OUTLINE

OF

THE OPERATIONAL NUMERICAL WEATHER PREDICTION

AT

THE JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

Appendix to WMO Technical Progress Report on the Global Data-processing and

Forecasting System (GDPFS) and Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Research

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Contents

Preface **ix**

1 Computer System **1**
1.1 Introduction . . . 1
1.2 System Configurations and Specifications . . . 2
1.2.1 Overview . . . 2
1.2.2 High Performance Computer . . . 2
1.2.3 Server and Terminal Computers at Kiyose . . . 4
1.2.4 Mass Storage System . . . 4
1.2.5 Networks . . . 5
1.2.6 Server and Terminal Computers at Osaka . . . 5
1.3 Operational Aspects . . . 5
1.3.1 Operational Suite . . . 5
1.3.2 ROSE:Job Scheduler . . . 6
1.3.3 RENS:Operational Job Management System . . . 6

2 Data Assimilation Systems **9**
2.1 Summary . . . 9
2.2 Observation Data . . . 14
2.2.1 Summary of Observation Data Used in Analysis . . . 14
2.2.2 Supplemental Information for Used Observation . . . 14
2.2.2.1 SYNOP . . . 14
2.2.2.2 AMeDAS . . . 14
2.2.2.3 METAR . . . 14
2.2.2.4 SHIP . . . 14
2.2.2.5 BUOY . . . 14
2.2.2.6 TEMP . . . 14
2.2.2.7 PILOT . . . 14
2.2.2.8 Aircraft . . . 14
2.2.2.9 Wind Profiler . . . 16
2.2.2.10 AMVs . . . 16
2.2.2.11 Scatterometers . . . 16
2.2.2.12 MW Sounders . . . 16
2.2.2.13 MW Imagers . . . 16
2.2.2.14 CSR . . . 16
2.2.2.15 Hyperspectral IR Sounders . . . 16
2.2.2.16 GNSS-RO . . . 16
2.2.2.17 Ground-based GNSS . . . 17
2.2.2.18 Radar Reflectivity . . . 17
2.2.2.19 Radial Velocity . . . 17
2.2.2.20 R/A . . . 17

2.2.2.21 Soil Moisture Content . . . 17
2.3 Quality Control and Related Procedures . . . 17
2.3.1 SYNOP, AMeDAS, METAR, SHIP, BUOY, TEMP, PILOT, Aircraft and Wind Profilers 18
2.3.1.1 Internal QC . . . 18
2.3.1.2 External QC . . . 18
2.3.2 AMV . . . 19
2.3.3 Scatterometers . . . 19
2.3.4 Satellite Radiance . . . 19
2.3.4.1 MW sounders . . . 20
2.3.4.2 MW imagers . . . 20
2.3.4.3 CSR . . . 20
2.3.4.4 Hyperspectral IR sounders . . . 20
2.3.5 GNSS-RO . . . 20
2.3.6 Ground-based GNSS . . . 21
2.3.7 Radar Reflectivity . . . 21
2.3.8 Radial Velocity . . . 21
2.3.9 R/A . . . 21
2.3.10 Soil Moisture Content . . . 21
2.3.11 CDA: Feedback Data Base . . . 22
2.4 Typhoon Bogussing . . . 22
2.5 Global Analysis . . . 22
2.5.1 Introduction . . . 22
2.5.2 Incremental 4D-Var Formulation . . . 23
2.5.3 Procedural Description . . . 23
2.5.4 Inner Model . . . 24
2.5.5 Penalty Term . . . 26
2.5.6 Background Term . . . 26
2.5.6.1 Modified Balance Mass Variable . . . 26
2.5.6.2 Regression Coefficients for $\Delta\eta_U$ and (ΔT_U, ΔP_{sU}) . . . 27
2.5.6.3 Background Error Covariance Matrix . . . 27
2.5.6.4 Cholesky Decomposition of Background Error Covariance Matrix . . . 28
2.5.7 Observation Terms . . . 28
2.5.7.1 Observation Data . . . 28
2.5.7.2 Observation Error . . . 28
2.5.7.3 Observation Operator . . . 31
2.5.7.4 Variational Bias Correction . . . 31
2.6 Meso-scale Analysis . . . 31
2.6.1 Introduction . . . 31
2.6.2 Operational System . . . 32
2.6.3 Basic Formulation . . . 33
2.6.3.1 Cost Function . . . 33
2.6.3.2 Background Error Covariance . . . 34
2.6.3.3 Inner Model . . . 36
2.6.4 Observation Terms . . . 38
2.6.4.1 Observation Data . . . 38
2.6.4.2 Observation Error . . . 38
2.6.4.3 Observation Operator . . . 38
2.6.4.4 Special Treatment for Precipitation Data . . . 39
2.6.4.5 Variational Quality Control . . . 39
2.7 Local Analysis . . . 40
2.7.1 Introduction . . . 40
2.7.2 Operational System . . . 40
2.7.3 Basic Formulation . . . 40

