



WRF Data Assimilation System: Software and Compilation

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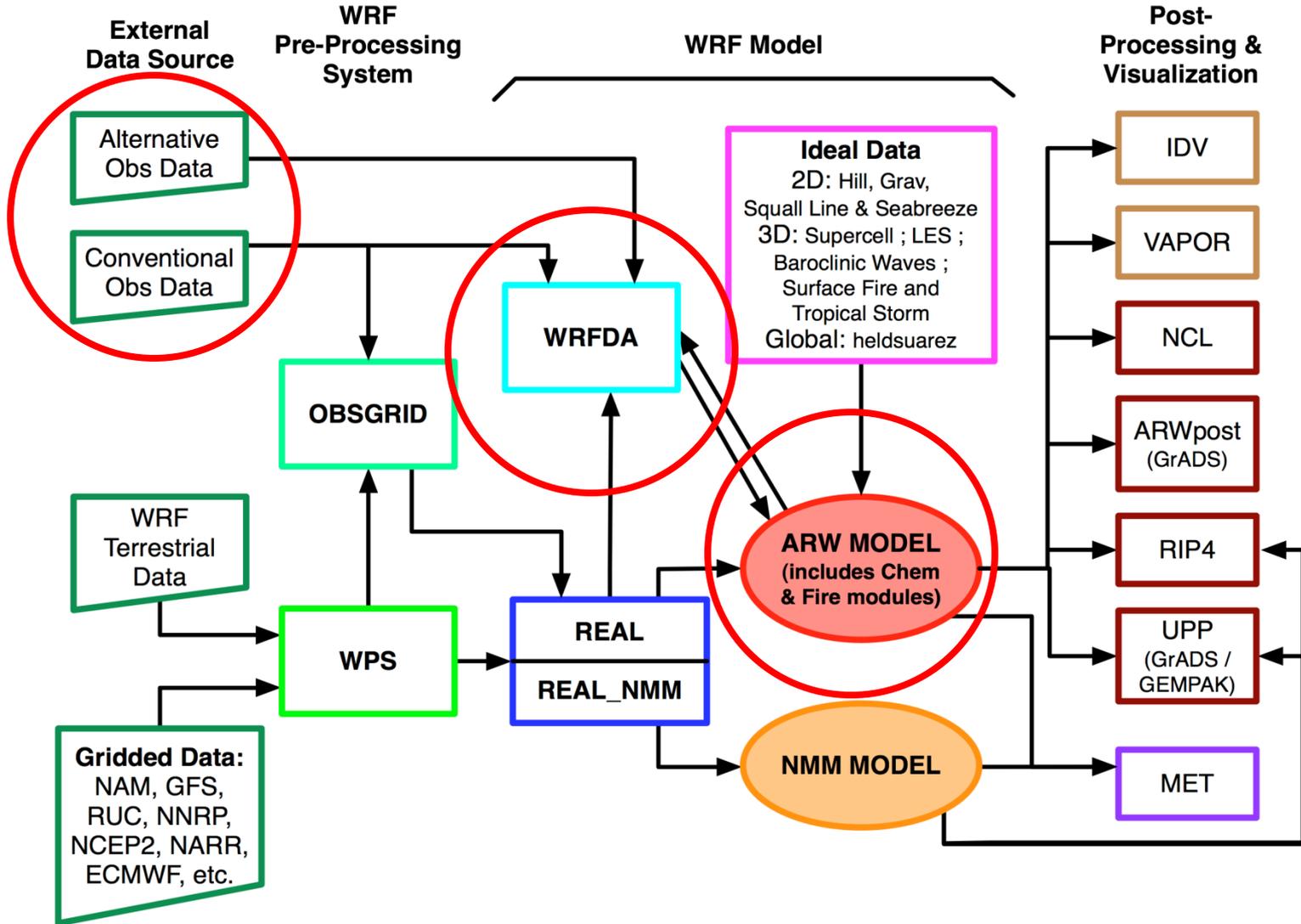
WRFDA System – Outline

- *Introduction*
- Compiling the code
- WRFDA software structure
- Computing overview

Introduction – What is WRFDA?

- A data assimilation system for the WRF Model (ARW core)
 - 3D- and 4D-VAR, FGAT, Ensemble, and Hybrid methods
- Designed to be flexible, portable and easily installed and modified
 - Open-source and public domain
 - Can be compiled on a variety of platforms
 - Part of the WRF Software Framework
- Designed to handle a wide variety of data
 - Conventional observations
 - Radar velocity and reflectivity
 - Satellite (radiance and derived data)
 - Accumulated precipitation

WRFDA in WRF Modeling System

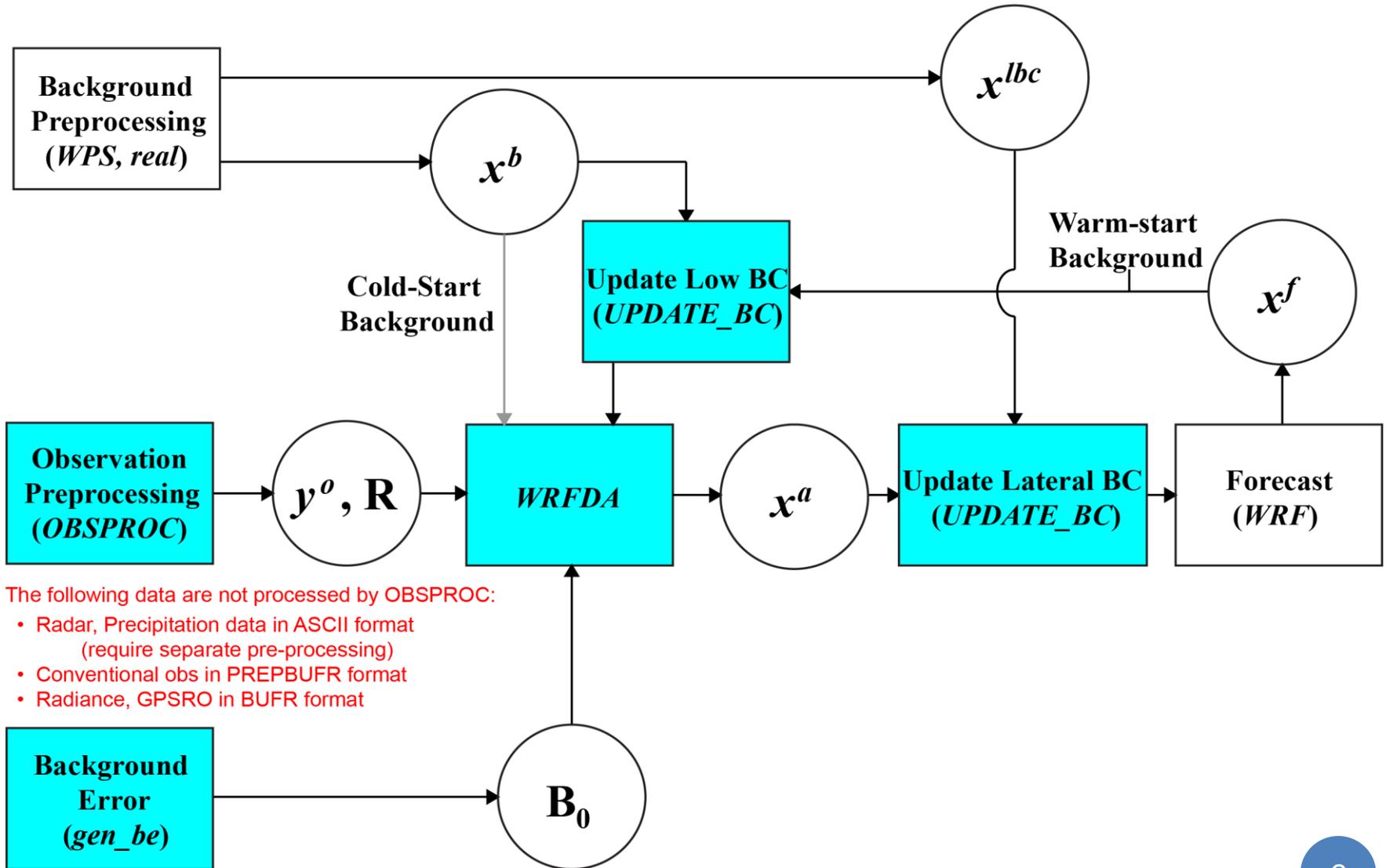


Cycling mode

- Because WRFDA takes WRF forecast files as input, the system can naturally be run in cycling mode
- WRFDA initializes a WRF forecast, the output of which is fed back into WRFDA to initialize another WRF forecast
- Requires boundary condition updating



WRFDA in the WRF Modeling System



Blue: Supported by WRFDA team

WRFDA System – Outline

- Introduction
- *Compiling the code*
- WRFDA software structure
- Computing overview

Compiling – What is needed?

