

# WRF Data, Utilities & Post-processing

Kelly Werner

July 2018



# Input Data



## Input Data: Mandatory Fields

### ■ 3D Data

- Temperature
- U and V components of wind
- Geopotential height
- Relative Humidity (or Specific Humidity)

### ■ 2D Data

- Surface pressure
- Mean sea-level pressure
- Skin temperature/SST
- 2 meter temperature and relative humidity
- 10 meter U and V components of wind
- Soil data (temperature and moisture) and soil height

### ■ Recommended Fields

- LANDSEA mask field for input data
- Water equivalent snow depth
- SEAICE
- Additional SST data



## External Data Sources: Global

Name	Resolution	Coverage	Temporal Availability	Website
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis (R1/NNRP)	209 km 6-hourly	Global	Jan 1948 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds090.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds090.0</a>
NCEP/DOE Reanalysis (R2)	209 km 6-hourly	Global	Jan 1979 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds091.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds091.0</a>
ERA Interim Data	1.125° - 0.703° 6-hourly	Global	Jan 1979 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds627.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds627.0</a>
ECMWF's Operational Model Analysis	Varying		Jan 2011 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds113.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds113.0</a>
NCEP GDAS/FNL Reanalysis	0.25° 6-hourly	Global	July 2015 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.3">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.3</a>
GFS Real-time	1°	Global		<a href="ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gfs">ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gfs</a>
NCEP GFS/FNL Reanalysis	1° 6-hourly	Global	Aug 1999 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2</a>
GFS Gridded Model Data	0.5° 24-hourly	Global	Dec 2002 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds335.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds335.0</a>
NCEP GFS 0.25°	0.25° 3-hourly & 12-hourly	Global	Jan 2015 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds084.1">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds084.1</a>

# External Data Sources: North America

Name	Resolution	Coverage	Temporal Availability	Website
NAM Real-time	32/12 km 6-hourly	North America		<a href="ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam">ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam</a>
NAM Analysis	12 km 6-hourly	North America	Jan 2012 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds609.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds609.0</a>
GCIP NCEP Eta	40 km 3-hourly & 6-hourly	North America	April 1995 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds609.2">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds609.2</a>
NCEP NARR	32 km 3-hourly	North America	Nov 1979 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds608.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds608.0</a>



# External Data Sources: Climate

Name	Resolution	Coverage	Temporal Availability	Website
NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (CFSR)	0.3° to 2.5° 6-hourly	Global	Jan 1979 - Dec 2010	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds093.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds093.0</a>
NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis II (CFSv2)	0.2° to 2.5° 6-hourly	Global	Jan 2011 - present	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds094.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds094.0</a>
NCAR CESM CMIP5 data (netCDF format)	6-hourly	Global	Jan 1950 - 2100	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds316.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds316.0</a>
NCAR CESM CMIP5 data (IM - Bias Corrected)	6-hourly	Global	Jan 1951 - 2100	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds316.1">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds316.1</a>
SST DATA				
NCEP SST Analysis	1° - 1/12°	Global		<a href="http://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/sst">http://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/sst</a>
NOMAD3 SST	1° - 0.25°	Global	Jan 1854 - present (depending which product)	<a href="http://nomads.ncdc.noaa.gov/data.php">http://nomads.ncdc.noaa.gov/data.php</a>
NCEP & NCDC Reconstructed SST	1° - 2°	Global	Jan 1854 - Dec 2015	<a href="http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds277.0">http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds277.0</a>



# External Data Sources: RDA

<http://rda.ucar.edu>



# External Data Sources: RDA

<https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/>



## External Data Sources: RDA

[http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/free\\_data.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/free_data.html)

Available GRIB Datasets from NCAR

Dataset	Spatial Resolution	Temporal Resolution	Temporal Availability	Viable
NCEP Final Analysis (GFS-FNL) <i>ds083.0</i>	2.5 degree	12-hourly	1997-04-01 to 2007-06-30	Viable.GFS
NCEP Final Analysis (GFS-FNL) <i>ds083.2</i>	1 degree	6-hourly	1999-07-30 to current	
NCEP GDAS Final Analysis <i>ds083.3</i>	0.25 degree	6-hourly	2015-07-08 to current	
NCEP GFS <i>ds084.1</i>	0.25 degree	3-hourly (for first 240 hrs) 12-hourly (hrs 240-384)	2015-01-15 to current	Viable.NNRP
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis (NNRP) <i>ds090.0</i>	209 km	6-hourly	1948-01-01 to current	
NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (CFSR) <i>ds093.0</i>	0.3, 0.5, 1.0, 1.9, & 2.5 degree	6-hourly	1979-01-01 to 2011-01-01	Viable.CFSR_press_pgbh06 & Viable.CFSR_sfc_fix06
NCEP Climate Forecast System Version 2 (CFSv2) <i>ds094.0</i>	0.2, 0.5, 1.0, and 2.5 degree	6-hourly	2011-01-01 to current	Viable.ECMWF
ECMWF Operational Model Analysis <i>ds113.0</i>	varying		2011-01-01 to current	Viable.ECMWF
NCEP North American Mesoscale (NAM) <i>ds060.0</i>	12 km	6-hourly	2012-01-01 to current	Viable.NAM

Evaporation  
Ice Extent  
Sea Level Pressure  
Soil Moisture/Water Content  
Terrain Elevation  
Upper Air Temperature

Department of Commerce, 2000, from July 1999, Research Data Archive, Version 1.0.0

## External Data Sources: NOMADS

<http://nomads.ncdc.noaa.gov>

NOAA NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NOAA National Operational Model Archive & Distribution System

The NOAA National Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) is a Web-services based project providing both real-time and retrospective format independent access to climate and weather model data.

