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# The 1-way on-line coupled atmospheric chemistry model system MECO(n) – Part 1: The limited-area atmospheric chemistry model COSMO/MESSy

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## Abstract

The numerical weather prediction model of the Consortium for Small Scale Modelling (COSMO), maintained by the German weather service (DWD), is connected with the Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy). This effort is undertaken in preparation of a new, limited-area atmospheric chemistry model. This model is as consistent as possible, with respect to atmospheric chemistry and related processes, with a previously developed global atmospheric chemistry general circulation model: the ECHAM/MESSy Atmospheric Chemistry (EMAC) model. The combined system constitutes a new research tool, bridging the global to the meso- $\gamma$  scale for atmospheric chemistry research. MESSy provides the infrastructure and includes, among others, the process and diagnostic submodels for atmospheric chemistry simulations. Furthermore, MESSy is highly flexible allowing model setups with tailor made complexity, depending on the scientific question. Here, the connection of the MESSy infrastructure to the COSMO model is documented. Previously published prototype submodels for simplified tracer studies are generalised to be plugged-in and used in the global and the limited-area model. They are used to evaluate the tracer transport characteristics of the new COSMO/MESSy model system, an important prerequisite for future atmospheric chemistry applications. A supplementary document with further details on the technical implementation of the MESSy interface into COSMO with a complete list of modifications to the COSMO code is provided.

## 1 Introduction

Since atmospheric chemistry related processes are often governed by local features, e.g., emissions of a power plant or fire emissions, which are not sufficiently resolved in global models, smaller scale models for atmospheric chemistry are required. In order to investigate those smaller scale effects, a regional model including a chemistry setup consistent with that of the global model is desirable. This goal is achieved by

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connecting MESSy to the regional weather prediction and climate model of the Consortium for Small Scale Modelling (COSMO model<sup>1</sup>, Steppeler et al., 2003; Doms and Schättler, 1999), resulting in the model system COSMO/MESSy.

The Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy<sup>2</sup>, Jöckel et al., 2005) was developed with a focus on atmospheric chemistry applications. Currently, MESSy depends on a basemodel which calculates the basic dynamic processes and provides the model domain and its parallel decomposition. The interfaces for 3-dimensional basemodels in MESSy were initially developed for the global atmospheric general circulation model (GCM) ECHAM5 (Roeckner et al., 2006). A large variety of process studies has been performed with the global ECHAM5/MESSy atmospheric chemistry (EMAC) model (Jöckel et al., 2006), e.g., on the influence of different convection parameterisations (Tost et al., 2006, 2007, 2010), the chemistry in and near ship-tracks (Lauer et al., 2007; Franke et al., 2009), the role of organic species (Pozzer et al., 2007, 2010), the representation of the solar cycle (Nissen et al., 2007), detailed aerosol and halogen chemistry (Kerkweg et al., 2007, 2008a,b), emission of NO<sub>x</sub> from soil (Steinkamp et al., 2009), bio-aerosols (Burrows et al., 2009), energetic particle precipitation (Baumgaertner et al., 2009, 2010) and comparisons with satellite measurements (Stiller et al., 2007; Brühl et al., 2007; Wetzal et al., 2010). Additionally, EMAC took part in a number of important model inter-comparison studies, e.g., Austin et al. (2010); Butchart et al. (2011); Gettelman et al. (2010); Hegglin et al. (2010); Morgenstern et al. (2010); Son et al. (2010).

Here, an overview of the functionality of COSMO/MESSy is provided. First, the COSMO model and the MESSy interface structure are briefly recapitulated in Sects. 2.1 and 2.2, respectively. Section 3 describes the connection of the MESSy infrastructure submodels to COSMO and Sect. 4 depicts the required generalisation of the regular submodels.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cosmo-model.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.messy-interface.org>

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A first application of some previously published submodels<sup>3</sup> focusing on the evaluation of the tracer transport characteristics of COSMO/MESSy is presented in Sect. 5, before the potential of the newly built model system is shortly summarised in Sect. 6.

This is the first of three companion articles dealing with the technical development of COSMO/MESSy. In a second article (Kerkweg and Jöckel, 2011) we present a newly developed coupling technique that provides the boundary data required by the regional model directly (on-line) from ECHAM5/MESSy via the newly developed Multi-Model-Driver (MMD) library and two corresponding submodels. In a third article (Hofmann et al., 2011), the newly developed on-line coupled model system is evaluated with the focus on three meteorological cases.

## 2 Model description

The model system COSMO/MESSy consists of two model components: The numerical weather prediction model of the Consortium for Small Scale Modelling (COSMO model, Doms and Schättler, 1999) and the Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy, Jöckel et al., 2005). Both components are briefly introduced. Currently, the model system is based on the COSMO model version `cosmo_4.8_clm12` and the MESSy model version `2.40`.

### 2.1 The COSMO model

The COSMO model is a non-hydrostatic limited-area weather prediction model (Stepeler et al., 2003; Doms and Schättler, 1999). It has been designed for both operational numerical weather prediction (NWP) and for research on the meso- $\beta$  and meso- $\gamma$  scale. Additionally to the short range NWP application, the COSMO model was set up

<sup>3</sup> Convective tracer transport (CVTRANS), simplified prognostic tracers (PTRAC), point sources and simplified chemistry (TREXP) and tracers of opportunity (DRADON).

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for regional climate studies by the CLM-community<sup>4</sup> (Rockel et al., 2008). The COSMO model is based on the primitive thermo-hydrodynamical equations for compressible flow in a moist atmosphere and uses rotated geographical coordinates and a generalised terrain following height coordinate. The Arakawa C-grid with Lorenz vertical grid staggering is used. The COSMO model treats the following prognostic variables: horizontal and vertical Cartesian wind components, pressure perturbation, temperature, specific humidity and cloud water content. There are additional optional prognostic variables such as the cloud ice content, the turbulent kinetic energy, the specific water contents of rain, snow and graupel. Different time integration schemes can be selected:

- a second-order leapfrog, horizontally explicit, vertically implicit, time-split integration scheme, including extensions proposed by Skamarock and Klemp (1992),
- a three time-level 3-D semi-implicit scheme (Thomas et al., 2000),
- several options for two time-level 2nd and 3rd order Runge-Kutta split-explicit schemes after Wicker and Skamarock (2002) and
- a TVD-variant (Total Variation Diminishing) of a 3rd order Runge-Kutta split-explicit scheme.

A variety of physical processes are taken into account through parameterisations, e.g., grid-scale and subgrid-scale clouds, precipitation, moist and shallow convection, radiation, a soil model and so forth.

The COSMO model is available to the scientific community<sup>5</sup>. To make the COSMO model applicable on the climate scale, a number of extensions have been implemented

<sup>4</sup> Climate Limited-area Modelling-community: <http://www.clm-community.eu>

<sup>5</sup> “The COSMO-Model is available free of charge for scientific and educational purposes, especially for cooperational projects with COSMO members. However, all users are required to sign an agreement with a COSMO national meteorological service and to respect certain conditions and restrictions on code usage. For questions concerning the request and the agreement, please contact the chairman of the COSMO Steering Commit-

by the CLM-community, for instance, netCDF<sup>6</sup> output and a *restart*<sup>7</sup> facility. Hereafter, the COSMO model is named COSMO-CLM when features are discussed which are only used by the climate community.

## 2.2 MESSy

5 The Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy, Jöckel et al., 2005, 2010) is a multi-institutional project providing the infrastructure to expand state-of-the-art geoscientific domain models (e.g., of the atmosphere) into comprehensive Earth System Models (ESMs). Although originally the focus was solely on the efficient and flexible implementation of processes related to atmospheric chemistry into a circulation model of the atmosphere, the methodology turned out to be much more powerful (e.g., Pozzer et al., 10 2011). In particular, MESSy has been connected to the ECHAM5 general circulation model of the atmosphere (Roeckner et al., 2006), expanding it into the global chemistry climate model EMAC (Jöckel et al., 2006) with a wide variety of applications (see also Sect. 1).

15 The basic idea behind MESSy is its four layer structure, as visualised in Fig. 1, consisting of

- the basemodel layer (BML), usually a legacy domain model, e.g., of the atmosphere; it can be regarded as power supply,
- the basemodel interface layer (BMIL), which hosts the MESSy infrastructure and can be regarded as multiple socket outlet,

tee. In the case of a planned operational or commercial use of the COSMO-Model package, special regulations will apply” (cited from the COSMO User’s Guide, December 2009 <http://www.cosmo-model.org/content/model/documentation/core/cosmoUserGuide.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>

<sup>7</sup> The Appendix contains a Glossary explaining some terms repeatedly used here. The terms from the Glossary are written in italics throughout the article.

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- the submodel interface layer (SMIL), which provides the communication of the submodels with the MESSy infrastructure (and therefore also with the base-model); it can be regarded as the plug,
- the submodel core layer (SMCL), which hosts the actual process or diagnostic formulation; it can be regarded as the machinery.

Each MESSy submodel is split into an interface and a core layer part. The MESSy infrastructure is coded as so-called generic submodels, which interfaces reside in the BMIL, whereas the interfaces for the regular submodel belong to the SMIL. The core, i.e., the basemodel independent parts of all submodels, are located in the SMCL. Examples of generic submodels are (see also Sect. 3), among others, the memory management and input/output interface, including a *restart* facility (CHANNEL, Jöckel et al., 2010), the tracer infrastructure for the handling of constituents (TRACER, Jöckel et al., 2008), or the time and event management (TIMER, Jöckel et al., 2010). For a more detailed overview of the currently available generic and regular submodels, we refer to Jöckel et al. (2010) and the project web-page<sup>8</sup>. The next section (Sect. 3) describes the implementation details of the connection of the MESSy infrastructure to the COSMO model. Section 4 documents the required generalisation (i.e., including an adapter into the plug) of the SMIL of the regular submodels. The necessity for such a generalisation arose mainly from the fact that in the Eulerian (grid-point) formulation of many processes the vertical direction needs to be particularly distinguished (in other words plays a particular role) from the horizontal directions. As a consequence, the rank of the vertical index in multi-dimensional array variables representing geo-located data might depend on the basemodel (and indeed it is different in ECHAM5 and COSMO). This dependency has been eliminated.

