

# Observation Pre-processing for WRFDA

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NCAR/MMM

WRFDA tutorial  
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- ☐ **What types of observations?**
- ☐ **Where to download observations?**
- ☐ **What does WRFDA's OBSPROC (OBServation PROCessor) do?**
- ☐ **How to run OBSPROC?**
- ☐ **Observation quality control**
- ☐ **Formats**

# WRFDA-3DVar Cost Function

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

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

$J(\mathbf{x})$ : Scalar cost function

$\mathbf{x}$ : The analysis

$\mathbf{x}_b$ : Background field

$\mathbf{B}$ : Background error covariance matrix

$\mathbf{y}$ : **Observations**

$H$ : Observation operator

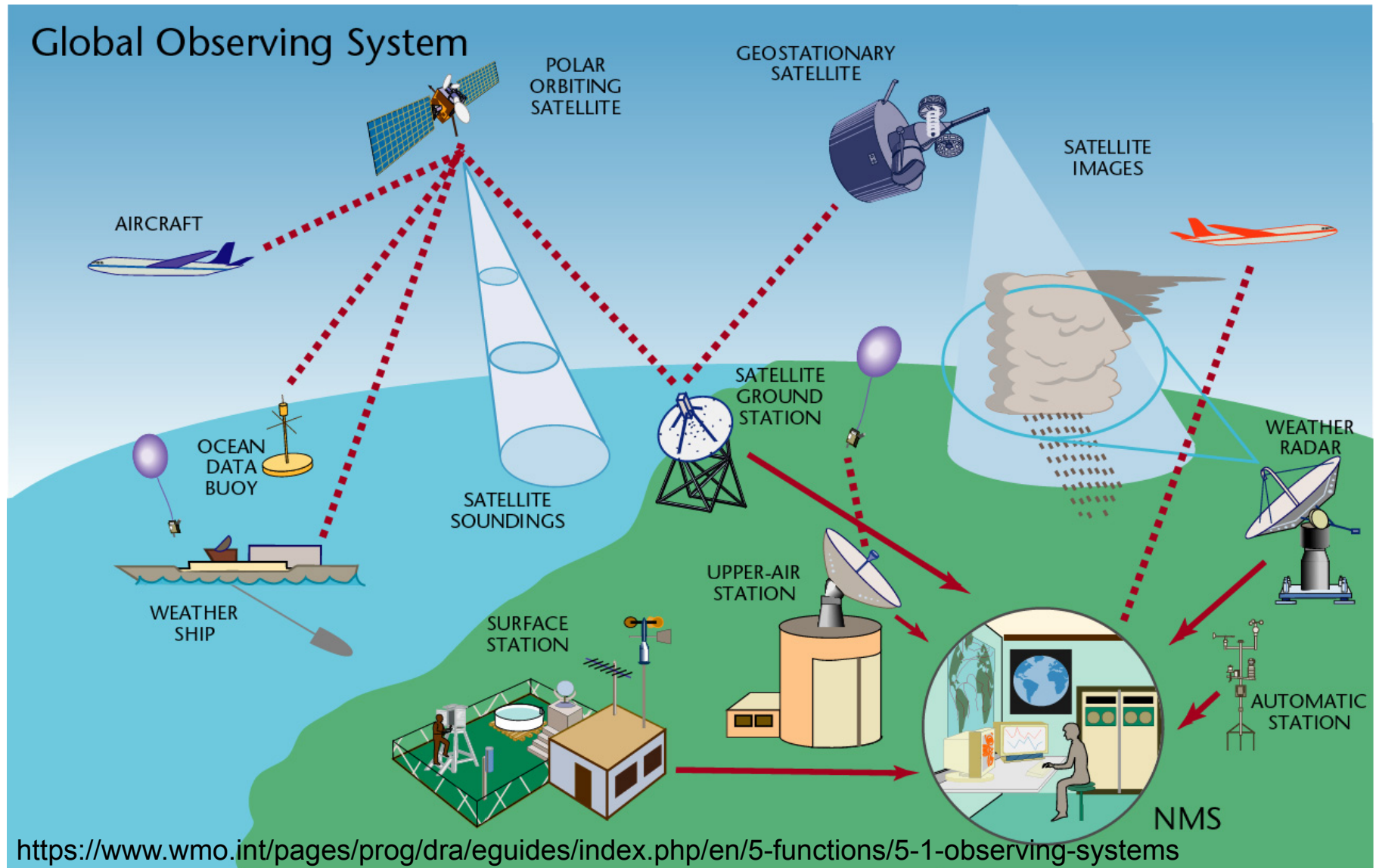
$\mathbf{R}$ : **Observation error covariance matrix**

$\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  are discussed in this presentation

Data assimilation:

**Observations** are used to make small corrections to a short-range forecast (**background**), which is assumed to be good, to produce a model **analysis**.

# Global Observing System



- ✓ Observation information is exchanged and distributed through the Global Telecommunication System (GTS)
- ✓ The format is being migrated from Traditional Alphanumeric Codes (TAC) to BUFR (Binary Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data), Table-Driven Code Forms (TDCF)

# Space-based Global Observing System

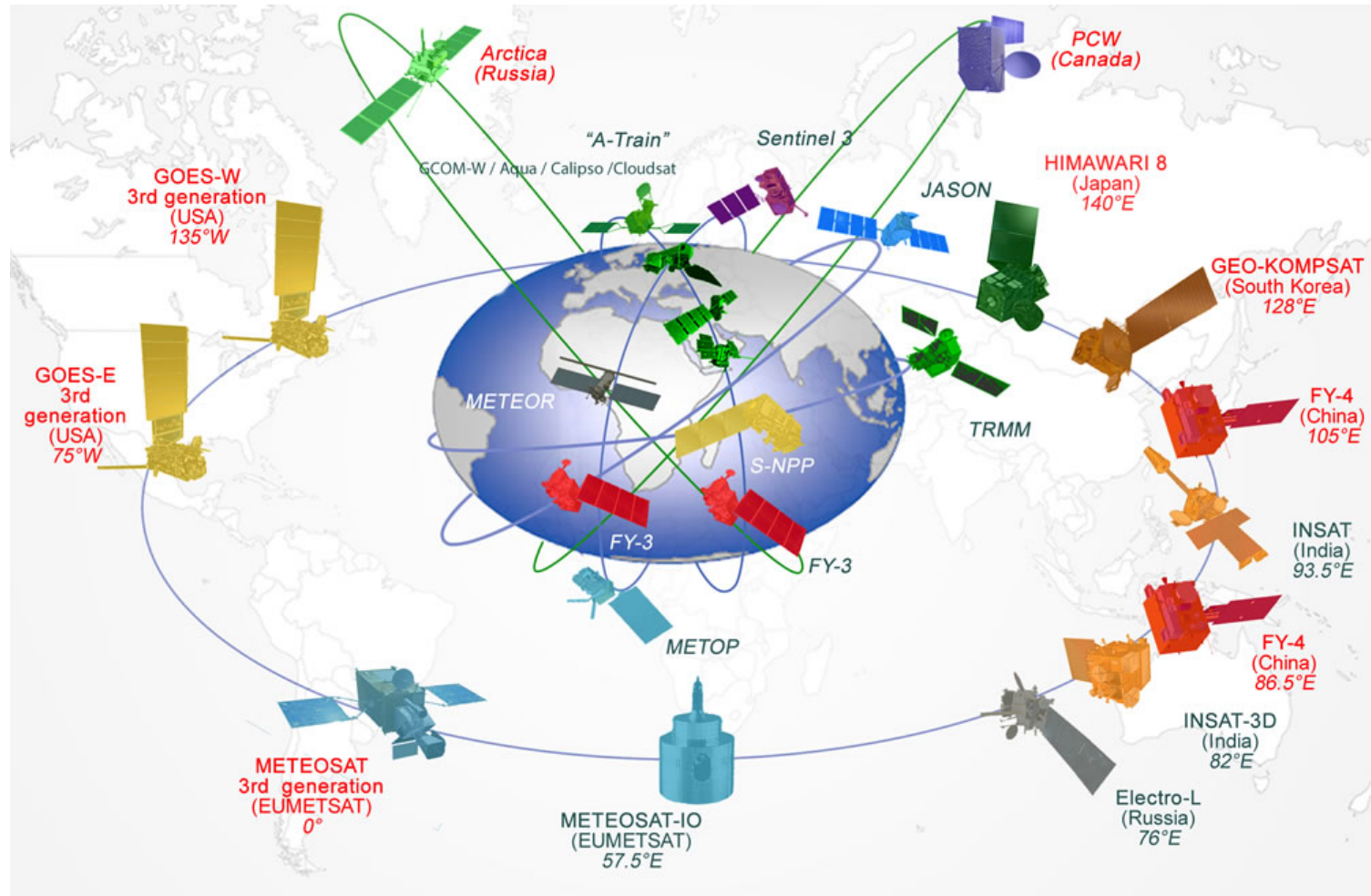
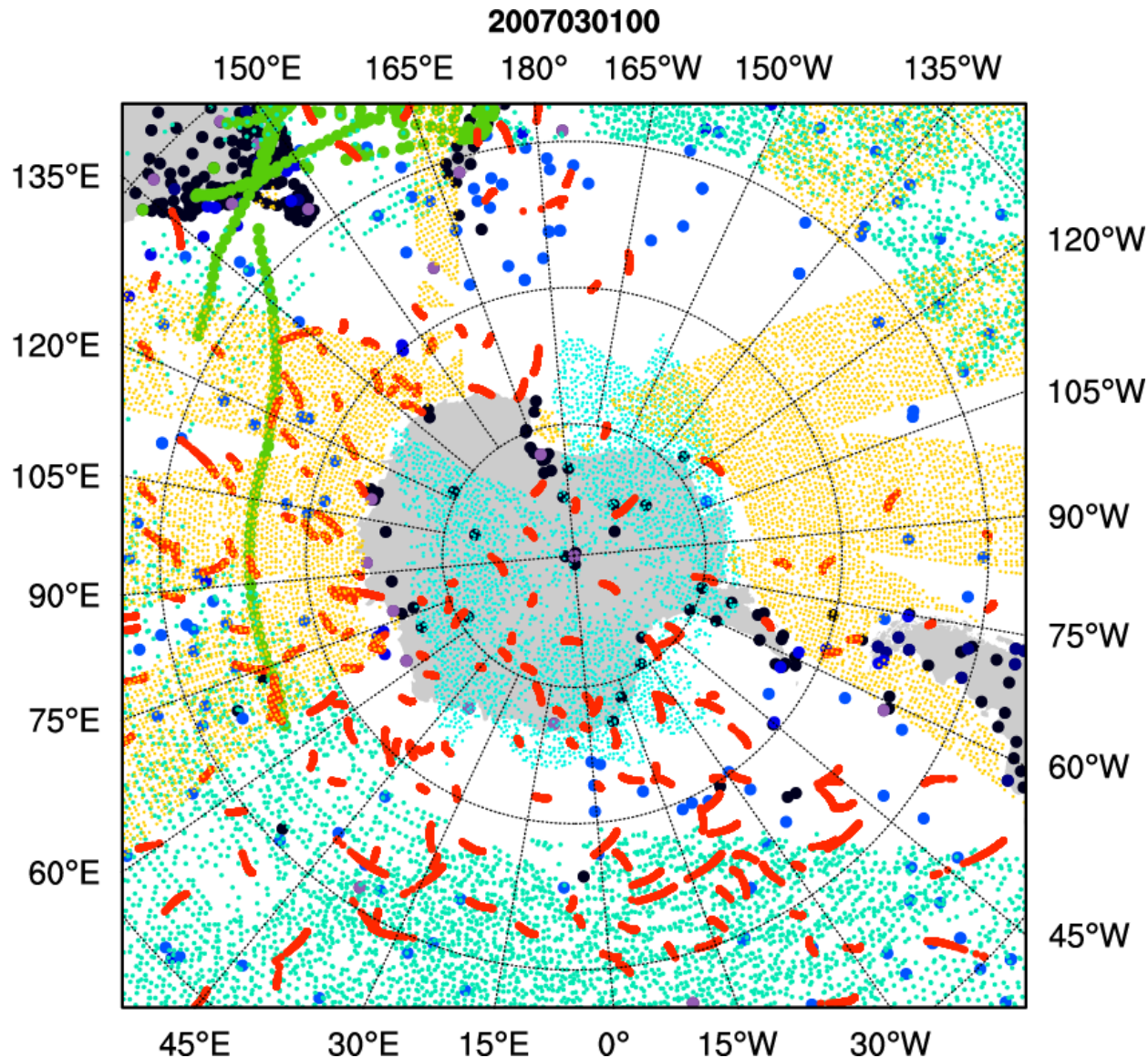