Update: 11.10.15  
Website appearance changes. We are upgrading our web appearance. Click here to view our new pages.

Important Notice: 12.17.15  
Plot|FTP4U and offline ordering change. Our offline ordering interface has transitioned from the Plot|FTP4U system to the HAS website. Links to the HAS website for each product have been added to the NOMADS Data Access page. The Plot|FTP4U system is still available for online data.

DOC » NOAA » NESDIS » NCEI » NOMADS

Protecting Your Privacy USA.gov Disclaimer

NAM  
GFS  
RUC  
CFS  
NARR  
R1/R2  
SST

## Utilities

- Grib and Intermediate Data
- Designing a model domain
- netCDF tools
- Other Utilities
- ImageMagick
- Special WRF Output Variables
- OBSGRID
- MET

## GRIB Data Handling

- Documents
  - <https://rda.ucar.edu/index.html#gribdoc> (GRIB1 data)
  - <https://rda.ucar.edu/index.html#grib2doc> (GRIB2 data)
- Decoders
  - wgrib*, *wgrib2*, *unpackgrib2.c*, *grib2to1.c*
    - <http://rda.ucar.edu/#!/GRIB>
    - <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/wesley/wgrib.html>
    - <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/wesley/wgrib2>
  - g1print.exe* and *g2print.exe*
    - Show data available in GRIB1 and GRIB2 files
    - Available from util/ directory in WPS

## GRIB Data Handling (cont'd)

### ▪ grib2ctl.pl

- Create .ctl and .idx files, so that you can plot GRIB files with GrADS
- <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/wesley/grib2ctl.html>

### ▪ ncl\_convert2nc

- Converts from grib format to netcdf format
- [http://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Document/Tools/ncl\\_convert2nc.shtml](http://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Document/Tools/ncl_convert2nc.shtml)



## Writing Intermediate File Format

- [http://www2.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user\\_guide\\_V4/v4.0/users\\_guide\\_chap3.html#\\_Writing\\_Meteorological\\_Data](http://www2.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user_guide_V4/v4.0/users_guide_chap3.html#_Writing_Meteorological_Data)

### ▪ wrf\_wps\_write\_int

```
FIELD = "SST"
UNITS = "K"
DESC = "Sea Surface Temperature"
```

```
opt = True
opt@map_source           = "ERA-I Data"
opt@projection            = 0
opt@startloc              = "SWCORNER"
opt@startlon              = 0.0
opt@startlat              = -90.0
opt@deltalon              = 1.25
opt@deltalat              = 0.942408
opt@is_wind_earth_relative = False
opt@date                  = "2015-07-26_00:00:00"
opt@level                  = 200100.
```

```
wrf_wps_wrtie_int(IM_name,FIELD,UNITS,DESC,VAR(:,.),opt)
```

Fortran script to convert netCDF to Intermediate format:

[http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/special\\_code.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/special_code.html)



## Reading Intermediate Format Files

### NCL Code

#### ▪ wrf\_wps\_read\_int

```
! opens file
istatus = wrf_wps_open_int(filename)

! reads header
wrf_wps_rdhead_int(istatus,head_real,field,hdate, \
units,map_source,desc)

! reads slab
Slab = wrf_wps_rddata_int(istatus,nx,ny)

! Loop until reaching the end of the file
```

### Found in WPS/util/

#### ▪ rd\_intermediate

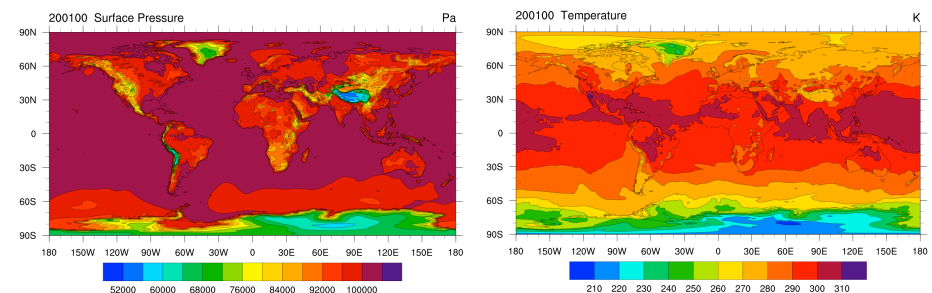
```
=====
FIELD = TT
UNITS = K DESCRIPTION = TEMPERATURE
DATE = 2000-01-24_12:00:00 FCST = 0.000000
SOURCE = unknown model from NCEP GRID 212
LEVEL = 200100.000000
I,J DIMS = 185, 129
IPROJ = 1
REF_X, REF_Y = 1.000000, 1.000000
REF_LAT, REF_LON = 12.190000, -133.459000
DX, DY = 40.635250, 40.635250
TRUELAT1 = 25.000002
DATA(1,1) = 295.910950
=====
```



## Utility: plotfmt

- The plotfmt program plots the fields in the ungribbed intermediate files

```
ncl plotfmt.ncl 'filename="FNL:2007-09-15_00"'
```



