ICON Database
Reference Manual

D. Reinert, F. Prill, H. Frank and G. Zängl

Deutscher Wetterdienst
Research and development (FE13)

Version: 0.4.1

Last changes: July 15, 2014

Offenbach am Main, Germany

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 ω
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

Contents

Chapter 1

Grid geometry

1.1 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 1.1a) which is projected onto a sphere. The spherical icosahedron (Figure 1.1b) 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 1.1c, 1.1d).

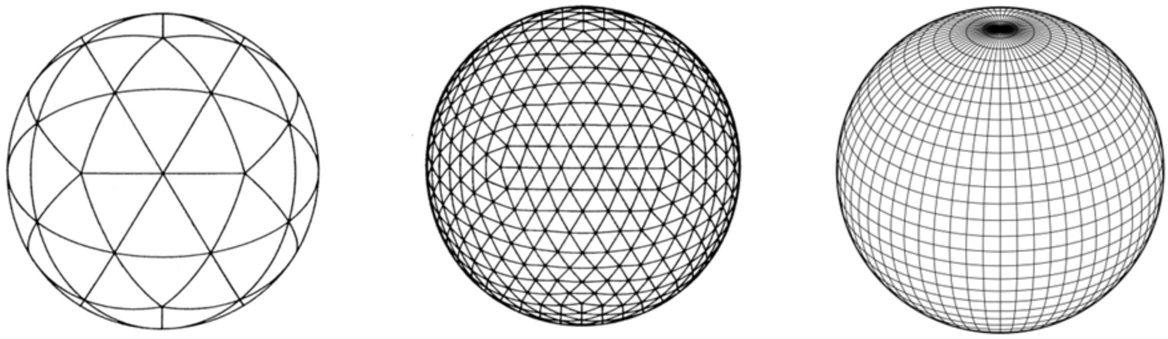
(a) (b)

Figure 1.1: *Icosahedron before (a) and after (b) projection onto a sphere*

(c) (d)

Figure 1.2: *(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 (**R**n) followed by k bisection steps (**B**k), resulting in a **R**n**B**k grid. Figures 1.3a and 1.3b show **R**2**B**00 and **R**2**B**02 ICON grids. Such grids avoid polar singularities of latitude-longitude grids (Figure 1.3c) and allow a high uniformity in resolution over the whole sphere.



(a) (b) (c)

Figure 1.3: *(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 "**R**n**B**k grid" or "**R**n**B**k resolution". For a given resolution **R**n**B**k, the total number of cells, edges, and vertices can be computed from

$$\begin{aligned} n_c &= 20\, n^2\, 4^k \\ n_e &= 30\, n^2\, 4^k \\ n_v &= 10\, n^2\, 4^k + 2 \end{aligned}$$

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 1.1, 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).

Table 1.1: *Characteristics of frequently used ICON grids. ΔA_{max} and ΔA_{min} refer to the maximum and minimum area of the grid cells, respectively.*

Grid	number of cells (n_c)	avg. resolution [km]	ΔA_{max} [km^2]	ΔA_{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

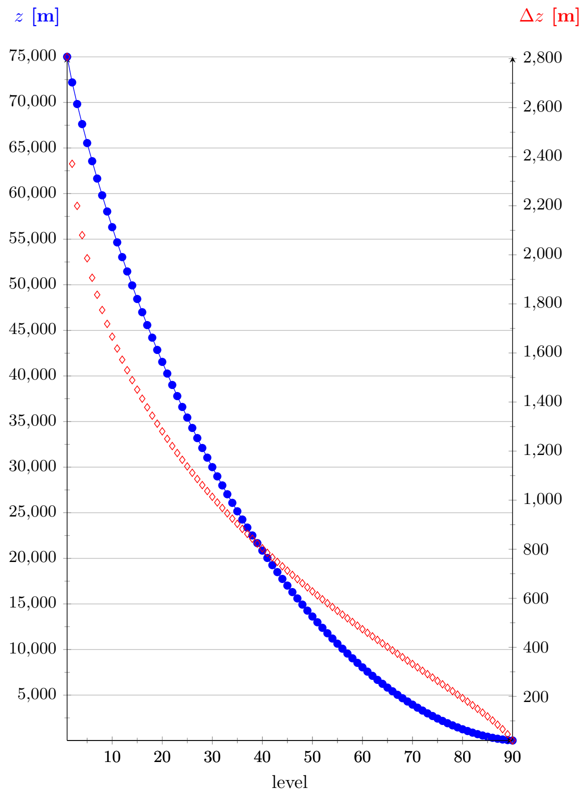
The first operational version of ICON will be based on the R3B07 grid, thus, having a horizontal resolution of about 13 km!

