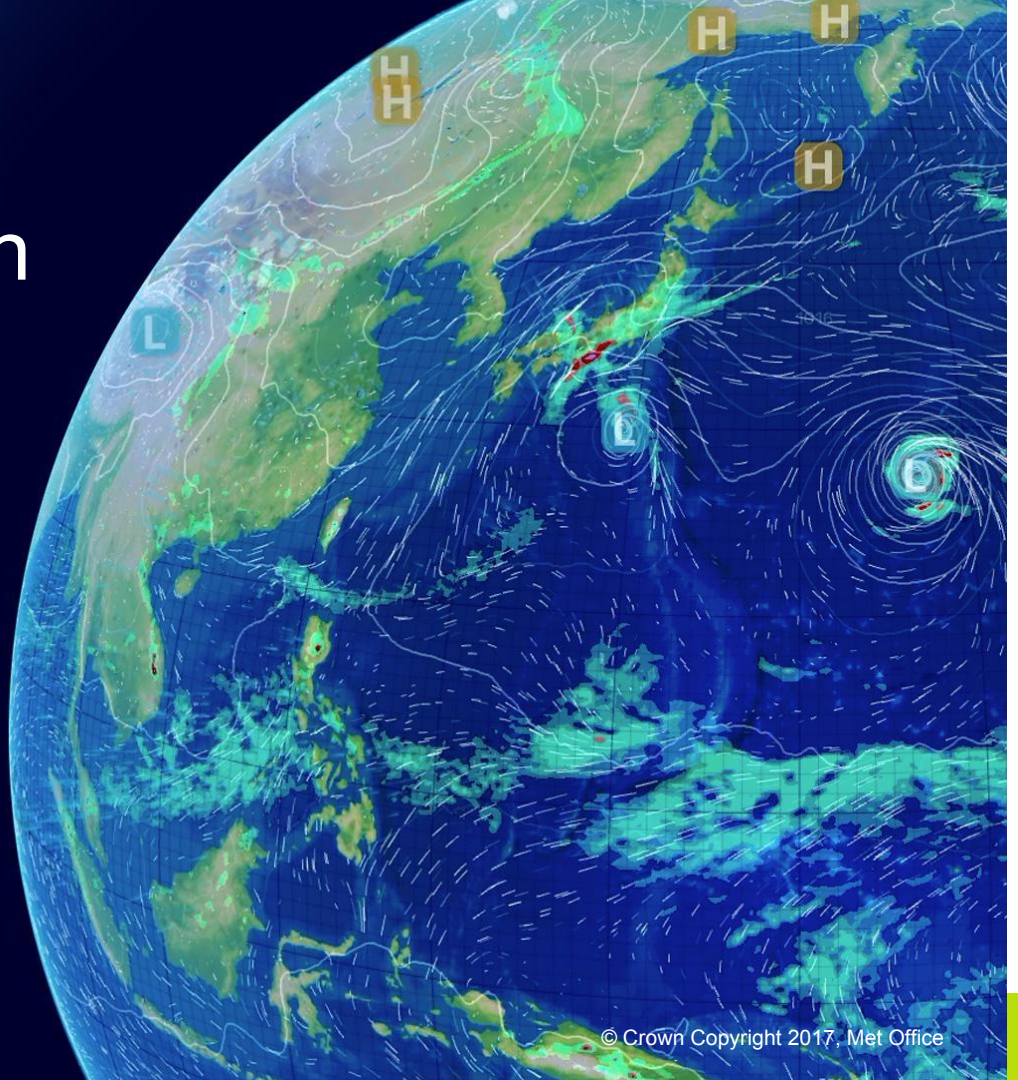
SciTools: our history in a nutshell

Phil Elson & Bill Little
Lead developers
Analysis, Visualisation and Data Team



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SciTools: what we're (not) selling...

