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# 50+ Years of NWP: Supercomputers and the Models that Consumed Them: A sordid tale of codependence

Geoff DiMego

4 October 2010

where the nation's climate and weather services begin

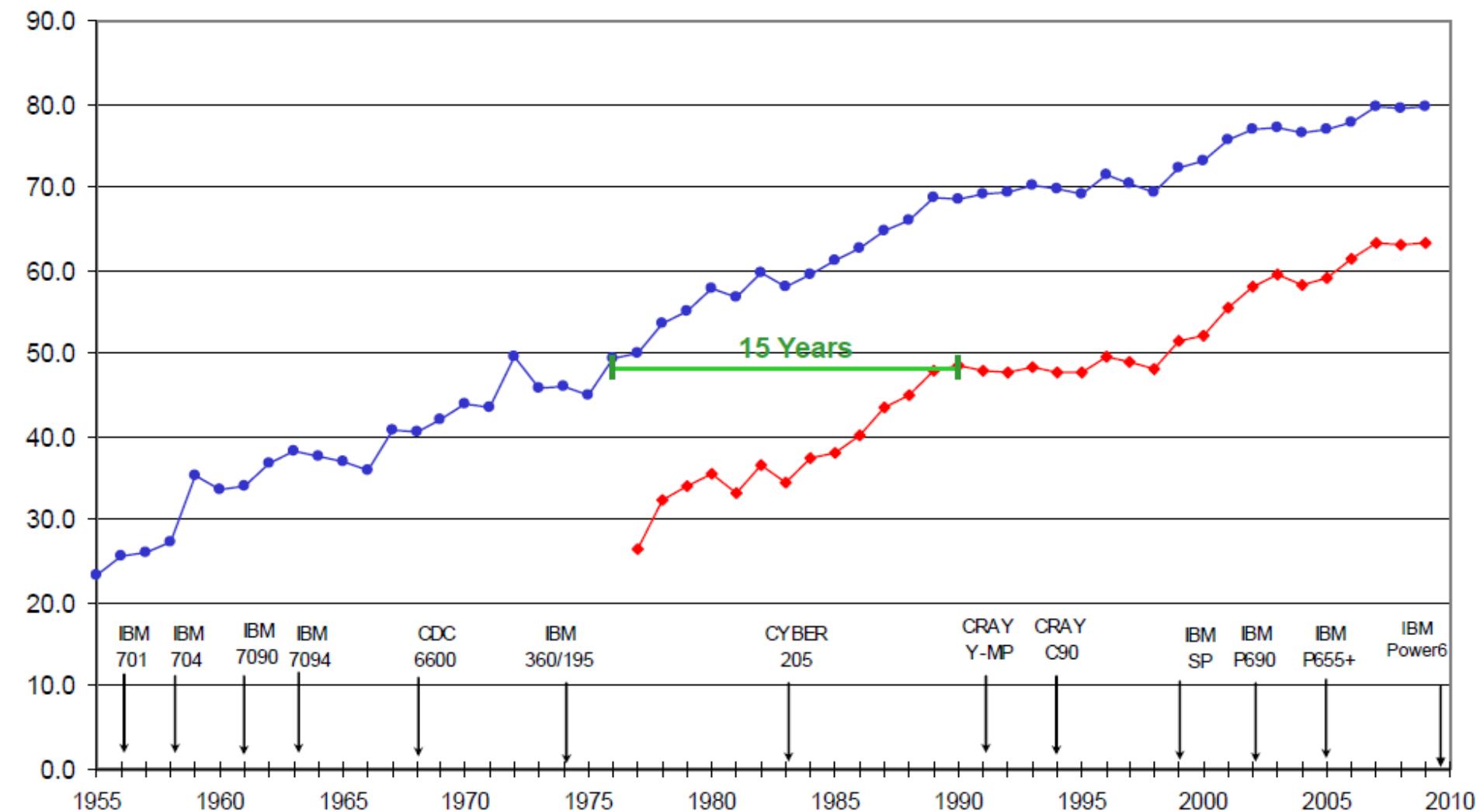


# NCEP Operational Forecast Skill

36 and 72 Hour Forecasts @ 500 MB over North America  
[ $100 * (1 - S1/70)$  Method]

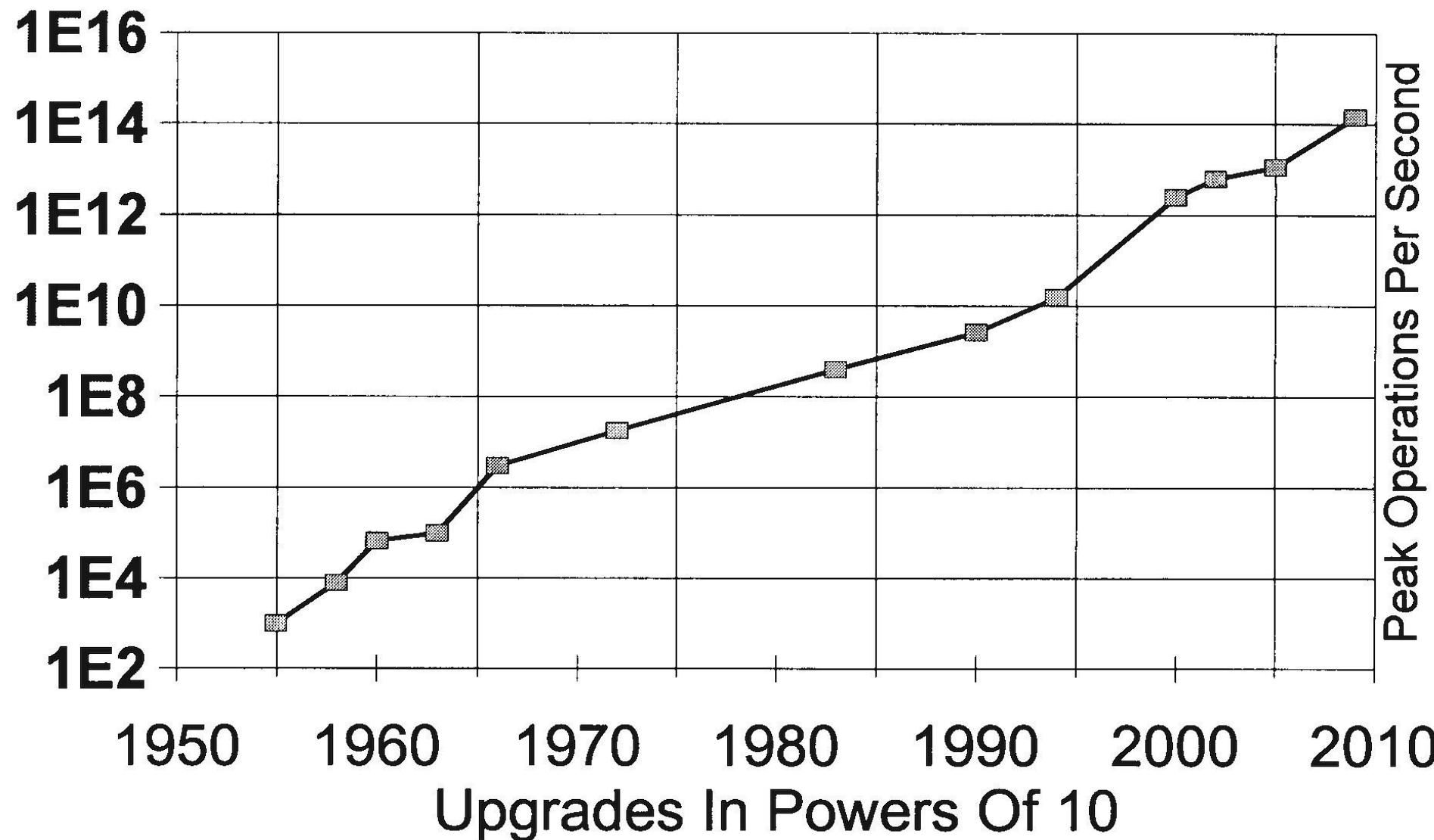


● 36 Hour Forecast      ● 72 Hour Forecast



# Peak Performance Trend

1954/JNWP Unit    1958/NMC    1997/NCEP



# CAVEATS & APOLOGIES

## up front

- In fleshing out this story,
  - I will be biased towards US, NMC & NCEP
  - I will not cover everything (you expect)
  - I will not give credit to everyone (you would)
  - Therefore, by definition, I will disappoint some, if not, ALL of you.
- Sorry, you'll just have to deal with it.

# Beginnings & First Transitions

Vilhelm  
Bjerknes



who, in 1904, declared the problem of prognosis as the integration of the equations of motion for the atmosphere ...

that future states of the atmosphere are dictated by its detailed initial state and known boundary conditions. His students at the Bergen School were strongly influenced by Bjerknes and would become future giants of our discipline: Carl-Gustav Rossby, Arnt Eliassen and Ragnar Fjortoft. (see Kalnay Cambridge Press)

C. Pekeris
H. Byers
R. Montgomery
H. Seiwell
R. Simmers
H. Wexler
M. Neiberger
V. Starr
D. Fultz
R. Bryson
H.-L. Kuo
G. Platzman
T.-C. Yeh
G. Cressman
Y.-P. Hsieh
J. Malkus
C. Newton
J. Freeman
D. Rex
B. Bolin
E. Eriksson
A. Wiin-Nielsen
B. Döös
J. Namias
J. Charney

# C-G Rossby Mentorship Chain

From BAMS: Lewis, 1992

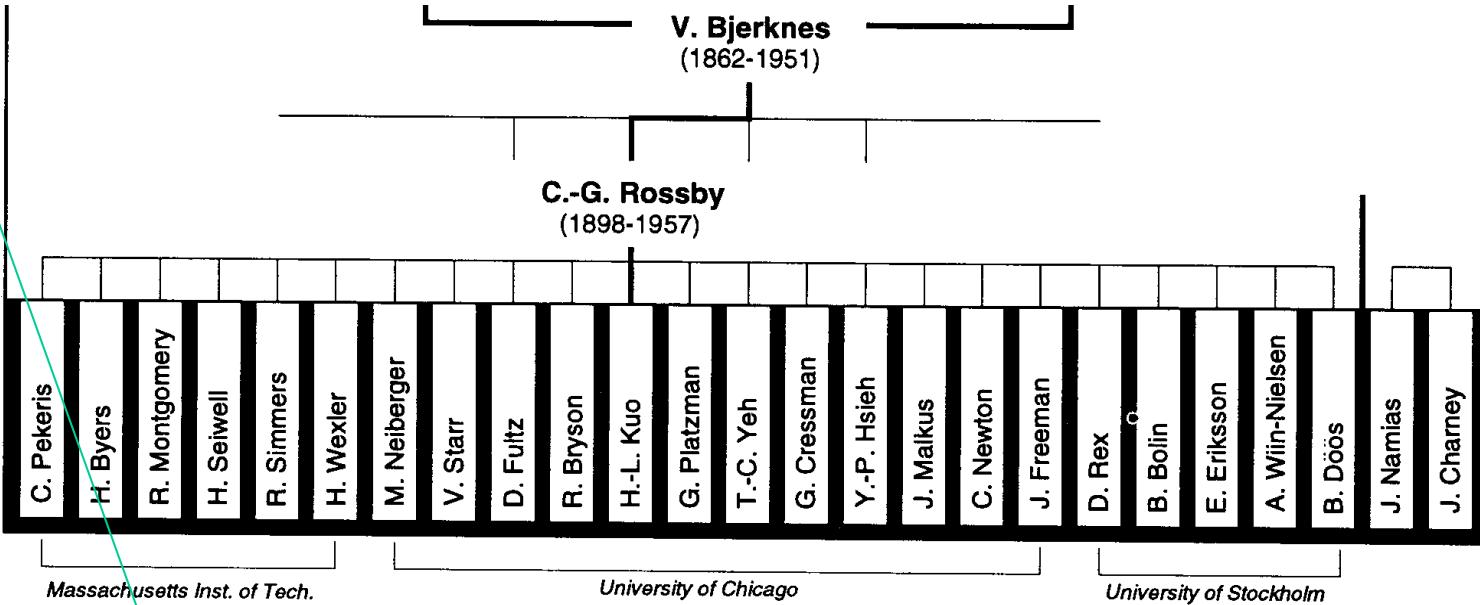
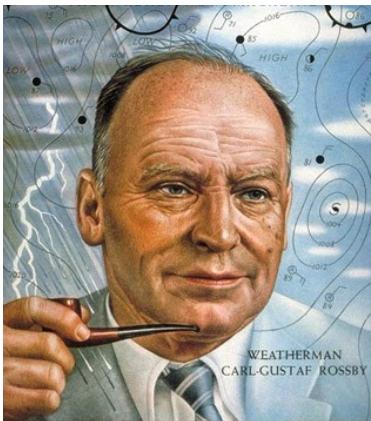


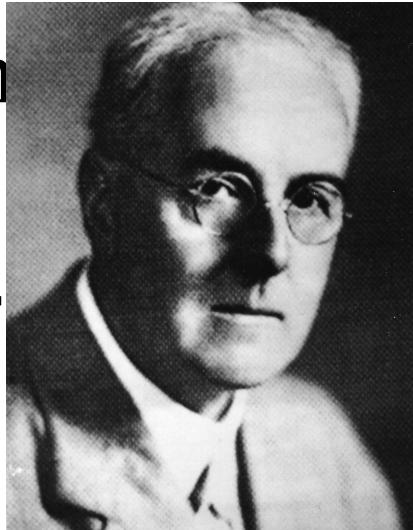
FIG. 7. The mentorship chain of C.-G. Rossby. The protégés are listed chronologically on the bottom from left to right, based on the date of the doctoral degree.

Norm Phillips, Fred Schuman et al.

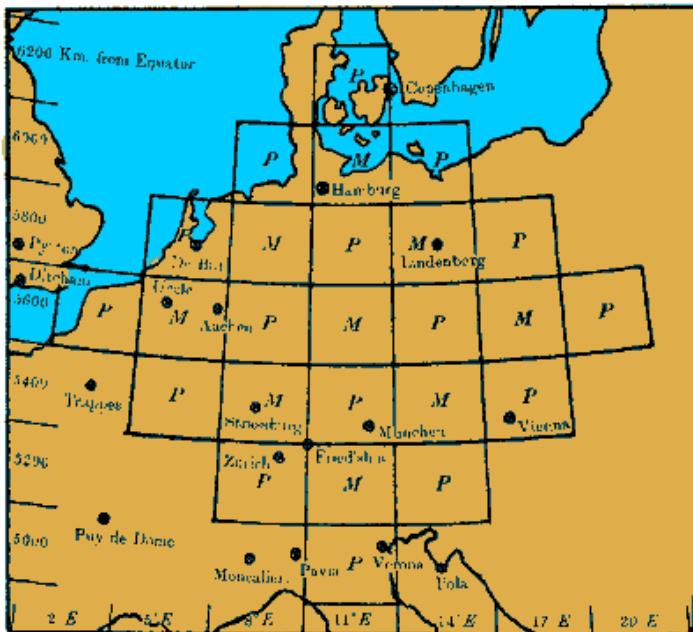
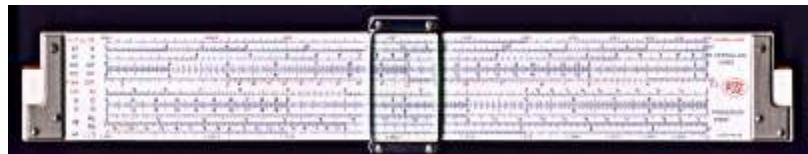
# The First Attempt

L. F. Richardson

The grandfather of  
Numerical Weather  
Prediction (NWP)



who first laid out a numerical model and actually performed the computations (by hand!) during WWI.



He failed, in large part, due to his choice of an unfiltered form of the governing equations.

