

# Benchmarking different regridding libraries used in Earth System Modelling



Sophie Valcke, Andrea Piacentini, Gabriel Jonville



# Benchmarking different regridding libraries used in Earth System Modelling



Objectives and context

The OASIS3-MCT coupler

Preliminary analysis of regridding libraries

Regridding benchmark – grids, analytical functions, algorithms, metrics

Regridding benchmark – results DISTWGT, BILINEAR, 2<sup>nd</sup> ORDER, CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> O

Regridding benchmark – library performance and scalability

Conclusions



Evaluate the quality and the performance of different regridding libraries used in Earth System Modelling to complement the SCRIP library in the OASIS3-MCT coupler:

- ATLAS (ECMWF):
- MOAB-TempestRemap (DoE; USA)
- YAC (MPI-M; DE)
- ESMF (NASA, NOAA, DoD, NSF; USA)
- XIOS (IPSL/CEA, FR)

Funded by the  
IS-ENES3 EU project



First step toward a “community” benchmark on regridding functionality of different coupling software? First discussed at the *5th Workshop on Coupling Technologies for Earth System Models* (Sept. 21-24, 2020, meeting summary submitted to BAMS)

## SCRIP detailed quality analysis (2019)

*SCRIP assumes borders are linear in (lat,lon) and uses Lambert equivalent azimuthal projection near the pole for intersection calculation*

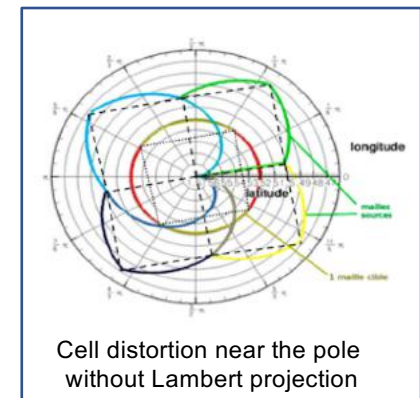
For longitude-latitude, logically-rectangular, icosahedral grids, SCRIP :

- with FRACAREA normalization OK with and without Lambert projection
- with DESTAREA normalization OK but
  - For logically-rectangular <-> longitude-latitude, only with Lambert projection
  - For icosahedral -> logically-rectangular, only without Lambert projection

For Gaussian-reduced grids, SCRIP :

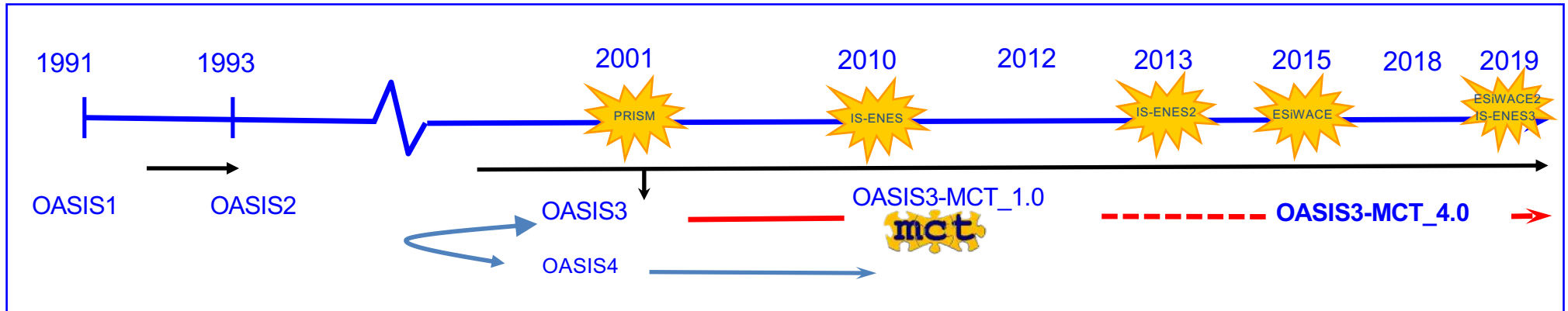
- with FRACAREA normalization OK without Lambert projection
- with **DESTAREA normalization not OK: error with & without Lambert projection**

Jonville & Valcke 2019, Valcke & Piacentini 2019 (Cerfacs tech reports)



➤ **need to offer other regridding possibilities in OASIS3-MCT**

# The OASIS3-MCT coupler

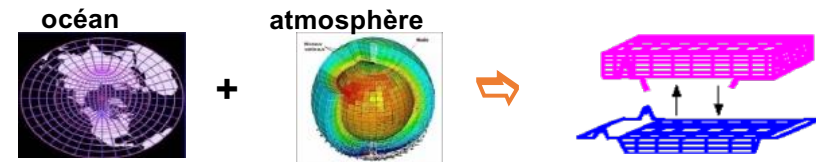


- OASIS1 -> OASIS2 -> OASIS3:

2D ocean-atmosphere coupling

low frequency, low resolution :

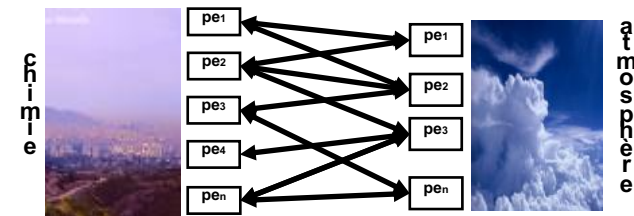
→ Flexibility, 2D interpolations



- OASIS4 / OASIS3-MCT:

2D/3D coupling of high-resolution parallel components

→ Parallelism, performance

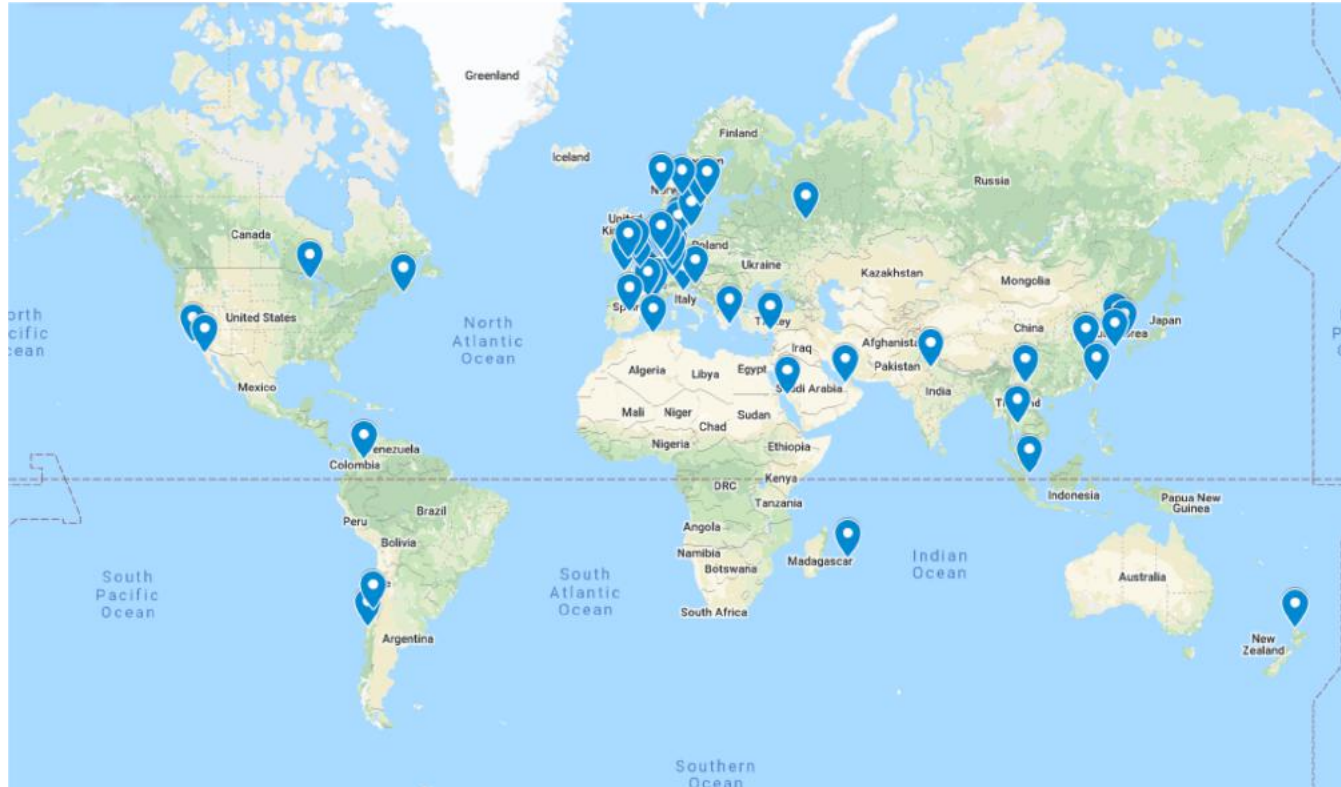


➤ F90 & C, LGPL licence, public domain libraries (MPI, NetCDF, SCRIP, MCT)



## The OASIS3-MCT user community – 2019 survey

67 climate  
modelling  
groups  
around the  
world use  
OASIS3-MCT  
...



....  
to  
assemble  
more than  
80 coupled  
applications  
!!

