



Expanding and Strengthening the Transition from NCL to Python Visualizations

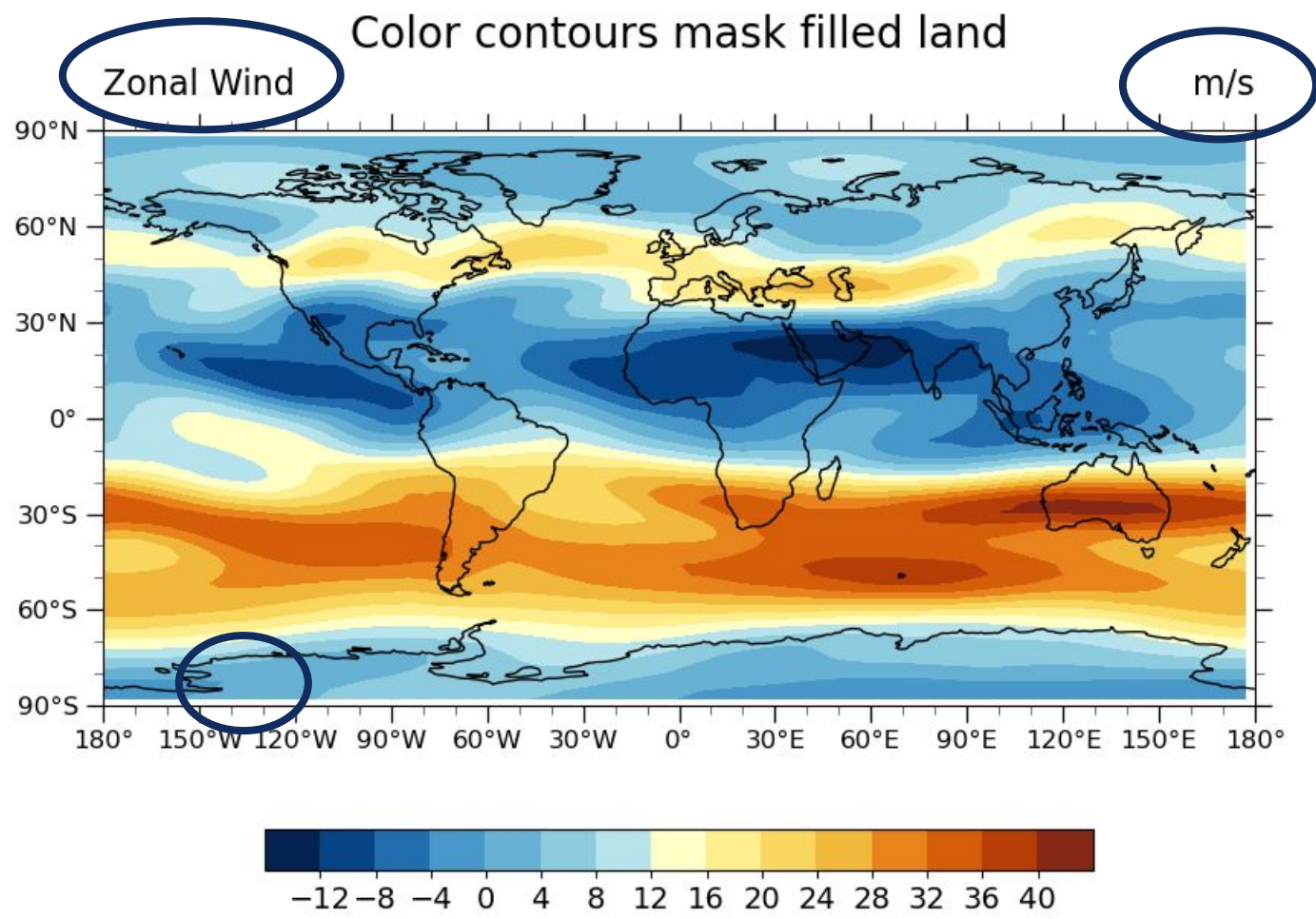
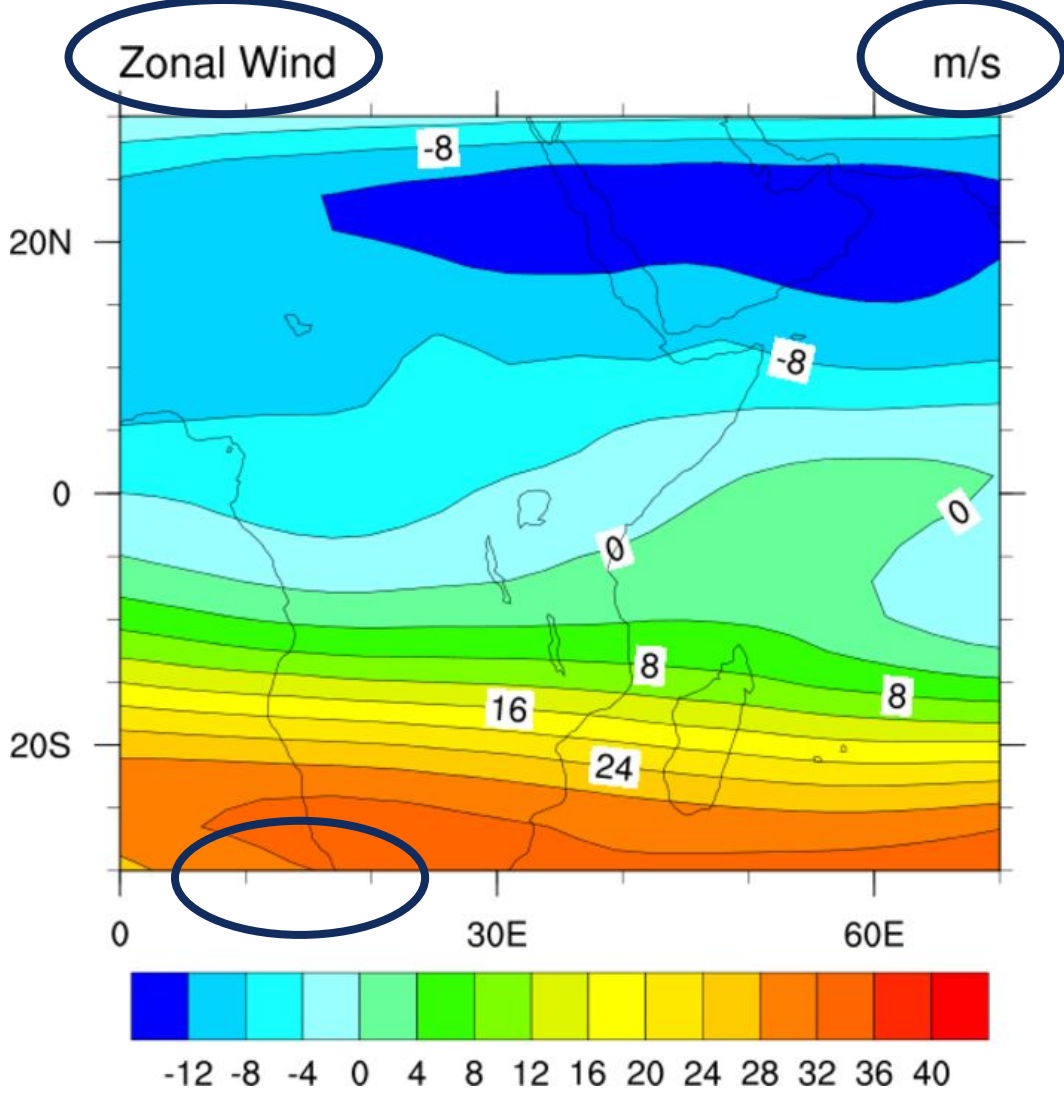


