

# Developing MPAS Earth System Model Capabilities - an Update.

***Bill Skamarock***

***Weather Modeling and Research Section Head***

**WRF/MPAS Users' Workshop, 6-9 June 2022**



# Model for Prediction Across Scales (MPAS)

Current release – Version 7.3

- Atmosphere and land only
- Open Source: <https://mpas-dev.github.io/>
- Global and regional, variable-resolution capabilities
- Annual tutorials; new releases as needed
- GPU-enabled for some configurations (V6.1, October 2020)
- DA – both DART and JEDI

Last major release June 2019 (V7) - What have we been doing?

Physics unification – see *Fowler et al* talk today, *Wong et al* talk Thursday

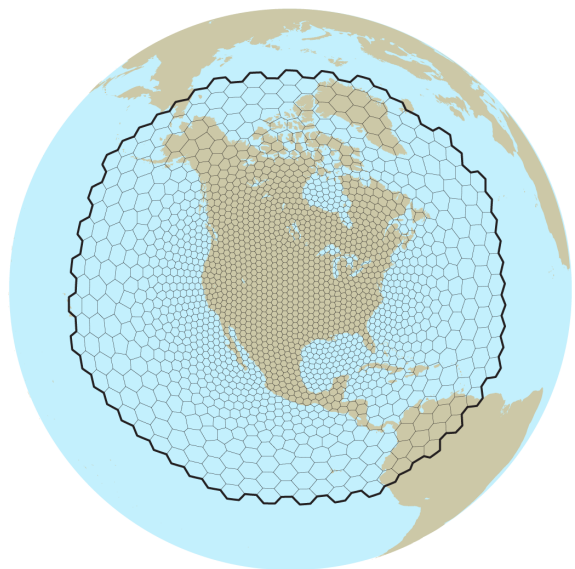
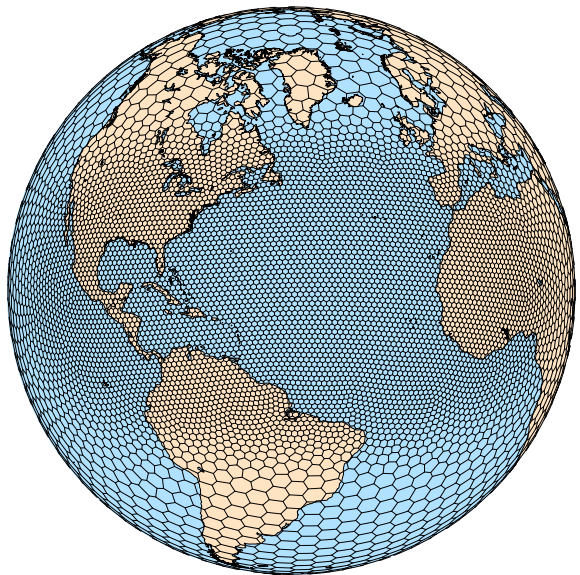
Deep-atmosphere extensions – see *Klemp* talk tomorrow.

LES extensions – not quite ready for a talk

MPAS in an Earth System Model (ESM) – part of today's talk

GPU development – another part of today's talk

*Many of these developments will become available in the coming year*





12-36 hour forecast precipitation

# PRECIP field campaign real-time forecasts

Rosimar Rios-Berrios, NCAR lead

MPAS 60-3 km mesh

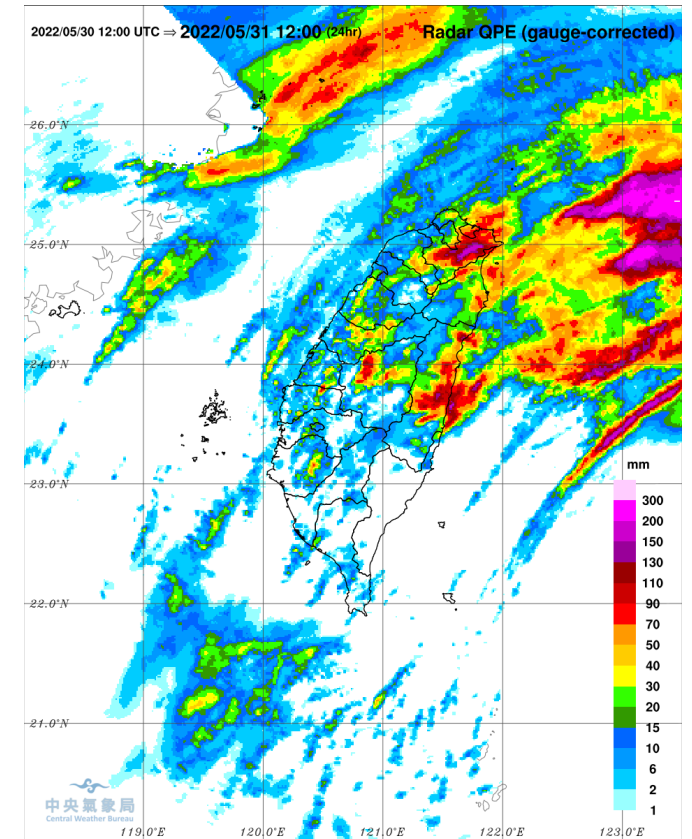
Daily 5-day forecasts, IFS analysis initial conditions

