Atmosphere Modeling I: Intro & Dynamics

the CAM (Community Atmosphere Model) FV (Finite Volume) and SE (Spectral element) dynamical cores

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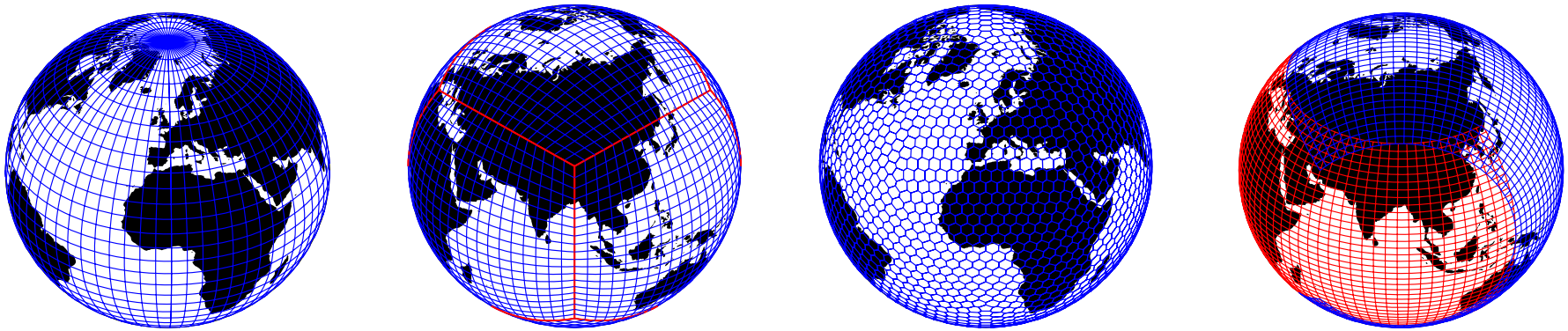


NCAR is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF)

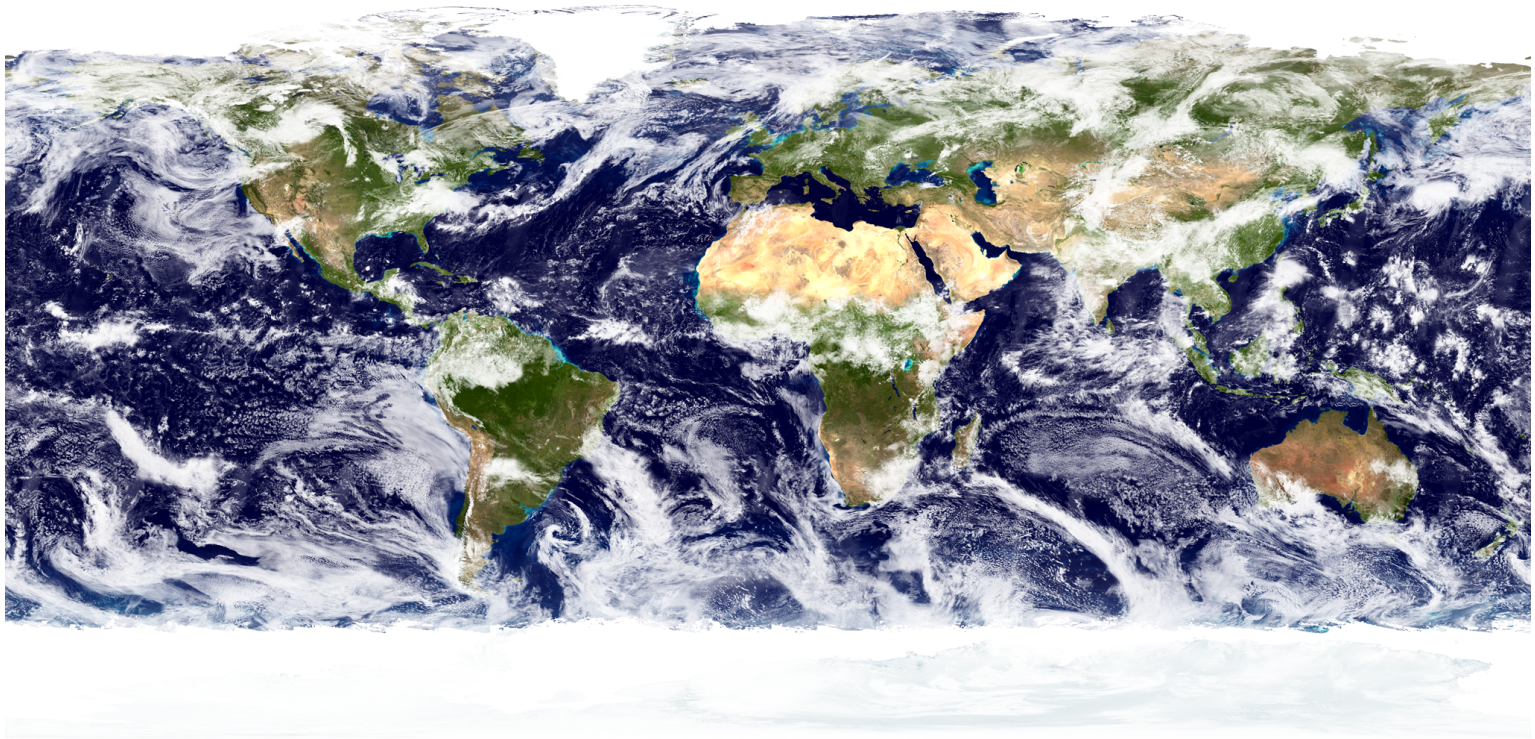
1. Atmosphere intro
   - Multi-scale nature of atmosphere dynamics
   - Resolved and un-resolved scales
   - 'Define' dynamical core and parameterizations

2. CAM-FV dynamical core (current 'work horse' dynamical core)
   - Horizontal and vertical grid
   - Equations of motion
   - The Lin and Rood (1996) advection scheme
   - Finite-volume discretization of the equations of motion
   - The 'CD' grid approach
   - Vertical remapping
   - Tracers

3. CESM simpler models (focus on CAM)

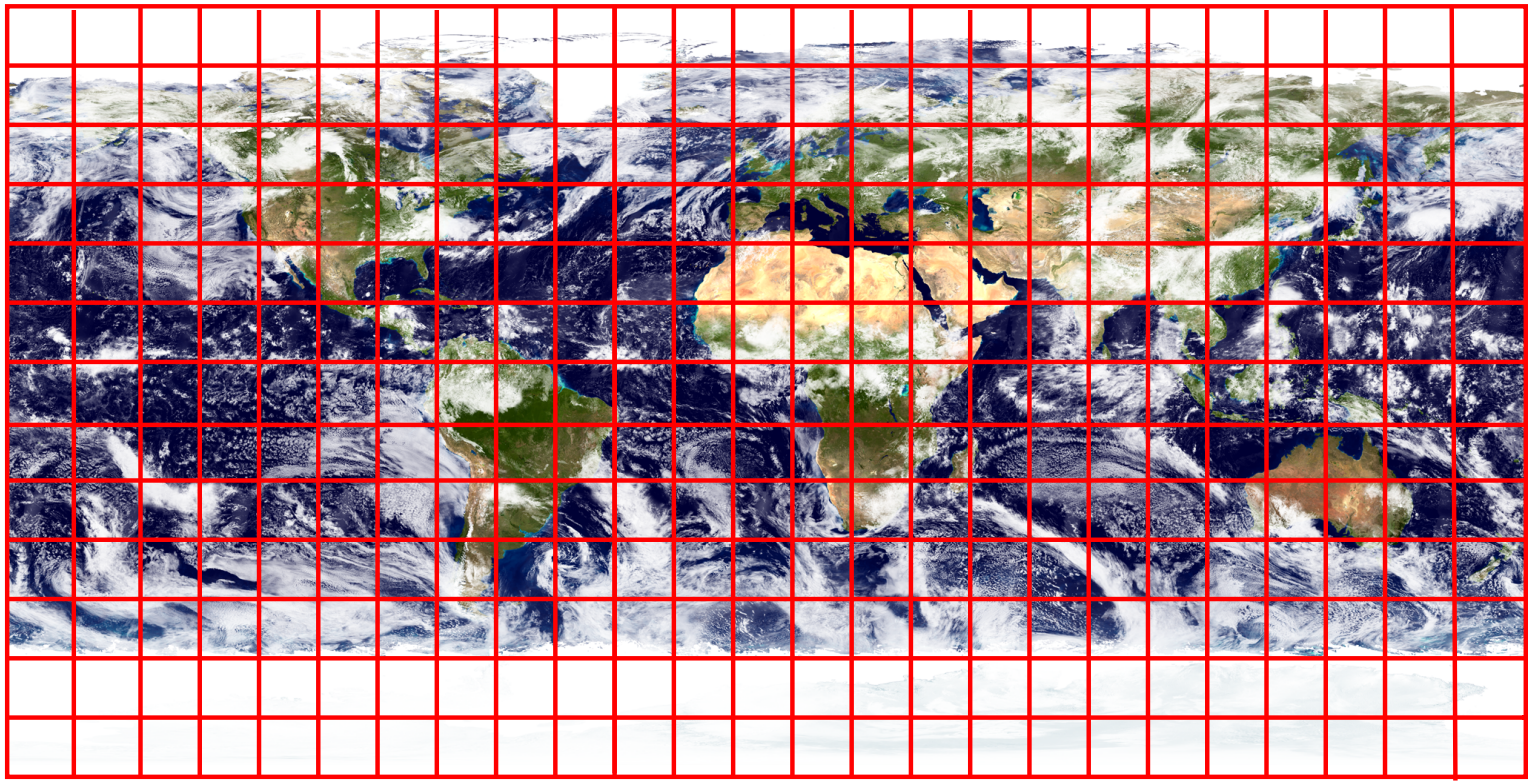
4. Other dynamical core options in CAM
   - CAM-EUL (Eulerian): Based on spherical harmonic functions
   - CAM-SE (Spectral-Elements): Default dynamical core in CAM for high (hydrostatic) horizontal resolution applications

Domain



Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Horizontal computational space

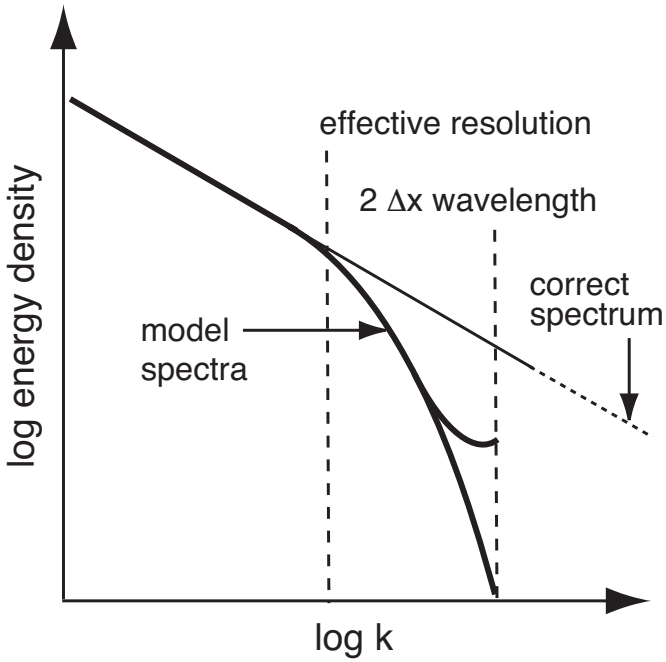


- Red lines: regular latitude-longitude grid
- Grid-cell size defines the smallest scale that can be resolved ($\neq$ **effective resolution!**)
- Many important processes taking place sub-grid-scale that must be parameterized
- Loosely speaking, the parameterizations compute grid-cell average tendencies due to sub-grid-scale processes in terms of the (resolved scale) atmospheric state
- In modeling jargon parameterizations are also referred to as *physics*
  (what is unphysical about resolved scale dynamics?)

Effective resolution: smallest scale (highest wave-number $k = k_{eff}$) that model can accurately represent

- k_{eff} can be assessed analytically for linearized equations (Von Neumann analysis)
- In a full model one can assess k_{eff} using total kinetic energy spectra (TKE) of, e.g., horizontal wind $\vec{v}$ (see Figure below)

Effective resolution is typically 4-10 grid-lengths depending on numerical method!



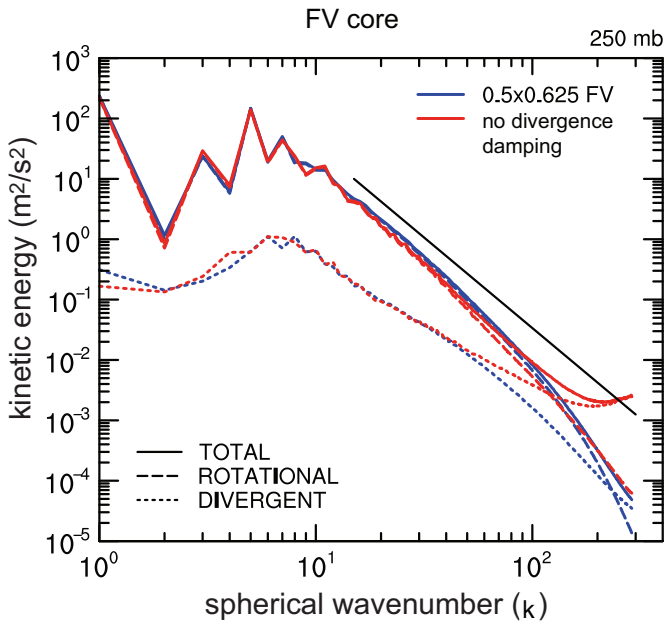


Figure from Skamarock (2011): (left) Schematic depicting the possible behavior of spectral tails derived from model forecasts. (right) TKE (solid lines) as a function of spherical wavenumber for the CCSM finite-volume dynamical core derived from aquaplanet simulations. The total KE is broken into divergent and rotational components (dashed lines) and the solid black lines shows the k^{-3} slope.

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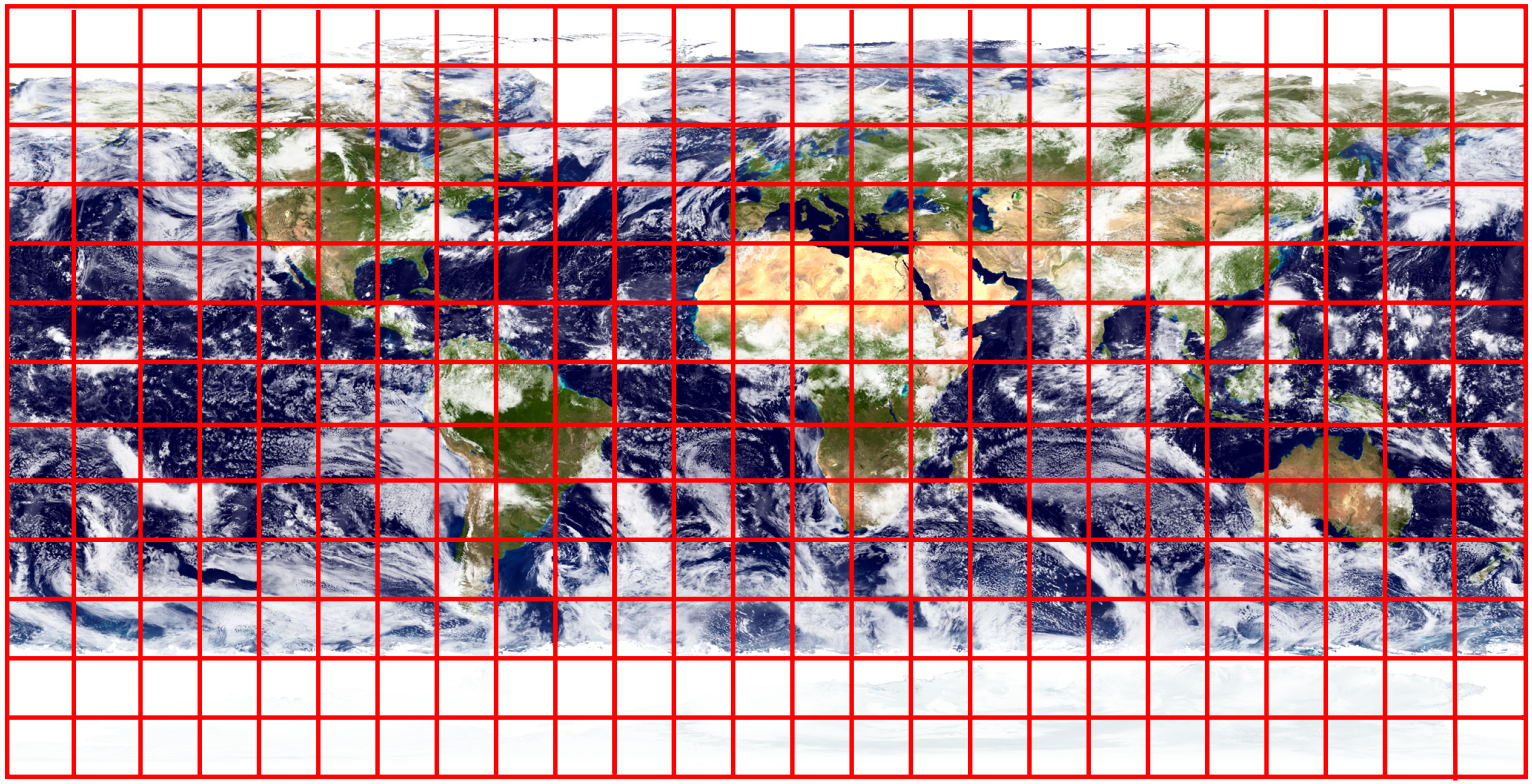

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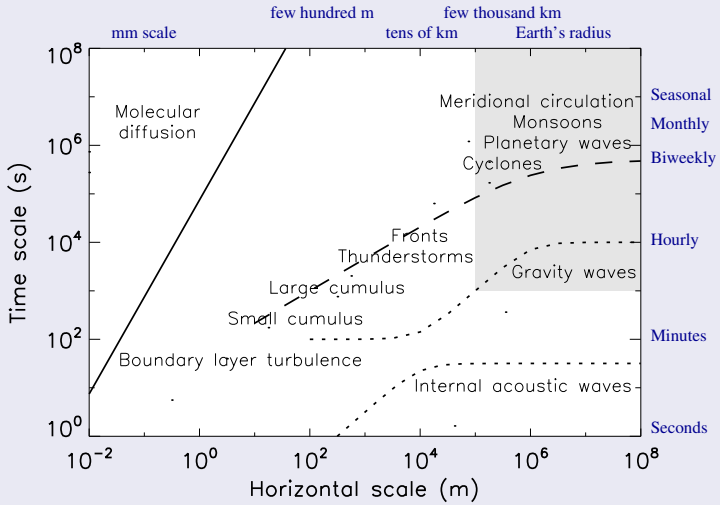
Multi-scale nature of atmosphere dynamics (from Thuburn 2011)



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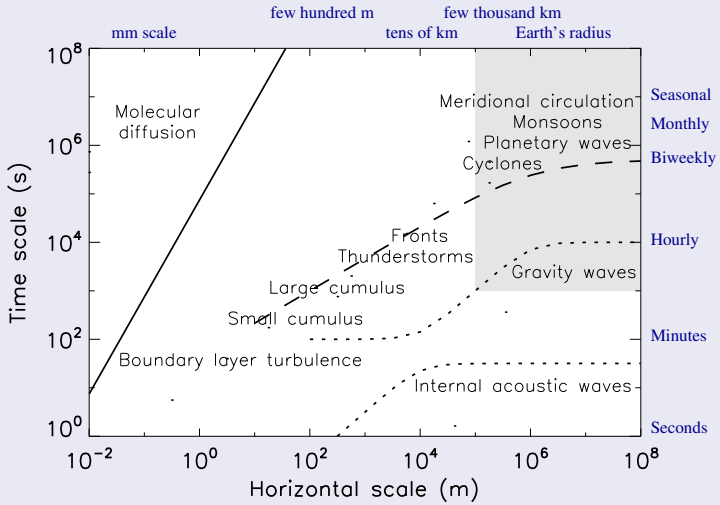

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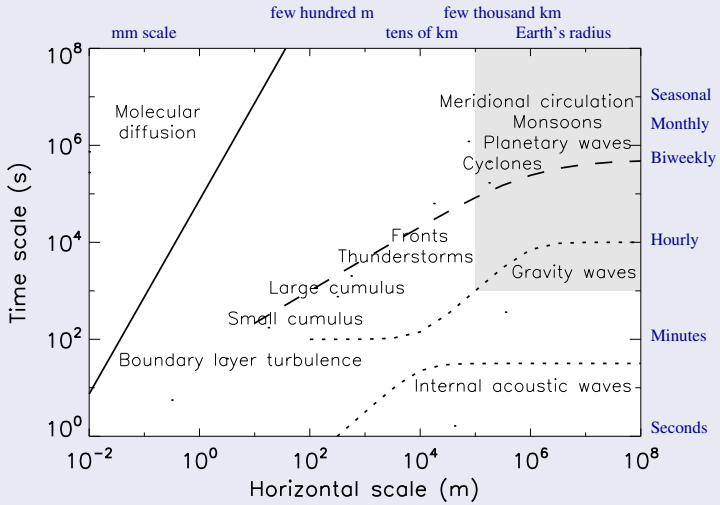