Erin Lincoln

Brown University, SIParCS 2021 Cohort

July 27, 2021





Utility Functions



The Transition from NCL to Python

```
=====
; lb_1.ncl
=====
;
; Concepts illustrated:
; - Generating the default labelbar on a contour plot
; - Setting color maps using the new standard
;
=====
;
; These files are loaded by default in NCL V6.2.0 and newer
; load "$NCARG_ROOT/lib/ncarg/nclscripts/csm/gsn_code.ncl"
; load "$NCARG_ROOT/lib/ncarg/nclscripts/csm/gsn_csm.ncl"
; load "$NCARG_ROOT/lib/ncarg/nclscripts/csm/contributed.ncl"
;
;*****
begin
;*****
; open netCDF file and read in data
;*****
in = addfile("atmos.nc", "r")
v = in->V

;*****
; create plot
;*****
wks = gsn_open_wks("png", "lb") ; send graphics to PNG file

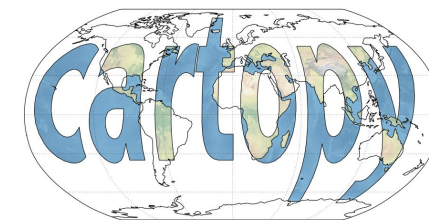
res = True
res@cnFillOn = True ; turn on color
res@cnFillPalette = "wgn15" ; set color map
contour = gsn_csm_contour_map(wks, v(0,3, :, :), res) ; create the plot
end
```

