



# Observation bias correction and QC in JEDI- Intro to UFO

MPAS-JEDI Aug 2026  
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# JEDI Components



OOPS



$$\nabla J(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow 0$$



SABER



UFO, CRTM

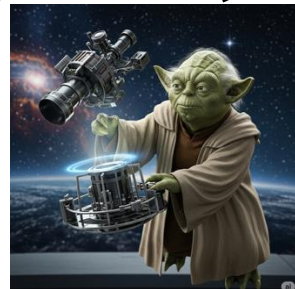
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} (x - x^b)^T B^{-1} (x - x^b) + \frac{1}{2} (y^0 - Hx)^T R^{-1} (y^0 - Hx)$$



VADER

(If model variables differ  
from analysis variables)

IODA



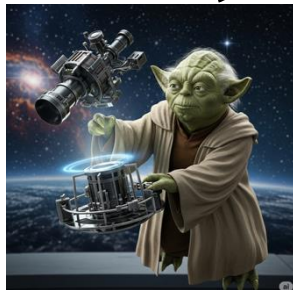
# JEDI Components



UFO, CRTM

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (y^0 - Hx)^T R^{-1} (y^0 - Hx)$$

IODA



In this talk we will focus on the “Obs” part of JEDI

# JEDI - Abstraction and Genericity



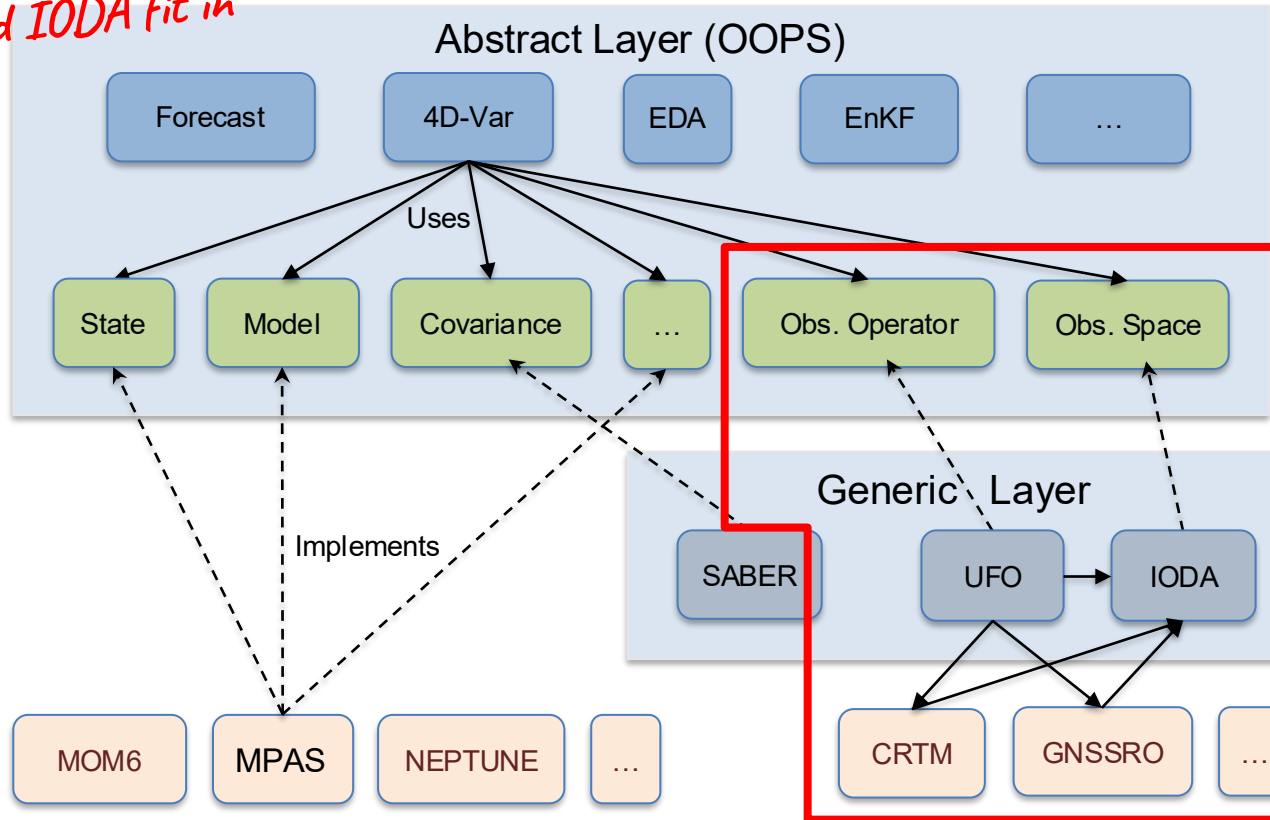
*Where UFO and IODA fit in*

Generic Algorithms

Abstract Interfaces

Generic Implementations

Specific Implementations



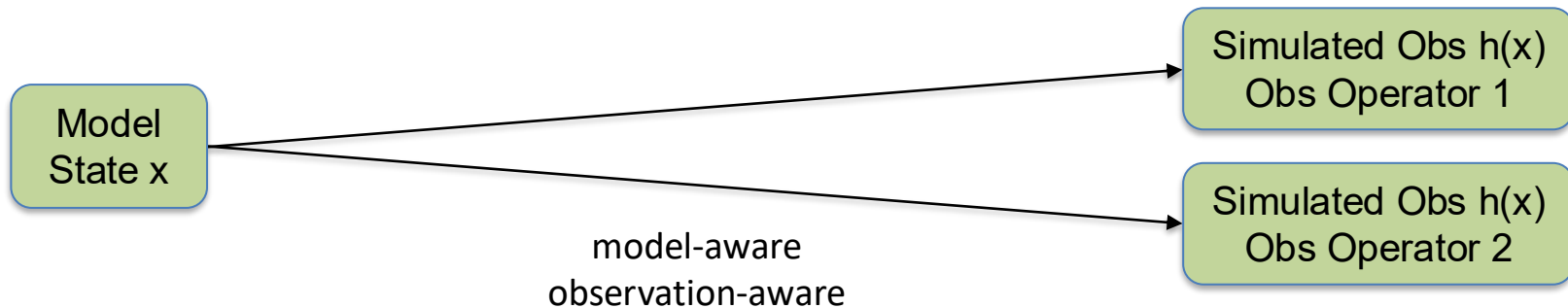
Abstract,  
model-agnostic  
(generic) DA  
system

OOPS is  
complemented  
by generic  
(shared)  
components.

