

# ICON Database Reference Manual

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# History of versions

Version	Date	Author(s)	Changes
0.1.0	10.01.13	DR, FP	Generated preliminary list of available GRIB2 output fields
0.2.0	12.07.13	DR, FP	Added a short section describing the horizontal ICON grid. AUMFL_S, AVMFL_S added to the list of available output fields
0.2.1	15.07.13	DR	Provide newly available output fields in tabulated form. Change levelType of 3D atmospheric fields from 105 (Hybrid) to 150 (Generalized vertical height coordinate)
0.2.2	16.07.13	FP	Short description of ICON's vertical grid.
0.2.3	25.09.13	DR	Added description of available First Guess and analysis fields
0.2.4	17.12.13	DR	Added description of external paramater fields
0.3.0	24.01.14	DR	Added information about horizontal output grids
0.3.1	24.01.14	DR	Added information about newly available output field ${\tt OMEGA}$
0.4.0	22.05.14	HF	Added SKY-database documentation
0.4.1	15.07.14	DR	Some documentation on statistical processing and minor updates. New output fields ASWDIR_S, ASWDIFD_S, ASWDIFU_S, DTKE_CON
0.4.2	10.09.14	DR	New output fields CLCT_MOD, CLDEPTH
0.5.0	01.10.14	DR	Description of IAU initialization method
0.5.1	15.10.14	DR	Updated description of necessary input fields
0.5.2	31.10.14	DR	Add full table with model half level heights
0.6.0	05.12.14	DR	Add short introduction and fix some minor bugs
0.6.1	10.12.14	DR	New output field APAB_S

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## Chapter 1

## Introduction

The **ICO**sahedral **N**onhydrostatic model ICON is the new global numerical weather prediction model at DWD. It will become operational at 2015-01-20, replacing the current operational global model GME. The ICON modelling system as a whole is developed jointly by DWD and the Max-Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg (MPI-M). While ICON is the new working horse for short and medium range global weather forecast at DWD, it will serve as the core of a new climate modelling system at MPI-M.

From 2014-01-20 on, ICON analysis and forecast fields will serve as initial and boundary data for

- the regional model COSMO-EU
- RLMs (Relocated Local Model) of the German armed forces
- DWD's wave models

This document provides some basic information about ICON's horizontal and vertical grid structure, numerical algorithms and physical parameterizations (the latter two are planned but not yet available). Furthermore, it provides an overview about the available ICON analysis and forecast fields stored in the data base SKY at DWD. Some examples on how to read these data from the data base are given as well.

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## Chapter 2

## Grid geometry

#### 2.1 Horizontal grid

The horizontal ICON grid consists of a set of spherical triangles that seamlessly span the entire sphere. The grid is constructed from an icosahedron (see Figure 2.1a) which is projected onto a sphere. The spherical icosahedron (Figure 2.1b) consists of 20 equilateral spherical triangles. The edges of each triangle are bisected into equal halves or more generally into n equal sections. Connecting the new edge points by great circle arcs yields 4 or more generally  $n^2$  spherical triangles within the original triangle (Figure 2.1c, 2.1d).



Figure 2.1: Icosahedron before (a) and after (b) projection onto a sphere

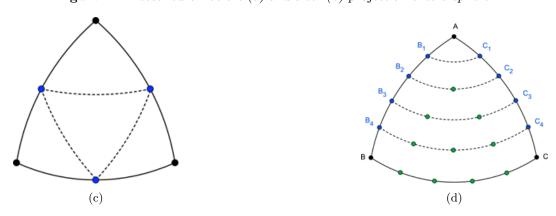


Figure 2.2: (a) Bisection of the original triangle edges (b) More general division into n equal sections

ICON grids are constructed by an initial root division into n sections ( $\mathbf{R}n$ ) followed by k bisection steps ( $\mathbf{B}k$ ), resulting in a  $\mathbf{R}n\mathbf{B}k$  grid. Figures 2.3a and 2.3b show  $\mathbf{R}2\mathbf{B}00$  and  $\mathbf{R}2\mathbf{B}02$  ICON grids. Such grids avoid polar singularities of latitude-longitude grids (Figure 2.3c) and allow a high uniformity in resolution over the whole sphere.



Figure 2.3: (a) R2B00 grid. (b) R2B02 grid. (c) traditional regular latitude-longitude grid with polar singularities

Throughout this document, the grid is referred to as the "RnBk grid" or "RnBk resolution". For a given resolution RnBk, the total number of cells, edges, and vertices can be computed from

$$n_c = 20 n^2 4^k$$
  
 $n_e = 30 n^2 4^k$   
 $n_v = 10 n^2 4^k + 2$ 

The average cell area  $\overline{\Delta A}$  can be computed from

$$\overline{\Delta A} = \frac{4\pi \, r_e^2}{n_c} \, ,$$

with the earth radius  $r_e$ , and  $n_c$  the total number of cells. Based on  $\overline{\Delta A}$  one can derive an estimate of the average grid resolution  $\overline{\Delta x}$ :

$$\overline{\Delta x} = \sqrt{\overline{\Delta A}} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{5}} \frac{r_e}{n \, 2^k}$$

Visually speaking,  $\overline{\Delta x}$  is the edge length of a square which has the same area as our triangular cell.

In Table 2.1, some characteristics of frequently used ICON grids are given. The table contains information about the total number of triangles  $(n_c)$ , the average resolution  $\overline{\Delta x}$ , and the maximum/minimum cell area. The latter may be interpreted as the area for which the prognosed meteorological quantities (like temperature, pressure, ...) are representative. Some additional information about ICON's horizontal grid can be found in Wan et al. (2013).

2.2. Vertical grid 5

Table 2.1: Characteristics of frequently used ICON grids.	$\Delta A_{max}$ and $\Delta A_{min}$	refer to the maximum
and minimum area of the grid cells, respectively.		

Grid	number of cells $(n_c)$	avg. resolution [km]	$\Delta A_{max}  [km^2]$	$\Delta A_{min}  [km^2]$
R2B04	20480	157.8	25974.2	18777.3
R2B05	81920	78.9	6480.8	4507.5
R2B06	327680	39.5	1618.4	1089.6
R2B07	1310720	19.7	404.4	265.1
R3B07	2949120	13.2	179.7	116.3

The first operational version of ICON will be based on the R3B07 grid, thus, having a horizontal resolution of about 13 km!

#### 2.1.1 Local grid refinement

#### 2.2 Vertical grid

The vertical grid consists of a set of vertical layers with height-based vertical coordinates. Each of these layers carries the horizontal 2D grid structure, thus forming the 3D structure of the grid. The ICON grid employs a Lorenz-type staggering with the vertical velocity defined at the boundaries of layers (half levels) and the other prognostic variables in the center of the layer (full levels).

