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# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>1 Computer System</b>	<b>1</b>
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
<b>2 Data Assimilation Systems</b>	<b>9</b>
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	17
2.2.2.17 Ground-based GNSS	17
2.2.2.18 Shipborne GNSS	17
2.2.2.19 Radar Reflectivity	17
2.2.2.20 Radial Velocity of Doppler Radar	17

	2.2.2.21	Analysis of Precipitation(R/A)	17
	2.2.2.22	Soil Moisture Content	18
2.3		Quality Control and Related Procedures	18
	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	AMVs	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	21
	2.3.4.3	CSR	21
	2.3.4.4	Hyperspectral IR sounders	21
	2.3.5	GNSS-RO	21
	2.3.6	Ground-based GNSS	21
	2.3.7	Shipborne-GNSS	21
	2.3.8	Radar Reflectivity	22
	2.3.9	Radial Velocity of Doppler Radar	22
	2.3.10	R/A	22
	2.3.11	Soil Moisture Content	22
	2.3.12	CDA: Feedback Data Base	22
2.4		Typhoon Bogussing	22
2.5		Global Analysis	23
	2.5.1	Introduction	23
	2.5.2	Incremental 4D-Var Formulation and Procedural Description	23
	2.5.3	Inner Model	25
	2.5.4	Penalty Term	26
	2.5.5	Background Term	26
	2.5.5.1	Climatological Background Error Covariance	27
	2.5.5.2	Modified Balance Mass Variable	28
	2.5.5.3	Regression Coefficients for $\Delta\eta_U$ and $(\Delta T_U, \Delta P_{sU})$	29
	2.5.5.4	Background Error Covariance Matrix	29
	2.5.5.5	Cholesky Decomposition of Background Error Covariance Matrix	29
	2.5.6	LETKF	29
	2.5.7	Observation Terms	31
	2.5.7.1	Observation Data	31
	2.5.7.2	Observation Error	32
	2.5.7.3	Observation Operator	32
	2.5.7.4	Variational Bias Correction	32
2.6		Meso-scale Analysis	37
	2.6.1	Introduction	37
	2.6.2	Operational System	37
	2.6.3	Basic Formulation	38
	2.6.3.1	Cost Function	38
	2.6.3.2	Background Error Covariance	40
	2.6.3.3	Inner Model	41
	2.6.4	Observation Terms	41
	2.6.4.1	Observation Data	41
	2.6.4.2	Observation Error	42
	2.6.4.3	Observation Operator	42
	2.6.4.4	Special Treatment for Precipitation Data	42
	2.6.4.5	Variational Quality Control	43
2.7		Local Analysis	44

2.7.1	Introduction	44
2.7.2	Operational System	44
2.7.3	Basic Formulation	45
2.7.3.1	Cost Function	45
2.7.3.2	Solution Procedure	46
2.7.3.3	Analysis Variables	46
2.7.3.4	Background Error Covariance	47
2.7.4	Observation Terms	47
2.7.4.1	Observation Data	47
2.7.4.2	Observation Error	47
2.7.4.3	Observation Operators	47
2.7.5	Parallelization	47
2.8	Snow Depth Analysis	48
2.8.1	Global Snow Depth Analysis	48
2.8.2	Mesoscale Snow Depth Analysis	49
2.9	Soil Moisture Analysis	49
2.10	Non-real-time Quality Control	50
2.10.1	GDPFS-RSMC Operational Activities	50
2.10.2	WDQMS Operational Activities	50
2.10.3	Blacklist Management	51
2.11	Climate Data Assimilation System	51
2.11.1	Introduction	51
2.11.2	JRA-55	51
2.11.3	JRA-3Q	51
<b>3</b>	<b>Numerical Weather Prediction Models</b>	<b>53</b>
3.1	Summary	53
3.2	Global Spectral Model (JMA-GSM2303)	57
3.2.1	Introduction	57
3.2.2	Dynamics	58
3.2.2.1	Governing Equations	58
3.2.2.2	Vertical Finite Difference Scheme	59
3.2.2.3	Horizontal Grid	59
3.2.2.4	Semi-implicit Semi-Lagrangian Formulation	60
3.2.2.5	Vertically Conservative Semi-Lagrangian Scheme	60
3.2.2.6	Departure Point Determination	61
3.2.2.7	Spectral Method and Horizontal Diffusion	62
3.2.3	Radiation	62
3.2.3.1	Longwave Radiation	63
3.2.3.2	Shortwave Radiation	64
3.2.3.3	Gas Concentrations and Aerosol Climatology	64
3.2.3.4	Cloud Properties	65
3.2.4	Cumulus Convection	65
3.2.4.1	Convective Effect on Large-scale Variables	65
3.2.4.2	Cloud Model	66
3.2.4.3	Closure	66
3.2.4.4	Triggering Mechanism	67
3.2.4.5	Convective Downdraft	67
3.2.4.6	Mid-level Convection	68
3.2.4.7	Convective Momentum Transport	68
3.2.4.8	Melting and Re-evaporation of Precipitation	68
3.2.5	Clouds and Large-scale Precipitation	68
3.2.5.1	Cloud Scheme	68