Found in WPS/util/



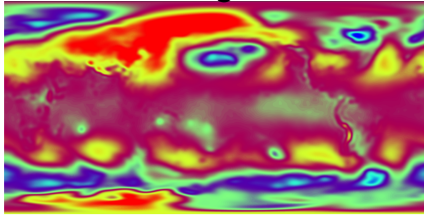


## Plot Intermediate Files in netCDF Format

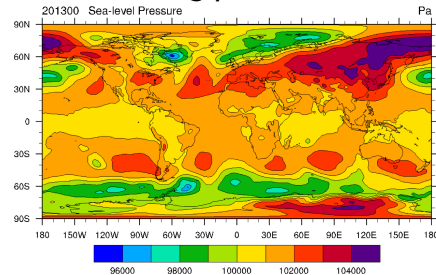
- Use the utility **int2nc.exe**
  - Converts intermediate files created by ungrib.exe to netcdf format
  - `./int2nc.exe FILE:yyyy-mm-dd_hh`
- To plot: **plotfmt\_nc.ncl**

```
ncl plotfmt_nc.ncl 'inputFILE="FNL:2007-09-15_00.nc"'
```

Plot Using ncview



Plot Using plotfmt\_nc.ncl



\*Both are found in WPS/util/



## Model Domain Design

```
mpres@mpFillColor =
(/"background","DeepSkyBlue",
 "ForestGreen","DeepSkyBlue",
 "transparent"/)

mpres@mpGridSpacingF = 45

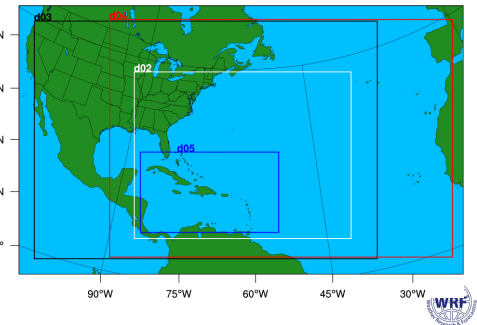
lnres@domLineColors = (/
 "white", "Red", "Red", "Blue" /)

mpres@mpOutlineBoundarySets
  "NoBoundaries" ; "Geophysical"
  "National" ; "USStates"
  "GeophysicalAndUSStates"
  "AllBoundaries"

pares = True
pmres@gsMarkerColor = "White"
pmres@gsMarkerIndex = 16
pmres@gsMarkerSizeF = 0.01
gsn_polymarker(wks,mp,-
  77.26,38.56,
    pmres)
```

- plotgrids.ncl**
  - `WPS/util/plotgrids.ncl`
  - Reads namelist information to generate plot
  - X11, png, pdf

Test Domain

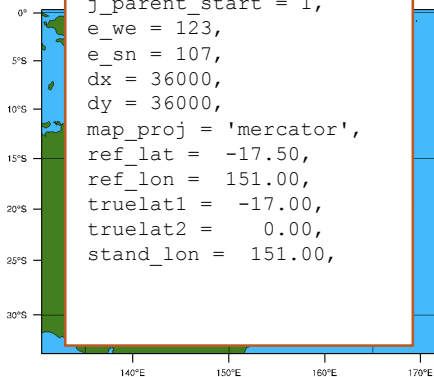


## Model Domain Design

```
DOMS = 1
DX = 36.
MAP = "mercator"
LAT1 = (/ -35.0, -45., -27. /)
LAT2 = (/ 0., -20., -23. /)
LON1 = (/ 131., 121., 125. /)
LON2 = (/ 171., 159., 131. /)
parent_id = (/ 0, 1, 2 /)
parent_grid_ratio = (/ 1, 3, 3 /)
```

**design\_grids.ncl**

```
Suggested namelist options
parent_id = 0,
parent_grid_ratio = 1,
i_parent_start = 1,
j_parent_start = 1,
e_we = 123,
e_sn = 107,
dx = 36000,
dy = 36000,
map_proj = 'mercator',
ref_lat = -17.50,
ref_lon = 151.00,
truelat1 = -17.00,
truelat2 = 0.00,
stand_lon = 151.00,
```



[http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/special\\_code.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/special_code.html)



## netCDF Tools



# NCO Tools

<http://nco.sourceforge.net>

- netCDF Operators are command-line programs that take netCDF (HDF and/or DAP) files as input, then operate (e.g., derive new data, compute stats, print, manipulate metadata) and output to the screen or files in various formats (text, binary, netCDF, etc.)
- **ncdiff**
  - Shows the differences between 2 files  
`ncdiff input1.nc input2.nc diff.nc`
- **ncrcat (nc cat)**
  - Writes specified variables/times to a new file, or concatenates files  
`ncrcat -d file1.nc file2.nc combined.nc`  
`ncrcat -d Time,0,231 -v RAINNC wrfout* RAINNC.nc`
- **ncra (nc average)**
  - Averages variables in files and writes to a new file  
`ncra -v T2 file1.nc file2.nc -o T2.nc`  
`ncra -v T2 wrfout* -o T2.nc`



# NCO Tools (continued)

<http://nco.sourceforge.net>

- **ncrename**
  - Renames variables, dimensions, attributes  
`ncrename -v LANDUSE, LAND -a missing_value, _FillValue file.nc`
- **ncks (nc kitchen sink)**
  - Combination of several NCO tools to allow cutting/pasting subsets of data into a new file
    - Extracting a specific variable  
`ncks -v RAINNC wrfout_d01_2015-06-01_00:00:00 RAINNC.nc`
    - Splitting files  
`ncks -d Time,1,1 wrfout -o wrfout1.nc`



