Towards coupled assimilation in operational systems

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Earth system approach

Strategy 2016-2025

- Coupled modelling of the Earth System Components
- Interactions between the different components in the model and assimilation
- Coupled assimilation \(\rightarrow\) consistent initial conditions to the coupled model.
Earth System components

- Atmosphere
- Sea Ice
- Land
- Ocean
- Waves

Integrated Forecasting System (IFS)
Earth System components

Coupled Models

- Current operational analysis background FC,
- ERA-Interim, ERA5,
- NWP medium range HRES until June 2018
Earth System components

Coupled Models

- Atmosphere
- Sea Ice
- Ocean
- Waves
- Land

Integrated Forecasting System (IFS)

NWP HRES (since June 2018)
ENS, medium, extended, seasonal
CERA system
Earth System components

Coupled Assimilation

Atmosphere 4D-Var

Sea Ice 3D-Var

Ocean 3D-Var

Waves OI

Land EKF

Integrated Forecasting System (IFS)

Earth System components

Coupled Assimilation

- Atmosphere 4D-Var
- Sea Ice 3D-Var
- Ocean 3D-Var
- Waves OI
- Land EKF

Integrated Forecasting System (IFS)

Oper analysis (HRES, EDA) since June 2018: coupling with the OCEAN5 system through sea-ice fields
Earth System components

Coupled Assimilation

Integrated Forecasting System (IFS)

Atmosphere 4D-Var

Sea Ice 3D-Var

Ocean 3D-Var

Waves OI

Land EKF

CERA-20C: “outer loop” coupling for atm-ocean, sea ice (Laloyaux et al., QJRMS 2016)
Earth System components

Coupled Assimilation

Atmosphere 4D-Var

Sea Ice 3D-Var

Ocean 3D-Var

Waves OI

Land EKF

Integrated Forecasting System (IFS)

CERA-SAT: IFS 42r1, land, wave, sea-ice, full observing system

From IFS 45r1: modular option of suite definition
Diversity of model and assimilation coupling configurations depending on the systems (medium, extended, seasonal, reanalysis, etc)
- Modular system to account for the different components in coupled assimilation
- Consistency of the coupling approaches across the different components of the Earth System
Toward coupled assimilation in operational systems

**Methodology:**
- Coupled assimilation is a relatively new field of research, with many open questions (error growth time scales, definition and use of cross-covariances, coupling strategy from weak to strong coupling, etc)

Further progress in coupled assimilation rely on modular approaches

→ Link to methodology and unified framework development (e.g. OOPS at ECMWF)

**Infrastructure:**
- Earth System approach is also valid for the suite definition which needs to be modular (no hard coded suites)

**Observing system and monitoring:**
- Need to standardise acquisition, observation pre-processing, feedback files, and monitoring for ocean and sea ice in particular

**Observation operators:** developments for observations that depend on more than one sub-system (e.g. snow)
Infrastructure, observing system and monitoring

- Use of same file system for ocean than for land and atmosphere, develop research testing environment
- Capability for ocean fields archiving (NetCDF in MARS) ongoing for CERA-20C ocean component, ORAS5), also needed for coupled assimilation ocean fields – in development
- Operational monitoring in the model space (in progress for OCEAN5)
Infrastructure, observing system and monitoring

- OCEAN5 operational observation monitoring (since 2017)
  https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/quality-our-forecasts/monitoring-observing-system#Ocean

- Observation acquisition
  - New Interface Control Document for Sea Level Observations acquisition (de Rosnay et al ECMWF Newsletter 2017)
  - Needed for SST acquisition

- Observation sustainability for the ocean / level of support from governing bodies to ensure in situ data provision
Coupled data assimilation (CDA): Terminology

Observations increments in one component impact the other components

In the next data assimilation windows
- Independent DA for a sub-set of components

Independent DA for all components; Interaction through model coupling

During the data assimilation window
- Multiple systems approach (e.g. outer loop coupling)

