Going Global

Taking code from research to operational open ecosystem for Al weather forecasting



Dr. Jesper Dramsch

Thanks to all contributors to AIFS and Anemoi

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Developed and used by meteorological centers across Europe.

AEMET, DWD, FMI, GeoSphere, KNMI, MET Norway, Meteo Swiss, Meteo France, RMI, & ECMWF







Goals for this talk

Growing software projects

Anticipating user needs

Learn about weather forecasting

Al Cautionary Tales

Upskilling
From Coder to
Software Architect

Planning for features you can't even know about

Growing a team to significant size

Have fun



Who am I?

Scientist for Machine Learning in Weather Forecasting

PhD in Machine Learning for Geoscience

Python, Data, AI Education

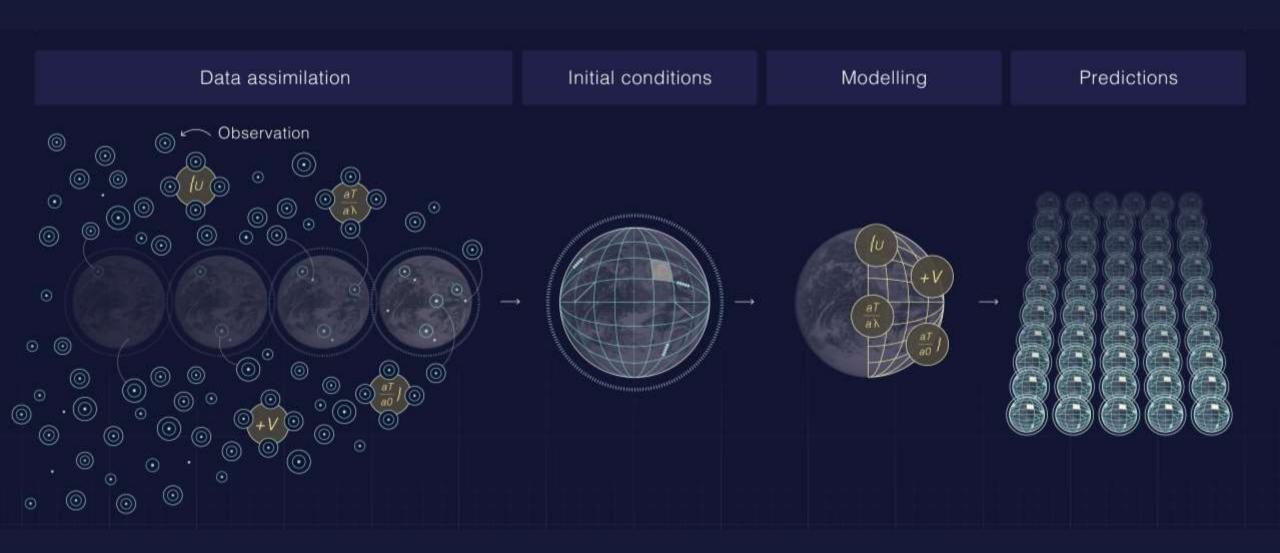
Maintain Pythondeadlin.es, ML.recipes, data-science-gui.de

