

# **Sub-km nowcasting ensemble with use of overlapping windows**

Xiaohua Yang, Danish Meteorological Institute

March 2018

# Outlines

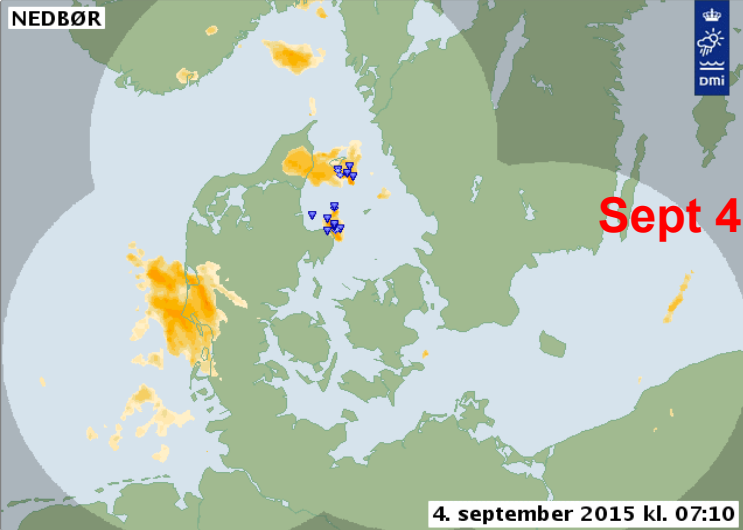
Motivation: A forecast capability to warn rapidly developing and extreme convection weather.

- very short life cycle ( 1-2 h)
- small scales (few km).

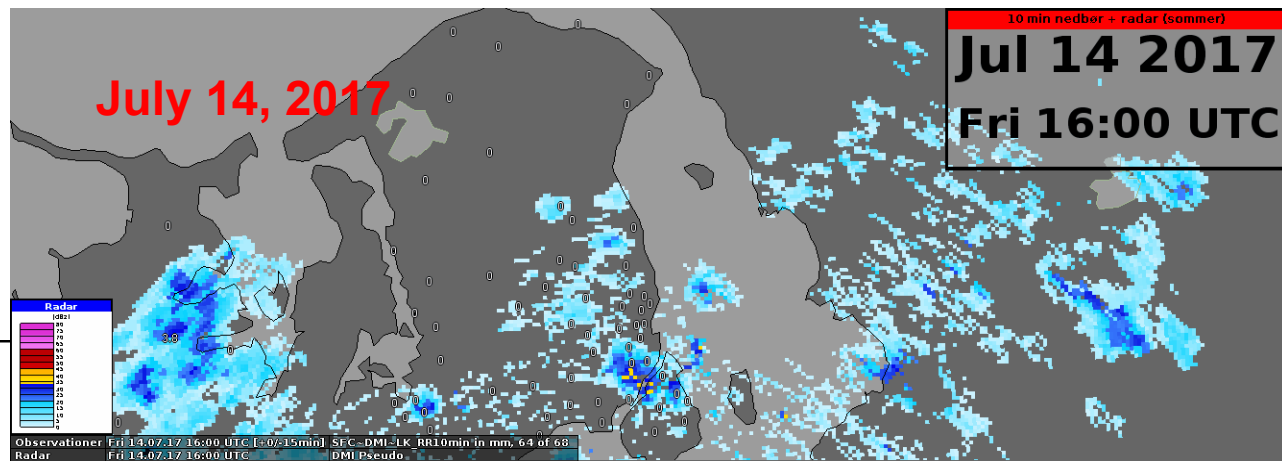
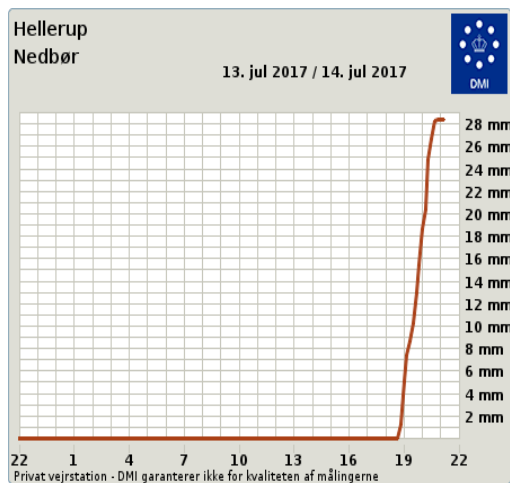
System approach for building sub-km nowcasting ensemble

- COMEPS approach: time lagged assimilation cycling with overlapping windows
- Bridging overlapped windows by separation of BG from FG

