DELTA Version 7.0

Concepts / User's Guide / Diagrams

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Part I

CONCEPTS

1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the DELTA Tool. This tool is an IDL-based evaluation software which includes the main assets of the EuroDelta, CityDelta, and POMI tools (Cuvelier et al. 2007; Thunis et al. 2007). It allows the user to perform rapid diagnostics of air quality and meteorological model performances. Although DELTA focuses on the air pollutants mentioned in the Air Quality Directive 2008 (AQD) it can be used for other variables as well. It works on the comparison of time series at specific locations and therefore addresses all relevant spatial scales (from local to regional). Some material about DELTA has been already presented in different documents:

METHOD2012: *Performance criteria to evaluate air quality modeling applications, P. Thunis, A. Pederzoli, D. Pernigotti. Atmospheric Environment, Volume 59, November 2012, Pages 476-482*

UNCERT2012: Set of 3 peer-reviewed publications and a working note:

- *Model quality objectives based on measurement uncertainty: Part 1: Ozone, P. Thunis, D. Pernigotti and M. Gerboles, Atmospheric Environment, Volume 79, November 2013, Pages 861-868*
- *Model quality objectives based on measurement uncertainty: Part II:PM10 and NO2. D. Pernigotti, P. Thunis, M. Gerboles and C. Belis, Atmospheric Environment, Volume 79, November 2013, Pages 869-878*
- *Modeling quality objectives in the framework of the FAIRMODE project: working document. D. Pernigotti, P. Thunis and M. Gerboles, April 2014. Available on the fairmode webpage:http://fairmode.jrc.ec.europa.eu/document/fairmode/WG1/Working%20note_MQO.pdf.*

GUID2022*: FAIRMODE Guidance Document on Modelling Quality Objectives and Benchmarking, 2022.*

Janssen, S., Thunis, P. (document available on the Fairmode web site)

We will here recall the main concepts and details of the DELTA Tool, as well as the improvements made in this version with respect to previous versions (see what's new section).

2. BASIC PRINCIPLES

- DELTA works with modelled-observed data pairs at surface level, i.e. temporal series of modelled and monitored data at selected ground level locations (e.g. monitoring stations). In theory the software works therefore independently of model gridding and spatial scale. Of course the user must use an appropriate methodology to ensure comparability between grid-cell averaged model results and punctual measurements.

- A minimum data availability is required for statistics to be produced at a given station. Presently the requested percentage of available data over the selected period is 75% as defined in the AQD 2008. For other variables than discussed in the AQD the same percentage threshold applies. Statistics for a single station are only produced in DELTA when data availability of paired modelled and observed data is at least of 75% for the time period considered. When time averaging operations are performed the same availability criteria of 75% applies. For example daily averages will be performed only if data for 18 hours are available. Similarly O_3 daily maximum 8-hour means will be performed only when 6 hourly values are available per set of 8 hours.

- Although DELTA focuses mostly on the evaluation of single model results, it allows analysing multiple model results. This is intended to help in the comparison of the results from different model versions.

- The current statistical diagrams and indicators proposed in DELTA have been selected based on literature review. Usage of composite diagrams (e.g. Taylor, Target…) has been favoured.

- Model results are assessed (when possible) with respect to "performance criteria" or model quality objectives which indicate the level of accuracy considered to be acceptable for regulatory applications (see METHOD2012 and UNCERT2012 for more details). In this version of the DELTA tool uncertainty-based performance criteria have been inserted for O_3, NO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, WS and TEMP. For the latter two the criteria are proposed currently for testing purposes only.

- Both meteorological (scalars only) and air quality data can be handled by DELTA.

- Benchmarking is included in the DELTA software to allow the production of model performance summary reports by the users (see Concepts Section 5). For this benchmarking DELTA focuses on the evaluation of modelling applications related to the AQD. Pollutants and temporal scales are therefore those relevant to the AQD, i.e. O_3, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2 data covering an entire calendar year.

3. OVERVIEW

The structure of the software is schematically presented in Figure 1. There are four main modules:

- Input module – refers to air quality and meteorological data, both from modelling and monitoring, prepared in a specific format. Instructions on how to prepare these input files are given in the User's Guide;
- Configuration module - includes configuration files, which link the input to the desired statistical elaboration. One of these files is the startup.ini file (to be prepared by the user) which contains details on the monitoring stations and measured variables (see User's Guide). Other important configuration files, embedded in the tool are the performance and goal criteria file which lists the performance criteria used in DELTA for the different species and the myDeltaInput file which facilitates the management of multiple datasets;
- Analysis module – is the core of the DELTA where different statistical indicators and diagrams are produced. This module can be operated in two modes – exploration and benchmarking
- Output module – includes the results of the selected statistical elaborations (graphics or statistics values). For the benchmarking mode this output follows a predefined template, not modifiable by the user (see Concepts Section 5).

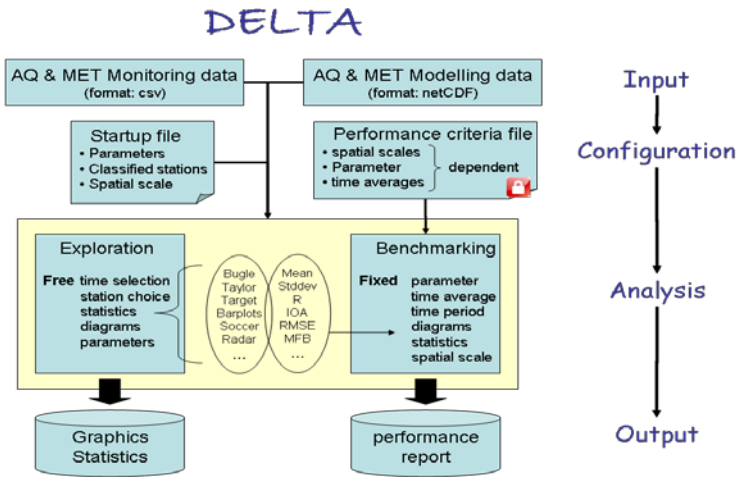

Figure 1. Structure of the DELTA software

Within the analysis two main modes exist: exploration and benchmarking mode. They are described in the next sections.

3.1. EXPLORATION

This mode allows the user to analyse different statistical metrics and diagrams, using various time intervals, various stations, various parameters (meteorological variables or pollutants) from one or more models. Different types of analysis can be performed:

- Temporal analysis can be performed with different options (running averages, daily min/max/mean, selection of seasons, week days/ week-end, and daylight/ night time hours).
- Spatial analysis can be performed in two ways: (1) indirectly: based on the classification of the monitoring stations in different geographical entities (different colors are then used for each defined geographical entity) or (2) directly: by using the Google Earth (or GeoMap) option, a functionality which permits to visualise a statistical parameter at each station as a point on a 2D map
- Multidimensional analysis can be performed. Dimensions here refer to monitoring parameters, models, scenarios and stations. One or more elements for each of those dimensions can be chosen and overlaid on a single diagram.

3.2. BENCHMARKING

This mode allows to produce summary reports containing performance criteria for different statistical indicators related to a given model application in the frame of the AQD. The reports are obtained through an automatic procedure and follow a pre-defined template structured around core indicators and diagrams (see Concepts Section 5). Some bounds for specific statistical indicators (performance criteria and model quality objective) are included, aiming to help in the assessment of the model performance.

Contrary to the exploration mode described above, the freedom left to the user in benchmarking mode is minimal, i.e. DELTA automatically produces the performance report.

The template for reporting model performances is application specific (assessment, foreecast or planning). In the current prototype version assessment and forecast templates are considered and have been prepared for O_3, NO_2 $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}. In terms of diagrams and indicators, the template is independent from the spatial scale and pollutant but performance criteria and model quality objectives (see next Section) can be pollutant and/or scale specific. Note that specific assessment templates are proposed for models delivering annual averages only.

4. MODELLING QUALITY OBJECTIVE AND MODEL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Models applied for regulatory air quality assessment are commonly evaluated on the basis of comparisons against observations. This element of the model evaluation process is also known as operational model evaluation or statistical performance analysis, since statistical indicators and graphical analysis are used to determine the capability of an air quality model to reproduce measured concentrations. It is generally recommended to apply multiple performance indicators regardless of the model application since each one has its advantages and disadvantages.

To cover all aspects of the model performance in terms of amplitude, phase and bias the following set of statistical indicators has been proposed within FAIRMODE for the statistical analysis of model performance with M_i and O_i respectively the modelled and observed values where i is a number (rank) between 1 and N and N the total number of modelled or observed values:

Indicator	Formula
Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)	$RMSE = \sqrt{1/N \sum_{i=1}^{N} (O_i - M_i)^2}$
Correlation coefficient (R)	$R = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(M_i - \bar{M})(o_i - \bar{o})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(M_i - \bar{M})^2}\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(o_i - \bar{o})^2}}$
Normalised Mean Bias (NMB)	$NMB = \frac{BIAS}{\bar{O}}$ where $BIAS = \bar{M} - \bar{O}$
Normalised Mean Standard Deviation (NMSD)	$NMSD = \frac{(\sigma_M - \sigma_O)}{\sigma_O}$

Table 1: List of the main statistical indices related to the MQO

with $\bar{O} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} O_i}{N}$ and $\bar{M} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} M_i}{N}$ the average observed and modeled values and $\sigma_O = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(O_i - \bar{O})^2}$ and $\sigma_M = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(M_i - \bar{M})^2}$ the standard deviation of the observed and modeled values.

4.1. MODELLING QUALITY OBJECTIVE (MQO)

Although statistical performance indicators provide insight on model performance in general they do not tell whether model results have reached a sufficient level of quality for a given application, e.g. for policy support. This is the reason why a Model Quality Objective (MQO), defined as the minimum level of quality to be achieved by a model for policy use, needs to be defined. The MQO is constructed on the basis of the observation uncertainty.

4.1.1. A SIMPLE EXPRESSION FOR THE MQO

A Model Quality Indicator (MQI) is defined as the ratio between the model-measured bias and a quantity proportional to the measurement uncertainty U as:

$$MQI = \frac{|O_i - M_i|}{\beta U(O_i)} \quad (1)$$

with β equal to 2 in the current formulation. The MQO is fulfilled when the MQI is less or equal to 1, i.e.:

$$MQO: MQI \leq 1 \quad (2)$$

In Figure 2, the MQO is fulfilled for example on days 3 to 10 whereas it is not fulfilled on days 1, 2 and 11. We will also use the condition $|O_i - M_i| \leq U(O_i)$ in the MQO related diagrams to indicate when model-observed differences are within the observation uncertainty (e.g. days 5 and 12 in Figure 2).

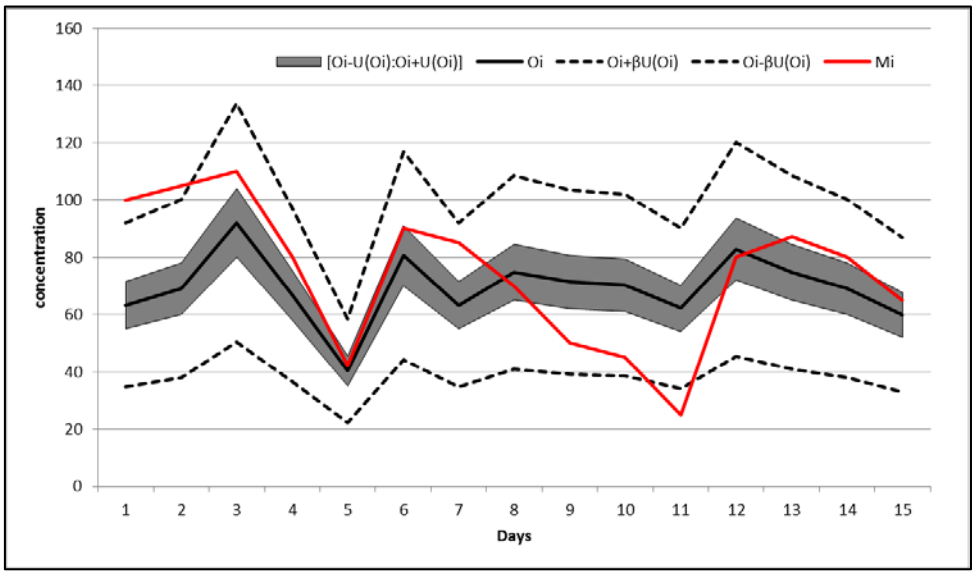

Figure 2: Example for a PM10 time series: measured (bold black) and modelled (bold red) concentrations are represented for a single station. The grey shaded area is indicative of the observation uncertainty whereas the dashed black lines represent the MQO limits (proportional to the observation uncertainty). Modelled data fulfilling the MQO must be within the dashed lines.

Equation (2) can then be used to generalize the MQO to a time series:

$$MQI = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(O_i - M_i)^2}}{\beta\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}U(\mathrm{O}_i)^2}} = \frac{\mathrm{RMSE}}{\beta RMS_U} \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

With this MQO formulation, the RMSE between observed and modelled values (numerator) is compared to a value representative of the maximum allowed uncertainty (denominator). The value of β determines the stringency of the MQO.

4.1.2. AN EXPRESSION FOR THE OBSERVATION UNCERTAINTY

The derivation of the observation uncertainty is detailed in GUID2022 and only the final formulations are provided here. The uncertainty of a single observation value is expressed as:

$$U(O_i) = \mathrm{k}u_r^{RV}\sqrt{(1-\alpha^2)O_i^2 + \alpha^2 RV^2} \quad (4)$$

where:

- $\mathrm{u_r^{RV}}$ represents the relative measurement uncertainty estimated around a reference value (RV) for a given time averaging, e.g. the daily/hourly Limit Values of the AQD.
- α^2 is the fraction of the uncertainty around the reference value (RV) which is non-proportional to the concentration level.
- k is the coverage factor. Each value of k gives a particular confidence level that the true value lays within the interval of confidence consisting in $O_i \pm U$. Most commonly, the expanded uncertainty is scaled by using the coverage factor k=2, to give a level of confidence of approximately 95 percents.

From the equation above it is possible to derive an expression for RMS_U as:

$$RMS_U = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum\left(U(O_i)\right)^2} = U_r^{RV}\sqrt{(1-\alpha^2)(\bar{O}^2 + \sigma_O^2) + \alpha^2 RV^2} \quad (5)$$

in which $\bar{O}$ and σ_O are the mean and the standard deviation of the measured time series, respectively.

$$MQI = \frac{|O_i - M_i|}{\beta U(O_i)}$$

$$MQO : MQI \leq 1$$

$$MQI = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(O_i - M_i)^2}}{\beta\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}U(\mathrm{O}_i)^2}} = \frac{\mathrm{RMSE}}{\beta RMS_U} \leq 1$$

4.1.3. EXTENSION OF THE MQO TO YEARLY AVERAGES

For air quality models that provide yearly averaged pollutant concentrations, the MQO is modified into a criterion in which the mean bias between modelled and measured concentrations is normalized by the expanded uncertainty of the mean concentration:

$$MQI = \frac{|\bar{O} - \bar{M}|}{\beta U(\bar{\mathrm{O}})} \leq 1 \qquad (6)$$

For this case, Pernigotti et al (2013) derive the following expression for $\mathrm{U}(\bar{\mathrm{O}})$:

$$U(\bar{O}) = U_r^{RV}\sqrt{\frac{(1-\alpha^2)}{N_p}\bar{O}^2 + \frac{\alpha^2.RV^2}{N_{np}}} \qquad (7)$$

where N_p and N_{np} are two coefficients that are only used for annual averages and that account for the compensation of errors (and therefore a smaller uncertainty) due to random noise and other factors like periodic re-calibration of the instruments. Details on the derivations, in particular those related to the parameters N_p and N_{np} are provided in Pernigotti et al. (2013).

4.1.4. CALCULATION OF THE ASSOCIATED MODEL UNCERTAINTY

The normalized deviation indicator (ref: ISO 13528) scales the model-observation difference with the measurement and modeling uncertainties [$U(O_i)$ and $\mathrm{U}(M_i)$] associated to this difference:

$$E_n = \frac{|O_i - M_i|}{\sqrt{U(O_i)^2 + U(M_i)^2}} \qquad (8)$$

E_n equals to unity implies that the model and measured uncertainties are compatible with the model-observation bias. We use this relation, i.e. E_n=1, in DELTA to estimate the

minimum model uncertainty compatible with the resulting model-observation bias as follows:

$$E_n = 1 \Rightarrow U(M_i) = U(O_i)\sqrt{\left(\frac{O_i - M_i}{U(O_i)}\right)^2 - 1} \quad (9)$$

Relation (9) does not apply to cases in which $|O_i - M_i| < U(O_i)$, i.e. when the bias is inferior to the observation uncertainty, cases in which no meaningful improvement of the model can be made. In such cases, a value of zero (perfect model) is assumed for the associated model uncertainty for that station. It is interesting to note that the Fulfilment of the MQO proposed in (3) implies that the minimum model uncertainty must not exceed 1.75 times the measured one [this value if obtained by substituting the bias term in (9) by its maximum allowed value in the MQO, i.e. $\beta U(O_i)$ with $\beta=2$].

We can generalise equation (9) for a time series and for time averaged values as:

$$RMS_{U_M} = RMS_U\sqrt{\left(\frac{\mathrm{RMSE}}{RMS_U}\right)^2 - 1} \quad (10)$$

and

$$U(\bar{M}) = U(\bar{O})\sqrt{\left(\frac{\mathrm{Bias}}{U(\bar{O})}\right)^2 - 1} \quad (11)$$

In DELTA the value of the ratio (RMS_{U_M}/RMS_U) or $(U(\bar{M})/U(\bar{O}))$ is used to scale the observation uncertainty around the reference value (U_r^{RV}) to provide information about the minimum model uncertainty reached around the reference value. This information is provided in some benchmarking diagrams after application of the 90% principle (see Section 4.3).

4.1.5. CURRENT PARAMETERS FOR THE MQO

The following values are selected in the current expression of the MQO. All values are as reported in Pernigotti et al. (2013) and Thunis et al. (2012) with the exception of the N_p and N_{np} parameters for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ that have been updated to better account for the yearly average measurement uncertainty range. Because of insufficient data for PM_{25}, values of N_p and N_{np} similar to those for PM_{10} have been set. The value of U_r^{RV} has also been updated for O_3 where the coverage factor (k) has been updated to 2 (not 1.4 as in Thunis et al. 2012).

	β	U_r^{RV}	RV	α	N_p	N_{np}
NO2	2.00	0.24	200 µg/m3	0.20	5.2	5.5

O3	2.00	0.18	120 µg/m3	0.79	11	3
PM10	2.00	0.28	50 µg/m3	0.25	20	1.5
PM2.5	2.00	0.36	25 µg/m3	0.50	20	1.5
WS	2.00	0.26	5 m/s	0.89	NA	NA
Temp	2.00	0.05	25 K	1.00	NA	NA

Table 2: List of parameters used to calculate the uncertainty

Table 3 below summarizes the values of the MQO proposed in the Air quality directive (AQD) around the limit values (or target values) as well as those proposed in the current DELTA benchmarking. Because the latter ones vary with the concentration level and cover the whole concentration range, a value at mid-range (Limit value / 2) is also provided for information.

