

# Growth of spread due to uncertainties in initial conditions and lateral boundaries

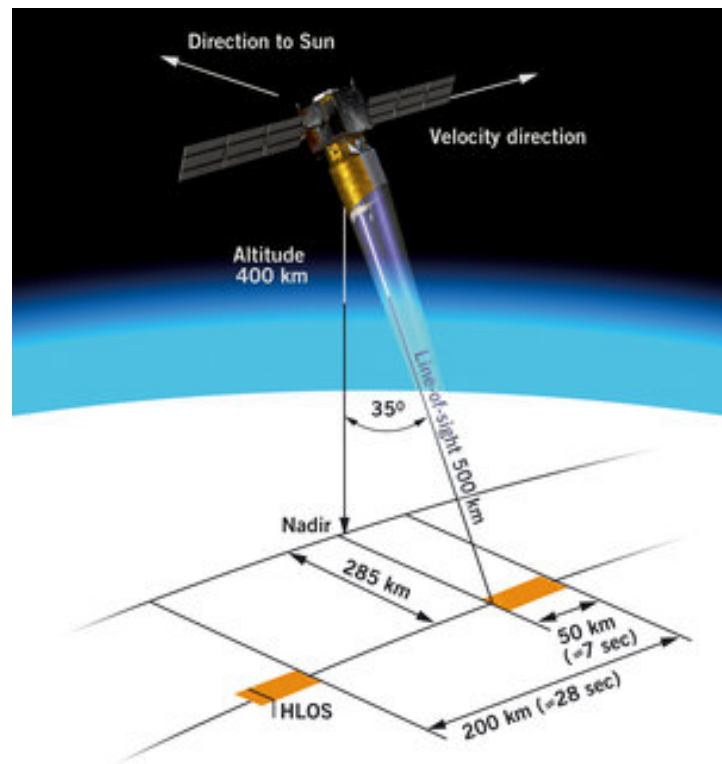
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\*Slovenian Environment Agency, \*\*University of Ljubljana

# Background

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A by-product of an ESA study on  
Mesoscale wind profiles and data assimilation for numerical weather prediction



# Mesoscale ensemble

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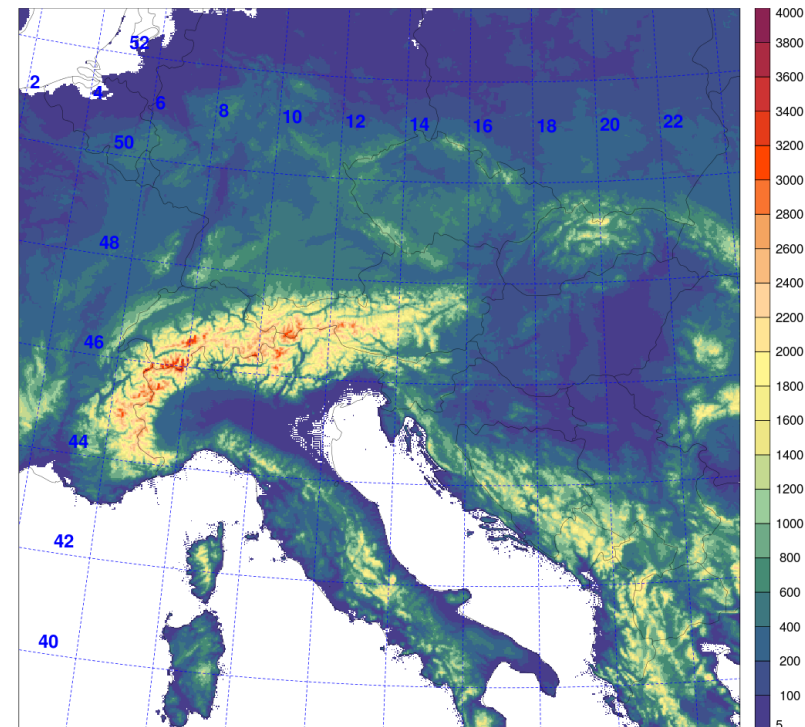
AROME with 2.5 km resolution, domain size of 637x637 points, 87 levels in the vertical

Coupled to ECWMF ENS - all 50 members

Runing with HARMONIE scripting system at ECMWF

ENS upper air are not stored in MARS -> had to be saved promptly

Domain Topography [m]



