

# GOES-R Overview of Aviation and Nowcasting Applications Current Status and a Look into Future

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*Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS),  
University of Wisconsin – Madison, U. S. A.*

*Environment Canada, Toronto/Montreal  
April 28-29, 2011*

# Thank you for inviting me!

- 19 years at UW-Madison
- Research interests: Nowcasting, uplooking passive thermodynamic profiling, validation, NWP satellite simulations
- Principal Investigator: NASA ASAP, NASA ROSES, NOAA GIMPAP, NOAA GOES-R AWG/PG, NOAA/NRC Network of Networks study
- GOES-R Aviation Algorithm Working Group Co-Chair 2007-present
- AMS SatMet Committee (2007- current)
- AMS Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology Editor 2009-present

# Outline

- National Aviation Transportation System
- GOES-R R3/AWG/PG programs
- Aviation Hazard Overview
- GOES-R Aviation Application Overview
  - Validation
  - Path to current Proving Grounds and operational use on current imager technology
- Convection
- Turbulence
- Summary

# GOES-R Program

Risk Reduction



Algorithm Working Group



Proving Ground Exercises

First Light Decision Support Products



# Algorithm Research to Operations Process

GOES-R Risk  
Reduction  
Exploratory  
Algorithm  
Development

AWG Algorithm  
Candidate  
Development &  
Intercomparison

AWG Algorithm  
Selection and  
Proving Ground  
Demonstration

Operational  
Environment



The diagram illustrates a four-stage process. The first stage is 'GOES-R Risk Reduction Exploratory Algorithm Development', represented by a blue grid. The second stage is 'AWG Algorithm Candidate Development & Intercomparison', represented by a green grid. The third stage is 'AWG Algorithm Selection and Proving Ground Demonstration', represented by an orange grid. The final stage is the 'Operational Environment', represented by a pink area. Red arrows show the flow from the blue grid to the green grid, from the green grid to the orange grid, and from the orange grid to the pink area.

# GOES-R AWG Application Teams

- **Soundings** (*Tim Schmit*)
  - **Winds** (Jaime Daniels, *Chris Velden*)
  - **Clouds** (*Andy Heidinger*)
  - **Aviation** (Ken Pryor, *Wayne Feltz*)
  - **Aerosols / Air Quality / Atmospheric Chemistry** (Shobha Kondragunta, *Steve Ackerman/Chris Schmidt/Brad Pierce*)
  - **Land Surface** (Dan Tarpley, *Chris Schmidt/Elaine Prins*)
  - **Cryosphere** (*Jeff Key*)
  - **Visualization and Imagery** (*Tim Schmit*)
  - SST and Ocean Dynamics (Alexander Ignatov)
  - Radiation Budget (Istvan Laszlo)
  - Lightning (Steve Goodman)
  - Space Environment (Steven Hill)
  - Hydrology (Robert Kuligowski)
- 
- **Proxy Data** (Fuzhong Weng, *Allen Huang/Tom Greenwald*)
  - **Algorithm Integration** (Walter Wolf, *Ray Garcia/Graeme Martin*)
  - **Cal/Val** (Changyong Cao, *Dave Tobin*)

SSEC AWG Involvement in  
Yellow

AWG Chair listed first

*Local SSEC/CIMSS POC*  
*underlined/italics*

# GOES-R- Baseline and Option 2 Products

(by inclusion  
into geocat)

In GEOCAT  
(from CIMSS)

Near-term plans  
for GEOCAT  
(from CIMSS)

No Current  
plans for  
GEOCAT  
(from CIMSS)

No known plans for  
GEOCAT

GLM Product

GOES-R Baseline Products	GOES-R Option 2 Products
Aerosol Detection (Including Smoke and Dust)	Aerosol Particle Size
Aerosol Optical Depth: AOD & Suspended Matter	Aircraft Icing Threat
Volcanic Ash: Detection and Height	Cloud Ice Water Path
Cloud and Moisture Imagery	Cloud Layers/Heights
Cloud Optical Depth	Cloud Liquid Water
Cloud Particle Size Distribution	Cloud Type
Cloud Top Phase	Convective Initiation
Cloud Top Height	Enhanced "V" / Overshooting Top Detection
Cloud Top Pressure	Low Cloud and Fog
Cloud Top Temperature	Tropopause Folding Turbulence Prediction
Hurricane Intensity	Visibility
Lightning Detection: Events, Groups & Flashes	Probability of Rainfall
Rainfall Rate / QPE	Rainfall Potential
Legacy Vertical Moisture Profile	Absorbed Shortwave Radiation: Surface
Legacy Vertical Temperature Profile	Downward Longwave Radiation: Surface
Derived Stability Indices	Upward Longwave Radiation: Surface
Total Precipitable Water	Upward Longwave Radiation : TOA
Clear Sky Masks	Ozone Total
Downward Shortwave Radiation: Surface	SO <sub>2</sub> Detection
Reflected Shortwave Radiation: TOA	Flood/Standing Water
Derived Motion Winds	Ice Cover
Fire/Hot Spot Characterization	Snow Depth (over Plains)
Land Surface (Skin) Temperature	Surface Albedo
Snow Cover	Surface Emissivity
Seas Surface Temperature (Skin)	Vegetation Fraction: Green
	Vegetation Index
	Currents
	Currents: Offshore
	Sea and Lake Ice: Age
	Sea and Lake Ice: Concentration
	Sea and Lake Ice: Motion

Of the 25 Baseline products, 15 are in GEOCAT

Revised 6/30/2009

# Satellite-based Nowcasting and Aviation Application (SNAAP) Team

- Primarily NASA/NOAA funded through Advanced Satellite Aviation-weather Products (ASAP) and GOES/GOES-R/Polar initiatives working with NOAA, FAA, and NCAR
- 8th Year of Existence with UW-CIMSS Research Focus
  - Convection, Mesoscale winds
  - Turbulence
  - Volcanic Ash
- Team continues to explore satellite-based aviation weather applications with emphasis on the 0-3 hour forecast problem

# UW-CIMSS SNAAP Team

PI/Lead: Wayne Feltz

NOAA Collaborators: Michael Pavolonis, Bradley Pierce, and Tim Schmit

## ➤ Convective Initiation

- Justin Sieglaff
- Lee Counce
- Kris Bedka (formerly CIMSS)

## ➤ Enhanced-V/Overshooting top detection

- Jason Brunner
- Kristopher Bedka
- Richard Dworak

## ➤ Turbulence

- Anthony Wimmers
- Wayne Feltz

## ➤ Current Graduate Students

- Sarah Monette (Tropical Genesis using OTTC)
- Caitlin Hart (WDSS-II object tracking of satellite-based convection)

## ➤ Volcanic ash/SO<sub>2</sub>

- Mike Pavolonis (NOAA STAR)
- Andrew Parker

## ➤ Fog/Low Cloud

- Mike Pavolonis (NOAA STAR)
- Corey Calvert

## ➤ Visibility

- Brad Pierce (NOAA STAR)
- Wayne Feltz

# Why satellite-based nowcasting/aviation applications (0-6 hour range)?

- Aviation Community demands high temporal and spatial resolution
- Aviation weather hazard information is relevant on very short time scales
- Geostationary satellites provide the temporal resolution but do not provide data at high latitudes where “great circle” commercial aviation routes are common
- Polar-orbiting satellites provide higher spatial resolution with more advanced weather research instrumentation but many times do not provide the temporal information need for short term high impact weather nowcasts in the mid-latitudes and tropics
- Satellites data provide the primary information over data sparse oceanic, arctic, and high terrain regions where commercial and general aviation aircraft operate

# The Current System is not Performing Adequately

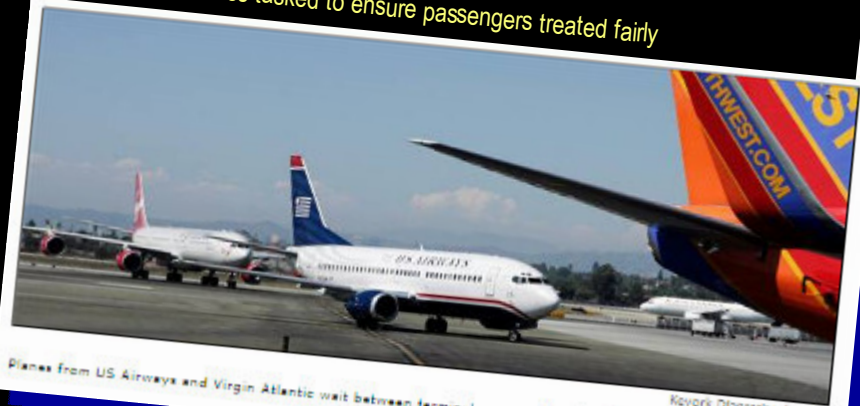
**The New York Times**

**Airport Delays Worsen**

By MATTHEW L. WALD  
July 10, 2008

...delays at Newark Liberty and La Guardia are worse.

**Travel woes continue: 'We've got a problem'**  
Transportation boss tasked to ensure passengers treated fairly



Planes from US Airways and Virgin Atlantic wait between terminals one and two to taxi at LAX last month.  
Newark Oganessian / AP file

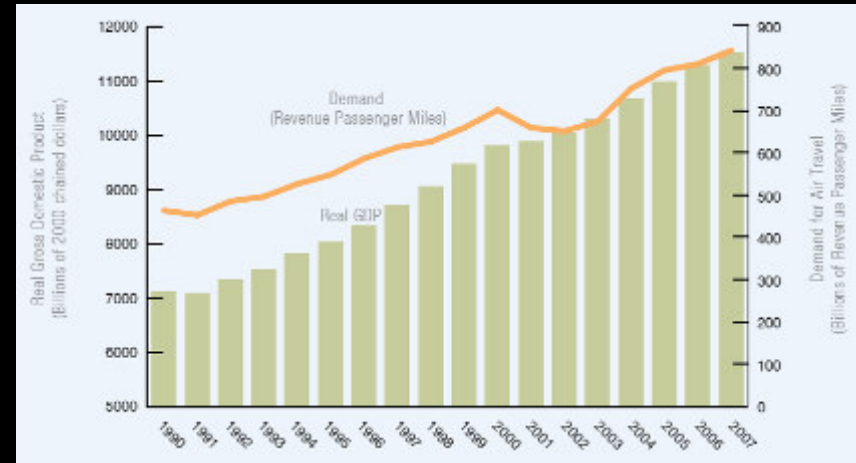
- Demand remains high in already congested markets

Our air traffic system does not utilize current available technologies to:

- Support aviation's role in the national economy
- Address aviation's environmental impact



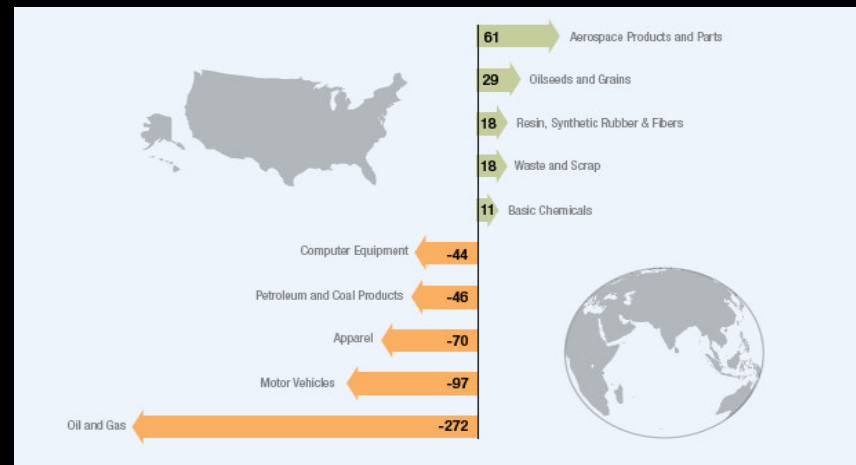
# Impact of Aviation on the U.S. Economy



The Aviation Industry contributes to the U.S. Economy and International Trade

## Aviation accounts for:

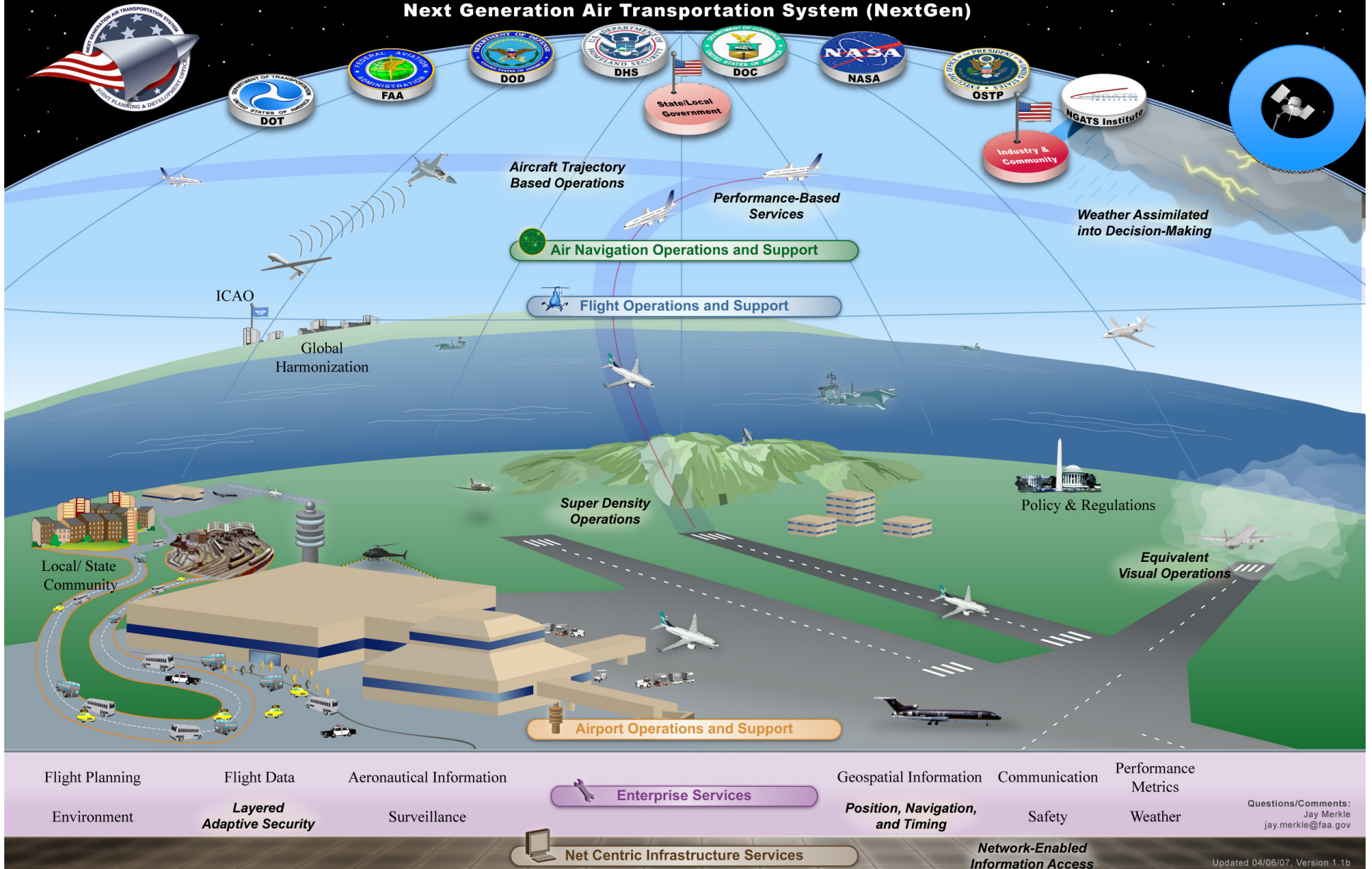
- 11 million aviation-related jobs
- \$1.2 trillion in economic activity
- 5.6 Percent Contribution to Gross Domestic Product
- Adds \$61 Billion to the US Trade Balance





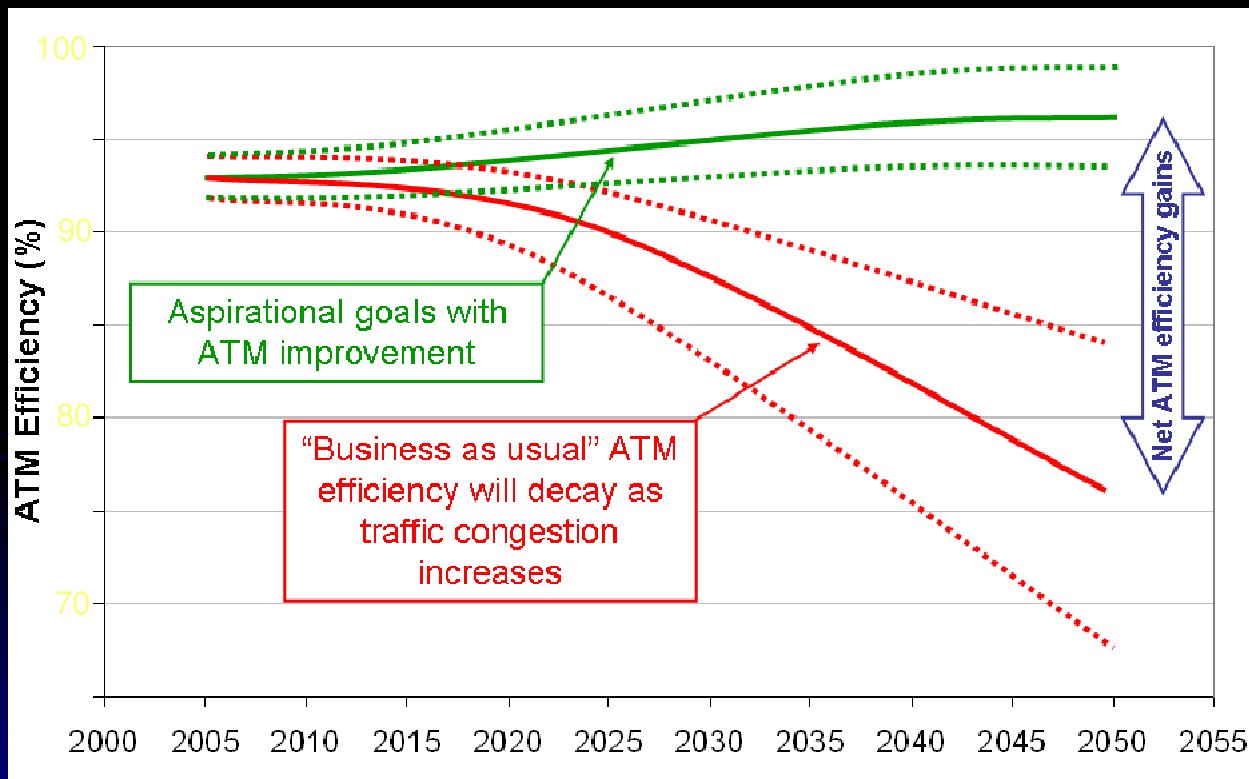
# NextGen

## Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)



# Environmental Impact

Trends show that environmental impacts from aircraft noise and emissions will be a critical constraint on airspace capacity and flexibility -- unless managed & mitigated



Increased efficiency with NextGen will lead to reduced fuel consumption, resulting in lower carbon emissions.

