

A very short Introduction to NetCDF, CDO and Shell-Programming

Dr. rer. nat. Christian Stepanek

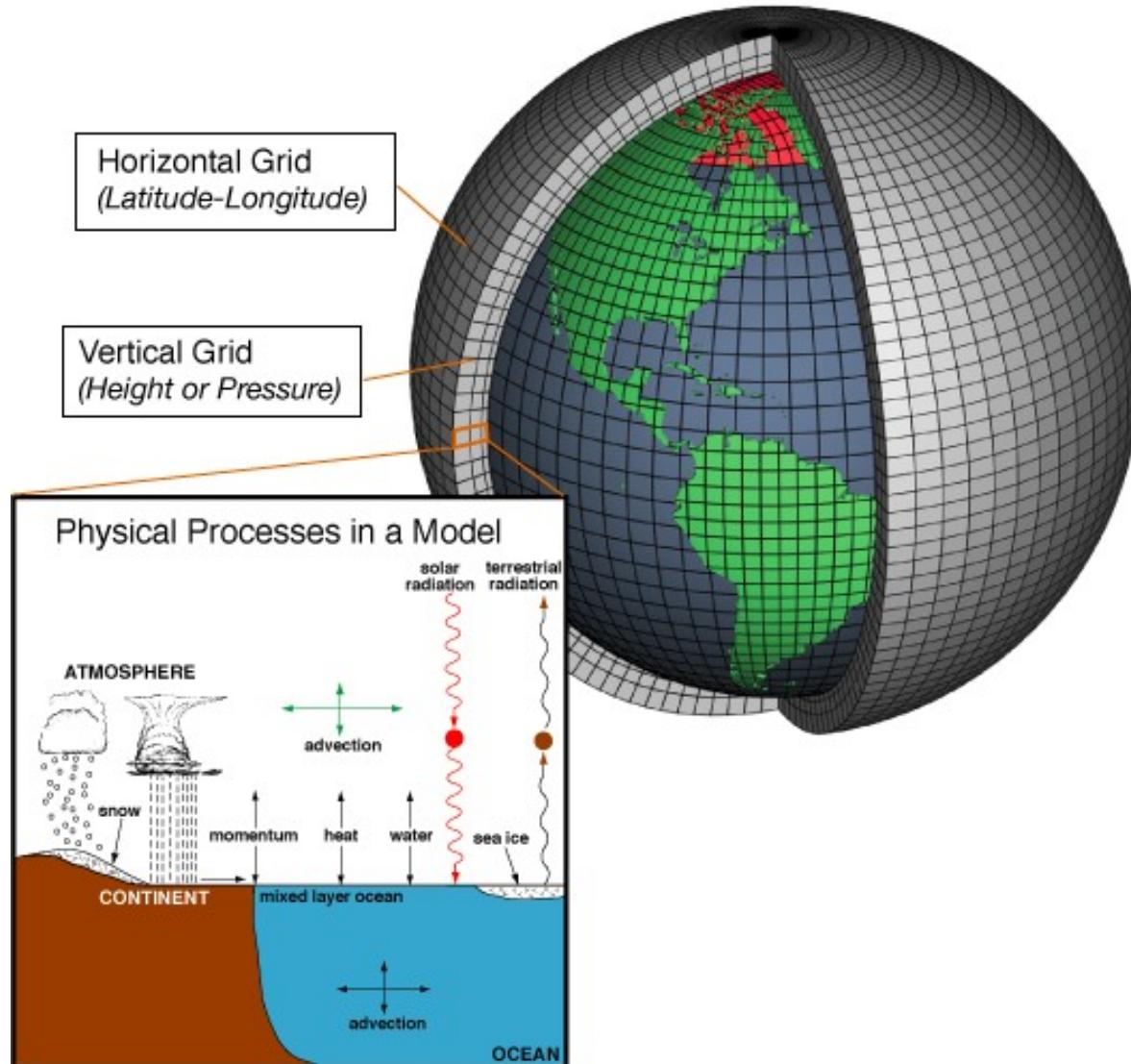
Monday, 8th of April, 2019

Overview

- NetCDF
 - binary file format for scientific (model) data
 - analysis tools
- CDO
 - toolbox for analysis of climate data
 - basic usage examples
- Shell-Programming
 - multi-purpose program- and control environment in UNIX-like systems
 - basic usage examples
- Practical Examples



Background: Climate Modelling



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/AtmosphericModelSchematic.png>

Background: Climate Modelling

special demands for data storage

- large data sets (100s of MByte per simulation year)
- data sets to be merged / split into subsets
- gridded data
- many physical quantities
→ meta-data becomes of relevance

