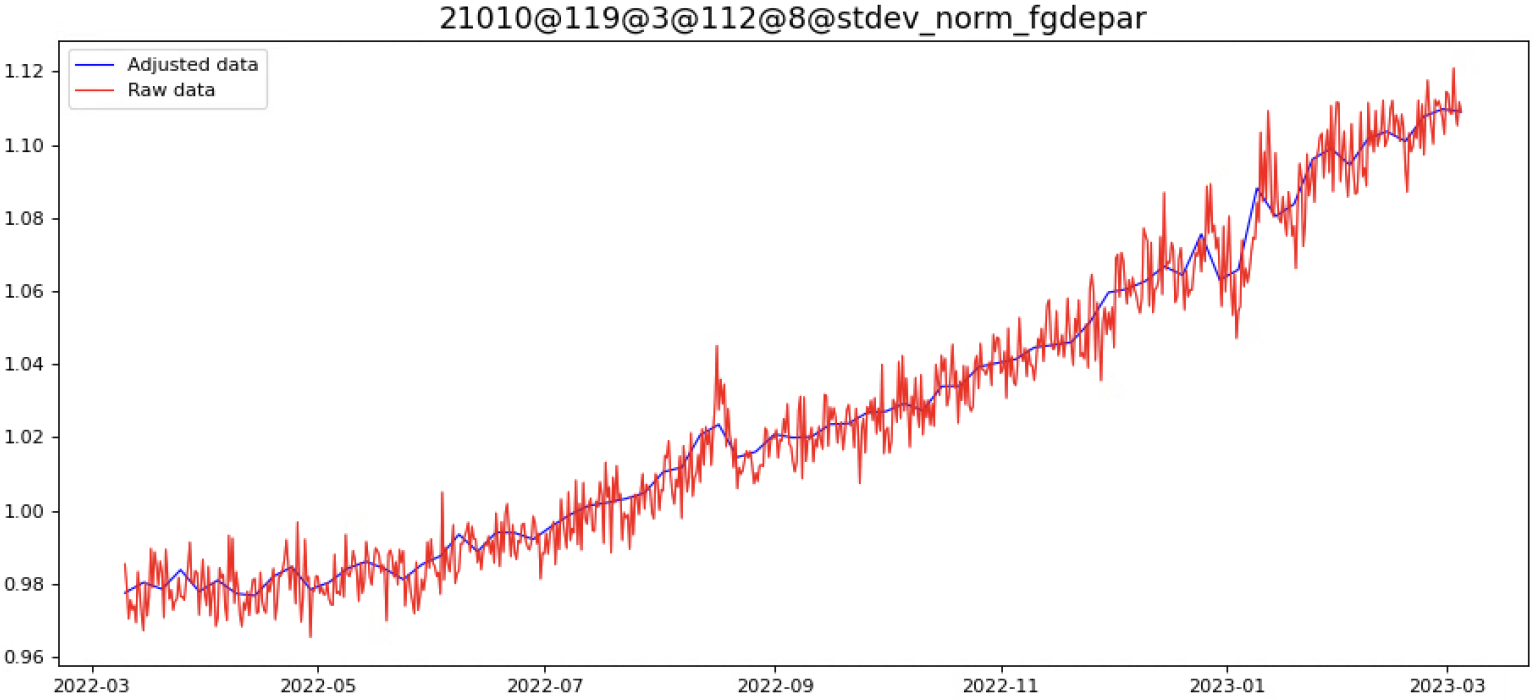


Anomaly detection (unsupervised learning)

For each data type (satellite only) two RNN models are trained on short and [long timeseries](#):

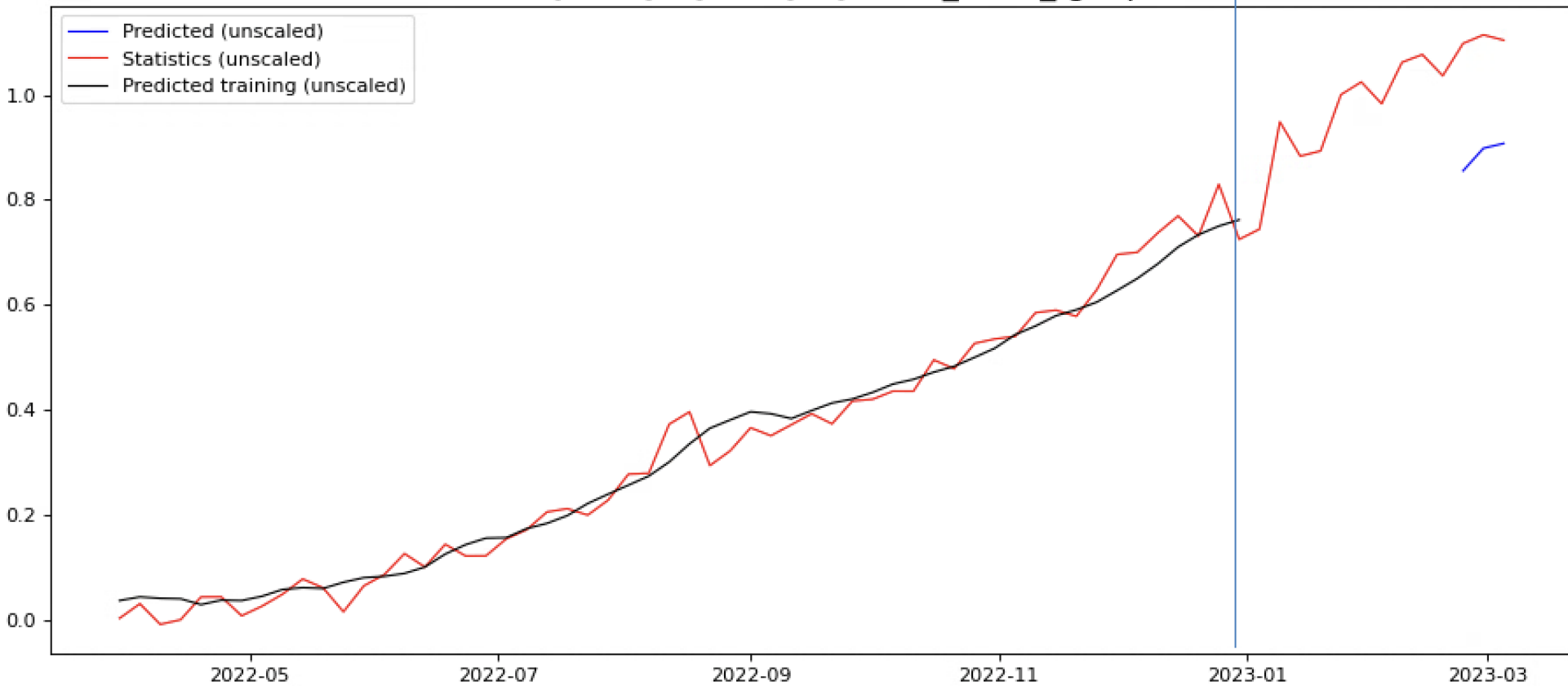
- RNN model trained on long timeseries (12 months when available):
 - Designed to detect slow changes
 - Model re-trained every week.
 - Thresholds are estimated from the reconstruction loss distribution (from training dataset)
 - Standard deviation of background departures and bias correction are pre-processed to remove periodic signals
 - If an exceedance is flagged, then an additional test is performed to see if a monotonic trend is dominating the period. If the trend test fails (many changing slopes) and if no sudden change is detected (based on short time series) then the event is ignored.

Metop-B AMSUA Channel 8



Metop-B AMSUA Channel 8

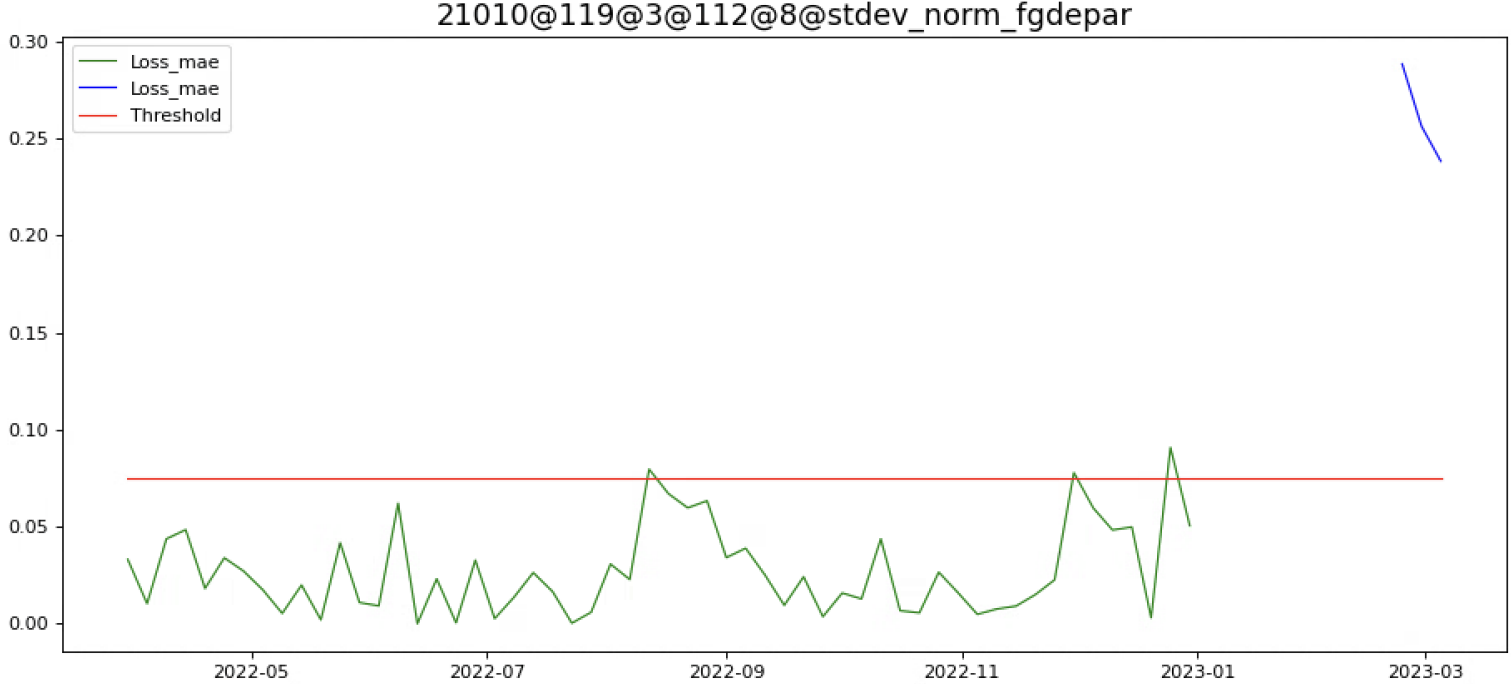
21010@119@3@112@8@stdev_norm_fgdepar



Training period

Prediction

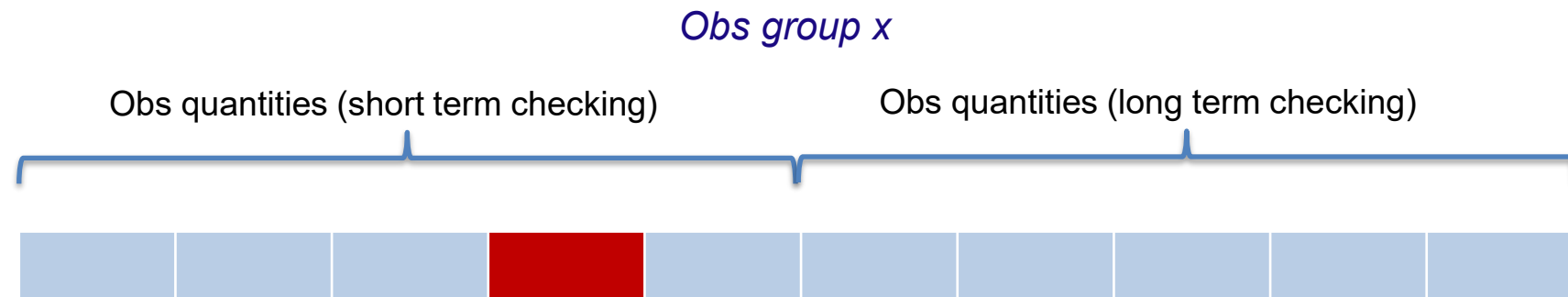
Metop-B AMSUA Channel 8



Test of monotonic trend confirmed: warning of drift issued

Anomaly detection (unsupervised learning)

All flagged cases are recorded (bitfields) in the data files and excluded from subsequent training (positive feedback)



In future evolution of the system the recorded information can be potentially used by the DA to reject data. Allow the screening to take advantage of the past behaviour of the data.