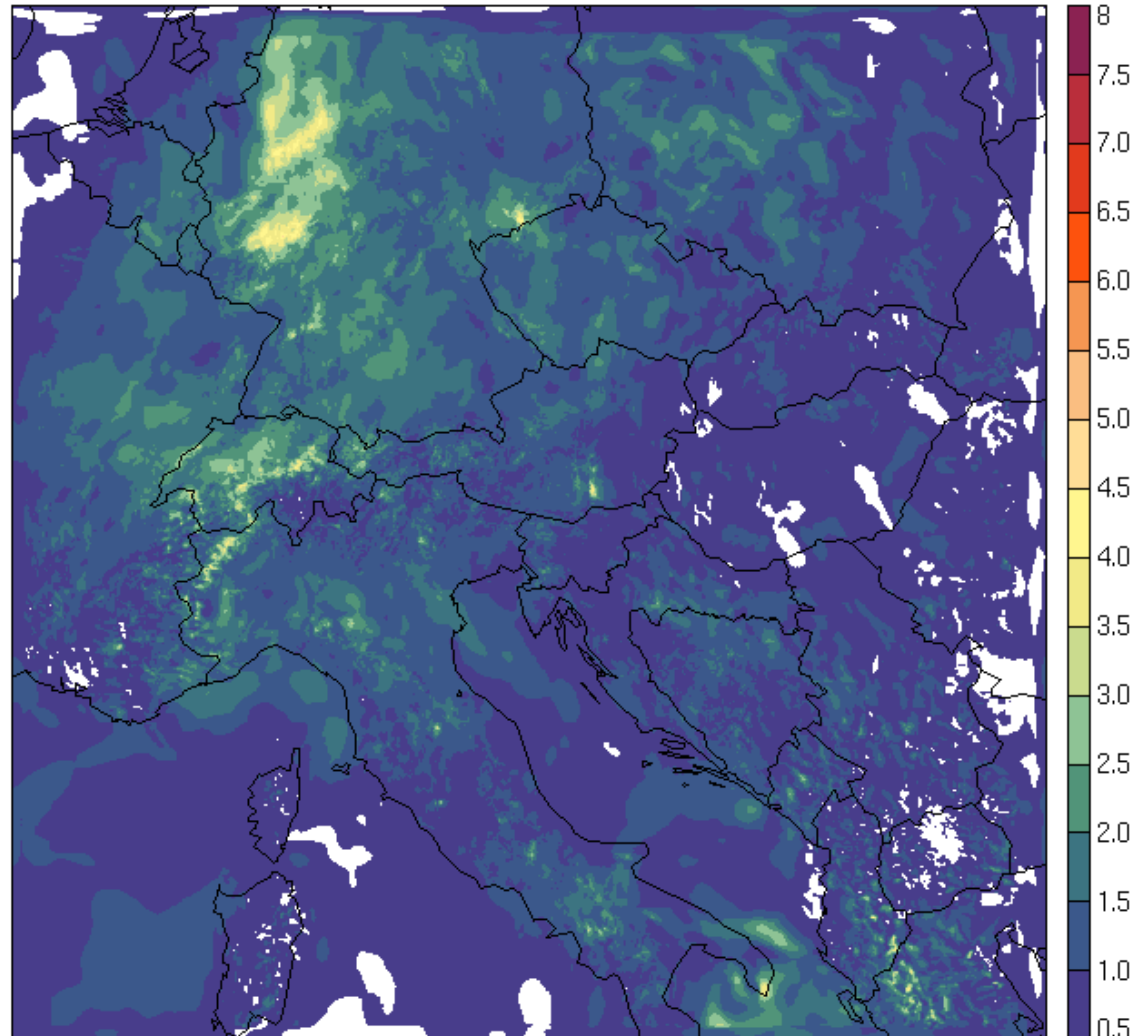
# Investigating the spread of an ensemble

Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for wrk  
25jun2016 12:00 +01h

Spread for zonal wind, at  
level 64 (~850 hPa)