<https://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/projects/real-time-forecasts/>

36-60 hour forecast

60-84 hour forecast

Radar QPE

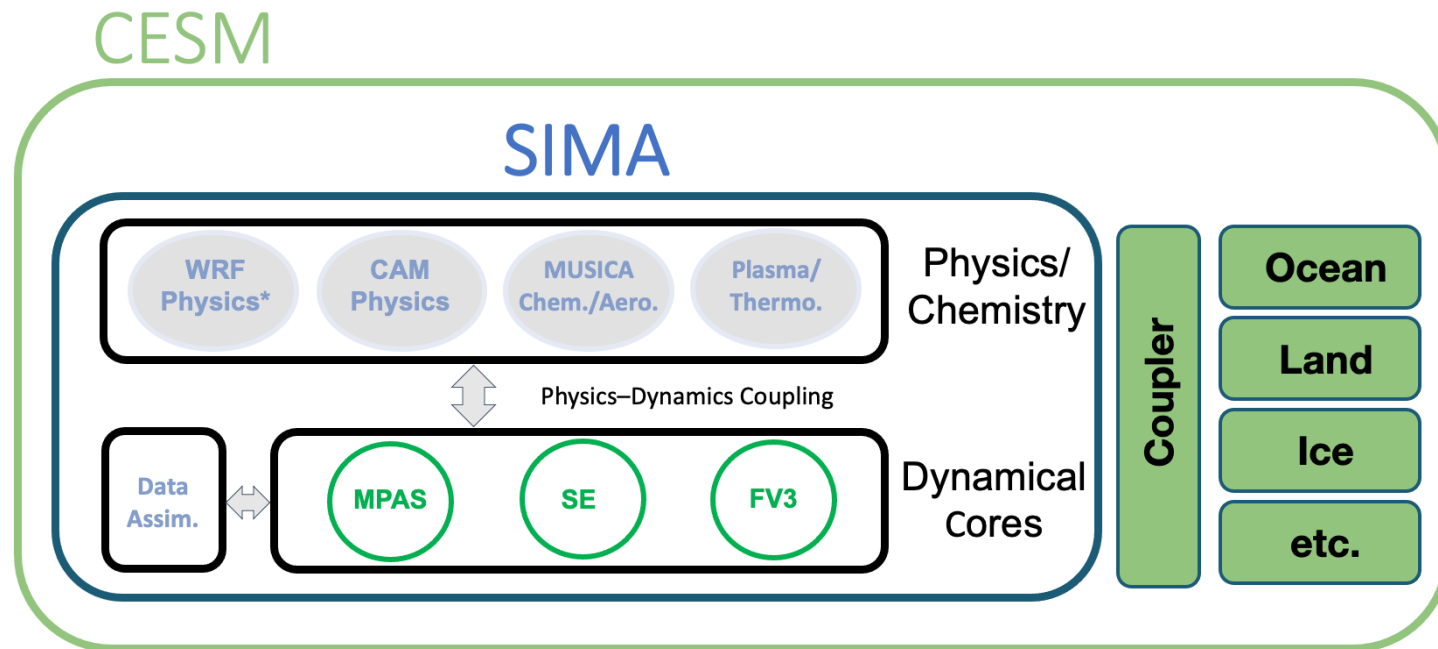


24 hour accumulated precipitation (mm)  
ending 1200 UTC 31 May 2022

# MPAS Earth System Model Capabilities

*System For Integrated Modeling of the Atmosphere (SIMA)*

SIMA is the effort to unify NCAR-based community atmospheric modeling across Weather, Climate, Chemistry, and Geospace applications



\* where needed to augment CAM physics

<https://sima.ucar.edu>

MPAS – Atmosphere brings nonhydrostatic modelling capabilities to CESM.

- We have a clean port of MPAS that is pulled from the MPAS github development repository at build time.
- We have test results that show MPAS-CAM6 produces credible climate results at O(1 degree) resolution.
- We are currently testing MPAS and CAM6 physics at convection-permitting resolution.
- We are working on resolving issues associated with CESM and CAM infrastructure within high-resolution configurations (i.e. memory and cost).

