

# Optimal Interpolation (OI)

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# Introduction

- OI - method for assimilation of ground observations in NWP models
- Principle
  - Based on comparing observation data with background data (previous model forecast)
    - Distance between observations (vertical and horizontal) is calculated
    - $f(\rho) = \exp(-\frac{\rho^2}{2L^2})$ ,  $L$  – horizontal length scale
    - Matrix is created for all points
    - Matrix is inverted
    - Values for the whole grid are calculated
- Possibility to change parameters to have the best performance

# Example of small area

The screenshot shows the output of a data assimilation program. The output is divided into several sections:

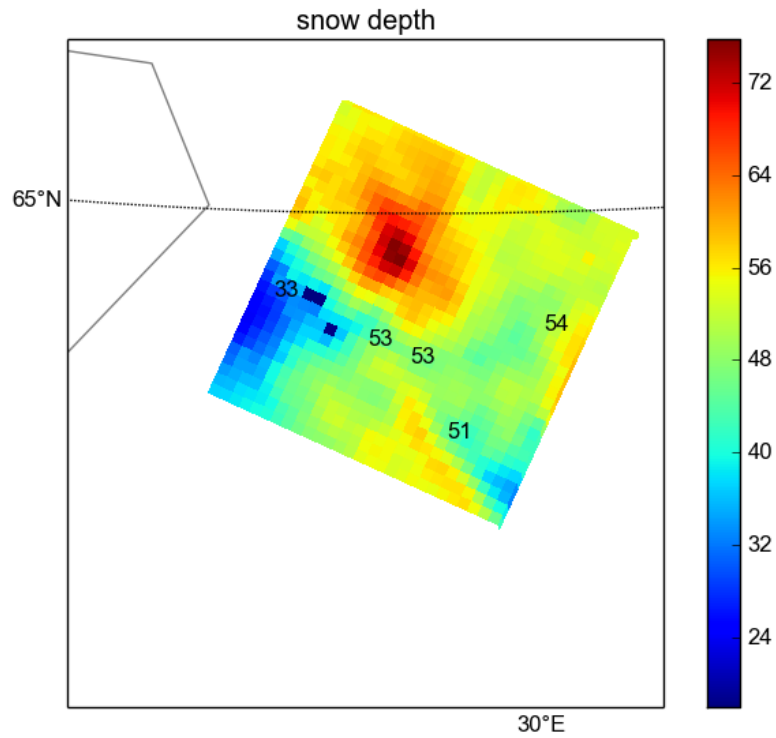
- Statistics:** sdev of fg, sdev of obs, Gaussian parameters, tolerance 1, tolerance 2.
- Observed data:** Total number of obs: 1594, snow obs, all: 0.0000000, snow bgr, min/max = 17.96 75.85, Number of obs in the domain: 9, Obs in the domain: 0.0000000, Location mismatch, no land around snow obs: wrong coordinates?, Suspicious observation: 53.0000000, Rejected observation: 86.0000000, Suspicious observation: 33.0000000, Rejected observation: 70.0000000, Number of obs in the analysis vector: 5, Obs, bgr, obs-bgr.
- Background data:** nana, iiival, nrval, flgval, lonval, latval, lonrval, lonrval, valobs, valfgs.
- Covariances:** A 5x5 matrix of covariances.
- Covariances inverse:** A 5x5 matrix of inverse covariances.
- Statistics:** snow min/max = 17.96 80.09, diff min/max = 0.00 4.43.
- Analysis finished successfully!**

Red arrows and boxes highlight specific parts of the output:

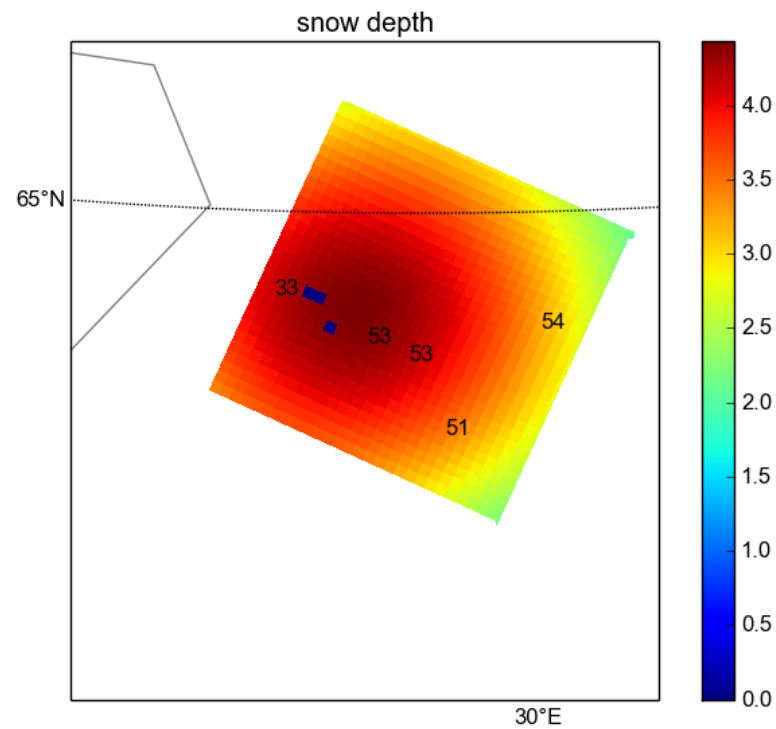
- observed:** Points to the 'Obs, bgr, obs-bgr' section.
- background:** Points to the 'nana, iiival, nrval, flgval, lonval, latval, lonrval, lonrval, valobs, valfgs' section.
- difference:** Points to the 'diff min/max' section.
- MATRIXES:** Points to the 'Covariances' and 'Covariances inverse' sections.

# Example of small area

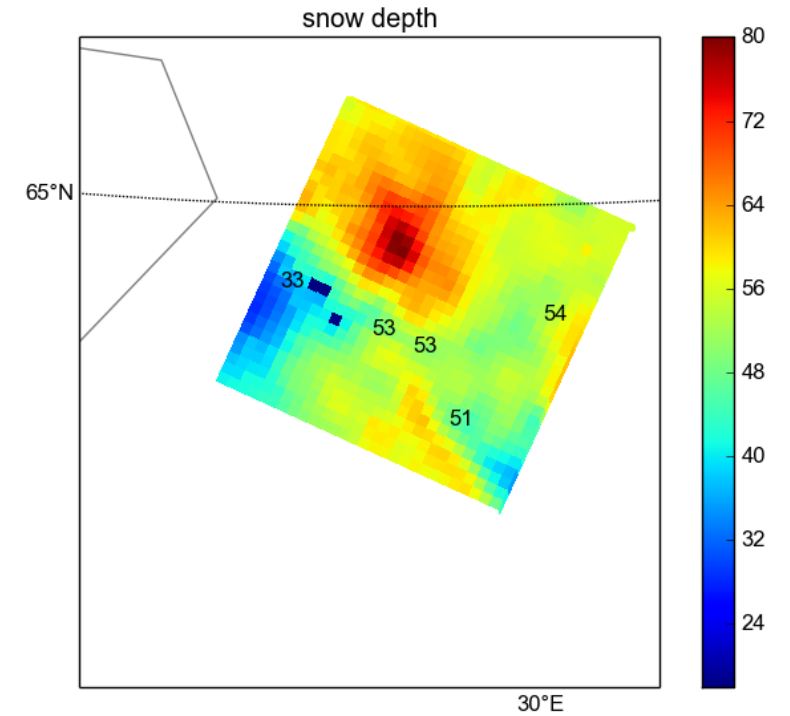
Background



Difference



Analysis



# Experiments

- Testing parameters
  - Observation error
  - Background error
  - Scale
  - Tolerances
- Testing parameters in different regions
- Adjusting mask for the best visualization
- Testing computational time

## Parameters

Obs. = 1

Bgr. = 1

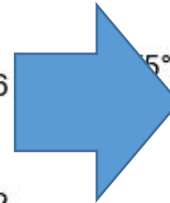
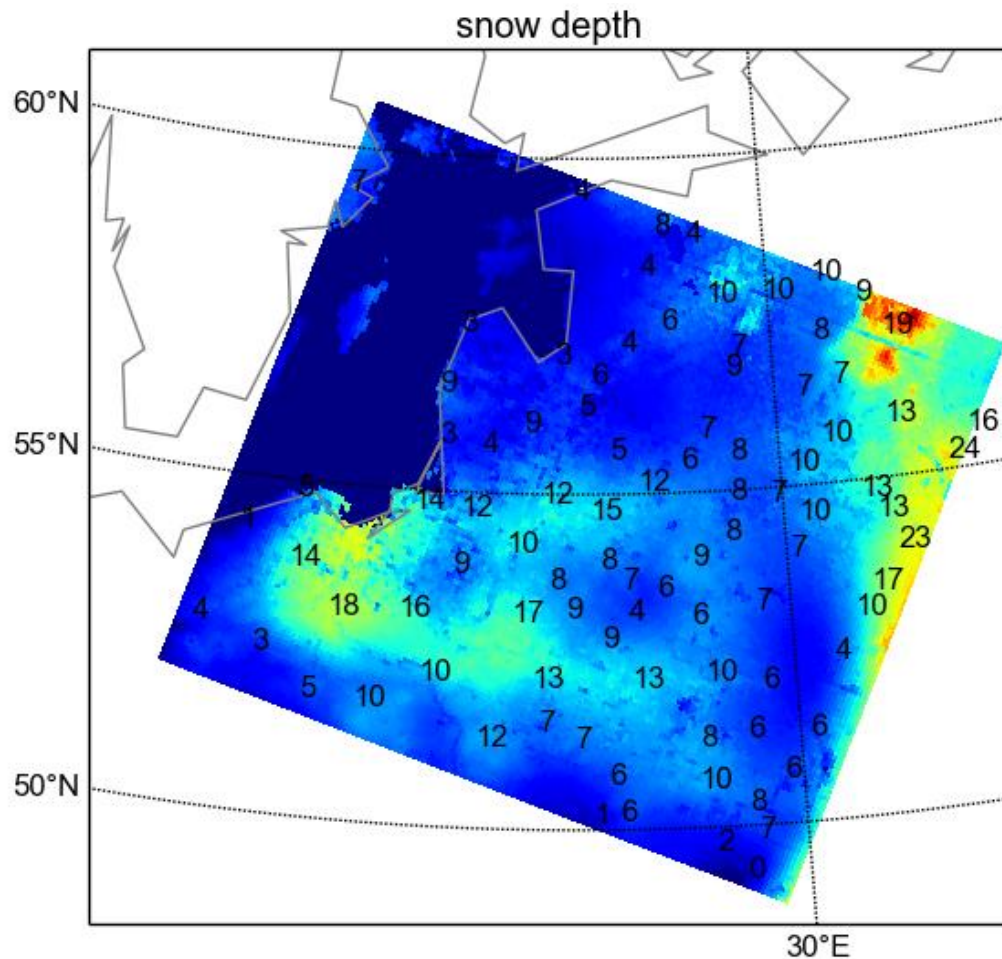
Tolerance1 = 2