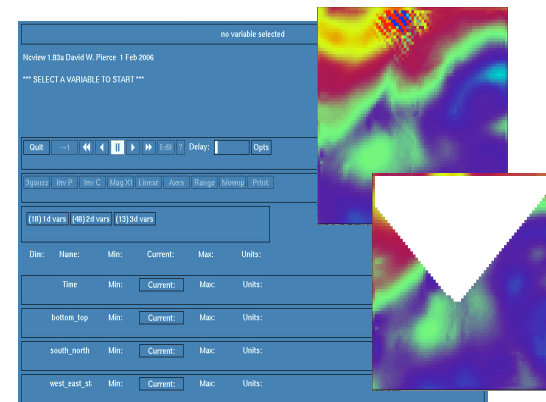
## NCO Tools: Other Available Operators

- **ncap2:** arithmetic processor
- **ncatted:** ATtribute editor
- **ncbo:** binary operator (includes ncadd, ncsubtract, ncmultiply, ncdivide)
- **ncea:** ensemble averager
- **ncecat:** ensemble conCATenator
- **ncflint:** FiLe INterpolator
- **ncpdq:** permute dimensions quickly, pack data quietly
- **ncwa:** weighted averager



## ncview

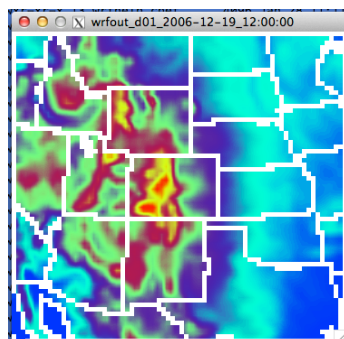
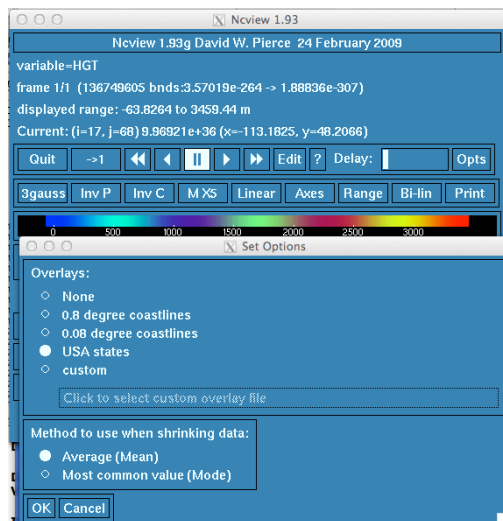
[http://meteora.ucsd.edu/~pierce/ncview\\_home\\_page.html](http://meteora.ucsd.edu/~pierce/ncview_home_page.html)



- A graphical interface that allow quick viewing of netCDF files
  - All variables found in file
  - Detect where things go wrong
- Other options
  - Time series
  - Vertical Cross Section
- WRF/WPS files
  - Any netCDF format file  
geo\_em.d0\*, met\_em.d0\*,  
wrfinput\_d0\*, wrfout.d0\*,  
wrfst.d0\*



# ncview

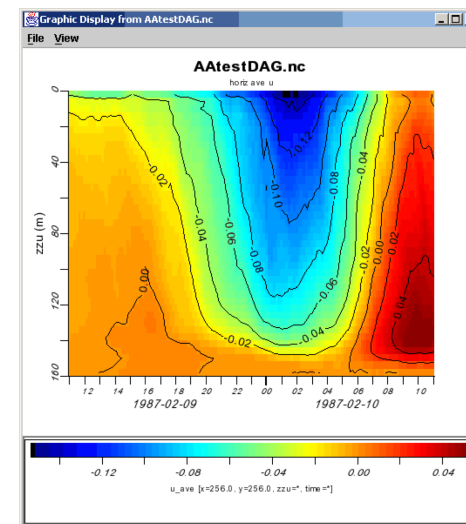


- Beginning V3.7
- Works with wrfinput\* and wrfout\* files
- Must have 1 time period per file



# ncBrowse

<http://www.epic.noaa.gov/java/ncBrowse/>



# ncdump

- Reads a netCDF dataset and prints information from that dataset
- **ncdump -h file**
  - Prints header (inclusive list of variables in the file)
- **ncdump -v VAR file**
  - Prints specific data for the variable 'VAR'
- **ncdump -v Times file**
  - Prints the times that are included in the file



# ncdump -v Times

```
netcdf wrfout_d01_2000-01-24_12:00:00 {
dimensions:
    Time = UNLIMITED ; // (3 currently)
    DateStrLen = 19 ;
    west_east = 73 ;
    south_north = 60 ;
    west_east_stag = 74 ;
    bottom_top = 27 ;
    south_north_stag = 61 ;
    bottom_top_stag = 28 ;
variables:
    char Times(Time, DateStrLen) ;
    float LU_INDEX(Time, south_north, west_east) ;
    LU_INDEX:FieldType = 104 ;
    LU_INDEX:MemoryOrder = "XY" ;
    LU_INDEX:description = "LAND USE CATEGORY" ;
    LU_INDEX:units = "" ;
    LU_INDEX:stagger = "" ;

global attributes:
    :TITLE = " OUTPUT FROM WRF V3.4.1 MODEL";
    :START DATE = "2000-01-24 12:00:00" ;
    :WEST-EAST GRID DIMENSION = 74 ;
    :SOUTH-NORTH GRID DIMENSION = 61 ;
    :BOTTOM-TOP_GRID_DIMENSION = 28 ;
    :DX = 30000.f ;
    :DY = 30000.f ;

data:
    Times =
        "2000-01-24 12:00:00",
        "2000-01-24 18:00:00",
        "2000-01-25 00:00:00"
```



