

**WG -  
OPER**

# **Report for final discussion**

**The group started with  
definition of tasks:**

**Task**

**Starting points**

**Sources for discussion**

**Schedule**



# Task

**Identify the most important forecasting challenges in the stable boundary layer**

**Suggest short- and long-term actions to study and solve the problems**

**Discuss and suggest validation methods for stable boundary layer studies**

**Agree on common actions/collaboration between models accross different scales**



## Main conclusions ECMWF/GABLS SBL workshop (Nov 2011)

- ✓ Uncertainty in the formulation of diffusion in stable situations remains high. Meso-scale variability and terrain heterogeneity are important
- ✓ *Use of Turbulent Energy equations to support the turbulence closure.*
- ✓ Large uncertainties on momentum budget in models. Impact of drag over land on the planetary scales. Intercomparison proposed.
- ✓ Biases in the LW downward radiation even in clear sky situations. *Verification studies using e.g. BSRN were recommended.*
- ✓ SBL is highly interactive with the underlying surface. Consider coupled system. *LES should have at least simple surface energy balance.*
- ✓ More diagnostic studies on behavior of the boundary layer and its interaction with the surface. More use of super-sites (CEOP, FLUXNET)
- ✓ For land surface : (i) shallow top soil to represent fast time scales, (ii) multi-layer snow scheme, (iii) use many observational sites to derive relevant model parameters, (iv) use DA techniques to "inverse" land surface parameters.
- ✓ *Define a new GABLS case for uniform snow*

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**We do not need to list and solve all problems but concentrate on some?**

Consistent treatment of momentum fluxes of different scales and origin

Forecast of (dissolution of) fog and visibility over different surfaces

Consistent treatment of cloud microphysics-radiation interactions

Proper handling of heterogeneity of the surface + under and above it

## Consistent treatment of momentum fluxes of different scales and origin

- General: tune only schemes you have the least knowledge, then improve the knowledge there
- ECMWF: improve drag over orography?
- HIRLAM: some experience in scale-dependent treatment of orographic momentum fluxes
- UKMO+DWD: ideas on treatment of the subgrid-scale (thermal) circulations, drainage flow
- AROME, UM, DWD kilometer-scale models: resolving generation of mesoscale mountain waves and blocking
- parametrized everywhere: turbulent drag over rough surface and hills, wave-turbulence-interactions



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## Consistent treatment of momentum fluxes of different scales and origin

Suggestion:

Ensure **consistent in scales derivation** of the **mean elevation and parameters** needed for the parametrisations of subgrid-scale orographic momentum fluxes, based on **high-resolution digital elevation data** (SRTM and others).

Coordinate work already ongoing in HIRLAM, ALADIN, UKMO, COSMO . A working week on the finest scale modelling planned in HIRLAM, might start with the orography update and continue to provide fine-resolution estimates of orographic drag for comparison with global models?



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## Forecast of (dissolution of) fog and visibility over different surfaces

- Problems detected in AROME
- UKMO experience related to cloud condensation nuclei (aerosol)
- Needs of aviation forecast of visibility and low level clouds (ceiling)
- Predicted – diagnosed – postprocessed





# Forecast of (dissolution of) fog and visibility over different surfaces

Suggestion:

Arrange a **model intercomparison of forecast visibility and cloud base** (=diagnostic, post-processed), starting from an inventory of existing schemes and validation methods

GABLS-5 on fog?

ESA project?

SRNWP atmospheric physics group?

Already available: report of COST action 722 on fog





# Consistent treatment of cloud microphysics-radiation interactions

>  $T_{2m}$

- Consistent input from cloud microphysics, aerosol to the radiation parametrisations i.e. need to clean cloud input modifications from inside the radiation schemes
- ECMWF experience: advanced clear-sky radiation parametrisations with simplified cloud treatment tailored to global model
- e.g. HARMONIE radiation comparison – to understand the role of cloud-radiation-interactions, advanced clear-sky treatment, surface-radiation interactions in mesoscale
- HIRLAM, UM, COSMO – experience of orographic radiation effects



# Consistent treatment of cloud microphysics-radiation interactions

>  $T_{2m}$

Suggestion:

Ensure consistency between the assumptions concerning cloud particle size distribution in microphysics and radiation parametrizations

- for stable boundary layer: mostly fog and low level water and ice cloud



## Proper handling of heterogeneity of the surface + under and above it

- ECMWF, UKMO: strength of coupling atmosphere-surface
- Consistent handling of surface temperature heterogeneity including profiles under the surface (thermal inertia)
- It is important to know the constant (like land use) and transient (like snow cover) surface properties: physiography, surface analysis connected to prognostic parametrisations (mainly snow and ice)



## Proper handling of heterogeneity of the surface + under and above it

Suggestion

Compare surface temperature and under-surface profiles of different surfaces, using advanced process models like CROCUS, HIGHTSI, ...

existing projects:  
CASES99 (GLASS), ALMIP?



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