

1 **Development of a Grid-Independent GEOS-Chem Chemical Transport Model (v9-02) as an** 2 **atmospheric chemistry module for Earth System Models.**

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5 6 *Abstract*

7 The GEOS-Chem global chemical transport model (CTM), used by a large atmospheric chemistry
8 research community, has been re-engineered to also serve as an atmospheric chemistry module for Earth
9 System Models (ESMs). This was done using an Earth System Modelling Framework (ESMF) interface
10 that operates independently of the GEOS-Chem scientific code, permitting the exact same GEOS-Chem
11 code to be used as an ESM module or as a stand-alone CTM. In this manner, the continual stream of
12 updates contributed by the CTM user community is automatically passed on to the ESM module, which
13 remains state-of-science and referenced to the latest version of the standard GEOS-Chem CTM. A major
14 step in this re-engineering was to make GEOS-Chem grid-independent, i.e., capable of using any
15 geophysical grid specified at run time. GEOS-Chem data “sockets” were also created for communication
16 between modules and with external ESM code. The grid-independent, ESMF-compatible GEOS-Chem is
17 now the standard version of the GEOS-Chem CTM. It has been implemented as an atmospheric chemistry
18 module into the NASA GEOS-5 ESM. The coupled GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system was tested for
19 scalability and performance with a tropospheric oxidant-aerosol simulation (120 coupled species, 66
20 transported tracers) using 48-240 cores and MPI distributed-memory parallelization. Numerical
21 experiments demonstrate that the GEOS-Chem chemistry module scales efficiently for the number of
22 cores tested, with no degradation as the number of cores increases. Although inclusion of atmospheric
23 chemistry in ESMs is computationally expensive, the excellent scalability of the chemistry module means
24 that the relative cost goes down with increasing number of cores in a massively parallel environment.

25 26 *1. Introduction*

27 Global modelling of atmospheric chemistry involves solution of the 3-D continuity equations for the
28 concentrations of chemical species including the effects of emissions, transport, chemistry, and
29 deposition. This is commonly done with Chemical Transport Models (CTMs) driven by input
30 meteorological data and surface boundary conditions. CTMs are relatively simple computational tools
31 because the chemical continuity equations are solved without coupling to atmospheric dynamics. They are
32 adequate for many applications and play a central role in advancing knowledge of atmospheric chemistry.
33 However, there is also increasing demand for atmospheric chemistry to be implemented as a coupled
34 module in Earth System Models (ESMs) that represent the ensemble of processes affecting the Earth
35 system. Here we describe a software framework through which the state-of-science GEOS-Chem CTM
36 can be implemented seamlessly as a module in ESMs, so that the stand-alone CTM and the ESM module
37 use exactly the same code. We describe the deployment of this capability in the NASA Goddard Earth
38 Observing System (GEOS) developed at NASA’s Global Modelling and Assimilation Office (GMAO).

39 GEOS-Chem (<http://www.geos-chem.org>) is a shared-memory parallel (OpenMP) global 3-D Eulerian
40 CTM driven by assimilated meteorological data (Bey et al., 2001). It is used by over 100 research groups
41 worldwide for a wide range of applications including simulation of tropospheric oxidants (Mao et al.,
42 2013), aerosols (Fairlie et al., 2007; Jaeglé et al., 2011; Park et al., 2004; Trivitayanurak et al., 2008),
43 carbon gases (Nassar et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2004; Wecht et al., 2014), mercury (Holmes et al., 2010;
44 Selin et al., 2008), and stratospheric chemistry (Eastham et al., 2014; Murray et al., 2012). Development

45 of GEOS-Chem is based on core principles of open-source code development, modular structure, nimble
 46 approach to innovation, strong version control, rigorous quality assurance (QA), extensive documentation,
 47 and user support . The large user base permits extensive model diagnosis and generates a continual stream
 48 of new developments to maintain the model at the forefront of the science. Implementation of these
 49 developments in the standard GEOS-Chem code can be done quickly and efficiently because of the
 50 simplicity of the code and the common interests of the user community. Maintaining state-of-science
 51 capability is more challenging in ESMs because of complexity of managing the central code and the need
 52 for dialogue across research communities to prioritize model development. On the other hand, CTMs such
 53 as GEOS-Chem have more difficulty staying abreast of high-performance computing (HPC) technology
 54 because of limited software engineering resources.

