Metview's new Python interface – first results and roadmap for further developments

EGOWS 2018, ECMWF

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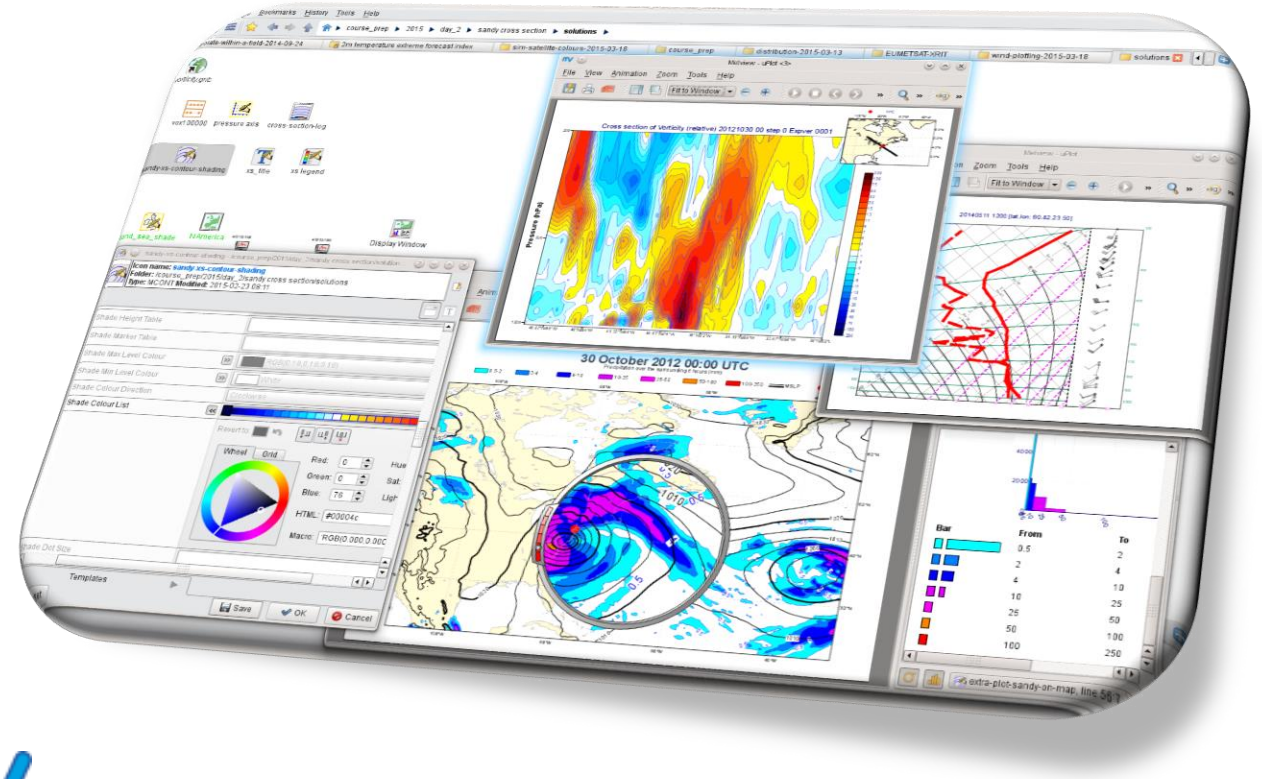
Thanks to

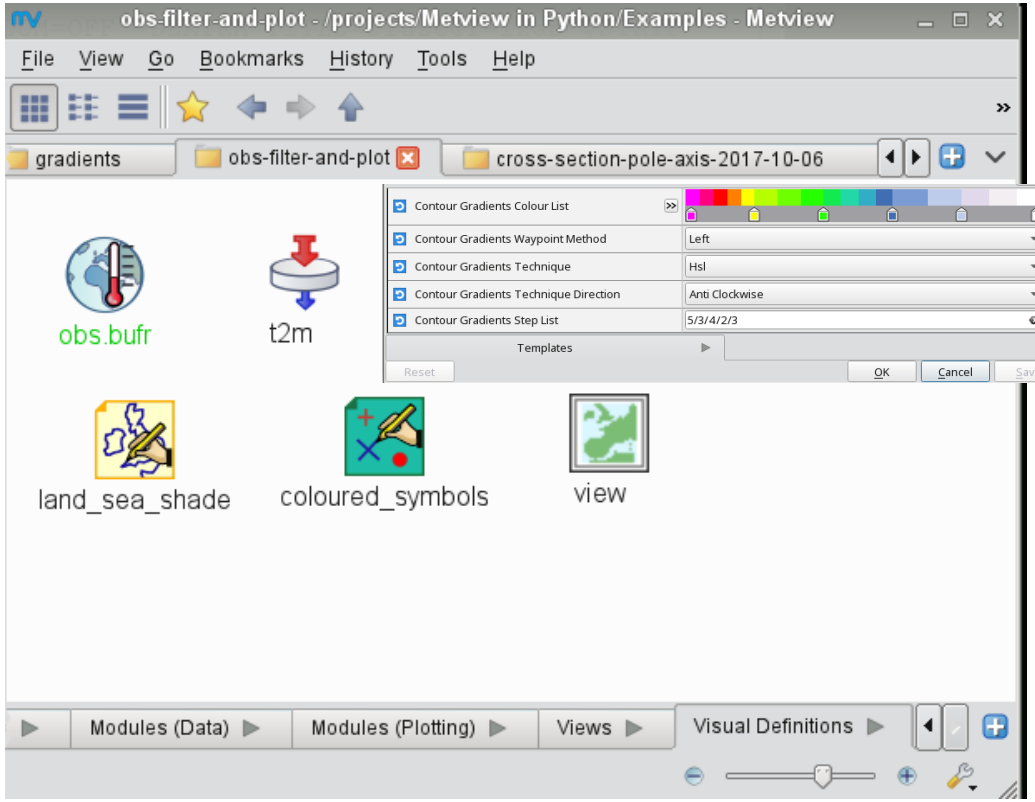
Sándor Kertész

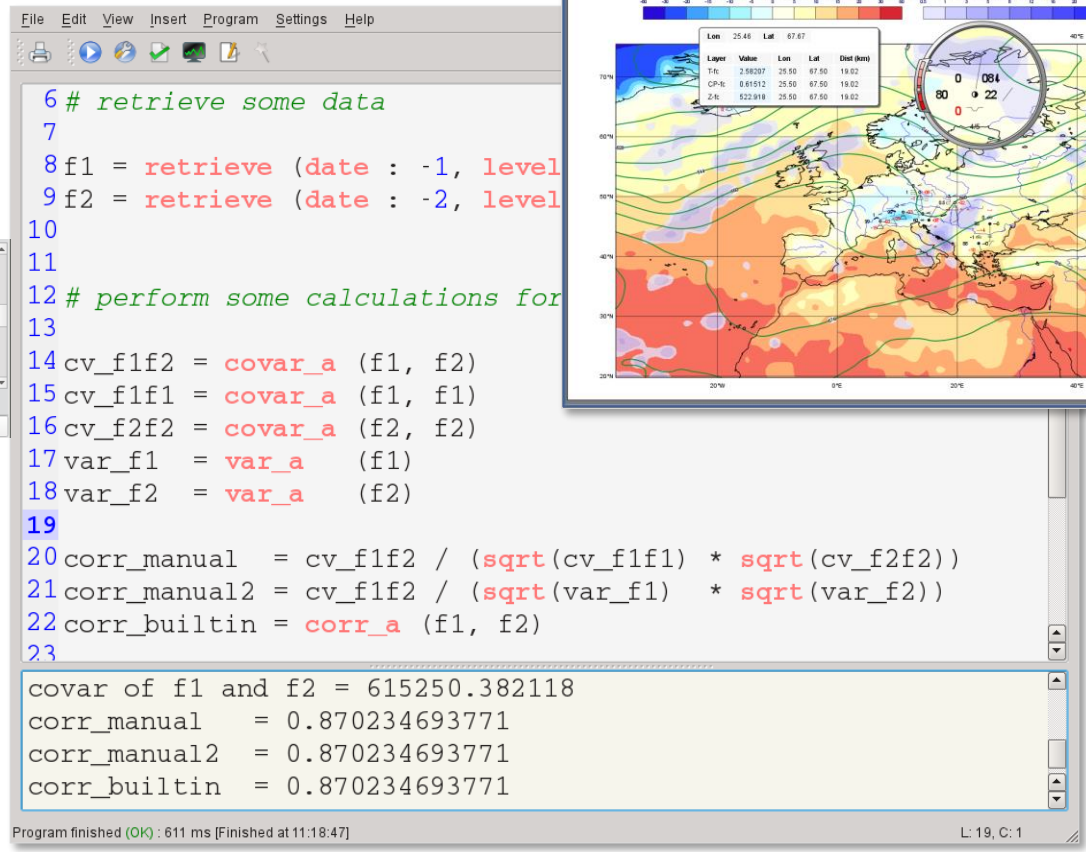
Fernando Ii

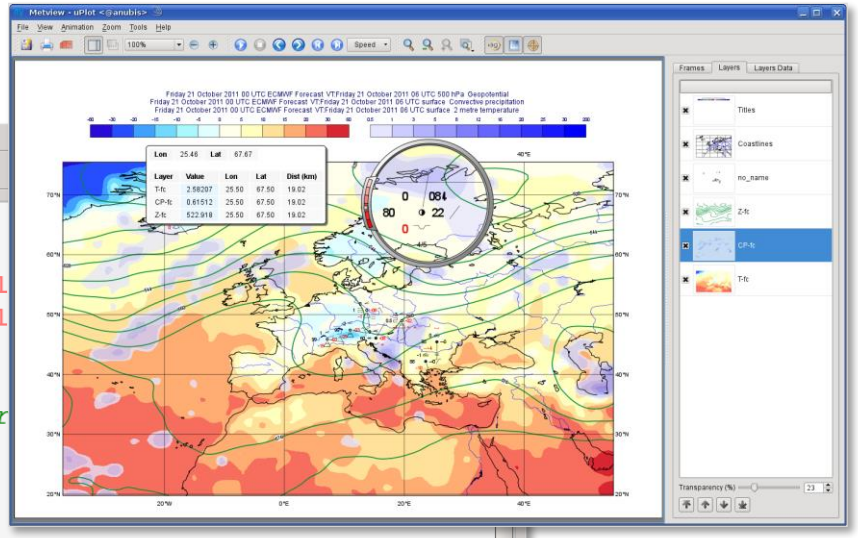
Stephan Siemen



What is Metview?