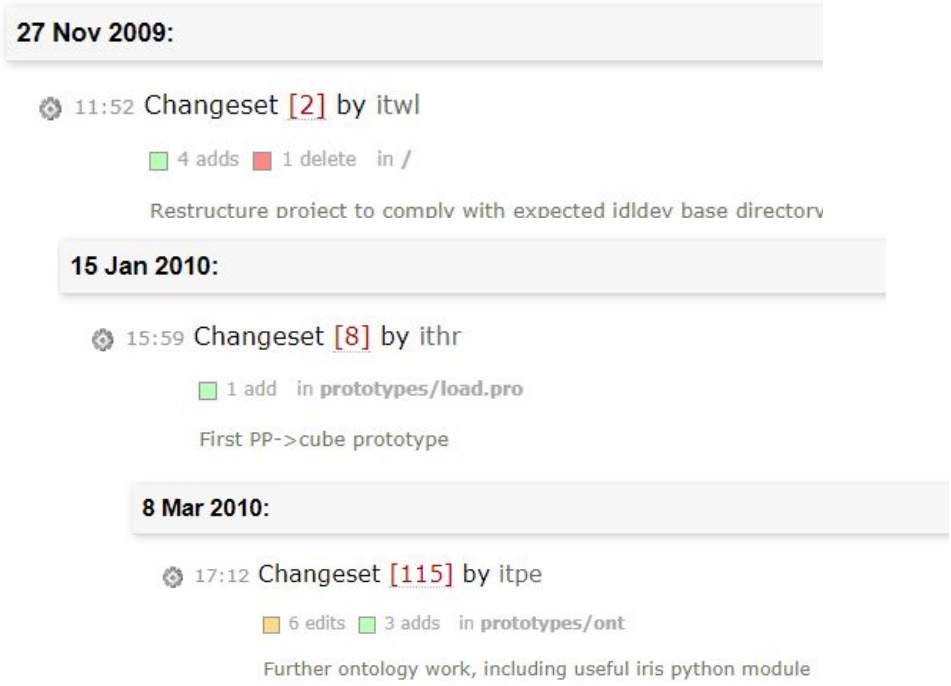
SciTools: what is it?

A GitHub umbrella organisation for scientific tools

Funding for ~9 FTEs to develop open source solutions to Met Office use cases

- Training material
- nc-time-axis
- conda-recipes-scitools
- tephi
- cube_browser
- antigrain-regridding
- conda-testenv
- tehuti
- conda-rpms
- mo_pack
- ...

SciTools: Iris' beginnings



Bill Little: **The first commit**

Richard Hattersley: **The first IDL prototype**

Phil Elson: **The first python prototype**

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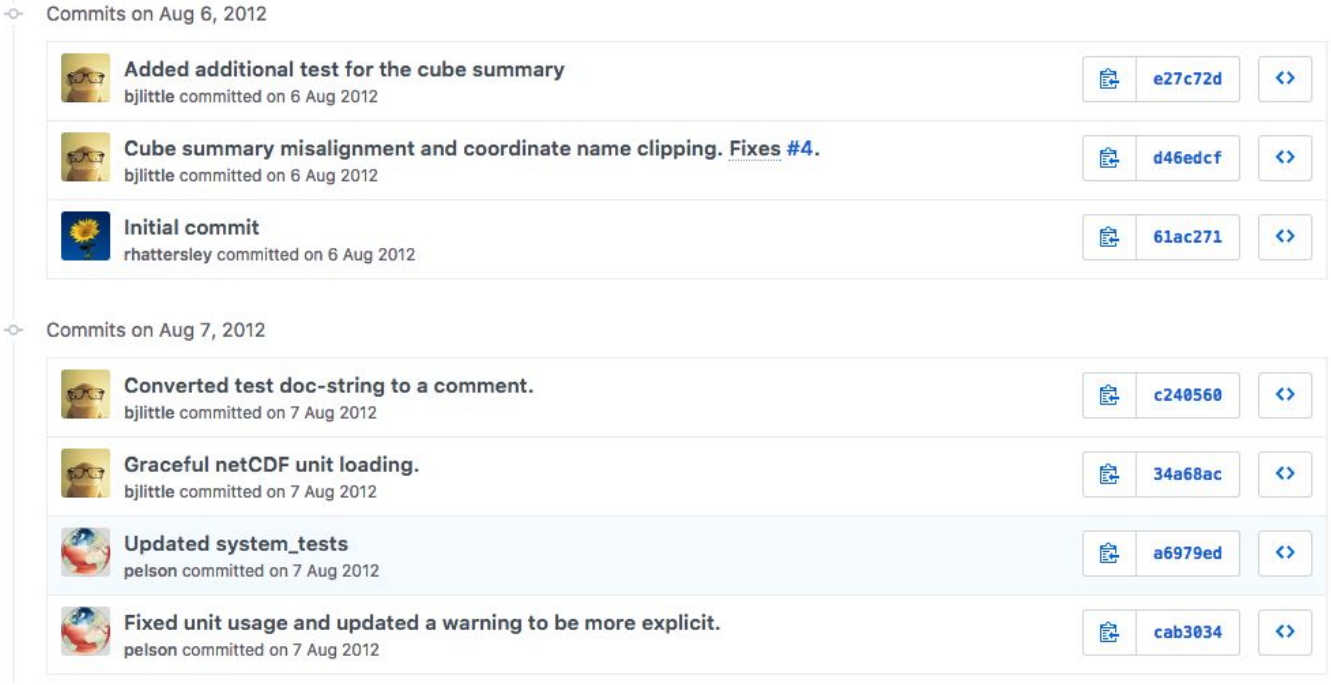
SciTools: Iris' beginnings