OASIS3-MCT is used in 5 of the 7 European ESMs participating to CMIP6

## Preliminary analysis of regridding libraries

### ATLAS (ECMWF)

- no support for masks
- no conservative regridding
  - useful & portable toolkit for the best usage of heterogeneous architectures but can't be the choice on the short term (Piacentini 2020, CERFACS Tech Rep)

### MOAB-TempestRemap (DoE; USA)

- conservative regridding only
- no support of masks (masked cells removed => grid with holes => problems for 2nd O)
  - not mature enough, analysis of 1st O conservative regridding only

### YAC (MPI-M; DE)

- dynamic developer (OASIS experience !) but lack of official commitment for support on the long term

### ESMF (NASA, NOAA, DoD, NSF; USA)

- large community, good long-term perspectives
- good and efficient user support

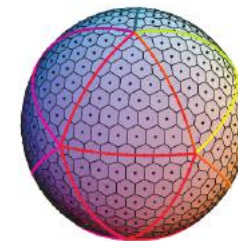
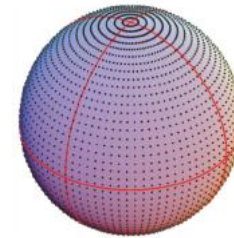
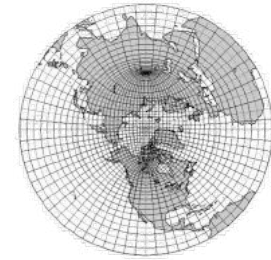
### XIOS (IPSL/CEA, FR):

- conservative regridding only
- growing community, growing number of developers
- natural collaboration with CERFACS



14 couples of grids involving 6 grids:

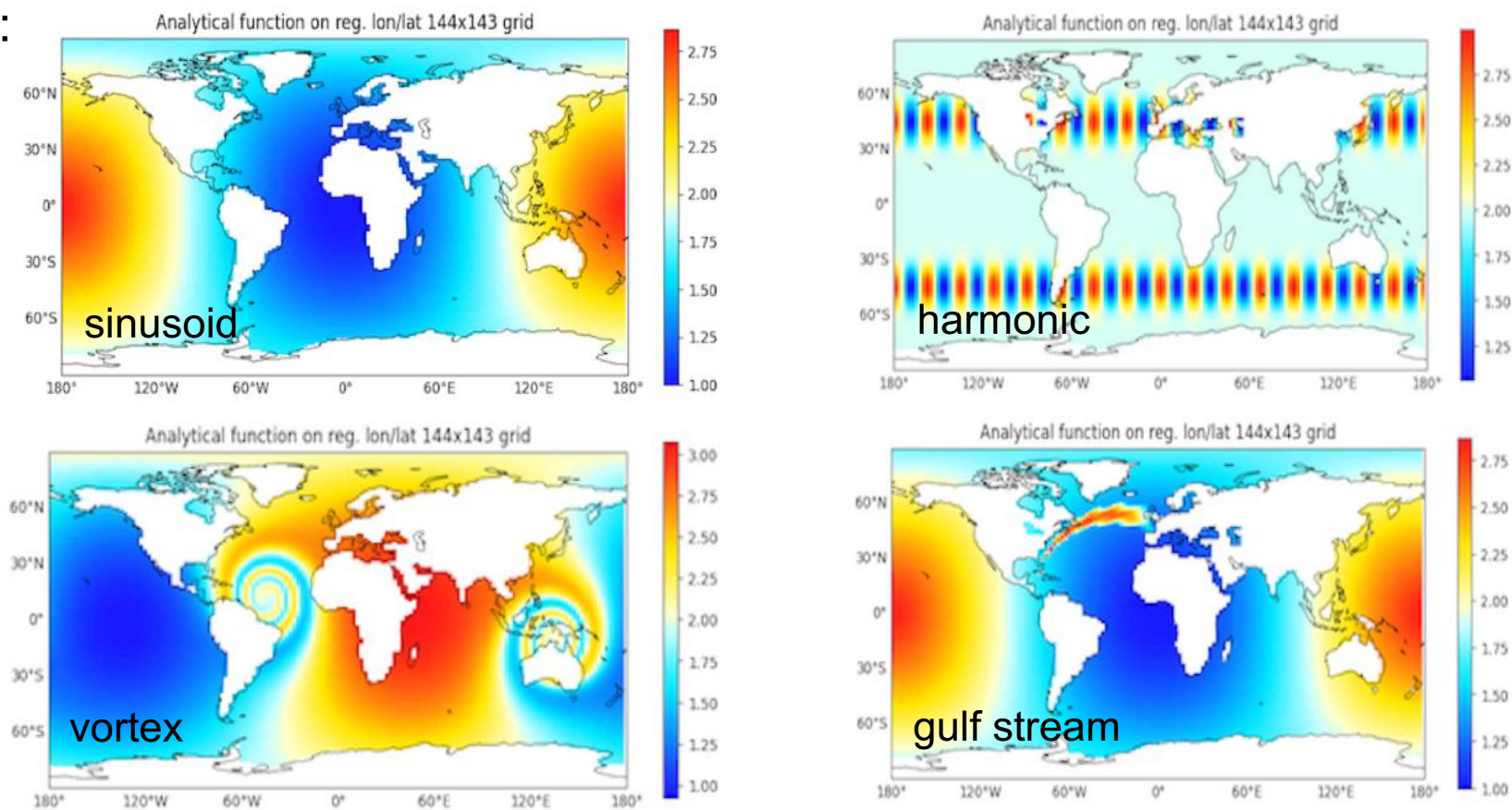
- torc: NEMO ORCA2 rotated-stretched logically-rectangular (182x149)
- nogt : NEMO ORCA1 rotated-stretched logically-rectangular (362x294)
- bggd: LMDz regular lat-lon (144x143)
- sse7: ARPEGE Gaussian reduced T127 (24572)
- icos: Dynamico icosahedral grid (15222)
- icoh: Dynamico icosahedral grid (2016012)





## Regridding benchmark – test cases

4 functions:



4 algorithms: nearest-neighbour, bilinear, bicubic, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order conservative

## Regridding benchmark – criteria & metrics

From CANGA project (<https://github.com/CANGA/Remapping-Intercomparison>)

$\Psi^s$  Analytical function  
on source grid

$\Psi^t$  Analytical function  
on target grid

$\mathbf{R}\Psi^s$  Source analytical function  
regridged on target grid

- sensitivity : algorithmic invariance to underlying mesh topology

✓ test cases with 14 couples of grids

- consistency: accuracy and preservation of discretization order

✓ accuracy: misfit mean, max, rms

$$\text{mean} \frac{|\mathbf{R}\Psi^s - \Psi^t|}{|\Psi^t|}$$

$$\text{max} \frac{|\mathbf{R}\Psi^s - \Psi^t|}{|\Psi^t|}$$

$$\sigma \frac{|\mathbf{R}\Psi^s - \Psi^t|}{|\Psi^t|}$$

- conservation:

✓ conservation

$$\frac{|I_t(\mathbf{R}\Psi^s) - I_s(\Psi^s)|}{I_s(\Psi^s)}$$

- monotonicity: preservation of global solution bounds

✓ Lmin & Lmax

$$L_{\min} = \frac{\min \Psi^t - \min \mathbf{R}\Psi^s}{\max |\Psi^t|}$$

$$L_{\max} = \frac{\max \mathbf{R}\Psi^s - \max \Psi^t}{\max |\Psi^t|}$$

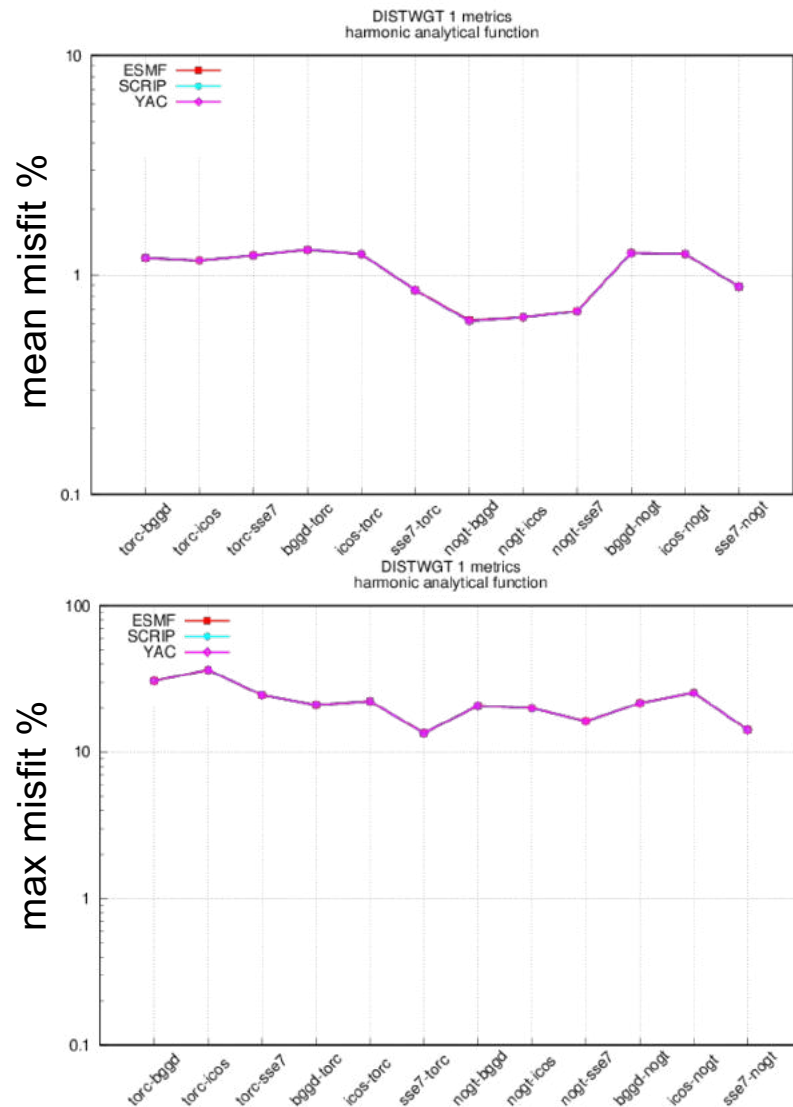
- performances

✓ Scalability curves on kraken (Cerfacs Lenovo)

