

## Lecture Series

# From the ground up – *Rethinking observations in meteorology*

Ulrich Löhnert\*



Maria Toporov\*, Tatjana Nomokonova\*, Julian Steinheuer\*  
and many others...



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[www.cplex-lab.de](http://www.cplex-lab.de)



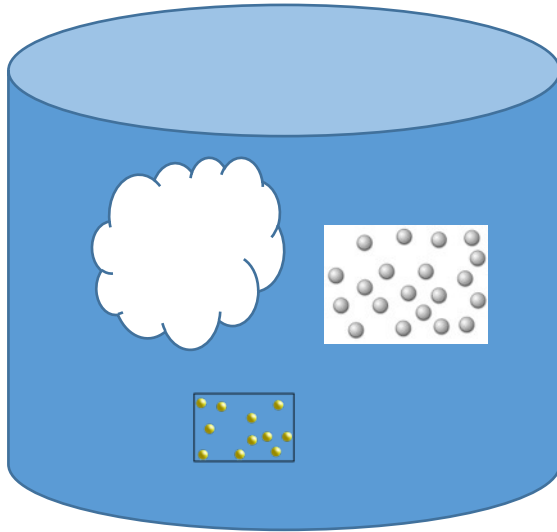
# Motivation

- Convection permitting models require observations that can capture the scales of mid-latitude convection
- “Classical” observations typically do not fulfill this requirement in an adequate way
- New observation approaches required, so think

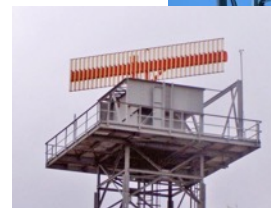
## From the ground up ..

(Not so much focusing on weather radar, because Felix Ament told you all about that two weeks ago...)

# From the ground up...



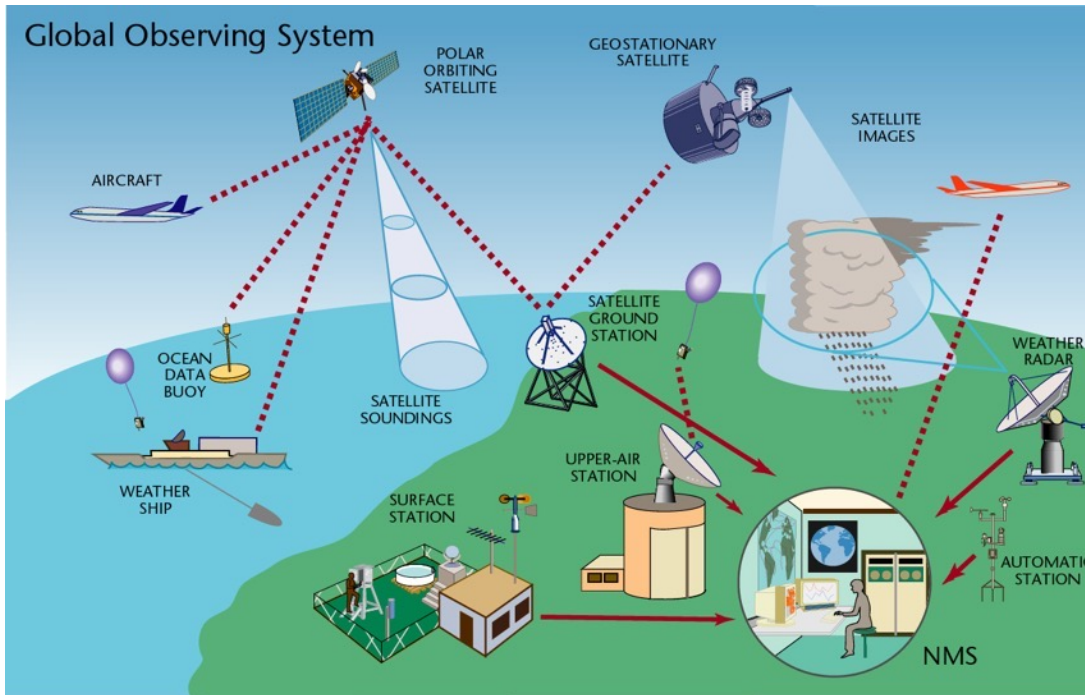
Dynamically and rapidly evolving!



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# Guide through this talk

- **Current state of meteorological observations**
- Rethinking observations
  - ✓ Evolving networks
  - ✓ Synergy!
  - ✓ in applications (renewables)
  - ✓ FESSTVaL
  - ✓ New sources



# Observation components of the WMO Global Observing System

Surface,  
Upper-air,  
Marine,  
Satellite,  
Aircraft-based,  
Weather radar,  
...

What's missing, most needed?

- Humidity, wind and temperature profiles (ABL!)
- Major gaps in horizontal spacing and observation cycle

EUMETNET  
Observation Gaps  
Analysis

# Status of atmospheric profiling

- Upper-air observations (radiosondes)
  - Problem horizontal and temporal coverage: diurnal cycle and meso-scale circulation not resolvable
- Aircraft (AMDAR, E-AMDAR, MODE-S,...)
  - Regionally limited to areas around large airports & no humidity yet
- Polar-orbiting satellites (AMSU-A/B, AIRS, IASI,...): ~2x daily overpasses deliver world-wide coverage of T and WV profiles, as well as clouds
  - Atmospheric Boundary Layer (ABL) **hardly resolved** (variable surface emissivity and low vertical resolution)

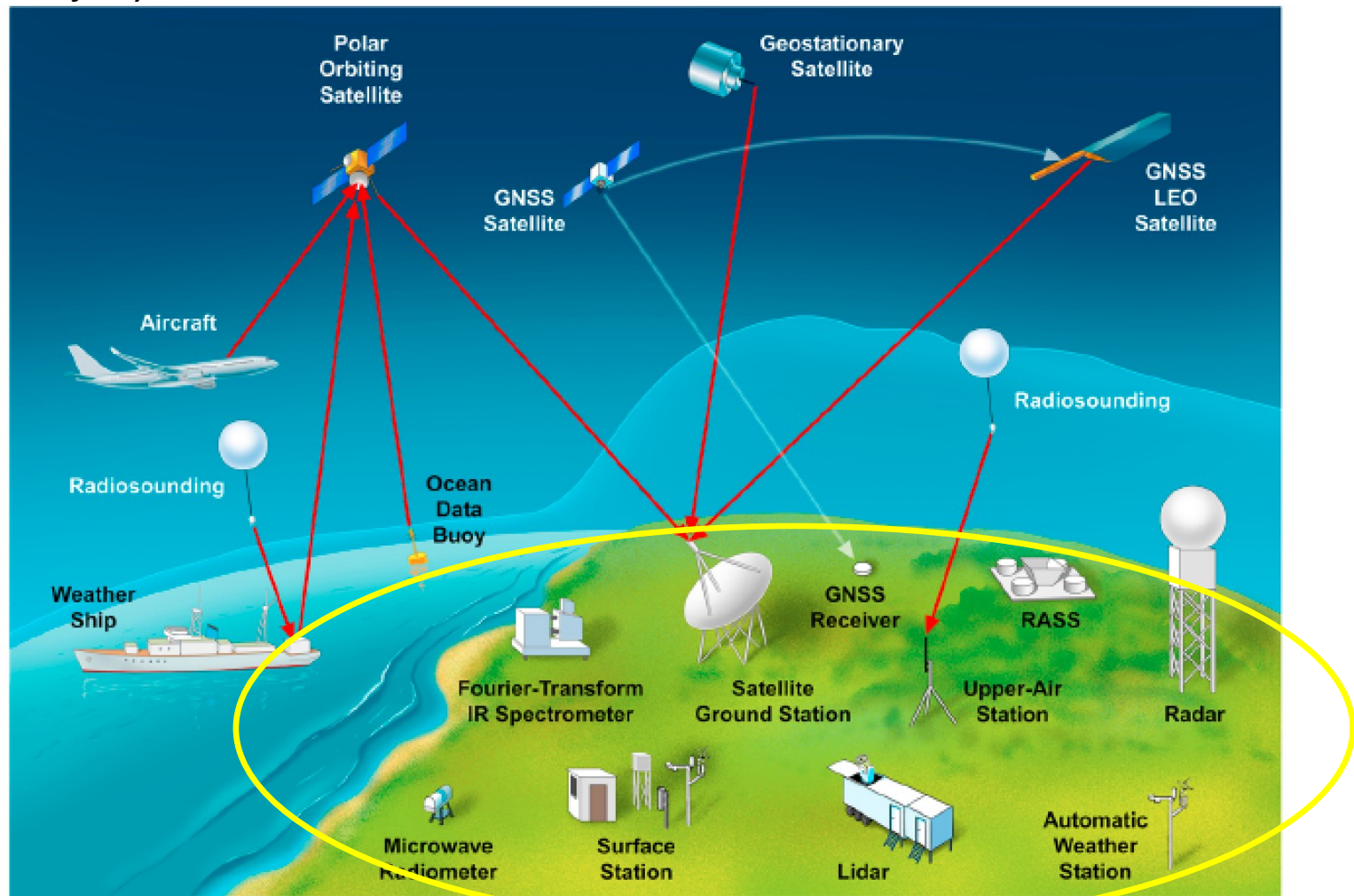
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# A future Global Observing System ?

