## **Practice Instruction for Online-Coupled WRF-Chem Version 4.6.0**

**Training Manual for the Hands-on Training Session on WRF-Chem** 

**The World Meteorological Organization's Training course on Seamless Prediction of Air Pollution in Africa, October 3-4, 2024, Cario, Egypt**

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# Contents

<span id="page-1-0"></span>

# 1 WRF-Chem introduction

Many countries set their own standards for air pollutants criteria. The United States, the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), while the World Health Organization (WHO) has set air quality guidelines (AQG) as global targets for national governments to improve air quality (US EPA, 2024; WHO, 2024). Reducing air pollution levels is a complex process, as the formation of ozone  $(O_3)$  and fine particulate matter (PM $_{2.5}$ ) involves many physical and chemical processes in the atmosphere. To effectively regulate the levels of  $\mathcal{O}_3$  and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, it is essential not only to reduce emission sources but also to understand their formation pathways.

Three-dimensional (3-D) air quality models have been developed to resemble the various atmospheric processes that affect the fate and transport of air pollutants. They are powerful tools for a wide range of applications to understand air pollution and support the development of relevant emission reduction strategies in many countries of the world. These models estimate air pollutant concentrations based on emissions and meteorology (in case of offline models). The outputs help in understanding interactions between emissions and meteorology and their impacts on air quality, which can support not only short-term air pollution alerts and actions but also long-term emission control strategies for local governments.

The Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model coupled with Chemistry (WRF-Chem) is a 3-D online-coupled meteorology and chemistry model. It is a collaborative effort among scientists from NCAR, NOAA, and PNNL in the US, and many community users worldwide. Unlike offline models, WRF-Chem model accounts for two-way feedback between meteorology and chemistry (in particular, the aerosol-cloud-radiationclimate interactions), which can more realistically replicate the real atmosphere and thus improve the overall accuracy of air quality predictions and forecasts (Zhang, 2008; Grell and Baklanov, 2011; Baklanov et al., 2014).

# <span id="page-2-0"></span>2 Objectives of the Practice

We will set up two sets of simulations with the latest release of WRF-Chem 4.6.0. The objectives of this practice are to

- 1. Become familiar with WRF-Chem by reading WRF-Chem users' guide, this training manual, and relevant literatures on WRF-Chem
- 2. Learn how to compile, set up, and run WRF-Chem
- 3. Apply WRF-Chem over North Africa with 36-km resolution for two distinct weeks: January and April 2023, during which anthropogenic emissions in conjunction with temperature inversion and dust storms, respectively, were mainly responsible for observed high PM concentrations in Northern Africa.
- 4. Study the impacts of different PBL schemes, land surface modules, cumulus parameterizations, and dust emission schemes on air quality predictions.
- 5. Learn how to post-process the outputs, visualize the results, and evaluate the model with observational datasets and MERRA-2 reanalysis datasets.

# <span id="page-3-0"></span>3 Basic Linux commands

- 1. *ls* list the contents of a directory
- 2. *pwd* print out the full path of the current working directory
- 3. *cd* navigate between directories
- 4. *cd..* go up one directory
- 5. *mkdir* make directories/folders
- 6. *rm* delete files and folders
- 7. *mv* move files / directories from one to another; change name of files or

#### directories

- 8. *cp* copy files / directories
- 9. *vim* open to edit files using VIM as a text editor
- 10.*tar* archive files with or without compression
- 11.*grep* search for specific files / keywords
- 12.*find* search for a file within a directory
- 13.*tail* print the last few lines from files
- 14.*diff* compare 2 files and print the differences
- 15.*wget* download files from the internet
- 16.*history* show previous command from terminal
- 17.*export* export the environment variables

[https://docs.lxp.lu/first-steps/basic\\_linux/](https://docs.lxp.lu/first-steps/basic_linux/)

# <span id="page-3-1"></span>4 Required Libraries and Environments

## <span id="page-3-2"></span>4.1 Required Libraries

- zlib (https://www.zlib.net/)
- HDF5 (https://www.hdfgroup.org/)
- NetCDF (https://downloads.unidata.ucar.edu/netcdf/)
- JasPer (https://www.linuxfromscratch.org/blfs/view/git/general/jasper.html)
- libpng (http://www.libpng.org/pub/png/libpng.html)

## <span id="page-4-0"></span>4.2 Load available modules and export NETCDF/YACC/FLEX environments

HPCs have compiled libraries and software. Loading modules from HPCs allow us to use the required libraries without compiling the packages.

