

# Data Documentation of DWD Weather Model Data for Energy System Simulation: 2010

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## ABSTRACT

This is a short documentation of how the weather data of the *Deutscher Wetterdienst* (DWD) was obtained and prepared for the repository entry "*DWD weather model data for energy system simulation: 2010*". Besides a short description a quality analysis was undergone comparing the obtained model data of the DWD to the weather station observation data of the DWD. Lastly, a very simplified categorization of its energy potential and demand is given. This document is meant to give a glimpse into the data set and not meant to be a holistic review of the DWD's weather model.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Weather data is one of the crucial elements for energy system simulation, as it dictates the profile of volatile renewable energy (VRE) sources such as photovoltaic, solar thermal heat and wind power. A fixed scenario configuration may apply for one set of weather, but be insufficient for the next.

The weather data of the DWD is often used in publications such as [1–3], but not yet easily accessible and applicable. The data repository at hand aims to fix that. Additionally, it provides wind data for various heights above ground, which eliminates the need for estimating roughness lengths when extrapolating from usually available wind data.

The data was obtained from DWD and is made available under GeoNutzV [4] license. The targeted use of the data was the research project VEREKON (FKZ: 03ET7067A), an energy system analysis and is therefore mostly suitable for that.

In the following the data processing is documented, data quality is estimated, and a very rough categorization in terms of use for energy system analyses is given.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main material is the weather data received via Pamore [5]. From the available data, the final data set is derived. Additional material encompasses the climate data centre’s observation data (CDC) [6] for comparison. The data set is somewhat incomplete however, as the accessible weather models did not archive solar data before mid-2010.

### 2.1. Pamore data

Pamore is a service of the DWD to access forecast and other data of their various weather models. Wind and temperature data the COSMO-DE model’s [7] assimilation analysis data was requested.

**Table 1: Variable names in COSMO and repository**

Variable name COSMO	Variable Name repository	Changed for repository
T_2M	TMP	✓
U	WZU	✓
V	WMV	✓

#### 2.1.1 DWD model run

The DWD operates its models on a regular basis, whereby the patterns of model runs changed over time as the DWD continuously improved their models, as can be seen from Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3. Generally, the assimilation analysis runs before the main analysis followed last by the forecast runs. The COSMO forecast runs are executed at 0, 3, 6, 9, ..., 21 o’clock UTC. For the COSMO-DE model the DWD’s weather station’s data on pressure and wind speed components at a height of 10 m are entered as a boundary condition as the COSMO-DE model’s main target is an accurate mapping of storm cells [7]. The assimilation analysis data of the COSMO models can be interpreted as a historical log, according to personal correspondences.

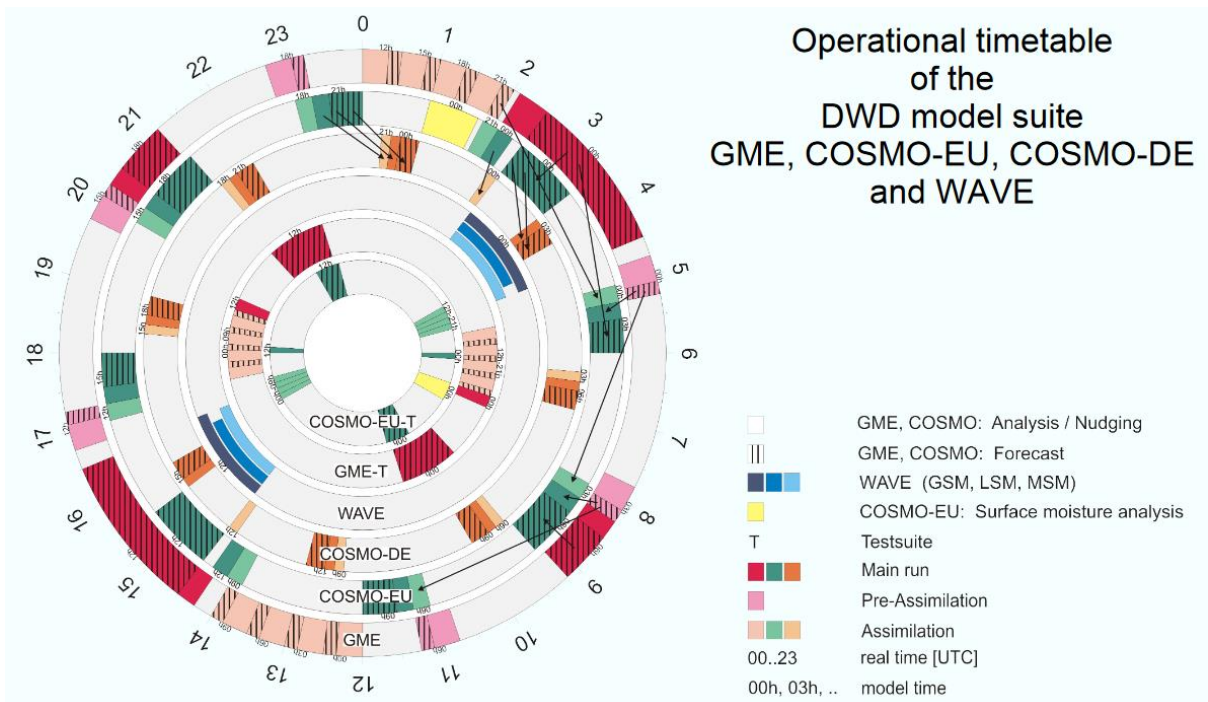


Figure 1: Model clock from 2009 [8]