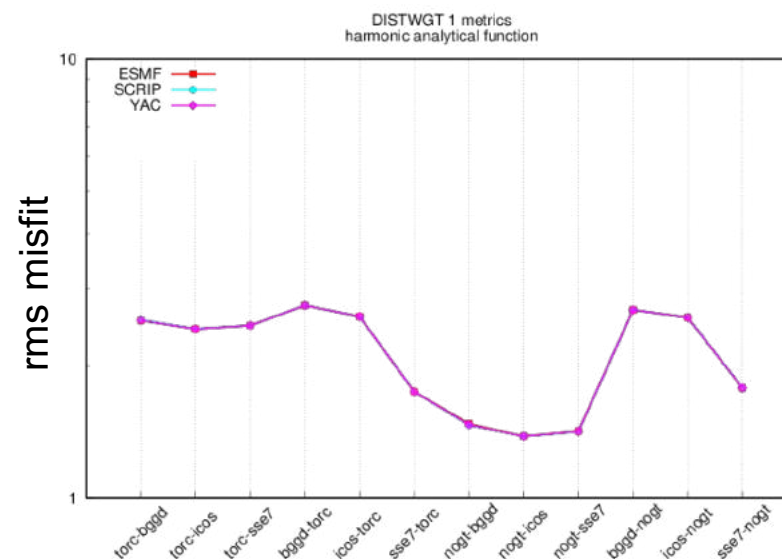
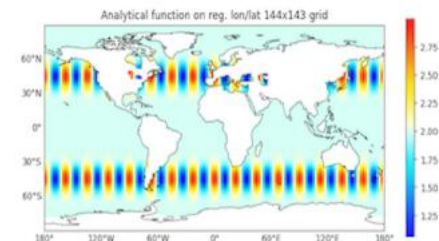
- dissipation (over a back-and-forth exchange)

Lmin/Lmax positive  
➤ under/overshoots  
Lmin/Lmax negative :  
➤ smoothing (~dissipation?)

## Regridding benchmark – results DISTWGT

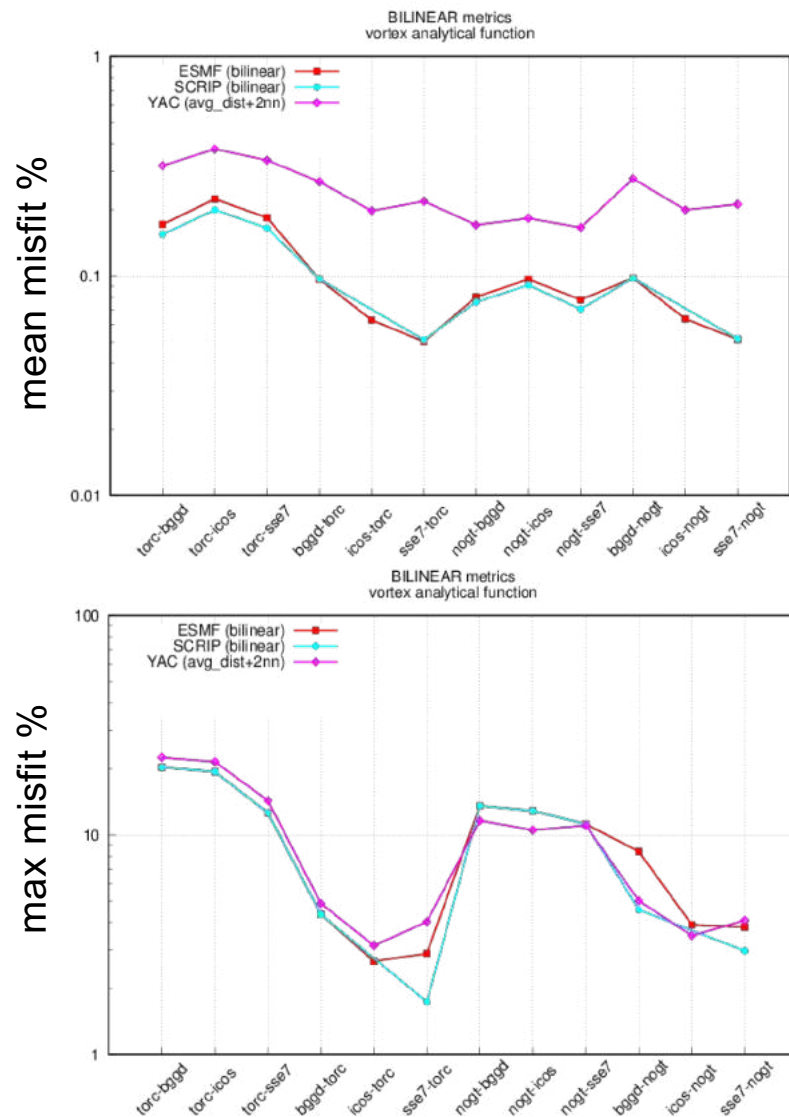
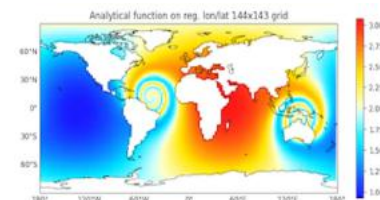


**DISTWGT (nearest-neighbour)**  
harmonic  
SCRIP, ESMF, YAC  
*not implemented in XIOS or MTR*



➤ SCRIP, ESMF & YAC produce same and reasonable results

## Regridding benchmark – results BILINEAR



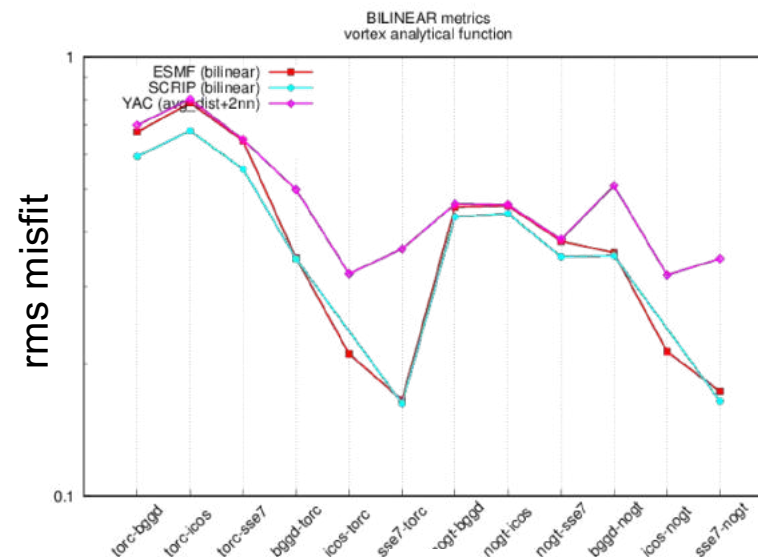
## BILINEAR

vortex

SCRIP, ESMF

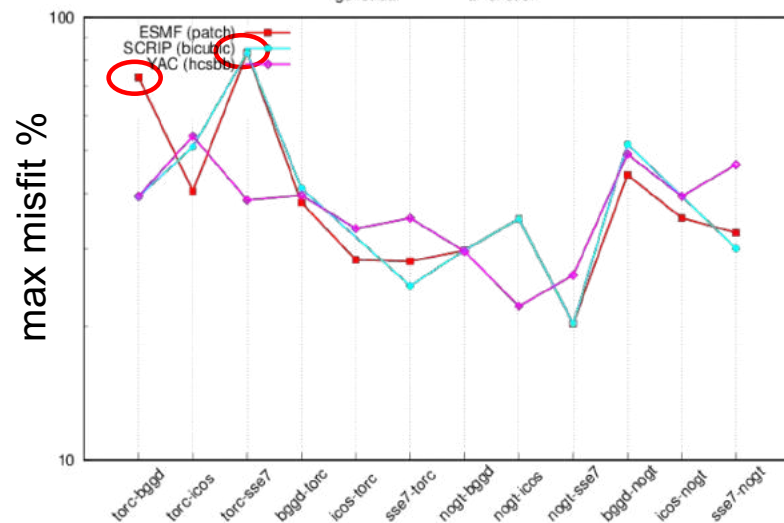
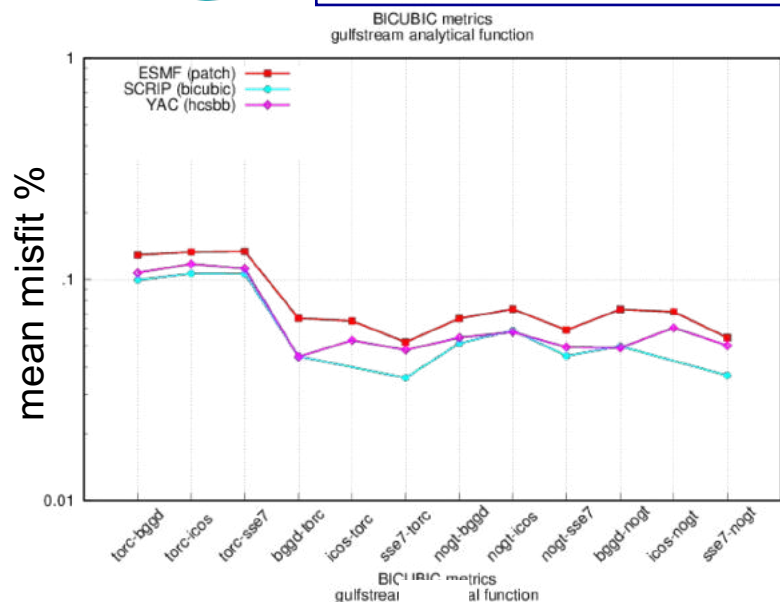
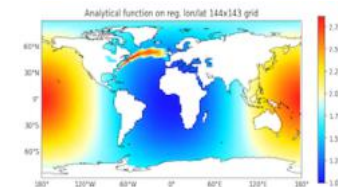
YAC (inverse distance weighting of enclosing neighbours)