- module load intel/compilers-2021.2.0
- module load intel/mpi-2021.2.0
- export NETCDF=/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/wrf\_libs\_intel
- export NETCDF\_classic=1
- export HDF5=/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/wrf\_libs\_intel
- export FLEX\_LIB\_DIR='/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/LIBRARIES/flex  $-2.5.3/lib'$
- export YACC='/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/LIBRARIES/yacc/byacc-20121003/yacc -d'
- export JASPERLIB=/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/wrf\_libs\_intel/lib /
- export JASPERINC=/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/wrf\_libs\_intel/inc lude/
- export LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH=/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrivewrf\_libs\_inte l/lib:\${LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH}

### <span id="page-4-1"></span>4.3 Set up environments for compiler (Intel)

- export CC=icx
- export CXX=icx
- export F77=ifort
- export F90=ifort
- export FC=ifort

### <span id="page-4-2"></span>4.4 Flags for WRF-Chem compilation

- export WRFIO\_NCD\_LARGE\_FILE\_SUPPORT=1
- export WRF\_EM\_CORE=1
- export WRF\_CHEM=1
- export WRF\_KPP=1
- export WRF NMM CORE=0
- export WRF\_DA\_CORE=0

## <span id="page-5-0"></span>5 WRF-Chem Compilation

### <span id="page-5-1"></span>5.1 Compile NCL and NCVIEW (Optional)

- 1. NCL language package for visualizing WRF Domain from namelist.wps
	- mkdir ~/ncl
	- $\bullet$  cd  $\sim$ /ncl
	- wget https://www.earthsystemgrid.org/dataset/ncl.640.nodap/ file/ncl ncarg-6.4.0-RHEL6.4 64bit nodap gnu447.tar.gz
	- tar -xvzf ncl\_ncarg-6.4.0- RHEL6.4 64bit nodap gnu447.tar.gz
	- export NCARG\_ROOT=\$HOME/ncl
	- export PATH=\$NCARG\_ROOT/bin:\$PATH

#### 2. NCVIEW for visualizing WRF-Chem outputs

a. Move to a compute node by running the following command srun --pty /bin/bash Or

```
srun --time=6:00:00 --job-name=testWRF --ntasks=2 --
partition=zhang --pty /bin/bash
```
- b. Load anaconda module module load anaconda3/2022.05
	- c. Set up a conda environment
		- i. First create a conda environment conda create -n <your-env-name> python=3.11
		- ii. Activate your environment source activate <your-env-name>
	- d. Install NCVIEW conda install conda-forge::ncview

## <span id="page-5-2"></span>5.2 Compile WRF

#### Clone from GitHub

• git clone --recurse-submodules [https://github.com/wrf](https://github.com/wrf-model/WRF)[model/WRF](https://github.com/wrf-model/WRF)

- cd WRF
- ./configure
- Choose option: *16*
- ./compile em\_real 2>&1 | tee compile.log

## <span id="page-6-0"></span>5.3 Compile WPS

- $\bullet$  cd  $\bullet$ .
- git clone<https://github.com/wrf-model/WPS>
- cd WPS
- export WRF\_DIR=../WRF-4.2.1/
- export JASPERLIB=/home/kh.do/wrf/wrf\_libs\_intel/lib/
- export JASPERINC=/home/kh.do/wrf/wrf\_libs\_intel/include/
- export LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH=/home/kh.do/wrf/wrf\_libs\_intel/lib:\${LD\_LIB RARY\_PATH}
- ./configure
- Choose option: 16
- Edit *configure.wps* by adding **-qopenmp** at the end of the lines that set WRF\_LIB (after *-lnetcdff -lnetcdf*)
- ./compile 2>&1 | tee compile.log

**Note**: in case that you are not able to compile, you can use NETCDF from module

• export NETCDF=/shared/centos7/netcdf/4.7.4-intel2020

# <span id="page-6-1"></span>6 Simulation Design and Model Configurations

Table 1 summarizes the simulation design and purposes. Two sets of simulations will be carried out in January and April 2023. Each set will have 5 simulations including 1 baseline, and 4 sensitivity simulations. The baseline WRF-Chem configurations for the two simulation periods are identical (simulations 1 and 6), simulations 2-5 for January and 7-10 for April will change one scheme at one time and the results can be compared with respective baseline simulations to study the impacts of different schemes on meteorology and air quality predictions.







