





WRF: More Runtime Options

Wei Wang
NCAR/NESL/MMM
January 2014



Fortran namelist

- Fortran 90 namelist is used to configure a run without recompiling the code
- Fortran 90 namelist has very specific format, so edit with care:

```
&namelist-record - start
/ - end
```

As a general rule:

Multiple columns: domain dependent

Single column: value valid for all domains



More options

- Some useful runtime options:
 - IO options
 - Vertical interpolation options
 - Options for long simulations
 - Adaptive-time step
 - Digital filter
 - Global runs
 - Moving nest
 - TC options
 - Tracer / trajectory
 - Optional output
 - Stochastic kinetic-energy backscatter scheme (SKEB)
 - IO quilting
 - Time series output (surface and profile)



namelist.input

general namelist records:

&time_control

&domains

&physics

&dynamics

&bdy control

&namelist_quilt

specialized namelist records:

&dfi control

&fdda

&grib2

&scm

&tc

&noah mp

Look for these in examples.namelist



IO Control (1)

History output control in &time_control

```
history_interval: used often, unit in minutes
history_interval_h: history output interval in hours
history_interval_s: history output interval in seconds
history_begin_h: history output beginning time in hours
history_begin_d: history output beginning time in days
```

Complete listing in Registry/
registry.io_boilerplate



IO Control (2)

Optional history output in &time_control

1. Change Registry.EM and recompile:

```
state integer rainc ij misc 1 - h03 "RAINC" ""
"ACCUMULATED TOTAL CUMULUS PRECIPITATION"
state integer rainnc ij misc 1 - h03 "RAINC" "'
"ACCUMULATED TOTAL GRID SCALE PRECIPITATION"
```

2. Edit namelist.input to output these variables:

```
auxhist3_outname = "rainfall_d<domain>"
auxhist3_interval = 10, 10,
frames_per_auxhist3 = 1000, 1000,
io_form_auxhist3 = 2
```

IO Control (3)

Starting in V3.2, there is an alternative to add/remove additional output at **runtime** (state variables in Registry only)

1. new namelists in &time control:

```
iofields_filename(max_dom) = 'my_output.txt',
ignore_iofields_warning = .true.
```

2. prepare a text file ('my_output.txt') to select io fields:

```
+:h:3:rainc,rainnc ← syntax in the file
```

3. set other namelists under &time control:

```
auxhist3_outname = "rainfall_d<domain>"
auxhist3_interval = 10, 10,
frames_per_auxhist3 = 1000, 1000,
io_form_auxhist3 = 2
```

See 'Run-Time IO' section in Chapter 5, User's Guide

Vertical interpolation options (1)

```
Program real for ARW only, optional, &domains:
   use surface: whether to use surface observations
   use levels below ground: whether to use data below the
      ground
   lowest_lev_from_sfc: logical, whether surface data is used to
      fill the lowest model level values
   force sfc in vinterp: number of levels to use surface
      data, default is 1
   extrap type: how to do extrapolation: 1 - use 2 lowest levels;
     2 - constant
   t extrap type: extrapolation option for temperature: 1 -
     isothermal; 2 - 6.5 K/km; 3 - adiabatic
```



Vertical interpolation options (2)

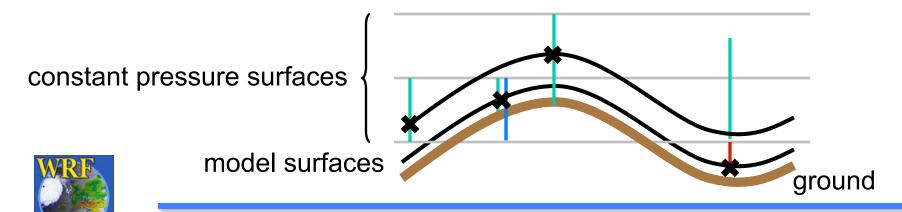
Program real for ARW only, optional:

interp type:in pressure or log pressure

lagrange_order:linear or quadratic

zap_close_levels: Δp where a non-surface pressure level is removed in vertical interpolation

related namelists: examples.namelist



Vertical interpolation options (3)

Since V3.3.1:

interp theta

Whether to interpolate T or theta;

= .false., interpolate T, default

hypsometric opt

An alternative way to obtain geopotential height in program real, and pressure in the model.

