

Forecasting Extreme Events



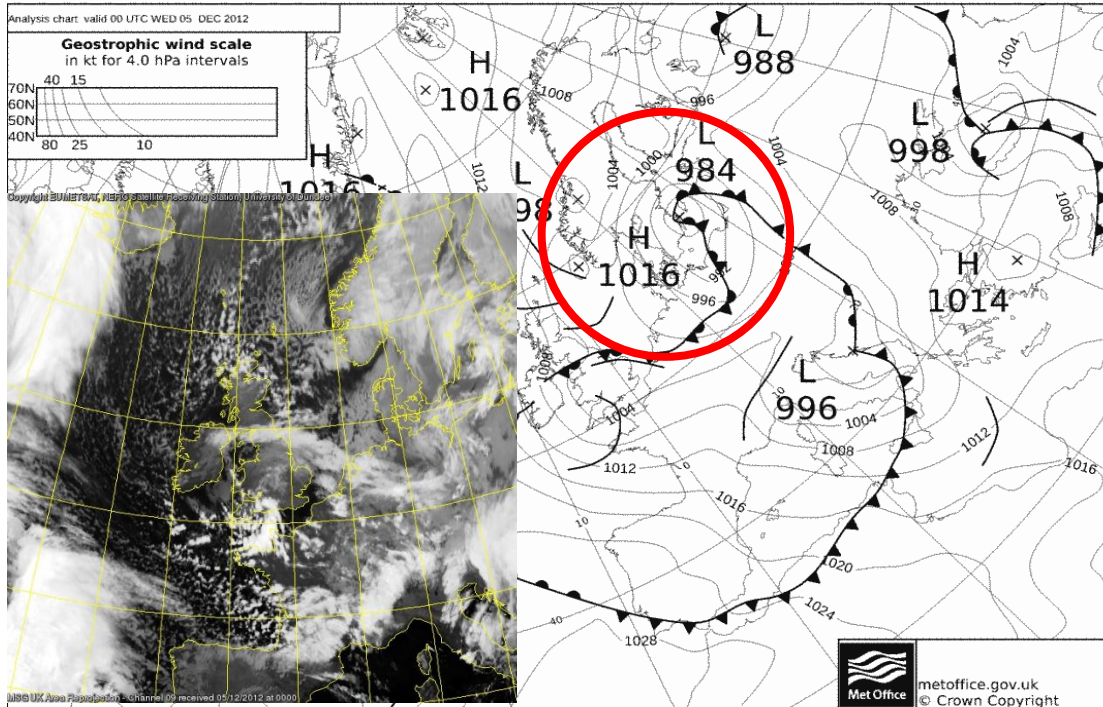
Ivan Tsonevsky,

ivan.tsonevsky@ecmwf.int

Outline

- **Examples**
- **Extreme Forecast Index (EFI) and Model climate (M-climate)**
 - how we define what is extreme (M-climate)
 - Shift Of Tails (SOT) – a new index to complement EFI
 - operational products
- **Case studies:**
 - heavy snowfall
 - heat wave

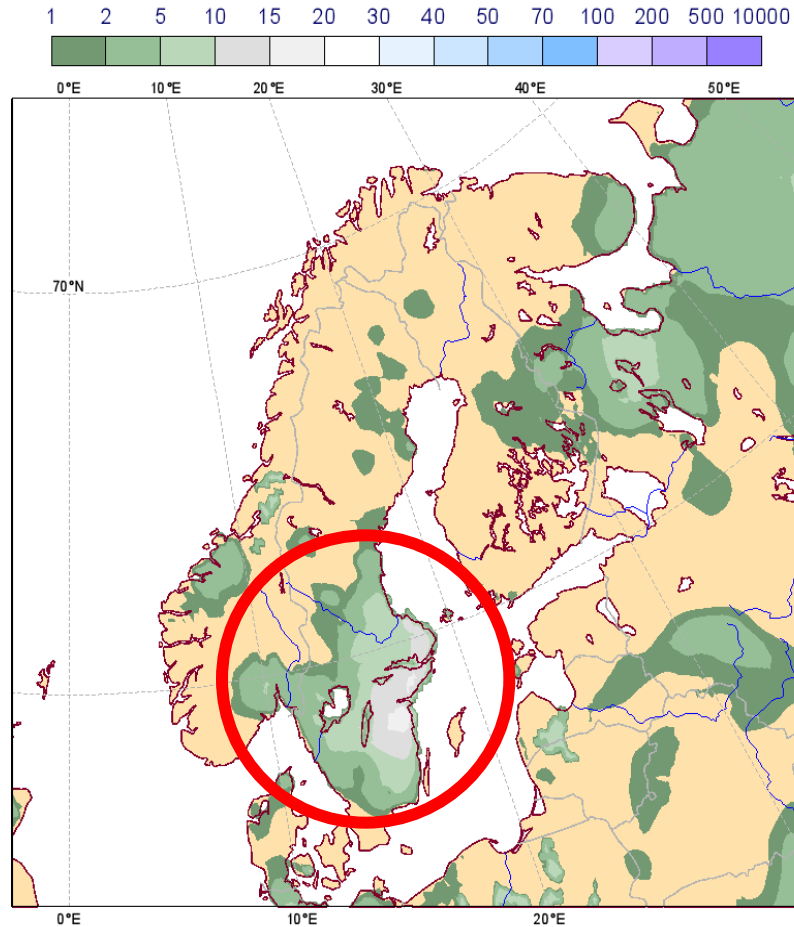
Snowstorm, Stockholm, Sweden, 5/12/2012



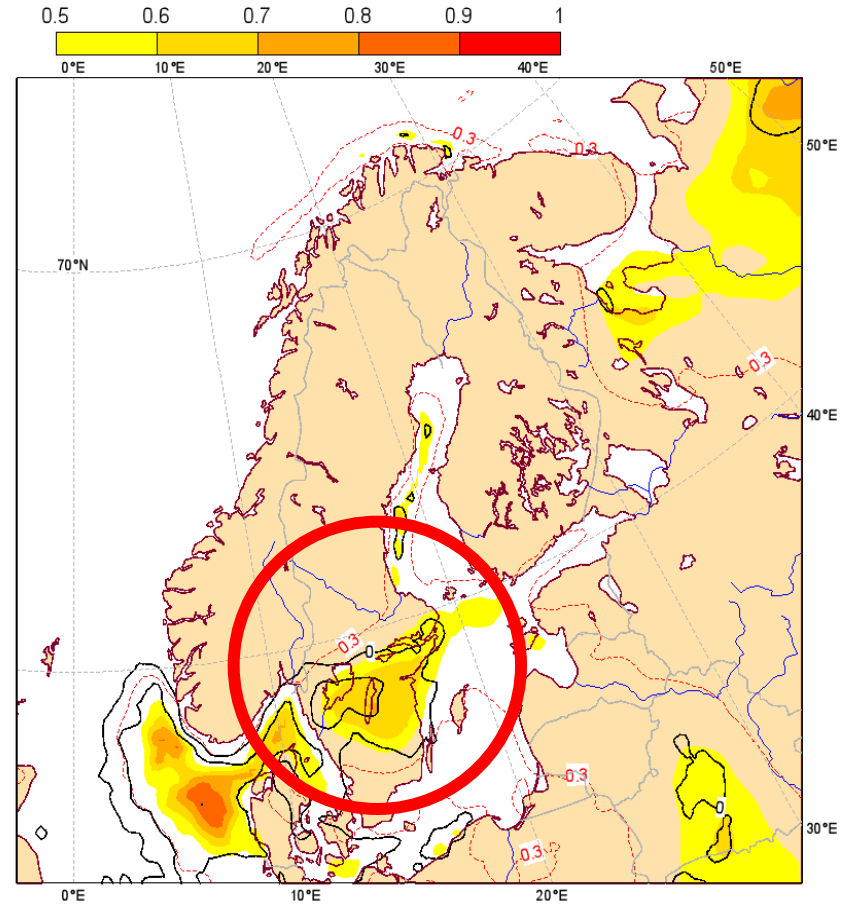
- A deep cyclone from the Baltic Sea brought blizzard conditions to central and eastern parts of Sweden.

EFI for snowfall

Analysed new snow cover for 24-h 6/12/2012 00UTC



Mon 03 Dec 2012 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Wed 05 Dec 2012 00UTC - Thu 06 Dec 2012 00UTC 48-72h
Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for: snowfall

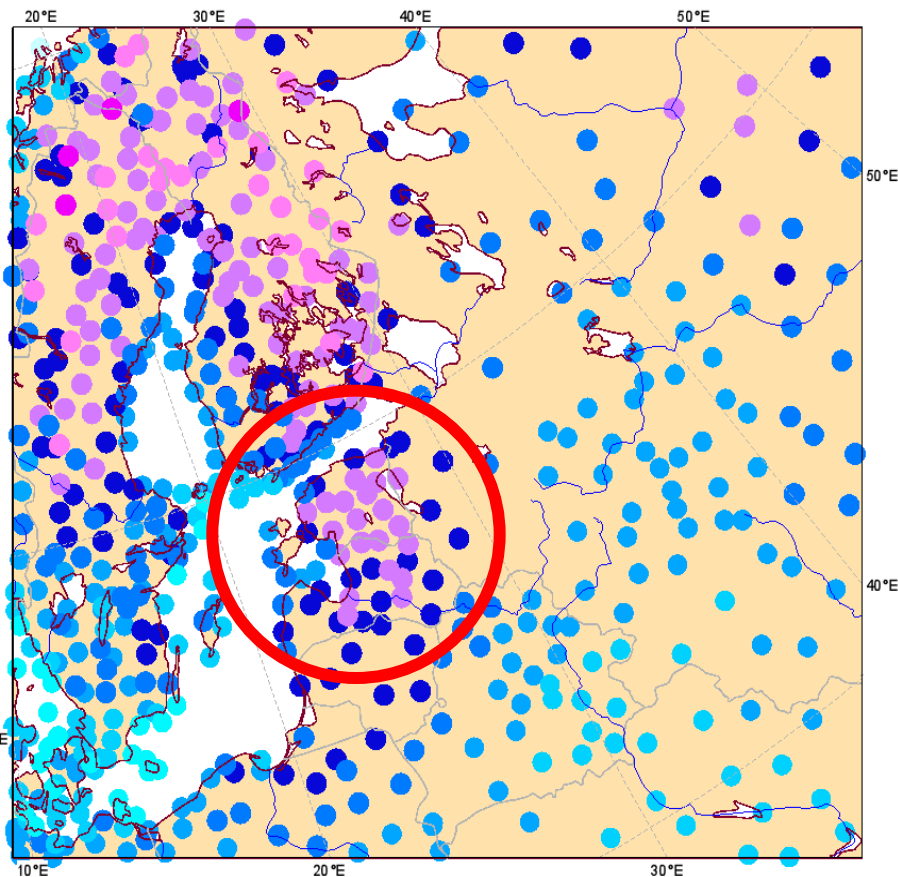


- High values of EFI and positive SOT match pretty well the area of the heaviest snowfall.

Observed 2m min T

5/2/2012 06UTC

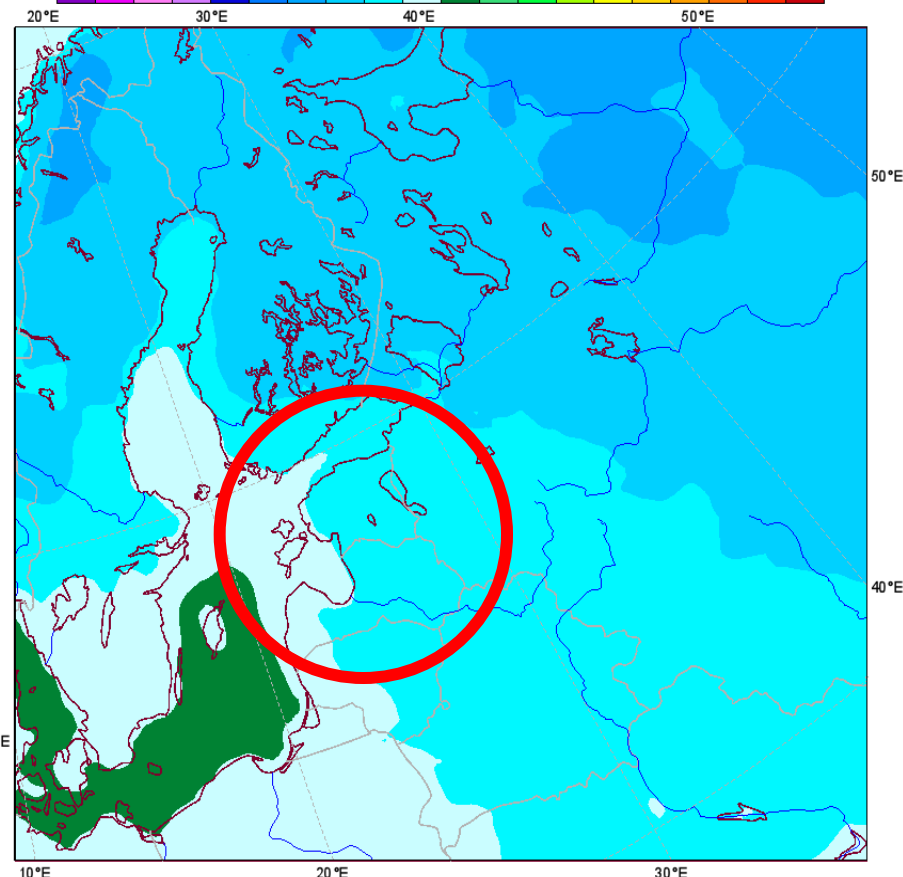
-70 -50 -40 -35 -30 -25 -20 -15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 50 60



M-climate median of 2m min T

Model climate Q50 (climate median) for 2m minimum temperature (in °C)

-70 -50 -40 -35 -30 -25 -20 -15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 50 60

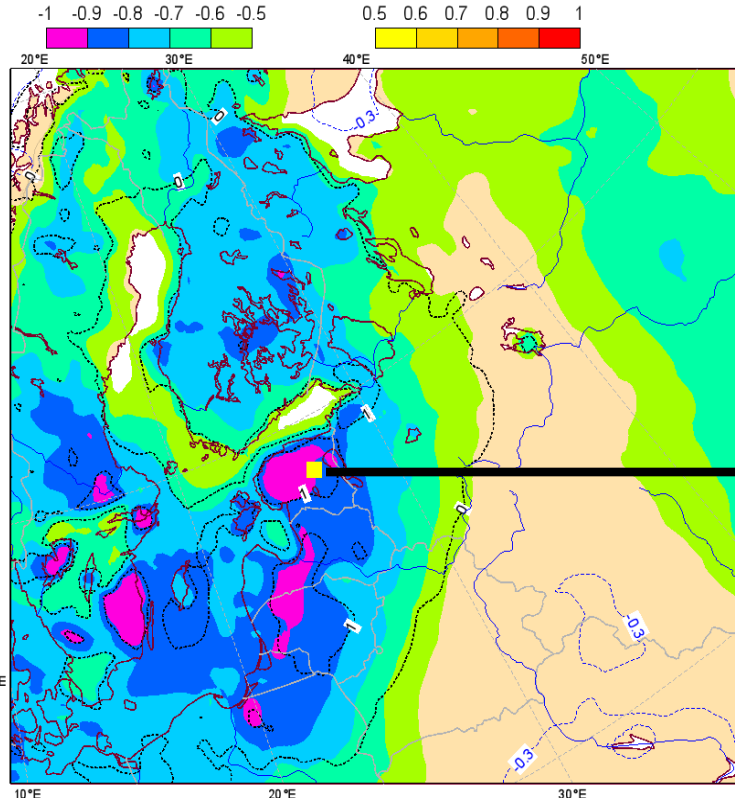


● Usual minimum temperatures in the Baltic states in February: **-5 to -10° C**

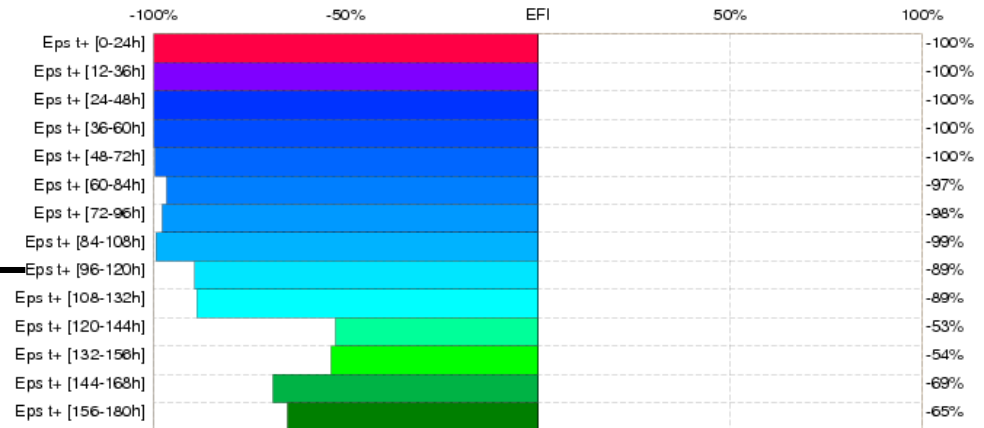
● Observed minimum temperatures: **-30 to -35° C!**

EFI for 2m minimum temperature

Wed 01 Feb 2012 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Sun 05 Feb 2012 00UTC - Mon 06 Feb 2012 00UTC 96-120h
Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0, 1, 5, 10, 15) for: 2m minimum temperature



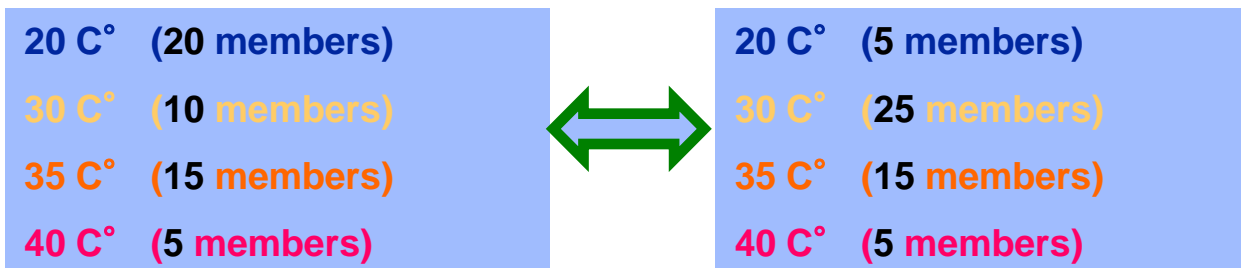
Extreme Forecast Index for 2m minimum temperature at 58.76N 26.4E
Sunday 5 February 2012



- The minimum temperature at a station in Estonia (yellow) was -35°C !
- EFI indicated that abnormally cold weather may affect the region even 7 days in advance.

Extreme Forecast Index (EFI)

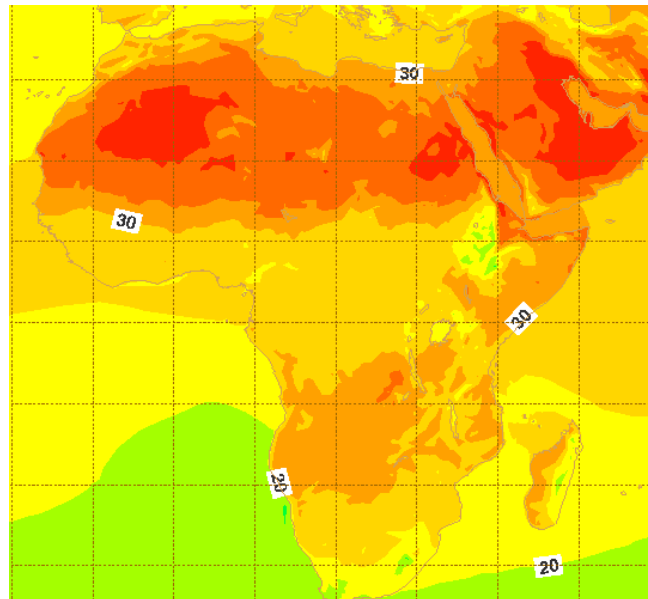
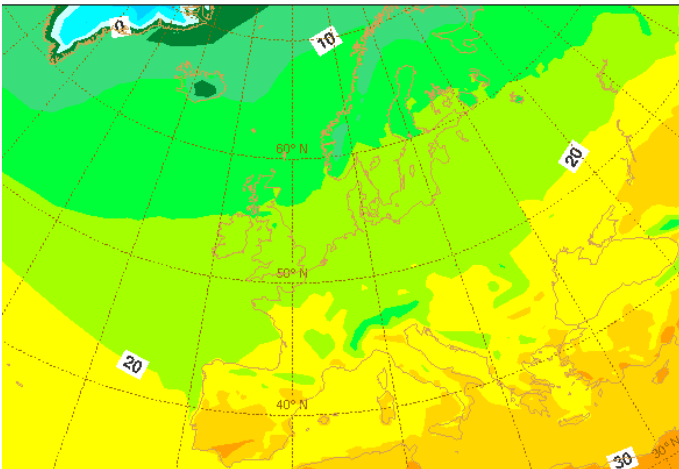
- **Extreme Forecast Index (EFI)** is designed to measure the extremity of ensemble forecast.
- EFI is a measure of the difference between the ensemble forecast distribution and a **model climate (M-climate)** distribution.
- EFI delivers model-climate-related information, therefore it can be used as an **“alarm bell”** for extreme weather situations over any area without defining different space- and time-dependent thresholds.
- Simple probabilities (eg. $> 32^{\circ}$ C) will not highlight the differences in the distributions below. EFI will, by accounting for **the distribution of all the ensemble members**.



Model Climate

How can we define what is extreme?

