

A misty landscape with a house and trees in the foreground and a forested hill in the background. The scene is captured in a soft, hazy light, likely during dawn or dusk, with a thick layer of fog or mist settling over the valley. The background shows a dark, silhouetted hill covered in a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the middle ground, a large, dark house with a chimney is visible, surrounded by several bare trees. The foreground is a grassy slope, also partially obscured by the mist. The overall atmosphere is serene and quiet.

Fog process studies with AROME-EPS model

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Scientific questioning

With the operational AROME-EPS (analysis as a set of determinist models) :

- Which source of error is dominant in the fog forecasts of the AROME model: physical settings, initial conditions, surface conditions, lateral couplings ?
- Which model variables, whose errors in the initial conditions, have the greatest impact on the quality of the fog forecast ?



Objectives

Step 1 : Identification of few IOPs for which one or several ARO-EPS members show a significantly better fog forecast than other members.

- ✓ **Regional scale** : capability to correctly reproduce the fog spatial distribution at surface by comparing observed visibility versus simulated visibility
- ✓ **Local scale** : capability to correctly reproduce the fog lifecycle and vertical structure focusing on the SOFOG3D super-site

Step 2 : Sensitivity analysis on fog forecasting

- ✓ Research of most impactful errors in initial conditions
- ✓ Evaluate the respective weight of the perturbations of initial conditions versus physical parameterizations



Available data

Regional scale study

Observation data :

- Visibilimeters (RADOME network + super-site) : 18 stations

AROME-EPS model data :

- Parameter at surface :
 - Minimum visibility 1h



« Surface » data



Spatial distribution at regional scale



Available data

Local scale study

Observation data :

- MW Radiometers super-site (T, RH profiles, IWV, LWP)
- 95 GHz Cloud Radar BASTA (fog structure)
- Radiosondes
- LIDAR data (wind strength, wind direction)

AROME-EPS model data :

- Parameter profile :
 - T, RH, Wind strength, Wind direction ...
 - BASTA profile modelling (reflectivity profile)



« Vertical structure » data



local scale : SOFOG3D super-site



Section 1

Identification of few IOPs for which one or several ARO-EPS members show a significantly better fog forecast than other members

Regional scale

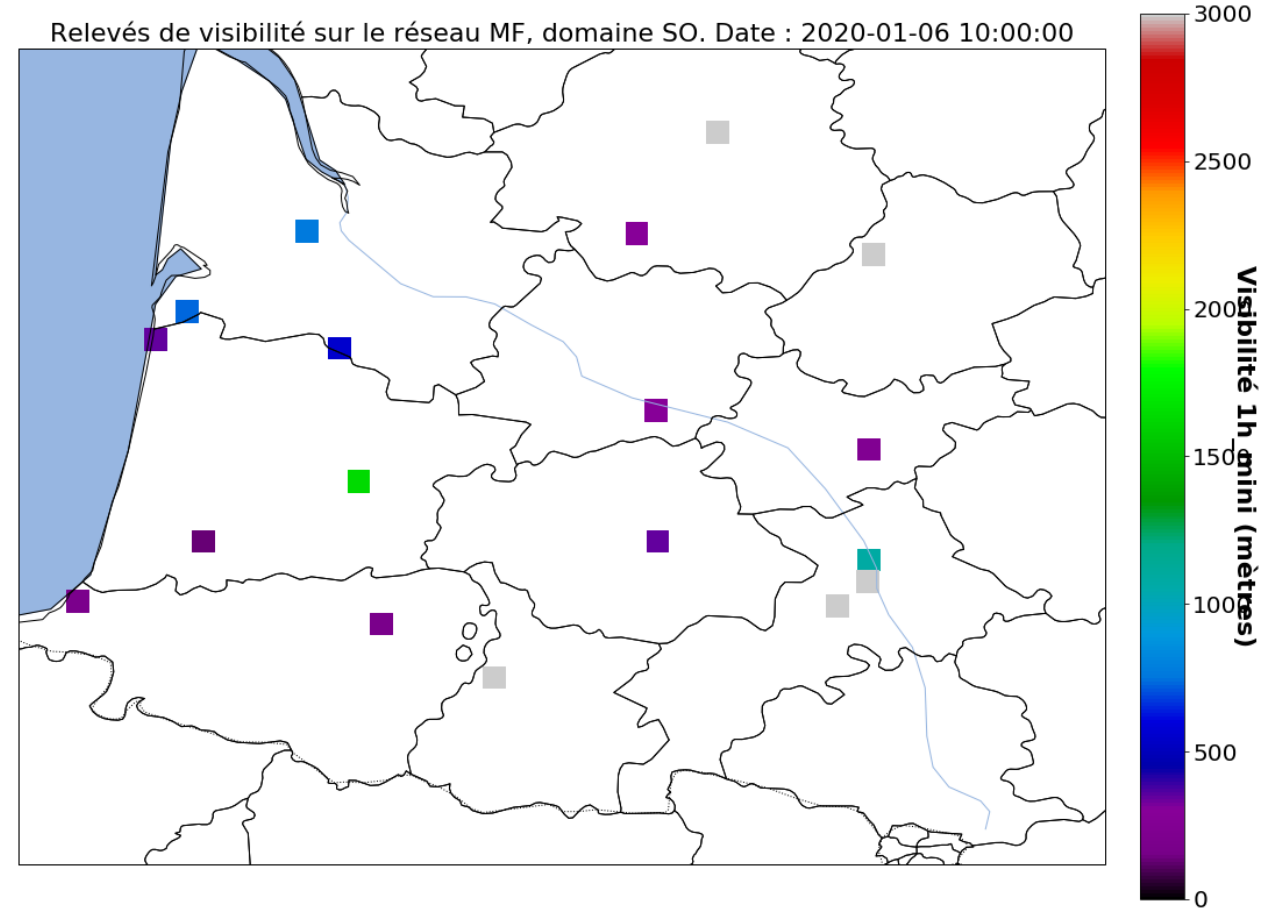
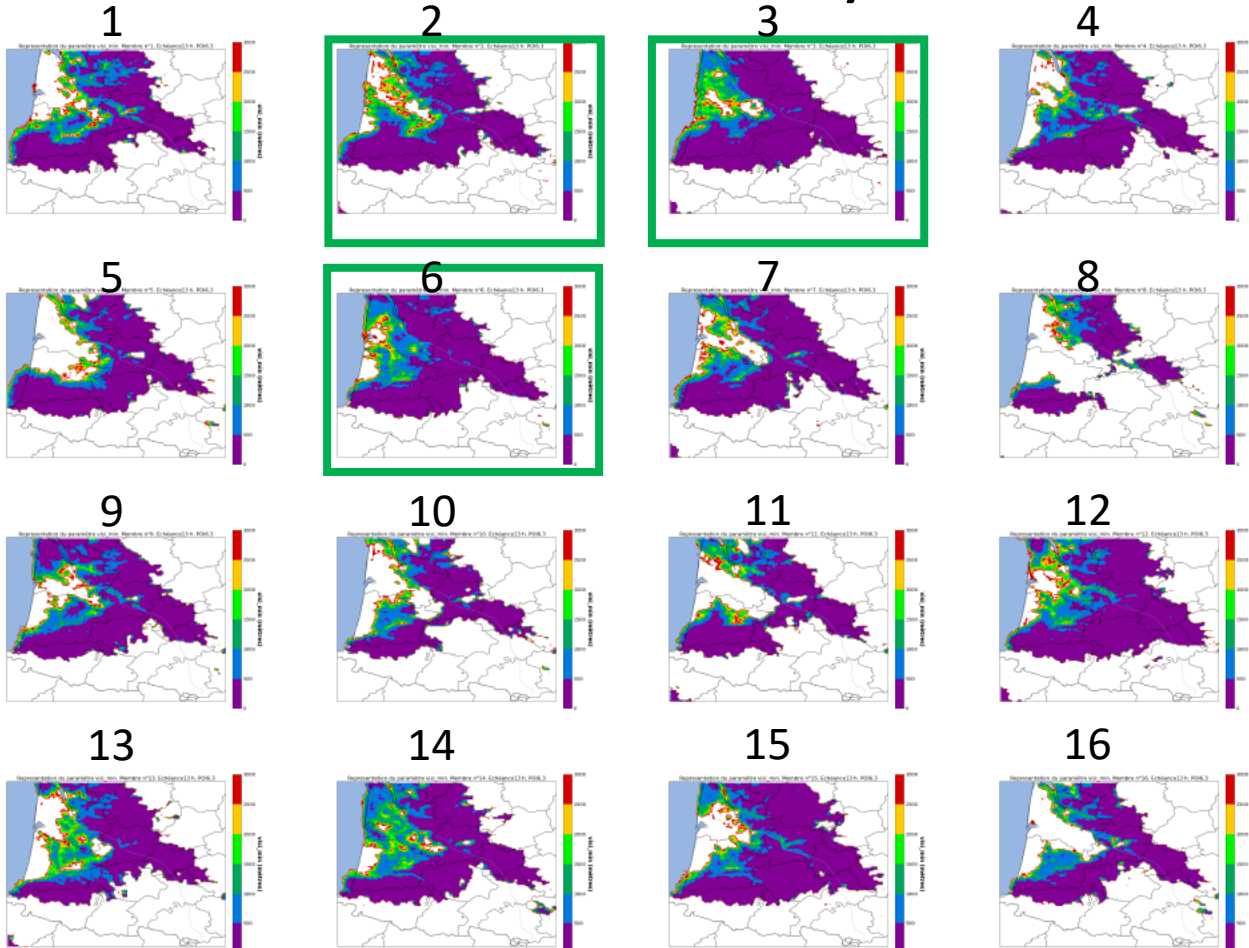


