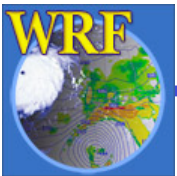


# The WRF Preprocessing System: Description of General Functions

Michael Duda



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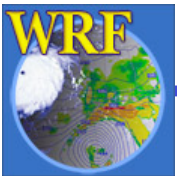
WRF Users' Tutorial, 25-29 January 2010

# Purpose of this Lecture

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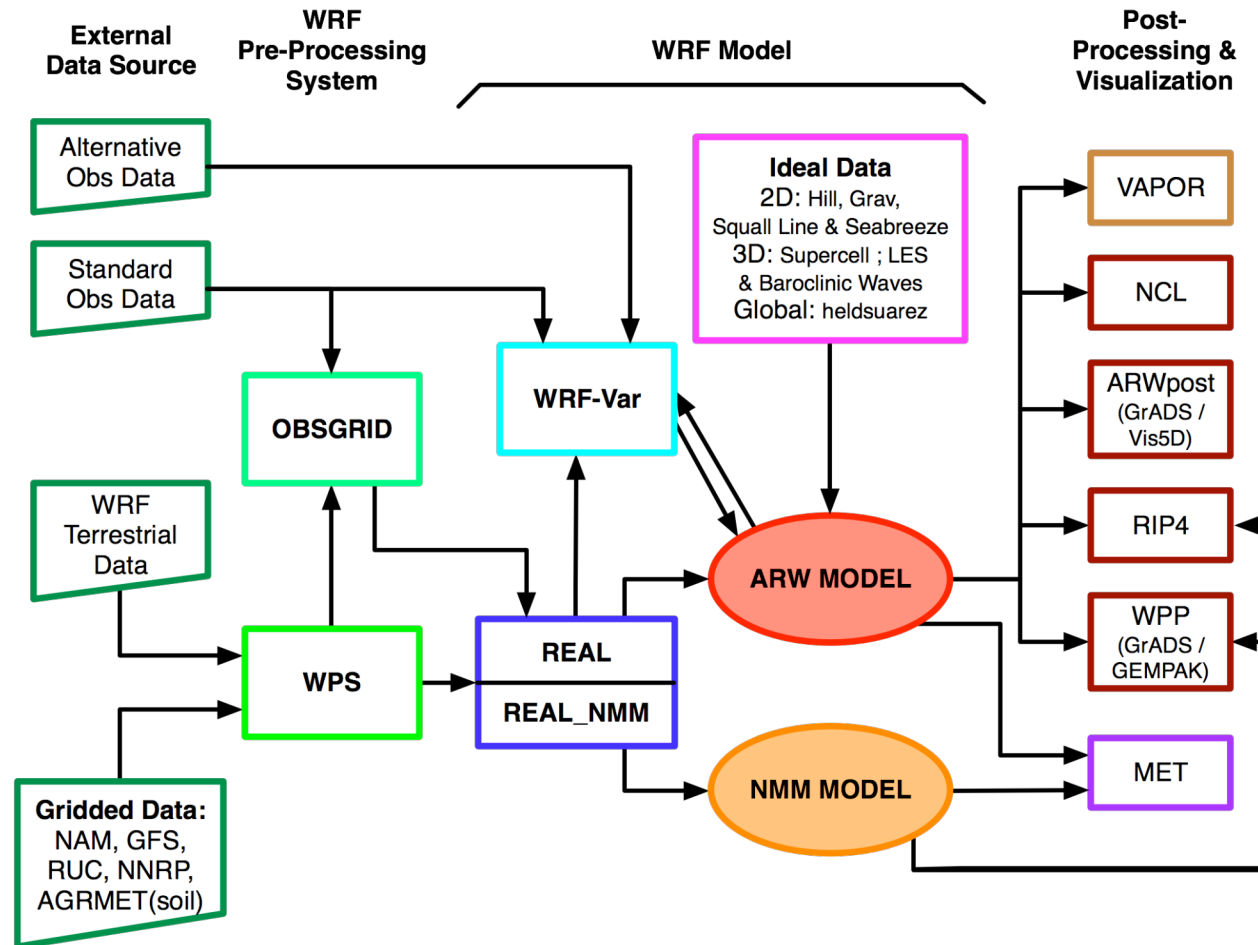
In this lecture, our goals are to:

- 1) Understand the purpose of the WPS
  - 2) Learn what each component of the WPS does
  - 3) Understand why the components work as they do
- 
- The details of *actually running* the WPS are covered in the second WPS lecture
  - *Advanced usage* of the WPS is covered in the third lecture



# WRF Modeling System Flowchart

WRF Modeling System Flow Chart

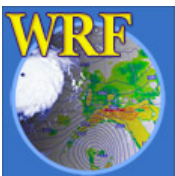


# Purpose of the WPS

---

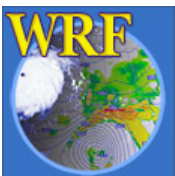
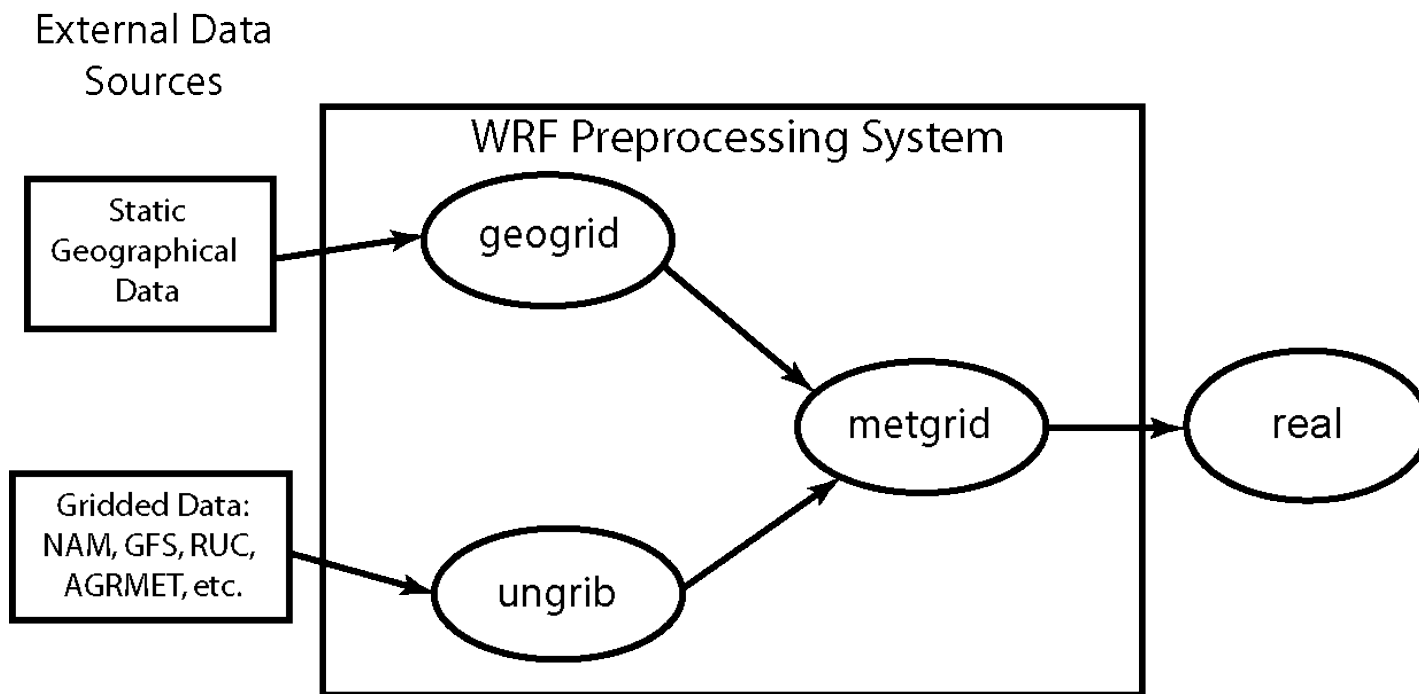
The purpose of the WPS is to prepare input to WRF for real-data simulations:

1. Defines simulation domain and ARW nested domains
2. Computes latitude, longitude, map scale factors, and Coriolis parameters at every grid point
3. Interpolates time-invariant terrestrial data to simulation grids (e.g., terrain height and soil type)
4. Interpolates time-varying meteorological fields from another model onto simulation domains



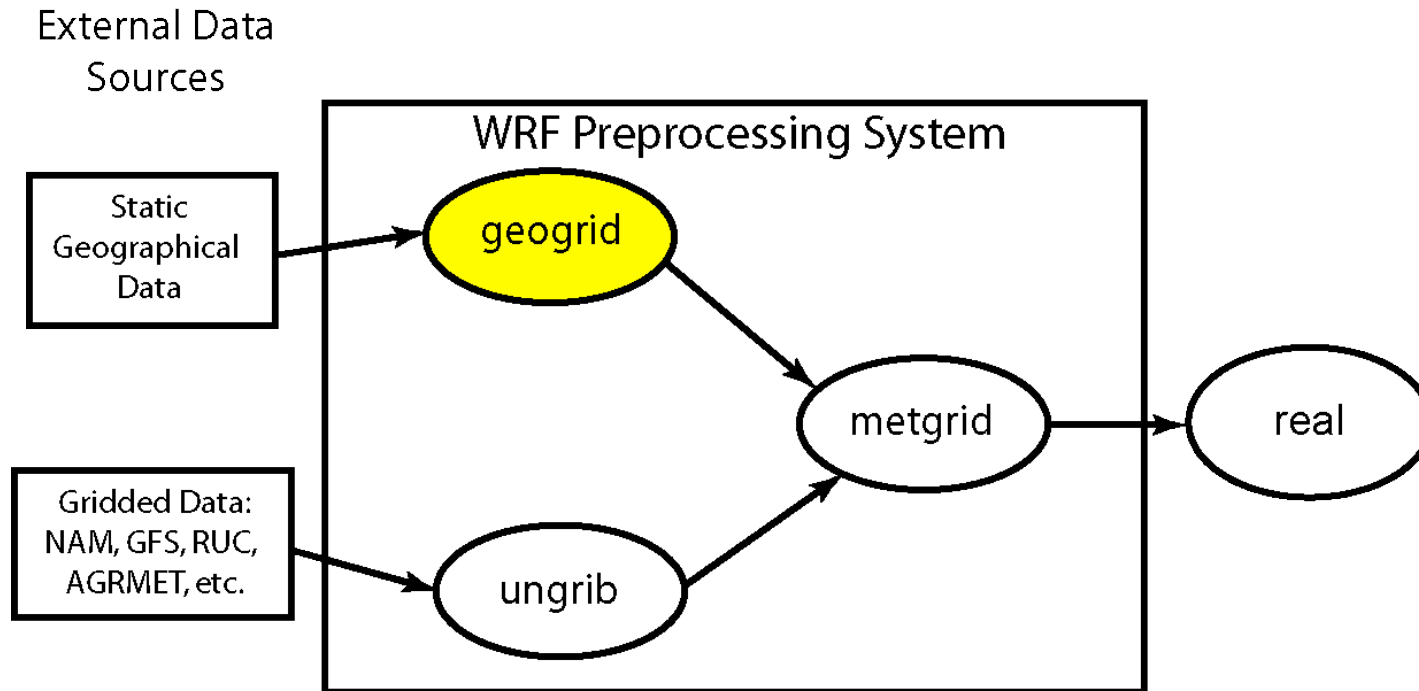
# WPS Program Flowchart

---



# The *geogrid* program

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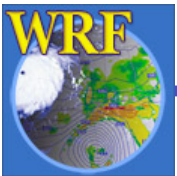
geogrid: think geographical



# The *geogrid* program

---

- For WRF model domains, geogrid defines:
  - Map projection (all domains must use the same projection)
  - Geographic location of domains
  - Dimensions of domains
- Geogrid provides values for static (time-invariant) fields at each model grid point
  - Compute latitude, longitude, map scale factor, and Coriolis parameters at each grid point
  - Horizontally interpolate static terrestrial data (e.g., topography height, land use category, soil type, vegetation fraction, monthly surface albedo)



# Geogrid: Defining model domains

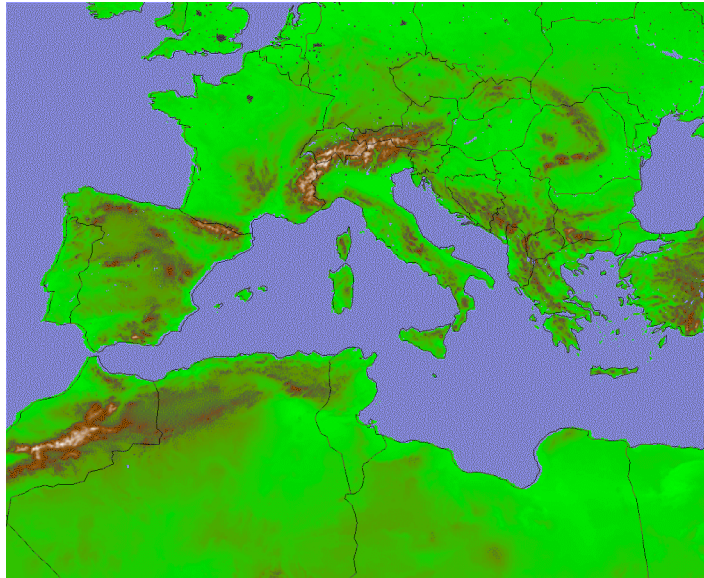
---

- First, we choose a map projection to use for the domains; why?
  - The real earth is (roughly) an ellipsoid
  - But WRF computational domains are defined by rectangles in the plane
- NMM uses a rotated latitude-longitude projection
- ARW can use any of the following projections:
  1. Lambert conformal
  2. Mercator
  3. Polar stereographic
  4. Latitude-longitude (for global domain, *must* choose this!)