# 1906: De Forest Audion Vacuum Tube



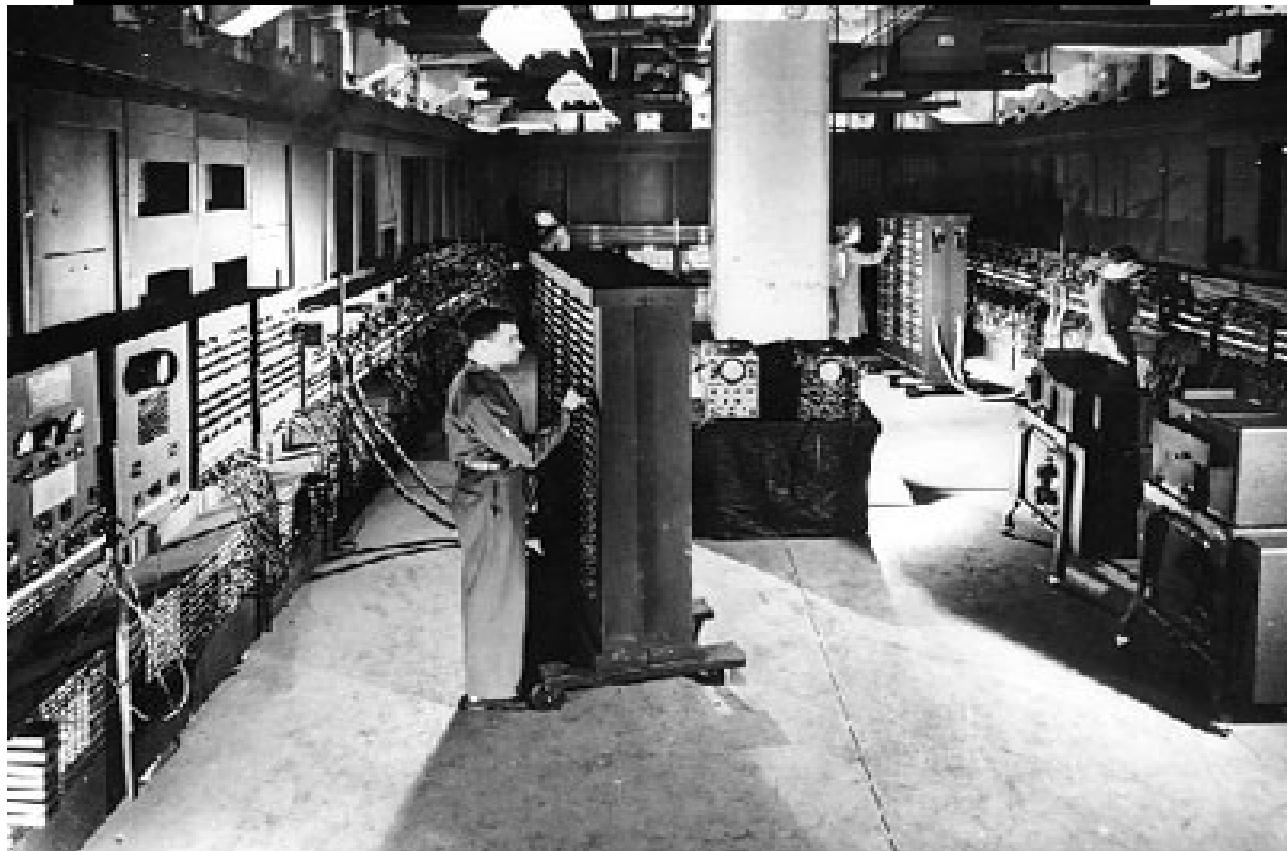
through FORTY YEARS of countless developments,  
leads to ...

Electrical  
Numerical  
Integrator  
And  
Calculator

Aberdeen, MD



# ENIAC (1946)



Jule Charney, Fjortoft, Eliassen and John von Neumann of Princeton's Institute of Advanced Studies made the first 48 hr barotropic filtered model forecast on ENIAC in 1949

# 1952: IBM Unveils the IBM-701



1952: IBM 701 - The Company's [First](#) Fully Electronic Computer

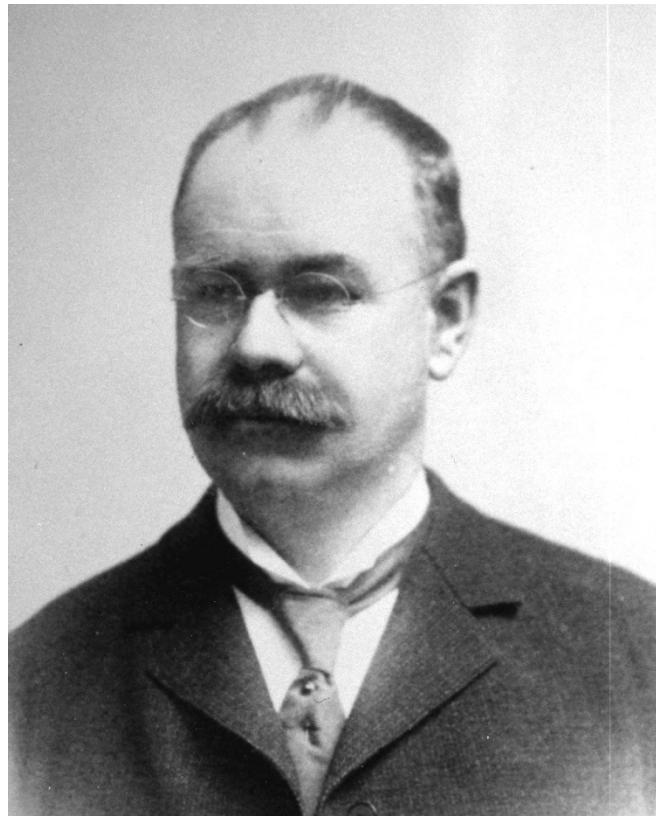
Thomas Watson, Sr. (seated) the CEO of IBM in 1952 using the IBM 701 computer, the company's [first](#) fully electronic model. This computer also had the ability to read/write [magnetic tape](#), but at this stage it still relied mainly on [punched cards](#) for I/O. A total of [nineteen](#) 701's were installed during its three year lifespan at a monthly lease rate of about \$15,000.

# 1954: Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit is formed ... for which

# Weather Bureau Buys Last IBM-701

Number Shipped to	Date	Note	
1 IBM World Hqtrs, NY	Dec. 1952	(a)	Used for hydrodynamics calculations
2 Univ of Cal. Los Alamos	Mar. 1953	(a)	Mathematics Analysis Department used the 701 for problems in aircraft design, such as aerodynamic performance and stability, thermal dynamics and structural and flight dynamics
3 Lockheed Aircraft, CA	Apr. 1953	(b)	
4 Nat'l Security Agy, DC	Apr. 1953	(c)	Arrived on May 23, 1953, aboard a DC-6A aircraft. The 701 was used to get the DC-7 into production months ahead of schedule. It solved engineering & scientific problems on Douglas commercial aircraft, including DC-6B, DC-7, DC-7C & development of DC-8
5 Douglas Aircraft, CA	May 1953	(c)	
6 General Electric, OH	May 1953		
7 Convair, Fort Worth	Jul. 1953	(d)	Used to calculate rocket and missile performance and to simulate flight conditions of these devices at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station China Lake
8 U.S. Navy, Inyokern, CA	Aug. 1953	(d)	
9 United Aircraft, CT	Sep. 1953		
10 North American Av., CA	Oct. 1953	(e)	Handled engineering problems, from basic configuration selection through aerodynamic and structural design to the analysis of flight test data
11 Rand Corp., CA	Oct. 1953	(f)	
12 Boeing Corp., WA	Nov. 1953	(g)	Used to solve wide variety of problems in economics, mathematics, aircraft, missiles, electronics, nuclear energy and social sciences
13 Univ of Cal. Los Alamos	Dec. 1953		
14 Douglas Aircraft, CA	Jan. 1954	(h)	Used to assist engineers and designers in solving problems in aerodynamics, stress and structural development, and flight testing of supersonic and jet aircraft and guided missiles
15 Naval Aviation Supply, PA	Feb. 1954		
16 Univ of Cal. Livermore	Apr. 1954		
17 General Motors Corp., MI	Apr. 1954		(h) Solved engineering problems on U.S. Navy A3D Skywarrior, A4D Skyhawk and F4D Skyray programs, and USAF C-133 and RB-66 programs
18 Lockheed Aircraft, CA	Jun. 1954	(h)	
19 U.S. Weather Bureau, DC	Feb 1955	(i)	(i) Produced from spare parts

# First Computer Cards



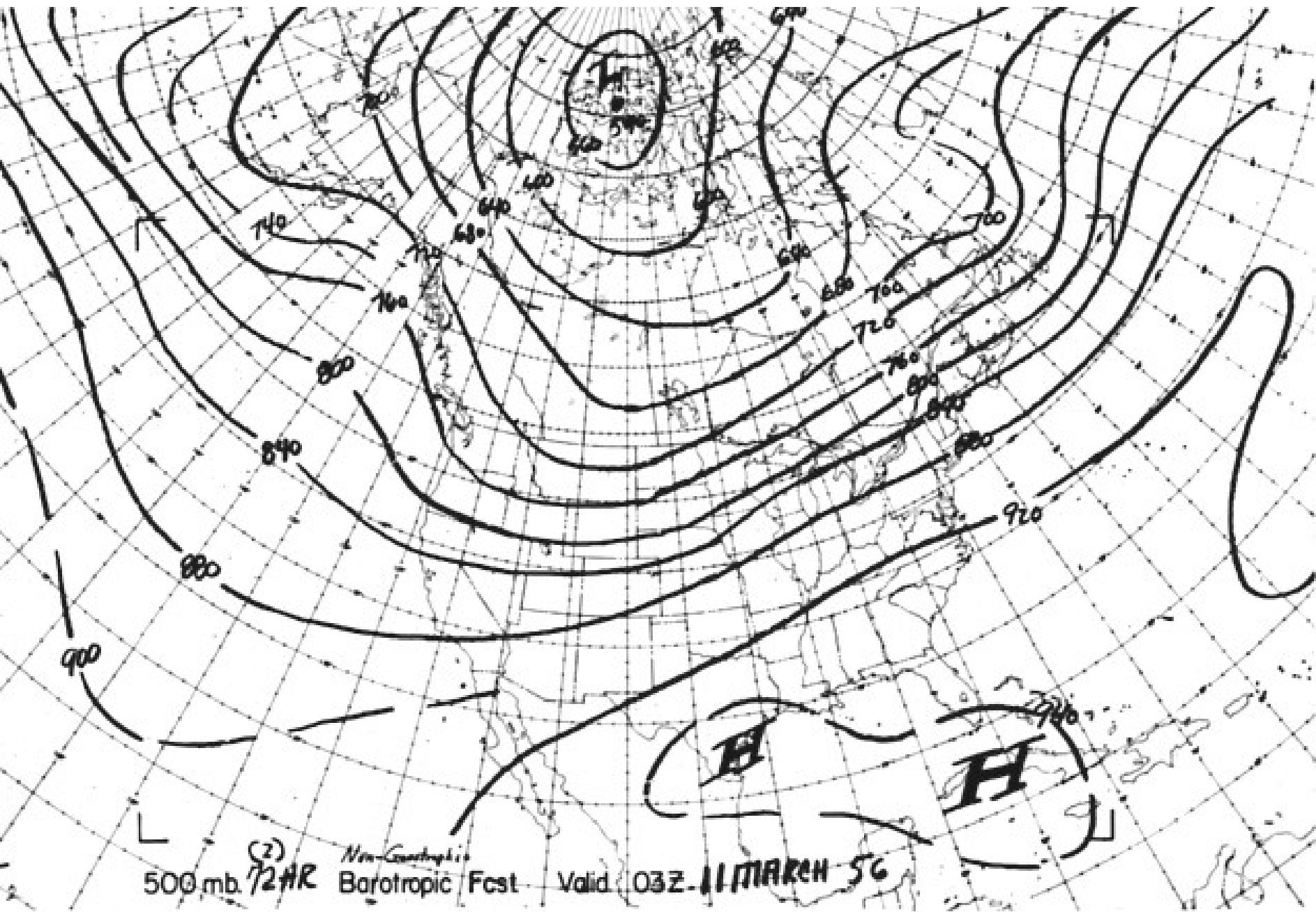
In 1890, Herman Hollerith made the size of the data-processing card (later commonly known as the IBM card) equal to the dollar bill of that time - allowing the reuse of existing filing bins and similar equipment. Shown is a 1930 Silver Certificate that still had the same size. In 1929 the dollar bill was reduced by 20% in both dimensions.

# 1955 - First Operational

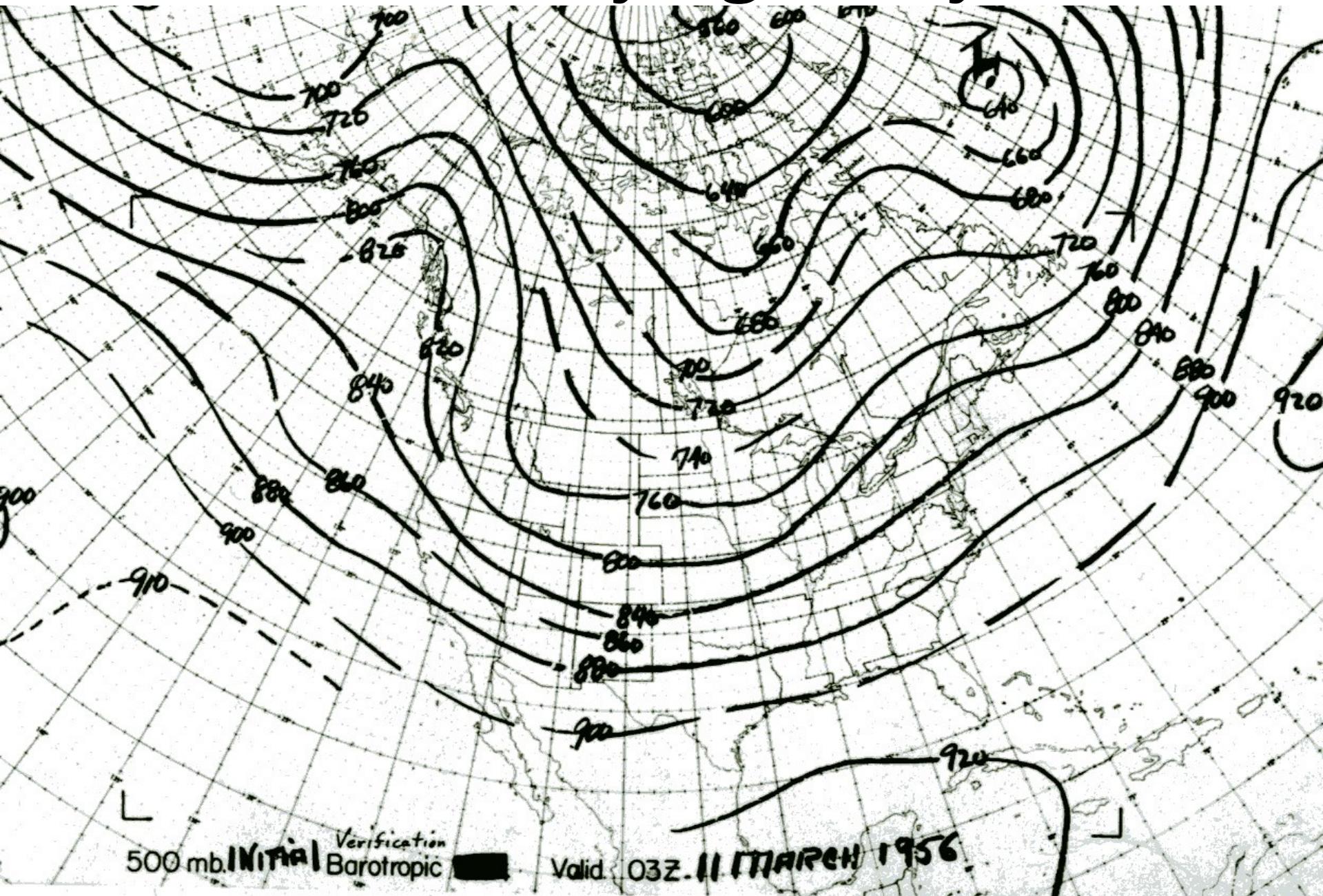
## Production Suite

- Baroclinic 300 km / 3-layer CONUS to 36 hr
  - 1500z run started 2100z finished 2230z
- Thermotropic 375 km / 2 layer No. Am to 36 hr
  - 0300z run started 1000z finished 1230z
- Barotropic 600 km / 1 layer ~NHemis to 72 hr
  - 0300z run started 1230z finished 1300z
- NEED for more rapid transmission and processing of observational data
- LEGEND: green = new, blue = upgrade, blue = upgrade, black = original, and red = drivers for the next machine