Visual identification with hourly minimum visibility parameter

Date : 6 January 10h UTC

ARO-EPS minimum visibility 1h

Minimum visibility 1h observed

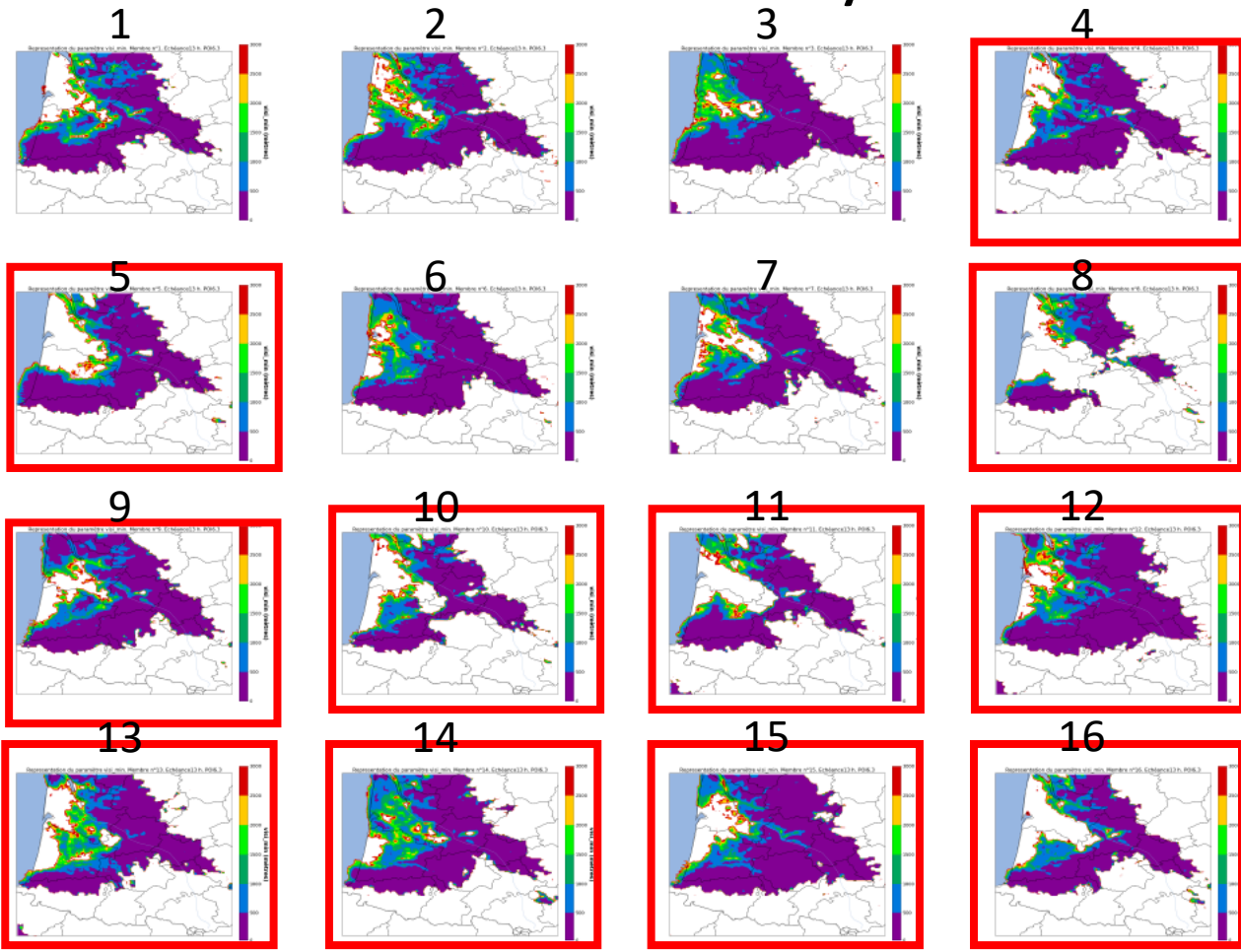




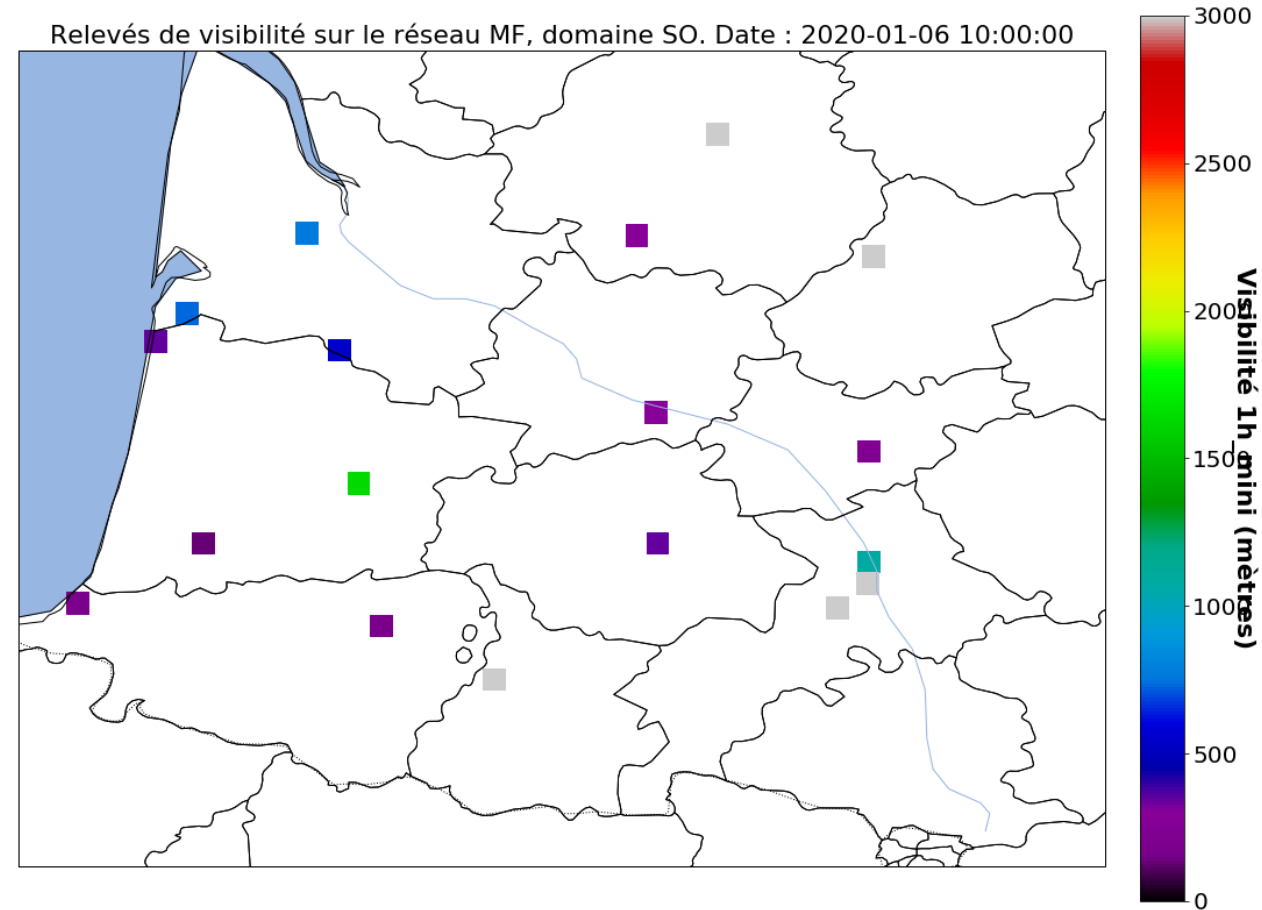
Visual identification with hourly minimum visibility parameter

