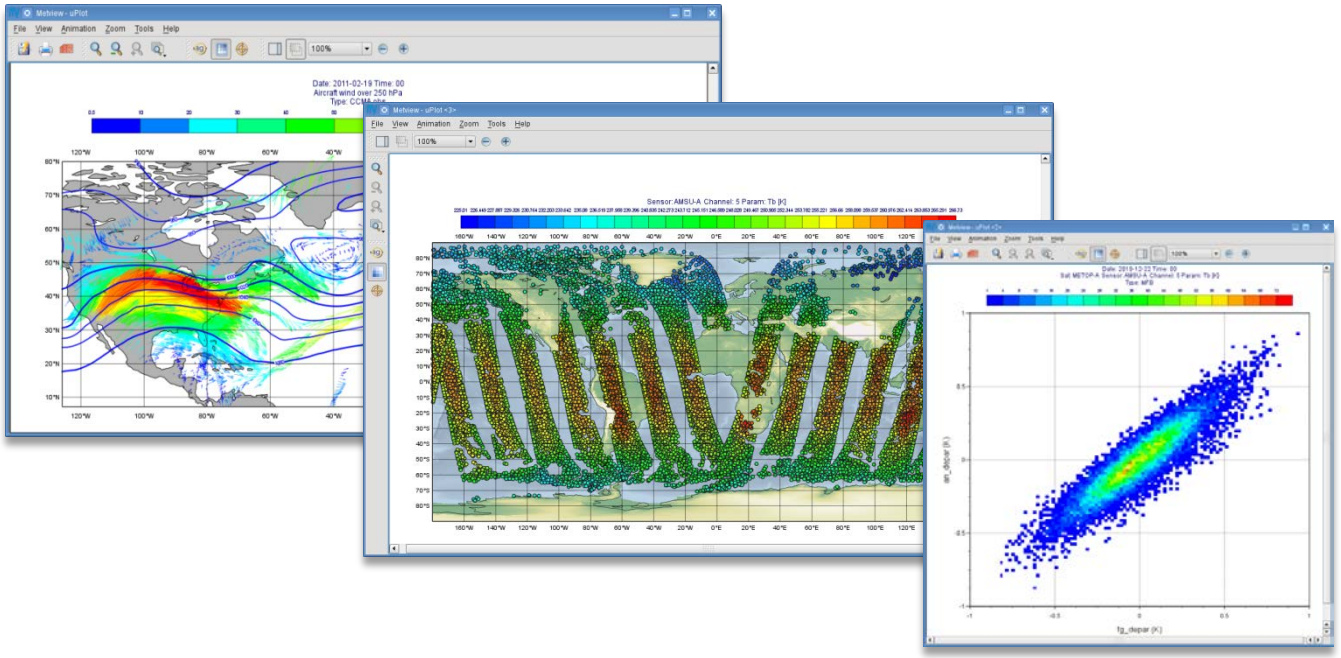
Using ODB at ECMWF



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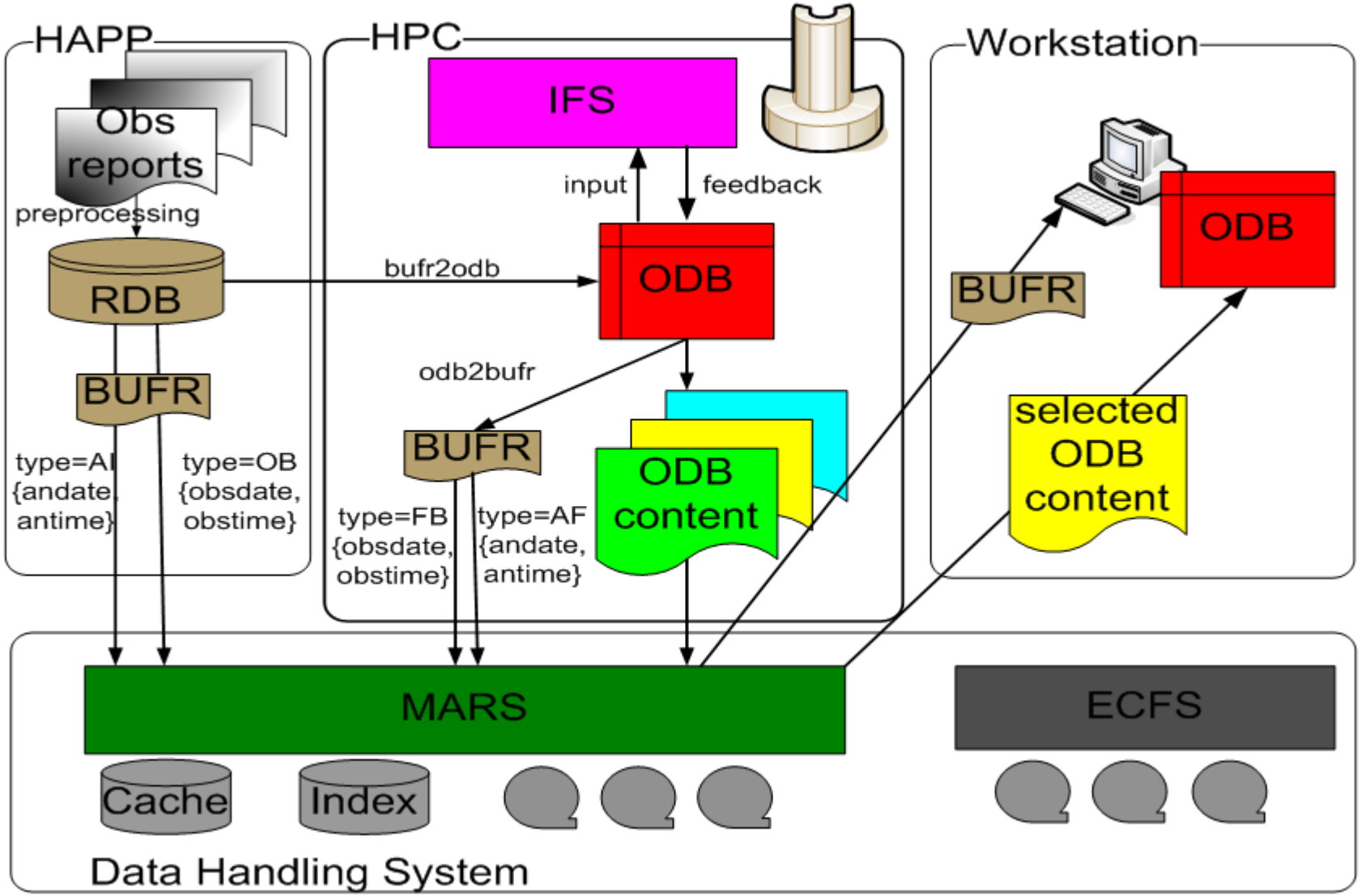
History of ODB in a nutshell

