



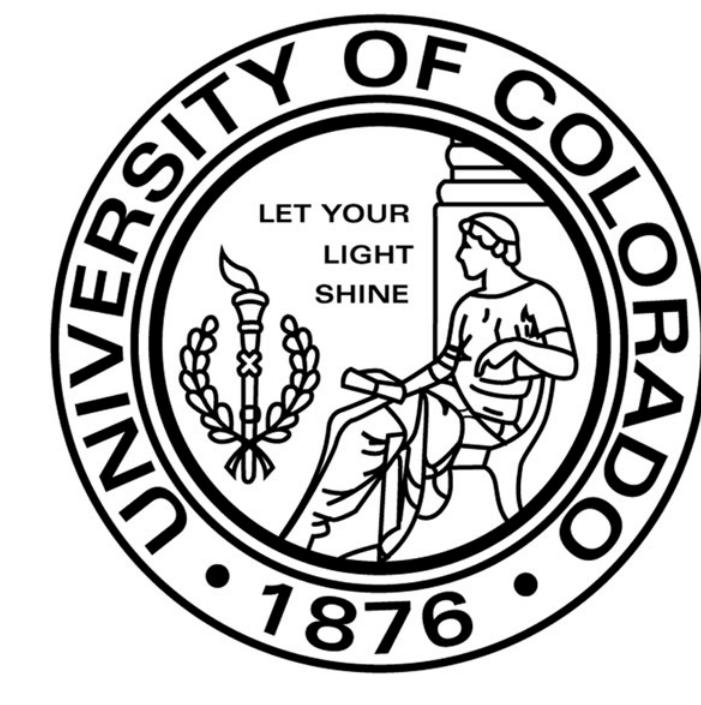
Evaluation of WRF Radiation and Microphysics Parameterizations for Use in the Arctic

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Introduction

The Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model is being used for applications in the polar regions ranging from real-time forecasting to regional climate simulations. A key to the performance of WRF in the polar regions is the evaluation and identification of an ideal suite of WRF physics parameterizations that best represent the polar atmosphere. This study evaluates 32 combinations of WRF 3.4.1 shortwave radiation, longwave radiation, and microphysics in month-long regional climate simulations over four months and two domains (256 sims). The results are statistically compared against surface meteorology and radiation observations from Barrow, Alaska and Summit Camp, Greenland. The end goal is the identification of a preferred combination(s) of radiation and microphysics parameterizations for use in the Arctic.

Methodology

WRF Configuration:

- WRF 3.4.1 (released 08/2012)
- Model forcing:
Lateral/Boundary – ERA-Interim
Sea-ice – NSIDC Near-Real-Time
- 2x – Horizontal Domains:
Alaska – centered on Barrow, AK
Greenland – centered on Summit Camp
- Dom. 1 – 30 km, Dom. 2 – 10 km
–one-way nesting
- Timestep: D1 – 180 s, D2 – 60 s
- Vertical – 40 levels, 50 mb top
- The simulations start on the last day of the previous month, run the entire month, and the first 24 hours are discarded.
- 4x – Dates: July 2011, October 2011, January 2012, April 2012