Date : 6 January 10h UTC

ARO-EPS minimum visibility 1h



Minimum visibility 1h observed



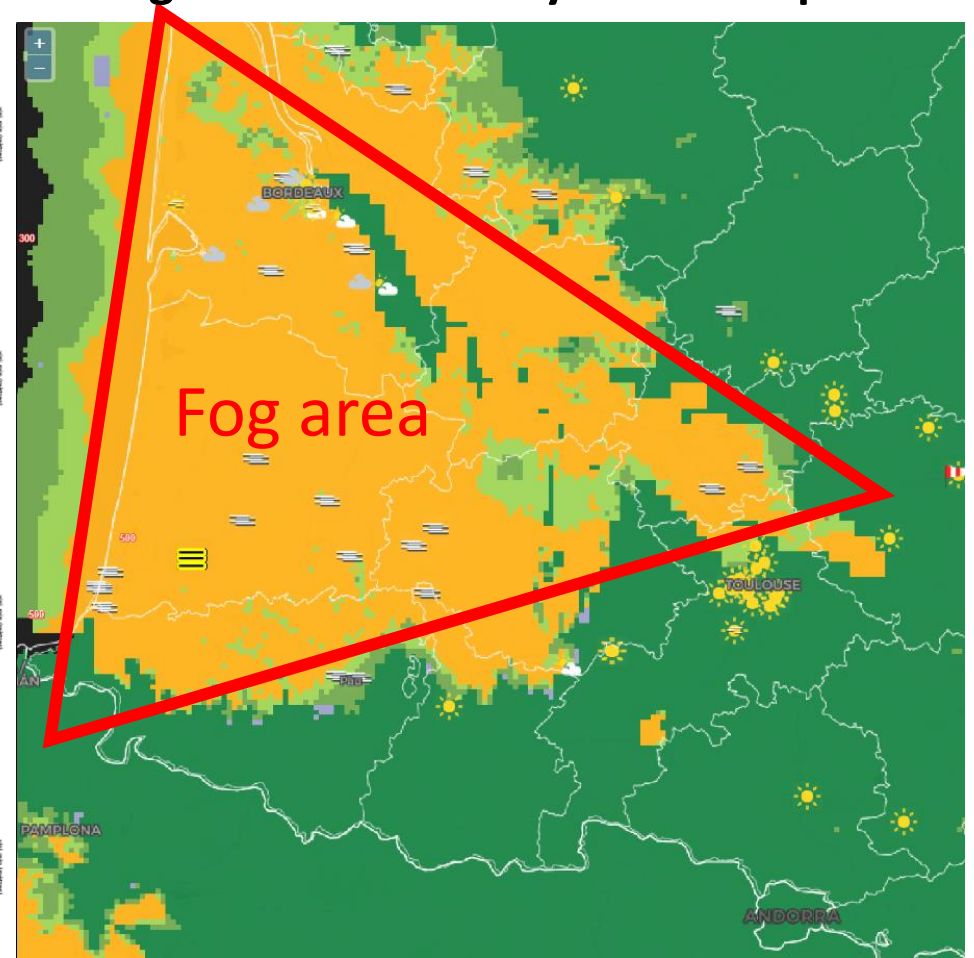
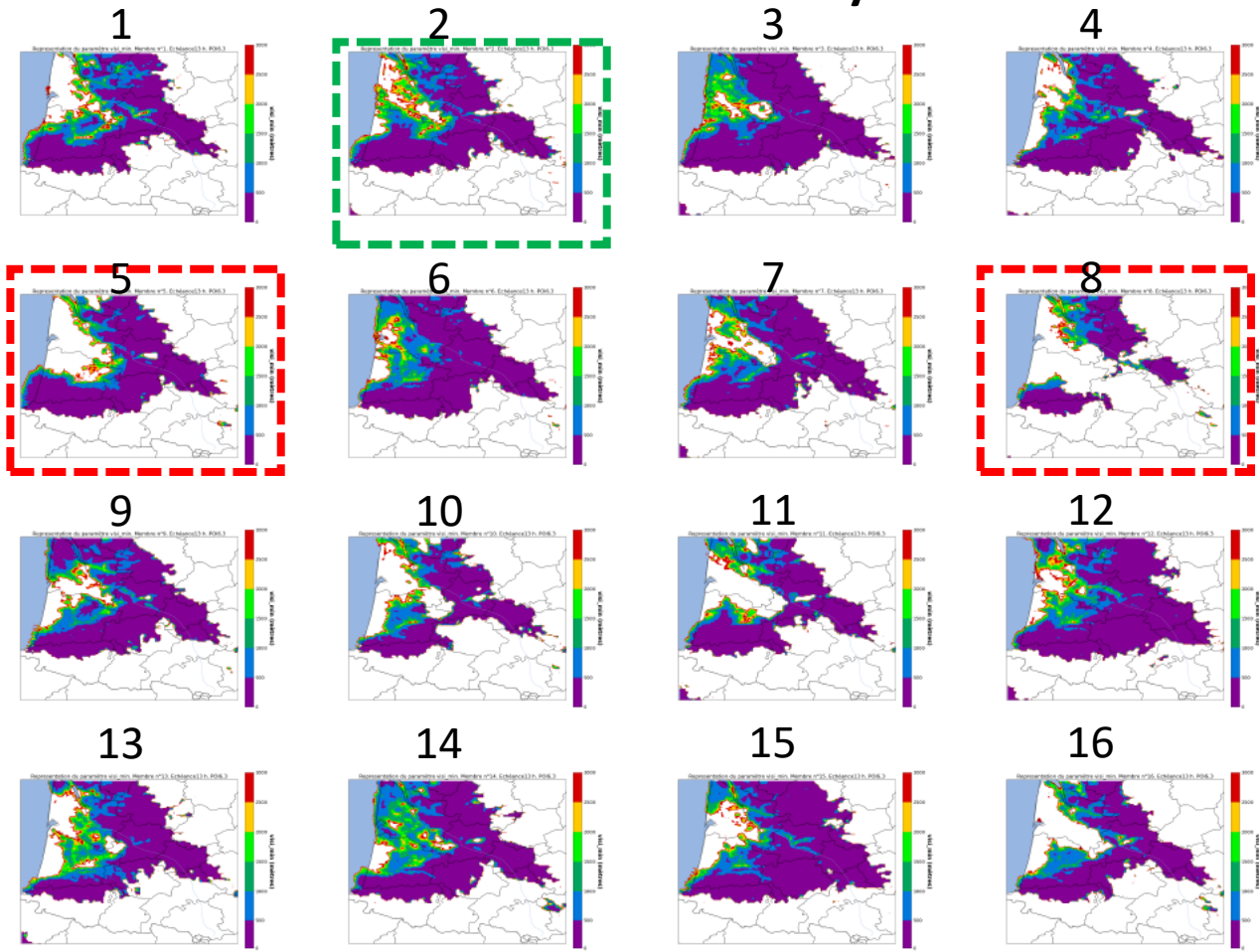


Visual identification with hourly minimum visibility parameter

Date : 6 January 10h UTC

ARO-EPS minimum visibility 1h

Fog area observed by CARIBOU product

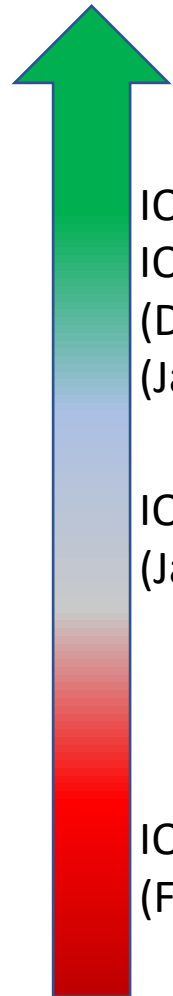


Significant differences in location of fog weaknesses



Study results on 7 IOPs (thick fog cases)