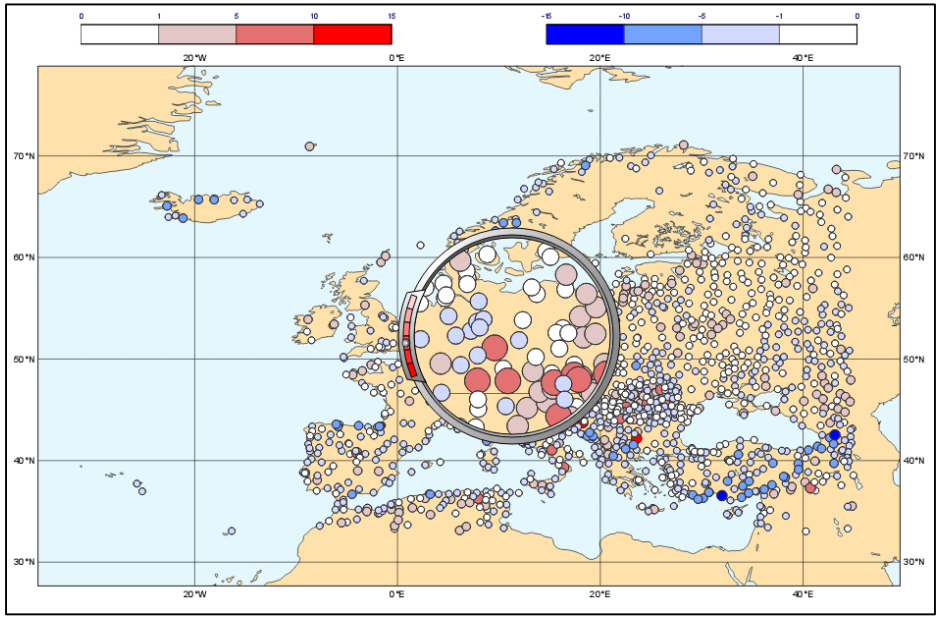
- UNIX, Open Source under Apache Licence 2.0
- Metview is a co-operation project with INPE (Brazil)

High-level data processing with Metview Macro

- We already have the Macro language…

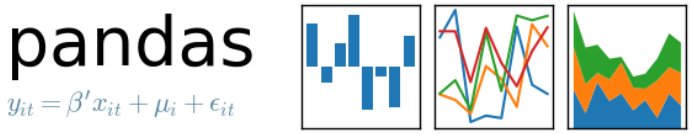
Forecast – observation difference:

```
forecast = retrieve (…) # GRIB from MARS
obs      = retrieve (…) # BUFR from MARS
t2m_obs  = obsfilter(data:      obs,
                     parameter: 012004,
                     output:    'geopoints')
plot(forecast – t2m_obs)
```



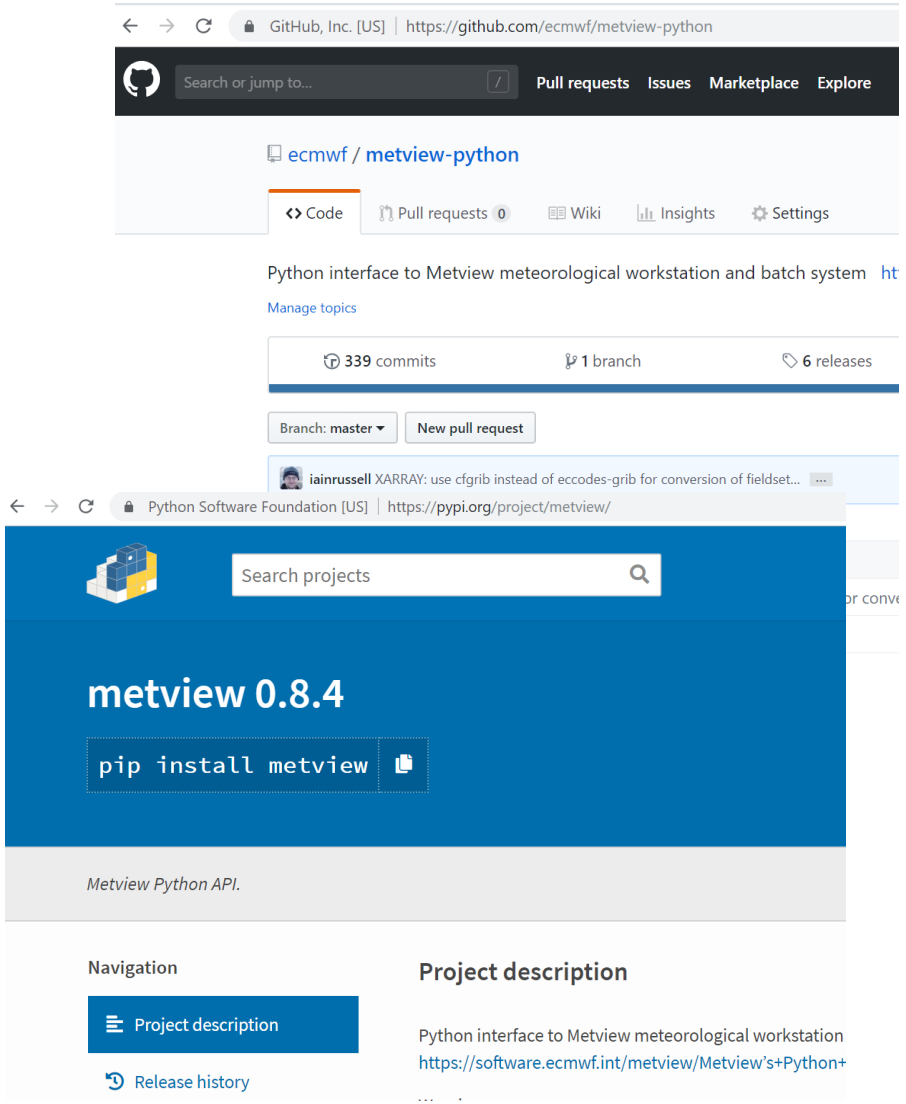
Why create a Python interface to Metview?

- Metview's Macro language is great; Python has even more language features
- Not everyone knows Metview Macro!
  - Less learning curve for people who already know Python
  - Better for community-building
  - Learning Python is a good investment in general!
- Enable Metview to work seamlessly within the Python eco-system
  - Bring Metview's data processing and interactive data inspection tools into Python sessions ; interact with Python data structures
  - Use existing solutions where possible (e.g. for multi-dimensional data arrays, data models)
- Enable Metview to be a component of the Copernicus Climate Data Store Toolbox



Current Status

- Alpha release (developed with B-Open)
  - Beta release just around the corner
- Available on github and PyPi
  - https://github.com/ecmwf/metview-python
  - `pip install metview`
- Python layer only – this still requires the Metview binaries to be installed too



Macro / Python comparison

Macro

xsdiffabs.mv - /home/graphics/cgi/metview/projects/Metview in Python/Ex

File Edit View Insert Program Settings Help

```
# Metview Macro

t_fc24 = read('t_fc24.grib')
t_fc96 = read('t_fc96.grib')

diff = abs(t_fc96 - t_fc24)

pos = mcont(
    legend                          : 'on',
    contour_level_selection_type    : 'level_list',
    contour_shade                   : 'on',
    contour_shade_method            : 'area_fill',
    contour_shade_colour_direction  : 'clockwise',
    contour_max_level               : 10,
    contour_min_level               : 0.5,
    contour_level_list              : [0.5,1,2,4,10],
    contour_shade_max_level_colour  : 'red',
    contour_shade_min_level_colour  : 'orange_yellow')

xs_europe = mxsectview(line : [55,-6,43,16])

plot(xs_europe,diff,pos)
```