<sup>8</sup><http://www.messy-interface.org>

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### 3 Implementation of the MESSy infrastructure

An important principle for the implementation of the MESSy interface in the COSMO model is to keep the changes in the COSMO model code as small as possible, i.e., minimally invasive. Additionally, nothing in the functionality of the COSMO model should be changed for the usual “COSMO only” user. Hence, all changes have been introduced using the pre-processor directive MESSy:

```
#ifdef MESSY
... new code ...
#endif

Or

#ifndef MESSY
... original COSMO code ...
#else
... modified code
#endif
```

Thus, the changes are only active if the model is configured with `--enable-MESSy` (default). Otherwise, with `--disable-MESSy`, the original COSMO model code is compiled.

One of the basic ideas of MESSy is to keep as much code as possible applicable for all models employed. In this way, code doubling is avoided, making it highly consistent and less error-prone. This is not always easily achieved, as for 3-D applications MESSy currently still depends on a basemodel providing the model domain decomposition, the dynamics and other distinct parts of the model physics. The global climate model ECHAM5 (Roeckner et al., 2006) was the basemodel model chosen as basis for the development of MESSy (Jöckel et al., 2006). Before COSMO/MESSy was built, ECHAM5 was the only 3-D basemodel hosting the MESSy interface. Therefore, MESSy uses mostly the naming convention of ECHAM5. For instance, the names of

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variables used in the MESSy SMIL are in many cases the same as in ECHAM5. As long as MESSy was connected to one 3-D basemodel only, there was no need to take different realisations of 3-D model grids and/or *representations* into account. During the course of connecting MESSy to the COSMO model, MESSy was further generalised to allow for different realisations of model grids and *representations*. Note that all the changes apply to the interface layers only, as the core layer of the submodels is basemodel independent anyway.

The three most prominent extensions are:

1. The order of the dimensions in multi-dimensional array variables representing geo-located information:

in principle, the three dimensions in space can be arbitrarily defined in a three dimensional model. But, in meteorological models the vertical is a distinguished spatial dimension. Therefore the position of the vertical axis becomes important when using three dimensional fields. In ECHAM5 the order of the three dimensions in space is  $(h1, v, h2)$ , with  $h1, h2$  the two horizontal dimensions and  $v$  the vertical dimension, whereas the order in COSMO is  $(h1, h2, v)$ . Before the connection of MESSy to the COSMO model, the MESSy interfaces of the submodels worked under the assumption, that the order of dimensions is  $(h1, v, h2)$ . This restriction has been eliminated now, the order of dimensions is automatically switched for different basemodels. This has been implemented using pre-processor directives, as explained in Sect. 4.

2. A big outer loop over the second horizontal dimension:

the specific order of dimensions in ECHAM5,  $(h1, v, h2)$ , has been introduced for code optimisation. Within a loop over the second horizontal dimension (outer loop) arrays of rank 2  $(h1, v)$  are processed. This reduces memory space, as the local variables are smaller by one rank, and loops over the remaining horizontal dimension allow a configurable optimised memory access (blocking) on both, vector and scalar architectures (cache optimisation). Most of the MESSy

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submodels are called within this outer loop in ECHAM5/MESSy and make use of the reduced variables and the blocking feature. To keep the MESSy submodel interfaces as general as possible and to be able to use the same interfaces for ECHAM5 and COSMO, we imitate the outer loop within COSMO/MESSy, which has, in the present implementation, no blocking capability. This is discussed in further detail in Sect. 3.1.

### 3. The horizontal domain decomposition for parallel processing:

in ECHAM5 the global Eulerian grid (used for physics, except for advection which has its own parallel decomposition) is distributed bijectively in both horizontal directions onto all parallel processes (PEs), i.e., each grid point resides on one PE only. This is different for the COSMO model grid. The local horizontal grid on each PE is split into a core-region and a ghost boundary (or halo) part. Each grid point of the full model domain is bijectively attributed to one core-region of the decomposed grid similar to the ECHAM5 grid decomposition. But each of these core-regions is surrounded by a frame of ghost boundaries in order to more efficiently calculate physical processes, which require information of the neighbouring grid points, e.g., advection. The ghost boundaries of the local domain overlap with the core-regions of the neighbouring PEs. At certain points within a model time step the variables on the boundaries are exchanged between neighbouring PEs. Consequently, the ECHAM5 global Eulerian grid consists of core-regions only as no overlap exists. Hence, by connecting MESSy to the COSMO model, the MESSy infrastructure was extended to take into account the differences between core-region and ghost boundaries. This is essential, for instance for the calculation of domain integrated tracer masses (see Sect. 3.7).

Next, those interface (or generic) submodels are described, which have undergone extensions or modifications while being connected to COSMO/MESSy. A list of all other currently available generic submodels is provided in the “COSMO/MESSy Implementation Documentation” in the Supplement.

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### 3.1 SWITCH/CONTROL

SWITCH/CONTROL is the MESSy submodel managing the switching and calling of the individual submodels. In the basemodels, distinct entry points have been defined from which the MESSy submodels are called. One entry point consists of one call to a subroutine of CONTROL. This subroutine executes calls to the generic submodels and, if switched on, to the respective regular submodels. Figure 2 lists all current entry points for MESSy. As not all SMILs of all submodels have been adapted so far, not all entry points available in ECHAM5/MESSy are also used in COSMO/MESSy. Those marked by hatched boxes are presently not used in COSMO/MESSy, the yellow boxes, in contrast, denote the active entry points in COSMO/MESSy. The MESSy submodels currently called from the respective subroutine are listed next to the box. Blue text highlights the generic submodels, whereas the regular submodels are written in black. In those entry points located within the outer loop over the second horizontal dimension in EMAC (indicated by the green box), i.e., `messy_vdiff`, `messy_convect`, `messy_physc` and `messy_local_end`, the loop is mimicked with loop variable `jrow`, in agreement with the naming convention. At first place in these loops, some rank-2 POINTERS are associated with the respective 2-D sub-arrays of 3-D fields by calling the subroutine `main_data_2D_set_jrow`:

```
!-----  
SUBROUTINE main_data_2D_set_jrow(jrow)  
  
  INTEGER, INTENT(IN) :: jrow  
  
  qte => qvtens(1:ie,jrow,:) 5  
  ...  
  
END SUBROUTINE main_data_2D_set_jrow  
!-----
```

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Figure 3 depicts a flow chart of the COSMO/MESSy model. It illustrates where the individual MESSy entry points are located in the COSMO basemodel flow. The MESSy entry points are highlighted by yellow boxes, whereas the COSMO model routines are coloured in blue. COSMO model routines which are obsolete for COSMO/MESSy are crossed out and substituted by the corresponding MESSy subroutine in the dark orange box directly below. The light orange boxes indicate direct calls of generic submodel subroutines. The “COSMO/MESSy Implementation Documentation” in the Supplement lists and explains all changes, which became necessary in the COSMO model code for the implementation of the MESSy interface.

### 3.2 CHANNEL

The generic MESSy submodel CHANNEL is described in detail by Jöckel et al. (2010). It manages the memory usage, the output, the restart files and the model internal access to data. Internally, in CHANNEL all data is stored as concatenated list of structures each containing a description of the data (meta information) and a rank-4 POINTER for the data field itself. To make the COSMO model data fields available to all MESSy submodels, they have to be defined as *channel objects*. As one prerequisite the TARGET, ALLOCATABLE attribute of the COSMO arrays are replaced by the POINTER attribute.

The COSMO model arrays are allocated by creating the respective *channel objects* (in a *channel* called COSMO\_ORI) in the subroutine messy\_COSMO\_create\_channel instead of being allocated in the COSMO subroutine alloc\_meteofields (compare flow chart in Fig. 3). For instance, the 3-D field of the density of the reference atmosphere ( $\rho_0$ ) is defined by

```
CALL new_channel_object(status   &
                        , 'COSMO_ORI', 'RHO0'      &
                        , p3=rho0, reprod=GP_3D_MID )
CALL channel_halt(callstr,status)
```

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RHO0 is the name of the *channel object*. The memory space required for the rank-3 POINTER rho0 is indicated by the *representation* ID GP\_3D\_MID, which determines that the variable is defined at grid mid-points. The CHARACTER formal parameter callstr denotes the calling subroutine. Detailed information is provided in the CHANNEL user manual (available in the supplement of Jöckel et al., 2010). The *channel* COSMO\_ORI is used for data management only, i.e., its contents should normally not be subject to data output (but the objects can be written, if required for debugging purposes).

CHANNEL provides its own output control. Within the channel namelist channel.nml defaults for each *channel* and *channel object* can be set to create output e.g., for instantaneous values, averages, standard deviations, minimum and maximum values etc. (see CHANNEL manual, supplement of Jöckel et al., 2010). To keep the functionality of the &GRIBOUT namelists of the COSMO namelist file INPUT\_IO, the requested output is redirected into MESSy *channels*. The *channels* are named COSMOXXXy with XXX the number of the &GRIBOUT namelist, e.g., if three &GRIBOUT namelists are specified in the INPUT\_IO namelist file, XXX in the respective *channels* is replaced by the numbers 001, 002 and 003, respectively; y indicates the respective variable group and is defined as in COSMO: c for constants, m for variables on the model grid and p and z for output interpolated on pressure or altitude levels, respectively. In that way, the MESSy CHANNEL output of COSMO model variables can still be managed by the original COSMO model namelists, if desired.

In addition, the original COSMO output files can be written, if the LOGICAL switch L\_BM\_ORIG\_OUPUT in the CHANNEL namelist is set .TRUE.<sup>9</sup>

The generic submodel CHANNEL also manages the model *restarts*. For a model *restart* all variables, required for the unambiguous continuation of the simulation, are

<sup>9</sup> Due to the fact that both, COSMO and CHANNEL are using the same memory for each variable and that the on-line statistics of CHANNEL relies on the fact, that the primary memory of a variable contains instantaneous values, the accumulated fields are not (!) accumulated in the COSMO output files, even if L\_BM\_ORIG\_OUPUT=.TRUE..