	AQD		DELTA	
	LV (µg/m^3)	MQO (µg/m^3) at LV	MQO (µg/m^3) at LV	MQO (µg/m^3) at half LV
NO_2 hour	200	100	96	51
NO_2 year	40	12	12	9
O_3 day8hmax	120	60	43	37
O_3 year	*120*	-	21	20
PM_{10} day	50	-	28	14
PM_{10} year	40	20	9	8
$PM_{2.5}$ day	25	-	18	10
PM_{25} year	25	12.5	6	6

Table 3: MQO as defined in the AQD and in the current version of DELTA

4.2. MODEL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA (MPC) FOR BIAS, R AND SD

A characteristic of the proposed MQI is that errors in BIAS, σ_M and R are condensed into a single number. These three different statistics are however related as follows:

$$MQI^2 = \frac{RMSE^2}{(\beta RMS_U)^2} = \frac{BIAS^2}{(\beta RMS_U)^2} + \frac{(\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2}{(\beta RMS_U)^2} + \frac{2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)}{(\beta RMS_U)^2} \qquad (12)$$

By considering ideal cases where two out of three indicators perform perfectly, separate MPC can be derived from (12) for each of these three statistics. For example, assuming R=1 and $\sigma_M = \sigma_O$ in equation (12) leads to an expression for the bias model performance indicator (MPI) and bias model performance criterion (MPC) as:

$$MPI^2 = \frac{BIAS^2}{(\beta RMS_U)^2} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \text{MPC} = \frac{BIAS^2}{(\beta RMS_U)^2} \leq 1.$$

This approach can be generalised to the other two MPI (see table below).

MPI	MPC	
BIAS ($R = 1, \sigma_O = \sigma_M$)	$\lvert BIAS \rvert \leq \beta\ RMS_U$	(13)
R ($BIAS = 0, \sigma_O = \sigma_M$)	$1 - \mathrm{R} < 0.5\beta^2 \frac{{RMS_U}^2}{\sigma_O\sigma_M}$	(14)
Std. dev. ($BIAS = 0, R = 1$)	$\lvert \sigma_M - \sigma_O \rvert \leq \beta RMS_U$	(15)

Table 4: Model performance indicators and criteria for temporal statistics

One of the main advantages of this approach for deriving separate MPI is that it provides a selection of statistical indicators with a consistent set of performance criteria based on one single input: the observation uncertainty $U(O_i)$. The MQI is based on the RMSE indicator and provides a general overview of the model performance while the associated MPI for correlation, standard deviation and bias can be used to highlight which of the model performance aspects need to be improved. It is important to note that the model performance criteria for bias, correlation, and standard deviation represent necessary but not sufficient conditions to ensure fulfilment of the $\boldsymbol{MQO}$.

On the basis of Equation (12) several zones are identified on the MPC diagrams in DELTA.

Zone	Bias	SD	R
1	$\|BIAS\| \leq \beta\ RMS_U$	$\|\sigma_M - \sigma_O\| \leq \beta RMS_U$	$1 - \mathrm{R} < \beta^2 \frac{{RMS_U}^2}{2\sigma_O\sigma_M}$
2	$\|BIAS\| > \sqrt{\frac{\beta^2}{2}}\ RMS_U$	$\|\sigma_M - \sigma_O\| > \sqrt{\frac{\beta^2}{2}} RMS_U$	$1 - \mathrm{R} \geq \beta^2 \frac{{RMS_U}^2}{4\sigma_O\sigma_M}$
3	$\|BIAS\| \leq\ RMS_U$	$\|\sigma_M - \sigma_O\| \leq RMS_U$	$1 - \mathrm{R} < \frac{{RMS_U}^2}{2\sigma_O\sigma_M}$

Table 5: Criteria used to differentiate the different zones (orange, green and dashed lines limits) in the MQO and MPC diagrams

Zone 1: This is the fulfilment MPC zone (green in diagrams). For yearly averaged values the bias MPC criteria becomes the MQO.

Zone 2: This zone (orange in diagrams) highlights which of the three error types is dominating (i.e. which term in Equation (12) is larger than 0.5). This zone still indicates fulfilment of the MPC but the error is dominated by this particular indicator.

Zone 3: The error between modeled and observed values lies within the measurement uncertainty range. This zone is indicated by a dashed line within the green shaded area

4.2.1. MPC FOR SPATIAL CORRELATION AND STANDARD DEVIATION

In the benchmarking performance report (see Section 5) spatial statistics are also calculated. For hourly frequency, the model results are first averaged yearly at each station. A correlation and a standard deviation indicator are then calculated for this set of averaged values. Formulas (14) and (15) are still used but RMSU is substituted by $RMS_{\bar{U}}$ where $RMS_{\bar{U}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum U(\bar{O})^2}$. The same approach holds for yearly frequency output.

MPI	MPC	
Correlation	$1 - \mathrm{R} < 0.5\beta^2 \frac{{RMS_{\bar{U}}}^2}{\sigma_O\sigma_M}$	(16)
Std. dev.	$\|\sigma_M - \sigma_O\| \leq \beta RMS_{\bar{U}}$	(17)

Table 6: Model performance indicators and criteria for spatial statistics

4.2.2. MPC FOR HIGH PERCENTILES

The MQI and MPI described above provide insight on the quality of the model average performances but do not inform on the model capability to reproduce extreme events (e.g. exceedances). For this purpose a specific MPI indicator is proposed as:

$$MPI_{perc} = \frac{\left|M_{perc} - O_{perc}\right|}{\beta U\left(O_{perc}\right)} \quad and \quad MPC: MPI_{perc} \leq 1 \tag{18}$$

where "perc" is a selected percentile value and M_{perc} and O_{perc} are the modelled and observed values corresponding to the selected percentile. The denominator is directly given as a function of the measurement uncertainty characterizing the O_{perc} value. The default percentile value is currently set to 95% excepted for hourly NO_2 which is automatically set to 99.8% (19th occurrence in 8760 hours), 92.9% for the 8h daily maximum O_3 (26th occurrence in 365 days) and 90.1% for daily PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ (36th occurrence in 365 days). Note that this indicator is only used in the summary report.

4.3. THE 90% PRINCIPLE

For all statistical indicators used in DELTA for benchmarking purposes the approach currently used in the AQD has been followed. This means that the model quality objective must be fulfilled for at least 90% of the available stations. The practical implementation of this approach in DELTA consists in calculating the MQI associated to each station, rank them in ascending order and inferring the 90th percentile value according to the following linear interpolation (for nstat station):

$$MQI_{90th} = MQI(stat_{90}) + [MQI(stat_{90} + 1) - MQI(stat_{90})] * dist \tag{19}$$

where $stat_{90}$ = integer(nstat*0.9) and dist= $[\text{nstat} * 0.9 - \text{integer}(\text{nstat} * 0.9)]$. If only one station is used in the benchmarking, $MQI_{90th} = MQI(station) * 0.9$. A similar approach is used to calculate the corresponding model uncertainty. The MQO is then expressed as:

$$MQO: \quad MQI_{90th} \leq 1 \tag{20}$$

The minimum model uncertainty (see Section 4.1.4) is the value of the uncertainty associated to this 90th percentile station.

5. BENCHMARKING REPORT FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES

These reports are currently available for the hourly NO_2, the 8h daily maximum O_3 and daily PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$.

5.1. HOURLY FREQUENCY

TARGET DIAGRAM (UPPER DIAGRAM)

The MQI as described by Equation (5) is used as main indicator. In the normalised Target diagram, it represents the distance between the origin and a given station point. As mentioned above the performance criterion for the target indicator is set to unity (circle limit) regardless of spatial scale and pollutant and it is expected to be fulfilled by at least 90% of the available stations. The normalised bias (first term on the right hand side of Equation (12)) is used for the vertical axis while the centred root mean square error (CRMSE) (sum of the two last terms on the right hand side of Equation (12)) is used to define the X axis.

The MQI associated to the 90th percentile worst station is calculated (see previous section) and indicated in the upper left corner. It is meant to be used as the main indicator in the benchmarking procedure and should be less or equal to one. The uncertainty parameters (α, β, U_r^{RV} and RV) used to produce the diagram are listed on the top right-hand side. In blue colour, the resulting model uncertainty is calculated according to equation (9) and is provided as output information. The value of the MQI obtained, if all data were to be yearly averaged, is also provided.

The four quadrants in the Target diagram correspond to the following conditions, all based on Equation (12):

Condition I	Condition II	Position in Target
$BIAS^2 > (\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 + 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)$	$\|BIAS\| > 0$	Top quadrant
$BIAS^2 > (\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 + 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)$	$\|BIAS\| < 0$	Bottom quadrant
$BIAS^2 < (\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 + 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)$	$(\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 > 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)$	Right quadrant
$BIAS^2 < (\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 + 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)$	$(\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 < 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R)$	Left quadrant

Table 7: Criteria used to differentiate quadrants in the target diagram

The equation used to distinguish the right (SD) from the left quadrants (R) (condition II) can be rewritten as:

$$(\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2 = 2\sigma_O\sigma_M(1-R) \leftrightarrow \frac{(\sigma_M - \sigma_O)^2}{\sigma_o^2} = \frac{2\sigma_M(1-R)}{\sigma_O} \leftrightarrow R = 1 - \frac{NMSD^2}{2(1+NMSD)}$$

Or in graphical terms:

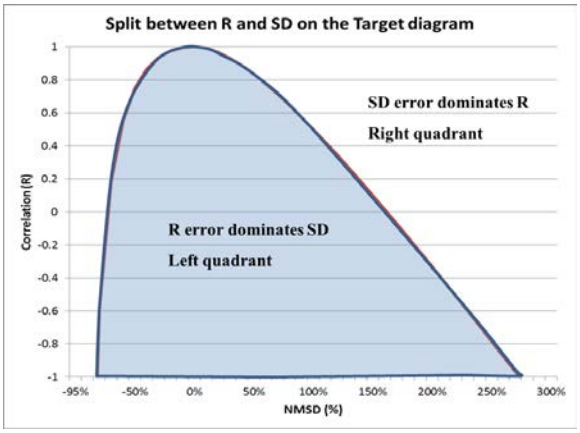

Figure 3: Split between R- and SD-dominated errors in the Target diagram. (R,SD) indices couples falling in the blue shaded area will be located on the left quadrant, others on the right quadrant.

It is straightforward from this diagram to identify which couples of SD and R indices will lead the station to be within the left or right quadrants

In addition the Target diagram also allows distinguishing easily the performances for single stations or group of stations (e.g. different geographical regions in this example) by the use of different symbols and/or colours.

More details on this adapted Target diagram can be found in METHOD2012.

SUMMARY REPORT (LOWER DIAGRAM)

The summary statistics table provides information on model performances. It is meant as a complementary source of information to the MQI (upper diagram) to identify model strengths and weaknesses. The summary report is structured as follows:

- ROWS 1-2 (OBS) provide the measured observed means and number of exceedances for the selected stations. In benchmarking mode, the threshold values for calculating the exceedances are set automatically to 50, 120 and 200 µg/m3 for the daily PM_{10}, the hourly NO_2 and the 8h daily O_3 maximum, respectively. For other variables (PM_{25}, WS…) for which no threshold exists, the value is set to 1000 so that no exceedance is shown.

- ROWS 3-6 (TIME) provide an overview of the temporal statistics for bias, correlation and standard deviation as well as information on the ability of the model to capture the highest range of concentration values. Each point represents a specific station. Values for these four parameters are estimated via equations (13), (14), (15) and (18)

respectively. The green shaded area represents criteria fulfilment. The orange shaded area (for the three first indicators) represents fulfilment but the error associated to the particular statistical indicator is dominant (see Concepts Section 4.2). Note again that fulfilment of the bias, correlation, standard deviation and high percentile related indicators (MPC) does not guarantee that the overall MQO based on RMSE is fulfilled.

- ROWS 7-8 (SPACE) provide an overview of spatial statistics for correlation and standard deviation. Average values over the selected time period are first calculated for each station and these values are then used to compute the spatial correlation and standard deviation. Fulfilment of the performance criteria (16) and (17) is then checked for these values. As a result only one point representing the spatial statistics of all selected stations is plotted. Colour shading follows the same rules as for rows 3-5.

Note that for indicators in rows 3 to 8, values beyond the proposed scale will be represented by the station symbol being plotted in the middle of the dashed zone on the right/left side of the proposed scale

For all indicators, the third column provides information on the fulfilment of the performance criteria (green if fulfilling, red if not).

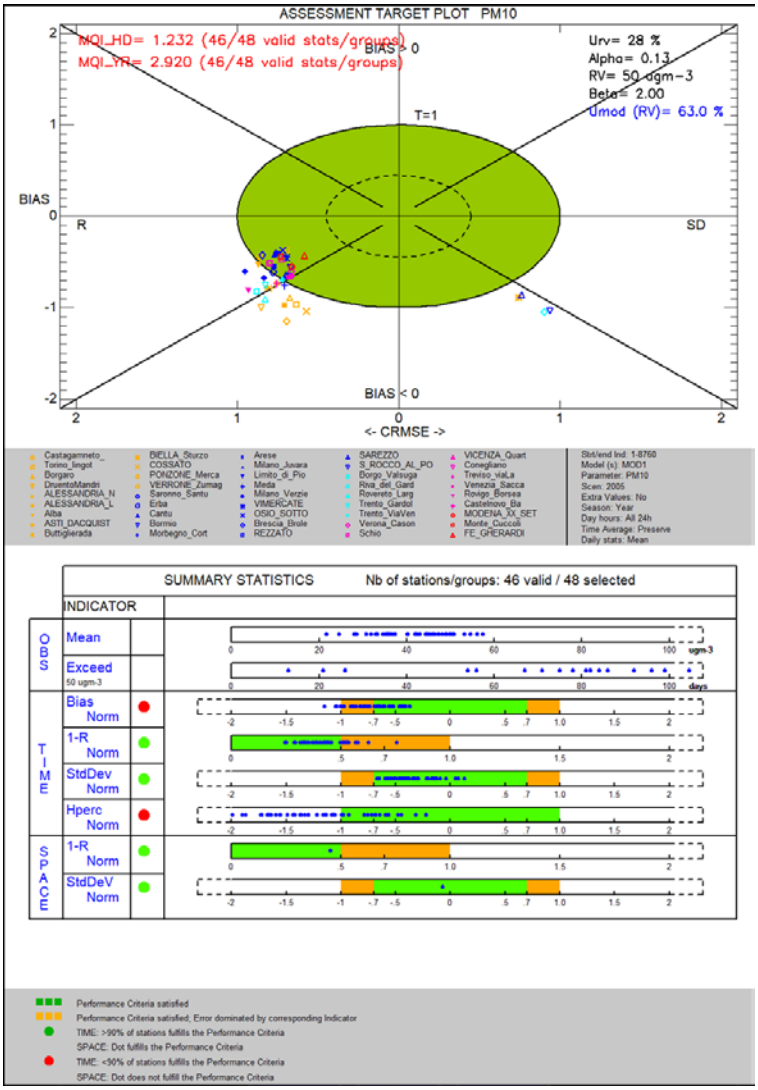

Figure 4: Example of benchmarking performance summary report

5.2. YEARLY FREQUENCY

SCATTER DIAGRAM (UPPER DIAGRAM)

The MQI equation (6) for yearly averaged results (i.e. based on the bias) is used as main indicator. In the scatter plot, it is used to represent the distance from the 1:1 line. As mentioned above it is expected to be fulfilled by at least 90% of the available stations and a MQI value representative of the 90th percentile is calculated according to (19). The uncertainty parameters (α, β, U_r^{RV}, N_{np}, N_p and RV) used to produce the diagram are listed on the top right-hand side together with the associated model uncertainty calculated from (9).

The Scatter diagram also provides information on performances for single stations or group of stations (e.g. different geographical regions in this example below) by the use of symbols and colours.

More details on the scatter diagram and possible options can be found in METHOD2012.

SUMMARY REPORT (LOWER DIAGRAM)

The summary statistics table provides information on model performances. It is meant as a complementary source of information to the bias-based MQI to identify model strengths and weaknesses. It is structured as follows:

- ROW 1 (OBS) provides the measured observed means for the selected stations.
- ROW 2 (TIME) provides information on the bias-based MQI for each selected stations. Note that this information is redundant with the scatter diagram but kept if the summary report is used independently from the scatter diagram.
- ROWS 3-4 (SPACE) provide an overview of spatial statistics for correlation and standard deviation. Annual values are used to calculate the spatial correlation and standard deviation. Criteria (16) and (17) are here used to check fulfilment of the model performance criteria. The same explanation for the green and orange shaded areas as for the hourly report holds.

Note that for indicators in rows 2 to 4, values beyond the proposed scale will be represented by the station symbol being plotted in the middle of the dashed zone on the right/left side of the proposed scale

The third column provides information on the fulfilment of the performance criteria (green if fulfilment, red if not).

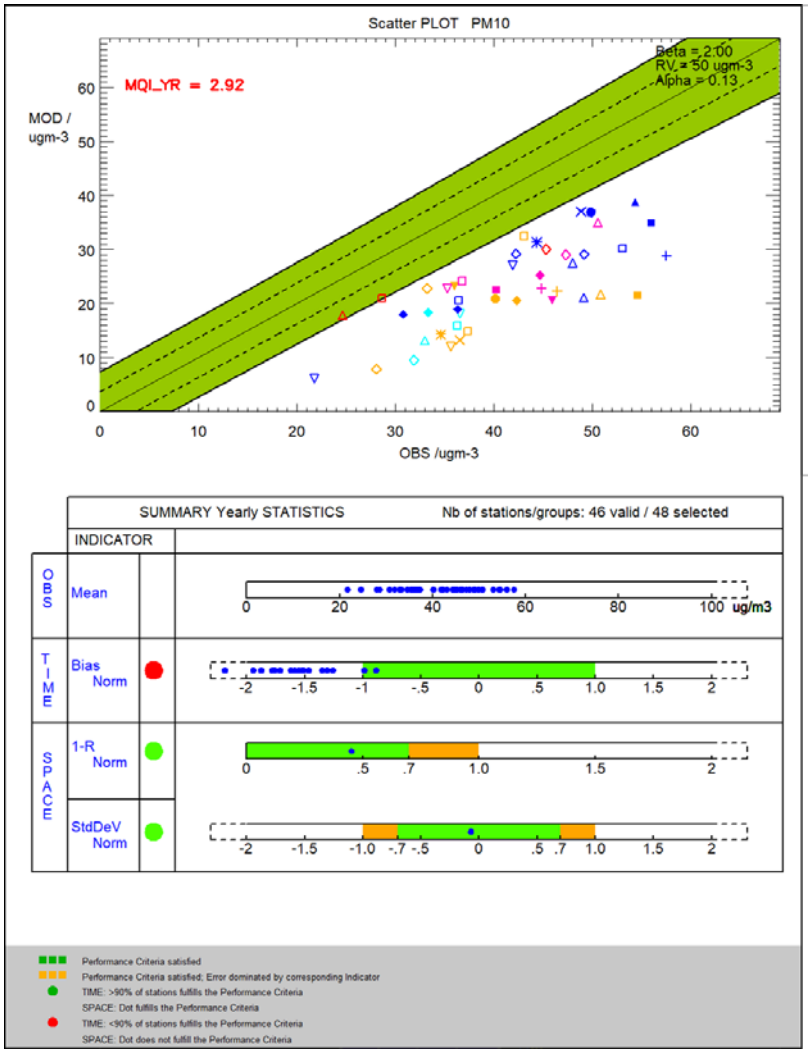

Figure 5: Example of benchmarking performance summary report

6. EXCEEDANCES AND FORECAST INDICATORS

The Forecast Modelling Quality and Performance Indicators come on top of the assessment MQO as defined in the previous chapters of this document. Therefore, it is recommended that forecast models fulfil the standard assessment MQO as well as the additional forecast MQO as defined here.