We hope to release these capabilities within the coming year (before the next WRF/MPAS workshop)



# Accelerators (GPUs) and MPAS-Atmosphere

We will be releasing configurations of GPU-enabled MPAS-Atmosphere for NCAR's new supercomputer *Derecho*



We anticipate releasing significant updates to GPU-enabled MPAS-A as a result of GPU ports of physics at NCAR and at other organizations

We are working on merging the GPU release with our main release

## EarthWorks

Five-year project led by  
CSU: Randall PI, Hurrell  
NCAR: Gettelman, Hauser,  
Skamarock  
Funded by NSF CSSI.



Enabling new science in an earth-system-model for both weather and climate, in a unified framework

- A global coupled configuration of CESM
  - A single ~ 4 km global mesh for all components
- GPU-enabled MPAS Atmosphere & MPAS-Ocean
- GPU physics (augmented CAM6)
- Goal: ~0.5 SYPD for the coupled system in 2025

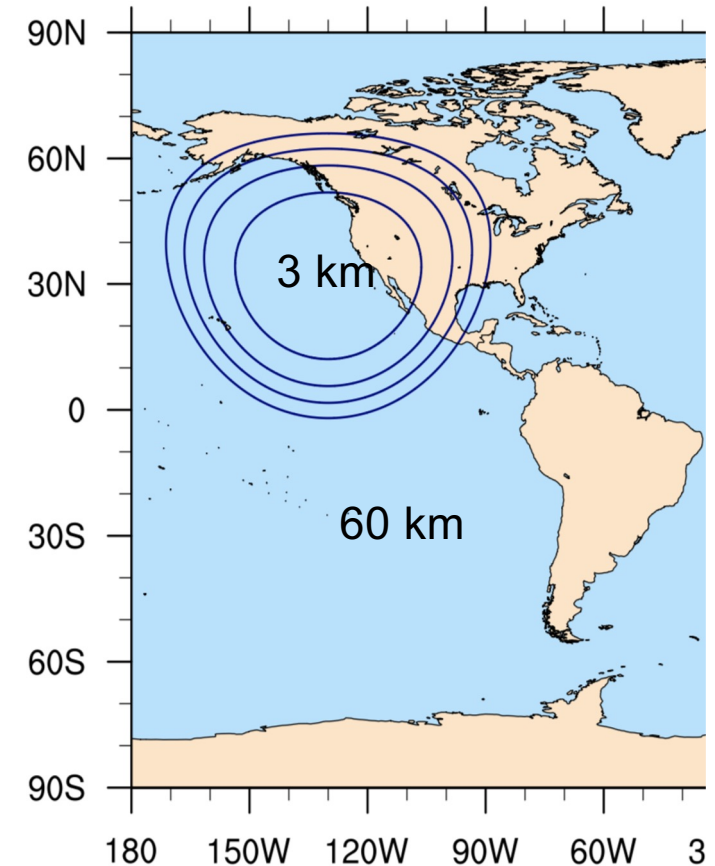
Goal is to release EarthWorks configurations in 2025

<http://hogback.atmos.colostate.edu › earthworks>

# MPAS Earth System Model Capabilities

## Western US wet season simulations (Xingying Huang, NCAR/CGD)

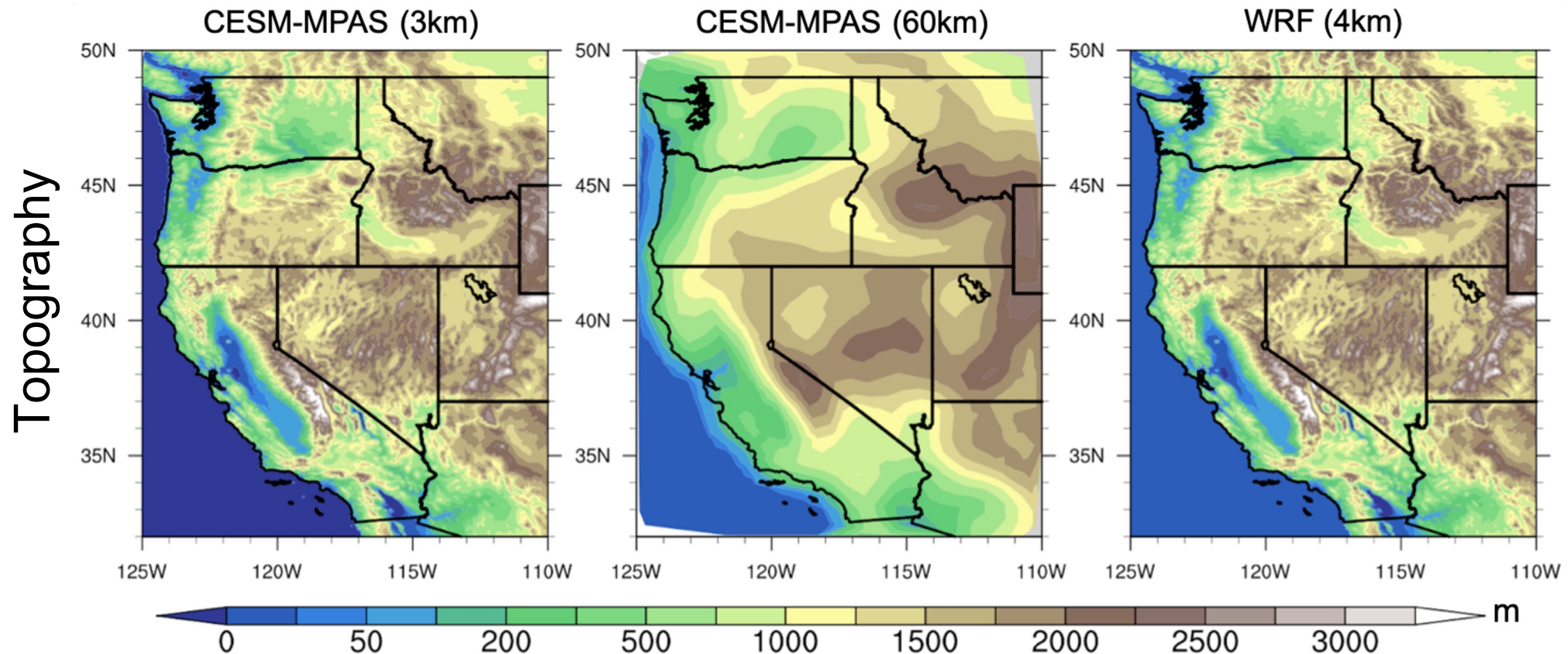
- Configurations
  - CESM-MPAS simulations at 60-3km variable resolution over Western US: 58 vertical layers up to 43 km
  - CESM-MPAS simulations at 60km (58 vertical layers; 2000-2002; Nov. to March)
- Nov-March simulations, years 1999-2004
- Initialized with CFSR
- CAM6 physics, CTSM (land model)
- Data ocean (specified SSTs), ice