# 1956 Model Guidance



# 1956 Verifying Analysis



# Analysis Assemblyline



# Objective Analysis Comes to the Rescue

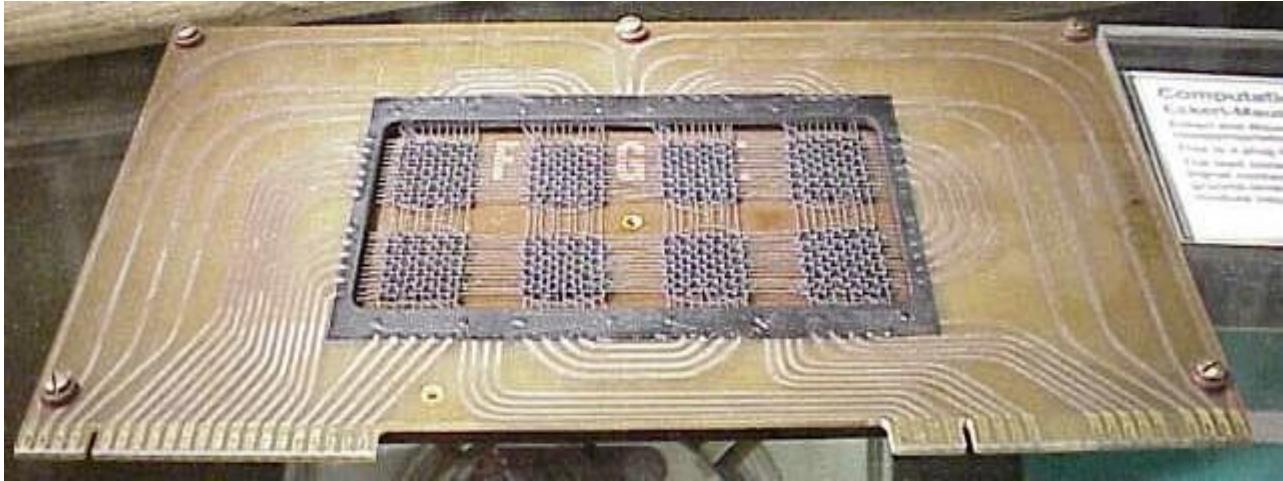
- Bergthorsson-Doos (1955), Cressman (1957) – develop the successive corrections analysis which is still used by Glahn & Ruth in today's gridded MOS
- Sasaki (1958) – variational analysis
- Gandin (1967) – optimum interpolation
- Phillips (1960) – issues of balance and initial data for primitive equations

# 1957 USWB Buys IBM-704



**One of ~4000  
Logic Modules**

**First to use core  
memory which  
was fast, reliable  
but initially \$\$\$**

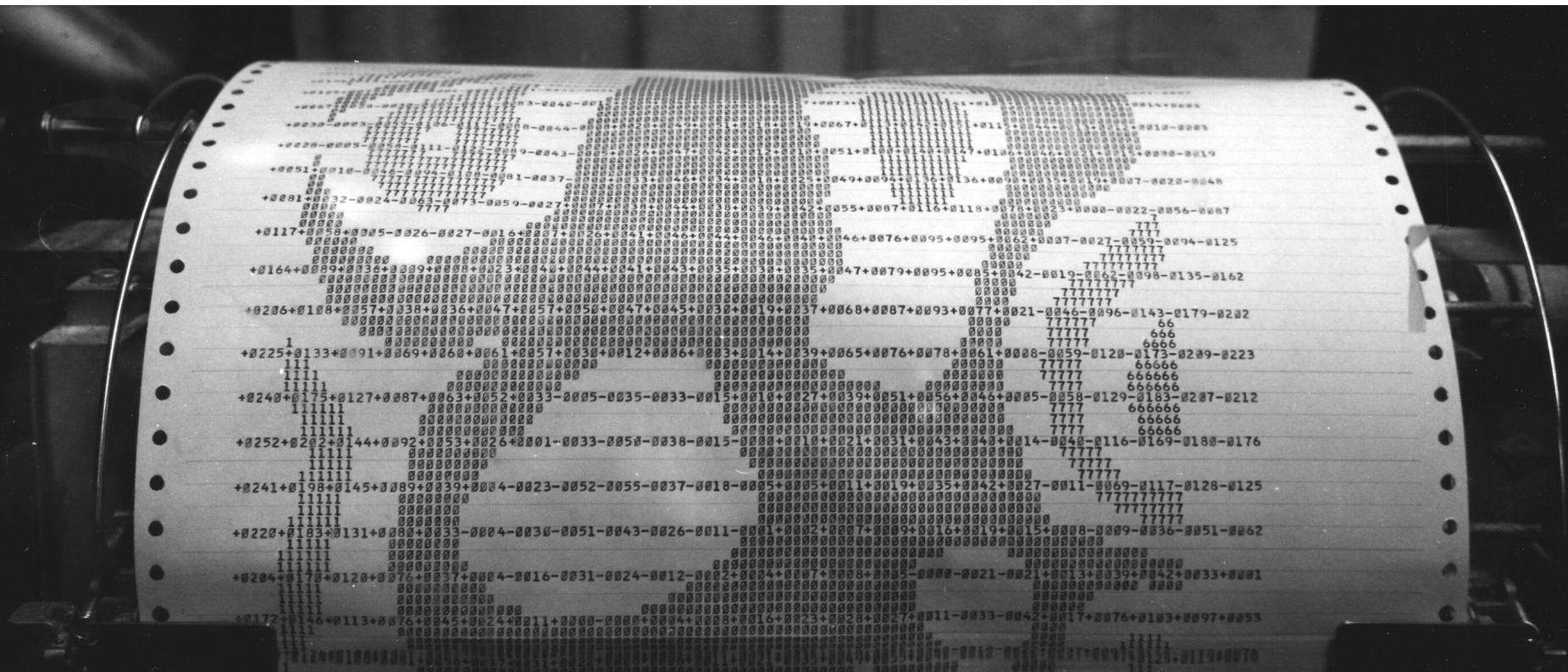


# 1957 IBM-704

- Chief architect was Gene Amdahl
- IBM's first commercial machine with floating-point hardware
- First "modern" machine with: index registers, random access (core) memory, magnetic tape and card input and output, line printer output - console had programmable lights & sense switches but there was still no operating system
- First widely-used machine to use a high-level programming language - **FORTRAN**
- FORTRAN (FORmula TRANslator) was written by one of the IBM 704 designers - first compiler was so efficient, it took 15 years for it to be replaced, could use magnetic tape for intermediate storage (i.e. before availability of fast affordable disk), but could only read 72 of the 80 columns on card (hardware limitation)

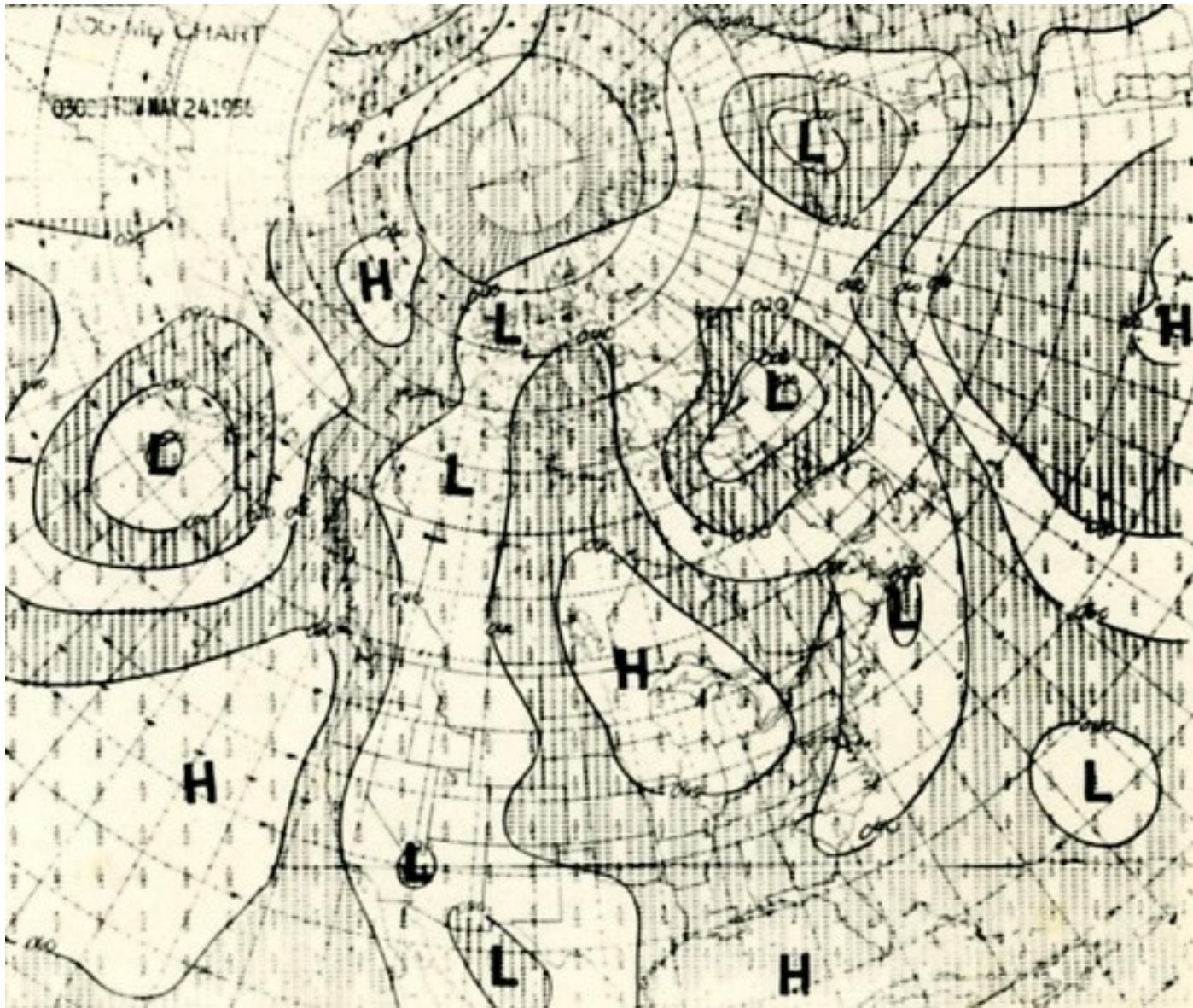
# 1957 IBM-704 Line Printers

What would become the ubiquitous IBM line printer was a modified 407 accounting machine printer, which ran at 150 lines per minute. The printers were able to print lines of up to 132 characters on 17-inch-wide paper



# Early Primitive Graphics

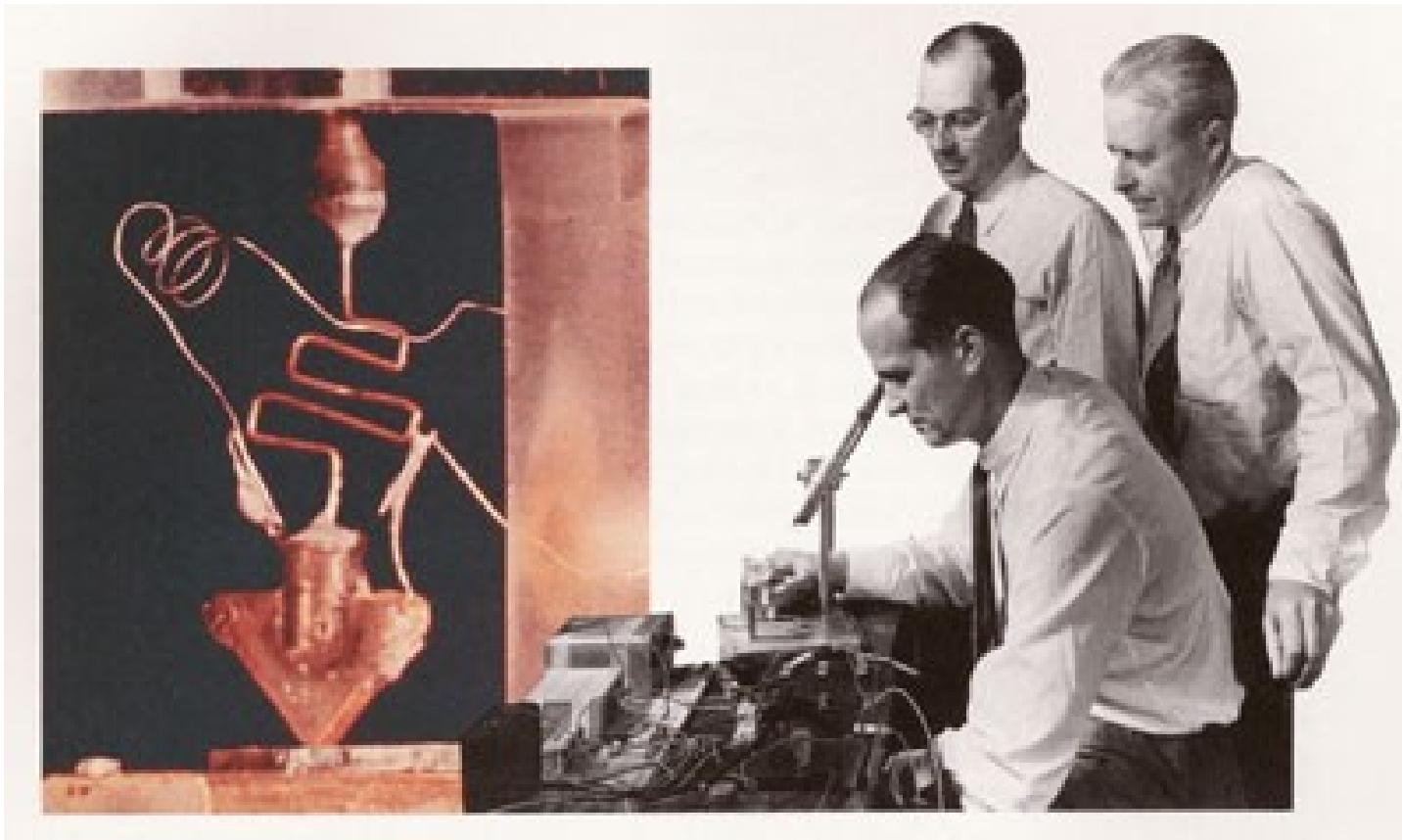
## 1000 mb prog from grid-print “contouring”



# 1957-58 Production Suite

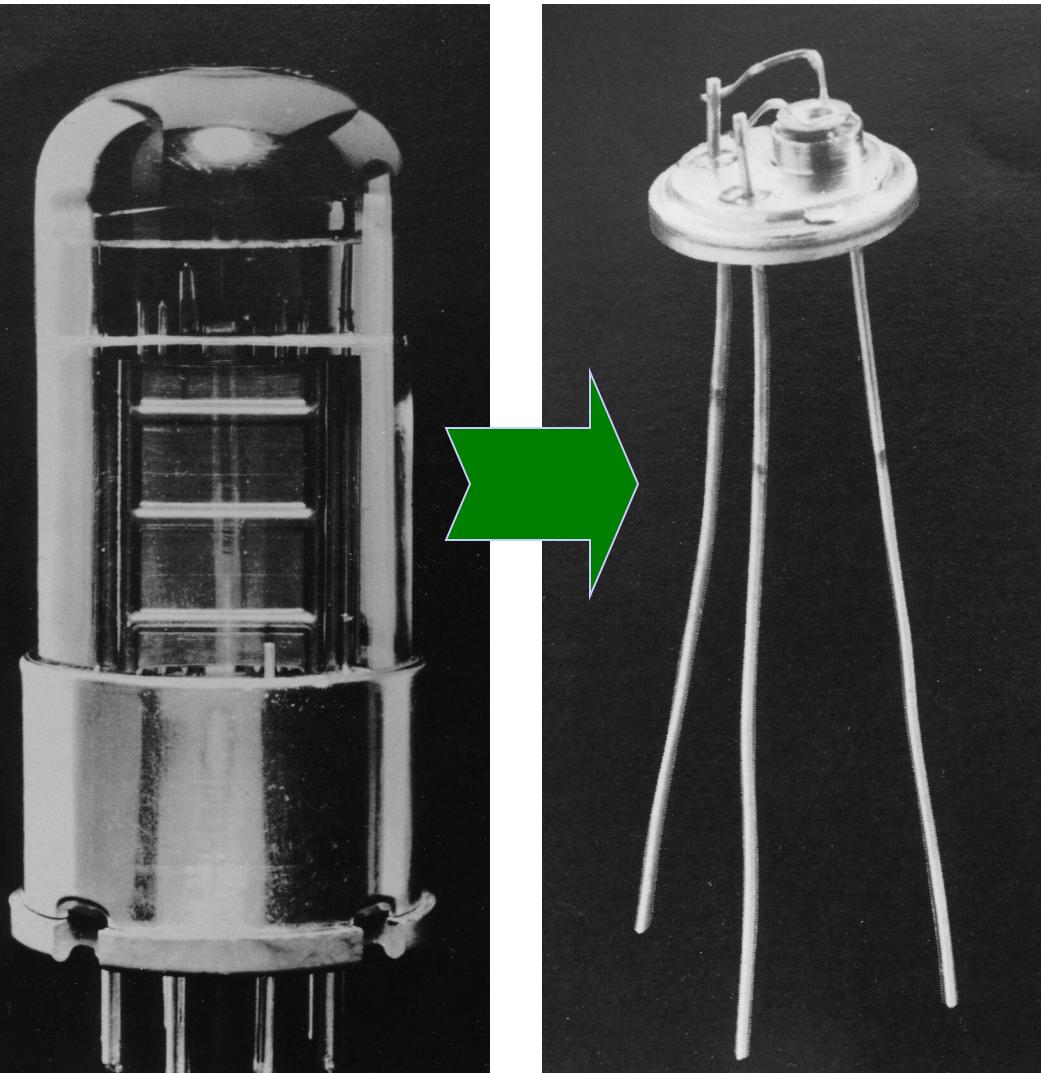
- Baroclinic replaced in 1958 by 2-layer CONUS
  - 1500z run started 2100z finished 2230z
- Thermotropic 375 km / 2 layer No. America
  - 0300z run started 1000z finished 1230z
- Barotropic upgraded in 1957 to 381 km using 1977 point No. Hemisphere octagon
  - First objective analysis and better numerics

# 1947 - First Transistor



The first transistor (TRANSfer resISTOR) was invented at Bell Laboratories on December 16, 1947 by William Shockley (seated), John Bardeen (left) and Walter Brattain (right).