2.7.3.1 Cost Function . . . 40
2.7.3.2 Solution Procedure . . . 41
2.7.3.3 Analysis variables . . . 42
2.7.3.4 Background Error Covariance . . . 42
2.7.4 Observation Terms . . . 43
2.7.4.1 Observation Data . . . 43
2.7.4.2 Observation Error . . . 43
2.7.4.3 Observation Operators . . . 43
2.7.5 Parallelization . . . 43
2.8 Snow Depth Analysis . . . 43
2.8.1 Global Snow Depth Analysis . . . 43
2.8.2 Mesoscale Snow Depth Analysis . . . 44
2.9 Non-real-time Quality Control . . . 44
2.9.1 GDPFS-RSMC Operational Activities . . . 44
2.9.2 WDQMS Operational Activities . . . 45
2.9.3 Blacklist Management . . . 45
2.10 Climate Data Assimilation System . . . 45

3 Numerical Weather Prediction Models 47
3.1 Summary . . . 47
3.2 Global Spectral Model (JMA-GSM1705) . . . 51
3.2.1 Introduction . . . 51
3.2.2 Dynamics . . . 52
3.2.2.1 Governing Equations . . . 52
3.2.2.2 Vertical Finite Difference Scheme . . . 52
3.2.2.3 Horizontal Grid . . . 53
3.2.2.4 Semi-implicit Semi-Lagrangian Formulation . . . 53
3.2.2.5 Vertically Conservative Semi-Lagrangian Scheme . . . 54
3.2.2.6 Departure Point Determination . . . 55
3.2.2.7 Spectral Method and Horizontal Diffusion . . . 55
3.2.3 Radiation . . . 56
3.2.3.1 Longwave Radiation . . . 56
3.2.3.2 Shortwave Radiation . . . 57
3.2.3.3 Gas Concentrations and Aerosol Climatology . . . 58
3.2.3.4 Cloud Properties . . . 59
3.2.4 Cumulus Convection . . . 59
3.2.4.1 Convective Effect on Large-scale Variables . . . 59
3.2.4.2 Cloud Model . . . 60
3.2.4.3 Closure . . . 60
3.2.4.4 Triggering Mechanism . . . 61
3.2.4.5 Convective Downdraft . . . 61
3.2.4.6 Mid-level Convection . . . 61
3.2.4.7 Convective Momentum Transport . . . 62
3.2.4.8 Melting and Re-evaporation of Precipitation . . . 62
3.2.5 Clouds and Large-scale Precipitation . . . 62
3.2.5.1 Cloud Scheme . . . 62
3.2.5.2 Stratocumulus Scheme . . . 63
3.2.5.3 Cloud Ice Fall and Conversion to Precipitation . . . 63
3.2.5.4 Melting and Evaporation . . . 64
3.2.6 Surface Turbulent Fluxes . . . 64
3.2.7 Boundary layer (turbulent transport) . . . 65
3.2.8 Gravity Wave Drag . . . 67
3.2.8.1 Orographic Drag . . . 67