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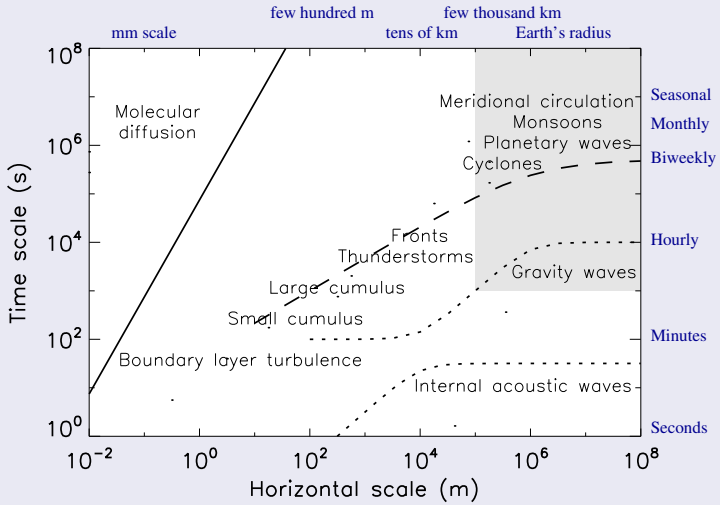

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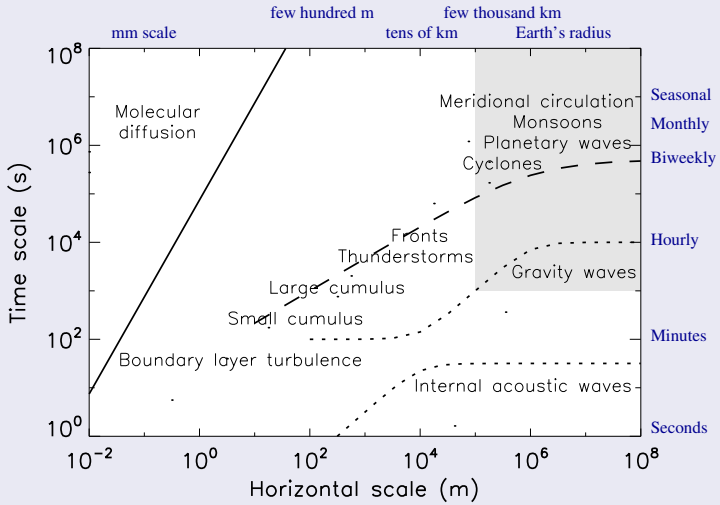

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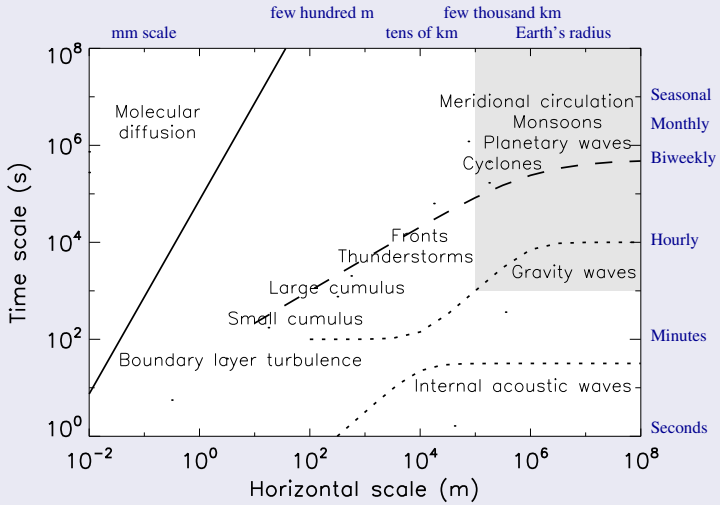

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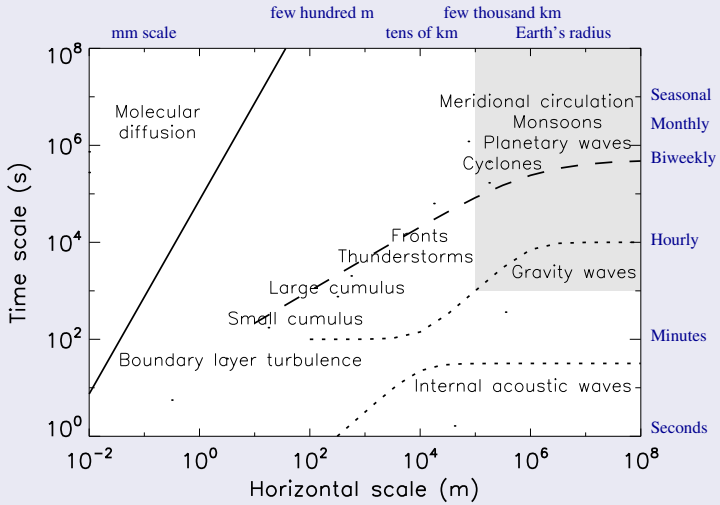

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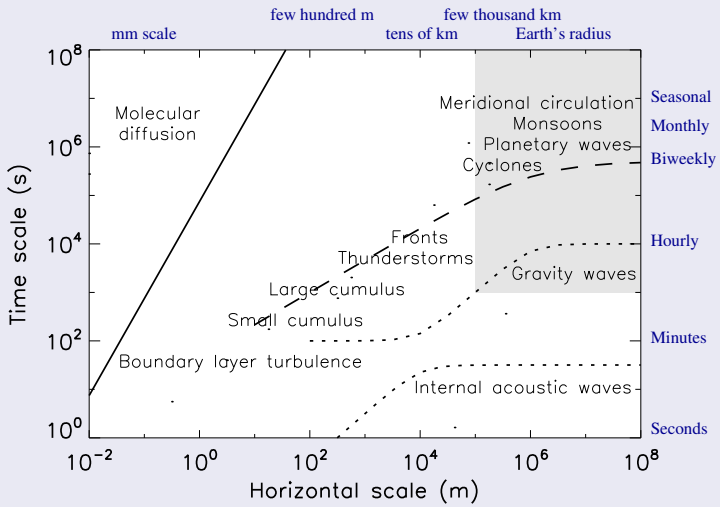

- All of the phenomena along the dashed line are important for weather and climate, and so need to be represented in numerical models.
- Important phenomena occur at all scales - there is no significant *spectral gap*! Moreover, there are strong interactions between the phenomena at different scales, and these interactions need to be represented.
- The lack of any spectral gap makes the modeling of weather/climate very challenging
- The emphasis in this lecture is how we model resolved dynamics; however, it should be borne in mind that equally important is how we represent unresolved processes, and the interactions between resolved and unresolved processes.

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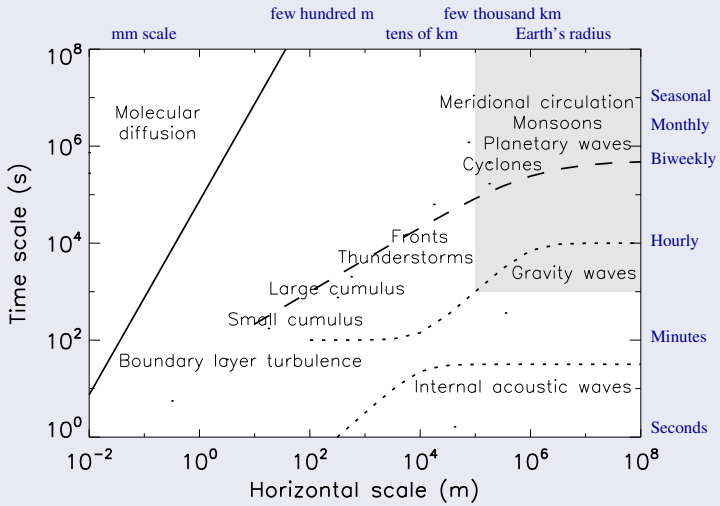

- Two dotted curves correspond to dispersion relations for internal inertio-gravity waves and internal acoustic waves (relatively fast processes)
- these lines lie significantly below the energetically dominant processes on the dashed line
  - $\Rightarrow$ they are energetically weak compared to the dominant processes along the dashed curve
  - $\Rightarrow$ we do relatively little damage if we distort their propagation (will return to this later)
  - the fact that these waves are fast puts constraints on the size of Δt (at least for explicit and semi-implicit time-stepping schemes)!

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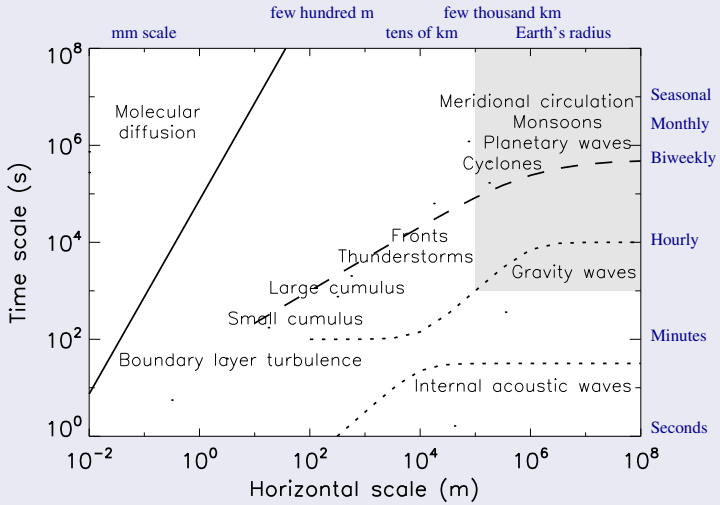

Horizontal resolution:

- the shaded region shows the resolved space/time scales in typical current day climate models (approximately $1^{\circ} - 2^{\circ}$ resolution)
- highest resolution at which uniform resolution CAM is run/developed is on the order of $10 - 25km$
- as the resolution is increased some 'large-scale' parameterizations may no longer be necessary (e.g., large scale convection) and we might need to redesign some parameterizations that were developed for horizontal resolutions of hundreds of km's

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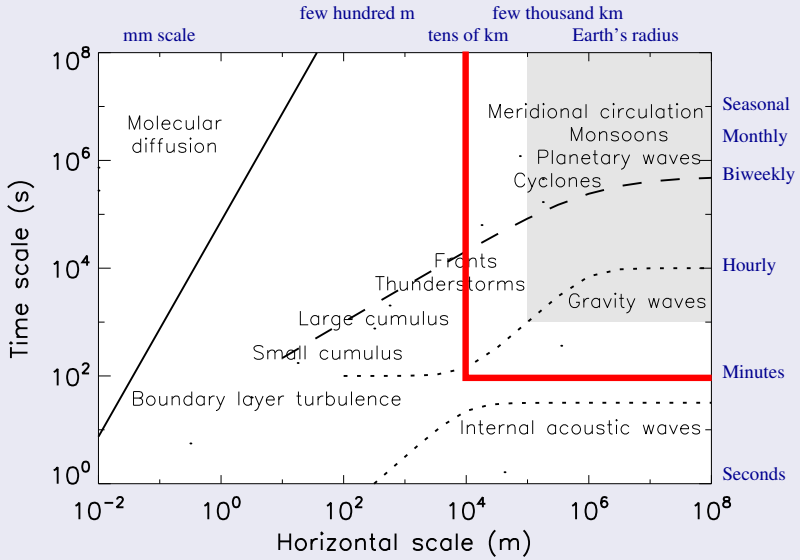

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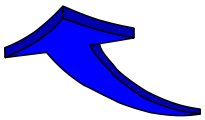
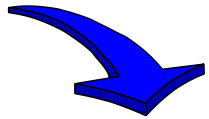
Model code

Parameterization suite

- Moist processes: deep convection, shallow convection, large-scale condensation
- Radiation and Clouds: cloud microphysics, precipitation processes, radiation
- Turbulent mixing: planetary boundary layer parameterization, vertical diffusion, gravity wave drag





'Resolved' dynamics

'Roughly speaking, the **dynamical core** solves the governing fluid and thermodynamic equations on resolved scales, while the parameterizations represent sub-grid-scale processes and other processes not included in the dynamical core such as radiative transfer.' - Thuburn (2008)

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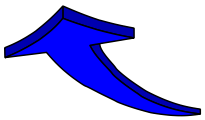
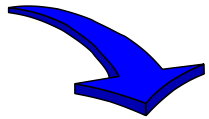


Strategies for coupling:

- process-split: dynamical core & parameterization suite are based on the same state and their tendencies are added to produce the updated state (used in CAM-EUL)
- time-split: dynamic core & parameterization suite are calculated sequentially, each based on the state produced by the other (used in CAM-FV; the order matters!).
- different coupling approaches discussed in the context of CCM3 in Williamson (2002)
- simulations are very dependent on coupling time-step (e.g. Williamson and Olson, 2003)
- (re-)emerging research topic: physics-dynamics coupling conference series (Gross et al., 2016)



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Spherical (horizontal) discretization grid

CAM-FV uses regular latitude-longitude grid:

- horizontal position: (λ, θ), where λ longitude and θ latitude.
- horizontal resolution specified when creating a new case:

```
./create_newcase -res res ...
```

  where, e.g., `res=f09_f09_mg17` which is the $\Delta\lambda \times \Delta\theta = 0.9^\circ \times 1.25^\circ$ horizontal resolution configuration of the FV dynamical core corresponding to `nlon=288, nlat=192`.

  Changing resolution requires rebuilding (not a namelist variable).

- Note: Convergence of the meridians near the poles.

Vertical coordinate: hybrid sigma ($\sigma = p/p_s$)-pressure (p) coordinate

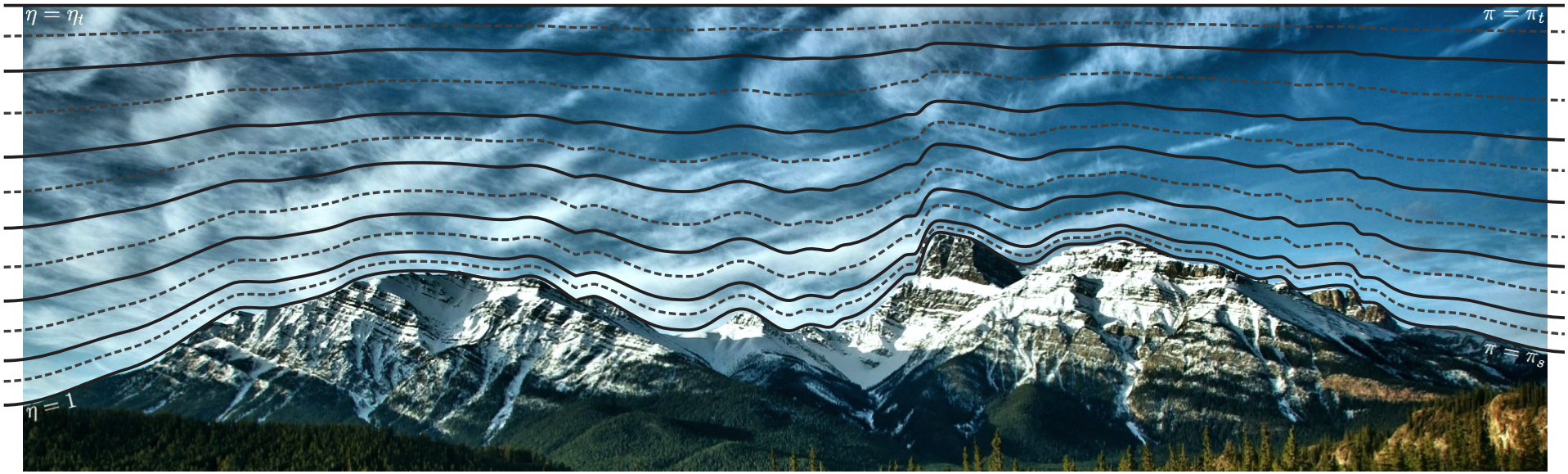

Figure courtesy of David Hall (CU Boulder).

Sigma layers at the bottom (following terrain) with isobaric (pressure) layers aloft.

Pressure at model level interfaces

$$p_{k+1/2} = A_{k+1/2}\, p_0 + B_{k+1/2}\, p_s,$$

where p_s is surface pressure, p_0 is the model top pressure, and $A_{k+1/2} (\in [0:1])$ and $B_{k+1/2} (\in [1:0])$ hybrid coefficients (in model code: *hyai* and *hybi*). Similarly for model level mid-points.

Note: vertical index is 1 at model top and *klev* at surface.

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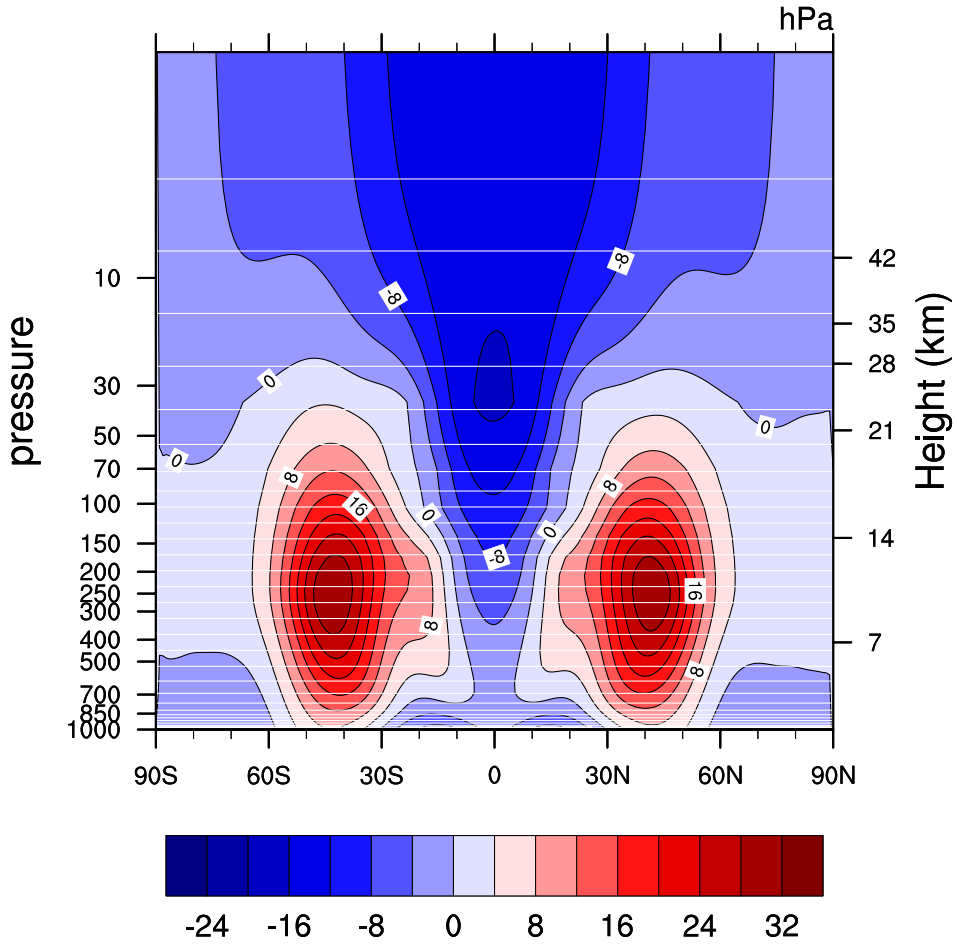

Time & zonally averaged zonal wind (Held-Suarez forcing); overlaid CAM5 levels ($klev = 30$).

Why do we use terrain-following coordinates?

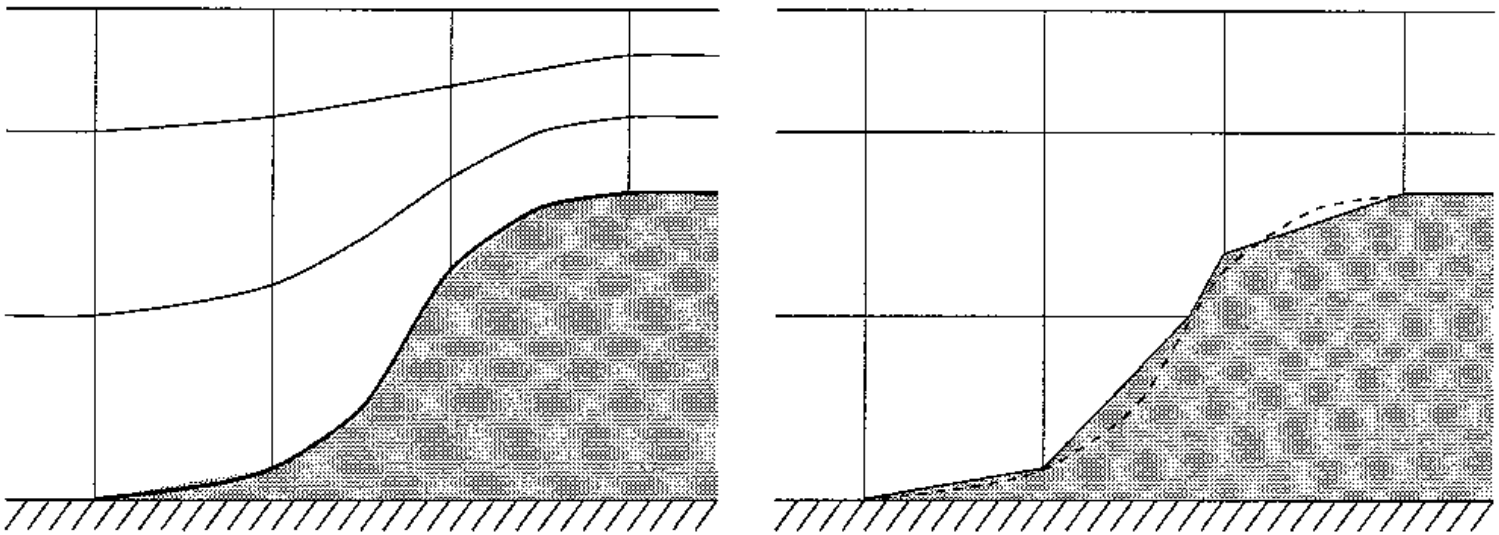

Figure: Representation of a smoothly varying bottom (dashed line) in (left) a terrain-following coordinate model, and (right) a height coordinate model with piecewise constant slopes (cut-cells, shaved-cells)

Figure is from Adcroft et al. (1997).