NEDBØR



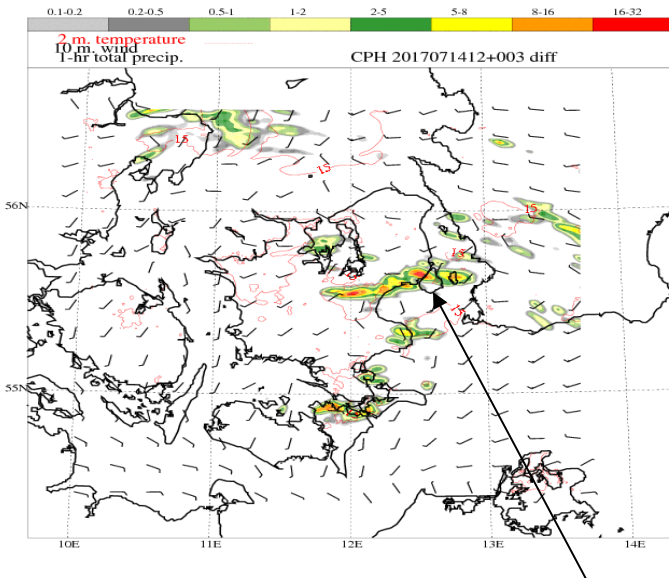
Some of the cloudburst events in summer  
Denmark looks extreme... (intensity,  
duration, horizontal scale)



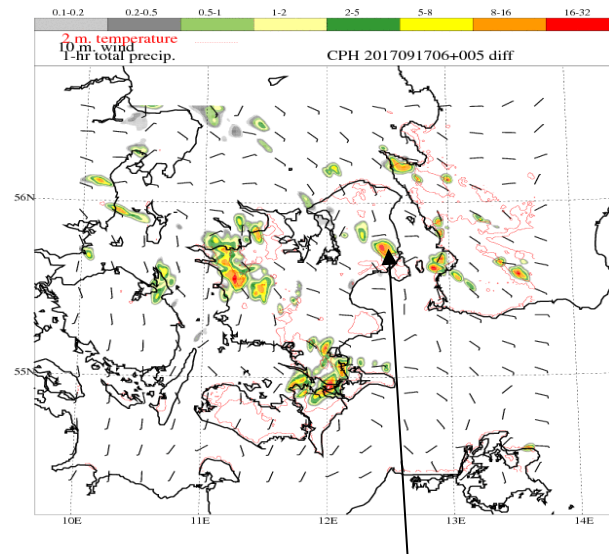
## Nowcasting @DMI: System Targets

- NWP based nowcasting with high resolution that resolves convection
  - (+ radar advection for first 1h)
- Frequent update to assimilate radar and other observation
- With uncertainty information