## Table 2. Sources of the WRF-Chem inputs





## <span id="page-9-0"></span>6.1 WRF-Chem model setup

Table 3 summarizes the physics and chemistry options used in WRF-Chem simulations.





<sup>a</sup> Global Ozone Chemistry Aerosol Radiation and Transport; <sup>b</sup> US Air Force Weather Agency

# <span id="page-10-0"></span>7 Schedule for the Exercise





# <span id="page-11-0"></span>8 Design a WRF domain

• Preliminarily design and visualize the WRF domain using WRF Domain Wizard, [https://jiririchter.github.io/WRFDomainWizard/,](https://jiririchter.github.io/WRFDomainWizard/) which provides a friendly graphical user interface. Fine tune the domain should be verified by plotting the namelist.wps or the output from WPS.



• Copy the namelist.wps to ~/WPS/util folder and run ncl plotgrids new.ncl to visualize the domain design.



# **WPS Domain Configuration**

- For more information
	- o [https://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/namelist\\_best\\_prac\\_wps.html](https://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/namelist_best_prac_wps.html)

# <span id="page-12-0"></span>9 Exercises

- <span id="page-12-1"></span>9.1 Use Discovery
	- Linux and MAC systems
		- o Open terminal and log in Discovery with ssh usename.login.discovery.neu.edu
	- On Windows computers
		- o Option 1
			- **Use PowerShell from Windows and log in with** usename.login.discovery.neu.edu
		- o Option 2
			- **Download PuTTY from** [https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html](https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/%7Esgtatham/putty/latest.html)
			- **Dpen PuTTY and enter** login.discovery.neu.edu in Host Name
			- Login as: your username and password

• Shared folder on Discovery located at /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive where the required inputs can be found (i.e., anthropogenic, fire, biogenic emissions, GFS, and run scripts).

### <span id="page-13-0"></span>9.2 Run WRF-Chem

### <span id="page-13-1"></span>9.2.1 Run WPS

• Make a new WPS directory and symbolic soft link the files from original WPS directory to the newly created WPS directory.

```
• Load the require environments and libraries
  module load intel/compilers-2021.2.0
  module load intel/mpi-2021.2.0
  module load netcdf/4.7.4-intel2020
  module load hdf5/1.12.0-intel2021.2
  module load anaconda3/2020.02
  export 
  LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/kh.do/wrf/wrf_libs_intel/lib:${LD_LIB
  RARY PATH}
```
• Modify the namelist.wps according to:

```
&share
wrf core = 'ARW',max dom = 3,
start_date = '2023-01-01_00:00:00','2023-01-
01_00:00:00','2023-01-01_00:00:00',
end date = '2023-02-01 00:00:00','2023-02-
01_00:00:00','2023-02-01_00:00:00',
interval seconds = 21600,
/
&geogrid
parent id = 1, 1, 2,parent grid ratio = 1, 6, 6,i parent start = 1, 129, 103,j parent start = 1, 84, 153,e we = 229, 217, 103,
```

```
e sn = 162, 199, 79,geog_data_res = '30s','30s','30s',
dx = 36000,dy = 36000,
```

```
map proj = 'lambert',
ref lat = 20.715,
ref lon = 19.336,
truelat1 = 0.0,truelat2 = 30.0,stand lon = 22.0,
geog_data_path = '/scratch/schuch/DATA/WPS_GEOG/'
/
&ungrib
out format = 'WPS',
prefix = 'FILE',/
&metgrid
fg name = 'FILE'
/
```
• Run./link grib.csh

/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/**aprilData**/GFS/\* . to create soft link the gfs data files to WPS folder.

- Run./geogrid.exe. This task takes a lot of time for this large domain. We recommend using our pre-processed geogrid files located in the shared folder.
- Run./ungrib.exe. Note that geogrid.exe is independent of ungrib.exe. However, metgrid.exe requires both outputs from geogrid and ungrib.
- Finally, run metgrid.exe to complete the WPS.