$\rightarrow$ The main reason is that the lower boundary condition is very simple when using terrain-following coordinates!

Aside: hybrid sigma ($\sigma = p/p_s$)-pressure (p) coordinate

While terrain-following coordinates simplify the bottom boundary condition, they may introduce errors:

- Pressure gradient force (PDF) errors: $\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p_z = \frac{1}{\rho}\nabla_\eta p + \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{dp}{dz}\nabla_\eta z$, (Kasahara, 1974) where ρ is density, p pressure and z height.
- Errors in modeling flow along constant z-surfaces near the surface

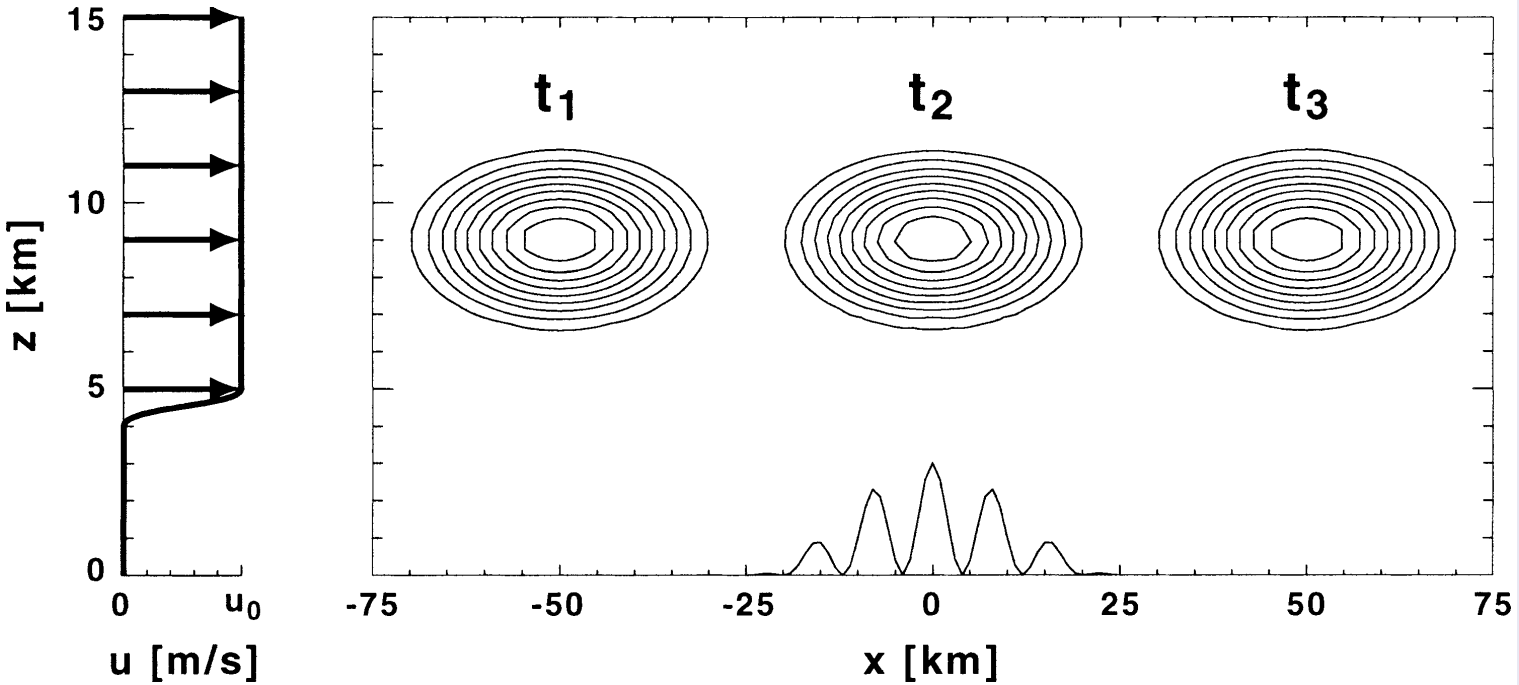

FIG. 4. Vertical cross section of the idealized two-dimensional advection test. The topography is located entirely within a stagnant pool of air, while there is a uniform horizontal velocity aloft. The analytical solution of the advected anomaly is shown at three instances.

Schär et al. (2002)

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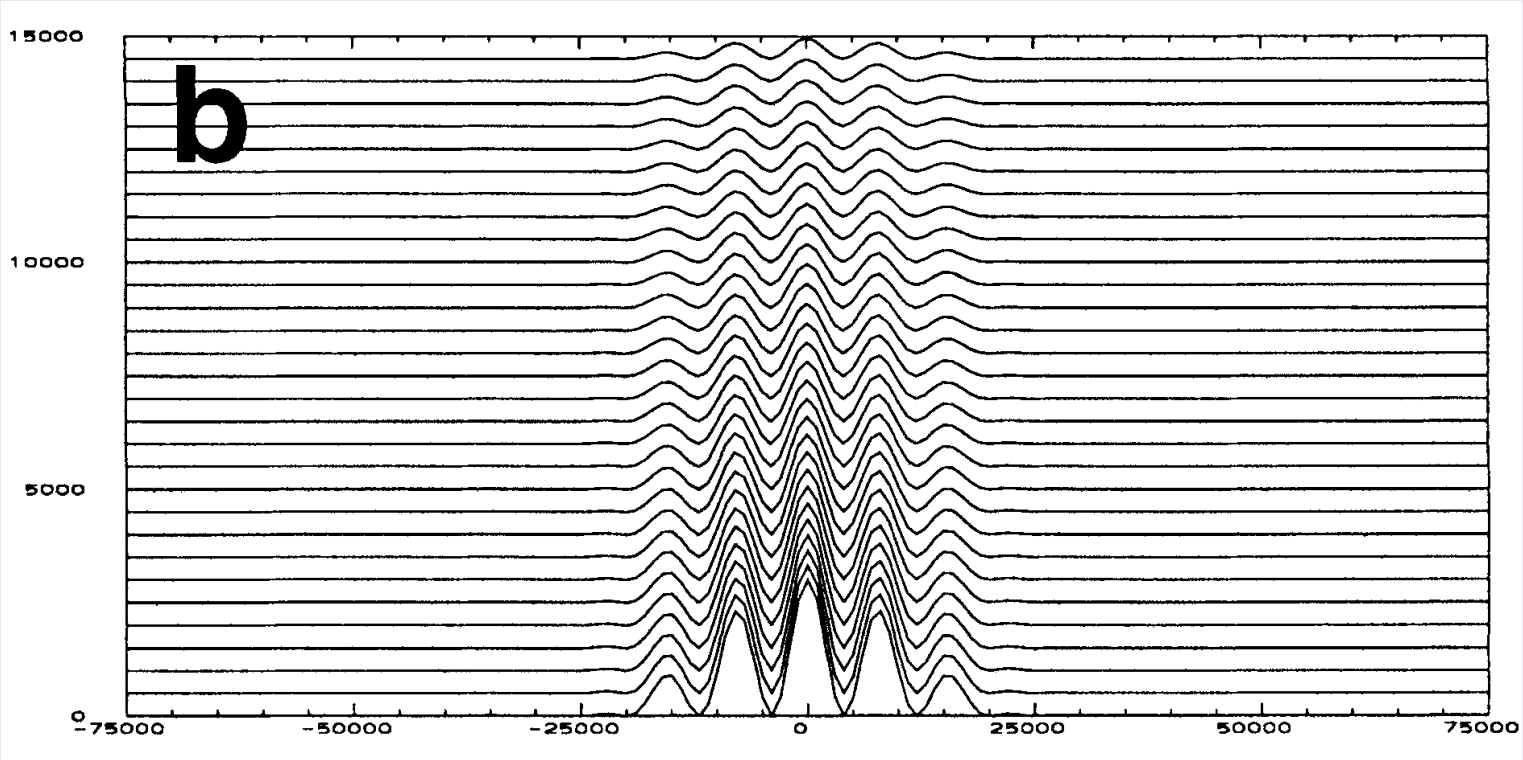

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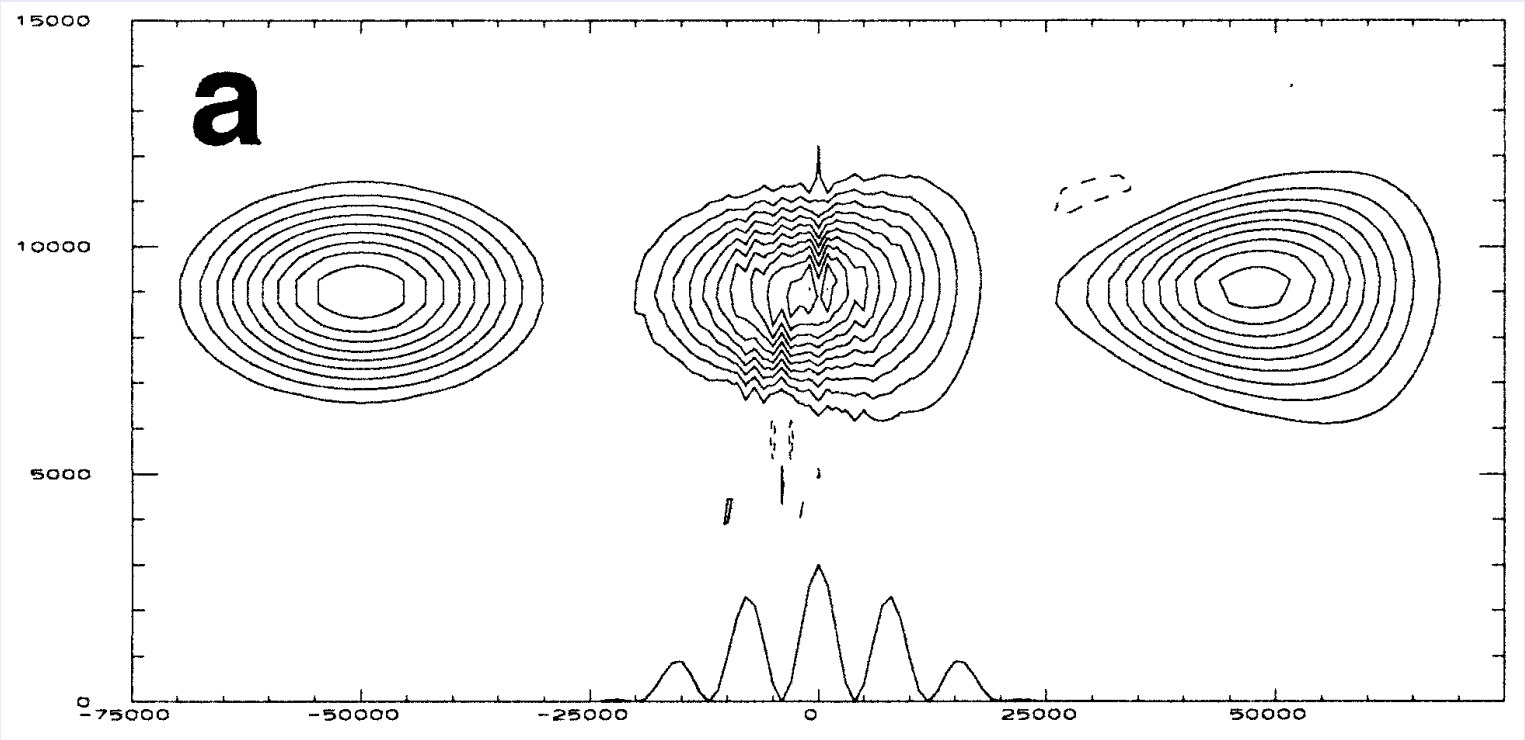
Aside: hybrid sigma ($\sigma = p/p_s$)-pressure (p) coordinate

While terrain-following coordinates simplify the bottom boundary condition, they may introduce errors:

- Pressure gradient force (PDF) errors: $\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p_z = \frac{1}{\rho}\nabla_\eta p + \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{dp}{dz}\nabla_\eta z$, (Kasahara, 1974) where ρ is density, p pressure and z height.
- Errors in modeling flow along constant z-surfaces near the surface



Schär et al. (2002)

Vertical coordinate

- CAM-FV uses a Lagrangian ('floating') vertical coordinate ξ so that

$$\frac{d\xi}{dt} = 0,$$

i.e. vertical surfaces are material surfaces (no flow across them).

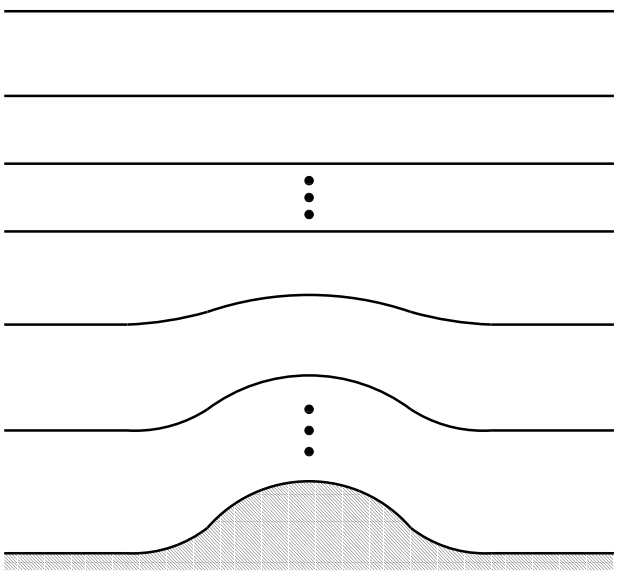


Figure shows 'usual' hybrid $\sigma - p$ vertical coordinate $\eta(p_s, p)$ (where p_s is surface pressure):

- $\eta(p_s, p)$ is a monotonic function of p.
- $\eta(p_s, p_s) = 1$
- $\eta(p_s, 0) = 0$
- $\eta(p_s, p_{top}) = \eta_{top}$.

Boundary conditions are:

- $\frac{d\eta(p_s,p_s)}{dt} = 0$
- $\frac{d\eta(p_s,p_{top})}{dt} = \omega(p_{top}) = 0$

(ω is vertical velocity in pressure coordinates)

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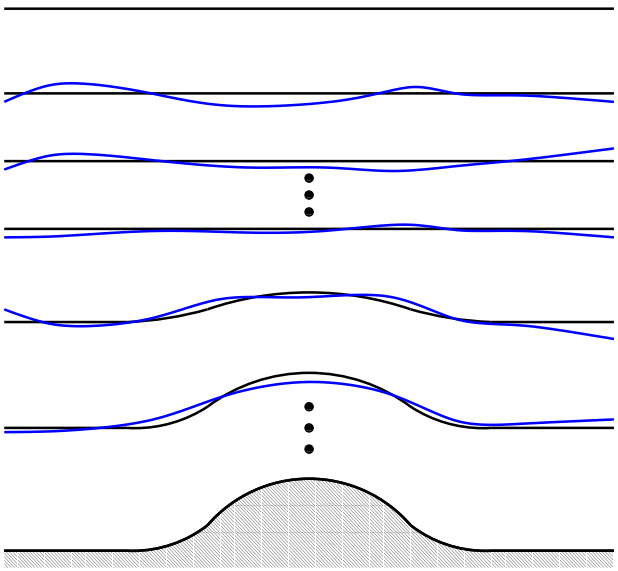


Figure:

- set $\xi = \eta$ at time t_{start} (black lines).
- for $t > t_{start}$ the vertical levels deform as they move with the flow (blue lines).
- to avoid excessive deformation of the vertical levels (non-uniform vertical resolution) the prognostic variables defined in the Lagrangian layers ξ are periodically remapped (= conservative interpolation) back to the Eulerian reference coordinates η (more on this later).

Why use floating Lagrangian vertical coordinates?
Vertical advection terms disappear (3D model becomes 'stacked shallow-water models'; only 2D numerical methods are needed)

Vertical coordinate

- The vertical resolution is implicitly set during `./create_newcase` depending on (physics) configuration. For example, `klev=26` for CAM4, `klev=30` for CAM5 and `klev=32` for CAM6.
- The vertical resolution can be changed with

```
./xmlchange CAM_CONFIG_OPTS=-nlev 30
```

- If horizontal or vertical resolution is changed the user must point to an initial condition file mathcing that resolution. The initial condition file is set in CAM namelist (`user_nl_cam` located in the *case* directory):

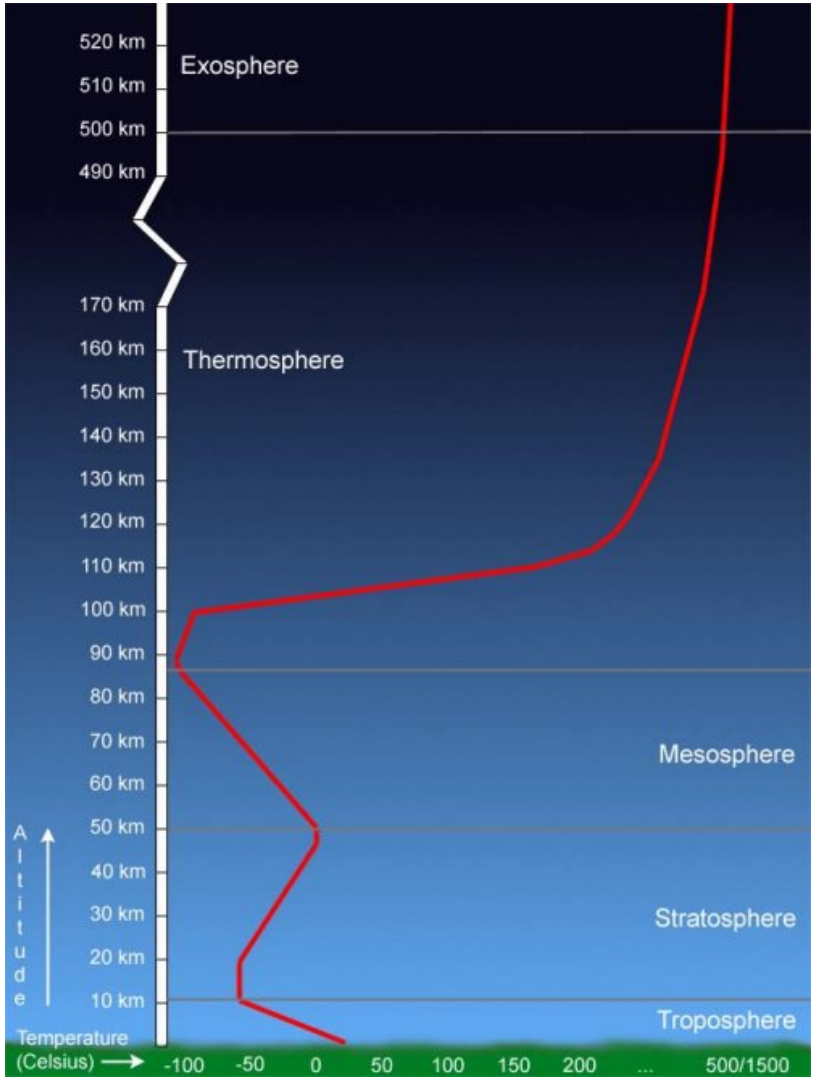
```
ncdata='inputdata/atm/cam/inic/fv/cami-mam3_0000-01-01_0.9x1.25_L30_c100618.nc'
```

- Changing vertical or horizontal resolution requires a 're-compile'.
- WARNING! CAM physics parameterizations are sensitive to resolution (especially vertical resolution) - usually a retuning of parameters is necessary to get an 'acceptable' climate.

Vertical coordinate

The vertical extent is from the surface to

- approximately 40 km's / 2Pa for CAM
- approximately 100 km's / 10^{-6} hPa for WACCM (Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model)
- approximately 500 km's / 10^{-9} hPa for WACCM-x



Adiabatic frictionless equations of motion

The following approximations are made to the compressible Euler equations:

- **spherical geoid**: geopotential Φ is only a function of radial distance from the center of the Earth r: $\Phi = \Phi(r)$ (for planet Earth the true gravitational acceleration is much stronger than the centrifugal force).
  $\Rightarrow$ Effective gravity acts only in radial direction

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- **quasi-hydrostatic approximation** (also simply referred to as *hydrostatic approximation*): Involves ignoring the acceleration term in the vertical component of the momentum equations so that it reads:

$$\rho g = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z}, \tag{1}$$

  where g gravity, ρ density and p pressure. Good approximation down to horizontal scales greater than approximately $10km$.

Adiabatic frictionless equations of motion

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  where g gravity, ρ density and p pressure. Good approximation down to horizontal scales greater than approximately $10km$.
- **shallow atmosphere**: a collection of approximations. Coriolis terms involving the horizontal components of Ω are neglected (Ω is angular velocity), factors $1/r$ are replaced with $1/a$ where a is the mean radius of the Earth and certain other metric terms are neglected so that the system retains conservation laws for energy and angular momentum.