3.2.8.2 Non-orographic Drag . . . 68
3.2.9 Land Surface Processes . . . 68
3.2.9.1 Fluxes . . . 69
3.2.9.2 Radiation and Albedo . . . 69
3.2.9.3 Energy and Water Balances . . . 70
3.2.9.4 Snow . . . 70
3.2.9.5 Soil . . . 71
3.2.9.6 Datasets . . . 72
3.2.10 Parallelization . . . 72
3.2.11 Surface Specifications . . . 74
3.2.11.1 Orography . . . 74
3.2.11.2 Grid Type . . . 74
3.2.11.3 Sea Surface . . . 74
3.2.11.4 Sea Ice . . . 74
3.2.12 Initial Conditions . . . 75
3.2.13 Forecast Performance . . . 76
3.3 Ensemble Prediction Systems . . . 77
3.3.1 Introduction . . . 77
3.3.2 In Operation . . . 77
3.3.2.1 System Configuration . . . 77
3.3.2.2 Ensemble Size, Forecast Range and Frequency . . . 79
3.3.3 Approach to Ensemble Initial Conditions . . . 79
3.3.3.1 LETKF Method . . . 80
3.3.3.2 SV Method . . . 82
3.3.3.3 BGM Method . . . 83
3.3.4 Model Ensemble Approach . . . 83
3.3.5 Sea Surface Temperature Perturbations . . . 83
3.3.6 Performance . . . 84
3.3.6.1 Typhoon Forecasting . . . 84
3.3.6.2 One-week Forecasting . . . 84
3.3.6.3 One-month Forecasting . . . 85
3.3.6.4 Seasonal Forecasting . . . 87
3.4 Coupled Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Model . . . 88
3.4.1 Model Description . . . 88
3.5 Meso-Scale Model (JMA-MSM1702) . . . 89
3.5.1 Introduction . . . 89
3.5.2 General Configuration . . . 90
3.5.3 Dynamics . . . 91
3.5.3.1 Basic Equations . . . 91
3.5.3.2 Spatial discretization . . . 94
3.5.3.3 Time integration . . . 94
3.5.3.4 Boundary Conditions . . . 97
3.5.4 Cloud Microphysics . . . 97
3.5.4.1 Mass-size Relationships . . . 98
3.5.4.2 Size Distribution Functions . . . 98
3.5.4.3 Fall Velocity and Sedimentation . . . 100
3.5.5 Convective Parameterization . . . 100
3.5.5.1 Cloud Model . . . 102
3.5.5.2 Determination of Variables in Updraft . . . 103
3.5.5.3 Treatment of convective precipitation . . . 103
3.5.5.4 Closure . . . 104
3.5.5.5 Diagnosis of the Convection as a Triggering Process . . . 104
3.5.6 Radiation . . . 105