To improve simulations of flow past complex topography, the ICON model employs a smooth level vertical (SLEVE) coordinate (Leuenberger et al., 2010). It allows for a faster transition to smooth levels in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, as compared to the classical height-based Gal-Chen coordinate. In the operational setup, the transition from terrain following levels in the lower atmosphere to constant height levels is completed at  $z=16\,\mathrm{km}$ . Model levels above are flat. The required smooth large-scale contribution of the model topography is generated by digital filtering with a  $\nabla^2$ -diffusion operator. Figure 2.4 shows the (half) levels of the planned operational ICON setup with 90 vertical levels. The table to the right shows the height above ground of selected half levels (for zero height topography) and the corresponding pressure, assuming the US standard atmosphere. Standard heights for all 91 half levels are given in Table A.1.

Please note that for grid cells with non-zero topography these values only represent rough estimates of the true level height. Actual heights may vary considerably from location to location, due to grid level stretching/compression over non-zero topography.



level	[m]	[Pa]
1	75000	2.1
5	64946	10.0
10	53878	46.3
15	44198	158.8
20	35958	487.2
25	29039	1355.0
30	23409	3211.8
35	19202	6209.4
40	16108	10113.6
45	13822	14504.3
50	11822	19882.1
55	9822	27166.6
60	7822	36528.6
65	5822	48347.1
70	3954	62009.2
75	2432	75325.6
80	1255	87126.2
85	436	96190.0
90	20	101085.0

**Figure 2.4:** Vertical (half) levels of the ICON model (planned operational setup). The table of selected pressure values (for zero height) is based on the 1976 US standard atmosphere.

### Chapter 3

## Mandatory input fields

Several input files are needed to perform runs of the ICON Model. These can be divided into three classes: Grid files, external parameters, and initialization (analysis). The latter will be described in Chapter 4.

#### 3.1 Grid Files

In order to run ICON, it is necessary to load the horizontal grid information as an input parameter. This information is stored within so-called grid files. For an ICON run, at least one global grid file is required. For model runs with nested grids, additional files of the nested domains are necessary. Optionally, a reduced radiation grid for the global domain may be used.

The unstructured triangular ICON grid resulting from the grid generation process is represented in NetCDF format. The most important data entries are

- cell (INTEGER dimension) number of (triangular) cells
- vertex (INTEGER dimension) number of triangle vertices
- edge (INTEGER dimension) number of triangle edges
- clon, clat (double array, dimension: #triangles, given in radians) longitude/latitude of the triangle circumcenters
- vlon, vlat (double array, dimension: #triangle vertices, given in radians) longitude/latitude of the triangle vertices
- elon, elat (double array, dimension: #triangle edges, given in radians) longitude/latitude of the edge midpoints
- cell\_area (double array, dimension: #triangles) triangle areas
- vertex\_of\_cell (INTEGER array, dimensions: [3, #triangles])
  The indices vertex\_of\_cell(:,i) denote the triangle vertices that belong to the triangle i.
- edge\_of\_cell (INTEGER array, dimensions: [2, #triangles])
  The indices edge\_of\_cell(:,i) denote the triangle edges that belong to the triangle i.

MODIS albedo

#### 3.2 External parameter

External parameters are used to describe the properties of the earth's surface. These data include the orography and the land-sea-mask. Also, several parameters are needed to specify the dominant land use of a grid box like the soiltype or the plant cover fraction.

The ExtPar software (ExtPar – External parameter for Numerical Weather Prediction and Climate Application) is able to generate external parameters for the ICON model. The generation is based on a set of raw-datafields which are listed in Table 3.1. For a more detailed overview of ExtPar, the reader is referred to the *User and Implementation Guide* of Extpar.

Dataset	Source	Resolution
GLOBE orography	NOAA/NGDC	30"
GlobCover 2009	ESA	10"
GLCC land use	USGS	30"
HWSD Harmonized World Soil Database	${\rm FAO/IIASA/ISRIC/ISSCAS/JRC}$	30"
NDVI Climatotology, SeaWiFS	NASA/GSFC	2.5'
CRU near surface climatology	CRU University of East Anglia	$0.5^{\circ}$
GACP Aerosol Optical thickness	NASA/GISS (Global Aerosol Climatology Project)	$4x5^{\circ}$
GLDB Global lake database	${\rm DWD/RSHU/MeteoFrance}$	30"

Table 3.1: Raw datasets from which the ICON external parameter fields are derived.

GlobCover 2009 is a land cover database covering the whole globe, except for Antarctica. Therefore, we make use of GlobCover 2009 for  $90^{\circ} > \phi > -56^{\circ}$  (with  $\phi$  denoting latitude) and switch to the coarser, however globally available dataset GLCC for  $-56^{\circ} > \psi > -90^{\circ}$ .

NASA

The products generated by the ExtPar software package are listed in Table 3.2 together with the underlying raw dataset. Note that these are mandatory input fields for assimilation- and forecast runs.

Table 3.2: External parameter fields for ICON, produced by the ExtPar software package (in alphabetical order)

ShortName	Description	Raw dataset
AER_SS12	Sea salt aerosol climatology (monthly fields)	GACP
AER_DUST12	Total soil dust aerosol climatology (monthly fields)	GACP
$AER\_ORG12$	Organic aerosol climatology (monthly fields)	GACP
AER_SO412	Total sulfate aerosol climatology (monthly fields)	GACP
AER_BC12	Black carbon aerosol climatology (monthly fields)	GACP
ALB_DIF12	Shortwave $(0.3-5.0\mu\mathrm{m})$ albedo for diffuse radiation (monthly fields)	MODIS

