

WRFDA Background Error Estimation

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Talk overview

- What is Background Error (BE) ?
- Role of BE in WRFDA
- Various components of BE
- Impact of BE on minimization and forecasts
- How to compute (“gen_be” utility)?
- Single Observation Test
- New formulation of BE for WRFDA
- Introduction to Practice Session-3

What is BE?

- It is the covariance of **forecast** - **truth** in analysis control variable space

$$BE = \langle (x - x^t), (x - x^t)^T \rangle$$

- Since **truth** is not known, it needs to be estimated
- Common methods to estimate BE
 - **Innovation Method**
 - **NMC Method:** $(x - x^t) \approx (x^{t1} - x^{t2})$
(Forecast differences valid for same time)
 - **Ensemble Method:** $(x - x^t) \approx (x^{ens} - \langle x^{ens} \rangle)$
(Ensemble - Ensemble mean)
 - **Flow dependent (adaptive approach)**

Role of BE

- BE is used for preconditioning the analysis equation

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

- It is represented with a suitable choice of $\mathbf{U}$ as follows

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}^T \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{U}_p \mathbf{U}_v \mathbf{U}_h$$

$\mathbf{U}_h$ Horizontal Transform

$\mathbf{U}_v$ Vertical Transform

$\mathbf{U}_p$ Physical Transform

- Horizontal transformation ($\mathbf{U}_h$) is via
Regional ----- Recursive filters
Global ----- Power spectrum
- Vertical transformation ($\mathbf{U}_v$) is via EOF's
- Physical transformation ($\mathbf{U}_p$) depends upon the choice of the analysis control variable

How BE is represented?

- Size of **B** is typically of the order of $10^7 \times 10^7$
- It is reduced by designing the **analysis control variables** in such a way that cross covariance between these variables are minimum
- Currently the **analysis control variables** for WRFDA are the amplitudes of EOF's of

stream function (ψ)

Unbalanced part of velocity potential (χ_u)

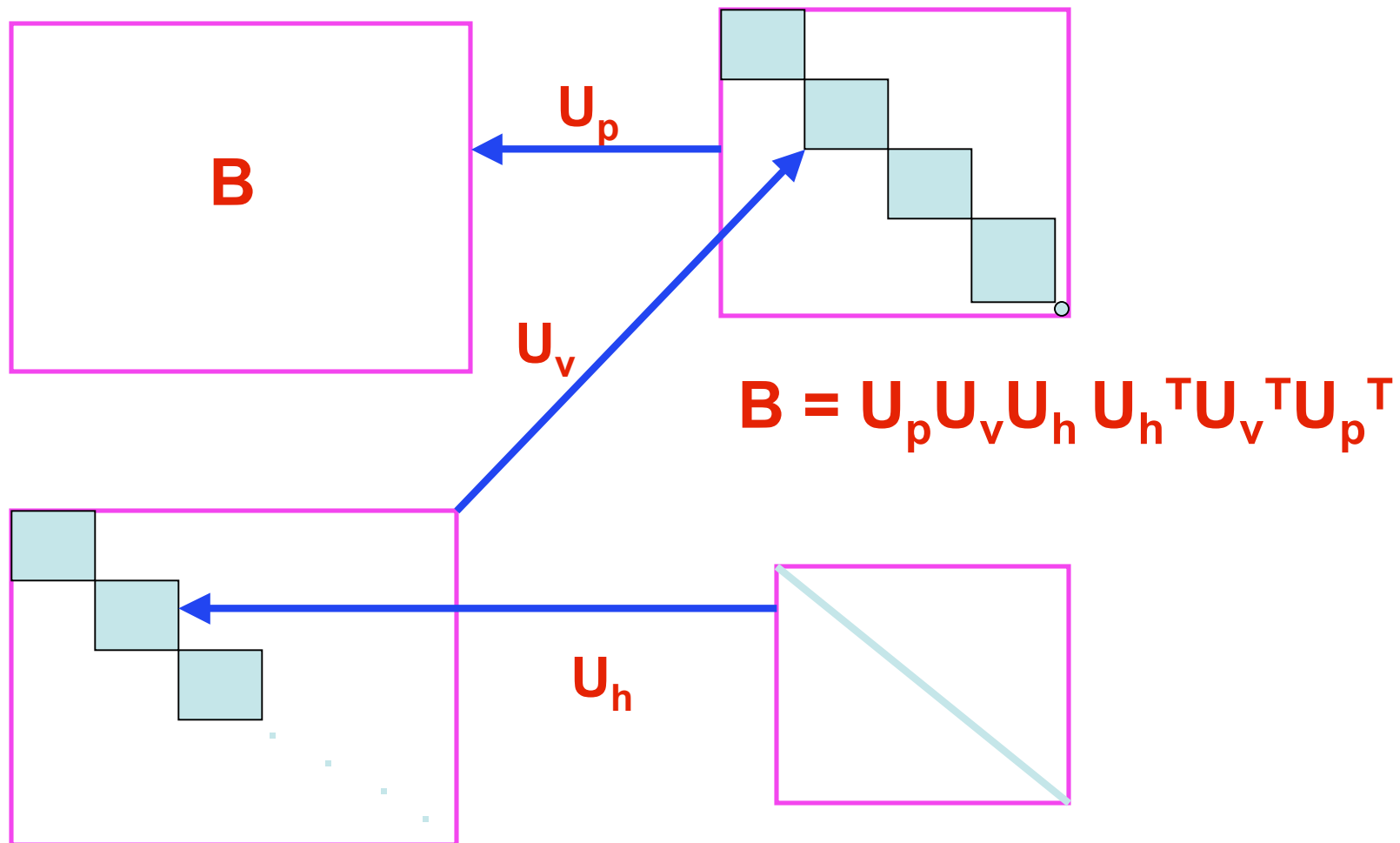
Unbalanced part of temperature (T_u)

Relative Humidity (q)

Unbalanced part of surface pressure (p_{s_u})

- With this choice of **analysis control variables** off-diagonal elements of BE is very small and thus its size typically reduces to the order of 10^7