3.2.5.2	Stratocumulus Scheme	69
3.2.5.3	Cloud Ice Fall and Conversion to Precipitation	69
3.2.5.4	Melting and Evaporation	70
3.2.6	Surface Turbulent Fluxes	70
3.2.7	Boundary layer (turbulent transport)	71
3.2.8	Sub-grid Orography	73
3.2.8.1	Turbulent Orographic Form Drag	73
3.2.8.2	Blocked Flow Drag	74
3.2.8.3	Gravity Wave Drag	75
3.2.8.4	Ancillary Fields for Blocked Flow Drag and Gravity Wave Drag	76
3.2.8.5	Joint Implicit Calculation	77
3.2.9	Non-orographic Gravity Wave Drag	78
3.2.10	Land Surface Processes	79
3.2.10.1	Fluxes	79
3.2.10.2	Radiation and Albedo	80
3.2.10.3	Energy and Water Balances	81
3.2.10.4	Snow	81
3.2.10.5	Soil	82
3.2.10.6	Datasets	83
3.2.11	Parallelization	83
3.2.12	Surface Specifications	84
3.2.12.1	Orography	84
3.2.12.2	Grid Type	84
3.2.12.3	Sea and Lake Surfaces	85
3.2.12.4	Sea and Lake Ice	85
3.2.13	Initial Conditions	86
3.2.14	Forecast Performance	87
3.3	Global Ensemble Prediction System	89
3.3.1	Introduction	89
3.3.2	System	89
3.3.2.1	Configuration, and Initial and Boundary Conditions	89
3.3.2.2	Ensemble Size, Forecast Range and Frequency	89
3.3.3	Initial Ensemble Perturbations	90
3.3.3.1	Local Ensemble Transform Kalman Filter	90
3.3.3.2	Singular Vector Method	91
3.3.4	Perturbed Physics	92
3.3.5	Sea Surface Temperature and Related Perturbations	92
3.3.6	Performance	92
3.3.6.1	Typhoon Forecasting	93
3.3.6.2	One-week Forecasting	93
3.3.6.3	One-month Forecasting	95
3.4	Seasonal Ensemble Prediction System	96
3.4.1	Introduction	96
3.4.2	System Configuration	97
3.4.2.1	Forecast Model	97
3.4.2.2	Ensemble Size, Forecast Range and Frequency	98
3.4.2.3	BGM Method	98
3.4.3	Performance	98
3.5	Meso-Scale Model (JMA-MSM2206)	99
3.5.1	Introduction	99
3.5.2	General Configuration	100
3.5.3	Dynamics	101
3.5.3.1	Basic Equations	101