1	64	sh_vdiff	column heating due to vertical diffusion [W/m**2]
2	65	ev_vdiff	column moistening due to vertical diffusion [kg/m**2s]
3	66	ch_concloud	convective heating [W/m**2s]
4	67	cw_concloud	convective moistening [kg/m**2s]
5	68	fage	aging factor of snow on ice
6	69	snifrac	fraction of ice covered with snow
7	70	barefrac	bare ice fraction
8	71	alsom	albedo of melt ponds
9	72	alsobs	albedo of bare ice and snow without ponds
10	73	sicepdw	melt pond depth on sea-ice [m]
11	74	sicepdi	ice thickness on melt pond [m]
12	75	tsicepdi	ice temperature on frozen melt pond [K]
13	76	sicepres	residual heat flux [W/m**2]
14	77	ameltdepth	total melt pond depth [m]
15	78	ameltfrac	fract area of melt ponds on sea-ice
16	79	albedo_vis_dir	surface albedo visible range direct
17	80	albedo_nir_dir	surface albedo NIR range direct
18	81	albedo_vis_dif	surface albedo visible range diffuse
19	82	albedo_nir_dif	surface albedo NIR range diffuse
20	83	ocu	ocean eastward velocity [m/s]
21	84	ocv	ocean northward velocity [m/s]
22	85	trndl	thermal radiation 200mb [W/m**2]
23	86	sradl	solar radiation 200mb [W/m**2]
24	87	trafl	thermal radiation 200mb (clear sky) [W/m**2]
25	88	srafl	solar radiation 200mb (clear sky) [W/m**2]
26	89	amlcorac	mixed layer flux correction [W/m**2]

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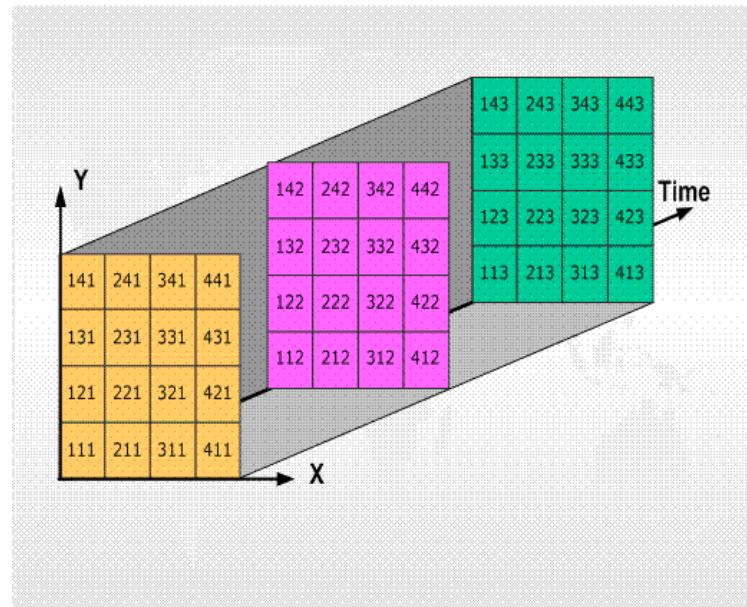
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https://webspace.utexas.edu/hs8238/www/surfacehydrology/surfacehydrology_Project_files/image005.gif

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Background: Climate Modelling

classical ASCII data not a suitable file format

- input / output relatively slow
- storage of numerical data via characters inefficient
- data structure difficult to represent
- handling of metadata difficult

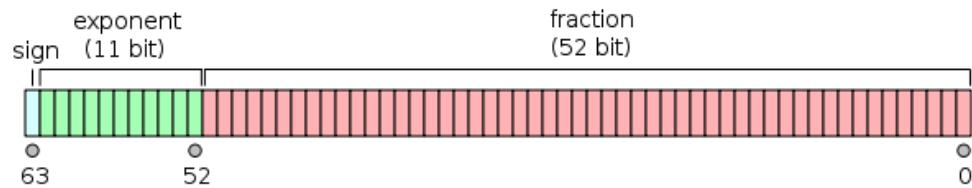
	Latitude / deg N	Longitude / deg E	Temp. / deg C
1	74.995	13.97	10.3
2	66.967	7.633	12.4
3	58.762	-25.958	23.5
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7	40.842	27.763	13.4
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9	36.143	-2.622	13.3
10	38.412	13.577	10.6
11	38.262	14.03	12.3
12	36.746	17.718	14.4
13	34.953	128.881	25.5
14	34.535	-121.107	14.3
15	32.668	138.455	11.6
16	27.714	34.682	13.3
17	23.583	64.217	15.4
18	20.75	-18.583	26.5
19	20.117	117.383	15.3
20	43.882	-62.8	12.6
21	43.483	-54.867	14.3
22	44.527	145.042	16.4
23	20.217	-18.45	27.5
24	37.799	-10.166	16.3
25	37.881	-10.176	13.6
26	66.999	-17.961	15.3
27	36.032	-1.955	17.4
28	30.85	-10.268	28.5
29	21.358	-158.19	17.3
30	50.395	148.323	14.6
31	46.317	152.533	16.3
32	38.634	-9.454	18.4
33	56.33	170.699	29.5
34	53.993	162.376	18.3
35	49.376	152.878	15.6
36	54.55	-168.67	17.3
37	40.4	143.5	19.4
38	44.53	147	30.5
39	42.23	144.209	19.3
40	59.555	-144.154	16.6

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binary format:

$2^{52} = 4,503,599,627,370,496 \approx 8 \text{ Byte}$

character format:

$4,503,599,627,370,496 \approx 16 \text{ Byte}$
(+5)

37 54.55	-108.07	17.3
38 40.4	143.5	19.4
39 44.53	147	30.5
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double-precision_floating-point_format

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- 1.) compute average between 20°N and 50°N
- 2.) select all data points east of 20°E
 - lots of loops and if-statements
 - scanning of data (row) that is not relevant
 - tedious and difficult