How BE is represented *Contd.*

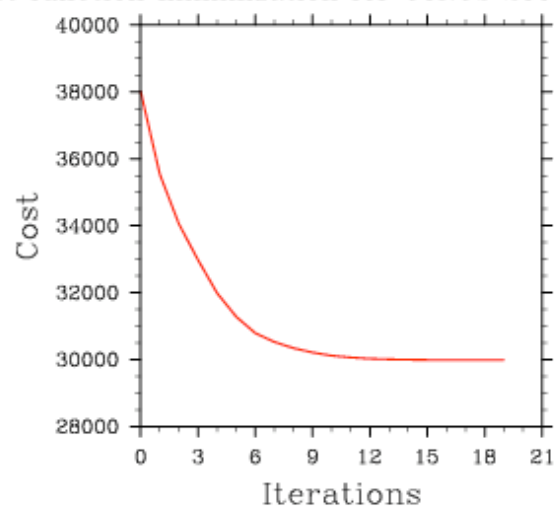


Components of BE

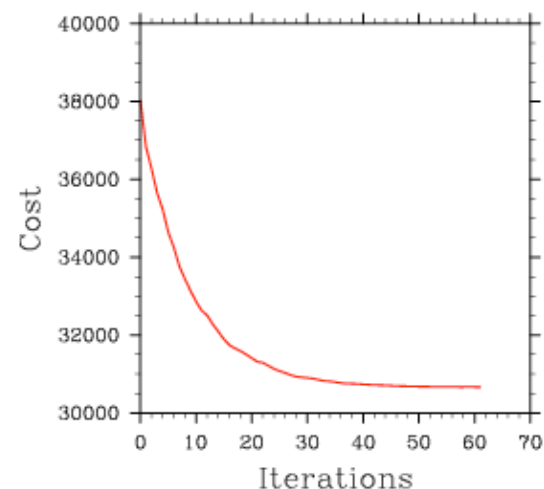
- Regression Coefficient for balanced part of Velocity potential, Temperature and Surface pressure
- Eigen vectors and Eigen values
- Lengthscales for regional
- power spectrum for global option

Impact of BE on Minimization

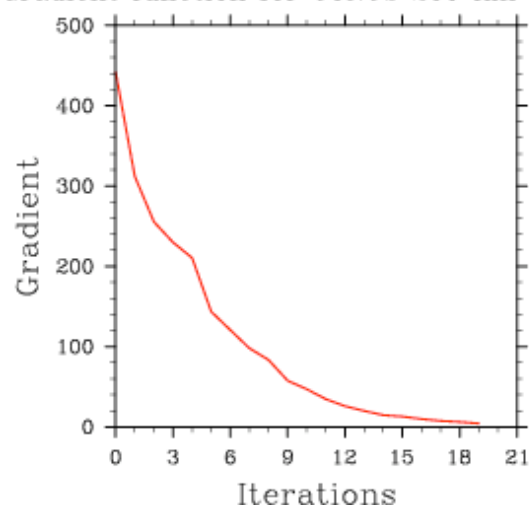
Cost function minimization for CONUS 200 Km domain



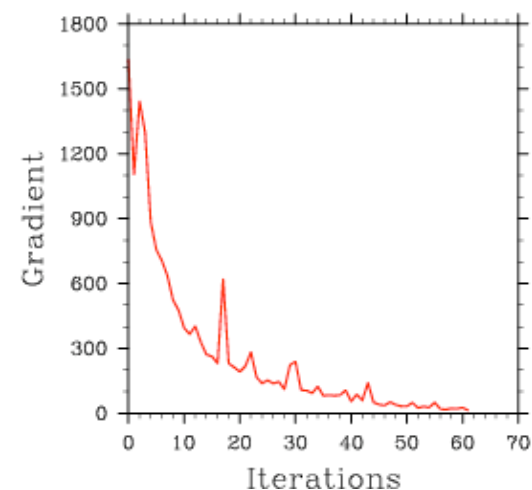
Cost function minimization for CONUS 200 Km domain



