# Packing and truncation errors in fields retrieved from spherical harmonic coefficients

J. Haseler

Research Department

December 1980

This paper has not been published and should be regarded as an Internal Report from ECMWF.

Permission to quote from it should be obtained from the ECMWF.



European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts Europäisches Zentrum für mittelfristige Wettervorhersage Centre européen pour les prévisions météorologiques à moyen In the ECMWF archives, the fields of geopotential, temperature, humidity and u, v and  $\omega$  wind components are stored as spherical harmonic coefficients, and these are packed 4/60-bit word. The fields are fitted with spherical harmonics up to triangular truncation T80. For the analysis fields, all T80 coefficients are stored in the archives, while for the forecast only the T40 subset of coefficients is stored.

This paper describes a study of the effects of packing and truncation on the accuracy of various fields derived from spherical harmonic coefficients.

#### 1. u-VELOCITY AT 500 MB

#### 1.1 Packing errors

The effect of packing was determined by comparing the maximum absolute error and rms error at each latitude for grid point fields derived from T80 coefficients which had been

mogra ada jait

- (i) packed 4/word to one on the course exclosed mentions off the log daten
  - (ii) packed 3/word | duos gradugitaun oas mi) mans asai bis 2002 da caalmi
  - (iii) packed 2/word

The grid point field derived from T80 coefficients which had not been packed was taken to be the correct field. (Since the original u grid point field is staggered relative to the derived u field, it is not possible to compare the new and old fields directly to get error estimates).

In the examples below, I will generally give 2 tables; the first showing the worst errors at any latitude, and the second showing the errors at the equator. For all fields selected, the errors were smallest in equatorial regions, while the maximum errors occurred sometimes at high latitudes and sometimes in midlatitudes. Accordingly, it is easier to get an impression of the relative error levels of the different packing and truncation methods by comparing them in equatorial regions.



## in the DIMME aronives, the fields of quojecertal, temperature, busidity and Table 1. Worst errors of 500 mb u due to packing u.v. v and components are surely as the components are components are surely as the components

Packing	Max abs error	Latitude	tms error - 007 avious transport	l sou ozadi Latitude
4/word	73-67/10:1131/m/sec 1288	รอช 88.125 <sup>0</sup> ท า	114.5160 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
3/word	0.3039 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N	0.1328 m/sec	
2/word	0.0002  m/sec	88.125°N	0.0001 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
AM - Ha	maidendro bes anthose	ಕಿಂದ ಕರ್ಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವರ	Lio jaman o sedances	प्रकृतिस्य स्टाटी

Table 2. Errors of 500 mb u at equator due to packing to you accome

Packing	Max abs error	rms error	002 TA YELIGIRY-0
4/word	0.0453 m/sec	0.0124 m/sec	aroma pulposs 1.1
3/word	0.0019 m/sec	ming 0.0004 m/sec	The eiteat of packing w
3/word	0.0000 m/sec	0.0000 m/sec	and mas error at each D
			agort had shirter as and

The large errors with the 4/word packing are confined to a region close to the north pole. The maximum absolute error is 5 m/sec at  $86.25^{\circ}W$ , 3 m/sec at  $84^{\circ}N$ , 2m/sec at  $80^{\circ}N$  and less than 1 m/sec everywhere south of  $73^{\circ}N$ . Decomposition

Snowh S Bestosay (111)

#### 1.2 Truncation errors

The effects of truncation were investigated by inspecting grid point fields which had been retrieved at different truncations from spectral coefficients which had never been packed. Tables 3 and 4 show the errors for T60/T80 (i.e. the grid point field retrieved at triangular truncation T60 from coefficients which were originally fitted at T80), T40/T80, T40/T40, T30/T30 and R20:40/T40 (where R20:40 is the field retrieved by the summation was t

To the position of the spectral coefficients with the Legendre 
$$m=0$$
 in  $m=0$  and the spectral coefficients with the Legendre  $m=0$  in  $m=0$  and the spectral coefficients with the Legendre  $m=0$  in  $m=0$  and the spectral coefficients with the legendre  $m=0$  in  $m=0$  and the spectral coefficients with the legendre  $m$ 

polynomials. This is the form in which the Research Department verification programs retrieve the grid point fields).

