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ICTP/WMO WORKSHOP ON EXTRA-TROPICAL AND TROPICAL  
LIMITED AREA MODELLING  
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"Spectral Method in LAMs"

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*Please note: These are preliminary notes intended for internal distribution only.*

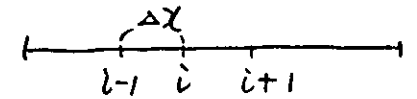
# Spectral Method in LAMs

A. Segami

1. Grid point method
2. Spectral method  
advantage and disadvantage
3. Regional spectral method
4. Intercomparison between  
spectral and grid point LAMs

## 1. Grid point method

$$u = u(x)$$



↓ introduction of a set of grid points

$$u_i = u(i\Delta x) \quad (i = 0, 1, \dots, N)$$

$$x_i = i\Delta x$$

— finite difference method

$$\frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)_i \doteq \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x} \quad \dots \text{forward difference}$$

$$\doteq \frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{\Delta x} \quad \dots \text{backward difference}$$

$$\doteq \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\Delta x} \quad \dots \text{centered difference}$$

1. Truncation error of the finite difference

• forward difference

$$\frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x} = \left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)_i + \epsilon_f$$

$$\epsilon_f = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d^2u}{dx^2}\right)_i (\Delta x) + \frac{1}{3!} \left(\frac{d^3u}{dx^3}\right)_i (\Delta x)^2 + \dots$$

$\epsilon_f = O(\Delta x)$  the first order of accuracy

• Centered difference

$$\frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\Delta x} = \left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)_i + \epsilon_c$$

$$\epsilon_c = \frac{1}{3!} \left(\frac{d^3u}{dx^3}\right)_i (\Delta x)^2 + \frac{1}{5!} \left(\frac{d^5u}{dx^5}\right)_i (\Delta x)^4 + \dots$$

$\epsilon_c = O(\Delta x)^2$  the second order of accuracy

2. Spectral method (Galerkin method)

$$\frac{\partial \psi(x,t)}{\partial t} = F(\psi(x,t), x, t) \quad (1)$$

$$\psi(x,t) \doteq \sum_{n=1}^N C_n(t) \phi_n(x) \quad (2)$$

$\phi_n$  : orthogonal functions  
(orthonormal)

$(\phi_n, \phi_m) = \int \phi_n \phi_m dx = \delta_{nm} \begin{cases} = 1 & (n=m) \\ = 0 & (n \neq m) \end{cases}$  *normalized*

inner product

ex. Fourier series, Spherical harmonics

(2)  $\rightarrow$  (1) and inner product

$$\frac{\partial C_n(t)}{\partial t} = (\phi_n(x), F(\sum_m C_m \phi_m(x), x, t))$$

$$C_n(0) = (\phi_n, \psi(x, 0))$$

# Advantages of spectral method

(compared with a grid point method)

## (1) Accuracy

- Space derivative can be evaluated accurately
- elimination of computational dispersion
- retardation of phase speed
- elimination of aliasing error and nonlinear instability

## (2) Simplicity

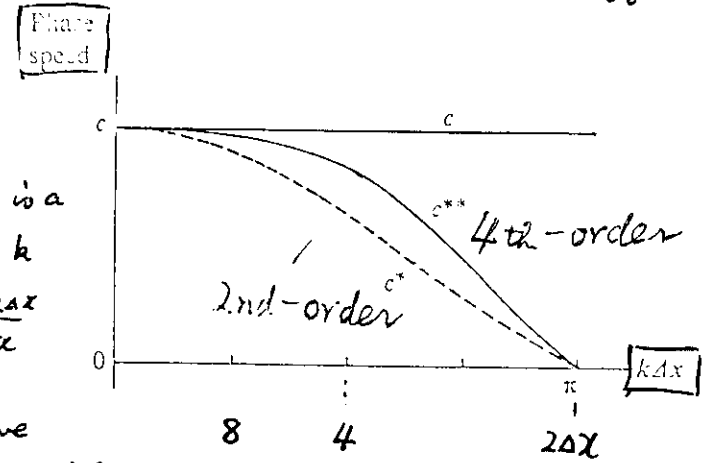
- the ease of modeling (conservation law)
- the ease of incorporation of NNMI and semi-implicit scheme