Tolerance2 = 3

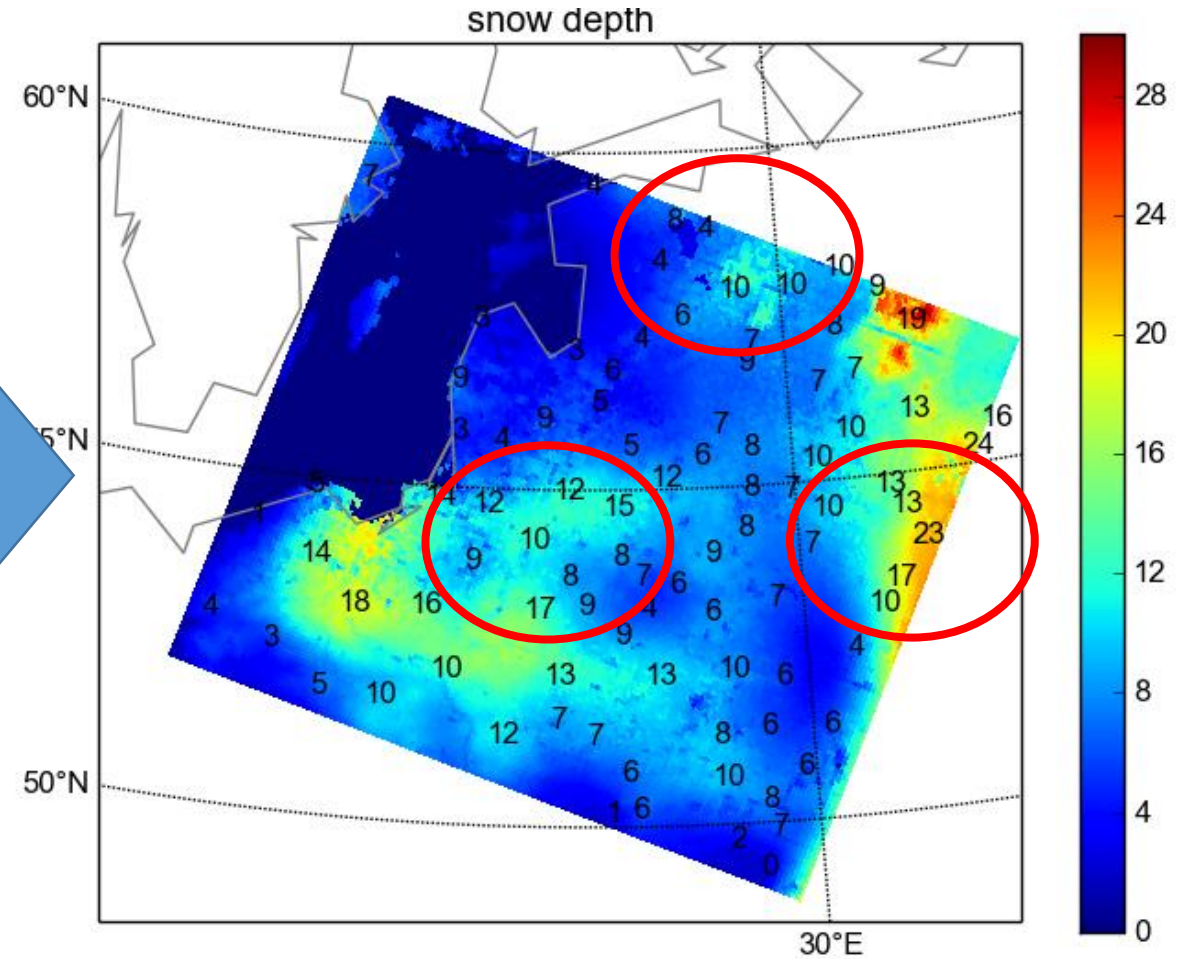
Scale=20000

# Start point

Background



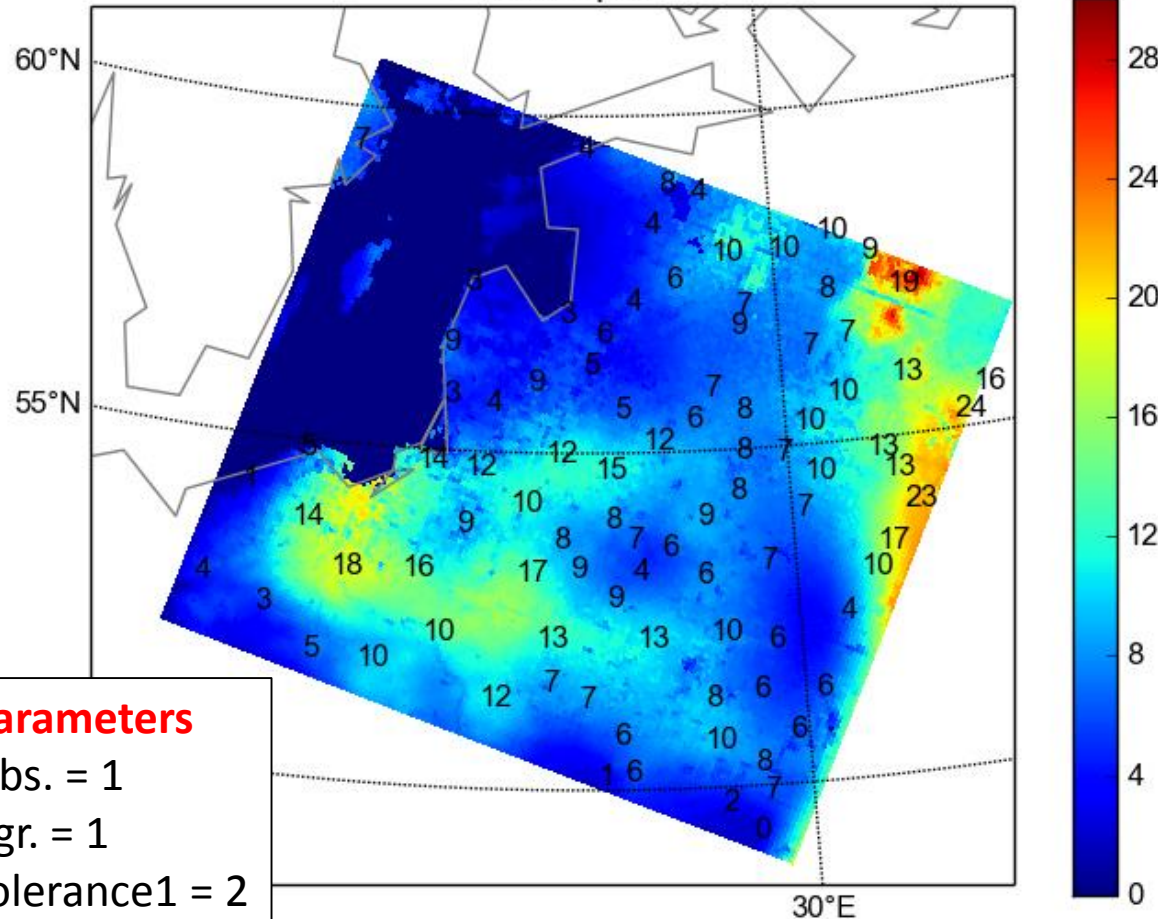
Analysis





# Experiment 1.

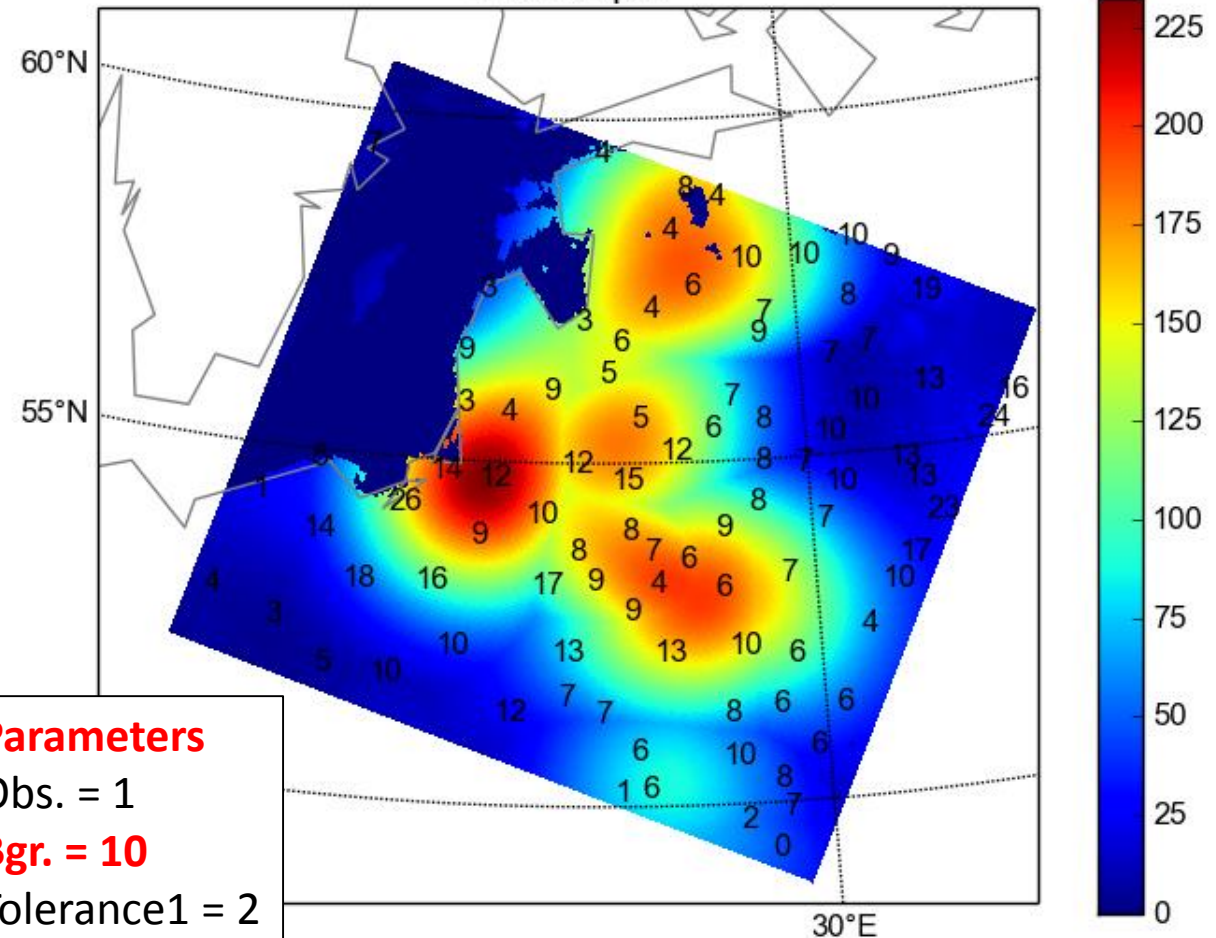
snow depth



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