- WRFDA has similar system requirements to WRF
 - Can be run on a wide variety of UNIX and Linux-based systems
 - Linux/Mac, desktops/laptops, clusters with UNIX-based OS
- WRFDA computational requirements depend on your task
 - Running a small 3DVAR case may take less than 1GB of RAM
 - Large 4DVAR cases may require hundreds of GB
- A supported C and Fortran compiler
 - ifort/icc
 - gfortran/gcc
 - pgf90/pgcc
- Some have known problems; see <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/known-problems.html#compilers>

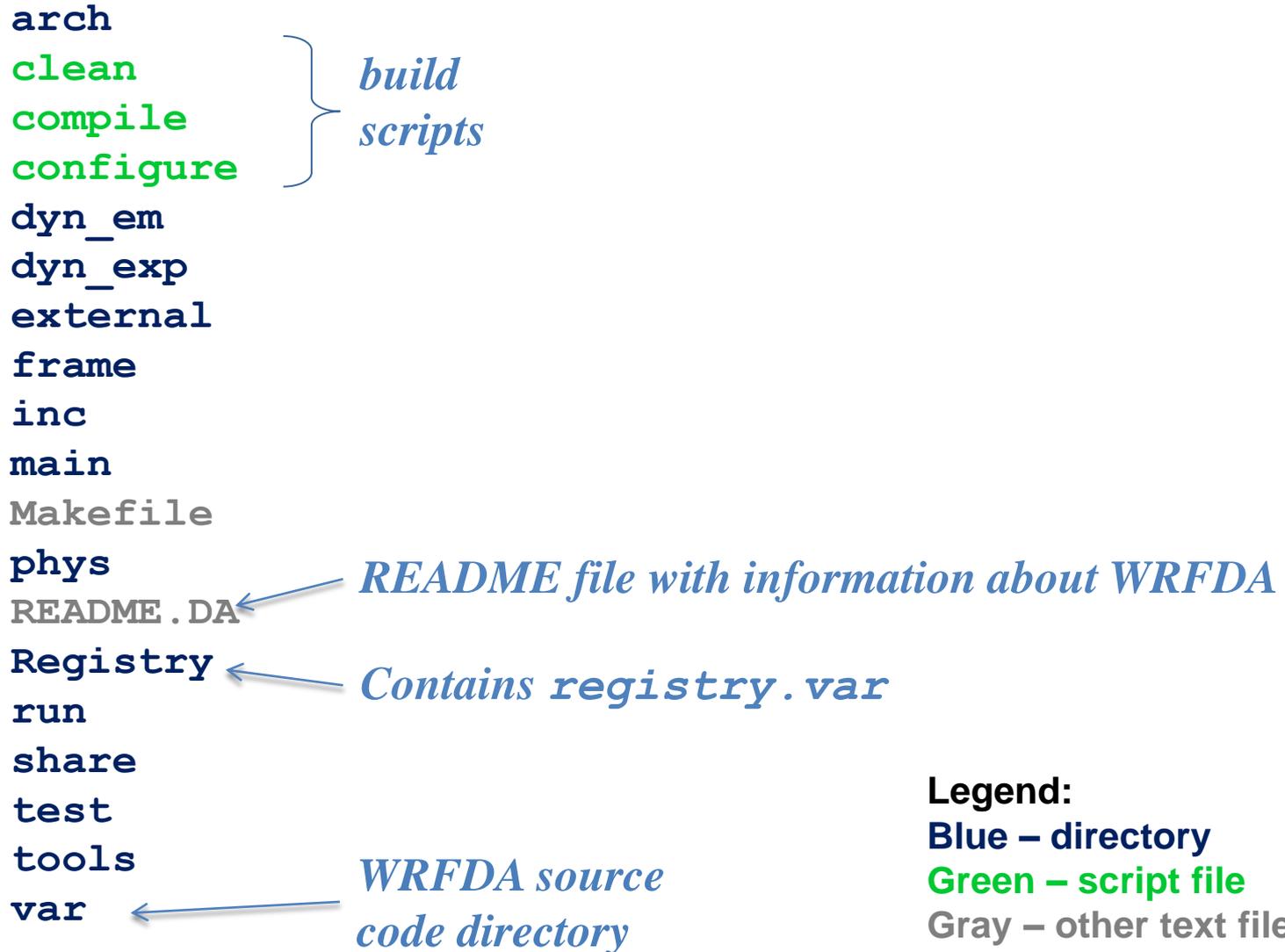
Compiling – What is needed?

- Similar to WRF, there are required and optional libraries
 - netCDF C/fortran libraries are required, and must be downloaded and built by the user
 - <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/downloads/netcdf/index.jsp>
 - MPI libraries, such as MPICH, are required for running WRFDA in parallel
 - For radiance assimilation, a radiative transfer model is needed:
 - CRTM, the Community Radiative Transfer Model, is included with the WRFDA source code
 - RTTOV is provided by EUMETSAT/NWC SAF, and must be downloaded and built separately
 - https://nwpsaf.eu/deliverables/rtm/rtm_rttov11.html
 - BUFR libraries are required for reading PREPBUFR or radiance BUFR files, but they are included in WRFDA and built automatically

Compiling – Getting the source code

- Visit the WRFDA download website:
 - http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/download/get_source.html
- Click “New Users” and fill out the registration form, (registration is free), or
- Click “Returning users” and enter your email if you have previously registered to download a WRF product
- Download the latest tar file (Version 3.7)
- Unzip (`gunzip WRFDA_V3.7.tar.gz`) and un-tar (`tar -xvf WRFDA_V3.7.tar`) the code package
- You should see a directory named “WRFDA”; this is the WRFDA source code

WRFDA Directory structure



WRFDA/var Directory structure

<code>build</code>	←	<i>Executables built here</i>
<code>converter</code>		
<code>da</code>	←	<i>WRFDA main source code contained here</i>
<code>external</code>	←	<i>Source code for external libraries (CRTM, BUFR, etc.)</i>
<code>gen_be</code>	←	<i>GEN_BE source code</i>
<code>graphics</code>		
<code>Makefile</code>		
<code>obsproc</code>	←	<i>OBSPROC source code</i>
<code>README.basics</code>	}	<i>More README files with useful information</i>
<code>README.namelist</code>		
<code>README.radiance</code>		
<code>run</code>	←	<i>Useful runtime files (mostly for radiance)</i>
<code>scripts</code>		
<code>test</code>	←	<i>Data for tutorial cases</i>

Legend:

Blue – directory

Green – script file

Gray – other text file

WRFDA/var/da Directory structure

Main WRFDA Program (driver):

da_main

WRFDA Subroutines (mediation layer)

da_4dvar
da_control
da_etkf
da_define_structures
da_dynamics
da_grid_definitions
da_interpolation
da_minimisation
da_physics
da_setup_structures
da_varbc
da_vtox_transforms

OBSERVATION TYPES

da_airep	da_pseudo
da_airsr	da_qscat
da_bogus	da_radar
da_buoy	da_radiance
da_geoamv	da_rain
da_gpspw	da_satem
da_gpsref	da_ships
da_metar	da_sound
da_mtgirs	da_ssmi
da_pilot	da_synop
da_polaramv	da_tamdar
da_profiler	

Compiling – Preparing the environment

- As mentioned before, some libraries are required for WRFDA, and some are optional depending what you are using WRFDA for
 - netCDF is required; you should set an environment variable to specify where the netCDF libraries are built on your system:
 - `setenv NETCDF full_path_for_NETCDF`
- If you plan on doing radiance assimilation, you will need CRTM or RTTOV. WRFDA can be built with either or both
 - The CRTM source code is included in the WRFDA package, use `setenv CRTM 1` to build it
 - To use RTTOV, set an environment variable specifying where RTTOV is built on your system:
 - `setenv RTTOV full_path_for_RTTOV`
- To build faster, if your computer has the gnu make utility, you can set the environment variable J to build the code in parallel
 - `setenv J "-j 4"` (will build on 4 processors)

Compiling – Building the WRFDA code

- Two scripts must be run to build the code:
- `configure` asks for some information about your machine and how you want to build the code, and generates a `configure.wrf` file
- `./configure wrfda`

```
> ./configure wrfda
checking for perl5... no
checking for perl... found /usr/bin/perl (perl)
Will use NETCDF in dir: /usr/local/netcdf-3.6.3-gfortran
PHDF5 not set in environment. Will configure WRF for use without.
Will use 'time' to report timing information
$JASPERLIB or $JASPERINC not found in environment, configuring to build without grib2 I/O...
-----
Please select from among the following Linux x86_64 options:

  1. (serial)   2. (smpar)   3. (dmpar)   4. (dm+sm)   PGI (pgf90/gcc)
  5. (serial)   6. (smpar)   7. (dmpar)   8. (dm+sm)   PGI (pgf90/pgcc): SGI MPT
  9. (serial)  10. (smpar)  11. (dmpar)  12. (dm+sm)   PGI (pgf90/gcc): PGI accelerator
 13. (serial)  14. (smpar)  15. (dmpar)  16. (dm+sm)   INTEL (ifort/icc)
... ..
```

- Select the option that is best for your purposes

Compiling – Building the WRFDA code

- Two scripts must be run to build the code:
- `compile` compiles all the code for the settings you specified
 - ```
./compile all_wrfvar >& compile.wrfda.log
```
- Depending on your machine and what options you have selected, compilation can take less than 5 minutes up to an hour. For example, `gfortran` compiles WRFDA quite quickly, while `intel` compilers take longer to build (but the executables will run faster)

# Compiling – review compiled code

- When the compilation script is completed, you should see the message “build completed:” followed by the date and time.
- The script does not automatically check to make sure all executables were successfully built; You will need to check manually
- There should be 44 executables built all together: 43 in the WRFDA/var/build directory, and WRFDA/var/obsproc/obsproc.exe
- In all likelihood, you will not use most of these directly: the majority of them are called by scripts for various diagnostic packages

