

.nc

msftmyz_Omon_MPI-ESM_LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

prc_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

ps_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

psl_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

tas_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

uas_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

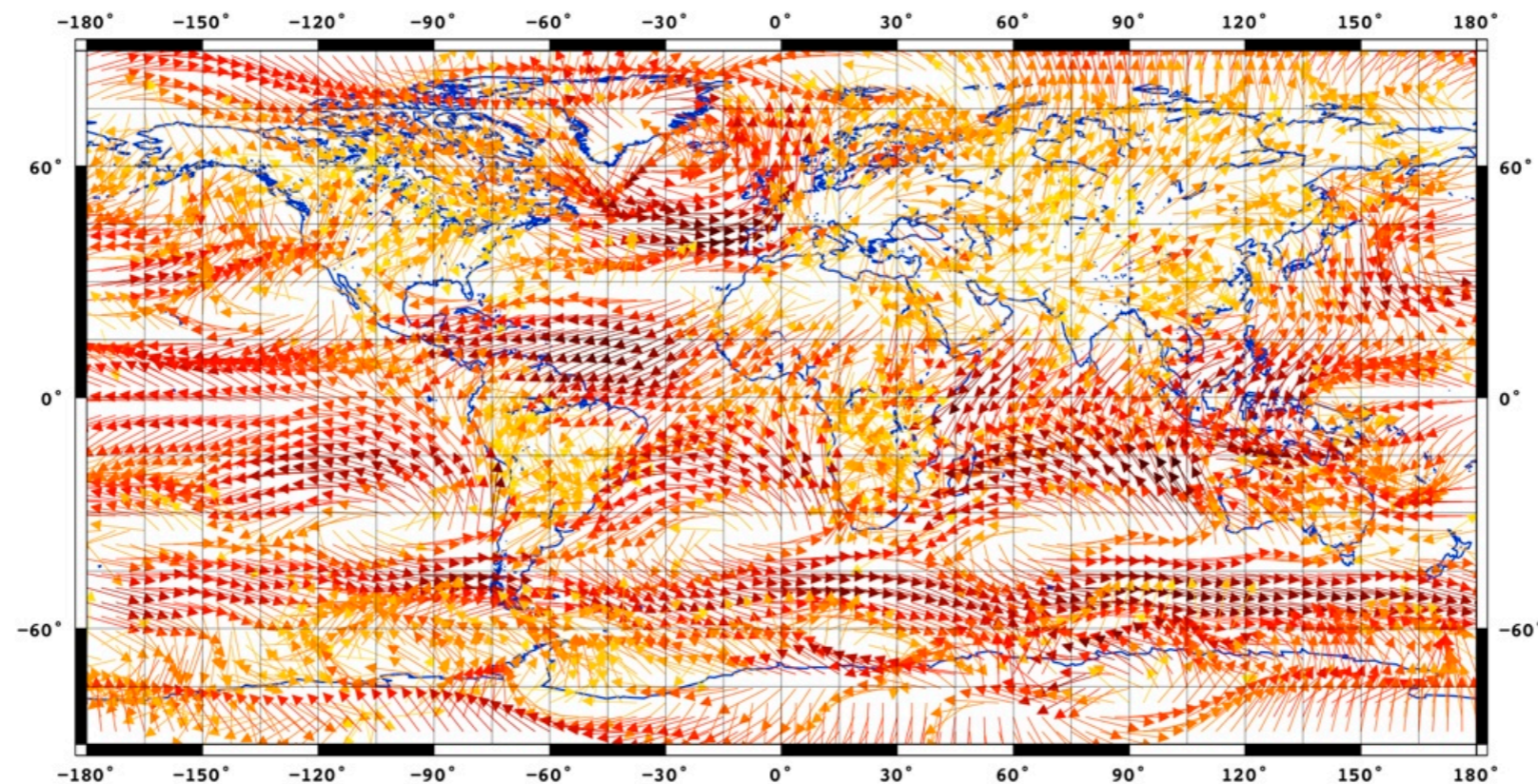
vas_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

zostoga_Omon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc

NetCDF = Network Common Data Form

Data processing

manipulation & visualisation
of NetCDF files



Jörg Wegner, 24.02. 2012

Data -formats -manipulation -visualisation

informations from NetCDF files with
ncdump

- dimensions
- variables
- global attributes
- data

ncview

- 2d plots & movies
- 1d timeseries

manipulate NetCDF files with
cdo

- overview
- examples

nco

- overview
- examples

visualise NetCDF files with
gmt

- examples

NetCDF header information

```
netcdf zzz {
dimensions:
    time = UNLIMITED ; // (1872 currently)
    lat = 96 ;
    lon = 192 ;
    bnds = 2 ;

variables:
double lon(lon) ;
        lon:units = "degrees_east" ;
double lat(lat) ;
        lat:units = "degrees_north" ;
double time_bnds(time, bnds) ;
double height ;
double time(time) ;
        time:units = "day since 1850-1-1" ;
float tas(time, lat, lon) ;
        tas:long_name = "Near Surface Air Temperature" ;
        tas:units = "K" ;

// global attributes:
    :institute_id = "MPI-M" ;
    :experiment_id = "historical" ;

data:
time = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10;
lon = 0, 1.5, 3, .... 354.5;
lat = -89.5, 88, .... 89.5;
tas = .....;
}
```

This is NetCDF 3 Standard with one unlimited dimension (time in this case) that allows an extension along this axis. In NetCDF 4 this is called NetCDF classic.

ncdump and ncgen are automatically installed with the netcdf-library. `ncdump -h zzz.nc` gives you the header information.

Dimension Variables

15.5 45 74.5
1 31 59 90

-88.57 -86.72 -84.86
-90 -87.65 -85.79 -83.93

```
double time(time) ;
    time:bounds = "time_bnds" ;
    time:units = "days since 1850-1-1 00:00:00" ;
    time:calendar = "proleptic_gregorian" ;
    time:axis = "T" ;
    time:long_name = "time" ;
    time:standard_name = "time" ;
double time_bnds(time, bnds) ;
double lat(lat) ;
    lat:bounds = "lat_bnds" ;
    lat:units = "degrees_north" ;
    lat:axis = "Y" ;
    lat:long_name = "latitude" ;
    lat:standard_name = "latitude" ;
double lat_bnds(lat, bnds) ;
double lon(lon) ;
    lon:bounds = "lon_bnds" ;
    lon:units = "degrees_east" ;
    lon:axis = "X" ;
    lon:long_name = "longitude" ;
    lon:standard_name = "longitude" ;
double lon_bnds(lon, bnds) ;
double height ;
    height:units = "m" ;
    height:axis = "Z" ;
    height:positive = "up" ;
    height:long_name = "height" ;
    height:standard_name = "height" ;
```

2

Variable attributes

```
float tas(time, lat, lon) ;
  tas:standard_name = "air_temperature" ;
  tas:long_name = "Near-Surface Air Temperature" ;
  tas:units = "K" ;
  tas:cell_methods = "time: mean" ;
  tas:cell_measures = "area: areacella" ;
  tas:coordinates = "height" ;
  tas:missing_value = 1.e+20f ;
  tas:_FillValue = 1.e+20f ;
  tas:associated_files = "baseUrl: http://cmip-pcmdi.llnl.gov/CMIP5/dataLocation
  gridspecFile: gridspec_atmos_fx_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r0i0p0.nc areacella:
  areacella_fx_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r0i0p0.nc" ;
```

```
sophie% cdo info -seltimestep,1 tas_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc
cdo info: Started child process "seltimestep,1 tas_Amon_MPI-ESM-
LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc (pipe1.1)".Warning (scanVarAttributes) : NetCDF:
Variable not found - areacella
```

