992 1992 1992 1992 199 -0000 000 000 Centro Svizzero di Calcolo Scientifico CSCS 000 Swiss Scientific Computing Center 000 1000 0 0 31992 1992 ETH Machine Constants





The fullerenes, a new elementary form of carbon, have recently attracted great interest. The figure shows the calculated electronic structure of a hydrogen atom attached to "buckyball" C₆₀, the first discovered representative of this class. Its electron-density is represented by the brown, wood-textured iso-surface (at 0.26 a.u.) which encloses each pair of atoms connected by a double-bond within one lobe (notice that one double-bond has been broken by the attached muon). The semi-transparent grey surface is also an iso-electron-density surface, but at the lower value of 0.01 a.u., forming an outer envelope (with a bump above the muon) as well as an inner cavity. The green surface with a chessboard pattern represents the spin-density at 0.01 a.u. which is essentially located at the nearest neighbor of the muonated C-atom. The spin-density distribution determines the hyperfine interaction which is experimentally accessible by muon spin spectroscopy. In these experiments, also performed at PSI, positive muons (light pseudo-isotopes of H) are used to investigate the microscopic structure of these new materials. The ab-initio geometry optimization and the electronic structure calculation have been performed on the NEC SX-3 (D. Maric) and the visualization on a Silicon Graphics VGX workstation using the MOLEKEL-package (P. Flükiger).

Investing in the Future

The mission of CSCS is the creation and distribution of knowledge to stimulate technological progress and economic success. CSCS high-performance computing offers solutions to academic, business, environmental and human problems.

CSCS means leadership for the future.













Preface

The Centro Svizzero di Calcolo Scientifico (CSCS) has the responsibility to provide Swiss scientists and engineers with the computational resources needed to solve interdisciplinary scientific problems. CSCS users represent various disciplines: physics, chemistry, biology, environmental sciences as well as various engineering disciplines. They come also from many different universities, research institutes and federal technology institutes.

CSCS offers both state-of-the-art computer facilities and high-performance graphics facilities for advanced computer simulations, as well as world class expertise. CSCS remains on the leading edge by continually evaluating technological developments for potential benefits. The center is proud to provide technical leadership, facilities and infrastructure for application-driven research in computational science.

It is recognized today that simple technology transfer (e.g., installing hardware or software) is ineffective unless users are educated and trained properly. The CSCS team of experts plays an important role in this knowledge transfer by educating and training a new generation of scientists and engineers familiar with both scientific problem solving and high-performance computing.

To successfully compete in the future, a combined effort of government, academia and industry is necessary to coordinate interdisciplinary research, create industrial consortia and lead collaborative R&D projects. Additionally, CSCS strives to increase public awareness and understanding of the societal benefits to be gained through advanced computing.

CSCS only recently joined the computational science community and is proud of its innovative attributes: creativity, assertiveness and courage. Combined with expertise and leading edge technology, these attributes provide CSCS with a dynamic environment and a productive atmosphere.

Prof. Dr. R. Hütter

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Switzerland Dr. A. Scheidegger

Centro Svizzero di Calcolo Scientifico Manno, Switzerland

Overview

Background

The Centro Svizzero di Calcolo Scientifico (CSCS) is the national scientific computing center in Switzerland. The center hosts the most powerful high-performance computer resources currently available for problem solving. The success of the center has been due to a close partnership and support of the Swiss Federal Institute of

Technology Zürich and several steering committees and boards. In particular, the CSCS Council advises on the strategic development of the center, and the CSCS Committee, based on scientific criteria, proposes computing resource allocation and distribution, and supervises aspects of technical operation.

The history of CSCS begins in the mid 1980's. The Swiss government empowered a special task force to study the discipline of computer science; this study resulted in a clearly defined goal and comprehensive plan to promote computer science in education and research and its application in industry.



One part of this plan was the procurement of a

high-performance, latest generation computer as a national resource. The responsibility of managing, operating and maintaining this national resource was given to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich. After extensive evaluation, the Nippon Electric Corporation (NEC) SX-3 was selected as the appropriate vector computer to fulfill Switzerland's high performance computer needs. A site near Lugano was chosen for locating the center.

The computer, installed in a new building at the end of 1991, commenced production in May 1992. CSCS was officially inaugurated on October 1, 1992.

During this past year, CSCS has developed into a reliable and valuable computational service center. The evaluation and acquisition of additional service resources, such as high-speed networking and automatic file-serving facilities further propelled its capabilities.