55 Here we present a re-engineered standard version of the GEOS-Chem CTM capable of serving as a
 56 flexible atmospheric chemistry module for ESMs. A key innovation is that GEOS-Chem is now grid-
 57 independent, i.e., it can be used with any geophysical grid. The same standard GEOS-Chem code can be
 58 integrated into ESMs through the Earth System Modelling Framework (ESMF, Hill et al., 2004)
 59 interface, or used as before as a stand-alone CTM driven by assimilated meteorological data. The re-
 60 engineered grid-independent flexibility has been integrated into the standard open-code version of the
 61 GEOS-Chem CTM. The exact same scientific code in the GEOS-Chem CTM now serves as atmospheric
 62 chemistry module in the GEOS-5 ESM of the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO)
 63 (Molod et al., 2012). Scientific updates to the GEOS-Chem CTM contributed by its user community and
 64 incorporated in the standard model following QA are automatically integrated into the GEOS-5 ESM, so
 65 that the ESM effortlessly remains state-of-science and traceable to the latest standard version of GEOS-
 66 Chem.

67

68 2. *Grid-Independent GEOS-Chem Model Description*

69 The GEOS-Chem CTM consists of four modules executing operations for chemistry and dry deposition,
 70 emissions, wet deposition, and transport (Fig. 1). GEOS-Chem solves the general Eulerian form of the
 71 coupled continuity equations for m chemical species with number density vector $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_m)^T$

$$72$$

$$73 \quad \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (n_i \mathbf{U}) + P_i(\mathbf{n}) - L_i(\mathbf{n}) \quad i \in [1, m] \quad (1)$$

74

75 Here \mathbf{U} is the wind vector (including sub-grid components parameterized as turbulent diffusion and
 76 convection). and $P_i(\mathbf{n})$ and $L_i(\mathbf{n})$ are the local production and loss rates of species i including terms to
 77 describe chemical reactions, aerosol microphysics, emissions, precipitation scavenging, and dry
 78 deposition. In GEOS-Chem, as in all 3-D CTMs, equation (1) is solved by operator splitting to separately
 79 and successively apply concentration updates over finite time steps from a transport operator

$$80$$

$$81 \quad \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (n_i \mathbf{U}) \quad i \in [1, m] \quad (2)$$

82

83 and a local operator (commonly called chemical operator)

$$84$$

$$85 \quad \frac{dn_i}{dt} = P_i(\mathbf{n}) - L_i(\mathbf{n}) \quad i \in [1, m] \quad (3)$$

86

87 The transport operator includes no coupling between species, while the chemical operator has no spatial
88 coupling. The transport operator is further split into 1-D advection operators, a convection operator, and a
89 boundary layer mixing operator. Operator splitting breaks down the multi-dimensionality of the coupled
90 system (1) and enables numerical solution by finite differencing. The chemical operator in GEOS-Chem
91 is further split into chemistry and dry deposition, emissions, and wet deposition modules for
92 computational convenience. Gravitational settling of particles is treated as part of the chemical operator.
93 Wet deposition from sub-grid convective precipitation cannot be decoupled from convective transport
94 (Balkanski et al., 1993) and is treated as part of convection in the transport operator.

95 The transport operators in the standard GEOS-Chem CTM are applied on fixed latitude-longitude grids
96 (e.g. Wu et al. 2007). When integrated into an ESM, GEOS-Chem does not need to calculate its own
97 transport; this is done separately in the ESM as part of the simulation of atmospheric dynamics, where
98 transport of chemical species is done concurrently with transport of meteorological variables. Thus the
99 ESM only uses GEOS-Chem to solve the chemical operator (3) over specified time steps. The GEOS-
100 Chem chemical operator must in turn be able to accommodate any ESM grid and return concentration
101 updates on that grid.

102 The chemical operator has no spatial dimensionality (0-D) and could in principle be solved
103 independently for all grid points of the ESM. However, grouping the grid points by column is more
104 efficient as it permits simultaneous calculation of radiative transfer, precipitation scavenging,
105 gravitational settling, and vertically distributed emissions for all grid points within the column. Thus we
106 take a 1-D vertical column as the minimum set of grid points to be handled by a call to the chemical
107 operator. Chemical operator updates for a given column can be completed without information from
108 neighboring columns. Solving for the chemical operator column by column reduces memory overhead
109 and facilitates scalable single program, multiple data (SPMD; Cotronis and Dongarra, 2001)
110 parallelization in a distributed computing environment using the Message Passing Interface (MPI). It may
111 sometimes be preferable to apply the chemical operator to ensembles of columns, grouped independent of
112 geography, to balance the computational burden and achieve performance gains (Long et al., 2013).

113 Prior to this work, the horizontal grid of GEOS-Chem was defined at compile time from a limited
114 selection of fixed latitude-longitude grids ($1/4^\circ \times 5/16^\circ$, $1/2^\circ \times 2/3^\circ$, $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$, $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$, $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$) compatible with
115 the advection module and offline meteorological fields. Our goal here was to re-engineer the existing
116 GEOS-Chem code to accept any horizontal grid defined at runtime. The horizontal grid would be able to
117 span the entire global domain, represent a single column to be calculated on a single compute node, or
118 represent any collection of columns defined by their location. This permits use of the same scientific code
119 for stand-alone CTM and coupled ESM applications.