5 dumped into so-called *restart*-files. Unambiguous in this context means that the results are binary identical compared with results from a continuous simulation without interruption. The *restart*-files are read during the initialisation phase of a restarted simulation. The climate version of the COSMO-CLM model already included a *restart* facility. Nevertheless, as CHANNEL replaces the complete COSMO model memory management, the *restarts* are also managed by CHANNEL. Thus, the read procedure of the *restart* file in the COSMO subroutine `organize_input (src_input.f90)` is skipped in COSMO/MESSy.

### 3.3 TIMER

10 The generic submodel TIMER became part of the MESSy system within the scope of the connection of MESSy to the COSMO model. Until now, ECHAM5/MESSy used the time and *event* management of ECHAM5 and all MESSy submodels utilising *events* depended on the ECHAM5 *event* management routines. Therefore, the functionality of ECHAM5 *events* had to be made available within COSMO/MESSy as well. Consequently, the generic MESSy submodel TIMER is based on the time and *event* managing routines of ECHAM5 written by Ingo Kirchner (Max-Planck-Institut for Meteorologie, Hamburg, now at FU Berlin). A user manual for the TIMER submodel can be found in the electronic supplement of Jöckel et al. (2010).

15 As MESSy provides the time management and because each model can apply only one time management, the COSMO model time management is overwritten by the MESSy generic submodel TIMER. Consequently, all time variables as time step, start date, stop date and the *restart* frequency are defined in the namelist file of TIMER (`timer.nml`), the entries in the COSMO namelist `&RUNCTL` in the namelist file `INPUT_ORG` for `dt`, `hstart`, `hstop` and `ydate_ini` are hence ignored, as is the entry `restart_hour` of the namelist `INPUT_IO`.

25 The most important time variables are initialised via namelist in `messy_timer_setup`, which is called from the `organize_setup` subroutine of the COSMO model via the `CONTROL` subroutine `messy_setup` (see Fig. 3,

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Sect. 1). After this initialisation of the MESSy variables, the COSMO model time variables are initialised or overwritten by TIMER. Affected are:

- the time step (`dt`),
- the calendar type (`itype_calender`),
- 5 – the initial date (`ydate_ini`),
- the indicator for model stop in hours (`hstop`) and in steps (`nstop`),
- the COSMO variables containing the distance from model start (`hstart` or `nstart`, in hours or steps, respectively) and
- the date strings `yakdat1` and `yakdat2`.

10 All variables except for `dt` and `itype_calender` are re-set in the subroutine `messy_timer_COSMO_reinit_time`. Additionally, the counters for the re-initialisation of the maximum 10 m wind velocity and the minimum and maximum temperature are re-set here. After this re-initialisation, all COSMO time variables are consistent with the TIMER setup.

15 Because the original COSMO-CLM *restart* facility is replaced by the CHANNEL *restart* interface in COSMO/MESSy, as mentioned above, the subroutine `messy_timer_COSMO_reinit_time` is additionally called during a *restart* after reading the *restart attributes* from the *restart-files*.

20 The generic submodel TIMER is described in more detail by Jöckel et al. (2010) and the corresponding electronic supplement.

### 3.4 DATA

The generic submodel DATA is part of the memory management and data transfer interface. The basemodel data fields are made available and easily accessible by DATA. One of the guidelines for the MESSy interface implementation into the COSMO

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model is to use as many parts as possible available for ECHAM5/MESSy also for COSMO/MESSy, i.e., to minimise the code that needs to be maintained independently for ECHAM5/MESSy and COSMO/MESSy. Therefore, DATA is the model unifying the data structure and names of the basemodel variables. Different aspects had to be taken into account:

- When “US(E)ing” a (basemodel) variable provided by DATA, the MESSy sub-models access this variable always with the same variable name independent of the basemodel. For instance, the variable name of the sea-land fraction in ECHAM5/MESSy is `slf`, whereas the same variable in the COSMO model is `fr_land`. Therefore `fr_land` is renamed in DATA to `slf` by

```
USE data_fields, &  
    ONLY: slf => fr_land  
...  
  
PUBLIC :: slf
```

- An additional challenge is the treatment of the time levels of the prognostic variables in both models. As ECHAM5/MESSy uses the leap-frog time integration scheme, it provides variables for the values after time integration (i.e., at the end of the previous time step), mostly indicated by ‘`m1`’ at the end of the variable name. Additionally, the ECHAM5/MESSy model utilises variables for the tendencies applied to the prognostic variables during the current time step (mostly indicated by ‘`te`’ at the end of the variable name). In contrast to the ECHAM5/MESSy model, the COSMO model contains 2- and 3-time level integration schemes. To simplify the treatment for these different schemes and to avoid copying one time level of a prognostic variable to another time level of the same prognostic variable, the variable fields in the COSMO model are of rank 4, consisting of the three dimensions in space and an additional rank dimensioned by the number of time levels

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utilised in the integration scheme. To access the different time levels, index variables of type INTEGER (*nnew*, *nnow* and *nold*) are defined. Their values are rotated every time step, thus the 'm1' or 'nnow' values are not located at the same memory space all the time during the integration. The tendency of a variable in the COSMO model is defined in a similar way as in ECHAM5/MESSy. It is mostly indicated by 'tens' at the end of the variable name: e.g., the specific humidity in ECHAM5 is determined by the two rank-3 variables *qm1* and *qte*. In the COSMO model the specific humidity field is the rank-4 variable *qv*. The field after the last completed time step is accessed by *qv(:, :, :, nnow)* for the 2-time level scheme or by *qv(:, :, :, nold)* for the leap-frog scheme. The tendency field in COSMO is defined by *qvtens*.

To minimise the changes in the MESSy submodel interface layer, POINTERS, named as the corresponding ECHAM5/MESSy variables, are associated to the current time slice and/or the tendency variable, e.g.:

```

REAL(DP), POINTER, PUBLIC, &
  DIMENSION(:, :, :) :: qm1 => NULL()
...
  qm1      => qv(:, :, :, ntime)
  qte_3d => qtens(:, :, :)
...

```

where *ntime* is *nnow* or *nold*, depending on the time integration scheme.

- Naturally, the COSMO model uses different names for its loop and dimension variables and indices. These names must be unique within the MESSy base-model interface layer and the submodel interface layer, in order to make the submodel interface layer basemodel independent. Therefore DATA copies the COSMO model dimension variables to variables named as the respective MESSy variables. The “COSMO/MESSy Implementation Documentation” in the Supplement contains a list of the dimension variable names and their meaning.

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- DATA also provides fields required by the MESSy submodels, which are not directly supplied by the basemodel. In DATA additional *channel objects* are defined and calculated during the integration phase (if they vary with time) or in the initialisation phase (if they are constant). Examples for such variables are the geopotential at full and interface levels (`geopot` and `geopoti`, respectively), the mass contained in a grid box (`grmass`), or the volume of a grid box (`grvol`).

### 3.5 MPI

As MESSy must be applicable in a parallel decomposed environment, the generic MESSy submodel MPI builds a high level application interface (API) for the use of the MPI library. Currently, for each basemodel the access to the MPI library is mirrored in the MESSy submodel MPI. In case of ECHAM5/MESSy, the ECHAM5 routines are simply USED into the generic submodel MPI. Consequently, for the COSMO model, two aspects had to be taken into account:

- Each basemodel uses the MPI library in its own way, thus, COSMO/MESSy uses the MPI library for the MESSy submodels similar to the COSMO model.
- The names of the high level routines organising the data exchange via the MPI library in the generic submodel MPI must be the same for different basemodels. As the MESSy submodels call the MPI routines (from their SMIL) using the original ECHAM5 names, these names must also be used for COSMO/MESSy.

To achieve this goal, the generic MESSy submodel MPI contains subroutines named as in ECHAM5/MESSy and structured, where necessary, either as the ECHAM5/MESSy or the COSMO model routines, respectively. In particular it contains the following subroutines/interfaces:

- `gather_gp`: this is a threefold overloaded interface for gathering 4-D-, 3-D- or 2-D fields in grid-point space. The subroutines for 3-D- or 4-D fields reduce the field

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by one rank and call the next “lower” subroutine, thus `gather_gp` basically performs an exchange of parallel decomposed horizontal 2-D fields. In the COSMO model this is accomplished by the subroutine `gather_field`. Consequently, this subroutine is called from the subroutine `gather_gp` to actually perform the data transfer.

– `scatter_gp`: this subroutine provides the reverse action to `gather_gp`. It distributes fields to a parallel decomposed grid. Equivalently overloaded, `scatter_gp` basically calls the COSMO model subroutine `distribute_field`.

– `p_bcast`: the subroutine `p_bcast` is twelvefold overloaded for the transfer of 0D and 1D LOGICAL, CHARACTER (LEN=\*) and different KINDs of INTEGER or REAL variables. It is a renamed and expanded version of the COSMO model interface `distribute_values`, which requires six parameters: the buffer to be sent/received, the rank of the task in the group communicator, the group communicator, the buffer length, the MPI datatype and an error status. The corresponding MESSy routine (`p_bcast` as in ECHAM5), in contrast, requires only two parameters (buffer and rank of the sender), others are optional. To create a common interface, the group communicator, the buffer length and the MPI datatype have been made optional parameters in the COSMO/MESy section of the generic submodel MPI. If they are not present, they are deduced from other input:

- the communicator is assumed to be the model’s world communicator,
- the buffer length is determined by `SIZE(buffer)` and
- the MPI data type is determined according to the type of the buffer.

– `messy_mpi_initialize`: this MESSy subroutine is called directly from the basemodel to initialise the LOGICAL variables `p_parallel_io` and `p_parallel` indicating whether the actual PE is responsible for input and output, and whether the model is working in a parallel environment, respectively.

- `p_abort`: this subroutine manages the proper termination of a simulation in a parallel environment by calling the COSMO model routine `model_abort`.

Some further variables used in the MESSy submodels are defined accordingly. The “COSMO/MESSy Implementation Documentation” in the Supplement contains a description of these variables.

### 3.6 TRANSFORM

The generic MESSy submodel TRANSFORM hosts utility subroutines to transform variable fields from one *representation* into another (e.g., grid point, spectral or Lagrangian). Most of these *representations* are meaningless in a regional grid point model. This leaves only one important subroutine, namely `locate_in_decomp`. This subroutine determines the corresponding horizontal indices and PE number in a parallel decomposed grid for a point given in geographical coordinates, or, for COSMO/MESSy optionally in coordinates of the rotated grid. The subroutine `locate_in_decomp` is for instance required in the regular MESSy submodel TREXP (see Sect. 5.1.2 and Jöckel et al., 2010) to correctly identify the geo-location of point sources.

