

Non-hydrostatic modelling with ICON

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ICON: tool for NWP and climate applications

Wishes for the project some years ago:

- non-hydrostatic atmospheric model
- dynamics in grid point space
- triangular grid based on the tessellation of an icosahedron
- local zooming with static grid refinement
- transport scheme: conservative, positive definit, efficient
- dynamics conserves mass, energy, potential vorticity
- physics parameterizations from COSMO, ECHAM
- coupling to ocean model, atmospheric chemistry, hydrology, and land model
- common software framework supports different models (ocean, atmosphere; grids)
- modularity, portability
- scalability and efficiency on multicore architectures



from: <http://infoskript.de/uploads/pics/Wollmilchsau.jpg>

Overview for patchwork talk

1. Non-hydrostatic equation set
2. C-grid discretisation on triangles and hexagons/pentagons
3. Special topics concerning discretisations
 - a) SICK (Hollingsworth et al., 1983)
 - b) terrain-following coordinates
 - c) advection schemes
4. Physics parameterization packages
5. Grid refinement
6. Efficiency, scalability
7. Outlook



Non-hydrostatic atmospheric model - model core formulation

prognostic equations

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} &= - \frac{\vec{\omega}_a}{\rho} \times \rho \vec{v} - \nabla(K + \Phi) - c_{pd} \theta_v \nabla \Pi \\ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} &= - \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) \\ \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial t} &= - \frac{R_d \Pi}{c_{vd} \rho \theta_v} \nabla \cdot (\theta_v (\rho \vec{v})) \\ \frac{\partial \rho \theta_v}{\partial t} &= - \nabla \cdot (\theta_v (\rho \vec{v})) \end{aligned} \right.$$

$\rho \nabla \Pi$ (to obtain energy equ.)

Π = Exner pressure
 θ_v = virtual pot. temperature
 ρ = density
 \vec{v} = 3D velocity vector
 K = spec. kinetic energy
 Φ = geopotential
 $\vec{\omega}_a$ = 3D abs. vorticity vector
 R_d = gas constant for dry air
 c_{vd} = spec. heat capacity at constant volume for dry air
 c_{pd} = spec. heat capacity at constant pressure for dry air

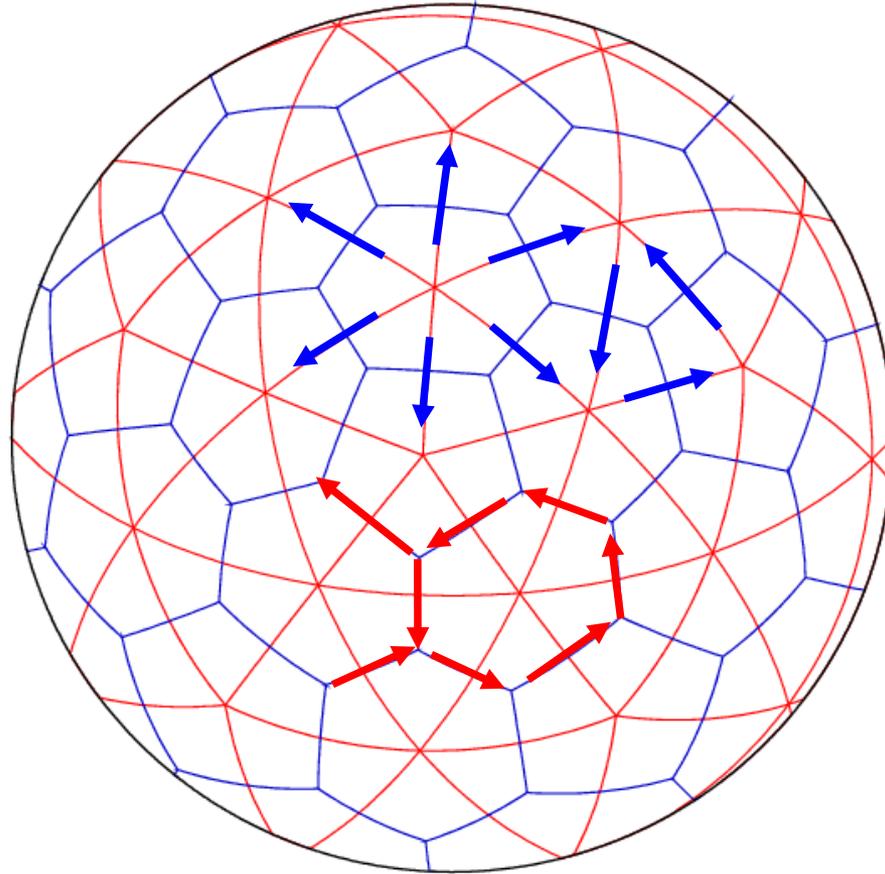
+ Transport equations for specific moisture quantities.

Hamiltonian description

- discretisation of Poisson brackets
- symplectic time integration

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial t} = \{ \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{H} \}$$

Triangular and hexagonal C-grids



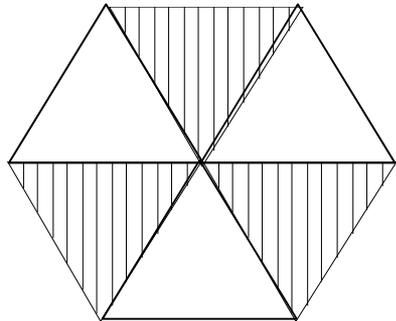
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{j}_1 &= \mathbf{j} \\ \mathbf{j}_2 &= -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{j} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\mathbf{i} \\ \mathbf{j}_3 &= -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{j} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\mathbf{i} \\ v_1 + v_2 + v_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{i}_1 &= \mathbf{i} \\ \mathbf{i}_2 &= -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{i} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\mathbf{j} \\ \mathbf{i}_3 &= -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{i} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\mathbf{j} \\ u_1 + u_2 + u_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{v} = u\mathbf{i} + v\mathbf{j} = \frac{2}{3} (u_1\mathbf{i}_1 + u_2\mathbf{i}_2 + u_3\mathbf{i}_3) = \frac{2}{3} (v_1\mathbf{j}_1 + v_2\mathbf{j}_2 + v_3\mathbf{j}_3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_3} = 0.$$

Checkerboard problem Shallow water model



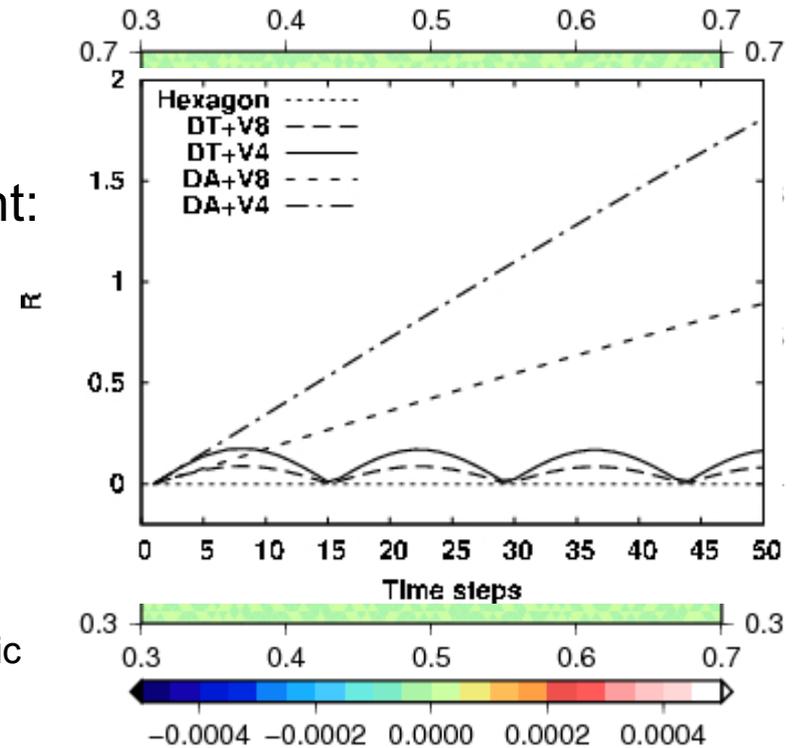
Triangular
C-grid

Fulfillment of the constraint:

No, triangular C-grid

Yes, hexagonal C-grid
with a special tangential
wind reconstruction.