When evaluating a forecast model, two additional features of the model should be tested:

1. Sudden changes in the concentration levels (episodes) should be captured by the model
2. The exceedance of specific thresholds should be modelled well as such threshold exceedance can be used as trigger for short term action plans

To account for this, we benchmark the forecast model with the so called “persistence model”, which is the simplest method for predicting the future behaviour if no other information is available. The persistence model uses the measurements of the previous day

(day -1) as an estimate for the full forecast horizon and is by default not able to capture any changes in the concentration levels.

The methodology in its current form supports the following pollutants and time averages: the hourly NO_2 daily maximum, the 8h O_3 daily maximum and the daily PM10 and PM2.5 averaged concentrations. Note that only one value per day is used and that no evaluation of the entire hourly time profile is made.

In section 6.1 and 6.2 the Forecast Modelling Quality Indicator and Modelling Performance Indicators are defined, respectively. Section 6.3 deals with the threshold indicators and in 6.4 the benchmarking diagrams as currently implemented in DELTA are listed.

6.1. THE FORECAST MODELLING QUALITY INDICATOR

In forecast mode we are mostly interested to check the model ability to accurately reproduce daily forecasts and especially sudden changes in the concentration levels (episodes). The main evaluation assessment of the 'fitness for purpose' of a forecast application is based on the comparison with the persistence model. The MQI is defined as the difference between measured and modelled values, normalised by the root mean square error of the persistence model with respect to the measurements, i.e.

$$MQI_{forecast} = \sqrt{\frac{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(M_i - O_i)^2}{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(P_i - O_i)^2}} \qquad \text{and} \tag{21}$$

$MQO_{forecast}$ is fulfilled if $MQI_{forecast} \leq 1$,

where M_i represents the forecasted value of model M for day i, where P_i is the value of the persistence model P on day i, O_i the measurement on day i, and N the number of days included in the time series. It is clear from the formula that MQI becomes 1 when the persistence model P is used as forecast model M. MQI values lower than 1 indicate better capabilities than the persistence model, whereas values larger than 1 indicate poorer performances.

Note that the persistence model is using the available observations from “the day before” as an estimate for all forecast horizons. So if today is 7 February, the persistence model uses data referring to yesterday (6 February) for all forecast data produced today. Considering as an example a 3 day-forecast, modelled data for 7, 8, and 9 February are produced and all of them will be compared to 6 February measurement data. In other word, P_i refers to O_{i-1} for “today forecast” (7 February), it refers to O_{i-2} for tomorrow forecast (8 February) and it refers to O_{i-3} for the day after tomorrow forecast (9 February). More generally, the persistence model is related to the forecast horizon as:

$$P_i = O_{i-1-forecast\ horizon} \pm U\left(O_{i-1-forecast\ horizon}\right) \tag{22}$$

where forecast horizon ranges from 0 for a “today forecast” or “now cast” up to typical 3 to 5 for longer term forecasts.

Note, in equation (22), that P_i formulation includes the measurement uncertainty (U), and this prevents the denominator to tend to zero (i.e. the overall indicator cannot tend to

infinity). Moreover, since the measurement uncertainty is concentration dependent (larger relative uncertainties are expected in the low concentration range) model performances at low concentration levels have less impact on the MQI calculation.

6.2. THE FORECAST MODELLING PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In addition to the main MQI, Modelling Performance Indicators (MPI) are defined in order to support the interpretation of results. More in detail, we define a MPI related to the Mean Fractional Error (MFE) statistical indicator, as:

$$MFE = \frac{2}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{|M_i - O_i|}{(M_i + O_i)} \tag{23}$$

MFE is chosen because it is a normalized error. It helps in interpreting the outcomes, since it does not depend on the magnitude of the corresponding concentration values. Moreover, MFE is already used in the framework of FAIRMODE activities (Thunis et al., 2011) and performance criteria and goals, based on this indicator, have been defined in literature for PM (Boylan and Russell, 2006) and O_3 (Chemel et al., 2010).

Once the MFE indicator is chosen, two different MPIs are formulated following two rules.

1. Consistently with the forecast MQI formulation, an indicator is constructed to compare MFE_f from the forecast model to the MFE_p from the persistence model.
2. Forecast performances are also evaluated, regardless of persistence aspects, using an acceptability threshold based on measurement uncertainty. More in detail MFE_f is compared with the Mean Fractional Uncertainty (MF_U), defined as follow

$$MF_U = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{2U(O_i)}{O_i} \tag{24}$$

The definition of MF_U as the acceptability threshold derives from considering

$$MFE = \frac{2}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{|M_i - O_i|}{(M_i + O_i)} \sim \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{|M_i - O_i|}{O_i}$$

and then setting the condition $|M_i - O_i| \leq 2U(O_i)$ consistently with the assumptions described in Section 4.1.2.

Rules 1 and 2 turn into the following formulas (25) and (26), respectively.

MPI	MPC	
$MPI_p = \frac{MFE_f}{MFE_p}$	$MPI_p \leq 1$	(25)

$$MPI_U = \frac{MFE_f}{MF_U} \qquad MPI_U \leq 1 \qquad (26)$$

Table 8 Model performance indicators and criteria for MFE

Using the uncertainty parameters set in Table 2, double relative uncertainties $2U(O_i)/O_i$ as a function of concentration values show larger values in the low concentration range and then tend towards 0.5 (for NO_2), 0.3 (for O_3), 0.55 (for PM10), 0.7 (for PM2.5) at higher concentration values. So the choice of MF_U as acceptability threshold is consistent with performances criteria and goals defined in literature for PM and O_3 (Boylan and Russell, 2006; Chemel et al., 2010) but it has the advantage that it does not introduce any additional free (and arbitrary) parameters. In addition, its formulation, based on measurement uncertainty, is consistent with FAIRMODE approach and can be applied to all pollutants for which uncertainty parameters are set in Table 2.

6.3. THRESHOLD EXCEEDANCES INDICATORS

In addition to the main MQI and MPIs, based on the comparison with the persistence model, some commonly used indicators related to threshold exceedances are defined, based on the 2x2 contingency table representing the joint distribution of categorical events (below or above the threshold) by the model (*M*) and by the observations (*O*) as presented in Figure 14. In this framework, four quantities can be defined:

- False Alarms **(FA)**: Model values are above the threshold but not observations
    - M > threshold and O ≤ threshold
- Missed Alarms **(MA)**: Model values are below the threshold but observed values are above it
    - M ≤ threshold and O > threshold
- Good Alarms (low) below threshold **(GA_-)**: both model and observation are below or equal to the threshold.
    - M and O ≤ threshold
- Good Alarms (high) above threshold **(GA_+)**: both model and observations are above the threshold.
    - M and O > threshold

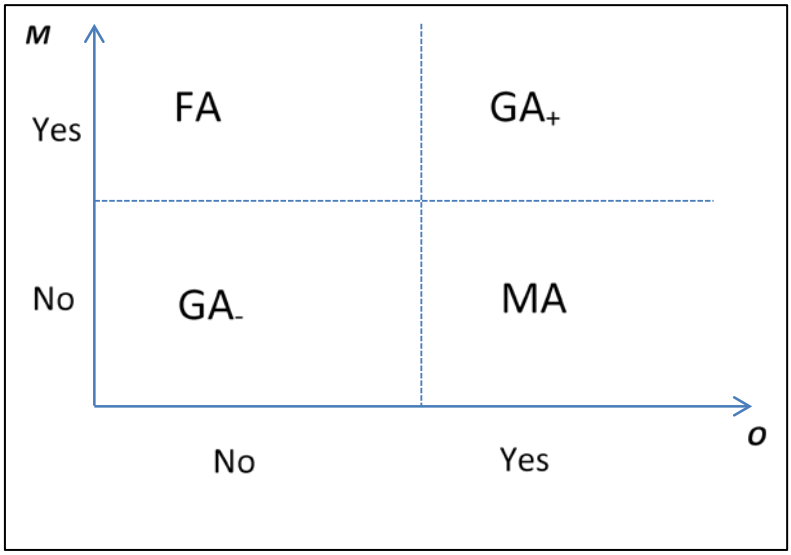

Figure 6: Schematic outline of the threshold exceedance quantities GA+, GA-, FA and MA. The threshold is indicated by the dashed line

As a consequence, the counted alarms **CA** = GA_+ + MA include all cases where O > threshold.

For a good forecast both FA and MA are small compared to GA_+ and GA_-. Based on these quantities the following indicators can be calculated:

- Probability of Detection: POD = $GA_+/(MA + GA_+)$
- Success Ratio: SR = 1 - False Alarm Ratio: 1 - FAR = 1 - $FA/(FA + GA_+)$ = $GA_+/(FA + GA_+)$

The POD indicator is comparing the correct modelled alerts with the **observed** alerts whereas the SR indicator is comparing the correct modelled alerts with all alerts **issued** by the model.

We also define four additional indicators as:

- FBias score: FBIAS= $(GA_+ + FA) / (MA + GA_+)$
- Accuracy: ACC = $(GA_+ + GA_-)$ / Total
- Threat score: TS = $GA_+ / (MA + FA + GA_+)$ = $GA_+/(FA + CA)$
- Gilbert Skill score: GSS = $(GA_+ - H_{random}) / (MA + FA + GA_+ - H_{random})$

  with $H_{random} = (GA_+ + MA)(GA_+ + FA) / Total$

6.4. DIAGRAMS IN THE DELTA TOOL

When the DELTA tool is used in forecast mode, a number of specific forecast diagrams are produced that reflect the evaluation framework described above.

- Forecast Target Plot
- Forecast MPI Plot

- Forecast Threshold Performance Plot
- Bar Plots for exceedance indicators
- Forecast summary report
- Forecast diagrams using Air Quality Indices

Each of these diagrams is described in details in Part III (Diagram overview) of this document.

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Part II

USER'S GUIDE

1. WHAT'S NEW?

FROM VERSION 6.0 TO 7.0

- Forecast indicators: Introduction of measurement uncertainty in persistence model formulation
- Forecast: addition of MPI Plot
- Forecast: Within Summary Reports, boxplots are used to represent the statistical distribution of the indicators values, if the number of stations is above or equal 15
- Forecast: Persistence model outcomes are removed from Air Quality Index diagrams
- Updated values for PM2.5 and PM10 in Table 2

FROM VERSION 5.6 TO 6.0

- Addition of Forecast indicators
- Correction of bug in calculation of spatial statistics in summary report (plotting of both negative and positive values)

FROM VERSION 5.5 TO 5.6

- Bug fixed in the calculation of the high percentile indicator (summary report)
- Bug fixed in the calculation of the yearly Model Quality Indicator
- MQI_HD and MQI_YR have been added to the text summary report (csv file)
- Time average and statistics (preserve, mean, max…) automatically set for target and summary reports and for all diagrams based on observation uncertainty
- Option added to save name of the text summary report
- "CORR" has been substituted by "1-R" in the summary diagram for clarity

FROM VERSION 5.4 TO 5.5

- The sections dealing with the model uncertainty have been re-written to be consistent with the guidance document on MQO [Section (4.1.4)].
- Value of U_r^{RV} corrected from 0.25 to 0.24 in Table 2.
- The DELTA version is now referenced in the diagrams
- Performance criteria have been added for NH4.

FROM VERSION 5.2 TO 5.3

- The sections dealing with the observation uncertainty and MQO have been re-written to be consistent with the guidance document on MQO. The main changes are in the interpretation of the MQO but those changes do not affect the stringency of the previously defined MQO with the exception of the following parameters:
    - PM_{10} yearly and $PM_{2.5}$ (parameters N_p and N_{np} have been changed)
    - O3 (the value of Ur has been changed from 12.6 to 18%)
- Update of the csv to cdf converter for modelling results (see section **9.2**)

- Functionalities have been added to edit the dump files (information needed to produce a specific diagram) and the summary statistics report (the main statistical indicators are saved for all selected stations) automatically from the main DELTA interface (see section **4.3 under help item**)

FROM VERSION 5.1 TO 5.2

- The formula used to calculate the spatial correlation and standard deviation in the summary performance report has been corrected (see Section **4.2.1**). Values for N_p and N_{np} for O_3 are now proposed in order to calculate these spatial statistics.
- Update of the csv to cdf converter for modelling results (see section **9.2**)

FROM VERSION 5.0 TO 5.1

- All benchmarking summary performance report are now produced in bmp format (in place of postscript previously)
- Fonts are optimized for (1) better display and (2) compatibility with Linux operating systems
- A correction to the implementation of formula (8) [MQO correlation] has been made

FROM VERSION 4.0 TO 5.0

- An installer is now provided for DELTA under Windows environment. No prior installation of the IDL virtual machine is any more requested. A demo dataset is provided within this installer. See installation instruction in the next section.
- A Linux version is available for download. See installation instruction in the next section.
- The utility function "Data-Check Integrity Tool" is automatically run by default with new datasets to check the consistency of the input data files. This run is performed once only. Note that at first application, this function will also convert automatically the observation data from csv to cdf format to speed-up future use with DELTA.
- Modelling data entered in "csv" format can be converted to "cdf" format through a conversion functionality incorporated in the DELTA tool (old csv2cdf).
- Percentiles value for O3 and PM10/PM2.5 used to calculate the high percentile indicator included in the summary report have been set to correct values (from 90.4 to 92.9% for O3 and from 93.1 to 90.1% for PM2.5 and PM10). Values have been corrected in the first part of this guide accordingly.
- Paths to existing applications (Word, Excel, Google Earth…) need to be set in the init.ini file in the resource directory. This operation can now be done automatically through the "Find external application paths" in the help menu. Note that this operation requires a substantial amount of time but will be performed once only.
- Some minor bugs in the formula of Tables 2, 3 and 4 in the first Section have been corrected.
- For yearly models:
    - The mouse recognize functionality has been re-activated for the summary report (bug fix)
    - Monitoring data can be formatted in one single "csv" file

FROM VERSION 3.4 TO 4.0

- Inclusion of a new diagram "geomap" for hourly/daily model results.
- The X-axis of the target diagram is positive in both directions.
- Uncertainty parameters are now indicated on the target diagram and on the scatter diagram

- Addition of new MQO for PM2.5, WS and TEMP. Parameters for the PM2.5 MQO have been revised to avoid uncertainties smaller than PM10 in the lower concentrations range.
- Update of uncertainty parameters for NO2 and PM10 (yearly and hourly)
- Inclusion of the myDeltaInput option to facilitate the management of multiple datasets. Note that DELTA can run in absence of this new input file.
- Inclusion of MQO for SO4, NH4, NO3, EC and TOM for testing purposes. Uncertainty parameters are available in the "goalscriteria_oc.dat" configuration file.
- Correction of geomap SD and R error symbol types: switch to be consistent with Target.
- Correction of the counting of valid station in the yearly scatter diagram
- Modifications of the hourly/daily summary report: the RDE indicator has been suppressed and substituted by a threshold indicator
- The bug in the summary report (calculation of the spatial correlation and spatial standard deviation – no point appearing) has been fixed.
- The legend of the summary report has been re-designed
- Modification of the yearly summary report: RDE has been dropped.
- Correction of Target diagram: SD and R related errors were assigned the wrong side of the diagram (left vs. right)
- Uncertainty values for PM10 TEOM and beta-ray measurement techniques have been included in the "goalsandcriteria_oc" configuration file. See here for more details.
- Addition of a "save main statistical indices" option. This option runs automatically when the summary report diagram is selected. See here for more details.
- Correction: The generation of performance reports in pdf format did not work properly in version 3.6.
- The MQO for 3h average NO2 has been removed
-

2. INSTALLATION AND RUNNING STEPS

The current version of the Delta Tool is only available for Windows.

Installation and running steps

- Download and run the setup.exe file available on the Delta web page. This will create a "Delta Tool" icon on the desktop as well a "JRC_DELTA" menu in the Windows start menu (lower left icon on your desktop). You can launch the application by double-clicking on the icon.
- After the first installation the software is configured to operate with a demo dataset. If you wish to re-use data you produced with an earlier version of the software, please follow the below steps:
    - Access the $home$ directory through the JRC_DELTA menu.
    - Create a sub-directory under data/monitoring, e.g. "Mydata" (parallel to demo) and include in it your monitoring data.
    - Create a sub-directory under data/modeling, e.g. "Mydata" (parallel to demo) and include in it your modeling data
    - Include your startup.ini file and rename it into startup_MyData.ini in the resource sub-directory
    - Adapt the names and paths in the MyDeltaInput file (change demo into Mydata). The MyDeltaInput is placed on the resource subdirectory but is also accessible through the start menu.
    - Re-start the Delta application
- A "JRC-DELTA" program item in the start menu gives you access to 1) the home installation directory, 2) the MyDeltaInput configuration file, 3) the user's guide and 4) the web-site.

The user's guide is available in the help sub-directory.

2.1. PREPARATION OF INPUT FILES

In order to run the Tool, the following files have to be prepared by the user

- ✓ The configuration file <startup.ini>. This file is located in folder ...\resource. For handling different data (obs – mod) sets, see following sections.
- ✓ Files with observed data (one file for each monitoring station). These files should be in "csv" or "cdf" format and be placed in folder ...\data\monitoring
- ✓ Files with modeled data at the locations of the stations (one file per model and scenario). Such files should be in "csv" or "cdf" format. If only "csv" files are available, DELTA will automatically create a "cdf" version at first use. Each .cdf file may contain model results for several locations (stations). The .cdf files should be placed in folder ...\data\modeling. If results from more than one model are used, the utility to create cdf files from csv files should be used (available from help menu, see Section 9.3).
- ✓ The file "MyDeltaInput" in the resource directory should then be adapted to the paths and file names selected by the user.

INIT.INI

The resource folder contains an ASCII file named *init.ini* where specific software (WORD, ADOBE...) location information should be provided. The user should modify the paths according to his personal installation settings. This is needed, e.g, to be able to use the help in the Delta Tool. The right hand side of the following lines (end of the *init.ini* file) should be adapted. This updating operation can be done manually or automatically through the help menu ("find external application paths"). **Note that this operation might require a substantial amount of time but will be performed once only on a given computer**.

BROWSER_LOCATION=C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe

WORKSHEET_LOCATION=C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\OFFICE11\EXCEL.EXE

DOCUMENTSREADER_LOCATION=C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\OFFICE11\WINWORD.EXE

NOTEPAD_LOCATION=notepad.exe

PDFREADER_LOCATION=C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 7.0\Acrobat\Acrobat.exe

GOOGLEEARTH_LOCATION=C:\Program Files\Google\Google Earth\client\googleearth.exe

STARTUP.INI

The configuration file (startup.ini) is common to both inputs with hourly and yearly frequencies. It is located in ...\resource. The file is in ASCII format and contains some general information about the spatial scale, the parameters selected for evaluation and the characteristics of the monitoring stations. The file has three main sections:

- MODEL – includes information about the year, spatial scale and input frequency.
- PARAMETERS - includes variable names and measurement units
- MONITORING – includes list of all stations with their siting characteristics and parameters measured.