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Table 3.2: continued

$\mathrm{ALB}_{-}\mathrm{UV}12$	UV-visible $(0.3-0.7\mu\mathrm{m})$ albedo for diffuse radiation (monthly fields)	MODIS
ALB_NI12	UV-visible $(0.7-5.0\mu\mathrm{m})$ albedo for diffuse radiation (monthly fields)	MODIS
DEPTH_LK	Lake depth	GLDB
$\mathrm{EMIS}_{-}\mathrm{RAD}$	Surface longwave (thermal) emissivity	GlobCover 2009
$FOR_D$	Fraction of deciduous forest	GlobCover 2009
$FOR_{-}E$	Fraction of evergreen forest	GlobCover 2009
FR_LAKE	Lake fraction (fresh water)	GLDB
FR_LAND	Land fraction (excluding lake fraction but including glacier fraction)	GlobCover2009
FR_LUC	Landuse class fraction	
HSURF	Orography height at cell centres	GLOBE
LAI_MX	Leaf area index in the vegetation phase	GlobCover 2009
NDVI_MAX	Normalized differential vegetation index	SeaWiFS
NDVI_MRAT	proportion of monthly mean NDVI to yearly maximum (monthly fields)	SeaWiFS
$\operatorname{PLCOV\_MX}$	Plant covering degree in the vegetation phase	GlobCover 2009
ROOTDP	Root depth	GlobCover 2009
RSMIN	Minimum stomatal resistance	GlobCover 2009
SOILTYP	Soil type	HWSD
${\rm SSO\_STDH}$	Standard deviation of sub-grid scale orographic height	GLOBE
$SSO\_THETA$	Principal axis-angle of sub-grid scale orography	GLOBE
${\rm SSO\_GAMMA}$	Horizontal anisotropy of sub-grid scale orography	GLOBE
${\rm SSO\_SIGMA}$	Average slope of sub-grid scale orography	GLOBE
$T_2M_CL$	Climatological 2m temperature (serves as lower boundary condition for soil model)	CRU
Z0 (*)	Surface roughness length (over land)	GlobCover 2009

Note that fields marked with (\*) are not required in operational model runs. I.e. the surface roughness ZO is only needed, if the additional contribution from sub-grid scale orography is taken into account (i.e. for itype\_zO=1). In operational runs, land-use specific roughness lengths are taken from a GlobCoverbased lookup table. FOR\_D and FOR\_E will become obsolete, as soon as the surface tile approach (which is currently under development) is activated. However, due to technical reasons, all the above fields must be provided as input, irrespective of the options chosen.

#### Remarks on post-processing

Some of the external parameter fields produced by ExtPar are modified by ICON. The following fields are affected: HSURF, FR\_LAND, FR\_LAKE, ZO. Thus, for consistency reasons, the modified fields should be

used for post-processing tasks rather than the original external parameter fields.

## Chapter 4

## Analysis fields

The 3-hourly first guess output of ICON contains the following fields:

Table 4.1: Available 3h first guess output fields

Type	GRIB shortName
Atmosphere	$\begin{array}{c} VN,U,V,W,DEN,THETA\_V,T,QV,QC,\\ QI,QR,QS,TKE,P \end{array}$
Surface (general)	T_G, T_SO(0), QV_S, T_2M, TD_2M, U_10M, V_10M, PS, Z0
Land specific	W_SNOW, T_SNOW, RHO_SNOW, H_SNOW, FRESHSNW, W_I, T_SO(1:nlev_soil), W_SO, W_SO_ICE
Lake/sea ice specific	T_MNW_LK, T_WML_LK, H_ML_LK, T_BOT_LK, C_T_LK, T_B1_LK, H_B1_LK, T_ICE, H_ICE, FR_ICE
Time invariant	FR.LAND, HHL, CLON, CLAT, ELON, ELAT, VLON, VLAT

Atmospheric analysis fields are computed every 3 hours (00, 03, 06,... 21 UTC) by the 3DVar data assimilation system. Sea surface temperature T\_SO(0) and sea ice cover FR\_ICE are provided once per day (00 UTC) by the SST-Analysis. A snow analysis is conducted every 3 hours. In addition a soil moisture analysis (SMA) is conducted once per day (00 UTC). It basically modifies the soil moisture content W\_SO, in order to improve the 2 m temperature forecast.

For the 3-hourly analysis cycle, ICON must be provided with 2 input files, containing First Guess (FG) and analysis (AN) fields, respectively. Variables for which no analysis is available are always read from the first guess file (e.g. TKE). Other variables may be either read from the first guess or the analysis file, depending on the starting time. E.g. for T.SO(0) the first guess is read at 03, 06, 09, 12, 15, 18, 21 UTC, however, the analysis is read at 00 UTC. In Table 4.2 the available and employed first guess and analysis fields are listed as a function of starting time.

Table 4.2: The leftmost column shows variables that are mandatory for the assimilation cycle and forecast runs. Column 2 indicates, whether or not an analysis is performed for these variables. Columns 3 to 10 show the origin of these variables (analysis or first guess), depending on the starting time.

ShortName	Analysis	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21
Atmosphere									
VN	_	FG							
$\mathrm{THETA}_{-}\mathrm{V}$	_	FG							
DEN	_	FG							
W	_	FG							
TKE	_	FG							
QC, QI, QR, QS	_	FG							
QV	3DVar	AN							
T	3DVar	AN							
P	3DVar	AN							
U, V	3DVar	AN							
Surface									
Z0	_	FG							
$T_{-}G$	_	FG							
$\mathrm{QV}_{ ext{-}}\!\mathrm{S}$	_	FG							
$T_{-}SO(0)$	$Ana\_SST$	AN	FG						
$T\_SO(1:nlevsoil)$	_	FG							
$W_SO_ICE$	_	FG							
$W_{-}SO$	$\operatorname{SMA}$	AN	FG						
$W_{-}I$	_	FG							
$W\_SNOW^1$	Ana_SNOW	AN							
$T_{-}SNOW$	Ana_SNOW	AN							
$\rm RHO\_SNOW^1$	Ana_SNOW	AN							
H_SNOW	Ana_SNOW	AN							
FRESHSNW	Ana_SNOW	AN							
Sea ice/Lake									
$T\_ICE$	$Ana\_SST$	AN	FG						
$_{ m HJCE}$	$Ana\_SST$	AN	FG						
FR_ICE	$Ana\_SST$	AN	FG						
$T_MNW_LK$	_	FG							
$T_{-}WML_{-}LK$	_	FG							

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Table 4.2: The leftmost column shows variables that are mandatory for the assimilation cycle and forecast runs. Column 2 indicates, whether or not an analysis is performed for these variables. Columns 3 to 10 show the origin of these variables (analysis or first guess), depending on the starting time.

ShortName	Analysis	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21
H_ML_LK	_	FG							
T_BOT_LK	_	FG							
$C_{-}T_{-}LK$	_	FG							
T_B1_LK	_	FG							
H_B1_LK	_	FG							

#### 4.1 Incremental analysis update

Analysis fields provided by the data assimilation system are usually not perfectly balanced, leading to e.g. the generation of spurious gravity waves. Thus, atmospheric models generally require some initialization procedure in order to minimize spin-up effects and to prevent the accumulation of noise. In ICON, a method known as Incremental Analysis Update (IAU) (Bloom et al., 1996, Polavarapu et al., 2004) is applied. The basic idea is quite simple: Rather than adding the analysis increments  $\Delta \mathbf{x}^A = \mathbf{x}^A - \mathbf{x}^{FG}$  (i.e. the difference between the analysis  $\mathbf{x}^A$  and the model first guess  $\mathbf{x}^{FG}$ ) in one go, they are incorporated into the model in small drips over many timesteps (see Figure 4.1).