➔
400%
Length Increase

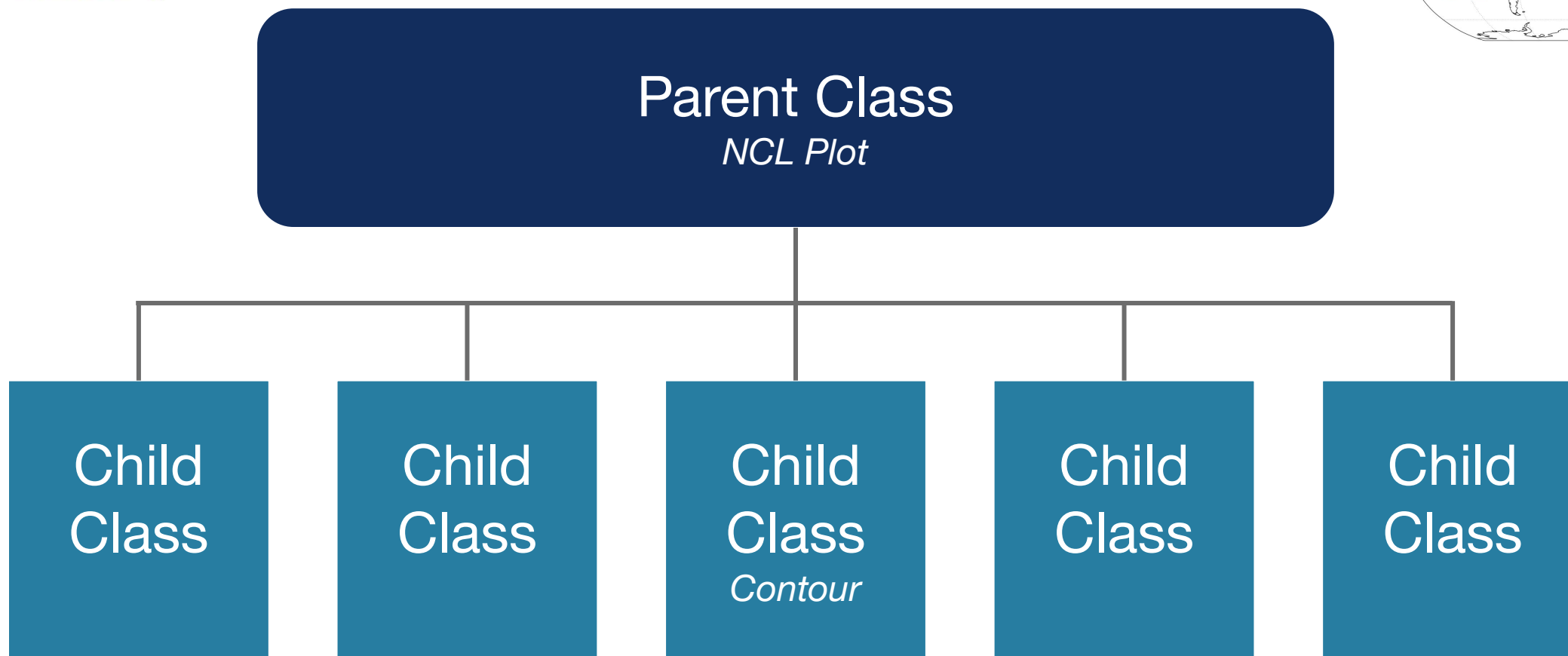
```
1 #~
2 ncl_lb_1.py
3 =====
4 This script illustrates the following concepts:
5 - Making a horizontal colorbar
6 - Changing the colorbar labels
7 - Setting color maps using the new standard
8
9 See following URLs to see the reproduced NCL plot & script:
10 - Original NCL script: https://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Applications/Scripts/lb_1.ncl
11 - Original NCL plot: https://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Applications/Tools/lb_1_lb.png
12 ***
13
14 #####
15 # Import packages
16
17 import numpy as np
18 import xarray as xr
19 import cartopy.crs as ccrs
20 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
21
22 import geocat.datafiles as gdf
23 from geocat.viz import cmaps as gcmaps
24 from geocat.viz import util as gvutil
25
26 #####
27 # Read in data:
28
29 # Open a netCDF data file using xarray default engine and load the data into xarrays
30 ds = xr.open_dataset(gdf.get("netcdf_files/atmos.nc"), decode_times=False)
31 # Extract variables
32 v = ds.V.isel(time=0, lev=3)
33
34 # Fix the artifact of net-show data around 0 and 360-degree longitudes
35 wrap_v = gvutil.xr_add_cyclic_longitudes(v, "lon")
36
37 #####
38 # Plot
39
40 # Generate figure (set its size (width, height) in inches)
41 fig = plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
42
43 # Generate axes using Cartopy and draw coastlines
44 ax = plt.axes(projection=ccrs.PlateCarree())
45 ax.coastlines(linewidth=4)
46
47 # Report on NCL colorbar
48 newcmap = gcmaps.wgn15
49
50 # Contour-plot data (for filling contours)
51 a = wrap_v.plot.contourf(level=mp.arange(-24, 24, 4),
52                        cmap=newcmap,
53                        add_colorbar=False,
54                        add_labels=False)
55 # Contour-plot data (for borderlines)
56 wrap_v.plot.contourf(level=mp.arange(-24, 24, 4),
57                    linewidth=0.5,
58                    cmap="11",
59                    add_labels=False)
60
61 # Add vertical colorbar
62 cbar = fig.colorbar(a,
63                    label=" ",
64                    ticks=mp.arange(-20, 20, 4),
65                    shrink=0.5,
66                    orientation="horizontal",
67                    extendrect=True,
68                    pad=0.1,
69                    drawedges=True)
70
71 # Use geocat.viz.util convenience function to set axes limits & tick values without calling several matplotlib functions
72 gvutil.set_axes_limits_and_ticks(ax,
73                                 ylim=(-90, 90),
74                                 xlim=mp.linspace(-100, 100, 11),
75                                 ticks=mp.linspace(-90, 90, 7))
76
77 # Use geocat.viz.util convenience function to add minor and major tick lines
78 gvutil.add_major_minor_ticks(ax, labelsize=10)
79
80 # Use geocat.viz.util convenience function to make plots look like NCL plots by using latitude, longitude tick labels
81 gvutil.add_lat_lon_ticklabels(ax)
82
83 # Use geocat.viz.util convenience function to add titles to left and right of the plot axis.
84 gvutil.set_titles_and_labels(ax,
85                              lefttitle="meridional wind component",
86                              lefttitlefontsize=14,
87                              righttitle="w/s",
88                              righttitlefontsize=14,
89                              xlabel=" ",
90                              ylabel=" ")
91
92 # Show the plot
93 plt.show()
94
```

