

# The Normalized Interpolated Convolution on an Adaptive Subgrid (NICAS) method, a new implementation of localization for EnVar applications

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Workshop on Sensitivity Analysis and Data Assimilation  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 - Aveiro, Portugal

# Explicit convolution

Main goal:

Designing a generic method to apply a localization matrix for EnVar (normalized convolution operator) **on any grid type**

Standard methods:

- Spectral/wavelet transforms → regular grid required
- Recursive filters → regular grid required
- Explicit/implicit diffusion → normalization issues

Advantages of an explicit convolution  $\mathbf{C}$  :

- Work on any grid type
- Exact normalization ( $C_{ii} = 1$ )

Drawback: the computational cost scales as  $O(n^2)$ , where  $n$  is the size of the model grid...

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## Explicit convolution

To limit the computational cost, we approximate  $\mathbf{C}$  on a subgrid (subset of  $n^s$  points of the model grid):

$$\mathbf{C} \approx \mathbf{S}\mathbf{C}^s\mathbf{S}^T$$

where

- $\mathbf{S}$  is an **interpolation** from the subgrid to the model grid
- $\mathbf{C}^s$  is a **convolution matrix** on the subgrid

If  $n^s \ll n$ , then the total cost scales as  $O(n)$  (interpolation cost).

Issues with this approach:

- If the subgrid density is too coarse compared to the convolution length-scale, the convolution is distorted.
- Normalization breaks down because of the interpolation: even if  $\mathbf{C}^s$  is normalized,  $\mathbf{S}\mathbf{C}^s\mathbf{S}^T$  is not.

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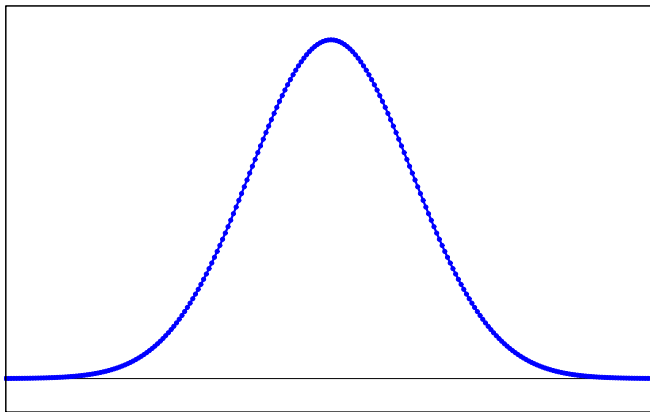
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# Convolution on a subgrid

Convolution function on model grid

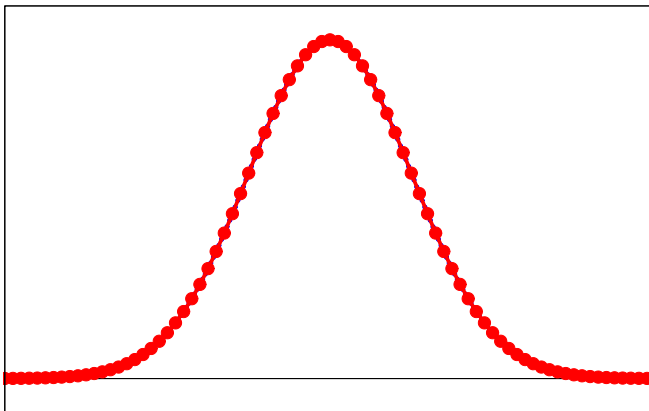


Model grid (blue)

Large convolution length-scale

# Convolution on a subgrid

Subsampling: 1 point over 3

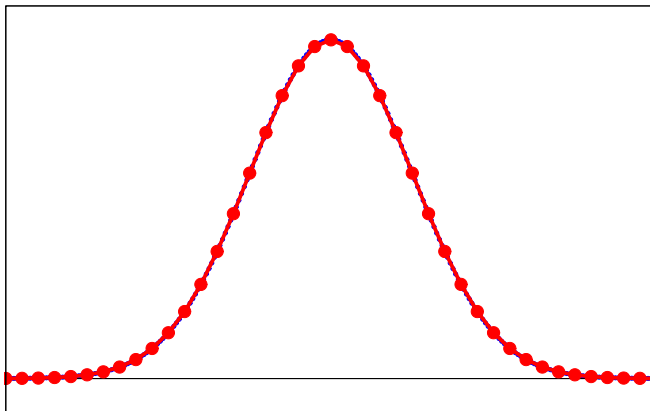


Model grid (blue) and subgrid (red)  
 Large convolution length-scale



# Convolution on a subgrid

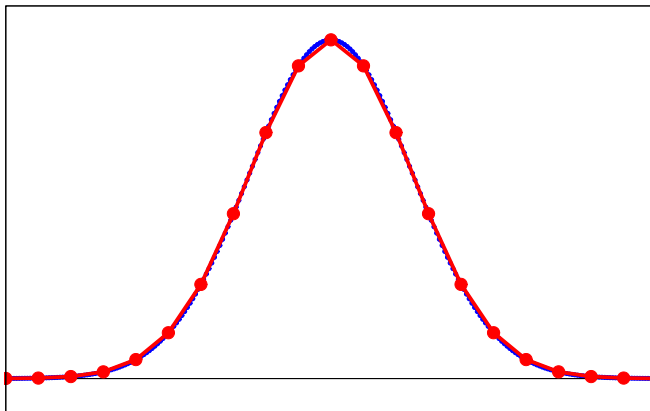
Subsampling: 1 point over 6



Model grid (blue) and subgrid (red)  
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# Convolution on a subgrid

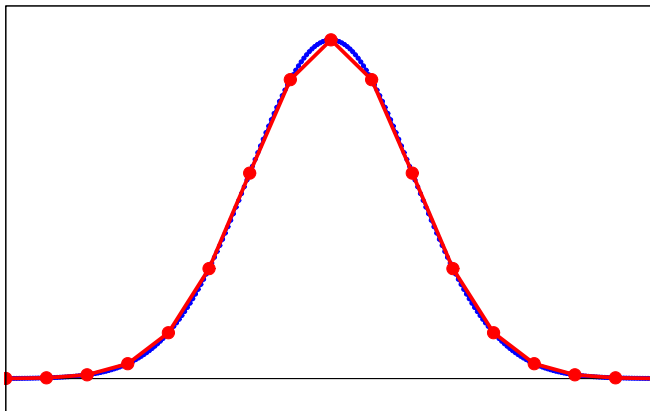
Subsampling: 1 point over 12



Model grid (blue) and subgrid (red)  
Large convolution length-scale

# Convolution on a subgrid

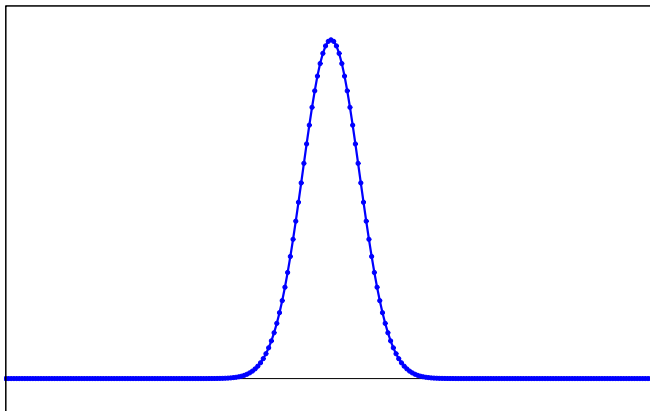
Subsampling: 1 point over 15



Model grid (blue) and subgrid (red)  
 Large convolution length-scale

# Convolution on a subgrid

Convolution function on model grid

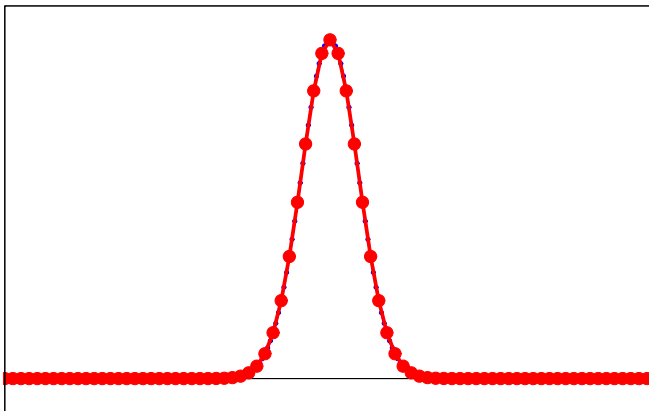


Model grid (blue)

Small convolution length-scale

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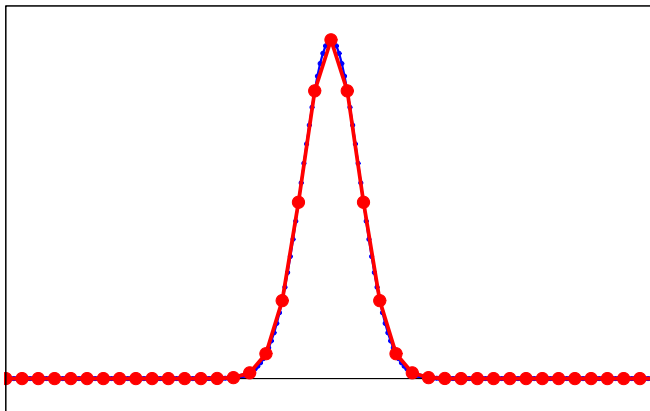
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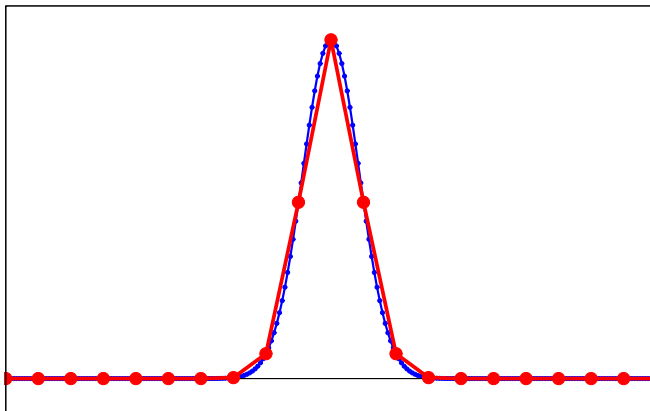
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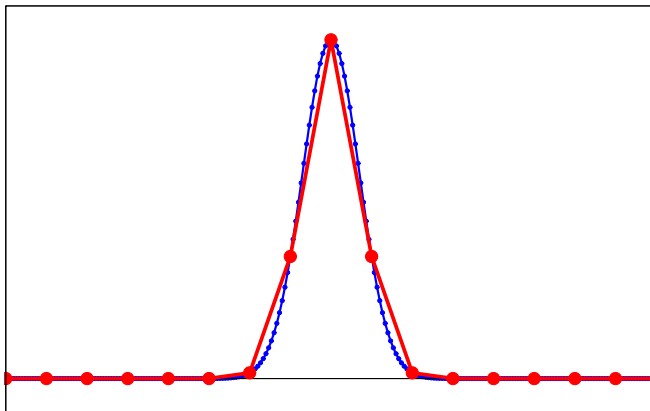
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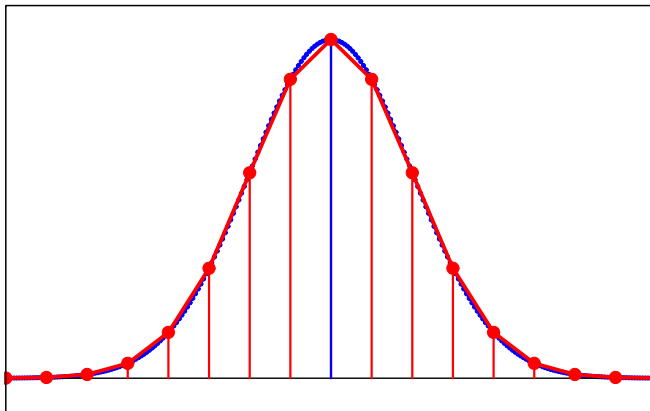


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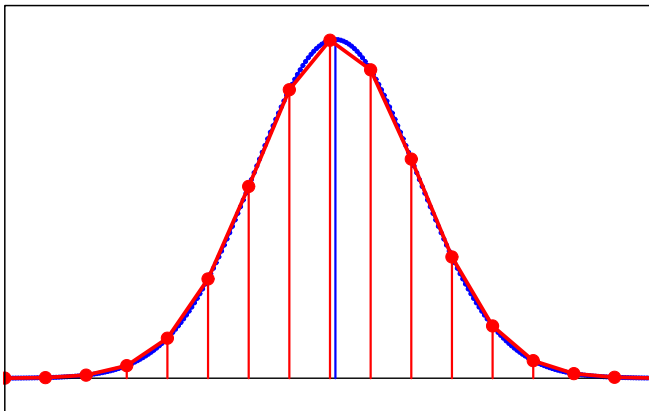
Normalization issue:



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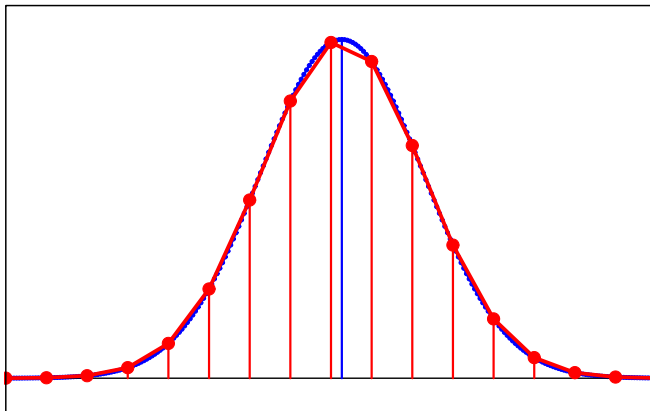
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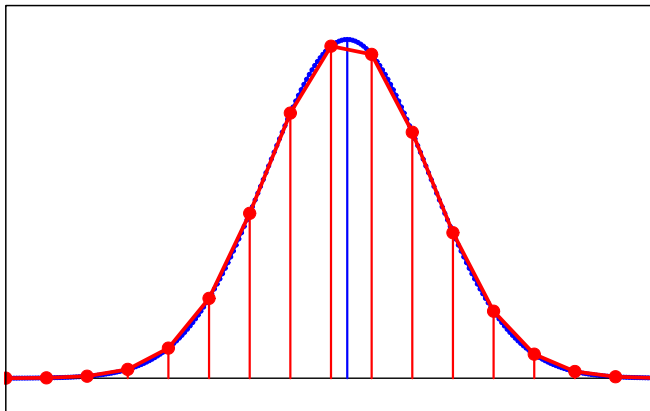
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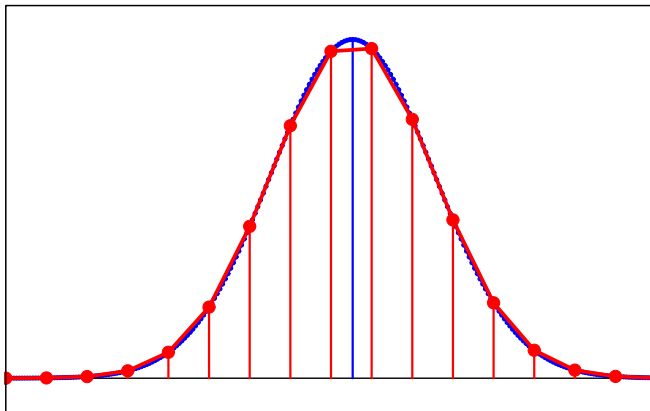
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## Explicit convolution

The **NICAS** method (Normalized Interpolated Convolution from an Adaptive Subgrid) is given by:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{C}} = \mathbf{N} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{C}^s \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{N}^T$$

where

- **N** is a diagonal normalization matrix.
- The subgrid is locally adapted to the convolution length-scale.

Several questions:

- What subgrid?
- What convolution function?
- What parallelization method?
- What software infrastructure?

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# Outline

Principles

Subgrid definition

Convolution function

Parallelization

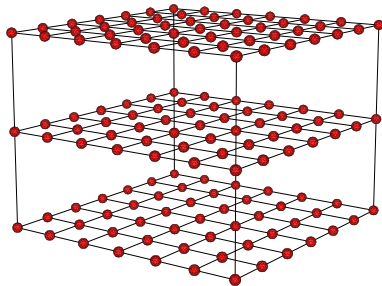
The BUMP software

Conclusions



## Subgrid definition

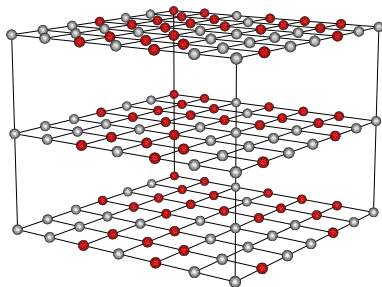
- The model grid is subsampled to define the convolution subgrid following three steps:
  1. horizontal subsampling, level-independent,
  2. vertical subsampling, similar for all columns,
  3. horizontal subsampling, level-dependent.



Full model grid

## Subgrid definition

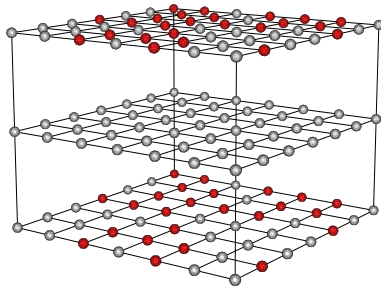
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Step 1: horizontal subsampling, level-independent

# Subgrid definition

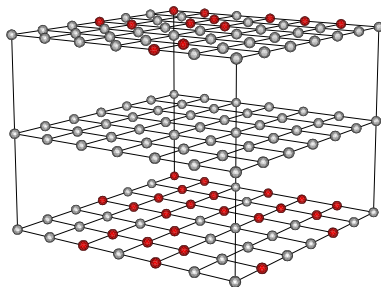
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Step 2: vertical subsampling, similar for all columns

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Step 3: horizontal subsampling, level-dependent

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  1. horizontal subsampling, level-independent,
  2. vertical subsampling, similar for all columns,
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- Each step takes the local convolution length-scales (horizontal or vertical) into account.
- The interpolation from the subgrid to the model grid is built backward from these three steps:

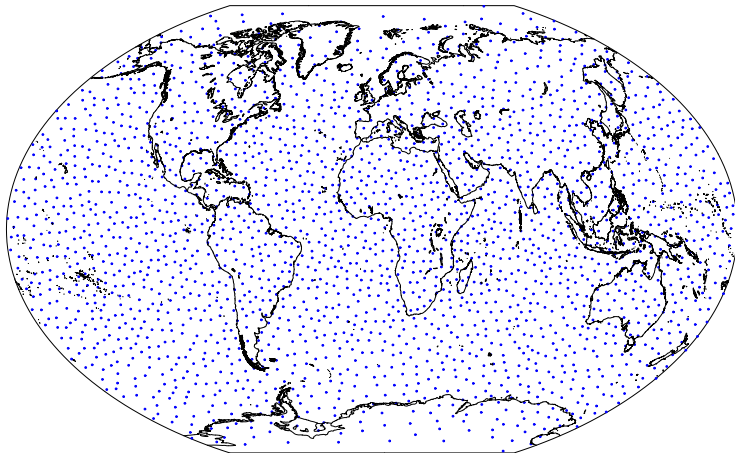
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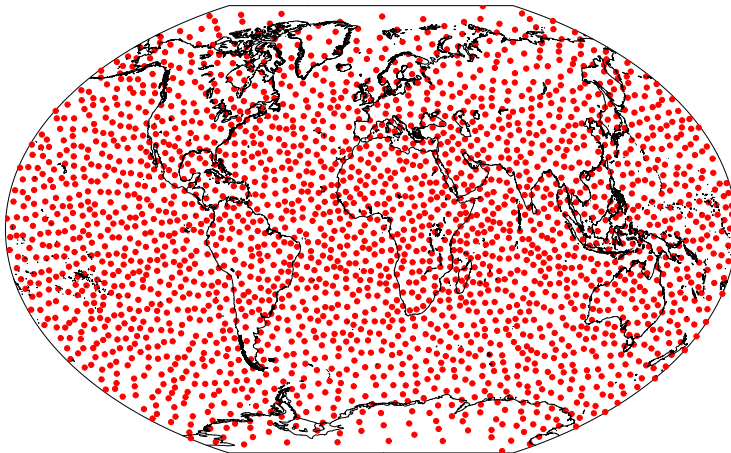
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# Horizontal grid definition



Blue dots: basic subset

# Horizontal grid definition

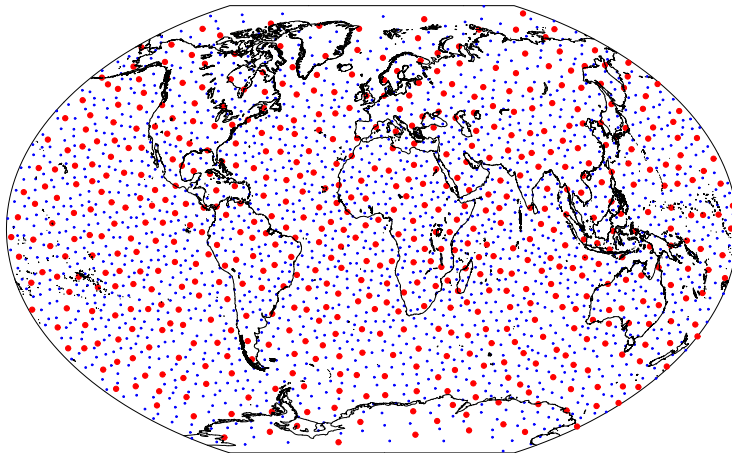


Blue dots: basic subset

Red dots: final subset with a short convolution length-scale



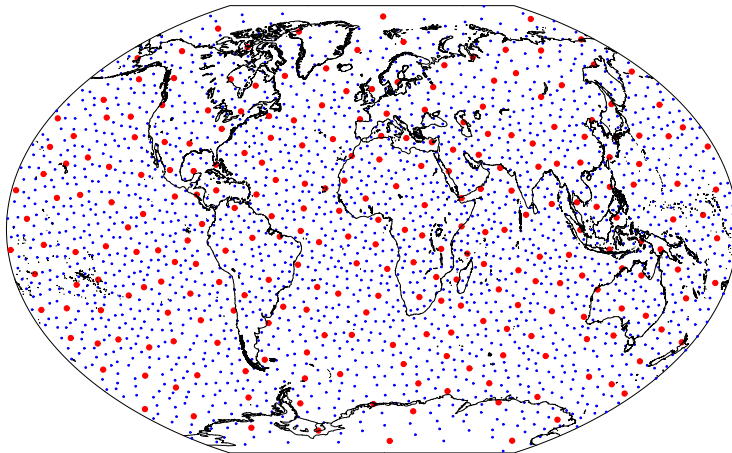
# Horizontal grid definition



Blue dots: basic subset

Red dots: final subset with a medium convolution length-scale

# Horizontal grid definition



Blue dots: basic subset

Red dots: final subset with a large convolution length-scale

# Outline

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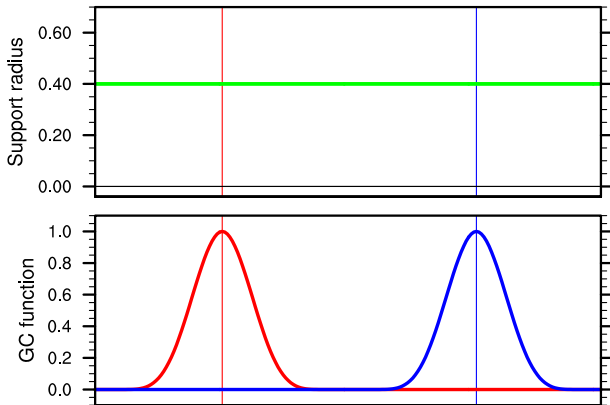
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Conclusions

# Convolution function

Gaspari and Cohn (1999) function, global support radius  $r$

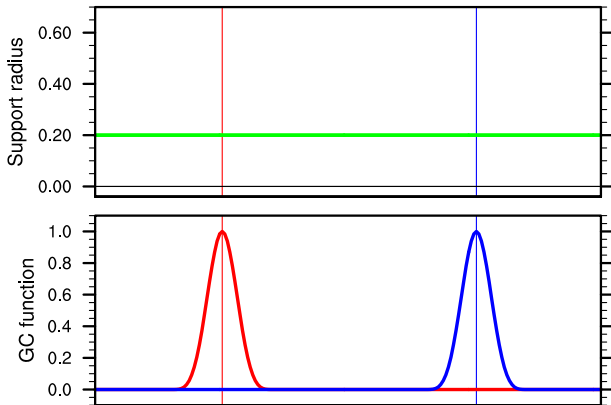
→ homogeneous normalized distance  $d'_{ij} = \frac{d_{ij}}{r}$



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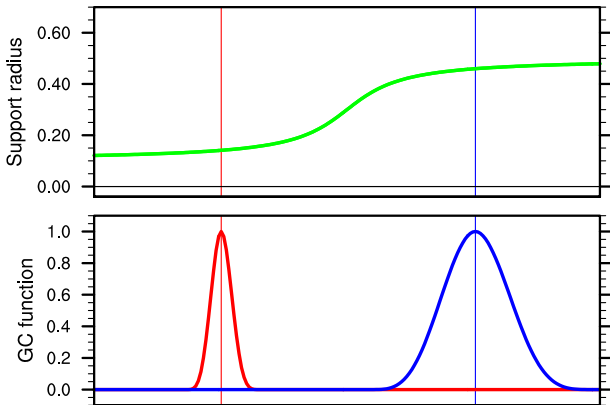
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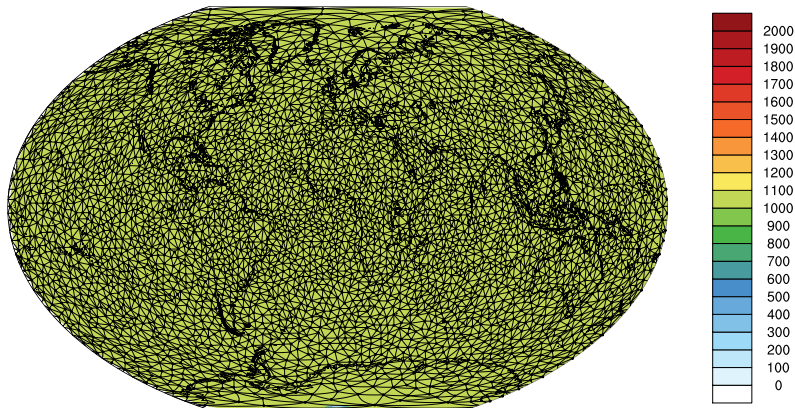
Gaspari and Cohn (1999) function, local support radius  $r$

→ heterogeneous normalized distance  $d'_{ij} = \frac{d_{ij}}{\sqrt{(r_i^2 + r_j^2)/2}}$



# Length-scale and mesh density

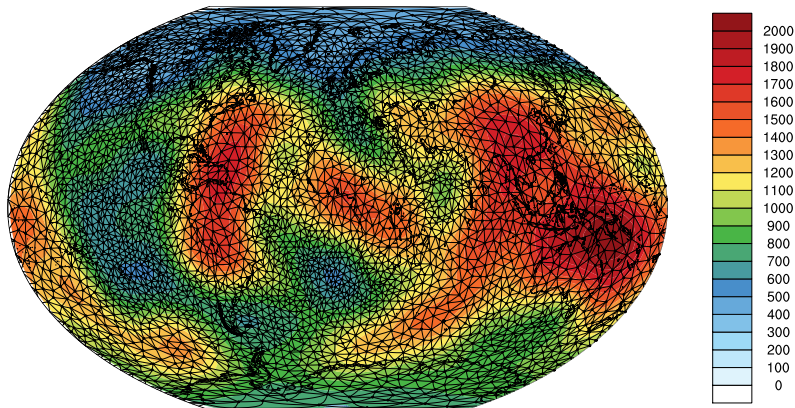
Homogeneous convolution length-scale → homogenous subgrid:



A fast trial-and-error algorithm using a K-D tree ensures that the horizontal subsampling is well distributed.

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Heterogenous convolution length-scale → heterogenous subgrid:

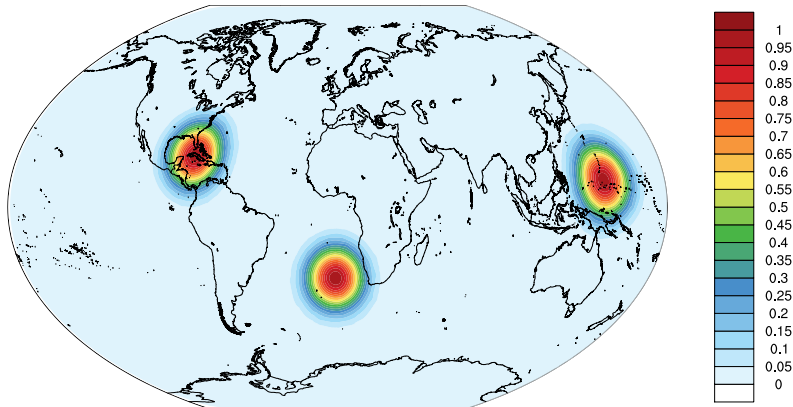


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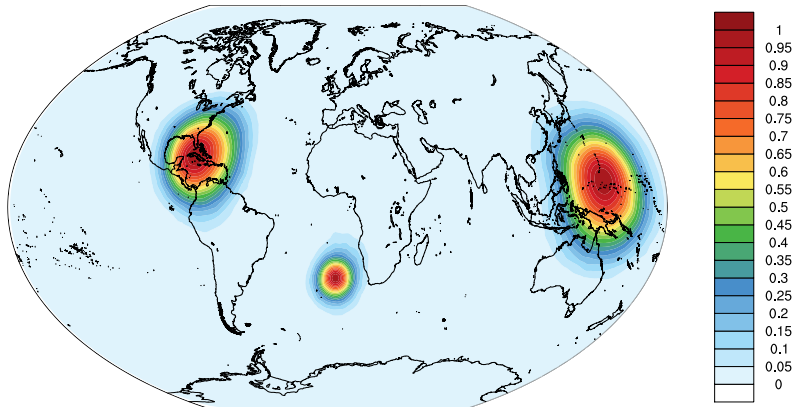
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Convolution with a homogenous length-scale



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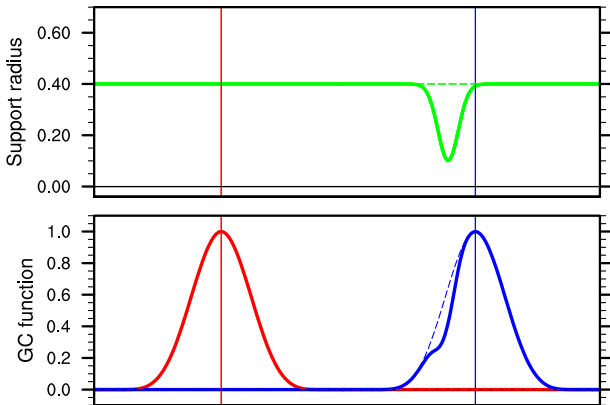
Convolution with a heterogeneous length-scale



# Sharp convolution length-scale gradients

Gaspari and Cohn (1999) function, local support radius  $r$

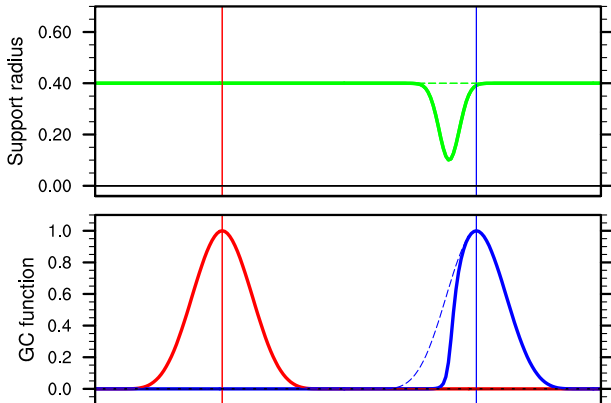
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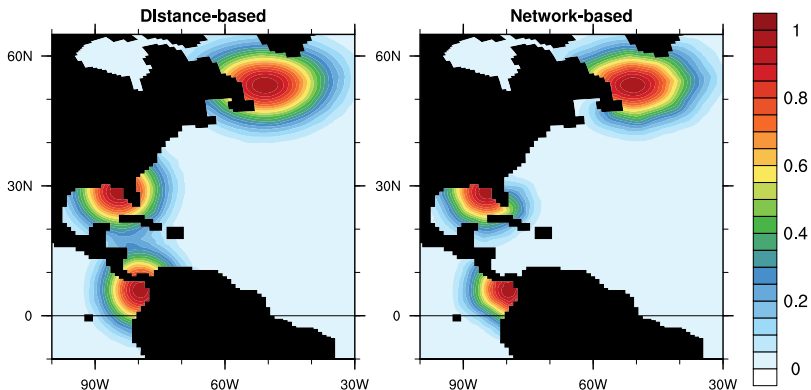
→ heterogeneous normalized distance  $\tilde{d}'_{ij} = \sum_{k=i}^{j-1} d'_{k,k+1}$  (network)



# Sharp convolution length-scale gradients

Convolution functions with complex boundaries:

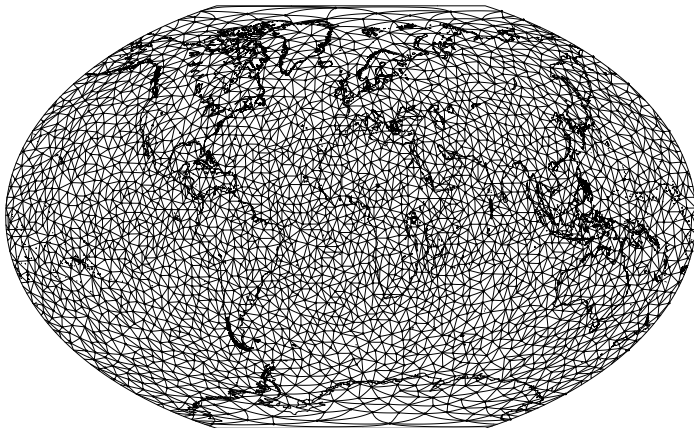
- distance-based approach (left)
- network-based approach (right)



**NICAS** is exactly normalized for both approaches.

## Subgrid resolution

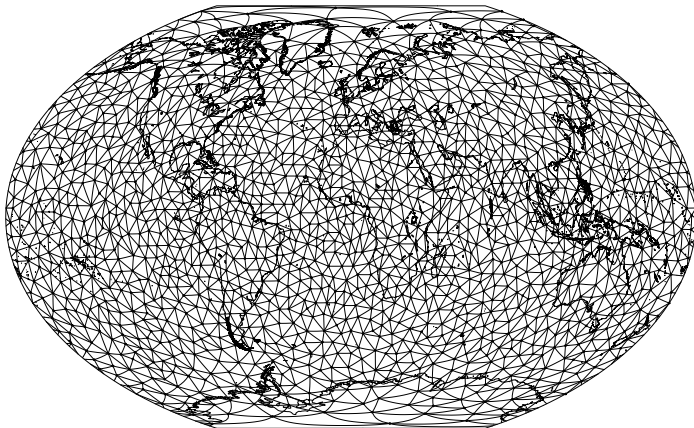
The subgrid resolution  $\rho$  is defined as the number of points required to describe half the Gaspari and Cohn (1999) function.



$$\rho = 8 \text{ (2827 points)}$$

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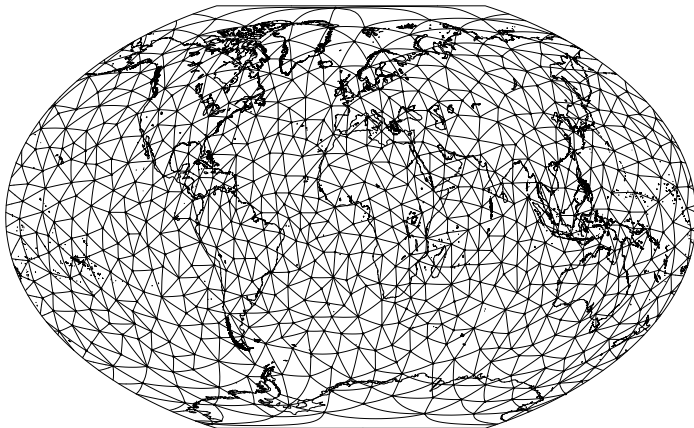
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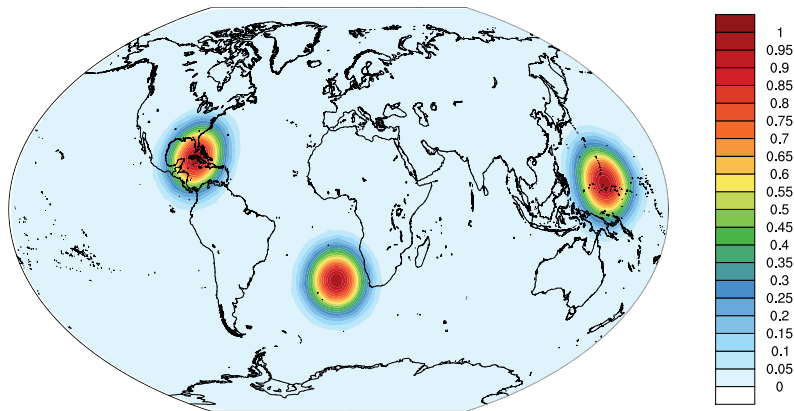


$$\rho = 4 \text{ (706 points)}$$



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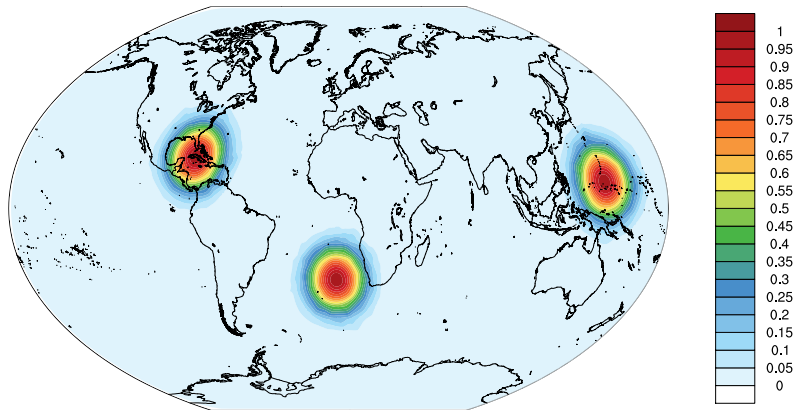
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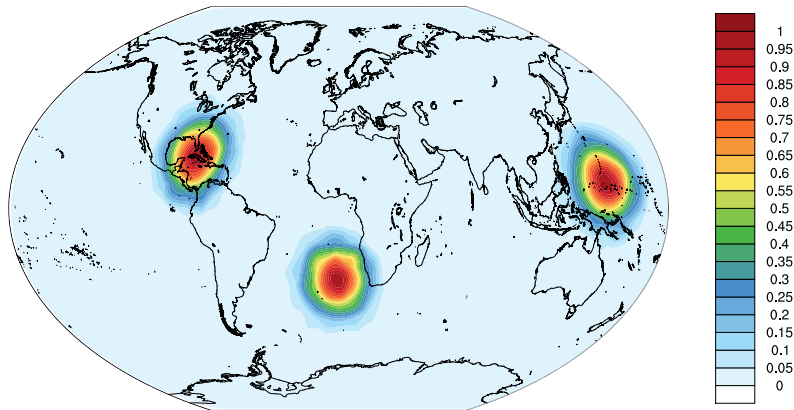
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## Square-root formulation

- Basic **NICAS** method:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{C}} = \mathbf{N} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{C}^s \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{N}^T$$

- If  $\mathbf{C}^s$  is built as  $\mathbf{U}^s \mathbf{U}^{sT}$ , then the square-root of  $\tilde{\mathbf{C}}$  is given by:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{U}} = \mathbf{N} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{U}^s$$

which can be useful for square-root preconditioning in EnVar minimizations.

- Using the formulation:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{C}} = \mathbf{N} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{U}^s \mathbf{U}^{sT} \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{N}^T$$

also ensures that  $\tilde{\mathbf{C}}$  is positive-semidefinite.

- A good approximation of the Gaspari and Cohn (1999) function square-root can be obtained by multiplying the function length-scale by 0.721 (empirical value).

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## MPI communications

Running **NICAS** with several MPI tasks:

- Communications are always performed **on the subgrid**, never on the model grid.
- Only **local** communications between halos are required, no global communications.
- **NICAS** can be applied with 1, 2 or 3 communication steps:

$$\tilde{C} = NS \otimes U^s \otimes U^{sT} \otimes S^T N^T$$

More communication steps  $\Rightarrow$  smaller halos.

- Hybrid parallization with OpenMP is used to improve efficiency.

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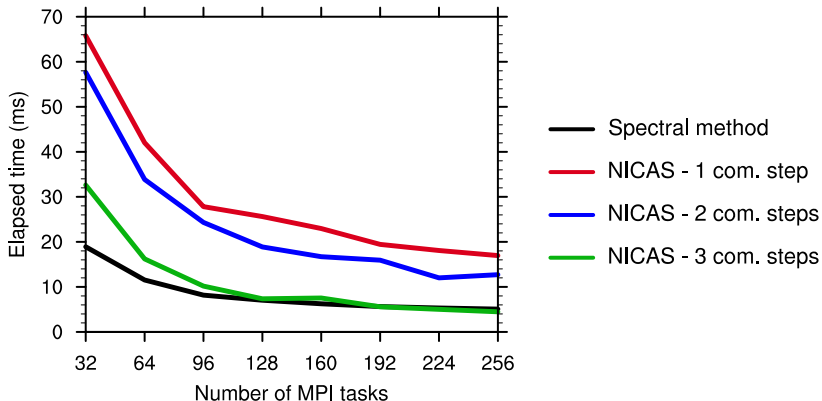
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# Scaling

Comparison of the standard spectral method with **NICAS**:



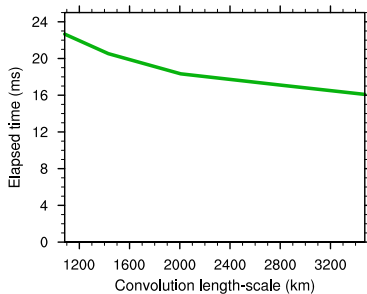
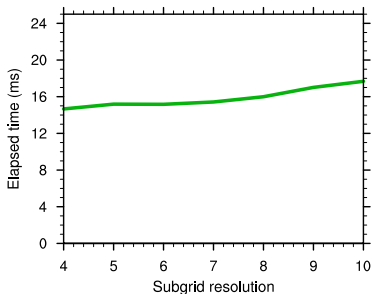
Elapsed time for one application of **NICAS** - ARPEGE (T399, L105)

Elapsed time decreases for more communication steps.



# Subgrid resolution and length-scale impact

Preliminary tests show a slight sensitivity to the subgrid resolution and to the convolution length-scale:



Elapsed time for one application of **NICAS** - ARPEGE (T399, L105) - 64 MPI tasks

The computational cost increases for:

- a more precise description of the convolution function,
- a smaller convolution length-scale.

# Outline

Principles

Subgrid definition

Convolution function

Parallelization

The BUMP software

Conclusions

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## **BUMP** : **B** matrix on an **U**nstructured **M**esh **P**ackage

- Capabilities:
  1. Covariance / correlation diagnostics
  2. Localization functions diagnostics [Ménétrier et al., 2015]
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  4. Local correlation tensors diagnostics
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- Object-oriented Fortran code ~ 16.700 lines
- Two execution modes:
  - Offline : execution using a namelist and NetCDF input data
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- Used as a research tool by scientists at: CERFACS, ECMWF, Météo-France, MetOffice, NASA, NCAR, NOAA (JCSDA)
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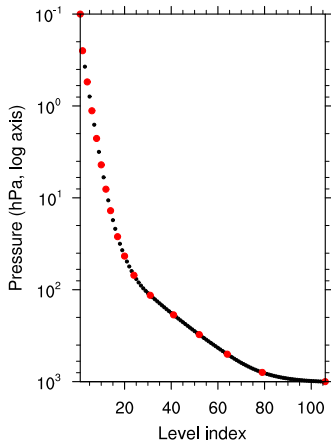
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# Vertical grid definition

Levels are subsampled depending on the vertical convection length-scale:



Black dots: model levels - red dots: subgrid levels

## Normalization computation

Normalization coefficient:

$$\begin{aligned}
 N_{ii} &= \left( \delta_i^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{U}^s \mathbf{U}^{sT} \mathbf{S}^T \delta_i \right)^{-1/2} \\
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where  $\delta_i$  is a Dirac vector (1 at point  $i$ , 0 elsewhere).

- Brute force computation: full computation of  $\mathbf{U}^{sT} \mathbf{S}^T \delta_i$  for every model grid point  $i$ .  
 → prohibitive cost  $\sim O(n^2)$
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