Image credit: WMO Space Programme

check out this page for the status of current and future satellites  
<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/satellitestatus.php>



# Observation snapshot of a 6-hour time window



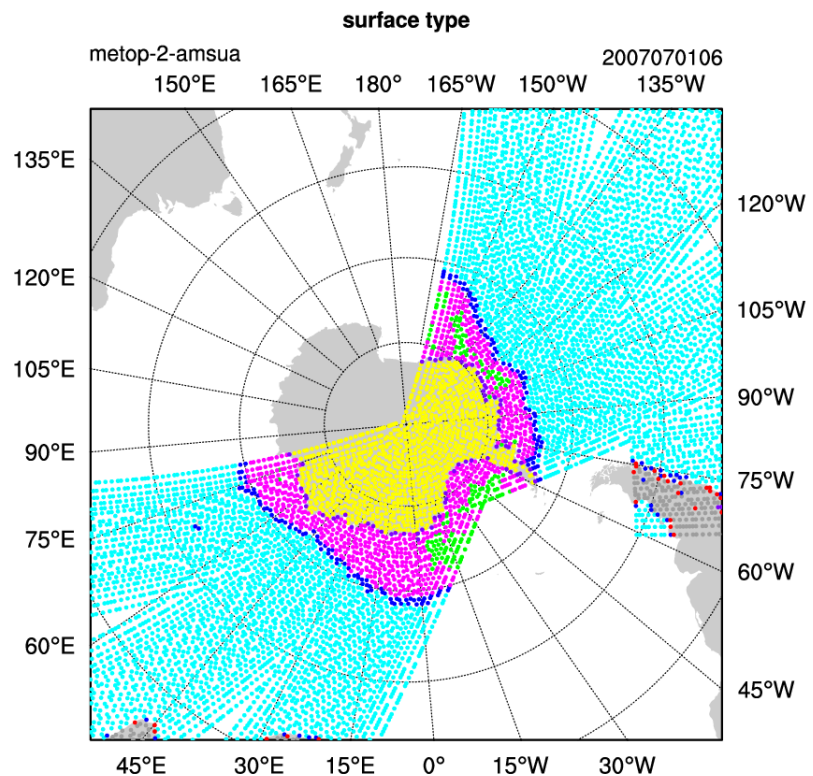
## Surface

- SYNOP
- METAR
- BUOY
- SHIPS
- QuikSCAT winds

## Upper-Air/ multiple levels

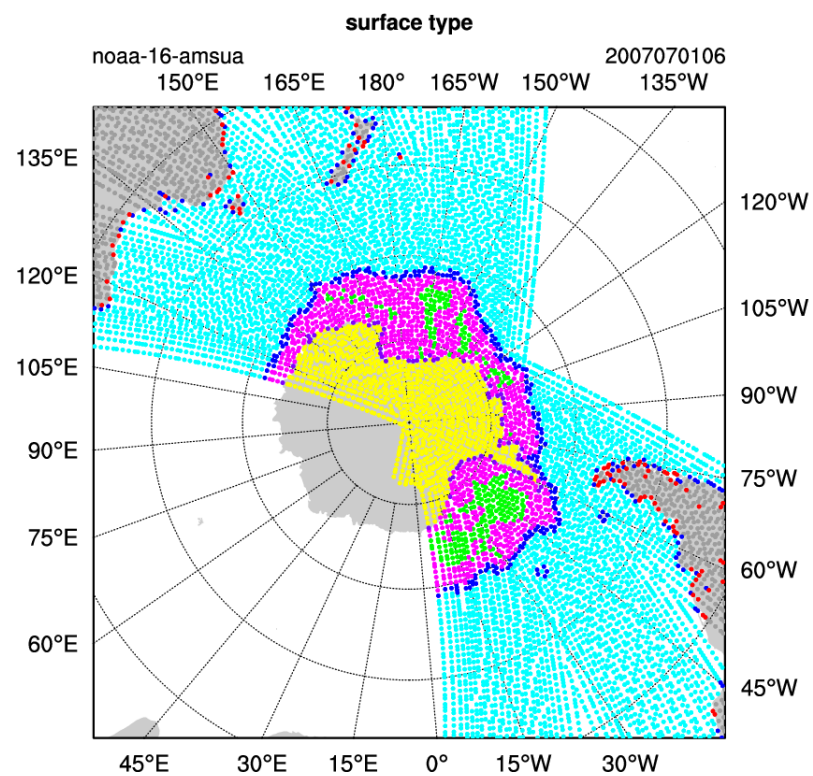
- SOUND
- geo AMV
- polar AMV
- GPS refractivity
- AIREP

# Sample satellite radiances coverage of a 6-hour time window



sea land msea mld  
ice snow mice msno

\* colors indicate model surface types



sea land msea mld  
ice snow mice msno

NOAA-16 was DECOMMISSIONED  
on 9 June 2014

More about radiance data will be covered in a separate talk about radiance data assimilation

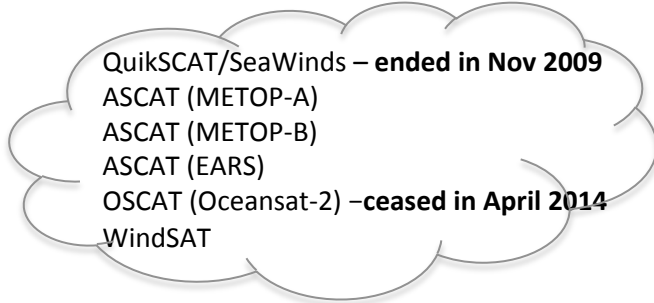
# WRFDA can assimilate ...

## ❑ In-Situ conventional observations:

- Surface (SYNOP, METAR, SHIP, BUOY)
- Upper air (TEMP, PIBAL, AIREP, ACARS, AMDAR, TAMDAR)

## ❑ Remotely sensed observations:

- Atmospheric Motion Vectors (geo/polar) (SATOBS)
- SATEM thickness
- Ground-based GPS Total Precipitable Water/Zenith Total Delay (GPSPW/GPSZD)
- SSM/I oceanic surface wind speed and TPW
- Scatterometer oceanic surface winds (QSCAT)
- Wind profiler (PROFL)
- Radar radial velocities and reflectivity
- Satellite temperature/humidity/thickness profiles (AIRSR)
- GPS refractivity (GPSRF/GPSEP)
- Stage IV precipitation data/rain rate (only in 4DVAR mode)



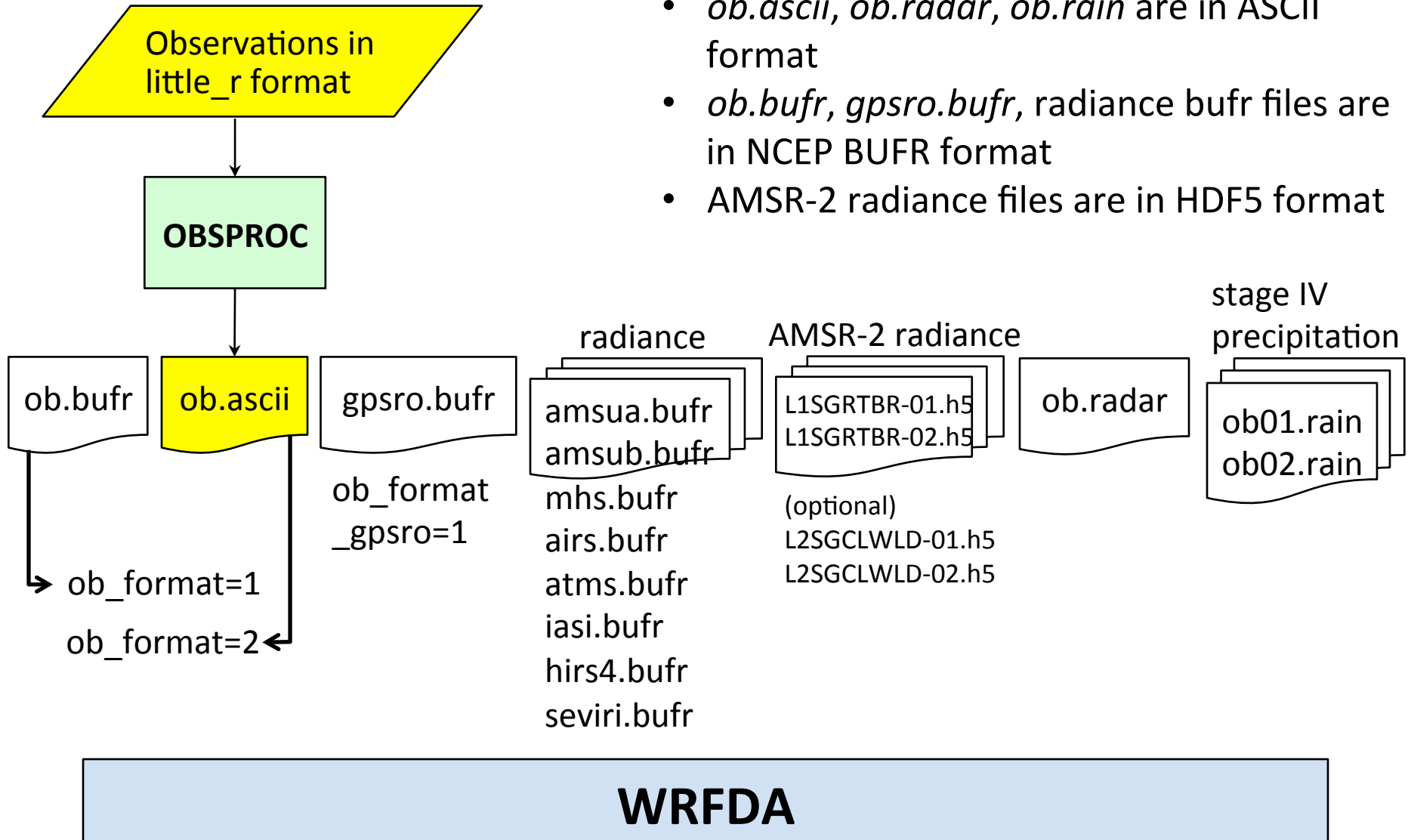
QuikSCAT/SeaWinds – ended in Nov 2009  
ASCAT (METOP-A)  
ASCAT (METOP-B)  
ASCAT (EARS)  
OSCAT (Oceansat-2) – ceased in April 2014  
WindSAT