- Definition of extreme weather is highly climate dependent, it varies in space and time.
- Maximum temperatures of 35° C are extreme in the UK in summer but in Sahara Desert they are not.
- Snowfall is normal in Central Europe in January but not in May.



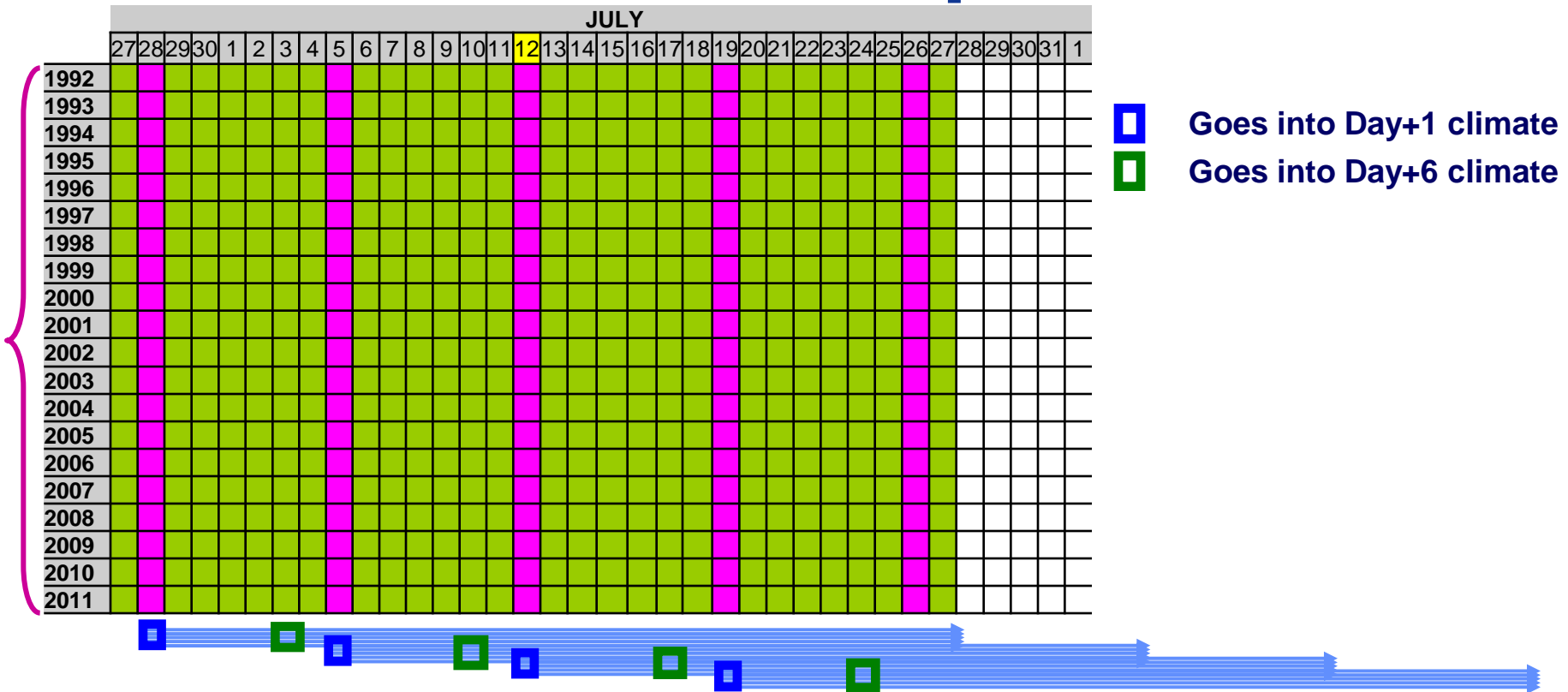
What can be used to define 'extreme' across the globe?

- Particular Thresholds? NO
- Return Periods? YES
- We need reference threshold levels, for each weather parameter of interest, everywhere across the globe
- Return Periods from observational data are not available everywhere. However global model forecasts provide output everywhere.
- Therefore global model forecasts can be used to provide the climatology from which to extract Return-Period-type information
 - As many aspects of infrastructure are based on this, it should be very helpful for early warning provision
- **Re-forecasts** are performed each time a model is upgraded, to provide the relevant climatology.

The Model Climate (M-Climate)

- For climate related products like the EFI a reliable model climate is essential.
- *Ideally* the model climate (M-Climate) is a large set of ENS re-forecasts with the latest model configuration (used operationally) for a long enough period (e.g. 30 years).
- The current ENS M-climate in use:
 - ➔ Running an ENS re-forecast suite with 4 ENS members and the Control
 - ➔ Always for the most recent **20 years** with initial conditions taken from ERA-Interim
 - ➔ Currently runs every Thursday (Therefore climate files are available only for Thursdays. For days in between Thursdays the closest preceding Thursday's files are taken.)
 - ➔ Model run for 32 days, post-processed fields as for ENS (data every 6 hours)
 - ➔ Uses latest model cycle (resolution/ physics / etc.)
 - ➔ Allows an immediate adaptation of EFI and other model climate related products to any ENS model upgrade

M-Climate – schematic representation



- To provide a robust, less noisy M-Climate, we don't use just one set of re-forecasts, but five sets centred on the week in question (increasing the sample size by a factor of 5)...
- The climate sample size is: 20 years * 5 members * 5 weekly runs = 500 re-forecast fields
- As the M-climate consists of 500 realisations, the M-climate extrema correspond, approximately, to **16-year return periods (for month-long time windows)**

M-climate

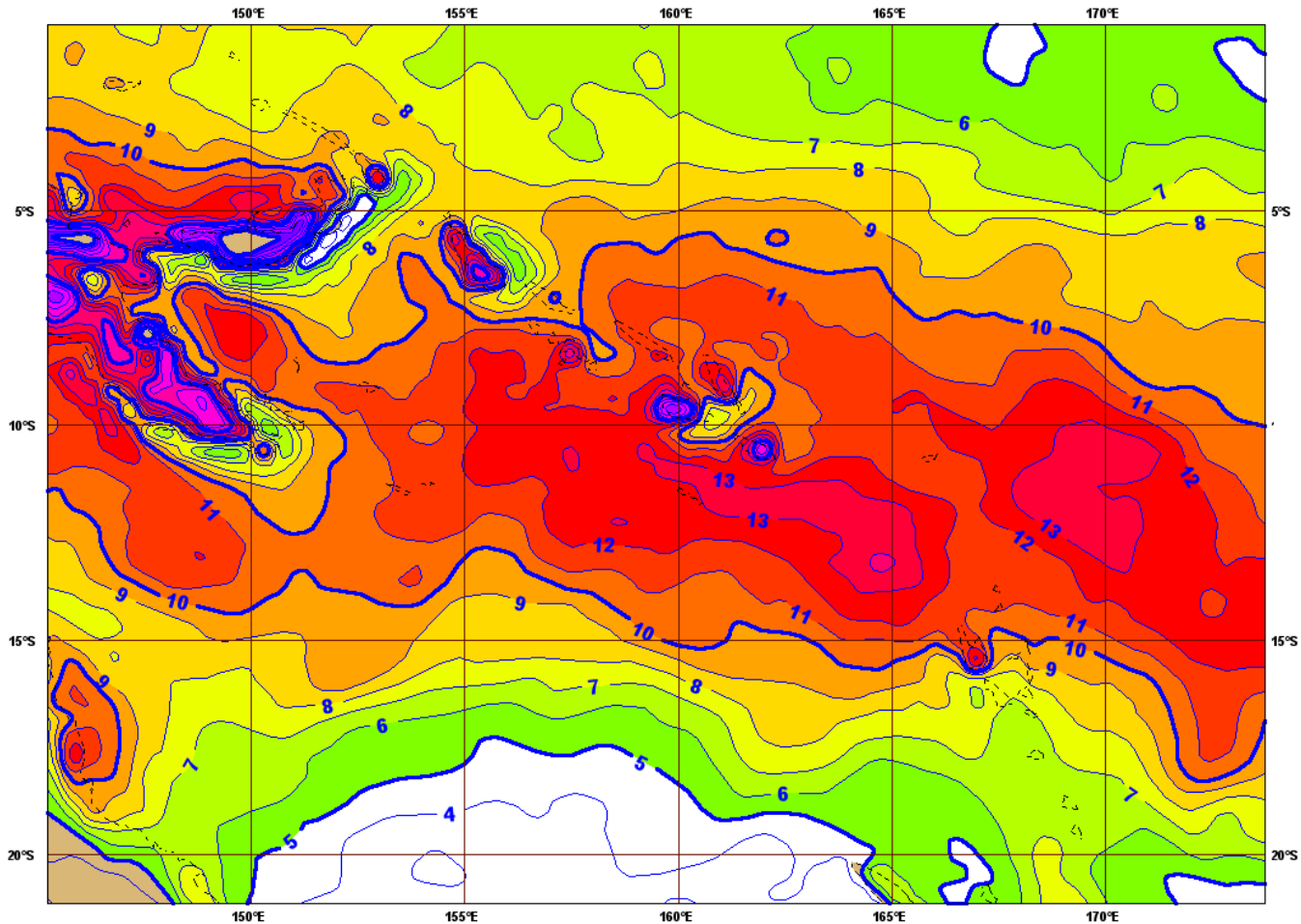
- **M-Climate** is a function of 3 factors:
 - Location
 - Time of year, to take account of seasonal variations
 - Forecast lead time

But why forecast lead time?

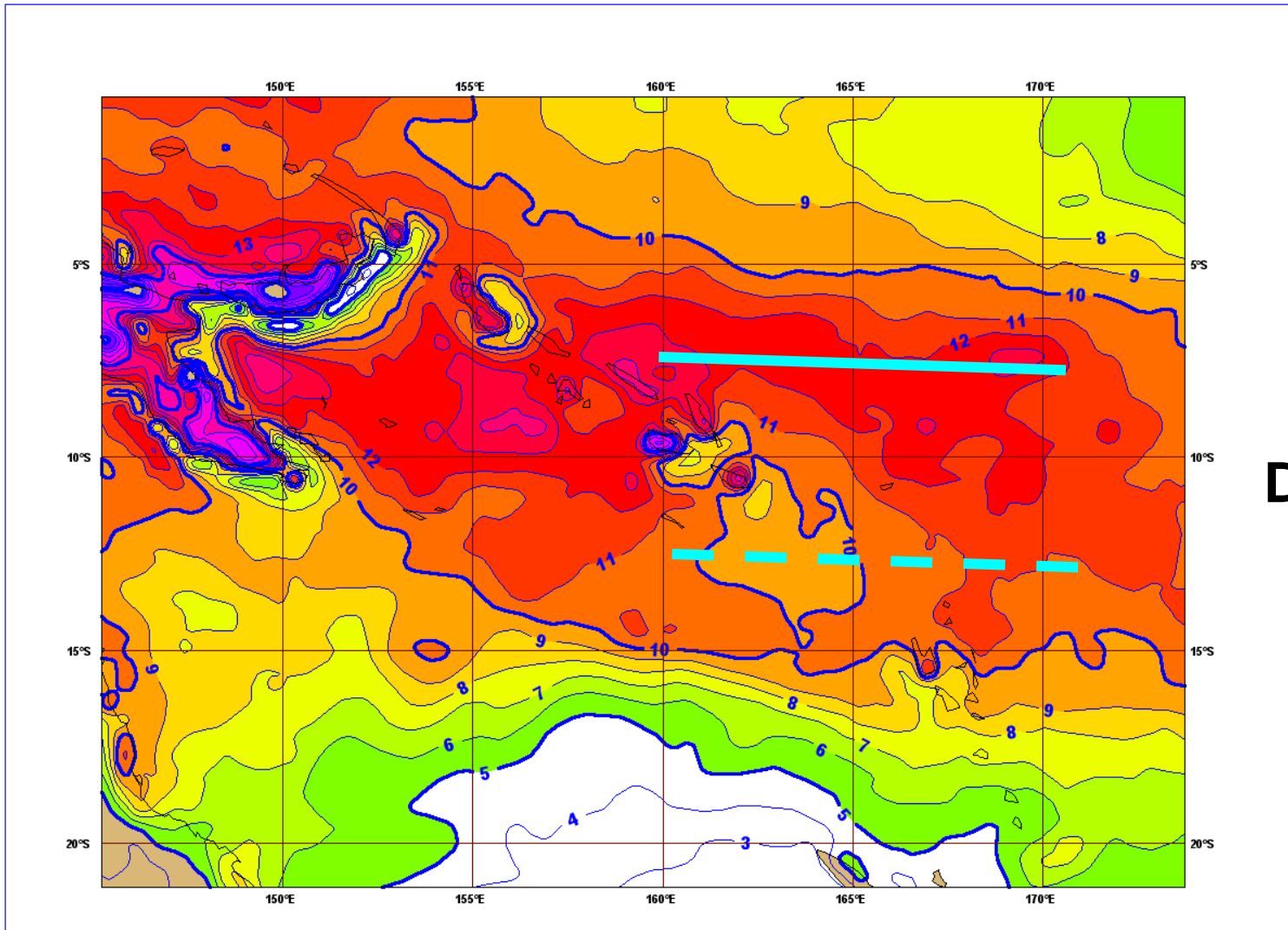
Illustrate the need for this with an example...

M-Climote e.g. Mean Daily Rainfall - SW Pacific – end of Jan

Day 2



M-Climate e.g. Mean Daily Rainfall - SW Pacific – end of Jan



Model drift

- The drift in rainfall in the SW Pacific is quite an extreme example
 - This relates to the difficulties the model has with handling tropical convection
- In other parts of the world such as Europe drift is generally much less. But it is still not zero.
- Anyway, the EFI needs to account for any drift, to see how extreme a particular set of forecasts are relative to what the forecast would 'ordinarily' produce at such lead times.

Extreme Forecast Index

Extreme Forecast Index (EFI)

- The EFI is defined on the basis of the Cumulative Distribution Functions (CDF). The abnormality level in the ensemble is determined based on the position and shape of the distributions.

12 0 9 7 13 11...
0 7 9 11 12 13...
1 2 3 4 5 6...

CDF

model climate

ENS forecast

PDF

1

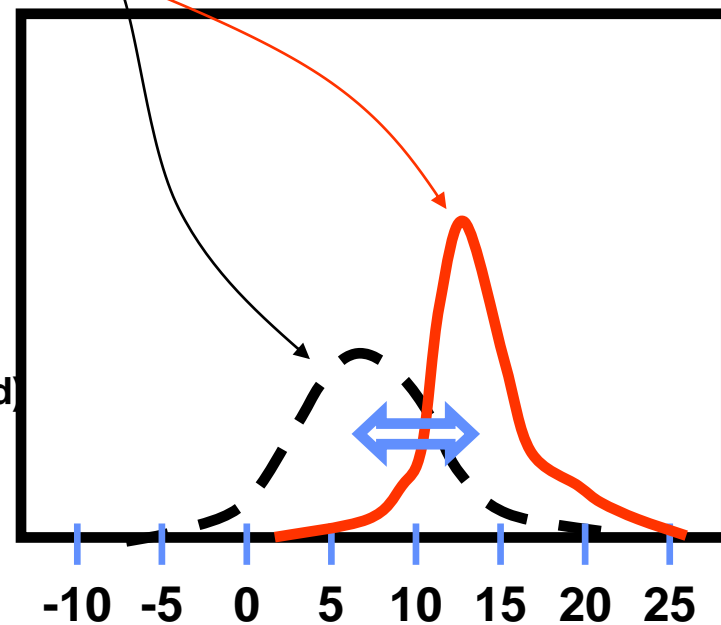
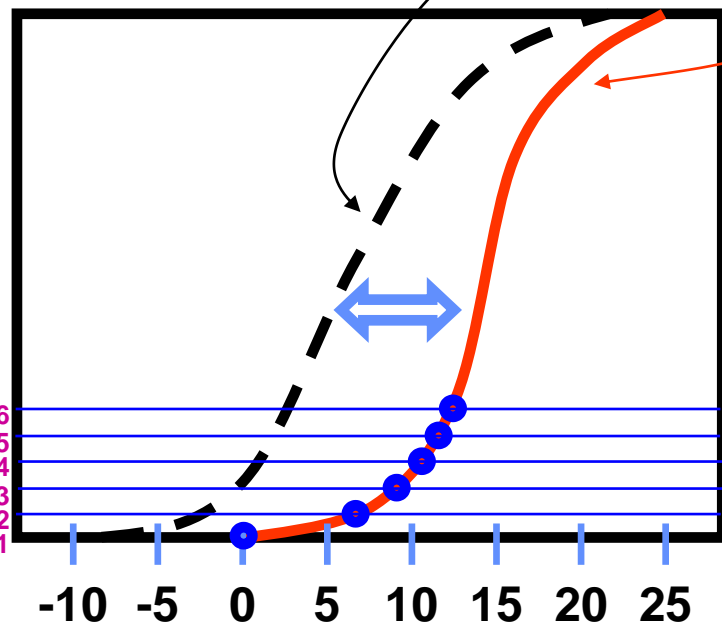
1

Probability
of not
exceeding
Threshold

Density
per
threshold
Interval
(normalised)

=RANK of
data

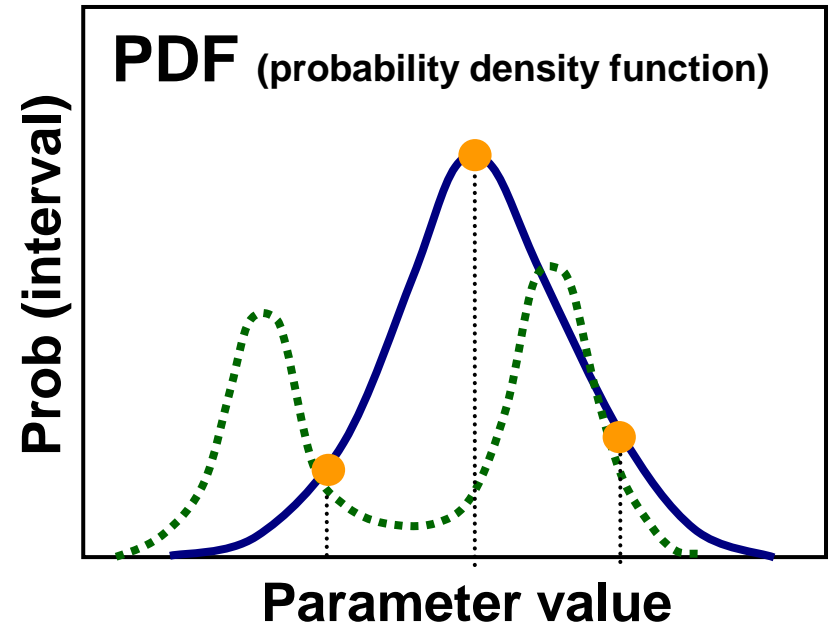
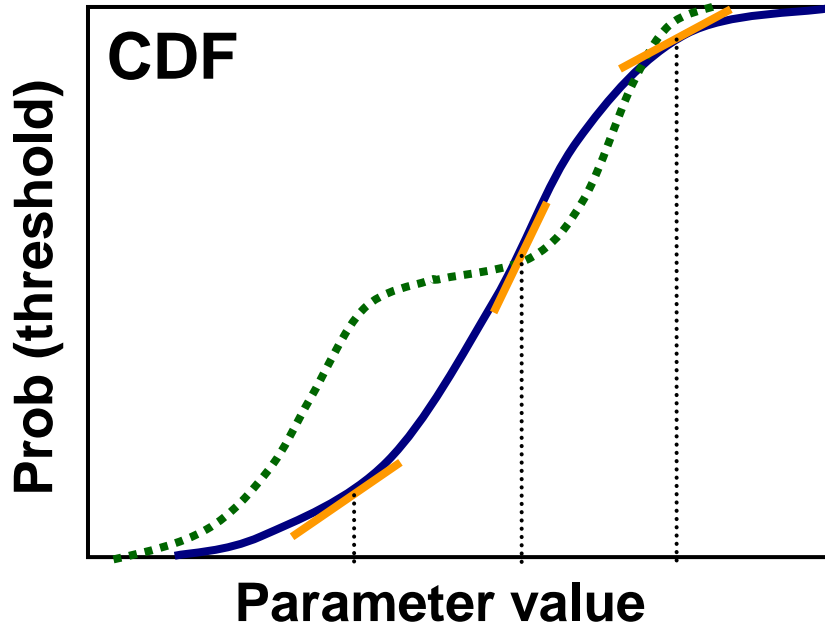
6
5
4
3
2
1



parameter value

parameter value

How do CDFs and PDFs relate?