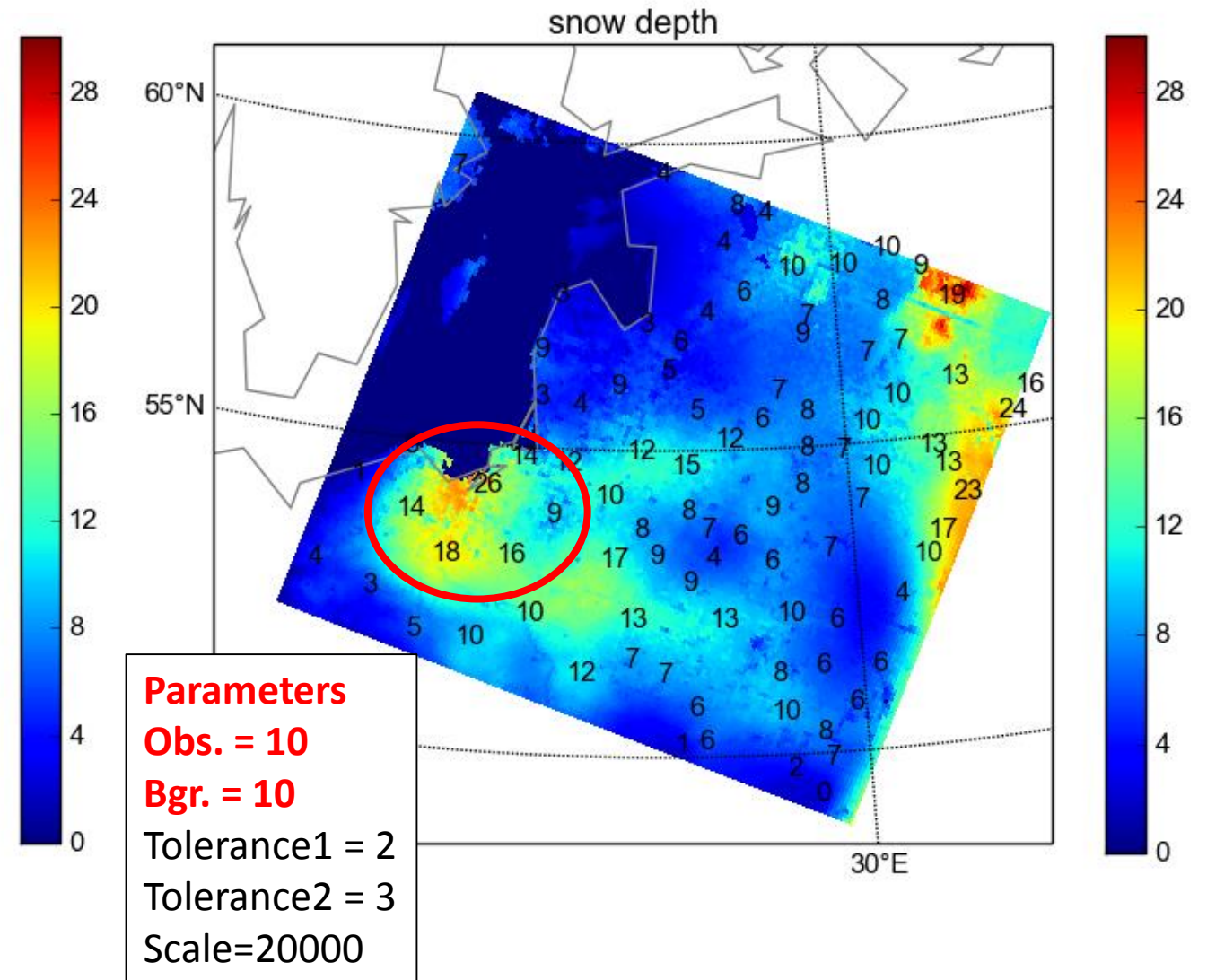
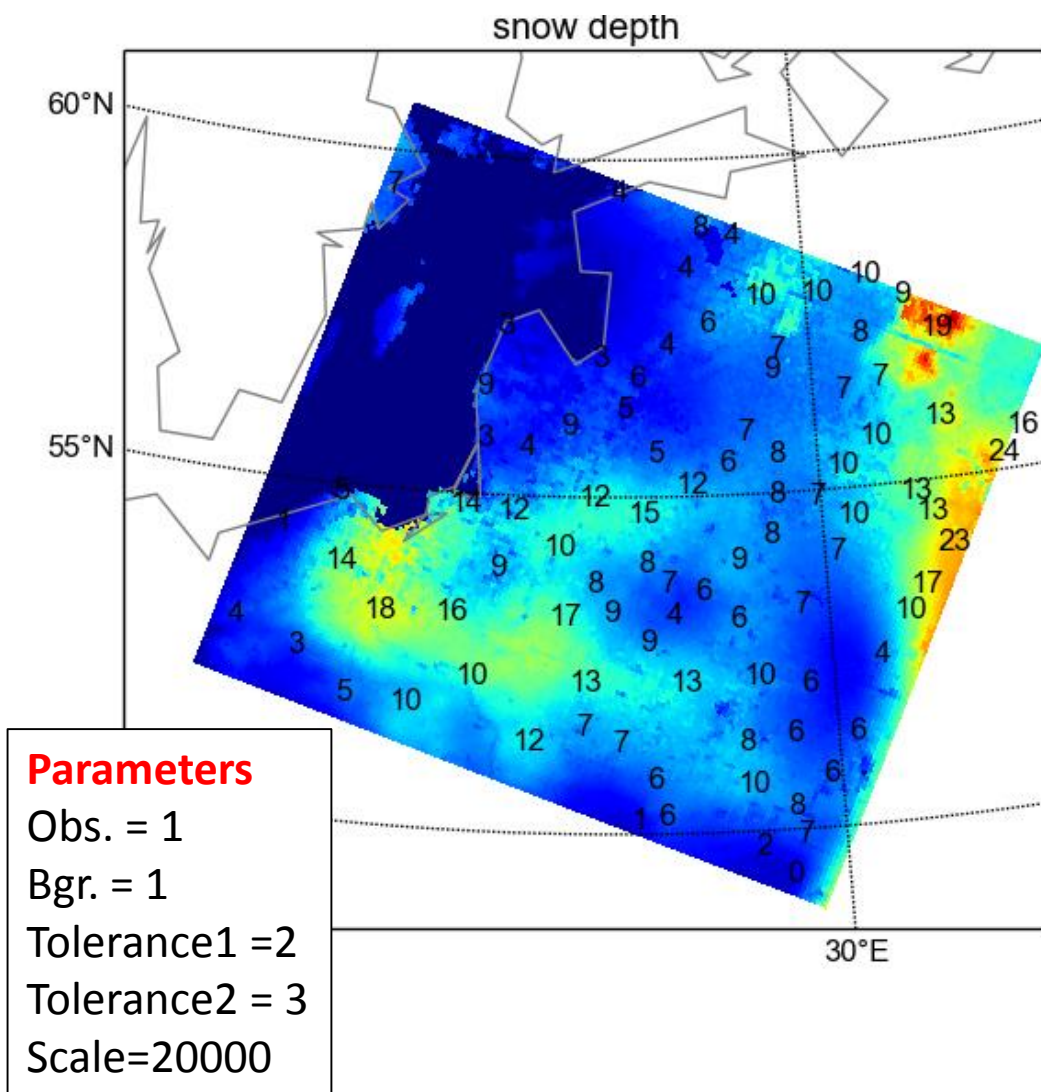
snow depth



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
**Bgr. = 10**  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

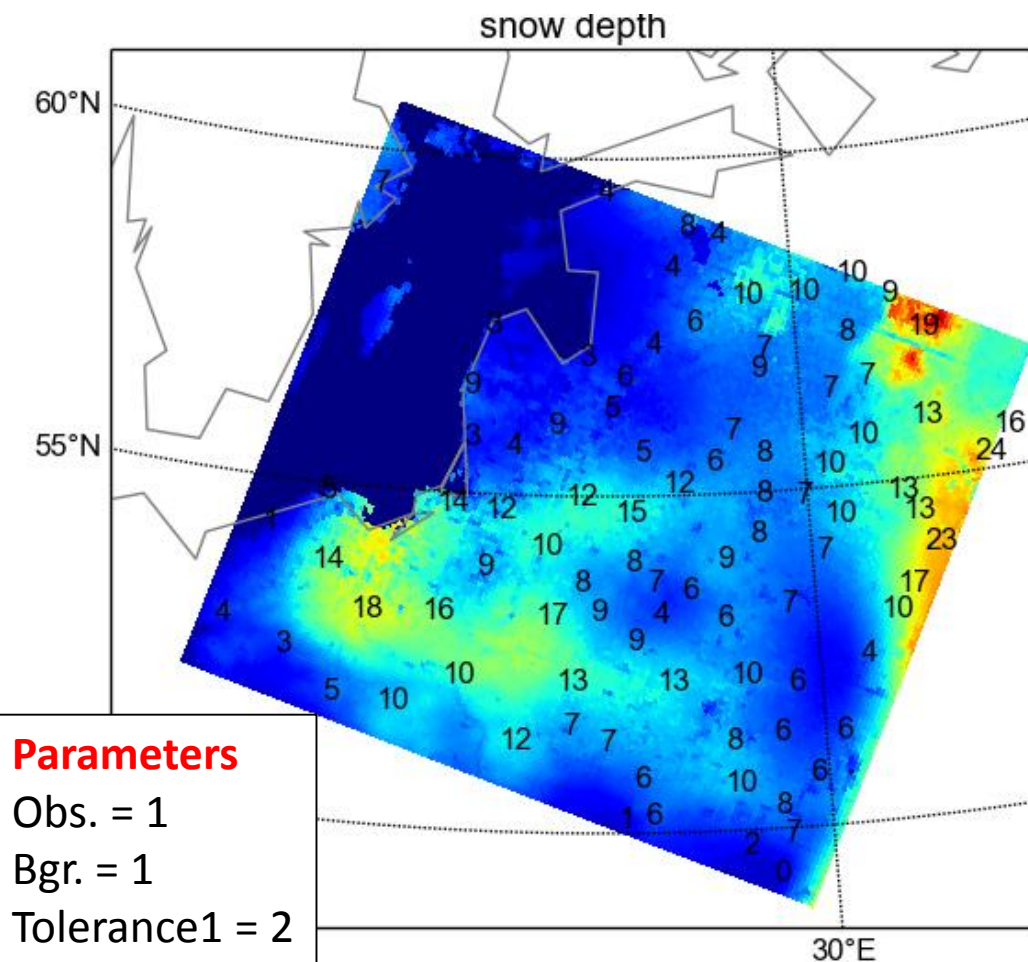
# Experiment 3.