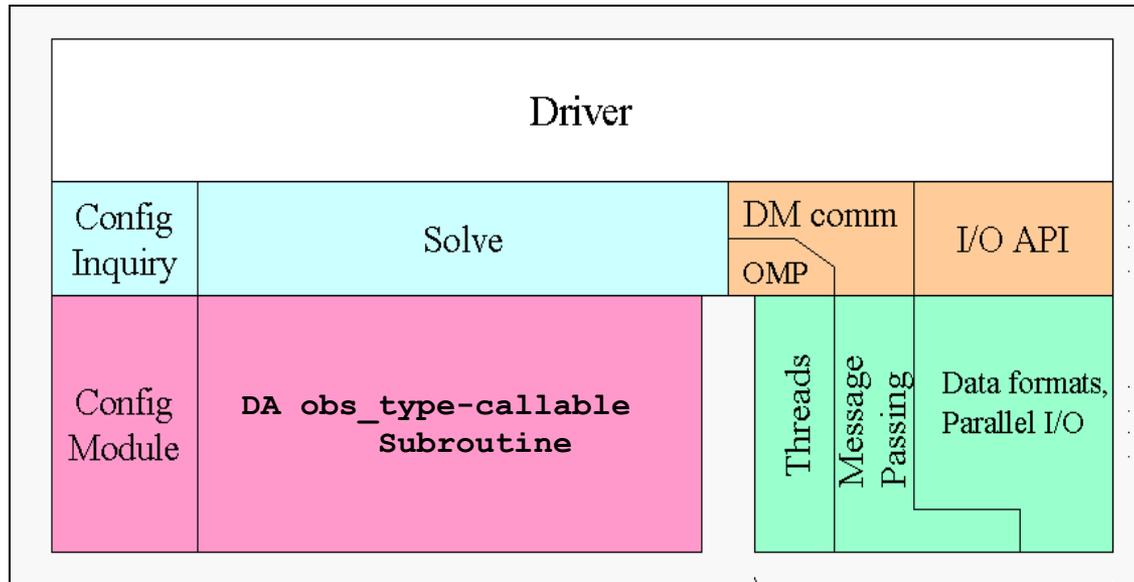
# Compiling – review executables

- These are the executables you will most likely be using:
- `da_wrfvar.exe`
  - The main WRFDA executable: this program will perform the actual data assimilation/minimization
- `obsproc.exe`
  - The executable for OBSPROC, the observation pre-processor for text-based observation formats
- `da_update_bc.exe`
  - The executable for UPDATE\_BC; used for updating boundary conditions after assimilation and during cycling runs

# WRFDA System – Outline

- Introduction
- Compiling the code
- *WRFDA software structure*
- Computing overview

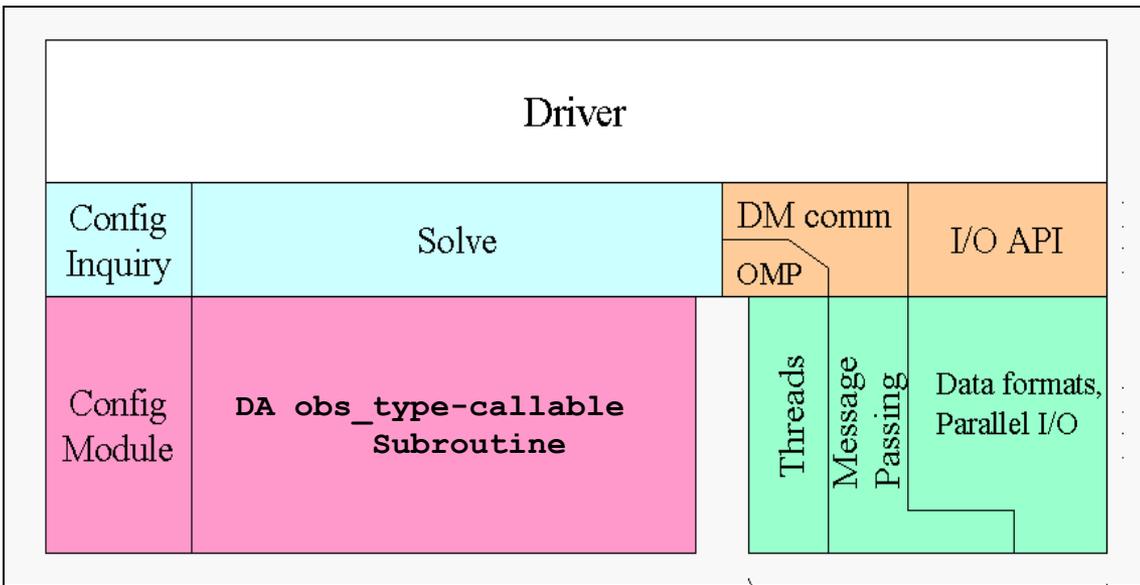
# WRFDA Software – Architecture



**Registry.wrfvar**

- **Hierarchical** software architecture
  - **Insulate** scientists' code from parallelism and other architecture/implementation-specific details
  - Well-defined **interfaces** between layers, and **external packages** for communications, I/O.

# WRFDA Software – Architecture



- **Registry**: an “Active” data dictionary
  - Tabular listing of model state and attributes
  - Large sections of interface code generated automatically
  - Scientists manipulate model state simply by modifying Registry, without further knowledge of code mechanics
  - **registry.var** is the main dictionary for WRFDA
  - registry.var is combined at compile time with Registry.EM\_COMMON.var and others to produce Registry.wrfvar, which contains all of the registry definitions used by WRFDA