Single integrated system

Quasi WCDA

WCDA

Quasi SCDA

SCDA

Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation

Strongly coupled Data Assimilation

(non-exhaustive) spectrum of coupling methods
Current coupled assimilation approaches at ECMWF:

- Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for land-atmosphere:
  Soil moisture and temperature,
  Snow depth, density and temperature

- Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for ocean-atmosphere:
  Sea-ice
  Sea Surface Temperature

- Quasi Strongly Coupled ocean-atmosphere Assimilation (QSCDA)
Current operational system at ECMWF:

- Coupled ocean-land-sea-ice-wave-atmosphere Forecast Model
- Coupled land-atmosphere-wave background

Data assimilation systems:
- Atmosphere (4D-Var), 12h assimilation window
- Wave (OI), 12h assimilation window
- Land (SEKF, OI), 12h assimilation window
- Ocean & sea ice (3D-Var FGAT), 8-12 days DA window (OCEAN5 system)
Current operational NWP DA system at ECMWF: weakly coupled land-atmosphere-wave and sea ice assimilation

Background FC: Coupled model

- Input SST: OSTIA SST
- Atmosphere
- Waves
- Land

Separate analyses

- Sea ice (OCEAN5)
- Atmosphere 4D-Var
- Wave OI
- Land OI & SEKF

(IFS cycle 45r1, since June 2018)
Current coupled assimilation approaches at ECMWF:

➢ Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for land-atmosphere:
  Soil moisture and temperature,
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➢ Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for ocean-atmosphere:
  Sea-ice
  Sea Surface Temperature

➢ Quasi Strongly Coupled ocean-atmosphere Assimilation (QSCDA)
- Background produced by coupled land-atmosphere model
- Data Assimilation is separate for
  - Atmosphere (4D-Var)
  - Land surface (OI and SEKF)
→ Increments are computed separately for land and atmosphere
Coupled land-atmosphere data assimilation

**Weakly coupled assimilation:**

→ Feedback ensured by coupled background forecasts

**Justified because:**

- Vertical correlations dominate land surface processes. So, each grid point is analysed independently. Land data assimilation in this configuration is a 2D problem, whereas atmospheric DA is a 4D problem

- Weak coupling gives flexibility to run land analysis without the expensive 4D-Var component (modular stand-alone land assimilation available in the most recent IFS cycle 45r1)

**Limitations:**

- Increments related to fast coupled processes (e.g. precipitation/soil moisture) are potentially inconsistent at the interface
Snow data assimilation

**Snow Model:** Component of H-TESSEL

(Dutra et al., JHM 2010, Balsamo et al JHM 2009)

Single layer snowpack
- Snow water equivalent SWE (m)
- Snow Density $\rho_s$

**Observations:**

(de Rosnay et al ECMWF Newsletter 2015)

- Conventional snow depth data from SYNOP and additional national networks
- Snow cover extent: NOAA NESDIS/IMS daily product (4km)

**Data Assimilation:** de Rosnay et al SG 2014

- 2D-Optimal Interpolation (OI)
  in NWP and ERA5
Impact of snow cover assimilation in Himalayas

Snow data assimilation

Impact on albedo and momentum → Modifies the jet circulation

CTRL
Overestimate snow

Test (snow cover DA)
More realistic snow

Change in error in R (gTVm−gTV)

1–Oct–2011 to 1–Jun–2012 from 478 to 489 samples. Cross-hatching indicates 95% confidence. Verified against

Instrument(s): ASCAT DRBU Jason SYNOP
Area(s): N.Hemis
From 00Z 1–Oct–2011 to 12Z 1–Jun–2012

Difference in RMS error normalised by RMS error of control
Land surface emissivity in the IFS

Coupling through the observation operator

- **Snow surfaces: strong influence on interface processes**
- Affect the monitoring and assimilation of microwave observations in 4D-Var
- Coupling between atmospheric and land surface radiative transfer models: CMEM (Community Microwave Emission Modelling Platform) and RTTOV
- Next: impact on the atmospheric analysis of using the CMEM snow emissivity in RTTOV
Soil moisture data assimilation