## ❑ Radiances (using RTTOV or CRTM):

- HIRS NOAA-16, NOAA-17, NOAA-18, NOAA-19, METOP-A, METOP-B
- AMSU-A NOAA-15, NOAA-16, NOAA-18, NOAA-19, EOS-Aqua, METOP-A, METOP-B
- AMSU-B NOAA-15, NOAA-16, NOAA-17
- MHS NOAA-18, NOAA-19, METOP-A, METOP-B
- AIRS EOS-Aqua
- SSMIS DMSP-16, DMSP-17, DMSP-18
- IASI METOP-A, METOP-B
- ATMS Suomi-NPP
- MWTS FY-3
- MWHS FY-3
- SEVIRI METEOSAT-8, METEOSAT-9, METEOSAT-10
- AMSR-2 GCOM-W1



# WRFDA can read in ...



- *ob.ascii*, *ob.radar*, *ob.rain* are in ASCII format
- *ob.bufr*, *gpsro.bufr*, radiance bufr files are in NCEP BUFR format
- AMSR-2 radiance files are in HDF5 format

➤ In simple ASCII format

Header record for Radar site information (site, lat0, lon0, elv etc)

Header record for observation location (FM-128 RADAR, date, lat, lon, elv, levs)

Data-level record (height<m>, Radial\_V<m/s>, qc, err, Reflectivity<dbz>, qc, err)

➤ Preprocessing Doppler radar data is an important procedure before assimilation

✓ Quality control

- de-aliasing (folded velocity)
- removal of clutters, second-trip echo, anomalously propagated clutter, and other noises

✓ Mapping

- Interpolation, smoothing, super-obing, data filling

✓ Error statistics

- Variance and covariance

➤ However, there is no standard radar data processing software included in WRFDA  
Contact Juanzhen (Jenny) Sun (sunj@ucar.edu) for collaboration



NCEP operational observation files in **BUFR** format can be directly used in WRFDA

➤ NCEP real-time data

<http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/gfs/prod>

➤ NOAA National Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) archive

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gfs/prod/>

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

➤ NCAR CISL archive

<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds337.0> – for conventional data

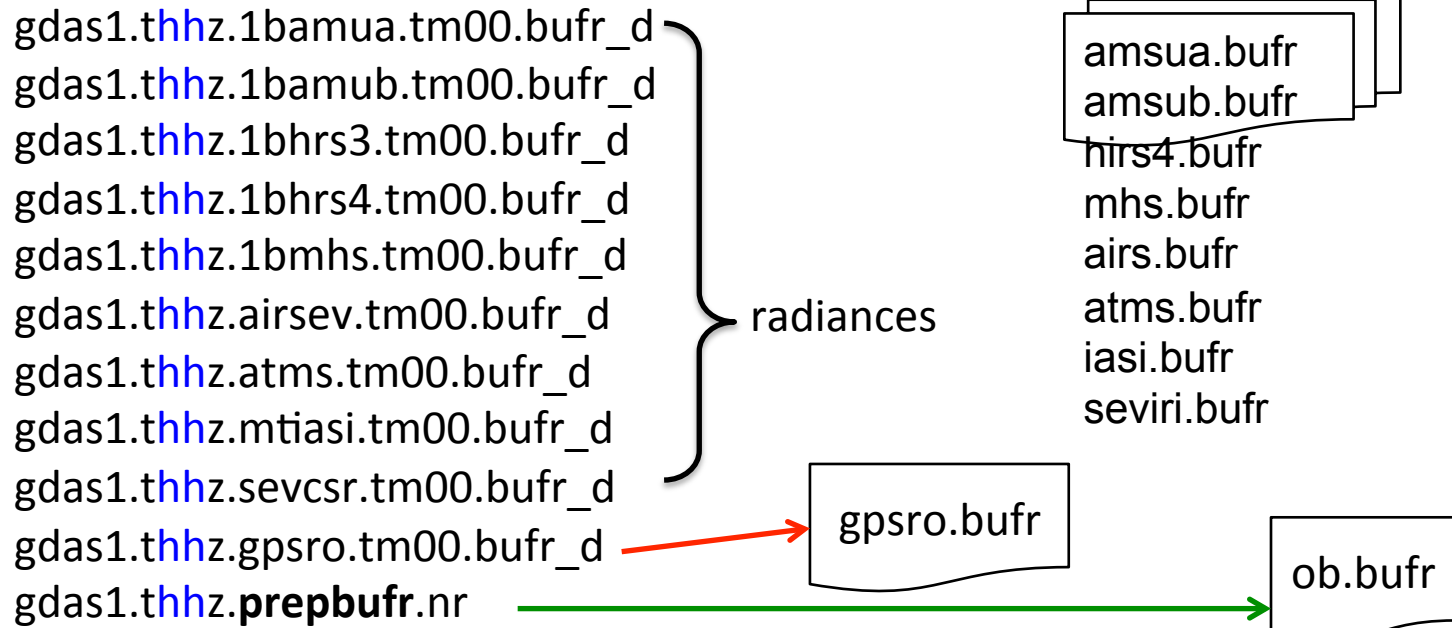
<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds735.0> – for radiance data

<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds099.0> – data used in NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis

➤ NCAR HPSS personal archive (requires NCAR HPC account)

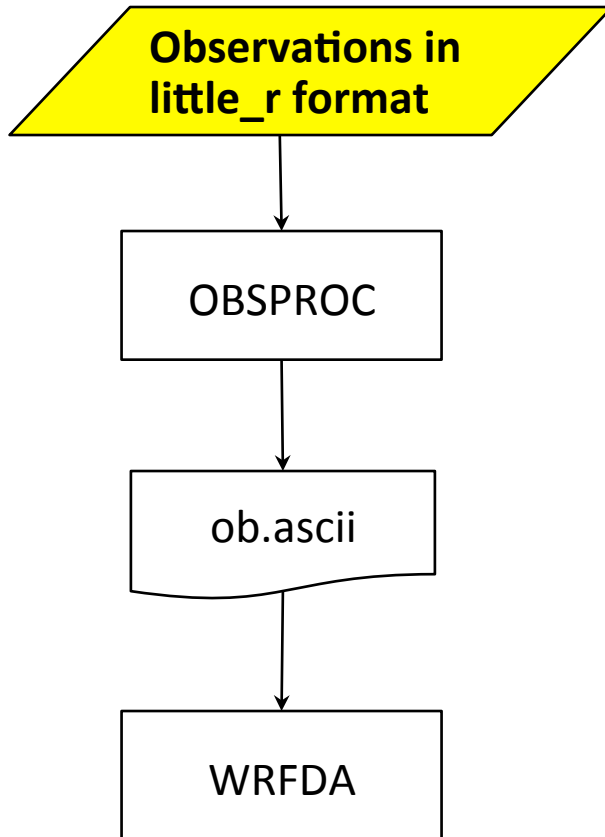
<hsi:/LIUZ/GDAS/yyyymm/yyyymmddhh>

## Files to look for



hh is the analysis time: 00/06/12/18

- About NCEP BUFR format  
<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/sib/decoders/BUFRLIB>  
<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/sib/decoders/BUFRLIB/toc/prepbufr>
- About NCEP PREPBUFR (prepared BUFR, **quality controlled**) data processing  
[http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/data\\_processing/prepbufr.doc/document.htm](http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/data_processing/prepbufr.doc/document.htm)
- Notes on using PREPBUFR in WRFDA  
<https://wiki.ucar.edu/display/~hclin/prepbufr2wrfvar>



NCAR/MMM archived observations in little\_r format on HPSS (requires NCAR HPC account)

hsi:/BRESCH/RT/DATA/yyyymm/obs.yyyymmddhh.gz

- Radiosondes: TTAA, TTBB, PPBB, etc.
- Surface obs: SYNOPS, METARS, AWS, ships, buoys, CMAN
- Profiler
- Sat winds: GOES, METSAT, MODIS, AVHRR
- Satem
- Aircraft: PIREPS, AIREPS, AMDAR, ACARS
- Dropsondes and "hurricane hunter" obs
- Quikscat
- Ground-based GPS PW
- GPS refractivity (COSMIC only)

Check out the notes about the data

<http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/people/bresch/data>



**Observations in  
little\_r format**

OBSPROC

ob.ascii

WRFDA

NCAR/CISL archived observations in little\_r format  
<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds351.0/?hash=!access>  
<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds461.0/?hash=!access>


Hello hclin@ucar.edu [my profile](#) [my data requests](#) [sign out](#)

**CISL Research Data Archive**  
 Managed by NCAR's Data Support Section  
 Data for Atmospheric and Geosciences Research

**RDA**

Go to Dataset:

[Home](#) [Find Data](#) [Ancillary Services](#) [About/Contact](#) [Data Citation](#) [Web Services](#) [For Staff](#)

 **NCEP ADP Global Upper Air Observational Weather Data, October 1999 - continuing**  
 ds351.0

For assistance, contact [Grace Peng](#) (303-497-1218).

