

REGRID

5

Purpose	5-3
Structure	5-3
A schematic	5-4
Input to pregrid	5-4
Input to regridder	5-5
Output from regridder	5-5
Intermediate Data Format	5-5
General format description	5-5
File Naming conventions	5-5
File format	5-6
Special field names	5-7
Pregrid VTables	5-8
Pregrid program functioning	5-9
Handy pregrid utility programs	5-9
How to run REGRID	5-10
pregrid.csh	5-11
The regridder Namelist options	5-13
RECORD1	5-13
RECORD2	5-14
RECORD3	5-14
RECORD4	5-14
RECORD5	5-15
REGRID tar File	5-15
Data	5-15
NCEP GDAS	5-16

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis 5-16
NCEP Eta 5-17
NCEP AVN 5-17
ECMWF TOGA Global Analysis 5-17
ECMWF Reanalysis (ERA15) 5-17
ECMWF Reanalysis (ERA40) 5-18
Other data 5-18

5REGRID

5.1 Purpose

The purpose of REGRID is to read archived gridded meteorological analyses and forecasts on pressure levels and interpolate those analyses from some native grid and map projection to the horizontal grid and map projection as defined by the MM5 preprocessor program TERRAIN. REGRID handles pressure-level and surface analyses. Two-dimensional interpolation is performed on these levels. Other types of levels, such as constant height surfaces, isentropic levels or model sigma or eta levels, are not handled.

REGRID is the second step in the flow diagram of the MM5 modeling system (Fig.1.1). It expects input from the TERRAIN program, and creates files ready for RAWINS, LITTLE_R, or INTERPF. These files are generally used as the first guess to an objective analysis (RAWINS or LITTLE_R), or as analyses which are to be directly interpolated to the MM5 model levels for initial and boundary conditions for MM5 (INTERPF).

An additional capability of REGRID is the capability to insert, or “bogus in” a tropical cyclone into the analysis. This is a fairly specialized usage of REGRID, and will not be discussed in any detail here. For details on this tropical cyclone bogussing method, see:

<http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/mm5/mm5v3/tc-report.pdf> (pdf format)

<http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/mm5/mm5v3/tc-report.doc> (word format)

5.2 Structure

REGRID is not a single program, but a suite of programs to handle various tasks of the REGRID package. The tasks are split up into two main components:

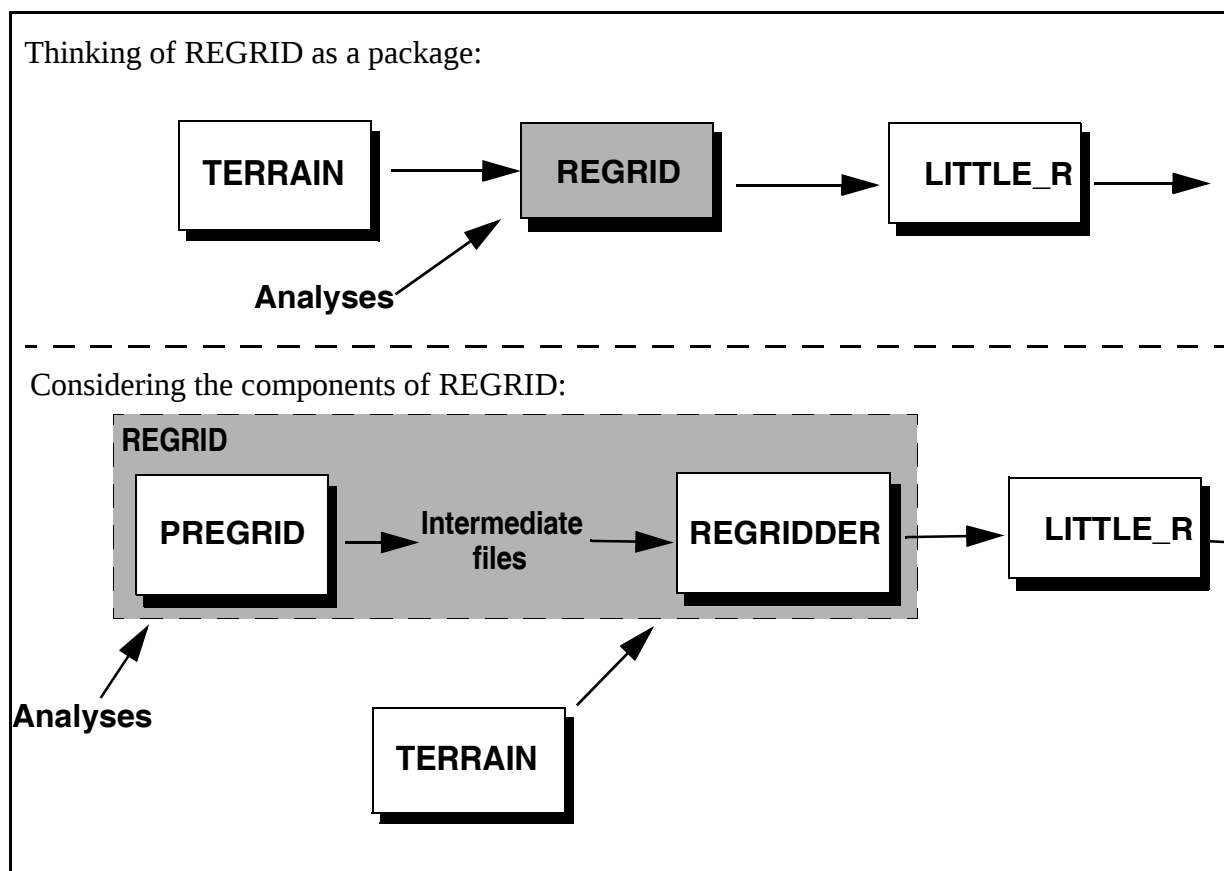
- 1) data input (i.e., reading the original meteorological analyses)
- 2) interpolation to MM5 grid.