Only downscaling and no  
other perturbations but  
those from ENS

Joint impact of  
IC and LB



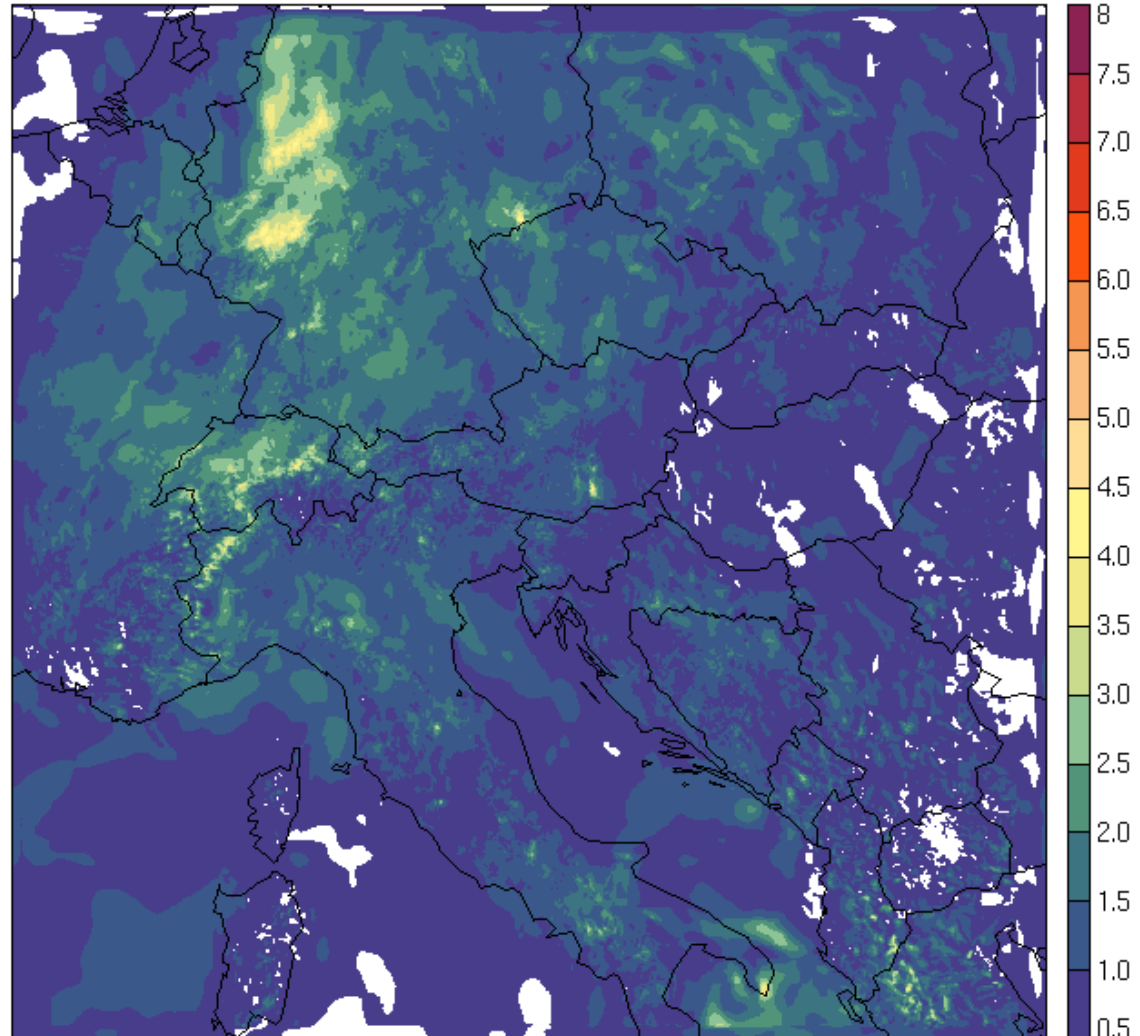
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# Experiment construction: 3 sets of downscaled ens

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To isolate the impact of LB we replace the initial condition with the one from member 000

```
for MBR in $MEMBERS; do
  ln -s mbr000/ICMSHINIT mbr$MBR/ICMSHINIT
```

=experiment with the same IC

And, similarly for impact of IC we only keep perturbed IC, all coupling files point to member 000

```
for MBR in $MEMBERS; do
  ln -s mbr000/ELSCF* mbr$MBR/.
```