Several high-performance computing training courses addressing the special needs of computation intensive research are offered to professionals and students. These courses were conducted through a joint effort of CSCS and NEC staff. The quarterly *Crosscuts* newsletter keeps users up-to-date. CSCS also is home to the Speed-

up, a society which biannually brings together high-performance computer users and publishes a journal based on these meetings. The center has a computer science reference library with a connection to the ETHICS interlibrary service.

All CSCS activities reflect the dedication to user support. The organizational structure is streamlined, based on tasks and information flow, in a further effort to serve the users. User support and satisfaction is the primary and ultimate objective of CSCS.



CSCS Facilities: A Hardware Profile

CSCS provides access to the fastest computer resources for numerical experimentation, data handling and visualization.

Computing power. The available high-performance vector computer is a NEC SX-3 two-processor model with 2 GBytes of main memory and 4 GBytes of extended memory. The SX-3 carries the concept of parallel processing far beyond that of other vector computers. Sixteen vector arithmetic pipelines result in a potential speed of 5.5 Gflops at a clock cycle of 2.9 ns. A computing power upgrade is foreseen in the middle of 1993.

File-serving and archiving. A high-speed, large-capacity file server and archival file-storage system is an essential component for large data handling. To meet this demand, a Convex system with Unitree file management software was installed in early 1993. The initial archiving capacity is 1.8 TB and shall be system-atically enlarged to 3 x 70 TB. For file-serving, RAID-Disks will be installed.

Scalable parallel computer systems. Application and productive utilization of parallel distributed computing systems is a new and exciting realm. CSCS is working hard to expand its expertise base in this area in order to offer these facilities to scientists and engineers. Hardware platforms (such as a Meiko Computing Surface) will be installed in early 1993 as a tool for R&D efforts, education and postgraduate training.



High-Speed Networking

The network concept is continually under development in cooperation with the Swiss education and research network SWITCH. Fault-tolerant remote access to CSCS facilities is guaranteed via the 2 Mbit/s backbone quadrangle Zürich-CSCS-Lausanne-Bern-Zürich. An upgrade is being studied.

Locally, a double FDDI ring enables large-scale data transfers. CSCS presently is involved in the development of high-speed networking using Gbit/s communication links with security as a prime consideration. Central to this effort is the High-Performance Parallel Interface (HiPPI) that operates at 0.8 Gbit/s. HiPPI links will be connected by a central 32 x 32 crossbar switch (PS-32) from Network Systems Corporation (NSC). The figure shows the desired configuration.



Scientific Applications

Scientific application support and consulting are offered to users of CSCS. Our application software support specialists cover a wide range of disciplines and offer the best expertise for porting, optimizing and adapting user programs to run most efficiently on the specific CSCS computer architecture. CSCS experts support usage of a variety of packages such as:

Mathematical Libraries

ASL	Advanced Scientific Library from NEC
MATHLIB	NEC Mathematical Library
NAG	General Mathematical Library
BLAS	Basic Linear Algebra Subprograms, Levels 1,2 and 3
EISPACK	Matrix Eigenvalue Problem Solver
LINPACK	Linear Algebra Subroutine Library
MINPACK	Nonlinear Optimization Package
LAPACK	Linear Algebra Routines Successor to Linpack and Eispack

Scientific Software

AMBER	Molecular Mechanics and Dynamics
AMOSS	Large-Scale Electronic Structure Calculations
DYNA3D	Structure Analysis and Crash Simulation
GAUSSIAN	Ab initio Electronic Structure Calculations
TASCFLOW	3-D Computational Fluid Dynamics Package
Visualisation	

AVS	Interactive Modular Visualisation Package
IRIS EXPLORER	Interactive Modular Visualisation Package
PW-WAVE	Data Analysis and Visualisation Software
MOLEKEL	Molecular Visualisation Program

Recent experience showed that improved user codes for the vector units of the NEC SX-3 results in increased computational capabilities of high-performance computing. CSCS specialists, with the assistance of the on-site NEC team of specialists, rewrote parts of programs, replaced algorithms and reorganized data structures.

Today, the new world of high-performance computing with parallel machines is emerging. The challenge is to develop software environments to ease the use of these machines through the development of new parallel algorithms and applications. Anticipating these needs, CSCS already has built up a new research and development team in parallel computing.





