Introduction to WRFDA

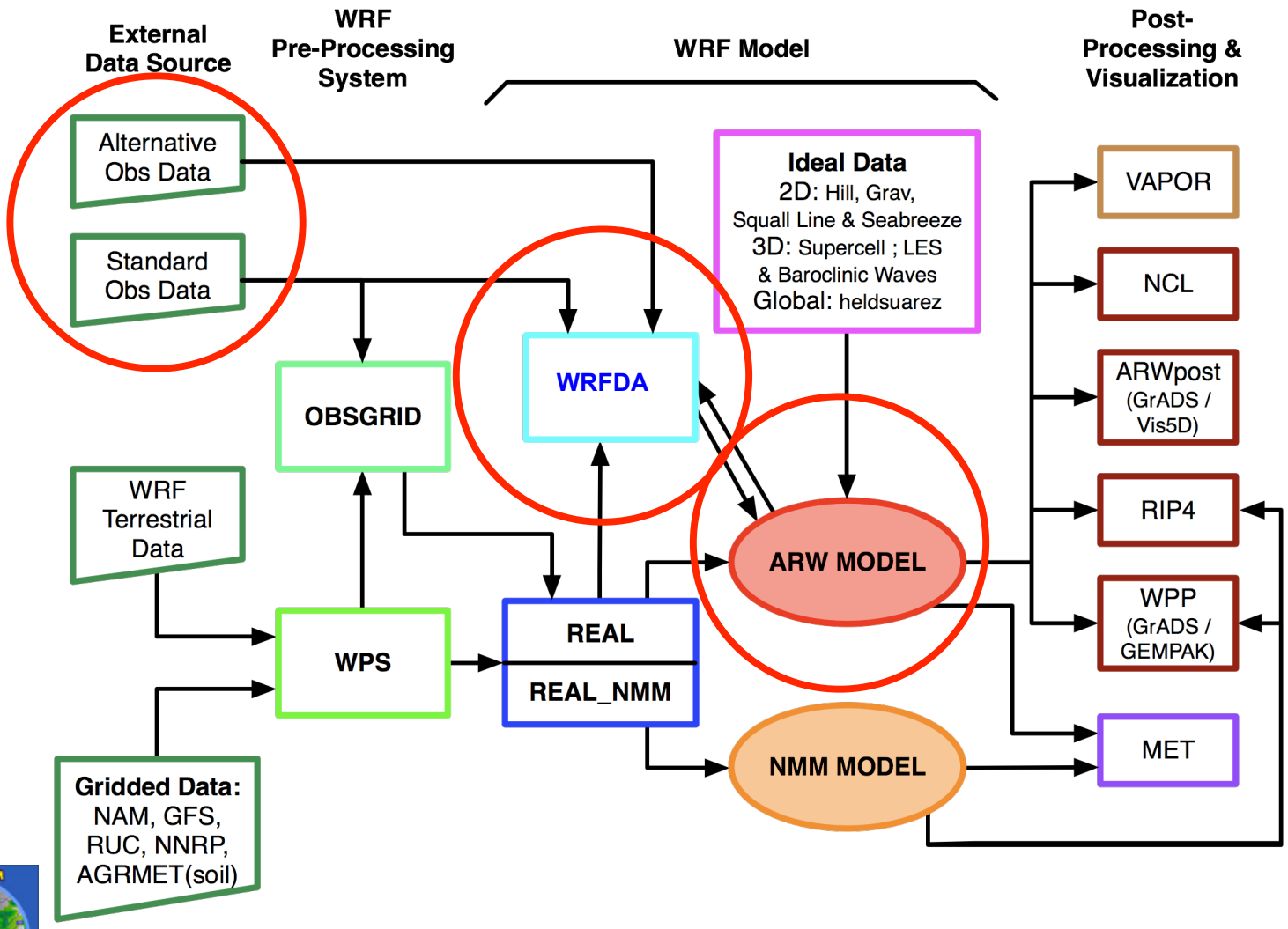
Tom Auligné and Hans Huang

WRFDA is a Data Assimilation system built within the WRF software framework, used for application in both research and operational environments….

National Center for Atmospheric Research
(NCAR is sponsored by the National Science Foundation)

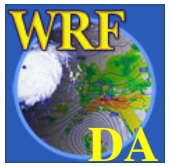
Acknowledge:
AFWA, USWRP, NSF-OPP, NASA, AirDat, PSU,
KMA, CWB, CAA, BMB, EUMETSAT