=experiment with the same LB

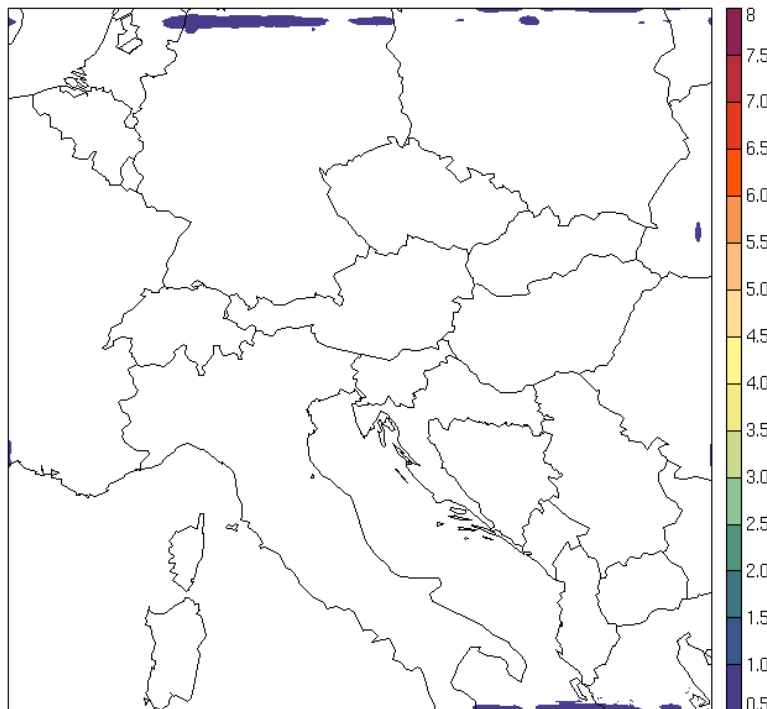


# June 25, 2016 at 12 UTC

NE moving upper level through  
& a cold front associated to it

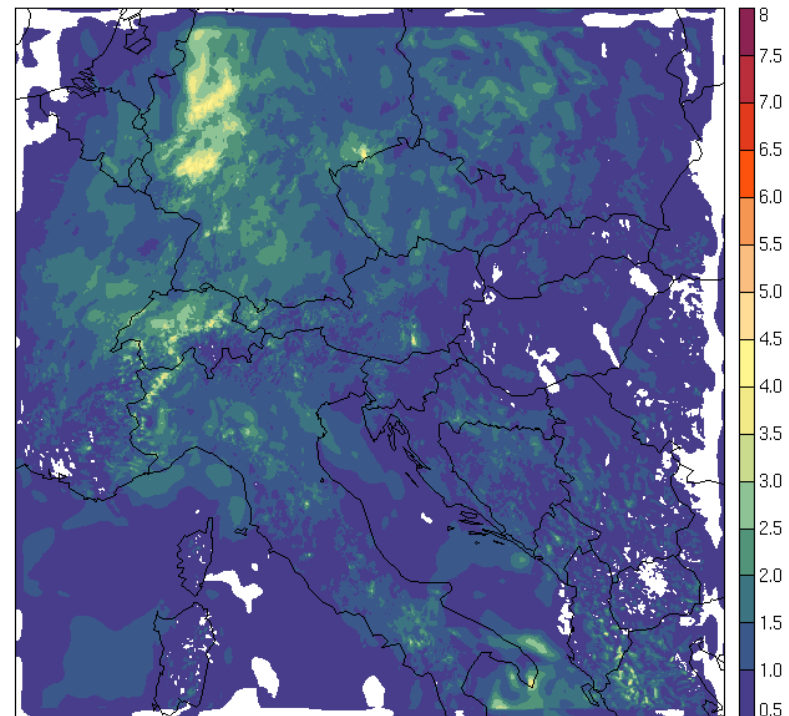
same initial conditions,  
different lateral boundaries

Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for cIC  
25jun2016 12:00 +01h



same lateral boundaries,  
different initial conditions

Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for cLB  
25jun2016 12:00 +01h