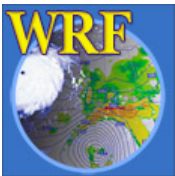
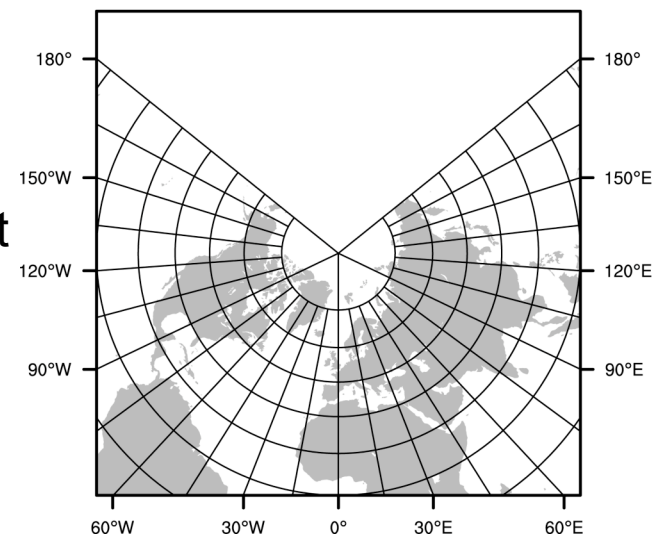
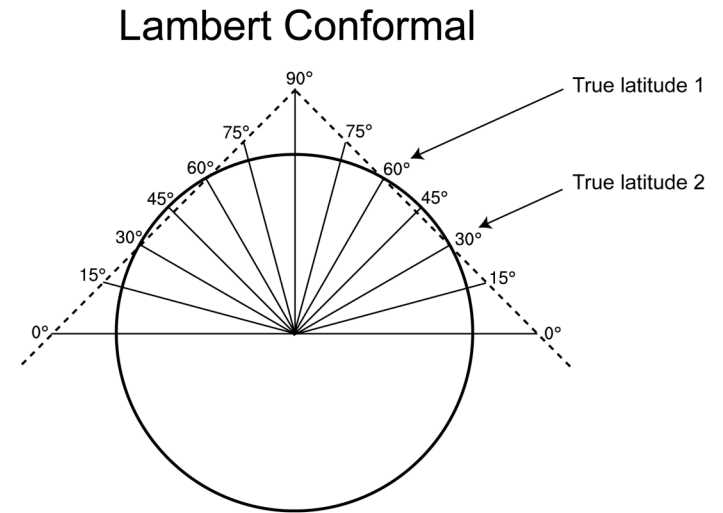




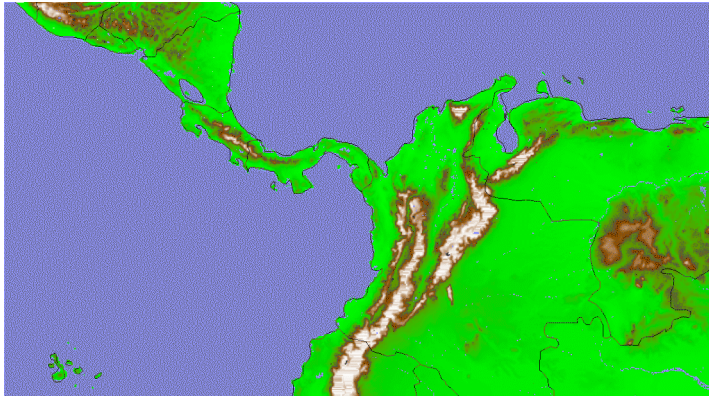
# ARW Projections: Lambert Conformal



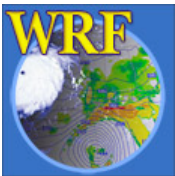
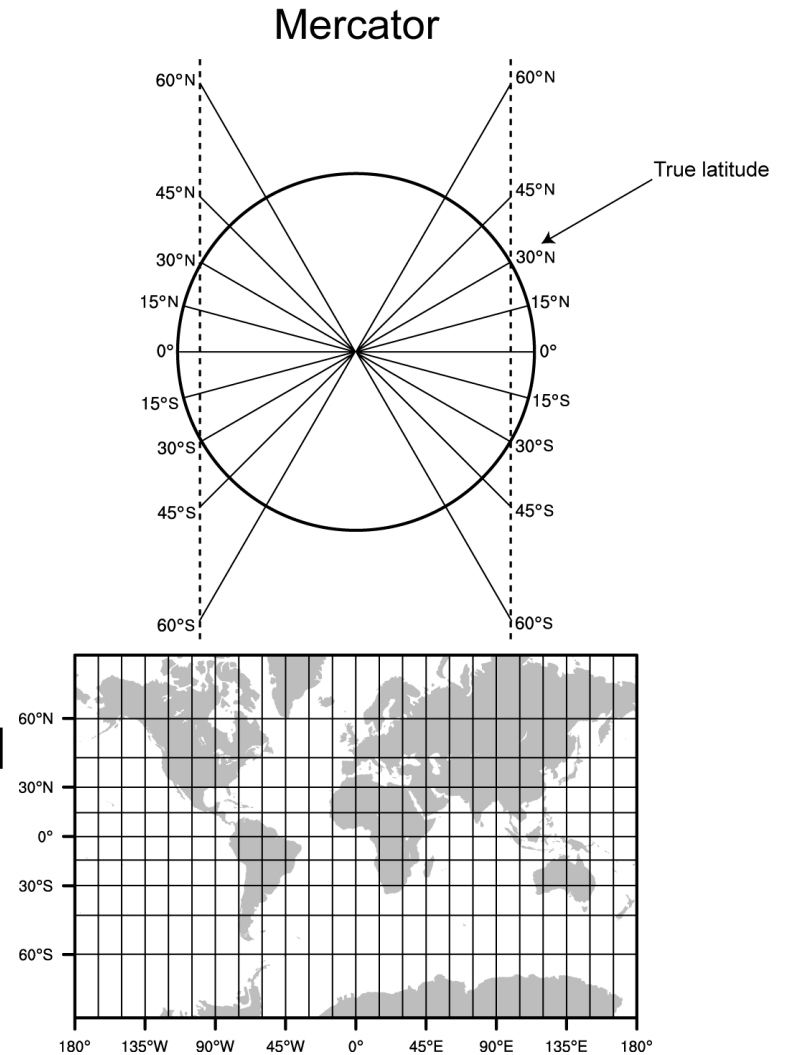
- Well-suited for mid-latitudes
- Domain cannot contain either pole
- Domain cannot be periodic in west-east direction
- Either one or two *true latitudes* may be specified
  - If two are given, the order doesn't matter



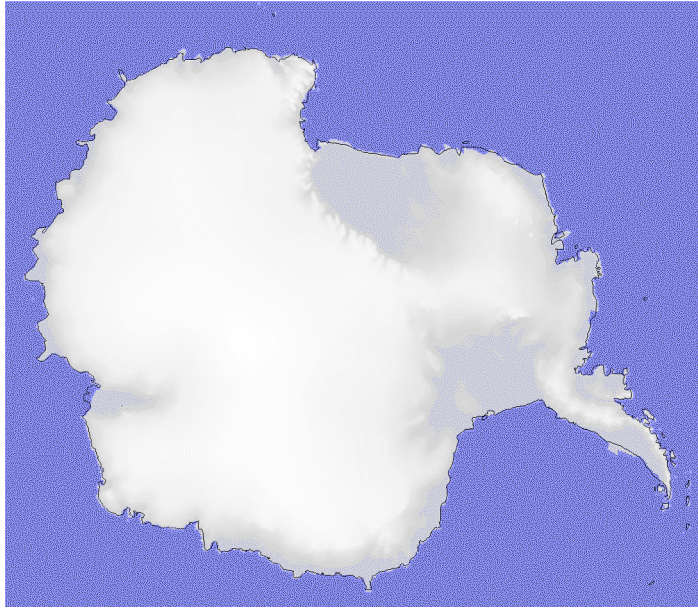
# ARW Projections: Mercator



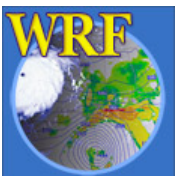
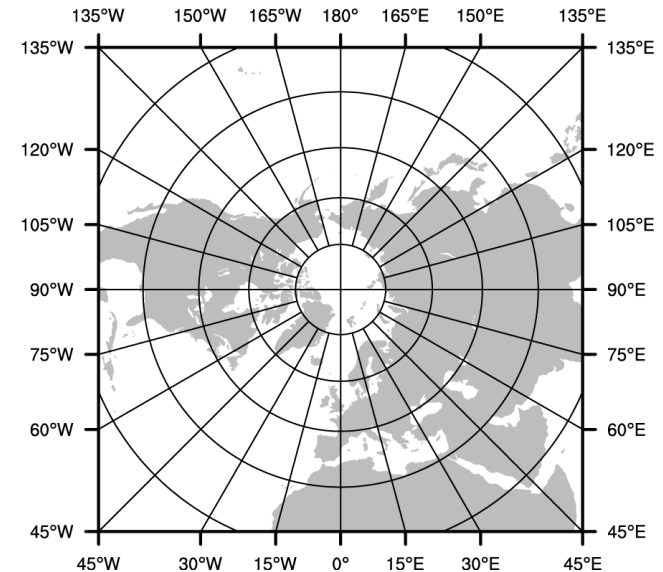
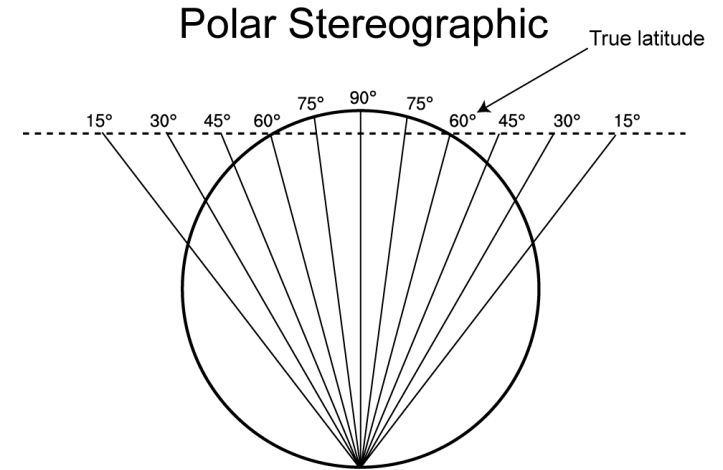
- Well-suited for low-latitudes
- May be used for “channel” domain (periodic domain in west-east direction)
- A single true latitude is specified
  - Cylinder intersects the earth’s surface at +/- truelat



# ARW Projections: Polar Stereographic

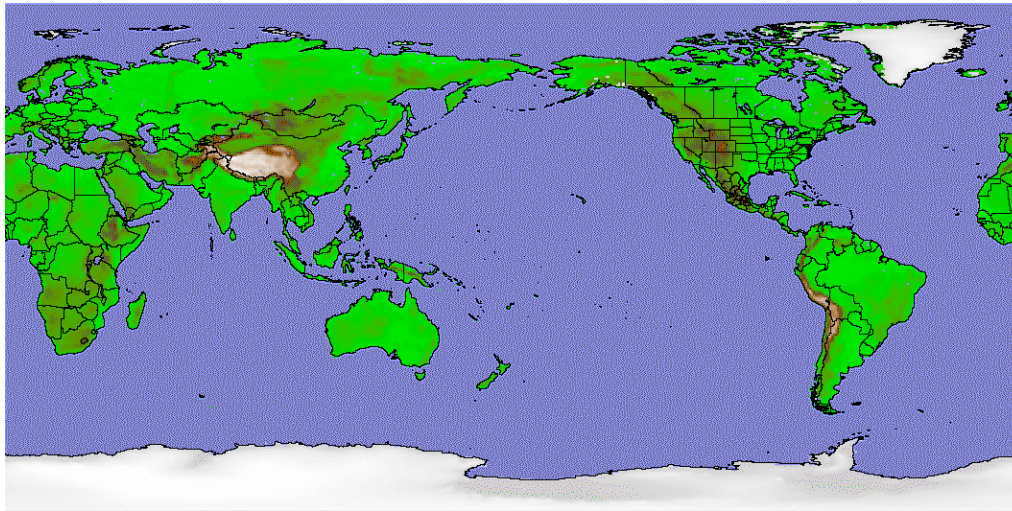


- Good for high-latitude domains, especially if domain must contain a pole
- A single true latitude is specified



