Earth Observing System

The amount of data assimilated by the environmental systems is growing rapidly quadrupling in the last decade. The strategies for using this data need to be re-examine for reusability and portability. Alignment with JCSDA JEDI IODA and the ECMWF ODB-C will be critical to quickly adopt and accelerate data usage across the centers. The data schema for the various data types must allow for flexibility, while maintaining family structures, to allow for APIs to access the data quickly and efficiently.

Observation Synergy

Observations from in-situ and satellite platforms, and for various environmental systems like oceanic or ionospheric, all contain common traits. The handling of the ingest and the basic understanding of the measurement is required, but a focus on defining common attributes the data possess and defining attribute families is a focus going forward. An API which can perform actions on family attributes can transform stow-piped strategies into flexible ones for operations such as data thinning and error assignment, and allow decisions to be made by a particular application. Schema must prepare for heterogeneous metadata, and the API must maintain flexibility and parallelism.

Commercial Data and Small Satellite Era

Environmental observation, particularly in the U.S. are increasingly reliant on commercial providers and the evolving small satellite era. These data will be large in volume, with poorly defined sources and fluctuating quality control approaches. Further we may expect format changes as companies (providers) may fail or be acquired. An adaptive strategy, and potentially artificial intelligence (AI) approaches to identify and if possibly remedy issues should be fully explored, and systems should readily adapt to new data types and be equipped with bias and error mitigation.

Unified Observation Processing

Benjamin Ruston¹ (ben.ruston@nrlmry.navy.mil), Nancy Baker¹, Patricia Pauley¹, Sarah King¹ and Eric Simon²
¹Naval Research Laboratory, Monterey, CA ²University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Continuous Data Processing (Ingest)

A more streamlined way to ingest data, and to preserve more data is being designed. As data arrives a continuous processing system stores key meta-data from the observation to a catalogue. At present, decisions are made a goal to maintain the highest quality reports, but often alternate reports are lost. Methodical cataloging will allow preservation of and be used to maintain currently discarded duplicate reports. Decisions regarding which report to use can be more dynamic, allowing secondary reports to be used for validation, or for alternate initialization. The ability to monitor observation impact on the system can further be used to feed the quality control decisions. Areas of dense observation show low errors and smaller differences between centers, analysis error monitoring with feedback to quality control may prove critical.

Multi-System Portability

Similar to design strategies for data assimilation systems where the solver can have a modular ability to use 4D-Var, Hybrid 4D-Var, or EnKF depending on the problem at hand. The handling of data streams should be thought of in a common way for a multitude of environmental system. The Navy Earth System Prediction Capability (ESPC) is an excellent testbed to explore a common strategy as the effort works towards running a coupled system combining top of the atmosphere to bottom of the ocean observation, data assimilation and modeling.

Conclusions & Future Directions

- The Earth Observing System is evolving, with both commercial data and small satellites expanding volumes rapidly
- Data schema with families of common attributes can organize data while maintaining flexibility and parallelism
- Continuous data processing should be re-examined to reduce loss of data; coupling with analysis error estimates can increase and refine data usage
- Large coupled modelling systems are natural testbed for common data handling and rapid prototyping for signals-of-opportunity and new sensor technologies