Divergence field for linear geostrophic
adjustment problem with poorly
resolved Rossby deformation radius.



$$\tilde{v}_1^1 + \tilde{v}_2^2 + \tilde{v}_3^3 = 0. \quad D_{l,u}^t = \pm \frac{4}{3d}(v_1 + v_2 + v_3),$$

$$\sum_{u \in h} D_u^t = \sum_{l \in h} D_l^t.$$

$$\tilde{u}_1^1 + \tilde{u}_2^2 + \tilde{u}_3^3 = 0 \quad \zeta_{l,u}^t = \mp \frac{4}{3d}(u_1 + u_2 + u_3).$$

$$\sum_{u \in h} \zeta_u^t = \sum_{l \in h} \zeta_l^t,$$



$$\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_3} = 0.$$

An internal symmetric computational instability

A. HOLLINGSWORTH¹, P. KÅLLBERG¹, V. RENNER² and D. M. BURRIDGE¹

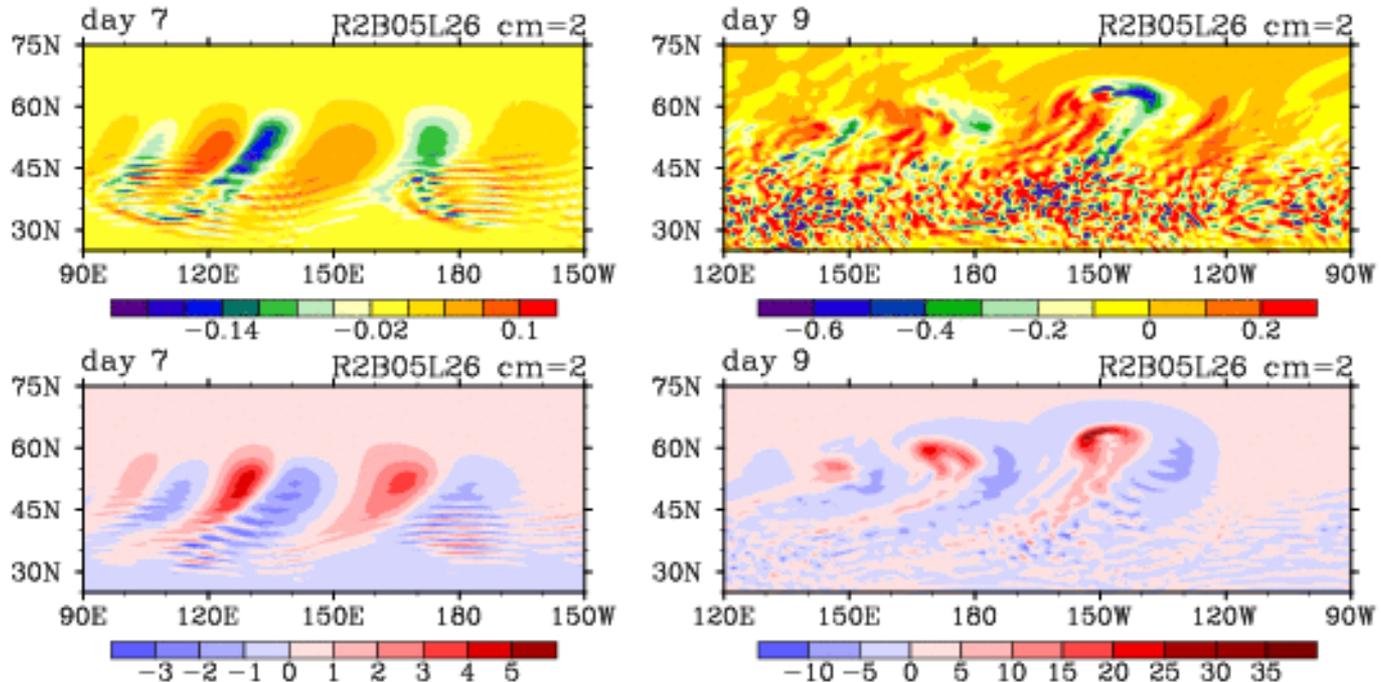
¹ European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts, Reading. ² Deutscher Wetterdienst, Offenbach am Main, Federal Republic of Germany.

$$-\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \left(= \right) - \mathbf{k} \eta_z \times \rho \mathbf{v} - \nabla K$$

Omega (Pa/s)
850hPa

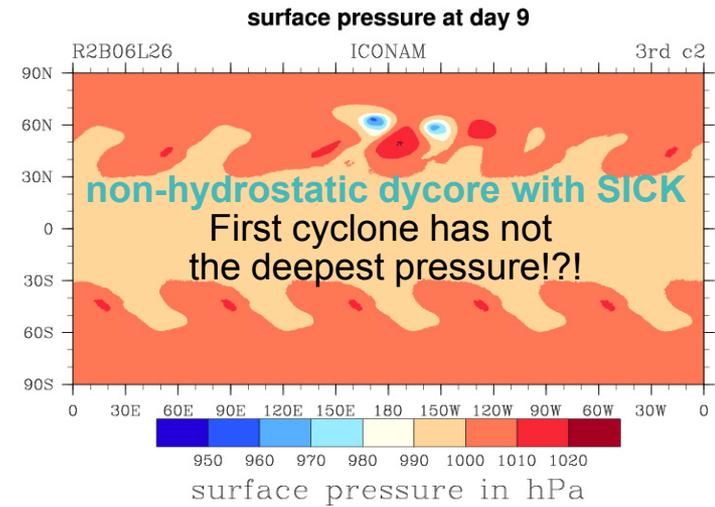
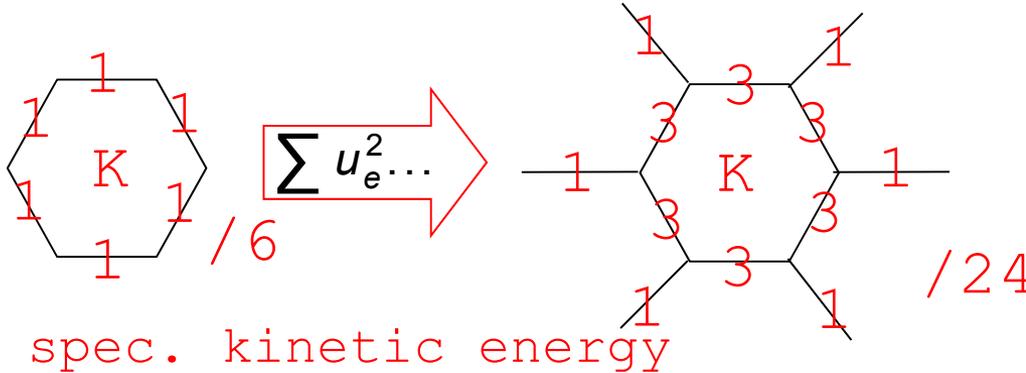
Baroclinic
wave test

Vorticity (1/s)
850hPa



spatial resolution ~ 120km, hexagonal C-grid model (triangular C-grid model has similar problems)