### 3.7 TRACER

The generic submodel TRACER (Jöckel et al., 2008) provides the interface for the management of constituents (e.g., chemical species) in the model system.

The tracer definition consists of two parts:

- the meta-information defining the properties of the tracer, e.g.,
  - the quantity (amount-fraction, number-density or concentration) and the unit of the component,
  - the medium in which the tracer resides (air, aerosol, cloud, ocean, etc.),

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- switches for the processes the tracer should undergo within the simulation (e.g., advection, dry deposition, scavenging, etc.) and
  - some tracer specific constants as the molar mass, the henry coefficient, etc.
- 5
- The tracer data field itself. It is always defined for one *tracer set*, i.e., for a group of tracers with the same *representation* i.e., the same geometry in space and time. From the rank-6 tracer field
- rank 1,2 and 4 span the spatial dimensions,
  - rank 3 is the tracer index, i.e., the number of an individual tracer in the tracer set,
  - rank 5 is of length 1 and
  - rank 6 contains the data instances, e.g., the different time levels of a time integration scheme.
- 10

For a detailed overview of the submodel TRACER, we refer to Jöckel et al. (2008). Here, we provide details about the implementation of the TRACER interface into the COSMO model.

15

One of the striking differences between the COSMO model and ECHAM5 is the treatment of the prognostic variables (see Sect. 3.4). In the COSMO model prognostic variables are allocated with an extra rank for the different time levels required by the time integration scheme. The indices of the respective time levels are `nnow`, `nnew` and `nold`, which are rotated each model time step in order to avoid the copying of the data from the “`nnew`” to the “`nnow`” time level and so forth. Therefore the data for one specific time level is not always located at the same memory space. This is different in the MESSy. Due to the association of the tracers to the *channel* memory management, each of the instances (rank 6) of the tracer field is permanently associated to one specific time level of the time integration scheme.

20

25

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Table 1 shows the definition of the instances for COSMO/MESSy as currently chosen<sup>10</sup>. The number of instances depends on the time integration scheme: for the Runge-Kutta scheme only 5 instances are needed, whereas the leap-frog scheme requires 6 instances. The different time levels of the tracer fields are copied at the beginning of the new time step, i.e., in the subroutine `initialize_loop` in `lmorg.f90`.

Consequently, the access to the respective time levels of the tracer field is not as simple as in the COSMO model itself. To mimic the functionality of the access to the different time levels of a prognostic field (by the indices `nnow`, `nnew` and `nold`), additionally the *POINTER ARRAY* `xt_array` is allocated to the number of time levels in the integration scheme. In addition to copying the tracer time instances in `initialize_loop`, the individual POINTERS of `xt_array` are associated to the respective tracer fields:

```

xt_array(nnew)%PTR => xt
! the cyclic changes in COSMO is applied
! for the tracer field here
15 IF (l2t1s) THEN    ! 2-time-level scheme
    xtml (:,:,,:) = xt (:,:,,:)
    xt_array(nnow)%PTR => xtml
ELSE                ! 3-time-level scheme
    ! nnow => nold
20  xtml (:,:,,:) = xtf (:,:,,:)
    ! nnew => nnow
    xtf (:,:,,:) = xt  (:,:,,:)
    xt_array(nnow)%PTR => xtf
    xt_array(nold)%PTR => xtml
25 ENDIF

```

Thus, different time levels of the tracer field are also accessible via the COSMO model time level indices.

<sup>10</sup> Note: this is not a requirement of the TRACER submodel.

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The transport of the tracers via advection and horizontal and vertical diffusion is included into the COSMO model in equivalence to the transport of water vapour ( $q_v$ ). Due to the meta-information associated to each tracer, each transport process can independently be switched on or off for each individual tracer. Further information are provided within the comprehensive description of the generic MESSy submodel TRACER by Jöckel et al. (2008).

#### 4 Implementation of the MESSy submodels

A MESSy submodel consists of two layers (Jöckel et al., 2005, see also Sect. 2.2):

- The submodel core layer (SMCL) hosts the code parts describing the physical, chemical or diagnostic process dealt with by the submodel. Because the SMCL contains only the scientific content of a submodel, it is completely independent of the basemodel (global, regional, column or box model) and therefore stays unchanged for the implementation of MESSy into the COSMO model.
- The submodel interface layer (SMIL) manages the communication (data flow) between the basemodel interface layer (i.e., the MESSy infrastructure) and the submodel core layer. It allocates the memory for the submodel specific fields, and organises the access to the fields defined by other MESSy submodels or the basemodel, which are required in the respective submodel core. Thus, a SMIL file provides a connector to the basemodel.

So far, for the implementation of the MESSy regular submodels the SMIL files of each submodel had to be changed for different basemodels. Within the scope of the connection of MESSy to the COSMO model, the SMIL files have been generalised in a way that for additional new basemodels no further changes of the SMIL files are required. Most of the differences between the basemodels (here the COSMO model and ECHAM5) is accounted for by the generic MESSy submodels, especially by DATA

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(Sect. 3.4). Only one big difference remains for all regular submodels, which has to be taken care of in the SMIL files: the order of the spatial dimensions. Whereas ECHAM5/MESSy arranges the spatial dimensions of a grid-point field ( $h1, z, h2$ ), with  $h1, h2$  the horizontal dimensions and  $z$  the vertical dimension, the COSMO model applies the order ( $h1, h2, z$ ). This difference in order needs to be taken into account in the SMIL, when data fields are provided to the core layer subroutines, where the vertical dimension is usually particularly distinguished. This is implemented by applying a rank-flipping based on pre-processor directives. This approach proves useful to avoid unnecessary doubling of code, implying a lower error-proneness and a reduced risk of inconsistencies, as changes in the submodel interfaces are directly valid for all grid-point basemodels.

The rank-flipping is implemented via pre-processor directives, the so-called “rank identifiers”. Basically, the ranks that need to be flipped (dependent on the basemodel) are replaced by a directive in the code. As a lot of different combinations of indices and colons is possible, a naming convention for the Fortran95 index variables and the rank identifiers is required. All rank identifiers are defined basemodel dependent in the include file `messy_main_ppd.inc`, which is included in all SMIL files. For instance, with rank identifiers the calculation of the thickness of the lowest model layer in pressure units (`dp`) reads:

```

20 dp(1:kproma) = &
    pressi_3d(1:kproma, _RI_YVp1_) &
    - pressi_3d(1:kproma, _RI_YV_)

```

`pressi_3d` is the pressure at the layer interfaces and `kproma` the length of the first (blocked) horizontal dimension. The rank identifiers `_RI_YV_` and `_RI_YVp1_` are defined as

```

25 #ifdef ECHAM5

#define _RI_YV_    nlev, jrow
#define _RI_YVp1_ nlev+1, jrow

```



```

#endif
#ifdef COSMO
#define _RI_YV_    jrow,nlev
#define _RI_YVp1_ jrow,nlev+1
5 #endif

```

where `nlev` is the number of vertical levels and `jrow` is the loop variable of the second horizontal dimension, indicated by the `V` and the `Y` in the rank identifier, respectively. The pre-processor replaces the rank identifiers with the provided definition. In the example above, the code after running the pre-processor reads

```

10 dp(1:kproma) = &
    pressi_3d(1:kproma,nlev+1,jrow) &
    - pressi_3d(1:kproma,nlev,jrow)

```

for ECHAM5/MESSy and

```

dp(1:kproma) = &
15     pressi_3d(1:kproma,jrow,nlev+1) &
    - pressi_3d(1:kproma,jrow,nlev)

```

for COSMO/MESSy, respectively.

A detailed description of the naming convention of the rank identifiers and a list of the currently used rank identifiers is included in the “COSMO/MESSy Implementation Documentation” in the Supplement.

## 5 Tracer transport

At the beginning of this section, the previously published submodels for convective tracer transport (CVTRANS), simplified prognostic tracers (PTRAC), point sources and simplified chemistry (TREXP) and tracers of opportunity (DRADON) are shortly introduced, before they are used for the evaluation of the tracer transport in COSMO/MESSy.

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## 5.1 Submodel description

### 5.1.1 PTRAC

The MESSy submodel PTRAC (Prognostic TRACers) provides a namelist interface for the definition of tracers. Usually tracers are defined in the SMIL module of a submodel, which requires a recompilation of the code, if a new tracer is added. To provide an easy test-bed for tracer studies without the need of recompilation, PTRAC enables the definition of tracers via namelist. The submodel is described in detail by Jöckel et al. (2008).

### 5.1.2 TREXP

The regular submodel TREXP provides the possibility to define point sources of tracers and to define tracers experiencing one degradation reaction, either by zero order decay or by a first order reaction with another educt. The tracers, the reaction coefficients and the point sources are all specified in the `&CPL` namelist of TREXP. The point sources are also applicable to tracers defined elsewhere in MESSy submodels. Jöckel et al. (2010) provide a detailed description of the MESSy submodel TREXP.

### 5.1.3 DRADON

The regular submodel DRADON (Diagnostic RADON) provides an ideal test bed for the diagnosis of tracer transport. Jöckel et al. (2010) explain the concept of DRADON in detail. Different parameterisations of the radon emission fluxes can be applied. For the test shown in Sect. 5.2.3 we applied a constant emission of  $1 \text{ atom (cm}^2 \text{ s)}^{-1}$  over ice and snow free surfaces.

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#### 5.1.4 CVTRANS

Convective tracer transport is managed by the MESSy submodel CVTRANS (Tost et al., 2010). The submodel requires as input the convective mass fluxes, which have to be delivered by the applied convection scheme. Currently, in COSMO/MESSy this data delivery is only implemented for the Tiedtke scheme (Tiedtke, 1989), therefore, CVTRANS is presently only applicable in combination with the Tiedtke scheme.

#### 5.2 Tracer transport tests

To test the tracer transport implemented in COSMO/MESSy, different tests have been performed. All tests use either artificial tracers, or  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ . Moisture in the COSMO model is transported by advection, horizontal and vertical diffusion. As the transport of tracers should be consistent with the moisture transport, the COSMO transport routines are adopted for tracer transport in COSMO/MESSy. Thus, at the time being, the tracer transport is as good as it is in the original COSMO model, i.e., it is neither exactly positive definite nor entirely mass conserving.