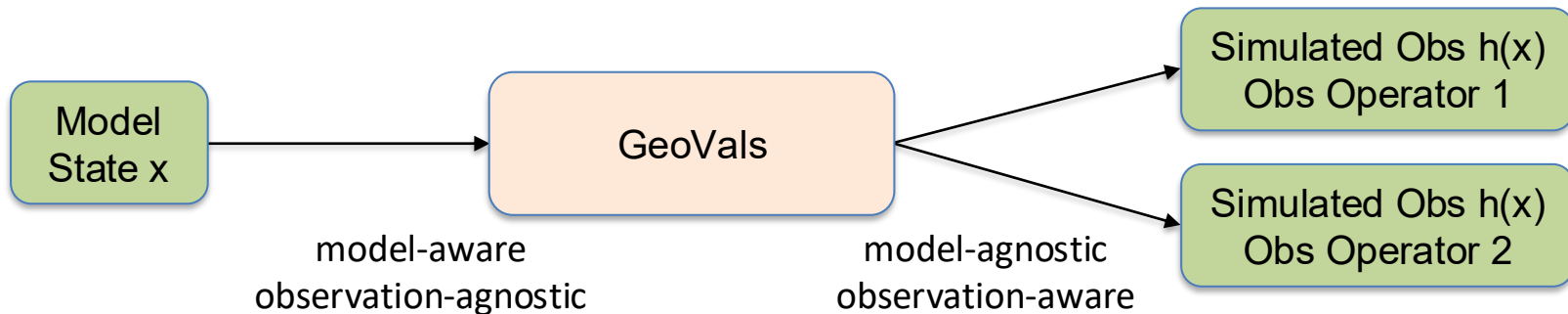
# Some about the "U" in UFO



*The "traditional" approach*



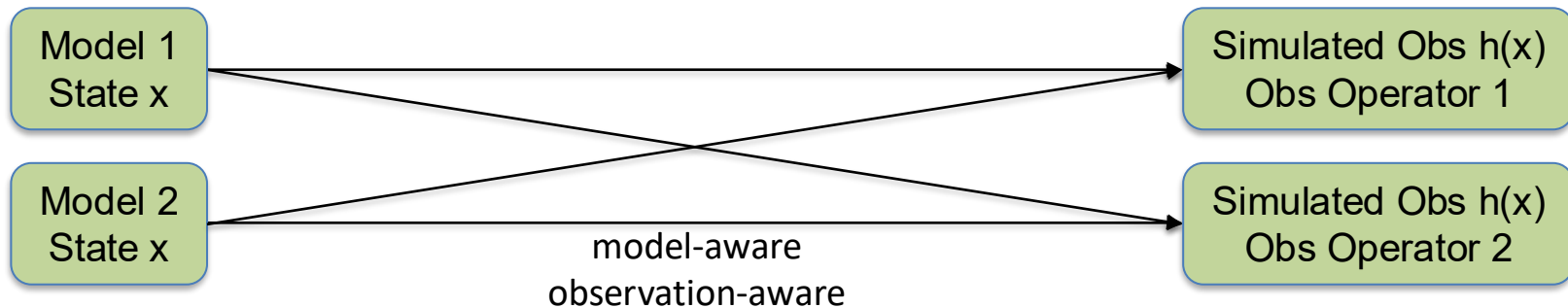
*The JEDI approach*



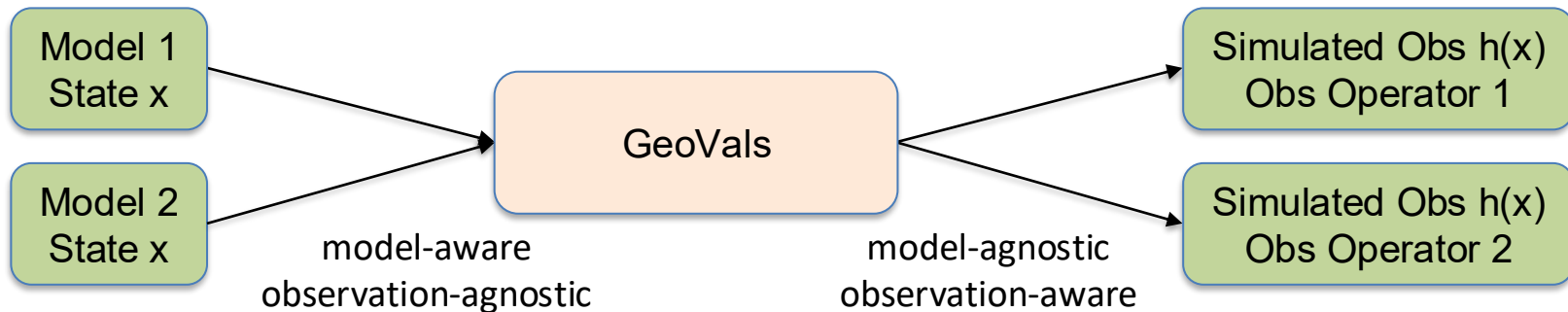
# Some about the "U" in UFO



*The "traditional" approach*



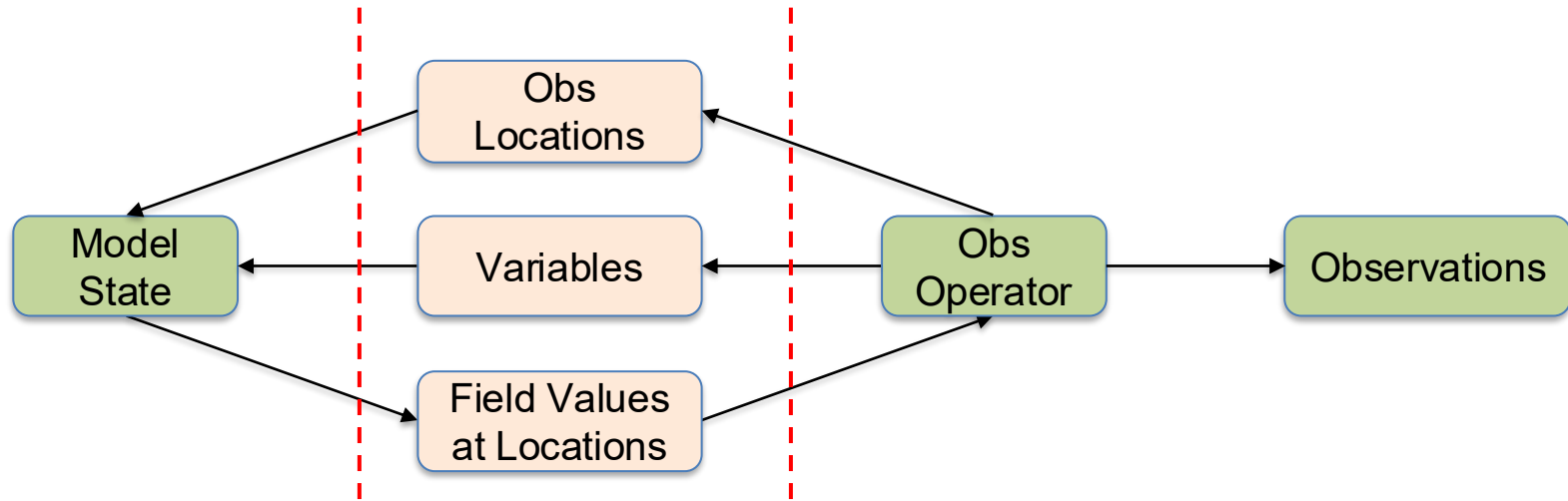
*The JEDI approach*



# A closer look at the JEDI approach



- The forward operator defines which variables it needs from the model to simulate observations.
- The model interface then returns GeoVals, which are basically vertical profiles of requested model variables at observation locations (spatial and temporal).



