

Mathematical aspects of the coupling problem at the air-sea interface in numerical climate models

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Accurate numerical climate modelling is considered crucial for better understanding climate change, which, in recent years, has gathered significant attention from a large part of the scientific community. More specifically, the influence of coupling mechanisms at the air-sea interface is of great importance for obtaining better long-term global climate predictions. Due to numerical restrictions, both atmospheric and oceanic models typically use boundary conditions derived from empirically-tuned turbulence closure parameterization (see [1], and [2] for a review), aimed at taking into account highly-influential sub-grid scale dynamics. In the vicinity of the air-sea interface, the evolution of physical quantities of interest (e.g. momentum, temperature, humidity) can be modelled as a non-stationary diffusion equation, for whom these parameterizations take form as highly nonlinear boundary conditions. Schwarz waveform relaxation algorithms have been proved to constitute a good framework for coupling multi-model, non-stationary problems (see [3] for a similar example in a different context). The air-sea coupled problem, excluding the boundary layer parameterizations, has already been studied from a mathematical point of view (e.g. [4]). Extending [5], we now aim at developing efficient coupling at the air-sea interface, embracing as much as possible the complexity of the aforementioned physical eddy parameterizations.

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