-1	Date	Time	Param	Level	Size	Miss	Minimum	Mean	Maximum
1	1850-01-16	12:00:00	-1	0	18432	0	229.22	275.15	306.91

```
cdo(2) seltimestep: Processed 18432 values from 1 variable over 2 timesteps.( 0.00s )
cdo info: Processed 18432 values from 1 variable over 1 timestep. ( 0.00s )
```

global attributes

```
// global attributes:
:institution = "Max Planck Institute for Meteorology" ;
:institute_id = "MPI-M" ;
:experiment_id = "historical" ;
:source = "shows the revision numbers of the models;" ;
:model_id = "MPI-ESM-LR" ;
:forcing = "GHG Oz SD Sl Vl LU" ;
:parent_experiment_id = "piControl" ;
:parent_experiment_rip = "r1i1p1" ;
:branch_time = 10957. ;
:contact = "cmip5-mpi-esm@dkrz.de" ;
:history = "how this data file was created" ;
:references = "where to find informations about the models" ;
:initialization_method = 1 ;
:physics_version = 1 ;
:tracking_id = "c6446bbf-65ed-41cc-a67d-71e3559a2824" ;
:product = "output" ;
:experiment = "historical" ;
:frequency = "mon" ;
:creation_date = "2011-05-27T17:19:00Z" ;
:Conventions = "CF-1.4" ;      :project_id = "CMIP5" ;
:table_id = "Table Amon (27 April 2011) a5a1c518f52ae340313ba0aada03f862" ;
:title = "MPI-ESM-LR model output prepared for CMIP5 historical" ;
:parent_experiment = "pre-industrial control" ;
:modeling_realm = "atmos" ;
:realization = 1 ;
:cmor_version = "2.5.9" ;
```


forcing

example: `:forcing = "GHG Oz SD Sl Vl LU"`

Nat	Natural forcing
Ant	Anthropogenic forcing
GHG	well mixed Green House Gases
SD	anthropogenic sulfate aerosol, accounting only for direct effects
SI	anthropogenic sulfate aerosol, accounting only for indirect effects
SA	SA (= SD + SI)
TO	tropospheric ozone
SO	stratospheric ozone
Oz	Oz (= TO + SO)
LU	land use change
Sl	solar irradiance
Vl	volcanic areosol
SS	sea salt
Ds	dust
BC	black carbon
MD	mineral dust
OC	organic carbon
AA	a mixture of anthropogenic aerosols, not explicitly defined

http://cmip-pcmdi.llnl.gov/cmip5/docs/cmip5_data_reference_syntax.pdf

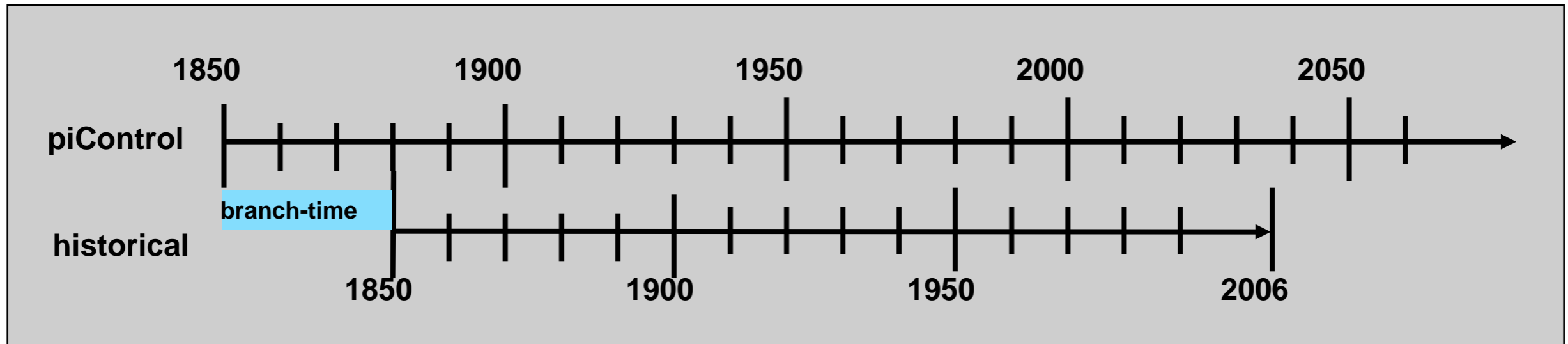
tracking_id

example: `:tracking_id = c6446bbf-65ed-41cc-a67d-71e3559a2824" ;`

unique number created by a library routine uuid which is called by cmor2

parent_id

```
:parent_experiment_id = "piControl";  
:parent_experiment_rip = "r1i1p1" ;  
:parent_experiment = "pre-industrial control" ;
```