# Sub-km Harmonie has potential to model the features!



July 14, 2017, Copenhagen flash flood

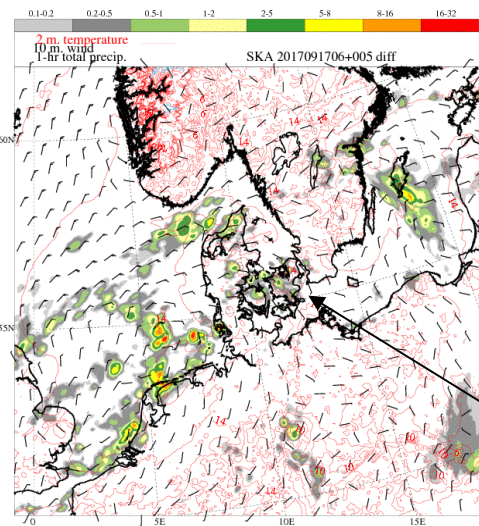


Sept 17, 2017, Copenhagen flash flood

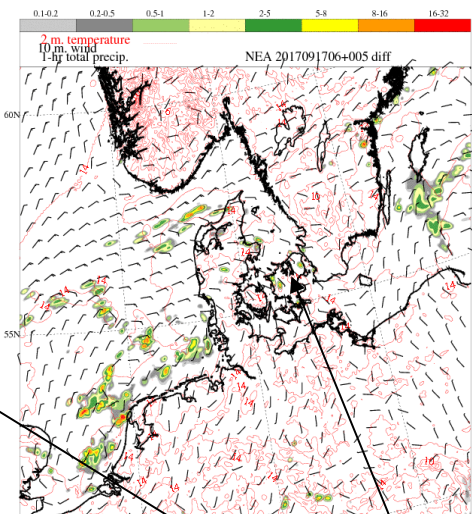


Danmarks  
Meteorologiske  
Institut

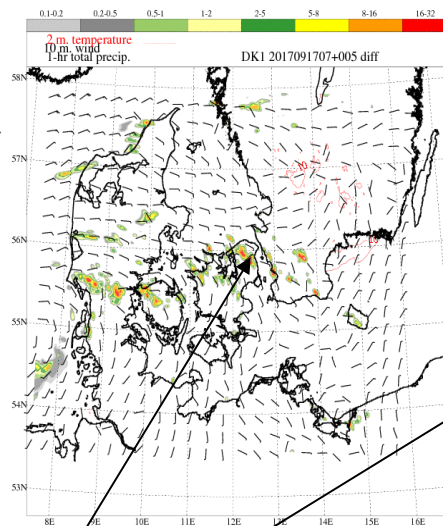
# Modeled 1h accumulated precipitation 17 Sept 2017, 11 UTC



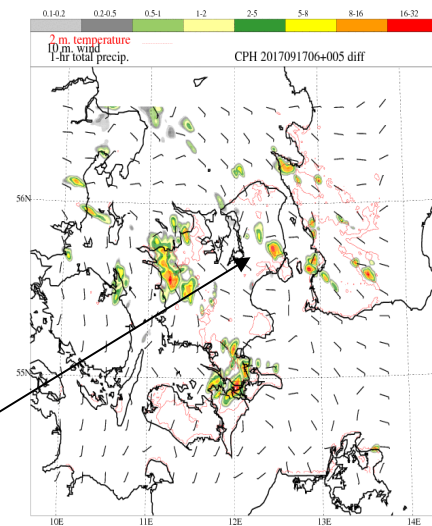
SKA-3 km



NEA-2.5 km



DK- 0.75 km



CPH- 0.5 km

Short range forecasts has progressively increased skills in prediction of strong convection... ..

# Harmonie-Arome Nowcasting @DMI, 2018

## Prototype:

2 parallel 3DVAR suites with 2h cycling,  
one runs at even hour,  
another at odd hour

3DVAR, 6h forecast

Nested to 2.5 km COMEPS control

Launch time point: 15min after hour

## Target:

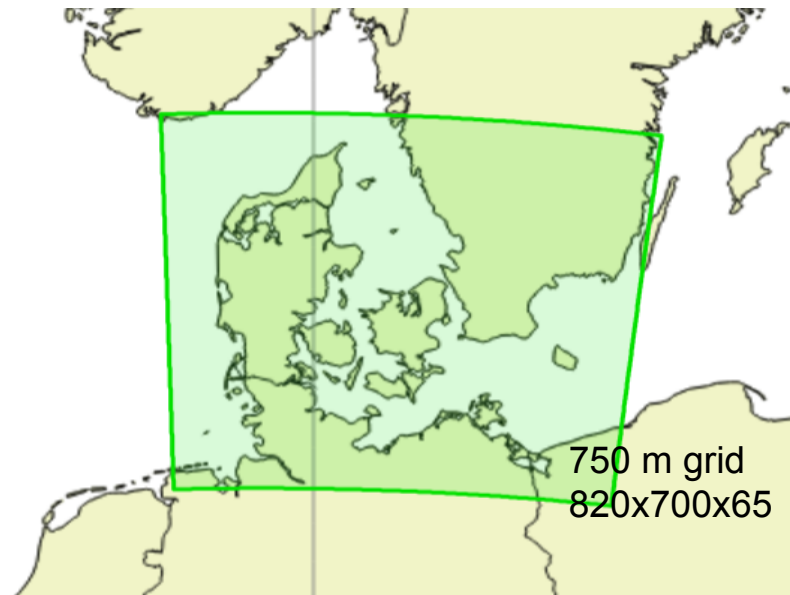
Every 10 min

Nested to 2.5 km COMEPS

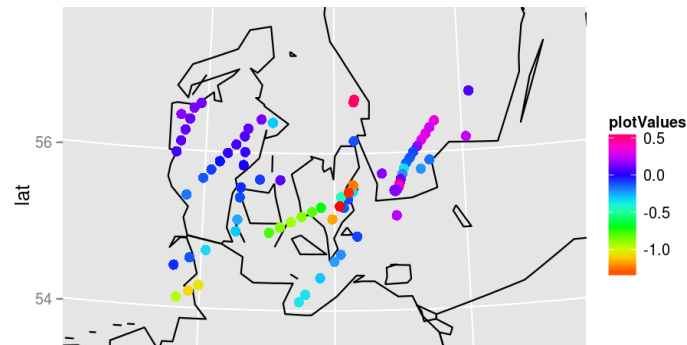
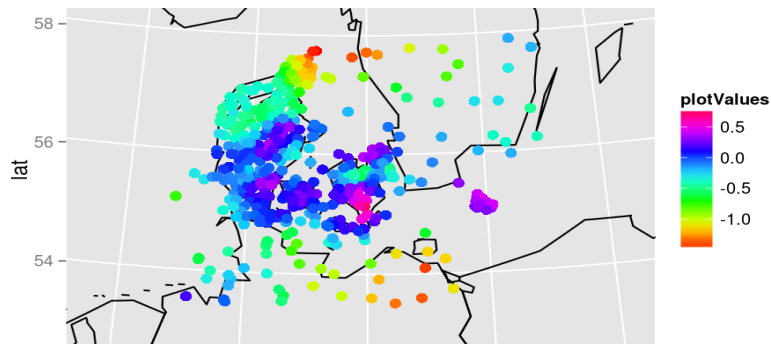
Lagged ensemble