# Tubes to Transistors IBM-704 to IBM-7090



A 1960 successor to the tube-based IBM 704, the IBM 709 introduced distinct input-output channels, that allowed input output to proceed in parallel with computation. At government request IBM built a transistorized version, first designated to be the 709T. This machine, renumbered 7090, became the prime IBM scientific computer until the 360-series arrived in 1966.

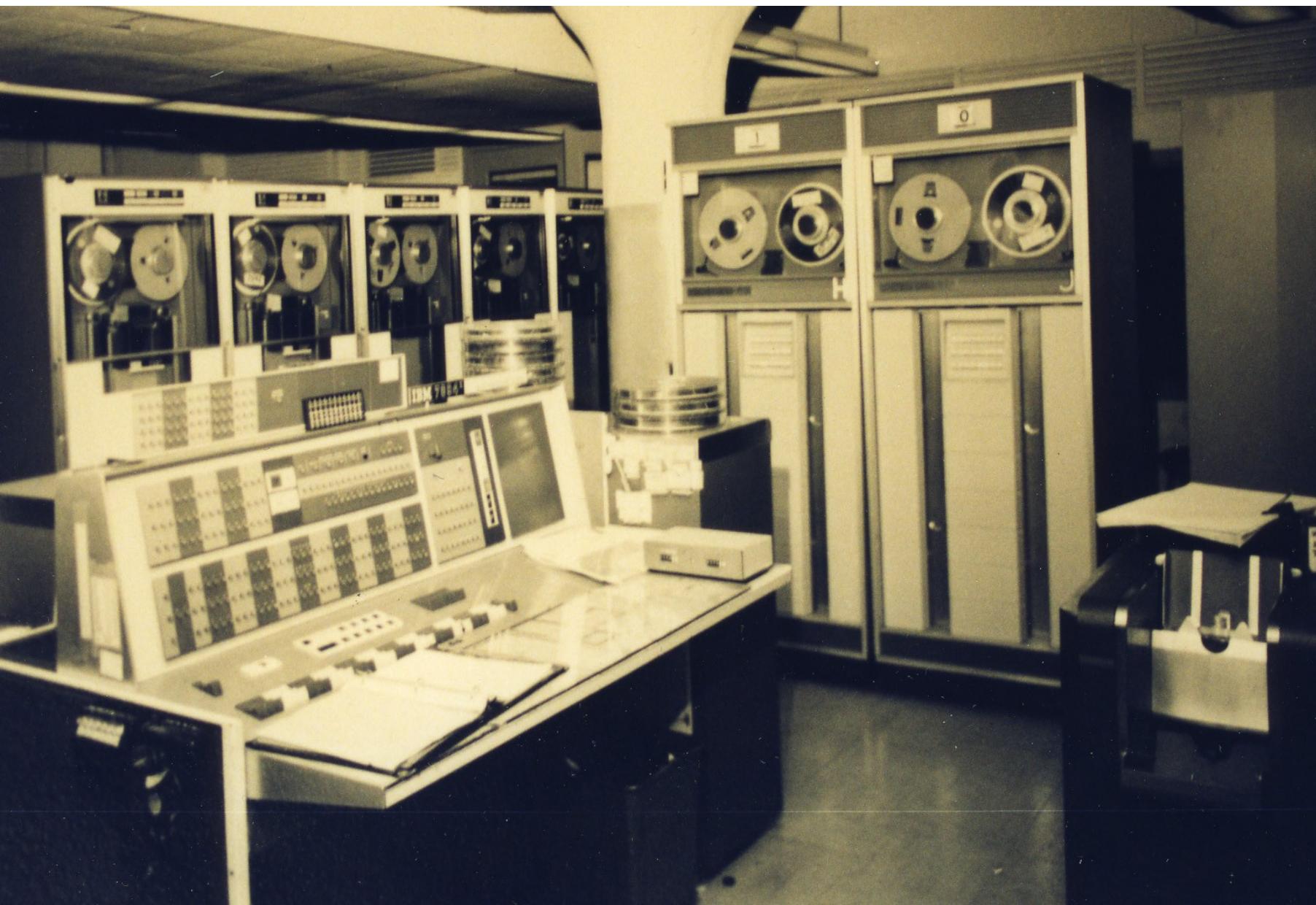
# “BIG IRON”

- IBM's "big iron" Data Processing Division was formed in 1956 to focus on the development and marketing of mainframe products. Within a short time, the company had developed:
  - the first commercial airline reservation system (SABRE), using 1958's IBM 7090 data processing system
  - the Stretch supercomputer (IBM 7030) delivered to Los Alamos in 1961 which was 200 times faster than the IBM 701, 40 times faster than the IBM 709 and 7 times faster than the IBM 7090
  - the stretch became the IBM 7094 and was "basis" for CDC 6600
- Most of the old big-iron machines were scrapped long ago for precious metals content - check out the Stanford site:  
<http://www.thegalleryofoldiron.com/>

# 1960 USWB Buys an IBM 7090



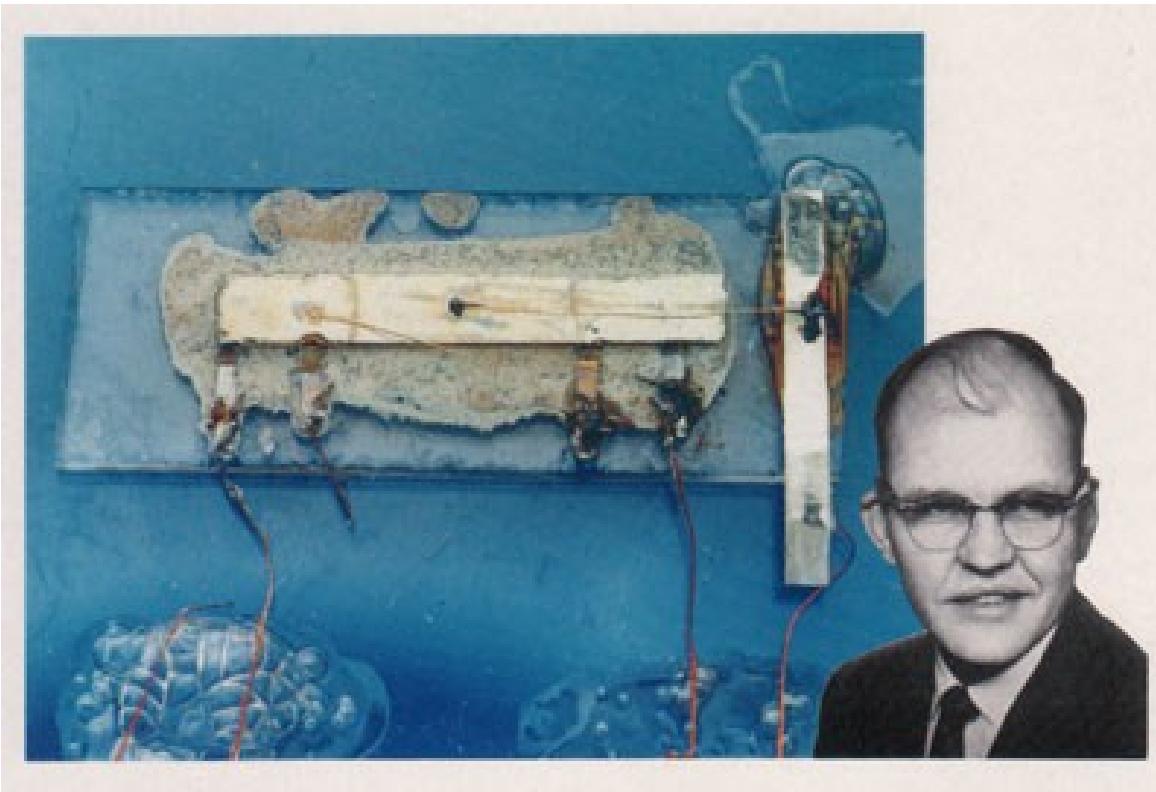
# 1963 USWB Buys an IBM 7094



# 1962-65 NMC Production Suite

- 2-layer Baroclinic replaced in 1962 by Cressman filtered 381 km/3-layer N.Hemis octagon to 36 hr
- Thermotropic 375 km / 2 layer No. Am to 36 hr
- Barotropic 381 km No. Hemis to 72 hr
- Added Reed Surface Model 381 km / 2 layer N.Hemisphere to 36 hr
- All models initialized with objective analysis
- Development of hemispheric and regional Primitive Equation models awaiting bigger computers to run them on

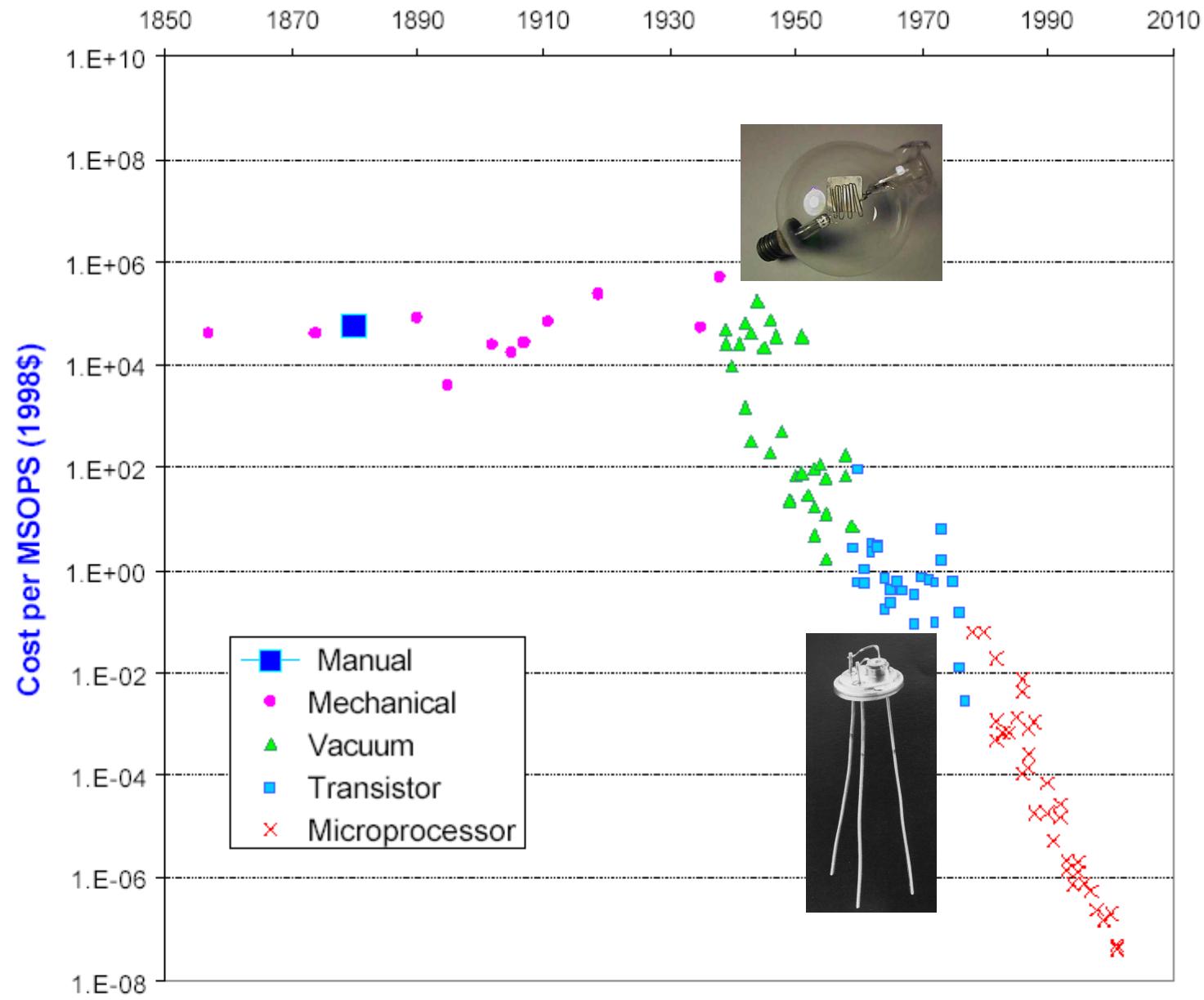
# Transistors to Integrated Circuits



1958: The first Integrated Circuit is invented by Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments

Jack Kilby, an engineer at Texas Instruments, completed his first device (pictured) on September 12, 1958 which was actually constructed on germanium rather than silicon, as he could not find a suitable piece of silicon at the time. But the integrated circuit was fully functional, and TI officially announced it in January 1959.

# Cost Drop With Technology Advance



# 1964 - CDC 6600

- Designed by Seymour Cray with solid state components using a sophisticated Freon cooling system and 60-bit word (vs 36-bit IBM).
- First “supercomputer” performing 3 mips with 10 ns clockspeed  
Fastest computer in the world until 1968 surpassed by CDC 7600
- Speed, in part, came from the computer’s distributed design, which had 10 small computers, known as peripheral processors, funneling data to a large central processing unit using reduced instruction set (RISC) many years before such a term had been invented
- First to have a CRT console (CDC checkout engineers created computer games such as Baseball, Lunar Lander, and Space Wars, which became incentives for getting the machines operational. These are thought to be the first computer games that used monitors.)

# Personal Reflection

- While an undergrad at Penn State, I take my O N L Y formal computer class – a one credit programming class in FORTRAN IV
- In 1973, by exam, I use FORTRAN for my PhD language requirement – thank you SUNYA!

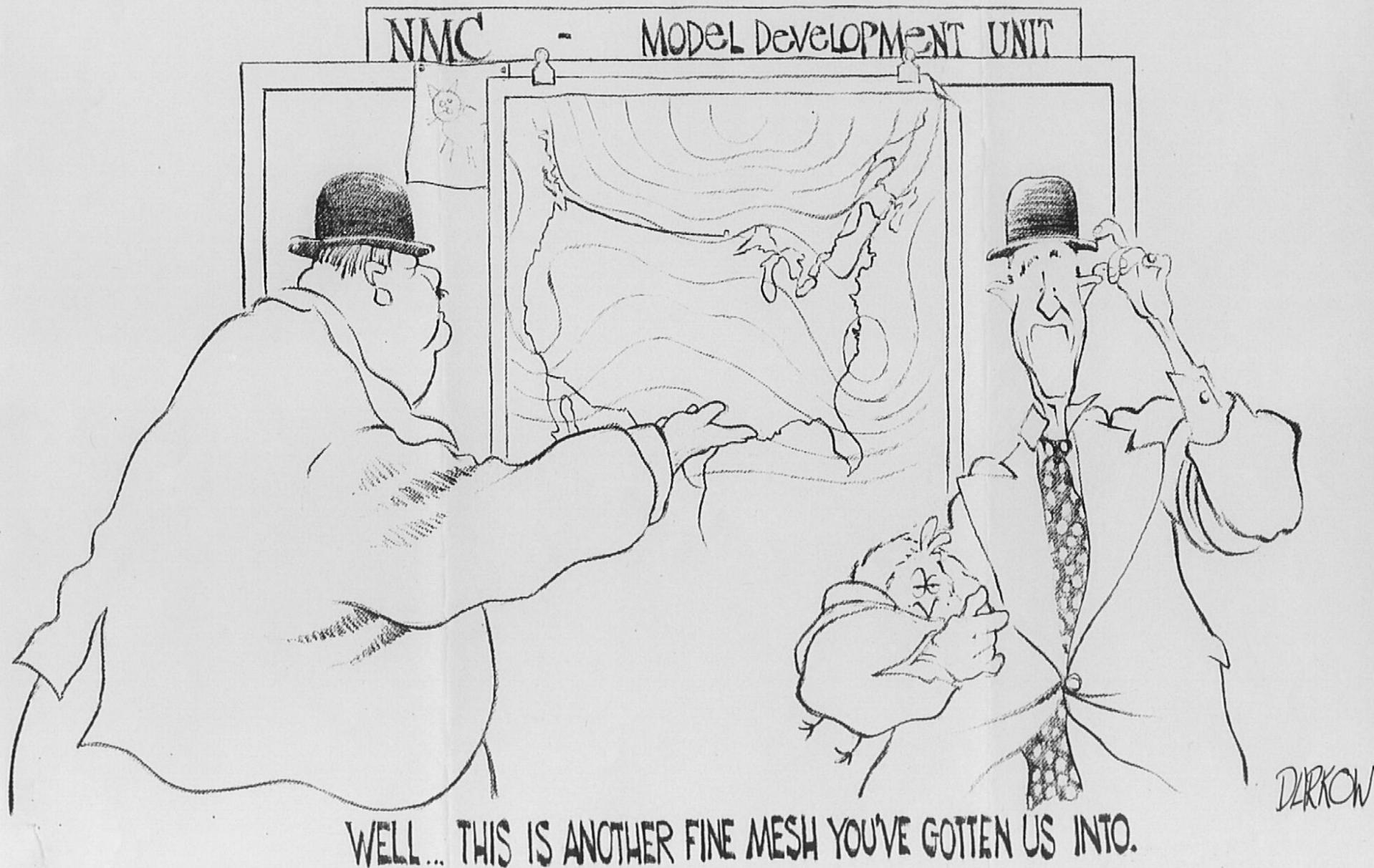
# 1966 USWB Buys a CDC 6600



# 1966-73 NMC Production Suite

- Cressman filtered 381 km/3 layer N.Hemis to 36hr
- Thermotropic replaced in 1966 by Shuman-Hovermale PE model 381 km / 6 layer N.Hemis 53x57 to 36 hr
- Barotropic 381 km N. Hemis to 72 hr
- In 1970 Barotropic extension of PE 84-144 hrs
- Reed Surface Model 381 km N.Hemis to 36 hr
- In 1971 Limited-area Fine Mesh (LFM) 190.5km/6 layer No. America to 24 hr
- TDL Wave model 381 km N.Hemis to 36 hr
- TDL Perf. Prog. & MOS off the 6-layer PE
- Development of global analysis and modeling systems awaiting bigger computers to run them on