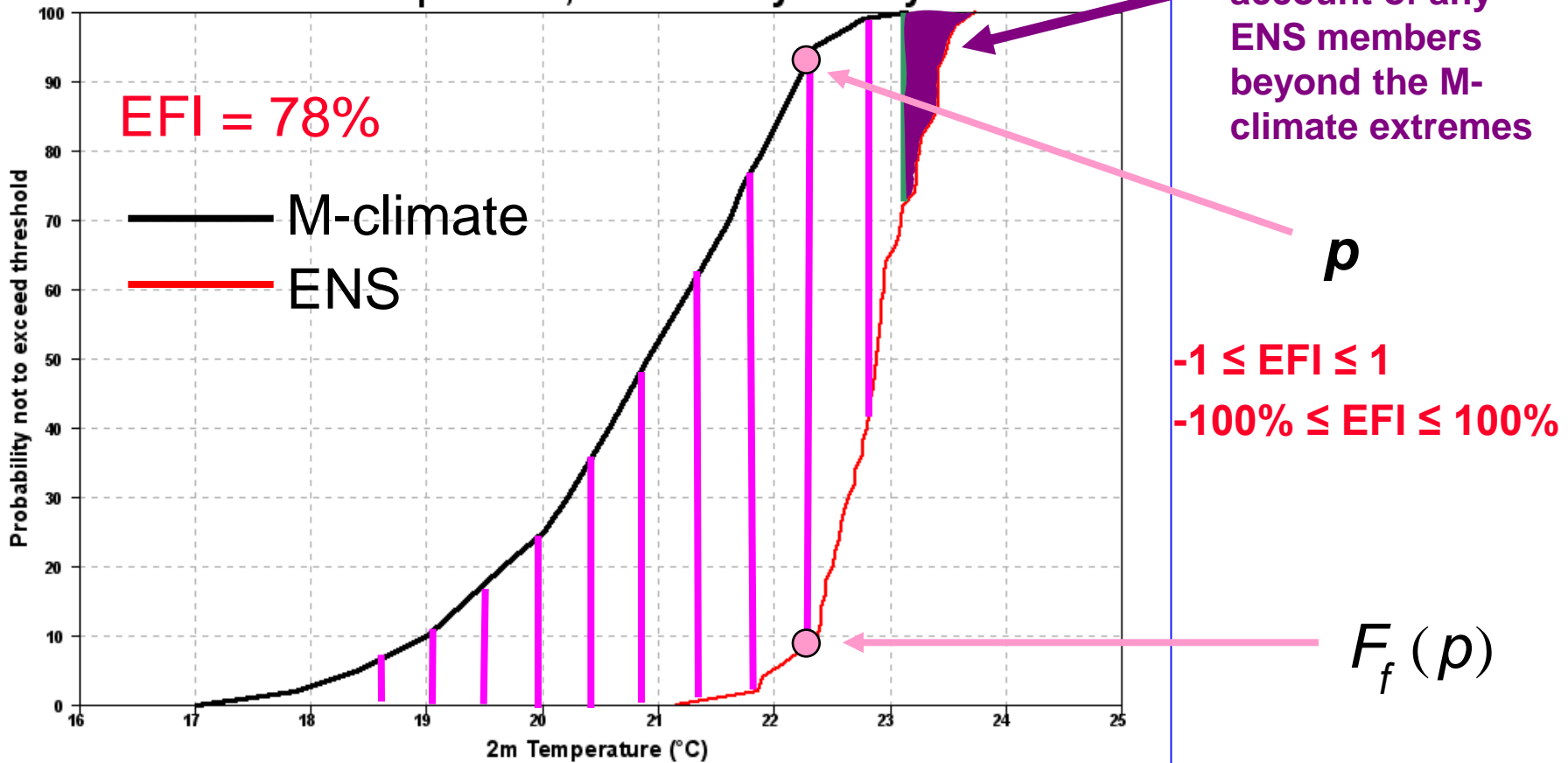
- The PDF (y-axis) value equals the slope of the CDF
- **Steeper CDF = narrower PDF = higher confidence in the forecast**
- A **step** in the CDF means a bimodal PDF

$$EFI = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \left(\frac{p - F_f(p)}{\sqrt{p(1-p)}} \right) dp$$

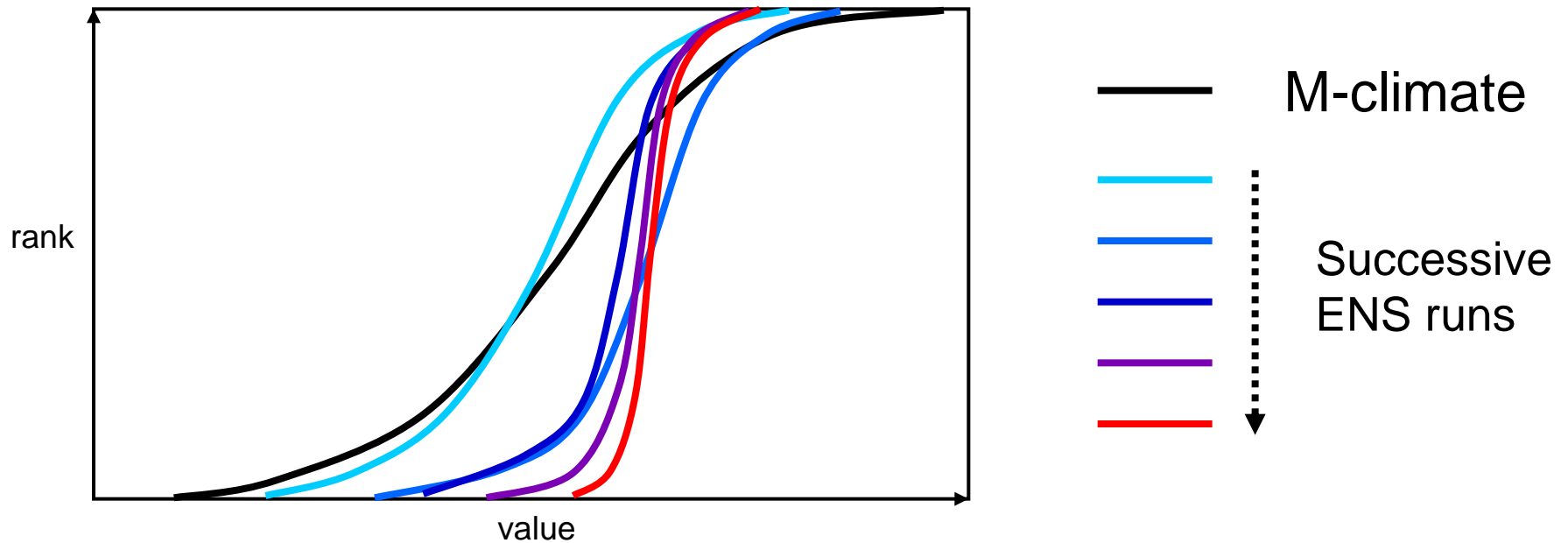
Represented by pink lines below

More weight to extremes of M-climate

Cumulative Distribution Functions 38°-153°
2m mean temperature; VT: Monday 16 May 2011



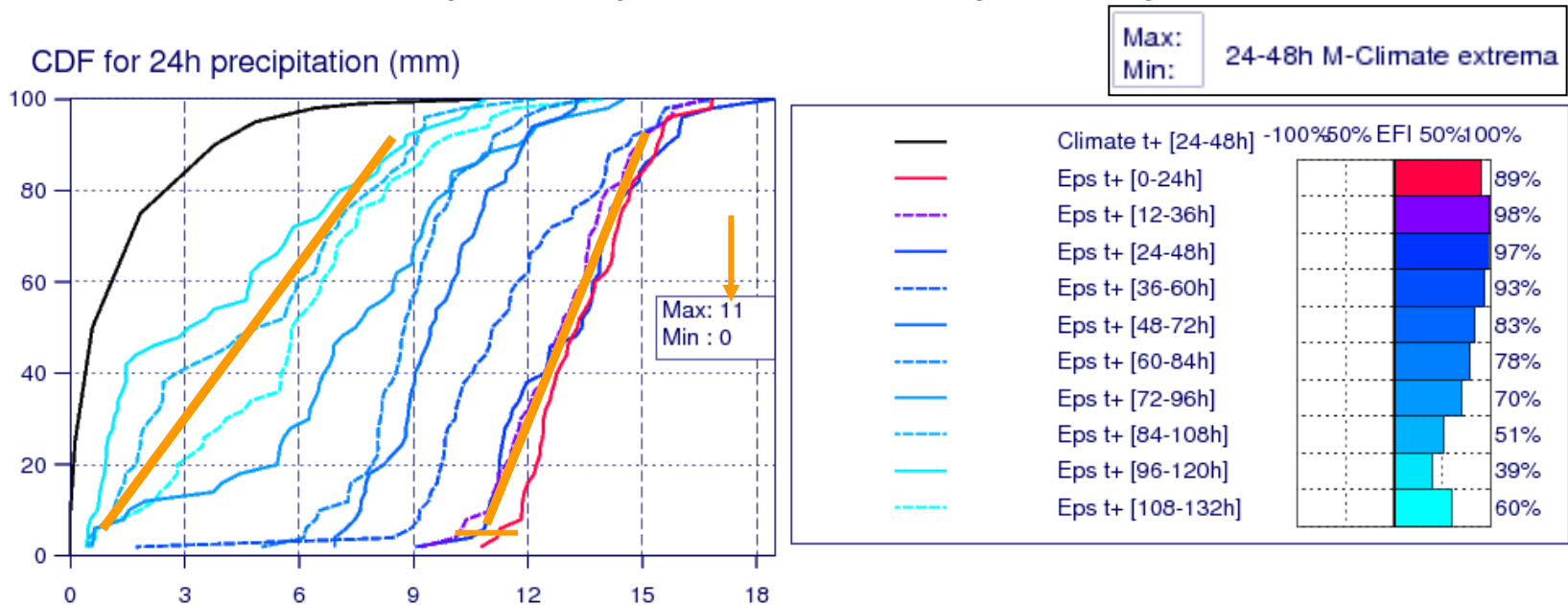
How 'should' CDFs behave in successive ENS runs?



- At long lead times CDF may be similar to the M-climate.
- Lateral variations in CDF position between successive runs should, mostly, become less (with time).
- CDF will tend to become steeper (with time), implying higher confidence.

Example

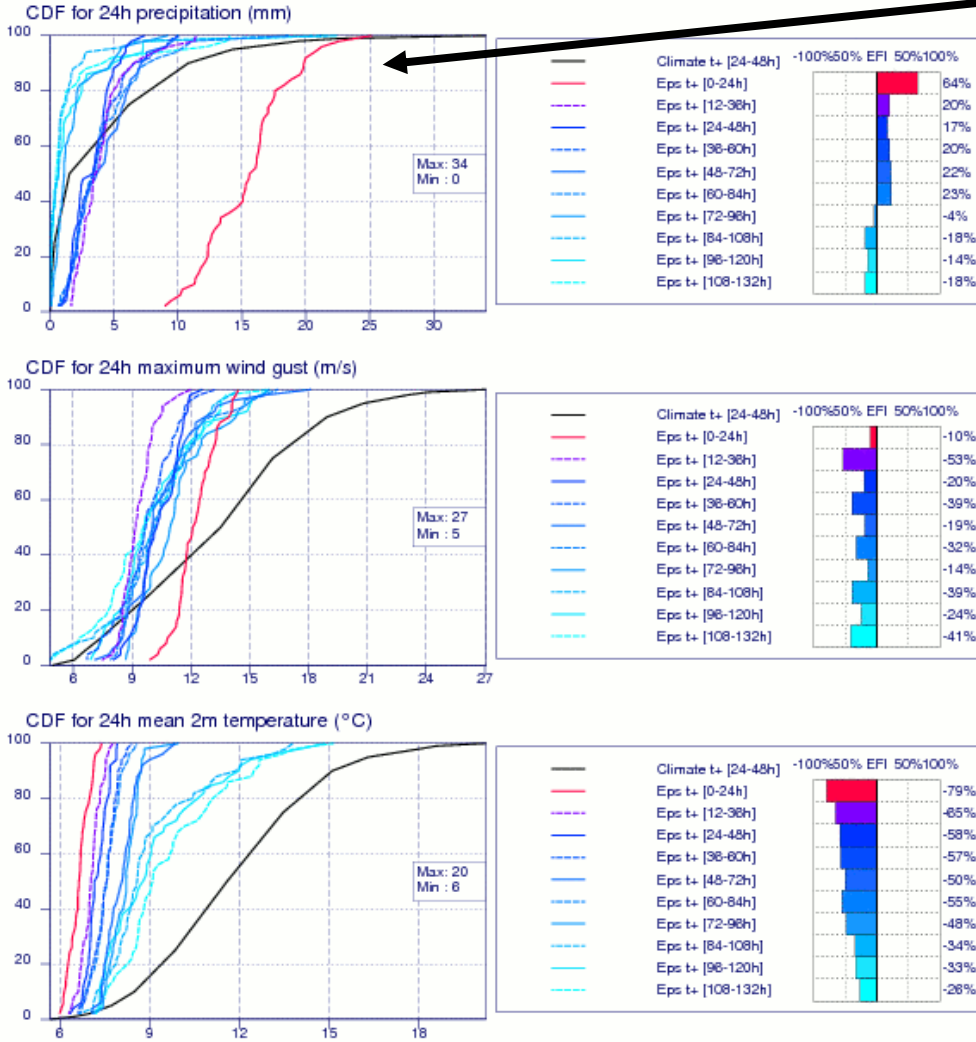
Forecast and M-Climate cumulative distribution functions with EFI values at 59.09°N/41.69°E valid for 24 hours from Monday 4 February 2013 00 UTC to Tuesday 5 February 2013 00 UTC



- The 16-year return period 24h precipitation for ~February is 11 mm (M-climate).
- ~ 95% probability of >11mm (blue line; t+24-48h)
- Steeper CDF slope on more recent forecasts signifies increasing confidence

Counter example

Forecast and M-Climate cumulative distribution functions with EFI values at 54.68° N/2.45° W valid for 24 hours from Friday 5 June 2009 00 UTC to Saturday 6 June 2009 00 UTC

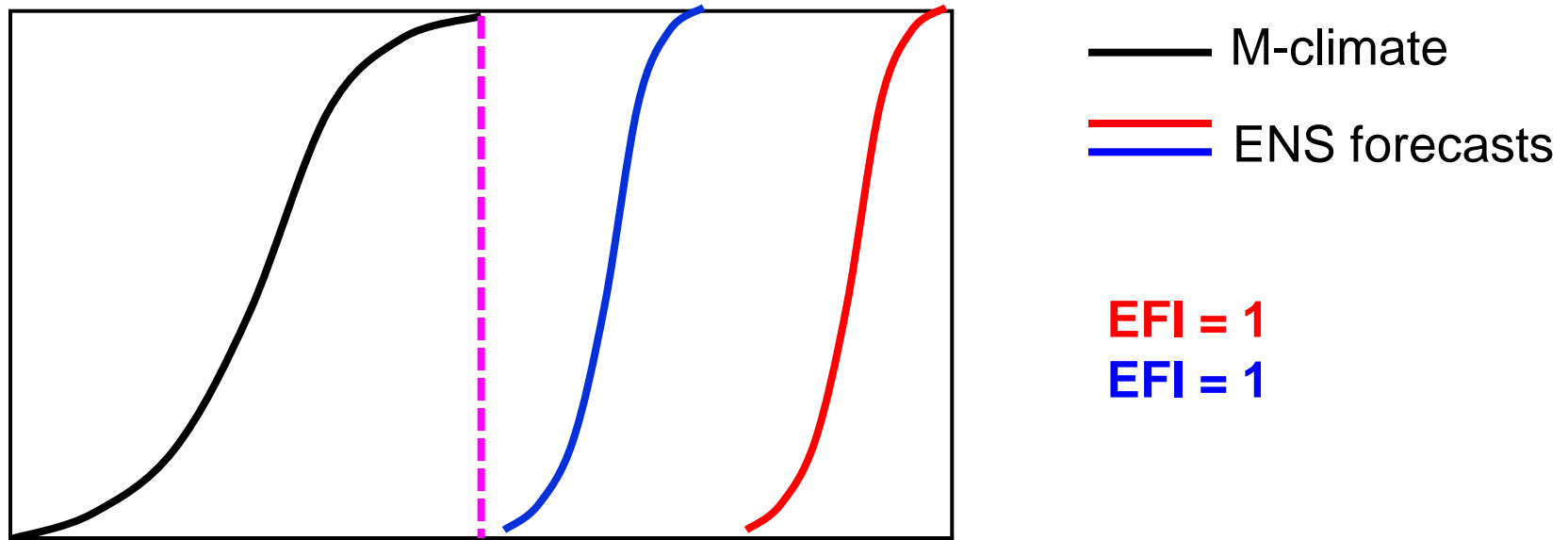


- N England rain – June '09 - low prob alternative became likely at short range. **If rare this is OK.**

Some limitations

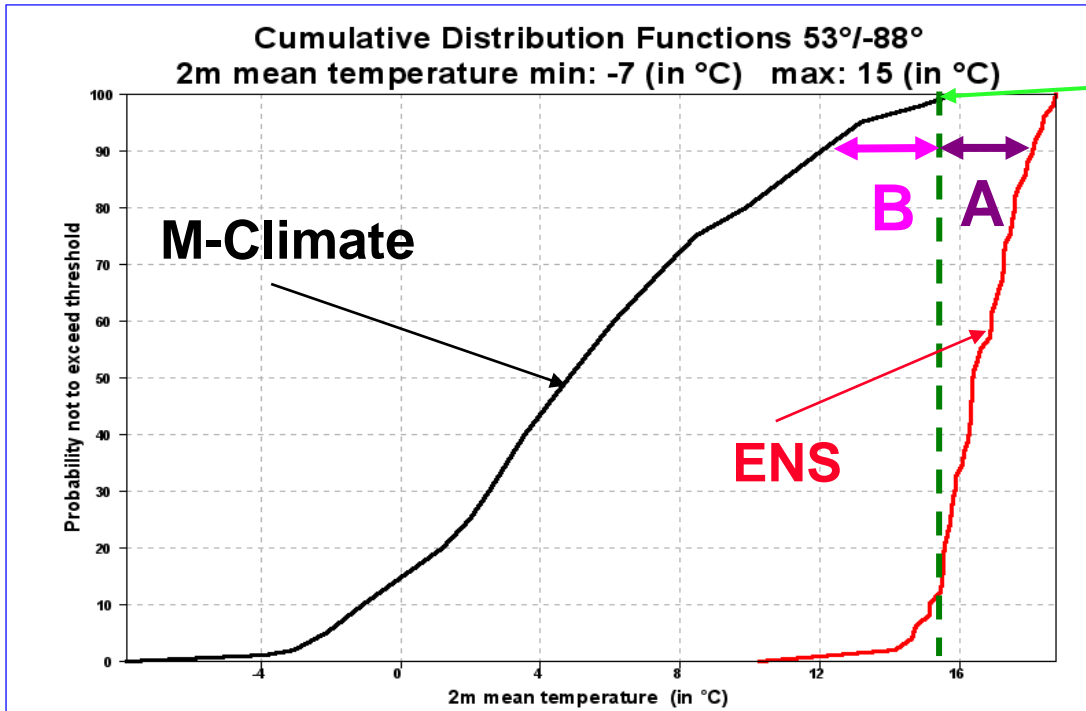
- Extreme does not *necessarily* mean high impact (eg 2mm rain in the desert)
- Past history also important but not directly accounted for (eg heavy rain when ground saturated)
- Windstorm impact can depend on whether trees are in leaf, whether ground is saturated...
- Products are only as good as the model output, e.g.:
 - Tropical cyclone representation is limited by resolution
 - Threat from intense, *very localised* convection unlikely to be fully captured
- Some severe weather parameters – e.g. blizzard, sandstorm, freezing rain – remain to be incorporated

Some limitations



- As EFI does not take direct account for members which are beyond the M-climate, once EFI reaches its maximum value of 1 or minimum value of -1, it does not provide further information about the magnitude of extremity.
- Shift Of Tails (SOT) has been introduced since 19 June 2012 to complement EFI by providing information about how extreme an extreme event might be.

Shift Of Tails (SOT)



$Q_c(99)$

$$\text{SOT} = A/B$$

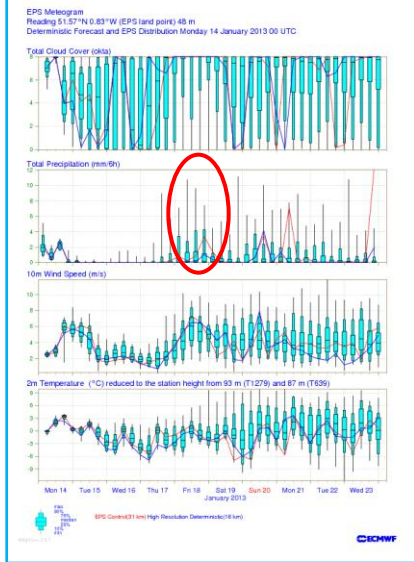
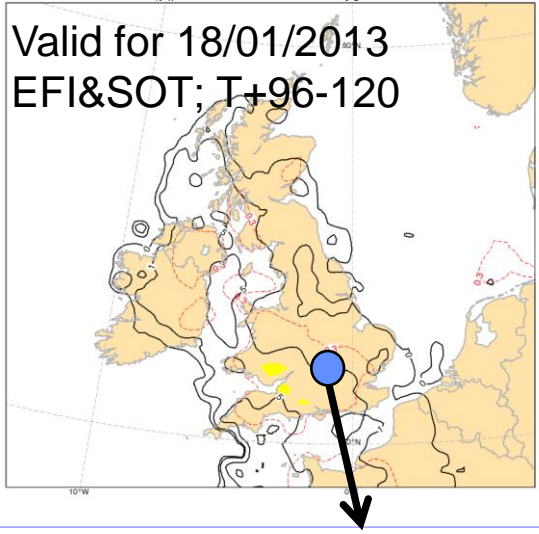
$$A = Q_f(90) - Q_c(99)$$

$$B = Q_c(99) - Q_c(90)$$

- SOT compares the tails of both distributions M-climate and ENS.
- SOT is based on 90th (upper tail) and 10th (lower tail for temperature only) M-climate percentiles
- $\text{SOT} > 0 \rightarrow$ extreme event is likely



Valid for 18/01/2013
 EFI&SOT; T+96-120

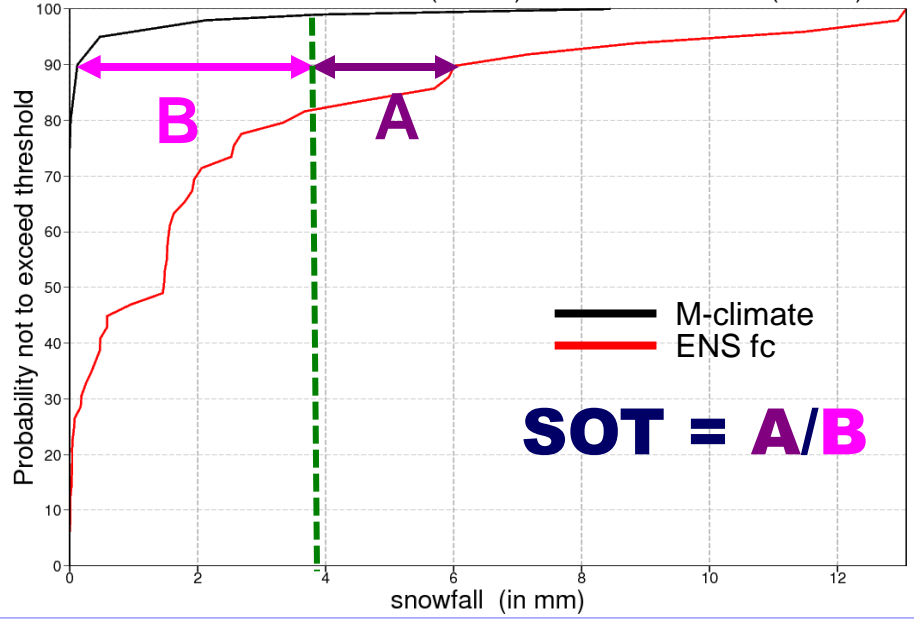


- **SOT > 0** → at least 10% of the ensemble members are above the 99th percentile M-climate
- The higher the SOT value is, the further this top 10% of the ensemble forecast is beyond Q99 of the M-climate.