Original NCL Script

GeoCAT-Examples Script



The Transition from NCL to Python

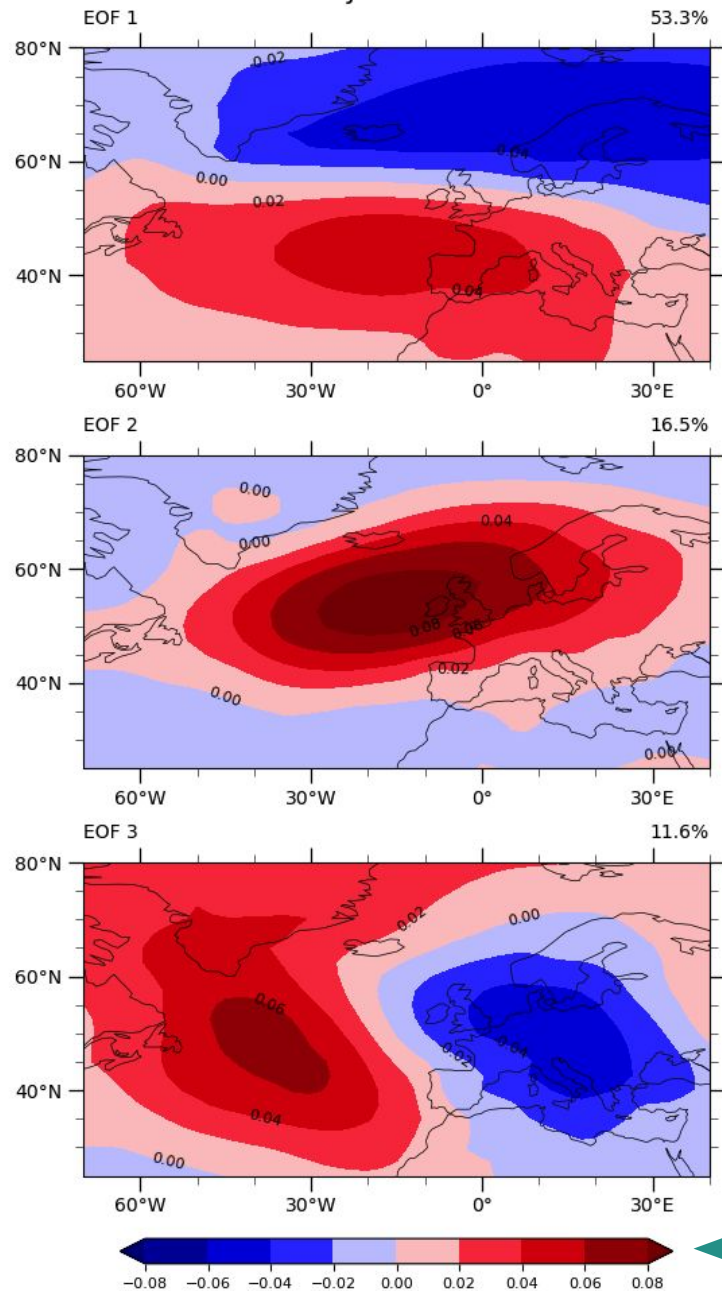


NCL Plot

Parent Class

Functionalities

- Format plot
 - Create figure
 - Create and format axes
- Add colorbar
- Add geographical features
- Add titles and labels
- Show plot