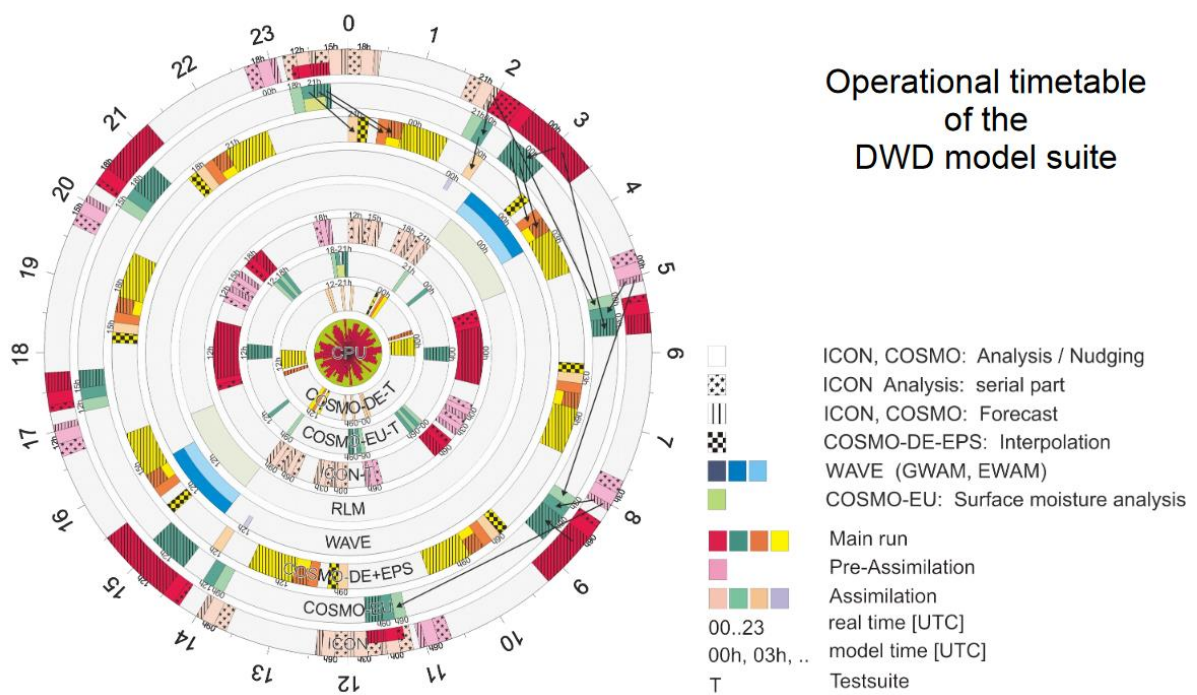
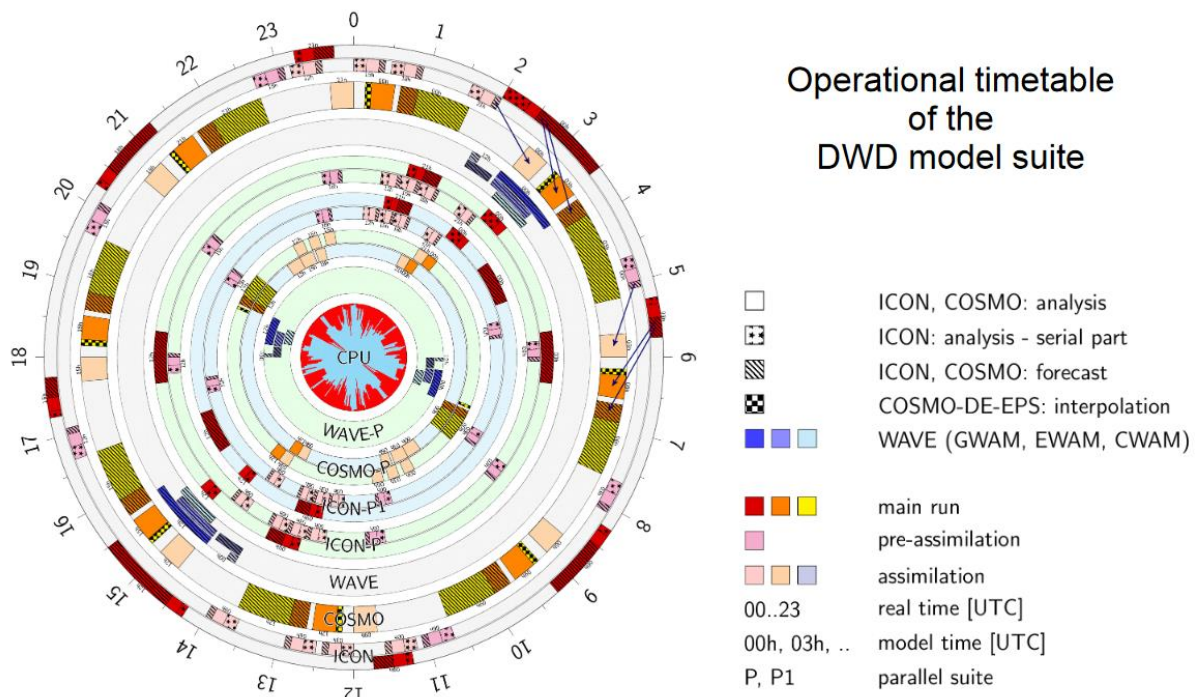


Figure 2: Model clock presented 2015 [9]



**Figure 3: Model clock presented 2017 [10]**

### 2.1.2 Assimilation analysis

The assimilation analysis is a re-run of the COSMO models, with data of wind speeds at 10 m height and air pressure at ground level from SYNOP weather stations as boundary conditions. The assimilation analysis reruns at the aforementioned regular intervals for a simulation time of 3 hours. The obtained data is then archived for “eternity” and accessible via the Pamore platform.

### 2.1.3 Model Grid

The COSMO DE and EU grids at the DWD are rotated pole grids with their rotated north at 40 °N and 170 °W. The COSMOE DE model’s grid starts at model latitude 5 °S<sub>rotated</sub> and longitude 5 °W<sub>rotated</sub>, generating centre grid points going northeast to latitude 6.5 °N<sub>rotated</sub> and longitude 5.5 °E<sub>rotated</sub> in 0.025 ° resolution (translating to a resolution of roughly 2,8 km).

## 2.2. Resulting data set

The resulting data set is archived as an array of single files for each of the requested weather variables for the entire year and saved as an \*.hdf5 file, which is binary file format designed for scientific data sets. For a brief overview of the data, check the section Appendix – Datastructure near the end of the document. The data is given at steps in hourly resolution. Timestamps could be generated starting at 01. January 0 o’clock UTC each year and the suggested interpretation is that, the variables start at these timestamps and are valid up until the timestamp of the next step.

**Table 2: Variable translation and units**

Variable in repo	Meaning	Unit
TMP	Temperature at 2m above ground	°C
WZU	Zonal wind speed (along latitudes), positive towards east	m/s
WMV	Meridional wind speed (along longitudes), positive towards north	m/s

To convert the obtained data to the form described in Table 2 some recalculation was necessary as described in the following sections.

### 2.2.1 Temperature data adjustment

The temperature data was adjusted from the Kelvin temperature scale to a Celsius temperature scale, by simply using

$$\vartheta_{i,j}(t) = T_{\text{data},i,j}(t) - 273.15 \quad (2.1)$$

for value generation.

### 2.2.2 Recalculation of wind data

The wind data, requested as U and V variables, are zonal and meridional wind speed along the model grid and need to be transformed to match the actual global grid. Therefore in a first step, the speed components for the grid's centre points are calculated via

$$\begin{aligned} u_{m,i,j} &= \frac{u_{i,j} + u_{i-1,j}}{2}, \forall i = 2 \dots n_{\text{Latitudes}}, j = 2 \dots n_{\text{Longitudes}} \\ v_{m,i,j} &= \frac{v_{i,j} + v_{i,j-1}}{2}, \forall i = 2 \dots n_{\text{Latitudes}}, j = 2 \dots n_{\text{Longitudes}} \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

leaving out the grid's anchor points, as no values upstream of these exist. This does not affect the dataset at hand, as the grid is cut later anyway. From these values at the center of the grid cell, the globalized components are calculated via

$$\begin{aligned} u_{g,i,j} &= u_{m,i,j} \cdot \cos \delta_{i,j} + v_{m,i,j} \cdot \sin \delta_{i,j} \\ v_{g,i,j} &= -u_{m,i,j} \cdot \sin \delta_{i,j} + v_{m,i,j} \cdot \cos \delta_{i,j} \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

with

$$\delta_{i,j} = \arctan \left( \frac{\cos \varphi_N \sin(\lambda_N - \lambda_{g,i,j})}{\cos \varphi_{g,i,j} \sin \varphi_N - \sin \varphi_{g,i,j} \cos \varphi_N \cos(\lambda_N - \lambda_{g,i,j})} \right) \quad (2.4)$$

$\forall i = 1 \dots n_{\text{Latitudes}}, j = 1 \dots n_{\text{Longitudes}}$

for the appropriate angle correction, whereby  $\varphi_N$  is the reference latitude and  $\lambda_N$  the reference longitude of the rotated pole grid used in Pamore.  $\varphi_{g,i,j}$  and  $\lambda_{g,i,j}$  are used as latitude and longitude in the global pole grid, respectively.