Wulfmeyer et al. 2015



**Surface-based remote sensing delivers a more detailed view of the ABL**



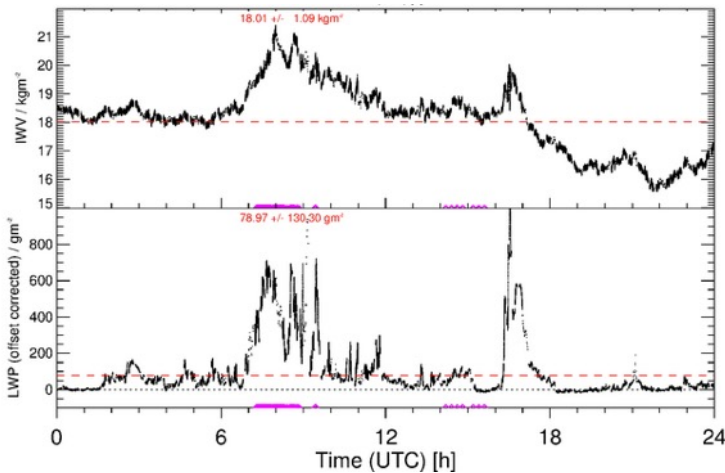
# Example: Surface-based microwave radiometers

Low resolution **water vapor profile**, but excellent path-integrated values

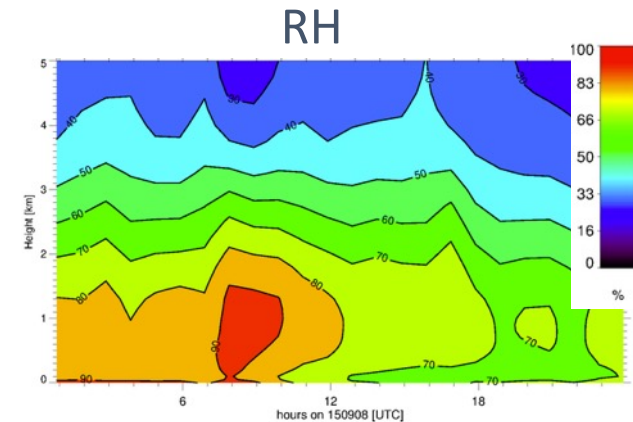
Continuous data in all-sky conditions: resolution of seconds to minutes

Measurement focus: ABL

Temperature profile of the ABL, low resolution profile above



Path-integrated **cloud liquid water** (unique)



Commercially available > 10 years, ready for network application

# Evolving networks



*European Research Infrastructure for the observation of Aerosol, Clouds, and Trace gases (on ESFRI roadmap)*



## Research

### *ACTRIS Cloud Remote Sensing Center*

- **Research data:** clouds, thermodynamics, and wind profiling
- **Access** to methods & platforms



**EUMETNET**

## Operational

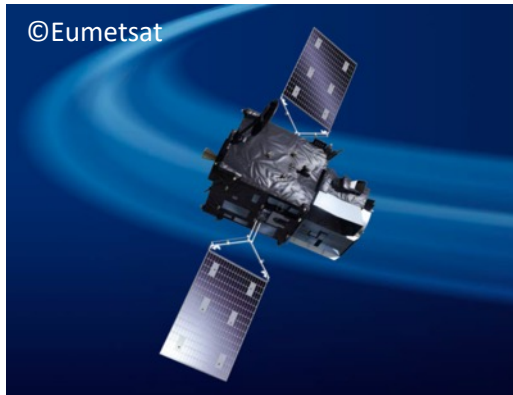
### *Observations Capability Area E-PROFILE*

- Provide centrally data to the European Weather Services
- Up to hundreds of instruments per network

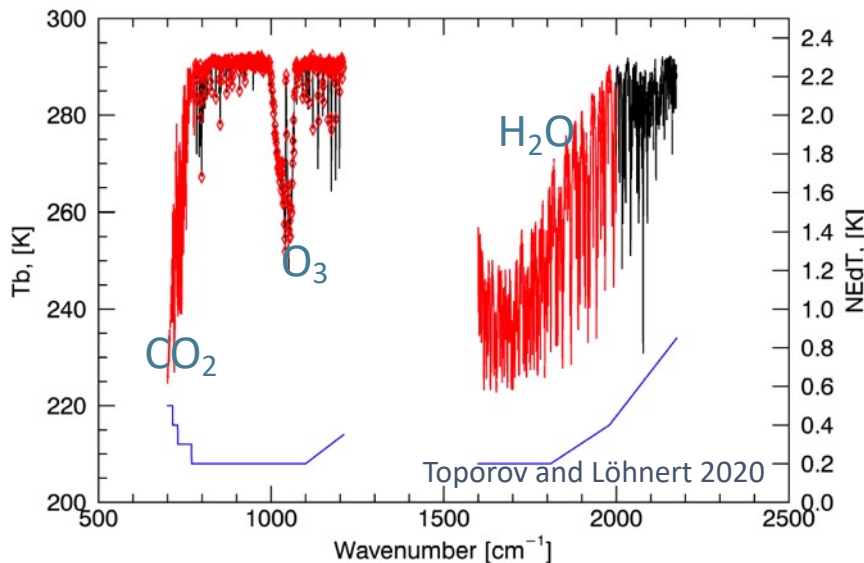
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# Meteo Sat Third Generation Sounding Mission (MTG-S)

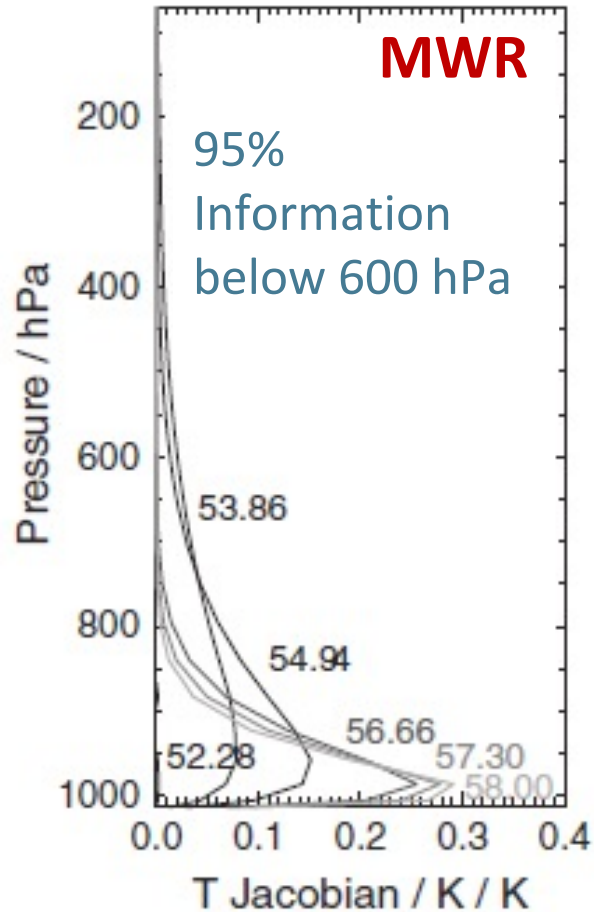


- Hyperspectral infrared sounding mission (IRS)
- 3D weather cube: temperature, water vapor, ozone every 30 min(!) over Europe
- Planned from 2024 onwards

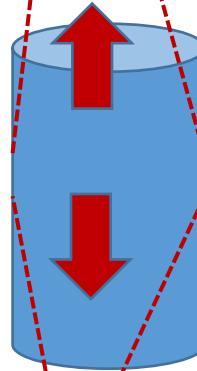
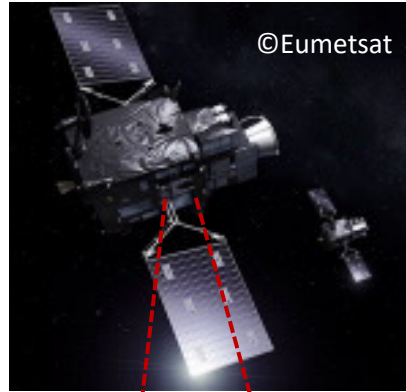


**Potential to “revolutionize”  
weather observations?**

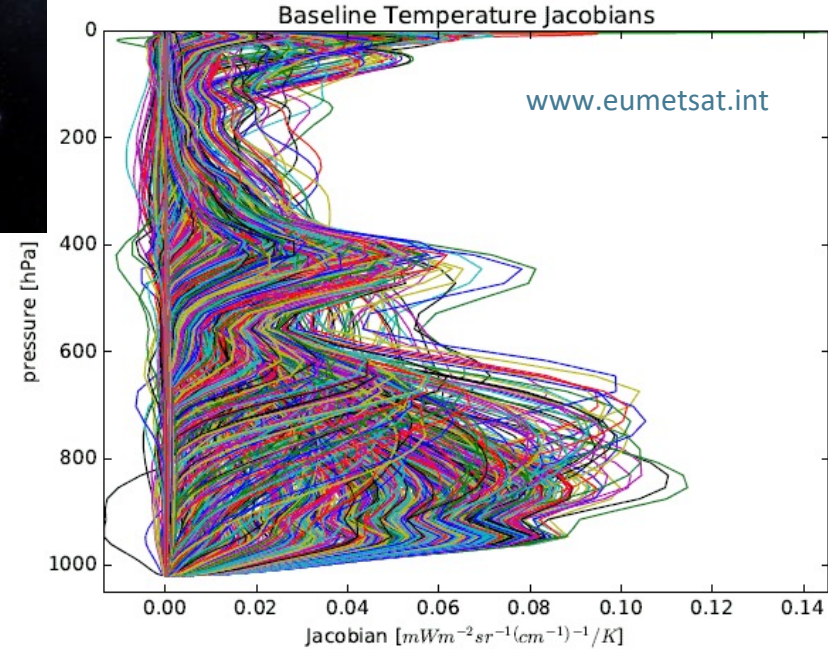
# In synergy!