SOURCE: 2009 ICAO

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# NextGen: Improving Efficiency and Capacity

## Today's National Airspace System

Ground-based Navigation and Surveillance  
Air Traffic Control Communications By Voice  
Disconnected Information Systems  
Air Traffic "Control"  
Fragmented Weather Forecasting  
Airport Operations Limited By Visibility Conditions  
Forensic Safety Systems



## NextGen

Satellite-based Navigation and Surveillance  
Routine Information Sent Digitally  
Information More Readily Accessible  
Air Traffic "Management"  
Forecasts Embedded into Decisions  
Operations Continue Into Lower Visibility  
Conditions  
Prognostic Safety Systems



*The transition to NextGen has already begun.*

# NextGen Weather: Improving Efficiency and Capacity

Provides advanced weather Information as requested by users to enable collaborative planning and efficient utilization of airspace routes from end to end through entire trajectory

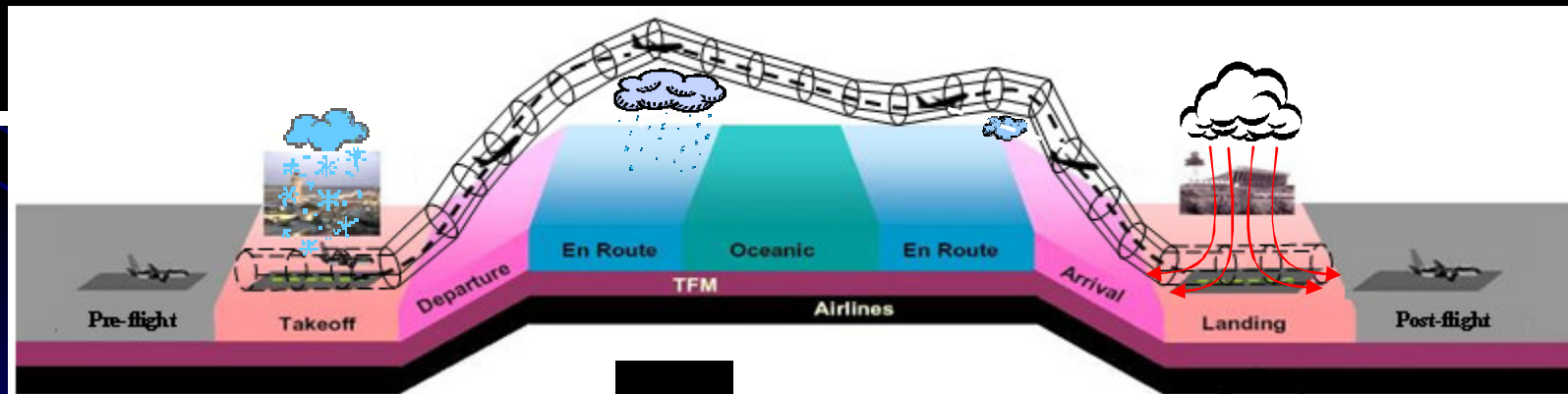
Arrival Forecast Weather  
Alternate Forecast Weather  
Flight Winds

Thunderstorms  
Lightning  
Crosswinds  
Wind Shear  
Freezing/Frozen Precip  
Low Ceiling & Visibility  
Surface Icing

Thunderstorms, Jet Stream,  
Volcanic Ash, Turbulence,  
In-Flight Icing, Winds,  
Mountain Waves

Thunderstorms  
Lightning  
Crosswinds  
Wind Shear  
Freezing/Frozen Precip  
Low Ceiling & Visibility  
Surface Icing

Post-flight observed weather  
archives

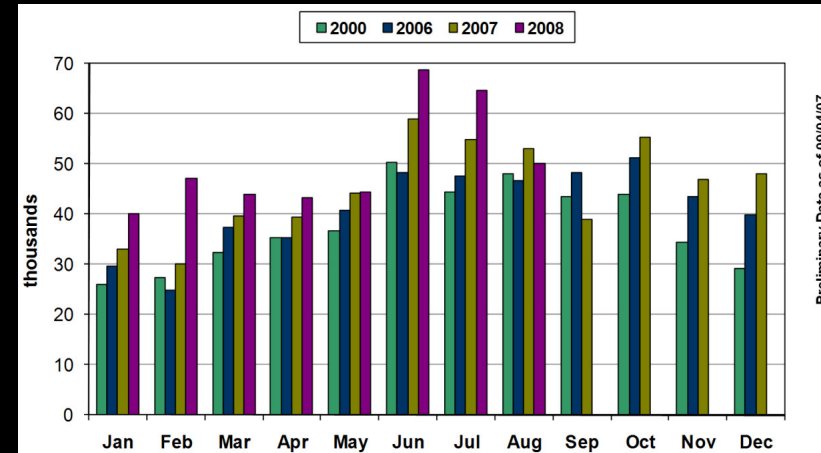
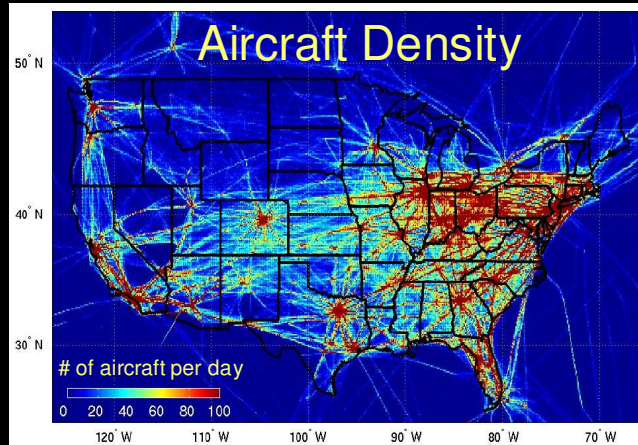


# Primary Aviation Weather Hazards

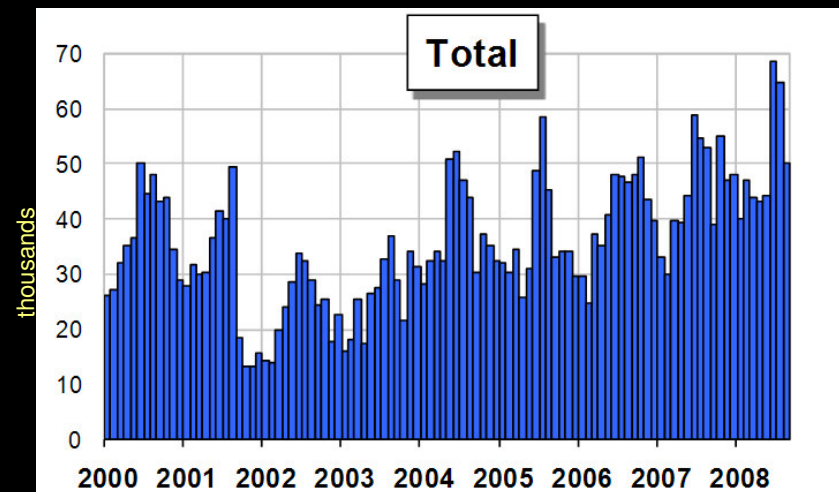
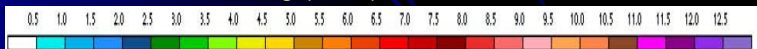
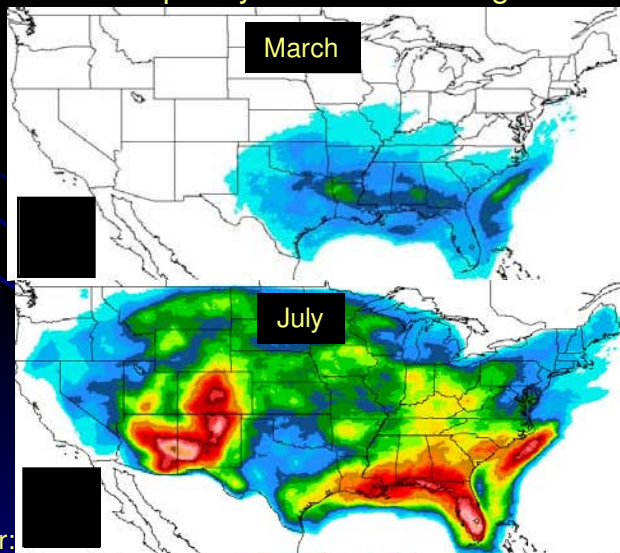
- Convective weather and strong storms (#1 cause of delays/cancellations)
- Turbulence and wake vortices (#1 safety hazard at cruise altitudes)
- Icing (ground, in-flight and engine ice accretion)
- Reduced visibility (VFR pilots in IFR conditions)
- Volcanic ash and gas (Rare but potentially catastrophic)



# Aviation Summertime Delays



## Percent Frequency of Convective Sigmets



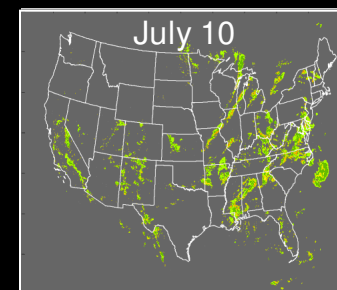
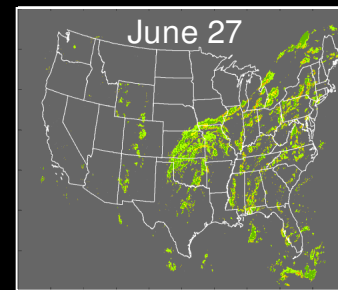
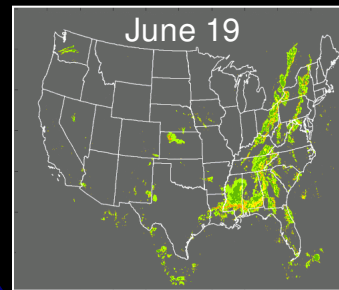
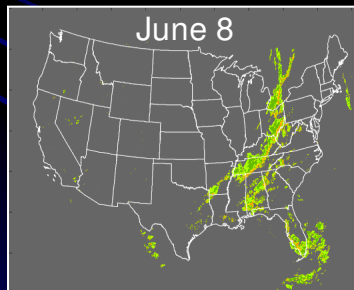
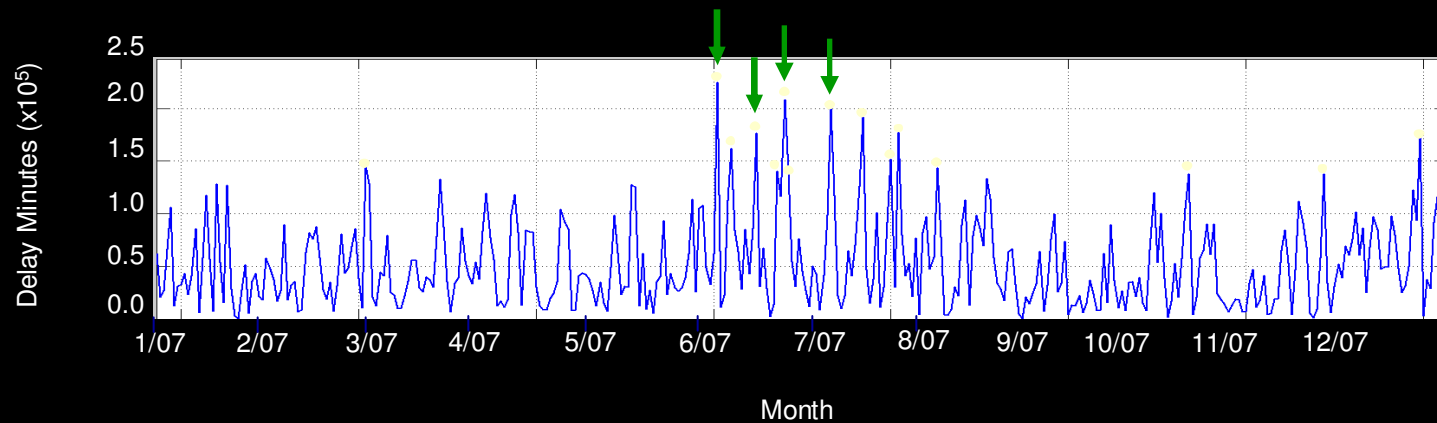
Courtesy: MITRE Corp.

# Convective Weather Impact on High Density Operations

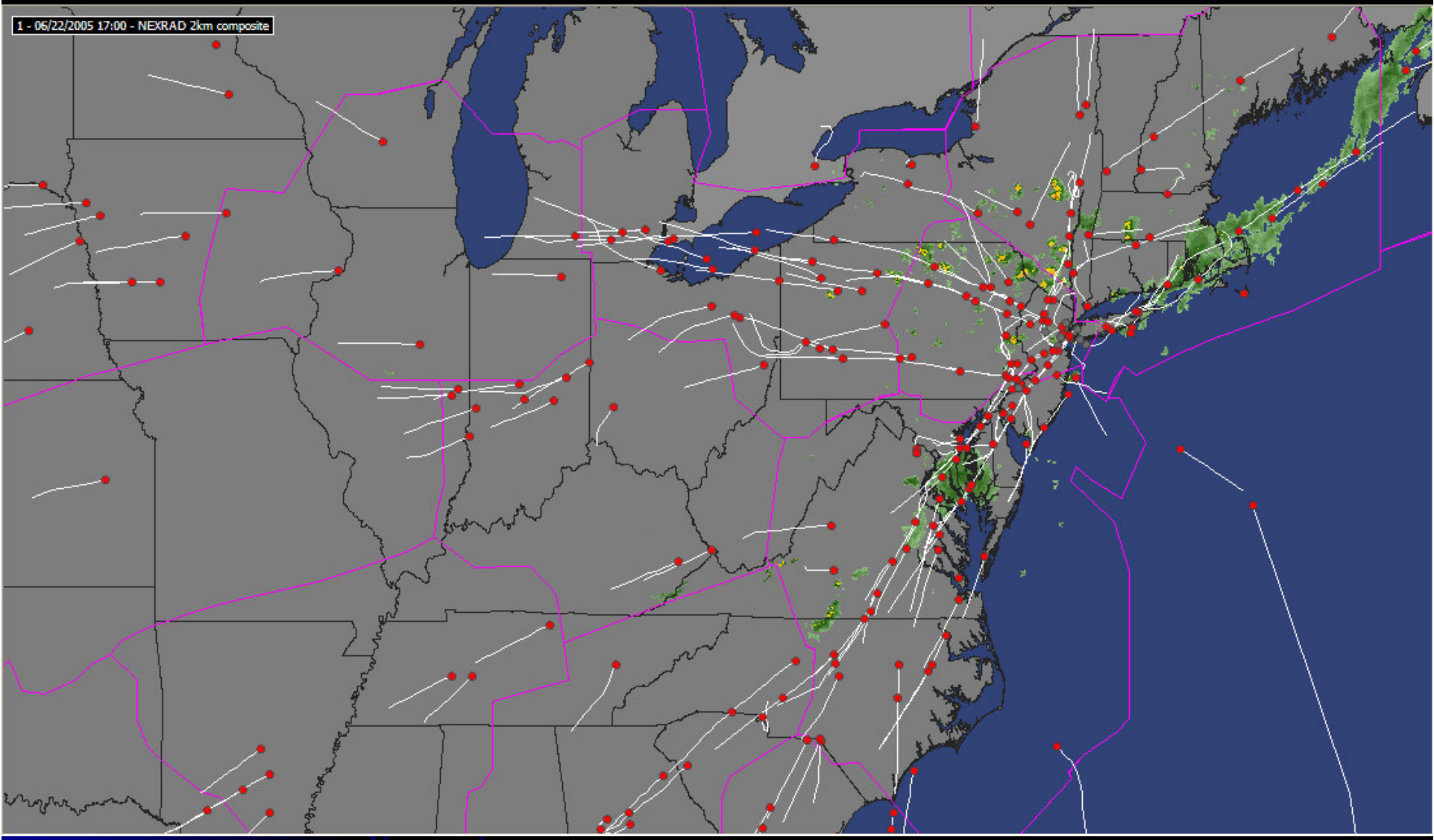
*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# Examples of Aviation Delay Days

Top 15 delay days (2007)







*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# Aviation Weather Real Implications



From: FAA Aviation Safety Journal Vol. 2 (3)

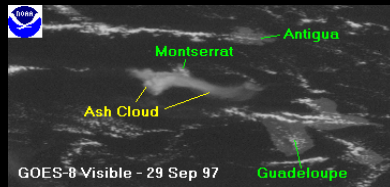


*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

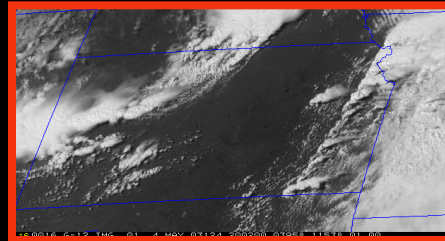


# Satellite-based Advanced Aviation Applications

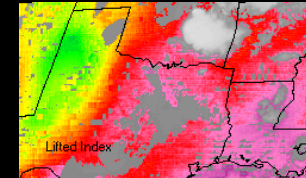
Volcanic Ash



Convective Initiation



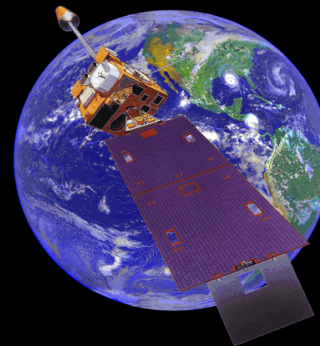
Derived Products



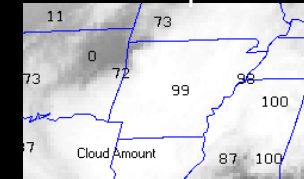
Icing



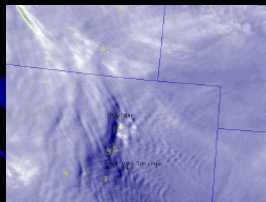
GOES Satellite



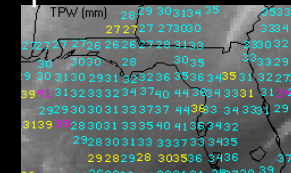
Cloud Properties



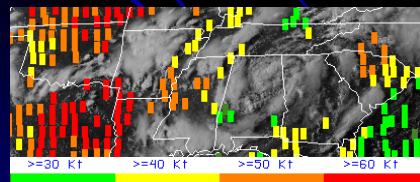
Turbulence



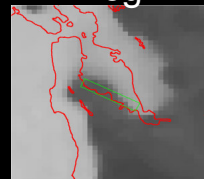
Temperature and Moisture



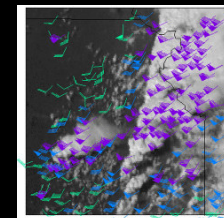
Microburst Potential



Fog



Cloud Drift Winds



# GOES-R AWG Aviation Team

AWG Aviation Team Chairs : Ken Pryor, Wayne Feltz

## ➤ Convective Initiation

- John Mecikalski (Lead, UAH)
- John Walker (UAH)
- Kristopher Bedka (SSAI)

## ➤ Enhanced-V/Overshooting top detection

- Kristopher Bedka (Lead, SSAI)
- Jason Brunner
- Wayne Feltz

## ➤ Turbulence

- Anthony Wimmers (Lead)
- Wayne Feltz

## ➤ Volcanic ash

- Mike Pavolonis (Lead)
- Justin Sieglaff

## ➤ SO<sub>2</sub>

- Mike Pavolonis (Lead)
- Andrew Parker

## ➤ Visibility

- Brad Pierce (Lead)
- Wayne Feltz

## ➤ Aircraft Icing

- Bill Smith, Jr. (Lead, NASA LaRC)
- Stephanie Houser

## ➤ Fog/Low Cloud

- Mike Pavolonis (Lead)
- Corey Calvert

# Convective Initiation and Overshooting-top/Enhanced-V



*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# Overshooting-Top/Enhanced-V Detecion