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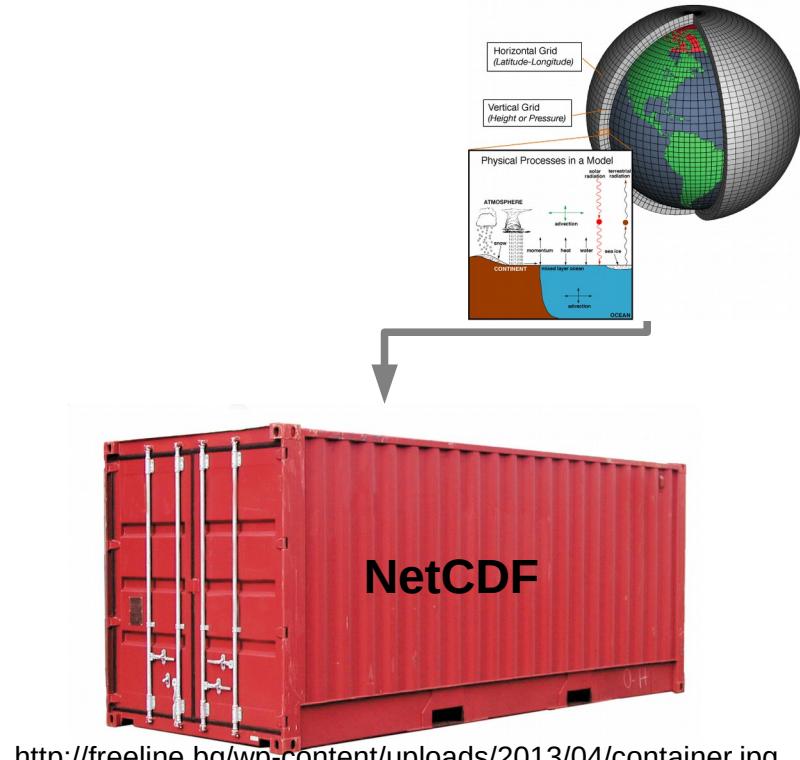
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Network Common Data Form (NetCDF)

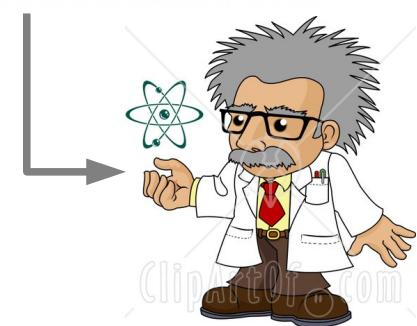
NetCDF is

- a set of interfaces for array-oriented data access
- a freely distributed collection of data access libraries for C, Fortran, C++, Java, and other languages
- the netCDF libraries support a machine-independent format for representing scientific data
- together, the interfaces, libraries, and format support the creation, access, and sharing of scientific data.



<http://freeline.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/container.jpg>

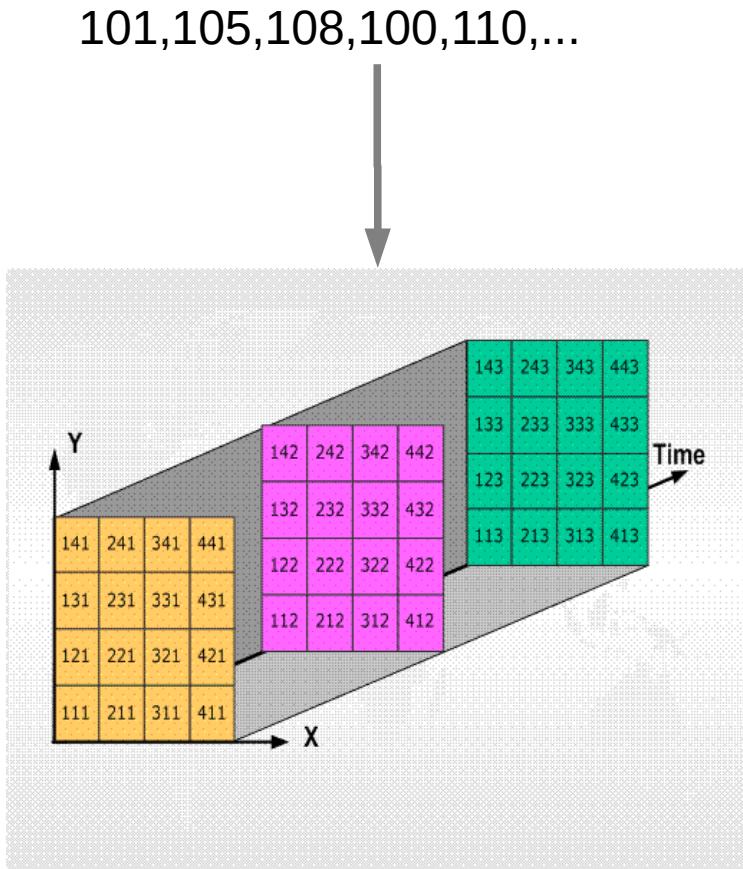
<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/docs/faq.html#whatisit>



Network Common Data Form (NetCDF)

It is a well organized container:

- contains data set, and a full description of the data set in one file
- data set is gridded in time and space (can be directly plotted)
- time and location data included
- further meta-data, e.g. physical units, included
- easy to create derived data sets (e.g. subsets, merged sets) using designated software tools