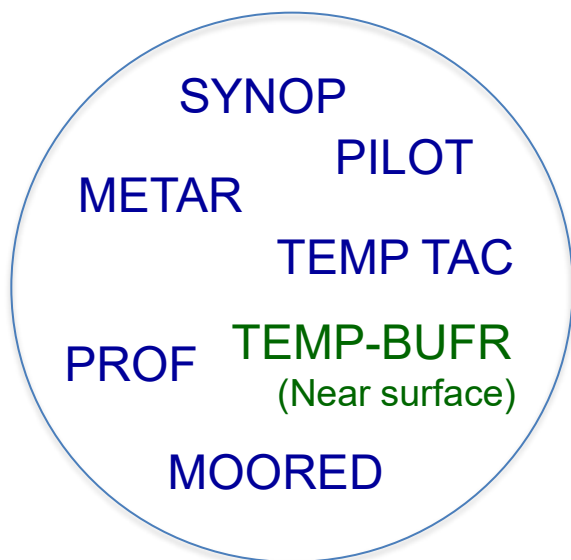
➤ Additional tests (mainly for in-situ data):

- Detect metadata changes (position movement, speed, land sea mask change)
- Departures exceeding static limits
- VarQC exceeding static limit

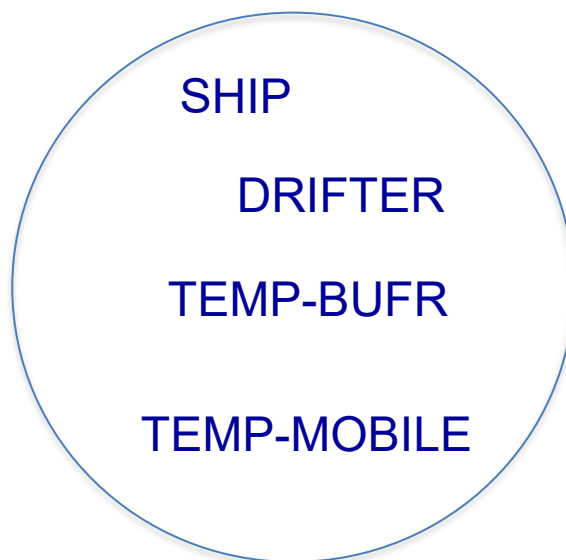
Metadata changes

- Several reports of in-situ stations affected by unexpected metadata changes
- Most of issues remain silent during fair weather but can potentially degrade the forecast
- Changes affecting remote areas are more worrisome
- Build timeseries of metadata indicators

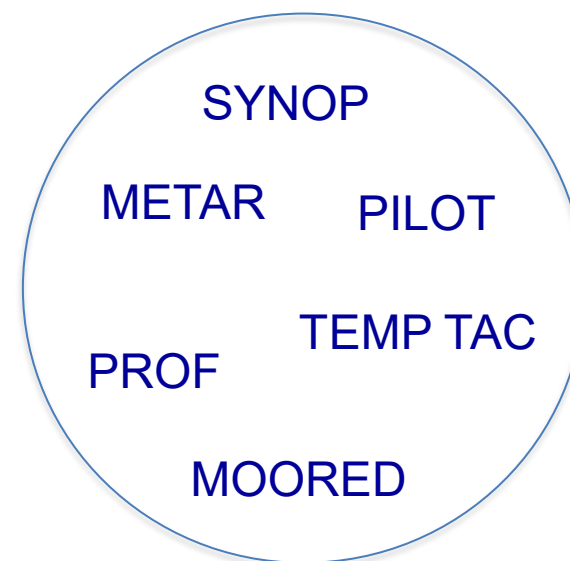
Changes of position
(history)



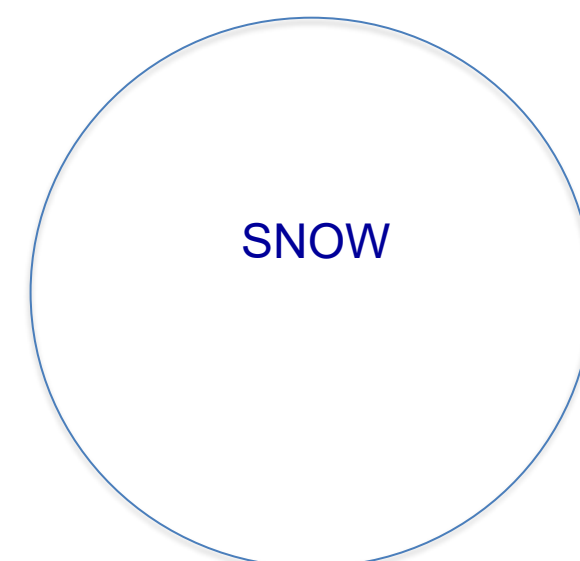
Speed of movement
(within DA)



Change of land sea mask
(history)

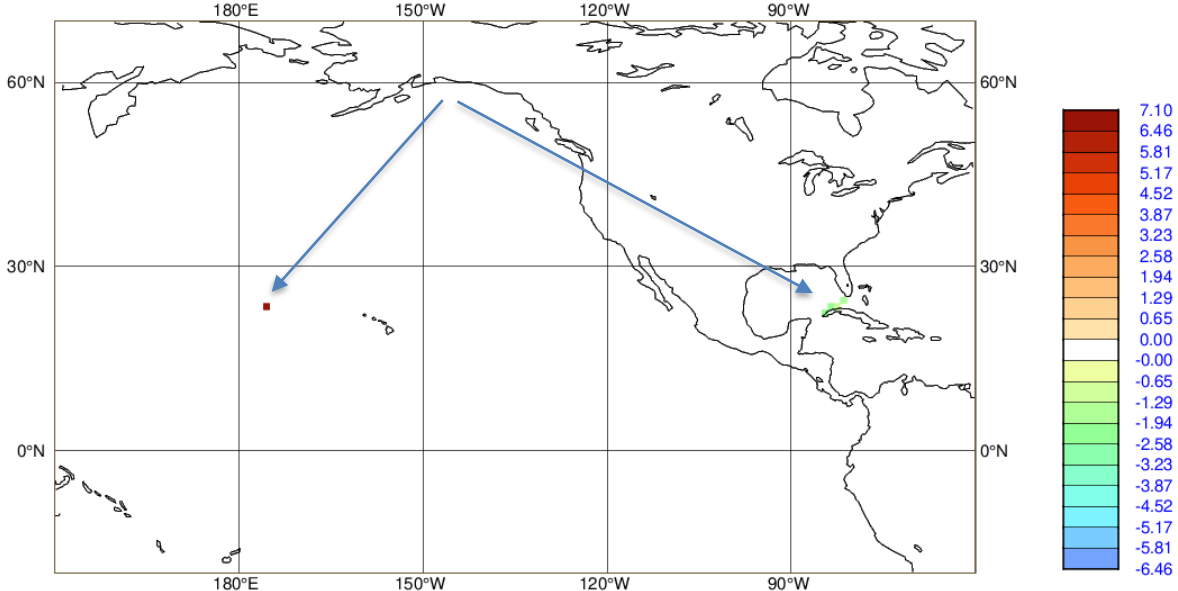


Warm conditions (snow)
(history)



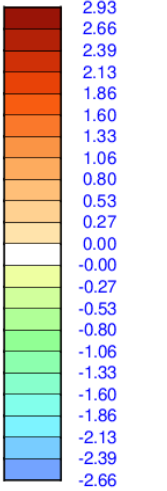
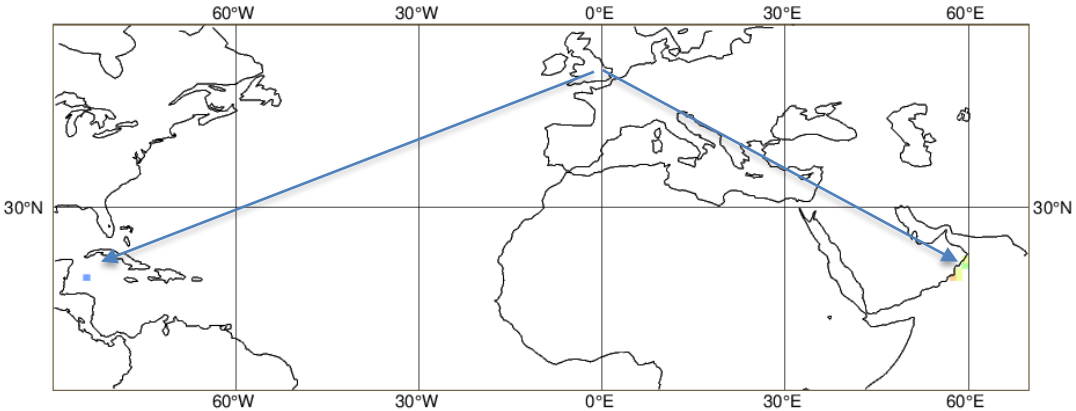
SHIP CFFW9

SURFACE PRESSURE (HPA) FROM C6FW9
 MEAN FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE (OBS-FG) [HPA] (ACTIVE)
 DATA PERIOD: 2022120809 - 2022120821
 ACTIVE-LAYER:5.-1100 HPA-AREA:N:70,S:-20,W:150,E:-60
 Min: -2.218 Max: 6.457 Mean: -0.519
 GRID: 1.00x 1.00



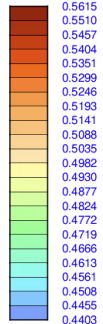
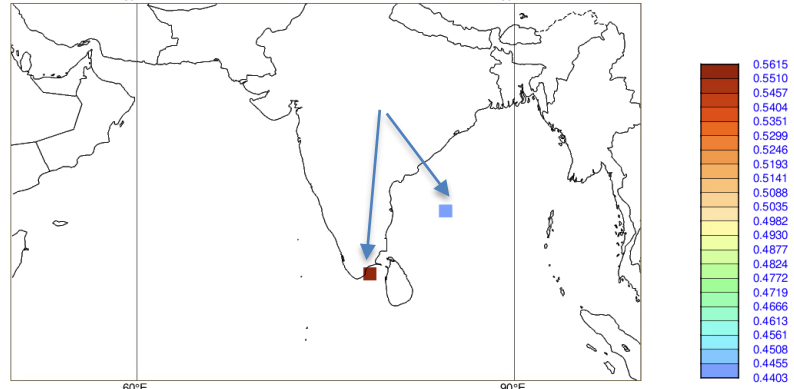
SURFACE PRESSURE (HPA) FROM WSEP
 MEAN FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE (OBS-FG) [HPA] (ACTIVE)
 DATA PERIOD: 2022120809 - 2022120821
 ACTIVE-LAYER:5.-1100 HPA-AREA:N:60,S:0,W:-90,E:70
 Min: -2.661 Max: 0.396 Mean: -0.538
 GRID: 1.00x 1.00

SHIP WSEP



SURFACE PRESSURE (HPA) FROM 2300094
 STDV OF FIRST GUESS DEPARTURE [HPA] (ACTIVE)
 DATA PERIOD: 2025031912 - 2025051812
 ACTIVE-LAYER:5.-1100 HPA-AREA:N:30,S:0,W:50,E:100
 Min: 0.440 Max: 0.556 Mean: 0.447
 GRID: 1.00x 1.00