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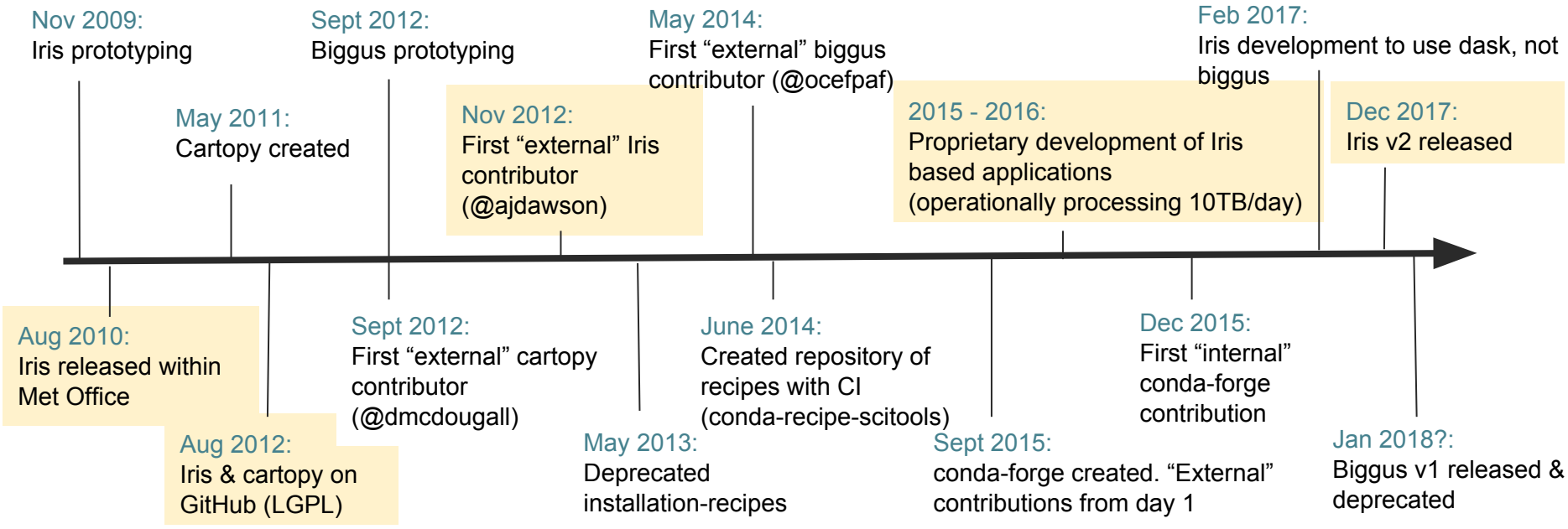
SciTools: timeline