The wind data is given in various heights, which correspond in their name to the main height levels of the Pamore model, which is translated to height in meters in Table 3. These heights are understood as above ground and the levels work as layers, which means that formally the wind speed is given for the entire layer. These layers' boundaries lie half between the corresponding level heights.

**Table 3: Height levels of wind data and their corresponding heights**

Pamore height level / File ending	Height in m above ground <sup>1</sup>
44	345.53
45	258.21
46	183.93
47	122.32
48	73.03
49	35.72
50	10

## 2.3. Validation

To estimate, whether the generated data, can be used as a representative weather data set of the target year, the Pamore model data is compared to the weather observations of DWD's own weather stations, accessed via the Climate Data Centre. As judging metrics, the root mean square error (RMSE), mean absolute error (MAE) and mean bias error (MBE) were calculated.

<sup>1</sup> Ground is defined individually for each cell in the COSMO model. Please look at [7] for further details.

## 2.4. Energy system assessment

For the use in energy system simulation, knowing whether the year is considered bright, warm and windy is a considerable advantage. Therefore, the average wind speed and the average *Gradtagszahl*, indicating the demand for residential heating are calculated.

The *Gradtagszahl* is defined as

$$\overline{GTZ}_{20/12} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{Latitudes}}} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\text{Longitudes}}} \sum_{d=1}^{n_{\text{days/a}}} 20 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} - \bar{\vartheta}_{i,j}(d)}{n_{\text{Grid}}}; \forall \bar{\vartheta}_{i,j}(d) < 12 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \quad (2.5)$$

whereby  $n_{\text{Latitudes}}$  is the number of cells along the latitudes (362),  $n_{\text{Longitudes}}$  the number of cells along the longitudes (330) and  $n_{\text{Grid}}$  the total number of cells (119,460).

## 3. RESULTS

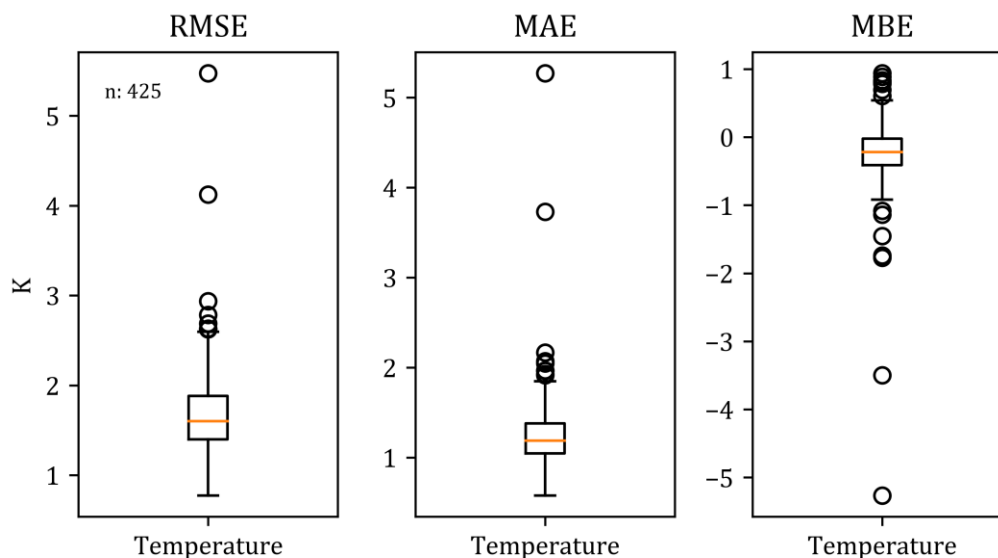
The results were generated using some small python scripts, which were published in a git<sup>2</sup>, so – next to reproducibility – it might also indicate how to work with dataset.

### 3.1. Validation results

As a simplification for this documentation the scatter plot of only those weather stations are shown, that have either the best or worst RMSE, MAE or MBE. To sum up all stations, a box plot for these values is given.

#### 3.1.1 Temperature validation results

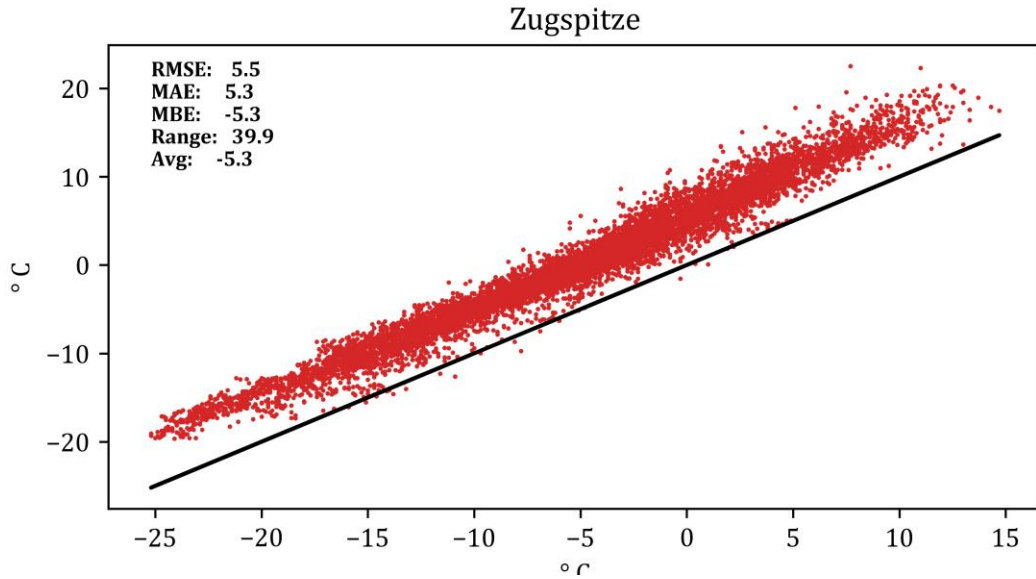
The temperature differences for 2010 show acceptable differences in RMSE and MAE, expecting to be more than 1 K in in difference between COSMO's and the weather station's observational data (as reference value) for most cases. The MBE indicates that COSMO tends to overestimate the actual temperature.



