

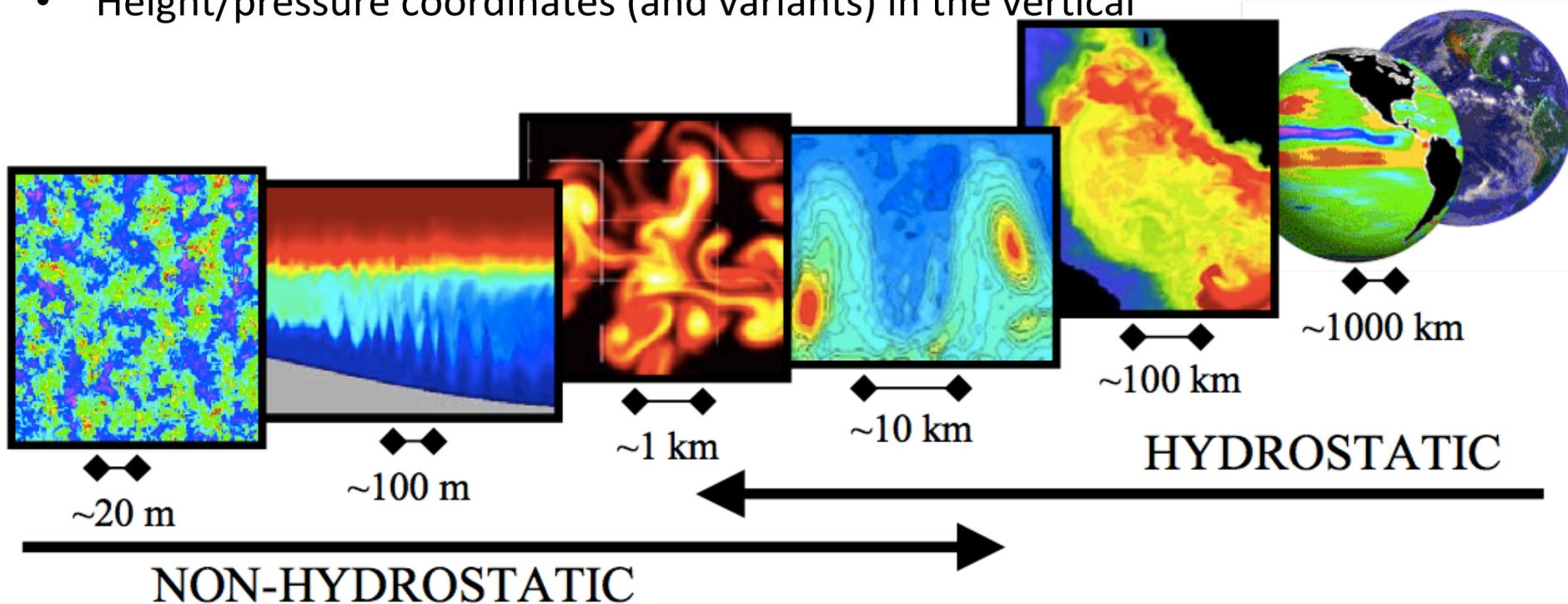
# MITgcm capabilities and development

Lecture 3

David Ferreira  
University of Reading

1. MITgcm, structure, capabilities
2. Two exoplanet applications

- Modular/versatile code, from global scale down to small scale processes
- Navier-Stokes equation including non-hydrostatic capability
- Finite volume method
- Horizontal orthogonal curvilinear
- Height/pressure coordinates (and variants) in the vertical



Reference papers:

Marshall et al. 1997a: A finite-volume, incompressible Navier-Stokes model for studies of the ocean on parallel computers. *JGR*, 102, 5753-5766.

Marshall et al. 1997a: Hydrostatic, quasi-hydrostatic, and non-hydrostatic ocean modeling. *JGR*, 102, 5733-5752.

Adcroft et al. 2004: Overview of the Formulation and Numerics of the MIT GCM (ECMWF Newsletter)

# Incompressible Boussinesq height coordinate equations

$$D_t \rho \ll \rho \nabla \cdot \vec{v}$$

$$\rho' = (\rho - \rho_o) \ll \rho_o$$

$$\rho_o D_t \vec{v} + 2\Omega \times \rho_o \vec{v} + g\rho \hat{k} + \nabla p = \vec{F}$$

$$\rho_o \nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

$$\partial_t \eta + \nabla \cdot (H + \eta) \vec{v}_h = P - E$$

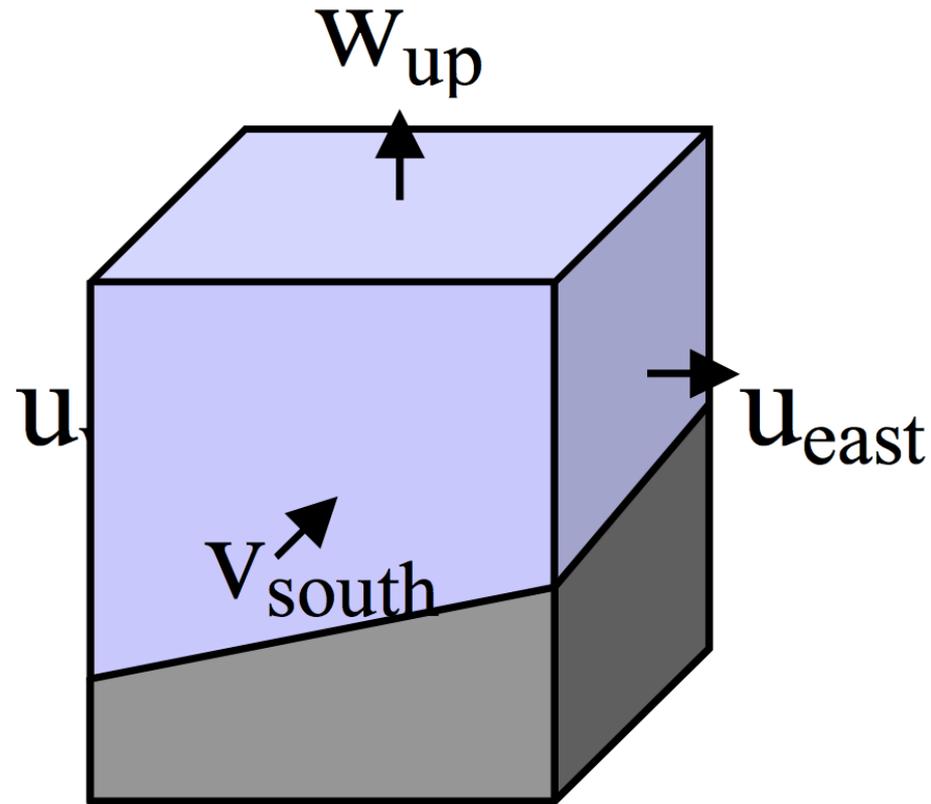
$$D_t \theta = Q_\theta$$

$$D_t s = Q_s$$

$$\rho = \rho(s, \theta, p)$$

# Finite volume discretization

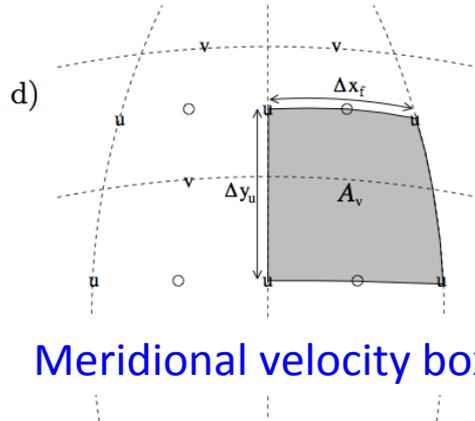
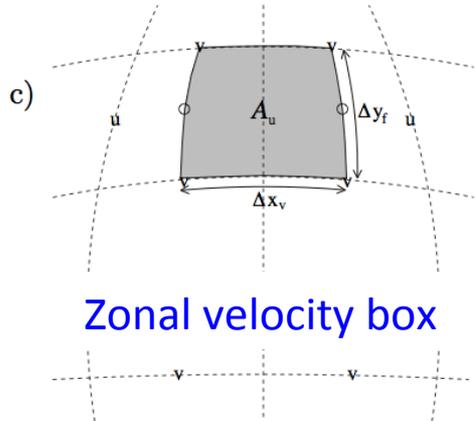
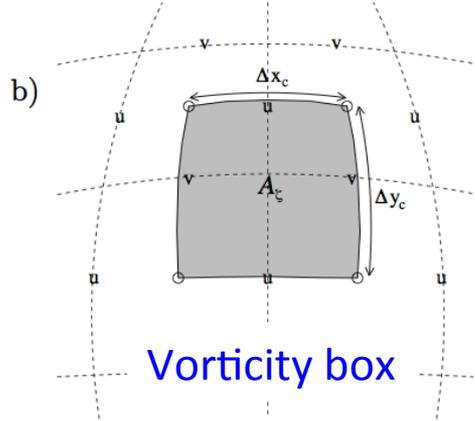
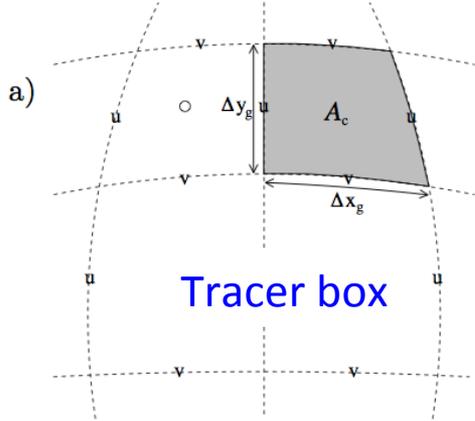
- Budgets integrated over volumes
- Boundary conditions (no flux) naturally accounted for
- Staggered velocities:  
→ Arakawa C grid



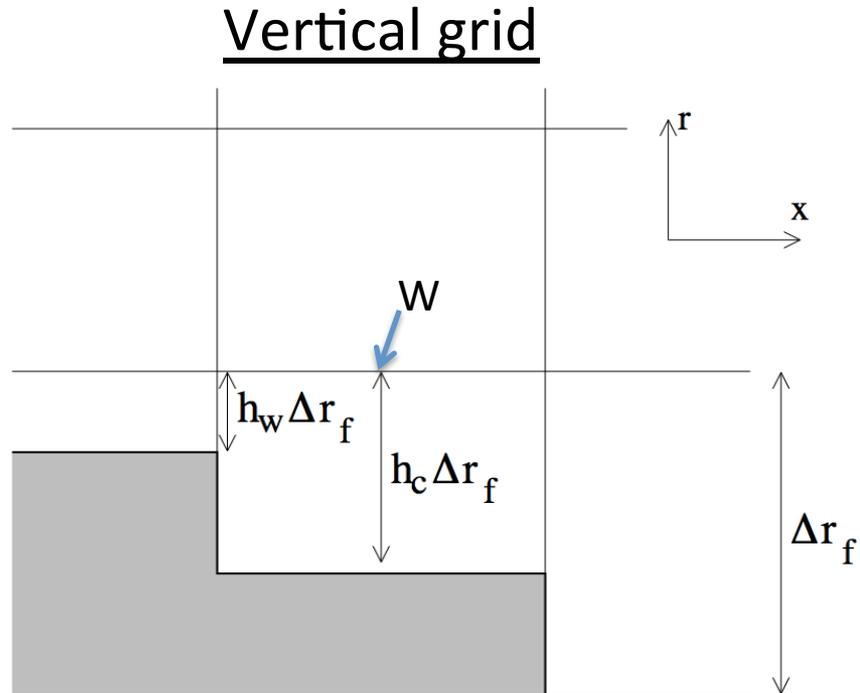
Ex: volume budget

$$A_{\text{east}}^u u_{\text{east}} - A_{\text{west}}^u u_{\text{west}} + A_{\text{north}}^v v_{\text{north}} - A_{\text{south}}^v v_{\text{south}} + A_{\text{up}}^w w_{\text{up}} - A_{\text{down}}^w w_{\text{down}} = 0$$

# Horizontal C-grid



Can include partial/shaved cells →



# Solving method (illustration for the rigid-lid approximation)

Key step: solve for surface pressure diagnostically:  $P = P_s + P_H$

Surface pressure  
term

$$\partial_t u + g \partial_x \eta = G_u$$

$$\partial_t v + g \partial_y \eta = G_v$$

$$\partial_x u + \partial_y v + \partial_z w = 0$$

includes hydrostatic pressure  
with  $P_H(z=0)=0$   
+ advection term  
+ friction  
+ wind stress  
+ ...