Python

xsdiffabs.py - /home/graphics/cgi/metview/projects/Metview in Python/Examples

File Edit View Insert Program Settings Help

```
import metview as mv

t_fc24 = mv.read('t_fc24.grib')
t_fc96 = mv.read('t_fc96.grib')

absdiff = mv.abs(t_fc96 - t_fc24)

pos = mv.mcont(
    legend                          = 'on',
    contour_level_selection_type    = 'level_list',
    contour_shade                   = 'on',
    contour_shade_method            = 'area_fill',
    contour_shade_colour_direction  = 'clockwise',
    contour_max_level               = 10,
    contour_min_level               = 0.5,
    contour_level_list              = [0.5,1,2,4,10],
    contour_shade_max_level_colour  = 'red',
    contour_shade_min_level_colour  = 'orange_yellow')

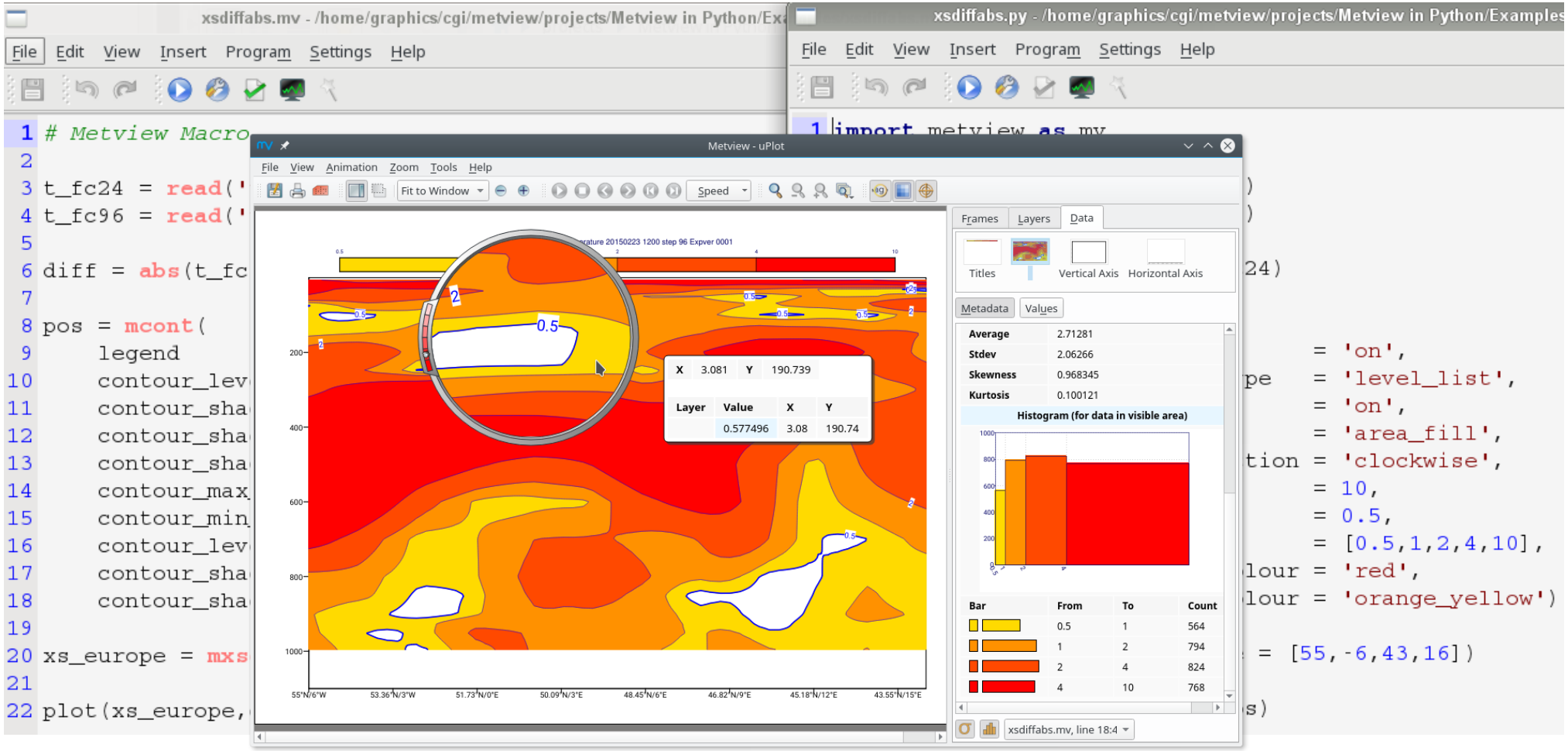
xs_europe = mv.mxsectview(line = [55,-6,43,16])

mv.plot(xs_europe, absdiff, pos)
```

Macro / Python comparison

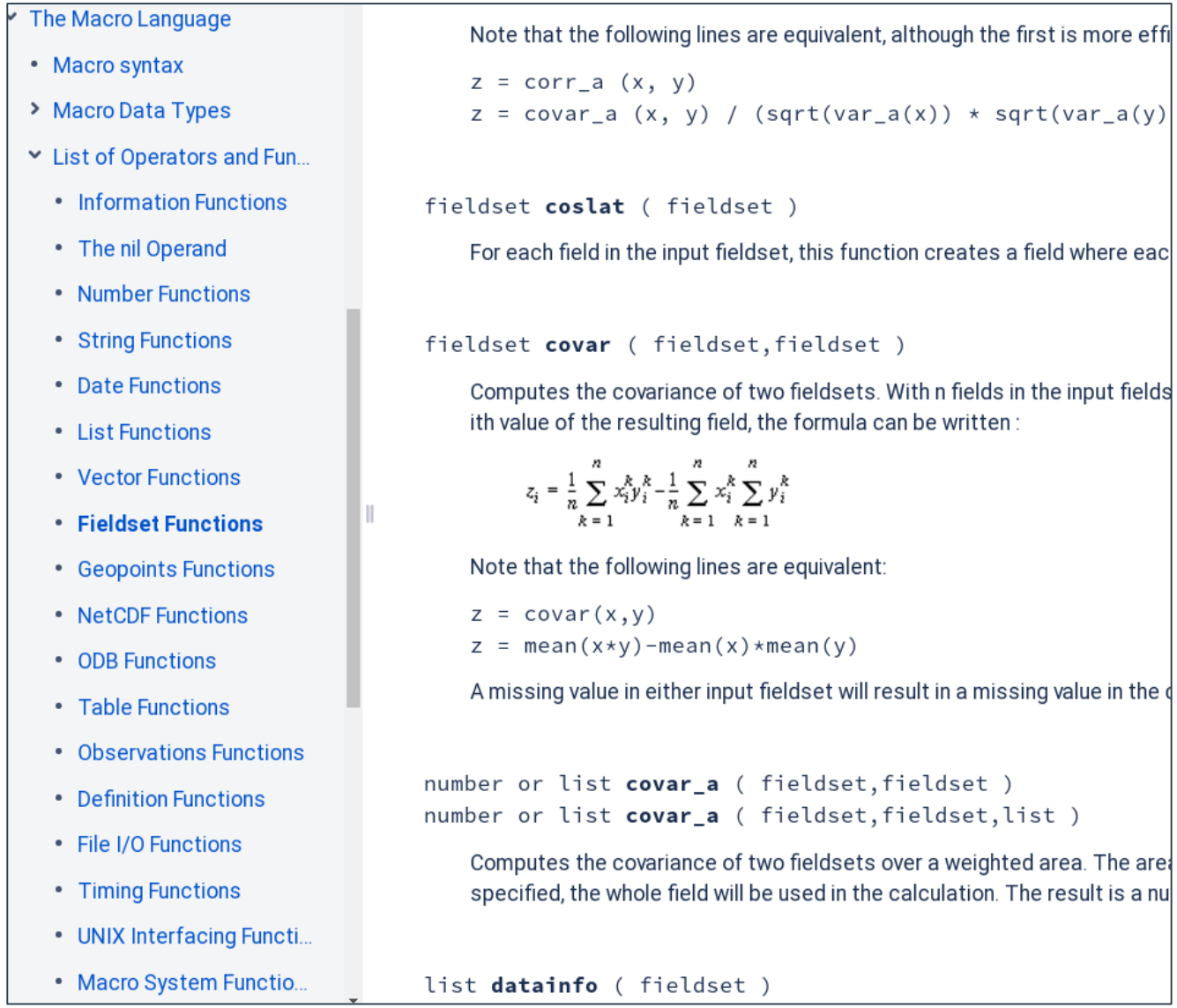
Macro

Python



Data types (1)

- All Metview Macro functions can be called from Python, e.g. mv.covar(f1, f2)
- Data types returned are either standard Python types (numbers, lists, strings, datetimes), numpy arrays
- Or… thin class wrappers around more complex objects such as fieldsets, geopoints or ODB
  - Allows **a+b** on Fieldsets, etc
  - Allows thin object-oriented layer, e.g.
  - ```
    data = mv.read('file.grib')
    av = mv.integrate(data)# equivalent
    av = data.integrate()  # equivalent
    ```


    ```

Data types (2)

- Can also export Metview Geopoints (and BUFR via the filter), ODB and Table data types to **pandas** Dataframes (table-like format, common in scientific data processing)

- Example: load a geopoints file with forecast-obs differences (generated earlier), convert to Pandas Dataframe and plot a histogram of the values

jupyter **fc-obs difference** Last Checkpoint: 11 minutes ago (unsaved changes)

File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Widgets Help

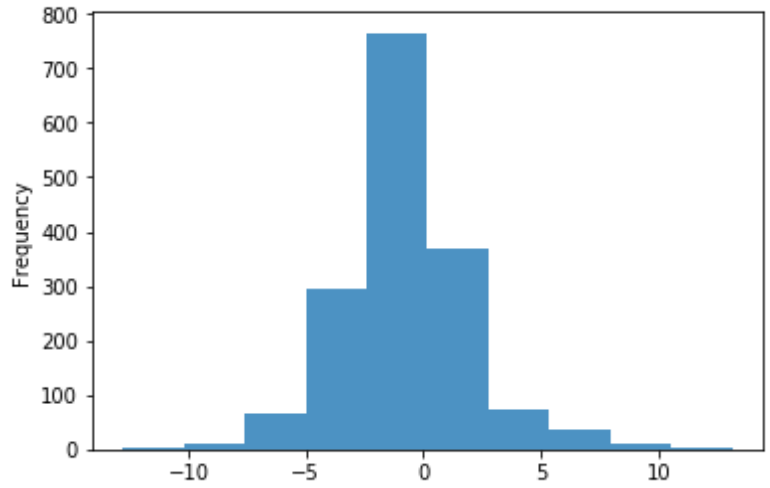
Code CellToolbar

