

# Tropical Cyclone Rainfall

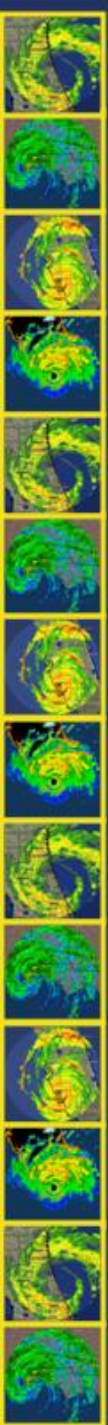
**Michael Brennan**

National Hurricane Center



# Outline

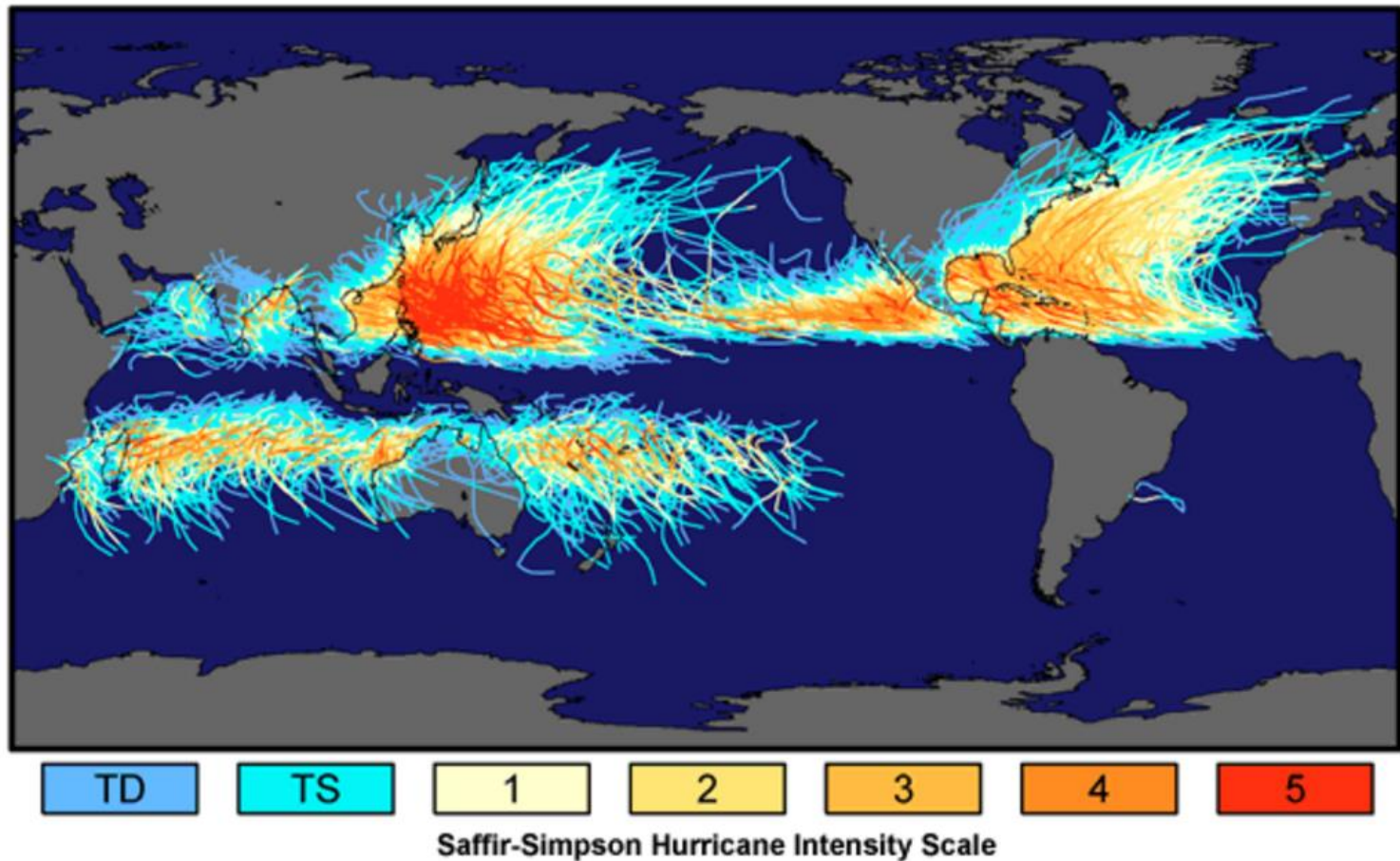
- Tropical Cyclone (TC) rainfall climatology
- Factors influencing TC rainfall
- TC rainfall forecasting tools
- TC rainfall forecasting process



# Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Climatology

# Tropical Cyclone Tracks

Tracks and Intensity of Tropical Cyclones, 1851-2006



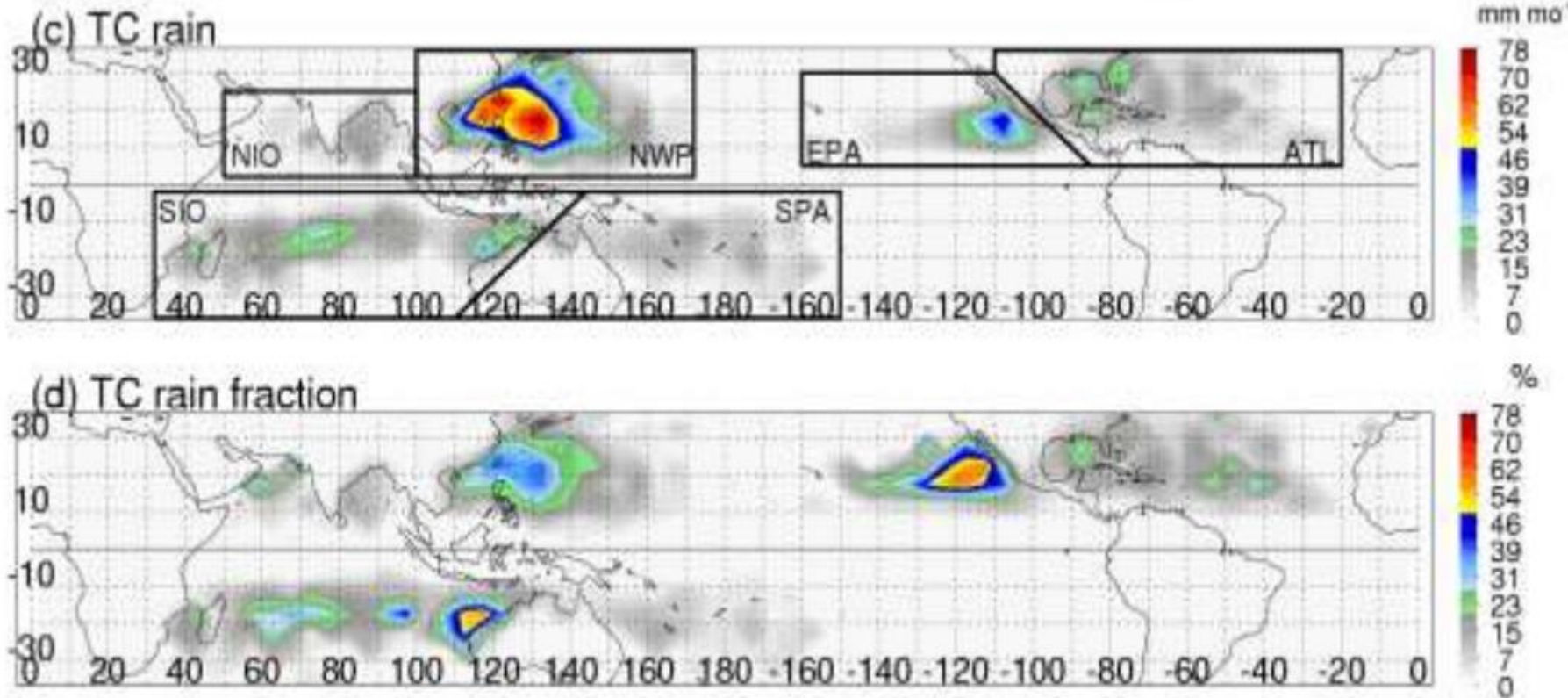
NASA

COMET (2011)



# Global Mean Monthly TC Rainfall During the TC Season and Percent of Total Annual Rainfall

Data from TRMM 2A25 Precipitation Radar from 1998-2006





# Contribution to Total Rainfall from TCs

- What percentage of average annual rainfall in southern Baja California, Mexico comes from tropical cyclones?
1. 10-20%
  2. 20-30%
  3. 40-50%
  4. 50-60%

Khouakhi et al. (2017)  
*J. Climate*



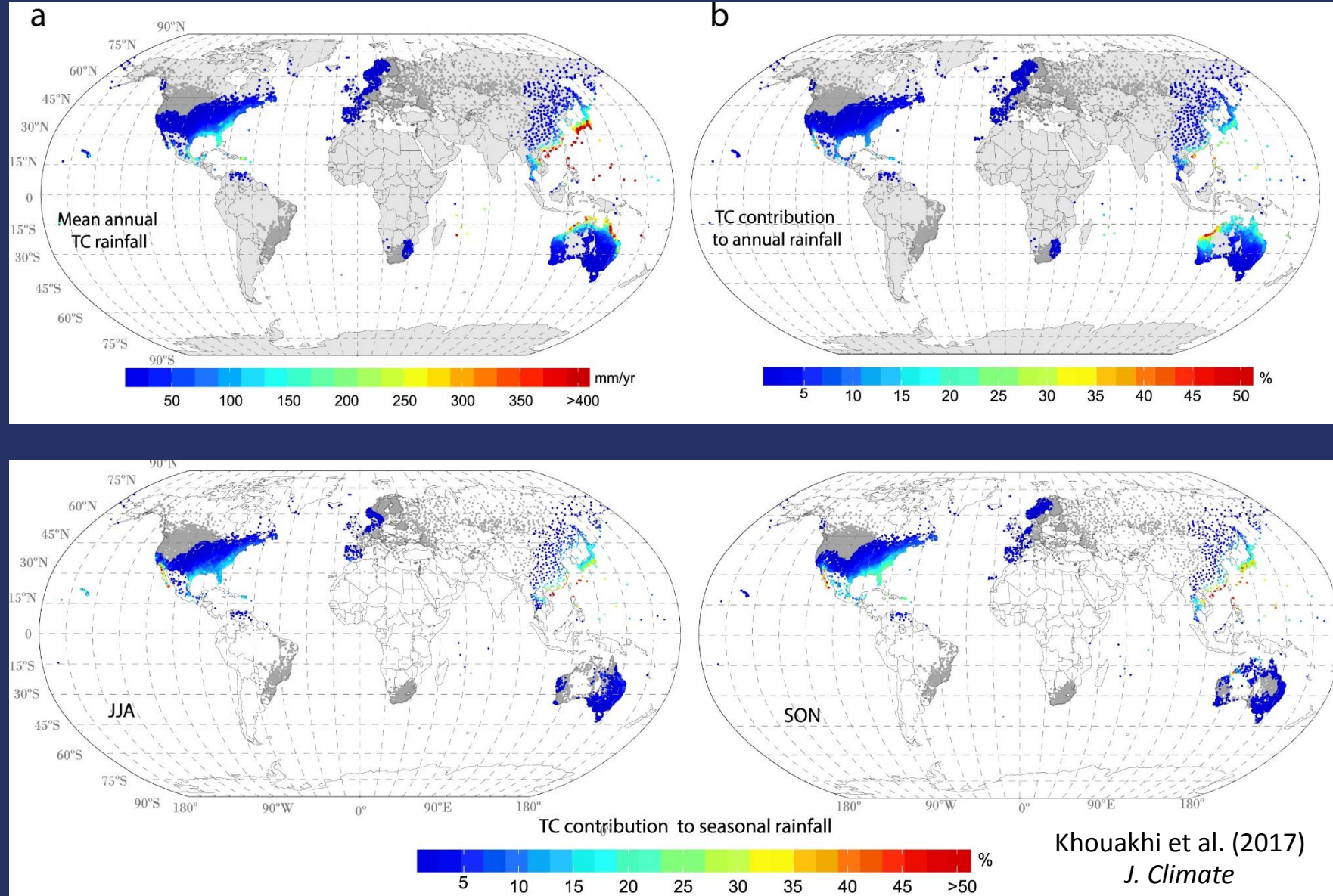
# Contribution to Global Rainfall from TCs (1970-2014 rain gauge study)

- Globally, highest TC rainfall totals are in eastern Asia, northeastern Australia, and the southeastern United States
- Percentage of annual rainfall contributed by TCs:
  - 35-50%: NW Australia, SE China, northern Philippines, Baja California
  - 40-50%: Western coast of Australia, south Indian Ocean islands, East Asia, Mexico

Khouakhi et al. (2017)  
*J. Climate*



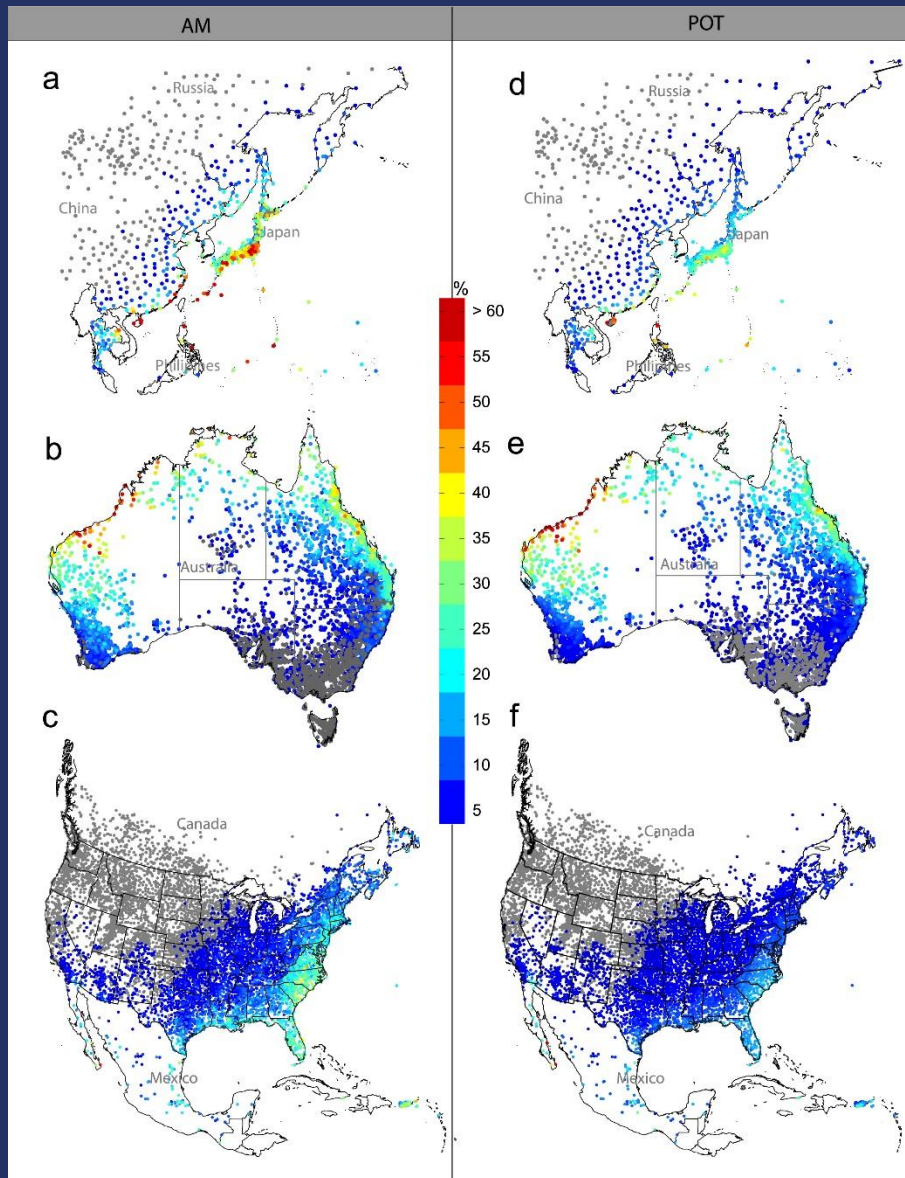
# Contribution to Global Rainfall from TCs (1970-2014 rain gauge study)



Khouakhi et al. (2017)  
*J. Climate*



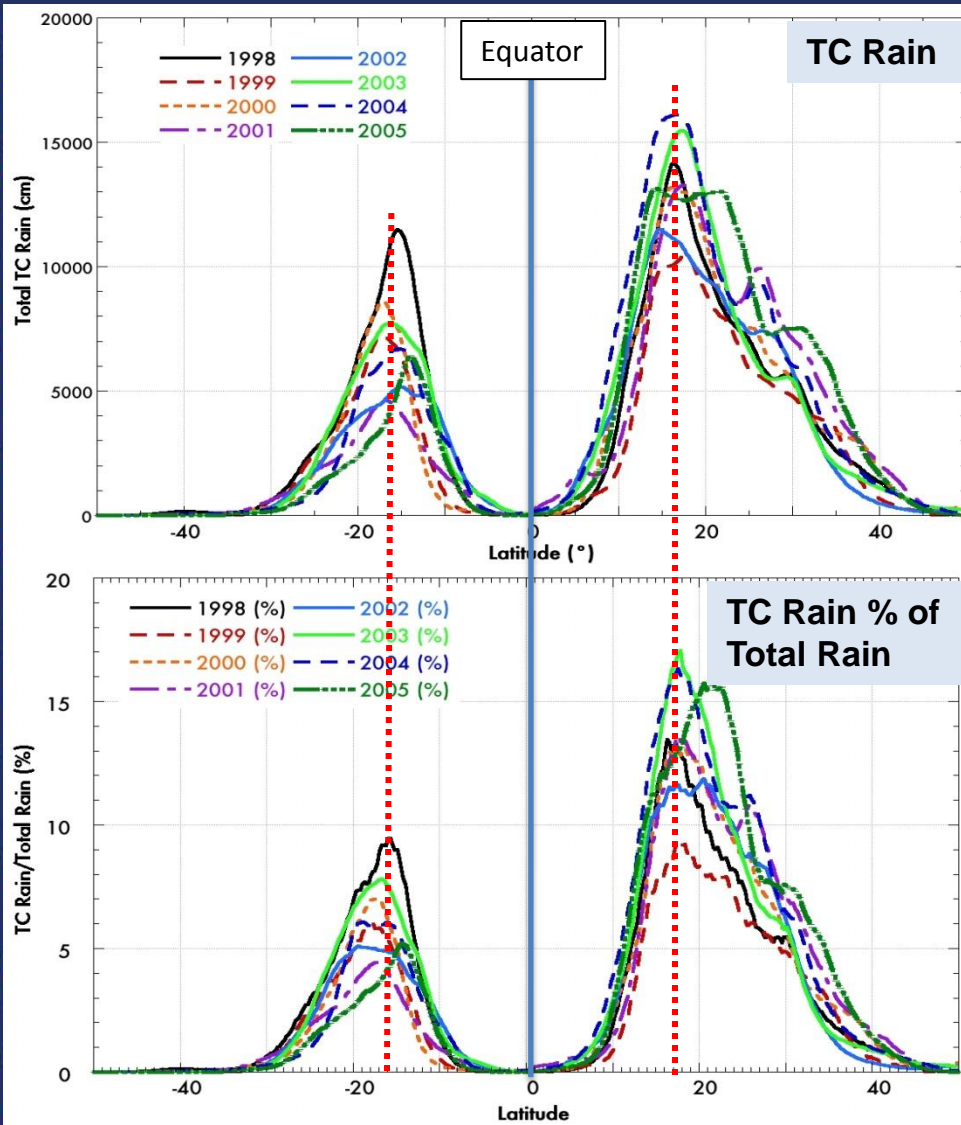
# Contribution to Global Rainfall from TCs (1970-2014 rain gauge study)