The following conventions apply:

- Each blank row or each line beginning with "[", ";" or "#" will be discarded
- No blanks between fields are permitted
- Line breaks are not allowed.
- The three section headers: “[MODEL]”, “[PARAMETERS]” and “[MONITORING]” are compulsory,
- Station codes and abbreviation codes must be unique.
- The station names should not include blanks and special characters such as “.”,” ’ ”, “;”,”-“
- Only the symbol “_” is allowed.
- Variables must be separated by an asterisk.
- The station names must be EXACTLY (including case sensitivity) the same used in the observation data files and modeled data files.

Example:

[MODEL]
;Year
;frequency
;Scale
2009
hour
urban
[PARAMETERS]
;Species;type;measure unit
SO2;POL;µgm-3
NO2;POL; µgm-3
PM25;POL; µgm-3
PM10;POL; µgm-3
WS;MET; m/s
TEMP;MET; C
[MONITORING]
Stat_Code;Stat_Name;Stat_Abbreviation;Altitude;Lon;Lat;GMTlag;Region;Stat_Type;Area_Type;Siting; listOfvariables
IT00000;station0;STAT0;681.;8.931;44.31;GMT+1;Lombardia;Background;Urban;Plane;TEMP*PM10*O3;
IT00001;station1;STAT1;962.;10.03;44.97;GMT+1;Veneto;Traffic;SubUrban;Hilly;TEMP*O3;
IT00002;station2;STAT2;851.;11.34;44.18;GMT+1;Piemonte;traffic;urban;Mountain;WS*PM10*O3*SO2;
IT00003;station3;STAT3;806.;7.597;46.02;GMT+1;Emilia-Romagna;Industrial;Rural;Valley;WS;
IT00004;station4;STAT4;769.;8.222;44.29;GMT+1;Lombardia;Background;Urban;Plane;TEMP*O3;
IT00005;station5;STAT5;163.;9.193;45.85;GMT+1;Friuli Venezia Giulia;Unknown;Unknown;Coastal;PM10;
...
<EOF>

Description:

[MODEL] section:

The first three lines are just comments

- *Year*: year of interest
- *Frequency* (lowercase): Either hour or year. This parameter should be set to “hour” for models delivering outputs with an hourly or daily frequency and set to “year’ for models delivering outputs as annual averages.
- *Scale* (lowercase): Either local (traffic), urban or regional. But not used currently

[PARAMETERS] section:

The first line is a comment which gives a hint of the contents of the following lines:

- *Species*: name of the variable (lower or upper case but should be consistent with observation and modeling files)
- *Type*: "POL" and "MET" indicate air quality and meteorological variables respectively. These categories are created to facilitate filtering during the selection phase and can be defined by the user at his convenience.
- *Measure units*: the units MUST be µgm-3 for concentrations. For the other variables, see the notes below.

Notes:

- Each line contains the name of a parameter, the type and the measurement unit, separated by semicolons. The parameters are those available in the observation dataset. It is permitted to have lines with parameters not present in the dataset. The sequence of parameters is irrelevant.
- Some parameter names and units are pre-assigned and should be obligatory followed (since they are used in the benchmarking procedure): O_3 [µgm-3], NO_2 [µgm-3], PM_{10} [µgm-3], WS [ms-1] (wind speed), TEMP [degC] - temperature, SH [g/kg] (specific humidity)

[MONITORING] section

The first row contains the labels. The labels currently referred to as: region, station type, area type and siting can be modified by the user and will appear as modified in the data selection window. Each subsequent row refers to a given station, where:

- Stat_Code: national identification of the station e.g. AT0001ST, or VEN00356, or user's assigned code (e.g. STAT001)
- Stat_Name (case sensitive): combination of letters and/or numbers ; only the symbol "_" is allowed blanks and special characters are not allowed
- Stat_Abbreviation: station name abbreviation (4 letters). The abbreviation will be the one identifying the station on the DELTA output graphs and statistics
- Altitude: height above sea level (in meters)
- Lon, Lat: Longitude and Latitude (in decimal degrees)
- GMTlag: Time zone (currently not used)
- Region: Name of the administrative region to which the station belongs. In alternative – a user defined region (Naming rules similar to "Stat_Name")
- Stat_Type: background, traffic, industrial
- Area_Type: urban, suburban, rural
- Siting: Categories are proposed: mountain, hilly, plane, valley or coastal. They will be used eventually to group stations and calculate average statistics for each group; If other categories suit better user's stations, they can be defined here.
- listOfvariables..: The variables measured at each station , (PM_{10}, O_3, WS etc). The variables are separated by an asterisk.

Note: It is left to the user to assign appropriate fields to classify stations. In our example, REGION, STAT_type, Area_Type and Siting are selected but other choices could have been made. These choices will configure the widget menus to help with the selection of stations according to the chosen fields.

2.2. OBSERVATION FILE

HOURLY FREQUENCY

Monitoring stations to be used with the Tool may have either air quality data, either meteorological data or both.

csv format

Files names and type:

- Each station must have an associated file containing the data in comma separated format and with extension .csv, e.g. "**station1.csv"**
- The file names should be consistent (including case sensitivity) with the naming rules used in the configuration file (startup.ini).

Files location:

….\data\monitoring

Files structure:

The first row must contain the labels of the columns: year (4 digits), month (1-12), hour (0-23) and the names of the observed parameters at each station. Following lines should include the observed values on an hourly basis (8760 rows (or 8784 for leap year) if entire year is available). If for a given hour data are missing for all parameters, the line can be omitted. Data are recognized by their associated date and time.

Example: filename <station1.csv>

year;month;day;hour;O3;PM10;WS;WD;TEMP;
2005;1;1;0;40.1;55.4;0.75;310;15.6;
2005;1;1;1; 40.1;55.4;0.75;310;15.6;
2005;1;1;2; 40.1;55.4;0.75;310;15.6;
…
2005;12;31;23; 40.1;55.4;0.75;310;15.6;
<EOF>

Particular requirements:

- The station names used in startup.ini must be used for each one of these files.
- For non-annual average values each file must contain observation values on an hourly basis. For leap years, data for February 29th may be included in the files.
- Data will be read by dates. Missing dates (i.e. lines) will automatically be treated by DELTA as -999.
- If data are monitored on a daily basis (e.g PM10), please put the daily value at all hours from 0 to 23 for this day.

Remark: Daily deposition observations (for example rain) should be distributed over the 24 hours of the particular day.

- If both air quality and meteorological measurements are available for the same site, the data must be included in the same file (as in the example above)
- Each blank row or beginning with "[", ";" or "#" will be discarded
- Spaces are not permitted between the fields.
- Line breaks are not allowed.
- The semi-column ending each lines is not mandatory

cdf format

The "cdf" format is identical to the one specified for modeling result data (option 1). If provided as "csv", the conversion from to "cdf" will be performed automatically when running DELTA if your set of data is new. If not done automatically, you can always perform this operation by running the "check integrity tool" available under the help menu.

YEARLY FREQUENCY

Option 1: Each station monitoring data is assigned a specific file

Files names and type:

- Each station must have an associated file containing the data in comma separated format and with extension .csv, e.g. "**station1.csv"**
- The file names should be consistent with the naming rules used in the configuration file <startup.ini>

Files location:

….\data\monitoring

Files structure:

The first row must start with the label "YearlyAvg" to indicate that yearly averaged results are used. Should follow the year (4 digits) and species of interest. All fields should be separated by semi-column. Row 2 should contain the numeric observed values for the parameters mentioned in row 1.

Example: filename <station1.csv>

YearlyAvg;2009;PM10;NO2;WS

; parameter1;parameter2;parameter3

55.1;15.6; 2.1

<EOF>

Particular requirements:

- The station names used in startup.ini must be used for each one of these files.
- If data are missing the gaps should be filled by -999.
- If both air quality and meteorological measurements are available for the same site, the data must be included in the same file (as in the example above)
- Each blank row or beginning with "[", ";" or "#" will be discarded
- Spaces are not permitted between the fields.
- Line breaks are not allowed.

Option 2: All station monitoring data are assigned to a single file

This "csv" format should be identical to the one specified for yearly modeling result data. **Important**: the name of the file is mandatory: "OBS_Yearly.csv"

2.3. MODEL FILE

HOURLY FREQUENCY

Modeled data can be prepared in one of the following formats:

- netcdf (option 1) format (one single file for a given model and time period). A netcdf-variable must be generated for each station.
- csv format (Option 2) (similar to the one described for the observations). Such files can then be converted to "cdf" format through the "conversion utility" functionality available under the help menu.

Description of the netcdf (option 1) format

- One single netcdf file should be provided for a given model. For each station it must contain a time series for each variable listed in the <startup.ini> file.
- All parameters (i.e. variables, e.g. NO_2, PM_{10}...) should be defined in byte format in a systematic order defined in a global attribute.
- The names of the parameters should be the same as in the configuration file <startup.ini> (see Section 2.2).

Files location:

….\data\modeling

Files structure:

Each data block inside the netCDF file should be named as "StatName_Parameter" (see examples below) where "StatName" is the name of the station corresponding to the one set in the <startup.ini >

Each data block should contain either (a) 1 year of hourly data for each station and parameter (2 dimensional array with 8760 [or 8784 for leap years] hourly data). Or (b) a specific time period smaller than the entire year. In the latter case an additional attribute should be included in the netCDF file to set the initial starting time (in hours) as follows (global attributes: StartHour = 1320 indicating that the period of interest starts at hour=1320). Within the specific time period data should be continuous, i.e. include missing values as "-999".

Modelled data at a given station may contain either air quality fields, meteorological fields or both.

Example: <2008_CHIM_TIME.cdf>

```
netcdf 2008_CHIM_TIME.cdf {
dimensions:
  V = 3 ;
  T = 8760 ;
variables:
  float station0 (T,V);
  float station1 (T,V);
  float station2 (T,V);
// global attributes :
  : Parameters = 78b, 79b, 50b, 32b, 80b, 77b, 49b, 48b, 32b, 79b, 51b ;
}
Here '78b, 79b, 50b, 32b, 80b, 77b, 49b, 48b, 32b, 79b, 51b' is the byte
format of 'NO2 PM10 O3'.
```

Example: <2008_CHIM_TIME.cdf> with given time period (less than entire year)

```
netcdf 2008_CHIM_TIME.cdf {dimensions:  V = 3 ;  T = 744 ;global attributes:
StartHour = 1320s;variables:
  float station0 (T,V);
  float station1 (T,V);
  float station2 (T,V);
// global attributes :
  : Parameters = 78b, 79b, 50b, 32b, 80b, 77b, 49b, 48b, 32b, 79b, 51b ;
}
Here '78b, 79b, 50b, 32b, 80b, 77b, 49b, 48b, 32b, 79b, 51b' is the byte
format of 'NO2 PM10 O3'.
```

Particular requirements: If a parameter is entirely missing (i.e. not provided by the model) for a station, but the same parameter is present in the monitoring dataset for the same station, the user must include that parameter in the *.cdf file as an hourly series of "-999".

YEARLY FREQUENCY

Modeled data should be prepared in ASCII (csv*)* format. One single file should be provided for a given model. It must contain annual average values for each station listed in <startup.ini>.

File name: <YEAR_MODELNAME_TIME.csv>

Files location: .\data\modeling

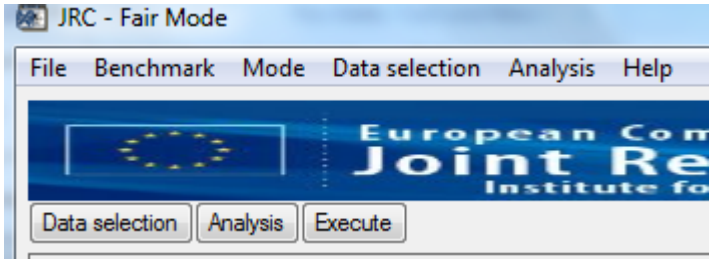
Files structure:

YearlyAvg;2009;O3;PM10...
;Station;ValueParam1;ValueParam2...
Illmitz;40.3;45.34
Pillers;78;54.54
...

USING DELTA WITH YEARLY OUTPUT

By default the input files are configured for hourly frequency models but for models delivering annual averages it is possible to tune all configuration files to keep only relevant diagrams and elaborations within the selection menus (e.g. all diagrams using correlation will be discarded). For doing this, go in your startup.ini file and set the frequency parameter to "year".

3. DELTA TOOL TOP MENU



When starting Delta Tool the upper left-hand corner contains a menu that allows you, e.g. to run a Benchmark, and to save and retrieve selections you have made.

- **File**
  - Save image: Save main window diagram in various format (jpeg, tif...). Images are saved in the subdirectory "save"
  - Exit
- **Benchmark** (see Section 4)
  - Assessment
    - daily 8h maximum O3
    - Daily averaged PM10
    - Daily averaged PM25
    - Hourly NO2
    - Yearly PM10
    - Yearly PM2.5
    - Yearly NO2
  - Planning (not available yet)
- **Mode**
  - Select mode (inactive)
  - Hide/Show Recognize Info: Mouse recognize window is turned on/off
- **Data selection**
  - Select data: Opens the "Data selection" window (similar to "data selection").
  - Save data: Save current "data selection"
  - Restore data: Restore "data selection" from existing ones.
- **Analysis**
  - Select Analysis: Opens the "Analysis" window (similar to "Analysis").
  - Save Analysis: Save current analysis choices.
  - Restore Analysis: Restore "analysis" from existing ones
- **Help**
  - Help file: Open the current DELTA version User's guide (pdf format). The correct directory in which "acrobat.exe" is located should be specified in the "init.ini" file in the "resource" directory (but this can be performed automatically – see option below).
  - Data check Integrity Tool: Open an independent window with the Check-IO processor to check consistency of the input data
  - Delta WWW: Open the DELTA WWW homepage. The correct directory in which the browser executable is located should be specified in the "init.ini" file in the "resource" directory.

- About: Version information
- Find external application paths: Automatically update the paths to external applications (Word, Excel…). This operation might require a substantial amount of time but only needs to be performed once.
- Licence: End user licence agreement
- Edit Dumpfile.dat: The information needed to generate a given diagram is saved automatically in a dump file (dump directory) which is overwritten at the creation of any new diagram. This functionality allows editing the file from the Delta interface.
- Edit summary table: When the "summary report & print (OU)" diagram is selected under the analysis button, a report including main statistics (bias, correlation…) for all selected stations is automatically produced (in the dump directory). This functionality allows editing it from the main delta interface.

4. EXPLORATION MODE

In order to calculate a given statistical indicator and visualize it by a diagram the user has first to make selections in two interface windows – "data selection" and "analysis window" (activated through the starting window). The data selection and analysis interfaces are described in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 respectively. Finally the main DELTA graphical interface, which reflects the options previously selected by the user in the two interface windows, is described in Section 4.3.

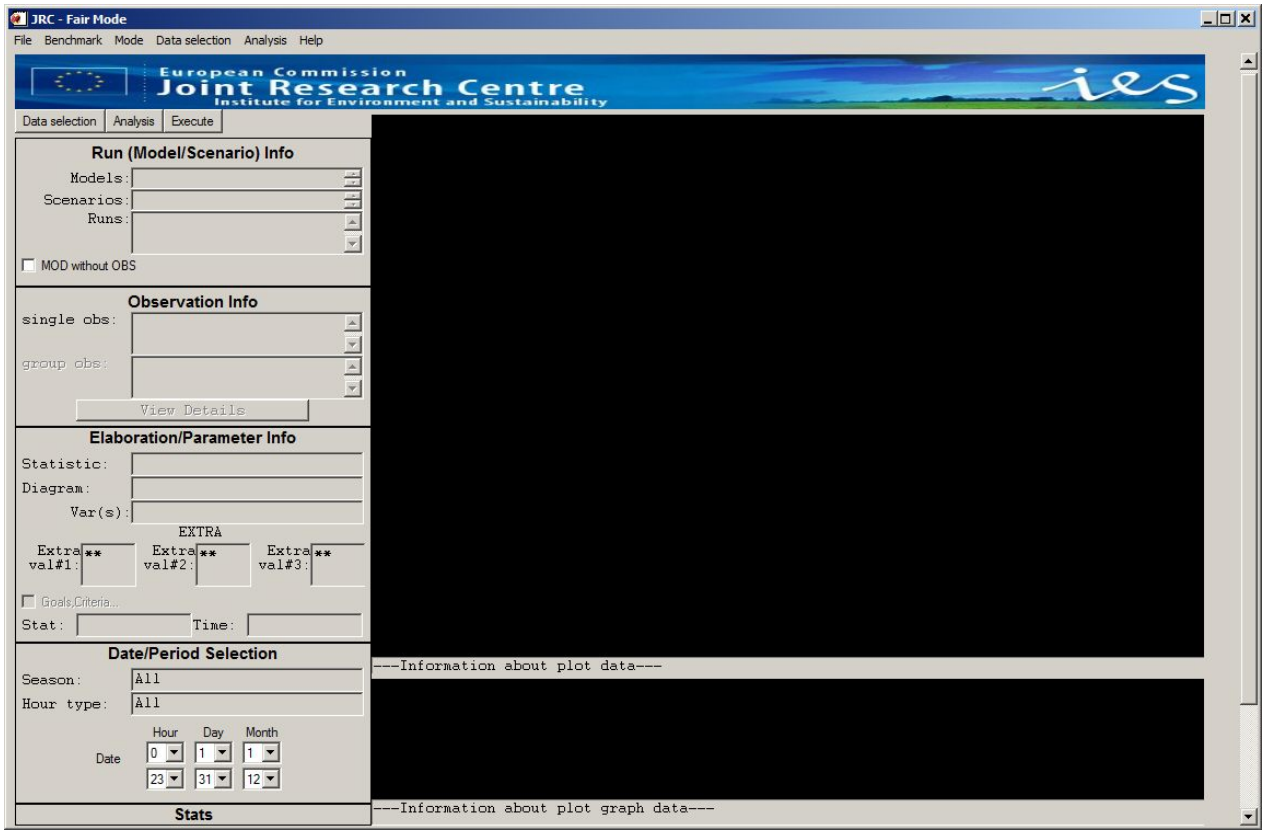


Figure 7 The DELTA main interface (starting window)

4.1. THE DATA SELECTION INTERFACE

A selection has to be made by the user in terms of

- a model/scenario (year) pair
- a parameter (e.g. NO2)
- a monitoring station

An example is given in Figure 16.

In brief, the selections are made in the following way:

- **Model selection**: In the left panel select one or more models + scenarios.
- **Parameter selection**: In the right panel first select Type, then Parameters (you may select several elements by Ctrl + Click).
- **Station selection:** The panels Region, Station Type, Area Type and Siting indicate some filters, which may help you in selection of stations. Apply relevant filters, so the panel Available stations becomes populated with some stations. Use Ctrl + Click on those you wish to select. Finally, click the 'Add' button to make the selection effective.
- **Optionally save:** You may save the list of stations by clicking the 'Save Obs' button (the 'Load Obs' button allows you to retrieve a previously saved list).