Moored 2300094

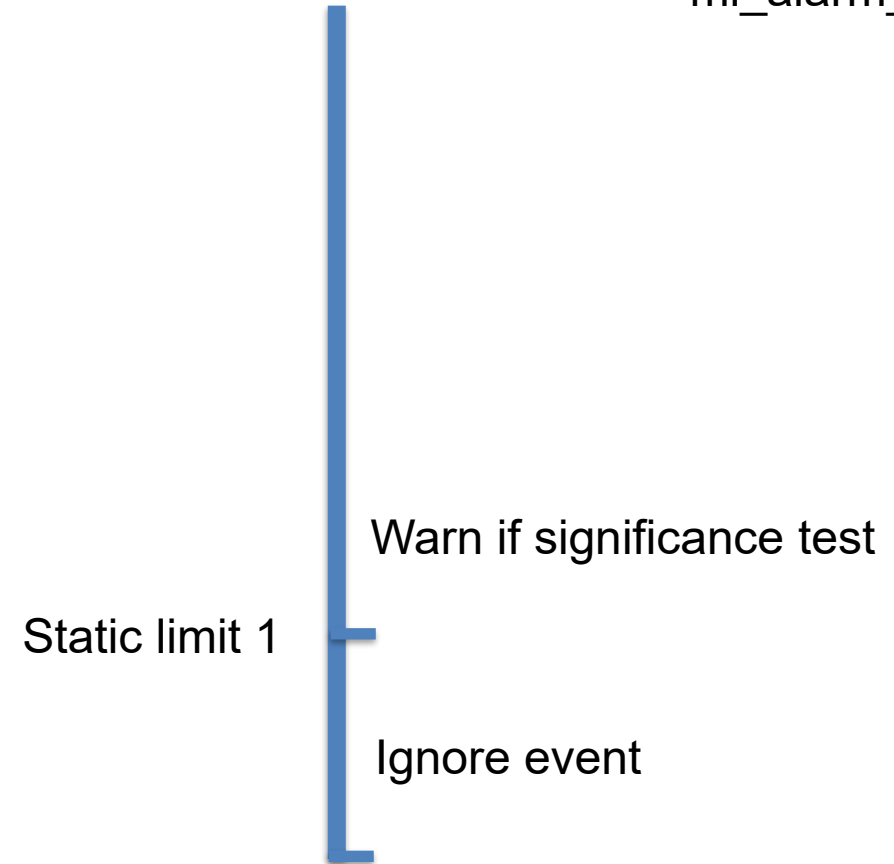
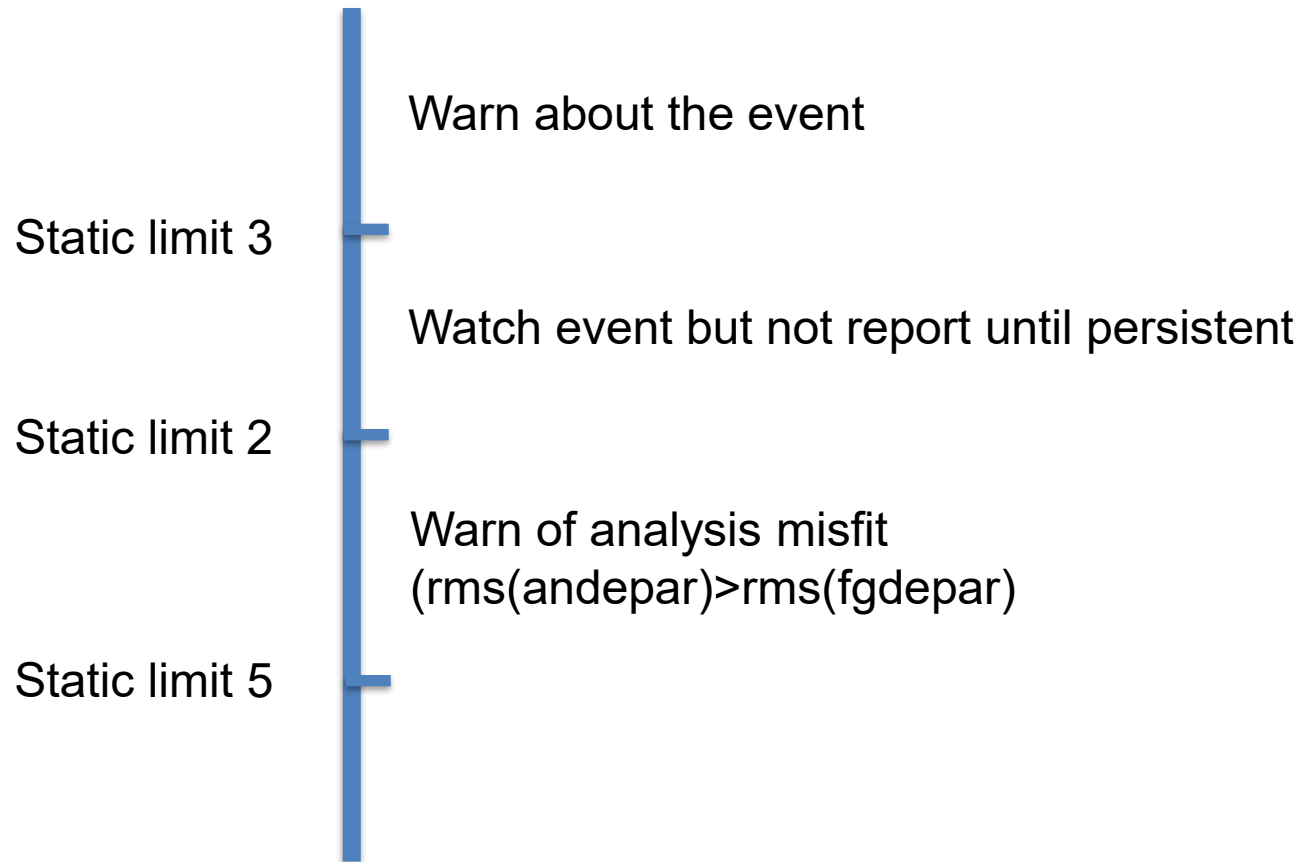


In-situ observations (individual stations)

RMS departures

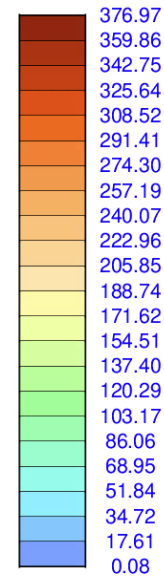
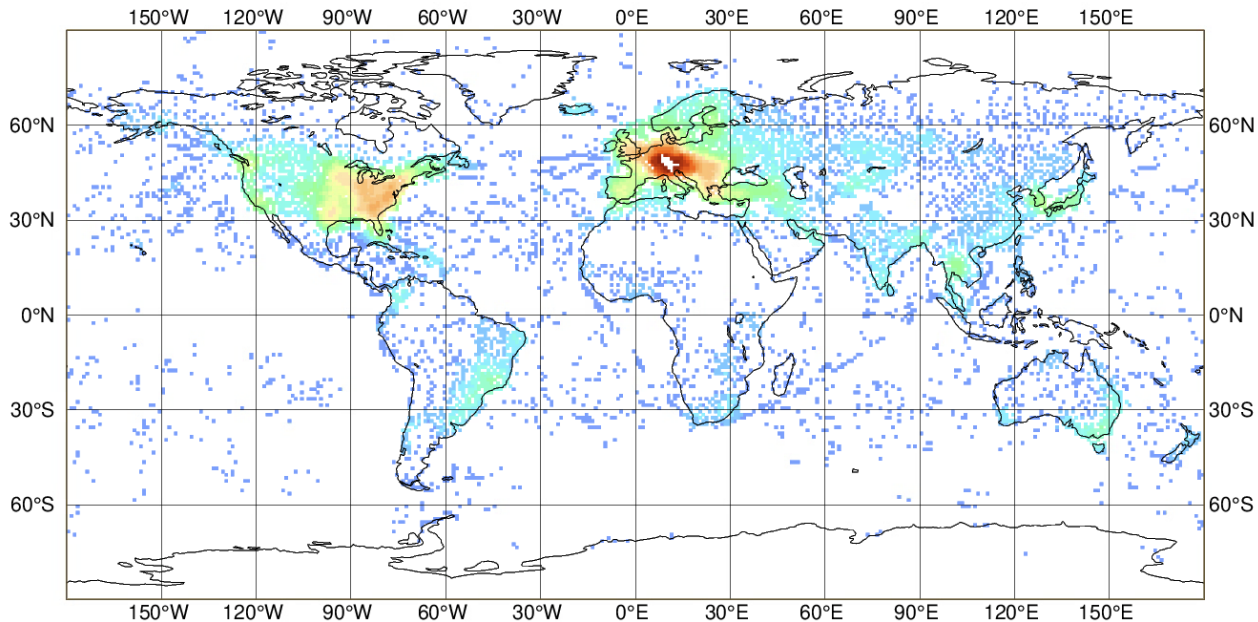
biases

ml_alarm_settings.py



Observations density and automatic detection

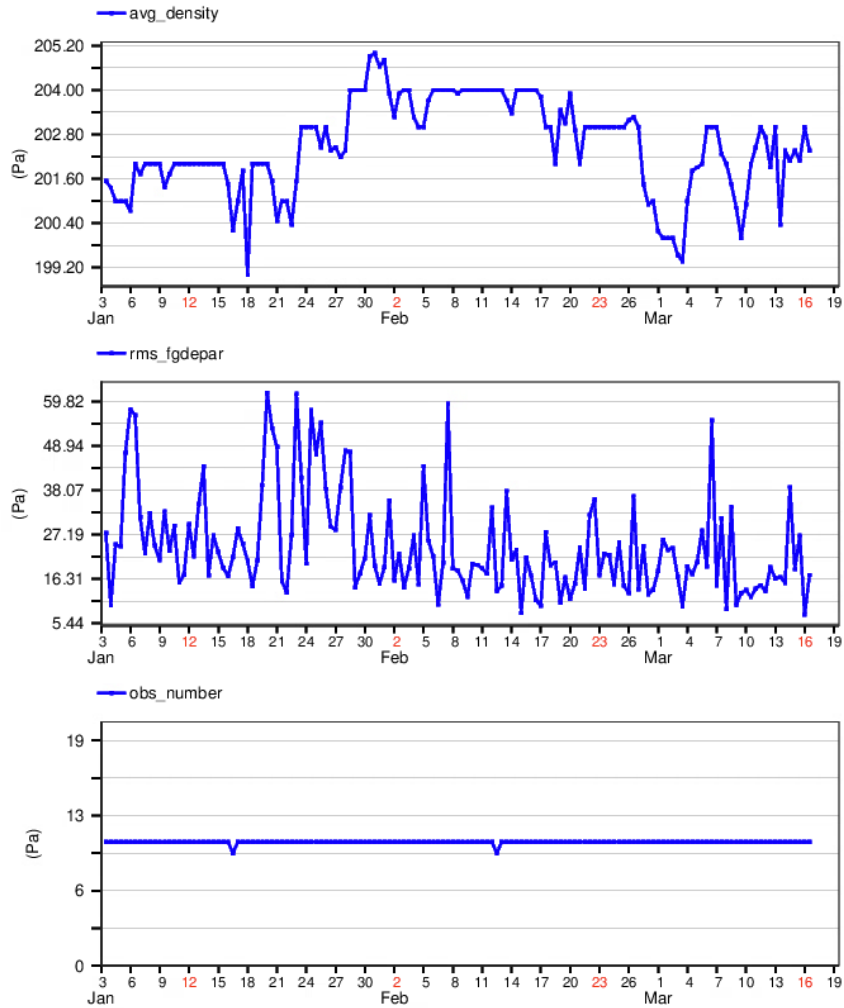
PRESSURE FROM ALL
DENSITY1 (ALL)
DATA PERIOD = 2025-03-09 00 - 2025-03-10 00
EXP = , CHANNEL = 1
Min: 0.083 Max: 403.955 Mean: 109.884
GRID: 1.00x 1.00



- *Monitoring of the number of surrounding observations (same variable number) regardless of data types: 4 and 8 degrees*
- *The density will be used to change priorities of actions.*
 - *Stations with many neighbouring stations will have low priority*
 - *Stations with few neighbouring stations will have high priority (monitoring counts, reporting, etc)*
 - *Warnings affecting many neighbouring stations should trigger immediate action if not weather related (issue with the data provider or potential hacking)*

