ECMWF - DestinE factsheets

DIGITAL TWIN FOR WEATHER-INDUCED EXTREMES



Sharpening our vision of extreme weather and its impacts

KEY FEATURES



Km-scale Earth system models

Uses "km-scale" models to better represent extreme weather events and deliver information at scales where their impacts are felt.



Routine production of global simulations

Produces global simulations at 4.4 km resolution for 4 days ahead to predict extreme weather events worldwide.



On-Demand refinement over Europe

Produces on-demand regional simulations at 750 to 500 m resolution for 2 days ahead to refine the representation of extreme events occurring over Europe.



From weather to impactsector information

Integrates impact sector models in the Digital Twin workflows, to transform meteorological data into user-relevant information. The Digital Twin for Weather-Induced Extremes (Extremes DT) supports decision-making in response to meteorological, hydrological and air quality extremes. It has both a global component, producing simulations at resolutions of a few kilometres for four days ahead, and a regional component, producing simulations at hundreds of metres for two days ahead. Later in Phase 2, it will become possible to configure and activate on demand this regional component, providing a magnifying glass on extreme events occurring in Europe.

INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- Regular use of km-scale models exploiting preexascale EuroHPC supercomputers
- On-demand workflows for bespoke global and flexible regional simulations of past, current or future extreme events
- An automated detection and activation mechanism for selected extreme events
- Al-supported uncertainty quantification and interactivity.

Harnessing the latest developments in:



Earth System Prediction

Building on decades of expertise in operational Numerical Weather Prediction and impact modelling.



Supercomputers

Adapting to and exploiting distributed (pre-) exascale EuroHPC computing resources across Europe.



Artificial Intelligence

Exploiting recent breakthroughs in AI for weather and climate sciences.



CONCEPTS INFO-BOX



Model Resolution

The resolution of a model refers to the size of each grid box. When increasing the resolution, the grid boxes become smaller, allowing for more detailed calculations to be performed. The high-resolution models of the Extremes DT allow for high-quality information at both global and regional levels.



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Representing Small Scale Processes Explicitly

Many small-scale physical processes (smaller than one grid box) are normally "parameterized", meaning that they are not explicitly represented. With the km and sub-km scale resolutions, some key processes become explicitly represented. Improving their representation is a key element for a better prediction of expected extreme events in a changing climate.

Quantifying Uncertainty

- Uncertainty in predictions arises from initial conditions and model approximations. This is addressed with "ensemble predictions", which represent different possible outcomes. This solution is computationally expensive at high resolution, so two alternative strategies are explored: using physical models for "smaller ensembles" and exploiting AI-based models.



Impact Sector Models

A set of models and indicators are integrated in the Extremes DT workflow to translate specific weather data into user-relevant indicators for key sectors such as renewable energies, water management, or agriculture.



Extreme Weather Detection/Triagering

A mechanism was built to detect extreme weather events. including strong winds, heavy rain, and thunderstorms. It uses the ECMWF forecasts and the global component of the Extremes DT to evaluate the likelihood of these events. It then feeds this information into the triggering procedure that activates the regional component.

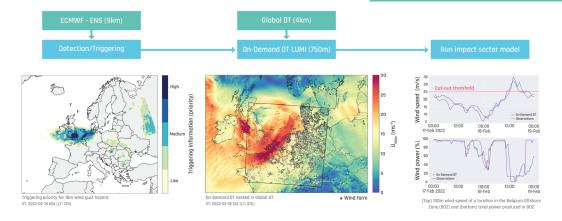


EuroHPC Supercomputers

The Extremes DT high-resolution simulations are possible thanks to the new generation of (pre-exascale) supercomputers in Europe. An agreement with the EuroHPC JU provides DestinE access to some of the most advanced supercomputers in the world.

DELIVERING SECTORAL INFORMATION FOR EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

question: "How much wind energy production can we expect during a windstorm?"



The extreme event detection algorithm identified a windstorm for February 18, 2022. In response, a regional model was configured with a 750-metre resolution off the coast of Belgium and driven by the global component of the Extremes DT. This model provided high-frequency wind data, which was utilized by a wind farm parameterization. The system successfully predicted a drop in energy production due to the shutdown of the wind farms, two days in advance.

EXTREMES DIGITAL TWIN CONSORTIUM

The global component is delivered by ECMWF. The regional component is delivered by a consortium of 29 partners led by Météo-France through a contract procured by ECMWF.

France	Météo-France	Latvia	LEGMC	Ireland	Met Éireann	Croatia	DHMZ	Belgium	KMI-IRM	Slovakia	SHMU
	INRAE	Slovenia	ARSO	Spain	AEMET	Iceland	IMO	Austria	GeoSphere Austria	Poland	IMGW
	CNRS	Portugal	IPMA		BSC	Netherlands	KNMI	Finland	FMI	Italy	CINECA
Norway	Met Norway	Estonia	TalTech	Czech			RIVM		CSC	Germany	DLR
Denmark	DMI	Bulgaria	NIMH	Republic	CHMI	Hungary	HungaroMet	Sweden	SMHI	Romania	NMA
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