120

121 *2.1 Code Modularization and Structure*

122 In order for the GEOS-Chem code to permit run-time horizontal grid definition, much of the
123 FORTRAN-77 code base was updated to Fortran-90. This included extensive conversion of static to
124 dynamically-allocatable arrays, and introduction of pointer-based derived data types. Data flow into,
125 through, and out of GEOS-Chem's routines was reconfigured to use derived-type objects passed to
126 routines as arguments in place of publicly-declared global-scope variables. This permitted the bundling of
127 data structures with similar functionality into common interfaces (data "sockets") that simplify module
128 communication within GEOS-Chem and coupling to external components through the ESMF interface
129 (see Section 2.2). Three sockets are defined: a meteorology and physics socket, a chemistry socket, and
130 an input options socket. The meteorology and physics socket provides data defining geophysical state

131 variables and arrays. This includes temperature, pressure, humidity, wind fields, and many others. The
132 chemistry socket provides data structures for chemical species including indexing, species names, and
133 concentrations. The input options socket provides runtime information such as calendar, grid dimensions,
134 diagnostic definitions, and locations of offline information stored on disk. Together, these sockets
135 incorporate all of the quantities and fields necessary for coupling to and driving modules within GEOS-
136 Chem.

137 The GEOS-Chem code includes specific conditional-compilation flags to accommodate the ESMF
138 interface and permit coupling with external data streams. These flags do not interfere with GEOS-Chem's
139 scientific operation and are used exclusively in grid, I/O, and utility operations. There are three flags
140 invoked as C-preprocessor statements: *ESMF_*, *EXTERNAL_GRID*, and *EXTERNAL_FORCING*. Code
141 bounded by these flags is neither compiled nor executed unless the specific flag is enabled at compile
142 time. The *ESMF_* flag bounds code specific for the ESMF. The *EXTERNAL_GRID* flag bounds code that
143 allows GEOS-Chem to operate on an externally defined and initialized grid (e.g. by an ESM). The
144 *EXTERNAL_FORCING* flag bypasses GEOS-Chem's internal, offline data I/O operations necessary for
145 CTM operation, and replaces them with ESMF-based I/O. Users do not need to have the ESMF installed
146 in order to run GEOS-Chem as a stand-alone CTM. The system reverts to the standard GEOS-Chem
147 CTM code relying on the legacy module interface when compiled without these flags enabled.

148 The recently developed Harvard-NASA Emissions Component HEMCO ([http://wiki-geos-
149 chem.org/HEMCO/](http://wiki-geos-chem.org/HEMCO/)) is used for emission calculations (Keller et al., 2014). HEMCO is a Fortran-90
150 based, ESMF compliant, highly customizable module that uses base emissions and scale factors from a
151 library of emission inventories to construct time-dependent emission field arrays. Emission inventories
152 and scale factors are selected by the user in a HEMCO-specific configuration file. Emission inventories
153 for different species and source types need not be of the same grid dimensions or domain.

154 The redesign of GEOS-Chem's data structures was meant to simplify coupling of GEOS-Chem with
155 any ESM regardless of its ESMF compatibility. In the absence of an ESMF interface, users would be
156 required to engineer a specific interface for their ESM. However, GEOS-Chem's data sockets and
157 conditional-compilation flags facilitate this task by having all input and output data structures and
158 associated methods conveniently located in a few specific modules.

159 As with all modifications to the publicly-available GEOS-Chem source code, changes made for ESM
160 coupling and grid-independence were subject to rigorous QA by conducting prescribed 1-month and 1-
161 year test simulations as benchmarks (http://acmg.seas.harvard.edu/geos/geos_benchmark.html), and
162 comparing results to the benchmarks of the previous model version. Our changes were not to modify any
163 aspect of the benchmark simulation results and we verified that they did not. Results from the benchmark
164 simulations for version 9-02k can be found here: [http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-
165 chem/index.php/GEOS-Chem_v9-02_benchmark_history#v9-02k](http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/GEOS-Chem_v9-02_benchmark_history#v9-02k).

166
167

168 2.2 ESMF Interface

169 We made GEOS-Chem ESMF-compatible for interfacing with external ESMs. The ESMF is an open-
170 source software application programming interface that provides a standardized high-performance
171 software infrastructure for use in ESM design. It facilitates HPC, portability, and interoperability in Earth
172 science applications (Collins et al., 2005).

173 GEOS-Chem is executed within the ESMF as a gridded component. The gridded component is the basic
174 element of an ESMF-based program, and is defined as a set of discrete scientific and computational

175 functions that operate on a geophysical grid. Likewise, other components of the Earth system are
176 implemented as gridded components (e.g. atmospheric dynamics, ocean dynamics, terrestrial
177 biogeochemistry, etc.).