```
In [1]: import metview as mv
        import pandas as pd
        import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
        %matplotlib inline

In [2]: diffs = mv.read('fc_obs_diff.gpt')
        df = diffs.to_dataframe()

In [3]: plt.figure();
        df['value'].plot.hist(alpha=0.8)

Out[3]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7fb939b824a8>
```



Data types (3)

- Example: tropical cyclone track encoded in BUFR
  - Run a filter to produce a Table (CSV)
  - Convert to pandas dataframe

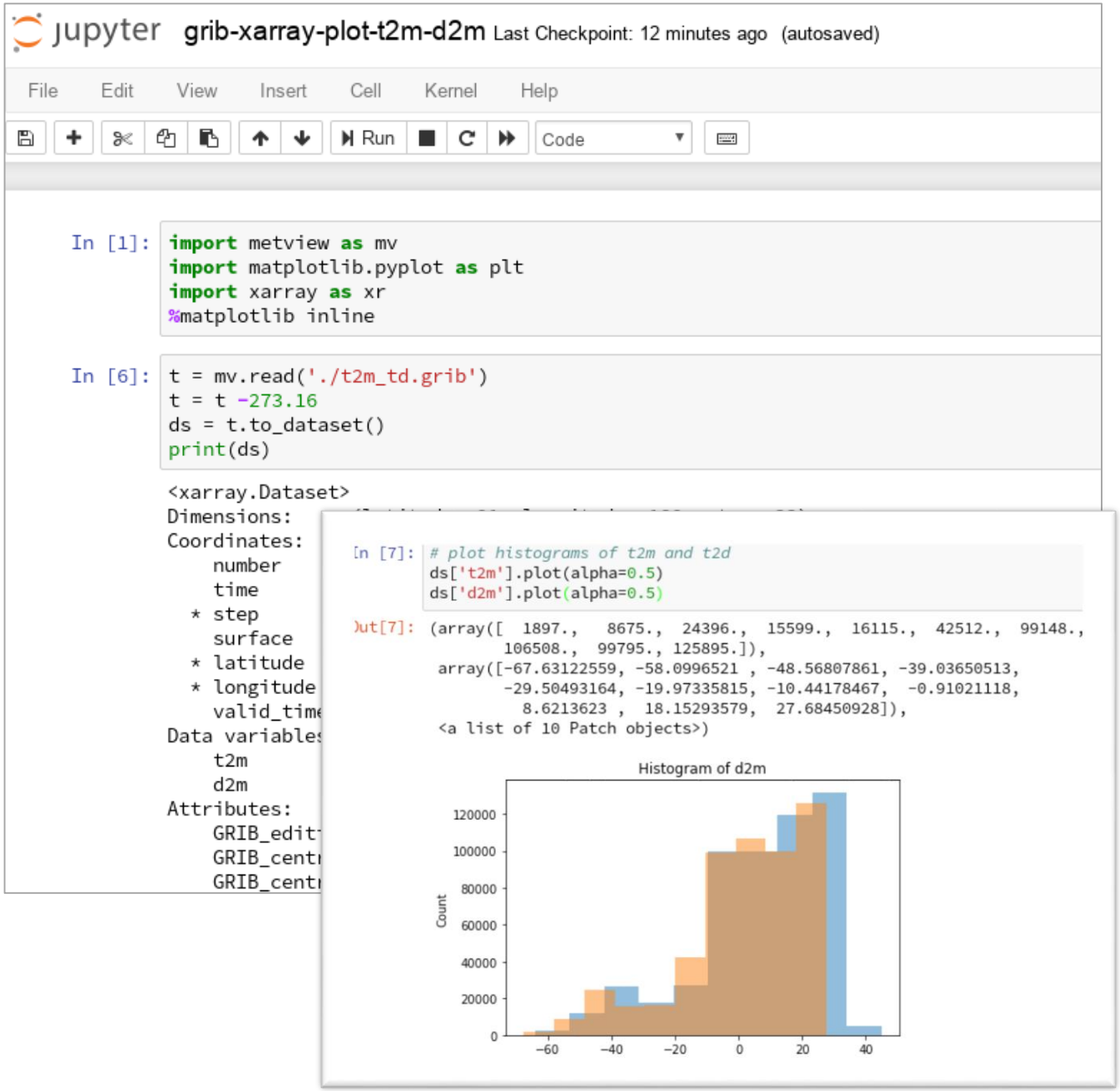
```python
import metview as mv
import pandas as pd

f = mv.read("tropical_cyclone.bufr")

res = mv.bufr_filter(
    data = f,
    output = "CSV",
    message_index = 1,
    custom_condition_count = 1,
    custom_key_1 = "ensembleMemberNumber",
    custom_value_1 = 2,
    parameter_count = 1,
    parameter_1 = "pressureReducedToMeanSeaLevel",
    extract_mode = "all"
)

df=res.to_dataframe()
print(df)
```

	date	latitude	level	longitude	value
0	2015-11-18	5.4	0.0	156.9	100000.0
1	2015-11-18	6.3	0.0	155.8	100000.0
2	2015-11-18	6.8	0.0	154.6	100300.0
3	2015-11-18	7.7	0.0	153.8	100100.0
4	2015-11-18	8.2	0.0	152.1	100300.0
5	2015-11-18	8.8	0.0	151.3	100000.0
6	2015-11-18	9.4	0.0	150.7	100300.0
7	2015-11-18	9.9	0.0	149.9	100100.0
8	2015-11-18	10.2	0.0	148.7	100300.0

Program finished (OK) : 567 ms [Finished at 13:22:45]

Data types (4)

- Can also export Metview Fieldsets to **xarray** Datasets (N-dimensional array (data cube) based on Pandas)
  - Provides data in the Common Data Model used by netCDF and the CDS
- Uses the **cfgrib** package developed by B-Open, available on github and PyPi:
- *"Python interface to map GRIB files to the NetCDF Common Data Model following the CF Conventions."*
- This has an xarray GRIB driver, which is in the process of being integrated into the main xarray package



Ways to run a Metview Python script (1)

- This is a standard Python package, so it can be run the same way as any other package, for example…
- Create a script in a text editor and run from the command line

fc-obs-diffs.py - /home/graphics/cgi/metview/projects/Metview in Python/Examples/

File Edit Search Preferences Shell Macro Windows Help

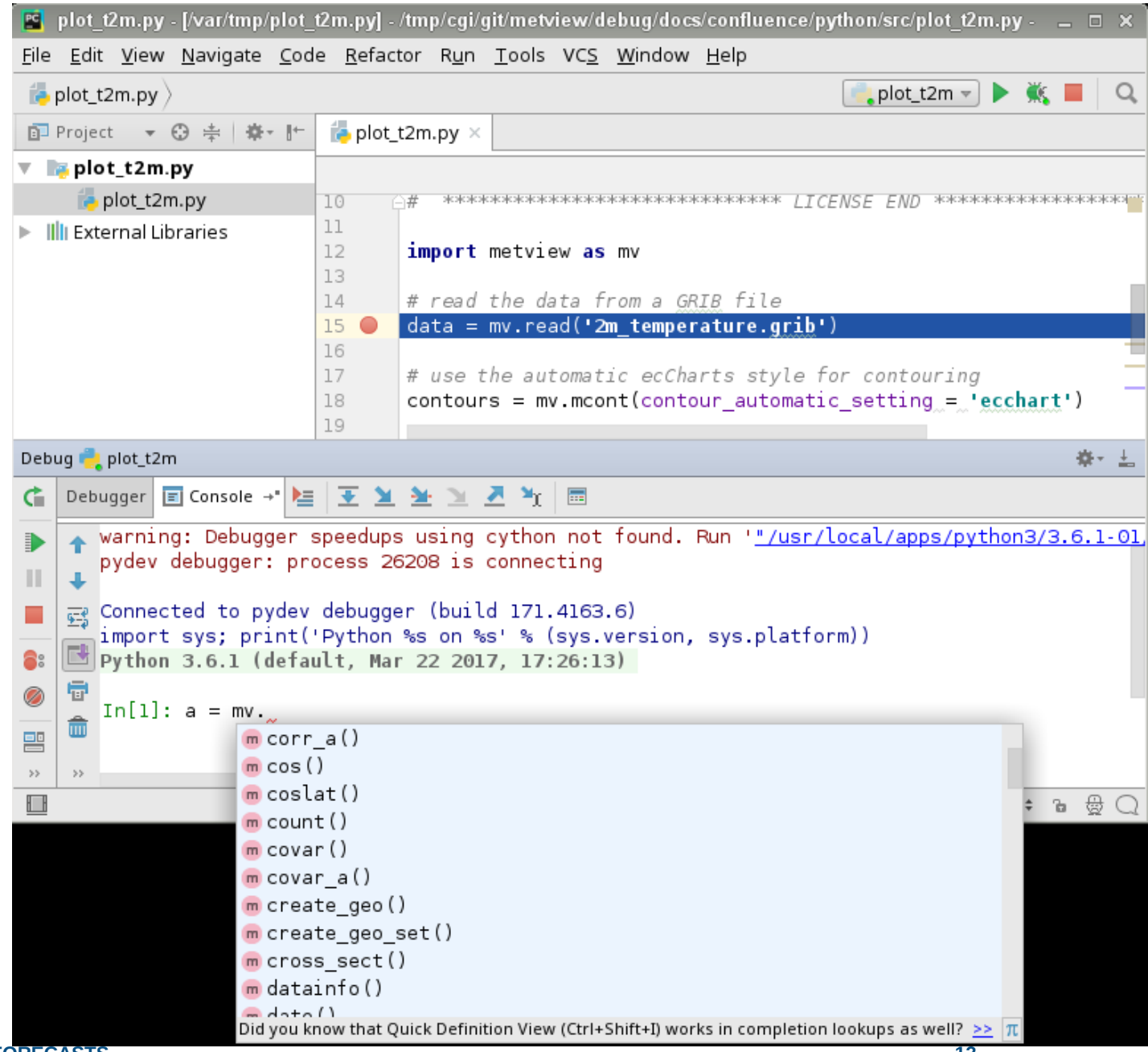
/home/graphics/cgi/metview/projects/Metview in Python/Examples/fc-obs-diffs.py 402 bytes L: 16 C: 15