Graphics and Visualization

Visualization is of paramount importance when dealing with large and complex numerical results. CSCS provides the user with a rich graphics environment: combining state-of-the-art hardware and software to allow scientists and engineers to explore their data. High-end graphics workstations are accessible for visualization, for high-performance, interactive, three-dimensional image rendering, and for developing and tuning graphics applications. A video recording facility, as well as color output on paper or transparencies, also are available.

The installation of several professional visualization packages has addressed most user needs; local CSCS modifications and extensions have increased the capabilities of some packages.

Another aspect of visualization activity in CSCS is interactive image synthe processing on thesis and innovative computer architectures. Increasingly it is necessary to utilize distributed computers that have the required power, memory capacity and bandwidth. Indeed visualization is computationally demanding, yet the advent of color workstations with accelerated graphics is enabling scientists to investigate their findings more rapidly and convincingly.



Industrial and Commercial High-Performance Computing

Cooperation with the private sector promotes high-performance computing techniques in industrial R&D and commercial enterprises.

Cooperative projects between CSCS and industry focus on knowledge and technology transfer which ultimately bring about technological advances. CSCS offers industry and commercial enterprises the same quality service and resources as universities: access to top specialists, advanced computer hardware, software, networks, storage devices and visualization tools. In addition, CSCS offers integrated solutions for industrial and commercial problems.

A product-oriented and market-driven industrial or commercial enterprise, paired with the technical and scientific expertise of CSCS, undoubtedly is a formula for success.

Who Uses CSCS?

The primary users of CSCS computing resources are Swiss universities, the two federal institutes of technology, and the federal research institutes.

Ninety percent of the available computing time is consumed by large scale projects; the remaining ten percent is divided among approximately 100 users with small and medium size projects. (A medium size project is one requiring less than ten CPU hours per month).

Relevant application fields include: physics, chemistry, biology, engineering and environmental studies. The scientific publications of CSCS users in these application fields are numerous and can be reviewed in Chapter 10.



where $\Psi(r, z)$ - poloidal flux function, p - plasma pressure, j_{φ} -toroidal current density. The magnetic field can be represented as $\boldsymbol{B} = \nabla \Psi \times \nabla \varphi + F(\Psi) \nabla \varphi$, (r, z, φ) - polar coordinates.

The domain is decomposed into subdomains inside and outside the separatrix. Picard iterations on the nonlinearity in the right hand side term are combined with mesh adaptation to magnetic surfaces which are nested in each subdomain (Figure 1). Mesh adaptation instead of mapping provides very accurate coordinates of $\Psi = const$ surfaces used as input for the stability code. The inversion of the elliptic operator is numerically performed with an iterative matrix solver using a highly vectorizable 4-color Gauss-Seidel method with overrelaxation. The solver allows to take full advantage of domain decomposition [3]: matrices for each subdomain can be assembled and stored separately. Connectivity conditions between subdomains can be applied to diagonal matrix elements and resulting vectors only. Periodicity conditions can be treated in the same way.

The most computationally intensive part of the code is the iterative matrix solver. The main operations here are essentially multiplications of 9-band matrices with vectors which are vectorized by the f77sx FORTRAN compiler: the resulting speed is 370 Mflops at a vector length close to the maximum of 128. For some operations in the 4-color solver, the vector length is shorter. For the typical case of an up-down symmetric equilibrium with dimensions of 64*64 for the domain inside the separatrix and of 32*64 for the outside, the run takes 20s CPU time at 240Mflops and an averaged vector length of 55.



Figure 1: Mesh adapted to magnetic surfaces and tooroidal current density for up-down symmetric equilibrium with internal separatrix.

Stability

The linearized ideal MHD eigenvalue equations for a plasma displacement $\xi e^{i\omega t}$ around equilibrium can be written in their variational form [4]:

 $\delta\left(W(\xi,\xi)-\omega^2 K(\xi,\xi)\right) = 0$

The quadratic functionals $W(\xi, \xi)$ and $\omega^2 K(\xi, \xi)$ correspond to the potential and kinetic energy of the plasma displacement, respectively. A negative eigenvalue ω^2 corresponds to an unstable growing in time solution.

eigenmode. The β -limits are found to be in correspondence with known scalings for conventional tokamaks.

The codes run fast on the SX-3 machine. For example, the stability code applied to a one plasma domain case is about 5 times faster than the analogous code ERATOA on CRAY-2 [2]. High performance is reached using optimized routines for matrix operations. Enhancement of the performance is possible with further band matrix routines optimization.