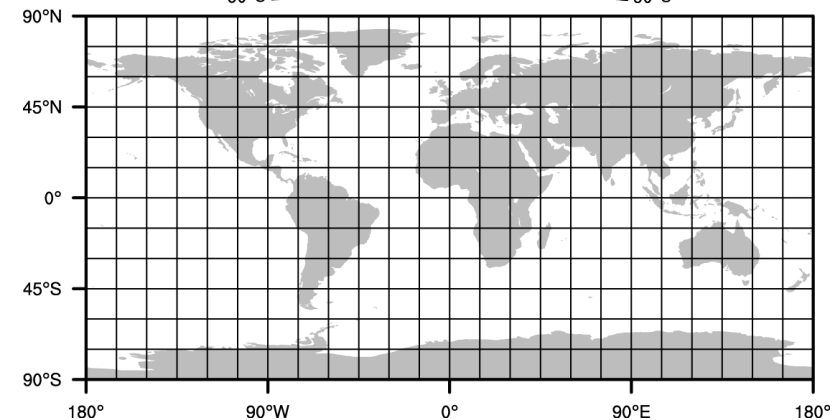
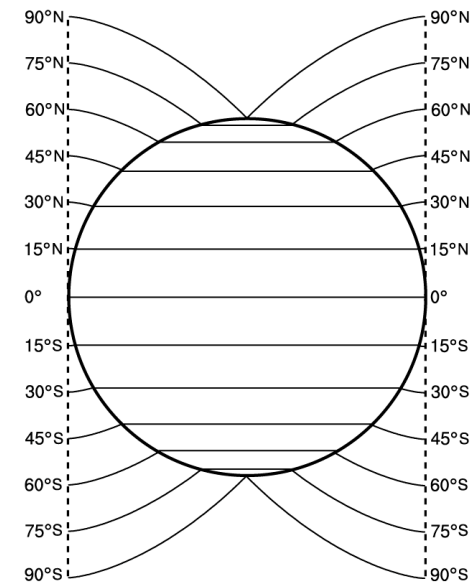


# ARW Projections: Cylindrical Equidistant



- Required for global domains
- May be used for regional domains
- Can be used in its normal or rotated aspect

Cylindrical Equidistant

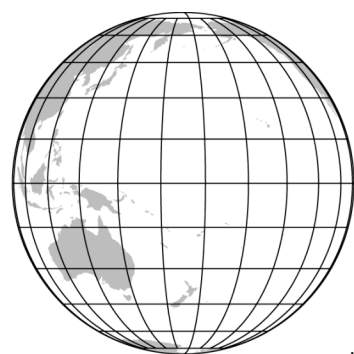


# ARW Projections: Rotating the Lat-Ion Grid

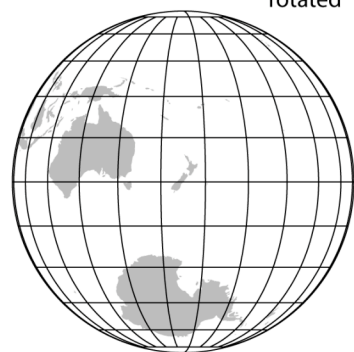
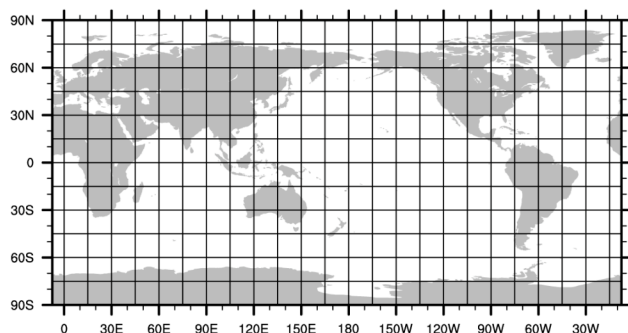
In certain cases, it may be desirable or necessary to rotate the poles of the projection away from the poles of the earth

- When placing a nest over a region that would otherwise lie within a filtered region
- When using the lat-lon projection for limited area grids

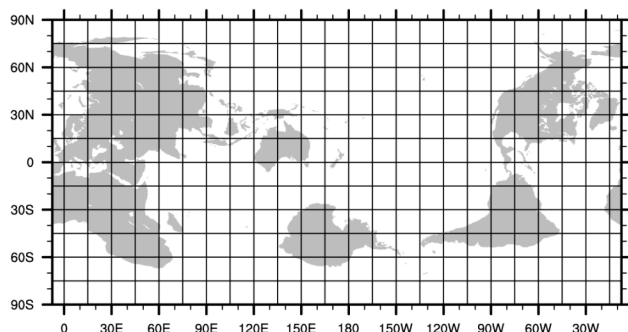
See p. 3-11



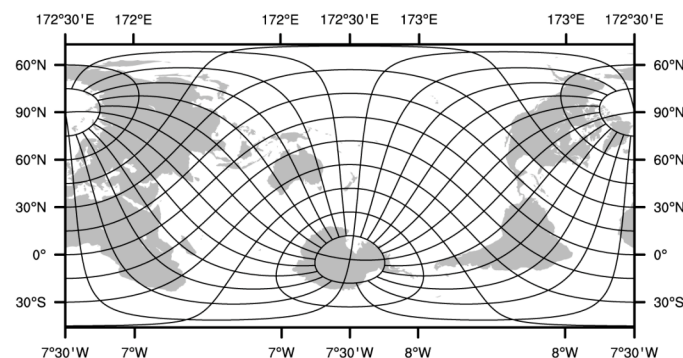
unrotated



rotated



Computational grid

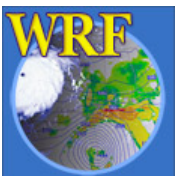
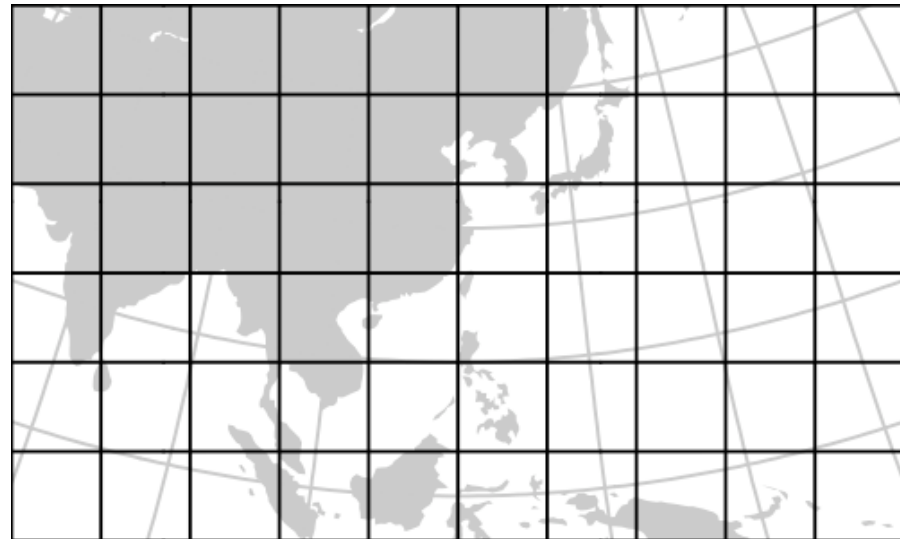
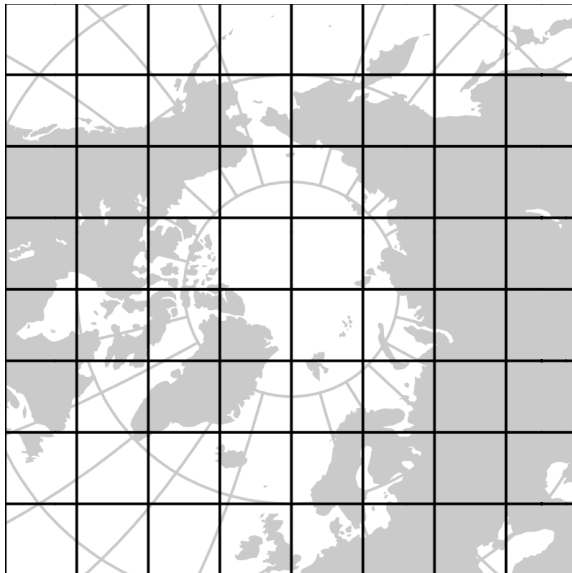
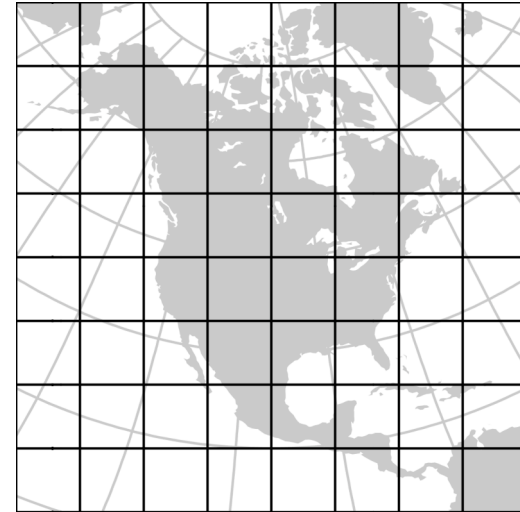


Geographic grid



# NMM Projection: Rotated Lat-Lon

- Can be used for any region
  - Polar, equatorial, mid-latitude
- Earth is rotated so that geographic location of interest is located at  $0^\circ$  lat,  $0^\circ$  lon
  - User simply specifies geographic point to appear in the center of the domain



# Geogrid: Defining Model Domains

---

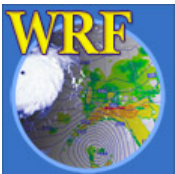
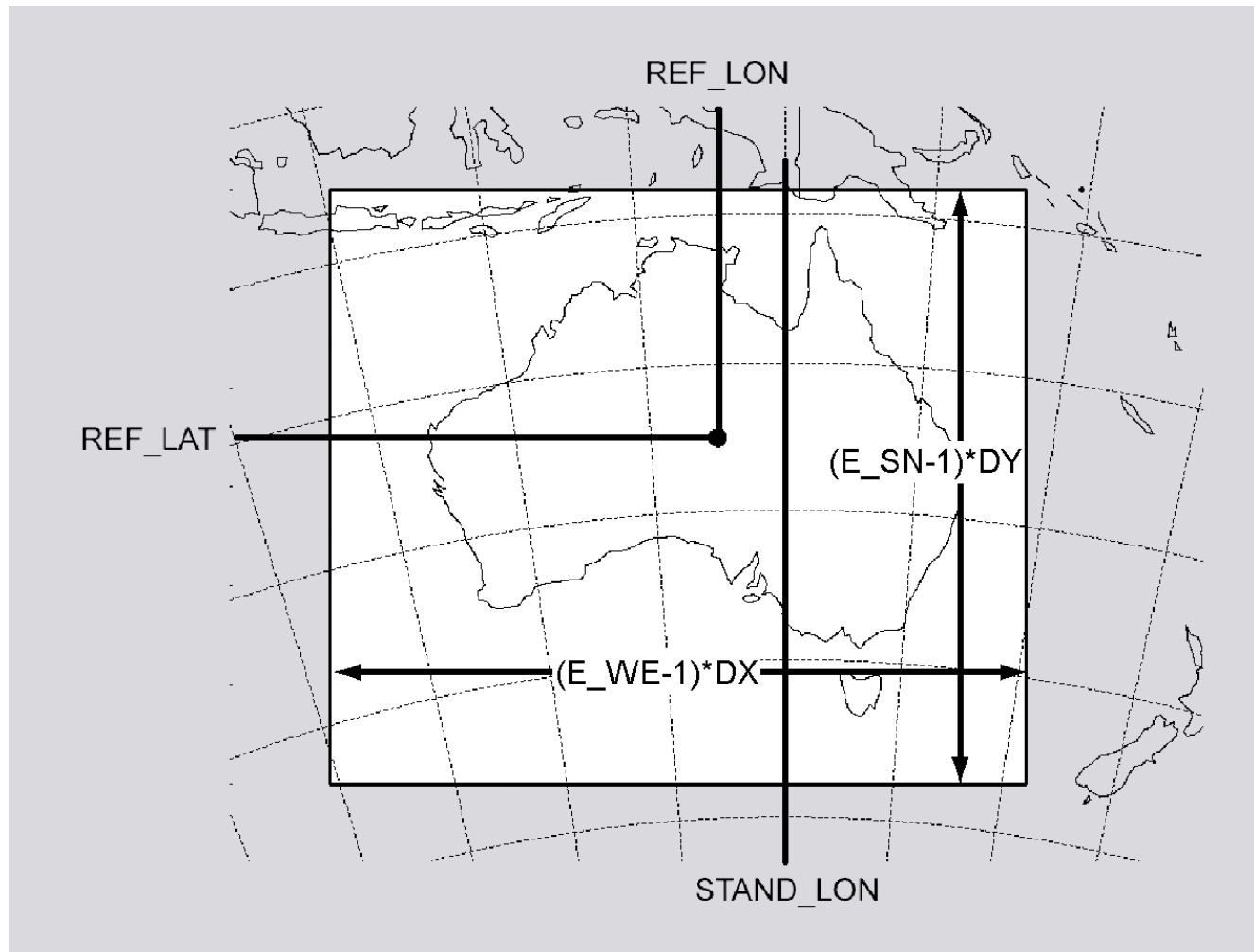
- Define projection of domains using a subset of the following parameters
  - **MAP\_PROJ**: 'lambert', 'mercator', 'polar', 'lat-lon', or 'rotated\_ll'
  - \* {
    - **TRUELAT1**: First true latitude
    - **TRUELAT2**: Second true latitude (*only for Lambert conformal*)
    - **POLE\_LAT, POLE\_LON**: Location of North Pole in WRF computational grid (*only for 'lat-lon'*)
    - **STAND\_LON**: The meridian parallel to y-axis
- All parameters reside in the file *namelist.wps*