```
import metview as mv
import numpy as np
from scipy import stats

t2m_grib = mv.read('t2m.grib')
obs_3day = mv.read('obs_3day.bufr')

t2m_gpt = mv.obsfilter (
    parameter = '012004',
    output    = 'geopoints',
    data      = obs_3day)

diff = t2m_grib - t2m_gpt

df = diff.to_dataframe()
print(df.tail())

outliers = np.abs(stats.zscore(df['value'])) > 1.5

print('num outliers: ', outliers.sum())
```

```
cgi@ecgb11:~/metview/projects/Metview in Python/Examples> python3 fc-obs-diffs.py
                  date  latitude  level  longitude     value
40 2017-04-25 12:00:00     52.70    0.0      -8.92 -0.848060
41 2017-04-25 12:00:00     53.30    0.0      -6.43 -0.866089
42 2017-04-25 12:00:00     53.43    0.0      -6.25 -0.451750
43 2017-04-25 12:00:00     53.90    0.0      -8.82  1.296706
44 2017-04-25 12:00:00     59.53    0.0      -1.63  1.752514
num outliers:  7
```

Ways to run a Metview Python script (2)

- From a Python IDE, e.g. PyCharm – can provide code completion and debugging facilities



Ways to run a Metview Python script (3)

- Jupyter notebook
- Runs in a web browser
- Provides interactive environment combining code, documentation and plots
- A way of sharing and reproducing work
- The concept can be expanded using JupyterLab and JupyterHub

jupyter Untitled Last Checkpoint: an hour ago (unsaved changes) Logout

File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Widgets Help Python 3

Code CellToolbar

In [2]:
```
import metview as mv
```

In [29]:
```
t = mv.read('2m_temperature.grib')

print(mv.datainfo(t))
```

```
[{'in                                                                    0', 'proportion_present': '1', 'proportion_missing': '0'}]
```

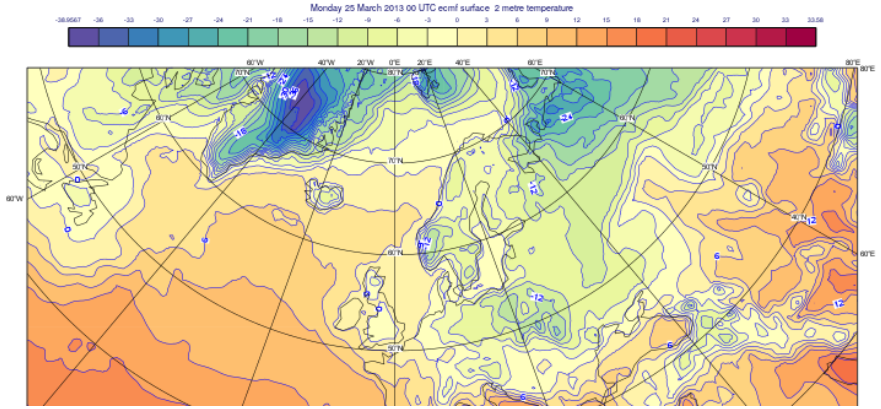
mv.cross_sect
mv.datainfo
mv.date
mv.dates
mv.day
mv.db_info
mv.definition
mv.describe
mv.det
mv.dictionary

In [30]:
```
pal =
    l
    c
    c
    c
    c
    c                                                                    d_25")