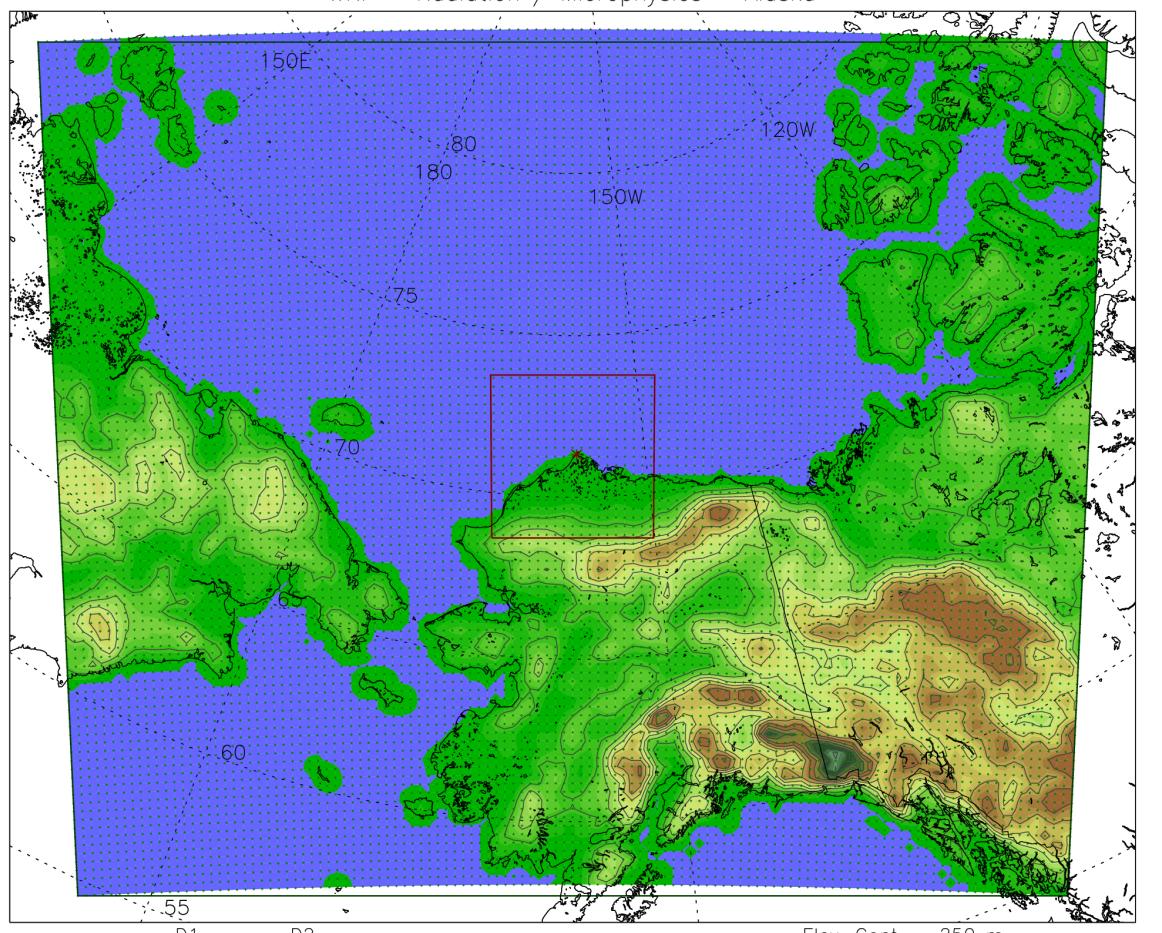


Fig. 1: Geographic map indicating the 30 km (D1) and the 10km (D2) domains for the Alaska and Greenland simulations.