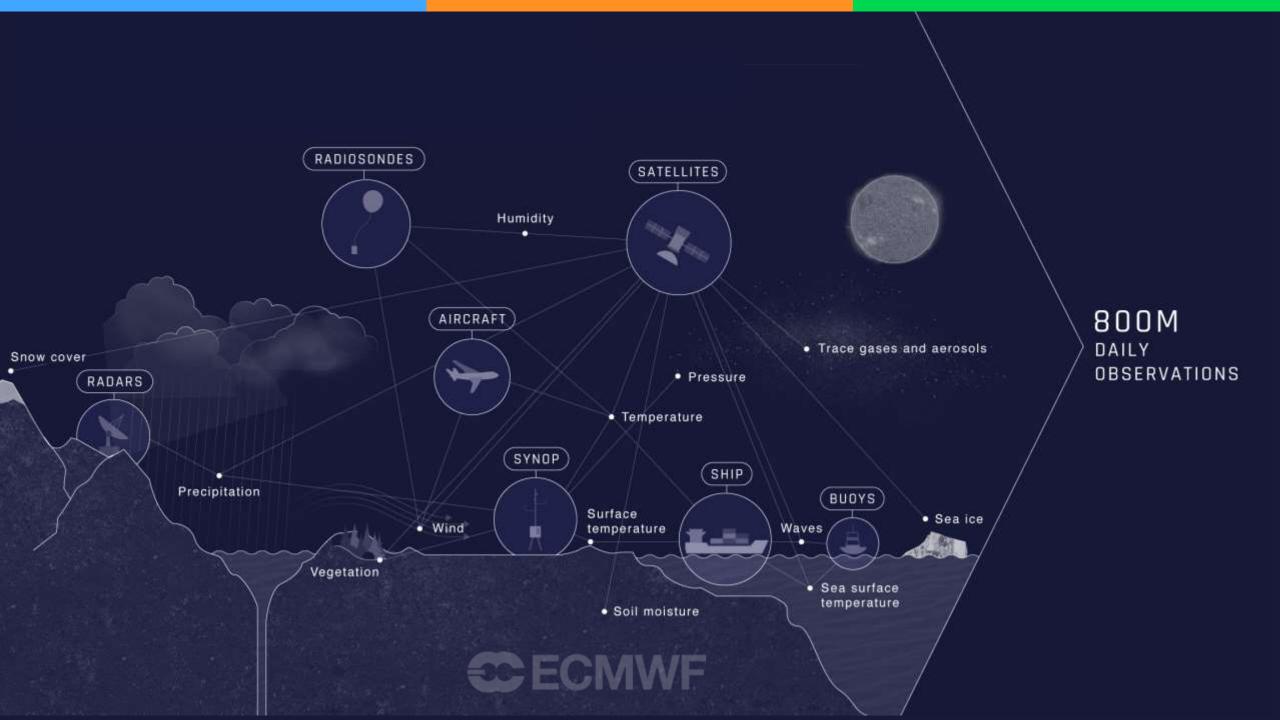
Generally loud online

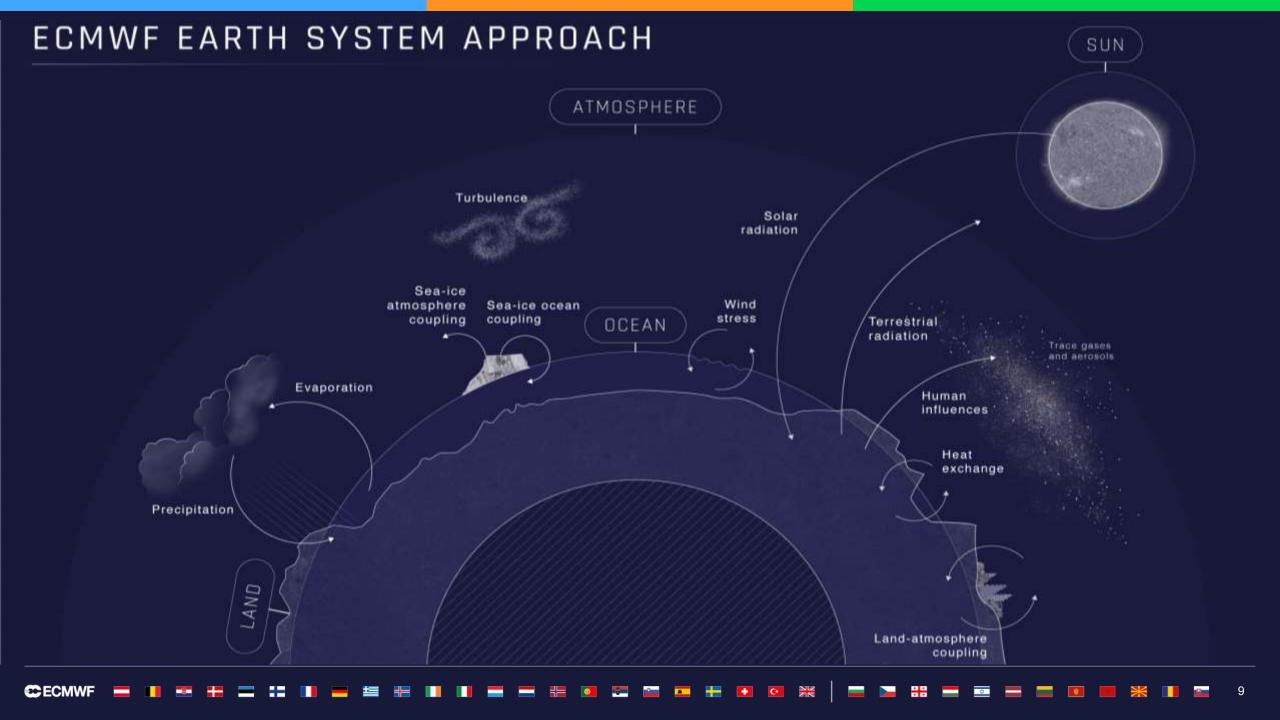


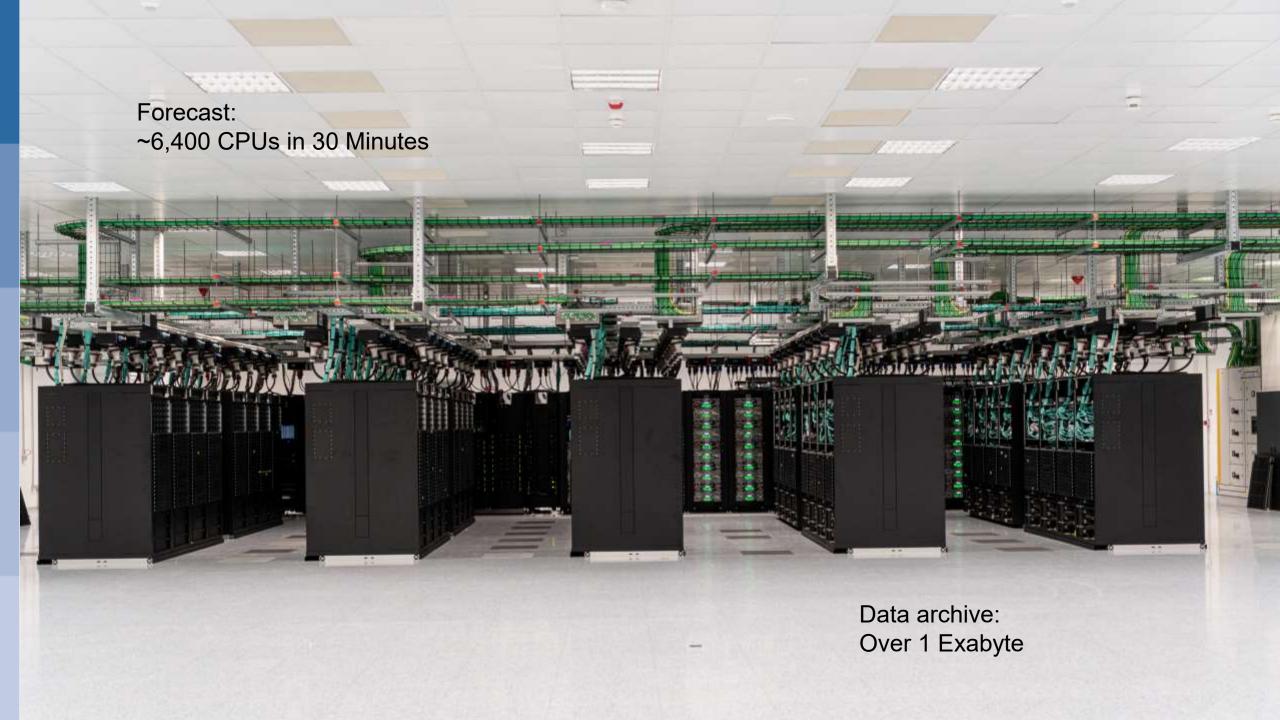






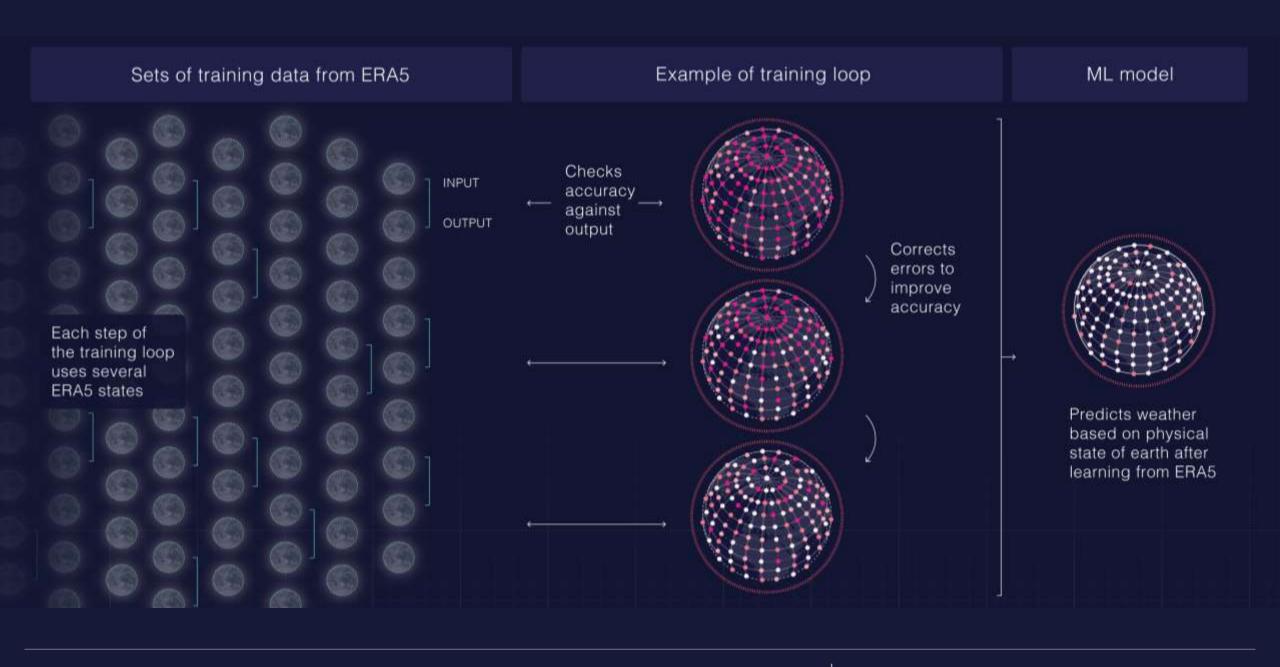


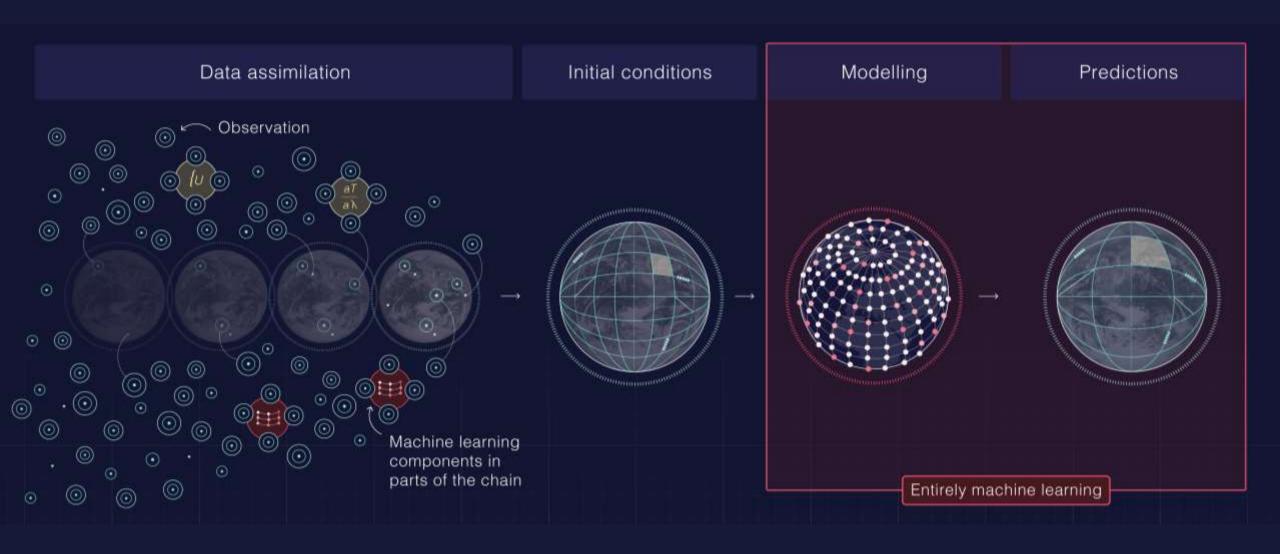




The uncertainty range is still very large...