- Relative contribution of TCs to extreme rainfall
- Gray circles indicate locations at which TCs have no contribution to extreme rainfall

Khouakhi et al. (2017)  
*J. Climate*

# Annual TC Rainfall



Frank Marks (HRD)

- TC rainfall makes up a larger percentage of total rainfall during years when global rainfall is low
- Asymmetric - generally more TC rainfall in the Northern Hemisphere
- TCs produce 10-17% of global rain from 15-25°N
- TCs produce 5-10% of global rain from 15-25°S

# Biggest TC Rain Producers By Country/Island

Belize	829.8 mm	32.67"	Keith (2000)
Bermuda	186.7 mm	7.35"	October 1939 Hurricane
Canada	302.0 mm	11.89"	Harvey (1999)
Cayman Islands	764.8 mm	31.29"	Sanibel Island Hurricane (1944)
Costa Rica	920.0 mm	36.22"	Cesar (1996)
<b>Cuba</b>	<b>2550.0 mm</b>	<b>100.39"</b>	<b>Flora (1963)</b>
Dominica	422.3 mm	16.63"	Jeanne (2004)
Dominican Rep.	1001.5 mm	39.43"	Flora (1963)
El Salvador	406.4 mm	16.00"	Adrian (2005)
Guadeloupe	508.0 mm	20.00"	Marilyn (1995)
Guatemala	600.0 mm	23.62"	Mitch (1998)
Haiti	1447.8 mm	57.00"	Flora (1963)
Honduras	912.0 mm	35.89"	Mitch (1998)
<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>3429.0 mm</b>	<b>135.00"</b>	<b>November 1909 Hurricane</b>
Martinique	680.7 mm	26.80"	Dorothy (1970)
Mexico	1576.0 mm	62.05"	Wilma (2005)
Nicaragua	1597.0 mm	62.87"	Mitch (1998)
Panama	695.0 mm	27.36"	Mitch (1998)
Puerto Rico	1058.7 mm	41.68"	T.D. #19 (1970)
St. Lucia	668.0 mm	26.30"	Tomas (2010)
St. Martin/Maarten	866.6 mm	34.12"	Lenny (1999)
Venezuela	339.0 mm	13.30"	Brett (1993)

Original Source: David Roth WPC (2006)



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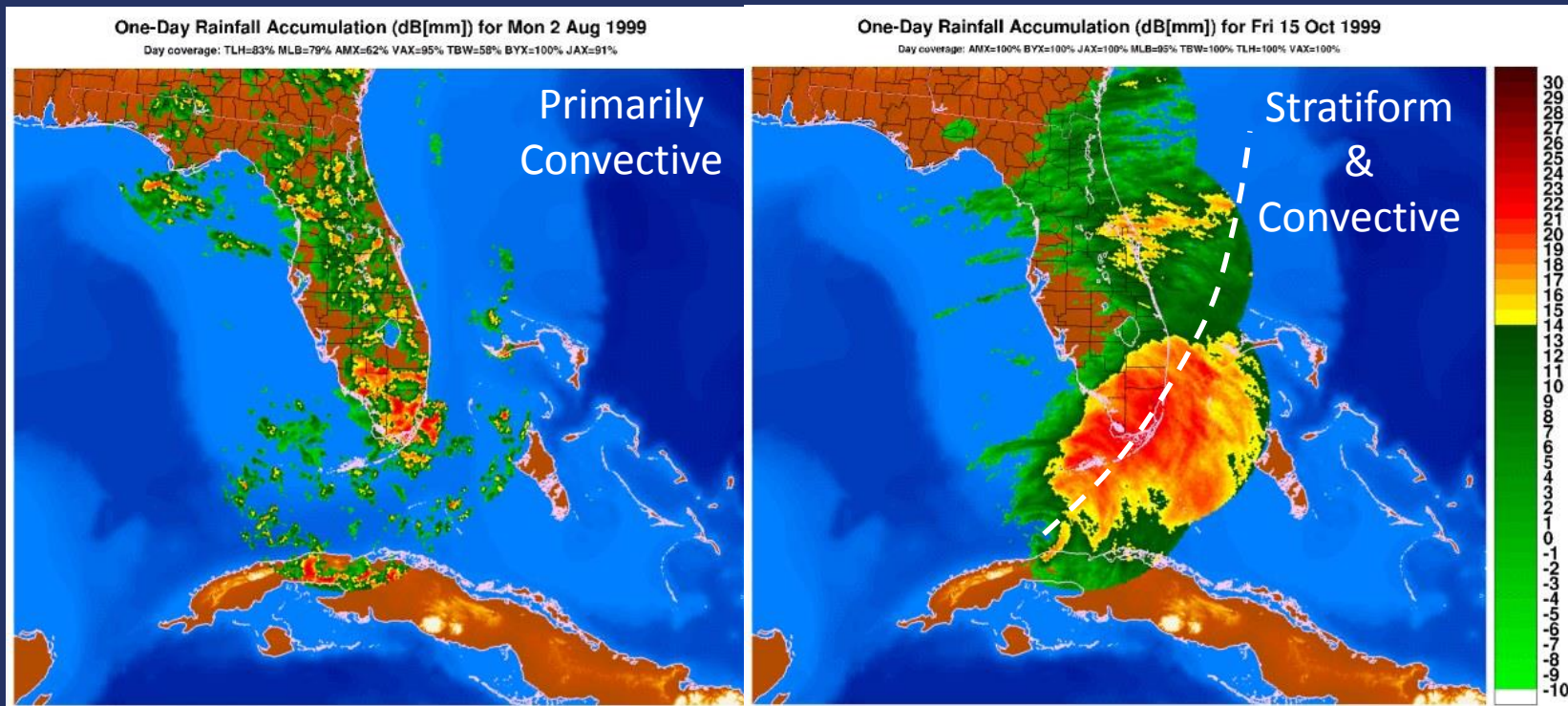
# Characteristics of TC Precipitation

Stratiform and Convective Mechanisms  
Stratiform Rain ~50% of Total Rain from TC

*NOAA/HRD - Daily Radar Rainfall Estimate Study*

Typical warm season 1-day total

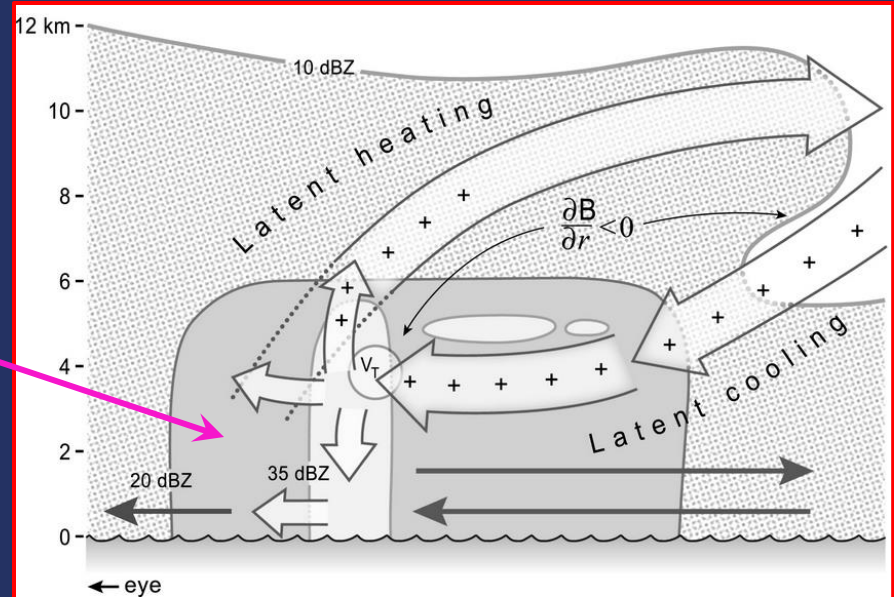
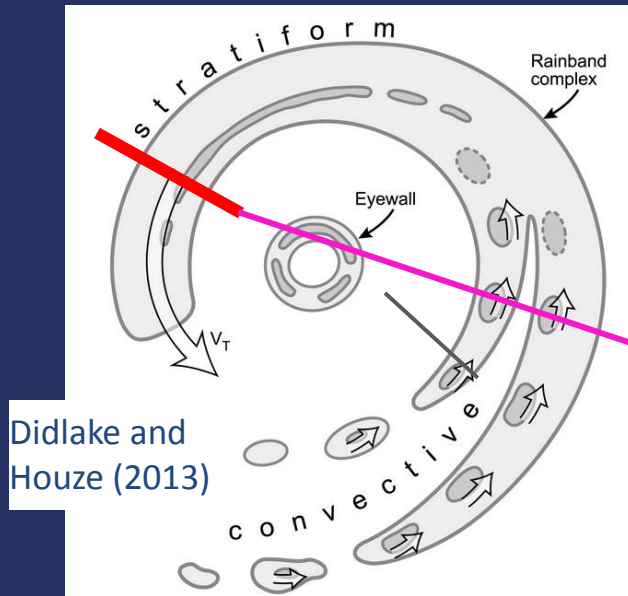
Hurricane Irene (1999) 1-day total



*Hurricane Irene (15 October 1999)*

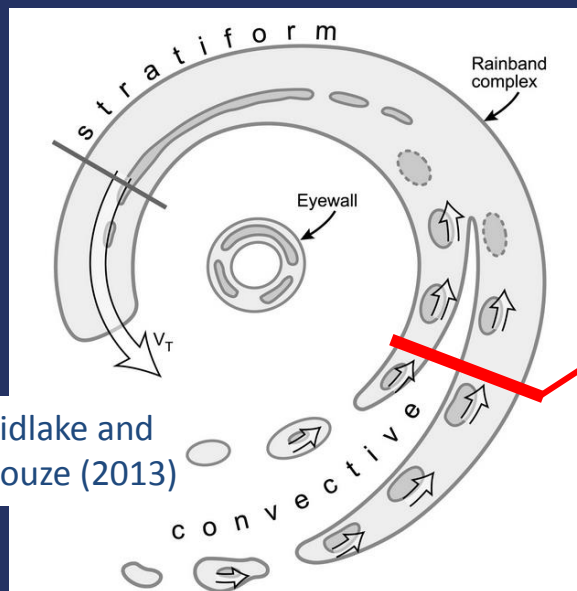
Frank Marks (HRD)

# TC Rainband Complexes: Stratiform Region

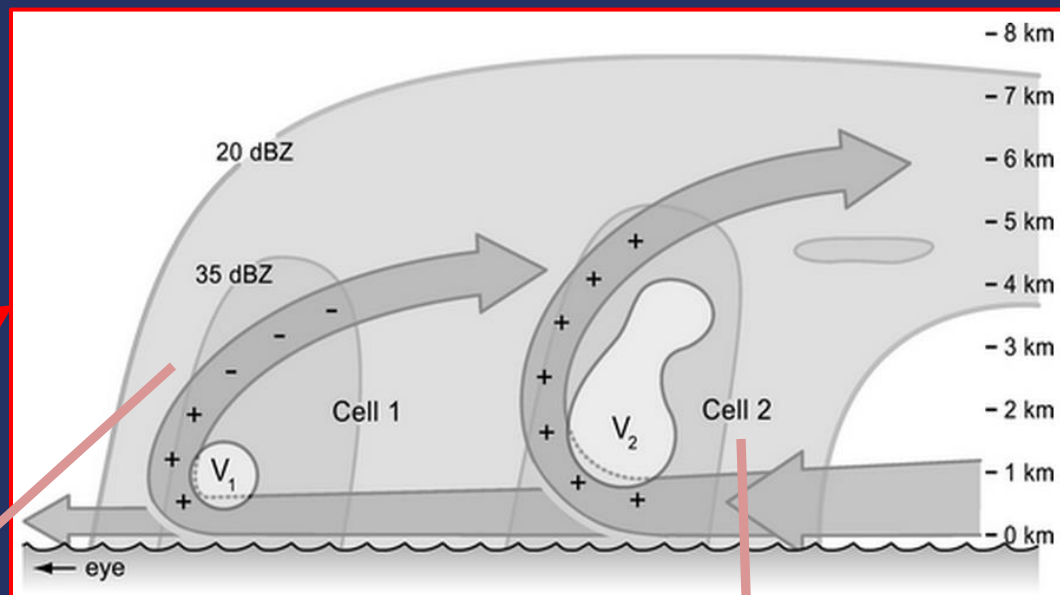


- Broad stratiform band in left-of-shear half of the storm
- Mesoscale ascending outflow & descending inflow driven by latent heating & latent cooling patterns
- Increased rainfall along line where descending inflow halts
- Descending inflow strengthens the outer core of vortex

# TC Rainband Complexes: Convective Cells



Didlake and Houze (2013)



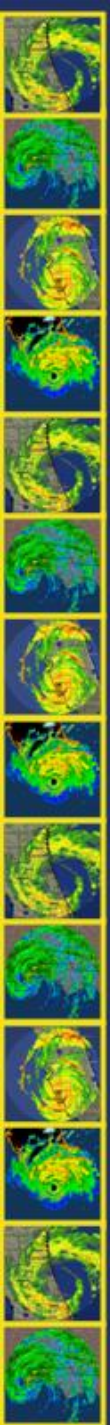
Cell 1

- Weaker, shallower reflectivity core
- Weaker updraft
- Shallower, but stronger inflow layer
- Tangential jet and outflow confined to lower levels

Cell 2

- More intense reflectivity, heavier rain
- Increased CAPE, more buoyant updraft
- Deeper inflow layer
- Tangential jet and outflow extend deeper into the troposphere





# Factors Influencing Tropical Cyclone Rainfall





# What Factors Influence Rainfall from Tropical Cyclones?

- Which of the following is NOT a primary factor in determining rainfall from tropical cyclones?
  1. TC Track
  2. TC Size
  3. TC Intensity
  4. Topography

# What Factors Influence Rainfall from Tropical Cyclones?

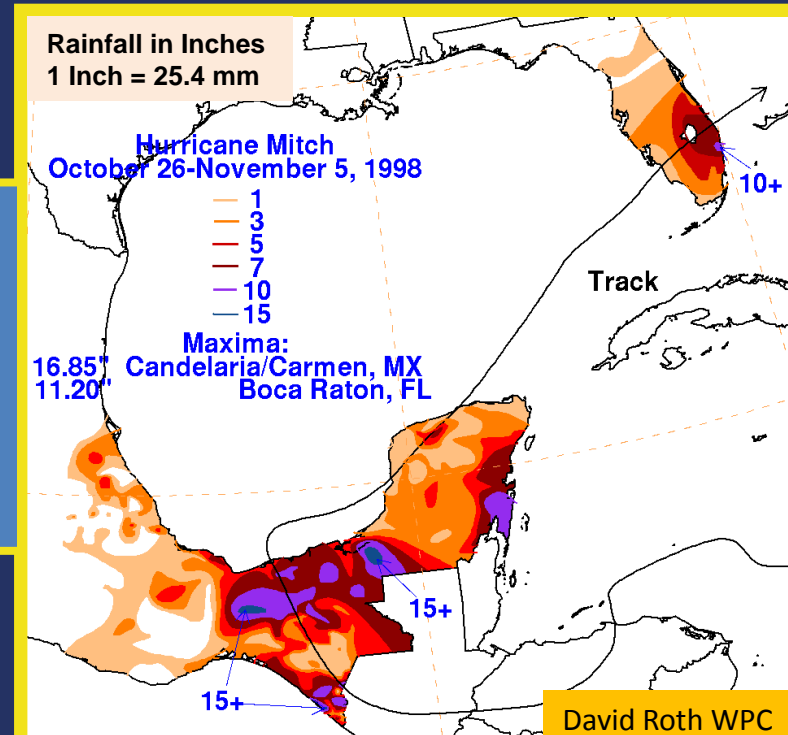
- Movement – slow forward motion can produce more rain
- Storm size – the larger the storm, the greater the area typically receiving rain
- Storm track – determines the location of the rain
- Diurnal cycle – heaviest rainfall generally near the storm center overnight, outer band rainfall during the day
- Topography – enhances rainfall in upslope areas, but decreases rainfall past the spine of the mountains
- Moisture – entrainment of dry air can redistribute and/or reduce the amount of precipitation; increased moisture can increase rainfall
- Interaction with other meteorological features (troughs, fronts, jets) and extratropical transition can greatly modify rainfall distribution

# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Storm Motion

- Slow vs. fast moving TCs
- TCs with a turning or looping track vs. straight mover

Hurricane Mitch fatalities:  
Honduras: 5,677  
Nicaragua: 2,863  
Guatemala: 258  
El Salvador: 239



Vulcan Casita, Nicaragua - debris flows



Tegucigalpa, Honduras river flooding



# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Storm Size

Determined by distance from center to outermost closed isobar

<2 degrees	"Very small/ midget"	Marco (2008)	
2-3 degrees	"Small"	Ida (2009)	
3-6 degrees	"Average"	Frances (2008)	
6-8 degrees	"Large"	Wilma (2008)	
>8 degrees	"Very large"	Sandy (2012)	

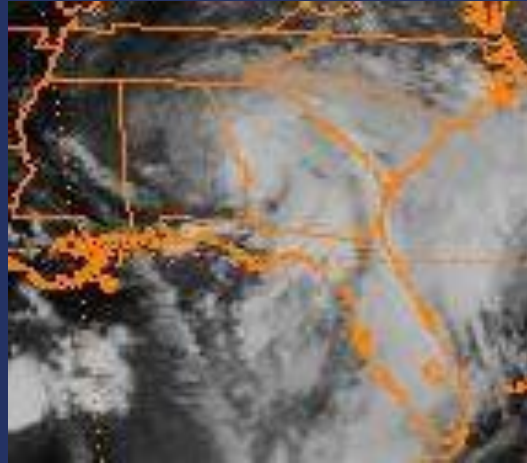
Original Source: Joint Typhoon Warning Center



# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

Time of Day  
Alberto, July 4-5, 1994

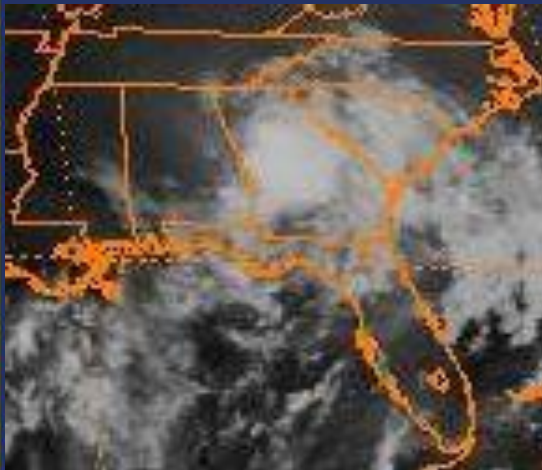
04/18z



00z



05/06z



12z



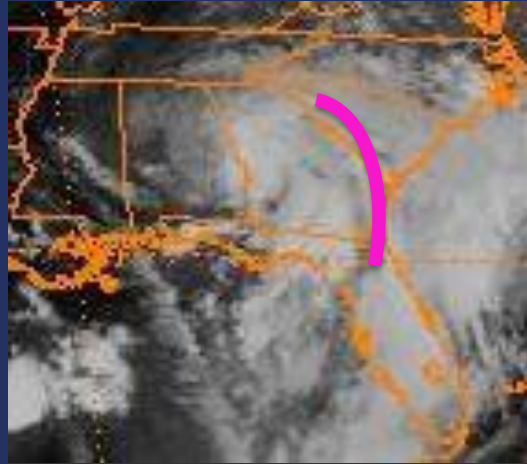
18z



# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

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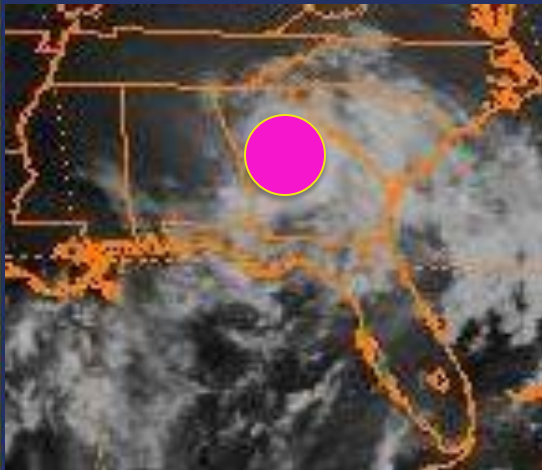
04/18z



00z



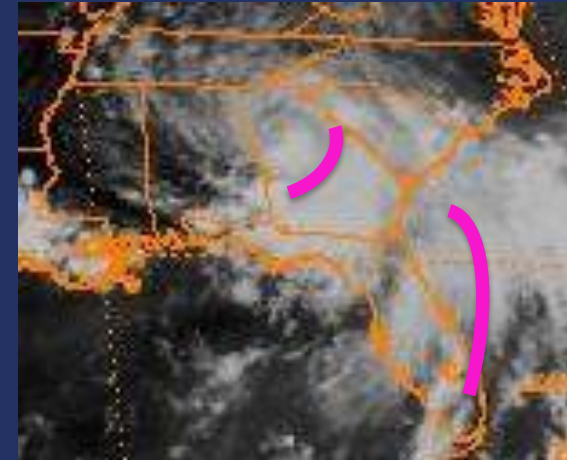
05/06z



12z



18z





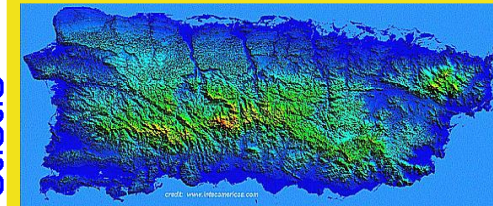
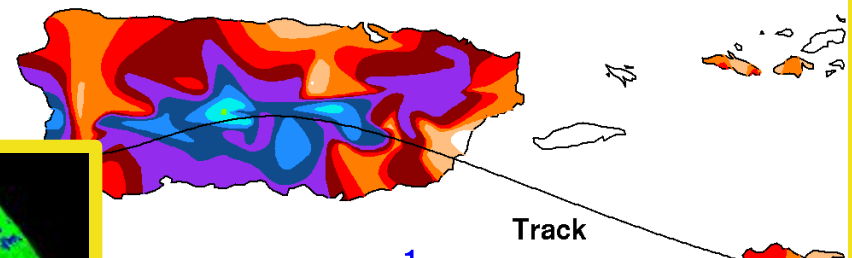
# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Terrain Impacts

Heaviest rainfall favors mountains perpendicular to the wind

Rainfall in Inches  
1 Inch = 25.4 mm

Hurricane Georges  
September 19-23, 1998  
148 sites



Storm Total 24 Hour 30.51" Jayuya, PR  
Maxima. 23.30" Cacaos/Orocovis, PR

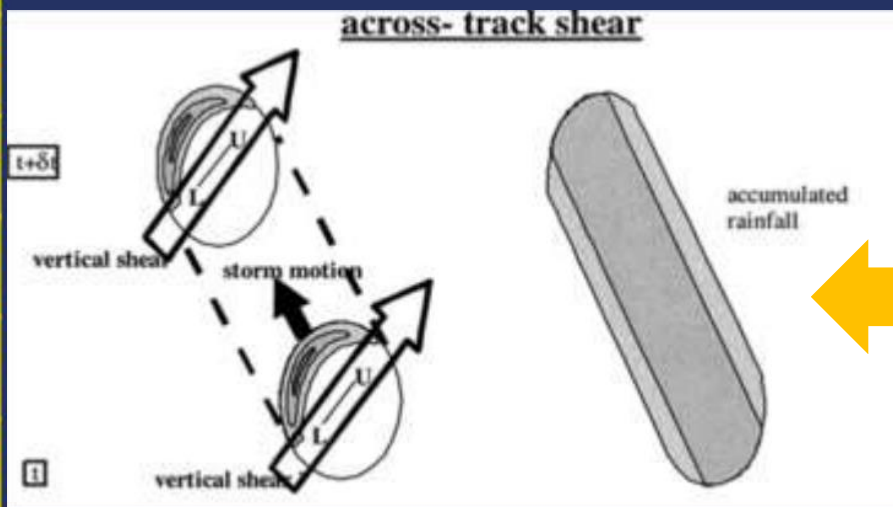
David Roth WPC

Hurricane Georges in Puerto Rico  
\$1.75 billion in damage  
28,005 homes destroyed

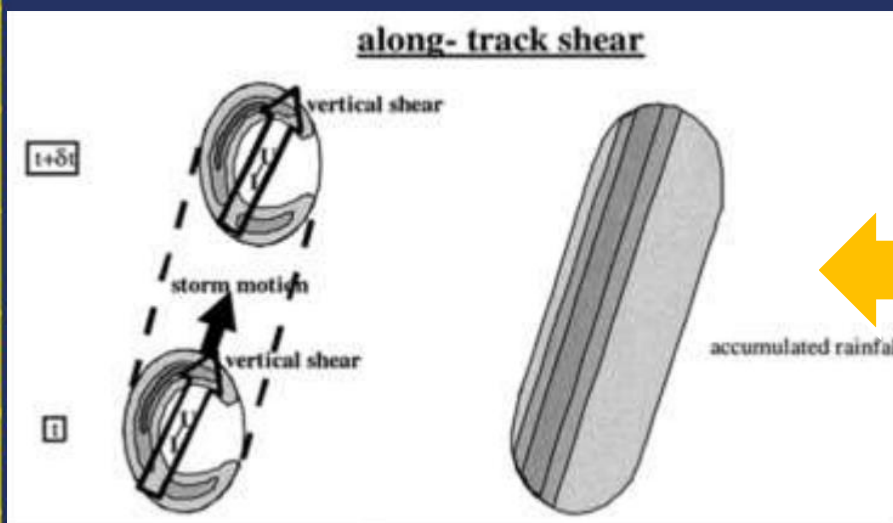


# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Vertical Wind Shear – Northern Hemisphere



Shear directed **across** the storm track leads to more uniform distribution of the rainfall

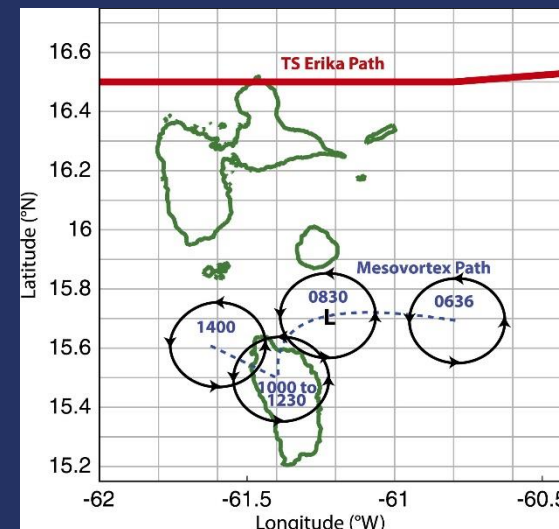
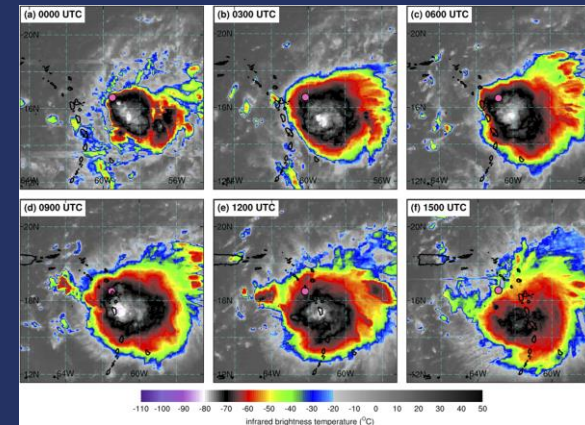


Shear directed **parallel** to the storm track leads to a distribution of the rainfall asymmetry on the left side of the track

# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Shear, Mesovortices, and Topography

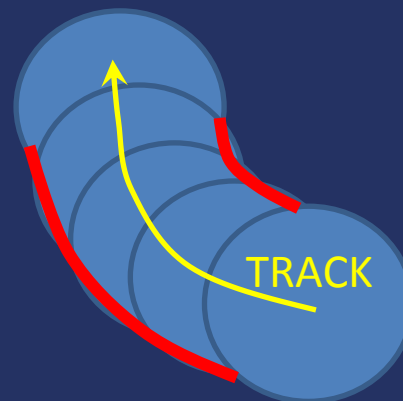
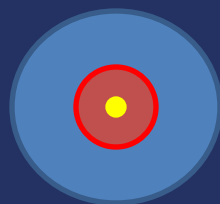
- Downshear region of strong convection associated with Erika (2015) passed directly over Dominica, producing over 500 mm of rainfall
  - Driven by 500-850 mb shear rather than deep layer shear
- Mesovortex on the scale of  $\sim 100$  km developed within Erika's circulation and persisted over Dominica for 3 hours, likely due to topographic effects, enhancing heavy rainfall



# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Environmental Steering in Northern Hemisphere

- Very slow moving TCs and symmetrical TCs produce the most rainfall *near the center*
  - Maximum rainfall at night (especially when over land)
  - Weak steering flow
- TCs that move into a break in the subtropical ridge often produce most of the rain *right* of their track
- TCs that recurve due to significant upper troughs in the westerlies often produce most of their rain *left* of their track
  - Rainfall may spread well in advance of the TC due to interaction with the upper jet on the leading edge of the trough

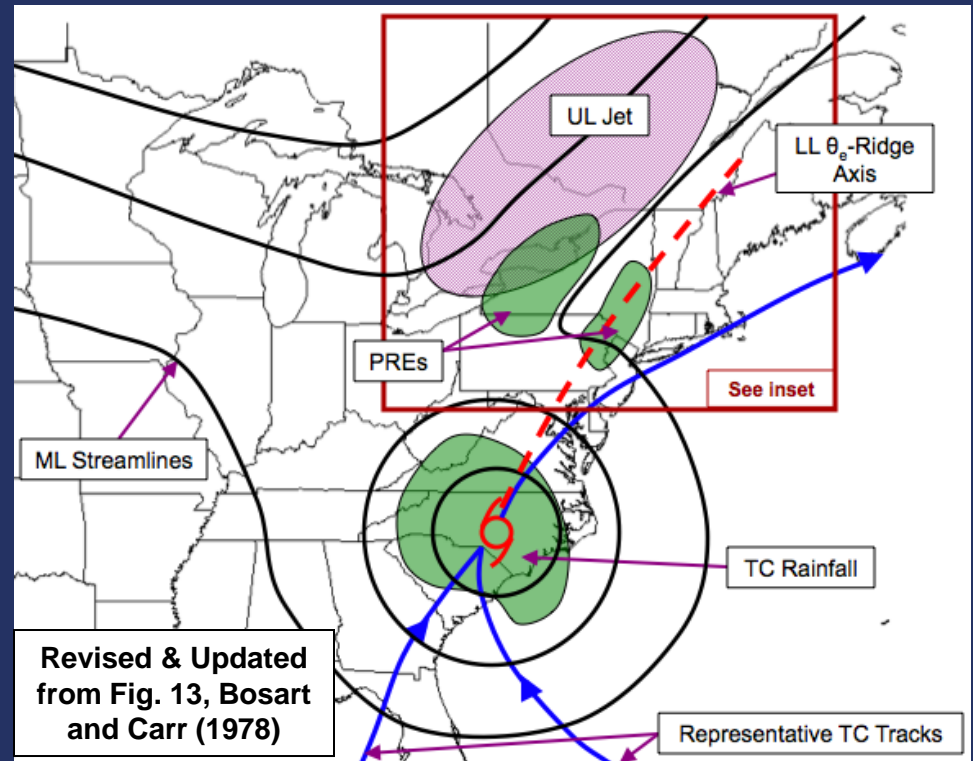
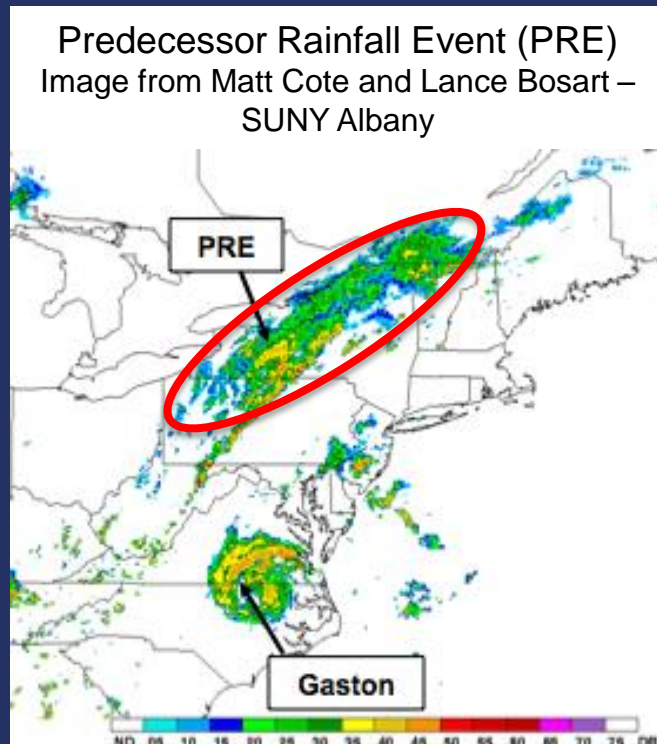


Even rainfall distribution =  
Rain over smaller area  
on right side =  
Higher totals



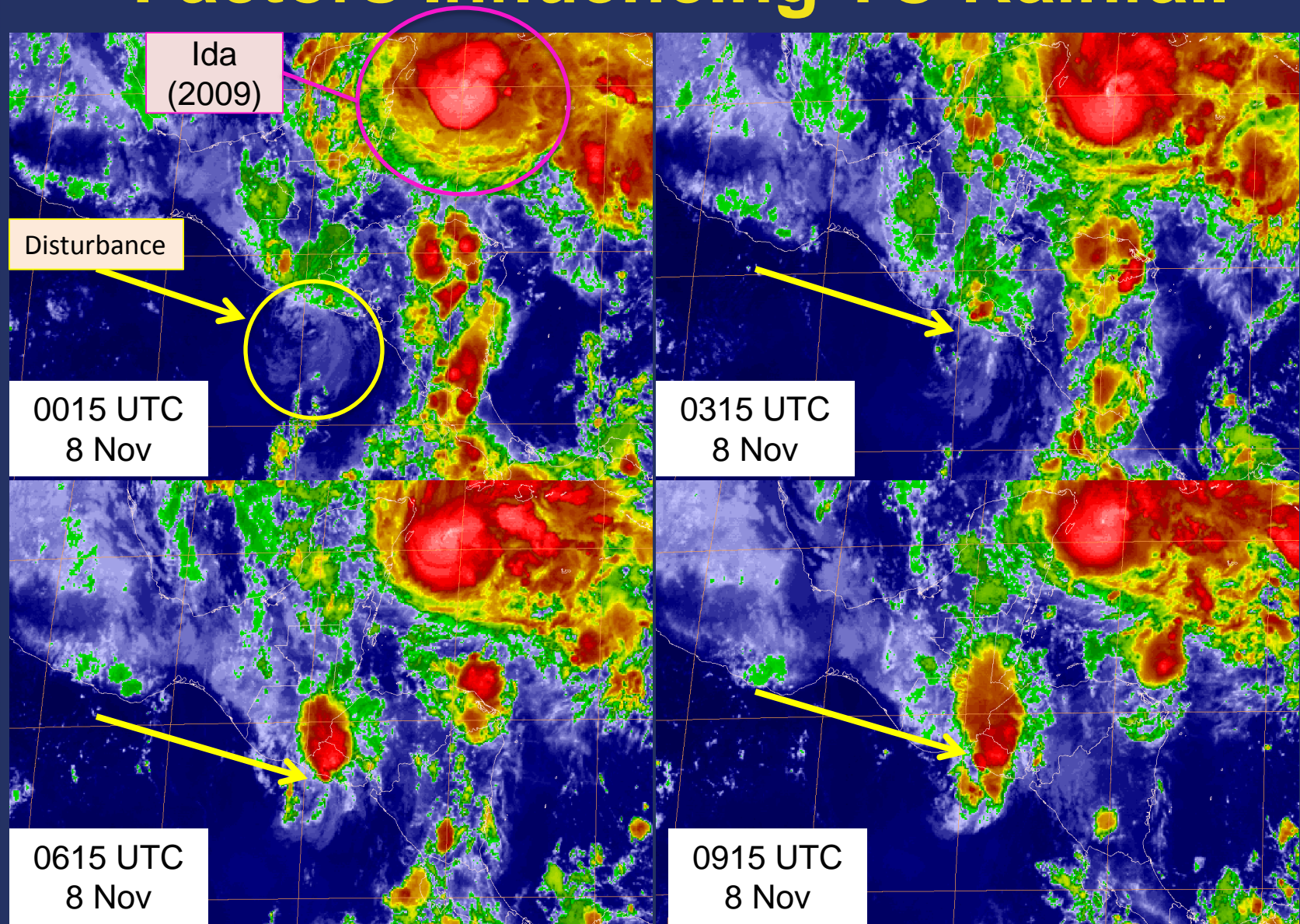
# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall

## Predecessor Rainfall Events



- Moisture transport well ahead of TC itself
- Coherent area of rain displaced north of the TC (near a front or over terrain)
- Maximum rainfall rates can exceed 200 mm in 24 hr
- Occurs for approximately 1 of 3 landfalling TCs in U.S.