**Figure 4: Overall statistical results for temperature. Temperature differences were accounted and are given in Kelvin. Size of dataset was n = 425.**

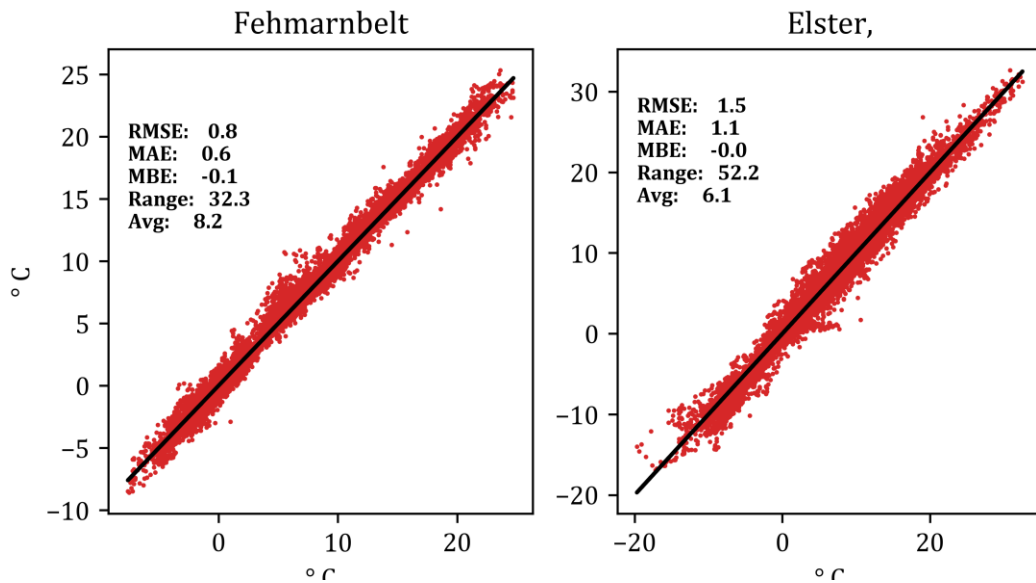
The worst fits (Figure 5) can be observed at the Zugspitze station located near the top of Germany's highest mountain. Despite the fine resolution of the COSMO grid, the Zugspitze values are deemed explicable by the weather station's protruding location.

<sup>2</sup> <https://collaborating.tuhh.de/ietge/dataevaluationdwd>



**Figure 5: Worst fits of COSMO data and observation data. Scatter plots of observation data (x-axis) and model data (y-axis). Zugspitze has all, highest RMSE, MAE and |MBE|, among all weather stations.**

The best fits (Figure 6) show rather good fits of model and observation, in general. However the dataset for the later year, especially from 2014 onward, show better fits, than these.



**Figure 6: Best fits of COSMO data and observation data. The best in RMSE and MAE is Fehmarnbelt and in |MBE| Elster.**

The statistics show such good overall agreement of model data and weather station observation data, that histograms were omitted for brevity.

### 3.1.2 Wind validation

The wind data show a low MBE in general for the wind speed (see Figure 7) and an acceptable MBE for the wind direction (see Figure 8), which is only acceptable as the CDC data is resolved in 10° steps. The RMSE and MAE results indicate a massive scattering between model and observation data, which is shown in both Figure 9 and Figure 10. These figures are split into worst and best fit according to the statistical indicators of that station's wind speed. The results for the Feldberg/Schwarzwald weather station (Figure 9) are a good example of the problem resulting from the model's grid resolution, as the Feldberg/Schwarzwald weather station is in a protruding position of its cell's orography.

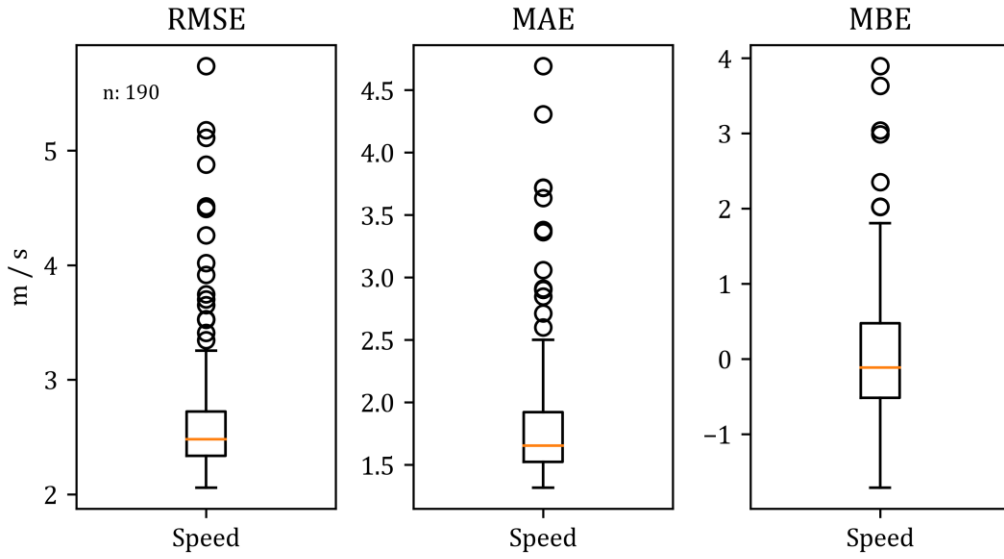


Figure 7: Overall statistical results for wind speed. Speed differences were accounted and are given in m/s. Size of dataset was n = 190.

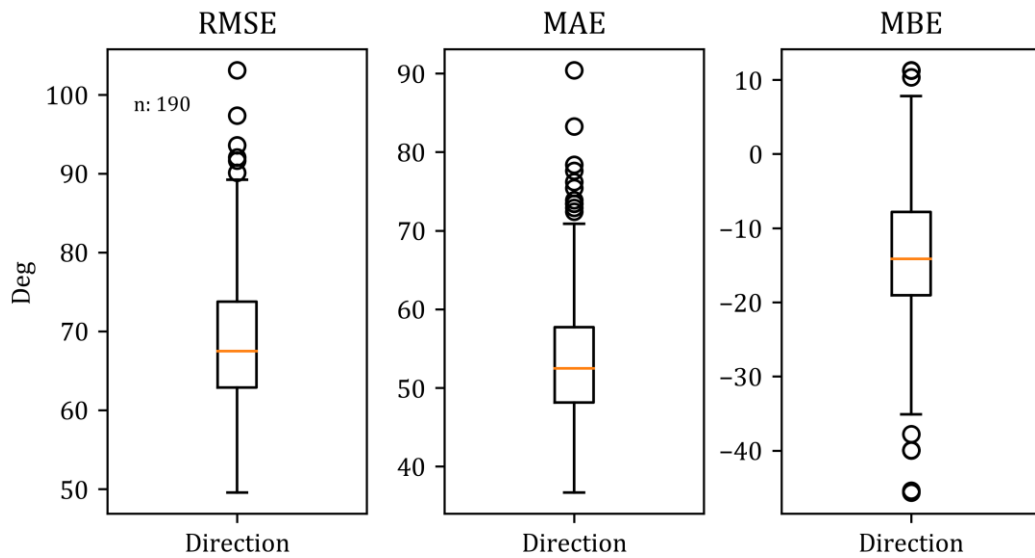


Figure 8: Overall statistical results for wind direction. Direction differences were accounted and are given in ° (degrees). The data resolution of the weather stations was 10°. Size of dataset was n = 190.