- **1998 – 2008, Sami Saarinen**
  - **Database of observations for 4D-Var IFS, parallel Fortran API, MPI**
  - **Relational databases concepts: SQL for querying/filtering, DDL for schema definition**
  - **Implementation: C and Fortran, SQL compiled to C**
- **2008 – now, Anne Fouilloux, Baudouin Raoult, Piotr Kuchta, Tomas Kral**
  - **ODB feedback archiving in MARS, ODB Server**
  - **New data format suitable for archiving**
  - **OO, C++ library for encoding/decoding & SQL filtering (ODB API)**
  - **new SQL engine: fast interpreter, no intermediate C code, can be extended to work with different data formats**
  - **API: C++, C, Fortran, Python, command line tools**
  - **Used by: MARS, ODB Server, Metview, Magics++, Obstat**

Observational data flow at ECMWF



ODB Feedback archive

- **MARS (server & client) extended to handle ODB data**
  - **Flexible indexing and physical organization on disks/tapes allows for efficient retrieval and processing of long time series**
  - **Any observational data can be identified with a single number: Report Type classification http://data-portal.ecmwf.int/odbgov/ReportType/**
  - **SQL filtering / transformations / statistics computations on the fly in MARS client**
  - **Archive requests validated against data (both server and client)**
- **ODB feedback (TYPE=OFB) and Monitoring (active observations) (TYPE=MFB) archive operational since Nov 2011 http://www.ecmwf.int/services/archive/d/catalog**
  - **Operational data > Deterministic forecasts >… > Observations > MONDB feedback | ODB feedback**

ODB Archive format

- **New file format for tabular, numeric data**
  - **Simple, well defined, machine independent, fast to encode and decode**
  - **Self-described (meta data in header), handles data types of ODB**
  - **Extendable: new codecs (compression alg.) can be added**
  - **Small memory footprint needed to process large datasets (streaming)**
- **An ODB archive file represents a flat table**
  - **Data layout: report oriented (one report stored in one row)**
  - **Every column has: name, type (REAL, INTEGER, STRING, …), value of missing data indicator (NULL), codec (invisible to the user)**

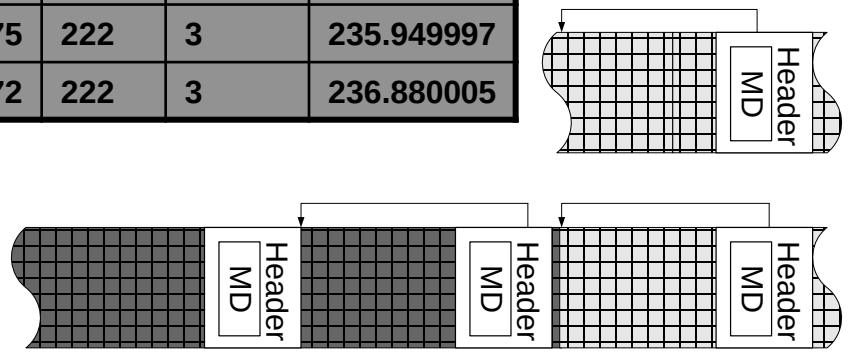
reptype	class	andate	antime	lat	lon	statid	obsvalue	blacklist	status
14	'od'	20090730	0	0.364777	0.986071	223	235.009995	0	01100
14	'od'	20090730	0	0.367758	0.972175	223	235.949997	0	01100
14	'od'	20090730	0	0.370347	0.959772	223	236.880005	0	01100

