Representation of clouds and precipitation in the Simple Cloud Resolving E3SM Atmosphere Model

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Simple Cloud-Resolving E3SM Atmosphere Model

- Global atmosphere model with dx=3.25 km, 128 vertical layers with top at 40km
- Components:
 - Non-hydrostatic Spectral Element (SE) dycore
 - Simplified Higher-Order Closure (SHOC)
 - Predicted Particle Properties (P3)
 - RRTMGP
 - Prescribed aerosols (for now)
 - No deep convection

Vision:

- GSRM to run on DOE's new Exascale machines
 - V0:Written in F90 (contribution to DYAMOND2 – Caldwell et al. 2021)
 - VI:Written in C++ & Kokkos
- Couples with E3SM's land, ocean, and sea ice models for coupled simulations (future plans)





Recent News: GPU Version is Operational!



Fig: Outgoing longwave radiation (in W/m^2) from Oct 1, 2013 initialized 40 day simulation with ne1024pg2 grid (dx=3.25 km)

Fig: Model performance on Summit and Frontier at ne1024pg2 (3.25 km). Atmosphere model reached ISYPD on OLCF's Frontier machine.

Precipitation and clouds in SCREAM

- Four 40-day simulations across four seasons (Donahue et al in prep)
- January and August simulations follow DYAMOND2 and DYAMOND1 protocol
- Ran April 2013 and October 2013 simulations



Some highlights:

- Well-resolved storm systems and cloud mesoscale structures
- Better diurnal cycle and intensity of precipitation compared to traditional GCMs
- Well-balanced global-average TOA radiation due to compensating biases



simulation initialized on Oct 1, 2013

Precipitation and cloud biases in SCREAM

More things to work on:

- Missing mid-level clouds
- Small, unaggregated "popcorn" convection in tropics

New Guinea

Australia

200km

Fig: Snapshot of precipitation rate over the Tropical West Pacific (Jan 22, 2020)





Popcorn clouds & precipitation in SCREAM



Fig: Area contribution of convective events as a function of their size (x axis). Note SCREAMv0 (F90) from DYAMOND2 (winter), SCREAMv1 (C++) is from and Oct 2013, and other lines are from DYAMOND1 (summer) model runs.

SCREAMvI has less popcorn than our DYAMOND2 contribution (v0)

- Due partially to removing subgrid rain enhancement
- Popcorn is still a problem
- Potentially impacting our tropical variability



Popcorn clouds & precipitation in SCREAM

time



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Fig: 3 hourly mean precipitation rate averaged over 5S to 5N during the DYAMOND2 period

What does the resolution of GSRMs afford us?

• For cloud evaluation, we can compare timespatial average cloud profiles with satellite retrievals like we do with GCMs

Fig: Pressure-latitude crosssection of cloud liquid (top row) and ice (2nd row) in SCREAM, compared with C3M retrievals (3rd and 4th row)

 We can also dig deeper with evaluation with 15min snapshots of 2D fields, 3-hourly snapshots of 3D fields

Fig:Vertical integrated cloud and rain water over Tropical West Pacific (left) and separate clouds tracked over time





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 Placing cloud profiles in context of cloud evolution allows us to better match obs with models and understand processes



Fig: Cloud profiles from three 3D snapshots of the tracked cloud



Tracking clouds (storms) in GSRMs

 Placing cloud profiles in context of cloud evolution allows us to better match obs with models and understand processes



Fig: Cloud profiles from three 3D snapshots of the tracked cloud



Fig:Temporal evolution of cloud and rain water over the cloud lifetime and associated precipitation rate





SCREAM simulation plans and constraints

- With our computer allocation, we can run
 ~10 simulated years with one year's allocation
- Planning I year present-day and I year +4K SST simulations to obtain cloud feedbacks (Cess simulations)
- Since we cannot gather large statistics of large-scale fields → more reliance on process understanding



Fig: Cloud feedback from fullcomplexity (y-axis) versus fixed SST simulations in CMIP5. Adapted from Ringer et al, (2014 GRL).





Tools for evaluating SCREAM

- Doubly-periodic, forced simulations (DPSCREAM)
- Regional refined model

Fig: Clouds from a DPSCREAM simulation for RICO case

200



 Collaborating with newly formed THREAD team to evaluate SCREAM with ground-based ARM observations









- SCREAMv1 is positioned to run multiple years now with year-long Cess experiments planned
- Lots of room for improvement on how clouds and precipitation are represented in the model
- GSRM's resolution allows us to identify individual clouds that go into temporally & spatially averaged fields → better use cloud observations for evaluation/hypothesis testing
- How best should simulation output and satellite cloud retrievals be compared?
- What workflow or online diagnostics will enable process understanding without overwhelming output?

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