Table 3. Worst errors of 500 mb u due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	<u> Latitude</u>
T60/T80	5.2695 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> n	2.4675 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
T40/t80	18.5911 m/sec	. dr <b>88.125<sup>0</sup>s</b> prio	10.7790 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> 5
T40/T40	5.6298 m/sec	31.875 <sup>0</sup> N	1.6388 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
т30/т30	7.2268 m/sec	31.875 <sup>0</sup> N	2.2782 m/sec	46.875 <sup>0</sup> N
R20:40/T40	7.1185 m/sec	31.875 <sup>0</sup> N	1.6388 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
SE <sup>ST</sup> ANTE SEE	er millio Norwer - Jack Affair (f.	w <sup>O</sup> astrido		Sharrane and C

Table 4. Errors of 500 mb u at equator due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error	
т60/т80	0.3530 m/sec	n 600 0.1469 m/sec sonepus it kna vitoid	rable 6. Sur
т40/т80	0.7588 m/sec	0.2671 m/sec	us full v Constant
T40/T40	0.8762 m/sec	m0.3134mm/sec	Packing
т30/т30	1.6622 m/sec	0.6574 m/sec	frow t
R20:40/T40	1.2136 m/sec	0.4177 m/sec	And the second of the second o
		The Aller Common of the American Manual Common of the Comm	Same A di

For all fields except velocities, the fields retrieved at truncation T40/T40 were identical to those for T40/T80. The u velocity however showed significant errors in polar regions when retrieved at a truncation other than that originally fitted.

#### 1.3 Divergence and vorticity

The errors caused by packing the coefficients of u were significantly reduced by storing instead the coefficients of divergence and vorticity. u and v coefficients can be derived from vorticity and divergence coefficients using the relations

$$V_{mn} = a \left\{ -\frac{1}{n} E_{mn} Z_{m,n-1} - \frac{im}{n(n+1)} D_{mn} + \frac{1}{n+1} E_{m,n+1} Z_{m,n+1} \right\}$$

$$V_{mn} = a \left\{ \frac{1}{n} E_{mn} D_{m,n-1} - \frac{im}{n(n+1)} Z_{mn} - \frac{1}{n+1} E_{m,n+1} D_{m,n+1} \right\}$$

where  $U_{mn} = coefficients of ucos \phi$ 

 $V_{mn} = coefficients of vcos\phi$ 

Z = coefficients of vorticity

D = coefficients of divergence

$$E_{mn} = \left\{ \frac{n^2 - m^2}{4n^2 - 1} \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

and a = radius of earth.

Tables 5 and 6 show the errors due to packing for u fields retrieved at T80 truncation from T80 fitted divergence and vorticity coefficients. much smaller than the corresponding values in Tables 1 and 2.

RALTON

0941,00%

anistration and the second

Destil

1.3 Divergence and vorticity

Table 5. Worst errors due to packing in 500 mb u derived from . . . vorticity and divergence

BACKER PTABLE

Packing Sa	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	<u>Latitude</u>
4/word	0.0187 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N	0.0116 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
3/word	0.0005 m/sec	389 125 N	0.0004 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N

mad baror

Table 6. Errors at equator due to packing in 500 mb u derived from vorticity and divergence

·		0.2671 m/sec	C.TSBR m/sec	084/054
Packing	Max abs error	ಾರ್ಜಿ <u>rms error</u>	595\gr 5978.0	ORT, OAT
4/word	0.0046 m/sec	0.0019 m/sec		0877,087
3/word	0.0001 m/sec	oaa\m °°(⊩.3 0.0000 m/sec	1.2136 m/wac	014/02:02H

For all fields everyt velocities, the fields retrieved at furrereier NGC/198 - 1 However, the errors caused by retrieving the u field at a lower truncation than that used to fit the divergence and vorticity were identical to those shown in Tables 3 and 4.

#### 2. V-VELOCITY AT 500 MB

## Packing errors Propin wise w to substitutibers with collider, yet because around self-

The errors due to packing were investigated by comparing vogrid points fields and well retrieved at triangular truncation T80 from coefficients which had been packed and at differing densities with the grid point field retrieved at T80 from 1900 1906 coefficients which had not been packed. (Again, the derived v grid point field is staggered relative to the original v field, so it is not possible to compare the new and old fields directly.)

Table 7. Worst errors of 500 mb v due to packing printed at a consequent

Packing	Max abs error	Latitude was	rms error	Latitude
4/word	2.5045 m/sec	88.125 <sup>O</sup> N	1.1185 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
3/word	0.779 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N	0.0366 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
2/word	0.0001 m/sec	88.125°N	0.0000 m/sec	m (3 2000

Table 8. Errors of 500 mb v at equator due to packing

Packing	Max abs error	rms error	
7.000.000.00 A.A.			
4/word	0.0104 m/sec	0.0032 m/sec	
3/word	0.0003 m/sec	0.0001 m/sec	
2/word	0.0000 m/sec	0.0000 m/sec	
	The State of the S		

The significant errors with the 4/word packing are confined to a region close to the north pole. The maximum absolute error is 1.2 m/sec at  $88.125^{\circ}N$ , and less than .5 m/sec at all latitudes south of  $80^{\circ}N$ .