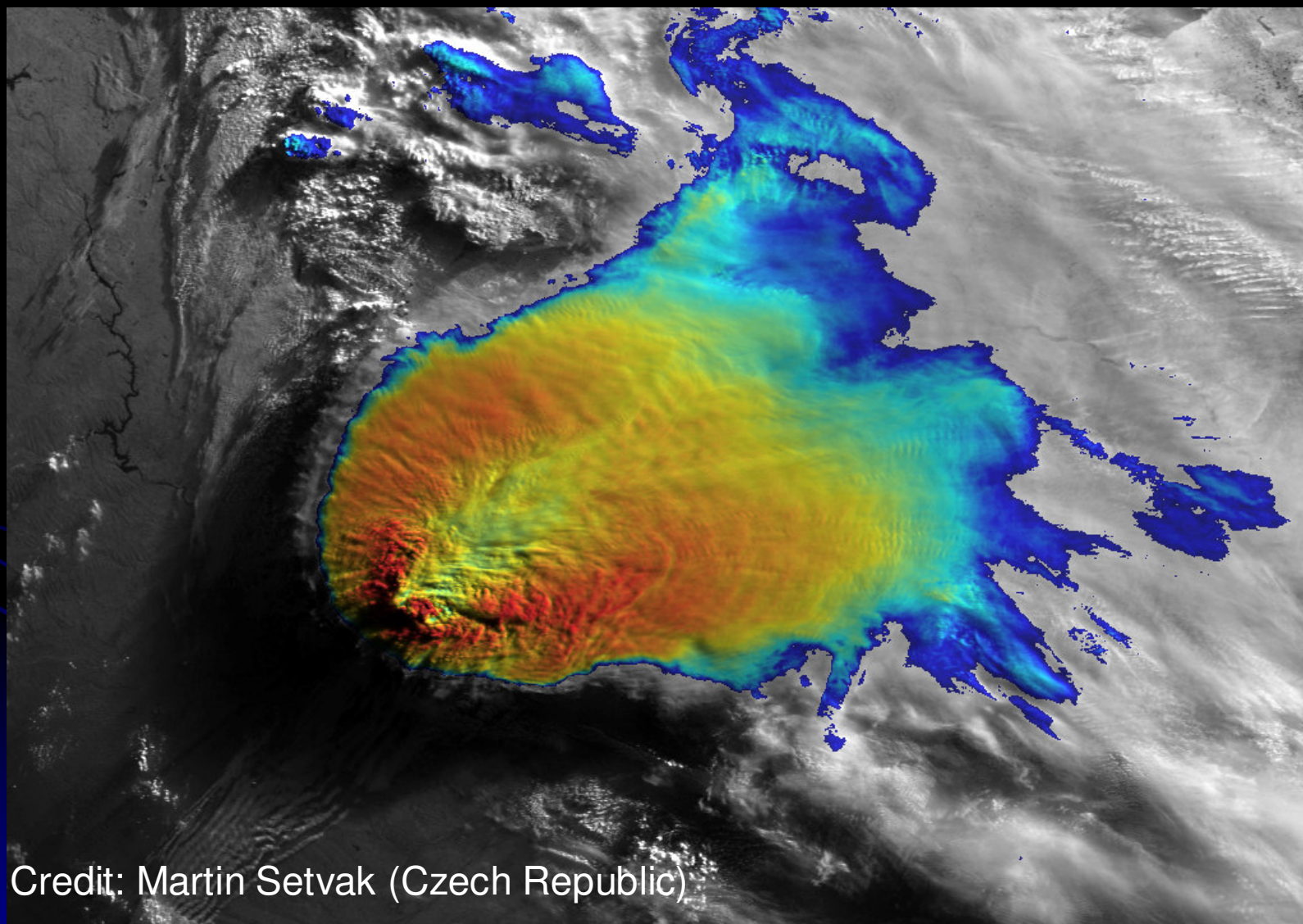
Lead: Kristopher Bedka NASA LaRC SSAI  
Jason Brunner (SSEC/CIMSS)



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# GOES-R Overshooting-Top



Credit: Martin Setvak (Czech Republic)

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# Overshooting Top Algorithm Design Overview

## Reasons Overshooting Tops are Important

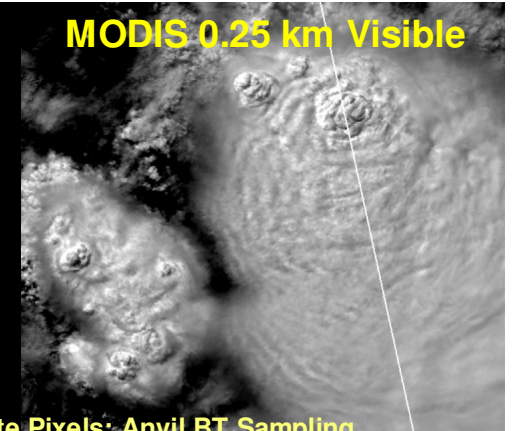
Overshooting Top: A domelike protrusion above a cumulonimbus anvil, representing the intrusion of an updraft through its equilibrium level or the tropopause (from the AMS Glossary)

- 1) Indicates a storm with a very strong updraft, hazardous for aviation operations if a plane were to fly through an OT
- 2) Correlates well with radar reflectivity/lightning maxima and storm severity
- 3) Interaction of updraft with stable tropopause layer generates turbulent gravity waves which can propagate far away from their source region
- 4) Responsible for obstructing upper-level jet stream flow, producing the enhanced-V signature

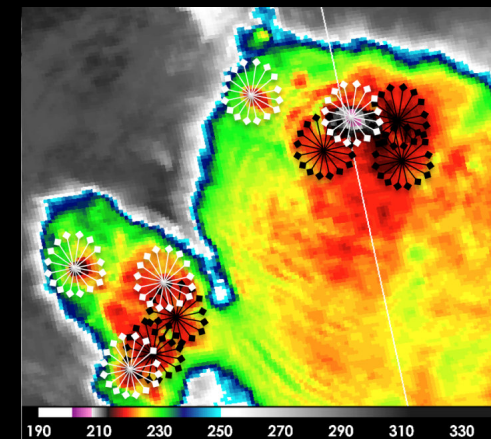


# Overshooting Top Detection Processing Schematic (Bedka et al, 2010)

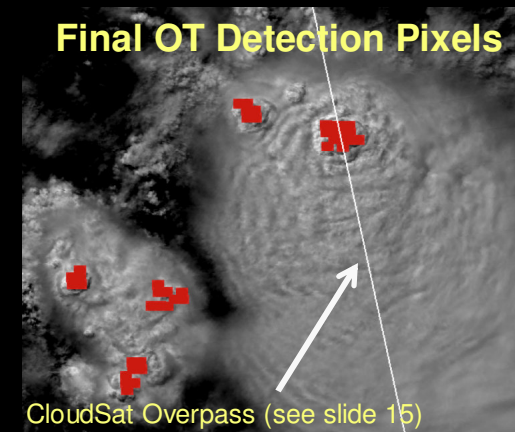
MODIS 0.25 km Visible



**IRW-Texture Candidate Pixels: Anvil BT Sampling**  
White Pinwheels: Candidate OT Significantly Colder Than Anvil  
Black Pinwheels: Cloud Top BT Pattern Too Uniform=Not an OT



**Final OT Detection Pixels**



INPUT:  $BT_{14}$  and NWP Tropopause

Find Pixels Colder Than 215 K and NWP Tropopause

Filter List of Cold Pixels To Identify Regional BT Minima: Overshoot Candidates

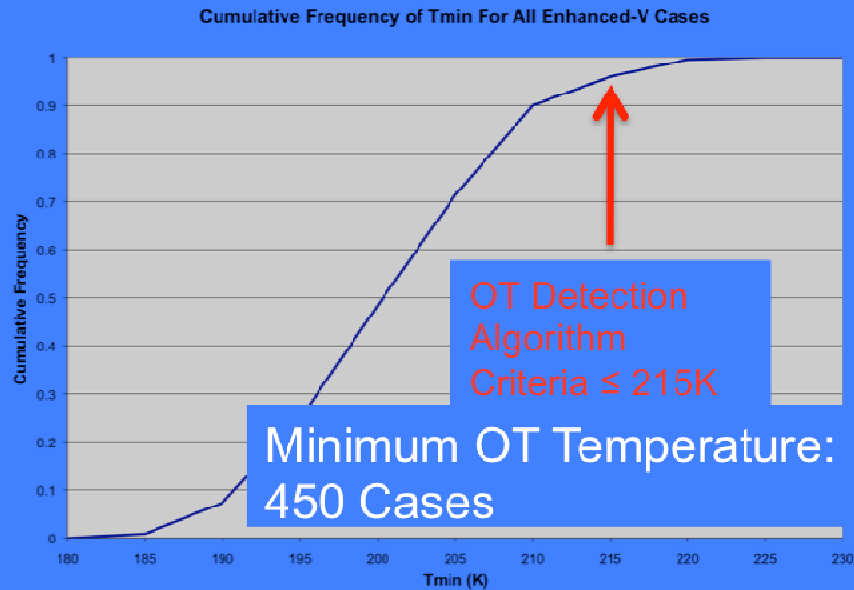
Compute BT Difference Between Candidates and Surrounding Anvil Cloud

Pixels With BT  $> 6.5$  K Colder Than Mean Surrounding Anvil Are Overshooting Tops, Flag Remaining Pixels That Compose The Entire Top

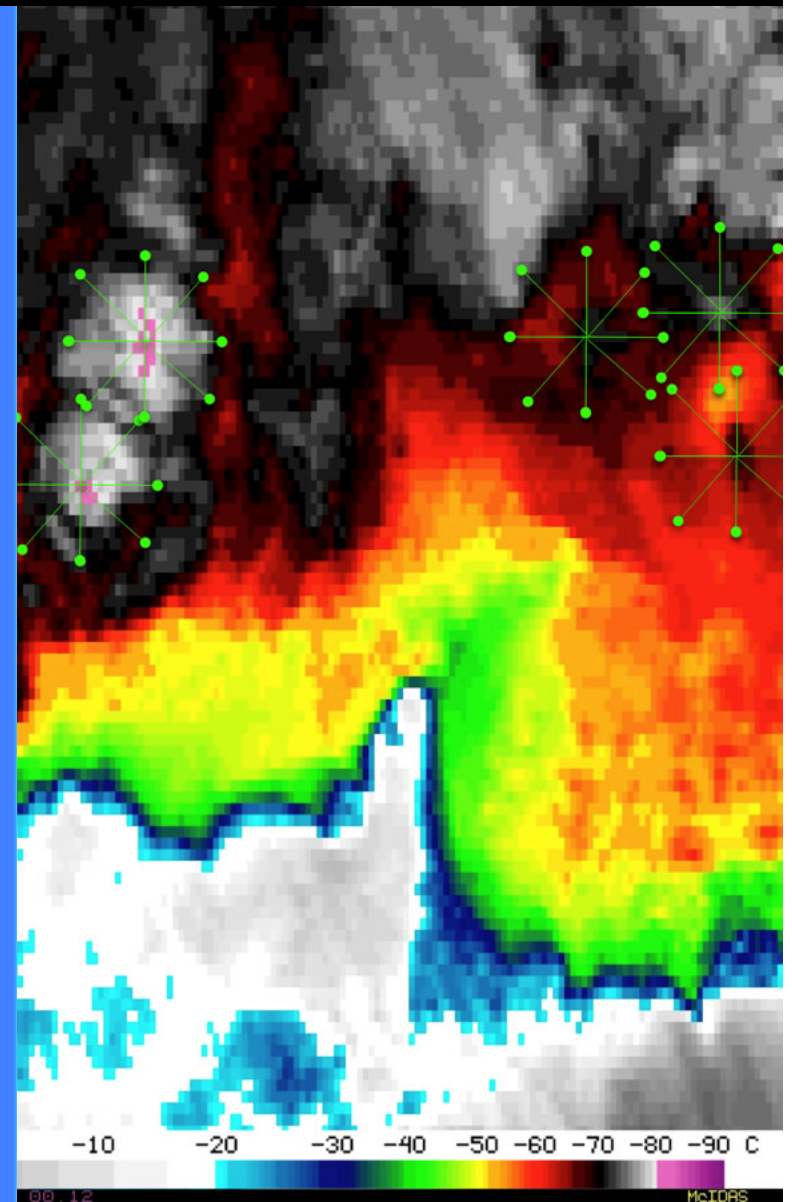
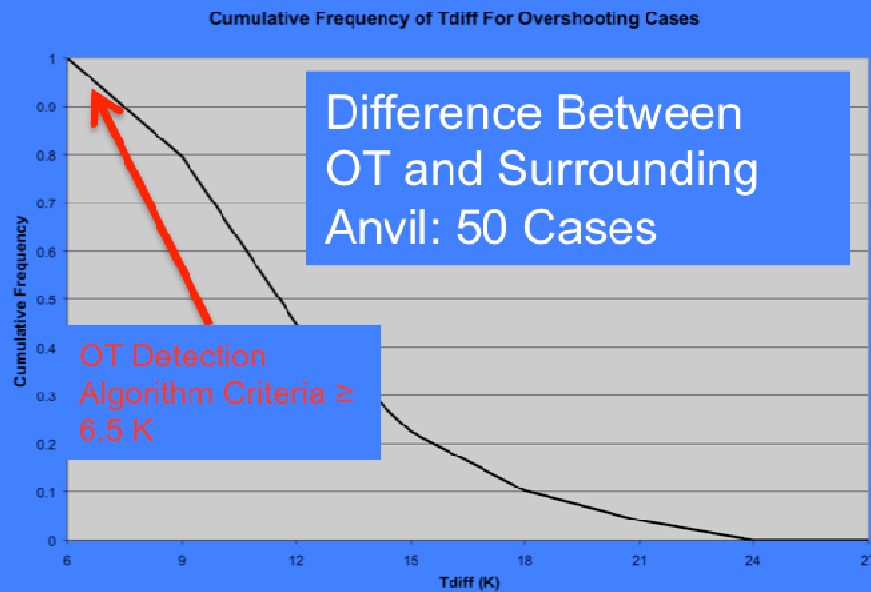
Output Overshooting Top Mask

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# OT Algorithm Design Overview



Relies solely on 10.7  $\mu\text{m}$  channel therefore day/night!



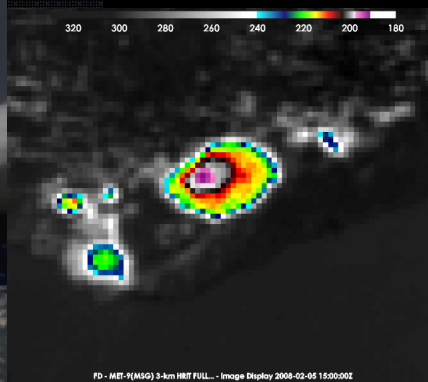
# Convective Overshooting-top

Photo From International Space Station

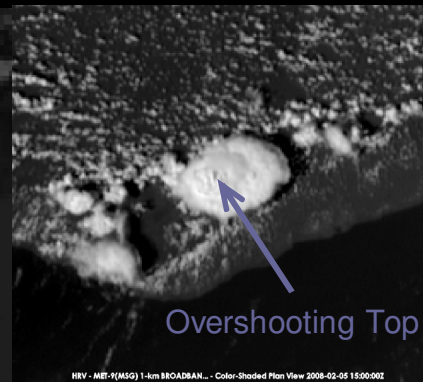
Overshooting Top



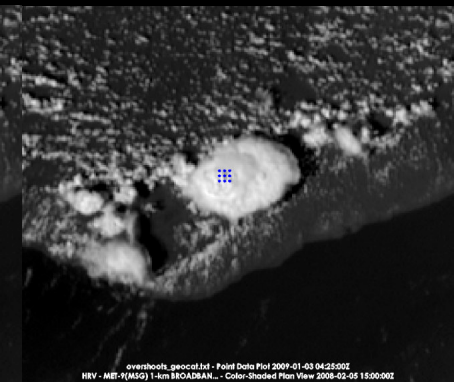
3 km MSG SEVIRI 10.8  $\mu\text{m}$



1 km MSG SEVIRI Visible

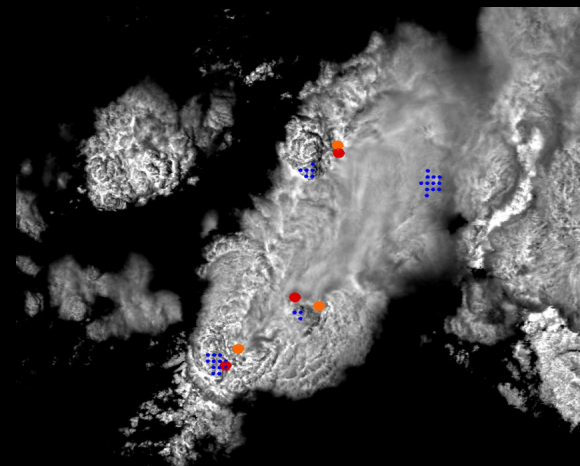
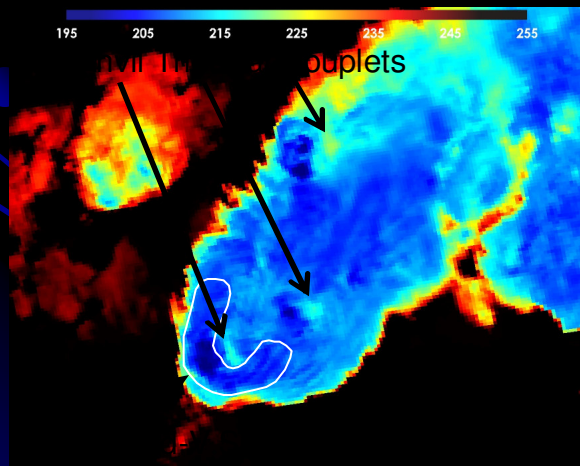


1 km MSG SEVIRI Visible  
With Overshooting Detection



Overshooting Top Detections,  
Enhanced-V/Thermal Couplet Detections, and Severe  
Hail Reports Atop MODIS 250 m Visible

1 km MODIS 11  $\mu\text{m}$



Algorithm Developers: Kristopher Bedka, Jason Brunner, and Wayne Feltz

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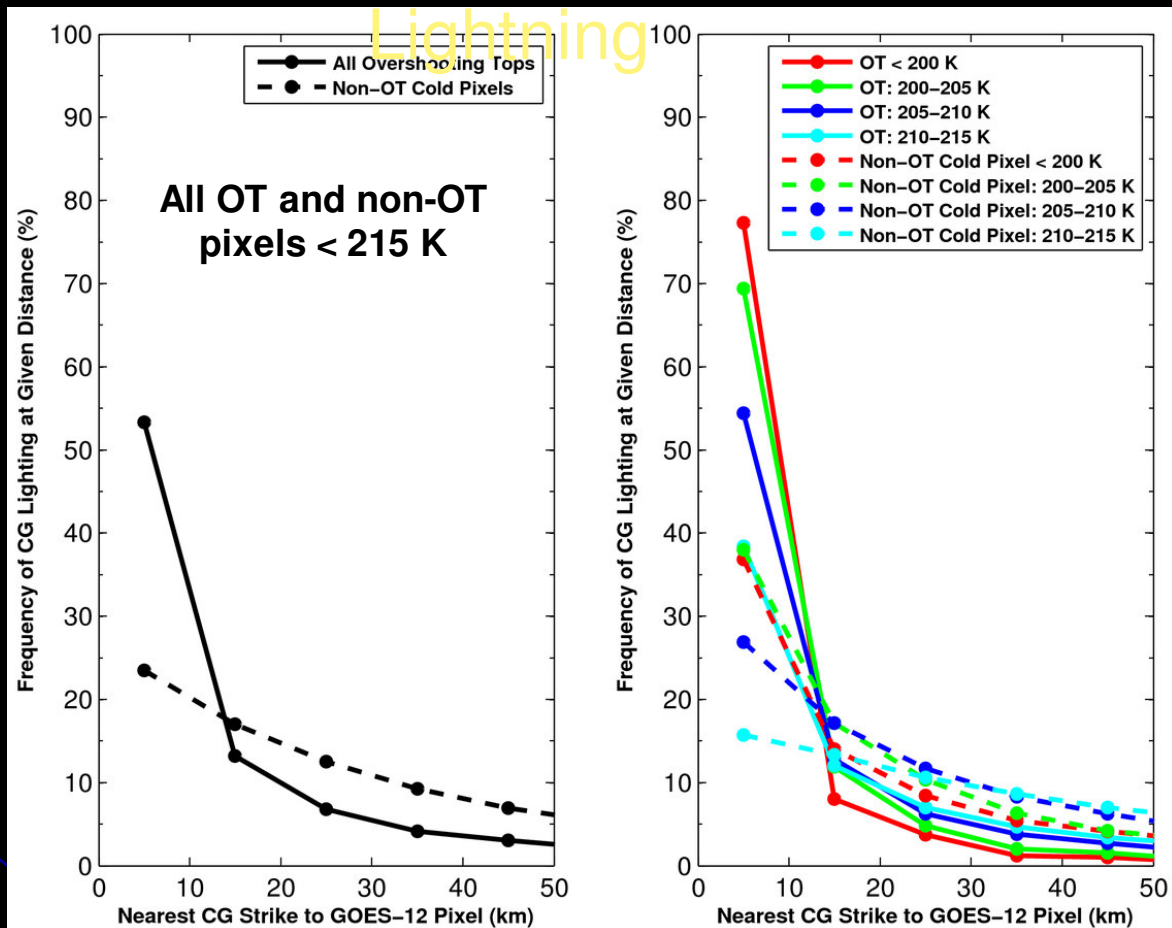
# OT Applications