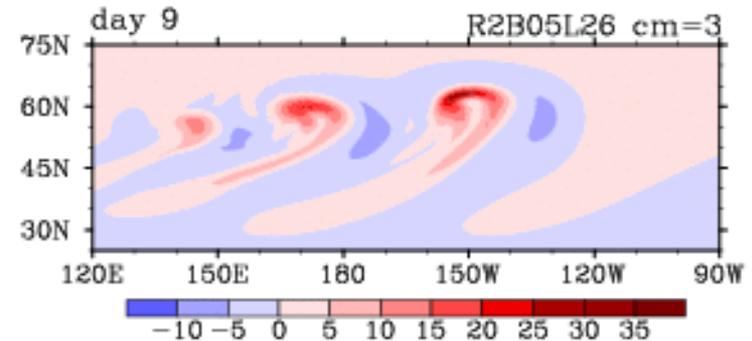
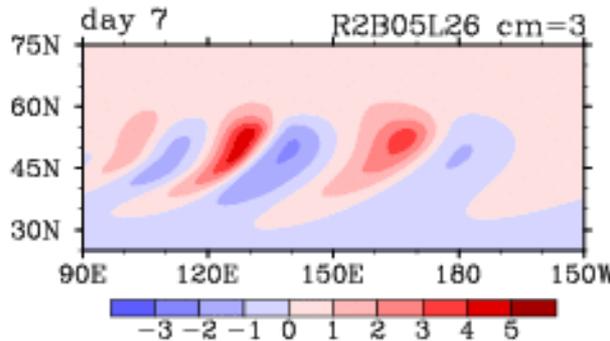
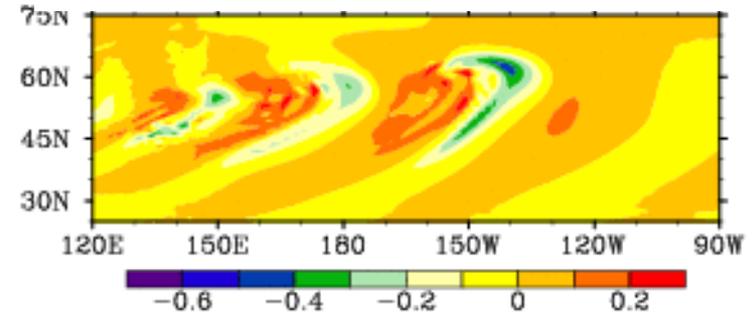
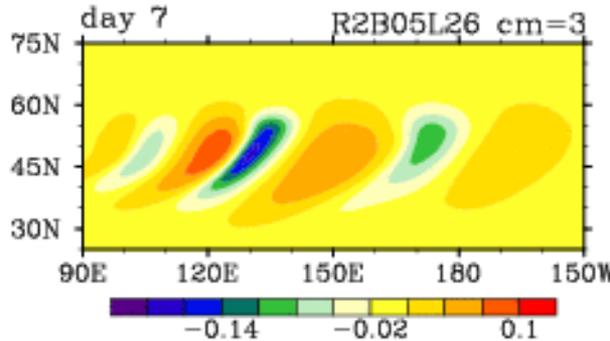
Correction for SICK



Omega (Pa/s)
850hPa

Baroclinic
wave test
(hydrostatic
dycore)

Vorticity (1/s)
850hPa



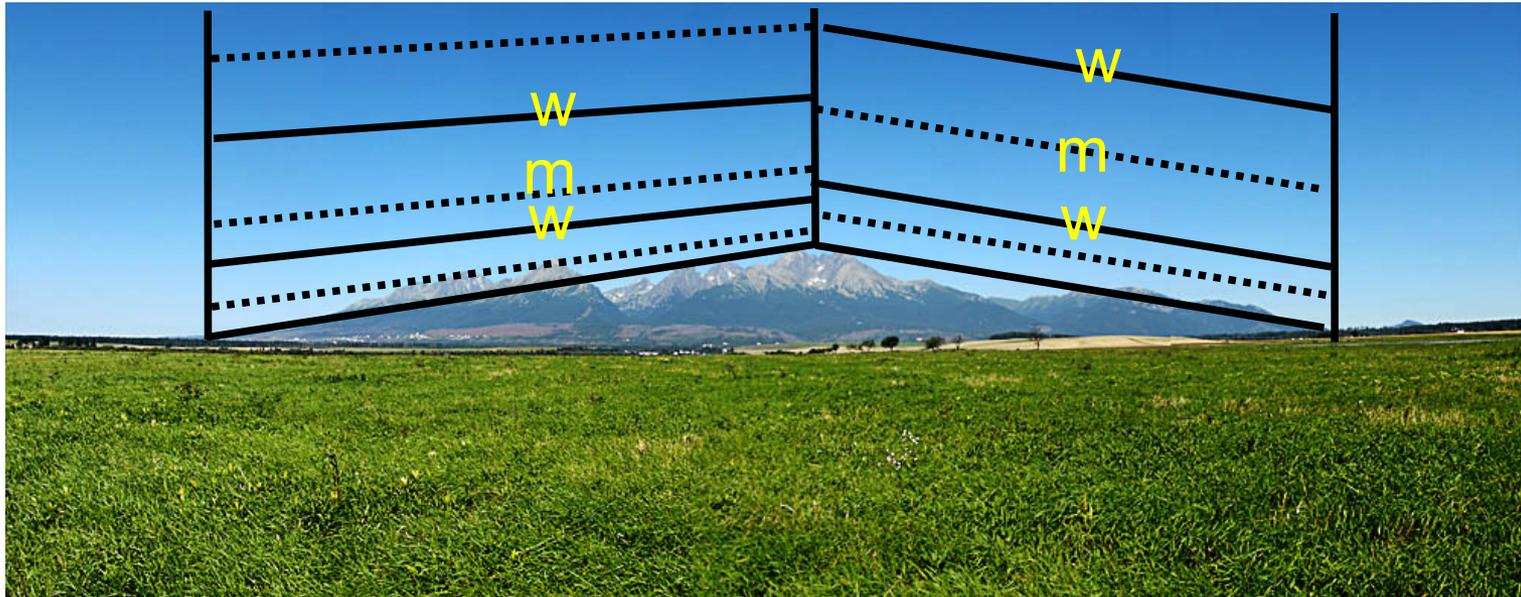
spatial resolution ~ 120km, hexagonal C-grid model (triangular C-grid model has similar solution)



Non-hydrostatic dycore L-grid staggering + terrain-following coordinates

- *interface* levels height-centered between *main* levels
- horizontal pressure gradient:
 - Covariant velocity equations
 - Do not remove background reference profile
 - Care with lower boundary
- *main* levels height-centered between *interface* levels
- horizontal pressure gradient:
 - search for neighboring point in the same height
 - reconstruct Exner function using a Taylor expansion until the second order

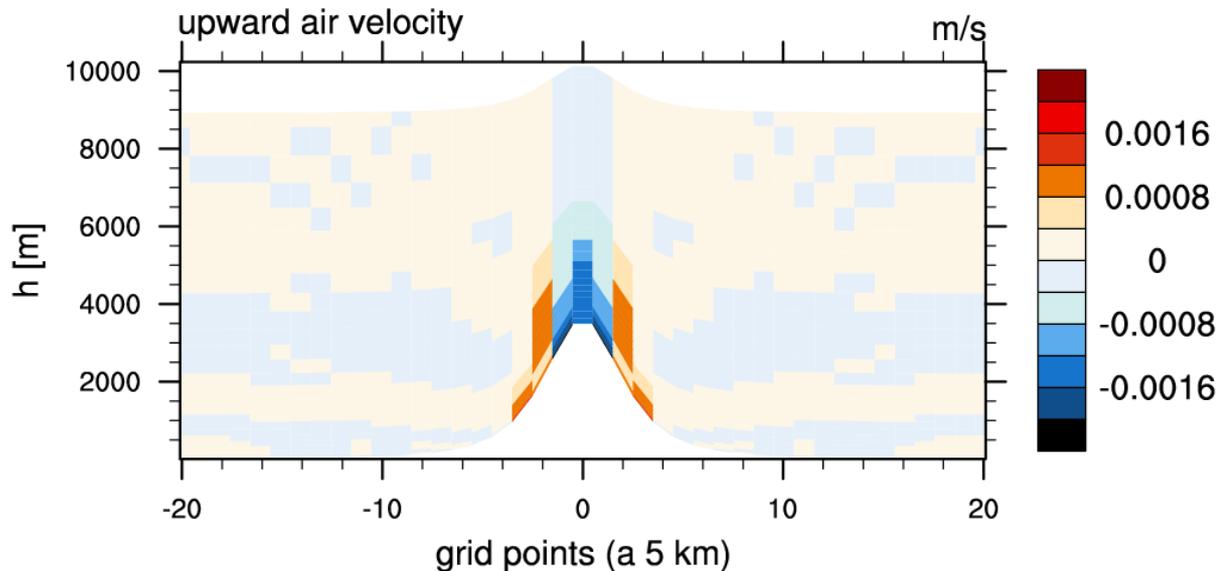
$$\frac{\partial u_{orth}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial u_{cov}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t}$$



Acid test for terrain-following coordinates: Resting atmosphere over a high mountain

Vertical slice model

12 hours



Spurious vertical velocities remain in the range of mm/s.