The data input task is handled by the programs collectively known as “pregrid”, and the interpolation to the MM5 grid is handled by the program “regridder”. Communication between these programs is accomplished via intermediate files written in a pretty simple format. The pregrid tasks are further subdivided into programs which read some specific data formats, while the regridder tasks are managed in a single program. The intent is that individual users can easily write their own data input programs (i.e., their own pregrid programs) if necessary, thus introducing their

own data into the MM5 Modeling System.

This division separates the fairly messy and very dataset-specific task of reading data from the more general task of interpolation. By this division, REGRID can be easily expanded to ingest more data sets, and users can more easily ingest their own data sets for use in the MM5 system.

5.3 A schematic



5.4 Input to pregrid

The pregrid program expects to find files of gridded meteorological analyses. Currently, pregrid can read many data sets formatted in GRIB Edition 1 (hereinafter referred to as GRIB), as well as several GRIB and non-GRIB data sets that have traditionally been available to MM5 users.

Most of the individual pregrid programs, particularly those dealing with GRIB datasets, also expect to find tables which tell the pregrid program what fields to access from the input files. These are referred to as “Vtables” and are discussed in greater detail below.

A Fortran namelist file passes user-specified options to pregrid. For pregrid, this is mostly date information.

5.5 Input to regridder

The regridder program expects to find in the files from pregrid the fields of temperature, horizontal wind components, relative humidity, height of pressure levels, sea-level pressure, sea-surface temperature, and snow-cover data. Other fields may be used as well, interpolated and passed on to the rest of the modeling system. When you set up and run the pregrid programs, you should verify that the files you pass to regridder contain the necessary fields. One way to verify this is to run regridder and see what error messages it gives you.

From the TERRAIN files, regridder finds terrain, land-use, and map data.

A Fortran namelist file passes user-specified options to regridder.

5.6 Output from regridder

The regridder program creates a file called “REGRID_DOMAIN#”. This file contains the data at every time period for a single domain. This file is in MM5v3 format which is discussed in greater detail in Chapter 13, “I/O Format”

5.7 Intermediate Data Format

Key to the REGRID package is the data format used for passing data from pregrid to regridder. Data are passed from the pregrid programs to regridder via files written in the format described in this section.

5.7.1 General format description

Fields are written to the intermediate files as as two-dimensional horizontal (i.e., pressure-level or surface) slabs of data. Each horizontal slab contains a single level of a single variable (i.e., 500 mb RH, surface T, etc.). Any number of horizontal slabs may be written to single file. The slabs in a given file are not necessarily all from the same data source, or all on the same grid or map projection, but they should all represent data valid at the same time. The order of slabs in the file does not matter.

5.7.2 File Naming conventions

Each file contains data for a single time. The file names consist of a prefix (possibly denoting the source of data), followed by a colon, followed by a time-stamp in the form YYYY-MM-DD_HH. Regridder uses the file names as discussed below.

For example, analyses from the ON84-formatted data from NCEP for 17 Jun 2002 at 12 UTC may be written to a file called “ON84:2002-06-17_12”

5.7.3 File format

The files are written as sequential-access unformatted FORTRAN records. Four records are used for each horizontal slab. The first record is a format version number, currently 3. This is intended to facilitate backward compatibility as the intermediate format is adapted for additional grids. The second record contains information common to all types of gridded data recognized by regridded. The

third record contains information specific to the particular grid type represented. This record varies depending on the grid type. The fourth record is the 2-dimensional slab of data.

