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Validation of Boundary Layer Winds from WRF Mesoscale Forecasts over Denmark

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1 Introduction

Since May 2009, the Wind Energy Division at Risø-DTU has maintained a real-time weather forecast modelling system (Wang et al. 2009) to forecast boundary-layer atmospheric conditions over Denmark. Wind speed and direction forecasted by the model are verified against hourly winds from 10-meter conventional METeorological Aerodrome Report (METAR) measurements and wind measurements at several masts across Denmark.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Advanced Research WRF (Weather Research and Forecast) model is used in the simulations. The WRF model is a numerical weather prediction and atmospheric simulation system designed for both research and operational applications.

The goal of the real-time WRF system at Risø-DTU is to provide guidance to understand the WRF behavior and to aid in selecting the best parameterizations and parameters for wind power meteorology applications.

2 Description of the model setup

Figure 1 displays the grid configuration used for the runs. The mother domain (D1) has a horizontal grid spacing of 18 km, the first nested domain (D2) 6 km and the second and innermost nest (D3) 2 km. The model forecasts use 37 vertical levels from the surface to the top of the model located at 100 hPa; 12 of these levels are placed within 1000 m from the surface. The

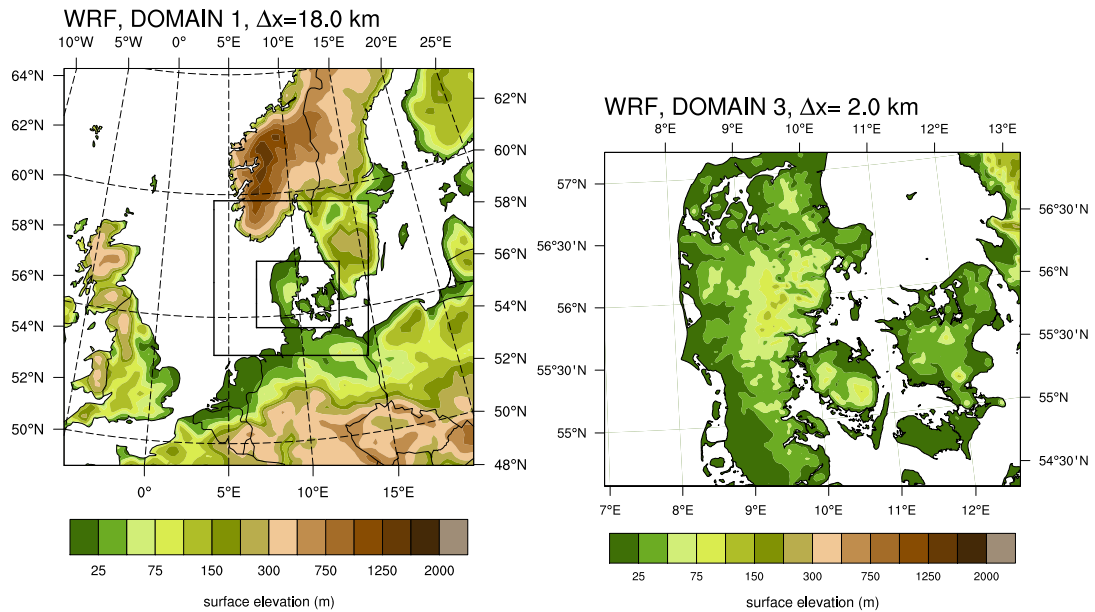


Figure 1: Left: Domain configuration and terrain elevation of the Risø’s WRF model setup. The black squares indicate the boundaries of three domains and Δx the horizontal grid resolution. Right: The innermost domain, $\Delta x = 2$ km, covering Denmark.

model setup uses standard parameterizations including the Yonsei University (YSU) PBL scheme (Hong et al. 2006).

The location of the METAR stations used in this study is presented in Fig. 2. The data from these stations is mainly hourly and include wind speed and direction, air temperature, dew-point temperature, and sometimes sea-level pressure. These stations are complemented by measurements at towers maintained by Risø-DTU. Output from the model forecasts of these same fields is hourly for the integration time of 48 hours. Forecasts are started twice daily at 0000 and 1200 UTC driven by the USA NOAA Global Forecast System analysis and forecasts. For simplicity, we verify only the 1200 UTC runs here; similar results are found for the 0000 UTC runs.

3 Methodology and first results

A variety of verification statistics are calculated, including biases, mean absolute error (mae), and root mean square error and analyzed according to forecast time, time of the day, level from surface, and in their distribution in space.

evaluate different parameterizations schemes, in order to understand their influence on the forecasts and to improve the model, if possible.

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