\*ARW only

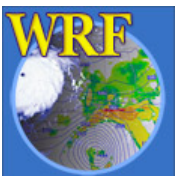
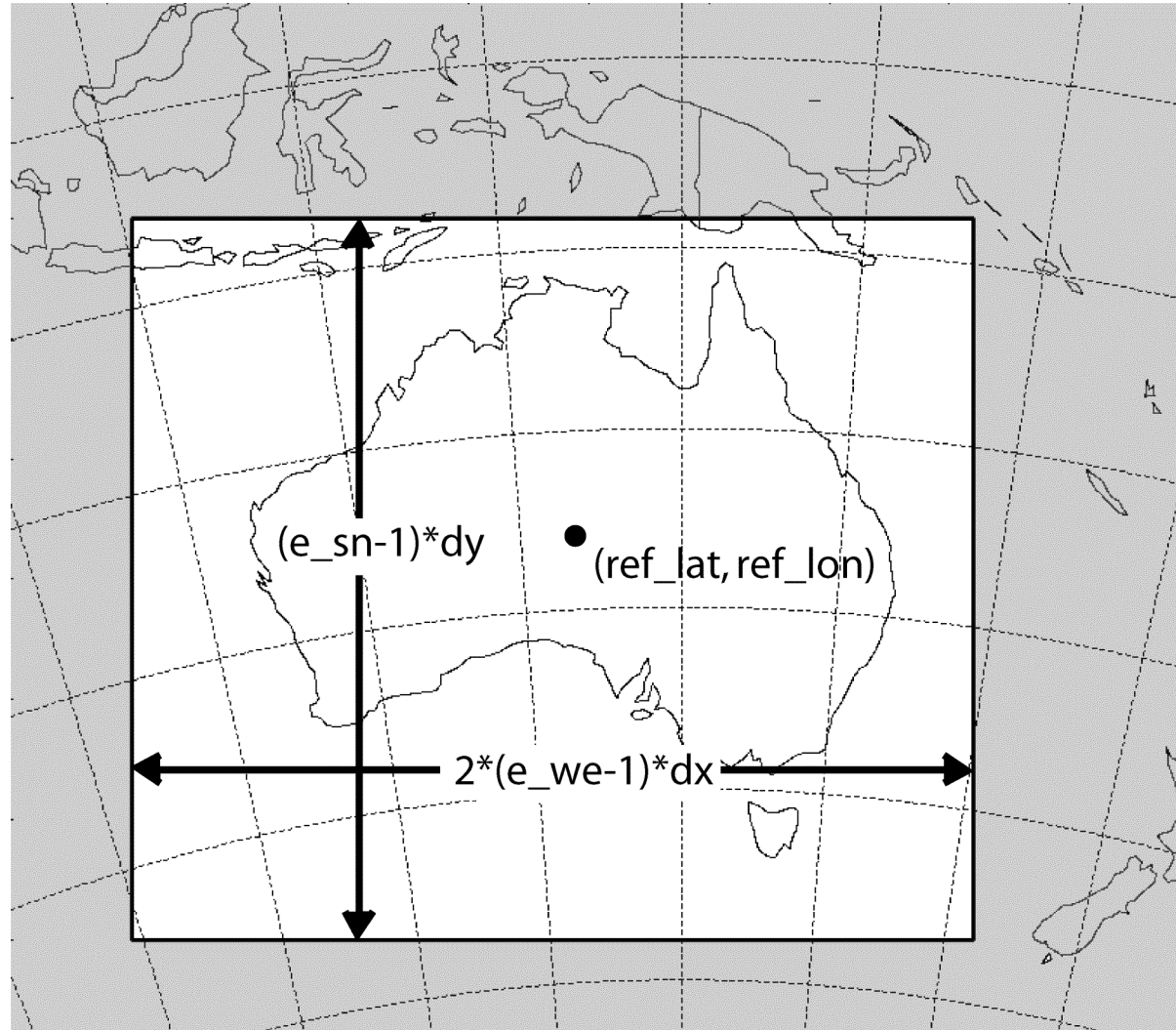
See p. 3-9 and 3-40

# Geogrid: Defining ARW Domains





# Geogrid: Defining NMM Domains

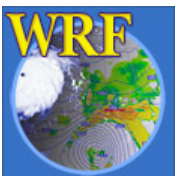


# Geogrid: Defining Model Domains

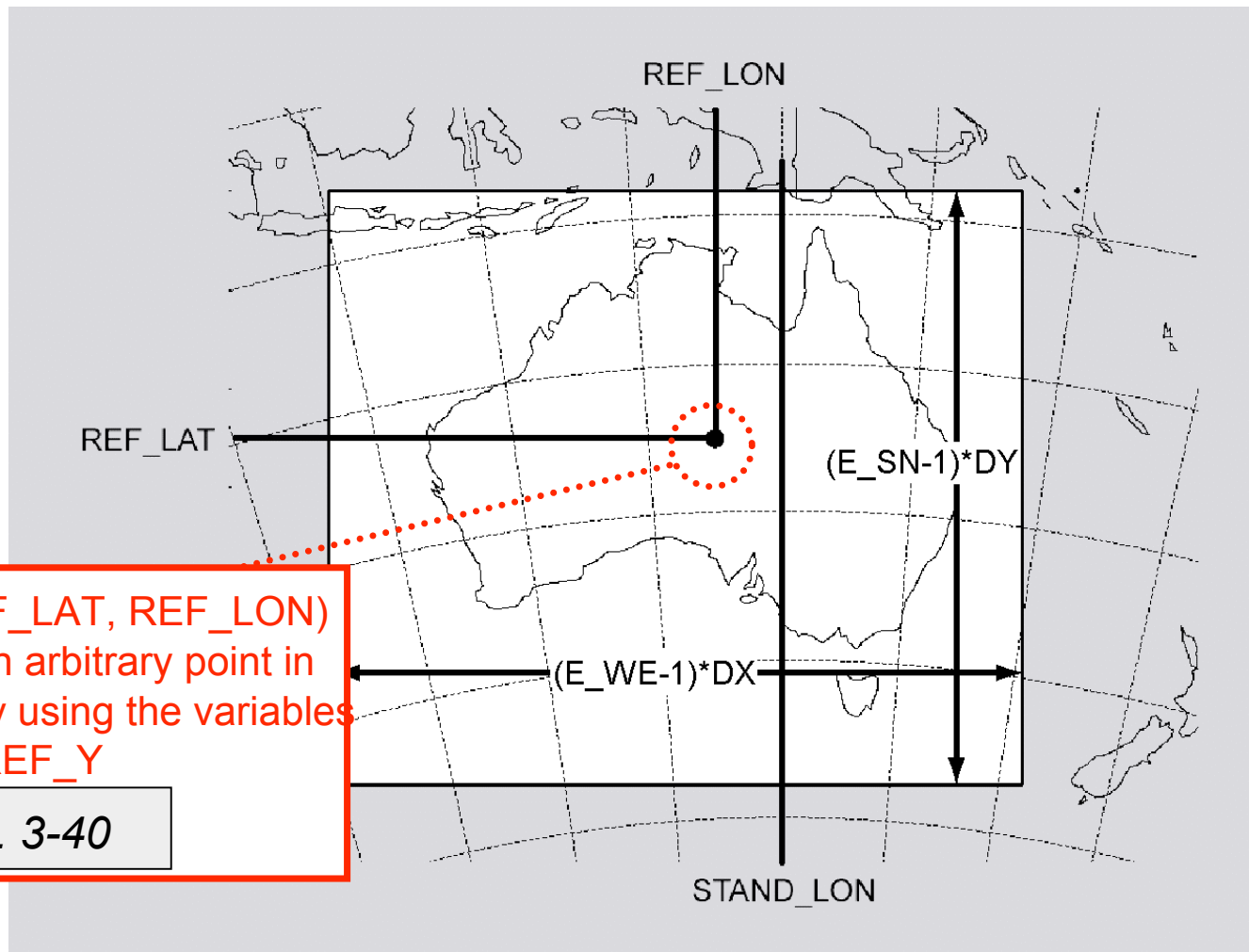
---

- Define the area covered (dimensions and location) by coarse domain using the following:
  - **REF\_LAT, REF\_LON**: The (lat,lon) location of a known location in the domain (*by default, the center point of the domain*)
  - **DX, DY**: Grid distance where map factor = 1
    - For Lambert, Mercator, and polar stereographic: **meters**
    - For (rotated) latitude-longitude: **degrees**
  - **E\_WE**: Number of velocity points in west-east direction for ARW; number of mass points in odd rows for NMM
  - **E\_SN**: Number of velocity points in south-north direction for ARW; number of rows for NMM

See p. 3-12 and 3-39



# Geogrid: Defining ARW Domains



In ARW,  $(REF\_LAT, REF\_LON)$  can refer to an arbitrary point in the domain by using the variables  $REF\_X$  and  $REF\_Y$

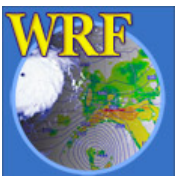
See p. 3-40



# Geogrid: Nesting Basics

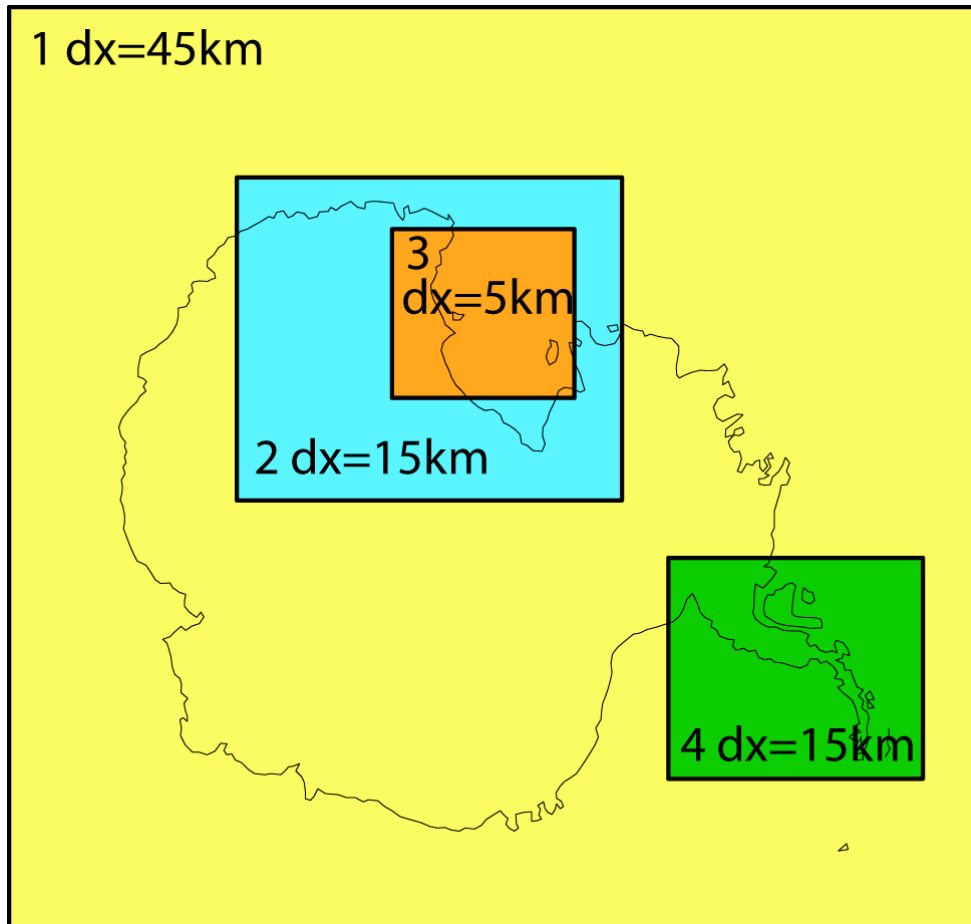
---

- A *nested domain* is a domain that is wholly contained within its *parent domain* and that receives information from its parent, and that may also feed information back to its parent
  - A nested domain has exactly one *parent*
  - A domain may have one or more *children*
- 2-way *nests* on the same *nesting level* must not overlap in coverage!