3.5.6.1 Radiatively Active Constituents . . . 105
3.5.6.2 Cloud Properties . . . 105
3.5.6.3 Cloud Fraction . . . 105
3.5.6.4 Radiative Timesteps . . . 106
3.5.7 Boundary Layer . . . 106
3.5.7.1 Prognostic Equations and Fluxes . . . 106
3.5.7.2 Buoyancy Flux . . . 107
3.5.7.3 Dissipation Terms . . . 108
3.5.7.4 Mixing Lengths . . . 108
3.5.7.5 Nondimensional Diffusion Coefficients . . . 108
3.5.8 Surface Fluxes . . . 108
3.5.9 Ground Temperature and Soil Moisture . . . 111
3.5.10 Parallelization . . . 112
3.5.11 Forecast Performance . . . 112
3.6 Local Forecast Model . . . 114
3.6.1 Introduction . . . 114
3.6.2 General Configurations . . . 114
3.6.3 Forecast Performance . . . 115
3.7 Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Model . . . 118
3.7.1 Introduction . . . 118
3.7.2 Model . . . 118
3.7.2.1 Basic Model Description . . . 118
3.7.2.2 Dry and Wet Deposition . . . 119
3.7.3 Products . . . 119
3.8 Chemical Transport Model . . . 122
3.8.1 Introduction . . . 122
3.8.2 General Description of CTMs . . . 123
3.8.2.1 Coupling of chemical and meteorological parts . . . 123
3.8.2.2 Relaxation to Analysis/Forecast Field . . . 123
3.8.3 Aerosol CTM Used for Kosa Prediction . . . 125
3.8.3.1 Basic Framework . . . 125
3.8.3.2 Relaxation to Analysis/Forecast Field . . . 126
3.8.3.3 Verification . . . 126
3.8.4 Global Ozone CTM Used for UV Index Forecast . . . 126
3.8.4.1 Basic Framework . . . 126
3.8.4.2 Data Assimilation . . . 126
3.8.4.3 Verification . . . 128
3.8.4.4 Radiative Transfer Model for UV Index Forecast . . . 128
3.8.5 Regional Ozone CTM Used for Photochemical Oxidant Information . . . 129
3.8.5.1 Basic Framework . . . 129
3.8.5.2 Relaxation to Observational Data . . . 130
3.8.5.3 Verification . . . 130
3.9 Verification . . . 130
3.10 Global Atmospheric Transport Model for Volcanic Ash . . . 132
3.10.1 Introduction . . . 132
3.10.2 Initial Condition . . . 132
3.10.3 Model . . . 132
3.10.3.1 Basic Framework . . . 132
3.10.3.2 Horizontal and Vertical Dispersion . . . 132
3.10.3.3 Gravitational Fallout . . . 133
3.10.3.4 Dry and Wet Deposition . . . 133
3.10.4 Products . . . 134
3.11 Regional Atmospheric Transport Model for Volcanic Ash . . . 135

3.11.1 Introduction . . . 135
3.11.2 Initial Condition . . . 135
3.11.3 Model . . . 136
3.11.4 Products . . . 137

4 NWP Application Products 139
4.1 Summary . . . 139
4.2 Weather Chart Services . . . 139
4.3 Gridded Data Products . . . 139
4.4 Very-short-range Forecasting of Precipitation . . . 144
4.4.1 Analysis of Precipitation (R/A) . . . 144
4.4.2 Forecasting of Precipitation up to 6 hours ahead (VSRF) . . . 145
4.4.2.1 Processes assumed in EX6 . . . 145
4.4.2.2 Merging Technique . . . 147
4.4.2.3 Example and Verification Score of R/A and VSRF . . . 147
4.4.3 VSRF Forecast Range Extension to 15 hours (ExtVSRF) . . . 147
4.4.3.1 Basic Concept of ExtVSRF . . . 147
4.4.3.2 ExtVSRF Verification Score and Example . . . 150
4.5 Hourly Analysis . . . 151
4.6 Guidance for Short-range Forecasting . . . 152
4.6.1 Overview . . . 152
4.6.2 Guidance Based on Kalman Filtering . . . 152
4.6.2.1 Kalman Filtering . . . 152
4.6.2.2 Frequency Bias Correction . . . 154
4.6.2.3 Example of Guidance (GSM) Based on Kalman Filtering (3-hour Precipitation Amount) . . . 154
4.6.3 Guidance Based on a Neural Network . . . 155
4.6.3.1 Neural Network . . . 155
4.6.3.2 Example of Guidance Based on a Neural Network (Categorized Weather) . . . 157
4.6.4 Utilization of Guidance at Forecasting Offices . . . 157
4.7 Application Products for Aviation Services . . . 159
4.7.1 Aerodrome Forecast Guidance . . . 159
4.7.1.1 Visibility . . . 159
4.7.1.2 Cloud . . . 160
4.7.1.3 Weather . . . 160
4.7.1.4 Wind and Temperature . . . 160
4.7.1.5 Gust Winds . . . 160
4.7.1.6 Thunderstorms . . . 160
4.7.1.7 Snow . . . 160
4.7.2 Products for Domestic Area Forecast . . . 161
4.7.2.1 Gridded Values of Significant Weather . . . 161
4.7.2.2 Domestic Significant Weather Chart . . . 162
4.7.2.3 Domestic Cross-section Chart . . . 163
4.7.3 Products for International Area Forecast . . . 163
4.8 Ensemble Prediction System Products . . . 164
4.8.1 EPS Products for One-week Forecasting . . . 164
4.8.2 EPSs Products for One-month and Seasonal Forecasting . . . 165
4.8.2.1 Standard Products . . . 165
4.8.2.2 Gridded Datasets . . . 165
4.8.2.3 El Ninõ Outlook . . . 165
4.8.2.4 Probabilistic Forecast Products for Seasonal Forecasts . . . 165
4.8.2.5 Forecast Products in Support of Early Warnings for Extreme Weather Events 165
4.9 Atmospheric Angular Momentum Functions . . . 167