1.1.1 Local grid refinement

1.2 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). The required smooth large-scale contribution of the model topography is generated by digital filtering with a ∇^2-diffusion operator. Figure 1.4 shows the (half) levels of the planned operational ICON setup with 90 vertical levels.



level	[*m*]	[*Pa*]
1	75 000	2.1
6	63 555	12.3
11	54 651	41.8
16	46 991	111.0
21	40 262	267.8
26	34 298	618.7
31	28 988	1 365.4
36	24 255	2 816.9
41	20 040	5 439.7
46	16 298	9 814.6
51	12 991	16 532.5
56	10 091	26 070.0
61	7 573	37 851.2
66	5 421	51 045.6
71	3 622	64 737.1
76	2 168	77 845.2
81	1 062	89 198.3
86	318	97 558.8
90	20	101 085.0

Figure 1.4: *Vertical 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 2

Analysis fields

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

Table 2.1: Available 3h first guess output fields

Type	GRIB shortName
Atmosphere	VN, U, V, W, DEN, THETA_V, T, QV, QC, QI, QR, QS, TKE, P
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) with 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 analyis is read at 00 UTC. In Table 2.2 the available and employed first guess and analysis fields are listed as a function of starting time.

Table 2.2: 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	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
THETA_V	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
DEN	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
W	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
TKE	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
QC, QI, QR, QS	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
QV	3DVar	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
T	3DVar	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
P	3DVar	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
U, V	3DVar	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
Surface									
Z0	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_G	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
QV_S	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_SO(0)	Ana_SST	AN	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_SO(1:nlevsoil)	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
W_SO_ICE	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
W_SO	SMA	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
W_I	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
W_SNOW[1]	Ana_SNOW	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
T_SNOW	Ana_SNOW	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
RHO_SNOW[1]	Ana_SNOW	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
H_SNOW	Ana_SNOW	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
FRESHSNW	Ana_SNOW	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN
Sea ice/Lake									
T_ICE	Ana_SST	AN	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
H_ICE	Ana_SST	AN	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
FR_ICE	Ana_SST	AN	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_MNW_LK	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_WML_LK	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG

Continued on next page

Table 2.2: 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	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_BOT_LK	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
C_T_LK	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
T_B1_LK	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG
H_B1_LK	–	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG	FG

[1]Note that *w_snow* and *ρ_snow* are actually not read from the analysis but from the first guess. *w_snow* and *ρ_snow* do not contain any new/independent information, they are simply re-diagnosed from the analysed field *h_snow*. This diagnosis is performed within the ICON-code based on the first guess fields of *w_snow* and *ρ_snow* and the analyzed field *h_snow*.