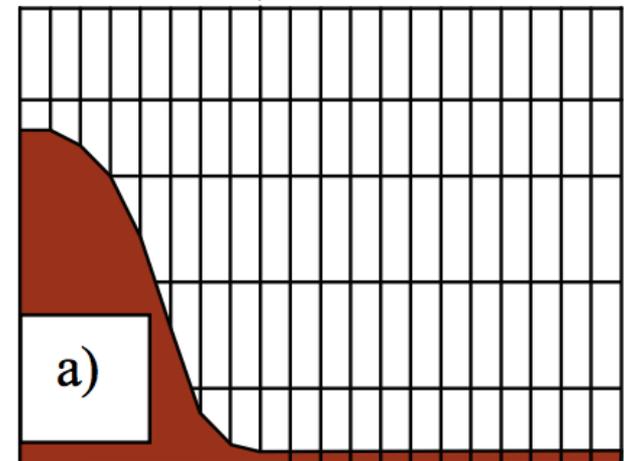
$$p = p_s = g \rho_0 \eta$$

$$w=0$$

Vertical integral of non-divergence:

$$\partial_x H \hat{u} + \partial_y H \hat{v} = 0$$

$$H \hat{u} = \int_H u dz$$

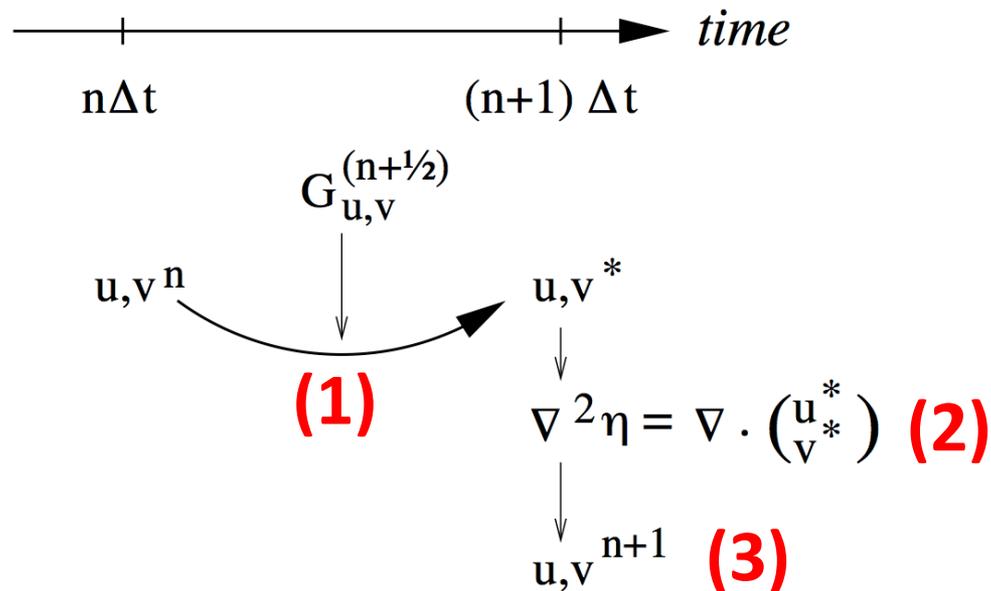


# Solve for pressure and step forward

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} u^* &= u^n + \Delta t G_u^{(n+1/2)} / 2 \\ v^* &= v^n + \Delta t G_v^{(n+1/2)} / 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\partial_x \Delta t g H \partial_x \eta^{n+1} + \partial_y \Delta t g H \partial_y \eta^{n+1} = \partial_x H \widehat{u}^* + \partial_y H \widehat{v}^* \quad (2)$$

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} u^{n+1} &= u^* - \Delta t g \partial_x \eta^{n+1} \\ v^{n+1} &= v^* - \Delta t g \partial_y \eta^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$



# More than one option of the governing equations

Hydrostatic  $\leftrightarrow$  Non-hydrostatic

$$\phi(x, y, r) = \phi_s(x, y) + \phi_{hyd}(x, y, r) + \phi_{nh}(x, y, r)$$

Deep anelastic

$$\frac{\partial \vec{v}_h}{\partial t} + \nabla_h \phi_s + \nabla_h \phi_{hyd} + \epsilon_{nh} \nabla_h \phi_{nh} = \vec{G} \vec{v}_h$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi_{hyd}}{\partial r} = -b$$

$$\epsilon_{nh} \frac{\partial \phi_{nh}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \phi_{nh}}{\partial r} = G_{\dot{r}}$$

$$G_u = -\vec{v} \cdot \nabla u - \left\{ \frac{u^2}{r} - \frac{uv \tan \varphi}{r} \right\} - \left\{ -2\Omega v \sin \varphi + 2\Omega \dot{r} \cos \varphi \right\} + \mathcal{F}_u$$

advection  
metric  
Coriolis  
Forcing/Dissipation

**Hydrostatic primitive equation**  
 $r \rightarrow a$  (radius of Earth)

$$G_v = -\vec{v} \cdot \nabla v - \left\{ \frac{v^2}{r} - \frac{u^2 \tan \varphi}{r} \right\} - \left\{ -2\Omega u \sin \varphi \right\} + \mathcal{F}_v$$

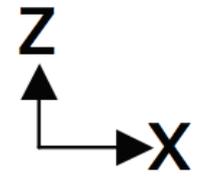
advection  
metric  
Coriolis  
Forcing/Dissipation

**Quasi-hydrostatic**

**Non-hydrostatic**

$$G_{\dot{r}} = -\vec{v} \cdot \nabla \dot{r} + \left\{ \frac{u^2 + v^2}{r} \right\} + 2\Omega u \cos \varphi + \mathcal{F}_{\dot{r}}$$

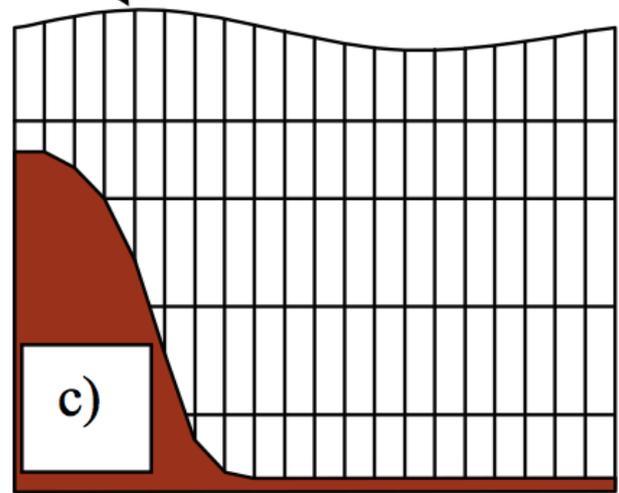
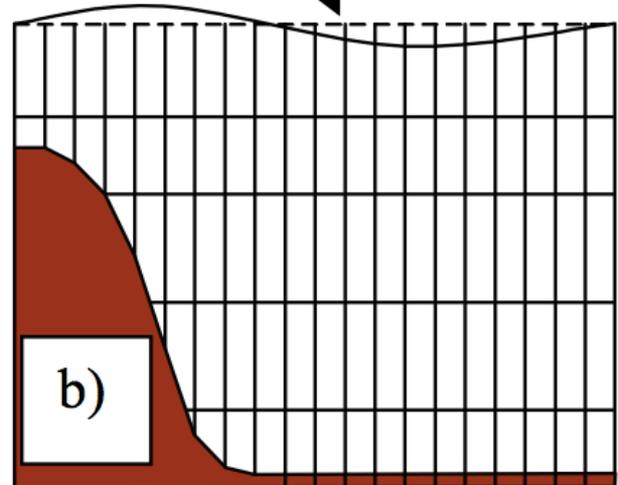
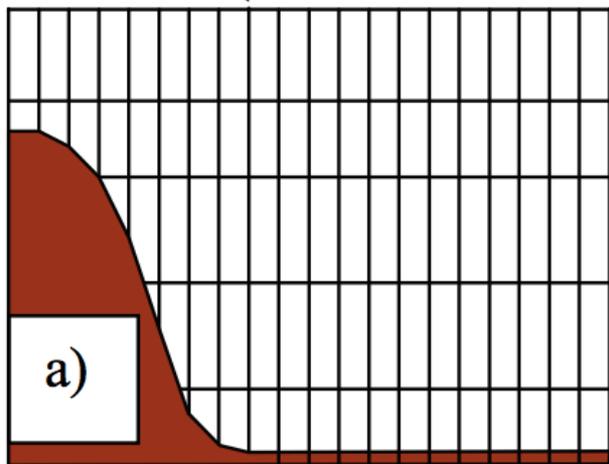
advection  
metric  
Coriolis  
Forcing/Dissipation



$$p = p_s$$

$$p = g\rho_o\eta$$

$$p = 0$$



$P_s$  (or pseudo  $\eta$ )  
solved such that

$$\nabla \cdot \int_{-H}^0 \vec{v} dz = 0$$

No surface wave

Neglect small terms in  
continuity equation

$$\partial_t \eta + \nabla \cdot \int_{-H}^0 \vec{v} dz = P - E$$

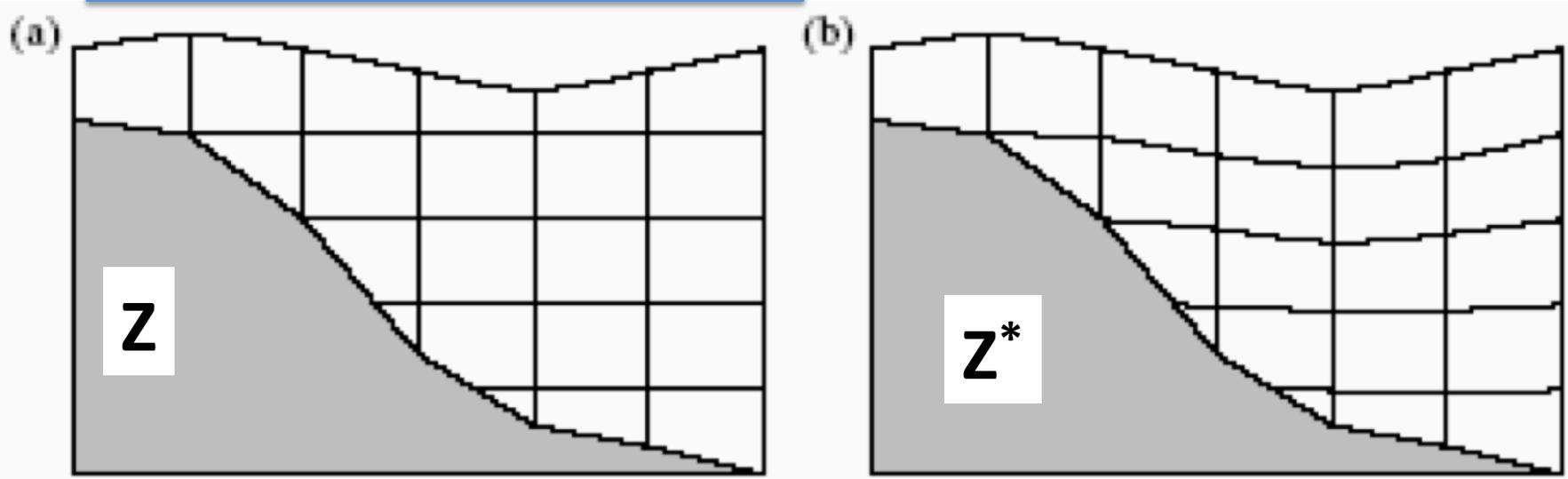
- Surface wave with finite speed
- Good for  $\eta \ll H$
- Non-conservation issues