[Description](#) [Data Access](#) [Documentation](#) [Software](#)

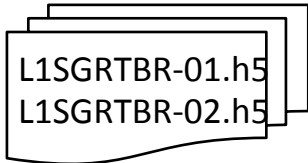
Mouse over the table headings for detailed descriptions

Data Description		Data File Downloads	Customizable Data Requests	NCAR-Only Access	
		Web Server Holdings	Subsetting	Central File System (GLADE) Holdings	Tape Archive (HPSS) Holdings
Union of Available Products		Web File Listing		GLADE File Listing	HPSS File Listing
PRODUCTS	GDAS Upper Air Observations (daily tar files)	Web File Listing	Get a Subset	GLADE File Listing	HPSS File Listing
	GDAS ADPUPA Upper Air Observations (sonde data only)	Web File Listing		GLADE File Listing	
	GDAS Upper Air Observations (synoptic BUFR files)			GLADE File Listing	
	GDAS Upper Air Observations (little_r format) for use with MM5 and WRF data ingest software	Web File Listing		GLADE File Listing	

<http://gcom-w1.jaxa.jp>

[http://suzaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GCOM\\_W/data/data\\_w\\_index.html](http://suzaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GCOM_W/data/data_w_index.html)

AMSR-2 radiance



GW1AM2\_201210271433\_082A\_**L1SGRTBR**\_1110110.h5

(optional)

L2SGCLWLD-01.h5

L2SGCLWLD-02.h5

GW1AM2\_201210271433\_082A\_**L2SGCLWLD**1100100.h5

WRFDA reads AMSR-2 **Level 1R** Brightness Temperature (L1SGRTBR)

WRFDA can read AMSR-2 Level 2 CLW (Integrated Cloud Liquid Water) product (L2SGCLWLD) for quality control purpose

The naming rules of the above GW1AM2 files are described in Figure 5 of [http://suzaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GCOM\\_W/data/doc/amsr2\\_data\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://suzaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GCOM_W/data/doc/amsr2_data_user_guide.pdf)

- Other data sources that require additional converters

- MADIS

<http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/download/madis.html>

<http://madis.noaa.gov/>

- GPS refractivity

<http://cdaac-www.cosmic.ucar.edu/cdaac/products.html>

- AIRS Retrieval

<http://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/> (requires registration to get data)

[http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/uui/datasets/AIRX2RET\\_NRT\\_V006/summary?](http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/uui/datasets/AIRX2RET_NRT_V006/summary?)

AIRX2RET\_NRT

[http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/uui/datasets/AIRX2RET\\_V006/summary?keywords="AIRS"](http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/uui/datasets/AIRX2RET_V006/summary?keywords='AIRS')

- Scatterometer surface winds

<http://www.knmi.nl/scatterometer>

- Stage IV precipitation

<http://data.eol.ucar.edu/codiac/dss/id=21.093>

❑ **What is little\_r format?**

A format used by MM5/Little\_r objective analysis program, a successor of RAWINS

Little\_r format is also used by WRF/OBSGRID objective analysis program

❑ **What does OBSPROC do?**

Ingest multiple types of observations that are converted to little\_r format and concatenated to one file, process the observation data and output the ASCII file(s) suitable for WRFDA needs – 3DVAR, FGAT (First **G**uess at **A**ppropriate **T**ime), 4DVAR

❑ **What is in ob.ascii (output of OBSPROC/input to WRFDA)?**

OBSPROC output name

WRFDA input name

obs\_gts\_YYYY-mm-dd\_hh:00:00.3DVAR (ob.ascii)

```

TOTAL = 29596, MISS. =-888888.,
SYNOP = 463, METAR = 156, SHIP = 25, BUOY = 54, BOGUS = 0, TEMP = 31,
AMDAR = 501, AIREP = 78, TAMDAR= 0, PILOT = 31, SATEM = 0, SATOB = 9318,
GPSPW = 0, GPSZD = 0, GPSRF = 49, GPSEP = 0, SSMT1 = 0, SSMT2 = 0,
TOVS = 0, QSCAT = 18890, PROFL = 0, AIRSR = 0, OTHER = 0,
PHIC = -87.40, XLONC = 180.00, TRUE1 = -71.00, TRUE2 = -91.00, XIM11 = 1.00, XJM11 = 1.00,
base_temp= 268.00, base_lapse= 50.00, PTOP = 1000., base_pres=100000., base_tropo_pres= 20000., base_strat_temp= 215.,
IXC = 217, JXC = 165, IPROJ = 2, IDD = 1, MAXNES= 1,

```

ob  
numbersdomain  
information

Header

✓ content  
not used  
in  
WRFDA

```

INFO = PLATFORM, DATE, NAME, LEVELS, LATITUDE, LONGITUDE, ELEVATION, ID.
SRFC = SLP, PW (DATA,QC,ERROR).
EACH = PRES, SPEED, DIR, HEIGHT, TEMP, DEW PT, HUMID (DATA,QC,ERROR)*LEVELS.

```

INFO\_FMT = (A12,1X,A19,1X,A40,1X,I6,3(F12.3,11X),6X,A40)

SRFC\_FMT = (F12.3,I4,F7.2,F12.3,I4,F7.3)

EACH\_FMT = (3(F12.3,I4,F7.2),11X,3(F12.3,I4,F7.2),11X,3(F12.3,I4,F7.2))

Data format

```

#-----#
FM-18 BUOY 2008-10-31_21:00:00 Platform Id >>> 55956 1 -41.973 -166.164 0.000 55956
101090.000 0 200.00 -888888.000 -88 0.200
101090.000 0 100.00 -888888.000 -88 1.40 -888888.000 -88 5.00 0.000 0 6.00 -888888.000 -88 2.00 -888888.000 -88 2.00 -888888.000 -88 10.00
FM-35 TEMP 2008-10-31_21:00:00 CHATHAM ISLAND / NEW ZEALAND 19 -43.950 -176.560 48.000 93986
-888888.000 -88 200.00 -888888.000 -88 0.200
100400.000 0 100.00 7.202 0 1.40 330.000 0 5.00 48.000 0 7.00 284.348 1 1.80 279.848 1 1.80 73.609 1 10.00
100000.000 0 100.00 -888888.000 -88 1.40 -888888.000 -88 5.00 83.000 0 7.00 284.024 -10 1.80 279.024 -10 1.80 71.046 -10 10.00
99800.000 0 99.82 -888888.000 -88 1.41 -888888.000 -88 5.00 100.000 3 7.01 283.861 1 1.80 277.861 1 1.80 66.222 1 10.00
92700.000 0 93.36 -888888.000 -88 1.64 -888888.000 -88 5.00 707.000 3 7.21 277.935 1 1.69 275.935 1 1.69 86.823 1 10.00
92500.000 0 93.18 -888888.000 -88 1.65 -888888.000 -88 5.00 724.000 0 7.22 277.763 1 1.69 275.563 1 1.69 85.579 1 10.00
91400.000 0 92.17 -888888.000 -88 1.69 -888888.000 -88 5.00 822.000 3 7.25 277.150 0 1.67 272.250 0 1.67 70.338 0 10.00
90300.000 0 91.17 -888888.000 -88 1.72 -888888.000 -88 5.00 920.000 3 7.29 277.750 0 1.66 258.750 0 1.66 23.873 0 10.00
85000.000 0 86.35 -888888.000 -88 1.90 -888888.000 -88 5.00 1410.000 0 7.46 275.750 0 1.57 263.750 0 1.57 40.903 0 10.00
84600.000 0 85.99 -888888.000 -88 1.91 -888888.000 -88 5.00 1449.000 3 7.47 275.350 0 1.57 263.350 0 1.57 40.794 0 10.00
78300.000 0 80.25 -888888.000 -88 2.12 -888888.000 -88 5.00 2072.000 3 7.69 273.550 0 1.46 249.550 0 1.46 14.884 0 10.00
70000.000 0 72.70 -888888.000 -88 2.40 -888888.000 -88 5.00 2964.000 0 8.00 270.050 0 1.30 256.050 0 1.30 33.387 0 10.00
69000.000 0 71.79 -888888.000 -88 2.42 -888888.000 -88 5.00 3078.000 3 8.03 269.450 0 1.30 256.450 0 1.30 36.084 0 10.00
65700.000 0 68.79 -888888.000 -88 2.49 -888888.000 -88 5.00 3463.000 3 8.11 267.250 0 1.30 247.250 0 1.30 19.399 0 10.00
64000.000 0 67.24 -888888.000 -88 2.52 -888888.000 -88 5.00 3669.000 3 8.16 267.450 0 1.30 228.450 0 1.30 3.148 0 10.00
57700.000 0 61.51 -888888.000 -88 2.65 -888888.000 -88 5.00 4471.000 3 8.34 261.850 0 1.30 247.850 0 1.30 31.074 0 10.00
56400.000 0 60.32 -888888.000 -88 2.67 -888888.000 -88 5.00 4646.000 3 8.39 262.050 0 1.30 239.050 0 1.30 13.679 0 10.00
50100.000 0 54.59 -888888.000 -88 2.80 -888888.000 -88 5.00 5545.000 3 8.60 256.650 0 1.30 241.650 0 1.30 26.971 0 10.00
50000.000 0 54.50 -888888.000 -88 2.80 -888888.000 -88 5.00 5560.000 0 8.60 256.650 0 1.30 -888888.000 -11 1.30 -888888.000 -11 10.00
49700.000 0 54.23 -888888.000 -88 2.81 -888888.000 -88 5.00 5606.000 3 8.72 256.650 0 1.31 -888888.000 -11 1.31 -888888.000 -11 10.00

```

observation errors



# How WRFDA categorizes observations

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WMOCodes/WMO306\\_vl1/Publications/2014update/Sel2.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WMOCodes/WMO306_vl1/Publications/2014update/Sel2.pdf)

Name	WMO code/ <u>Platform ID</u>	WMO code name
SYNOP	12, 14	SYNOP, SYNOP MOBIL
SHIP	13, 17	SHIP
BUOY	18	BUOY
METAR	15, 16	METAR, SPECI
PILOT	32, 33, 34	PILOT, PILOT SHIP, PILOT MOBIL
TEMP	35, 36, 37, 38	TEMP, TEMP SHIP, TEMP DROP, TEMP MOBIL
AMDAR	42	AMDAR
SATEM	86	SATEM
SATOB	88	SATOB
AIREP	96, 97	AIREP
TAMDAR	101	TAMDAR
GPSPW	111	GPSPW (Ground-based GPS precipitable water)
GPSZD	114	GPSZD (Ground-based GPS Zenith Total Delay)
GPSRF	116	GPSRF (Space-based GPS Refractivity)
PROFL	132	WIND PROFILER
AIRSR	133	AIRSRET
BOGUS	135	TCBOU (Typhoon bogus), BOGUS (other bogus)
QSCAT	281	Quik SCAT level-2B SeaWind

