

WRF: *More Runtime Options*

Wei Wang

NCAR/NESL/MMM

November 2011



Fortran namelist

- Fortran 90 namelist is used to configure a run without recompiling the code
- Fortran 90 namelist has very specific format, so edit with care:

`&namelist-record` - start

/ - end

- As a general rule:

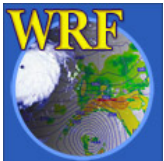
Multiple columns: domain dependent

Single column: value valid for all domains



More options

- Have covered basic, physics / diffusion options, and nudging options..
- More are introduced here:
 - IO options
 - options for long simulations ($> 5 - 10$ days)
 - Adaptive-time step
 - Digital filter
 - Global runs
 - Moving nest
 - TC options
 - tracer
 - Stochastic kinetic-energy backscatter scheme
 - IO quilting
- Time series output



namelist.input

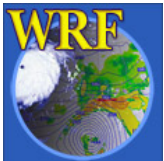
general namelist

records:

`&time_control`
`&domains`
`&physics`
`&dynamics`
`&bdy_control`
`&namelist_quilt`

specialized namelist
records:

`&dfi_control`
`&fdda`
`&grib2`
`&scm`
`&tc`



IO Control (1)

History output control in `&time_control`

`history_interval`: used often, unit in minutes

`history_interval_h`: history output interval in hours

`history_interval_s`: history output interval in seconds

`history_begin_h`: history output beginning time in hours

`history_begin_d`: history output beginning time in days

Complete listing in `Registry/`
`registry.io_boilerplate`



IO Control (2)

Starting in V3.2, there is an alternative to add additional output at **runtime** (state variables in Registry only)

1. new namelists in &time_control:

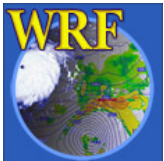
```
iofields_filename(max_dom) = 'my_output.txt',  
ignore_iofields_warning
```

2. prepare text file ('my_output.txt') to define new io fields:

```
+:h:6:rainc,rainnc
```

3. set other namelists under &time_control:

```
auxhist6_outname = "rainfall_d<domain>"  
auxhist6_interval = 10  
frames_per_auxhist6 = 1000  
io_form_auxhist6 = 2
```



See '**Run-Time IO**' section in Chapter 5, User's Guide

Options for long simulations (1)

Lower boundary update control: allow SST, seaice, monthly vegetation fraction and albedo to be updated regularly during a model run:

sst_update: 0 – no SST update
1 – update SST

Set before running **real**, and this will create additional output files: **wrflowinp_d01**, **wrflowinp_d02**, ..

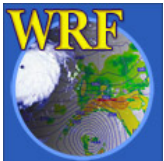
Other namelists required in **&time_control**:

auxinput4_inname = "wrflowinp_d<domain>"

auxinput4_interval = 360

io_form_auxinput4 = 2 (netCDF)

See '**Using sst_update Option**' in Chapter 5, UG



Options for long simulations (2)

<code>sst_skin</code>	diurnal water temp update
<code>tmn_update</code>	deep soil temp update, used with <code>lagday</code>
<code>lagday</code>	averaging time for deep soil temp
<code>bucket_mm</code>	bucket reset value for rainfall
<code>bucket_j</code>	bucket reset value for radiation fluxes
<code>spec_exp</code>	exponential multiplier for boundary zone ramping, together with wider <code>spec_bdy_width</code> and <code>spec_zone</code>



Options for long simulations (3)

<code>output_diagnostics</code>	output 36 surface diagnostics arrays: T2, Q2, TSK, U10, V10, rainfall
<code>auxhist3_outname</code>	<code>wrfxtrm_d<domain>_<date></code>
<code>io_form_auxhist3</code>	= 2
<code>frames_per_outfiles</code>	= 1000
<code>auxhist3_interval</code>	= 1440