# WRFDA Software – Architecture



Variable size

Variable type

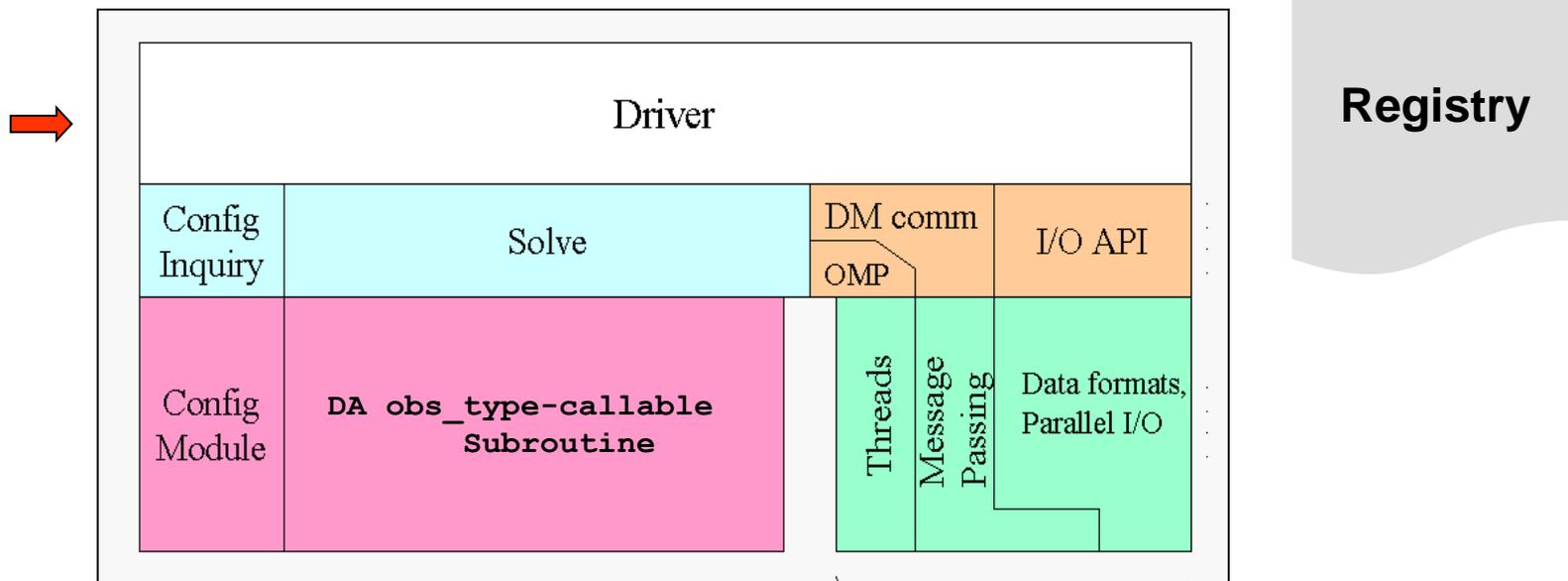
Variable name

Namelist name

Default value

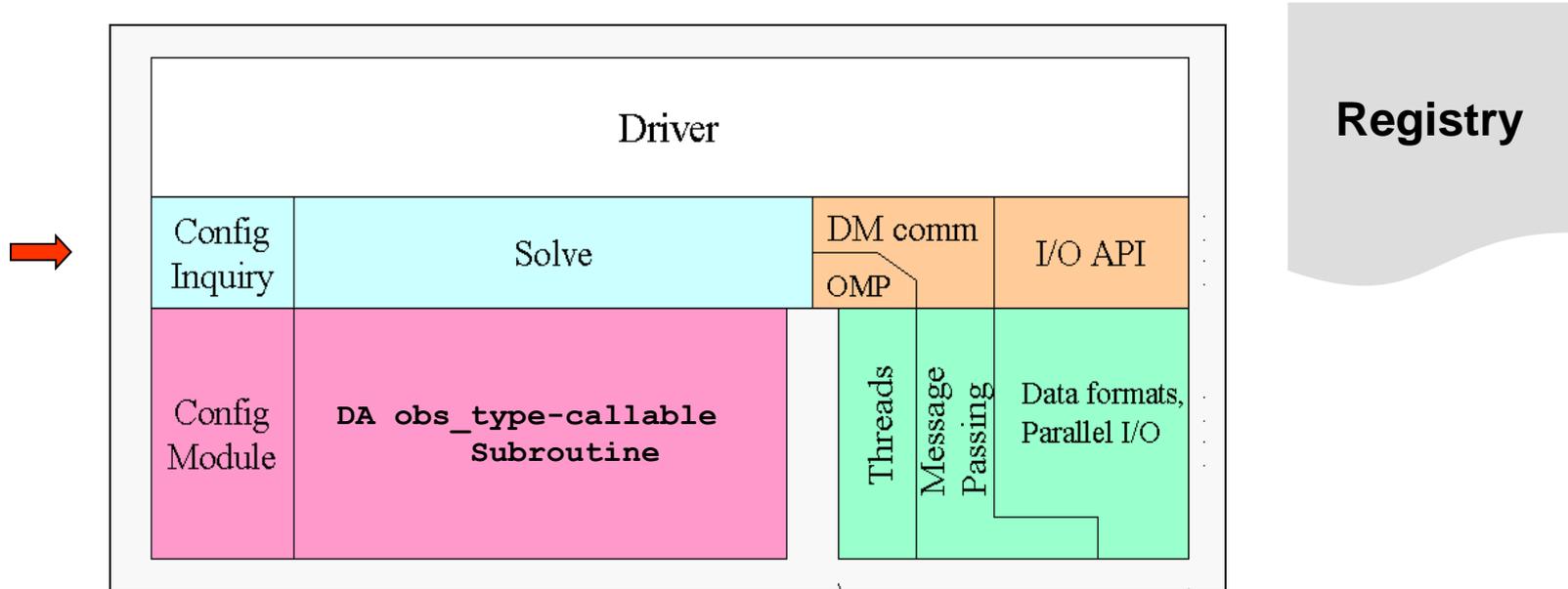
| Variable type | Variable name | Namelist name        | Variable size   | Default value |   |                        |       |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|------------------------|-------|
| rconfig       | integer       | rttov_emis_atlas_ir  | 1               | 0             | - | "rttov_emis_atlas_ir"  | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rttov_emis_atlas_mw  | 1               | 0             | - | "rttov_emis_atlas_mw"  | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rtminit_print        | 1               | 1             | - | "rtminit_print"        | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rtminit_nsensor      | 1               | 1             | - | "rtminit_nsensor"      | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rtminit_platform     | max_instruments | -1            | - | "rtminit_platform"     | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rtminit_satid        | max_instruments | -1.0          | - | "rtminit_satid"        | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rtminit_sensor       | max_instruments | -1.0          | - | "rtminit_sensor"       | "" "" |
| rconfig       | integer       | rad_monitoring       | max_instruments | 0             | - | "rad_monitoring"       | "" "" |
| rconfig       | real          | thinning_mesh        | max_instruments | 60.0          | - | "thinning_mesh"        | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | thinning             | 1               | .true.        | - | "thinning "            | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | read_biascoef        | 1               | .false.       | - | "read_biascoef"        | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | biascorr             | 1               | .false.       | - | "biascorr"             | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | biasprep             | 1               | .false.       | - | "biasprep"             | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | rttov_scatt          | 1               | .false.       | - | "rttov_scatt"          | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | write_profile        | 1               | .false.       | - | "write_profile"        | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | write_jacobian       | 1               | .false.       | - | "write_jacobian"       | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | qc_rad               | 1               | .true.        | - | "qc_rad"               | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | write_iv_rad_ascii   | 1               | .false.       | - | "write_iv_rad_ascii"   | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | write_oa_rad_ascii   | 1               | .false.       | - | "write_oa_rad_ascii"   | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | write_filtered_rad   | 1               | .false.       | - | "write_filtered_rad"   | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | use_error_factor_rad | 1               | .false.       | - | "use_error_factor_rad" | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | use_landem           | 1               | .false.       | - | "use_landem"           | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | use_antcorr          | max_instruments | .false.       | - | "use_antcorr"          | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | use_mspps_emis       | max_instruments | .false.       | - | "use_mspps_emis"       | "" "" |
| rconfig       | logical       | use_mspps_ts         | max_instruments | .false.       | - | "use_mspps_ts"         | "" "" |

# WRFDA Software – Architecture



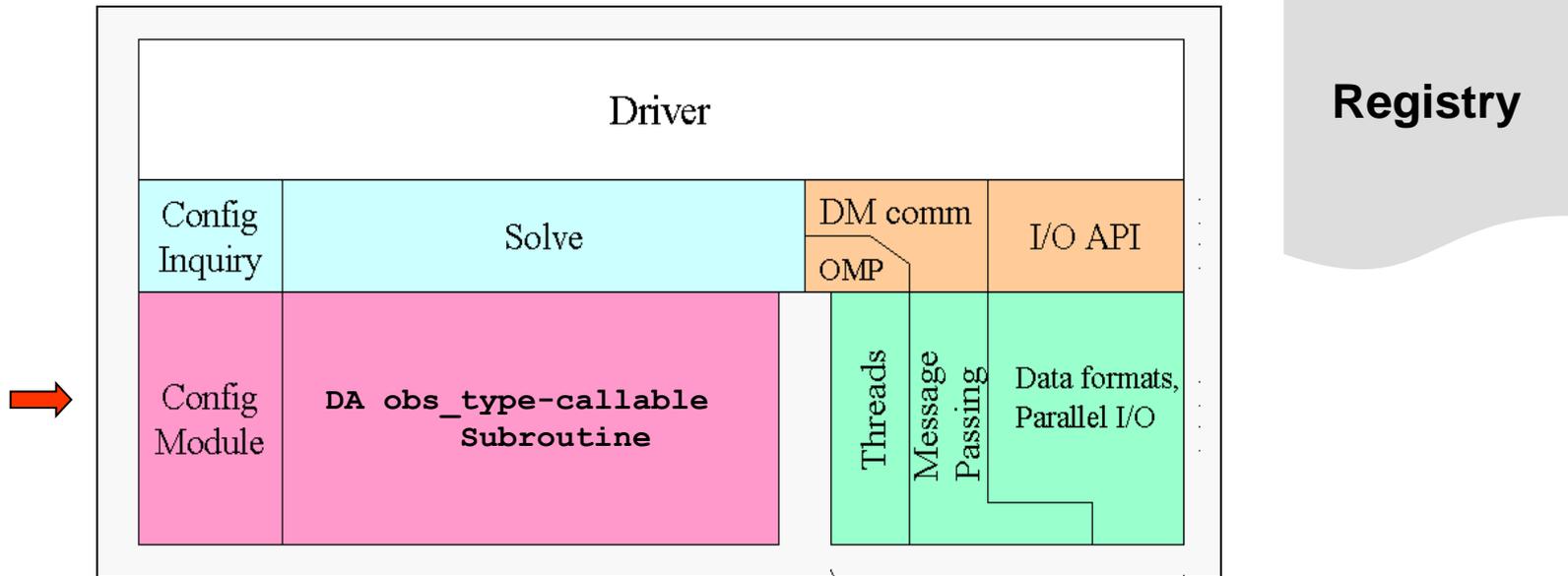
- **Driver** Layer
  - **Domains**: Allocates, stores, decomposes, represents abstractly as *single data objects*

# WRFDA Software – Architecture



- **Minimization/Solver Layer**
  - **Minimization/Solver** routine, choose the function based on the namelist variable, 3DVAR, 4DVAR, FSO or Verification, and choose the **minimization algorithm**.