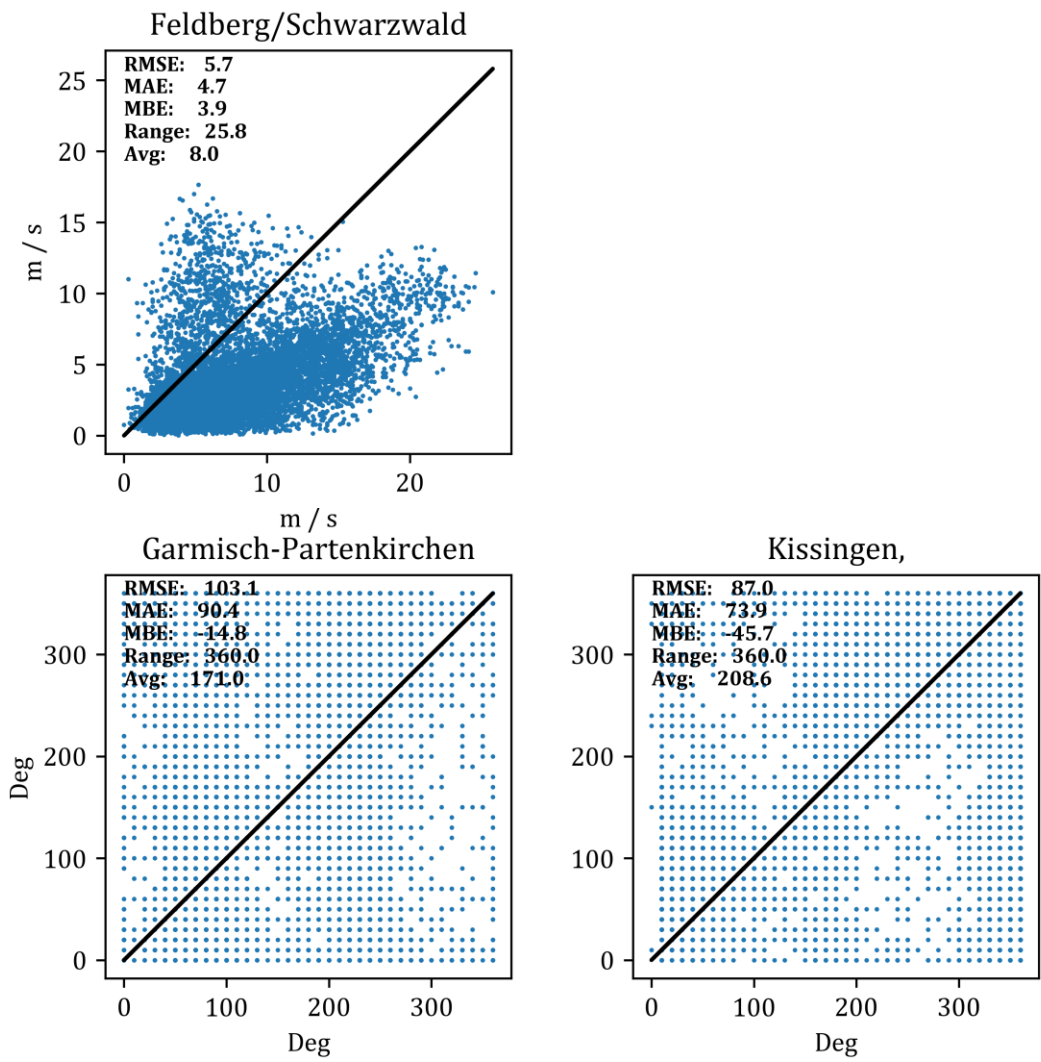


Figure 9: Worst fits of COSMO data and observation data for wind speed, which coincidentally are one of the worst direction results. On top wind speed and at the bottom the wind direction scatter plots. Feldberg/Schwarzwald has all, highest RMSE, MAE and |MBE|, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen has the highest RMSE and MAE, while Kissingen has the highest |MBE| for wind direction.