Adiabatic frictionless equations of motion using Lagrangian vertical coordinates

Assuming a Lagrangian vertical coordinate the hydrostatic equations of motion integrated over a layer can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{mass air:} \quad & \frac{\partial(\delta p)}{\partial t} = -\nabla_h \cdot (\vec{v}_h \delta p)\,, \\
\text{mass tracers:} \quad & \frac{\partial(\delta p q)}{\partial t} = -\nabla_h \cdot (\vec{v}_h\, q \delta p)\,, \\
\text{horizontal momentum:} \quad & \frac{\partial \vec{v}_h}{\partial t} = -\left(\zeta + f\right) \vec{k} \times \vec{v}_h - \nabla_h \kappa - \nabla_p \Phi, \\
\text{thermodynamic:} \quad & \frac{\partial(\delta p \Theta)}{\partial t} = -\nabla_h \cdot (\vec{v}_h \delta p \Theta)
\end{aligned}$$

where δp is the layer thickness, $\vec{v}_h$ is horizontal wind, q tracer mixing ratio, ζ vorticity, f Coriolis, κ kinetic energy, Θ potential temperature. The momentum equations are written in vector invariant form.

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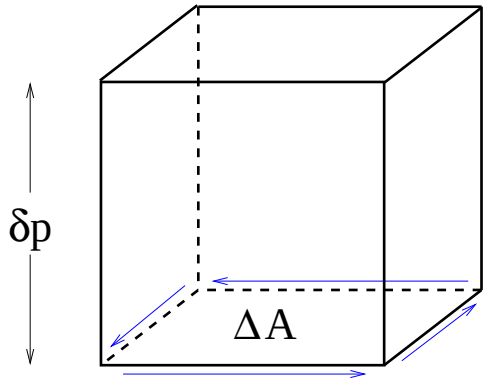
The equations of motion are discretized using an Eulerian finite-volume approach.

Finite-volume discretization of continuity equation



Integrate the flux-form continuity equation horizontally over a control volume:

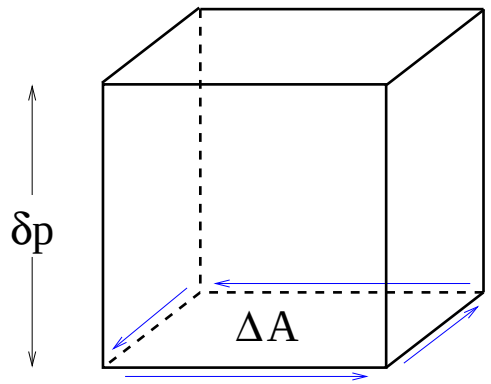
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\iint_A \delta p\, dA = -\iint_A \nabla_h \left(\vec{v}_h \delta p\right)\, dA, \tag{2}$$

where A is the horizontal extent of the control volume. Using Gauss's divergence theorem for the right-hand side of (2) we get:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\iint_A \delta p\, dA = -\oint_{\partial A} \delta p\, \vec{v}\cdot\vec{n}\, dA, \tag{3}$$

where ∂A is the boundary of A and $\vec{n}$ is outward pointing normal unit vector of ∂A.

Finite-volume discretization of continuity equation



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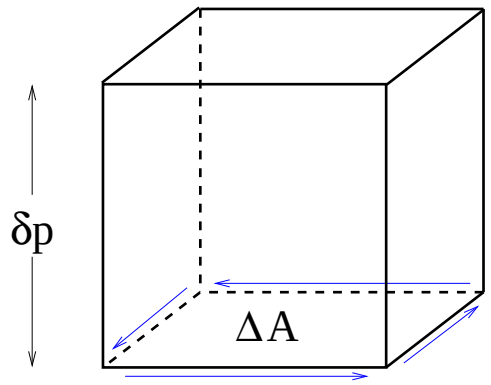
Right-hand side of (3) represents the instantaneous flux of mass through the vertical faces of the control volume.

Next: integrate over one time-step Δt_{dyn} and discretize left-hand side.

Finite-volume discretization of continuity equation



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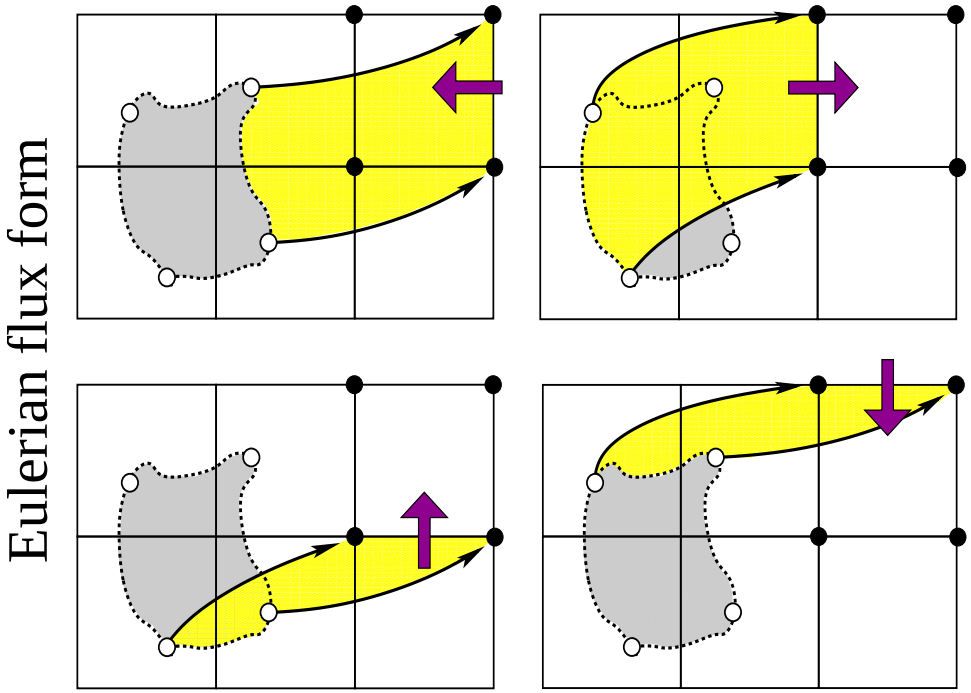
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \iint_A \delta p \, dA = - \iint_A \nabla_h \left(\vec{v}_h \delta p \right) \, dA, \tag{2}$$

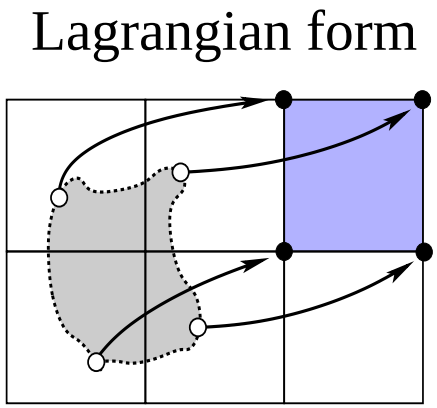
$$\Delta A \, \overline{\delta p}^{n+1} - \Delta A \, \overline{\delta p}^{n} = -\Delta t_{dyn} \int_{t=n\Delta t}^{t=(n+1)\Delta t} \left[\oint_{\partial A} \delta p \, \vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} \, dA \right] \, dt, \tag{3}$$

where n is time-level index and $\overline{(\cdot)}$ is cell-averaged value.

The right-hand side represents the mass transported through all of the four vertical control volume faces into the cell during one time-step. Graphical illustration on next slide!

Finite-volume discretization of continuity equation: Tracking mass



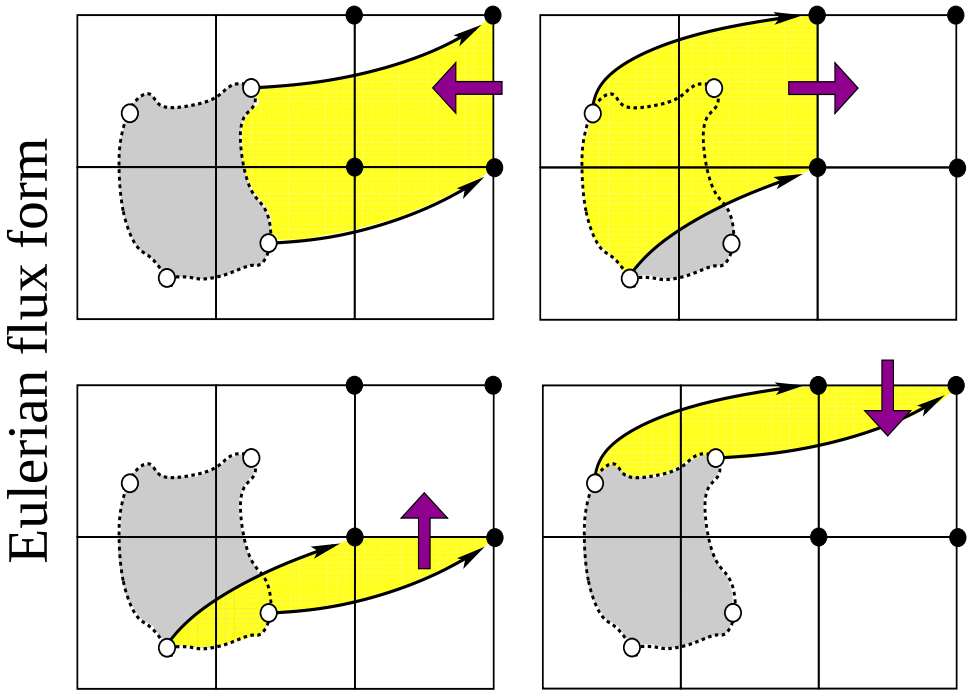


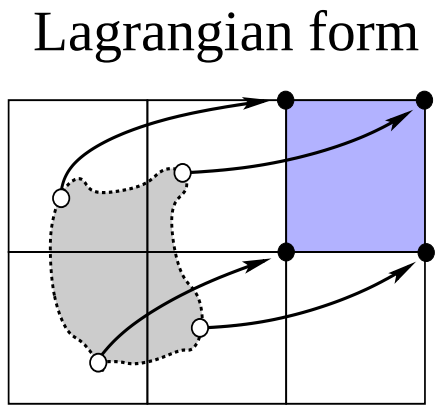
The yellow areas are 'swept' through the control volume faces during one time-step. The grey area is the corresponding Lagrangian area (area moving with the flow with no flow through its boundaries that ends up at the Eulerian control volume after one time-step). Black arrows show parcel trajectories.

Note **equivalence** between Eulerian flux-form and Lagrangian form!

(Lauritzen et al., 2011b)

Finite-volume discretization of continuity equation: Tracking mass





Until now everything has been exact. How do we approximate the fluxes numerically?

- In CAM-FV the Lin and Rood (1996) scheme is used which is a dimensionally split scheme (that is, rather than 'explicitly' estimating the boundaries of the yellow areas and integrate over them, fluxes are estimated by successive applications of one-dimensional operators in each coordinate direction).

The Lin and Rood (1996) advection scheme

$$\overline{\delta p}^{n+1} = \overline{\delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right],$$

where

$$F^{\lambda,\theta} = \text{ flux divergence in } \lambda \text{ or } \theta \text{ coordinate direction}$$

$$f^{\lambda,\theta} = \text{ advective update in } \lambda \text{ or } \theta \text{ coordinate direction}$$

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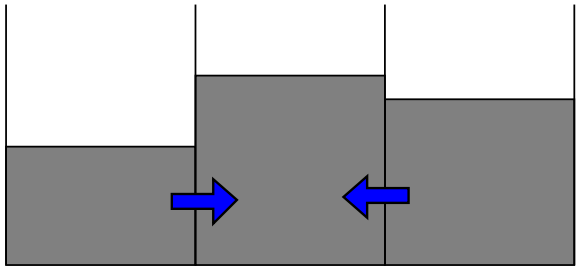

- Figure: Graphical illustration of flux-divergence operator F^{λ}. Shaded areas show cell average values for the cell we wish to make a forecast for and the two adjacent cells.

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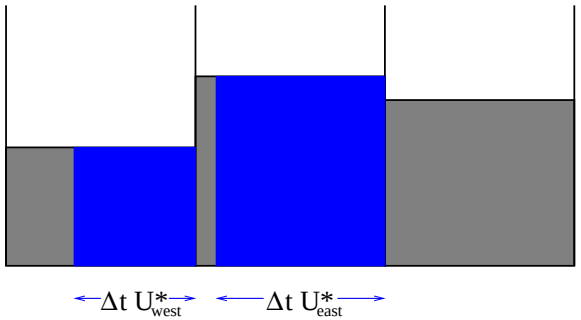

- $u^{*}_{East\,/\,West}$ are the time-averaged winds on each face (more on how these are obtained later).
- F^{λ} is proportional to the difference between mass 'swept' through East and West cell face.
- $f^{\lambda} = F^{\lambda} + \overline{\overline{<\delta p>}}\Delta t_{dyn} D$, where D is divergence.
- On Figure we assume constant sub-grid-cell reconstructions for the fluxes.

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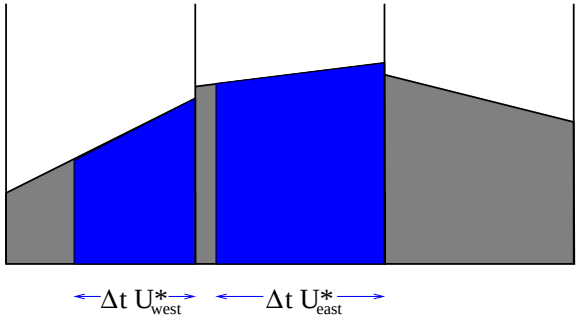

Higher-order approximation to the fluxes:

- Piecewise linear sub-grid-scale reconstruction (van Leer, 1977): Fit a linear function using neighboring grid-cell average values with mass-conservation as a constraint (i.e. area under linear function = cell average).

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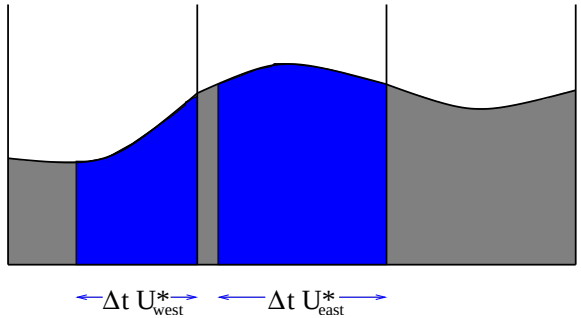

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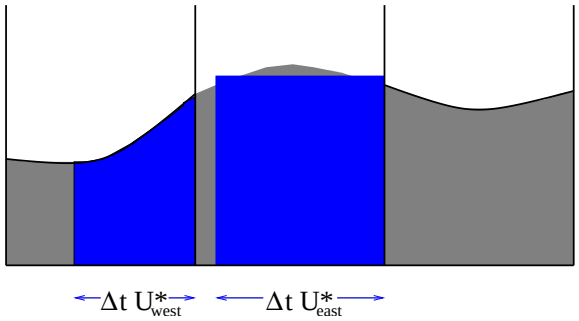
- Piecewise parabolic sub-grid-scale reconstruction (Colella and Woodward, 1984): Fit parabola using neighboring grid-cell average values with mass-conservation as a constraint. Note: Reconstruction is C^0 across cell edges.

The Lin and Rood (1996) advection scheme

$$\overline{\delta p}^{n+1} = \overline{\delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right],$$



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- Piecewise parabolic sub-grid-scale reconstruction (Colella and Woodward, 1984): fit parabola using neighboring grid-cell average values with mass-conservation as a constraint. Note: reconstruction is continuous at cell edges.
- Reconstruction function may 'overshoot' or 'undershoot' which may lead to unphysical and/or oscillatory solutions. Use limiters to render reconstruction function shape-preserving.

The Lin and Rood (1996) advection scheme

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Advantages:

- Inherently mass conservative (note: conservation does not necessarily imply accuracy!).
- Formulated in terms of one-dimensional operators.
- Preserves constant mass field for a non-divergent flow field (if the finite-difference approximation to divergence is zero).
- Preserves linear correlations between trace species (if shape-preservation filters are not applied)
- Has shape-preserving options.
- CAM-FV uses the PPM (Piecewise Parabolic Method; Colella and Woodward, 1984) with shape-preserving filters described in Lin and Rood (1996)

Namelist variables for *outer* operators

- In top layers operators are reduced to first order:

  if (k$\leq$klev/8) IORD=JORD=1

  E.g., for klev=30 the operators are altered in the top 3 layers.

- The advective $f^{\lambda,\theta}$ (*inner*) operators are 'hard-coded' to 1st order. For a linear analysis of the consequences of using *inner* and *outer* operators of different orders see Lauritzen (2007).

Adiabatic frictionless equations of motion

Hydrostatic equations of motion integrated over a Lagrangian layer

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial(\delta p)}{\partial t} &= -\nabla_h \cdot (\vec{v}_h \delta p)\,, \\
\frac{\partial(\delta p q)}{\partial t} &= -\nabla_h \cdot (\vec{v}_h \delta p)\,, \\
\frac{\partial \vec{v}_h}{\partial t} &= -\left(\zeta + f\right) \vec{k} \times \vec{v}_h - \nabla_h \kappa - \nabla_p \Phi, \\
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\end{aligned}
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The equations of motion are discretized using an Eulerian finite-volume approach.

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\overline{\delta p q}^{n+1} &= \text{super-cycled (discussed later)}, \\
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\overline{\delta p q}^{n+1} &= \text{super-cycled (discussed later)}, \\
\vec{v}_h^{\,n+1} &= \vec{v}_h^{\,n} - \vec{\Gamma}^1\left[(\zeta + f)\,\vec{k} \times \vec{v}_h\right] - \nabla_h\left(\vec{\Gamma}^2 \kappa\right) - \Delta t_{dyn} \widehat{P}, \\
\frac{\partial(\delta p \Theta)}{\partial t} &= -\nabla_h \cdot (\vec{v}_h \delta p \Theta)
\end{aligned}
$$

- $\vec{\Gamma}^1$ is operator using combinations of $F^{\lambda,\theta}$ and $f^{\lambda,\theta}$ as components to approximate the time-volume-average of the vertical component of absolute vorticity. Similarly for $\vec{\Gamma}^2$ but for kinetic energy. ∇_h is simply approximated by finite differences. For details see Lin (2004).
- $\widehat{P}$ is a finite-volume discretization of the pressure gradient force (see Lin 1997 for details).

Adiabatic frictionless equations of motion

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\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n+1} &= \overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n})\right)\right],
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
\overline{\delta p}^{n+1} &= \overline{\delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right], \\
\overline{\delta p q}^{n+1} &= \text{super-cycled (discussed later)}, \\
\vec{v}_h^{\,n+1} &= \vec{v}_h^{\,n} - \vec{\Gamma}^{1}\left[(\zeta + f)\,\vec{k} \times \vec{v}_h\right] - \nabla_h\left(\vec{\Gamma}^{2}\kappa\right) - \Delta t_{dyn}\widehat{P}, \\
\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n+1} &= \overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\Theta \delta p}^{n})\right)\right],
\end{aligned}
$$

- No explicit diffusion operators in equations (so far!).
- Implicit diffusion trough shape-preservation constraints in F and f operators.
- CAM-FV has 'control' over vorticity at the grid scale through implicit diffusion in the operators F and f but it does not have explicit control over divergence near the grid scale.