Even though horizontal diffusion of tracers is implemented in COSMO/MESSy, all tests showed that the numerical diffusion is larger than the calculated horizontal diffusion. Thus, we recommend to neglect the explicit calculation of horizontal diffusion and show no results for horizontal tracer diffusion here.

In addition to the transport processes of the basemodel, the MESSy submodel CVTRANS (Tost et al., 2010) for the convective tracer transport is included. This process implementation conserves mass and is positive definite.

The COSMO/MESSy model domain for the evaluation is located over Central Europe using a horizontal grid of approximately 40 km ( $0.36^\circ$ ) mesh size and 40 vertical levels. A second, smaller model domain is located roughly over Germany utilising a horizontal grid of approx. 7 km ( $0.0625^\circ$ ) and the same 40 vertical levels as in the 40 km COSMO domain. The simulations will be called COSMO-40 and COSMO-7 hereafter. ECHAM5/MESSy in T106L31 resolution provides the initial and boundary

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data for the COSMO-40 simulation and COSMO-40 the initial and boundary conditions for the COSMO-7 simulation. The simulated period starts at 1 March 2010. As these are simple tracer transport tests, ECHAM5/MESSy was not nudged to the analysed meteorology.

We first show transport tests for tracers which are initialised but not emitted (Sect. 5.2.1), continue with tracers which are initialised with zero and emitted from a point source (Sect. 5.2.2) and conclude with a simulation for  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  (Radon). For all these tests the Runge-Kutta time integration and a Semi-Lagrangian advection scheme are used.

### 5.2.1 Tests with artificial tracers without emission

First, artificial tracers are used to diagnose the mass conservation of the transport processes as implemented in COSMO/MESSy. Table 2 lists the names and the initialisation for the artificial tracers.  $H$  is initialised fully homogeneously to a mixing ratio of  $10^{-7} \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$ . Figure 4 depicts the initialisation of the  $V1$  tracer.  $V2$  is initialised reversely to  $V1$ , i.e., its mixing ratio increases from bottom to top.

As the transport processes can be switched on and off for each tracer individually, the three tracer types have been combined with the five different transport process switch combinations as listed in Table 3. Thus in total 15 tracers have been simulated. Thus, for each tracer type one tracer encounters no transport (nt), three tracers experience exactly one transport process (advection ( $a$ ), vertical diffusion ( $v$ ), or convection ( $c$ )) and one tracer undergoes all three processes.

An important characteristic of tracer transport is that a homogeneous tracer, like the “ $H$ ” tracers, stays homogeneous throughout the simulation. Unfortunately this is not the case, if advection is involved, only those tracers without advection stay homogeneous.

Figure 5 shows the tracer masses integrated over the model domain. For the “ $H$ ” tracers all lines are on top of each other, for  $V1$  and  $V2$  the lines for the tracer experiencing no transport or only convection are on top of each other. This indicates, that the tracer mass is independent of this specific transport process. Nevertheless, the tracer

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masses are changing with time, and the small oscillations are due to the changes of the dry air mass within the model domain (not shown).

In contrast, the mass of the tracers subject to advection is obviously changing, thus indicating, that the advection is not fully mass conserving within COSMO/MESSy. Vertical diffusion is also not fully mass conserving within COSMO/MESSy, whereas the deviations of the integrated tracer mass for the tracers experiencing all transport processes from the tracers only subject to advection are apparent, the integrated mass of the tracer experiencing vertical diffusion differs only slightly from those of the tracers only subject to convection and without any transport (Fig. 5).

The generic MESSy sub-submodel TRACER\_PDEF (Jöckel et al., 2008) provides the possibility to diagnose negative tracer mixing ratios, for instance caused numerically, to correct them to zero, and to diagnose the corresponding mass conservation violation. This has been employed here. Figure 6 displays the integrated negative tracer masses for the  $H$ ,  $V1$  and  $V2$  tracers, which have been corrected by TRACER\_PDEF. The  $H$  and the  $V1$  tracers do not become negative, whereas for  $V2$  advection produces small negative tracer mixing ratios. This confirms the conclusion that the advection implementation in the COSMO model and thus in COSMO/MESSy is neither entirely mass conserving nor perfectly positive definite.

Figure 7 shows snapshots of the vertical distribution of the  $V1$  (left) and the  $V2$  (right) tracer undergoing advection, vertical diffusion and convection. While at 1st March the deviations from the initial pattern are mostly due to orographic induced vertical transport, the most prominent process becoming visible at 3 and 5 March is convection.  $V2$  shows, as expected, the inverse pattern of  $V1$ .

## 5.2.2 Tracer tests utilising point sources

As a second test case, tracers have been initialised with zero and are emitted by a point source using the MESSy submodel TRESP (see Sect. 5.1.2). Two artificial tracers, emitted at different point sources have been chosen for the experiment:

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1. Tracer PNT: the emission point source of the first tracer is located at 20.00° W and 50.00° N in a pressure altitude of 900 hPa. The tracer is named PNT as abbreviation for PoiNT source. This location is chosen to be outside, but close to, the COSMO-40 model domain. Therefore, the tracer needs to be transported into both COSMO model domains.

2. Tracer VOL: the second tracer is emitted at a pressure altitude of 800 hPa over Island (at 19.60° W, 63.63° N). It is named VOL, as its location coincides with the volcano Eyjafjallajökull. This point resides in the COSMO-40 model domain, but not in the COSMO-7 model domain. Thus, VOL is, in contrast to PNT, emitted within the larger COSMO model domain, but is also advected into the COSMO-7 domain.

Figures 8 and 9 display snapshots of the 12th, 15th and 18th simulation day at 12:00 UTC and at the 900 hPa or 800 hPa pressure level for the PNT and VOL tracer, respectively. Pictures in one column correspond to the same simulation day. The first row displays the tracer distribution as simulated by ECHAM5/MESSy, the second and the third row show the tracer distributions in the larger (i.e., 40 km) and the smaller (i.e., 7 km) COSMO model domain, respectively, while the last row depicts a composite of all three simulations.

To investigate the transport of the tracers into the regional model domain, the PNT tracer is emitted outside of both COSMO model domains. Comparing the results of the global and the COSMO-40 model simulation, PNT is advected correctly into the regional model domain. Obviously, details of the tracer distribution are much better resolved in the COSMO/MESSy model than in the ECHAM5/MESSy simulation. These findings are also valid for the comparison of COSMO-40 to COSMO-7.

The VOL tracer is emitted at a point located in the COSMO-40 model domain. As for PNT, the more detailed structures resolved on the finer grids are clearly visible in Fig. 9. Here the discrepancies between the ECHAM5/MESSy simulation and the COSMO-40 are larger as for PNT. The VOL mixing ratio is nearly always larger in the COSMO-40

compared to the ECHAM5/MESSy simulation. In the MESSy submodel TREXP the emitted tracer mass is prescribed. Thus the same tracer mass is emitted into grid boxes of very different volumina, leading to a much faster dilution in ECHAM5/MESSy. Thus the VOL distribution in COSMO-40 is more compact and shows higher peak values.

### 5.2.3 Radon

As a further test, the MESSy submodel DRADON (Sect. 5.1.3) is used, prescribing a constant emission flux of  $1 \text{ atom (cm}^2 \text{ s)}^{-1}$  at the land surface (not covered by snow or ice). The constant emission flux was chosen in order to yield comparable results for all three model domains.

Figures 10 and 11 display snapshots of vertical Radon distributions taken at a cross section of  $50^\circ \text{ N}$  at 00:00 UTC. The upper, middle and lower row display the results of the ECHAM5/MESSy, the COSMO-40/MESSy and the COSMO-7/MESSy simulation, respectively. The vertical structure of the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  distribution is mainly driven by convective transport. Due to the trigger mechanisms of convection parameterisations, and due to the different grid box sizes the distribution is expected to differ in some places. It should be noted that the ECHAM5/MESSy and the COSMO/MESSy model, use convection schemes based on the Tiedtke scheme (Tiedtke, 1989), but including different further developments. On 6 March, the convective transport of the COSMO/MESSy simulations is very similar, with COSMO-7/MESSy showing some more individual updrafts than COSMO-40/MESSy. While in the COSMO/MESSy models the highest updrafts are located between  $10^\circ \text{ W}$  to  $0^\circ \text{ W}$  and  $20^\circ \text{ E}$  to  $32^\circ \text{ E}$ , the ECHAM5/MESSy simulation shows a prominent updraft around  $5^\circ \text{ E}$ . This is most probably due to the different trigger mechanisms employed in the respective convection schemes. On 7 March, the COSMO/MESSy models show a broad peak of the Radon mixing ratio between approx.  $10^\circ \text{ E}$  to  $25^\circ \text{ E}$ , which does not exist in the global simulation. For 11 and 19 March all simulations provide relatively similar Radon distributions despite the differences in the scales. A comparison of the panels in Fig. 11 reveals a good

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agreement between the two COSMO/MESSy model simulations, with the COSMO-7/MESSy simulation showing more distinct peaks than the COSMO-40/MESSy simulation, as expected. The ECHAM5/MESSy simulation generally shows a smoother Radon distribution, but generally compares well to the COSMO-40/MESSy simulation.

5 Finally, we conclude, that the vertical convective transport as evaluated with the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  tracer, is realistically represented in COSMO/MESSy.

## 6 Summary and outlook

The implementation of the MESSy interface into the regional weather prediction and climate model COSMO is documented, aiming at a new limited-area chemistry model. Details are provided in the Supplement. As a first step towards atmospheric chemistry applications, the tracer transport by advection and vertical and horizontal diffusion is implemented into the COSMO/MESSy model by adaption of the COSMO inherent process formulations, i.e., consistent with the moisture transport. Thus, we have to accept at the moment that the tracer transport is neither fully mass conserving nor perfectly positive definite. This will change in future, as a COSMO priority project exists, which aims at developing a mass conserving core for the COSMO model. Alternatively, MESSy submodels providing mass conservative formulations of the respective processes might be developed, such as the convective transport, which is already implemented in a mass conserving way in the MESSy submodel CVTRANS (Sect. 5.1.4).