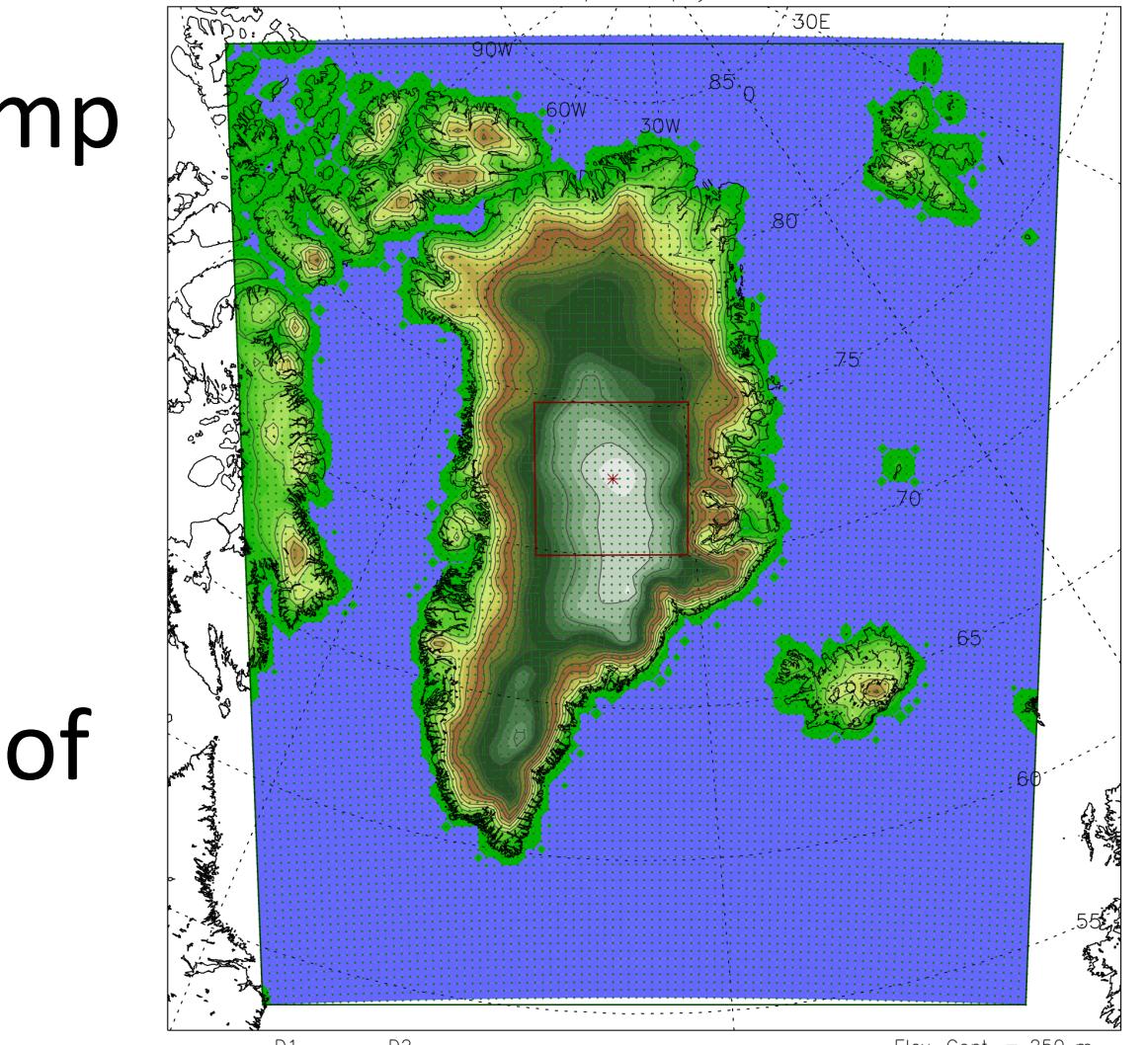


Fig. 1: Geographic map indicating the 30 km (D1) and the 10km (D2) domains for the Alaska and Greenland simulations.

Observations:

- The WRF simulations are compared against observations to determine the better performing physics parameterizations
- Observations: temperature and dew point at 2 m, wind speed and wind direction at 10 m, surface pressure, downwelling shortwave radiation, and downwelling longwave radiation
- In the near future, radiosonde, ice-water path, and liquid-water path observations will be included in the analysis
- Barrow, AK: DOE ARM North Slope of Alaska Facility
- Summit Camp: Met. - NOAA-Global Monitoring Division, Rad. – Steffen Research Group, Univ. of Colorado

Statistical Comparison:

- Values from WRF are extracted using the WRF time series ability for the nearest model point to Barrow and Summit.
- Hourly averages created from the 1m/3m WRF time series.
- Hourly averages created from 1-minute observations.
- Time series plots (Fig. 2) are created for each meteorological and radiation variable.
- Statistical measures of Bias, RMSE, and Correlation are calculated for each variable.
- Each of the 32 physics configurations are ranked (Fig. 3) in each statistical category (Bias, RMSE, and Corr.) for each variable.

- The rankings of the statistical measures are averaged for each variable for each physics configuration. The standard dev. is also calculated.
- This process is repeated for each variable (6), for each site (2), for each domain (2), and for each month (4).
- Different aggregations (e.g. by site, by month, by surface met.) are created to evaluate the relative performance of each WRF physics configuration.

