

# Convective-Scale Satellite Data Assimilation

Tom Auligné



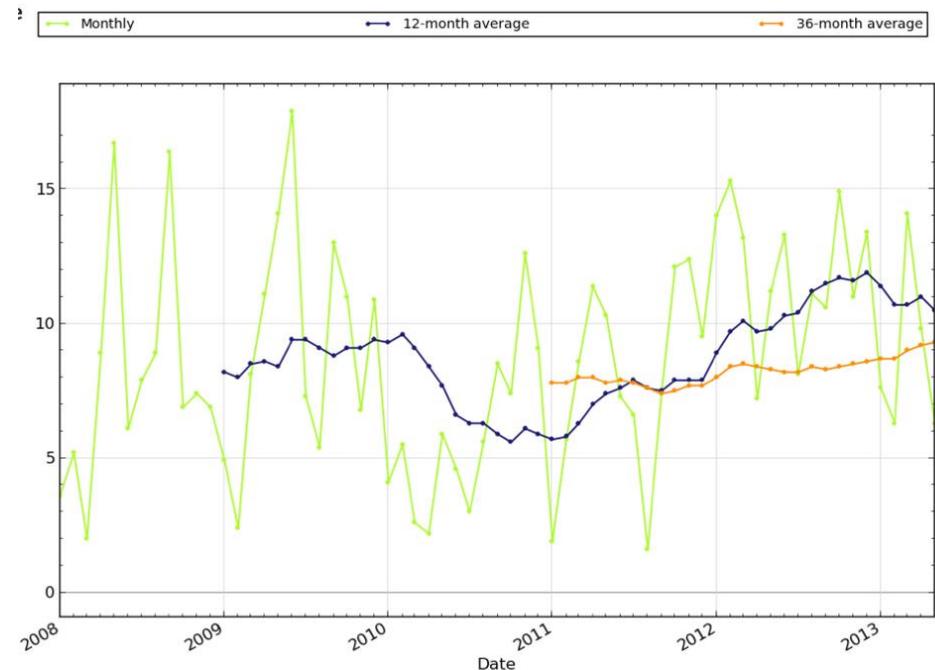
National Center for Atmospheric Research

# Convective Scale NWP: **Why Bother?** (© Barker)

## Local and severe weather

- Moist processes
- Clouds, fog
- Visibility
- Precipitation
- Orographic effects

Percentage benefit wrt UK Index  
(forecast skill for surface weather)



10% represents > 5-10 years lead over global model

# Convective Scale DA: Spatial and Temporal Needs

## Smaller spatial and temporal scales

- Rapid Update Cycling (hourly or sub-hourly)
- More timely use of satellite data (short cut-off)
- Quick turnaround (4DVar penalized)
- Uncertainties and predictability (probabilistic forecasts)

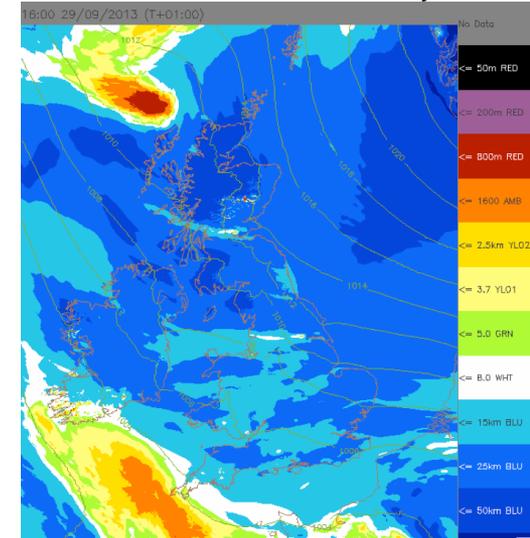
## Thinning and/or super-obbing

- Ability to observe small structures
- Correlated errors (measure, processing, representativeness)
- “Big Data” paradigm

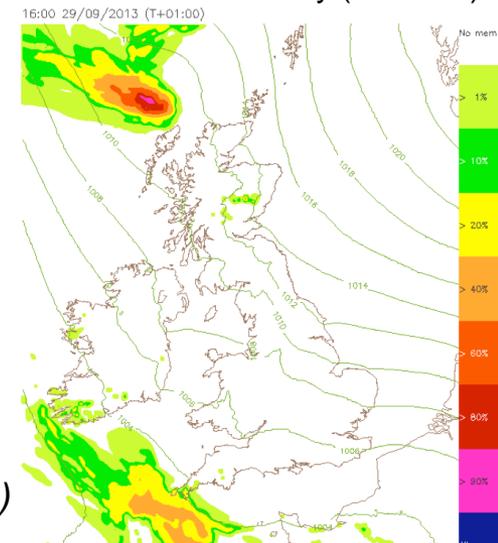
## Cycling requirements

- Wait for valuable observations
- Wait for model spin-up to settle
- Hurry to get skillful forecast

Ensemble Mean Visibility

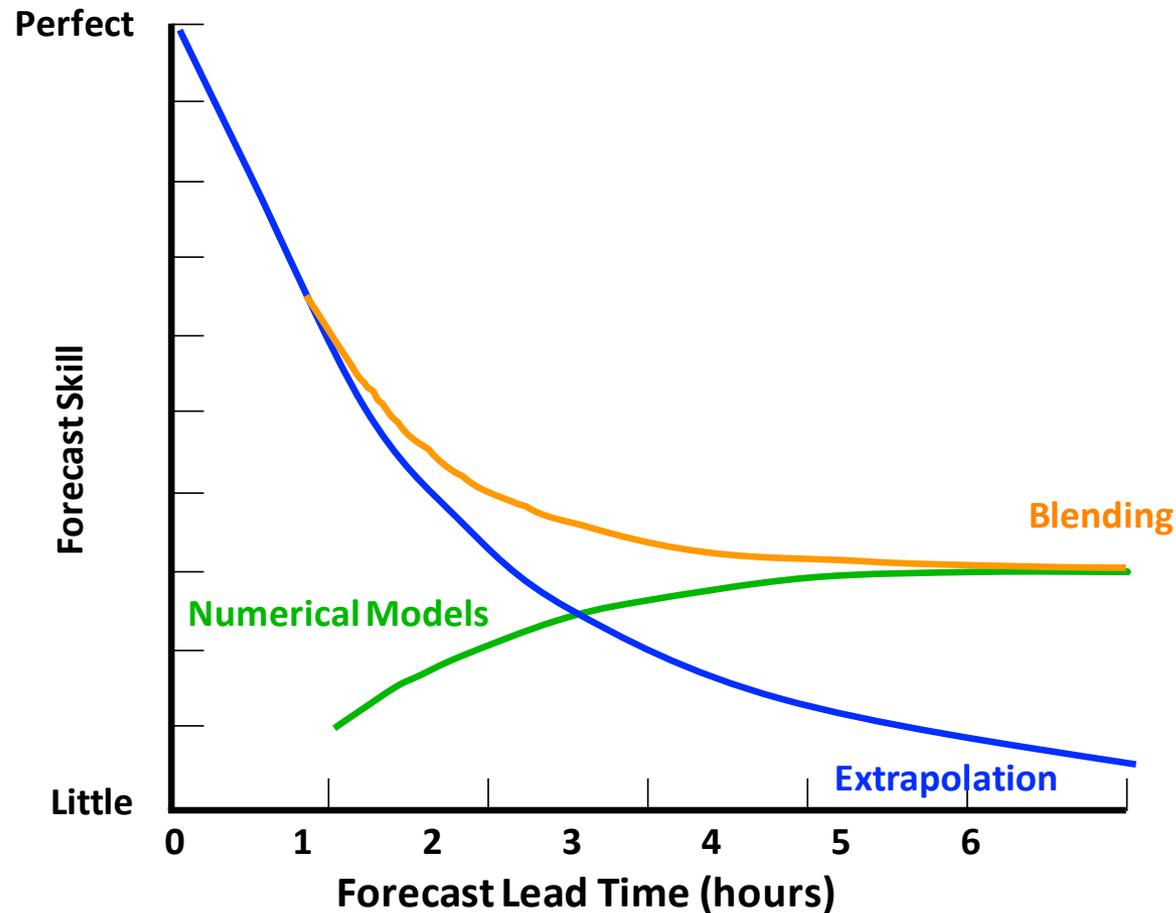


Ensemble Probability (vis<1km)

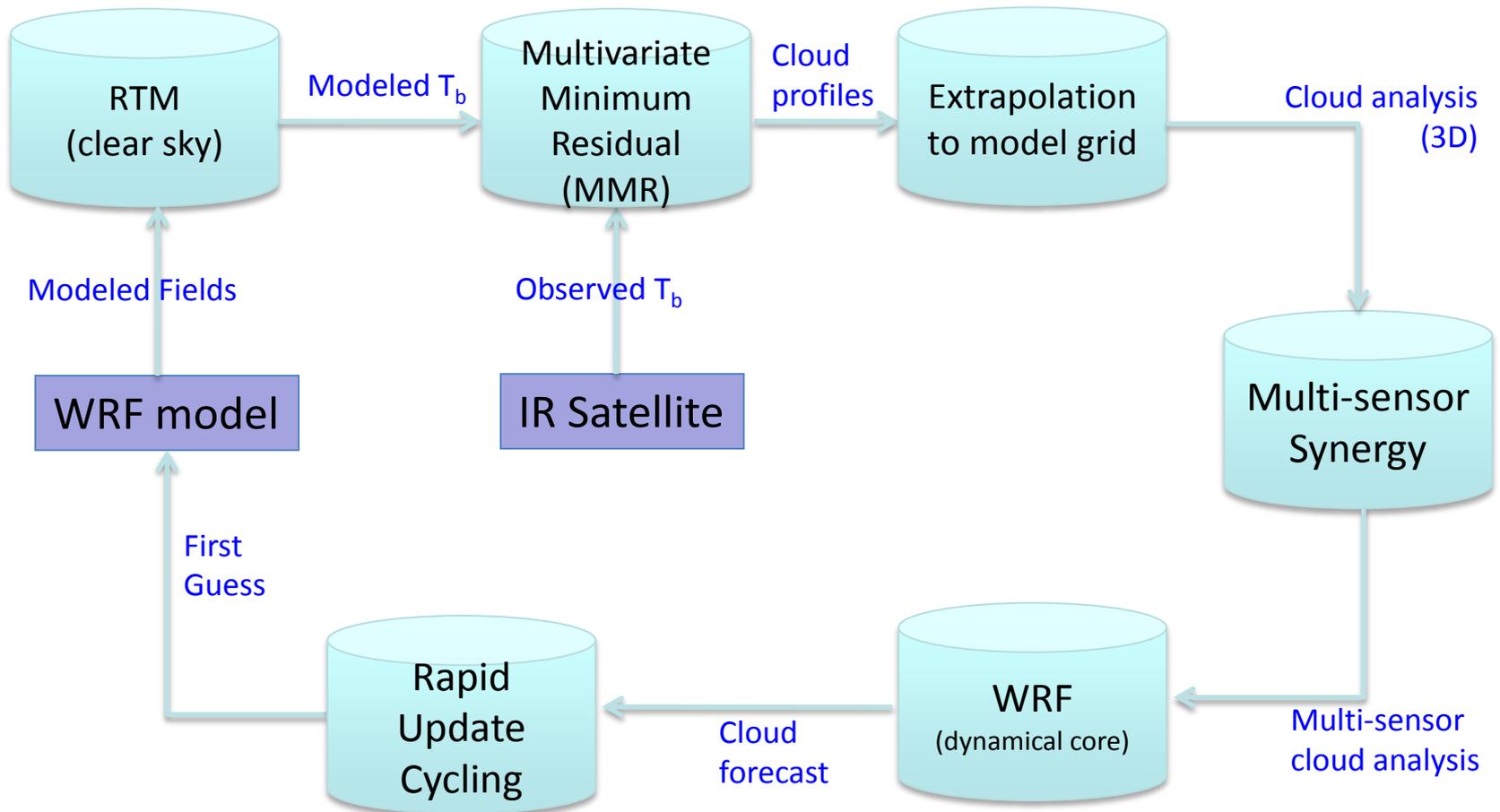


Source: Dale Barker (Met Office)

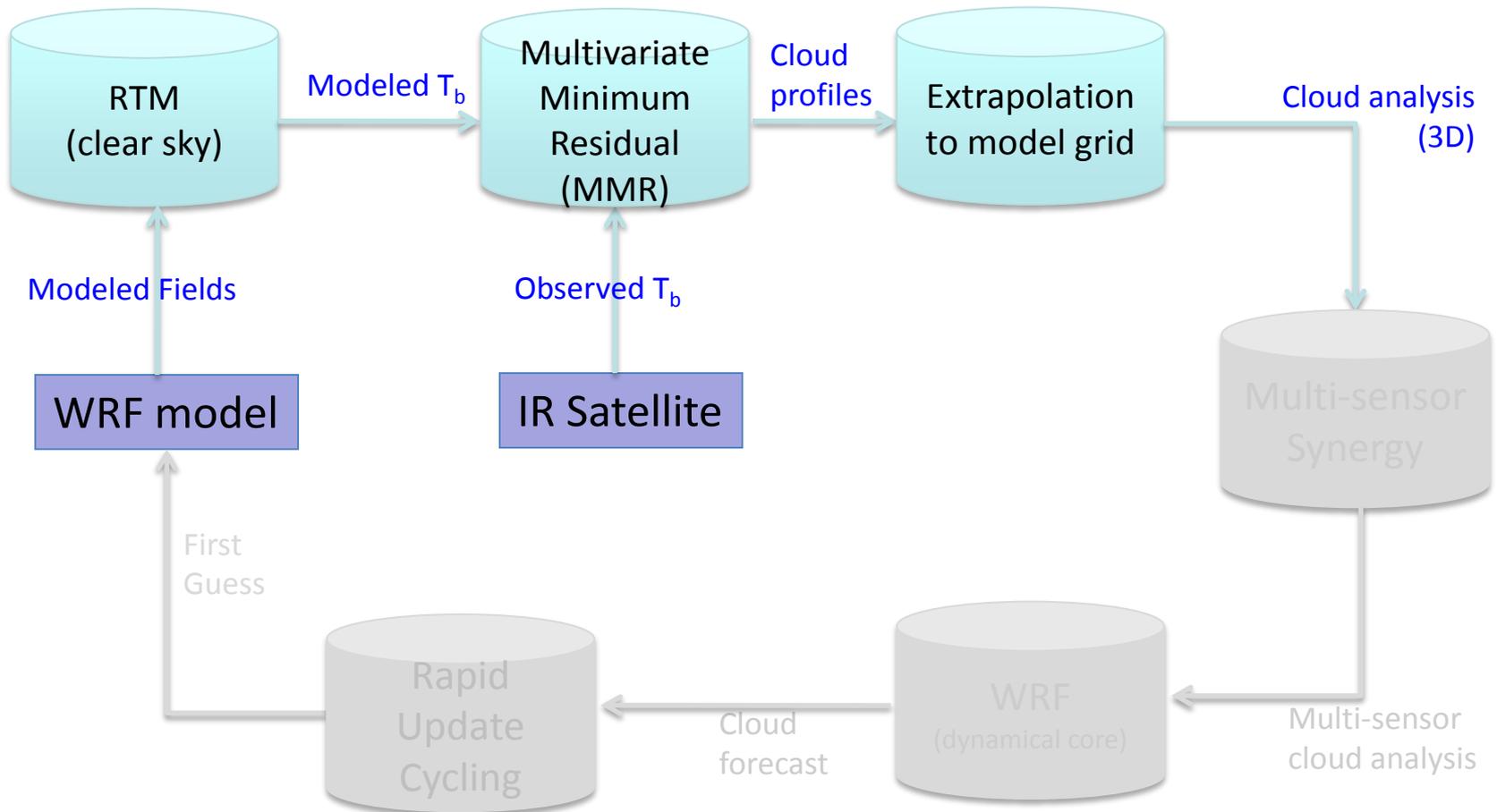
# Convective Scale Initialization: Two Approaches



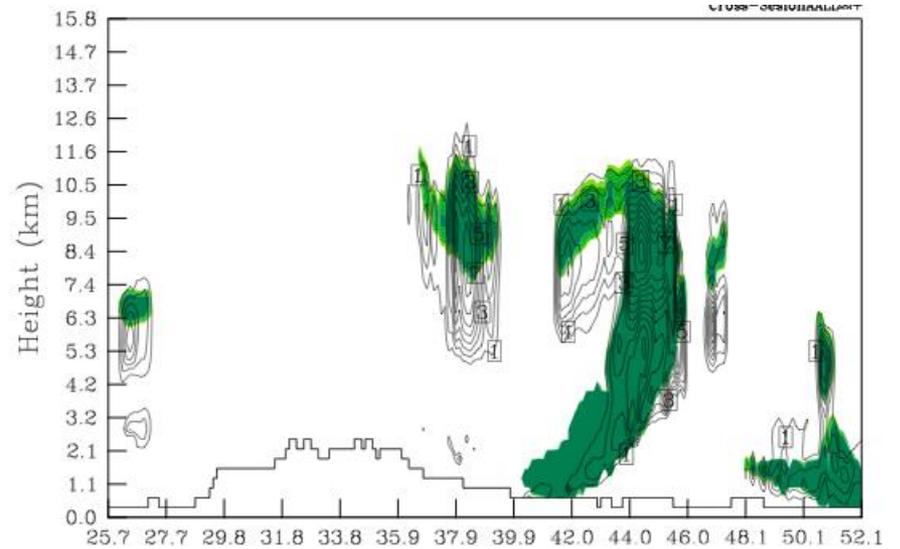
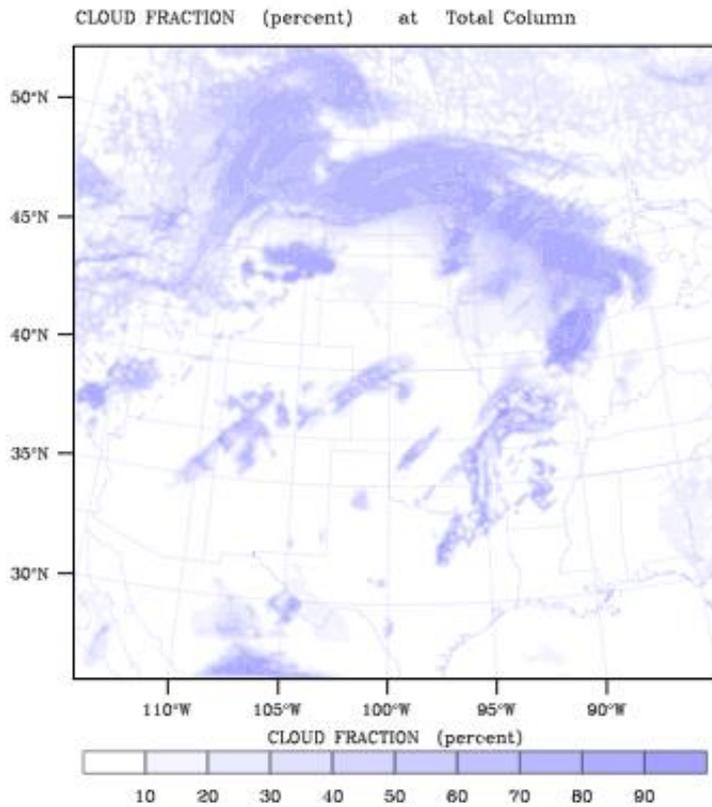
# MADCast: Multi-sensor Advection Diffusion nowCast



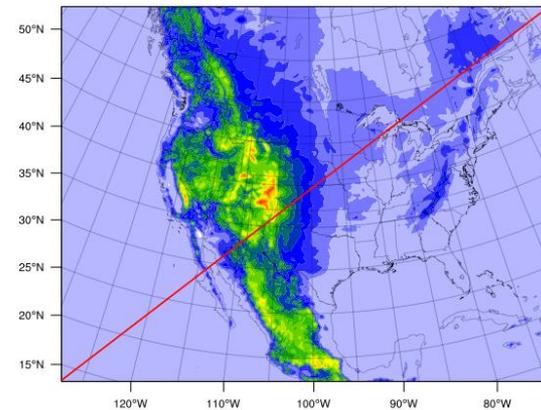
# MADCast: Multi-sensor Advection Diffusion nowCast



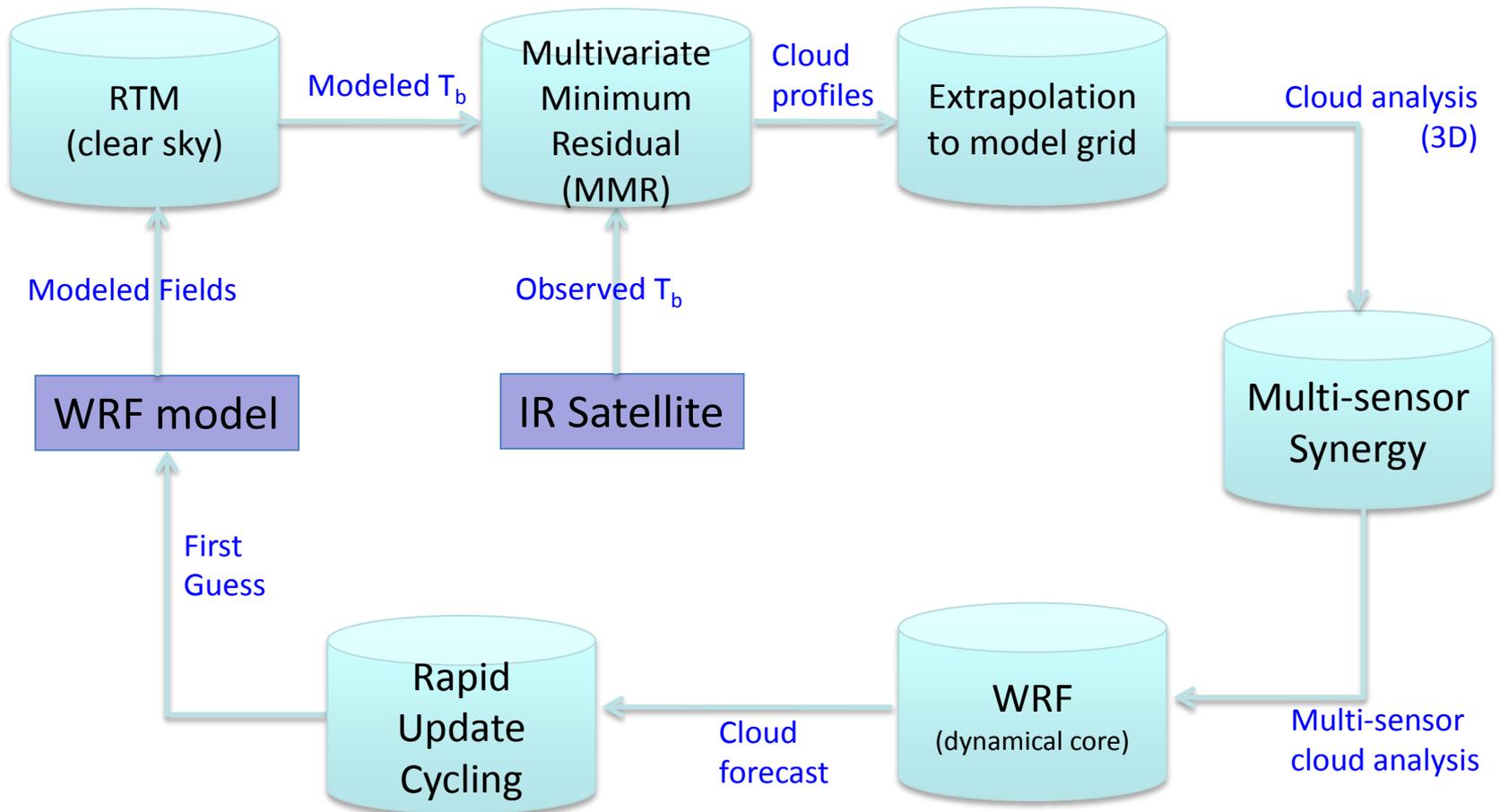
# MADCast: Simulated Observation Experiment