Grid mesh configuration in 60-3km experiments  
(**835586** grids, mpas\_dt **20s**, **58** vertical layers)

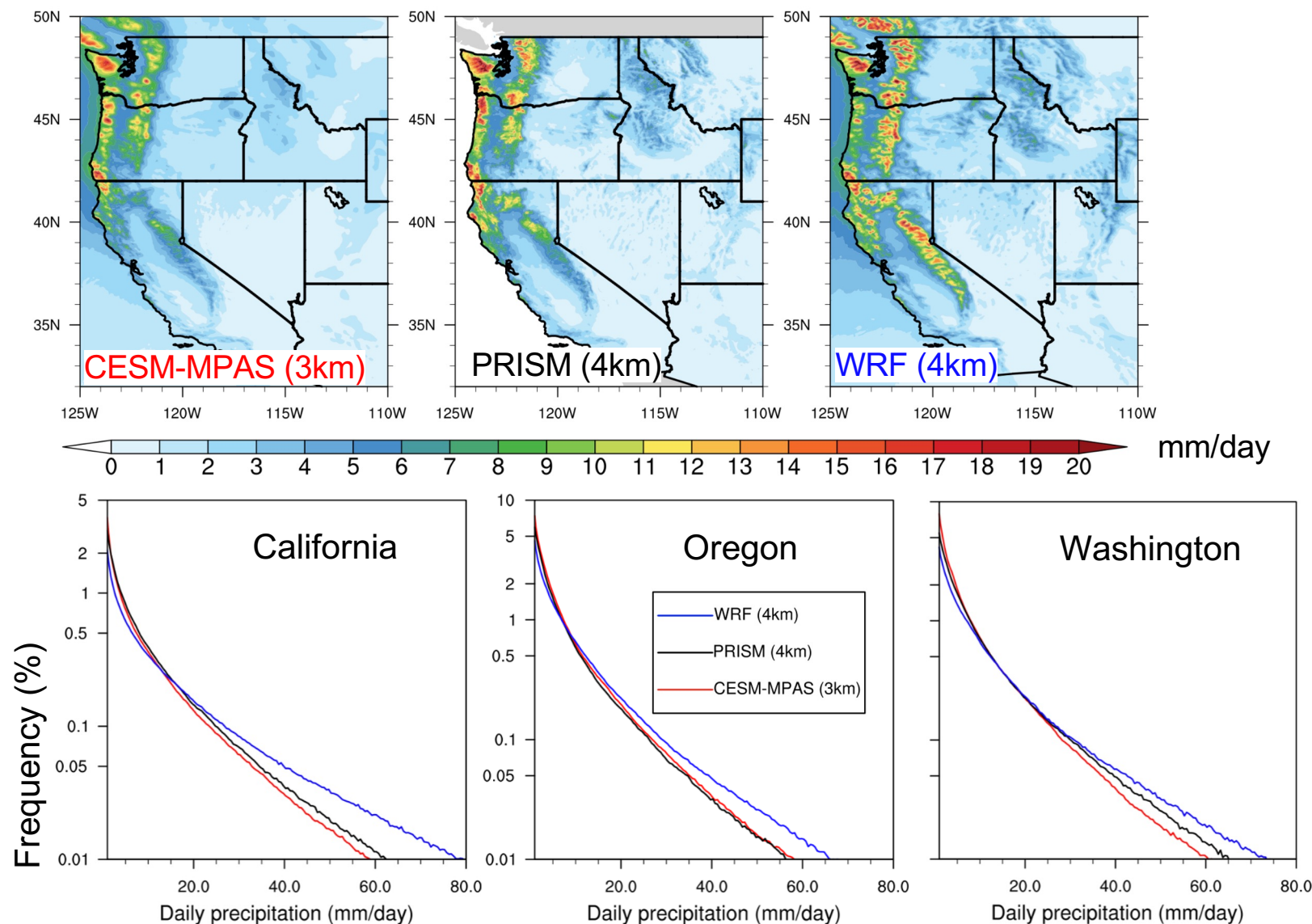
# Variable resolution MPAS (60-3 km)