## (3) Economy

almost same as grid point model with the use of FFT and transform method

## Computational dispersion

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$



• The phase speed is a function of  $k$

$$c^* = c \cdot \frac{\sin k\Delta x}{k\Delta x}$$

• All waves have smaller phase speed than the true one

$$c^* < c$$

### Aliasing error

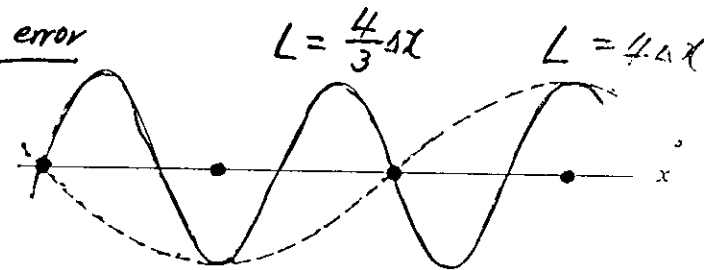


Figure 6.1 A wave of wave length  $4\Delta x/3$ , misrepresented by the finite difference grid as a wave of wave length  $4\Delta x$ .



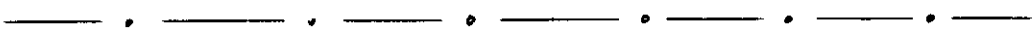
$$k^* = 2k_{max} - k$$

# Disadvantage

Difficulty in treating a time dependent lateral boundary condition



Solved by Tateumi (1985, 1986)



• Fourier sine series

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K S_k \sin \frac{\pi k x}{L} \quad \left( \frac{d^{2n} f}{dx^{2n}} \right)_{x=0,L} = 0$$

$$f = 0$$

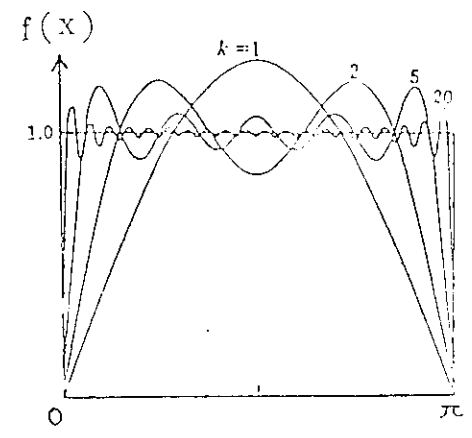
• Fourier cosine series

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^K C_k \cos \frac{\pi k x}{L} \quad \left( \frac{d^{2n+1} f}{dx^{2n+1}} \right)_{x=0,L} = 0$$

$$\frac{df}{dx} = 0$$



• Gibbs phenomena



$f(x) = 1$   
 expansion with Fourier sine series

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1} \sin kx$$

### 3. Regional spectral method

$$f(x) = f_N(x) + f_0(x)$$

$f_N$ : non-orthogonal term (additional term)

large scale field which is  
derived from a time dependant  
lateral boundary condition.

$f_0$ : orthogonal term

$$\sum S_k \sin kx \text{ or } \sum C_k \cos kx$$

deviation from  $f_N(x)$

• Necessary condition for  $f_N(x)$  at the L.B.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f_N(x) \neq 0 \\ \frac{df_N(x)}{dx} \neq 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{if } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f_0(x) = 0 \\ \text{sine series} \\ \frac{df_0}{dx} = 0 \\ \text{cosine series} \end{array} \right\} \text{ at L.B.}$$

### Additional bases

$$f_N(x) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} : \underline{1, \cos x} \text{ for } f_0(x) \text{ --- sine series} \\ \quad f_N \neq 0 \text{ at L.B.} \\ : \underline{\sin x, \sin 2x} \text{ for } f_0(x) \text{ --- cosine series} \\ \quad \frac{df_N}{dx} = 0 \text{ at L.B.} \end{array} \right.$$