Errors do not spoil higher levels.

$$N^2 = 10^{-4}/s^2$$

35 vertical layers, $dt = 6$ sec

For $a < 14$ km, the model becomes unstable.

→ SLEVE coordinate

→ Filtering of orography

$$\frac{\partial u_{orth}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial u_{cov}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t}$$

explicit estimate

Bell shaped mountain

$$\begin{aligned} H_{max} &= 4 \text{ km} \\ a &= 14 \text{ km} \end{aligned}$$

$$h = \frac{H_{max}}{1 + \frac{(x-x_c)^2}{a^2}}$$

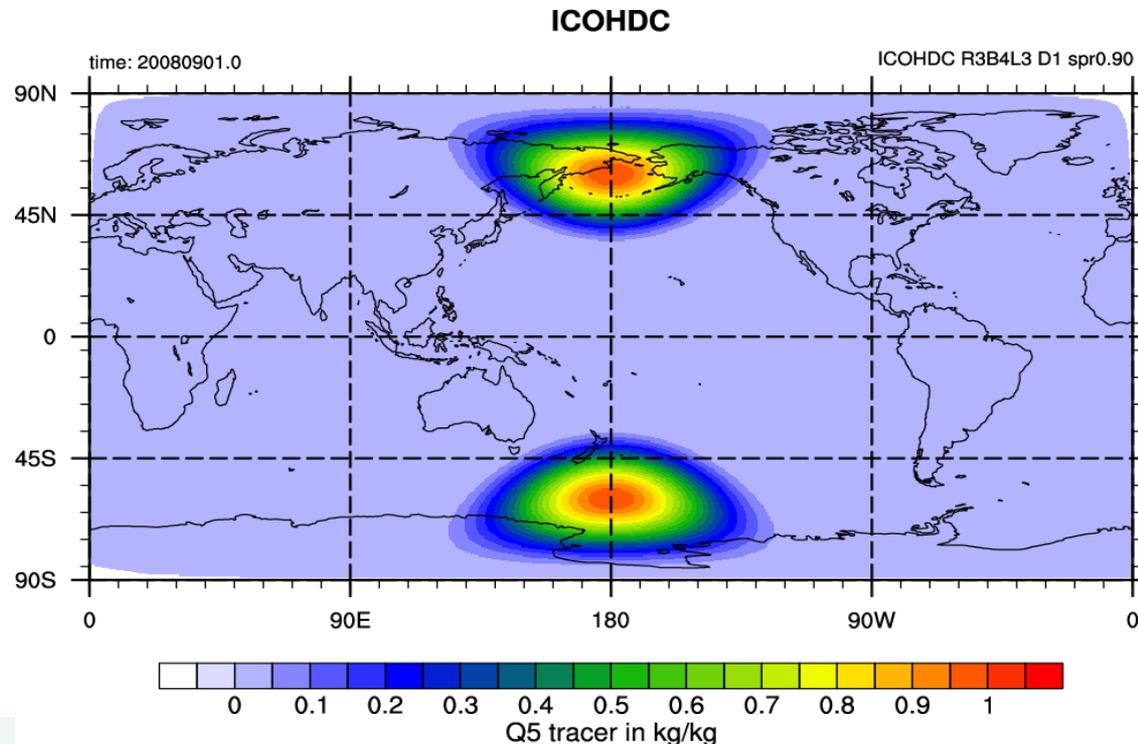


Deformational flow test case

- based on **Nair, D. and P. H. Lauritzen (2010)**: *A class of Deformational Flow Test-Cases for the Advection Problems on the Sphere*, JCP
- Time-varying, analytical flow field $\vec{V}(\lambda, \phi, t) = \vec{v}(\lambda, \phi)\Psi(t)$
- Tracer undergoes severe deformation during the simulation
- Flow reverses its course at half time and the tracer field returns to the initial position and shape $\Psi(t) = \cos(\pi t/T)$
- Test suite consists of 4 cases of initial conditions, three for non-divergent and one for divergent flows.

Example: Tracer field for case 1

- R3B4 ($\approx 95\text{km}$)
- CFL ≈ 0.5
- flux limiter



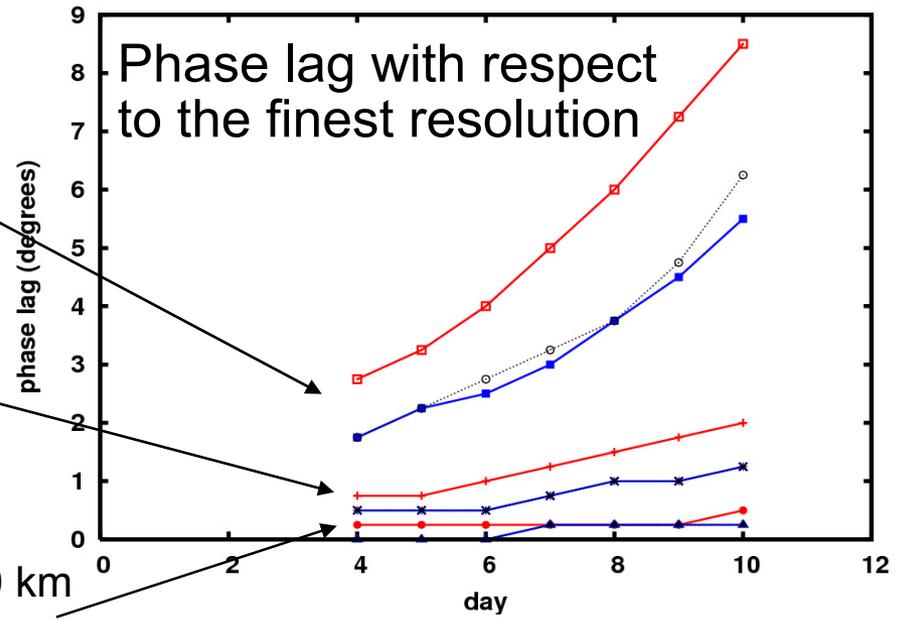
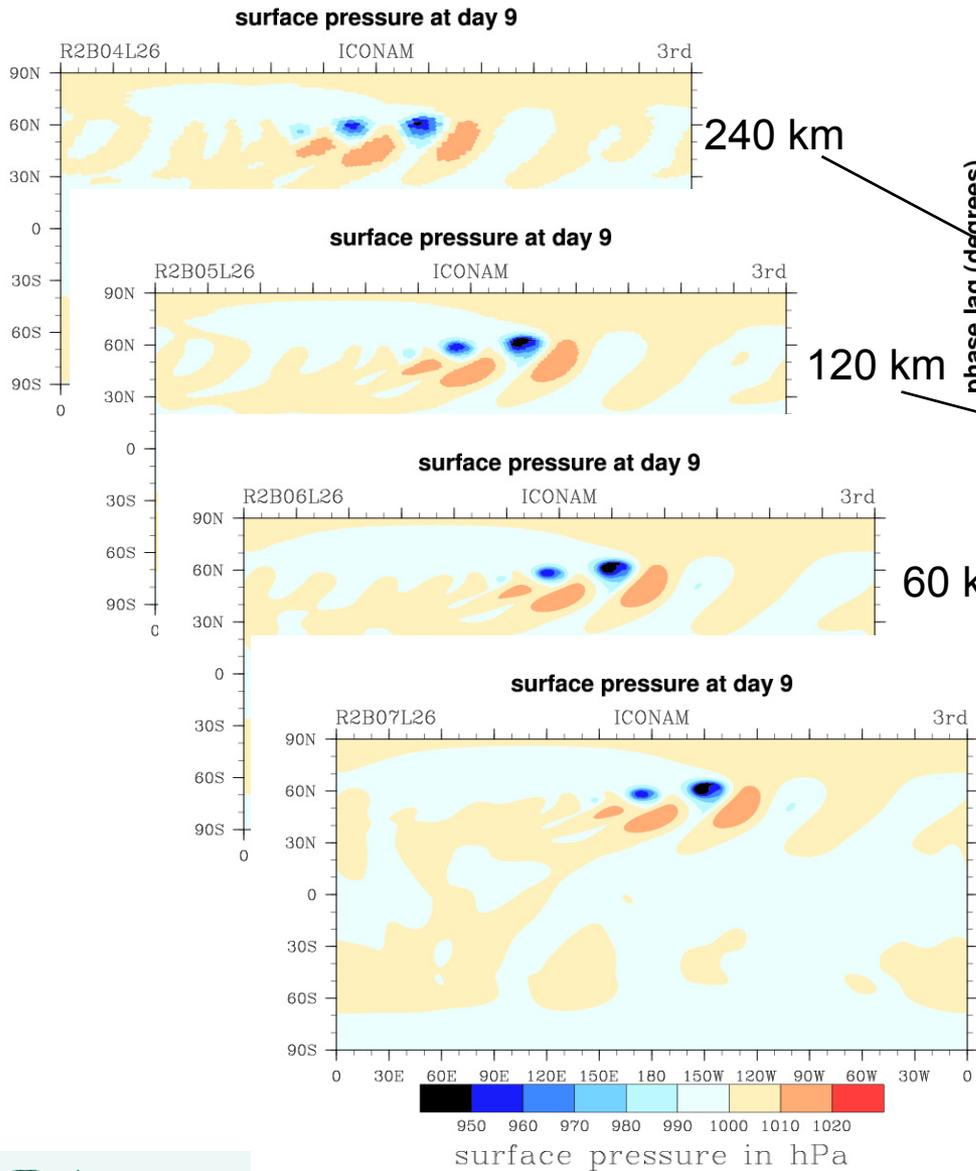
q5 max: 9.9875e-01