For the case of radiosondes, it might request vertical profiles of the following atmospheric variables:

- air temperature
- humidity-related (e.g., specific humidity, relative humidity)
- wind-related (e.g., zonal & meridional wind components, wind direction & speed)
- vertical coordinate (e.g., pressure- or height-based)

# The "app-store" of observation operators



A wide variety of operators have been interfaced with JEDI, a few highlights:

*(and are constantly being)*

Conventional:

Vertical Interpolation (VertInterp)

Radiances:

Community Radiative Transfer Model (CRTM)

Radiative Transfer for TOVS (RTTOV)\*

Radio occultation (RO):

NCEP's Bending Angle Method (NBAM)

MetOffice RO one-dimensional

Radio Occultation Processing Package 1D (ROPP 1D)\*

Radio Occultation Processing Package 2D (ROPP 2D)\*

Ground-based GNSS:

MetOffice GNSS

Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD):

CRTM AOD

MetOffice AOD for dust

Ocean surface winds:

MetOffice scatterometer neutral wind

Wind speed operator

Reflectances:

CRTM

Radar:

Reflectivity (DirectZDA)

Doppler wind (RadarDopplerWind)

Radial Velocity (RadarRadialVelocity)

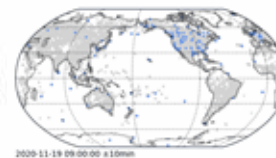
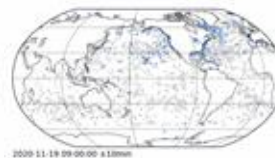
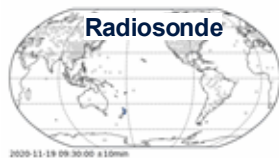
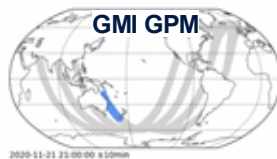
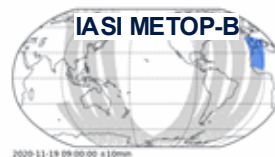
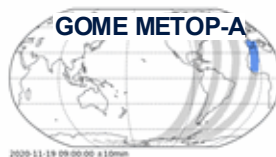
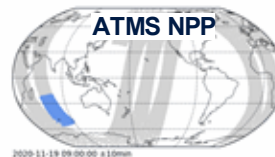
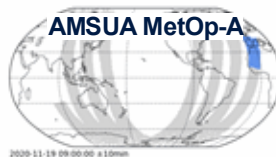
A screenshot of the JEDI Documentation website. The page title is "UFO" and the subtitle is "UFO is the Unified Forward Operator." The main text describes the purpose of UFO: "It provides the observational operators needed to compute departures and innovations. In other words, it enables the comparison between model forecasts and observations that lies at the heart of the data assimilation process. UFO also provides related functionality related to observations such as quality control (QC) filters, variational bias correction, observation error covariance specification and others." Below this, it states: "These documents give a high-level overview of the UFO code repository. A low-level description of the classes, functions, and subroutines is also available, produced by means of the Doxygen document generator." A link "Doxygen Documentation" is provided. A table of contents on the left lists various operators. A red box highlights the "Observation Operators in UFO" section, which includes a list of operators such as Introduction, Categorical, Composite, Vertical Interpolation, Atmosphere Vertical Layer Interpolation, Averaging Kernel Operator, Community Radiative Transfer Model (CRTM), RTTOV, Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) for dust (Met Office), GNSS RO bending angle (NBAM), GNSS RO bending angle (ROPP 1D), GNSS RO bending angle (ROPP 2D), GNSS RO bending angle (MetOffice), GNSS RO refractivity (NCEP), Ground Based GNSS observation operator (Met Office), Identity observation operator, Product observation operator, Logarithm observation operator, In situ particulate matter (PM) operator, Radar Radial Velocity, Radar Doppler wind, Scatterometer neutral wind (Met Office), SlickCorrected, Background Error Vertical Interpolation, Background Error Identity, Total column water vapour, Absolute dynamic topography, Cool skin, In situ temperature, Vertical Interpolation, Sea ice thickness, Sea ice fraction, and Profile Average operator.

See detailed information at [Observation Operators in UFO](#).

\* requires registration by their providers



# A few examples of the available operators





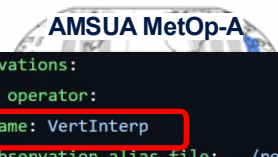
# A few examples of the available operators



Satwind



AIRS-Aqua



AMSUA MetOp-A



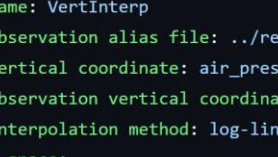
NOAA-18



CrIS FSR N20



GIIRS FY4A



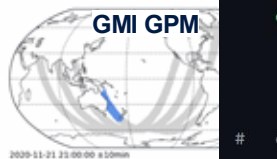
OMI AURA



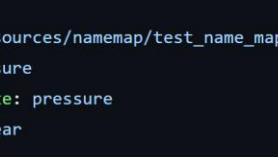
GMI GPM



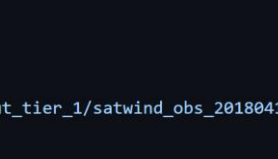
Radiosonde



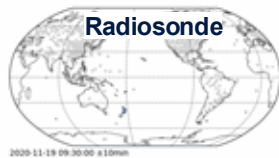
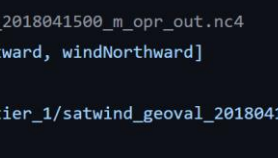
Aircraft



SMIS F18



V/2 NOAA-19

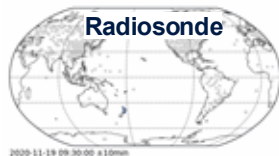
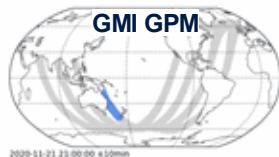
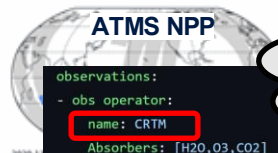
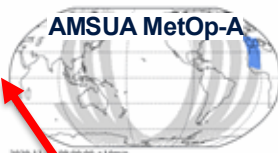