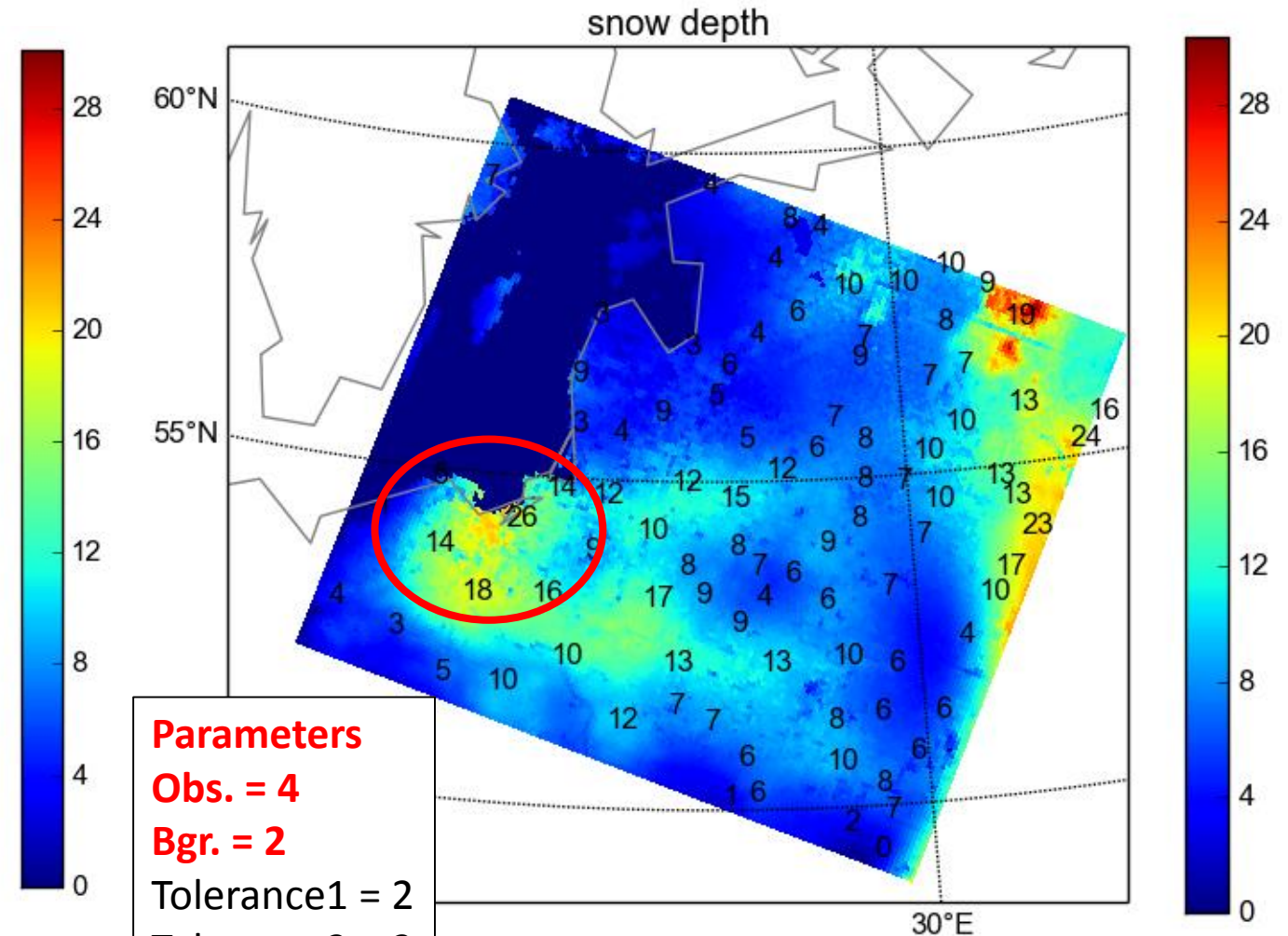
# Experiment 4.

Obs. are more important



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

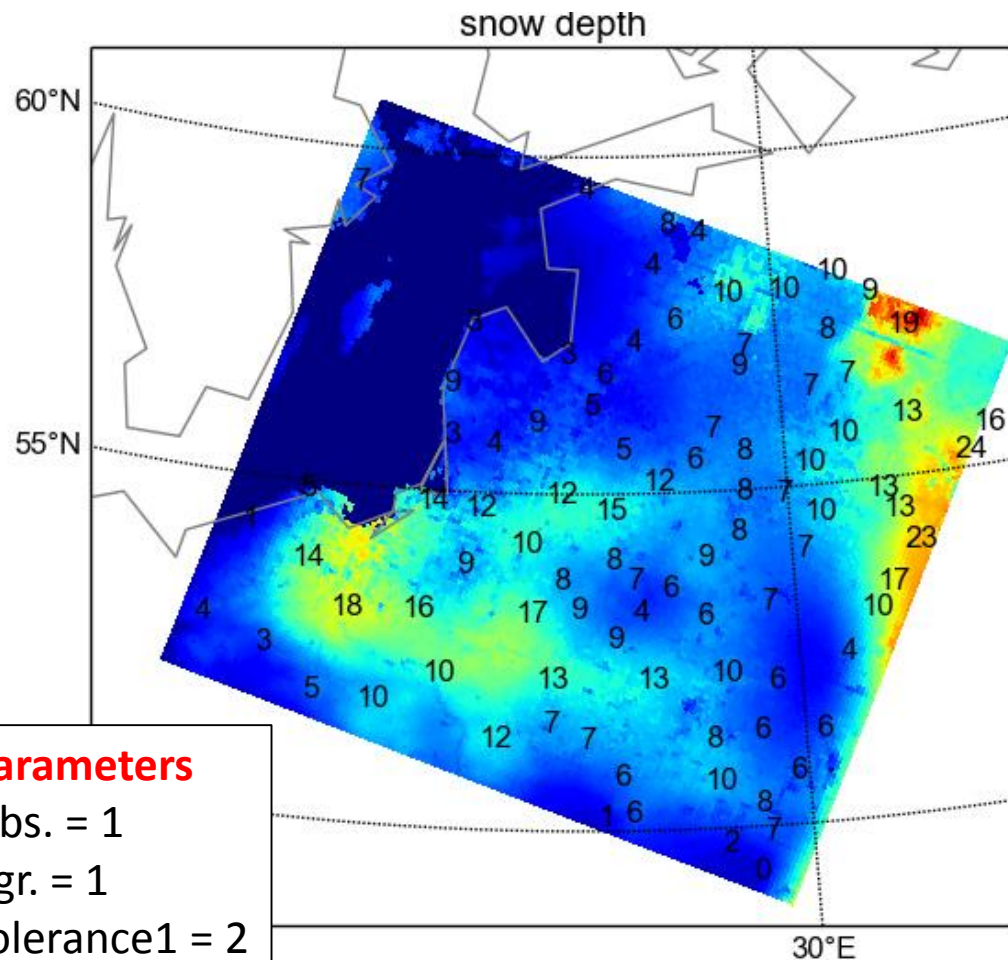


## Parameters

Obs. = 4  
Bgr. = 2  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

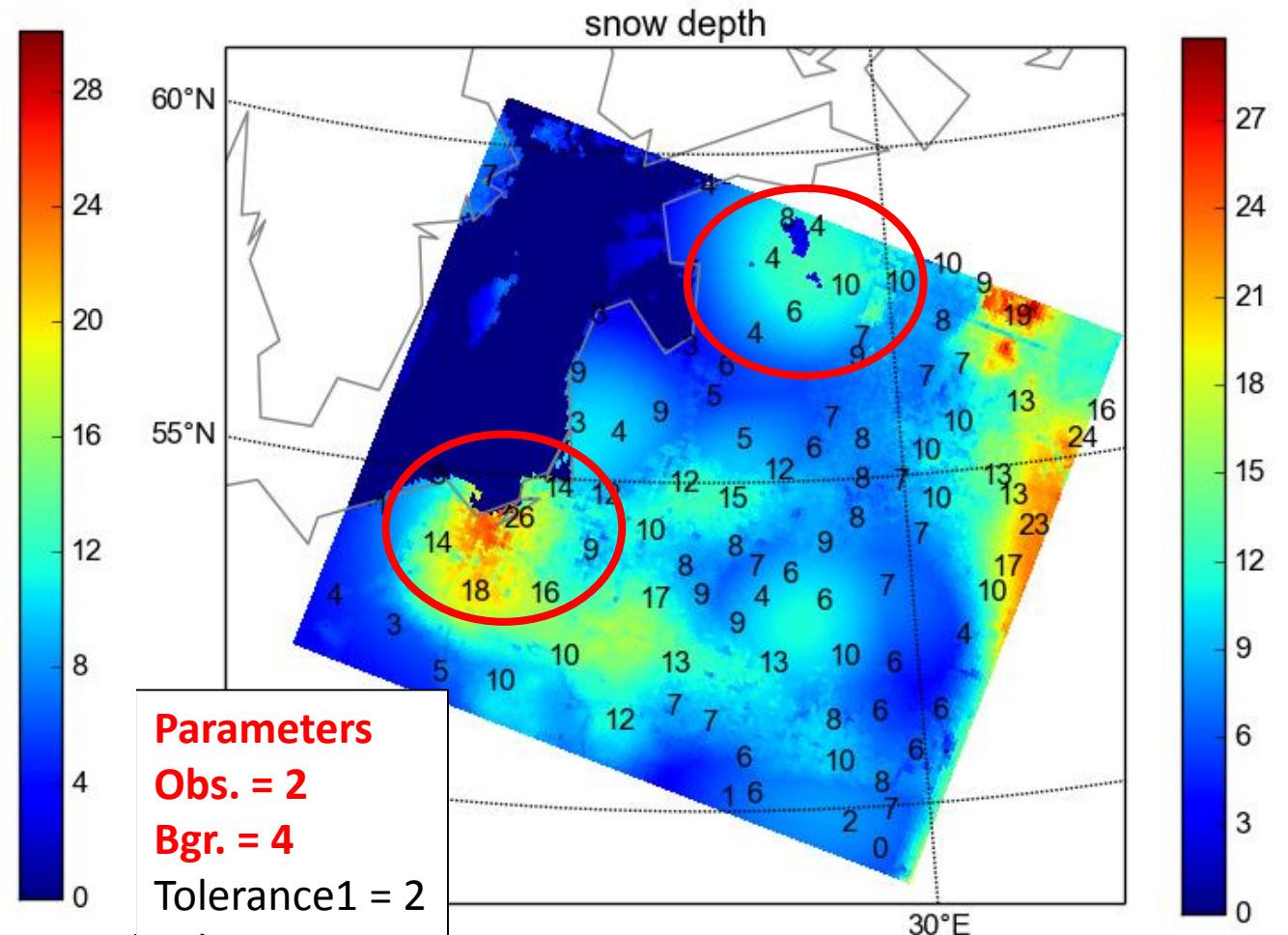
# Experiment 5.