= 2, default since V3.4

→ Help to improve biases introduced in vertical integration



Options for long simulations (1)

Lower boundary update control: allow SST, seaice, monthly vegetation fraction, and albedo to be updated regularly during a model run:

```
sst update: 0 - no update
               1 – update all above fields
Set before running real, and this will create additional output files:
  wrflowinp d01, wrflowinp d02, ...
Other namelists required in &time control:
 auxinput4 inname = "wrflowinp d<domain>"
 auxinput4 interval = 360, 360,
 io form auxinput4 = 2 (netCDF)
```

See 'Using sst update Option' in Chapter 5, User's Guide

Options for long simulations (2)

diurnal water temp update sst skin

deep soil temp update, used with tmn update

lagday

averaging time in days lagday

bucket reset value for rainfall bucket mm

bucket reset value for radiation fluxes bucket j

exponential multiplier for boundary spec exp

zone ramping (set in real). Usually

used with wider boundary zone

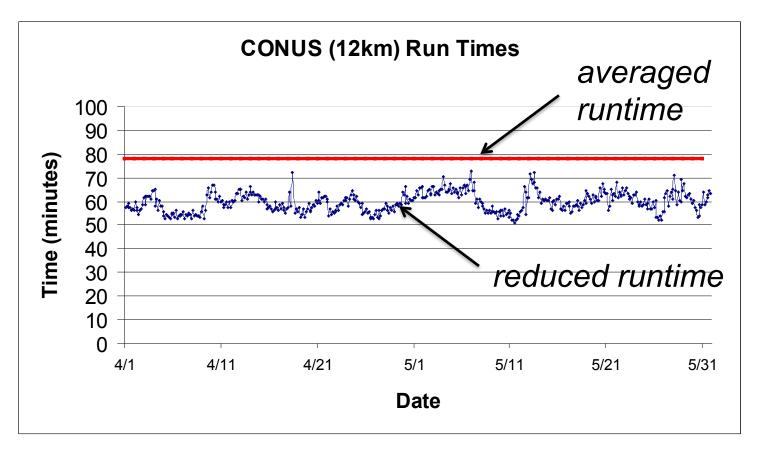


Adaptive time steps (1)

- Adaptive-time-step is a way to maximize the model time step while keeping the model numerically stable.
- New in V3. Good to use for real-time run.
- May not work in combination with other options.

Also see 'Using Adaptive Time Stepping' section in Chapter 5, UG

Adaptive time steps (2): an example





On average, forecasts finish in 60 min (50-73min) as compared to 79 min standard runtime

Adaptive time steps (3)

Namelist control: &domains * USE WITH CARE

use adaptive time step

step_to_output_time

target cfl

max step increase pct

starting time step

max time step

min time step

logical switch

whether to write at exact history output times

maximum cfl allowed (1.2)

percentage of time step increase each time; set to 5, 51, 51 (larger value for nest)

in seconds; e.g. set to 4*DX

in seconds; e.g. set to 8*DX

in seconds; e.g. set to 4*DX



Digital filter initialization (1)

Digital filter initialization is a simple way to remove initial model imbalance:

- May be introduced by simple interpolation, different topography, or by objective analysis, or data assimilation
- It may generate spurious gravity waves in the early simulation hours, which could cause erroneous precipitation, numerical instability and degrade subsequent data assimilation



Digital filter initialization (2)

Using DFI

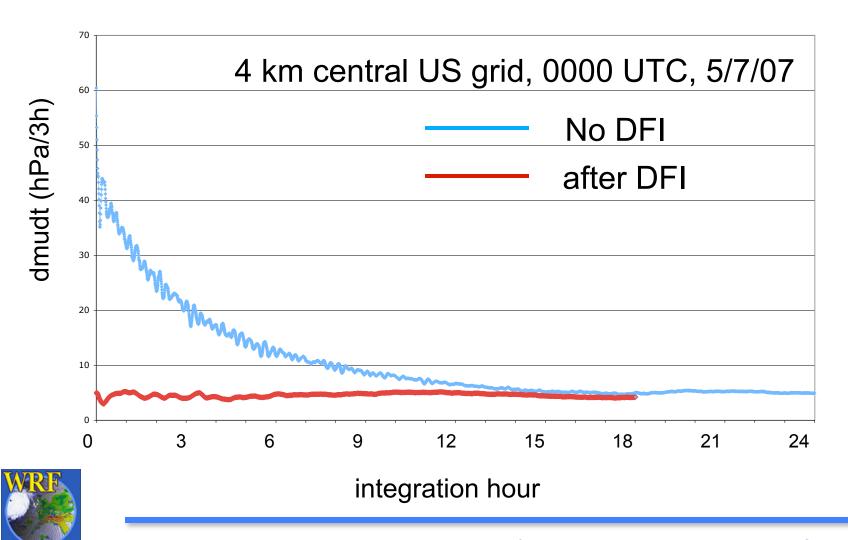
- can construct consistent model fields which do not exist in the initial conditions, e.g. vertical motion, cloud variables
- may reduce the spin-up problem in early simulation hours
- Useful if the first few hours of forecast is the interest

DFI is done after program real, or dataassimilation step, just before model integration