Delivery time: < 45 min

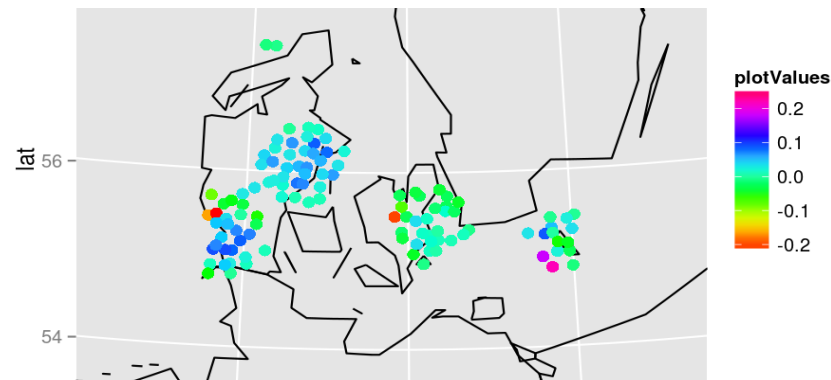
Update continuously



## SYNOP, T2M



## Aircraft, U



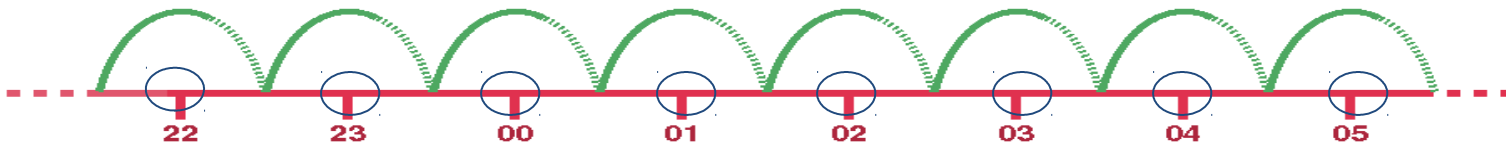
## Radar reflectivity, RH

Analysis increment with 3DVAR  
17 Z 2 March 2018  
Nominal data window 16-18Z, cutoff 17:15Z



How to achieve frequent analysis update?

## Intermittent data assimilation cycling

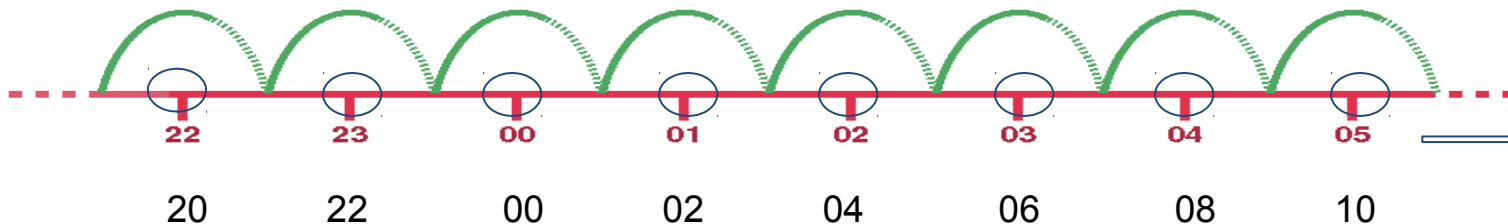


Assimilation window 1h

Background and first guess from 1h forecast of previous cycle

How to achieve frequent analysis update?

