

# Observability of a large control vector in a 4D-Var ocean data assimilation

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- Background
- 4D-Var
- Observability matrix in 4D-Var
- Algorithm
- Test of the algorithm with QG model
- Summary



Canadian Foundation for Climate  
and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)

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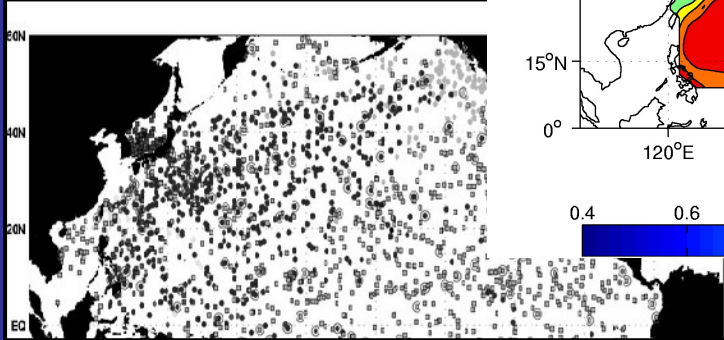
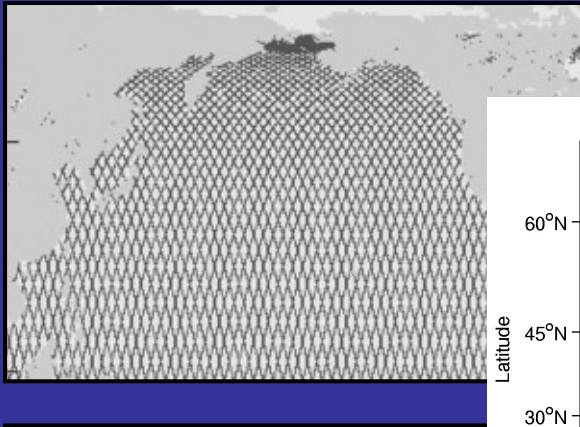
CMOS 2009, Halifax NS