Gradient function for CONUS 200 Km domain

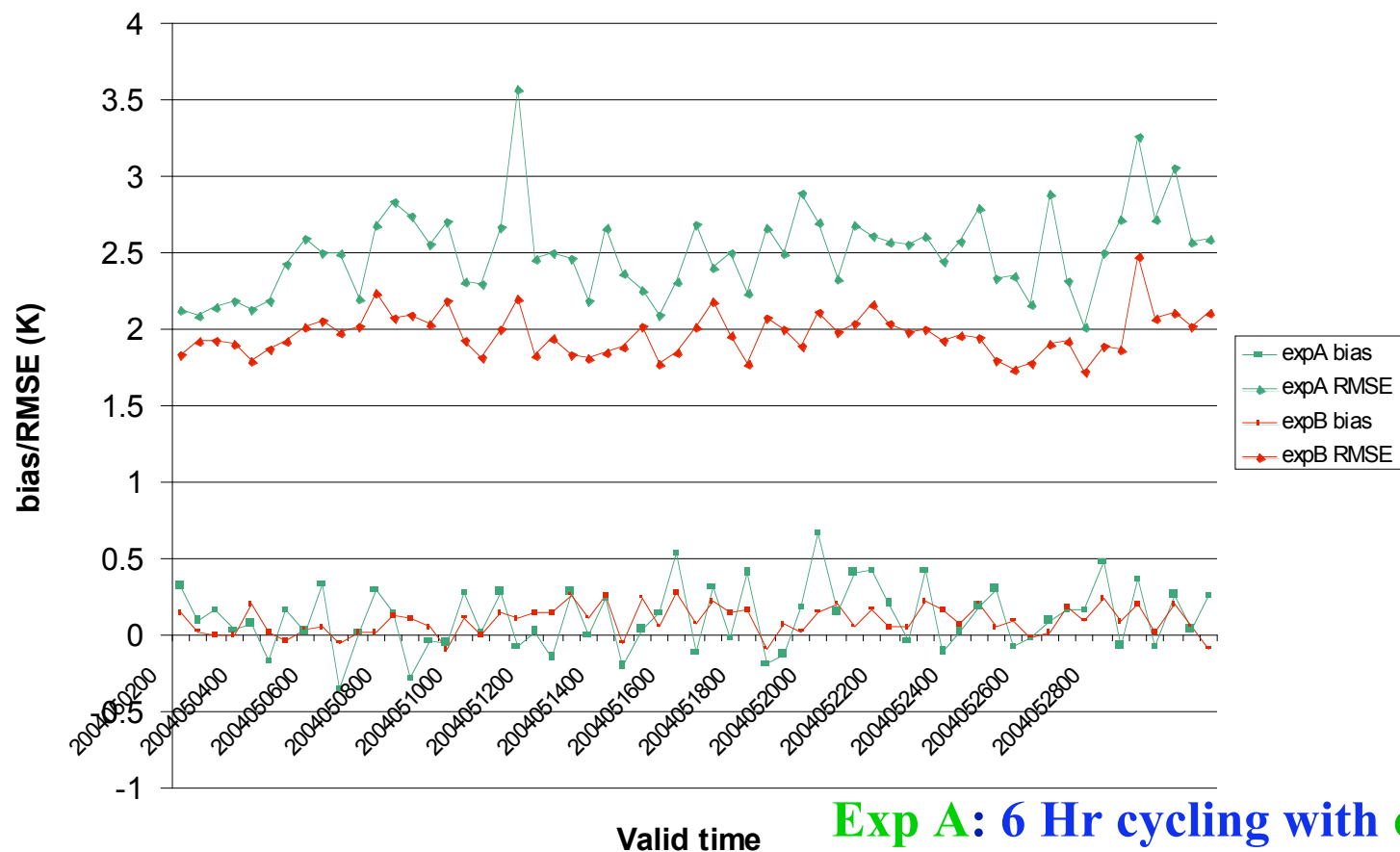


Gradient function for CONUS 200 Km domain



Impact of BE on Temperature forecast

12 hr f/c bias/RMSE for Sound T

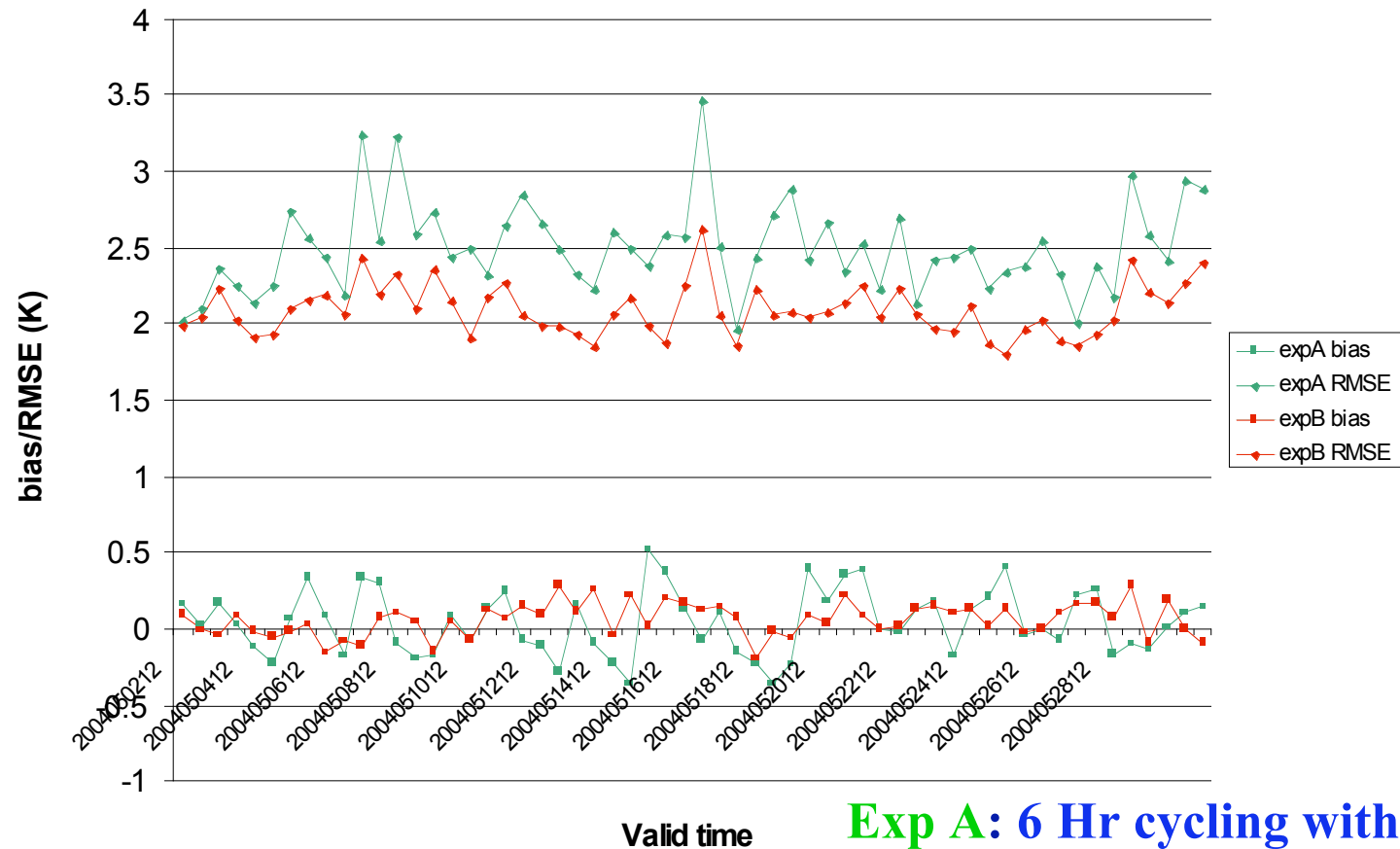


Exp A: 6 Hr cycling with old BE

Exp B: 6 Hr cycling with new BE

Impact of BE on Temperature forecast

24 hr f/c bias/RMSE for Sound T

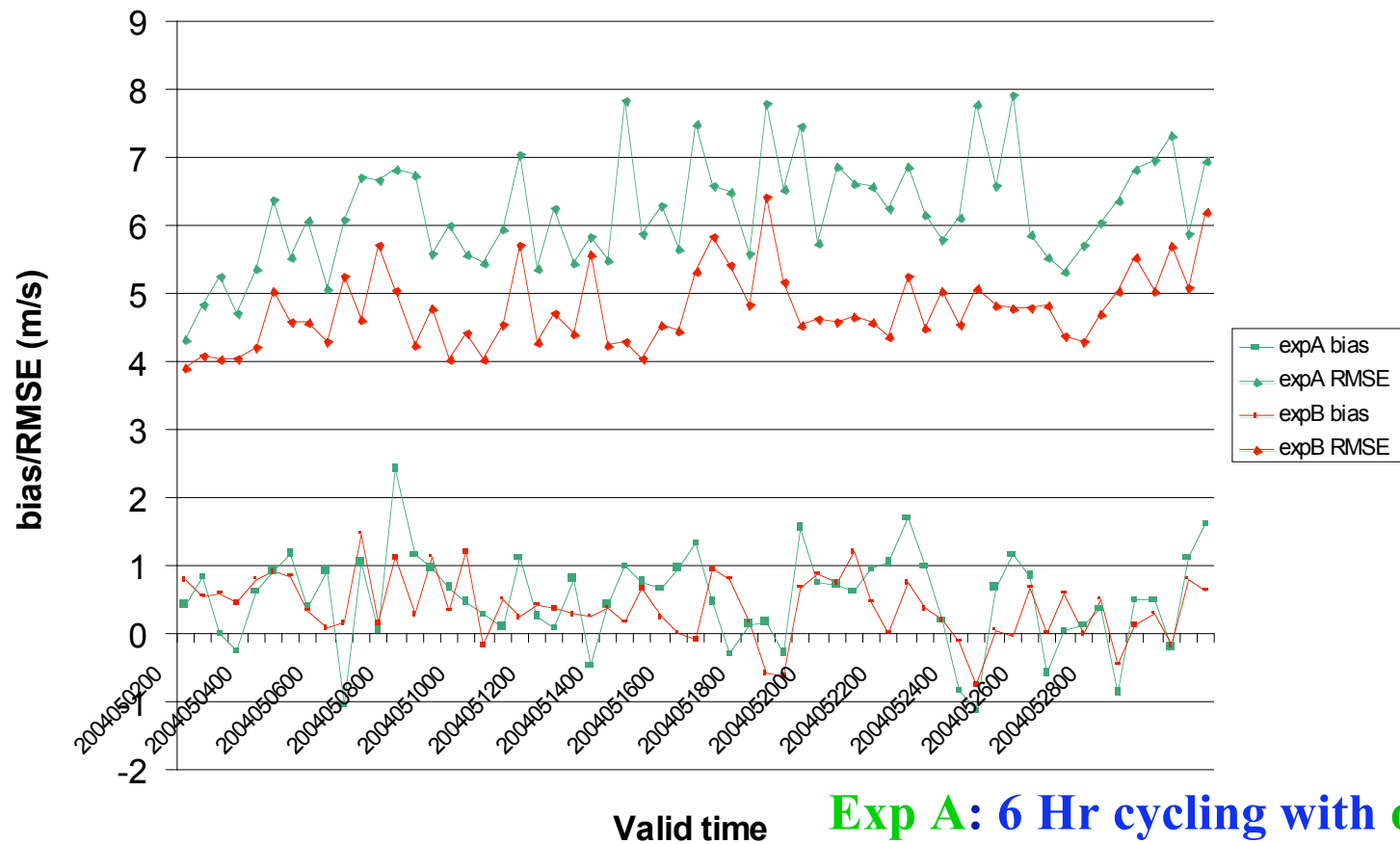