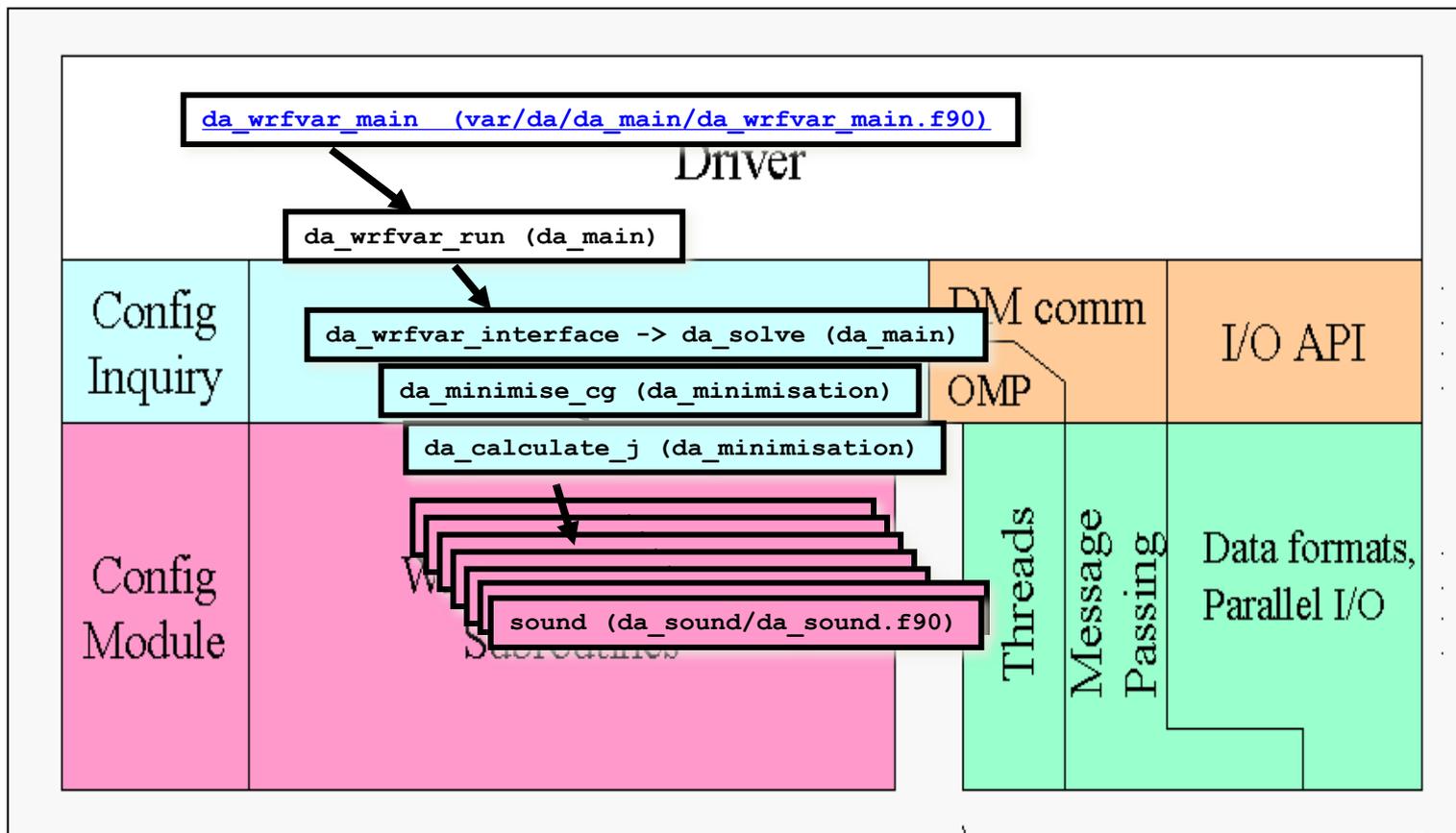
# WRFDA Software – Architecture



- **Observation Layer**
  - **Observation interfaces:** contains the gradient and cost function calculation subroutines for each type of observations.

# Call Structure Superimposed on Architecture

da\_sound.f90 (da\_sound)



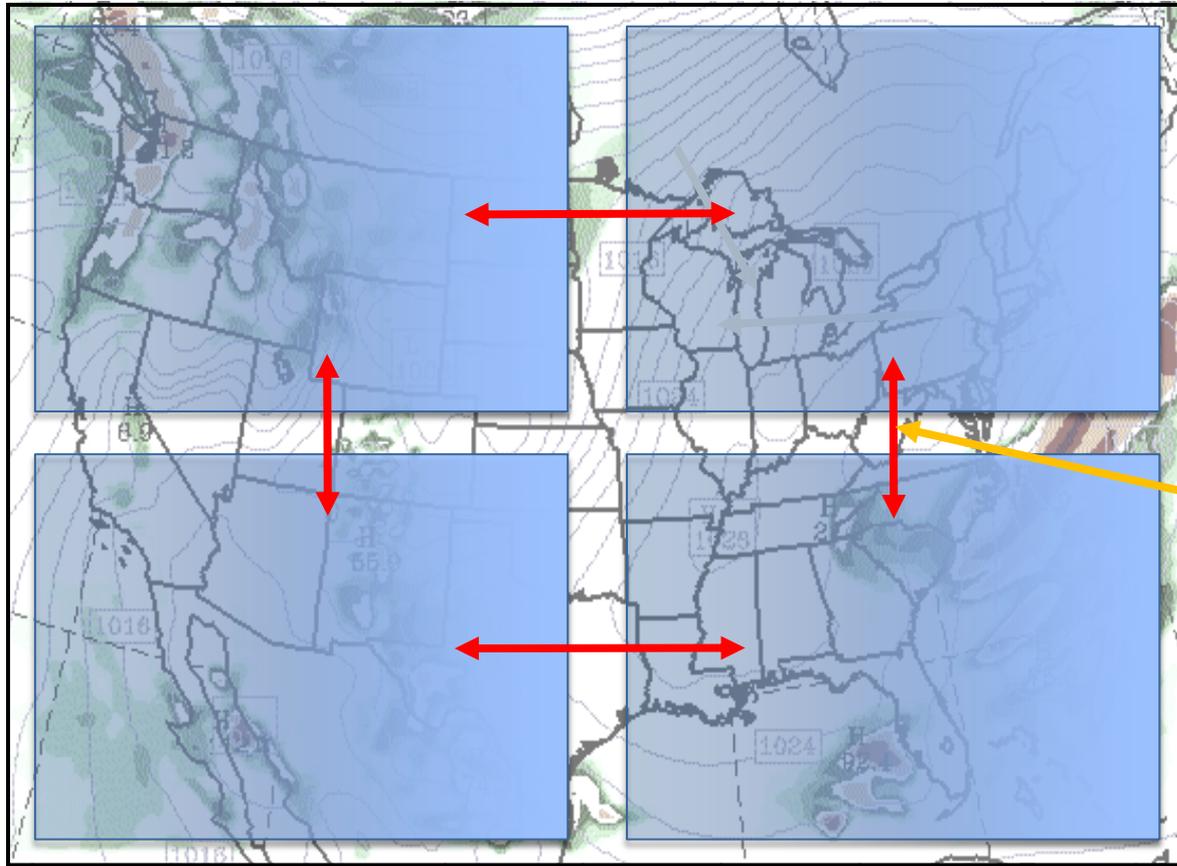
# WRFDA System – Outline

- Introduction
- Compiling the code
- WRFDA software overview
- *Computing overview*

# WRFDA Parallelism

- WRFDA can be run **serially** or as a **parallel** job
- WRFDA uses **domain decomposition** to divide total amount of work over parallel processes
- The **decomposition** of the application over processes has **two levels**:
  - The **domain** is broken up into rectangular pieces that are assigned to **MPI** (distributed memory) processes. These pieces are called **patches**
  - The **patches** may be further subdivided into smaller rectangular pieces that are called **tiles**, and these are assigned to **shared-memory threads** within the process.
- *However, WRFDA does not support shared memory parallelism! So distributed memory is what I will cover here.*

# Parallelism in WRFDA: Multi-level Decomposition



Inter-processor  
communication

# Distributed Memory Communications

## When Needed?

Communication is required between patches when a horizontal index is incremented or decremented on the right-hand-side of an assignment.

## Why?

On a patch boundary, the index may refer to a value that is on a different patch.

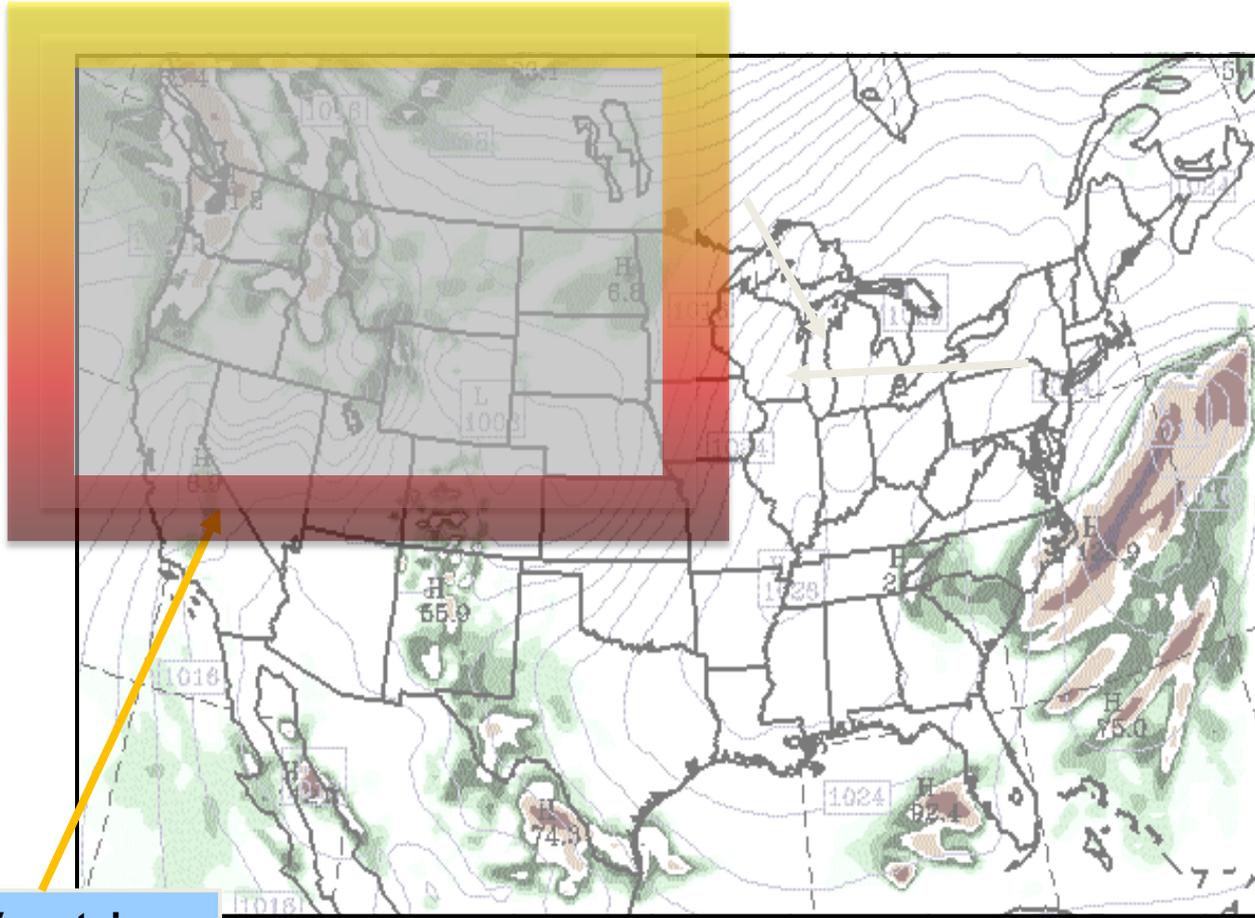
Following is an example code fragment that requires communication between patches

## Signs in code

Note the tell-tale **+1** and **-1** expressions in indices for `rr`, `H1`, and `H2` arrays on right-hand side of assignment.

