



The final approach? Verification of Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts

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Accurate forecasting is essential for safe airport management. Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) are an internationally accepted form of aviation forecast used for airport and flight planning procedures at all major airports. These abbreviated text forecasts contain probabilistic, deterministic and temporal uncertainty terms which make assessing them a challenge. This presentation outlines a new verification approach which adopts the WMO definition of each TAF abbreviation, matching the observations to the forecast as closely as these definitions allow. Then the performance is measured using a novel multi-category reliability table approach; an analysis of the visibility component to TAFs is used to demonstrate that this methodology performs well when compared with existing verification approaches in a variety of different test cases which have been chosen to illustrate scenarios that are important to forecast correctly.