No approximation

$$\partial_t \eta + \nabla \cdot \int_{-H}^{\eta} \vec{v} dz = P - E$$

- Better conservation
- More costly computationally
- Problem for  $|\eta| \approx \Delta Z_1$

# Stretched vertical coordinate



$$z^* = \frac{z - \eta}{H + \eta} H$$

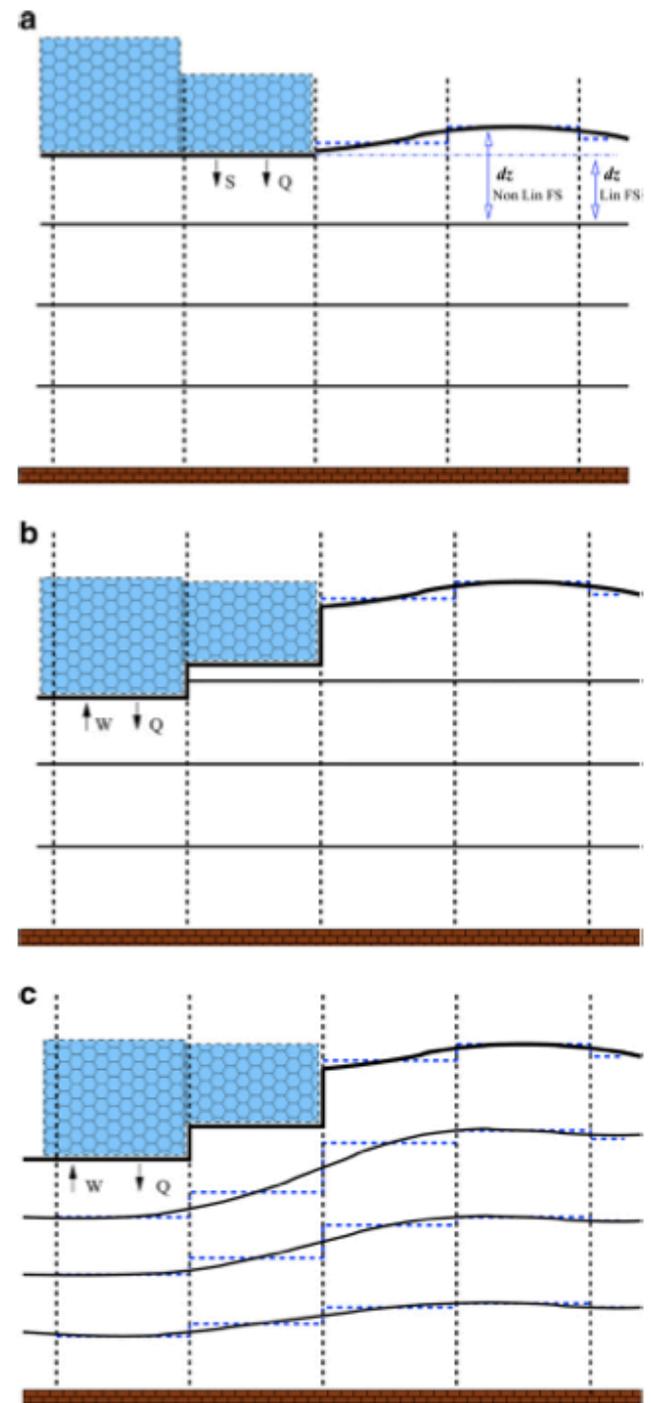
- $z^*$  close to  $z$
- Pressure gradient error
- Similarity to terrain following coordinate
- but small slope

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} z = -H \\ w = -\vec{v}_h \cdot \nabla H \end{array} \right) \Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{c} z^* = -H \\ w^* = -\vec{v}_h \cdot \nabla H \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} z = \eta \\ w = D_t \eta - (P - E) \end{array} \right) \Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{c} z^* = 0 \\ w^* = \frac{-H}{H + \eta} (P - E) \end{array} \right)$$

## Application to sea ice and coupled problem (Campin et al. 2008)

- avoids the difficult issue of vanishing levels under thick ice
- Non-linear sea surface even with sea ice  $\rightarrow$  real freshwater flux treatment globally
- achieve perfect conservation of fresh water, heat and salt, as shown in extended integration of coupled ocean sea ice atmospheric model



## Ocean (z-coordinate)

$$D_t \vec{v}_h + f \hat{k} \times \vec{v}_h + \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla_z p = \vec{F}$$

$$\partial_z p + g\rho = 0$$

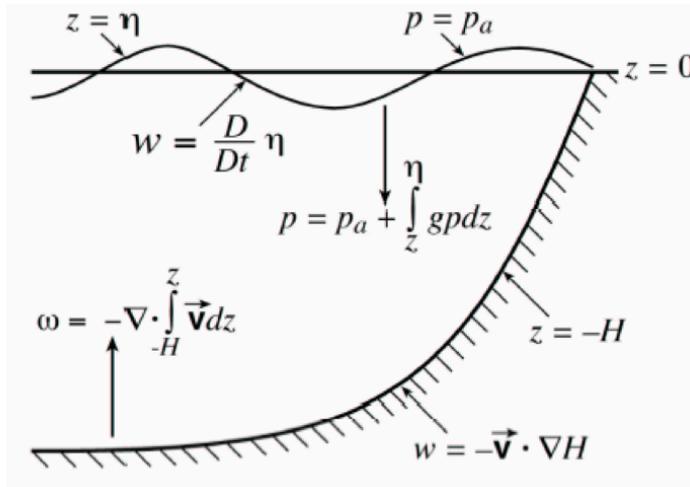
$$\nabla_z \cdot \vec{v}_h + \partial_z w = 0$$

$$\partial_t \eta + \nabla \cdot (H + \eta) \vec{v}_h = P - E$$

$$D_t \theta = Q_\theta$$

$$D_t s = Q_s$$

$$\rho = \rho(s, \theta, p)$$



Isomorphism  
between ocean  
and atmosphere

## Variables:

$$Z \leftrightarrow P$$

$$P \leftrightarrow \Phi$$

$$\rho \leftrightarrow \alpha$$

$$w \leftrightarrow \omega$$

$$\Theta$$

$$S \leftrightarrow q$$

$$H + \eta \leftrightarrow p_s$$

## Atmosphere (p-coordinate)

$$D_t \vec{v}_h + f \hat{k} \times \vec{v}_h + \nabla_p \Phi = \vec{F}$$

$$\partial_p \Phi + \alpha = 0$$

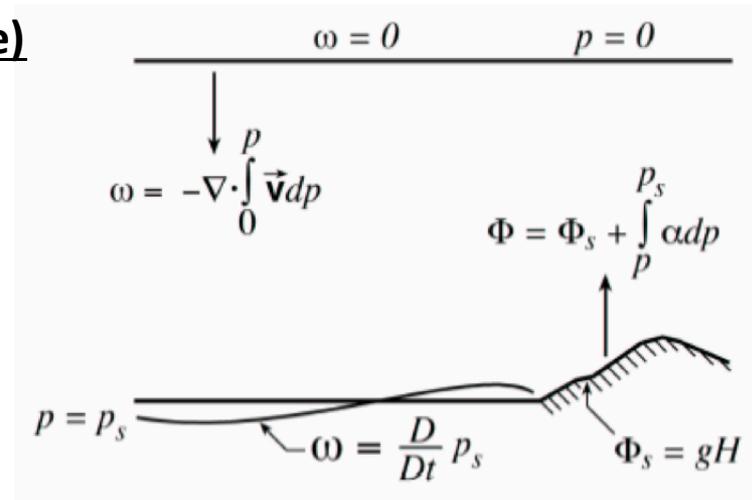
$$\nabla_p \cdot \vec{v}_h + \partial_p \omega = 0$$

$$\partial_t p_s + \nabla \cdot p_s \langle \vec{v}_h \rangle = 0$$

$$D_t \theta = Q_\theta$$

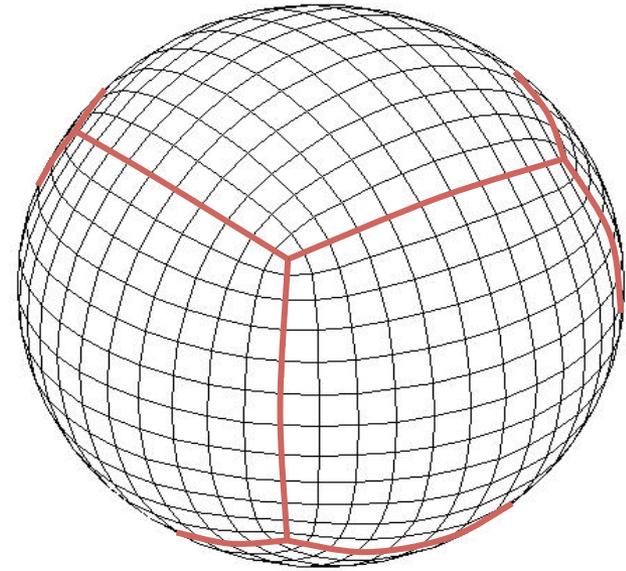
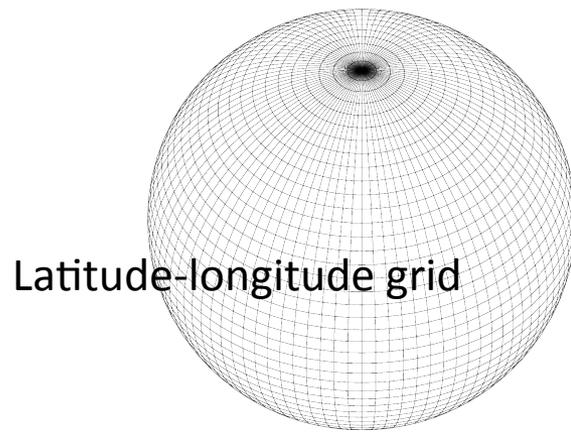
$$D_t q = Q_q$$