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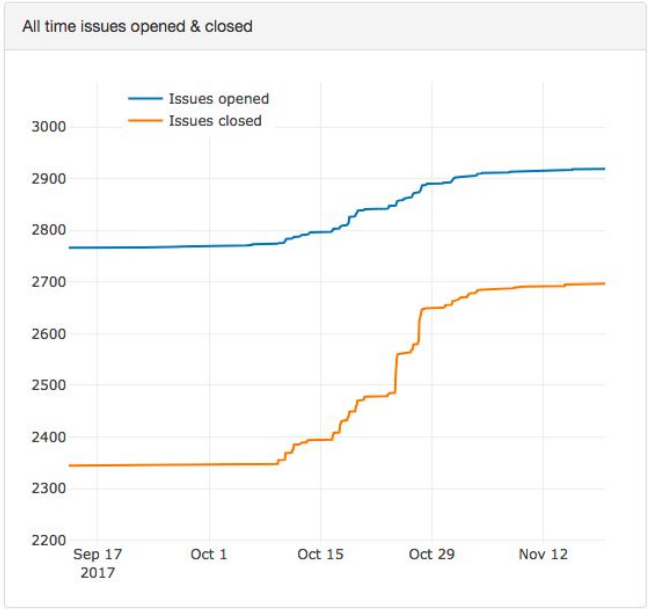
SciTools: working as a team within an organisation

Agile (Scrum)



https://repohealth.info

BDFL

Steering council

SciTools: balancing team efforts

- Mad as a box of frogs
- Priorities are fluid and conflicting
- Maintaining group focus
- Growing together & gaining momentum
- Sharing knowledge, skills & expertise
- Telling users what they want
- Support & consultancy keeps us honest
- Balancing paymaster vs community demands
- Success begets harder problems.

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SciTools: challenges

Not responsive enough

Documenting scope and aims

Fast moving ecosystem

Thinly spread team

Business interest vs open source

LGPL & CLAs

Stability vs new functionality

Face-to-face vs open discussion

Unnecessary duplication of effort

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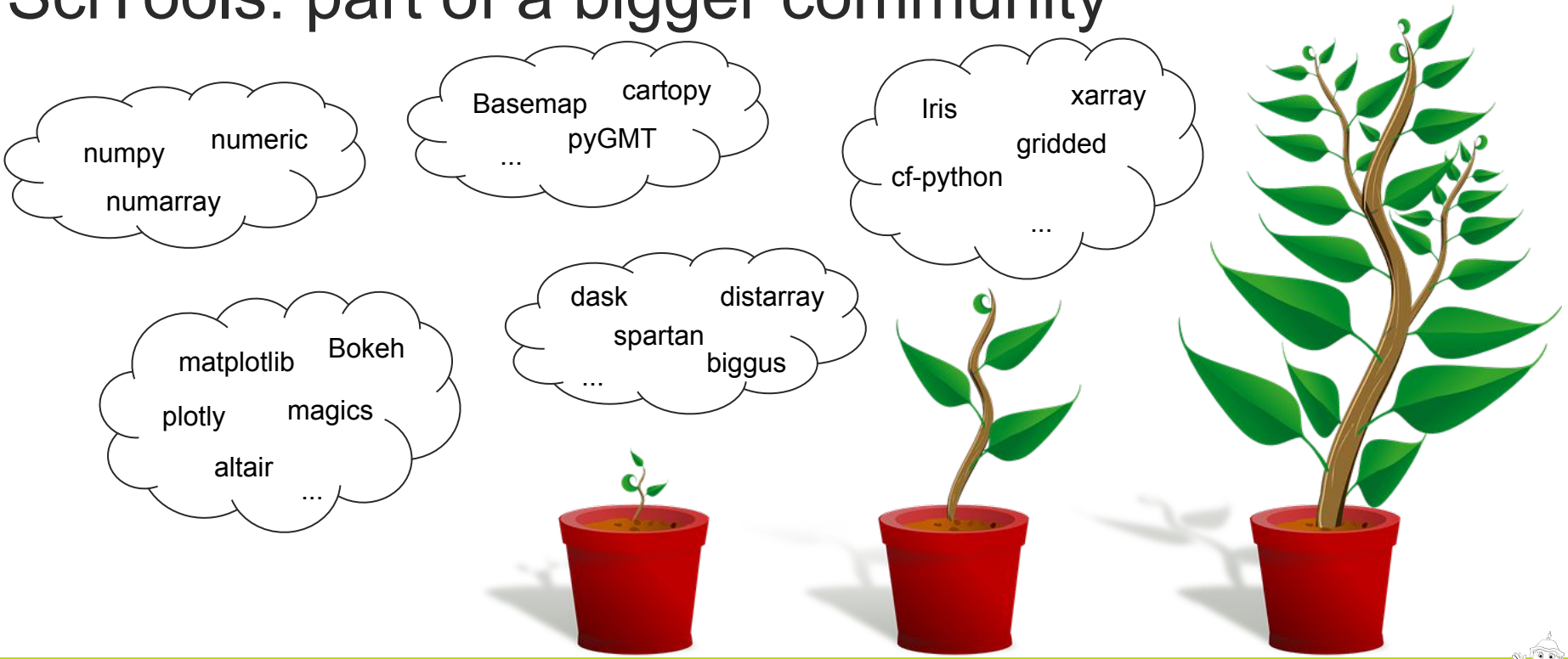
SciTools: part of a bigger community