5 Ocean Models **169**
5.1 Summary . . . 169
5.2 Sea Surface Temperature Analysis . . . 170
5.2.1 Merged Satellite and *In-situ* Data Global Daily Sea Surface Temperature (MGDSST) . 170
5.2.2 Daily Sea Surface Analysis for Climate Monitoring . . . 171
5.3 Ocean Data Assimilation System . . . 171
5.3.1 Ocean General Circulation Model and Objective Analysis Scheme . . . 171
5.3.2 Ocean Data Assimilation System for Global oceans (MOVE-G2) . . . 172
5.3.3 Ocean Data Assimilation System for the Western North Pacific (MOVE-WNP) . . . 172
5.3.4 Future plan . . . 175
5.4 Ocean Wave Models . . . 175
5.4.1 Introduction . . . 175
5.4.2 Ocean Wave Model Structure . . . 176
5.4.3 Wind Field . . . 179
5.4.4 Wave Analysis . . . 179
5.4.5 Products . . . 179
5.4.6 Improvement and Development . . . 180
5.5 Storm Surge Model . . . 183
5.5.1 Japan Area Storm Surge Model . . . 183
5.5.1.1 Introduction . . . 183
5.5.1.2 Dynamics . . . 183
5.5.1.3 Meteorological Forcing . . . 184
5.5.1.4 Model Specifications . . . 185
5.5.1.5 Verification . . . 186
5.5.2 Asia Area Storm Surge Model . . . 189
5.5.2.1 Introduction . . . 189
5.5.2.2 Dynamics . . . 189
5.5.2.3 Data . . . 189
5.5.2.4 Meteorological Forcing . . . 190
5.5.2.5 Multi-scenario Prediction . . . 190
5.5.2.6 Model Specifications . . . 191
5.5.2.7 Verification . . . 191
5.5.3 Astronomical Tide Analysis . . . 194
5.5.3.1 Introduction . . . 194
5.5.3.2 Analysis Method . . . 194
5.5.3.3 Short-period Tides . . . 194
5.5.3.4 Long-period Tides . . . 195
5.5.3.5 Verification . . . 196
5.6 Sea Ice Model . . . 197
5.6.1 Introduction . . . 197
5.6.2 Model Structure . . . 197
5.6.2.1 Forecast Area . . . 197
5.6.2.2 Calculation of Sea Ice Conditions . . . 197
5.6.2.3 Dynamical Processes . . . 198
5.6.2.4 Thermodynamic Processes . . . 198
5.6.3 Data Used in the Model . . . 199
5.6.3.1 Initial Data on Sea Ice and Sea Surface Temperature . . . 199
5.6.3.2 Meteorological Data . . . 199
5.6.3.3 Ocean Current Data . . . 199
5.6.4 Numerical Sea Ice Model Results . . . 199
5.7 Oil Spill Prediction Model . . . 201
5.7.1 Introduction . . . 201
5.7.2 Basic Equation . . . 201