### Modified Fourier expansion

• Modified sine series

$$f(x) = \underbrace{S_0 \cos 0x + S_{-1} \cos x}_{\substack{\text{non-orthogonal term} \\ \text{prescribed} \\ \text{to satisfy L.B.C.}}} + \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^K \boxed{S_k} \sin kx}_{\substack{\text{orthogonal term} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{prognostic} \\ \text{variable}}}$$

$$= \sum_{k=-1}^K S_k \sin^* kx$$

• Modified cosine series

$$f(x) = C_{-1} \sin x + C_{-2} \sin 2x + \sum_{k=0}^K C_k \cos kx$$

$$= \sum_{k=-1}^K C_k \cos^* kx$$

--- Modified sine

$$f(0) = S_0 + S_{-1}, \quad f(\pi) = S_0 - S_{-1}$$

↓

$$S_0 = \frac{f(0) + f(\pi)}{2}$$

$$S_{-1} = \frac{f(0) - f(\pi)}{2}$$

) values are given from L.B.C.

--- Modified cosine

$$f'(0) = C_{-1} + 2C_{-2}, \quad f'(\pi) = -C_{-1} + 2C_{-2}$$

↓

$$C_{-1} = \frac{f'(0) - f'(\pi)}{2}$$

$$C_{-2} = \frac{f'(0) + f'(\pi)}{4}$$

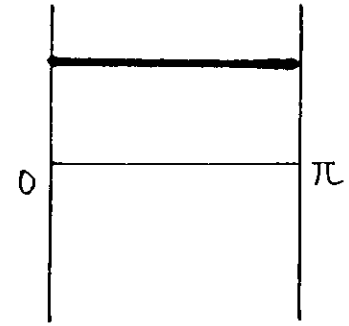
(  $f' \equiv \frac{df}{dx}$  )

derivatives are given from L.B.C.

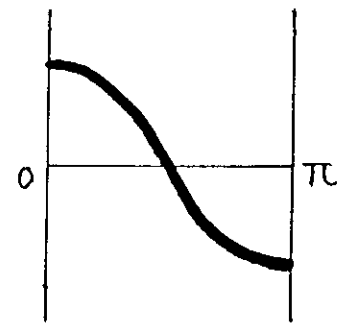
Additional bases  
non-orthogonal term

$$F_N(x)$$

1. For modified sine series

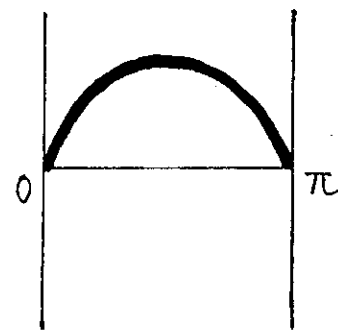


cos 0 x

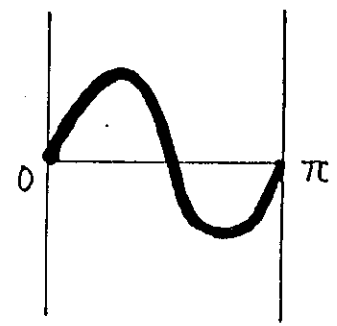


cos 1 x

2. For modified cosine series

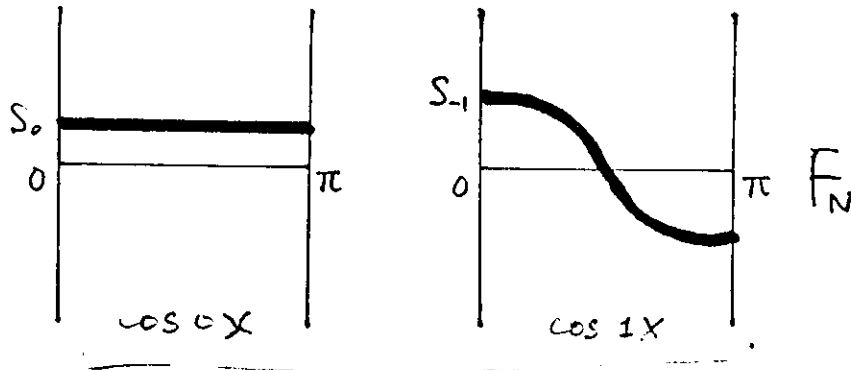
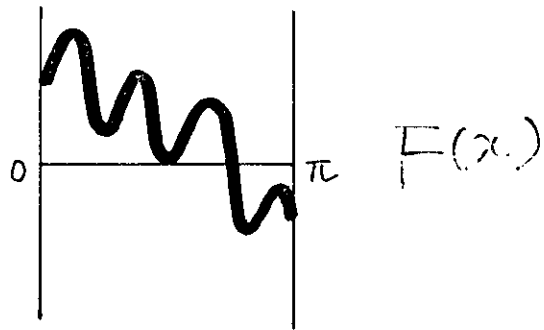