# Factors Influencing TC Rainfall



**“Twin” Disturbance or Other Secondary Features**

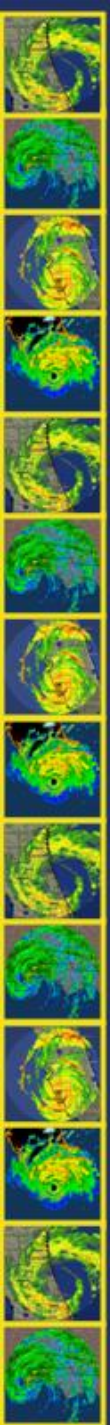


# Where is Flooding from Tropical Cyclones Likely to Occur?

- Areas where the ground is already saturated (low flash flood guidance values)
- Valleys/watersheds
- Areas of orographic enhancement
- Areas with poor drainage or prone to runoff
- Areas with directed drainage that can be overwhelmed







# TC Rainfall Forecasting Tools

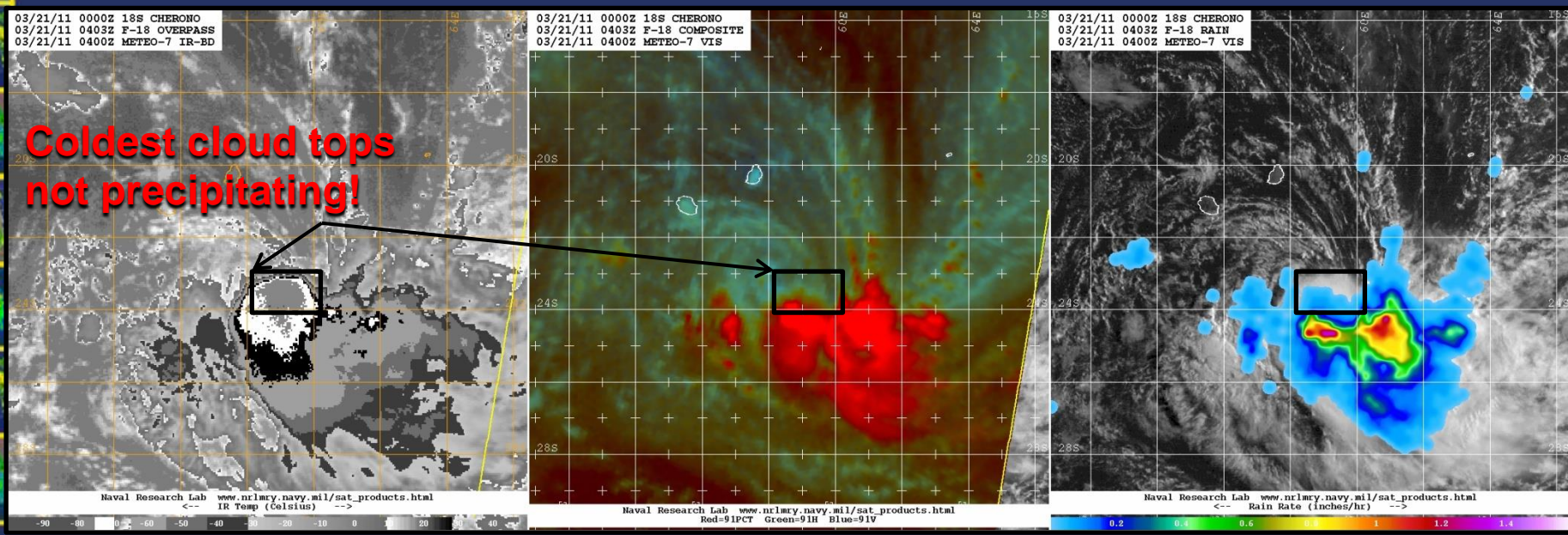
# NHC Rainfall Product

*Incorporates microwave (MW) satellite data rainfall rates*

- NHC uses two different merged satellite rainfall estimation techniques:
  - NRL-Blend and QMORPH incorporate available MW data and propagate precipitation forward in time via IR
  - Training on the NRL-Blend technique:  
<http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/training-bin/training.cgi>
- As a third product, NHC uses the last applicable GFS forecast
  - A model forecast has the advantage of dynamics, topography, moisture, etc.

# NHC Rainfall Product: Why Microwave?

- Geostationary IR data provides excellent spatiotemporal resolution, but is not optimal for rain estimation
- Microwave provides improved rainfall accuracy but at low temporal resolution
- Quantitative precipitation estimate (QPE) products leverage each method's strength...

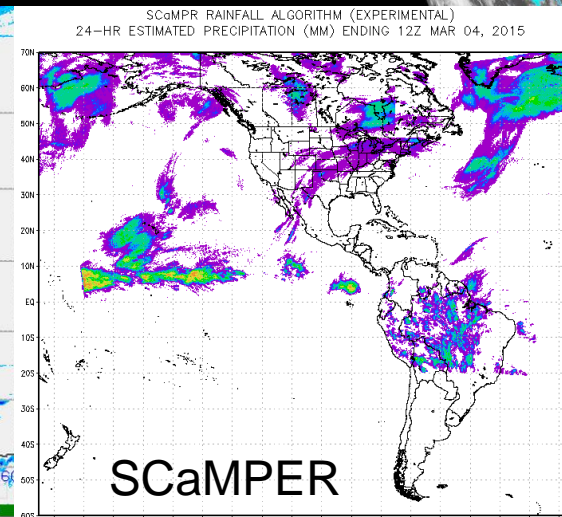
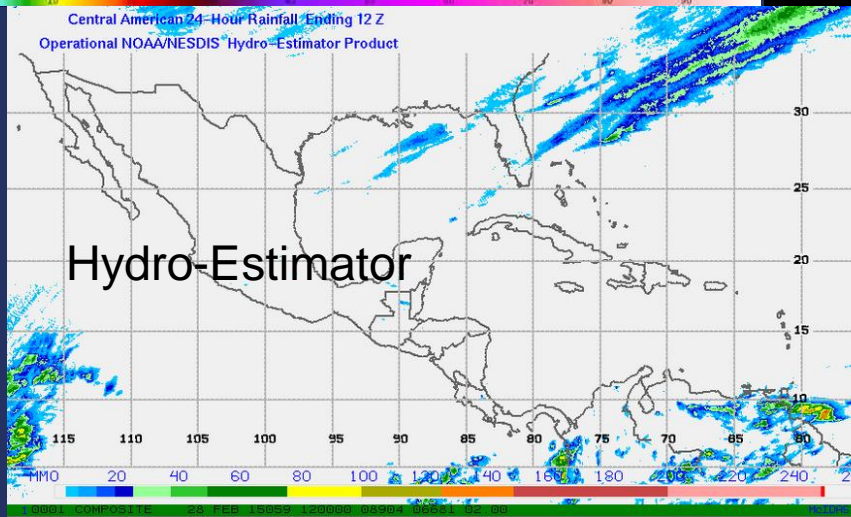
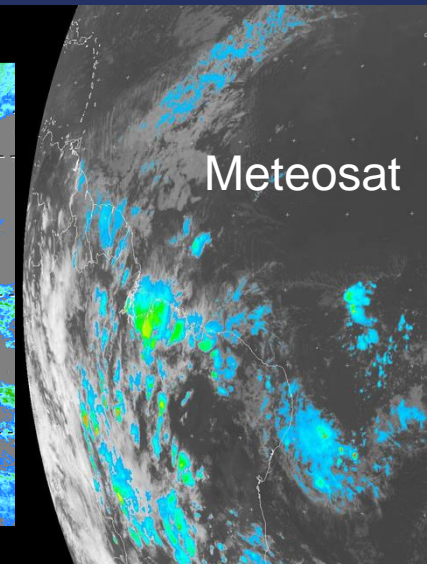
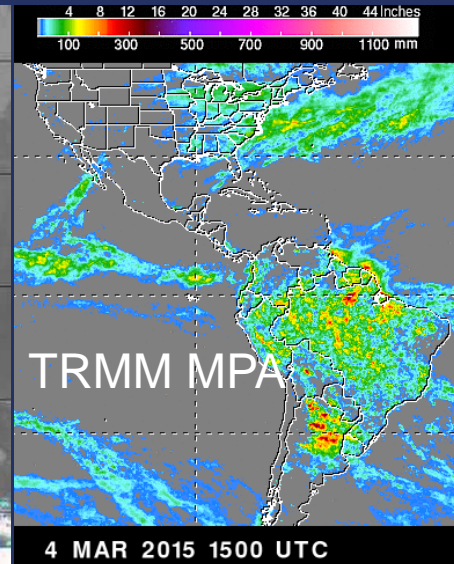
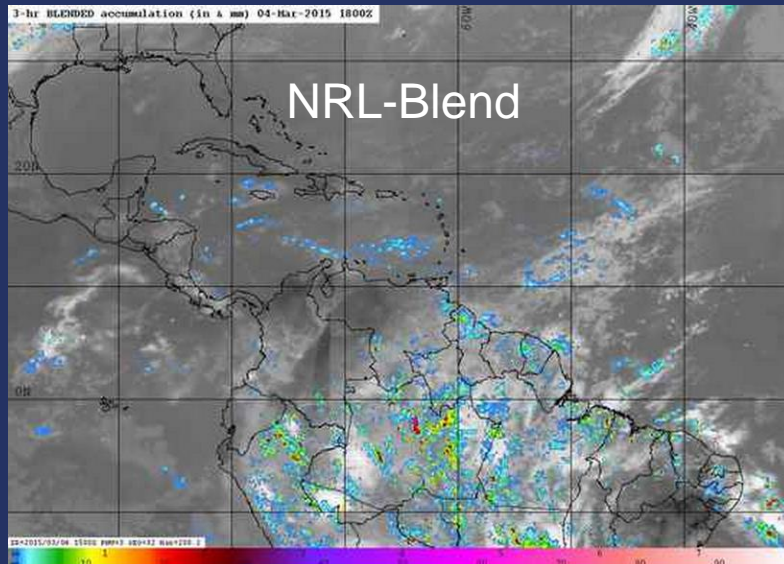




# Satellite Rainfall Estimates

International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG) has an exhaustive list of data sources for precipitation information, some of it in real time.

<http://www.isac.cnr.it/~ipwg/data/datasets.html>

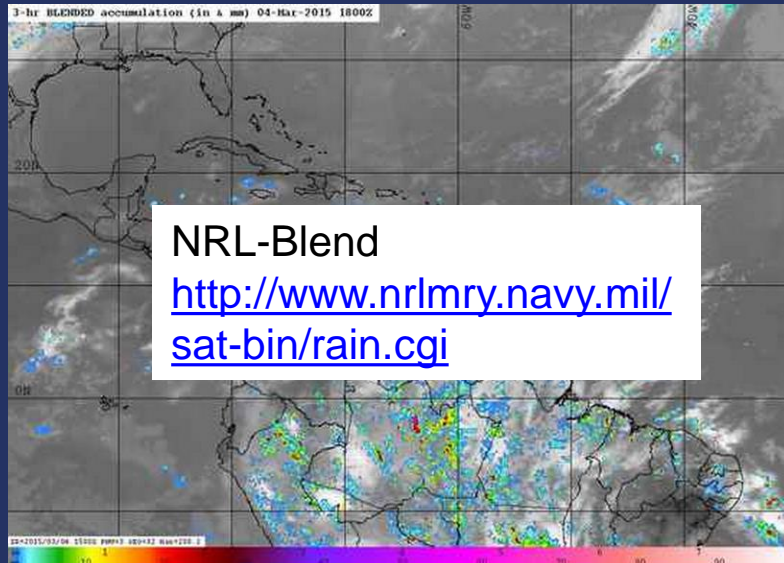




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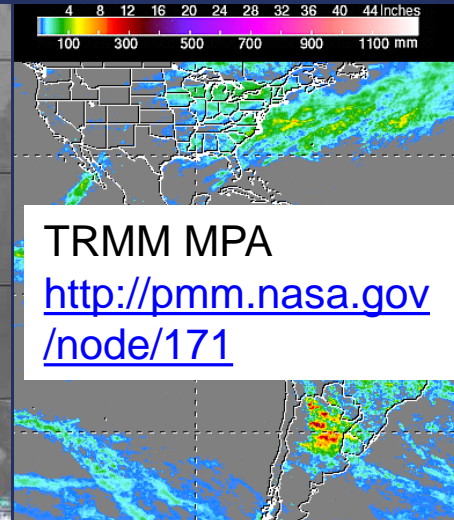
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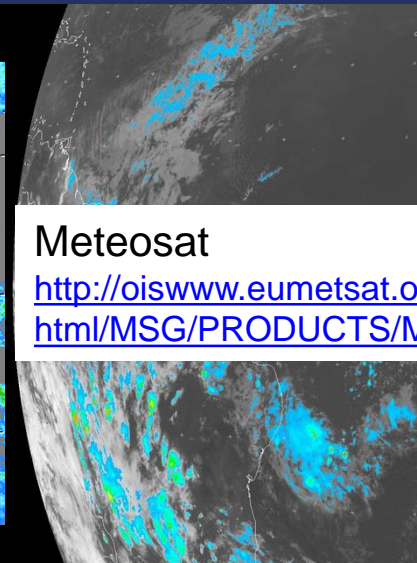
NRL-Blend

<http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat-bin/rain.cgi>



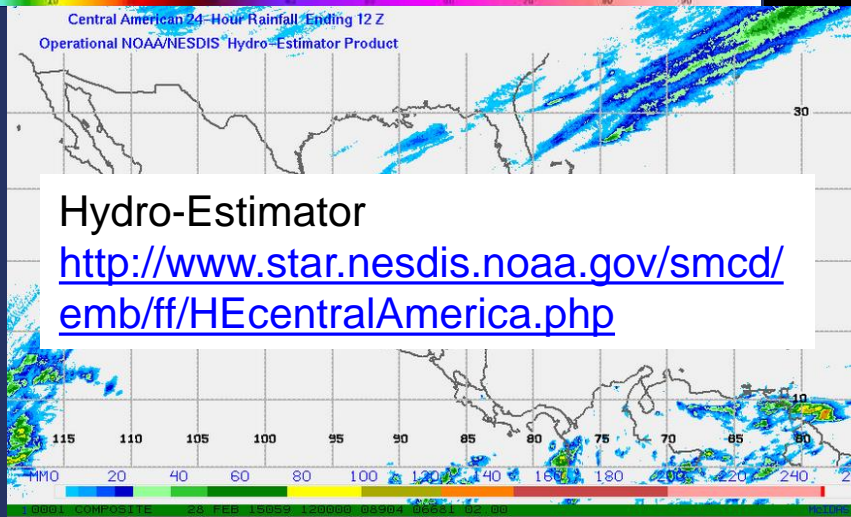
TRMM MPA

<http://pmm.nasa.gov/node/171>



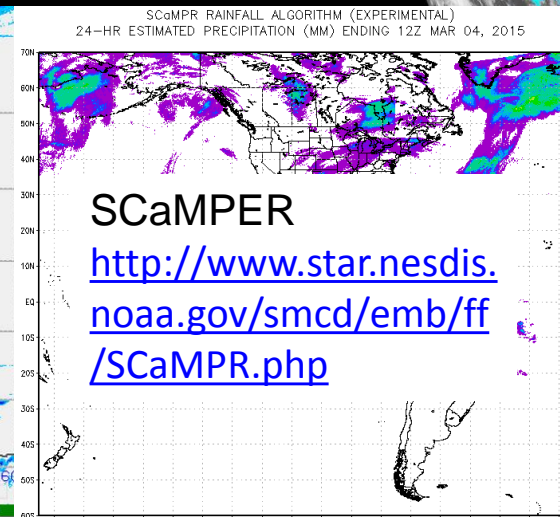
Meteosat

<http://oiswww.eumetsat.org/IPPS/html/MSG/PRODUCTS/MPE/>



Hydro-Estimator

<http://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/ff/HEcentralAmerica.php>



SCaMPER

<http://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/ff/SCaMPER.php>

# NHC Rainfall Product: Text

TCCA22 KNHC 291843  
STDWCA

SATELLITE TROPICAL DISTURBANCE RAINFALL ESTIMATES  
NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL  
2115 UTC TUE AUG 29 2009

SYSTEM NAME	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
T.S ANDRES	29/1800 UTC	17.2N 102.3W

RAINFALL ESTIMATED BY SATELLITE VIA **CMORPH...**  
24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 18-18 UTC)- 235 MM AT 23.3N 99.2W  
6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 12-18 UTC)- 150 MM AT 24.2N 100.5W  
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IN MM OVER THE LAST 6-HOURS (FROM 12-18 UTC)...

LATITUDE.....		LONGITUDE.....					
	104W-103W	103W-102W	102W-101W	101W-100W	100W- 99W	99W- 98W	
27-28N	0- 40	5- 40	10- 45	10- 45	10- 30	0- 20	
26-27N	5- 40	10- 45	15- 55	20- 50	15- 30	5- 20	
25-26N	15- 45	20- 70	35- 85	60-100	30- 70	20- 45	
24-25N	40- 75	55-100	100-130	110-150	60-100	40- 75	
23-24N	20- 50	45- 70	70- 90	70- 95	40- 65	15- 40	
22-23N	0- 35	5- 40	10- 30	10- 25	5- 25	0- 10	

RAINFALL ESTIMATED BY SATELLITE VIA **NRL-BLEND...**  
24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 18-18 UTC)- 295 MM AT 23.3N 98.7W  
6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 12-18 UTC)- 125 MM AT 24.6N 100.2W  
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IN MM OVER THE LAST 6-HOURS (FROM 12-18 UTC)...

LATITUDE.....		LONGITUDE.....					
	104W-103W	103W-102W	102W-101W	101W-100W	100W- 99W	99W- 98W	
27-28N	0- 35	5- 40	10- 45	10- 45	5- 25	0- 20	
26-27N	0- 35	10- 45	15- 50	20- 50	10- 30	5- 20	
25-26N	15- 45	20- 70	35- 80	65-100	25- 70	15- 45	
24-25N	35- 75	55- 95	100-120	110-125	60-100	35- 75	
23-24N	20- 45	45- 75	65- 85	70- 95	35- 70	15- 40	
22-23N	0- 30	5- 40	10- 30	10- 30	5- 25	0- 10	

RAINFALL HINDCAST FROM THE 06Z **CFS MODEL...**  
24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 18-18 UTC)- 305 MM AT 23.1N 101.8W  
6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 12-18 UTC)- 130 MM AT 24.9N 101.9W  
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION OVER THE LAST 6-HOURS (FROM 12-18 UTC)...