3.5.3.2	Spatial discretization	104
3.5.3.3	Time integration	104
3.5.3.4	Boundary Conditions	107
3.5.4	Cloud Microphysics	107
3.5.4.1	Mass-size Relationships	108
3.5.4.2	Size Distribution Functions	108
3.5.4.3	Fall Velocity and Sedimentation	109
3.5.5	Convective Parameterization	111
3.5.5.1	Cloud Model	111
3.5.5.2	Determination of Variables in Updraft	112
3.5.5.3	Treatment of convective precipitation	113
3.5.5.4	Closure	113
3.5.5.5	Diagnosis of the Convection as a Triggering Process	113
3.5.6	Radiation	114
3.5.6.1	Radiatively Active Constituents	114
3.5.6.2	Cloud Properties	114
3.5.6.3	Cloud Fraction	115
3.5.6.4	Radiative Timesteps	116
3.5.7	Boundary Layer	116
3.5.7.1	Prognostic Equations and Fluxes	116
3.5.7.2	Buoyancy Flux	117
3.5.7.3	Dissipation Terms	117
3.5.7.4	Mixing Lengths	117
3.5.7.5	Nondimensional Diffusion Coefficients	118
3.5.8	Surface Fluxes	118
3.5.8.1	Basic Equations	119
3.5.8.2	Transfer Coefficients for Momentum and Heat	119
3.5.8.3	Transfer Coefficients for Moisture	120
3.5.8.4	Roughness Length	122
3.5.8.5	Screen Level Diagnostics	122
3.5.9	Ground Temperature and Soil Moisture	122
3.5.9.1	Ground Surface Temperature	122
3.5.9.2	Interception Reservoir	123
3.5.9.3	Soil Moisture	123
3.5.10	Ocean Mixed Layer	124
3.5.11	Parallelization	126
3.5.12	Forecast Performance	126
3.6	Meso-scale Ensemble Prediction System	128
3.6.1	Introduction	128
3.6.2	System Configuration	128
3.6.3	Initial Perturbations	129
3.6.3.1	Singular Vectors	129
3.6.3.2	Global SVs	129
3.6.3.3	Mesoscale SVs	129
3.6.3.4	Linear Combination of SVs	130
3.6.4	Lateral Boundary Perturbation	130
3.6.5	Perturbed Physics	131
3.7	Local Forecast Model (JMA-LFM2303)	131
3.7.1	Introduction	131
3.7.2	General Configurations	131
3.7.3	Forecast Performance	132
3.8	Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Model	135
3.8.1	Introduction	135

3.8.2	Model	135
3.8.2.1	Basic Model Description	135
3.8.2.2	Dry and Wet Deposition	136
3.8.3	Products	136
3.9	Chemical Transport Model	139
3.9.1	Global CTM for UV Index Forecasting	139
3.9.1.1	Introduction	139
3.9.1.2	Basic Framework	140
3.9.1.3	Coupling of Chemical and Meteorological Parts	140
3.9.1.4	Data Assimilation	142
3.9.1.5	Verification	142
3.9.1.6	Radiative Transfer Model for UV Index Forecasting	142
3.9.2	Regional CTM Used for Photochemical Oxidant Information	145
3.9.2.1	Introduction	145
3.9.2.2	Basic Framework	145
3.9.2.3	Relaxation to Observational Data	146
3.9.2.4	Verification	146
3.10	Kosa (Aeolian Dust) Analysis Prediction Model	147
3.10.1	Introduction	147
3.10.2	Basic Framework	147
3.10.3	Data Assimilation	148
3.10.4	Verification	149
3.11	Verification	149
3.12	Atmospheric Transport Model for Volcanic Ash	152
3.12.1	Introduction	152
3.12.2	Initial Condition	152
3.12.2.1	Emission Source Parameter Model	152
3.12.2.2	Initialization for Volcanic Ash Clouds	152
3.12.3	Model	153
3.12.3.1	Basic Framework	153
3.12.3.2	Horizontal and Vertical Advection	153
3.12.3.3	Horizontal and Vertical Diffusion	154
3.12.3.4	Gravitational Fallout	155
3.12.3.5	Dry and Wet Deposition	155
3.12.3.6	Time Integration	156
3.12.4	Products	157
3.12.4.1	Volcanic Ash Advisory	157
3.12.4.2	Volcanic Ash Fall Forecast	158
<b>4</b>	<b>NWP Application Products</b>	<b>161</b>
4.1	Summary	161
4.2	Weather Chart Services	161
4.3	Gridded Data Products	164
4.4	Very-short-range Forecasting of Precipitation	167
4.4.1	Analysis of Precipitation (R/A)	167
4.4.2	Forecasting of Precipitation up to 6 hours ahead (VSRF)	168
4.4.2.1	Processes assumed in EX6	168
4.4.2.2	Merging Technique	169
4.4.2.3	Example and Verification Score of R/A and VSRF	170
4.4.3	VSRF Forecast Range Extension to 15 hours (ExtVSRF)	172
4.4.3.1	Basic Concept of ExtVSRF	172
4.4.3.2	ExtVSRF Verification Score and Example	172
4.5	Half-hourly Analysis	172