### <span id="page-14-0"></span>9.2.2 Run WRF-Chem

- Go to your scratch folder
- Make a new WRF directory and copy the files from original WRF directory to the newly created WRF directory.
	- o mkdir WRF\_Chem && cd WRF\_Chem
	- o cp –r /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/WRFv4\_6/WRF/ .
- Remove the namelist.input and copy the namelist.input from the sharedDrive
	- o rm namelist.input

```
o cp 
  /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/namelists/namelist_base
  / \star
```
• Copy emissions from the sharedDrive to the working WRF folder

o cp

```
/work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/aprilData/emissions/* .
```
- Copy fire emissions to the working directory
	- o cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/**aprilData**/fire/\* .
- Copy preprocessed met em<sup>\*</sup> from WPS
	- o cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/**aprilData**/met\_em/\* .
- Copy biogenic emissions
	- o cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/**aprilData**/megan/\* .
- Copy the run script to the working directory
	- o cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/aprilData/runWRF.sh
- . • Copy met ICON/BCONS
- cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/**aprilData**/ICBC/\* .
- Copy chem ICON/BCONS for warm start
- cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/**aprilData**/output/\* .
- Copy the run script to the working folder
- cp /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/namelists/**run\_WRF-Chem\_apr\_node4000.sh** .
- Submit the jobs: sbatch **run\_WRF-Chem\_apr\_node4000.sh**
- Monitor the jobs: squeue -u **yourAccount**

### <span id="page-15-0"></span>9.3 Evaluation

Create and load **conda** environment. If you have created conda environment from the previous steps, start from step 3b (source activate <your-env-name>).

1. Move to compute node

srun --pty /bin/bash

2. Load anaconda module

module load anaconda3/2022.05

- 3. Set up a conda enviroment
	- a. First create a conda environment

conda create -n <your-env-name> python=3.11

b. Activate your environment:

source activate <your-env-name>

#### 4. Install packages using pip or conda

- a. pip install netCDF4
- b. pip install geopandas
- c. pip install xarray

d. other libraries

### **For all evaluation, change the file input path in python evaluation scripts**

### <span id="page-16-0"></span>9.4 Meteorology evaluation

**Dataset descriptions**: For meteorology, we use the NOAA Global Hourly Integrated Surface Database (ISD), including wind speed (WS), wind direction (WD), temperature (T), dew point (DT), precipitation, and other parameters over 35,000 stations around the world from 1901 – present [\(https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/land-based](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/land-based-station/integrated-surface-database)[station/integrated-surface-database\)](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/land-based-station/integrated-surface-database). The ISD dataset can be downloaded at [https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/global-hourly/.](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/global-hourly/) Note that all evaluation results in terms of tables and figures were based on initial configurations used during the preliminary testing, they may not be the same as the results based on the final model configurations used in this training.

**Scripts for evaluation**: We provided the downloaded ISD data for 2023 in the Discovery shared folder. Copy scripts from the

sharedDrive/evaluation/met evaluation folder in the shared folder to your scratch directory.

- 1. Request interactive compute node and load conda environment
	- a. srun --pty /bin/bash
	- b. module load anaconda3/2022.05
	- c. source activate /scratch/kh.do/WRFChemWorkshop/
- 2. Copy evaluation scripts from sharedDrive to your local folder  $cp -r$ /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/evaluation/met\_evaluation/\* **/your/folder/path/**
- 3. Run extract met based on WRF domain.py to extract the meteorological data from 13,400 locations, filtering it to only locations within the simulation domain for the specified timeframe.

Table 4. Extracted meteorological observations from ISD based on WRF domain.



4. Run extract model and ISD data points.py to extract model meteorology data along with the corresponding ISD data and write the results to CSV files. This script also calculates domain-wide statistics.

Table 5. Model and observational meteorological data based on temporal and spatial information.



5. Run extract and compute met stats.py to extract model meteorology data along with corresponding ISD data and compute the statistics for each ISD site.





6. Run spatial plot eval.py for visualization. This script generates spatial evaluation plots across the domain.



Figure 1. Spatial plot for  $R^2$ , MB, and NMB for WRF outputs.

## <span id="page-18-0"></span>9.5 PM2.5 evaluation

**Dataset descriptions**: The model's performance can be evaluated using ground observational data, satellite AOD, and reanalysis MERRA-2. Observational air monitoring networks in Africa are sparse, but a few air monitoring networks are publicly accessible, including AirQo [\(https://airqo.africa/explore-data,](https://airqo.africa/explore-data) data is available after July 2023), AirNow [\(https://www.airnow.gov/international/us-embassies-and-consulates/\)](https://www.airnow.gov/international/us-embassies-and-consulates/), and SAAQIS for South Africa [\(https://saaqis.environment.gov.za/\)](https://saaqis.environment.gov.za/). In this tutorial, we use AirNow and MERRA-2 (reanalysis data from NASA,

[https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/\)](https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/) to evaluate the WRF-Chem outputs.