#### 2.2 Truncation errors

The errors due to truncation were inspected for grid point fields retrieved at truncations T40/T80 and T40/T40 from coefficients which had not been packed.

Table 9. Worst errors in 500 mb v due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude rms error Latitude
т40/т80	4.5137 m/sec	50.625°N 1.2658 m/sec 88.125°N
T40/T40	5.0000 m/sec	50.625°N 1.5353 m/sec 88.125°N

Table 10. Errors in 500 mb v at equator due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error
т40/т80	.7344 m/sec	.1954 m/sec
т40/т40	.7834 m/sec	.2217 m/sec

The errors for T40/T80 are almost everywhere slightly smaller than those for T40/T40 (which was not the case for u-velocities). Also the error due to truncating to T40 is everywhere greater than the error due to packing.

#### 2.3 Divergence and vorticity

The errors due to packing were reduced by deriving the v grid point field from coefficients of divergence and vorticity.

Table 11. Worst errors due to packing in 500 mb v derived from divergence and vorticity

Packing	Max abs error	<u> Latitude</u>	rms error	Latitude
4/word	.0378 m/sec	75 <sup>0</sup> N	>98\/ 2010.0 .0141 m/sec	88.125°N
3/word	.0012 m/sec	78.75 <sup>0</sup> N	.0005 m/sec	88.125 <sup>0</sup> n
2/word	.0000 m/sec	- 1. m 27/a - 2044 4 20 -	oed\n 30\$/ 0 .0000 m/sec	Balanii S

Table 12. Errors at equator due to packing in 500 mb v derived from vorticity and divergence

Packing	Max abs error	rms error
4/word	0.0081 m/sec	0.0018 m/sec
2/word	0.0000 m/sec	0.0001 m/sec 0.0000 m/sec 0.0000 m/sec

The errors due to truncation were identical to those for grid point fields derived from v coefficients.

#### 3. VERTICAL VELOCITY AT 500 MB

#### 3.1 Packing errors

Fields retrieved at triangular truncation T80 from coefficients packed at different densities were compared with the original vertical velocity grid point field. There was no detectable effect due to packing.

Table 13. Worst errors of vertical velocity due to packing

Packing	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	Latitude
4/word	er ett maker ett Dahab geladig.	. Now fore the larger than 1 of a	riende ento 1801/037	vi. Creaman ésiti
3/word	.0656 pascal/sec	아이 1250년 (1950년 1950년	sainto reigi trase edde per	
2/word			2002 pascal/s	ec 66.125 S
1/word				
,			. Mar yerry force there	managar (C.A.

Table 14. Errors of vertical velocity at equator

Packing	Max abs error	rms error	fir de mai
4/word			
3/word	.0069 pascal/sec	.0021 pascal/sec	
2/word	todos pascar, sec	.0021 pascal/sec	
1/word	•		

Fields retrieved at truncations T80/T80, T40/T80 and T40/T40 were compared with the original vertical velocity field.

Table 15. Worst errors in 500 mb w due to truncation 300 mb

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	Latitude
T80/T80	.0656 pascal/sec	88.125°s	.0382 pascal/sec	88.125 <sup>o</sup> s
т40/т80	.8077 pascal/sec	39.375 <sup>0</sup> n	.1216 pascal/sec	39.375°N
T40/T40	.8077 pascal/sec	39.375 <sup>0</sup> n	.1216 pascal/sec	39.375°N

Table 16. Errors of 500 mb w at equator due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error	on a racia (A.44)	To Charles
T80/T80	.0069 pascal/sec	.0021 pascal/sec	n k <sup>a</sup> nora.	9 Ball (8
T40/T80	.0978 pascal/sec	.0213 pascal/sec	The day of the	oa Pva.
т40/т40	.0978 pascal/sec	.0213 pascal/sec	· 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1	$1 = (x_{i_1}^{i_2} + (x_{i_2}^{i_2})^{\frac{1}{2}} x_{i_1}^{i_2})^{\frac{1}{2}}$

The field derived at truncation T40/T80 is identical to that derived at T40/T40. The errors in the vertical velocity field are due only to truncation, not packing.