Some more details follow.

Various filters are available to facilitate the selection of the appropriate monitoring stations in terms of regions, types. These filters are defined in the configuration file <startup.ini>, where the user can make the station classification categories case specific.

Note: When a user selects a parameter (e.g. O_3) in the "data selection" window, all stations measuring that parameter automatically appear in the "Available stations" section. The user can then make his selection among these available stations and add them in the "Selected stations" section. At this stage the user can still change his mind and select another parameter (e.g. PM10). The list of selected stations will be updated after warning the user.

The user has the possibility to save his choices and to reload them at a later time. Two modalities exist which can be useful to avoid repeating frequently used selections.

Modality (1): In order to save the selections in the data selection window, choose "Save data" from the top "Data selection" pop up menu. A new window appears with the request to put a file name. File extension must be *.ent. By default the file is saved in the dir…. \save. To reload the saved selections, choose "Restore data" from the top "Data selection" pop up menu.

Modality (2): In order to save the station selection only, press the button 'Save Obs' in the lower right corner of the data selection window. A new window appears with the request to put a file name. File extension will be *.obl. By default the file is saved in the dir…. \save. To reload the saved selections, press the button "Load Obs".

A set of stations can either be treated as a number of single entities or as a group. In the case of groups the user will be asked to select between "mean" and "90% percentile" options. In the first case the mean of the stations statistical indicators will be represented as a single dot/symbol in the diagram whereas in the second option the worst statistical indicator among 90% of the available stations (rejecting 10%) is selected. **This latter**

choice must be used with diagrams in which performance criteria are present and indicate whether this criterion is fulfilled for the selected group of stations.

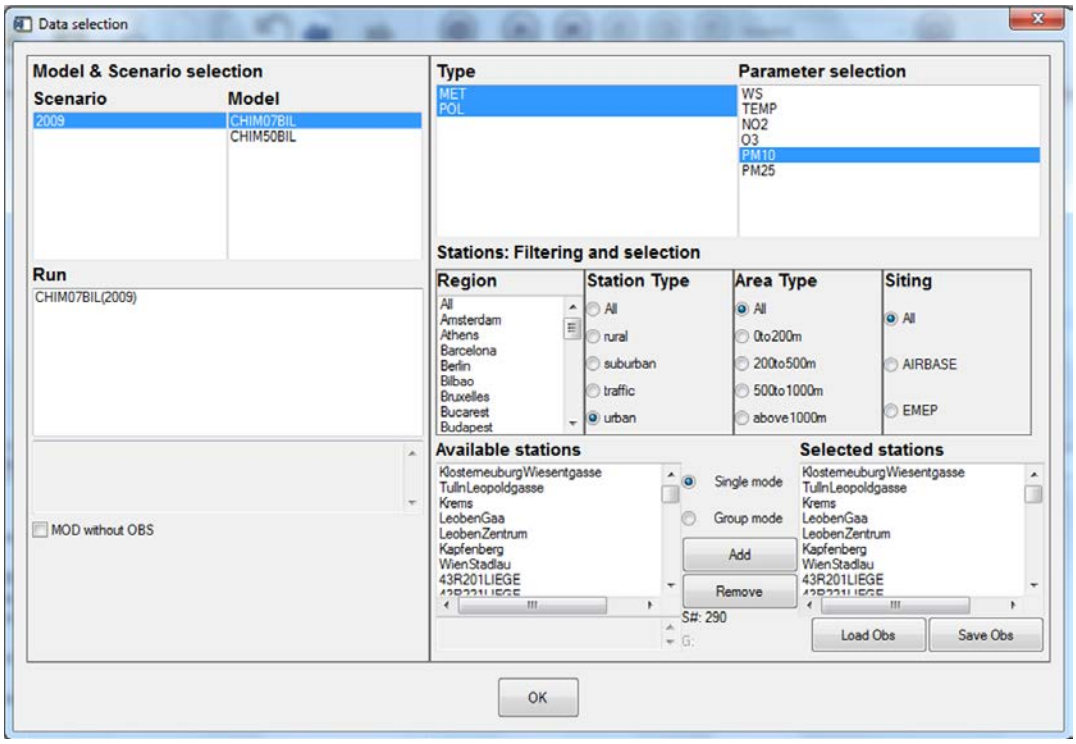


Figure 8: DELTA data selection interface.

4.2. THE ANALYSIS INTERFACE

The analysis interface (Figure 17) allows the user to select the type of statistics and diagram, as well as the desired temporal operations to be performed on the original data ("Time Avg" and "Daily Stats"). Available diagrams are described in the Diagram overview Section (Part III).

Each of these plot types can be selected to illustrate different statistical metrics (statistics column). This is especially true for the barplots which is the common way to visualise single statistical metrics (Mean, RMSE, bias, IOA, Exceedance days...). Some of these statistics require threshold values which can be included (e.g., Exceedance days, RDE, RPE, POD…) on the same window. The field for threshold values should contain numbers separated by an #.

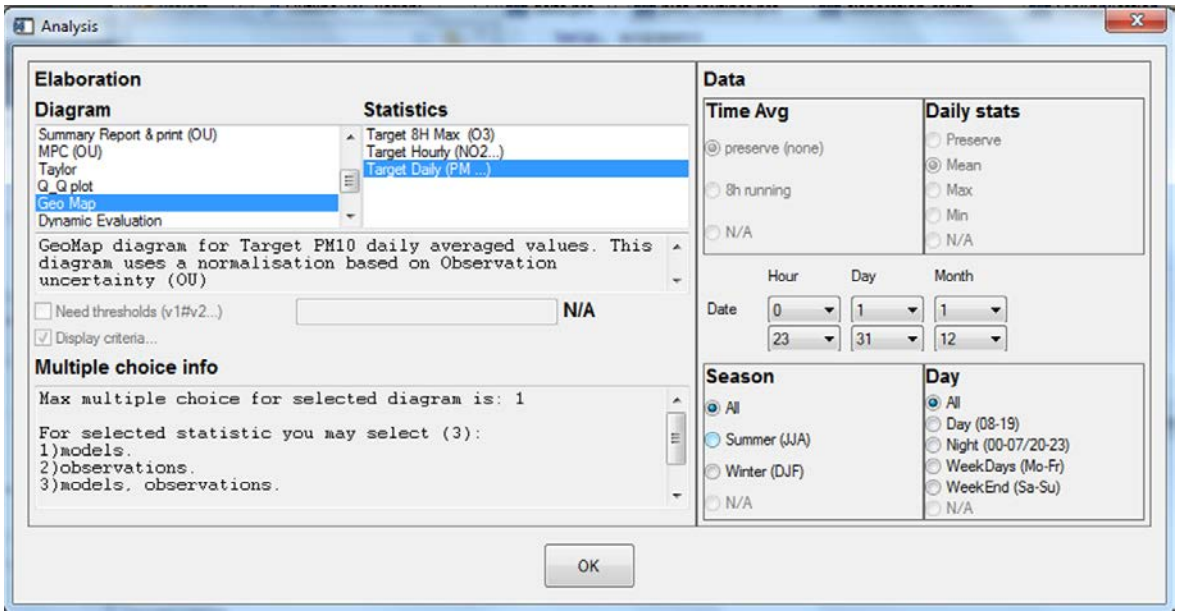


Figure 9: DELTA analysis selection interface.

The lower left part of the analysis selection interface ("Multiple choice info") gives information on the different possibilities offered to the user in terms of combination of parameters, stations, and models to generate the diagram. These possibilities give the degree of freedom in selecting items of the four main entities: scenario (year); model; parameter; monitoring stations. The allowed multiple choices for a given diagram are pre-defined in the tool and are described in the Diagram overview Section.

On the right side of the analysis selection interface, time operations can be chosen to be performed on the selected modelled-observed data pairs, i.e.:

- **Time Avg**.: Time series kept as originally formatted (preserve or 1h) or 8h running average
- **Daily Stats**: Statistical operation applied for each day: mean, max or min.
- **Season**: choice between summer, winter and entire year
- **Day**: Selection between night time hours, daylight hours, entire 24h day, week-ends and week days.

Note that for some statistics and pollutant choices, these flags will be automatically filled to the adequate values.

The user has the possibility to save his analysis selections and to reload them at a later time. This feature can be useful if you repeatedly use the same set of selections. In order to save the selections in the analysis window, use the top menu in Delta Tool: click the item "Analysis" and choose "Save Analysis" in the drop-down menu. A new window appears with the request to put a file name. File extension must be *.elb. By default the file is saved in the dir…. \save. To reload the saved selections, click the item "Analysis" on the top menu and choose "Restore Analysis".

4.3. THE MAIN GRAPHICAL INTERFACE

When the user has made his selections in the data selection window and the analysis window, the 'Execute' tab can be pressed. The Delta Tool's main graphical interface will then pop-up (unless you have made selections that the tool does not support).

The screen is divided into two main areas:

- The left side recapitulates the choices made by the user in the previous interfaces which lead to the generation of a given diagram.
- The right side hosts the diagram and accompanying legend (which also summarizes the options selected by the user). Only one diagram is shown at a time (i.e. no multiple windows).

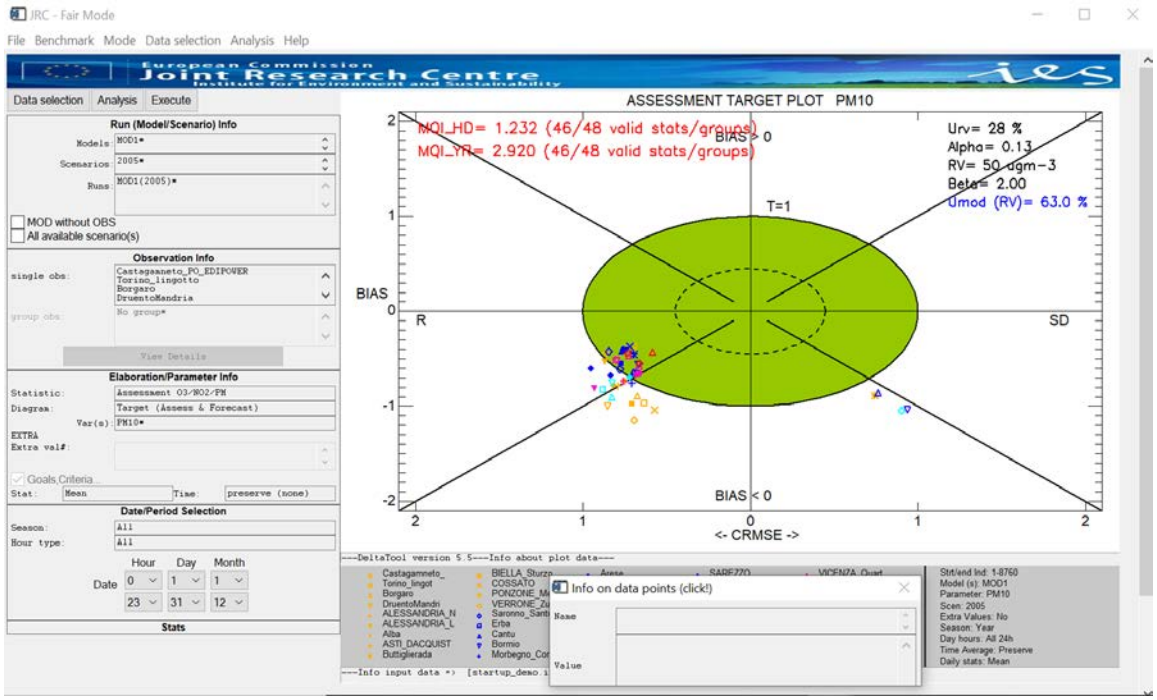


Figure 10: DELTA main graphical window.

5. DELTA FUNCTIONALITIES AND USER'S TUNING OPTIONS

5.1. UNCERTAINTY PARAMETERS: THE "GOALS_CRITERIA_OC" INPUT FILE

In the configuration file "goals_criteria_oc.dat" the user can find lines of the type:

3;PM10;ALL;OU;PMEAN;28*0.25*20*0.25*50*2.00;Descr of: GC 56

Those lines contain all information required to calculate the value of the observation uncertainty used to derive the model quality objectives for one particular species and time average. The numbers separated by asterisks can be modified by the user to test alternative uncertainty estimates. By order, these numbers represent (see equation 7 for details):

- U_r^{RV} (28 in our example) expressed in percentage. This is the expanded relative uncertainty
- α (0.25 in our example)
- N_p and N_{np} (20 and 0.25 in our example)
- RL the reference value (50 in our example)
- β (2.00 in our case)

Introducing uncertainties for new variables

If the user knows all required parameters, he can introduce a new line at the end of the "goals_criteria_oc.dat" file as follows:

35;NEWSPEC;ALL;OU;PMEAN;28*0.018*40*1*50*2.00;Descr of: GC 56

The first field is an index number which should increment the index of the previous line by 1. The second field should contain the name of the new species. Note that the same name should be kept in all monitoring, modeling and startup files for consistency. The third and fourth fields should be kept as is (i.e. ALL;OU). The fifth field (PMEAN) is a contraction of the time average (**P**reserve, **8H** running) and daily stat (**P**reserve, **MEAN**, **MAX** and **MIN**) options. The fifth field should concatenate the bold identified letters of the two options according to the choices made. For example O3 8h daily max would lead to "8HMAX" for the fifth field while daily PM10 would lead to "PMEAN". The following five fields have been described above while the last field is a comment to be used at convenience by the user.

An alternative methodology is described in GUID2022 to set these uncertainty parameters. We provide here an example: assuming that we can estimate that the PM10 uncertainties around 0 and 50 ug/m3 would be 1.88 and 14 ug/m3, respectively. We can calculate easily the following numbers needed within DELTA.

$$U_r^{RV} = \frac{14}{50} = 0.28$$

$$\alpha = \left(\frac{1.88}{14}\right) = 0.134$$

5.2. SAVING SUMMARY STATISTICS INFORMATION IN ASCII

Delta saves by default all information contained in each diagram in ASCII format by generating a file named "dumpfile.txt" which can be found in the dump directory. This file will be overwritten at each new generated diagram.

Frequently used statistical indicators (e.g. correlation, bias…) can be automatically created by selecting the "Summary Report & print (OU)" analysis diagram option. DELTA will then generate the summary report in the graphical window but also create an ASCII file in the dump directory (the name of this Summary Report file can be selected by the user).

Note that both options will create information relative to the selected time period. Both files can be edited through the main DELTA interface (under the help menu), if standard names (i.e. dumpfile.txt and Summary_Report.csv) are assigned to these files.

5.3. MOUSE DRIVEN RECOGNIZE FUNCTIONALITY

For most graphics a small additional window appears with the title "Info on data points (click!)". This allows the user to click on the diagram and retrieve information about the quantitative values of the different points/stations represented. This feature can be switched on and off through the top menu in Delta Tool: click the item "Mode" and choose "Hide/Show Recognizer info".

5.4. MANAGING MULTIPLE DATASETS: THE "MYDELTAINPUT" OPTION

As mentioned before there are three different types of input information required to run the DELTA tool:

- The startup.ini file located in the ./resource directory
- The YEAR_MODEL_TIME.cdf file located in the ./data/modeling directory
- The station.csv files located in the ./data/monitoring directory

When dealing with different startup.ini files, different sets of modelling results, and different sets of monitoring stations, it may be useful to be able to overwrite the defaults locations of these three inputs.

The file *MyDeltaInput.dat* in the resource directory contains three lines:

1 - First line contains the name of the startup.ini file in the ./resource directory
2 - Second line contains the location of the model data in the ./data directory
3 - Third line contains the location of the monitoring data in the ./data directory

Example:

```
startupED2007.ini       ; the startup.ini file
modelling_ED2007        ; subdirectory in ,/data
monitoring_ED2007       ; subdirectory in ./data
```

The default (if the MyDeltaInput.dat file is not found) is:

```
startup.ini
modeling
monitoring
```

After completion of 'Execute' the name of the used startup.ini file, the modelling data location, and the monitoring data location are mentioned beneath the plot.

Note that DELTA can run with/without this new configuration input file.

6. BENCHMARKING MODE

From the Delta Tool top menu select the item “Benchmarking” (this is only possible when the “Data Selection” window and the “Analysis” window are closed).

At present the automatic production of performance reports is available for the following pollutant concentrations and time frequencies:

- daily maximum 8h mean O3
- Daily averaged PM10
- Daily averaged PM25
- Hourly NO2
- Yearly PM2.5
- Yearly PM10
- Yearly NO2

Reports are produced similar to those presented in Section 5 of the “Concepts” part of this document. Note that the output comes in the form of two independent figures (summary report and target/scatter).

Important:

Currently the performance report is produced automatically for one single model. This single model is selected by default and corresponds to the top-of-the-list model when opening the data-selection interface. For applying the procedure to other models the user is requested to play with the model data files in the ../ data/modeling directory and leave in this directory only the model on which the performance report should be produced.

7. SET-UP FOR FORECAST APPLICATIONS

When operating in forecast mode some extra values have to be set by the user

- The Forecast bar plots (POD, SR, POD&SR, and ACCURACY) requires 1 extra value: Val1#, with Val1 = threshold value.
- The Forecast Target diagram requires 2 extra values: Val1#Val2#, with Val1 = threshold, Val2 = forecast horizon (>= 0).
- The Forecast Summary
- The Forecast Summary report requires 1 extra value: Val1#, with Val1 = threshold. The normalized version requires 2 extra values: Val1#Val2#, with Val1 = threshold, Val2 = forecast horizon (>= 0).
- Forecast MPI Plot requires 1 extra value: Val1#, with Val1 = forecast horizon (>= 0).
- The Forecast Threshold Performance Plot requires 1 extra value: Val1#, with Val1 = threshold. The normalised version requires 2 extra values: Val1#Val2#, with Val1 = threshold, Val2= forecast horizon (>=0).
- The Air Quality Index diagram does not require any extra value.

Notes: The extra values will be reset each time a new diagram or a new variable is selected. Use CTRL-C & CTRL-V to copy/paste these values to avoid re-introducing them each time.

- The values of the Summary Report are automatically saved in a “csv” file in the “dump” directory. The name of the Summary Report file can be selected by the user.

8. DEMO DATASET: PO-VALLEY

This dataset contains the results from a model inter-comparison exercise performed by two air quality models for year 2005. The model domain covers the Po Valley (Italy) with at 6x6 km2 resolution (95x65 cells) grid. Pollutant concentrations have been simulated by 5 transport chemical (CHIMERE, TCAM, CAMX, RCG, MINNI) of which two are made available in this demonstration dataset.

Observations from 63 monitoring sites located in the Po Valley are also provided. Sites have been classified in regions, station types (suburban, urban and rural), and siting (plane, hilly and valley).

9. UTILITY PROGRAMS

9.1. DATA-CHECK INTEGRITY TOOL

Aim: Checking the consistency among the modeling results file (cdf, csv), the observation files (csv, cdf) and the main configuration file (startup.ini).