4.6	Guidance for Short-range Forecasting	175
4.6.1	Overview	175
4.6.2	Guidance Based on Kalman Filtering	175
4.6.2.1	Kalman Filtering	175
4.6.2.2	Frequency Bias Correction	177
4.6.2.3	Guidance Based on Kalman Filtering (3-hour Precipitation Amount)	178
4.6.3	Guidance Based on a Neural Network	178
4.6.3.1	Neural Network	178
4.6.3.2	Example of Guidance Based on a Neural Network (Categorized Weather)	180
4.6.4	Utilization of Guidance at Forecasting Offices	180
4.7	Application Products for Aviation Services	183
4.7.1	Aerodrome Forecast Guidance	183
4.7.1.1	Visibility	183
4.7.1.2	Cloud	183
4.7.1.3	Weather	184
4.7.1.4	Wind and Temperature	184
4.7.1.5	Gust Winds	184
4.7.1.6	Thunderstorms	184
4.7.1.7	Snow	184
4.7.2	Products for Domestic Area Forecast	185
4.7.2.1	Gridded Values of Significant Weather	185
4.7.2.2	Domestic Significant Weather Chart	186
4.7.2.3	Domestic Cross-section Chart	187
4.7.3	Products for International Area Forecast	187
4.8	Ensemble Prediction System Products	188
4.8.1	EPS Products for One-week Forecasting	188
4.8.2	EPSs Products for One-month and Seasonal Forecasting	189
4.8.2.1	Standard Products	189
4.8.2.2	Gridded Datasets	189
4.8.2.3	El Niño Outlook	190
4.8.2.4	Probabilistic Forecast Products for Seasonal Forecasts	191
4.8.2.5	Forecast Products in Support of Early Warnings for Extreme Weather Events	191
4.9	Atmospheric Angular Momentum Functions	192
<b>5</b>	<b>Ocean Models</b>	<b>195</b>
5.1	Summary	195
5.2	Sea Surface Temperature Analysis	196
5.2.1	Merged Satellite and <i>In-situ</i> Data Global Daily Sea Surface Temperature (MGDSST)	196
5.2.2	High-resolution Merged satellite and <i>In-situ</i> data Sea Surface Temperature (HIMSST)	197
5.2.3	Daily Sea Surface Analysis for Climate Monitoring	197
5.3	Ocean Data Assimilation and Prediction Systems	199
5.3.1	Ocean General Circulation Model and Objective Analysis Scheme: Common Framework	199
5.3.2	Ocean Data Assimilation System for Global Oceans (MOVE-G3)	201
5.3.3	Ocean Data Assimilation and Prediction System for the Seas Around Japan (MOVE-JPN)	203
5.4	Ocean Wave Models	206
5.4.1	Introduction	206
5.4.2	Ocean Wave Model Structure	206
5.4.3	Wind Field	209
5.4.4	Wave Analysis	209
5.4.5	Products	210
5.4.6	Improvement and Development	213
5.5	Storm Surge Model	214
5.5.1	Japan Area Storm Surge Model	214