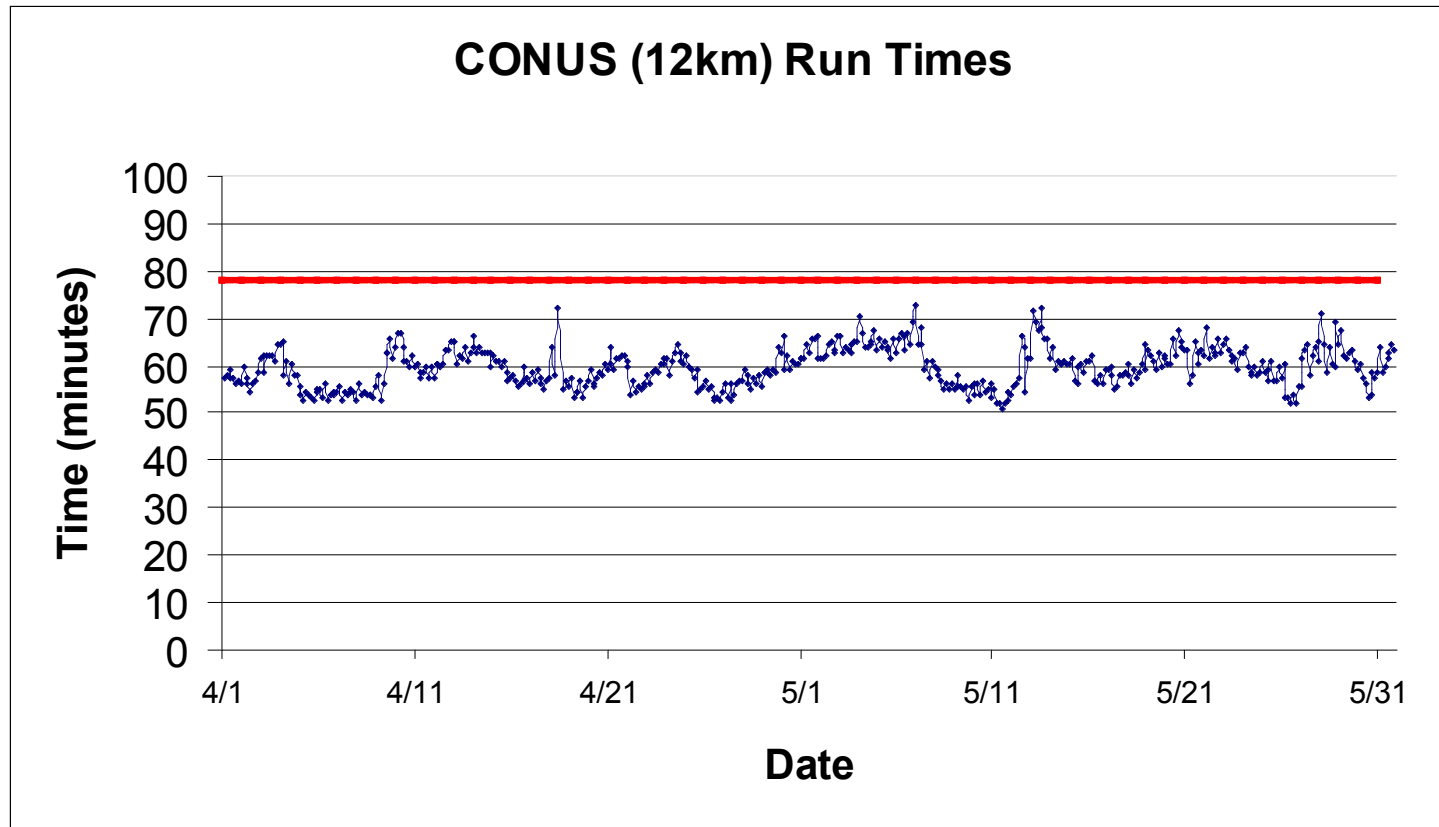
Adaptive time steps (1)

- Adaptive-time-step is a way to maximize the model time step while keeping the model numerically stable
- New in V3. Good to use for real-time run