## Other Utilities

### Additional utilities

- **read\_wrf\_nc**: reads WRF netCDF file, outputs various data
- **iowrf**: extracts a box from WRF netCDF files, thin or destagger data
- **wrf\_interp**: interpolates WRF output files to pressure, height-agl, height-msl, potential temp, and equivalent potential temp, and can perform underground extrapolation
- **p\_interp**: converts wrfout data to pressure levels
- **v\_interp**: adds vertical levels in WRF input and boundary files
- **diffwrf**: performs several functions, including making comparisons of two WRF files
- For more details on the above utilities, see:  
<http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/utilities/util.htm>

### To download utilities:

[http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get\\_sources.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get_sources.html)



## ImageMagick

<http://www.imagemagick.org>

- Converts graphical files from one format to another  
`convert file.pdf file.png`  
`convert file.png file.bmp`
- Many options available
  - Rotate frames, trim white space, etc.
  - 2 ways to use
    - 1) `display plot.png`
    - 2) `Convert -trim +repage -background white -flatten plot.pdf plot.png`
- Can make movies
  - Can create individual frames for each image
- Maintains high resolution - great for publishing!
- Cannot deal with .ncgm files



## Special WRF Output Variables

- The WRF model outputs the state variables defined in the Registry file, and these state variables are used in the model's prognostic equations. Some of these variables are perturbation fields and therefore, the following definitions for reconstructing meteorological variables are necessary:

Total geopotential	PH + PHB
Total geopotential height in m	(PH + PHB) / 9.81
Total potential temp in K	T + 300
Total pressure in mb	(P + PB) * 0.01
Wind components, grid relative	U, V
Surface pressure in Pa	Psfc
Surface winds, grid relative	U10, V10 (valid at mass points)
Surface temp and mixing ratio	T2, Q2

See [WRF/Registry/Registry.EM\\_COMMON](#) for description of variables



# OBSGRID

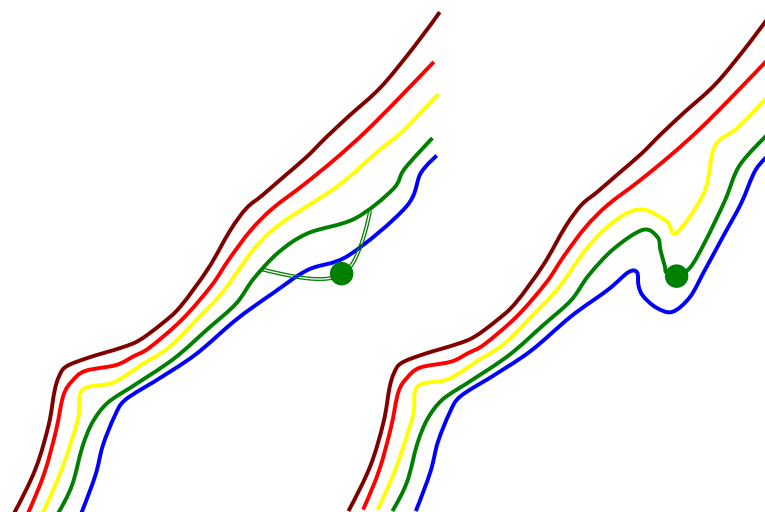


# OBSGRID

- To improve a first-guess gridded analysis by incorporating additional observational information
  - Traditionally first-guess analysis came from low-resolution global analysis and forecast grids
  - These days, higher-resolution, regional scale analyses are more readily available
- When is this method useful?
  - When using very coarse resolution first-guess input data
  - If you conducted a field campaign and have acquired very high-resolution station data (for example)



## OBSGRID: Basic Concept



## OBSGRID: How to Run

- Get the source code  
<http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/downloads.html>
- Compile (serially)
- Prepare observation files
- Edit the namelist.oa
- Link in met\_em\* files from WPS
- Run the program
  - ./obsgrid.exe
- Check your output

See the WRF Users' Guide for detailed information:

[http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user\\_guide\\_V4/v4.0/users\\_guide\\_chap7.htm](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user_guide_V4/v4.0/users_guide_chap7.htm)



## OBSGRID: Use with WRF

- Link the 'metoa\_em\*' files to WRF running directory  

```
ln -sf ../../../../OBSGRID/metoa_em.d01.* .
```
- Add the following to the &time\_control section of the namelist  

```
auxinput1_inname = "metoa_em.d<domain>.<date>"
```
- Run real.exe
- Run wrf.exe



## OBSGRID - Grid Nudging: Surface

- If you are interested in doing surface analysis nudging
- OBSGRID creates a file called wrfsfdda\_d0\*
- How to use this:
  - In &fdda, set `grid_fdda = 1` and `grid_sfdda = 1`
  - Run `real.exe` and get a file called `wrffdda_d01`, and use with `wrfsfdda_d01`, `wrfinput_d01`, and `wrfbdy_d01`
  - Run `wrf.exe`
- For more information, refer to Jimy Dudhia's ARW Nudging talk