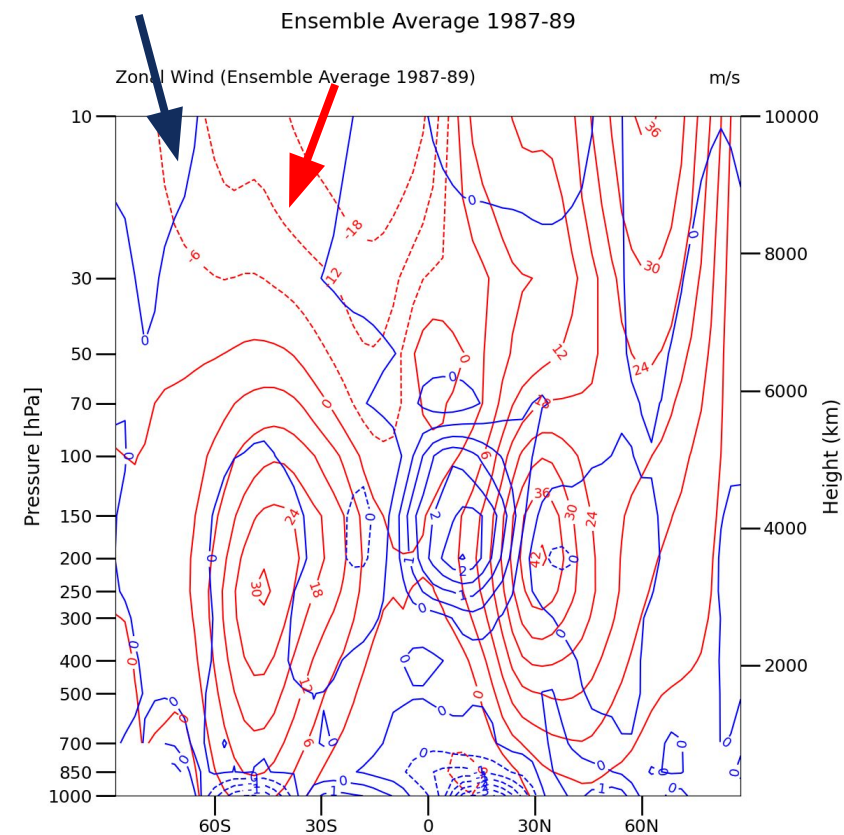


Added Features

- Subplot capabilities
- Overlaying plots

Updated Features

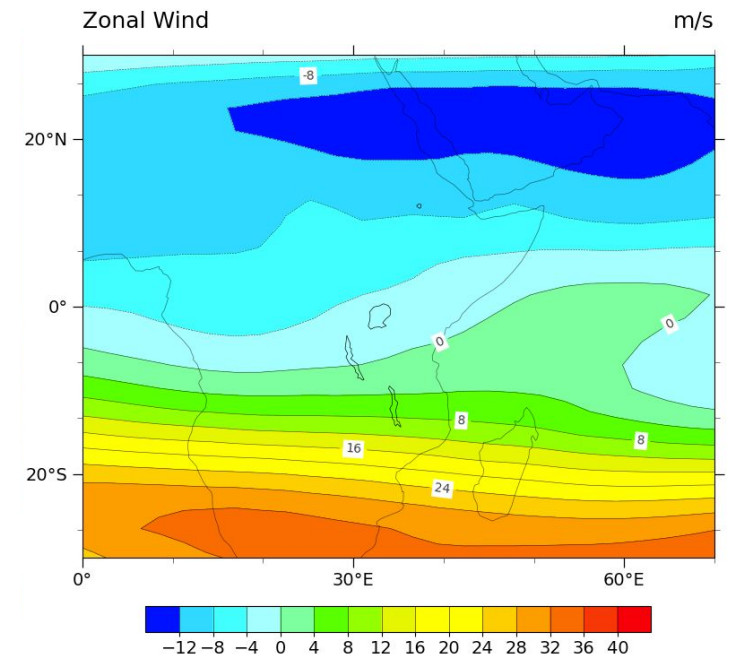
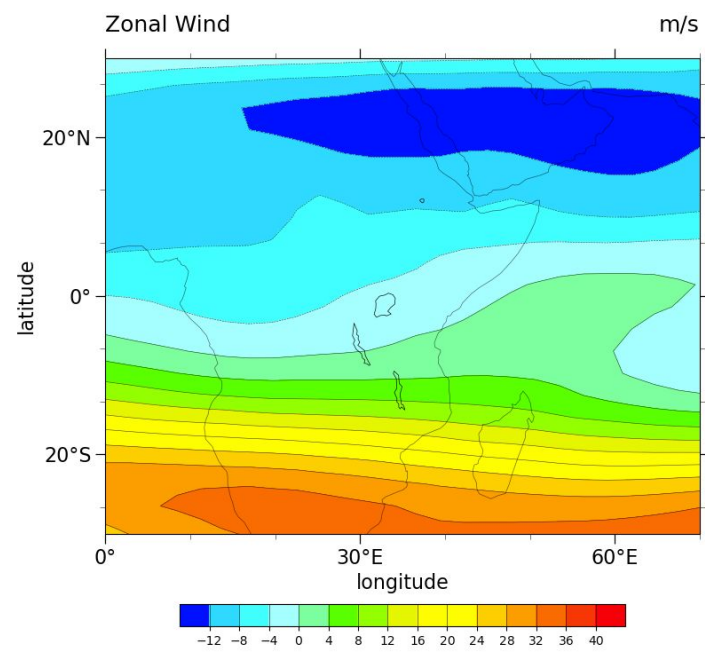
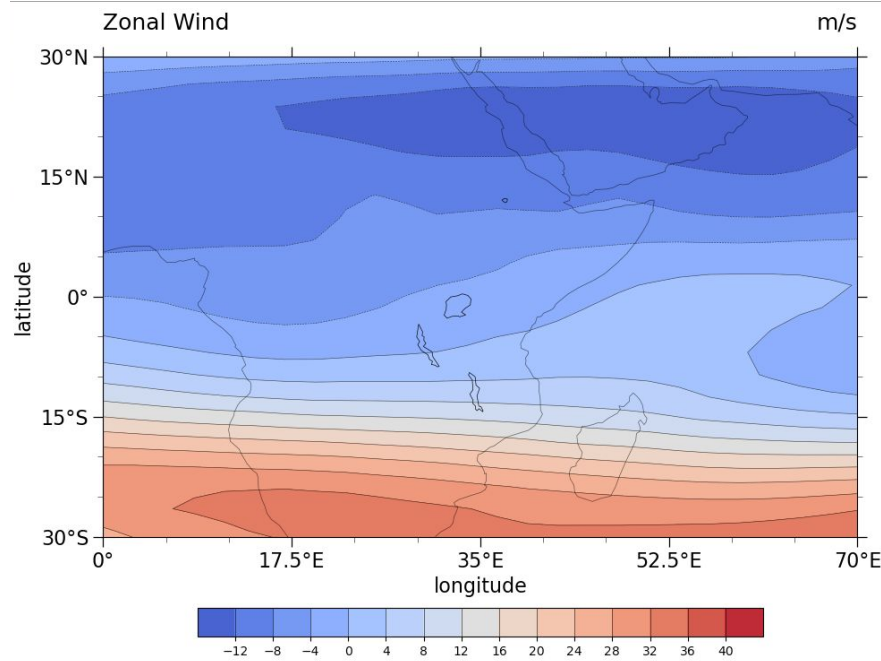
- Add colorbar arguments
- Infer colorbar placement
- Title and label inference