LATITUDE.....		LONGITUDE.....					
	104W-103W	103W-102W	102W-101W	101W-100W	100W- 99W	99W- 98W	
27-28N	0- 30	5- 40	10- 45	15- 45	5- 25	0- 20	
26-27N	0- 35	10- 45	15- 45	20- 50	10- 30	5- 20	
25-26N	15- 45	20- 70	35- 85	60-100	30- 70	20- 45	
24-25N	35- 75	55-100	100-130	100-125	65-100	40- 75	
23-24N	20- 45	45- 70	70- 85	70- 95	40- 70	15- 40	
22-23N	5- 35	5- 40	10- 30	10- 25	5- 25	0- 10	

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SATELLITE AND MODEL DERIVED RAINFALL  
ESTIMATES INDICATE UNCERTAINTY IN THE AMOUNT OF RAIN RECEIVED

RAINFALL MAY BE UNDERESTIMATED ON THE WINDWARD SIDE OF TERRAIN

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[HTTP://WWW.HURRICANES.GOV/RAINFALL](http://www.hurricanes.gov/rainfall)

FORECASTER NELSON

Created for every “invest” system

Can be created for any disturbance

Rainfall product still available in text format like the old product

Differences in content and format compared to the old product:

- 6-hour quantitative precipitation estimates from 3 methods
  - Presented as a range of rainfall within a 1°x1° box
  - Covers total area of 6°x6° centered near disturbance
- Earth-relative coordinates (i.e. no reference to “left-of-center”/”right of center”)
- Available at:  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/rainfall/>



# New NHC Rainfall Product: Text

TCCA22 KNHC 291843  
STDWCA

SATELLITE TROPICAL DISTURBANCE  
NUS MACONAJA HURRICANE  
2115 UTC THU AUG 29

SYSTEM NAME

T.S. ANDRES

RAINFALL ESTIMATED BY  
24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM  
6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM  
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

LATITUDE.....  
.....104W-103W 103W-102W 102W-101W 101W-100W 100W- 99W 99W- 98W  
27-28N 0- 35 5- 40 10- 45 10- 45 5- 25 0- 20  
26-27N 0- 35 10- 45 15- 50 20- 50 10- 30 5- 20  
25-26N 15- 45 20- 70 35- 80 65-100 25- 70 15- 45  
24-25N 35- 75 55- 95 100-120 110-125 60-100 35- 75  
23-24N 20- 45 45- 75 65- 85 70- 95 35- 70 15- 40  
22-23N 0- 30 5- 40 10- 30 10- 30 5- 25 0- 10

RAINFALL ESTIMATED BY  
24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM  
6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM  
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

LATITUDE.....  
.....104W-103W 103W-102W 102W-101W 101W-100W 100W- 99W 99W- 98W  
27-28N 0- 35 5- 40 10- 45 10- 45 5- 25 0- 20  
26-27N 0- 35 10- 45 15- 50 20- 50 10- 30 5- 20  
25-26N 15- 45 20- 70 35- 80 65-100 25- 70 15- 45  
24-25N 35- 75 55- 95 100-120 110-125 60-100 35- 75  
23-24N 20- 45 45- 75 65- 85 70- 95 35- 70 15- 40  
22-23N 0- 30 5- 40 10- 30 10- 30 5- 25 0- 10

RAINFALL HINDCAST FROM THE 06Z GFS MODEL...

24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 18-18 UTC)- 305 MM AT 23.1N 101.8W

6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 12-18 UTC)- 130 MM AT 24.9N 101.9W

RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION OVER THE LAST 6-HOURS (FROM 12-18 UTC)...

LATITUDE.....  
.....104W-103W 103W-102W 102W-101W 101W-100W 100W- 99W 99W- 98W  
27-28N 0- 30 5- 40 10- 45 15- 45 5- 25 0- 20  
26-27N 0- 35 10- 45 15- 45 20- 50 10- 30 5- 20  
25-26N 15- 45 20- 70 35- 85 60-100 30- 70 20- 45  
24-25N 35- 75 55-100 100-130 100-125 65-100 40- 75  
23-24N 20- 45 45- 70 70- 85 70- 95 40- 70 15- 40  
22-23N 5- 35 5- 40 10- 30 10- 25 5- 25 0- 10

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SATELLITE AND MODEL DERIVED RAINFALL  
ESTIMATES INDICATE UNCERTAINTY IN THE AMOUNT OF RAIN RECEIVED

RAINFALL MAY BE UNDERESTIMATED ON THE WINDWARD SIDE OF TERRAIN

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
HTTP://WWW.HURRICANES.GOV/RAINFALL

FORECASTER NELSON

RAINFALL ESTIMATED BY SATELLITE VIA NRL-BLEND...

24-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 18-18 UTC)- 295 MM AT 23.3N 98.7W

6-HOUR RAINFALL MAXIMUM (FROM 12-18 UTC)- 125 MM AT 24.6N 100.2W

RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IN MM OVER THE LAST 6-HOURS (FROM 12-18 UTC)...

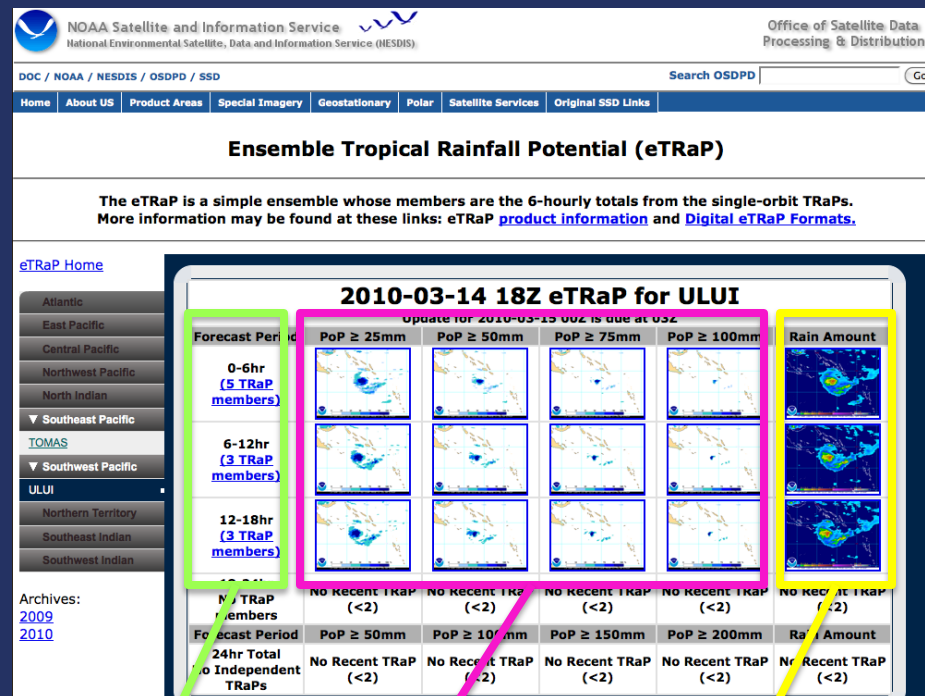
LATITUDE.....	.....104W-103W	103W-102W	102W-101W	101W-100W	100W- 99W	99W- 98W
27-28N	0- 35	5- 40	10- 45	10- 45	5- 25	0- 20
26-27N	0- 35	10- 45	15- 50	20- 50	10- 30	5- 20
25-26N	15- 45	20- 70	35- 80	65-100	25- 70	15- 45
24-25N	35- 75	55- 95	100-120	110-125	60-100	35- 75
23-24N	20- 45	45- 75	65- 85	70- 95	35- 70	15- 40
22-23N	0- 30	5- 40	10- 30	10- 30	5- 25	0- 10

- Lat-lon grid of rainfall accumulation
- 6-h accumulation ranges (in mm)
- Differences in the 3 rainfall estimates reveal uncertainty
- Available at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/rainfall/>

# Ensemble Tropical Rainfall Potential Product (eTRaP)

- 6-hourly Day 1 forecasts:  
Extrapolates polar orbiting satellite rain rate along TC forecast tracks  
(AMSU, SSMI, AMSR, GPM)
- A satellite “member” is included when its path passes over the TC
- “Members” are weighted according to age of pass and past performance of sensor
- Official forecast of TC track & at least 2 members needed to create a forecast
- Updated daily at 0315, 0915, 1515, and 2115 UTC



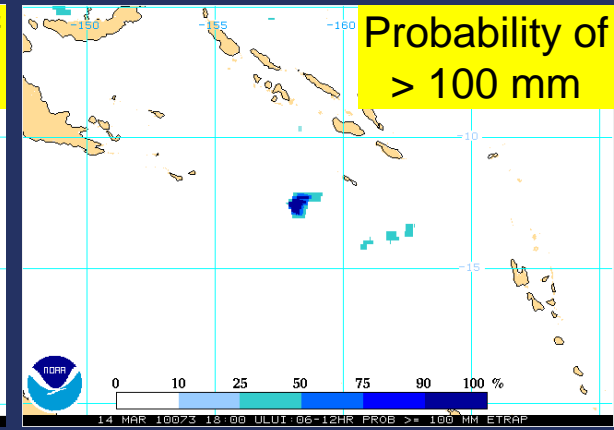
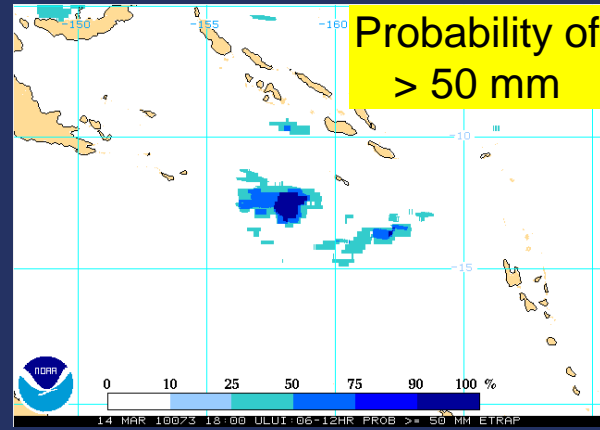
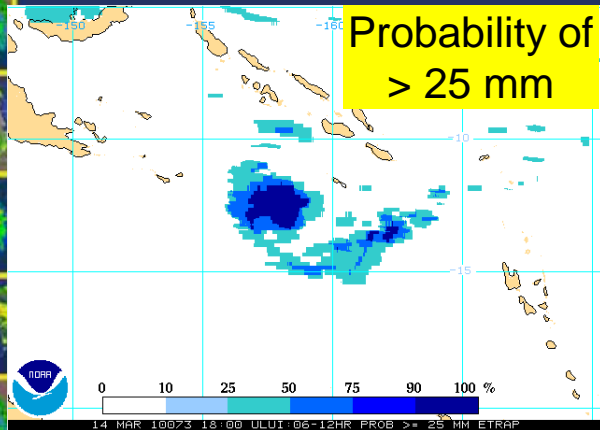
Forecast  
Period

Probability  
of  
exceedance

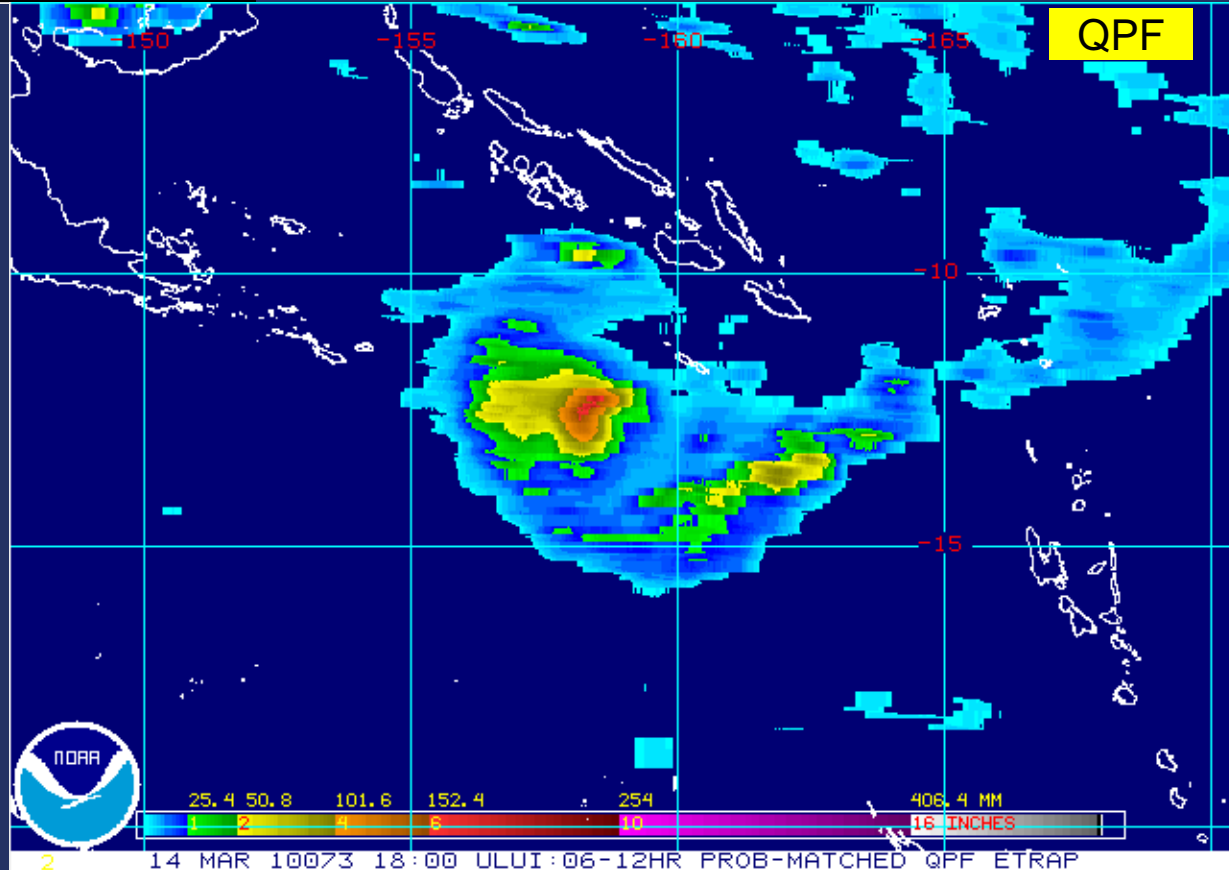
Quantitative  
Precipitation  
Forecast

<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/TROP/etrap.html>

# eTRaP: <http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/TROP/etrap.html>



**Typhoon Ului**  
06-12 hr  
eTRaP  
forecast







# CLIQR: Picking an Analog for a TC Rainfall Event

[www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tropical/rain/web/cliqr.html](http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tropical/rain/web/cliqr.html)

Looks at:

- The current rain shield size and compare it to TCs from the past
- How fast is the TC moving?
- Vertical wind shear in current/past events?
- Look for storms with similar or parallel tracks
- Is topography a consideration?
- Look for nearby fronts and examines the depth of nearby upper troughs for current event and possible analogs

Not all TC events will have a useful analog

# Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Data

<http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tropical/rain/tcrainfall.html>

## CLIQR Matching TC List (Rainfall Matches Accessible via Hyperlink)

### INVEST\_AL96

Results ranked from best match to worst match, with ties being won by the earlier storm.

BETA 2005: No graphic available.

[GERT 1993](#)

HATTIE 1961: No graphic available.

[JOAN 1988](#)

MARCO 1996: No graphic available.

NOT NAMED 1964: No graphic available.

[GORDON 1994](#)

[KATRINA 1999](#)

MARTHA 1969: No graphic available.

THIRTEEN 1985: No graphic available.

BRET 1993: No graphic available.

[ALMA 1970](#)

IRENE 1971: No graphic available.

UNNAMED 1981: No graphic available.

FOURTEEN 2002: No graphic available.

SIX 1969: No graphic available.

LAURA 1971: No graphic available.

SEVENTEEN 1973: No graphic available.

CESAR 1996: No graphic available.

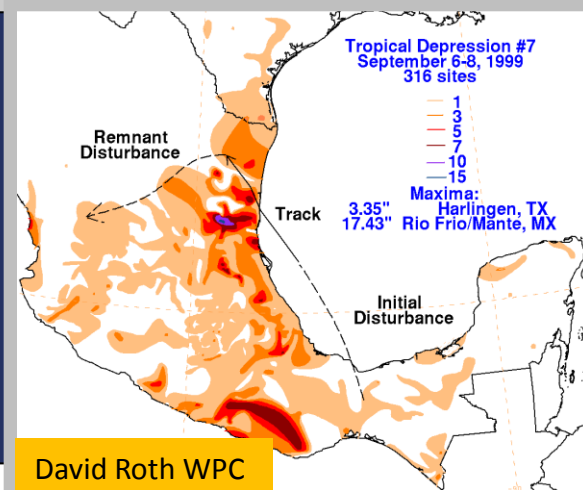
## Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Data



This page is under construction...so new information will be added as time allows. Data is available for tropical and subtropical cyclones that impacted the U.S. from 1963 onward to the present, and Mexico between 1995 and 2003, as well as some older historic storms. The image of Hurricane Floyd shown to the left was provided by the Operational Satellite Events Imagery web page of NOAA. Please select the page of your choice from the following list.