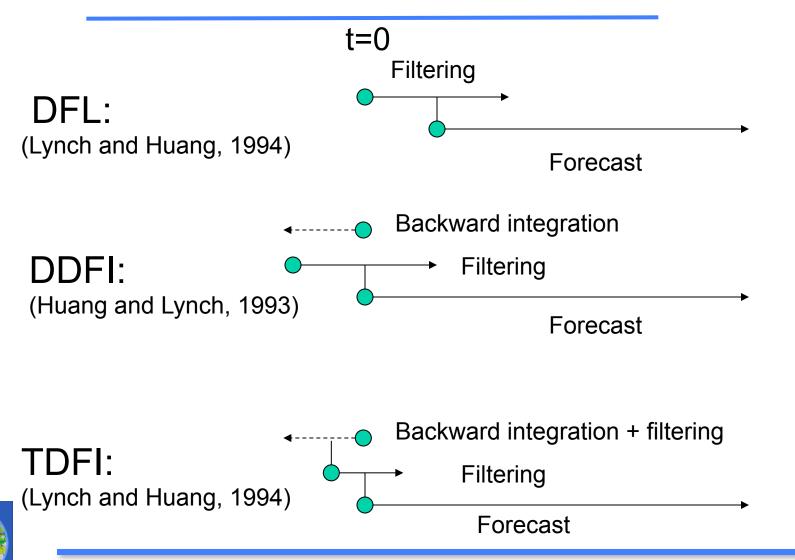


See 'Using Digital Filter Initialization', Chap 5, UG.

Digital filter initialization (3)



Digital filter initialization (4)



Digital filter inilialization (5)

```
Namelist control: &dfi
   dfi opt: dfi options: 0: no DFI; 1: DFL; 2: DDFI; 3:
    TDFI (recommended)
   dfi nfilter: filter options 0 - 8, recommended: 7
   dfi cutoff seconds : cutoff period
   dfi write filtered input : whether to write
    filtered IC
   dfi bckstop * : stop time for backward integration
  dfi fwdstop * : stop time for forward integration
related namelists: examples.namelist
```



Global application

Setup mostly done in WPS:

```
map_proj = 'lat-lon'
e_we, e_sn: geogrid will compute dx, dy
See template 'namelist.wps.global'
```

In the model stage:

```
fft_filter_lat: default value is 45 degrees
Caution: some options do not work, or have not
  been tested with global domain. Start with
  template 'namelist.input.global'
```



See 'Global Run' section, Chap 5, UG

Automatic moving nest options

Tropical cyclone / typhoon / hurricane applications:

```
vortex interval: time interval when vortex
  location is estimated
```

```
max vortex speed: used to compute the search
  radius for vortex location
```

```
corral dist: how far the vortex can move near
 the parent domain boundary (number of grids)
```

```
track level: e.g. 700 or 500 mb
```

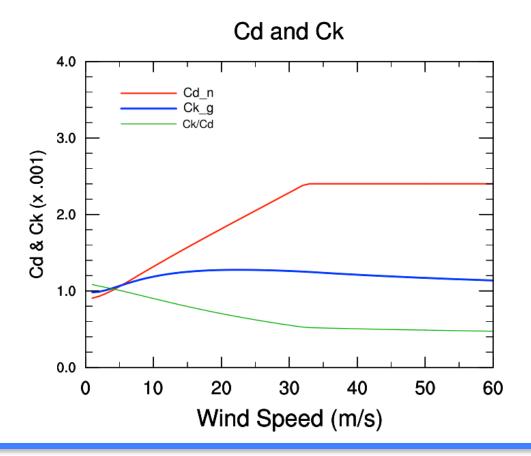
time to move: hold nests still until this time



See 'Moving Nested Run', Chap 5, UG

TC options (1)

isftcflx: alternative C_d (Donelan) and C_k (=2, Garratt) formulation for TC application





TC options (2)

```
sf ocean physics: simple ocean mixed layer
oml hml0: initial ocean mixed layer depth
oml gamma: lapse rate in deep water
```

The ocean mixed layer model can also be initialized with real-data, e.g. HYCOM. More info can be found at

http://www.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/hurricanes/wrf_ahw.html



TC options (3)

sf_ocean physics = 2: 3D Price-Weller-Pinkel (PWP) ocean model based on Price et al. (1994). It has full ocean process (e.g. advection, pressuregradient force, and mixing). It doesn't have ocean topography. Only simple initialization is provided in Version 3.5.



tracer option

Add the following in &dynamics to activate tracer option (default no. is 8: with array names tr17_1, tr17_2, ..., tr17_8):

```
tracer_opt = 2,
```

One would need some way to initialize the tracer.



trajectory option

Add the following in &physics to activate trajectory option:

```
traj opt = 1,
```

And set the number of trajectories in &domains:

```
num traj = 25, (default value)
```