polar = mv.geoview(
    map_projection      = "polar_stereographic",
    map_area_definition = "corners",
    area                = [19.62,-31.44,39.66,80.1])
```

To view your plot in a Jupytet notebook, call "mv.setoutput('jupyter')" at some point before plotting

In [31]:
```
mv.setoutput('jupyter')
mv.plot(polar, t, pal)
```

Out[31]:



Ways to run a Metview Python script (4)

- Jupyter notebooks also offer some interactive tools that can be used in conjunction with Metview
- The highlighted code is Metview, the rest is boilerplate code for interactive plots in notebooks

jupyter Vertical profile Last Checkpoint: 11/24/2017 (autosaved)

File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Widgets Help

Code CellToolbar

In [6]:
```
import metview as mv
from ipywidgets import interact, interactive, FloatSlider, IntSlider
from IPython.display import display
```

In [8]:
```
t_fc24 = mv.read('t_fc24.grib')
mv.setoutput('jupyter')
```

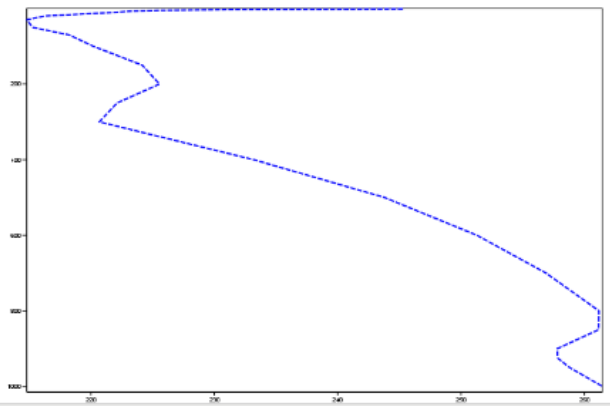
In [3]:
```
def plot_vprof_at_point(lat, lon):
    vprofview = mv.mvertprofview(point = [lat,lon])
    g = mv.mgraph(graph_line_thickness = 4, graph_line_style = 'dash')
    print('Vertical profile at point: lat=', lat, ' lon=', lon)
    im = mv.plot(vprofview, t_fc24, g)
    display(im)
    return im
```

In [12]:
```
interactive_plot = interactive(plot_vprof_at_point, lon=FloatSlider(min=-180, max=180,
output = interactive_plot.children[-1]
output.layout.height = '600px'
output.layout.width = '600px'
display(interactive_plot)
```

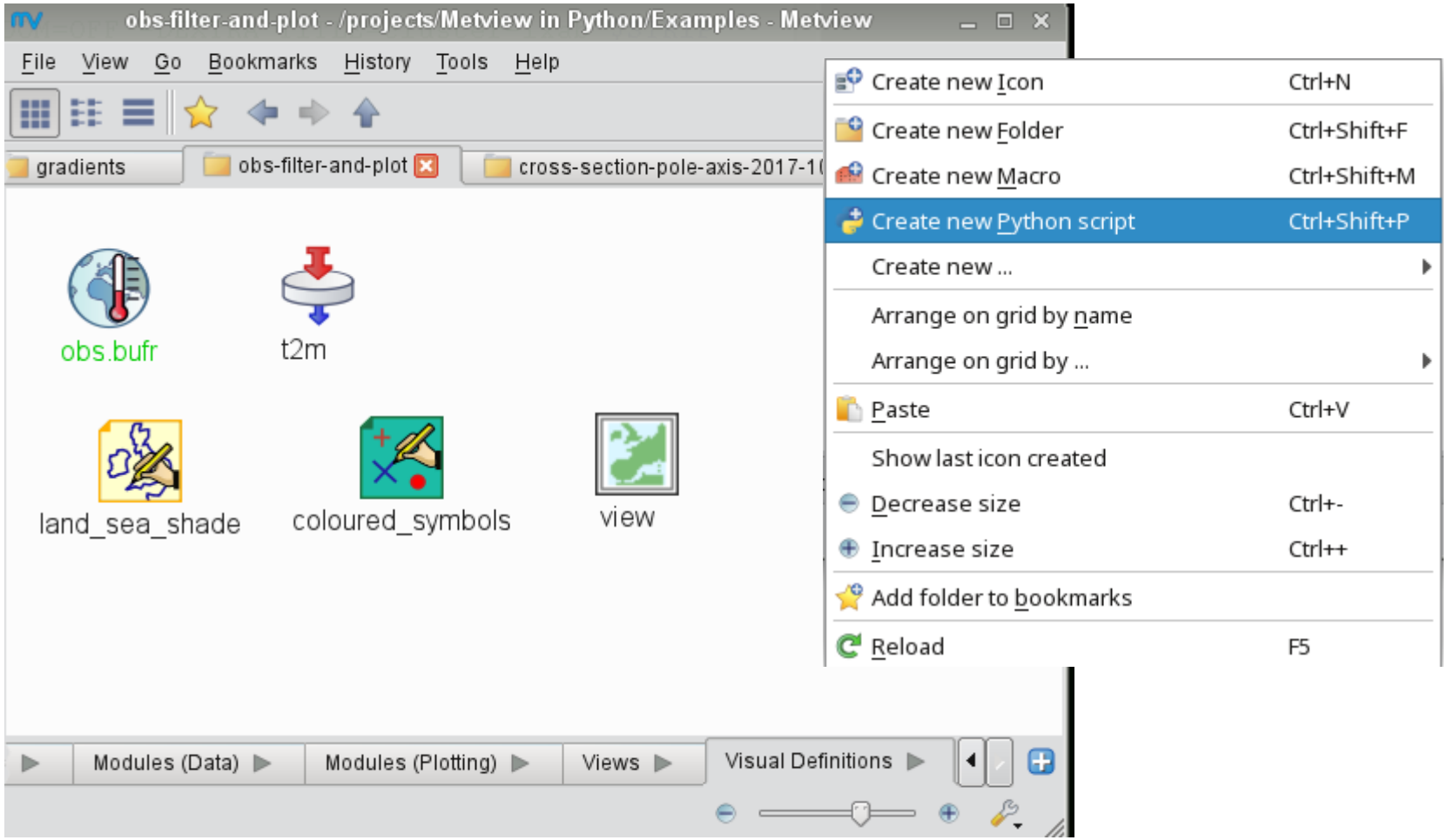
lat 43.70

lon -84.90

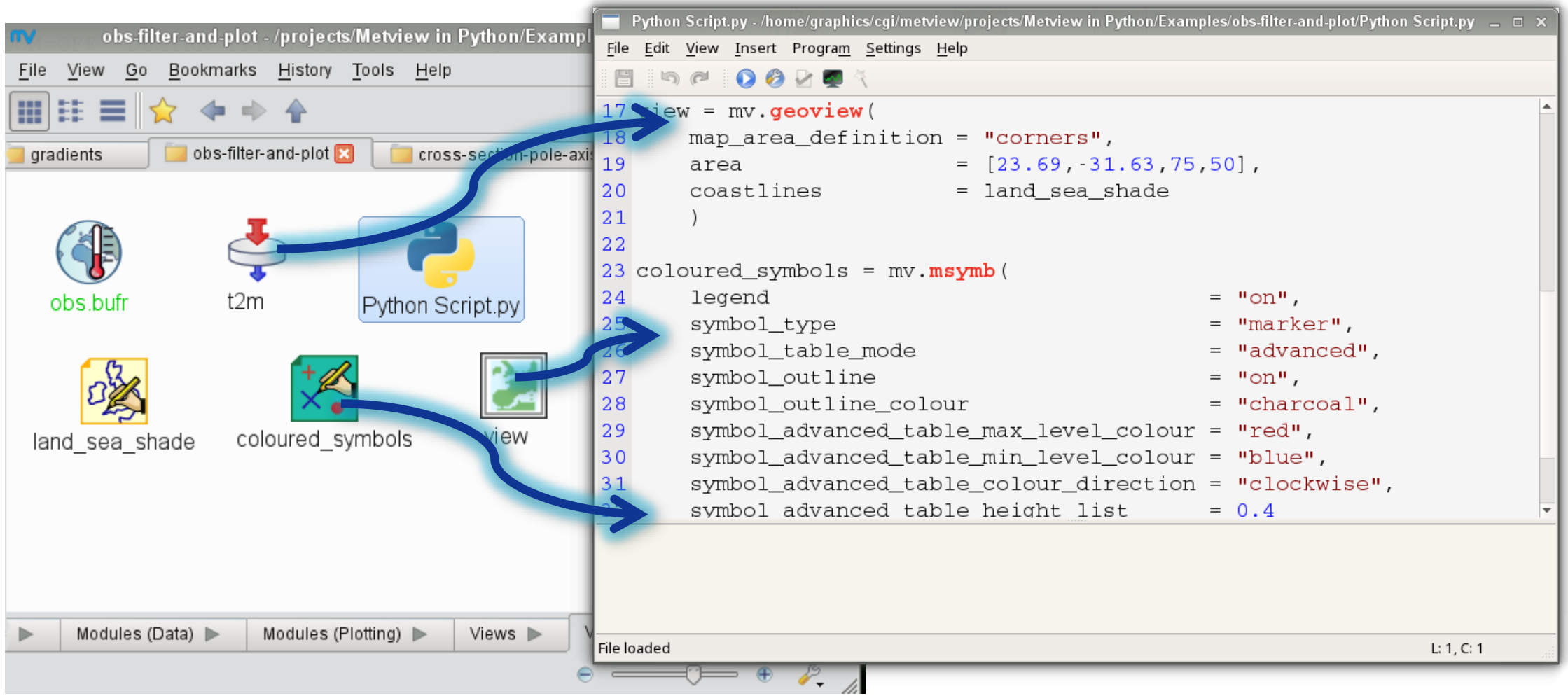
Vertical profile at point: lat= 43.7 lon= -84.9



Ways to run a Metview Python script (5)



Ways to run a Metview Python script (5)



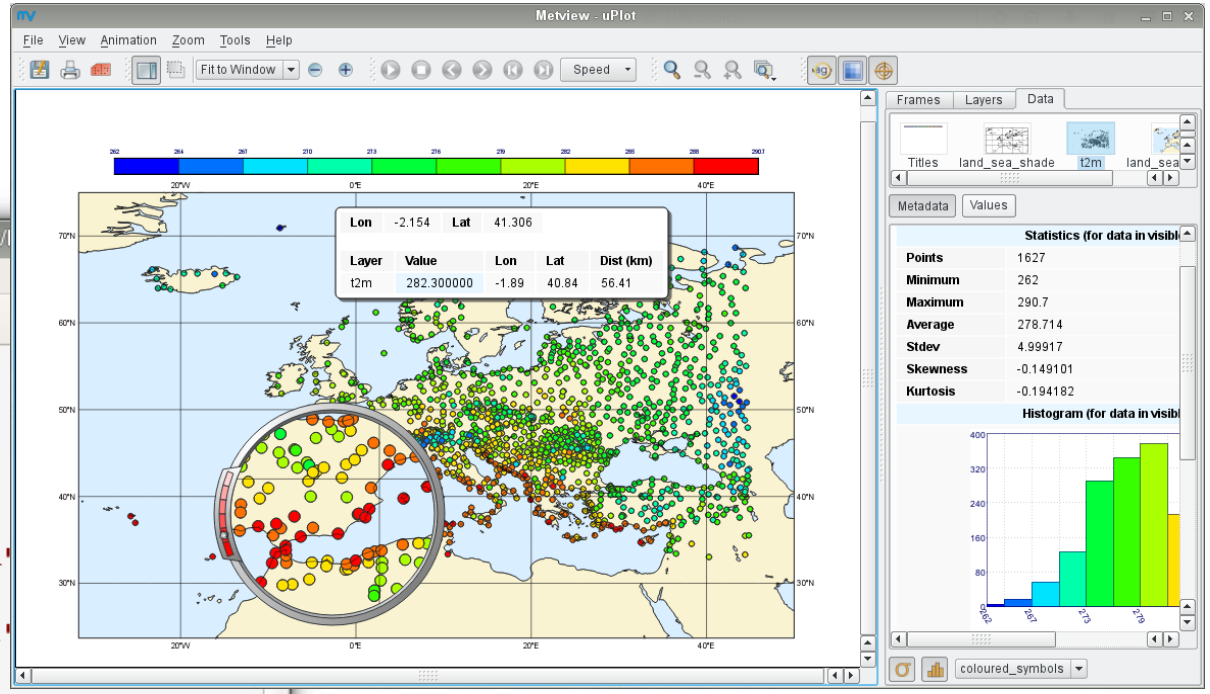
Ways to run a Metview Python script (5)

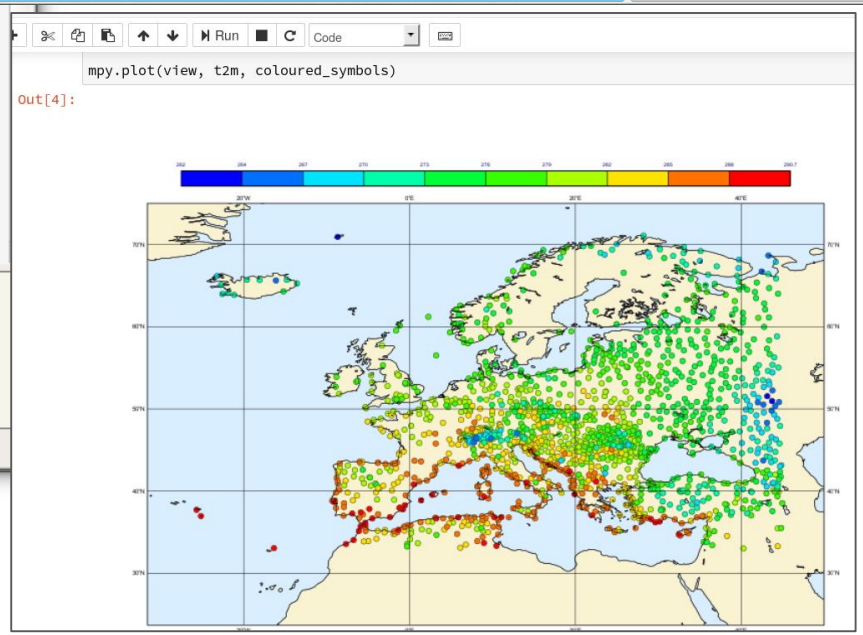
Python Script.py - /home/graphics/cgi/metview/projects/Metview in Python/Examples/obs-filter-and-plot/

File Edit View Insert Program Settings Help

```
21      )
22
23 coloured_symbols = mv.msymb(
24      legend                                  = "on",
25      symbol_type                             = "marker",
26      symbol_table_mode                       = "advanced"
27      symbol_outline                          = "on",
28      symbol_outline_colour                   = "charcoal"
29      symbol_advanced_table_max_level_colour  = "red",
30      symbol_advanced_table_min_level_colour  = "blue",
31      symbol_advanced_table_colour_direction  = "clockwise",
32      symbol_advanced_table_height_list       = 0.4
33      )
34
35 mv.plot(view, t2m, coloured_symbols)
```

File loaded L: 1, C: 1





How to set up

- Requirements:
  - An installation of Metview 5
  - Python 3
  - Metview's python package installed

e.g. (Fedora 28)