WRFDA in WRF Modeling System



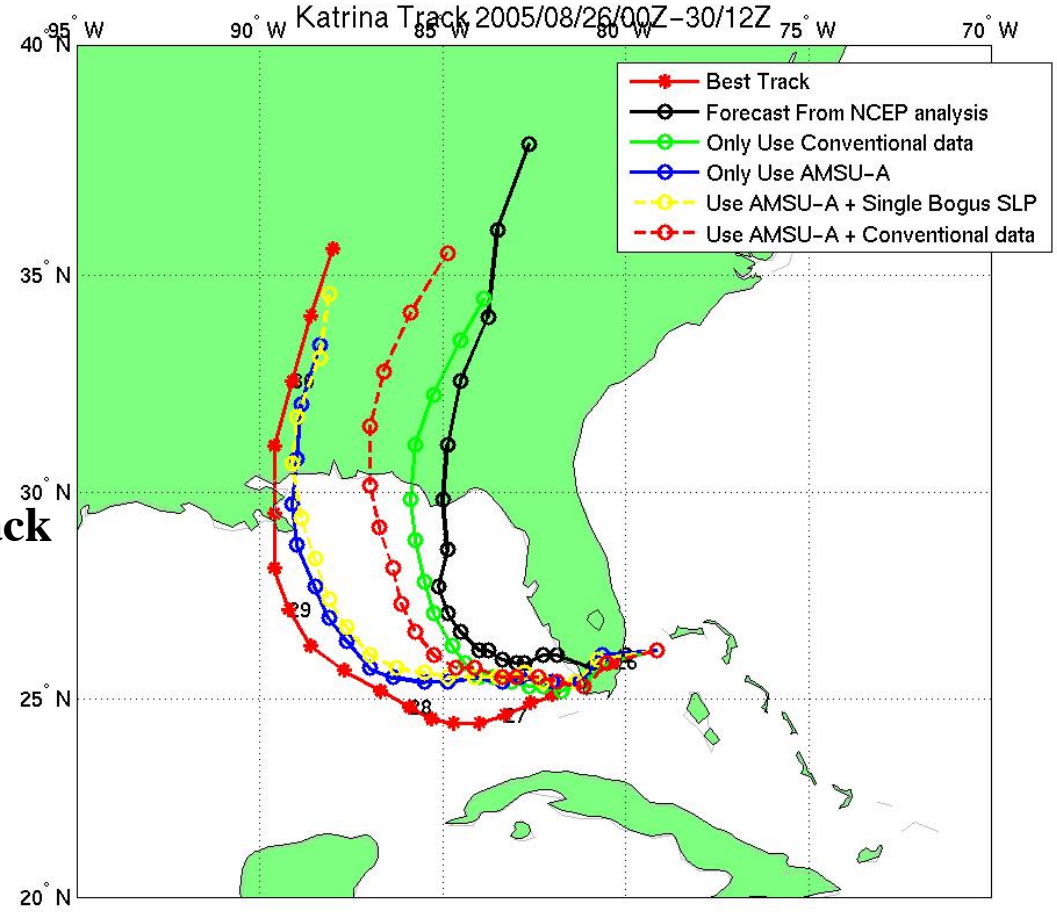
Why data assimilation?

- Initial conditions
- Calibration and validation
- Observing system design, monitoring and assessment
- Reanalysis
- Better understanding:
  - Data assimilation methods
  - Model errors
  - Data errors
  - Physical process interactions
  - …



Katrina track forecasts (Zhiquan Liu)