- Observational dataset: PRISM 4km (Daly et al., 2017) (T2, T2min, T2max, Precip.); Daymet 1km (Thornton et al., 2020) (SWE)
- Regional climate modeling data: WRF (CONUS) 4km (Rasmussen et al., 2021).





# Variable resolution MPAS (60-3 km): Results



## *Wet-season (Nov-March) precipitation over western US (1999-2004)*

- CISM-MPAS results are overall well represented compared to obs. and WRF model
- CISM-MPAS tends underestimate and WRF here tends overestimate in most regions

## *Probability distribution of daily precipitation*

- Daily precip. features reinforces the mean performance shown above
- CISM-MPAS captures PDF better than WRF here, especially for more extreme precipitation (upper tail)

# Variable resolution MPAS (60-3 km): Results



0 UTC 26 April 2017 init from GFS-FNL  
60-3 km variable-resolution mesh  
3 global simulations:  
(1) Stand-alone MPAS (WRF physics)  
(2) MPAS-CAM, CAM6 physics  
(3) CAM6 physics, MG3 microphysics

## Physics differences

*MPAS-CAM6 physics*

CLUBB PBL and shallow convection

MG2 and MG3 microphysics

CLM land model

*MPAS-Atmosphere physics*

MYNN PBL, GF shallow convection

Thompson microphysics

NOAH land model

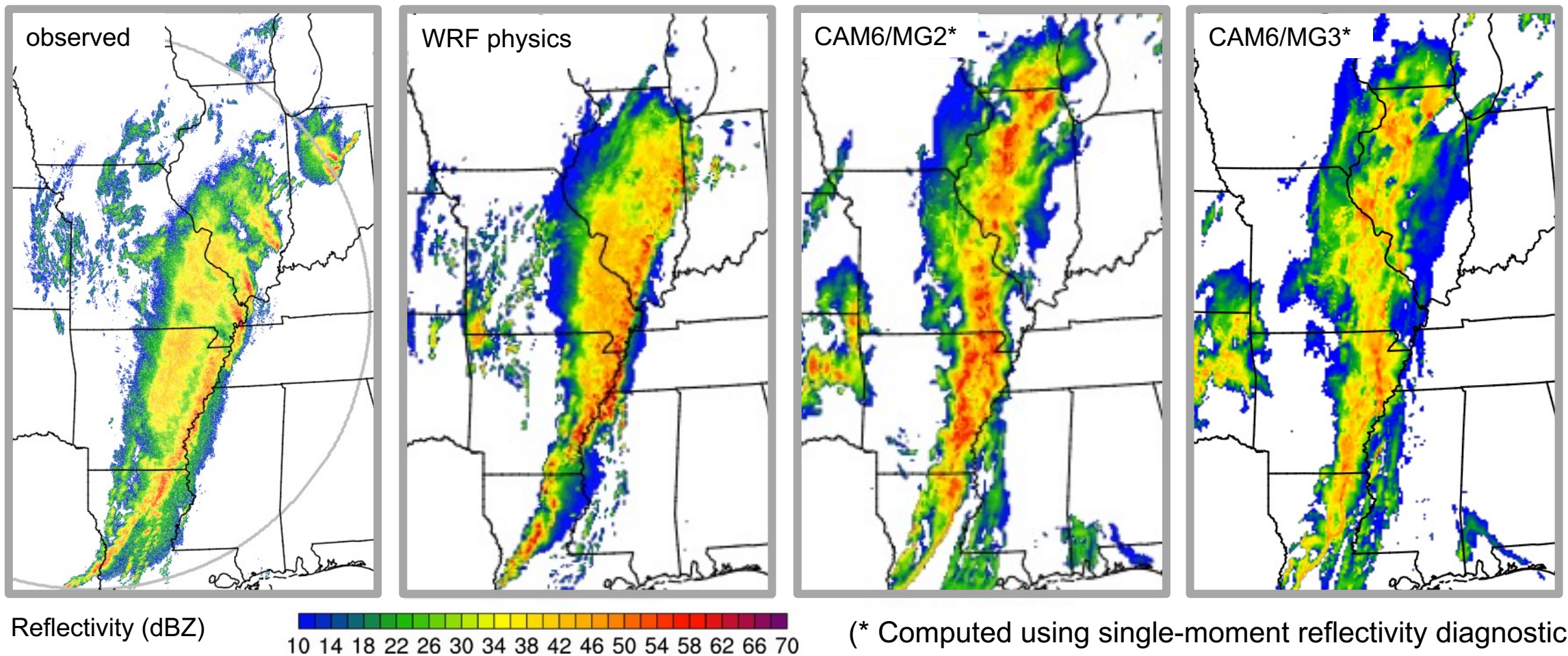
## Initialization

The atmospheres have identical initializations for winds, density, temperature and vapor (no clouds or precipitates in the ICs).

Other atmospheric components, e.g. aerosols, etc are different.  
Land model initializations are different.  
SSTs are different.

# MPAS - CAM6 physics at convection-permitting scales

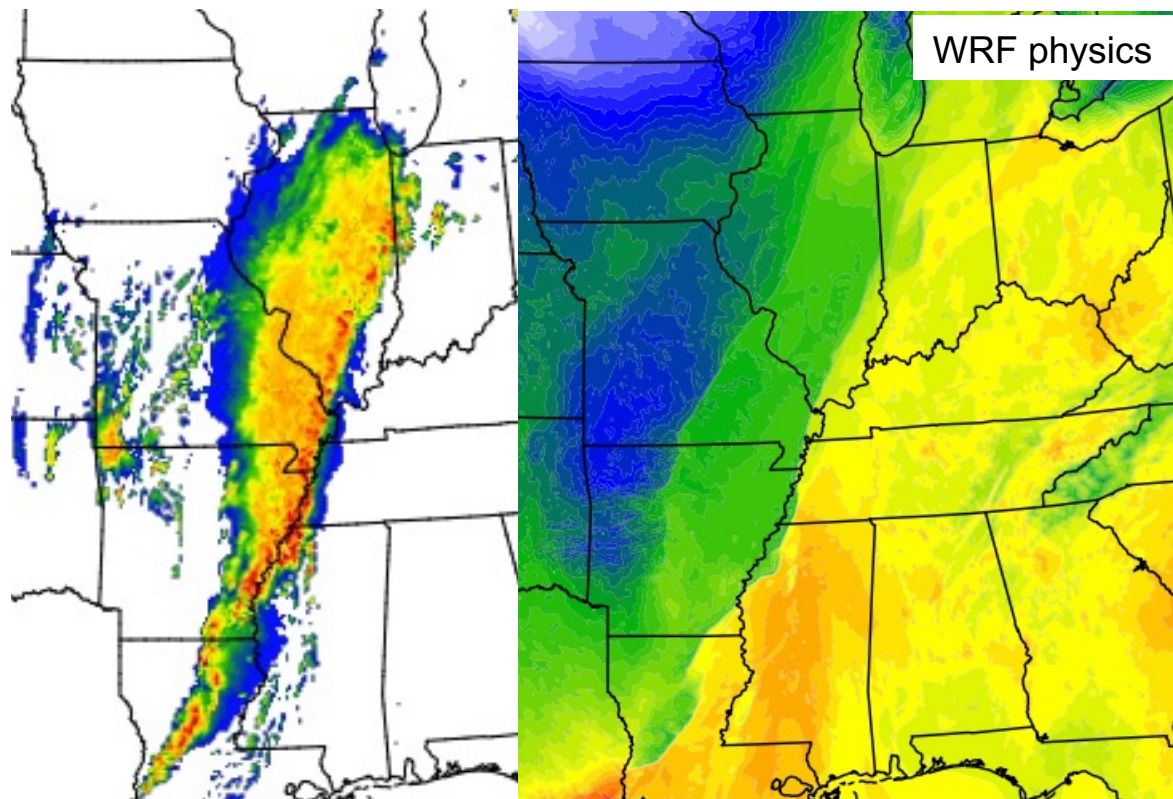
Central US spring test case, 24 hour forecast valid 0 UTC 27 April 2017