# Background

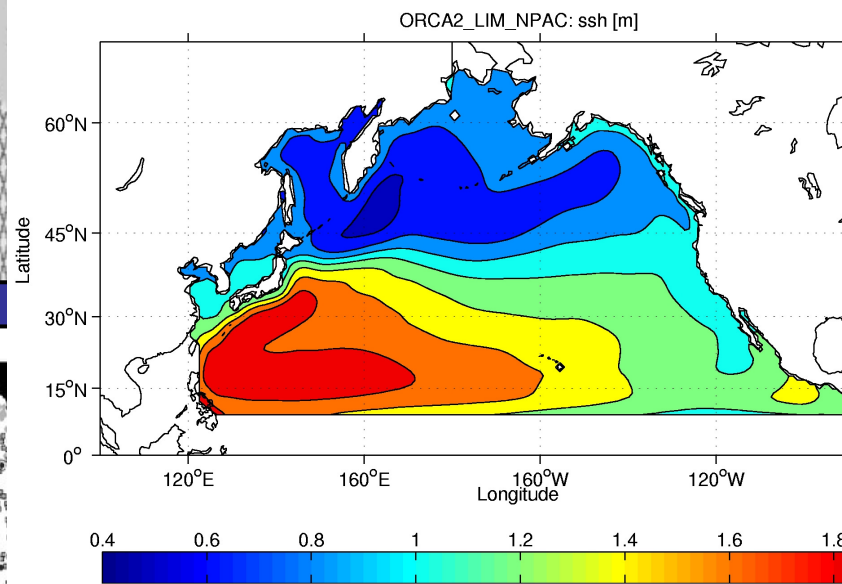
forward modeling



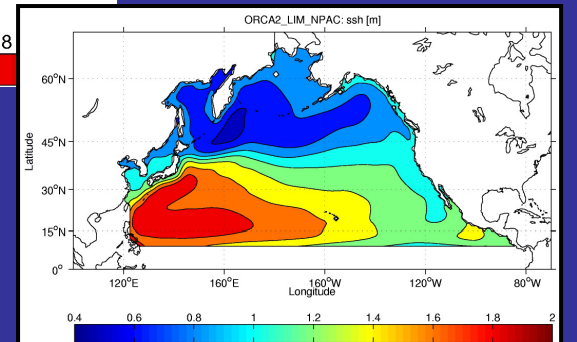
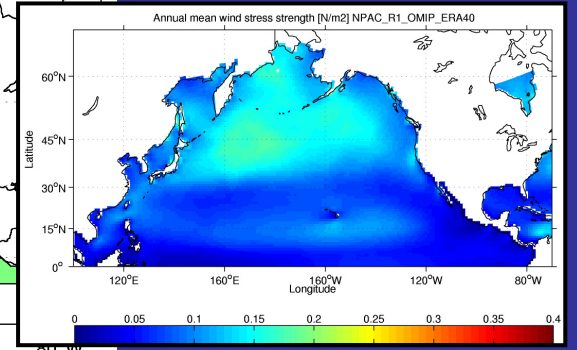
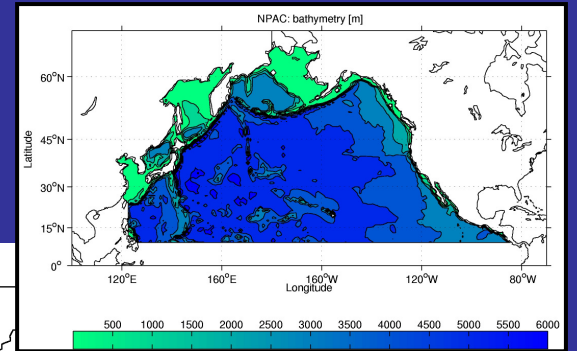
data