<a href="#">Select Storm By Name</a>	<a href="#">Rainfall analogs to current tropical cyclones</a>	<a href="#">Select Storm By Year</a>
<a href="#">Select Storm By Region Of Impact</a>	<a href="#">Select Storm By Point Of Entry</a>	<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Maxima Per U. S. State</a>
<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Maxima Per Mexican State</a>	<a href="#">Point Maxima for Tropical Cyclones</a>	<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Averages and Maxima per Duration</a>
<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Forecasting</a>	<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Slideshow (in Powerpoint format)</a>	<a href="#">Methodology for climatology</a>
<a href="#">Acknowledgments</a>	<a href="#">Milestones</a>	

For any questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail [David.Roth@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Roth@noaa.gov)  
Last updated May 26, 2009



Available for active TCs at:  
[www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tropical/rain/web/cliqr.html](http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tropical/rain/web/cliqr.html)

# GOES-16/17 Products

GOES-16 launched in 2016

GOES-17 launched in 2017

Rainfall Rate Algorithm

Rainfall Potential Algorithm

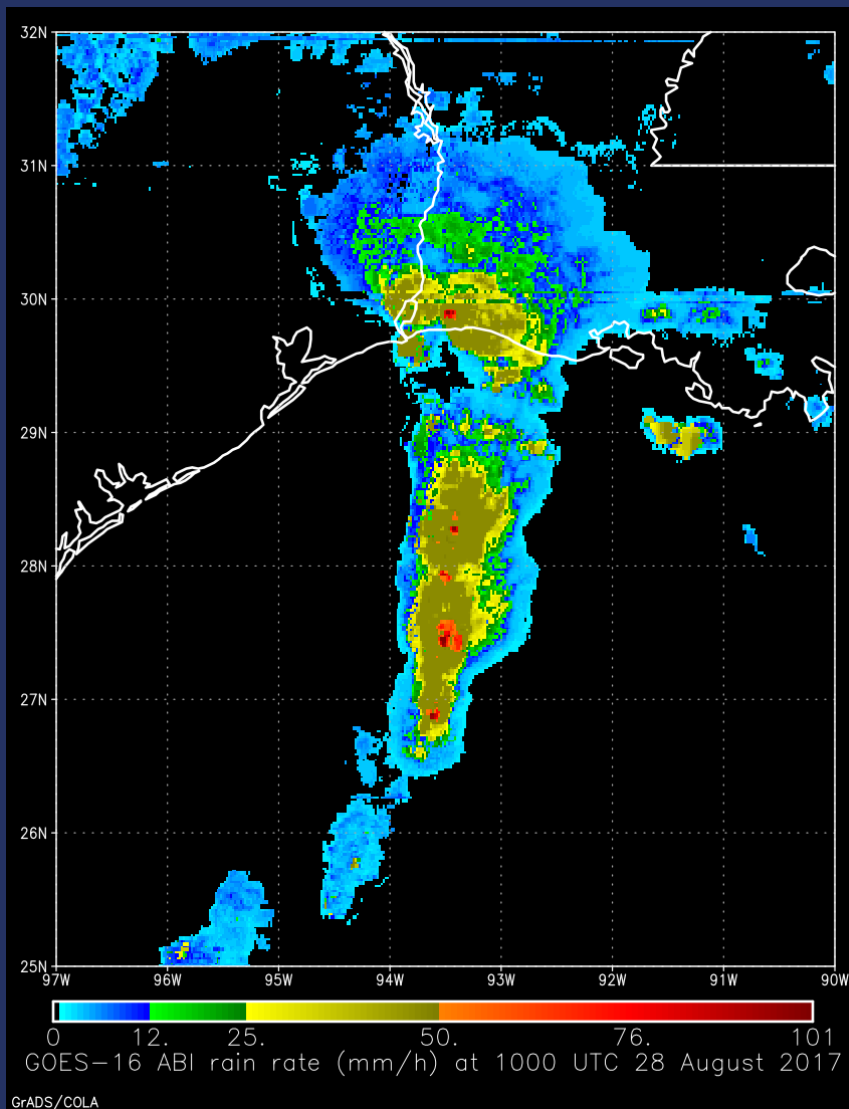
Probability of Rainfall Algorithm





# GOES-16/17 Products

## Rainfall Rate

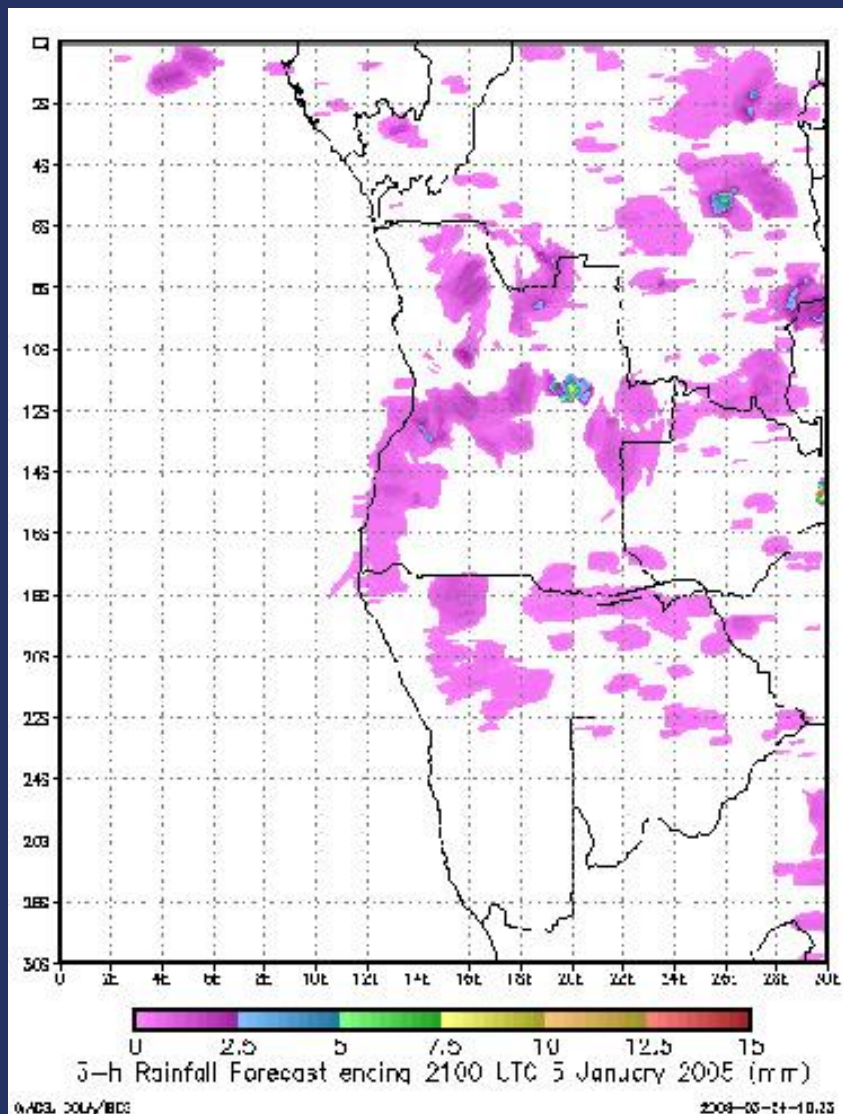


- Algorithm generates estimates of instantaneous rainfall rate at each IR pixel
- Uses IR brightness temperatures and calibrated in real time against microwave-derived rain rates to enhance accuracy
- The higher spatial and temporal resolution available from GOES-16 will be able to automatically resolve rainfall rates on a finer scale

# GOES-16/17 Products

## Rainfall Potential

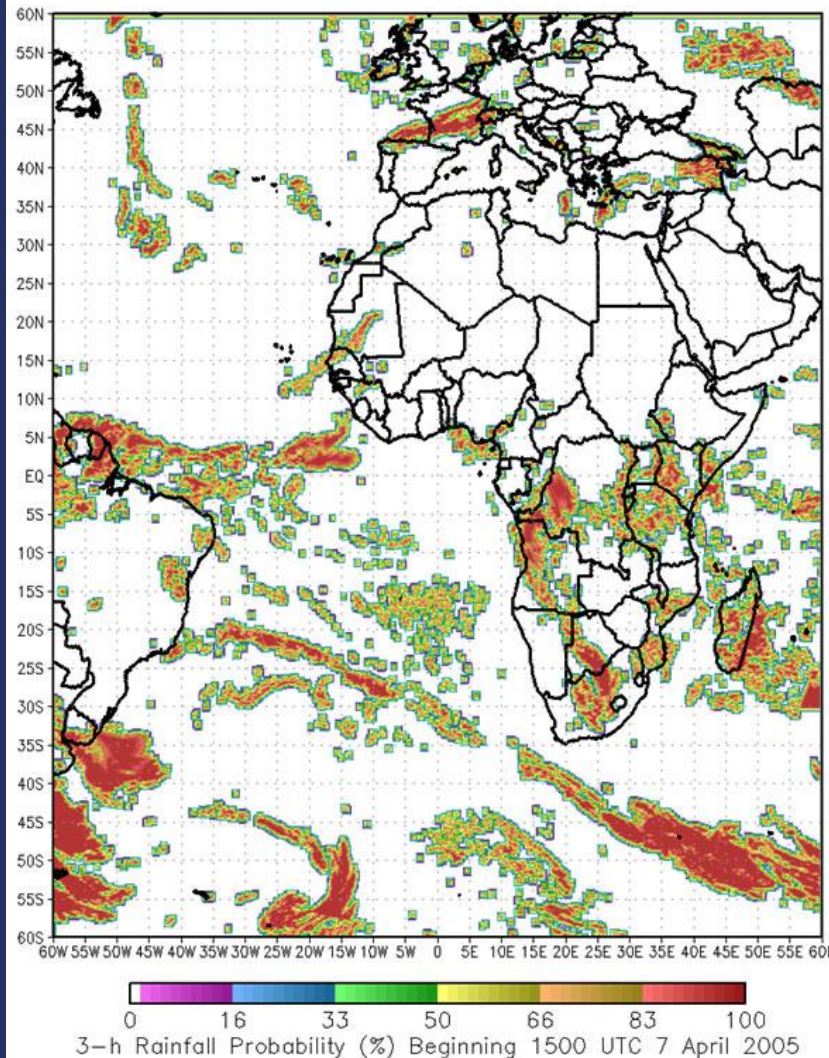
- Predicted rainfall accumulation for the next 3 hours at the satellite pixel scale
- Extrapolation from current and previous rainfall rates from the GOES-R Rainfall Rate Algorithm



# GOES-16/17 Products

## Probability of Rainfall

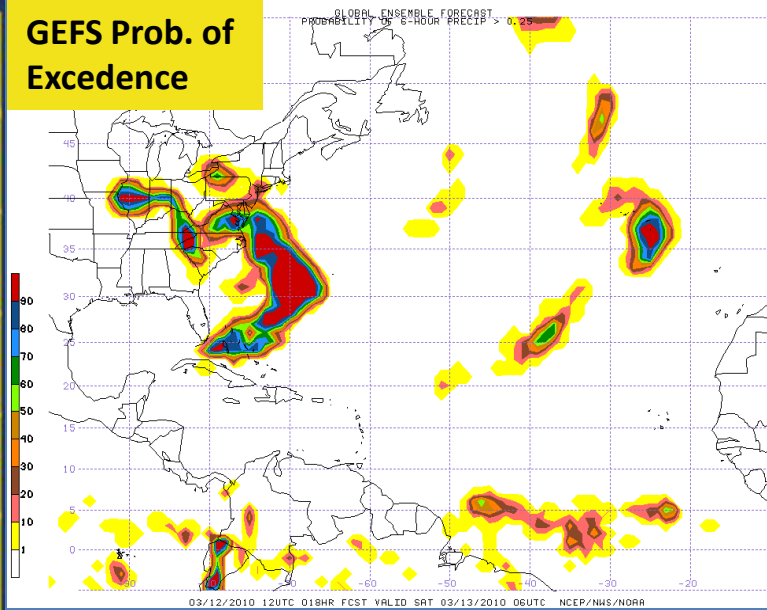
- Generates a gridded probability of at least 1 mm of rainfall during the next 3 hours at the satellite pixel scale
- Uses intermediate rainfall rate forecasts from the Rainfall Potential Algorithm as input to a statistical model calibrated against estimates from the Rainfall Rate Algorithm



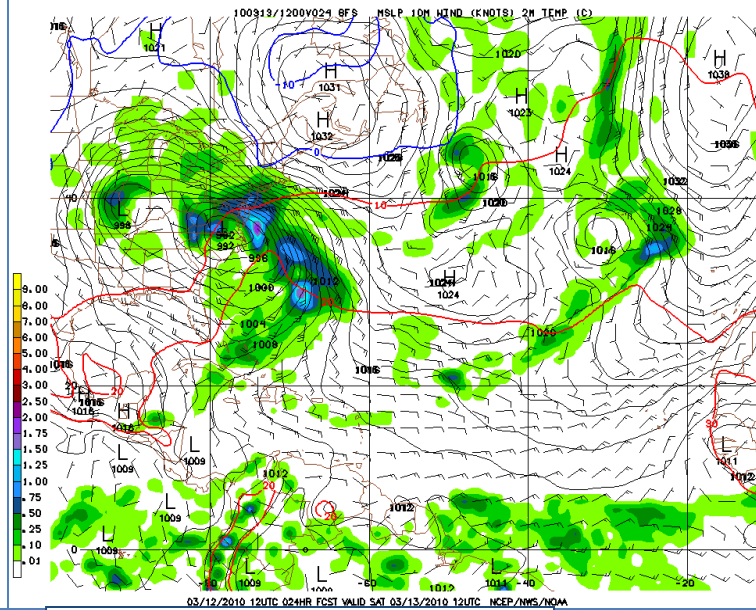
GRADS: CDLA/IGES



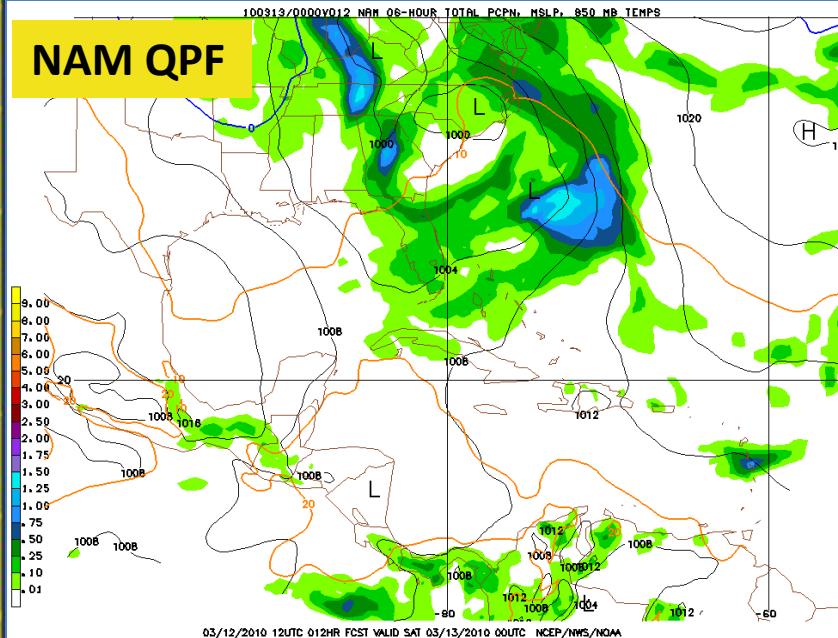
## GEFS Prob. of Excedence



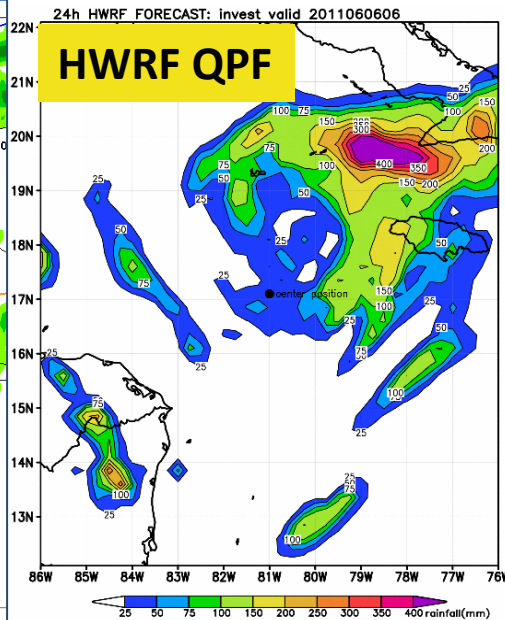
## GFS QPF



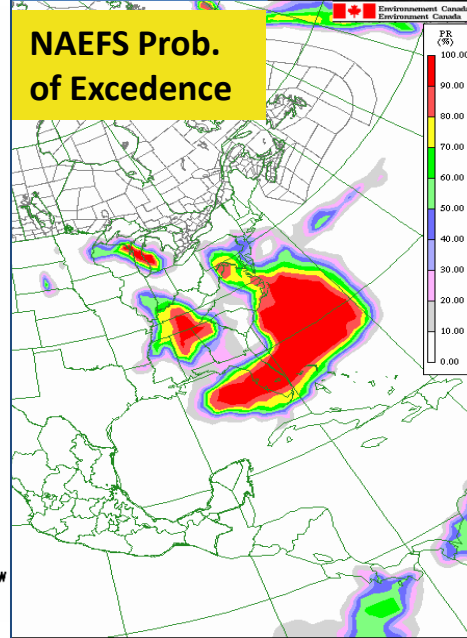
## NAM QPF



## HWRF QPF



## NAEFS Prob. of Excedence

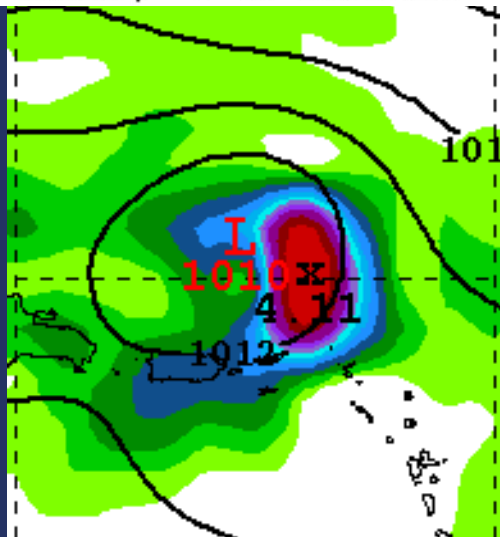


# Model Forecasts

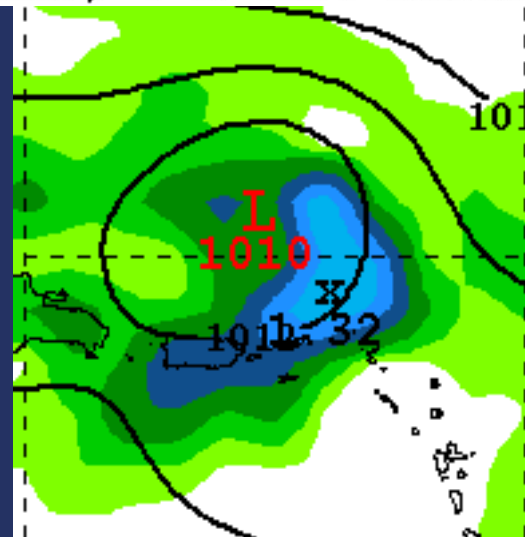
# NCEP Model QPF Biases

- NCEP models are updated frequently which makes it difficult to isolate distinct biases
- Run-to-run consistency increases confidence of occurrence

GFS MSLP, 6-H PRECIP (IN)

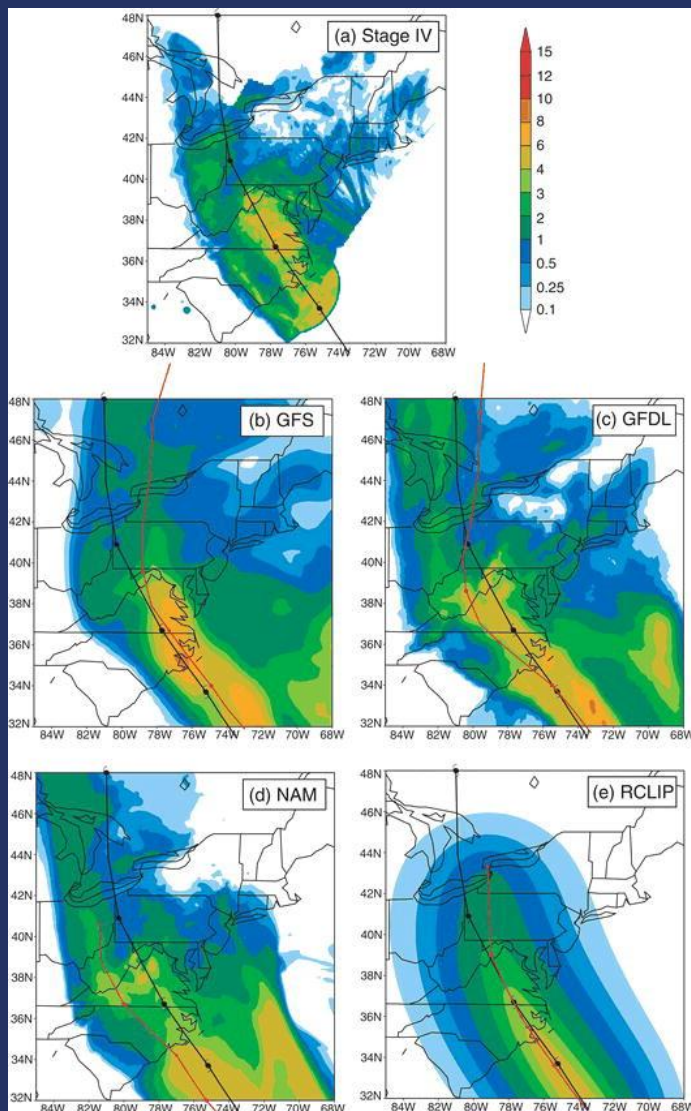


GFS MSLP, 6-H CONV PRECIP (IN)