```
dnf config-manager --add-repo
    https://download.opensuse.org/repositories/home:SStepke/Fedora_28/home:SStepke.repo
dnf install Metview # install binaries
pip install metview # install Python layer
python3 -m metview selfcheck # available in next release, 0.8.5
Hello world - printed from Metview!
Trying to connect to a Metview installation...
Metview version 5.3.0 found
Your system is ready.
```

  - Ubuntu has Metview in its core repositories, but version 5 is not properly there

To run on internal ECMWF machines or ecgate:

```
module load python3/new
module swap metview/new
```

Implementation details (1)

- We use the **cffi** package to bridge C++/Python
  - We needed to extract the Macro functions into a shared library for cffi to open
- One single source file in Metview – python.cc – with all the interface functions (extern C)
  - For passing various data types between Python and Macro
  - For pushing function operands onto the stack
  - For calling Macro functions (by name)
  - The Python module has the corresponding header file
- Macro has a function that returns a list of its functions
  - Create a Python function for each
  - Put into the module namespace
  - So we can add new functions to Macro, and the Python module will automatically see them (no need to update the Python layer)

```
extern "C" {

// Macro/Python interface functions here
// ...

void p_push_number(double n) // pass number from Python to Macro
{
    // implementation ...
}

double p_value_as_number(Value *val) // pass number from Macro to Python
{
    // implementation ...
}
// ...

}
```

Implementation details (2)

- But… Metview has a service-oriented architecture – how are services run and managed from Python?
- A suitable version of Metview must be in the PATH
  - The Python code starts a lightweight Metview session and links to the shared library
  - This allows the Macro functions to invoke other Metview modules (e.g. Cross Section, uPlot) and return their results
  - Not necessary if run from a Metview session!

- A little extra magic required here and there, e.g. to pass plots to Jupyter notebooks

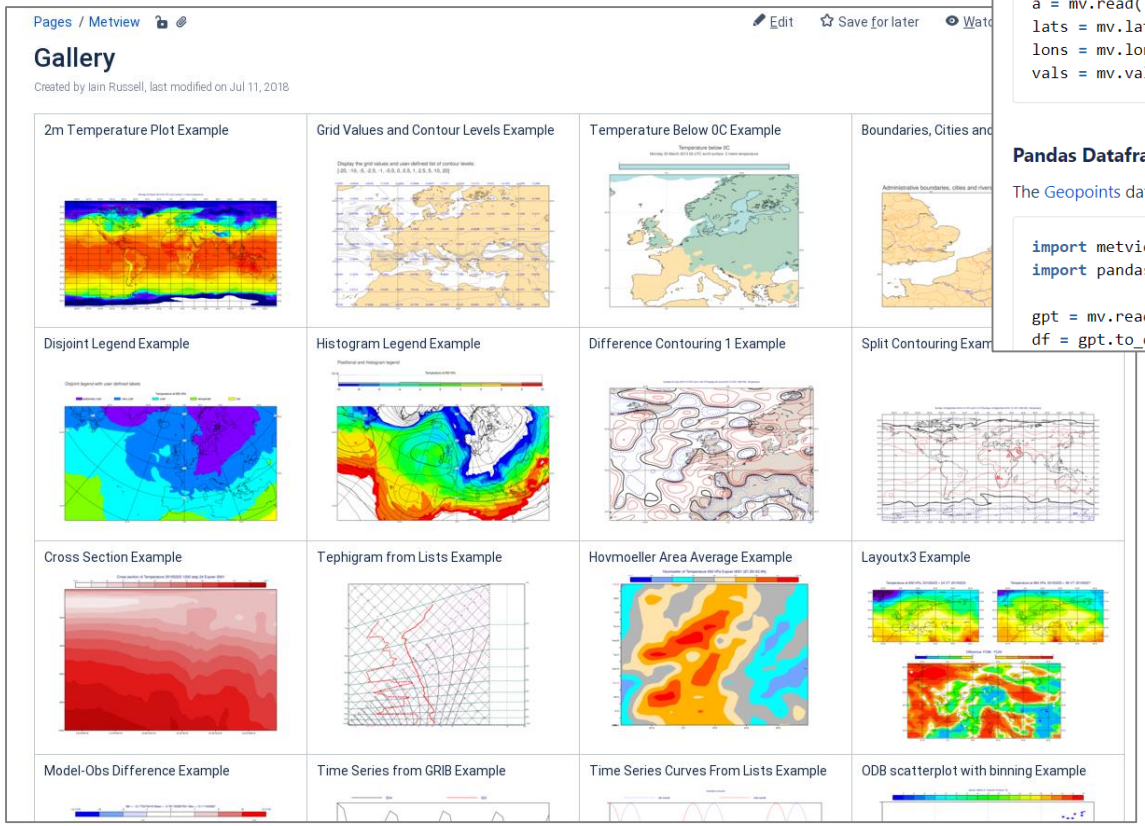
- **`import metview`**
- Faster import - we noticed that importing some modules was quite slow (e.g. IPython for detecting the Jupyter environment), so we only import when actually needed

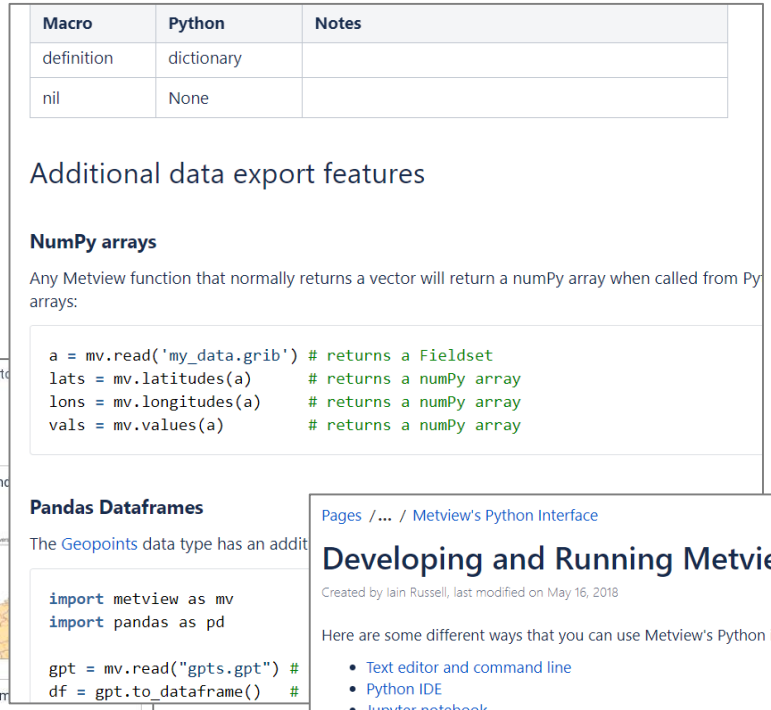
Tricky things

- Indexing
  - Macro uses 1 as its base index, Python uses 0
  - There is now extra code into Metview's binaries and the Python layer to handle this
    - Macro: `first_field = my_fields[1]`
    - Python: `first_field = my_fields[0]`
    - Macro: `print(search('Where is this', 'this'))  # 3`
    - Python: `print(mv.search('Where is this', 'this'))  # 2`
- Keeping version independence
  - Users should be able to update either the Metview binaries or its Python layer without updating the other
  - Try to keep the interface functions as generic as possible
  - New data types in Metview will require a little code in the Python layer
  - We currently don't force a particular Metview version (apart from >= 5.0), but a change in the interface functions (as opposed to additions) could prompt it

Documentation

- Currently consists largely of a conversion guide from Macro to Python, a description of new features, plus a gallery of examples with both Macro and Python code





Macro	Python	Notes
definition	dictionary	
nil	None	

Additional data export features

NumPy arrays

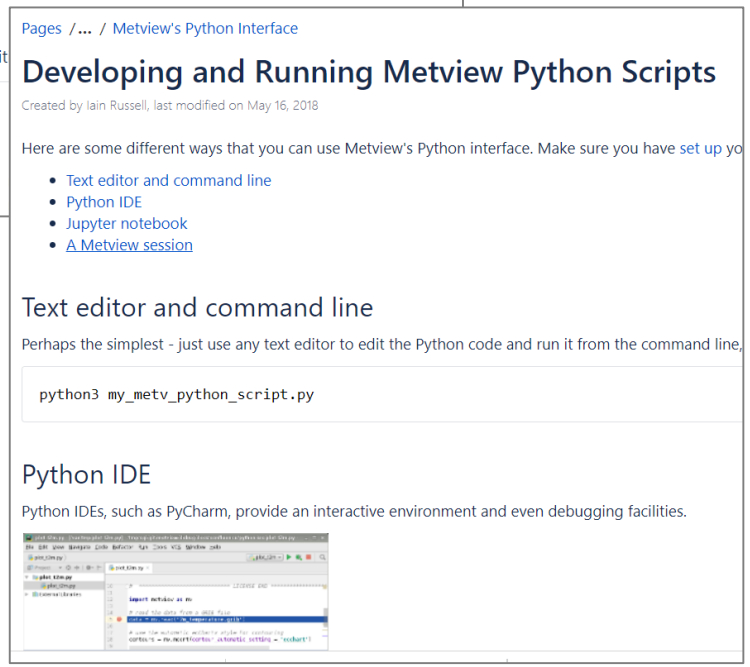
Any Metview function that normally returns a vector will return a numPy array when called from Py
arrays:

```
a = mv.read('my_data.grib') # returns a Fieldset
lats = mv.latitudes(a)      # returns a numPy array
lons = mv.longitudes(a)     # returns a numPy array
vals = mv.values(a)         # returns a numPy array
```

Pandas Dataframes

The Geopoints data type has an addit

```
import metview as mv
import pandas as pd

gpt = mv.read("gpts.gpt") #
df = gpt.to_dataframe()   #
```



Pages / ... / Metview's Python Interface

Developing and Running Metview Python Scripts

Created by Iain Russell, last modified on May 16, 2018

Here are some different ways that you can use Metview's Python interface. Make sure you have set up yo

- Text editor and command line
- Python IDE
- Jupyter notebook
- A Metview session

Text editor and command line

Perhaps the simplest - just use any text editor to edit the Python code and run it from the command line,

```
python3 my_metv_python_script.py
```

Python IDE

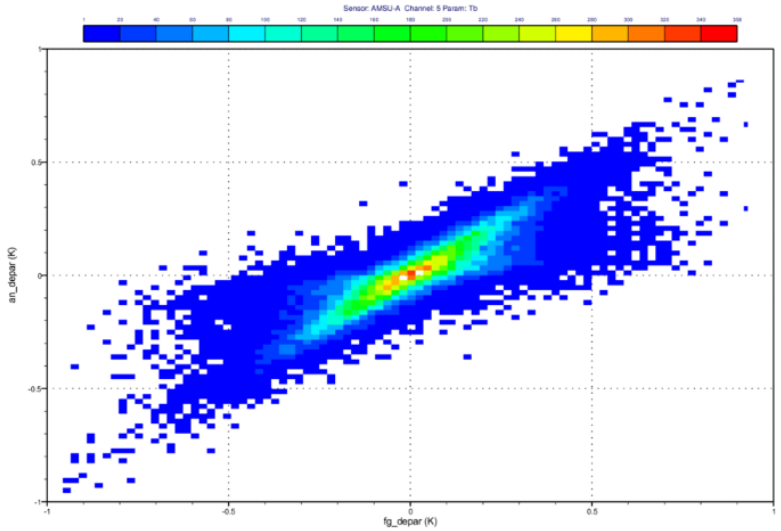
Python IDEs, such as PyCharm, provide an interactive environment and even debugging facilities.

Gallery example

Pages / Metview / Gallery

ODB scatterplot with binning Example

Created by Iain Russell, last modified on Sep 26, 2018



Download source and data
odb_scatterplot_binning.tar.gz

Macro | Python

ODB scatterplot with binning Example

```
# Metview Example

# ***************************** LICENSE START ***********************************
#
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#
# ***************************** LICENSE END *************************************

# ------------------------------------------------------------------
# Tags: ODB,Cartesian
# Title: ODB scatterplot with binning
# Description: Demonstrates how to generate a scatterpot from ODB
#              using binning.
# ------------------------------------------------------------------

import metview as mv

# ODB MARS retrieval - for AMSUA channel 5 (all satellites)
db = mv.retrieve(
        type     = "mfb",
        repres   = "bu",
        obsgroup = "amsua",
        time     = 00,
        date     = -2,
        filter   = "select an_depar@body,fg_depar@body " +
                   "where vertco_reference_1=5"
        )
```
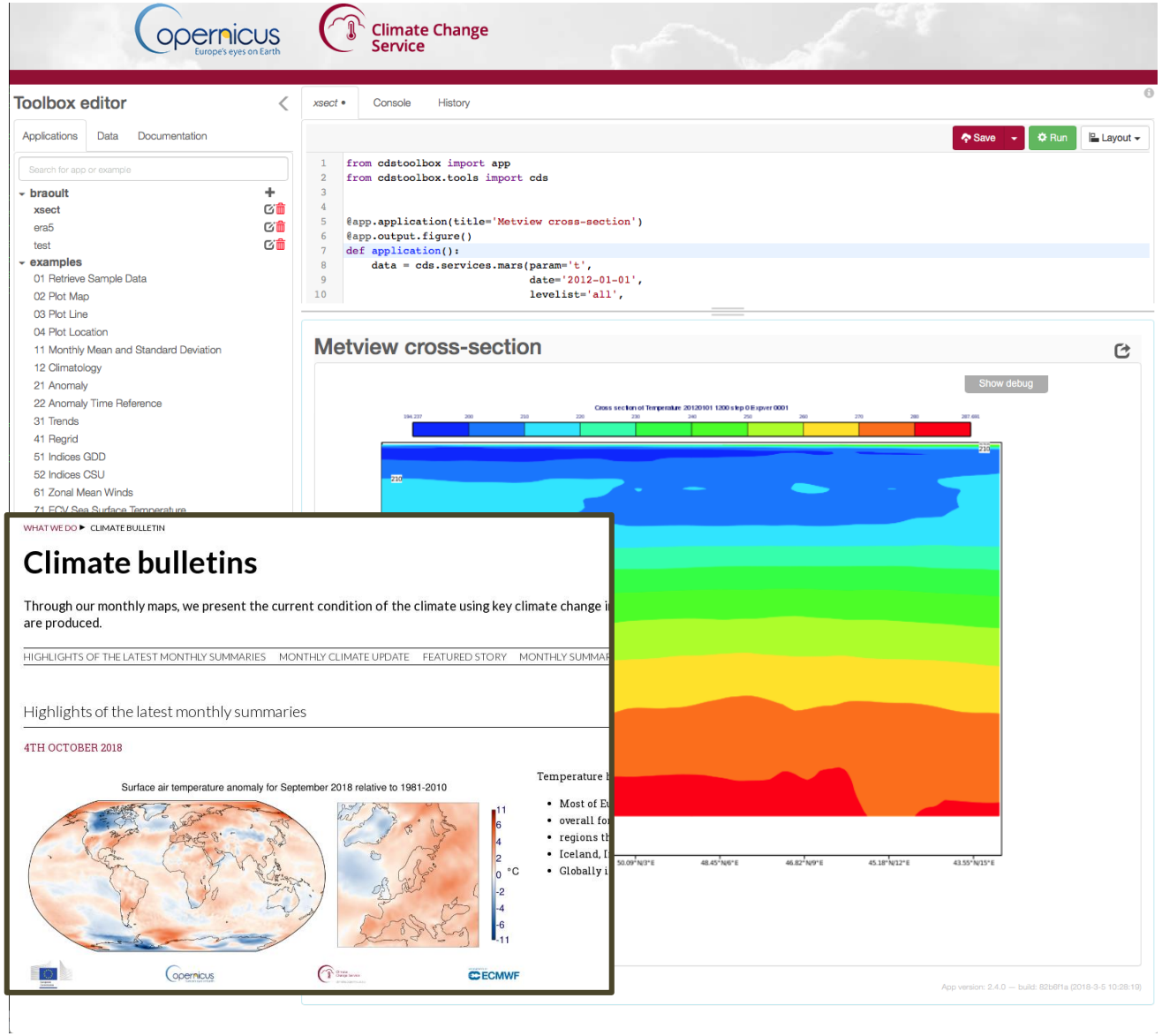

Reaching out

- Metview, with its Python interface, is in the Copernicus CDS Toolbox

- We are also exploring ways to harmonise verification efforts across ECMWF with Metview supplying the core functionality (MARS, fieldsets, observations, …) - part of a drive for having fewer packages to maintain



Feedback

- Feedback has so far been very positive
- We have some enthusiastic users: “It combines all the power of Metview with all the power of Python!” (internal user to Iain, Oct 2018)
- As is often the case, we only hear from users if they encounter a problem, but log files suggest quite a lot of activity

```
#### read in the MSLP analysis for calculation of surface pressure ####
mslpan = mv.read("/path/to/data/msl_elda_bg_"+datein+"_"+timein+".grb")

#### read in the 2m temperature ####
t2m_an = mv.read("/path/to/data/t2m_elda_bg_"+datein+"_"+timein+".grb")


## loop through the EDA members ##
for iens in range(0,1): #26

    #### q ####
    if(typein == "obs"): valsq = mv.values(data_q,'obsvalue_'+str(iens)) ; valsq[valsq < 0] = 0
    if(typein == "bgd"): valsq = mv.values(data_q,'obsvalue_'+str(iens))-mv.values(data_q,'fg_depar_'+str
    temp = np.column_stack((latq,lonq)) ; temp = np.column_stack((temp,levelq))
    dfq = pd.DataFrame(data=temp, columns=['lat', 'lon', 'level'])
    dfq['q'] = valsq
    dfq['date'] = dateq
    dfq['time'] = timeq
    dfq = dfq.loc[(dfq['level'] > 70000)]


    #### u ####
```

Future

- Release beta version in October 2018
  - Advertise more widely to get more feedback
- Release version 1.0.0 – end of 2018?

- Provide tools for automatic translation from Macro to Python
- Improve information available for IDEs (e.g. function descriptions)

- Investigate **conda** for packaging Metview's binaries and the Python layer together

- Use Metview's Python interface as a base layer for a new verification toolkit (some work already underway)
- Work more closely with the CDS Toolbox and other ECMWF Python frameworks

For more information…

- Email us:
  - Developers: metview@ecmwf.int
  - Support: software.support@ecmwf.int
- Visit our web pages:
  - http://confluence.ecmwf.int/metview
- Download (Metview source, binaries)
- Documentation and tutorials available
- Metview articles in ECMWF newsletters
- e-Learning material
- Download Metview's Python interface:
  - pip install metview
  - https://github.com/ecmwf/metview-python

Questions?