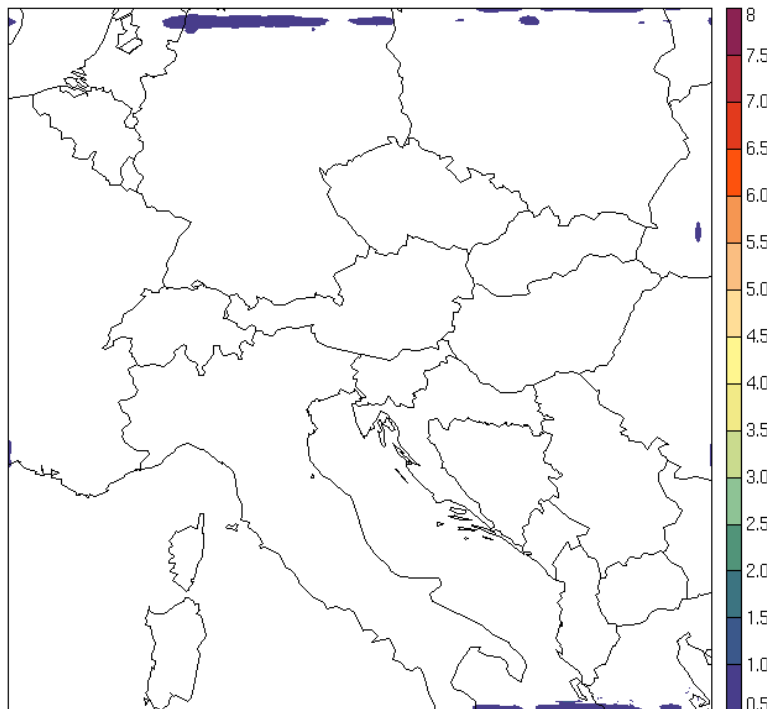


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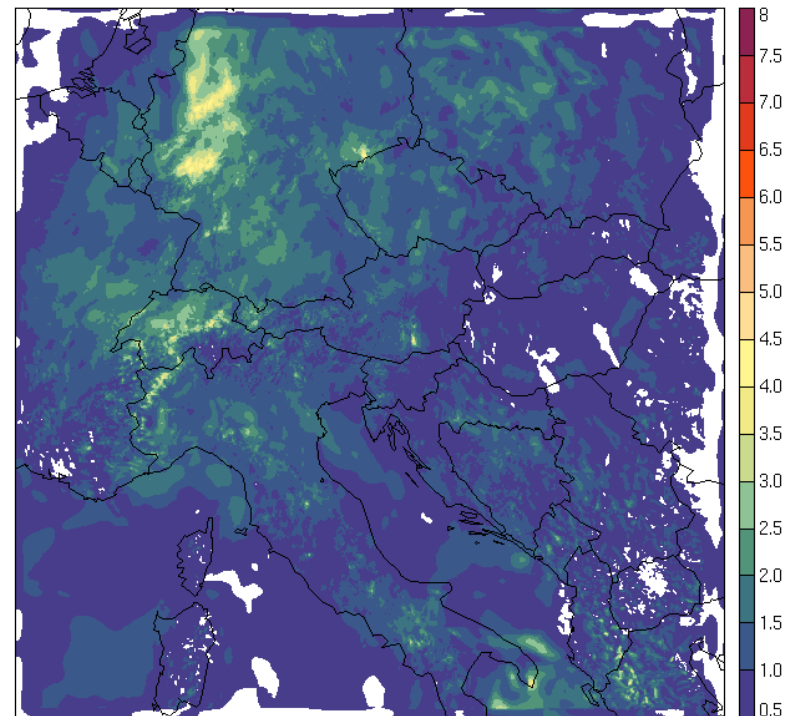
same initial conditions,  
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25jun2016 12:00 +01h



same lateral boundaries, different  
initial conditions

Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for cLB  
25jun2016 12:00 +01h







## Sample for statistics

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8 cases, all 50 members downscaled in 3 ways

~5 days apart, equally distributed between 00 and 12 runs

June 2016 02 00z  
06 12z  
11 00z  
15 12z  
21 00z  
25 12z  
30 00z  
July 16 04 12z

assumed to be  
synoptically  
independent

# June 02, 2016 at 00 UTC

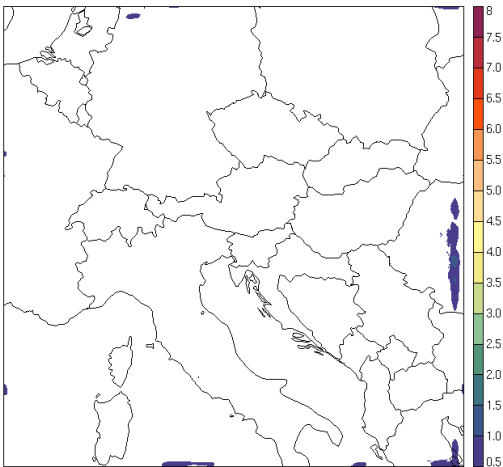
## upper level cut-off low

same initial conditions,  
different lateral boundaries

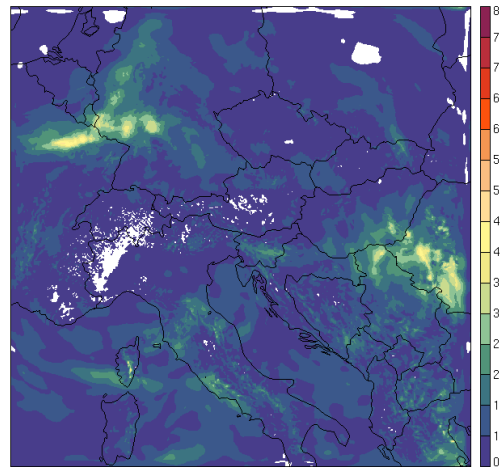
different initial conditions,  
different lateral boundaries

different initial conditions,  
same lateral boundaries

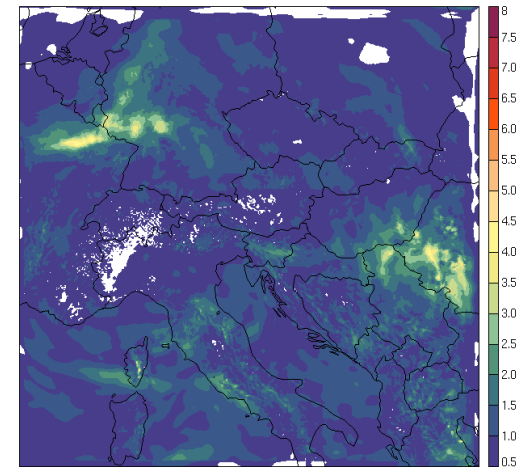
Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for cIC  
02jun2016 00:00 +01h



Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for wrk  
02jun2016 00:00 +01h



Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for cLB  
02jun2016 00:00 +01h



# June 02, 2016 at 00 UTC

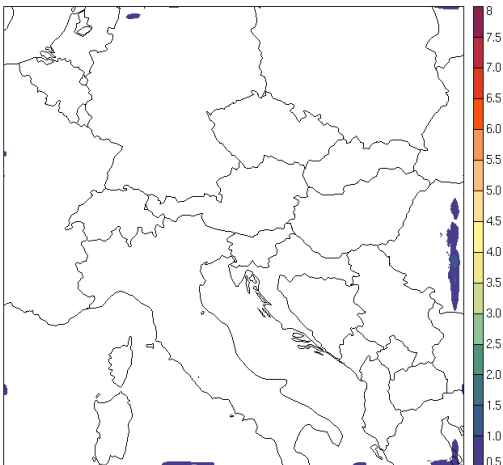
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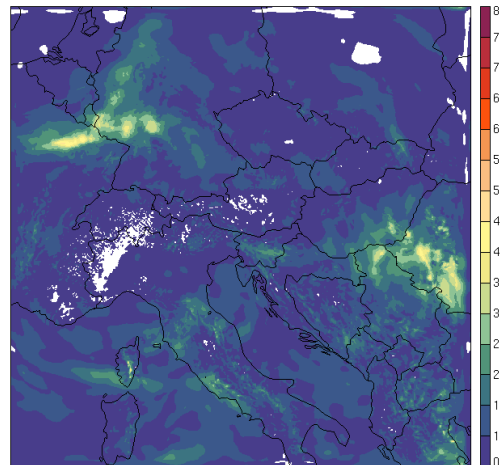
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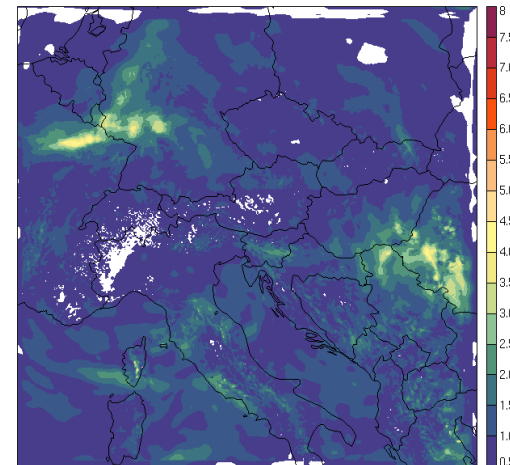
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02jun2016 00:00 +01h



Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for wrk  
02jun2016 00:00 +01h