Ebell et al. 2013



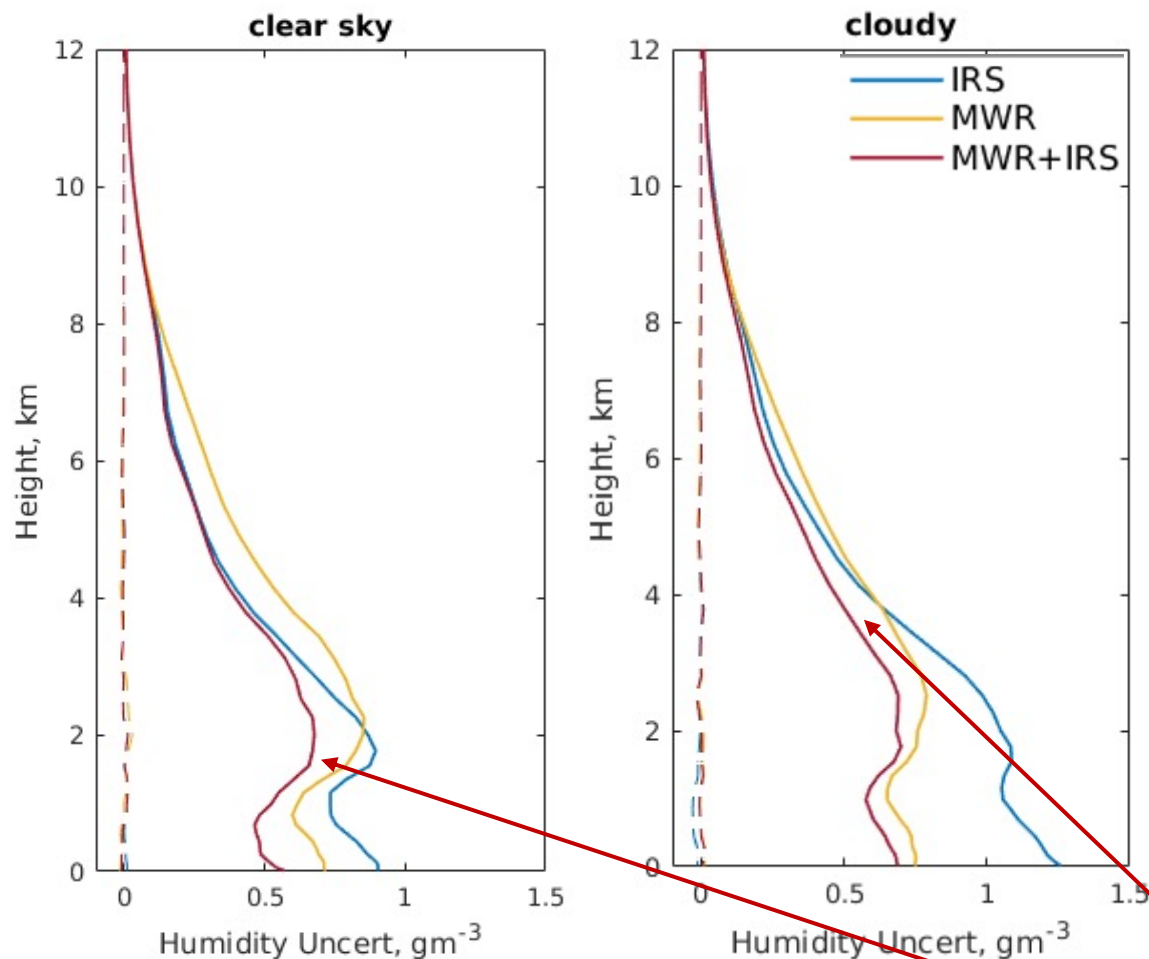
## IRS on MTG



~complementary  
Weighting Functions



# Thermodynamic profile retrievals - humidity



M. Toporov

## Theoretical performance

- NN retrievals based on COSMO REA2 output
- Ground-based retrievals with better performance in ABL and lower troposphere, especially in cloudy cases
- Synergy retrieval best throughout the troposphere

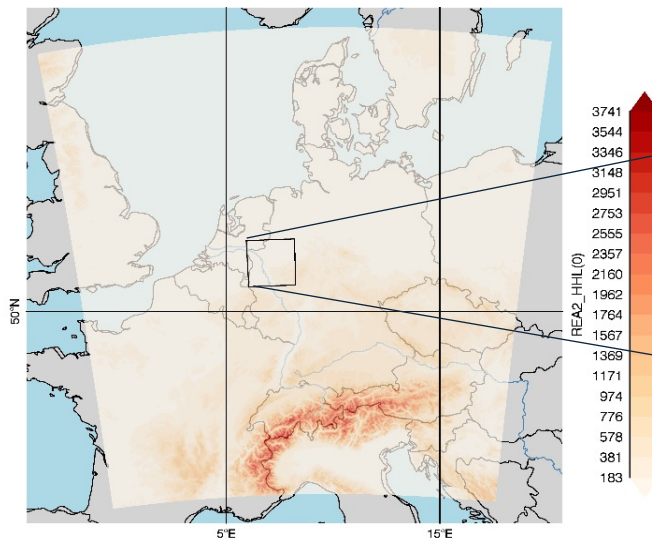
Synergy benefit!



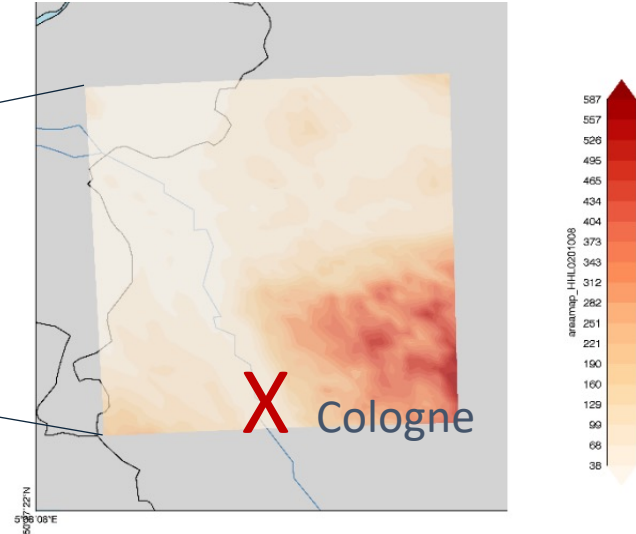
# 2D: Lifted Index (Stability)

- $LI = T(500 \text{ hPa}) - T(\text{parcel from surface} \rightarrow 500 \text{ hPa})$
- $LI < 1^\circ\text{C}$ : Chance for thunderstorms
- the smaller, the more probable
- Typical values from  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  (very instable) to  $+15^\circ\text{C}$  (very stable)

