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Use of GPS observations in an optimum interpolation based data assimilation system

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Abstract

An Optimum Interpolation (OI) based data assimilation system is further developed to include geopotential profiles retrieved from Global Positioning System (GPS) occultation measurements. The error statistics of the profiles are estimated, and then used in the system. Important differences in the definition of geopotential height used in the GPS retrieval algorithm and that used in the Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models are addressed. An example of the impact on an analysis from the new data is also given.

The impact of the geopotential profiles retrieved from GPS/MET occultations on the data assimilation system is investigated. A 16-day period is chosen to run parallel experiments with or without the additional data included. Simple statistics are used to quantify the impact. The impact turns out to be neutral averaged over the whole period, but varies on daily basis.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric profiling using the radio occultation technique provides an additional data source for climate monitoring and numerical weather forecasting (see Høeg *et al.*, 1995 and references therein). As high quality conventional profile data are still inadequate for determining the three dimensional atmospheric state, especially over the oceans and in the southern hemisphere, the GPS profile data may become one of the most important future observing systems. Simulated occultation data have been assimilated into NWP models indicating a great potential of the new data (Eyre, 1994; Zou *et al.*, 1995).

In this study we intend to explore the possibility of using real data in an operational NWP system which is based on the OI analysis method. The real data are the retrieved geopotential profiles from the GPS/MET occultation measurements (Syndergaard *et al.*, 2000). The operational NWP system used in this study is the HIgh Resolution Limited-Area Modelling (HIRLAM) system implemented at the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) (Sass *et al.*, 1999).

Using the real data, one has to face and attack, among other things, the problems related to data error statistics. Quality control procedures are

necessary for removing erroneous data. Interpolation of the data in space is part of the OI scheme, but a strategy is needed for the interpolation in time. When using the operational NWP system, one has to keep the basic setup and only include the new component as a small addition. The impact of the new data could be small simply because they are few.

This report gives a brief overview of the DMI I M section , presents the approach we took in estimating the data error statistics section , and shows an example of the impact from the new data on an analysis section . Section describes the observation system experiment O setup, section describes the verification measures and section gives some results from a few of the experiments.

The data assimilation system used for the experiments is the operational I M forecasting system at DMI. The system has been developed in a collaborative research project between the national meteorological institutes of Denmark, inland, France, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden see e.g. Machenhauer, Gustafsson, Lynch, . It is an intermittent data assimilation system including an OI analysis scheme and a forecast model. The system at DMI is documented in Allen and Sijm and further details concerning the I M OI analysis scheme can be found in Allen and Sijm .

The I M OI is a limited area version of the MW OI scheme Sijm and Sijm . The first guess field is the 6h forecast based on the previous data assimilation cycle. Three dimensional multi variate statistical interpolation is used for the wind, geopotential, and surface pressure. Three dimensional univariate statistical interpolation is used for relative humidity. The observation window covers a 6h span around the time for the analysis , , and T . A standard observation set is used, including synoptic observations, ship observations, drifting and moored buoys, pilot balloons, radiosonde data and aircraft data. For radiosondes the OI system uses geopotential height, wind and humidity at a fixed number of pressure levels. Here we would like to point out that no satellite observations have been included except P profiles.

The P geopotential profiles have been included in the analysis scheme in the same way as for radiosondes, but with modified vertical correlations and observation errors. While the providers of P derived atmospheric profiles used W World Geodetic System geometric heights, the geopotential heights widely used in NWP modeling are not referred to the W ellipsoid but to the M Earth Gravitational Model geoid. Therefore, we made a conversion of W geometric heights to NWP model I M geopotential heights as described in Edel .

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