

# Retrieval efficiency

## What is the objective of these pages?



- To help users to improve their **MARS** requests **performance** via the **Web API**.
- A good understanding of the **MARS efficiency** issues is **essential** especially for users interested in downloading **large amounts** of data.
- Users may also visit the [MARS Retrieval efficiency page](#) for more information

## What would be the natural way to group requests?



The idea is to request **as much data** as possible from the **same tape file** or to **reduce the number of tapes** involved.

- The **number of tapes** a MARS request is going to access will have an **impact** on its **scheduling** on the server.
- A **large number of tapes** implies **more waiting time**.
- As a **rule of thumb**, two or more separate requests accessing files on different tapes are scheduled more efficiently than a single request accessing two or more tapes.

Additionally users should be aware of the following:

- **The data volume** to be retrieved should be **sensible**, up to **20GB** per request.  
 Check that your computer **resources** and limits are **adequate** for the amount of data to retrieve.
- **The number of fields** to be retrieved should be also a **sensible** number, up to **600.000 fields** per request.

More details and examples:

- [Operational Data \(authorised users\)](#)
- [ERA5 retrieval efficiency](#)
- [ERA-Interim retrieval efficiency](#)
- [ERA-20C retrieval efficiency](#)
- [CERA-20C retrieval efficiency](#)
- [S2S reforecasts retrieval efficiency](#)
- [TIGGE retrieval efficiency](#)
- [UERRA retrieval efficiency](#)
- [YOPP retrieval efficiency](#)
- [CAM5 Reanalysis retrieval efficiency](#)