*not implemented in XIOS or MTR*



➤ YAC less accurate on average

## Regridding benchmark – results 2<sup>nd</sup> ORDER



## BICUBIC, PATCH, HCSBB

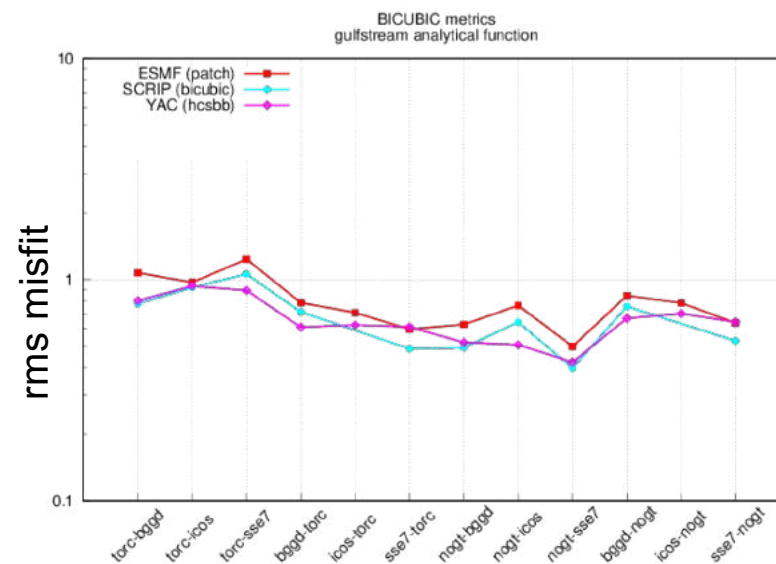
gulfstream

SCRIP (local-coordinate system bicubic approx, Jones 1999)

ESMF (multiple 2nd deg 2D polynomial source patches)

YAC (spherical Bernstein-Bézier polynomials, Hanke & Redler, 2019)

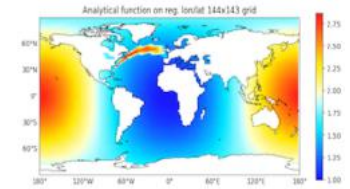
*not implemented in XIOS nor MTR*



- ESMF patch slightly less accurate on average
- High max misfit for torc-sse7 (ESMF, SCRIP) and torc-bggd (ESMF), linked to strong gradient (not visible for harmonic)



## Regridding benchmark – results 2<sup>nd</sup> ORDER



### BICUBIC, PATCH, HCSBB

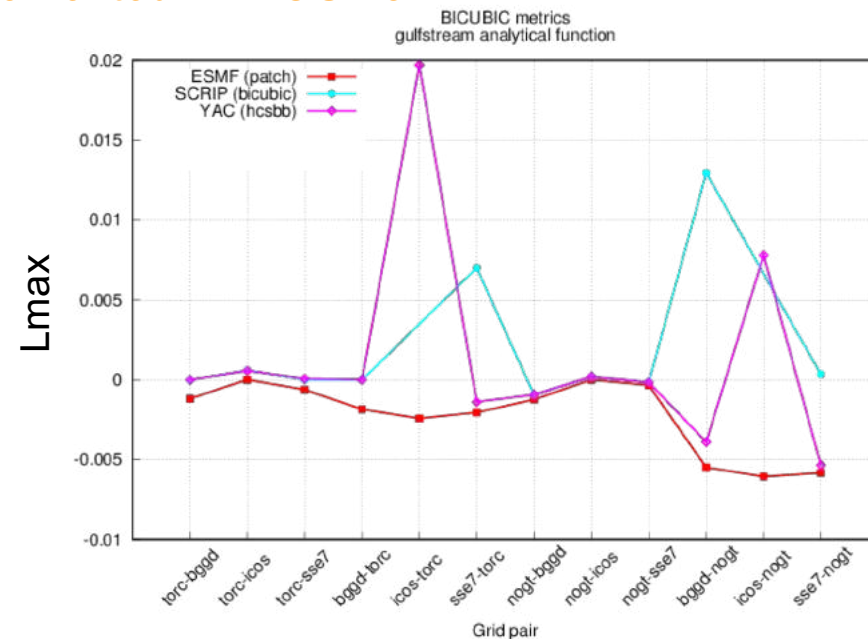
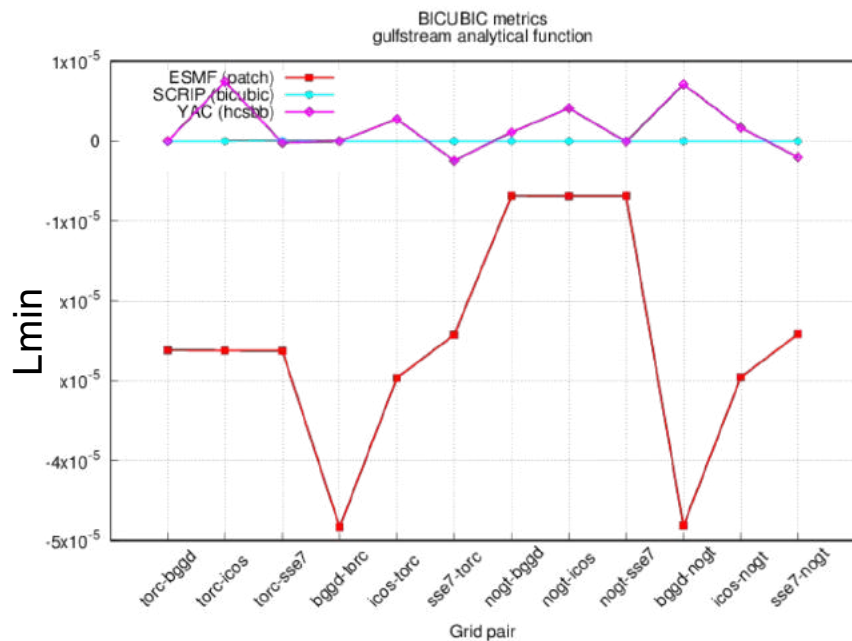
gulfstream

SCRIP (local-coordinate system bicubic approx, Jones 1999)

ESMF (multiple 2nd deg 2D polynomial source patches)

YAC (spherical Bernstein-Bézier polynomials, Liu & Schumaker 1996)

*not implemented in XIOS nor MTR*



- ESMF smooths function minimum
- YAC overshoots when source grid is icosahedral (icos-torc & icos-nogt) (??)

## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O

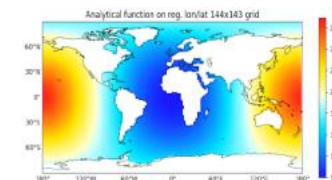
FRACAREA: if non-matching sea-land masks, normalisation with **intersected area** (sometimes cancels error)

### CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O (FRACAREA)

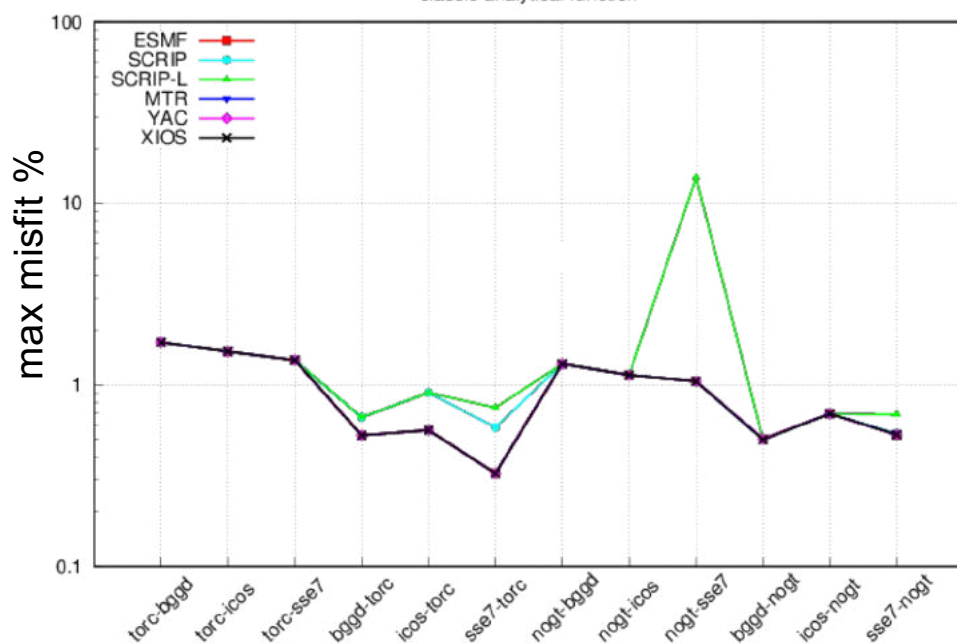
sinusoid

SCRIP, SCRIP-L (with Lambert proj. above 83 N)