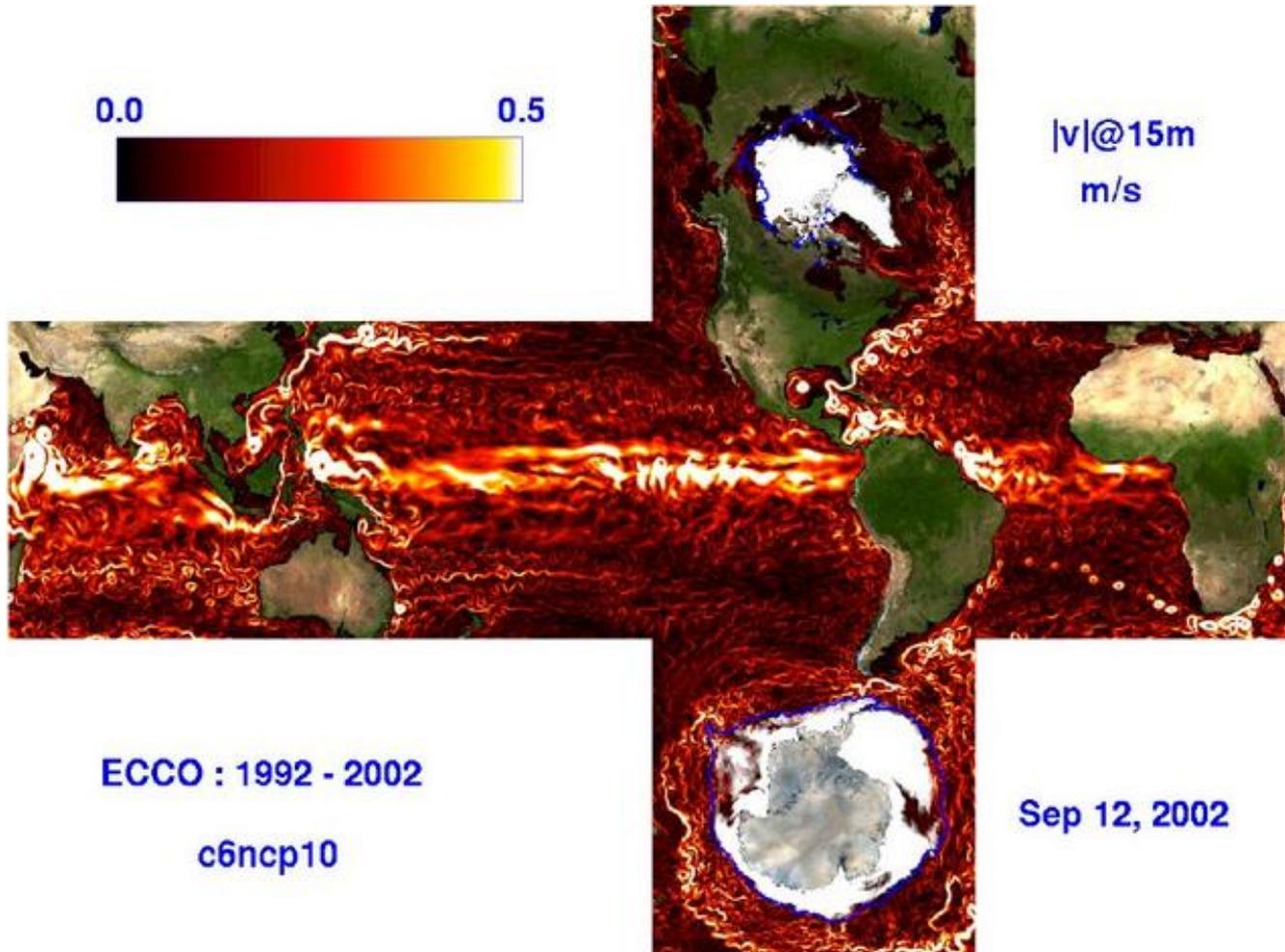
$$\alpha = \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial p} \theta$$



## Isomorphism between ocean and atmosphere

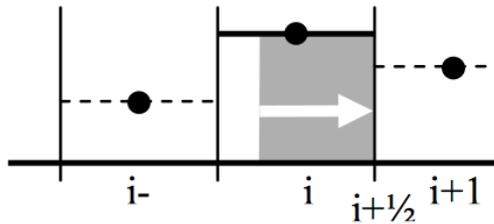
- MITgcm is both an ocean and an atmospheric model
- Development for ocean → “almost” done for atmosphere and vice-versa
  - ex:  $p^*$  coordinate available for atmosphere (analogous to  $z^*$ )
- Possibility for a non-Boussinesq ocean (pressure coordinate ocean)
- Combined with cubed-sphere: easy and conservative coupling (Campin et al. 2008)



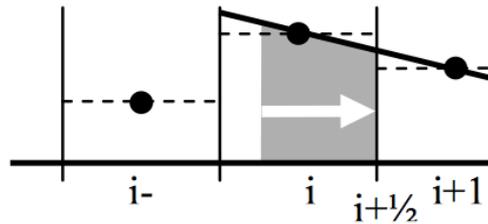


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liohY282oi8>

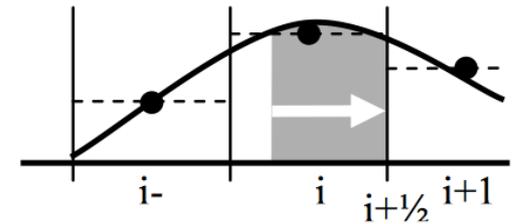
# Advection schemes



$F^{US}$



$F^{LW}$



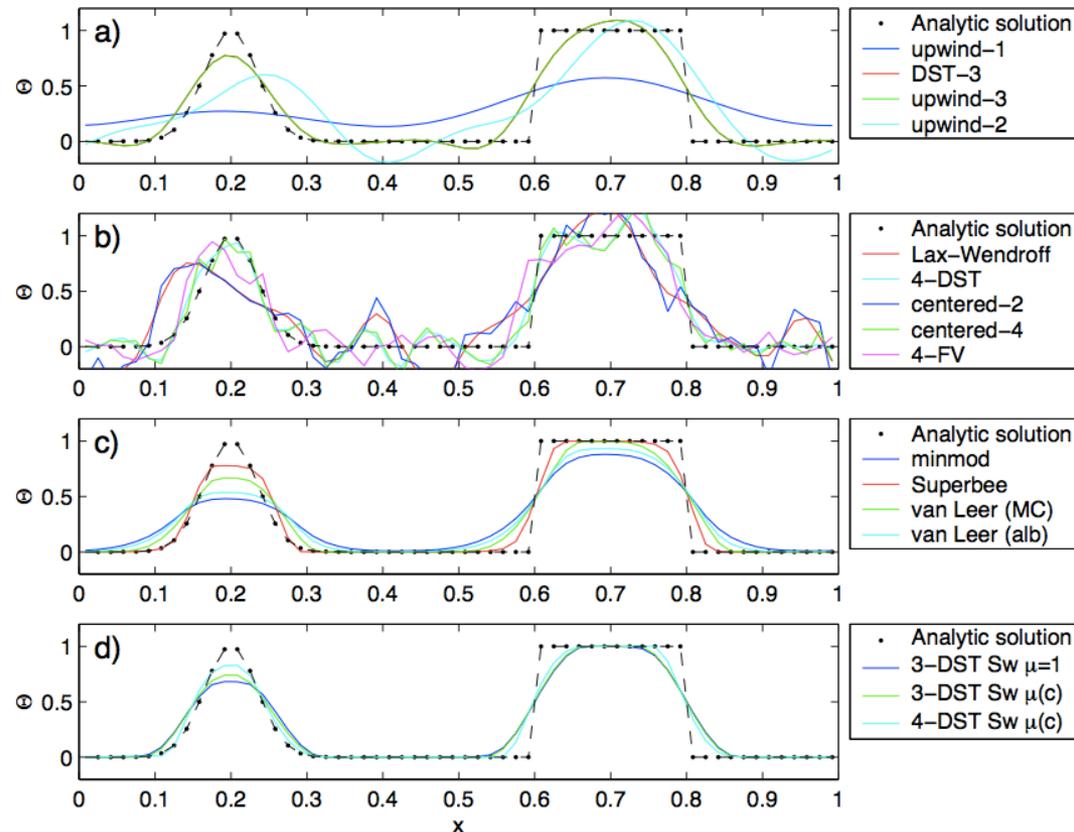
$F^{DST3}$

$$F_{i+1/2}^{US} = u\theta_i^n$$

$$F_{i+1/2}^{LW} = F_{i+1/2}^{US} + \frac{1}{2}u(1-C)(\theta_{i+1}^n - \theta_i^n)$$

$$F_{i+1/2}^{DST3} = F_{i+1/2}^{LW} - \frac{1}{6}u(1-C^2)(\theta_{i+1}^n - 2\theta_i^n + \theta_{i-1}^n)$$

- Advection schemes exploit finite volume method
- Compute flux through faces
- There are many advection schemes **number?**



# Accurate modeling of the adiabatic ocean interior in Z-coordinate model

David Ferreira, Chris Hill, Ryan Abernathey, Jean-Michel Campin, John Marshall and Nicolas Barrier

- Diapycnal mixing in the mid-depth ocean is weak  $O(10^{-5}) \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  (Ledwell et al. 93 & 98, DIMES)
- In z-coordinate model, advection generates large spurious diapycnal diffusivity, often in excess of  $10\text{-}30 \times O(10^{-5}) \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  (Griffies et al. 2000)

However – result is sensitive to numerical scheme used. What if we revisit with schemes that are designed for high accuracy e.g. [Prather \(JGR, 1986\) second order moments](#)

Estimating spurious mixing in models is complicated

→ Use two methods

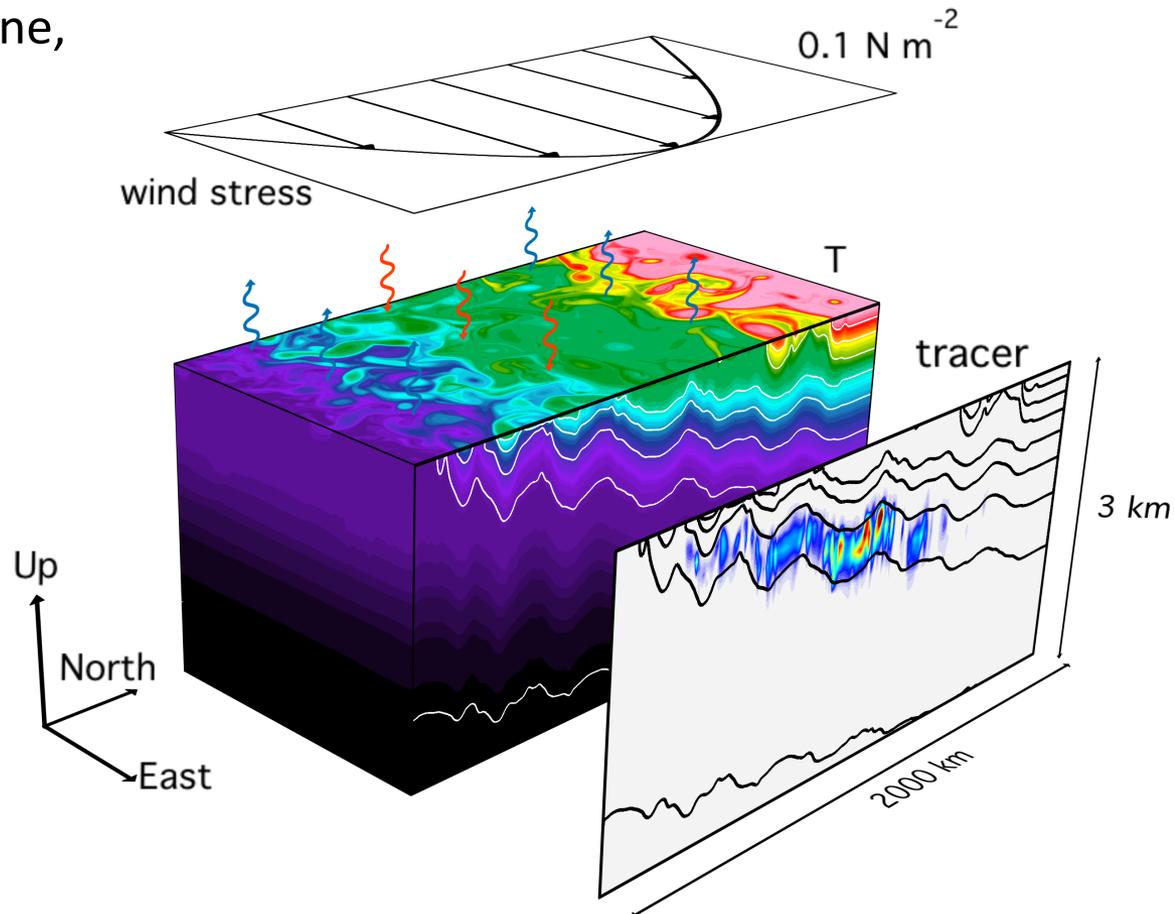
- Griffies et al. spindown (active tracer)
- Tracer release (passive tracer)