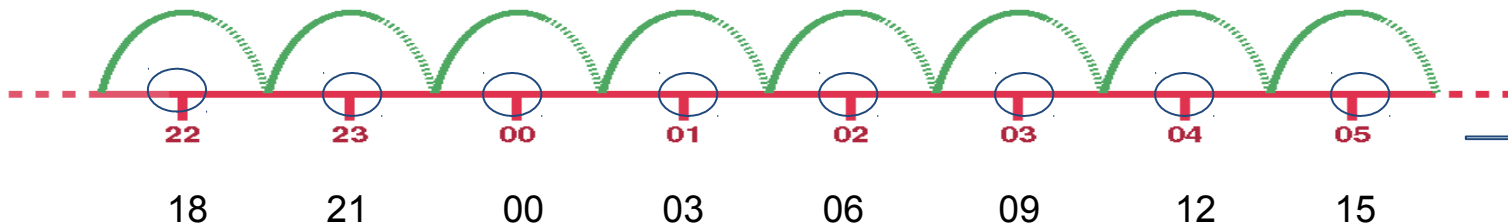
## Intermittent data assimilation cycling



Assimilation window **2h**, allowing more observation data  
Background and first guess from **2h** forecast of previous cycle

How to achieve frequent analysis update?

## Intermittent data assimilation cycling



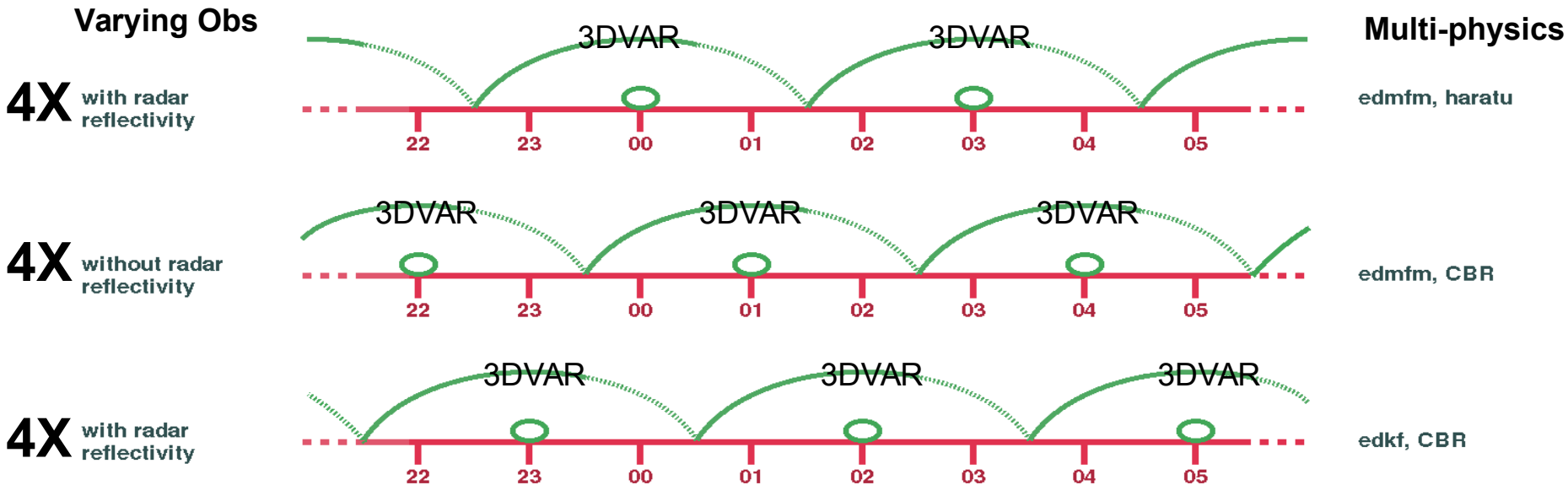
Assimilation window **3h**, allowing more observation data  
Background and first guess from **3h** forecast of previous cycle



Danmarks  
Meteorologiske  
Institut

# Continuous Meso-scale EPS@DMI (COMEPS)

## Hourly analysis with 3-h cycling on partially overlapped windows



Use of parallel suites, overlapped windows in COMEPS enables a continuous and even distribution of EDA/EPS runs and to generate larger number of EPS by time lagging. Hourly EPS can be generated around clock.

# Cycling approach for COMEPS (hourly analysis, 24 member ensemble)

- Hourly analysis with 3h assimilation cycling over partially overlapped windows
- Control: EDA along time
  - Varying observation data stream: (radar reflectivity, radiance... .. )
  - Model perturbation
  - Combination of comparable physics option
    - Turbulence, microphysics, radiation, diffusion, ...
  - Dynamic options (horizontal diffusion,...)
  - Surface perturbation
- 4 perturbed members each hour; SLAF for lateral boundaries
- Time lagging using model data in the latest 6 h
- 3 parallel suites running on partially overlapped windows, mutually independent

# COMEPS cycling approach applied to nowcasting

Frequent analysis & Long assimilation window

- Utilizing frequent radar observation (10 min update) to follow evolution of convection, such as on convergence zones, open/closed cell convection, sea breeze fronts etc.
- Long observation window to enable better use of longer delivery data such as satellite obs, sonding, aircraft