- In the example (Reading):
 - **EFI = 0.36**
 - **SOT = 0.8**
- EFI positive → forecast suggests some snow
- SOT > 0 → there are ENS members predicting extreme snowfall but the forecast is still uncertain

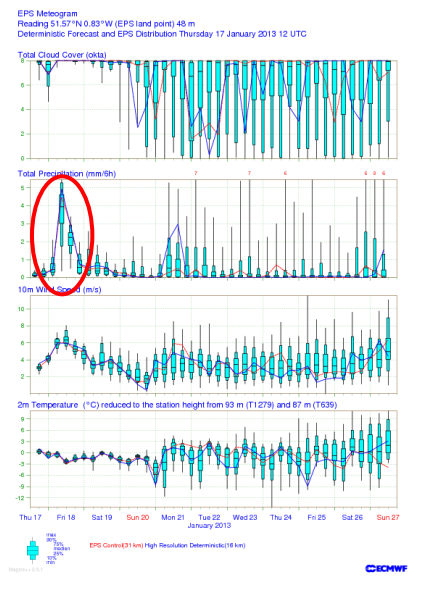
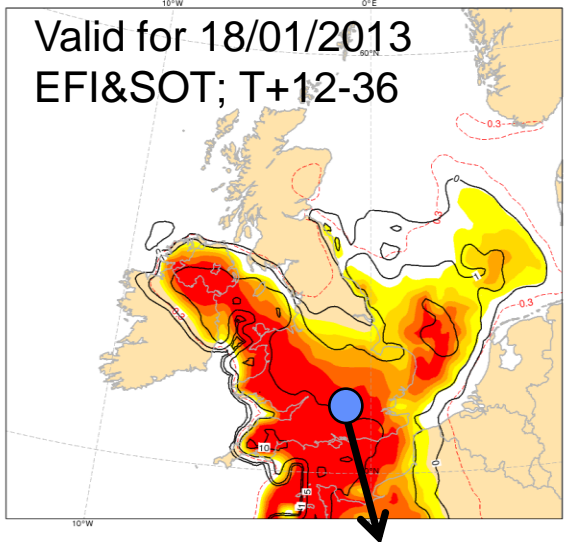
Cumulative Distribution Functions 51.57°/-0.83°

snowfall M-climate min: 0 (in mm) M-climate max: 8 (in mm)





Valid for 18/01/2013
 EFI&SOT; T+12-36



Fri

United Kingdom

Snow

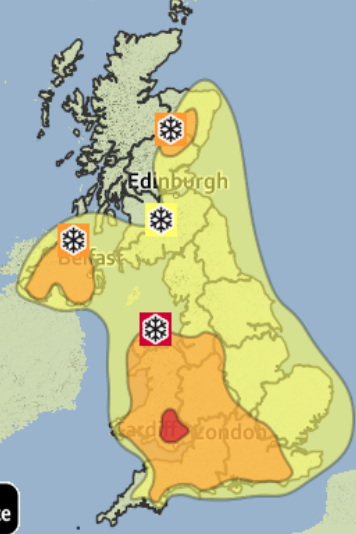
Issued at: 1230 on Thu 17 Jan 2013
Valid from: 0300 on Fri 18 Jan 2013
Valid to: 2100 on Fri 18 Jan 2013

A band of snow, heavy in places, will spread northeastwards across Wales and the southwestern half of England, during Friday morning, lasting through the afternoon and evening across much of Wales, the Midlands, southern and parts of southeast England. Winds will strengthen, leading to drifting of lying snow.

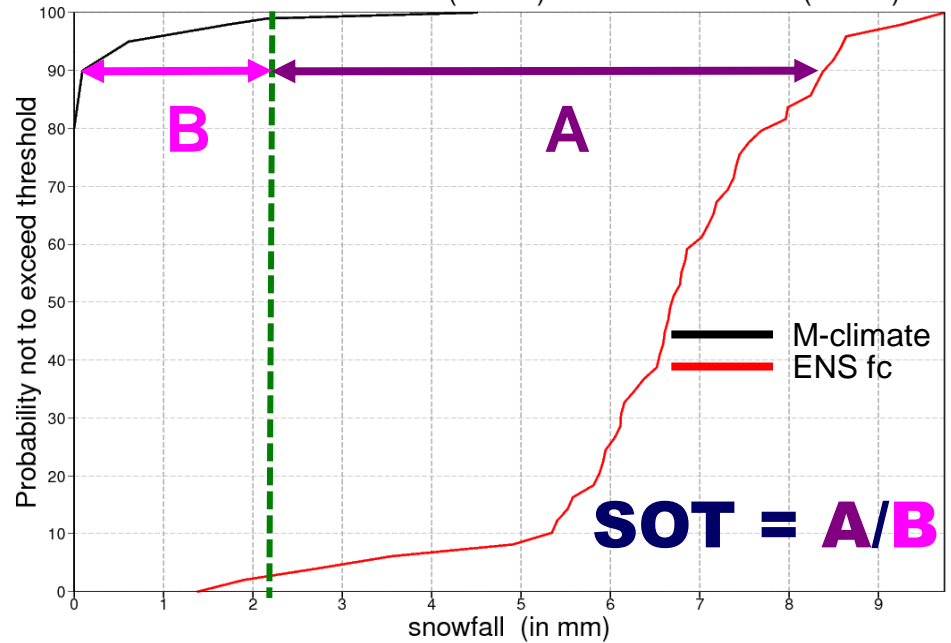
Many parts of the Red Warning area are likely to have 20-30 cm of snow with strong southeasterly winds causing blizzards, severe drifting of lying snow and thus severe disruption. The public should avoid all non-essential journeys.

Elsewhere, accumulations of more than 5-10 cm of snow will occur quite widely, with 15 cm in some western parts of the Amber area, falling within 3-6 hours. The public should be prepared for disruption, including altering travel plans.

Please watch for updates to these



Cumulative Distribution Functions 51.57°/-0.83°
 snowfall M-climate min: 0 (in mm) M-climate max: 5 (in mm)



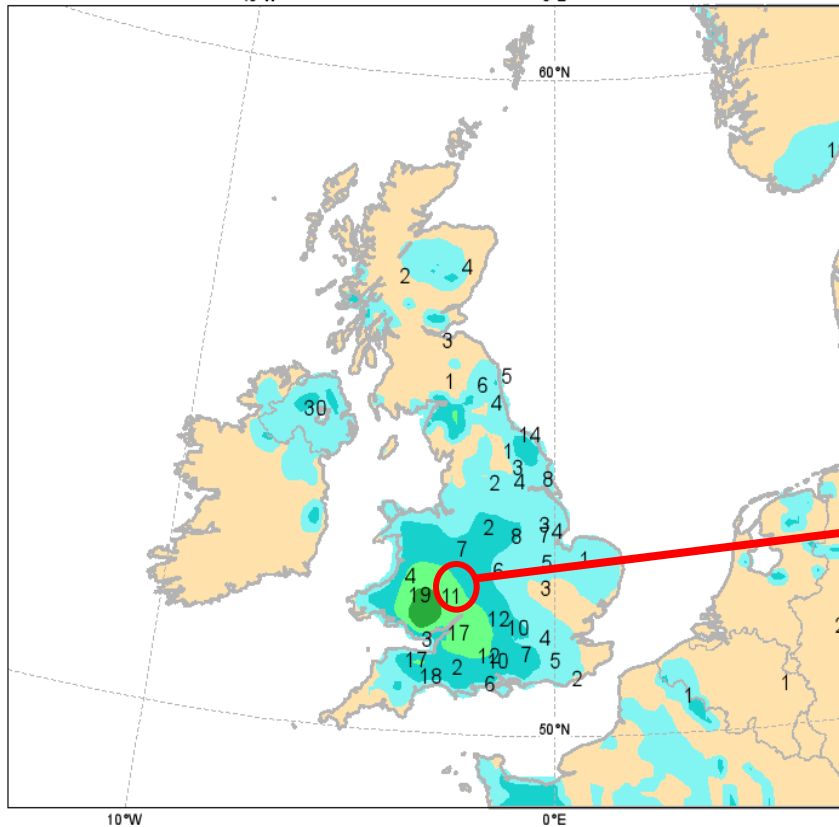
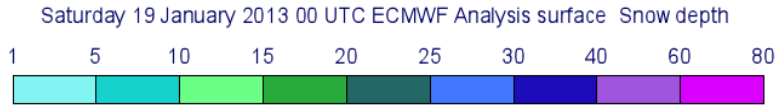
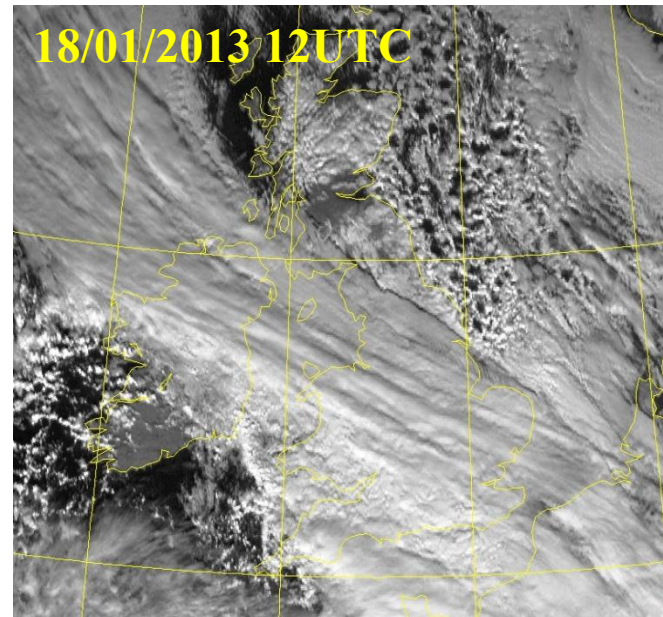
Reading:

- **EFI = 0.96**
- **SOT = 3.5**
- **High values of the EFI imply high confidence that extreme snowfall may happen**
- **Higher SOT values indicate where the most exceptional snowfall amounts might occur (relative to climate)**



What happened

ECMWF snow depth analysis and observations representing the new snow depth for 24-h period from 18/01/2013 00UTC to 19/01/2013 00UTC



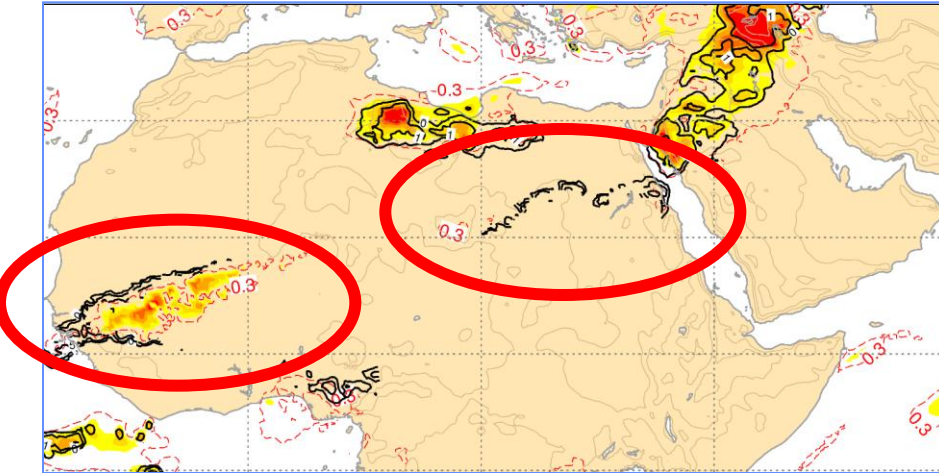
Bromsgrove, near Birmingham, UK



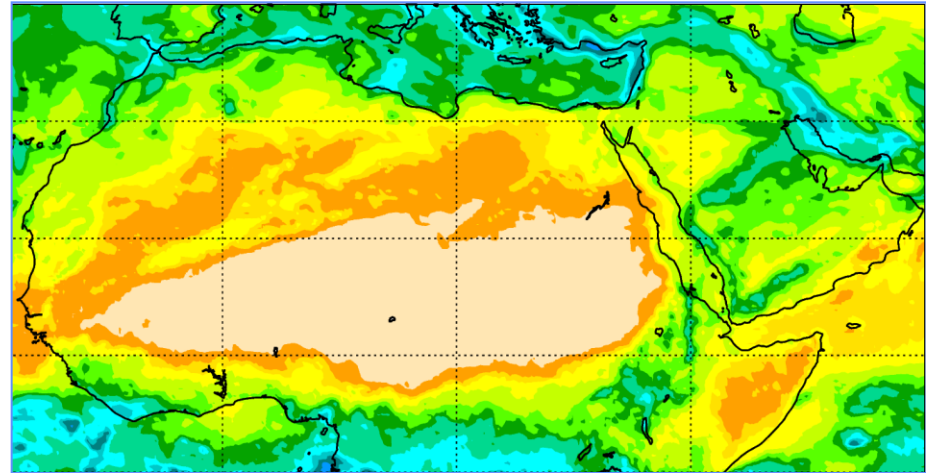
A beer garden in Bromsgrove. Credit: Sue Eden

Some limitations

EFI & SOT; precipitation



M-climate Q99



- **SOT is not defined when M-climate $Q_c(90) = Q_c(99)$ (division by 0). This leads to some noise on plots. To avoid this and to close SOT contours for snowfall, SOT is artificially set to -1 where not defined only for plotting purposes.**

Operationally available EFI fields

- In the current operational system every EFI field is based on a forecast range of 24 hours or longer.
- Since each meteorological parameter is valid for a period the content is either an accumulated value (e.g. precipitation), a mean over a period (e.g. temperature or mean wind) or an extremum (maximum or minimum) over that period (e.g. wind gust).
- Each 24-hour period variable is worked out as a post-processed value based on four 6-hourly forecast time steps. E.g. a mean over a 00-00 UTC period is a mean of the 06-12-18 and the ending 00 UTC fields.
- *Importantly*, for **wind gusts**, the 6 hourly wind gust values used are maxima within the preceding 6 hours (diagnosed by interrogating the model run at every time step).

Operationally available EFI fields

- **EFI and SOT parameters:**

- **2-metre mean temperature index (2ti)**
- **total precipitation index (tpi)**
- **10-metre mean wind speed index (10wsi)**
- **10-metre maximum wind gusts index (10fgi)**
- **2-metre minimum temperature index (mn2ti)**
- **2-metre maximum temperature index (mx2ti)**
- **total snowfall index (sfi)**
- **maximum significant wave height index (maxswhi)**

* Parameters in red available since 19th June 2012

Operationally available EFI fields

- **24h interval: parameters 2ti, tpi, 10swi, 10fgi, mn2ti, mx2ti, sfi, maxswhi**
 - **00 UTC: 00-24, 24-48, 48-72, 72-96, 96-120, 120-144, 144-168**
 - **12 UTC: 12-36, 36-60, 60-84, 84-108, 108-132, 132-156, 156-180**
- **72h interval: parameters 2ti, tpi, 10swi**
 - **00 UTC: 00-72, 24-96, 48-120, 72-144, 96-168, 120-192, 144-216**
 - **12 UTC: 12-84, 36-108, 60-132, 84-156, 108-180, 132-204, 156-228**
- **120h interval: parameters 2ti, tpi, 10swi**
 - **00UTC: 00-120 (only for tpi before), 24-144 (only for tpi before), 48-168, 72-192, 96-216**
 - **12UTC: 12-132, 36-156, 60-180, 84-204, 108-228**
- **240h interval: parameters 2ti, tpi, 10swi**
 - **00UTC: 000-240 (only for tpi before)**
 - **12UTC: 000-240 (only for tpi before)**

temperature at 850 hPa, and geopotential at 500 hPa
10-day forecasts from the ECMWF 'Ensemble Prediction System (EPS)'

Probabilities
Forecast probabilities are computed from the 50 members of the Ensemble Prediction System for different parameters and relevant thresholds.

Probabilities day 10-15
Forecast probabilities are computed for different parameters and relevant thresholds over the period from day 10 to day 15.

Extreme forecast index - Standard
The Extreme Forecast Index (EFI) up to five days ahead for 10-metre wind (daily mean), 10-metre wind gusts (daily maximum), 2-metre temperature (daily mean), precipitation (daily accumulations). The precipitation EFI is also shown for some longer period accumulations: days 1-5, 2-6 and 1-10.

Extreme forecast index - Extended
The Extreme Forecast Index (EFI) extended to show more parameters and more time ranges, together with the Shift Of Tails (SOT) index, and also maps of model climate quantiles.

Extreme forecast index (Interactive chart)
This interactive web page provides access to a range of EPS products. The main page is an 'Anomalous weather' chart that summarises EFI information for wind, temperature and precipitation. Click on the chart to find more detailed information for a specific location, including EPSgrams and the distribution of EPS values for each EFI parameter.

EFI 12m
Parameter: Forecast base time: Tue 22 Jan 2013 00:00 UTC
EFI 12m wind speed
EFI 12m wind gusts
Precipitation
Tuesday 22 January 2013 00:00 UTC. ECMWF Extreme forecast index 1-000-024 V1. Tuesday 22 January 2013 00:00 UTC - Wednesday 23 January 2013 00:00 UTC
Surface 2-metre temperature index

EFI 2m temperature
Parameter: Forecast base time: Tue 22 Jan 2013 00:00 UTC
EFI 2m temperature
The 22 Jan 2013 00:00 UTC ECMWF V1.1.0.10 V1. The 22 Jan 2013 00:00 UTC - Wednesday 23 January 2013 00:00 UTC
Extreme forecast index and Shift Of Tails index (SOT) for 2m temperature

Global EFI all parameters (Interactive chart)
Parameter: Forecast base time: Tue 22 Jan 2013 00:00 UTC
Global EFI all parameters (Interactive chart)
Anomalous weather predicted by EPS: Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC
1000 hPa 2-ensemble mean (Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 12 UTC)
and EFI values for 50m precipitation maximum 10m wind gust and mean 2m temperature (all 24h)
valid for 24-hours from Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC to Wednesday 23 January 2013 at 00 UTC

New web plots – available for all member states



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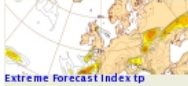
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Reanalysis
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Extreme Forecast Index (EFI)

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EFI 2m temperature

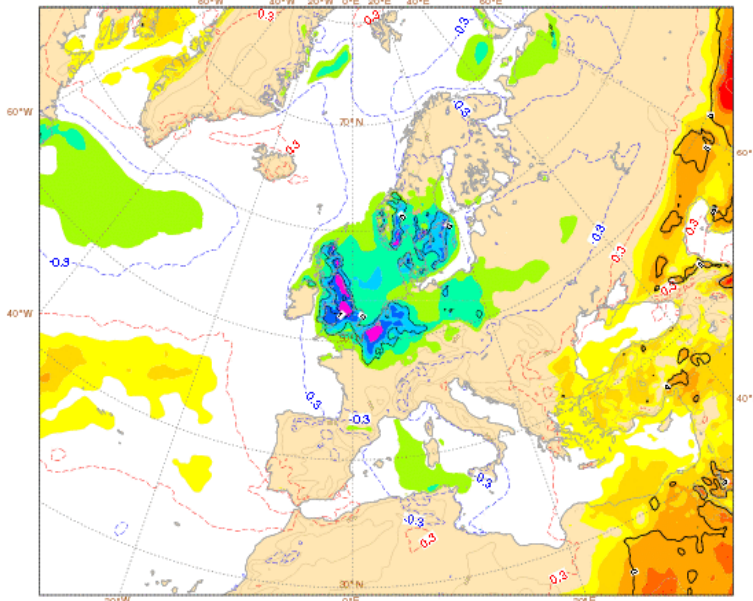
Parameter

Forecast base time

Tue 22 Jan 2013 00UTC

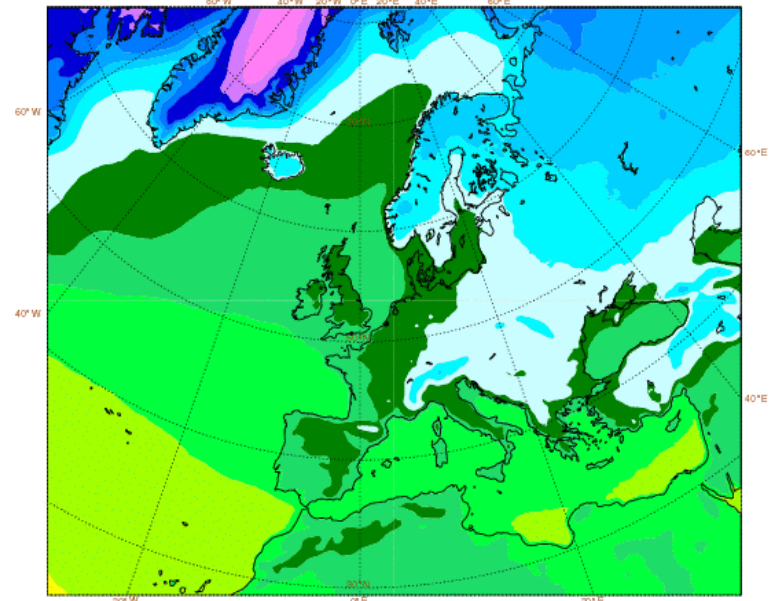
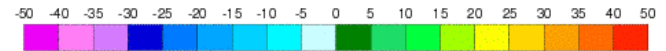
EFI & SOT

Tue 22 Jan 2013 00UTC ©ECMWF I+48-72h VT: Thu 24 Jan 2013 00UTC - Fri 25 Jan 2013 00UTC
Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for 2m mean temperature



M-climate

Thu 17 Jan 2013 00UTC ©ECMWF VT: Thu 24 Jan 2013 00UTC - Fri 25 Jan 2013 00UTC 48-72h
2m mean temperature (in °C) Model climate Q50 (climate median)



- EFI wind speed
- EFI wind gust
- EFI 2m temperature
- EFI 2m maximum temperature
- EFI 2m minimum temperature
- EFI significant wave height
- EFI snow fall
- EFI precipitation

Day

3

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- ...