Chapter 3

Mandatory input fields

3.1 External parameter

The following external parameter fields are mandatory for the assimilation cycle and forecast runs:

Table 3.1: Mandatory external parameter fields (in alphabetical order)

ShortName	Description	Data source
AER_SS	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_BC	Black carbon aerosol climatology (monthly fields)	GACP
ALB_DIF12	Shortwave ($0.3 - 5.0\,\mu$m) albedo for diffuse radiation (monthly fields)	MODIS
ALB_UV12	UV-visible ($0.3 - 0.7\,\mu$m) albedo for diffuse radiation (monthly fields)	MODIS
ALB_NI12	UV-visible ($0.7 - 5.0\,\mu$m) albedo for diffuse radiation (monthly fields)	MODIS
DEPTH_LAKE	Lake depth	
EMIS_RAD	Surface longwave (thermal) emissivity	GlobCover2009
FOR_D (*)	Fraction of deciduous forest	
FOR_E (*)	Fraction of evergreen forest	
FR_LAKE	Lake fraction (fresh water)	GlobCover2009
FR_LAND	Land fraction (excluding lake fraction but including glacier fraction)	GlobCover2009
FR_LUC	Landuse class fraction	
HSURF	Orography height at cell centres	GLOBE

Continued on next page

Table 3.1: *continued*

HSURF_V	Orography height at cell vertices	GLOBE
LAI_MX	Leaf area index in the vegetation phase	GlobCover2009
NDVI_MAX	Normalized differential vegetation index	SEAWIFS
NDVI_MRAT	proportion of monthly mean NDVI to yearly maximum (monthly fields)	SEAWIFS
PLCOV_MX	Plant covering degree in the vegetation phase	GlobCover2009
ROOTDP	Root depth	GlobCover2009
RSMIN	Minimum stomatal resistance	GlobCover2009
SOILTYP	Soil type	DSMW
SSO_STDH	Standard deviation of sub-grid scale orographic height	GLOBE
SSO_THETA	Principal axis-angle of sub-grid scale orography	GLOBE
SSO_GAMMA	Horizontal anisotropy of sub-grid scale orography	GLOBE
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 climatology
Z0 (*)	Surface roughness length (over land)	GlobCover2009

Note that fields marked with (*) are not required when using the operational setup. I.e. FOR_D and FOR_E are only required *without* tile approach. Similarly, the surface roughness $Z0$ is only needed, if the additional contribution from sub-grid scale orography should be taken into account (i.e. for itype_z0=1). Otherwise, land-use specific roughness lengths are used, which are based on a GlobCover-based lookup table. However, due to technical reasons, all 3 fields must be provided as input, irrespective of the options chosen.

Remarks for post-processing

Some of the external parameter fields provided by ExtPar are modified by ICON. The following fields are affected: *HSURF*, *HSURF_V*, *FR_LAND*, *FR_LAKE*. Thus, for consistency reasons, those modified fields should be used for post-processing tasks rather than the original external parameter fields.

Chapter 4

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 *LevTyp 1/2*.

4.1 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** [$m^2\,s^{-1}$]: Surface Geopotential. Instead, **HSURF** [m] should be used (see Section 4.2).
- **O3** [kg/kg], **TO3** [Dobson]: Ozone mixing ratio and corresponding total ozone concentration. No longer available; no substitution

4.2 New output fields

Table 4.1 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 4.3.

Table 4.1: *Newly available output fields*

ShortName	Unit	Description
W	m/s	vertical velocity in height coordinates $w = \frac{\mathrm{d}z}{\mathrm{d}t}$ (3D field)
DEN	$\mathrm{kg/m^3}$	density of moist air (3D field)
TKE	$\mathrm{m^2/s^2}$	Turbulent kinetic energy (3D field)
DTKE_CON	$\mathrm{m^2/s^3}$	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)
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

4.3 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 $\Delta\lambda = \Delta\Phi = 0.25°$. 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 rule in the leftmost column always indicates, whether the field is only available on the native grid ( ), on the lat-lon grid( ), or on both grids( ).

