20th ALADIN LTM meeting
Monday 4 April 2016
17:20-19:00
Lisbon, Portugal

draft minutes

Participants

ALADIN Program Manager : Piet Termonia
LTMs and representatives :

Algeria : **Mohamed Benamara** (LTM)   Morocco : **Hassan Haddouch** (LTM)
Austria : **Christoph Wittmann** (LTM)   Poland : **Marek Jerczynski** (LTM)
Belgium : **Rafiq Hamdi** (dep. LTM),   Portugal : **Maria Monteiro** (LTM)
Bulgaria : **Boryana Tsenova** (dep. LTM)   Romania : **Alexandra Craciun** (dep. LTM)
Croatia : **Alica Bajic** (LTM)   Slovakia : **Jozef Vivoda** (LTM)
Czech Rep : **Radmila Brozkova** (LTM)   Slovenia : **Neva Pristov** (LTM)
France : **Claude Fischer** (LTM)**, Ryad El Khatib**   Tunisia : **Zied Sassi** (LTM)
Hungary : **Balaz Szintai** (LTM)   Turkey : **Alper Guser** (LTM)

LACE Program Manager : Yong Wang
ACNA: Maria Derkova (Mariska)
HIRLAM observer : Daniel Santos
Support Team : Patricia Pottier

1. **Opening and welcome**

Mariska opens the meeting and welcomes the participants : all ALADIN partners are represented and Daniel, new HIRLAM Project Leader for System participates as the HIRLAM Observer.

2. **Adoption of the agenda**

The proposed agenda (see Annex) is adopted.

3. **Code & Cycles**

3.1 Status of CY40t1

Mariska summarizes the status of the   installation of CY40T1 at the Partners institutes (see https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_lQMFDaRRDNEng21asHKQ42Hx_-llOnRG3EX3BtfzVo/edit#gid=268397437) : the inquiry shows that, although there is some progress in the installation, quite some problems are reported when installing the export version and CY40T1 is not running operational including data assimilation anywhere except in France. In dynamical adaptation mode Poland and Romania run operationally CY40T1.

Main issues raised by the Partners concern DA configurations. GMAP team has made deep tests on this export version (including a 2 week test of AROME-France assimilation whose results are in the companion note). Claude proposes to share also the outputs of these experiments : those who need the datasets and listings of these runs should contact Alexandre.
Some bugs were reported to alabobo2 mailing list as decided at the last LTM meeting but, when there is no solution people don't know what to report. Daniel explains that, in HIRLAM, people are encouraged to use the forum on HIRLAM web page to report and/or look at problems rather than sending e-mails to individual persons or to mailing lists. They have a mechanism in HIRLAM how to assign reported problems to the people of system core group.
Mariska underlines that Mitraillette tool is focused on the forecast model validation and doesn't contain any assimilation part. Radmila adds that we need extra manpower to work on this. Yong proposes to first identify some experts, then put extra money or use the flat-rate money to find a solution.
Claude asks Mariska to investigate what sort of problems (very local problems with compilers, computers, data, or bugs in the code of the export version, or ....) the Partners are facing and to report to alabobo2 mailing list (Patricia will put the information on the aladin website). The discussion on validation of assimilation configurations should also be re-opened at the System WG.

3.2 bugfixes

Some fixes have been reported via alabobo2. Somebody should put them all in a single GIT branch, run basis tests and check that it works with the last version of the code, before Meteo-France will prepare an incremental export version. Radmila is preparing a GIT branch for contribution to 43T1 and asks to make sure that reported bugfixes will enter the CY43T1.
Mariska with Olda will create the GIT branch for CY40T1 incremental bugfix, run some tests and check with Radmila the fixes so that she can put those that are not yet in into her development branch for CY43T1.
MF can rerun some mitraillette tests for an updated version of the CY40T1_bf export once the corresponding GIT-GCO branch and the librairies on beaufix/prolix are finalized.

3.3 abobo2 archived on aladin webpage

During the 19th LTM meeting in Belgrade, it was proposed to encourage the exchanges through alabodo2, when installing export versions. The messages sent to alabobo2 mailing list are archived since then (11 messages since October 2015) and available on the aladin webpage ("Partners only", then "Mailing lists archives") or directly with http://www.cnrm-game-meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article296 (You should be identified to access the pages for "Partners only").
Those who have access to MF network (MF internal connections or remote connections with "calculette" to cross the firewall), can consult the archives and benefit from a research tool using :
 http://listsympa.meteo.fr/sympa/info/alabobo2
(choose Archive in the left menu).
You don't need any user/password to consult the archives (you may be asked to confirm that you are not a spammer : if you get the button "Je ne suis pas un spammeur", just click on it !).