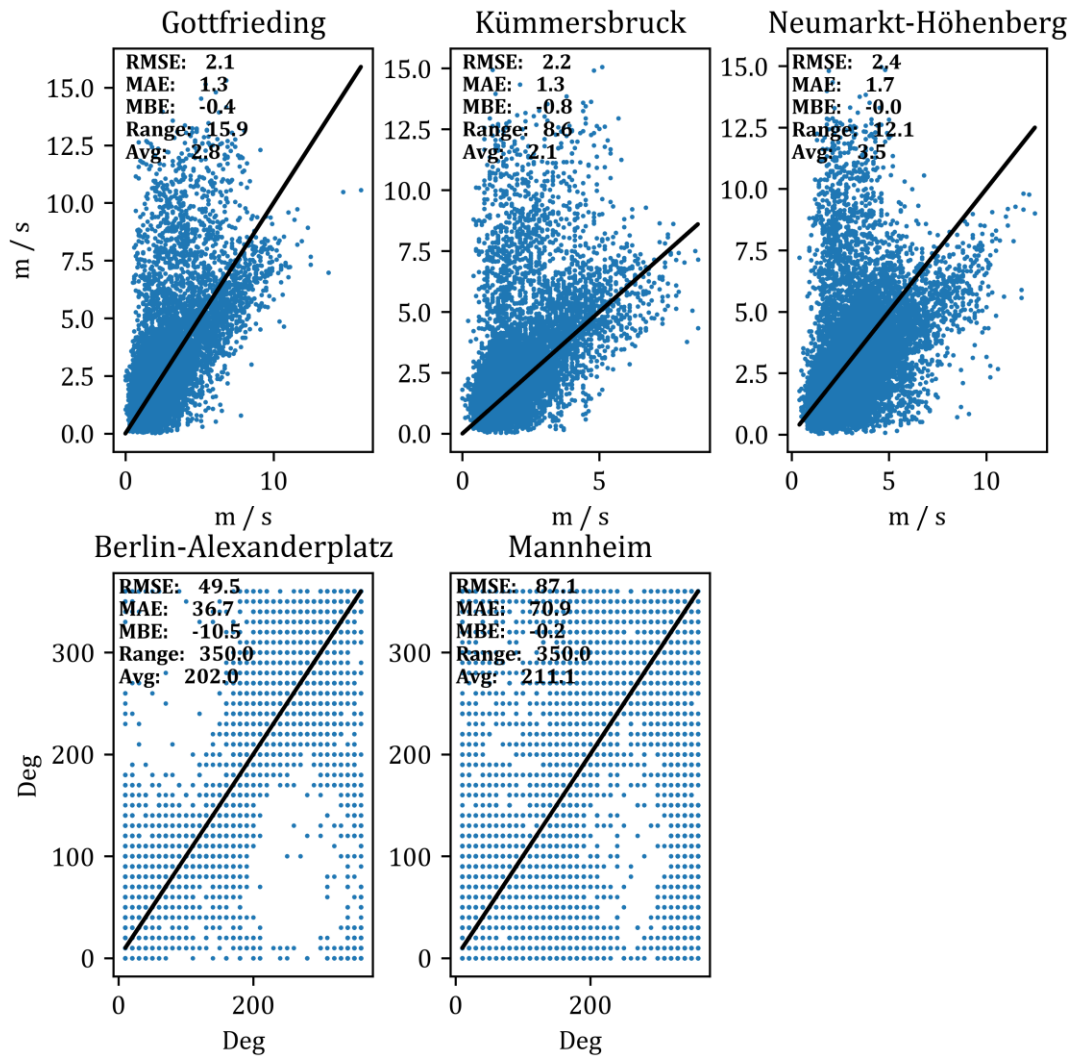


Figure 10: Best fits of COSMO data and observation data for wind speed, which coincidentally are one of the worst direction results. On top wind speed and at the bottom the wind direction scatter plots. Gottfrieding shows lowest RMSE, Kümmersbruck lowest MAE and Neumarkt-Höhenberg lowest |MBE| for wind speed, while Berlin-Alexanderplatz shows lowest RMSE and MAE, and Mannheim lowest |MBE| for wind direction.

Expectedly the wind speed histogram of the Feldberg/Schwarzwald weather station (Figure 11) confirms the bad fit of wind data for points with complex orography, while the wind speed histogram for the weather station with the best RMSE (Figure 12) shows a better fit, than the scatter plot (Figure 10) would suggest. Judging by the overall statistics (Figure 7), the wind data is suitable for energy system simulation.

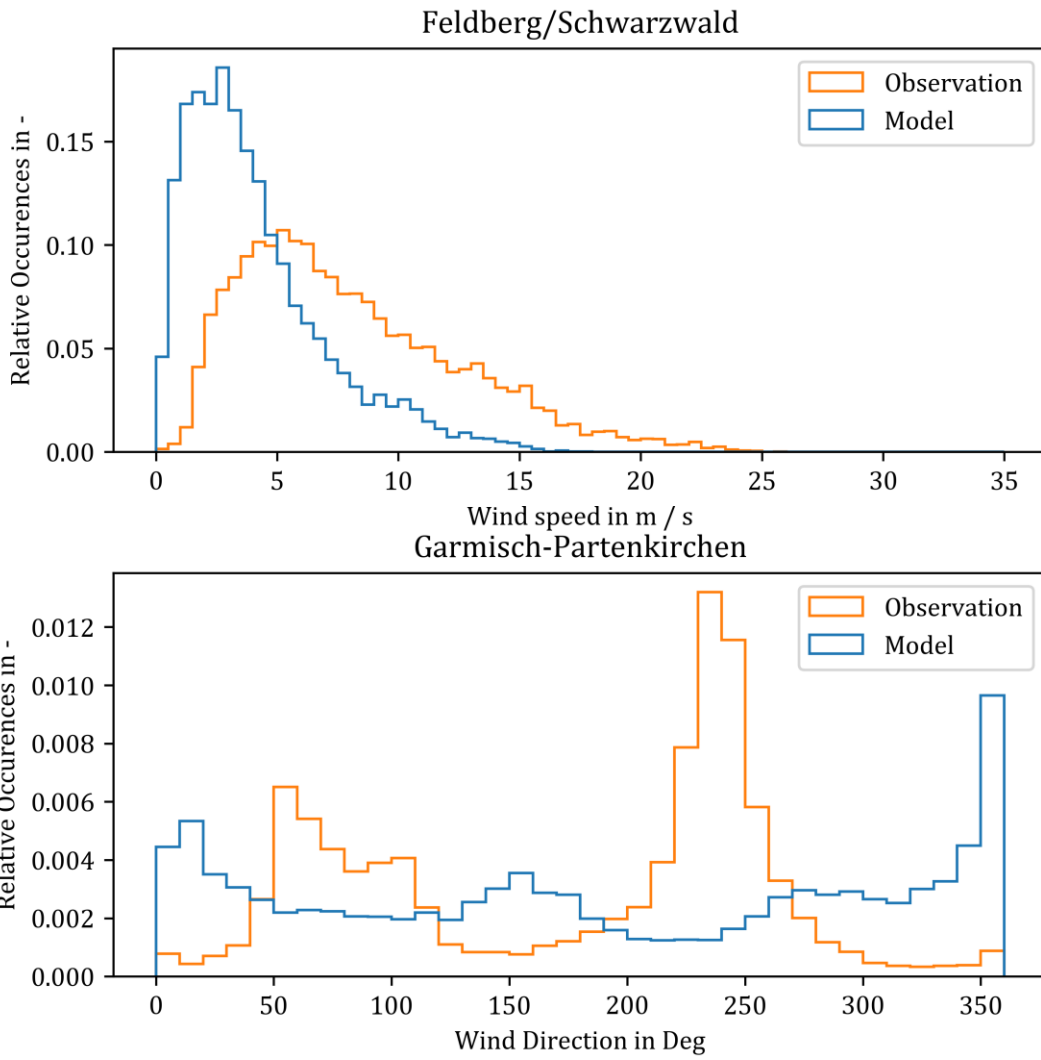


Figure 11: Histogram of worst RMSE fits between model data and weather station's observation data for wind data.