Reanalysis COSMO-REA2 region

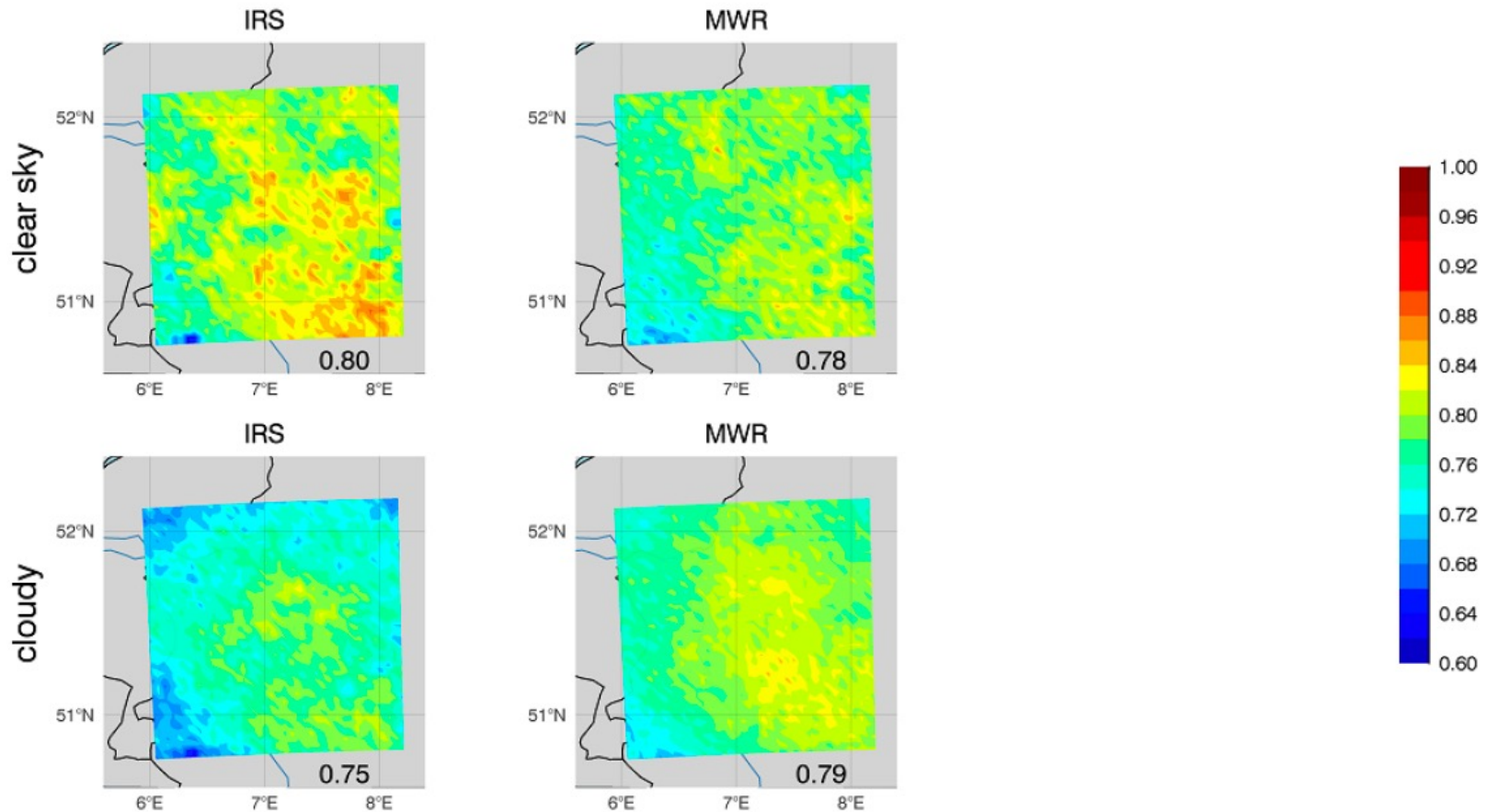


"Rhein-Ruhr-Area"



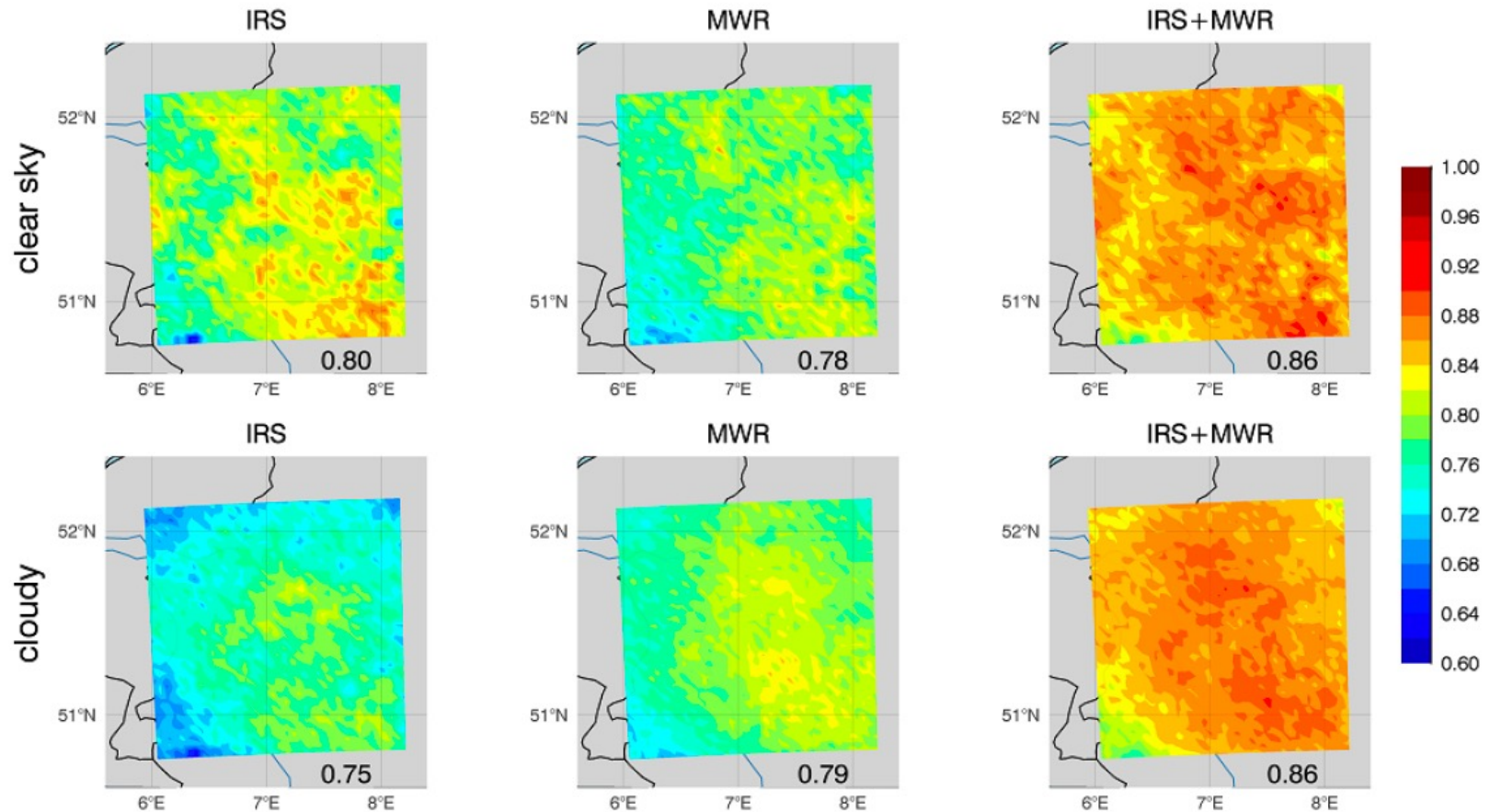
(Bollmeyer et. al. 2015)

# Probability of detecting a thunderstorm



M. Toporov

# Probability of detecting a thunderstorm



M. Toporov

BUT: over 1000 MWRs distributed in the area...

# Impact of a (realistic) ground-based network

$X_b$ : background (LI from IRS)

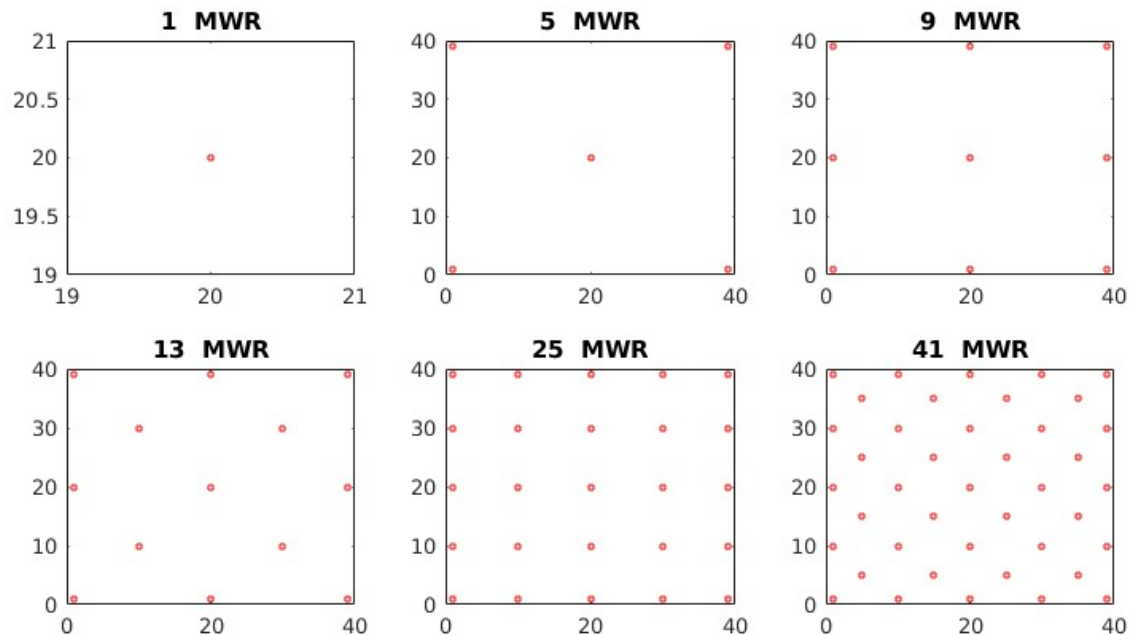
$Y$ : observations (LI retrieved from synergy @  $n$  MWR points)