Better room for 'expensive schemes' such as 4DVAR

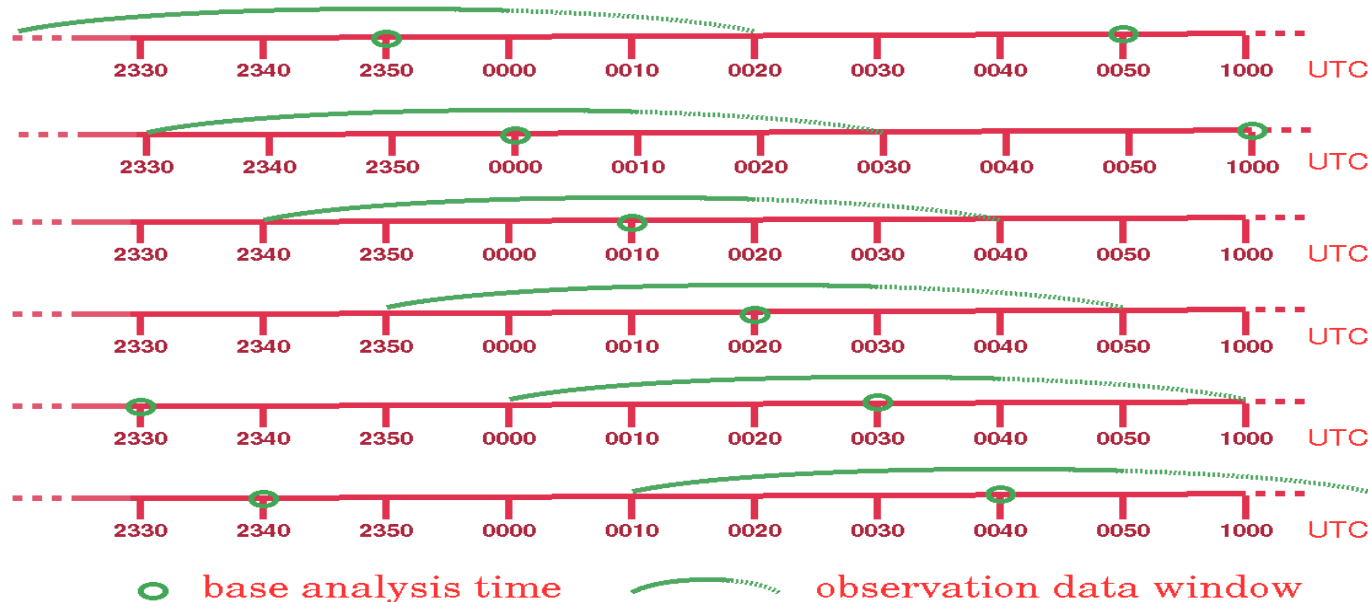
Evenly distributed computation tasks

Continuous generation of forecast products

# COMEPS, hourly analysis

Hourly suite  
3-h window  
Control EDA  
Perturbed runs  
3 independent  
parallel suites  
with hourly  
shifted basetime

# Nowcasting, sub-hourly analysis



Sub-hourly suite  
 1h to 2h window  
 Control EDA??  
 Perturbed runs ??