ODB Archive format features (2)

- **New data can be appended to existing files**
  - **Efficient usage of storage medium (tapes)**
  - **Can retrieve long time series in one request**

reptype	class	andate	antime	lat	lon	statid	obsvalue
14	‘od’	20090730	0	0.364777	0.986071	223	235.009995
14	‘od’	20090730	0	0.367758	0.972175	223	235.949997
14	‘od’	20090730	0	0.370347	0.959772	223	236.880005

reptype	class	andate	antime	lat	lon	satid	sensor	obsvalue
14	‘od’	20090731	0	0.364777	0.986071	222	3	235.009995
14	‘od’	20090731	0	0.367758	0.972175	222	3	235.949997
14	‘od’	20090731	0	0.370347	0.959772	222	3	236.880005



MARS language extensions

- **SQL incorporated into MARS syntax**

SQL engine used for filtering on the client

```
RETRIEVE,
TYPE = OFB,
OBSGROUP = hirs,
REPORTYPE = 13,
DATE = 20110728,
TIME = 0,
SENSOR = 0,
FILTER =  “select *
           where distance(lat, lon, 0, 0) < km(50)
                 and value > 375.2“,
TARGET = "ECMA.hirs.13.odb"
```

ODB API SQL examples

- **Which station identifiers are in the ODB file?**

```
$ odb sql 'select distinct statid' -i $odbfile
```

- **How many manual land SYNOP reports ?**

```
$ odb sql 'select count(*) where reportype=16002' -i $odbfile
```

- **Count the number of temperature records per station identifier, where the observation values are not missing. Sort by the count.**

```
$ odb sql 'select count(*), statid where varno=2 and obsvalue is not NULL order by 1' -i $odbfile
```

C++ and Python API examples

- **C++ API based on concept of iterators, mimics STL containers**

```
string sql = "select lat, lon, obsvalue from \"in.odb\""
             " where obsvalue > 0.5 ";
odb::Select  sel(sql);
for (odb::Select::iterator it = sel.begin(); it != sel.end(); ++it)
      cout << it->data(0) << " " << it->data(1) << " “ << it->data(2) << endl;
```

```
odb::Reader  reader("file.odb");
for (odb::Reader::iterator it = reader.begin(); it != reader.end(); ++it)
      cout << it->data(0) << " " << it->data(1) << " “ << it->data(2) << endl;
```

- **Python**

```
import odb
for r in odb.open('conv.odb'):
   print r['lat','lon','obsvalue']
```