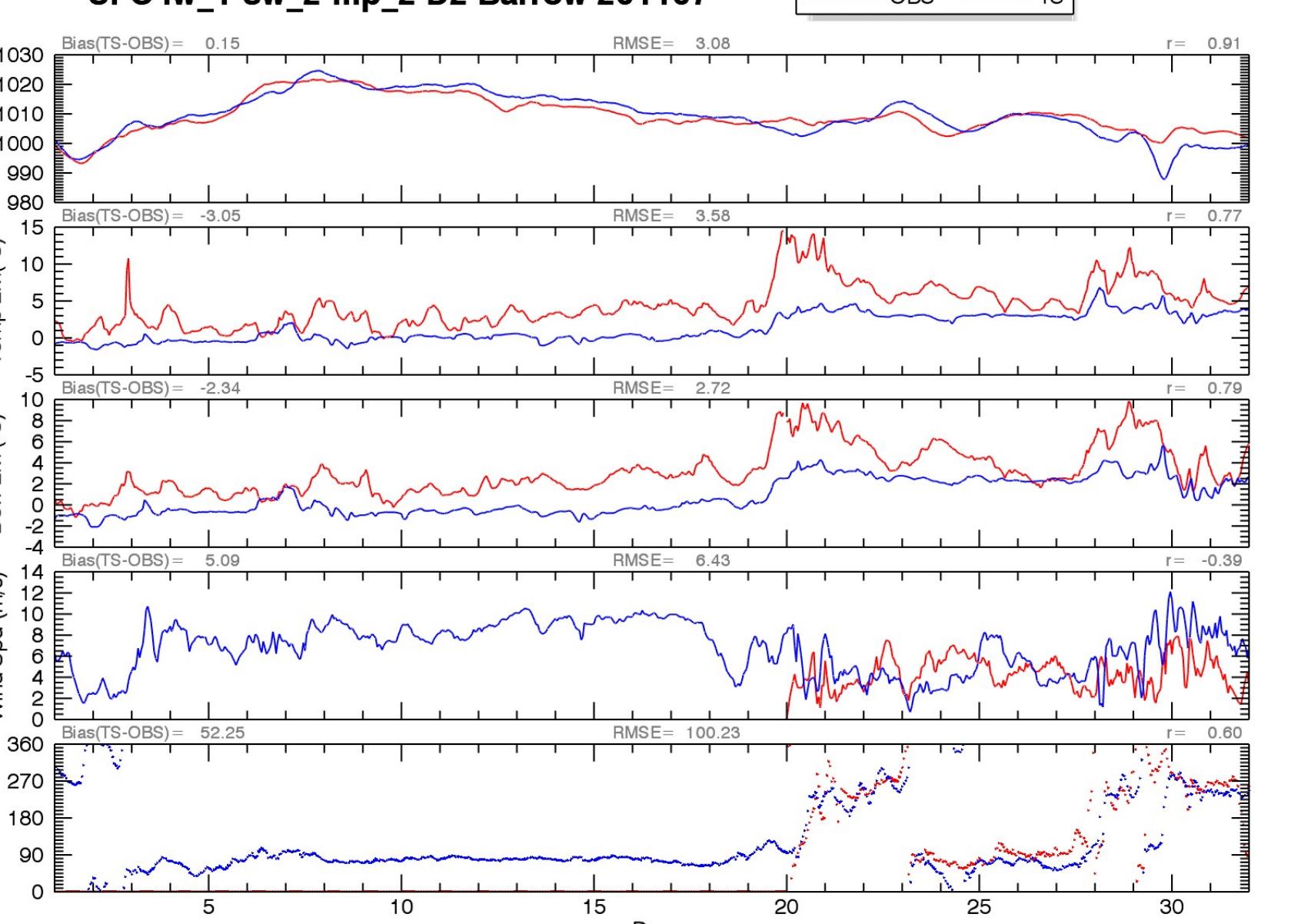


Fig. 2: Time series plot comparing WRF simulation results to observations for P sfc, T 2m, T_d 2m, WS 10m, and WD 10m for Barrow, Domain 2, July 2011.