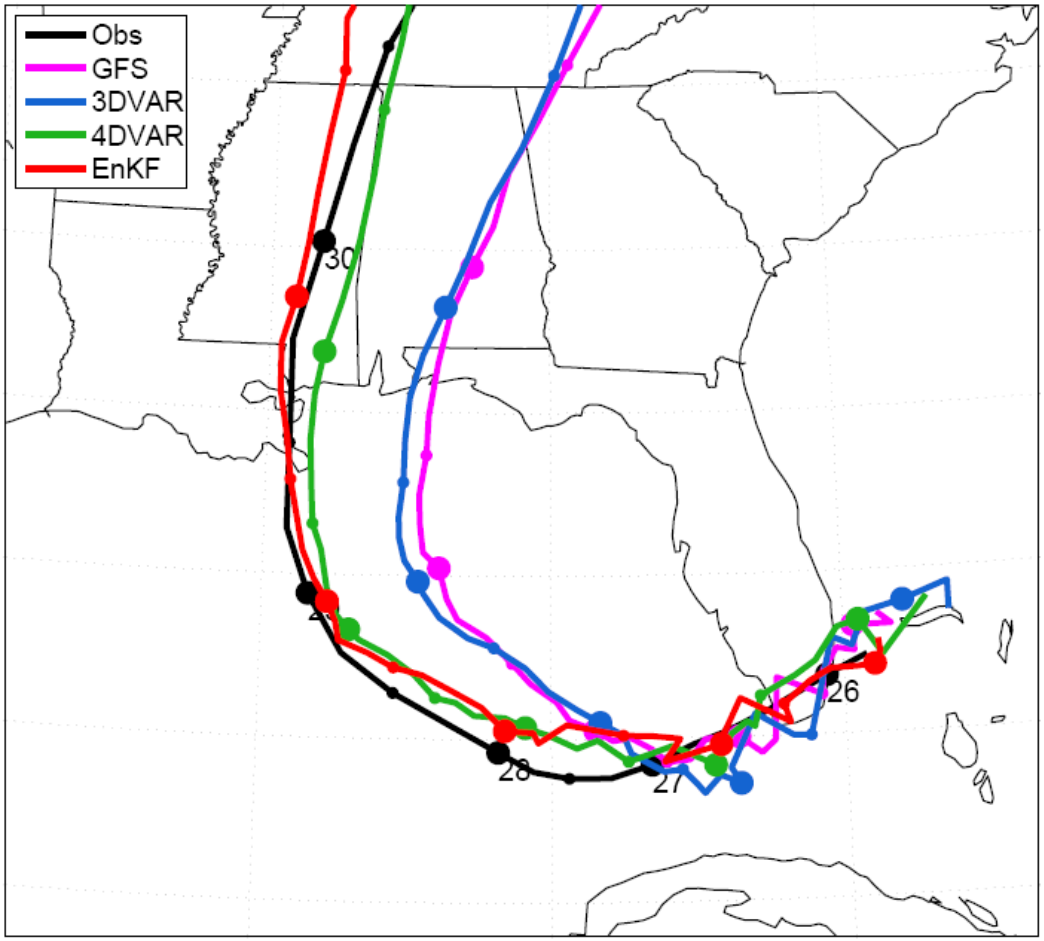
- Impact of data



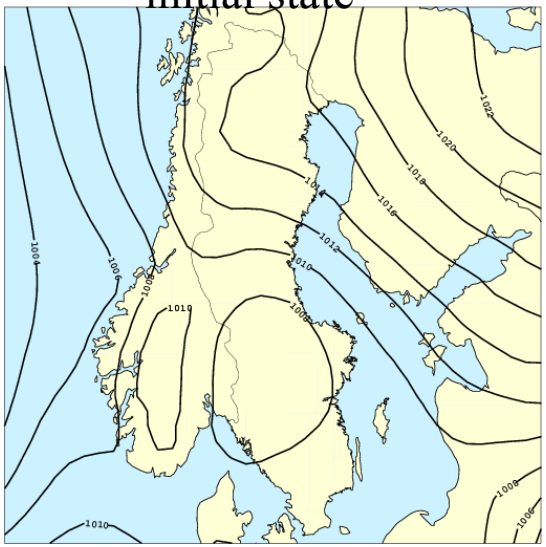
Track

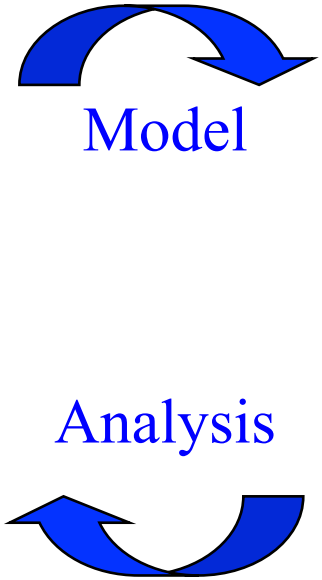
Katrina track forecasts (Zhang, Zhang, Huang, Zhang)