$$X_a = X_b + W(Y - H(X_b))$$

$$W = BH^T(HBH^T + R)^{-1}$$

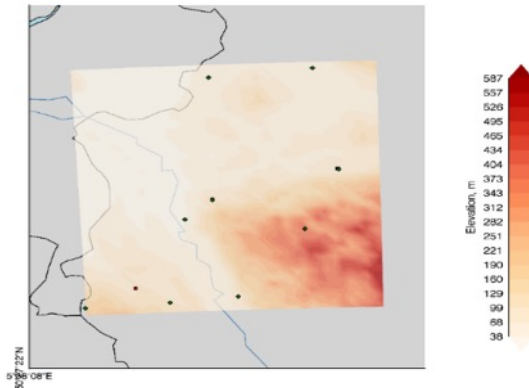
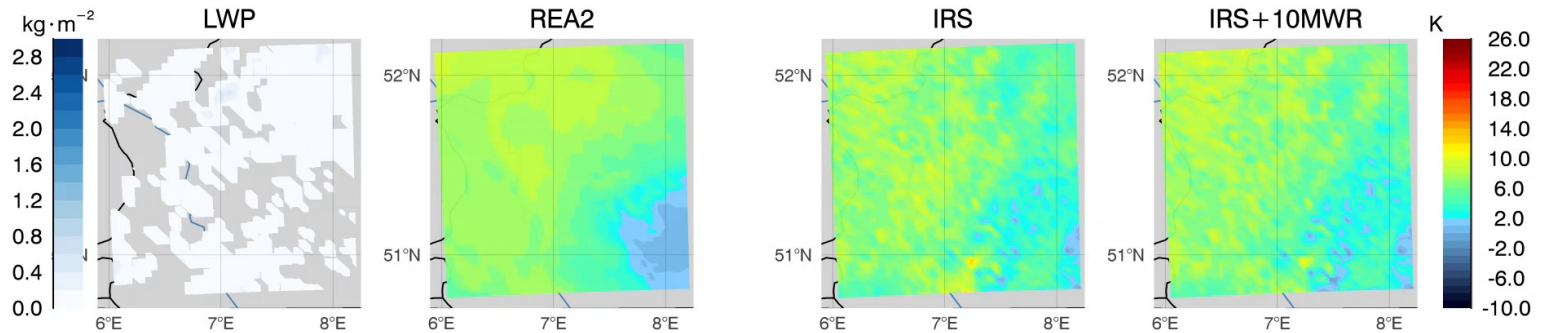
$B$ : background error covariance (IRS)

$R$ : observation error (MWR+IRS retrieval)



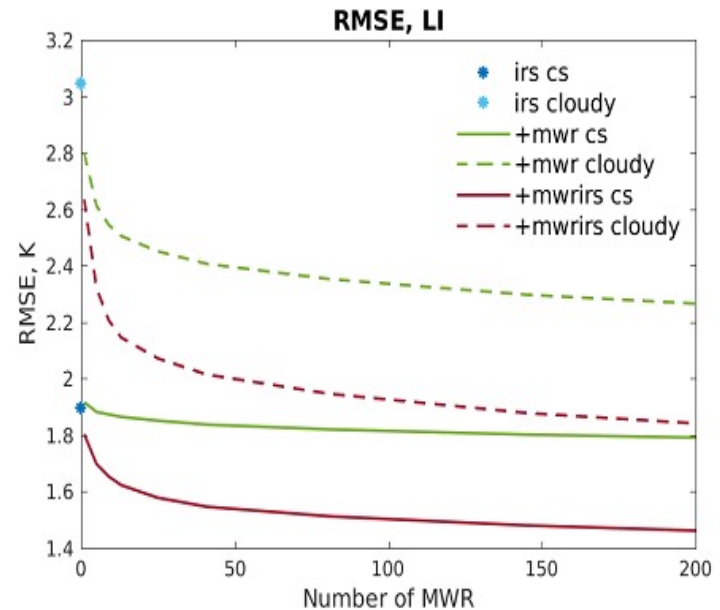
# Impact of a (realistic) ground-based network

LI, 24.08.2011



Ceilometer, SYNOP stations

M. Toporov



# Short Break

- Stretch & open windows...
- Time for FESSTVaLers to check the radar...!
- We will continue in 5 min!



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  - ✓ **in applications (renewables)**
  - ✓ FESSTVaL
  - ✓ New sources

# Motivation

- Renewable energy requires skillful short-term forecast
- Assimilation of new observation types could help
- Ground-based observations are potentially valuable for data assimilation

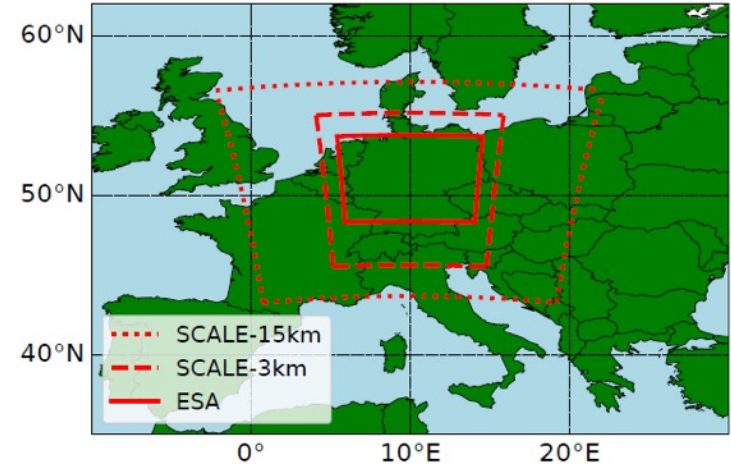
# Research questions

- How much can specific ground-based remote sensing instruments improve short-term forecasts (**low level wind & cloudiness**)?
- How dense should the station network be?

# Variance reduction based on ensemble sensitivity analysis

## Model data

- SCALE-RM output over Germany
- Convective-scale 1000-member ensemble (Necker et al, 2020) (focus over Germany, 3 km)



Necker et al., 2020

## Simulated observations:

Wind profiles from Doppler lidar:  
wind vector within the ABL



## Variance reduction:

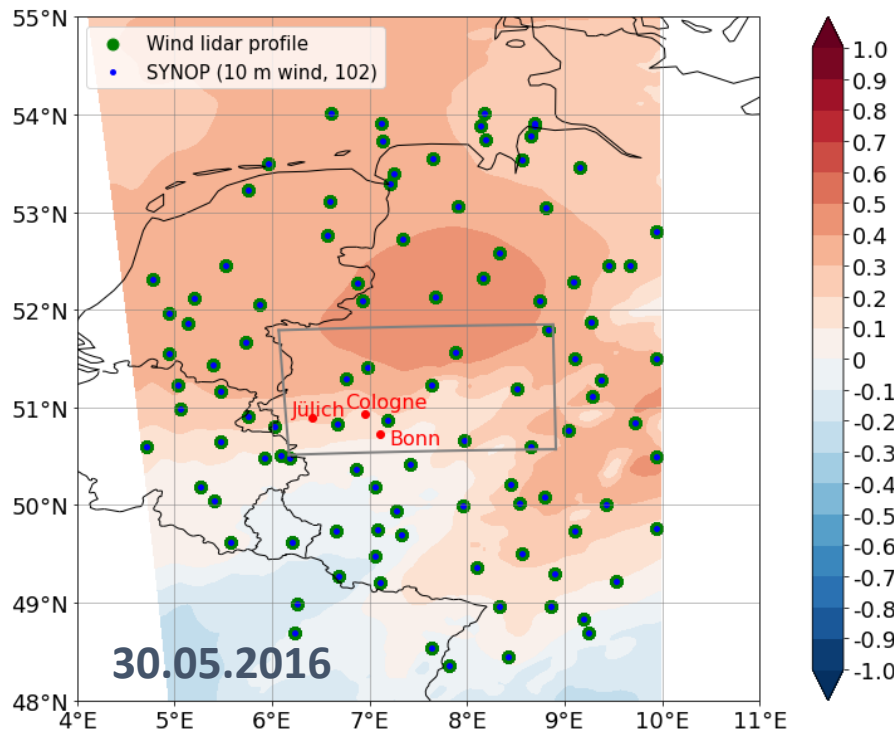
$$\delta\sigma^2 = \delta\mathbf{J} * [\delta\mathbf{x}]^T * \mathbf{B}^+ * (\mathbf{B}' - \mathbf{B}) * \mathbf{B}^+ * \delta\mathbf{x} * [\delta\mathbf{J}]^T,$$

where  $\mathbf{J}$  – forecast metric,  $\mathbf{x}$  - state vector of initial conditions,  
 $\mathbf{B}$  - state covariance matrix,  $+$  denotes pseudoinverse matrix,  
 $\mathbf{B}'$  - covariance matrix updated using hypothetical observations

# Experimental setup

## Potential wind lidar network to improve 3-hour forecasted low-level wind

Correlation between domain-averaged wind speed at 80 m (17 UTC) and wind at 2845 m (14 UTC)