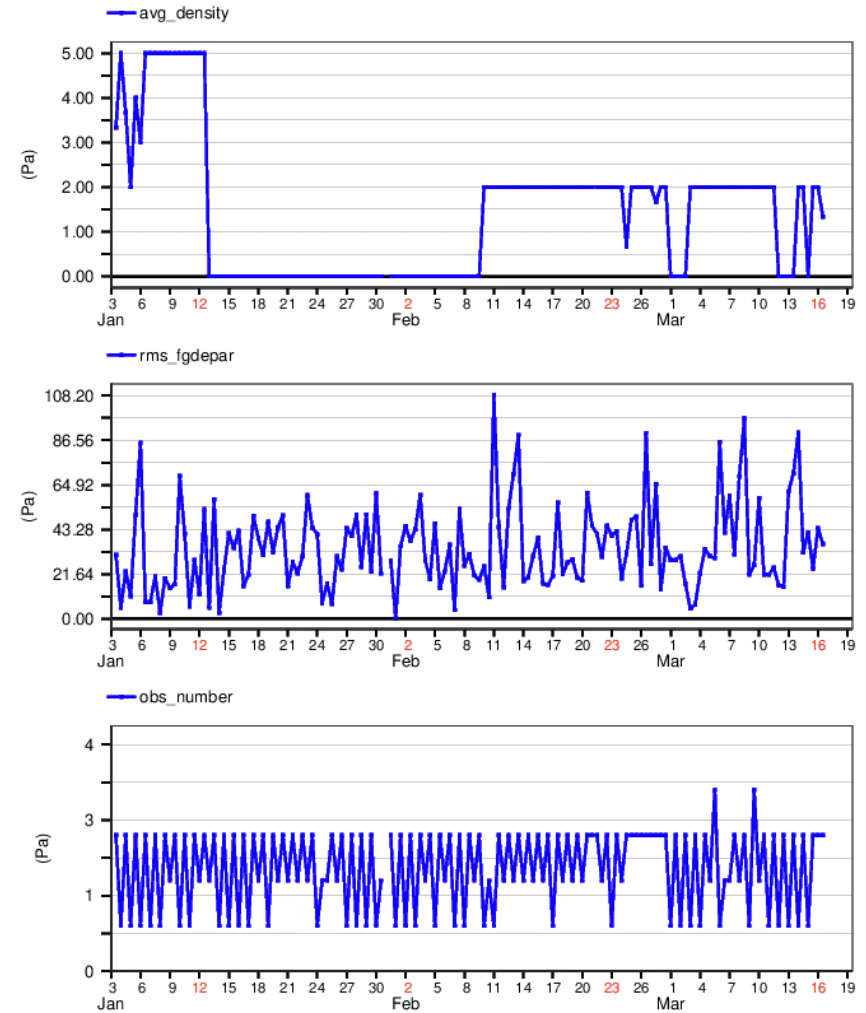
10452 (Germany)

BUFR LAND SYNOP Surface_pressure ID 10452
All data, EXP =
16076_110_0_10452
[in (Pa)]



64750 (Chad)

Manual Land SYNOP Surface_pressure ID 64750
All data, EXP =
16002_110_0_64750
[in (Pa)]



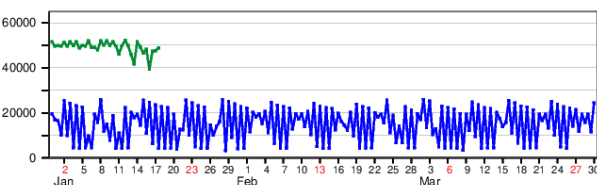
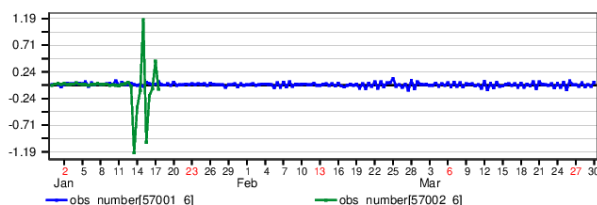
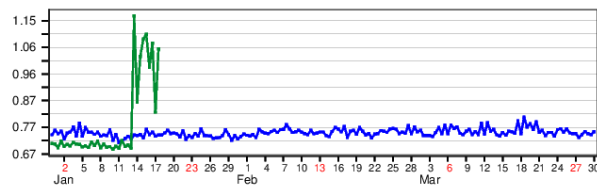
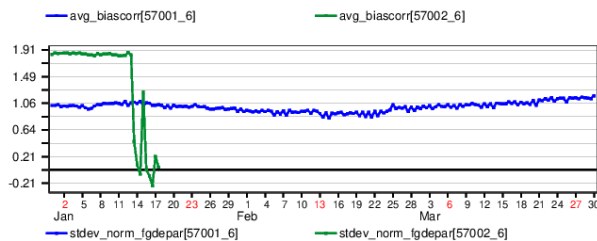
Improve classification of warnings (supervised learning)

- Improve the system to distinguish data and DA/model issues (can have consequence when we select data to be blocklisted).
- Improved severity assignment of warnings (Severe, considerable, slight, false alarm)
- Suggest if an action is needed
- Pattern extraction from analysts/scientist continuous labelling.

MWHS2 Ch 6 Global

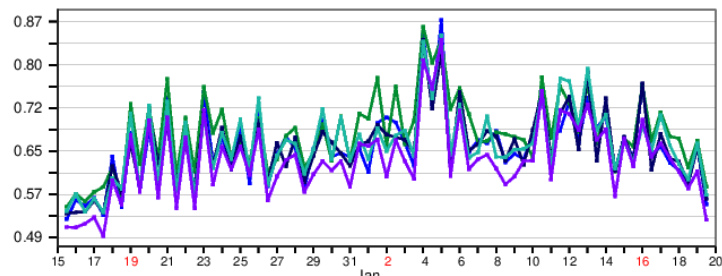
AMSUA Ch 13 N-Pole

FY-3C MWHS2 ALLSKY vs FY-3D MWHS2 ALLSKY Radiances All surface type Global channel: 6
All data, EXP = 57001_119_3_112_6 57002_119_3_112_6 (used)



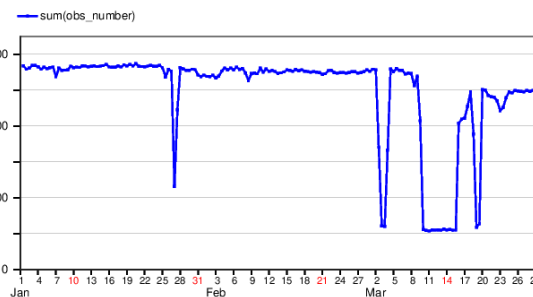
amsua Radiances All surface type North pole channel: 13
All data, EXP = 21001_119_3_120_13 21004_119_3_120_13 21005_119_3_120_13 21009_119_3_120_13 21010_119_3_120_13

stdev_norm_fgdepar[21001_13] stdev_norm_fgdepar[21004_13] stdev_norm_fgdepar[21005_13]
stdev_norm_fgdepar[21009_13] stdev_norm_fgdepar[21010_13]

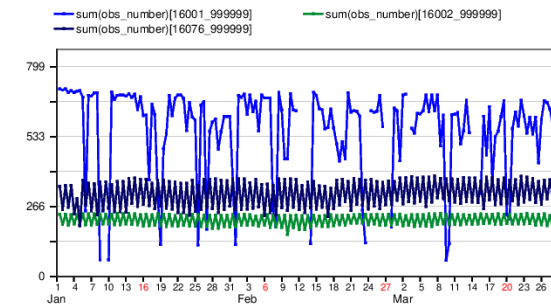


Moored buoys

MOORED BUOYS Surface_pressure Global All stations
All data, EXP = 16083_110_112_999999



synop Surface_pressure WMO BLOCK 17 All stations
All data, EXP = 16001_110_17_999999 16002_110_17_999999 16076_110_17_999999

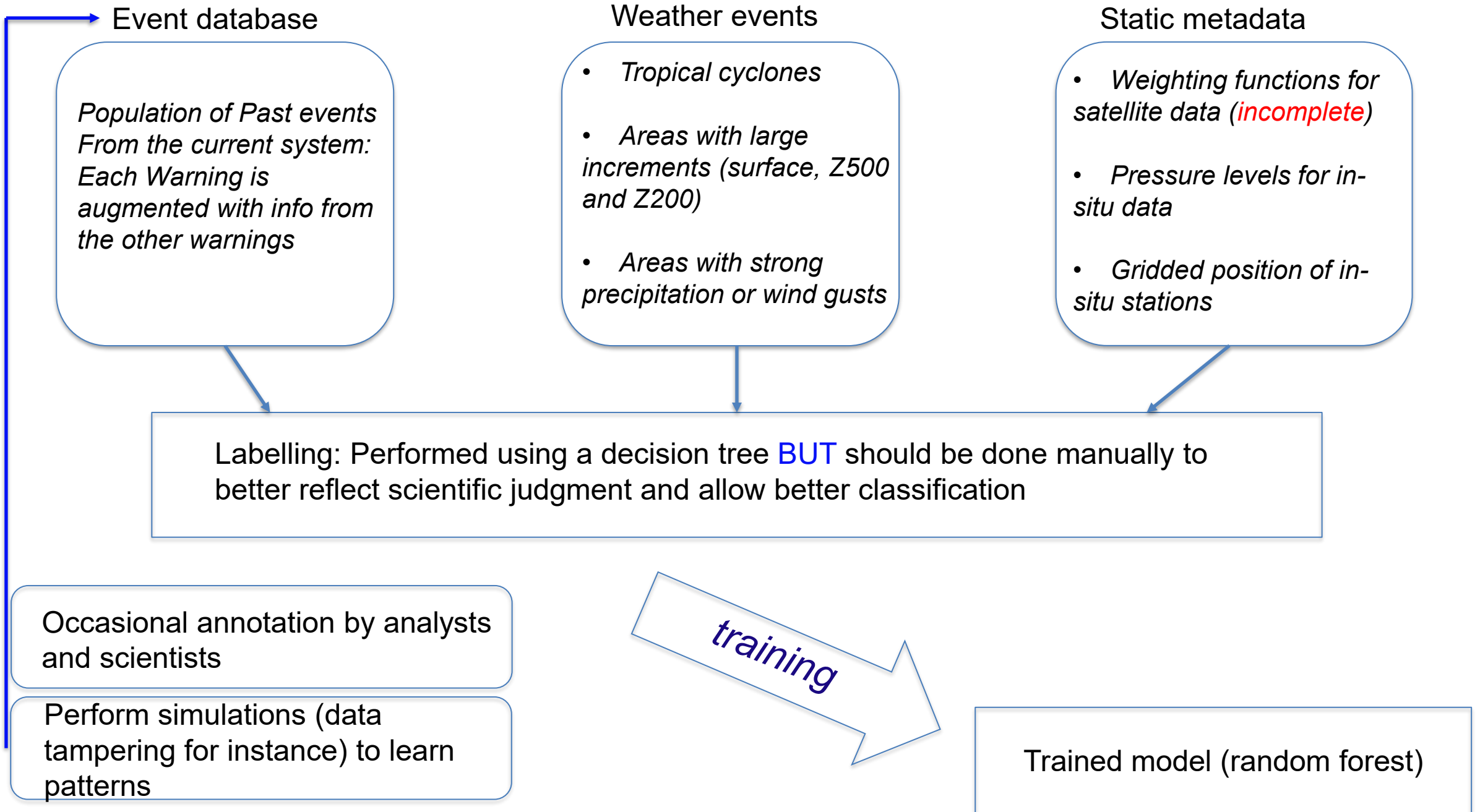


- Warnings affected many satellites (not a data issue)
- Severity: Considerable
- Cause: Atmospheric variability
- No need for action

- Warnings affected only one satellite
- Severity: Severe
- Cause: Data issue
- Action needed (stop using the data)

- Moored buoys reduced (important dataset)
- Severity: Severe
- Cause: Data outage
- Action needed (contact data provider)

- Automatic synop data intermittent over Turkey (Other datasets present)
- Severity: Considerable
- Cause: Data outage
- Action needed (monitor)



All preliminary warnings



- Data category (satellite, conv, ocean, ostia)
- location or area
- Type of event (missing, out of range)
- Observation quantity
- Frequency of similar incidents
- Severity of deviation
- Other similar datasets present in the area and how many affected ?
- EDA spread increased ?
- Severe weather events in the area
- All levels/channels affected ?
- How many areas affected ?
- parameters affected ?
- Data counts
- Usage status (satellite data)