Ranking of the IOP's studied : regional scale



IOP4.1, IOP4.2
IOP6.3
(December 2019)
(January 2020)

IOP9.1, IOP14
(January, March 2020)

IOP11, IOP13.2
(February 2020)

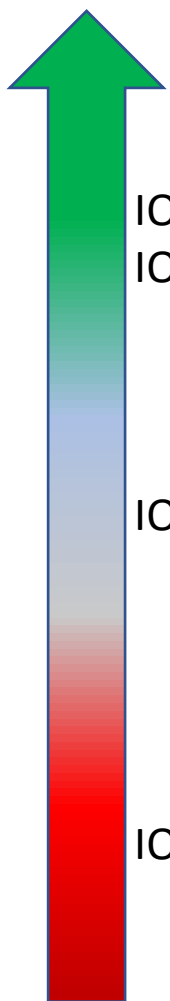


Most interesting IOPs based on:

- ✓ Relevantly better fog forecast at surface for one or several members of ARO-EPS
- ✓ Sharp distinction « wrong members » / « good members »
- ✓ Agreement observed visibility / simulated visibility for “good members” on super-site



Agreement regional scale /local scale ?



IOP4.1, IOP4.2

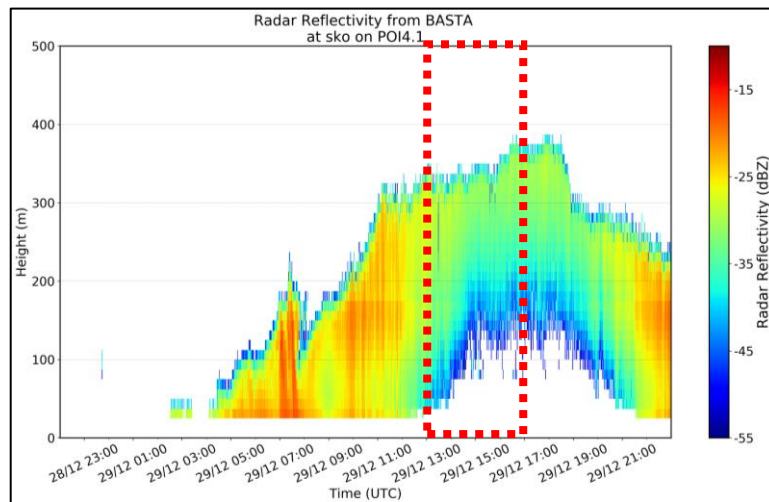
IOP6.3

Example with IOP4.1

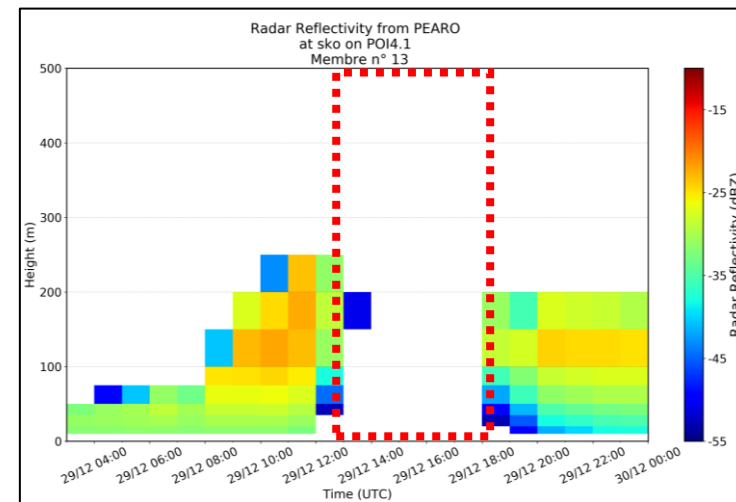
IOP9.1, IOP14

IOP11, IOP13.2

Cloud Radar reflectivity observed



Best ARO-EPS member at regional scale



→ Wrong stratus dissipation forecasting by the best member at regional scale

Difficulties in finding one member of ARO-EPS which has **both** :

- Good fog surface spatial representation at regional scale
- Good ability to reproduce fog lifecycle at the super-site



Section 2

Identification of few IOPs for which one or several ARO-EPS members show a significantly better fog forecast than other members

Local scale

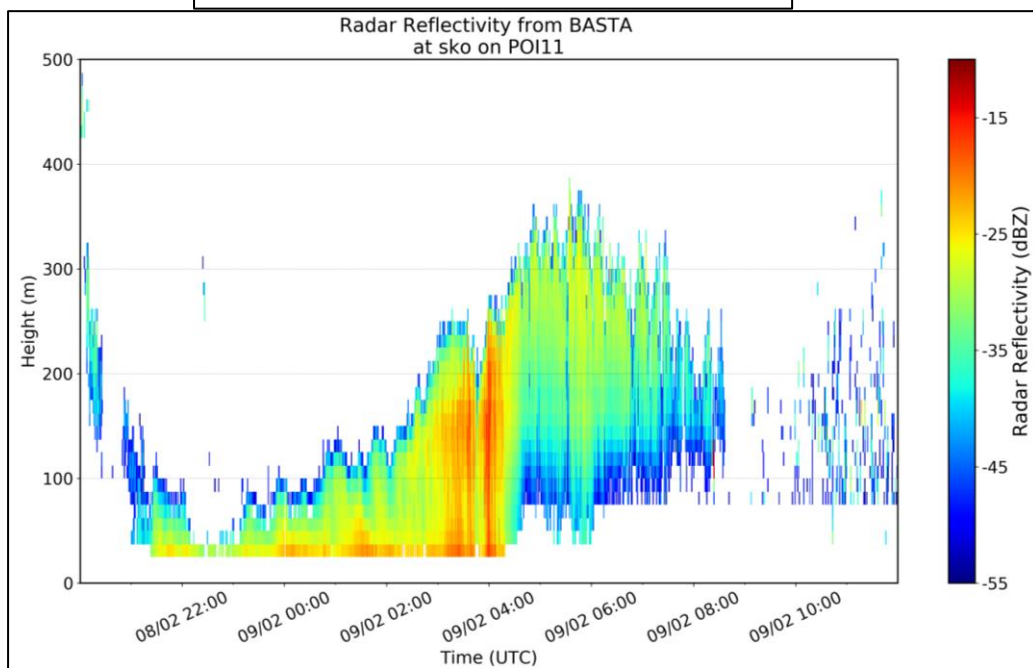


2) Analysis of fog vertical structure on super-site with ARO-EPS

Data used to validate fog forecast validation

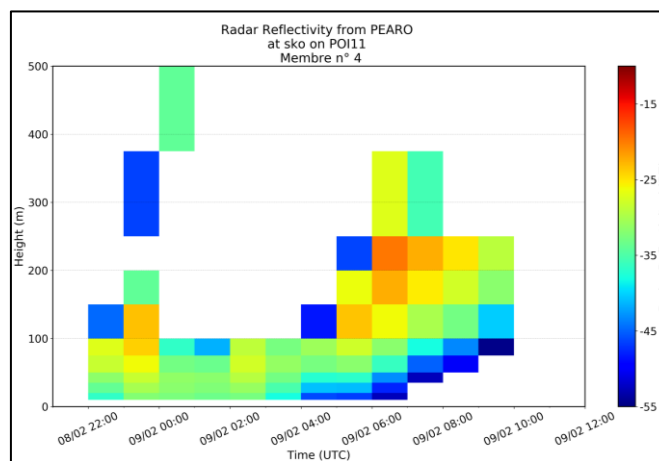
- ❑ Minimal visibility at surface : not the best parameter to validate the fog forecast → fog vertical structure needed
- Use of BASTA cloud radar observations and simulated reflectivity (cf A. Bell presentation) : IOP11 selected

Radar reflectivity observation

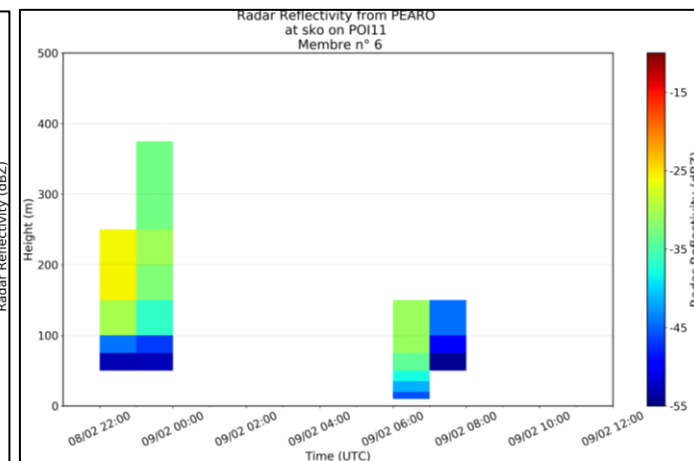


Radar reflectivity simulation

Member n°4



Member n°6





2) Analysis of fog vertical structure on super-site with ARO-EPS

How to quantify member(s) with the most accurate fog forecast?