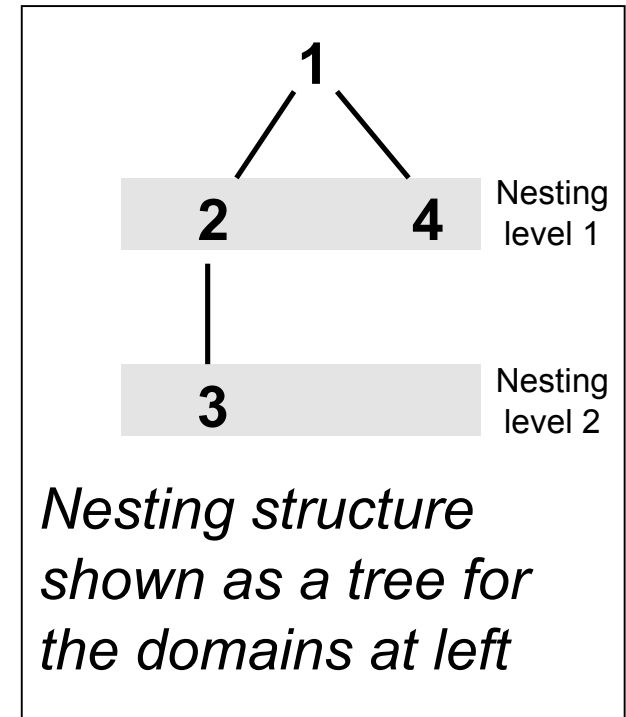


# Geogrid: Nesting Example

Example configuration – 4 domains



Each domain is assigned a *domain ID #*

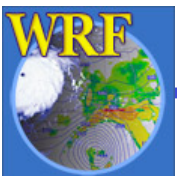


# Geogrid: Defining Nested Domains

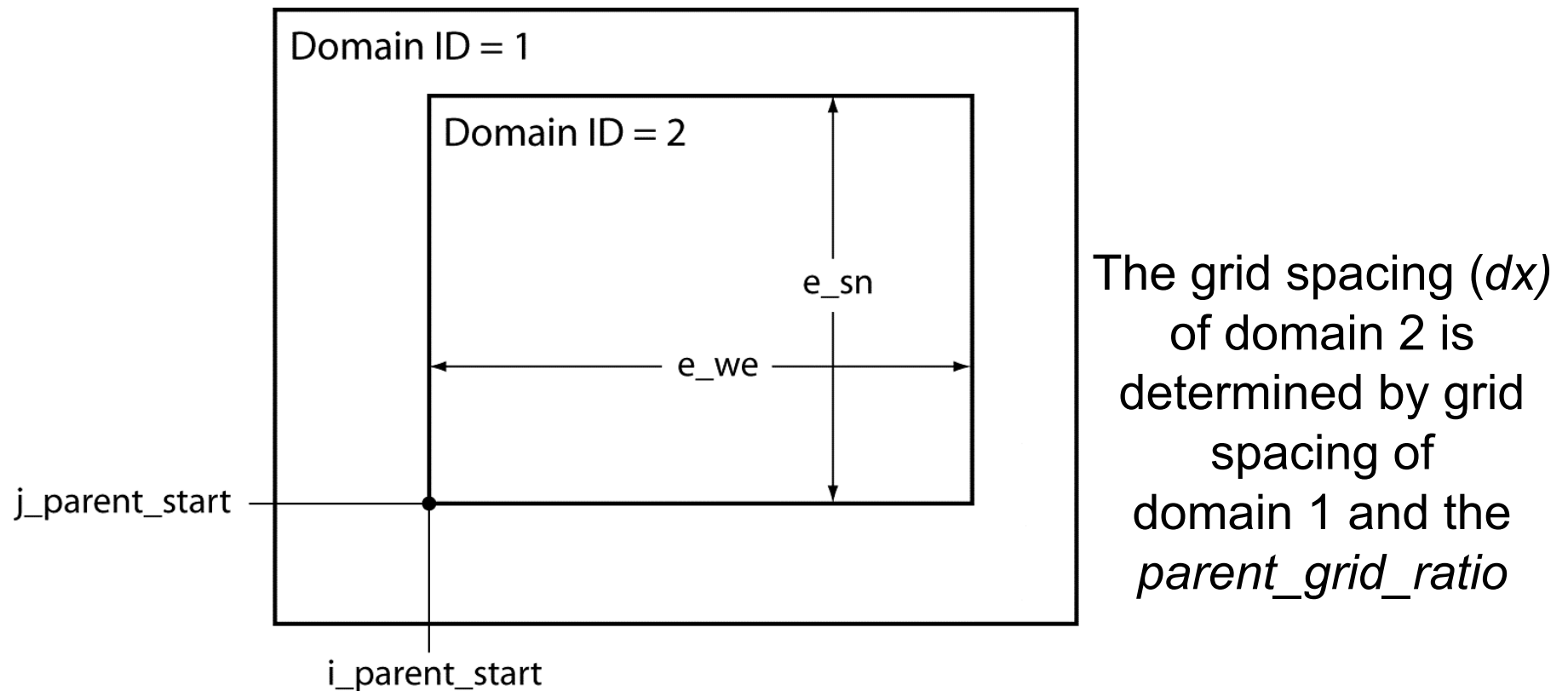
---

- Define the dimensions and location of nested domains using:
  - **PARENT\_ID**: Which domain is the parent?
  - **PARENT\_GRID\_RATIO**: What is the ratio of grid spacing in parent to grid spacing in this nest?
  - **I\_PARENT\_START**:  $i$ -coordinate in parent of this nest's lower-left corner
  - **J\_PARENT\_START**:  $j$ -coordinate in parent of this nest's lower-left corner
  - **E\_WE**: Number of velocity points in west-east direction
  - **E\_SN**: Number of velocity points in south-north direction

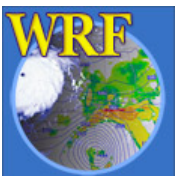
*See p. 3-18 and 3-38*



# Geogrid: Defining Nested Domains

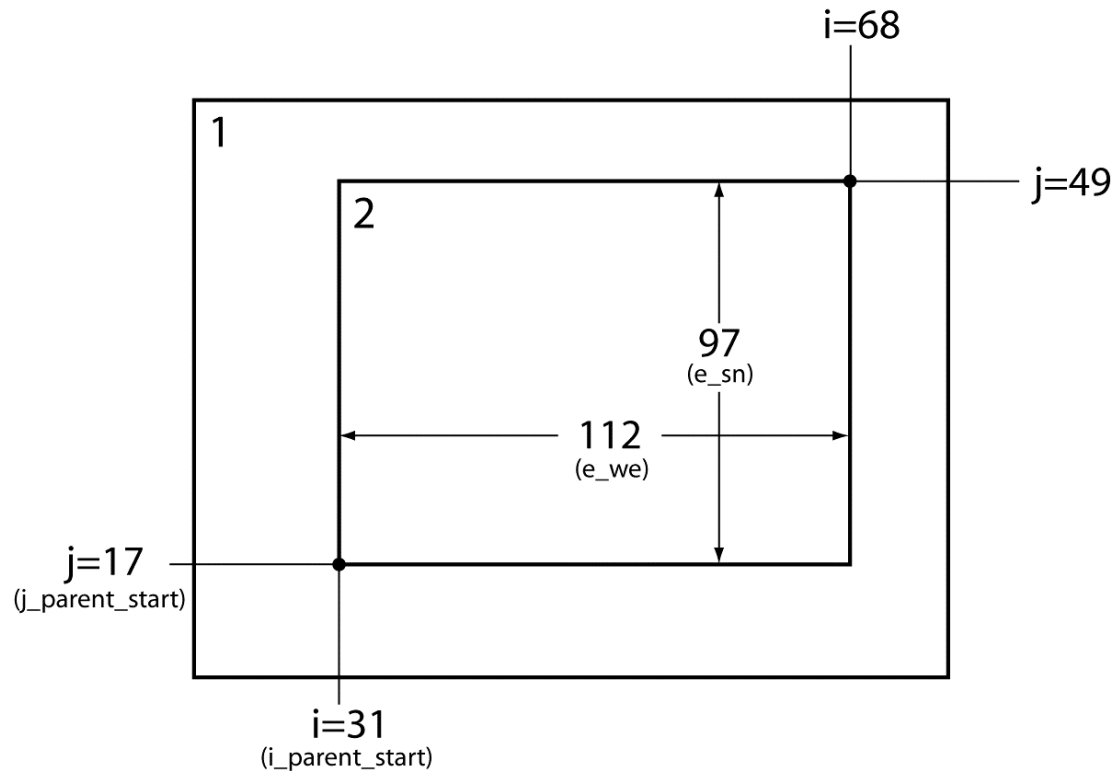


*NB: For NMM, the parent\_grid\_ratio is always 3!*



# Geogrid: Nesting example

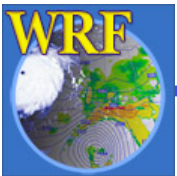
Assuming *parent\_grid\_ratio* = 3



In ARW, nest dimensions must be  $(n * parent\_grid\_ratio + 1)$  for some integer  $n$

$$112 = 3 * n + 1 \text{ for } n=37$$

$$97 = 3 * n + 1 \text{ for } n=32$$

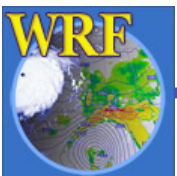




# Geogrid: Interpolating Static Fields

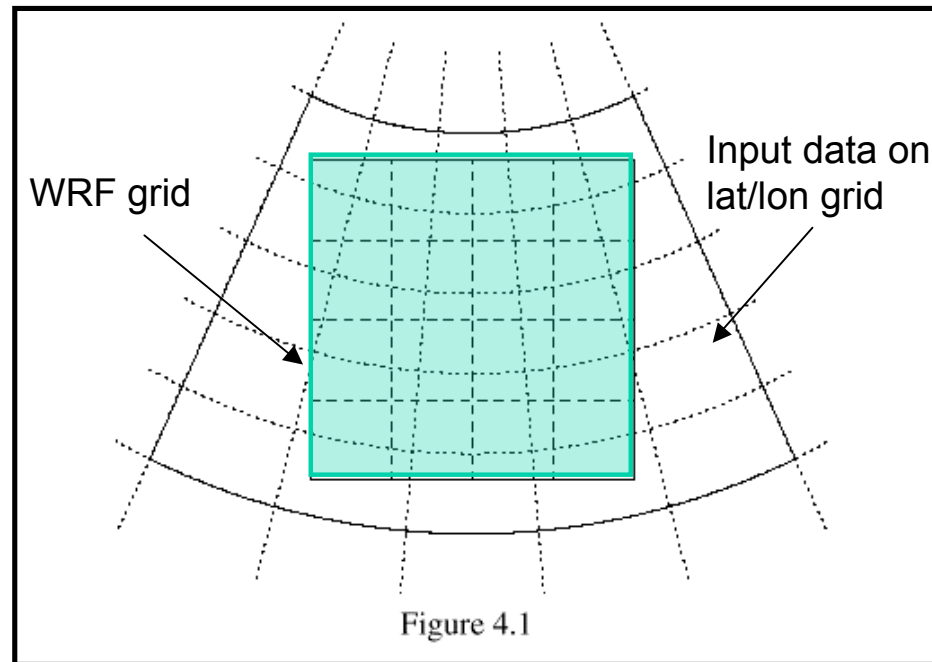
---

- Given definitions of all computational grids, geogrid interpolates terrestrial, time-invariant fields
  - Topography height
  - Land use categories
  - Soil type (top layer & bottom layer)
  - Annual mean soil temperature
  - Monthly vegetation fraction
  - Monthly surface albedo



# Geogrid: Interpolating Static Fields

---



In general, source data are given on a different projection from the model grid

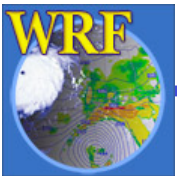


# Geogrid: Interpolation Options

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- 4-point bilinear
- 16-point overlapping parabolic
- 4-point average (simple or weighted)
- 16-point average (simple or weighted)
- Grid cell average
- Nearest neighbor
- Breadth-first search

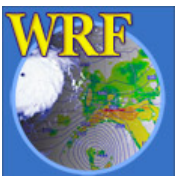
*See p. 3-51*



# Why have so many interpolation options?

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- Different interpolators work best for different fields and different relative grid resolutions
  - Some interpolators preserve positive definiteness
  - Some interpolators produce “smoother” fields
  - Some interpolators are best suited for discrete or categorical fields
  - Some are good when going from a fine grid to a coarse grid
- Having a choice of how to interpolate fields is good!
  - We’ll see in the third WPS lecture how several different options can be used for different regions of the same field



# Geogrid: Program Flexibility

---

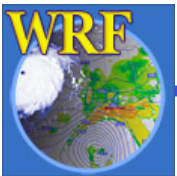
- The GEOGRID.TBL file determines
  1. Which fields will be produced by geogrid
  2. What sources of data will be used
  3. How the data will be interpolated/smoothed
  4. Any derived fields (e.g., dominant cat.,  $df/dx$ )
- Acceptable defaults exist in GEOGRID.TBL, so user will not generally need to edit the file (*but more on this in the third WPS lecture!*)