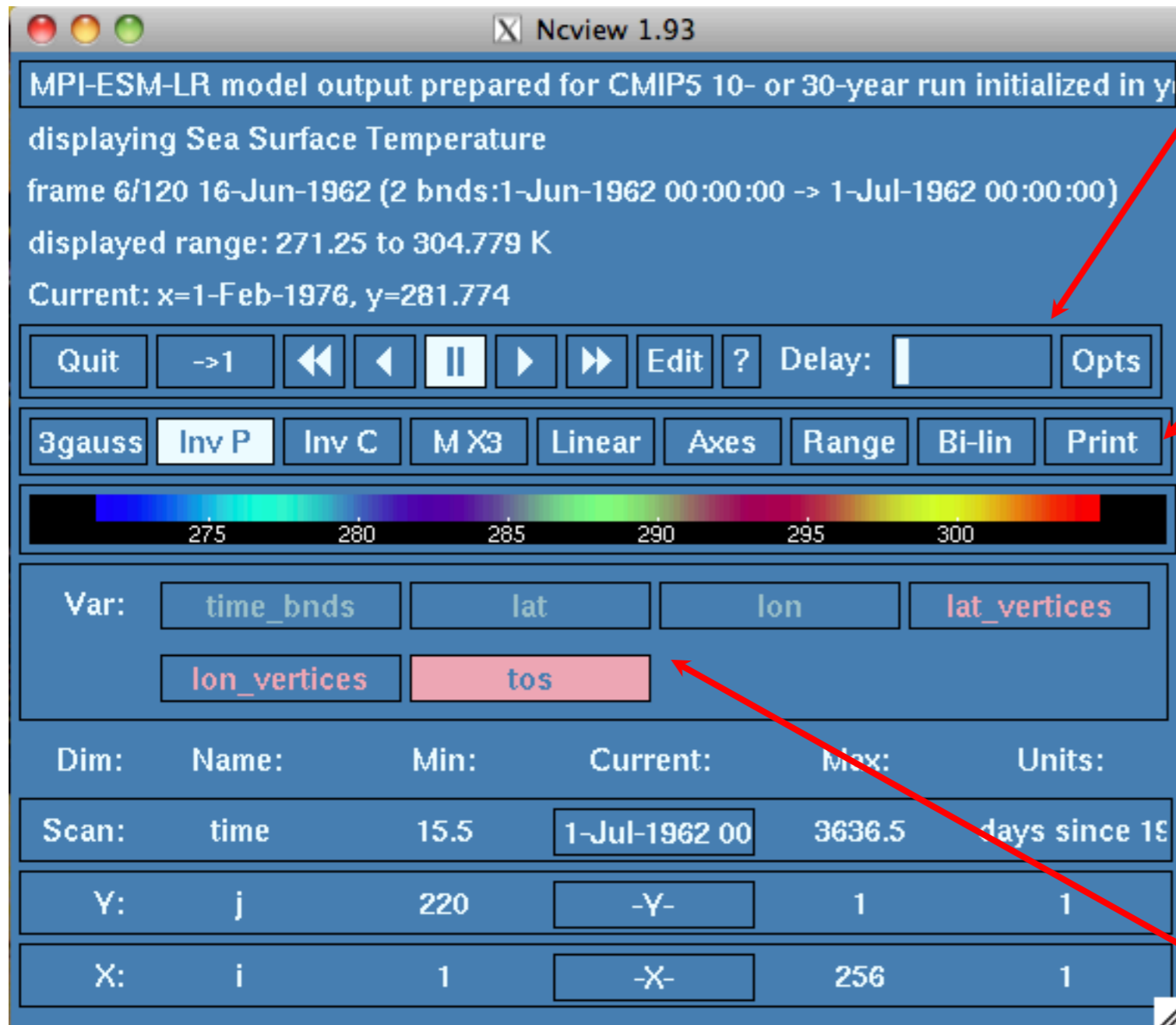
branch_time

```
:branch_time = 10957. ;
```

```
= 10957 days since 01.01.1850 = 30 years with 7 leap days
```

```
time:units      = "days since 1850-1-1 00:00:00" ;  
time:calendar  = "proleptic_gregorian" ;  
#set branchtime = 56978  
# 1850-2006 (18500101 - 20051231)  
#set branchtime = 10957 # 1850-1880 (18500101 - 18791231)  
#set branchtime = 25932 # 1850-1921  
#set branchtime = 47481 # 1850-1980  
#set branchtime = 5844 # 1850-1866  
#set branchtime = 18627 # 1850-1901  
#set branchtime = 42368 # 1850-1966
```

ncview I



first row:

- 1:quit ncview
- 2:back to the first screen
- 3 a-e:move through the data
- 4:edit data
- 5:infos about the variable
- 6:delay between two screens
- 7:contour map overlay!

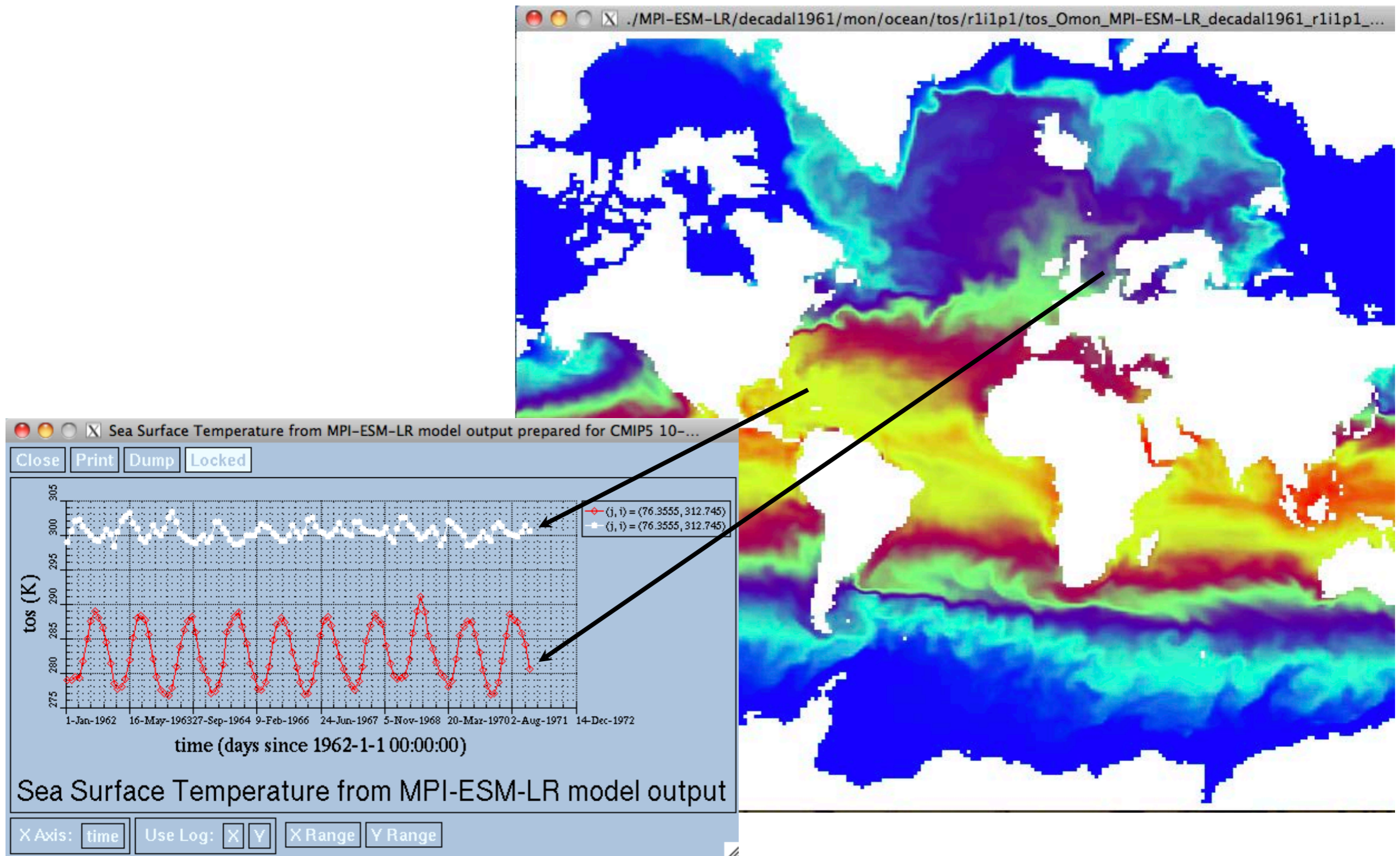
second row:

- 08:color tables
- 09:invert plot (turn upside down)
- 10:invert colors
- 11:magnify plot(increase:left, decrease right mouse button click)
- 12:kind of color filter (hi empha-sizes high, low low values, linear = off)
- 13:change axes
- 14:set data range (klick with the right mouse button gives the best range of colors for the plot)
- 15:bilinear interpolation or replicate pixels
- 16:print plot to postscriptfile

third row:

- choose variable

ncview II



NetCDF tools

nco: great toolbox for file and header manipulations and statistics

ncview: simple view on netcdf files

ncdump, ncgen: nc to ascii and vice versa

options: -h (header only) -v [var] (header & var data)

cdat, cdms: powerful tool based on python. Dataprocessing and visualisation. Not easy to learn and tricky installation

cdo: mpi choice for data processing

gradsnc: visualisation tool

gmt: visualisation tool

ncl: the NCAR Command Language: a free interpreted language designed for scientific data processing & visualization.