Adiabatic frictionless equations of motion

Hydrostatic equations of motion integrated over a Lagrangian layer

$$
\begin{aligned}
\overline{\delta p}^{n+1} &= \overline{\delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\delta p}^{n})\right)\right], \\
\overline{\delta p q}^{n+1} &= \text{super-cycled (discussed later)}, \\
\vec{v}_h^{\,n+1} &= \vec{v}_h^{\,n} - \vec{\Gamma}^{1}\left[(\zeta + f)\,\vec{k}\times\vec{v}_h\right] - \nabla_h\left(\vec{\Gamma}^{2}\kappa\right) - \Delta t_{dyn}\widehat{P} + \Delta t_{dyn}\nabla_h\left(\nu\nabla_h^{\ell}D\right), \ell = 0, 2 \\
\overline{\Theta\delta p}^{n+1} &= \overline{\Theta\delta p}^{n} + F^{\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\Theta\delta p}^{n} + f^{\theta}(\overline{\Theta\delta p}^{n})\right)\right] + F^{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overline{\Theta\delta p}^{n} + f^{\lambda}(\overline{\Theta\delta p}^{n})\right)\right],
\end{aligned}
$$

- No explicit diffusion operators in equations.
- Implicit diffusion trough shape-preservation constraints in F and f operators.
- The above discretization leads to 'control' over vorticity at the grid scale through implicit diffusion but no explicit control over divergence.
- Add divergence damping (2^{nd}-order or 4^{th}-order) term to momentum equations. Optionally a 'Laplacian-like' damping of wind components is used in upper 3 levels to slow down excessive polar night jet that appears at high horizontal resolutions.
  namelist variable: `div24del2flag`

  More details: Lauritzen et al. (2011a); for a stability analysis of divergence damping in CAM see Whitehead et al. (2011)

Total kinetic energy spectra

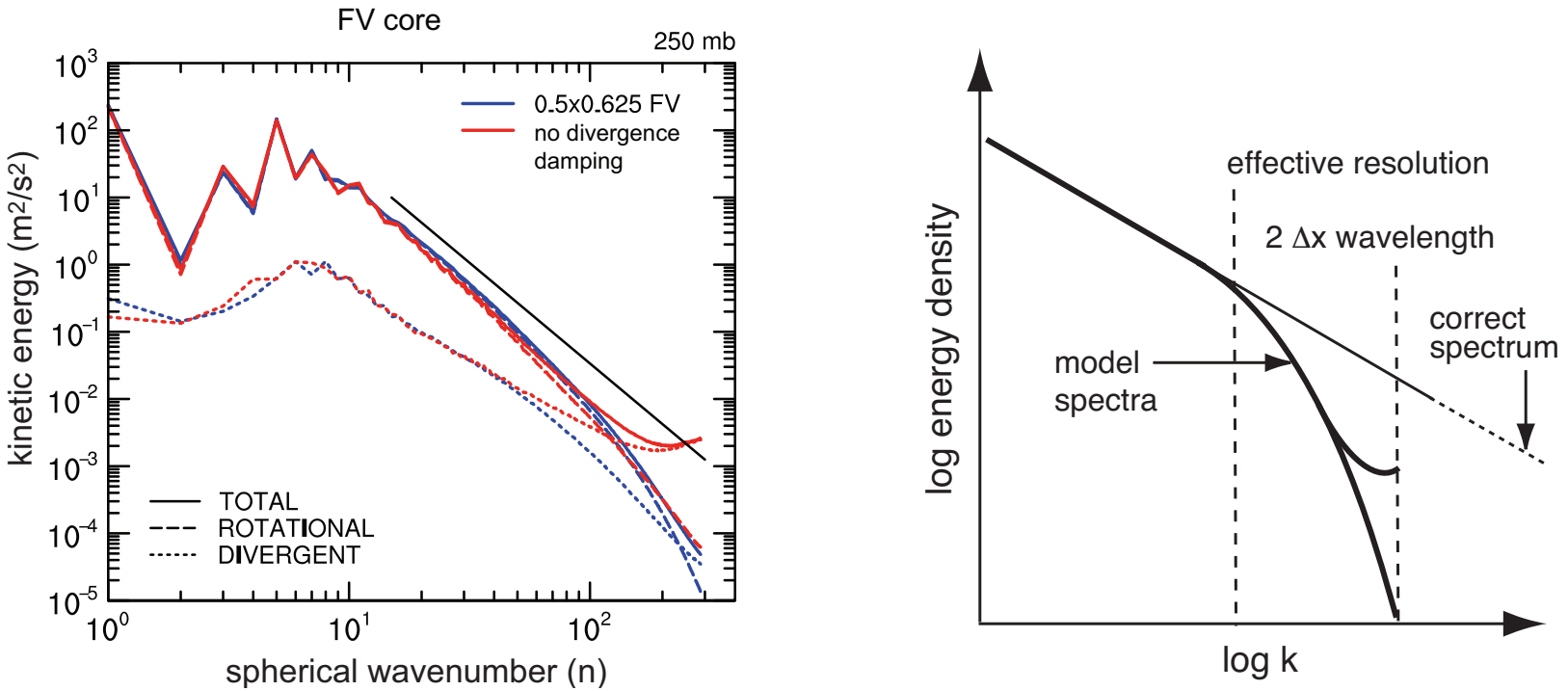


Figure: (left) Solid black line shows k^{-3} slope (courtesy of D.L. Williamson). (right) Schematic of 'effective resolution' (Figure from Skamarock (2011)).

- (left) Without divergence damping there is a spurious accumulation of total kinetic energy associated with divergent modes near the grid scale.
- (right) Note: total kinetic energy spectra can also be used to assess 'effective resolution' (see, e.g., discussion in Skamarock, 2011)

Time-stepping: the 'CD'- grid approach

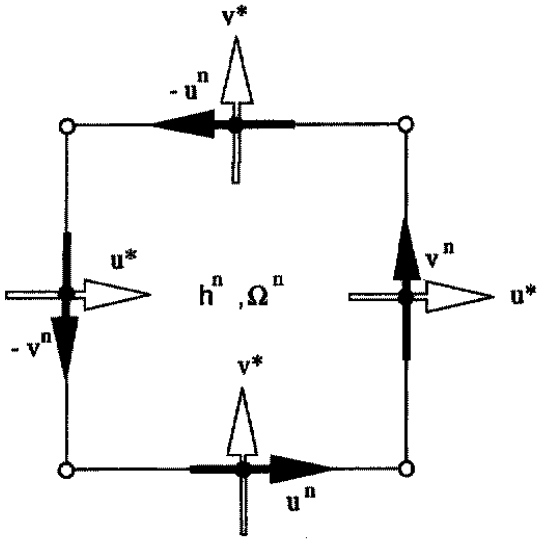


Figure from Lin and Rood (1997).

Definition of Arakawa C and D horizontal staggering (Arakawa and Lamb, 1977):

- C: velocity components at the center of cell faces and orthogonal to cell faces and mass variables at the cell center. Natural choice for mass-flux computations when using Lin and Rood (1996) scheme.
- D: velocity components parallel to cell faces and mass variables at the cell center. Natural choice for computing the circulation of vorticity ($\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$).

Time-stepping: the 'CD'- grid approach

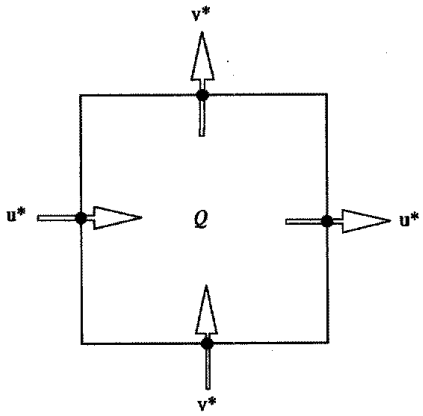


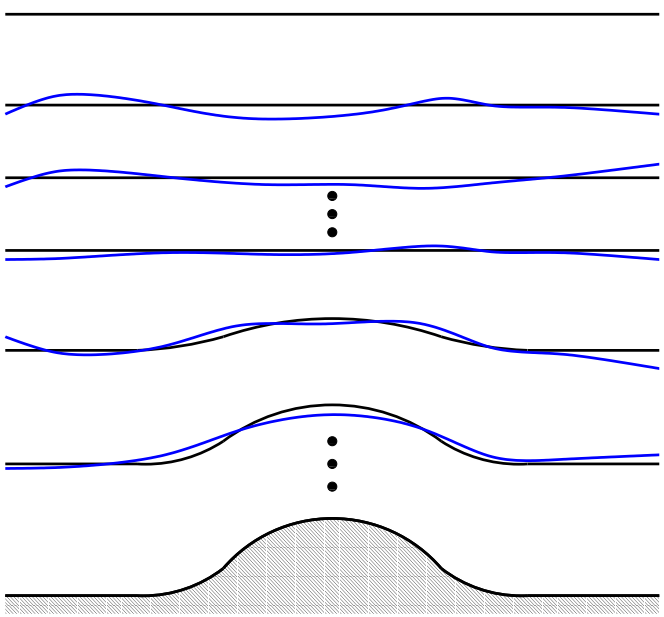
Figure from Lin and Rood (1997).

- For the flux- and advection operators (F and f, respectively) in the Lin and Rood (1996) scheme the time-centered advective winds (u^*, v^*) for the cell faces are needed:
- An option: extrapolate winds (as in semi-Lagrangian models) $\Rightarrow$ can result in noise near steep topography (Lin and Rood, 1997).

- Instead, the equations of motion are integrated forward in time for $\frac{1}{2}\Delta t_{dyn}$ using a C grid horizontal staggering.
- These C-grid winds (u^*, v^*) are then used for the 'full' time-step update (everything else from the C-grid forecast is 'thrown away').
- The 'full' time-step update is performed on a D-grid.
- For a linear stability analysis of the 'CD'-grid approach see Skamarock (2008).

Vertical remapping

- CAM-FV uses a Lagrangian ('floating') vertical coordinate ξ.
- ξ is retained *ksplit* dynamics time-steps Δt_{dyn}.
- Hereafter the prognostic variables are remapped to the Eulerian vertical grid η.
- For horizontal resolution of 1° CAM $ksplit = 4$ and $\Delta t_{dyn} = 225s$
  $\Rightarrow$ vertical remapping time-step is $900s$
- Δt_{dyn} is chosen based on stability
  (limited by gravity wave speed in CAM; advective winds in WACCM)
- Meridians are converging towards the poles: to stabilize the model (and reduce noise) FFT filters are applied along latitudes North/South of approximately 36°N/S.



Super-cycling (also referred to as sub-cycling) of tracers

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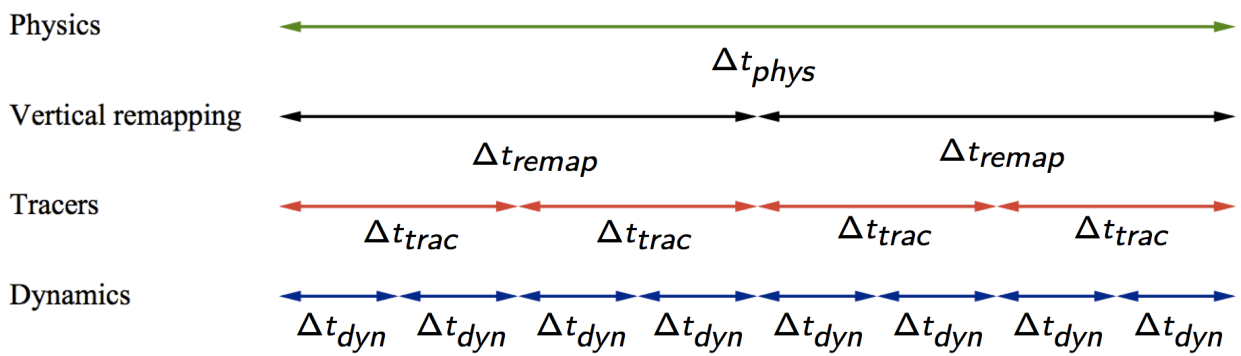
- The tracer transport equation can be solved in isolation given prescribed winds and air densities, and is therefore not susceptible to the time-step restrictions imposed by the fastest waves in the system.
- For efficiency: Use longer time-step for continuity equation for tracers than for air.



Δt_{dyn} = dynamics time-step; Δt_{trac} = tracer time-step; Δt_{remap} = remap time-step; Δt_{phys} = physics time-step (typically $1800s$)

Leads to a major 'speed-up' of dynamics.

Time-steps and namelist variables to control time-steps

The finite-volume fluid flow solver is coded in terms of nested loops:

```
do iv = 1, nv !  vertical re-mapping sub-cycle loop
  do n = 1, n2 !  tracer sub-cycle loop
    do it = 1, nsplit !  dynamics sub-cycle loop

    enddo
  enddo
enddo
```

where nv,n2, and nsplit are defined in terms of 'fv_' namelist variables

```
nv = fv_nspltvrm
n2 = (2*fv_nspltrac-1)/fv_nspltvrm
nsplit = (fv_nsplit+n2*fv_nspltvrm-1) / (n2*fv_nspltvrm)
```

and the time-steps are given by

Δt_{remap} = Δt_{phys} / fv_nspltvrm = 900s (in CAM 1°)
Δt_{trac} = Δt_{phys} / fv_nspltvrm*n2 = 900s (in CAM 1°)
Δt_{dyn} = Δt_{phys} / fv_nspltvrm*n2*fv_nsplit= 225s (in CAM 1°)

Free-stream preserving 'super-cycling' of tracers with respect to air ρ

Simply solving the tracer continuity equation for $\overline{q\delta p}^{n+1}$ using Δt_{trac} will lead to inconsistencies. Why?

Continuity equation for air δp

$$\frac{\partial \delta p}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\delta p \, \vec{v}_h) = 0, \tag{4}$$

and a tracer with mixing ratio q

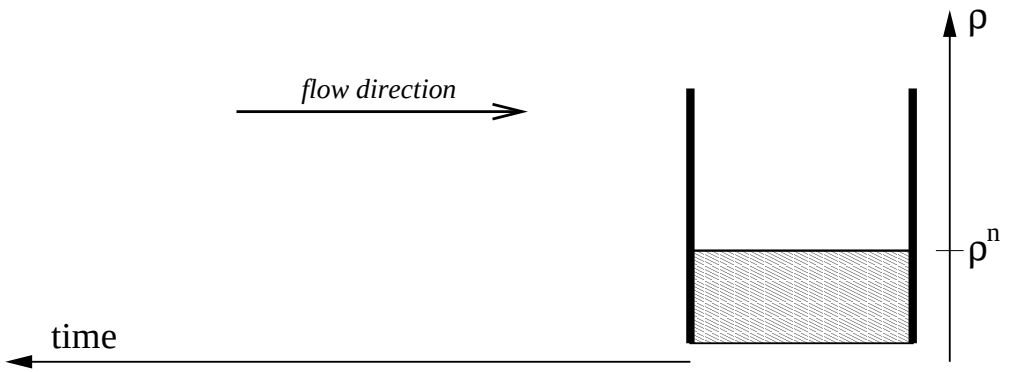
$$\frac{\partial (\delta p \, q)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\delta p \, q \, \vec{v}_h) = 0, \tag{5}$$

For $q = 1$ equation (5) reduces to (4). If this is satisfied in the numerical discretizations, the scheme is 'free-stream' preserving.

Solving (5) with $q = 1$ using Δt_{trac} will NOT produce the same solution as solving (4) `nsplit` times using Δt_{dyn}!

Graphical illustration of 'free stream' preserving transport of tracers

Assume no flux through East cell wall.



- Solve continuity equation for air δp together with momentum and thermodynamics equations.

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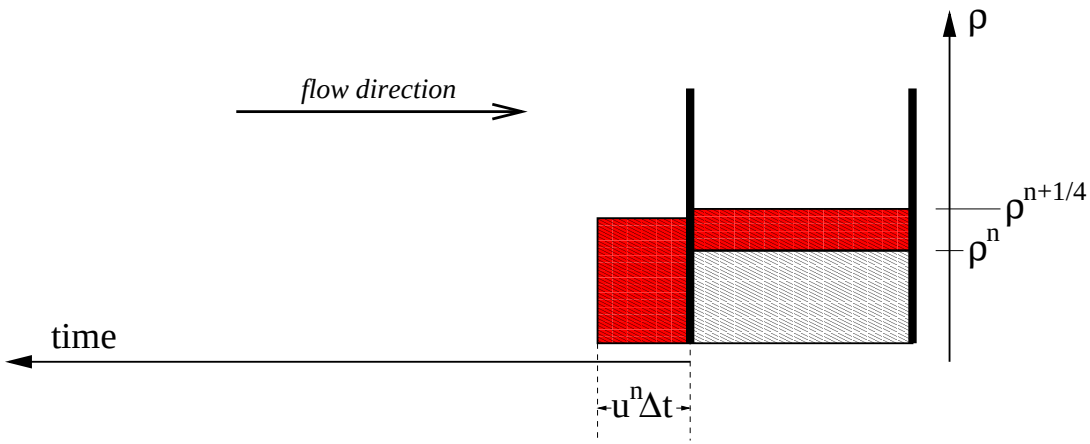

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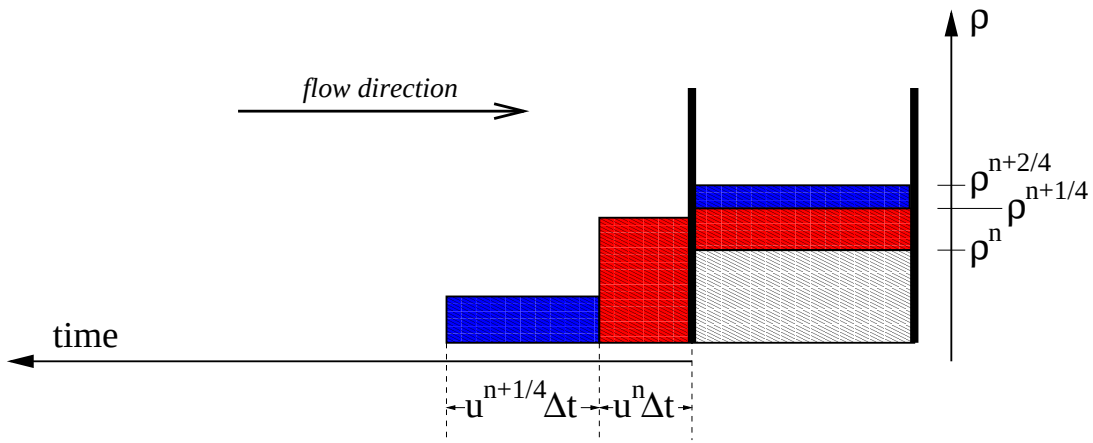

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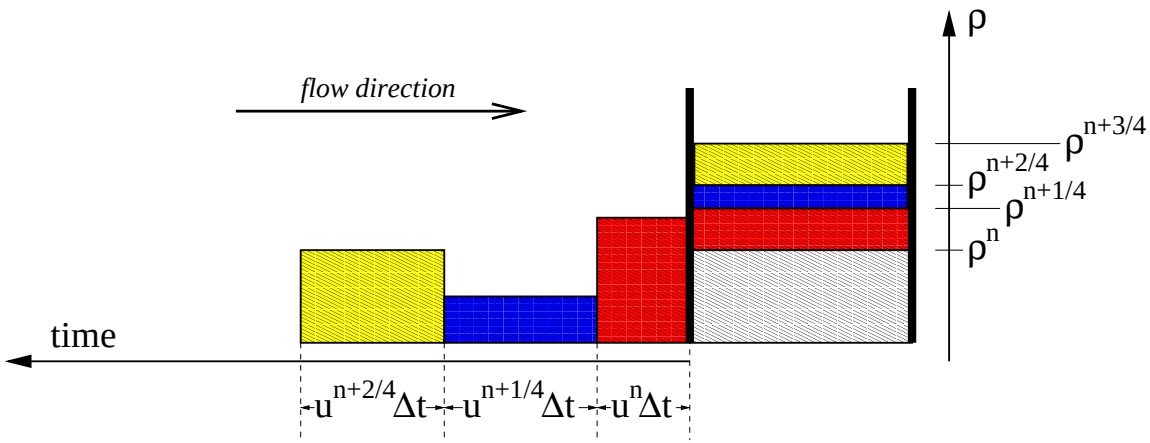

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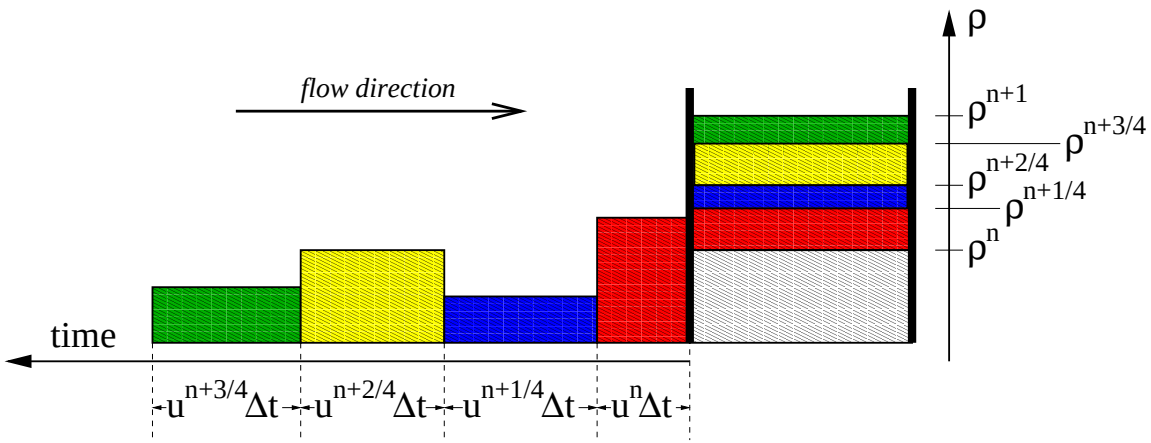

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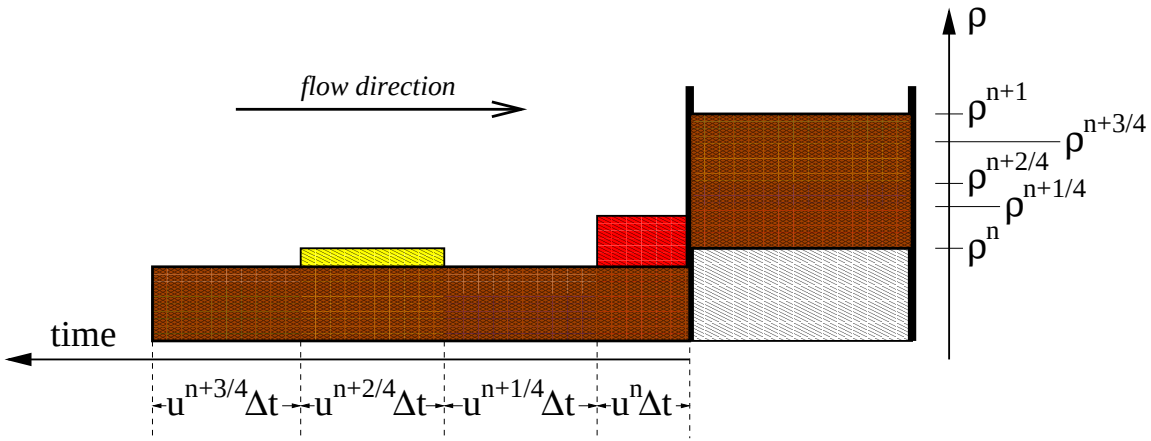

- Solve continuity equation for air δp together with momentum and thermodynamics equations.
- Repeat *nsplit* times
- Brown area = average flow of mass through cell face.
- Compute time-averaged value of q across brown area using Lin and Rood (1996) scheme: $\overline{\overline{< q >}}$.
- Forecast for tracer is: $\overline{\overline{< q >}} \times \sum_{i=1}^{nsplit} \delta p^{n+i/nsplit}$
- Yields 'free stream' preserving solution!