15 The functionality of the tracer transport in COSMO/MESSy is demonstrated in three different tests for artificial tracers without sources and sinks, tracers with point sources and  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  with a standard source distribution. For this, three different MESSy submodels (PTRAC, TREXP and DRADON) are applied. We conclude that the tracer transport works well in COSMO/MESSy, but still improvements are desirable, especially regarding the mass conservation.

25 The implementation and the successful technical testing of the tracer transport forms an important first step and a prerequisite towards the development of a limited-area

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atmospheric chemistry model. The application and further development of the Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy) to achieve this goal has several advantages: the same or similar process formulations can be used in both, the global (ECHAM5/MESSy) and the limited-area (COSMO/MESSy) model. Furthermore, the required dynamical and chemical boundary conditions for the limited-area model can be seamlessly taken from the global model. In this way, a highly consistent, scale-bridging model chain is constructed. As a powerful research tool, it can be applied for a wide variety of scientific questions: it can serve as a zooming option for atmospheric chemistry related campaign and mission support, for regional air pollution studies, for the dynamical down-scaling of the chemical state of the atmosphere on various time scales. It can support the development of new parameterisations for global chemistry climate models, etc. Our ongoing developments therefore focus on the even closer, i.e. on-line coupling of the limited-area model to the global model, the evaluation of the coupled model system (at first w.r.t. the simulated meteorology) and on the complete integration of all atmospheric chemistry related processes in the limited-area model.

Consequently, this is only the first in a series of three companion articles about the new modeling system ECHAM5/MESSy – COSMO/MESSy. While the implementation of the MESSy infrastructure and tracer transport into the COSMO model is presented here, the second article (Kerkweg and Jöckel, 2011) describes a newly developed coupling methodology, for the on-line nesting of COSMO/MESSy instances into ECHAM5/MESSy. The third article (Hofmann et al., 2011) provides a first evaluation of the newly developed on-line coupled model chain with a focus on the representation of distinct meteorological situations.

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## Appendix A

### Glossary

- *channel*: the generic submodel CHANNEL manages the memory and meta-data and provides a data transfer and export interface (Jöckel et al., 2010). A *channel* represents sets of “related” *channel objects* with additional meta-information. The “relation” can be, for instance, the simple fact that the *channel objects* are defined by the same submodel.
- *channel object*: it represents a data field including its meta-information and its underlying geometric structure (*representation*), e.g., the 3-dimensional vorticity in spectral *representation*, the ozone mixing ratio in Eulerian *representation*, the pressure altitude of trajectories in Lagrangian *representation*.
- *dimensions*: they represent the basic geometry of one dimension, e.g., the number of latitude points, the number of trajectories, etc.
- *event*: this is a data type provided by the generic submodel TIMER, which is used to schedule processes at specific (regular) time intervals, e.g., to trigger regular output or input during a simulation. The *event* control is part of the MESSy generic submodel TIMER. The electronic supplement of Jöckel et al. (2010) comprises a manual for TIMER and details about the *event* definition.
- *representation*: it describes multidimensional geometric structures (based on *dimensions*), e.g., Eulerian (or grid point), spectral, Lagrangian.
- *rerun\_event*: it triggers the output of *restart* files.
- *restart*: a *restart* is performed, if the computing time allowed by a job scheduler is limited and too short for the complete simulation. In this case, the simulation is interrupted in between and restarted in a new job. To achieve binary identical

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results for simulations with and without interruption, restart files are written, of which the contents fully determine the state of a model simulation. These files are read in the initialisation phase during a model *restart*.

– *tracer set*: a group of tracers in the same *representation* (see Jöckel et al., 2008).

5 **Supplementary material related to this article is available online at:**

**[http://www.geosci-model-dev-discuss.net/4/1305/2011/  
gmdd-4-1305-2011-supplement.zip](http://www.geosci-model-dev-discuss.net/4/1305/2011/gmdd-4-1305-2011-supplement.zip)**

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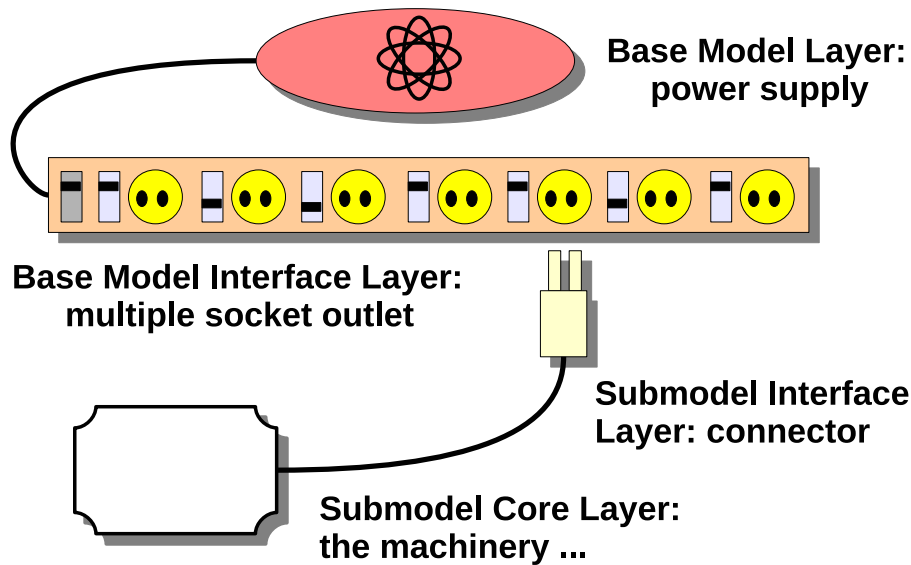
Tracer	Initialisation
<i>H</i>	Homogeneously ( $10^{-7}$ mol mol <sup>-1</sup> )
<i>V1</i>	Vertical gradient decreasing with height
<i>V2</i>	Vertical gradient increasing with height

**Table 3.** Table of passive tracer (PTRAC) transport tests.  $X$  is a placeholder for either  $H$ ,  $V1$  or  $V2$ .

Tracer name	Transport process		
	Advection	Vertical diffusion	Convection
$X_{nt}$	–	–	–
$X_a$	+	–	–
$X_v$	–	+	–
$X_c$	–	–	+
$X$	+	+	+

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**Fig. 1.** Sketch of the four layer structure of MESSy.

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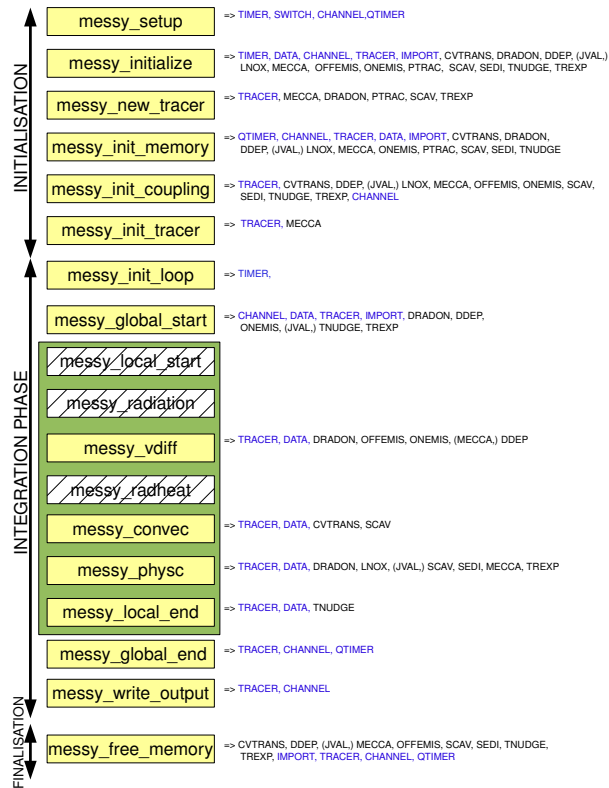
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**Fig. 2.** List of all entry points available in ECHAM5/MESSy. The entry points highlighted with yellow boxes are currently implemented in COSMO/MESSy, the hatched ones are not yet required, as the dependent submodels are not used in COSMO/MESSy so far. Next to the boxes the generic (blue) and regular (black) submodels currently called in COSMO/MESSy by the respective CONTROL subroutine are listed. The green box surrounds those entry points located in the outer loop over the second horizontal dimension in ECHAM5/MESSy.

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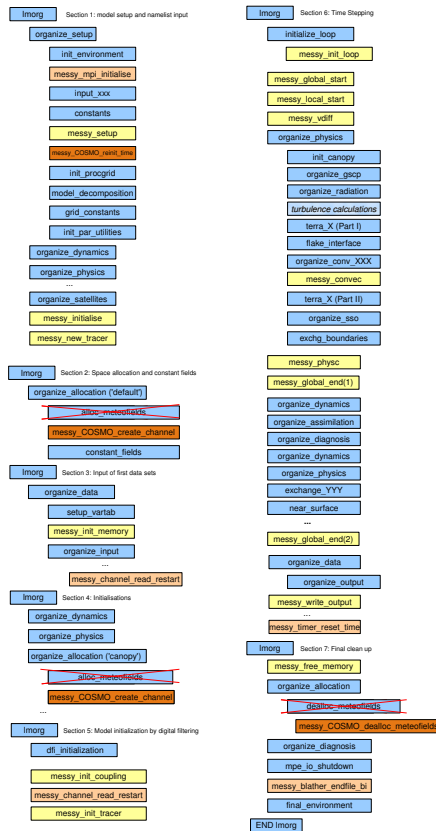
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**Fig. 3.** Simplified flow chart of COSMO/MESSy. Listed are the main routine calls of COSMO and the MESSy entry points. Indented boxes are called by the non-indented box above. Blue boxes indicate COSMO routines; yellow boxes highlight MESSy entry points (CONTROL); orange boxes point to direct calls of MESSy infrastructure submodels and dark orange boxes indicate direct calls of COSMO specific MESSy infrastructure submodel routines.