Contingency table with Airport LVP conditions

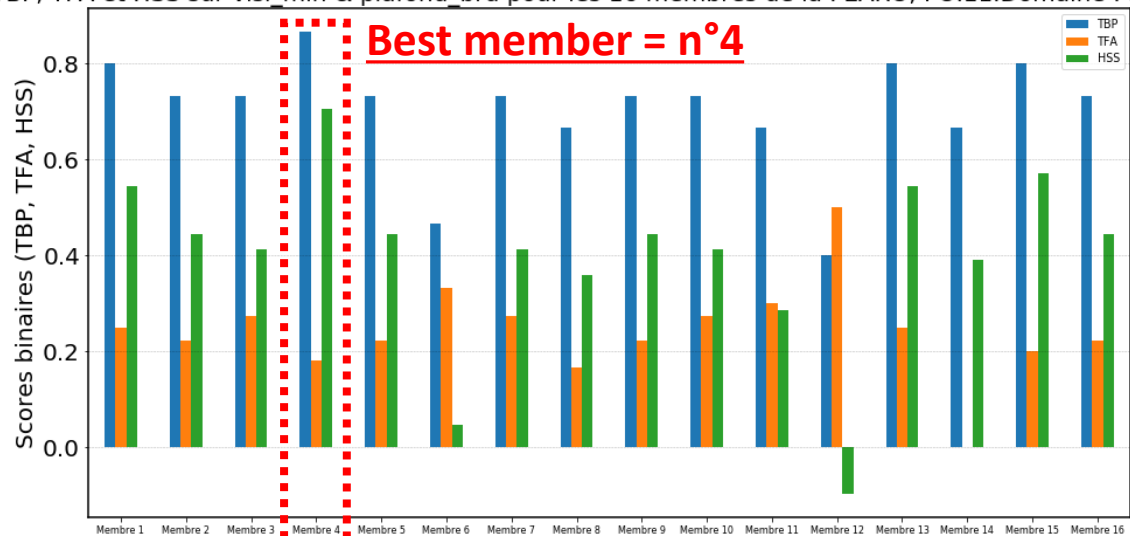
Conditions :

✓ Visibility < 600 m

OR/AND

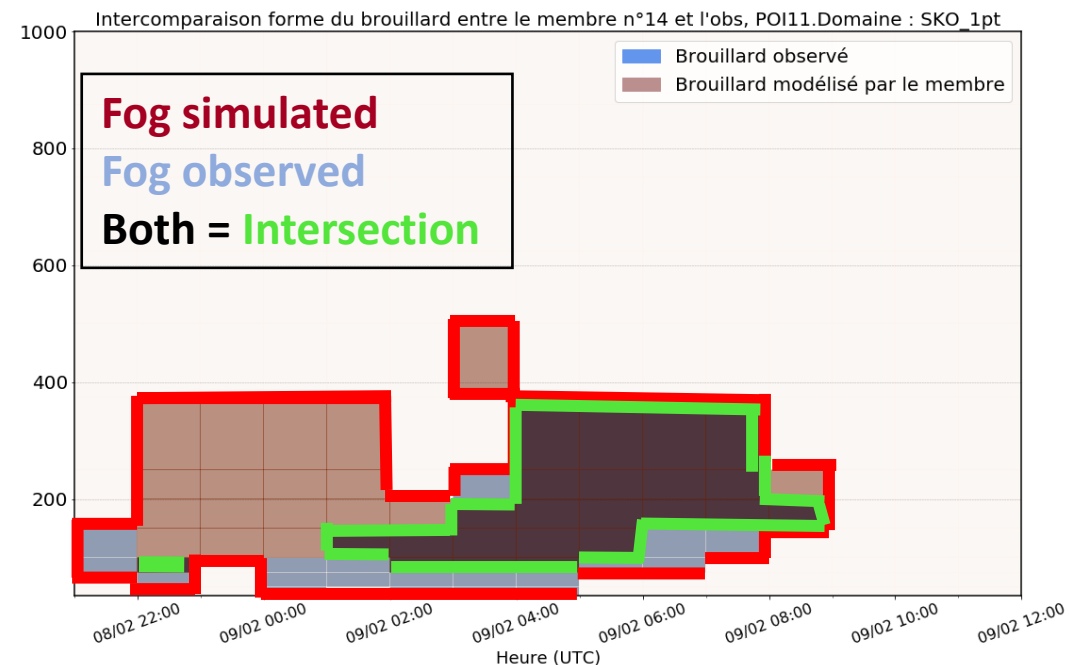
✓ Cloud ceiling < 200 ft

TBP, TFA et HSS sur visi_min & plafond_brd pour les 16 membres de la PEARO, POI11.Domaine : SKO_1pt



→ Calculation of GFR, FAR and HSS

$$\text{Jaccard score} = \frac{\text{Intersection}}{\text{Union}}$$



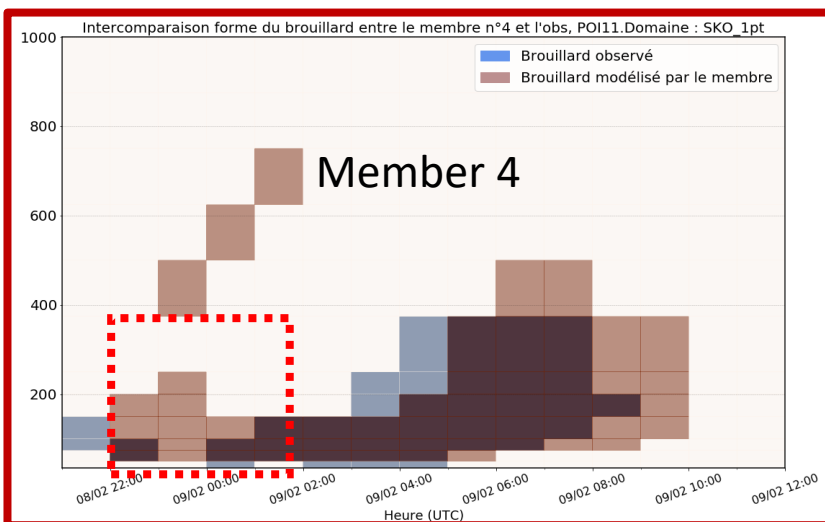
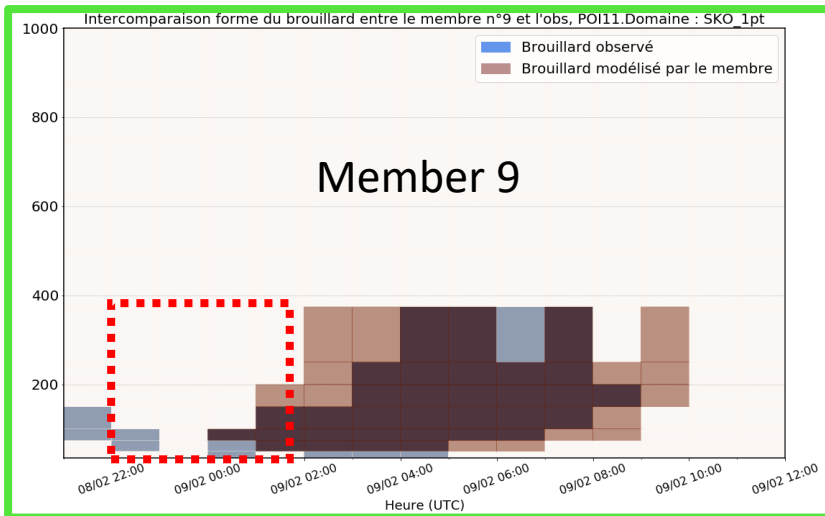
Score = 0 : the simulated shape is **disjoint** from the observed shape