# Well...this is another FINE MESH...



# 1971 IBM 360-195

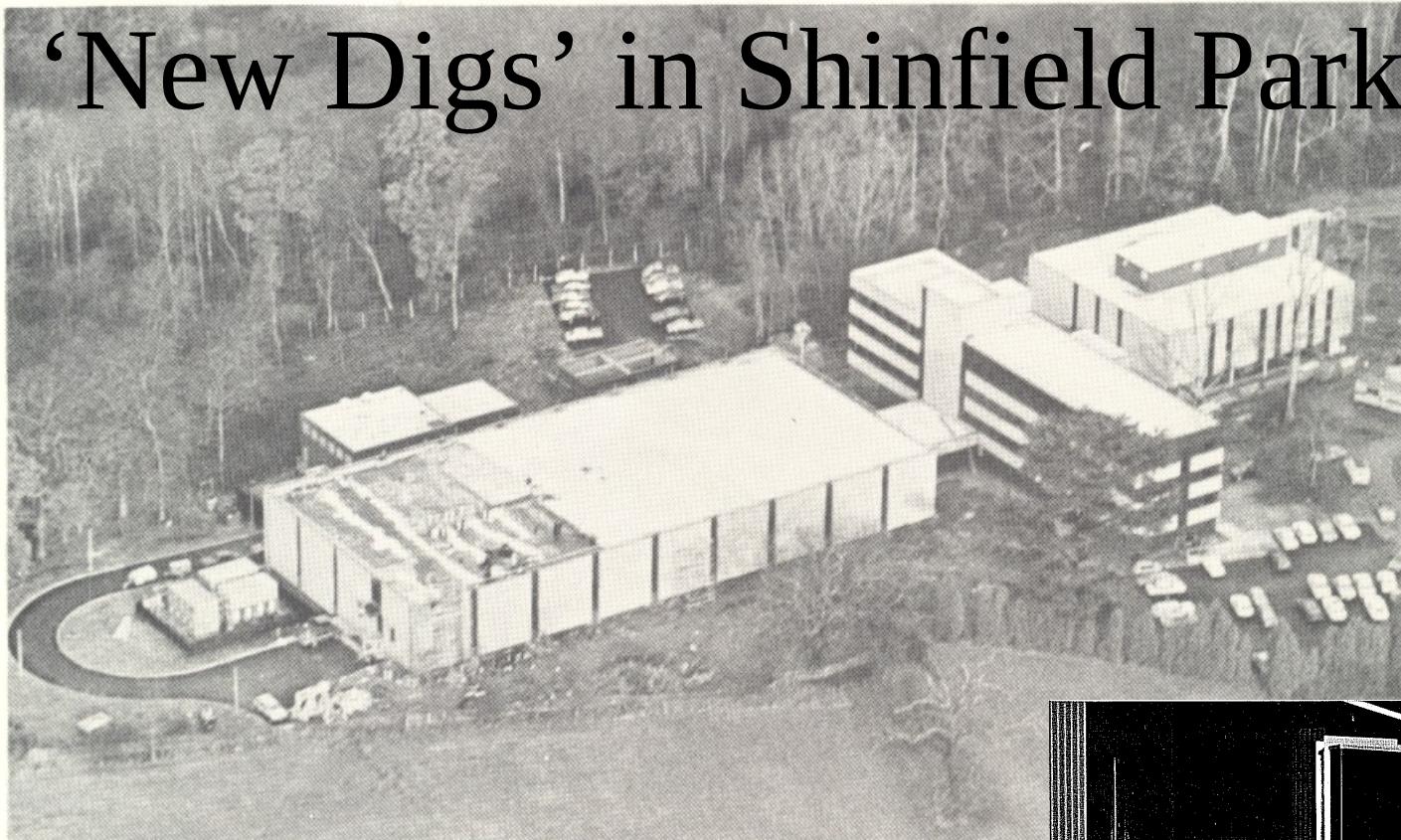


# 1972 NWS Buys IBM 360-195

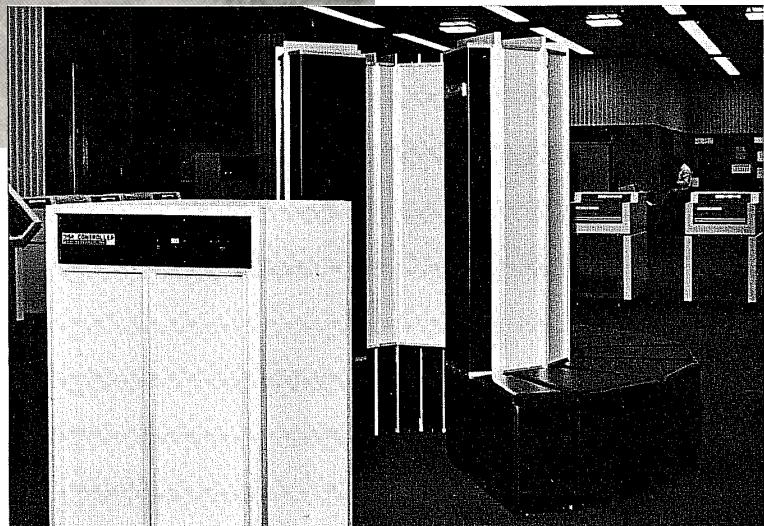
ESSA's NWS buys 2 IBM 360-195's and gets a third from GFDL in 1973 - first interactive development via IBM's TSO



# ECMWF & Its CRAY-1 Move Into 'New Digs' in Shinfield Park, UK



European Centre for Medium Range  
Weather Forecasts



The CRAY-1 Computer, installed in the Computer Block of the Centre's permanent headquarters at Shinfield Park.

Akira Kasahara said  
“When it comes to the bottom  
line, whoever has the faster  
computer will win”.

# Comparing Mission Requirements

Suite Element	Global NWP	Regional NWP	Fire Weather Rapid Update Hurricane	Air Quality	Global Ensembles	Regional Ensembles	Real Time Ocean	Seasonal / Interannual Climate
NCEP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ECMWF	X				X			X

ECMWF has twice the people, twice the computer,  
and less than half the mission requirements of NCEP

... but we're not bitter ^\_^

# Personal SUNYA Reflections

- DiMego, after losing an hours worth of code entry, kicks his 110 baud teletype terminal ... not for the last time, but the experience forces him to learn how to save work on the nifty papertape gizmo attached ☺
- SUNYA & Air Force Global Weather have UNIVAC 1108s



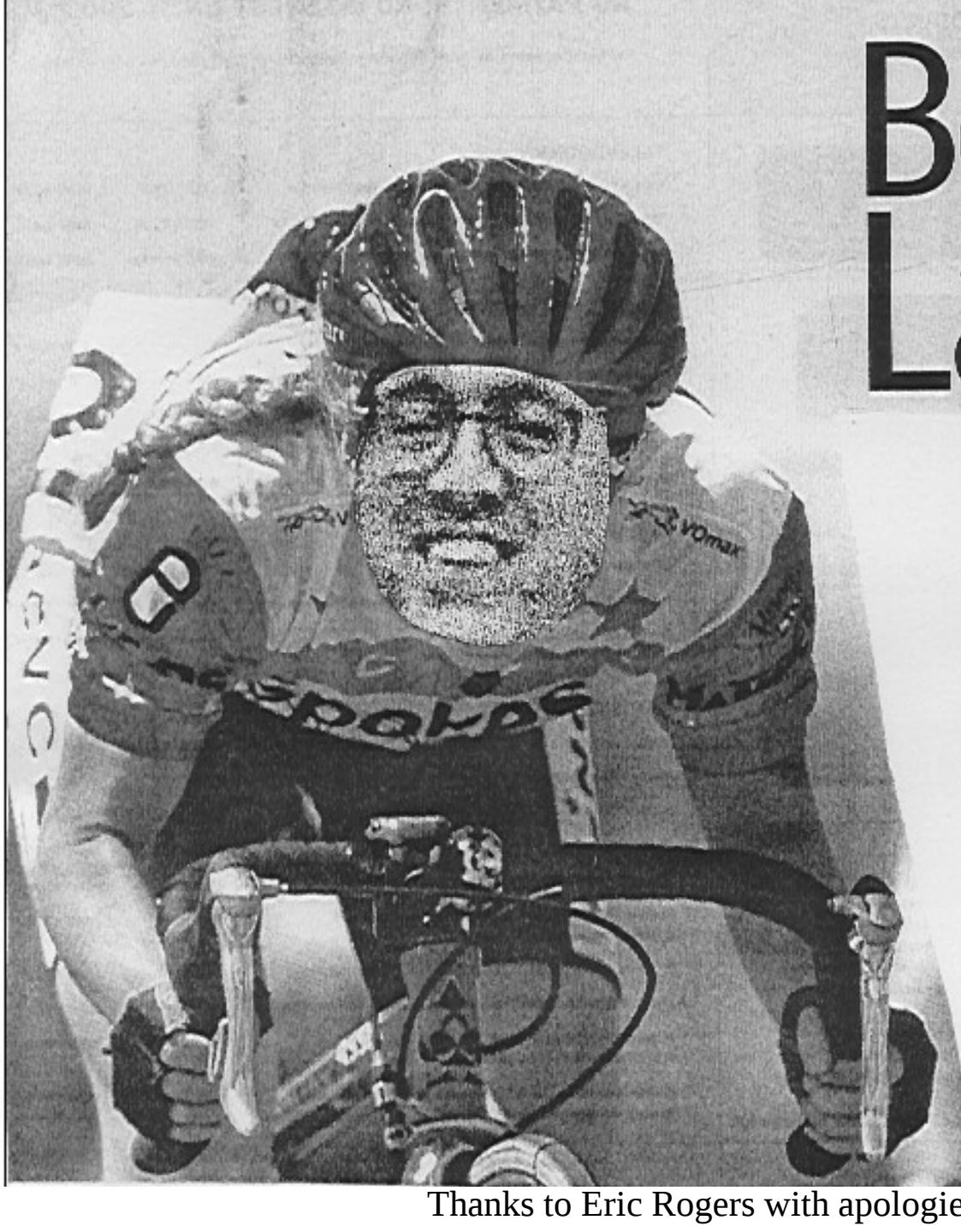
# 1974-78 NMC Production Suite

- Flattery Hough Analysis for PE ('74)
- Global PE 2.5 deg / 8 layer analysis cycle 12 hrly
- LFM extended from 24 to 36 ('75) to 48 hr ('76)
- Global PE 2.5 deg / 9 layer analysis cycle 12 hrly ('76)
- Vanderman PE 2.5 deg / 3 layer global to 242hr ('77)
- PE 190.5km / 7 layer N.Hemis (129x129) to 84hr ('78)
- Barotropic extension 381 km N.Hemis 84-240 hr ('78)
- Movable Fine Mesh for hurricanes 60 km / 10 layers  
50x50 window to 48 hr ('78)
- TDL adds more MOS
- Development of global spectral model, normal mode initialization, NGM etc await bigger computers

# Norm Phillips Gets Down & Dirty at NMC



With model & MOS guidance  
getting *so good*,  
NWS' Len Snellman  
sounds the warning of  
**meteorological cancer**  
and ...  
urges everyone to

A black and white photograph of Lance Armstrong riding a bicycle. He is wearing a cycling jersey with "LANCE ARMSTRONG" and "PEPSICO" printed on it, along with a matching cap. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Be Like  
Lance

Thanks to Eric Rogers with apologies to the Washington Post Weekend Magazine

# FGGE 1978-1979 = The BIG Stretch

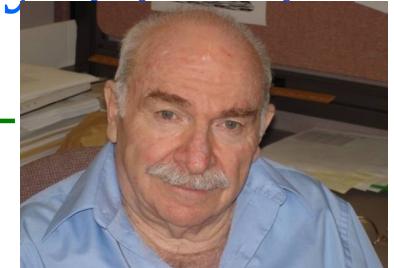


The First GARP Global Experiment (FGGE) involved the detailed study of the entire atmosphere over a whole year (December 1978-November 1979), with a large number of organizations from around the world involved.

The pre-FGGE Data Systems Tests conducted at NMC, NASA, and GFDL were inconclusive but their design, construction and execution expanded virtually every aspect of global data assimilation and modeling and pushed them to their limits much more rapidly than would have happened otherwise.

# 1979-82 NMC Production Suite

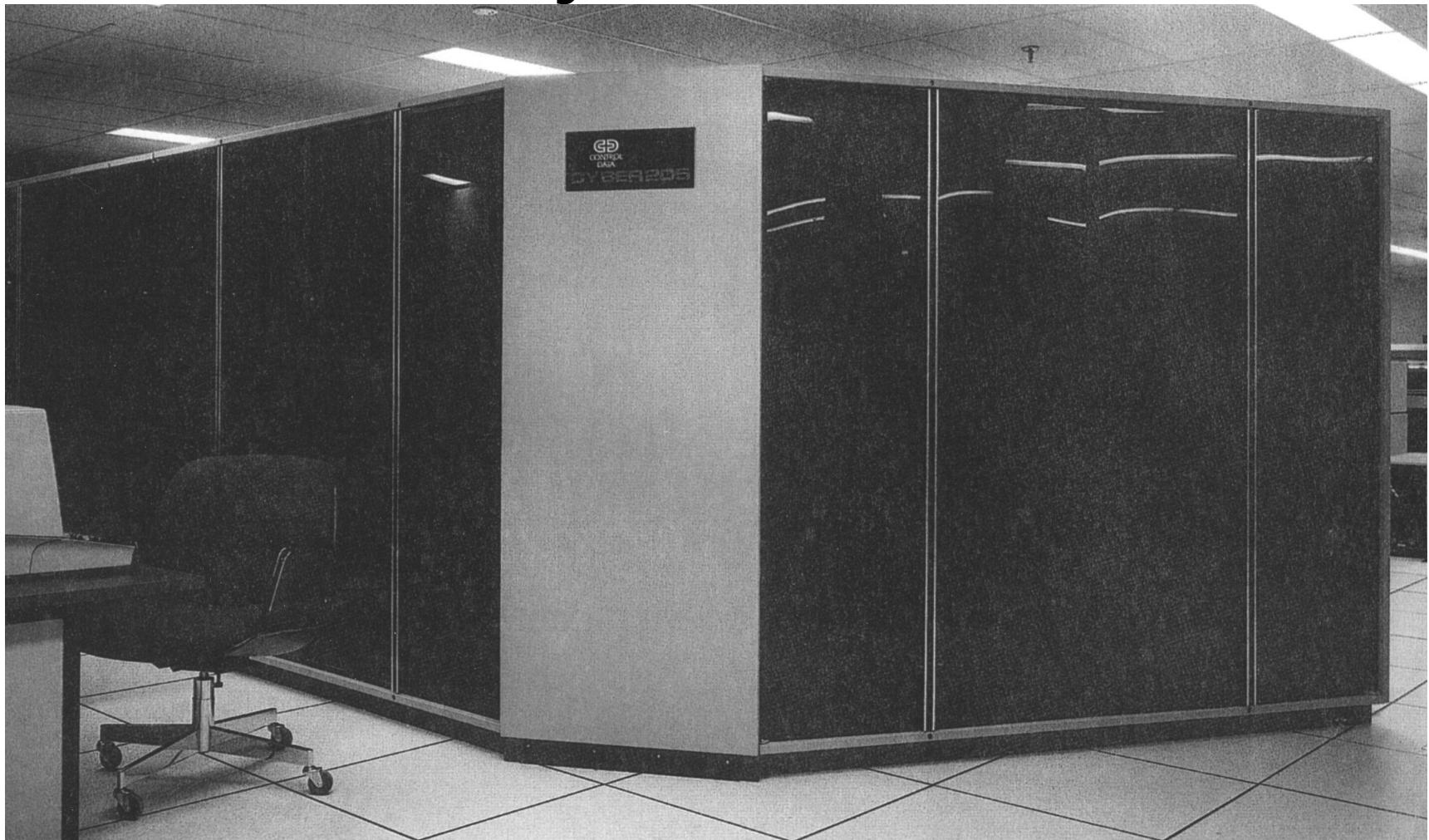
- LFM-II 127 km / 7 layer ('79) with 4th order fin.dif.  
190.5 km/7layer No. America to 48 hr ('81)
- PE extension with 4th order finite differencing  
381 km / 7 layer N.Hemis 60-144 hr ('80)
- Barotropic extended to 240 hours (10 days) ('80)
- Joe Sela's Global Spectral model R-30 /  
12 layer to 48 hr ('80)
- Spectral extension R-24/12 layer N.Hemis 48-144hr
- Development of NGM, optimum interpolation (OI),  
Medium Range Forecast (MRF) await next machine



# Personal Reflection

- ONLY jobs using no more than 256K bytes of memory and no more than 1 minute of cpu time were run on IBM 360-195's during the day - all other jobs ran overnight!
- Graphics jobs take an average of 3 days to turn around.