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SciTools: it’s not all about making new things

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SciTools: major successes

CONDA-FORGE

cartopy

DASK

SciTools: major successes for the Met Office

SciTools: reflecting on what we've learnt...

- The sobering responsibility of parenthood
- Building a community is hard
- Infinite problems vs finite effort
- Re-prioritise and re-assess
- "*It's worse than that, he's dead Jim*"
- Community vs ownership vs leadership
- Same problem, different organisation
- Global collaboration with local utility
- "If you build (on) it, they will come".

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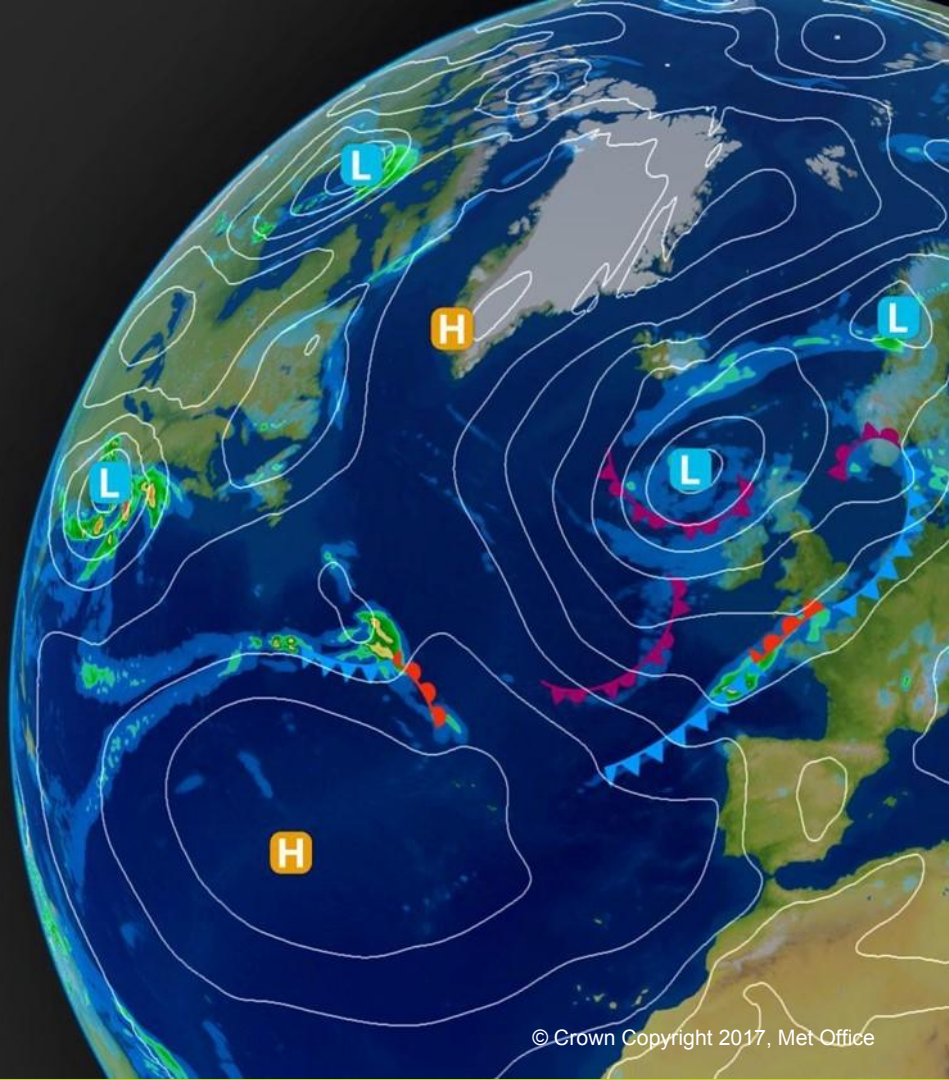
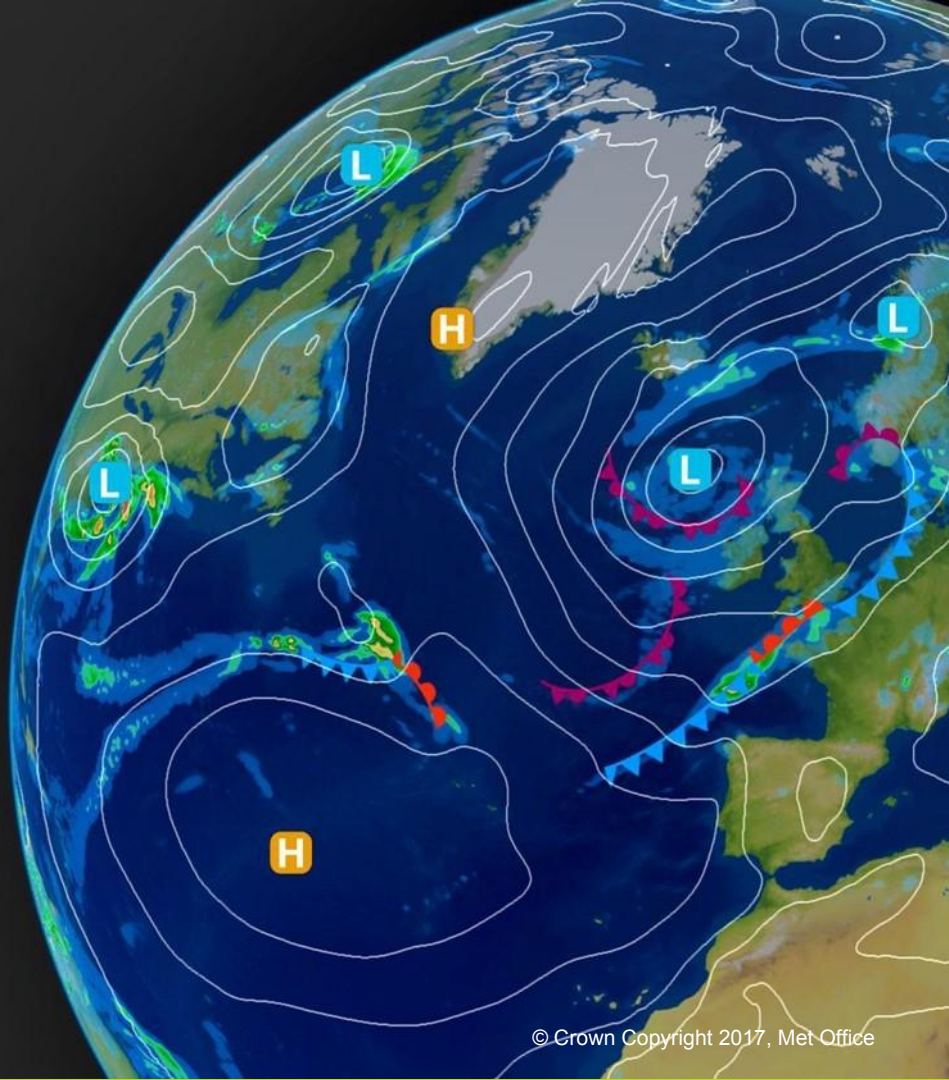
Questions



Questions & discussion



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SciTools: where next?