#### 4. TEMPERATURE AT 500 MB

#### 4.1 Packing errors

Fields retrieved at triangular truncation T80 from coefficients packed at different densities were compared with the original temperature grid point field.

Table 17. Worst errors in 500 mb T due to packing would be before and a characteristic and a

Packing	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	<u>Latitude</u>
4/word	.8086 <sup>0</sup> K	88.125 <sup>o</sup> s	. 2829 <sup>0</sup> ĸ	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s
3/word	.8341 <sup>°</sup> K	88.125 <sup>o</sup> s	.2943 <sup>0</sup> K	88.125°s
2/word	.8324 <sup>O</sup> K	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s	.2936 <sup>0</sup> K	88.125 <sup>0</sup> 5
1/word	.8324 <sup>0</sup> K (XXX)	88.125 <sup>°</sup> s	. 2936 <sup>0</sup> к	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s

Table 18. Errors of 500 mb T at equator due to packing

Packing	Max abs error	rms error
4/word	.2097 <sup>0</sup> K	.0595 <sup>0</sup> K
3/word	.1796 <sup>0</sup> к	.0531°K
2/word	.1794 <sup>0</sup> K	.0531 <sup>0</sup> K
1/word	.1794 <sup>0</sup> K	.0531 <sup>0</sup> K

Fields retrieved at truncations T80/T80, T40/T80 and T40/T40 were compared as follow with the original temperature grid point field:

Managaria da Manag

AN UDE TA BADYWEETHER

arosas nyikesa it.A

Table 19. Worst errors in 500 mb T due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	Latitude
T80/T80 3	ଂଖ୍ୟ <b>ି</b> 8324 <sup>0</sup> K୍ଲ	88.125 <sup>o</sup> s	ಾಕ್ಷ.2936 <sup>0</sup> K ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ್ಕ	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s
T40/T80	••1.5736 <sup>9</sup> K	73.125 <sup>0</sup> s	6653°K	86.25 <sup>0</sup> s
T40/T40	∵1.5736 <sup>0</sup> K #↓95	73.125 <sup>0</sup> s	.6653 <sup>0</sup> K	86.25 <sup>0</sup> s

Table 20. Errors of 500 mb T at equator due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error	is process grant grant	no Herrison (i
T80/T80	.1794° <sub>K</sub>	144 Leve <b>:</b> 0531 <sup>0</sup> K	noskúsurest 4940.	- 4347,080
T40/T80	.5586 <sup>0</sup> K	ാളപ്പ് കാര <b>ം 1</b> 376 <sup>0</sup> ന്	1833 gnacell/arc	(Prophysical)
T40/T40	.5586 <sup>0</sup> K	398 / 598.1376°K	. CPCA pasqs   Yeoc	SWAN, CAMPI

The errors in the temperature field could be reduced by packing the coefficients 3/word instead of 4/word, but the error due to packing is significantly less than that due to truncating to T40.

#### 5. GEOPOTENTIAL AT 500 MB

### 5.1 Packing errors to the terrors to the terror well will not be community to be proved to be added to

Fields retrieved at triangular truncation T80 from coefficients packed at different densitities were compared with the original geopotential field.

In the tables below, the geopotential is given in units of metres \* g, where g = acceleration due to gravity.

Table 21. Worst errors of 500 mb geopotential due to packing

		and the second s		
Packing	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	<u>Latitude</u>
4/word	172.6140 m*g	82.5°N	72.5795 m*g	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
3/word	36.2455 m*g	67.5 <sup>0</sup> N	7.7479 m*g	88.125 <sup>o</sup> s
2/word	36.3362 m*g	67.5°n	7.8060 m*g	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s
1/word	36.3364 m*g	67.5 <sup>0</sup> n	7.8061 m*q	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s

Table 22. Errors of 500 mb geopotential at equator due to packing

Packing	Max abs error	rms error	ussine princes ( ) à
4/word	28.5584 m*g	6.4710 m*g	- Videose ka uk egen egedi.
3/word	5.9288 m*g	1.7407 m*g	
2/word	5.9802 m*g	1.7194 m*g	etroure as trisograff 1.0
1/word	5.9800 m*g	1.7194 m*g	Patri Marinina in Alabara directiva en la distribución de la compania de la compania de la compania de la comp

Fields retrieved at T80/T80, T40/T80 and T40/T40 from coefficients which had not been packed were compared with the original grid point field.

-Afab oldar edille

Table 23. Worst errors in 500 mb geopotential due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	<u>Latitude</u>
T80/T80	36.3364 m*g	67.5°N	7.8061 m*g	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s
т40/т80	130.0720 m*g	39.375 <sup>0</sup> N	34.7853 m*g	88.125 <sup>0</sup> N
T40/T80	130.0720 m*g	39.375 <sup>0</sup> N	34.7853 m*g	88.125°N
		The second second	0.4.0.5	The second second second second

Table 24. Errors of 500 mb geopotential at equator due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error
т80/т80	5.9800 m*g	1.7194 m*g
T40/T80	୍ରୀ ନ୍ଦି <b>ମ୍ୟର</b> *ଫ <sup>ୁର</sup> ଜିନ୍ନ ଅଟେ ।	Dest 6:7430 m*g rieco word 581 de Saveindez shiel
T40/T40 \		in this and sales for taken all this recently

Obviously there is a serious error due to packing for the geopotential fields, which would be removed if the coefficients were packed 3/word instead of 4/word.

It was found that, apart from the region to the north of 80°N, the errors for the geopotential field retrieved at T40 from coefficients which had been packed 4/word were not significantly greater than those for the field retrieved at T40 from coefficients which had not been packed. Also, the field retrieved at T40 from coefficients packed 4/word had smaller errors than the field retrieved at T80 throughout the northern hemisphere. (This was not true for the southern hemisphere, where perhaps the sign changes in the Legendre polynomials prevented the error due to packing from accumulating).

#### 6. HUMIDITY MIXING RATIO AT 850 MB

#### 6.1 Packing errors

There were no detectable errors due to packing for humidity mixing ratio.

#### 6.2 Truncation errors

Fields retrieved at T80/T80 and T40/T80 were compared with the original humidity mixing ratio field.

1.7407 mitu-

69m 4817.1

5.928A afe

Spire ede meM

male see agained aroth conclusions

- 169m - GOE41, 8

Packing

- 5 row4, 5

January 1

10217\021

Gentaltr

godd sometall

Table 25. Errors of 850 mb hmr due to truncation STAGET IS ASSECTED TO BE TO B

Truncation	Max abs error	<u>Latitude</u>	rms error	<u>Latitude</u>
т80/т80		16154336 <b>9.37585</b> 362 33	.0003 g/g	ر (many)
T40/T80		13.12 <sup>0</sup> ຮ ວຽມສະສຸສຸສຸສຸ	.0052 g/g	20.625 <sup>0</sup> N

Table 26. Errors at equator of 850 mb hmr due to truncation

9755 B6	erita CCSC.Af	Higher is a	97m U\$V0.081	.047
Truncation	Max abs error	rms error		
14 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		भारतक. वर	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	-G8 ti
T80/T80	.0018 g/g	.0002 g/g		,
T40/T80	.0085 g/g		d 1002 To exercit 1.451.	Silden

#### 7. RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 850 MB

#### 7.1 Packing errors

Fields retrieved at T80 from coefficients packed at different densities were compared with the original relative humidity grid point field.

motife amm

Par Pater I

Table 27. Worst errors of 850 mb relative humidity due to packing

Packing	basiaa basaki bodokq Max abs error	ecow odnałokił Latitude	noo edd ûl Bevomen rms error	sd Palaces double Latitude
4/word	no v <b>22.3699</b> ; in dynas	73.125°s		
3/word and make	: 6:22.3639 omejoliji:	900 <b>73.125</b> 0s	4.4858 Sleifi	73.125°s,,,
2/word to the the	22.3645 and mode	9201 <b>73.125<sup>0</sup>s</b>	4.4860	73.125°s
1/wordseasch	asv <b>22.43645</b> ∂br .os∂Arr	73.125 <sup>0</sup> s	4.4860	73.125 <sup>0</sup> s

from itsist of all and ends ground validate had been been adapt bloody by the company of the com

Packing	Max abs error	rms error
4/word	8.2150	1.1590
3/word	8.2176	1.1573
2/word	8.2171	1.1573
1/word	8.2171	1.1573

Fields retrieved at T80/T80 and T40/T80 were compared with the original relative humidity field.

Table 29. Worst errors of 850 mb relative humidity due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	Latitude
T80/T80	22.3645	73.125°s	4.4860	73.125 <sup>0</sup> s
т40/т80	45.5892	50.625 <sup>0</sup> N	12.2903	69.375°s

Table 30. Errors of 850 mb relative humidity at equator due to truncation

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error	701 19 FAR XXX	geväckis producti
т80/т80	8.2171	1.1573	Selection of Property	045700b
T40/T80	25.6338	. * 1 se 1 se <b>4 . 2226</b> <sup># 3</sup>	- 31,932.5 pageon to	0 8th (40,34th

#### 8. MEAN SEA LEVEL PRESSURE

## 8.1 Packing errors

Fields retrieved at T80 from coefficients packed at different densities were compared with the original mean sea level pressure field.

Table 31. Worst errors in msl pressure due to packing

Packing	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error <u>Latitude</u>
4/word	229.8675 pascals	88.125 <sup>o</sup> s	84.8228 pascals 88.125°s
3/word, regard trace	230.8989 pascals	88.125°s	85.1267 pascals 88.125°S
			85.1321 pascals 88.125°S
1/word and more	230.9115 pascals	88.125°s	85.1322 pascals 88.125 <sup>o</sup> s

Table 32. Errors in msl pressure at equator due to packing

Packing	Max abs error	rms error
4/word	24.1993 pascals	6 0168 paggals
3/word	22.3495 pascals	5.6390 pascals
2/word	22.4240 pascals	5.6356 pascals
1/word	22.4239 pascals	5.6356 pascals

ek er græn brûter grænger se oar abbelde, wij gaftrafte der yet op bilger, datbej er. Herades statt

Fields retrieved at T80/T80 and T40/T80 were compared with the original mean sea level pressure field.

Table 33. Worst errors in mean sea level pressure due to truncation

exector againmentar ( ) as

Paramer Shear and Post

come eds se

-1<sup>2</sup>791.44 - 344544 (704.000

Truncation	Max abs error	Latitude	rms error	Latitude
T80/T80	230.9115 pascals	88.125 <sup>0</sup> s	85.1322 pascals	88.125°s
T40/T80	727.3495 pascals	76.875 <sup>0</sup> s	210.1279 pascals	86.25 <sup>o</sup> s

Table 34. Errors in msl pressure at equator due to truncation of sides

Truncation	Max abs error	rms error	gere wis yes	TO STANDERS TO
T80/T80	22.4239 pascals	5.6356 pascals	**************************************	08:01:00 <b>:</b>
T40/T80	56.9384 pascals	16.9844 pascals	51.23.25 - 11.23 - 11.23	CHA ORT

#### 9. MAPS

Figs. 1 to 6 show plots of 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature for the original fields, T80-smoothed fields and T40-smoothed fields. Over most of the northern hemisphere, all 3 plots were very similar, however T40 underestimated the depth of the low at 40N 150E, and greatly smoothed the features over Greenland. By removing the small scale noise, the T40 fit seems to improve the look of the temperature field.

## 10. CONCLUSIONS

Packing the spherical harmonic coefficients 4/word leads to significant errors for the geopotential and u-velocity fields. These errors however can be greatly reduced by packing the coefficients 3/word. Deriving the u-velocity from packed vorticity and divergence coefficients further reduces errors.

Anggerd on hitely provider the companions from an endang of the solution

In general, the errors due to truncating the coefficients to T40, or lower truncations, are much larger than those due to packing the coefficients. However, to archive forecast fields at T80 rather than T40 would require almost four times more coefficients to be stored.

At present, the forecast fields are fitted with spherical harmonics at T80 truncation, but only the T40 subset of coefficients is archived. For all but velocity fields, the T40 fitted field and the field derived from the T40 subset of T80-fitted coefficients are identical. For u-velocities a significant error is introduced in polar regions by retrieving the fields at a truncation other than the one originally fitted. For T40 archives, it would be better to fit the

u-velocity at T40 in the first place. (It would  $\underline{not}$  be simple to make the post-processing fit some fields at T40 and others at T80).

If the archives held T80 truncation coefficients, the u-velocity problem would be solved. The user could then retrieve fields either at T80, or at a lower truncation, depending on the degree of smoothing and level of truncation error he is prepared to accept.

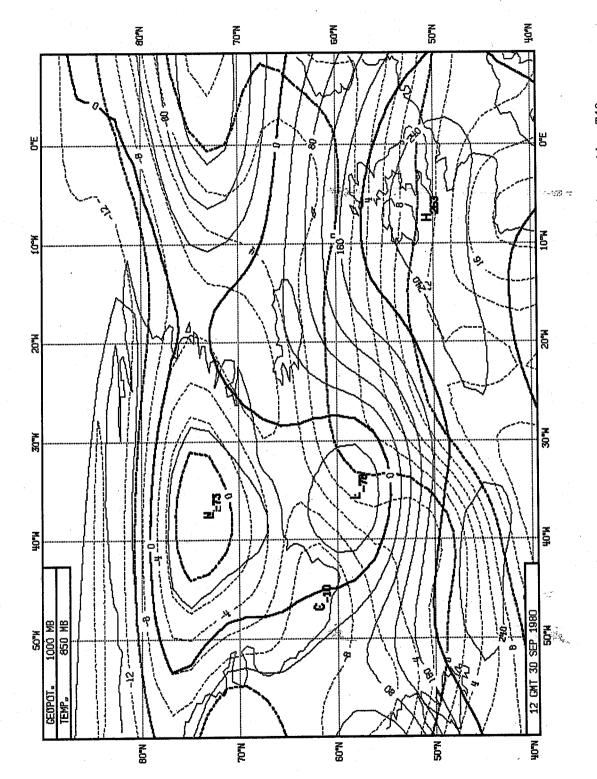


Fig. 1 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature smoothed to truncation T40

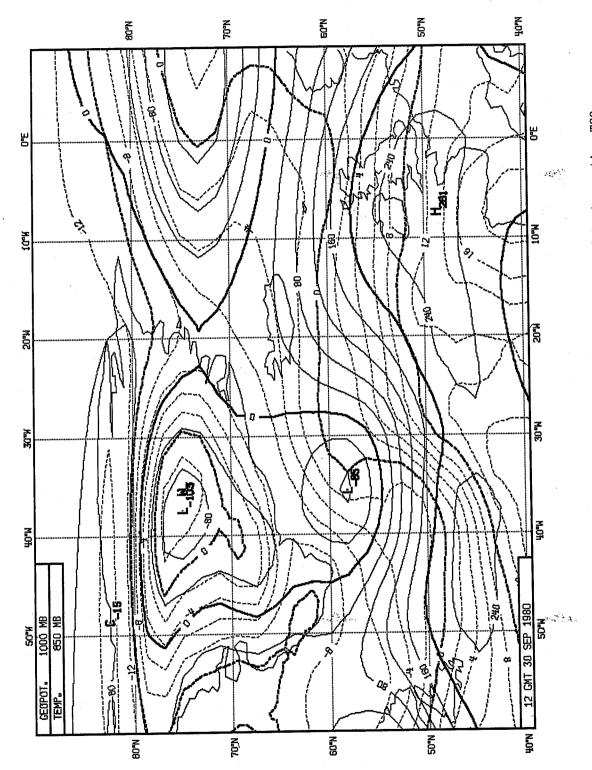


Fig. 2 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature smoothed to truncation T80

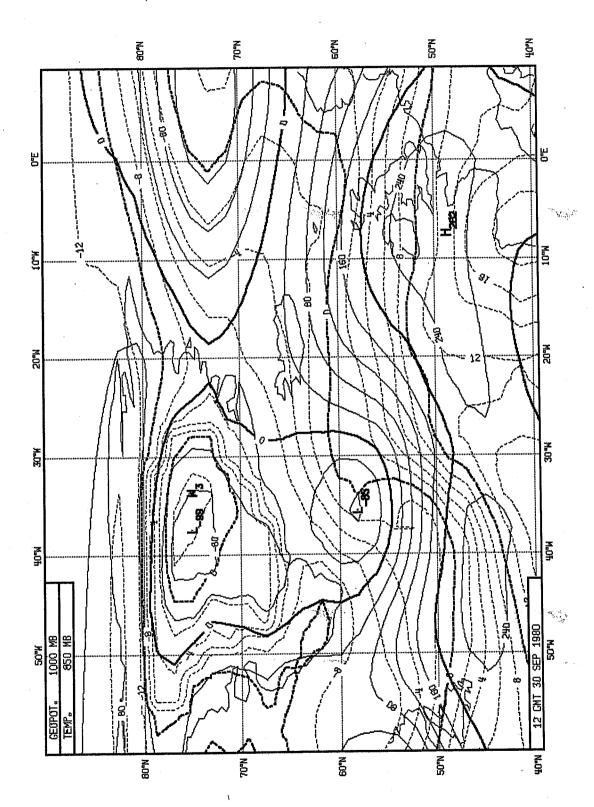


Fig. 3 Original unsmoothed 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature fields

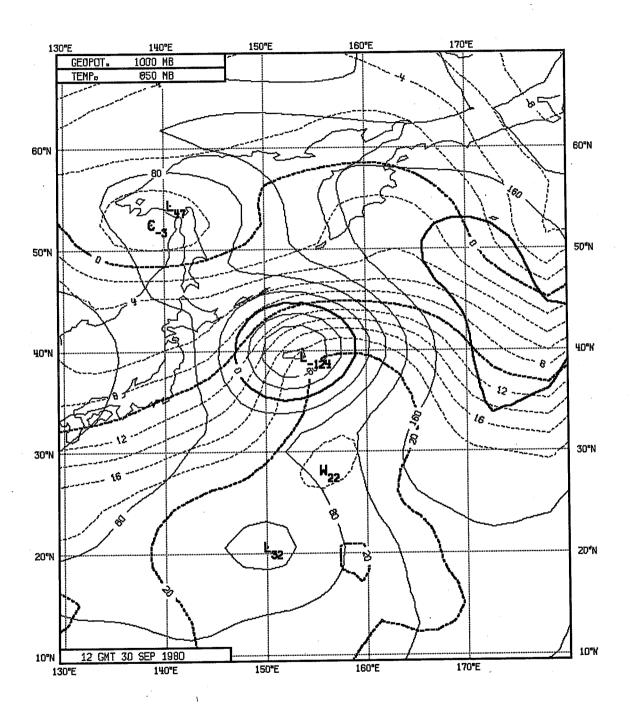


Fig. 4 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature smoothed to truncation  ${\tt T40}$ 

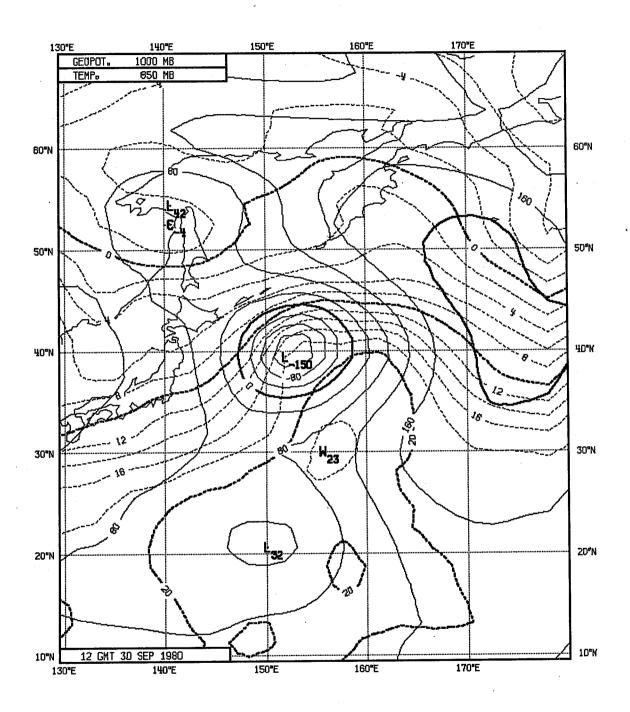


Fig. 5 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature smoothed to truncation T80

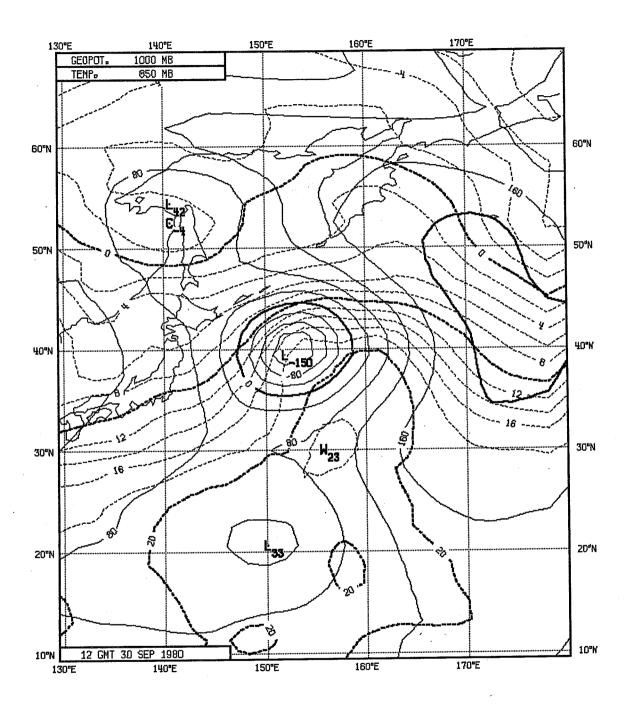


Fig. 6 Original unsmoothed 1000 mb geopotential and 850 mb temperature fields