WRFDA combines  
AMDAR and AIREP  
as AIREP

WRFDA separates  
SATOB as geoamv  
and polaramv

In WRFDA, each  
observation type  
is identified by its  
platform ID

made-up  
code

# Quality flags assigned by obsproc

missing_data	= -88,	! Data is missing with the value of missing_r
outside_of_domain	= -77,	! Data outside horizontal domain or time window, data ! set to missing_r
wrong_direction	= -15,	! Wind vector direction <0 or> 360 => direction set to ! missing_r
negative_spd	= -14,	! Wind vector norm is negative => norm set to missing_r
zero_spd	= -13,	! Wind vector norm is zero => norm set to missing_r
wrong_wind_data	= -12,	! Spike in wind profile =>direction and norm set to ! missing_r
zero_t_td	= -11,	! t or td = 0 => t or td, rh and qv are set to missing_r
t_fail_supra_inver	= -10,	! super-adiabatic temperature
wrong_t_sign	= - 9,	! Spike in Temperature profile
above_model_lid	= - 8,	! height above model lid => no action
far_below_model_surface	= - 7,	! height far below model surface => no action
below_model_surface	= - 6,	! height below model surface => no action
standard_atmosphere	= - 5,	! Missing h, p or t =>Datum interpolated from standard ! atmosphere
from_background	= - 4,	! Missing h, p or t =>Datum interpolated from model
fails_error_max	= - 3,	! Datum Fails error max check => no action
fails_buddy_check	= - 2,	! Datum Fails buddy check => no action
no_buddies	= - 1,	! Datum has no buddies => no action
good_quality	= 0,	! OBS datum has good quality
convective_adjustment	= 1,	! convective adjustment check =>apply correction on t, ! td, rh and qv
surface_correction	= 2,	! Surface datum => apply correction on datum
Hydrostatic_recover	= 3,	! Height from hydrostatic assumption with the OBS data ! calibration
Reference_OBS_recover	= 4,	! Height from reference state with OBS data calibration
Other_check	= 88,	! passed other quality check

data with quality flags  $\geq 0$  will be used in WRFDA

# Observation re-formatting and conversion

## Sample METAR report from GTS

METAR KDEN 071553Z 15016G22KT 3SM HZ FEW060 SCT120 BKN150 19/11 A3019

## Sample SYNOP report from GTS

AAXX 07154 72565 31748 61616 10172 20111 38392 40167 58002 705// 91453 333 91022 555 90715

### variables in ob.ascii

- wind speed
- wind direction
- sea level pressure
- pressure
- height
- temperature
- dew point temperature
- relative humidity
- total precipitable water
- **GPS refractivity**
- **SATEM thickness**

non-conventional observations  
got stuck to formats originally  
designed for conventional data

### state variables in WRFDA

- x-component wind u (relative to model grid)
- y-component wind v (relative to model grid)
- temperature
- specific humidity
- surface pressure
- pressure

## A few things to bear in mind when dealing with observations

- What are observed and contained in the original observation reports
- What are the variable definitions in little\_r, ob.ascii, ob.bufr files
- What variables are used in WRFDA

# WRFDA code that reads in observations

- `ob.ascii`  
    `var/da/da_obs_io/da_scan_obs_ascii.inc`  
    `var/da/da_obs_io/da_read_obs_ascii.inc`
- `ob.bufr`  
    `var/da/da_obs_io/da_read_obs_bufr.inc`
- `gpsro.bufr`  
    `var/da/da_obs_io/da_read_obs_bufrgpsro.inc`
- `ob.rain`  
    `var/da/da_obs_io/da_read_obs_rain.inc`
- `ob.radar`  
    `var/da/da_obs_io/da_read_obs_radar.inc`
- `radiances`  
    `var/da/da_radiance/da_read_obs_*.inc`

The places where the exact Fortran statements can be found for the format.

# What does OBSPROC do?

- domain checks
- time checks and binning
- sort and merge duplicate reports
- assign observation errors
- gross check
- vertical consistency check and adiabatic check
- data completeness check
- assign quality flags
- thinning for SATOB and QSCAT
- write out files in ASCII format as the WRFDA input

- ✓ Model meteorological fields are NOT used in OBSPROC
- ✓ Time and domain checks are also done in WRFDA
- ✓ for 3DVAR and FGAT, observations (at the same locations) nearest to the analysis time are kept
- ✓ for 4DVAR, the observations nearest to the central time of each of the time slots are kept.



# What does OBSPROC do?

- **assign observation errors**

according to observation types and observed variables

Sources of the observations errors:

- ✓ Directly from the observation reports (GPS PW/ZTD, QSCAT, etc.)
- ✓ US Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) OBS error table: **obserr.txt**

The AFWA OBS errors for each type of observations are written out in different formats after running obsproc:

WIND.txt, TEMP.txt, RH.txt, PRES.txt, HEIGHT.txt

## TEMP.txt

TEMP SENSOR ERRORS																	
level	synop	ship	buoy	metar	pilot	profl	sound	satem	satob	airep	tamdar	ssmt1	ssmt2	tovs	ssmi	airsr	other
10.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.6
20.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.9
30.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.8
50.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.0	1.6
70.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.8
100.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1.0	1.6
150.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.0	1.6
200.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.2	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.1
250.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.2	1.0	1.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1.0	2.2
300.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.4	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.5
400.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.3	2.3	1.0	1.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1.0	2.4
500.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.6	2.6	1.0	1.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1.0	2.6
700.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.7	2.7	1.0	1.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1.0	2.9
850.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.5	3.5	1.0	1.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1.0	3.7
1000.	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.7	3.7	1.0	1.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1.0	3.8

# obserr.txt

```
0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 BOGUS TEMP SENSOR ERRORS
0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 :
0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 NU
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 NU
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 NU
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 RAOBS
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 :
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 :
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 PIBALS
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 :
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 NU
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 NU
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 :
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 AIREPS
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 :
1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 :
```

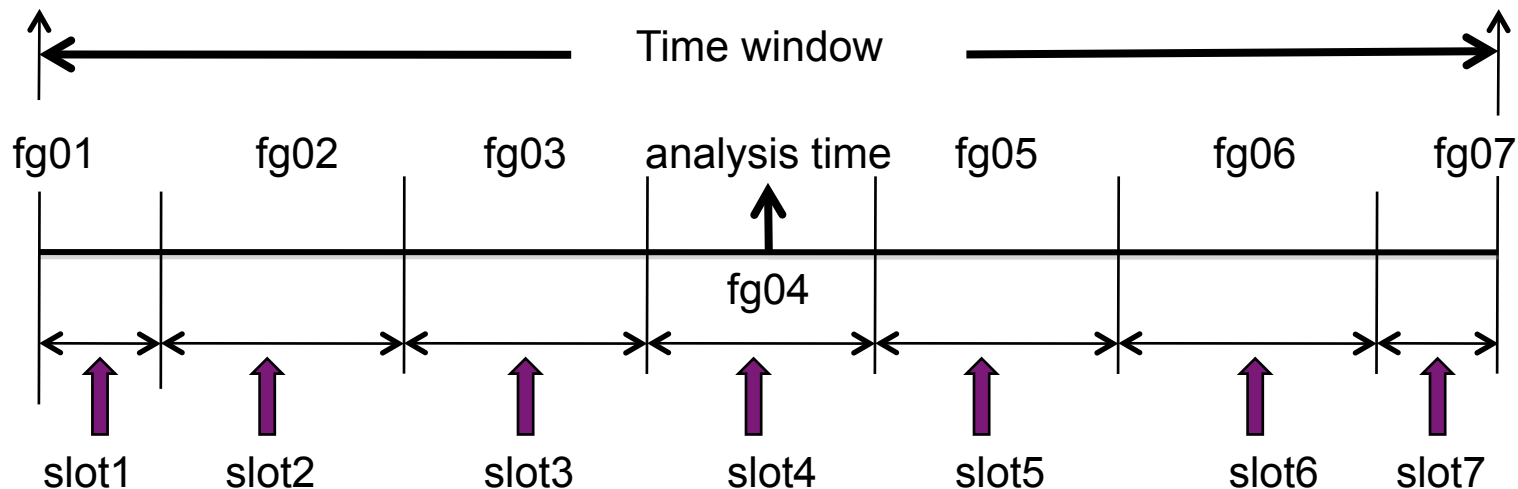
a snippet of  
obserr.txt

```
*. *****
*.
*. INSTRUMENT ERROR FILE
*.
*. PURPOSE: PROVIDES SENSOR ERROR DATA USED IN OI ANALYSIS AT PRESSURE LEVELS
*. -----
*.
*. 1) FOR HEIGHT, TEMPERATURE, PRESSURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY (IN hPa):
*.
*. 1000, 850, 700, 500, 400,
*. 300, 250, 200, 150, 100,
*. 70, 50, 30, 20, 10
*.
*. 2) FOR WIND:
*.
*. 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150,
*. 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500,
*. 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850,
*. 900, 950, 1000, 1050, 1100, xxxx, yyyy
*. (last two values are place holders).
*.
*. Beware the additional levels and the reverse order for wind.
```

description of the  
file can be found  
near the end of  
obserr.txt

# observation binning for WRFDA

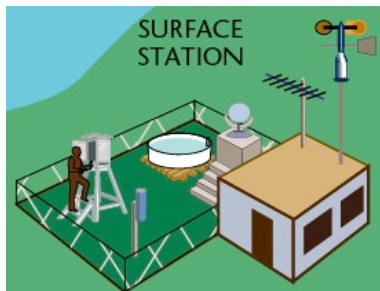
- 3DVAR
  - all observations within the time window are considered valid at the analysis time
  - when multiple reports from a fixed station are available within the time window, only one report that is closest to the analysis time will be kept
- FGAT (First Guess at Appropriate Time)
  - multiple time slots (model first guesses) within the time window
  - observations are binned in different time slots
  - when multiple reports from a fixed station are available within the time window, only one report that is closest to the analysis time will be kept
- 4DVAR
  - multiple time slots (model first guesses) within the time window
  - observations are binned in different time slots
  - time duplicate observations not allowed within each time slot



# observation binning for WRFDA

For analysis time at 12:00 with  
± 3 hour time window

fixed platform



+ 09:00  
 + 10:00  
 + 11:00  
 + 12:00  
 + 13:00  
 + 14:00  
 + 15:00

moving platform



For calculating the departure of model  
background from observations, what  
observations should be considered?

