



A lucky spin

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At the core of every nation's soul you find certain activities. In Norway, skiing is one of those core activities and values. At Holmenkollen, the national arena for Nordic skiing, is the museum dedicated to skiing in all flavours, e.g. Roald Amundsens expedition to the south pole, ski jumping through the ages, cross-country skiing in championships, playing around on the slopes with snowboard. The museum was set to change a temporary exhibition and contacted MET Norway regarding how to incorporate weather and winter climate in the exhibition. MET Norway were planning our 150 anniversary at the time, and included this exhibition as part of our celebrations.

The exhibition, called "Be prepared - an exhibition about weather and climate" gives an overview of the climate development in the world for the last 800 000 years, more detailed on the last 140 years in Norway including weather forecasting. There are three major pieces that captures the audience's attention:

* "The Weathercube", which the TV-presenters used to present the weather forecast until they started using computer animations.

* Full scale model of the maximum snow depth at Bjørnholt, a weather station in the core of the skiing areas close to Oslo, for the last 140 years.

* Three "Wheel of fortune" where the public can spin for a good or a bad winter. One wheel based on the climate of 1900, one wheel based on the present climate and one wheel based on climate projections for the end of the 21th century.

The two later parts required us to homogenize daily temperature and precipitation data for the weather station, run a snow-model on these dataset, and use the results for a statistical downscaling of future snow conditions.

The idea behind using "wheel of fortune" was to illustrate the combination of a changing climate and the natural variability of the weather. These wheels of fortune, where the public can spin the wheel for a good winter, have turned out to be a very successful installation.