Machine learning will replace models conventional



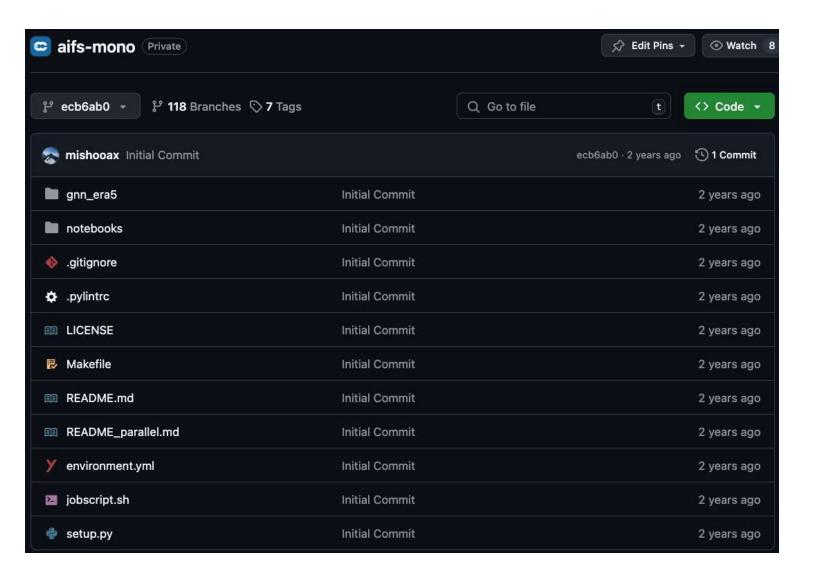




How did we end up here?

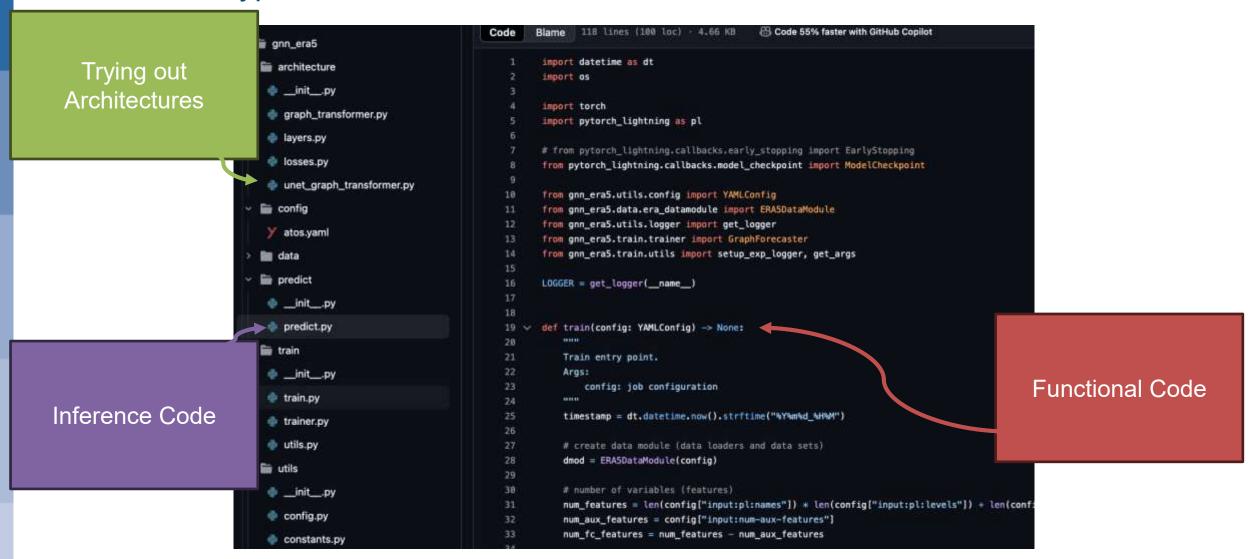


Initial Commit



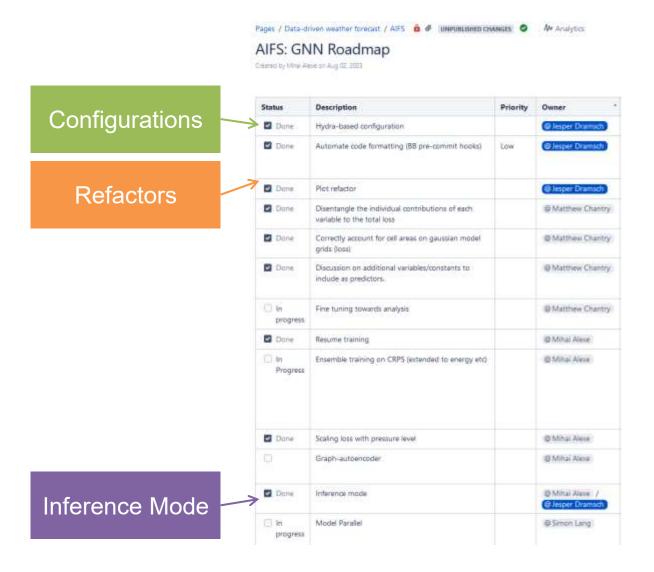


Typical research ML code





It started out with a wish 🛠





User Base

Modifies Configs for Experimentation and Improvement of Anemoi Model Modifies Codebase to implement new Features and Augment Anemoi Libraries

Runs the Anemoi Model in a common interface on reliable infrastructure



Keeping the User and Collaboration in Mind

Researchers Developers Operations

- Researchers
 - Quick switching of experiment values
 - Less interaction with core ML code
 - Low-key experiment tracking
- Developers
 - Modularity and Extensibility
 - Code quality
 - Separation of Concerns
- Operations
 - Minimal Dependencies
 - Consistent interfaces

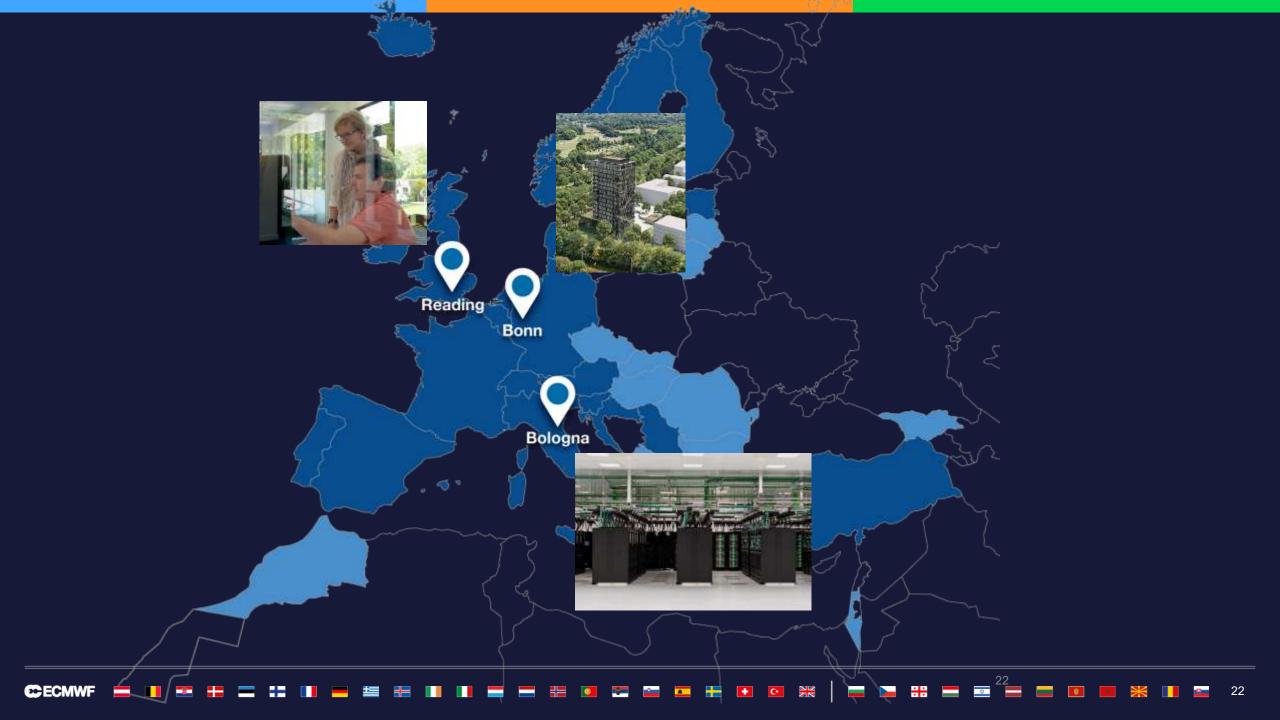
How do we facilitate collaboration?