- Inference of turbulence
- Inference of cloud-to-ground lightning
- Climatology -> ENSO
- Tropical storm genesis
- More investigations occurring



# GOES-12 Overshooting Top Relationships with Cloud-to-Ground

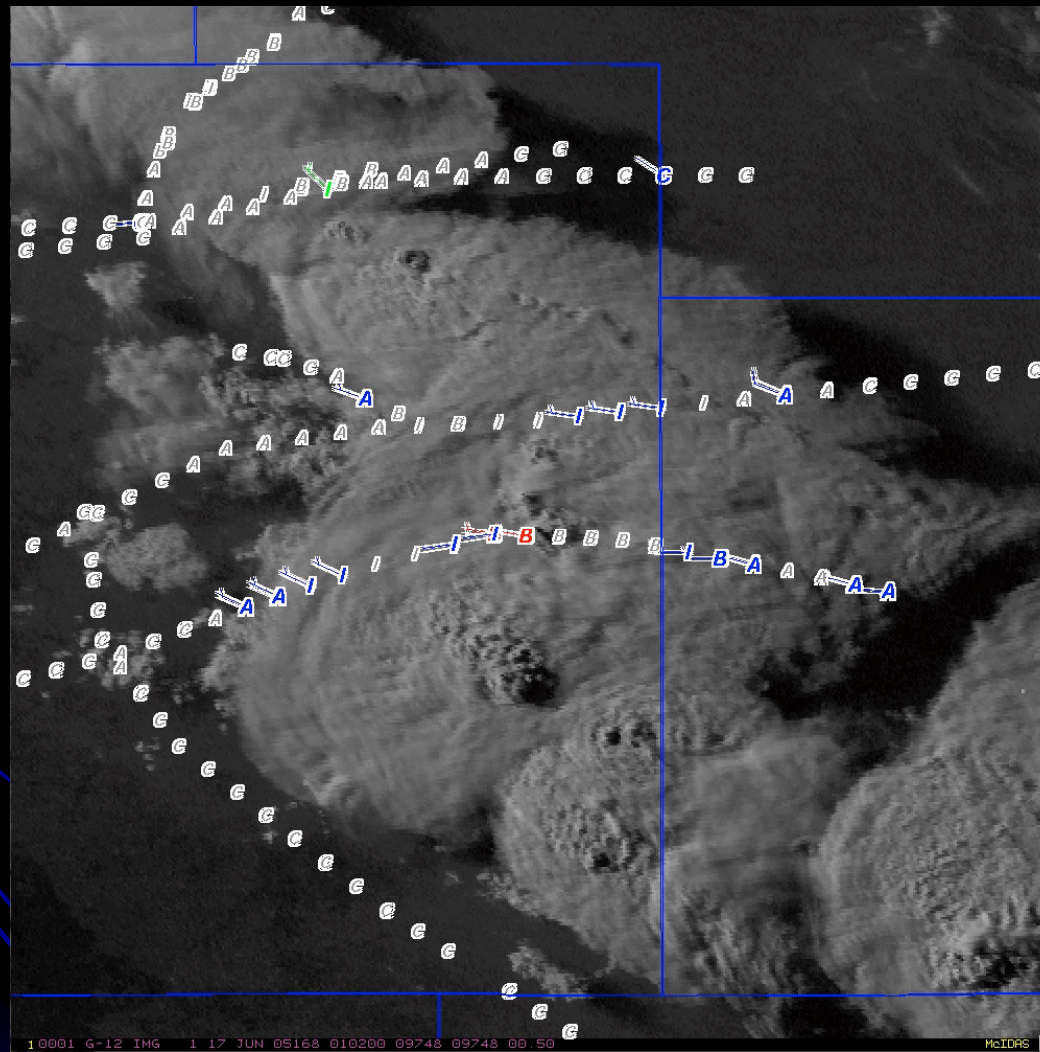
Lightning



CG lightning is 30% more likely to be found very near (0-10 km) to GOES-12 OT's than non-overshooting cold pixels

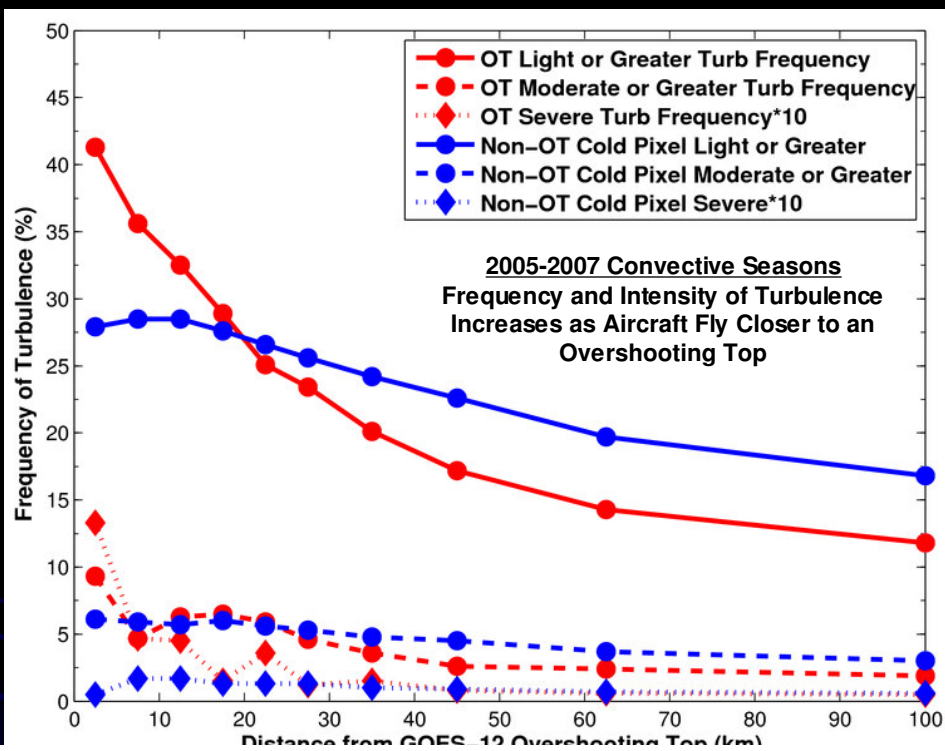
OTs with very cold BTs represent a significant lightning hazard

# Objective Turbulence Reporting is Key

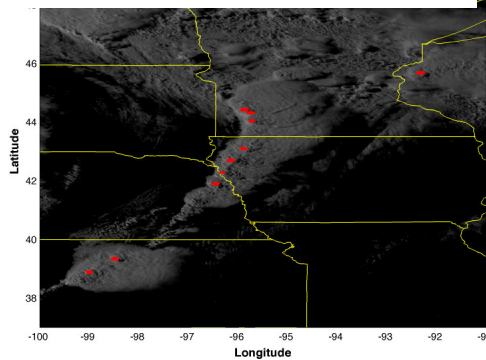
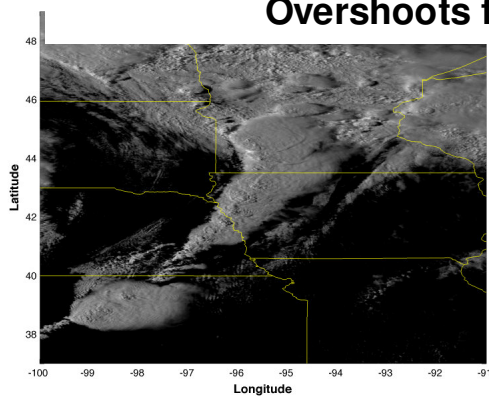


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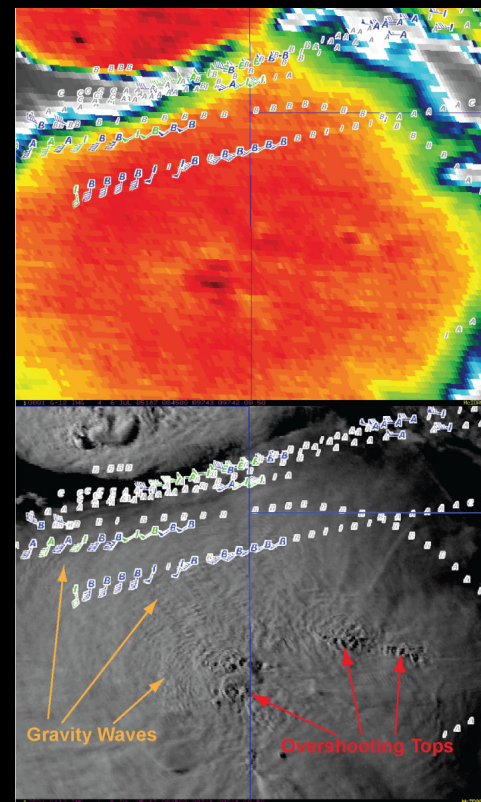
# Deep Convection Characteristics and Turbulence Signatures: Overshooting Tops



Overshoots from 4 km GOES-12



Light Intensity Turbulence from EDR  
Moderate Intensity Turbulence from EDR



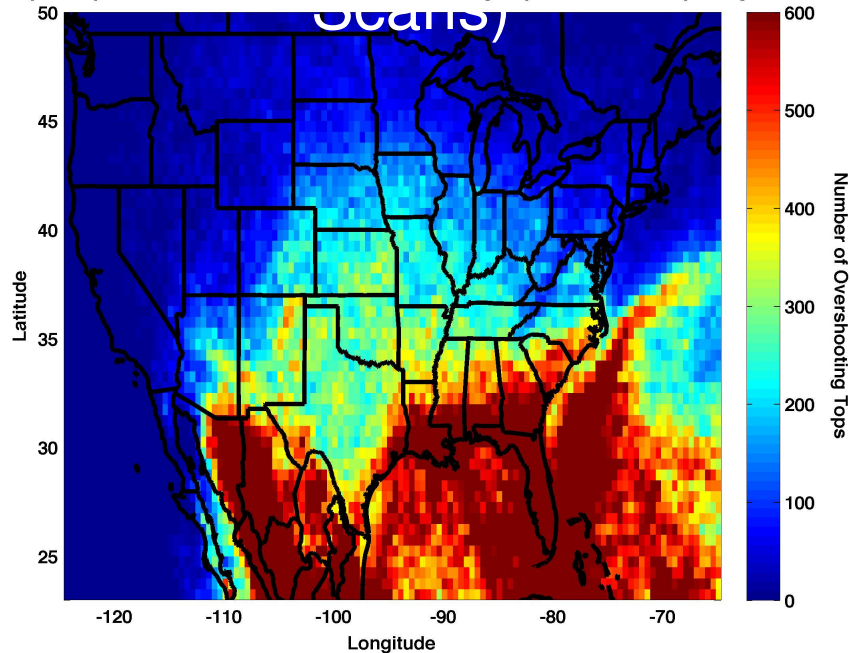


# 6-Year GOES and MSG SEVIRI OT Detections

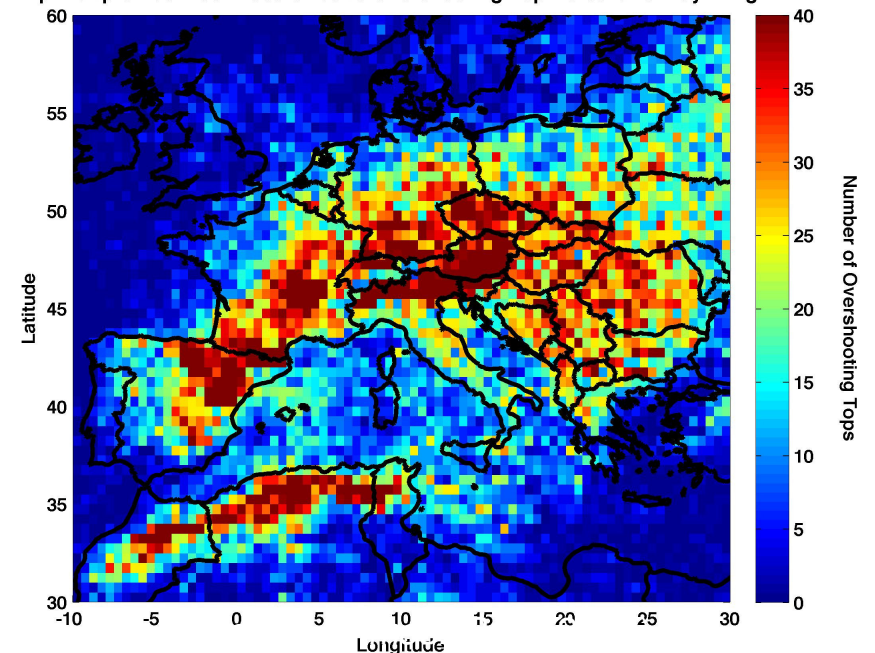
GOES-12 (Includes Rapid

SEVIRI (15 min Scans Only)

April-September 2004-2009 Gridded Overshooting Top Detections: Day + Night



April-September 2004-2009 Gridded Overshooting Top Detections: Day + Night



Bedka et al (*JAMC*, 2010)