# Experimental setup

MITgcm

## Periodic “ACC” channel:

- 1000 km long by 2000 km wide,
- wall to south, sponge and T profile to north,
- zonal wind stress, sinusoidal heating/cooling,
- linear EOS,  $\Delta x = \Delta y = 5$  km,  $\beta$ -plane,
- spun up to equilibrium

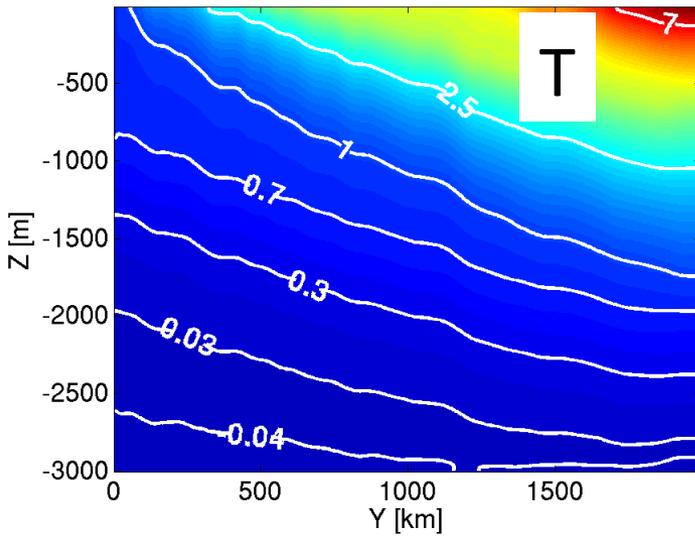
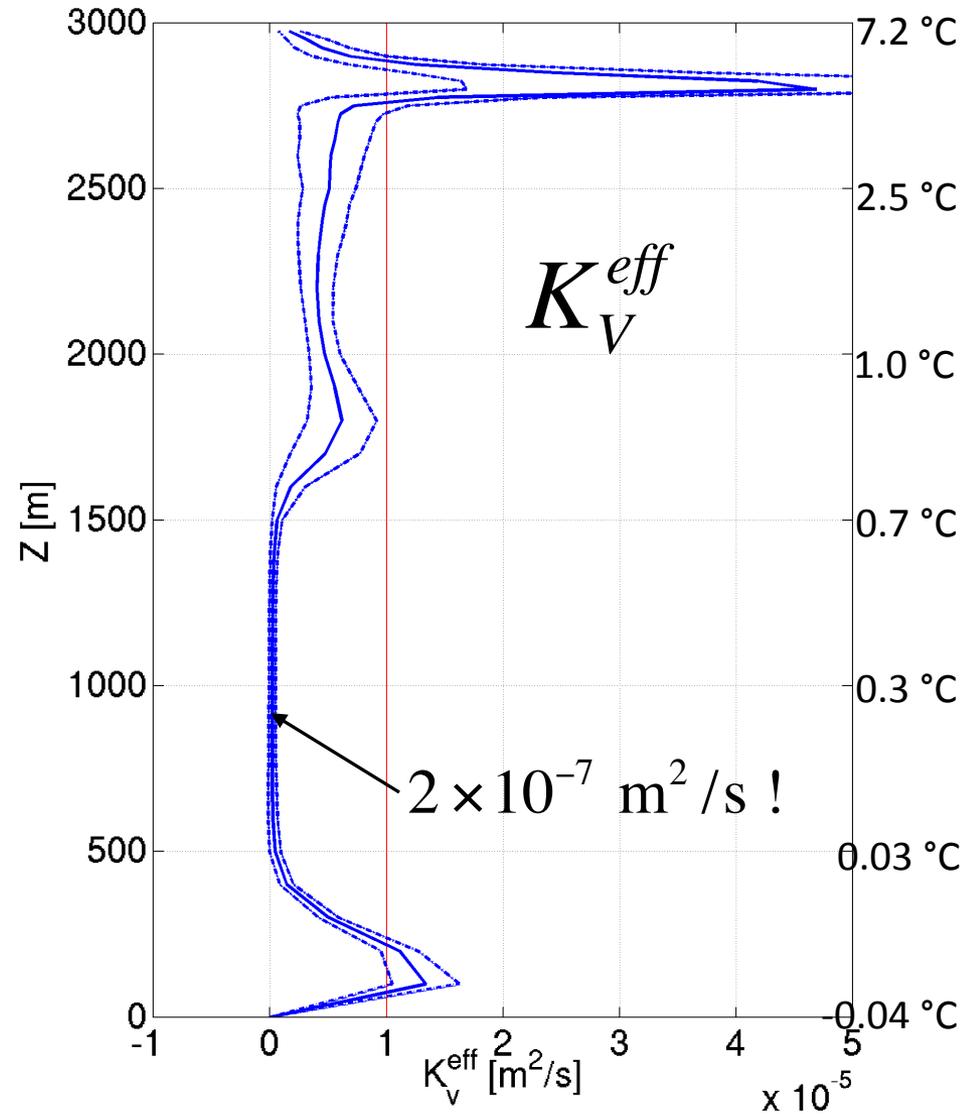


# The “Griffies et al.” method

- 1 – spin up
- 2 – turn off all forcings
- 3 – monitor  $T(z,t)$
- 4 – diagnose  $K_V$

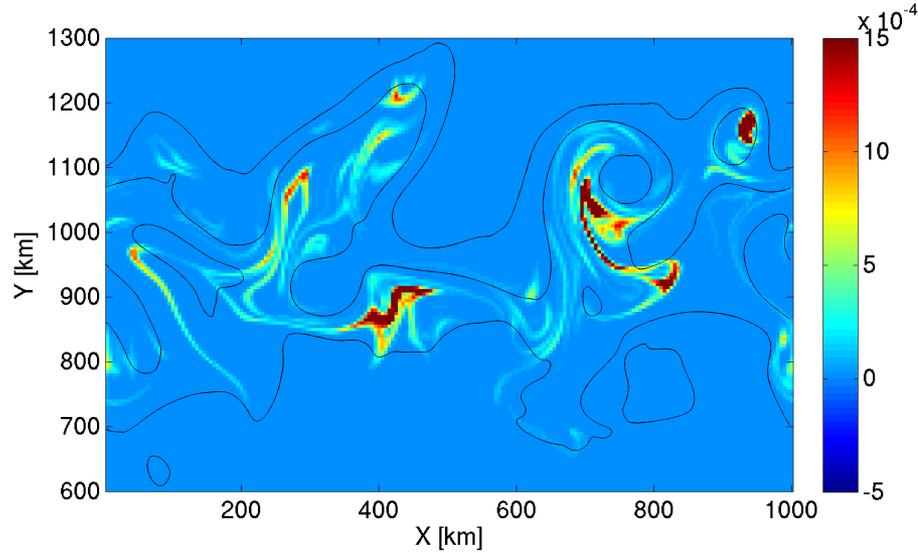
Prather advection scheme  
with  $K_H = K_V = 0$   
on temperature

300 levels of 10 m



# The “Ledwell et al.” method

Release of a dye at ~900 m

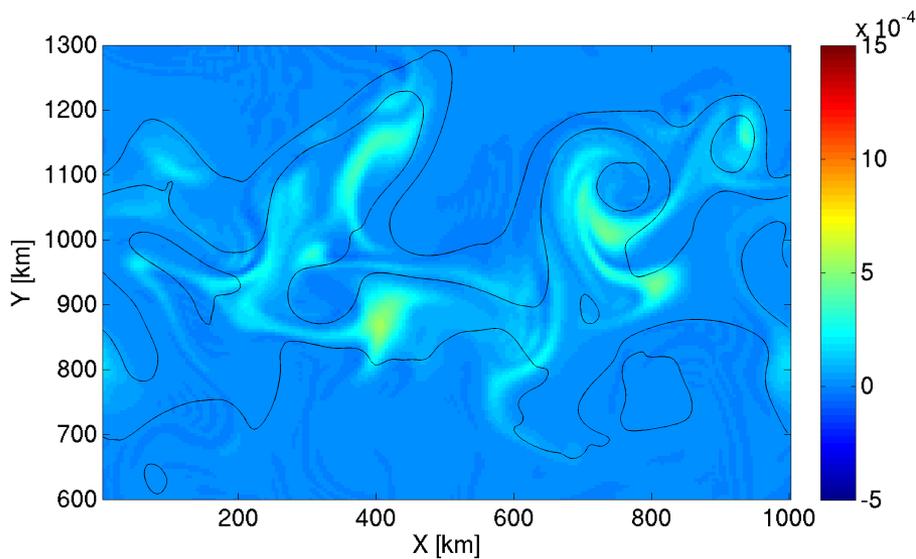


Prather

$$K_H = K_V = 0$$

Tracer distribution after  
150 days

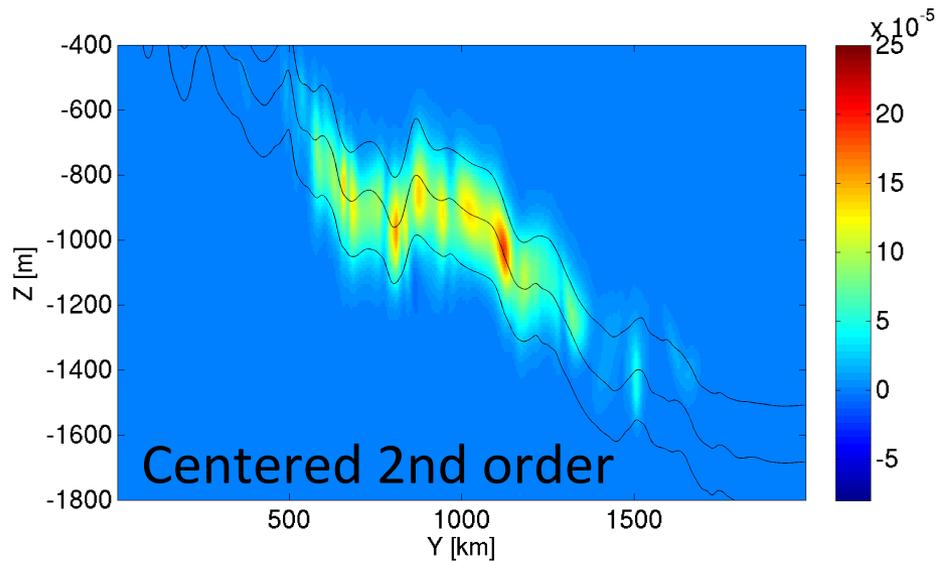
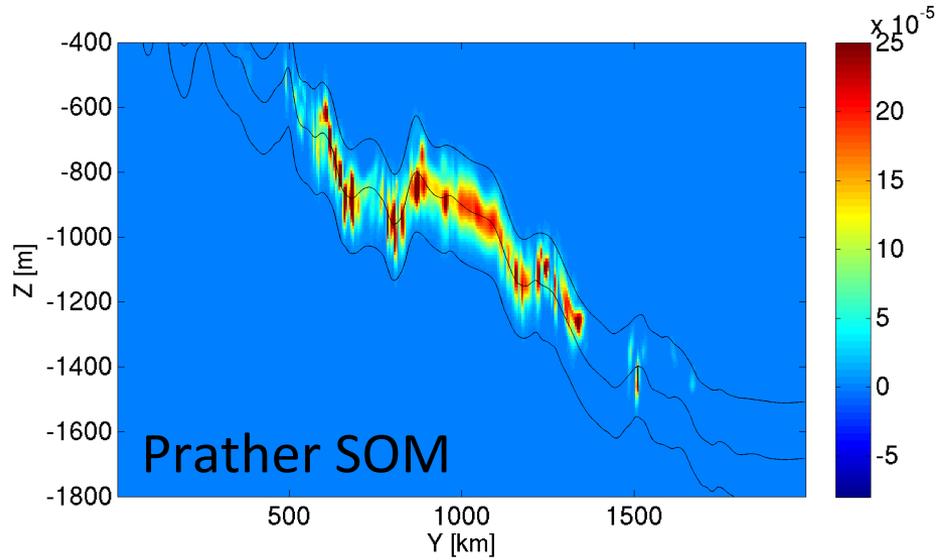
Same flow field!