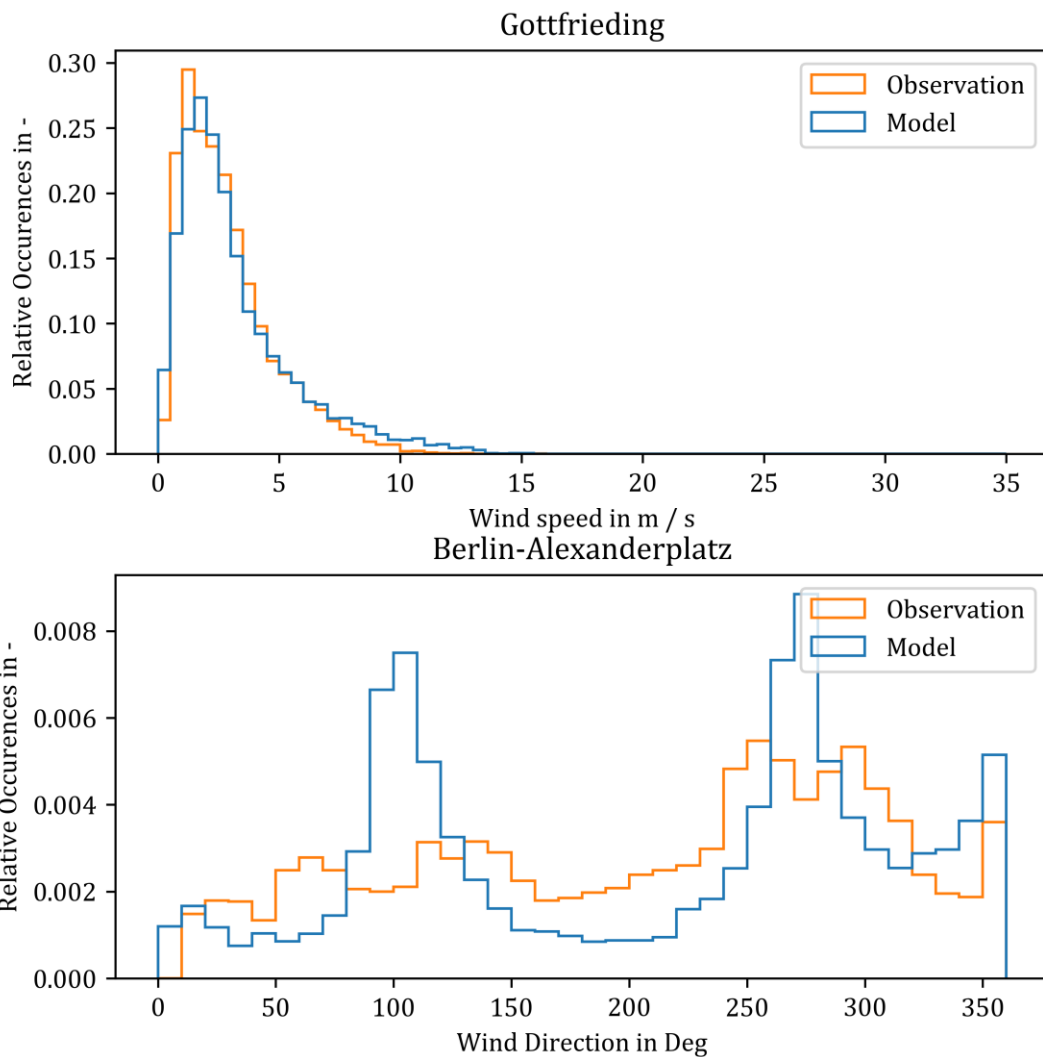


Figure 12: Histogram of best RMSE fits between model data and weather station's observation data for wind data.

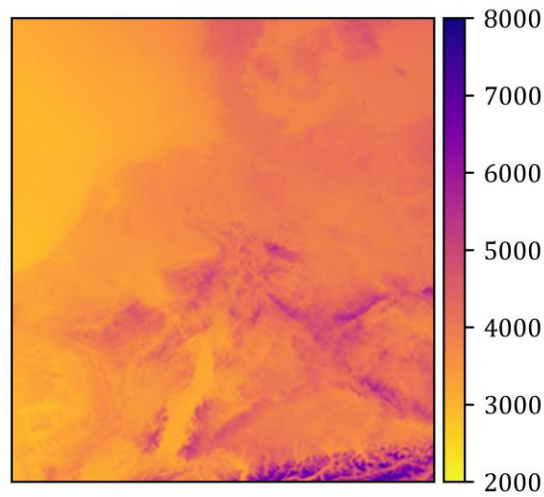
### 3.2. Assessment results

Here the indication results of what using 2010 weather model data might cause in energy system simulation are given. What can be inferred from Table 4 is that 2010 is the coldest year in the entire set with high below average mean wind speeds. This might be interesting as a tough case scenario for heat demand scenarios with a large amount of heat pumps.

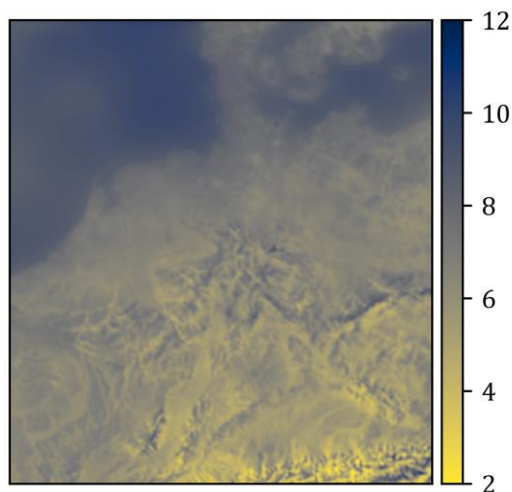
**Table 4: Results across all datasets for energy system simulation assessment. The documented year is highlighted in magenta.**

Type Unit	Temperature GTZ in K	Solar Mean annually sum in kWh/m <sup>2</sup> a	Wind Mean wind speed at 122.32 m in m/s
2007	2988		7.74
2008	3198		7.63
2009	3156		7.37
2010	3790		7.10
2011	2924	1101	7.52
2012	3322	1066	7.43
2013	3496	1052	7.35
2014	2750	1039	7.30
2015	3054	1049	7.70
2016	3247	1004	7.11
2017	3132	1024	7.39
Mean	3187	1048	7.42

In Figure 13 to Figure 14 the distribution of energy system indicators are given. The temperature and wind speed distribution thereby match the orography of the map somewhat closely, which seems sensible to some extent.



**Figure 13: GTZ distribution 2010 in the data set in K. Every pixel represents a ~2.8x2.8 km grid cell.**



**Figure 14: Mean wind speed at 122.32 m distribution 2010 in the data set in m/s. Every pixel represents a  $\sim 2.8 \times 2.8$  km grid cell.**

## 4. DISCUSSION

Before discussing the observation and model data comparison, the general methodology is addressed. Assuming, that a  $\sim 2.8 \times 2.8$  km grid cell has the same results, as a single point in that cell (namely the weather station) is somewhat dependant of the orography of that cell, which the Zugspitze and the Feldberg/Schwarzwald stations highlight prominently. Therefore, the user of the dataset has to keep in mind, that the data rather tells the weather of a region than a place.

Given that disclaimer, the wind data still seem somewhat problematic, especially the wind direction data. It is left as an open question, whether that is a problem of the model, the measuring instruments, or the averaging process for generating an hourly profile.

The yearly grid-wide data (Table 4), their distribution (Figure 13 - Figure 14), and the MBE results on the other hand, indicate that the model data is – taken as a whole – rather accurate. Another case in point is an appraisal of the model by DWD staff, stating that the model can be taken as a good approximation of reality. The appraisals were gathered via e-mail.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Overall, the given data set can be interpreted as the weather that was and is applicable for energy system simulation, but has to be bodged to include solar data, as either the reference years or weather models are then differnet.