sin 1 x

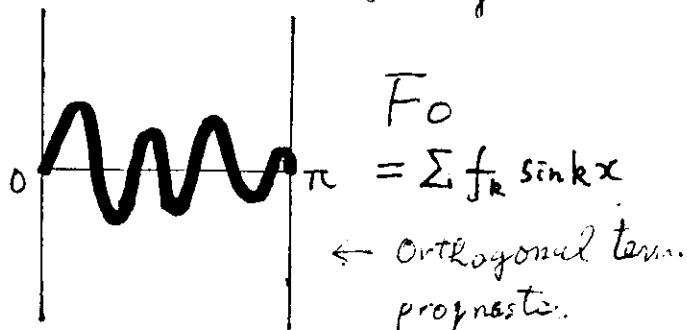


sin 2 x

◦ Modified sine expansion



non-orthogonal term prescribed from the boundary value



Prognostic eq. of  $S_k$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F(u, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, x, t)$$

$$u = \sum S_k \sin^* kx = S_0 + S_{-1} \cos x + \sum_1^K S_k \sin kx$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial S_{-1}}{\partial t} \cos x + \sum \frac{\partial S_k}{\partial t} \sin kx$$

Fourier transform

$$\therefore \frac{\partial S_k}{\partial t} = \epsilon_k \int_0^\pi \sin kx \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial S_{-1}}{\partial t} \cos x \right] dx$$

( $\epsilon_k$ : normalizing factor)

◦ Interaction coefficient method

$$F = -u \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F = - \sum_{l,m} S_l^m S_m \sin^* lx \frac{d \sin^* mx}{dx}$$

summation  $O(k^2)$  operations

— convolution is calculated analytically

$$\left( \int_0^\pi \sin kx \sin^* lx \frac{d \sin^* mx}{dx} dx \right)$$



# Linear advection

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0 \quad L = 6d$$

• Transform method

$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$  is calculated over grid points

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right)_i = F_i = -U_i \cdot \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_i$$

analytical

$$\int_0^\pi \sin kx \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dx \implies \sum \sin \frac{k\pi x}{N} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right)_i \Delta x$$

Integral      trapezoidal formula      FFT

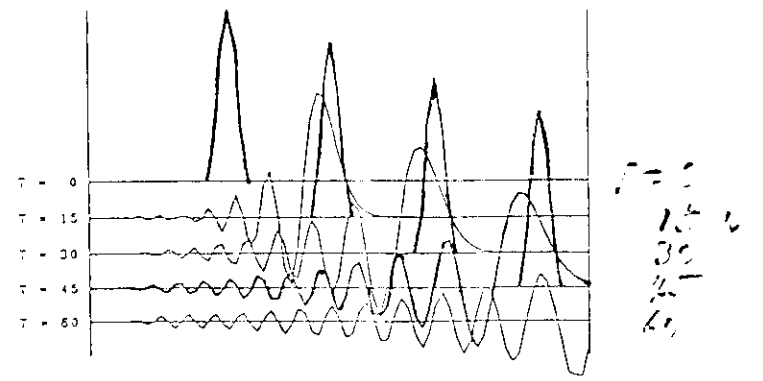
$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{if } N > \frac{3K}{2} \\ \text{or } IM > \frac{3K}{2} + 1 \end{array} \right)$   
 diminution of aliasing error



Transform method + FFT  
 $O(K \log K)$  operations

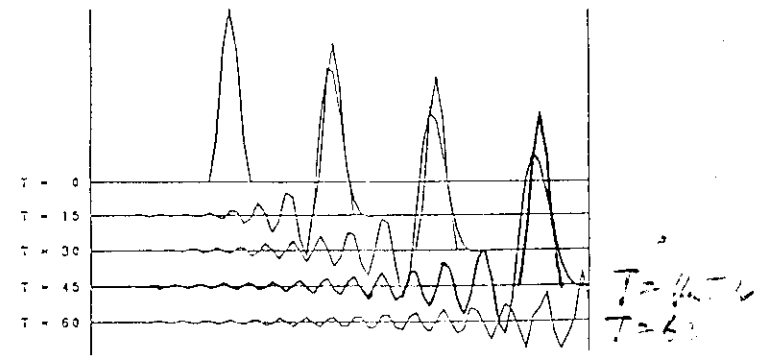
Grid (2nd order) L = 6d (d=90km) U = 25m/s