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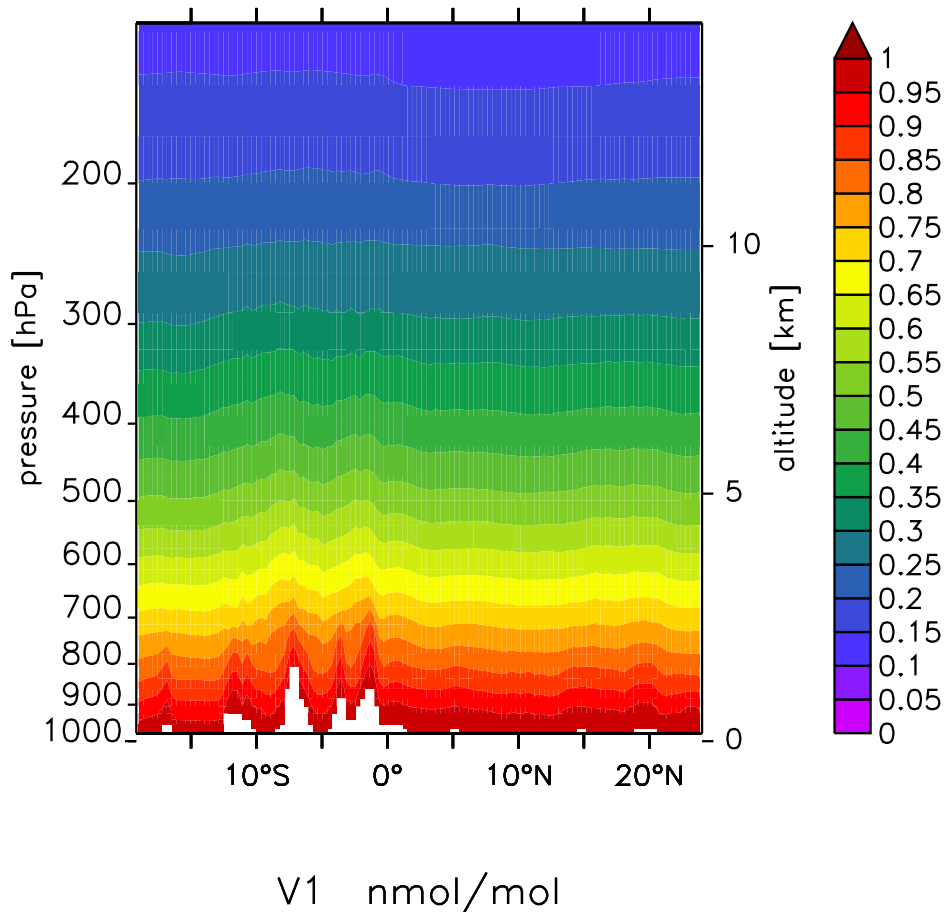
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**Fig. 4.** Initialisation pattern of the passive tracer *V1*. The horizontal axis shows rotated coordinates.

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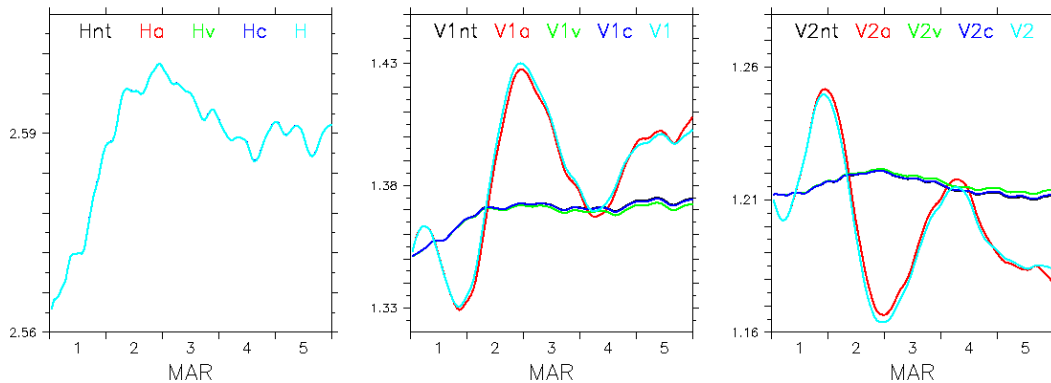
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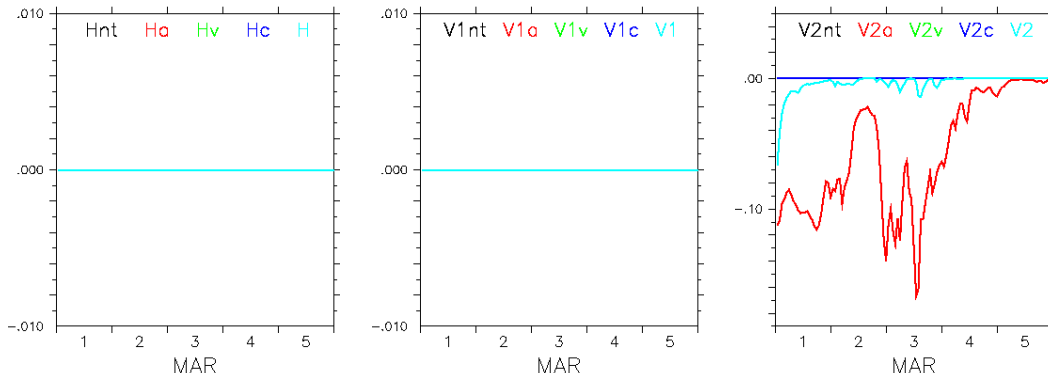




**Fig. 5.** Tracer mass in  $10^6$  kg for the passive tracers  $H$  (left),  $V1$  (middle) and  $V2$  (right) in the COSMO-7 simulation. The lines for  $X_{nt}$ ,  $X_v$  and  $X_c$  are nearly on top of each other, for  $H$  all lines are on top of each other.

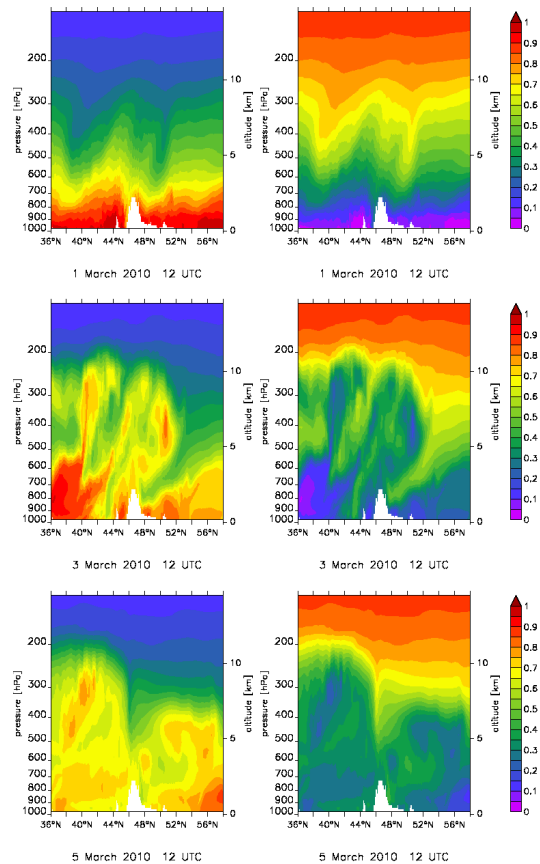
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**Fig. 6.** Corrected negative tracer mass (see text) in kg for the passive tracers  $H$  (left),  $V1$  (middle) and  $V2$  (right) in the COSMO-7 region. For  $H$  and  $V1$  all lines are on top of each other.

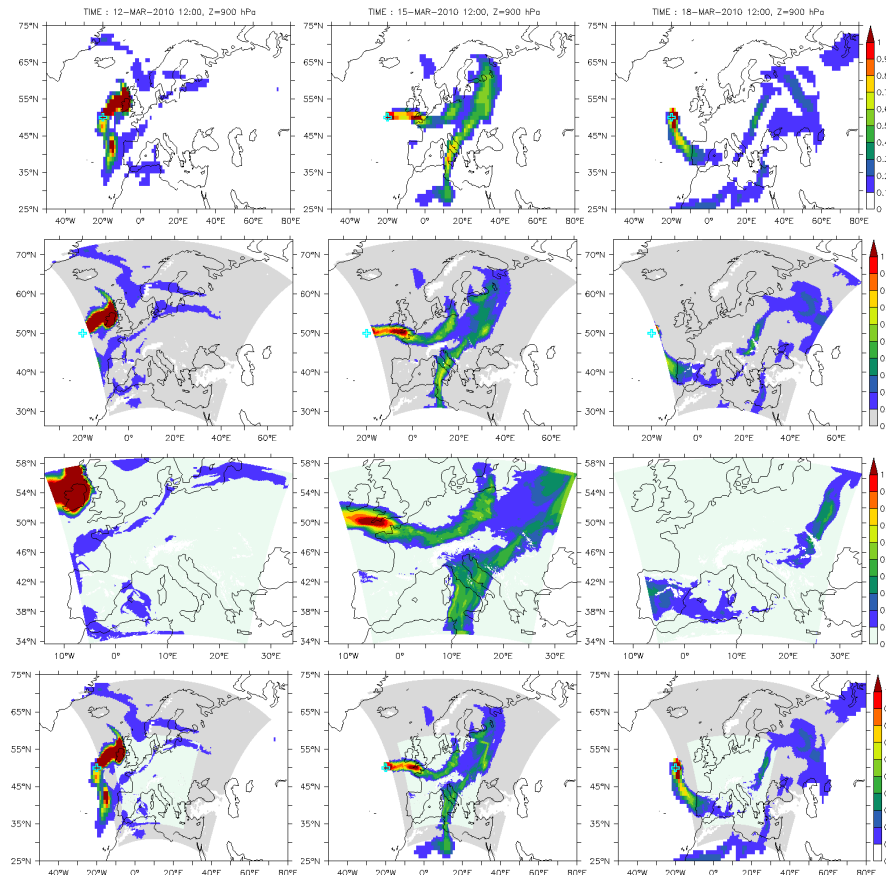
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**Fig. 7.** Time evolution of the vertical distribution at  $3^{\circ}$  W of the diagnostic tracers V1 (left) and V2 (right) for the simulation using the Runge-Kutta time integration and the semi-lagrangian advection scheme for the COSMO-40 domain. Snapshots are taken at 01:00 UTC for the three days 1, 3, 5 March 2010.