q5 min: 0.0000e+00

Daniel Reinert (DWD)



Temperature advection and baroclinic wave

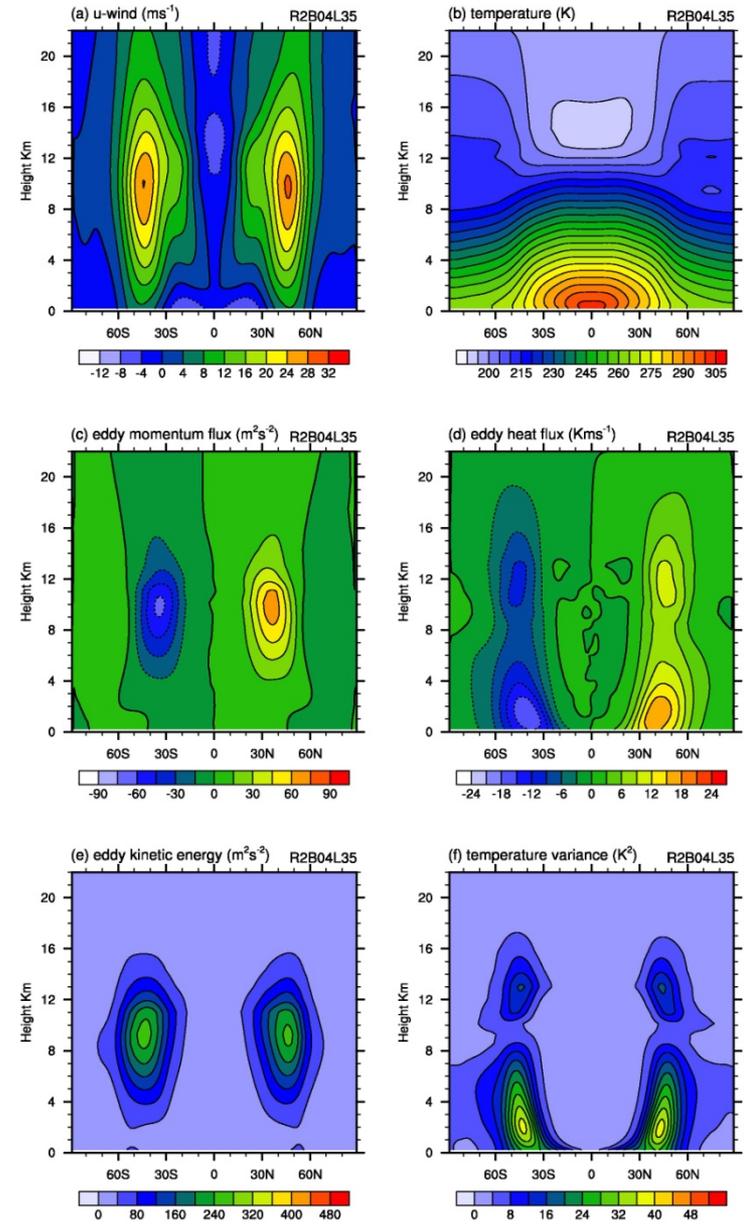
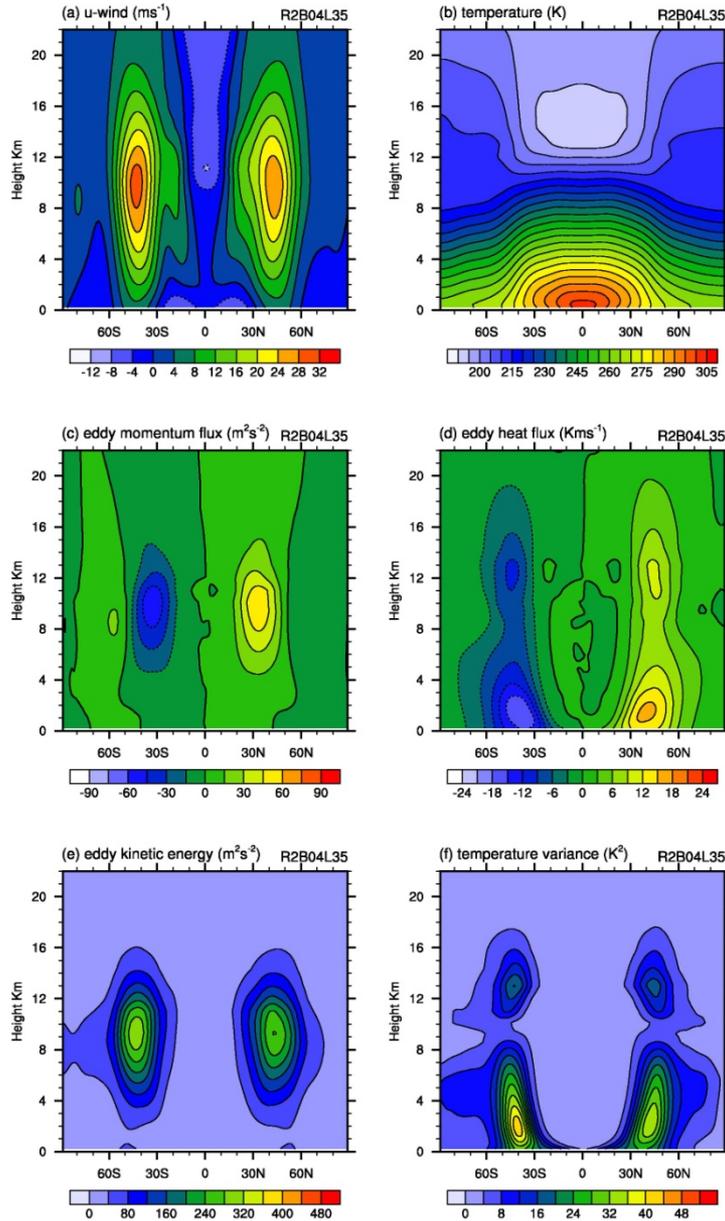


Non-hydrostatic hexagonal C-grid model runs without diffusion and different orders of θ -advection:

- 2nd order
- 3rd order
- 4th order

Triangular C-grid

Hexagonal C-grid



mean climate of the last 100 days in a run of 300 days for R2B04

Hydrostatic dycore + physics parameterizations

Currently available packages from ECHAM physics

- large scale condensation
- cumulus convection
- turbulence (vertical mixing)
- radiation (not used in this exp.)