3.4 Information issue (e001 optimis.; E/C zone)

Bogdan implemented some optimization (see Ryad's presentation at last year workshop): it speeds-up the model by 10%-20%. The modifications were back-phased but their possible impact on different cycles or computers should be checked.
Mariska asks if she should channel this kind of information to the partners. No need is expressed by any LTM.

3.5 Usual MF report on codes/cycles/suites

The progress and plans on the cycles and MF e-suites are detailed in Claude's preparatory document.

The graph on the right shows the timing of the cycles and e-suites (with some OOPS refactoring milestones).

Claude underlines the several branches and versions of the code that should be managed in parallel.

Cycles in Toulouse (left side): from mid-April, we are starting to build CY43T1, that should be declared in June; the list of HIRLAM commitments will be consolidated through web-conference.

The next common cycle with ECMWF will be CY44 : the call for next phasers is for the autumn.

Claude thanks the teams who will send phasers for cycle CY43T1 (this spring) : he points out some teams have proposed newcomers but it was possible to accept only one per phasers team.

3.6 SP movie product removal

Mariska informed the Partners about Meteo-France plan to remove the ISP satellite movie facility from the code with CY43T1 and provided a note describing how to activate an alternative product.

No Partner reported any issue with this removal thus Meteo-France will go ahead with it without any further warning.
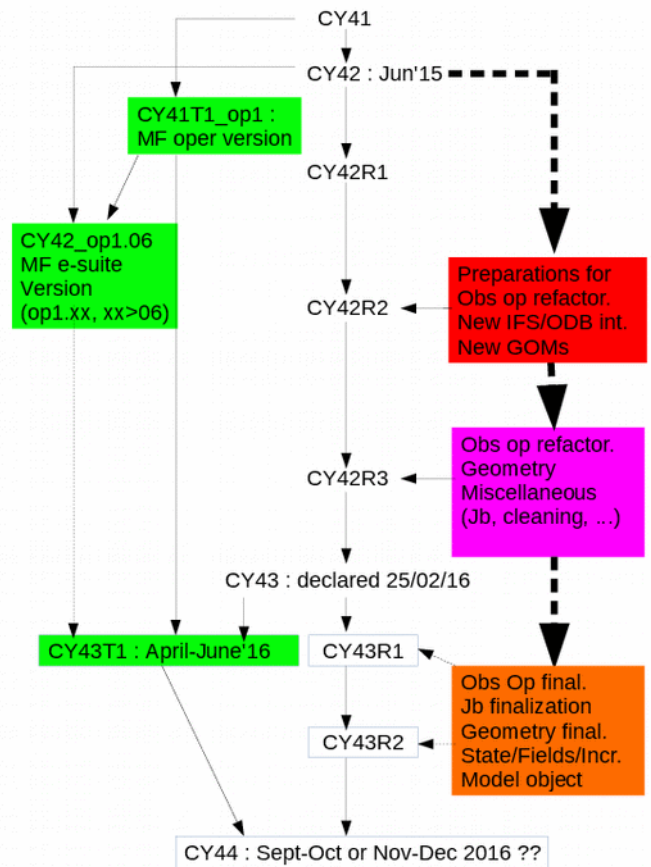
4. ARPEGE SURFEX + impact on LBC

Claude explains that the ARPEGE forecast with SURFEX works and validation of the assimilation steps and cycle of ARPEGE 4D-VAR (with SURFEX activated for screening and trajectory, and not in conf 131) is in progress. The very preliminary schedule plans to start e-suite of ARPEGE with SURFEX in June/July 2016 and operational implementation in early 2017. The decision shall be taken by the end of May 2016. MF propose to provide the partners upper-air FA coupling files containing all necessary surface fields enabling to run the LAMs without SURFEX at home (i.e. ALADIN-model or ALARO configurations, which all do not have SURFEX operationally for the time being). The technical work is ongoing in GMAP, with the help of the Partners (flat-rate stay of Wafa Khalfaoui from Tunisia).

Claude points the overall consensus to avoid any situation of synchronous switch (both for changes of surface files or source code versions) between Meteo-France and the Partners, when surface/SURFEX changes will occur in future ARPEGE suites.

Radmila approves and asks about the possible impact for LAM coupled with ECMWF and what version of SURFEX will be used. GMAP has still to investigate this question.

Rafiq asks if a LAM model with SURFEX will have to use the same version of SURFEX than the version in ARPEGE. Claude confirms that there will be no such a need : no synchronicity of the changes, no implementation of the same versions. However, this might result in a sub-optimal use of SURFEX as e.g. the input databases for clim/pgd files may differ. Test files will be provided to the teams who want to make some tests and the LTMs will be kept informed.

5. Feedback from GA, MoU, Strategy meeting

Most was said by Piet during his presentation at the opening session of the workshop. Additionnaly, Piet insists that we should advertise that we are still running the aladin system.
Information can be found on the aladin webpage about the last General Assembly meeting (agenda, the provisional minutes, the presentations and some photos: http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article298) and the 5th MoU (http://www.cnrm-game-meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article299).