Quantile

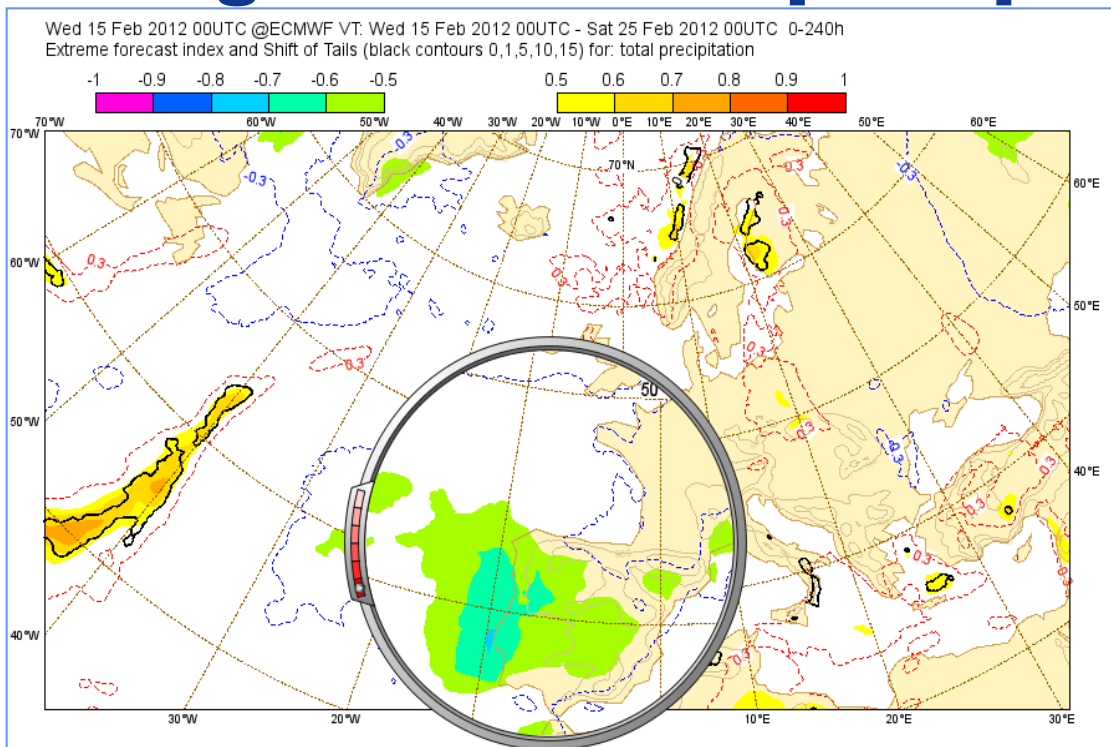
- 1
- 10
- 50
- 90
- 99

Area

- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Asia
- Australia
- Africa



Negative EFI for precipitation



Severe drought in Portugal

- For 24-hour accumulations negative EFI for precipitation does not make sense because precipitation is bounded by 0.
- For accumulations over longer periods negative EFI does make sense. It shows the likelihood of dry weather.

EFI fields available for all WMO members

Home > Products > Forecasts > Medium range forecast > Ensemble Prediction System > EFI t2m

Show guide

EFI t2m

Selected parameters and time ranges

Parameter

- EFI t2m
- EFI 10m wind speed
- EFI 10m wind gusts
- Precipitations

Forecast base time

Tue 22 Jan 2013 00UTC

Tuesday 22 January 2013 00UTC ©ECMWF Extreme forecast index t+000-024 VT: Tuesday 22 January 2013 00UTC - Wednesday 23 January 2013 00UTC
Surface: 2 metre temperature index

Day

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Area

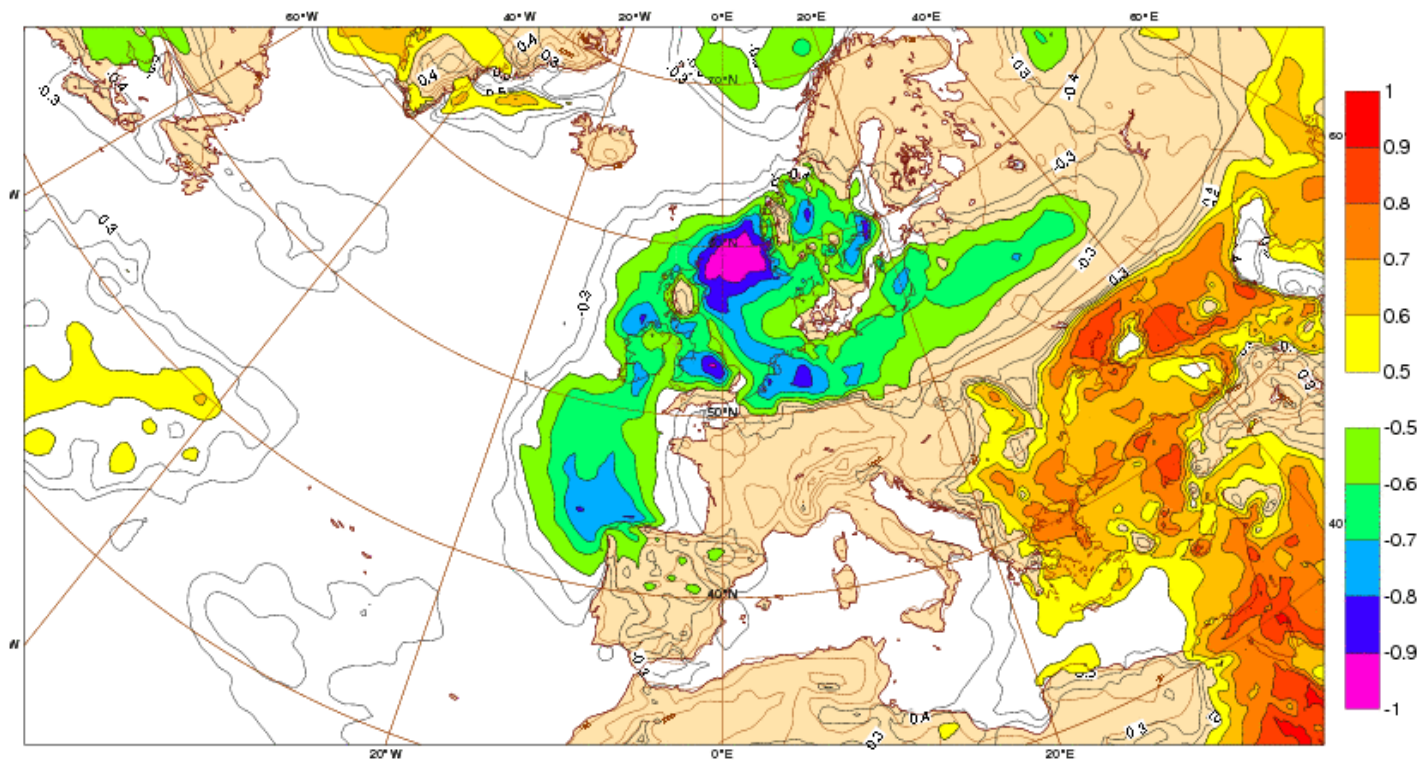
- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Asia
- Australia
- Africa

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Add this product

Show overview

- Day
- Area
- Forecast base time



“Anomalous weather” map

Home > Products > Forecasts > Medium range forecast > Ensemble Prediction System > Global EFI all parameters (Interactive chart)>

Show guide

This chart is ...
Clickable

Day
1
2
3
4
5

Area
Global
Europe
North America
South America
Asia
Africa
Australia

Interactive point
 10 days
 15 days
 10 days wave
 15 days with clim
 efi distribution

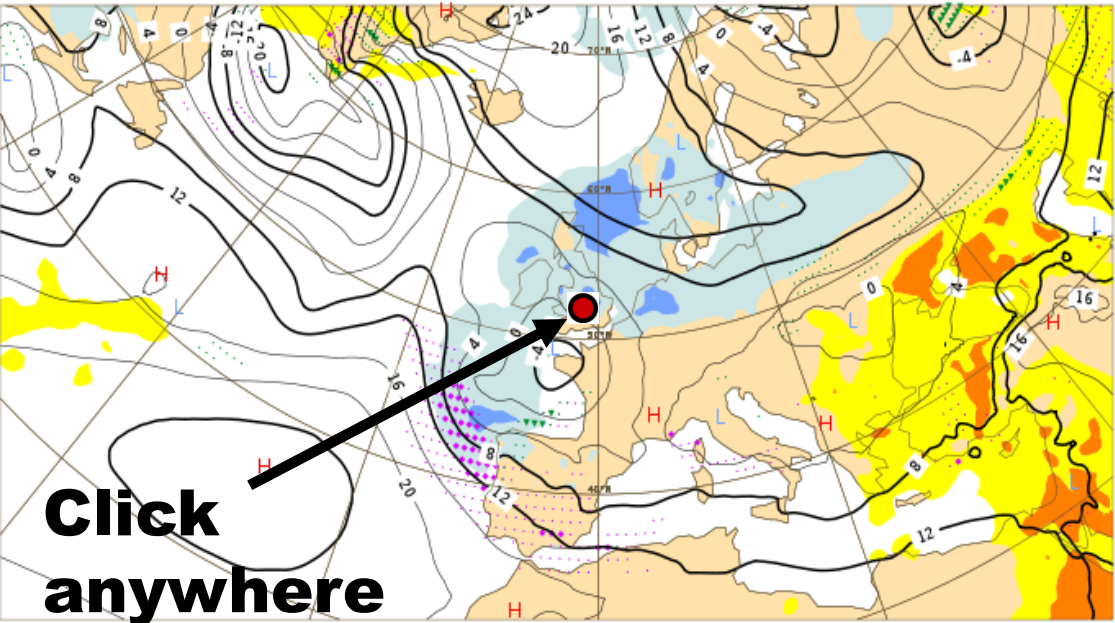
Your Room
Add this product

Download ...
PDF
Postscript

Global EFI all parameters (Interactive chart)

Forecast base time
Tue 22 Jan 2013 00UTC

Anomalous weather predicted by EPS: Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC
1000 hPa Z ensemble mean (Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 12 UTC)
and EFI values for Total precipitation, maximum 10m wind gust and mean 2m temperature (all 24h)
valid for 24hours from Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC to Wednesday 23 January 2013 at 00 UTC



Click anywhere

extrem e cold cold w arm extrem e w arm w Ind extrem e w Ind precip extrem e precip

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Show guide

This chart is ... Clickable

Day
1
2
3
4
5

Area
Global
Europe
North America
South America
Asia
Africa
Australia

Interactive point
 10 days
 15 days
 10 days wave
 15 days with clim
 efi distribution

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22-01-2013

Global EFI all parameters (Interactive chart)

Forecast base time
Tue 22 Jan 2013 00UTC

Anomalous weather predicted by EPS: Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC
 1000 hPa Z ensemble mean (Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 12 UTC)
 and EFI values for Total precipitation, maximum 10m wind gust and mean 2m temperature (all 24h)
 valid for 24hours from Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC to Wednesday 23 January 2013 at 00 UTC

Map showing pressure contours (1000 hPa) and EFI values for Total precipitation, maximum 10m wind gust, and mean 2m temperature. Legend: extreme cold, cold, warm, extreme warm, wind, extreme wind, precip, extreme precip.

Show help

Coordinates ...
 Latitude: 51.72
 Longitude: -1.22
 Make

Download ...
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Recent clicks ...
 51.72/-1.22 (15c)
 51.72/-1.22 (10)

15 days with clim for 51.72 and -1.22 (Selected/clicked point)

EPS Meteorogram
 51.95° N 0.83° W (EPS land point) 83 m (T639)
 Extended Range Forecast based on EPS Distribution Tuesday 22 January 2013 00 UTC

Daily mean of Total Cloud Cover (okta)

Total Precipitation (mm/24h)

M-Climate of the distribution of 10m Wind Direction

Daily distribution of 10m Wind Direction

Daily mean of 10m Wind Speed (m/s)

2m min/max temperature (°C) reduced to the station height from 107m (T319)

Tue 22 Wed 23 Thu 24 Fri 25 Sat 26 Sun 27 Mon 28 Tue 29 Wed 30 Thu 31 Fri 1 Sat 2 Sun 3 Mon 4 Tue 5
 January 2013 February 2013

M-Climate: this stands for "Model Climate". It is a function of lead time, date (+/-15days), and model version. It is derived by rerunning a 5 member ensemble over the last 20 years, once per week /500

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Home > Products > Forecasts > Medium range forecast > Ensemble Prediction System > Global EFI all parameters (Interactive chart)>

Show guide

This chart is ... Clickable

Day 1 2 3 4 5

Area Global Europe North America South America Asia Africa Australia

Interactive point 10 days 15 days 10 days wave **efi distribution**

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22-01-2013

Forecast base time Tue 22 Jan 2013 00UTC

Anomalous weather predicted by EPS: Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC
 1000 hPa Z ensemble mean (Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 12 UTC)
 and EFI values for Total precipitation,maximum 10m wind gust and mean 2m temperature (all 24h)
 valid for 24hours from Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 00 UTC to Wednesday 23 January 2013 at 00 UTC

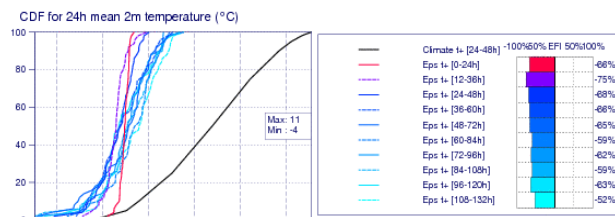
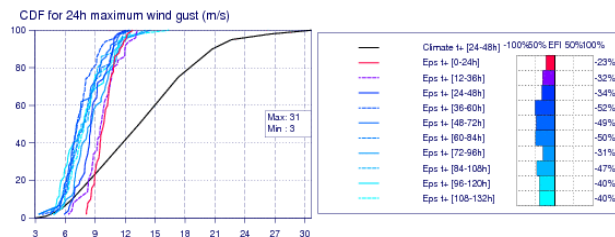
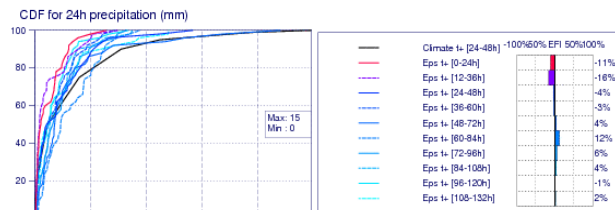
Coordinates ... Latitude: 51.84 Longitude: -1.22 Make

Download ... PDF Postscript

Recent clicks ... 51.84;-1.22 (efi) 51.84;-0.66 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (efi) 51.72;-1.22 (15c) 51.72;-1.22 (10)

new efi distribution for 51.84 and -1.22 (Selected/clicked point)

Forecast and M-Climate cumulative distribution functions with EFI values at 51.84°N/1.22°W valid for 24 hours from Tuesday 22 January 2013 00 UTC to Wednesday 23 January 2013 00 UTC



M-Climate: this stands for "Model Climate". It is a function of lead time, date (+/- ~15 days), and model version. It is derived by running a 5 member ensemble, over the last 20 years, once a week (500 realisations). M-Climate is always from the same

Max: 24-48h M-Climate extrema
 Min:

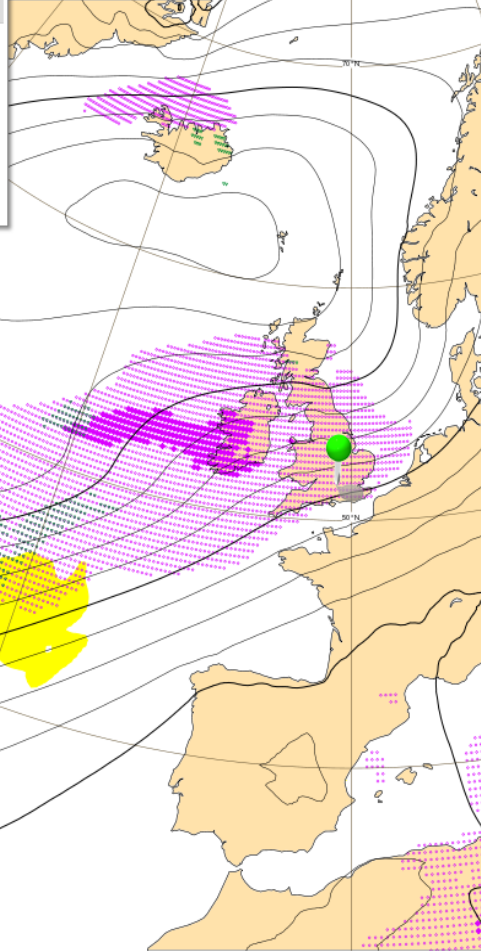
EFI products in ecCharts

Chart

Probe

Data values near location 51.43°N 1°W, Friday 25 Jan, 00 UTC T+96, Reading, United Kingdom

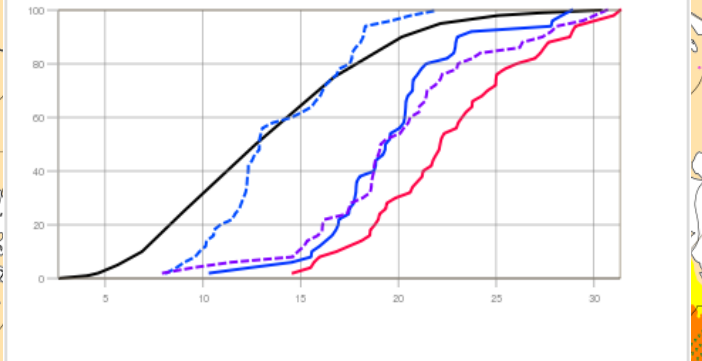
Layer	Value	Point selected	Location	Distance
Ensemble mean for mean sea level pressure	1002.95 hPa	nearest	51.57°N 0.83°W	18.99 km
Total precipitation extreme forecast index	0.3 EFI index	nearest	51.57°N 0.83°W	18.99 km
10m wind gust extreme forecast index	0.7 EFI index	nearest	51.57°N 0.83°W	18.99 km
2m temperature extreme forecast index	0.2 EFI index	nearest	51.57°N 0.83°W	18.99 km



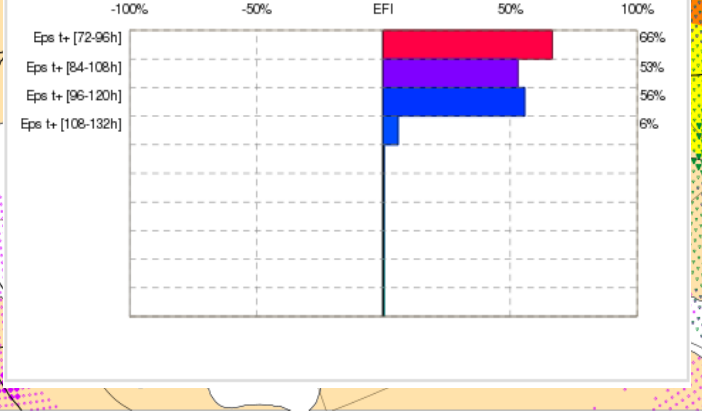
New EFI/CDF meteogram widget

Location: 51.43°N 1°W, Reading, United Kingdom

EPS cumulative distribution function (CDF) for 24hr maximum wind gust (m/s)
Valid for: Tuesday 29 Jan, 00 UTC



Extreme forecast index (EFI) for 24hr maximum wind gust (m/s)
Valid for: Tuesday 29 Jan, 00 UTC