# 1981 NMC Buys a CDC CYBER 205



First parallel machine with two “pipes”, second machine in 1987.  
**MAJOR conversion effort** - needed long vectors to get max speed.  
IBM 360's are kept as front-ends - eventually replaced by HDs.

# 1983-89 NMC Production Suite

- Global Spectral model R-40 / 12 layer to 240 hr ('83)
- Global Spectral upgrade and MRF R-40 / 18 layer to 240 hr ('85)
- Nested Grid Model (NGM aka Norm's Great Model) + Regional OI  
80 km / 16 layer No. America to 48 hr ('85)
- NOAA Ocean Wave (NOW) 2.5 deg global to 72hr ('85)
- Global Spectral model upgrade T-80 / 18 layer to 240 hr ('87 with arrival of 2nd Cyber 205)
- MFM hurricane model replaced by Quasi-Lagrangian Model of Mathur 40 km / 10 layer window (111x111) to 72 hr ('88)
- Major physics upgrade to NGM 80 km / 16 layers expanded No. America to 48 hr ('88)
- Development of ensembles, Eta model, RDAS/ EDAS, Rapid Update Cycle (RUC)

# Personal Reflection

- Regional OI (Optimum Interpolation) was first NMC analysis to use the significant level data from radiosondes
- Plentiful disk space on IBM 360-195's allowed an ONLINE 30-day rotating archive of both production runs
- Parallel testing becomes possible and commonplace

# 1990 NMC Buys a Cray Y-MP



Conversion to UNIX - application conversion less of an issue due to Cray's excellent compiler. Front ends replaced by J916's →



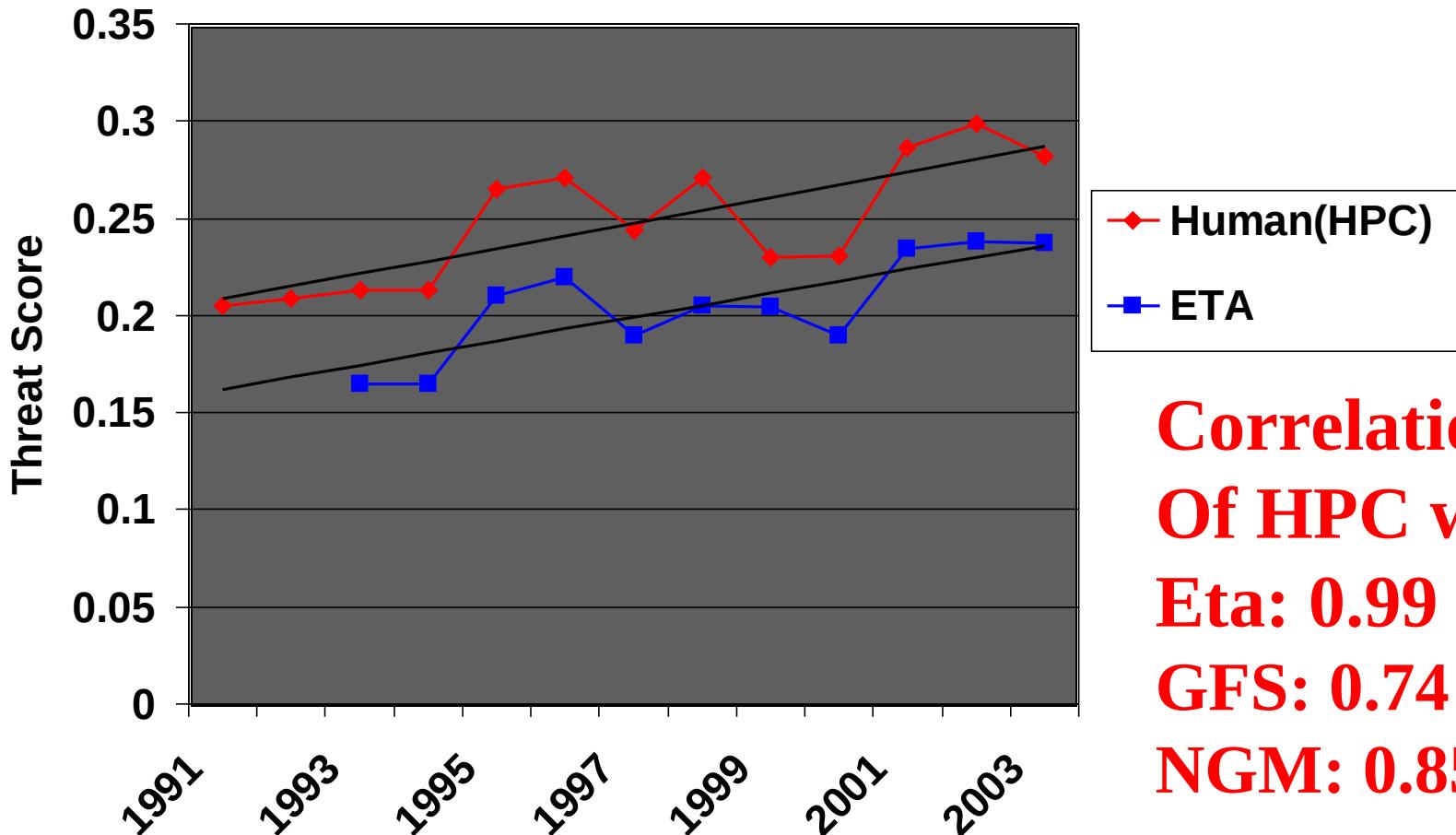
# 1990-93 NMC Production Suite

- Global Spectral model T-126 / 18 layer to 240 hr ('91)
- Ensemble Spectral (3 members) T-62 / 18 layer global to 240 hr ('92)
- LFM replaced by early Eta Model 80 km / 38 layers with step mountains No. America to 48 hr ('93)
- Global Spectral model upgrade T-126 / 28 layer to 240 hr ('93)
- NGM 2-grid upgrade with RDAS 80 km/16 layers on greatly expanded No. America to 48 hrs ('91) FROZEN
- Development of Meso Eta, 3DVAR + EDAS, Rapid Update Cycle await next machine

# No Meteorological Cancer at NCEP's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC)

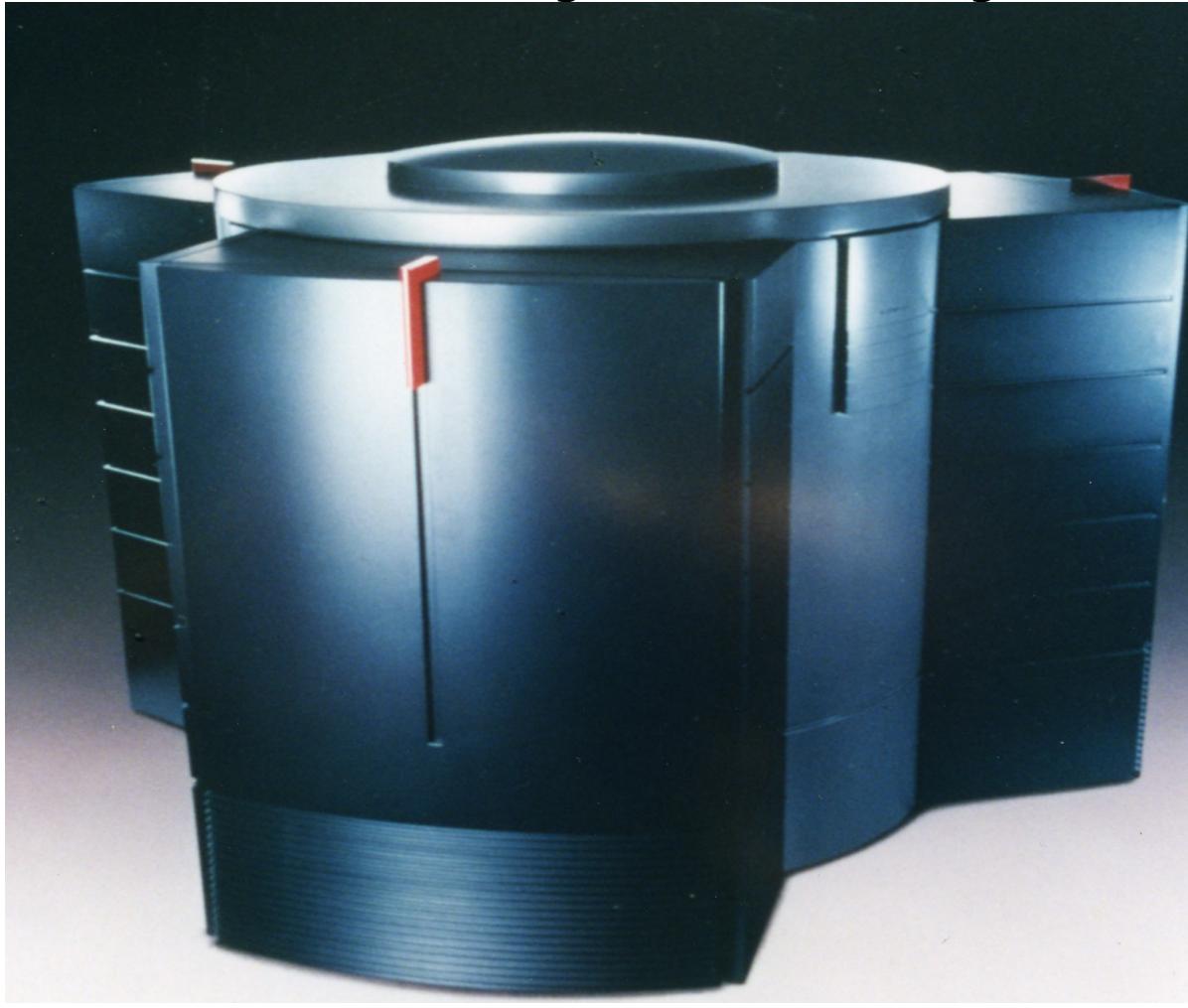
“As go the models, so go the forecasts”

## Impact of Models on Day 1 Precipitation Scores



Correlations  
Of HPC with:  
Eta: 0.99  
GFS: 0.74  
NGM: 0.85

# 1994 NMC Buys a Cray C9016



Awesome machine that would eventually succomb to a fire in a power supply that was extinguished with a corrosive fire retardant.

# 1994-95 NMC Production Suite

- Rapid Update Cycle (RUC) 60 km / 25 hybrid sigma/ isentropic layers to 12 hr every 3 hr ('94)
- NOW replaced by WAM wave model 2.5 deg global to 72 hr ('94)
- ENS Spectral upgrade (17 members) T-62 / 18 layer global to 384 hr ('94)
- QLM hurricane replaced by GFDL model 1/6 deg / 18 layer movable window to 78 hr ('95)
- Meso Eta 29 km / 50 levels extended CONUS to 51 hr at 0300 and 1500 ('95)
- Early Eta upgrade 48 km/38 layer with partial cycled EDAS over No.America to 48hr ('95)

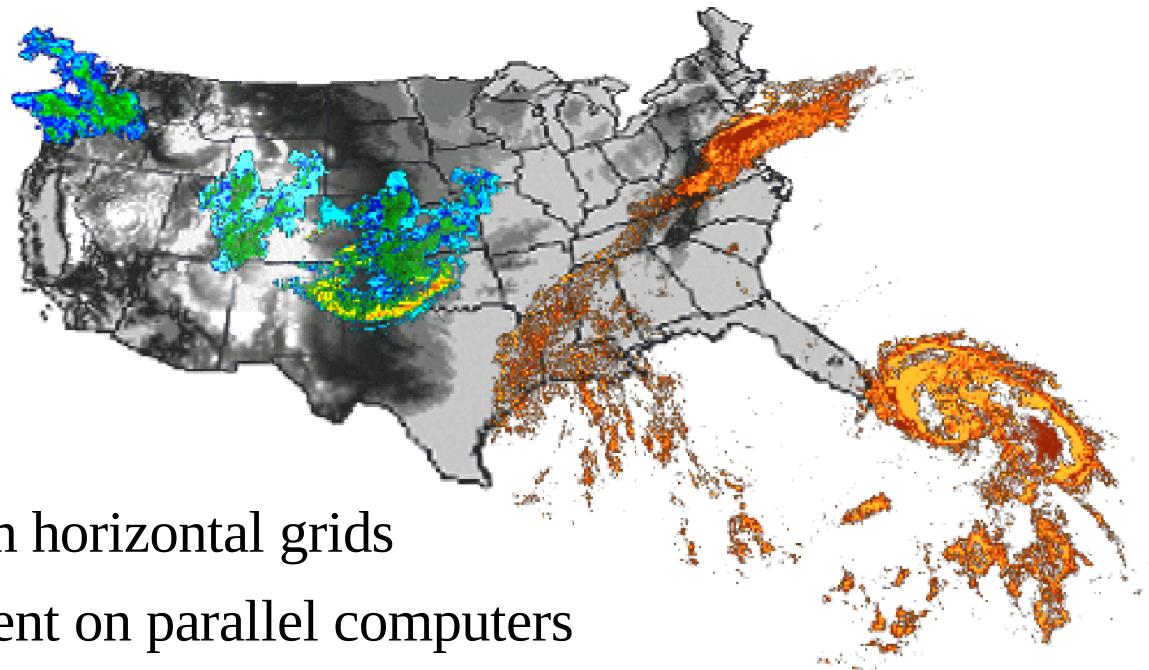
# 1996-99 NCEP Production Suite

- Early Eta upgraded with coupled Land Surface Model 48 km / 38 layer No.Amer to 48 hr ('96)
- Regional Spectral Model (RSM) 10 km / 28 layer for Hawaii to 48 hr ('97)
- Sea-Ice Drift for Arctic and Antarctic to 384 hr ('97)
- Early Eta and Meso Eta combined into 4/day with 3DVAR & fully cycled EDAS 32 km /45 layer No.America to 48 hr ('98)
- RUC-II upgrade to 40 km / 40 hybrid layer CONUS to 12 hr every 3 hr ('98)
- Development of 10 km Meso Eta & NMM, Short Range Ensemble Forecast (SREF), WRF

# Weather Research and Forecast (WRF) Modeling System

- ➔ Develop an advanced mesoscale forecast and assimilation system
- ➔ Promote closer ties between research and operations