Vertical Cross Section

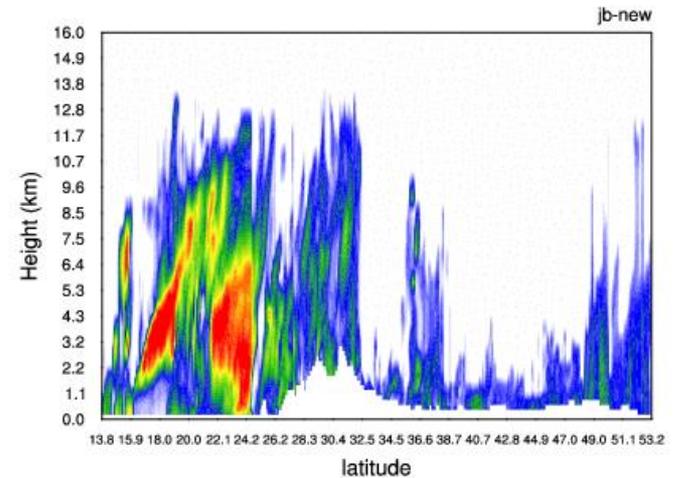


# MADCast: Multi-sensor Advection Diffusion nowCast

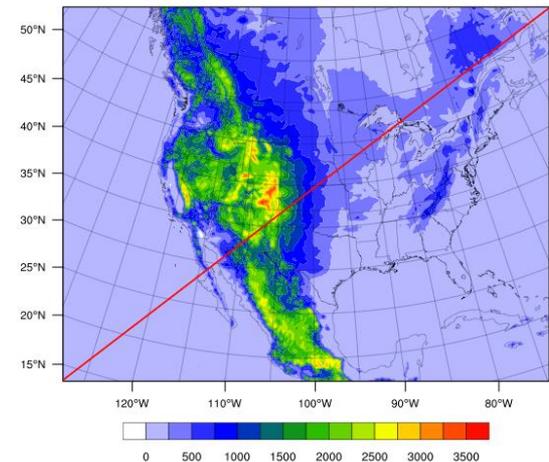


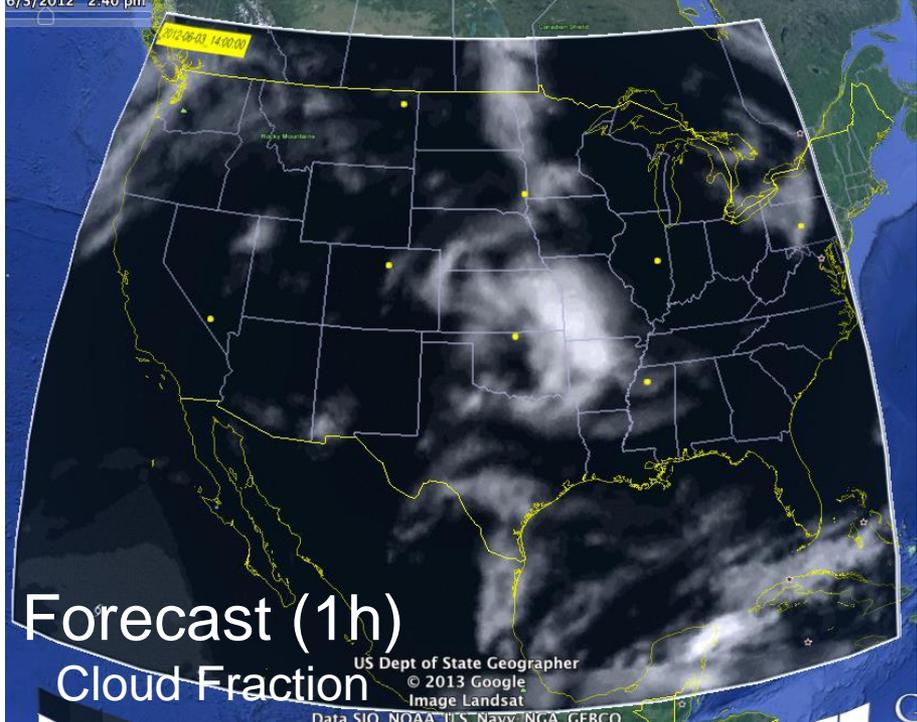
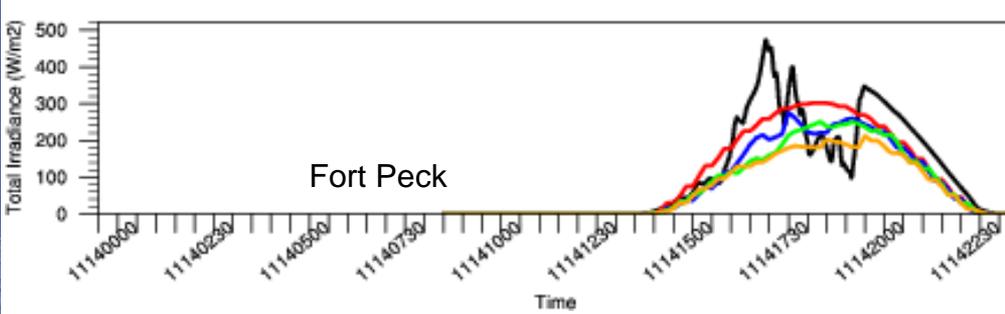
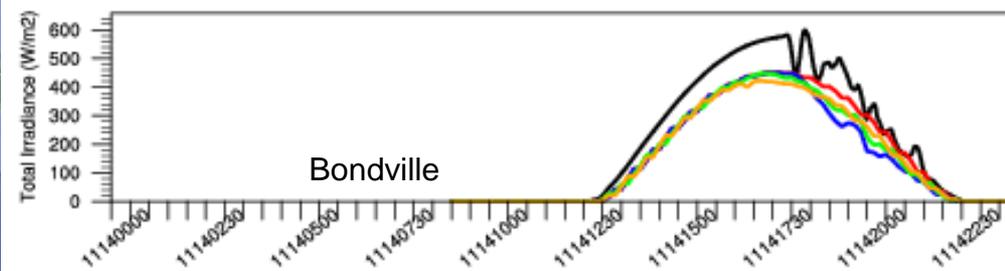
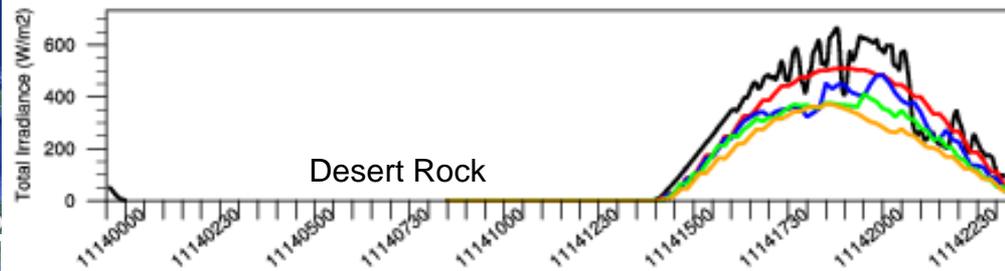
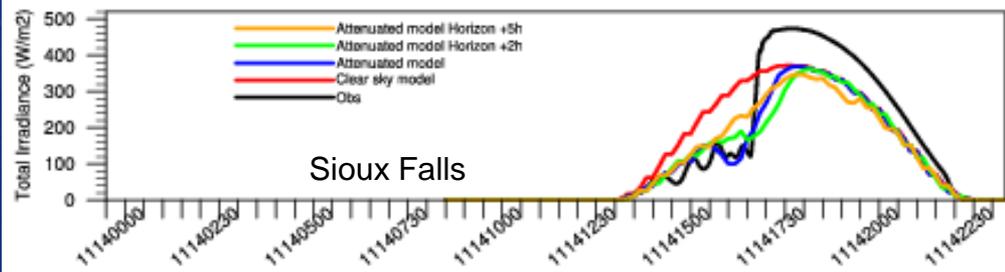
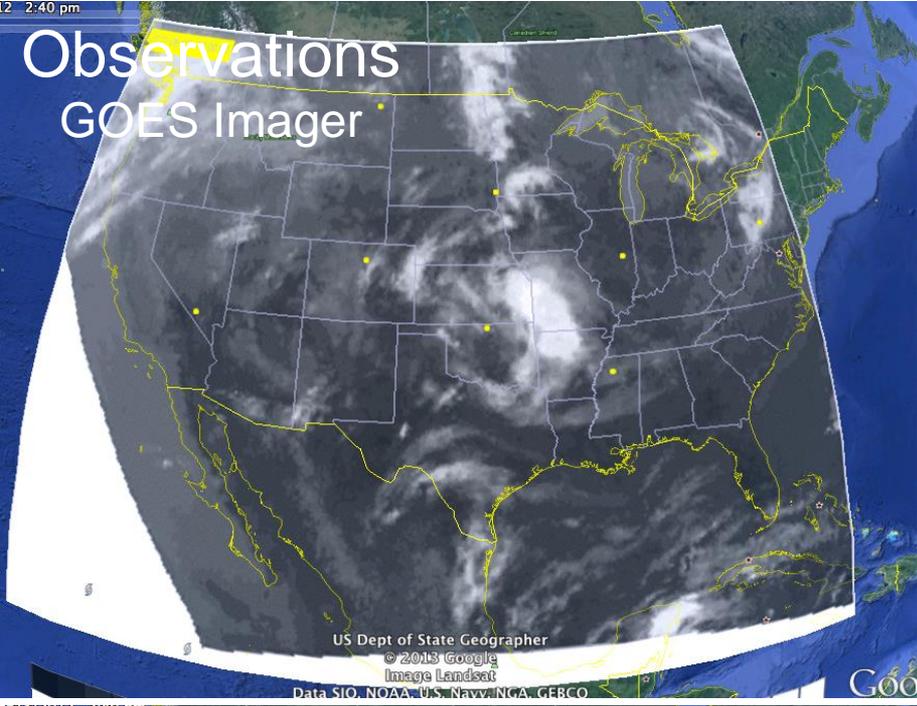
# MADCast: Real Observation Experiment

Multi-sensor **synergistic**  
analysis of cloud fraction  
(GOES, AIRS, IASI, CrIS, MODIS)

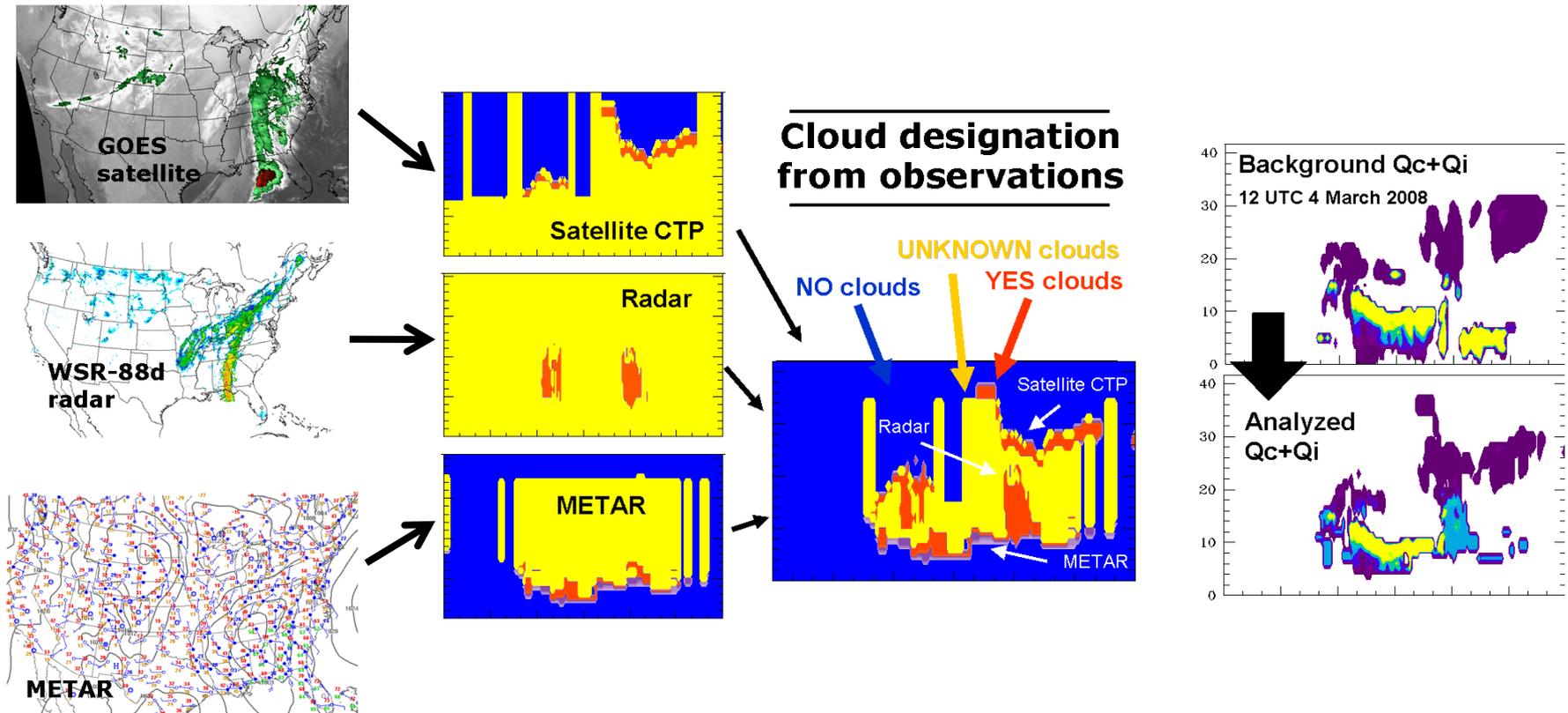


Vertical Cross Section





# Rapid Refresh: Cloud Analysis Schematic



observation

- Uses METAR, satellite, radar, lightning data
- Updates RR 1h-fcst RR hydrometeor, water vapor fields
- Generates latent heating from radar and lightning data

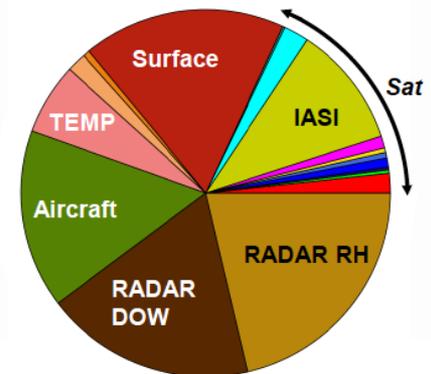
# Convective Scale DA: Satellite Observations

- **Real Observations**

- **IASI:** Guidard et al. (QJRMS 2011). *AROME*.
- **TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI):**  
Aonashi and Eito (JMSJapan, 2011). Displaced MLEF. *JMANHM*.
- **MSG SEVIRI:** Stengel et al. (QJRMS 2010). 4DVar *HIRLAM*. Schomburg and Schraff (QJRMS 2013). LETKF *COSMO* (retrieved cloud top).  
Barker (WSDA 2014). AMSU-B/MHS. 3DVar *UKV*

- **OSSEs**

- **GOES-R:** Otkin (JGR 2010),  
Jones et al. (MWR, 2014). EnKF *DART*.
- **MTG IRS:** Guedj (EUMETSAT). Correlated obs error.
- **GPM:** Chambon et al. (QJRMS 2013). *MLEF*.
- **GLM:** Stefanescu et al. 1DVar+3DVar assimilation of total lightning. *WRFDA*.



*Active obs in AROME for one rainy day*

Source: T. Montmerle  
(Météo-France)

# All-Sky Radiances: Challenges

## Method

State augmentation to include model cloud microphysics variables in the analysis ( $q_c, q_i, \dots$ )

## Goals

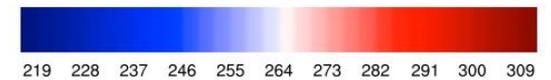
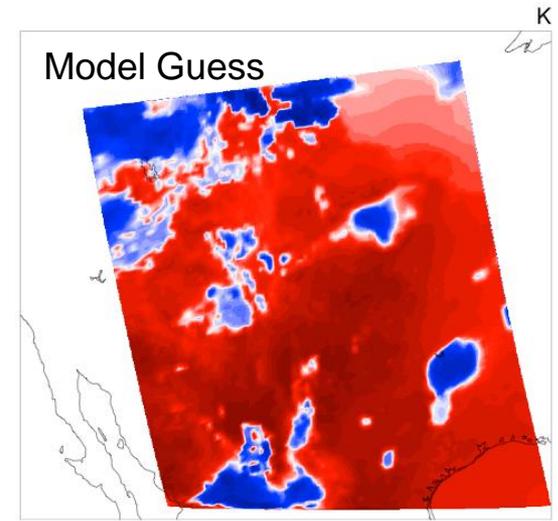
- Fit observations at initial time
- Sustain cloud increments in forecast

## All-sky radiances

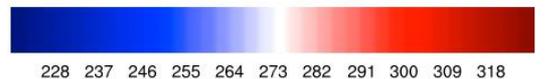
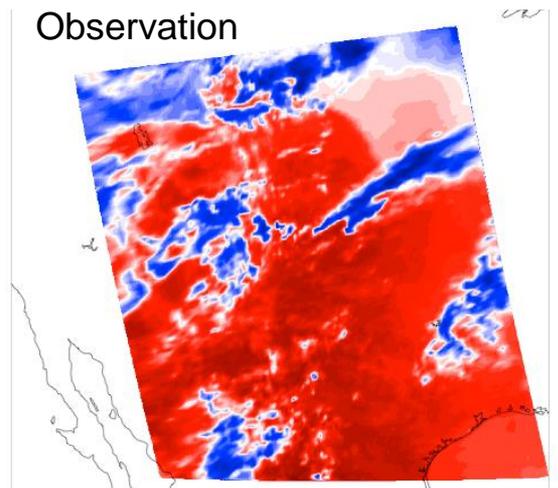
- Assimilate cloud-and-precip-affected radiances
- Accuracy and efficiency of radiative transfer
- Non-linear observation operators
- Jacobian calculation: modified base state

## Satellite radiances sensitive to land surface

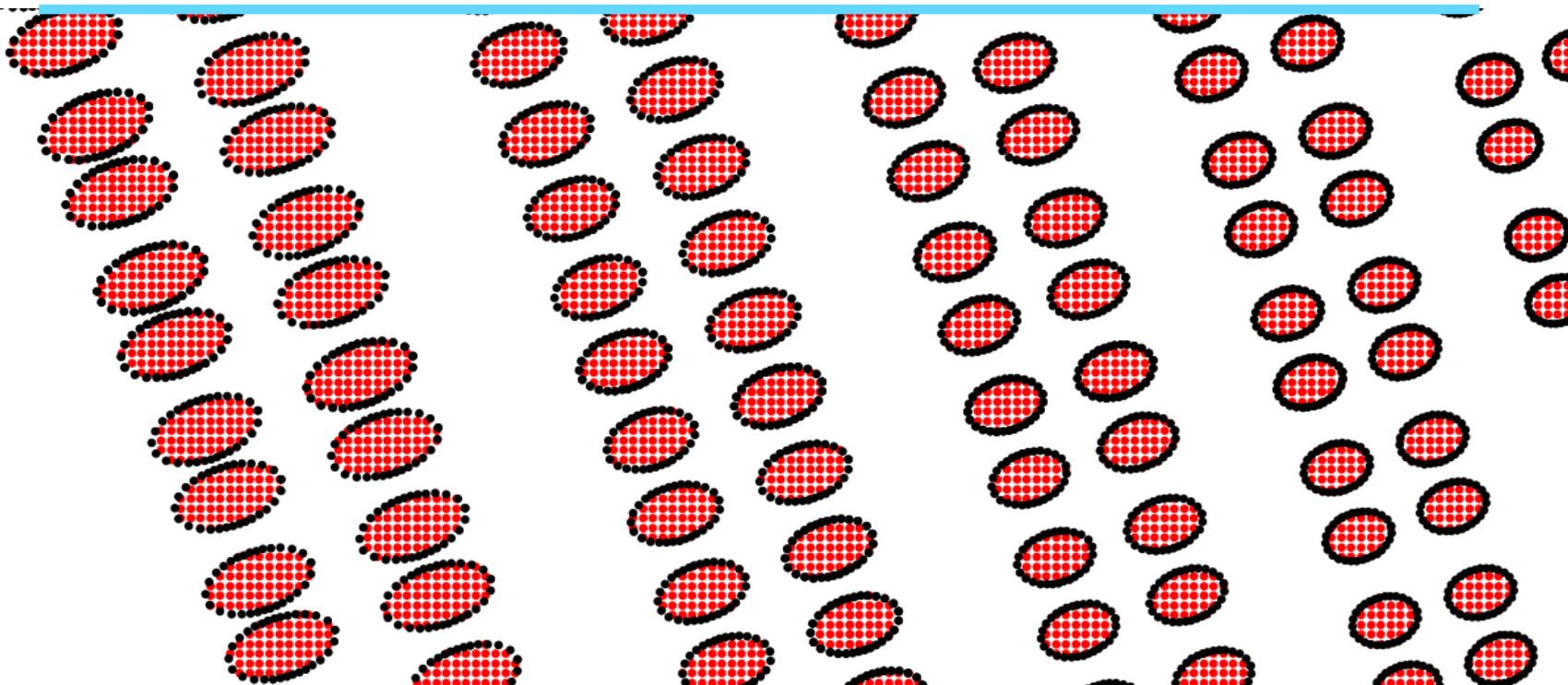
- Forecast needed near populated areas
- Improved modeling of  $T_{\text{skin}}$  and emissivity over land, snow, sea-ice
- $T_{\text{skin}}$  introduced as a sink variable



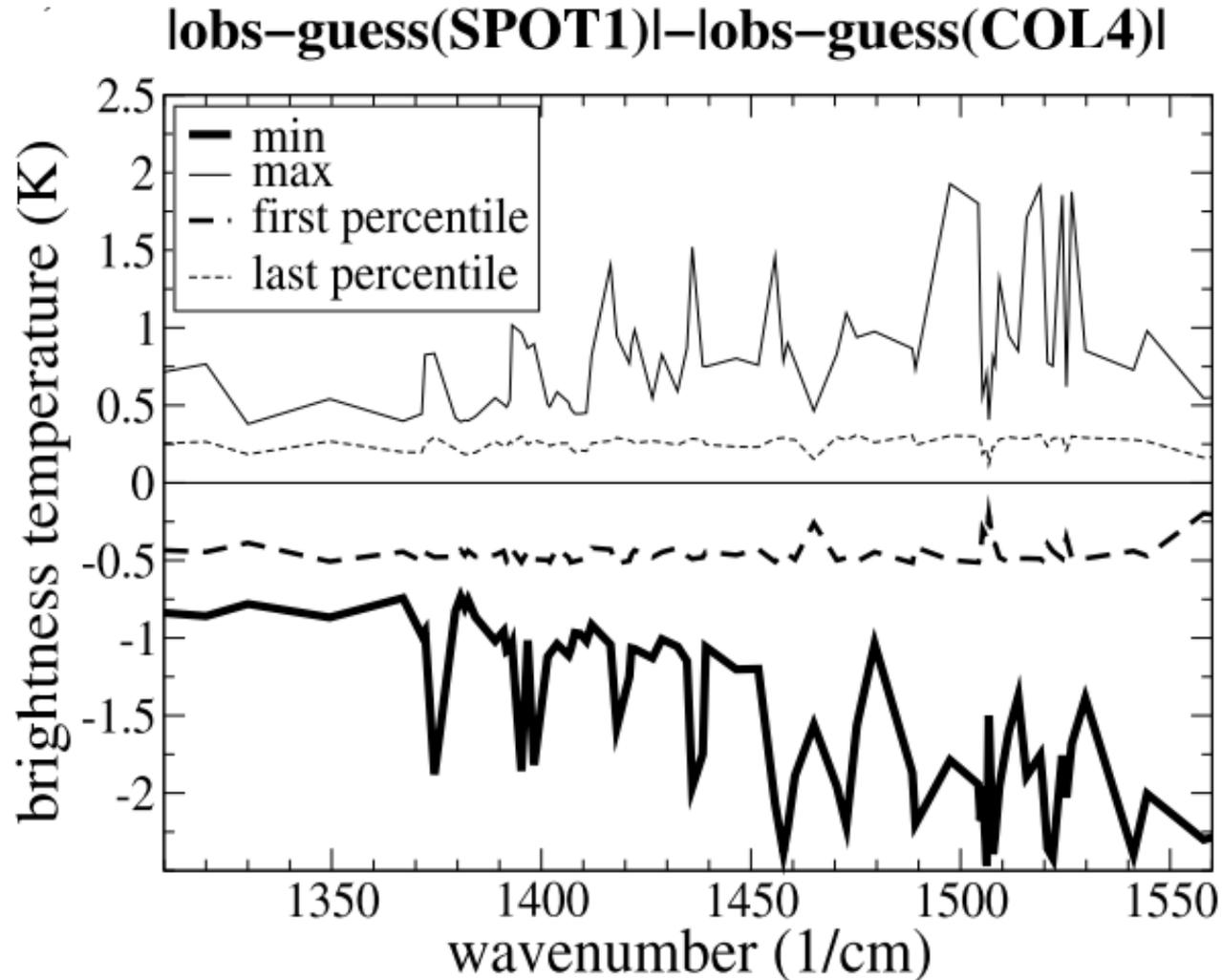
AIRS Channel #787



# Satellite Field of View (FoV): Interpolation

- 
- Calculate polygons (ellipses)
  - List model grid points inside ellipse
  - Use average input for RTM
  - Currently testing for AIRS and IASI

# Satellite Field of View (FoV): Interpolation



# All-sky Radiances: Observation Error Covariances

**Huber Norm:** estimated via Iterated Reweighted Least Square (IRLS)  
= reweighting of observations according to OmF at each outer-loop

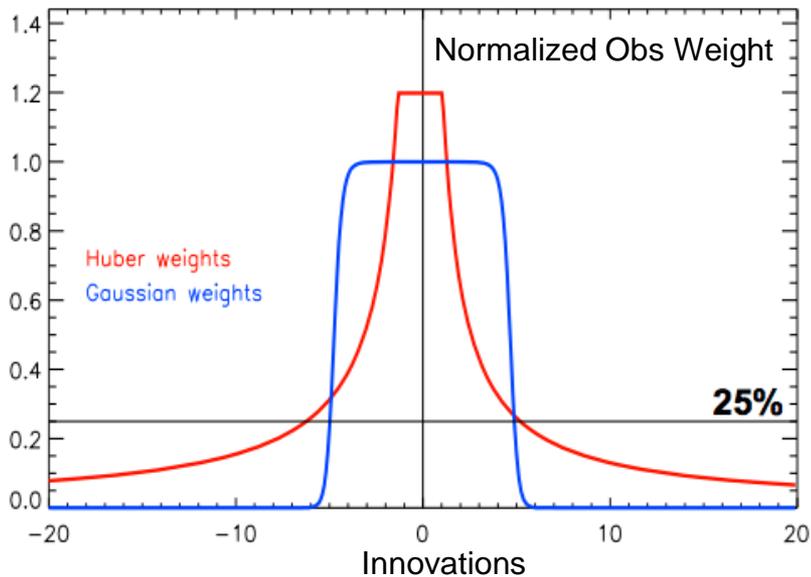
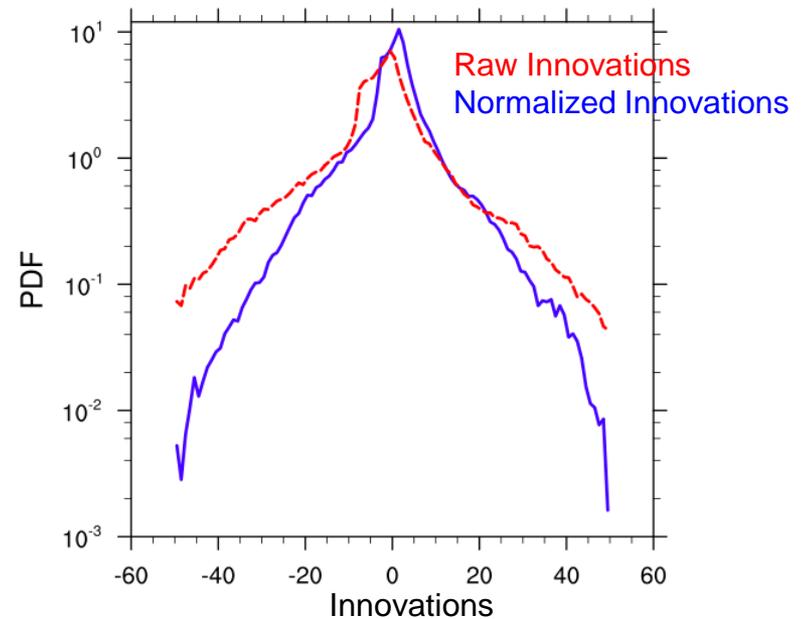


