



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background . . . . .	4
<b>CHAPTER 2: SITE, INSTRUMENTATION, DATA, AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Haukeliseter site . . . . .	8
2.2 Climate at Haukeliseter . . . . .	10
2.3 Instruments . . . . .	11
2.3.1 Double Fence Snow gauge . . . . .	13
2.3.2 MRR - Micro Rain Radar . . . . .	15
2.3.3 PIP - Precipitation Imaging Package . . . . .	17
2.3.4 MASC - Multi-Angular Snowfall Camera . . . . .	18
2.4 Optimal Estimation Retrieval Algorithm . . . . .	18
2.4.1 Snowfall retrieval scheme . . . . .	18
2.4.2 Environmental masks for the optimal estimation retrieval . . . . .	22
2.5 Operational weather forecast model - MEPS . . . . .	24
2.5.1 MetCoOP Ensemble Prediction System - MEPS . . . . .	24
2.5.2 Meso-NH and the ICE3 scheme . . . . .	26
2.5.3 Adjustment of ICE3 inside AROME-MetCoOp . . . . .	29
2.6 Numerical data transformation . . . . .	29
2.6.1 Layer thickness in MEPS . . . . .	29
2.6.2 Snow water content . . . . .	30
2.6.3 Snow water path . . . . .	31
2.6.4 Ensemble mean and Coefficient of Variation . . . . .	31
2.6.5 Mean error and mean absolute error . . . . .	32
2.6.6 Percent difference and average difference . . . . .	32

<b>CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORM 2016</b>	<b>33</b>
3.1 Extreme weather . . . . .	34
3.2 Dynamic Tropopause map . . . . .	35
3.3 Thickness, Sea Level Pressure, Total Precipitable Water, and wind at 250 hPa	37
3.4 Integrated Vapour Transport . . . . .	37
3.5 Observations at the weather mast . . . . .	40
3.6 Large scale circulation . . . . .	41
<b>CHAPTER 4: HAUKELISETER: OBSERVATION AND MEPS COMPARISON</b>	<b>50</b>
4.1 Meteorological Investigation of the Christmas storm 2016 . . . . .	51
4.1.1 Surface comparison . . . . .	51
4.2 Snowfall comparison . . . . .	67
4.2.1 Sensitivity of the optimal estimation retrieval . . . . .	67
4.2.2 Comparison of surface observations . . . . .	69
4.2.3 MEPS forecast and surface observation comparison . . . . .	73
4.2.4 Comparison of snow water content in the vertical . . . . .	84
4.2.5 Orographic influence on precipitation . . . . .	99
<b>CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK</b>	<b>106</b>
5.1 Outlook . . . . .	109
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>APPENDIX A: FORWARD MODEL</b>	<b>122</b>
A.1 Scattering Model . . . . .	122
<b>APPENDIX B: RESULTS</b>	<b>125</b>
B.1 Hourly averages ensemble member zero and one . . . . .	125
B.2 Vertical SWC - all ensemble member . . . . .	128

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACC</b>	Accretion
<b>AGG</b>	Aggregation
<b>AR</b>	Atmospheric River
<b>AROME</b>	Applications of Research to Operations at Mesoscale
<b>AUT</b>	Autoconversion
<b>BER</b>	Bergeron-Findeisen process
<b>C3VP</b>	Canadian CloudSat-CALIPSO Validation Project
<b>CFR</b>	Contact Freezing of Raindrops
<b>CPR</b>	Cloud Profiling Radar
<b>CV</b>	Coefficient of Variation
<b>CVM</b>	Conversion-melting
<b>DDA</b>	Discrete Dipole Approximation
<b>DEP</b>	Deposition
<b>DRY</b>	Dry processes
<b>DT</b>	Dynamic Tropopause
<b>ECMWF</b>	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

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<b>EPS</b>	Ensemble Prediction System
<b>FMI</b>	Finnish Meteorological Institute
<b>HEN</b>	Heterogeneous Nucleation
<b>HON</b>	Homogeneous Nucleation
<b>IVT</b>	Integrated Vapour Transport
<b>LWC</b>	Liquid Water Content
<b>MASC</b>	Multi-Angular Snowfall Camera
<b>MEPS</b>	MetCoOp Ensemble Prediction System
<b>Meso-NH</b>	Mesoscale Non-Hydrostatic model
<b>Met-Norway</b>	Norwegian Meteorological Institute
<b>MetCoOp</b>	Meteorological Co-operation on Operational NWP
<b>MLT</b>	Melting
<b>MRR</b>	Micro Rain Radar
<b>MSLP</b>	Mean Sea Level Pressure
<b>NSF</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>NWP</b>	Numerical Weather Prediction
<b>PIP</b>	Precipitation Imaging Package
<b>PSD</b>	Particle Size distribution
<b>RIM</b>	Riming
<b>SMHI</b>	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
<b>SWC</b>	Snow Water Content