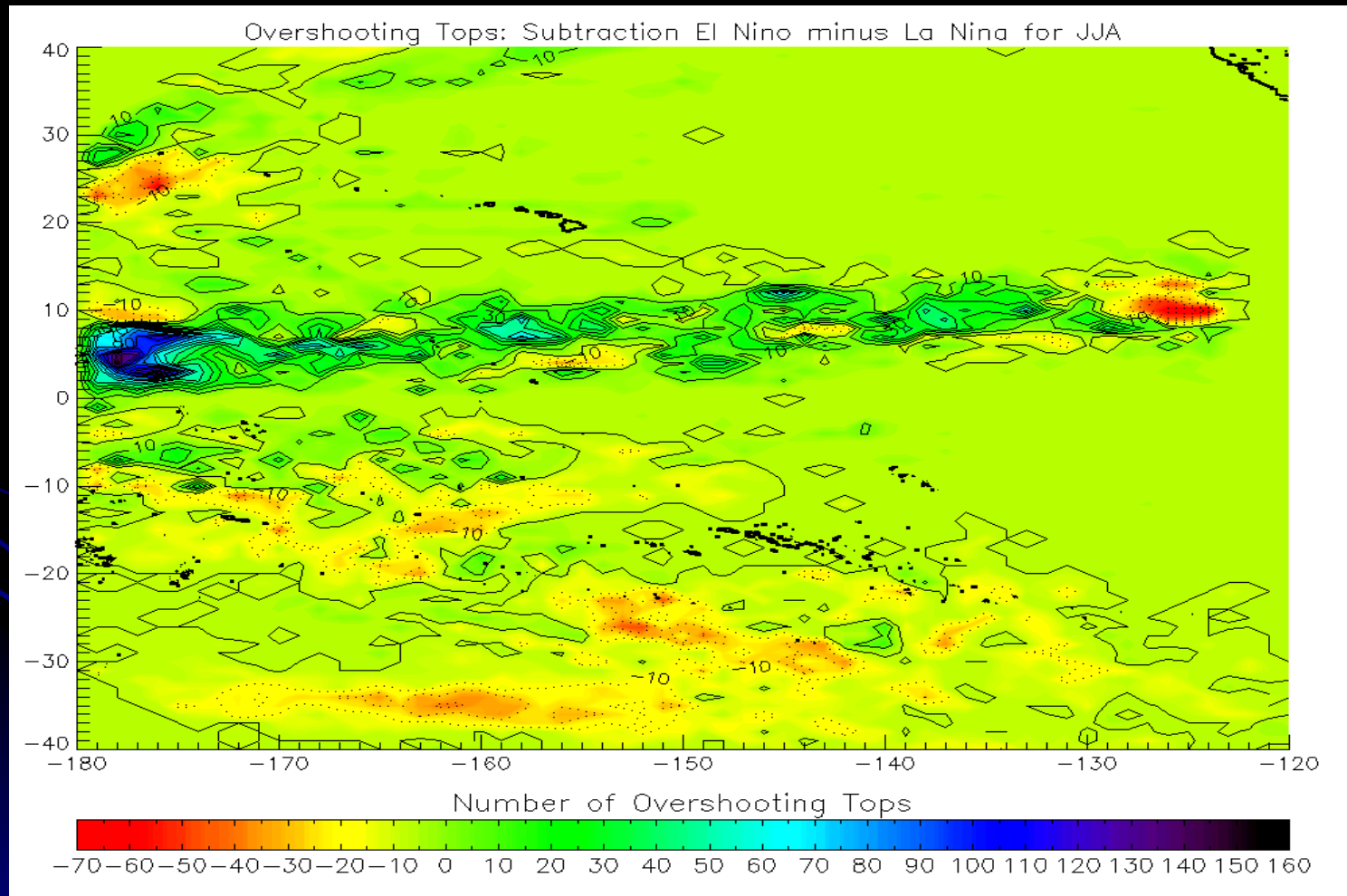
36

**NOTE: Color Table Ranges Do Not Match**

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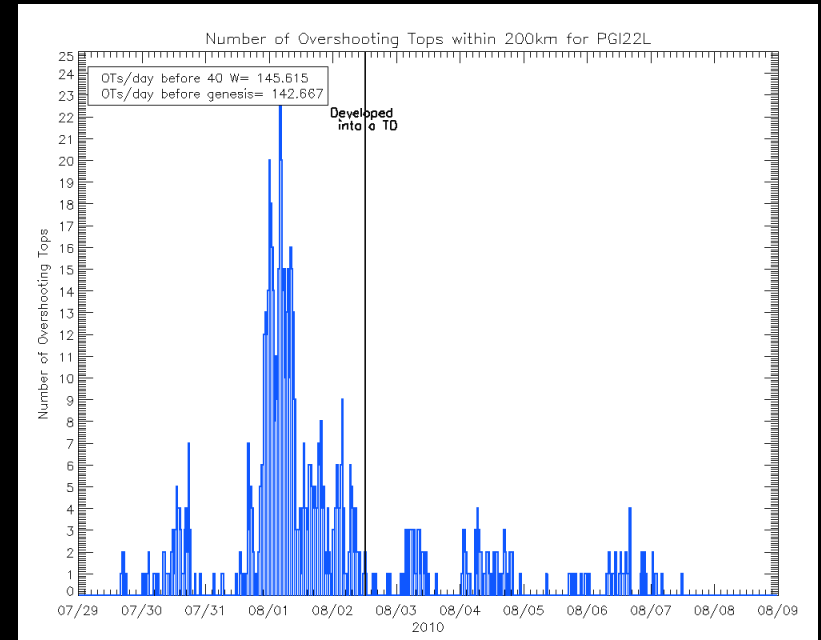
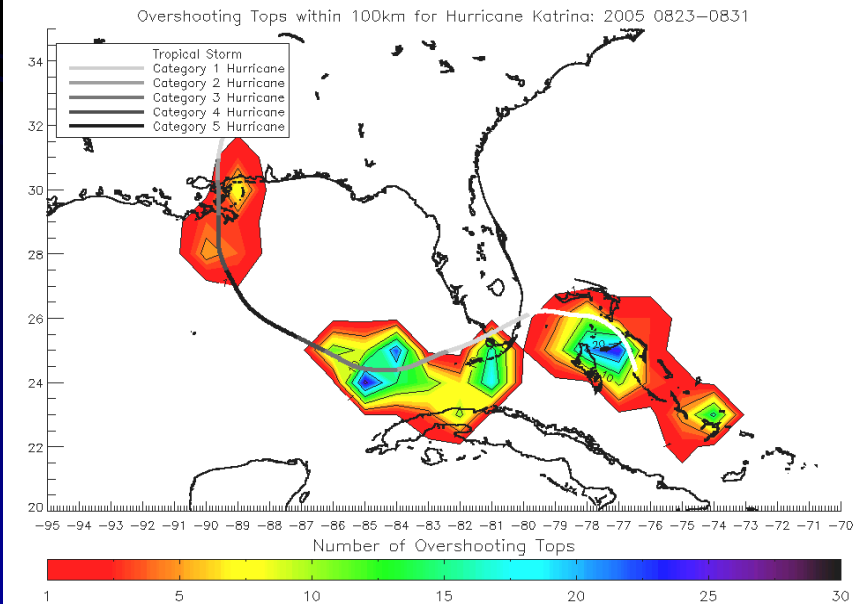
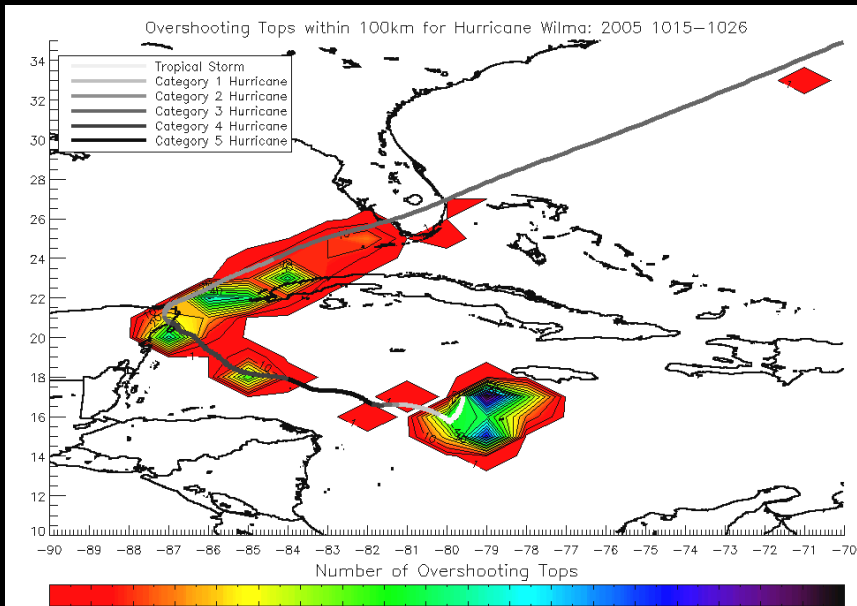


# Difference in Number of OT between El Nino and La Nina

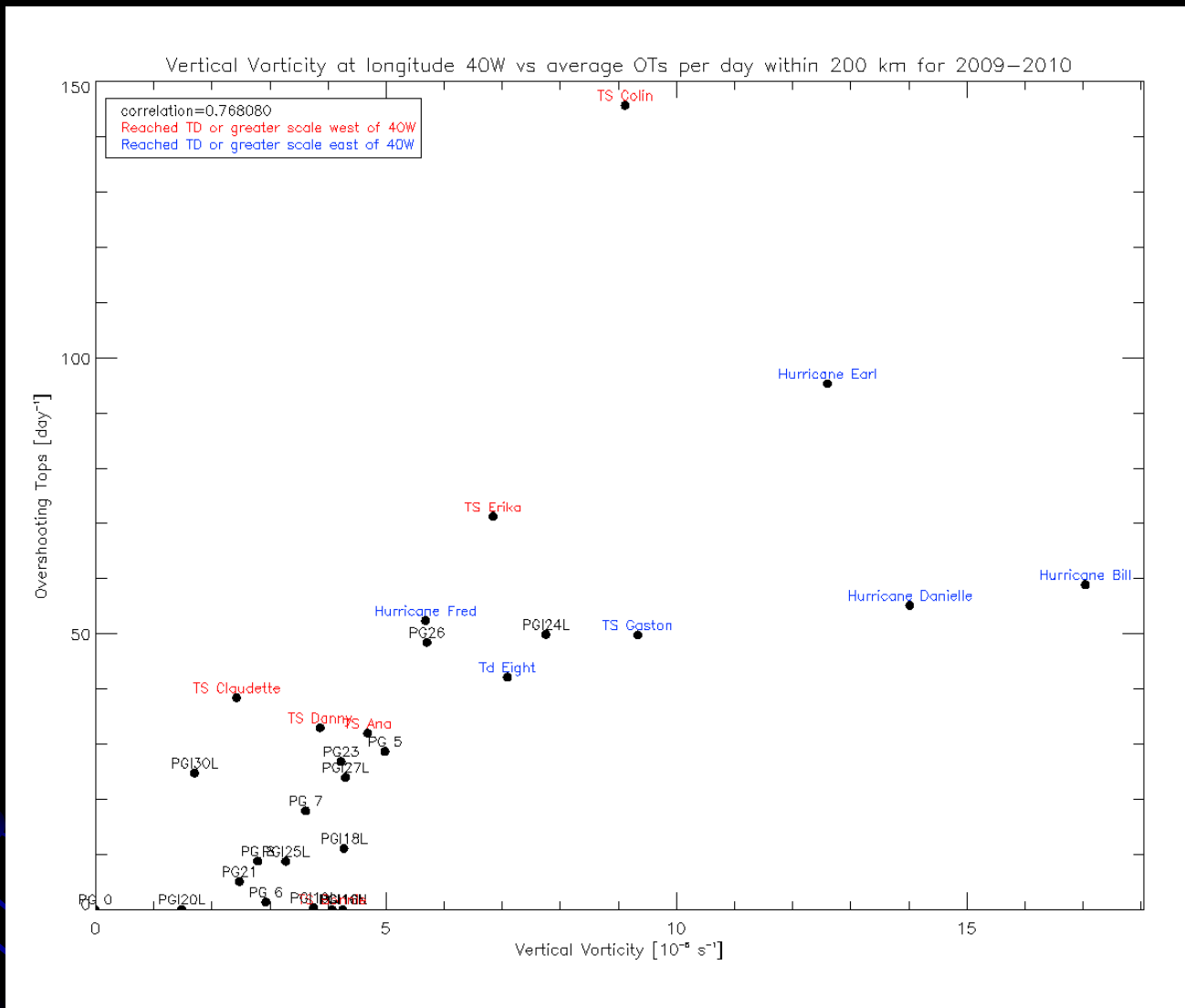


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# Tropical Storm Genesis

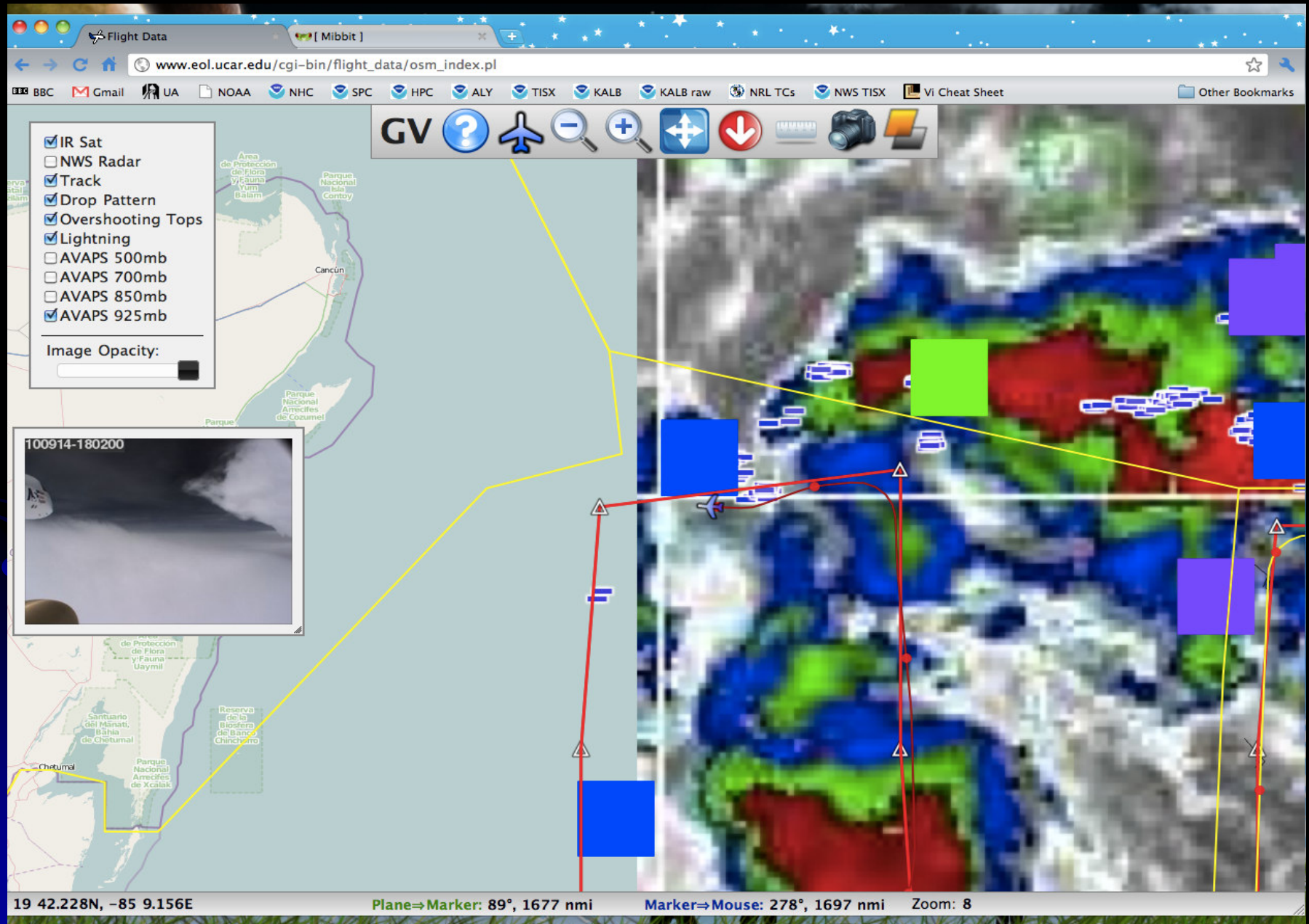


Number of overshooting tops within 200 km of pre-Tropical Storm Colin. Note the sharp increase before genesis.

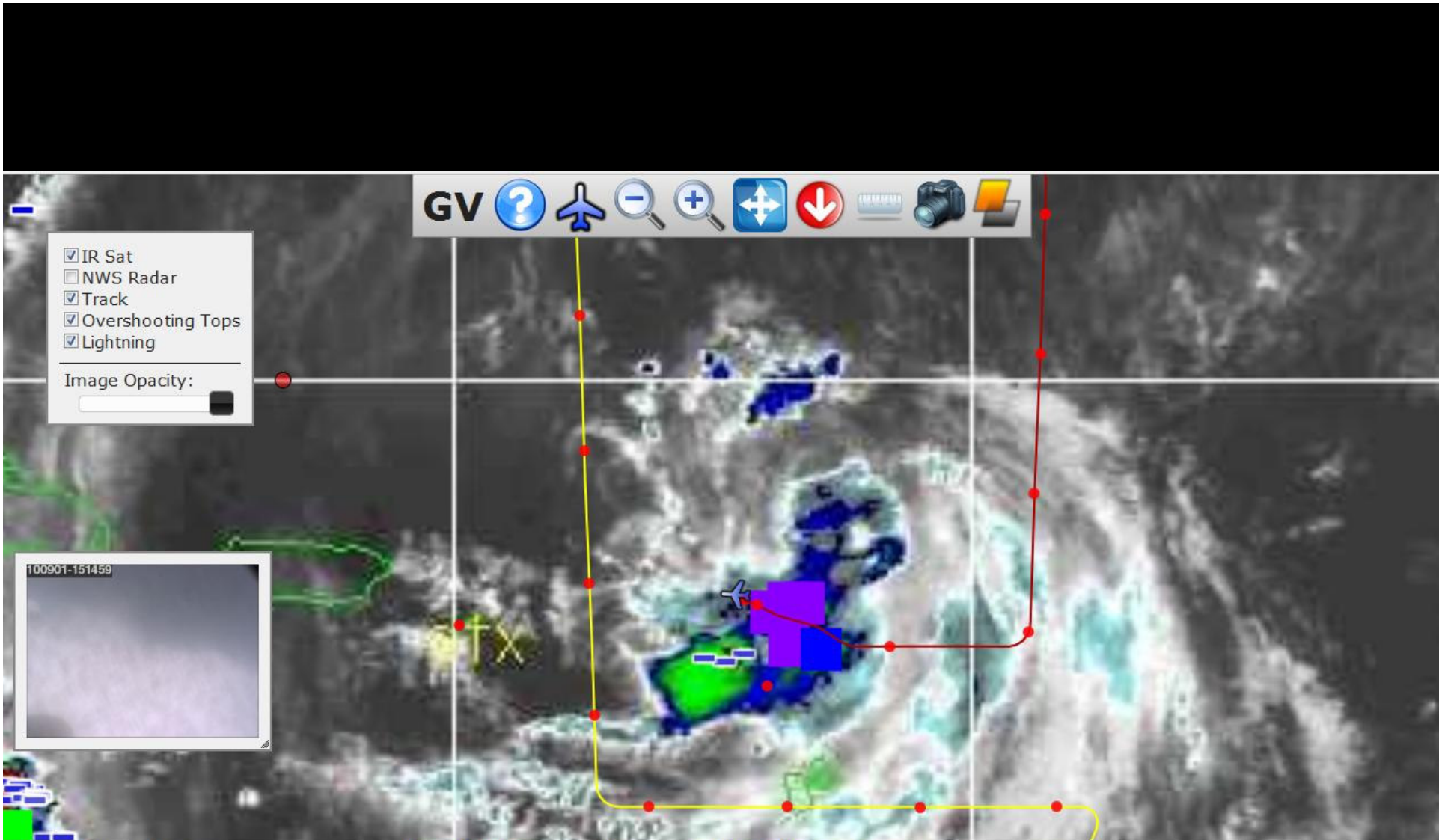


Approximately 93% of pouches averaging 35 OTs per day or less before 40W experience development.

# SEVIRI/GOES OT Algorithm used in PREDICT (Tropical Cyclone Experiment)







18 53.914N, -62 0.226E      Plane⇒Marker: 296°, 280 nmi      Marker⇒Mouse: 103°, 266 nmi      Zoom: 7

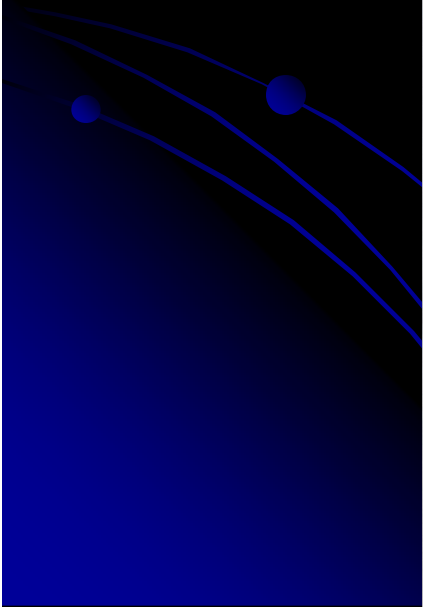
Aircraft incre

Environment Canada 28 29 April 2011





2010/9/2 17:21



# What Is An Enhanced-V?

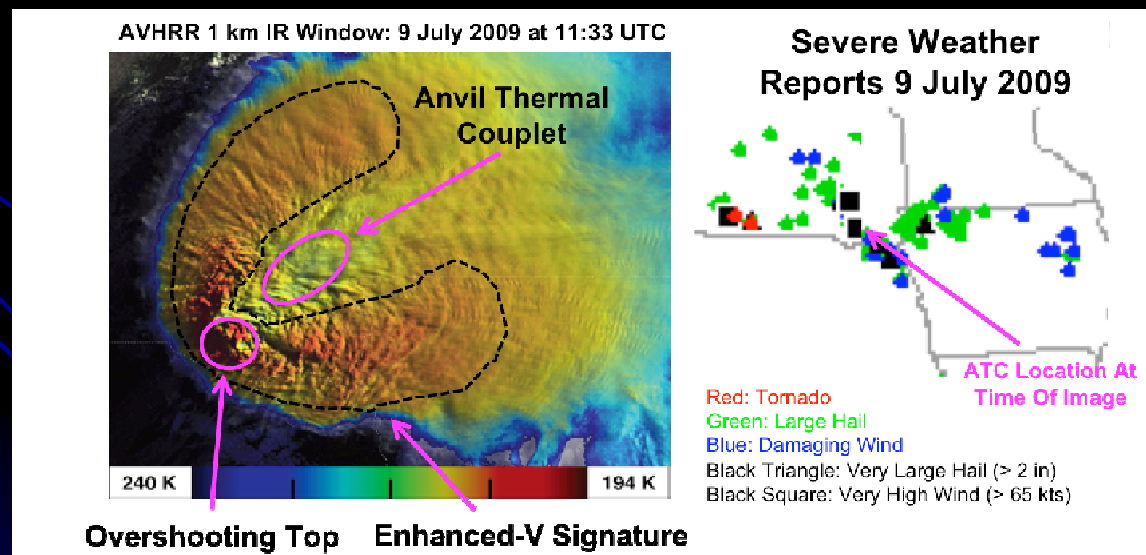
(Brunner et al, 2007)

The appearance of an enhanced-V in infrared imagery resembles a V- or boomerang-shaped area of cold IR window channel BTs bordering an area of warm BT downwind. (From *Meteorology: Understanding the Atmosphere* (Ackerman and Knox, 2001) )

- The enhanced-V is often seen in infrared satellite imagery before the onset of severe weather (damaging winds, hail, and/or tornadoes) and is an important indicator of a severe thunderstorm

- McCann (MWR, 1983) found that the median lead time (time from the initial identification of the feature on satellite imagery to the first reports of severe weather on the ground) is about 30 minutes.