Important: The data check integrity step will be performed automatically each time a new startup.ini is used. If modifications are made in the monitoring or modelling data without affecting the startup.ini file, please perform this data-check integrity manually to identify potential consistency issues.

How to use: From the Delta Tool top menu select the item “Help” > “ Data-Check Integrity Tool” (this is only possible when the “Data Selection” window and the “Analysis” window are closed).

There are currently 19 steps included in this consistency check:

1) Checking existence of relevant directories
2) Checking existence of “startup.ini” file
3) Checking existence of appropriate sections within startup.ini
4) Checking correctness of “PARAMETERS” section within Startup.ini
5) Checking correctness of “MONITORING” section within Startup.ini
6) Checking for possible redundancy in station names in startup.ini
7) Checking consistency of the number of stations between startup.ini and obs files
8) Checking consistency of the station names between startup.ini and obs files
9) Checking consistency of the species names between startup.ini and obs files
10) Checking number of lines in obs files
11) Conversion of observations files from csv to cdf
12) Checking for extreme values in obs files
13) Checking for zero values (information check only)
14) Checking for existence of model file
15) Checking for correct attribute in model netCdf file
16) Checking correctness of time dimension in model file
17) Checking model extreme values
18) Checking consistency between species available in startup.ini and model file
19) Producing statistic report

Check_IO produces a log report, as well as a summary report with details concerning the various checks. The reports are located in the main directory where Delta Tool is installed.

9.2. INTERACTIVE FORMAT CONVERSION TOOL

This tool, available under the help menu, allows to produce a model file in “cdf” format from files in csv format similar to the one described for monitoring data. This program works only for data produced with an hourly

frequency. If more than one model is used, this conversion operation will need to be performed for all models. You will need to follow the following steps:

1. Open Delta with a running dataset (e.g. the demo)
2. Place your new “startup.ini” file in the resource directory with an alternative name (e.g. startup_XXX.ini)
3. Create a directory “tmp” under “delta” where you locate your model “csv” files
4. Open the “interactive format conversion tool” widget available under the help menu and specify the following information:
    a. the input directory where the csv are located (“delta/tmp” in our case)
    b. the output directory where the cdf model file will be created (/delta/data/modelling/XXX) and
    c. the startup.ini file used as reference (startup_XXX.ini in our case).
5. Create a directory “data/monitoring/XXX” and locate in it your measurement “csv” files
6. Update the “mydeltainput.dat” configuration file to direct the application to the correct XXX files (see Section 5.4)
7. Re-run DELTA

Important: User’s modifications in the widget input lines will only be considered if you type the “return” key after changes.

9.3. PREPROC-CDF

The Deltapreprocessor is an idl-based tool for the extraction of time series at observational locations from meteorological or air quality model output for use in the DELTA Tool. Input to the PreProcessor is the configuration file 'startup.ini' containing the variables (meteorological variables , and pollutants) to be treated, as well as geographical information about the observational stations. Model output (i.e. input to the pre-processor) should be in netCDF format with all the variables defined on longitude-latitude coordinates at ground level and hourly frequency. Three interpolation techniques are available for producing the modeled time series at the observational stations:

(i) NN (Nearest Neighbour) where the values at a station are taken from the nearest lon-lat grid point.

(ii) BIL (Bilinear) where a bilinear interpolation is performed on the grid cell in which the station is located; for this the gridcell is first transformed into a square using a bilinear mapping.

(iii) DW (Distance Weighted) where a weighted mean value is calculation in the station grid-cell. The weights are the inverse of the distance from the station to the 4 gridpoints.

Output of the PreProcessor is written to a netCDF file.

During the PreProcessing a number of checks are performed to guarantee the conformity with the DELTA Tool conventions.

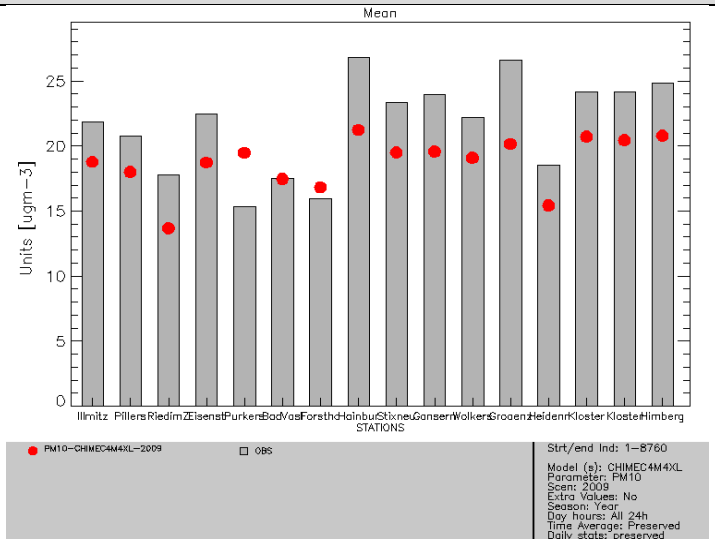
Part III

DIAGRAMS OVERVIEW

In this section all diagrams/elaborations available in DELTA are detailed according to the following template:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">TEMPLATE: Diagram name (Elaboration name)</td><td colspan="2">Elaboration numbers (internal use)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6" rowspan="11">DIAGRAM example</td><td>X axis</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Y axis</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Parameters</td><td>Possible choice</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Time Avg</td><td rowspan="4">Possible options in the DELTA menu</td></tr>
<tr><td>Daily Stats</td></tr>
<tr><td>Season</td></tr>
<tr><td>Day</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Threshold</td><td>Required or not</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Description</td><td colspan="7">Brief description of diagram</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8"></td></tr>
<tr><td>MQO</td><td colspan="7">If Model quality objective and/or model performance criteria are available for the diagram/elaboration a description of the criteria used is provided here. The list of parameters together with specific requirements (time averaging…) is also provided. If groups are allowed to be selected, this will as well be mentioned.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Options</td><td>OBS</td><td>MOD</td><td>PAR</td><td>SCEN</td><td>Other</td><td rowspan="2"></td><td>Single mode</td><td>Group mode</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Possible options in terms of multiple choices. A cross in OBS means that more than one station can be selected (similar for MOD, PAR and SCEN). If other options are available these will be mentioned under the “other” column. For example, O-M means that more than one model and more than one station can be selected at the same time.</td><td>Can single stations be selected?</td><td>Can station groups be selected?</td></tr>
</table>

BARPLOT (Mean, Stddev, Exc. Days)	*0,1,9*



X axis	Stations
Y axis	Value
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	Limit Value for Exc. days

Description

Bar-plots with observed values represented with grey filled bars. Modeled values are indicated with colored circles. In case of multiple choices involving three entities (e.g. models, observations and parameters), multiple bars will appear.

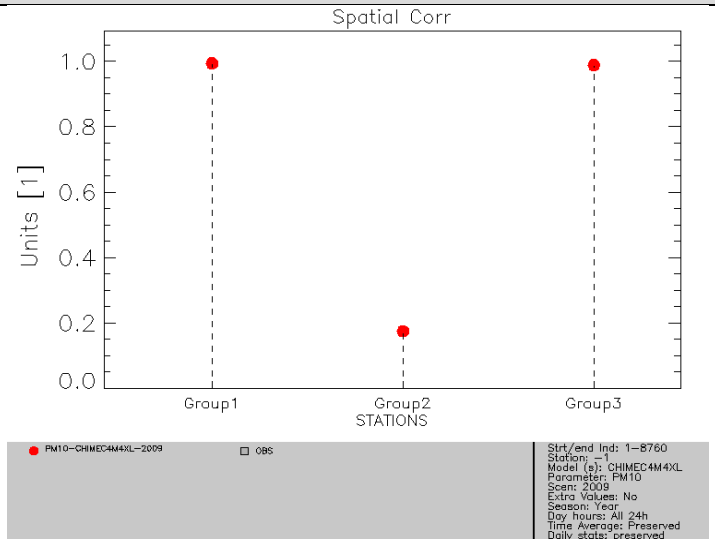
MQO

N\A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X	X	P-O P-M P-S M-S M-O S-O P-M-O P-S-O M-S-O		YES	YES

BARPLOT (Spatial Correlation)	*14*



X axis	Station Groups
Y axis	Value
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N\A

Description

For all stations included in a selected group (Note that this diagram only works with groups!) a time average value is calculated for the time period selected. All observed and modeled values within a given group are then correlated to each other to provide a single value per selected group of stations.

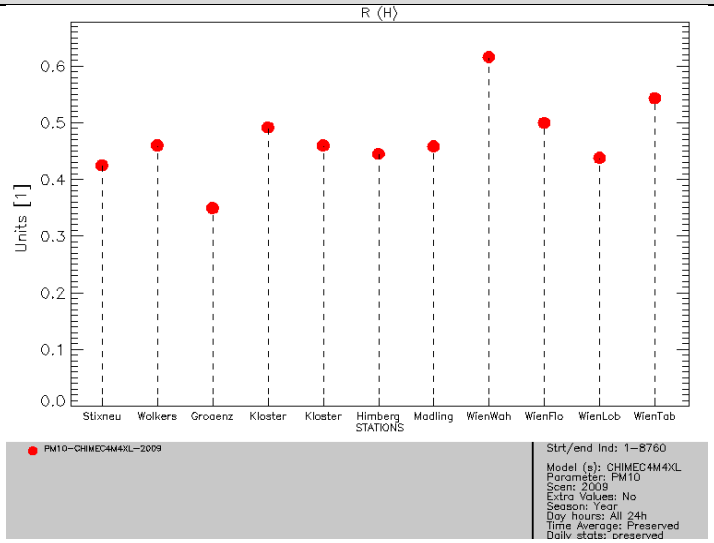
MQO

N\A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X	X	P-O M-O		NO	YES

BARPLOT (R, Mbias, RMSE, IOA, RDE, NMB, RPE, FAC2, NMSD)	*2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 23, 30, 33, 54*



X axis	Stations
Y axis	Values
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	Limit Value for RDE; number of exceedance days for RPE

Description

For all stations the selected characteristic is plotted as a colored circle. In case of multiple choice involving two entities (e.g. models and observations) two colored circles will appear while for multiple choice involving three entities (e.g. models, parameters and observations) multiple bars will appear.

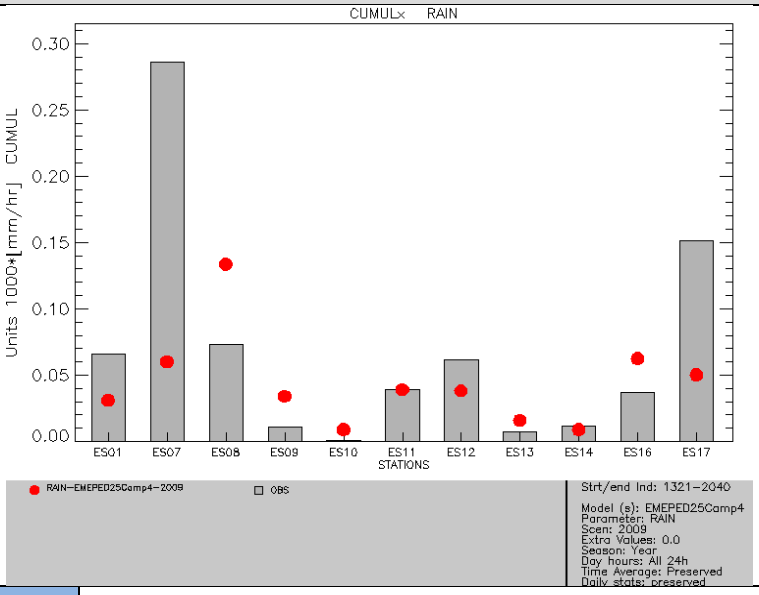
MQO

N|A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X	X	P-O P-M P-S M-S M-O S-O P-M-O P-S-O M-S-O		YES	YES

BARPLOT (CUMUL)	*38*



X axis	Stations
Y axis	Values
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	Offset value

Description

For all stations the cumulative total of the selected variable is plotted. This option is useful for deposition variables like rain or deposited pollutants. The total is the sum of the hourly values over the selected period of time, In case of multiple choice involving two entities (e.g. models and observations) two colored circles will appear while for multiple choice involving three entities (e.g. models, parameters and observations) multiple bars will appear.
Take offset value equal to 0.
Example gives quantity of rain at some Spanish stations in 1000*mm/m2 over the period 25/02/2009 – 26/03/2009

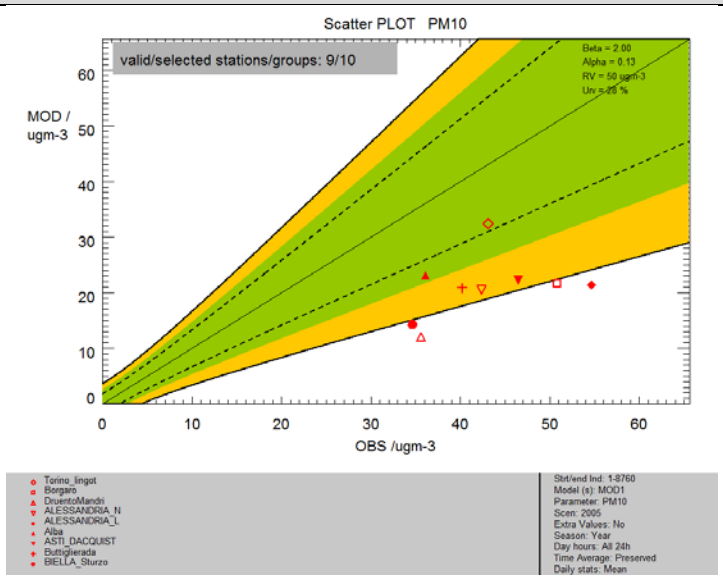
MQO

N|A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X	X	P-O P-M P-S M-S M-O S-O P-M-O P-S-O M-S-O		YES	YES

SCATTER (Mean mod vs. mean obs)	*6*



X axis	Mean Observations
Y axis	Mean Model values

Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N/A

Description

The scatter diagram plots mean modeled values against mean measurements. If only one model, one parameter and one scenario selected, different symbols and colors are used to represent the different stations. Otherwise dots are used for each station (or group of stations) with colors depending on scenario, model or parameter (see example).

MQO

Dashed and solid lines indicate $|BIAS|/2RMS_U$ ratios of 0.5 and 1, respectively. The orange region (only for hourly/daily) delimited by ratio sqrt(0.5)=0.71 (see Concepts equations (12 to 15)

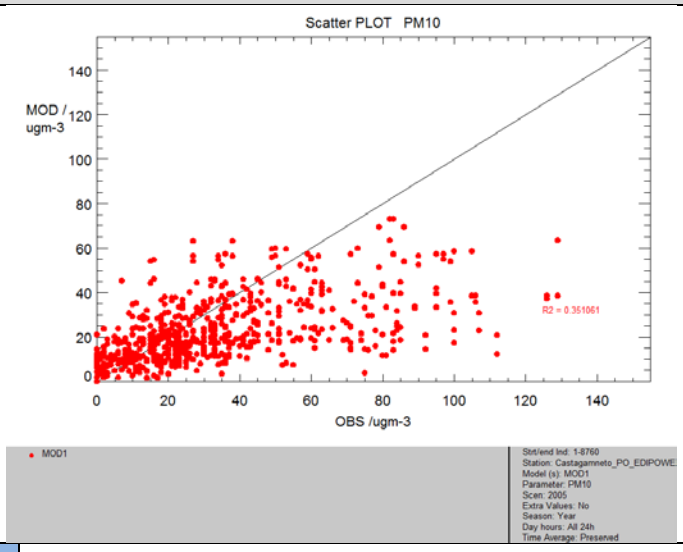
MQO are valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
PM10	preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	NO
PM25	preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	NO
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	NO
NO2	preserve	preserve	Free	Free	NO
WS	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	NO
TEMP	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	NO

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X	X	O-M O-P		YES	YES

SCATTER (One station – All time values)	13



X axis	Observations
Y axis	Model values
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	N/A
Daily Stats	N/A
Season	FREE
Day	N/A
Threshold	N/A

Description

The scatter diagram plots all time modeled values against measurements for one single station/group selected.

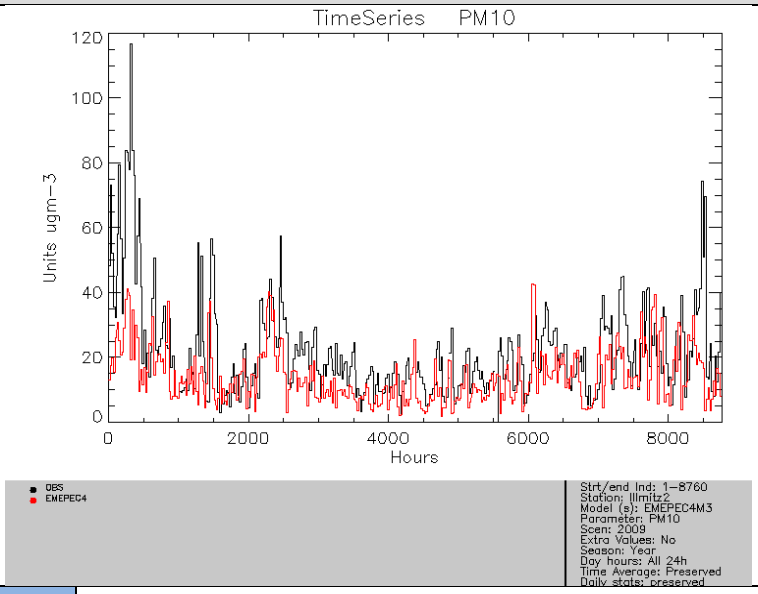
MQO

N|A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group Mode
	X	X	X			YES	NO

TIME SERIES	*12*

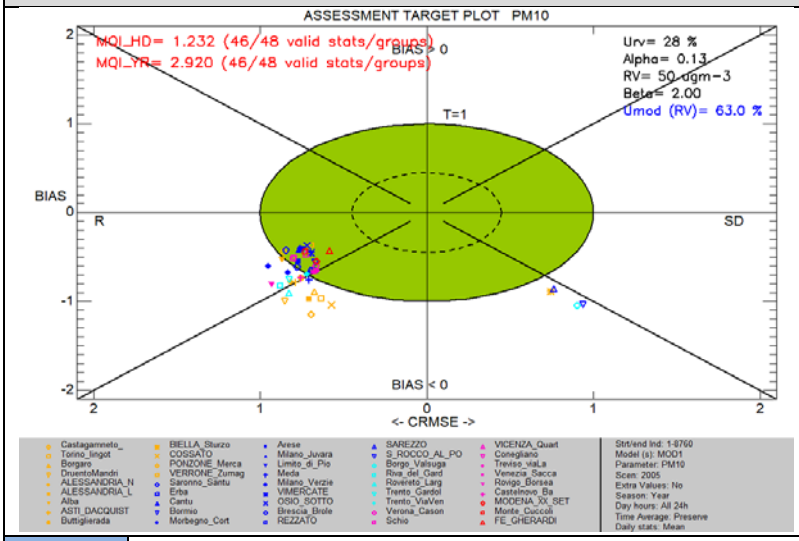


X axis	Time
Y axis	Values
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N\A

Description	Plot of the time series for observations and model results at 1 station for 1 or more models and scenarios. The 75% minimum coverage of the data is not taken into account here, all values are plotted.
MQO	N/A

Options	**O**BS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
		X		X			YES	NO

TARGET	21



X axis	CRMSE / $2RMS_U$
Y axis	BIAS / $2RMS_U$
Parameters	NO2, O3, PM
Time Avg	See MQO below
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	N/A

Description

The Target diagram plots for each station the normalized BIAS against the normalized CRMSE. The distance from the origin represents the normalized RMSE. The screen is divided into four areas distinguishing the main source of error type for each station (Negative and positive bias, correlation (R), and standard deviation (SD)). Different symbols and colors are used to represent the different stations.
The CRMSE related error is examined to see whether it is dominated by R or by SD. (see METHOD2012 for more details)

MQO

Dashed and solid lines indicate RMSE/$2RMS_U$ ratios of 0.5 and 1, respectively. The MQI value corresponding to the 90th largest percentile is printed in the left upper corner and should be lower than 1.The Target diagram is only available with associated MQO parameters and time statistics (see below). This diagram is not available for yearly average values. More details can be found in the Concepts Section 4.

