

Table of Contents

List of Figures	v
List of Tables	vi
Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
1. Introduction	1
2. Input Data	4
2.1 Data source and type	4
2.1.1 Terrain height	4
2.1.2 Land-use	5
2.2 Data reconstruction	5
2.3 Supplementary datasets and IEEE format	6
2.3.1 Supplementary datasets	6
2.3.2 IEEE format	6
2.4 Hints and caveats	6
3. Methodology of TERRAIN	10
3.1 Map projection	10
3.1.1 Mercator projection	11
3.1.2 Lambert Conformal projection	13
3.1.3 Polar Stereographic projection	15
3.2 Search area	17
3.2.1 General situation	18
3.2.2 Domains across date line	22
3.2.3 North or south poles inside the domains	22
3.3 Create the terrain height on the mesoscale grids	30
3.3.1 Overlapping parabolic interpolation	30
3.3.2 Cressman-type objective analysis	31
3.4 Create the land-use on the mesoscale grids	32
3.5 Adjustment between the domains	36
3.5.1 Reset the nested domain boundary values	36
3.5.2 Replacement of the overlapping grid points	37
4. How to Use TERRAIN	38
4.1 TERRAIN C-shell script	38
4.1.1 Shell variables that require user modification	38
4.1.2 Hard-wired shell variables and script	42
4.2 TERRAIN local input file	44

4.2.1	Namelist MAPBG	44
4.2.2	Namelist DOMAINS	45
4.2.3	Namelist OPTN	47
4.2.4	Namelist FUDGE	48
4.2.5	Namelist FUDGET	49
5.	TERRAIN Source Code	51
5.1	Common blocks and memory estimates	51
5.1.1	Common blocks and namelist	51
5.1.2	Memory estimates	58
5.2	Main program design	59
5.2.1	Begin initialization	59
5.2.2	Create terrain and land-use	60
5.2.3	Reset the boundary values for the nested domains	61
5.2.4	Feedback to the mother domains	61
5.2.5	Print and plot the final results	62
5.3	TERRAIN Subroutines	65
Appendices		94
Appendix A:	Shell Script for TERRAIN	94
Appendix B:	Pack and Unpack Subroutines	102
Appendix C:	Modifications for the Air Force and IEEE Data	105
Appendix D:	FTP'ing VAX Files to and from shavano	108
Appendix E:	TERRAIN Output Format	109
Appendix F:	TERRAIN Input and Output Units	113
References		114

List of Figures

Figure 1.1	MM5 Modeling System Flow Chart	3
Figure 3.1	Example of Domains for Northern and Southern Hemispheres . . .	26
Figure 3.2	Maximum and Minimum Latitude and Longitude of the Domains . .	27
Figure 3.3	Angle to Determine the Pole Location	28
Figure 3.4	Example of the Pole Inside and Outside the Domains	29
Figure 5.1	TERRAIN Main Program Flow Chart	63
Figure 5.2	Subroutine TERDRV Flow Chart	64
Figure 5.3	A bipolar fit to point X from four points A, B, C, and D. . . .	81

List of Tables

Table 2.1	Terrain Height and Land-Use Source Data	7
Table 2.2	Description of Land-Use Categories	8
Table 2.3	Source Data Information	9
Table 3.1	Response Function of the Two-dimensional Smoother	35
Table 5.1	Constants and Variables in Common Blocks	53

Preface

Program TERRAIN is the first component of the fifth-generation Pennsylvania State University/National Center for Atmospheric Research (Penn State/NCAR) mesoscale modeling system, (MM5). TERRAIN is used to access archived terrain height and land-use characteristics data at regular latitude-longitude intervals and interpolate these data to the mesoscale grid for a specified map projection by using the overlapping parabolic interpolation or Cressman-type analysis methods. If more than one domain is desired, an adjustment procedure is performed to provide consistent terrain heights and land-use categories between the domains. The new TERRAIN program described in this document is different from the earlier program documented by Larkin (1985). Because the earlier TERRAIN program did not have the adjustment procedure suitable to MM5 in creating terrain data-set. The old MM4 terrain data-set, which included a nest, can not be used with MM5 even if user wants only to complete a two-domain nested run. The new TERRAIN program is written specifically for the MM5. The output data from TERRAIN are used as input to three components of the modeling system: DATAGRID, GRIN, and MM5. The preparation of this documentation is partially supported by the DOE/ARM, under Grant DOE A105-90ER61070 ARM.

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