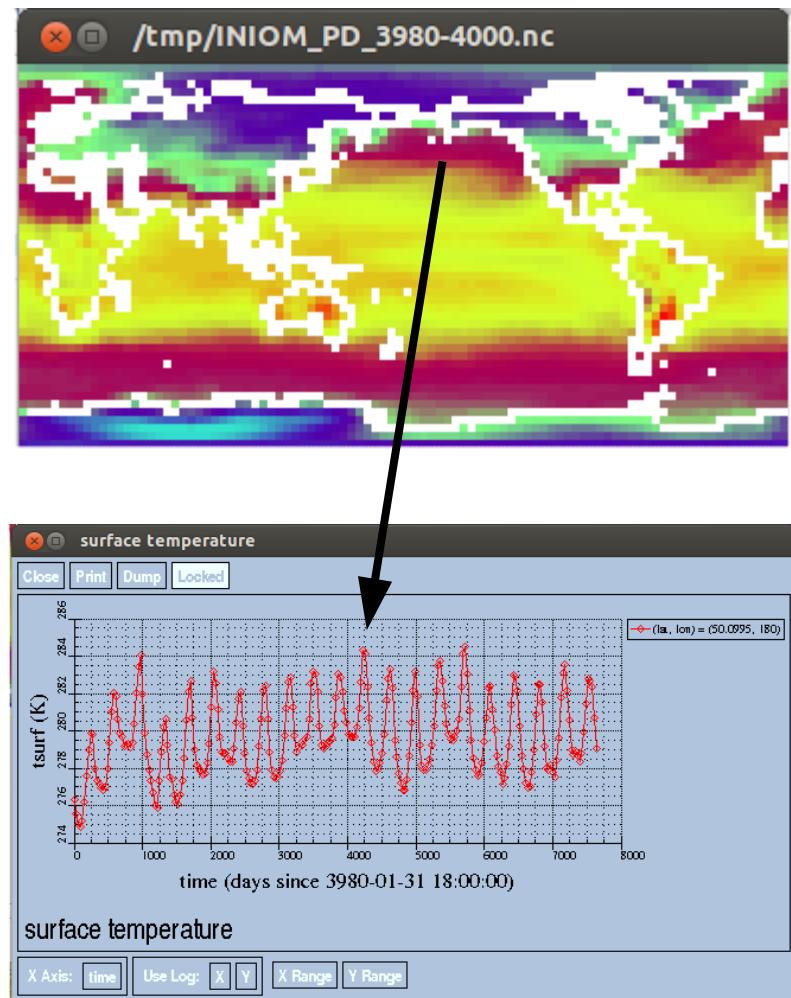


https://webspace.utexas.edu/hs8238/www/surfacehydrology/surfacehydrology_Project_files/image005.gif

Network Common Data Form (NetCDF)

Special tools available for data analysis, plotting, inspection, ...

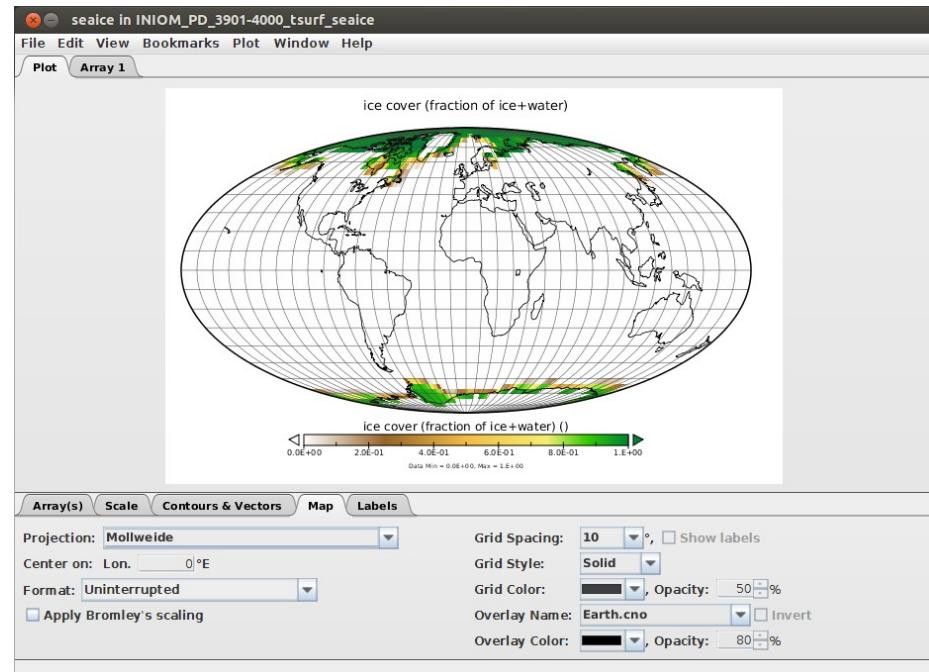
- LINUX/UNIX has many tools available
 - viewers: [ncview](#)/panoply
 - translators: ncdump/ncgen
 - analysis tools: CDO, ...
- Windows
 - some tools available, e.g. via cygwin
 - but: reduced functionality