### First experiment

- Quantify uncertainty reduction of domain-averaged 80 m wind

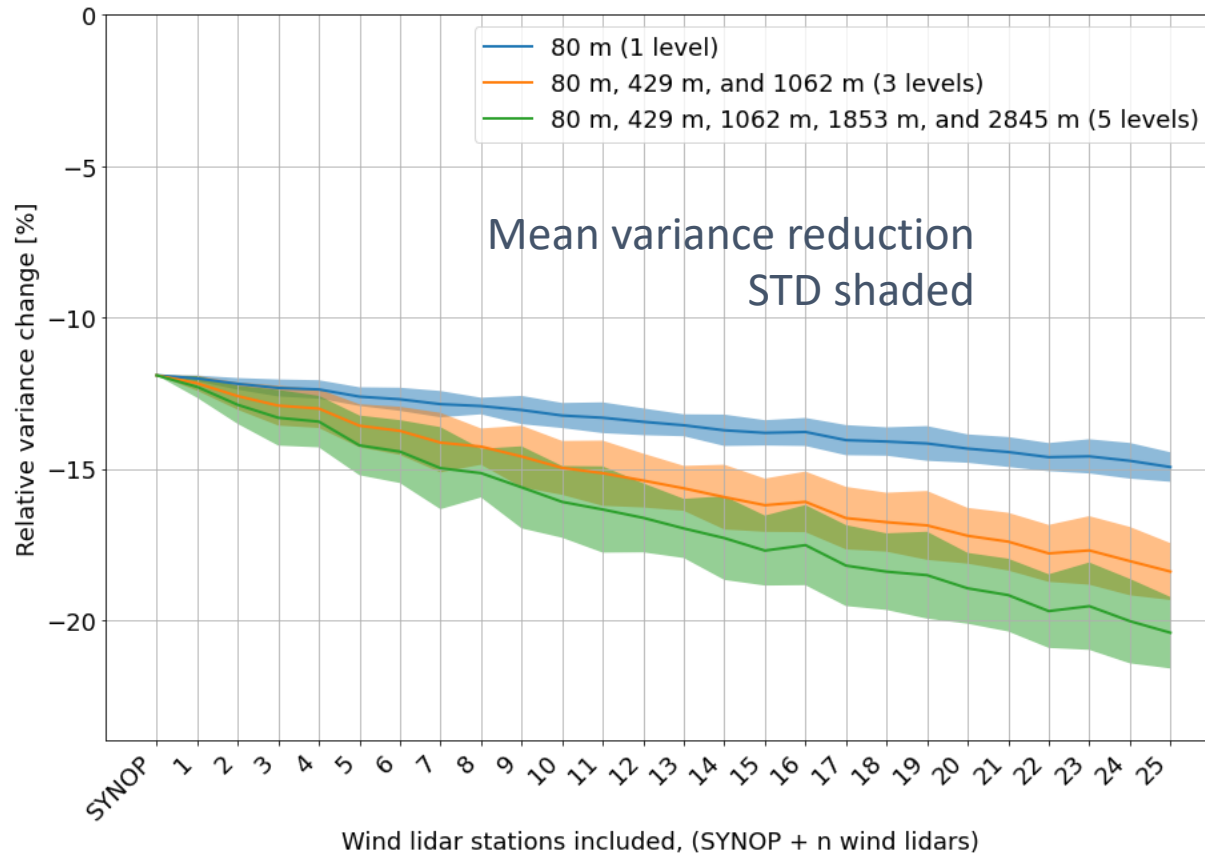
- Domain: Rhein-Ruhr-Area

### Incorporated observations

- Wind speed at 10 m (102 SYNOP stations)
- Wind speed profiles (25)
- 1 to 5 levels included: 80, 429, 1062, 1853, 2845 m



# Preliminary results



- SYNOP 102 stations (10 m wind) reduce wind forecast variance by **12%**
- SYNOP + 25 additional wind lidars up to **22%**
- Additional variance reduction due to wind lidar profiles ranges from **2%** to **10%** depending on different wind lidar ranges (influenced by ABL conditions)

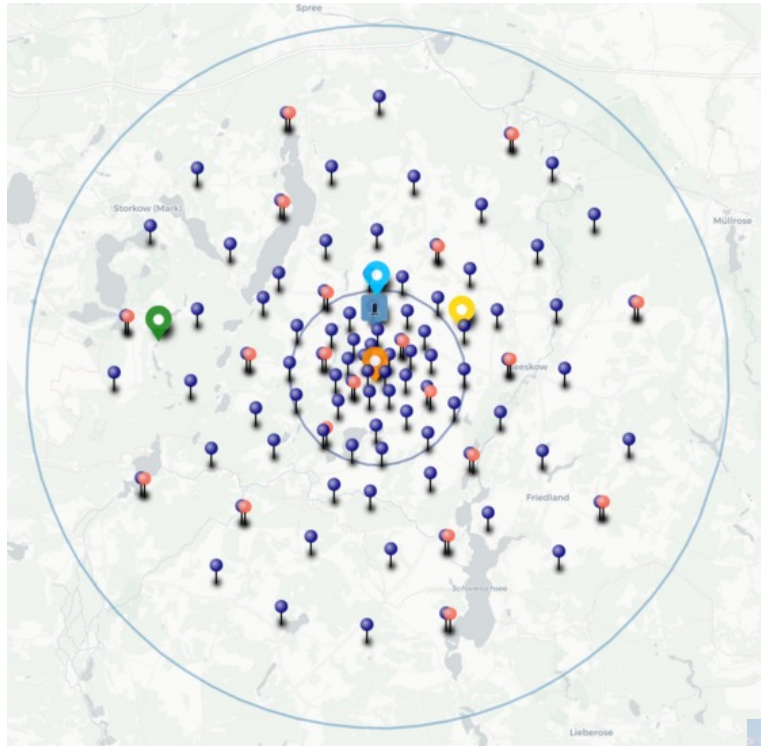
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# Ground-based remote sensing @ FESSTVaL

See talk by Dave Turner July 19



**APOLLOs**  
(~ 100)

**Wetterstationen  
WXT**  
(~ 25)

**Regenradar**  
X-Band Radar  
Energiebilanz-Station  
MWRP

**Supersites**

**Lindenberg**  
LIDAR (2)  
MRR  
MIRA  
Ceilometer (3)  
MWRP (2)  
Scintillometer

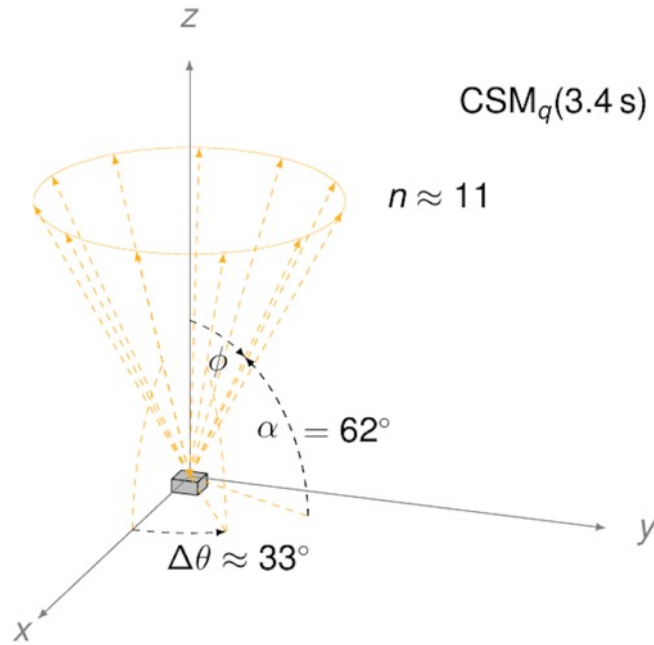
**Falkenberg**  
DWD Maste  
LIDAR (8)  
Energiebilanz-Station  
MRR  
Ceilometer (3)  
MWRP (2)  
Scintillometer (3)

**Birkholz**  
LIDAR  
Energiebilanz-Station  
MRR  
Ceilometer

**Kehrigk**  
Forststation DWD



# Wind gusts



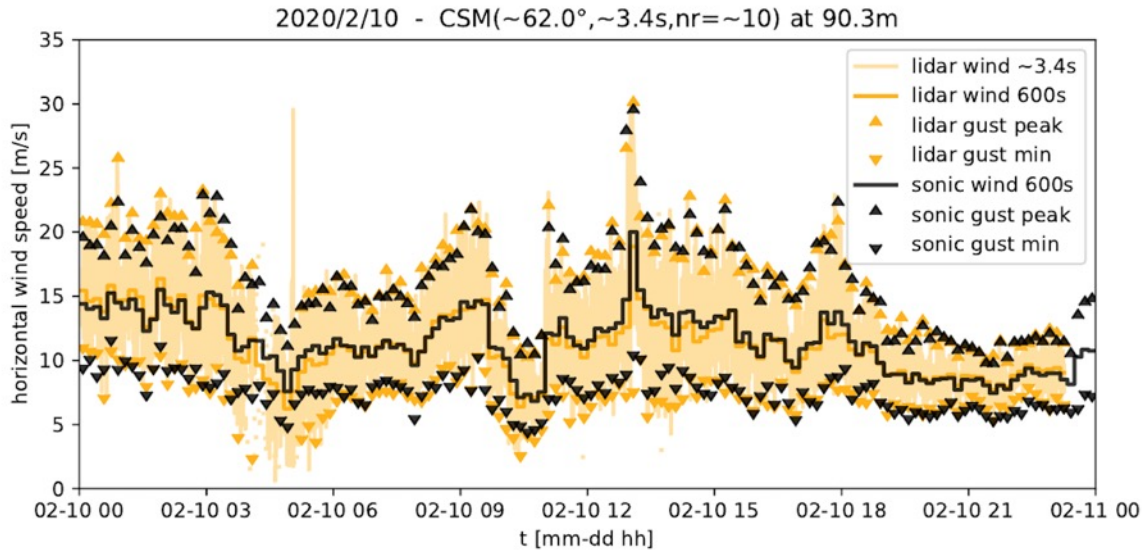
- Doppler lidar typically suited for mean winds ( $> 10\text{ min}$ )
- Potential for deriving gusts still open; need to measure down to  $\sim 3\text{ s}$





# Wind gusts

Julian Steinheuer (UzK) & Carola Detering (DWD)



Winter storm “Sabine”  
Feb. 10, 2020  
→ promising results!

