

**Lecture 5:  
Observation Impact &  
Observation Sensitivity**

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**Outline**

- Observation impacts
- Adjoint 4D-Var:  $(4D-Var)^T$
- Observation sensitivity
- Error covariance estimates from  $(4D-Var)^T$

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**Observation Impacts**

(Useful references: Langland & Baker, 2004;  
Gelaro and Zhu, 2009; Tremolet, 2008)

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Given the plethora of different observation platforms, what impact does each have on the 4D-Var analysis?

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### Observation Impacts

Consider a scalar function of the ocean state vector:

$$I = I(\mathbf{x})$$

Prior                      Posterior                      Increment

$$I_b = I(\mathbf{x}_b) \quad I_a = I(\mathbf{x}_a) \quad \Delta I = I_a - I_b$$

$$\mathbf{x}_a(t) = \mathbf{x}_b(t) + \delta \mathbf{x}(t)$$

$$I_a = I(\mathbf{x}_b + \delta \mathbf{x}) \approx I_b + \delta \mathbf{x}^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x})$$

$$\Delta I \approx \delta \mathbf{x}^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x}) \text{ but } \delta \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{M}_b(t, t_0) \tilde{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{d}$$

$$\Delta I \approx \mathbf{d}^T \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \mathbf{M}_b^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x})$$

(  $\mathbf{M}_b^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x})$  denotes a time convolution )


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### Observation Impacts

Consider a scalar function of the ocean state vector:

$$I = I(\mathbf{x})$$

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$$I_b = I(\mathbf{x}_b) \quad I_a = I(\mathbf{x}_a) \quad \Delta I = I_a - I_b$$

$$\Delta I \approx \mathbf{d}^T \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \mathbf{M}^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x})$$

Innovations

Adjoint of gain matrix

Adjoint model

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### Observation Impacts

Recall the dual form of the gain matrix:

$$\mathbf{K} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{K}}_k = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{V}_k \mathbf{T}_k^{-1} \mathbf{V}_k^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2}$$

So:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{K}}_k^T = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{V}_k \mathbf{T}_k^{-1} \mathbf{V}_k^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{G}\mathbf{D}$$

Therefore:

$$\Delta I \approx \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{V}_k \mathbf{T}_k^{-1} \mathbf{V}_k^T \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{G}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{M}^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x})$$

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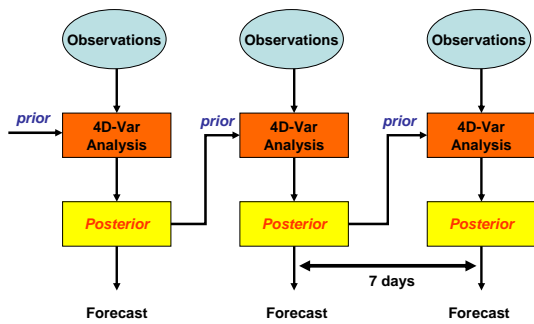
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### Sequential 4D-Var with 10km CCS ROMS




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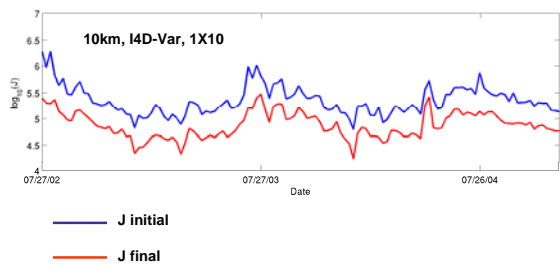
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### Sequential 4D-Var CCS ROMS




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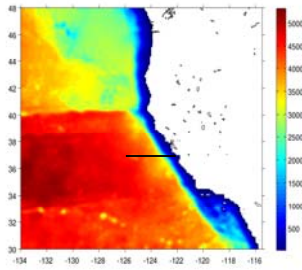
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**Example: 37N Transport**



10km, CCS ROMS

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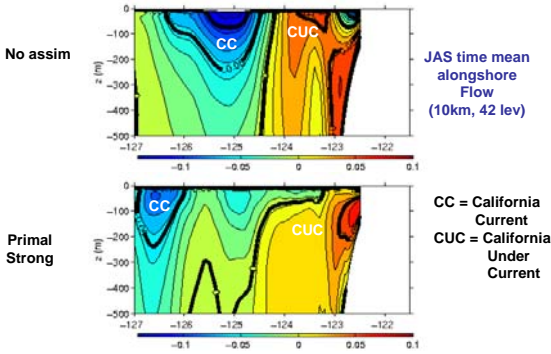
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**Example: 37N Transport**