- Impact of DA methods

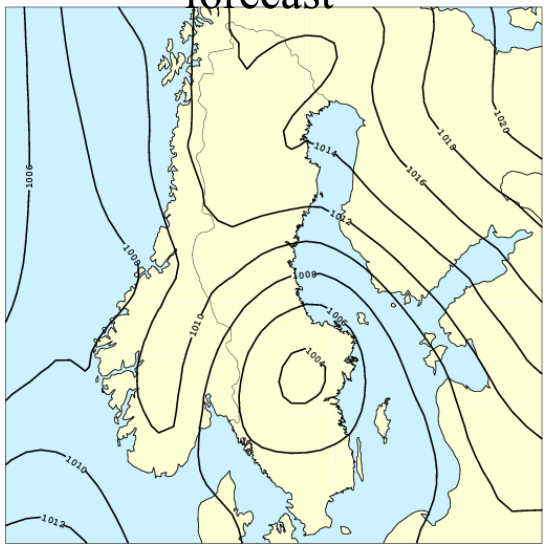


initial state

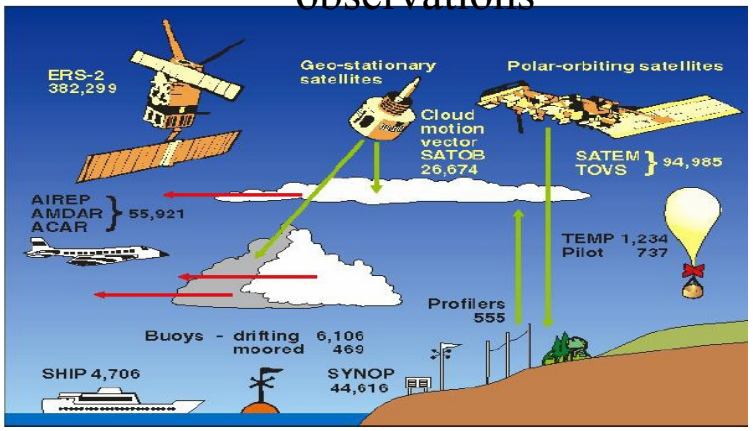


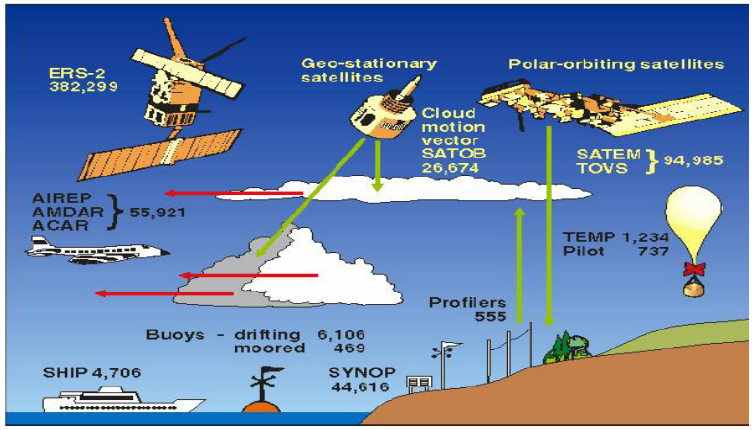


forecast



observations



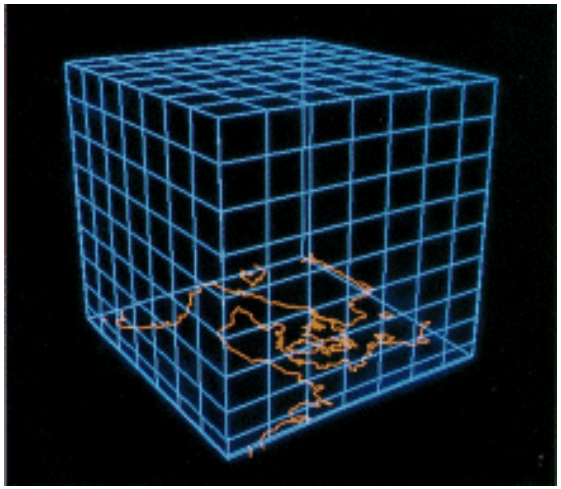


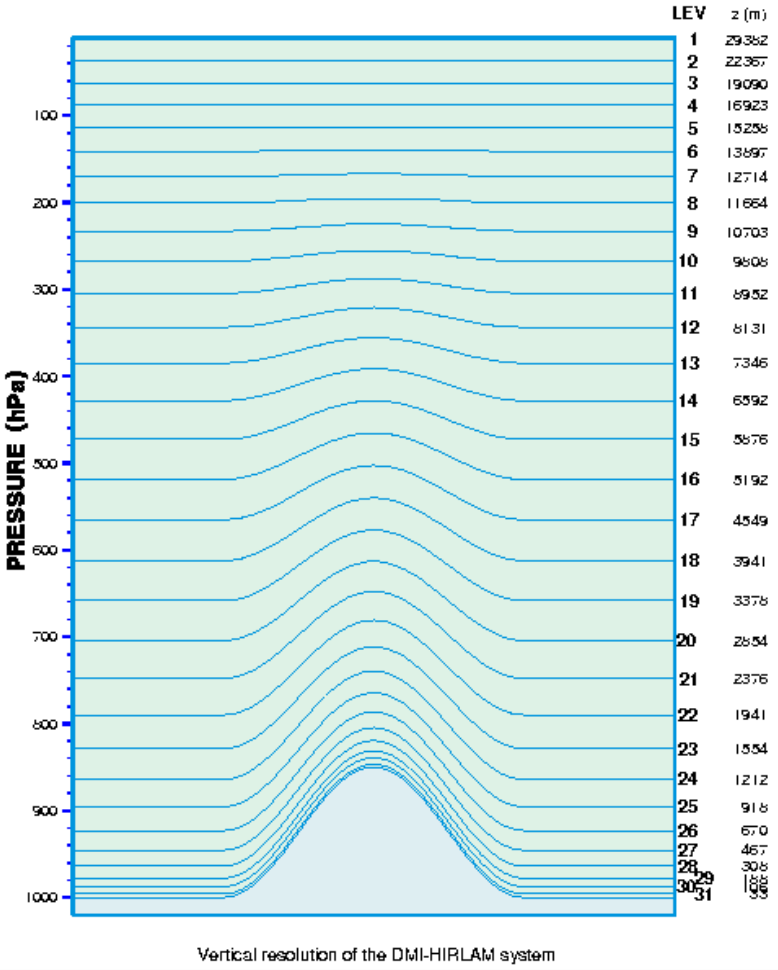
Observations

y^o, ~10^5-10^6

Model state

x, ~10^7

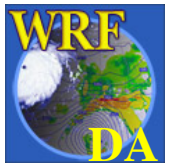




Vertical resolution of the DMI-HIRLAM system

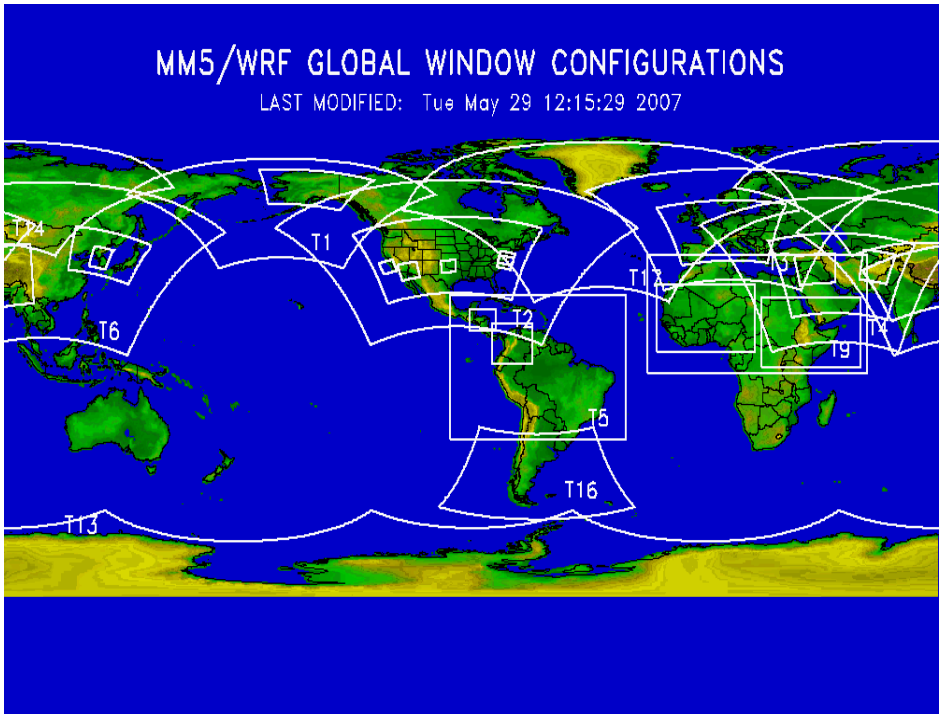
Assimilation methods

- Empirical methods
  - Successive Correction Method (SCM)
  - Nudging
  - Physical Initialisation (PI), Latent Heat Nudging (LHN)
- Statistical methods
  - Optimal Interpolation (OI)
  - 3-Dimensional Variational data assimilation (3DVar)