# Model TC QPF Skill

## Marchok et al, 2007



1998-2004 U.S. landfalling TC QPFs from the GFS, GFDL hurricane model, the NAM, and the R-CLIPER (Rainfall Climatology and Persistence)

Three elements of TC rainfall forecasts used as a basis for comparing models:

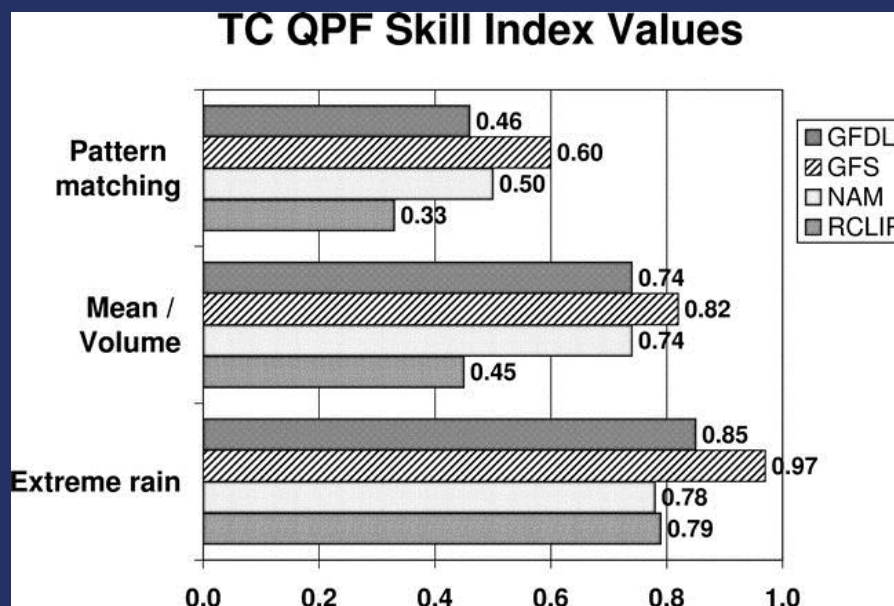
- model ability to match the large-scale rainfall pattern,
- model ability to match the mean rainfall and the distribution of rain volume, and
- model ability to produce the extreme amounts often observed in TCs



# Model TC QPF Skill

## Marchok et al, 2007

- Compared to R-CLIPER, all numerical models showed comparable or greater skill for all attributes
- **GFS performed the best of all of the models for each of the categories**
- GFDL had a bias of predicting too much heavy rain, especially in the core of the tropical cyclones
- NAM predicted too little of the heavy rain.
- R-CLIPER performed well near the track of the core, but predicted much too little rain at large distances from the track



# Model TC QPF Skill

## Marchok et al, 2007

- Compared skill for all a
- GFS perform
- GFDL had a
- the tropical
- NAM predic
- R-CLIPER
- little rain at

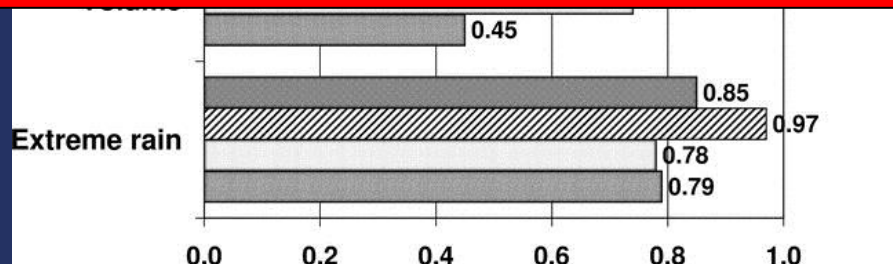
**Track forecast error was a primary determinant of tropical cyclone QPF error**

e or greater

ories

he core of

l much too





# Where to Find Model QPFs

- **NHC Tropical Rainfall Webpage (storm-specific GFS, hindcasts)**

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/rainfall/>

- **NCEP models (GFS, NAM, GEFS, NAEFS) including tropical guidance (HWRF and HMON)**

<http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov>

- **Canadian Global GEM**

[http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/model\\_forecast/global\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/model_forecast/global_e.html)

- **Canadian Global GEM Ensembles**

[http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/ensemble/index\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/ensemble/index_e.html)

- **NAVGEN**

<http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/metoc/nogaps/>

- **ECMWF**

<http://schumacher.atmos.colostate.edu/weather/ecmwf.php>

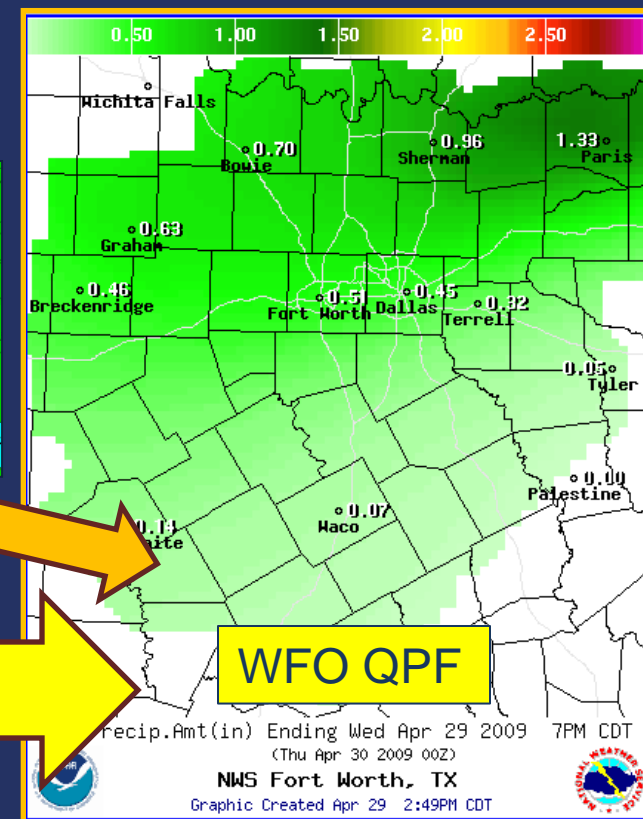
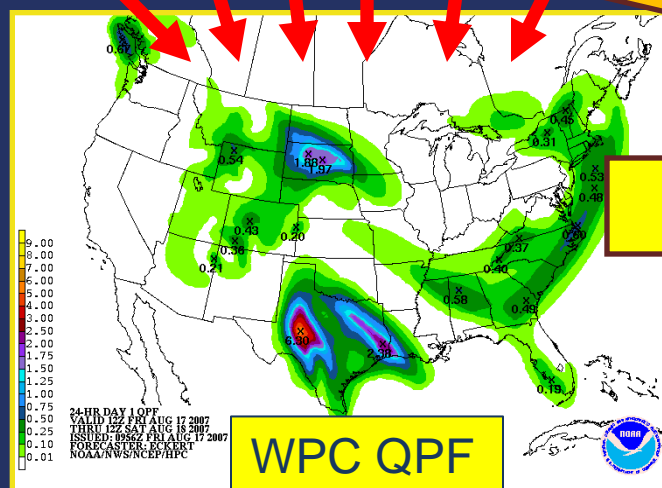
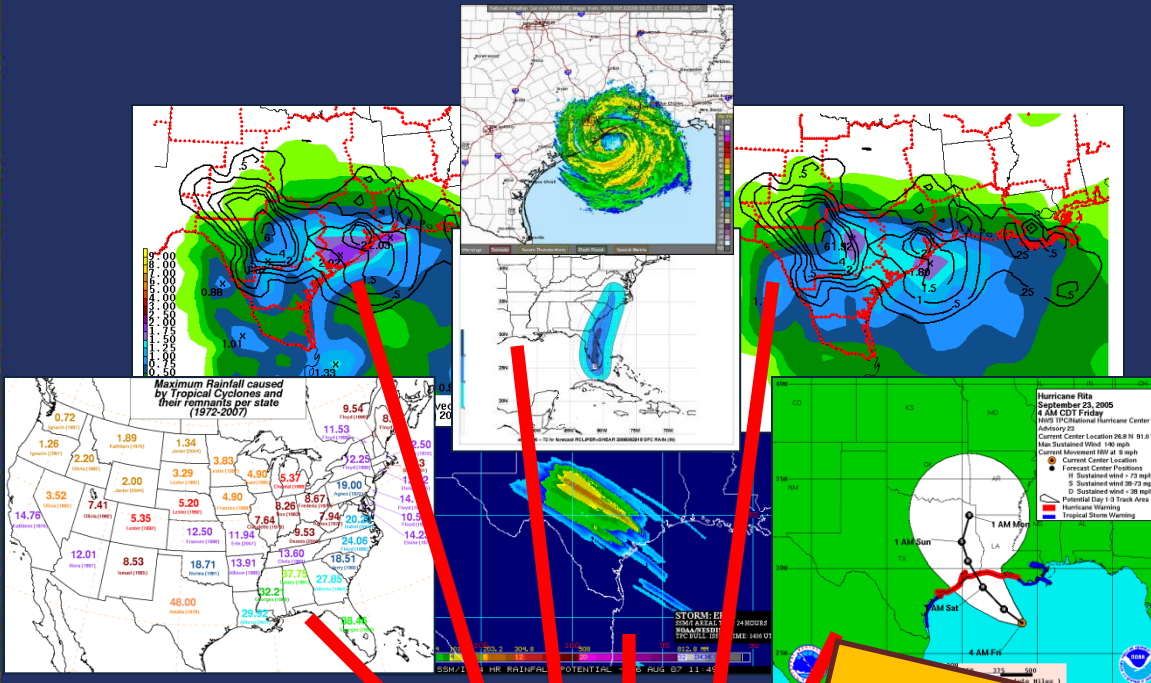
- **Penn State Tropical Atlantic E-Wall**

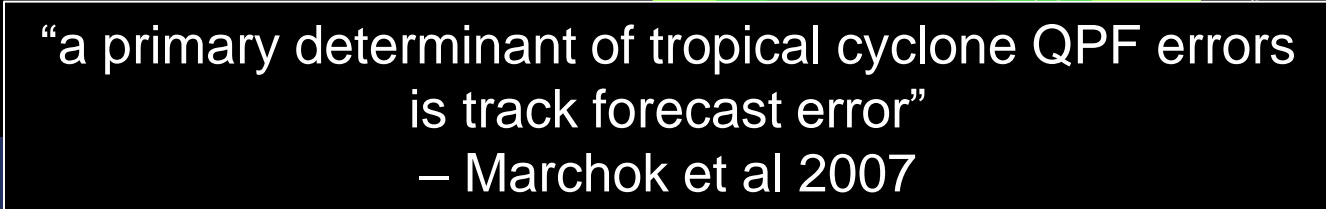
<http://mp1.met.psu.edu/~fxg1/ewalltropatl.html>



# TC QPF Forecast Process

# NWS Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF)

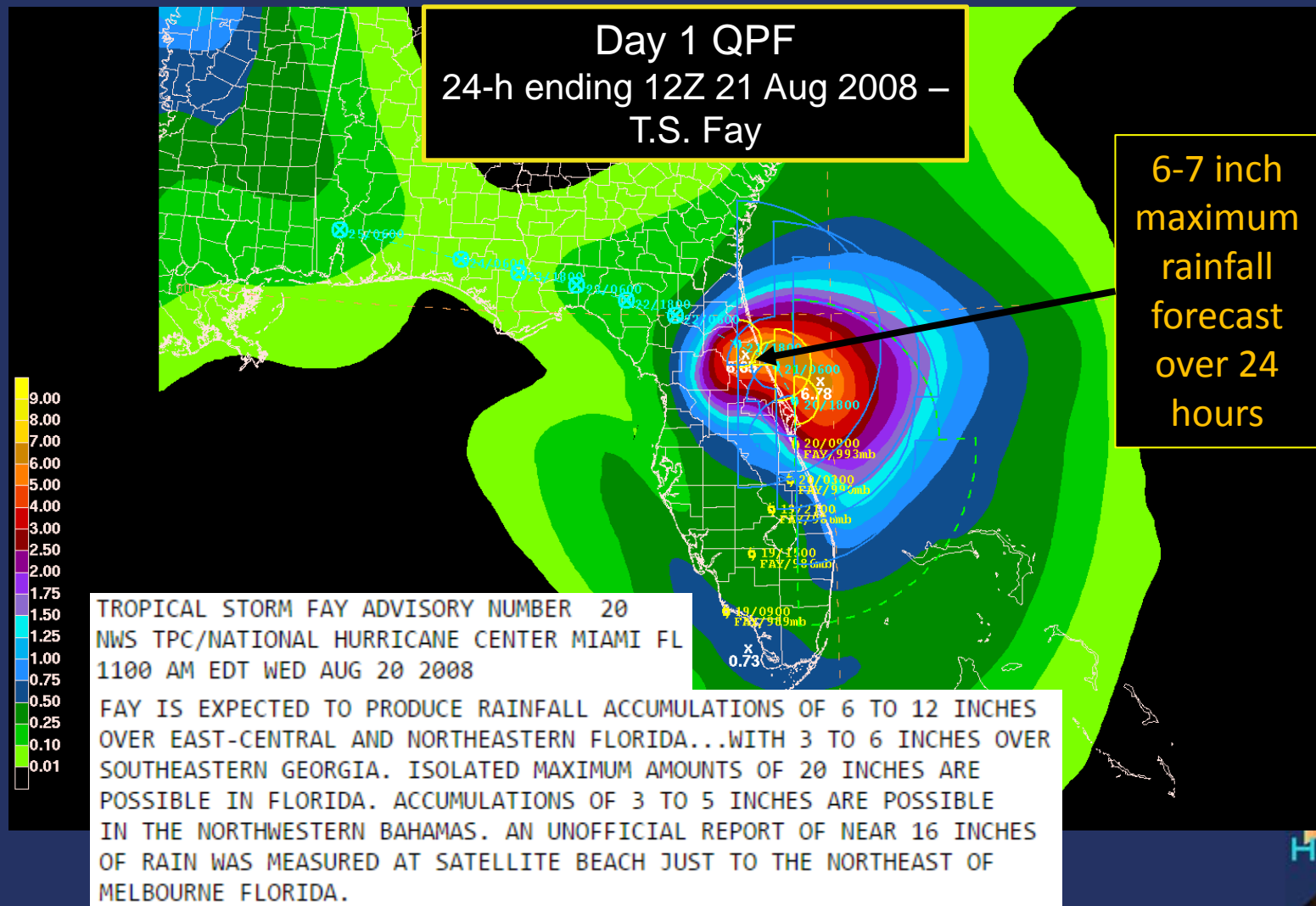






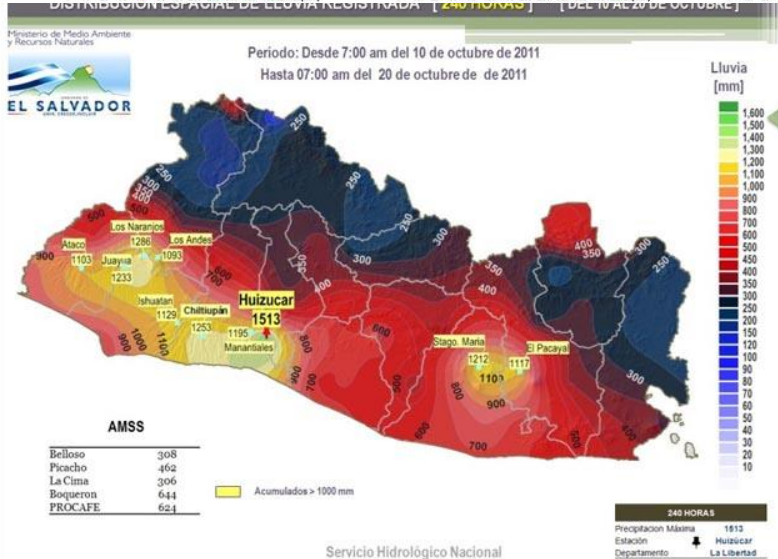
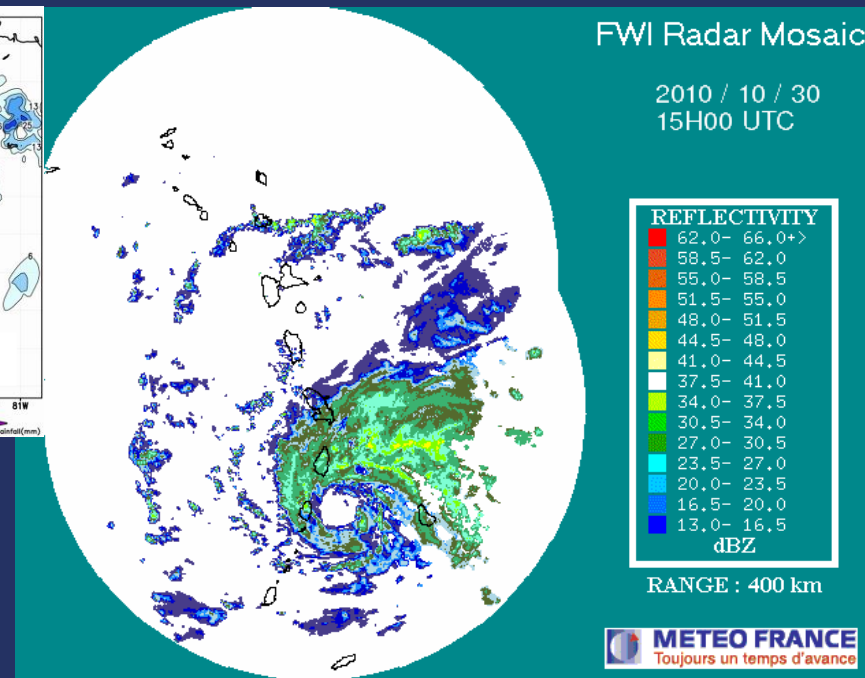
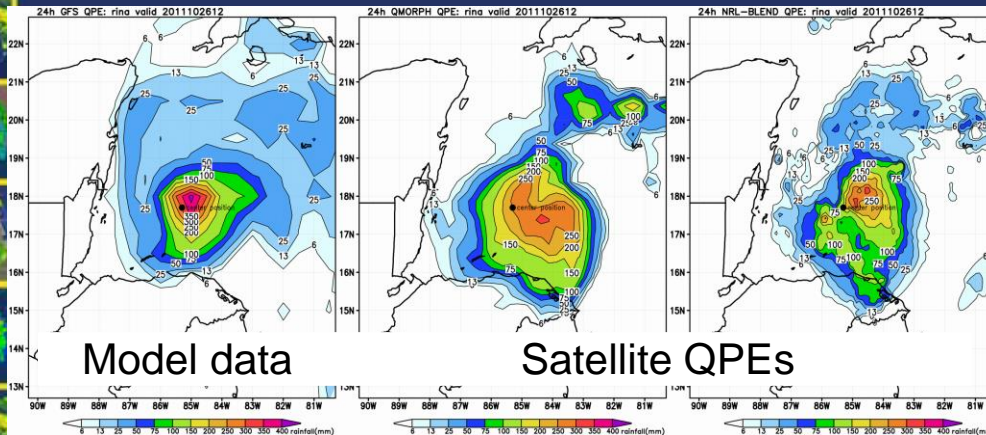
# Production of Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts

How well do the models match the NHC rainfall statement?