# What is the optimal assimilation window length?

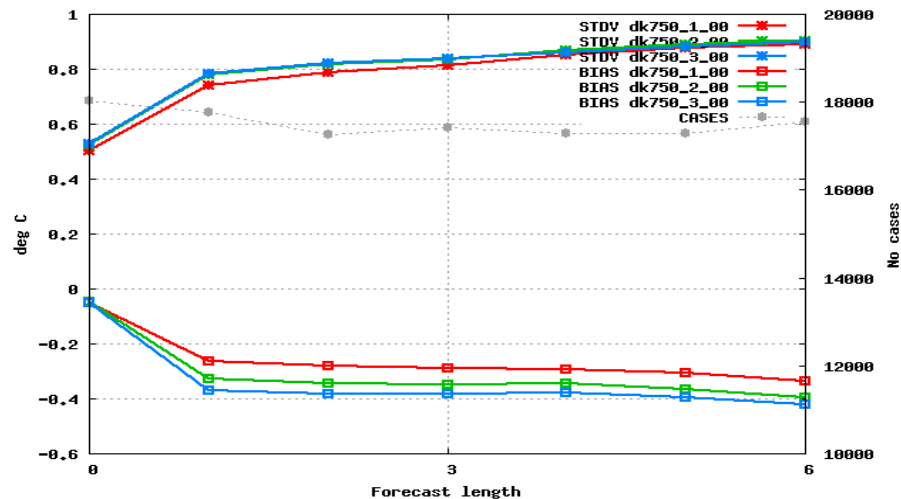
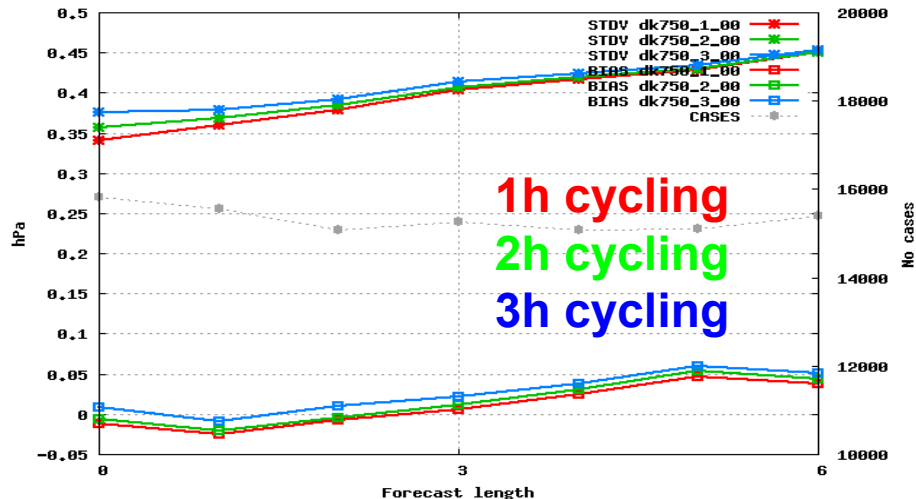
MSLP

Selection: ALL using 110 stations  
 Mslp Period: 20170922-20171028  
 Hours: {00,06,12,18}

Std &amp; bias

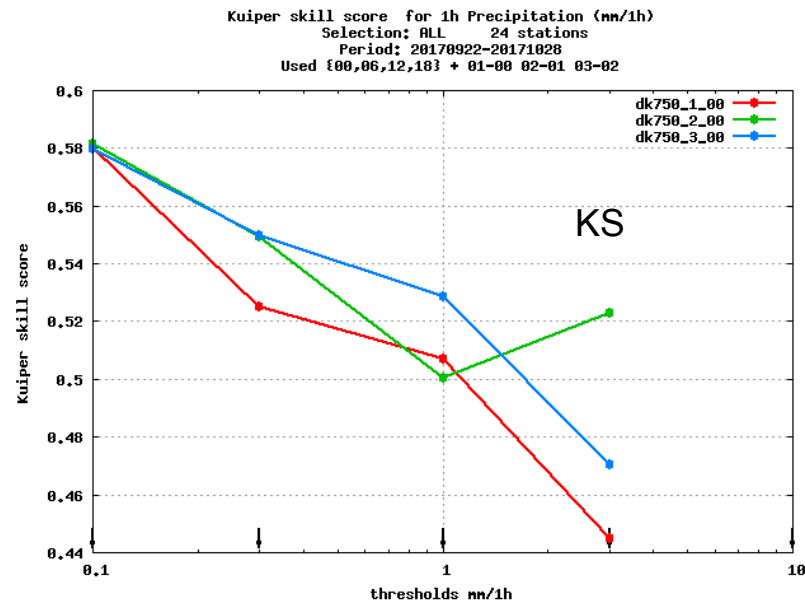
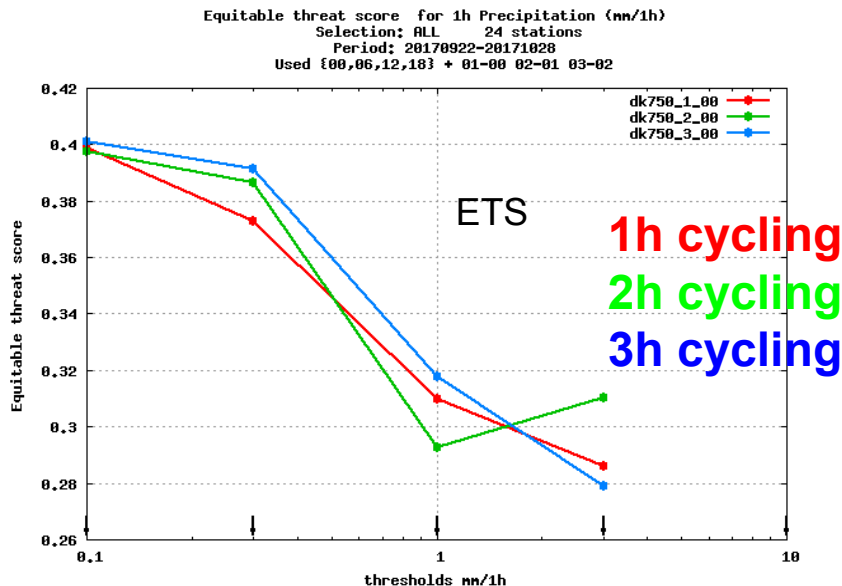
T2m