## Concept:



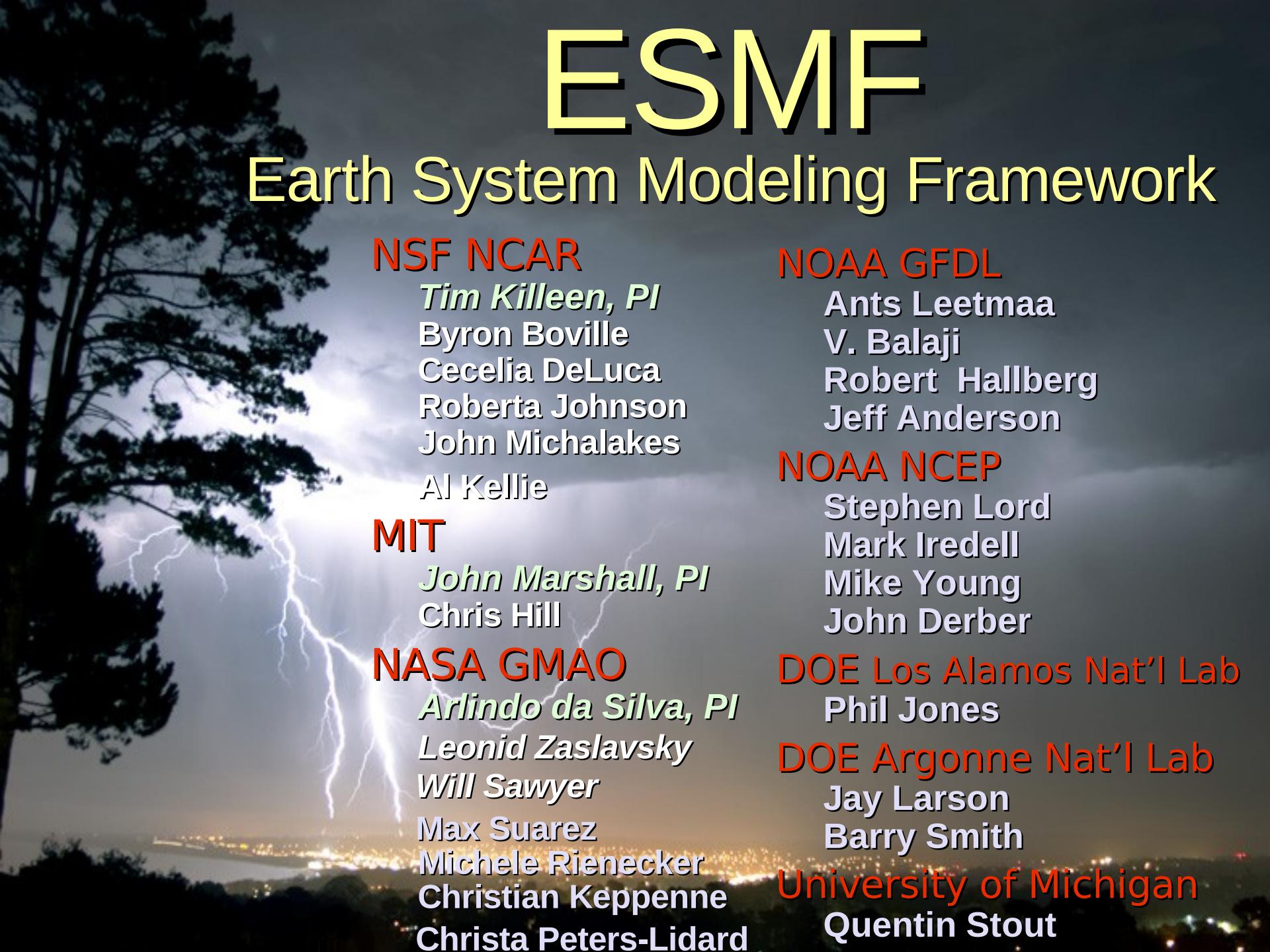
Design for 1-10 km horizontal grids

Portable and efficient on parallel computers

Well suited for a broad range of applications

Community model with direct path to operations

Collaborators: NCAR, NCEP/EMC, AFWA, Navy, NOAA/FSL, U. Okla.



# ESMF

## Earth System Modeling Framework

### NSF NCAR

*Tim Killeen, PI*  
Byron Boville  
Cecelia DeLuca  
Roberta Johnson  
John Michalakes  
Al Kellie

### MIT

*John Marshall, PI*  
Chris Hill

### NASA GMAO

*Arlindo da Silva, PI*  
Leonid Zaslavsky  
Will Sawyer  
Max Suarez  
Michele Rienecker  
Christian Keppenne  
Christa Peters-Lidard

### NOAA GFDL

Ants Leetmaa  
V. Balaji  
Robert Hallberg  
Jeff Anderson

### NOAA NCEP

Stephen Lord  
Mark Iredell  
Mike Young  
John Derber

### DOE Los Alamos Nat'l Lab

Phil Jones

### DOE Argonne Nat'l Lab

Jay Larson  
Barry Smith

### University of Michigan

Quentin Stout

# 1999 NCEP Buys IBM SP2

- The Procurement from HELL -- I was on the team!
- Originally planned to put at NASA, but had to put it in FOB-4 →
  - Power supply fell through the floor
- Found asbestos under the raised floor tiles so put in new floor, then ...
- While installing equipment, they found asbestos above ceiling tiles (in air movers) and had to major abatement.
- Resulted in move of IBM to Bowie facility (good news)
- Cray fire on day of move (bad news)



# 1999 NCEP Puts IBM SP2 in Bowie

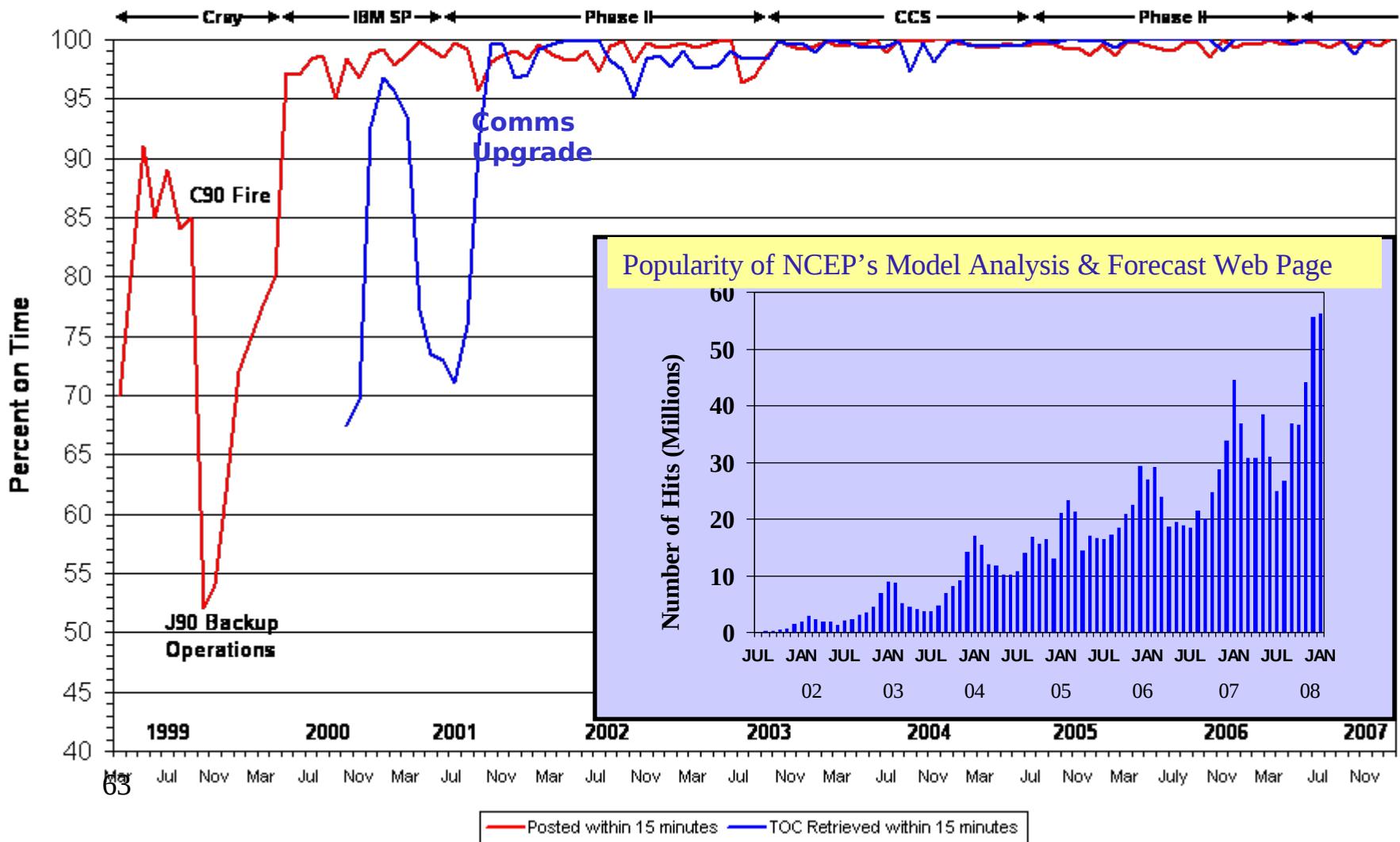


After SP2 is upgraded, becomes one of the most stable & capable machines in NCEP's experience.

# Personal Reflection

- First time Production was separated from Development – nearly guarantees that at least half the machine will be available for development – previously there was always a time when Prod used more (sometimes much more) than 50% of computer. At ECMWF, only 20% of machine used for their Production!
- IBM's reliability (helped by failover capability to the Development half) allows hourly RUC. In the past, for example, Cray Preventive Maintenance took 3 hours every Thursday when the Meso Eta would routinely be dropped.

# Dependable, Reliable and Timely Performance, i.e. Product Delivery



# 2000-01 NCEP Production Suite

- Global Spectral upgrade T-170 / 42 layer global to 240 hr ('00)
- ENS Spectral upgrade (23 members) T-126/28 layer for 00-84 hrs, T-62/18 layer to 84-384 hr ('00)
- WAM replaced by NOAA Wave Watch 3 1.25 deg x 1 deg global to 126 hr ('00)
- Eta upgrade to 22 km /50 layer No.America to 60 hr [48 hr at off-times] ('00)
- GFDL hurricane adds URI coupled ocean in Atl basin 1/6 deg / 18 layer movable window (4 storms) to 126 hr ('01)

# Personal Reflections

- The busted blizzard forecast in DC after IBM SP2 dedication January 2000 should warn folks from being overly optimistic especially in public.
- Forecasters were incredulous when 22 km Eta Model overpredicted heavy QPF- early intolerance of any over-forecasting has disappeared – now all they want is perfection all the time everywhere

# 2001-02 NCEP Production Suite

- Global Climate Forecast System (CFS) to produce 7 month guidance ('01)
- SREF (10 members Eta & RSM) 48 km No. Amer. To 63 hours ('01)
- HiResWindow nested Eta 10 km / 60 layer 1/3 CONUS & Alaska 1/day to 48 hr ('01)
- Meso Eta 4/day upgrade with new cloud scheme to 12 km / 60 layer No. Amer to 84 hr (ontime) 48 hr offtime ('01)
- Princeton Ocean Model (POM) 10-20 km / 19 layer ocean off east coast to 48 hr ('02)
- Global Forecast System (GFS) upgraded T-254 / 64 layer 00-84hr, T-170 / 42 layer 84-180hr & T-126 / 28 layer 180-384 hr 4-per-day ('02)

# 2003 NCEP Gets IBM SP2 Upgrade



Primary housed in IBM facility in Gaithersburg, MD with a 100% backup housed in NASA facility in Fairmont, WV.

# 2002-04 NCEP Production Suite

- Meso Eta 4/day upgrade 12 km / 60 layer No. Amer to 84 hr at offtime ('03) with earlier delivery ('04)
- SREF upgrade (15 members Eta, RSM, Eta-Kain Fritsch) 48 km No. America to 63 hr ('03)
- HiResWindow nested Nonhydrostatic Mesoscale Model (NMM) of Janjic 8 km / 60 layer 1/3 CONUS & Alaska 1/day to 48 hr ('03)
- Fire Weather / IMET Support nested NMM selectable window 1/12 CONUS 8 km / 60 layer to 48 hr 48 km No. America to 63 hr ('03)
- ENS spectral upgrade (45 members) T-126 / 28 layer 00-180hr T-62 / 28 layer 180-384 hr ('04)
- NOAA Wave Watch 3 upgrade 1.25 deg x 1 deg global to 180 hr ('04)

# 2005 NCEP Gets IBM P5 Upgrade



# 2005-07 NCEP Production Suite

- Global Forecast System (GFS) and its SSI/GDAS upgraded to T-382(~35km) / 64 layer 00-180hr, T-190(~70km) / 64 layer 180-384 hr 4-per-day (05); hybrid vert coord (06)
- Unified Gridpoint Statistical Interpolation (GSI) analysis replaces SSI (07); unified NCEP model post-processor(07)
- North American Mesoscale (NAM) runslot (05)
- RUC upgraded from 20 km to 13.3 km
- Air Quality expands to cover CONUS
- GENS upgrade (84 members) T-126
- NOAA Environmental Modeling System (ESMF based) with Nonhydrostatic Multiscale Model on B-grid (NMMB)

# 2005-07 NCEP Production Suite

- In NAM, the Eta replaced by WRF-NMM ('06)  
12km/60lev
- SREF upgrade (21 members Eta, RSM, WRF-NMM & WRF-ARW) 32-44 km No. America 4/day to 87 hr (07)
- HiResWindow EXPLICIT WRF-NMM & WRF-ARW  
4-5 km 2/3 CONUS, Alaska, HI & PR to 48 hr
- Hurricane WRF added
- Real Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) CONUS (06)

# Pyle Webpage Now Displaying Simulated Reflectivity

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/mmbpll/cent4km/v2/>

Simulated radar reflectivity  
lowest model level (dBZ)

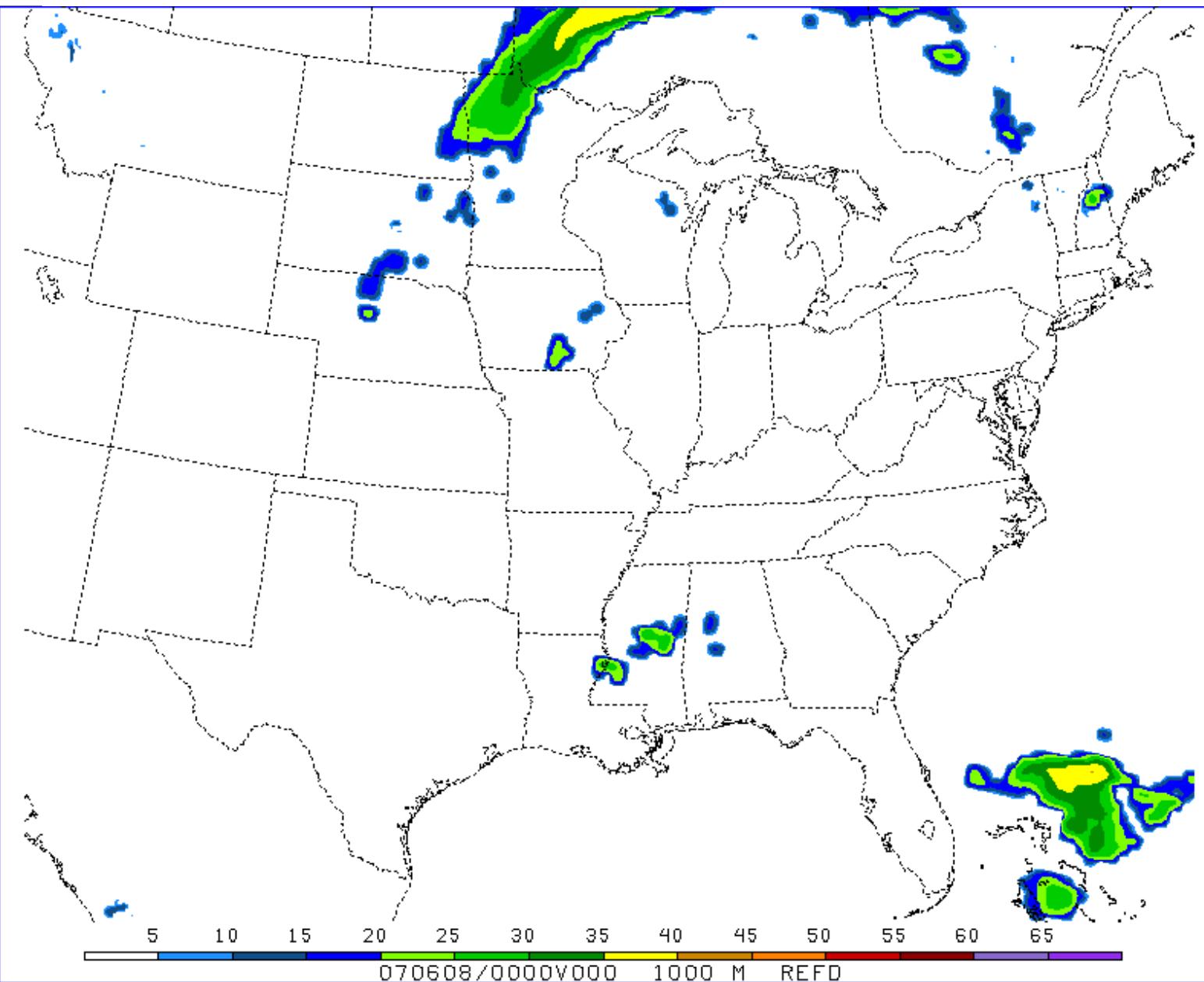
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<a href="#">28h</a>	<a href="#">29h</a>	<a href="#">30h</a>
<a href="#">32h</a>	<a href="#">33h</a>	<a href="#">34h</a>
<a href="#">36h</a>	<a href="#">NMW WRF Loop</a>	