CAM-FV accuracy

- CAM-FV has a very efficient and quite consistent treatment of the tracers.
- This is very important: Number of trace species in climate models are increasing and accounts for most of the computational 'work' in the dynamical core.

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- Rasch et al. (2006) did a comprehensive study of the characteristics of atmospheric transport using three dynamical cores in CAM (CAM-FV, CAM-EUL, ~~CAM-SLD~~):

  What is CAM-EUL? (Collins et al., 2004):

  - Based on the spectral transform method and semi-implicit time-stepping
  - EUL = Eulerian discretization in grid-point space.
  - Tracer transport with non-conservative semi-Lagrangian scheme ('fixers' restore formal mass-conservation)

  The results from this study favor use of the CAM-FV core for tracer transport. Compared to CAM-EUL, CAM-FV

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  - less diffusive (e.g. maintains strong gradients better)
  - maintains thermodynamic relationships among variables more accurately.

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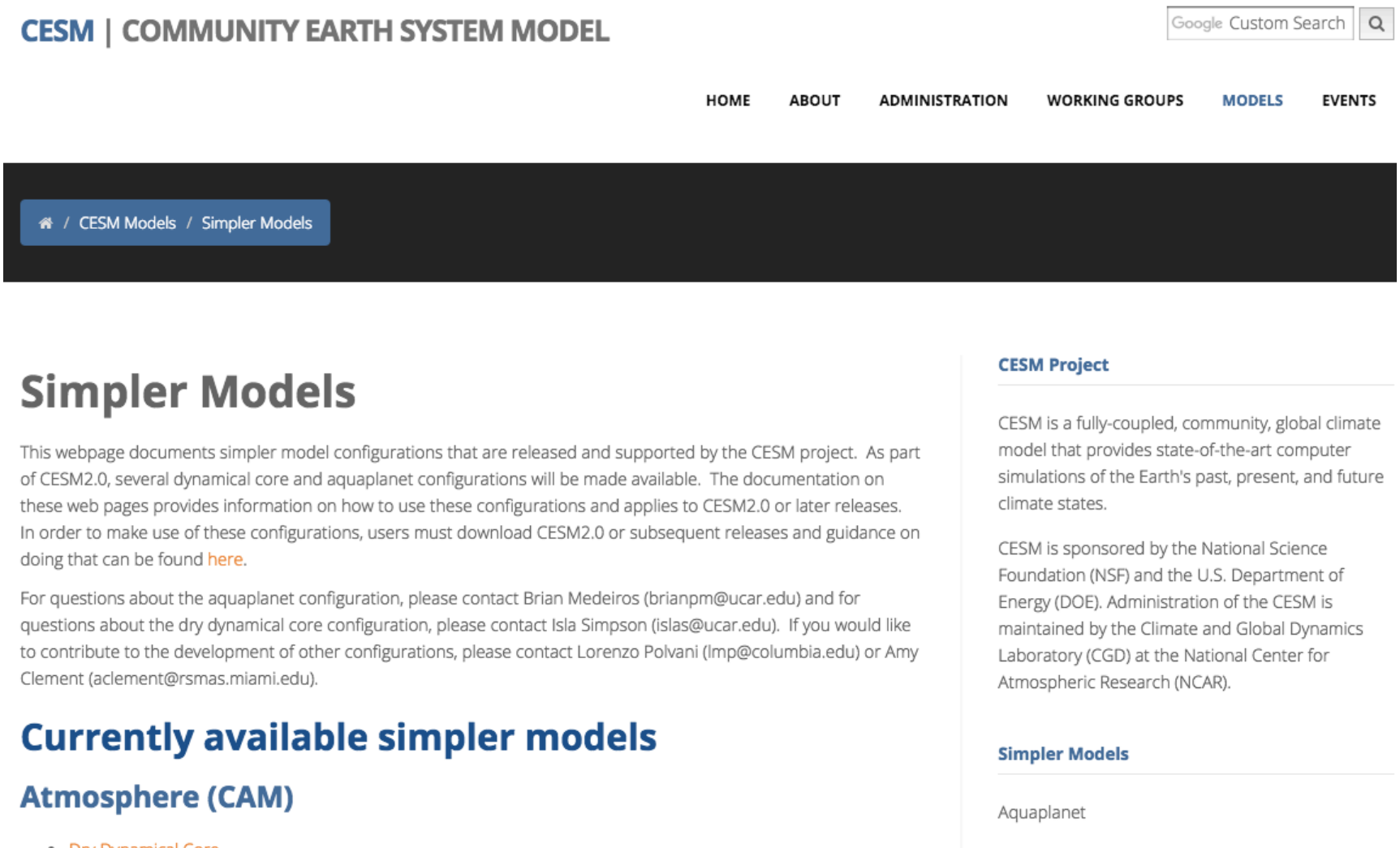
  - maintains thermodynamic relationships among variables more accurately.

However, with respect to some other climate statistics CAM-FV needs higher horizontal resolution to produce results equivalent to those produced using the spectral transform dynamical core in CAM (CAM-EUL). Effective resolution is coarser in CAM-EUL! See Williamson (2008) for details.

Simpler CAM model configurations

http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/simpler-models/
http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/simpler-models-indev/ (in development)

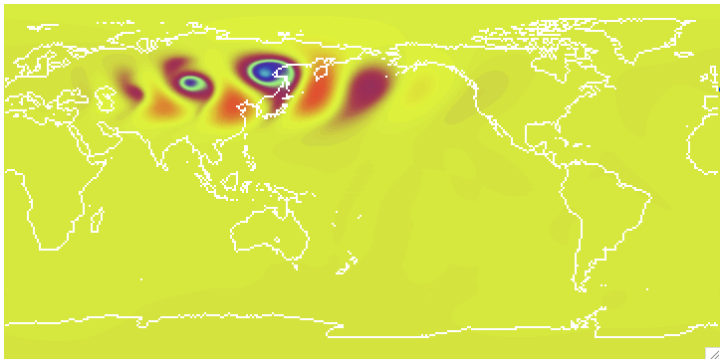


Moist baroclinic wave

Ullrich et al. (2014): Q≠0; supports deep atmosphere approximation

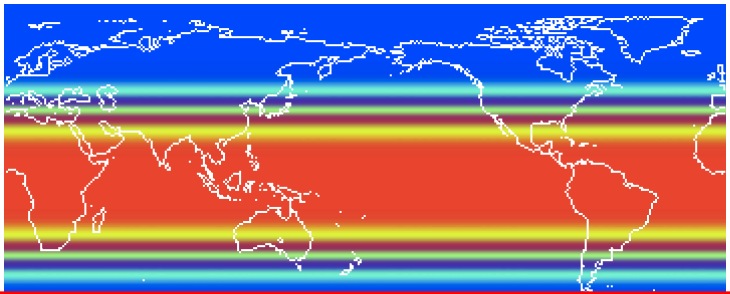
P.H.Lauritzen & S.Goldhaber

PS, day 10

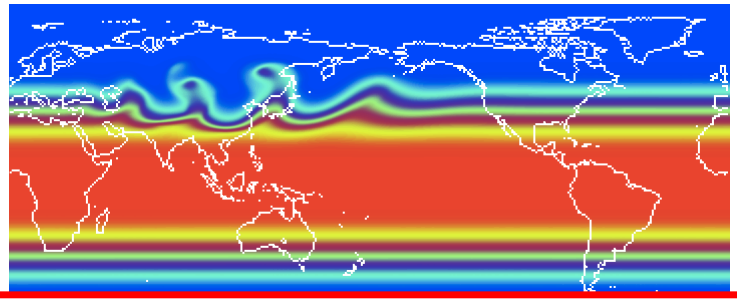


Baroclinic wave used for DCMIP 2016

Q, level 976hPa, Day 0



Q, level 976hPa, Day 10



```
./create_newcase -compset FADIAB -res ne30_ne30
./xmlchange -append CAM_CONFIG_OPTS="-analytic_ic"
echo "analytic_ic_type    = 'baroclinic_wave'">> user_nl_cam
```

Moist baroclinic wave with Kessler Micro Physics

NCAR
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Ullrich et al. (2014) baroclinic with 3 tracers (cloud ice, rain water, water vapor)+Kessler (1969) physics

P.H.Lauritzen, C.Zarzycki & S.Goldhaber

A. KESSLER PHYSICS

The cloud microphysics update according to the following equation set:

$$\frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} = -\frac{L}{c_p \pi}\left(\frac{\Delta q_{vs}}{\Delta t} + E_r\right) \quad (78)$$

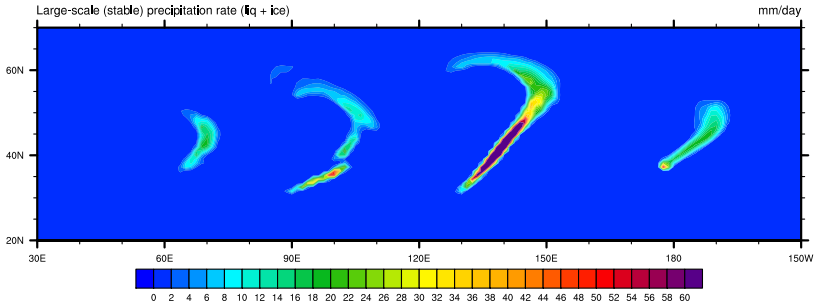
$$\frac{\Delta q_v}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta q_{vs}}{\Delta t} + E_r \quad (79)$$

$$\frac{\Delta q_c}{\Delta t} = -\frac{\Delta q_{vs}}{\Delta t} - A_r - C_r \quad (80)$$

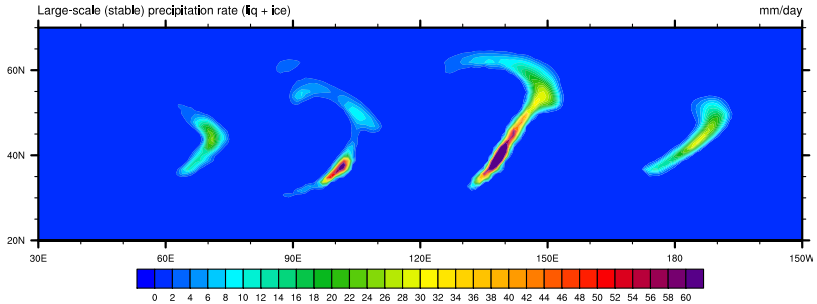
$$\frac{\Delta q_r}{\Delta t} = -E_r + A_r + C_r - V_r \frac{\partial q_r}{\partial z}, \quad (81)$$

where L is the latent heat of condensation, A_r is the autoconversion rate of cloud water to rain water, C_r is the collection rate of rain water, E_r is the rain water evaporation rate, and V_r is the rain water terminal velocity.

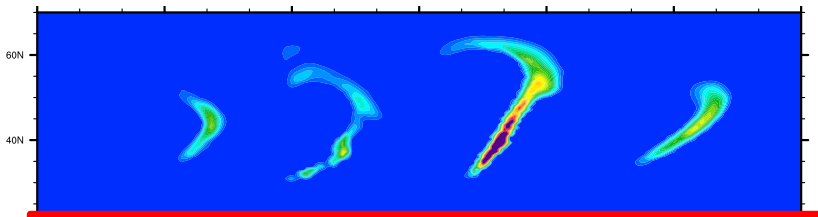
CAM-FV, day 10



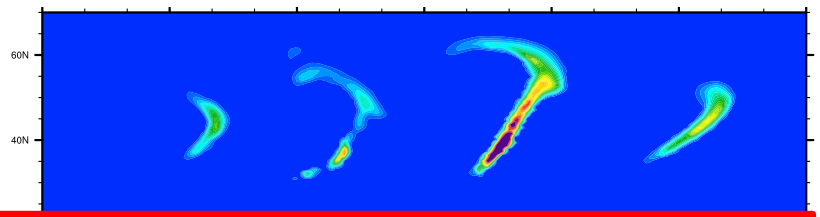
CAM-SE-CSLAM, day 10



CAM-SE, day 10



CAM-SE (dtime = 900s), day 10




```
./create_newcase -compset FKESSLER -res ne30_ne30
```

Simpler CAM model configurations

- `-compset FHS94`: Held-Suarez test case (Held and Suarez, 1994):
  - Simple Newtonian relaxation of the temperature field to a zonally symmetric state
  - Rayleigh damping of low-level winds representing boundary-layer friction

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \cdots - k_v(\sigma) v$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \cdots - k_T(\phi,\sigma)\left[T - T_{eq}(\phi,p)\right]$$

$$T_{eq} = \max\left\{200\text{K}, \left[315\text{K} - (\Delta T)_y \sin^2\phi - (\Delta\theta)_z \log\left(\frac{p}{p_0}\right)\cos^2\phi\right]\left(\frac{p}{p_0}\right)^{\kappa}\right\}$$

$$k_T = k_a + (k_s - k_a)\max\left(0, \frac{\sigma - \sigma_b}{1-\sigma_b}\right)\cos^4\phi$$

$$k_v = k_f \max\left(0, \frac{\sigma - \sigma_b}{1-\sigma_b}\right)$$

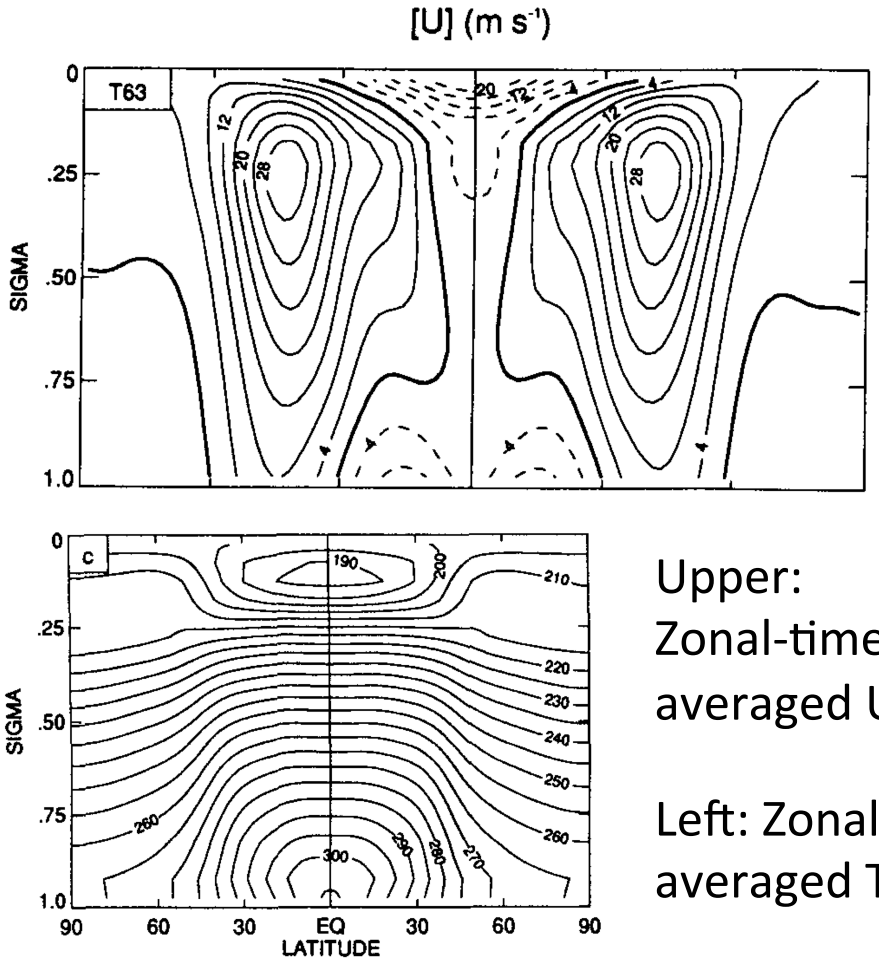
$\sigma_b = 0.7$ $\quad k_f = 1\ \text{day}^{-1}$,

$k_a = 1/40\ \text{day}^{-1}$ $\quad k_s = 1/4\ \text{day}^{-1}$

$(\Delta T)_y = 60\text{K}$ $\quad (\Delta\theta)_z = 10\text{K}$

$p_0 = 1000\ \text{mb}$ $\quad \kappa = \frac{R}{c_p} = \frac{2}{7}$ $\quad c_p = 1004\ \text{J kg}^{-1}\ \text{K}^{-1}$

$\Omega = 7.292 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{s}^{-1}$ $\quad g = 9.8\ \text{m s}^{-2}$ $\quad a_e = 6.371 \times 10^6\ \text{m}.$



Upper: Zonal-time averaged U

Left: Zonal-time averaged T

Note: this test case can be used to assess how well the dynamical core conserves axial angular momentum (Lebonnois et al., 2012; Lauritzen et al., 2014)

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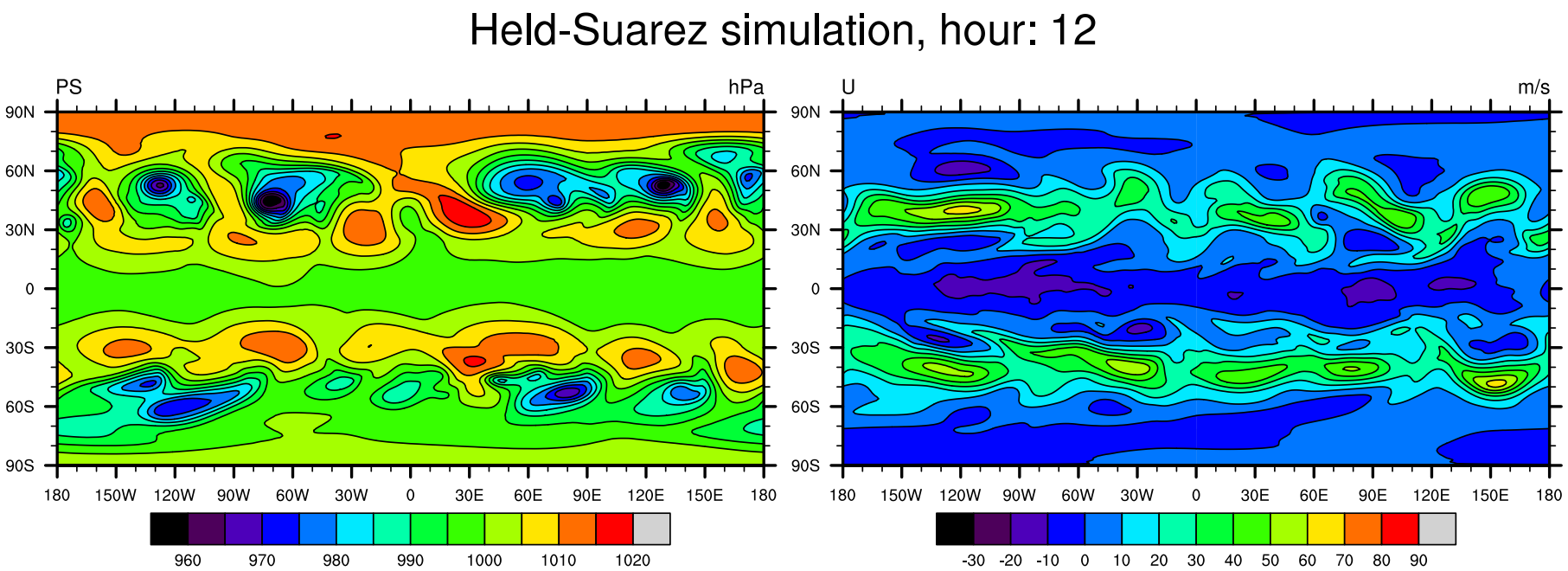