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**37N Transport Observation Impacts**

The time average 37N transport can be written as:

$$I_{37N} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x}_i$$

where:  $\mathbf{x}_i \equiv \mathbf{x}(i\Delta t) = \mathbf{x}(t)$   
↑  
Model timestep

therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta I_{37N} &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{h}^T ((\mathbf{x}_a)_i - (\mathbf{x}_b)_i) \\ &\approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{h}^T (\mathbf{M}_b)_i \tilde{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}^T \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{N} (\mathbf{M}_b)_i^T \mathbf{h} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{M}_b^T * (\partial I / \partial \mathbf{x})$

where:  $(\mathbf{M}_b)_i \equiv \mathbf{M}(t_0 + i\Delta t, t_0) = \mathbf{M}(t, t_0)$

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### 37N Transport Observation Impacts

37N time averaged transport increment:

$$\Delta I_{37N} \approx \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{d}^T \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{M}_b)_i^T \mathbf{h}$$

ADROMS forced by h

$$\tilde{\mathbf{K}}_k^T = \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \underbrace{\mathbf{V}_k \mathbf{T}_k^{-1} \mathbf{V}_k^T}_{\substack{\text{Dual space} \\ \text{Lanczos vectors}}} \mathbf{R}^{-1/2} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{D}$$

↑  
TLROMS sampled at observation points

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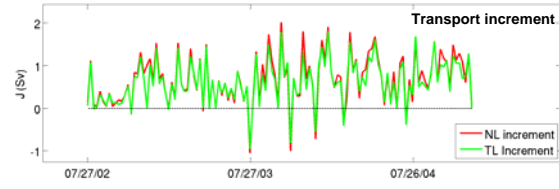
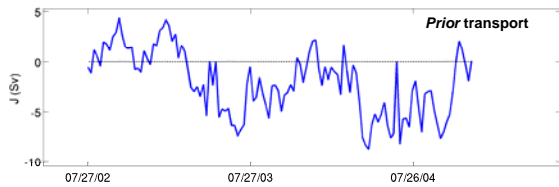
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### 37N Transport




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### Control Vector Impacts

37N time averaged transport increment:

$$\Delta I_{37N} \approx \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{d}^T \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{M}_b)_i^T \mathbf{h}$$

$$= \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{d}^T (\mathbf{g}_x + \mathbf{g}_f + \mathbf{g}_b)$$

where:  $\mathbf{g} \approx \frac{1}{N} \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{M}_b)_i^T \mathbf{h}$

- $\mathbf{g}_x$  - contribution from initial condition increments
- $\mathbf{g}_f$  - contribution from surface forcing increments
- $\mathbf{g}_b$  - contribution from open boundary increments

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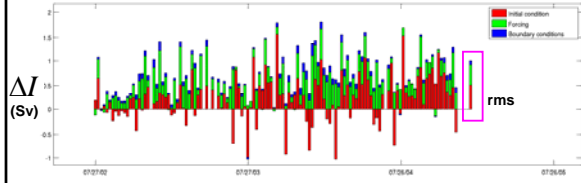
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### 37N Transport Control Vector Impacts




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### Observation Impacts

37N time averaged transport increment:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta I_{37N} &\approx \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{d}^T \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{M}_b)_i^T \mathbf{h} \\ &= \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{g} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{obs}} d_i g_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_{obs}} \underbrace{(y_i - H_i(\mathbf{x}_b(t)))}_{\text{Contribution of each observation to } \Delta I} g_i \end{aligned}$$

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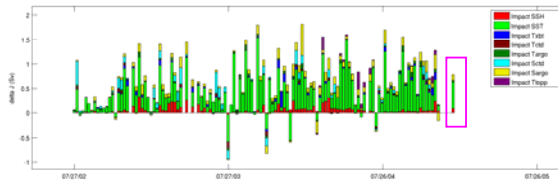
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### 37N Transport Observation Impacts



- █ Satellite SSH
- █ T Argo
- █ S CTD
- █ Satellite SST
- █ T CTD
- █ S Argo
- █ T TOPP