Excerpt from [satwind.yaml](#)

```
observations:
- obs operator:
  name: VertInterp
  observation alias file: ../resources/namemap/test_name_map.yaml
linear obs operator:
  name: VertInterp
  observation alias file: ../resources/namemap/test_name_map.yaml
  vertical coordinate: air_pressure
  observation vertical coordinate: pressure
  interpolation method: log-linear
obs space:
  name: Satwind
obsdatain:
  engine:
    type: H5File
    obsfile: Data/ufo/testinput_tier_1/satwind_obs_2018041500_m.nc4
# obsdataout:
# engine:
# type: H5File
# obsfile: Data/satwind_obs_2018041500_m_opr_out.nc4
simulated variables: [windEastward, windNorthward]
geovals:
  filename: Data/ufo/testinput_tier_1/satwind_geoval_2018041500_m.nc4
vector ref: GsiHofX
tolerance: 1.0e-04
```



# A few examples of the available operators

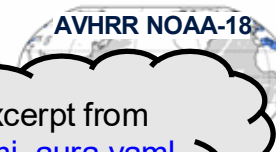
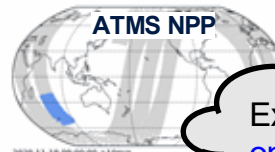
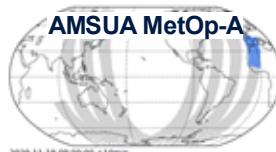


observations:  
- obs operator:  
 name: CRTM  
 Absorbers: [H2O,O3,CO2]  
 obs options:  
 Sensor\_ID: airs\_aqua  
 EndianType: little\_endian  
 CoefficientPath: Data/  
 obs space:  
 name: airs\_aqua  
 obsdatain:  
 engine:  
 type: H5File  
 obsfile: Data/ufo/testinput\_tier\_1/instruments/radiance/airs\_aqua\_obs\_2020110112\_m.nc4  
 simulated variables: [brightnessTemperature]  
channels: 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24,  
27, 28, 30, 36, 39, 40, 42, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 59, 62, 63, 68, 69, 71,  
72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 86, 92, 93, 98, 99, 101,  
104, 105, 108, 110, 111, 113, 116, 117, 123, 124, 128, 129, 138, 139,  
144, 145, 150, 151, 156, 157, 159, 162, 165, 168, 169, 170, 172, 173,  
174, 175, 177, 179, 180, 182, 185, 186, 190, 192, 198, 201, 204, 207,  
210, 215, 216, 221, 226, 227, 232, 252, 253, 256, 257, 261, 262, 267,  
272, 295, 299, 300, 305, 310, 321, 325, 333, 338, 355, 362, 375, 453,  
475, 484, 497, 528, 587, 672, 787, 791, 843, 870, 914, 950, 1003, 1012,  
1019, 1024, 1030, 1038, 1048, 1069, 1079, 1082, 1083, 1088, 1090, 1092,  
1095, 1104, 1111, 1115, 1116, 1119, 1120, 1123, 1130, 1138, 1142, 1178,  
1199, 1206, 1221, 1237, 1252, 1260, 1263, 1266, 1285, 1301, 1304, 1329,  
1371, 1382, 1415, 1424, 1449, 1455, 1466, 1477, 1500, 1519, 1538, 1545,  
1565, 1574, 1583, 1593, 1614, 1627, 1636, 1644, 1652, 1669, 1674, 1681,  
1694, 1708, 1717, 1723, 1740, 1748, 1751, 1756, 1763, 1766, 1771, 1777,  
1780, 1783, 1794, 1800, 1803, 1806, 1812, 1826, 1843, 1852, 1865, 1866,

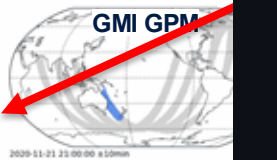
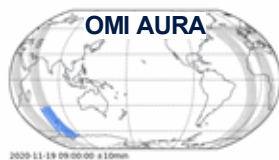
Excerpt from  
[airs\\_aqua\\_gfs\\_HofX.yaml](#)



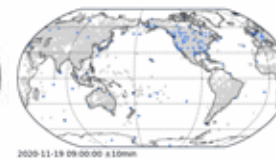
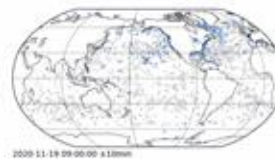
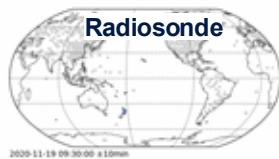
# A few examples of the available operators



Excerpt from  
[omi\\_aura.yaml](https://github.com/NOAA-STAR/omi_aura.yaml)

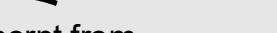
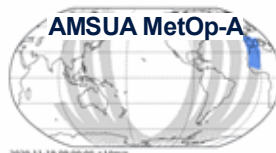


```
observations:
- obs operator:
  name: AtmVertInterPlay
  geovals: [mole_fraction_of_ozone_in_air]
  coefficients: [0.007886131] # convert from ppmv to DU
  nlevels: [1]
obs space:
  name: OzoneLayer
  obsdatain:
    engine:
      type: H5File
      obsfile: Data/ufo/testinput_tier_1/omi_aura_obs_2019101700_m.nc4
```





# A few examples of the available operators



```
observations:
- obs operator:
  name: GnssroBndNBAM
  obs options:
    use_compress: 1
    vertlayer: full
  obs space:
    name: GnssroBnd
  obsdatain:
    engine:
      type: H5File
      obsfile: Data/ufo/testinput_tier_1/gnssro_obs_2018041500_3prof.nc4
  obsgrouping:
    group variables: [ "sequenceNumber" ]
    sort variable: "impactHeightRO"
    sort order: "ascending"
```

Excerpt from  
[gnssro\\_bndnbam.yaml](https://github.com/NOAA-STAR/gnssro/blob/master/gnssro_bndnbam.yaml)





# Observation Uncertainties in UFO

In JEDI, observation errors can be prescribed:

- when encoding the IODA file:
  - by assigning standard deviation values for each observation in the file, via the ObsError group.
- at runtime of JEDI via YAML:
  - by assigning standard deviation values through an observation filter
  - with the option to be combined with observation functions.

Regardless of the option chosen, they can be inflated/deflated based on situation-dependent cases.