178 Each gridded component consists of a routine establishing ESMF-specific services, and *Initialize*, *Run*,
179 and *Finalize* operations methods for gridded component execution by the ESMF. The *Initialize* method is
180 executed once at the beginning of the simulation and initializes component-specific runtime parameters.
181 The *Run* method interfaces local data structures with ESMF States (see below) and executes the
182 component code (GEOS-Chem in our case). The *Finalize* method wraps up code execution, closes any
183 remaining open files, finalizes I/O and profiling processes, and flushes local memory.

184 Gridded components exchange information with each other through States. A State is an ESMF derived
185 type that can contain multiple types of gridded and non-gridded information (Collins et al., 2005; Suarez
186 et al., 2013). An ESMF gridded component is associated with an *Import* State and an *Export* State. The
187 *Import* State provides access to data created by other gridded components. The *Export* State contains data
188 that a component generates and makes available to other components. In the ESMF-enabled GEOS-
189 Chem, data are passed into and out of the GEOS-Chem gridded component via interfacing an appropriate
190 State with a corresponding GEOS-Chem data socket (Figure 1), making these data available within
191 GEOS-Chem or to other ESM gridded components (see Section 2.1).

192 The ESMF was implemented within GEOS-Chem as an independent layer that operates on top of the
193 CTM code. It includes code for interfacing with and executing GEOS-Chem as an ESMF gridded
194 component. When coupling GEOS-Chem to an ESM, the GEOS-Chem transport modules are excluded
195 and only those modules necessary to solve Eq. (3) are used. Coupling specifically to the GEOS-5 ESM
196 required an adaptation of GEOS-Chem's ESMF interface for the GMAO's Modelling, Analysis and
197 Prediction Layer (MAPL) extension (Suarez et al., 2013). MAPL is otherwise not required for GEOS-
198 Chem.

199

200 3. Implementation, Performance, and Scalability

201 The ESMF-enabled GEOS-Chem was embedded within the NASA GEOS-5 ESM (version Ganymed-
202 4.0). The GEOS-5 ESM is the forward model of the GEOS-5 atmospheric data assimilation system
203 (GEOS-DAS) (Ott et al., 2009; Rienecker et al., 2008). The system is built upon on an ESMF framework,
204 and uses a combination of distributed memory (MPI) and, in some cases, hybrid distributed/shared
205 memory parallelization. The dynamical core used here is based on Lin (2004), and operates on horizontal
206 grid resolutions ranging from $2^{\circ}\times 2.5^{\circ}$ to $0.25^{\circ}\times 0.3125^{\circ}$, with 72 vertical layers up to 0.01 hPa. Ocean
207 surface and sea-ice boundaries are prescribed. The land and snow interfaces are based on Koster et al.
208 (2000) and Stieglitz et al. (2001), respectively. For the coupled simulations, GEOS-5 ESM native
209 dynamics and moist physics are applied to the GEOS-Chem chemical tracers.

210 All coupled GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem simulations were performed on the Discover system at the NASA
211 Goddard Space Flight Center (http://www.nccs.nasa.gov/discover_front.html), using 12-core (dual hex-
212 core) 2.8 GHz Intel Xeon Westmere (X5660) compute nodes equipped with 24 GB RAM, and an
213 Infiniband DDR interconnect using the Intel compiler suite (v. 13.1.1) and MVAPICH2 (v. 1.8.1). GEOS-
214 Chem's shared-memory (OpenMP) parallelization was disabled.

215 The coupled GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system was tested on $2^{\circ}\times 2.5^{\circ}$ and $0.5^{\circ}\times 0.625^{\circ}$ grids with a standard
216 oxidant-aerosol simulation using 120 chemical species of which 66 are transported ("chemical tracers").
217 Radical species with very short chemical lifetimes are not transported. The chemistry module used the
218 RODAS-3 (4-stage, order 3(2), stiffly accurate) solver with self-adjusting internal time step (Hairer and

219 Wanner, 1996) as part of the Kinetics Pre-processor (KPP, Eller et al., 2009; Sandu and Sander, 2006).
 220 KPP was implemented with its supplied linear algebra (BLAS Level-1) routines in place. The $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$
 221 simulation used a time step of 1800 seconds for all operations. For the $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ simulation, chemistry
 222 and system-operation time steps were both 450 seconds. Dynamics, physics, and radiation time steps were
 223 900 seconds. For both simulations, the atmosphere used 72 vertical hybrid-sigma (pressure) levels.
 224 Simulations were run for 31 days initialized on July 1, 2006. All chemical tracers were initialized from
 225 output of a GEOS-Chem CTM (v9-02) simulation.