Figure 4.1: Incremental Analysis Update. Analysis increments are added to the background state (FG) in small drips over some time interval rather than in one go. Currently, increments for U, V, P, T, QV are treated in this way.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Note that  $\rho\_snow$  is read from the analysis, however it does not contain any new/independent information compared to the model first guess, except for an initialization of newly generated snow points and a limitation over glacier points.  $w\_snow$  is read from the analysis, too, however it is re-diagnosed within the ICON-code based on the analyzed snow height  $h\_snow$  and the former mentioned snow density  $\rho\_snow$ .

Mathematically speaking, during forward integration the model is forced with appropriately weighted analysis increments:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}}{\mathrm{d}t} = A\mathbf{x} + g(t)\Delta\mathbf{x}^A$$
, with  $\int g(t)\,\mathrm{d}t = 1$  (4.1)

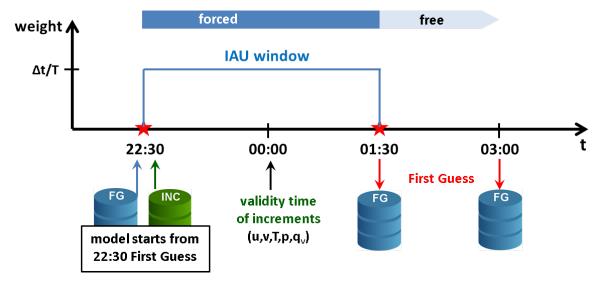
**x** is the discrete model state, A is a matrix representing the (non)-linear dynamics of the system and g(t) is a weighting function, which is non-zero over some time-interval  $\Delta t$ .

This drip by drip incorporation acts as a low pass filter in frequency domain on the analysis increments such that small scale unbalanced modes are effectively filtered (see Bloom et al. (1996)). The filter characteristic depends on the weighting function g(t). It should be noted that IAU only filters the increments and not the backgound state, such that regions where analysis increments are zero remain unaffected. This method is currently applied to the prognostic atmospheric fields  $\pi$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $v_n$ ,  $q_v$ , based on analysis increments provided for u, v, p, t and  $q_v$ .

The method sounds incredibly simple, however there are a few technical aspects to be taken care of when implementing this into an operational system: Figure 4.2 shows how the IAU-method is implemented in ICON for a 3h assimilation run starting at midnight. Analysis increments are applied over a 3h hour time window, centered at the actual model start time. As indicated by the blue line, constant weights are used:

$$g(t) = \frac{\Delta t}{T}$$
, for  $-T/2 < t < T/2$  (4.2)

T is the window width and  $\Delta t$  is the fast physics time step. The key point in terms of technical implementation is that the model must be started 90 minutes prior to the actual starting time of the assimilation run. The model is started from the 22:30 UTC first guess. The analysis increments for U, V, P, T, QV, whose validity time is 00:00 UTC are added over 3 hours until at 1:30 the free forecast starts. Then, two first guess data sets are written into the database. One at 1:30 UTC, which will be used for starting the next 3h assimilation run, and a second one at 3:00 UTC, which is required as input for the assimilation system itself. Thus in general, using the IAU method requires some care in terms of reading and writing the right fields at the right times.



**Figure 4.2:** Time line for an ICON assimilation run starting at 00:00 UTC.

## Chapter 5

# Available output fields in GRIB2-format

In GRIB2, a variable is uniquely defined by the following set of metadata:

- Discipline (see GRIB2 code table 4.2)
- ParameterCategory (see GRIB2 code table 4.2)
- ParameterNumber (see GRIB2 code table 4.2)
- typeOfFirstfixedSurface and typeOfSecondFixedSurface (see GRIB2 code table 4.5)
- stepType (instant, accum, avg, max, min, diff, rms, sd, cov, ...)

A documentation of the official WMO GRIB2 code tables can be found here: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WMOCodes/WMO306\_vI2/LatestVERSION/WMO306\_vI2\_GRIB2\_CodeFlag\_en.pdf In the following, typeOfFirstFixedSurface and typeOfSecondFixedSurface will be abbreviated by Lev-Typ 1/2.

#### 5.1 Deprecated output fields

With the launch of ICON, the following former GME output fields will no longer be available:

- BAS\_CON [-]: Level index of convective cloud base. Instead, HBAS\_CON [m] should be used.
- TOP\_CON [-]: Level index of convective cloud top. Instead, HTOP\_CON [m] should be used.
- T\_S [K]: Temperature at the soil-atmosphere-, or soil-snow-interface. Note that T\_S = T\_SO(0), thus T\_S is redundant.
- W\_G1, W\_G2 [mm H2O]: Soil water content in upper layer (0 to 10 cm) and middle layer (10 to 100 cm), respectively. If needed, these fields can be derived from W\_SO.
- FIS [m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>]: Surface Geopotential. Instead, HSURF [m] should be used (see Section 5.2).
- O3 [kg/kg], TO3 [Dobson]: Ozone mixing ratio and corresponding total ozone concentration. No longer available; no substitution

#### 5.2 New output fields

Table 5.1 contains a list of new output fields that will become available with the launch of ICON (compared to GME). A more thorough description of these fields is provided in Section 5.3.

Table 5.1: Newly available output fields

ShortName	Unit	Description
W	m/s	vertical velocity in height coordinates $w = \frac{dz}{dt}$ (3D field)
DEN	${\rm kg/m^3}$	density of moist air (3D field)
TKE	$\mathrm{m}^2/\mathrm{s}^2$	Turbulent kinetic energy (3D field)
DTKE_CON	$\mathrm{m}^2/\mathrm{s}^3$	Buoyancy-production of TKE due to sub grid scale convection (3D field)
HSURF	m	Geometric Height of the earths surface above sea level (2D field)
$\mathbf{HHL}$	m	Geometric Height of model half levels above sea level (3D field)
CLON,CLAT	deg	Geographical longitude/latitude of native grid triangle cell center
ELON,ELAT	deg	Geographical longitude/latitude of native grid triangle edge midpoint $$
VLON,VLAT	$\deg$	Geographical longitude/latitude of native grid triangle vertex

#### 5.3 Available output fields

ICON output is available on two distinct horizontal grids: The native triangular grid with an average resolution of 13 km, and a regular latitude-longitude grid with a resolution of  $\Delta\lambda = \Delta\Phi = 0.25^{\circ}$ . On the native grid most output fields are defined on triangle cell centers, except for VN, which is defined on cell edges. On the lat-lon grid, all fields are defined on cell centers. A single 2D GRIB2 field on the native and regular lat-lon grid contains 2949120 and 1036800 grid points, respectively.