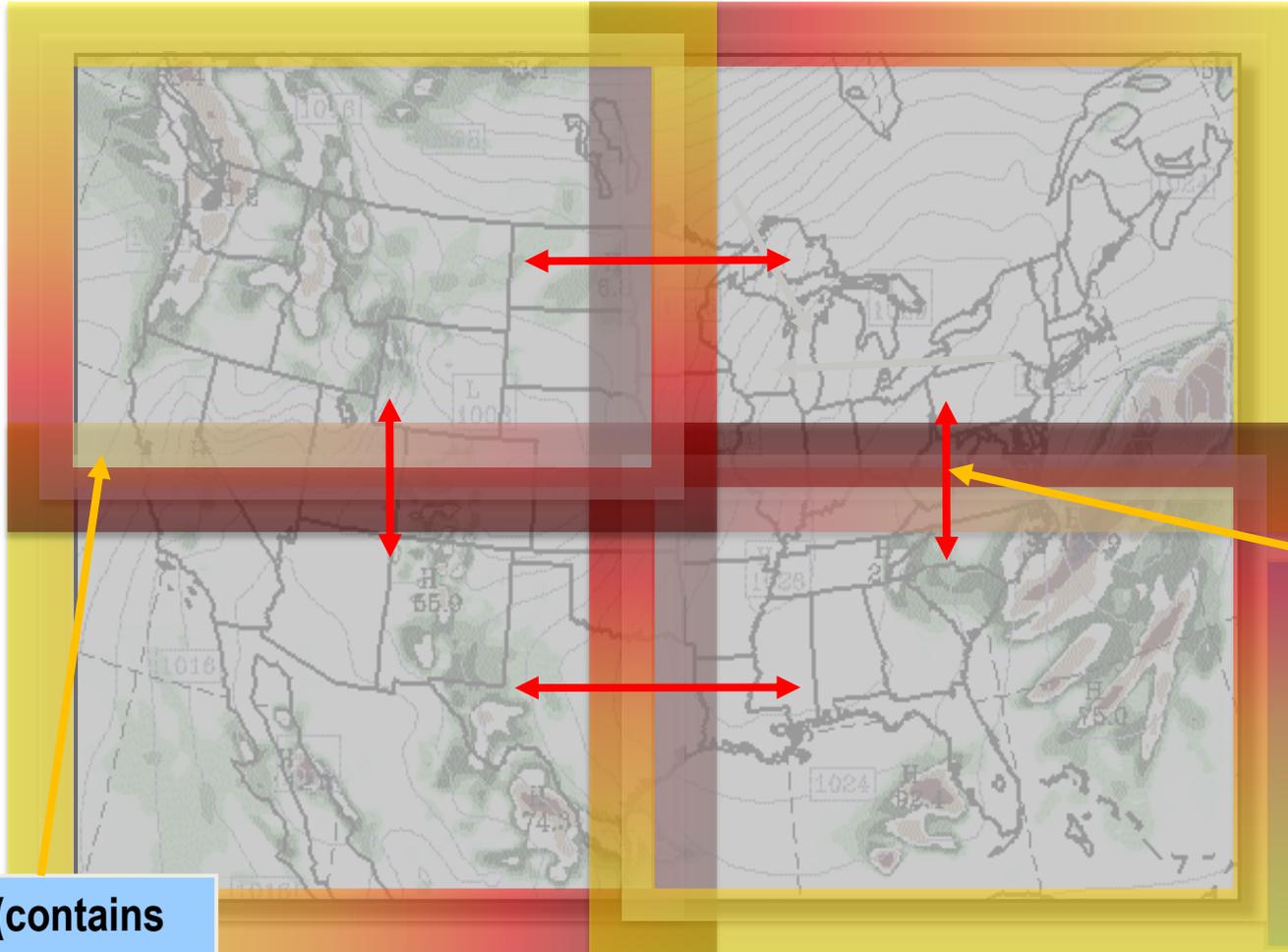
These are *horizontal data dependencies* because the indexed operands may lie in the patch of a neighboring processor. That neighbor's updates to that element of the array won't be seen on this processor.

# Distributed Memory Communications



**Halo (contains information about adjacent patch)**

# Distributed Memory Communications



Halo (contains information about adjacent patch)

Inter-processor communication  
(Halos update from adjacent patch after each minimization step)

# Grid Representation in Arrays

- Increasing indices in WRFDA arrays run
  - West to East (X, or I-dimension)
  - South to North (Y, or J-dimension)
  - Bottom to Top (Z, or K-dimension)
- Storage order in **WRFDA** is **IJK**, but for WRF, it is **IKJ** (**ARW**) and **IJK** (**NMM**)
- Output data has grid ordering independent of the ordering inside the WRFDA model

# Grid Representation in Arrays

- The extent of the logical or *domain* dimensions is always the "staggered" grid dimension. That is, from the point of view of a non-staggered dimension (also referred to as the ARW "mass points"), there is always an extra cell on the end of the domain dimension
- In WRFDA, the minimization is on A-grid (non-staggered grid). The wind components will be interpolated from A-grid to C-grid (staggered grid) before they are output, to conform with standard WRF format

# Summary

- WRFDA
  - is designed to be an easy-to-use data assimilation system for use with the WRF model
  - is designed within the WRF Software Framework for rapid development and ease of modification
  - is compiled in much the same way as WRF
  - can be run in parallel for quick assimilation of large amounts of data on large domains

# Appendix – WRFDA Resources

- WRFDA users page
  - <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda>
  - Download WRFDA source code, test data, related packages and documentation
  - Lists WRFDA news and developments
- Online documentation
  - [http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user\\_guide\\_V3/users\\_guide\\_chap6.htm](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/docs/user_guide_V3/users_guide_chap6.htm)
  - Chapter 6 of the WRF Users' Guide; documents installation of WRFDA and running of various WRFDA methods
- WRFDA user services and help desk
  - [wrfhelp@ucar.edu](mailto:wrfhelp@ucar.edu)

## Appendix – WRFDA History

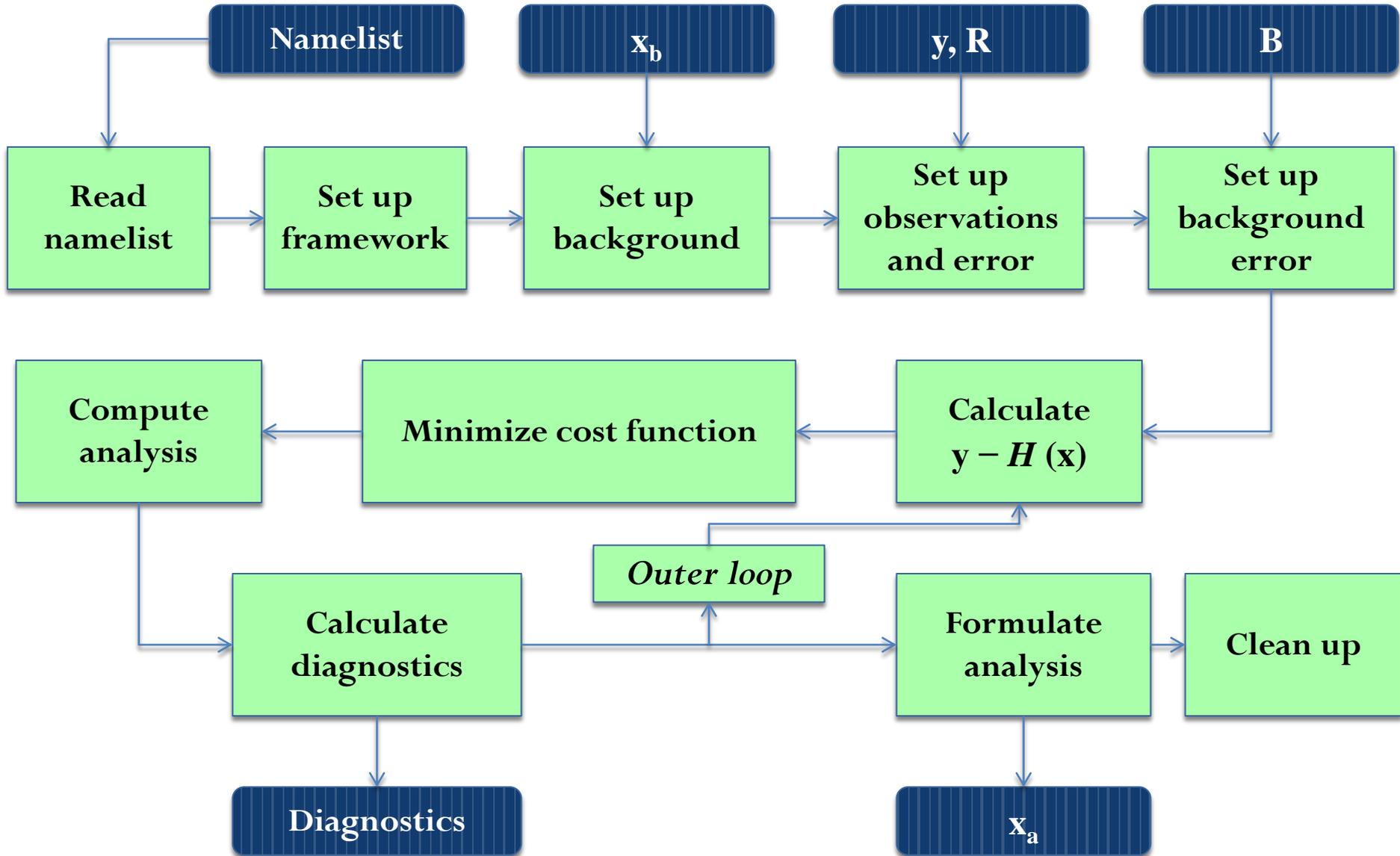
- Developed from MM5 3DVar beginning around 2002, first version (2.0) released December 2003
- 4DVAR capability added in 2008, made practical with parallelism starting with Version 3.4 (April 2012)
- Developed and supported by WRFDA group of the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Lab of NCAR
- Requirements emphasize flexibility over a range of platforms, applications, users, performance
- Current release WRFDA v3.7 (April 2015)
- Shares the WRF Software Framework