226 The $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ coupled simulations were used to test scalability of the coupled system and for comparison
 227 to the GEOS-Chem CTM. We conducted simulations with 48, 96, 144, 192, and 240 total MPI processes
 228 operating on 12×4 , 12×8 , 12×12 , 16×12 , and 16×15 (lat x lon) contiguous grid point subdomains,
 229 respectively. This represents a set of five simulations $j \in [1, 5]$. For comparison, the offline GEOS-Chem
 230 CTM (v9-02) was run on 8 shared-memory processes at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ resolution using 8-core 2.6 GHz Intel
 231 Xeon processors, reflecting a typical CTM set-up, using otherwise identical settings and initial chemical
 232 conditions as the coupled GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem simulations. Since GEOS-5 is a pure MPI application,
 233 each MPI process corresponds to a single processor core.

234 Figure 2 gives execution wall times for the total simulation and for the chemistry (GEOS-Chem) and
 235 dynamics gridded components. To analyze the performance and scalability results, we define the
 236 normalized scaling efficiency S for simulation j relative to simulation $j-1$ as

237

$$238 \quad S = \left(\frac{W_{x,j-1} - W_{x,j}}{W_{x,j-1}} \right) \left(\frac{N_j}{N_j - N_{j-1}} \right) \quad (4)$$

239

240 where $W_{x,j}$ is the wall time for component x , and N_j is the number of cores allocated to the simulation. S
 241 measures how efficiently the addition of computational resources speeds up execution. For example, a
 242 value of 0.9 indicates that a doubling of computational resources decreases wall time by a factor of 1.8. A
 243 value of zero means no speed-up. A negative value means slow-down, as might result from increasing
 244 I/O. Results for 48 cores ($j = 1$) are given relative to the 8-process GEOS-Chem CTM simulation ($j = 0$),
 245 which uses different shared-memory processes and a different transport code for chemical tracers only.
 246 The two simulations are not strictly comparable but results serve to benchmark the performance of the
 247 GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system against the GEOS-Chem CTM.

248 We find that the scaling efficiency for the chemistry module (GEOS-Chem) in the GEOS-5/GEOS-
 249 Chem system is 0.78 ± 0.10 for the range of cores tested. This represents excellent performance, with no
 250 decline as the number of cores increases, reflecting the independent nature of the chemistry calculation
 251 for individual columns. For that reason, we expect the excellent scalability of the chemistry module to
 252 extend to any number of cores. Scaling efficiency of the dynamics component decreases with increasing
 253 number of cores and becomes negative above 192. This reflects the small number of gridpoints allocated
 254 to individual cores increasing relative cost of communicating between processes versus operating within
 255 local memory, as well as a greater inter-nodal communication associated with additional chemical tracers.
 256 The results further suggest that the chemistry module would remain efficient for simulations beyond the
 257 range of values tested.

258 The $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ resolution simulation was used to examine the performance of the GEOS-5/GEOS-
 259 Chem system when operating on a finer grid resolution than permitted by the GEOS-Chem CTM using
 260 shared-memory OpenMP parallelization. The higher resolution also increases the problem size, permitting
 261 the efficient use of more computing power. For this simulation, the horizontal grid was decomposed into

262 24x25 lat/lon blocks over 600 cores. The $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ resolution simulation completed 0.35 simulation
263 years per wall day.

264 About 20% of the wall time spent on chemistry in the GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system was spent copying
265 and flipping the vertical dimension of chemical tracer arrays between the GEOS-5 ESM and GEOS-
266 Chem. This would be overcome to a large extent by linking GEOS-Chem tracer arrays to the ESMF using
267 pointers, which access memory locations of preexisting variables directly. This cannot be done within the
268 GEOS-5 ESM for two reasons: (1) GEOS-Chem stores concentrations in double-precision arrays, while
269 the GEOS-5 system generally uses single precision. (2) GEOS-Chem indexes concentration arrays
270 vertically from the surface of the Earth upward while the GEOS-5 system does the reverse. Such
271 limitations are not intrinsic to GEOS-Chem and depend on the specific ESM to which GEOS-Chem is
272 coupled; other ESMs may use different data precision and indexing. Further software engineering in
273 GEOS-Chem could add flexibility in array definitions to accommodate different ESM configurations.

274 Figure 3 illustrates model results with 500 hPa O_3 mixing ratios at 12 UT on July 15, 2006 for GEOS-
275 5/GEOS-Chem simulations at $2 \times 2.5^\circ$ and $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ resolutions, and for the GEOS-Chem CTM using
276 GEOS-5 assimilated meteorological data at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ resolution. All three simulations are initialized from
277 the same GEOS-Chem CTM fields at 0 UT on July 1, 2006, but have different meteorology because of
278 differences in resolution and also because the CTM uses assimilated meteorological data while the
279 GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system in this implementation does not. The Figure demonstrates the fine structure
280 of chemical transport that can be resolved with the $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ resolution. The general patterns are
281 roughly consistent between simulations and are reasonable compared to satellite and sonde observations
282 (Zhang et al., 2010). A scatterplot comparing output from the different simulations (Figure 4) shows that
283 they have comparable results. Figures 3 and 4 are intended to illustrate the GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem
284 capability. A more thorough evaluation of GEOS-Chem's chemistry within the GEOS-5 system would
285 require the use of the same meteorological data as the offline CTM, diagnosing the full ensemble of
286 simulated chemical species, and investigating the effect of transport errors when using off-line
287 meteorological fields in the CTM. This will be documented in a separate publication.