Smoothed



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000



## Parameters

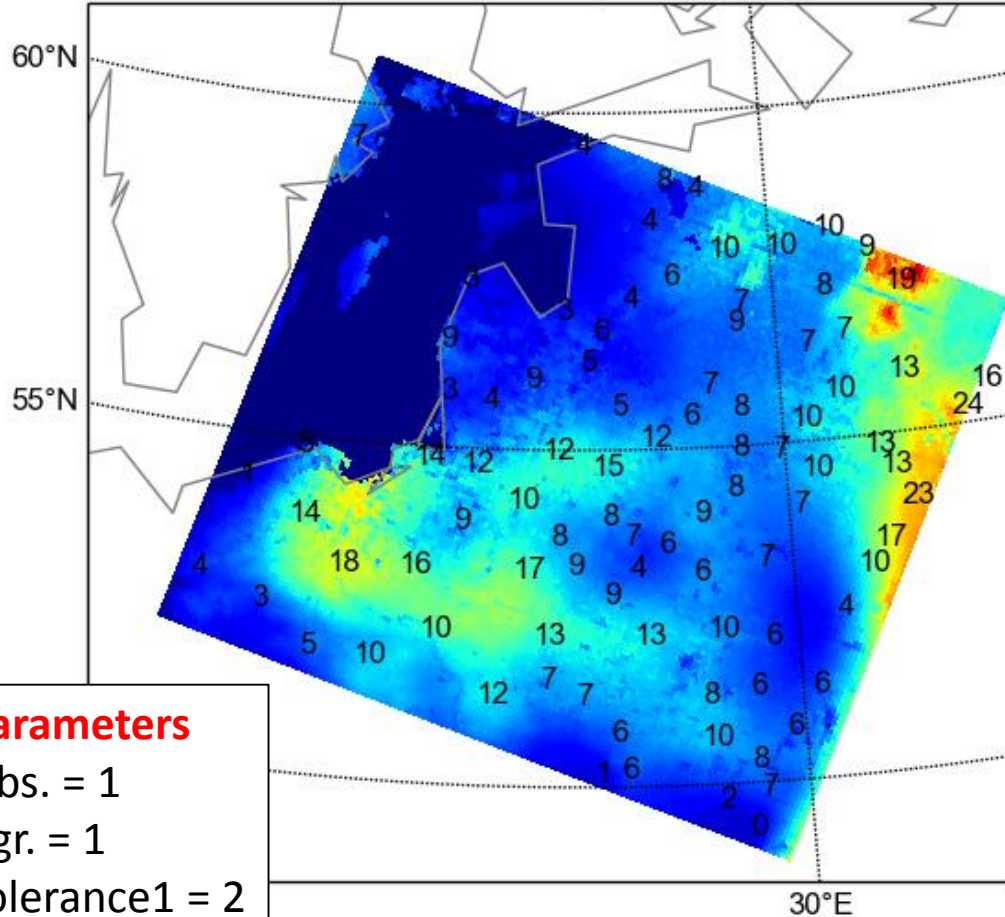
Obs. = 2  
Bgr. = 4  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=200000



# Experiment 6.

Smoothed?

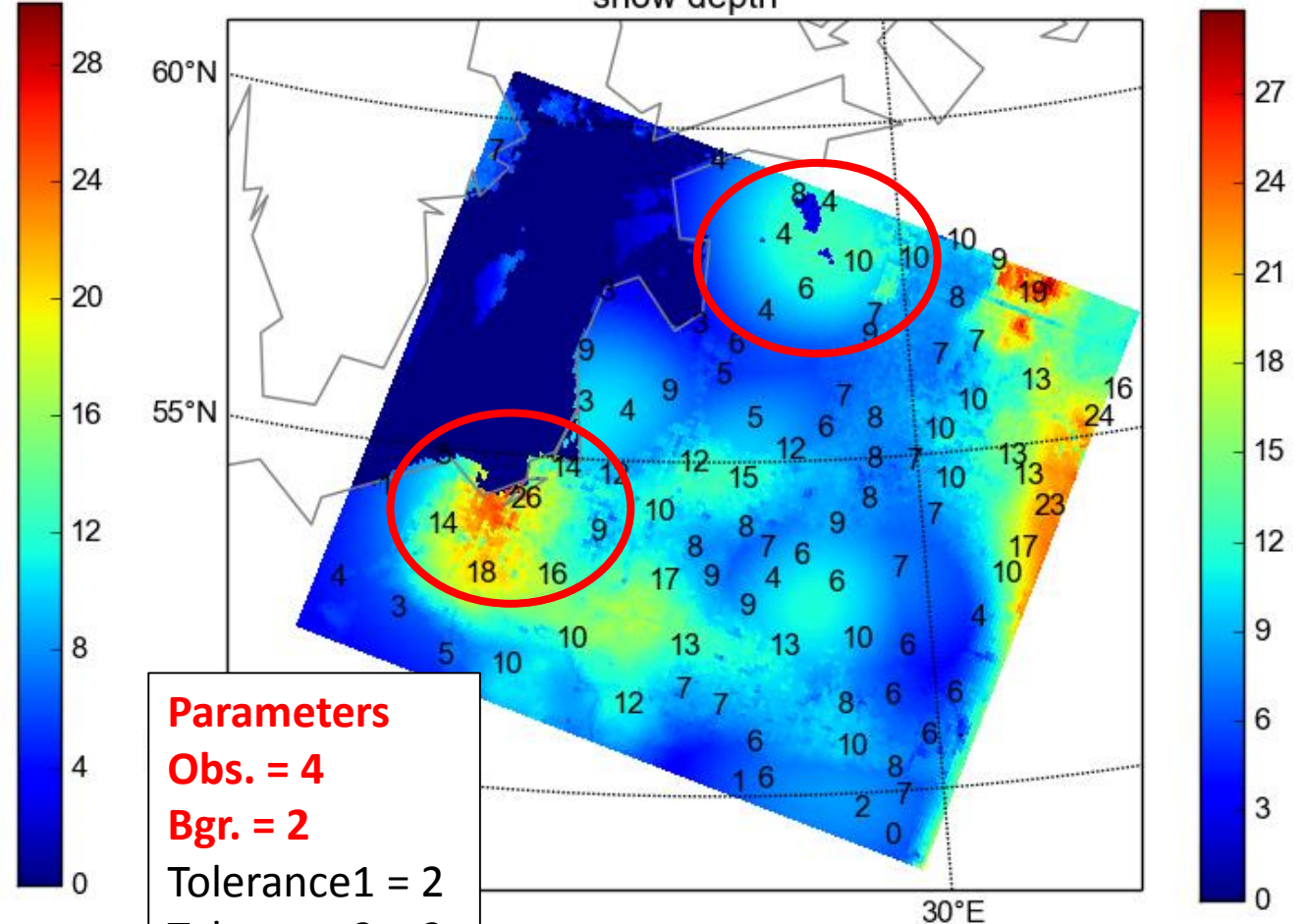
snow depth



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

snow depth

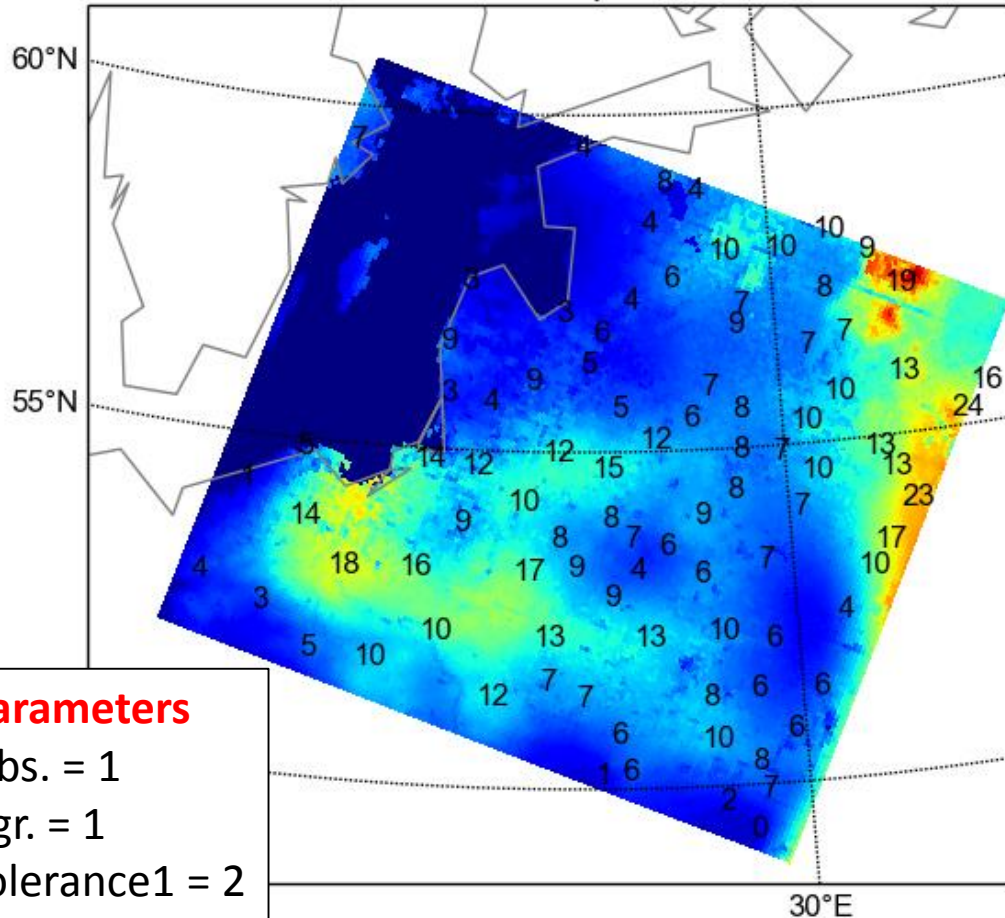


## Parameters

Obs. = 4  
Bgr. = 2  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=2000000