netCDF: <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>

nco: <http://nco.sourceforge.net/>

ncview: http://meteora.ucsd.edu/~pierce/ncview_home_page.html

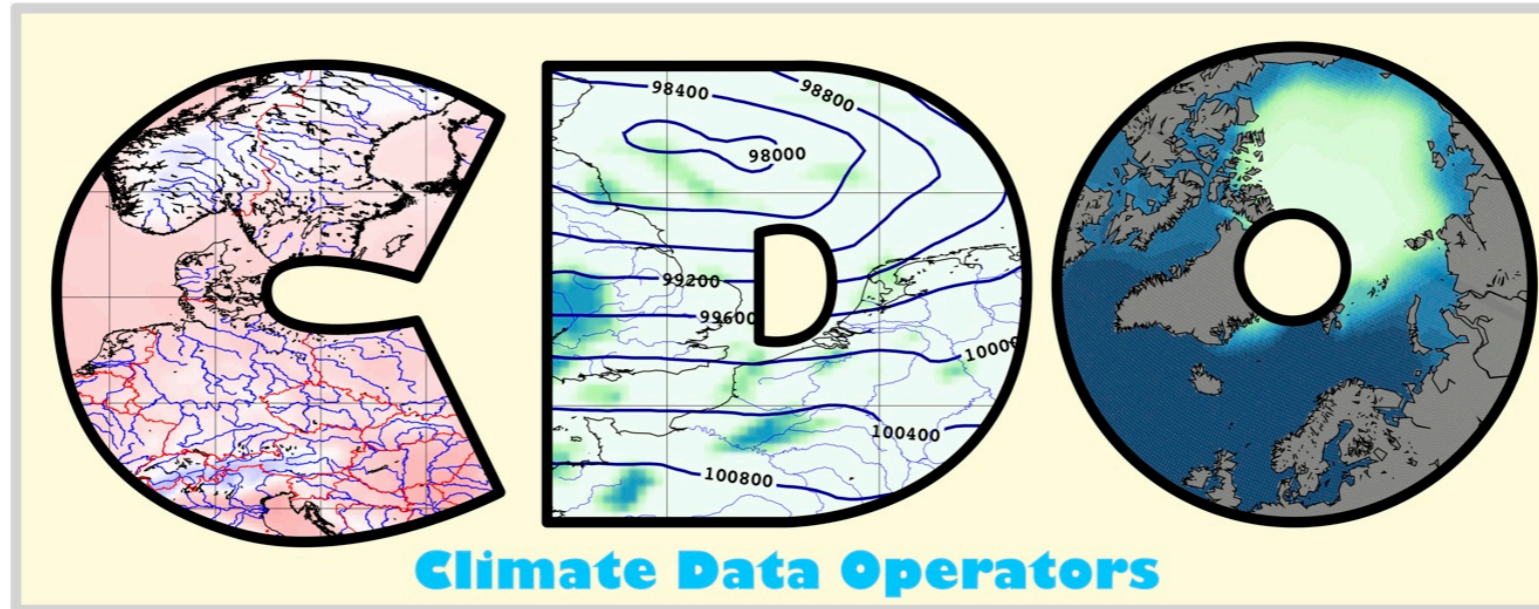
ncdump, ncgen: <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>

cdat, cdms: <http://www-pcmdi.llnl.gov/software/>

cdo: <https://code.zmaw.de/projects/cdo>

gradsnc: <http://grads.iges.org/grads/grads.html>

ncl: <http://www.ncl.ucar.edu/overview.shtml>



Usage:

```
cdo [options] \
    operator[,op[,op]] \
    [-operator] \
    ifile [ifile ...] [ofile]
```

For:

GRIB-, NetCDF-, ieg-, Service-, Extra-
formatted files

There are more than 400 operators available:

- **informations**
info, infov, sinfo, map, griddes, vardes, ...
showcode, showvar, showyear, showmonth, showlevel, ...
- **file operations & modifications**
copy, merge, split, setttime, setgatt, invert ...
- **selections**
selvar, selcode, sellevel, selyear, ...
sellonlatbox, selindexbox, seltimestep, ...
- **input/ ouput**
input, output, outputf, gradsdcs, outputbounds ...
- **statistic**
yearmean, yearavg, yearmax, yearsum, yearvar, yearstd
hour..., day..., mon..., seas...
- **arithmetic, regression & interpolation**
add, addc, sqr, sqrt, trend, detrend, remapcon, intvert, ...
- **conditional selection**
ifthen, ifnotthen, ifthenelse, ifthenc, ifnotthenc
- **comparision**
eq, eqc, ne, nec, le, lec, ge, gec, lt, ltc, gt, gtc
- **others**
eca-indices, transformation, ...

Piping & conditional selection & arithmetic

How to compute windspeed from u and v component of the wind.

Formula: $\sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$

```
cdo sqrt -add -sqr U1000.nc -sqr V1000.nc SPEED1000.nc
```

Squares the values in V1000.nc, then in U1000.nc, then adds the two files and computes the square root. Result: Windspeed
first operator is executed the last

The wind direction? Formula: $180 / \pi * \text{atan2}(-u, -v)$ with $180/\pi = 57.3$

```
cdo mulc,57.3 -atan2 -mulc,-1 U1000.nc -mulc,-1 V1000.nc UV.nc
```

The angle will be between -180 and 180 degree

```
cdo ltc,0 UV.zw2.nc mask
```

Creates a maskfile with 1 for all values smaller than zero and 0 else.

```
cdo ifthen mask -addc,360 uv.zw2.nc unter0.nc
```

For values < 0 use values from ifile, add 360 and set missing_value else.

```
cdo ifnotthen mask uv.zw2.nc ueber0.nc
```

For values > 0 use values from ifile and missing_value else.

```
cdo ifthenelse unter0.nc ueber0.nc uvrict.nc
```