Point-wise Simplified Extended Kalman Filter (SEKF)

\[ X^a_t = x^b_t + K (y_t - H [x^b_t]) \]

Elements of the SEKF for each individual grid point in the case of assimilation of T2m, RH2m, ASCAT:

Control vector

\[ x_{b(t)} = \begin{bmatrix} SM_{l1(t)} \\ SM_{l2(t)} \\ SM_{l3(t)} \end{bmatrix} \]

Observations vector

\[ y_{tobs} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{2m} \\ RH_{2m} \\ ASCAT_{sm} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} [K] \\ [%] \\ [m^3/m^3] \end{bmatrix} \]

Observations operator

\[ H [x^b_t] = \begin{bmatrix} T_{2m} \\ TH_{2m} \\ SM_{top} \end{bmatrix} \]

SM: volumetric soil moisture of the model layers in m3/m3

Configuration when ASCAT soil moisture is assimilated along with screen level temperature and humidity (T2m, RH2m)
Weakly coupled soil-atmosphere analysis (WCDA)

Current operational status
IFS cycle 45r1

NWP Forecast
Coupled Land-Atmosphere

Land initial conditions

Soil Analysis (SEKF)
SM1, SM2, SM3

σ_{O,T2M} = 1K
σ_{O,RH2M} = 4%
σ_o = 0.01 m³/m³
σ_{ASCAT} = 0.05 m³/m³

Screen level analysis
(2D-OI)

T_{2m} RH_{2m}

σ_{T2m} = 2K
σ_{RH2m} = 10%

Satellite

ASCAT SM

0-7 cm
7-28 cm
28-100 cm
100-289 cm

In situ Observations

T_{2m} RH_{2m}

T2m, RH2m & soil moisture
Background

Jacobians
ASCAT Soil Moisture data assimilation for NWP

Innovation (Obs-model) 25-30 June 2013

Due to ASCAT

Accumulated Increments (m³/m³) in top soil layer (0-7cm)

Due to SYNOP T2m and RH2m

Vertically integrated Soil Moisture increments (stDev in mm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>SYNOP</th>
<th>ASCAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Layer 1</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layer 2</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layer 3</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASCAT more increments at surface
SYNOP more increments at depth

→ For 12h DA window, link obs to root zone stronger for T2m,RH2m than for surface soil moisture observations
ERS/SCAT innovation (O-B) in m3/m3 for assimilated soil moisture observations in ERA5 JAS 1997

Hersbach et al., ECMWF Tech Memo 2018 in prep
Land-Atmosphere WCDA: Impact on the forecast?

- No soil Analysis
- zero line (ref): IFS with LDAS 40r1 (2013)
- IFS with LDAS 41r1 (2015)
  (revised soil analysis observation errors)

→ Significant impact of soil moisture initialisation on near-surface weather forecast
Weakly coupled soil-atmosphere analysis: EDA-SEKF

**Ensemble Data Assimilation (EDA)**

- **NWP Forecast Coupled Land-Atmosphere**

  - **Soil Analysis (SEKF)**
    - SM1, SM2, SM3
    - \( \sigma_{O_{T2M}} = 1K \)
    - \( \sigma_{O_{RH2M}} = 4\% \)
    - \( \sigma_{ASCAT} = 0.05m3/m3 \)
    - \( \sigma_{SMOS_{NN}} = 0.02 + 3\epsilon \)

  - **Screen level analysis (2D-OI)**
    - \( \sigma^{T2m} = 2K \)
    - \( \sigma^{RH2m} = 10\% \)