# Experiment 7.

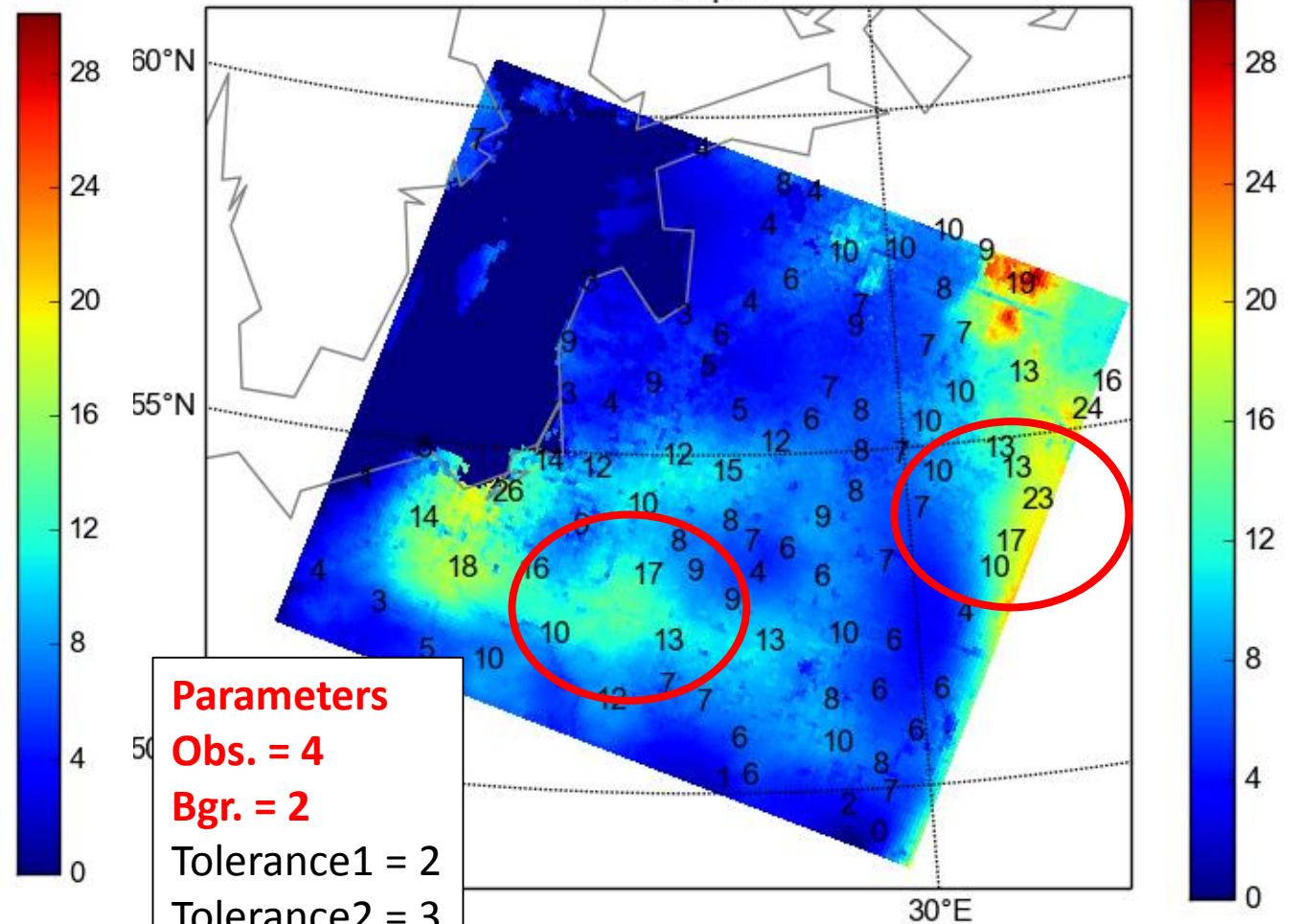
snow depth



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

snow depth

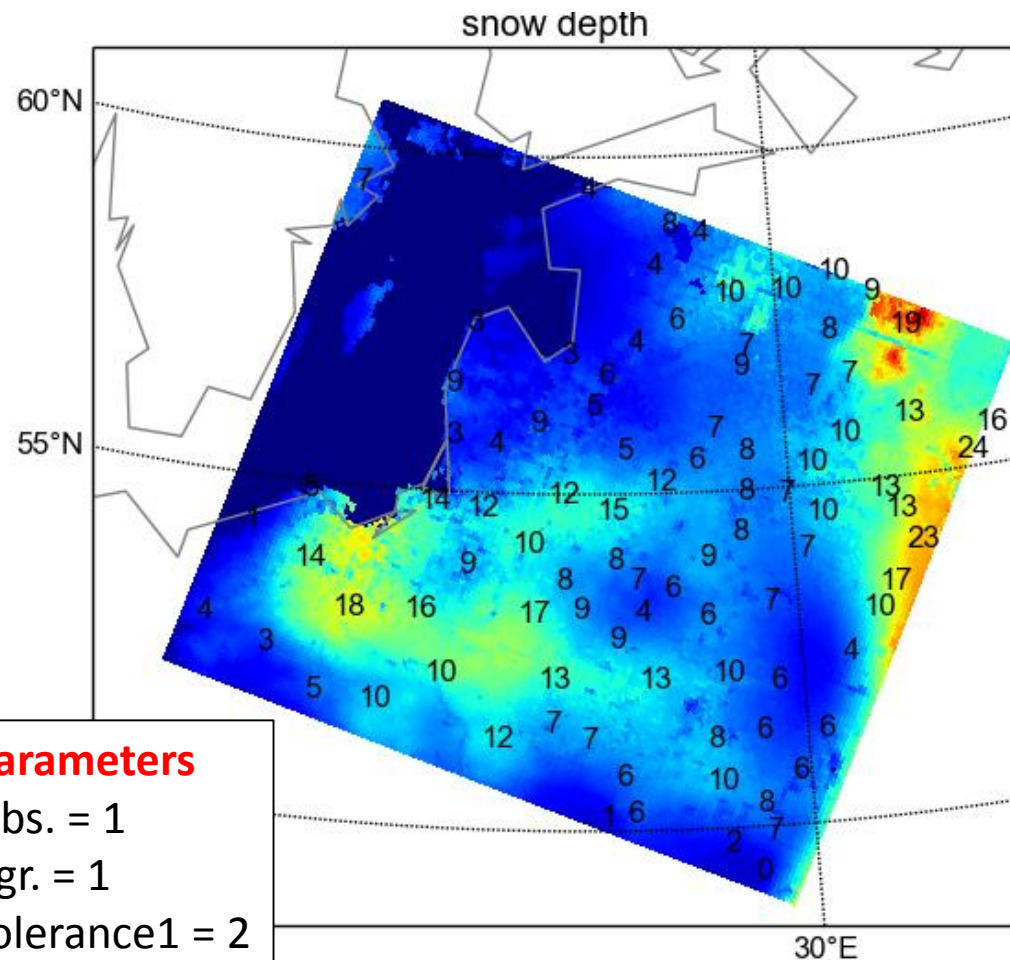


## Parameters

Obs. = 4  
Bgr. = 2  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=2000



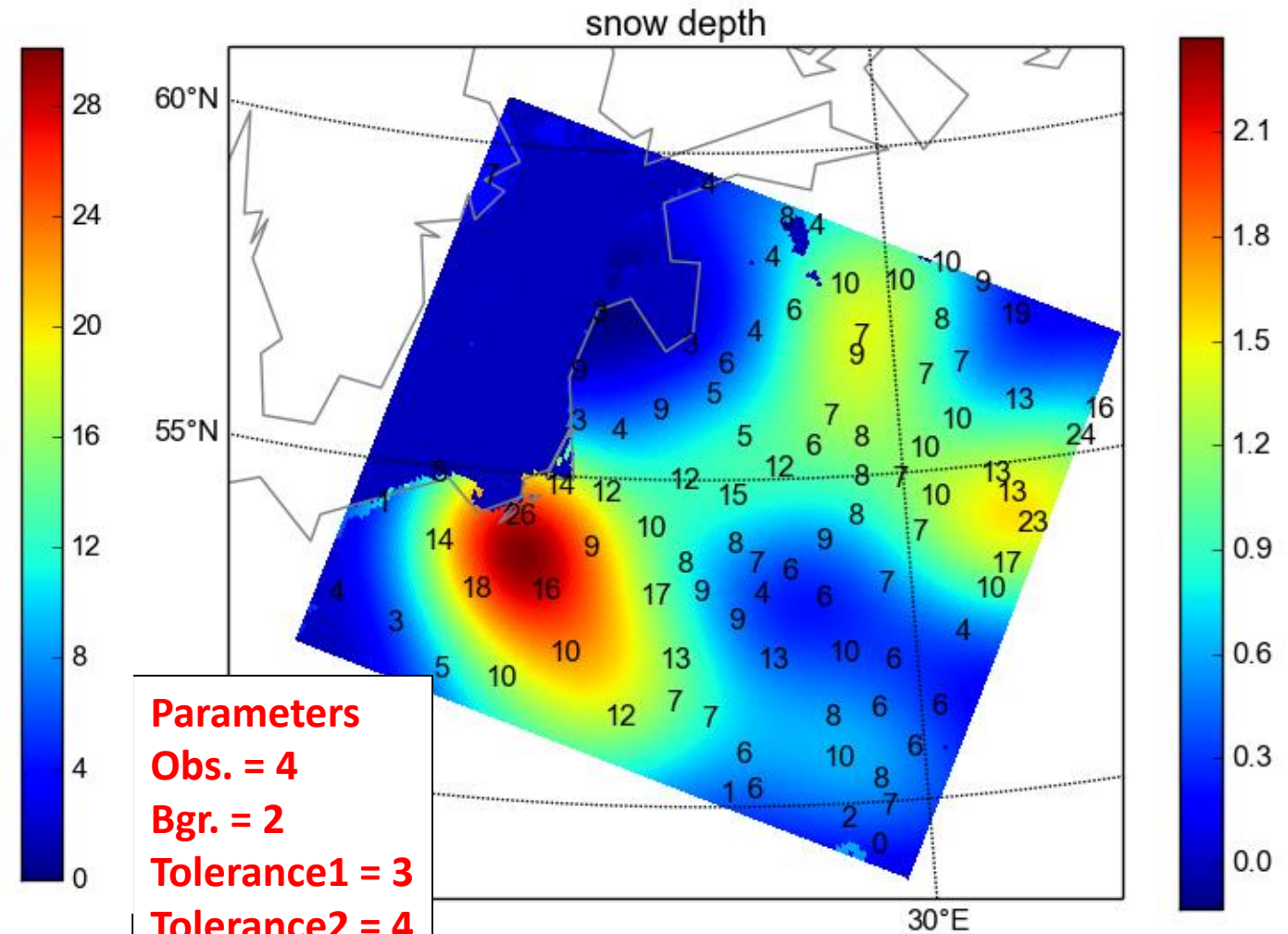
# Experiment 8.