For **aqua-planet simulations** we need additionally features for radiation:

- the diurnal cycle
- ozone climatology

Tracer transport in both models:

ECHAM: Lin and Rood (1996) flux-form semi-Lagrangian algorithm (finite volume) with piecewise parabolic reconstruction

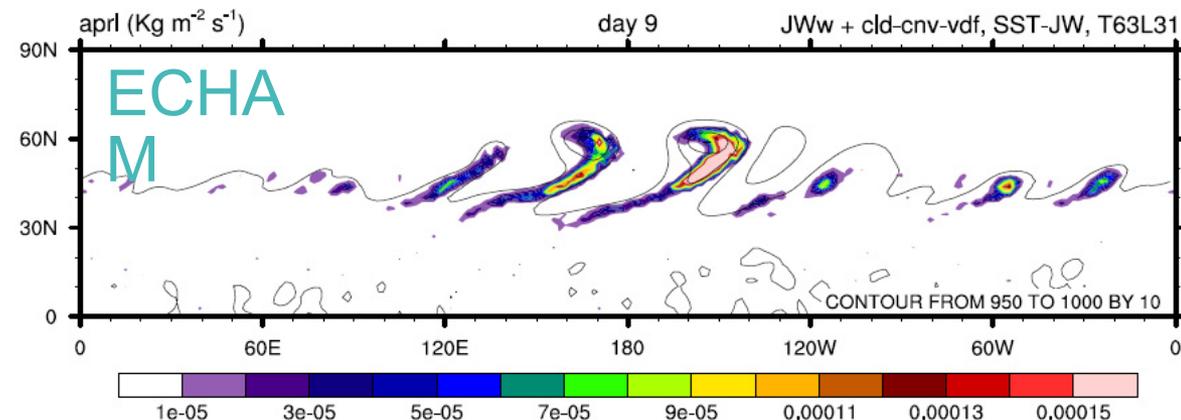
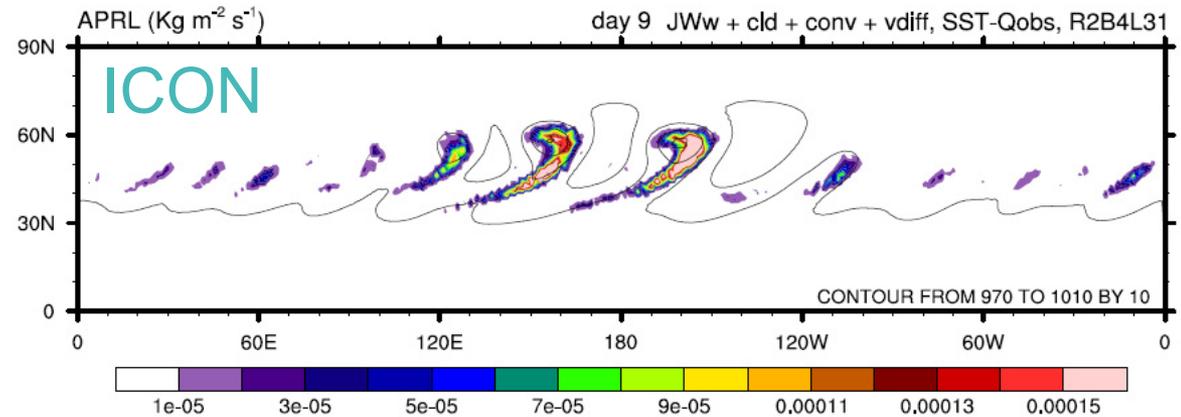
ICON

-- Miura scheme with linear reconstruction (that means second order)

-- Limiter in the vertical: semi-monotonous slope limiter

-- Limiter in the horizontal: monotonous flux limiter

Large scale precipitation [6 hours]



Non-hydrostatic dycore + physics parameterizations

Physics	Author(s)	Current status
Prognostic Microphysics Including prognostic rain and snow	Doms et al. (2004), Seifert and Crewell (2008)	Tested
Saturation adjustment assumption of constant density	Blahak, Seifert	Tested
Convection	Tiedtke-Bechtold	Tested
RRTM-Radiation	Taken from ECHAM	Tested
Cloud cover	Köhler	Technical and physical testing
Turbulent transfer and diffusion Including prognostic TKE	Raschendorfer	Under implementation

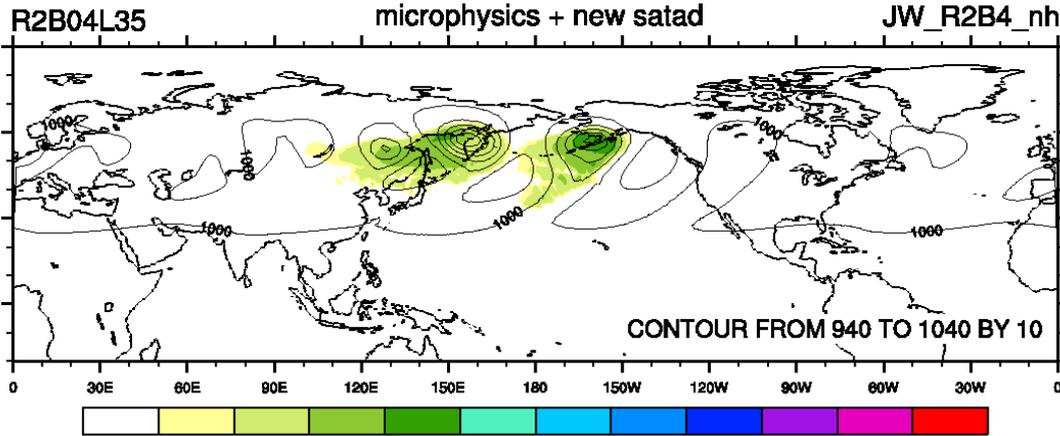
Non-hydrostatic dycore + physics parameterizations

Precipitation (color) and surface pressure (contour)

Baroclinic wave experiment
without turbulence parameterization

ICONAM+
convection
microphysics + new satad

JW_R2B4_nh



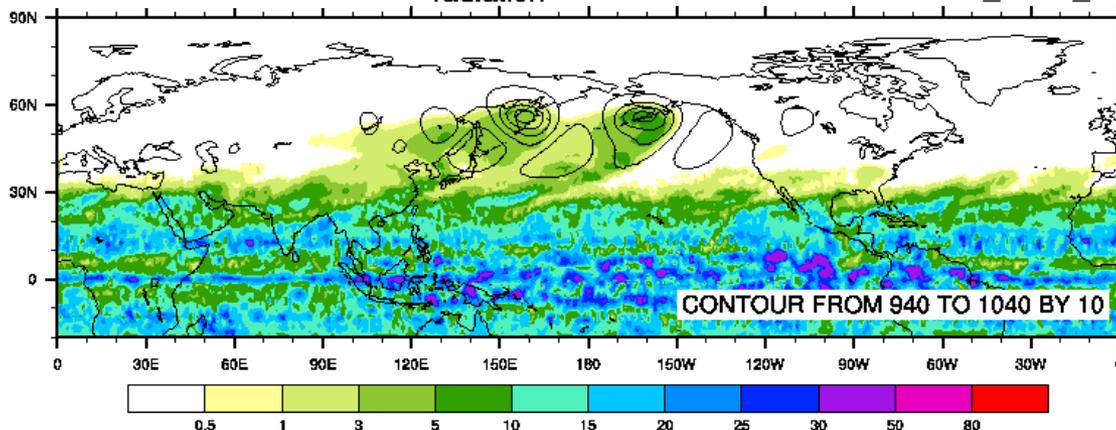
← without radiation

or) and surface pressure (contour)