- **In situ Observations**
  - T2m, RH2m
  - & soil moisture
  - Background

- **Satellite**
  - ASCAT SM
  - SMOS SM

- **SMOS EC Neural network**

**Land initial conditions**

**In situ Observations**

- T2m
- RH2m

**Soil Analysis (SEKF)**

- SMOS EC
- Neural network

**Screen level analysis (2D-OI)**

- ASCAT SM
- SMOS SM

**SMOS EC Neural network**

- SMOS TB

**Soil Analysis (SEKF)**

- SMOS EC
- Neural network

**Screen level analysis (2D-OI)**

- ASCAT SM
- SMOS SM
New soil analysis (under evaluation): EDA SEKF and SMOS NN DA

- Enhanced coupling:
  - Use the EDA to compute the SEKF Jacobian
- SMOS neural network soil moisture assimilation
- CPU reduction from EDA SEKF, cost neutral for SMOS

Reduction of the SEKF CPU cost by a factor ~3.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NPES*THREADS</th>
<th>45r1</th>
<th>46r1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tco 1279</td>
<td>300*9</td>
<td>1580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCo399</td>
<td>54*6</td>
<td>815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMOS innovation (obs-model)
01 August 2017 (m3/m3)

Atmospheric impact (T2m) compared to CTRL
EDA-SEKF and SMOS neural network impact
Fit between IFS first guess and independent observations (obs-model)

Aircraft humidity (JJA 2017)

- EDA SEKF+SMOS DA minus CTRL
- SMOS DA minus CTRL

Improved fit in lower troposphere

Aircraft temperature (JJA 2017)
### Evaluation of surface and root zone soil moisture against in situ data

More than 300 stations in US and Europe (SCAN, USCRN, SNOTEL and SMOSMANIA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>surface</th>
<th>R root Zone</th>
<th>Ranom Surface</th>
<th>Random root zone</th>
<th>uRMSD surface</th>
<th>uRMSD root zone</th>
<th>Bias surface</th>
<th>Bias root zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CTRL (oper)</td>
<td>0.617</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.518</td>
<td>0.428</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMOS DA (oper+SMOS DA)</td>
<td>0.609</td>
<td>0.667</td>
<td>0.507</td>
<td>0.443</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td>0.058</td>
<td>0.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMOS+EDA (oper+SMOS+EDA)</td>
<td>0.623</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.521</td>
<td>0.421</td>
<td>0.051</td>
<td>0.029</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0.052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

→ Small impact, but on a slight improvement side in soil moisture

EDA-EKF and SMOS improve surface and root zone soil moisture (systematic on all four networks)
Current coupled assimilation approaches at ECMWF:

➢ Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for land-atmosphere:
  Soil moisture and temperature,
  Snow depth, density and temperature

➢ Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for ocean-atmosphere:
  Sea-ice
  Sea Surface Temperature

➢ Quasi Strongly Coupled ocean-atmosphere Assimilation (QSCDA)
Weakly Coupled Assimilation for sea-ice-atmosphere

Weakly coupled sea-ice atmosphere assimilation in operations June 2018 (IFS cycle 45r1)

- OCEAN5 uses atmospheric analysis forcing
- Atmospheric analysis uses the OCEAN5 sea-ice

Observations in each Earth system component influences the other component

24-h forecasts RMS error difference between coupled and uncoupled assimilation

Impact of WCDA SIC compared to CTRL using OSTIA
Progressively more coupling:

- 2018 – weakly coupled assimilation through sea ice feedback
- 2019 – weakly coupled assimilation through SST in the tropics

Impact of WCDA SST compared to CTRL using OSTIA (both with coupled model)
Current coupled assimilation approaches at ECMWF:

- Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for land-atmosphere:
  Soil moisture and temperature,
  Snow depth, density and temperature

- Weakly Coupled Data Assimilation (WCDA) for ocean-atmosphere:
  Sea-ice
  Sea Surface Temperature

- Quasi Strongly Coupled ocean-atmosphere Assimilation (QSCDA)
WCDA for land-atmosphere-wave
QSCDA for ocean-atmosphere assimilation