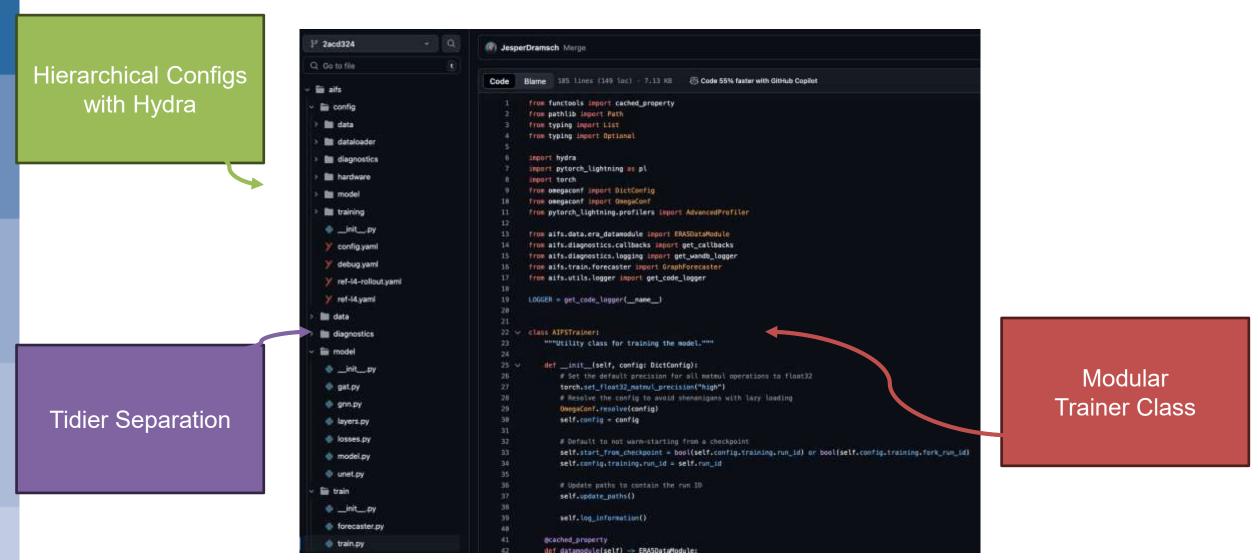






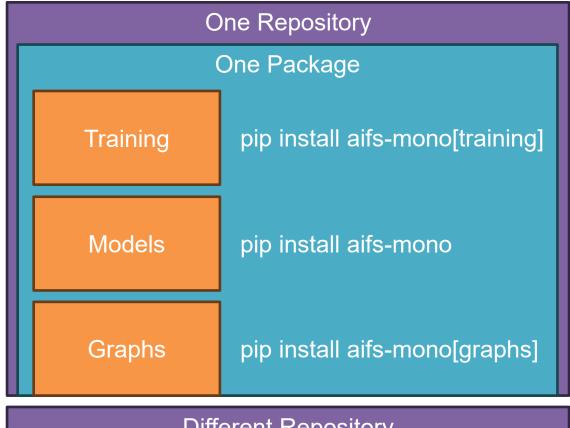


Modular and Extensible AIFS Trainer code





AIFS mono-package + External dependencies



Different Repository

Different Package

Datasets pip install ecmwf-ml-data

- Pros
 - Convenient to develop
 - ▲ All code in one place
 - ▲ Quick to release
- Cons
 - Weird to install
 - ▼ Not all code in "ecosystem"
 - ▼ Complex
 - ▼ No unified testing or infrastructure

Focusing on Configurability, Extensibility and Modularity

```
Model / GNN.yml
activation: GELU
num channels: 512
model:
 _target_:
anemoi.models.models.encoder processor decoder.
AnemoiModelEncProcDec
processor:
 _target_:
anemoi.models.layers.processor.GNNProcessor
 convert : all
 activation: ${model.activation}
 trainable size:
${model.trainable_parameters.hidden2hidden}
 sub_graph_edge_attributes:
${model.attributes.edges}
 num_layers: 16
 num chunks: 2
 mlp_extra_layers: 0
encoder:
 _target_:
anemoi.models.layers.mapper.GNNForwardMapper
```

```
> anemoi-training train model=gnn
```

```
Model / GraphTransformer.yml
activation: GELU
num channels: 1024
model:
anemoi.models.models.encoder processor decoder.
AnemoiModelEncProcDec
processor:
 _target_
anemoi.models.layers.processor.GraphTransformerPr
ocessor
 _convert_: all
 activation: ${model.activation}
 trainable size:
${model.trainable_parameters.hidden2hidden}
sub graph edge attributes:
${model.attributes.edges}
num layers: 16
num chunks: 2
 mlp_hidden_ratio: 4 # GraphTransformer
 num heads: 16 # GraphTransformer
encoder:
```

> anemoi-training train model=graphtransformer

```
Model / Transformer.yml
activation: GELU
num channels: 1024
model:
 _target_:
anemoi.models.models.encoder processor decoder.
AnemoiModelEncProcDec
processor:
 _target_:
anemoi.models.layers.processor.TransformerProcesso
 _convert_: all
activation: ${model.activation}
num layers: 16
num chunks: 2
mlp hidden ratio: 4 # Transformer only
num_heads: 16 # Transformer only
window_size: 512
dropout_p: 0.0
encoder:
_target_:
anemoi.models.layers.mapper.GraphTransformerFor
```

> anemoi-training train model=transformer

- Make it easy to switch components with hydra
- Full tracking even on terminal overrides
- Easy to extend with new models and components



Why we use pre-commit hooks

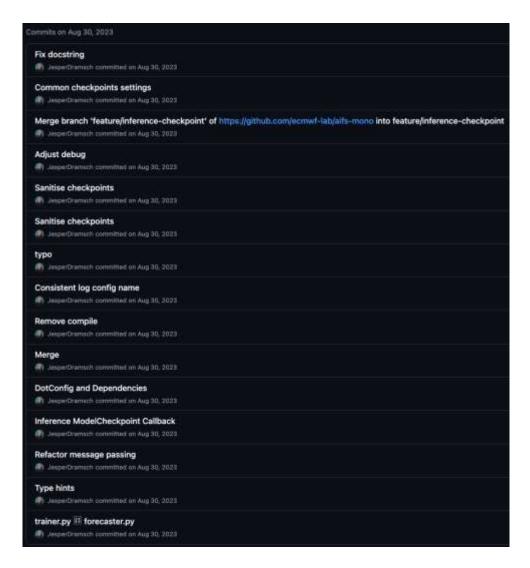
One day I'll remember to black
committed on Apr 7, 2023

Scaling loss in proportion to pressure
committed on Apr 7, 2023

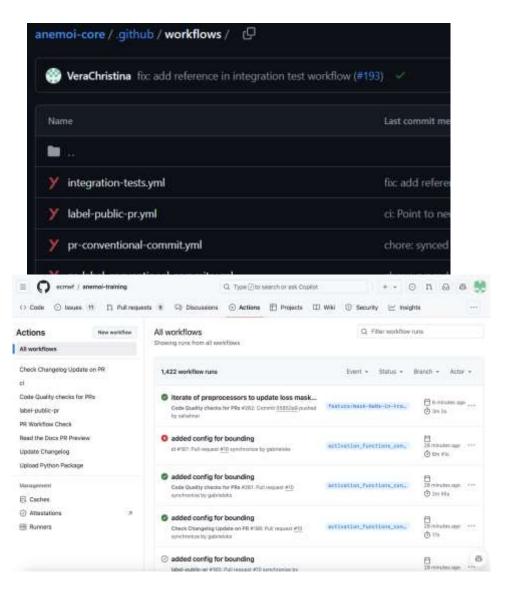


```
anemoi-training / .pre-commit-config.yaml
  pre-commit-ci[bot] and gmertes [pre-commit.ci] pre-commit autoupdate (#177)
            Blame 78 lines (78 loc) ⋅ 2.54 KB ⋅ 🕡
   Code
             repos:
             # Empty notebookds
             - repo: local
               hooks:
               - id: clear-notebooks-output
                 name: clear-notebooks-output
                 files: tools/.*\.ipynb$
                 stages: [pre-commit]
                 language: python
                 entry: jupyter nbconvert --ClearOutputPreprocessor.enabled=True --inplace
      10
                 additional dependencies: [jupyter]
              - repo: https://github.com/pre-commit/pre-commit-hooks
               rev: v5.0.0
      14
               hooks:
               - id: check-yaml # Check YAML files for syntax errors only
                 args: [--unsafe, --allow-multiple-documents]
               - id: debug-statements # Check for debugger imports and py37+ breakpoint()
               - id: end-of-file-fixer # Ensure files end in a newline
               - id: trailing-whitespace # Trailing whitespace checker
               - id: no-commit-to-branch # Prevent committing to main / master
```