4.3.1 Time-constant (external parameter) fields

Table 4.2: *Time-constant fields (Date D=000000)*

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

4.3.2 Multi-level fields on native hybrid vertical levels

Table 4.3: *Hybrid multi-level forecast ($VV > 0$) and initialised analysis ($VV = 0$) products*

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

4.3.3 Multi-level fields interpolated to pressure levels

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

[2]for the time being, erroneously encoded as mixing ratios instead of specific quantities

Table 4.4: *Multi-level forecast ($VV > 0$) and initialised analysis ($VV = 0$) products interpolated to pressure levels*

ShortName	Description	Discipline	Category	Number	Lev-Typ 1/2	stepType	Unit
FI	Geopotential	0	3	4	100/–	inst	$m^2 s^{-2}$
OMEGA	Vertical velocity in pressure coordinates ($\omega = dp/dt$)	0	2	8	100/–	inst	$Pa\,s^{-1}$
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	$m\,s^{-1}$
V	Meridional wind	0	2	3	100/–	inst	$m\,s^{-1}$
W	Vertical wind	0	2	9	100/–	inst	$m\,s^{-1}$

4.3.4 Single-level fields

Table 4.5: Single-level forecast ($VV > 0$) and initialised analysis ($VV = 0$) products

ShortName	Description	Discipline	Category	Number	Lev-Typ 1/2	stepType	Unit
PS	Surface pressure (not reduced)	0	3	1	1/–	inst	Pa
T_SNOW	Temperature of the snow surface	0	0	18	1/–	inst	K
T_G	Ground temperature (temperature at sfc-atm interface)	0	0	0	1/–	inst	K
QV_S	Surface specific humidity	0	1	0	1/–	inst	$kg\,kg^{-1}$
W_SNOW	Snow depth water equivalent	0	1	60	1/–	inst	$kg\,m^{-2}$
W_I	Plant canopy surface water	2	0	13	1/–	inst	$kg\,m^{-2}$
TCM	Turbulent transfer coefficient for momentum (surface)	0	2	29	1/–	inst	1
TCH	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)	0	4	9	1/–	avg	$W\,m^{-2}$

Continued on next page

Table 4.5: *continued*

ATHB_S	Net long-wave radiation flux at surface (average since model start)	0	5	5	1/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
APAB_S	Photosynthetically active radiation flux at surface (average since model start)	0	4	10	1/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ASOB_T	Net short-wave radiation flux at TOA (average since model start)	0	4	9	8/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ATHB_T	Net long-wave radiation flux at TOA (average since model start)	0	5	5	8/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ASWDIR_S	Surface down solar direct radiation (average since model start)[2]	0	4	198	1/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ASWDIFD_S	Surface down solar diffuse radiation (average since model start)[2]	0	4	199	1/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ASWDIFU_S	Surface up solar diffuse radiation (average since model start)[2]	0	4	8	1/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ALB_RAD	Surface albedo for visible range, diffuse	0	19	1	1/–	inst	%
RAIN_GSP	Large scale rain (accumulated since model start)	0	1	77	1/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
SNOW_GSP	Large snowfall water equivalent (accumulated since model start)	0	1	56	1/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
RAIN_CON	Convective rain (accumulated since model start)	0	1	76	1/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
SNOW_CON	Convective snowfall water equivalent (accumulated since model start)	0	1	55	1/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
TOT_PREC	Total precipitation (accumulated since model start)	0	1	52	1/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
RUNOFF_S	Surface water runoff (accumulated since model start)	2	0	5	106/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
RUNOFF_G	Soil water runoff (accumulated since model start)	2	0	5	106/–	accu	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
U_10M	Zonal wind at 10m above ground	0	2	2	103/–	inst	$\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$
V_10M	Meridional wind at 10m above ground	0	2	3	103/–	inst	$\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$
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 4.5: *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 m above ground	0	2	22	103/–	max	$\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$
Z0	Surface roughness (above land and water)	2	0	1	1/–	inst	m
CLCT	Total cloud cover	0	6	1	1/–	inst	%
CLCH	High level clouds	0	6	22	100/100	inst	%
CLCM	Mid level clouds	0	6	22	100/100	inst	%
CLCL	Low level clouds	0	6	22	100/1	inst	%
TQV	Total column integrated water vapour	0	1	64	1/–	inst	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
TQC	Total column integrated cloud water	0	1	69	1/–	inst	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
TQI	Total column integrated cloud ice	0	1	70	1/–	inst	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
TQR	Total column integrated rain	0	1	45	1/–	inst	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
TQS	Total column integrated snow	0	1	46	1/–	inst	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-2}}$
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	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
ALHFL_S	Latent heat net flux at surface (average since model start)	0	0	10	1/–	avg	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}}$
FR_ICE	Sea ice cover (possible range: $[0,1]$)	10	2	0	1/–	inst	1