# WRFDA and J

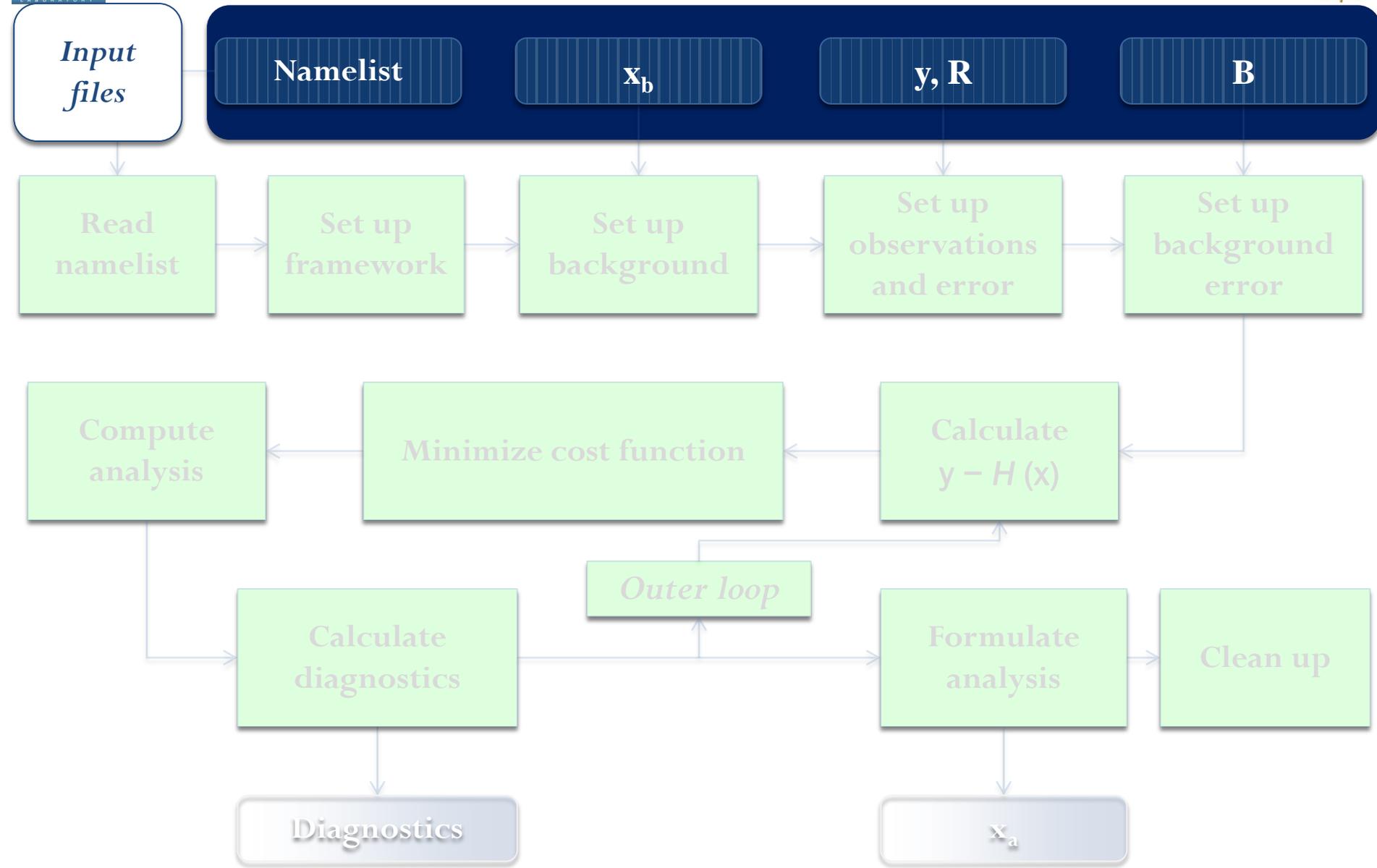
$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b) + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}))^T \mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}))$$

- Model background ( $\mathbf{x}_b$ )
- Background error ( $\mathbf{B}$ )
- Observations ( $\mathbf{y}_0$ ) and their associated error statistics ( $\mathbf{R}$ )
- Minimize this cost function ( $J(\mathbf{x})$ ) to find the analysis ( $\mathbf{x}$ )
- Run forecast, repeat for cycling mode

# WRFDA broken down by process



# WRFDA broken down by process



# Input files

- `namelist.input`

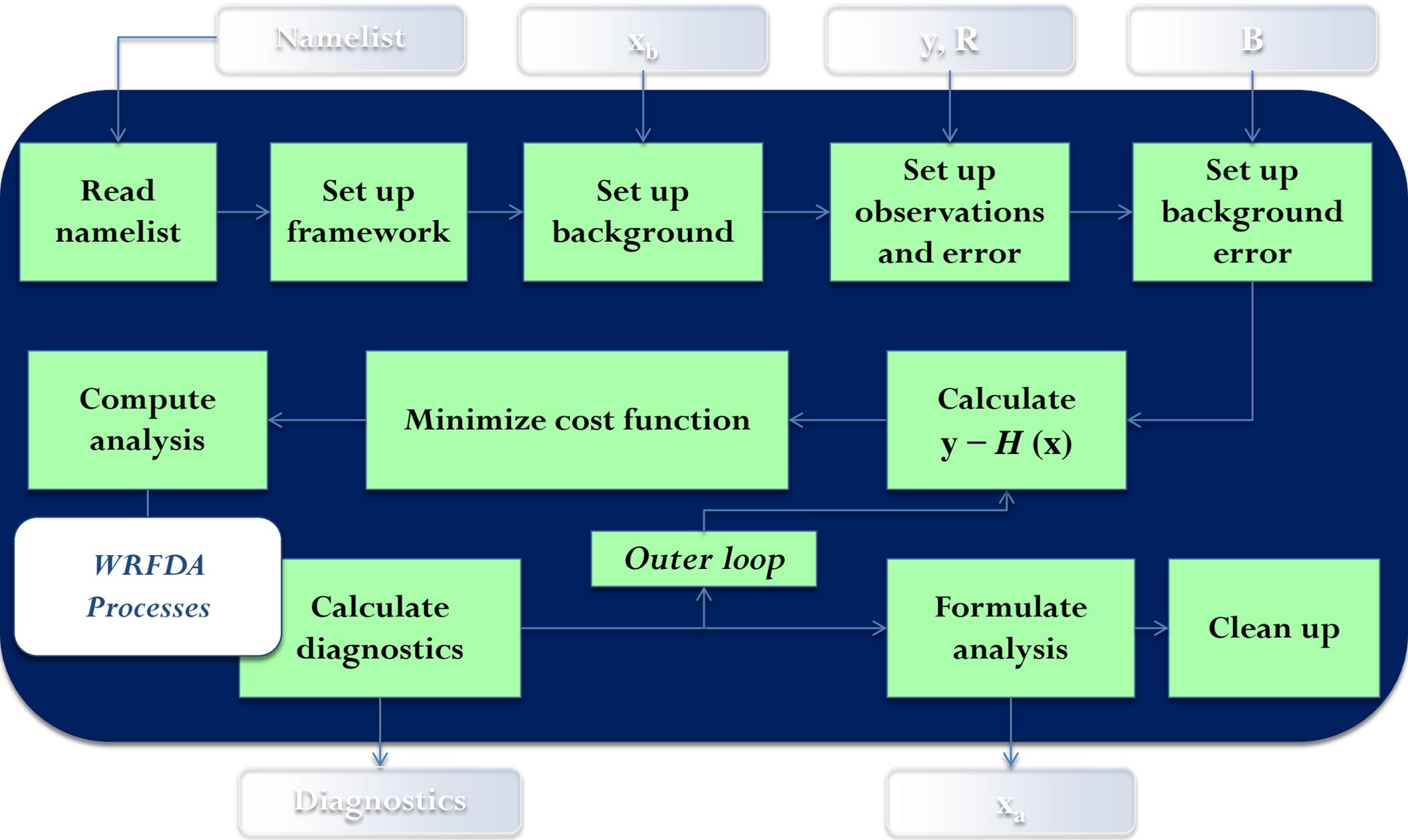
The input file where the user specifies the different options for a WRFDA run. This allows user great flexibility to change the usage of WRFDA without having to recompile
- `fg`

