Parameterizations (fluxes, convection)

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- New resolutions new challenges
- What is the current status?
 - Surface fluxes
 - Convection
- Towards improving parameterisations





Scales of atmospheric phenomena



(based on Orlanski, 1975; Randerson, 1976; Tangermann-Dlugi, 1982; Schlünzen, 1996)



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Requirements for ~2km resolution models

- No parameterisations needed (resolved): sea breeze, urban heat island, thunderstorms, (orography effects, deep convection).
- Remaining sub-grid-scale processes: Convection, thermals, building wakes, turbulence, (orographic effects, deep convection).

Challenge: Parameterisations for 1 to 10 km resolution!

- Sub-grid-scale land-use effects (incl. heat island),
- Sub-grid scale orography effects,
- Convection (shallow towards deep, thunderstorms).





Current status





Surface fluxes:

Effects of main land-use in numerical models

- Different surface temperatures arise over different soils / land-uses.
- Horizontal temperature gradients develop.
- Advectives flow is generated (reduces temperature / pressure difference).

Reduced grid size with same land-use (and horizontal temperature difference) increases horizontal flow.



Sub-grid-scale land-use considered in METRAS, data resolution 1km





Available methods for considering sub-grid-scale land-use effects

- Parameter averages.
- Average surface fluxes.
- Mosaic method.





Available methods for considering sub-grid-scale orography effects

- Envelope method.
- Increased roughness length.

No method for considering sub-gridscale shading, insolation and coherent structeres forced by subgrid-scale orography.



Atmospheric structure



Surface layer

Scaling values without convection:

$$u_{*}$$
, $\overline{\theta'w'}$, $\overline{q'w'}$, z , g/θ , $L = -\frac{u_{*}^{3}}{\kappa \frac{g}{\theta} \overline{\theta'w'}}$

Free convection scaling:

$$w_{*} = \left(\frac{g}{\theta} \overline{\theta' w' \cdot z_{i}}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \quad \overline{\theta' w'}, \quad \overline{q' w'}, \quad z_{i}, \quad g/\theta$$

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Sub-grid-scale land-use schemes (friction velocity)

Flux Averaging:

$$u_{*} = \kappa U(z) \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{f_{i}}{(\textit{In}(z/z_{0i}) - \psi_{m}(z/L_{i}))^{2}}}$$





Convection in Ekman layer

Several schemes, including counter gradient schemes:

$$\overline{\mathbf{w}'\mathbf{\theta}'} = -\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{\theta}\mathbf{v}} \left(\frac{\partial\overline{\mathbf{\theta}}}{\partial \mathbf{z}} - \Gamma\right)$$

Postulated in 1947 by Priestley and Swinbank, first values for Γ by Deardorff (1972), LES-derived values for Γ by Troen and Mahrt (1986), Holtslag and Moeng (1991); parameter adjustments thereafter (e.g. Lüpkes and Schlünzen, 1996).

No 3-d measurements for verification over heterogeneous land use! Challenge: Determine Γ 60 years after postulation.





Temperature for polar cold air outbreak



Parameterisations (fluxes, convection) – Contribution for preparing SPP IOP.

Image: Second second

Temporal development of liquid water path (mm)



(results of model PALM by Jansen et al., 2004)





Wind field and cloud water content Vertical cross section 120km downwind of the ice edge





Cumulus cloud development over homogeneous terrain







Summarizing current status

- Mesoscale models with different parameterisations for turbulence incl. convection and sub-grid-scale fluxes.
- LES models with/without chemistry.
- 2-D measurements over the oceans for relatively simple surface conditions.



Improving parameterisations –

What is needed (sub-grid-scale land-use & convection)

- 4-D measurements (incl. spectra) of
 - sensible and latent heat fluxes,
 - liquid water content and
 - momentum fluxes

over heterogeneous terrain for convective situations.

- PBL-height (3-D).
- Detailed land-use information [~100 metres, 2-D] incl.
 - soil water content,
 - LAI and
 - small scale orography information.
- (Entrainment / detrainment & mixing in clouds 4-D).
- LES models for detailed simulations (4-D).
- Mesoscale models for testing available and new (LES and measurement based) parameterisations (4-D).