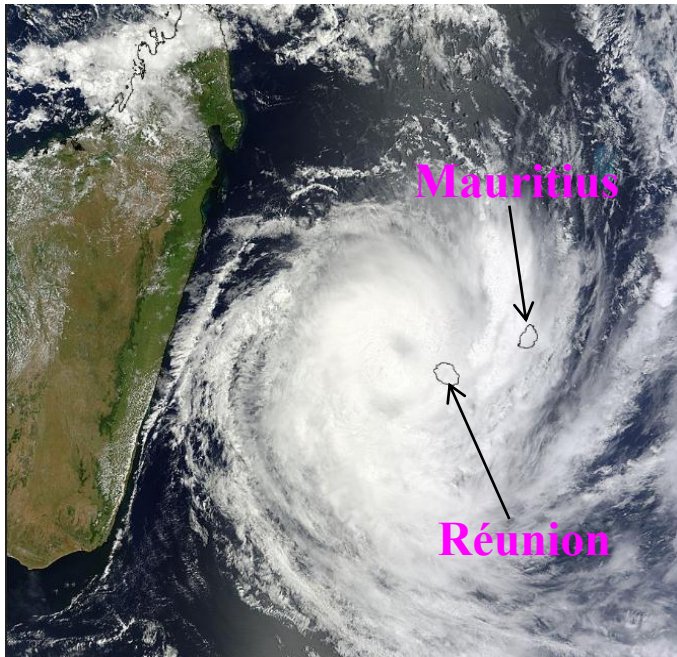
Legend for EFI products:

- Ensemble mean for mean sea level pressure: Interval 5, no labels
- Total precipitation extreme forecast index: 0.6-0.8 (green), 0.8-1 (dark green)
- 10m wind gust extreme forecast index: 0.6-0.8 (magenta), 0.8-1 (dark magenta)
- 2m temperature extreme forecast index: 0.75 (yellow), 1 (orange)

Navigation: < > BT: Fri 25 Jan, 00Z VT: Sat 26 Sun 27 Mon 28 Tue 29

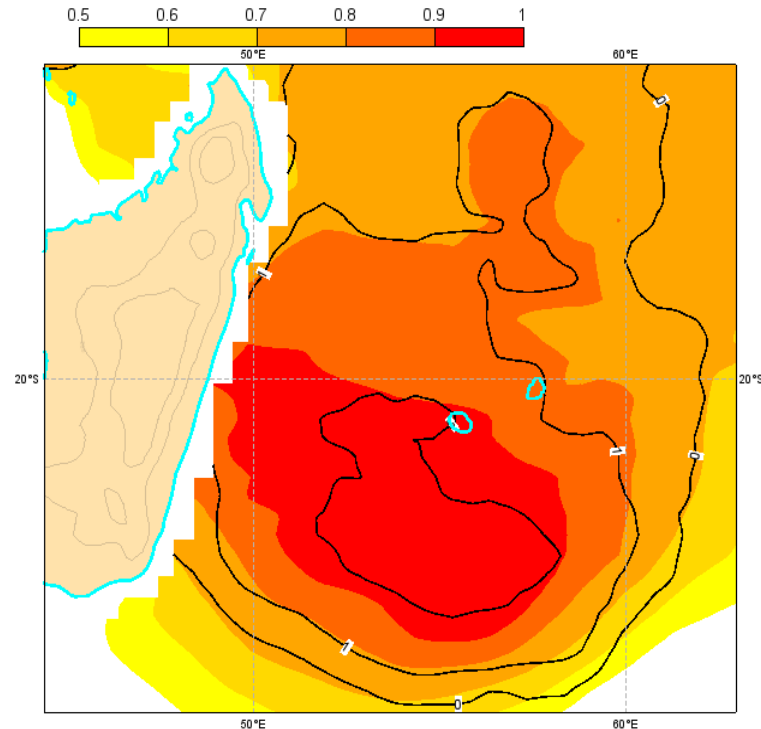
EFI for waves

NASA's Terra satellite on Jan. 3, 2013, at 0650 UTC



EFI for waves from 1/1/2013 00UTC valid for 3/1/2013

Tue 01 Jan 2013 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Thu 03 Jan 2013 00UTC - Fri 04 Jan 2013 00UTC 48-72h
Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for: maximum significant wave height



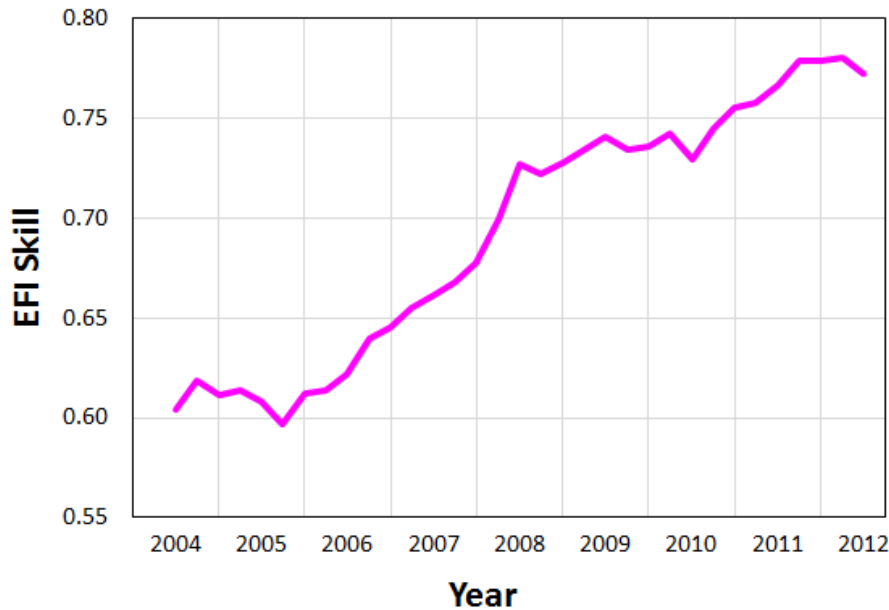
- Tropical cyclone Dumile passed near the French Island of La Réunion (~90 km to the west of the island). It caused exceptional waves and strong wind gusts (~ 120 km/h) leading to major power outages.
- Negative EFI (calm sea) also plotted on the web (not shown here).

EFI Verification

- Verification of the EFI has been made using synoptic observations over Europe available on the GTS.
- An extreme event is taken as occurring if the observation exceeds the 95th percentile of the observed climate for that station (calculated from a 15-year sample).
- The ability of the EFI to detect extreme events is assessed using the Relative Operating Characteristic area (ROCA).
- $EFI\ Skill = 2ROCA - 1$;
0 → no skill, 1 → perfect score
- The verification is done for 3 parameters: 2m mean temperature, 10m mean wind speed and total precipitation

EFI Verification

10m wind speed



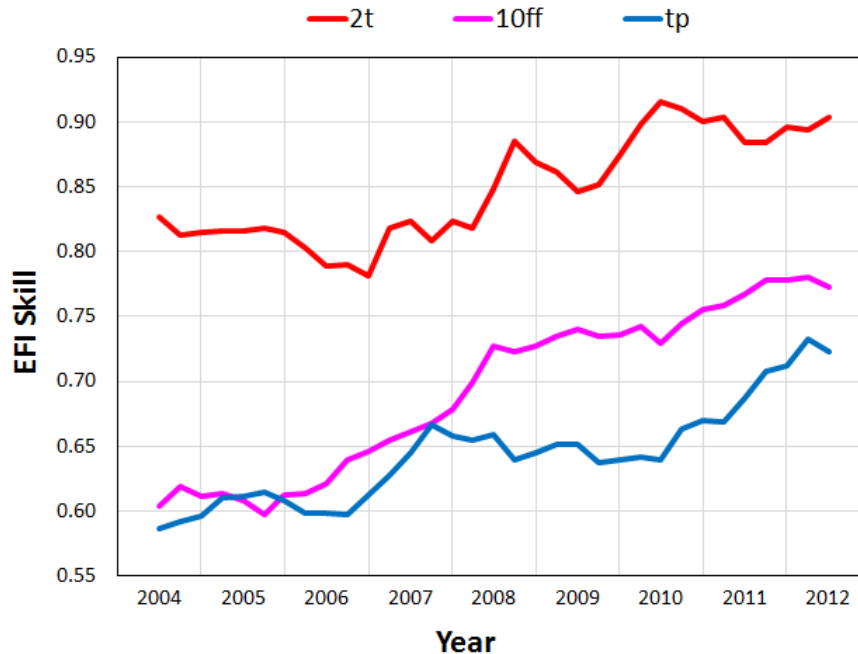
EFI Skill = $2 * ROCA - 1$

EFI Skill = 0 no skill

EFI Skill = 1 perfect score

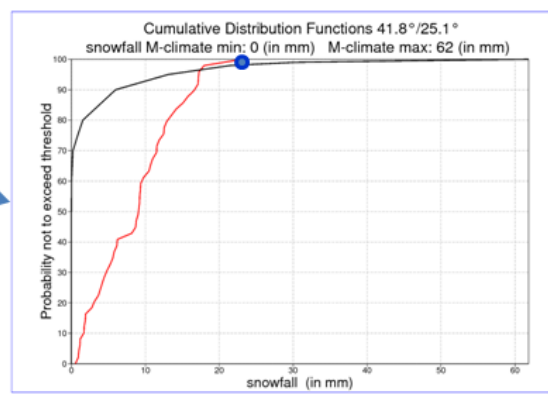
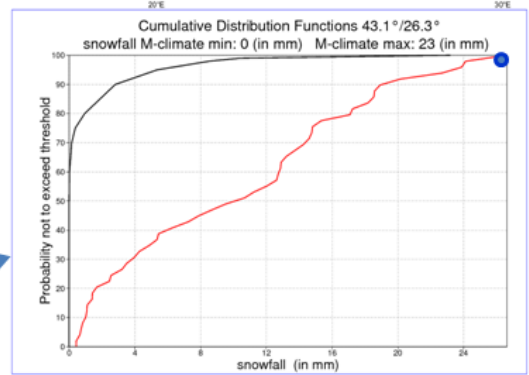
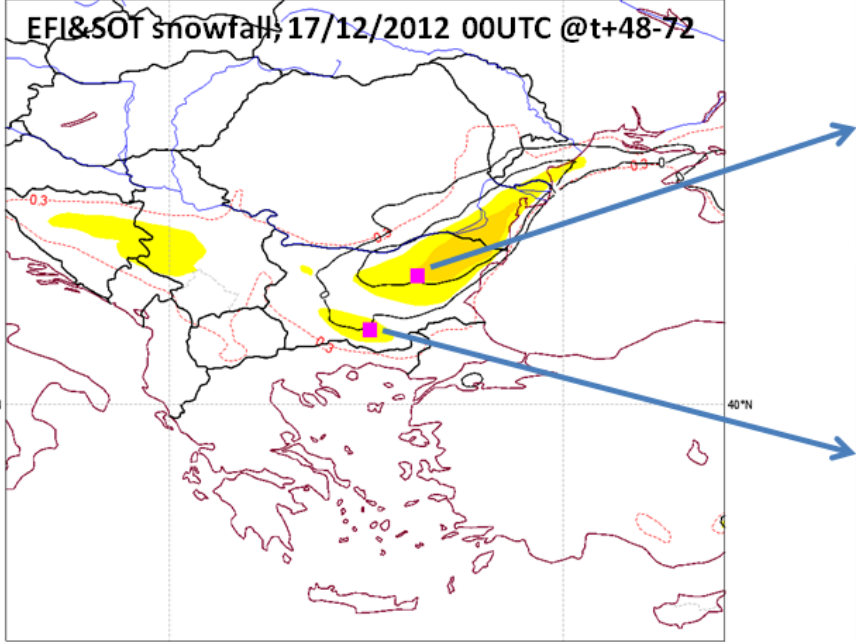
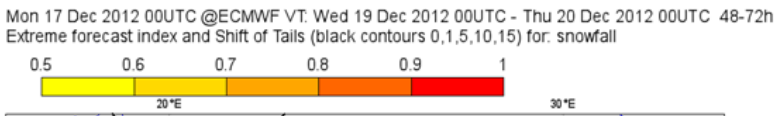
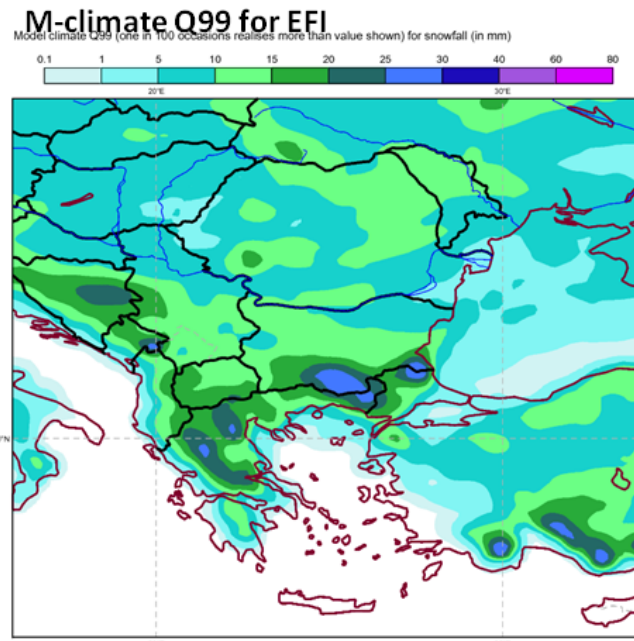
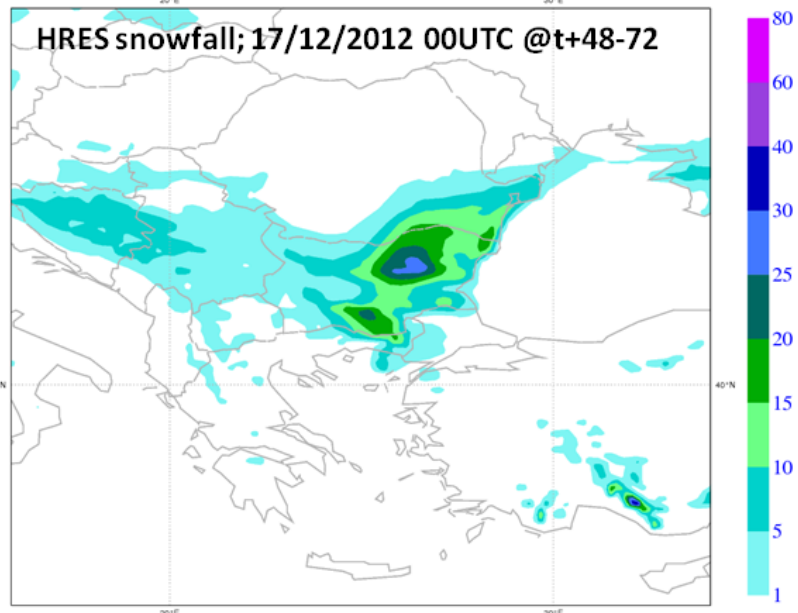
- **The plot shows the skill of the EFI for 10-metre wind speed (a supplementary headline score adopted by the ECMWF Council) at forecast day 4 (t+72-96h for 00UTC run and t+84-108h for 12UTC run).**
- **The curve shows a four-season running mean.**
- **It is noticeable a continually improving trend.**

EFI Verification



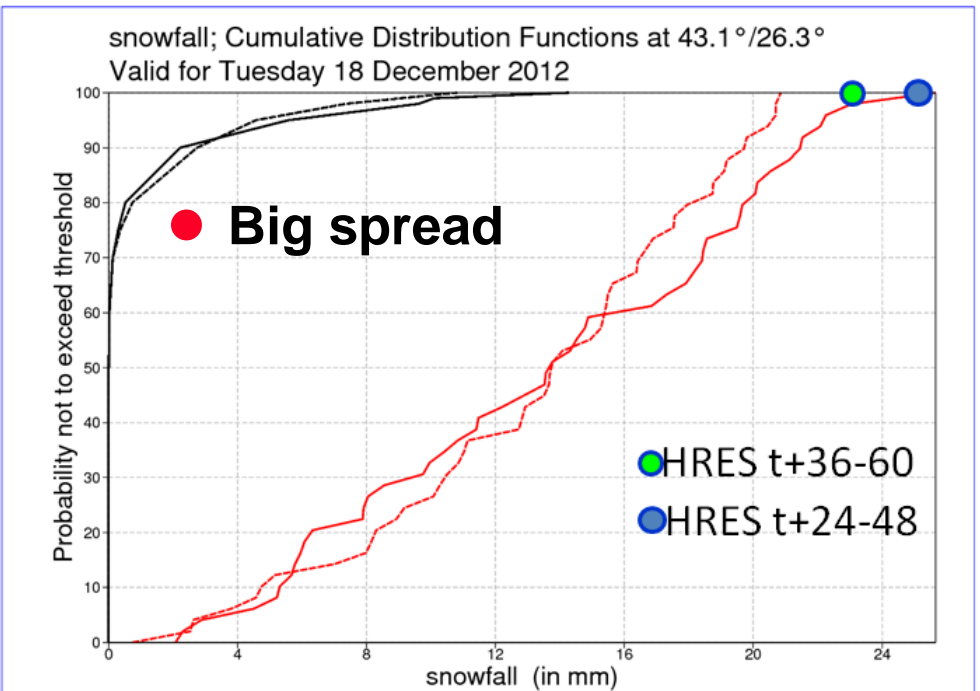
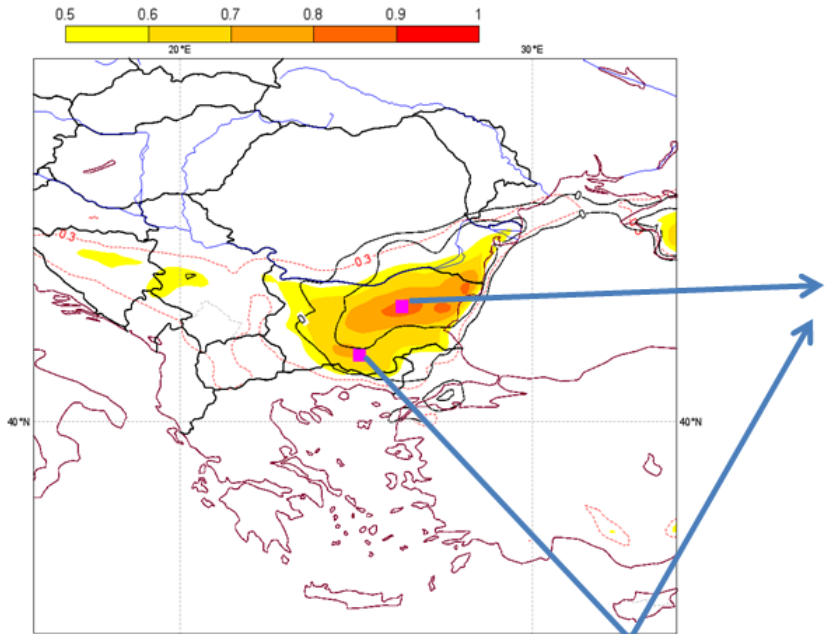
- Curves show a four-season running mean of the EFI skill score for **2m mean temperature (2t)**, **10 metre mean wind speed (10ff)** and **total precipitation (tp)**.
- The EFI for 2m temperature is more skilful than EFI for the other two parameters.
- For precipitation and wind speed, there has been a clear improvement since 2010 whilst for the temperature the EFI skill is maintained at a similar level.