- Brunner et al. (WAF, 2007) found that ~92% of enhanced-V storms with a specified set of temperature parameters produced severe weather during summers 2003 and 2004



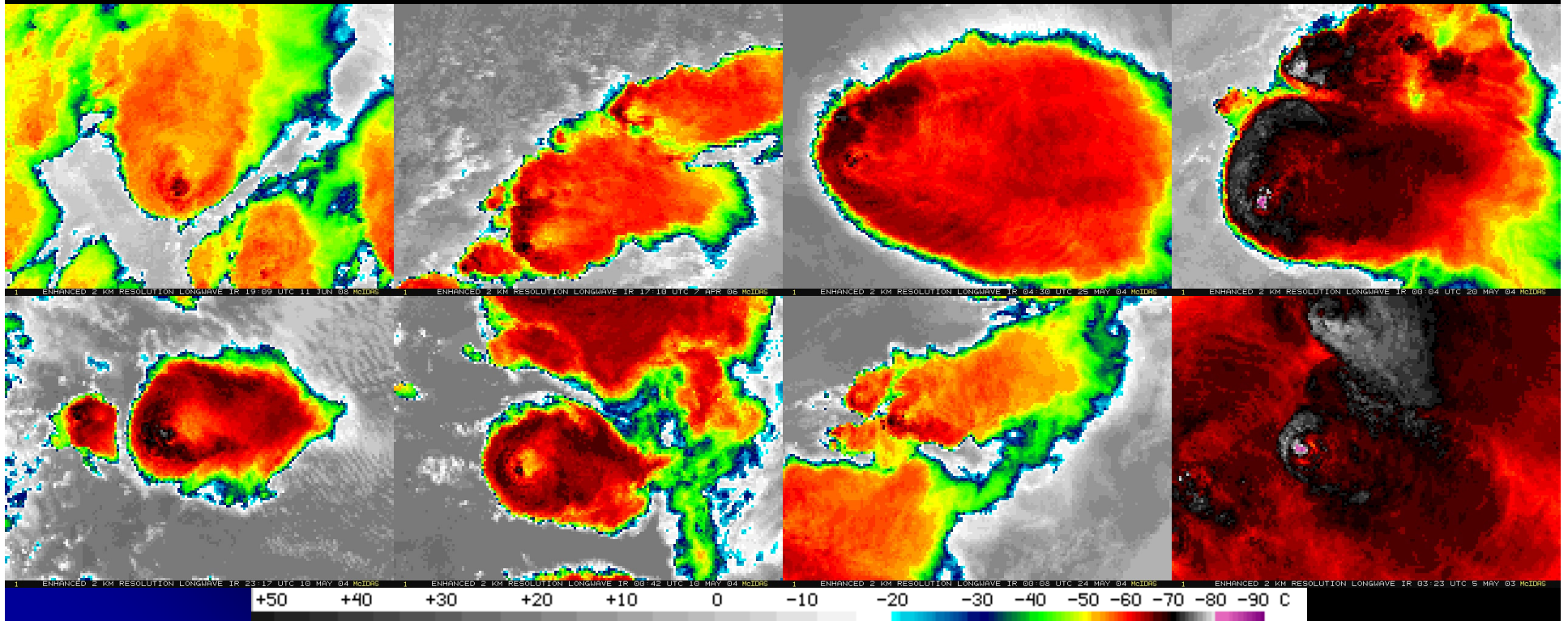
AVHRR image  
courtesy of Martin  
Setvak (CHMI)

# V-Signature vs. Anvil Thermal Couplet Detection

Though the enhanced-V signature can appear quite differently in many cases, the anvil thermal couplet (ATC) is (almost) always present, making accurate detection of the ATC and thus the V-signature, far more attainable

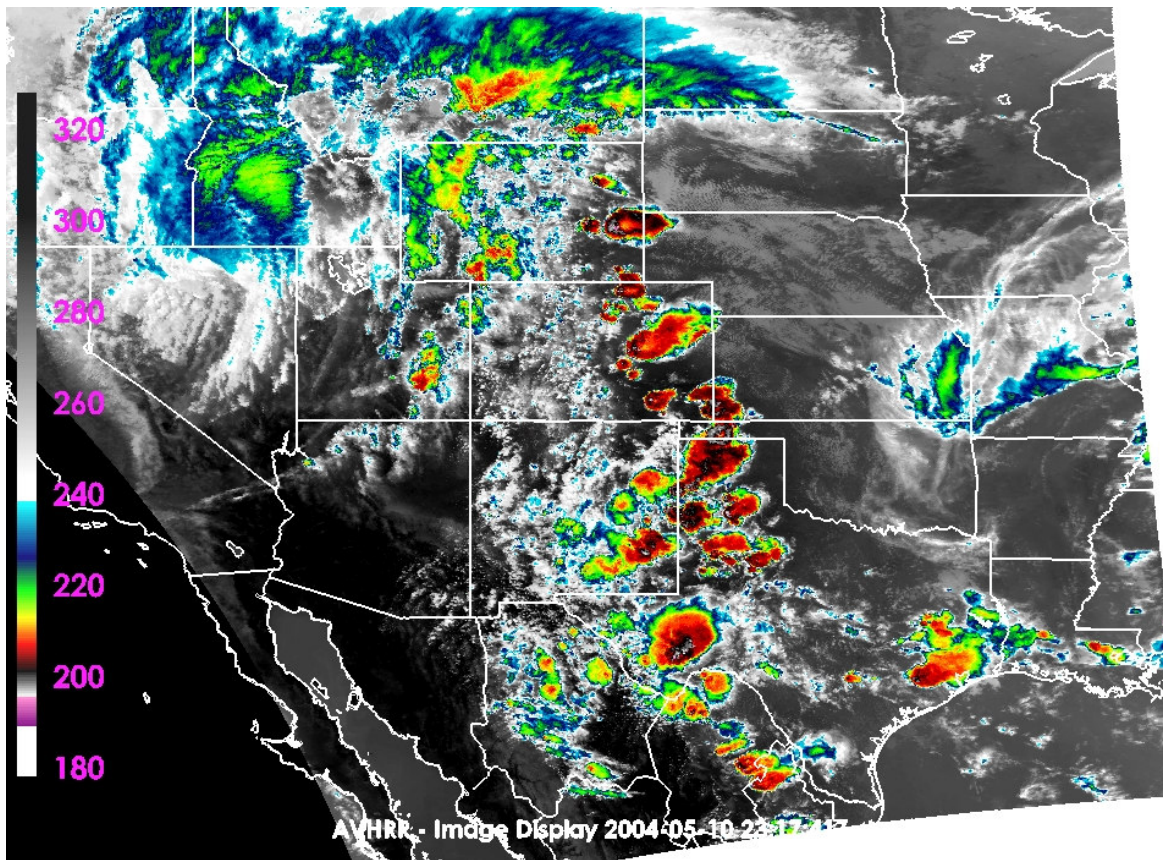
MODIS & AVHRR IR Window Degraded to 2 km ABI Resolution

All Images Cover the Same Horizontal Distance and Use Same Color Enhancement, Illustrating Variations in the V-signature Across Events

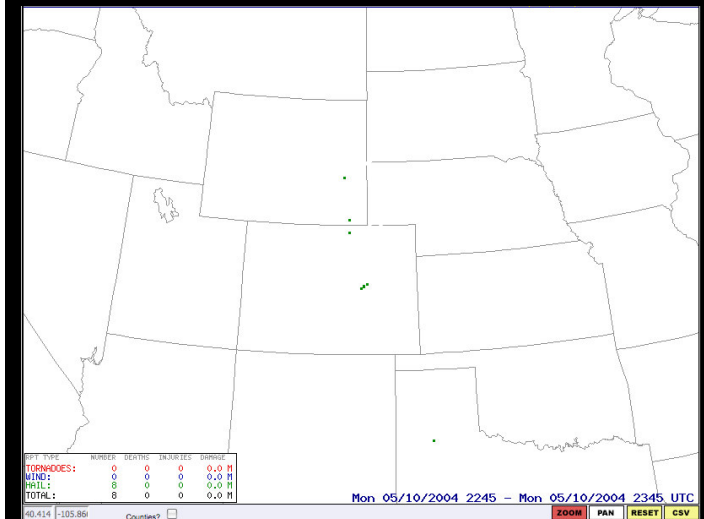




# Overshooting Top and Thermal Couplet Product Output

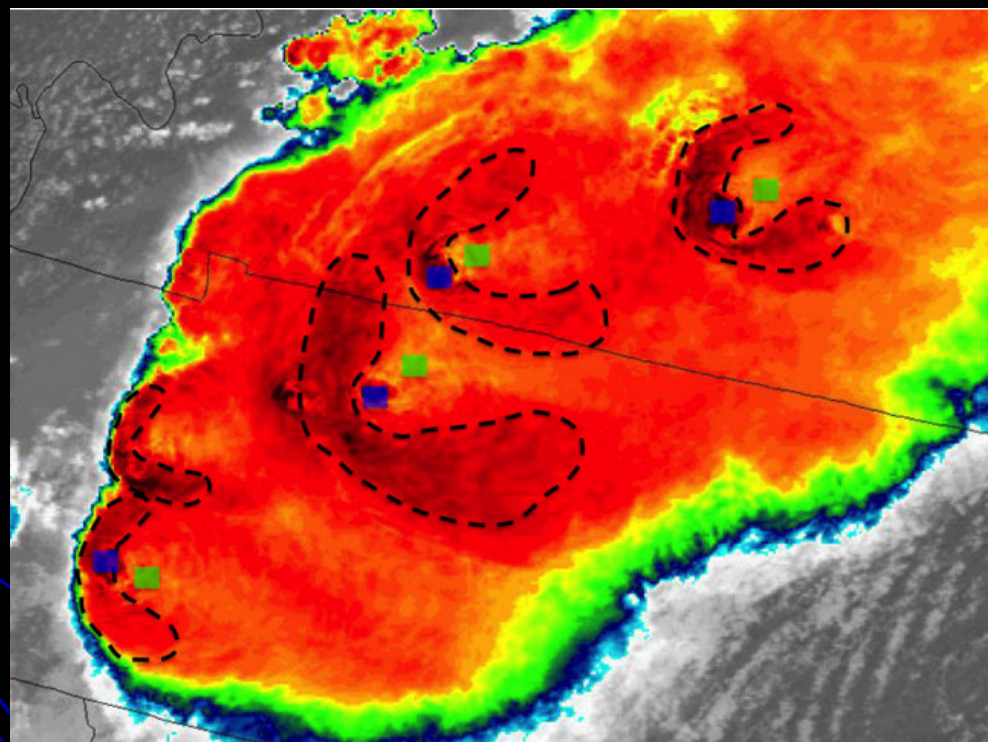


Severe Storm Reports +/- 30 Mins  
From Image Time  
Numbers Correspond To The Storms  
Labeled In The Left Panels



# Overshooting Top and Thermal Couplet Detection Product Output

2 km Proxy ABI From 1 km MODIS 10.7  
 $\mu$  m Imagery 4/7/2006 at 1825 UTC



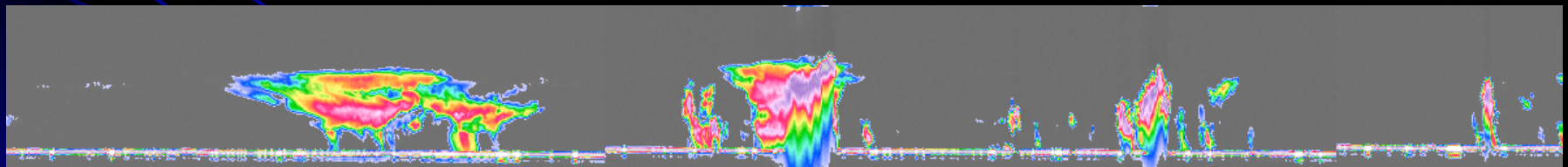
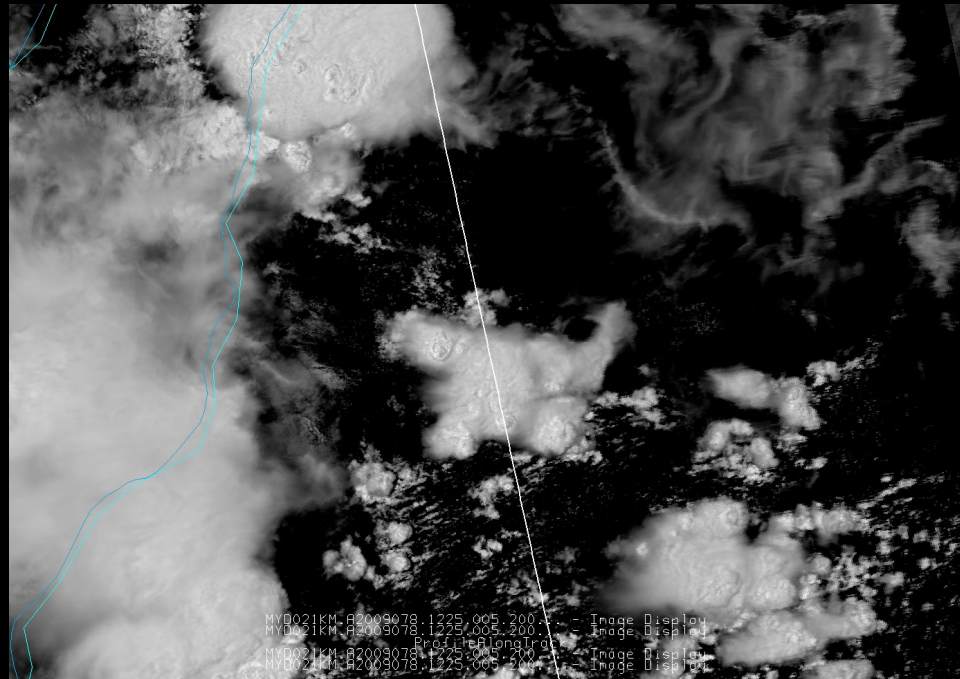
- \* Overshooting top location indicated by blue symbol (only OTs with thermal couplets are shown)
- \* Enhanced-V ATC detections indicated by green symbol
- \* 4 of 5 possible enhanced-V ATCs are detected accurately in this MODIS case

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# Validation Results

# CloudSat/Calipso Validation is Crucial

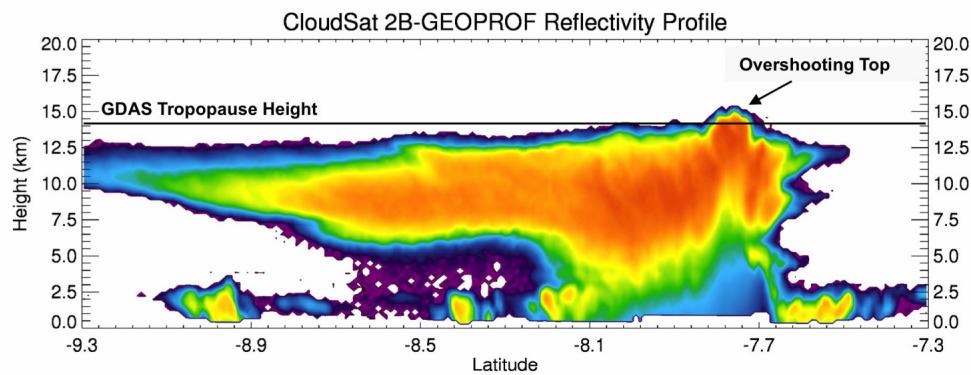


2009 Mar 19 (078) 11:39:35 UTC | 1A-AUX | Granule 15380

16 Time 12:30:37 12:27:26 | Lat 5.5 -6.1 | Lon 18.8 21.3

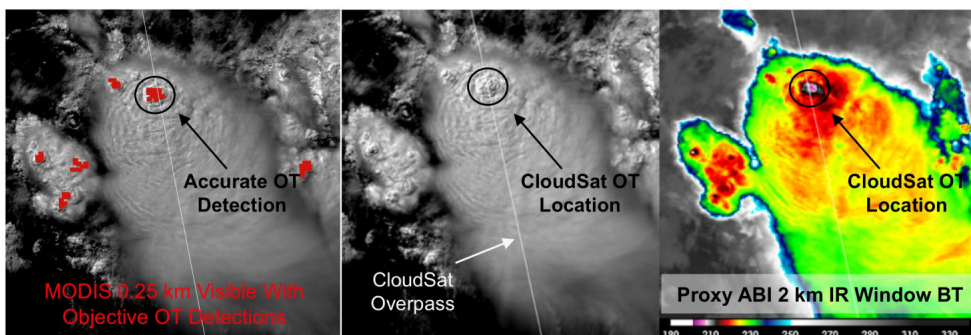
CIRA CloudSat DPC

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- **Overshooting tops (OTs) are the product of deep convective storm updrafts with sufficient strength to rise above the storms' equilibrium level and penetrate into the lower stratosphere**

- **OTs appear as small clusters of very cold pixels relative to the surrounding thunderstorm anvil**  
 - Infrared (IR) temperature gradients (i.e. texture) are combined with NWP information to accurately detect OTs during day/night using current and future satellite sensors (Bedka et al. 2010)



- **Detection product being evaluated within the 2010 SPC Spring Experiment via the GOES-R Proving Ground and the NCAR Global Atmospheric Turbulence Decision Support System for Aviation**

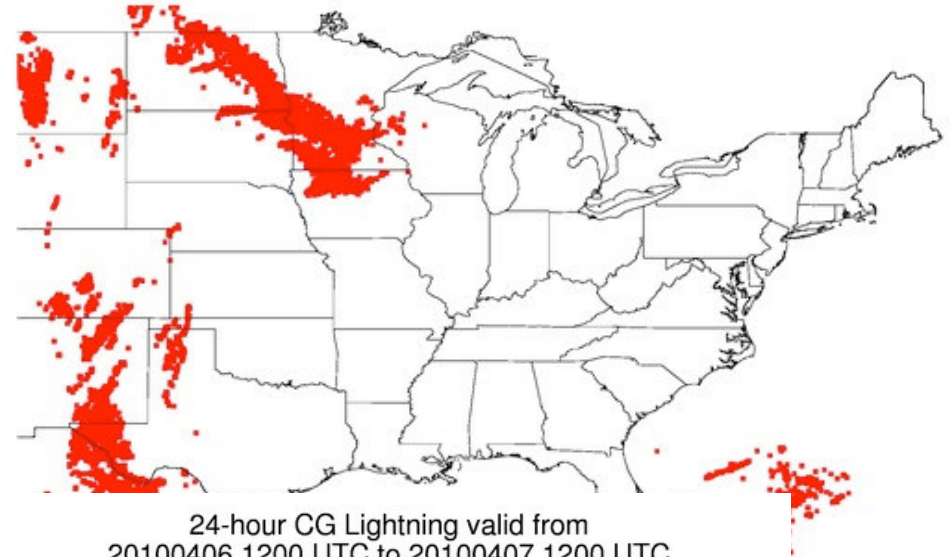
OT Detection Method	OT Pixel FAR	ABI OT Detection Product Maximum Acceptable FAR Requirement	OT Top Region POD	Number of OT Detection Pixels Along CloudSat Track
IR-Texture (Applied to Synthetic ABI)	16.1%	25%	74.6%	940 (114 Global OT Events)
IR-Texture (Applied to Current GOES and SEVIRI)	18.3%	N/A	57.6%	252 (59 OT Events)
WV-IR BT Diff > 0 K (Currently Operational At Aviation Weather Center)	81.2%	25%	99.1%	15079 (114 Global OT Events)

# Overshooting-top Validation

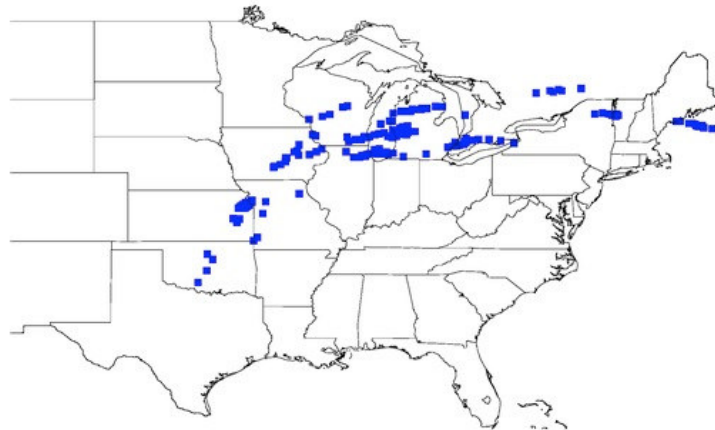
24-hour OTs valid from  
20100412 1200 UTC to 20100413 1200 UTC