# Geogrid: Program Flexibility

---

- *geogrid* is flexible enough to ingest and interpolate new static fields
  - handles either continuous or categorical fields
- New data sets must be written to simple binary format
- User needs to add an entry to the file `GEOGRID.TBL`

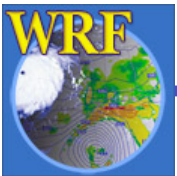


# Geogrid: Program Output

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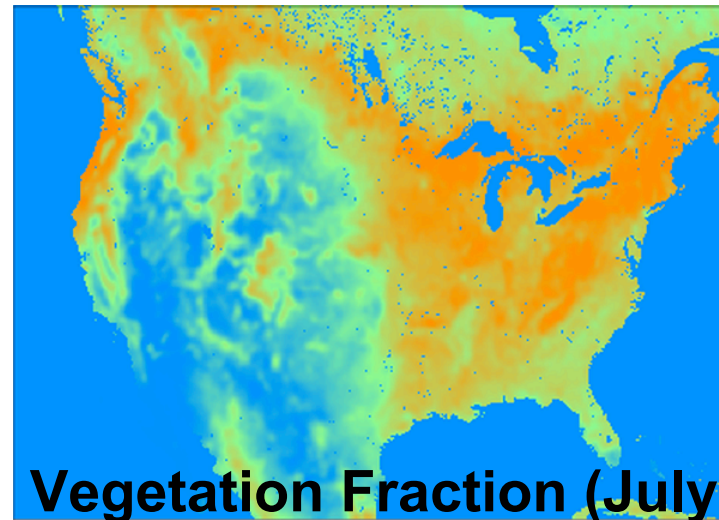
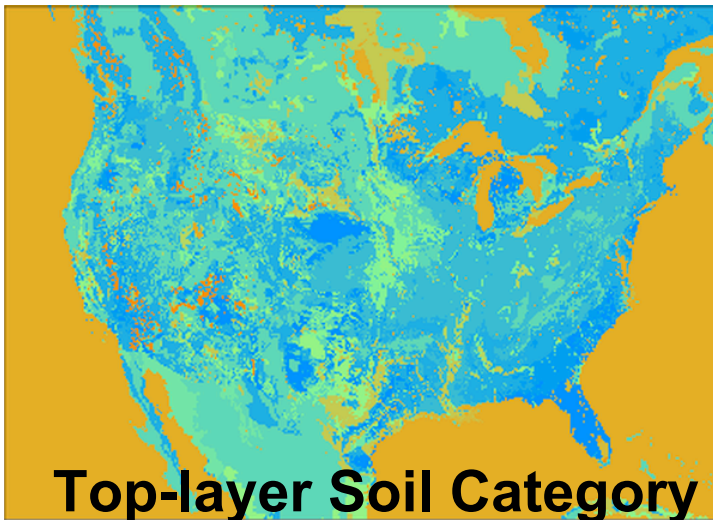
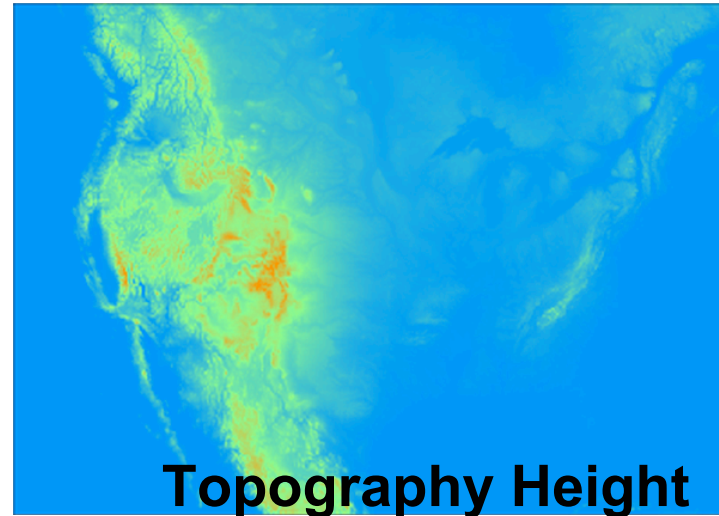
- The parameters defining each domain, plus interpolated static fields, are written using the WRF I/O API
  - One file per domain for ARW
  - One file per *nesting level* for NMM
- Filenames: `geo_em.d0n.nc` , or  
`geo_nmm.d01.nc`, `geo_nmm_nest.l0k.nc`  
(where  $n$  is the domain ID # and  $k$  is the nest level)
- Example:

<code>geo_em.d01.nc</code>	<code>geo_nmm.d01.nc</code>
<code>geo_em.d02.nc</code> (nest)	<code>geo_nmm_nest.l01.nc</code> (nest level)
<code>geo_em.d03.nc</code> (nest)	<code>geo_nmm_nest.l02.nc</code> (nest level)



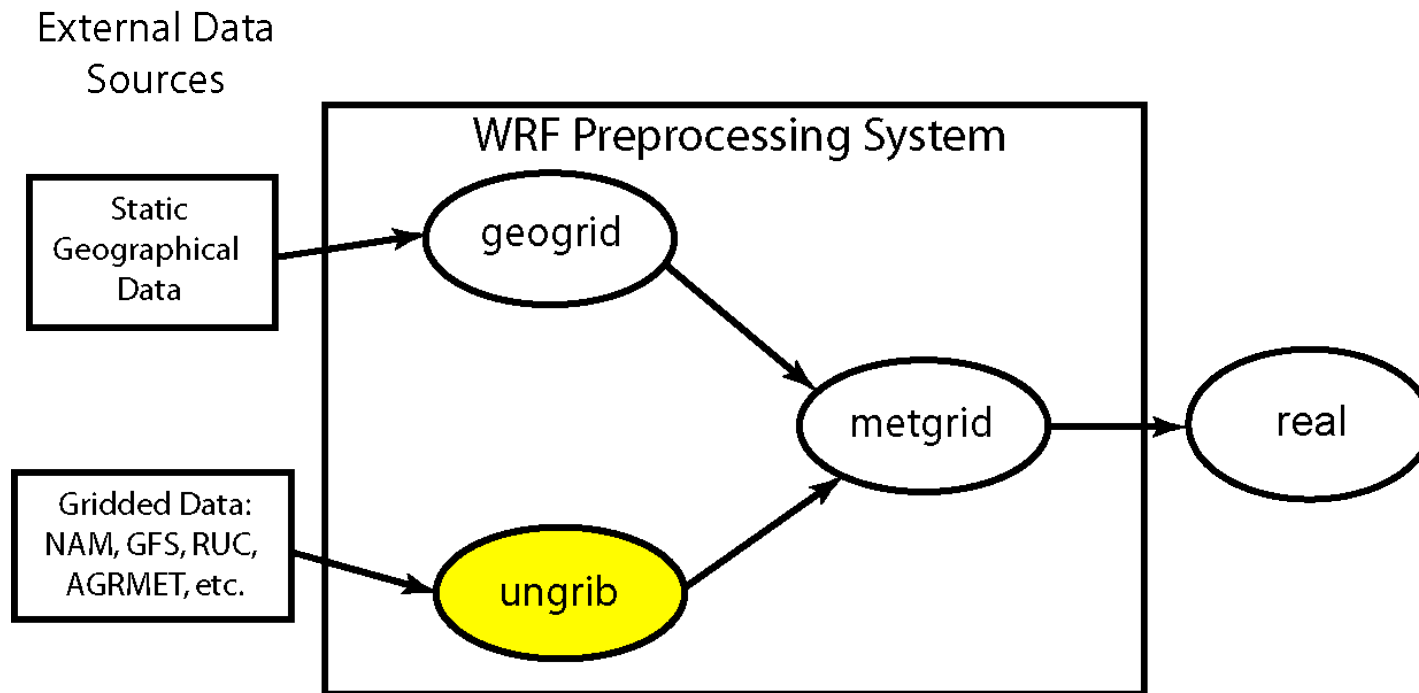
# Geogrid: Example Output Fields

---

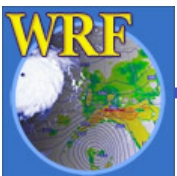




# The *ungrib* program



ungrib: think un+grib



# What is a GRIB file, anyway?

---

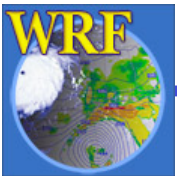
- GRIB is a WMO standard file format for storing regularly-distributed (e.g., gridded) fields
  - “General Regularly-distributed Information in Binary”
- Fields within a GRIB file are compressed with a lossy compression
  - Think of truncating numbers to a fixed number of digits
- A record-based format
- Fields in a file are identified only by code numbers
  - These numbers must be referenced against an external table to determine the corresponding field



# The *ungrib* program

---

- Read GRIB Edition 1 and GRIB Edition 2 files
- Extract meteorological fields
- If necessary, derive required fields from related ones
  - E.g., Compute RH from T, P, and Q
- Write requested fields to an intermediate file format



# Ungrib: Vtables

---

How does ungrib know which fields to extract?

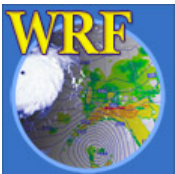
Using Vtables (think: Variable tables)

- Vtables are files that give the GRIB codes for fields to be extracted from GRIB input files
- One Vtable for each source of data
- Vtables are provided for: NAM 104, NAM 212, GFS, AGRMET, and others



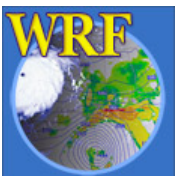
# Ungrib: Example Vtable

GRIB1 Param	Level Type	From Level1	To Level2	UNGRIB Name	UNGRIB Units	UNGRIB Description
11	100	*		T	K	Temperature
33	100	*		U	m s-1	U
34	100	*		V	m s-1	V
52	100	*		RH	%	Relative Humidity
7	100	*		HGT	m	Height
11	105	2		T	K	Temperature at 2 m
52	105	2		RH	%	Relative Humidity at 2 m
33	105	10		U	m s-1	U at 10 m
34	105	10		V	m s-1	V at 10 m
1	1	0		PSFC	Pa	Surface Pressure
130	102	0		PMSL	Pa	Sea-level Pressure
144	112	0	10	SM000010	kg m-3	Soil Moist 0-10 cm below grn layer (Up)
144	112	10	40	SM010040	kg m-3	Soil Moist 10-40 cm below grn layer
144	112	40	100	SM040100	kg m-3	Soil Moist 40-100 cm below grn layer
144	112	100	200	SM100200	kg m-3	Soil Moist 100-200 cm below gr layer
85	112	0	10	ST000010	K	T 0-10 cm below ground layer (Upper)
85	112	10	40	ST010040	K	T 10-40 cm below ground layer (Upper)
85	112	40	100	ST040100	K	T 40-100 cm below ground layer (Upper)
85	112	100	200	ST100200	K	T 100-200 cm below ground layer (Bottom)
91	1	0		SEAICE	proprtn	Ice flag
81	1	0		LANDSEA	proprtn	Land/Sea flag (1=land,2=sea in GRIB2)
7	1	0		HGT	m	Terrain field of source analysis
11	1	0		SKINTEMP	K	Skin temperature (can use for SST also)
65	1	0		SNOW	kg m-2	Water equivalent snow depth
223	1	0		CANWAT	kg m-2	Plant Canopy Surface Water
224	1	0		SOILCAT	Tab4.213	Dominant soil type category
225	1	0		VEGCAT	Tab4.212	Dominant land use category



# Ungrib: GRIB2 Vtable Entries

metgrid	GRIB2	GRIB2	GRIB2	GRIB2
Description	Discp	Catgy	Param	Level
Temperature	0	0	0	100
U	0	2	2	100
V	0	2	3	100
Relative Humidity	0	1	1	100
Height	0	3	5	100
Temperature at 2 m	0	0	0	103
Relative Humidity at 2 m	0	1	1	103
U at 10 m	0	2	2	103
V at 10 m	0	2	3	103
Surface Pressure	0	3	0	1
Sea-level Pressure	0	3	1	101
Soil Moist 0-10 cm below grn layer (Up)	2	0	192	106
Soil Moist 10-40 cm below grn layer	2	0	192	106
Soil Moist 40-100 cm below grn layer	2	0	192	106
Soil Moist 100-200 cm below gr layer	2	0	192	106
Soil Moist 10-200 cm below gr layer	2	0	192	106
T 0-10 cm below ground layer (Upper)	0	0	0	106
T 10-40 cm below ground layer (Upper)	0	0	0	106
T 40-100 cm below ground layer (Upper)	0	0	0	106
T 100-200 cm below ground layer (Bottom)	0	0	0	106
T 10-200 cm below ground layer (Bottom)	0	0	0	106
Ice flag	0	2	0	1
Land/Sea flag (1=land, 0 or 2=sea)	2	0	0	1
Terrain field of source analysis	2	0	7	1
Skin temperature (can use for SST also)	0	0	0	1
Water equivalent snow depth	0	1	13	1
Dominant soil type cat.(not in GFS file)	2	3	0	1
Dominant land use cat. (not in GFS file)	2	0	198	1



# Ungrib: Vtables

---

What if a data source has no existing Vtable?