-Record 1: IFV

-Record 2: HDATE, XFCST, FIELD, UNITS, DESC, XLVL, NX, NY, IPROJ

if (IPROJ == 0) (Cylindrical equidistant projection)

-Record 3: STARTLAT, STARTLON, DELTALAT, DELTALON

if (IPROJ == 1) (Mercator projection)

-Record 3: STARTLAT, STARTLON, DX, DY, TRUELAT1

if (IPROJ == 3) (Lambert conformal projection)

-Record 3: STARTLAT, STARTLON, DX, DY, XLONC, TRUELAT1, TRUELAT2

if (IPROJ == 5) (Polar-stereographic projection)

-Record 3: STARTLAT, STARTLON, DX, DY, XLONC, TRUELAT1

-Record 4: SLAB

where:

integer	:: IFV	: The PREGRID format version number, currently 3
char*24	:: HDATE	: The time, in format "YYYY-MM-DD_HH:mm:ss"
real	:: XFCST	: Forecast time (in hours) of the data in the slab
char*9	:: FIELD	: Field name, those with special meaning are described below
char*25	:: UNITS	: Units describing the field in the slab
char*46	:: DESC	: Text description of the field
real	:: XLVL	: Pressure-level (Pa) of the data. 200100 Pa indicates surface data; 201300 Pa indicates sea-level data
integer	:: NX	: Slab dimension (number of gridpoints) in the X direction
integer	:: NY	: Slab dimension (number of gridpoints) in the Y direction
integer	:: IPROJ	: Flag denoting the projection. Recognized values are: 0: Cylindrical Equidistant (regular lat/lon) projection 1: Mercator projection 3: Lambert conformal projection 5: Polar stereographic projection
real	:: STARTLAT	: Starting latitude (degrees north)
real	:: STARTLON	: Starting longitude (degrees east)
real	:: DELTALAT	: Latitude increment (degrees) for lat/lon grid
real	:: DELTALON	: Longitude increment (degrees) for lat/lon grid
real	:: DX	: Grid-spacing in x (km at TRUELAT1 (and TRUELAT2))
real	:: DY	: Grid-spacing in y (km at TRUELAT1 (and TRUELAT2))
real	:: XLONC	: Center longitude of the projection
real	:: TRUELAT1	: Standard latitude used for Mercator, polar stereographic, and Lambert conformal projections

real :: TRUELAT2 : Second standard latitude value used for Lambert conf. projection
 real :: SLAB : Two-dimensional array (NX,NY) of data

5.7.4 Special field names

The variable FIELD indicates the physical variable in the slab. Certain values of FIELD are recognized by pregrid and regridder for specific treatment. Slabs identified by unrecognized values of FIELD are simply interpolated horizontally and written out by regridder. Recognized field names are:

T	*	Air Temperature (K)
U	*	Grid-relative u-component of the horizontal wind (m s^{-1})
V	*	Grid-relative v-component of the horizontal wind (m s^{-1})
RH	*	Relative humidity (%)
HGT	*	Geopotential height (GPM)
PMSL	*	Sea-level pressure (Pa)
SST or TSEASFC or SKINTEMP	*	Sea-surface Temperature or Skin Temperature (K)
SNOWCOVR		Binary flag for the presence (1.0) / absence (0.0) of snow on the ground
SOILT010	F	Ground temperature of a layer below ground (K)
SOILT040	F	Ground temperature of a layer below ground (K)
SOILT100	F	Ground temperature of a layer below ground (K)
SOILT200	F	Ground temperature of a layer below ground (K)
SOILT400	F	Ground temperature of a layer below ground (K)
SOILM010	F	Soil moisture of a layer below ground (fraction)
SOILM040	F	Soil moisture of a layer below ground (fraction)
SOILM100	F	Soil moisture of a layer below ground (fraction)
SOILM200	F	Soil moisture of a layer below ground (fraction)
SOILM400	F	Soil moisture of a layer below ground (fraction)
SEAICE	F	Binary flag for the presence (1.0) / absence (0.0) of sea ice. The value should be 0.0 or 1.0. The grib.misc pregrid code makes a check on SEAICE. If a value > 0.5, SEAICE is set to 1.0, otherwise, SEAICE is set to 0.0.
LANDSEA	F	Binary flag for land (1.0) / water (0.0) masking
SOILHGT	F	Terrain elevation of the input data set (not of the MM5 model terrain), in meters
WEASD		Water equivalent of accumulated snow depth (kg m^{-2})
SPECHUMD	†	Specific Humidity
DEWPT	†	Dewpoint (K)
DEPR	†	Dewpoint Depression (K)
VAPP	†	Vapor Pressure (Pa)
GEOPT	†	Geopotential (m^2/s^2)

* Fields absolutely required by regridder.