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```
netcdf INIOM_PD_3901-4000_tsurf_seaice {  
dimensions:  
lon = 96 ;  
lat = 48 ;  
time = UNLIMITED ; // (1200 currently)  
variables:  
double lon(lon) ;  
lon:standard_name = "longitude" ;  
lon:long_name = "longitude" ;  
lon:units = "degrees_east" ;  
lon:axis = "X" ;  
double lat(lat) ;  
...  
double time(time) ;  
...  
tsurf:long_name = "surface temperature" ;  
tsurf:units = "K" ;  
tsurf:code = 169 ;  
tsurf:table = 128 ;  
tsurf:grid_type = "gaussian" ;  
float seaice(time, lat, lon) ;  
seaice:long_name = "ice cover (fraction of ice+water)" ;  
seaice:code = 210 ;  
seaice:table = 128 ;  
seaice:grid_type = "gaussian" ;  
...
```

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ls -lh tsurf.nc*

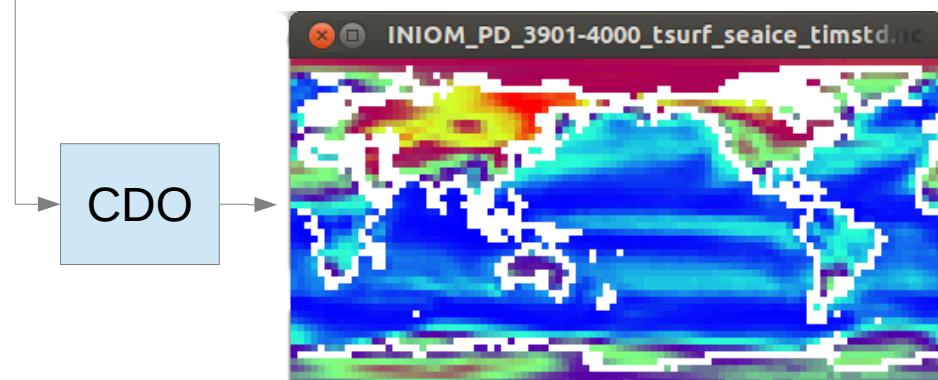
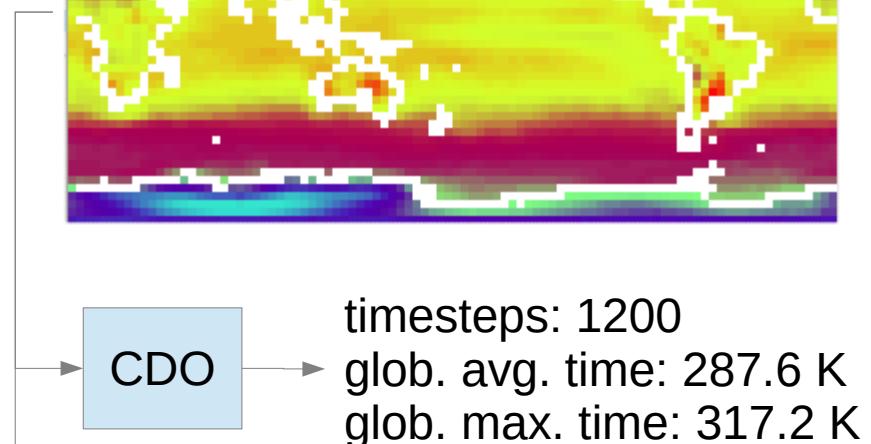
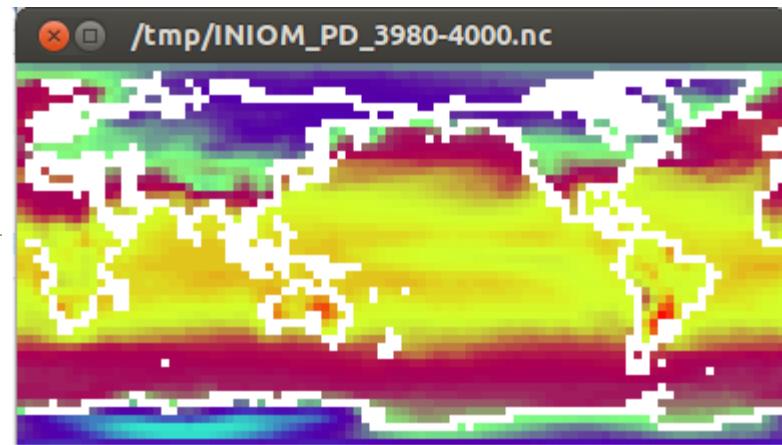
-rw-r--r-- 1 a270061 ab0246 76K 14. Apr 15:14 tsurf.nc
-rw-r--r-- 1 a270061 ab0246 196K 14. Apr 15:15 tsurf.nc.dump

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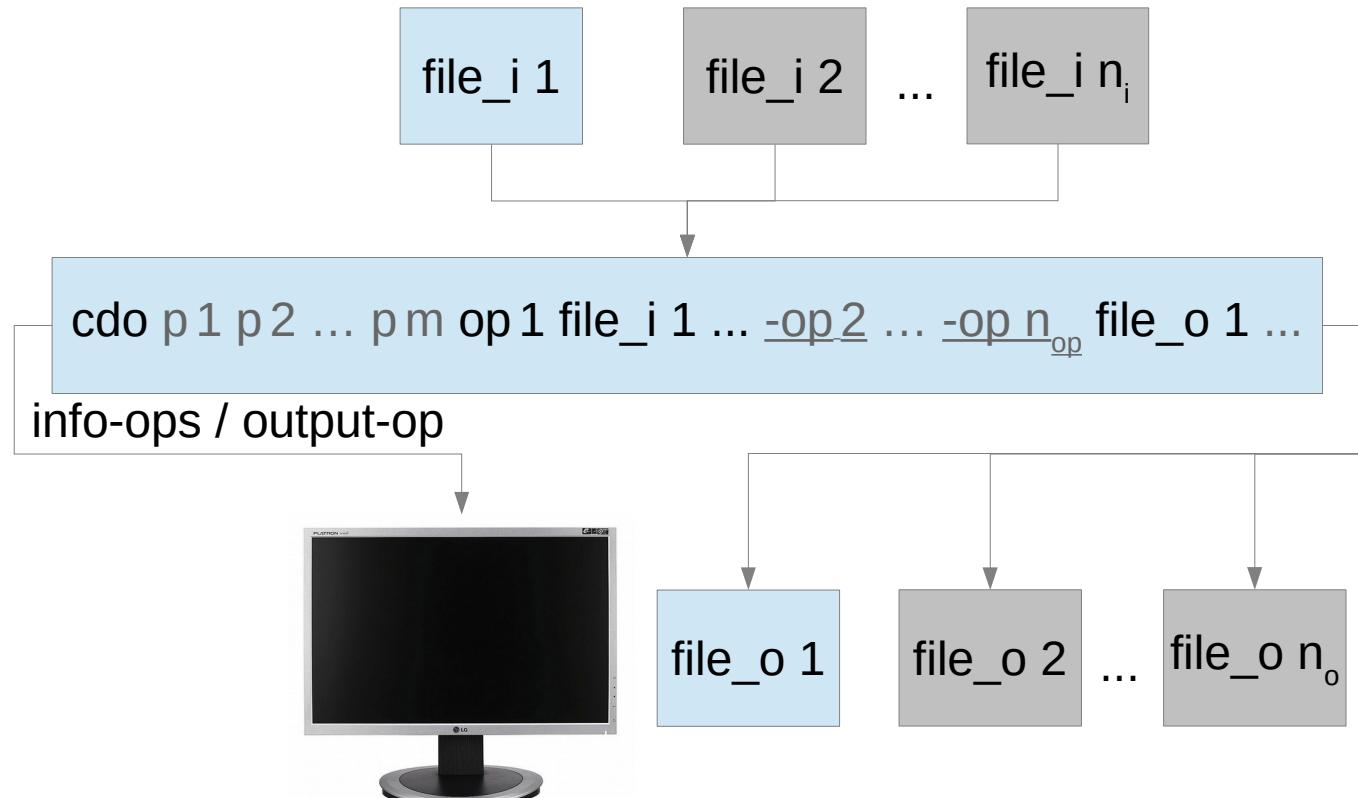
Practical Exercises

homework assignment (you may start this during the tutorial)

- answer the questions that you find on the homework sheet
- you may get up to 10 points
(+1 bonus point if
 - you correctly answer the bonus question
 - and lost at least one point at other questions)
- if questions arise: contact me right now or per email
[\(Christian.Stepanek@awi.de\)](mailto:Christian.Stepanek@awi.de)
- hand in your results by 29th of April – the results will be distributed and discussed at the tutorial at AWI (27th of May)
- Good luck!

CDO is a toolbox for analysis and modification of (NetCDF) climate data

- information
- file operations
- selection
- modification
- arithmetic
- statistic
- regression
- interpolation
- ... (see documentation)



input files `file_i`, output files `file_o`, program options `p`, operators `op1`; grey: optional;
underlined: **piping – for complex tasks!**

- installation (ubuntu): sudo apt-get install cdo
- windows version (limited functionality):
<https://code.zmaw.de/attachments/download/8378/cdo-1.6.4-win32.zip>
- comprehensive documentation of the CDO available at:
<https://code.zmaw.de/projects/cdo/embedded/index.html>
- looks complex, but easy to use with basic understanding of CDO's functionality

CDO – information operators

general short overview on a file:

```
$ cdo sinfo INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc

File format : netCDF

-1 : Institut Source    Ttype      Levels Num      Points Num Dtype : Parameter ID
  1 : MPIMET   ECHAM5.4 instant      17    1        4608    1  F32  : 130.128
  2 : MPIMET   ECHAM5.4 instant      17    1        4608    1  F32  : 131.128
  3 : MPIMET   ECHAM5.4 instant      17    1        4608    1  F32  : 132.128
...
Grid coordinates :
  1 : gaussian           : points=4608 (96x48)  np=0
                           lon : 0 to 356.25 by 3.75 degrees_east  circular
                           lat : 87.1591 to -87.1591 degrees_north
Vertical coordinates :
  1 : pressure           : levels=17
                           lev : 100000 to 1000 Pa
  2 : surface             : levels=1
  3 : hybrid              : levels=19
                           lev_2 : 1 to 19 by 1 level
                           available : vct
Time coordinate : 12 steps
  RefTime = 3901-01-31 18:00:00  Units = days  Calendar = proleptic_gregorian
  YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss  YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss  YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss  YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss
  4000-01-31 18:00:00  4000-02-29 18:00:00  4000-03-31 18:00:00  4000-04-30 18:00:00
...

```

CDO – information operators

quantities (variables) contained in a file:

```
$ cdo pardes INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

130	t	temperature [K]
131	u	u-velocity [m/s]
132	v	v-velocity [m/s]
133	q	specific humidity [kg/kg]
135	omega	vertical velocity [Pa/s]
155	sd	divergence [1/s]
156	geopoth	geopotential height [m]
157	rhumidity	relative humidity
85	tradl	net LW radiation 200mb [W/m^2]
86	sradl	net SW radiation 200mb [W/m^2]
	.	
	.	