ICONAM+
convection
microphysics + new satad
radiation

JW_R2B4_nh

with radiation →



grid-scale accumulated surface total precipitation in mm
Minimum 0 Maximum 48.2853

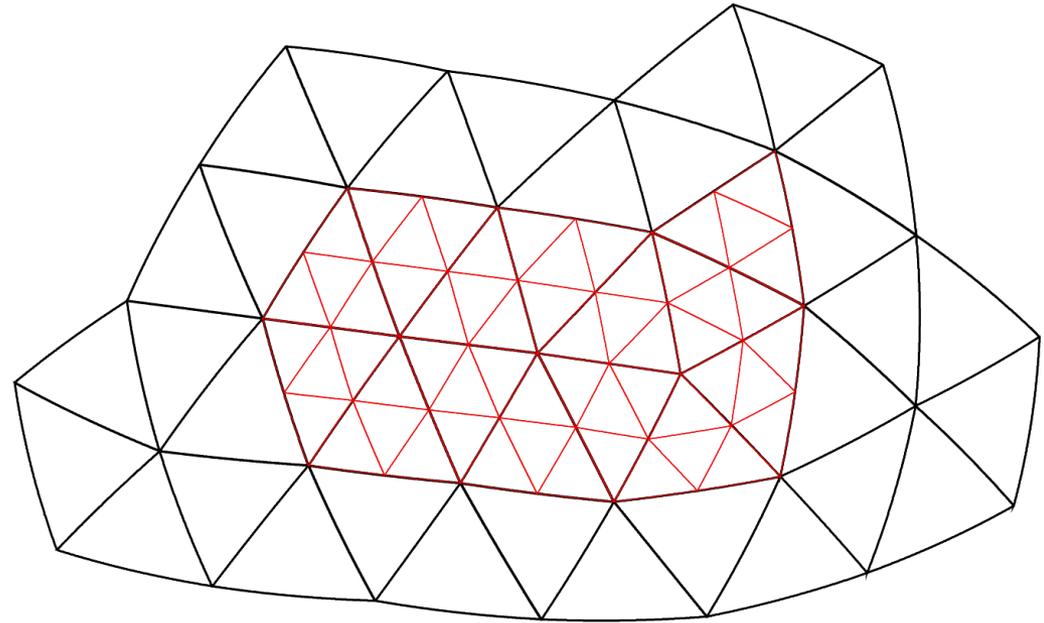
Grid refinement

Two-way nesting -- algorithm:

- one time step in parent domain (black)
- interpolation of lateral boundary fields/tendencies
- two time steps in refined domain (red)
- feedback from the fine domain to the parent domain, overwrite the parent values

One-way nesting -- algorithm:

- feedback is turned off
- Davies nudging is performed near the nest boundaries



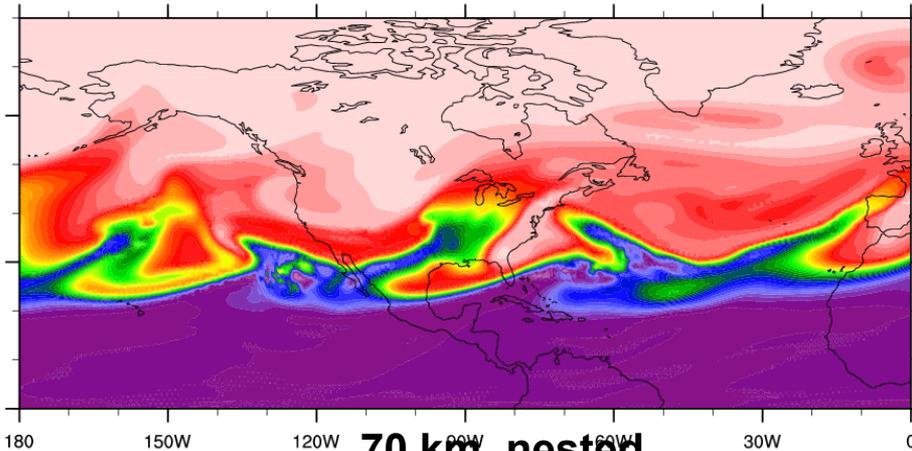


Grid refinement

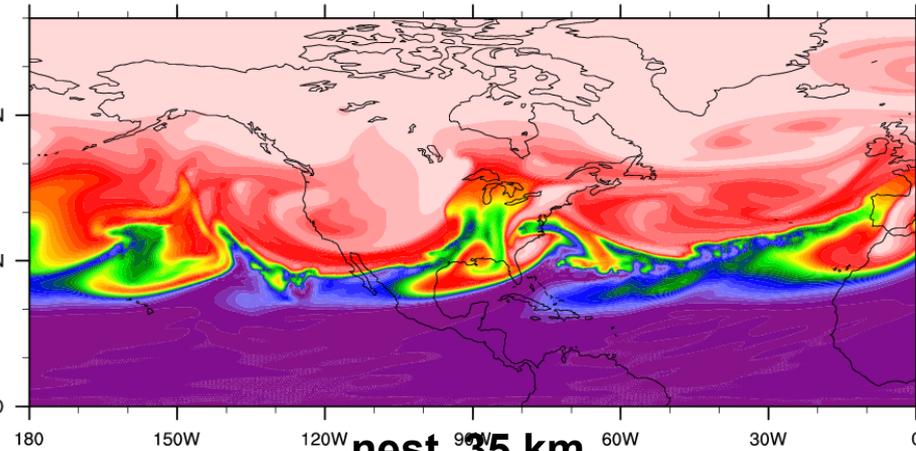
Baroclinic wave test: QV (g/kg) at 1.8 km AGL on day 14