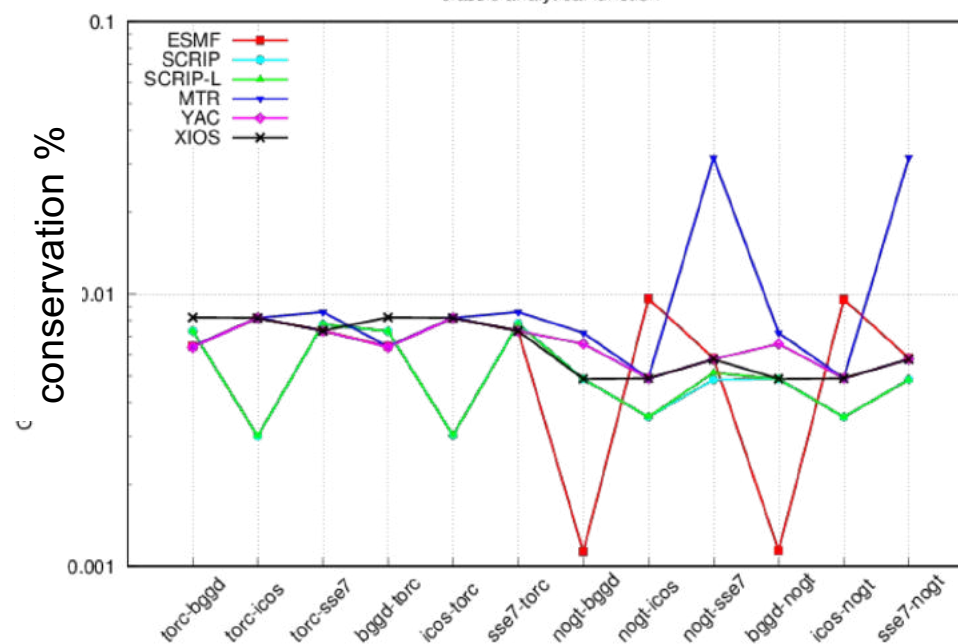
ESMF, YAC, XIOS, MTR



CONSERV FRACAREA metrics  
classic analytical function



CONSERV FRACAREA metrics  
classic analytical function



➤ Good conservation for ESMF, YAC & XIOS, problems for SCRIP-L & MTR (nogt<->sse7)



## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O

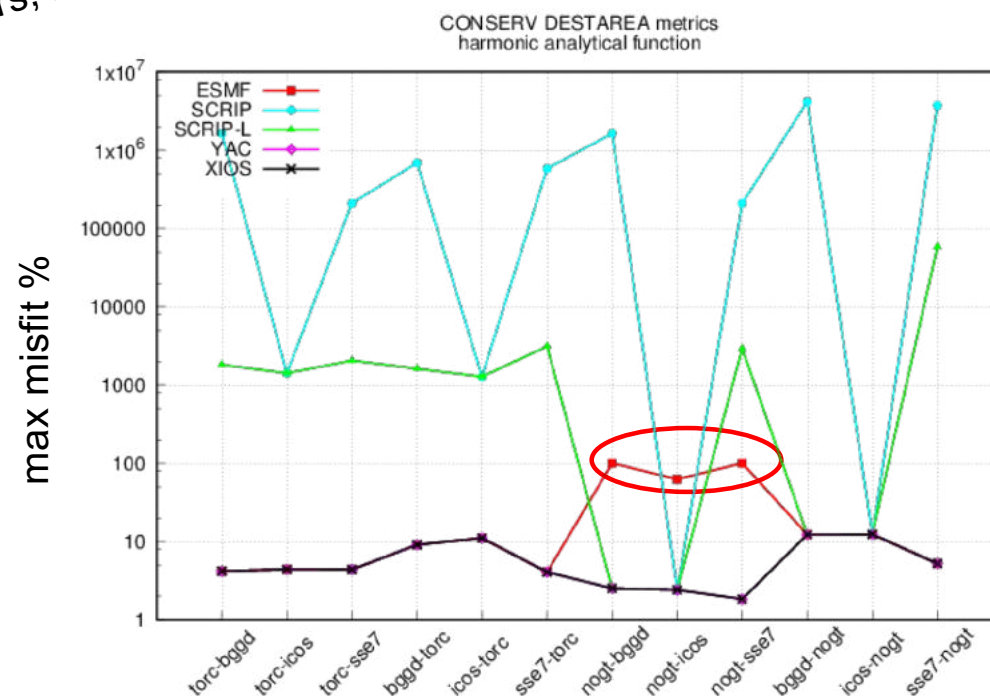
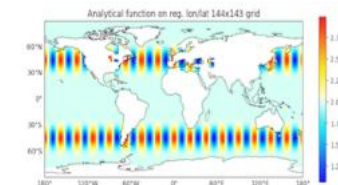
### CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O (DESTAREA)

harmonic

SCRIP, SCRIP-L (with Lambert proj. above 83 N)

ESMF, YAC, XIOS

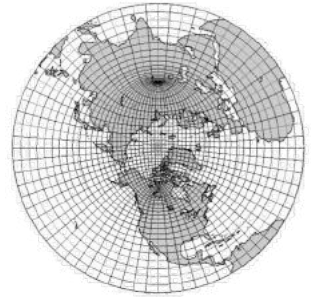
DESTAREA: if non-matching sea-land masks, normalisation with full target cell area (reveals errors, no cancellation)



- Good and similar results for XIOS, ESMF and YAC (Kritsikis et al 2017)
- Problems with NEMO North fold for ESMF when nugt **structured** is source

## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O

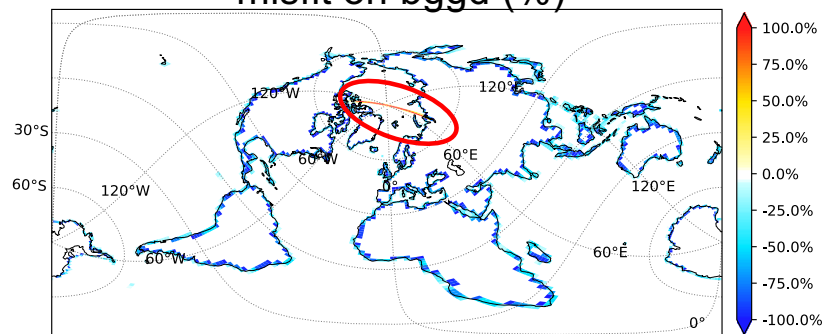
**CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O (DESTAREA) – harmonic – nogt->bggd**



# Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O

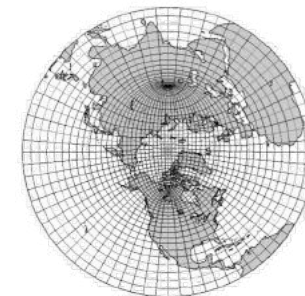
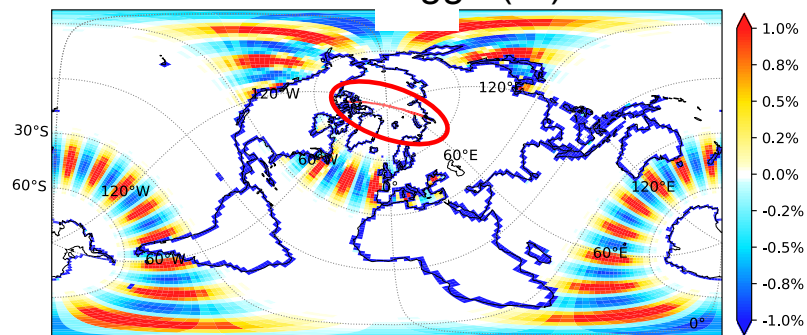
**CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O (DESTAREA) – harmonic – nogt->bggd**

misfit on bggd (%)



*nogt NEMO ORCA1 structured*

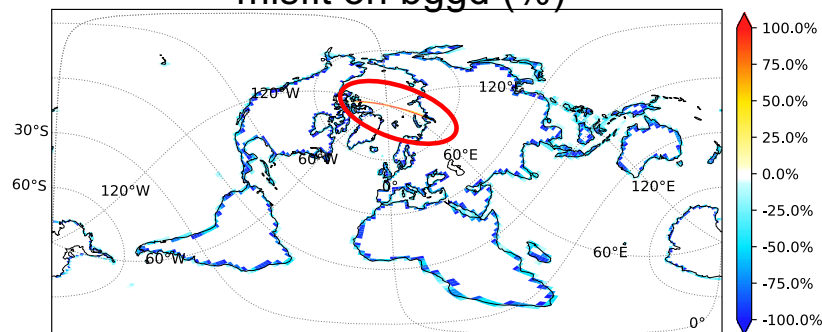
misfit on bggd (%)



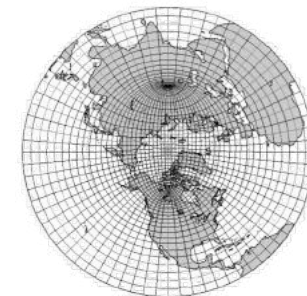
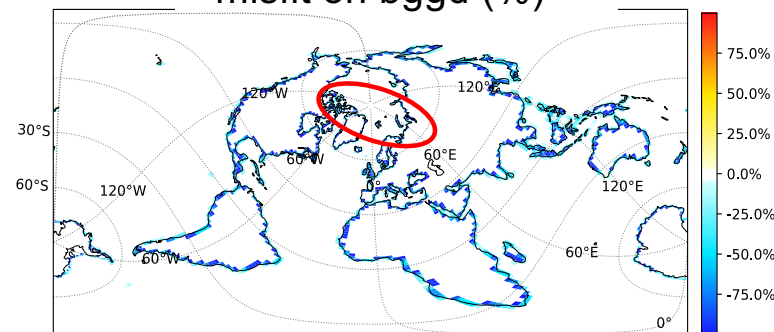
## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O

### CONSERV 1<sup>st</sup> O (DESTAREA) – harmonic – nogt->bggd

misfit on bggd (%)