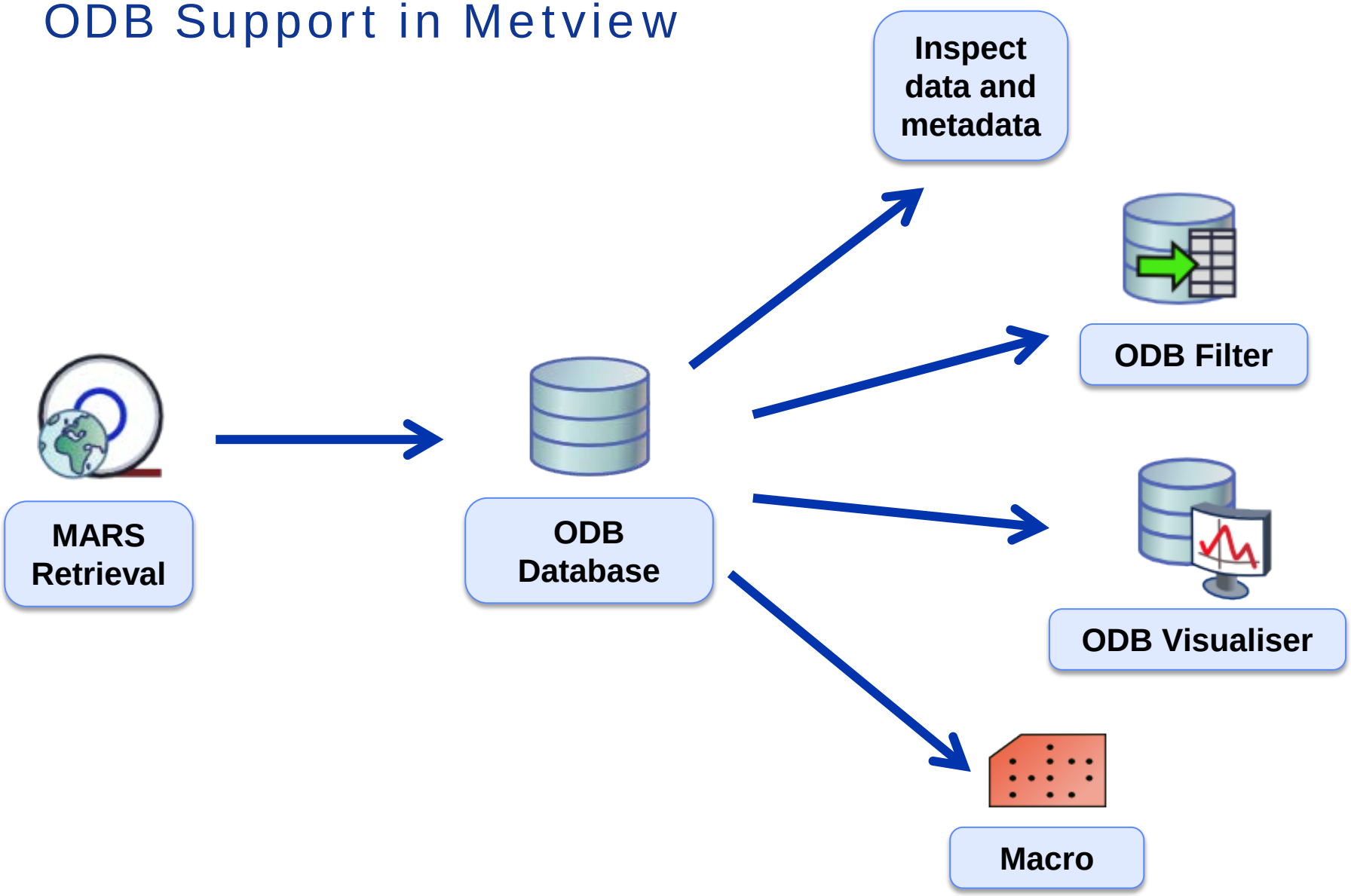
Tools for working with ODB data

- **Command line tools available via odb binary**
  - **Execute SQL SELECT and print results to standard output or save in a new ODB file**
  - **Examine meta data of a file (`odb header`)**
  - **Split data so e.g. data coming from one station, report type, satellite id, etc, is saved in a separate file**
  - **Compare two ODB files**
  - **Import data from a text file (CSV)**
  - **Merge two or more files row by row**
  - **Describe data on file in MARS language syntax (`oda2request`)**
- **Metview, Magics++, Obstat**

Plans for ODB development

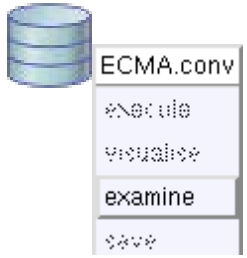
- **Parallel (MPI/OpenMP) functionality will be redeveloped in C++**
- **Further development and improvements of SQL engine and other functionality as required by**
  - **users,**
  - **COPE (Continous Observation Processing)**
  - **OOPS (Object Oriented Prediction System)**
  - **MARS**
  - **Metview**
  - **Magics++**
  - **OPS (Met Office)**