Also see ‘**Using Adaptive Time Stepping**’
section in Chapter 5, UG



Adaptive time steps (2): an example



On average, forecasts finish in 60 min (50-73min)
as compared to 79 min standard runtime



Adaptive time steps (3)

Namelist control: **&domains**

<code>use_adaptive_time_step</code>	logical switch
<code>step_to_output_time</code>	whether to write at exact history output times
<code>target_cfl</code>	maximum cfl allowed (1.2)
<code>max_step_increase_pct</code>	percentage of time step increase each time; set to 5, 51, 51 (larger value for nest)
<code>starting_time_step</code>	in seconds; e.g. set to 4*DX
<code>max_time_step</code>	in seconds; e.g. set to 8*DX
<code>min_time_step</code>	in seconds; e.g. set to 4*DX



Digital filter initialization (1)

Digital filter initialization is a simple way to remove initial model imbalance:

- May be introduced by simple interpolation, different topography, or by objective analysis, or data assimilation
- It may generate spurious gravity waves in the early simulation hours, which could cause erroneous precipitation, numerical instability and degrade subsequent data assimilation



Digital filter initialization (2)

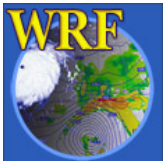
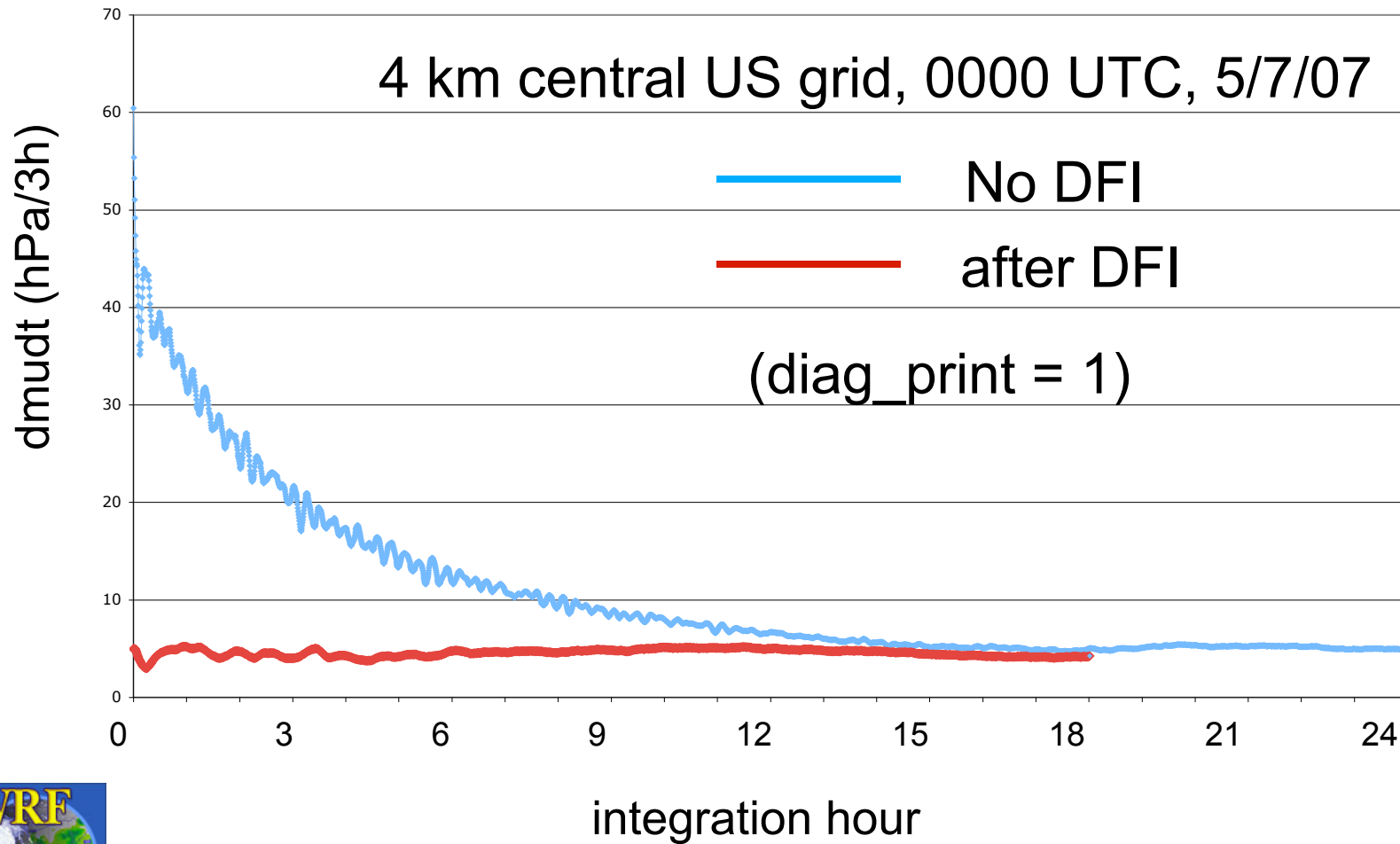
Using DFI