F Fields used in MM5 only for Noah Land Surface Model.

† Fields recognized by pregrid for internal conversions.

5.8 Pregrid VTables

Pregrid is intended to read a wide variety of data sets. Since many data sets are archived and distributed in GRIB format, and the non-GRIB data sets we read use many of the same ideas for describing given fields, it is convenient to use the GRIB data sets as an example.

The GRIB format describes each field by several code numbers. However, we cannot include the code tables in the program code itself, because these code numbers are not consistent from one data set to another. Also, pregrid must have the capability to ingest analyses that we have not anticipated. Therefore, we have to supply coded information to the program through some sort of input file. The pregrid VTables are the means we have chosen to do this. These tables are essentially a conversion from the GRIB method of referring to fields to the MM5-System method of referring to fields..

The body of the VTables consists of one or more lines describing the fields we want to extract from the analysis files. A couple of examples are in order:

GRIB Code	Level Code	Level 1	Level 2	REGRID Name	REGRID Units	REGRID Description
11	100	*		T	K	Temperature
11	105	2		T	K	Temperature at 2 m

The first four columns of the Vtable represent the GRIB method of identifying fields. The last three columns represent the MM5 method of identifying fields.

The GRIB Code is the code number identifying the variable to access. For example, in NCEP GRIB files, temperature is generally coded as 11.

The Level Code is the code number identifying the type of level on which the variable is expected. For example, GRIB Level Code 100 refers to pressure levels, and GRIB Level Code 105 refers to a fixed height (in meters) above the ground.

Level 1 is the GRIB code for the value of the level. An asterisk (*) means to get data from every level of the type defined by the Level Code. This (*) wild-card is effective only for the pressure-levels (level-code 100).

Level 2 is often needed for types of levels (such as averages or sums over a depth) which are defined by two values.

REGRID Name is the character string identifying the field to the rest of the modeling system.

REGRID Units are the units used for this field in the rest of the modeling system. This is simply a descriptive text to remind the user what the units are. *Do not* attempt to change the units in which a field is output by changing the Units string. It will not work, and you will wind up confusing yourself later.

REGRID Description is a text description of the field.

There are a few subtleties to the VTables. A situation that sometimes occurs is that we want a field that is not included in the source files, but may be derived from fields which are in those files. One example is relative humidity. Some data sets may archive specific humidity instead. Yet we can derive RH from specific humidity, temperature, and pressure. We want to write out RH, but not write out specific humidity. Since we need specific humidity to compute relative humidity, we need to ask for specific humidity in the Vtables. The signal in the VTables that a certain field is not to be written out is a blank REGRID Description. Since we want to write out relative humid-

ity, we include the relative humidity in the VTables in the usual way (with no GRIB Code since it wouldn't be found anyway). There is coded into the program the conversion from specific humidity to relative humidity, so pregrid will create the relative humidity field.

GRIB Code	Level Code	Level 1	Level 2	REGRID Name	REGRID Units	REGRID Description
11	100	*		T	K	Temperature
51	100	*		SPECHUMD	kg kg{-1}	
	100	*		RH	%	Relative Humidity

Those conversions already coded into pregrid are:

- Relative humidity, from specific humidity (SPECHUMD), pressure, and temperature.
- Relative humidity, from dewpoint (DEWPT), pressure, and temperature
- Relative humidity, from dewpoint depression (DEPR), pressure, and temperature
- Relative humidity, from vapor pressure (VAPP), pressure, and temperature.
- Height, from geopotential (GEOPT)

This list may grow as users encounter various situations in which a computed field is necessary.

There are several VTables already set up for certain data sets that we have commonly accessed. Most of these are found in the directory pregrid/grib.misc. If you want to access a different GRIB-formatted data set, you must first determine which variables are included in that data set, and find the appropriate code numbers that are used by that data set. If you want to extract additional variables from a data set, you are responsible for finding the appropriate GRIB Code and Level Code numbers. You may find NCEP Office Note 388, a description of the GRIB Edition 1 format, useful. This document can be found in many places on the internet, including:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/docs/on388>.