<b>SWP</b>	Snow Water Path
<b>WCB</b>	Warm Conveyor Belt
<b>WET</b>	Wet processes
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization



## CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

In this thesis, a case study of an extreme event occurring on 21 to 26 December 2016 has been explored for snowfall. The extreme weather event 'Urd' affected large parts of Eastern, Southern, and Western Norway. During this period, the first low-pressure system developed east of Iceland, and the second cyclone evolved in the western Atlantic. Temperature changes related to the cold and warm fronts, and warm sectors followed observation of snow and liquid precipitation at Haukeliseter.

A sensitivity study of retrieved snow accumulation for different a-prior assumptions was carried out. Snowfall comparisons between double fence gauge observations and MEPS forecast of snowfall amount have been investigated at the WMO measurement site Haukeliseter. Meteorological parameters have been evaluated to see if large scale phenomena such as occlusion passages were observed and predicted by MEPS. Furthermore, a vertical comparison between retrieved profiles of snow water content is compared to 48 h forecasts of MEPS. Wind related topographical influence on precipitation and the resolution of MEPS were examined.

Double fence gauge measurements are considered as one of the best surface measurements for snowfall. Since additional instruments such as a MRR, MASC and PIP were installed at Haukeliseter during winter 2016/2017, a state of the art optimal estimation snowfall retrieval allowed to compare surface observations to vertically retrieved snowfall amounts. Assumptions of a particle model for rimed aggregates, climatological particle size distributions and fall speeds followed the best estimate for surface snowfall accumulation compared to the use of the CloudSat PSD estimate at Haukeliseter. The difference between retrieved snowfall amount and double fence was not larger than  $-5\%$  for 12 h and 24 h snowfall accumulation. The small difference between observation and estimated snowfall shows that it is important to choose a priori assumptions correctly to achieve



reasonable surface estimates precipitation amount at the surface.

AROME-MetCoOp was operational until November 2016 when it got substituted by the ensemble prediction weather forecast model at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute. The change from a deterministic forecast to a ensemble prediction system will help to take into account measurement uncertainties. Since MEPS has just become operational, an unique opportunity is given to do first comparisons between the WMO station Haukeliseter, the additional installed instruments, and the weather forecast model. The closest model grid point to the measurement site Haukeliseter was chosen to answer the research question if MEPS is able to predict large-scale phenomena such as occlusions related to an extreme event. It turns out that the regional forecast model MEPS is capable of predicting changes associated to frontal passages and occlusions. Pressure, temperature, and wind changes associated with passages of fronts were predicted 24 h and 48 h in advance. The correlation between surface observations at the site and the weather forecast model were best for sea level pressure prediction. The mean absolute error for 2 m temperature was never larger than 1 K, but a warm temperature bias occurred on 24 December 2016. **Include in results? Or double check** During the extreme Christmas storm in 2016, overestimations of wind and precipitation accumulation at the surface by MEPS were seen.

In the meteorological analysis an overestimation of surface precipitation accumulation up to 60 % shows during the intensification of the Christmas 2016 extreme event and hence in detail analysed. The average difference between precipitation amount at the surface decreases with increasing lead time for 21 to 26 December 2016. The 12 h precipitation accumulation had a mean absolute error up to 12 mm which is approximately eight times larger than the Norwegian mean of December 2014.

A comparison of the wind influenced under-catchment by the double fence of 10 % showed a small difference error. The surface accumulation was nevertheless overestimated by more than 40 %. Reasons for the prediction of too much precipitation accumulation at the ground could be initialisation errors as well as the use of one grid point instead of using a variable average of surrounding grid points. The results show that MEPS is not able to predict the precipitation correctly during the Christmas 2016 extreme event.

The vertical snowfall measurements can be trusted after it was shown that the retrieved estimated snowfall at the surface is in good agreement with those observed at the double fence gauge.

The one and three hourly ensemble means of MEPS displayed the ability to predict more consistent, up-slope storm patterns. For this type of storm the ensemble variability for initialisations 24 h and 48 h prior occurrence was low. MEPS ensemble members prediction were uncertain about the appearance of pulsing patterns related to westerlies. Greater variability between the ensemble members for pulsing storm patterns is probably related to the temporal resolution of MEPS ensemble forecast data and the short appearance of the pulses, of around 30 min.