## OBSGRID - Observation Nudging

- Allows for input observation data & quality control
- Used if you have a large number of extra observations, and a single case study (not recommended for climate studies)
- Can get obs data from CISL (little R format)
- To Use:
  - OBSGRID creates files called `OBSDOMAIN_XXX`
    - can concatenate files into 1: `OBSDOMAIN_101`
  - In &fdda, add `obs_nudge_opt = 1`
  - In &time\_control, add `auxinput11_interval_s = 180`, `auxinput11_end_h = 24`
  - Will need `OBSDOMAIN_101`, `wrfinput_d01` and `wrfbdy_d01` files
  - Run `real.exe` and `wrf.exe` as usual
- For more information, see
  - [http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfv3.1/How\\_to\\_run\\_obs\\_fdda.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfv3.1/How_to_run_obs_fdda.html)
  - Jimy Dudhia's ARW Nudging talk



## MET Verification Software

- Model Evaluation Tools (MET)
- Provides all the basics (e.g., RMSE, bias, skill scores)
- Provides
  - Advanced spatial methods (wavelets, objects)
  - Confidence intervals
- Download it  
<http://www.dtcenter.org/met/users/downloads/>
- Support  
[met\\_help@ucar.edu](mailto:met_help@ucar.edu)
- Documentation  
<http://www.dtcenter.org/met/users/docs/overview.php>



## Post-processing

- Supported Packages
- ARWpost
- RIP4





# Supported Post-processing Packages

[http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user\\_guide\\_V3/contents.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user_guide_V3/contents.html)

Package	Users' Guide Page #	Information
NCL	9-2	Graphical package supported by NCAR/CISL ( <a href="http://forum.mmm.ucar.edu/phpBB3/index.php">http://forum.mmm.ucar.edu/phpBB3/index.php</a> and ncl-talk@ucar.edu)
ARWpost	9-29	Converter (GrADS); ARWpost supported by wrfhelp: <a href="http://forum.mmm.ucar.edu/phpBB3/index.php">http://forum.mmm.ucar.edu/phpBB3/index.php</a>
RIP4	9-20	Converter and interface to graphical package, NCAR graphics, supported by wrfhelp: <a href="http://forum.mmm.ucar.edu/phpBB3/index.php">http://forum.mmm.ucar.edu/phpBB3/index.php</a>
UPP	9-36	Converter (GrADS & GEMPAK) (upp-help@ucar.edu)
VAPOR	9-38	Converter and graphical package Supported by VAPOR (vapor@ucar.edu)
IDV	None - see unidata.ucar.edu	GRIB (from UPP) GEMPAK (from wrf2gem) Vis5d CF compliant data (from wrf_to_cf) Supported by unidata (support@unidata.ucar.edu)
GEMPAK	None - see: unidata.ucar.edu/software/gempak	Data from wrf2gem or UPP Supported by unidata (support@unidata.ucar.edu)



# Choosing the Right Tool

- Can it read your data?
- Will you need to pre-process the data first?
- Is it purely a visualization tool, or does it include post-processing?
- Can it handle big datasets?
- Which diagnostic/statistical functions does it have?
- How easy is it to add diagnostics?
- 3D or 2D visualization?
- Can it handle staggered grids?
- How is data below the ground handled?
- Vertical grids?
- How are model time stamps handled?
- Easy to use?
- Cost of package?
- How well supported is it?



# Data Handling

	NCL	RIP4	GrADS	UPP	VAPOR	IDV
netCDF		ripdp	ARWpost	converter	converter	converter
GRIB						
ASCII						
shapefiles						
geogrid & metgrid output						
intermediate file format	V6.2.0 V6.3.0					
wrfinput data						
Idealized data						
wrfoutput						
big data						



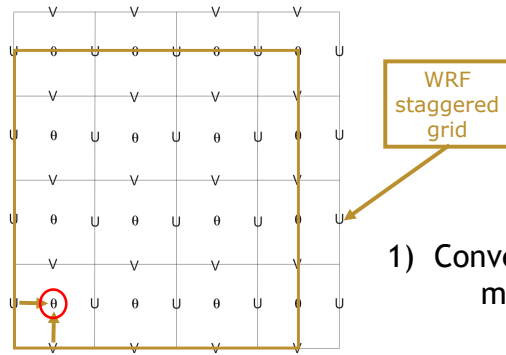
# Post-processing

	NCL	RIP4	GrADS	UPP	VAPOR	IDV
Post-processing						
Data output						
3D						
diagnostics	some	a lot	some	some	limited	limited
Add diagnostics	Very easy	easy	easy	Relatively easy	Not as easy	Not as easy
Vertical output Coordinate	Model pressure height	Model pressure height	Model pressure height	pressure	model	model
Extrapolate Below ground						



# Model Staggering

Why is a converter necessary if a package can display netCDF files?