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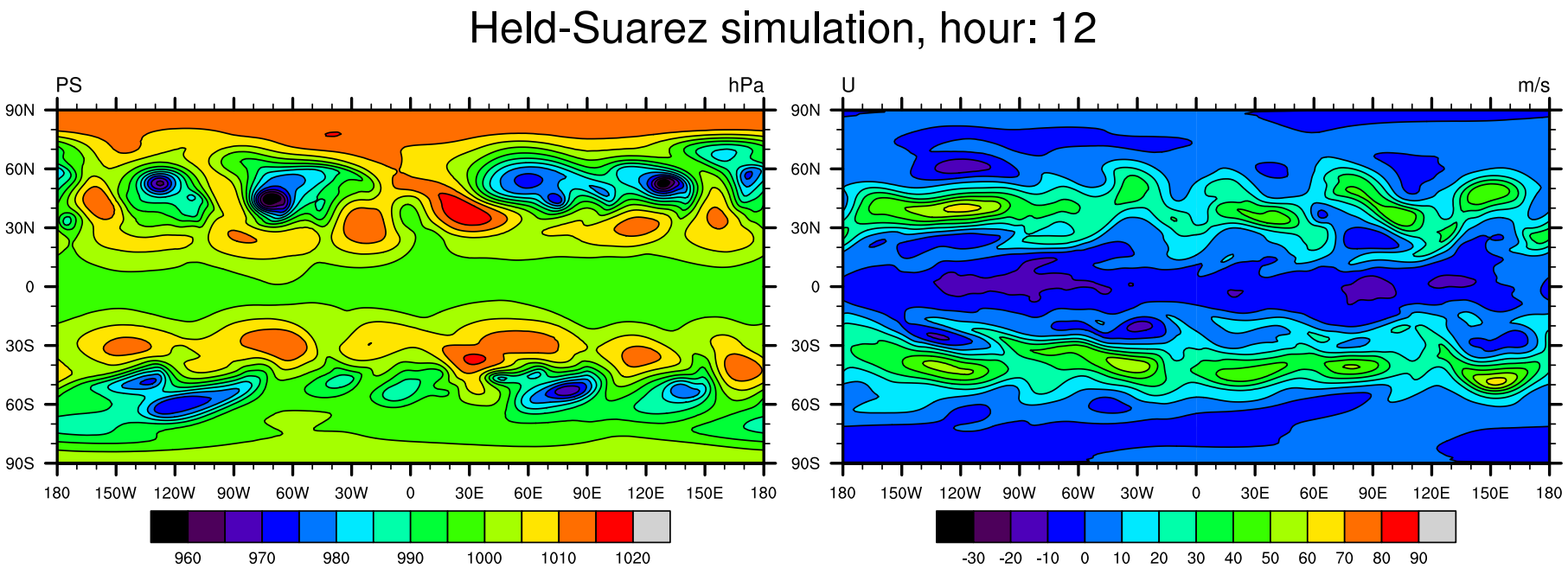
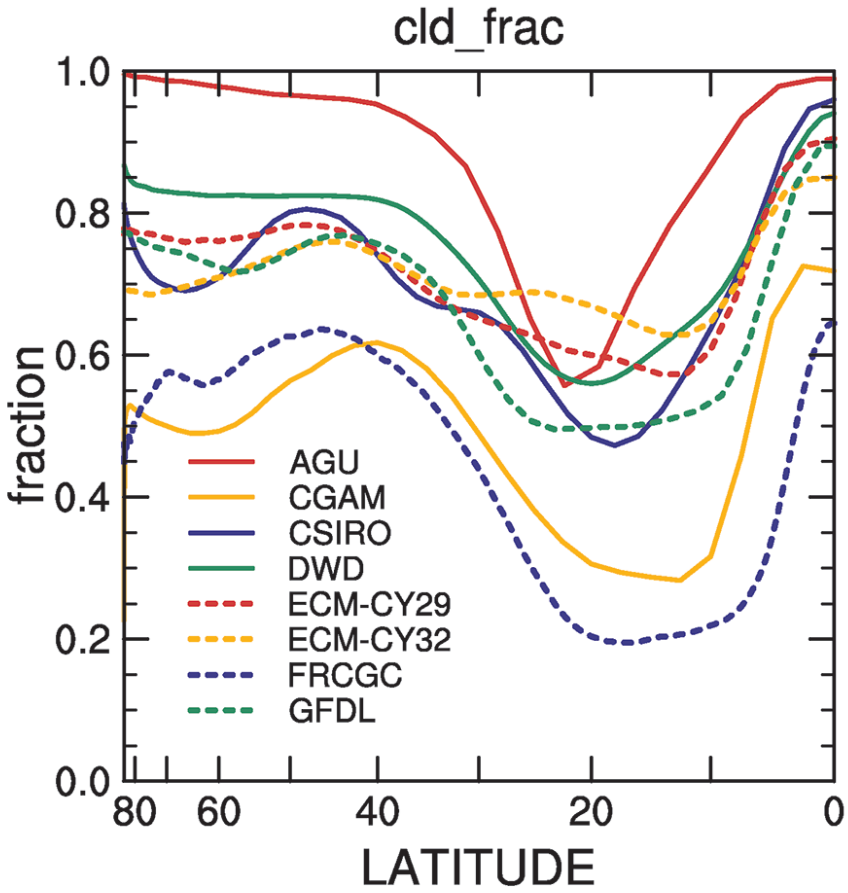
  - Rayleigh damping of low-level winds representing boundary-layer friction

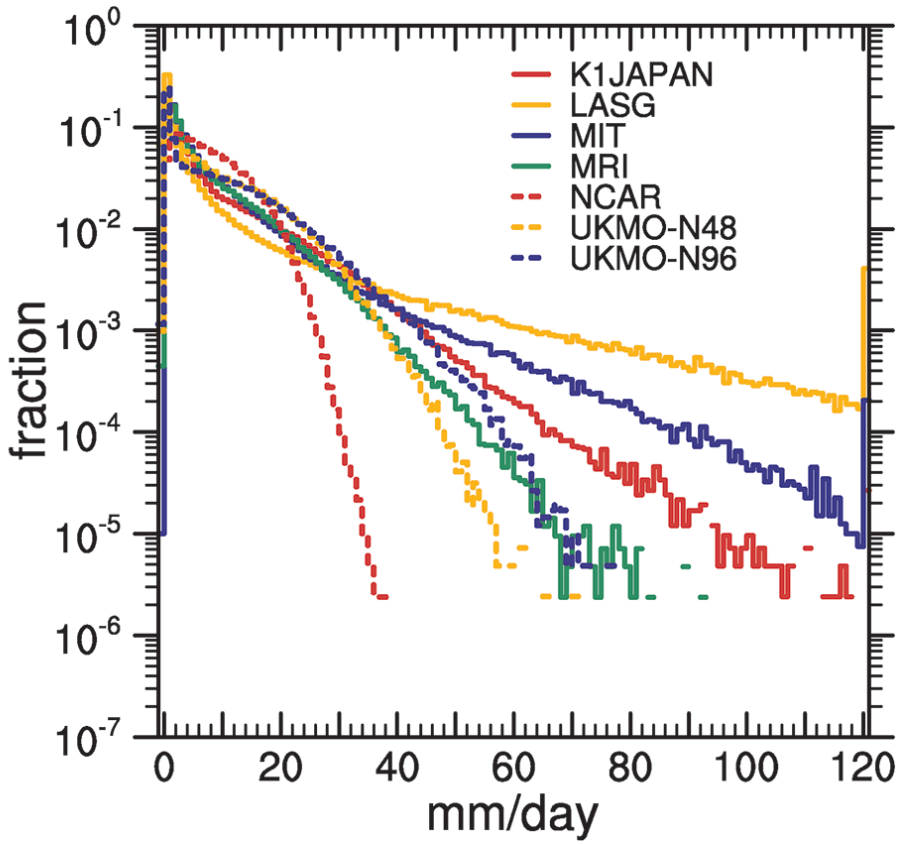


- More idealized dynamical core tests: DCMIP (Dynamical Core Model Intercomparison Project; lead by C. Jablonowski); https://earthsystemcog.org/projects/dcmip-2016/

Simpler CAM model configurations

- QPC4,5,6: Ocean only planet (referred to as Aquaplanet Earth - APE) with zonally symmetric SST-forcing using 'full' physics package (Neale and Hoskins, 2000). See example of application in Williamson (2008); Blackburn et al. (2013). APE atlas (Williamson et al., 2012).





(left) Zonal-time average cloud fraction.(right) Fraction of time precipitation is in 1 mm/day bins. Figures from Blackburn et al. (2013)

The reformulation of global climate/weather models for massively parallel computer architectures

The reformulation of global climate/weather models for massively parallel computer architectures

Traditionally the equations of motion have been discretized on the traditional regular latitude-longitude grid using either

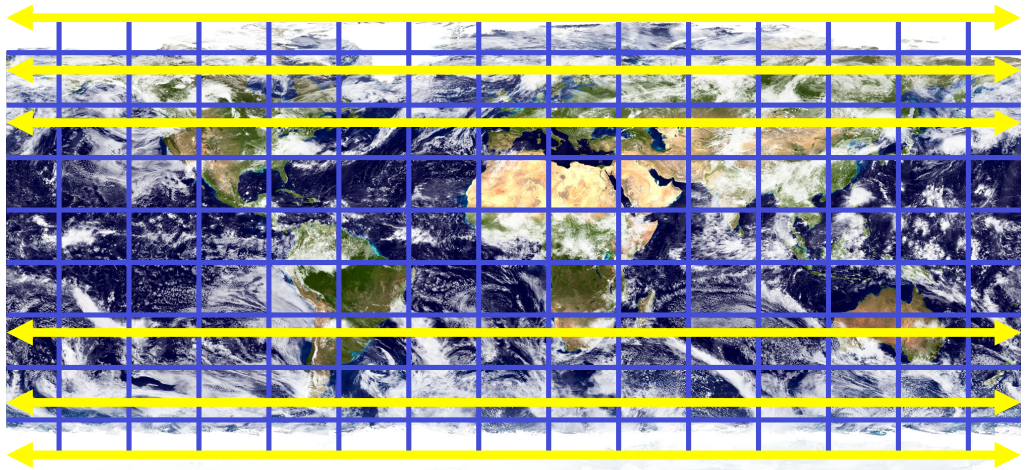
1. spherical harmonics based methods (dominated for over 40 years)
2. finite-difference/finite-volume methods (e.g., CAM-FV)

Both methods require non-local communication:

1. Legendre transform
2. 'polar[a] filters' (due to convergence of the meridians near the poles)

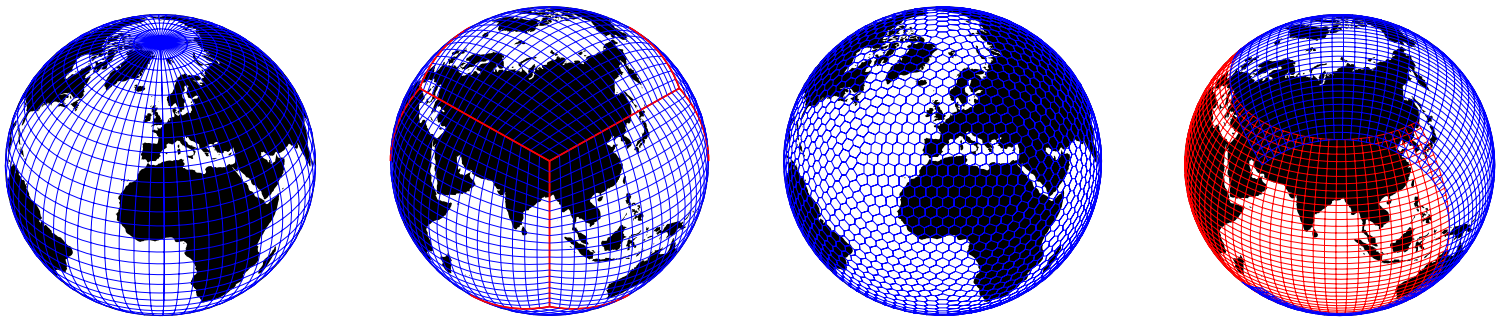
respectively, and are therefore not "trivially" amenable for massively parallel compute systems.

[a] confusing terminology: filters are also applied away from polar regions: $\theta \in [\pm 36^\circ, \pm 90]$

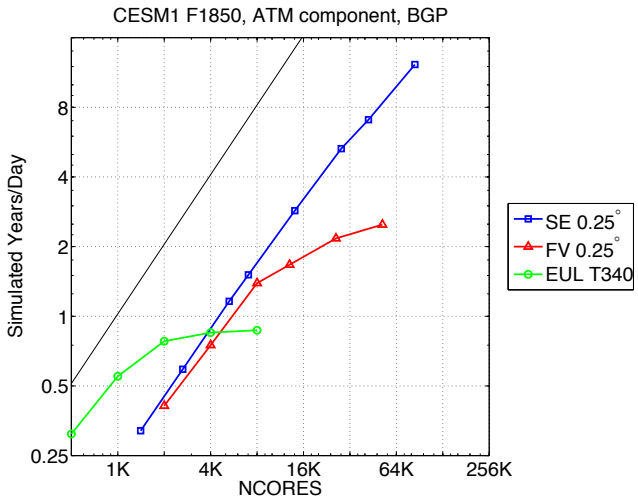


Rectangular computational space

The reformulation of global climate/weather models for massively parallel computer architectures



- Quasi-uniform grid + local numerical method $\Rightarrow$ no non-local communication necessary



Performance in through-put for different dynamical cores in NCAR's global atmospheric climate model:

horizontal resolution: approximately 25km $\times$ 25km grid boxes

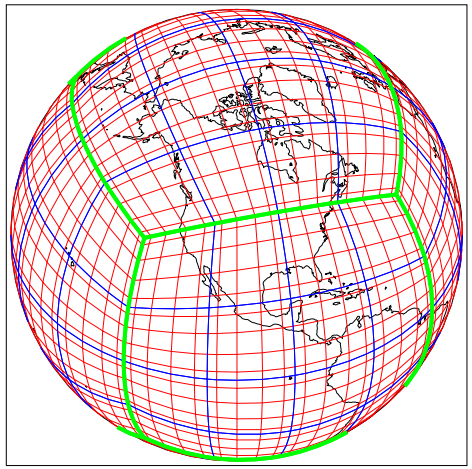
- EUL = spectral transform (lat-lon grid)
- FV = finite-volume (reg. lat-lon grid)
- SE = spectral element (cubed-sphere grid)

Computer = Intrepid (IBM Blue Gene/P Solution) at Argonne National Laboratory

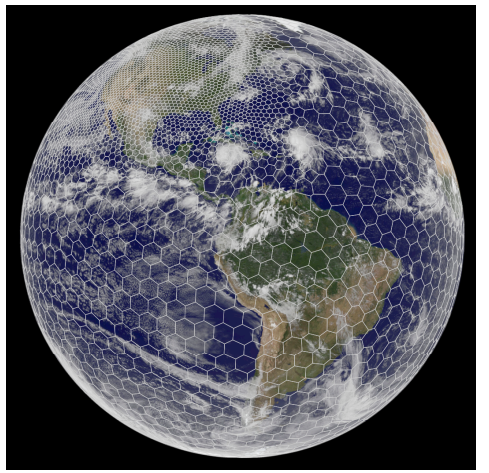
Note that for small compute systems CAM-EUL has SUPERIOR throughput!!

Scalable dynamical cores in CAM

- CAM-SE (Lauritzen et al., 2017; in prep): Spectral Elements
  - Dynamical core based on HOMME (High-Order Method Modeling Environment, Thomas and Loft 2005).
  - Mass-conservative to machine precision and good total energy conservation properties
  - Conserves axial angular momentum very well (Lauritzen et al., 2014)
  - Discretized on cubed-sphere (uniform resolution or conforming mesh-refinement) and highly scalable
  - $1/4^{\circ}$ 'work-horse' for climate applications
  - New NCAR CAM-SE version using dry-mass vertical coordinates and with comprehensive treatment of condensates and energy will be released with CESM2



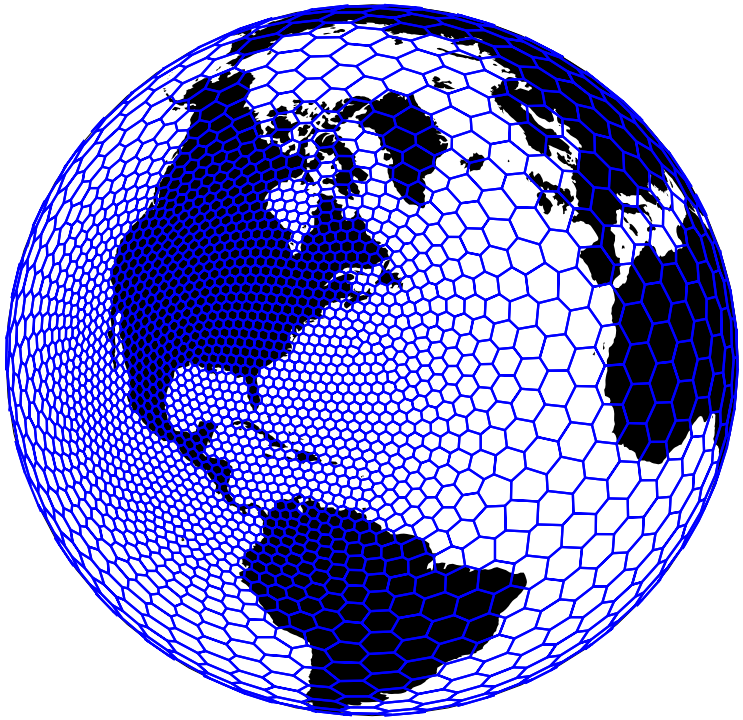
- MPAS (Skamarock et al., 2012): Finite-volume unstructured
  - MPAS = Model for Prediction Across Scales
  - Centroidal Voronoi tessellation of the sphere
  - Fully compressible non-hydrostatic discretization similar to Weather Research Weather (WRF) model (Skamarock and Klemp, 2008)
  - Being integrated into CAM (S.-H. Park, J. Jang, C. Zarzycki, ...)



Figures courtesy of R.D. Nair (upper) and W.C. Skamarock (lower).

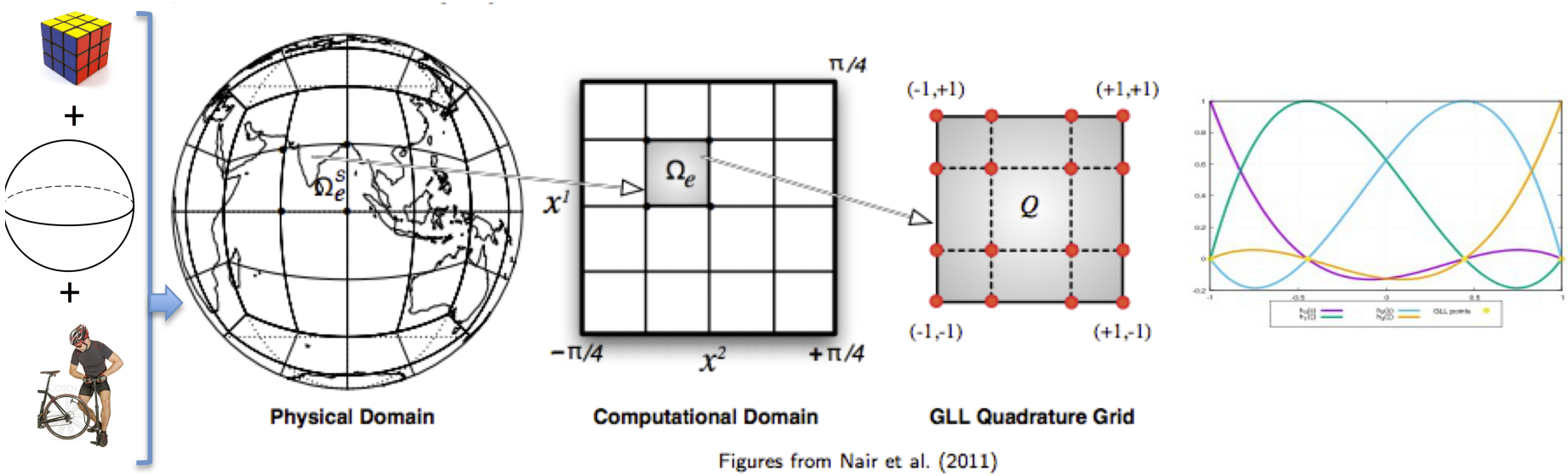
Scalable dynamical cores in CAM

Both CAM-SE and MPAS support mesh-refinement:



CAM-SE: Lauritzen et al. (2017; in prep)

CAM-SE uses a continuous Galerkin finite element method (Taylor et al., 1997) referred to as **Spectral Elements (SE)**:



- Physical domain: Tile the sphere with quadrilaterals using the gnomonic cubed-sphere projection
- Computational domain: Mapped local Cartesian domain
- Each element operates with a Gauss-Lobatto-Legendre (GLL) quadrature grid

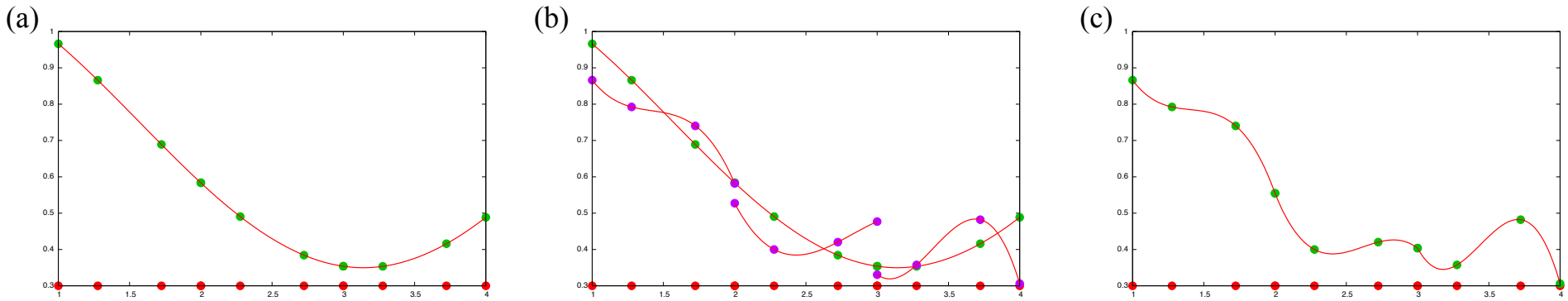
  Gaussian quadrature using the GLL grid will integrate a polynomial of degree $2N - 1$ exactly, where N is degree of polynomial
- Elementwise the solution is projected onto a tensor product of 1D Legendre basis functions

  by multiplying the equations of motion by test functions; *weak Galerkin formation*

  $\rightarrow$ all derivatives inside each element can be computed analytically!

CAM-SE: Lauritzen et al. (2017; in prep)

CAM-SE uses a continuous Galerkin finite element method (Taylor et al., 1997) referred to as **Spectral Elements (SE)**:



How do solutions in each element 'communicate' with each other?

- The solution is projected onto the space of globally continuous (C^0) piecewise polynomials
- $\rightarrow$ point values are forced to be C^0 continuous along element boundaries by averaging.
- Note: this is the only operation in which information 'propagates' between elements
- MPI data-communication: only information on the boundary of elements!