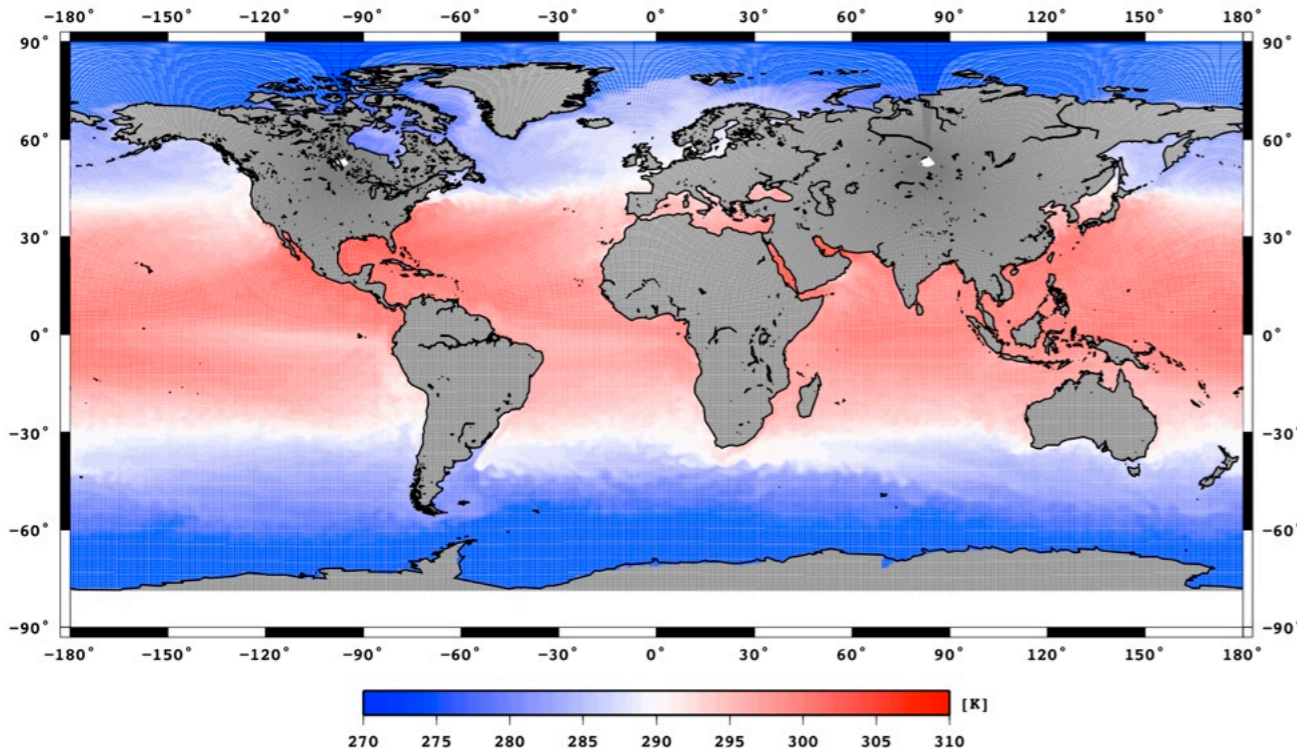
merge both files

interpolate (conservative remapping)

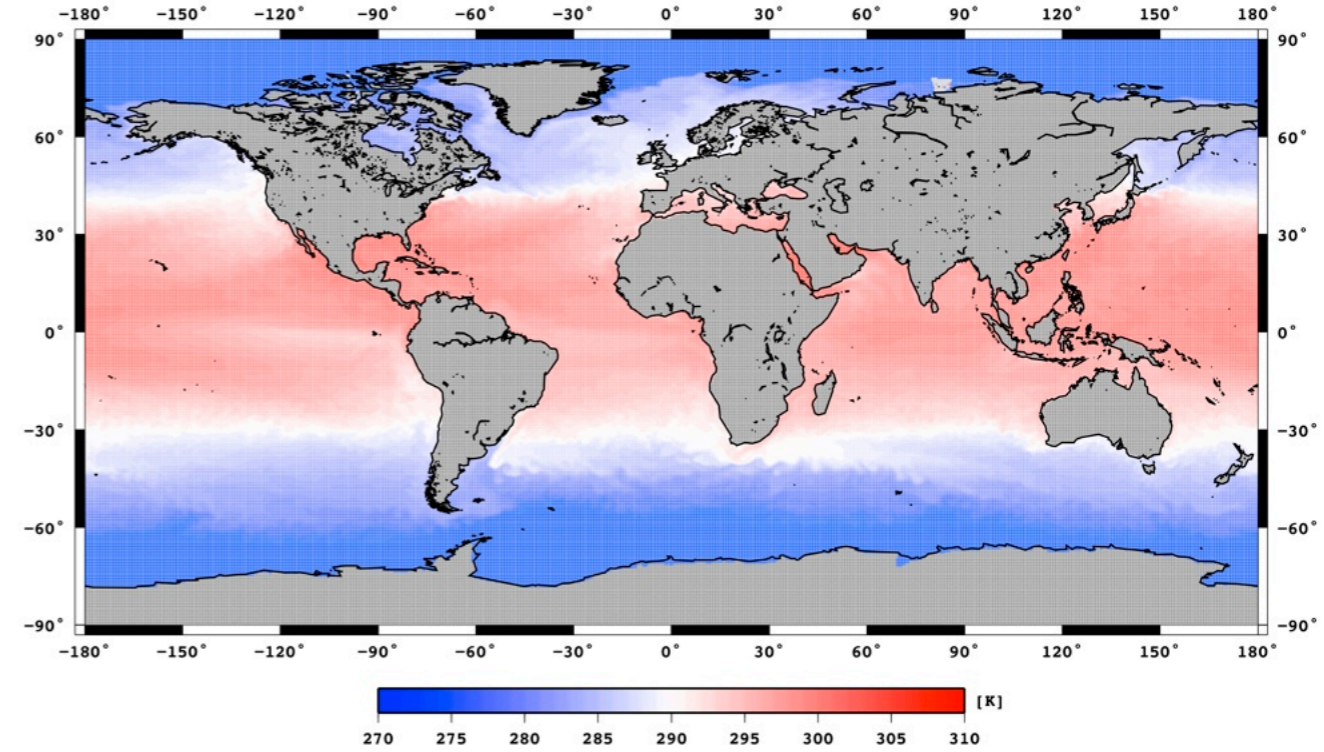
a tripolar to a regular 800*400 grid

```
cdo -t mpiom1 -f nc setgrid,TP04s.nc \  
-selindexbox,2,801,1,404 \  
tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-MR_historical_r1i1p1_200001-200512.nc \  
tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-MR_hist_r1_200001-200512_woh.nc  
cdo remapcon,r800x400 \  
tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-MR_hist_r1_200001-200512_woh.nc  
tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-MR_hist_r1_200001-200512_reg.nc
```

MPIOM TP04 tos Aug 2000 tripolar grid



MPIOM TP04 tos Aug 2000 regular grid



NCO

NetCDF Operators

The operators are:

- **ncatted** - attribute editor
- **ncdiff** - differencer
- **ncea** - ensemble averager
- **necat** - ensemble concatenator
- **ncflint** - file interpolator
- **ncks** - kitchen sink (extract, cut, paste, print data)
- **ncra** - running averager
- **ncrcat** - record concatenator
- **ncrename** - renamer
- **ncwa** - weighted averager

ncrename

```
ncrename [-a ...] [-D dbg_lvl] [-d ...] [-h] [--hdr_pad nbr] [-l path]
         [-O] [-o out.nc] [-p path] [-R] [-r] [-v ...] in.nc [[out.nc]]
```

```
-a  Attribute's old and new names
-d  Dimension's old and new names
--hdr_pad  Pad output header with nbr bytes
-v  old_var,new_var Variable's old and new names
in.nc      Input file name(s)
[out.nc]   Output file name (or use -o switch)
```

Examples:

Rename Dimension longitude to lon

```
sophie 43% ncrename -d longitude,lon zzsresa2.nc
```

Rename Dimension and Variable longitude, latitude to lon, lat

```
sophie 44% ncrename -d longitude,lon -v longitude,lon zzsresalb.nc
```

```
sophie 45% ncrename -d latitude,lat -v latitude,lat zzsresalb.nc
```