5.9 Pregrid program functioning

The pregrid programs first read the namelist to determine the starting and ending times of the period of interest, and to find the desired time-interval of data. It then reads the VTable to determine which variables to extract from the source files. Then for each source file, the program scans through the data, pulling out all analyses which fall between the starting and ending times, and which are listed in the VTable. These analyses are written to preliminary files (named by time and written in the intermediate format). Once a record with a time greater than the user-specified ending time has been read, processing on that analysis file stops and the next file is opened (i.e., records in the source file are assumed to be sorted by time; this assumption can be turned off in the namelist). This cycle repeats until all the source files have been scanned.

Once that cycle is finished, the preliminary files are reread and derived fields are computed. Temporal interpolation is performed as necessary to fill in missing time periods. The final intermediate files are written.

5.10 Handy pregrid utility programs

We have created a handful of handy programs you should be aware of:

`gribprint [-v | -V] file`

Scans through a GRIB-formatted file, printing out a few details of each GRIB record.
With the -v option, prints more details of the GRIB header.
With the -V option, prints way too much of the actual data.
This program is made automatically when you issue the top-level make. It is found in the pregrid/util directory.

plotfmt file

Makes plots of each field in the file which has been created by pregrid. This program requires NCAR Graphics. To make this program, go to the util directory, and execute “make plotfmt”, or compile plotfmt.F using NCAR-Graphics and loading library libpgu.a.

get_ncep.csh

to download archives from the GRIB-formatted NCEP GDAS analyses.

get_on84.csh

to download archives from the ON84-formatted NCEP GDAS analyses.

get_fnl.csh

to download archives from the ON84-formatted NCEP GDAS analyses.

get_nnrp.csh

to download archives from the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis project.

get_era.csh

to download archives from the ECMWF Reanalysis project.

get_awip.csh

to download archives from the NCEP Eta model output (GRIB212).

get_toga.csh

to download archives from the ECMWF Reanalysis project.

All the *get_*.csh* scripts are available from *~mesouser/MM5V3/Util*.

These scripts can be run on NCAR IBM computers to download analysis data from the mass store.

Be sure to first check the DSS catalogs for missing analyses.

5.11 How to run REGRID

1) Get the source code. The current REGRID release resides on NCAR’s anonymous FTP site, <ftp://mesouser/MM5V3/REGRID.TAR.gz>. There may be a regrid.tar file available elsewhere for the tutorial. Uncompress (“gunzip regrid.tar.gz”) and untar (“tar -xvf regrid.tar”) the file. This creates a top-level REGRID directory called, strangely enough, REGRID.

2) Make the executables. To do this, go into the REGRID directory, and type “make”. The makefiles we’ve set up attempt to recognize the type of system you are using, and select the appropriate compile and load options. Watch while your machine builds all the executables. If this doesn’t work, you may find yourself having to go into the Makefiles yourself, and tuning some of the compiler and load options.

3) Get the analysis files. It may be convenient to put these files in a directory of their own. For

users of NCAR's machines interested in historical cases, investigate the get_*** programs mentioned in "Handy utility programs".

4) Set up to run pregrid. The "pregrid.csh" shell in the pregrid subdirectory is handy. This is discussed below. If you need to create your own Vtables, do it now.

5) Make sure the pregrid.csh script is executable: "chmod u+x pregrid.csh"

6) Run pregrid.csh: "pregrid.csh"

7) Check your output: Make sure that pregrid created files for every time between your starting and ending dates. Check the printout to see which fields are available at which times.

8) Set up to run regridder: Get your terrain output file. Go to the regridder subdirectory, and edit the namelist for your specific case.

9) Run regridder. "regridder". This creates a file "REGRID_DOMAIN#".