Contour *Child Class*

Features

- Plot contours
 - Contour lines
 - Filled contours
- Add contour line labels



Complete Script	28	34	47
# of Contour Call Inputs	7	12	24

Original NCL
Complete Script: 35

GeoCAT-Examples Gallery
Complete Script: 108

GeoCAT-Examples Script

```
#####
NCL_conLab_4.py
#####
This script illustrates the following concepts:
- Drawing color-filled contours over a cylindrical equidistant map
- Setting the background fill color for contour labels to white
- Manually select where contour labels will be drawn
- Changing the contour level spacing
- Zooming in on a particular area on a cylindrical equidistant map
- Creating left and right titles
- Creating a horizontal colorbar

See following URLs to see the reproduced NCL plot & script:
- Original NCL script: https://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Applications/Scripts/conLab_4
- Original NCL plot: https://www.ncl.ucar.edu/Applications/Images/conLab_4_1

#####
# Import packages:
import numpy as np
import xarray as xr
from cartopy.mpl.gridliner import LatitudeFormatter, LongitudeFormatter
import cartopy.crs as ccrs
import cartopy.feature as cfeature
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

import geocat.datafiles as gdf
from geocat.viz import cmaps as gvcmaps
from geocat.viz import util as gvutil

#####
# Read in data:

# Open a netCDF data file using xarray default engine and load the data into xarray
ds = xr.open_dataset(gdf.get("netcdf_files/uv300.nc"), decode_times=False)
U = ds.isel(time=1, drop=True).U

# Reduce the dataset to something just bigger than the area we want to plot.
# This will improve how the contour lines are labeled
U = U.where(U.lon >= 0)
U = U.where(U.lon <= 71)
U = U.where(U.lat >= -33)
U = U.where(U.lat <= 33)

#####
# Plots
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 8))

# Create axes using the Plate Carree rectangular projection
ax = plt.axes(projection=ccrs.PlateCarree())

# Draw map features
ax.add_feature(cfeature.LAKES,
              linewidth=0.5,
              edgecolor='black',
              facecolor=None)
ax.add_feature(cfeature.COASTLINE, linewidth=0.5)

# Zoom in on region bounded by the prime meridian, 70N, 25S, and 25N
ax.set_extent([0, 70, -30, 30], crs=ccrs.PlateCarree())

# Use geocat.viz.util convenience function to set axes tick values
gvutil.set_axes_limits_and_ticks(ax,
                                x_minor_per_major=3,
                                y_minor_per_major=4,
                                labels_size=14)

# Use geocat.viz.util convenience function to add titles to left and right of
# the plot axis
gvutil.set_titles_and_labels(ax, lefttitle=U.long_name, righttitle=U.units)

# Select a color map
cmap = gvcmaps.gui_default

# Draw filled contours
colors = U.plot.contourf(ax=ax,
                        cmap=cmap,
                        levels=np.arange(-16, 48, 4),
                        add_colorbar=False,
                        add_labels=False)

# Draw contour lines
lines = U.plot.contour(ax=ax,
                      colors='black',
                      levels=np.arange(-16, 48, 4),
                      linewidth=0.5,
                      linestyle='solid',
                      add_labels=False)

# Create horizontal colorbar
cbar = plt.colorbar(colors,
                    ticks=np.arange(-12, 44, 4),
                    orientation='horizontal',
                    drawedges=True,
                    aspect=12,
                    shrink=0.8,
                    pad=0.075)
cbar.ax.tick_params(labels_size=14) # Make the labels larger

# Specify coordinates for contour labels in (longitude, latitude) format
manual = [(25, 28), (38, -17), (40, -21), (40, -5), (42, -13), (10, 50),
          (62, -15), (65, -2)]

# Draw contour labels and pass in coordinates using 'manual' argument
ax.clabel(lines, fontsize=12, fmt='%d', inline=True, manual=manual)

# Set label backgrounds white
[
    txt.set_bbox(dict(facecolor='white', edgecolor='none', pad=2))
    for txt in lines.labelTexts
]
plt.show()
```