Grid  
 (2nd order)



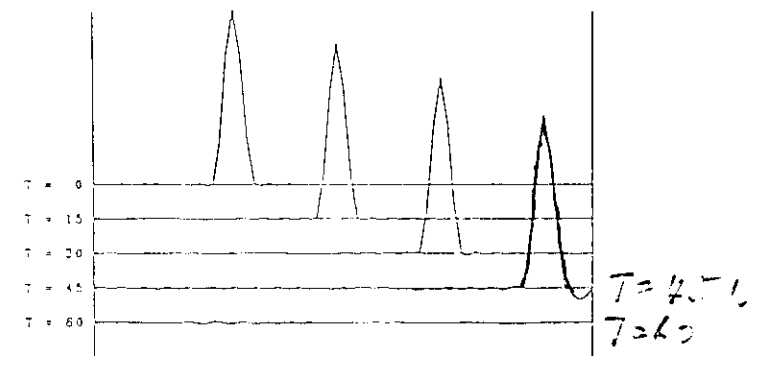
Grid (4th order) L = 6d (d=90km) U = 25m/s

Grid  
 (4th order)



Spectral (sin) L = 6d (d=90km) U = 25m/s

Spectral  
 (sin)



# 3-dim. model

Vertical ---- finite difference method

horizontal ---- double Fourier series

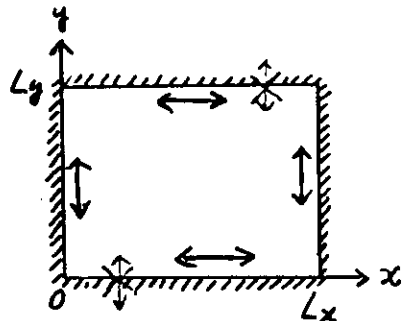
$$u^* : \sin^* k \hat{x} \cdot \cos^* l \hat{y}$$

$$v^* : \cos^* k \hat{x} \cdot \sin^* l \hat{y}$$

$$T, \pi, m^2 : \cos^* k \hat{x} \cdot \cos^* l \hat{y}$$

$$q, f : \sin^* k \hat{x} \cdot \sin^* l \hat{y}$$

$$\left( \hat{x} = \frac{\pi x}{L_x}, \hat{y} = \frac{\pi y}{L_y} \right)$$



- Orthogonal bases satisfy

free-slip wall boundary condition.  
(mirror boundary condition) (except.  $q$ )

- Fourier functions produced from r.h.s. of eqs agree with the ones of l.h.s. of eqs.



(orthogonal basis)  
elimination of errors when you calculate convolutions

$$u^* = \frac{u}{m}, v^* = \frac{v}{m}, T, q, \pi^* = l n p_s$$

Equations of motion

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial t} = & -m^2 \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - \frac{1}{2} u^* \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - \sigma \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial \sigma} - \left\{ \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + RT_v \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial x} \right\} \\ & + v^* \left\{ f + \frac{1}{2} \left( u^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial y} - v^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial x} \right) \right\} \\ & + Du - \frac{g}{mp_s} \frac{\partial T_x}{\partial \sigma} \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial t} = & -m^2 \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - \frac{1}{2} v^* \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - \sigma \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial \sigma} - \left\{ \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + RT_v \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - u^* \left\{ f + \frac{1}{2} \left( u^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial y} - v^* \frac{\partial m^2}{\partial x} \right) \right\} \\ & + Dv - \frac{g}{mp_s} \frac{\partial T_y}{\partial \sigma} \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Thermodynamic equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial T_v}{\partial t} = & -m^2 \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial T_v}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial T_v}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - \kappa_v \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma} \left( \frac{\partial T_v}{\partial x} \right) \\ & + \kappa T_v \left\{ \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial t} + m^2 \left( u^* \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial y} \right) \right\} \\ & + \frac{Q^*}{C_p} + \frac{g}{C_p p_s} \frac{\partial F_H}{\partial \sigma} + D_H \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Equation of water vapor