Rename attribute _FillValue in variable T_2M to missing_value

```
sophie 46% ncrename -a T_2M:_FillValue,missing_value in.nc
```

ncatted

```
ncatted [-a ...] [-D dbg_lvl] [-h] [--hdr_pad nbr] [-l path] [-O] [-o out.nc]
        [-p path] [-R] [-r] in.nc [[out.nc]]
```

```
-a, --attribute att_nm,var_nm,mode,att_typ,att_val Attribute specification:
                mode = a,c,d,m,o and att_typ = f,d,l,s,c,b
--hdr_pad  Pad output header with nbr bytes
in.nc      Input file name(s)
[out.nc]   Output file name (or use -o switch)
```

```
-h  don't change history!
```

```
for mode:    a = append, c = create, d = delete, m = modify, o = overwrite
for att_typ: f = float,  d = double, l = long,   s = short,  c = character,
                b = byte,   i = integer
```

Examples:

```
add an attribute to the global attributes:
```

```
ncatted -O -h -a forcing,global,c,c,"GHG Oz SD Sl Vl" zzz.nc
```

```
append something to an attribute:
```

```
ncatted -O -h -a forcing,global,a,c," LU" zzz.nc
```

```
add an attribute to the variable attributes:
```

```
ncatted -O -h -a grid_type,tas,c,c,"gaussian" zzz.nc
```

ncks

```
ncks [-3] [-4] [-A] [-a] [-B] [-b fl_bnr] [-C] [-c] [-D dbg_lvl] [-d ...]
      [-F] [-H] [-h] [--hdr_pad nbr] [-L lvl] [-l path] [-m] [-M] [-O]
      [-o out.nc] [-P] [-p path] [-Q] [-q] [-R] [-r] [-s format] [-u]
      [-v ...] [-X ...] [-x] in.nc [[out.nc]]
```

- A Append to existing output file, if any
- a Disable alphabetization of extracted variables
- c Coordinate variables will all be processed
- C Associated coordinate variables should not be processed
- d dim,[min][,[max]][,[stride]] Dimension's limits and stride in hyperslab
- O overwrite outputfile if exist
- v var1[,var2[...]] Variable(s) to process (regular expressions supported)
- x Extract all variables EXCEPT those specified with -v

Examples:

File `msftmyz_Omon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc` contains lat level values for 3 basins and 156 time steps. Select each basin and all values from 1900 to 1999:

copy the file (just a shorter name ;-)

```
ncks -O msftmyz_Omon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc base3orig.nc
```

to see the timesteps:

```
ncks -v time base3orig.nc
```

select basin and time:

```
ncks -O -d basin,0 -d time,600,1799 base3orig.nc base1_1900-1999.nc
```

```
ncks -O -d basin,1 -d time,600,1799 base3orig.nc base2_1900-1999.nc
```

```
ncks -O -d basin,2 -d time,600,1799 base3orig.nc base3_1900-1999.nc
```

GMT

generic mapping tools

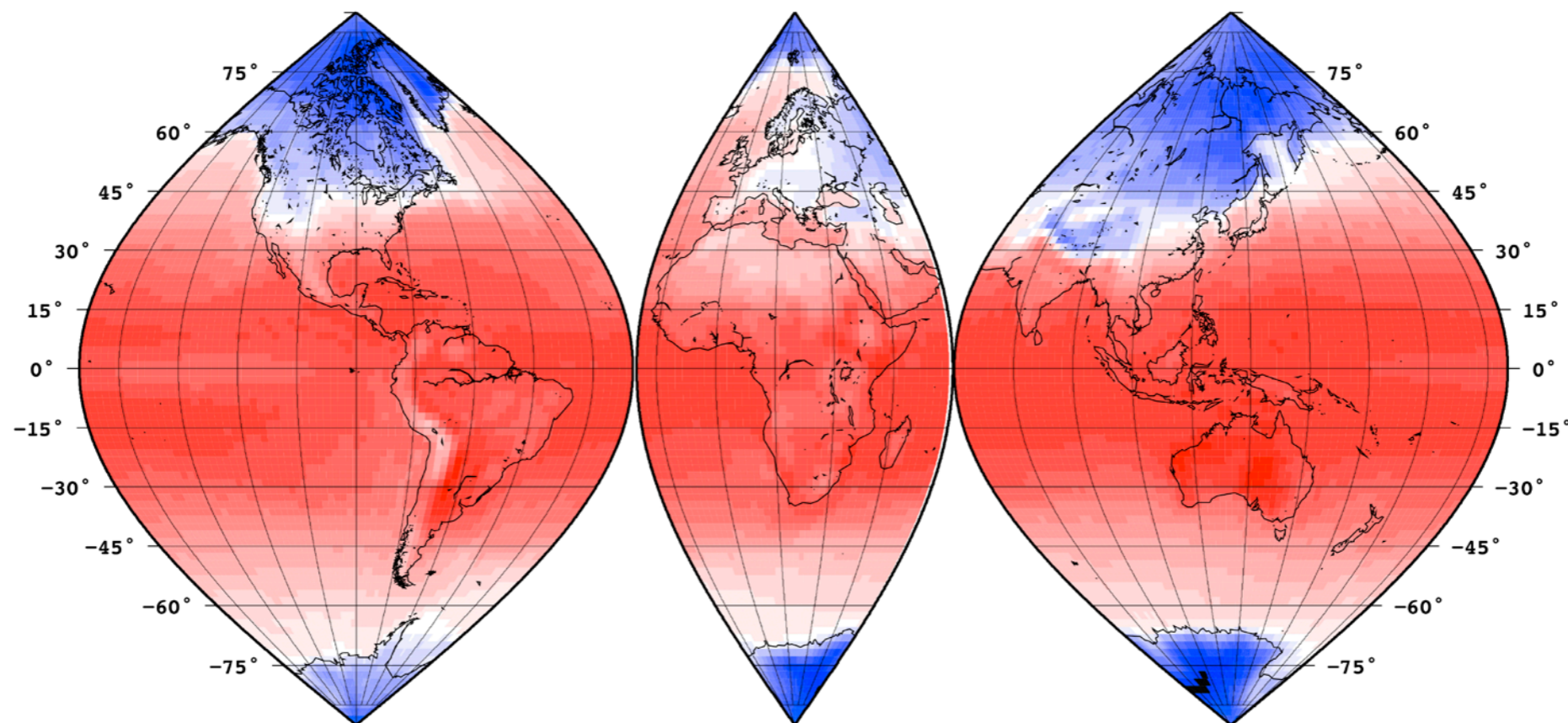
Current officially released version is gmt 4.5.7