A CASE OF HEAVY SNOWFALL

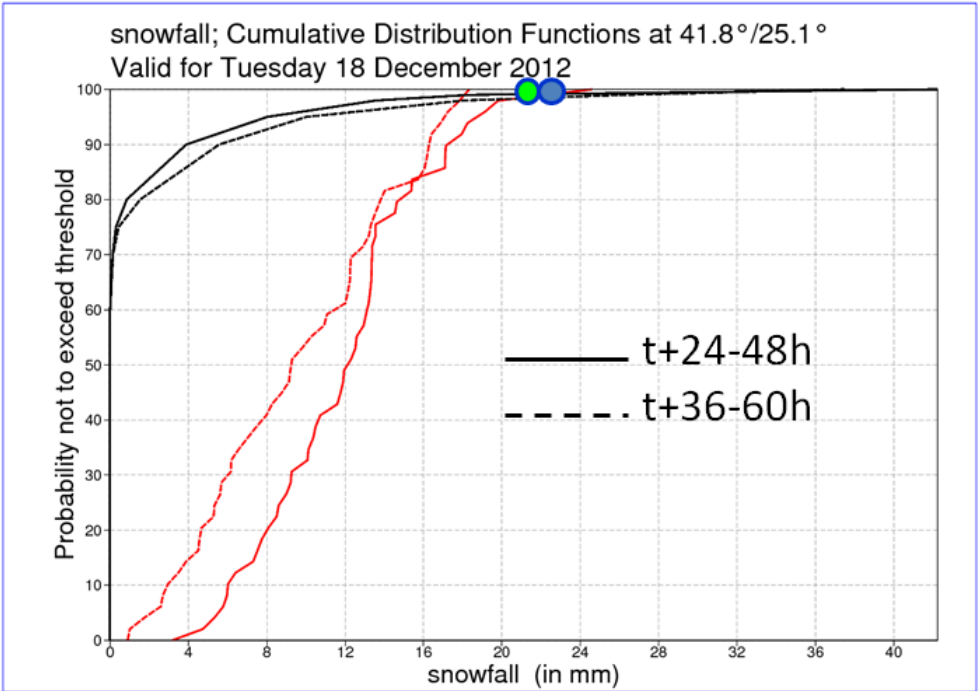
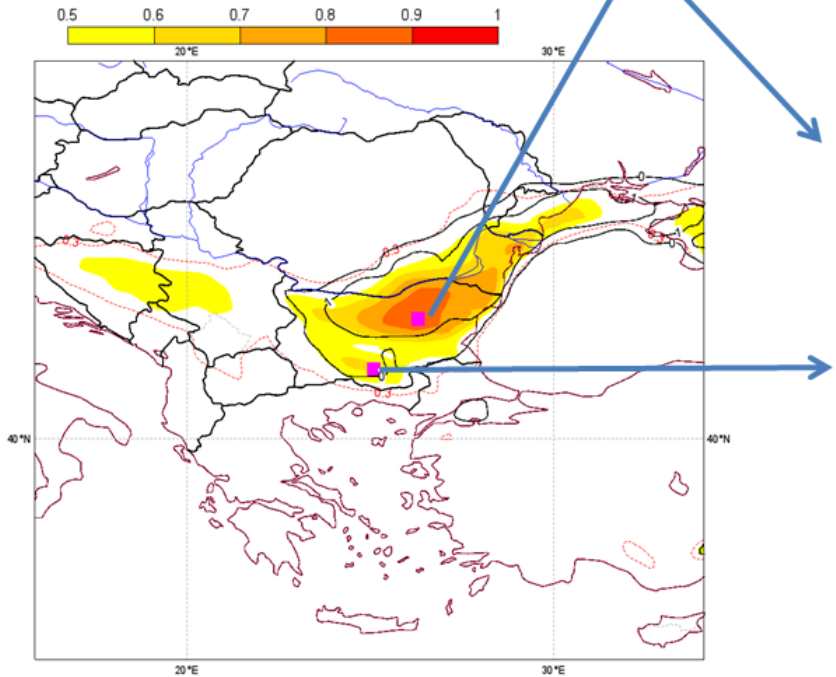


- HRES forecast
- Big spread in snowfall amounts
- HRES is an outlier

Tue 18 Dec 2012 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Wed 19 Dec 2012 00UTC - Thu 20 Dec 2012 00UTC 24-48h
 Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for: snowfall



Mon 17 Dec 2012 12UTC @ECMWF VT: Wed 19 Dec 2012 00UTC - Thu 20 Dec 2012 00UTC 36-60h
 Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for: snowfall



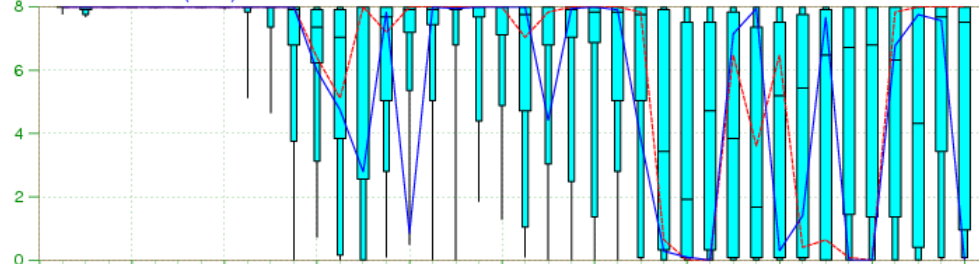
Lat = 43.1; Lon = 26.3

EPS Meteogram

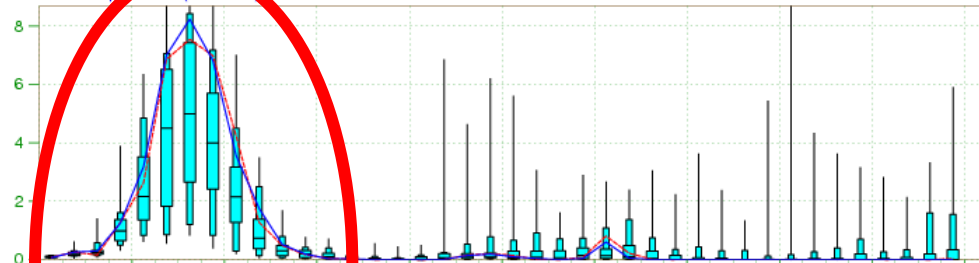
43.14°N 26.25°E (EPS land point) 431 m

Deterministic Forecast and EPS Distribution Tuesday 18 December 2012 00 UTC

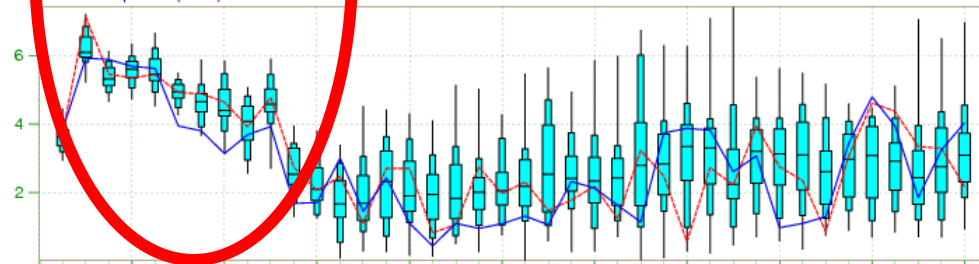
Total Cloud Cover (okta)



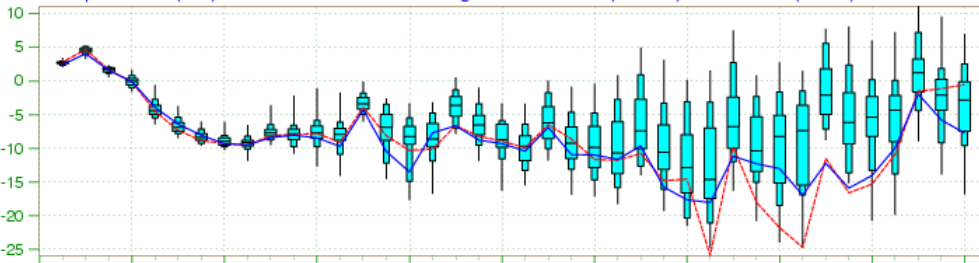
Total Precipitation (mm/24h)



10m Wind Speed (m/s)



2m Temperature (°C) reduced to the station height from 433 m (T1279) and 405 m (T639)

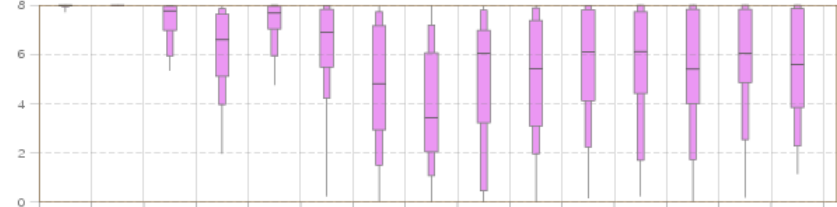


EPS Meteogram

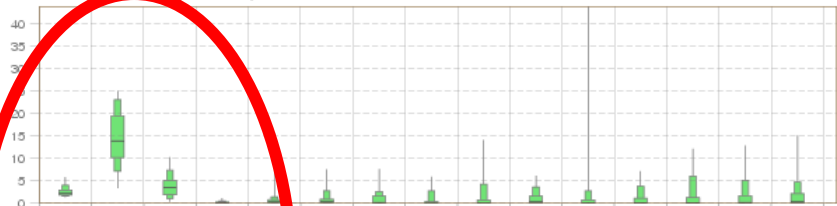
42.96°N 26.64°E (EPS land point) 431 m

Extended Range Forecast based on EPS Distribution Tuesday 18 December 2012 00 UTC

Daily mean of Total Cloud Cover (okta)



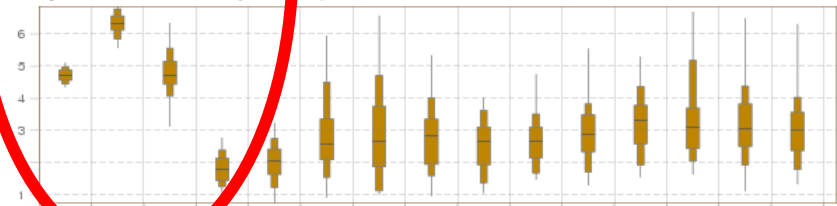
Total Precipitation (mm/24h)



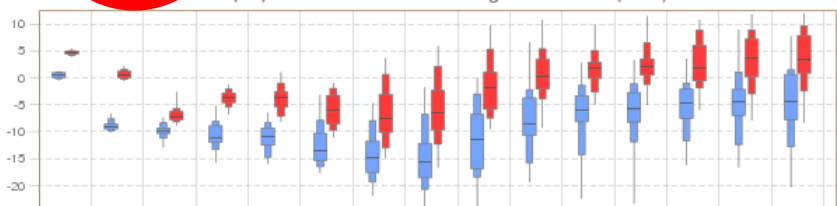
Daily distribution of 10m Wind Direction



Daily mean of 10m Wind Speed (m/s)



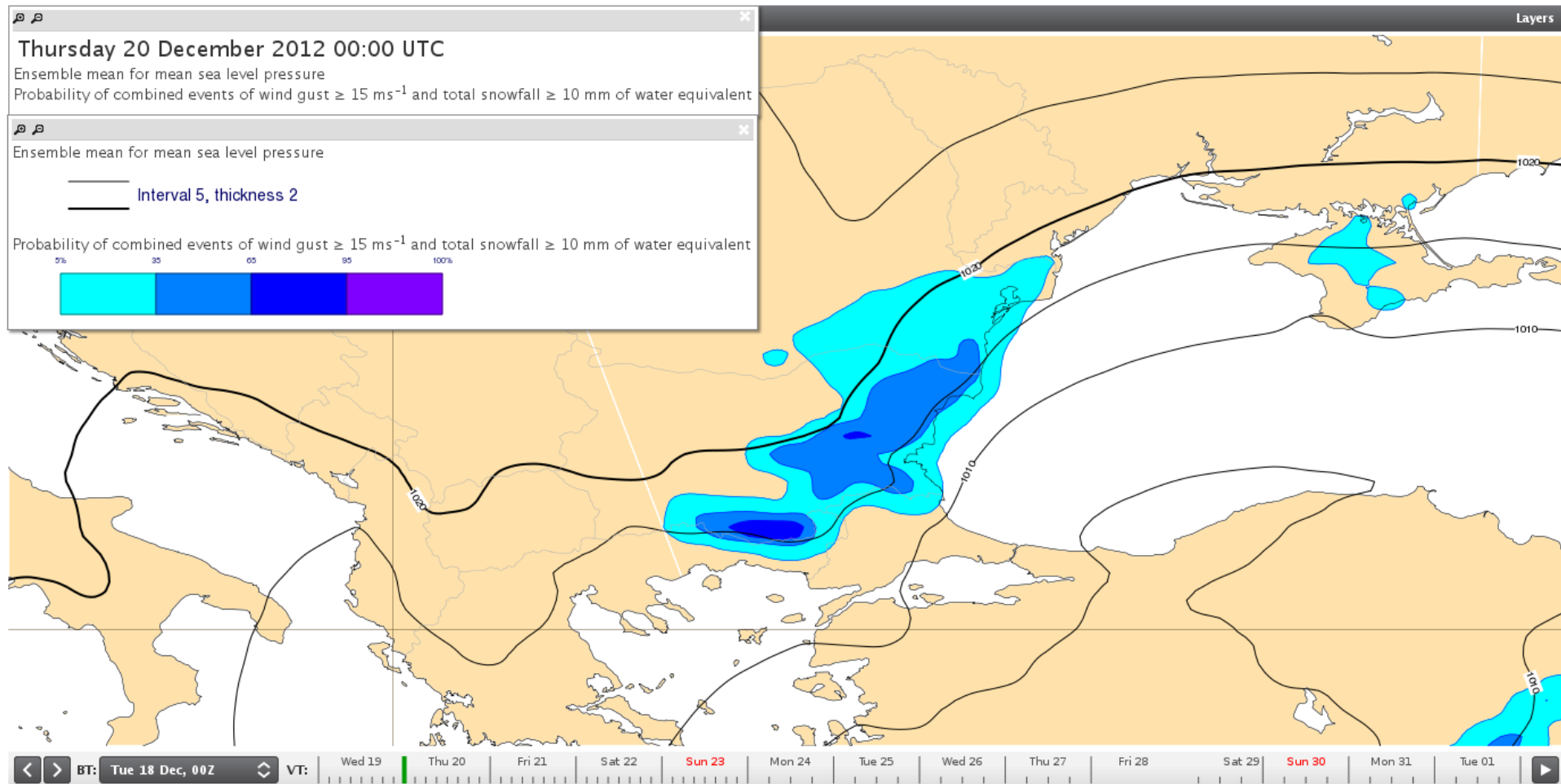
2m min, max temperature (°C) reduced to the station height from 365m (T319)



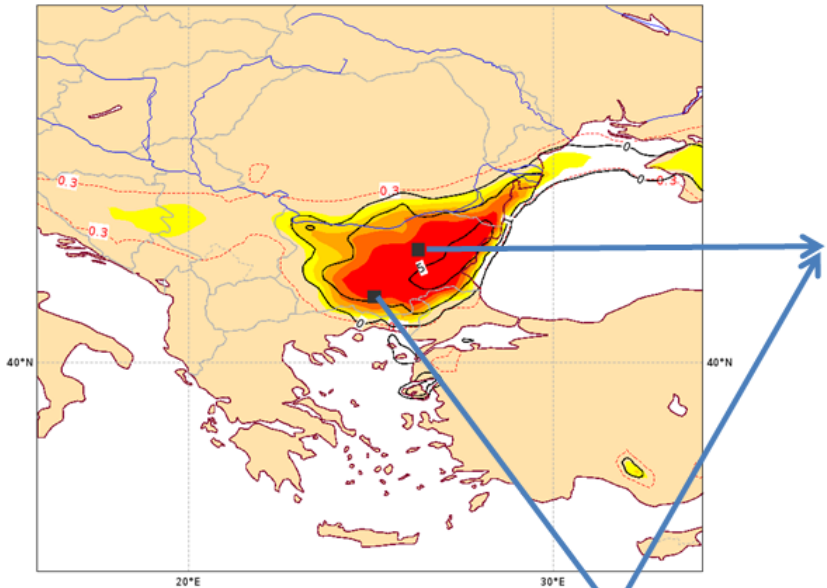
Tue 18 Wed 19 Thu 20 Fri 21 Sat 22 Sun 23 Mon 24 Tue 25 Wed 26 Thu 27 Fri 28 Sat 29 Sun 30 Mon 31 Tue 1
max min
December 2012

Combined probabilities (blizzards)

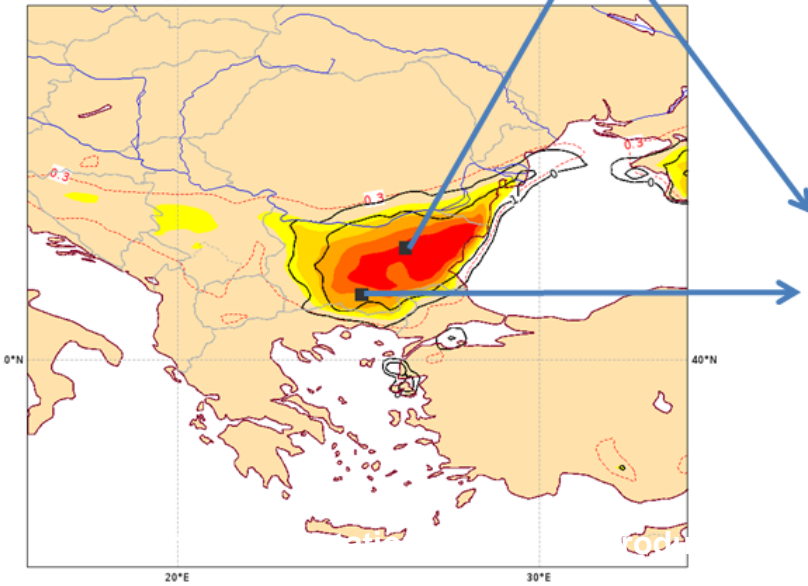
Snowfall > 10 mm/24h; Wind gusts > 15 m/s



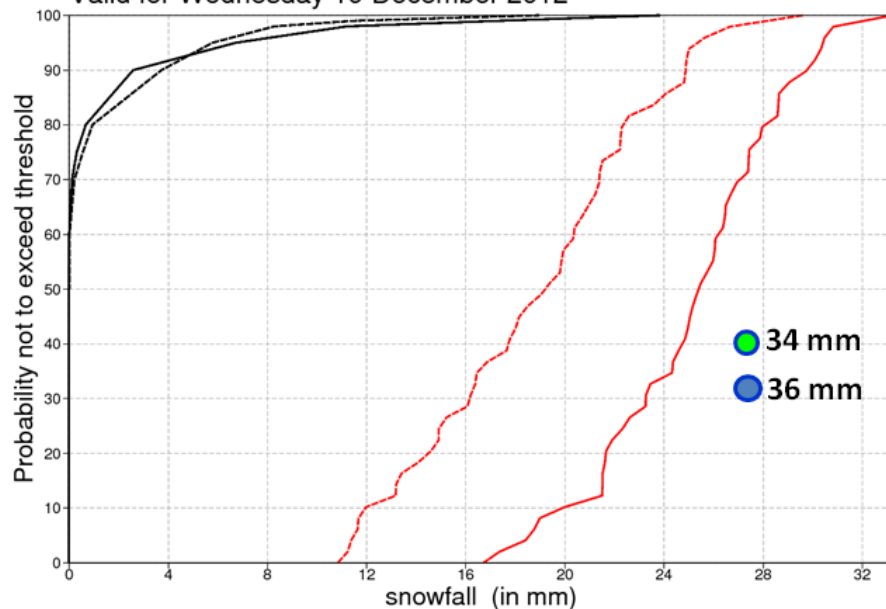
Wed 19 Dec 2012 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Wed 19 Dec 2012 00UTC - Thu 20 Dec 2012 00UTC 0-24h
 Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0.1,5,10,15) for: snowfall



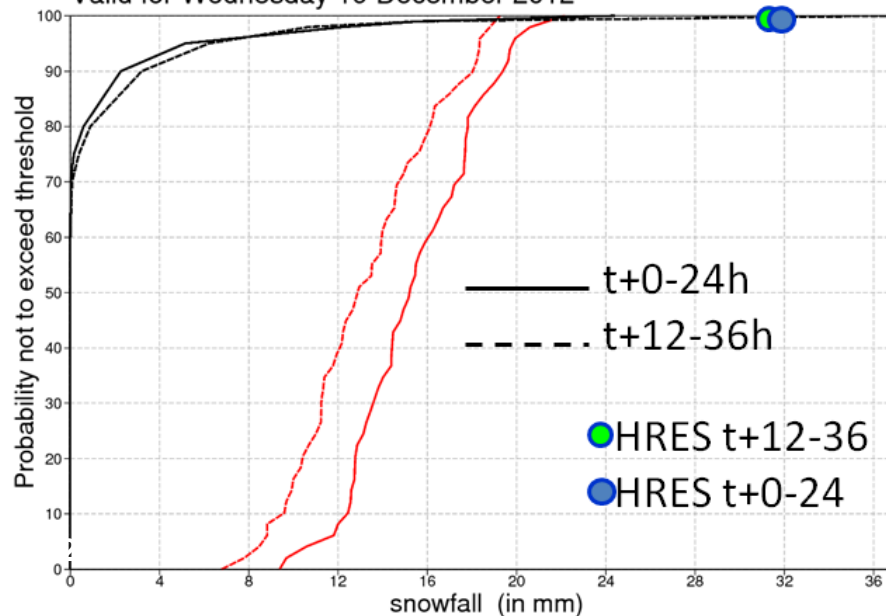
Tue 18 Dec 2012 12UTC @ECMWF VT: Wed 19 Dec 2012 00UTC - Thu 20 Dec 2012 00UTC 12-36h
 Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0.1,5,10,15) for: snowfall



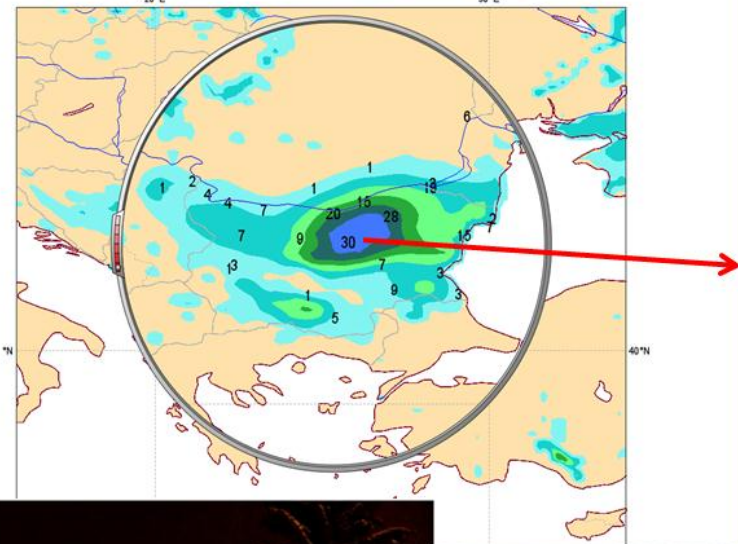
snowfall; Cumulative Distribution Functions at 43.1°/26.3°
 Valid for Wednesday 19 December 2012