## Create a Vtable

- Get a listing of GRIB codes for fields in the source
  - Check documentation from originating center or use utility such as *wgrib*, *g1print*, *g2print*
- Use existing Vtable as a template
- Check documentation in Chapter 3 of the Users' Guide for more information about Vtables

See p. 3-32

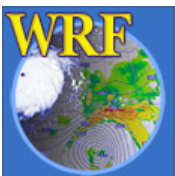


# Ungrib: Intermediate File Format

---

- After extracting fields listed in Vtable, ungrib writes those fields to intermediate format
- For meteorological data sets not in GRIB format, the user may write to intermediate format directly
  - Allows WPS to ingest new data sources; basic programming required of user
  - Simple intermediate file format is easily read/written using routines from WPS ([read\\_met\\_module.F](#) and [write\\_met\\_module.F](#))

See p. 3-30





# Ungrib: Program Output

---

- Output files named *FILE:YYYY-MM-DD\_HH*
  - YYYY is year of data in the file; MM is month; DD is day; HH is hour
  - All times are UTC

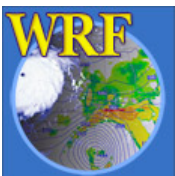
- Example:

*FILE:2007-07-24\_00*

*FILE:2007-07-24\_06*

*FILE:2007-07-24\_12*

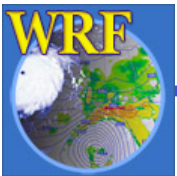
ungrib can also write intermediate files in the MM5 or WRF SI format! *(To allow for use of GRIB2 data with MM5, for example)*



# Ungrib: Obtaining GRIB Data

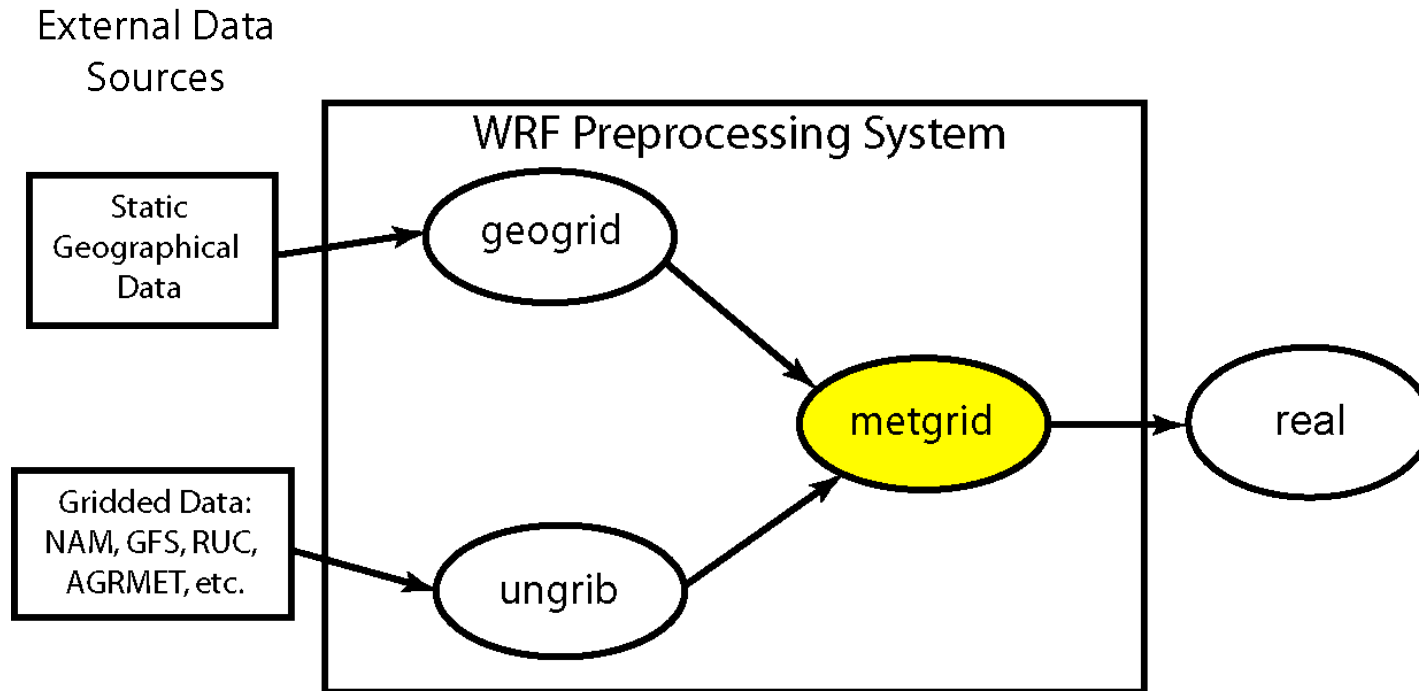
---

- Where does one get GRIB data?
  - User's responsibility
  - Some free data are available from NCAR and NCEP. See
  - <http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/>
  - > under the “Downloads” tab:
    - Some NCEP data in the past year
    - NCEP operational data available daily



# The *metgrid* program

---



metgrid: think meteorological



# The *metgrid* program

---

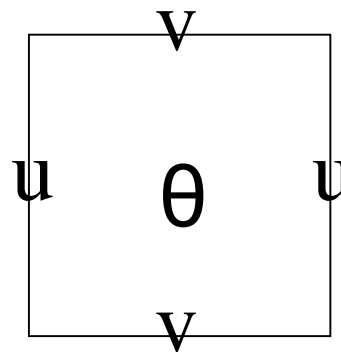
- Horizontally interpolate meteorological data (*extracted by ungrib*) to simulation domains (*defined by geogrid*)
  - Masked interpolation for masked fields
- Rotate winds to WRF grid
  - i.e., rotate so that U-component is parallel to x-axis, V-component is parallel to y-axis



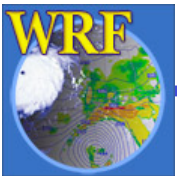
# Metgrid: ARW Grid Staggering

---

- For ARW, wind U-component interpolated to “u” staggering
- Wind V-component interpolated to “v” staggering
- Other meteorological fields interpolated to “ $\theta$ ” staggering by default (*can change this!*)



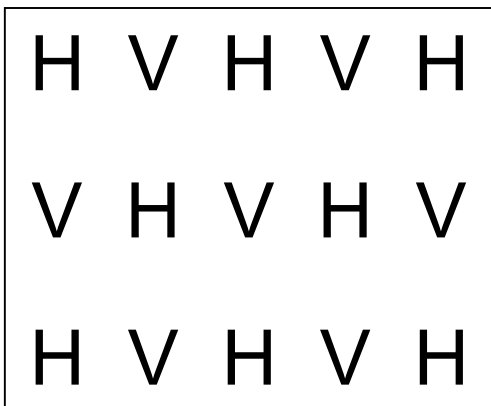
*A single ARW grid cell, with “u”, “v”, and “ $\theta$ ” points labeled.*



# Metgrid: NMM Grid Staggering

---

- For NMM, wind U- and V-components interpolated to “V” staggering
- Other meteorological fields interpolated to “H” staggering by default (*can change this!*)



*An NMM grid showing “V”, and “H” points.*

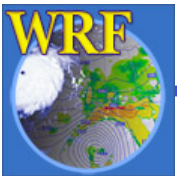


# Metgrid: Interpolation Options\*

---

- 4-point bilinear
- 16-point overlapping parabolic
- 4-point average (simple or weighted)
- 16-point average (simple or weighted)
- Grid cell average
- Nearest neighbor
- Breadth-first search

\* These are the same options available for geogrid!



# Metgrid: Masked Interpolation

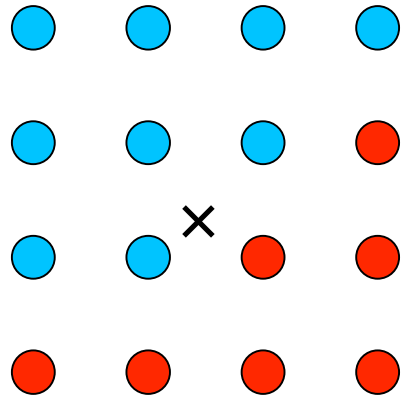
---

- *Masked fields* may only have valid data at a subset of grid points
  - E.g., SST field only valid on water points
- When metgrid interpolates masked fields, it must know which points are invalid (masked)
  - Can use separate mask field (e.g., LANDSEA)
  - Can rely on special values (e.g.,  $1 \times 10^{30}$ ) in field itself to identify masked grid points





# Metgrid: Masked Interpolation

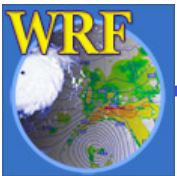


- = valid source data  
● = masked/invalid data

Suppose we need to interpolate to point X

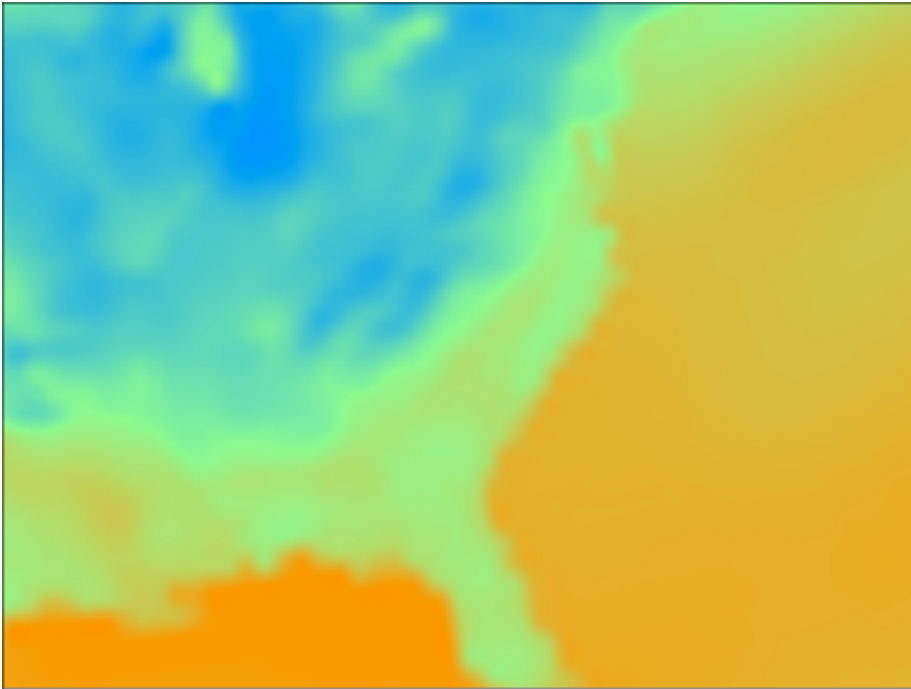
- Using **red** points as valid data can give a bad interpolated value!
- Masked interpolation only uses valid **blue** points to interpolate to X

*Not every interpolation option can handle masked points; we'll address this issue in the third lecture*

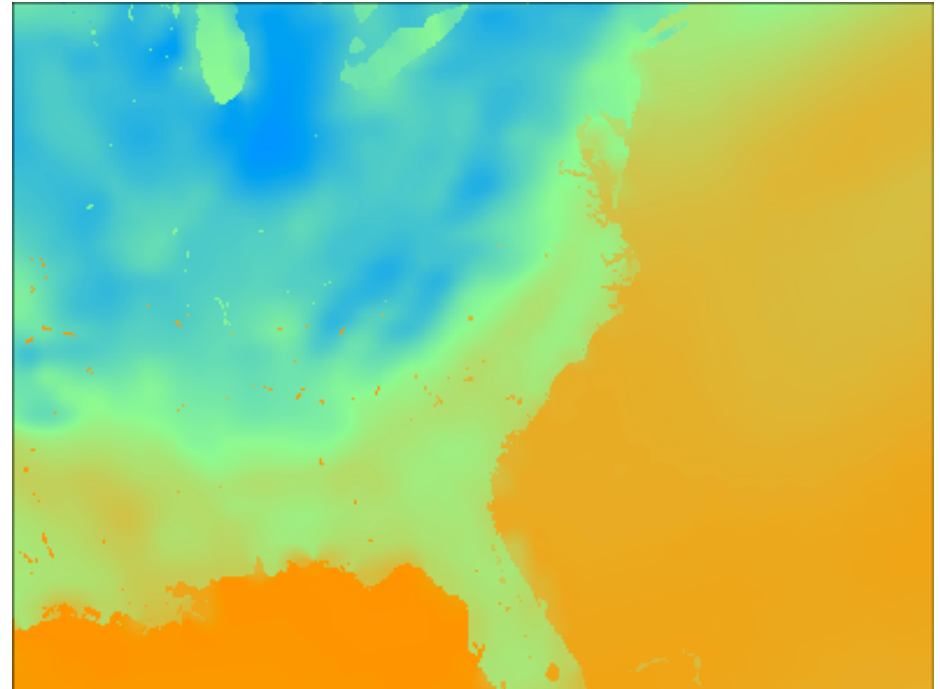


# Example: Masked Interpolation

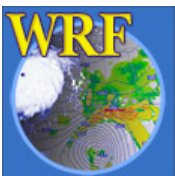
---



Skin temperature field interpolated from GFS 0.5-deg field with no mask using a sixteen-point interpolator.