  - 4-Dimensional Variational data assimilation (4DVar)
- Advanced methods
  - Extended Kalman Filter (EKF)
  - Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF)
  - Hybrid Var/Ens DA



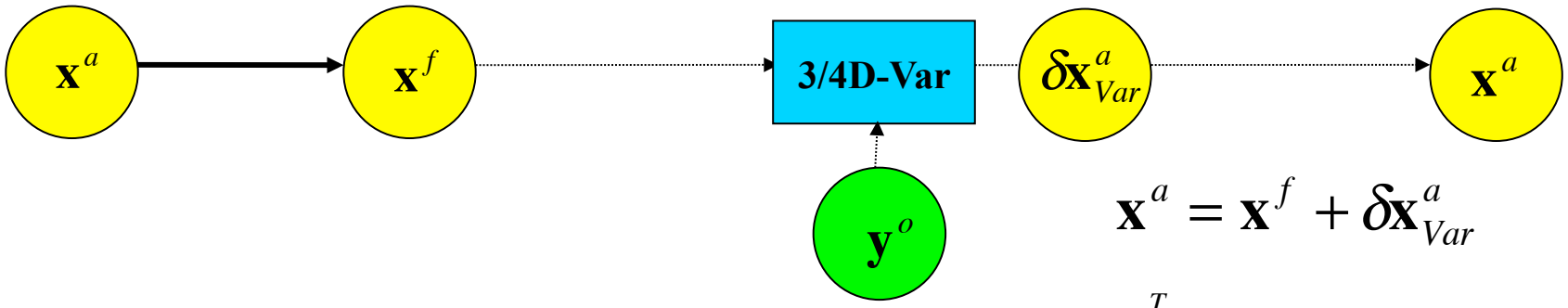
WRFDA

- **Goal:** Community WRF DA system for
  - regional/global,
  - research/operations, and
  - deterministic/probabilistic applications.
- **Techniques:**
  - 3D-Var
  - 4D-Var (regional)
  - Ensemble DA,
  - Hybrid Variational/Ensemble DA.
- **Model:** WRF (ARW, NMM, Global)
- **Observations:** Conv. + Sat. + Radar (+Bogus)
- **Support:**
  - NCAR/NESL/MMM/DAS (Data Assimilation Section, also supporting WRF/DART)
  - NCAR/RAL/JNT/DAT (Data Assimilation Team, also supporting GSI)