57%
Length Decrease

```
import xarray as xr
import numpy as np
import cartopy.crs as ccrs
import geocat.datafiles as gdf
from geocat.viz import cmaps as gvcmaps
from contourf import *

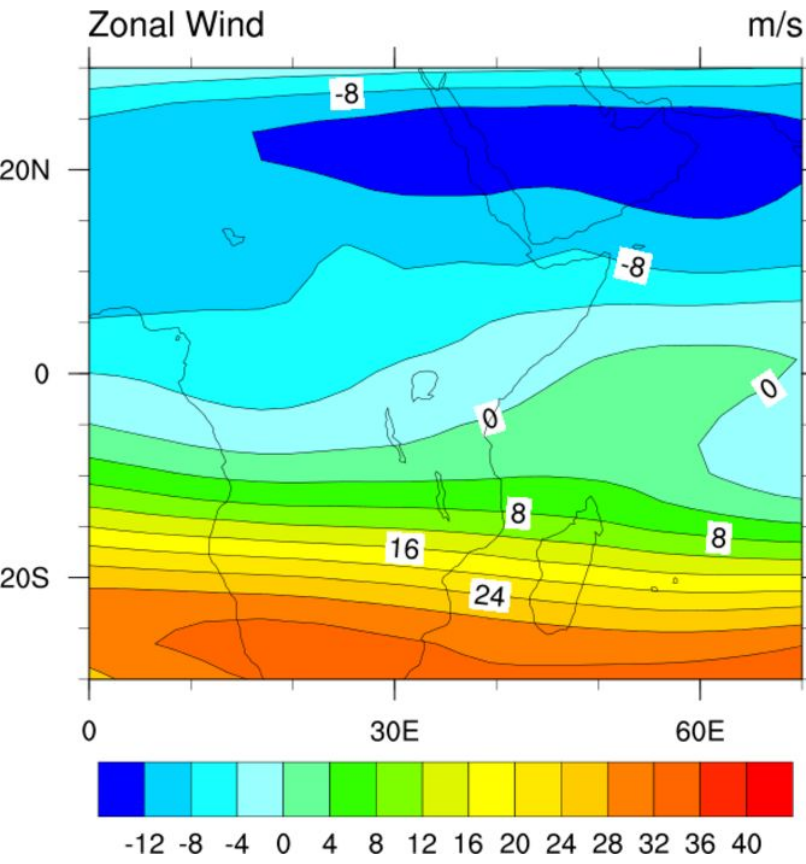
# Open a netCDF data file using xarray default engine and load the data into xarrays
ds = xr.open_dataset(gdf.get("netcdf_files/uv300.nc"), decode_times=False)
U = ds.isel(time=1, drop=True).U

# Reduce the dataset to something just bigger than the area we want to plot.
# This will improve how the contour lines are labeled
U = U.where(U.lon >= 0)
U = U.where(U.lon <= 71)
U = U.where(U.lat >= -33)
U = U.where(U.lat <= 33)

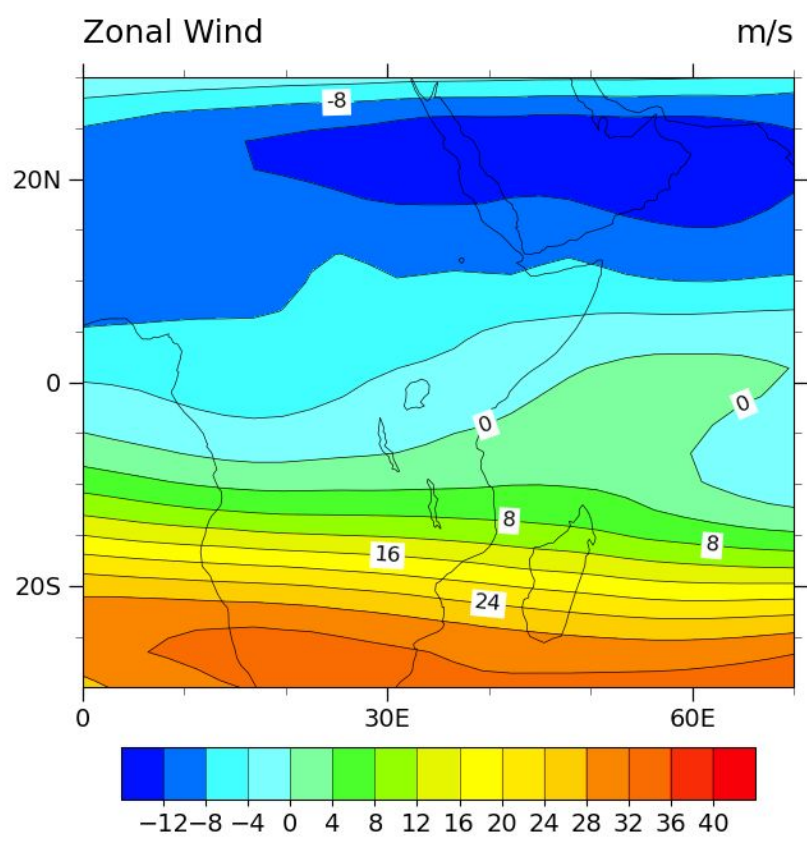
cplot = Contour(U,
                X = U.lon,
                Y = U.lat,
                h = 8,
                w = 8,
                flevels = np.arange(-16, 48, 4),
                clevels = np.arange(-16, 48, 4),
                xlim=(0, 70),
                ylim=(-30, 30),
                xticks=np.linspace(0, 60, 3),
                yticks=np.linspace(-20, 20, 3),
                ticklabel_fontsize = 14,
                projection=ccrs.PlateCarree(),
                cmap=gvcmaps.gui_default,
                cbticks = np.arange(-12, 44, 4),
                cbpad = 0.075,
                cbshrink = 0.8,
                cbticklabel_size = 14,
                xlabel="",
                ylabel="",
                drawcontour_labels = True,
                contour_labels = [(25, 28), (38, -17), (40, -21), (40, -5), (42, -13), (10, 50),
                                (62, -15), (65, -2)],
                manual_contour_labels = True,
                contour_background=True)

cplot.show_lakes(scale="110m")
cplot.show()
```