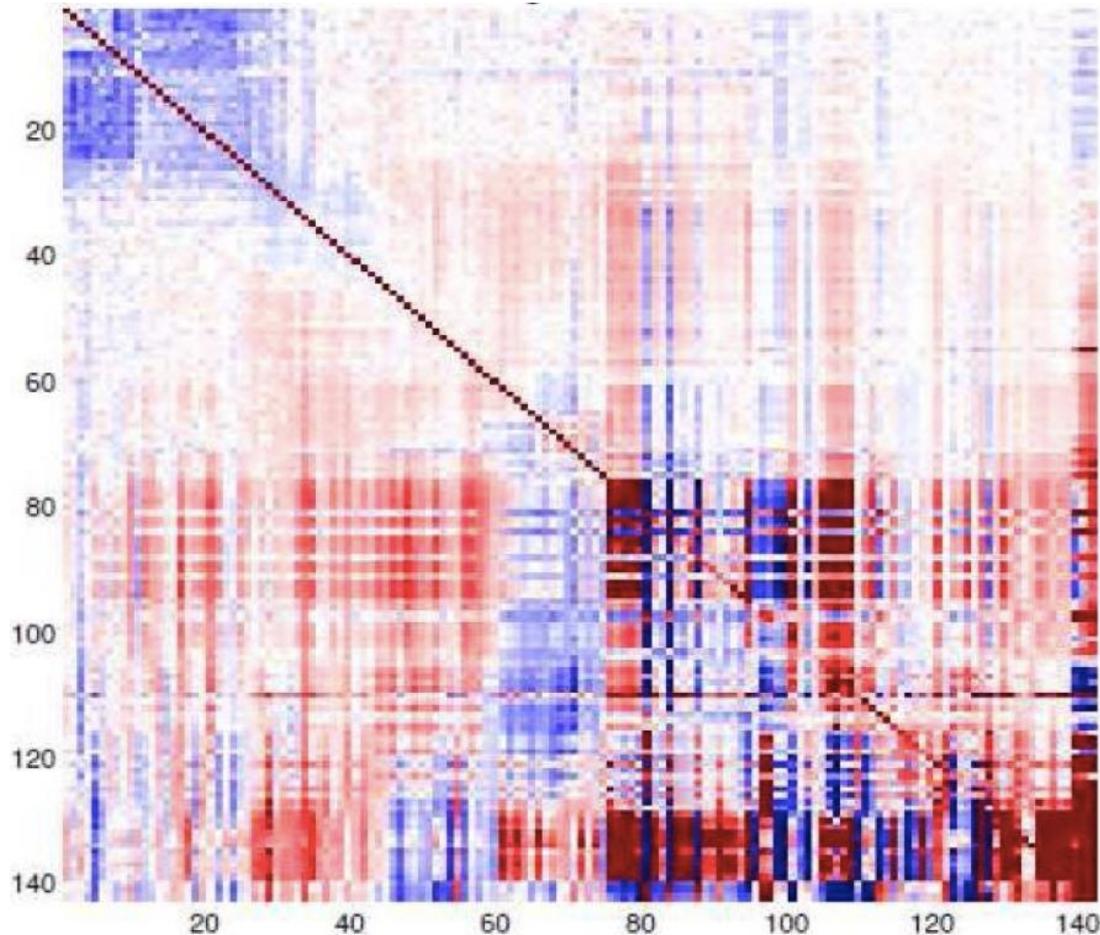
Figure from Fisher (2008)



# All-sky Radiances: Observation Error Covariances

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AIRS Diagnostic R Matrix



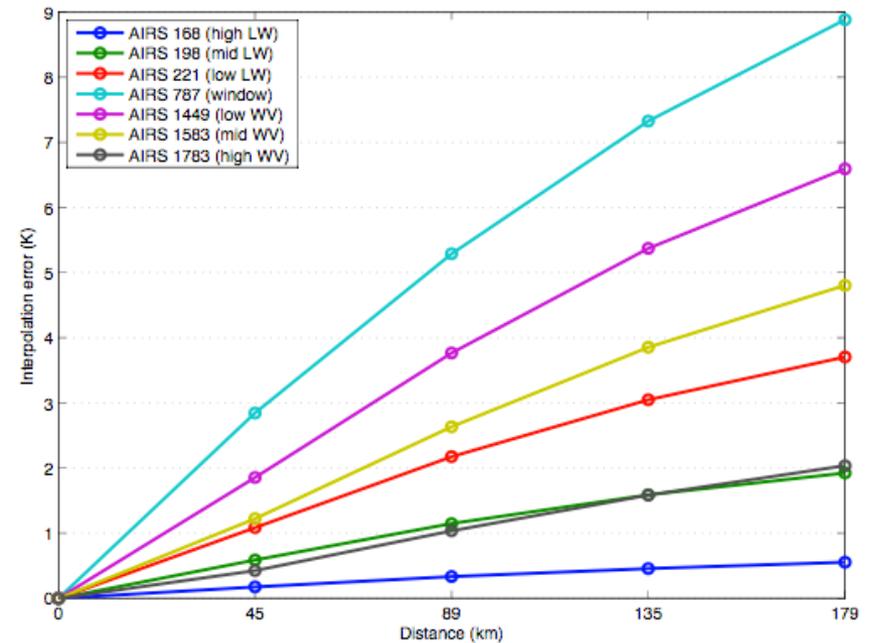
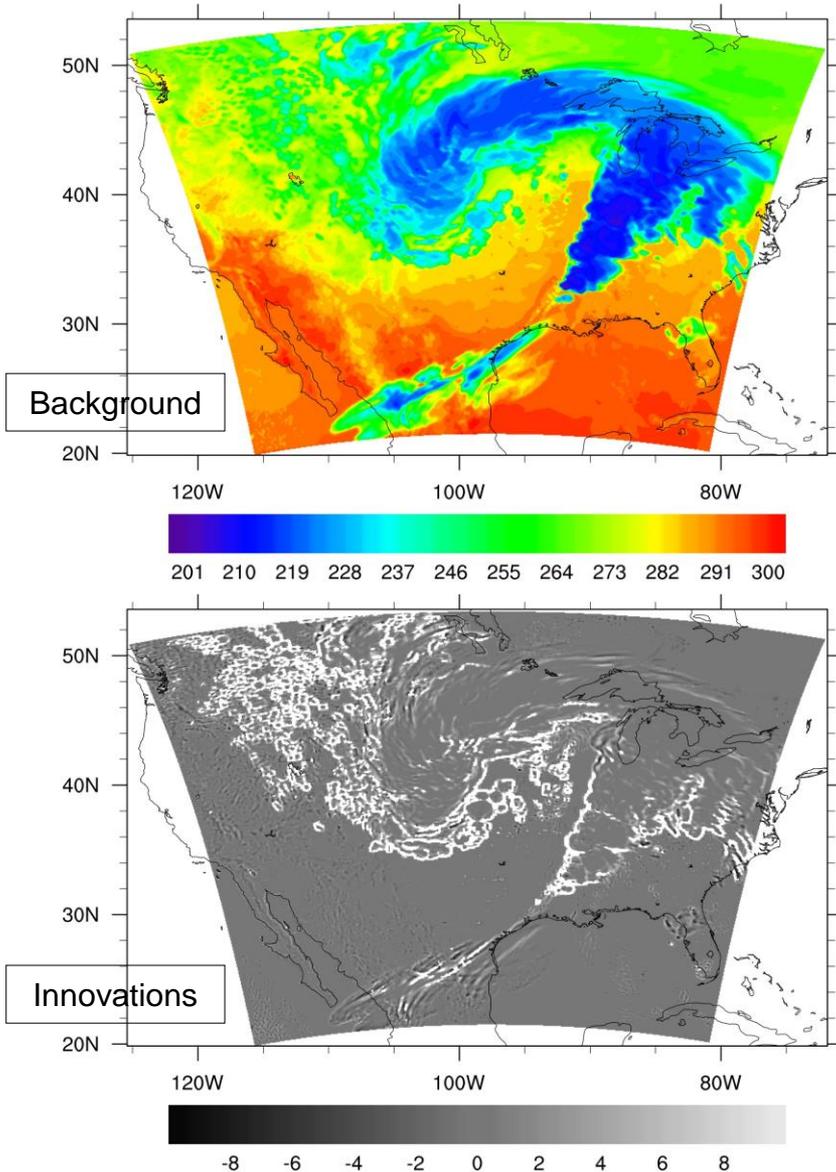
Correlated errors  
(esp. for moisture channels)

At least partly due to  
representativeness error  
(Waller et al. 2014)

# Representativeness Error

Simulated mismatch in resolution:  
(Daley 1993, Liu and Rabier 2002,  
Waller et al. 2014)

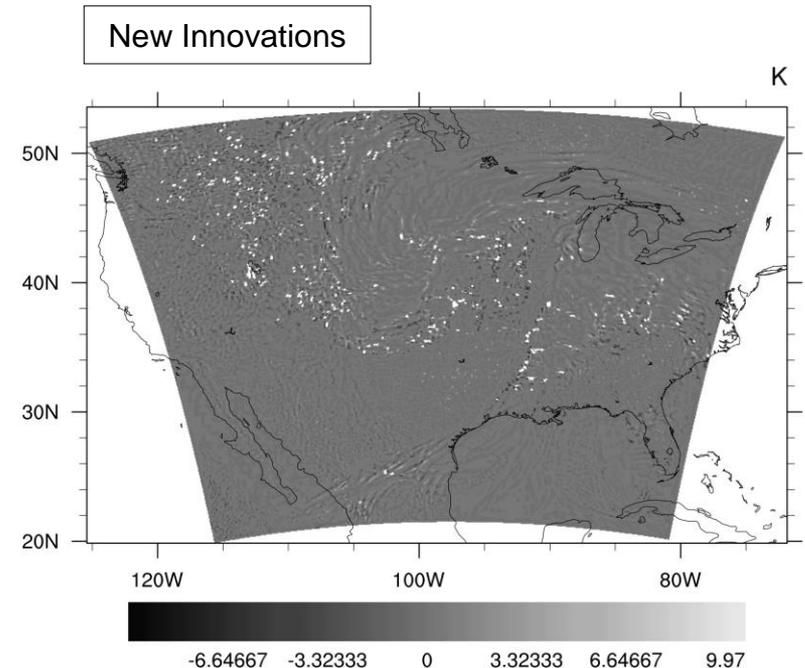
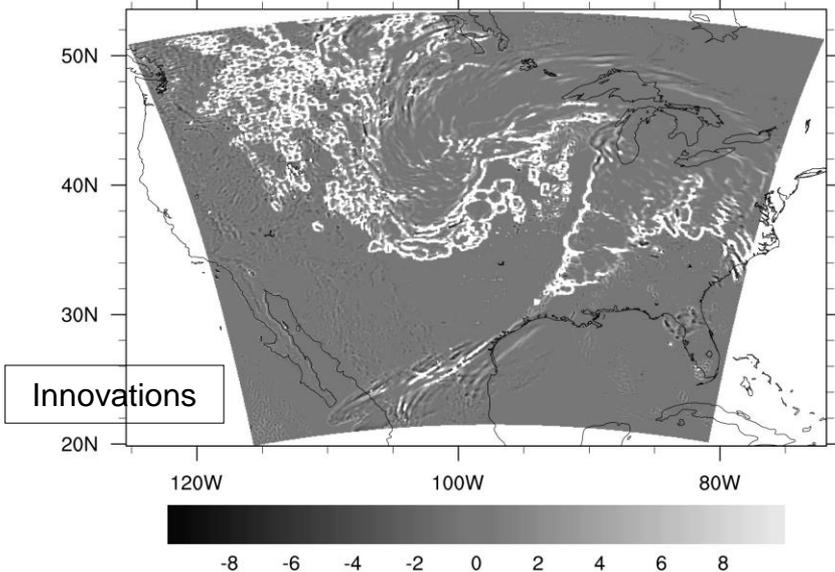
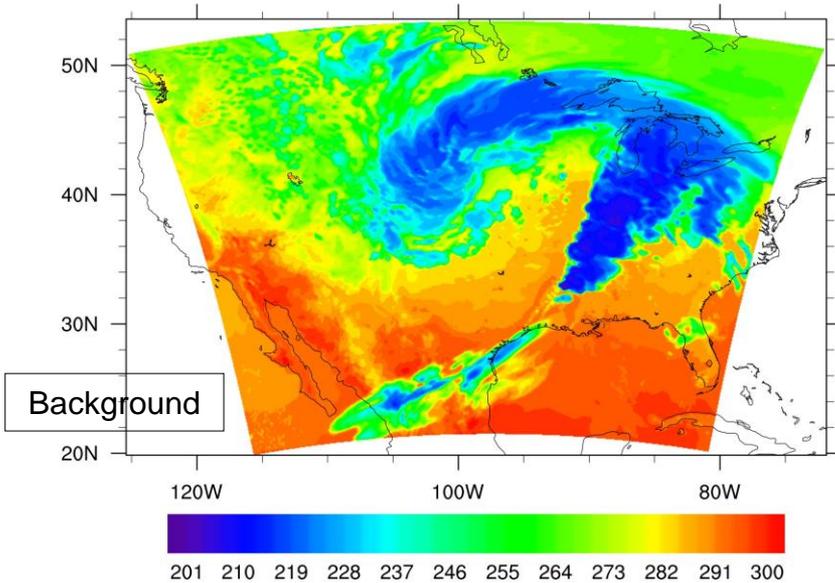
- Perfect observations (high resolution)
- Perfect Background (lower resolution)



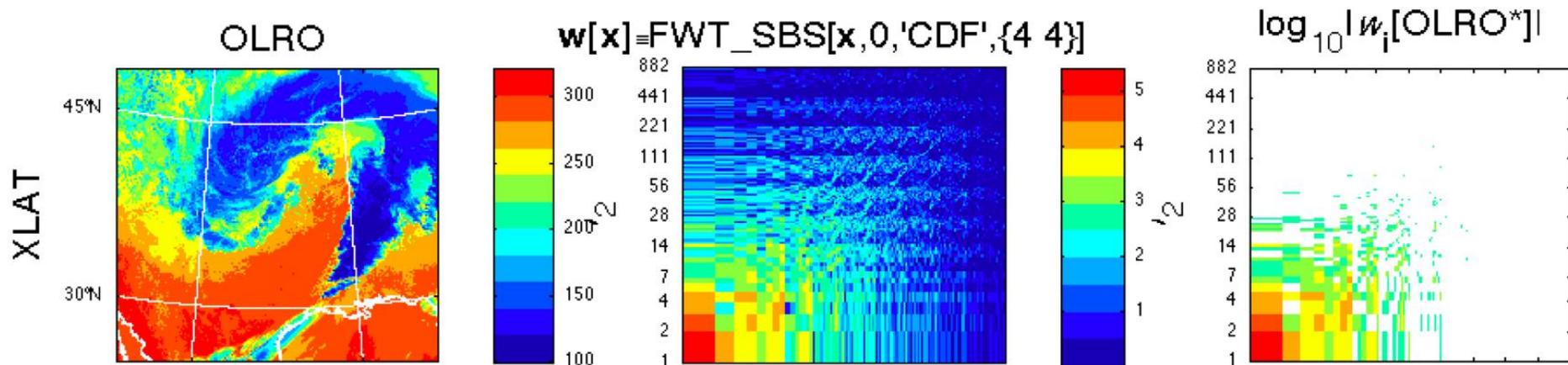
# Representativeness Error

Modified interpolation scheme:

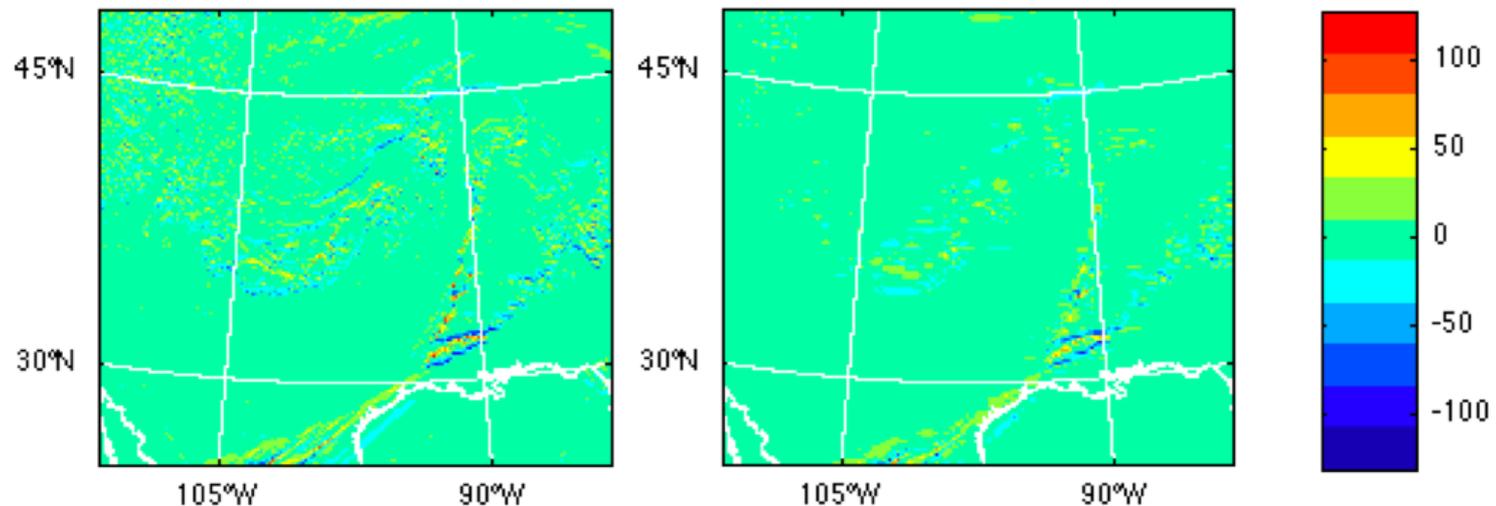
1. Automatic detection of sharp gradients
2. New “proximity” for interpolation



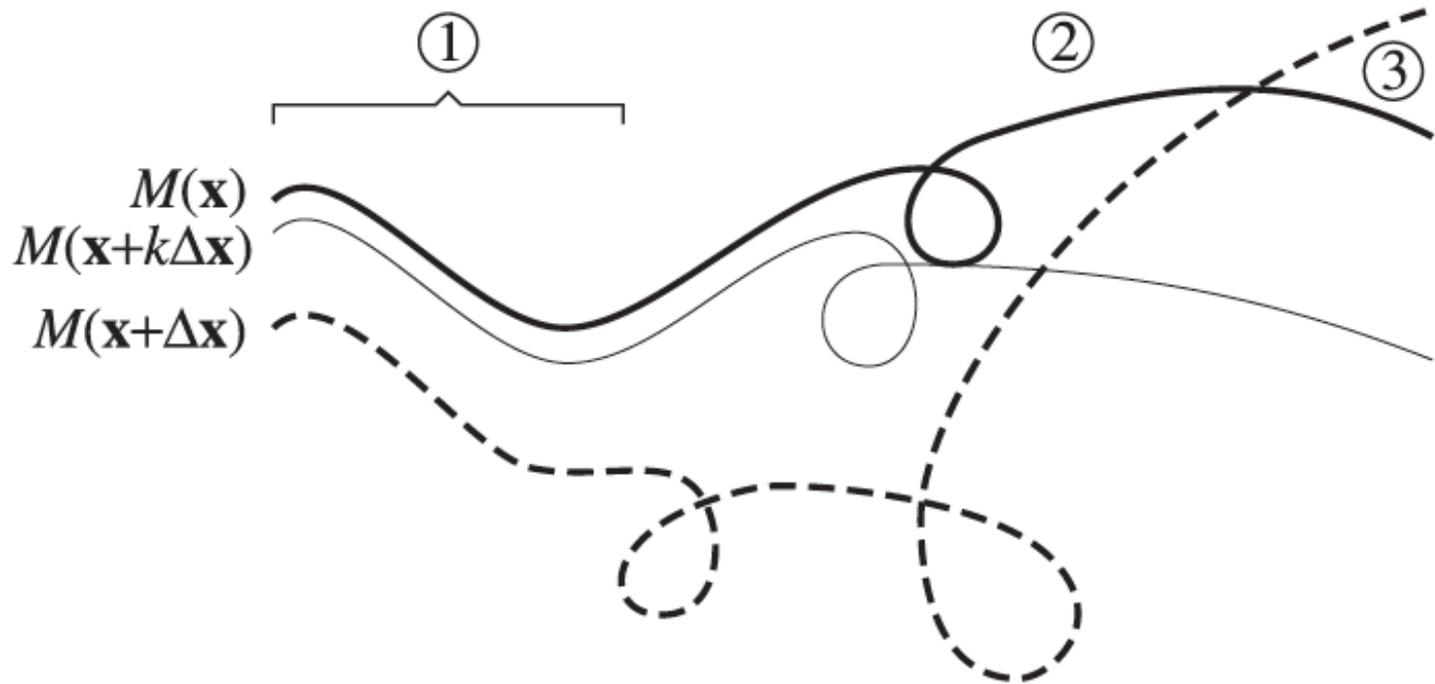
# Representativeness Error: Wavelet Scale Matching



OLROmB\* (rmse=81.97%)

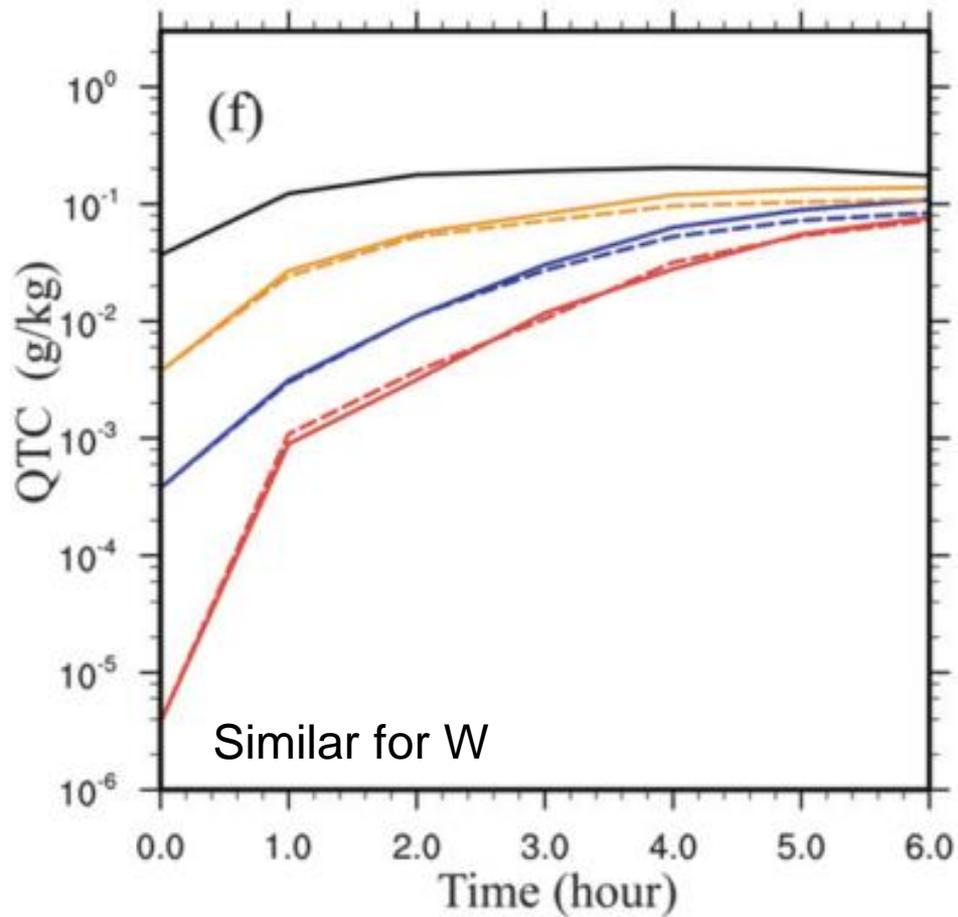
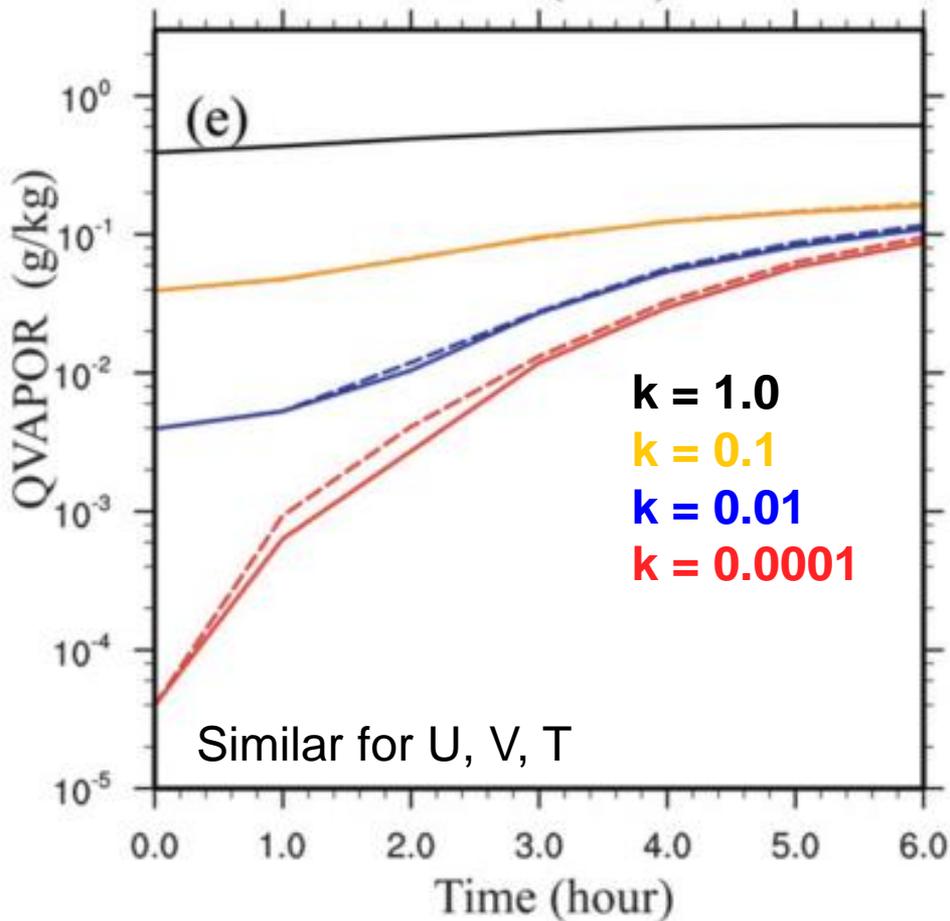


# Obs. Operator: Tangent-Linear Approximation

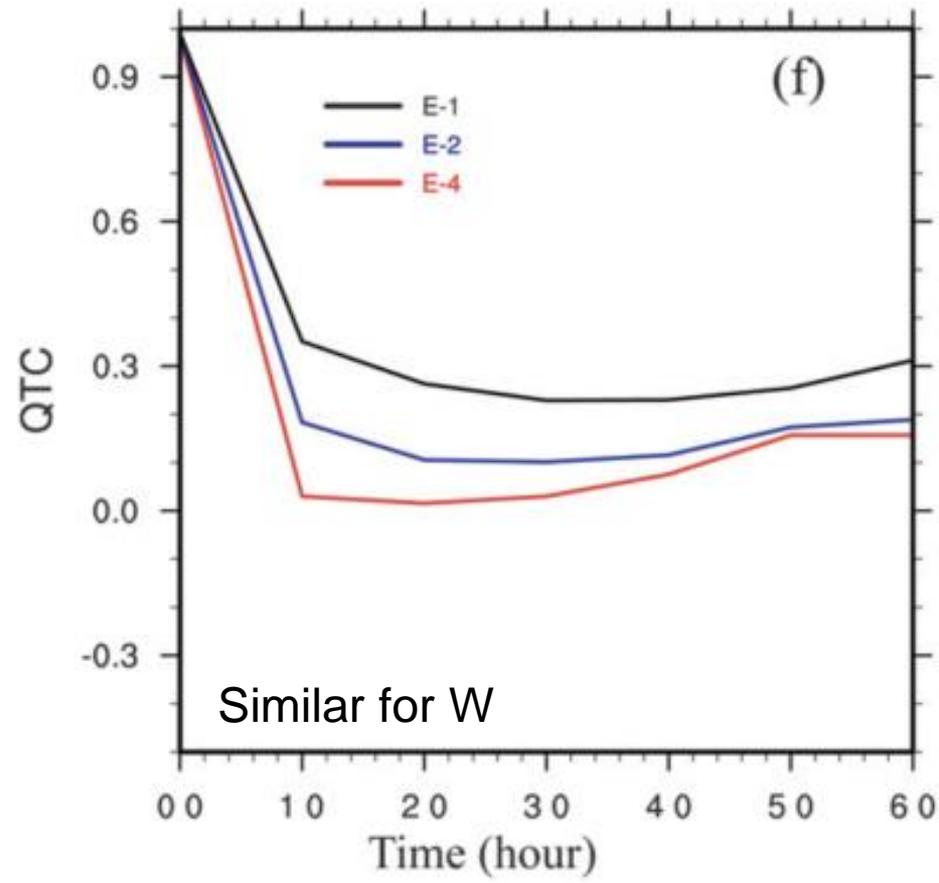
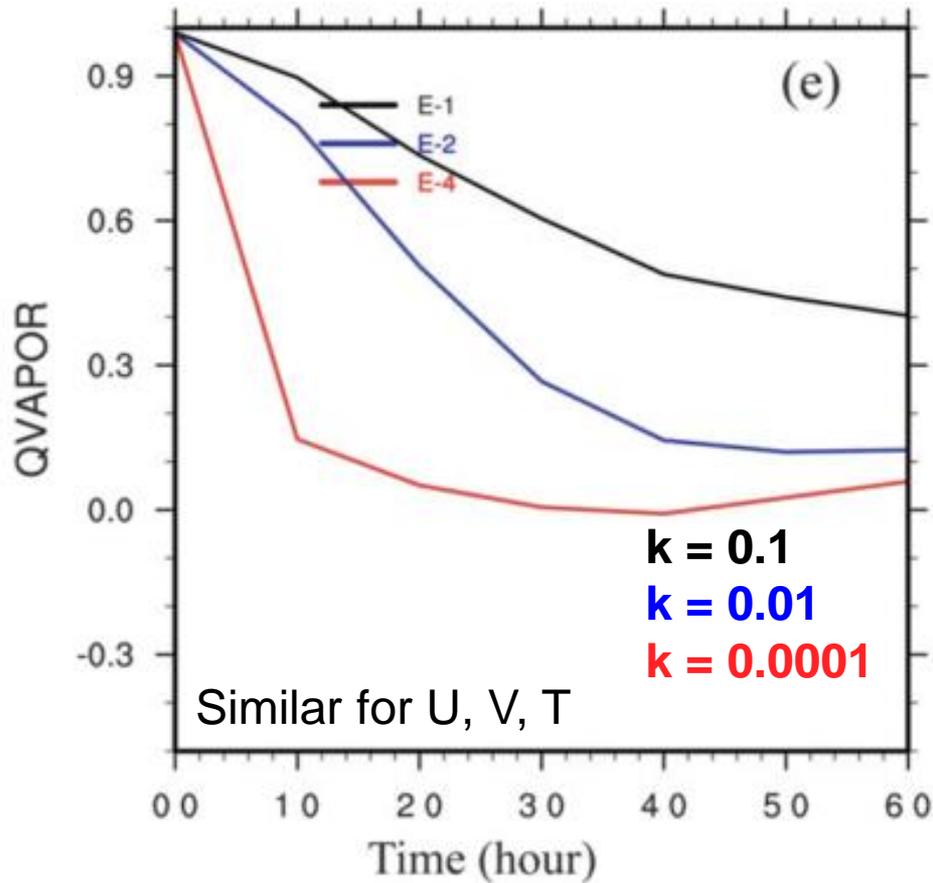


- ① Linear regime:  $M(\mathbf{x}+\Delta\mathbf{x}) \approx M(\mathbf{x}) + \Delta\mathbf{x} (\partial M/\partial\mathbf{x})$   
 $\rightarrow M(\mathbf{x}+k\Delta\mathbf{x}) - M(\mathbf{x}) \approx k [M(\mathbf{x}+\Delta\mathbf{x}) - M(\mathbf{x})]$
- ② Nonlin. regime:  $M(\mathbf{x}+k\Delta\mathbf{x}) - M(\mathbf{x}) \neq k [M(\mathbf{x}+\Delta\mathbf{x}) - M(\mathbf{x})]$
- ③ Contradictory region: Adjusting  $\mathbf{x}$  towards  $\mathbf{x}+k\Delta\mathbf{x}$  at the initial time worsens the fit with the data from  $M(\mathbf{x}+\Delta\mathbf{x})$

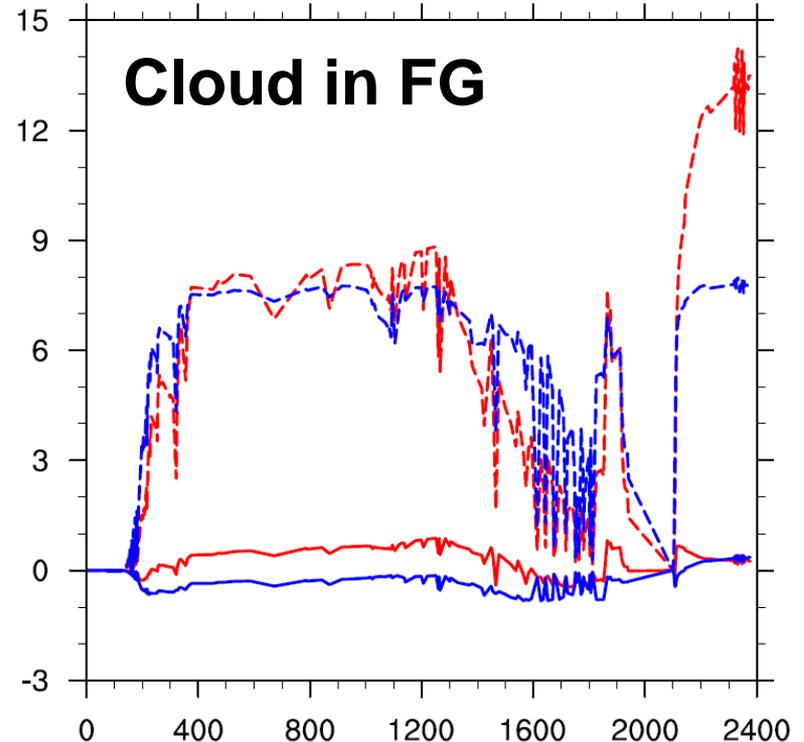
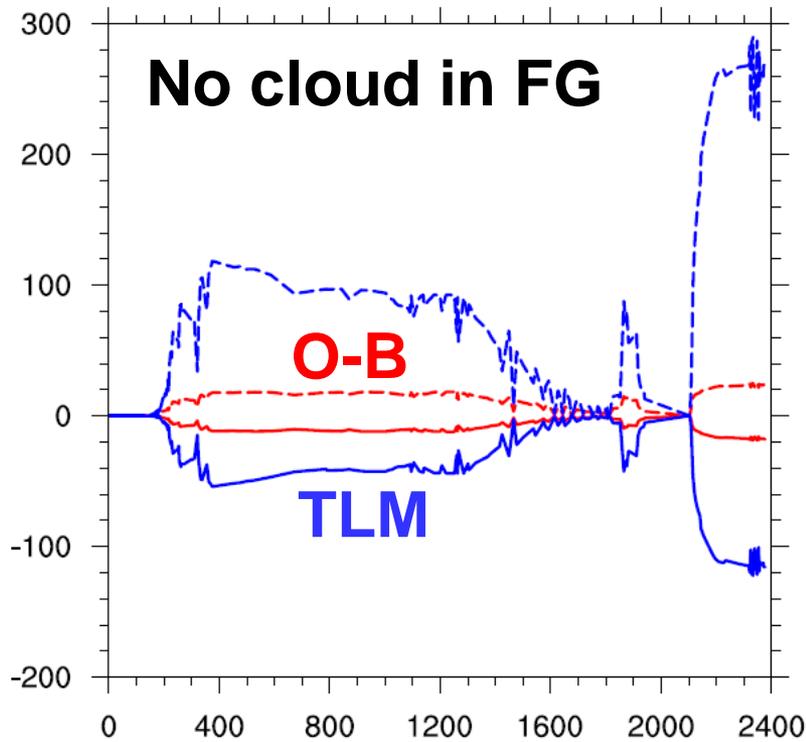
# Obs. Operator: Tangent-Linear Approximation



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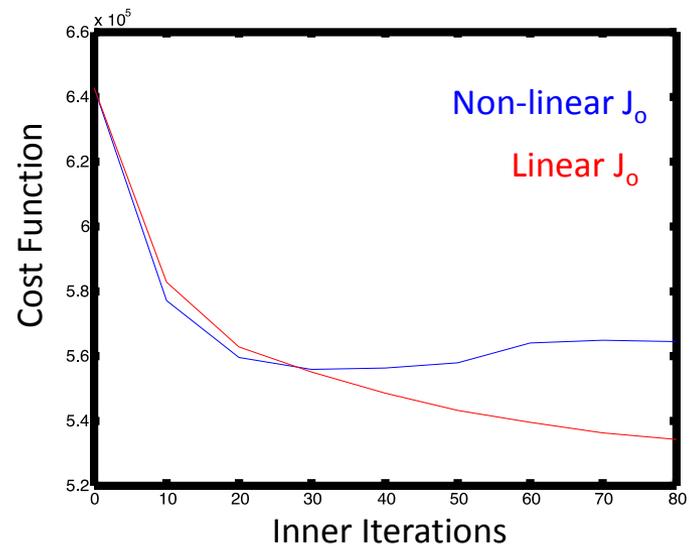
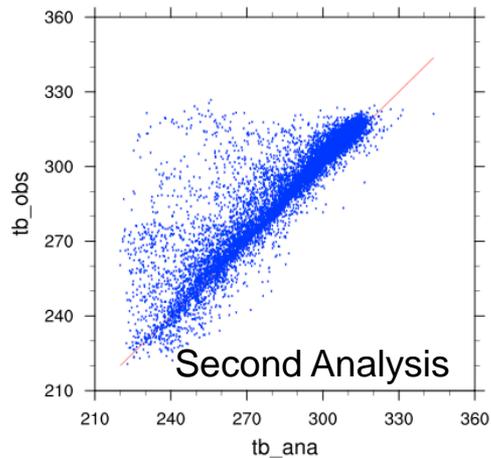
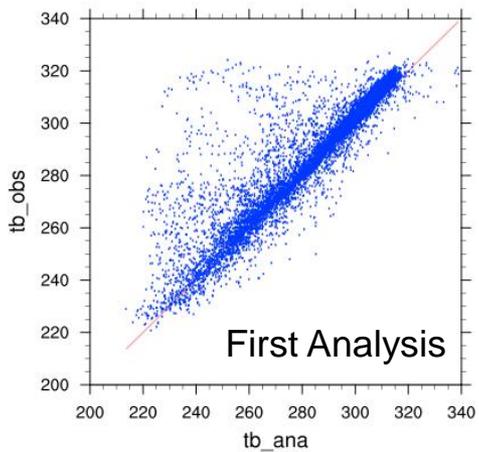
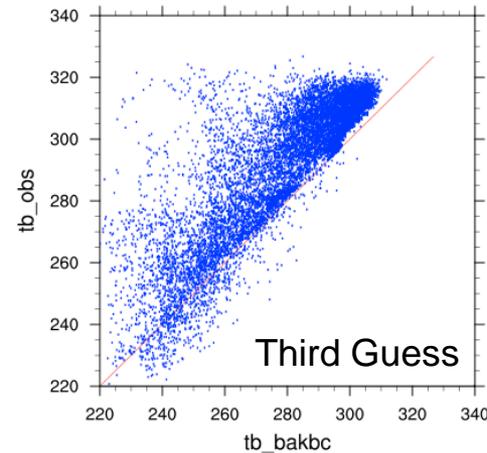
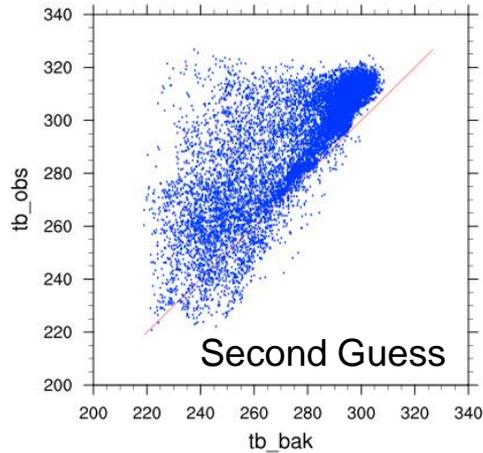
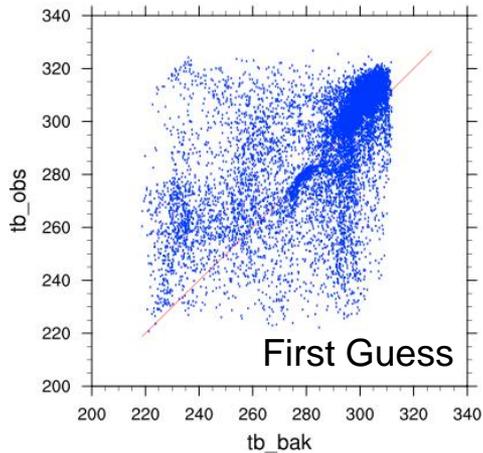
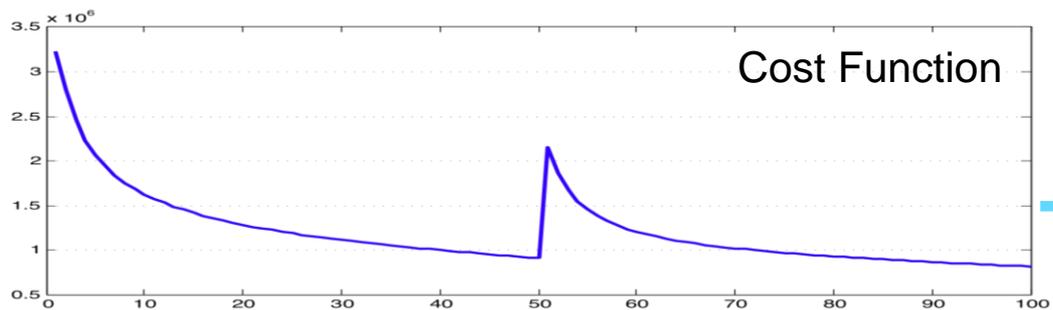
# Obs. Operator: Tangent-Linear Approximation



Non-linear Perturbation:  $H(x_t) - H(x_b)$

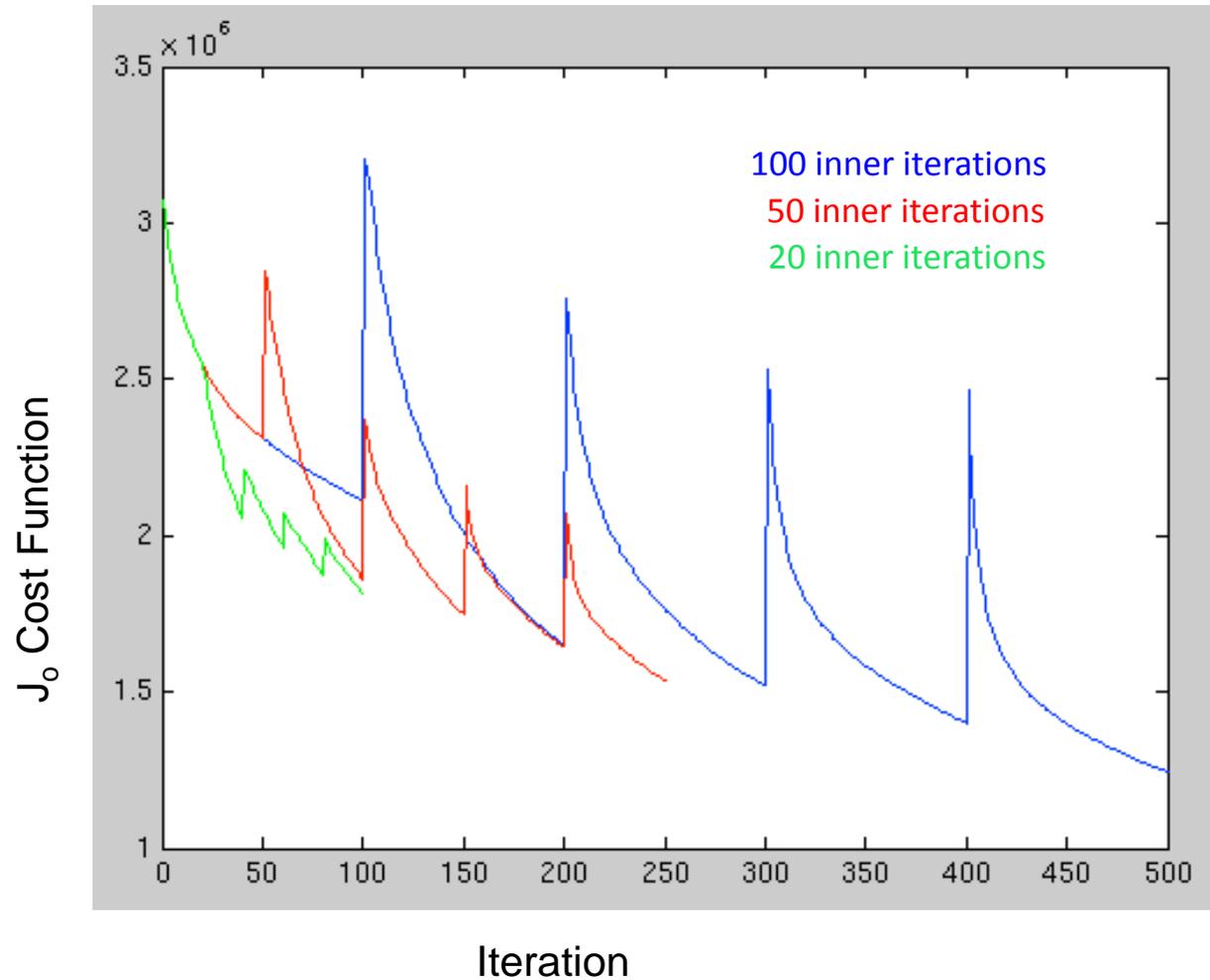
Tangent-linear Perturbation:  $\hat{H}(x_t - x_b)$

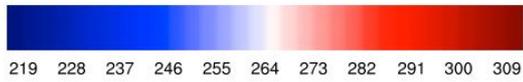
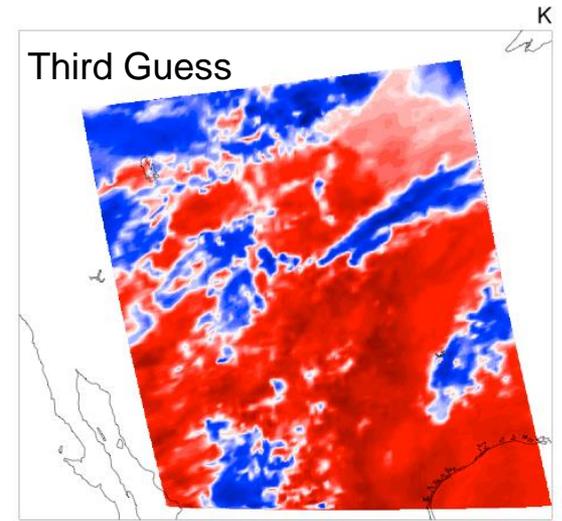
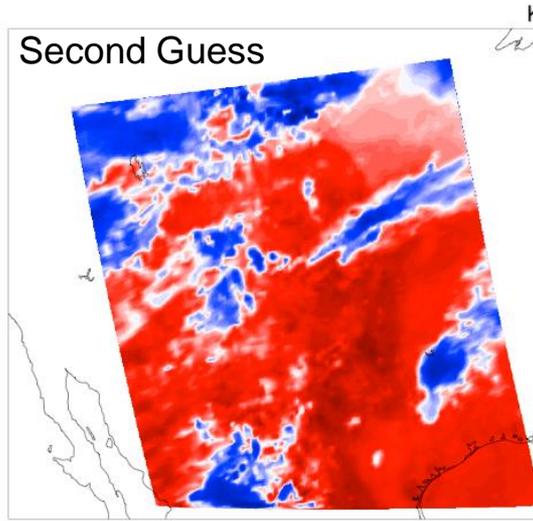
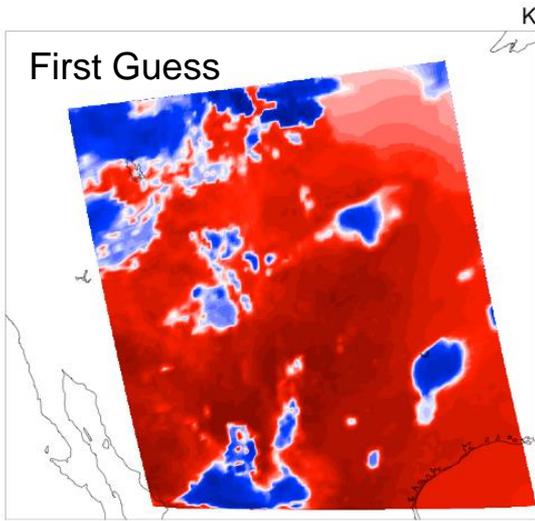
# Middle Loop



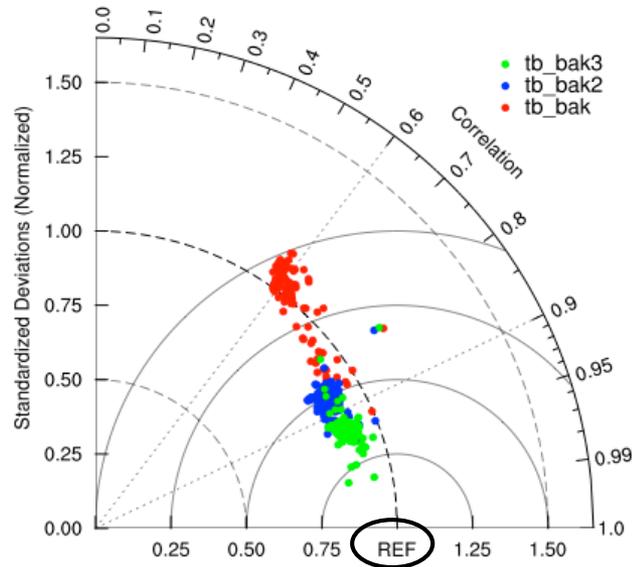
# Middle Loop: Fit to Observations

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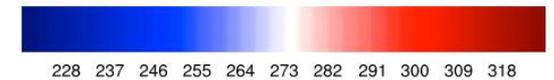
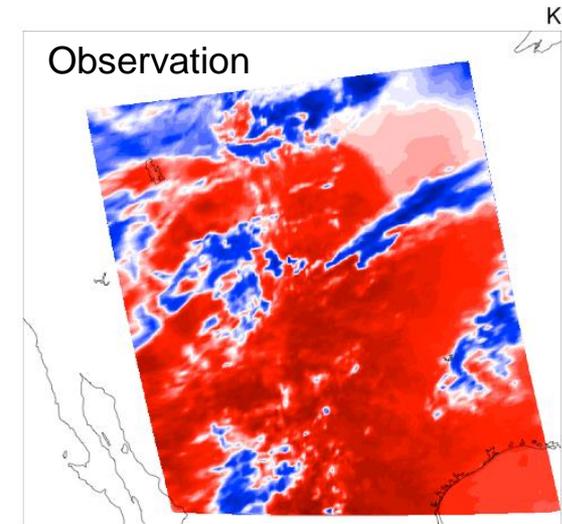




Update of  
 $q_{cloud}$ ,  $q_{ice}$  in WRF

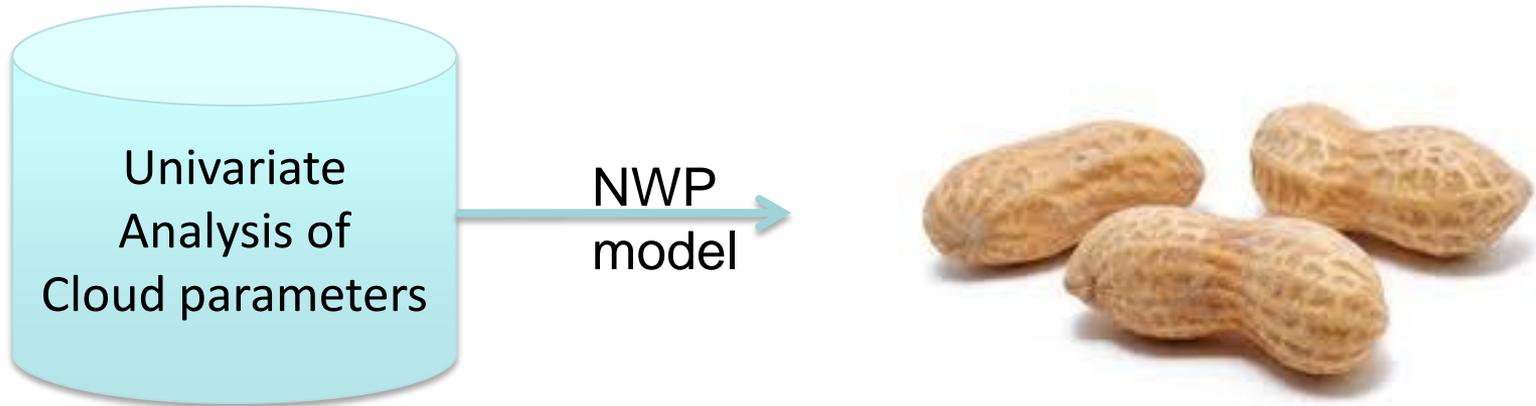


Observations



# Cloud Analysis: **Impact on Forecast**

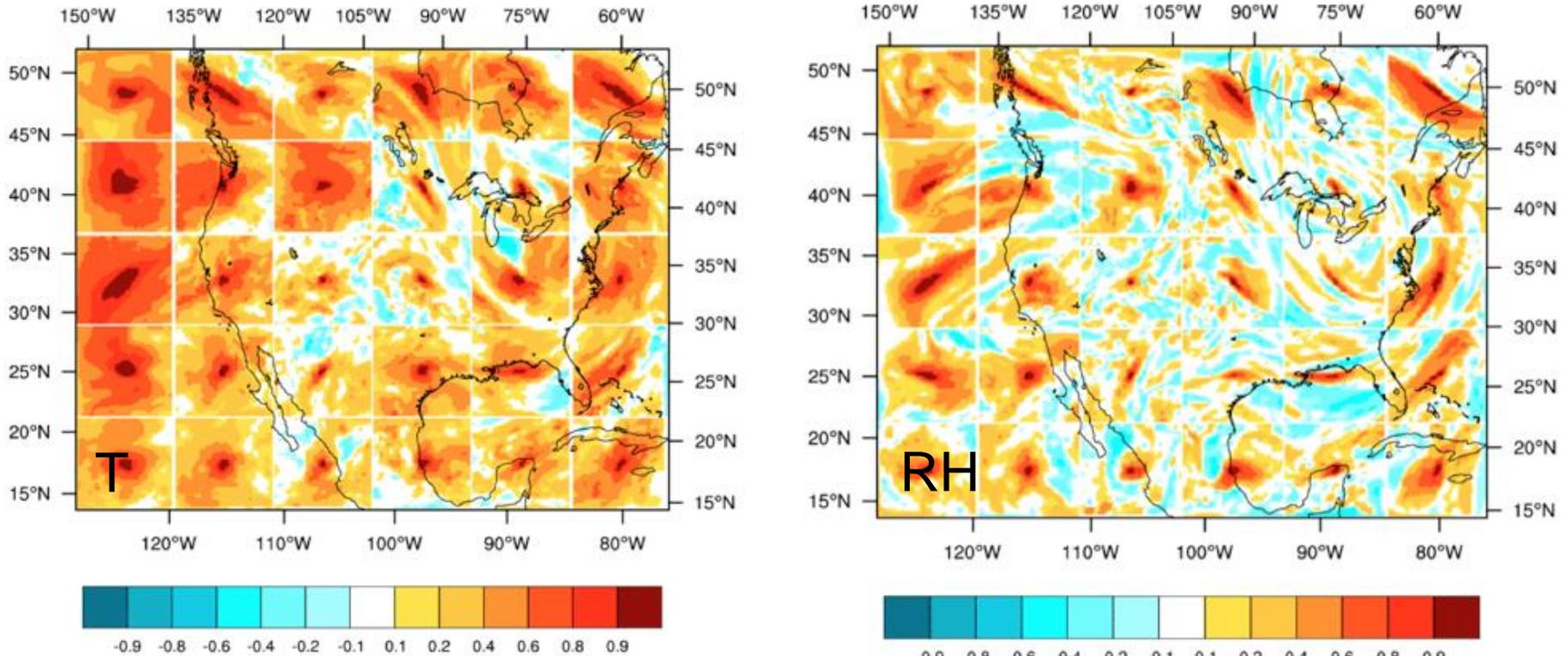
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Background Error Covariances are required to update observed and unobserved model variables in a ***balanced*** way

# BE Covariances: Raw Ensemble Auto-Correlations

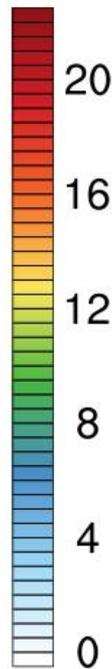
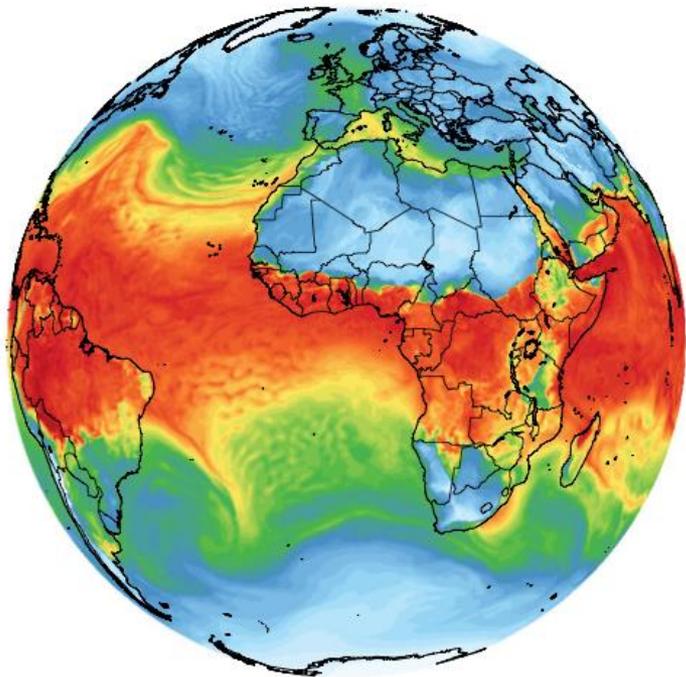
## Horizontal autocorrelations (mid-troposphere)



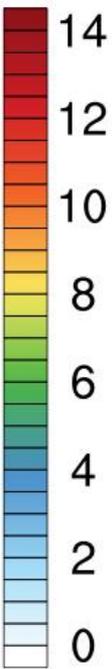
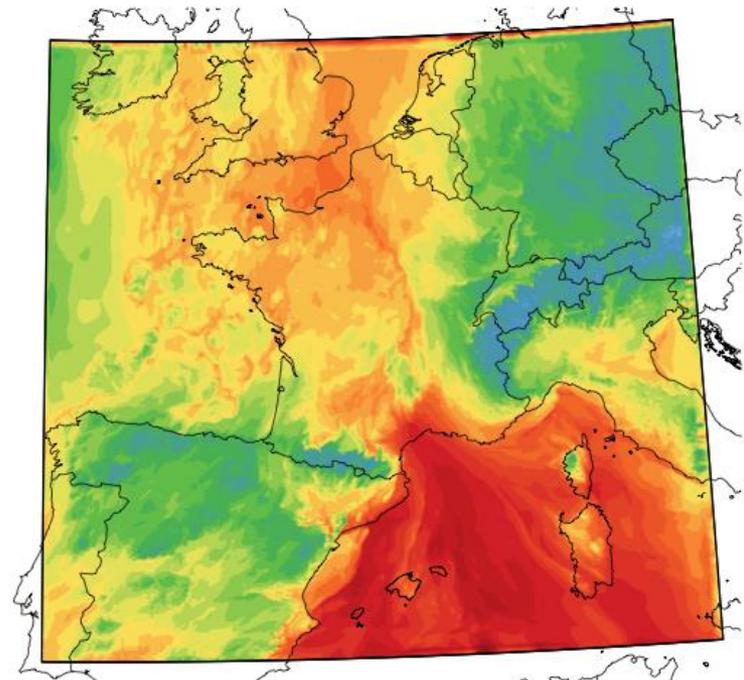
- Heterogeneous
- Anisotropic
- Flow dependent
- Wide range of spatio-temporal scales

# BE Covariances: Impact of Model Resolution

ARPEGE

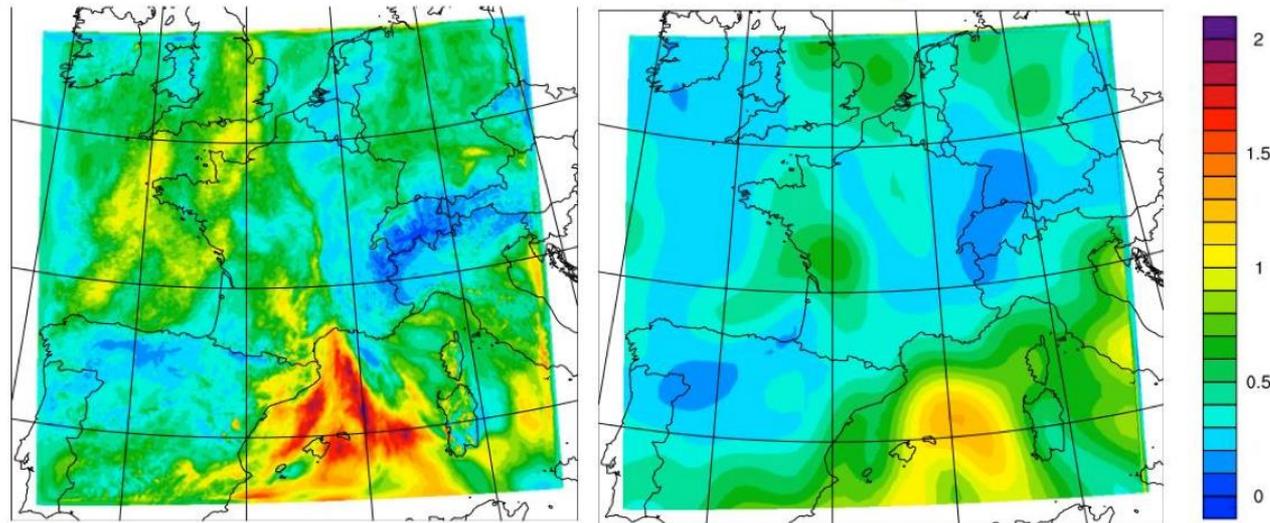


AROME



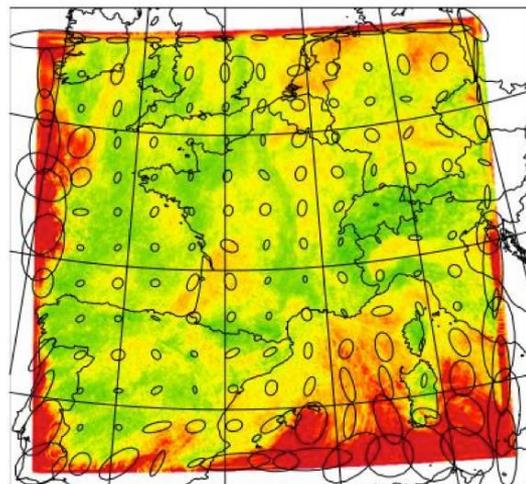
3 h forecasts of specific humidity ( $\text{g.kg}^{-1}$ ) in low layer

# BE Covariances: Impact of Model Resolution

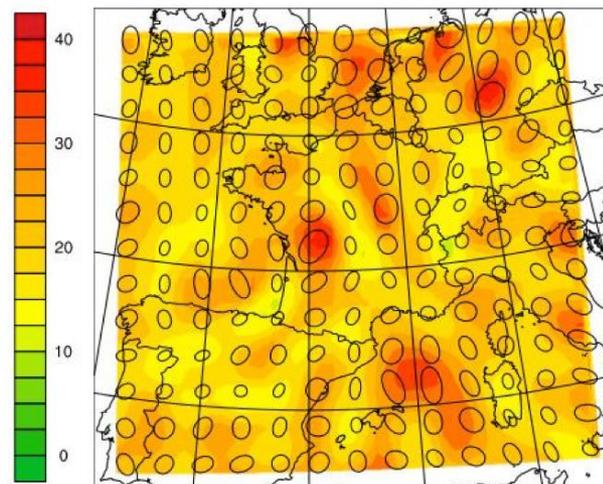


Variance

AEARO 90 -  $\circ$  : 25 km

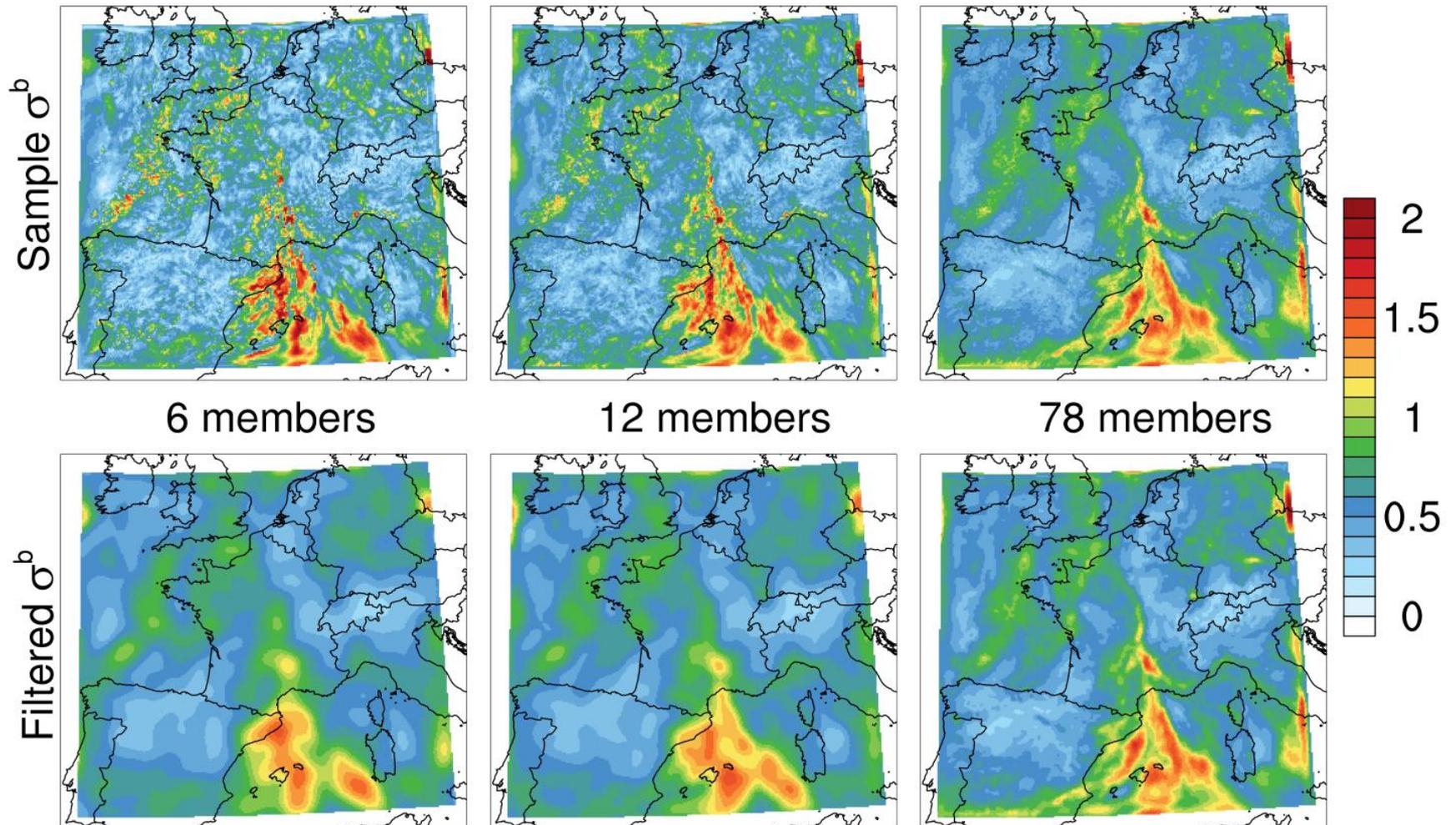


AEARP 90 -  $\circ$  : 150 km



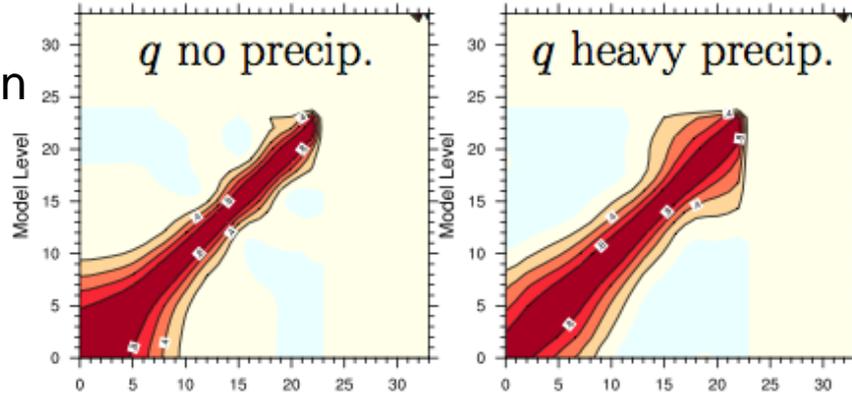
Length-scale  
and  
LCH tensor

# BE Covariances: Variance Filtering

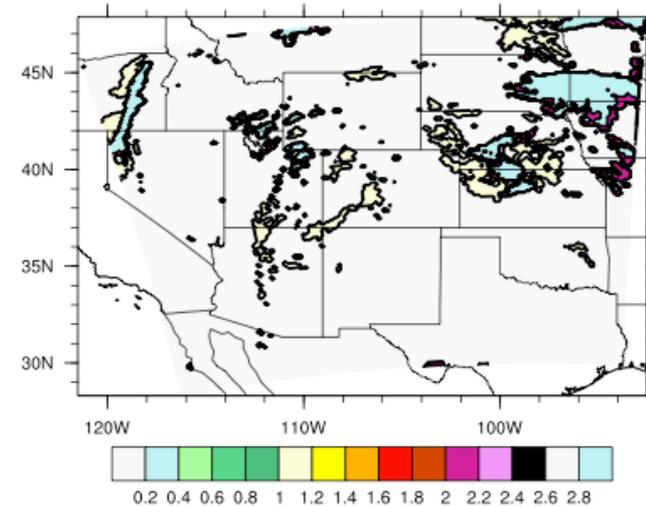
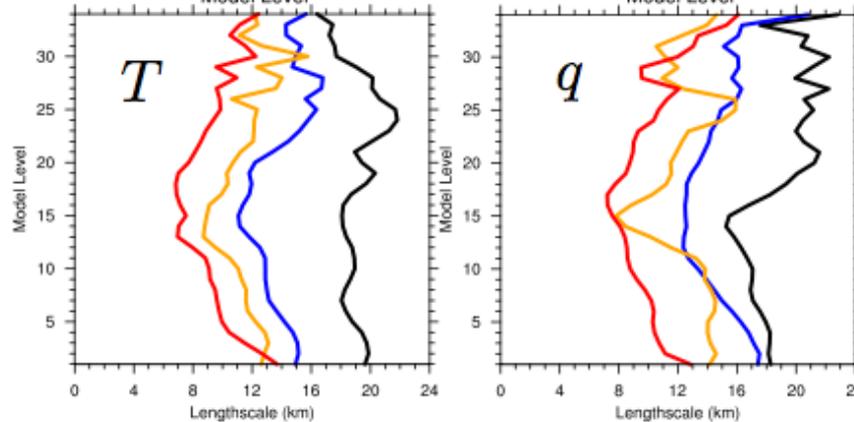


# Background Error Covariances: Masked Statistics

Vertical auto-correlation

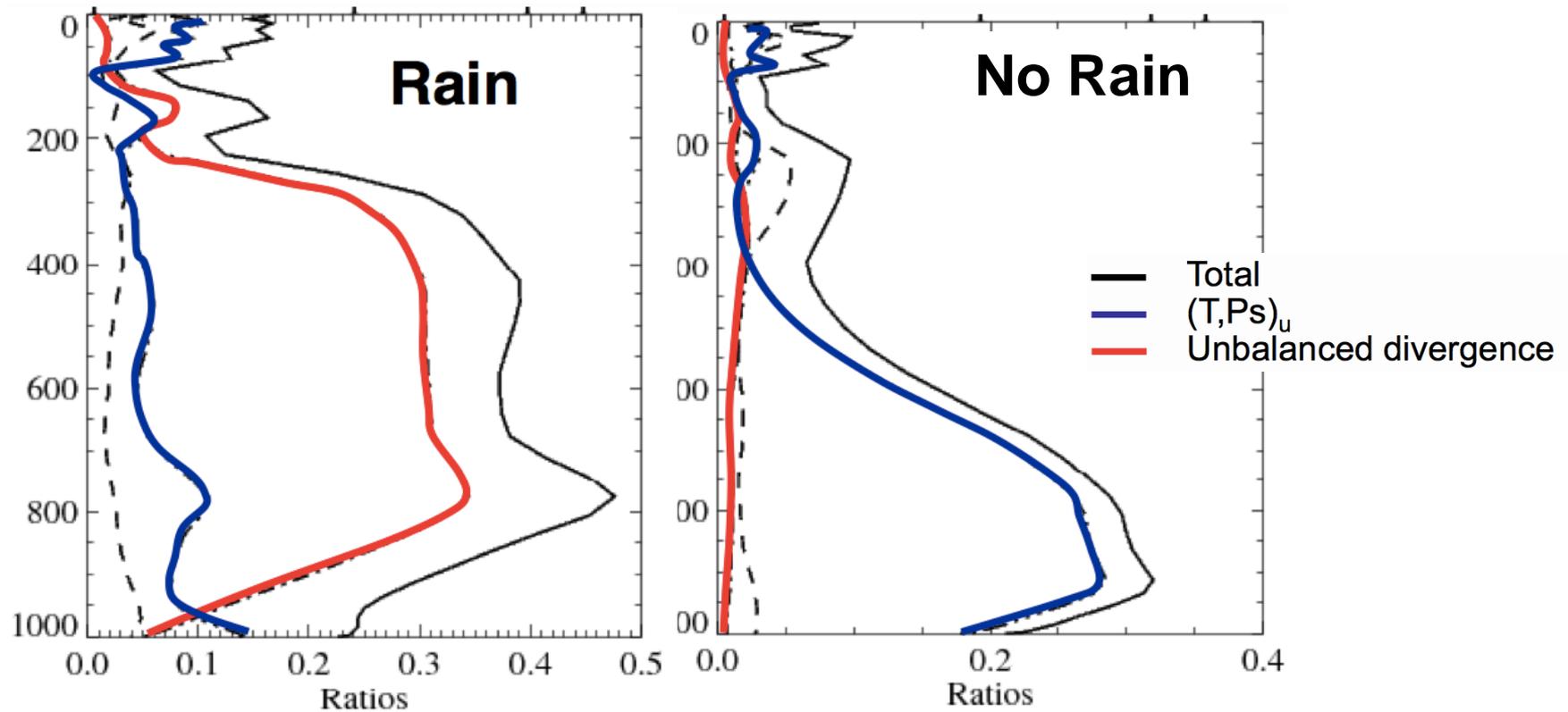


Horizontal lengthscale



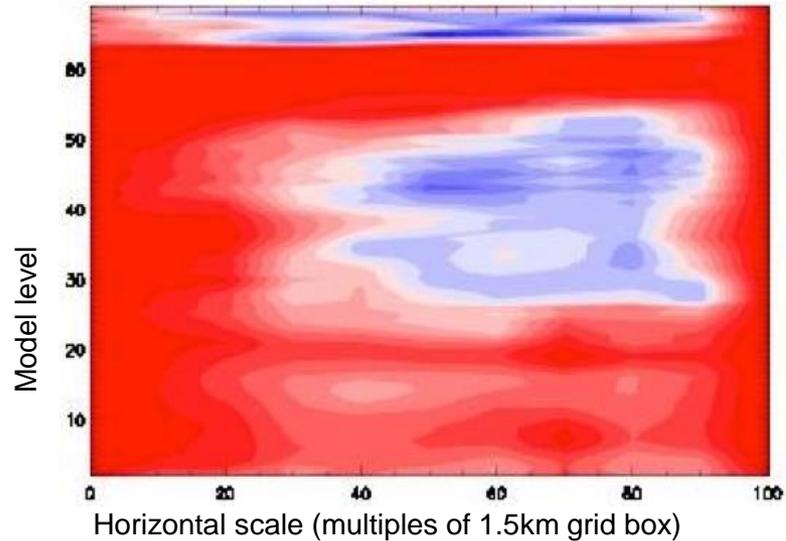
# Background Error Covariances: Masked Statistics

Fraction of explained variance for  $q$



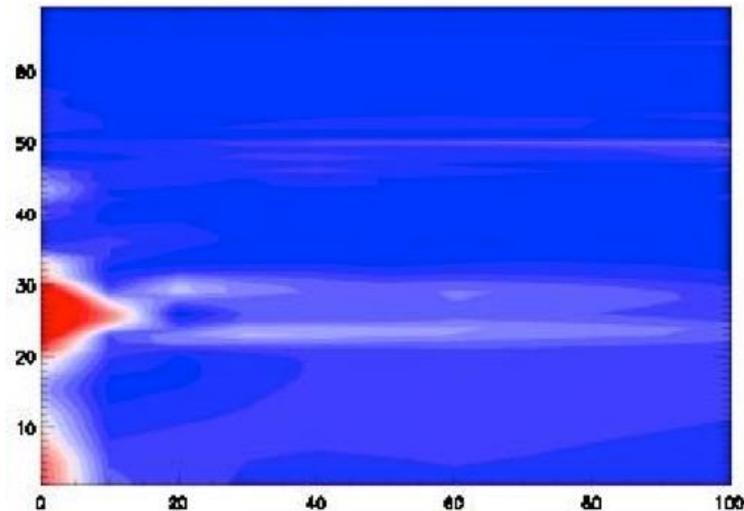
# BE Covariances: Balance

Geostrophic balance



Balanced  
Unbalanced

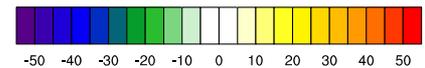
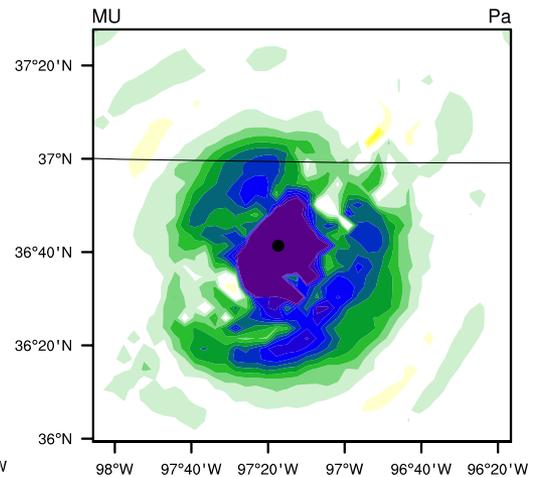
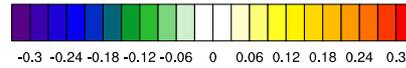
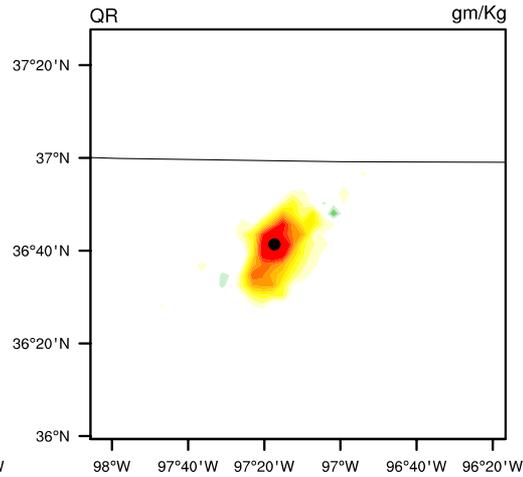
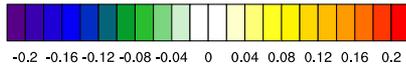
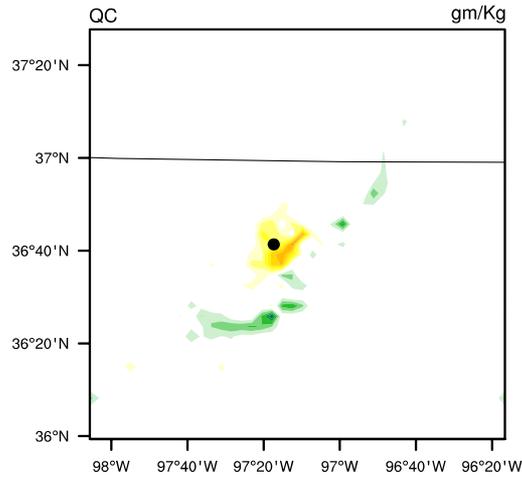
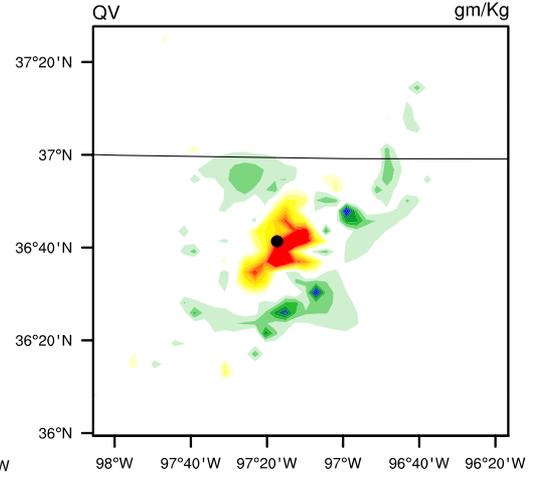
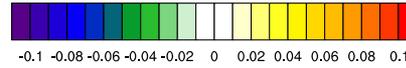
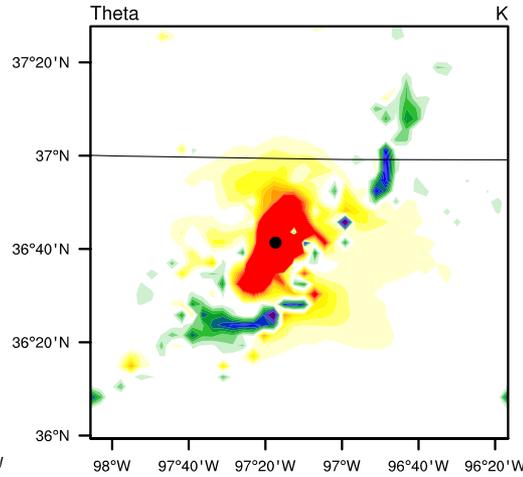
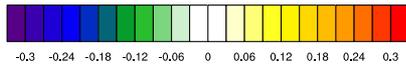
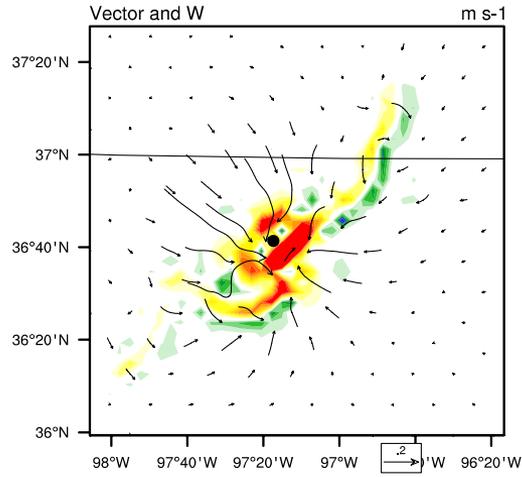
Hydrostatic balance



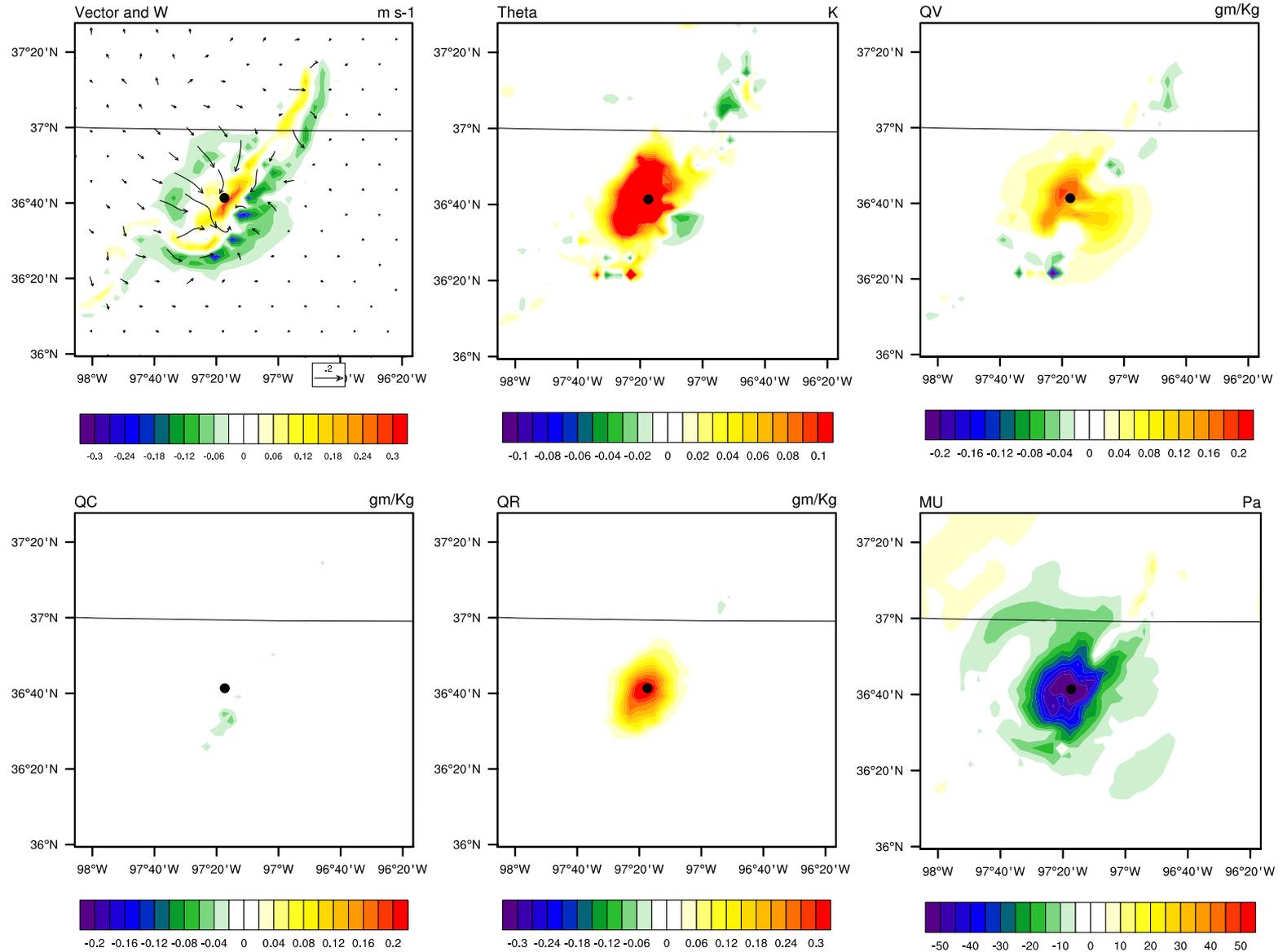
- **Complex, non-linear, flow-dependent relationship b/w model variables**
- **Traditional balance not applicable at high-resolution**

Source: Ross Bannister (NCEO, Reading)  
Also Betra-Carvalho et al. (QJRMS, 2012)

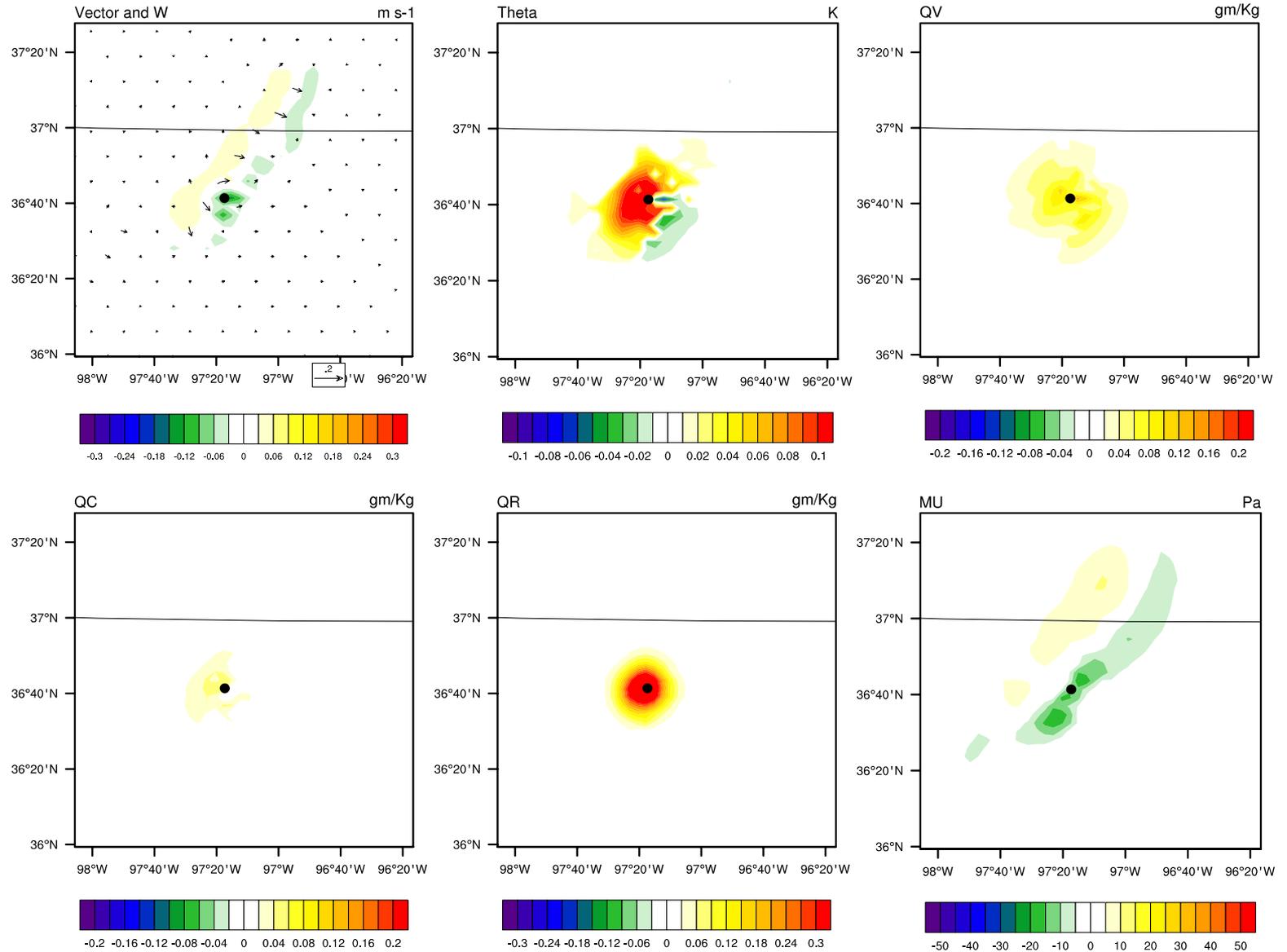
# Mini-4DVar (10min)



# Mini-4DVar (5min)



# Mini-4DVar (1min)



# Hybrid Ensemble/Variational Data Assimilation

---

$$J = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{y}^o - H(\mathbf{x}^b) + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{v})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}^o - H(\mathbf{x}^b) + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{v})$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T$$

$$\delta \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{v}$$

Ensemble Covariance included in 3D/ 4DVar via *state augmentation*

(Lorenc 2003, Buehner 2005, Wang et al. 2008, Fairbairn et al., 2012)

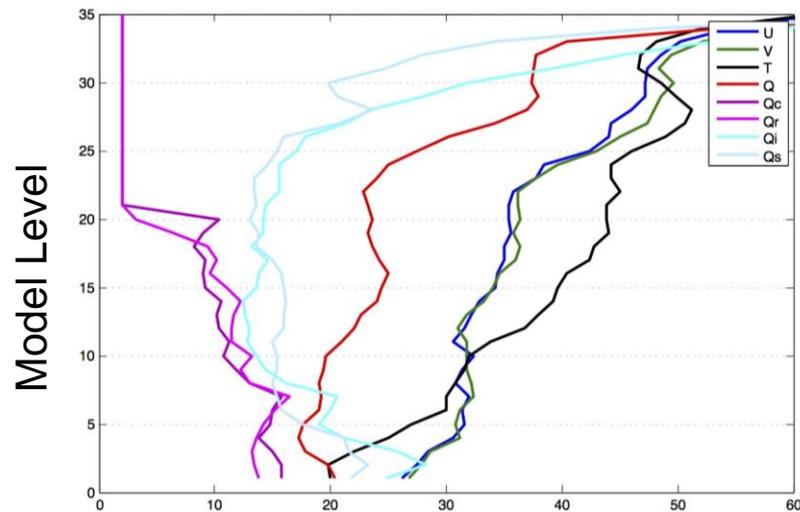
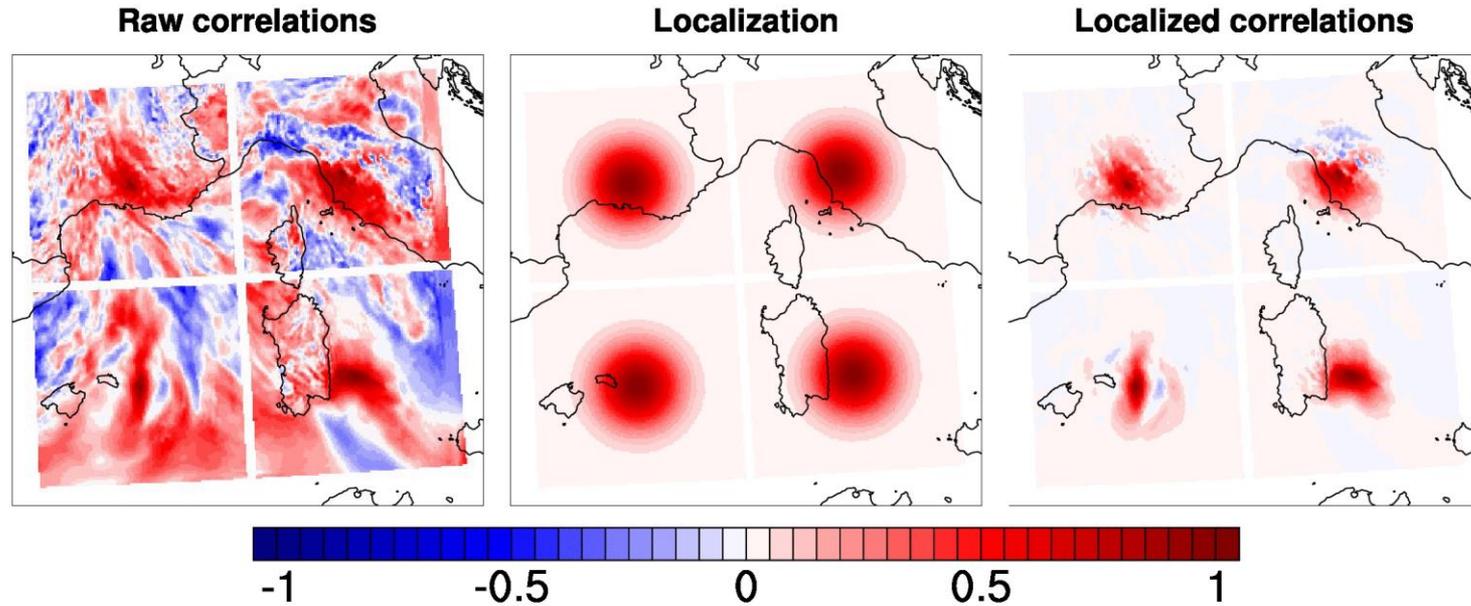
$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}^c \\ \mathbf{v}_1^e \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_m^e \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\delta \mathbf{x} = \beta_c \mathbf{U}^c \mathbf{v}^c + \beta_e \sum_{m=1}^M \delta \mathbf{x}_m^f \circ (\mathbf{U}^e \mathbf{v}_m^e)$$

Stationary multivariate  
covariance model  
including clouds

Localized [+ filtered]  
ensemble covariance

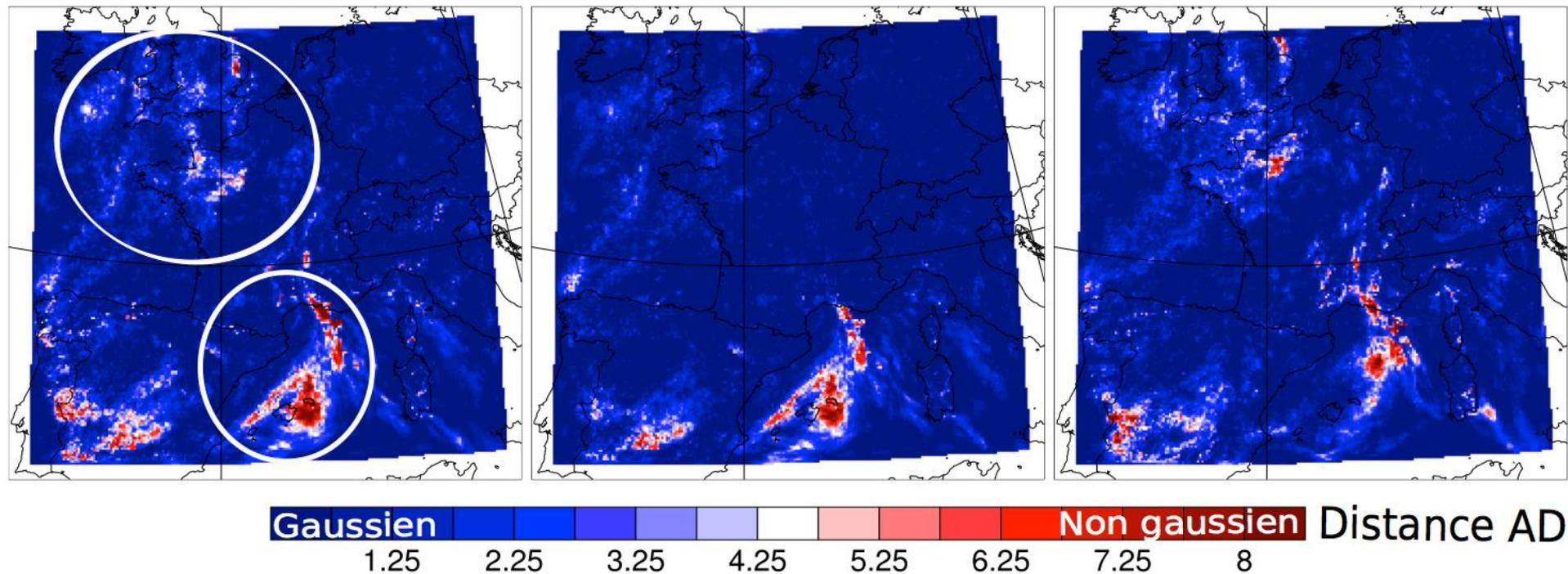
# Background Error Covariances: Masked Statistics



Source: Benjamin Ménétrier

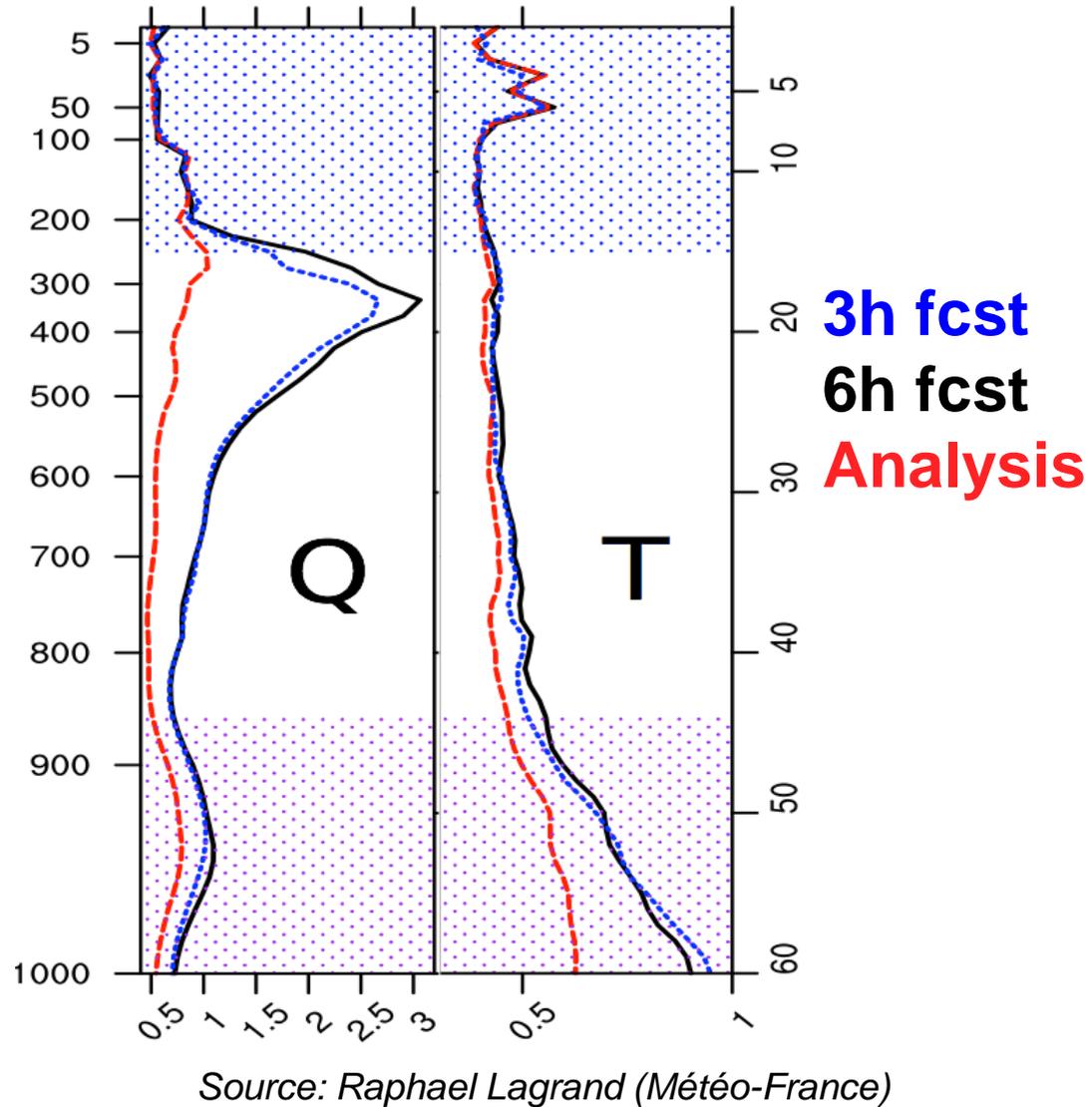
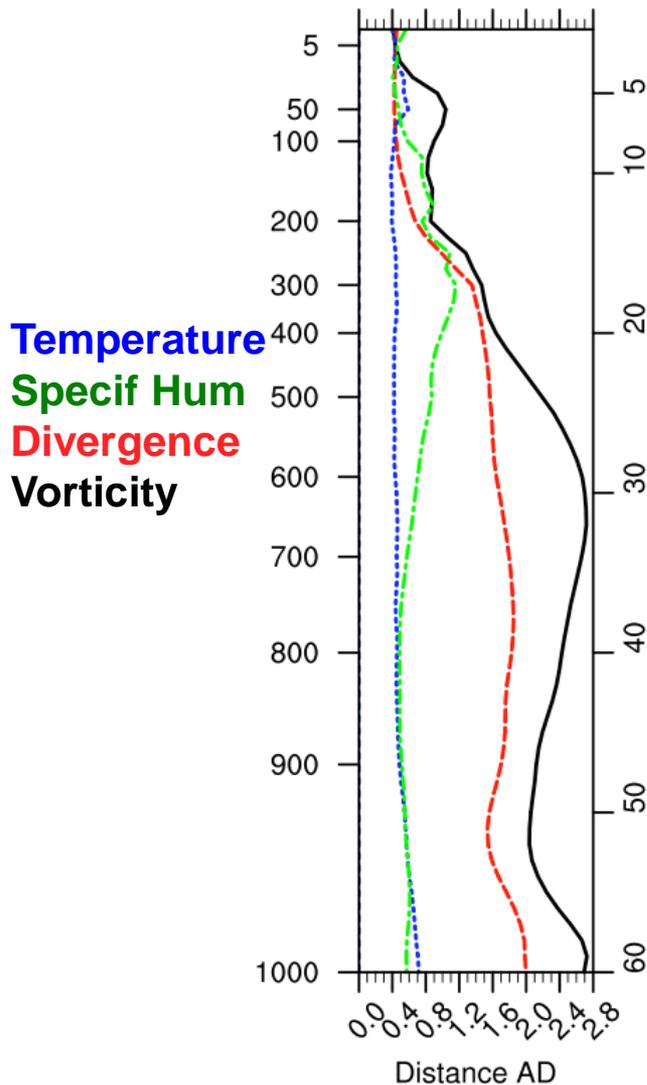
# Background Errors: **Non-Gaussianity**

Anderson-Darling distance to a Gaussian PDF



Source: Raphael Lagrand (Météo-France)

# Background Errors: Non-Gaussianity



# Displacement Analysis: Grid Warping

---

Current  
State

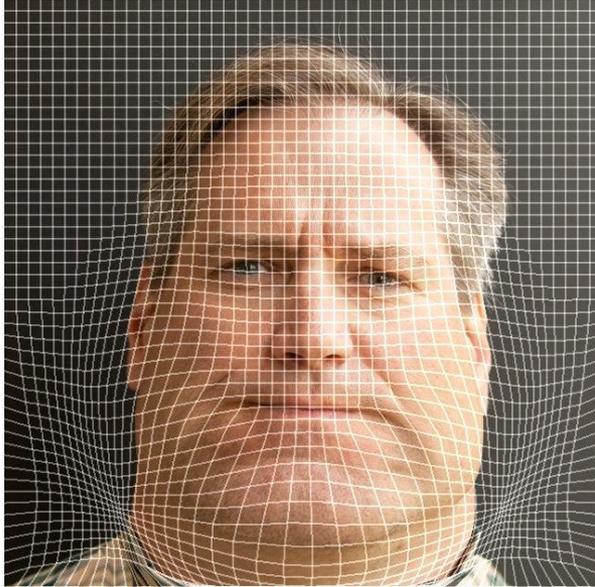


Model



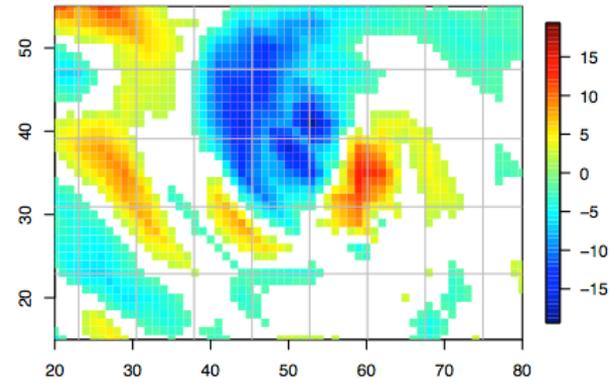
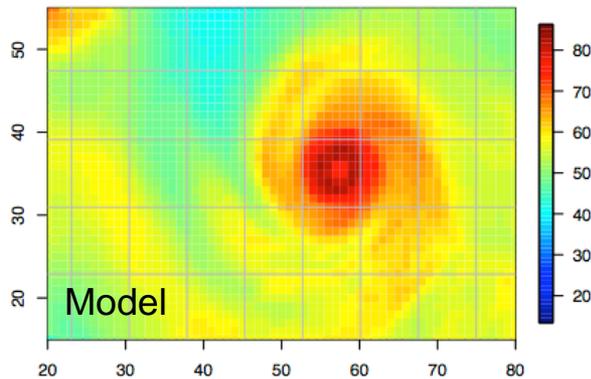
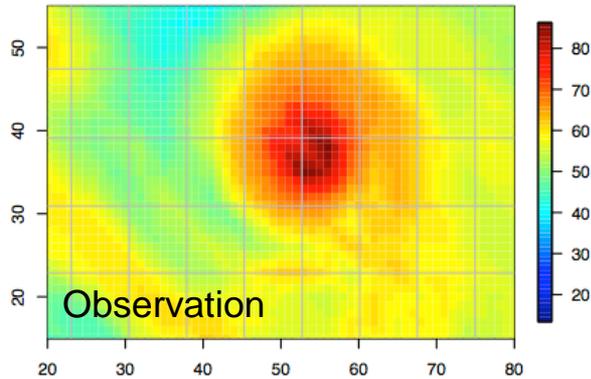
Forecast

Grid  
Warping

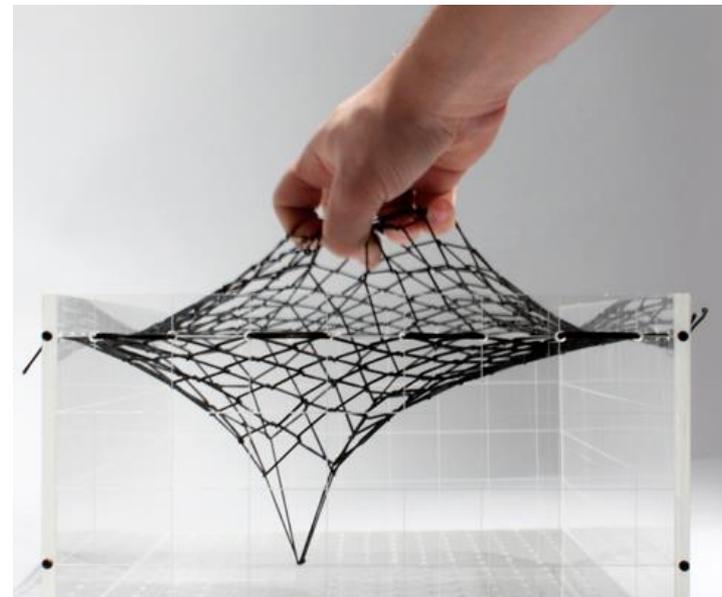


Observation

# Displacement analysis in WRF (dWRF)

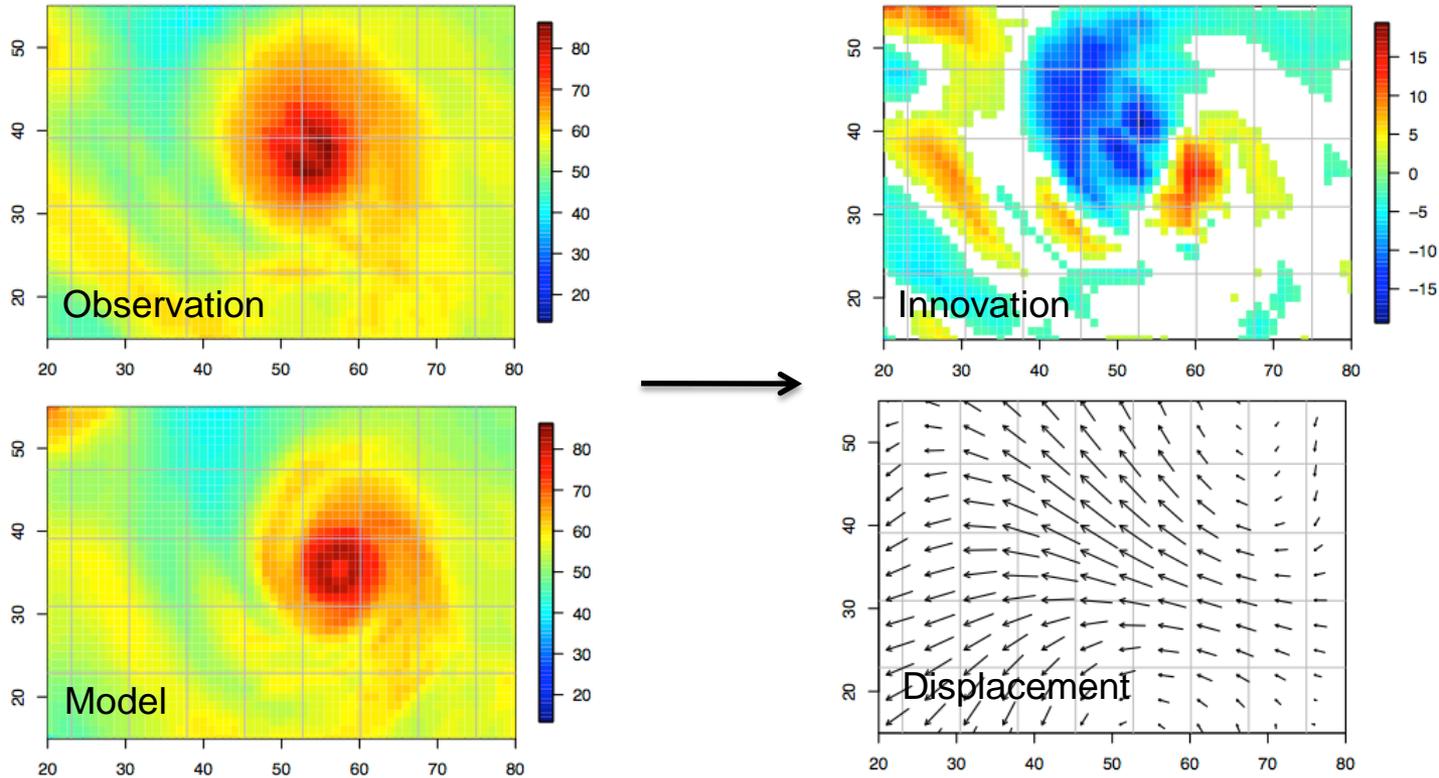


Innovation



- Hurricane Katrina OSSE
- Synthetic observations (TPW)

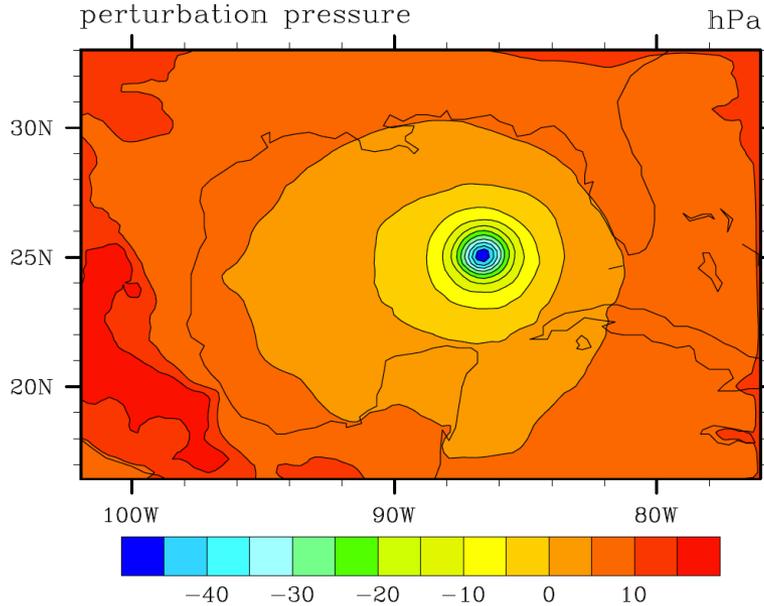
# Displacement analysis in WRF (dWRF)



## Assimilation system can operate in two modes:

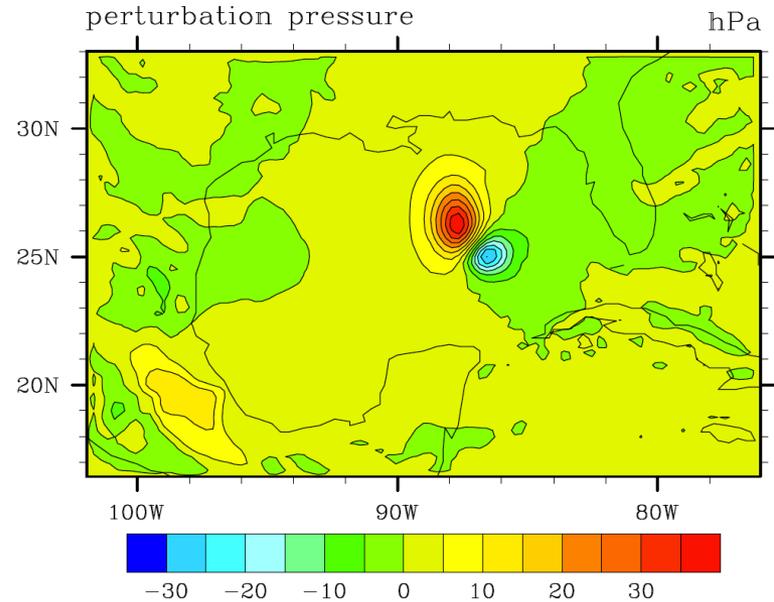
- Standard (*i.e.* additive increments)
- Displacement

### P control

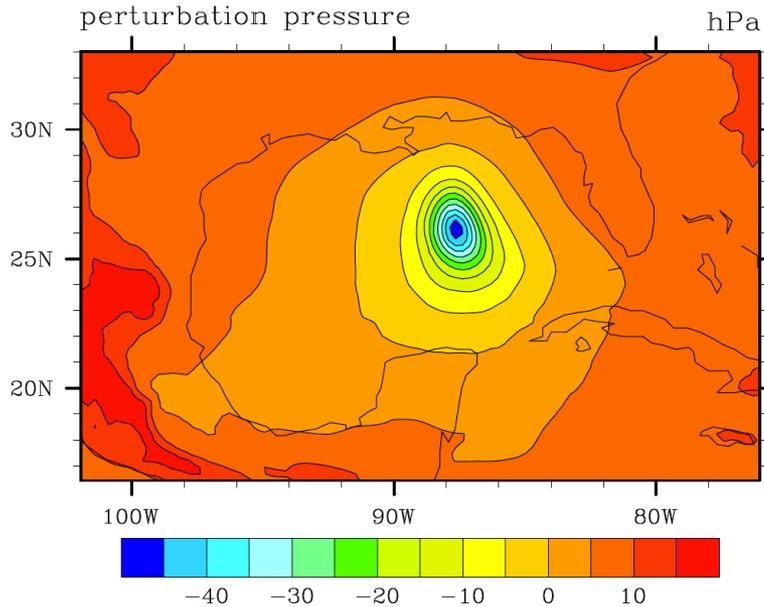


Initial time:  
08-28-05 06:00:00z

### P control - displaced



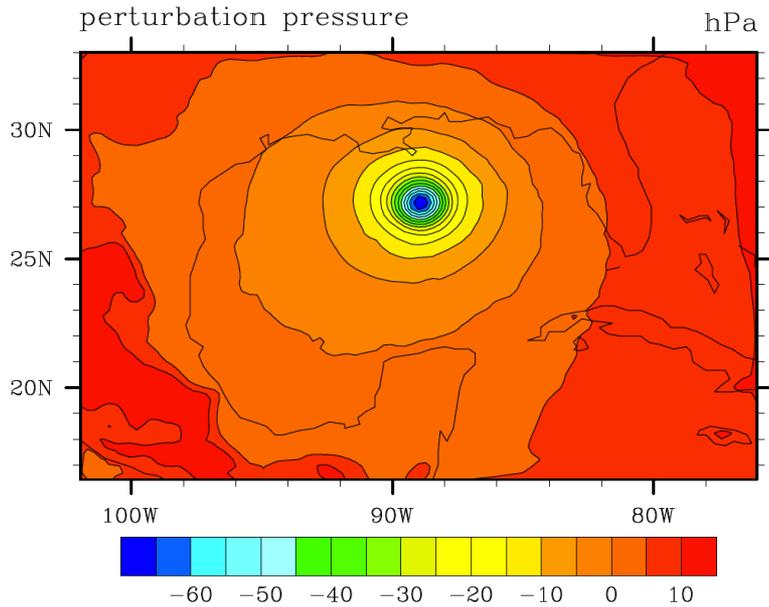
### P displaced



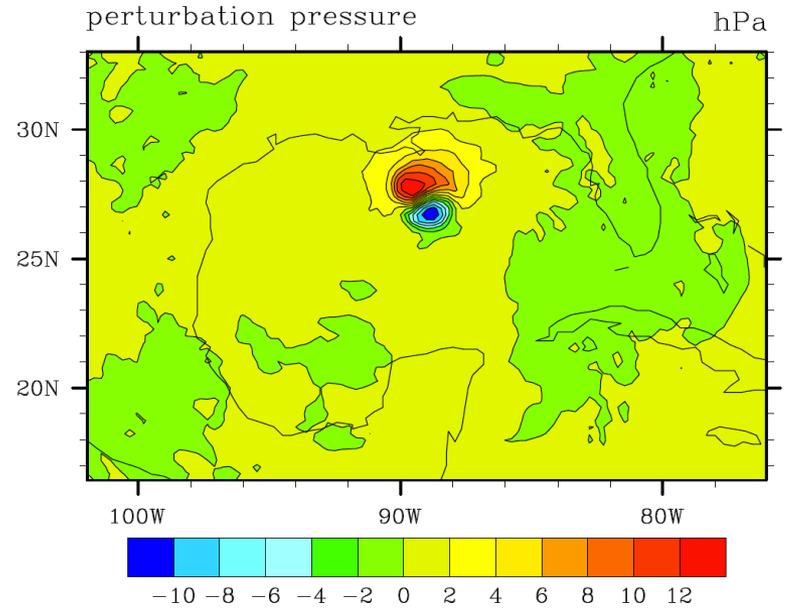
Vortex displaced  
forward along track

18 Hour forecast time:  
08-29-05 00:00:00z

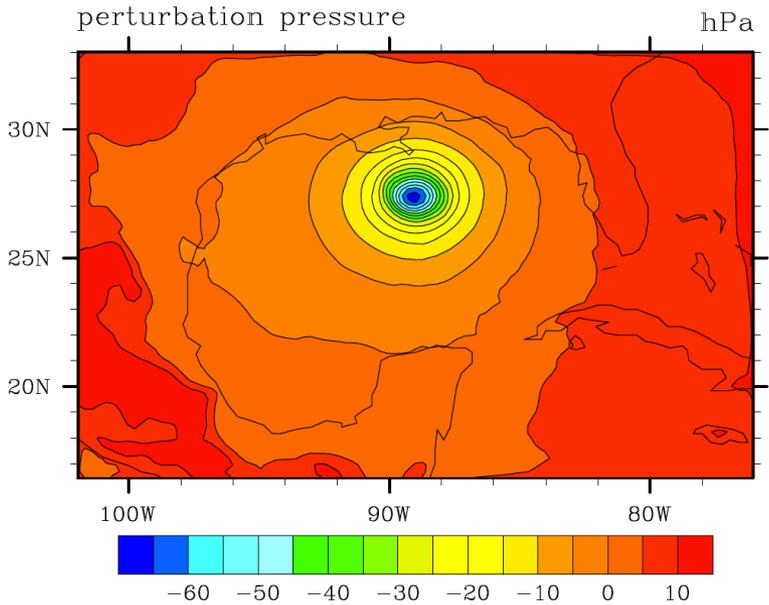
### P control



### P control - displaced

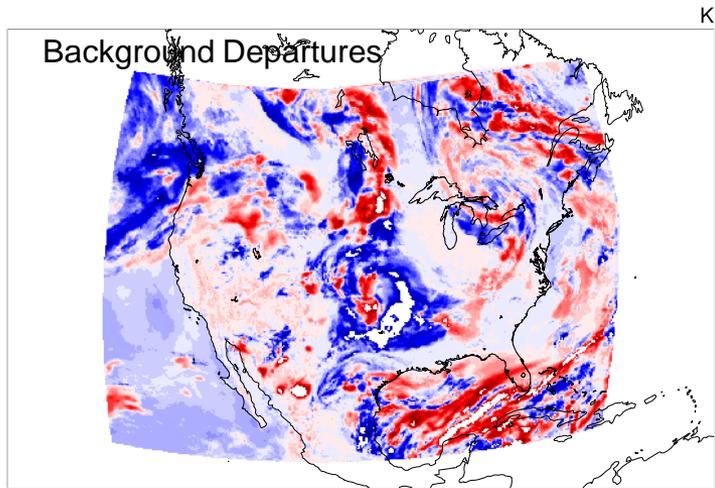


### P displaced

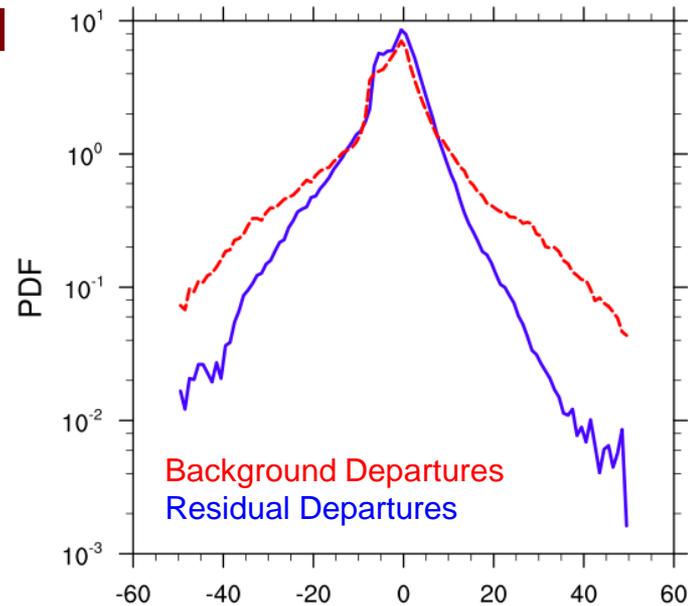
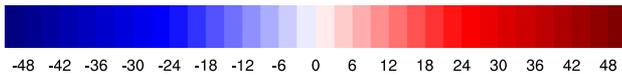
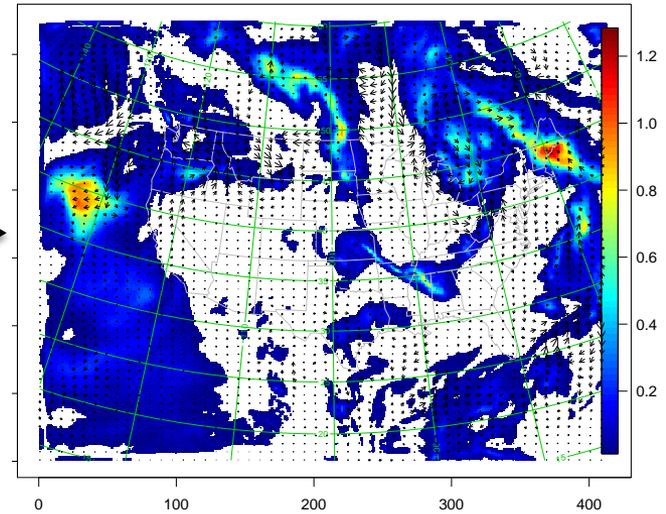


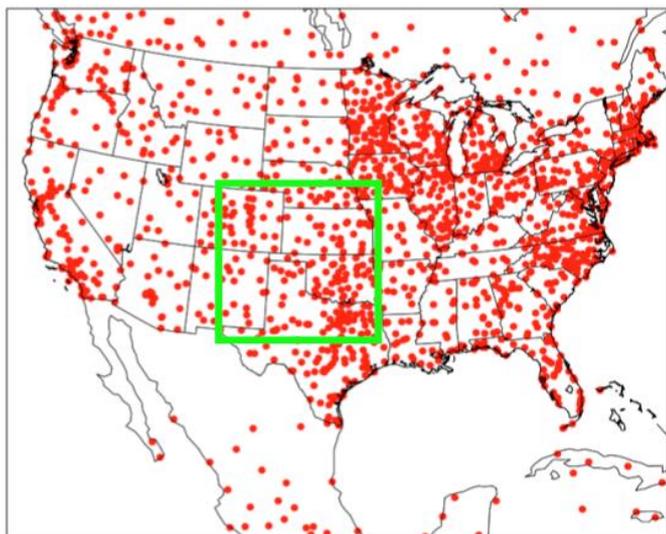
18 hours later vortex  
maintains forward position

# dWRF DA: GOES All-Sky Radiances

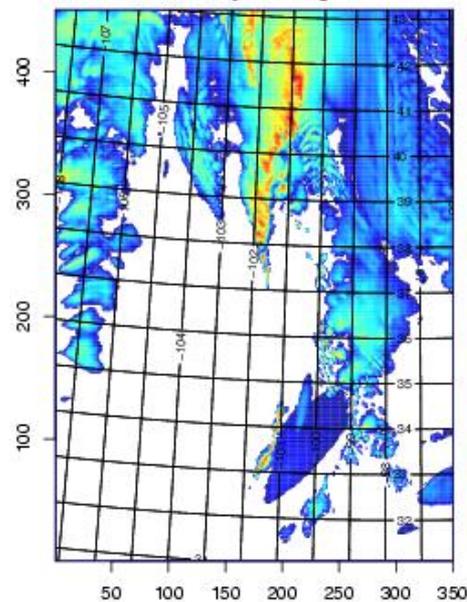


dWRF

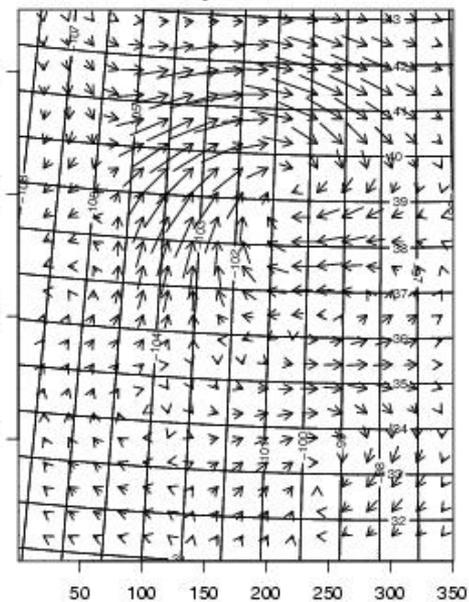




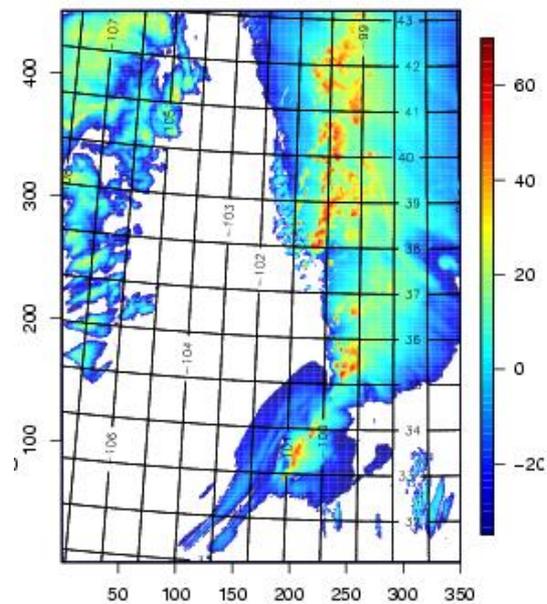
unadjusted bg



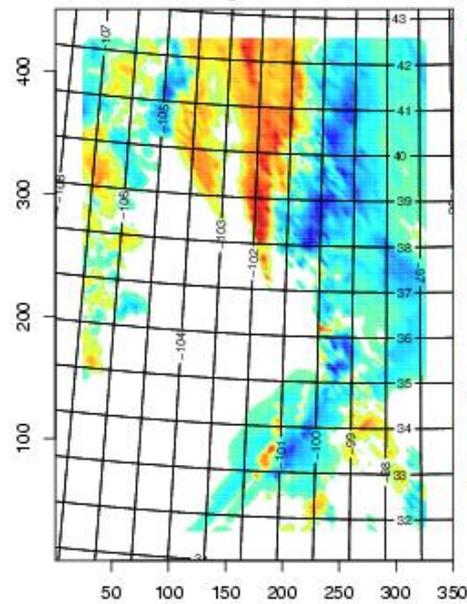
adjustment



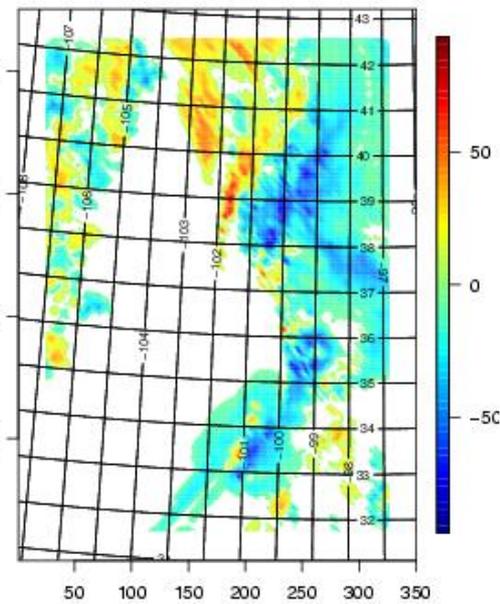
member8.h06 dist=19929381



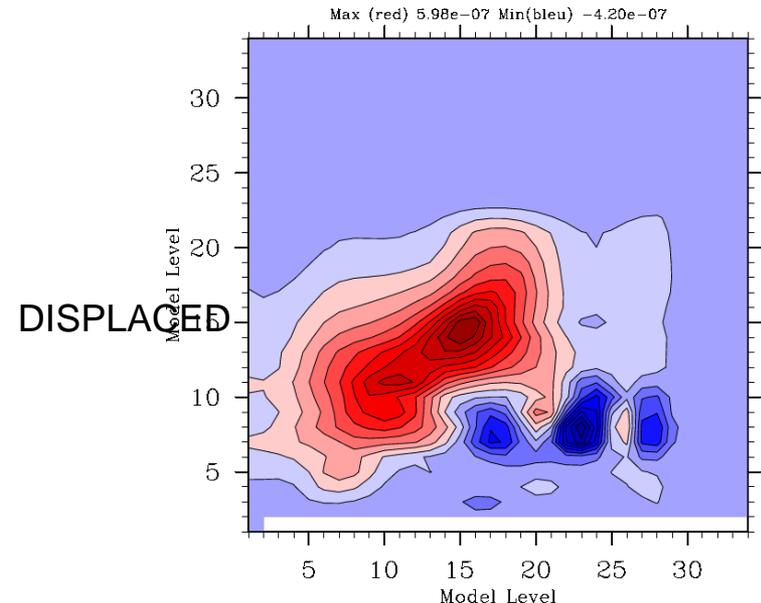
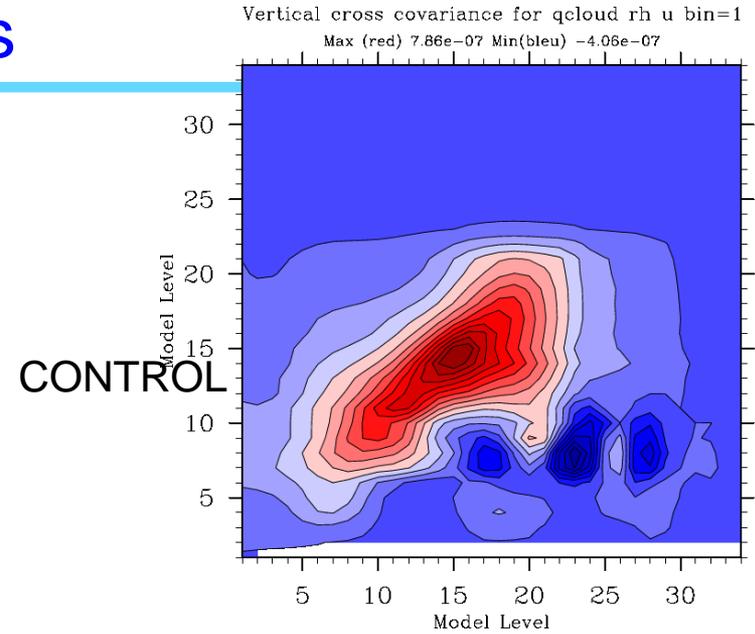
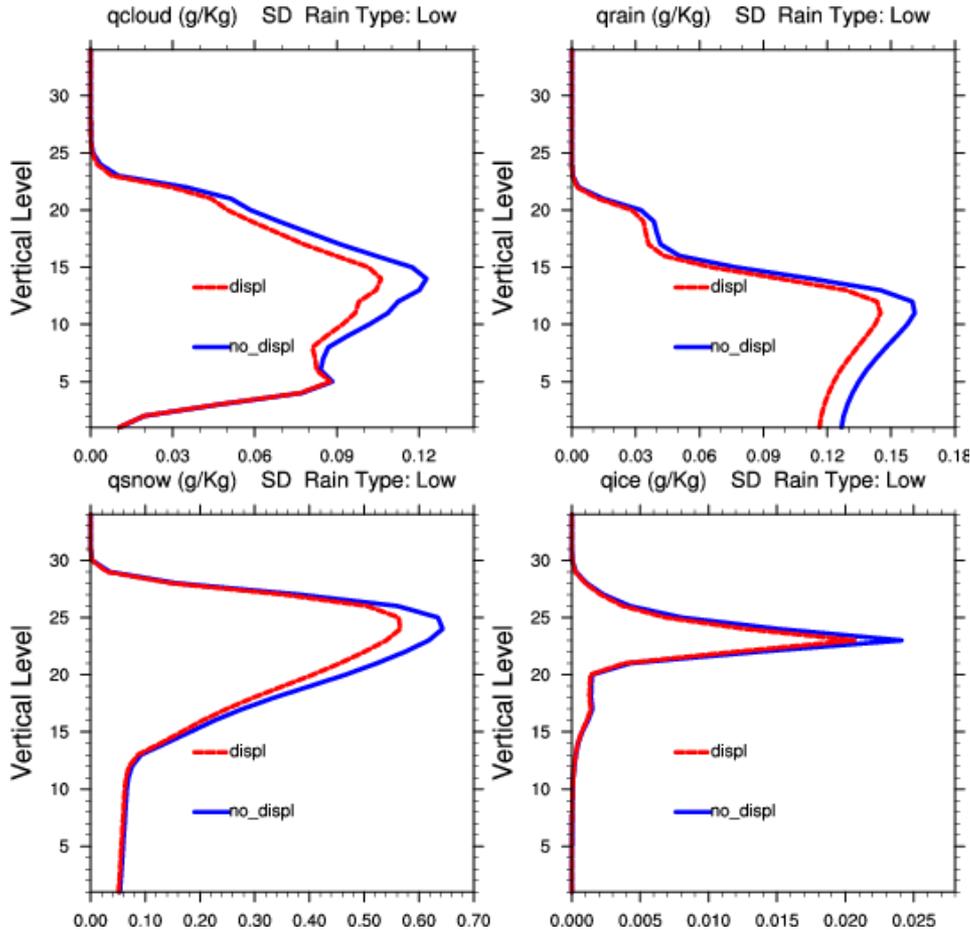
bg error



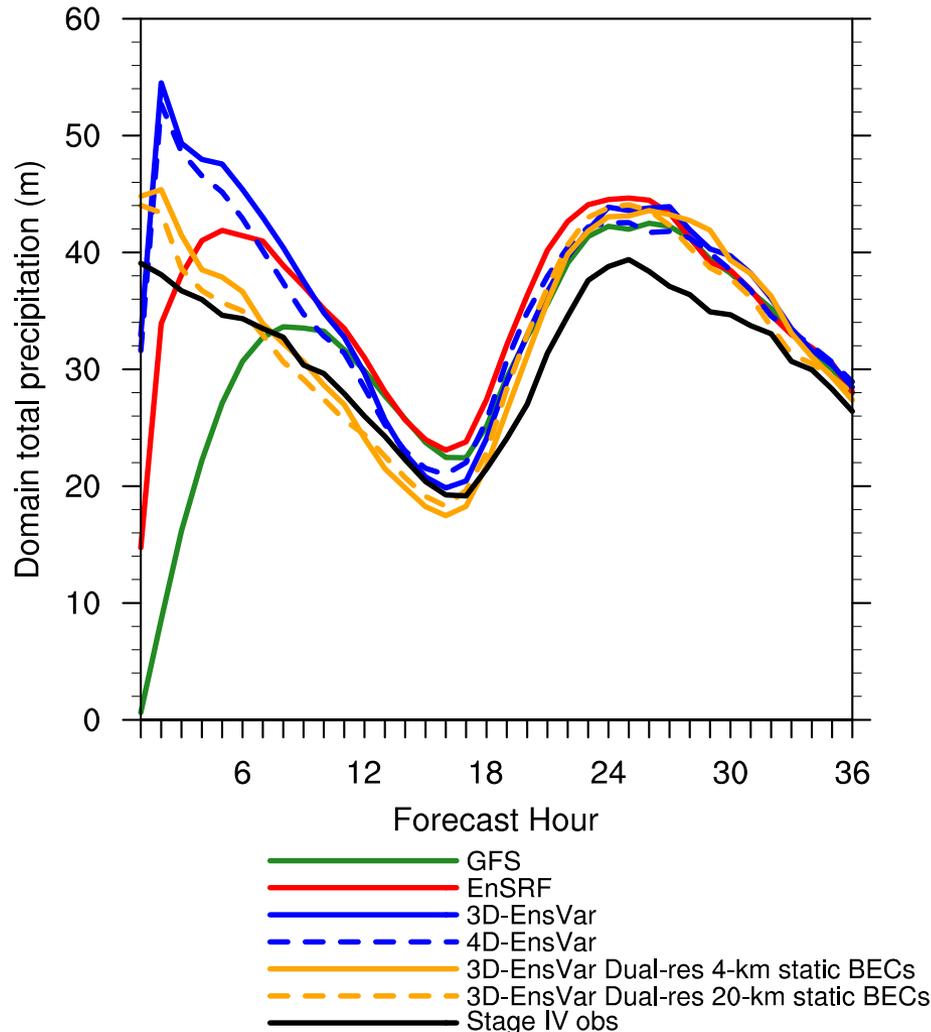
residual error



## Displacement: BE Covariances



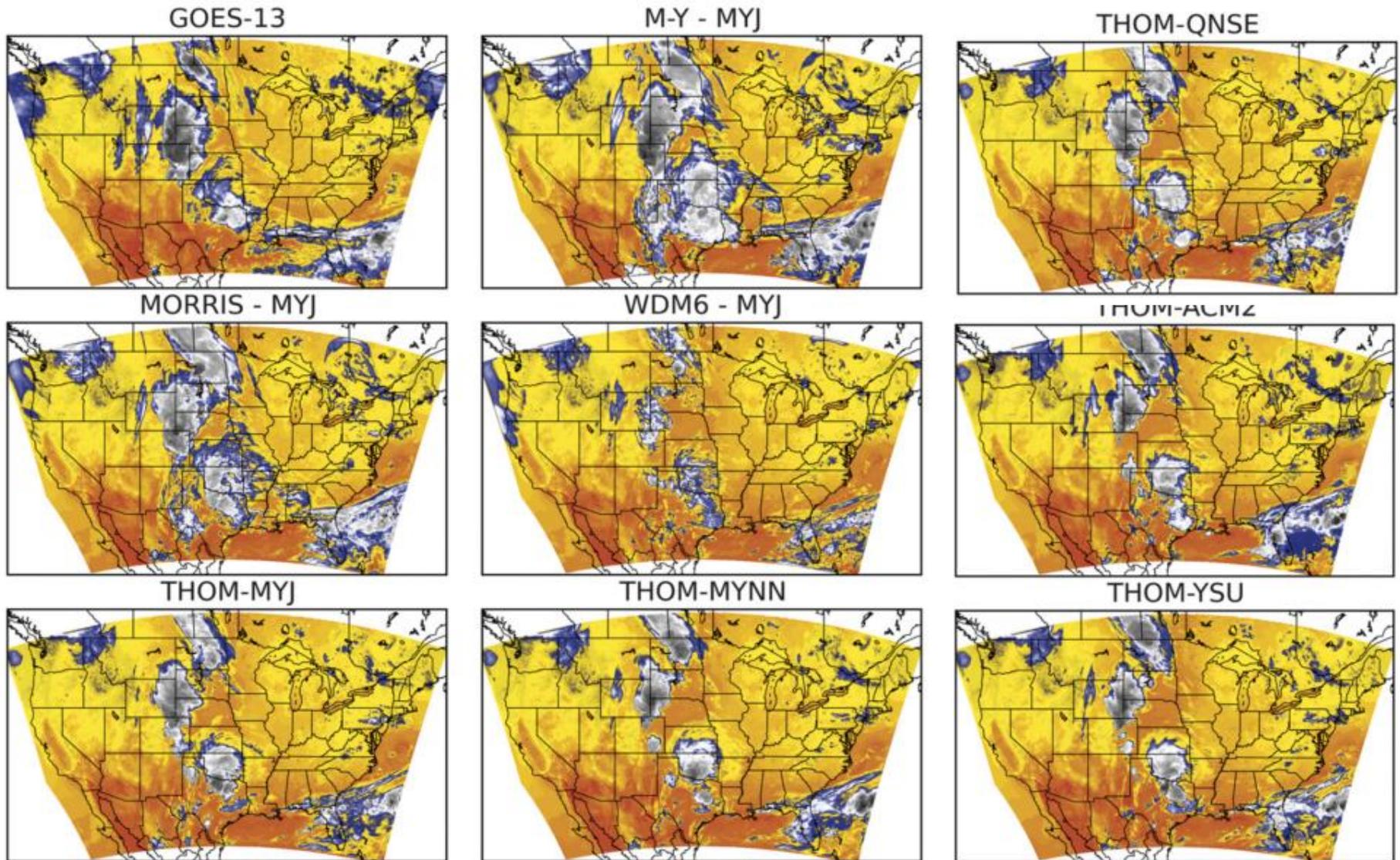
# Convective Scale: Model Spin-up



- Initialization:** Unbalanced analysis
- DFI, Incremental DFI, Diabatic DFI
  - IAU, 4DIAU
  - 4DVar, 4DEnVar
  - Resolution gap b/w DA and model

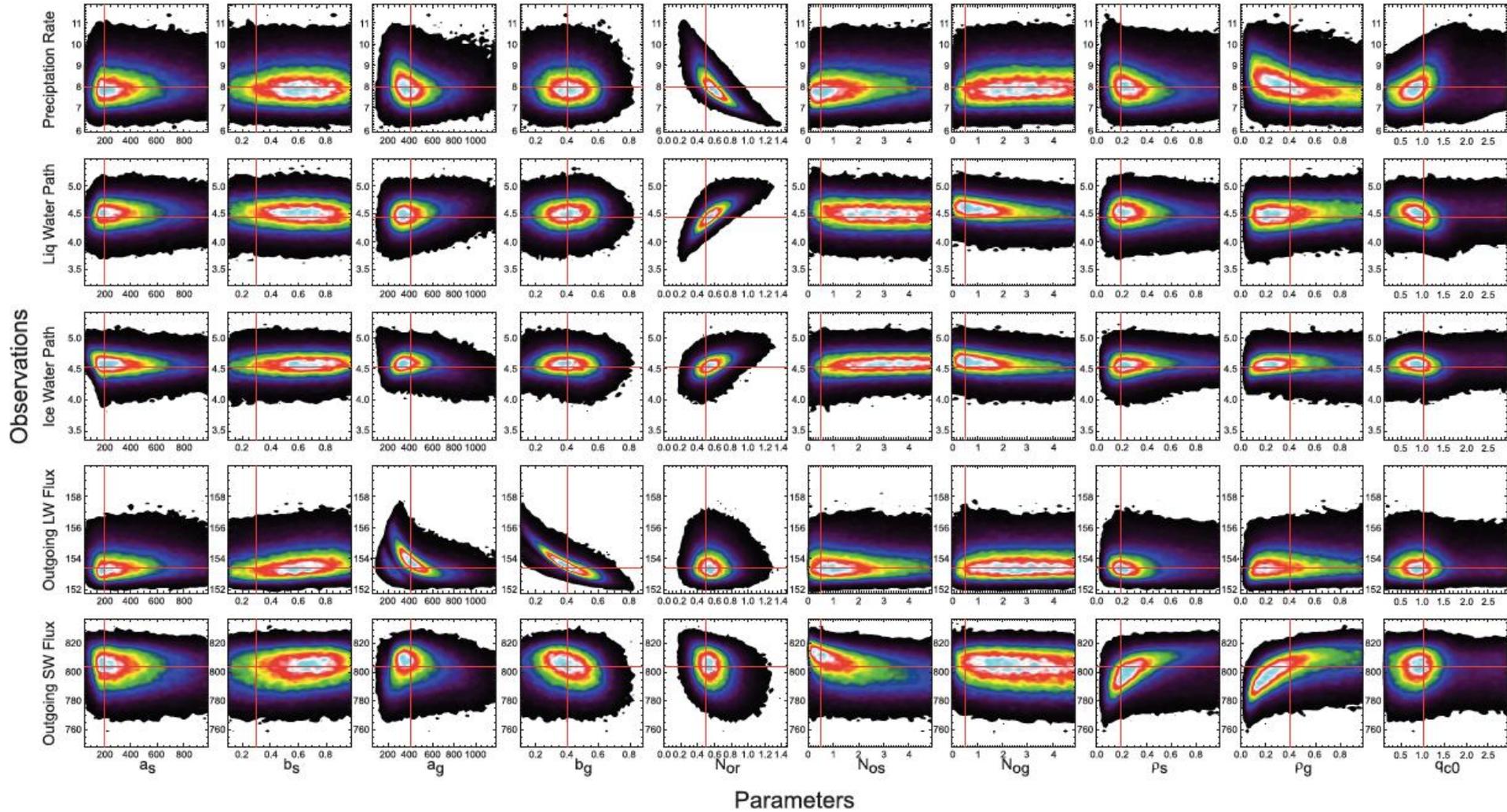
# Convective Scale: Model Error

GOES-13 10.7 $\mu\text{m}$



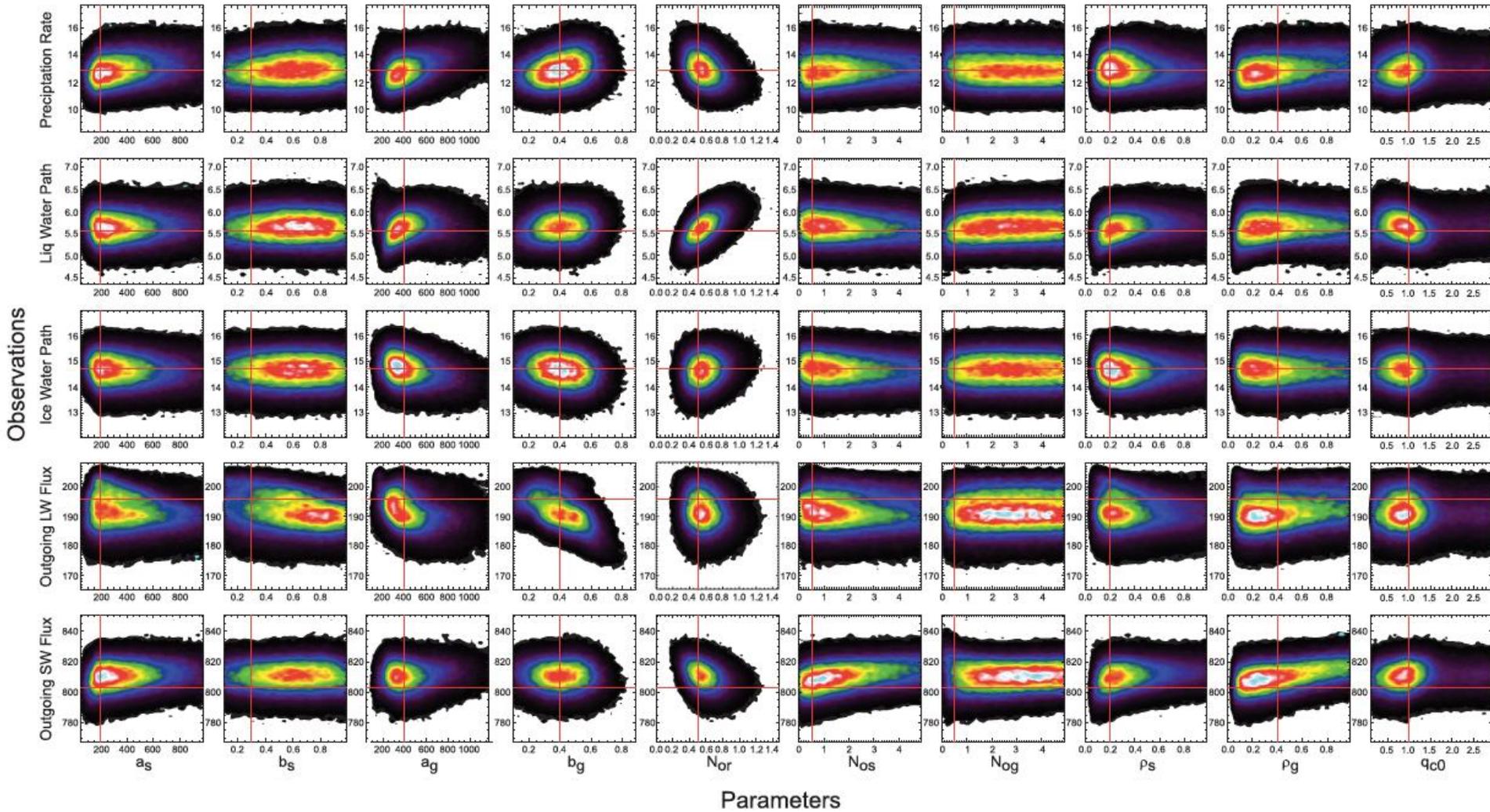
# Convective Scale: Model Error

Joint PDFs: Observations, Parameters T=60 Minutes



# Convective Scale: Model Error

Joint PDFs: Observations, Parameters T=120 Minutes



# Conclusions

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## Advances

- Include cloud parameters in analysis state
- Multiple re-linearizations of observation operator
- Improved flow-dependent multivariate BE covariances
- Increasingly relying on information from (filtered) ensembles
- Displacement analysis for coherent features

## Question

- At convective scale, will current DA methods be defeated by non-linearities (before we reach retirement age)???

# Perspectives

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## Coupled Assimilation

- Land surface (temperature and soil moisture)
- Ocean (SST, mixing)
- Hydrology (run-off)
- Aerosols (visibility)
- Composition (air quality, photolysis)

## Model error

- Accurately represent model error  
(weak constraint, stochastic model processes, ...)

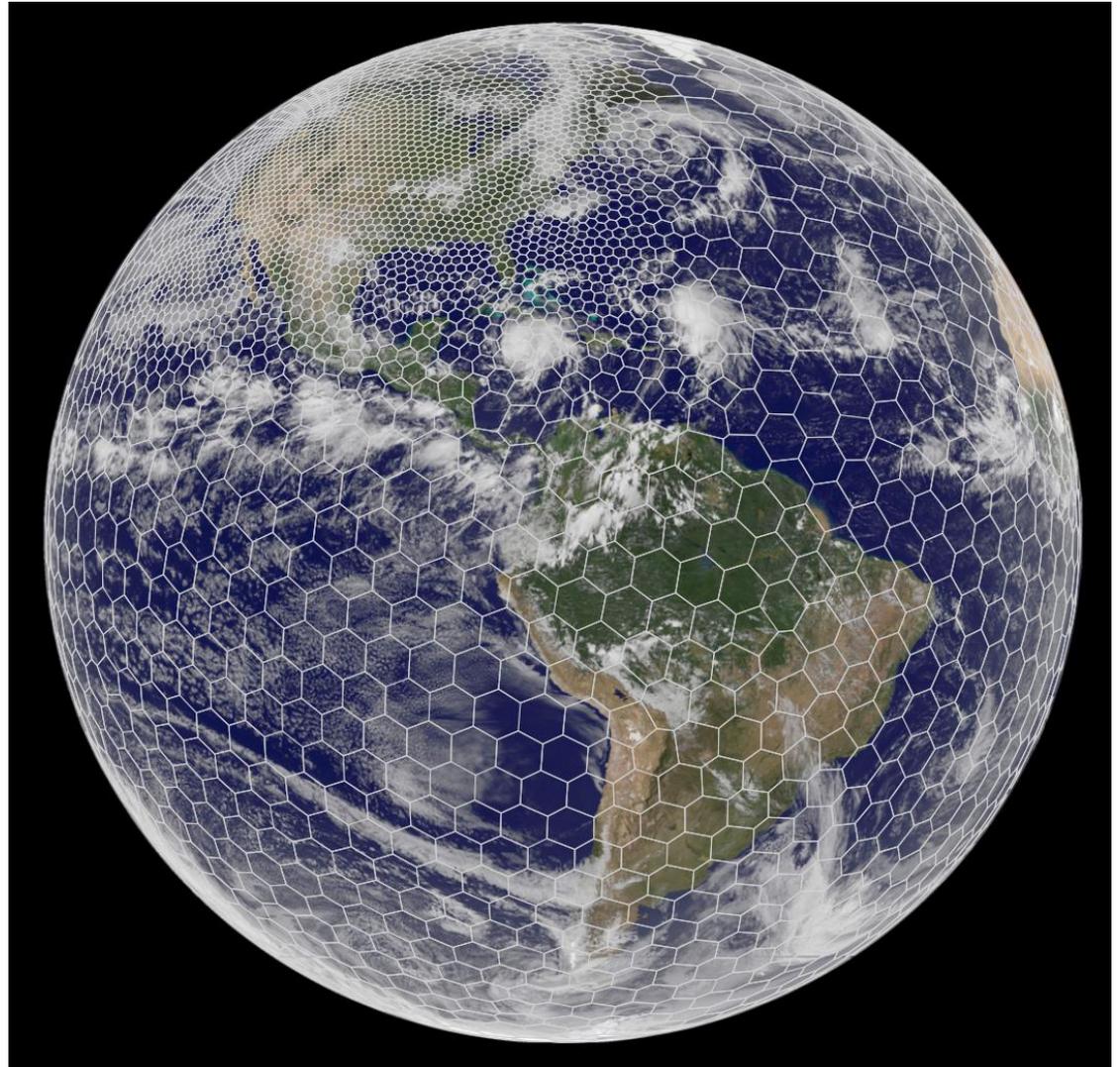
## Interaction with larger scales

- Multi-scale covariances → **DA across scales**  
(Jk Constraint, Lateral Boundary Conditions)



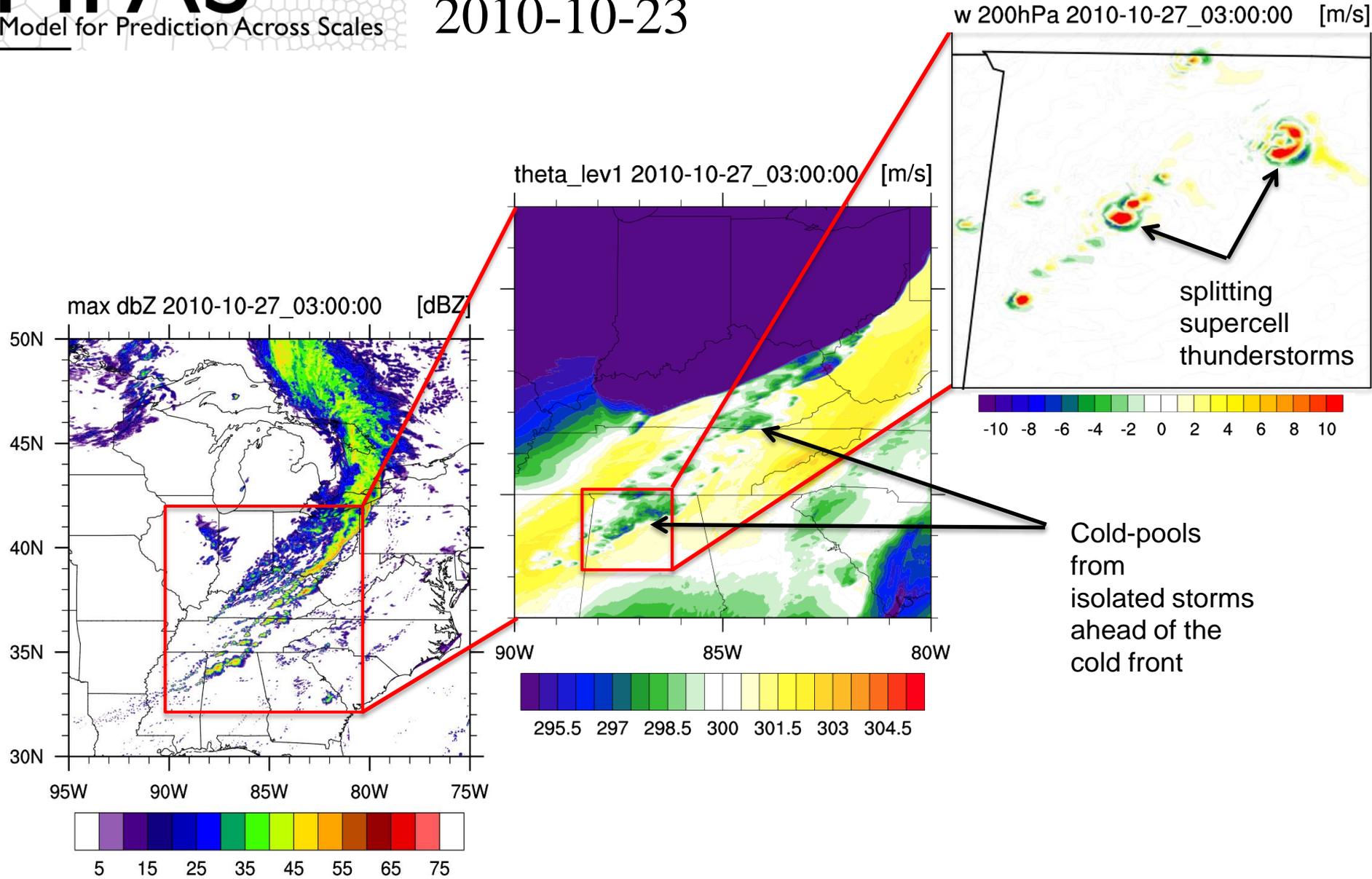
<http://mpas-dev.github.io>

- New Global model
- Nonhydrostatic
- Voronoi meshes
- Variable resolution
- WRF, CAM, GFS physics
- Scalable code
- MPAS-A (NCAR)
- MPAS-O and MPAS-LI (LANL)



Source: *Bill Skamarock*

## 3 km global MPAS-A simulation 2010-10-23



*The End*