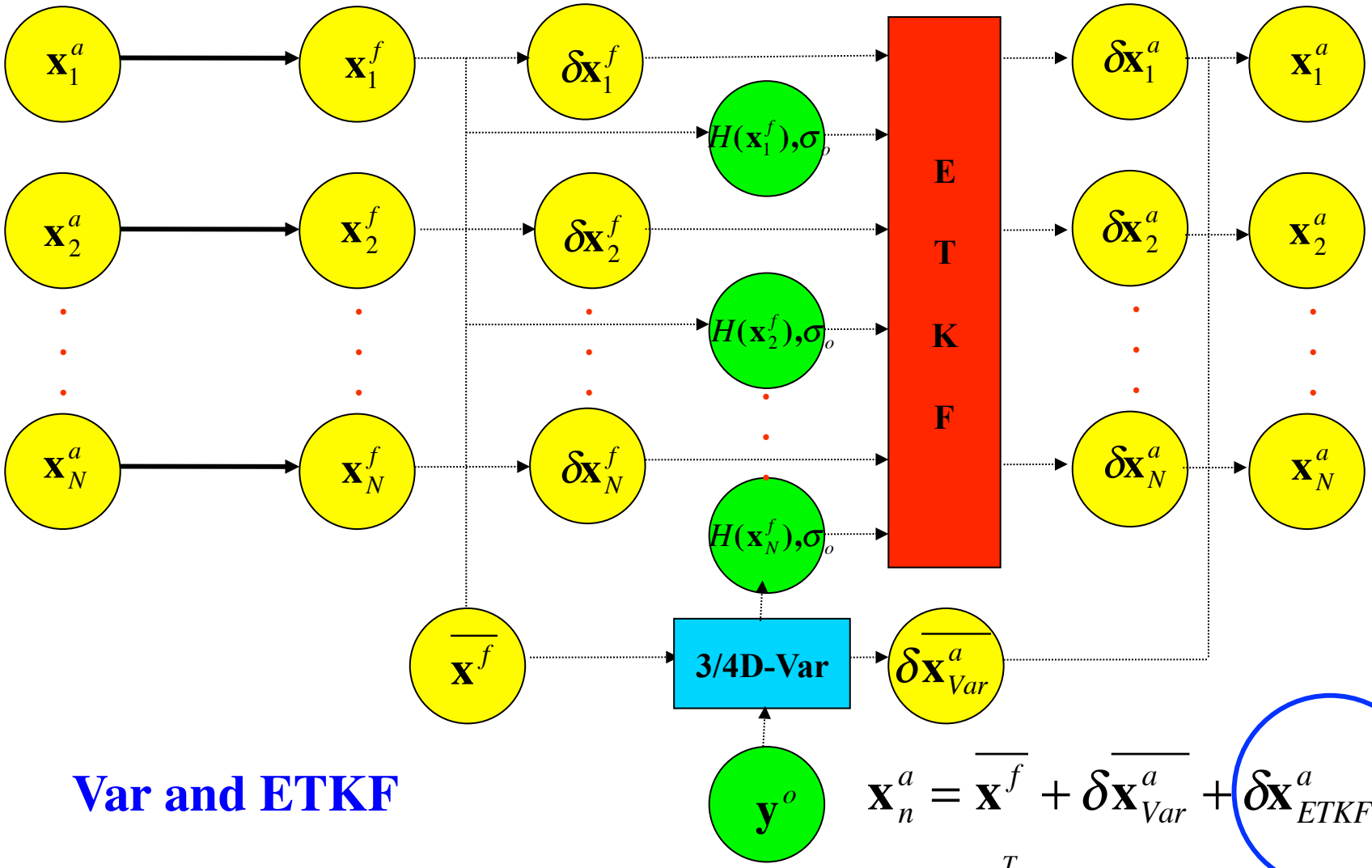
WRFDA
3/4D-Var

3D-Var: Barker et al. 2004
4D-Var: Huang et al. 2009



$$\mathbf{x}^a = \mathbf{x}^f + \delta\mathbf{x}^a_{Var}$$

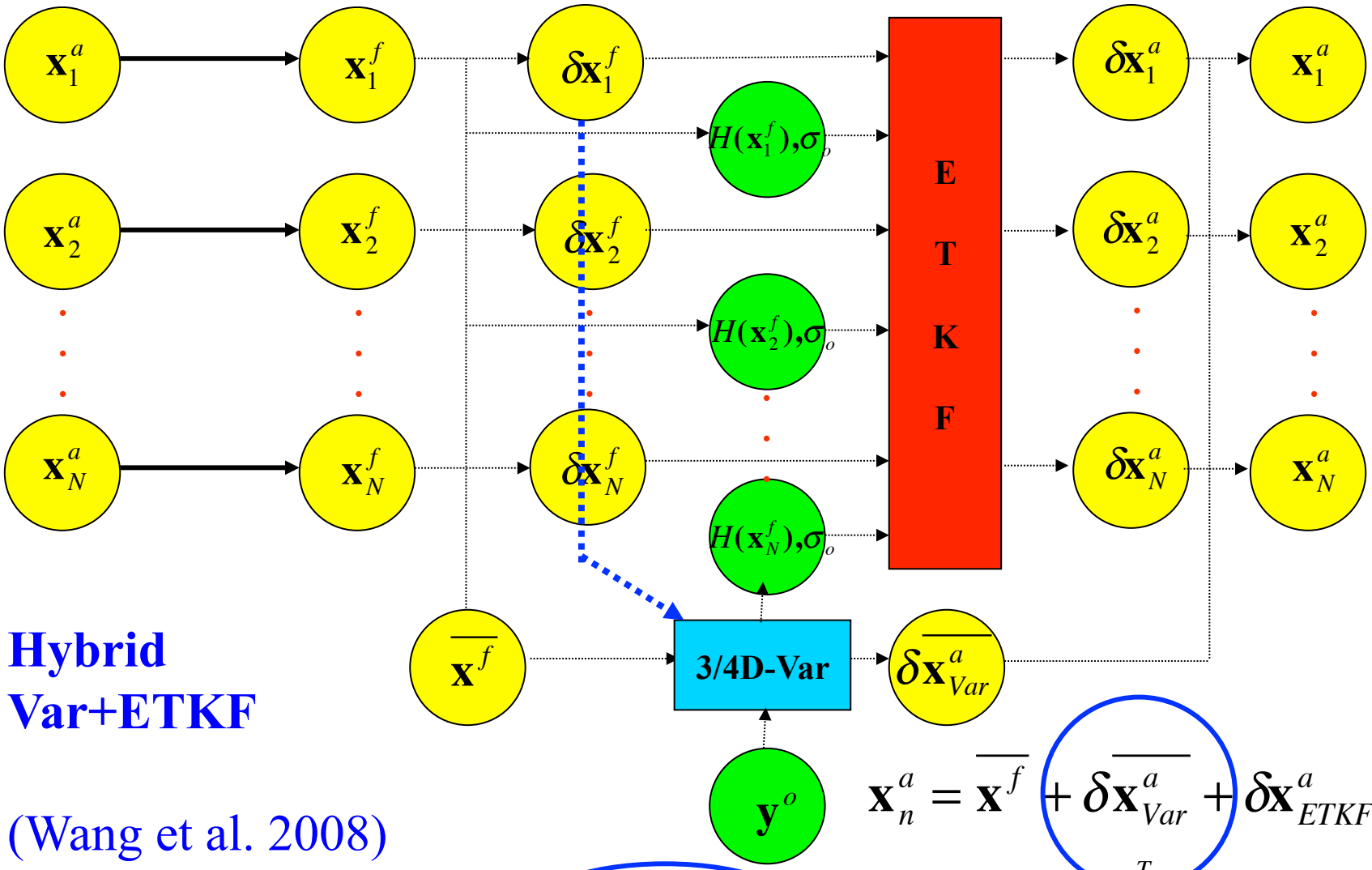
$$J = \frac{1}{2}\delta\mathbf{x}_0{}^T\mathbf{B}_o^{-1}\delta\mathbf{x}_0 + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left[\mathbf{H}_i\delta\mathbf{x}(t_i) - \mathbf{d}_i\right]^T\mathbf{R}_i^{-1}\left[\mathbf{H}_i\delta\mathbf{x}(t_i) - \mathbf{d}_i\right]$$



Var and ETKF

$$\mathbf{x}_n^a = \overline{\mathbf{x}^f} + \delta\overline{\mathbf{x}^a_{Var}} + \delta\mathbf{x}^a_{ETKFn}$$

$$J = \frac{1}{2}\delta\mathbf{x}_0{}^T\mathbf{B}_o^{-1}\delta\mathbf{x}_0 + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left[\mathbf{H}_i\delta\mathbf{x}(t_i) - \mathbf{d}_i\right]^T\mathbf{R}_i^{-1}\left[\mathbf{H}_i\delta\mathbf{x}(t_i) - \mathbf{d}_i\right]$$



Hybrid
Var+ETKF

(Wang et al. 2008)

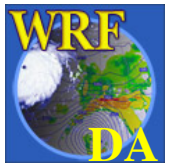
$$\mathbf{x}_n^a = \overline{\mathbf{x}^f} + \delta\overline{\mathbf{x}^a_{Var}} + \delta\mathbf{x}^a_{ETKFn}$$