Note that all evaluation results in terms of tables and figures were based on initial configurations used during the preliminary testing, they may not be the same as the results based on the final model configurations used in this training.

**Scripts for evaluation**: Pre-downloaded AirNow and MERRA-2 data are located in the shared folder. Copy scripts from sharedDrive/evaluation/pm25 evaluation from the shared directory to your scratch.

- 1. Copy PM2.5 evaluation scripts to your local folder /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/evaluation/pm25\_evaluation/\* .py **/your/folder/path/**
- 2. Copy AirNow observational data to your local folder  $cp -r$ /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/evaluation/pm25\_evaluation/2 023\_Data/ **/your/folder/path/**
- 3. Copy shapefiles to your local folder  $cp -r$ /work/zhanglab/kdo/sharedDrive/evaluation/pm25\_evaluation/s hapefiles/ **/your/folder/path/**
- 4. Run pm25 eva **apr**.py to extract the PM<sub>2.5</sub> values from WRF-Chem outputs and AirNow data with respect to temporal and spatial criteria. The script outputs extracted PM<sub>2.5</sub> from both the model and observation, along with evaluation statistics.

Table 7. Extracted PM2.5 from WRF-Chem and AirNow observations.



Table 8. Statistics for PM2.5 output from WRF-Chem and AirNow observations.

	A	B		D
1	Location	mbe	mae	nmb
$\overline{2}$	Abidjan IvoryCoast	$-12.13$	13.62	$-58.06$
3	Abuja Nigeria	$-1.45$	11.03	$-5.17$
4	Accra Ghana	$-24.84$	25.31	$-80.23$
5	AddisAbabaCentral_Ethiopia	$-6.88$	13.61	$-35.01$
6	Algiers Algeria	$-6.76$	7.27	$-50.92$
7	Bamako Mali	$-44.37$	45.41	$-61.83$
8	Cairo_Egypt	$-15.33$	46.19	$-26.45$
9	Conakry Guinea	$-12.21$	15.93	$-43.19$
10	Dakar Senegal	$-12.96$	23.04	$-29.93$
11	Kampala_Uganda	$-19.52$	21.11	$-62.01$
12	Kinshasa RepublicOfTheCongo	$-2.31$	18.77	$-9.01$
13	Lagos_Nigeria	1.23	8.28	8.01
14	Nairobi Kenya	$-4.42$	6.86	$-43.57$
15	NDjamena_Chad	$-134.99$	135.59	$-76.24$
16	Ouagadougou BurkinaFaso	$-30.10$	36.76	$-43.15$



5. To evaluate the model using MERRA-2 dataset, run eval\_using\_merra3.py. The script calculates the evaluation metrics for the entire domain and generates the spatial plots of the statistic evaluation against the MERRA-2 dataset.



Table 9. Evaluation statistics for PM2.5 from WRF-Chem and MERRA-2.

Figure 3. Spatial plot of R value for  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  compared to MERRA-2.



Figure 4. Spatial plot of MB value for PM2.5 compared to MERRA-2.



Figure 5. Spatial plot of NMB value for PM2.5 compared to MERRA-2.

## <span id="page-23-0"></span>9.6 Difference plots

We compare the differences in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations using multiple science schemes and physics. Plotting the spatial differences between scheme 1 and scheme 2 allows us to identify the appropriateness of scheme/physics options applied to a specific region. Run pm25DiffPlot.py to generate the difference plot.



Figure 6. Spatial differences in  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  between the two different physics options.

## <span id="page-23-1"></span>9.7 PM<sub>10</sub> evaluation

PM10 from WRF-Chem output is evaluated against EMA monitoring site in Cairo. The PM10 observational data is provided by the EMA for the month of January and April 2023. To evaluate PM<sub>10</sub>, run pm10 eval.py to obtain PM<sub>10</sub> statistics. Run pm10 timeseries plot.py to generate PM<sub>10</sub> time series.

Note that all evaluation results in terms of figures were based on initial configurations used during the preliminary testing, they may not be the same as the results based on the final model configurations used in this training.



Figure 7. PM10 time series from January 01 to January 15, 2023, for WRF-Chem model and EMA observations in Cairo, Egypt.

### <span id="page-24-0"></span>9.8 To download the file from HPC server

scp -r **yourAccount**@login.discovery.neu.edu:/**[FilePath/files /DestinationPath/](mailto:yourAccount@login.discovery.neu.edu:/FilePath/files%20/DestinationPath/)**

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