# Production of Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts

Use observations and recent model data to determine the current structure/rainfall rates



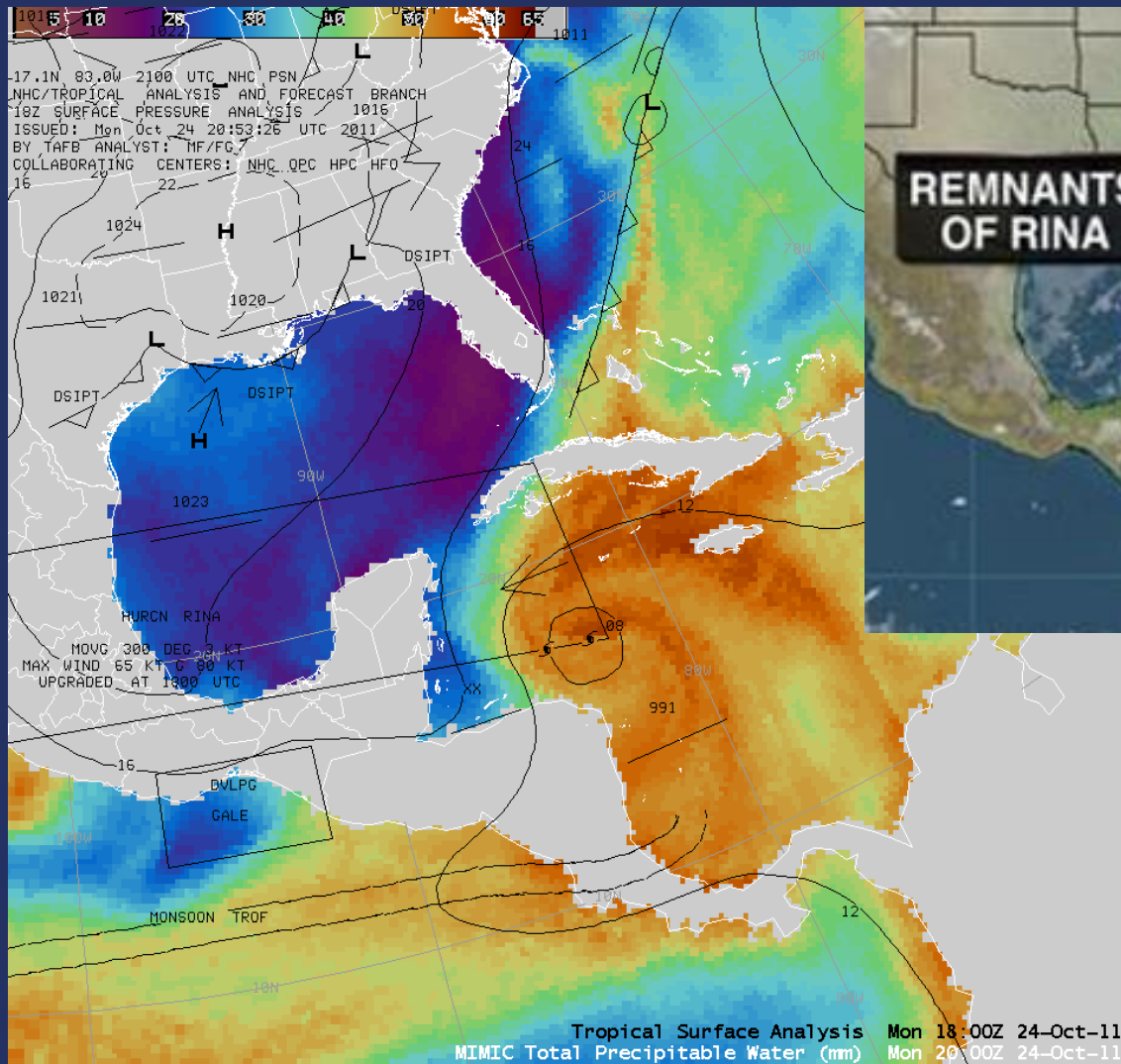
Gauge data

Radar



# Production of Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts

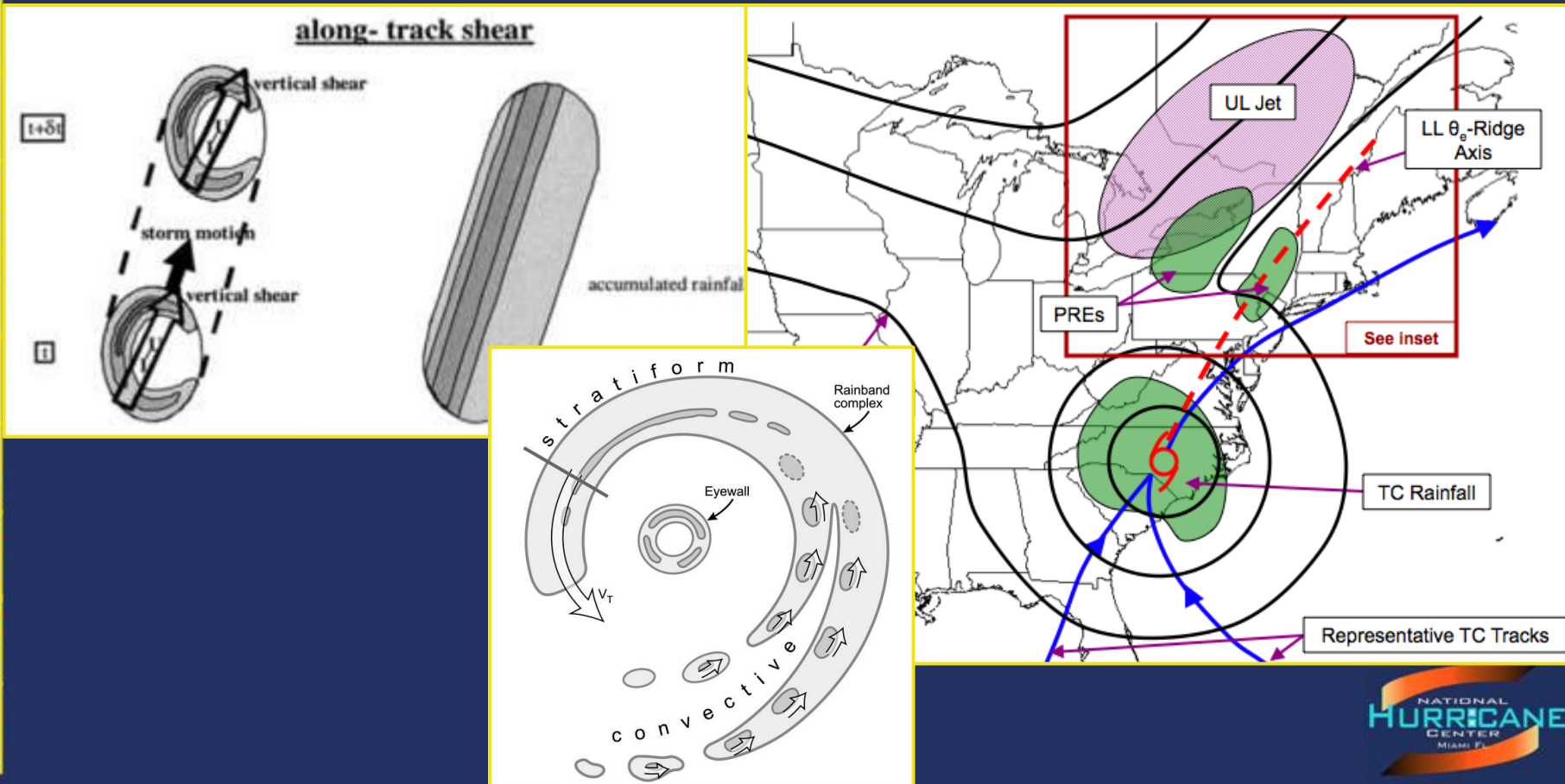
Locate relevant synoptic scale and meso-scale boundaries





# Production of Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts

Use conceptual models and pattern recognition as well as the forecast upper level winds to further adjust QPF



# Production of Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts

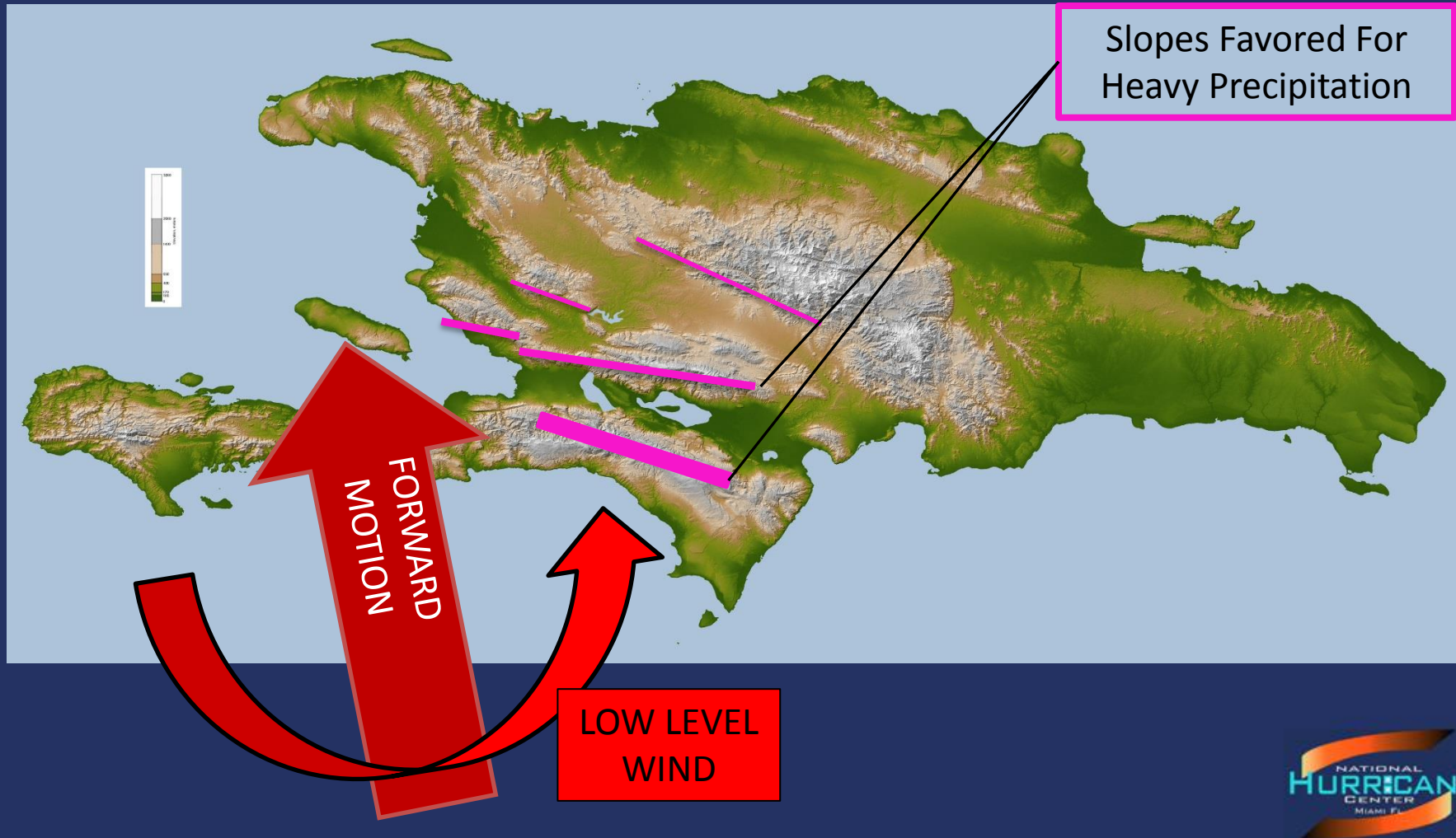
Identify areas of orographic enhancement





# Production of Tropical Cyclone Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts

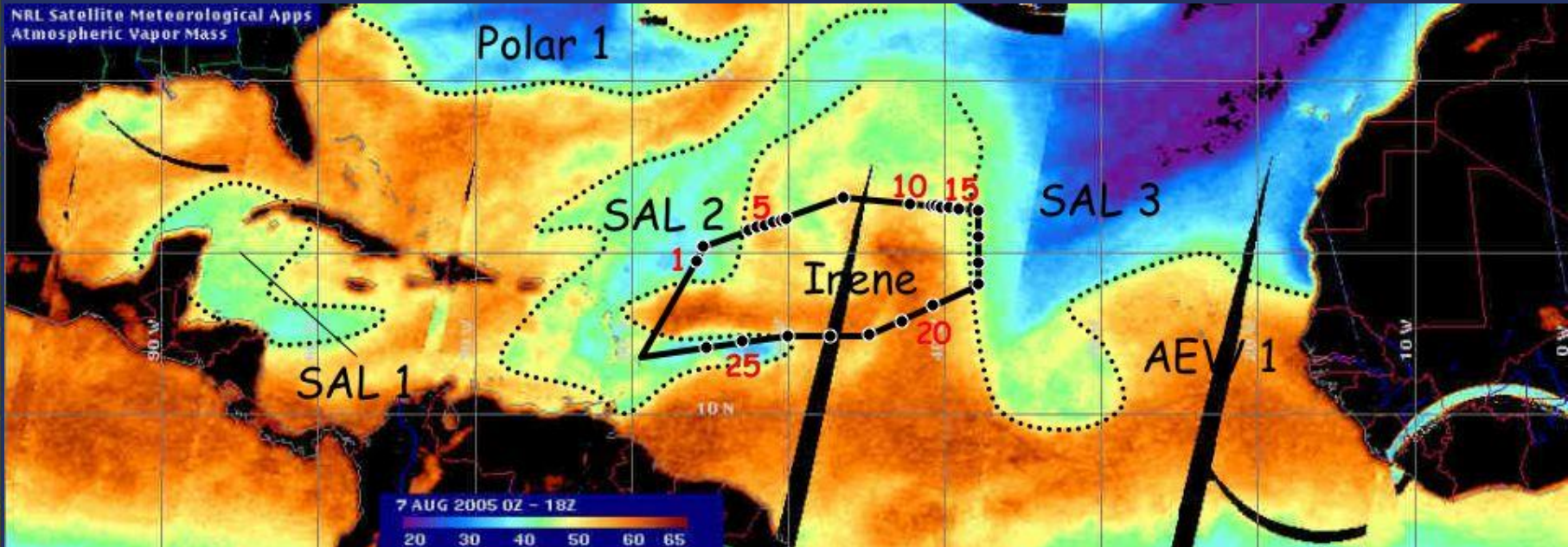
Identify areas of orographic enhancement





# Production of Tropical Cyclone Related QPF

Determine how a change in available moisture could increase, decrease, or redistribute rainfall



# Production of Tropical Cyclone Related QPF

Use climatology (CLIQR, R-CLIPER, TC Rainfall Climatology) and data from past storms to:

- Increase/decrease amounts
- Adjust numerical guidance biases
- Reality check
- Highlight areas significantly impacted by terrain effects

## INVEST\_AL96

Results ranked from best match to worst match, with ties being won by the earlier storm.

BETA 2005: No graphic available.

[GERT 1993](#)

HATTIE 1961: No graphic available.

[JOAN 1988](#)

MARCO 1996: No graphic available.

NOT NAMED 1964: No graphic available.

[GORDON 1994](#)

[KATRINA 1999](#)

MARTHA 1969: No graphic available.

THIRTEEN 1985: No graphic available.

BRET 1993: No graphic available.

[ALMA 1970](#)

IRENE 1971: No graphic available.

UNNAMED 1981: No graphic available.

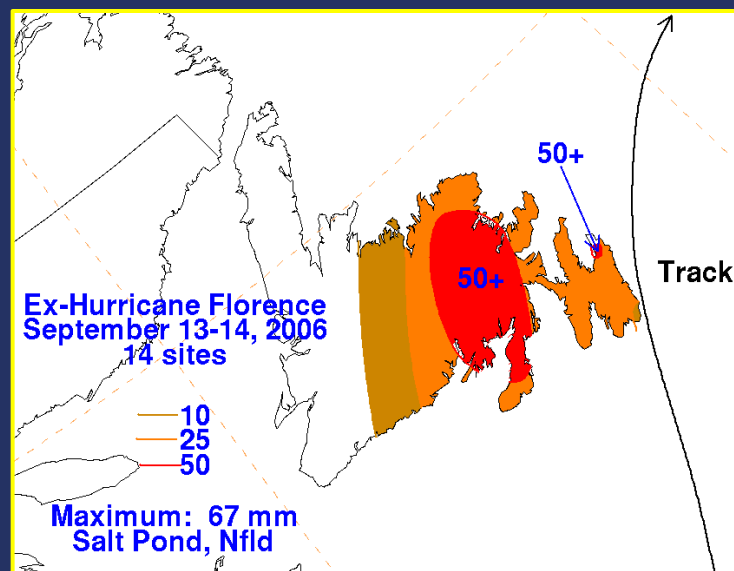
FOURTEEN 2002: No graphic available.

SIX 1969: No graphic available.

LAURA 1971: No graphic available.

SEVENTEEN 1973: No graphic available.

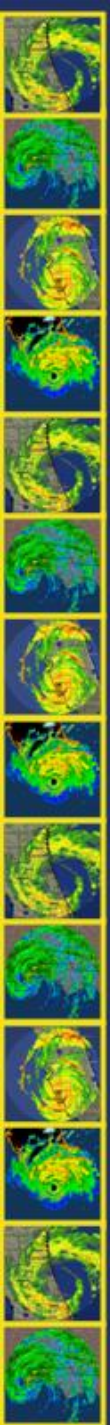
CESAR 1996: No graphic available.



# In Conclusion

- Remember factors that influence TC rainfall
  - Size of storm, time of day, speed etc.
- Evaluate quality of the model data compared to current conditions
- Assess the amount of shear in the environment
  - How will it influence rainfall?
- Are there past TCs that resemble the rainfall distribution and forecast of the TC?
- Use all of the tools available
  - Satellite rainfall products, NWP models, etc.)
- Remember, heavy rain can also occur well away from the TC itself
  - PREs, secondary disturbances, etc.





# Thank You

## Questions?