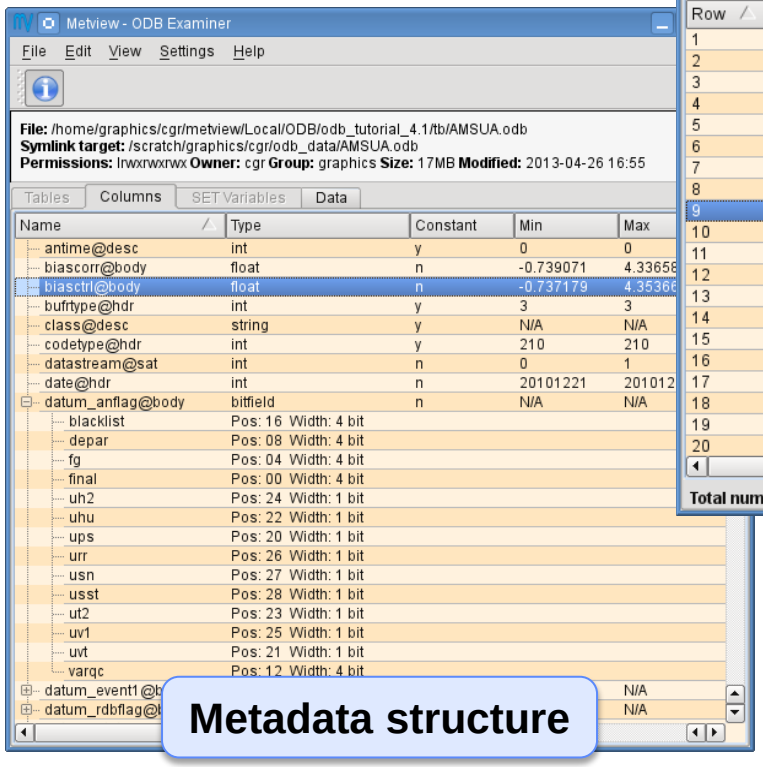
ODB Support in Metview

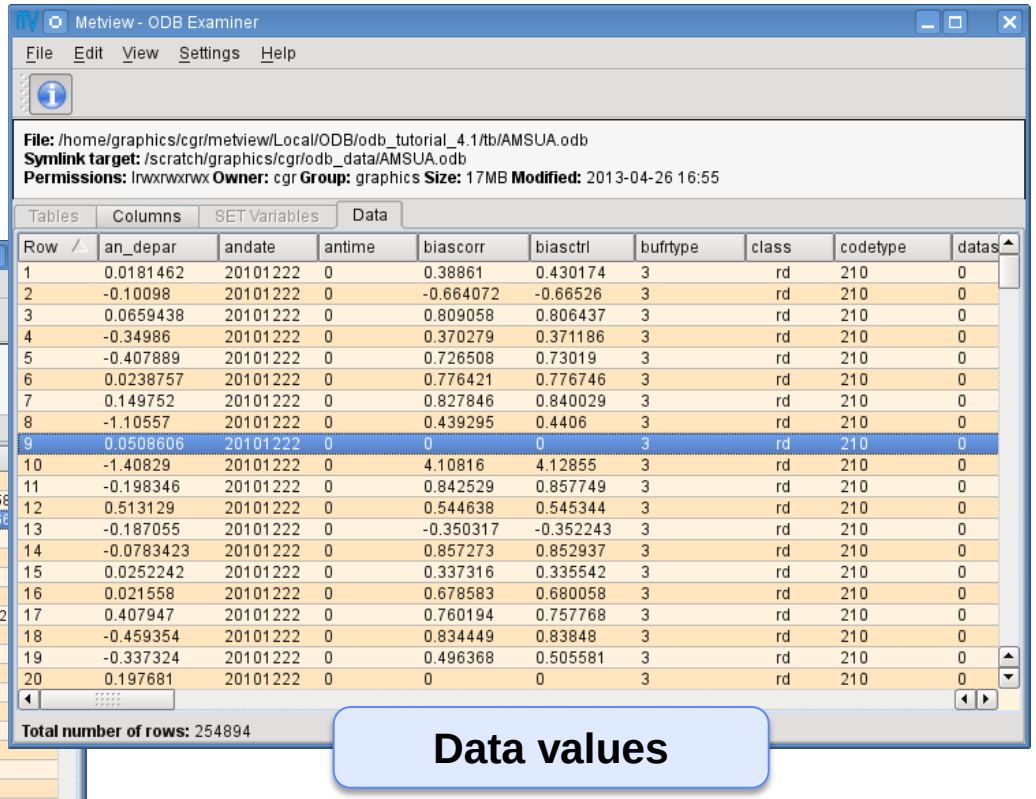


Examine ODB Metadata and Data

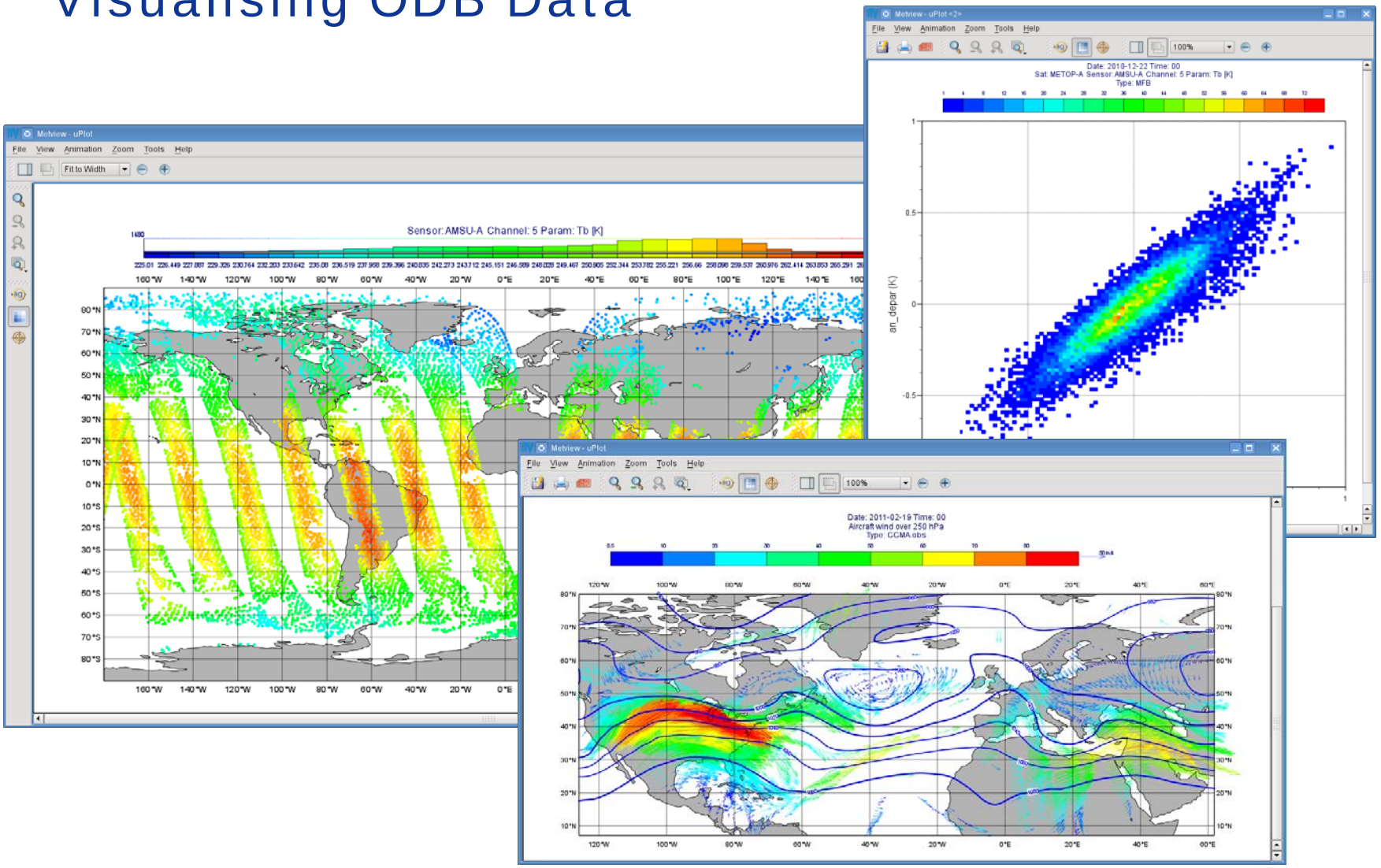
- **Right-click "Examine"**



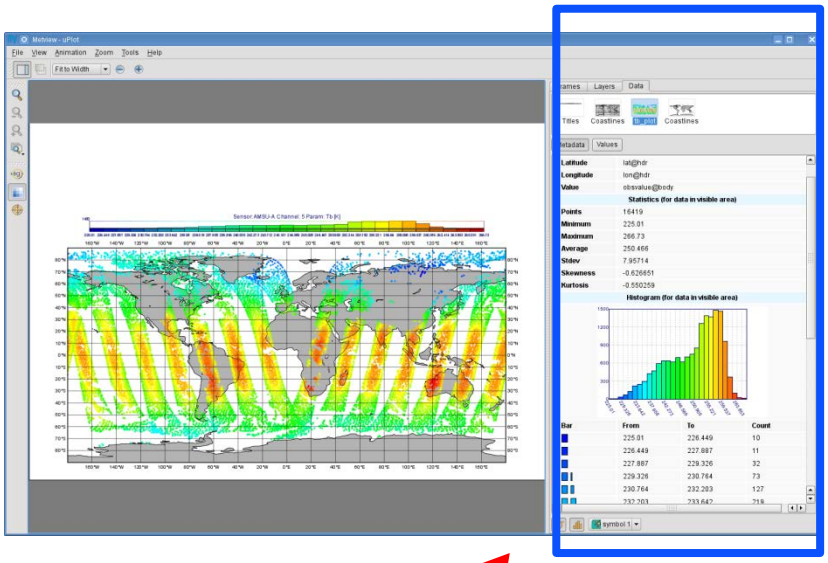