288 289 4. *Summary*

290 We have presented a new grid-independent version of the GEOS-Chem chemical transport model
291 (CTM) to serve as atmospheric chemistry module within Earth system models (ESMs) through the Earth
292 System Modelling Interface (ESMF). The new GEOS-Chem version uses any grid resolution or geometry
293 specified at runtime. The exact same standard GEOS-Chem code (freely available from [http://geos-
294 chem.org](http://geos-chem.org)) supports both ESM and stand-alone CTM applications. This ensures that the continual stream
295 of innovation from the worldwide community contributing to the stand-alone CTM is easily incorporated
296 into the ESM version. The GEOS-Chem ESM module thus always remains state-of-science.

297 We implemented GEOS-Chem as an atmospheric chemistry module within the NASA GEOS-5 ESM
298 and performed a tropospheric oxidant-aerosol simulation (120 coupled chemical species, 66 transported
299 tracers) in that fully coupled environment. Analysis of scalability and performance for 48 to 240 cores
300 shows that the GEOS-Chem atmospheric chemistry module scales efficiently with no degradation as the
301 number of cores increases, reflecting the independent nature of the chemical computation for individual
302 grid columns. Although the inclusion of detailed atmospheric chemistry in an ESM is a major
303 computational expense, chemistry operations become relatively more efficient as the number of cores
304 increases due to their efficient scalability.

305

306 **Code Availability.** GEOS-Chem source code is freely available to the public. Source code may be
307 downloaded by following instructions found at [http://wiki.seas.harverd.edu/geos-chem](http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem). At time of
308 writing, this work used a modified version of GEOS-Chem version 9-02k as indicated in the text. All
309 developments presented here are now included with the current GEOS-Chem version 10-01f.

310

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Figure 1. Coupling between the GEOS-Chem CTM (dashed beige box) and an ESM (blue box). The schematic shows how the coupling is managed through the ESMF, and utilizes only the GEOS-Chem components bound by the ESM box: Transport modules in the GEOS-Chem CTM are bypassed and replaced by the ESM transport modules through the atmospheric dynamics simulation .