Important to mention that the observation error values obtained after running all the filters is the one passed for the DA solver.

```
<HDF5 file "tms_tropics-01_obs_2022021600.nc4" (mode r)>
├─ Channel (12)
├─ Location (5)
├─ MetaData
│   ├── dateTime (5)
│   ├── latitude (5)
│   ├── longitude (5)
│   ├── satelliteAscendingFlag (5)
│   ├── satelliteIdentifier (5)
│   ├── sensorAzimuthAngle (5)
│   ├── sensorChannelNumber (12)
│   ├── sensorScanPosition (5)
│   ├── sensorViewAngle (5)
│   ├── sensorZenithAngle (5)
│   ├── solarAzimuthAngle (5)
│   └── solarZenithAngle (5)
├─ ObsError
│   └── brightnessTemperature (5)
├─ Obsvalue
│   └── brightnessTemperature (5)
└─ PreQC
    └── brightnessTemperature (5)
```



# Observation Uncertainties in UFO

In JEDI, observation errors can be prescribed:

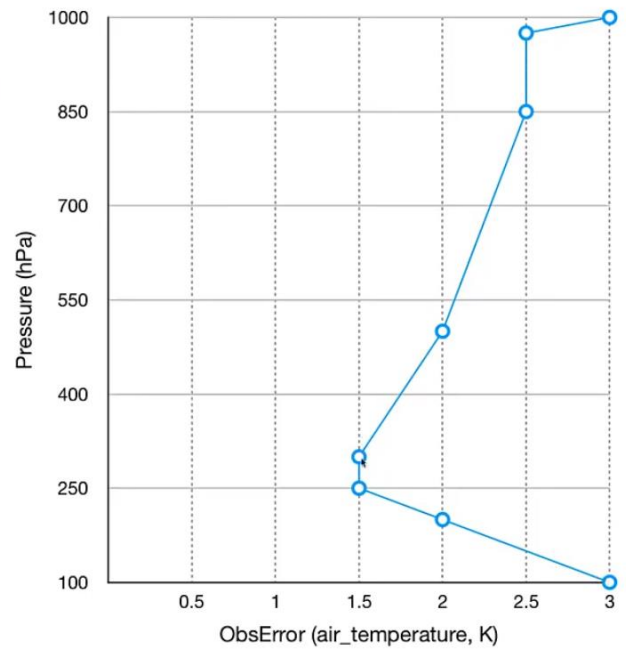
- when encoding the IODA file:
  - by assigning standard deviation values for each observation in the file via the ObsError group

```
- filter: Perform Action
  filter variables:
    - name: airTemperature
    - name: virtualTemperature
  action:
    name: assign error
```



# The next series of filters assigns obsError as a linear interpolation from  
# in another variable, such as pressure/altitude.

```
- filter: Perform Action
  filter variables:
    - name: air_temperature
  action:
    name: assign error
    error function:
      name: ObsErrorModelStepwiseLinear@ObsFunction
      options:
        xvar:
          name: air_pressure@ObsValue
        xvals: [10000, 20000, 25000, 30000, 50000, 85000, 97500, 100000]
        errors: [3.0, 2.0, 1.5, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 2.5, 3.0]
```





# Observation Uncertainties in UFO

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  - by assigning standard deviation values for each observation in the file, via the ObsError group.
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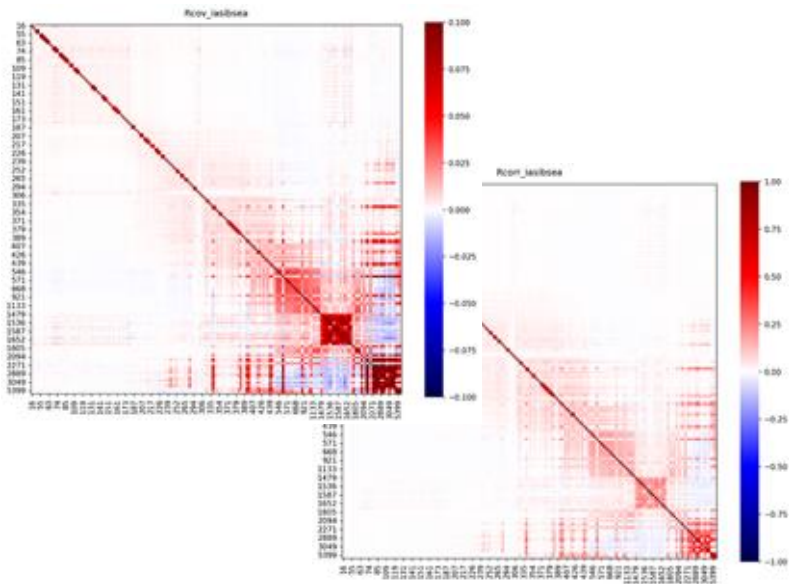
Important to mention that the observation error values obtained after running all the filters is the one passed for the DA solver.

Additionally, UFO is capable to handle the following covariance models:

- diagonal
- cross variable covariances
- within group covariances

Excerpt from  
[oberrorcrossvarcov.yaml](#)

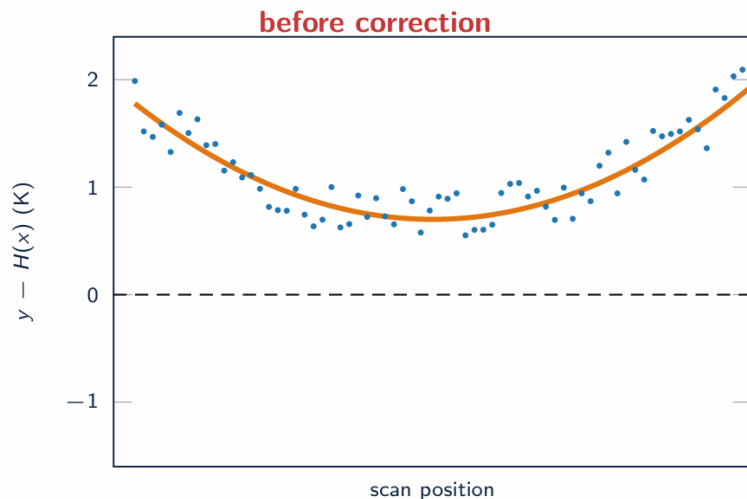
```
obs error:  
  covariance model: cross variable covariances  
  input file: Data/ufo/testinput_tier_1/Rcov_iasi_metop-b_sea.nc4
```