Skin temperature field interpolated using masks: GFS water points interpolated to model water points, GFS land points interpolated to model land points.



# Metgrid: Wind Rotation

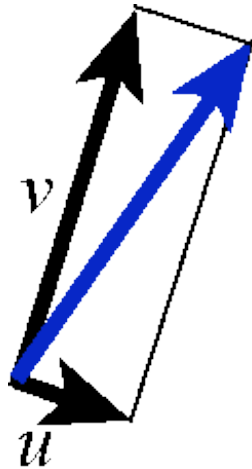
---

- Input wind fields (U-component + V-component) are either:
  - **Earth-relative:** U-component = westerly component; V-component = southerly component
  - **Relative to source grid:** U-component (V-component) parallel to source model x-axis (y-axis)
- WRF expects wind components to be relative to the simulation grid

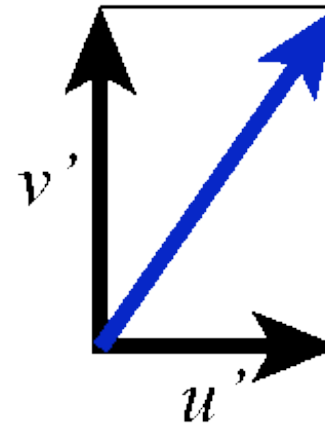


# Metgrid: Wind Rotation Example

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A wind vector, shown in terms of its U and V components with respect to the source grid.



The same vector, in terms of its U and V components with respect to the WRF simulation grid.

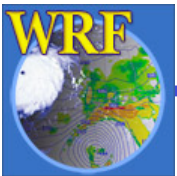
This process may require *two* rotations: one from source grid to earth grid and a second from earth grid to WRF grid



# Metgrid: Constant Fields

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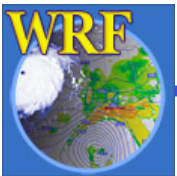
- For short simulations, some fields may be constant
  - E.g., SST or sea-ice fraction
- Use namelist option `CONSTANTS_NAME` option to specify such fields:
  - `CONSTANTS_NAME = 'SST_FILE:2007-07-24_00'`



# Metgrid: Program Flexibility

---

- *metgrid* is capable of interpolating both isobaric and native vertical coordinate data sets
- User may specify interpolation methods and related options in the `METGRID.TBL` file
  - `METGRID.TBL` file similar in format to the file `GEOGRID.TBL`



# Metgrid: Program Output

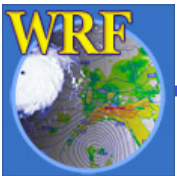
---

- For coarse domain, one file per time period
  - In ARW, we also get the first time period for all nested grids
- Files contain static fields from geogrid plus interpolated meteorological fields
- Filenames:

ARW: `met_em.d0n.YYYY-MM-DD_HH:mm:ss.nc`

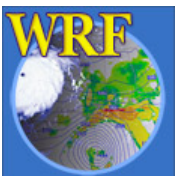
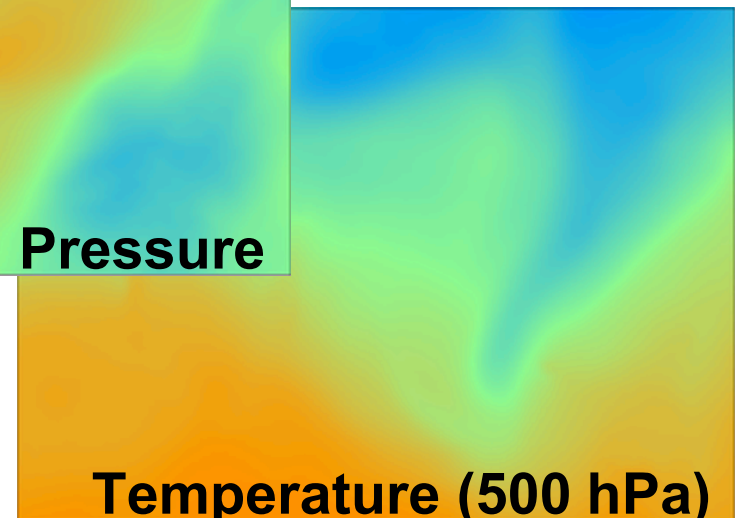
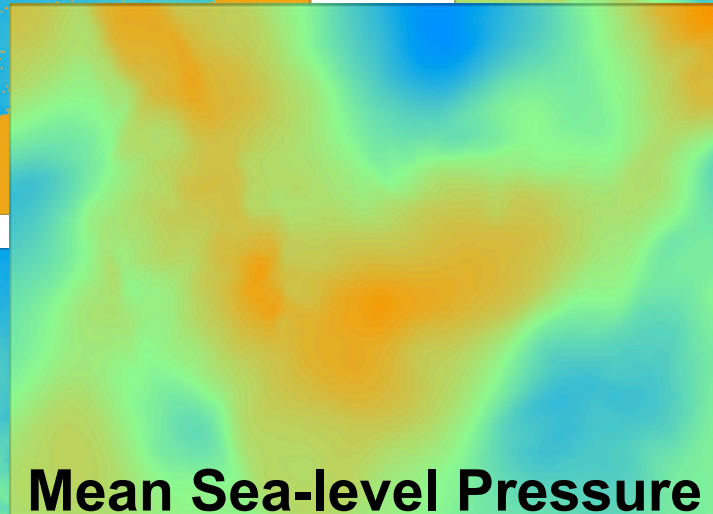
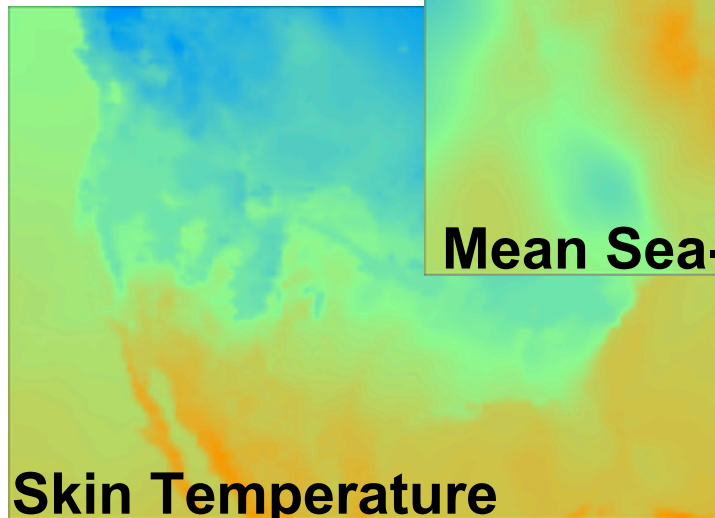
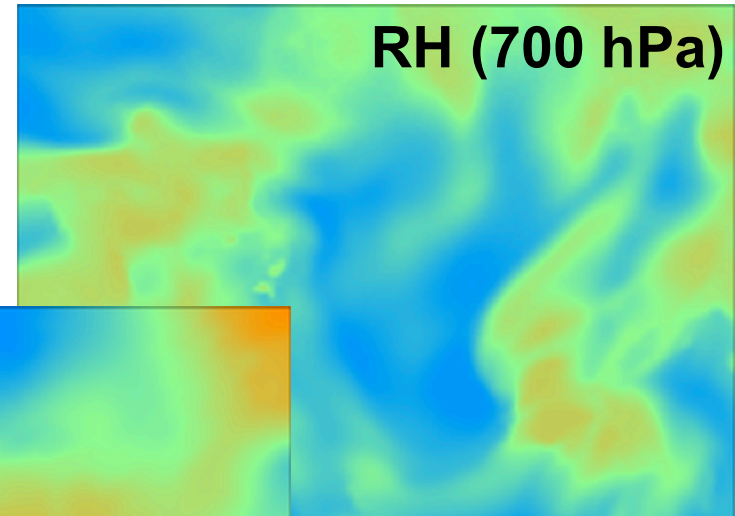
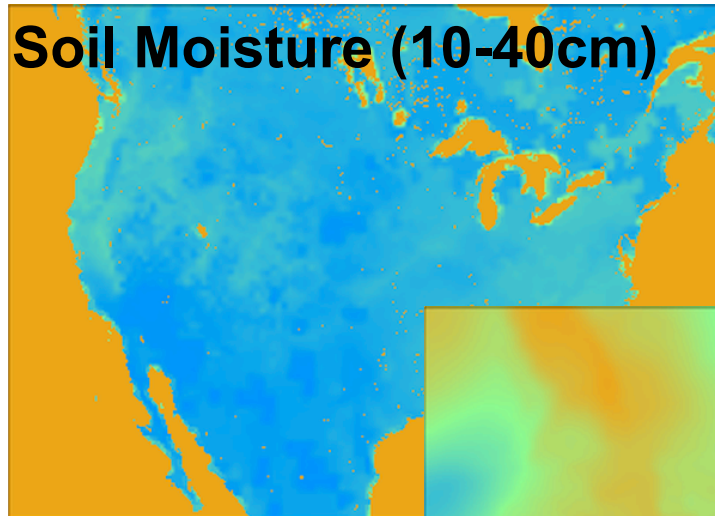
(where  $n$  is the domain ID #)

NMM: `met_nmm.d01.YYYY-MM-DD_HH:mm:ss.nc`



# Metgrid: Example Output

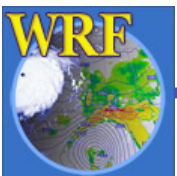
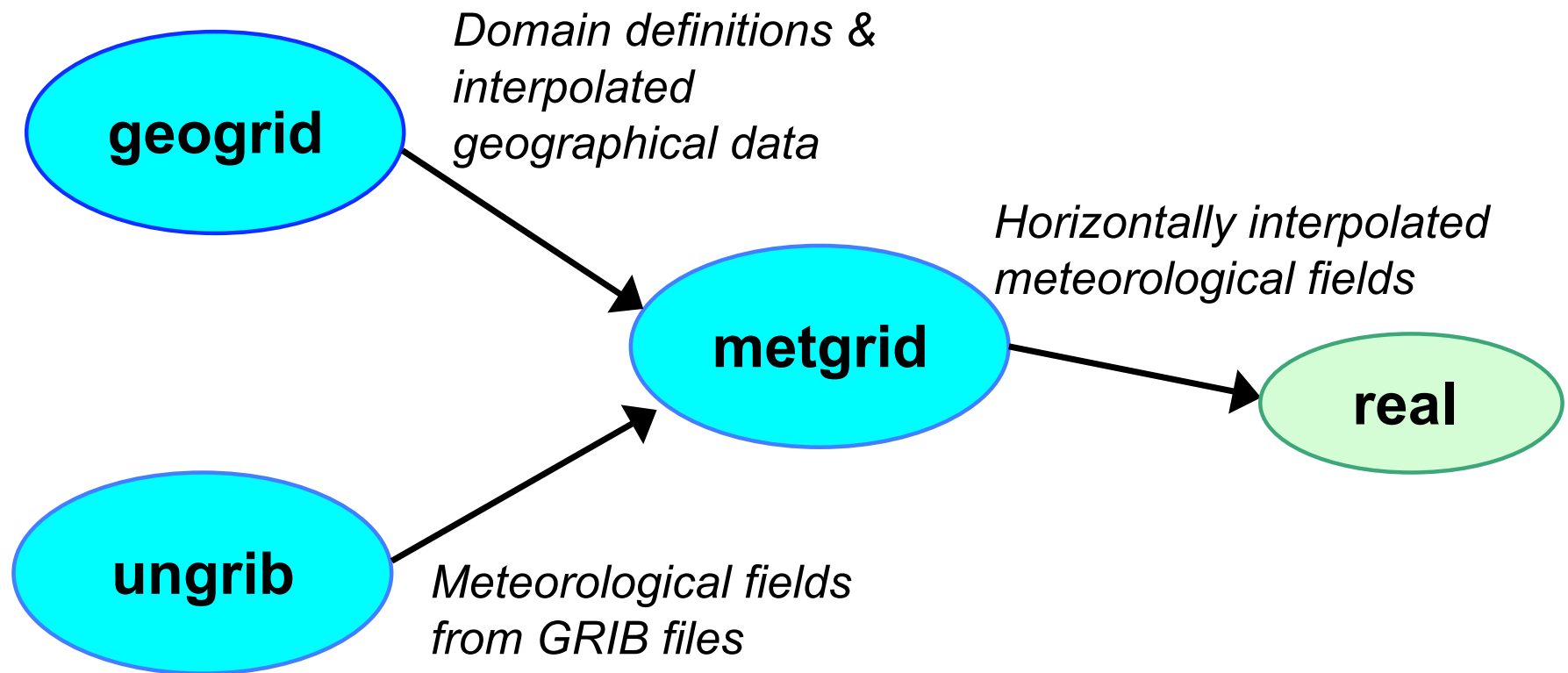
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# WPS Summary

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# And finally...

Vertical interpolation to WRF eta levels is performed in the *real* or *real\_nmm* program