CDO – information operators

time axis contained in a file:

```
$ cdo showdate INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc  
4000-01-31 4000-02-29 4000-03-31 4000-04-30 4000-05-31 4000-06-30 4000-  
07-31 4000-08-31 4000-09-30 4000-10-31 4000-11-30 4000-12-31
```

levels contained in a file:

```
$ cdo showlevel INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc  
100000 92500 85000 77500 70000 60000 50000 40000 30000 25000 20000 15000 10000  
7000 5000 3000 1000
```

time steps / months contained in a file:

```
$ cdo ntime INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc  
12  
  
$ cdo nmon INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc  
12
```

CDO – description operators

grid description of a file:

```
$ cdo griddes INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc

gridtype = gaussian
gridsize = 4608
xname = lon
xlongname = longitude
xunits = degrees_east
yname = lat
ylongname = latitude
yunits = degrees_north
np = 0
xsize = 96
ysize = 48
xfirst = 0
xinc = 3.75
yvals = 87.1590946 83.4789367 79.7770457 76.0702445 72.361581 68.6520168 64.9419495
        61.2315732 57.5209938 53.810274 50.0994534 46.3885581 42.6776062 38.9666105
        35.2555805 31.5445233 27.8334445 24.1223483 20.4112384 16.7001177 12.9889886
        9.27785325 5.56671363 1.85557149 -1.85557149 -5.56671363 -9.27785325
       -12.9889886 -16.7001177 -20.4112384 -24.1223483 -27.8334445 -31.5445233
       -35.2555805 -38.9666105 -42.6776062 -46.3885581 -50.0994534 -53.810274
       -57.5209938 -61.2315732 -64.9419495 -68.6520168 -72.361581 -76.0702445
       -79.7770457 -83.4789367 -87.1590946
```

CDO – selection operators

select variable tsurf (note the parameter syntax ','):

```
$ cdo selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc tsurf.nc
```

select months March, April, May (note the range selection syntax '/'):

```
$ cdo selmon,3/5 INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc march-may.nc
```

select northern hemisphere (NH) data (multiple parameters separated by ','):

```
$ cdo sellonlatbox,0,360,0,90 INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc NH.nc
```

select data at 1000 hPa:

```
$ cdo sellevel,100000 INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc 1000hPa.nc
```

CDO – selection operators

combine selection operations - piping:

```
$ cdo sellevel,100000 -sellonlatbox,0,360,0,90 -selmon,3/5 -selvar,t  
INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc selected.nc
```

- evaluated right to left
- simplifies complex operations

alternative: 'select'-operator:

```
$ cdo select,name=t,month=3,4,5,level=100000 INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc selected.nc
```

- not all possible operations reflected by 'select'
(e.g. no lon-lat-box selection)

CDO – arithmetic operators

adding two fields (note the piping!):

```
$ cdo add -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc -selvar,tsurf LGM-W_echam5_6100-  
6200_climatological_mean.nc added.nc
```

dividing by a constant:

```
$ cdo divc,2 added.nc divided.nc
```

adding and dividing by constant
(here: arithmetic mean, note the piping!):

```
$ cdo divc,2 -add -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc -selvar,tsurf LGM-W_echam5_6100-  
6200_climatological_mean.nc mean.nc
```

CDO – statistical operators: averaging

ensemble mean T:

```
$ cdo ensmean -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc -selvar,tsurf LGM-W_echam5_6100-  
6200_climatological_mean.nc mean.nc
```

spatial average T (note the 'output'-operator):

```
$ cdo output -fldmean -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

time average T:

```
$ cdo timmean -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc timmean.nc
```

monthly maximum T globally:

```
$ cdo output -fldmax -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

coldest monthly T of the global average:

```
$ cdo output -timmin -fldmean -selvar,tsurf  
INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

global average summer T (note the range selection syntax '/'):

```
$ cdo output -fldmean -timmean -selmon,6/8 -selvar,tsurf  
INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

global average annual mean:

```
$ cdo output -fldmean -yearmean -selvar,tsurf  
INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

warmest month (per location):

```
$ cdo timmax -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc timmax.nc
```

nearest neighbour interpolation, 1x1 degree:

```
$ cdo remapnn,r360x180 INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc 1x1_nn.nc
```

find T at 20°N, 134°E, bilinear interp.:

```
$ cdo output -remapbil,lon=134/lat=20 -selvar,tsurf  
INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

dependence of result on interp. method:

```
$ cdo output -timmean -sub -fldmean -remapbil,r360x180 -selvar,tsurf  
INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-4000_climatological_mean.nc -fldmean -  
remapnn,r360x180 -selvar,tsurf INIOM_PD_echam5_main_mm_3901-  
4000_climatological_mean.nc
```