Why we do squash commits now



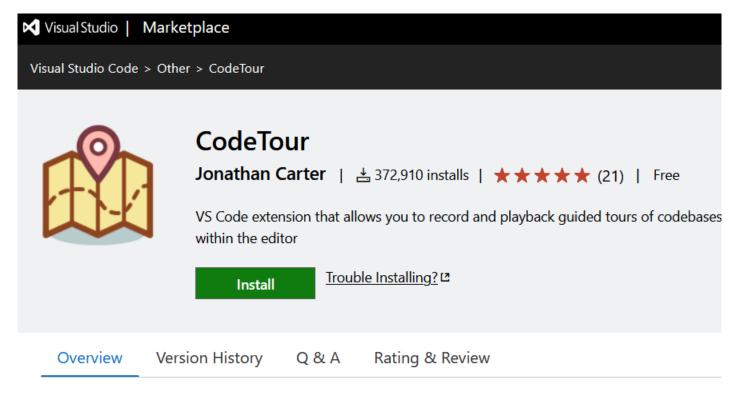






Do Code Tours!

- Shortcuts learning (multi-week -> 1 hour)
- Puts design decisions in context
- Gives New Hires space to ask questions
- Can be tailored to specific needs
- Establishes collaborative aspects
- Optionally: use tools



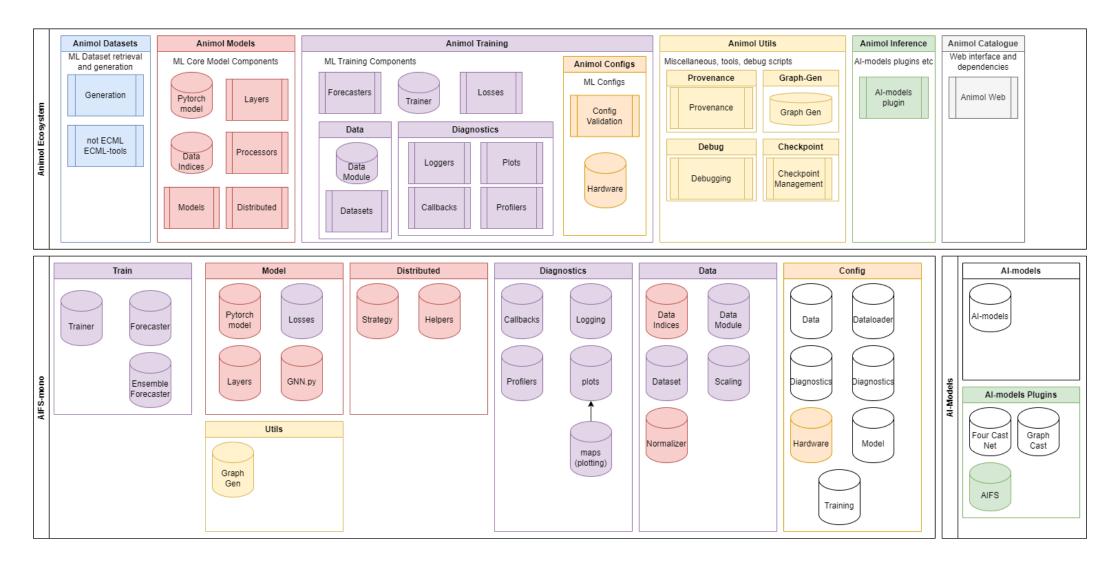
CodeTour 📖

CodeTour is a Visual Studio Code extension, which allows you to record and play back guided walkthroughs codebases. It's like a table of contents, that can make it easier to onboard (or re-board!) to a new project/fea area, visualize bug reports, or understand the context of a code review/PR change. A "code tour" is simply a of interactive steps, each of which are associated with a specific directory, or file/line, and include a description the respective code. This allows developers to clone a repo, and then immediately start **learning it**, without

Growing beyond a single git repo



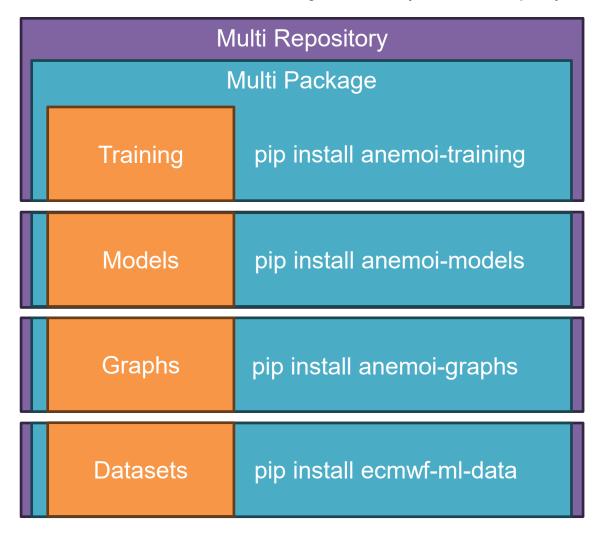
The Vision of AIFS becoming the Anemoi Ecosystem



Common interface and modularity

```
√ ... 6 aifs/config/model/graphtransformer.yaml [□]
                                                                                                                                             ☐ Viewed
      @@ -2,7 +2,7 @@ activation: GELU
      num channels: 1024
                                                                                         num channels: 1024
      processor:
                                                                                         processor:
       target : aifs.layers.processor.GraphTransformerProcessor
                                                                                         target : anemoi.models.layers.processor.GraphTransformerProcessor
        convert : all
                                                                                           _convert_: all
        activation: ${model.activation}
                                                                                           activation: ${model.activation}
        trainable size: ${model.trainable parameters.hidden2hidden}
                                                                                           trainable size: ${model.trainable parameters.hidden2hidden}
      @@ -12,7 +12,7 @@ processor:
                                                                                12
       num_heads: 16 # GraphTransformer or Transformer only
                                                                                           num heads: 16 # GraphTransformer or Transformer only
      encoder:
                                                                                         encoder:
       _target_: aifs.layers.mapper.GraphTransformerForwardMapper
                                                                                  15 + _target_: anemoi.models.layers.mapper.GraphTransformerForwardMapper
        _convert_: all
                                                                                           _convert_: all
        trainable_size: ${model.trainable_parameters.data2hidden}
                                                                                           trainable_size: ${model.trainable_parameters.data2hidden}
        activation: ${model.activation}
                                                                                           activation: ${model.activation}
      @@ -21,7 +21,7 @@ encoder:
       num_heads: 16 # GraphTransformer or Transformer only
                                                                                           num_heads: 16 # GraphTransformer or Transformer only
      decoder:
                                                                                         decoder:
       _target_: aifs.layers.mapper.GraphTransformerBackwardMapper
                                                                                         _target_: anemoi.models.layers.mapper.GraphTransformerBackwardMapper
        convert : all
                                                                                           convert : all
                                                                                           trainable_size: ${model.trainable_parameters.hidden2data}
        trainable_size: ${model.trainable_parameters.hidden2data}
        activation: ${model.activation}
                                                                                           activation: ${model.activation}
```

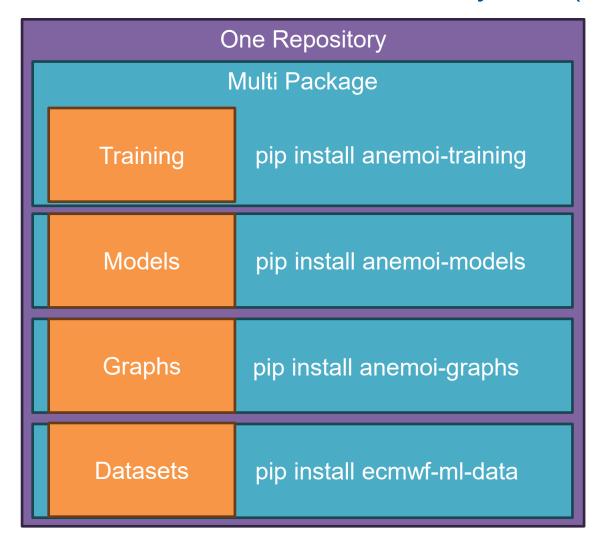
Anemoi Ecosystem (multi repo)