In general, the estimated snow water content from MRR profiles is greater than the instantaneous average prediction of snowfall. The deterministic and first ensemble member (1 h resolution) predicted high snow water contents on some days during the 2016 Christmas storm.

On 25 December 2016, MASC images could verify the presence of liquid precipitation during the passage of a warm sector at Haukeliseter. MEPS was able to estimate the occurrence of liquid precipitation 24 h and 48 h in advance. Vertical comparison between reflectivity profiles and modelled liquid water content have shown the prediction of liquid precipitation, both in time and layer thickness. This is an important advantage of a regional weather forecast model, as the change from snowfall to liquid precipitation poses a great risk in Norwegian mountains.

Although MEPS has a horizontal resolution of 2.5km, the representation of the mountainous terrain in Norway might still be an issue. MEPS is able to resolve some of the major orographic patterns, such as high mountains to the west and the south-east of Haukeliseter. Westerlies and their associated pulsing precipitation pattern were correct predicted by MEPS. Forecasts for westerlies during 24 and 26 December 2016 showed a good correlation. In contrast, observed south-east winds were often predicted to be south-westerly wind (not along the mountain valley, SE) during 21 and 23 December 2016. Nevertheless is MEPS able to relate southerly winds with up-slope patterns of precipitation.

This study demonstrates the complex interaction of analysing snowfall extreme events with observations and regional model prediction. The here presented results are a first look for only one extreme storm at one station and further studies have to be done.

## 5.1 OUTLOOK

Only a few studies have addressed similar approaches like the comparison of vertical snowfall prediction to observations, and thus comparison with other work is difficult. Hence, the here presented results motivate to deal more with the subject of vertical snowfall observation and its comparison to regional weather forecast models.

First and foremost it is important to investigate more extreme snowfall events during winter at Haukeliseter. To see if the deviations between surface accumulation and estimated precipitation amount from vertical observations keep as small. Furthermore these results should be compared to different stations in Norway with similar polar tundra climate, to find out if a-priori assumptions can be generalised for the same local climate. More case studies will also help to get a better estimate about the performance of MEPS during extreme winter events. The mean absolute error for 12 h accumulation has shown a great variability, depending on the initialisation time and the intensification of the low-pressure system. This increase in mean absolute error with intensification might be low when compared to other cases.

The previous Chapters have indicated, the regional model MEPS is able to predict larger scale phenomena. This might be related to the outer boundary condition ECMWF or the Christmas 2016 extreme event was more predictable. In general, surface parameters such as wind pressure and temperature were predicted well, only wind speed and precipitation accumulation showed overestimation in MEPS predictions. Wind speed forecasts were higher than observations, this might be related to the representation of the orography in MEPS, or the general overestimation of wind speed already apparent in AROME-MetCoOp. Sensitivity studies for the outer boundary could help to understand how much ECMWF forecast influence the MEPS prediction for local meteorological effects. ECMWF as boundary condition might not have reached its stabilised state when MEPS was initiated during the event, and could also have led to the overestimation of wind speed and surface accumulation. A comparison between ECMWF forecast and MEPS will verify if that might be the case. Re-analysis data can help to show the uncertainty in the initial and boundary conditions. A re-run with analysis data from ECMWF could possibly improve the original forecast. It will be interesting to initiate MEPS with all available observations, to see if this

has an influence on the overestimation of wind and precipitation accumulation.

Another approach could be to perturb the deterministic forecast in other way. Different perturbations might lead to a better correlation between observation and forecast at the ground. Furthermore, the choice of using the closest grid point to Haukeliseter might not have been the best approach. Using four close by grid points instead of only one could help to verify overestimations of MEPS forecasts compared to observations.

Even though MEPS performed well in the vertical by relating the wind to the storm structure correctly, it will be interesting to investigate the here presented results with a higher time resolution to resolve for the short pulses. Since MEPS overestimates the surface accumulation and the ensemble means show to be in general smaller than the estimated snow water content, the afore mentioned solution help to investigate the overestimation of snowfall at the surface and the relationship between the vertical forecast and surface prediction model.

The local affect of pulsing patterns related to westerlies should be examined. To understand if e.g. wave breaking occurs at the mountain to the west, or if it is an effect of local surface fronts.

It is important to have correct measurements such as the double fence gauge or the MRR-PSD retrieval approach. Correct measurements will help to improve initial conditions for weather forecast models, so that initialisations can start at the true state. Furthermore accurate observations will help to get a greater understanding of vertical snowfall structure. Investigating in more detail microphysical processes within mesoscale storms with vertical measurements of snowfall for extreme events can be a grand improvement for weather and climate prediction.

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