Spread for u at level=64 [m/s] for cLB  
02jun2016 00:00 +01h

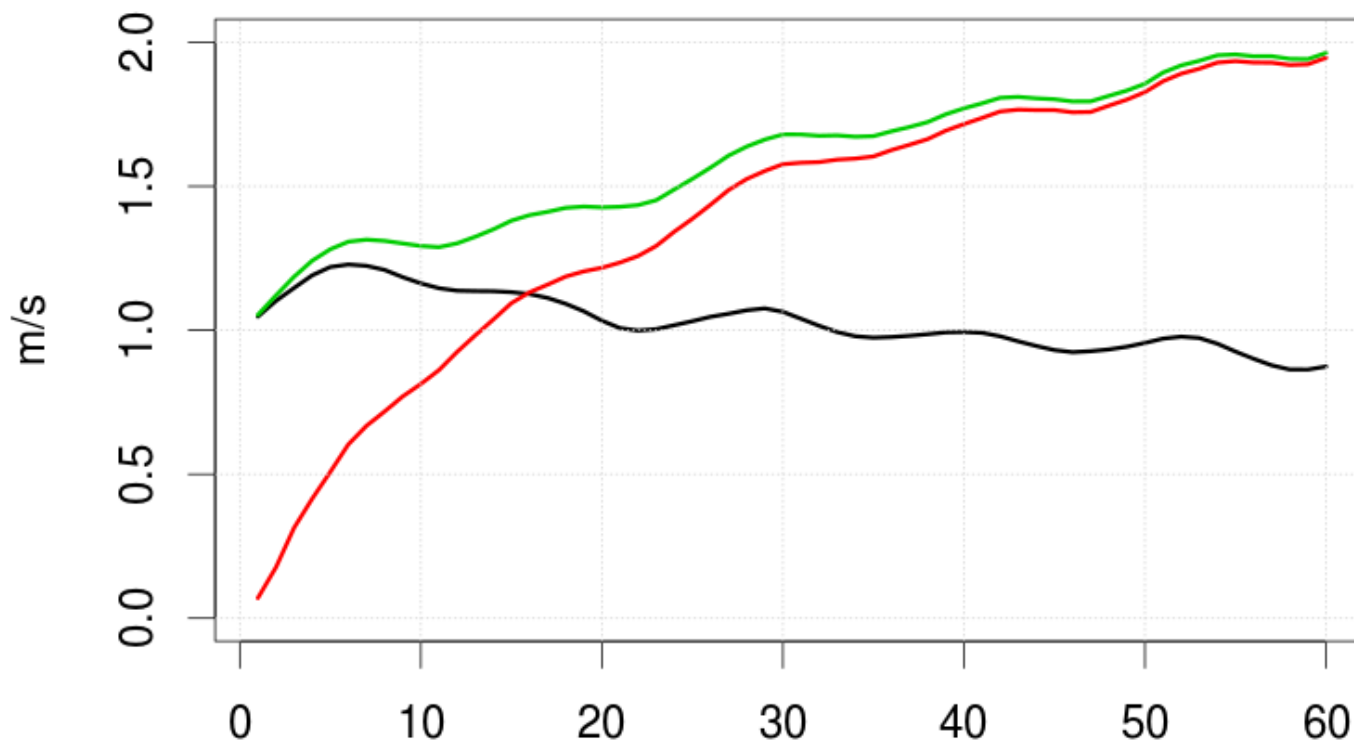




# Average spread in time

- constant LBC + variable IC
- variable LBC + constant IC
- variable LBC + variable IC

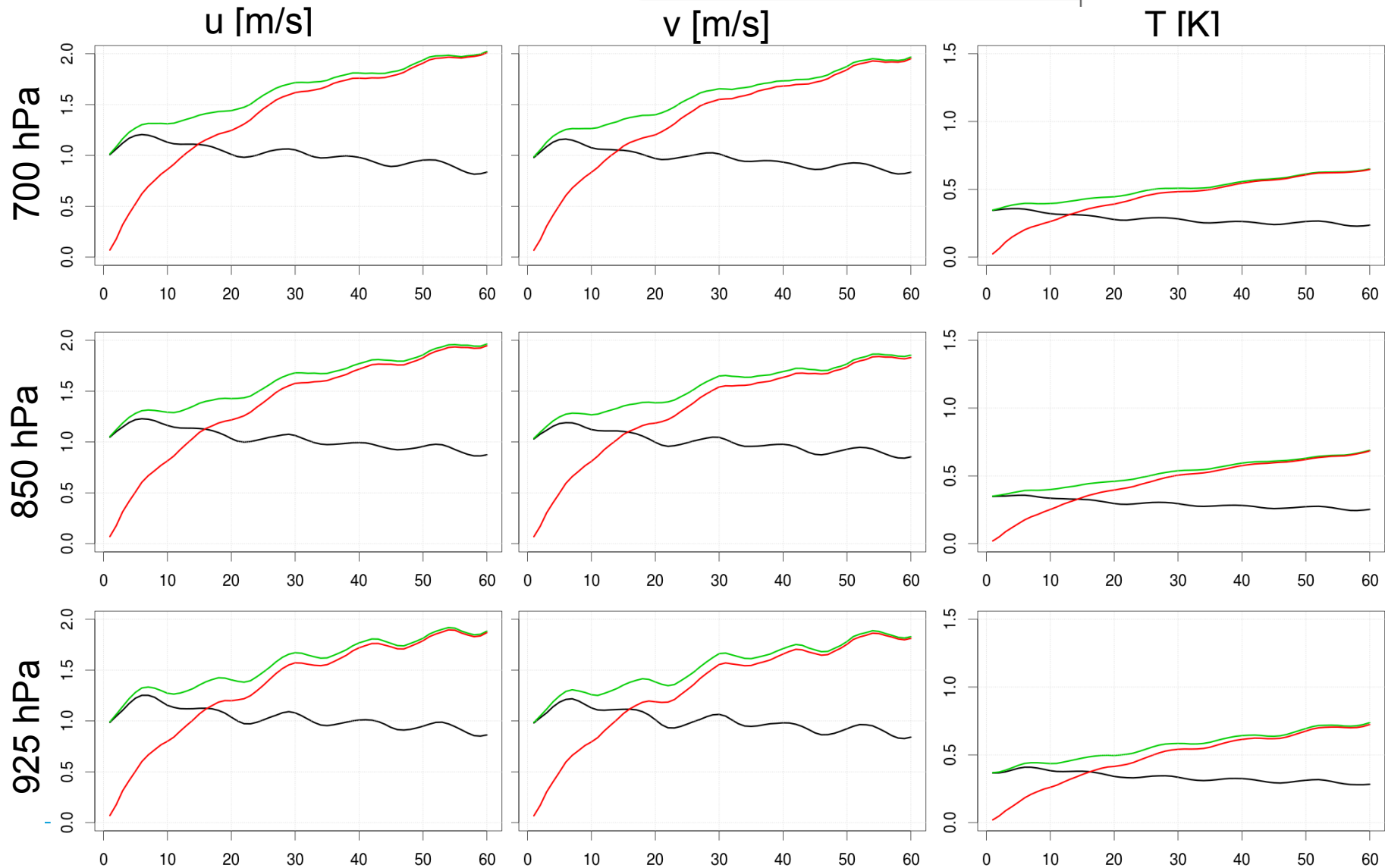
## Average spread on level 64 (850hPa) zonal wind