Score = 1 : the simulated shape is **identical** to the observed shape

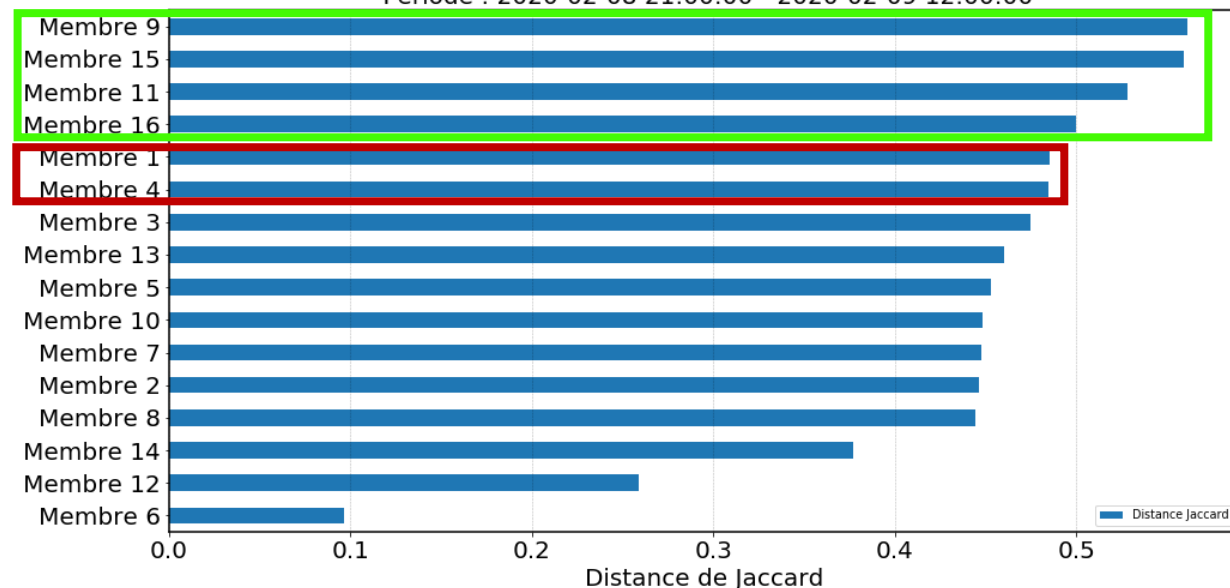


2) Analysis of fog vertical structure on super-site with ARO-EPS

Results with Jaccard score for IOP11 (8-9 February)



Evaluation de la forme du brouillard pour les 16 membres de la PEARO, POI11.Domaine : SKO_1pt
Période : 2020-02-08 21:00:00 - 2020-02-09 12:00:00



Results with ARO-EPS model, run 21z 8/2/20

Best members in Jaccard score can be separated in two groups :

→ Beginning of fog formation between H+2 and H+4 (23h UTC – 1h UTC)

→ Fog formation since H+1 (22h UTC)



Section 3

Research of most impactful
errors in initial conditions

Local scale

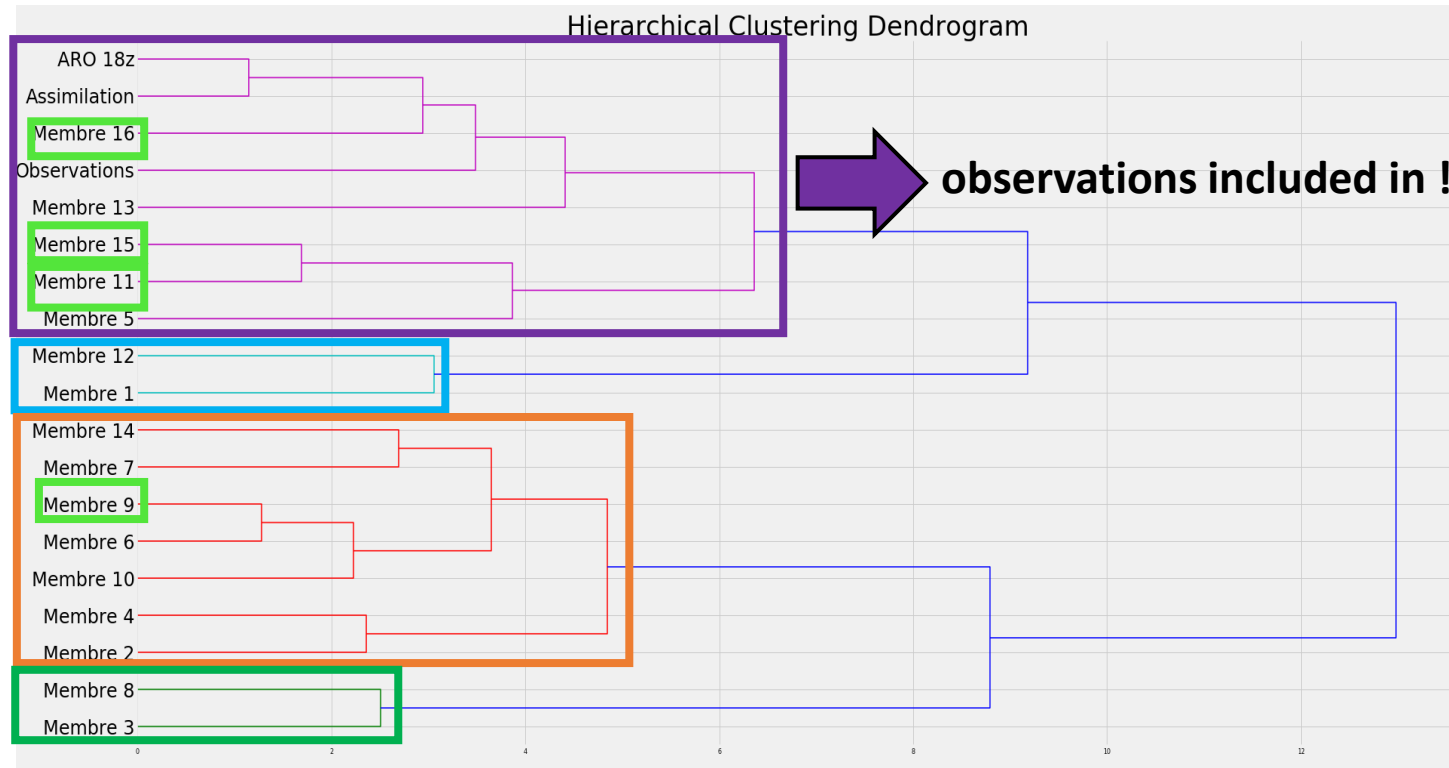


3) Analysis of Initial Conditions for several thermodynamic parameters

Temperature profile

Method : **Ascending Hierarchical Clustering**

- Linkage criterion : Ward
- Affinity : Euclidean



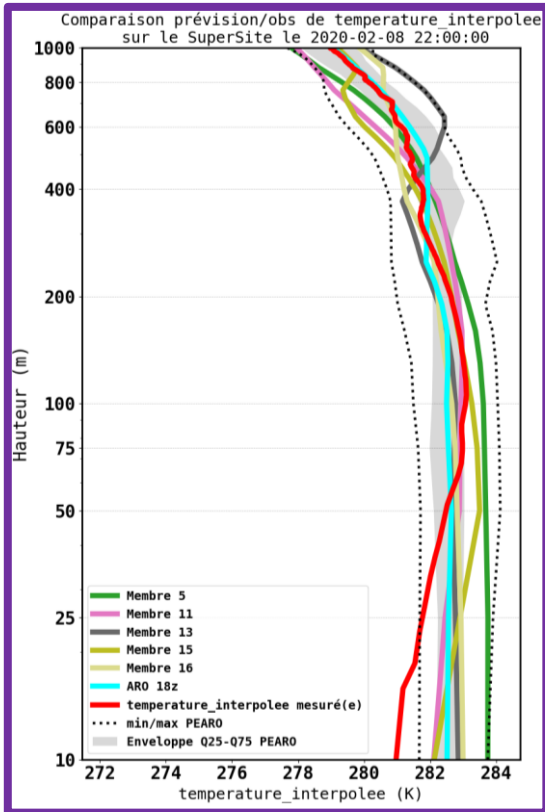
Temperature profiles **at the beginning of IOP11 study**
 → Division into 4 clusters