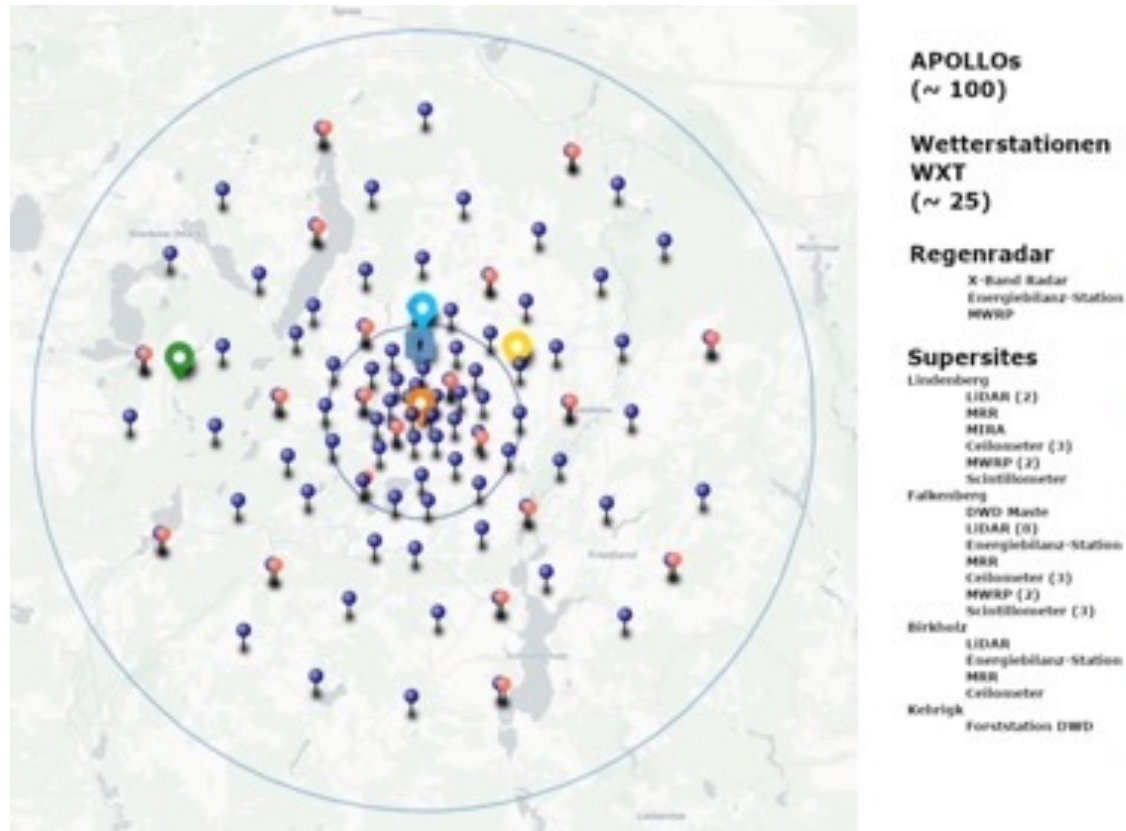
## Gust mode operation $\sim 1y$

- Statistical analysis: compare to 90m tower (sonic)
- Goal: improve model parametrizations at levels up  $\sim 2$  km

## @ FESSTVaL: “triangle” set-up ( $\sim 4$ km base length)

- Capture wind gusts during cold pools
- Wind gust front propagation

# Cold pools



- APOLLOs: horizontal detection & propagation
- In addition: remote sensing for vertical structure  
→ Doppler lidar, Microwave radiometer