Exp A: 6 Hr cycling with old BE

Exp B: 6 Hr cycling with new BE

Impact of BE on Wind (U Comp.) forecast

12 hr f/c bias/RMSE for Sound U-comp

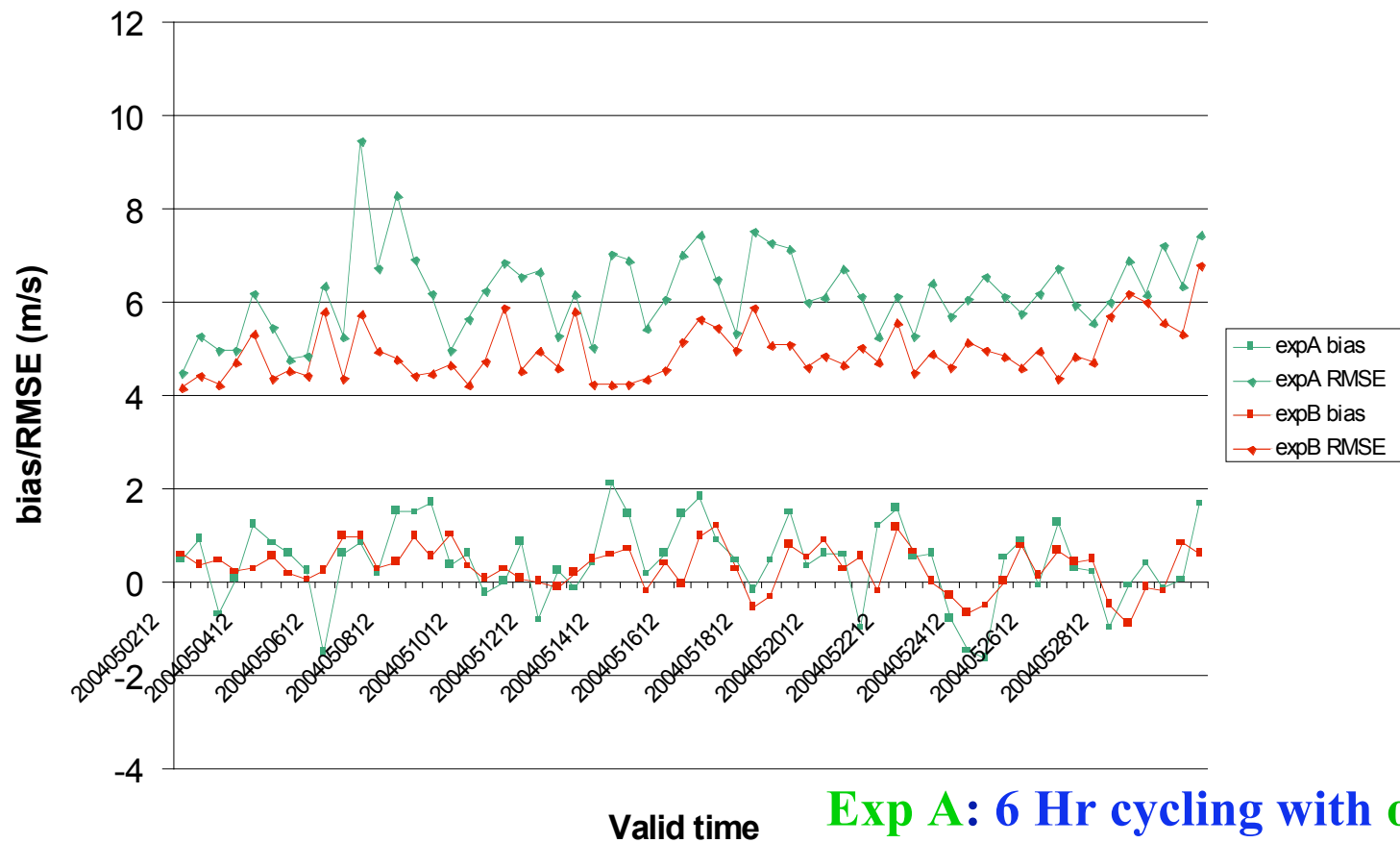


Exp A: 6 Hr cycling with old BE

Exp B: 6 Hr cycling with new BE

Impact of BE on Wind (U Comp.) forecast

24 hr f/c bias/RMSE for Sound U-comp



Exp A: 6 Hr cycling with old BE

Exp B: 6 Hr cycling with new BE

WRFDA “gen_be” utility:

- It resides in WRFDA under “var” directory
- Computes various components of BE statistics
- Designed both for NMC and Ensemble methods
- It consists of five stages
- Basic goal is to estimate the error covariance in analysis control variable space (Coefficients of the EOF's for ψ , χ_u , T_u , q and p_{s_u}) with input from model space (U , V , T , q & P_s)

“gen_be” - Stage0

- Computes (ψ , χ) from (u, v)
- Forms desired differences for the following fields

ψ - Stream Function

χ - Velocity potential

T - Temperature

q - Relative Humidity

p_s - Surface Pressure

“gen_be” - Stage1

- Reads “gen_be_stage1” namelist
- Fixes “bins” for computing BE statistics
- Computes “mean” of the differences formed in stage0
- Removes respective “mean” and forms perturbations for

Stream Function	(ψ')
Velocity potential	(χ')
Temperature	(T')
Relative Humidity	(q')
Surface Pressure	(p_s')

“gen_be” bins structure

- Currently “gen_be” utility has provisions of following seven (0-6) “bin_types”

- 0: No binning (each grid point is a bin)
- 1: mean in X-direction (Each latitude is a bin)
- 2: bins with binwidth_lat/binwidth_hgt
- 3: bins with binwidth_lat/nk
- 4: bins with binwidth_lat/nk (binwidth_lat (integer) is defined in terms of latitudinal grid points)
- 5: bins with all horizontal points (nk bins)
- 6: Average over all points (only 1 bin)

nk - Number of vertical levels

Default option is “bin_type=5”

“gen_be” - Stage2 & 2a

- Reads “gen_be_stage2” namelist
- Reads field written in stage1 and computes covariance of the respective fields
- Computes regression coefficient & **balanced** part of χ , T & p_s

$$\chi_b = C \psi'$$

$$T_b(k) = \sum_l G(k,l) \psi'(l)$$

$$p_{s_b} = \sum_l W(k) \psi'(k)$$

- Computes unbalanced part

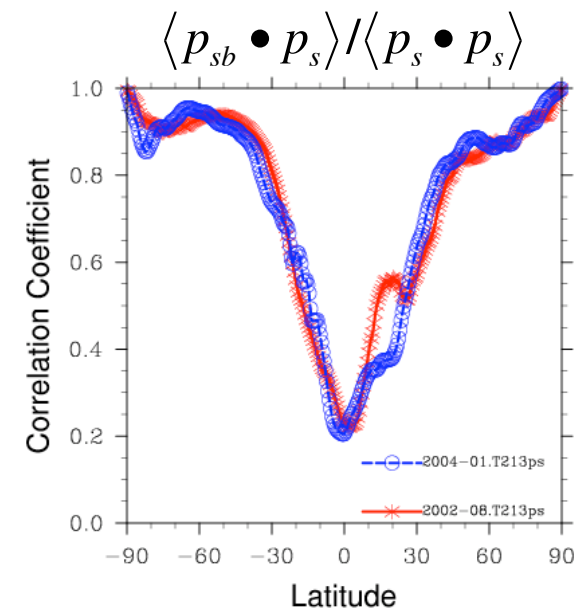
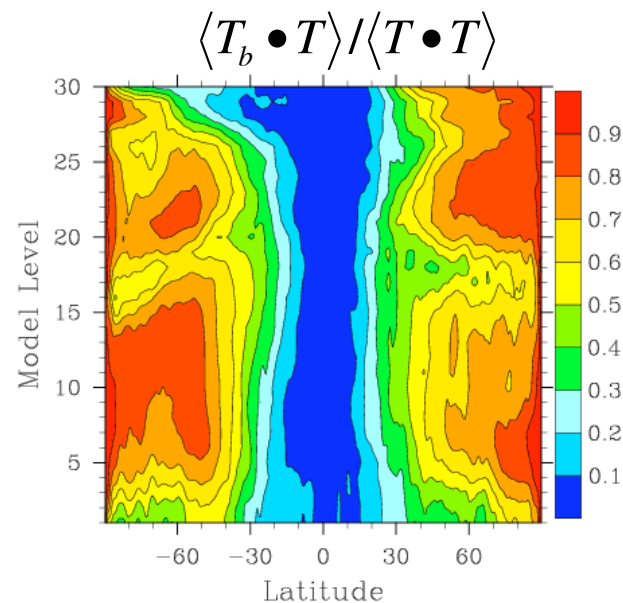
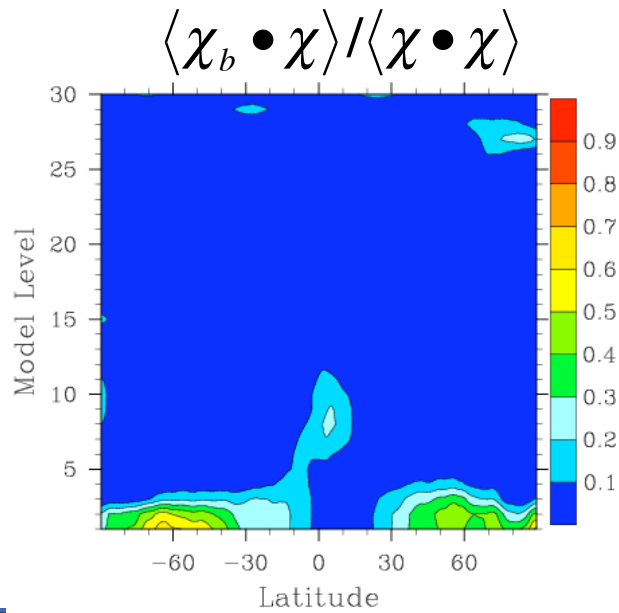
$$\chi_u' = \chi' - \chi_b$$

$$T_u' = T' - T_b$$

$$p_{s_u}' = p_s' - p_{s_b}$$

WRFDA Balance constraints

- WRFDA imposes statistical balanced constraints between
 - Stream Function & Velocity potential
 - Stream Function & Temperature
 - Stream Function & Surface Pressure
- How good are these balanced constraints?
- Based on KMA global model