MQO are valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

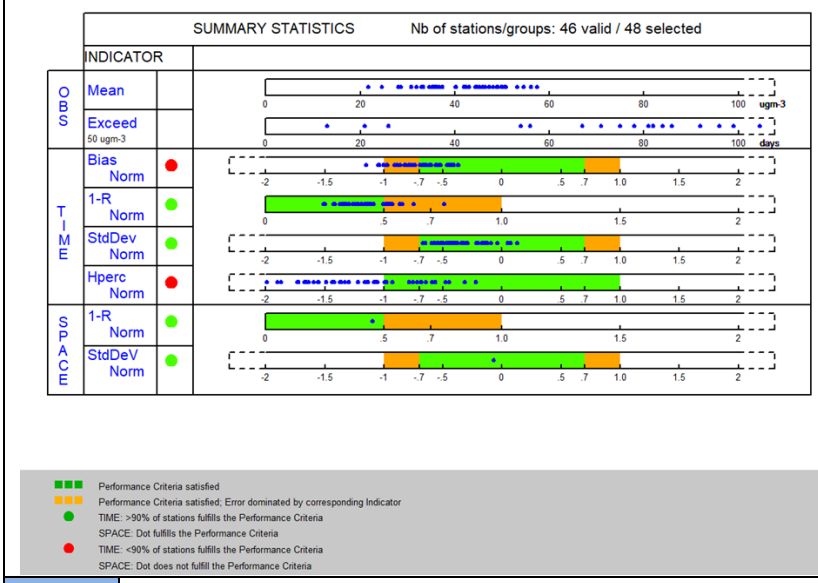
Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	90%
NO2	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%
PM10	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
PM25	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
WS	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%
TEMP	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
X	X			O-M		Yes	Only 90% option

SUMMARY REPORT (8H Max, Daily, Hourly)

31



X axis	N/A
Y axis	N/A
Parameters	O3, PM,NO2
Time Avg	See MQO below
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedance calculation

Description

The summary report is available for both hourly and yearly frequency (in this case a simplified version is produced). All details can be found in Section 5

MQO

For details on how green and orange areas are defined, see Section 4.2

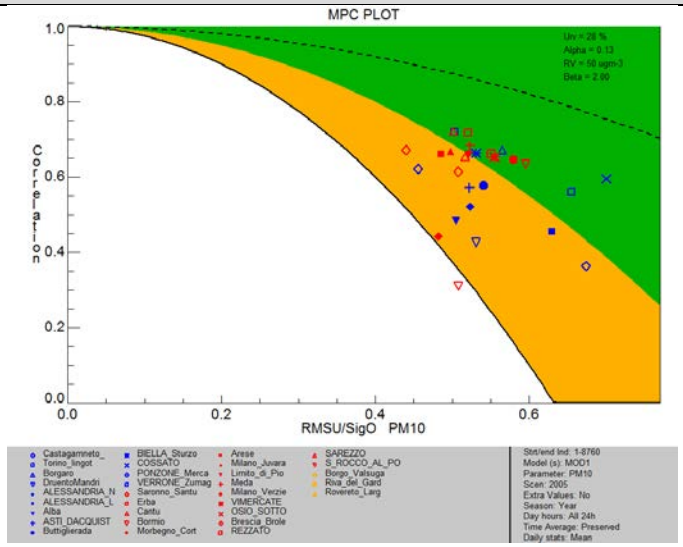
MQO are valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	NO
NO2	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	NO
PM10	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	NO
PM25	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	NO
WS	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	NO
TEMP	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	NO

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X						YES	NO

MPC correlation	15



X axis	$RMS_U/sqrt(\sigma_O \sigma_M)$
Y axis	R
Parameters	O3, PM, NO2
Time Avg	See MQO below
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	N\A

Description

This diagram plots correlation as function of the quadratic mean of the uncertainty divided by the square root of the product of the observed and modeled standard deviations. It provides for each station (represented by a symbol) an indication of whether the time correlation fulfills a minimum level of quality (green/orange area)

MQO

For details on how green and orange areas are defined, see Concepts and equations 12 to 15.

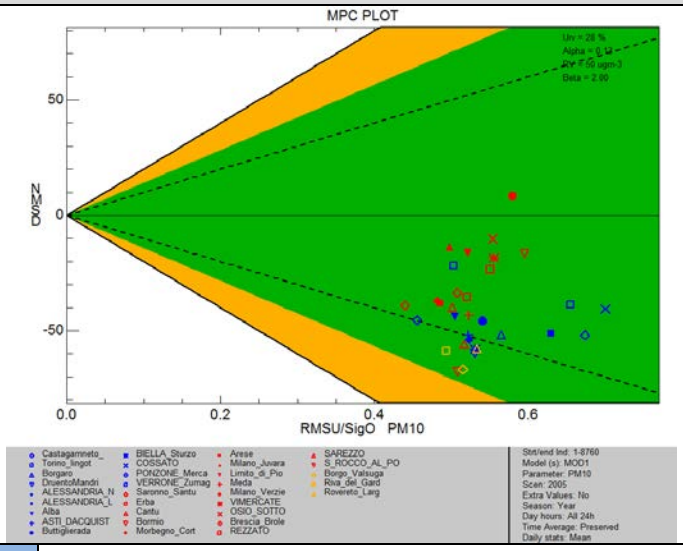
MQO are valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	90%
NO2	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%
PM10	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
PM25	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
WS	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%
TEMP	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X			M-O		YES	YES

MPC std. Dev.	25



X axis	RMS_U/σ_O
Y axis	NMSD
Parameters	O3, PM, NO2
Time Avg	See MQO below
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	N\A

Description

This diagram plots NMSD as function of the quadratic mean of the uncertainty divided by the station observed standard deviation. It provides for each station (represented by a symbol) an indication of whether the normalized standard deviation (NMSD) fulfills a minimum level of quality.

MQO

For details on how green and orange areas are defined, see Concepts and equations 12 to 15.

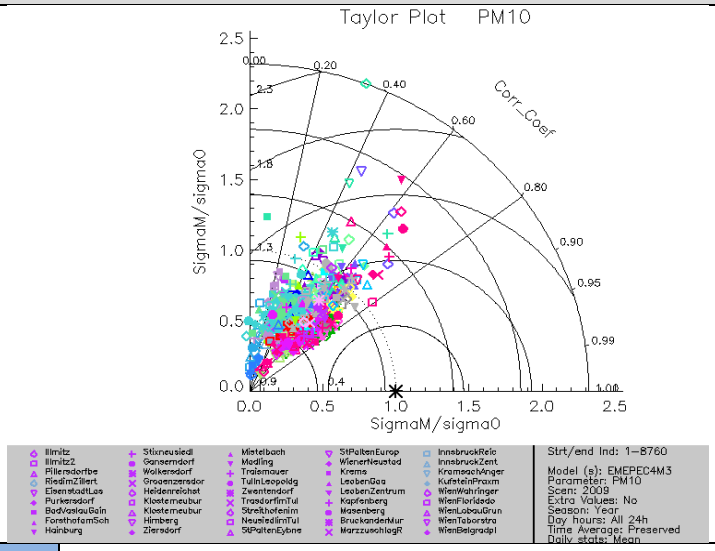
MQO are valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	90%
NO2	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%
PM10	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
PM25	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
WS	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%
TEMP	Preserve	Preserve	Free	Free	90%

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X			M-O		YES	YES

Taylor	19



X axis	σ_M/σ_O
Y axis	σ_M/σ_O
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N\A

Description

The Taylor diagram provides for each station an indication on Correlation (angular distance), standard deviation (model standard deviation larger than observed one when the station symbol lies beyond the dashed line) and CRMSE (distance between the station symbol and the black asterisk on the X axis.

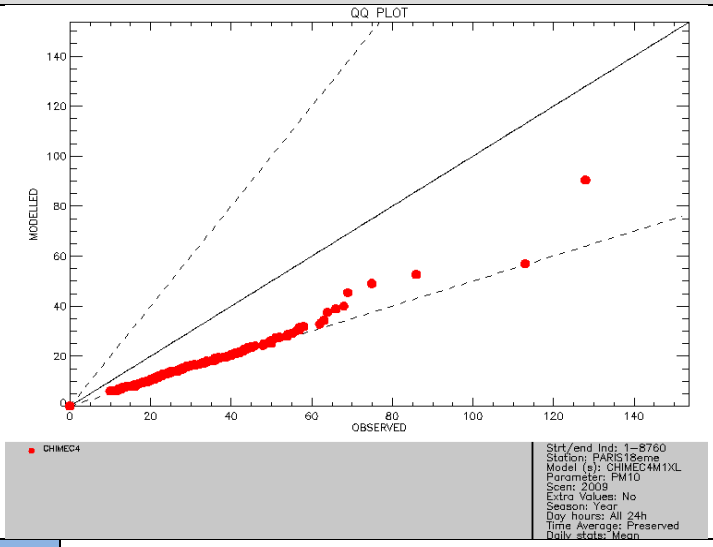
MQO

N/A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X		P-O M-O		YES	YES

Q-Q plot (One station All values)	29



X axis	Observed
Y axis	Modelled
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N/A

Description

Same as scatter but both observed and modeled values are independently sorted.

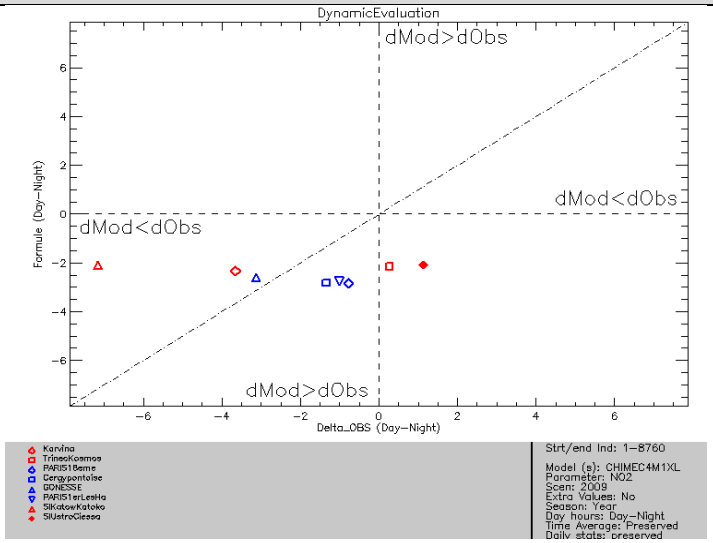
MQO

N\A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
	X	X				YES	NO

Dynamic evaluation (Day-Night)	71



X axis	Observed day/ night difference
Y axis	Modeled day/ night difference
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	preserve
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N/A

Description

Scatter plots of modeled vs. observed day-night mean differences. Well behaving results should lie along the 1 to 1 line. Lower right and upper left part of the graphs indicate poor results.

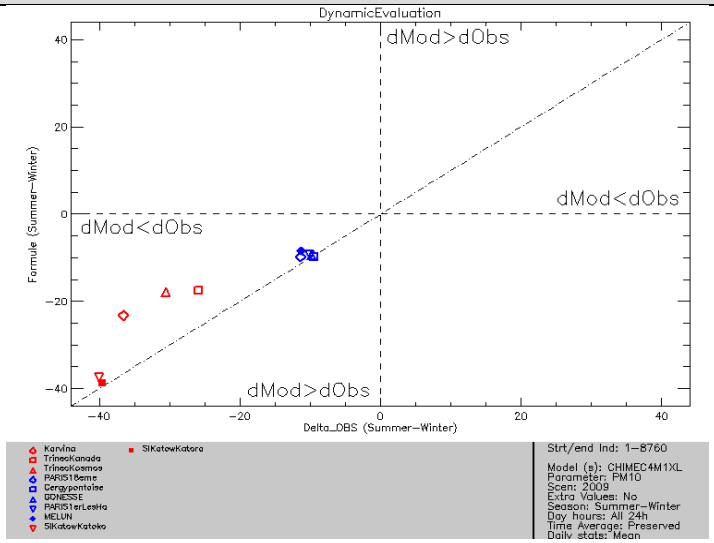
MQO

N\A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X		O-P O-M		YES	YES

Dynamic evaluation (Summer-Winter)	72

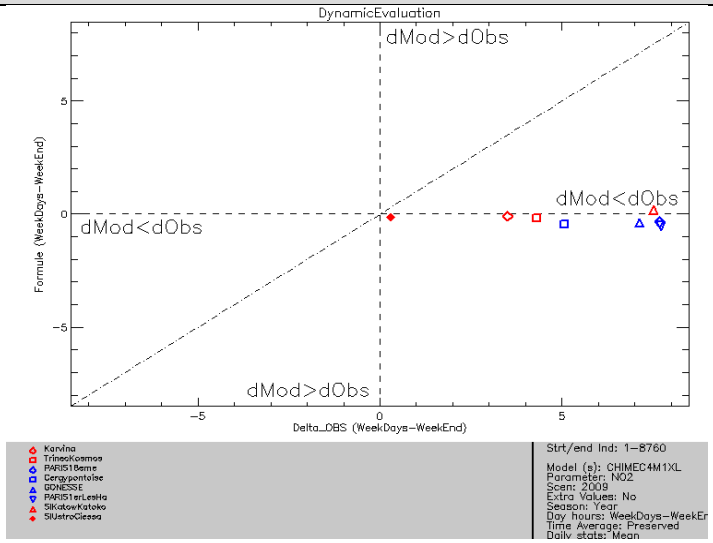


X axis	Observed Summer/Winter difference
Y axis	Modeled Summer/Winter difference
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg.	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	FREE

Description	Scatter plots of modeled vs. observed Summer/Winter mean differences. Well behaving results should lie along the 1 to 1 line. Lower right and upper left part of the graphs indicate poor results.
MQO	N/A

Options	**O**BS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
	X	X	X		O-P O-M		YES	YES

Dynamic evaluation (Weekdays – Weekends)	73



X axis	Observed weekdays/ week-end difference
Y axis	Modeled weekdays/ week-end difference
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	N\A

Description

Scatter plots of modeled vs. observed weekdays/ week-end mean differences. Well behaving results should lie along the 1 to 1 line. Lower right and upper left part of the graphs indicate poor results.

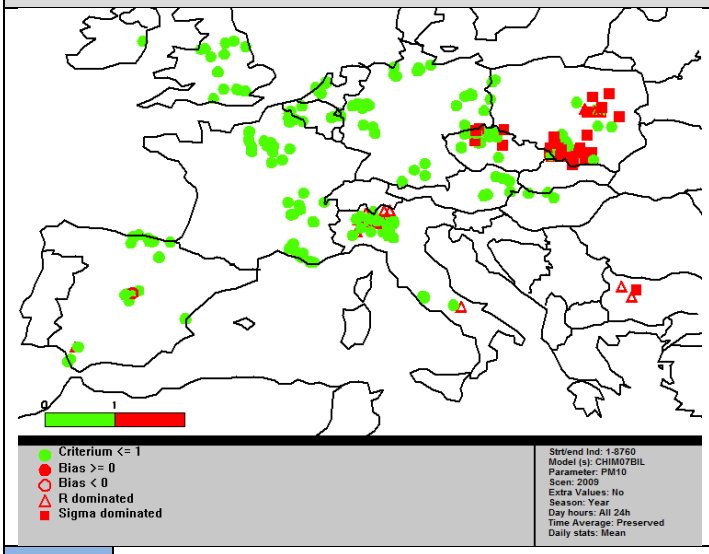
MQO

N/A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X	X		O-P O-M		YES	YES

GeoMap (Target)	35

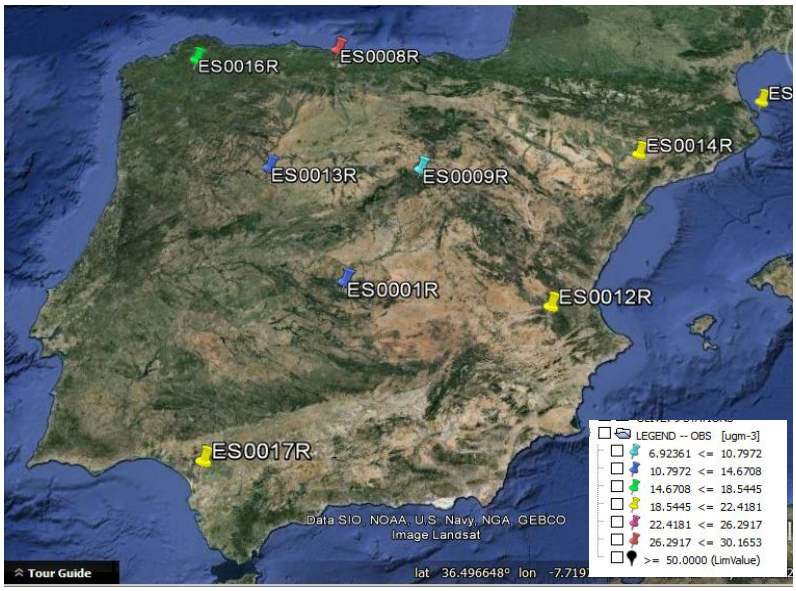


X axis	N\A
Y axis	N\A
Parameters	O3, NO2, PM
Time Avg	See Section 4
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	

Description	GeoMap map showing the locations of the selected stations, together with the Target value for O3 (8hr mean), hourly NO2, daily PM10, hourly WS and TEMP. Colors indicate whether or not the uncertainty criterium is satisfied yes or no; and if not satisfied the location in the target (Bias >0, Bias <0, Correlation dominated or NMSD dominated)
MQO	For details, see Section 4

Options	**O**BS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
	X	X	-		O-M		YES	NO

Google Earth (Mean, Exc. Days, Bias, NMB, Std. Dev, R, RMSE, , RDE, σM/σO, NMSD)	*58,59,60,61,62,63, 64,65,66,67,68,69,70*

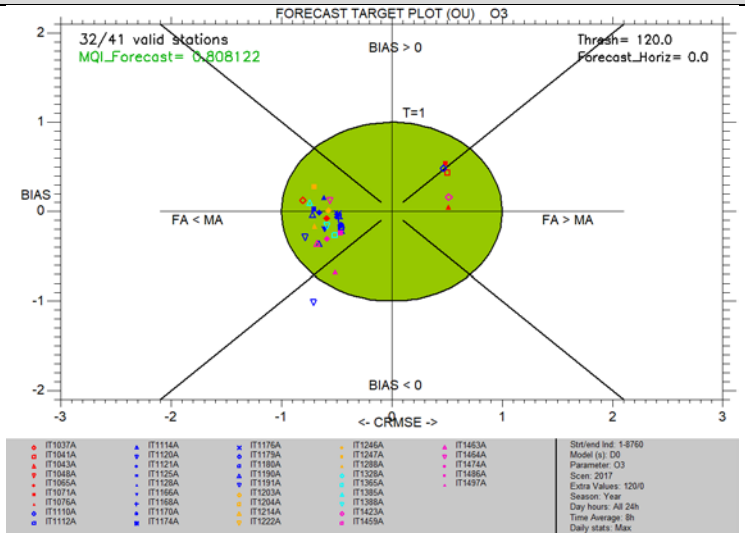


X axis	N\A
Y axis	N\A
Parameters	FREE
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	FREE
Season	FREE
Day	FREE
Threshold	See explanations in Analysis window

Description	Google Earth map showing the locations of the selected stations, as well as all requested observational and model results in pop-up windows. The location of the GE application must be inserted in the init.ini file in the resource directory
MQO	

Options	**O**BS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
	X	X	X	X			YES	NO

FORECAST TARGET PLOT	74



X axis	CRMSE /$RMSE_p$
Y axis	BIAS / $RMSE_p$
Parameters	NO2, O3, PM
Time Avg	See MQO below
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedance calculation

Description

In the Forecast target plot information is included on the following quantities (all normalized by the root mean squared error of the persistence model):

- RMSE: distance from the origin to the point
- BIAS: the bias can be either positive or negative and is represented along the vertical axis (Y)
- CRMSE: The CRMSE is always positive and given by the distance from the origin to the point along the X axis.
- False Alarm (FA) vs. Missed Alarm (MA): we use the FA/MA ratio to differentiate the right and left parts of the target diagram: $\frac{FA}{MA} < 1 \rightarrow \text{Left}$; $\frac{FA}{MA} \geq 1 \rightarrow \text{Right}$

MQO

Values lower than one (points within the green circle) indicate better capabilities than the persistent model whereas values larger than one indicate poorer performances. The MQI value corresponding to the 90th largest percentile is printed in the left upper corner and should be lower than 1. More details can be found in Concepts Section 6.