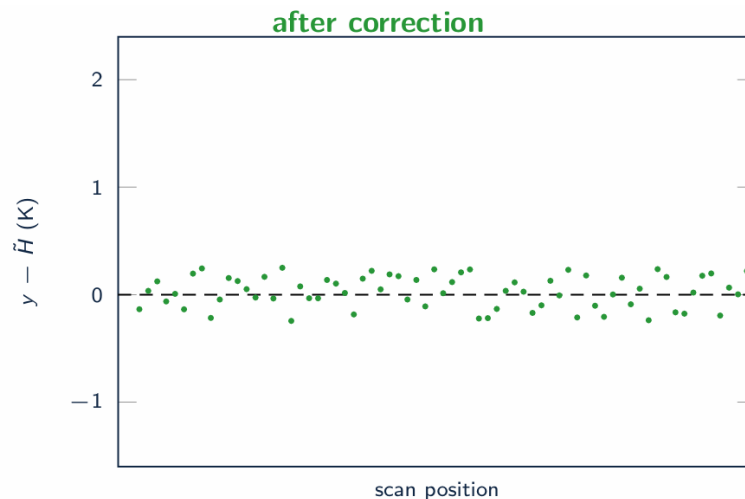
# The Bias Problem



Satellite and some insitu obs carry a systematic bias (calibration drift, radiative-transfer error, scan position and air-mass effects) The issue: DA assumes  $E[y - H(x)] = 0$

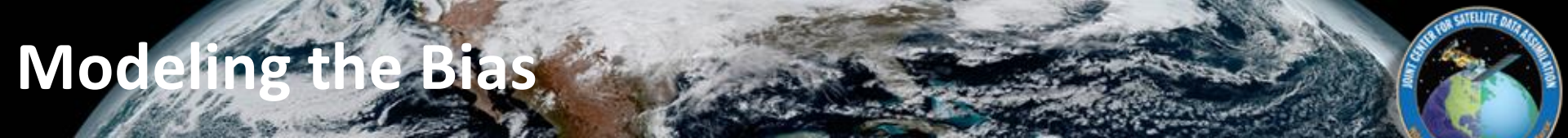


mean  $O - B \neq 0$ ; structured shape



mean  $\approx 0$ ; only real signal remains

VarBC learns the **structured part** of the departure and removes it.



# Modeling the Bias

$$\underbrace{\tilde{H}(x)}_{\text{corrected}} = \underbrace{H(x)}_{\text{physics}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\{i=1\}}^n \beta_i p_i(x^b)}_{\text{learned correction}}$$

- $p_i(x^b)$ : a predictor  $\rightarrow$  a known function of state/metadata (a fixed “shape”)
- $\beta_i$ : a scalar coefficient  $\rightarrow$  how much of that shape to add to the correction.
- The coefficients are learned during the variational assimilation simultaneously with the state update!



# UFO has Variational Bias Correction

Variational bias correction is an adaptive bias correction technique. In a DA system with VarBC, observation operators and control variables are extended to include bias correction procedures. The bias correction coefficients ( $\beta_i$ ) are optimized as control variables in each analysis.

This is accomplished with an extended cost function:

$$J(x^T, \beta^T) = \frac{1}{2}(x - x^b)^T B^{-1}(x - x^b) + \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{H}(x) - y^o)^T R^{-1}(\tilde{H}(x) - y^o) + \frac{1}{2}(\beta - \beta^b)^T B_\beta^{-1}(\beta - \beta^b)$$

As well as an extended observation operator,

$$\tilde{H}(x) = H(x) + \sum_{\{i=1\}}^n \beta_i p_i(x^b),$$

utilizing predictors  $p_i$  of which many are available in UFO.

# Available Predictors



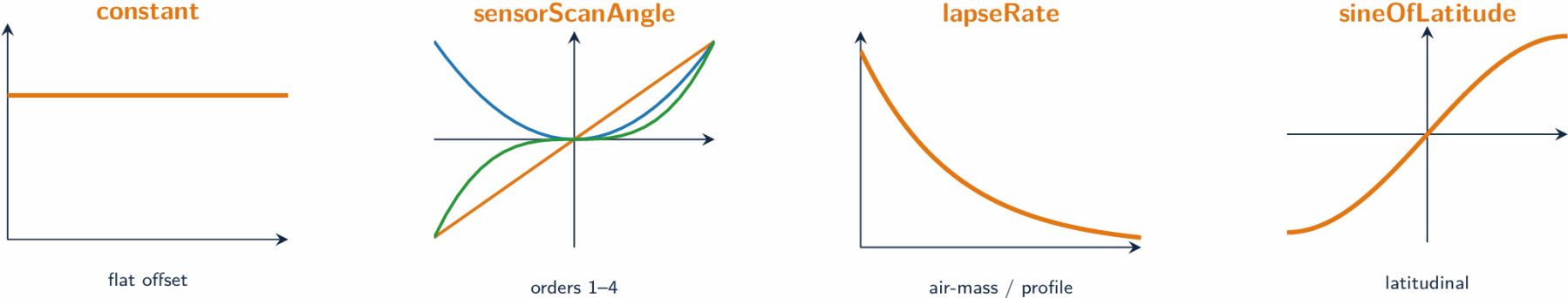
| Predictor                             | Description                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>constant</b>                       | A flat offset bias — value of 1.0 at every location (optionally restricted to land or sea). Captures a uniform bias common to all observations of a channel.                    |
| <b>sensorScanAngle</b>                | The $n$ th power of the sensor scan/view angle in degrees. Used (often with orders 1–4 together) to correct scan-position-dependent biases in cross-track scanning instruments. |
| <b>legendre</b>                       | Legendre polynomial of order $n$ evaluated on the normalized scan position. Orthogonal basis for scan-dependent bias — better conditioned than raw scan-angle powers.           |
| <b>lapseRate</b>                      | Weighted sum of layer transmittances times temperature differences. Captures air-mass-dependent biases tied to the vertical temperature structure.                              |
| <b>thickness</b>                      | Atmospheric layer thickness (km) between two pressure levels, normalized to zero mean and unit variance. Captures biases tied to mean layer temperature.                        |
| <b>cloudWaterContent</b>              | Cloud liquid water retrieved from specific microwave channel brightness temperatures. Currently supports SSMIS. Corrects cloud-affected biases.                                 |
| <b>emissivityJacobian</b>             | Surface emissivity term from observation diagnostics. Important for microwave radiances where surface emissivity strongly affects brightness temperatures.                      |
| <b>sineOfLatitude</b>                 | $\sin(\text{latitude})$ — captures latitudinally-dependent biases (e.g., RT model errors varying with solar zenith angle).                                                      |
| <b>cosineOfLatitudeTimesOrbitNode</b> | $\cos(\text{latitude})$ signed by ascending/descending orbit node. Captures biases tied to orbital geometry and the diurnal cycle.                                              |
| <b>satelliteOrbitalAngle</b>          | Fourier term of the orbital angle: $\sin(n\theta)$ or $\cos(n\theta)$ . Captures cyclical biases as the satellite traverses its orbit.                                          |
| <b>interpolateDataFromFile</b>        | Reads bias values from an external CSV/NetCDF file and interpolates them by metadata keys (e.g., station ID, pressure). Typically used for static BC.                           |
| <b>satelliteSelector</b>              | Returns 1.0 for a selected satellite ID, 0.0 otherwise. Enables per-satellite coefficients in multi-satellite datasets.                                                         |
| <b>obsMetadataPredictor</b>           | Generic predictor — raises any ObsSpace metadata variable to a specified power.                                                                                                 |
| <b>readBias</b>                       | Reads previously estimated bias coefficients from ObsSpace as a predictor input. Used for cycling bias corrections across DA cycles.                                            |



# Available Predictors (the error shapes)

| Predictor | Description                                                                           |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| constant  | A flat offset bias — value of 1.0 at every location (optionally restricted to land or |

A predictor is evaluated at every obs location (fills an `ObsVector`); all derive from `PredictorBase`.