Continued on next page

Table 4.5: *continued*

T_ICE	Sea ice temperature (at ice-atm interface)	10	2	8	1/–	inst	K
H_ICE	Sea ice thickness (Max: 3 m)	10	2	1	1/–	inst	m
FRESHSNW	Fresh snow factor (weighting function for albedo indicating freshness of snow)	0	1	203	1/–	inst	1
RHO_SNOW	Snow density	0	1	61	1/–	inst	$\mathrm{kg\,m^{-3}}$
H_SNOW	Snow depth	0	1	11	1/–	inst	m
PLCOV	Plant cover	2	0	4	1/–	inst	%
LAI	Leaf area index	2	0	28	1/–	inst	1
NDVIRATIO	ratio of current NDVI (normalized differential vegetation index) to annual max	2	0	192	1/–	inst	1
WW	Weather interpretation (WMO)	0	19	25	1/–	inst	1

Table 4.6: Multi-level forecast ($VV > 0$) and initialised analysis ($VV = 0$) products of the soil model

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

Soil temperature is defined at the soil depths given in Table 4.7 (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 levels 1 to 7. At the lowermost level (1458 cm) the temperature is fixed to the climatological average 2 m-temperature.

Soil moisture `W_SO` is prognosed for layers 1 to 6. In the two lowermost layers `W_SO` is time constant.

[2]Planned, but not yet available

Table 4.7: *Soil model: vertical distribution of levels and layers*

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

4.3.5 Surface fields interpolated to msl

Table 4.8: *Forecast ($VV > 0$) and initialised analysis ($VV = 0$) products interpolated to msl*

ShortName	Description	Discipline	Category	Number	Lev-Typ 1/2	stepType	Unit
PMSL	Surface pressure reduced to msl	0	3	1	101/–	inst	Pa

4.4 Extended description of available output fields

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

4.4.1 Cloud products

HBAS_CON Height of the convective cloud base in m above msl. HBAS_CON is initialized with −500 m at points where no convection is diagnosed.

HTOP_CON Same, but for cloud top.

4.4.2 Near surface products

TMIN_2M 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. 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`.

> **Note:** Fields for which the beginning of the time interval differs from `referenceTime` are currently encoded incorrectly. The begining of the time interval is erroneously set to `referenceTime`. I.e. this is currently the case for `TMAX_2M`, `TMIN_2M`, `VMAX_10M`.

Chapter 5

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` → `Datenmanagement (technisch)` → `Management der DWD Fachdaten -Dokumentation` → `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.

5.1 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. icreu650l50 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**.

5.2 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 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=icrgl130l90_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:

  read db=numex cat=icrgl130l90_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=icogl130l90_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=icrgl400l90_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:

  read db=numex cat=icrgl400l90_main_fc_exp1 exp=906 d=2013100512 p=T lv1=85000 lv=P bin f=t850_iconr

Bibliography

Leuenberger, D., M. Koller, and C. Schär, 2010: A generalization of the sleve vertical coordinate. *Mon. Wea. Rev.*, **138**, 3683–3689.

Wan, H., M. A. Giorgetta, G. Zängl, M. Restelli, D. Majewski, L. Bonaventura, K. Fröhlich, D. Reinert, P. Ripodas, L. Kornblueh, and J. Förstner, 2013: The ICON-1.2 hydrostatic atmospheric dynamical core on triangular grids – Part 1: Formulation and performance of the baseline version. *Geosci. Model Dev.*, **6**, 735–763.