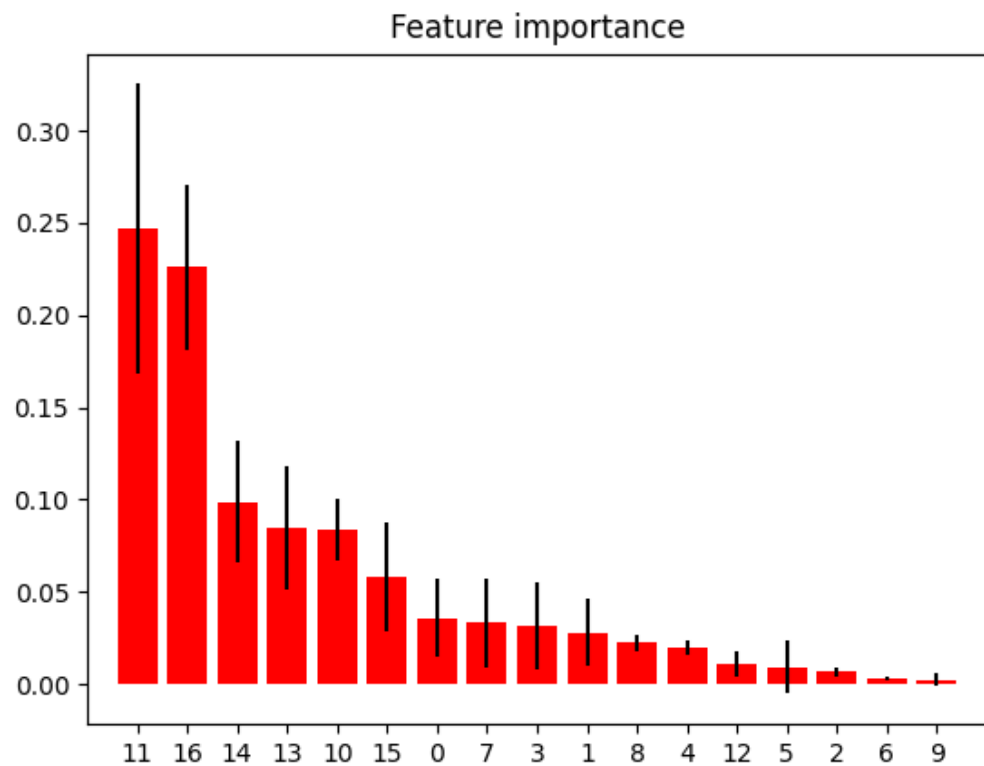
Random forest classifier



- False alarm (yes/no)
- Slight (yes/no)
- Considerable (yes/no)
- Severe (yes/no)
- Cause (data/other)
- Action required (data/other)

- Training dataset populated from *labelled* warnings (from the event database). Dataset is balanced before training
- The labelling process allows classification based on the context of the warnings
- The labelling process was largely semi-automated but will be further improved.
- Continuous labelling is an option (cases to be added occasionally when relevant)

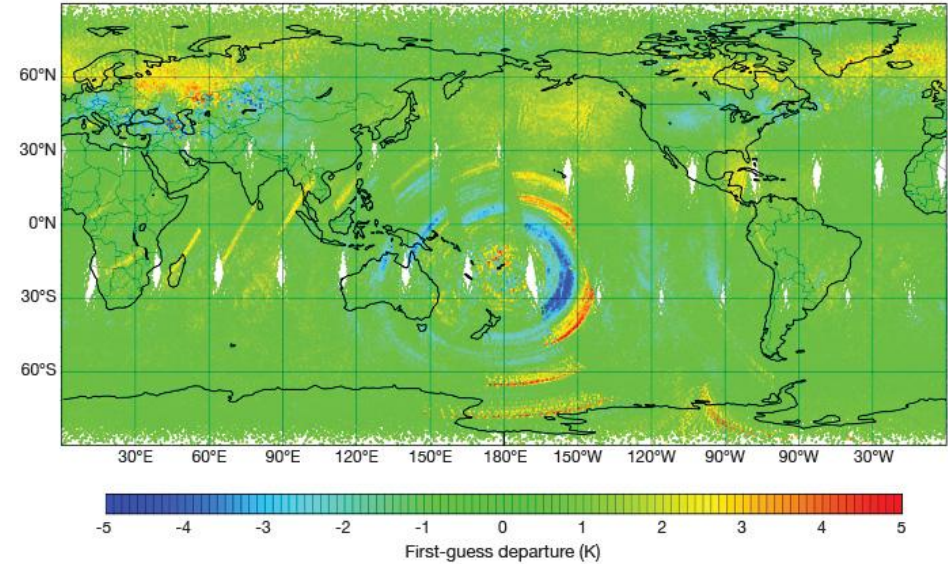
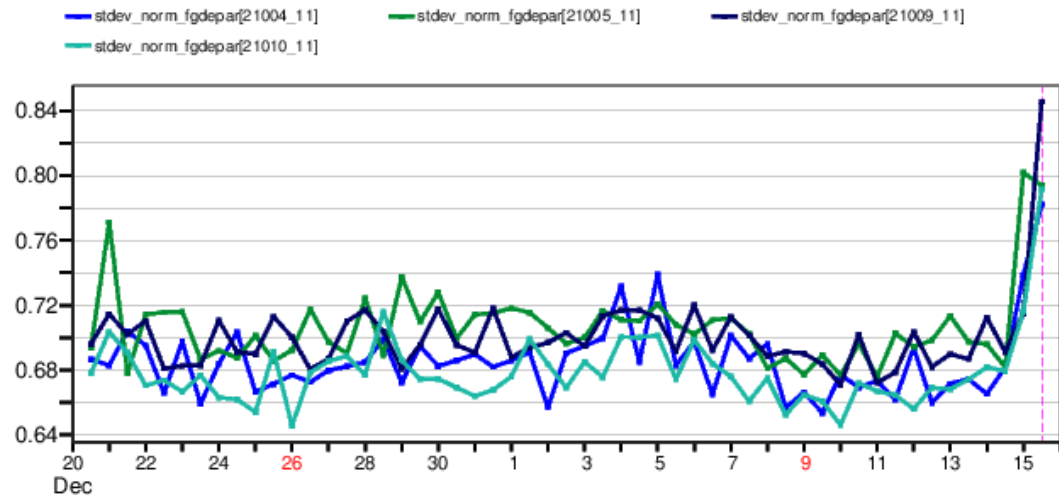
Feature ranking (target feature: **cause**)



Feature ranking:

1. feature 11 Eda_spread (0.246750)
2. feature 16 nbr_weather_events (0.226029)
3. feature 14 nbr_similar_wmoblock (0.098864)
4. feature 13 nbr_similar_reportypes_with_alarms (0.084890)
5. feature 10 nbr_similar_past_events (0.083562)
6. feature 15 nbr_similar_nearby (0.057817)
7. feature 0 Data_type (0.035918)
8. feature 7 varno (0.033076)
9. feature 3 Area (0.031896)
10. feature 1 Vertcol (0.027735)
11. feature 8 AlarmGroup (0.022424)
12. feature 4 Obs_quantity (0.019720)
13. feature 12 nbr_areas (0.010633)
14. feature 5 Severity (0.009229)
15. feature 2 vertco_type (0.006515)
16. feature 6 Type_event (0.002668)
17. feature 9 usage (0.002275)

AMSU-A Ch 14 – South Hemisphere (Hunga-Tonga eruption)



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AMSUA

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NOAA-19 AMSUA ALL SKY Radiances (5.0 channels affected - channel 14 shown) SHeM ExtTrop: out of range:

http://apps.ecmwf.int/satellite-alerts/image/?image=2022011512_LWDA_0001_amsua1_21005_119_14_3_119.png

Severe (Likely not a data issue): stdev_norm_fgdepar=0.67765, expected range:0.5289 0.6064

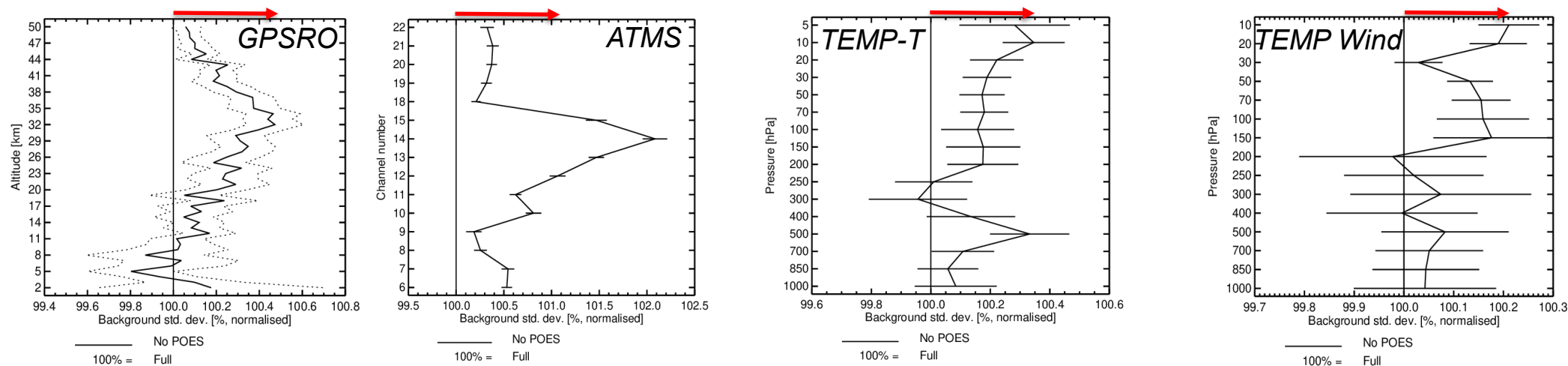
Classifier re-training

- mechanism in place for analysts and RD scientists (on best effort basis and in ad-hoc manner) to annotate the warnings they receive
- On-demand re-training of the classifier → increased reliability of the system and more feedback for the diagnostics when the DA is struggling
- Continuous evaluation of the system reliability → might lead to automatic targeted data selection decisions (Enhance the QC algorithms of the IFS with an info from the past behaviour of data sources)

Research monitoring suite

- Changing the data usage or the assimilation algorithms impact the fit of “used” observations to the background and analysis
- The change of fit is indicative of the (positive/negative/neutral) impact of the change being tested
- Generic statistics are computed systematically for all research experiments (used observations only)
- Quick comparison of data usage between experiments: Data counts, First guess and analysis fit to used observations
- Provides idea on data impact (for data denial experiments) and the impact of scientific changes

Degradation of short-range forecasts from losing the legacy POES satellites for temperature wind and humidity



Outline

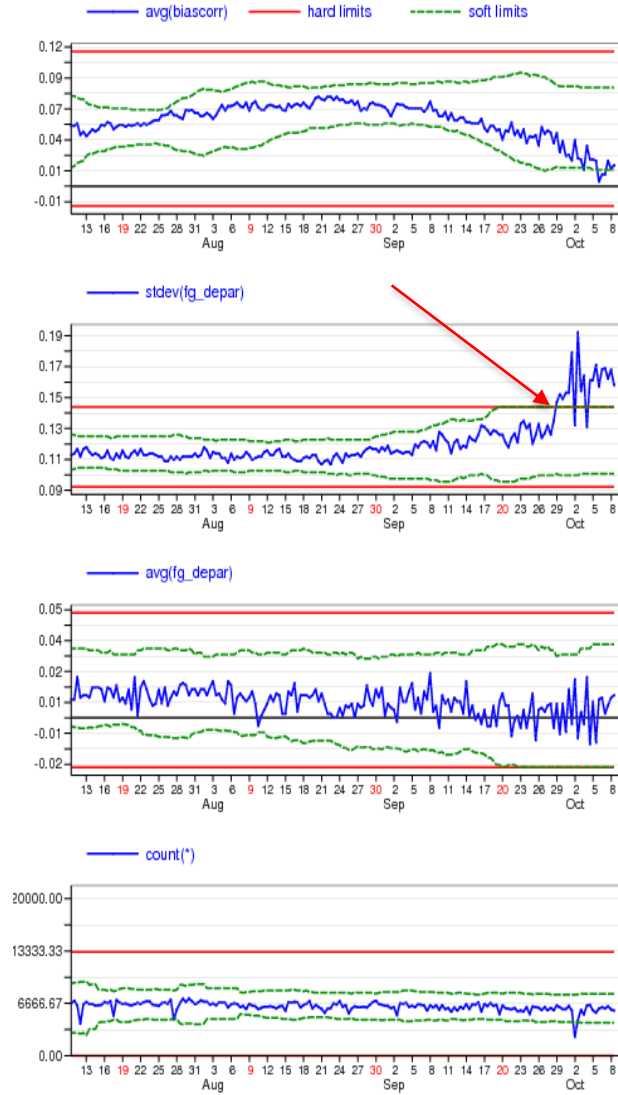
1. Monitoring of observations: Why and how ?
2. Observation monitoring capabilities
- 3. Observation based diagnostics**
4. Conclusion