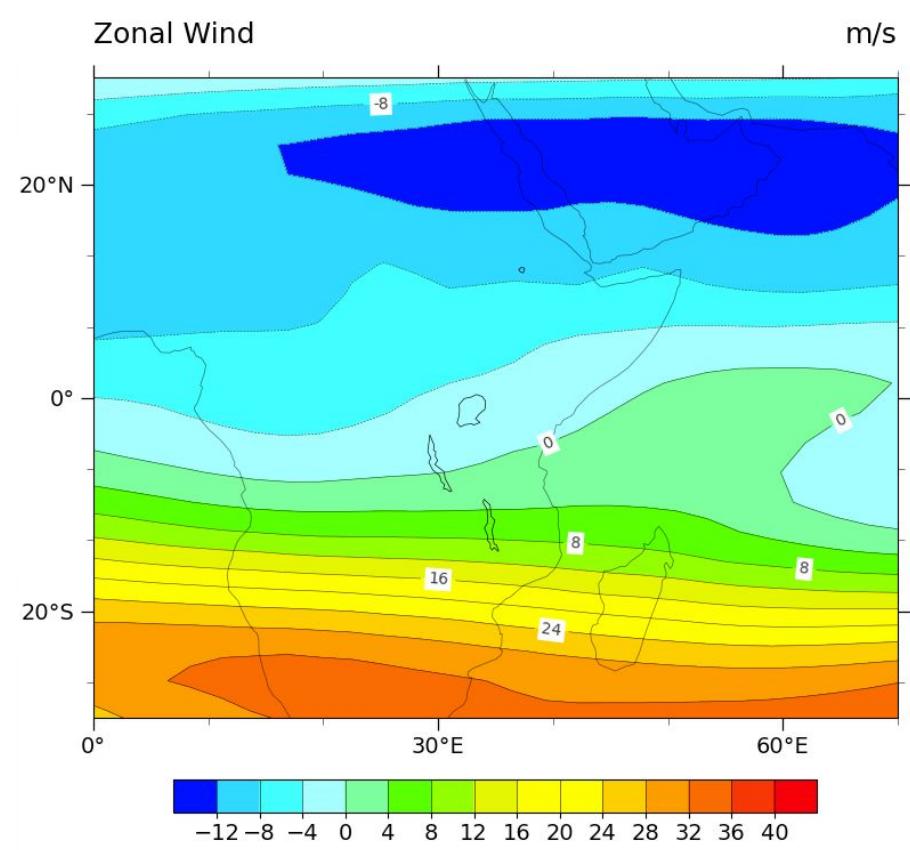
Contour Class Script



Original NCL Figure

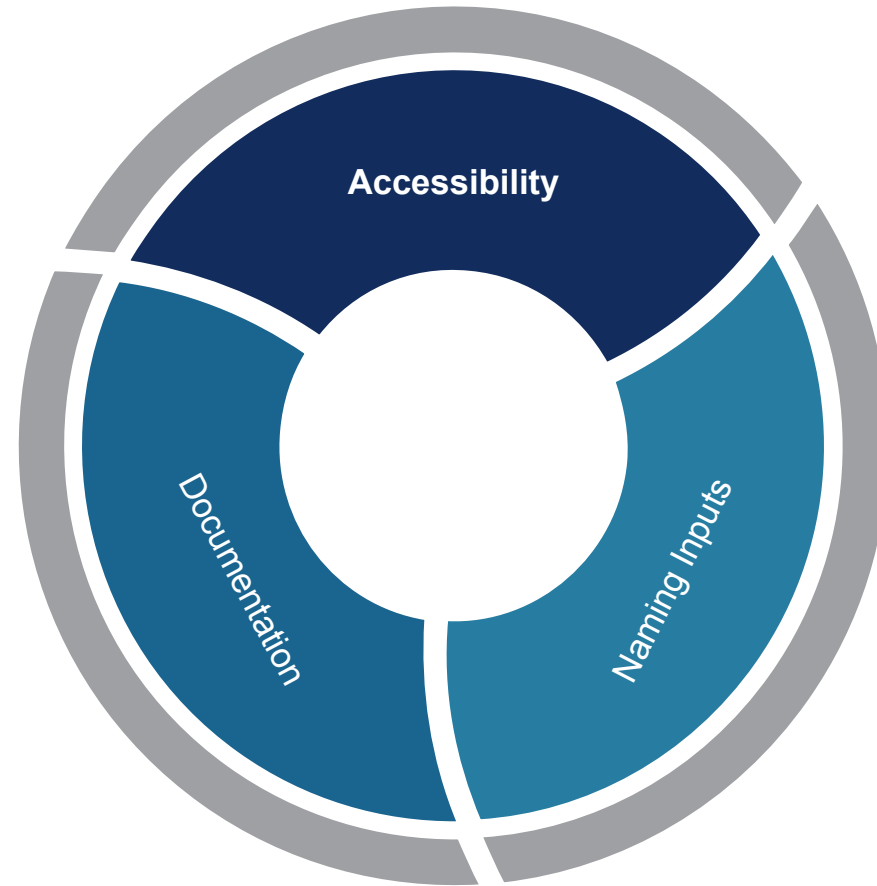


GeoCAT-Examples Gallery Figure



Contour Class Figure

Other Considerations



Questions?

erin_lincoln@brown.edu



GeoCAT-Examples
Gallery



GeoCAT-Examples
GitHub



GeoCAT-Viz GitHub

Special thanks to Michaela Sizemore, Anissa Zacharias, Jiaqi Li, Heather Craker, Orhan Eroglu, Alea Kootz, Julia Kent, and SIParCS team!