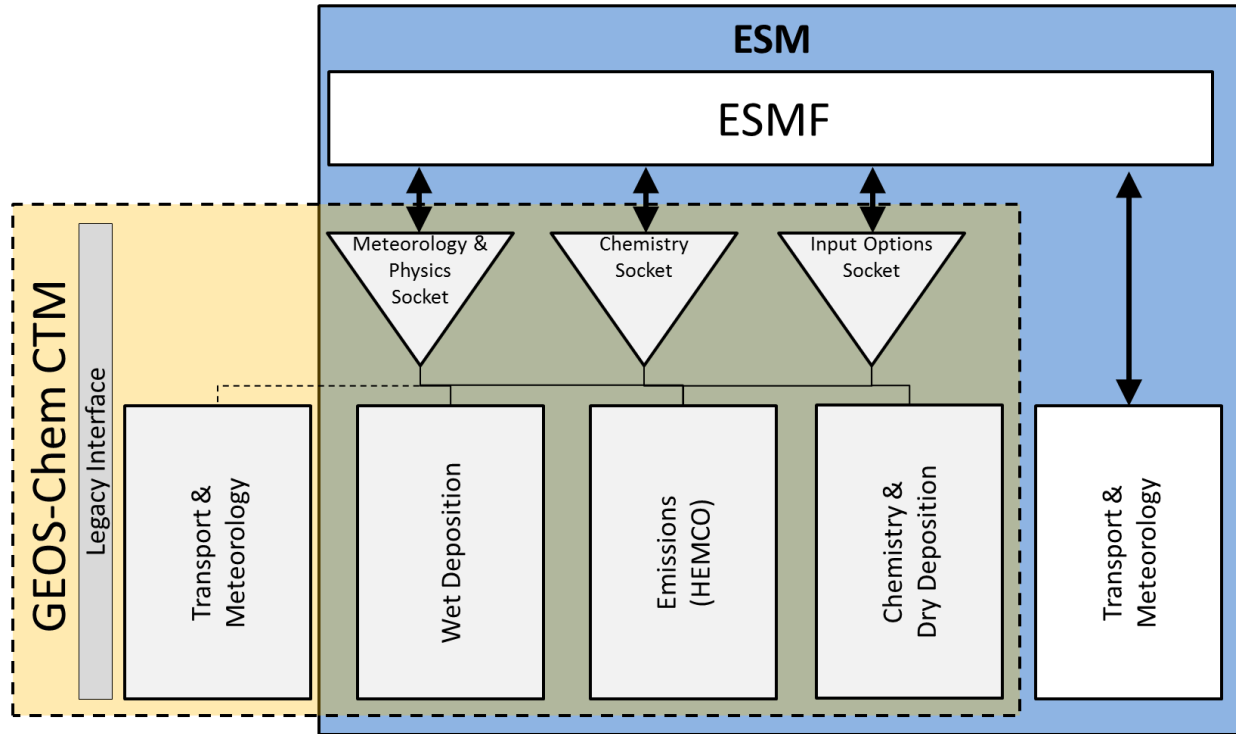


Figure 2. Performance and scalability of the GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system for a 1-month test simulation including detailed oxidant-aerosol tropospheric chemistry at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ horizontal resolution. Top panel: total and stacked wall-times for the chemical operator (GEOS-Chem), dynamics, and other routines versus number of processor cores. Bottom panel: Scaling efficiency (Eq. 4) for chemistry, dynamics, and the full GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem system. Values shown for 48 cores are relative to the 8-process shared-memory GEOS-Chem CTM.