CAM-SE: Lauritzen et al. (2017; in prep)

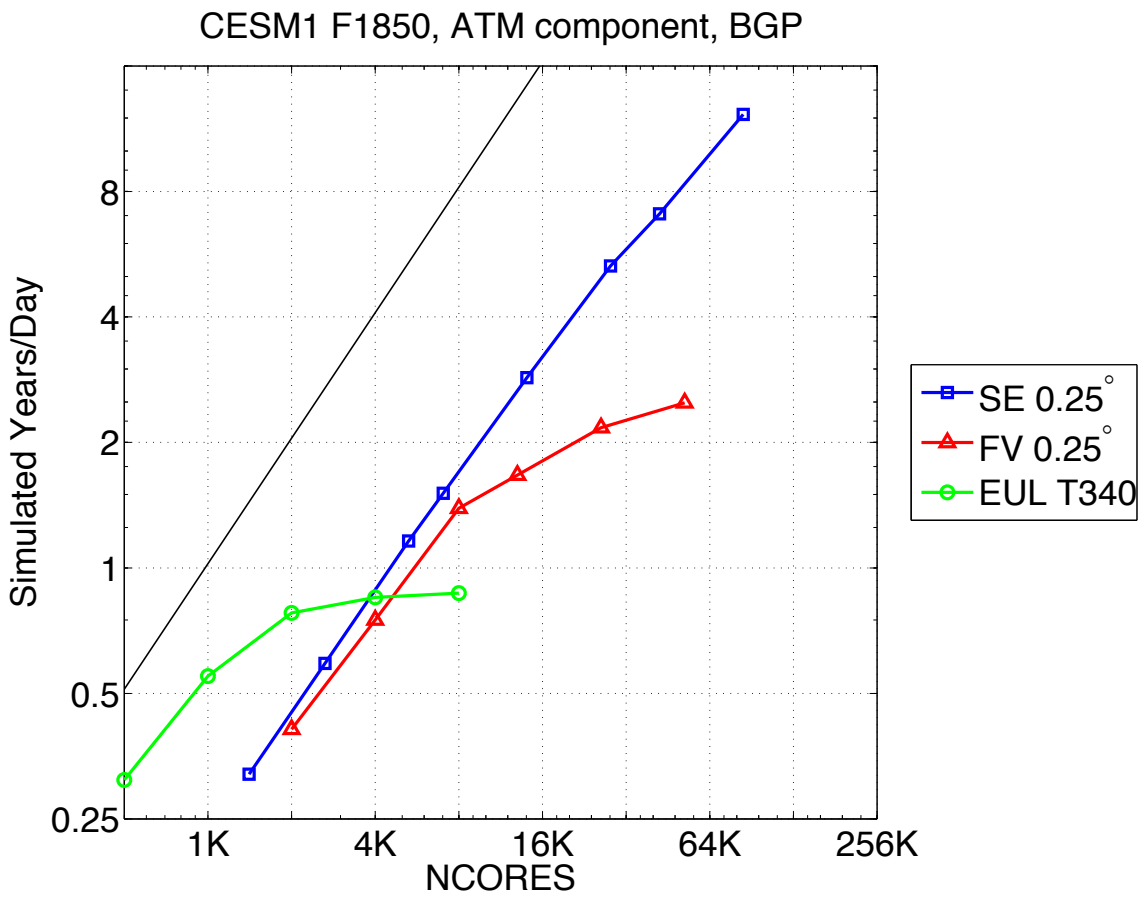


Figure from Dennis et al. (2012)

CAM-SE has superior scalability properties compared to other dynamical core options in CAM
$\rightarrow$ given a sufficiently large machine we can run climate simulations at unprecedented resolutions

CAM-SE: Lauritzen et al. (2017; in prep)

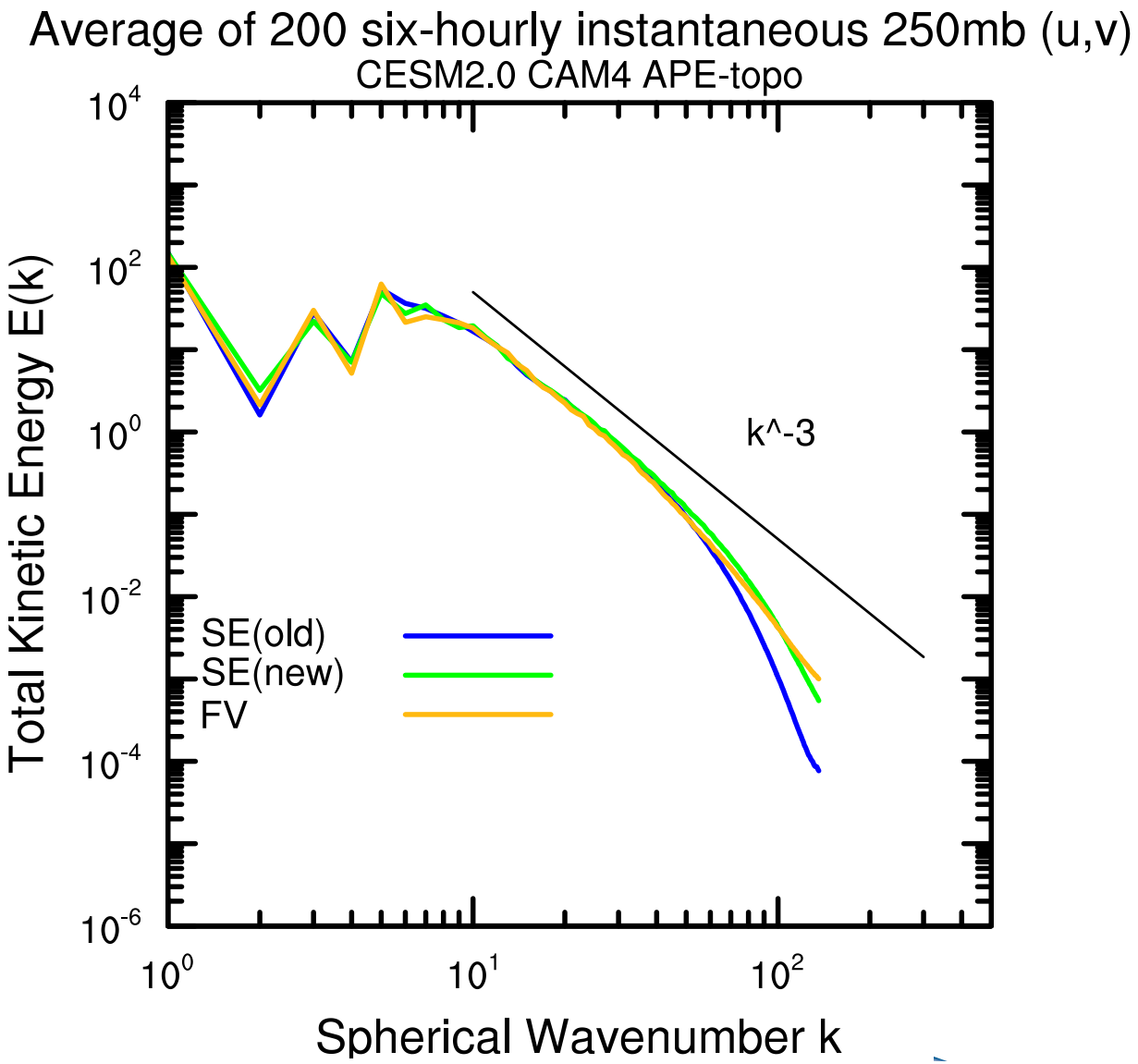
nu =viscosity on (u,v,T)
nu_p =viscosity on dp
nu_div =enhanced viscosity on divergence

”old” (CESM1.5):

nu = 1.00E15 m^4/s^4
nu_p = 1.00E15 m^4/s^4
nu_div = 6.25E15 m^4/s^4

“new” (CESM2.0):

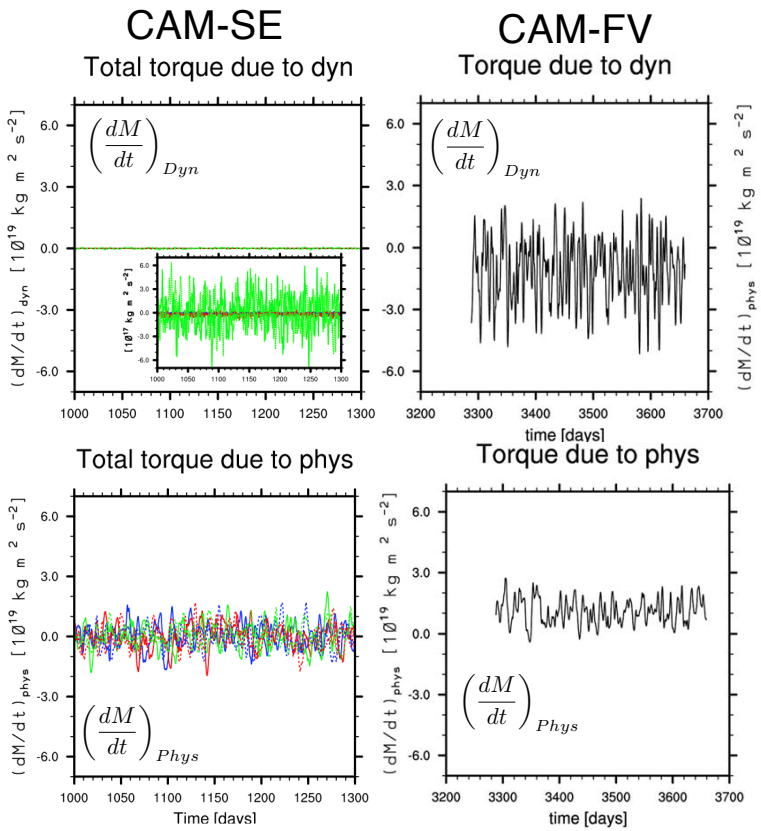
nu = 2.00E14 m^4/s^4
nu_p = 1.00E15 m^4/s^4
nu_div = 1.00E15 m^4/s^4



CAM-SE: Axial angular momentum conservation (Lauritzen et al., 2014)

M=axial angular momentum integrated over the sphere. For a flat Earth $\frac{dM}{dt} = 0$

In the absence of mountain torque: $0 \sim \left(\frac{dM}{dt}\right)_{dyn} \ll \left(\frac{dM}{dt}\right)_{phys}$.



Is conservation of axial angular momentum important?

It is for super-rotating planets (Lebonnois et al., 2012). It is also argued to be important for Earth (Thuburn, 2008); possibly causing bias in CAM-FV (see T.Toniazzo's AMWG presentation from 2015: http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/events/wg-meetings/2017/presentations/amwg/toniazzo.pdf)

The total energy equation can be written on the form (Kasahara, 1974)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left[\rho\left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial \eta^{(d)}}\right)(K + c_v T + gz)\right] + \nabla_{\eta^{(d)}}\left[\rho\vec{v}\left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial \eta^{(d)}}\right)(K + gz + c_p T)\right] = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^{(d)}}\left(p\frac{\partial z}{\partial t}\right), \tag{6}$$

where c_p is heat capacity at constant pressure, z height, and $K = \frac{1}{2}\vec{v}\cdot\vec{v}$.

In z-based vertical coordinate (for a moment assume $\eta^{(d)} \equiv z$), then integrating energy equation in the vertical and using that z is constant at the model top (z_{top}) and surface (z_s) we get

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int_{z=z_s}^{z=z_{top}}(K + c_v T + gz)\,\rho dz + \nabla_z \cdot \int_{z=z_s}^{z=z_{top}}\vec{v}\,(K + gz + c_p T)\,\rho dz = 0. \tag{7}$$

Note: clear separation of kinetic (K), potential (gz) and internal ($c_v T$) energy. Integrating in the horizontal over the entire sphere the flux term drops out, and it is clear that the total energy is conserved for the frictionless and adiabatic system of equations.

CAM-SE: Total energy conservation

In a hybrid-sigma vertical coordinate and assuming that pressure model top is constant we get

$$\frac{1}{g}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int_{\eta=0}^{\eta=1}\left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}^{(d)}}{\partial \eta^{(d)}}\right)\sum_{\ell}\left[m^{(\ell)}\left(K+c_p^{(\ell)}T+\Phi_s\right)\right]d\eta^{(d)}=0 \tag{6}$$

where $\sum_\ell$ is sum over dry air, water vapor, cloud liquid and cloud ice ($\ell = `d', `wv', `cl', `ci''$).

CAM physics assumes that the 'perfect' dynamical core conserves an energy where $c_p^{(vw)} = c_p^{(d)}$, $c_p^{(\ell)} = 0$ for $\ell = `cl', `ci'$ and $m^{(\ell)} = 0$ for $\ell = `cl', `ci'$.

One can relatively simply make the continuous equations in CAM-SE conserve the 'CAM physics total energy' (namelist `se_qsize_condensate_loading=1`). If doing so

- CAM-SE dynamical core loss of total energy is $0.07 W/m^2$.
- For CAM-FV the number is $1.07 W/m^2$.

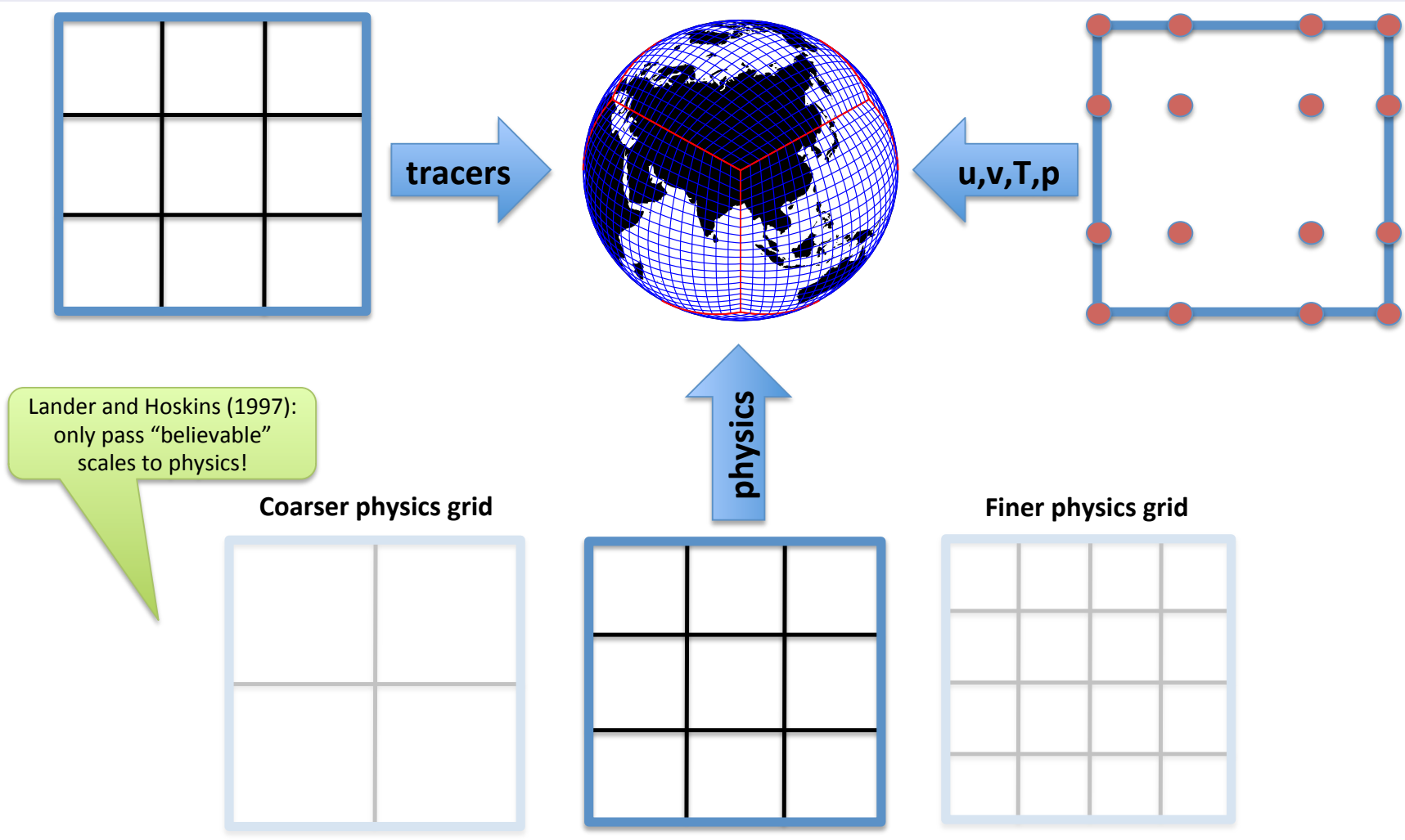
In CESM2 CAM-SE we use the more comprehensive equation that includes condensates in the momentum and thermodynamic equations by default (namelist `se_qsize_condensate_loading=3`).

Why do we care about total energy conservation?

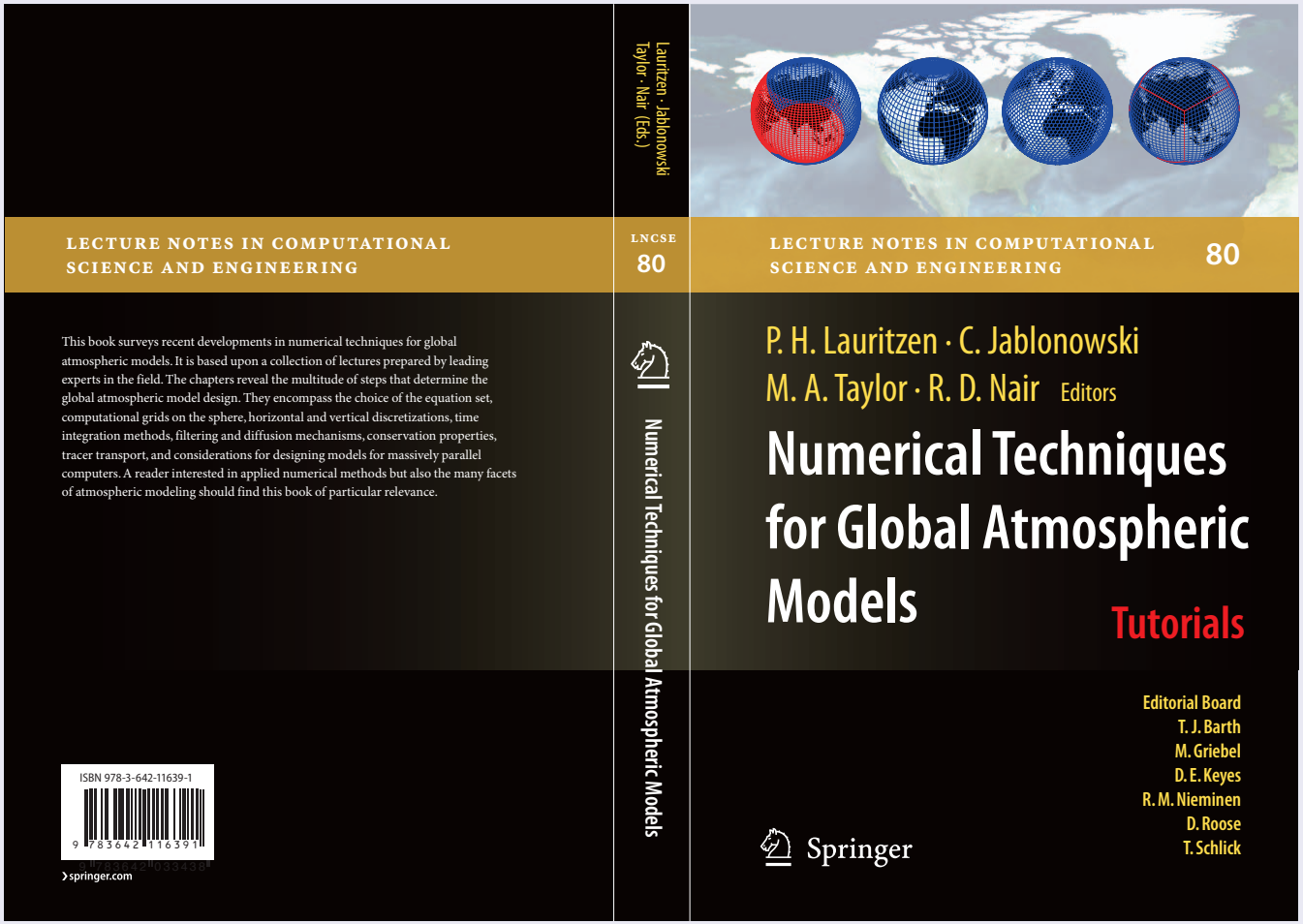
If the total energy budget is not closed in a coupled climate simulation the system will drift ...

CAM-SE physgrid and CAM-SE-CSLAM (please contact pel@ucar.edu)

(development version) CAM-SE has the option to run physics on a finite-volume grid that is coarser, same or finer resolution compared to the dynamics grid as well as an accelerated tracer transport option - with the CSLAM scheme (Lauritzen et al., 2017).



Interested in numerical methods for global models?



- Book based on the lectures given at the 2008 NCAR ASP (Advance Study Program) Summer Colloquium.
- 16 Chapters; authors include J.Thuburn, J.Tribbia, D.Durran, T.Ringler, W.Skamarock, R.Rood, J.Dennis, Editors, ... Foreword by D. Randall
- More details at: http://www.cgd.ucar.edu/cms/pel/colloquium.html and http://www.cgd.ucar.edu/cms/pel/lncse.html

Questions?

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