model



control



$$y = Hc$$

# Background

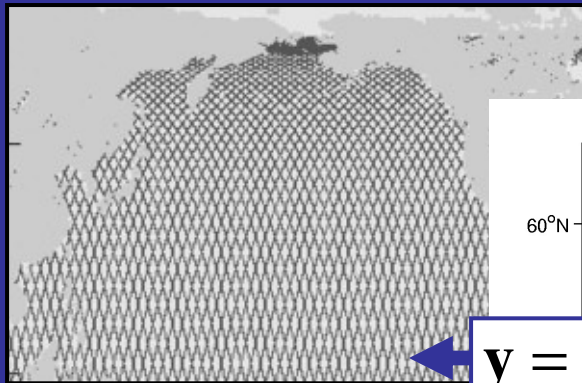
forward modeling

control

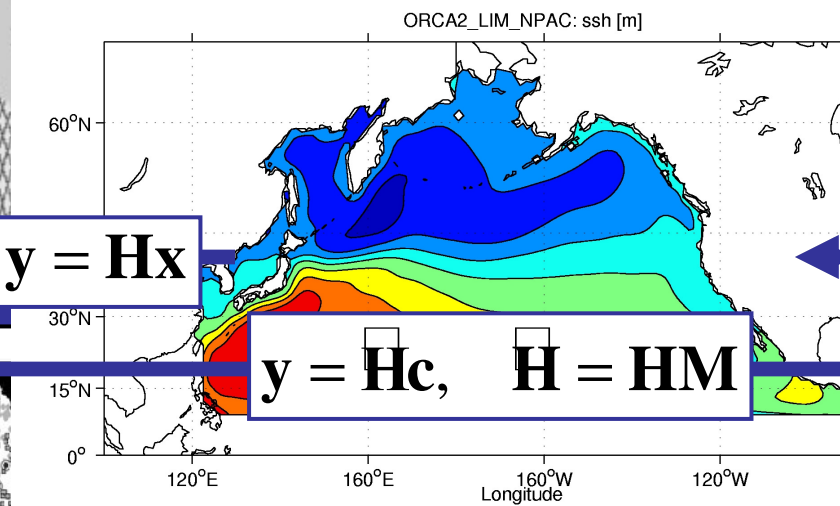
data

$$y = Hc$$

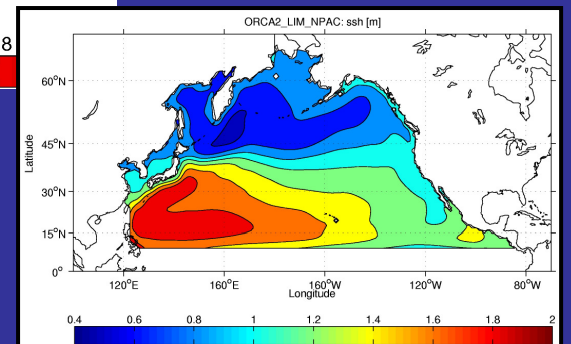
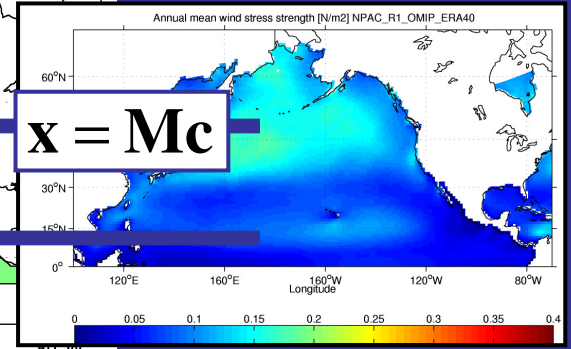
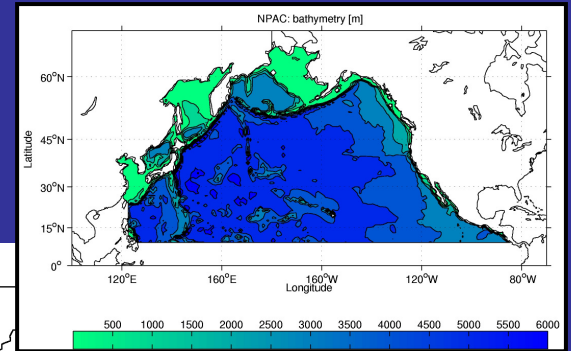
model