Observations related diagnostics

- Inference from redundancies in the observing system (supported by collocation when possible)
- Impact on departures from changes to the observing system or how the data are assimilated
- Diagnostics in observation space based on departures
- Diagnostics from the EDA

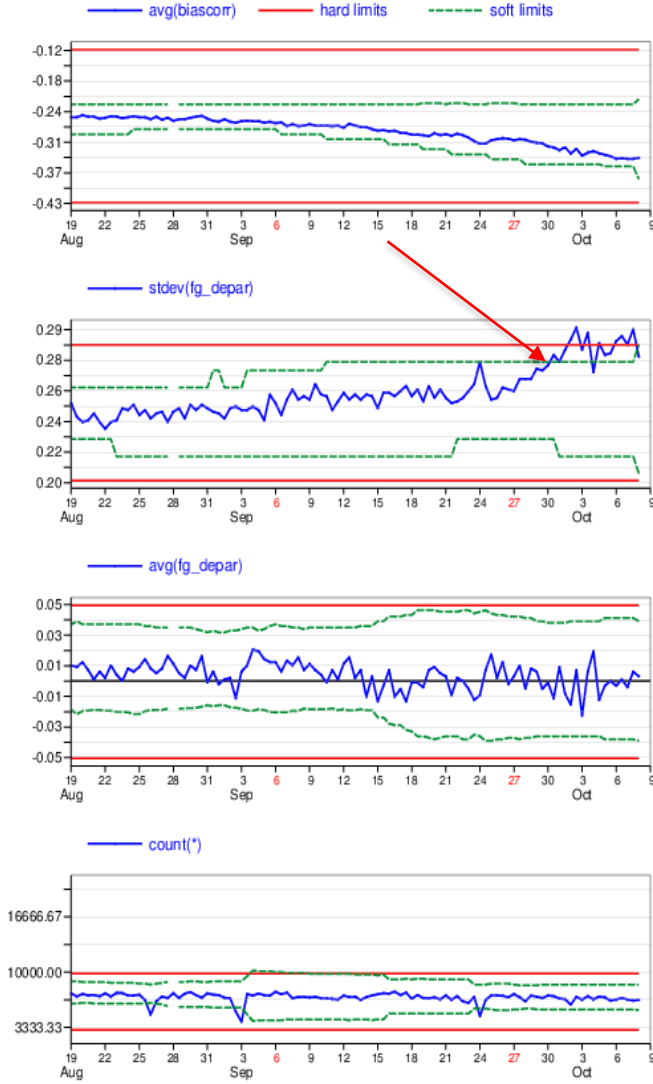
S-NPP CrIS Ch 101

NPP CrIS 101 radiances
Active data, EXP =0001
cris_224_27_101_210



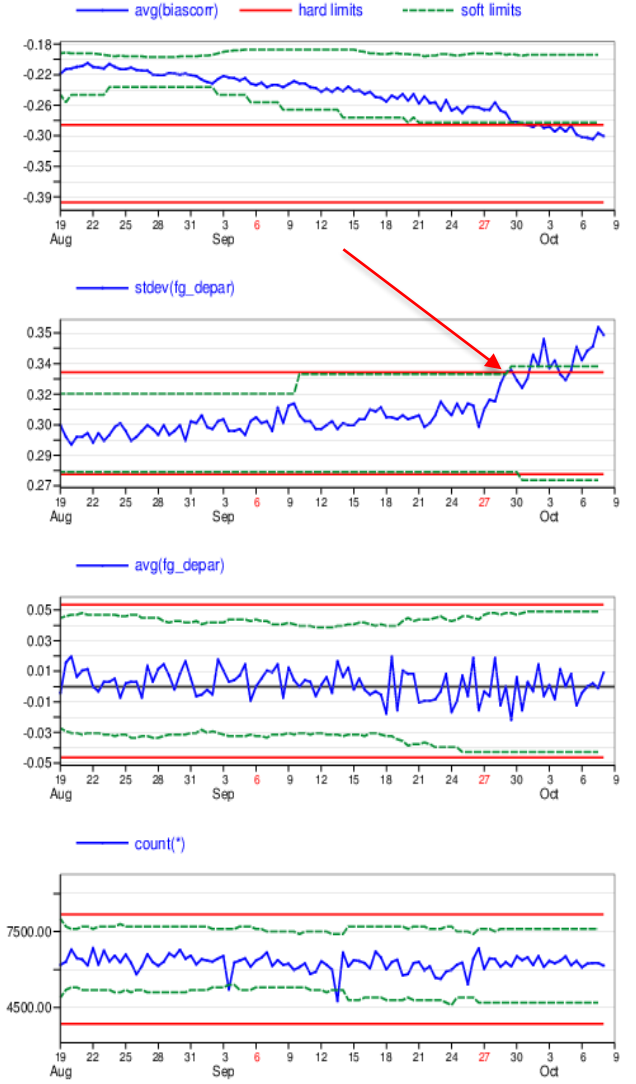
METOP-B IASI Ch 272

METOP-B IASI 272 radiances
Active data, EXP =0001
iasi_3_16_272_210



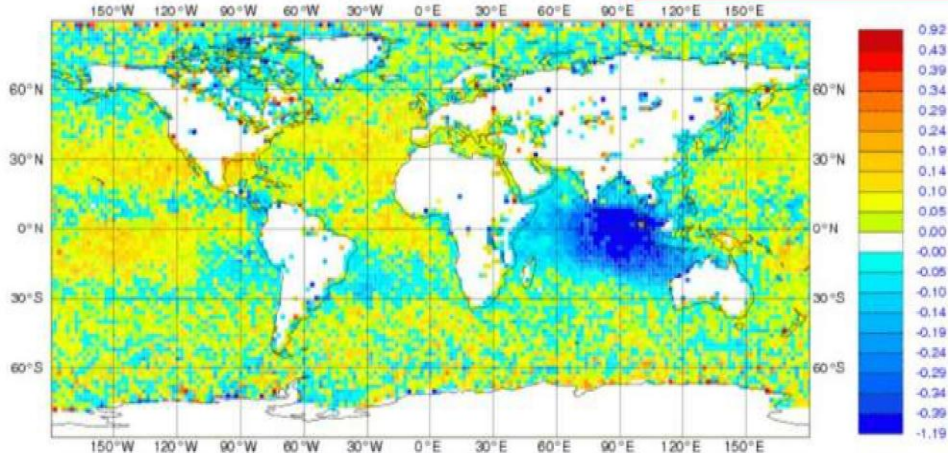
AQUA AIRS Ch 221

AQUA AIRS 221 radiances
Active data, EXP =0001
airs_784_11_221_210

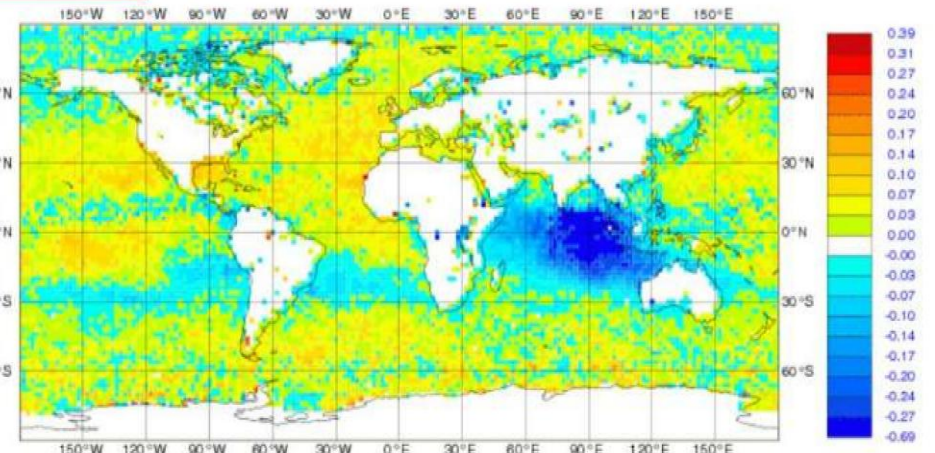


**Gridded monthly mean O-B
October 2015**

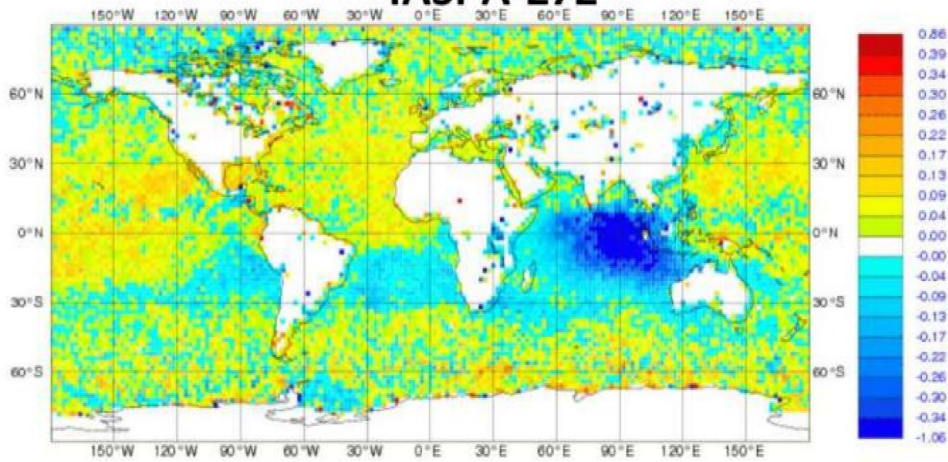
AIRS-221



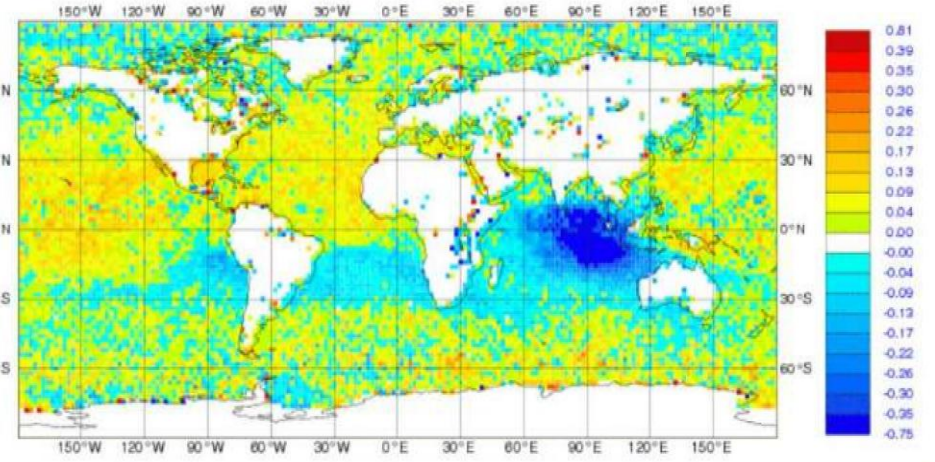
CRIS-101



IASI-A-272

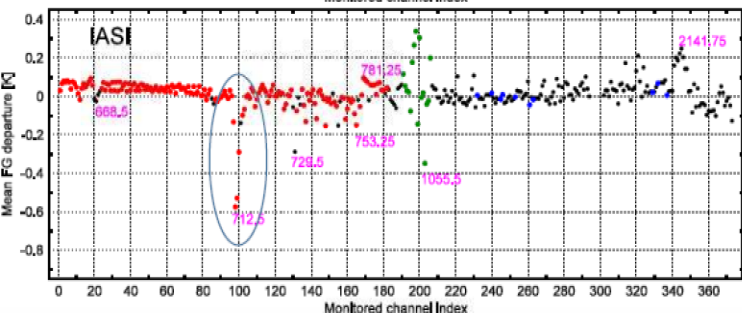
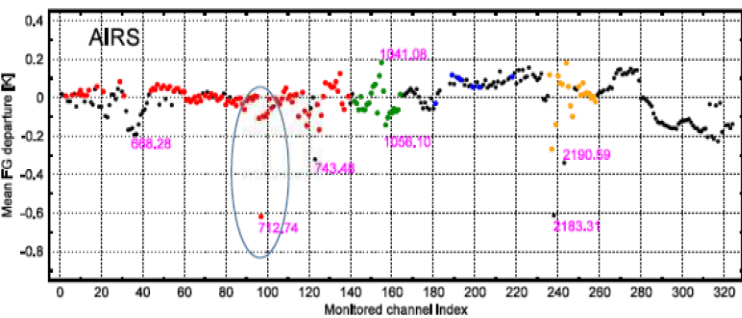
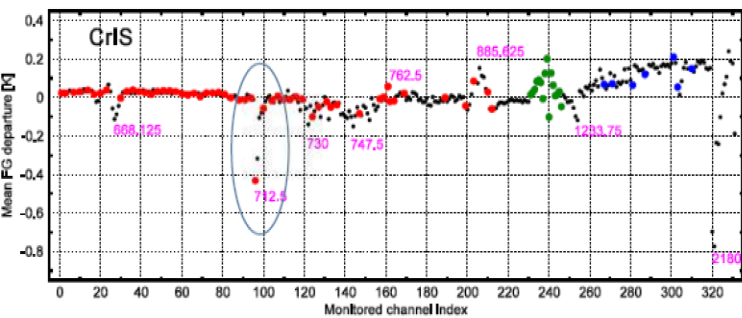


IASI-B-272



M. Matricardi

M. Matricardi



The mean O-B statistics in other IR channels shows that the anomaly can be seen in any IR channel sensing around 712 cm⁻¹ (or 14 micron) from CrIS, AIRS and both IASI instruments (A and B)



However, there is no evidence of a similar contamination signal in the IR window channels indicating that the signal cannot be attributed to residual clouds or aerosols

Decision to blacklist the affected channels (unwanted temperature increments)

Spectral signature of Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN)

HCN is a known pollutant associated with biomass burning and the alarms coincided with the Indonesian fires

SYNOP and METAR co-location

Before METAR QNH correction

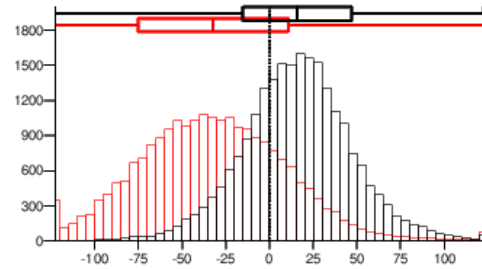