VarBC just decides *how much* of each shape to add:  $\sum_i \beta_i p_i$ .

|                            |                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| satelliteOrbitalAngle      | Fourier term of the orbital angle: $\sin(n \cdot \theta)$ or $\cos(n \cdot \theta)$ . Captures cyclical biases as the satellite traverses its orbit.  |
| interpolate_data_from_file | Reads bias values from an external CSV/NetCDF file and interpolates them by metadata keys (e.g., station ID, pressure). Typically used for static BC. |
| satelliteSelector          | Returns 1.0 for a selected satellite ID, 0.0 otherwise. Enables per-satellite coefficients in multi-satellite datasets.                               |
| obsMetadataPredictor       | Generic predictor — raises any <code>ObsSpace</code> metadata variable to a specified power.                                                          |
| read_bias                  | Reads previously estimated bias coefficients from <code>ObsSpace</code> as a predictor input. Used for cycling bias corrections across DA cycles.     |



# Observation Quality Control in UFO

All the observation quality control procedures in UFO are performed through the so-called "observation filters".

Filters are generic, entirely configured through YAML files, and already exist for a variety of applications:

- ✓ gross error checks;
- ✓ background checks;
- ✓ list of stations to be accepted/rejected;
- ✓ thinning;
- ✓ superobbing;
- ✓ derive new variables;
- ✓ inflate/deflate observation errors;
- ✓ thigh error bounds;
- ✓ and many more.

By construction, they can be used by many observation types once they are written.

Although the generic filters cover most needs, some additional specialized information is still needed. The so-called "observation functions" become handy in those cases.

```
group: EffectiveQC {
  variables:
    int airTemperature(Location) ;
    airTemperature:_FillValue = -2147483643 ;
  data:
    airTemperature = 0, 0, 12, 12, 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
```

```
namespace QCflags {
  constexpr int pass = 0; // we like that one!
  constexpr int possible = 1; // H(x) is computed (for monitoring, BC...) but obs not assimilated
  // Single digit values reserved for DA use.
  // For now only 0, 1 and >1 are used but keeping space for other potential use cases.

  // Actual rejection flags
  constexpr int missing = 10; // missing values prevent use of observation
  constexpr int preQC = 11; // observation rejected by pre-processing
  constexpr int bounds = 12; // observation value out of bounds
  constexpr int domain = 13; // observation not within domain of use
  constexpr int black = 14; // observation black listed
  constexpr int Hfailed = 15; // H(x) computation failed
  constexpr int thinned = 16; // observation removed due to thinning
  constexpr int diffref = 17; // metadata too far from reference
  constexpr int clw = 18; // observation removed due to cloud field
  constexpr int fguess = 19; // observation too far from guess
  constexpr int sealce = 20; // observation based sea ice detection, also flags land points
  constexpr int track = 21; // observation removed as inconsistent with the rest of track
  constexpr int buddy = 22; // observation rejected by the buddy check
  constexpr int derivative = 23; // observation removed due to metadata derivative value
  constexpr int profile = 24; // observation rejected by at least one profile QC check
  constexpr int onedvar = 25; // observation failed to converge in 1dvar check
  constexpr int bayesianQC = 26; // observation failed due to Bayesian background check
  constexpr int modelobthresh = 27; // observation failed modelob threshold check
  constexpr int history = 28; // observation failed when compared with historical data
  constexpr int processed = 29; // observation processed but deliberately H(x) not calculated
  constexpr int superrefraction = 30; // observation rejected by GNSRRO super refraction QC
  constexpr int superob = 31; // superob value not set at this location
```

Excerpt from UFO ([src/ufo/filters/QCflags.h](https://github.com/NOAA-STAR/ufo/blob/master/src/ufo/filters/QCflags.h))

# Observation Functions



Here's an example that assigns a constant observation error of 120 Pa to surface pressure observations, but only in the tropics:

```
- filter: Perform Action
  filter variables:
    - name: stationPressure
  where:
    - variable:
        name: Metadata/latitude
        minvalue: -30
        maxvalue: 30
  action:
    name: assign error
    error parameter: 120
```

A more involved example: Assign errors interpolated from a file, but only where the observation has valid pressure metadata:

```
- filter: Perform Action
  filter variables:
    - name: airTemperature
  where:
    - variable:
        name: Metadata/pressure
        value: is_valid
  action:
    name: assign error
    error function:
      name: ObsFunction/DrawValueFromFile
    options:
      file: Data/obs_error_table.nc4
      interpolation:
        - name: Metadata/pressure
          method: linear
```

# Setting up an ObsSpace



```
observations:
  observers:
    - obs space:
        name: AMSUA-NOAA19                                # Descriptive name (used in logs)
        obsdatain:
          engine:
            type: H5File                                    # Backend type for reading obs
            obsfile: Data/obs/amsua_n19_obs.nc4             # Path to input observation file
        obsdataout:
          engine:
            type: H5File                                    # Optional: write processed obs
            obsfile: Data/obs/amsua_n19_out.nc4
        simulated variables: [brightnessTemperature]       # Variables that H(x) will produce
        channels: 1-15                                     # For multi-channel instruments

  obs operator:
    name: CRTM                                             # Which forward operator to use
    Absorbers: [H2O, O3]
    obs options:
      Sensor_ID: amsua_n19
      CoefficientPath: Data/crtm/

  obs error:
    covariance model: diagonal

  obs bias:
    input file: Data/satbias_amsua_n19.nc4                # Optional: bias correction
    output file: Data/satbias_amsua_n19_out.nc4           # Prior coefficients from previous cycle
    variational bc:
      predictors:
        - name: constant                                  # Updated coefficients for next cycle
        - name: emissivityJacobian
        - name: sensorScanAngle
          order: 4
        - name: sensorScanAngle
          order: 3
      # Predictors estimated during minimization
```