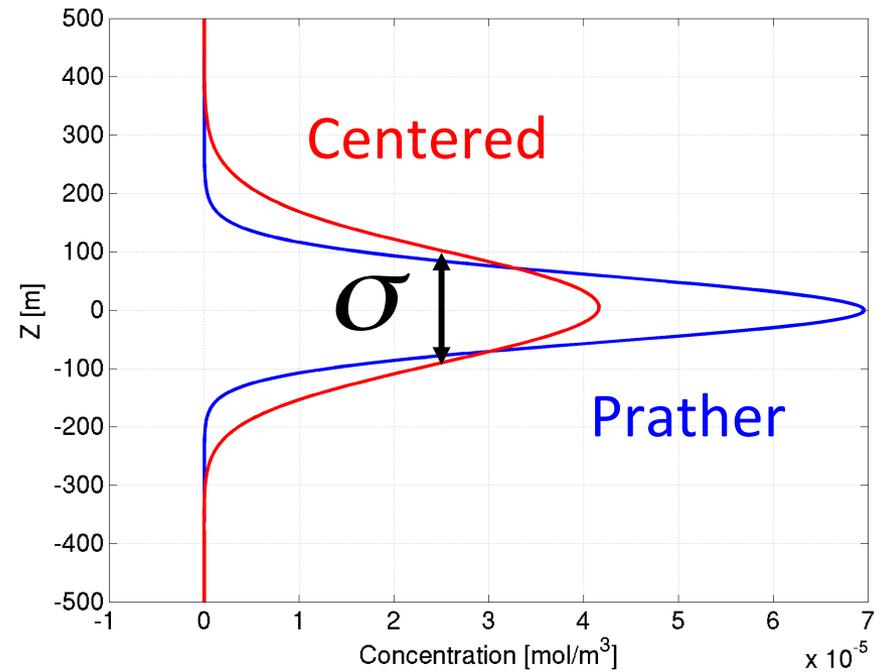
Centered 2nd order

$$K_H = 30 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}, K_V = 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

# Meridional section: 225 days after release



## Reconstructed Tracer profile at 225 days

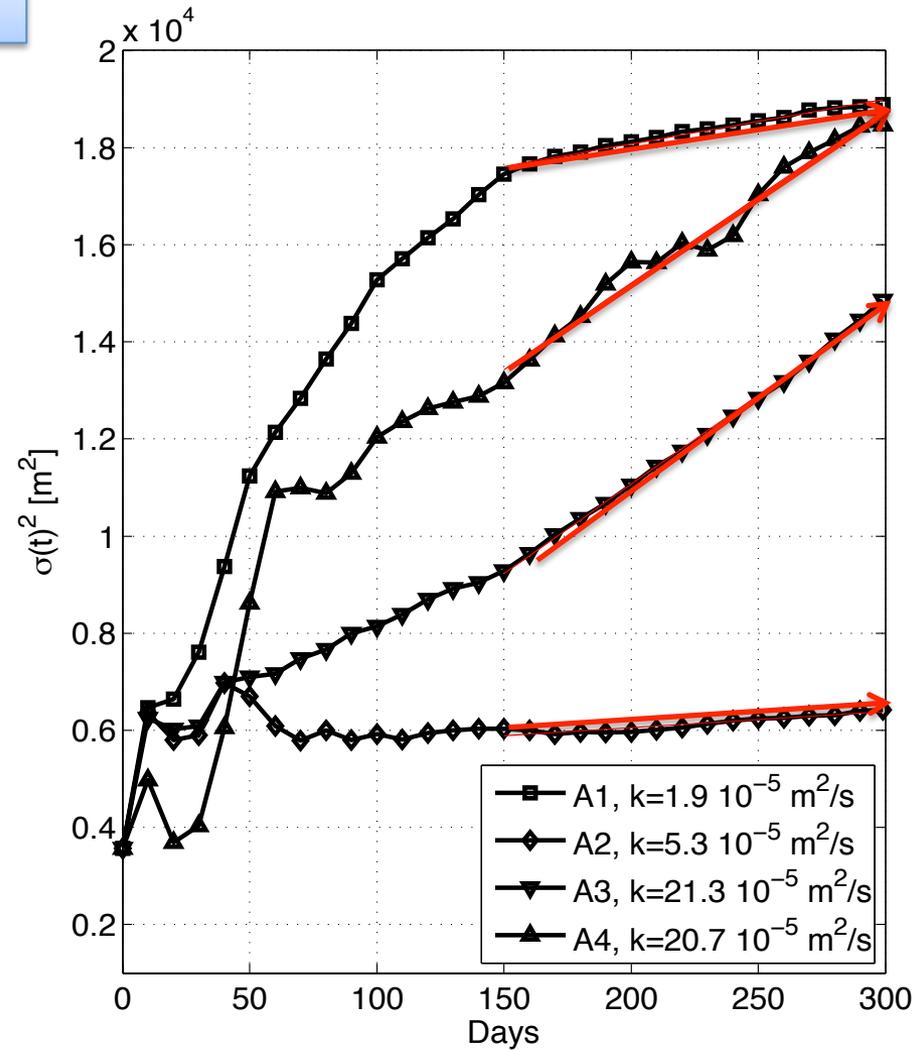


# Time-evolution of Gaussian width

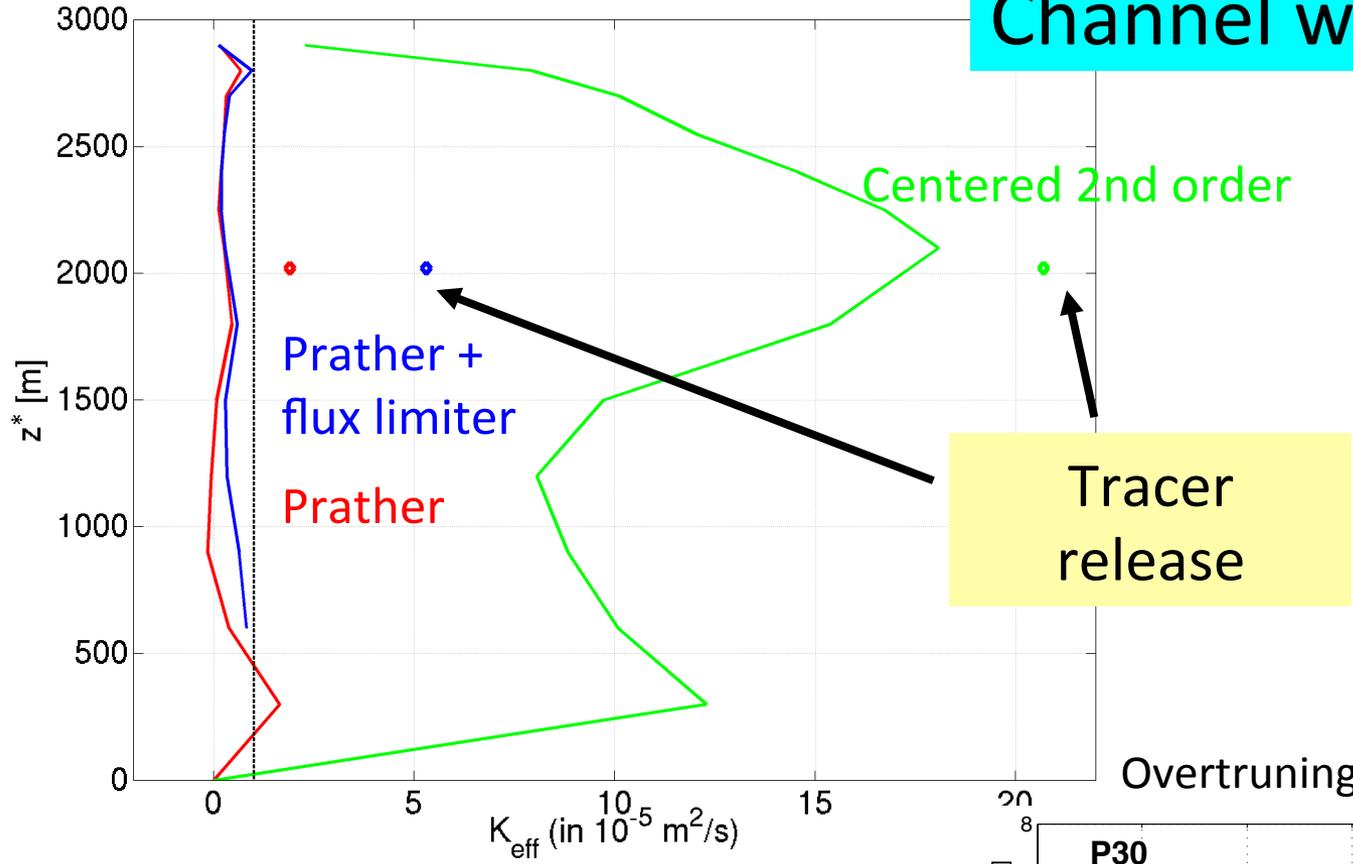
$$K_v^{eff} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma^2}{dt}$$

Prather  
 $0.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 / \text{s}$   
Consistent with  
Griffies method

Centered  
 $16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 / \text{s}$

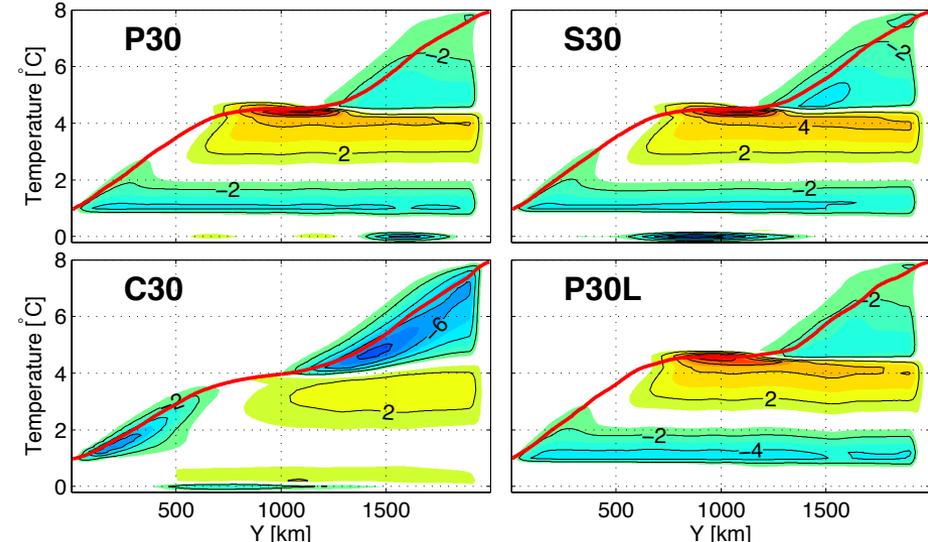


# Channel with 30 levels



Possible to maintain a quasi adiabatic ocean interior in a vigorous eddying regime (at least numerical mixing  $\ll$  observed mixing)

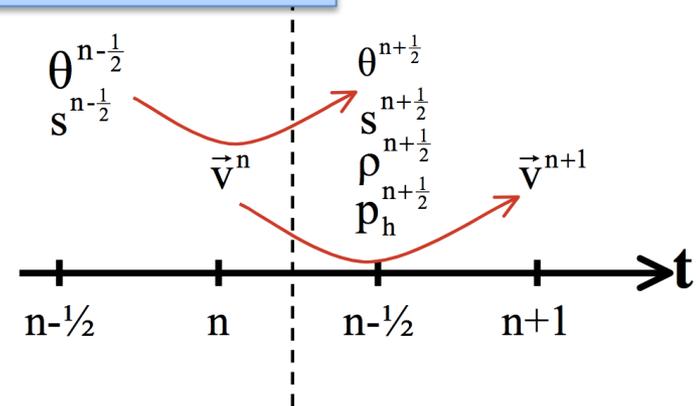
## Overtruning in Temperature classes



## More than one option for time-stepping:

Ex:

- staggered time step
- Adams-Bashford
- Crank-Nicholson



## Other options in formulation:

- Deep atmosphere
- Mass sources within fluid
- Anelastic
- etc .