“First guess”; can be either a WRF input file created by WPS and `real.exe`, or a WRF output file from a forecast.
- `ob.ascii`, `amsua.buf`,  
`ob01.rain`, etc

WRFDA accepts a wide variety of observations in several different formats, which will be described in later talks
- `be.dat`

This is a binary file containing background error information; it can be generated using the `GEN_BE` utility, which will be described in a later talk

# WRFDA broken down by process



# Read namelist

- Read user-specified options from `namelist.input`
- Set default values for options *not* specified in the namelist
- Perform consistency checks between namelist options

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_init1, da_wrfvar_init2 ==> call initial_config
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_init1.inc, da_wrfvar_init2.inc ==> module_configure.F
```

# Set up framework

- Utilize WRF Software Framework distributed memory capability to allocate and configure the domain
- Allocate needed memory, initializes domain and tile dimensions, etc.
- Create output files

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_init2 ==> call alloc_and_configure_domain
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call
da_solve ==> call da_solve_init
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_init2.inc ==> module_domain.F
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==> da_solve_init.inc
```

# Set up background

- Read the first-guess file
- Extract fields used by WRFDA
- Create background FORTRAN 90 derived data type *xb*, etc.

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_init2 ==> call da_med_initialdata_input
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==>call da_setup_firstguess
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_init2.inc ==> da_med_initialdata_input.inc
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_setup_firstguess.inc
```

# Set up observations and error

- Read in observations
- Assign observational error
- Create observation FORTRAN 90 derived data type *ob*
- Domain and time check

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==> call da_setup_obs_structures
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_setup_obs_structures.inc
```

# Set up background error

- Reads in background error statistics from `be.dat`
- Extracts necessary quantities: eigenvectors, eigenvalues, lengthscales, regression coefficients, etc.
- Creates background error FORTRAN 90 derived data type *be*
- Specifics of background error in WRFDA be covered in more detail in a later talk

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==>call da_setup_background_errors
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_setup_background_errors.inc
```

# Minimize cost function

- Use conjugate gradient method
  - Initializes analysis increments to zero
  - Computes cost function
  - Computes gradient of cost function
  - Uses gradient of the cost function to calculate new value of analysis control variable
- Increment this process until specified minimization is achieved

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==>call da_minimise_cg
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_minimise_cg.inc
```

# Compute analysis

- Convert control variables to model space analysis increments
- Calculate analysis = first-guess + analysis increment
- Perform consistency checks (e.g., remove negative humidity)

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==>call da_transfer_xatoanalysis
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_transfer_xatoanalysis.inc
```

# Calculate diagnostics

- Output  $\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}_b)$ ,  $\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}_a)$  statistics for all observation types and variables
- Compute  $\mathbf{x}_a - \mathbf{x}_b$  (analysis increment) statistics for all model variables and levels
- Statistics include minimum, maximum (and their locations), mean and standard deviation.

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==>call da_transfer_xatoanalysis
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_transfer_xatoanalysis.inc
```

# Outer loop

- An outer loop is a method of iterative assimilation to maximize contributions from observations non-linearly related to the control variables (e.g., GPS refractivity, Doppler radial velocity)
  - After the previous steps, the analysis  $\mathbf{X}_a$  is used as the new first guess
  - The cost function minimization and diagnostic steps are repeated
  - This can be repeated up to 100 times, though only a few should be necessary

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
```

# Write analysis

- Write analysis file in native WRF format (netCDF).

## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
==>call da_transfer_xatoanalysis
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
==>da_transfer_xatoanalysis.inc
```

# Clean up

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

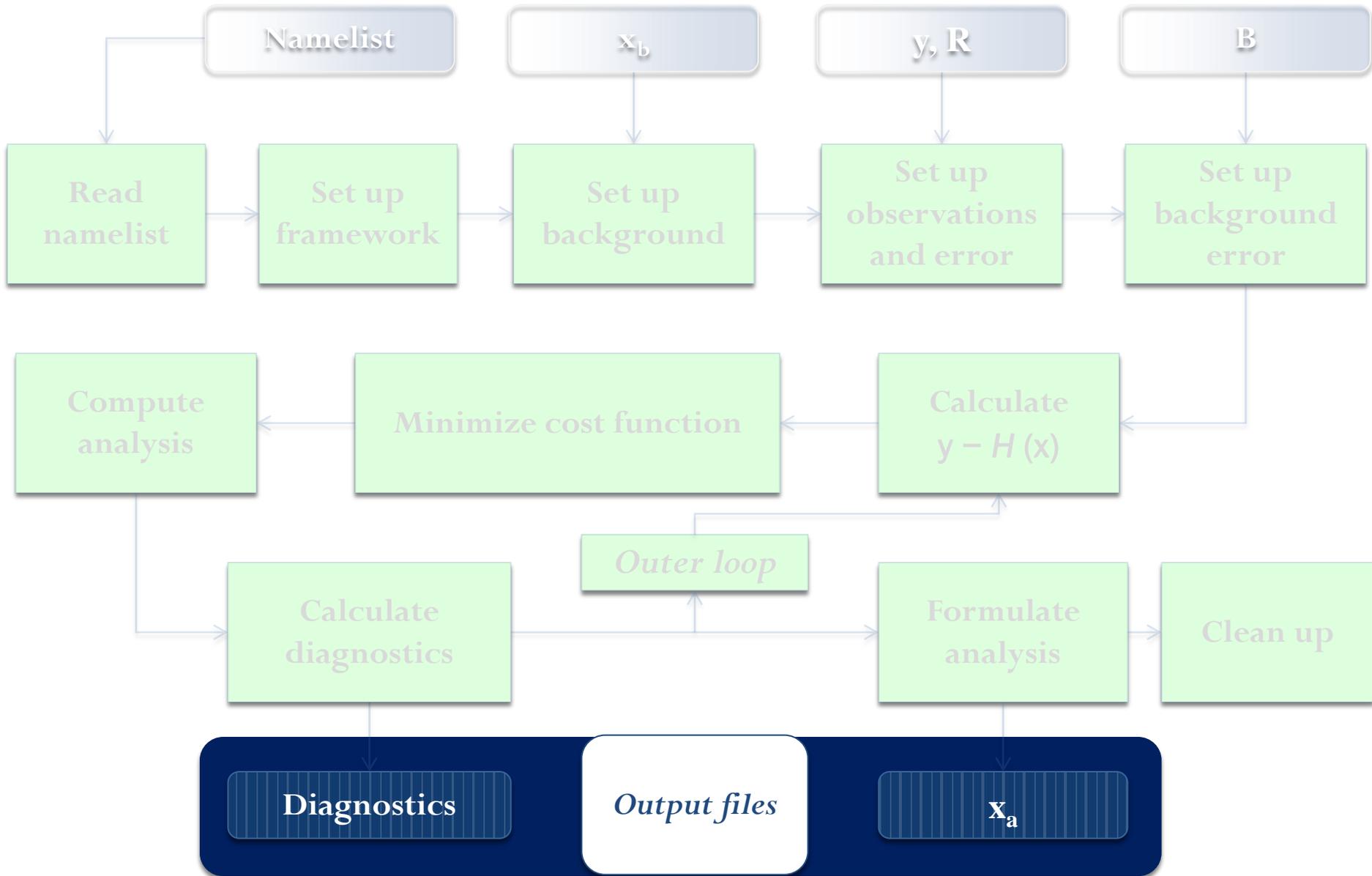
## Calling order:

```
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_run ==> call da_wrfvar_interface ==> call da_solve
da_wrfvar_main ==> call da_wrfvar_finalize
```

## Calling subroutines:

```
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_run.inc ==> da_wrfvar_interface.inc ==> da_solve.inc
da_wrfvar_main.f90 ==> da_wrfvar_finalize.inc
```

# WRFDA broken down by process



# Output files: Diagnostics

- File names: `grad_fn`, `jo`, `qcstat_conv*`, `statistics`, etc.
- There will be a number of diagnostics files output by WRFDA
  - Many will end in `.0000`, `.0001`, etc.; these are diagnostics specific to each processor used
  - Many will also contain a `_01`; these files will appear for each outer loop as `_02`, `_03`, etc.
- More or fewer output files can be specified by certain namelist options

# Output files: $x_a$ (analysis)

- File name: `wrfvar_output`
- This is the model output in WRF native format (netCDF). This file can be used directly for research purposes, or used to initialize a WRF forecast