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Figure 3: Level lines of normal to magnetic surfaces component of plasma displacement. Most unstable external n=1 kink mode.

The simulation program used for neon was written in standard FORTRAN77 and runs on many computers. It was used for a comparison (see first reference below) of performance on many different machines. For the vector-processors a slightly different algorithm was used yielding a speed about 120 times that of a VAX-8800 processor.



List of Publications

- Eggenberger, R. and H. Huber. "Comparison of the Performance of a Program for Molecular Dynamics of Liquids on Different Computers." CHIMIA 46 (1992): 227.
- [2] Eggenberger, R., S. Gerber, H. Huber, D. Searles and M. Welker. "Ab initio Calculation of the Shear Viscosity of Neon in the Liquid and Hypercritical State Over a Wide Pressure and Temperature Range." Chem. Phys. 164 (1992): 321.
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molecules in solution as a function of temperature [4]; powerful algorithms have been developed to generate realistic molecular surfaces as solvent accessible envelopes [5] and, last but not least, several approaches have been reported to rapidly evaluate some key local molecular properties such as hydrophobicity, electron densities, electrostatic potentials, reactivity indices, etc. [6, 7]. This latter point is important as these properties can be advantageously displayed on adequate workstations and provide the user with a highly valuable information as to the "hot" regions of a given compound with respect to the approach and possible docking of a specific reactant.

In this context, and just as an example, we have recently developed a quantum chemical procedure to rapidly evaluate the intermolecular interaction energy E_{int} between a substrate S and an incoming reactant R characterized by its electrophilic (i.e., electron acceptor) or nucleophilic (electron donor) behavior [8, 9]. Being a local property representative of a reactivity index, the value of E_{int} may be calculated repeatedly at selected points in the molecular volume of S and visualization techniques allow us to display the results together with the molecular model of S, which leads to an immediate perception of the regioselectivity of the corresponding reaction mechanism (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Solid model of the molecular surface of the ((1,3- dithian-2-yl)cyclohexadienyl)Cr(CO)₃- complex colored according to the E_{int} reactivity indexcalculated for electrophilic attack. The most reactive sites correspond to the red zones of the surface. For more details, see ref. [10].





Figure 1. Electron microscopy view of a resting T-lymphocyte isolated from blood of a normal donor. Surface microvilli and irregularities can be seen. Magnification 18400 x.



Figure 2, Electron microscopy view of a T-leukemic cell (T-ALL), characterized by a smooth membrane contour. Magnification 18400x.

Space filling representations of four structures of the a-amylase inhibitor calculated by FANTOM on the NEC SX-3 including different energy surface terms. Colour code: red for residues with negative charge, blue for residues with positive charge, yellow for polar, and light-blue for nonpolar residues.



(a) NMR structure in solution used as a reference structure. The other three structures are calculated with different energy surface terms



(b) minimization in vacuo



(c) minimization of the total accessible surface area



(d) minimization using the Wesson-Eisenberg parameter set.



chain molecular systems could be calculated in our group by means of the Continuum Configurational Bias (CCB) MC developed. Additionally, novel composite algorithms for efficient off-lattice simulations of dense polymer phases have been implemented in the case of polyethylene in the united and explicit atom approximations. The medium-term research goal is to generate new powerful Monte Carlo algorithms that (i) are capable of efficiently simulating dense phase of long-chain polymers with realistic chemical structures, and (ii) can be calibrated in an unambiguous manner to provide dynamic properties. In their initial (design) stage, these novel algorithms will be applied to the melt phase of polyethylene, but will subsequently be generalized to treat melts, glasses, and rubbers of chemically realistic polymers, such as polypropylene, polycarbonate, and polystyrene.

The Continuum-Configuration Bias method (CCB) is a novel powerful Monte Carlo method that was developed by this group, based on similar algorithms developed for lattice models or for idealized chain models. It is useful in a number of important applications, such as polymer phase equilibria, studies of solubility of small molecules in polymers, investigation of PVT behavior and thermody-namic properties of polymers. Simulations have been carried out in the canonical, the NPT, and the Gibbs ensemble. Algorithms are already available for the treatment of melts of polyethylene, polypro-pylene and polystyrene. The CCB method has recently been combined with the Concerted Rotation method (CONROT), which is a novel method for the Monte Carlo simulation of polymers. Extensions of the CONROT move combined with CCB have provided what we believe to be the most powerful currently available Monte Carlo algorithm for the off-lattice simulation of dense polymer phases. The

composite simulation method that we have developed will be applied to the study of thermodynamic properties of realistic polymers, such as polypropylene and polystyrene. The glassy state will be simulated, with emphasis on the approach to the glass transition temperature to obtain improved understanding of the way that material properties change as we approach the glass transition temperature both from lower and from higher temperatures.