## Vector Invariant form of equation

$$\partial_t \vec{v} + (2\vec{\Omega} + \vec{\zeta}) \wedge \vec{v} - b\hat{r} + \vec{\nabla} B = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\tau}$$

## Multiple schemes

- Implicit/explicit treatment of diffusion/viscosity
- Various schemes for Coriolis terms,
- Etc ...

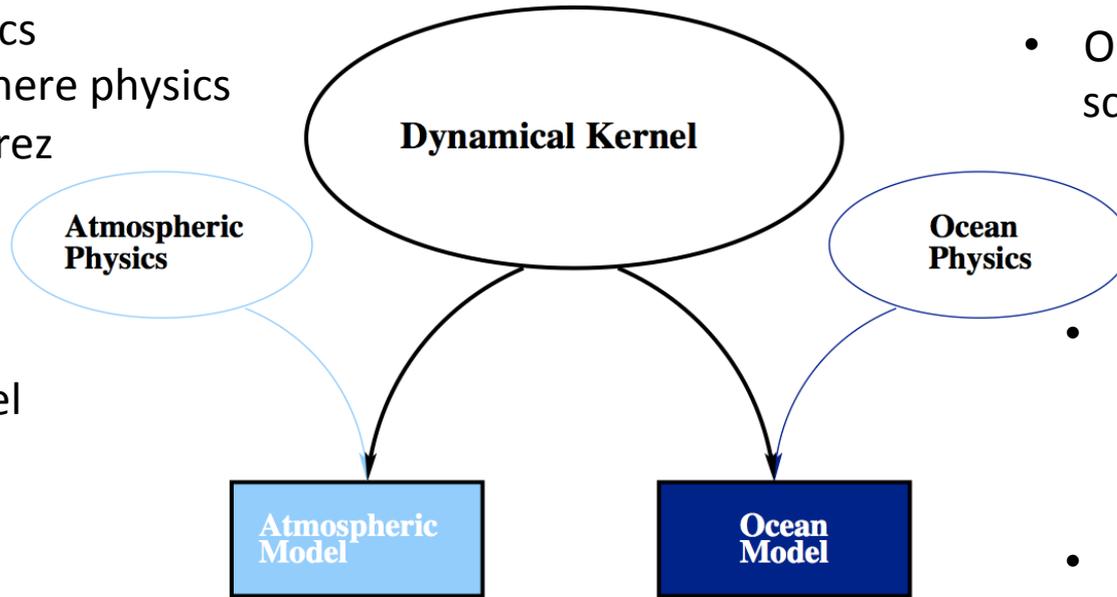
Passive tracer  
Lagrangian floats

- Advection schemes
- Temporal scheme
- Free surface
- Hydrostatic/non-hydrostatic
- Cartesian/spherical-polar/curvilinear

- GM/Redi parameterization + tapering schemes + advective/skew ...

- SPEEDY physics
- Grey atmosphere physics
- Held and Suarez

- Ocean mixed layer schemes (5)



- Land model

- Viscosity (harmonic, biharmonic, Smagorinsky, and Leith scheme)
- Shapiro filter

Cryosphere:

- Adjoint/Tangent linear model with Automatic differentiation
- Thermodynamics sea ice models (2) + Hibler 79 rheology
- Ice shelf model
- Ice stream (land ice) model

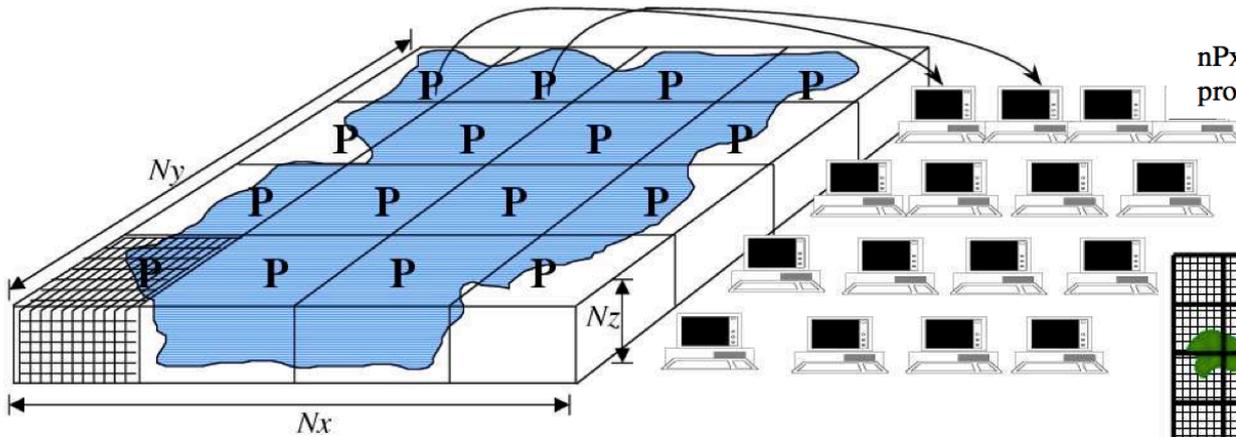
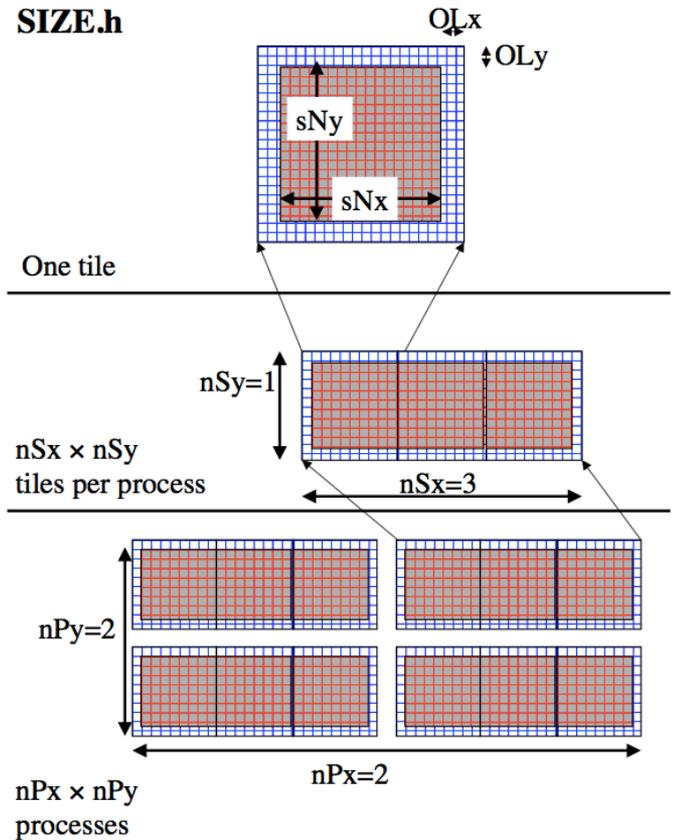
- Biogeochemistry packages: DIC, Bling, Darwin

Two dimensional decomposition of the domain

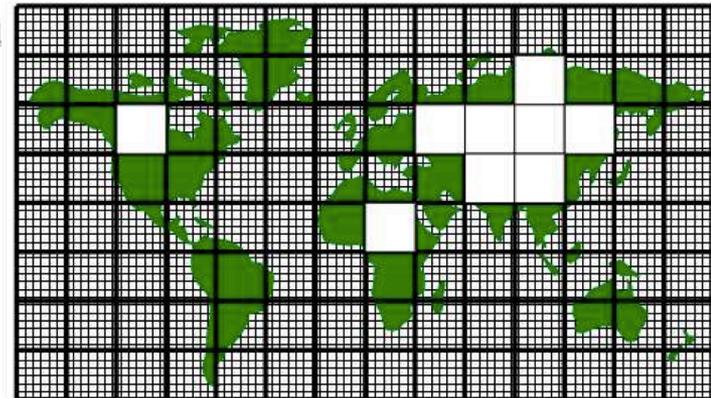
→ MPI, multithreading

→ Runs on a variety of platforms, including many HPC centers

SIZE.h



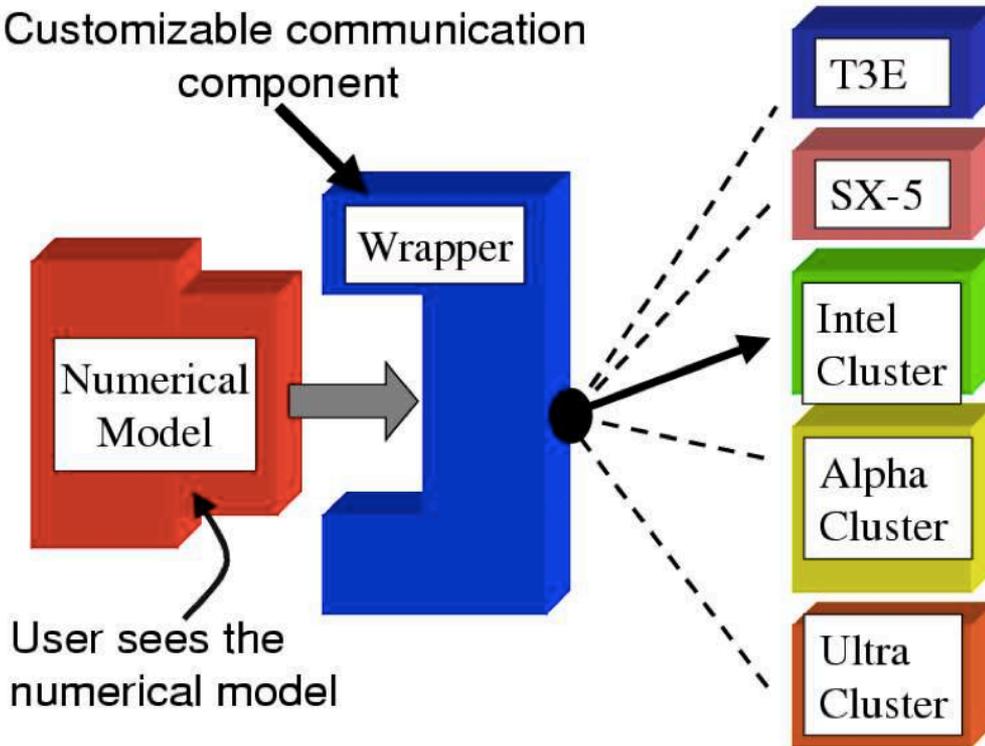
Possibility of blank tiles



The WRAPPER takes care of everything  
→ as transparent as possible to the users

## Wrapper

Customizable communication component



- The machine consists of one or more logical processors.
- Each processor operates on tiles that it owns.
- A processor may own more than one tile.
- Processors may compute concurrently.
- Exchange of information between tiles is handled by the machine (WRAPPER) not by the application.