$$y = Hx$$



$$y = Hc, \quad H = HM$$



$$x = Mc$$

# Background

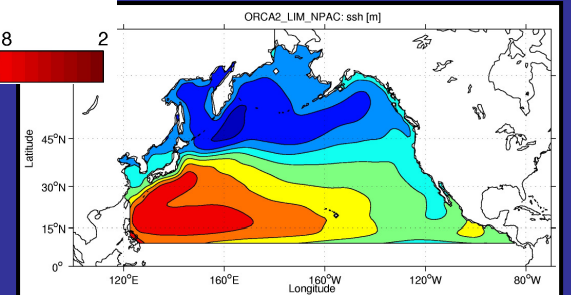
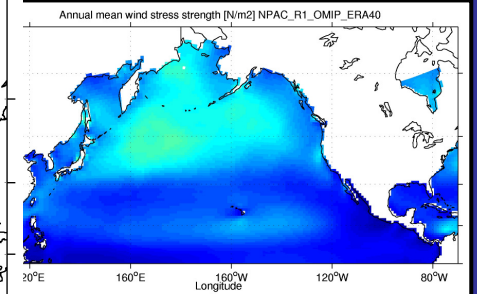
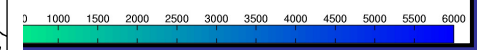
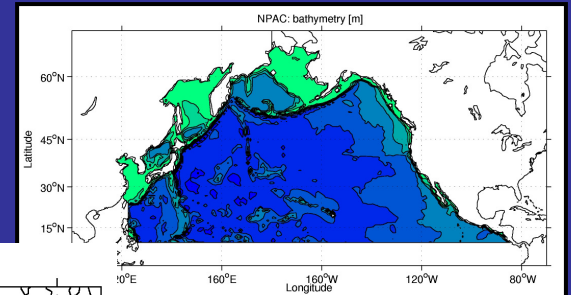
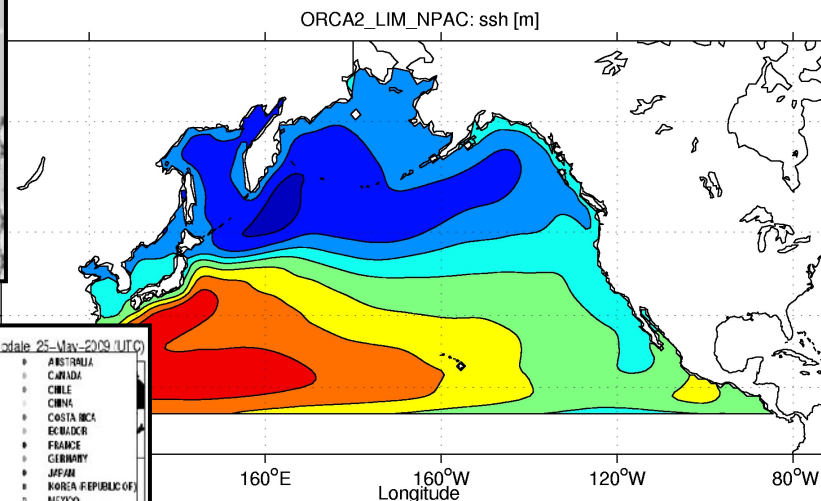
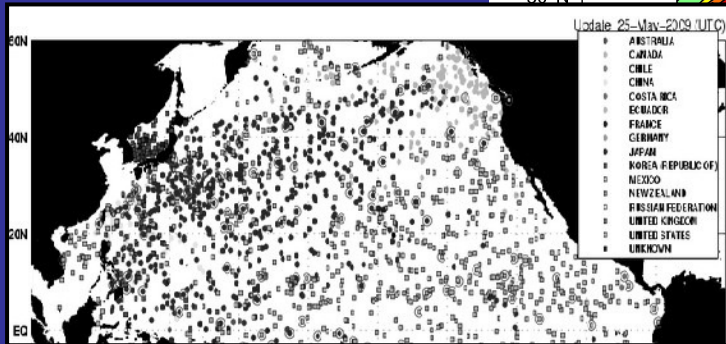
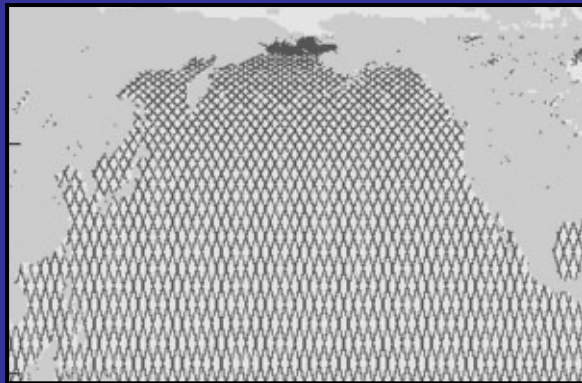
inverse modeling

control

data

$$Hc = y$$

model



Typical case:

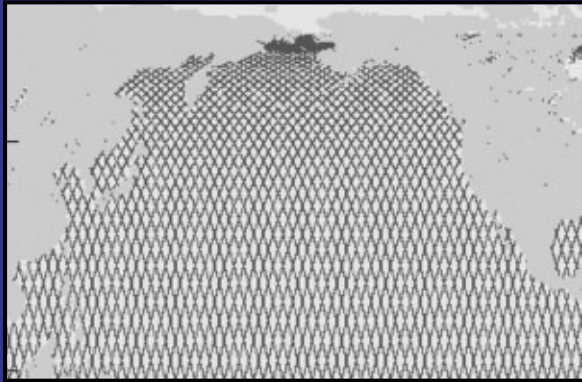
M

<<

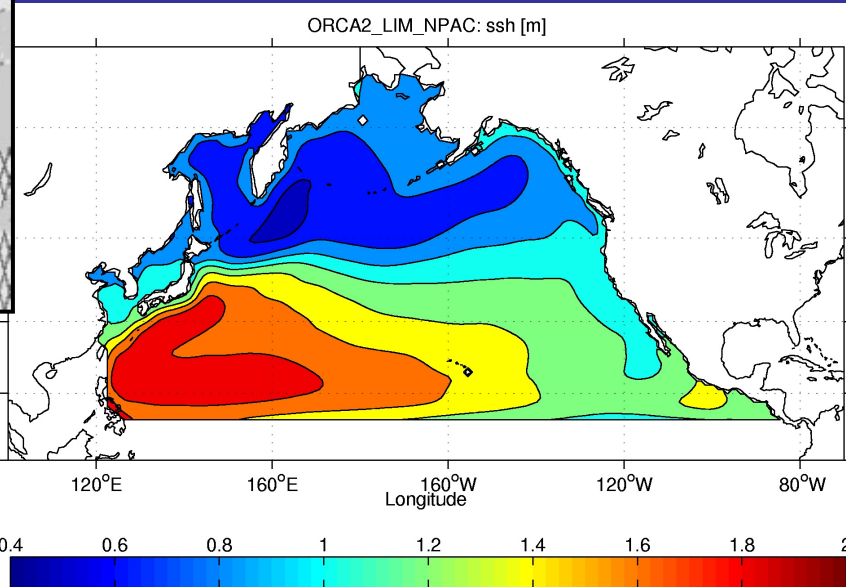
N



data

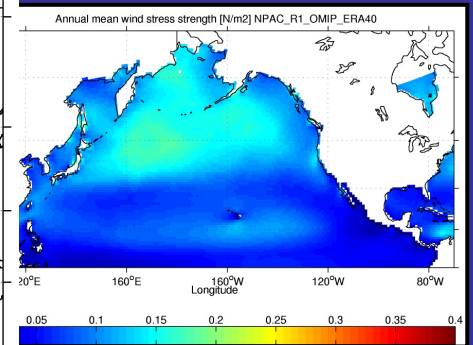


model

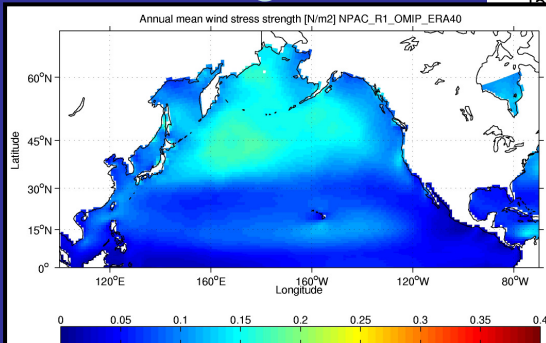


Background

control



background



$$\mathbf{Hc} = \mathbf{y} + \delta\mathbf{y}, \quad \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}^b + \delta\mathbf{c}$$

M+N

>

N

- Background (estimation)
- Least squares solution
- Error in data and background

## 4D-Var

cost function (weighted least squares problem):

$$J = \delta \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{Q}_c^{-1} \delta \mathbf{c} + \underbrace{(\mathbf{H} \delta \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{d})^T}_{\delta \mathbf{y}^T} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \underbrace{(\mathbf{H} \delta \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{d})}_{\delta \mathbf{y}}, \quad \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \mathbf{c}$$

error covariance models (weights):

$$\mathbf{Q}_c = \langle \delta \mathbf{c} \delta \mathbf{c}^T \rangle, \quad \mathbf{R} = \langle \delta \mathbf{y} \delta \mathbf{y}^T \rangle$$

exact solution:

$$\delta \mathbf{c}^a = \mathbf{Q}_c \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{Q}_c \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1} \mathbf{d}$$

optimal solution is contaminated by measurement error:

$$\delta \mathbf{c}^a = \delta \mathbf{c}_{\text{SIGNAL}}^a + \delta \mathbf{c}_{\text{NOISE}}^a$$

How to separate  
signal and noise?