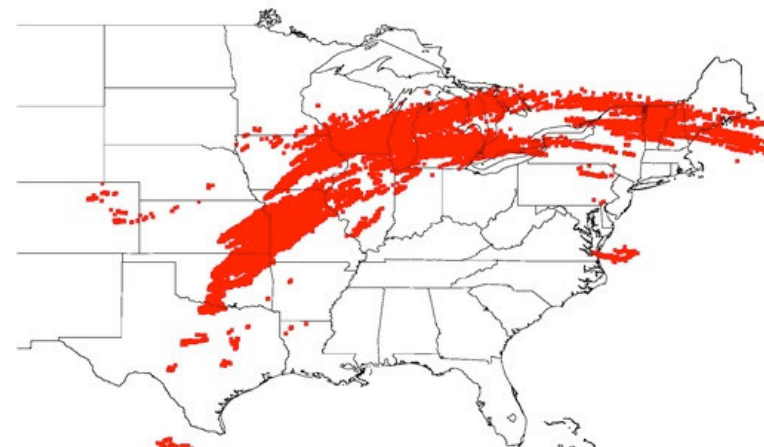
24-hour CG Lightning valid from  
20100412 1200 UTC to 20100413 1200 UTC



24-hour OTs valid from  
20100406 1200 UTC to 20100407 1200 UTC



24-hour CG Lightning valid from  
20100406 1200 UTC to 20100407 1200 UTC



# Anvil Thermal Couplet Detection Performance Relative to Brunner et al. V-Signature Database

**Probability Of Detection**

**62%**  
(126 accurately detected  
/ 203 V-signature events)

**False Alarm Ratio**

**24%**  
(40 false detected / (40 false  
detected + 126 accurately detected))

**Accuracy Requirement**

**25%**

- 76% of all detected enhanced V anvil thermal couplets were associated with severe weather.
- 66% of non-detected enhanced V anvil thermal couplets were associated with severe weather, indicating that the ABI algorithm focuses on high impact events
- Spatial resolution has significant impact on thermal couplet detection.  
Current GOES POD: 12.8%, current GOES FAR: 5.9%

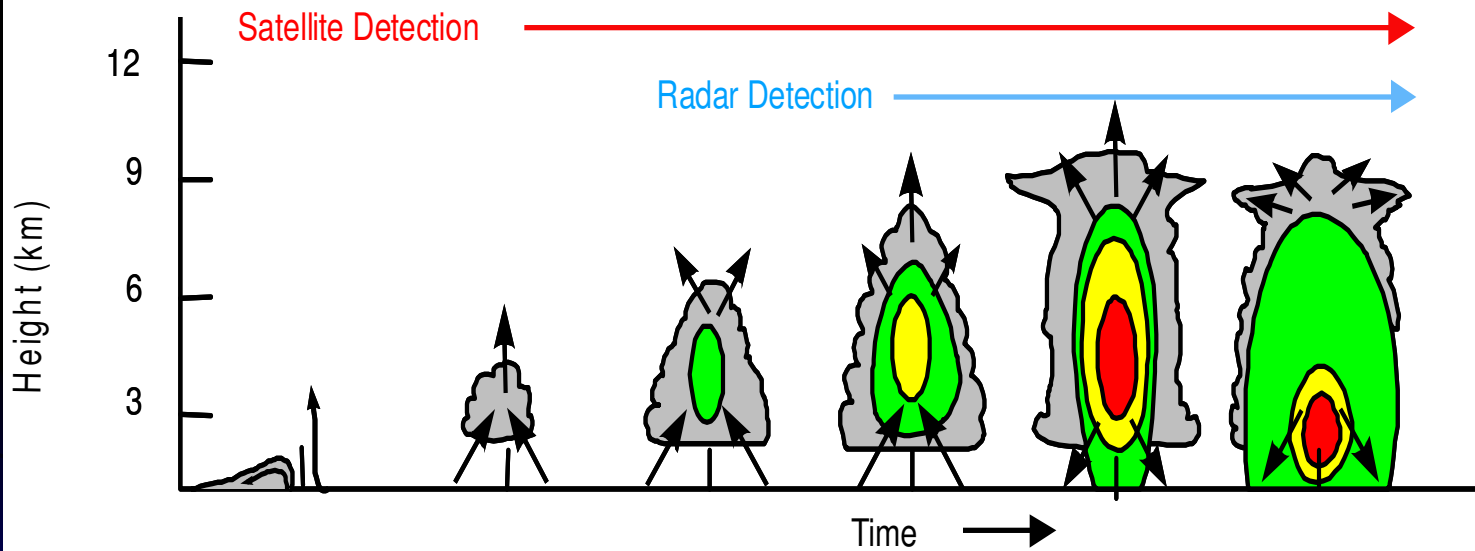


# Convective Initiation



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# What does satellite data add to convective detection?



# Source of Confusion: More than one CI algorithm exists!

- CI from CIMSS (UWCI)

- 24-hour coverage
- Uses cloud-typing algorithm to detect phase changes
- Uses multispectral GOES IR data
- Not computational intensive
- Being extended via object tracking

- CI from UAH (SatCast)
  - Daytime Only
  - Uses pixel-based mesoscale Atmospheric Motion Vectors
  - Uses multispectral GOES IR data
  - Computationally intense (esp. to compute vectors)
  - Being extended via object tracking

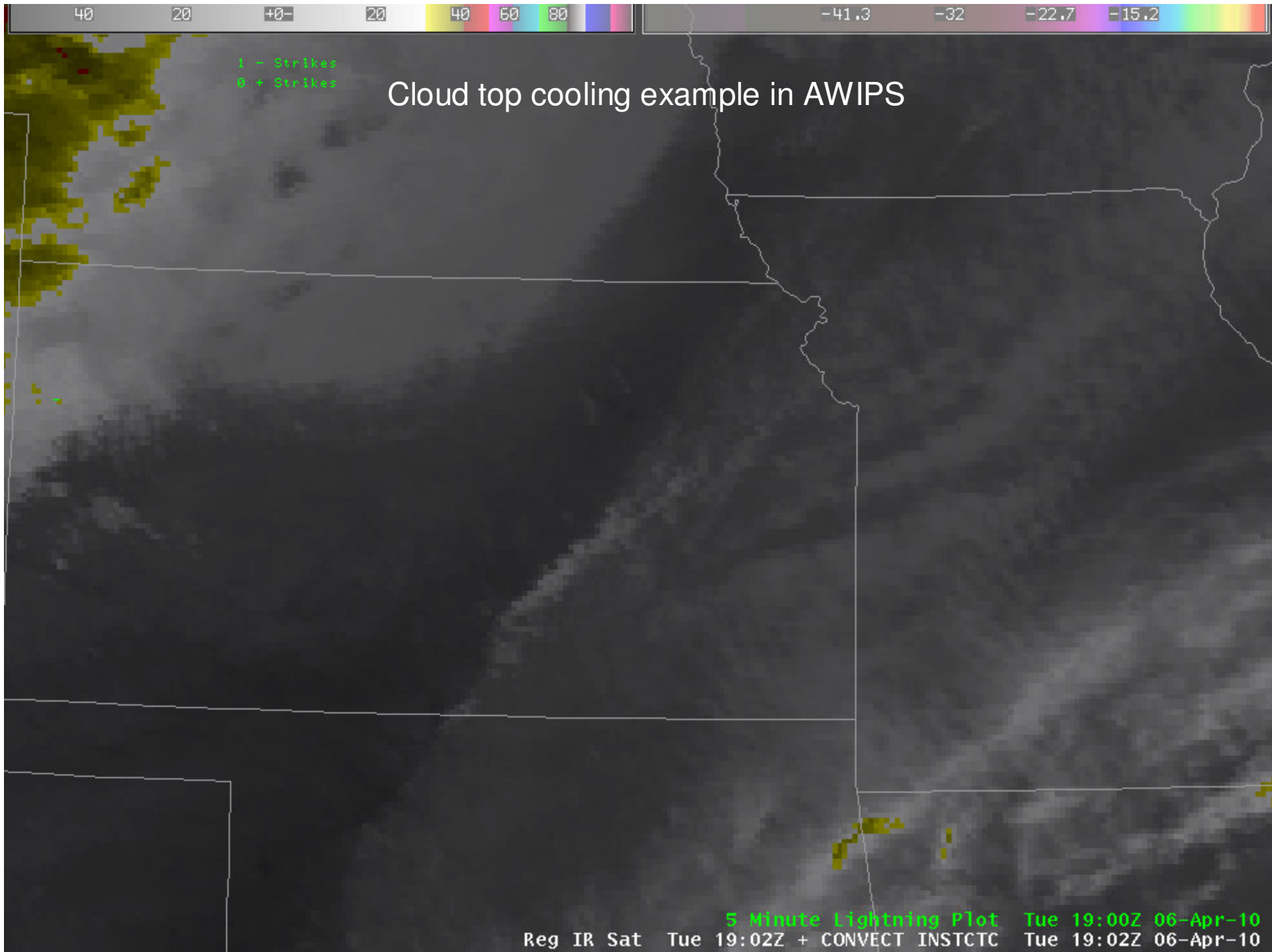
# UWCI Objectives

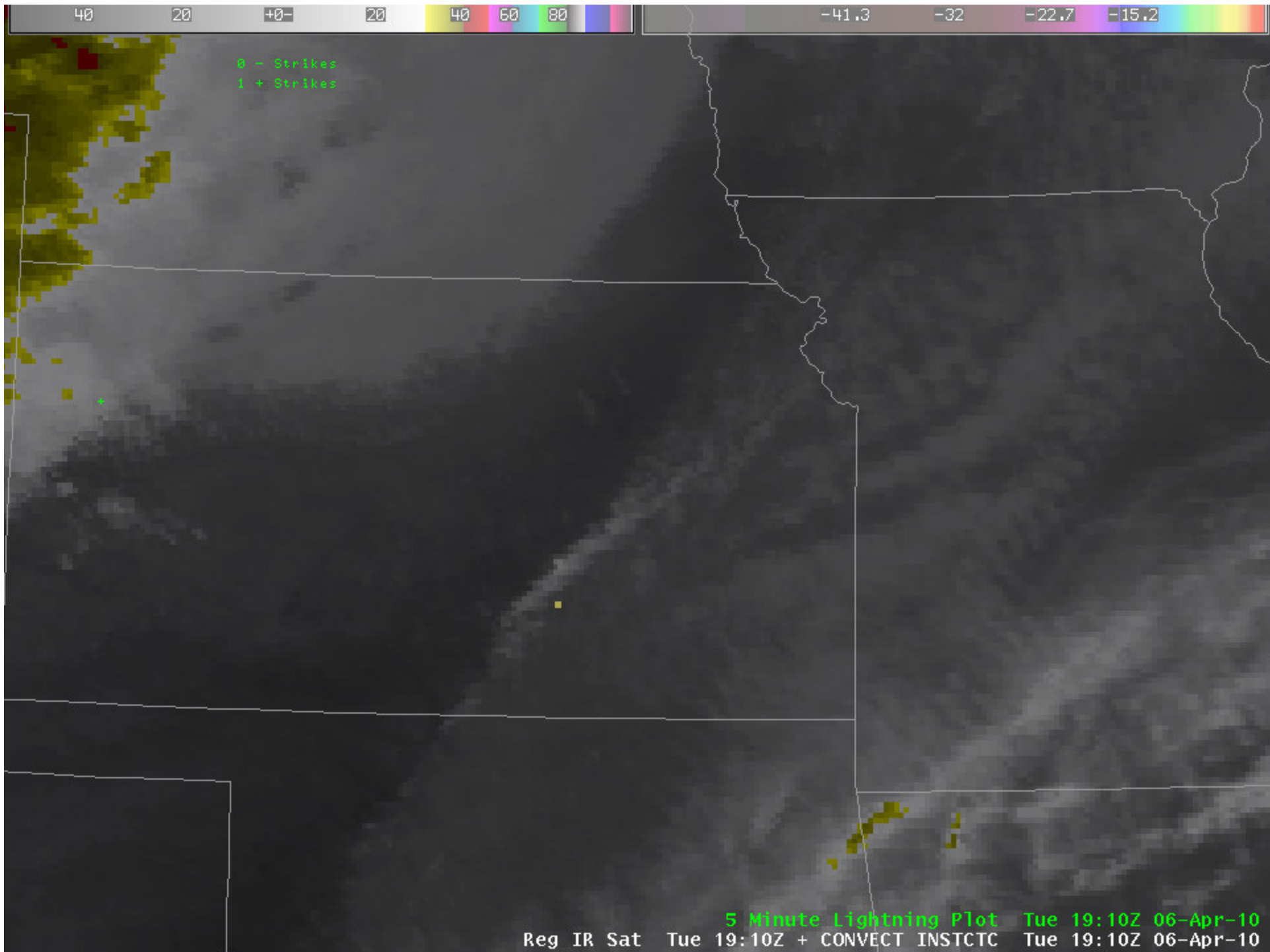
- Provide a CI nowcast signal during day and night
- Minimize false alarm at the expense of some probability of detection
- Use alternative method for time trend computation (non-AMV) to minimize pixelation
- Provide coherent radar-like satellite-based CI signal as direct AWIPS/N-AWIPS satellite convective initiation decision support aid in field

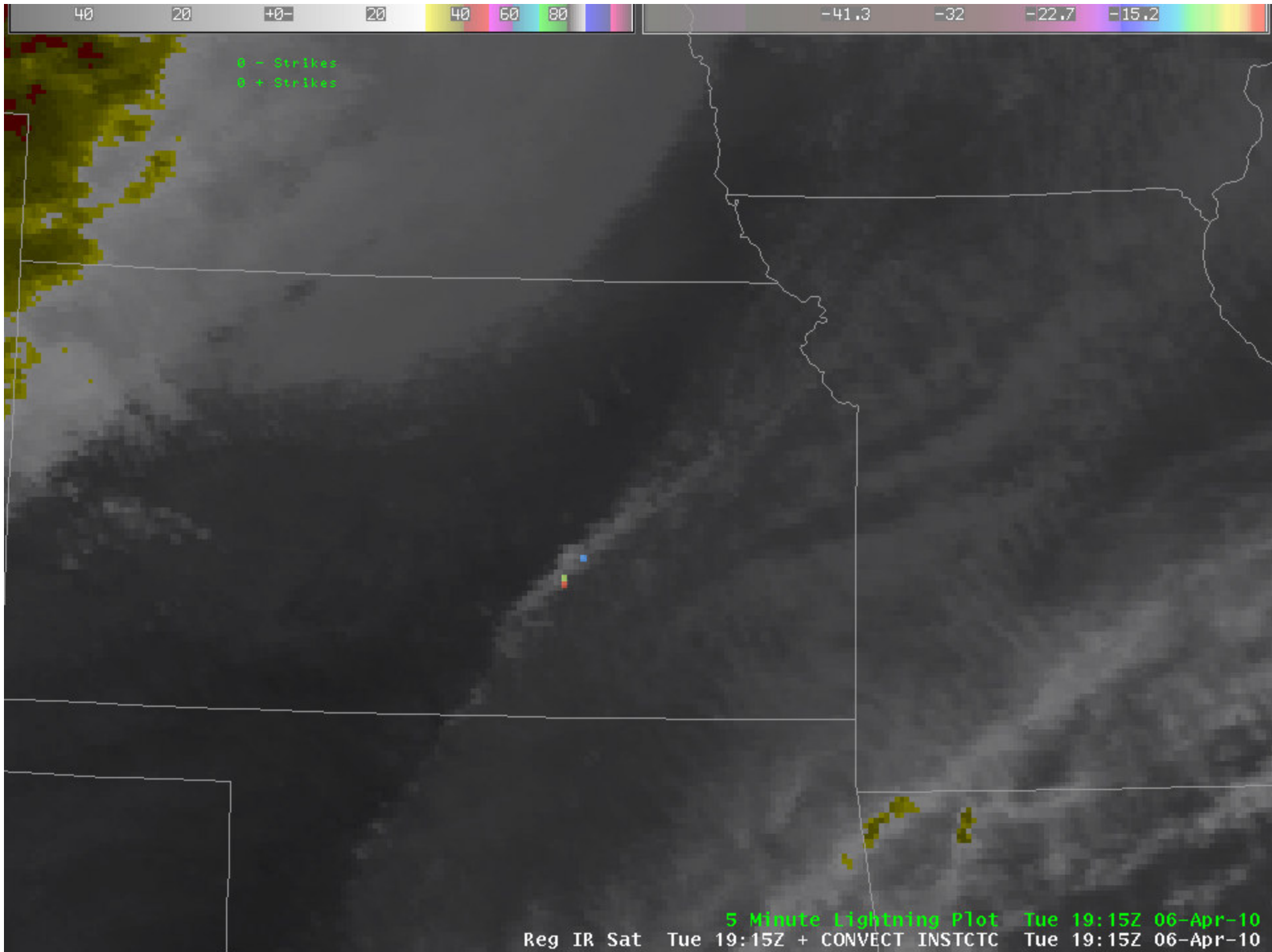
# Thunderstorm Initiation Algorithm Description

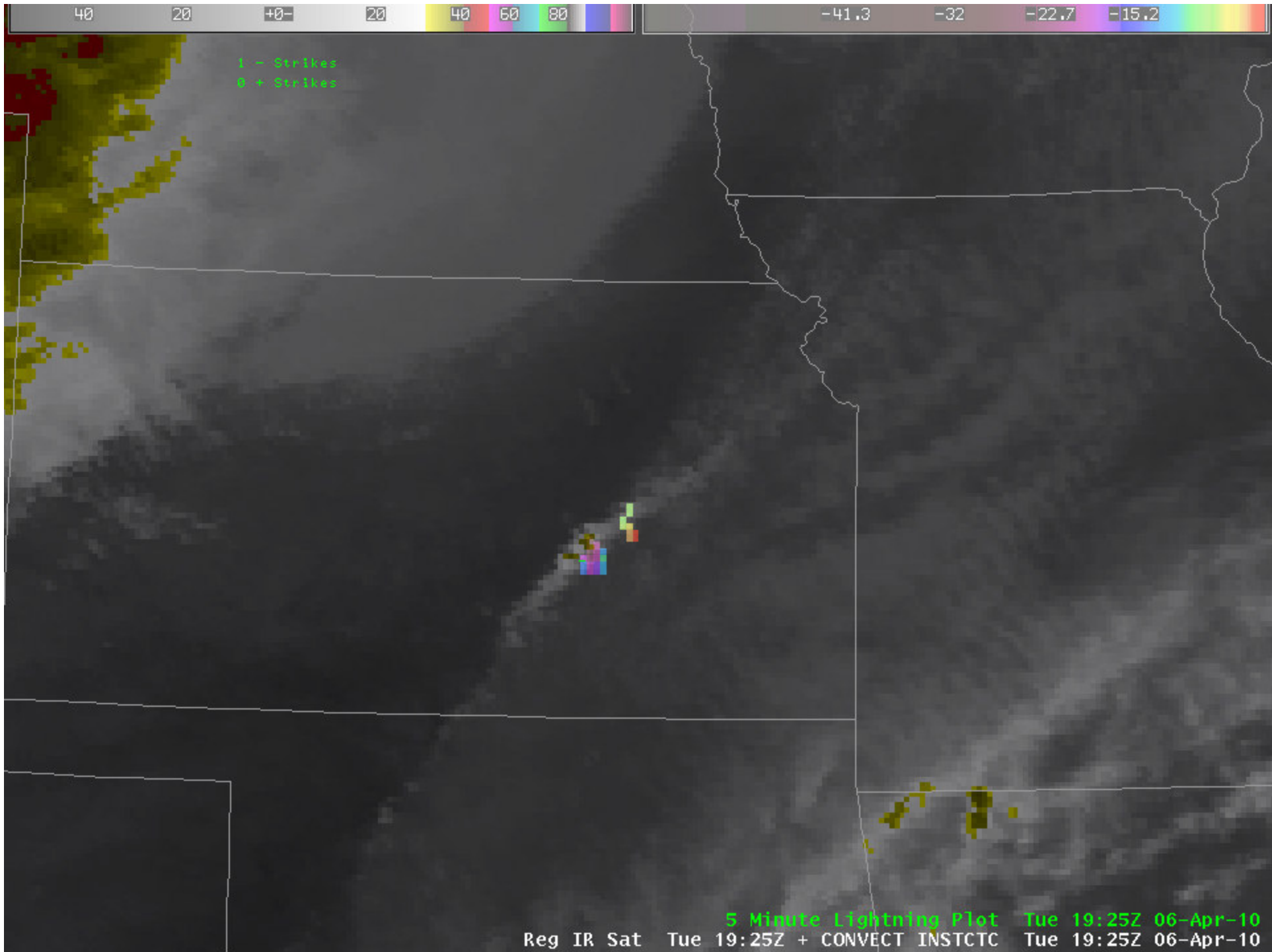
- Cloud top cooling by monitoring infrared temperature measurements from image to image
- Monitoring cloud top water phase transitions (warm water -> mixed phase/supercooled water vapor -> icing/glaciation) from scene to scene
- Day/Night UW Cloud typing product
- Goal: Pre-radar nowcast of imminent convection (lead time up to 45 minutes)