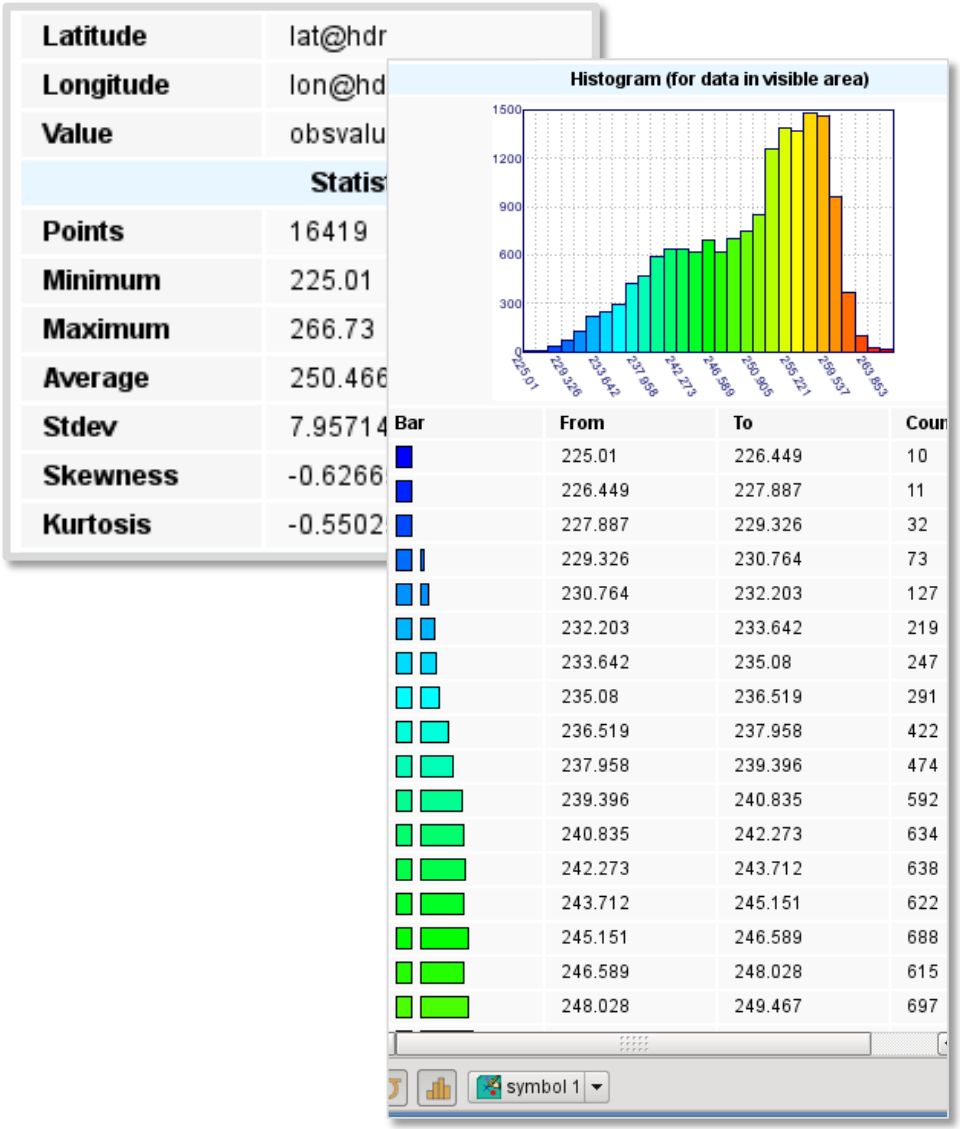
Visualising ODB Data



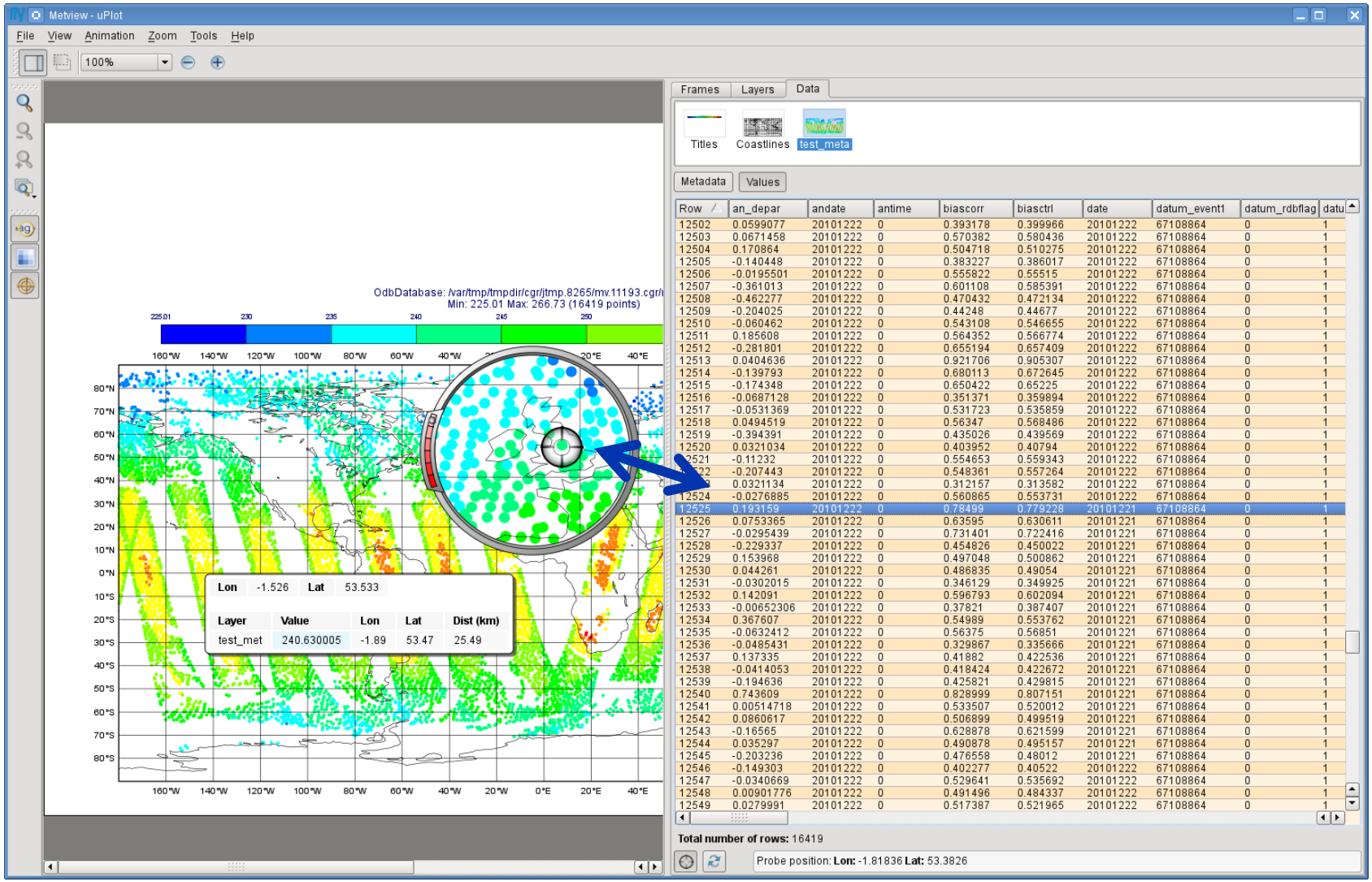
Statistics for the Visualised ODB Data



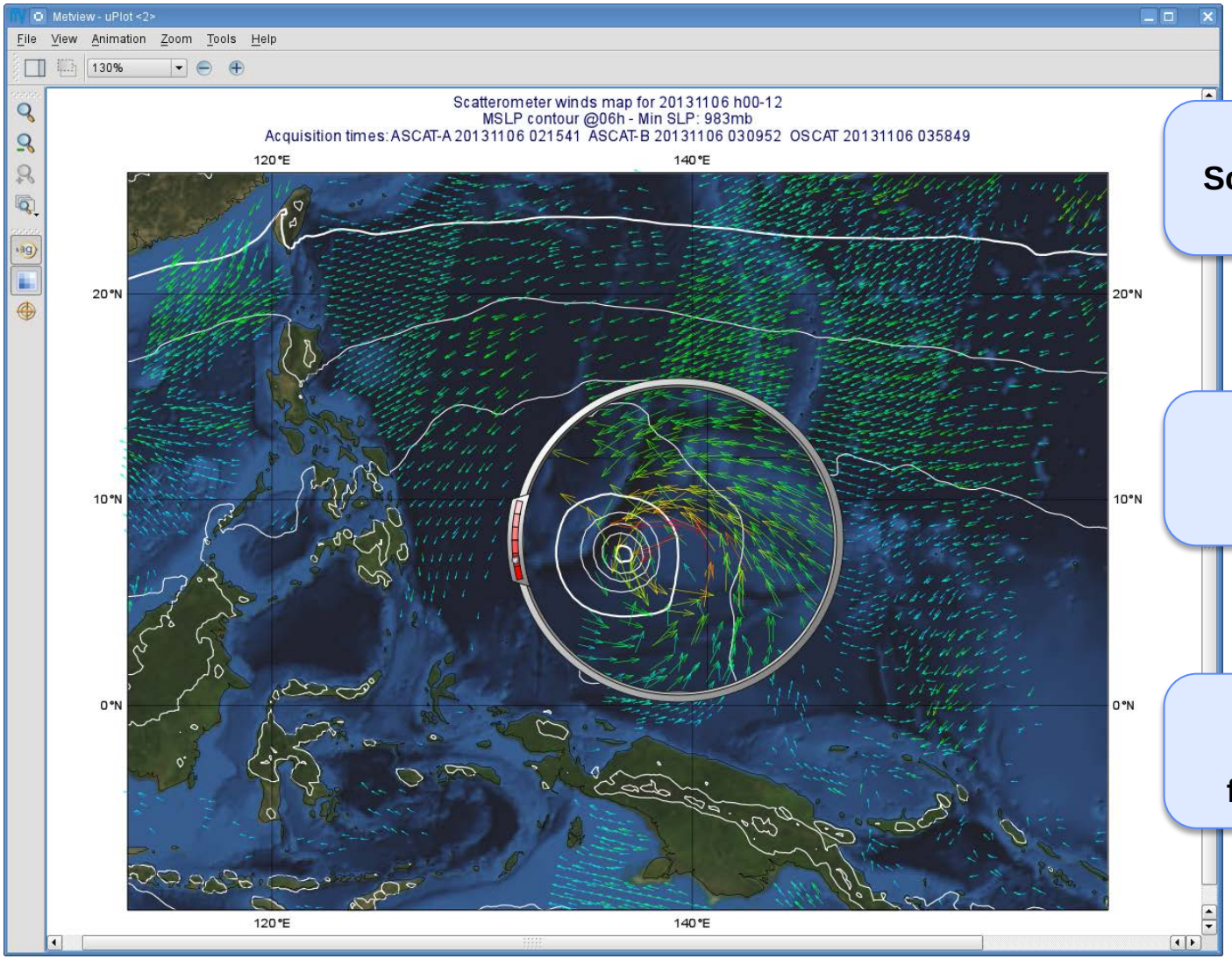
Sidebar with various tabs



Inspecting Data Values – Data Probe



Overlay with Other Data Types



ODB:
Scatterometer wind

GRIB:
IFS MSLP analysis

WMS:
map image from NASA

Plans for the Metview ODB interface

- **Time series support**
- **Provide contouring for ODB data**
- **Visualise ODB data in thermodynamic diagrams**

For more information ...

- **ODB API**
  - **https://software.ecmwf.int/wiki/display/ODB/ODB-API (soon)**
  - **Email to: peter.kuchta@ecmwf.int**
- **Metview**
  - **https://software.ecmwf.int/metview**
  - **Email to: metview@ecmwf.int**