- can construct consistent model fields which do not exist in the initial conditions, e.g. vertical motion, cloud variables
- may reduce the spin-up problem in early simulation hours

DFI is done after program **real**, or data-assimilation step, just before model integration



Digital filter initialization (3)

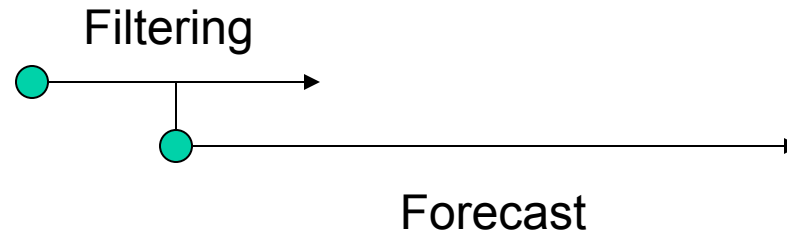


Digital filter initialization (4)

IC time

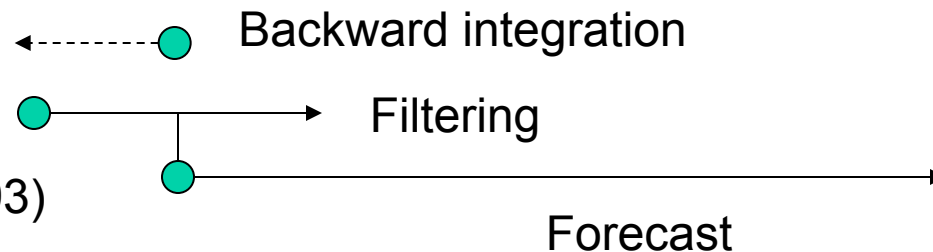
DFL:

(Lynch and Huang, 1994)



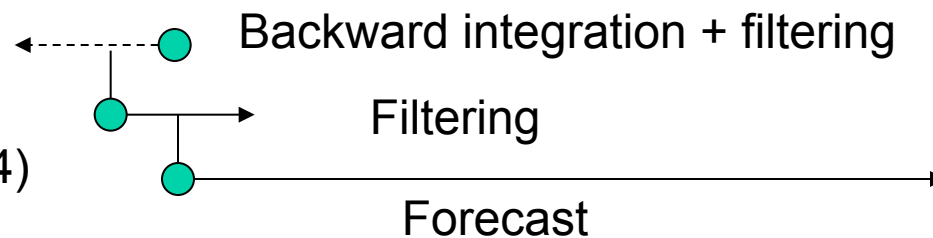
DDFI:

(Huang and Lynch, 1993)



TDFI:

(Lynch and Huang, 1994)



Digital filter initialization (5)