Selection: ALL using 126 stations  
 T2m, height adjusted Period: 20170922-20171028  
 Hours: {00,06,12,18}



**Cycling frequency & observation data window: DK750-3DVAR**

**1h cycling clearly advantageous for dry surface parameters MSLP/T2m**



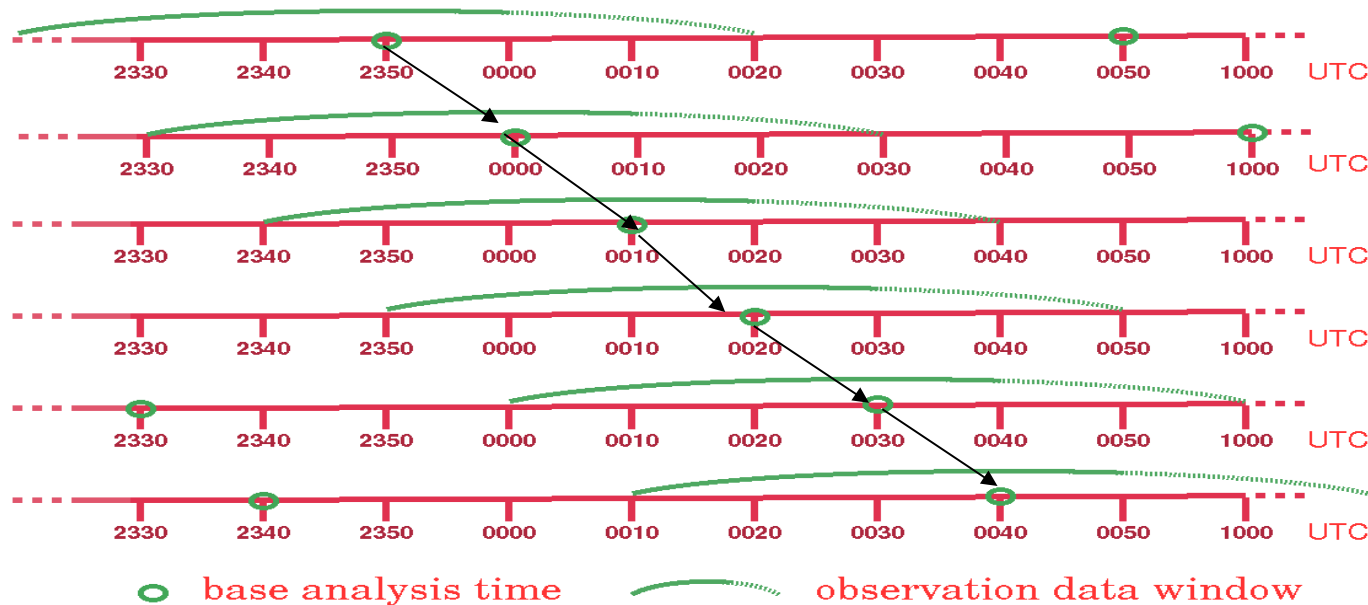
## Cycling frequency & observation data window: DK750-3DVAR

1h cycling clearly advantageous for dry surface parameters MSLP/T2m  
 But for cloud and precipitation, 1h cycling may not be optimal

Note that the situation may depend on obs data, analysis schemes, ...



# Nowcasting: connected neighbouring suites



Sub-hourly suite  
1h to 2h window  
Control EDA??  
Perturbed runs ??  
Separation of  
FG/BG

**T2M, std&bias**

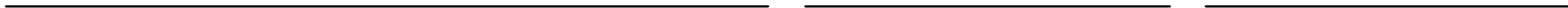
**1 hour cycling**

**2 hour cycling, parallel**

**2 hour cycling, connected**

**Cloud, ETS**

**1h Precipitation, ETS**



## Summary

- **Small convective temporal/spatial scales** require rapid update & high resolution
- Radar observation provides data for RUC system, but a too short **observation cutoff and assimilation window** affects utilisation of observation in intermittent DA
- Moisture **spin-up** a major concern in design of assimilation cycling strategy
- RUC with overlapping windows address some of the challenges
  - Sufficiently long assimilation window good for data use and spin-up
  - Separation of FG from BG beneficial
- Construction of ensemble perturbation remain to be done