For details regarding the available fields, please see the tables below. Note that the vertical rules in the leftmost column indicate, whether the field is available on the native grid ( $\blacksquare$ ), on the lat-lon grid( $\blacksquare$ ), or on both grids( $\blacksquare$ ).

#### 5.3.1 Time-constant (external parameter) fields

**Table 5.2:** Time-constant fields (Date D=000000)

	${\bf ShortName}$	Description	Discipline	$\operatorname{Category}$	Number	m Lev-Typ~1/2	${ m stepType}$	Unit
Ī	HSURF	Geometric height of the earths surface above msl	0	3	6	1/101	inst	m
I	HHL	Geometric height of model half levels above msl	0	3	6	150/101	inst	m
	RLAT	Geographical latitude	0	191	1	1/-	inst	Deg. N
	RLON	Geographical longitude	0	191	2	1/-	inst	Deg. E
I	CLAT	Geographical latitude of native of grid triangle cell center		191	1	1/-	inst	Deg. N
I	CLON	Geographical longitude of native grid triangle cell center		191	2	1/-	inst	Deg. E
I	ELAT	Geographical latitude of native grid triangle edge midpoint		191	1	1/-	inst	Deg. N
I	ELON	Geographical longitude of native grid triangle edge midpoint		191	2	1/-	inst	Deg. E
I	VLAT	Geographical latitude of native grid triangle vertex		191	1	1/-	inst	Deg. N
I	VLON	Geographical longitude of native grid triangle vertex		191	2	1/-	inst	Deg. E
I	FR_LAND	Land fraction (possible range $[0,1]$ )		0	0	1/-	inst	1
	ROOTDP	Root depth of vegetation	2	0	32	1/-	inst	m
	EMIS_RAD	Longwave surface emissivity	2	3	199	1/-	inst	1
I	RSMIN	Minimum stomatal resistance	2	0	16	1/-	inst	${ m sm^{-1}}$
I	SSO_STDH	Standard deviation of sub-grid scale orography	0	3	20	1/-	inst	m
I	SSO_GAMMA	A Anisotropy of sub-gridscale orography		3	24	1/-	inst	1
	SSO_THETA	Angle of sub-gridscale orography	0	3	21	1/-	inst	rad
I	${\rm SSO\_SIGMA}$	Slope of sub-gridscale orography	0	3	22	1/-	inst	1
I	PLCOV_MX	Plant covering degree in the vegetation phase		0	4	1/-	max	1
I	T_2M_CL	Climatological 2 m temperature (used as lower bc. for soil model)	0	0	0	103/-	inst	K
1	NDVI_MRAT	ratio of monthly mean NDVI (normalized differential vegetation index) to annual max	0	0	192	1/-	avg	1

#### 5.3.2 Multi-level fields on native hybrid vertical levels

	<b>Table 5.3:</b> Hybrid multi-level forecast	(VV)	0 < 1	and initialised	analysis	(VV = 0)	)) products
--	---	------	-------	-----------------	----------	----------	-------------

	${\bf ShortName}$	Description	Discipline	Category	Number	$\mathrm{Lev}\text{-}\mathrm{Typ}\ 1/2$	${ m stepType}$	Unit
I	U	Zonal wind	0	2	2	150/150	inst	${ m ms^{-1}}$
I	V	Meridional wind	0	2	3	150/150	inst	$\rm ms^{-1}$
I	W	Vertical wind	0	2	9	150/-	inst	$\rm ms^{-1}$
	T	Temperature	0	0	0	150/150	inst	K
I	DEN	Density of moist air	0	3	10	150/150	inst	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-3}$
I	QV	Specific humidity	0	1	0	150/150	inst	${\rm kgkg^{-1}}$
I	QC	Cloud mixing ratio <sup>2</sup>	0	1	22	150/150	inst	$\rm kgkg^{-1}$
I	QI	Cloud ice mixing ratio <sup>2</sup>	0	1	82	150/150	inst	$\rm kgkg^{-1}$
I	QR	Rain mixing ratio <sup>2</sup>	0	1	24	150/150	inst	${\rm kgkg^{-1}}$
	QS	Snow mixing ratio <sup>2</sup>	0	1	25	150/150	inst	${\rm kgkg^{-1}}$
I	CLC	Cloud cover	0	6	22	150/150	inst	%
Ī	TKE	Turbulent kinetic energy	0	19	11	150/-	inst	$\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{s}^{-2}$
ı	DTKE_CON	Buoyancy-production of TKE due to sub grid scale convection	0	19	219	150/-	inst	$\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{s}^{-3}$

#### 5.3.3 Multi-level fields interpolated to pressure levels

The following pressure levels are available: 1000, 950, 925, 900, 850, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 250, 200, 150, 100, 70, 50, 30, 20, 10, 7, 5, 3, 2, 1, 0.3, 0.1 hPa. Newly available pressure levels (as compared to GME) are highlighted in red. I.e. note that all 17 WMO standard pressure levels are included.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  for the time being, erroneously encoded as mixing ratios instead of specific quantities

Table 5.4: Multi-level forecast (VV>0) and initialised analysis (VV=0) products interpolated to pressure levels

ShortName	${f Description}$	Discipline	Category	Number	m Lev-Typ~1/2	stepType	Unit
FI	Geopotential	0	3	4	100/-	inst	$\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{s}^{-2}$
OMEGA	Vertical velocity in pressure coordinates ( $\omega = \mathrm{d}p/\mathrm{d}t$ )	0	2	8	100/-	inst	$Pas^{-1}$
RELHUM	Relative humidity (with respect to water)	0	1	1	100/-	inst	%
T	Temperature	0	0	0	100 / -	inst	K
U	Zonal wind	0	2	2	100 / -	inst	$\rm ms^{-1}$
I V	Meridional wind	0	2	3	100 / -	inst	$\rm ms^{-1}$

#### 5.3.4 Single-level fields

Table 5.5: Single-level forecast (VV > 0) and initialised analysis (VV = 0) products