- 1) Converter co-locates data to mass points
- 2) Converter translates variables - e.g., “T” is not really temp. Must add 300 for actual temp (K)



# ARWpost

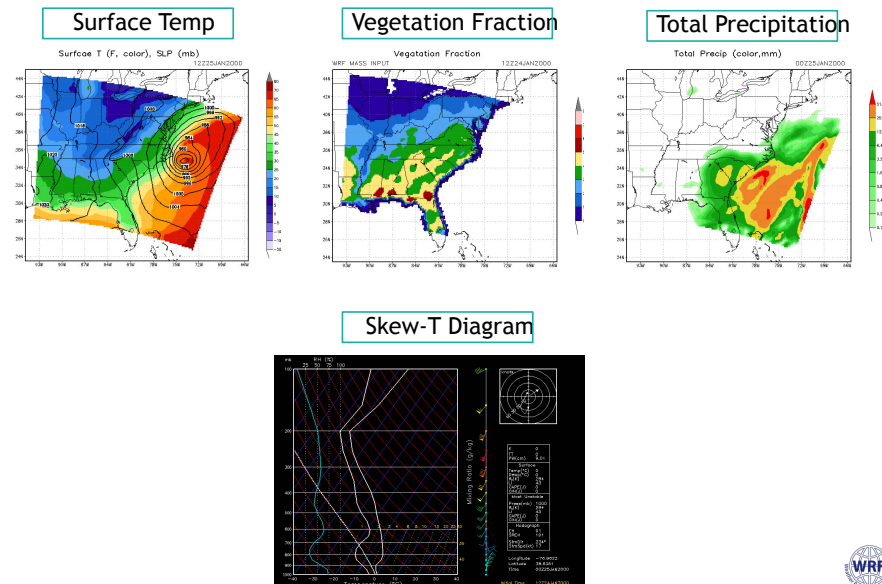


## ARWpost: General Information

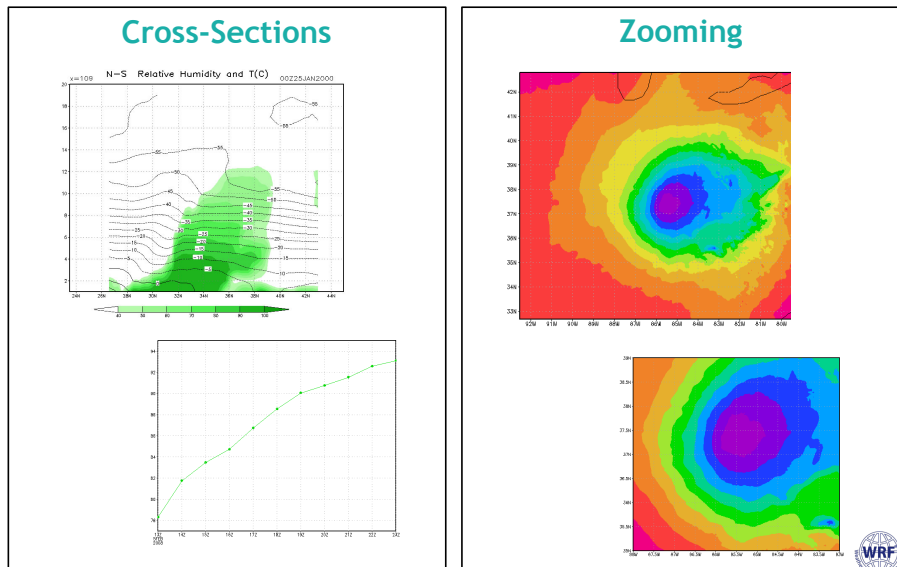
- Converter
  - Reads in wrf-arw model data, creates GrADS output files
  - Requires GrADS to display
- GrADS software is only needed to display data, not needed to compile the code
  - <http://www.iges.org/grads/grads.html>
- Generate a number of graphical plots
  - Horizontal
  - Cross-section
  - skewT
  - Meteogram
  - Panel
- Download Code
  - [http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get\\_sources.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get_sources.html)
- Online Tutorial
  - <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/graphics/ARWpost/ARWpost.htm>



## ARWpost: Example Plots



## ARWpost: Example Functions



## ARWpost: Diagnostics

- cape - 3d cape
- cin - 3d cin
- mcape - maximum cape
- mcin - minimum cin
- clfr - low/middle/high cloud fraction
- dbz - 3d reflectivity
- max\_dbz - maximum reflectivity
- geopt - geopotential
- height - model height in km
- lcl - lifting condensation level
- lfc - level of free convection
- pressure - full model pressure in hPa
- rh - relative humidity
- rh2 - 2 m relative humidity
- theta - potential temperature
- tc - temperature in degrees C
- tk - temperature in degrees K
- td - dew point temperature in degrees C
- td2 - 2m dew point temperature in degrees C
- slp - sea level pressure
- umet & vmet - winds rotated to Earth coordinates
- u10m & v10m - 10 m winds rotated to Earth coordinates
- wdir - wind direction
- wspd - wind speed coordinates
- wd10 - 10 m wind direction
- ws10 - 10 m wind speed