<http://gmt.soest.hawaii.edu/>

blizzard (version 4.4) : /client/bin

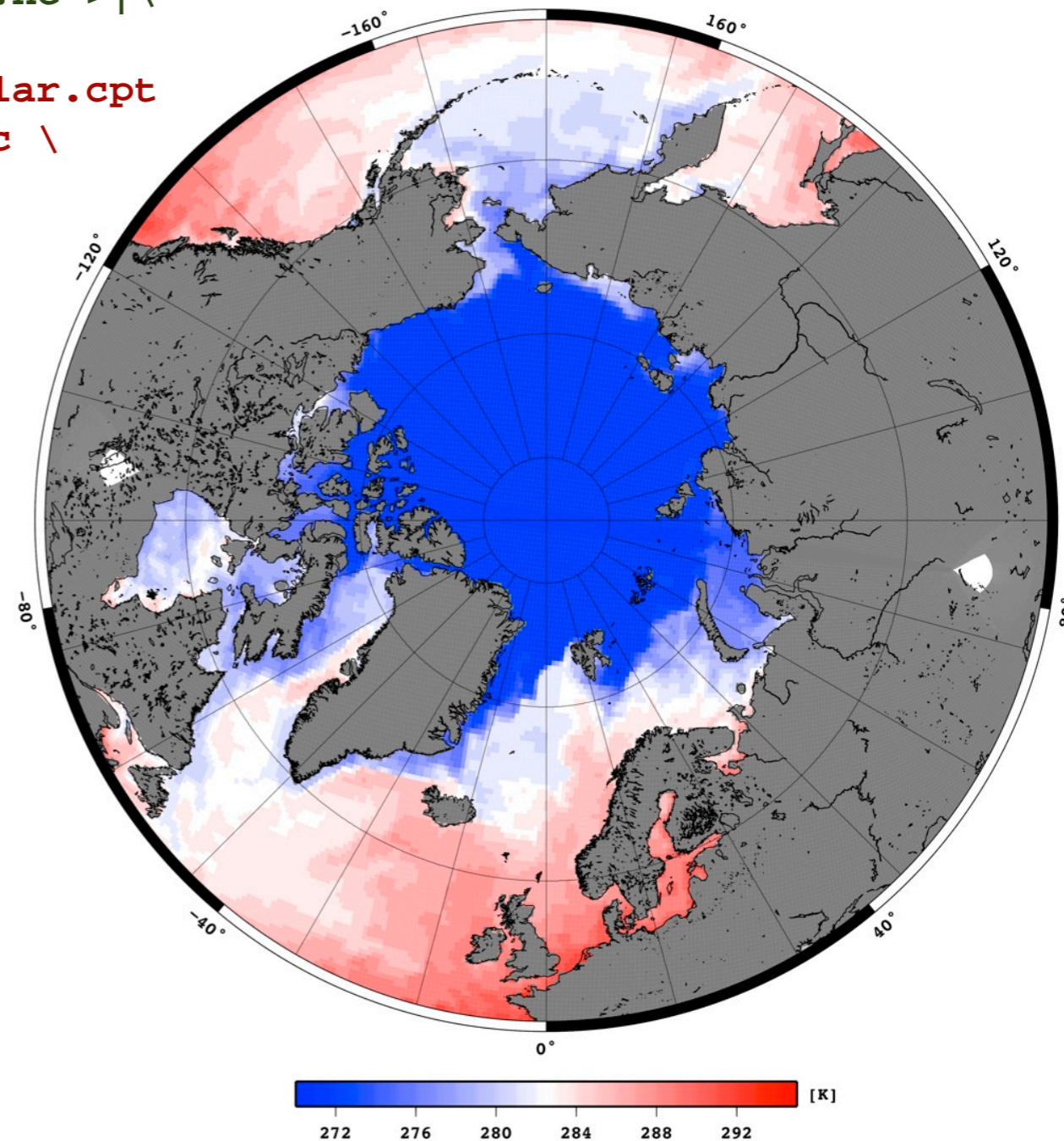
sun solaris (version 4.5.7) : /client/bin

Mac/Windows: also available



MPIOM north pole

```
#!/bin/ksh
IFILE=tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-MR_historical_r1i1p1_200001-200512.nc
OFILE=tos_polar.ps
TITLE="MPIOM historical_r1i1p1_MR tos 200008"
cdo -t mpiom1 -f nc setgrid,TP04s.nc -selindexbox,2,801,1,404 \
    tos_Omon_MPI-ESM-MR_historical_r1i1p1_200001-200512.nc \
    tos_historical_r1i1p1-MR_200008.nc
cdo outputbounds tos_historical_r1i1p1-MR_200008.nc >|\
    tos_historical.asc
# COLOURS:makecpt -Cpolar -T270.0/295/1 > tos_polar.cpt
# SETTINGS:psbasemap -R-180/180/46/90 -JG0/90/20c \
    -X0.8c -Y4.0c -B40/40:."$TITLE": \
    -P -K >| $OFILE
# PICTURE:
psxy -R -J -m tos_historical.asc \
    -L -Ctos_polar.cpt -O -K >> $OFILE
# COLOUR BAR:
psscale -Ctos_polar.cpt -D10.0c/-1.2c/10c/0.5ch\
    -B4/:"[K]": -O -K >> $OFILE
# MORE SETTINGS (GRID):
psbasemap -R -J -Bg15/g15 -O -K >> $OFILE
# Coast lines, Rivers, Borders
pscoast -R -J -Dl -W0.5p -O >> $OFILE
# CHANGING postscript to PDF
ps2pdf $OFILE
#
```