ShortName	Description		Category	Number	m Lev-Typ~1/2	${\rm stepType}$	Unit
<b>■</b> PS	Surface pressure (not reduced)	0	3	0	1/-	inst	Pa
<b>■</b> T_SNOW	Temperature of the snow surface	0	0	18	1/-	inst	K
$ lap{\Gamma_{-}G}$	Ground temperature (temperature at sfc-atm interface)	0	0	0	1/-	inst	K
$ ull QV\_S$	Surface specific humidity	0	1	0	1/-	inst	$\rm kgkg^{-1}$
■ W_SNOW	Snow depth water equivalent		1	60	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
<b>■</b> W_I	Plant canopy surface water		0	13	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
TCM	Turbulent transfer coefficient for momentum (surface)		2	29	1/-	inst	1
ТСН	Turbulent transfer coefficient for heat and moisture (surface)	0	0	19	1/-	inst	1
■ ASOB_S	Net short-wave radiation flux at surface (average since model start)		4	9	1/-	avg	$ m Wm^{-2}$

Continued on next page

Table 5.5: continued

■ ATHB_S	Net long-wave radiation flux at surface (average since model start)	0	5	5	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
APAB_S	Photosynthetically active radiation flux at surface (average since model start)	0	4	10	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ ASOB_T	Net short-wave radiation flux at TOA (average since model start)	0	4	9	8/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ ATHB <sub>-</sub> T	Net long-wave radiation flux at TOA (average since model start)		5	5	8/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ ASWDIR_S	Surface down solar direct radiation (average since model start)	0	4	198	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ ASWDIFD_S	Surface down solar diffuse radiation (average since model start)		4	199	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ ASWDIFU_S	Surface up solar diffuse radiation (average since model start)	0	4	8	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ ALB_RAD	Surface albedo for visible range, diffuse	0	19	1	1/-	inst	%
■ RAIN_GSP <sup>4</sup>	Large scale rain (accumulated since model start)		1	77	1/-	accu	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$
■ SNOW_GSP <sup>4</sup>	Large snowfall water equivalent (accumulated since model start)	0	1	56	1/-	accu	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$
RAIN_CON <sup>4</sup>	Convective rain (accumulated since model start)	0	1	76	1/-	accu	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
■ SNOW_CON <sup>4</sup>	Convective snowfall water equivalent (accumulated since model start)	0	1	55	1/-	accu	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$
■ TOT_PREC <sup>4</sup>	Total precipitation (accumulated since model start)	0	1	52	1/-	accu	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$
RUNOFF_S	Surface water runoff (accumulated since model start)	2	0	5	106/-	accu	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$
■ RUNOFF_G	Soil water runoff (accumulated since model start)	2	0	5	106/-	accu	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
■ U_10M	Zonal wind at 10m above ground	0	2	2	103/-	inst	${ m ms^{-1}}$
■ V_10M	Meridional wind at 10m above ground	0	2	3	103/-	inst	${ m ms^{-1}}$
<b>I</b> T_2M	Temperature at 2m above ground	0	0	0	103/-	inst	K
■ TD_2M	Dew point temperature at 2m above ground	0	0	6	103/-	inst	K

 $Continued\ on\ next\ page$ 

Table 5.5: continued

■ TMAX_2M	Maximum temperature at 2m above ground	0	0	0	103/-	max	K
■ TMIN_2M	Minimum temperature at 2m above ground	0	0	0	103/-	min	K
■ VMAX_10M	Maximum wind at $10\mathrm{m}$ above ground	0	2	22	103/-	max	${ m ms^{-1}}$
<b>■</b> Z0	Surface roughness (above land and water)	2	0	1	1/-	inst	m
■ CLCT	Total cloud cover	0	6	1	1/-	inst	%
■ CLCT_MOD	Modified total cloud cover for media	0	6	199	1/-	inst	1
■ CLDEPTH	Modified cloud depth for media	0	6	198	1/-	inst	1
<b>■</b> CLCH	High level clouds	0	6	22	100/100	inst	%
<b>■</b> CLCM	Mid level clouds	0	6	22	100/100	inst	%
<b>■</b> CLCL	Low level clouds	0	6	22	100/1	inst	%
<b>■</b> TQV	Total column integrated water vapour		1	64	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
<b>■</b> TQC	Total column integrated cloud water	0	1	69	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
<b>■</b> TQI	Total column integrated cloud ice	0	1	70	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
<b>■</b> TQR	Total column integrated rain	0	1	45	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
<b>■</b> TQS	Total column integrated snow	0	1	46	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-2}}$
■ HBAS_CON	Height of convective cloud base above msl	0	6	26	2/101	inst	m
■ HTOP_CON	Height of convective cloud top above msl	0	6	27	3/101	inst	m
■ HTOP_DC	Height of top of dry convection above msl	0	6	196	3/101	inst	m
■ HZEROCL	Height of 0 degree Celsius isotherm above msl	0	3	6	4/101	inst	m
■ AUMFL_S	U-momentum flux at surface $\overline{u'w'}^{1/2}$ (average since model start)	0	2	17	1/-	avg	m
AVMFL_S	V-momentum flux at surface $\overline{v'w'}^{1/2}$ (average since model start)	0	2	18	1/-	avg	m
■ ASHFL_S	Sensible heat net flux at surface (average since model start)	0	0	11	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
							_

Continued on next page

Table 5.5: continued

■ ALHFL_S	Latent heat net flux at surface (average since model start)	0	0	10	1/-	avg	${ m Wm^{-2}}$
■ FR_ICE	Sea/lake ice cover (possible range: $[0,1]$ )	10	2	0	1/-	inst	1
TICE	Sea ice temperature (at ice-atm interface)	10	2	8	1/-	inst	K
I H_ICE	Sea ice thickness (Max: $3 \mathrm{m}$ )	10	2	1	1/-	inst	m
FRESHSNW	Fresh snow factor (weighting function for albedo indicating freshness of snow)		1	203	1/-	inst	1
■ RHO_SNOW	Snow density	0	1	61	1/-	inst	${\rm kgm^{-3}}$
■ H_SNOW	Snow depth	0	1	11	1/-	inst	m
<b>■</b> PLCOV	Plant cover	2	0	4	1/-	inst	%
LAI	Leaf area index		0	28	1/-	inst	1
NDVIRATIO	O ratio of current NDVI (normalized differential vegetation index) to annual max		0	192	1/-	inst	1
■ WW	Weather interpretation (WMO)	0	19	25	1/-	inst	1

Table 5.6: Multi-level forecast (VV > 0) and initialised analysis (VV = 0) products of the soil model

${\bf ShortName}$	Description	Discipline	Category	Number	m Lev-Typ~1/2	$\operatorname{stepType}$	Unit
T_SO	Soil temperature		3	18	106/-	inst	K
■ W_SO	Soil moisture integrated over individual soil layers (ice $+$ liquid)		3	20	106/106	inst	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$
■ W_SO_ICE	Soil ice content integrated over individual soil layers		3	22	106/106	inst	${\rm kg}{\rm m}^{-2}$

Soil temperature is defined at the soil depths given in Table 5.7 (column 2). Levels 1 to 8 define the full levels of the soil model. A zero gradient condition is assumed between levels 0 and 1, meaning that temperatures at the surface-atmosphere interface are set equal to the temperature at the first full level depth. (0.5 cm). Temperatures are prognosed for layers 1 to 7. At the lowermost layer (mid-level height 1458 cm) the temperature is fixed to the climatological average 2 m-temperature.