Shell

The shell in UNIX can

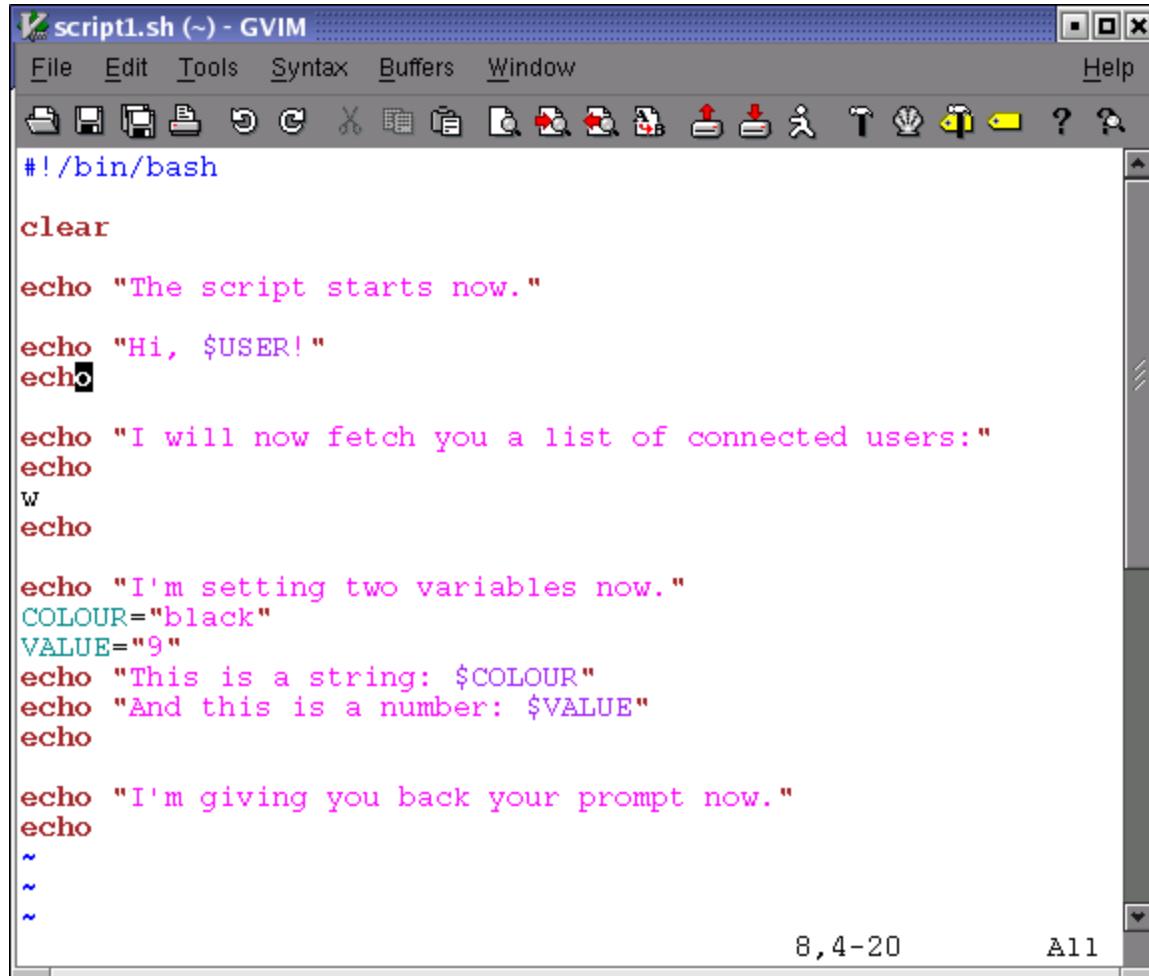
- start any available program
 - in the terminal
 - with a GUI (with “window”)
- transfer output from one program as input to another program (piping)
- redirect program output
- allows variable declarations, including arrays
- provide access to other computers via SSH
- control lengthy tasks

your interactive control center



Shell

The UNIX shell is programmable (see example script on the lecture website on StudIP)



script1.sh (~) - GVIM

```
#!/bin/bash

clear

echo "The script starts now."

echo "Hi, $USER!"
echo

echo "I will now fetch you a list of connected users:"
echo
w
echo

echo "I'm setting two variables now."
COLOUR="black"
VALUE="9"
echo "This is a string: $COLOUR"
echo "And this is a number: $VALUE"
echo

echo "I'm giving you back your prompt now."
echo
^
^
^
```

8,4-20 A11

your automated control center



<http://mms.businesswire.com/bwapps/mediaserver/ViewMedia?mgid=293087&vid=4&download=1>

Practical Exercises

homework assignment (you may start this during the tutorial)

- answer the questions that you find on the homework sheet
- you may get up to 10 points
(+1 bonus point if
 - you correctly answer the bonus question
 - and lost at least one point at other questions)
- if questions arise: contact me right now or per email
[\(Christian.Stepanek@awi.de\)](mailto:Christian.Stepanek@awi.de)
- hand in your results by 29th of April – the results will be distributed and discussed at the tutorial at AWI (27th of May)
- Good luck!