R. G. Prinn 12.806/10.571: Atmospheric Physics & Chemistry, March 7, 2006 Figure by MIT OCW.



To solve the model equations, we divide the atmosphere into a finite number of boxes (grid cells).

Assume that each variable has the same value throughout the box.

Write a budget for each each box, defining the changes within the box, and the flows between the boxes.



Figure by MIT OCW.

Physical picture: (Eulerian)



Figure by MIT OCW.

$$\begin{split} & \underline{\text{Notation:}} \\ & \underline{\text{Inputs}} = I_x^i \text{dydz} + I_y^i \text{dzdx} + I_z^i \text{dxdy} \\ & \underline{\text{Outputs}} = O_x^i \text{dydz} + O_y^i \text{dzdx} + O_z^i \text{dxdy} \\ & = \left[I_x^i + \frac{\partial I_x^i}{\partial x} \text{dx} \right] \text{dydz} + \left[I_y^i + \frac{\partial I_y^i}{\partial y} \text{dy} \right] \text{dzdx} + \left[I_z^i + \frac{\partial I_z^i}{\partial z} \text{dz} \right] \text{dxdy} \\ & I_x^i = [i]u, \ I_y^i = [i]v, \ I_z^i = [i]w \quad (\text{input fluxes}) \\ & u = \frac{dx}{dt}, \ v = \frac{dy}{dt}, \ w = \frac{dz}{dt} \quad (\text{wind velocities}) \\ & P_i, \ L_i = \underline{\text{rates of chemical production}}, \underline{\text{loss}} \\ & [i] = \underline{\text{concentration of } i} \end{split}$$

Local rate of change of [i] given by:

$$\frac{\partial [i]}{\partial t} = \frac{\text{Inputs - Outputs + Internal net production}}{dxdydz}$$
$$= P_i - L_i - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} ([i]u) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} ([i]v) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} ([i]w)$$
$$= P_i - L_i - \nabla \cdot ([i]\vec{V})$$
(1)

Continuity equation for i

For total molecular concentration [M], $P_M - L_M \approx 0$ so: $\frac{\partial [M]}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot ([M]\vec{V})$ (2)

Continuity equation for M

$$\underline{\text{Defining mixing ratio}}_{\substack{i \in [i]/[M] = X_i:}} = \frac{\frac{\partial [i]}{\partial t} [M] - \frac{\partial [M]}{\partial t} [i]}{[M]^2} \\
= \frac{\left(\frac{P_i - L_i - \nabla \cdot (X_i [M] \vec{V})\right) [M] + \nabla \cdot ([M] \vec{V}) X_i [M]}{[M]^2} \quad (\text{Using equations (1) and (2)}) \\
= \frac{\left(\frac{P_i - L_i - X_i \nabla \cdot ([M] \vec{V}) - [M] \vec{V} \cdot \nabla X_i\right) [M] + \nabla \cdot ([M] \vec{V}) X_i [M]}{[M]^2} \\
= \frac{\left(\frac{P_i - L_i - [M] \vec{V} \cdot \nabla X_i\right) [M]}{[M]^2} \\
= \frac{\left(\frac{P_i - L_i - [M] \vec{V} \cdot \nabla X_i\right) [M]}{[M]^2} \quad (3)$$

Continuity Equation for i (mixing ratio form)

<u>Theorem</u>: If there is no gradient in the mixing ratio of i $(\nabla X_i = 0)$ then there can be no local changes in i due to transport.

Rate of change of X_i traveling with the air given by (Lagrangian view):

(a)

$$\frac{dX_{i}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \Big[X_{i} (x, y, z, t) \Big]$$

$$= \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt} + \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial t} \quad \text{(chain rule)}$$

$$= \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial x} u + \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial y} v + \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial z} w + \frac{\partial X_{i}}{\partial t}$$

$$= \vec{V} \cdot \nabla X_{i} + \frac{P_{i} - L_{i}}{[M]} - \vec{V} \cdot \nabla X_{i} \quad \text{(using equation (3))}$$

$$= \frac{P_{i} - L_{i}}{[M]} \quad (4)$$

<u>Theorem</u>: If there is no "net chemical production" ($P_i - L_i = 0$), then the mixing ratio of i is conserved moving with the air.

(b)

$$X_{it*} = X_{i0} + \int_{0}^{s^{*}} \frac{dX_{i}}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds} ds$$

$$= X_{i0} + \int_{0}^{s^{*}} \frac{P_{is} - L_{is}}{[M]u_{s}} ds$$
(using equation (4)) (5)

<u>Theorem</u>: The change in mixing ratio in an air mass from its initial value is a line integral of the "net chemical production" over the trajectory of the air mass.

A steady state exists when the local rate of change is zero:

$$\frac{\partial [\mathbf{i}]}{\partial t} = 0 \qquad \text{i.e. } \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{i}} - \mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{i}} = \nabla \cdot ([\mathbf{i}] \vec{\mathbf{V}}) \\
\frac{\partial [\mathbf{M}]}{\partial t} = 0 \qquad \text{i.e. } \nabla \cdot ([\mathbf{M}] \vec{\mathbf{V}}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{i}}}{\partial t} = 0 \qquad \text{i.e. } \frac{\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{i}} - \mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{i}}}{[\mathbf{M}]} = \vec{\mathbf{V}} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{i}} \quad (7)$$

One-Dimensional (Horizontal) Model



Equation (7) with v = w = 0 gives:

$$P_{i} - L_{i} = 0 - [M] \frac{X_{i}}{\tau_{i}}$$

$$= [M] u \frac{dX_{i}}{dx}$$
i.e.
$$\frac{d \ln X_{i}}{dx} = -\frac{1}{u\tau_{i}}$$
i.e.
$$X_{i} (x) = X_{i} (0) exp \left(-\frac{x}{u\tau_{i}}\right)$$
(8)

[<u>chemical</u> (e-folding) <u>distance</u>, $h = u\tau_i$] [<u>advection time</u> = x/u]

i.e.



Figure by MIT OCW.