6. AOB

6.1. Hand delivery to the LTMs of the page n°18 of the 5th MoU, to be inserted in their institute official copy of MoU5

The 16 copies of the 5th ALADIN MoU were signed in Budapest by the 15 delegations attending the 20th GA (all Partners but Tunisia). The 16 copies of the page n°18 (signatures' page) were then brought to Tunis by Olivier Gupta (Deputy Director of Meteo-France) and signed by Abdelwaheb Nmiri (Director of INM) at the end of February. Since then, Météo-France and INM of Tunisia have got a full copy of the 5th MoU. The LTMs of the 14 other partners are given (see the photos : http://www.cnrm-game-meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article287) the copy of the page n°18 to be inserted in the 5th MoU of their Institute.
The text of the 5th MoU can be founded on-line : http://www.cnrm-game-meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article299 (without signature).

6.2. Call for Newsletter n°7

The 6th edition of the combined Newsletter of the HIRLAM and ALADIN consortia is mainly dedicated to a "Tour d'ALADIN et d'HIRLAM", with contributions describing the main achievements at our meteorological services in 2015. Besides these scientific and technical articles, you will find in this Newsletter an Interview and an overview of operational configurations. The ALADIN and HIRLAM Programme Managers also give some updates on the last important news at the consortia level. The new ALADIN and HIRLAM organisational charts are also provided, after the signing of the 5th ALADIN MoU and the HIRLAM-C MoU. Information about new regular group video meetings has also been included in the list of events planned for 2016.
The 7th edition of the A-H NL is due in August 2016 and will be mainly dedicated to "26th ALADIN Workshop & HIRLAM All Staff Meeting 2016". Thus, feel free to send your contribution (do use the proposed templates), at your earlier convenience, before end of July. Information on recent PhD defenses and published articles are also welcome.

6.3. Impact on remote users of MF HPC and IT environment changes
Claude gives some concrete recommendations for the remote users of Mete-France HPC :
- LTMs should not wait for the last minute when sending their requests of renewal of remote connections authorization (at least 1 month in advance). In the forms for the renewals, it is not necessary to fill in the dates of validity , since Eric Escalière fills the dates himself based on the info in his local database.
- In preparation of the shut down of "beaufix", and the switch of all users to "prolix" (upgraded cluster version) , we now systematically ask for opening users for the remote partners on "prolix", when users are being renewed. Eventually, all remote partners will have users and remote connection authorizations to "prolix", for the period of shutdown of "beaufix". Actually, many of the remote partners probably already do have users, and could try to connect on the "prolix" system. One thing everybody will have to

do by him/her-self is to copy the content of $HOME from "beaufix" to "prolix" before the end of July 2016. There will be no automatic copy ! Thus, this copying could also be an opportunity to clean obsolete files ...

- There is a plan to simplify the password (LDAP) management system. Only one single platform for changing the pwds would be proposed (id-front). Other solutions would disappear. This also holds for remote password modifications.
- The move to a single, platform-wide, user name is progressing steadily. This "unique uid" will eventually replace the "mrp." user names. Each partner and user will be directly contacted by the IT support of GMAP and CNRM (Eric Escalière and Viviane Rey) in order to proceed to the change, and perform some initial validation for the new uid.

Annex : Agenda with list of preparatory documents

	Agenda	Introduced by	Decision, comments, information	Documents
1.	Opening and welcome	ACNA		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	ACNA		Agenda
3.	Code & Cycles			
3.1	Status of CY40t1 (tour the table)	ACNA	information	*) ACNA table
3.1	bugfixes	ACNA/CF	discussion	
3.3	alabobo2 archived on aladin webpage (Partners' access)	PP	information	**)
3.4	information issue (e001 optimis.; E/C zone)	ACNA	discussion	
3.5	Usual MF report on codes/cycles/suites	CF	information	doc.3e
3.6	ISP movie product removal	CF	information/confirmation	doc.3f
4.	ARPEGE SURFEX + impact on LBC	CF/ACNA	information/discussion	doc.4
5.	Feedback from GA, MoU, Strategy meeting	PT	information	
6.	AOB	ACNA		
6.1	*Hand delivery to the LTMs of the page n°18 of the 5th MoU, to be inserted in their institute official copy of MoU5*	PP	Photo !	
6.2	Call for Newsletter n°7	PP		***)
6.3	*Impact on remote users on MF HPC change*	CF	information	

*) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_IQMFDaRRDNEng21asHKQ42Hx_-llOnRG3EX3BtfzVo/edit?usp=sharing
**) http://www.cnrm-game-meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article296
***) http://www.cnrm-game-meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article260