 $<sup>^4</sup>$ Note that the unit which is displayed, when inspecting the GRIB2 message with  $grib\_dump$  is kg m $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$  rather than kg m $^{-2}$ . Mathematically this is wrong, however, it is in accordance with the GRIB2 standard. To get the mathematically correct unit for accumulated fields (typeOfStatisticalProcessing=1), the unit displayed by  $grib\_dump$  must be multiplied by s.

level no.	depth [cm]	layer no.	upper/lower bounds [cm]
0	0.0		
1	0.5	1	0.0 - 1.0
2	2.0	2	1.0 - 3.0
3	6.0	3	3.0 - 9.0
4	18.0	4	9.0 - 27.0
5	54.0	5	27.0 - 81.0
6	162.0	6	81.0 - 243.0
7	486.0	7	243.0 - 729.0
8	1458.0	8	729.0 - 2187.0

Table 5.7: Soil model: vertical distribution of levels and layers

Soil moisture W\_SO is prognosed for layers 1 to 6. In the two lowermost layers W\_SO is filled with W\_SO(6) (zero gradient condition).

#### 5.3.5 Surface fields interpolated to msl

ShortName

Category

Category

Category

Category

Category

Category

Category

Conit

**Table 5.8:** Forecast (VV > 0) and initialised analysis (VV = 0) products interpolated to msl

#### 5.4 Extended description of available output fields

Surface pressure reduced to msl

In order to facilitate the selection and interpretation of fields and to guard against possible misinterpretation or mis-usage, the following section provides a more thorough description of the available output fields.

#### 5.4.1 Cloud products

 $CLCT\_MOD$ 

PMSL

Modified total cloud cover ( $0 \le \mathtt{CLCT\_MOD} \le 1$ ). Used for visualization purpose (i.e. gray-scale figures) in the media. It is derived from  $\mathtt{CLC}$ , neglecting cirrus clouds if there are only high clouds present at a given grid point. The reason for this treatment is that the general public does not regard transparent cirrus clouds as 'real' clouds.

3

1

101/-

Pa

inst

**CLDEPTH** 

Modified cloud depth ( $0 \le \mathtt{CLDEPTH} \le 1$ ). Used for visualization purpose (i.e. gray-scale figures) in the media. A cloud reaching a vertical extent of 700 hPa or more, has  $\mathtt{CLDEPTH} = 1$ .

HBAS\_CON Height of the convective cloud base in m above msl. HBAS\_CON is initialized with

 $-500\,\mathrm{m}$  at points where no convection is diagnosed.

**HTOP\_CON** Same, but for cloud top.

#### 5.4.2 Near surface products

TMIN<sub>2</sub>M Minimum temperature at 2 m above ground, computed over 3-hourly intervals.

TMAX\_2M Same, but for maximum 2 m temperature.

VMAX\_10M Maximum wind gust at 10 m above ground, computed over 3-hourly intervals. It is

diagnosed from the turbulence state in the atmospheric boundary layer, including a pontential enhancement by the SSO parameterization over mountainous terrain. In the presence of deep convection, it contains an additional contribution due to

convective gusts.

#### General comment on statistically processed fields

In GRIB2, the overall time interval over which a statistical process (like averaging, computation of maximum/minimum) has taken place is encoded as follows:

The beginning of the overall time interval is defined by referenceTime + forecastTime, whereas the end of the overall time interval is given by referenceTime + forecastTime + lengthOfTimeRange.

#### 5.4.3 Surface products

**FR\_ICE** Sea and lake ice cover. Currently, the only possible values are 0 (no ice cover) and 1

(ice covered grid point). For lake points,  $FR\_ICE$  is synchronized with  $H\_ICE$  meaning that  $FR\_ICE$  is set to 1 (0), where the lake model indicates  $H\_ICE>0$  ( $H\_ICE=0$ ).

H\_ICE Ice thickness over sea and frozen fresh water lakes. The maximum allowable ice

thickness is limited to 3 m. New sea-ice points generated by the analysis are initial-

ized with  $H_{-}ICE = 0.5 \,\mathrm{m}$ .

**T\_ICE** Ice temperature over sea-ice and frozen lake points. Ice-free points over land, sea

and lakes are set to  $T_SO(0)$ .

**TOT\_PREC** Total precipitation accumulated since model start.

TOT\_PREC = RAIN\_GSP + SNOW\_GSP + RAIN\_CON + SNOW\_CON

**W\_I** Water content of interception layer, i.e. the amount of precipitation intercepted by

vegetation can opies. The maximum capacity of the interception reservoir is currently limited to  $6.0E-3\,\mathrm{kg}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$  due to numerical reasons and thus almost negligible. Over

water points, W\_I is set to 0.

#### 5.4.4 Soil products

T\_SO Temperature of the soil and earth surface (uppermost level). The soil full level

depths at which the soil temperature is defined are given in Table 5.7. The temperature at the uppermost level T\_SO(0) is not prognostic. It is rather set equal to the temperature at the first prognostic level T\_SO(1). The temperature at the lowermost level T\_SO(8) is set to the climatological 2 m temperature T\_2M\_CL. At sea-points, T\_SO(0:7) is filled with the sea-surface temperature. Note that T\_SO(0) does not necessarily represent the temperature at the interface soil-atmosphere. I.e. Over snow/ice covered surfaces, T\_SO(0) represents the temperature below snow/ice.

### Chapter 6

# ICON data in the SKY data bases of DWD

GRIB data of the numerical weather prediction models are stored in the data base SKY at DWD. Documentation on the SKY system is available in the intranet of DWD at IT/Messnetz/Technik  $\rightarrow$  Datenmanagement (technisch)  $\rightarrow$  Management der DWD Fachdaten -Dokumentation  $\rightarrow$  SKY. Here, some remarks are given on the SKY categories for ICON data, and some examples are given how to retrieve data from the data base.