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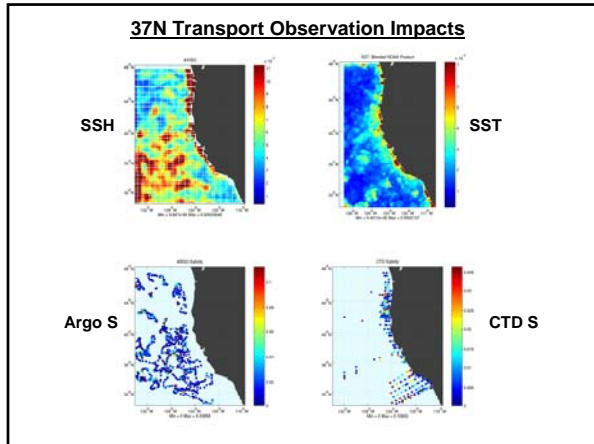
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**Two Spaces: Obs Impact**

**K** maps from observation (dual) space  
to model (primal) space

**K<sup>T</sup>** maps from model (primal) space  
to observation (dual) space

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*Identifies the part of model space that controls 37N transport  
and that is activated by the observations*

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**Observation Impacts: ROMS Implementation**

- Primal (I4D-Var) and dual (4D-PSAS & R4D-Var) forms available:
  - define IS4DVAR\_SENSITIVITY  
[Drivers/obs\\_sen\\_is4dvar.h](#)
  - define W4DPSAS\_SENSITIVITY  
define OBS\_IMPACT  
define OBS\_IMPACT\_SPLIT  
[Drivers/obs\\_sen\\_w4dpsas.h](#)
  - define W4DVAR\_SENSITIVITY  
define OBS\_IMPACT  
define OBS\_IMPACT\_SPLIT  
[Drivers/obs\\_sen\\_w4dvar.h](#)

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## Adjoint 4D-Var & Observation Sensitivity

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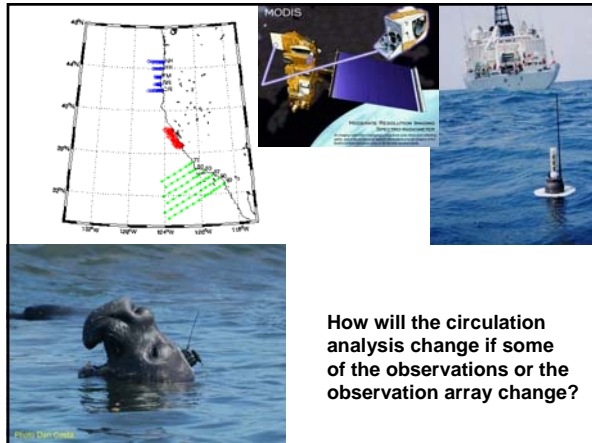
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How will the circulation analysis change if some of the observations or the observation array change?

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### Adjoint 4D-Var & Observation Sensitivity

The analysis increments are a nonlinear function of the innovation vector  $\mathbf{d}$ :

$$\mathbf{z}_a = \mathbf{z}_b + K(\mathbf{d}) \quad \text{4D-Var}$$

where:  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{z}_b(t))$

Consider variations in the observation vector  $\delta\mathbf{y}$ :

$$\delta\mathbf{d} = \delta\mathbf{y}; \quad \mathbf{z}_a + \delta\mathbf{z}_a = \mathbf{z}_b + K(\mathbf{d} + \delta\mathbf{d})$$

$$\approx \mathbf{z}_b + K(\mathbf{d}) + (\partial K / \partial \mathbf{y}) \delta\mathbf{y}$$

$$\delta\mathbf{z}_a \approx \frac{\partial K}{\partial \mathbf{y}} \delta\mathbf{y}$$

Tangent linearization of 4D-Var

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### Adjoint 4D-Var & Observation Sensitivity

Consider a scalar function of the *posterior* control vector  $\mathbf{z}_a$ :

$$I_a = I(\mathbf{z}_a) = I(\mathbf{z}_b + \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{d}))$$

A change  $\delta\mathbf{y}$  in the observations yields a change in  $\Delta I_a$  :

$$\begin{aligned} I_a + \Delta I_a &= I(\mathbf{z}_b + \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{d} + \delta\mathbf{y})) \\ &\approx I(\mathbf{z}_b + \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{d}) + (\partial\mathcal{K}/\partial\mathbf{y})\delta\mathbf{y}) \\ &\approx I(\mathbf{z}_a) + ((\partial\mathcal{K}/\partial\mathbf{y})\delta\mathbf{y})^T (\partial I/\partial\mathbf{z}) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\Delta I_a \approx \delta\mathbf{y}^T (\partial\mathcal{K}/\partial\mathbf{y})^T (\partial I/\partial\mathbf{z})$$

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### Adjoint 4D-Var & Observation Sensitivity

$$\Delta I_a \approx \delta\mathbf{y}^T (\partial\mathcal{K}/\partial\mathbf{y})^T (\partial I/\partial\mathbf{z})$$

Adjoint of  
4D-Var

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### Observation System Experiments (OSEs)

Suppose that during a particular assimilation cycle the satellite altimeter goes offline.