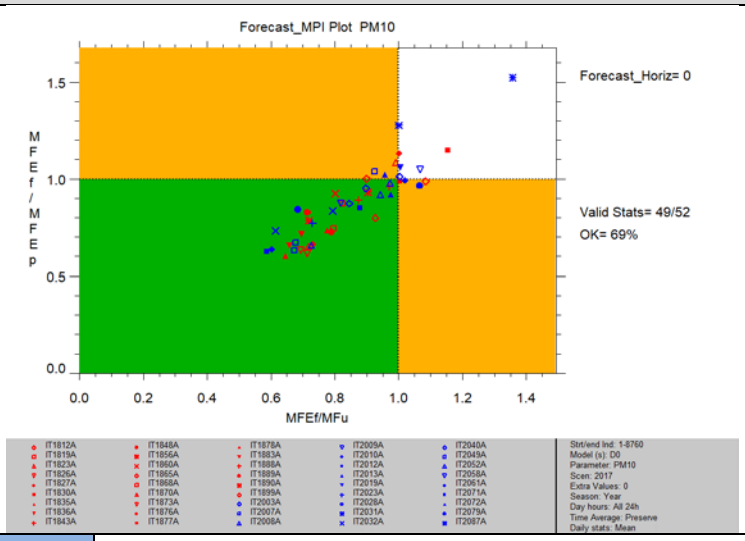
MQO are valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	90%
NO2	Preserve	Max	Free	N/A	90%
PM10	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
PM25	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
X	X			O-M		YES	Only 90% option

FORECAST MPI PLOT	?



X axis	MFEf/ MF_U
Y axis	MFE_f /MFE_p
Parameters	NO2, O3, PM
Time Avg	See below
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	N/A

Description

Forecast MPI Plot shows the fulfilment of the MPCs defined in Section 6.2. Forecast performances (MFE_f) are compared to Mean Fractional Uncertainty (MF_U) along the X axis and to the persistence model performances (MFE_p) along Y axis.

MQO

The green area identifies the area of fulfilment of both criteria. The orange areas indicate where only one of them is fulfilled.

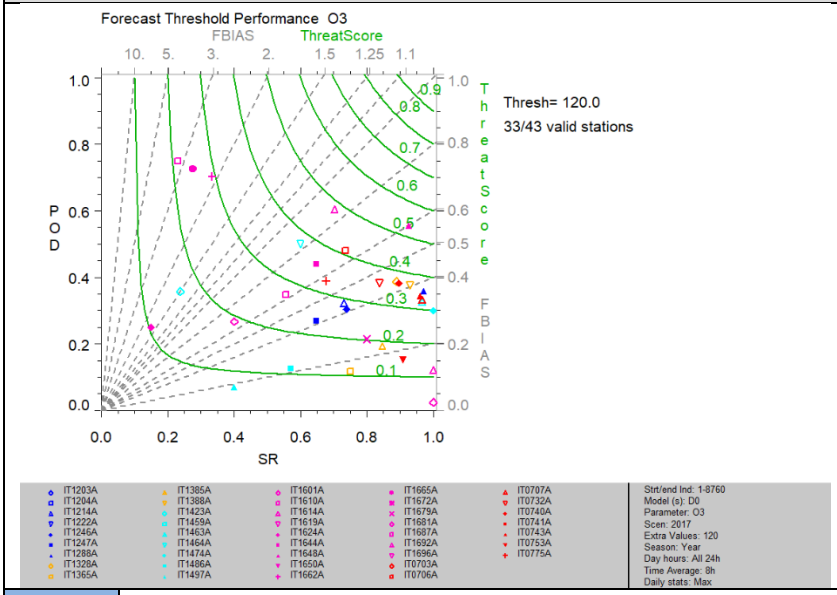
Analysis is valid for the following parameters/ time statistic choices

Parameter	*Time Avg*	*Daily Stats*	*Season*	*Day*	*Group*
O3	8H	Max	Free	N/A	90%
NO2	Preserve	Max	Free	N/A	90%
PM10	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%
PM25	Preserve	Mean	Free	N/A	90%

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
X						YES	Only 90% option

FORECAST THRESHOLD PERFORMANCE PLOT	97



X axis	SR
Y axis	POD
Parameters	All
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedances calculation

Description

The Forecast Threshold Performance Plot shows the four forecast indicators POD (Probability of Detection), SR (Success Ratio), FBIAS (FBias score) and TS (Threat score). It is based on the SR values on the X axis and POD values on the Y axis. Since FBIAS and TS are indicators related to POD and SR, they are represented by additional isolines.

Good forecasts with a high POD and SR are situated in the upper right corner.

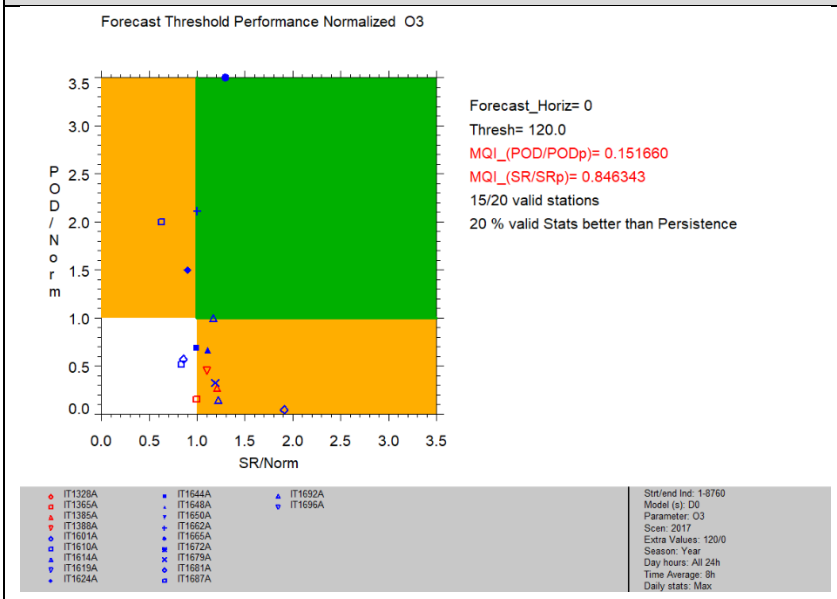
MQO

N/A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X			O-M		YES	YES

FORECAST THRESHOLD NORMALIZED PERFORMANCE PLOT	98

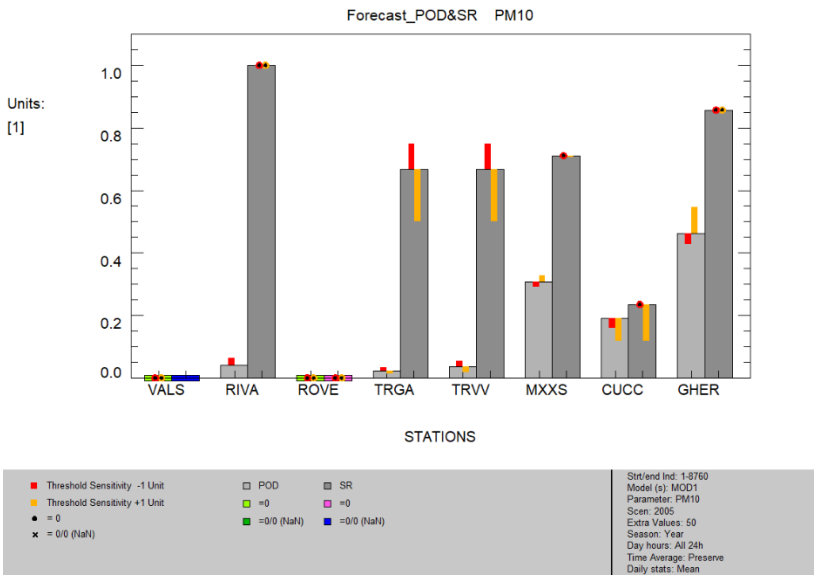


X axis	Normalised SR
Y axis	Normalised POD
Parameters	All
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedances calculation

Description	In order to indicate whether a forecast model is “good enough”, in the Forecast Threshold Normalized Performance Plot the POD and SR values obtained with the persistence model are used as a benchmark (i.e. POD and SR of the forecast model are normalized with POD and SR of the persistence model).
MQO	In this plot, the green area represents forecasts with better POD and SR threshold indicators than the persistence model. In the white zone, the model performs worse than the persistence model on both indicators. In the orange zone, one of the two indicators is better than the benchmark. The normalized POD and SR values (i.e. POD/PODp and SR/SRp) are also given as indicative Modelling Performance Indicators. These MPIs correspond to the 10th largest percentile value and should be larger than one for a “good enough” forecast.

Options	**O**BS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
	X	X			O-M		YES	YES

BARPLOT FOR EXCEEDANCE INDICATORS (POD, SR, POD&SR, ACCURACY)	89, 90, 91, 92



X axis	Stations
Y axis	POD, SR, POD&SR, ACCURACY
Parameters	All
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedances calculation

Description

Bar Plots show the values of the individual exceedances indicators (POD, SR, POD&SR, ACCURACY), together with their negative and positive sensitivities with respect to the threshold. The red bar indicates the change in the indicator when the threshold is reduced by 1 unit, the yellow bar the change when the threshold is increased by 1 unit.

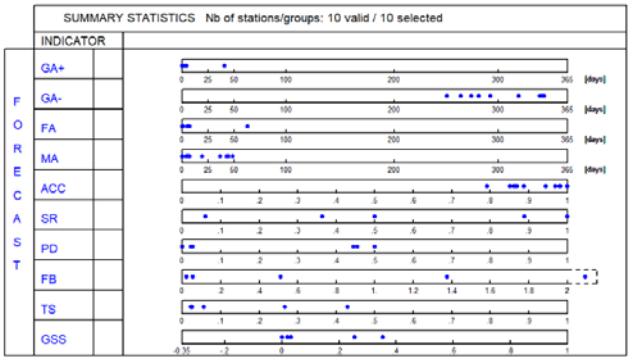
MQO

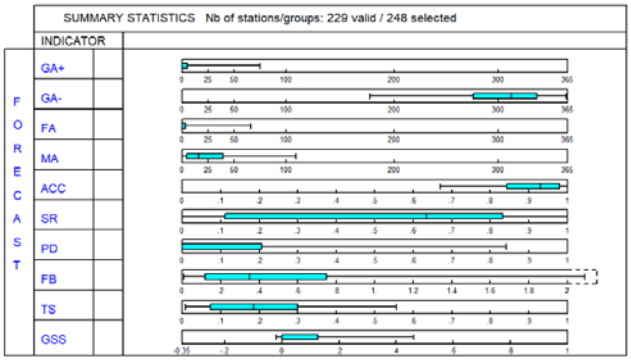
N/A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single mode	Group mode
X	X (a part from POD&SR plot)			O-M (a part from POD&SR plot)		YES	YES

FORECAST SUMMARY REPORT	?



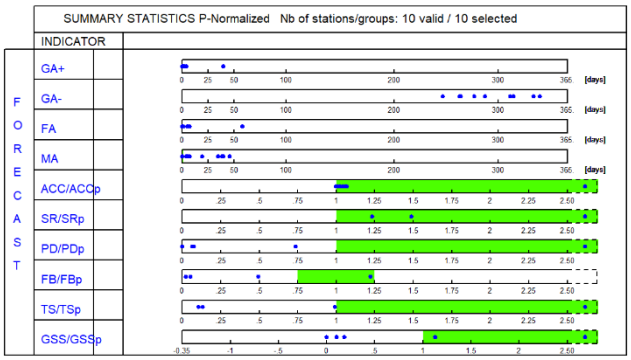


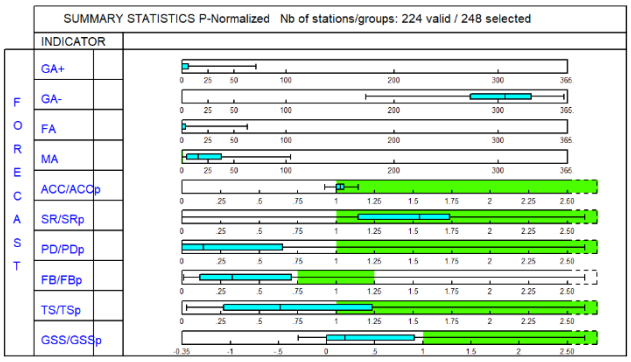
X axis	N/A
Y axis	N/A
Parameters	NO2, O3, PM
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedances calculation

Description	The following indicators are included in this report: GA+ (counted exceedances), GA- (counted non-exceedances), FA (False Alarms), MA (Missed Alarms), ACC (accuracy), SR=1-FAR (Success Ratio), POD (Probability of Detection), FBIAS (FBias score), TS (Threat Score) and GSS (Gilbert Skill Score). See details in 6.3. A different graphical layout is applied depending on the number of stations taken into account in the analysis: if the number of stations is below 15, each of the dots represents a station for which the forecast indicators are evaluated (top of the Figure); if the number of stations is above or equal 15, boxplots are used to represent the statistical distribution of the indicators values (bottom of the Figure)
MQO	N/A

Options	**O**BS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
	X						YES	NO

FORECAST SUMMARY P-NORMALIZED REPORT	96





X axis	N/A
Y axis	N/A
Parameters	NO2, O3, PM
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	Used for exceedances calculation

Description

The following indicators are included in this report: GA+ (counted exceedances), GA- (counted non-exceedances), FA (False Alarms), MA (Missed Alarms), ACC (accuracy), SR=1-FAR (Success Ratio), POD (Probability of Detection), FBIAS (FBias score), TS (Threat Score) and GSS (Gilbert Skill Score). See details in 6.3.

A different graphical layout is applied depending on the number of stations taken into account in the analysis: if the number of stations is below 15, each of the dots represents a station for which the forecast indicators are evaluated (top of the Figure); if the number of stations is above or equal 15, boxplots are used to represent the statistical distribution of the indicators values (bottom of the Figure)

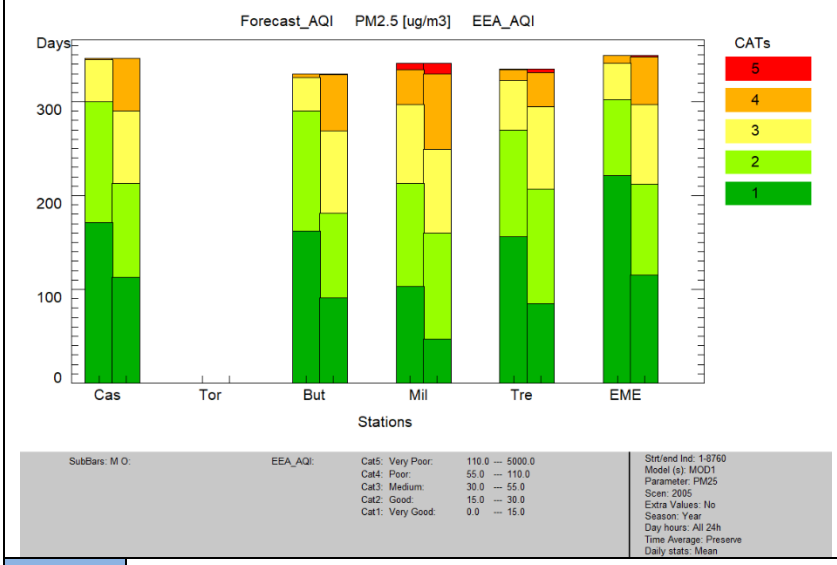
MQO

In order to evaluate whether a forecast model is “good enough”, indicator values obtained with the persistence model are used as a benchmark. Within the normalized version of the Forecast Summary Report the “good enough” zone is shaded in green and indicates that the model performs better than the persistence model for this particular indicator.

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
X						YES	NO

FORECAST DIAGRAMS USING AIR QUALITY INDICES	102



X axis	Stations
Y axis	Number of Days
Parameters	NO2, O3, PM, SO2
Time Avg	FREE
Daily Stats	
Season	
Day	
Threshold	N/A

Description

This plot is based on multiple thresholds as they appear in the Air Quality Categories and their Indices, like EEA, UK or US EPA indicators. In this diagram we compare the number of days that the forecast model (M) and the Measurements (O) have in common in each of the Air Quality Categories.
The Index table itself is shown in the grey area below, the corresponding colours on the right-hand side of the graphic.
In the current version of the DELTA Tool the following AQI tables are available: EEA (5 indices), UK4 (4 indices), UK10 (10 indices), USEPA (7 indices), and can be selected in the aqibounds.dat file in the DELTA tool configuration folder.

MQO

N/A

Options

OBS	**M**OD	**P**AR	**S**CEN	Other		Single Mode	Group mode
X						YES	Only mean option