Namelist control: **&dfi**

dfi_opt: dfi options: 0: no DFI; 1: DFL; 2: DDFI; 3: TDFI (recommended)

dfi_nfilter: filter options 0 - 8, recommended: 7

dfi_cutoff_seconds : cutoff period

dfi_write_filtered_input : whether to write filtered IC

dfi_bckstop_* : stop time for backward integration

dfi_fwdstop_* : stop time for forward integration

Other related namelists: **examples.namelist**

See 'Using Digital Filter Initialization', Chap 5, UG



Global application

Setup mostly done in WPS:

`map_proj = 'lat-lon'`

`e_we, e_sn`: `geogrid` will compute dx, dy

See template `'namelist.wps.global'`

In the model stage:

`fft_filter_lat`: default value is 45 degrees

Caution: some options do not work, or have been tested with global domain. Start with template

`'namelist.input.global'`

See '**Global Run**' section, Chap 5, UG



Automatic moving nest options

Tropical cyclone / typhoon / hurricane applications:

vortex_interval: time interval when vortex location is estimated

max_vortex_speed: used to compute the search radius for vortex location

corral_dist: how far the vortex can move near the parent domain boundary (number of grids)

track_level: e.g. 700 or 500 mb

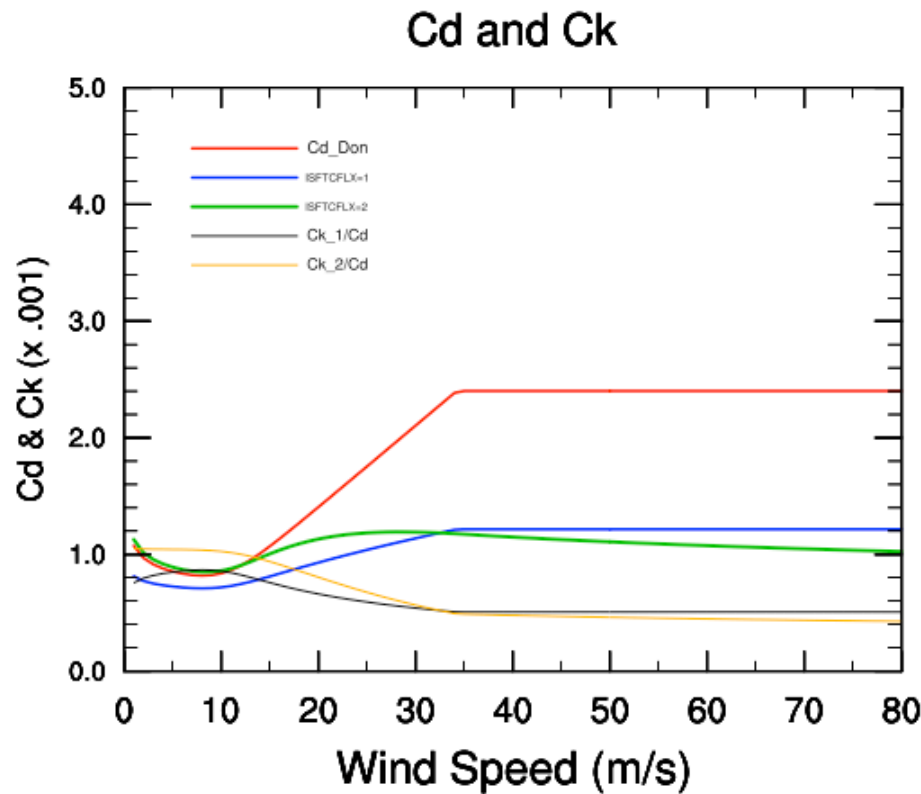
time_to_move: hold nests still until this time



See '**Moving Nested Run**', Chap 5, UG

TC options (1)

isftcflx: alternative C_d (Donelan) and C_k ($=1$, const z_0q ; $=2$, Garratt) formulation for TC application



TC options (2)

`omlcall`: simple ocean mixed layer

`oml_hml0`: initial ocean mixed layer depth

`oml_gamma`: lapse rate in deep water

The ocean mixed layer model can also be initialized with real-data, e.g. HYCOM

http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/hurricanes/wrf_ahw.html



tracer options

`tracer_opt:` = 2, activate tracers (default no. is 8)

Advection only; no mixing from PBL or transport from CPS

One would need some way to initialize the tracer



Stochastic kinetic-energy backscatter scheme

This is a way to stochastically perturb forecasts.

stoch_force_opt: = 1, activate the scheme

nens: = 1, an integer that controls the random number stream; a different integer will give a differently perturbed forecast

Also see ‘**Option to stochastically perturb forecasts**’ section in Chap 5, UG



IO quilting: &namelist_quilt

Parallel I/O control:

nio_tasks_per_group (>0) : allow IO to be done on separate processors. Performance improvement for large domain runs. A value of 2 to 4 works well.

io_groups (>1) : number of I/O streams that the quilting applies.

See ‘**Using IO Quilting**’ section, Chap 5, UG

Note that using p-netCD is another way to improve IO



Time Series Output (1)

- It is a special output in text format with file name like
prefix.d<domain>.TS
- It outputs 14 surface variables at every time step:
e.g. 10 m u/v, 2 m T/qv, precipitation, radiation, surface fluxes
- One file per location/weather station

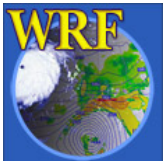


Time Series Output (2)

- Not a namelist option, but if more than 5 points are output, add '**max_ts_locs** = N' in &domains
- Depends the presence of a file called '**tslist**' (a sample of the file is available in **WRFV3/run/**)

```
#-----#  
# 24 characters for name | pfx | LAT | LON |  
#-----#  
Cape Hallett          hallt -72.330  170.250  
McMurdo Station      mcm    -77.851  166.713
```

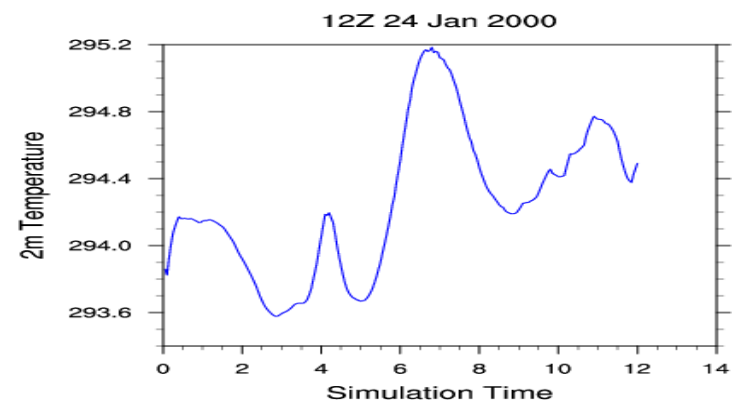
- This file provides a list of locations where you would like to output time series
- More information in **run/README.tslist** and '**Output Time Series**' section, Chapter 5, UG



Time Series Output (3)

Content in hallt.d01.TS:

```
Cape Hallett          1  1 hallt ( 36.710, -79.000) ( 41, 38)
( 36.600, -79.142) 159.6 meters
1      0.050000      1  41  38      275.47397      0.00288
3.52110      -2.34275  99988.76563      244.81276
0.00000      -29.94841      4.09765      273.90295      278.20197
0.00000      0.00000      0.00000
1      0.100000      1  41  38      275.56287      0.00282
3.14414      -2.05875  99956.98438      244.81276
0.00000      -25.64095      4.18446      273.78323      278.18314
0.00000      0.00000      0.00000
```



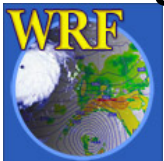
Recommended

Start with the **namelist template** in a particular test directory, and the options specified in them, and make modifications.

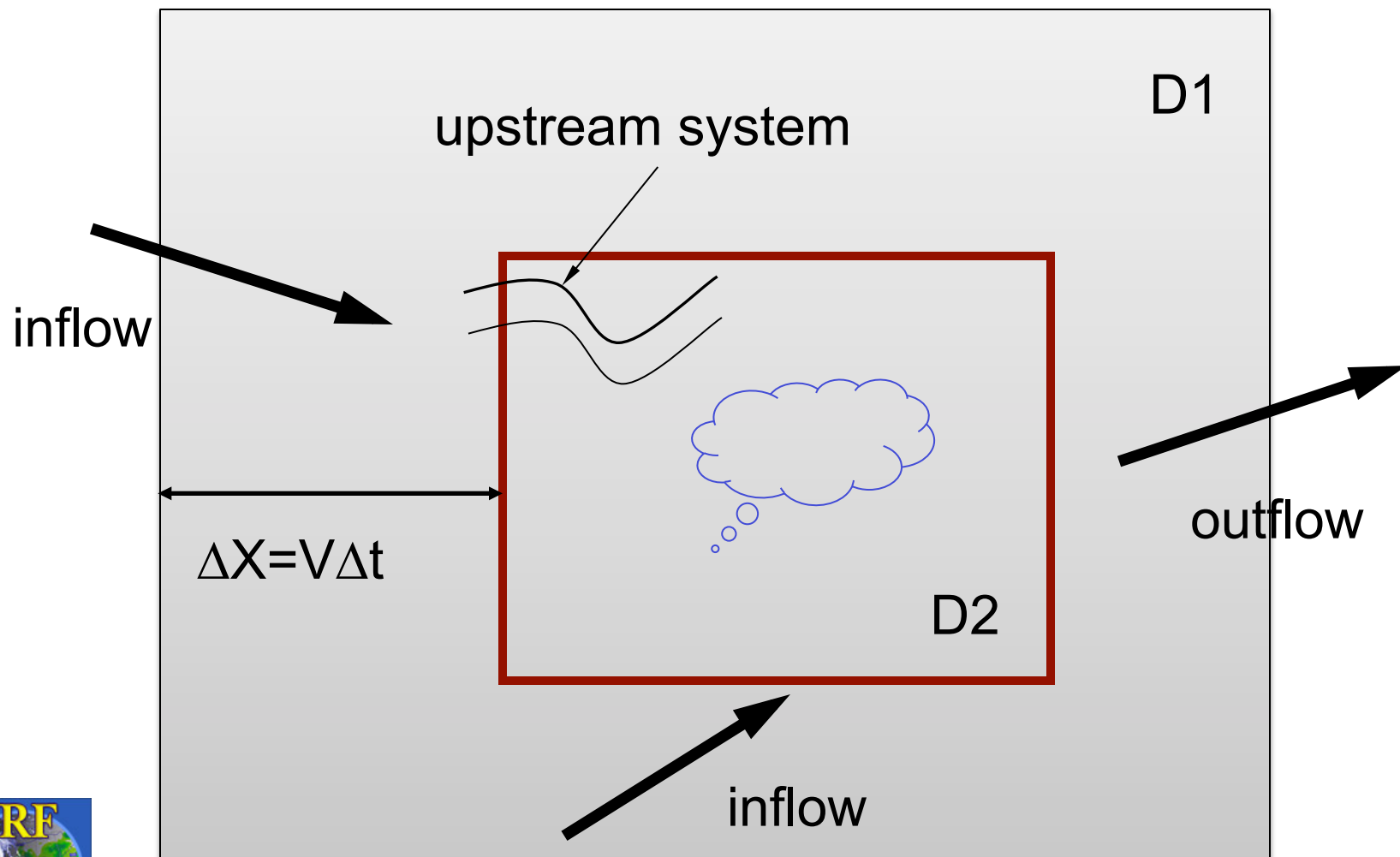
For special applications, look for related namelists in the file *examples.namelist* in *test/em_real/* directory.

Chapter 5 of ARW User's Guide, pages 5-25 – 5-27: examples for various applications.

For more information on global extension, DFI and adaptive time step, read Tech Note, and User's Guide.



Note on Configuring Domains: Horizontal



Note on Configuring Domains: Vertical