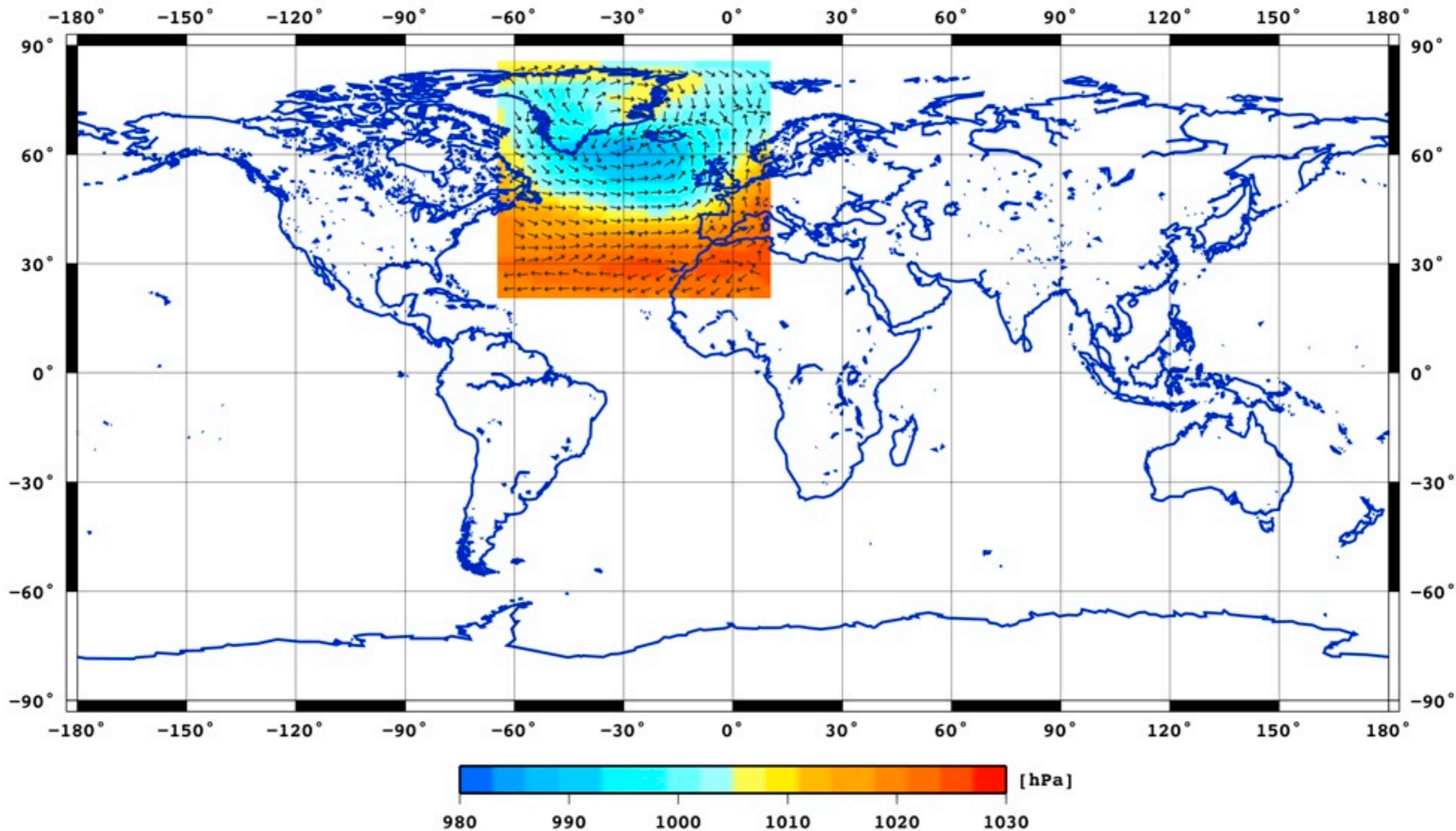
Wind Speed North Atlantic - the script

```
#!/bin/tcsh
set IFILE1 = uas_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc
set IFILE2 = vas_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc
set IFILE3 = psl_Amon_MPI-ESM-LR_historical_r1i1p1_185001-200512.nc
#set VAR1 = `cdo showvar $IFILE1`set VAR2 = `cdo showvar $IFILE2`
#cdo sellonlatbox,-65,10,20,85 $IFILE1 nordu.nc
cdo sellonlatbox,-65,10,20,85 $IFILE2 nordv.nc
cdo sellonlatbox,-65,10,20,85 -divc,100 $IFILE3 ${IFILE3:r}_hpa.nc
#set VAR3 = `cdo showvar $IFILE3`
set OFILE = northatlantic2.ps
#makecpt -Cno_green -T980/1030/1 > pressure.cpt
psbasemap -Rg -JQ0/24c -X2.0c -Y-1.5c -B30/30:."Wind Speed North-Atlantic": \
-K > $OFILE
grdimage "${IFILE3:r}_hpa.nc?${VAR3}" -R -J -Cpressure.cpt -O -K >> $OFILE
pscoast -R -J -Dc -W1.5p,0/0/200 -O -K >> $OFILE
grdvector "nordu.nc?${VAR1}" "nordv.nc?${VAR2}" -R -J -I4 \
-Q0.005c/0.06c/0.05c -G50/50/50 -W0.1p,50/50/50 -S10.2c -O -K >> $OFILE
psbasemap -R -J -Bg30/g30 -O -K >> $OFILE
psscale -Cpressure.cpt -D12.0c/-1.2c/10c/0.5ch -B10/:"[hPa]": -O >> $OFILE
#
ps2pdf $OFILE
#
```



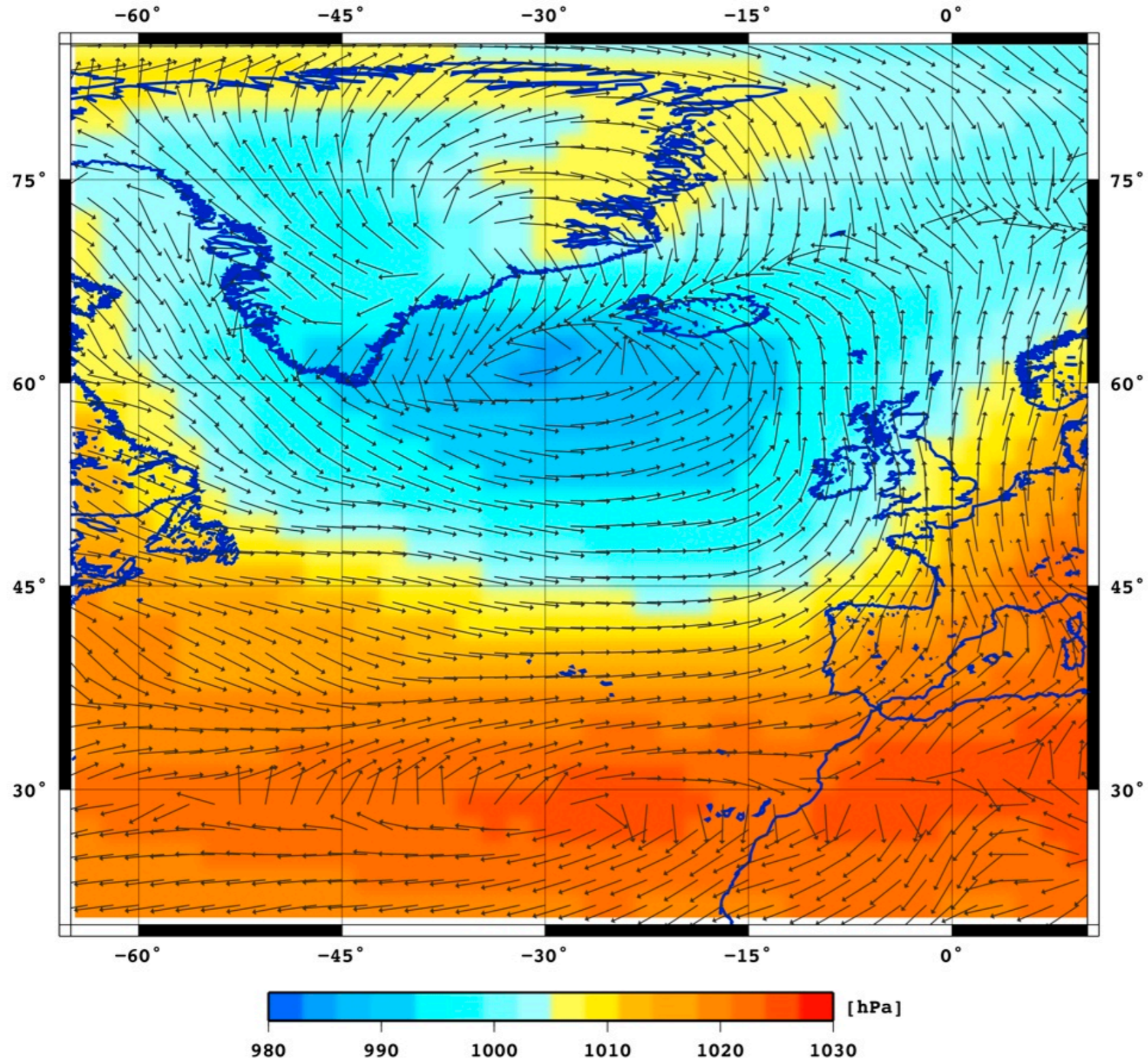
```
psbasemap -Rg -JQ0/24c -X2.0c -Y-1.5c -B30/30:."Wind Speed North-Atlantic": \  
-K > $OFILE
```

Wind Speed North-Atlantic



```
psbasemap -R -65/10/20/85 -JQ0/24c -X2.0c -Y-1.5c -B30/30:."Wind Speed North-Atlantic": \
-K > $OFILE
```

Wind Speed North-Atlantic



Thanks for listening

Questions?