# “Cold pool”: 17.5.21 @ Falkenberg

Lindenberg Meteorological Observatory - Richard Aßmann Observatory

Falkenberg Boundary Layer Field Site 2021/05/17

Deutscher Wetterdienst  
Wetter und Klima aus einer Hand



Air Temperature



Wind

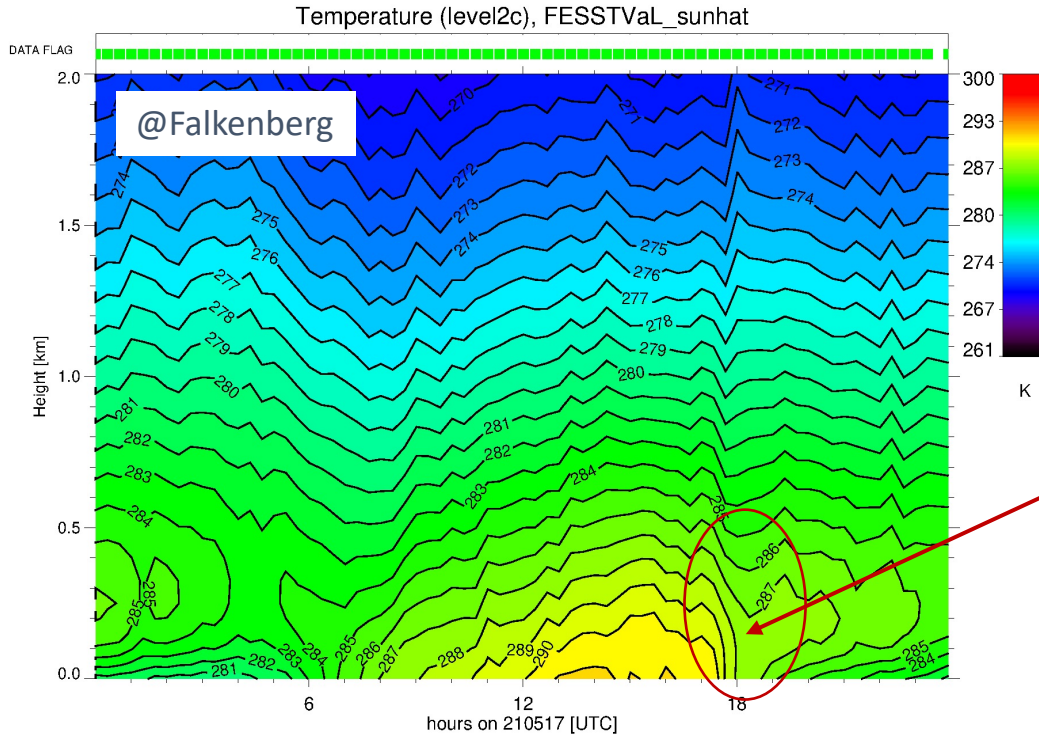


kachelmannwetter.com





# “Cold pool”: 17.5.21 from MWRs



- Strong temp. drop, up to 5 K within ~30 min
- Observable up to ~400 m

kachelmannwetter.com

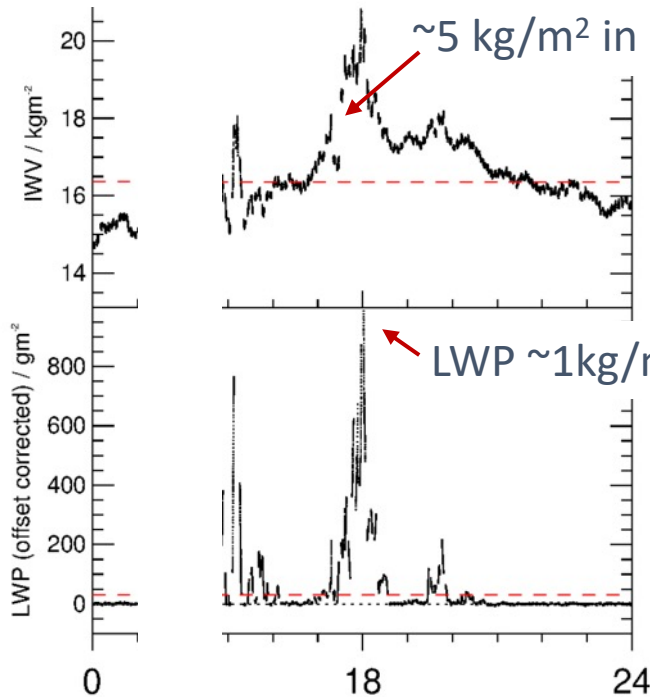




# WV Anomaly: 17.5.21 from MWRs

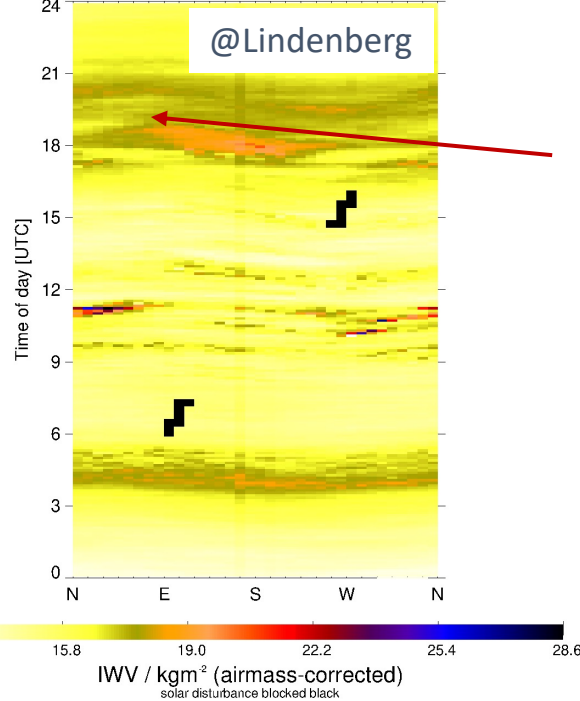
@Falkenberg

IWV increase by  
~5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in 1 h



IWV (az\_vs\_time)@30 deg, FESSTVaL\_foghat, 210517

@Lindenberg



IWV anomaly  
propagating from  
SW to SE,  
corresponding to  
storm movement

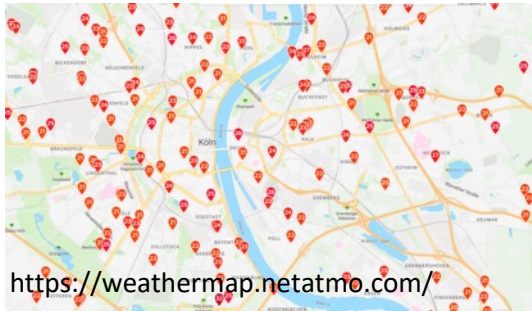
kachelmannwetter.com



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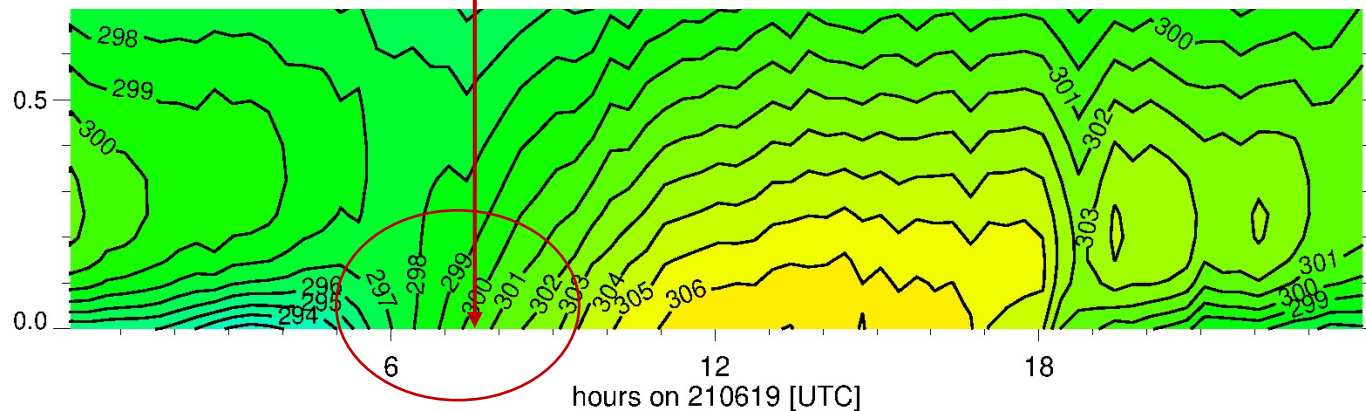
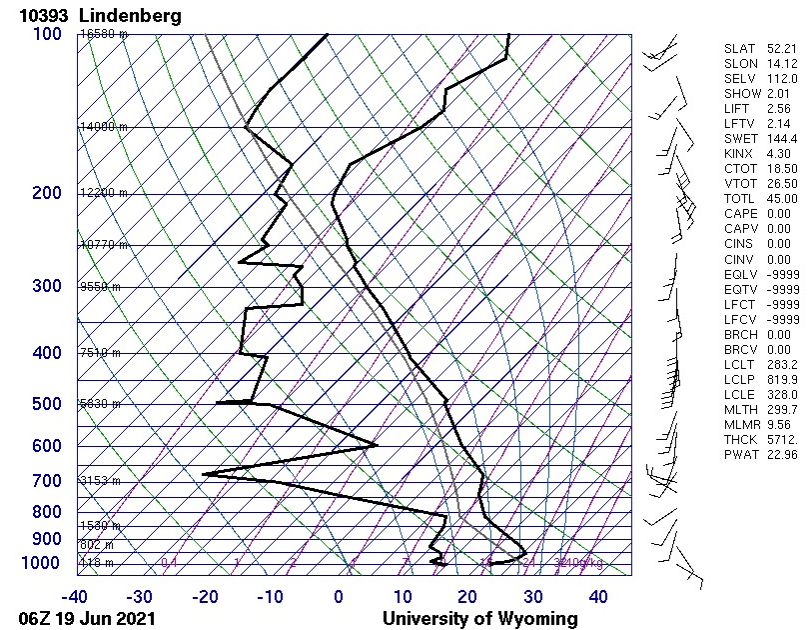
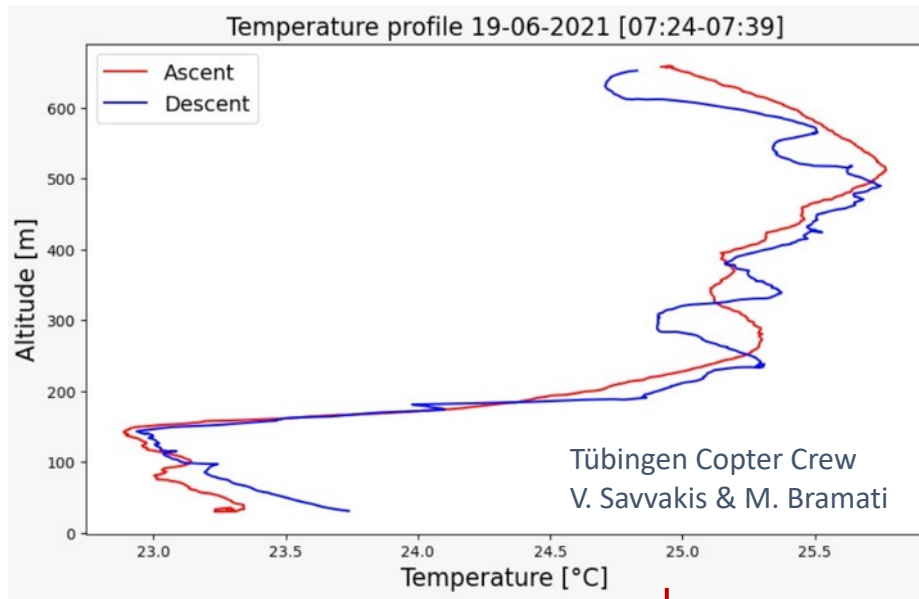
# Potential new sources of observations...



- Personal Weather Stations
- Crowd-sourced data
- Drones (swarms)
- Communication links
- Public transportation
- ...

[Pictures licensed by CC BY-SA-NC](#)

# FESSTVaL: 19.6.2021



# Take home messages...

**Ground-based remote sensing:** Evolving networks!

Doppler Lidar, Microwave radiometer, Ceilometer, Cloud radar...

**New types of observations:** on the horizon and developing fast!

**Applications:** from process understanding over short-term forecasting to renewable energy

**Rethink:** use which observations and how?

**Exploit the synergy!**



# Thank you!

# I'm happy to take questions

## Literature

Bollmeyer, C., J. Keller, C. Ohlwein, S. Bentzien, S. Crewell, P. Friedrichs, A. Hense, J. Keune, S. Kneifel, I. Pscheidt, S. Redl, S. Steinke, 2015: Towards a high-resolution regional reanalysis for the European CORDEX domain, *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, 141 (86), 1–15. Featured Research Article. [doi:10.1002/qj.2486](https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.2486).

Caumont, O., Cimini, D., Löhnert, U., Alados-Arboledas, L., Bleisch, R., Buffa, F., Ferrario, M. E., Haeefe, A., Huet, T., Madonna, F. and Pace, G., 2016: Assimilation of humidity and temperature observations retrieved from ground-based microwave radiometers into a convective-scale NWP model. *Q.J.R. Meteorol. Soc.*, 142: 2692–2704. [doi:10.1002/qj.2860](https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.2860)

Toporov, M., and U. Löhnert, 2020: Synergy of Satellite- and Ground-Based Observations for Continuous Monitoring of Atmospheric Stability, Liquid Water Path and Integrated Water Vapor, *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, early-online release, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JAMC-D-19-0169.1>

Wulfmeyer, V., R.M. Hardesty, D.D. Turner, A. Behrendt, M. Cadeddu, P. Di Girolamo, P. Schluessel, J. van Baelen, and F. Zus, 2015: A review of the remote sensing of lower tropospheric thermodynamic profiles and its indispensable role for the understanding and simulation of water and energy cycles. *802 Rev. Geophys.*, 53, 819-895, [doi:10.1002/2014RG000476](https://doi.org/10.1002/2014RG000476)

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