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## 7. Nomenclature

**Table 5: Nomenclature**

Symbol	Unit	Description
<i>ASWDIFD</i>	W/m <sup>2</sup>	File indicator for diffuse solar irradiation on the horizontal plane
<i>ASWDIR</i>	W/m <sup>2</sup>	File indicator for direct solar irradiation on the horizontal plane
<i>d</i>	-	Day in a year (time step)
<i>DHI</i>	W/m <sup>2</sup>	Same as AWDIFD
<i>GHI</i>	W/m <sup>2</sup>	Global solar irradiation on the horizontal plane
<i>GTZ</i>	K	Gradtagszahl (indicating heating demand)
<i>I</i>	W/m <sup>2</sup>	Solar irradiation (any)
<i>i</i>	-	Index variable for a grid cell
<i>j</i>	-	Index variable for a grid cell
<i>n</i>	-	Number of elements (count)
<i>t</i>	-	Time step
<i>T</i>	K	Temperature
<i>TMP</i>	°C	File indicator for temperature
<i>u</i>	m/s	Zonal wind speed
<i>v</i>	m/s	Meridional wind speed
<i>WMV</i>	m/s	File indicator for meridional wind speed
<i>WZU</i>	m/s	File indicator for zonal wind speed
$\delta$	°	Angle between rotated and global polar grid
$\vartheta$	°C	Temperature
$\lambda$	°	Longitude
$\varphi$	°	Latitude

**Table 6: Terms and abbreviations**

Term/Abbreviation	Description
CharL	Energy system model of the research project of this data acquisition
COSMO	Weather model, originally developed by the DWD
DWD	Deutscher Wetterdienst (German Meteorological Service)
HDF5	Binary file format for large(, scientific) data sets
Pamore	Model data access program of the DWD
VEREKON	Research project
VRE	Volatile Renewable Energy

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag

## APPENDIX – DATASTRUCTURE

Every file shares the same structure and therefore only differs in data type and unit of data (see Table 2 (repeated at bottom of this page) for those). Here some of the meta data is listed.

### Grid

The grids for temperature and wind were cut to 362 x 330 points polar grids with 8760 time steps (one for each hour of the year starting at 01.01.2010 0:00 UTC). They originate from rotated and pole-shifted polar grids of the COSMO model. The COSMO DE grid at the DWD are rotated pole grids with their rotated north at 40 °N and 170 °W. Starting at model latitude 5 °S<sub>rotated</sub> and longitude 5 °W<sub>rotated</sub> centre grid points are generated going northeast to latitude 6.5 °N<sub>rotated</sub> and longitude 5.5 °E<sub>rotated</sub> in 0.025 ° resolution (translating to a resolution of roughly 2,8 km). The cut grid now starts in the top left at 56.0032 °N and 1.48992 °E and goes to the bottom right at 47.1331 °N and 15.069 °E.

### Data structure

In the files the latitudes and longitudes are organised as 362 x 330 2D arrays containing the corresponding cell's latitude or longitudes, respectively, as a float (also known as single precision or 4 Byte floating point) and accessible via `/latitude` or `/longitude` respectively. The actual data is organised as a 362 x 330 x 8760 3D array containing the variables value as a float and accessible via its accessor name, which in the repository correspond to the file indicators (e.g. `/TMP`). Should someone rename the file, the accessor name is repeated in the metadata. The resulting file size hence is around 4 GB.

### Available Metadata

Every file contains the following metadata:

Accessor (in hdf5 file)	Content
<code>/creation_date</code>	Date of file creation
<code>/author</code>	Who created that file
<code>/datasource</code>	Where the data is from (DWD)
<code>/datatype</code>	Accessor/Variable name of data itself
<code>/datatype_description</code>	Description of the available data
<code>/unit</code>	Unit of the data
<code>/timeframe</code>	File's date range
<code>/steptime</code>	Time between steps in h
<code>/license</code>	License of the file
<code>/comment</code>	Any additional info (e.g. bodedged data points)
<code>/level</code>	Height level (only filled with information in wind data files)

Copy of Table 2:

Variable in repo	Meaning	Unit
TMP	Temperature at 2m above ground	°C
WZU	Zonal wind speed (along latitudes), positive towards east	m/s
WMV	Meridional wind speed (along longitudes), positive towards north	m/s

## APPENDIX – FILE CREATION AND DATA RETRIEVAL CODE SNIPPETS

The data files were created using Matlab® 2018b and hdf5® as the target file format. Which results in an older version of that file format. See Listing 1 for the creation code. The files are therefore readable with Matlab, the h5py library for python, the C and Fortran libraries of the hdf5 group<sup>3</sup> or the C++ library in our own energy system model CharL<sup>4</sup>.

**Listing 1: Example Matlab code used to create the files (in this case, a WZU file is created)**

```
h5create(pathoutU, strcat('/',typeU), [nX nY nTime],...
        'Datatype','single');
h5create(pathoutU, '/latitude', [nX nY], 'Datatype','single');
h5create(pathoutU, '/longitude', [nX nY], 'Datatype','single');
h5write(pathoutU, '/latitude', latitudes_cut);
h5write(pathoutU, '/longitude', longitudes_cut);
h5write(pathoutU, strcat('/',typeU), dataCutU);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'creation_date', creation_date);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'author', author);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'datasource', data_source);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'datatype', typeU);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'datatype_description', descriptionU);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'unit', unit);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'timeframe', timeframe);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'steptime', steptime);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'license', 'GeoNutzV');
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'comment', comment);
h5writeatt(pathoutU, '/', 'level', levelTextF);
```

The commands used for retrieving the COSMO data via Pamore were used for each variable individually and month-wise, due to line-limits per request set by the Pamore servers. Examples for these commands are given in the following listings.

Please note, that the `-lv` command in the wind data requests did not have the 44 for every year in the overall dataset. For e.g. 2017 it does not.

**Listing 2: Command to retrieve temperature data. The dates (highlighted) were set for each month.**

```
pamore -G -F -d 2017010100 -de 2017020100 -dinc 1 -tflag best -ee T_2M%105
-model lmk_ana
```

**Listing 3: Command to retrieve zonal wind data. The dates (highlighted) were set for each month.**

```
pamore -G -F -d 2017010100 -de 2017020100 -dinc 1 -tflag best -ee V%hi -lv
44,45,46,47,48,49,50 -model lmk_ana
```

**Listing 4: Command to retrieve meridional wind data. The dates (highlighted) were set for each month.**

```
pamore -G -F -d 2017010100 -de 2017020100 -dinc 1 -tflag best -ee V%hi -lv
44,45,46,47,48,49,50 -model lmk_ana
```

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://portal.hdfgroup.org/display/HDF5/HDF5>

<sup>4</sup> <https://collaborating.tuhh.de/iet/CharL>

## DISCLAIMER

This document was written rather hastily and by reusing a lot of paragraphs as well as using automated plot generation. Please note the author, if you are unable to reproduce the results or discover any inaccuracies. However, the quality of the data is very well tested, so please do not let this document discourage you from using them.

## HOW TO CITE

If you are unsure about the way to cite the dataset, here is a suggestion:

In text: "DWD weather data supplied by <citation>"

In references: "2020 – Gerrit Erichsen - DWD Weather Model Data for Energy System Simulation: 2010 – doi"

Citing the documentation should also work by citing the repository, as only the repository in its entirety has a DOI.

In text: "[...] considering the data documentation of <citation> [...]"

In references: Same as above.