- First impression : « good Jaccard score » members are mostly well placed (in right cluster)
- Good indicator of the importance of the temperature profile on the fog forecast

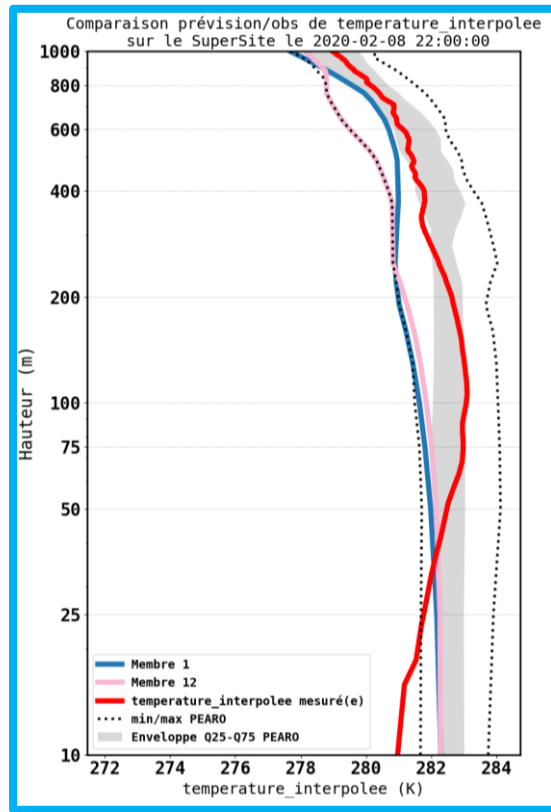


3) Analysis of Initial Conditions for several thermodynamic parameters

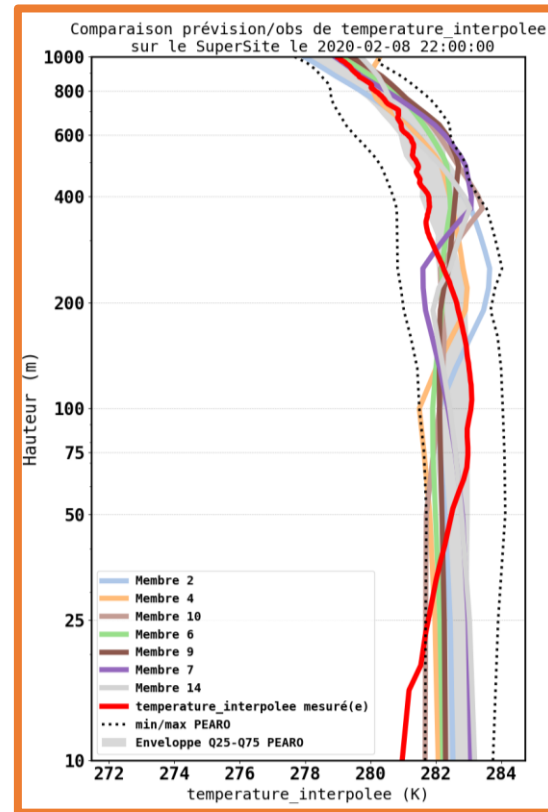
Temperature profile



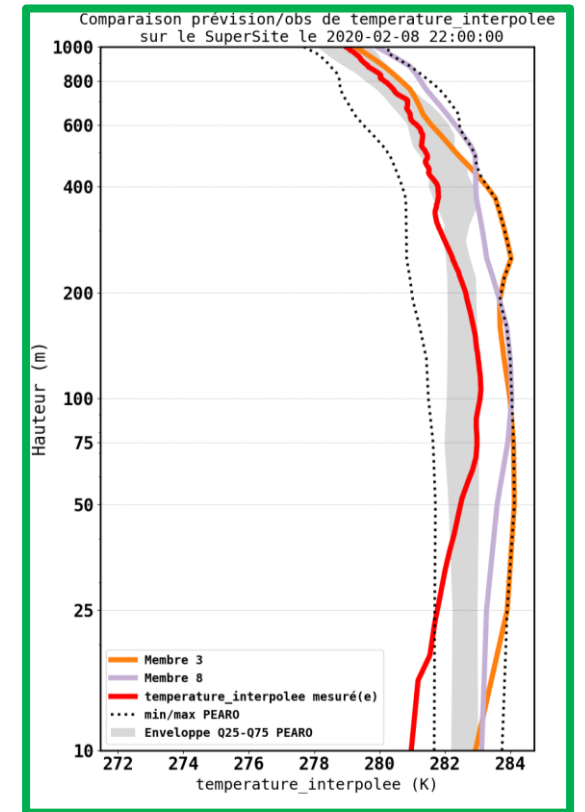
- Thermal inversion ok



- No thermal inversion
- Unstable profile



- Thermal inversion too high



- Profile shape ok
- Warm bias (+1.5K)



3) Analysis of Initial Conditions for several thermodynamic parameters

Relative humidity profile

Calculation of the RMSE for one time step
(8/2/20 22h UTC) :

- Vertical levels selection
- Calculation of RMSE for each vertical level

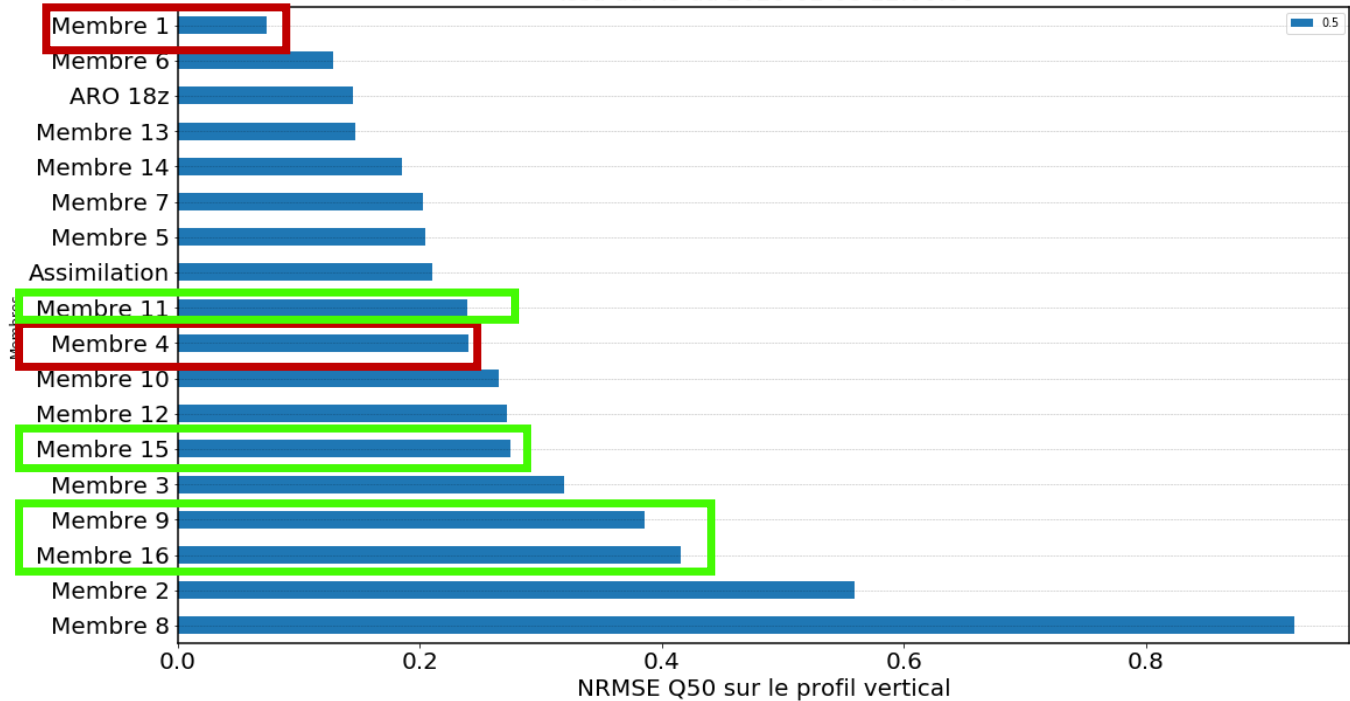


- Quantile calculation on all vertical RMSE values



1 RMSE value for all vertical profile

NRMSE des paramètres pour les 16 membres de la PEARO
Issu du RS du 2020-02-08 22:00:00