Background: Coupled model

Atmosphere
Waves
Ocean
Land
Sea-ice

Analyses

Atmosphere-Ocean
- Outer loop: Coupled trajectories
  - Inner loop: Separate
    4D-Var and 3D-Var

Wave OI
Land OI & SEKF
Quasi Strongly coupled ocean-atmosphere Assimilation Coupled reanalyses CERA-20C

Pioneer work on ocean-atmosphere data assimilation coupling method initiated in the coupled reanalysis (CERA) framework

CERA-20C: A coupled reanalysis of the 20th century (Laloyaux et al. QJRMS 2016)
- ocean-atmosphere coupling at the outer loop level of 4D-Var
- based on conventional observations (atmospheric surface and ocean)
- IFS cycle 41r2, resolution TL159 (125km), 24-h assimilation window

→ Proof of concept: demonstrated capability of the outer loop coupling to simultaneously ingesting atmospheric and ocean observations in the coupled Earth system model.
CERA system further developed to:
- Account for full observing system, period 2008-2016
- Include more earth system components in the data assimilation system (wave, land), and sea ice obs
- Run at high resolution (TL319, 60km), ocean ⅛ degrees ORCA025

5-day FC verification against own analysis (May 2015 – August 2016)

Blue -> reduction in StDev for CERA-SAT compared to uncoupled CTRL.
Combined impact of model and assimilation coupling

Talk by Dinand Schepers on Wednesday
Quasi strongly coupled ocean-atmosphere assimilation
Modular option in the IFS

- QSCDA implemented in the most recent IFS cycles suite definition (modular),
- Flexible DA window length,
- Compatible with Early delivery/delayed cut-off streams
- Tested at a range of resolutions (Tco399 to Tco1279)
- Disentangle impacts of model and data assimilation coupling

→ Talk by Phil Browne on Thursday
Conclusions and perspectives

➢ Progressive implementation of coupled assimilation in operations for NWP and future generation of reanalysis (ERA6, Copernicus Service C3S)

➢ **Weakly coupled assimilation for land-atmosphere** for NWP and operational reanalysis (ERA5)
  ▪ Consistency between ERA5 and operational NWP, ERA5 assimilates scatterometer soil moisture data record
  ▪ New enhanced land-atmosphere coupling with EDA-SEKF approach, improves efficiency, opens possibility for outer loop coupling for land-atmosphere and account for more land surface variables in the control

➢ **Weakly coupled ocean-atmosphere for NWP**
  ▪ Sea-ice-atmosphere coupling for operational NWP,
  ▪ SST weakly coupled approach between OCEAN5 and the IFS in the tropics
Conclusions and perspectives

- **Quasi Strongly Coupled assimilation (QSCDA) ocean-atmosphere**
  - CERA-SAT, coupled reanalysis for satellite data and full observing system
  - Also developed in the new suite definition system (Ecflow), modular, compatible with operational constraints (e.g. Early delivery), flexible data assimilation window length, etc...
  - Disentangle model coupling impact from data assimilation coupling impact

- **Challenges:**
  - Ocean-atmosphere: need to address extratropics issues in coupled system
  - Differences in observation latency, time scales -> combined WCDA and QSCDA
  - What degrees of coupling for development/testing/evaluation purpose
Conclusions and perspectives

- Extend the QSCDA outer loop coupling to land using the EDA-SEKF
- Coupling through the observation operator, e.g. snow surfaces (Alan Geer’s talk on Wednesday)
- Transition to lower level ocean products assimilation (L4, to L3, L2 and eventually L1)
  - L3 sea-ice concentration assimilation facility implemented, slight improvement in polar areas
  - L2 SST assimilation preliminary work started (collaboration UKMO)
  - Also need to unify altimeter data assimilation in the wave and ocean systems
- Account to cross-domain error covariances and evaluate the impact
- Coupling with other components: atmospheric composition analysis, and river and flood forecast system
  → link Copernicus Services CMEMS, CEMS, CAMS