Barrow - D2 - 201107 P_SFC	T_2M			T_d_2M											
	Bias	RMSE	Corr	Avg	Std	Bias	RMSE	Corr	Avg	Std					
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_2	5	12	16	11.0	5.6	22	10	18.0	6.9	23	20	5	16.0	9.6	
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_4	14	25	28	22.3	7.4	18	17	14.0	6.1	17	16	14	15.7	1.5	
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_6	13	19	28	20.0	7.5	12	17	13.7	2.9	11	15	14	16.7	6.7	
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_7	7	2	3	4.0	2.6	10	14	14.7	5.0	16	14	11	13.7	2.5	
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_8	3	1	1	1.7	1.2	14	13	15.0	1.0	13	11	3	9.0	5.3	
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_10	1	9	17	9.0	8.0	5	11	15.3	13.1	2	7	30	13.0	14.9	
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_13	6	21	30	19.0	12.1	3	2	23	9.3	11.8	5	4	16	8.3	6.7
Iw_1-sw_2-mp_14	8	17	27	17.3	9.5	8	6	11.4	15	20	28	21.0	6.6		
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_2	32	29	29	26.7	6.8	27	26	19.0	4.4	28	27	20	25.0	4.4	
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_4	25	32	32	29.7	4.0	29	32	31	30.7	1.5	29	31	30.3	1.2	
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_6	29	31	31	30.3	1.2	29	27	18	24.7	5.9	27	25	20	3.6	
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_7	26	16	17.3	8.1	31	30	22	27.9	4.9	32	18	27.3	8.1		
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_8	31	30	21	27.3	5.5	28	27	27.6	0.6	31	30	25	28.7	3.2	
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_10	30	28	20	26.0	5.3	32	31	24	29.0	4.4	25	26	25.7	0.6	
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_13	20	11	5	12.0	7.5	8	6	5.3	3.1	24	20	10	19.3	8.1	
Iw_1-sw_3-mp_14	10	14	16	10.4	3.1	25	25	6	18.0	11.0	30	28	6	21.3	13.3
Iw_1-sw_4-mp_2	15	5	12	10.7	5.1	15	14	12.7	3.2	20	16	6	14.0	2.2	
Iw_1-sw_4-mp_4	19	13	12	14.7	3.8	19	20	14	17.7	3.2	21	19	6	15.3	8.1
Iw_1-sw_4-mp_6	11	20	25	18.7	7.1	26	29	32	29.0	3.0	25	29	32	28.7	3.5
Iw_4-sw_4-mp_7	18	10	11	13.0	4.4	9	7	1	5.7	4.2	8	6	4	6.0	2.0

Fig. 3: Rankings of statistical measures of Bias, RMSE, and Corr. for each physics configuration for Barrow, Domain 2, July 2011. The mean and standard dev. for the three statistical rankings are also calculated.

Results

Rank	Radiation (lw_sw_#)	1-2 : RRTM/Goddard	3-3 : CAM	4-4 : RRTMG	5-5 : New Thompson				
Rank	Micromphys (mp_#)	2:Lin	4:WRF-SM5	6:WRF-SM6	7:Goddard	8:N.Thompson	10:Morrison	13:Stony Brook	14:WRF-DM6

Total – Variables/Months/Domains:

- The radiation parameterizations is the significant factor in the results
- RRTMG rad does consistently well
- RRTM/Goddard is consistently the lower performing radiation combo
- N.Thompson radiation does better in Barrow, CAM at Summit
- Goddard mp is consistently at the top of the rankings within a selected radiation combination

Energy Budget (T_2m, SW_d, LW_d):

- RRTMG is consistently the best when looking at radiation and temp
- N.Thompson performs poorly
- CAM radiation is overall the second best option
- Goddard provides the best microphysics results
- Beyond the Goddard, sorting the microphysics is not as clear

July 2011 / April 2012 – Total:

- There is some variation from month to month in the results
- RRTM/Goddard performs reasonable in July and poor in April
- CAM performs poor in July and good in April
- RRTMG radiation and Goddard microphysics continues to out perform all others

Rank	AVG	STD	COMBO	Summit Camp - Total
1	11.47	4.11	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_7
2	13.32	8.31	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_7
3	14.77	10.33	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_10
4	14.97	8.26	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_8
5	15.03	9.56	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_7
6	15.42	9.49	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_10
7	15.46	10.25	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_10
8	15.56	10.25	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_14
9	15.64	7.20	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_2
10	15.76	6.19	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_2
11	15.79	7.64	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_6
12	15.80	10.42	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_13
13	15.84	8.20	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_10
14	15.96	6.85	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_4
15	16.08	7.86	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_4
16	16.15	7.60	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_7
17	16.22	8.71	Iw_4-sw_4	mp_14
18	16.24	7.00	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_13
19	16.26	7.83	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_14
20	16.52	7.83	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_2
21	16.63	9.41	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_6
22	16.64	8.45	Iw_3-sw_3	mp_8
23	16.65	9.84	Iw_1-sw_2	mp_8
24	16.76	11.20	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_13
25	16.80	8.75	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_10
26	17.08	9.08	Iw_5-sw_5	mp_2
27	17.53	9.00	Iw_1-sw_2	mp_14