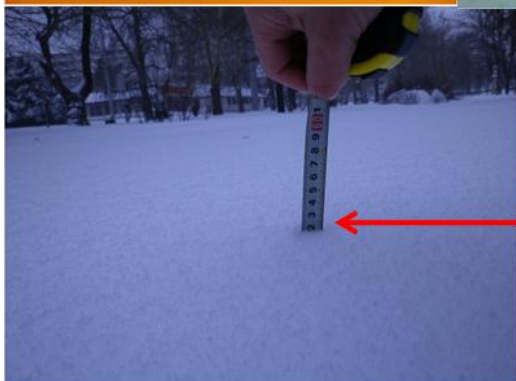
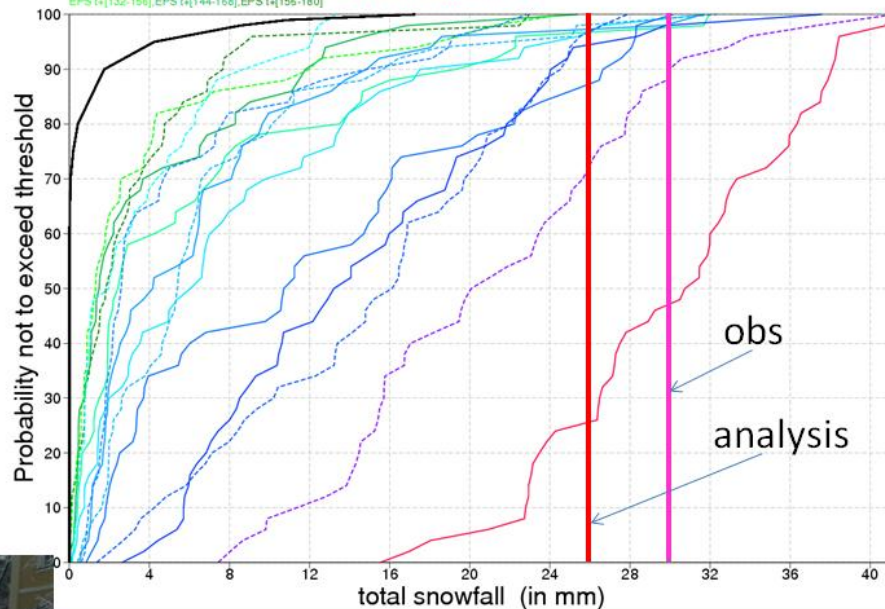
snowfall; Cumulative Distribution Functions at 41.8°/25.1°
 Valid for Wednesday 19 December 2012



Thursday 20 December 2012 00 UTC ECMWF Analysis surface Snow depth

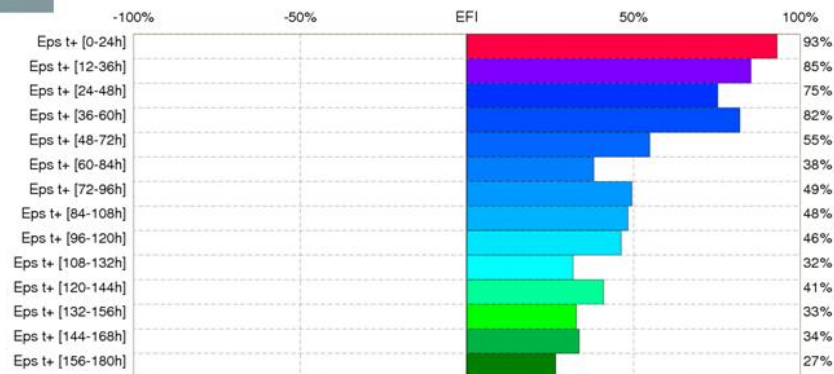


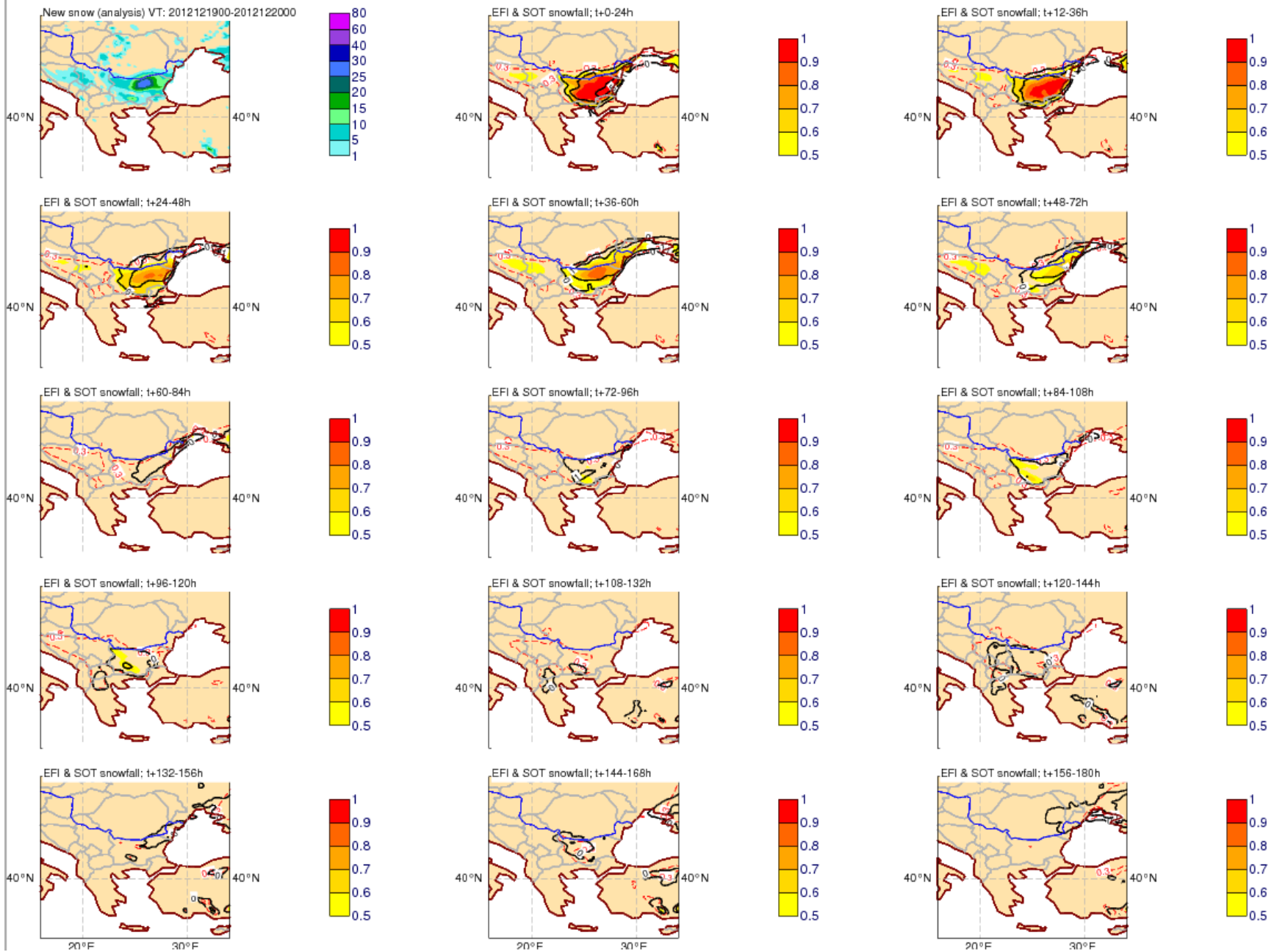
Cumulative Distribution Functions at 43.1°/25.6°; M-climate min. 0 (in mm) , max: 17 (in mm)
 total snowfall VT: Wednesday 19 December 2012
 M-climate t+ [24-48], EPS t+ [0-24], EPS t+ [12-36], EPS t+ [24-48], EPS t+ [36-60], EPS t+ [48-72]
 EPS t+ [60-84], EPS t+ [72-96], EPS t+ [84-108], EPS t+ [96-120], EPS t+ [108-132], EPS t+ [120-144]
 EPS t+ [132-156], EPS t+ [144-168], EPS t+ [156-180]



52 cm

Extreme Forecast Index for total snowfall at 43.1N 25.6E
 Wednesday 19 December 2012





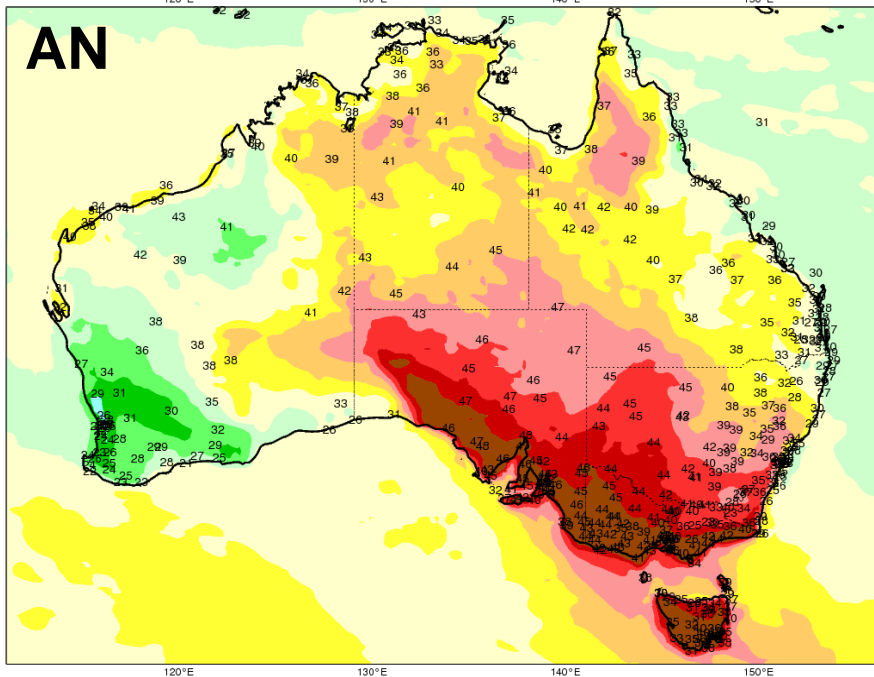
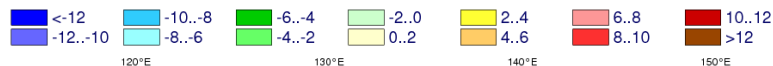
Summary

- **SOT was positive 7-days in advance (t+144-168) indicating some chance of significant snowfall across Bulgaria whilst EFI was positive but not very high implying that the forecast is quite uncertain.**
- **EFI was positive even 7 days in advance, gradually increasing throughout the forecast implying more confidence in the forecast.**
- **The forecast was actually quite uncertain and only the very last forecast gave clear quantitative picture of the extreme snowfall.**
- **EFI and SOT together gave a strong enough signal of high risk of extreme snowfall from t+48-72 forecast onwards (3-days in advance).**

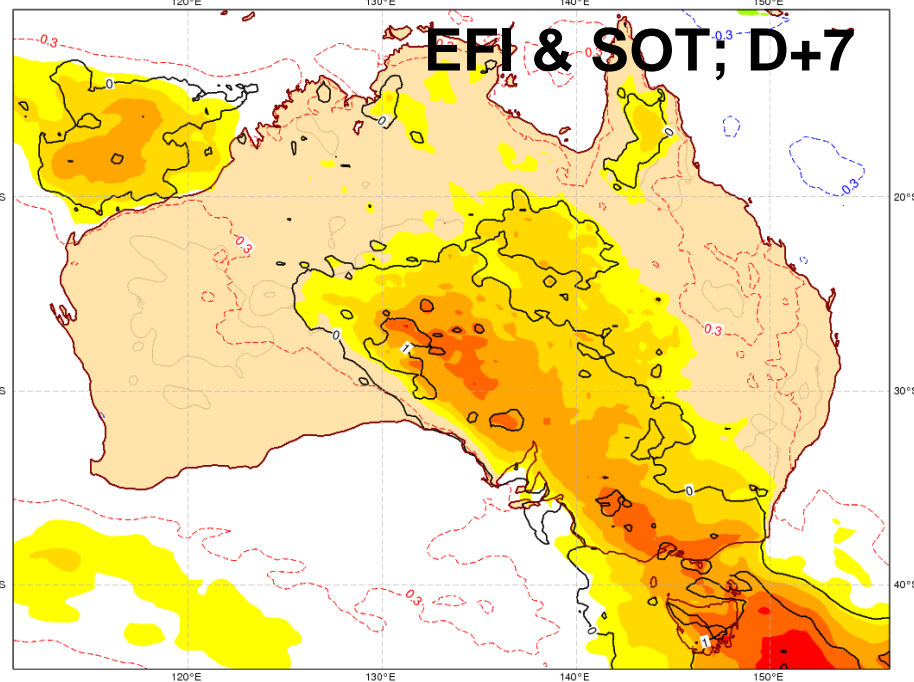
A CASE OF HEAT WAVE

Australian Heat Wave, winter 2013

2-metre maximum temperature anomaly and observed 2-metre maximum temperature; 04/01/2013



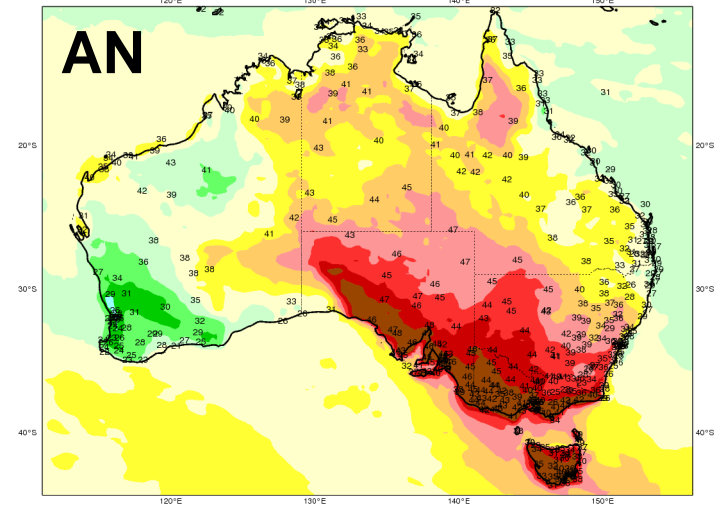
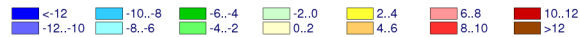
Sat 29 Dec 2012 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Fri 04 Jan 2013 00UTC - Sat 05 Jan 2013 00UTC 144-168h
Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for: 2m maximum temperature



- A widespread heat wave broke many temperature records in central and southern parts of Australia in early January 2013. Temperatures soared to almost 50 ° C.
- EFI and SOT 7 days in advance give a strong signal of abnormally hot weather.

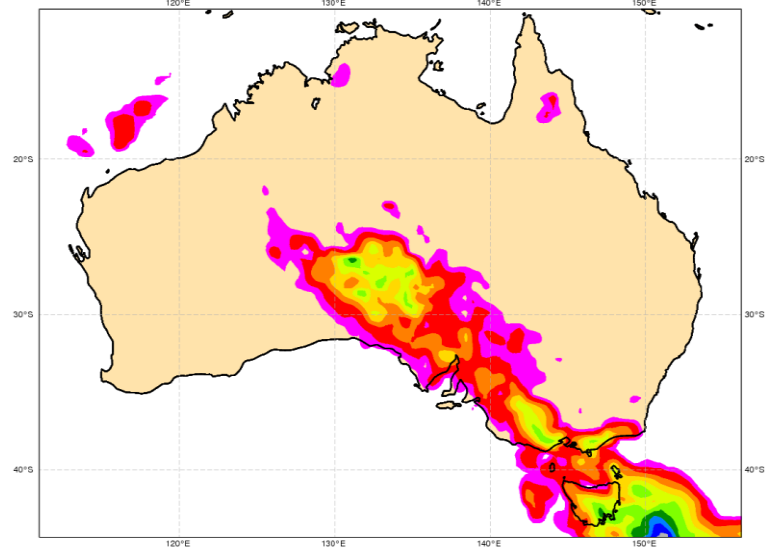
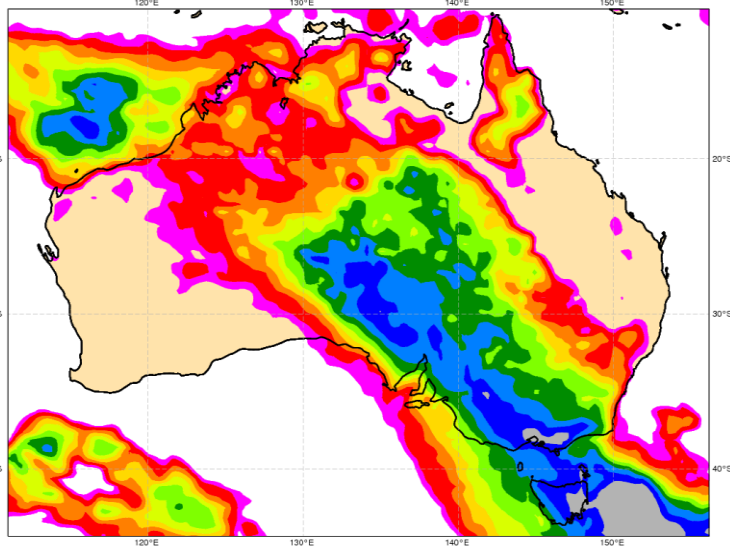
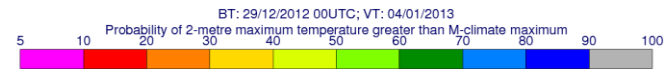
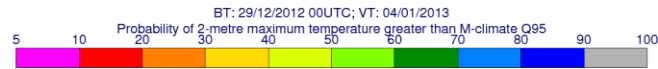
Probabilities

2-metre maximum temperature anomaly and observed 2-metre maximum temperature; 04/01/2013



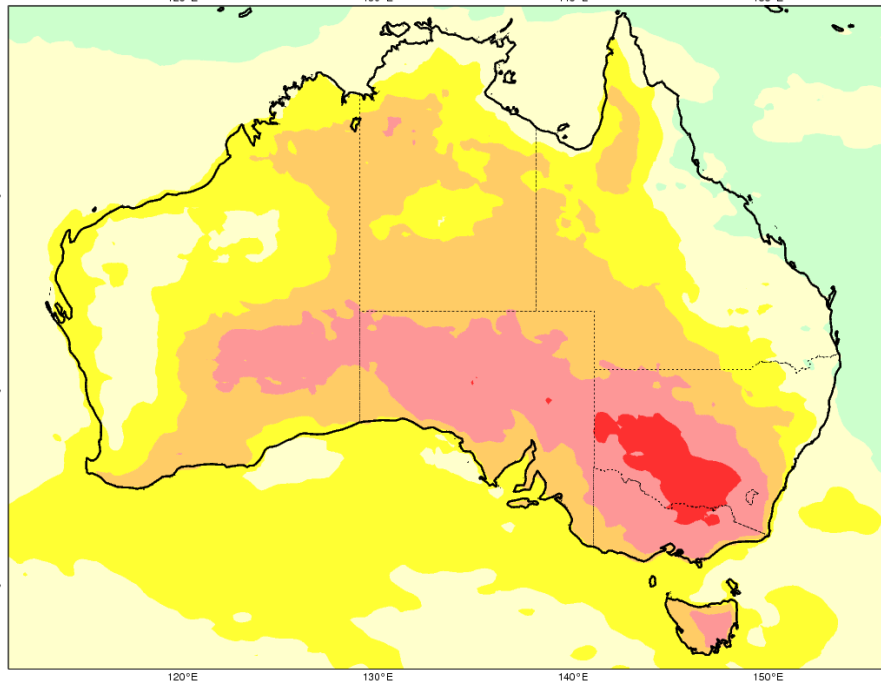
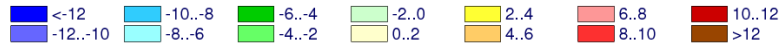
Prob. 2tmax > Q95

Prob. 2tmax > 16-year return period

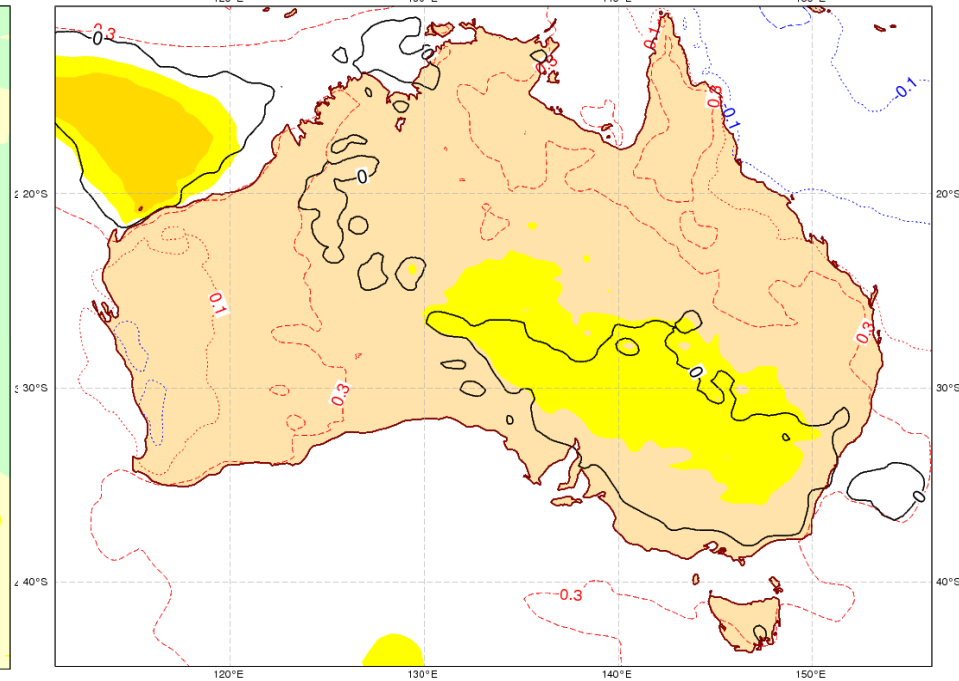


EFI & SOT, extended range D+10-15

2-metre mean temperature anomaly; 03/01/2013 - 07/01/2013



Mon 24 Dec 2012 00UTC @ECMWF VT: Thu 03 Jan 2013 00UTC - Tue 08 Jan 2013 00UTC 240-360h
Extreme forecast index and Shift of Tails (black contours 0,1,5,10,15) for: 2m mean temperature



- Extended range EFI products for 2t, 10ff and tp from day 10 to 15 have been tested.



Further Reading:

- “Application of the new EFI products to a case of early snowfall in Central Europe”, *ECMWF Newsletter* No. 133 – Autumn 2012, p. 4
- “Early warnings for severe weather” at

http://www.ecmwf.int/newsevents/meetings/forecast_products_user/Presentations2012/