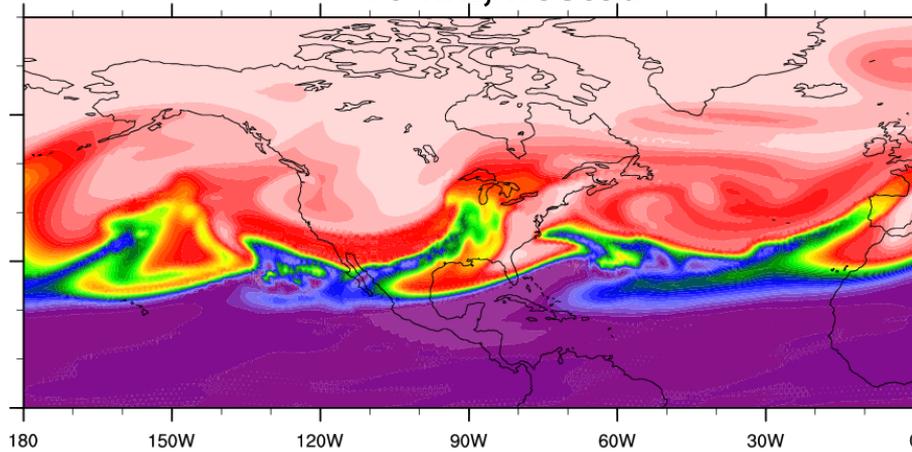
70 km



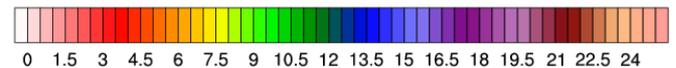
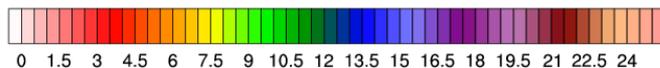
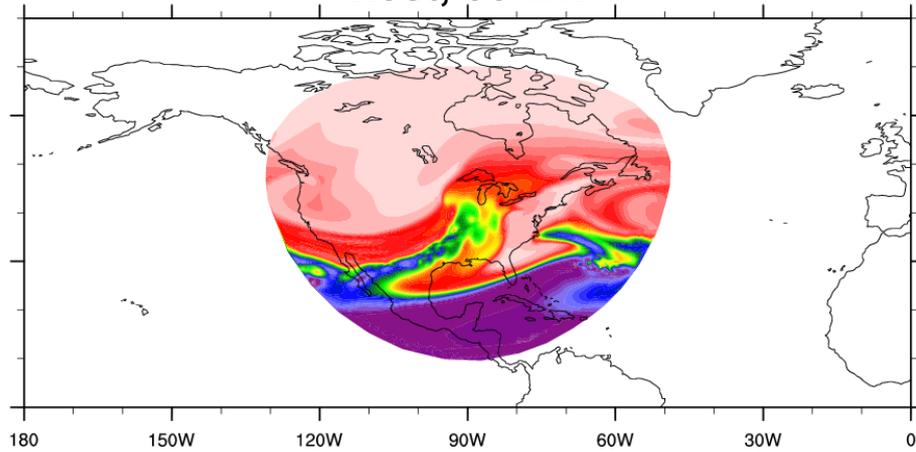
35 km



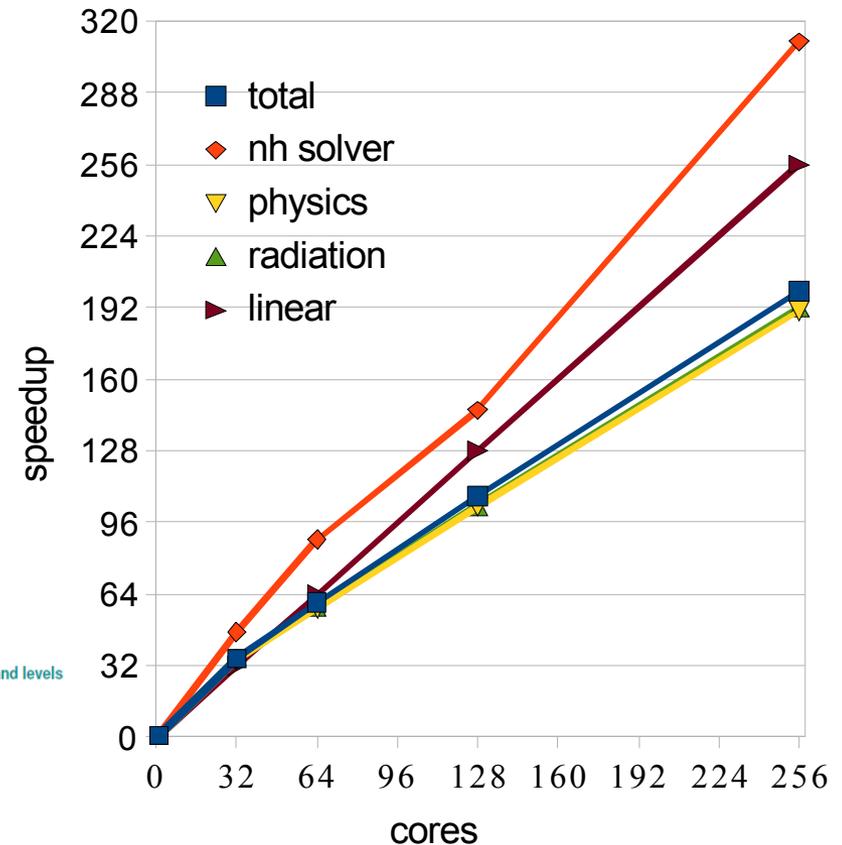
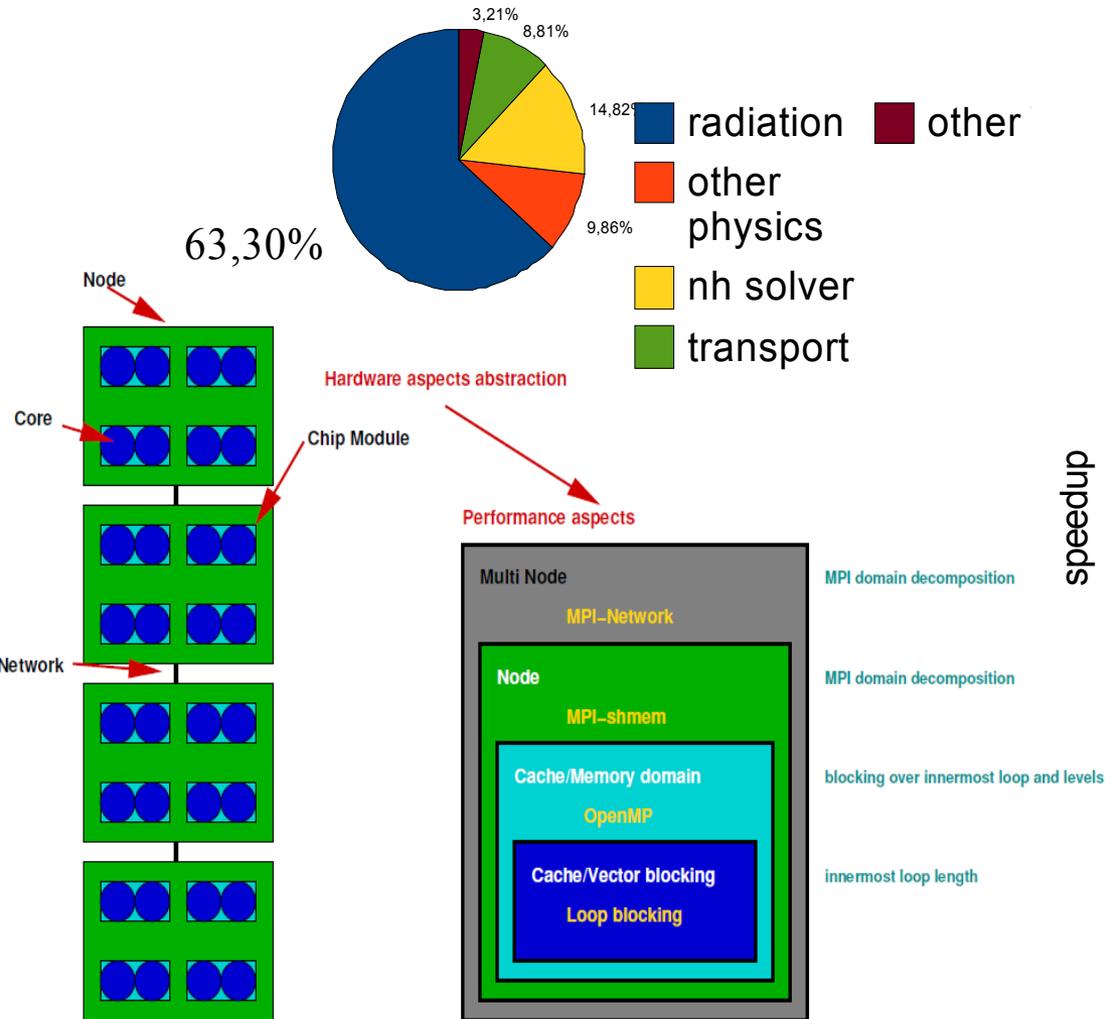
70 km, nested



nest, 35 km



Efficiency and scalability



Outlook

Further steps for ICON

- consolidation of the code (include remaining physics)
- improvement of efficiency, data structure, IO
- data assimilation + ICON
- preoperational runs next year at DWD
- finalizing ICON grid ocean model at MPI-M
- coupled ocean/atmosphere runs by the end of next year