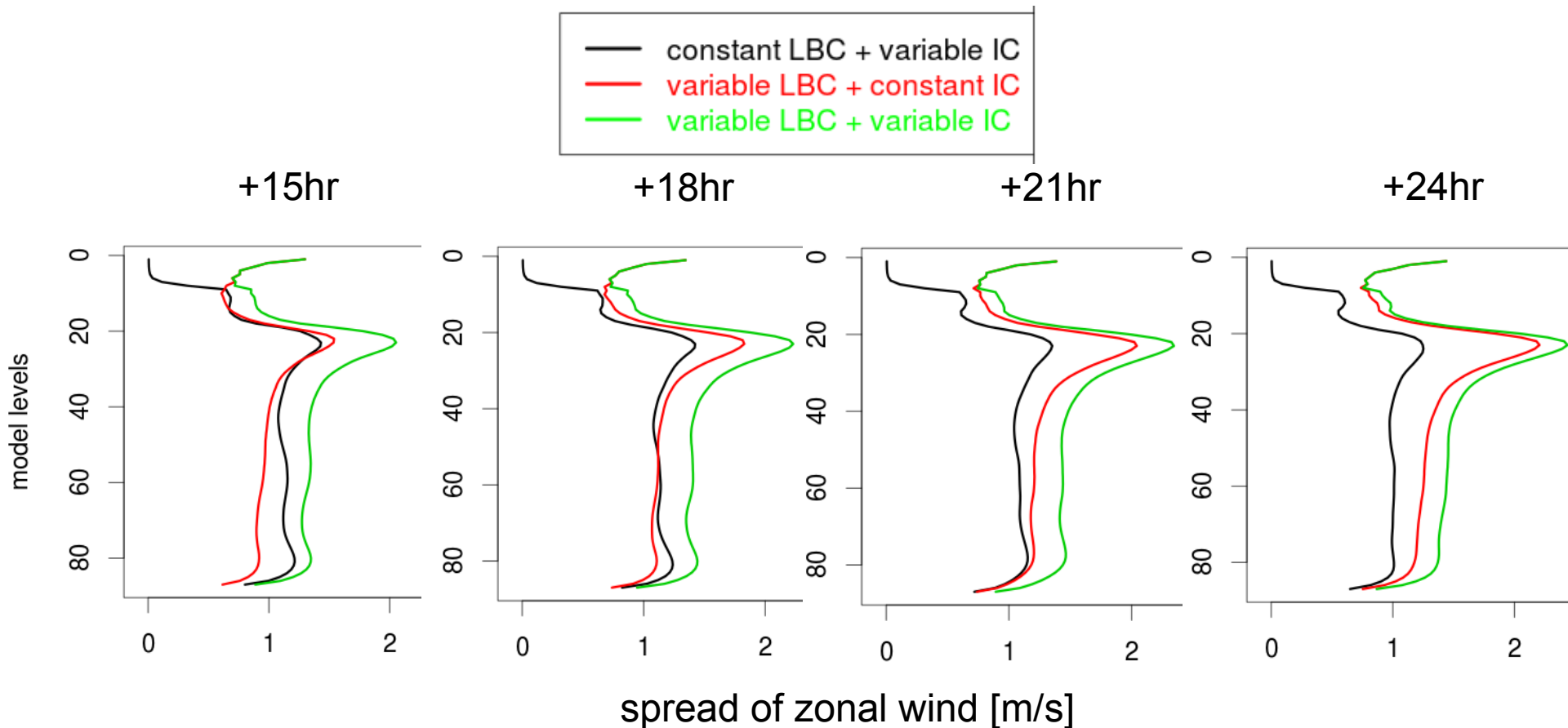


# Average spread in time

- constant LBC + variable IC
- variable LBC + constant IC
- variable LBC + variable IC



# Average vertical profiles of average spread







# Conslusions

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Propagation of uncertainties from the boundaries

Small domain, but not that small (637x637 points)

Location of »the zone of interest« matters too

The spread resulting from boundary conditions rises to the same magnitude as the internally grown spread after ~15 hours

Forecasts longer than ~24 hours are dominated by downscaling of lateral boundary conditions