3DVAR: + ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

FGAT:

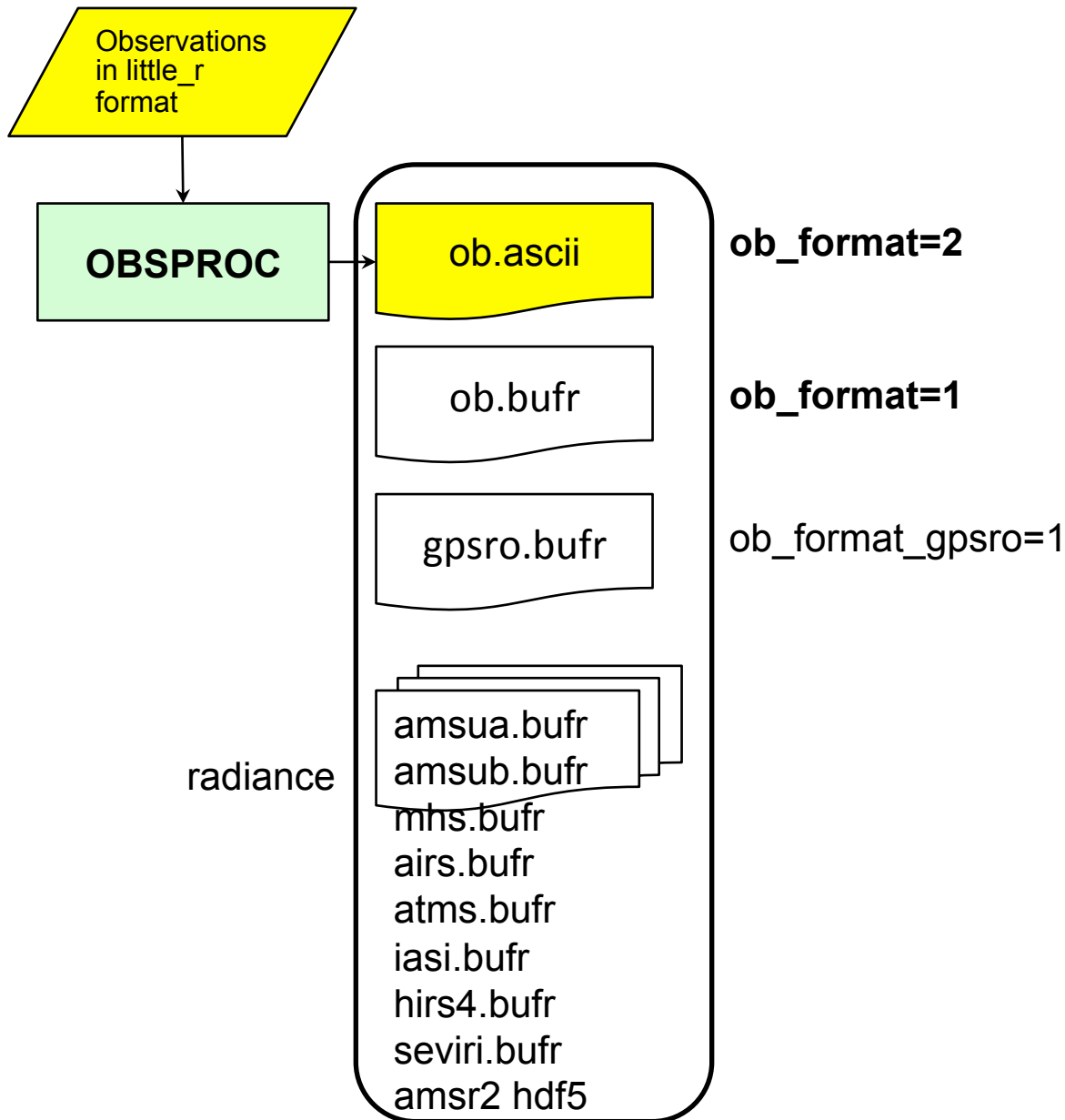
bin 01 ○  
 bin 02 ○  
 bin 03 ○  
 bin 04 + ○  
 bin 05 ○  
 bin 06 ○  
 bin 07 ○

4DVAR:

bin 01 + ○  
 bin 02 + ○  
 bin 03 + ○  
 bin 04 + ○  
 bin 05 + ○  
 bin 06 + ○  
 bin 07 + ○

WRFDA keeps only one observation closest to the analysis time from a fixed station in non-4DVAR mode. Other DA system may use multiple observations by giving time-dependent weights.

# observation binning for WRFDA



WRFDA

For conventional data:

- With ob\_format=2, observation binning is done in OBSPROC
- With ob\_format=1, binning is done inside WRFDA

For radiance data:  
binning is done inside WRFDA



# Compiling and Running OBSPROC

## ❑ To compile

- *./configure wrfda*
- *./compile all\_wrfvar*

WRFDA/var/obsproc/src/obsproc.exe is generated after a successful WRFDA build

## ❑ To run

- edit **namelist.obsproc**
- have input files ready in the working directory:
  - obs.2012020100      **little\_r observation file (user provided)**
  - obserr.txt            **observation error file**
  - obsproc.exe          **obsproc executable file**
  - namelist.obsproc    **obsproc namelist file**
- execute  
*./obsproc.exe >&! obsproc.log*

## ❑ Files to look for

- obs\_gts\_YYYY-mm-dd\_hh:00:00.3DVAR      **one ASCII file for 3DVAR**
- or** obs\_gts\_YYYY-mm-dd\_hh:00:00.FGAT      **multiple ASCII files for FGAT**
- or** obs\_gts\_YYYY-mm-dd\_hh:00:00.4DVAR      **multiple ASCII files for 4DVAR**
- obsproc.log:                    **execution log file**
- A list of diagnostic files:    **\*.diag files**

# namelist.obsproc

WRFDA/var/obsproc/README.namelist

examples:

WRFDA/var/obsproc/namelist.obsproc.3dvar.wrfvar-tut

WRFDA/var/obsproc/namelist.obsproc.4dvar.wrfvar-tut

&record1 (Defines the input file names)

obs\_gts\_filename = 'obs.2008020512',

Little\_r file name

obs\_err\_filename = 'obserr.txt',

Observation error file name

fg\_format = 'WRF'

Mapping in WRF convention

gts\_from\_mmm\_archive = .false.

(set to .true. if little\_r files are from hsi:/BRESCH/RT/DATA)

/

&record2 (Defines the analysis time and time window)

time\_window\_min = '2008-02-05\_11:00:00',

time\_analysis = '2008-02-05\_12:00:00',

time\_window\_max = '2008-02-05\_13:00:00',

/

# namelist.obsproc

&record3 (Defines the maximum number of observations allowed)

```
max_number_of_obs      = 400000,  Maximum number of observations to be loaded
fatal_if_exceed_max_obs = .TRUE.,
/
```

&record4 (Defines the quality control switches)

```
qc_test_vert_consistency = .ture.  Perform a vertical consistency check on sounding
domain_check_h = .true.,           Discard the observations outside the domain
remove_above_lid = .false. (.false. is recommended) remove the observation above model lid
thining_satob = .true.
thining_qscat = .true.
calc_psfc_from_QNH = .false. (valid for gts_from_mmm_archive=.true. only)
                           (set to .true. to calculate Psfc from METAR QNH reports)
```

...

/

&record5 (Print a series of diagnostic file)

```
print_gts_read      = .TRUE.,  Write the diagnostic little_r obs into file obs_gts_read.diag
```

...

/

# namelist.obsproc

&record6 (Defines the reference state)

ptop = 1000.0,	reference pressure at model top
base_temp = 290.0,	mean sea level temperature
base_lapse = 50.0,	temperature lapse rate
base_pres = 100000.0,	reference sea level pressure
base_strat_temp = 215.0,	isothermal temperature above tropopause
base_tropo_pres = 20000.0,	tropopause pressure

/

&record7 (Defines geographical parameters)

IPROJ = 1,	0 = Cylindrical Equidistance, 1 = Lambert Conformal, 2 = Polar stereographic, 3 = Mercator)
PHIC = 40.0,	central latitude of the domain
XLONC = -95.0,	central longitude of the domain
TRUELAT1= 30.0,	
TRUELAT2= 60.0,	
MOAD_CEN_LAT = 40.0,	central latitude for the Mother Of All Domains
STANDARD_LON = -95.0,	standard longitude

/

✓ `ncdump -h wrfinput_d01` for domain information

# namelist.obsproc

&record8 (Defines the domain settings)

