



17 years 'Berlin Weather Forecasting Contest' - a unique verification tool

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Weather forecasting contests are a unique and efficient tool to prove the skills of forecasters and forecasting algorithms. The results provide real-time comparative verification response immediately after the observations are present. The Berlin Weather Forecasting Contest (www.wetterturnier.de) is running for more than 17 years now: Each Friday more than 100 participants - among them more than 10 different MOS forecasts (from different MOS developers, based on different models) - take part with their forecasts for 12 weather elements for Saturday and Sunday for 5 places in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Verification of the results will be presented. This allows interesting insights regarding

- the performance of different numerical models as basis for MOS,
- the performance of MOS of different providers,
- the positive effect of mixing of two or more Models in a MOS-Mix,
- the performance of human and machine forecasts and
- the general improvement of forecast accuracy over the years.

MOS-Mix forecasts are typically ahead of the single-model MOS forecasts, and only a few forecasters are able to score better than the best MOS-Mix forecast which is available to them a few hours before deadline (Friday 15 UTC). The general progress in short range weather forecasting per decade is 'Look one day more ahead with the same accuracy as 10 years ago'. This can also be found in the tournament data.

Participation is free for anyone who wants to sharpen his forecast skills or to evaluate new forecasting algorithms.