“gen_be” - Stage3

- Reads “gen_be_stage3” namelist
- Removes mean for χ_u' , T_u' & p_{s_u}'
- Computes eigenvectors and eigen values for vertical error covariance matrix of ψ' , χ_u' , T_u' & q
- Computes variance of p_{s_u}'
- Computes eigen decomposition of ψ' , χ_u' , T_u' & q

“gen_be” - Stage4

- Reads “gen_be_stage4” namelist
- For each variable & each eigen mode, for regional option computes “**lengthscale (s)**”

$$B(r) = B(0) \exp\{-r^2 / 8s^2\}$$

$$y(r) = 2\sqrt{2}[\ln(B(0)/B(r))]^{1/2} = r/s$$

- For global option, computes “**power spectrum (D_n)**”

$$D_n = \sum_{m=-n}^n (F_n^m)^2 = (F_n^0)^2 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^n \left[(\text{Re}(F_n^m))^2 + (\text{Im}(F_n^m))^2 \right]$$

Single observation test

- Through single observation, one can understand
 - structure of BE
 - It identifies the “shortfalls” of BE
 - It gives a broad guidelines for tuning BE

Basic concept:

Analysis equation: $\mathbf{x}^a = \mathbf{x}^b + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1}[\mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^b)]$

Set single observation (U,V,T etc.) as follows:

$$[\mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^b)] = 1.0 \quad ; \quad \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbf{x}^a - \mathbf{x}^b = \mathbf{B} * \text{constant delta vector}$$

How to activate Single obs test (PSOT)?

“single obs utility” or “psot” may be activated by setting the following namelist parameters

num_pseudo = 1

pseudo_var = “ Variable name” like “U”, “T”, “P”, etc.

pseudo_x = “X-coordinate of the observation”

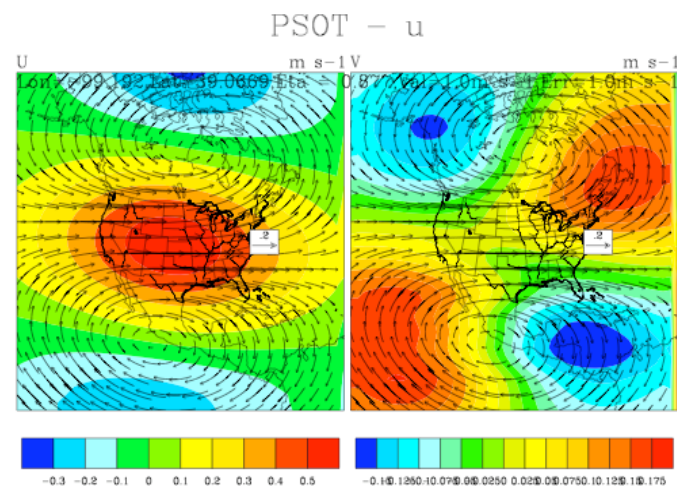
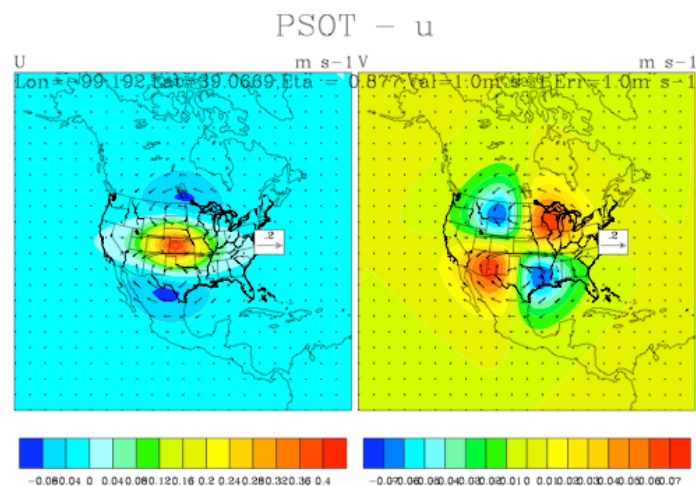
pseudo_y = “Y-coordinate of the observation”

pseudo_z = “Z-coordinate of the observation”

pseudo_val = “Observation value”, departure from FG”

pseudo_err = “Observation error”

Single Obs (U) test with different BE



How to perform tuning of BE?

- Horizontal component of BE can be tuned with following namelist parameters

LEN_SCALING1 - 5 (Length scaling parameters)

VAR_SCALING1 - 5 (Variance scaling parameters)

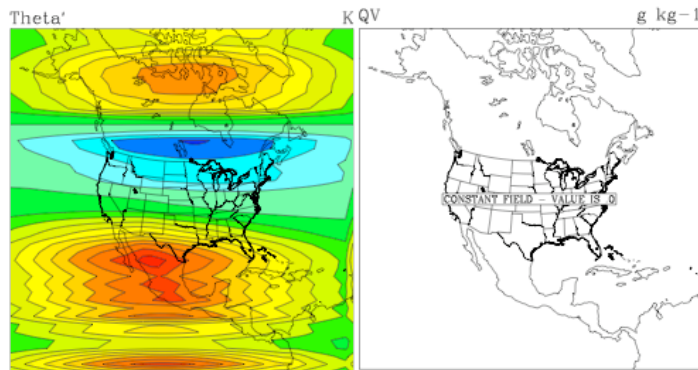
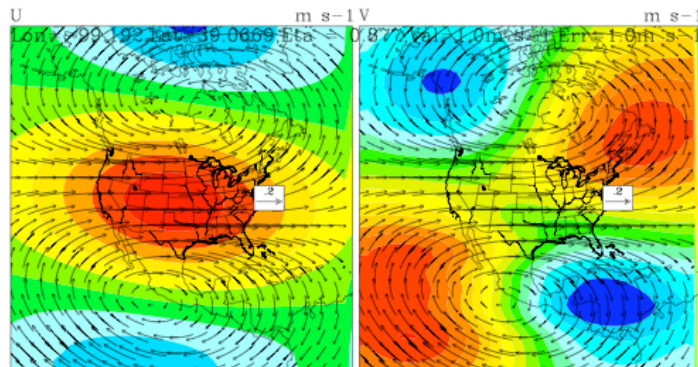
- Vertical component of BE can be tuned with following namelist parameter

MAX_VERT_VAR1 - 5 (Vertical variance parameters)