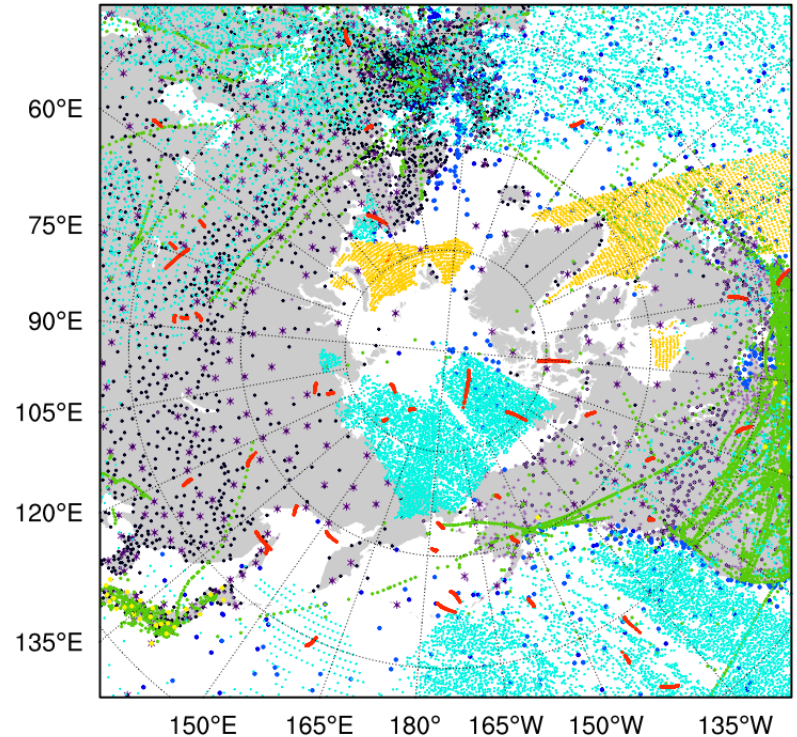
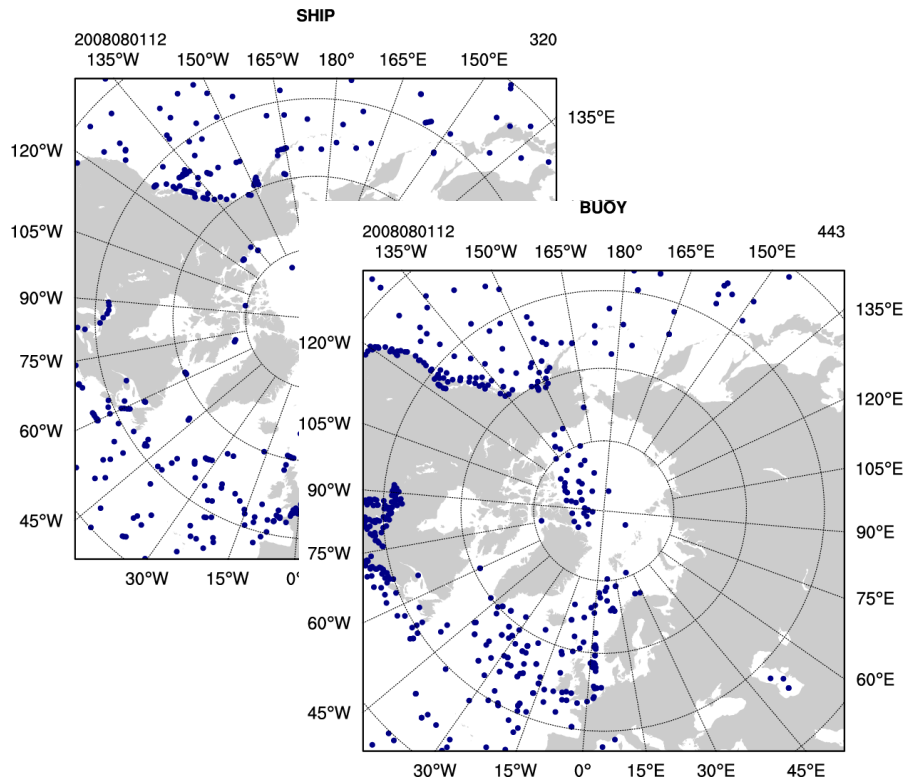
IDD = 1,           when XLONGC /= STANDARD\_LON, set IDD=2, otherwise set to 1  
MAXNES = 1,       set to 1  
NESTIX = 60,       I(y) direction dimension of the domain  
NESTJX = 90,       J(x)-direction dimension of the domain  
DIS = 60,          grid size of the domain  
NUMC = 1,          set to 1  
NESTI = 1,         set to 1  
NESTJ = 1,         set to 1  
/

✓ OBSPROC was developed in the MM5 era when I referred to Y direction and J referred to X direction

&record9 (Defines the output)

use\_for           = '3DVAR',           FGAT; 4DVAR  
num\_slots\_past    = 3,                number of time slots before time\_analysis  
num\_slots\_ahead   = 3,                number of time slots after time\_analysis  
/

# Plotting observation locations

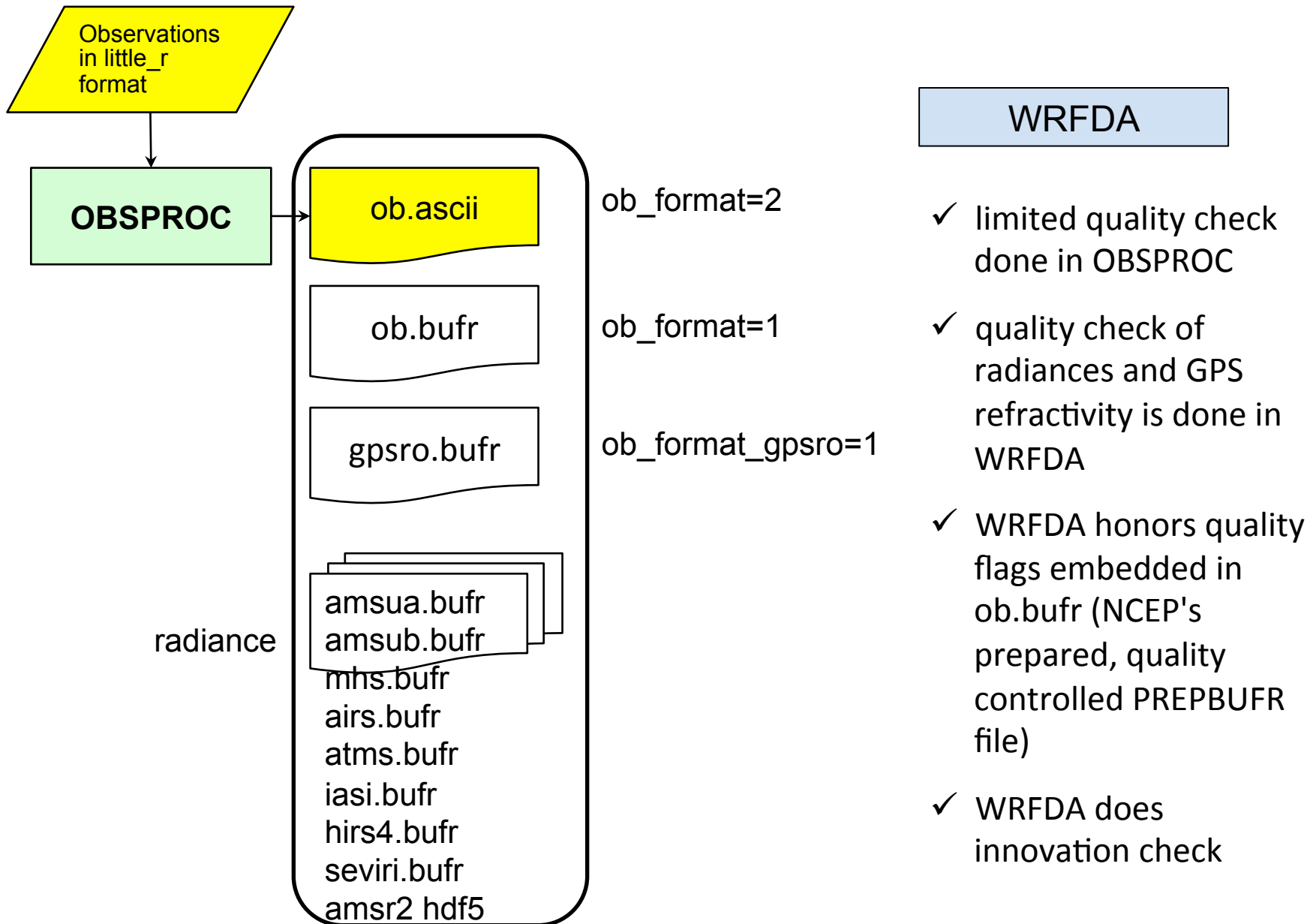


<http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/download/tools.html>

`var/graphics/ncl/plot_ob_ascii_loc.ncl`  
– a sample NCL script to plot observation locations

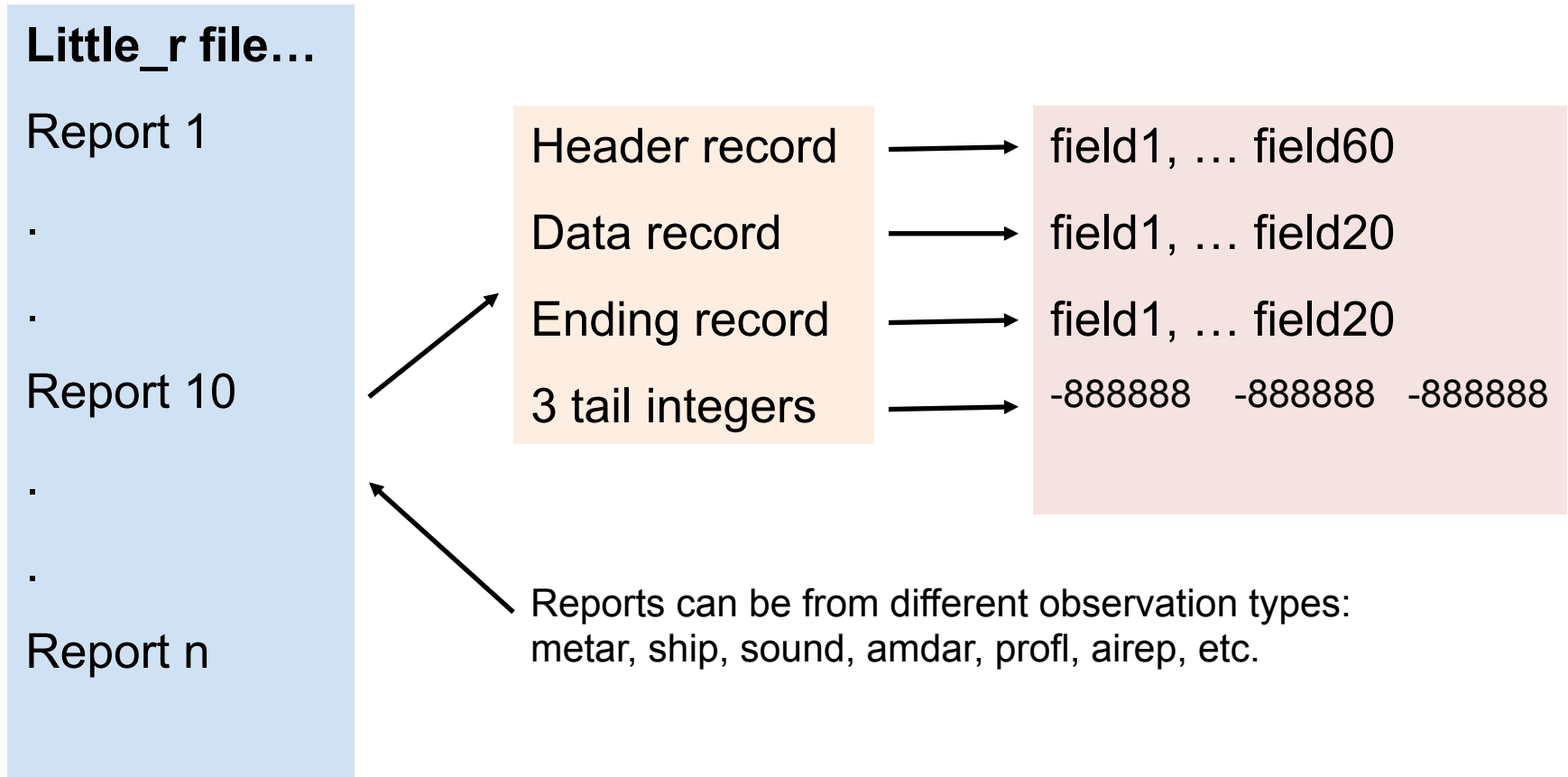
Refer to <http://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Applications/station.shtml> for more station plotting examples