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = & -m^2 \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right\} \\ & - \sigma \frac{\partial q}{\partial \sigma} + M + \frac{g}{p_s} \frac{\partial F_q}{\partial \sigma} + D_q \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Tendency equation and continuity equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial t} = & - \int_0^{\sigma} m^2 \left\{ \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial y} \right\} d\sigma \\ & - \int_0^{\sigma} m^2 \left\{ u^* \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial x} + v^* \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial y} \right\} d\sigma \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

$$\dot{\sigma}_{\sigma+\Delta\sigma} = \dot{\sigma}_{\sigma} - m^2 \int_{\sigma}^{\sigma+\Delta\sigma}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{ \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial y} + u^* \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial x} \right. \\ & \left. + v^* \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial y} \right\} d\sigma - \Delta\sigma \frac{\partial \pi^*}{\partial t} \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Hydrostatic equation

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \sigma} = -C_p T_v \sigma^{-\kappa} : \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \sigma} = -\frac{RT_v}{\sigma} \quad (2.7)$$

## Maximum wavenumber

$$\frac{m^2 \cdot u \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}}{K_m \cdot 2K}$$

elimination of aliasing error

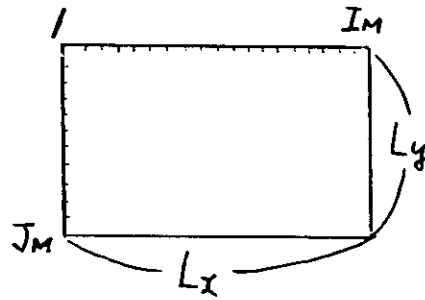
$$2(I_M - 1) > 2K + K_m + K$$

$$\begin{cases} I_M > \frac{3K + K_m}{2} + 1 \\ J_M > \frac{3L + L_m}{2} + 1 \end{cases}$$

( $K_m = L_m = 5$ )

$K, L$  : max. wavenumber for  $x, y$ -direction

$K_m, L_m$  : max. wavenumber of  $m^2$



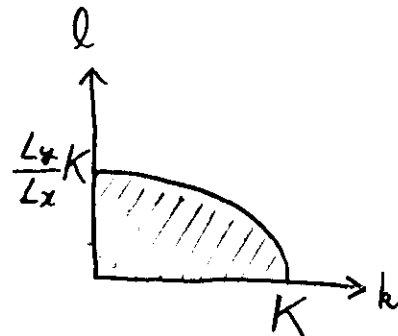
## Wavenumber truncation

$$f = \sin\left(\frac{k\pi x}{L_x}\right) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{l\pi y}{L_y}\right)$$

$$\left(\frac{k\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{l\pi}{L_y}\right)^2 \leq \left(\frac{K\pi}{L_x}\right)^2$$

$$k^2 + \left(\frac{L_x}{L_y}\right)^2 l^2 \leq K^2$$

$$\downarrow \left(\frac{I_M - 1}{2}\right)^2$$



elliptic truncation

## Boundary relaxation

to reduce the spurious solution near lateral boundary

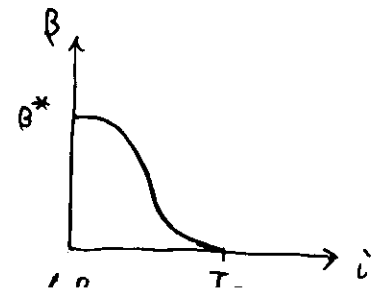
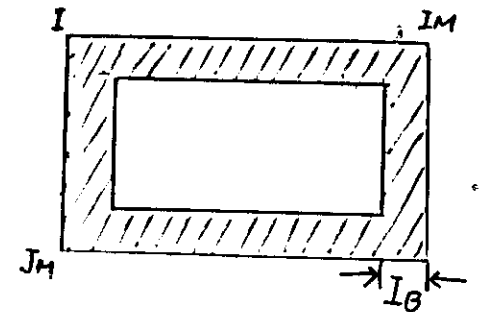
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \dots - \beta (f - \hat{f})$$

(in physical space)