5.7.3 Products . . . 202

A Verification Indices **205**
A.1 Basic Verification Indices . . . 205
A.1.1 Mean Error . . . 205
A.1.2 Root Mean Square Error . . . 205
A.1.3 Anomaly Correlation Coefficient . . . 206
A.1.4 Ensemble Spread . . . 206
A.1.5 S1 Score . . . 207
A.2 Verification Indices for Categorical Forecasts . . . 207
A.2.1 Contingency Table . . . 207
A.2.2 Proportion Correct . . . 208
A.2.3 False Alarm Ratio . . . 208
A.2.4 Undetected Error Rate . . . 208
A.2.5 Hit Rate . . . 208
A.2.6 False Alarm Rate . . . 208
A.2.7 Bias Score . . . 209
A.2.8 Climatological Relative Frequency . . . 209
A.2.9 Threat Score . . . 209
A.2.10 Equitable Threat Score . . . 209
A.2.11 Heidke Skill Score . . . 210
A.2.12 Fractions Skill Score . . . 210
A.3 Verification Indices for Probability Forecasts . . . 211
A.3.1 Brier Score . . . 211
A.3.2 Brier Skill Score . . . 211
A.3.3 Murphy's Decompositions . . . 211
A.3.4 Reliability Diagram . . . 212
A.3.5 ROC Area Skill Score . . . 213

References **214**

List of Authors **227**

Preface

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) started the operation of numerical weather prediction (NWP) in June 1959 after several years of extensive research activities of the Numerical Weather Prediction Group of Japan. That was the third NWP operation in the world, following the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) in September 1954 and the US Weather Bureau in May 1955. The development of NWP since then has been tremendous. Operational NWP centers, including JMA, have benefited from ever better understanding of meteorological phenomena, improved modeling techniques, increasing computing power, efficient telecommunication systems, and improved observing systems, especially meteorological and earth-observing satellite systems.

This report is published to present technical details of the operational NWP systems of JMA as of June 2018, as an appendix to "WMO Technical Progress Report on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) and Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Research".

The first chapter provides an overview of the configurations and specifications of the current computer system at JMA. Thereafter follows a description of the operational suite and the operational job management system on the current computer system. The second chapter deals with three major data assimilation systems for atmospheric fields, namely, Global Analysis, Meso-scale Analysis and Local Analysis including the observation data used in these analyses. A description on the JMA Climate Data Assimilation System as well as more aspects on data assimilation is given in this chapter.

The third chapter describes a suite of NWP models for very short-range prediction of meso-scale disturbances, and for short- and medium-range prediction of synoptic-scale disturbances. The global model is used in ensemble prediction systems for the typhoon forecast, one-week and one-month prediction, and the coupled ocean-atmosphere model is employed for the seasonal forecast and El Niño forecast. An atmospheric transport models are applied to the prediction of transport of trace elements such as radioactive materials and Kosa (Aeolian Dust) for environmental information. The fourth chapter explains various kinds of application products of NWP such as weather charts, gridded data products, very-short-range forecasting of precipitation, hourly analysis in wind and temperature, guidance for short-range forecasting, products for aviation services, products of ensemble prediction systems and atmospheric angular momentum functions. The last chapter is on ocean models, specifically ocean wave models, storm surge models, a sea ice model and an oil spill prediction model as well as sea surface temperature analysis systems and ocean data assimilation systems.

JMA is working forward a further developments to improve the accuracy of NWP models . The reader will find updated information on the NWP systems of JMA on the website of JMA <https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/Activities/nwp.html> and in the WMO Technical Progress Report on GDPFS and NWP Research that is issued every year.

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