$$J = \frac{W_b}{2}\delta\mathbf{x}_0{}^T\mathbf{B}_o^{-1}\delta\mathbf{x}_0 + \frac{W_\alpha}{2}\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left[\mathbf{H}_i\delta\mathbf{x}(t_i) - \mathbf{d}_i\right]^T\mathbf{R}_i^{-1}\left[\mathbf{H}_i\delta\mathbf{x}(t_i) - \mathbf{d}_i\right]$$

WRFDA (v3.4) Observations

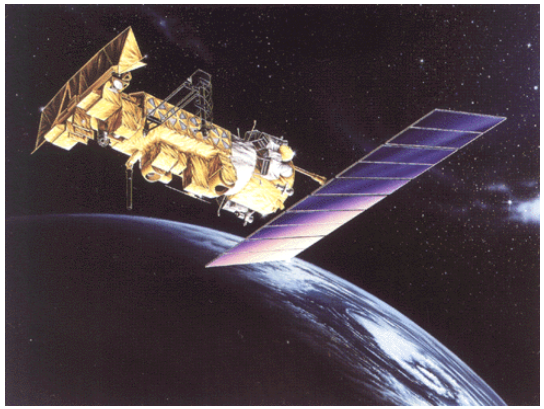
- **In-Situ:**
  - Surface (SYNOP, METAR, SHIP, BUOY).
  - Upper air (TEMP, PIBAL, AIREP, ACARS, TAMDAR).
- **Remotely sensed retrievals:**
  - Atmospheric Motion Vectors (geo/polar).
  - SATEM thickness.
  - Ground-based GPS Total Precipitable Water/Zenith Total Delay.
  - SSM/I oceanic surface wind speed and TPW.
  - Scatterometer oceanic surface winds.
  - Wind Profiler.
  - **Radar radial velocities and reflectivities.**
  - Satellite temperature/humidity/thickness profiles.
  - GPS refractivity (e.g. COSMIC).
  - Stage IV precipitation/rain rate data (4D-Var)
- **Radiative Transfer (RTTOV or CRTM):**
  - HIRS from NOAA-16, NOAA-17, NOAA-18, NOAA-19, METOP-2
  - AMSU-A from NOAA-15, NOAA-16, NOAA-18, NOAA-19, EOS-Aqua, METOP-2
  - AMSU-B from NOAA-15, NOAA-16, NOAA-17
  - MHS from NOAA-18, NOAA-19, METOP-2
  - AIRS from EOS-Aqua
  - SSMIS from DMSP-16, DMSP-17, DMSP-18