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

## Difference



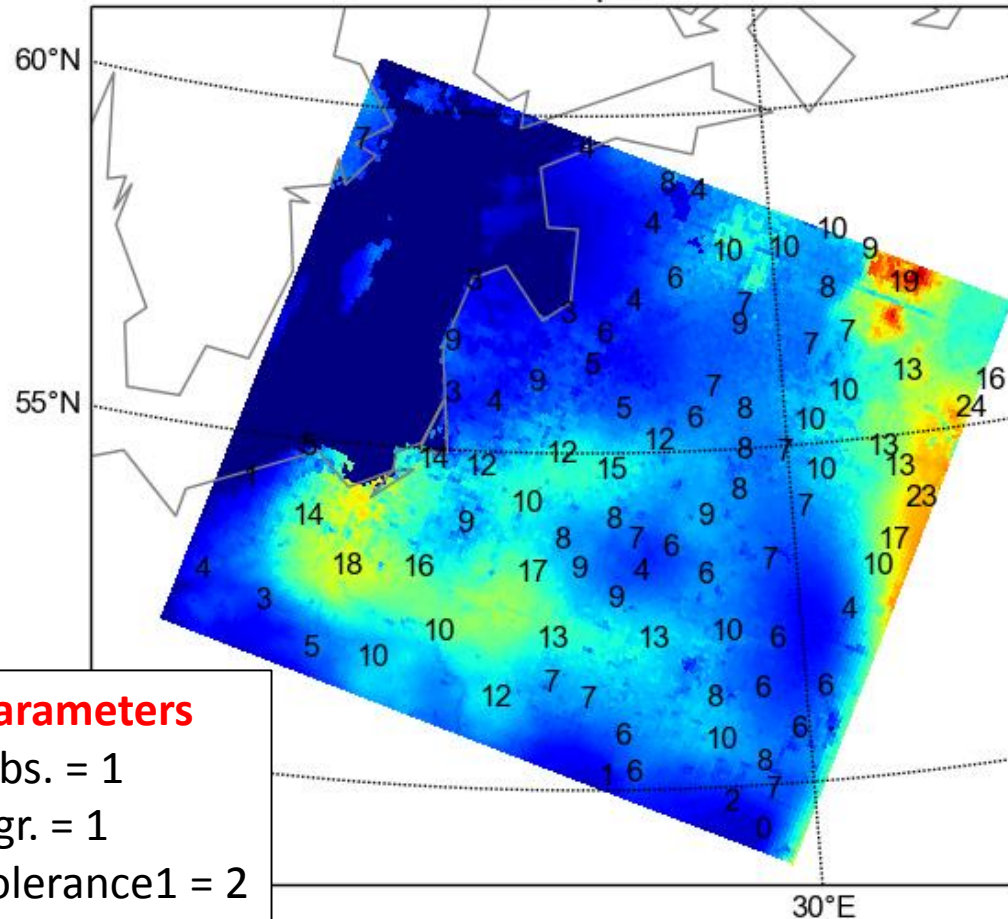
## Parameters

Obs. = 4  
Bgr. = 2  
Tolerance1 = 3  
Tolerance2 = 4  
Scale=20000



# Experiment 9.

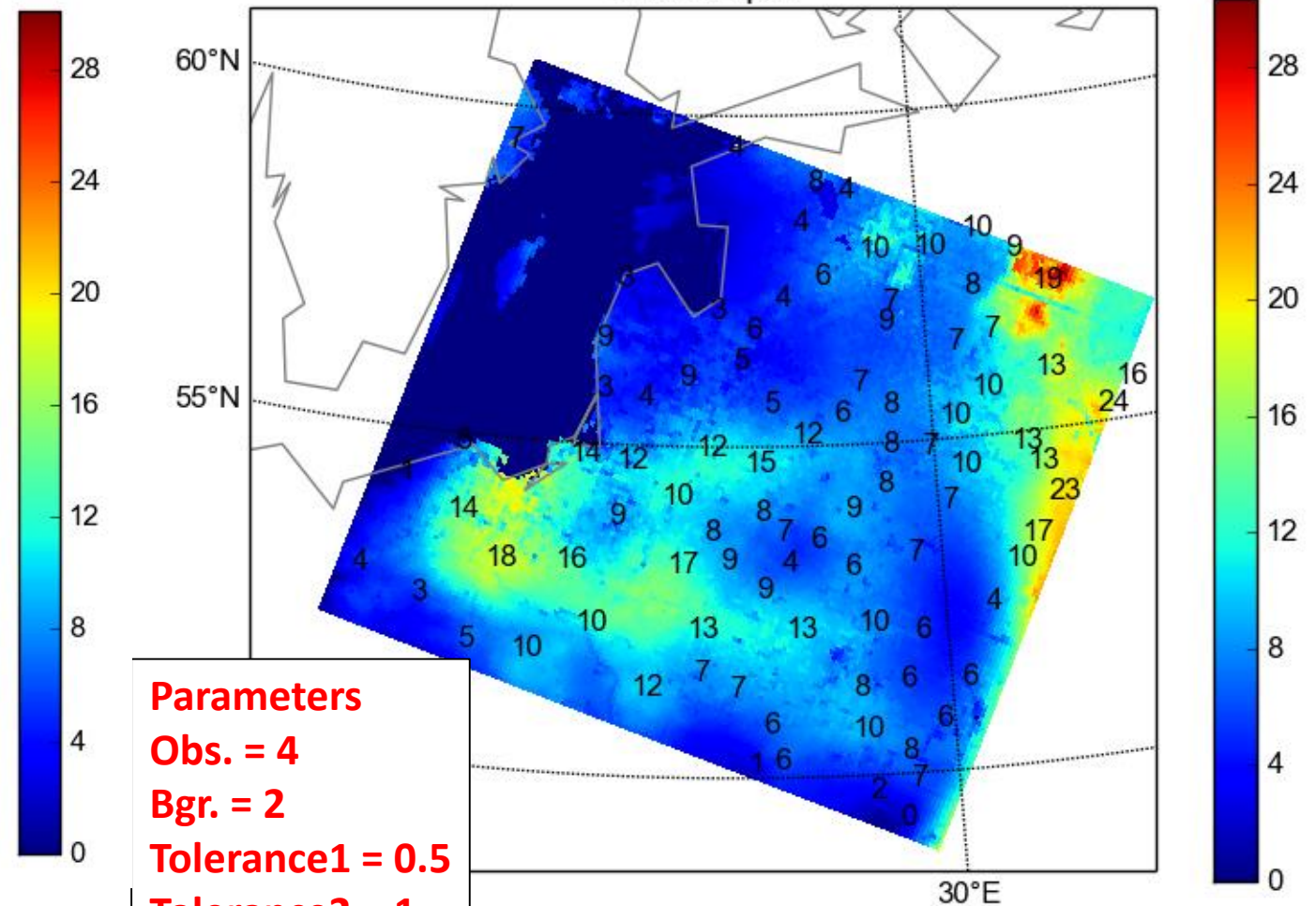
snow depth



## Parameters

Obs. = 1  
Bgr. = 1  
Tolerance1 = 2  
Tolerance2 = 3  
Scale=20000

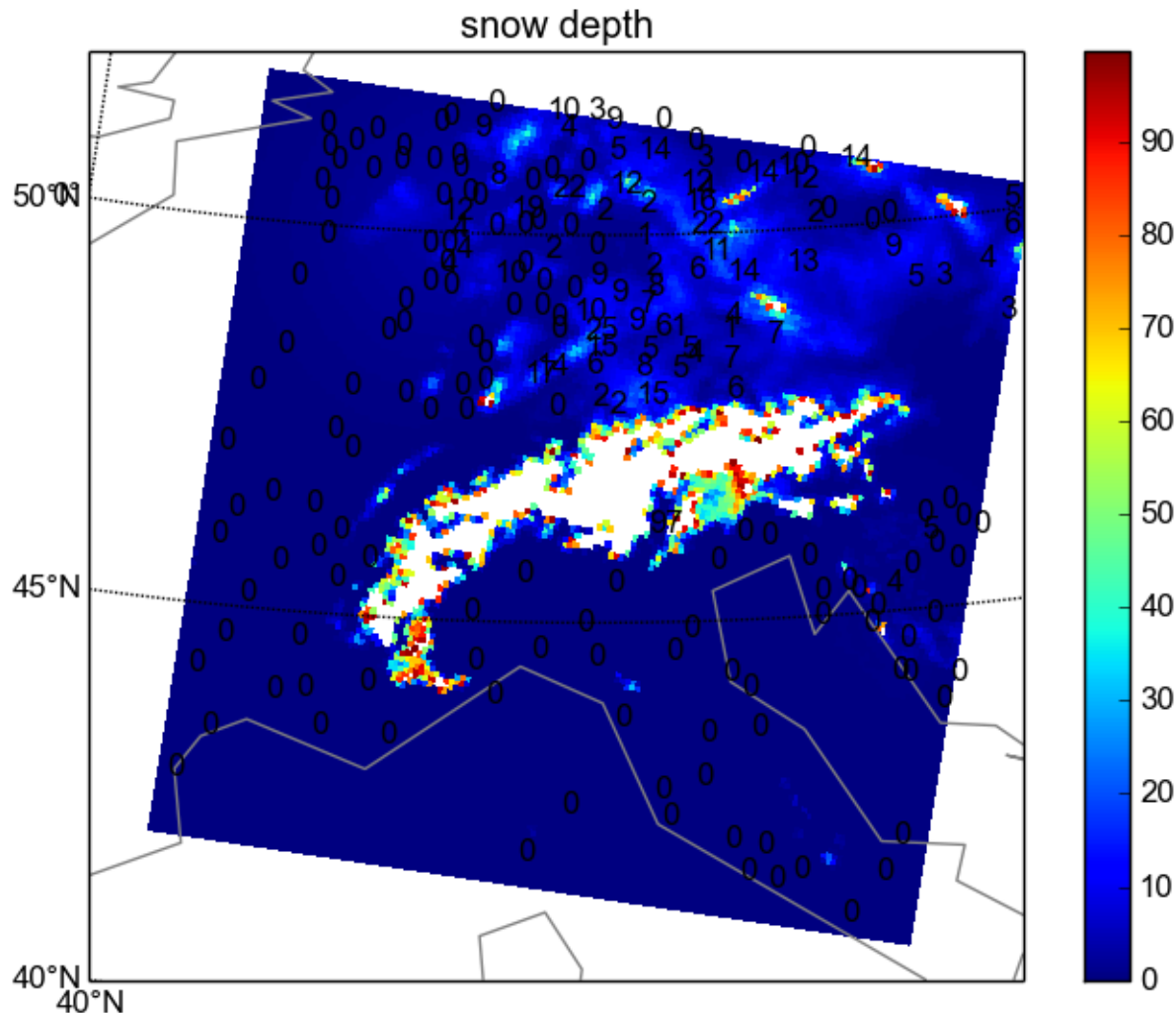
snow depth



## Parameters

Obs. = 4  
Bgr. = 2  
Tolerance1 = 0.5  
Tolerance2 = 1  
Scale=20000

# Experiment 10. – Alps (Reduced area)



## Parameters

**Obs. = 4**

**Bgr. = 2**

**Tolerance1 = 0.5**

Tolerance2 = 1

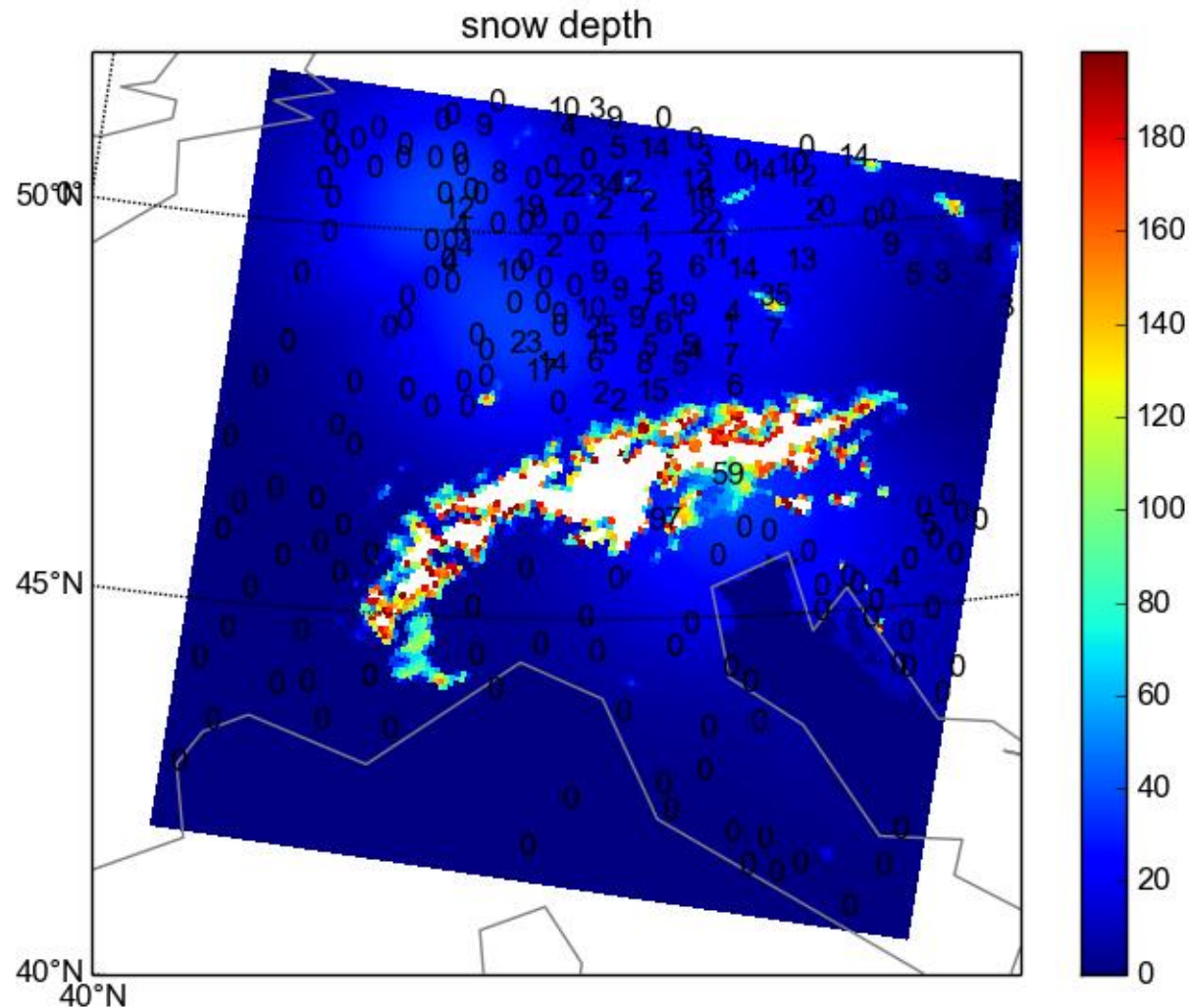
Scale=20000

**All pixels > 100 cm are white (mask)**

**Mountains are problematic for modeling  
because of presence of glaciers**

