

PUMA

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A Scope of the model

PUMA (Portable University Model of the Atmosphere) is a very fast dynamical core of an atmospheric model. It can be used to run simulations on long time scales and inexpensive hardware. The priorities in development were set to speed, easy handling, portability and well documented coding. The compatibility of PUMA to the Planet Simulator and ECHAM makes it an ideal tool to teach modelling to junior scientist and students. An interactive mode with a GUI (Graphical User Interface) can be used to view atmospheric fields while changing model parameters on the fly. This is especially useful for teaching, debugging and tuning of parameterizations.

B Model components

Atmosphere

PUMA is a spectral model with triangular truncation. It solves the Primitive Equations on σ -coordinates in the vertical. Possible horizontal resolutions are T21, T31, T42, and T85. The vertical resolution is an arbitrary number of levels. The parameterisations are Rayleigh friction and Newtonian cooling.

Miscellaneous

PUMA is a model of the atmosphere and is usually run without orography as an “Aqua Planet”. It is however possible to include orography (realistic or synthetic) in the model. Due to its small code size of less than 4000 FORTRAN lines (without GUI and MPI) PUMA is an ideal teaching tool for courses in atmospheric modeling. An adjoint version of PUMA is under development.

C Limitations

The model has the typical problems of all spectral models, like the Gibbs phenomenon. It simulates the dry atmosphere with only few necessary parameterisations like Rayleigh friction and Newtonian cooling. There are no moist processes and no boundary layer.

D Performance

Due to the high portability PUMA can be run on a wide range of computers ranging from mainframes to PC's. It is fully parallelized and can be run on as many CPUs as latitudes (32 for the standard T21 resolution). On a PC with a single Pentium-IV Processor at 3GHz PUMA in standard configuration runs one year of simulation in 2 minutes wall clock time. Using a PC with two CPUs speeds up the program by a factor 1.8 - 1.9 using about 1 minute per simulation year.

E Applications

Simulation of stormtracks.
Lagrangian tracers.
Stochastic forcing.
Synchronization experiments.
Maximum entropy production.
Stratosphere–troposphere interaction.

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