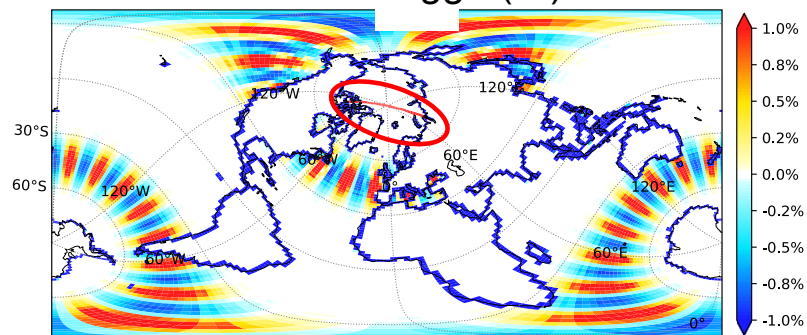


misfit on bggd (%)



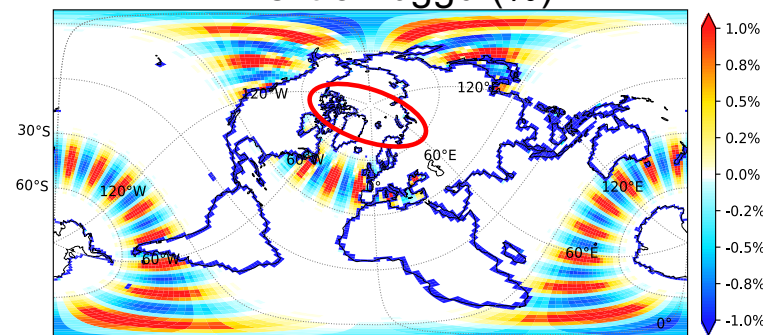
*nogt* NEMO ORCA1 **structured**

misfit on bggd (%)



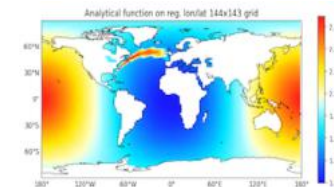
*nogt* NEMO ORCA1 **unstructured**

misfit on bggd (%)



➤ Good results for ORCA grid North fold with ESMF if nogt is declared **unstructured**

## Regridding benchmark –results CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O

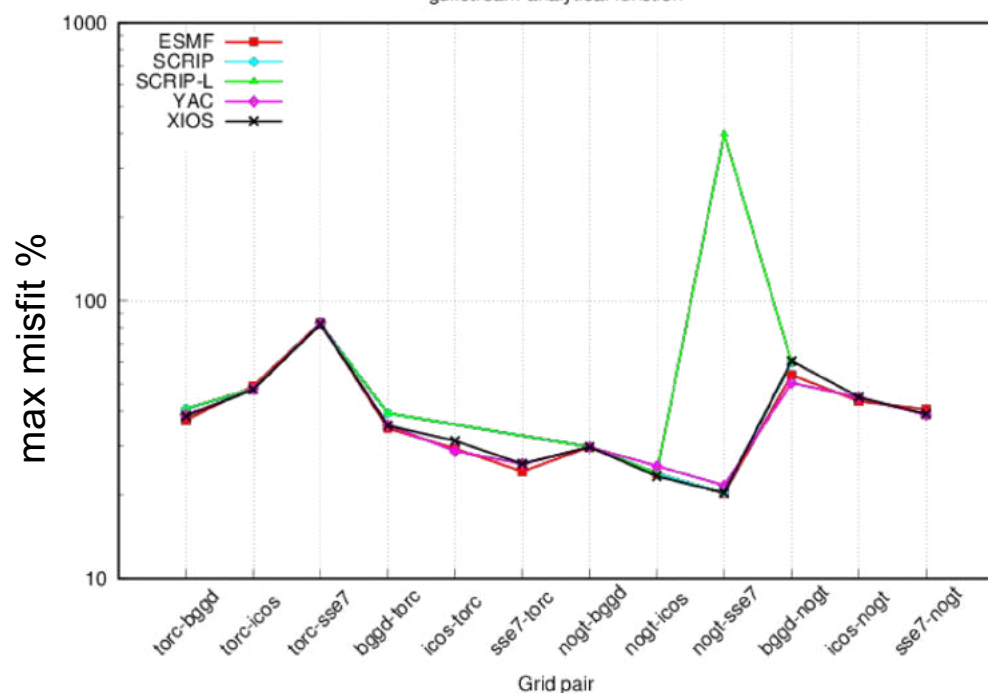


### CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O FRACAREA

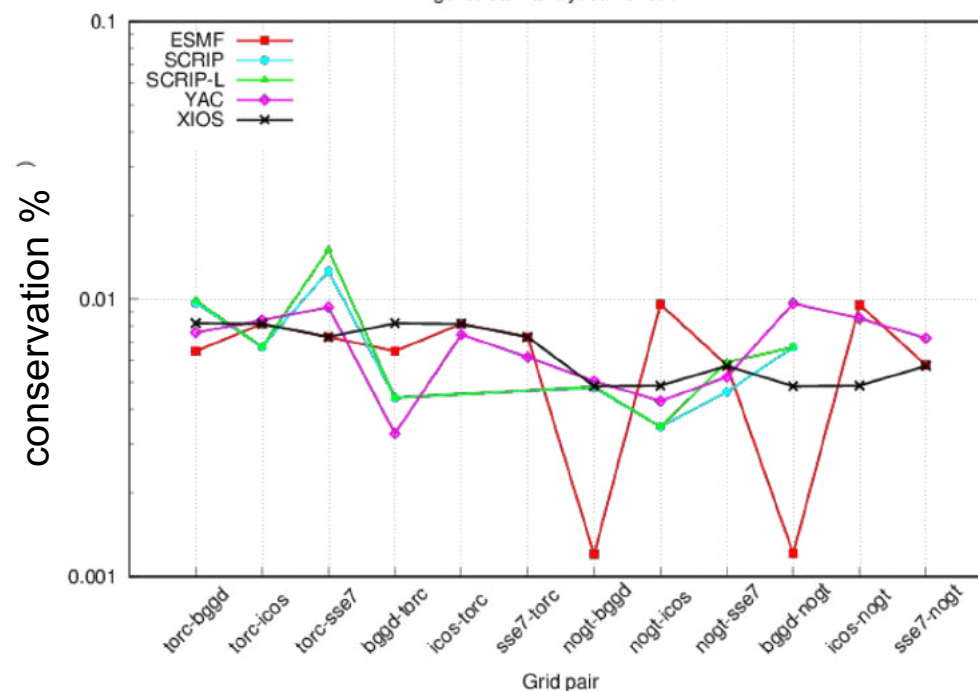
gulfstream

SCRIP, SCRIP-L, ESMF, YAC, XIOS

CONS2ND FRACAREA metrics  
gulfstream analytical function



CONS2ND FRACAREA metrics  
gulfstream analytical function



- Good and similar results for XIOS, ESMF and YAC (Kritsikas et al 2017)
- Problems for SCRIP & SCRIP-L (in OASIS3-MCT) for nogt-sse7



## Regridding benchmark –results CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O

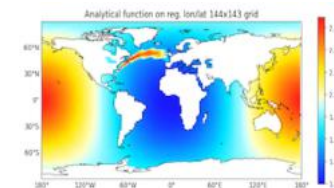
$$L_{\min} = \frac{\min \Psi^t - \min \mathbf{R}\Psi^s}{\max |\Psi^t|}$$

$$L_{\max} = \frac{\max \mathbf{R}\Psi^s - \max \Psi^t}{\max |\Psi^t|}$$

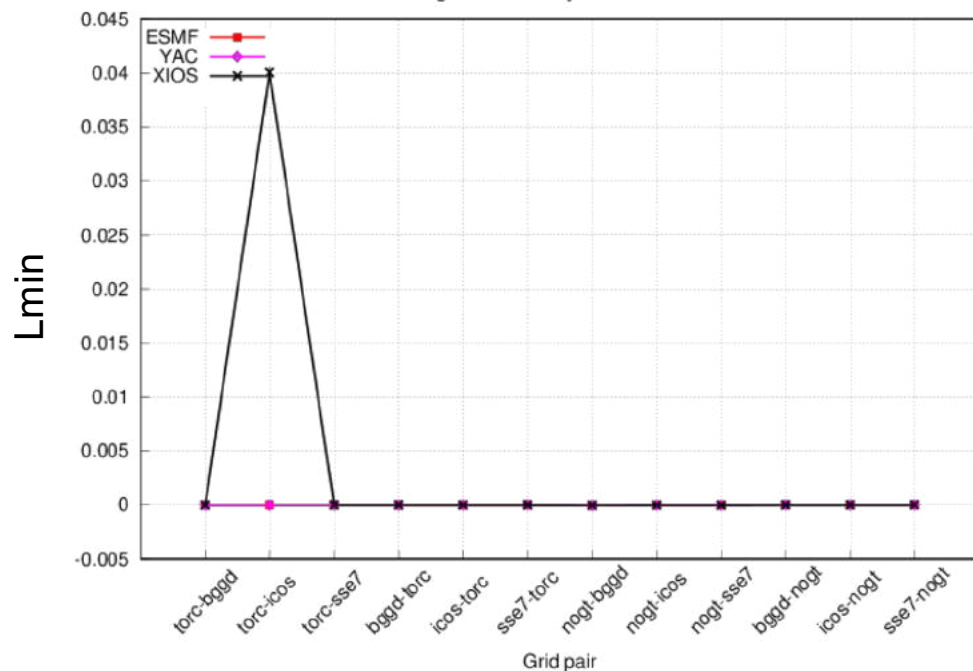
### CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O FRACAREA