5.12 pregrid.csh

A shell script has been created, called pregrid.csh, as a higher-level user interface for the pregrid programs. The top part of the pregrid.csh script looks something like this (variables the user may have to set are noted with a vertical bar to the left).

```
#####
#!/bin/csh -f
#
# set echo
#
# Put your input files for pregrid into the directory you specify as DataDir:
#
|   set DataDir = /usr/tmp/username/REGRID
#
# Specify the source of 3-d analyses
#
|   set SRC3D = ON84 # Old ON84-formatted NCEP GDAS analyses
# set SRC3D = NCEP # Newer GRIB-formatted NCEP GDAS analyses
# set SRC3D = GRIB # Many GRIB-format datasets

# InFiles: Tell the program where you have put the analysis files,
# and what you have called them. If SRC3D has the value "GRIB",
# then the Vtables you specify below in the script variable VT3D will
# be used to interpret the files you specify in the ${InFiles} variable.

|   set InFiles = ( ${DataDir}/NCEP* )
#
# Specify the source of SST analyses
#

|   # set SRC3D = ON84
# set SRC3D = NCEP
# set SRC3D = NAVY
|   set SRC3D = $SRC3D
```

```
#
# InSST: Tell the program where the files with SST analyses are. Do
# this only if SST analyses are coming from files not named above in
# InFiles. If SRCSST has the value "GRIB", then the Vtables you
# specify below in the script variable VTSST will be used to interpret
# the files you specify in the ${InSST} variable.
#

|   set InSST = ( )

#
# Select the source of snow-cover analyses (entirely optional)
#

|       set SRCSNOW = $SRC3D
#   set SRCSNOW = ON84
#   set SRCSNOW = GRIB

# InSnow: Set InSnow only if the snow-cover analyses are from files
# not listed in InFiles. If SRCSNOW has the value "GRIB", then the
# Vtables you specify below in the script variable VTSNOW will be used
# to interpret the files you specify in the ${InSnow} variable.

|   set InSnow = ( )

#
# Select the source of soil model analyses (entirely optional)
#

|   #   set SRC_SOIL = $SRC3D

# InSoil: Set InSoil only if the soil analyses are from files
# not listed in InFiles. If SRC_SOIL has the value "GRIB", then the
# Vtables you specify below in the script variable VTSOIL will be
# used to interpret the files you specify in the ${InSoil} variable.

|   #   set InSoil = ( )

#
# Build the Namelist
#
if ( -e ./pregrid.namelist ) then
    rm ./pregrid.namelist
endif
cat << End_Of_Namelist | sed -e 's/#.*//; s/ *$//' > ./pregrid.namelist
&record1
#
# Set the starting date of the time period you want to process:
#
|   START_YEAR = 1993    # Year (Four digits)
|   START_MONTH = 03     # Month ( 01 - 12 )
|   START_DAY   = 13     # Day ( 01 - 31 )
|   START_HOUR  = 00     # Hour ( 00 - 23 )

|   END_YEAR   = 1993    # Year (Four digits)
|   END_MONTH  = 03     # Month ( 01 - 12 )
|   END_DAY    = 14     # Day ( 01 - 31 )
|   END_HOUR   = 00     # Hour ( 00 - 23 )
#
# Define the time interval to process.
```

[illegible]

5.13 The regridded Namelist options

5.13.1 RECORD1

The first namelist record handles the temporal information required by the regridding program: basically, when do I start, when do I stop, and how many intermediate steps are to be taken between those bounding times. This namelist record is identical to that of pregrid. (see pregrid.csh, above).

5.13.2 RECORD2

The second record for regridder deals with information concerning the vertical levels and other user options. The user defines the top of the analysis and which “new” levels to add to the first-guess data (through vertical interpolation from the surrounding layers, linear in pressure). Other options are a SST temperature threshold below which a sea-ice flag will be set (useful if you do not have a sea-ice field in your input dataset; if using LSM or Polar options in MM5, do NOT use this threshold), an an option to select a linear (4-point) interpolation as opposed to a higher-order interpolation.

```
&record2
  ptop_in_Pa                = 10000/
  new_levels_in_Pa          = 97500, 95000, 92500, 90000,
                              87500, 85000, 82500, 80000,
                              77500, 75000, 72500, 70000,
                              67500, 65000, 62500, 60000,
                              57500, 55000, 52500, 50000,
                              47500, 45000, 42500, 40000,
                              37500, 35000, 32500, 30000,
                              27500, 25000, 22500, 20000,
                              17500, 15000, 12500, 10000/
  sst_to_ice_threshold       = -9999,
  linear_interpolation       = .FALSE./
```

5.13.3 RECORD3

The third record is used to input the pregrid output names to the regridder program. The file names include the root of the file name (up to but not including the “:”, and may include directory information). The character string after the “:” is the date, which is internally generated by the regridder program based on the information provided in RECORD1.

For example, to input the file “../test/FILE:1996-07-30_00:00:00”, data would be entered as given below. Multiple files for the same time may be used as input. It is typical for the sea-surface temperature to be defined in a file different than the wind fields, for example. The user appends as many file names are required on the root_nml line (a limit of 20 is currently enforced).

The optional constants_full_name is the name of a file that may have fields which are to be kept constant through all time periods. This is mostly useful for fields like SST or snow cover which may frequently be missing from archives. There are also some special (and optional) albedo datasets which have been prepared in the intermediate format, and are best accessed through constants_full_name.