# Observation Quality Control



# little\_r format

- little\_r file is a report-based ASCII file
- different observation files can be concatenated (cat) together to one file



✓ WRF User's Guide Chapter 7

✓ <http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/wrfda/OnlineTutorial/Help/littler.html>



# little\_r format

- A little\_r format observation file is composed of **Reports**
- **Report** is composed of **Records** (header, data,..., and ending) and 3 tail integers (3i7):
- Record is composed of fields
  - fields in the **header** record
  - fields in the **data** record
  - fields in the **ending** record

Example: one sounding report in a little\_r file

```

13.48000      2.1600061052      NIAMEY-AERO / NIGER      FM-35 TEMP      GTS (ROHK) USNR20 DRRN 242300
227.00000 1 -888888 -888888 55 -888888 T F F -888888 -888888 20100824230000-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000
0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
98600.00000 0 227.00000 0 300.75000 0 293.75000 0 4.11556 0 240.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
100000.00000 0 97.00000 0 -888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
92500.00000 0 788.00000 0 299.94998 0 290.94998 0 6.68778 0 255.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
85000.00000 0 1530.00000 0 295.94998 0 284.94998 0 1.54333 0 225.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
70000.00000 0 3187.00000 0 283.35001 0 278.75000 0 7.71667 0 75.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
50000.00000 0 5900.00000 0 267.04999 0 256.04999 0 12.86111 0 85.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
40000.00000 0 7610.00000 0 256.64999 0 240.64999 0 6.68778 0 75.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
30000.00000 0 9720.00000 0 242.64999 0 239.04999 0 6.68778 0 165.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
25000.00000 0 10990.00000 0 232.64999 0-888888.00000 0 6.17333 0 145.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
20000.00000 0 12470.00000 0 220.25000 0-888888.00000 0 3.60111 0 135.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
15000.00000 0 14260.00000 0 205.84999 0-888888.00000 0 18.00556 0 100.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
10000.00000 0 16640.00000 0 194.04999 0-888888.00000 0 9.77444 0 70.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
-777777.00000 0-777777.00000 0 13.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0
58 0 0
  
```

Header record

Data record

Ending record

3 tail integer

# little\_r format

The fields in the **header record** (Fortran format in parenthesis)

No	Field	No	Field	No	Field
1	Latitude (f20.5)	2	Longitude (f20.5)	3	ID (a40)
4	Name (a40)	5	Platform (a40)	6	Source (a40)
7	Elevation (f20.5)	8	Num_vld_fld (i10)	9	Num_error (i10)
10	Num_warning (i10)	11	Seq_num (i10)	12	Num_dupd (i10)
13	Is_sound (L10)	14	Bogus (L10)	15	Discard (L10)
16	Valid_time%sut (i10)	17	Valid_time%julian (i10)	18	Valid_time%date_char(a20)
19	Slp%data (f13.5)	20	Slp%qc (i7)	21	Ref_pres%data (f13.5)
22	Ref_pres%qc (i7)	23	Ground_t%data (f13.5)	24	Ground_t%qc (i7)
25	SST%data (f13.5)	26	SST%qc (i7)	27	Psfc%data (f13.5)
28	Psfc%qc (i7)	29	Precip%data (f13.5)	30	Precip%qc (i7)
31	T_max%data (f13.5)	32	T_max%qc (i7)	33	T_min%data (f13.5)
34	T_min%qc (i7)	35	T_min_night%data (f13.5)	36	T_min_night%qc (i7)
37	P_tend03%data (f13.5)	38	P_tend03%qc (i7)	39	P_tend24%data (f13.5)
40	P_tend24%qc (i7)	41	Cloud_cvr%data (f13.5)	42	Cloud_cvr%qc (i7)
43	Celling%data (f13.5)	44	Celling%qc (i7)	45	Pw%data (f13.5)
46	Pw%qc (i7)				

Mandatory (non-blank) fields are fields 1 - 44

# little\_r format

A sample "header record" (a long continuous line) of one sounding report

```

13.48000|2.16000|61052
NIAMEY-AERO / NIGER|FM-35 TEMP
GTS (ROHK) USNR01 DRRN 051100 RRA|227.00000|1|-888888|
-888888|299|-888888|T|F|F|-888888|-888888|
20080205110000|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|
0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|
0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|
0|-888888.00000|0|-888888.00000|0|

```

No	Field	No	Field	No	Field
1	Latitude (f20.5)	2	Longitude (f20.5)	3	ID (a40)
4	Name (a40)	5	Platform (a40)	6	Source (a40)
7	Elevation (f20.5)	8	Num_vld_fld (i10)	9	Num_error (i10)
10	Num_warning (i10)	11	Seq_num (i10)	12	Num_dupd (i10)
13	Is_sound (L10)	14	Bogus (L10)	15	Discard (L10)
16	Valid_time%sut (i10)	17	Valid_time%julian (i10)	18	Valid_time%date_char(a20)
19	Slp%data (f13.5)	20	Slp%qc (i7)	21	Ref_pres%data (f13.5)
22	Ref_pres%qc (i7)	23	Ground_t%data (f13.5)	24	Ground_t%qc (i7)

# little\_r format

The fields in the **data record** (Fortran format in parenthesis)

no	Field	no	Field
1	Pressure%data (f13.5)	2	Pressure%qc (i7)
3	Height%data (f13.5)	4	Height%qc (i7)
5	Temperature%data (f13.5)	6	Temperature%qc (i7)
7	Dew_point%data (f13.5)	8	Dew_point%qc (i7)
9	Speed%data (f13.5)	10	Speed%qc (i7)
11	Direction%data (f13.5)	12	Direction%qc (i7)
13	U%data (f13.5)	14	U%qc (i7)
15	V%data (f13.5)	16	V%qc (i7)
17	RH%data (f13.5)	18	RH%qc (i7)
19	Thickness%data (f13.5)	20	Thickness%qc (i7)

85000.00000 0 1530.00000 0 295.94998 0 284.94998 0 1.54333 0 225.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0

The 0s after each piece of data are quality control identifiers to be defined in the MM5/little\_r objective analysis program. They have no meanings for WRFDA.

# little\_r format

The fields in the **ending record**

no	field	no	field	no	field	no	field
1	-777777.00000	2	0	3	-777777.00000	4	0
5	-888888.00000	6	0	7	-888888.00000	8	0
9	-888888.00000	10	0	11	-888888.00000	12	0
13	-888888.00000	14	0	15	-888888.00000	16	0
17	-888888.00000	18	0	19	-888888.00000	20	0

-777777.00000 0-777777.00000 0 13.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0-888888.00000 0

# little\_r format

a snippet of Fortran code that writes **sounding** data in little\_r format

```
! header:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = rpt_format )      &
  xlat, xlon, string1, string2 ,                &
  string3, string4, ter, kx*6, 0, 0, iseq_num, 0, &
  .TRUE., .FALSE., .FALSE.,                    &
  -888888, -888888, date_char, slp, 0,          &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0

! report:

DO k = 1 , kx
  WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = meas_format )    &
    p(k), 0, z(k),0, t(k),0, td(k),0,          &
    spd(k),0, dir(k),0,                        &
    -888888.,0, -888888.,0,-888888.,0, -888888.,0
END DO

! end of report line:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = meas_format )      &
  -777777.,0, -777777.,0,float(kx),0,          &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0,          &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0,          &
  -888888.,0

! end of message line:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = end_format ) kx, 0, 0
```

# little\_r format

a snippet of Fortran code that writes **surface** data in little\_r format

```
! header:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = rpt_format )      &
  xlat, xlon, string1, string2 ,                &
  string3, string4, ter, 6, 0, 0, iseq_num, 0,    &
  .FALSE., .FALSE., .FALSE.,                  &
  -888888, -888888, date_char, slp, 0,          &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0

! report:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = meas_format )      &
  p, 0, z, 0, t, 0, td, 0,                    &
  spd, 0, dir, 0,                             &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0

! end of report line:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = meas_format )      &
  -777777.,0, -777777.,0, float(kx),0,        &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0,        &
  -888888.,0, -888888.,0, -888888.,0,        &
  -888888.,0

! end of message line:

WRITE ( UNIT = iunit , FMT = end_format ) kx, 0, 0
```

# little\_r format

**QSCAT:** U and V fields are used to store observation errors of wind speed and wind direction

press	geo height	temp	dew-p	speed	dir	u	v	rh	thickness
						obs error of wind speed	obs error of wind direction		

✓ 1.0 m/s minimum obs error imposed by WRFDA

## GPS Refractivity

press	geo height	temp	dew-p	speed	dir	u	v	rh	thickness
	height (m)		Refractivity (N)	Impact parameter (x1.e-3)	azimuth angle (degree)	latitude	longitude	Bending angle (radx1.e7)	Opt. bending

- ✓ little\_r format and OBSPROC were developed before some observation types became available
- ✓ OBSPROC was extended to handle some “non-conventional” observation types in a non-standard way



# little\_r format

## Special notes for GPSPW / GPSZD

No	Field	No	Field	No	Field
1	Latitude (f20.5)	2	Longitude (f20.5)	3	ID (a40)
4	Name (a40)	5	Platform (a40)	6	Source (a40)
7	Elevation (f20.5)	8	Num_vld_fld (i10)	9	Num_error (i10)
10	Num_warning (i10)	11	Seq_num (i10)	12	Num_dupd (i10)
13	Is_sound (L10)	14	Bogus (L10)	15	Discard (L10)
16	Valid_time%sut (i10)	17	Valid_time%julian (i10)	18	Valid_time%date_char(a20)
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
43	Celling%data (f13.5)	44	Celling%qc (i7)	45	Pw%data (f13.5)
46	Pw%qc (i7)				

- ✓ **Pw%data** can be either GPSPW (FM-111) or GPSZD (FM-114) and the unit is in **cm**.
  - ✓ **Pw%qc** is used to store the error in units of **0.1 mm**.
- For example, Pw%qc=100 means the error is 1 cm as it appears in the output ob.ascii file.

If the little\_r pw%qc field is 0 or missing, then the default assigned in var/obsproc/src/module\_err\_afwa.F90 is 0.2 cm for GPSPW and 0.5 cm for GPSZD.

**Questions?**

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