THE NCAR TGCM'S: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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Talk outline

- How and why the TGCM's were developed at NCAR.
- Their present day capability and how they are being used in CEDAR.
- The future modeling efforts in a changing Climate.









LONG RANGE TGCM MODEL DEVELOPMENT

	MODEL INPUTS		PROGRAMS
1979	Ionosphere Dynamo MSIS → Aurora Solar Tides	TGCM (95 - 500 km) ↓	Atmosphere Explorer Dynamics Explorer Radar and Airglow CEDAR
1989	Dynamo Aurora → Solar Tides	TIGCM (95 - 500 km) ↓	Atmosphere Explorer Dynamics Explorer Radar and Airglow CEDAR Air Force
1991	Aurora (AMIE) Solar → Tides MTIE-GCM	TIE-GCM (95 - 800 km) ↓	Atmosphere Explorer Dynamics Explorer CEDAR GEM ISTP/GGS
1992	Aurora (AMIE) Solar (UARS) → Tides and Waves (GSWM)	TIME-GCM (30 - 500 km) ↓	UARS Solar Mesosphere Explorer CEDAR GEM Air Force TIMED
1995	Aurora (AMIE) Solar (UARS, RISE) →	TIME-GCM/CCM3 (0 - 500 km)	UARS Global Change TIMED ISTP/GGS CEDAR
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2000	→	WACCM (0 - 500 km) upward extended CSM	Navy Air Force Space Weather

Schematic illustrating past and future TGCM development. The year of model development and diminishing dependence on empirical specification is given on the left of the boxes and the programs and data sources used for GCM validation and scientific studies is given on the right. CCM refers to the NCAR Community Climate Model.





-400.

0.

LONGITUDE

30.

60.

-90.

-180. -150. -120. -90. -60. -30.

90.

-1

150.

180.

100 M/S

120.













Figure 2







NEUTRAL TEMPERATURE (DEG K) LAT, LON= 67.50, -50.00 (SONDRSTROM FJORD)



HEIGHT (KM)





LONGITUDE (DEC)











Tropospheric Tidal Effects in the Earth's Ionosphere

IMAGE FUV Ionospheric Emission



after Immel et al. (2006)









TIME-GCM / CCM3 (0-500 KM)



Fields exchanged: T, U, V, H, W, H₂O, CH₄



CCM FILE /ROBLE/csm/flxcm4/ccm3/lsd/h0312 (DAY 311.000)





WACCM Components: A collaboration among 3 NCAR Divisions









Figure 2. Superposition of the wind speed profiles for all the mid- and low-latitude chemical release wind profile data.

WACCM STUDIES

- There are 2 versions of WACCM: Ground-to-140km and Ground-to-500km
- WACCM shows that considerable lower atmospheric variability propagates and affects the upper atmosphere and ionosphere
- WACCM is a free running climate model whereas TIME-GCM is a campaign model using data at the lower boundary to force the observational period for comparison with ground-based and satellite data

Roble and Dickinson (1989)



Aeronomy of Cooling Processes

- The thermosphere is cooled primarily through radiation from CO_2 , NO, and $O(^{3}P)$
 - CO_2 radiation in 15 µm band; NO radiation in 5.3 µm band modulates solar cycle change
- Primary change in recent model estimates is due to increased levels of NO
 - Older model estimates were tuned to measurements of NO from SME Soft X-ray fluxes based on AE-era measurements
 - More recent measurements (HALOE, SNOE, ISSAC, HIRASS) ~5 times higher E.g., peak solar minimum low-latitude density ~3x10⁷ instead of ~6x10⁶ Revised solar soft X-ray fluxes based on TIMED/SEE, SNOE, rockets (EUVAC) Model with revised ionization and chemistry in agreement with NO measurements
 - Key uncertainties in chemical rates pertain to branching between N(²D), N(⁴S) N₂+e*, NO⁺+e⁻, N(²D)+O

Temperature dependence of $N(^{4}S)+O_{2}$ and NO+N reactions also important

• All of the cooling reactions are modulated by O, so atomic/molecular balance important

• Current model rate coefficients:

CO₂+O excitation rate:

1.56x10⁻¹² for $T_n < 260$ (2.6-0.004* T_n)x10⁻¹² for 260<Tn<300 1.4x10⁻¹² for $T_n>300$ NO+O excitation rate:

4.2x10⁻¹¹

Solar Medium



Solar Medium





Ice Age minus no change

Change in total cooling (deg/day)





Solar Minimum



Conclusions

• Increased CO_2 and CH_4 levels will cool and contract the upper atmosphere, but the effects vary as a function of altitude, with some altitudes actually warming.

• Effects of NO cooling and chemical heating modulate the thermospheric response to global change as well as to the solar cycle.

• Largest changes are predicted to occur during solar minimum conditions.

• These findings may be commensurate with early inference of density changes from satellite orbit analysis.





LONGITUDE



LATITUDE