Tracer diffusion is also studied both in the melt phase and in the glass. We believe that the Monte Carlo methods that we have developed can be calibrated to examine the diffusion of both small spherical molecules in the glass, and of small spherical molecules and longer flexible molecules in the melt. If the techniques allow it, we aim to study plasticizer diffusion in solid polymers. The study of plasticizer diffusion will open a new exciting possibility for the application of computer simulation to polymer technology. At the same time, novel Monte Carlo methodologies will be





Figure 1a. Equilibrium atomic configuration for an excess H atom adsorbed on the hydrogenated Si(100) 3 x 1 surface. Violet and white spheres are used to represent silicon and hydrogen atoms of Si(100) 3 x 1, respectively, while the excess H atom is shown as a red sphere. Atoms of the topmost four layers and three (3 x 1) surface unit cells are shown.

Hydrogen Etching of the Si (100) Surface

A process of great current interest in surface physics is atomic corrosion, or etching, which may occur when an element present in gaseous phase reacts with the surface atoms. For instance, when atomic hydrogen interacts with the silicon surface, stable silane (SiH₄) molecules may be formed and desorbed from the surface. The rate of this reaction, which occurs at large H exposures, is found to be particularly high for the Si(100) surface, presumably due to the prominent Si backbonds on this surface [0, 0, 0]. On the (100) terraces the etching process is likely to be initiated by the rupture of one of the Si-Si backbonds, leading to the formation of an adsorbed silicon trihydride (SiH₃(a)) species, and subsequently (after breaking of another silicon bond) of gaseous SiH₄.

Recently, the Car-Parrinello method has been used to investigate the process of silicon backbond breaking [1]. In these calculations periodically repeated systems containing up to 144 Si and 98 H atoms were treated, and the determination of optimal structures was achieved via simultaneous relaxation of ionic and electronic degrees of freedom. As a first step, the adsorption of an excess H atom on a hydrogenated Si(100) surface consisting of an ordered "3 x 1" arrangement of monohydride and dihydride units was considered. Among a number of possible H-adsorption sites, anti-



Figure 1b. Equilibrium atomic configuration after a second H atom (also shown as a red sphere) has reached the surface (see text). The breaking of one of the backbonds connecting a surface silicon atom to the second layer is apparent.

Engineering

Computation of Unsteady Three-Dimensional Flows in Complex Geometries

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Most flows of practical interest are turbulent. The usual approach in computing turbulent flows is by averaging the governing Navier-Stokes equations over time and modeling the additional unknowns (Reynolds stresses) introduced by the averaging.

In this project we compute complex geometry flows in the late transitional - early turbulent regime, using direct numerical solution of the time-dependent Navier-Stokes equations. This approach, although computationally expensive, reveals all the details of the flow and can be very useful in assessing the validity of the various turbulence models.

Direct simulations require that all scales of turbulent motion be adequately resolved. This imposes severe requirements in terms of the required memory and CPU time, which increase dramatically

with the flow's critical parameter, the Reynolds number. Therefore, direct simulations have been performed primarily for simple geometry flows at relatively low Reynolds numbers. The availability of supercomputers with performance in the Gigaflop range and main memory in the Gigabyte range makes the direct simulation of complex geometry flows feasible.

The numerical method used in our work is a Spectral-Element/Fourier method. For a nominally two-dimensional geome-





Figure 1. Streamline pattern of the equivalent two-dimensional velocity field at Reynolds number Re = 2000. The x and y scales are not the same; the computational domain extends to a total outflow length of 35 step heights.

try, Fourier expansions can be used to represent the field unknowns and data along the spanwise (homogeneous) z-direction. If the flow is Fourier analyzed in z, then the Navier-Stokes equations yield equations for the individual Fourier components. A fractional (splitting) step method in conjunction with a mixed explicit/implicit stiffly stable scheme is used for the time discretization. This results in two-dimensional Helmholtz equations for the pressure and the velocity components, for each Fourier component. The spatial discretization of those equations is performed using the spectral element methodology. In the standard spectral element discretization the computational domain is broken up into general quadrilaterals, which are mapped isoparametrically to canonical squares, within each, the geometry, the field unknowns and data are expressed as tensorial products in terms of Legendre-Lagrangian interpolants. Discrete equations are then obtained using Galerkin variational statements.