- Pros
 - Separation of concerns
 - ▲ Neat repo structure at root
 - ▲ Intuitive to Release individually
 - Complexity contained within repo
 - Easy to delegate responsibility
 - ▲ Different styles of collaboration possible
- Cons
 - ▼ PRs across repos for changes
 - ▼ Working on "develop" can break
 - ▼ Out of sync
 - ▼ Synced Releases difficult
 - ▼ CI/CD hard to set up and maintain
 - ▼ Dependencies are hell to manage
 - ▼ End-to-end tests difficult to set up
 - ▼ Could silo knowledge in teams/repos
 - ▼ Can be difficult "keeping up"



Alternative: Anemoi Ecosystem (mono repo)

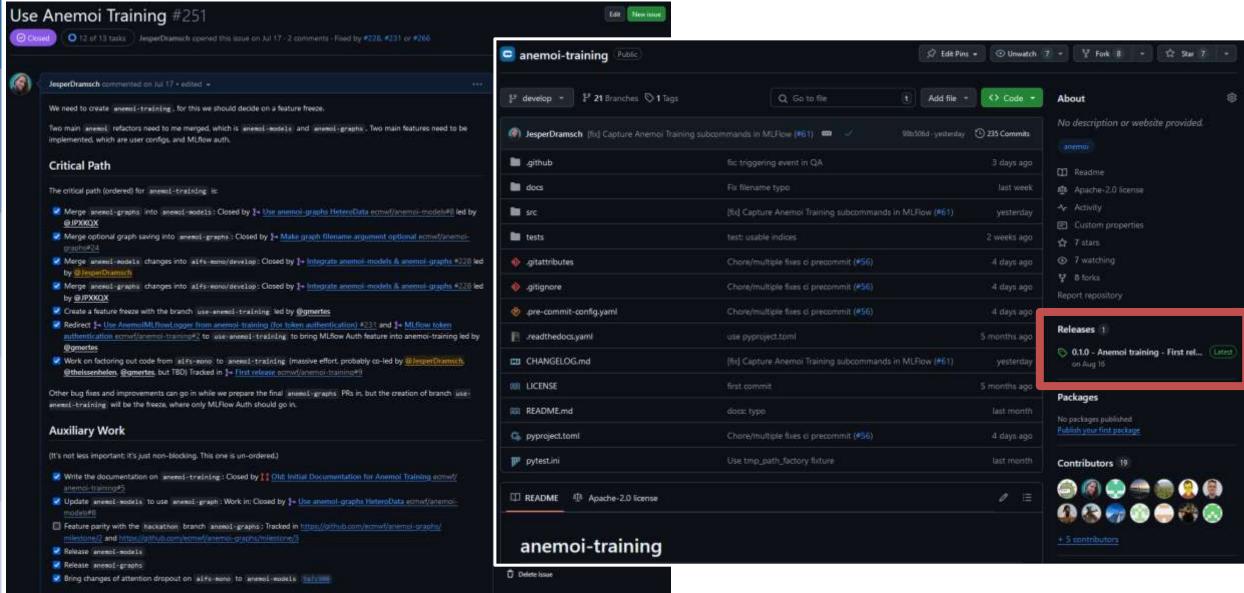


- Pros
 - ▲ Single PR for change across packages
 - ▲ Easier Refactors too
 - ▲ Easy CI including end-to-end tests
 - Easiest security scanning
 - ▲ Consistent coding standards
 - ▲ Common state of all "main"s
- Cons
 - ▼ "main" will move even faster
 - ▼ Complex release cycle
 - ▼ Different working styles might clash
 - ▼ Large repository size can make git slow
 - ▼ Might need "mono-repo tools"
 - ▼ Branching strategy complex
 - ▼ Easy to break "everything" accidentally

Releasing Anemoi Training to the World

Feature: User Configs

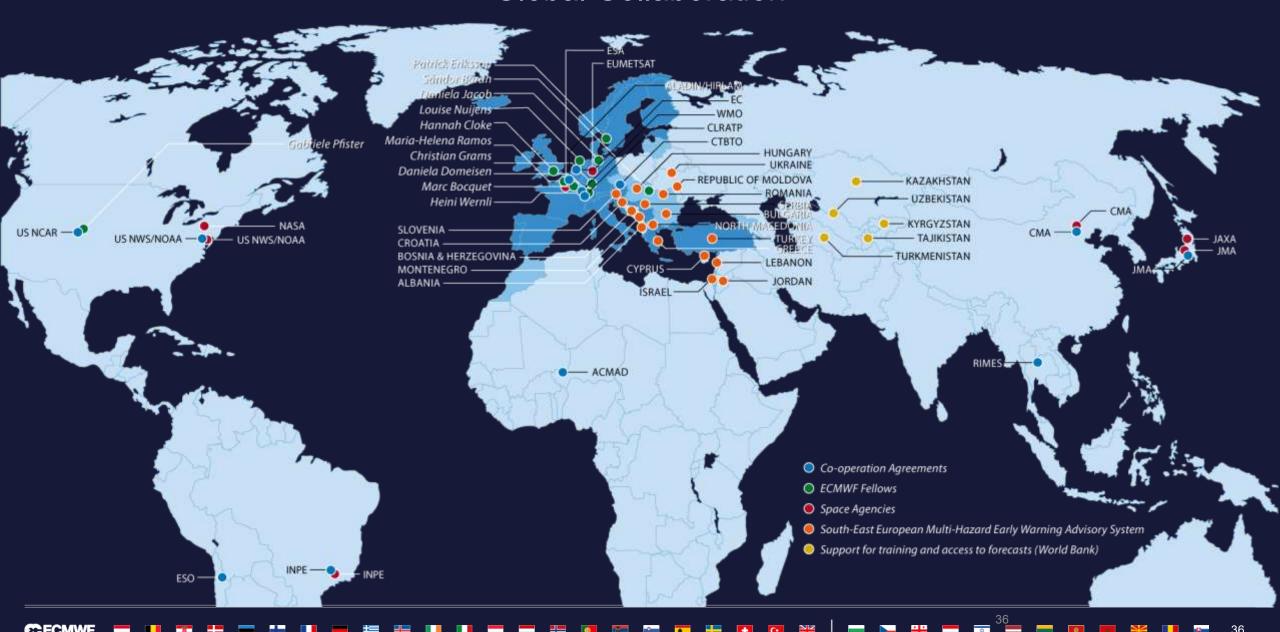
For configs, we have the following possible features:

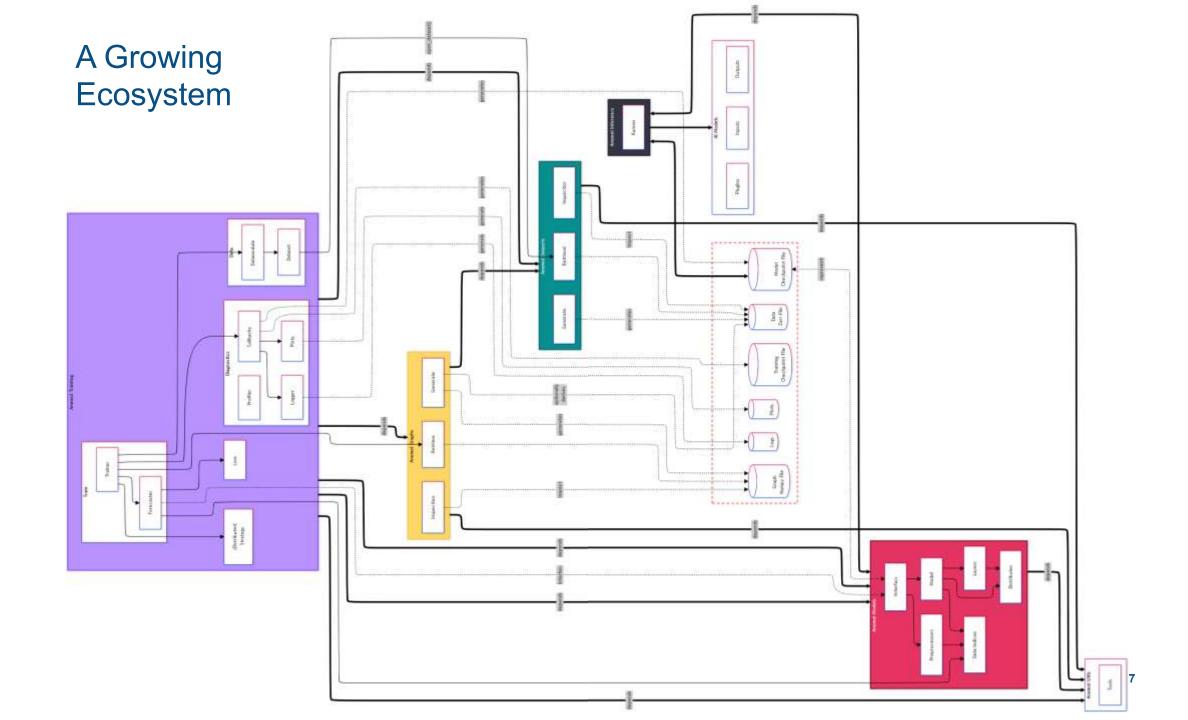


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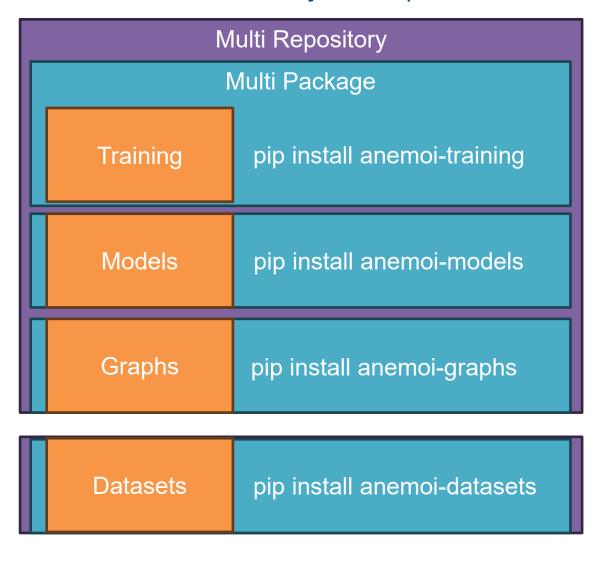


Global Collaboration





Anemoi Ecosystem ("Partial" mono-repo)



- Pros
 - Some Separation of concerns
 - ▲ Puts tightly coupled code together
 - ▲ Different styles of collaboration possible
 - Simpler testing
 - ▲ Simpler configuration management
- Cons
 - Solves some CI but not "end-to-end"
 - Inconsistent workflows across anemoi
 - ▼ Some complex release workflows
 - ▼ Risk of creating artificial boundaries
 - Could complicate some dependencies

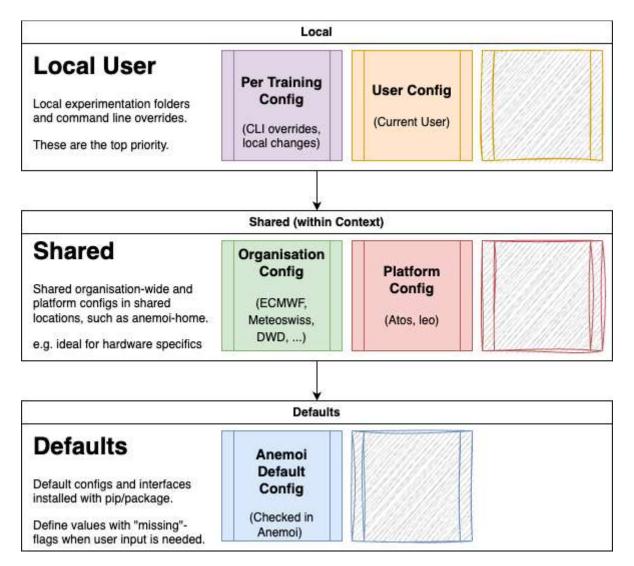
How AI failed me here

```
. .
       | target subdirectory-01
       local main branch-develop
       git moote add -f "Starget subdirectory" "Srepourl"
       git branch "tomp$target subdirectory" "Starget subdirectory/Smainbranch"
       midle -p "Starget subdirectory"
              smile -p "Starget subdirectory/$(dirmane "$local file")"
              gip my "$local file" "$target subdirectory/$local file"
          mintis "p "Starget subdirectory/, github"
          dit mv .github/* "Starget subdirectory/.github/" Zb/dev/mull !! true
       git commit -m "Mulocated Stargetsubdirectory repository files late subdir"
       git serge "temp$target subdirectory" --alls-unrelated-histories -m "Morged $targetsubdirectory repository into somerepo"
      mit branch -D "LumpStarget subdirectory"
      git remote persone "Starget subdirectory"
```

```
.
        local repo url-"https://github.com/ecmwf/anemoi-$1"
       local target subtree=$1
       local ref="$(2-develop)" # Default to 'develop'
       echo "Merging repository from $repo url into $target subtree"
       git subtree add --prefix "$1" "$repo url" "$ref"
       git remote add "$target subtree" "$repo url"
       git fetch "$target subtree"
       echo "Successfully merged $target subtree"
```

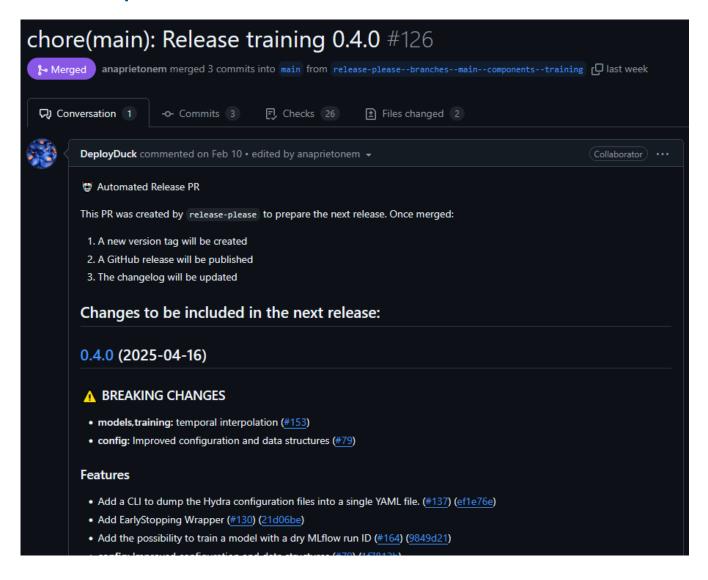


Extend Configs to Institutional levels





Automate the Release process





External and Global Collaboration

- Kick things off with a "hackathon"
 - You can even do a Code Tour at a hackathon!
- Maintain roadmaps / Kanban boards
- Code Reviews of PRs are essential
 - Consider dual reviews:
 - For code quality
 - For scientific validity / business case
- Maintain configurability, modularity and extensibility
- Automate what you can to keep morale high
- Don't be afraid to jump on calls



Success stories!

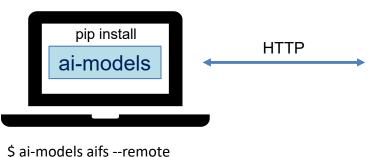




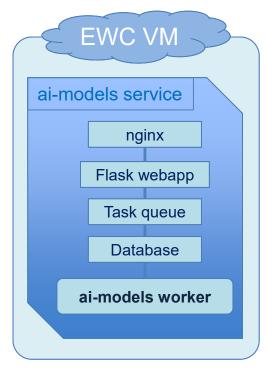




Running AIFS anywhere

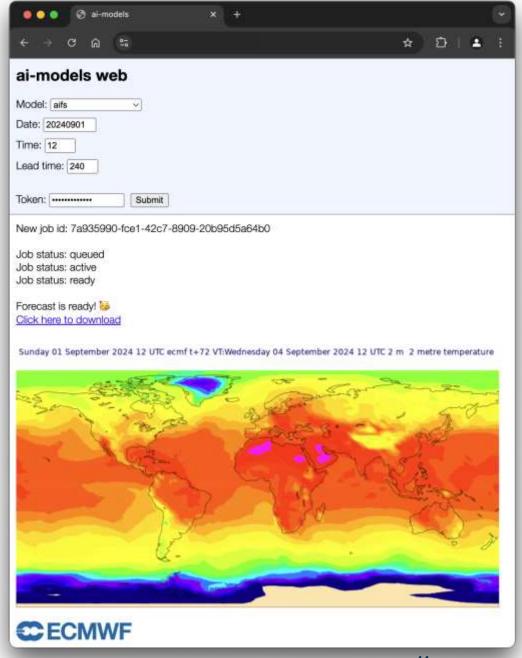


- Compute is offloaded to the European Weather Cloud
- Server-side can run on any cloud
- Potential for on-demand scaling
- Forecast-in-a-box PoC

