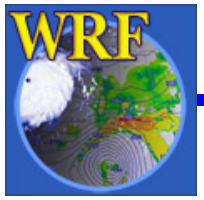
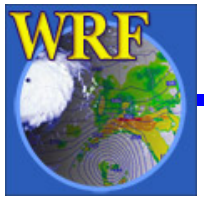
WRF-Var System Overview

Xin Zhang, Yong-Run Guo,
Syed R-H Rizvi, and Michael Duda

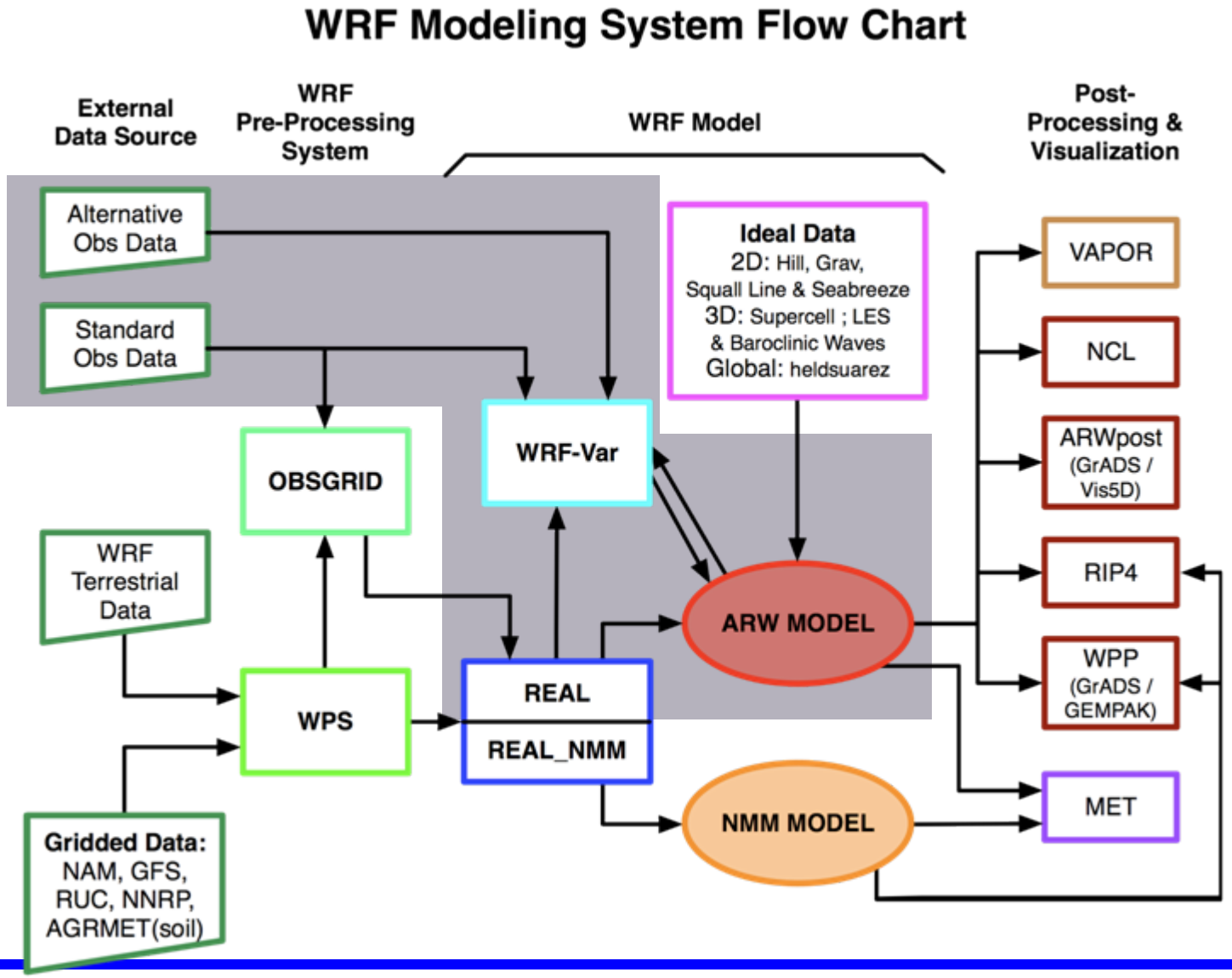


Outline

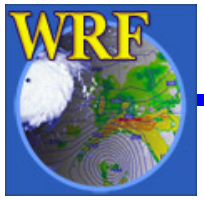
1. WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System
2. WRF-Var Software
3. WRF-Var Implementation



WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System



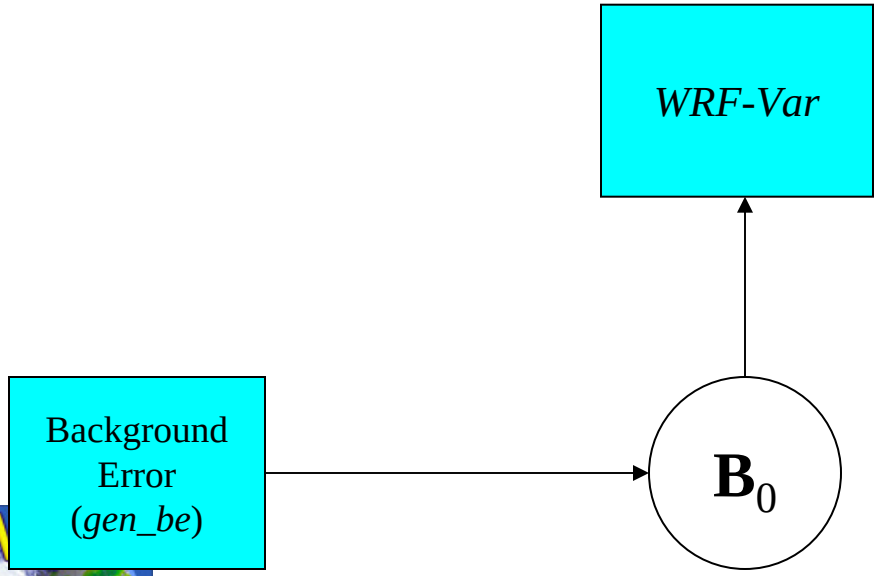
WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System



Blue --> Supported by WRF-Var Team

WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

1. Prepare BE data



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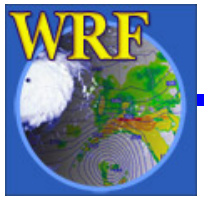
Prepare BE statistics

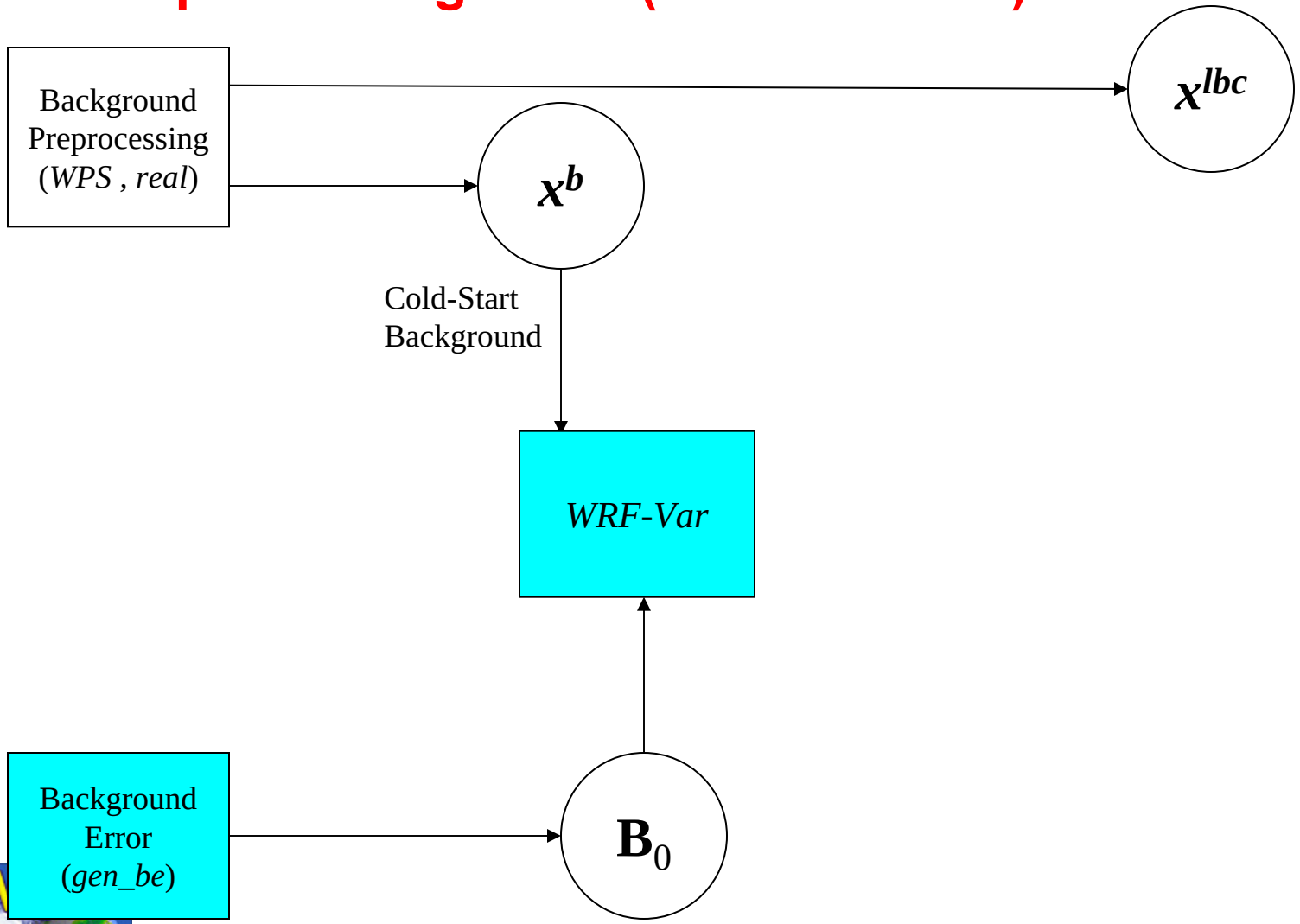
$$J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + (\mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})$$

- For initial testing , default background error statistics may be used
  - be.dat file (CV option 5) from test case tar file can only be used with the domain from online tutorial
  - be.dat.cv3 (CV option 3) from source code tar file can be used for general test domains
- Ultimately, these should be specific to the particular model domain (and season)
- See lecture “WRF-Var Background Error Estimations”



WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

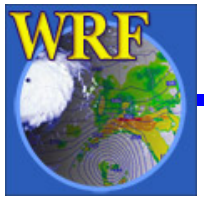
2. Prepare background (WPS and real)



Prepare background

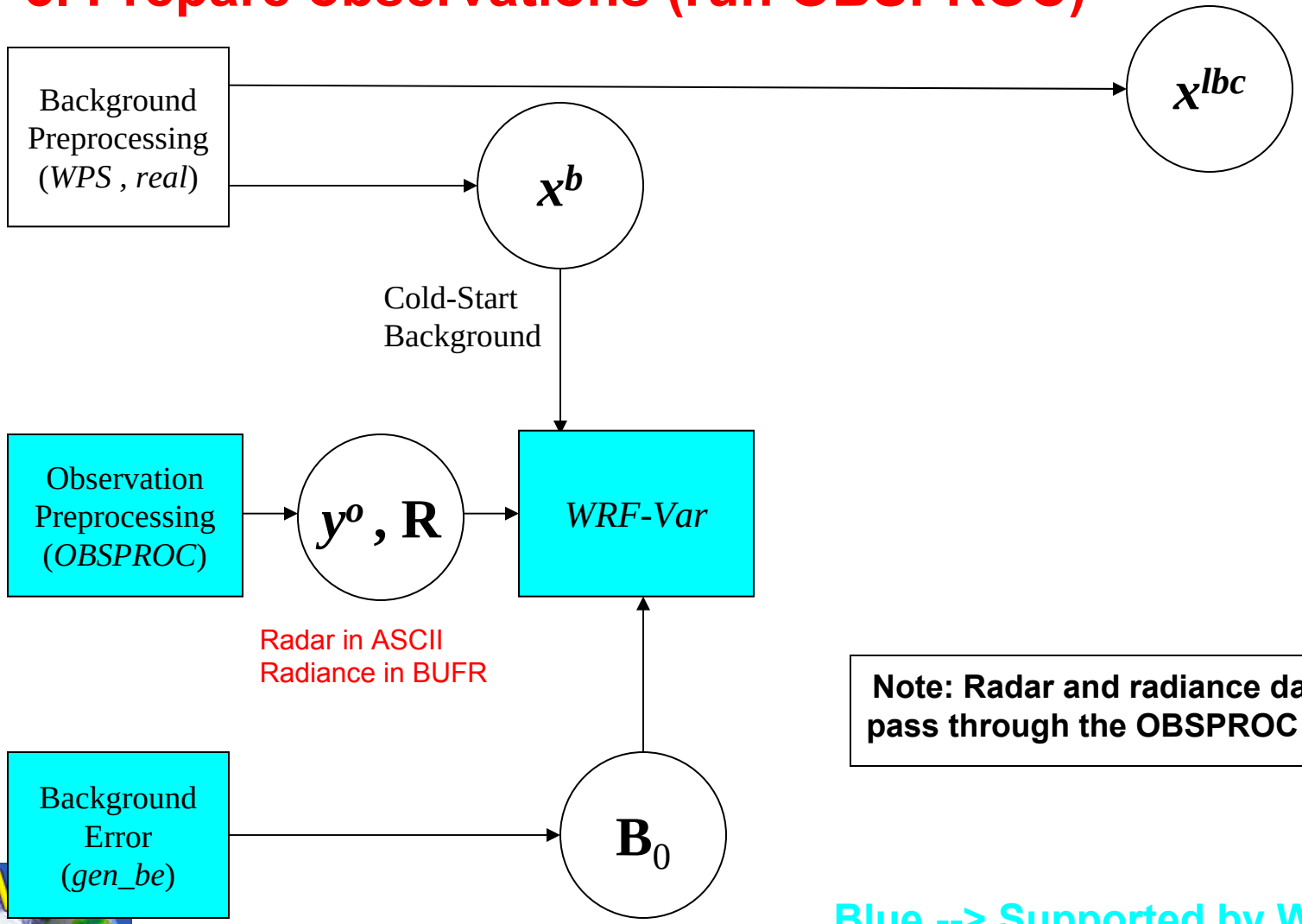
$$J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{b})^{T}\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{b}) + (\mathbf{y}^{o} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})^{T}\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}^{o} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})$$

- In “cold-start” mode: accomplished by running the WPS and *real* programs
  - The background is essentially the wrfinput_d01 file
- In “cycling” mode: the output of the WRF model
  - WRF can output wrfinput-formatted files used for cycling



WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

3. Prepare observations (run OBSPROC)



Note: Radar and radiance data do not pass through the OBSPROC program!