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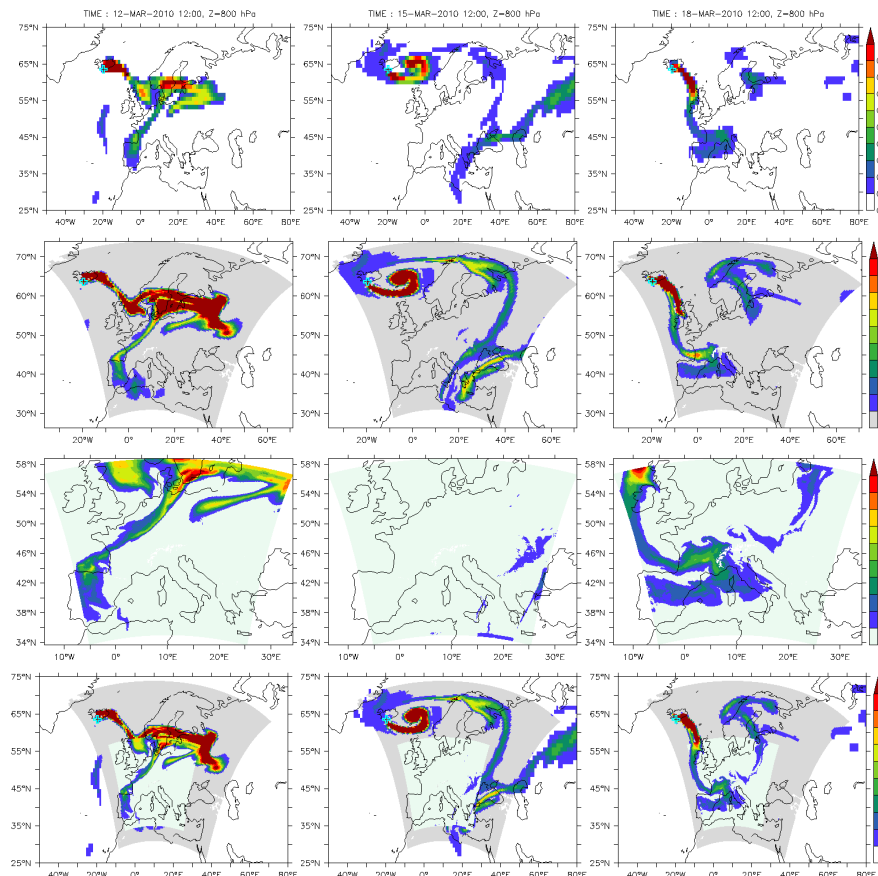
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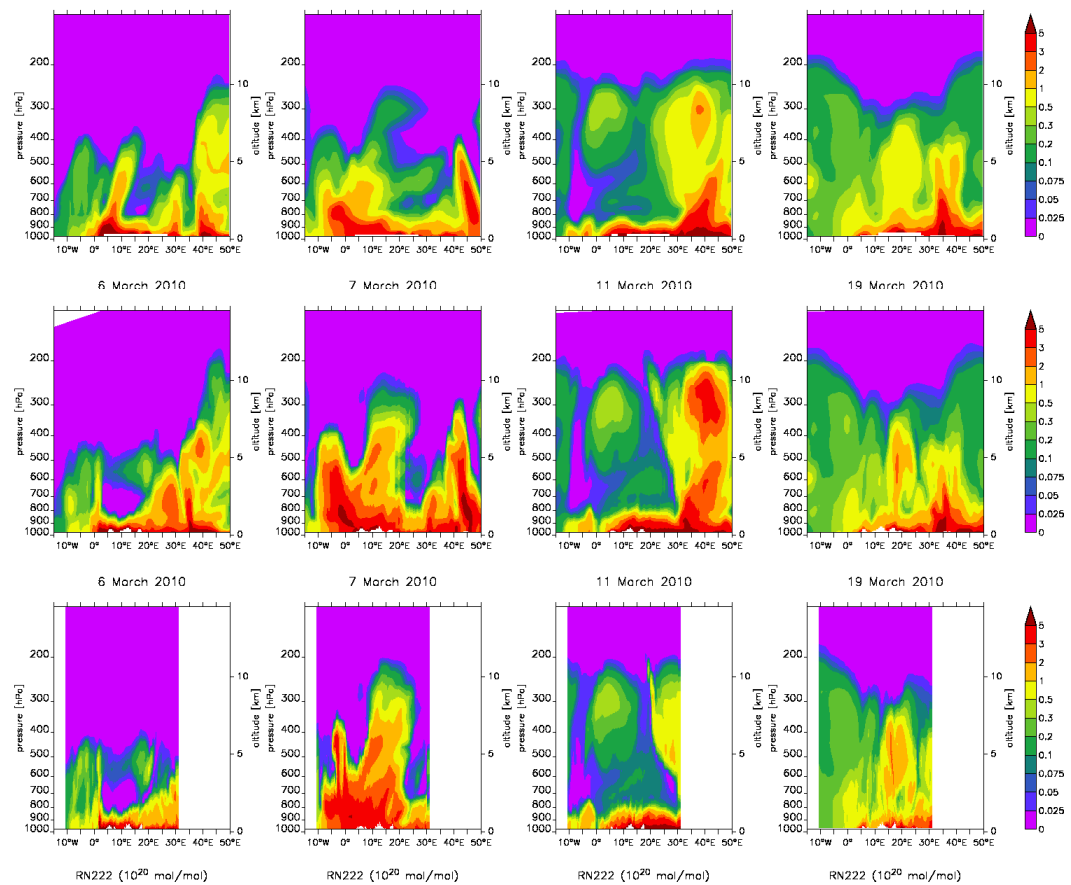
**Fig. 8.** Horizontal distribution at 900 hPa of the artificial tracer PNT. The location of the emission point is indicated by the light blue plus sign. Results are shown for the 12th, 15th and 18th simulation day at 12:00 UTC (columns). First row: ECHAM5/MESSy, second row COSMO-40/MESSy, third row COSMO-7/MESSy and last row composite of all three model domains.

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**Fig. 9.** Horizontal distribution at 800 hPa of the artificial tracer VOL. The location of the emission point is indicated by the light blue plus sign. Results are shown for the 12th, 15th and 18th simulation day at 12:00 UTC (columns). First row: ECHAM5/MESSy, second row COSMO-40/MESSy, third row COSMO-7/MESSy and last row composite of all three model domains.



**Fig. 10.** Vertical cross section of  $Rn^{222}$  mixing ratios at  $50^\circ N$ . Snapshots are taken at 6, 7, 11, 19 March, respectively. Upper row: result of the ECHAM5/MESSy simulation; middle row: COSMO-40/MESSy simulation; lower row: COSMO-7/MESSy simulation.

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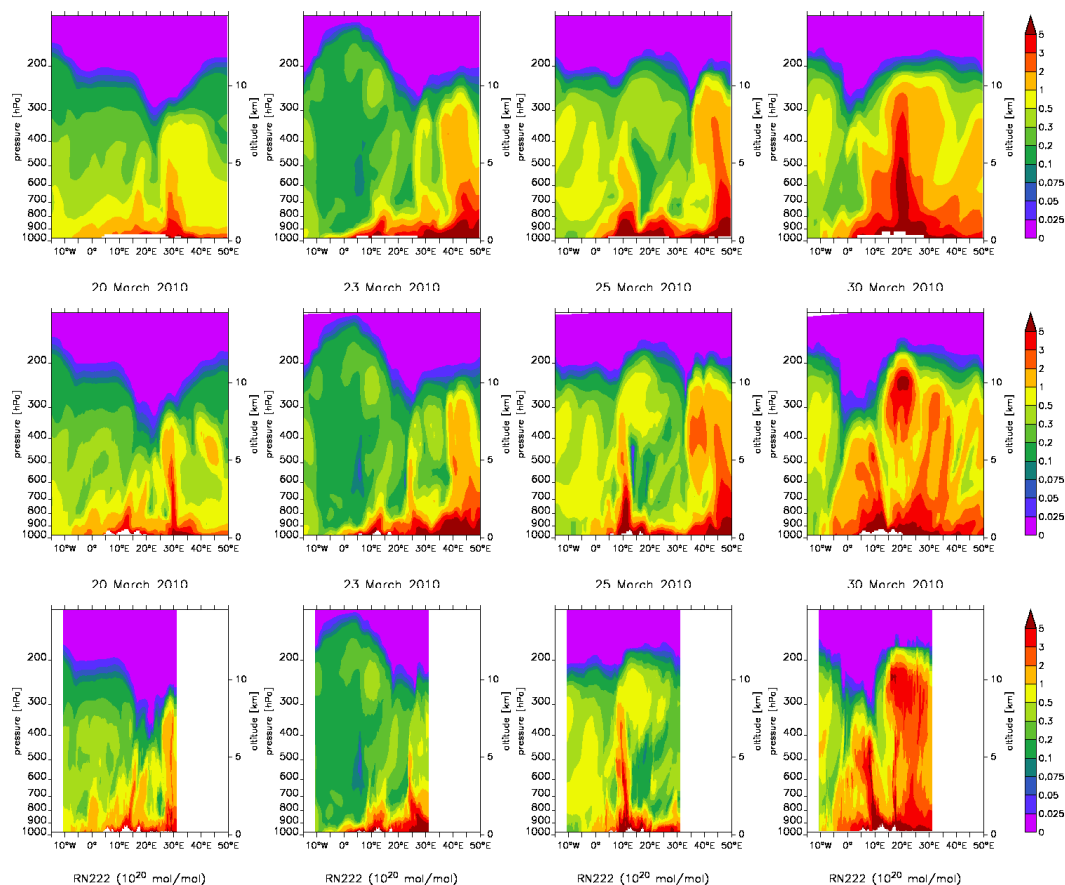
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**Fig. 11.** Vertical cross section of  $Rn^{222}$  mixing ratios at  $50^\circ N$ . Snapshots are taken at 20, 23, 25 and 30 March, respectively. Upper row: result of the global ECHAM5/MESSy simulation; middle row: COSMO-40/MESSy simulation; lower row: COSMO-7/MESSy simulation.

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