Results with BE Tuning

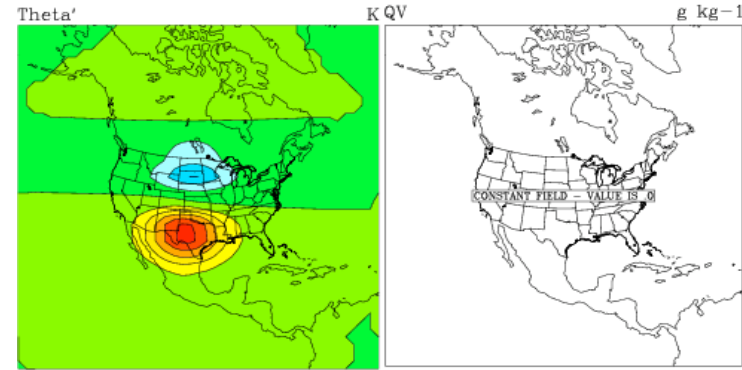
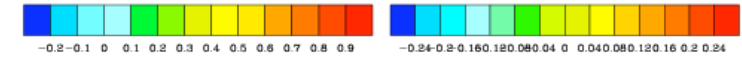
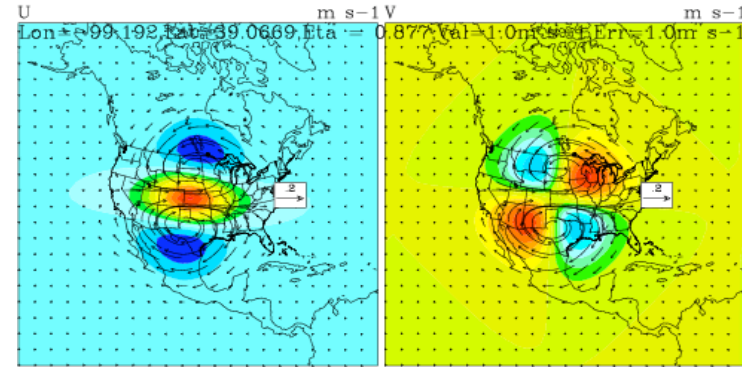
No tuning

PSOT - u



Len_scaling1 & 2 = 0.25

PSOT - u



Formulation of New WRFDA BE

- New set of analysis control variables have been designed

$$\chi_b(i, j, k) = \alpha_{\chi\psi} * \psi(i, j, k)$$

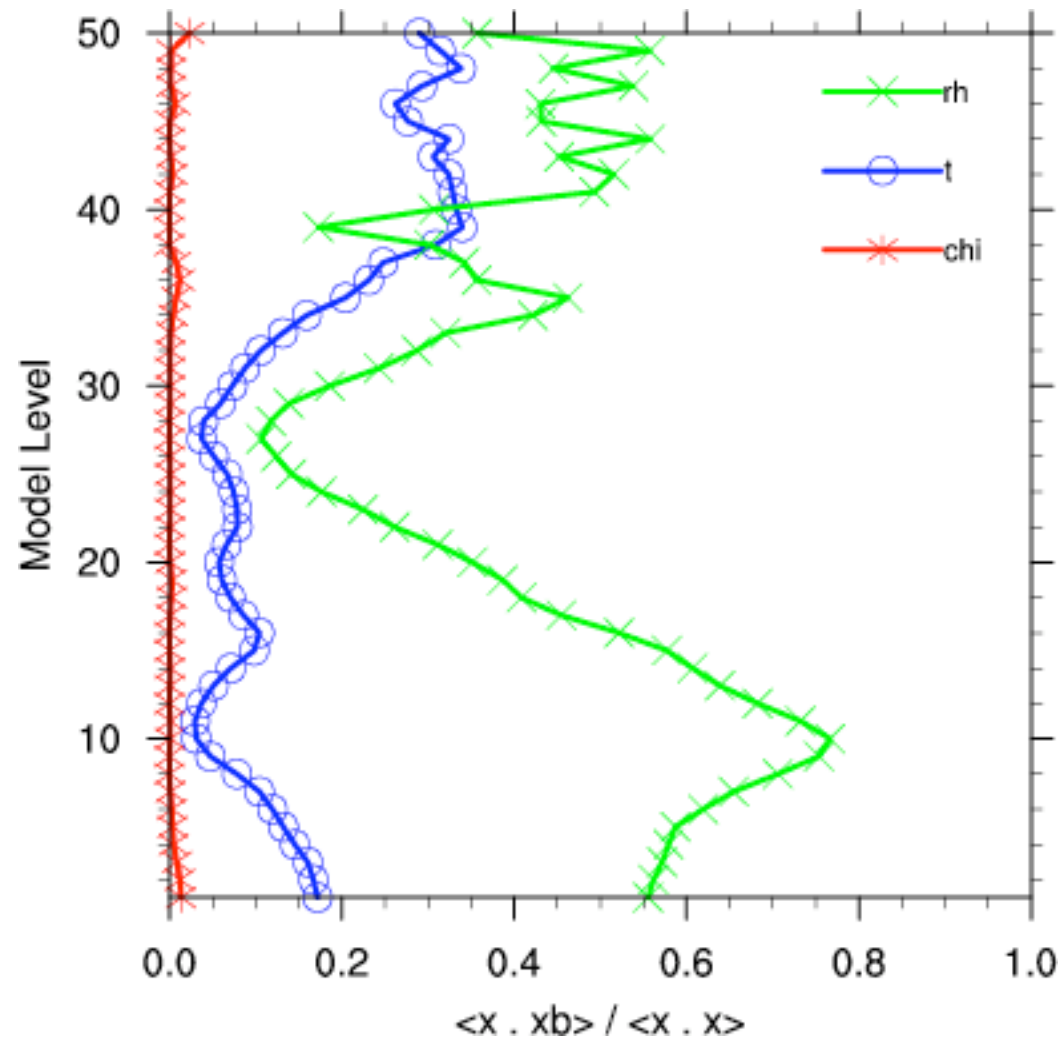
$$T_b(i, j, k) = \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{T\psi}(i, j, k, l) * \psi(i, j, k, l) + \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{T\chi_u}(i, j, k, l) * \chi_u(i, j, l)$$

$$Q_b(i, j, k) = \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{Q\psi}(i, j, k, l) * \psi(i, j, k, l) + \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{Q\chi_u}(i, j, k, l) * \chi_u(i, j, l) + \\ + \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{QT_u}(i, j, k, l) * T_u(i, j, l) + \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{ps_u Q}(i, j, l) * ps_u(i, j)$$