**Many stations were rejected**

# Experiment 11. – Alps (Reduced area)



## Parameters

**Obs. = 2**

**Bgr. = 4**

**Tolerance1 = 2**

**Tolerance2 = 3**

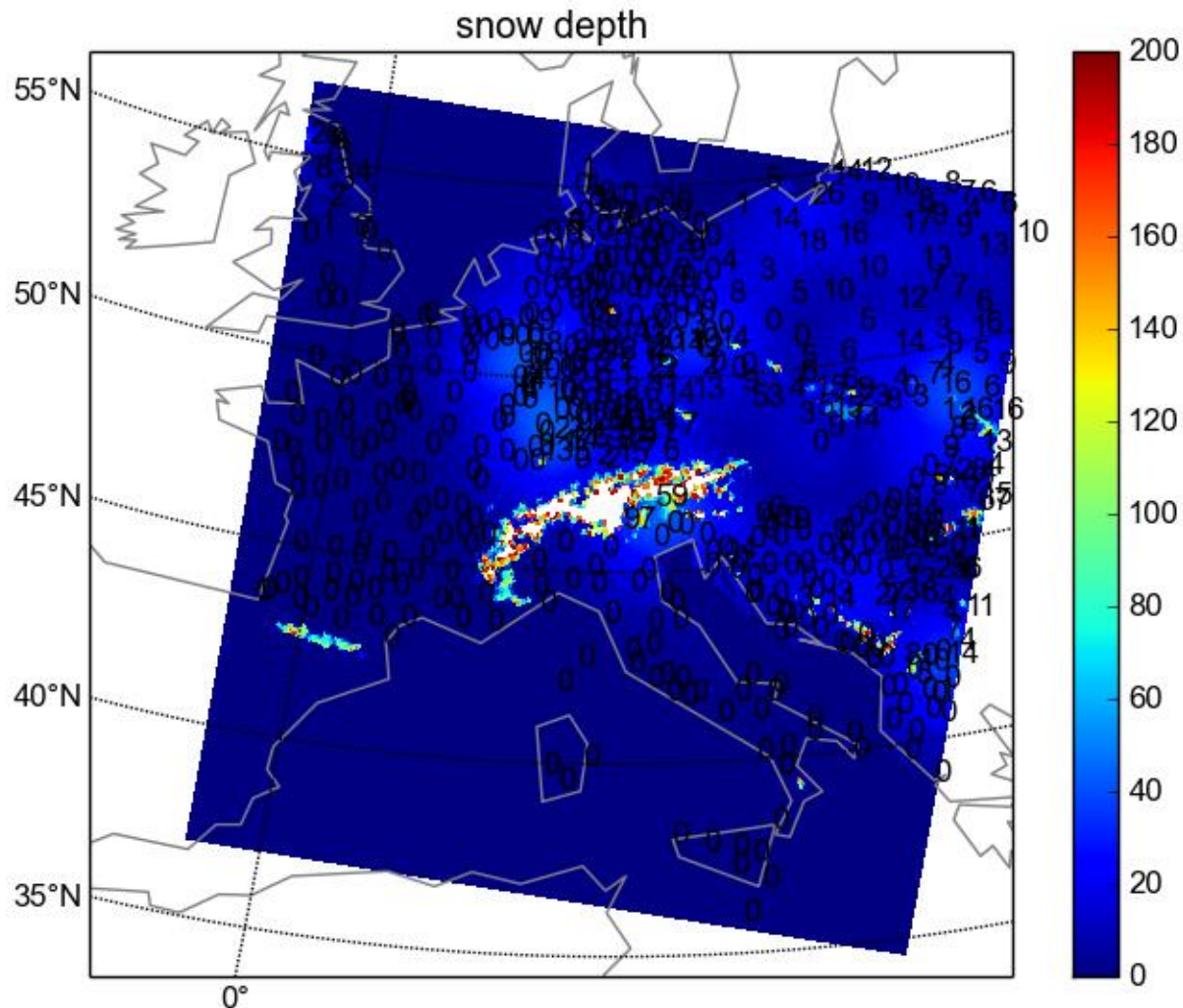
Scale=20000

**All pixels > 200 cm are white (mask)**

**Mountains are problematic for modeling  
because of presence of glaciers**

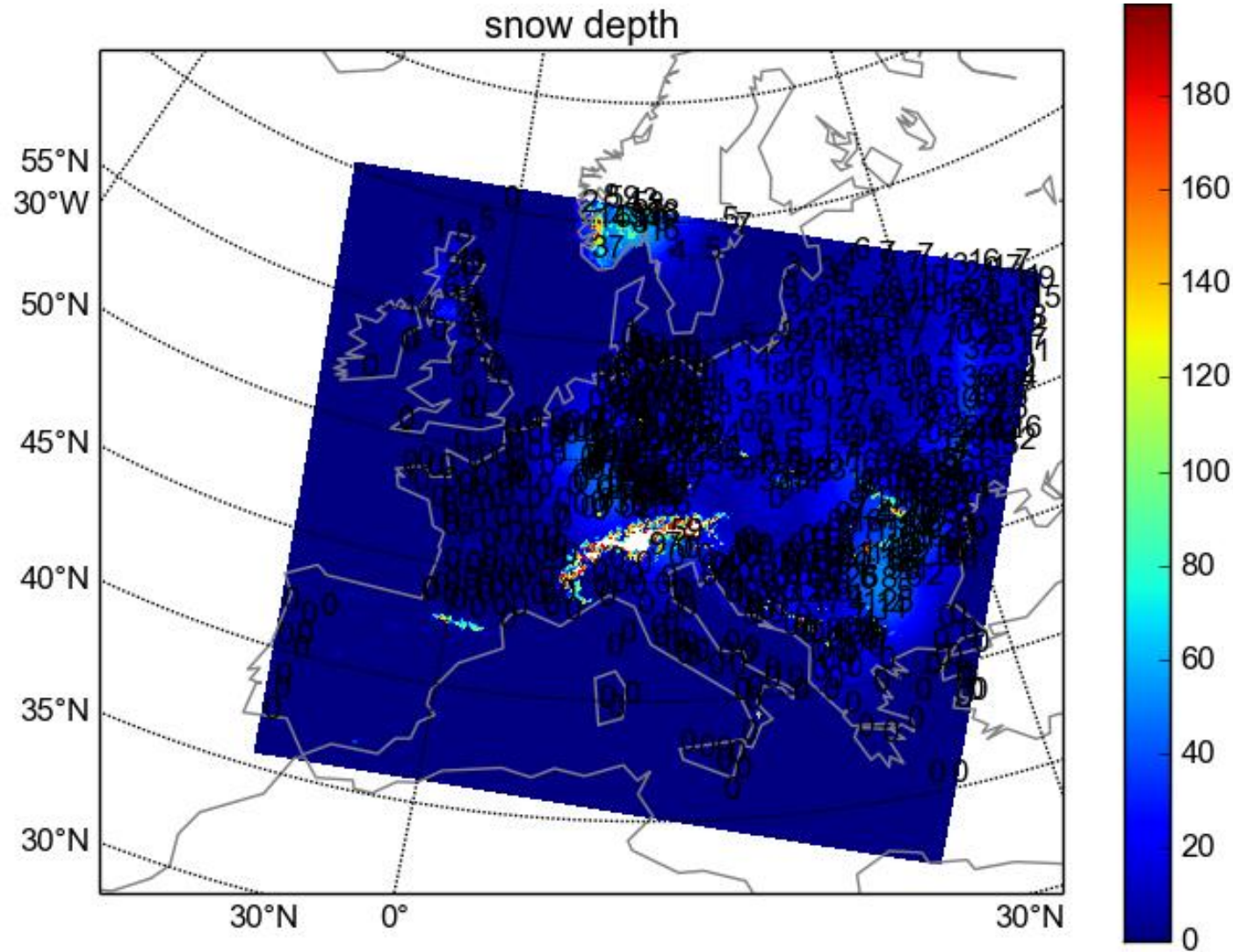


# Experiment 12. – Large area, 555 observations



Computing time – acceptable

# Experiment 13. – Large area, 800 observations



Computing time – still acceptable



# Conclusion:

- Optimal Interpolation is a useful method to assimilate snow data in NWP model
- Parameters should be tested to have the best results
- It is hard to find parameters that can be applied in different regions with the same quality
- Computational time is acceptable also in large areas

Thank you for your attention