How would this have impacted the analysis?

We could run 4D-Var again with SSH obs removed.

Or let  $\delta y_i = -d_i$  for all SSH obs.

The change in the analysis is:  $\delta\mathbf{z}_a \approx (\partial\mathcal{K}/\partial\mathbf{y})\delta\mathbf{y}$

The change in  $\Delta I_a$  is:  $\Delta I_a \approx \delta\mathbf{y}^T (\partial\mathcal{K}/\partial\mathbf{y})^T (\partial I/\partial\mathbf{z})$

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**Observation System Experiments (OSEs)**

The cost of  $(4D\text{-Var})^T = \text{cost of } 4D\text{-Var}$

But ONLY one run of  $(4D\text{-Var})^T$  is needed for ALL OSEs.

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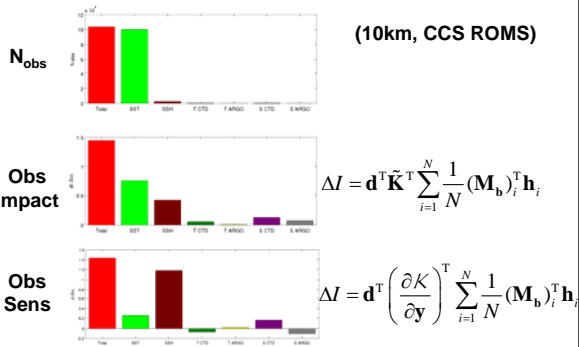
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**Example: 37N transport**

(10km, CCS ROMS)




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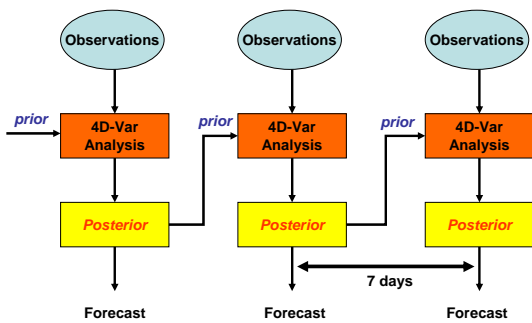
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**Sequential 4D-Var with 30km CCS ROMS**




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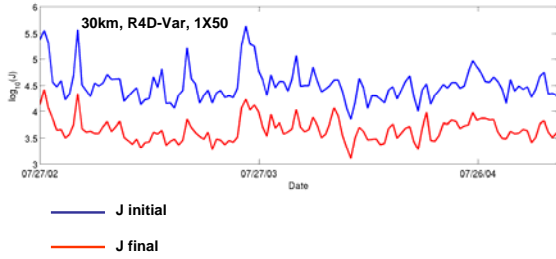
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### Sequential 4D-Var CCS ROMS




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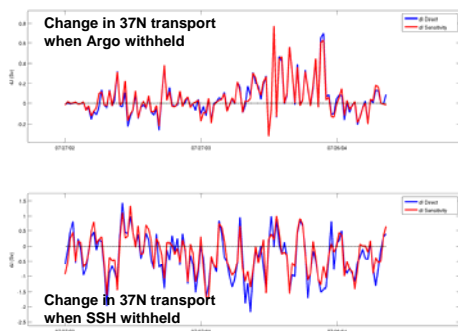
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### Observing System Experiments (OSEs) (30km, CCS ROMS)




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### Two Spaces: Obs Sensitivity

$\partial K / \partial y$  maps from observation (dual) space  
to model (primal) space

$(\partial K / \partial y)^T$  maps from model (primal) space  
to observation (dual) space

*Identifies the part of model space that controls 37N transport  
and that is activated by the observations during 4D-Var*

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### Observation Sensitivity: ROMS Implementation

• Dual (4D-PSAS & R4D-Var) forms only available:

- define W4DPSAS\_SENSITIVITY  
(define RECOMPUTE\_4DVAR)  
Drivers/obs\_sen\_w4dpsas.h

- define W4DVAR\_SENSITIVITY  
(define RECOMPUTE\_4DVAR)  
Drivers/obs\_sen\_w4dvar.h

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### Error Covariance Estimates from (4D-Var)<sup>T</sup>

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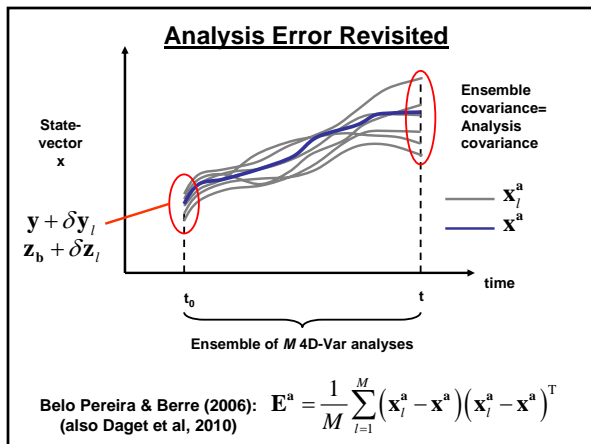
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### Analysis Error Revisited

An ensemble of 4D-Var analyses is very expensive!

But one run of (4D-Var)<sup>T</sup> yields  $(\partial K / \partial \mathbf{d})^T$  and:

$$\delta \mathbf{z}_i^a \approx \delta \mathbf{z}_i + (\partial K / \partial \mathbf{d}) \delta \mathbf{d}_i; \quad \delta \mathbf{d}_i \approx \delta \mathbf{y}_i + \mathbf{G} \delta \mathbf{z}_i$$

and:  $\delta \mathbf{x}_i^a(t) \approx \mathcal{M}(t, t_0) \delta \mathbf{z}_i^a$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_x^a(t) &= \left\langle \delta \mathbf{x}^a(t) (\delta \mathbf{x}^a(t))^T \right\rangle \\ &= \mathcal{M} \left\{ \left[ \mathbf{I} - \left( \frac{\partial K}{\partial \mathbf{d}} \right) \mathbf{G} \right] \mathbf{D} \left[ \mathbf{I} - \left( \frac{\partial K}{\partial \mathbf{d}} \right) \mathbf{G} \right]^T + \left( \frac{\partial K}{\partial \mathbf{d}} \right) \mathbf{R} \left( \frac{\partial K}{\partial \mathbf{d}} \right)^T \right\} \mathcal{M}^T \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $M$  is essentially infinite!

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### Analysis Error Revisited

For linear functions:  $I(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{h}_k^T \mathbf{x}_k$

Posterior/analysis error variance:

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma_i^a)^2 &= \left( \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbf{h}_k^T \mathcal{M}_k \right) \mathbf{E}_x^a(t_0) \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \mathcal{M}_j^T \mathbf{h}_j \right) \\ &= \mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{E}_x^a(t_0) \mathbf{g} \end{aligned}$$

where:  $\mathbf{g} = \sum_{j=1}^N \mathcal{M}_j^T \mathbf{h}_j$  (ADROMS forced by h)

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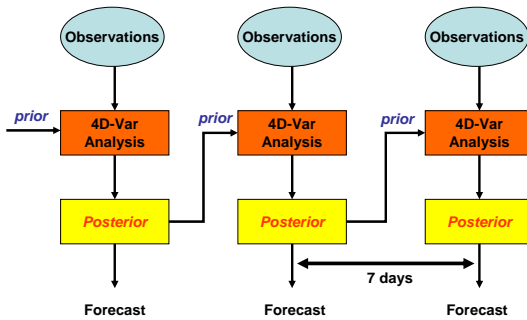
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### Sequential 4D-Var with 30km CCS ROMS