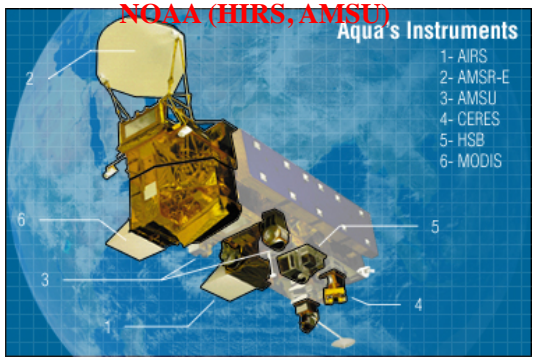
- **Bogus:**
  - TC bogus.
  - Global bogus.

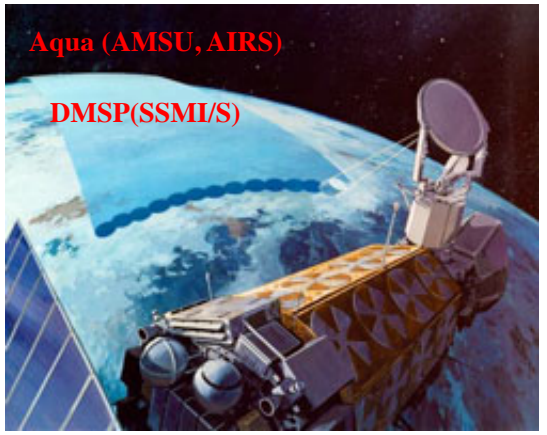


WRFDA
Radiance Assimilation
Liu and Auligné, NCAR

- BUFR 1b radiance ingest.
- **RTM interface:**
  RTTOV (v9.3) or CRTM (v2.0.2)
- NESDIS microwave surface emissivity model
- Range of monitoring diagnostics.
- Quality Control for HIRS, AMSU, AIRS, SSMI/S.
- **Bias Correction:**
  Adaptive or Variational
- Variational observation error tuning
- Parallel: MPI
- Flexible design to easily add new satellite sensors

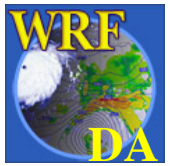






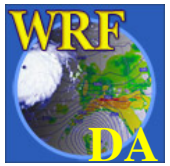
New features, v3.4, April 2012

- WRFPLUS (WRF adjoint and tangent linear model) has been upgraded to V3.4 and it is consistent with the released WRF version 3.4;
- WRFDA was also upgraded to V3.4 and the 4D-Var system now supports compilation to run in parallel with distributed memory;
- Precipitation data assimilation is now supported by the 4D-Var system;
- Forecast Sensitivity to Observations (FSO) has been updated to work with WRFPLUS V3.4;
- Analysis control variables have been expanded to include four types of cloud hydrometeors: cloud liquid water, cloud ice, snow and rain.



Ongoing work

1. 4D-Var optimization
2. Background error covariance improvement
3. Radiance data assimilation development
4. Direct assimilation of wind speed and wind direction observations
5. General WRFDA development



WRFDA tutorials

21-22 July, 2008. NCAR.

2-4 Feb, 2009. NCAR.

18 April, 2009. South Korea.

20-22 July, 2009. NCAR.

15-31 Oct, 2009. Nanjing, China.

1-3 Feb, 2010. NCAR.

10 April, 2010. Seoul, South Korea.

3-5 August 2010. NCAR.

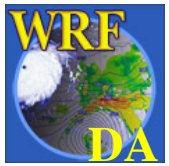
16 April. Busan, South Korea

20-22 July 2011. NCAR

10-20 October 2011. Bangkok, Thailand.

WRFDA online tutorial and user guide

http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda



WRFDA Tutorials at NCAR.

1. WRFDA Overview
2. Observation Pre-processing
3. WRFDA System
4. WRFDA Set-up, Run
5. WRFDA Background Error Estimations
6. Radar Data
7. Satellite Data
8. WRF 4D-Var
9. WRF Hybrid Data Assimilation System
10. WRFDA Tools and Verification
11. Observation Sensitivity

Practice

1. obsproc
2. wrfda (3D-Var)
3. Single-ob tests
4. Gen_be
5. Radar
6. Radiance
7. 4D-Var
8. Hybrid
9. Advanced (optional)

Next week…

Google WRFDA:

www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda