

Contour Meteorological Data

The contour utility program creates a Postscript graphic of a variable. In the example below, the ECMWF ERA-40 data set was chosen with default values for offset and increment. Zeros indicated that only the first time period is displayed. A map center location of zeros sets the map to default to the center of the data grid. Negative values for the contour maximum and delta forces automatic contour scaling. All possible meteorological variables are not shown, nor may a data file contain all the variables in the selection list. More options are available from the command line version of the program called “display.exe”. Wind velocity vectors will be plotted at data level 2, which from the previous example (profile program) we know corresponds to the 1000 hPA surface. The velocity vectors are shown at every grid point over the domain selected for display. In this case a map with a radius of 15 degrees latitude. The “13” in parenthesis after the variable symbol “VECT” indicates that the maximum wind speed vector on the map was 13 m/s.