The terrain_file_name is the file name of the output file from the terrain program.

```
&record3
  root                      = '../test/FILE' ,
  constants_full_name        = '../SST-CONSTANT'
  terrain_file_name          = '../terrain' /
```

5.13.4 RECORD4

The fourth record controls the print-out in the regridder program. Until something goes wrong,

keep everything turned off.

```
&record4
  print_echo           = .FALSE.,
  print_debug          = .FALSE.,
  print_mask           = .FALSE.,
  print_interp         = .FALSE.,
  print_link_list_store = .FALSE.,
  print_array_store    = .FALSE.,
  print_header         = .FALSE.,
  print_output         = .FALSE.,
  print_file           = .FALSE.,
  print_f77_info       = .TRUE. /
```

5.13.5 RECORD5

The fifth record controls tropical cyclone bogussing scheme. Unless you are dealing with tropical cyclones or hurricanes, keep this turned off (insert_bogus_storm = .FALSE.).

```
&record5
  insert_bogus_storm   = .FALSE.
  num_storm            = 1
  latc_loc             = 36.
  lonc_loc             = -35.
  vmax                = 50.
/
```

5.14 REGRID tar File

The regrid.tar file contains the following files and directories:

REGRID/README	general information about REGRID
REGRID/CHANGES	description of changes since earlier releases
REGRID/configure.rules	Rules for make
REGRID/pregrid	pregrid directory
REGRID/regridder	regridder directory
REGRID/Makefile	Makefile to create REGRID executables.
REGRID/regrid.deck	batch job deck for NCAR's Cray

I would further direct your attention to the directory REGRID/pregrid/Doc/html, which contains documentation on REGRID in html format. Direct your web browser to REGRID/pregrid/Doc/html/Documentation_Home.html. The contents of the html documentation is approximately what is in these tutorial notes, though the organization and details differ.

5.15 Data

Users with NCAR computing accounts have ready access to a variety of gridded meteorological analyses and forecast products.

Some of the more commonly-used archived analyses include:

NCEP GDAS

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
NCEP EDAS
ECMWF Reanalysis
MRF/AVN “final analysis”

Users who do not have NCAR computing accounts must find their own ways to get gridded analyses or forecasts. Various real-time analyses and forecasts may be available via anonymous ftp, for example.

Real-time analyses and forecasts that have been found useful include:

NCEP ETA analysis and forecast
NCEP AVN analysis and forecast

Information on NCEP real-time analyses and forecasts may be found at

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov>

and

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/data>

5.15.1 NCEP GDAS

The NCEP GDAS (Global Data Assimilation System) analysis as archived at NCAR is the traditional option for analyses. Analyses are available every 12 hours. Data are archived on a 2.5 degree x 2.5 degree lat/lon grid. Data are available from the mid 1970's to recent months (updated periodically). Through March 1997, data are in ON84 format. Beginning in April 1997, data are in GRIB format. For more information see <http://dss.ucar.edu/datasets/ds082.0> (for the ON84-formatted data through March 1997) or <http://dss.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.0> (for the GRIB-formatted data beginning April 1997).

Peculiarities/Caveats:

- Northern and southern hemispheres of a given global field are archived as separate fields.
- Snow-cover data are archived sporadically in the ON84 dataset.
- SST are archived once per day in the ON84 dataset.

5.15.2 NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis

This data set is a global analysis beginning in 1948 using a single analysis system for the entire dataset. Analyses are available every six hours. Data are archived on a 2.5 x 2.5 degree lat/lon grid and a gaussian grid (~1.9 degrees lat, 2.5 degrees lon). The data REGRID accesses are in GRIB format. For further details on the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis Project, see <http://dss.ucar.edu/pub/reanalysis>.

Peculiarities/Caveats:

- Much of the surface data are actually six-hour forecasts.
- Sea-surface temperature is not archived. Skin temperature may be used with some caution.

Be aware that ground temperatures and sea-surface temperatures at coastlines may be unrealistic.

5.15.3 NCEP Eta

The NCEP Eta is a regional analysis and forecast for North America.

Peculiarities/Caveats:

- Sea-surface temperature is not archived. Skin temperature may be used with some caution. Be aware that ground temperatures and sea-surface temperatures at coastlines may be unrealistic.
- The archived specific humidity is converted to relative humidity by pregrid.

For further information about the Eta archives at NCAR, see <http://dss.ucar.edu/pub/gcip>.

For further information about real-time Eta analyses and forecasts, including where to find them, see <http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/research/meso.products.html>

5.15.4 NCEP AVN

The NCEP AVN is a global analysis and forecast. Products are available in real time from NCEP.

For further information about the real-time AVN analyses and forecasts, see <http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/modelinfo>

5.15.5 ECMWF TOGA Global Analysis

The archives at NCAR begin January 1985. Data are archived at 2.5 x 2.5 degree lat/lon grid. Times are 00 UTC and 12 UTC.