Output: traj i(num_traj), traj_j, traj_k, traj lat, traj long



Stochastic kinetic-energy backscatter scheme

This is a way to stochastically perturb forecasts.

```
stoch force opt: = 1, activate the scheme
nens: = N, an integer that controls the random
  number stream; a different integer will give a
  differently perturbed forecast
```

perturb bdy: = 1, use SKEB pattern; = 2, use user-provided pattern (new in 3.5)

Also see 'Option to stochastically perturb forecasts' section in Chap 5, UG



(Berner et al. 2011, MWR)

Additional Output Option (1)

```
prec acc dt = 60.:
```

Output precipitation in a time interval (e.g. 60 min):

PREC ACC C, for convective rain PREC ACC NC, for explicit rain SNOW ACC NC, for explicit snow



Additional Output Option (2)

```
Since V3.4.1:
&diags
 p lev diag = 1.
 num press levles = 4,
 press levels = 85000,70000,50000,20000
Output a few met fields on pressure levels :
```

Output goes to auxiliary stream 23, so need to set

U PL, V PL, S PL, T PL, TD PL, RH PL, GHT PL,

```
auxhist23 outname, io form auxhist23,
auxhist23 interval, frames per auxhist23
```



Additional Output Option (3)

```
output diagnostics = 1:
  output max, min, time of max and min, mean
  value, standard deviation of the mean for 8
  surface variables (T2, Q2, TSK, U10, V10, 10 m
  wind speed, RAINCV, and RAINNCV [time step
  rain])
auxhist3 outname ="wrfxtrm d<domain> <date>
io form auxhist3 = 2
auxhist3 interval = 60
frame per auxhist3 = 10
```

Additional Output Option (4) (new)

```
nwp diagnostics = 1:
```

Output max 10 m wind speed, max helicity in 2 – 5 km layer, max w in updraft and downdraft below 400 mb, mean w in 2 – 5 km layer, and max column graupel in a time window between history output times.

Data goes to history file.



Additional Output Option (5)

```
do avgflx em = 1:
```

output history-time-averaged, column-pressurecoupled u, v and w:

AVGFLX RUM, AVGFLX RVM, AVGFLX RWM

useful for driving downstream transport model



IO quilting: &namelist quilt

Parallel I/O control:

nio tasks per group (>0): allow IO to be done on separate processors. Performance improvement for large domain runs. A value of 2 to 4 works well.

io groups (>1): number of I/O streams that the quilting applies.

See 'Using IO Quilting' section, Chap 5, UG

Other ways to improve IO: 1) p-netCDF; 2) use netCDF4 compression option; 3) use io form history=102 to output patches of data



Time Series Output (1)

 It is a special output in text format with file name like

```
prefix.d<domain>.TS
```

It outputs 14 surface variables at every time step:

e.g. 10 m u/v, 2 m T/qv, precipitation, radiation, surface fluxes

- It also outputs profiles of U, V, Th, Qv, PH
- One file per location (e.g. at weather station)



Time Series Output (2)

- Not a namelist option
- If output more than 5 locations, use namelist max ts locs
- Depends the presence of a file called 'tslist' (a sample of the file is available in wrfv3/run/

```
\# 24 characters for name | pfx | LAT | LON
                  hallt -72.330 170.250
Cape Hallett
McMurdo Station mcm -77.851 166.713
```

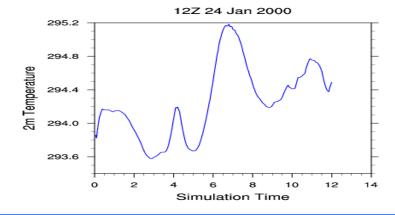
- This file provides a list of locations where you would like to output time series
- More information in run/README.tslist and 'Output Time Series' section, Chapter 5, UG



Time Series Output (3)

Content in hallt.d01.TS:

```
1 1 hallt (36.710, -79.000) (41, 38)
Cape Hallett
  ( 36.600, -79.142) 159.6 meters
    0.050000 1 41 38 275.47397 0.00288
  3.52110
        -2.34275 99988.76563 244.81276
0.00000 -29.94841 4.09765 273.90295 278.20197
  0.00000 0.00000 0.00000
1 0.100000 1 41 38 275.56287 0.00282
  3.14414 -2.05875 99956.98438 244.81276
0.00000 -25.64095 4.18446 273.78323 278.18314
  0.00000 0.00000
                   0.0000
```





Recommended

Start with the namelist template in a particular test directory, and the options specified in the file, and make modifications.

Chapter 5 of ARW User's Guide, pages 5-25 – 5-27: examples for various applications.

For special applications in ARW, look for related namelists in the file examples.namelist in test/em real/ directory.

For more information on global extension, DFI and adaptive time step, read Tech Note, and User's Guide.