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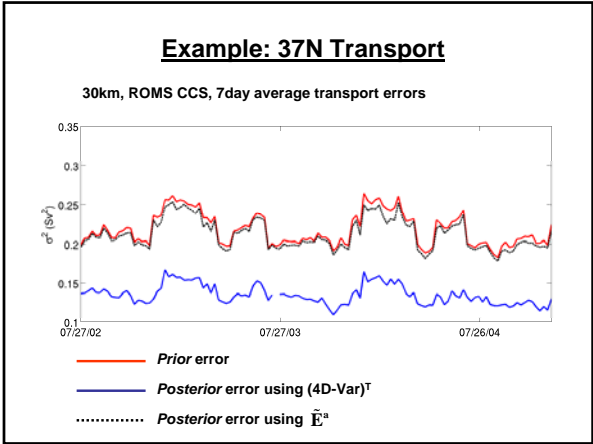
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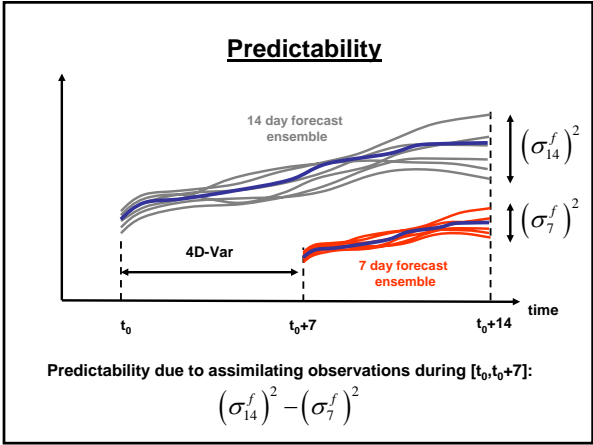
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### Example: 37N Transport Predictability

$(\sigma_{14}^f)$  = spread of 14 day forecast ensemble of transport  
 $(\sigma_7^f)$  = spread of 7 day forecast ensemble of transport

$$(\sigma_{14}^f)^2 - (\sigma_7^f)^2 = 2\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{D} \mathcal{M}_b^T \sum_k (\mathcal{M}_{14})_k^T \mathbf{h}_k - \mathbf{g}^T (\mathbf{G} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{G}^T + \mathbf{R}) \mathbf{g}$$

where:  $\mathbf{g} = (\partial \mathcal{K} / \partial \mathbf{d})^T \mathcal{M}_b^T \sum_k (\mathcal{M}_{14})_k^T \mathbf{h}_k$

Seemingly complicated expressions, but really just TL and AD operators strung together in the right order!

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**Example: 37N Transport Predictability**

$$(\sigma_{14}^f)^2 - (\sigma_7^f)^2 = 2\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{D} \mathcal{M}_b^T \sum_k (\mathcal{M}_{14}_k)^T \mathbf{h}_k - \mathbf{g}^T (\mathbf{G} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{G}^T + \mathbf{R}) \mathbf{g}$$



change in predictability due to the covariance between errors in the *priors*  $\mathbf{z}_b$  and errors in the time evolving *prior* circulation  $x_b(t)$  evaluated at the observation points.



change in predictability associated with the stabilized representer matrix - a combination of the covariance between errors in the time evolving *prior* circulation at the observation points, and the covariance between the observation errors (including errors of representativeness).

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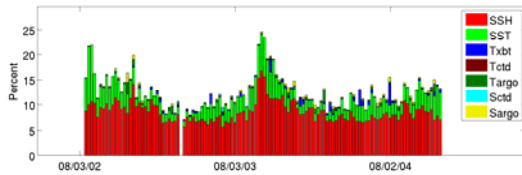
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**Example: 37N Transport Predictability**



$$r = 100 \left\{ \frac{(\sigma_{14}^f)^2 - (\sigma_7^f)^2}{(\sigma_{14}^f)^2} \right\}$$

$r > 0$  implies 4D-Var increases predictability

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**Issues, Things to do, & Coming Soon**

- Observation sensitivity only available for dual 4D-Var.
- Observation impact and observation sensitivity calculations are currently restricted to a single outer-loop – multiple outer-loops coming soon.
- Increase the modularity of ROMS drivers so that arbitrary sequences of operators (linear and non-linear) can be formed.

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## Summary

- Observation impact is based on  $\tilde{\mathbf{K}}^T$  and yields the actual contribution of each obs to the circulation increments.
- Observation sensitivity is based on  $(4D\text{-Var})^T$  and yields the change in circulation due to changes in obs (or array)
  - useful for efficient generation of OSEs.
- Both obs impact and obs sensitivity were applied in examples during analysis cycle, but can be applied during forecast cycle also (Moore et al, 2010c).
- $(4D\text{-Var})^T$  yields more reliable estimates of  $\mathbf{E}^a$  and  $\mathbf{E}^f$  and predictability.

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## References

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