Peculiarities/Caveats:

- Sea-surface temperature is not archived. Skin temperature may be used with some caution. Be aware that ground temperatures and sea-surface temperatures at coastlines may be unrealistic.
- Geopotential must be converted to geopotential height by REGRID. Thus, both geopotential and geopotential height must be specified in the Vtable.
- ECMWF uses different parameter tables (i.e., GRIB code numbers) than NCEP for many variables.

Use of this archive is restricted: NCAR may distribute this data to US scientists, scientists visiting US organizations, and Canadian scientists affiliated with UCAR member organizations only. This data must not be used for commercial purposes. ECMWF must be given credit in any publications in which this data is used. A permission form must be signed and returned to DSS for use of this data.

For further information about the ECMWF TOGA analysis archives at NCAR, see <http://dss.ucar.edu/datasets/ds111.2>.

5.15.6 ECMWF Reanalysis (ERA15)

The ECMWF Reanalysis is a global analysis of 15 years' worth of data. Archives are from Jan 1979 through Dec 1993. Data are archived on a 2.5 x 2.5 degree lat/lon grid, in GRIB format.

Peculiarities/Caveats:

- Sea-surface temperature is not archived. Skin temperature may be used with some caution. Be aware that ground temperatures and sea-surface temperatures at coastlines may be unrealistic.
- Geopotential must be converted to geopotential height by REGRID. Thus, both geopotential and geopotential height must be specified in the Vtable.
- ECMWF uses different parameter tables (i.e., GRIB code numbers) than NCEP for many variables.

Use of this archive is restricted: NCAR may distribute this data to US scientists, scientists visiting US organizations, and Canadian scientists affiliated with UCAR member organizations only. This data must not be used for commercial purposes. ECMWF must be given credit in any publications in which this data is used. A permission form must be signed and returned to DSS for use of this data.

For further information about the ECMWF Reanalysis archives at NCAR, see <http://dss.ucar.edu/pub/reanalysis.html>.

5.15.7 ECMWF Reanalysis (ERA40)

The ECMWF Reanalysis is a global analysis of 40 years' worth of data. Archives are from Sep 1957 through Aug 2002. Data are archived on a 2.5 x 2.5 degree lat/lon grid, in GRIB format.

Peculiarities/Caveats:

- Sea-surface temperature is not archived. Skin temperature may be used with some caution. Be aware that ground temperatures and sea-surface temperatures at coastlines may be unrealistic.
- Geopotential must be converted to geopotential height by REGRID. Thus, both geopotential and geopotential height must be specified in the Vtable.
- ECMWF uses different parameter tables (i.e., GRIB code numbers) than NCEP for many variables.
- The soil data are available in levels 0-7, 7-28, 28-100, and 100-255 cm

Use of this archive is restricted: NCAR may distribute this data to US scientists, scientists visiting US organizations, and Canadian scientists affiliated with UCAR member organizations only. This data must not be used for commercial purposes. ECMWF must be given credit in any publications in which this data is used. A permission form must be signed and returned to DSS for use of this data.

For further information about the ECMWF Reanalysis archives at NCAR, see <http://dss.ucar.edu/pub/reanalysis.html>.

5.15.8 Other data

Daily global SST analyses in GRIB format are available via ftp from NCEP at ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/emc/mmab/history/sst/rtg_sst_grb_0.5.<yyyymmdd>.

Daily Northern Hemisphere snow-cover analyses in GRIB format are available via ftp from NCEP at <ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/gcp/sfcflds/oper/live>.

Northern and southern hemispheric sea-ice datasets are available in near-real-time through the National Snow and Ice Data Center. See the REGRID/pregrid/nise/README file for details.

Data are approximately 1/4 degree spacing. A separate pregrid program has been set up to ingest these data.

Global soil temperature and moisture fields (“AGRMET” dataset) have been graciously provided by the United States Air Force Weather Agency’s (AFWA) Specialized Models Team. The data are archived with a 1 to 2 month delay, on NCAR’s MSS:

/MESOUSER/DATASETS/AGRMET/AGRMET_<yyyymm>.tar

The files are on the order of 1 Gigabyte of data per month. Global fields every three hours on a 0.5x0.5 degree grid are available. The authors would like to express their appreciation to the Air Force Weather Agency’s Specialized Models Team for providing the AGRMET data.

Two albedo datasets are available, intended for use in MM5 with the NOAH LSM. The maximum snow albedo is in file REGRID/regridder/ALMX_FILE. This is a global, 1.0x1.0 degree dataset, in REGRID intermediate format. A monthly climatological albedo dataset (without snow) is available NCAR’s MSS, /MESOUSER/DATASETS/REGRID/MONTHLY_ALBEDO.TAR.gz. This is approximately 15-km global dataset, again, in REGRID intermediate format.