gulfstream

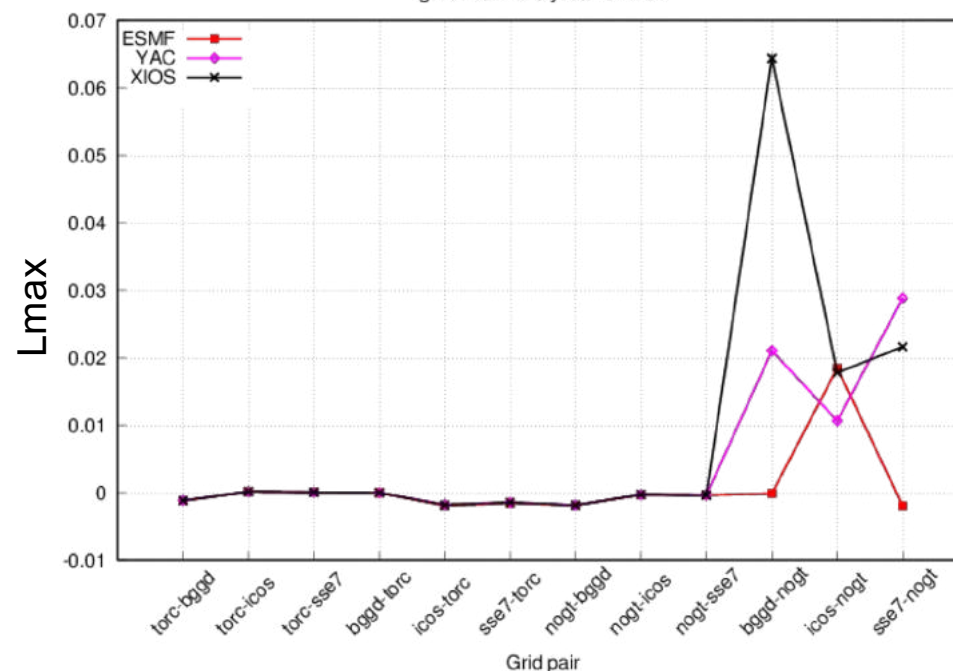
ESMF, YAC, XIOS



CONS2ND FRACAREA metrics  
gulfstream analytical function



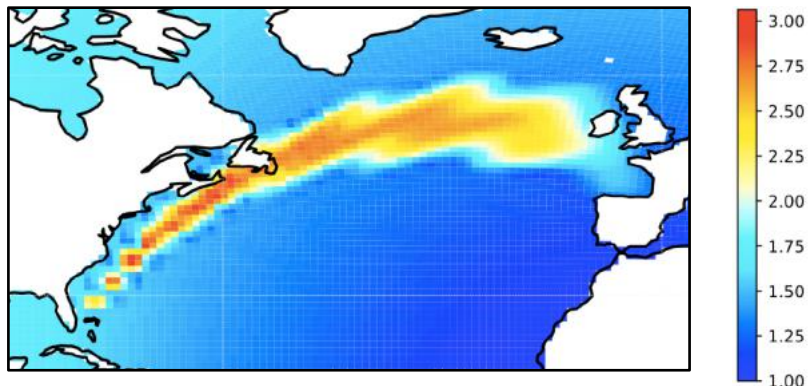
CONS2ND FRACAREA metrics  
gulfstream analytical function



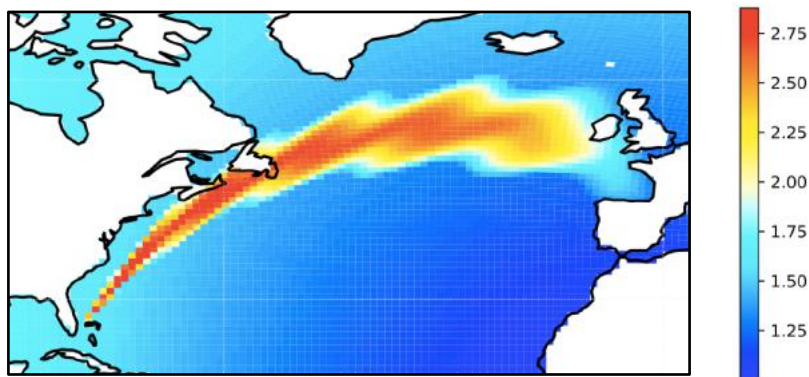
➤ XIOS undershoots for torc-icos and overshoots for bggd-nogt (??)

## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O

regridded function on nogt



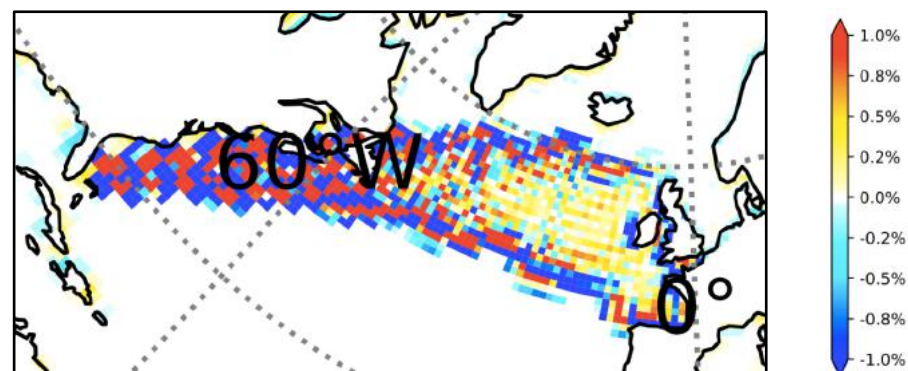
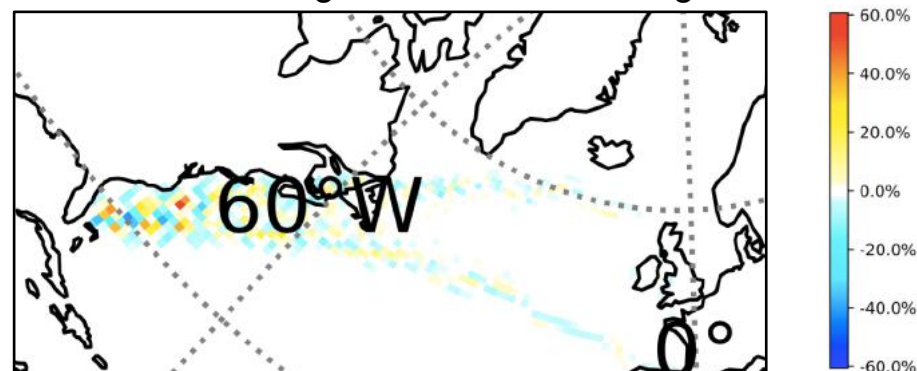
gulfstream function on nogt



### CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O FRACAREA

gulfstream lon-lat (bggd) -> NEMO ORCA1 (nugt)  
XIOS, ESMF, YAC

misfit of regridded function on nogt



➤ CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O shows oscillations near strong gradients (XIOS, ESMF, YAC)

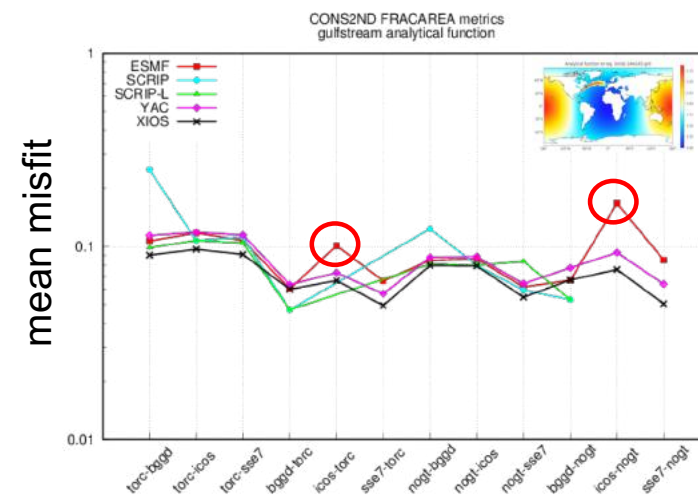
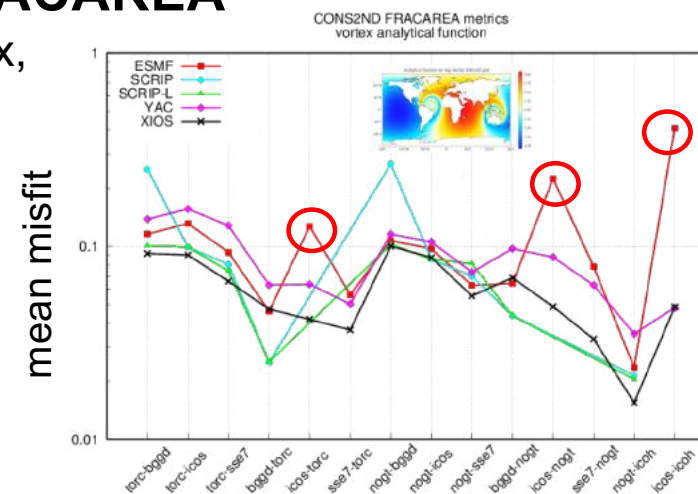
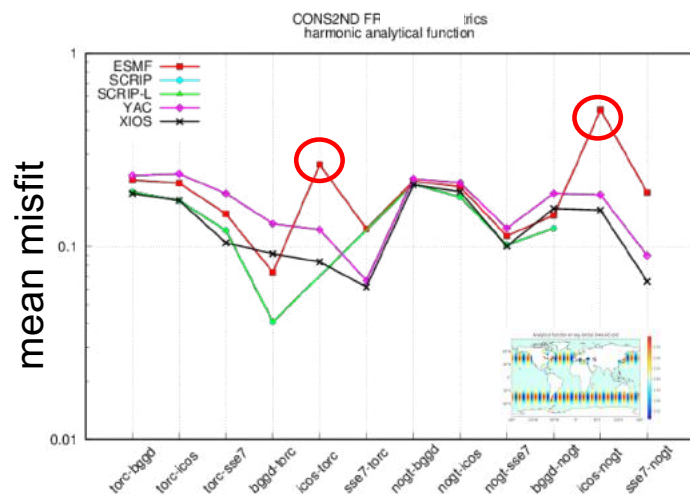
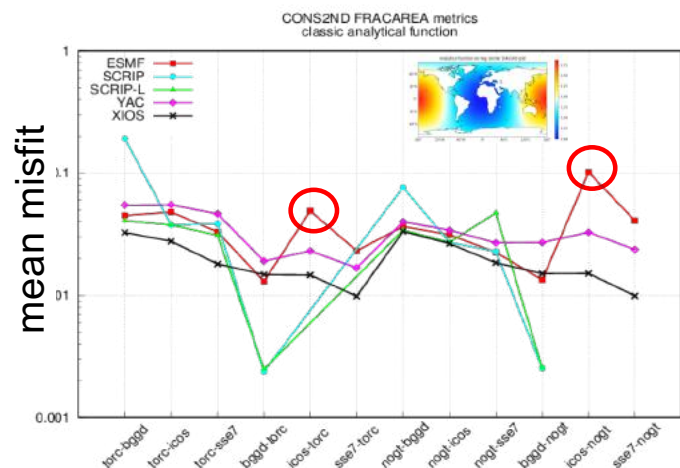


## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O

### CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O FRACAREA

sinusoid, harmonic, vortex,  
gulfstream  
SCRIP, SCRIP-L,  
ESMF, YAC, XIOS  
**mean misfit**

- high mean misfit with ESMF when icosahedral is source.
- working on it with ESMF support!



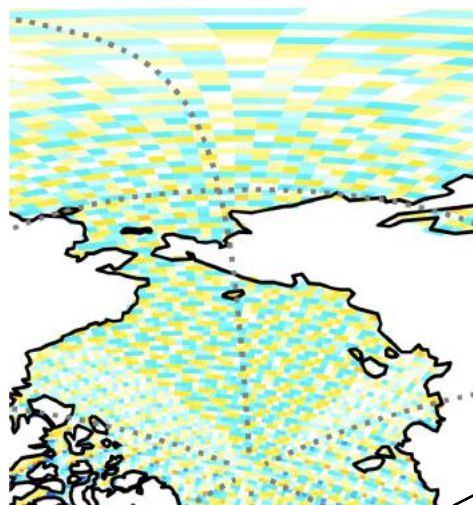
## Regridding benchmark – results CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O

### CONSERV 2<sup>nd</sup> O FRACAREA

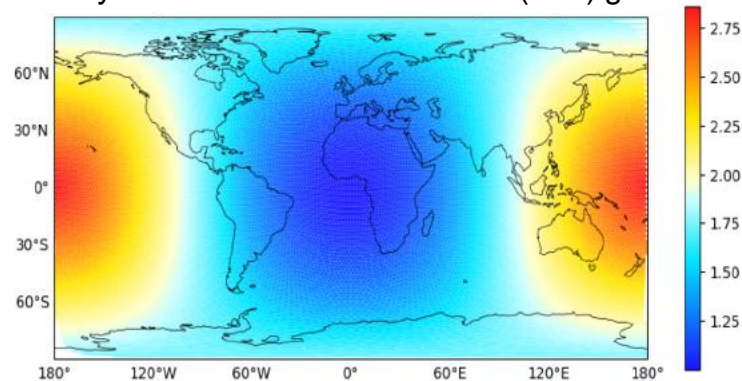
sinusoid

icos->nogt (icosahedral -> NEMO ORCA2)

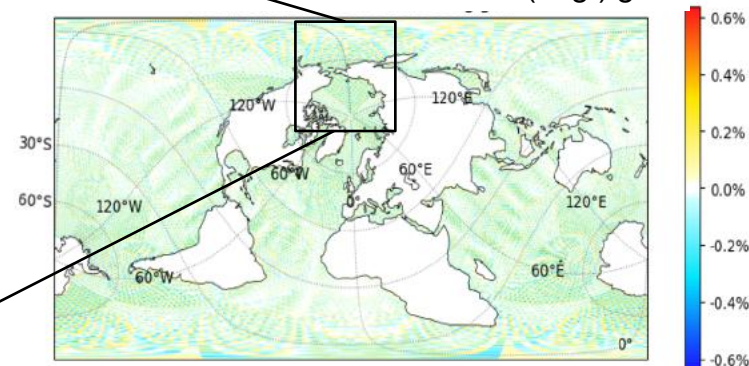
ESMF



Analytical sinusoid on icosahedral (icos) grid



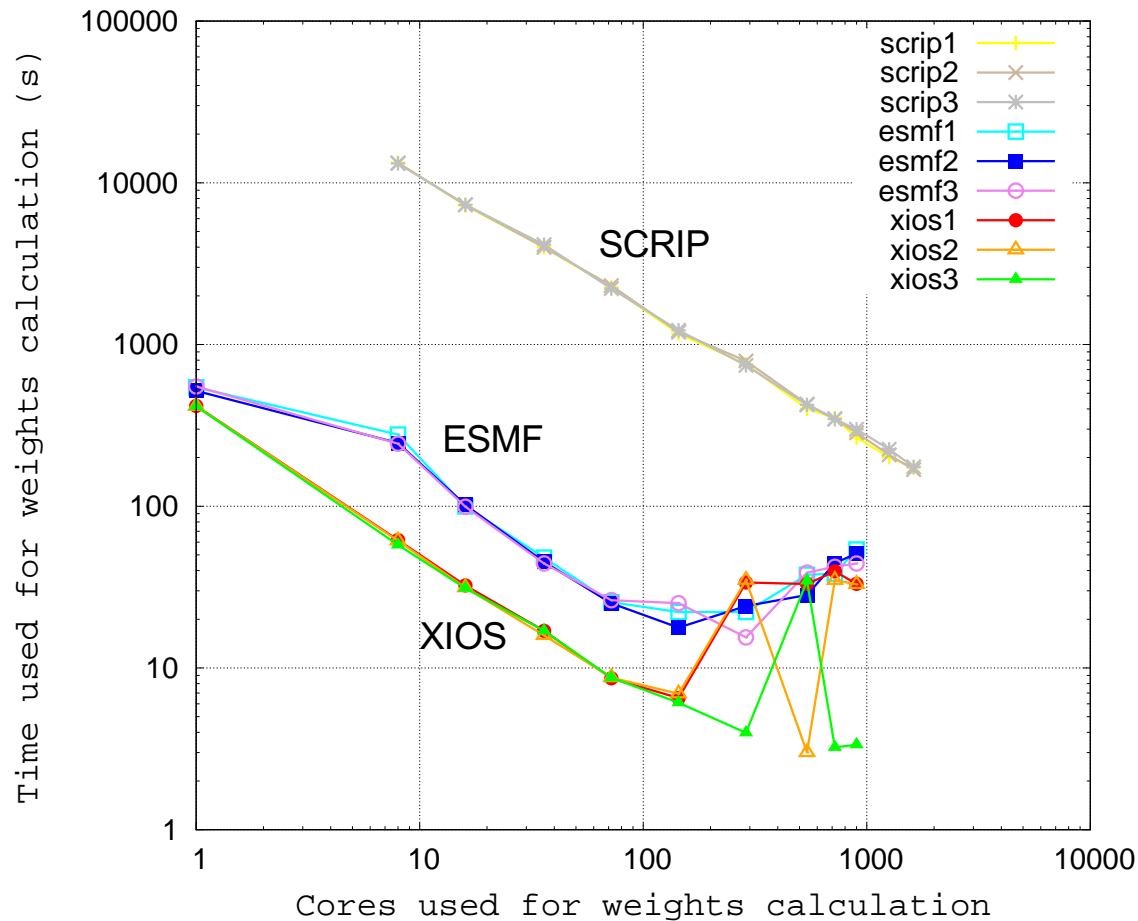
Relative misfit on NEMO ORCA2 (nogt) grid



➤ alternating + and – pattern with ESMF; working on it with ESMF support!

## Regridding benchmark – library performance and scalability

Time for calculation of regridding weights  
ORCA12 (3147x4322 = 13 601 334) -> icoh (2 016 012)  
CERFACS kraken Intel Xeon Gold 6140 (skylake)



- ESMF and XIOS show good performances (much more than the SCRIP)
- XIOS is more performant than ESMF but shows unstable behaviour for more than ~200 cores (to be investigated)

### *Technically*

- ❖ Preliminary analysis : ATLAS (ECMWF) and MOAB-TempestRemap (DoE; USA) are not mature enough to be considered on the short term
- ❖ More detailed analysis of benchmark results : ESMF, YAC and XIOS are good candidate
  - YAC : lack of official commitment for support on the long term
  - ESMF : large community, good long-term perspectives, good and efficient user support
  - XIOS : conservative regridding only, growing community and number of developers, natural collaboration with CERFACS
- ❖ Good performance for ESMF and XIOS (much faster than the SCRIP)
  - provide a unified environment to pre-calculate regridding weights with SCRIP, ESMF & XIOS in OASIS3-MCT\_5.0 (12/2021)

### *Philosophically*

Benchmarks help not so much to compare libraries but more to identify specific problems and solve them through interactions with developers!

# Benchmarking different regridding libraries used in Earth System Modelling - the end



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