# MPAS - CAM6 physics at convection-permitting scales

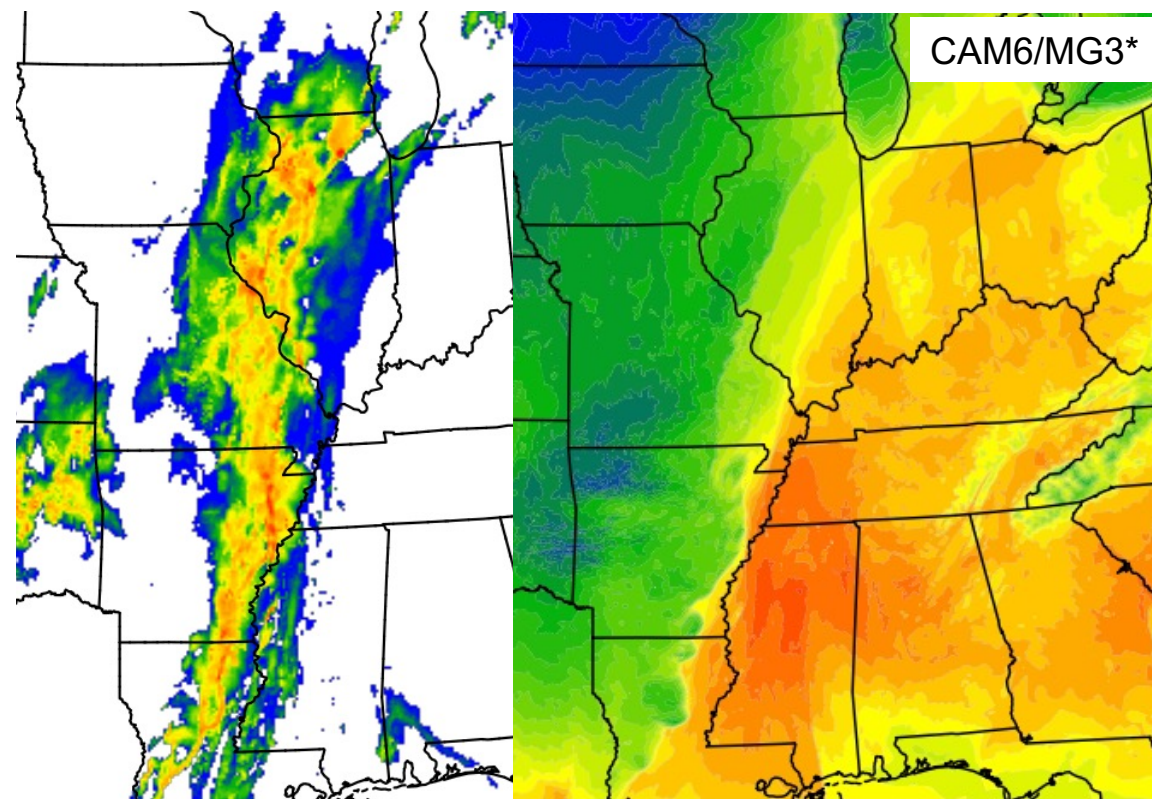
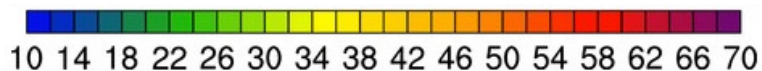
Central US spring test case, 24 hour forecast valid 0 UTC 27 April 2017



Reflectivity (dBZ)

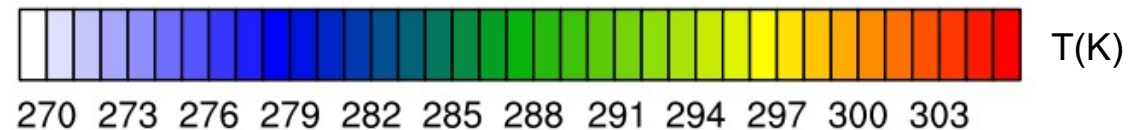
Lowest model level temperature (K)

Reflectivity (dBZ)



Reflectivity (dBZ)