## ARWpost: Scripts

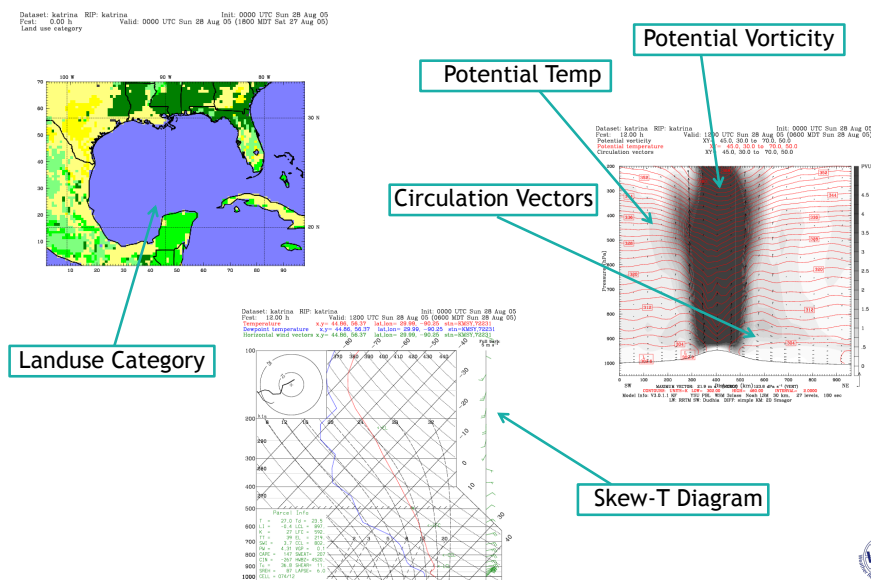
Script Name	Description
cbar.gs	Plots a color bar on shaded plots
rgbset.gs	Allows you to add/change colors from color # 20 - 99
skew.gs	Program to plot a skewT
plot_all.gs	Automatically finds all .ctl files in the directory and lists them so the user can pick when to use, will plot all fields chosen
rain.gs (real data only)	Plots total rainfall (must have data that contain fields RAINC and RAINNC)
cross_z.gs (real data only)	Plots a NS and EW cross section of RH and T (C)



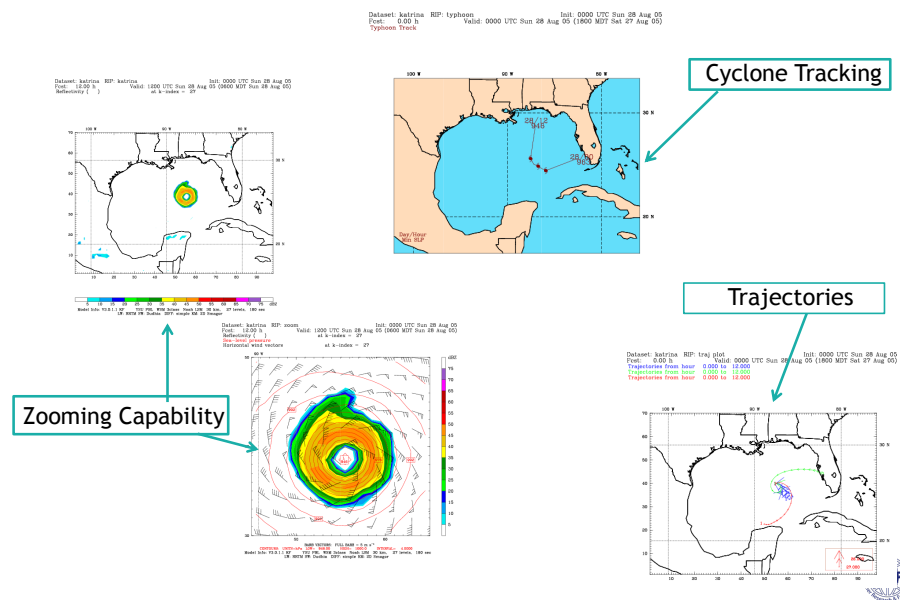
# RIP4



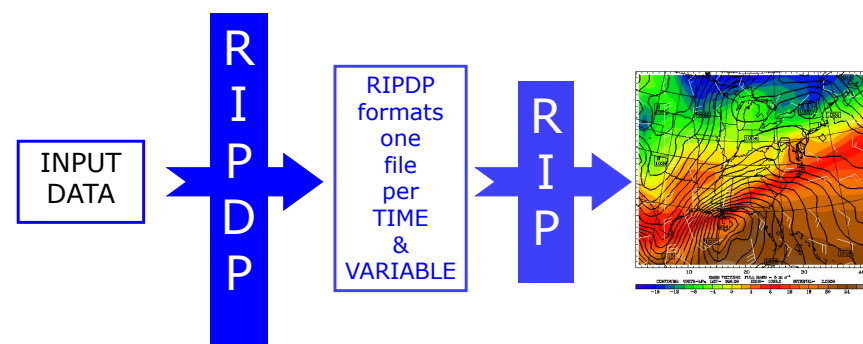
# RIP4: Example Plots



# RIP4: Example Plots



## RIP4: Program Flow



## RIP4: Namelist (&userin)

- Use namelist to control
  - processing times, intervals, title information, text quality on a plot
  - whether to do time series, trajectory, or to write output for Vis5D
  - Full explanation for namelist variables is available in the user document
- ptimes, ptimeunits - times to process
- tacc - tolerance for processing data
- iusedaylightrule - 1 applied, 0 not applied
- idotser - generate time series output
- icgmsplit - split metacode into several files
- itrajcalc - 0, 1 ONLY when doing trajectory calculations
- rip\_root - override RIP\_ROOT
- ncarg\_root - output type: X11, cgm, pdf, ps

## RIP4: Common Error Message

GKS ERROR NUMBER 2 ISSUED FROM SUBROUTINE  
GCLKS :--GKS NOT IN PROPER STATE: GKS SHALL BE IN  
STATE GKOPFORTRAN STOP

- Usually NOT a graphics error.
- More often this is an error with the times you are asking RIP to process
  - Check the ptimes in your .in file
  - Check the xtimes files created by RIPDP



## RIP4: General Information

- Requires NCAR Graphics Libraries
  - <http://www.ncl.ucar.edu>
- Source Code
  - [http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get\\_source.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get_source.html)
- Documentation
  - Included in program's tar file (in Doc/ directory)
  - <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/ripug.htm>
- Online Tutorial
  - <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/graphics/RIP4/RIP4.htm>



# Questions?