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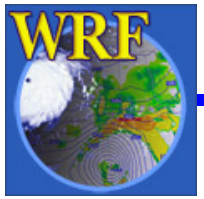
Prepare observations (y^0)

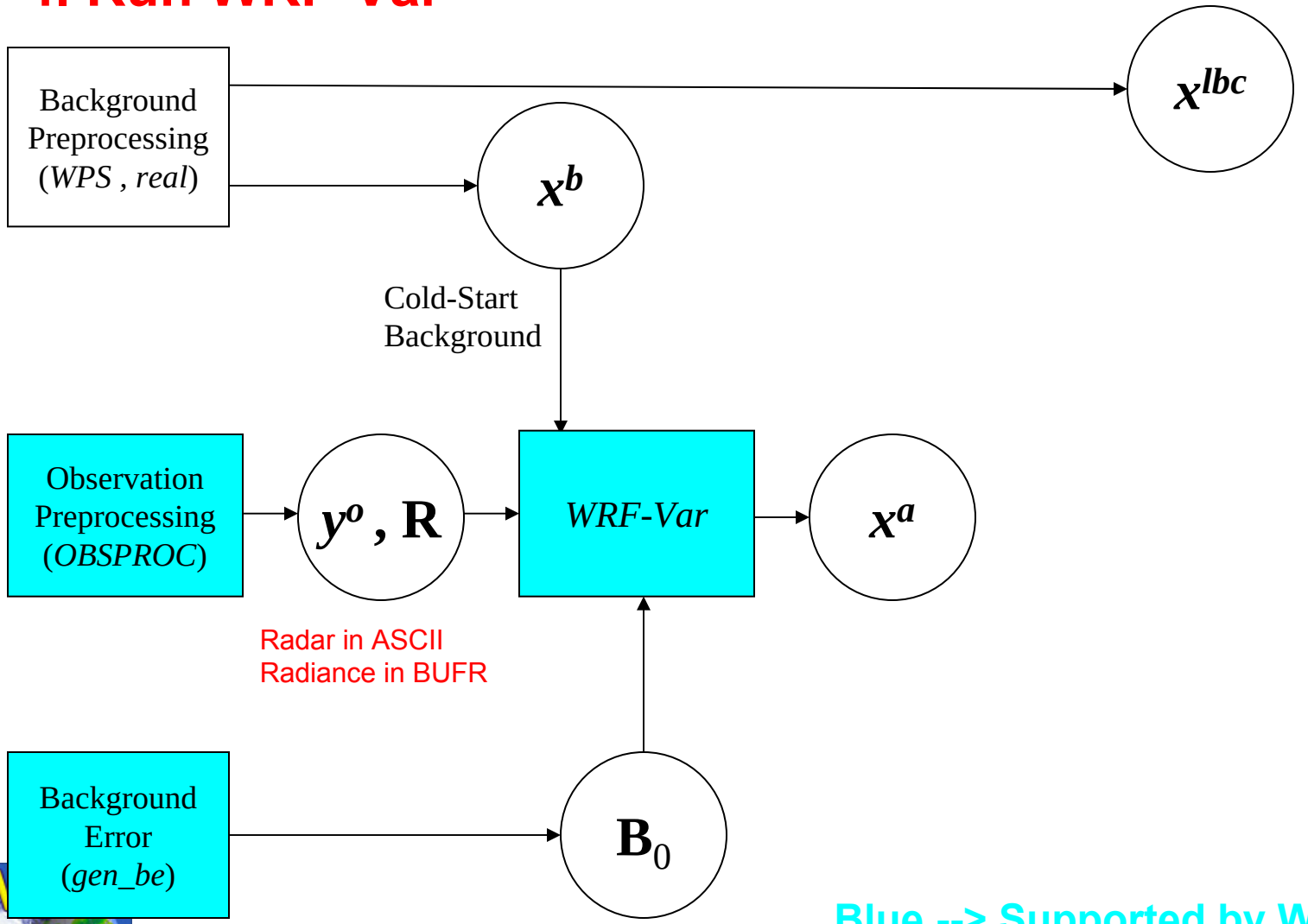
$$J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + (\mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})$$

- Observation input for WRF-Var is supplied through observation preprocessor, OBSPROC
  - Except radar and satellite radiances
- Observation error covariance also provided by OBSPROC (**R** is a diagonal matrix)
- Separate input file (ASCII) for radar, both reflectivity and radial velocity.
- Separate input file for satellite radiances



WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

4. Run WRF-Var



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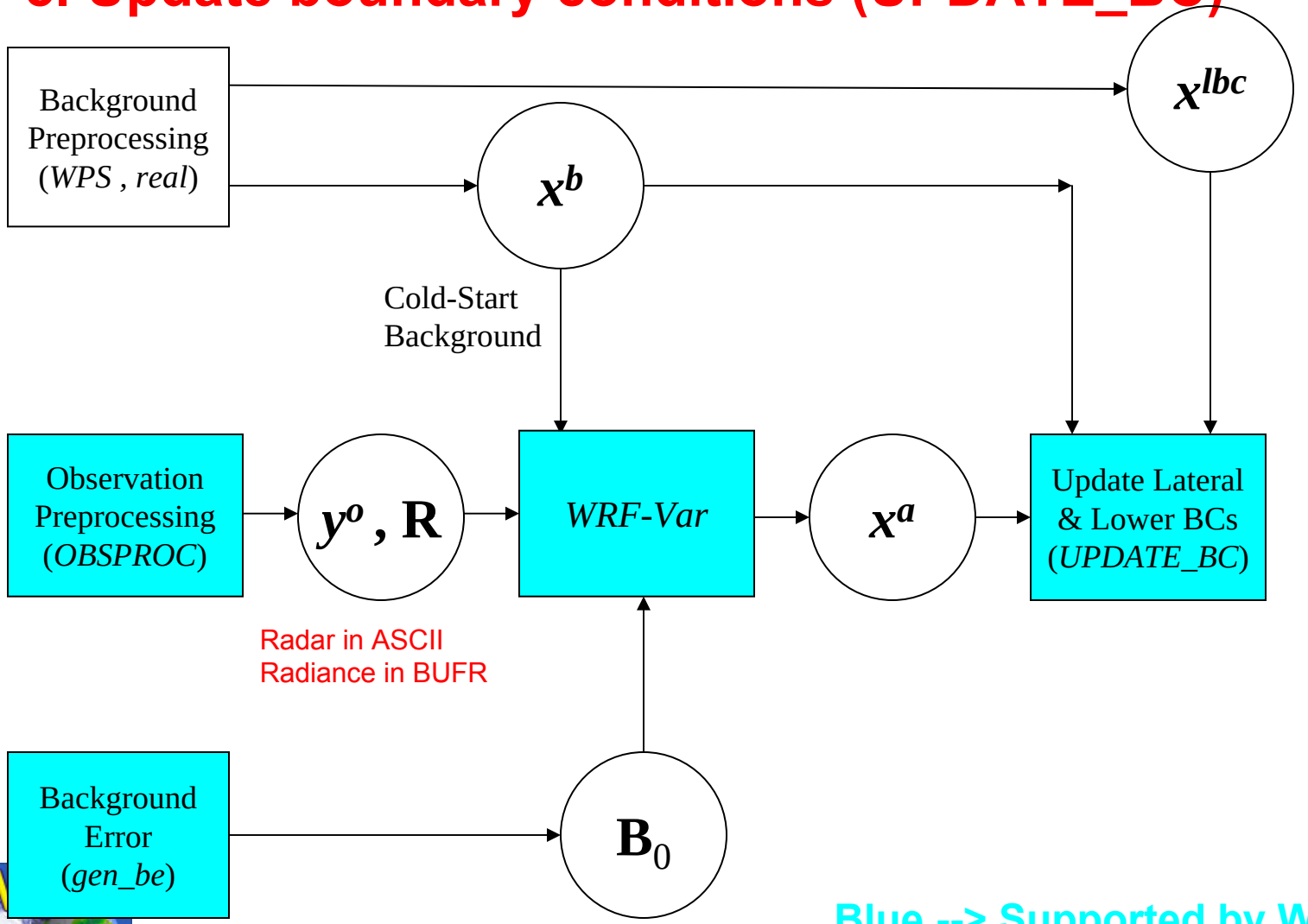
WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

5. Update boundary conditions (UPDATE_BC)



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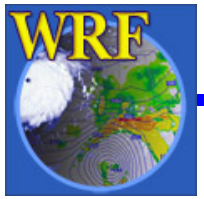
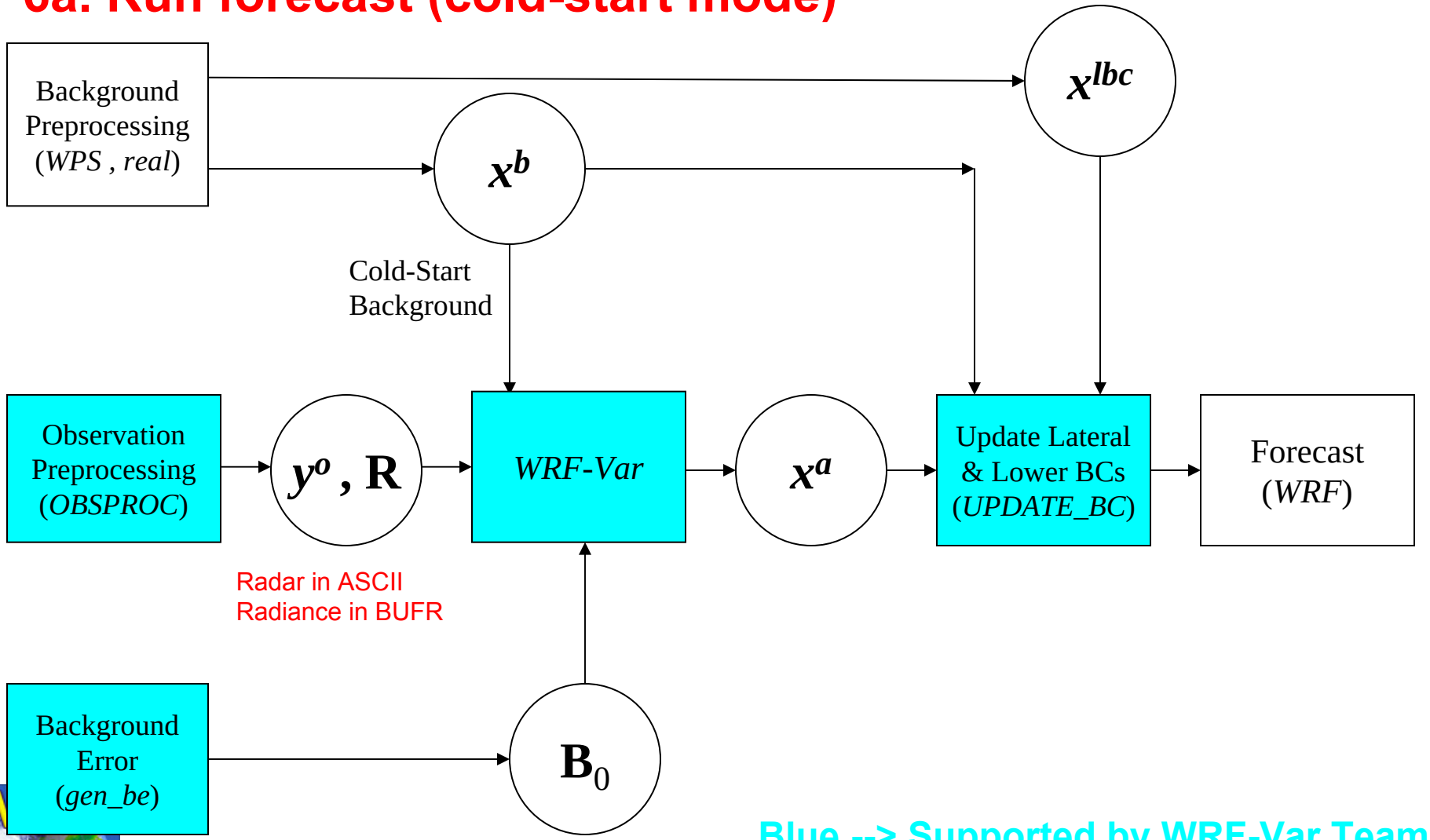
Update boundary conditions

- After creating an analysis, $\mathbf{x}^a$, we have changed the initial conditions for the model
  - However, tendencies in wrfbdy_d01 (and possibly wrflbdy) file are valid for background, $\mathbf{x}^b$
- The update_bc program adjusts these tendencies based on the difference $\mathbf{x}^a - \mathbf{x}^b$
- Of course, if $\mathbf{x}^a$ was produced for reasons other than running WRF, there is probably not a need to update boundary conditions



WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

6a. Run forecast (cold-start mode)



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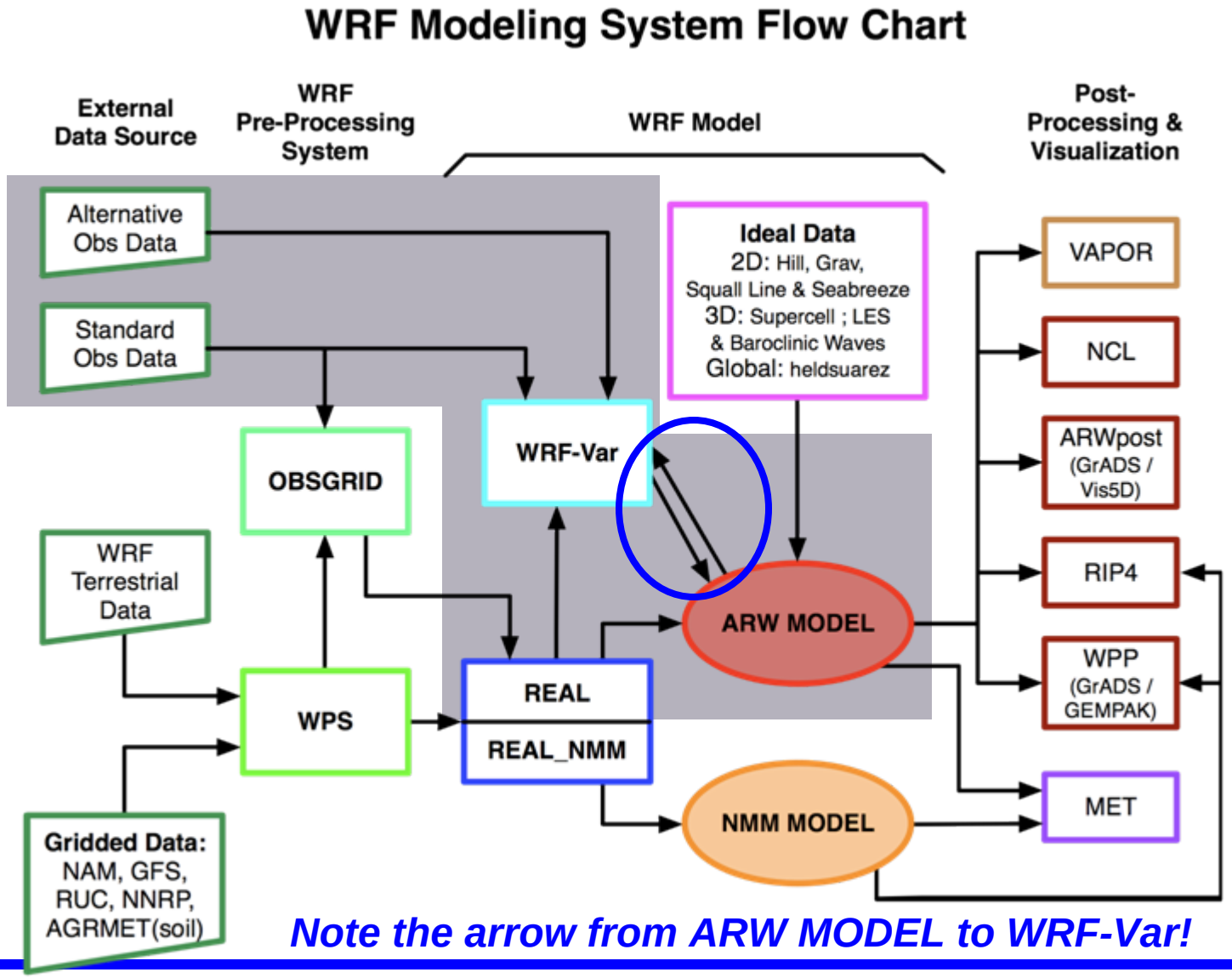
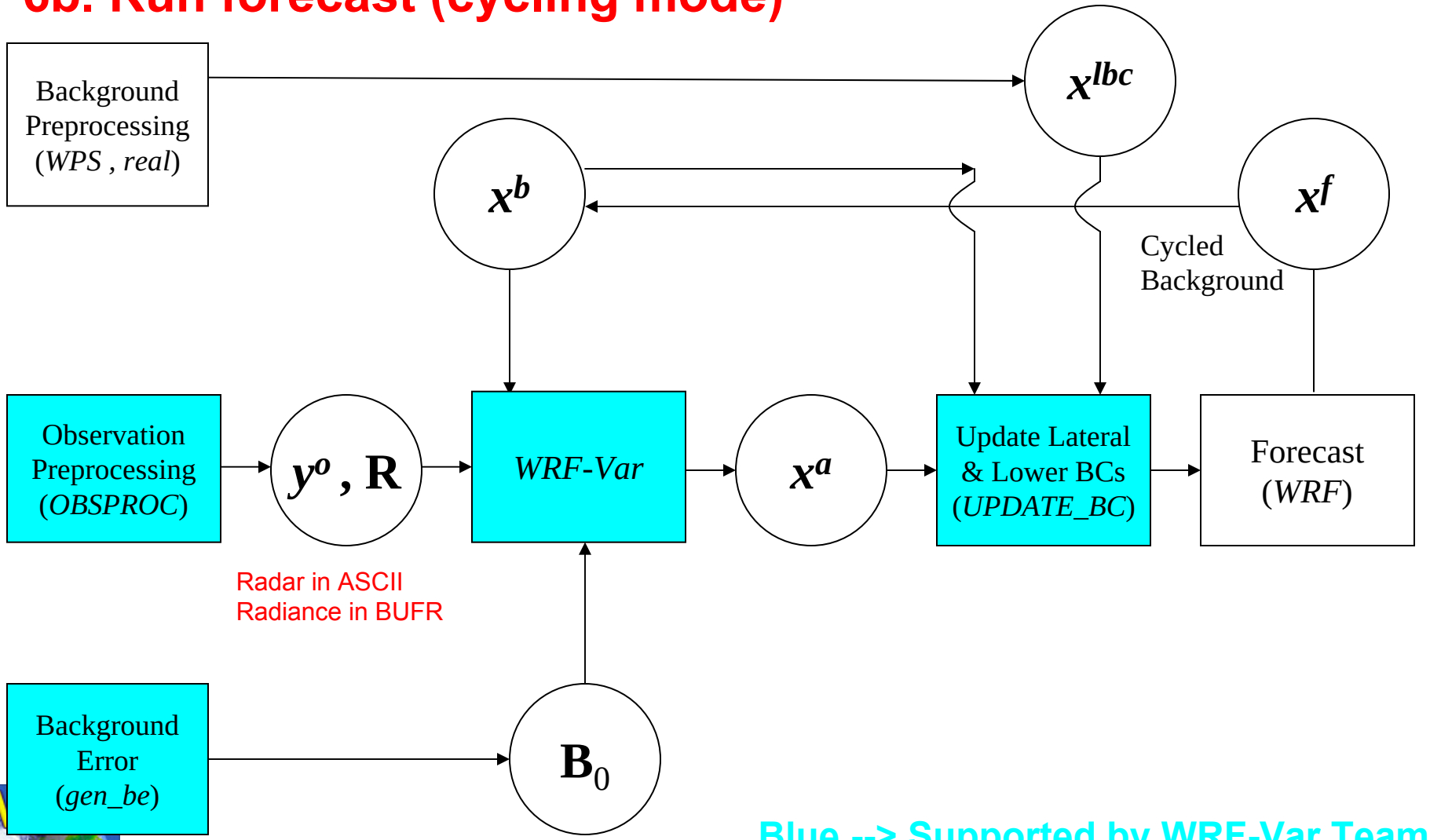
WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System



Note the arrow from ARW MODEL to WRF-Var!

WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

6b. Run forecast (cycling mode)



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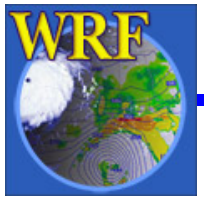
Background Error (BE) for WRF-Var

One important question from WRF-Var users is

"What background errors are best for my application?"

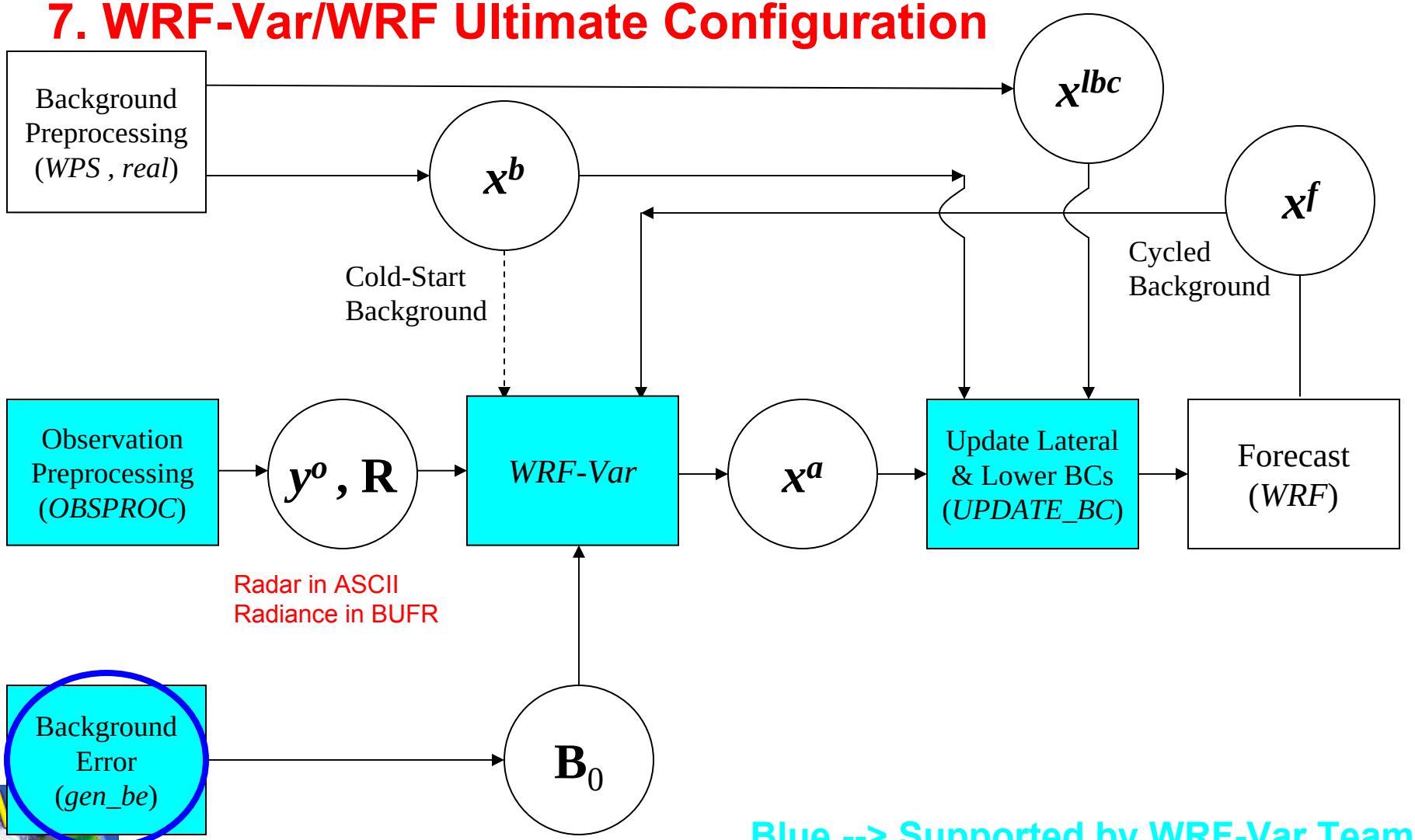
- Create your own once you have run your system for a few weeks to a month
- Implement, tune, and iterate

The utility gen_be has been developed at NCAR for use in calculating these BEs



WRF-Var in the WRF Modeling System

7. WRF-Var/WRF Ultimate Configuration



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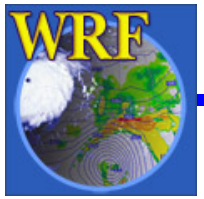
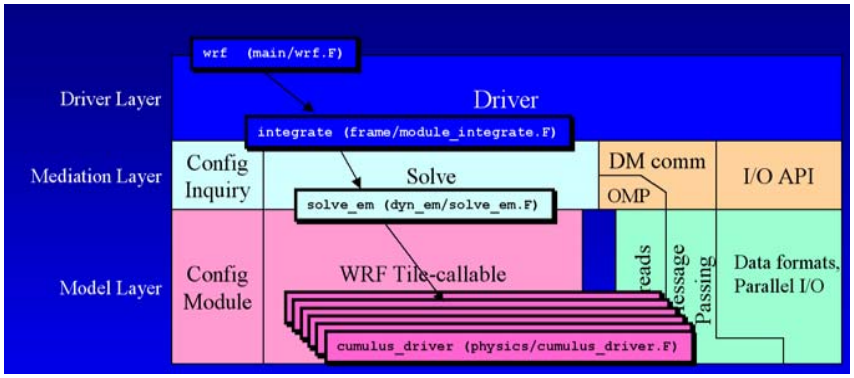
WRF-Var Software



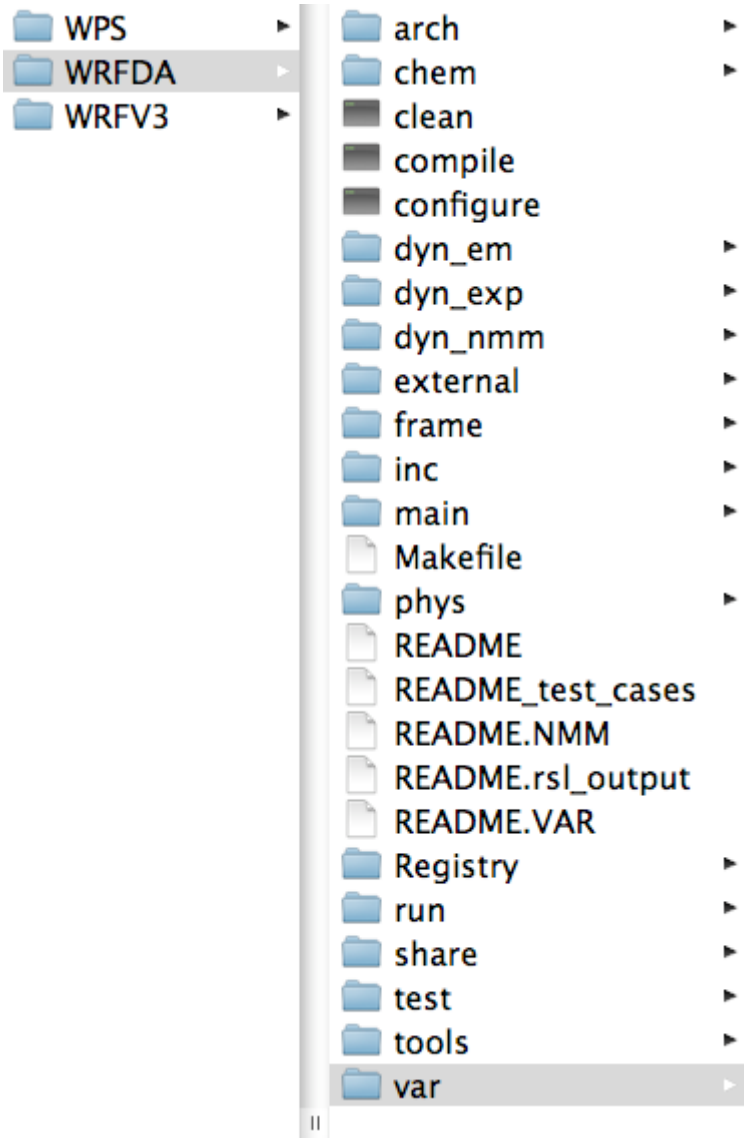
Use of the WRF Software Framework

- WRF-Var relies on the WRF Software framework for
  - Distributed memory parallelism (halo exchanges, etc.)
  - Input/Output of first guess and analysis files
  - Parallel transposes



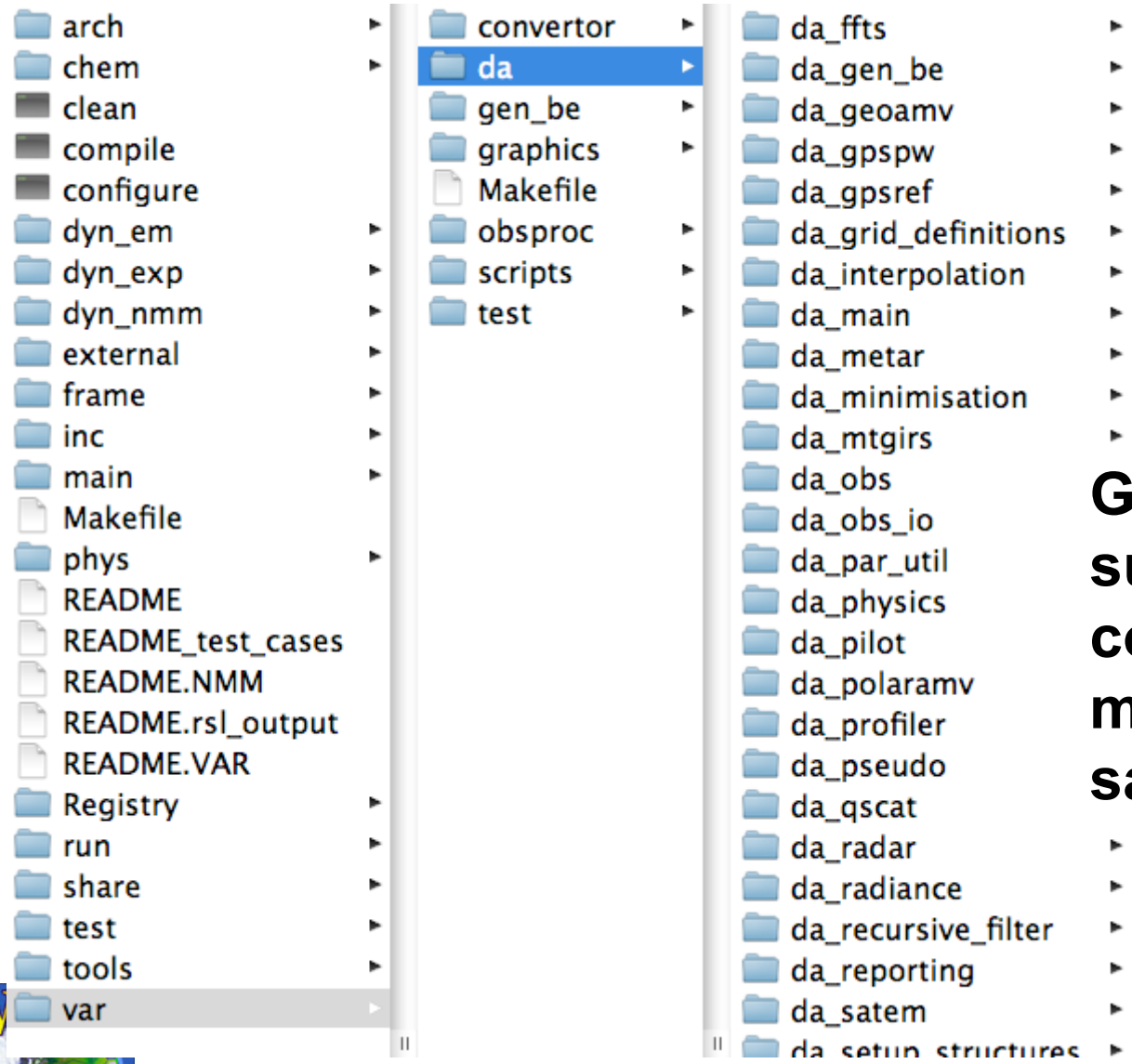
- WRF-Var also uses
  - The WRF Registry mechanism to handle definitions of fields, halos, and transposes
  - The WRF build system (clean, configure, compile)

WRF-Var Code Organization



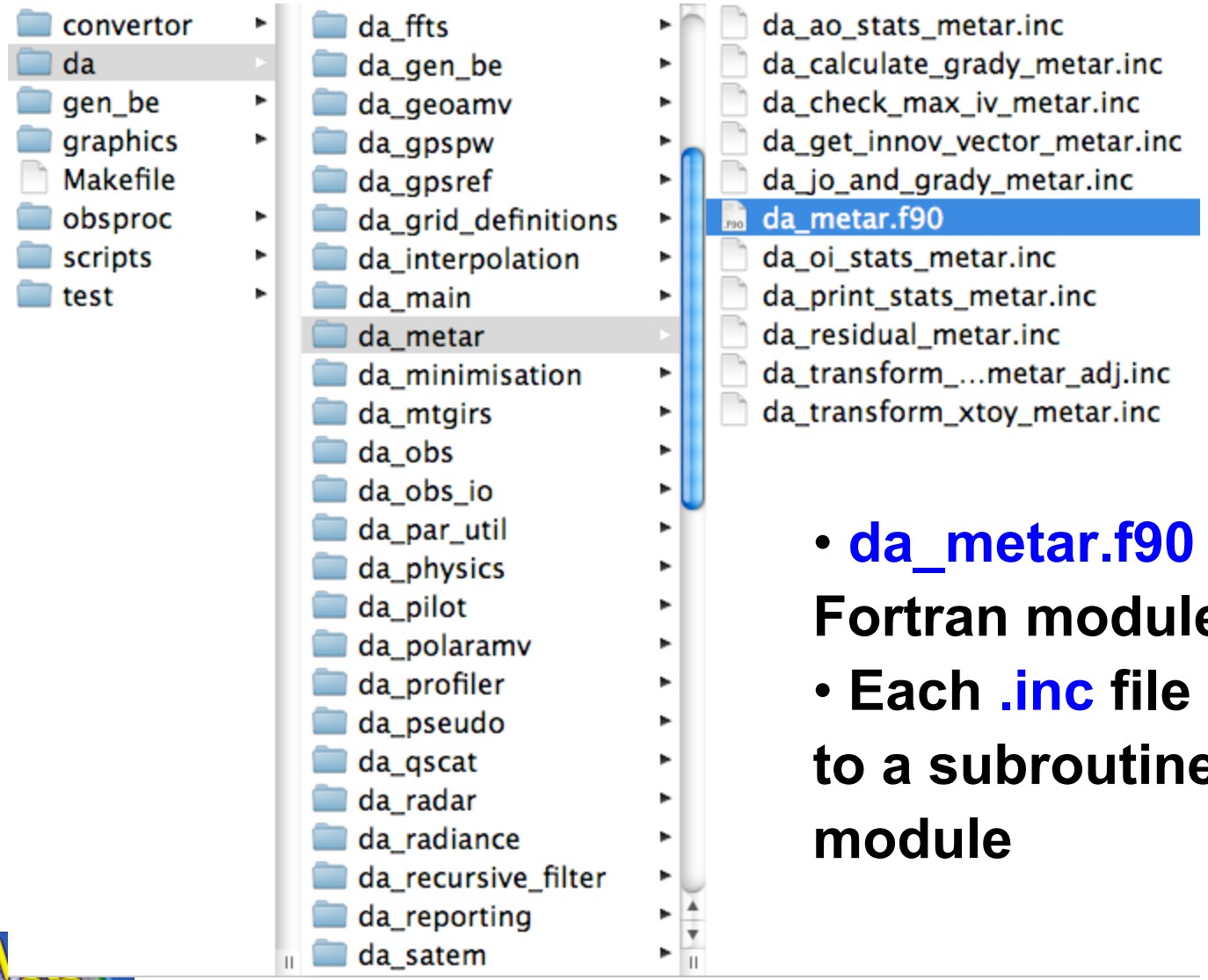
Besides the directories for WRF, the WRFDA tar file contains a "var" directory, which holds all of the WRF-Var code

WRF-Var Code Organization

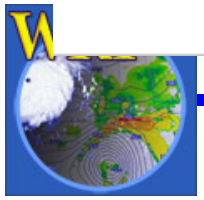


Generally, each subdirectory of "da" contains a Fortran module with the same name

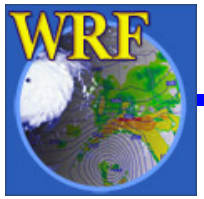
WRF-Var Code Organization



- **da_metar.f90 contains a Fortran module**
- **Each .inc file corresponds to a subroutine within the module**



WRF-Var Implementation



WRF-Var Formulation

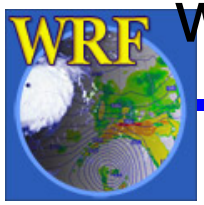
- WRF-Var actually uses an incremental formulation of the 3DVAR problem

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b)^T\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + (\mathbf{y}^o - H(\mathbf{x}))^T\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}^o - H(\mathbf{x}))$$

- Define the increment $\mathbf{x'} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b$
- Also, if $\mathbf{x'}$ is small, $H(\mathbf{x}) = H(\mathbf{x}^b + \mathbf{x'}) \approx H(\mathbf{x}^b) + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x'}$ where $\mathbf{H}$ is the linearization of H
- Then, the problem becomes

$$J(\mathbf{x'}) = (\mathbf{x'})^T\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{x'}) + (\mathbf{y}^{o'} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x'})^T\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}^{o'} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x'})$$

with $\mathbf{y}^{o'} = \mathbf{y}^o - H(\mathbf{x}^b)$



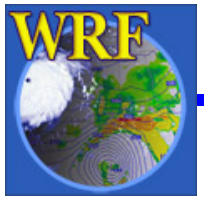
WRF-Var Formulation

- Next, define the *control variable transform* **U** such that **x'** = **Uv**.
  - **v** is the analysis increment in control variable space
  - **B** is approximated by $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T$
- WRF-Var actually minimizes

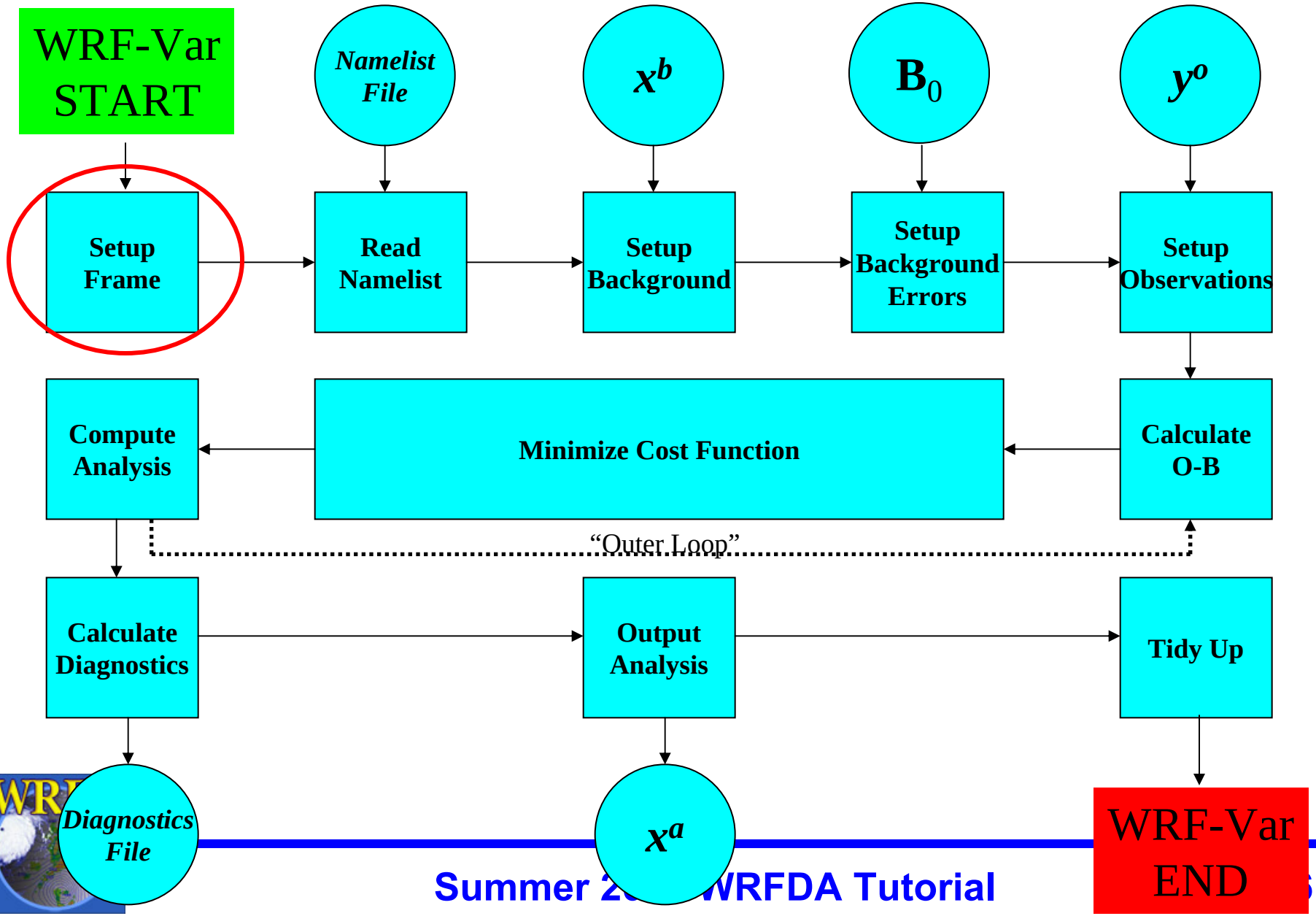
$$J(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}^T\mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{y}^{o\prime} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{v})^T\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}^{o\prime} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{v})$$

- After minimization, the analysis, $\mathbf{x}^a$, is given by

$$\mathbf{x}^a = \mathbf{x}^b + \mathbf{U}\mathbf{v}$$

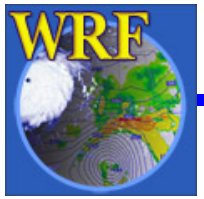


WRF-Var

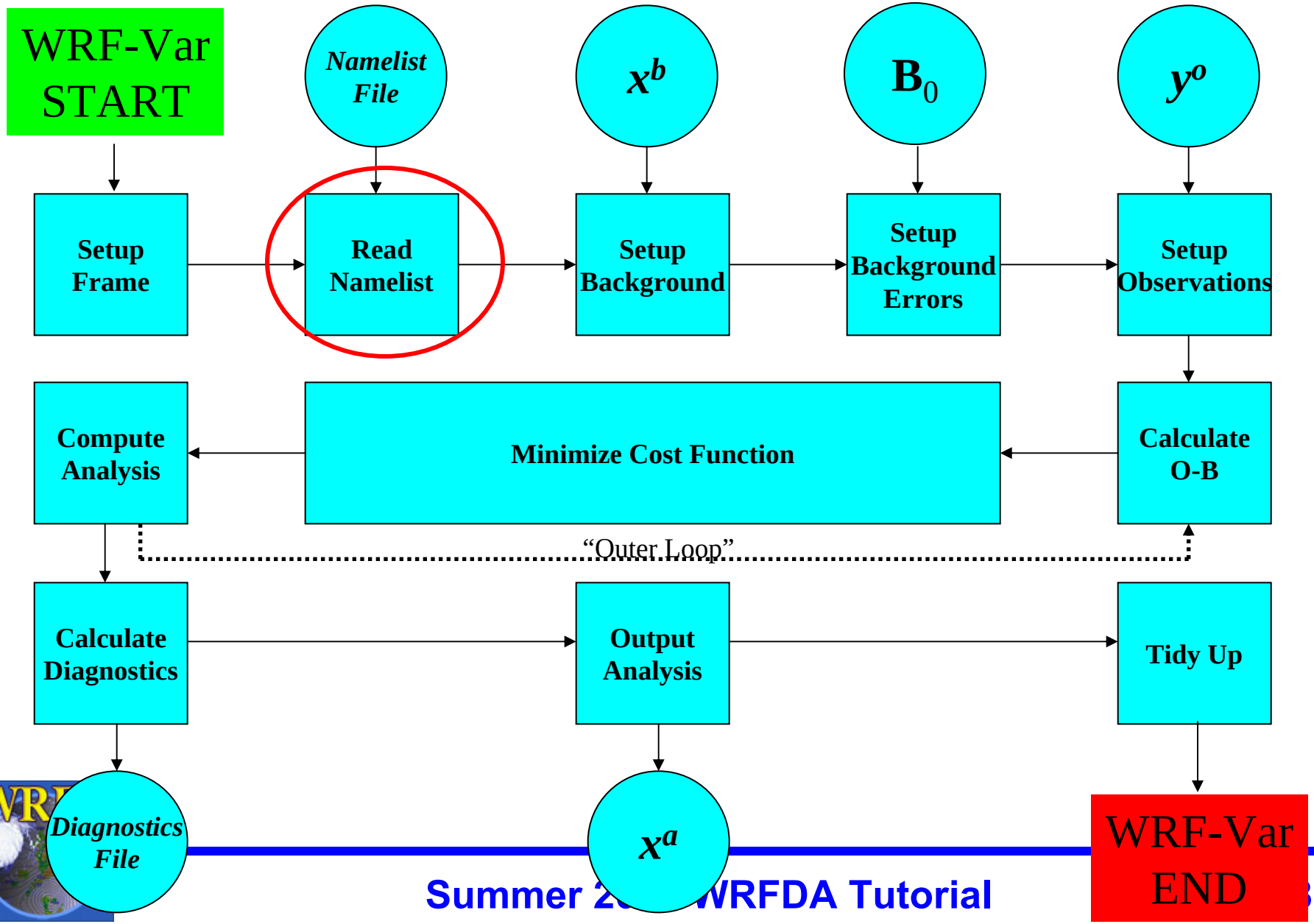

WRF-Var START
Namelist File
x^b
B_0
y^o
Setup Frame
Read Namelist
Setup Background
Setup Background Errors
Setup Observations
Compute Analysis
Minimize Cost Function
Calculate O-B
"Outer Loop"
Calculate Diagnostics
Output Analysis
Tidy Up
Diagnostics File
x^a
WRF-Var END

Setup Frame

- Reads grid dimensions from “namelist.input” file.
- Use WRF framework’s distributed memory capability to initialize tile, memory, patch dimensions, etc.



WRF-Var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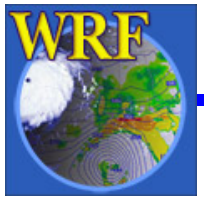
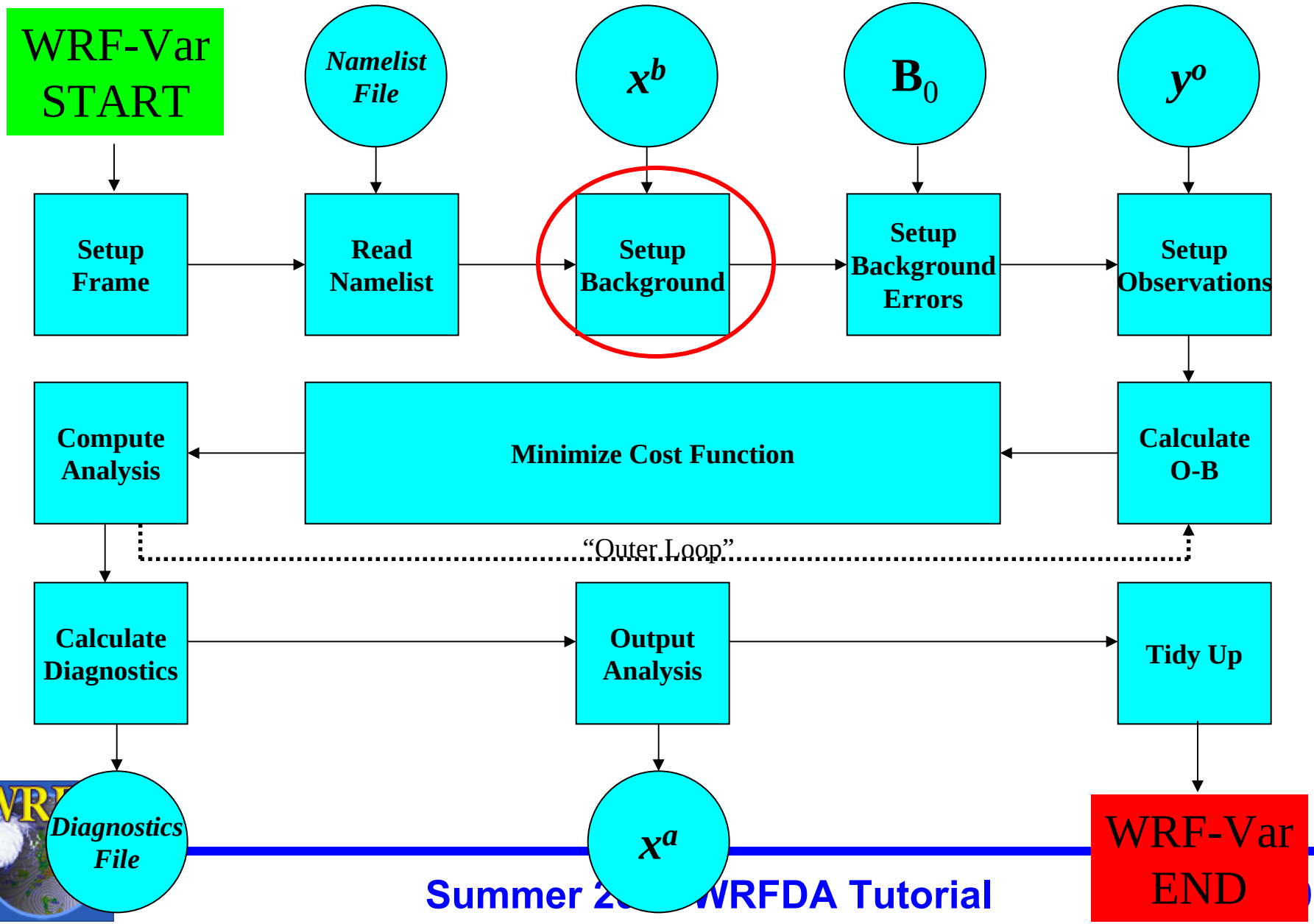
WRF-Var END

Read Namelist

- Reads WRF-Var data assimilation options from “namelist.input” file.
- Performs consistency checks between namelist options.



WRF-Var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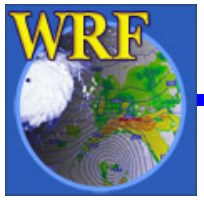
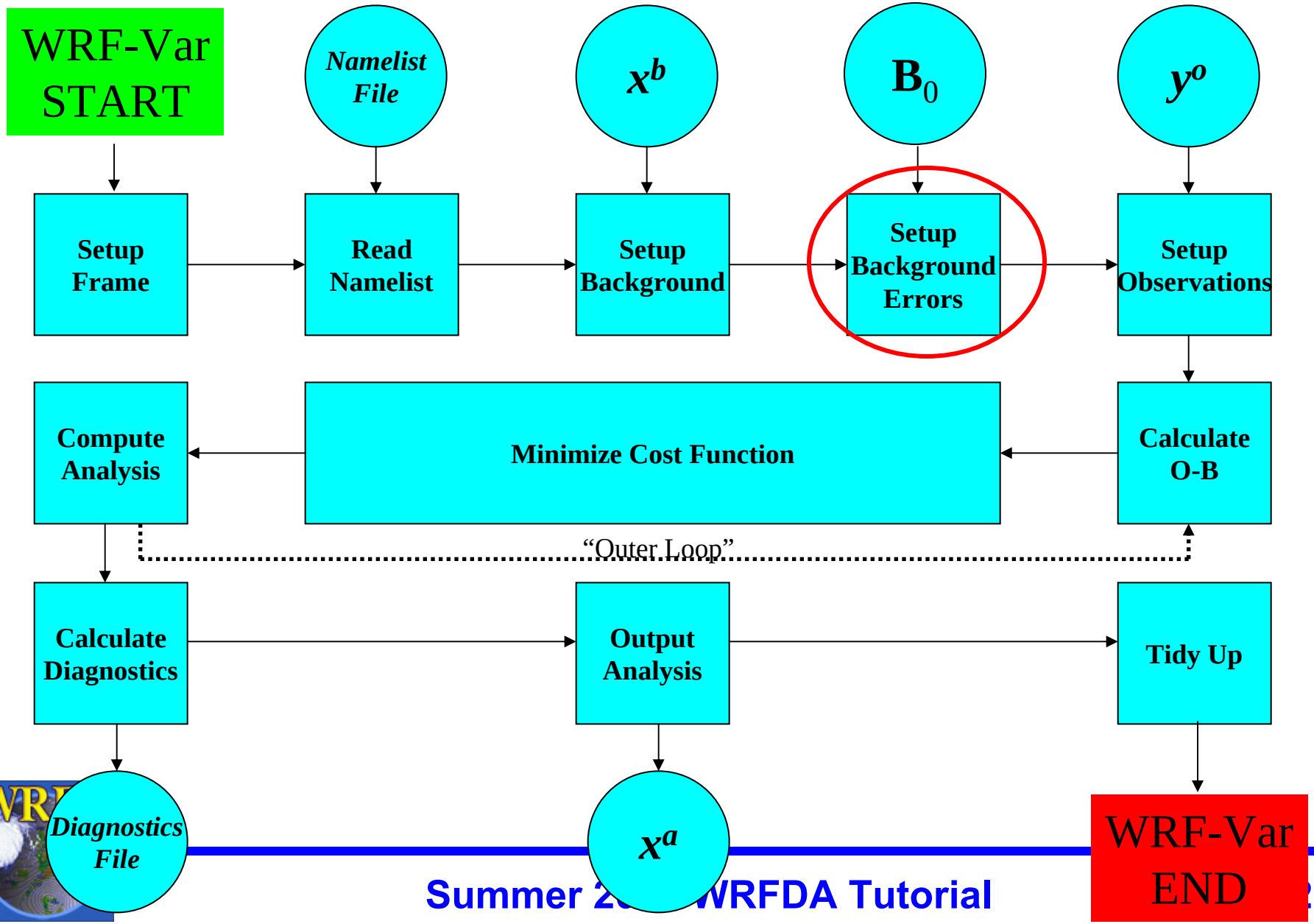
x^a
WRF-Var END

Setup Background (First-guess)

- Reads in the first-guess field.
- Format depends on namelist option : “fg_format” ; 1= WRF, etc.
- Extracts necessary fields.
- Creates background FORTRAN 90 derived data type “xb” e.g. xb % mix, xb % u(:,:,:), ….



WRF-Var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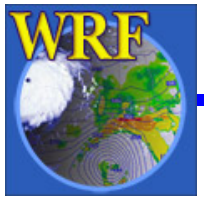
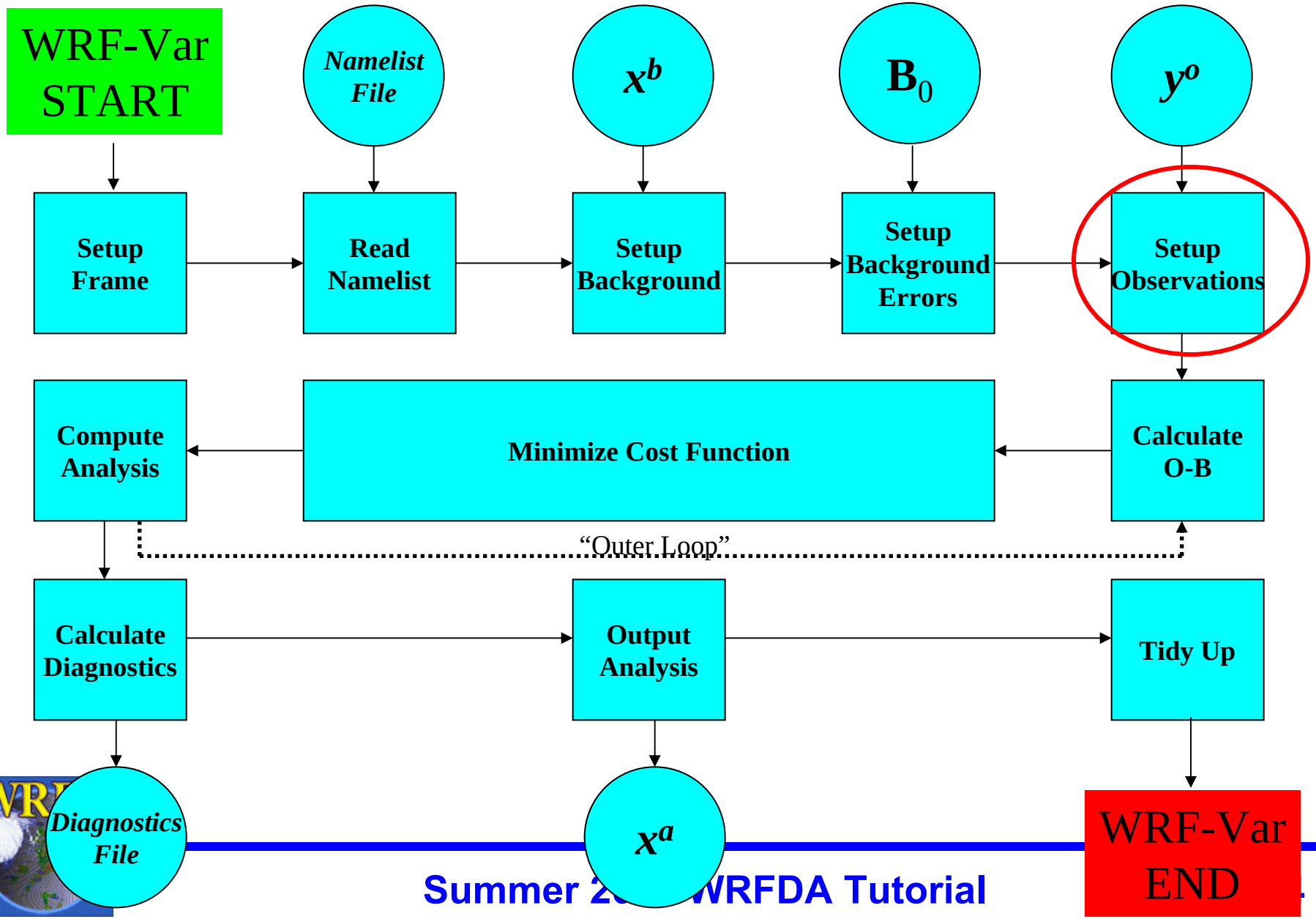
Setup Background Errors (BE)

- Reads in background error statistics.
- Extracts necessary quantities – eigenvectors, eigenvalues, lengthscales, regression coefficients, etc (see “WRF-Var Background Error Estimation”).
- Creates background error FORTRAN 90 derived data type “be”
  - e.g. be % v1 % evec(:,:), be % v2 % eval(:), etc, ….



WRF-Var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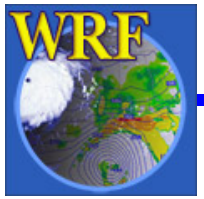
x^a
WRF-Var END

Setup Observations

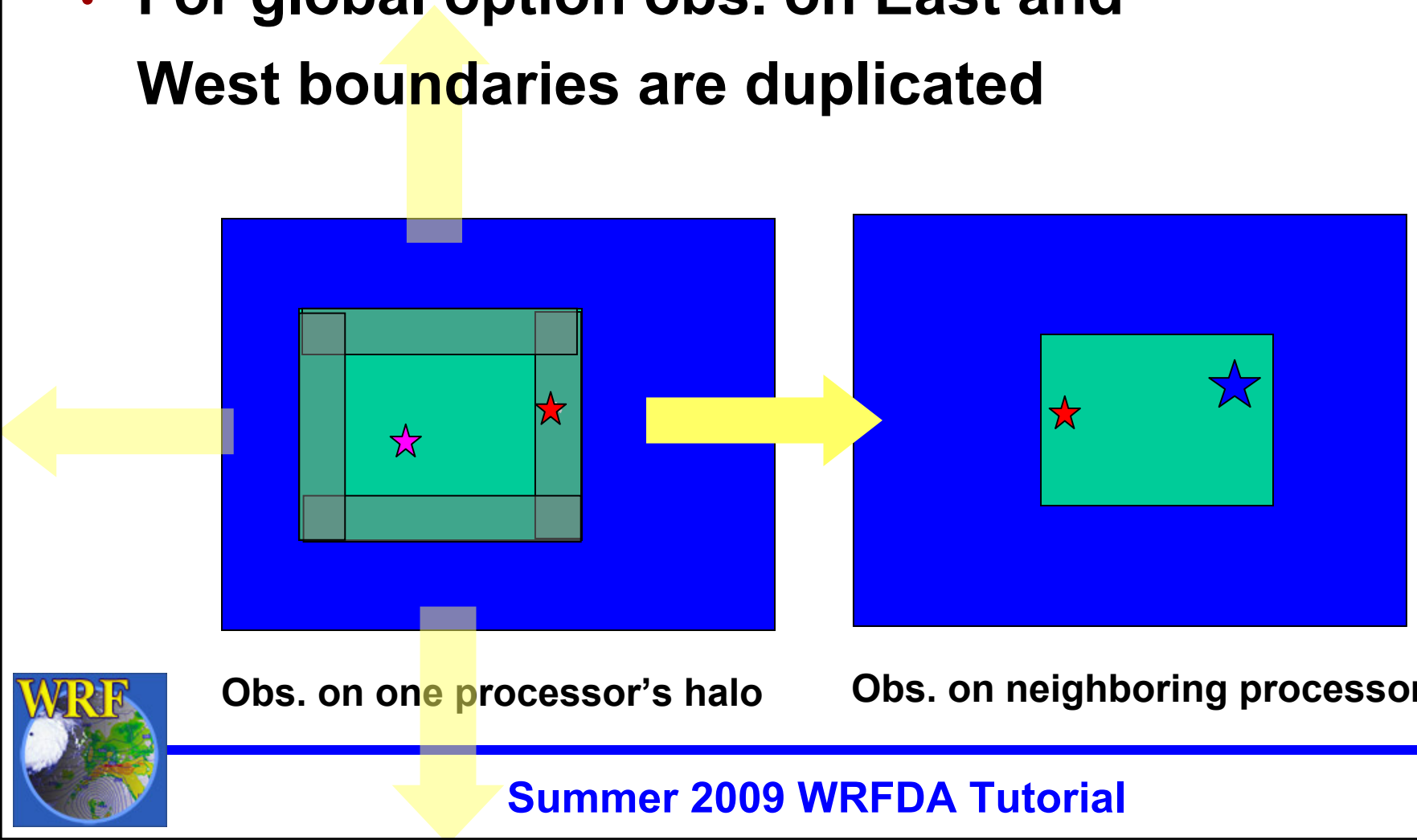
- Reads in observations.
- Format depends on namelist variable "ob_format"

  1 = BUFR, 2 = ASCII "WRF-Var" format.
- Creates observation FORTRAN 90 derived data type "ob"
  - e.g. ob % metar(:), ob % sound(:) % u(:), etc, ….
- Identifies Obs outside/inside the domain



Observations in Distributed Memory

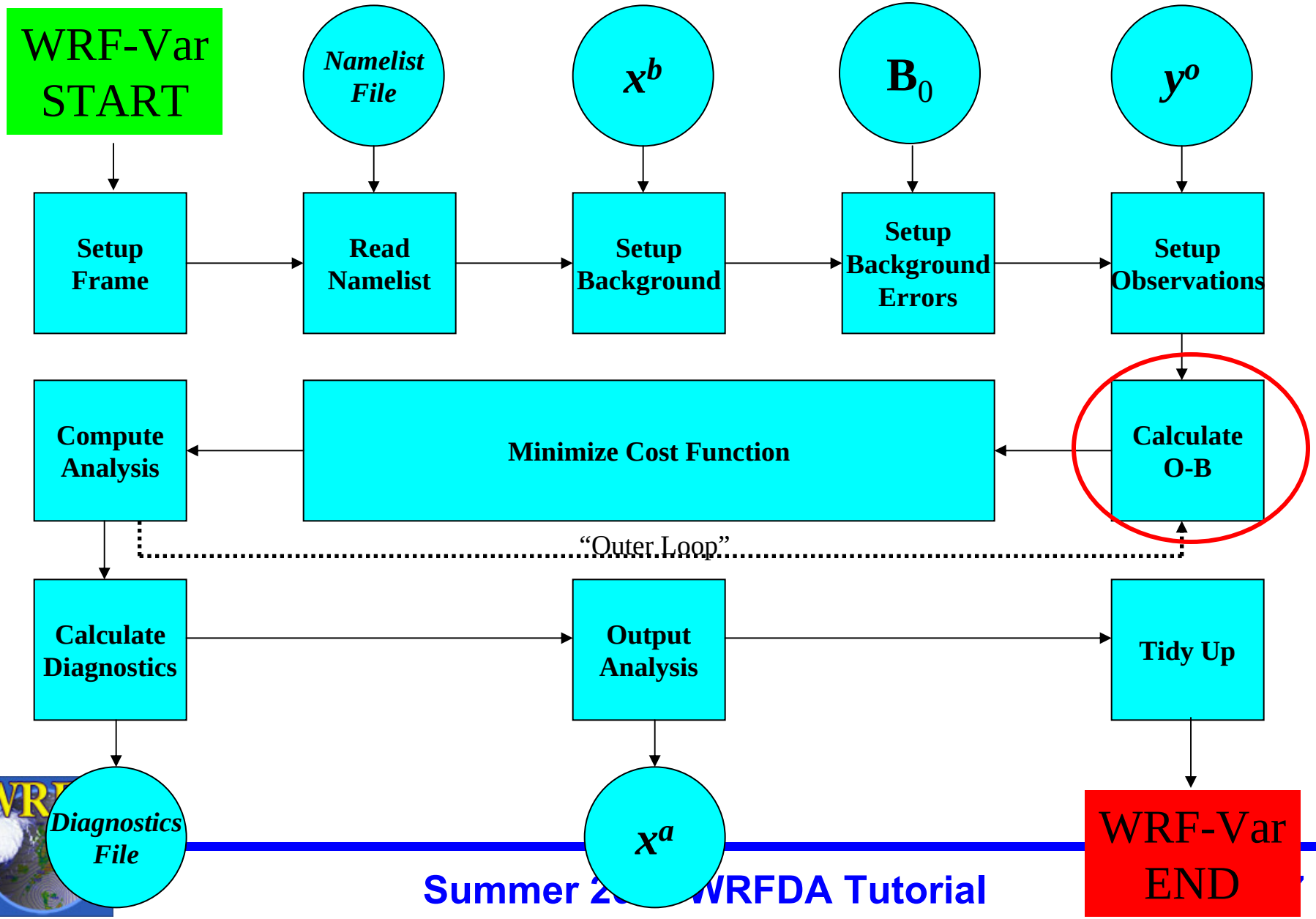
- **Halo Region Observation**
- **For global option obs. on East and West boundaries are duplicated**



Obs. on one processor's halo

Obs. on neighboring processor

WRF-Var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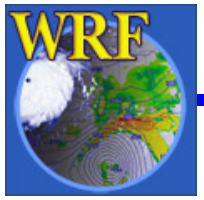
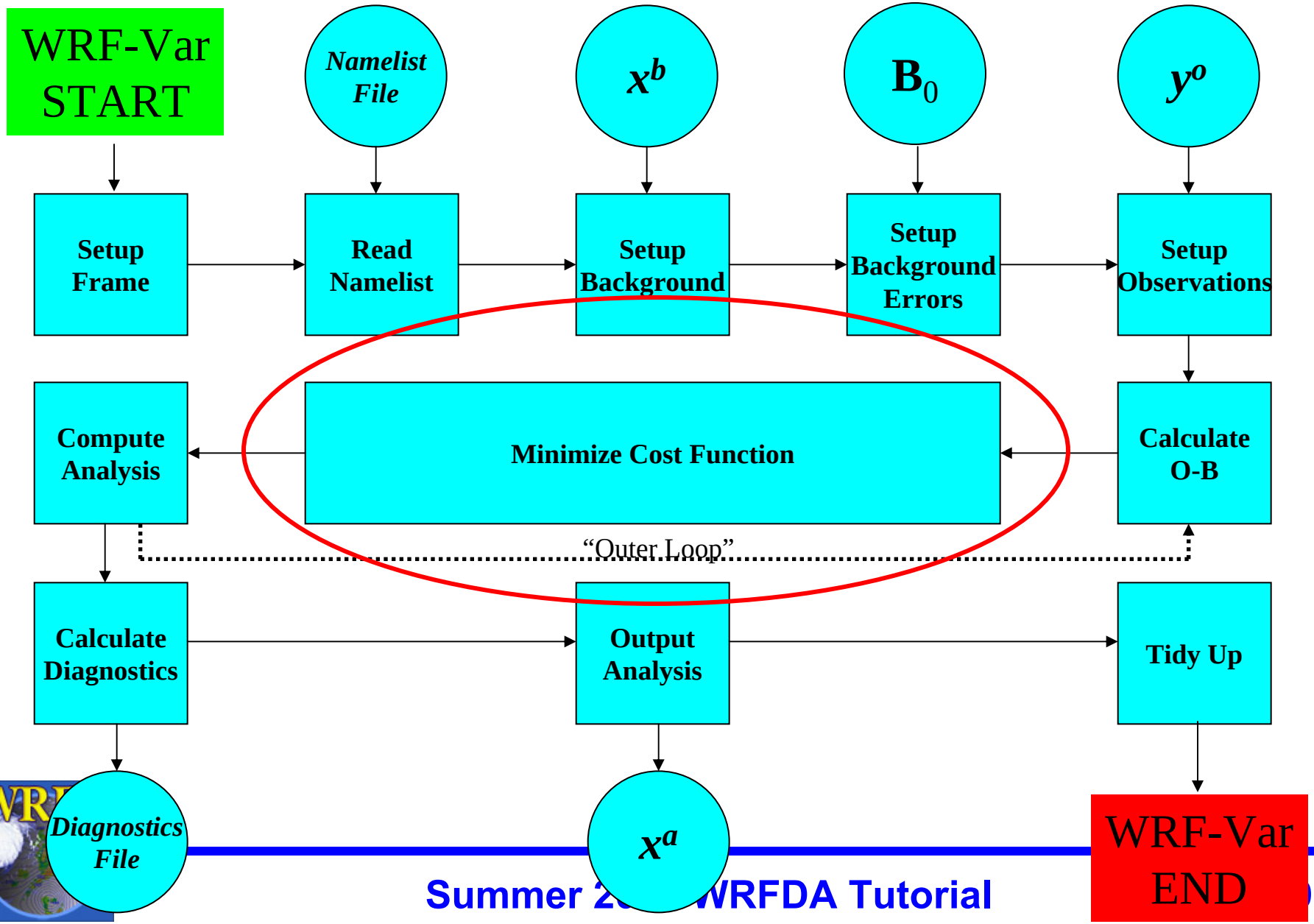
x^a
WRF-Var END

Calculate Innovation Vector (O-B)

- Calculates "model equivalent" B of observation O through interpolation and change of variable.
- Computes observation minus first guess (O-B) value.
- Creates innovation vector FORTRAN 90 derived data type "iv"
  - e.g. iv % metar(:), iv % qscat(:) % u, iv % sound(:) % u(:), etc ….



WRF-Var

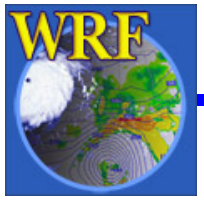

WRF-Var START
Namelist File
x^b
B_0
y^o
Setup Frame
Read Namelist
Setup Background
Setup Background Errors
Setup Observations
Compute Analysis
Minimize Cost Function
Calculate O-B
"Outer Loop"
Calculate Diagnostics
Output Analysis
Tidy Up
Diagnostics File
x^a
WRF-Var END

Minimize Cost Function

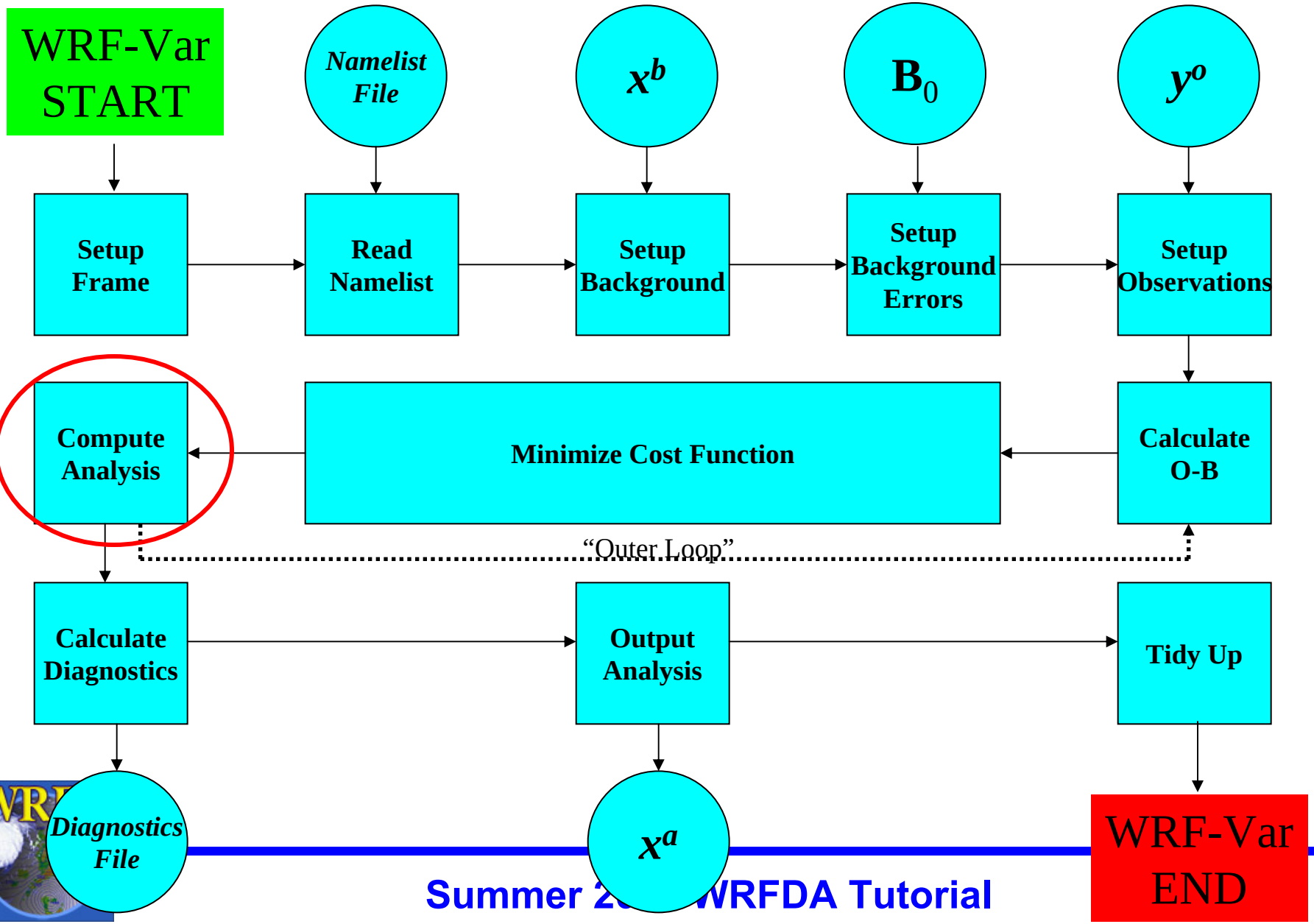
Use conjugate gradient method

- (a) Initializes analysis increments to zero.
- (b) Computes cost function (if desired).
- (c) Computes gradient of cost function.
- (d) Uses cost function and gradient to calculate new value of analysis control variable, **v**

Iterate (b) to (d)



WRF-Var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Compute Analysis
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Diagnostics File
x^a
WRF-Var END

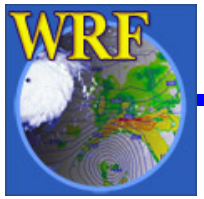
Compute Analysis

- Once WRF-Var has found a converged control variable, convert control variable to model space analysis increments

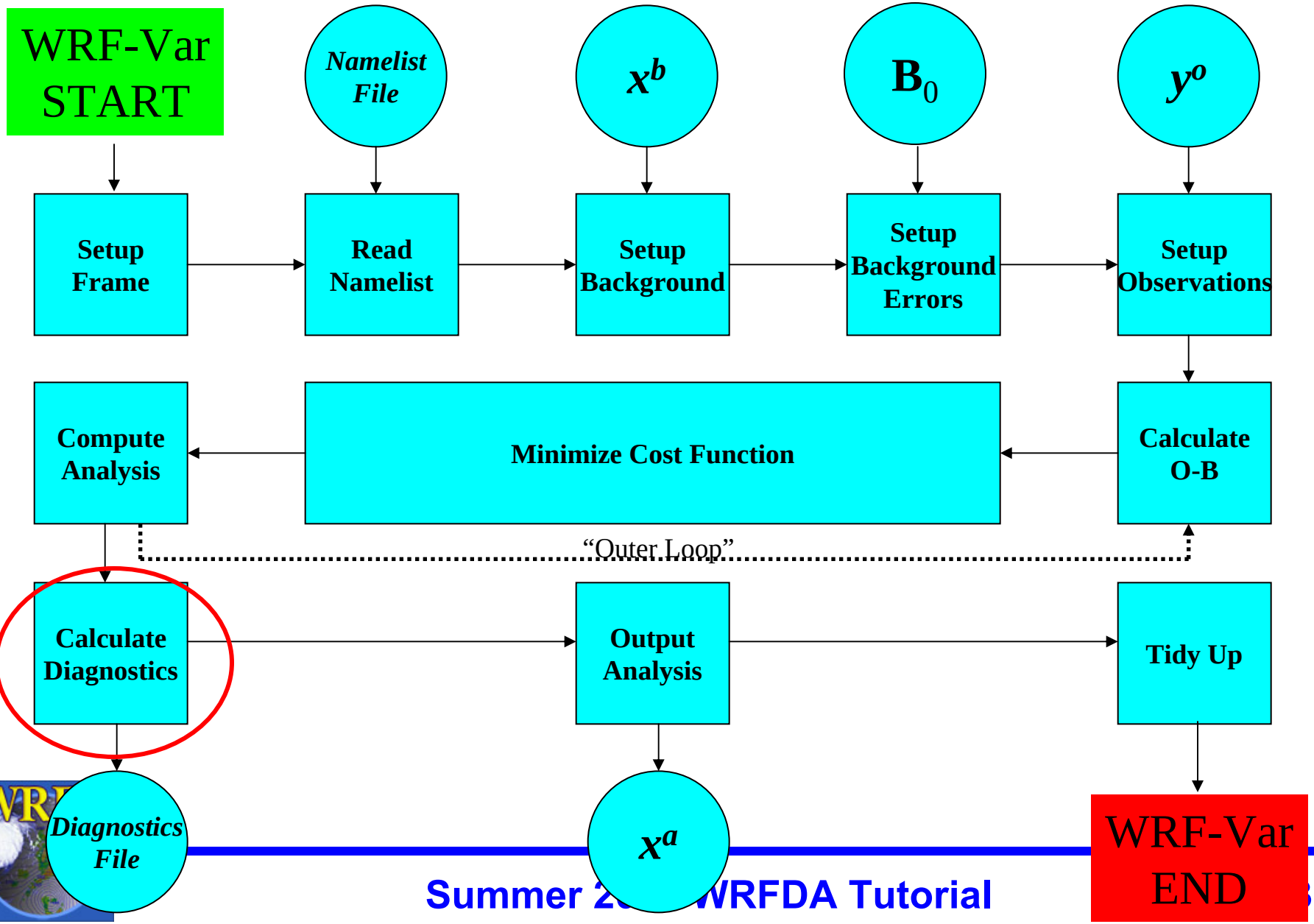
- Calculate:

  analysis = first-guess + analysis increment

- Performs consistency checks, e.g., remove negative humidity etc.



WRF-Var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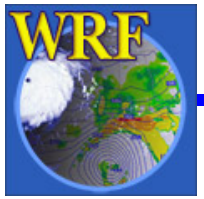
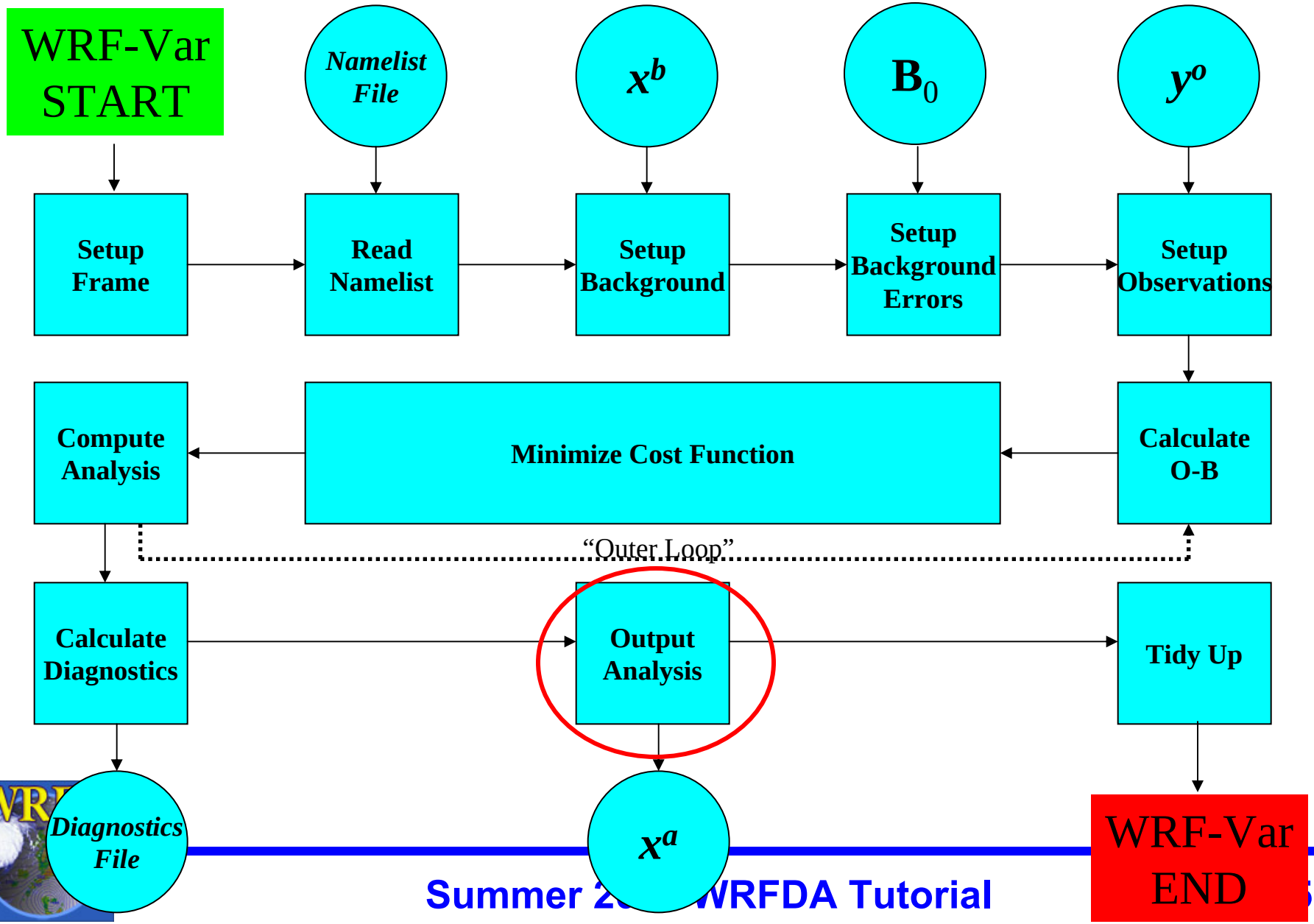
x^a
WRF-Var END

Compute Diagnostics

- Compute O-B, O-A statistics for all observation types and variables.
- Compute A-B (analysis increment) statistics for all model variables and levels.
- Statistics include minimum, maximum (and their locations), mean and standard deviation.



WRF-Var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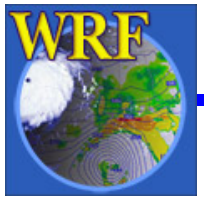
Diagnostics File
x^a
WRF-Var END

Output Analysis

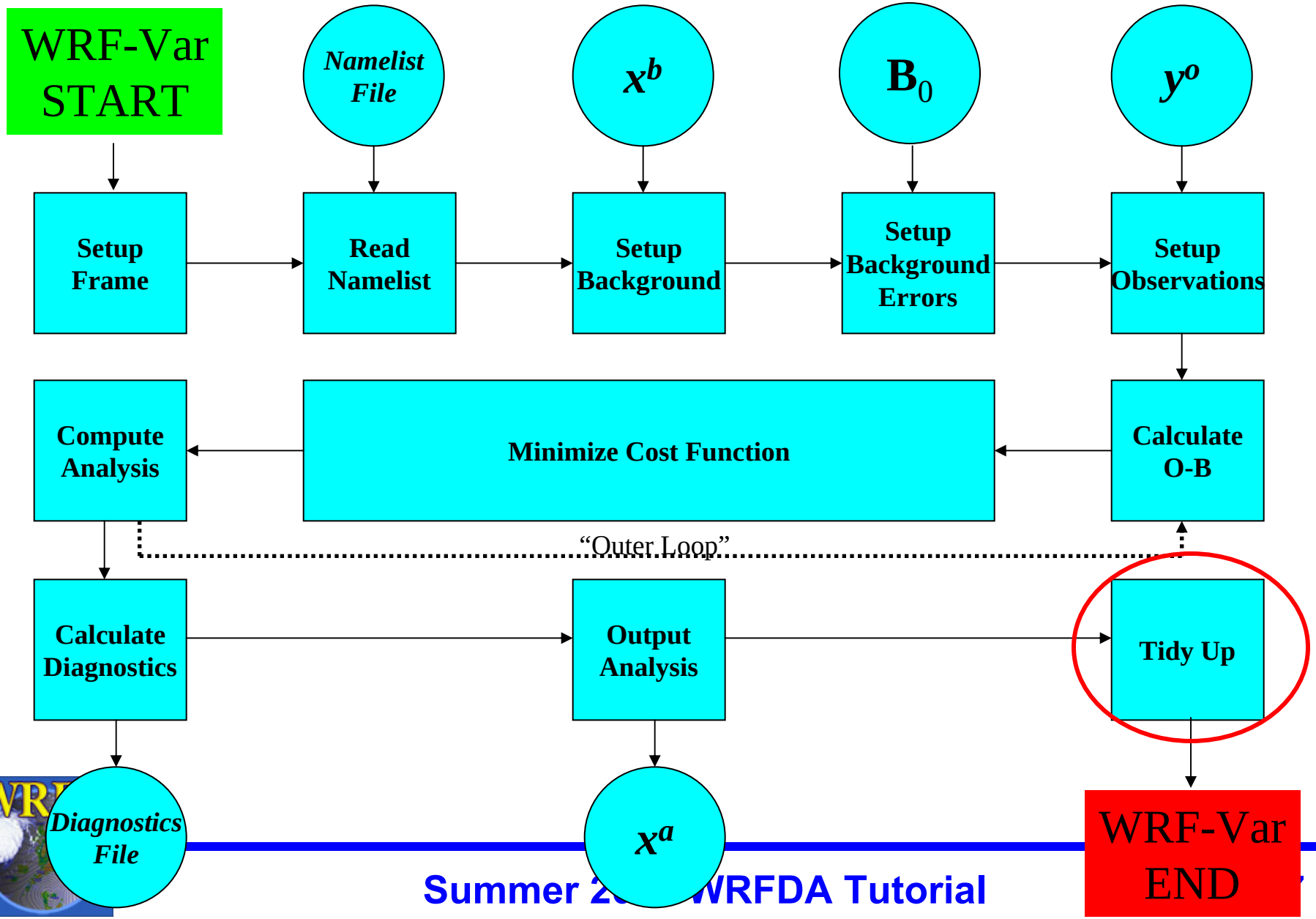
- Outputs analysis in native model format. Choice is made through namelist option "fg_format"

  1 = WRF, etc.

- Also output analysis increments (for diagnostic purposes) in native model format. Switch off by setting WRITE_INCREMENTS = .FALSE. in namelist.input.



WRF-Var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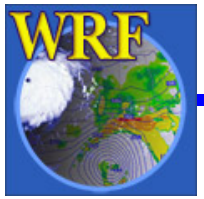
Diagnostics File
x^a
WRF-Var END

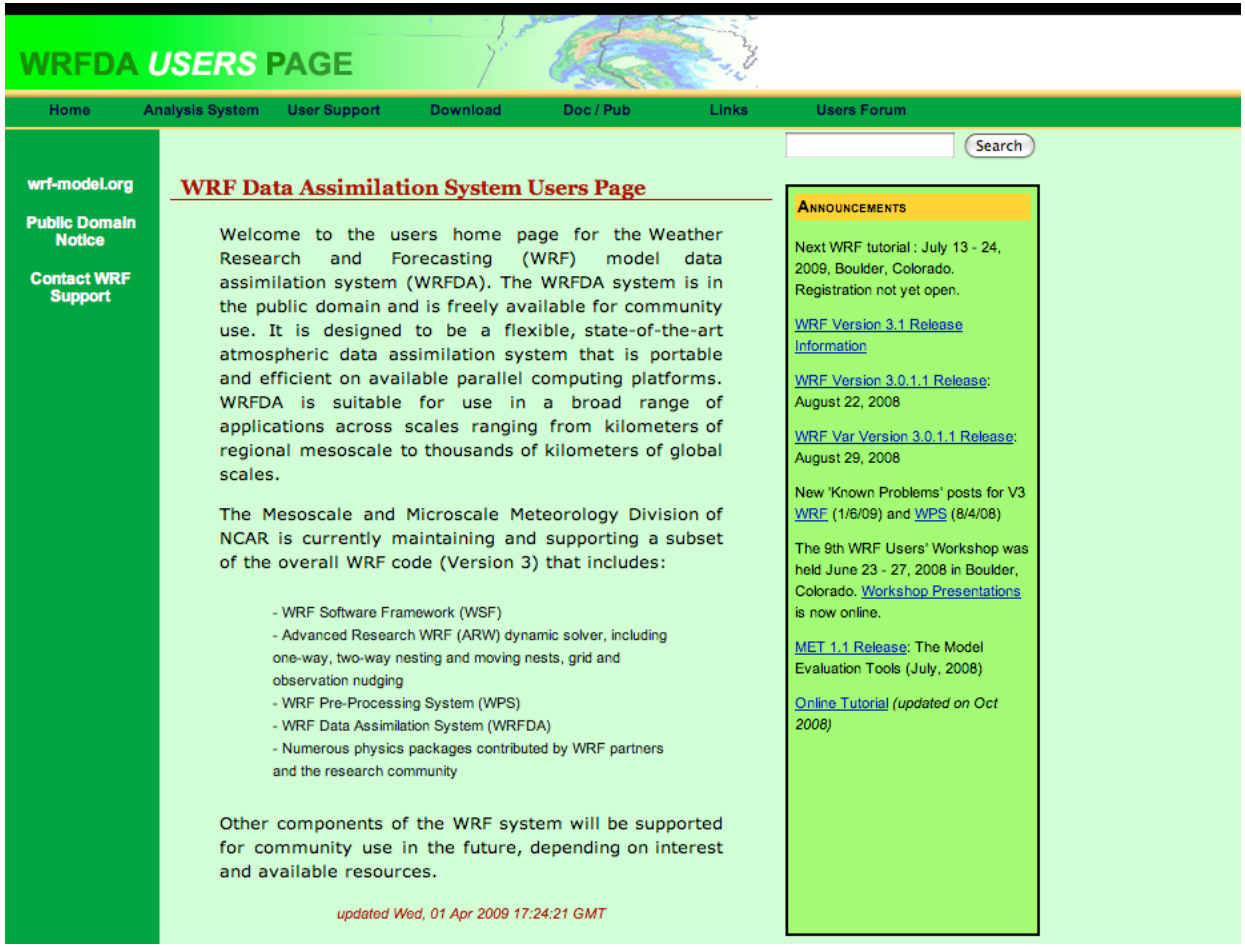
Tidy Up

- Deallocate dynamically-allocated arrays, structures, etc.
- Timing information.
- Clean end to WRF-Var.



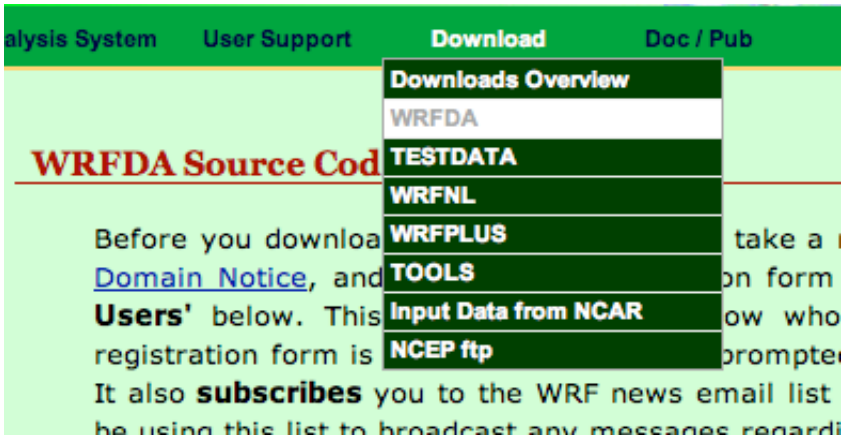
Online WRFDA Resources

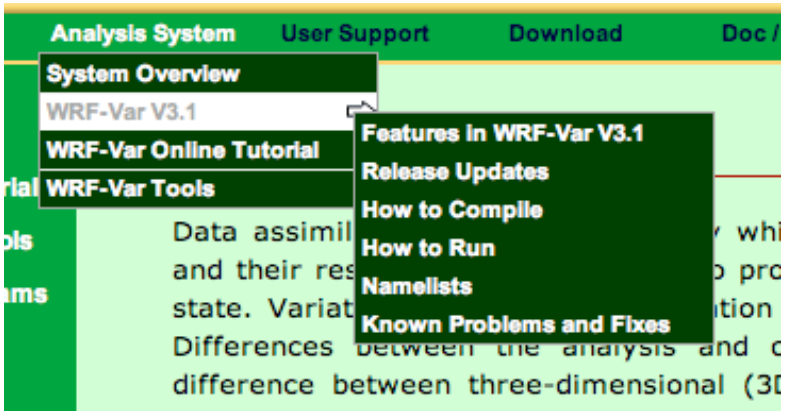
WRFDA has a dedicated page, similar to the ARW Users' page:
http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/



Online WRFDA Resources

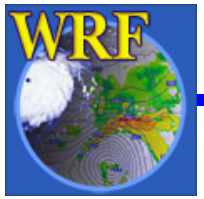
From the WRFDA page, one can access:





Other WRFDA Resources

- **Online WRF-Var Tutorial**
  - http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/tutorial.html
- **WRF-Var chapter of Users' Guide**
  - http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user_guide_V3/users_guide_chap6.htm
- **If further help is needed, try the WRF Users' Forum** http://forum.wrfforum.com/ **or ask questions via** wrfhelp@ucar.edu



Questions?