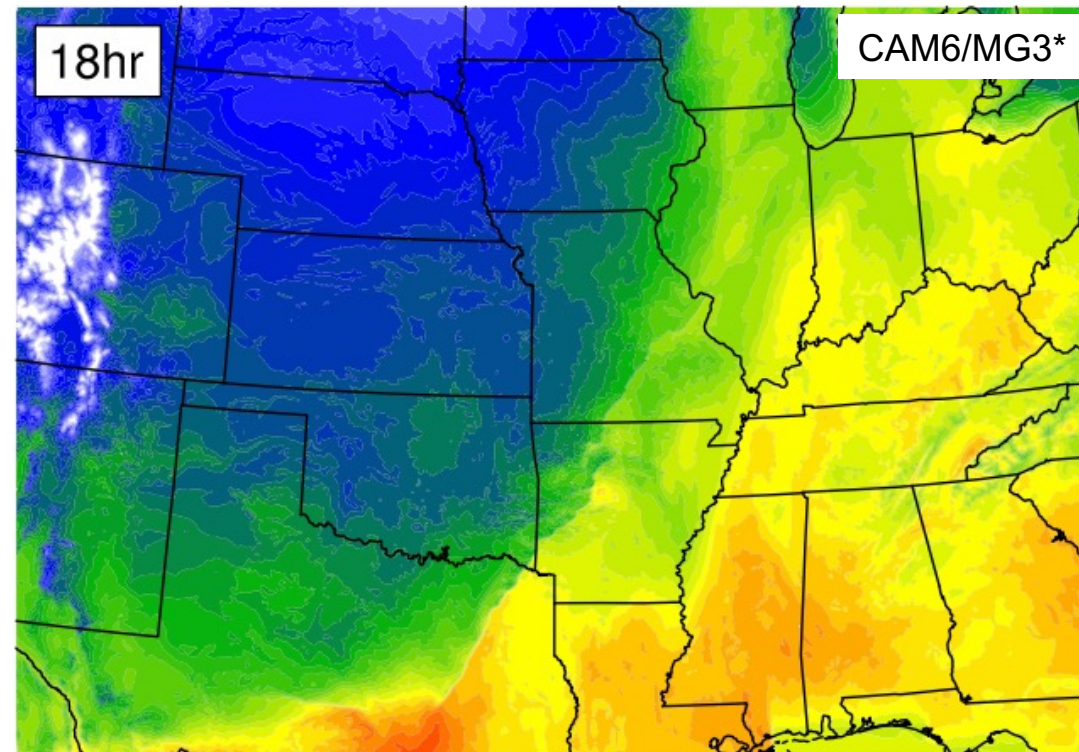
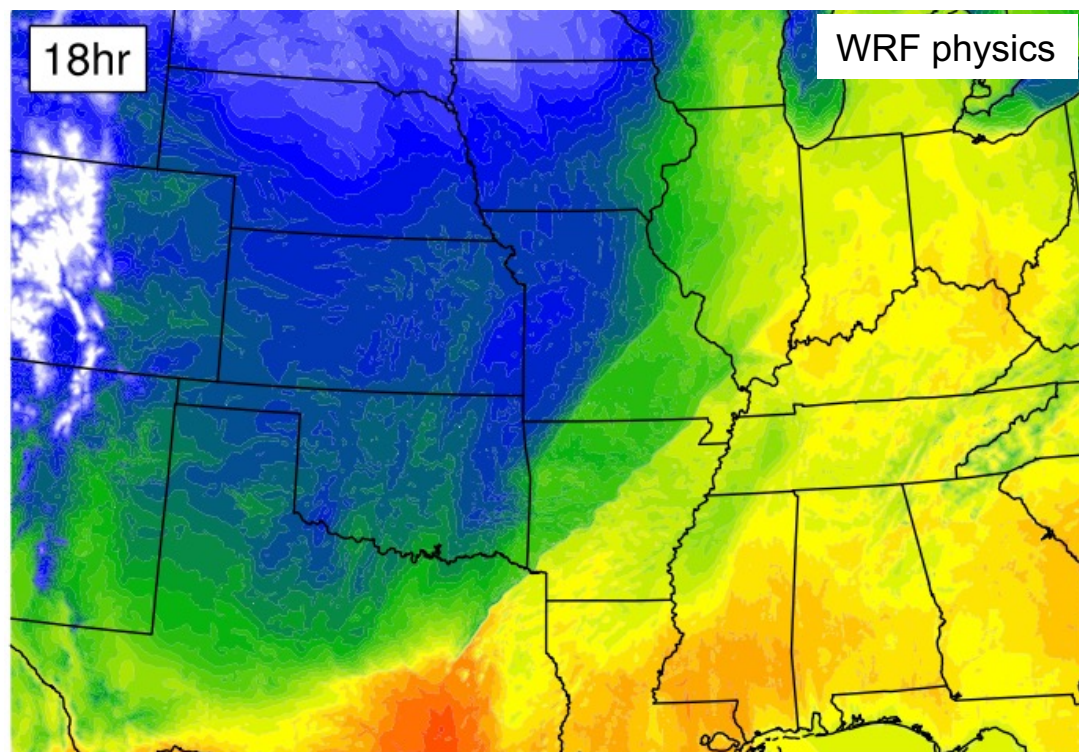
Lowest model level temperature (K)





# MPAS - CAM6 physics at convection-permitting scales

Central US spring test case, 18 hour forecast valid 18 UTC 26 April 2017



Temperature (K)



# Summary

MPAS developments proceeding in many areas

- Deep-atmosphere applications (Klemp talk)
- Data assimilation (Liu talk)
- Shared physics with WRF (Fowler talk, Wong talk)

MPAS GPU capabilities, GPU physics

- We expect to release Derecho configurations in the coming year
- GPU updates this coming year
- New GPU-enabled physics also coming

ESM capabilities

- We are now testing MPAS in CESM/CAM
- Physics, initialization need work for convective-scale applications.
- CESM-MPAS configurations will be released soon