A direct simulation of the flow over a backward-facing step at Reynolds number is underway. This flow can be thought of consisting of three main components: the shear layer emanating from the step edge, the recirculation zone at the channel expansion, and the channel flow further down-stream. Thus, it can serve as a prototype of a complex shear flow. After an equilibrium state is reached, the instantaneous fields are averaged and detailed turbulence statistics are calculated. Current results, based on averaging over 200 dimensionless time units illustrate interesting features of this flow. Figure 1 shows the streamline pattern of the equivalent two-dimensional field, obtained by averaging the instantaneous 3-D fields both in the homogeneous z-direction and in time. The computed value for the reattachment length is in very good agreement with experimental data, while the simulation illustrates the existence of a small corner eddy, also observed experimentally. The distribution of the Reynolds shear stress is plotted in Figure 2; higher values are obtained in the shear layer regions, and the global maxima are located upstream of the reattachment region. Finally, in Figure 3 the distribution of the skin friction coefficient, , along the low wall is presented. The region of negative values defines the primary recirculation zone, with being zero at the reattachment point.

Engineering



Figure 2. Colour-coded contours of the Reynolds shear stress $-\overline{U'V'}$, normalized by U_{max}^2 , U_{max} , being the maximum velocity at the inflow. Re = 2,000.



Figure 3. Low wall skin friction coefficient, defined as $C_f = \tau_w / (\frac{\rho}{2}U_{max}^2)$, τ_w being the average wall shear stress, ρ the fluid density and U_{max} the maximum velocity at the inflow. Re = 2,000.

A major problem in attempting to model the climate system as a whole is linked to the vastly different time scales characteristic of the individual components of the system described above. As seen in Figure 2, the oceanic, biospheric, and cryospheric processes have vastly different response times than the atmosphere to a particular forcing, so that coupled model approaches in order to investigate interactions and feedback between elements of the system are by no means trivial.

General Circulation Models (GCM) are those which attempt to incorporate as many elements of the above described systems as possible. They are amongst the largest and most demanding operational applications in terms of computing resources. They typically solve large sets of equations at up to several hundred thousand grid-points, and these computations must be repeated 50 or more times per simulated day in order to represent the temporal evolution of the system with enough accuracy. Because the GCMs are producing results over a network of grid points distributed in three-dimensions over the globe, computer time and space requirements are extremely large, and



Figure 2: Characteristic time scales of various components of the climate system



Figure 3: 3-D visualization of the pressure structure over land and sea area in the region of Athens, Greece.

high-resolution mesoscale model to obtain reasonable regional predictions of climate and water regimes. Such models will be used to evaluate modification in atmospheric flows over WEstern Europe and in particular over the Alpine region under different boundary conditions, in particular experiments with transient doubling of carbon dioxide concentrations globally.

Transient simulations are necessary to provide a more realistic approach to future evaluation of climate than the equilibrium (i.e., instantaneous) response to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations. Model simulations should ideally begin in the decade 1981 - 1990 for which an enormous amount of observational data is available for initialization and intercomparisons. The simulations should be pursued over a fifty-year period, i.e. through to the decade 2041-2050.

The model statistics will be thoroughly investigated to determine significant shifts in climate trends over the Alps. The analyses will provide quantitative estimates of the future statistical structure of climate over Switzerland; it will then be possible to reconstruct a typical yearly climatology based on existing data for meteorological episodes which have prevailed in the recent past. In this manner, significant progress can be made on climate scenarios for use in the assessment of climate change impacts on the natural and the socio-economic environments.

During the proposed period, a priority is set for simulating the near-surface features of climate, especially the energy and water balance. Another equally-important aim is to start to develop expertise by young scientists in the handling of complex climate models.

Influence of the Alps on Continental-scale Climate

The Alps are a significant barrier to flow dynamics, leading to effects such as lateral wind deflection resulting in regional wind systems, orographically-induced turbulence, wave breaking, and vertical shear forced by the flow deflection. Atmospheric heating is also affected by topography, and mesoand synoptic-scale investigations by different groups have in recent years underlined the significance of the thermal effect of mountains, via vertical turbulent transfers not only of momentum, but

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