#### 6.1 SKY categories for ICON

In SKY the data is stored in different categories and data base subsystems. These are identified by the cat=CAT\_NAME parameter. The name of a category is made up of 4 parts: \$model\_\$run\_\$type\_\$suite. run, type, and suite are general for all forecast models of DWD. They can have the following values:

- run: main for main forecast runs, ass for assimilation runs, pre for pre-assimilation runs.
- type: an for analysis data, fc for forecast data, const for invariant data.
- **suite**: **rout** for operational data in db=roma, **para** for pre-operational data in db=parma, **exp** or **exp1** for data from experiments in db=numex. The category extension exp1 is used for experiments of the NUMEX wizard, a special NUMEX user.

Data from experiments is additionally identified by the parameter exp=NUM where NUM is the experiment number.

The categories for ICON start with the string **ico** for ICON data on the native ICON grid, or with **icr** for data on a regular lat-lon grid. Next follows a two-letter string to identify the domain of ICON; **gl** for the global domain, **eu** for the nest over Europe. After the domain follows the mesh width of the model in units of 100 m, and then the number of levels after the letter l. As an example icogl130l90 is on the native grid from a global model with a mesh width 13 km (grid R3B07) and 90 levels. icrgl400l90 is data on a regular grid from a global model with mesh width 40 km (R2B06) and 90 levels. icreu065l50 is an ICON nest over Europe with a mesh width of 6.5 km and 50 levels and interpolated to a regular lat-lon grid.

Hence, the full category name for data from an operational forecast run of ICON on a regular grid will be icrgl130l90\_main\_fc\_rout. The initial analysis for this run is in category icogl130l90\_main\_an\_rout.

Since 2014-08-12 12 UTC ICON is running pre-operationally at DWD. Hence, forecast data is available in the sky database **db=parma** in categories **icogl130l90\_main\_fc\_para** and **icrgl130l90\_main\_fc\_para**.

#### 6.2 Retrieving ICON data from SKY

Here we shall give several examples how to retrieve ICON data from SKY. The parameter d specifies the reference or initial date, s is the forecast step, p the parameter, and f the name of the GRIB data file.

• Retrieve the 2m temperature and dew point temperature for forecast hours 3 to 78 every 3 hours of today's run at 00 UTC on the global domain from an ICON run on a R3B07 grid with 90 levels to file icon2mdat

• Retrieve the analysis of T on the native grid from yesterday 18 UTC:

```
read db=parma cat=icogl130190_main_an_para d=t18-1d p=T gptype=0 bin f=t_icon_ana
```

• Retrieve the 6, 12, 18, and 24 hour forecast of the 2m temperature from a forecast run on 2012-06-28 at 00 UTC on the global domain from an ICON run on a R3B07 grid with 90 levels:

```
read db=numex cat=icrg1130190_main_fc_exp1 exp=901 d=2012062800 s[h]=6,12,18,24 p=
t_2m bin f=t_2m_fc.grb
```

• Retrieve wind components U and V at 300 hPa on the regular grid from a 24 hour forecast on 2013-10-03 at 00 UTC. lv=P specifies the level type as pressure levels. lv1=30000 specifies the level in Pa.

```
read db=numex cat=icrg1130190_main_fc_exp1 exp=907 d=2013100300 s[h]=24 p=U,V lv=P lv1=30000 bin f=uvReg300hPa
```

• Retrieve the analysis of U on the native grid:

```
read db=numex cat=icogl130190_main_an_exp1 exp=907 d=2013100300 p=U bin f=u_icon_ana
```

• Retrieve temperature forecasts from 7 to 9 hours on the native grid:

```
read db=numex cat=icogl130l90_main_fc_exp1 exp=907 d=2013100300 s[h]=7/to/9 p=T bin f=T_icon_07-09
```

• Retrieve a 6 hour forecast on a regular grid on pressure levels. ICON was run on a 40 km grid (R2B06). Write reference date (d), forecast step (s), level type (lv), value of first level (lv1), decoding date (dedat), and store date (stdat) in information file icr.info

```
read db=numex cat=icrg1400190_main_fc_exp exp=9323 d=2012010100 step[h]=6 lv=P f=
   icr06p bin info=metaData metaArray=d,s,p,lv,lv1,dedat,stdat sort=d,s,p,lv,lv1
   infof=icr.info
```

• Retrieve temperature in 850 hPa from a forecast on 2013-10-05 at 12 UTC:

## Appendix A

## ICON standard half level heights

ICON standard half level heights  $z^h$  are listed in Table A.1. If full level heights  $z^f$  are required, these can be deduced as follows: Let i denote the full level index for which the height is wanted. Then the full level height  $z_i^f$  is given by

$$z_i^f = 0.5 \left( z_i^h + z_{i+1}^h \right) \tag{A.1}$$

Table A.1: Standard heights (i.e. for zero topography height) for all 91 vertical half levels.

level index	height [m]	level index	height $[m]$	level index	height [m]
1	75000.000	32	21569.375	63	6621.524
2	72363.546	33	20731.107	64	6221.524
3	69842.381	34	19942.837	65	5821.524
4	67357.797	35	19201.585	66	5421.524
5	64946.444	36	18504.545	67	5033.731
6	62606.299	37	17849.081	68	4659.952
7	60335.466	38	17232.713	69	4300.121
8	58132.167	39	16653.108	70	3954.183
9	55976.216	40	16108.074	71	3622.092
10	53877.930	41	15595.549	72	3303.815
11	51824.685	42	15113.594	73	2999.329
12	49826.951	43	14660.386	74	2708.624
13	47890.748	44	14234.210	75	2431.707
14	46014.776	45	13821.524	76	2168.596
15	44197.795	46	13421.524	77	1919.330
16	42438.627	47	13021.524	78	1683.966
17	40736.151	48	12621.524	79	1462.584
18	39089.298	49	12221.524	80	1255.291
19	37497.048	50	11821.524	81	1062.224
20	35958.428	51	11421.524	82	883.557
21	34472.507	52	11021.524	83	719.514
22	33038.397	53	10621.524	84	570.373
23	31655.249	54	10221.524	85	436.493
24	30322.249	55	9821.524	86	318.336
25	29038.622	56	9421.524	87	216.516
26	27803.623	57	9021.524	88	131.880
27	26617.350	58	8621.524	89	65.677
28	25488.963	59	8221.524	90	20.000
29	24416.908	60	7821.524	91	0.000
30	23408.796	61	7421.524		
31	22460.814	62	7021.524		

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