# Setting u

```
obs bias:                                     # Optional: bias correction
input file: Data/satbias_amsua_n19.nc4       # Prior coefficients from previous cycle
output file: Data/satbias_amsua_n19_out.nc4 # Updated coefficients for next cycle
variational bc:                             # Predictors estimated during minimization
  predictors:
    - name: constant                        # Predictors estimated during minimization
    - name: emissivityJacobian
    - name: sensorScanAngle
      order: 4
    - name: sensorScanAngle
      order: 3
    - name: sensorScanAngle
      order: 2
    - name: sensorScanAngle
      order: 1
    - name: lapseRate
      order: 2
covariance:
  minimal required obs number: 20           # Min obs to estimate coefficients
  prior:
    input file: Data/satbias_cov_amsua_n19.nc4
    inflation:
      ratio: 1.1

obs filters:                                # QC pipeline, applied in order listed
# Pre-filters: run before GeoVALs, access obs + metadata only
- filter: PreQC
  maxvalue: 3

- filter: Bounds Check
  filter variables:
    - name: brightnessTemperature
      channels: 1-15
    minvalue: 100.0
    maxvalue: 500.0

# Post-filter: runs after H(x), access everything
- filter: Background Check
  filter variables:
    - name: brightnessTemperature
      channels: 1-15
  threshold: 3.0
  defer to next: true                       # Forces to next stage if using auto ordering
```



# Setting up

```
order: 1
- name: lapseRate
  order: 2
covariance:
  minimal required obs number: 20          # Min obs to estimate coefficients
  prior:
    input file: Data/satbias_cov_amsua_n19.nc4
    inflation:
      ratio: 1.1

obs filters:                                # QC pipeline, applied in order listed
# Pre-filters: run before GeoVALs, access obs + metadata only
- filter: PreQC
  maxvalue: 3

- filter: Bounds Check
  filter variables:
    - name: brightnessTemperature
      channels: 1-15
      minvalue: 100.0
      maxvalue: 500.0

# Post-filter: runs after H(x), access everything
- filter: Background Check
  filter variables:
    - name: brightnessTemperature
      channels: 1-15
      threshold: 3.0
      defer to post: true                  # Force to post stage if using auto ordering

# Conditional action with where clause
- filter: Perform Action
  filter variables:
    - name: brightnessTemperature
  where:
    - variable:
        name: MetaData/latitude
        minvalue: -30
        maxvalue: 30
  action:
    name: assign error
    error parameter: 2.0
```



# Setting up

```
order: 1
- name: lapseRate
  order: 2
covariance:
  minimal required obs number: 20      # Min obs to estimate coefficients
prior:
  input file: Data/satbias_cov_amsua_n19.nc4
  inflation:
    ratio: 1.1
```



one observers: entry

**obs space** — which observations, which variables/channels

**obs operator** —  $H(x)$ : GeoVaLs  $\rightarrow$  simulated obs

model-agnostic

**obs bias** —  $\sum_i \beta_i p_i$ , learned & cycled

VarBC

**obs filters** — composable QC + situation-dependent errors

QC

ObsFunctions

```
name: Metadata/latitude
minvalue: -30
maxvalue: 30
action:
  name: assign error
  error parameter: 2.0
```

# Conclusions

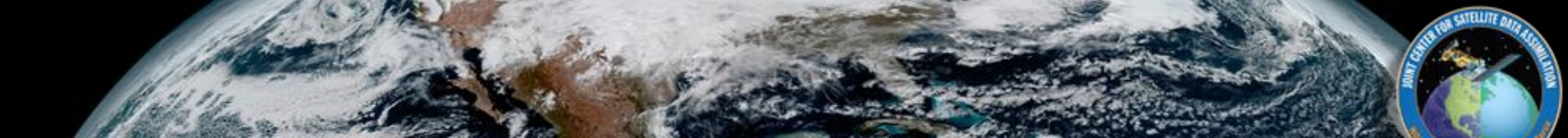


- UFO is one model-agnostic observation-space layer; GEOVals is the bridge that keeps the operator model-blind
- VarBC learns systematic bias as  $\sum_i \beta_i p_i$  inside the cost function. It adapts per channel , cycles between analyses.
- QC is a composable: filters + actions +where + ObsFunctions, ordered automatically.
- The interface is a declarative YAML → Powerful, runtime-flexible, and the easier than custom code.

# Hyperlinks



- Observation Operators in UFO:  
<https://jointcenterforsatellitedataassimilation-jedi-docs.readthedocs-hosted.com/en/latest/inside/jedi-components/ufo/obsops.html>
- satwind.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/unit\\_tests/operators/satwind.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/unit_tests/operators/satwind.yaml)
- airs\_aqua\_gfs\_HofX.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/instrumentTests/airs/airs\\_aqua\\_gfs\\_HofX.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/instrumentTests/airs/airs_aqua_gfs_HofX.yaml)
- gnssrobnbnbam.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/master/test/testinput/unit\\_tests/operators/gnssrobnbnbam.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/master/test/testinput/unit_tests/operators/gnssrobnbnbam.yaml)
- omi\_aura.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/master/test/testinput/unit\\_tests/operators/omi\\_aura.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/master/test/testinput/unit_tests/operators/omi_aura.yaml)
- gnssrobnbnbam.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/master/test/testinput/unit\\_tests/operators/gnssrobnbnbam.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/master/test/testinput/unit_tests/operators/gnssrobnbnbam.yaml)
- sfcMarine\_gfs\_HofX.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/instrumentTests/Surface\\_marine\\_obs/sfcMarine\\_gfs\\_HofX.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/instrumentTests/Surface_marine_obs/sfcMarine_gfs_HofX.yaml)
- amsua\_crtm\_bc.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/unit\\_tests/predictors/amsua\\_crtm\\_bc.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/unit_tests/predictors/amsua_crtm_bc.yaml)
- src/ufo/filters/QCflags.h:  
<https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/src/ufo/filters/QCflags.h>
- sonde\_gfs\_qc.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/instrumentTests/Sonde/sonde\\_gfs\\_qc.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/instrumentTests/Sonde/sonde_gfs_qc.yaml)
- obserrorcrossvarcov.yaml:  
[https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/unit\\_tests/errors/obserrorcrossvarcov.yaml](https://github.com/JCSDA/ufo/blob/develop/test/testinput/unit_tests/errors/obserrorcrossvarcov.yaml)
- Conventional Tables:  
<https://jointcenterforsatellitedataassimilation-jedi-docs.readthedocs-hosted.com/en/latest/inside/conventions/tbIs.html#convention-tables>
- jedi-bundle/CMakeLists.txt:  
<https://github.com/JCSDA/jedi-bundle/blob/develop/CMakeLists.txt>



# Questions?



JEDI Documentation: <https://jointcenterforsatellitedataassimilation-jedi-docs.readthedocs-hosted.com/en/latest/index.html>

JEDI Forum: <https://forums.jcsda.org/> (requires account to post/comment)

Github: <https://github.com/JCSDA> (public)