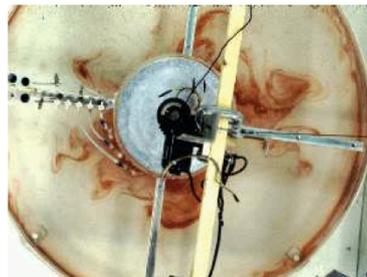
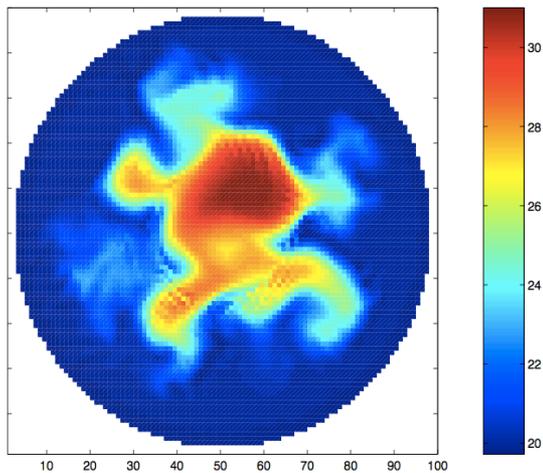
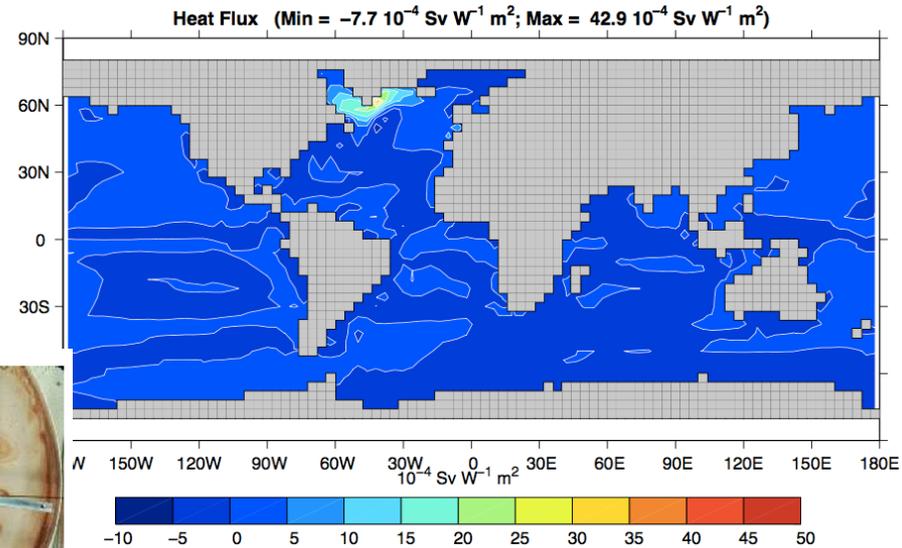
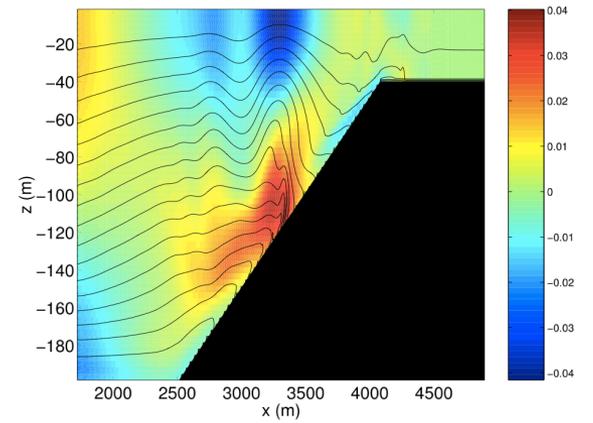
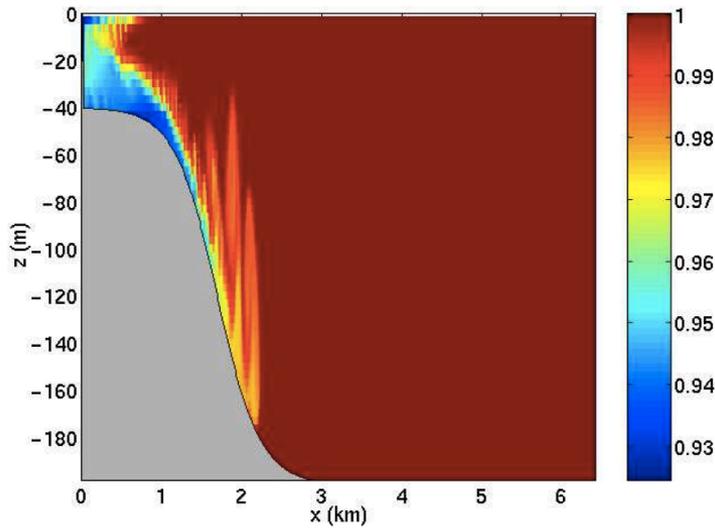
# Outputs

- “Diagnostics” packages offer flexible solutions for outputs
  - list of variables bundled (or not) in files
  - output frequency can be set independently for each bundle of outputs
  - Allows subsampling in the vertical
  - Snapshots or time-averages
  - A variable can be outputted multiple times with different choices
  - easy to implement new outputs
  - time-series of spatially averaged variables
- Output in binary format or netcdf format

```
&DIAGNOSTICS_LIST
  fields(1:2,1) = 'UVEL      ', 'VVEL      ',
  levels(1:5,1) = 1.,2.,3.,4.,5.,
  filename(1) = 'diagout1',
  frequency(1) = 86400.,
  fields(1:2,2) = 'THETA    ', 'SALT     ',
  filename(2) = 'diagout2',
  fileflags(2) = ' P1      ',
  frequency(2) = 3600.,
&

&DIAG_STATIS_PARMS
&
```

# Examples of applications



Adjoint/tangent linear

# Global ocean circulation model at 1/60 of a degree horizontal resolution

[http://maps.actualsecience.net/MITgcm\\_llc\\_maps/llc\\_4320/vorticity/](http://maps.actualsecience.net/MITgcm_llc_maps/llc_4320/vorticity/)

Credit: Ryan abernathey (Columbia), Chris Hill (MIT), Dimitri Menemenlis (JPL)

# On the user side

- Code freely available on MITgcm website
- [www.mitgcm.org](http://www.mitgcm.org)
- Version control with CVS
- About 500 users (MITgcm-support list), probably an underestimate
- Model comes with about 70 pre-set experiments
- As well as numerous optimization file (gfortran, ifort, cray fortran, etc.)
- And examples to use MPI, OpenMP, netcdf libraries

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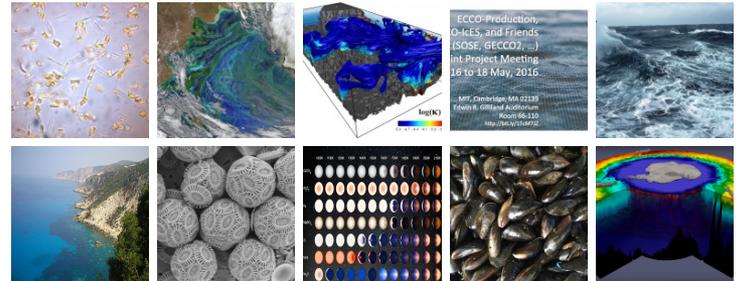
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January 20th, 2017 by Helen Hill

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To round out the year we have again collected a sample of over one hundred research articles published in 2016 that involved MITgcm in some way. Email missing citations or pitch your research to [hjh@mit.edu](mailto:hjh@mit.edu). Happy New Year!



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**A**

Ryan P. Abernathey, Ivana Cerovecki, Paul R. Holland, Emily Newsom, Matt Mazloff & Lynne D. Talley (2016), Water-mass transformation by sea ice in the upper branch of the Southern Ocean overturning, *Nature Geoscience* 9, 596–601 (2016) doi: [10.1038/ngeo2749](https://doi.org/10.1038/ngeo2749)

Surendra Adhikari, Erik R. Ivins, and Eric Larour (2016). ISSM-SESAS v1.0: mesh-based computation of gravitationally consistent sea-level and geoidic signatures caused by cryosphere and climate driven mass change, *Geosci. Model Dev.* 9, 1087–1109, doi: [10.5194/gmd-9-1087-2016](https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-9-1087-2016)

Congfang Ai and Weiye Ding (2016), A 3D unstructured non-hydrostatic ocean model for internal waves, *Ocean Dynamics*, doi: [10.1007/s10236-016-0980-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10236-016-0980-9)

Werner Alpers (2016), SAR oceanography applied to southeast Asian Waters, *Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)*, 2016 IEEE International, doi: [10.1109/IGARSS.2016.7729568](https://doi.org/10.1109/IGARSS.2016.7729568)

Yael Amitaia, Yosef Ashkenazy, Hezi Gildora (2016), Multiple equilibria and overturning variability of the Aegean-Adriatic Seas, *Global and Planetary Change*, doi: [10.1016/j.gloplacha.2016.05.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2016.05.004)

Amrhein, Daniel E. (2016), Inferring ocean circulation during the Last Glacial Maximum and last deglaciation using data and models, MIT-WHOI Doctoral Dissertation, <http://hdl.handle.net/1912/8428>

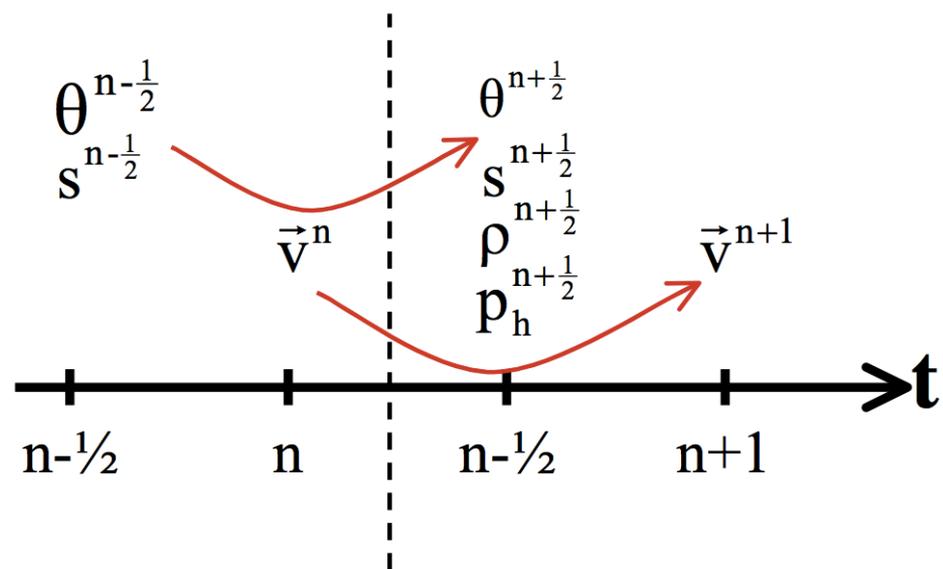
David S. Amundsen, Nathan J. Mayne, Isabelle Baraffe, James Manners, Pascal Tremblin (2016), The UK Met Office GCM with a sophisticated radiation scheme applied to the hot Jupiter HD 209458b, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, arXiv: [1608.08593](https://arxiv.org/abs/1608.08593)

# Development

- About 10 people contribute actively to the development
  - Jean-Michel Campin (MIT), Chris Hill (MIT)
  - Gael Forget (MIT), Patrick Heimbach (Texas),
  - Martin Losch (Bremehaven)
  - Matt Mazlov et al. (Scripps)
  - Dimitri Mennemenlis (JPL)
  - Stephany Dutkiewicz, Oliver Jahn (MIT)
  - Dan Goldberg (Edinburgh)
  - + other less active
- Users often contribute to the code development

## Funding:

- NASA and NSF funding (ECCO project, and other science proposals)
- Very little funded direct development of the model



- Modular, comes with numerous example experiments, runs on a number of machines
- Key aspects of the code:
  - Shaved/partial cells
  - Isomorphism between ocean and atmosphere
  - Deep anelastic, 3d full Coriolis
  - Non-hydrostatic/hydrostatic
- General structure WRAPPER, parallelization, MPI, multithreading