## Observability Matrix in 4D-Var (Johnson et al., QJRMS 2006)

reformulation of the exact solution:

$$\delta \mathbf{c}^a = \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} \mathbf{D}^T (\mathbf{D} \mathbf{D}^T + \mathbf{I}_M)^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{d}}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{d}} = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{d}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} : \text{observability matrix}$$

further reformulation using SVD of D:

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{V}^T, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag} \{ \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_M \}$$

$$\delta \mathbf{c}^a = \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} \sum_{m=1}^M \beta_m \mathbf{v}_m, \quad \beta_m = \frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_m^2 + 1} \mathbf{u}_m^T \hat{\mathbf{d}}$$

separation of signal and noise:

$$\delta \mathbf{c}^a = \delta \mathbf{c}_{\text{SIGNAL}}^a + \delta \mathbf{c}_{\text{NOISE}}^a, \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \delta \mathbf{c}_{\text{SIGNAL}}^a = \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} \sum_{m=1}^r \beta_m \mathbf{v}_m \quad \text{for } \lambda_m^2 > 1 \\ \delta \mathbf{c}_{\text{NOISE}}^a = \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} \sum_{m=r}^M \beta_m \mathbf{v}_m \quad \text{for } \lambda_m^2 < 1 \end{array} \right.$$

## Algorithm

Q. How to compute SVD of D for large problem (OGCM)?:

D is MxN matrix (too large to perform SVD for OGCM):

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{V}^T, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_M\}$$

and complicated (you can not write down M matrix for OGCM):

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2}$$

A. Solve the problem on a data space  
using adjoint / forward models:

→  $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T$  is MxM matrix (small enough to perform SVD)

$$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}^2\mathbf{U}^T, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda}^2 = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1^2, \dots, \lambda_M^2\}$$

→  $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T$  can be constructed indirectly column by column

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}}_m = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T\mathbf{e}_m = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{Q}_C\mathbf{M}^T\mathbf{H}^T\mathbf{R}^{-1/2}\mathbf{e}_m$$



## Algorithm

1. construct  $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T$  column by column:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_m = \mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{e}_m : \text{adjoint equation}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_m = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{Q}_C \boldsymbol{\alpha}_m : \text{forward equation}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}}_m = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}_m : \text{normalized measurement}$$

2. perform SVD of  $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T$ :

$$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T = [\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1 \cdots \hat{\mathbf{s}}_M] = \mathbf{U}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^2\mathbf{U}^T$$

3. construct the right singular vector:

$$\boldsymbol{\gamma}_m = \mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \lambda_m^{-1} \mathbf{u}_m : \text{adjoint equation}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_m = \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\gamma}_m : \text{convolution}$$

4. compute  $\delta\mathbf{c}_{\text{SIGNAL}}^a$ :

$$\delta\mathbf{c}_{\text{SIGNAL}}^a = \mathbf{Q}_C^{1/2} \sum_{m=1}^r \beta_m \mathbf{v}_m \quad \text{for } \lambda_m^2 > 1$$

## Test of the algorithm (up to step 2)

quasi-geostrophic model:

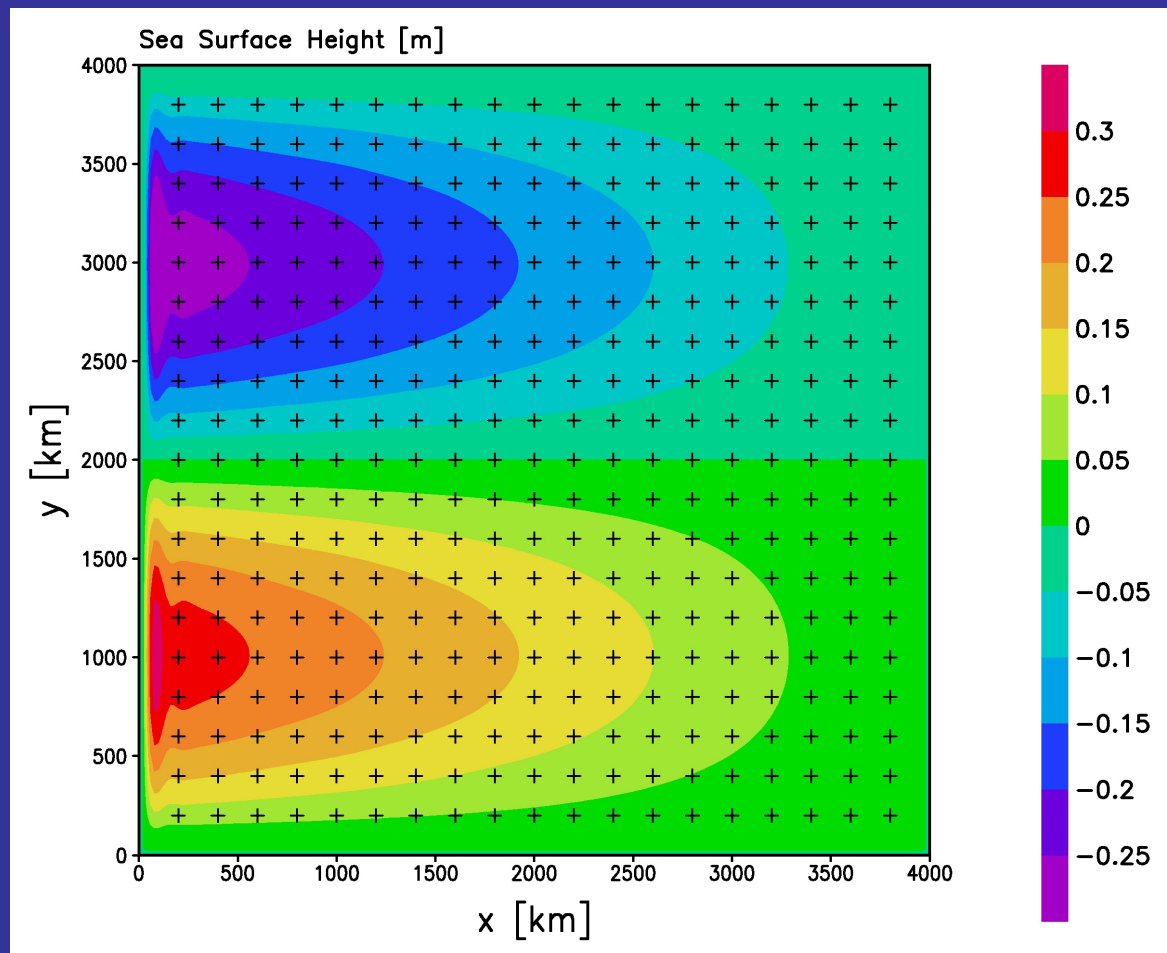
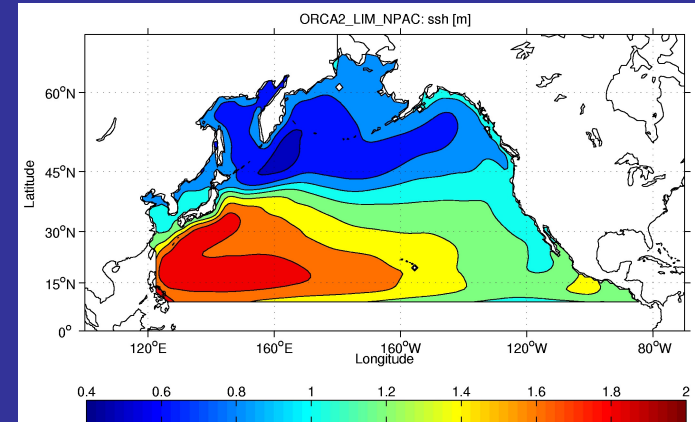
- 1.5 layer
- linear
- beta plane
- steady wind stress
- 20km x 20km

observation:

- sea surface height at 200km x 200km mesh at day 10 (M=361)

control variables:

- initial potential vorticity (N=40000)



## Test of the algorithm (preliminary)

Control variables: initial potential vorticity

Error covariance models:

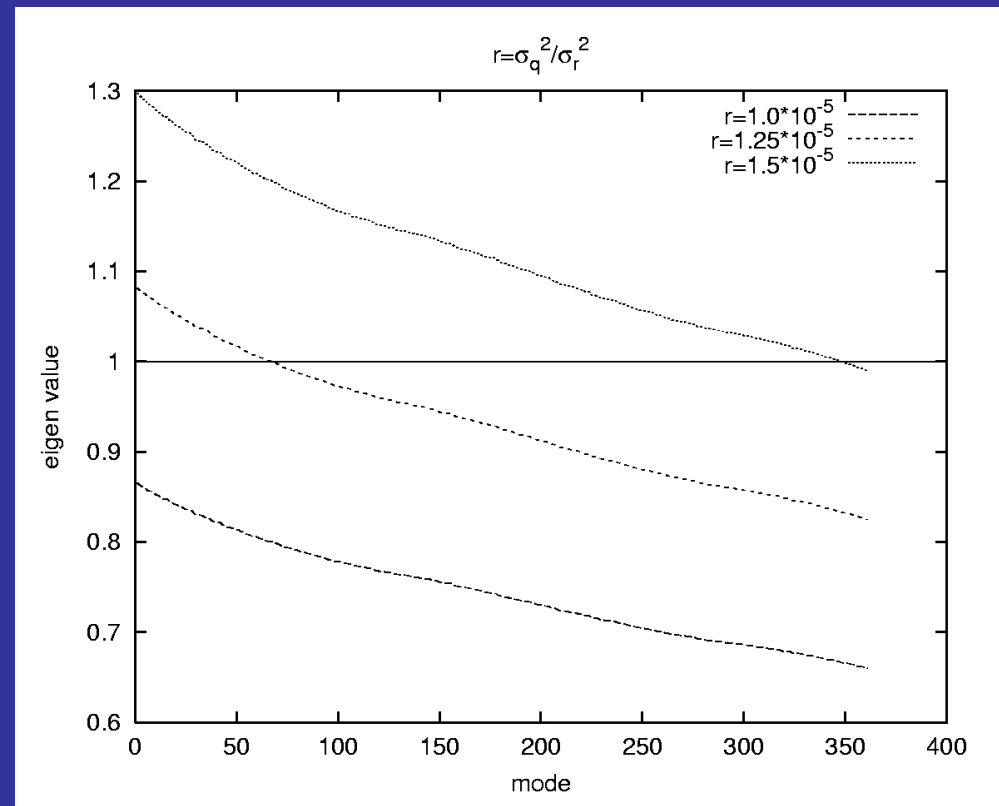
$$\mathbf{Q}_C = \sigma_C^2 \mathbf{I}_N, \quad \mathbf{R} = \sigma_R^2 \mathbf{I}_M$$

$$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^T = \mathbf{U} \frac{\sigma_C^2}{\sigma_R^2} \Sigma^2 \mathbf{U}^T$$

top: almost all modes are above noise

middle: the first 50 modes are above noise

bottom: entire solution is meaningless



## Summary

- the optimal estimation of a control variables in a 4D-Var analysis can be divided to
  1. signal (observable mode)
  - and 2. noise (unobservable mode).
- the algorithm to compute singular values and vectors of the observability matrix are derived.
- (half of) the algorithm was tested using QG model.

## Future work

- implement the algorithm on OPA model (OPAVAR)
- perform statistical test of the error covariance model against data

## Acknowledgement

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