$f$  : interior field

$\hat{f}$  : boundary field

linearly interpolated  
in time



# Spectral LAM in ECMWF

Hoyer (1987)

$$f(x) = \underbrace{f_N(x)} + \underbrace{f_0(x)}$$

ECM Global  
forecasts

Double Fourier

$f_0$ :  $\sin kx \sin l\theta$  for  $\xi$   
:  $\cos kx \cos l\theta$  for  $D, T, \xi$

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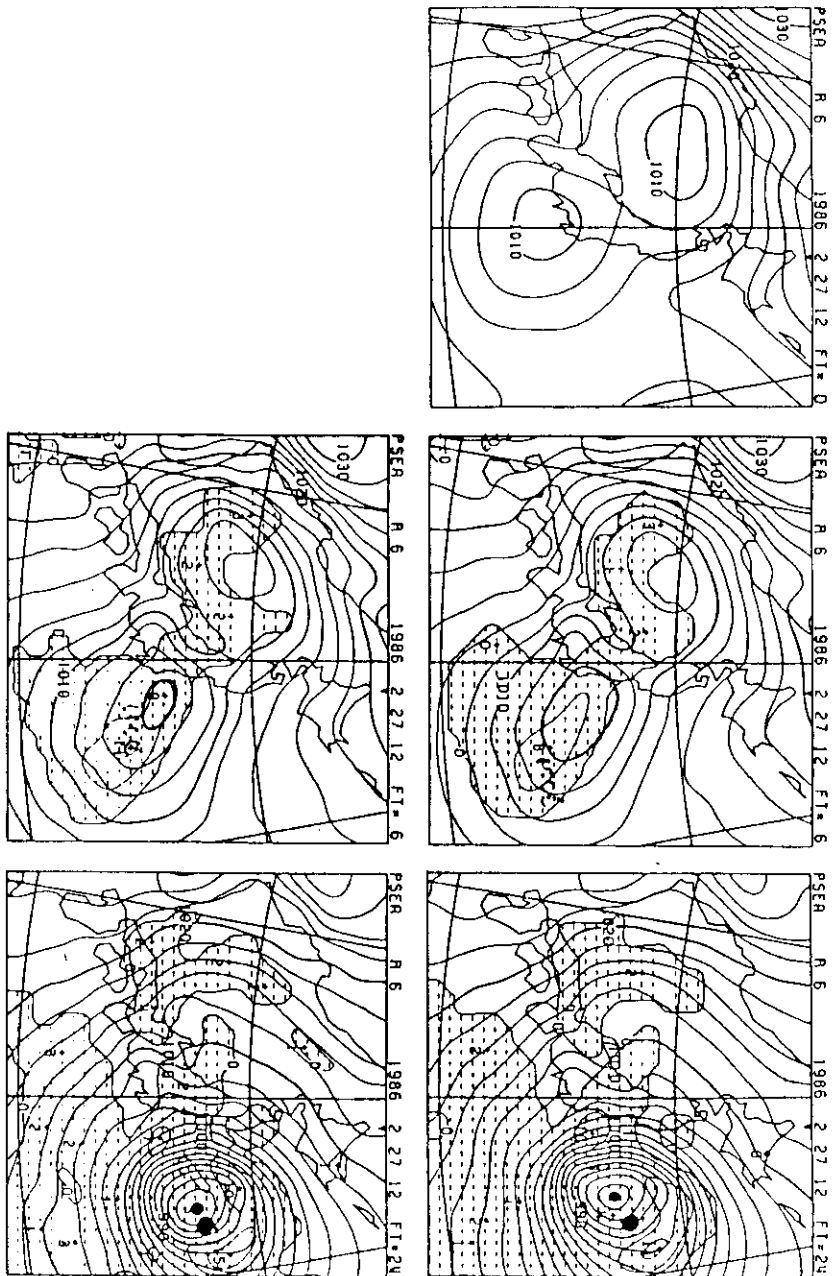
### Spectral method

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### Spectral method in LAMs

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Takano, I., H. Nakamura and Y. Tatsumi, 1990: Non-linear normal mode initialization for a spectral limited-area model. J. Met. Soc. Japan, 68, 265-280.  
Hoyer, J.M., 1987: The ECMWF Spectral limited area model. ECMWF Workshop Proceedings, 2-4 November 1987.

