

FILE FORMAT CONVERSION

(summary of the e-mail exchange within Meteo-France given at the 14th Aladin workshop, Innsbruck by Maria Derkova)

FORMAT: FA vs. GRIB vs. NETCDF

- **volumetry is an essential point**
- compacting facilities needed for:
 - storage
 - I/O (memory/disc access)
 - exchange of real-time data (mesoNH: 64 bits/value, ARPEGE/ALADIN 16/18 bits/value)
- NETCDF:
 - no compacting
 - no I/O control => pb on parallel platforms
 - easy to use (USA, ECMWF demeter project - but not for storage)
- GRIB:
 - generally OK
 - but not unified enough (parameter ID center dependent)
- FA:
 - not perfect
 - but widely used in our community
 - "portable"
 - compacting possible
 - convertors to other formats shall be developed
- maintenance issue to be considered
- link with **HIRLAM cooperation** to be kept in minds

EXTERNALISED SURFACE SCHEME

- two output files - upper air (FA)
 - surface (LFI)
- difficult to handle in operational practice, but probably possible to merge
- **problem of the ascending compactibility with ALADIN !**
- content of the file to be archived can be revisited
- what to do with fields which are not reals ?

PROGRID (GRIBEUSE)

- MF operational sequence reads:
 - historical FA files -> lat/lon fullpos -> progrid -> BDAP, SYNERGY
- shall fullpos and progrid be merged to avoid duplication of the work in case of new fields in Arome ?
- progrid has been recently improved: documented grib and usage of gribex(including the dolby technique of ecmwf) is now possible