

SPARC Data Assimilation Working Group

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To complement the WGNE activities in data assimilation, SPARC (Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate) has recently set up a working group on Data Assimilation. The emphasis of this group will be on stratospheric data assimilation, for application to numerical weather prediction, and monitoring of climate variations.

At the initial working group meeting, which was held in December 2001, it was decided to hold a SPARC Data Assimilation workshop in June 2002. The workshop will be hosted by the NASA/Goddard Data Assimilation Office through the Goddard Earth Sciences and Technology Center at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), during 10-12 June. This workshop has a goal of bringing together scientists from different international centers (including the met agencies, space agencies and academia) and initiating comparisons between the assimilated products, so participants are invited from all groups working in this field.

All stratospheric products are of interest, but the main emphasis of this workshop will be on the lower stratosphere. Initial comparisons will encompass meteorology, chemistry and transport, with a particular focus on the assimilation of trace gases: ozone and water vapor. Presentations about ongoing work and future plans, such as assimilation of data from Envisat or the EOS satellites, are also welcome. Further details can be found on the web page http://dao.gsfc.nasa.gov/DAO_people/ivanka/sparcDA/. The local organiser of the workshop is Dr Ivanka Stajner, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Data Assimilation Office, Code 910.3, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA, email: ivanka@dao.gsfc.nasa.gov.

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