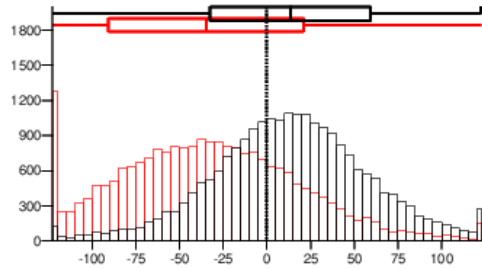
SYNP vs METR : 2020040100-2020041912(12)

ALL P [PA] Europe

used p

Background departure (o-b)
 nb= 22613 (ref= 22620) rms= 47.8 (65.7)
 mean= 13.5 (-34.8) std= 45.9 (55.7)
 min= -229. (-300.) max= 244. (280.)

Analysis departure (o-a)
 nb= 22613 (ref= 22620) rms= 35.0 (53.8)
 mean= 15.9 (-32.3) std= 31.2 (43.0)
 min= -153. (-254.) max= 167. (283.)



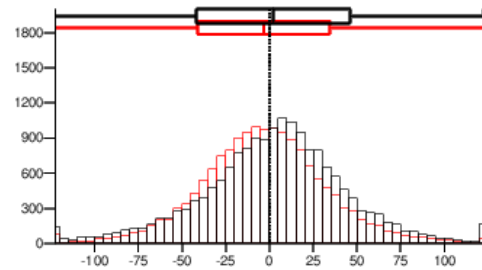
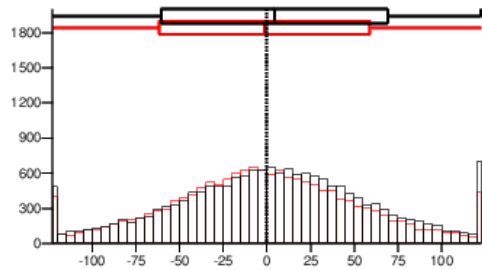
SYNP vs METR : 2020040100-2020041912(12)

ALL P [PA] N.Amer

used p

Background departure (o-b)
 nb= 17405 (ref= 16143) rms= 64.9 (60.3)
 mean= 4.28 (-1.40) std= 64.8 (60.3)
 min= -379. (-409.) max= 373. (321.)

Analysis departure (o-a)
 nb= 17405 (ref= 16143) rms= 44.0 (38.0)
 mean= 2.19 (-3.40) std= 43.9 (37.8)
 min= -215. (-412.) max= 219. (294.)



After METAR QNH correction (Apr 2020)

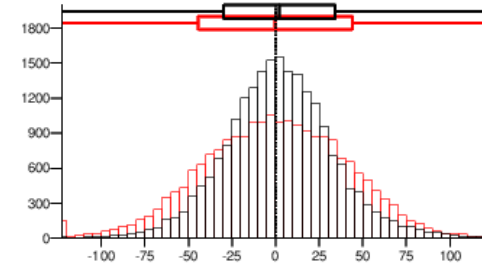
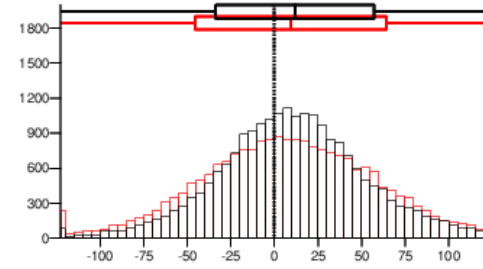
SYNP vs METR : 2020050100-2020051912(12)

ALL P [PA] Europe

used p

Background departure (o-b)
 nb= 21527 (ref= 21534) rms= 47.0 (55.7)
 mean= 11.8 (9.43) std= 45.5 (54.9)
 min= -301. (-347.) max= 249. (295.)

Analysis departure (o-a)
 nb= 21527 (ref= 21534) rms= 32.0 (44.2)
 mean= 2.22 (-0.200) std= 31.9 (44.2)
 min= -180. (-366.) max= 230. (312.)



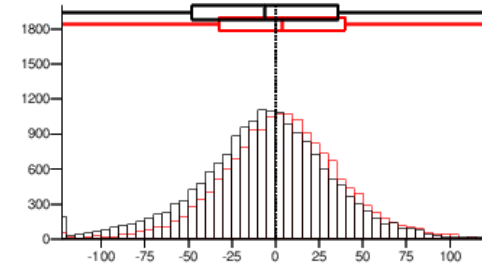
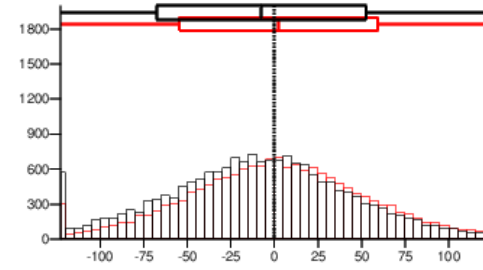
SYNP vs METR : 2020050100-2020051912(12)

ALL P [PA] N.Amer

used p

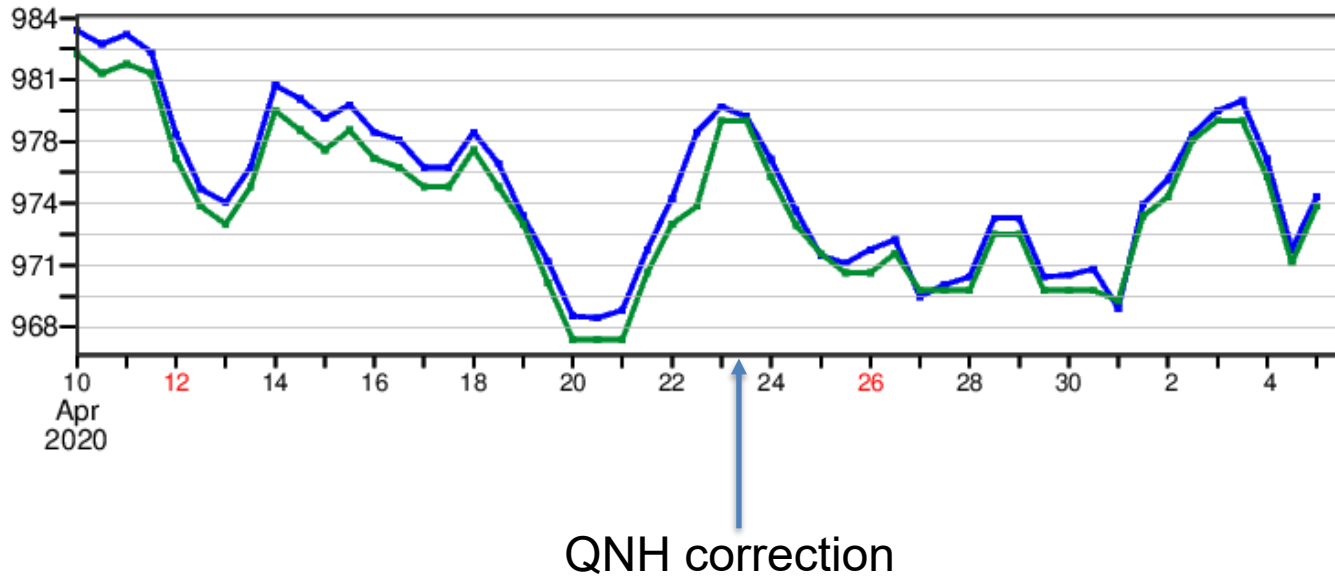
Background departure (o-b)
 nb= 18161 (ref= 16579) rms= 60.5 (56.9)
 mean= -7.47 (2.48) std= 60.0 (56.8)
 min= -433. (-371.) max= 426. (461.)

Analysis departure (o-a)
 nb= 18161 (ref= 16579) rms= 42.4 (36.3)
 mean= -6.10 (3.64) std= 42.0 (36.1)
 min= -225. (-253.) max= 213. (312.)