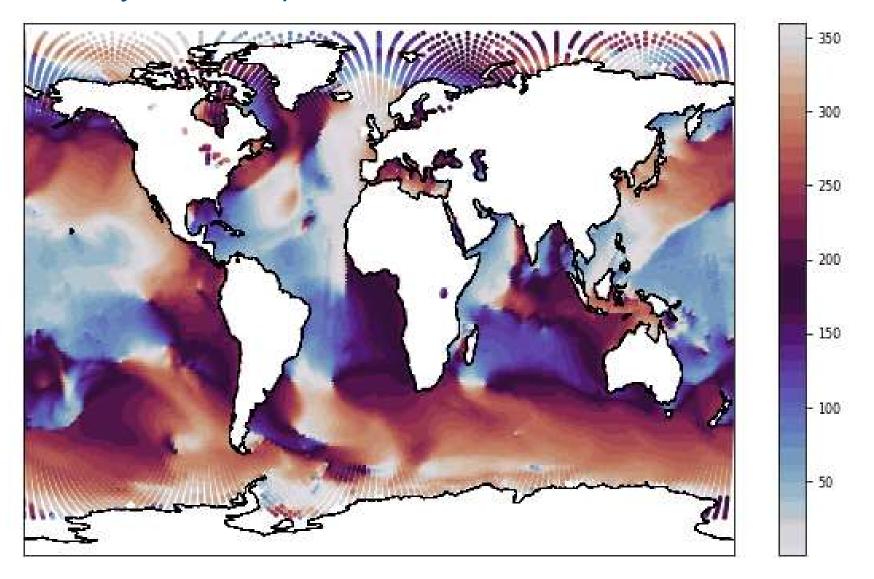


Provided continuity for AIFS and the other ML models during 2 GPU maintenance windows this year





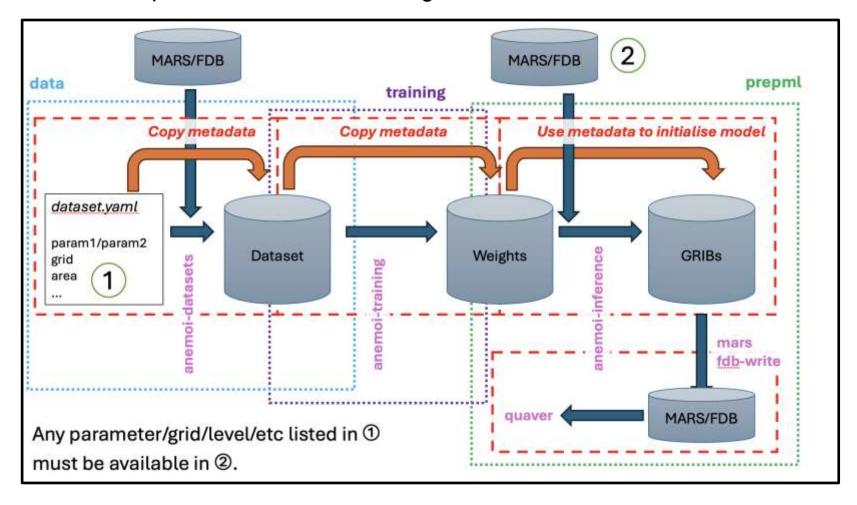
Adding in Earth System Components





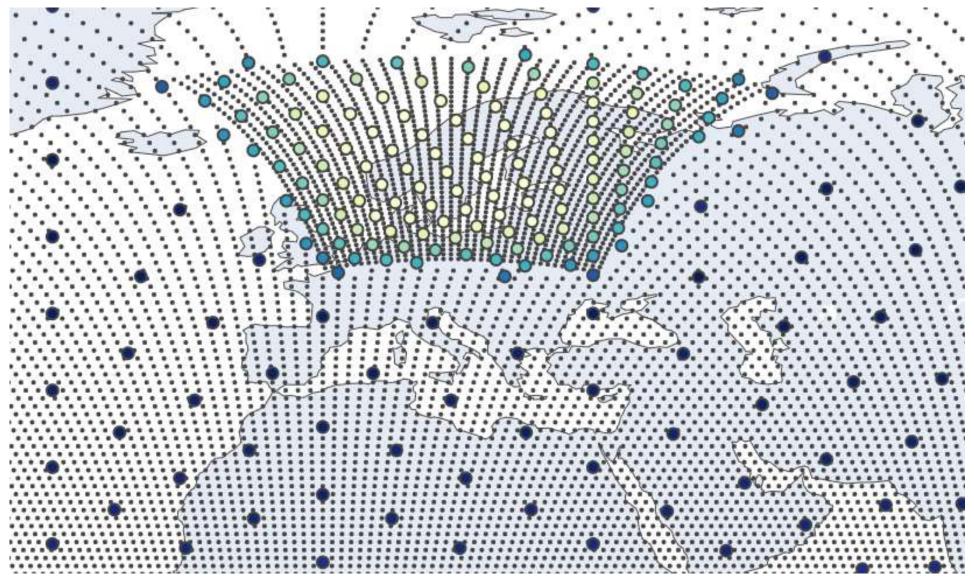
Tracking metadata through the entire ecosystem

All this is possible thanks to tracking the metadata.



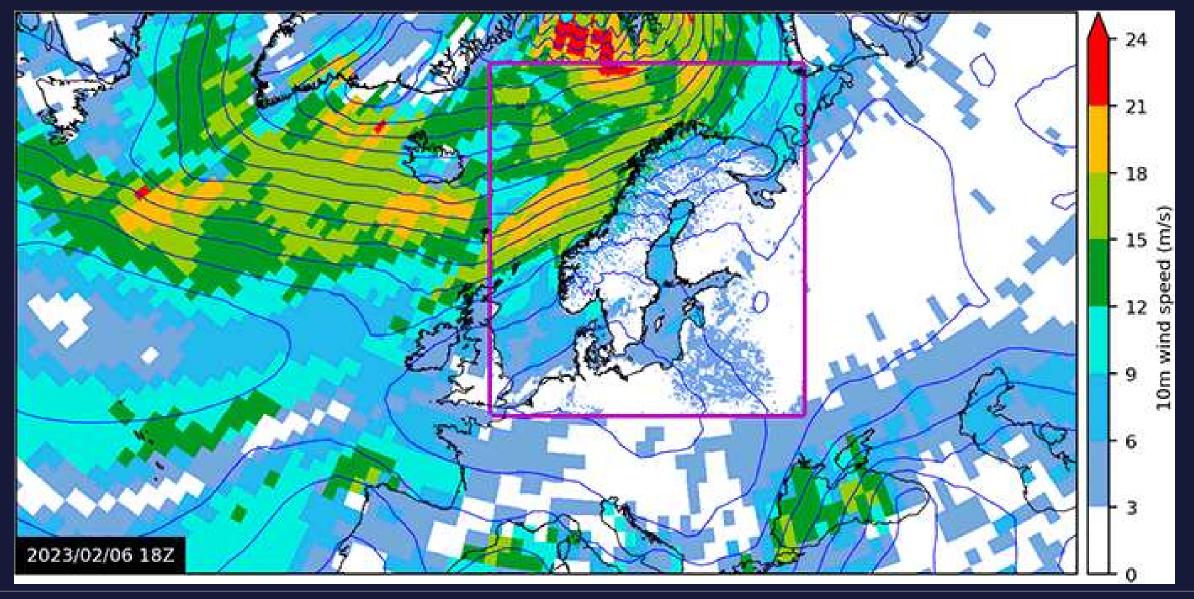


Enabling many types of graphs





Enabling many types of graphs (courtesy Met Norway)



Takeaways



Multi	Partial	Mono
+++	Duplication of CI/CD and Boilerplate	
<u> </u>	Complexity of Release Cycle	+++
+++	Single-Repo Development	
	Multi-Repo Feature Development	+++
	Integration Testing	+++
	Dependency management	
	Speed of "main"	+++
	,	
	Potential for social conflict	+++

Learnings for growing software projects

- Get yourself a software architect or two
- Do Code Tours and in-person events
- Anticipate user needs and extensibility requirements
- Make decisions that are easy to reverse
- Make design choices that are easy to extend
- Don't just let Al agents run through your code
- Repo structures are difficult; use tools to make it easier
- Keep dependencies light, they are hell after all
- Collaborate and listen!



Core Tech Stack









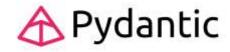












Bringing schema and sanity to your data