Simulated radar reflectivity  
(dBZ), 1000 m AGL

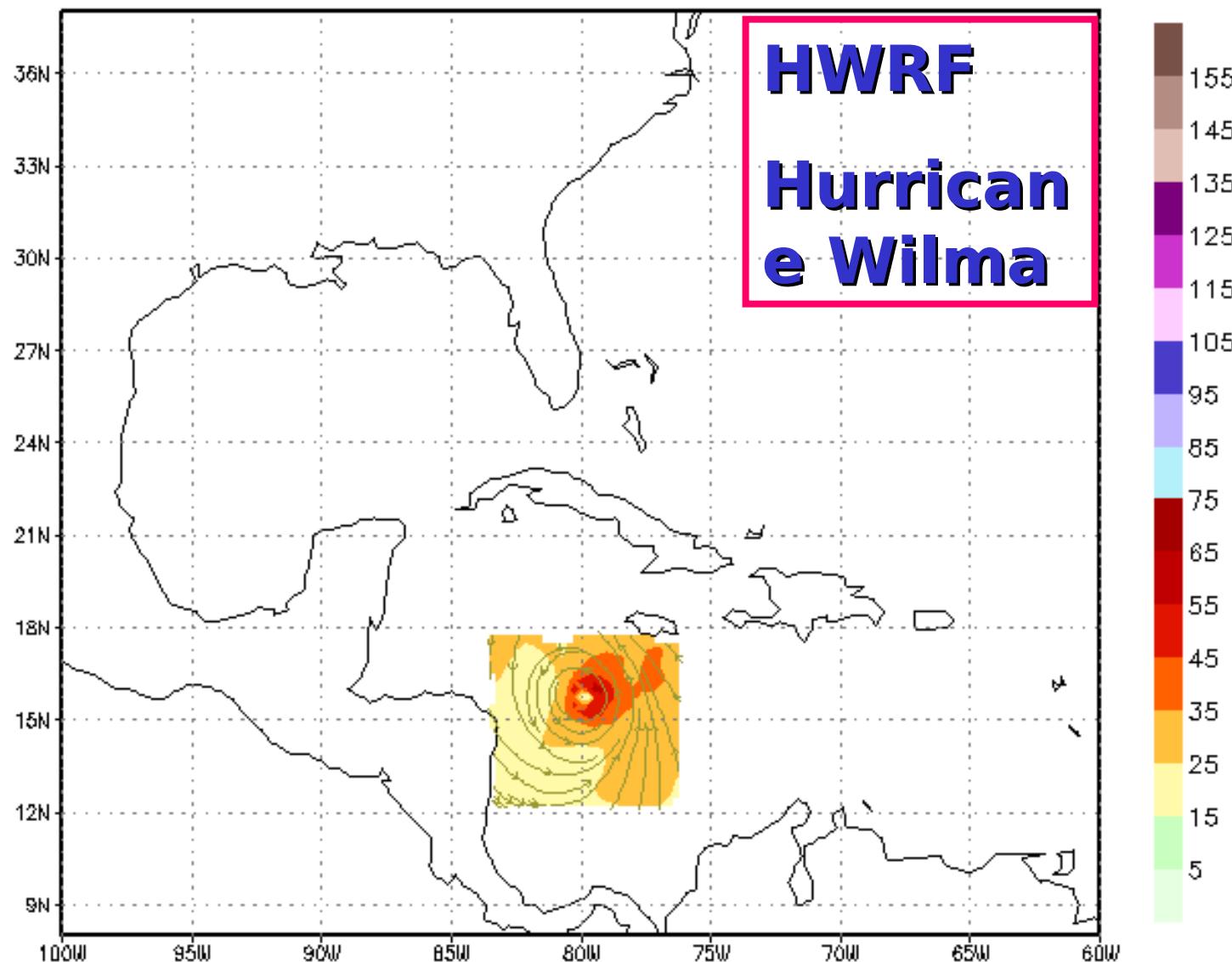
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<a href="#">32h</a>	<a href="#">33h</a>	<a href="#">34h</a>
<a href="#">36h</a>	<a href="#">NMW WRF Loop</a>	

Simulated composite radar  
reflectivity (dBZ)

<a href="#">00h</a>	<a href="#">01h</a>	<a href="#">02h</a>
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OCT 18, 2005 06Z: HURRICANE WILMA MOVING NEST FCST: 0



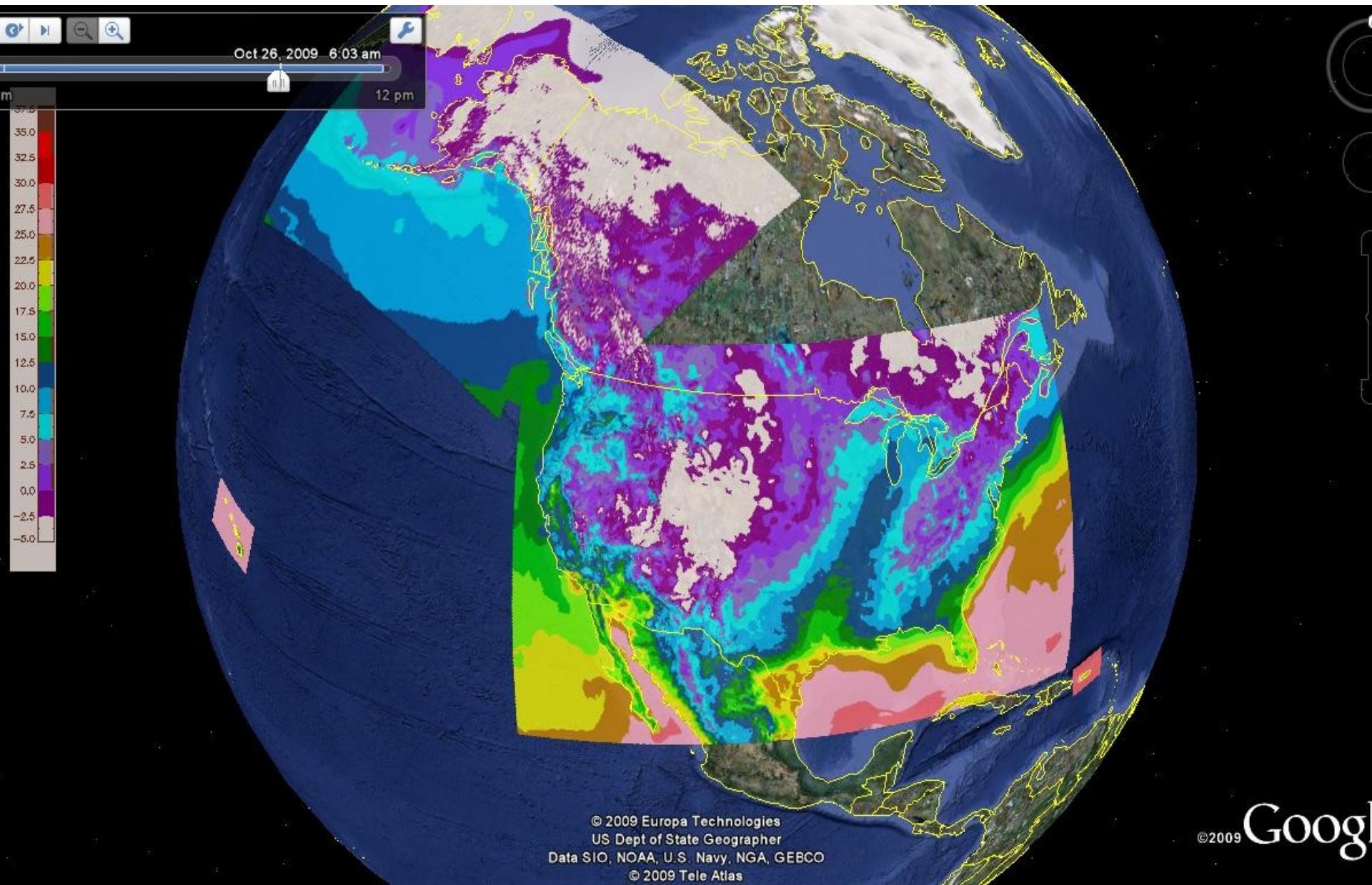
# 2007 NCEP Gets IBM P6 Upgrade



# 2008-10 NCEP Production Suite

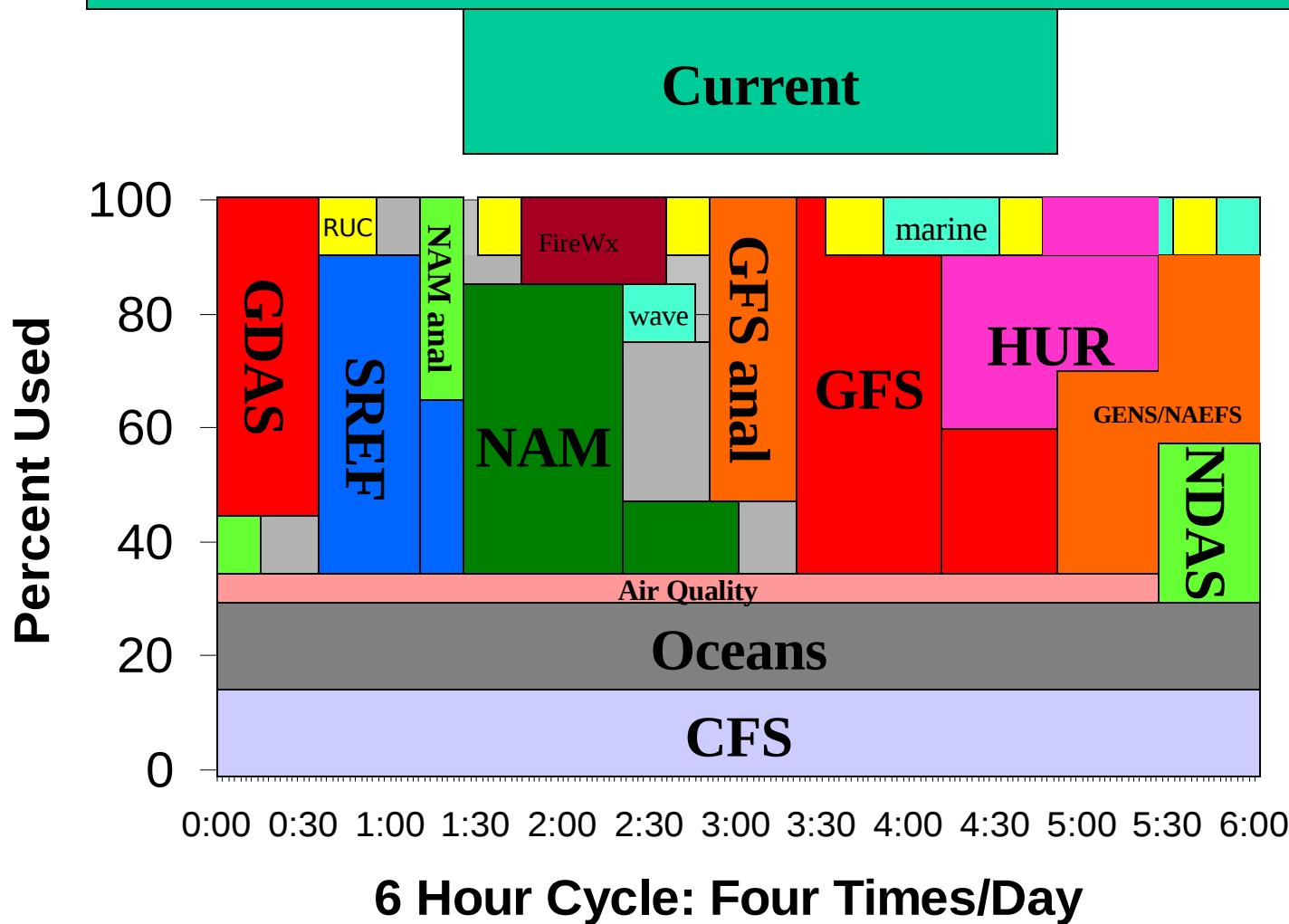
- NGM terminated 3 March 2009
- North American Mesoscale upgrades to WRf & gsi, partial cycling (08)
- SREF upgrade (21 members Eta, RSM, WRF-NMM & WRF-ARW) 32-35 km No. America 4/day to 87 hr
- HiResWindow upgrade explicit WRF-NMM & WRF-ARW 4-5 km to CONUS, Alaska, HI & PR to 48 hr
- RTMA adds Alaska(08), Hawaii (08), Puerto Rico (08)
- Hurricane WRF upgraded & coupled to POM
- GEFS upgrade (84 members) from T-126 to T-190 (~70KM) all the way out to 16 days
- Hybrid data assimilation (ensemble Kalman filter + 3D-/4D-VAR), movable nest in NEMS-NMMB

# Google Map of 4 RTMA Domains



# NCEP Production Suite

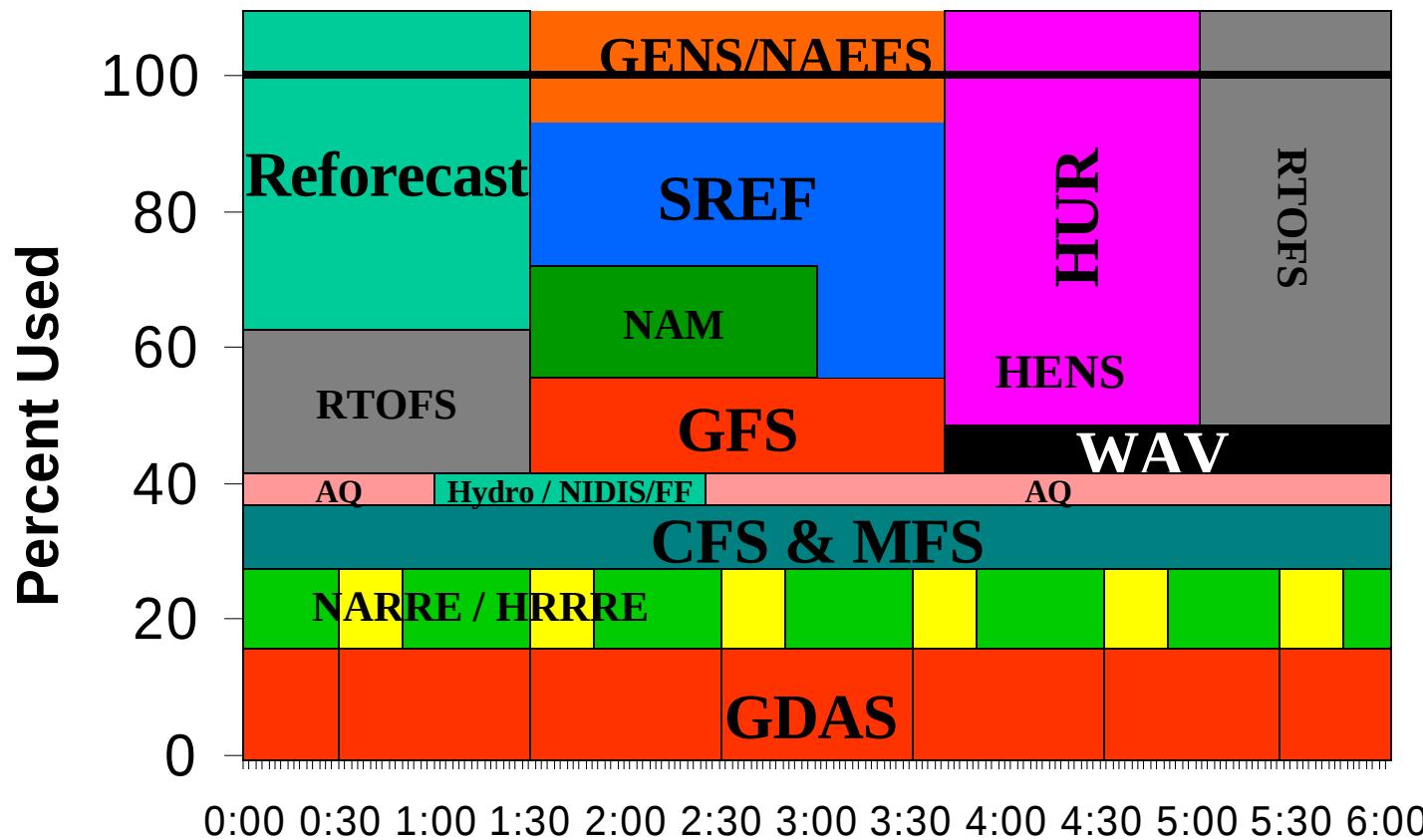
## Weather, Ocean, Land & Climate Forecast Systems



NCEP Production Suite  
Weather, Ocean, Land & Climate Forecast Systems

Next Generation Prototype  
2017+

Computing x factor: > 240



6 Hour Cycle: Four Times/Da

# Final Ruminations

WARNING:“I feel like I’m channeling Len Snellman”

- Is the NWP enterprise (at least in USA) facing another bout with cancer?
- When it seems we need them the most, our leaders are not providing anywhere near the resources we need to be competitive.
- Community models are breeding generations of model users or knobologists, who can NOT dive in and really develop numerical models
- Common modeling infrastructures are separating modelers from computer science, a synergy which has carried this fledgling science to where it is today.