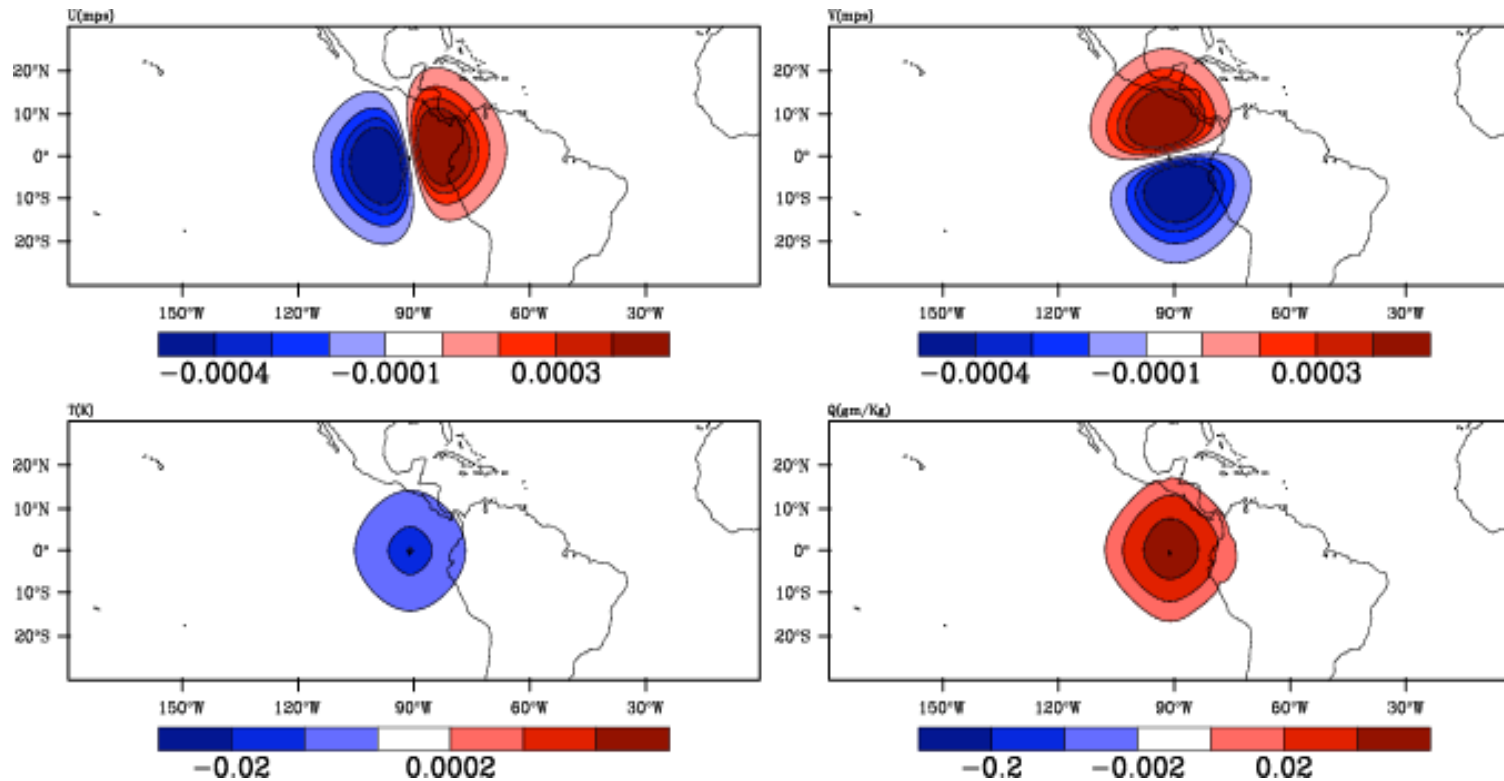
$$P_s(i, j) = \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{P_s\psi}(i, j, l) * \psi(i, j, l) + \sum_{l=1}^{N_k} \alpha_{P_s\chi_u}(i, j, l) * \chi_u(i, j, l)$$

Indexes i,j and k are corresponding to the West-East, North-South and vertical sigma levels respectively, N_k is the number of sigma levels and α is the regression coefficient between the variables indicated in its subscript.

Contribution of Balanced part



Single Obs (Moisture) test with new BE



Practice Session 3

- Compilation of “gen_be” utility
- Generation of BE statistics
- Familiarization with various graphical utilities to display “gen_be” diagnostics
- Running single observation tests to understand the structure of BE
- BE error tuning

Generation of BE

- “gen_be_wrapper.ksh” script for generating BE for “CONUS” at 200 Km domain with:

Grid Size : 45 x 45 x 28

BE Method : NMC Method

Data Input : January, 2007 forecasts, both from 00 & 12 UTC IC

Basic environment variables that needs to be set are:

- Gen_be executables location (WRFVAR_DIR)
- Forecast input data (FC_DIR)
- Run directory (BE_DIR)
- Data Range (START_DATE, END_DATE)

“gen_be” wrapper script basically executes
“var/scripts/gen_be/gen_be.ksh” script

Gen_be diagnostics

- “gen_be” creates various diagnostic files which may be used to display various components of BE statistics.

- Important files are:

Eigen vectors: fort.174, fort.178, fort.182, fort.186

Eigen values: fort.175, fort.179, fort.183, fort.187

scalelength: fort.194, fort.179, fort.183, fort.187

Correlation between χ_u & χ_b (chi_u.chi.dat)

Correlation between T_u & T_b (T_u.T.dat)

Correlation between p_{s_u} & (ps_u.ps.dat)

Important Strings that needs to be defined in the wrapper script

“var/script/gen_be/gen_be_plot_wrapper.ksh”

BE_DIR --- gen_be Run directory

How to run Single Observation Test ?

- Familiarization with single observation “wrapper” script (“da_run_suite_wrapper_con200.ksh”) to run Single Observation test
- Key parameters are
 - Type of observation (**pseudo_var**)
 - Obs co-ordinates (**pseudo_x**, **pseudo_y** & **pseudo_z**)
 - Observation value (**pseudo_val**)
 - Observation error (**pseudo_err**)
- Display analysis increments to understand BE structure

BE tuning

- Understand the role of BE-tuning parameters through namelist options

LEN_SCALING1 - 5 (Length scaling parameters)

VAR_SCALING1 - 5 (Variance scaling parameters)

MAX_VERT_VAR1 - 5 (Vertical variance parameters)

Note: If BE is available for the same domain configuration, it's tuning is not required