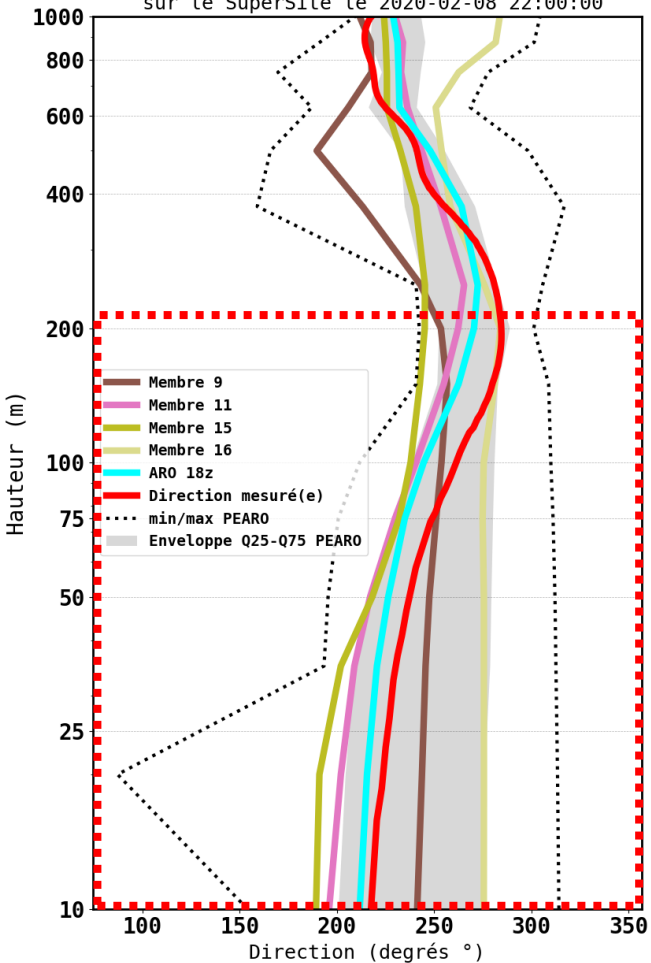
- « good Jaccard score » members in the worst half of the ARO-EPS members, except for the member n°1
- At first sight, compliance with RH values is less important than temperature



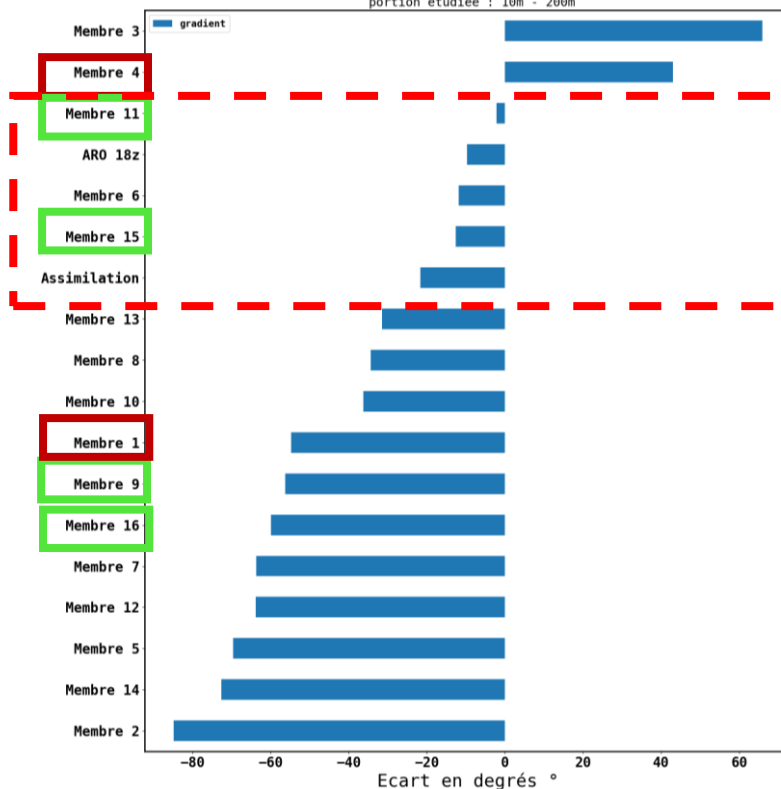
3) Analysis of Initial Conditions for several thermodynamic parameters

Wind direction profile

Comparaison prévision/obs de Direction sur le SuperSite le 2020-02-08 22:00:00



Ecart du gradient de Direction sur le SuperSite le 2020-02-08 22:00:00
portion étudiée : 10m - 200m



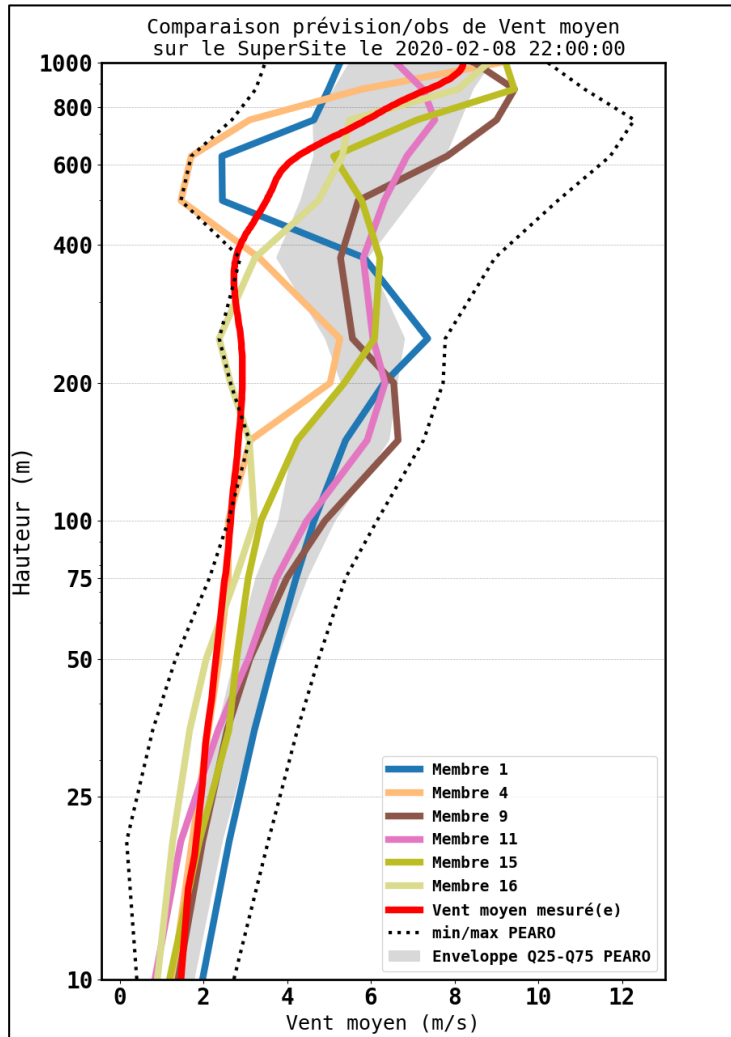
➤ Importance of well representation of wind direction variation = good modelization of turbulence inside fog

Difference direction variation modelised / wind direction variation observed



3) Analysis of Initial Conditions for several thermodynamic parameters

Wind strength profile



- Growth of dispersion with altitude
- Differences of wind strength among « good Jaccard score » members
- **Compliance with the wind profile → not a condition for a good vertical fog structure**



4) Prospects

Next steps :

- Removal of the temperature (+ relative humidity) perturbation and evaluate how much impact on fog forecast
- Removal of the physical perturbations to quantify the respective weight of the perturbations of initial conditions versus physical parameterizations