5.5.1.1	Introduction	214
5.5.1.2	Dynamics	214
5.5.1.3	Meteorological Forcing	215
5.5.1.4	Model Specifications	216
5.5.1.5	Verification	217
5.5.1.6	Probabilistic Prediction	217
5.5.2	Asia Area Storm Surge Model	221
5.5.2.1	Introduction	221
5.5.2.2	Dynamics	221
5.5.2.3	Data	222
5.5.2.4	Meteorological Forcing	222
5.5.2.5	Ensemble Prediction	222
5.5.2.6	Model Specifications	223
5.5.2.7	Verification	224
5.5.3	Astronomical Tide Analysis	224
5.5.3.1	Introduction	224
5.5.3.2	Analysis Method	226
5.5.3.3	Short-period Tides	226
5.5.3.4	Long-period Tides	227
5.5.3.5	Verification	227
5.6	Oil Spill Prediction Model	229
5.6.1	Introduction	229
5.6.2	Basic Equation	229
5.6.3	Products	230
<b>A</b>	<b>Verification Indices</b>	<b>233</b>
A.1	Basic Verification Indices	233
A.1.1	Mean Error	233
A.1.2	Root Mean Square Error	233
A.1.3	Anomaly Correlation Coefficient	234
A.1.4	Ensemble Spread	234
A.1.5	S1 Score	235
A.2	Verification Indices for Categorical Forecasts	235
A.2.1	Contingency Table	235
A.2.2	Proportion Correct	236
A.2.3	False Alarm Ratio	236
A.2.4	Undetected Error Rate	236
A.2.5	Hit Rate	236
A.2.6	False Alarm Rate	236
A.2.7	Bias Score	237
A.2.8	Climatological Relative Frequency	237
A.2.9	Threat Score	237
A.2.10	Equitable Threat Score	237
A.2.11	Heidke Skill Score	238
A.2.12	Fractions Skill Score	238
A.3	Verification Indices for Probability Forecasts	239
A.3.1	Brier Score	239
A.3.2	Brier Skill Score	239
A.3.3	Murphy's Decompositions	239
A.3.4	Reliability Diagram	240
A.3.5	ROC Area Skill Score	241
	<b>References</b>	<b>242</b>





# Preface

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) began numerical weather prediction (NWP) in June 1959 after years of extensive research by Japan's Numerical Weather Prediction Group, following on from similar pioneering efforts by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) in September 1954 and the US Weather Bureau in May 1955. Subsequent NWP development has advanced well, with JMA and other operational NWP centers benefitting from enhanced comprehension of meteorological phenomena, improved modeling, increased computing capacity, efficient telecommunications, and better observing systems (especially in the fields of meteorology and satellite-based earth observation). NWP leads itself to a wide range of applications within JMA's scope of operation.

The report prior to this one served as an appendix to the WMO Technical Progress Report on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) and Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Research, work covering the period from 2002 to 2022, and was published in 2023 as independent content with the cessation of WMO Technical Progress Report provision. The current report covers the main content of the WMO Technical Progress Report, and is up to date as of March 2023 (or more recent where noted).

The first chapter summarizes the configurations and specifications of the current JMA computer system, followed a description of the related operational suite and job management system.

The second chapter describes Global Analysis, Meso-scale Analysis and Local Analysis as major data assimilation systems for atmospheric fields incorporating observation data, along with data assimilation systems for snow depth and soil moisture, the JMA Climate Data Assimilation System and other related considerations.

The third chapter describes NWP models used for very short-range prediction of meso-scale disturbances and short-/medium-range prediction of synoptic-scale disturbances. The regional deterministic and ensemble prediction system is used especially for heavy rainfall associated with mesoscale convective system, which causes extreme disaster conditions in Japan. The global model is used in ensemble prediction systems for typhoon forecasts and weekly/monthly predictions, and the coupled ocean-atmosphere model is employed for seasonal and El Niño forecasts. Atmospheric transport models are applied to prediction for transport of trace elements such as radioactive materials, Kosa (Aeolian Dust), ozone and volcanic ash for the output of environmental information.

The fourth chapter outlines various applications for NWP products such as weather charts, gridded data, very-short-range precipitation forecasting, half-hourly analysis of wind and temperature, guidance for short-range forecasting, and data relating to aviation services, ensemble prediction and atmospheric angular momentum functions.

The final chapter discusses modeling for ocean waves, storm surges and oil spill prediction along with systems for sea surface temperature analysis and ocean data assimilation.

JMA remains committed to its efforts for enhanced NWP accuracy. Against this background, the Numerical Prediction Development Center was established in 2020 in Tsukuba (the location of the Meteorological Research Institute) for integrated promotion. JMA's NWP Strategic Plan Toward 2030 ([https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/Publications/JMA\\_NWP\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_Toward\\_2030.pdf](https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/Publications/JMA_NWP_Strategic_Plan_Toward_2030.pdf)), also promotes NWP technology within the context of a recent intensification of natural disasters and societal requirements, defining the direction of NWP development at JMA over the coming years. Updates are provided at <https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/Activities/nwp.html>.

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