QNH correction

Observed surface pressure: Metar LFLC (green) and Synop 07460 (blue)
Clermont-Ferrant (France)



- METAR pressure measurements are rounded down to the nearest whole hPa in Europe (poor precision) and rounded down to hundredth inch of Mercury for American METAR data.
- METARs and SYNOPs are both available and used from most airports causing inconsistencies and slight degradation (against observations)
- The slight differences in position and frequency makes the duplicate check difficult to implement
- The solution was to implement a correction (at the level of SAPP): 0.5 hPa for stations reporting in hPa and 0.169 hPa for stations reporting in inches of mercury

Diagnostics in observation space based on departures

Consistency diagnostics on departures (Desroziers et al. 2005)

$$E[\mathbf{d}_b^o (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{HBH}^T \quad \text{Global consistency check}$$

\mathbf{d}_b^o (O-B) Background departures

$$E[\mathbf{d}_a^o (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{R} \quad \text{Observation errors estimation}$$

\mathbf{d}_a^o (O-A) Analysis departures

$$E[\mathbf{d}_b^a (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{HBH}^T \quad \text{Background errors check}$$

\mathbf{d}_b^a (A-B) Increments

$$E[\mathbf{d}_b^a (\mathbf{d}_a^o)^T] = \mathbf{HAH}^T \quad \text{Analysis errors}$$

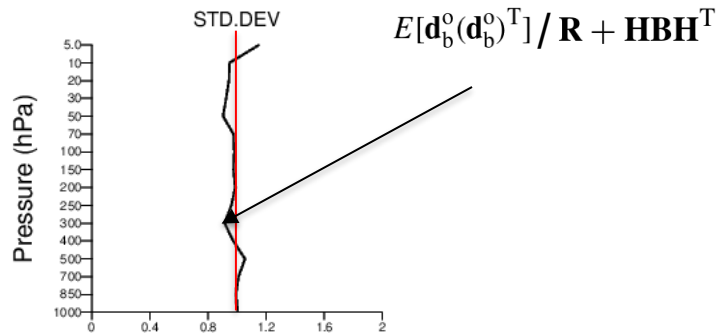
These diagnostics are easily computed by the monitoring system for cases without obs error correlations

$$E[\mathbf{d}_b^o (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T$$

- Observation and background errors are assumed uncorrelated
- In a well tuned system this equation verifies
- Otherwise, further tuning is needed for R, B or H

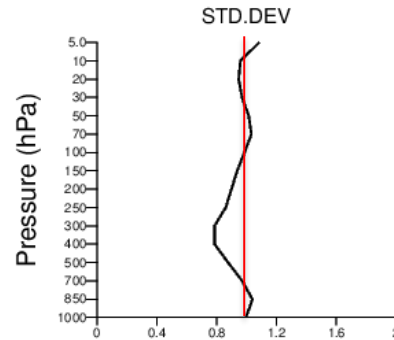
TEMP temperature

2021090100-2021090400(12)
TEMP-T N.Hemis
used T



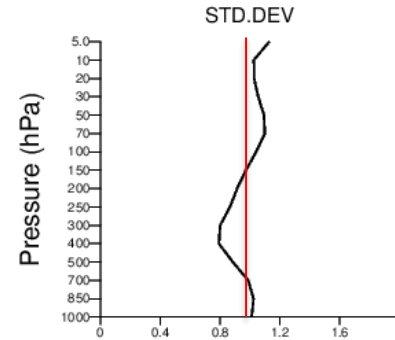
TEMP U-comp

2021090100-2021090400(12)
TEMP-Uwind N.Hemis
used U



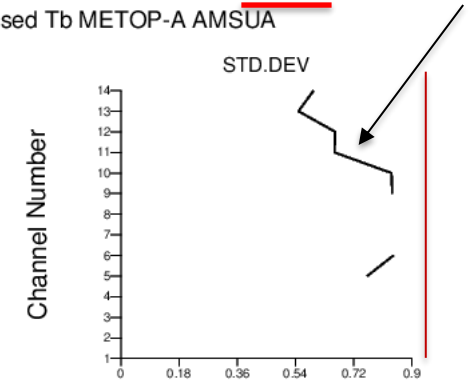
TEMP V-comp

2021090100-2021090400(12)
TEMP-Vwind N.Hemis
used V

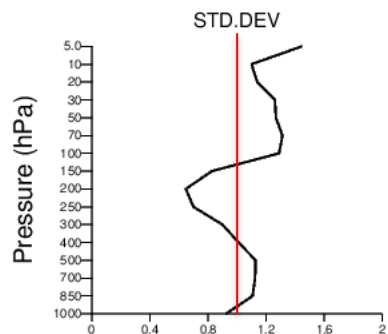


METOP-A AMSUA

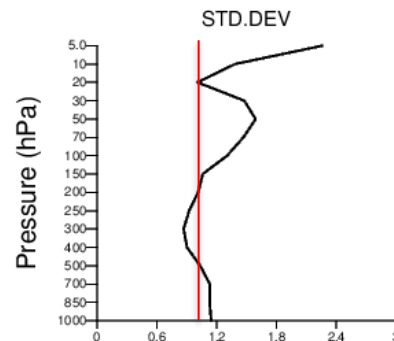
2021090100-2021090400(12)
METOP-A AMSU-A Tb N.Hemis
used Tb METOP-A AMSUA



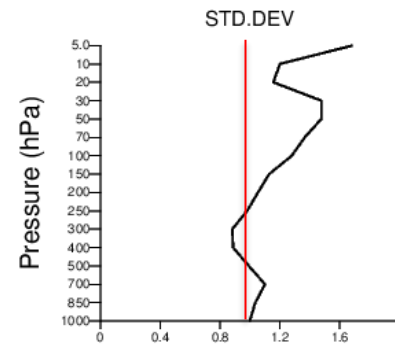
2021090100-2021090400(12)
TEMP-T Tropics
used T



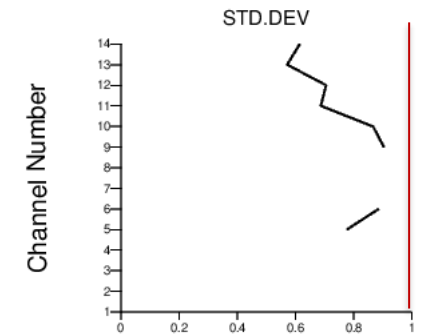
2021090100-2021090400(12)
TEMP-Uwind Tropics
used U



2021090100-2021090400(12)
TEMP-Vwind Tropics
used V



2021090100-2021090400(12)
METOP-A AMSU-A Tb Tropics
used Tb METOP-A AMSUA



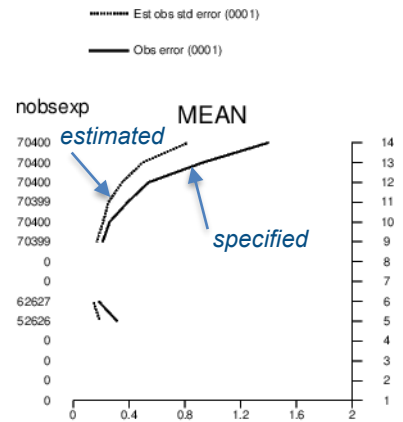
Diagnostics in observation space based on departures

$$E[\mathbf{d}_a^o (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{R}$$

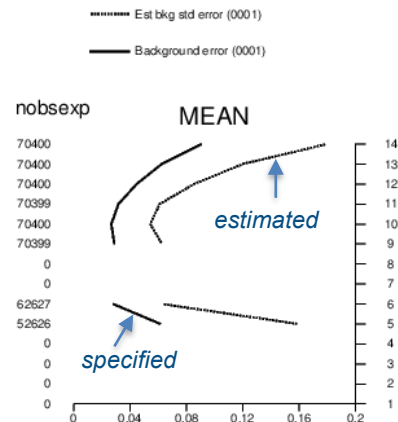
$$E[\mathbf{d}_b^a (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{HBH}^T$$

METOP-A/ AMSUA (01-04 Sep 2021)

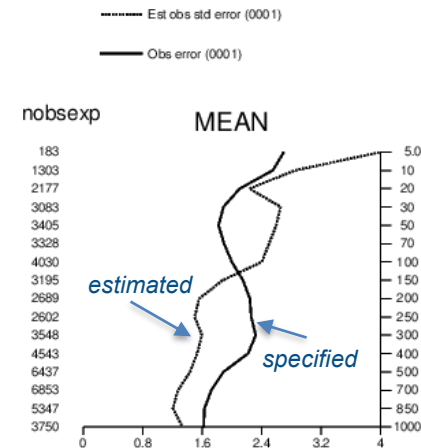
Estimated and specified Obs errors



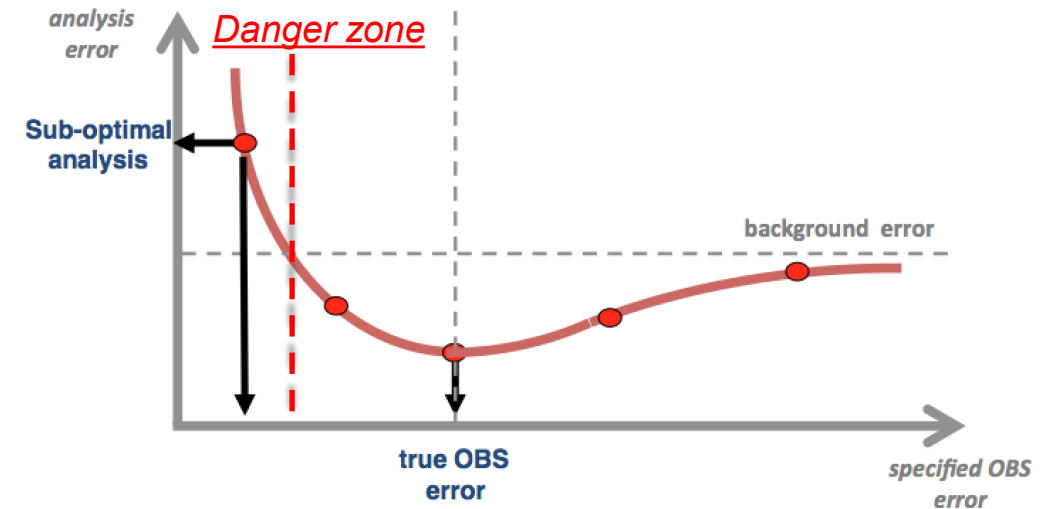
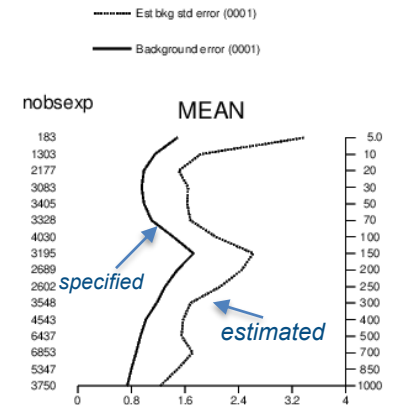
Estimated and specified FG errors



Estimated and specified Obs errors



Estimated and specified FG errors



TEMP V-comp Tropics (01-04 Sep 2021)

*Consistency check for observation errors but can also be used to estimate them.
Works well if B is properly specified*

Diagnostics from the EDA

Monitoring of EDA spread

$$E[\mathbf{d}_b^o (\mathbf{d}_b^o)^T] = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T$$

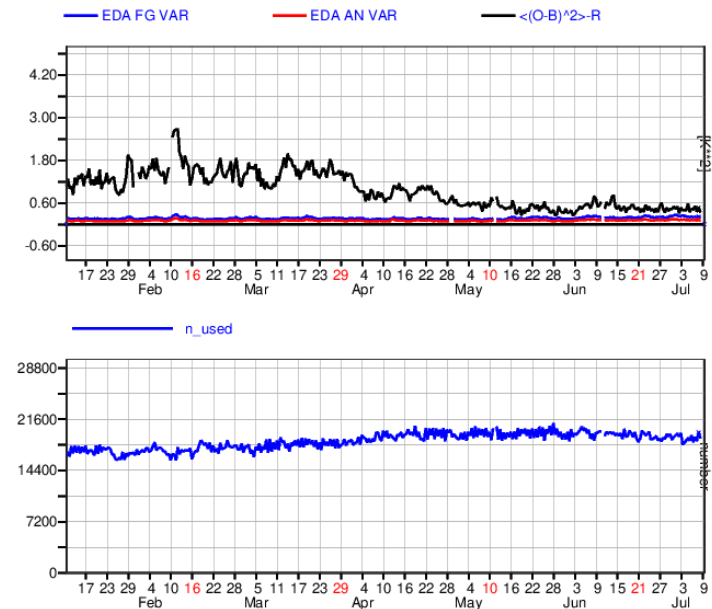
EDA control
(Variance of FG departures)

Computed from EDA members (variance of FG in obs points)

If(\mathbf{R} and $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T$ are correctly specified)

- Check the consistency of EDA spread with what is expected
- Monitor the evolution of EDA spread (including seasonal variations and model upgraded)

Temperature from Radiosondes 0 – 100 hPa North Hemi Extra-tropics



Conclusions

- **Observations monitoring activities are a key component of the data assimilation diagnostics**
- **An integrated monitoring system improves the data usage by assisting operational and research activities**
- **Monitoring activities benefits from a wide range of resources (internal and external). Collaboration and timely sharing of information is vital**
- **Various diagnostics are available to check the consistency of the DA system and to suggest estimates of errors**