Fig. 1 Sea level pressure fields and 6-hour accumulated precipitation amounts. The top panels represent the results using the spectral model, while the bottom panels represent the grid point model. The analyzed central position is shown by black circles in the figures.



Spectral

Grid

and 576

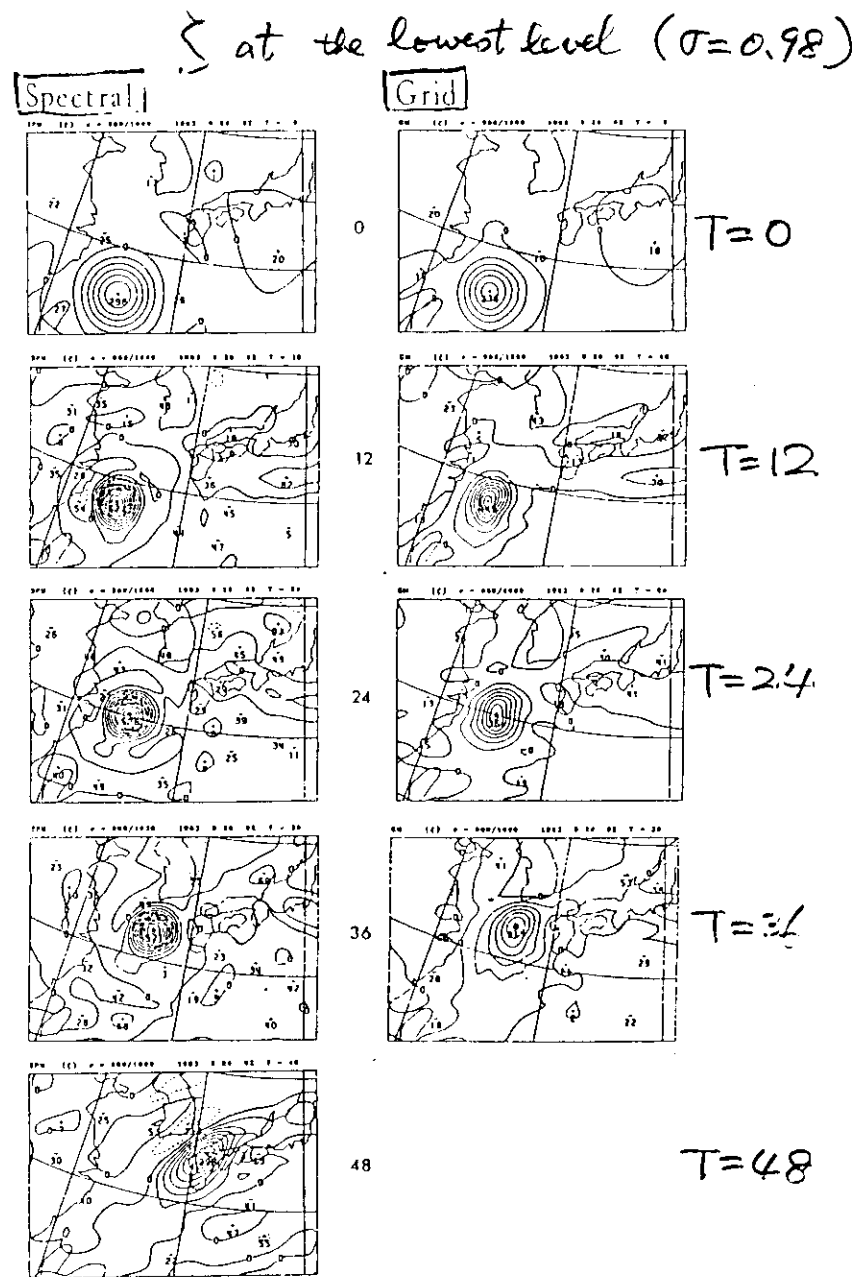


Fig. 15a The forecast comparison of the vorticity of typhoon Forrest (T8310) at the lowest sigma level ( $\sigma=0.98$ ) of the spectral 12L-FLM with E46 truncation (left column) and the grid point 12L-FLM (right column), from initial (top panels) to 48 hours (bottom panel). Contour line of the negative vorticity is shown by broken lines. The integer numbers in the middle column show the forecast time (hour).

