High Resolution Global Ocean Modeling and Prediction

Eric P. CHASSIGNET

Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies

Florida State University



Theme of the Year - May 6, 2008





The Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE)

Objective: To provide a practical demonstration of real-time operational global oceanography

- Regular comprehensive description of the ocean circulation at high temporal and spatial resolution
- Consistent with a suite of remote and in-situ measurements and appropriate dynamical and physical constraints

Includes the main operational and research institutions from Australia, Japan, the United States, and Europe (United Kingdom, France, Norway, Italy, ...).

Main demonstration phase: 2003 - 2005 Consolidation phase: 2006 - 2008

Climate and seasonal forecasting, marine safety, fisheries, the offshore industry, NOAA/Navy applications, and management of shelf/coastal areas are among the beneficiaries of GODAE.

The integrated description of the ocean that GODAE is providing is also highly beneficial to the research community.



Building the Systems



Models: consistent analyses

U.S. GODAE: Global Ocean Prediction with HY

HYbrid Coordinate Ocean Model

Community Effort: NRL, U. of Miami, FSU, NASA-GISS, NOAA/NCEP, NOAA/AOML, NOAA/PMEL, PSI, FNMOC, NAVOCEANO, SHOM, LEGI, OPeNDAP, UNC, Rutgers, USF, Fugro-GEOS, Orbimage, Shell, ExxonMobil



- A broad partnership of institutions that collaborate in developing and demonstrating the performance and application of eddyresolving, real-time global and basin-scale ocean prediction systems using HYCOM.
- In the process of being transitioned for operational use by the U.S. Navy at NAVOCEANO and by NOAA at NCEP.

- Rotating and stratified fluids => dominance of lateral over vertical transport.
- Hence, it is traditional in ocean modeling to orient the two horizontal coordinates orthogonal to the local vertical direction as determined by gravity.
- The choice of the vertical coordinate system is the single most important aspect of an ocean model's design (DYNAMO, DAMÉE-NAB).
- The practical issues of representation and parameterization are often directly linked to the vertical coordinate choice (Griffies et al., 2000).

Currently, there are three main vertical coordinates in use, none of which provides universal utility. Hence, many developers have been motivated to pursue research into hybrid approaches.



HYbrid Coordinate Ocean Model The hybrid coordinate in HYCOM is one that is isopycnal in the open, stratified ocean, but smoothly reverts to a terrain-following coordinate in shallow coastal regions, and to pressure coordinate in the mixed layer and/or unstratified seas



HY

Ζ

σ

σ-z



Hybrid

Global HYCOM configuration

HYbrid Coordinate Ocean Model

- Horizontal grid: 1/12° equatorial resolution
 - 4500 x 3298 grid points, ~6.5 km spacing on average, ~3.5 km at pole, 5 m minimum depth
- Mercator 79°S to 47°N, then Arctic dipole patch
- 32 σ_2^* vertical coordinate surfaces:
- GISS mixed layer model
- Thermodynamic sea-ice model
- Surface forcing: wind stress, wind speed, thermal forcing, precipitation, weak relaxation to climatological SSS
- Monthly river runoff (986 rivers)
- Initialized from January climatology (GDEM3) T and S

1/12° Global HYCOM Snapshot: SSH and ice (gray) SSH date: Feb 20, 2008 90.4



216,000 CPU hrs/model year on 784 IBM Power 4+ CPUs 7.2 TB/model year for daily 3-D output

HY COM HYbrid Domain with Equal-Sized Tiles

Coordinate Ocean Model



Free Running Global HYCOM (Metzger et al.)



SST Response in 1/12° Global HYCOM to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita



HYCOM reproduces the deterministic SST response to the wind forcing. This implies realistic upwelling and mixing of subsurface waters as well as realistic atmospheric wind and heat flux forcing.

Mixed Layer Response to Hurricane Forcing





MVOI - simultaneous analysis 5 ocean variables temperature, salinity, pressure, velocity (u,v)

1/25° Gulf of Mexico HYCOM

Observed SST Locations

Observed SSH tracks





1/25° Gulf of Mexico HYCOM Hindcast started 2 September 2003

 Ocean Model
 SSH
 28 April 2006
 SST

 1/25° HYCOM SSH nowcast (20.0) 20060428
 1/25° HYCOM SST nowcast (20.0) 20060428
 1/25° HYCOM SST nowcast (20.0) 20060428

HYbrid Coordinate

> 18°N-98°W 18°N 98°W 93°W $88^{\circ}W$ 83°W 93°W $88^{\circ}W$ 83°W 60 80 10 15 20 25 30 - 20 0 20 40°C cm

> > HYCOM nowcast SSH with the NAVO frontal analysis of MCSST observations (white/black lines, black data > 4 days old)





54445352211050 GL di 0.5⁄cm .8/to 57.2 40N 20N EQ 20S 40S 60S 80E 100E 120E 140E 160E 180W160W140W120W100W 80W 60W 40W 20W 0E 20E 40E 60E

sea surf. height sdev: 2004.00-2005.00 [60.4H]

with assimilation (GLBa0.08-60.4)



sea surf. height sdev: 2004.00-2005.00 [05.8H]



without assimilation (GLBa0.08-05.8)



GLBa0.08: 60.4-05.8 Difference SSH Variability 2004



Overall increase in variability - largest changes occur in the western boundary currents



Oct 92 – May 07 SSH variability based on T/P, ERS-1 and ERS-2 altimeters (from CLS)

SSH variability over 2004-2006 from the 1/12° global HYCOM/NCODA hindcast simulation



1/12^o Global HYCOM SSH and surface drifters

1/12 Global HYCOM 20070601





1/12^o Global HYCOM SSH and surface drifters

1/12 Global HYCOM 20070601





Evaluation and Outreach

- Strong participation of the coastal ocean modeling community in using and evaluating boundary conditions from the global and basinscale ocean modeling prediction systems
- Efficient data distribution (100 Terrabytes Storage Area Network)
 - The data are available to the community at large within 24 hours via Live Access Server (LAS), ftp, and OPeNDAP at http://www.hycom.org

HY COM HYCOM Bay of Biscay Modeling

HYbrid Coordinate Ocean Model







Wetting and Drying in HYCOM





Average RMS error over all 102 pelagic tide guages = 12.3 cm

Future Directions

- 1/25° global HYCOM prediction system with tides and wetting and drying
- More advanced data assimilation

Coordinate Ocean Model

- Nested coastal ocean prediction with grid resolution < 1 km
- Range dependent acoustic prediction
- Coupled atmosphere ocean prediction
- Bio geo chemical optical and tracer/contaminant prediction
- Ecosystem analysis and prediction
- Earth system prediction: coupled atmosphere-ocean-ice-land



Questions?