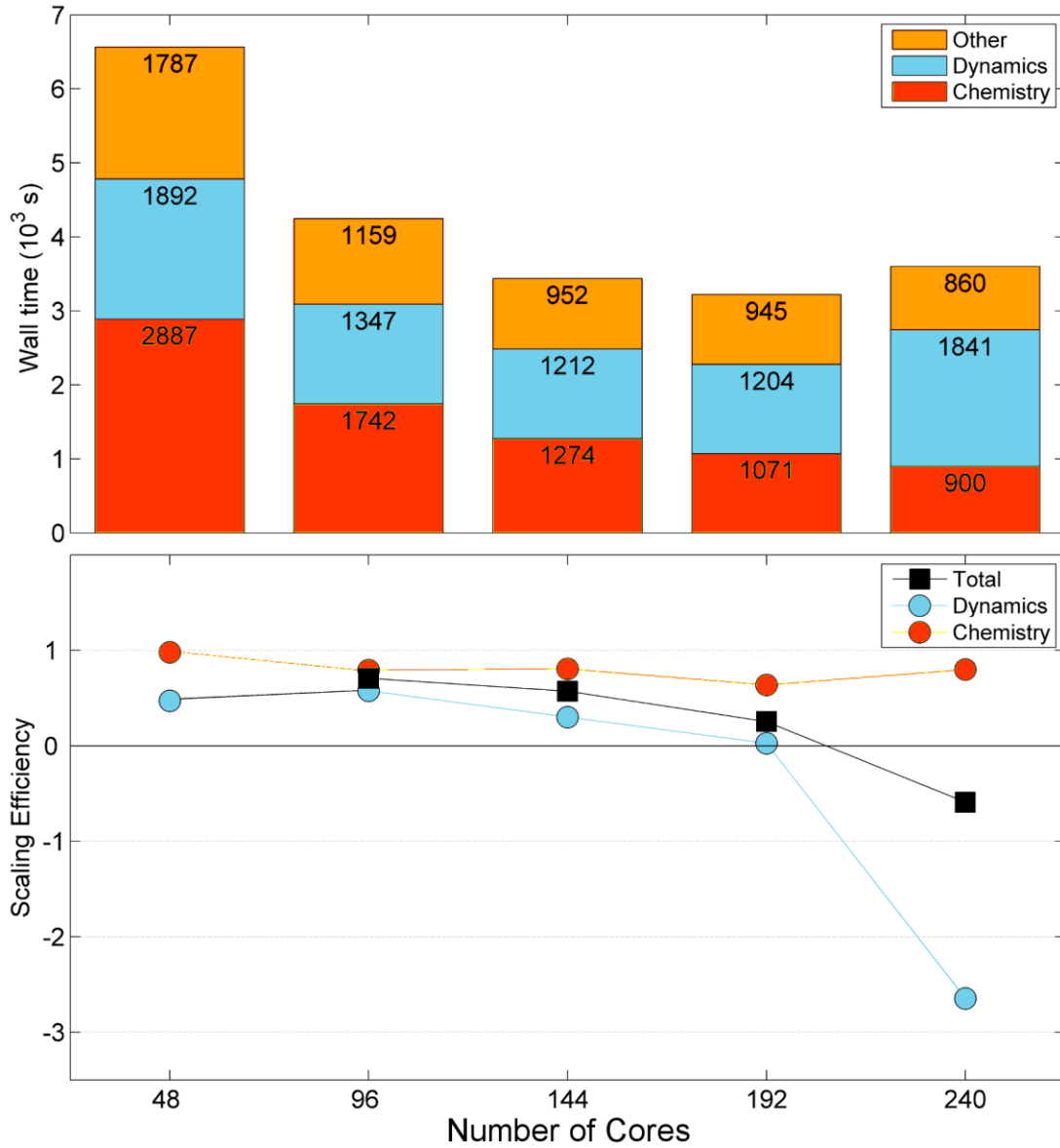


Figure 3. Instantaneous 500 hPa ozone mixing ratios (nmol mol^{-1}) at 12 UT on July 15, 2006, for CTM and ESM implementations of GEOS-Chem. Top panel: GEOS-Chem CTM at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ resolution driven by GEOS-5 assimilated meteorological data with $0.5^\circ \times 0.67^\circ$ resolution. Middle panel: GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem ESM at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ resolution. Bottom panel: GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem ESM at $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ resolution. All three simulations are initialized with the same GEOS-Chem CTM fields at 0 UT on July 1, 2006, but the ESM as implemented here does not include meteorological data assimilation.

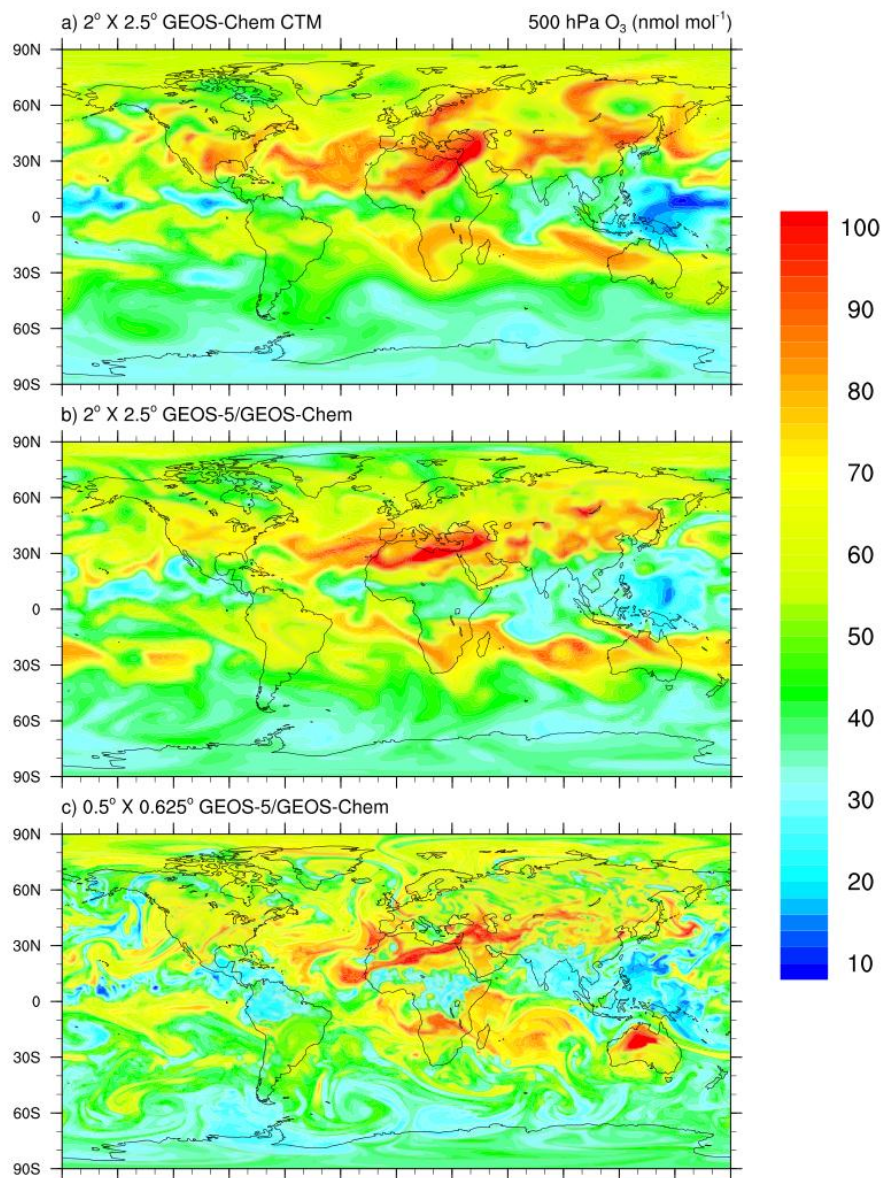


Figure 4. Comparison of instantaneous 500 hPa ozone mixing ratios (nmol mol^{-1}) at 12 UT on July 15, 2006 in the stand-alone GEOS-Chem simulation at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ horizontal resolution and the coupled GEOS-5/GEOS-Chem simulation at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ (red) and $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ (blue) resolutions. The $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$ results are regridded to $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ resolution, and each point represents a $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ grid square. The reduced-major-axis regression parameters and the 1:1 line are also shown.