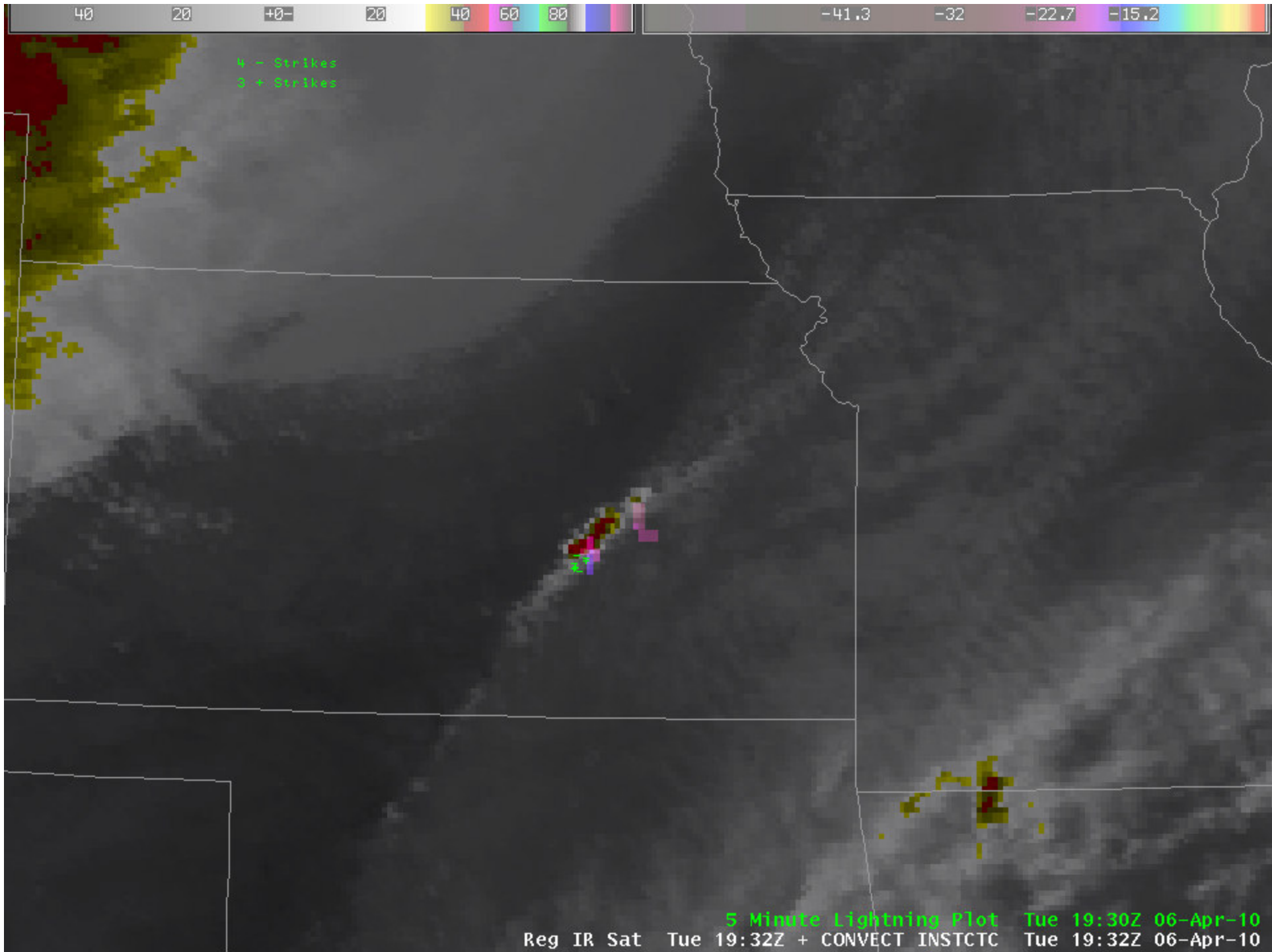


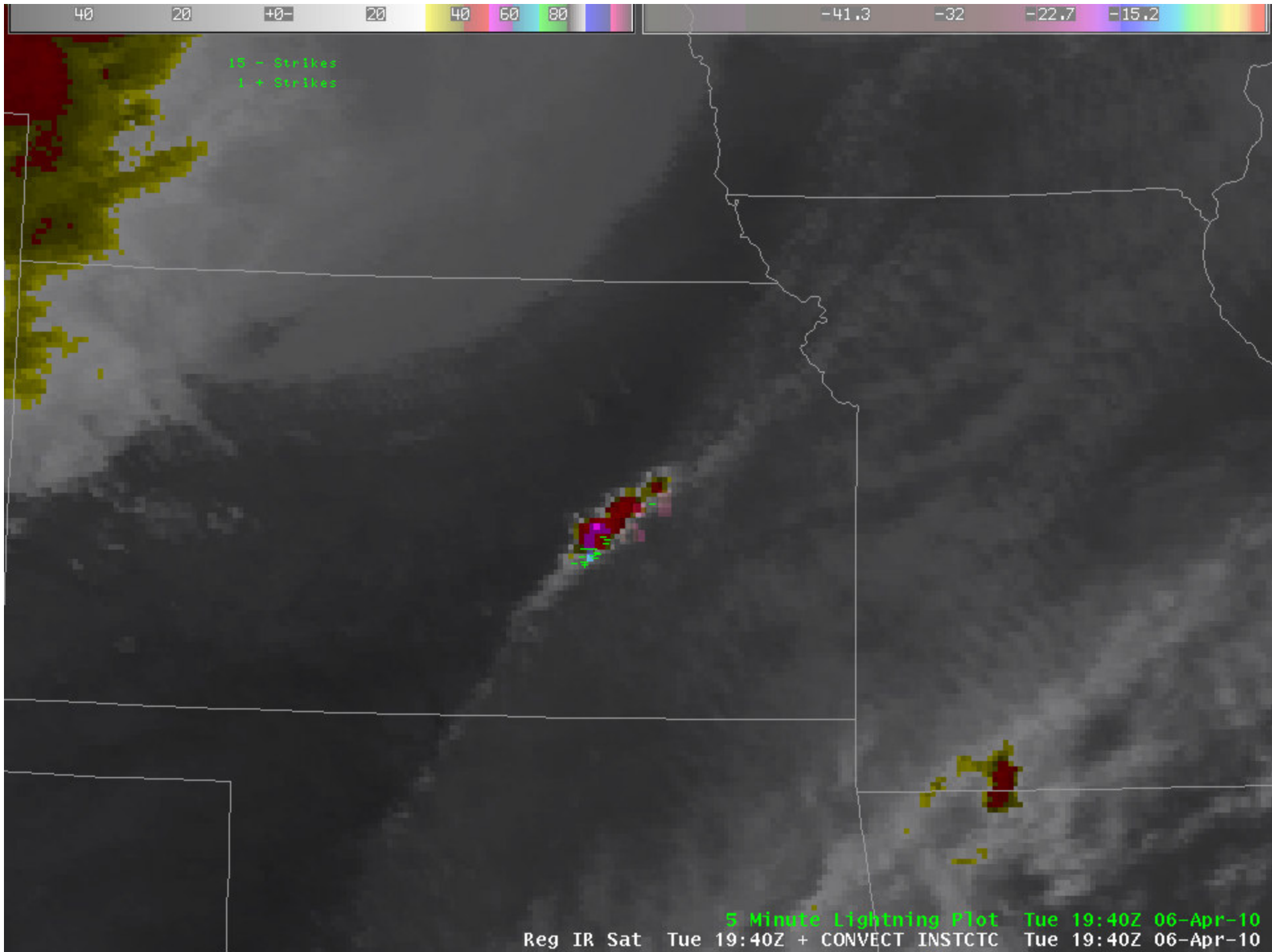


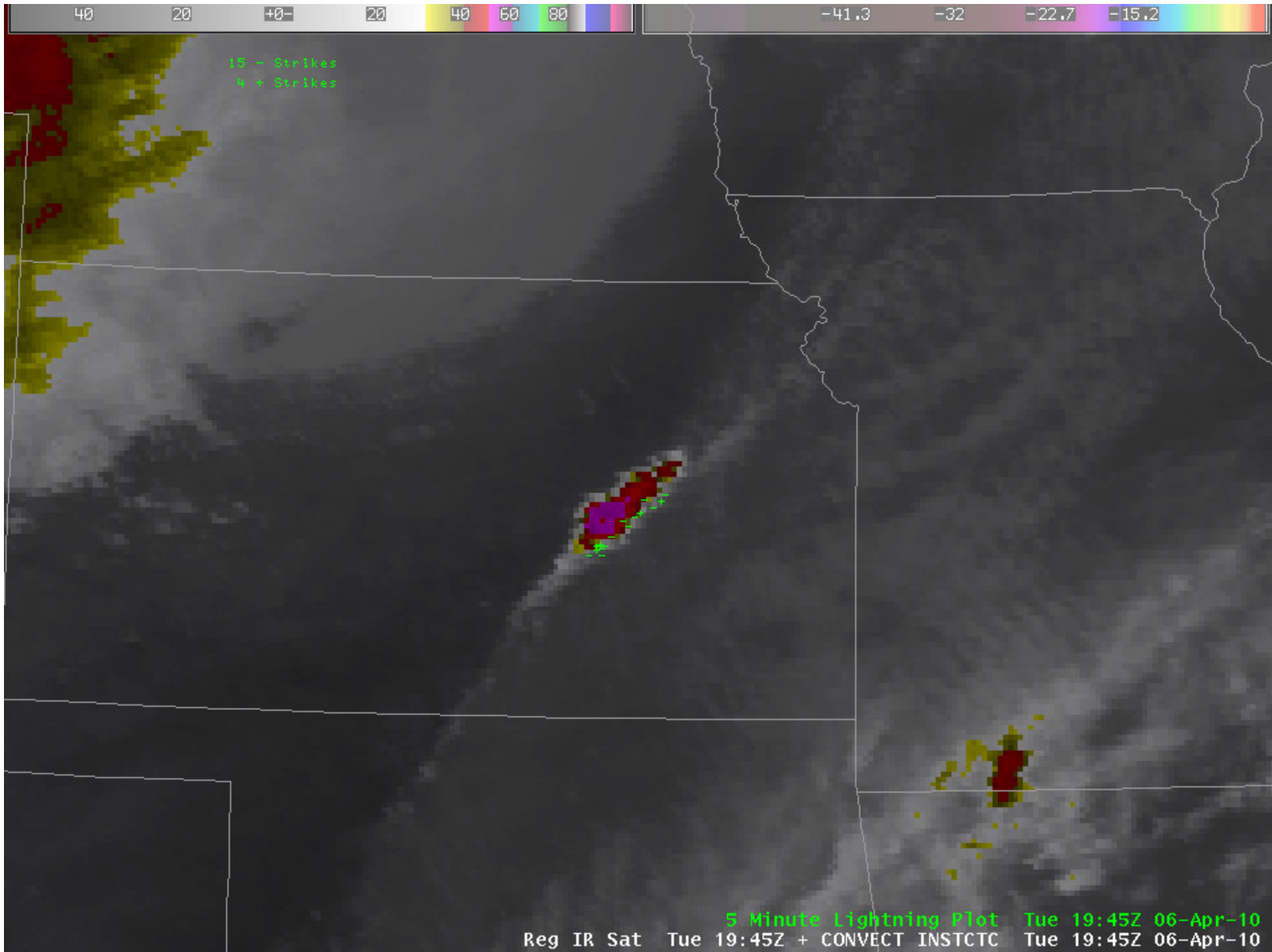


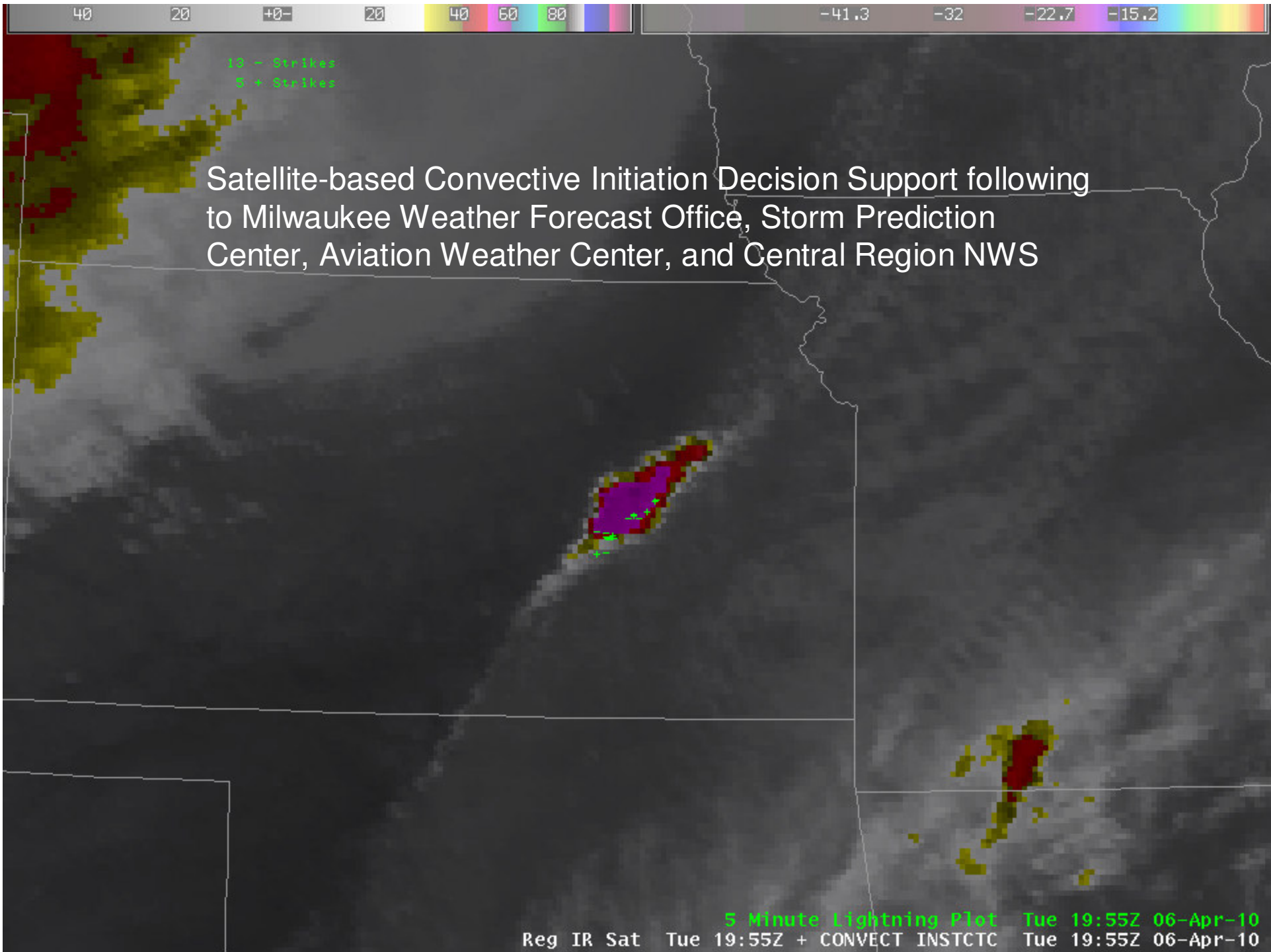






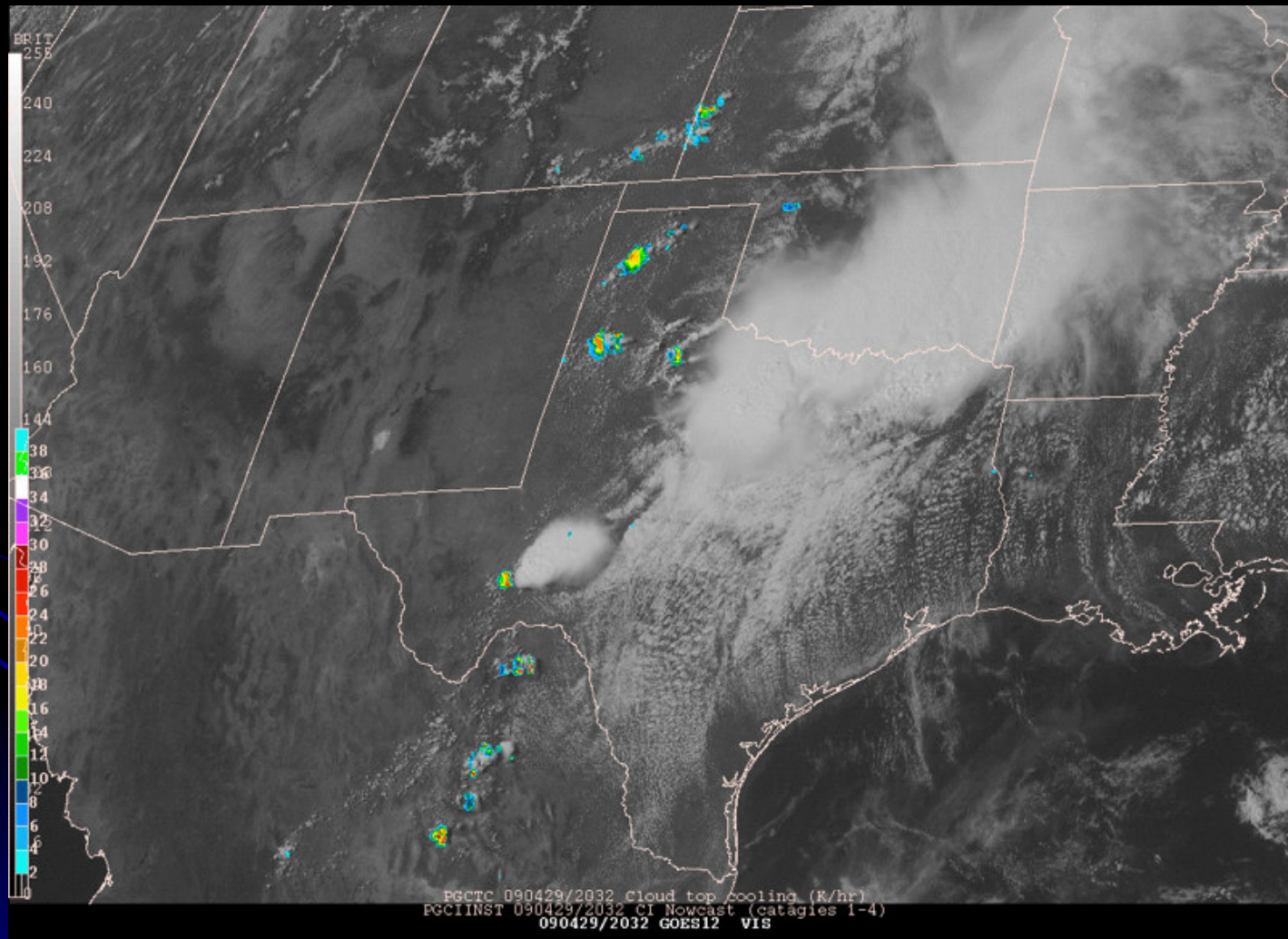




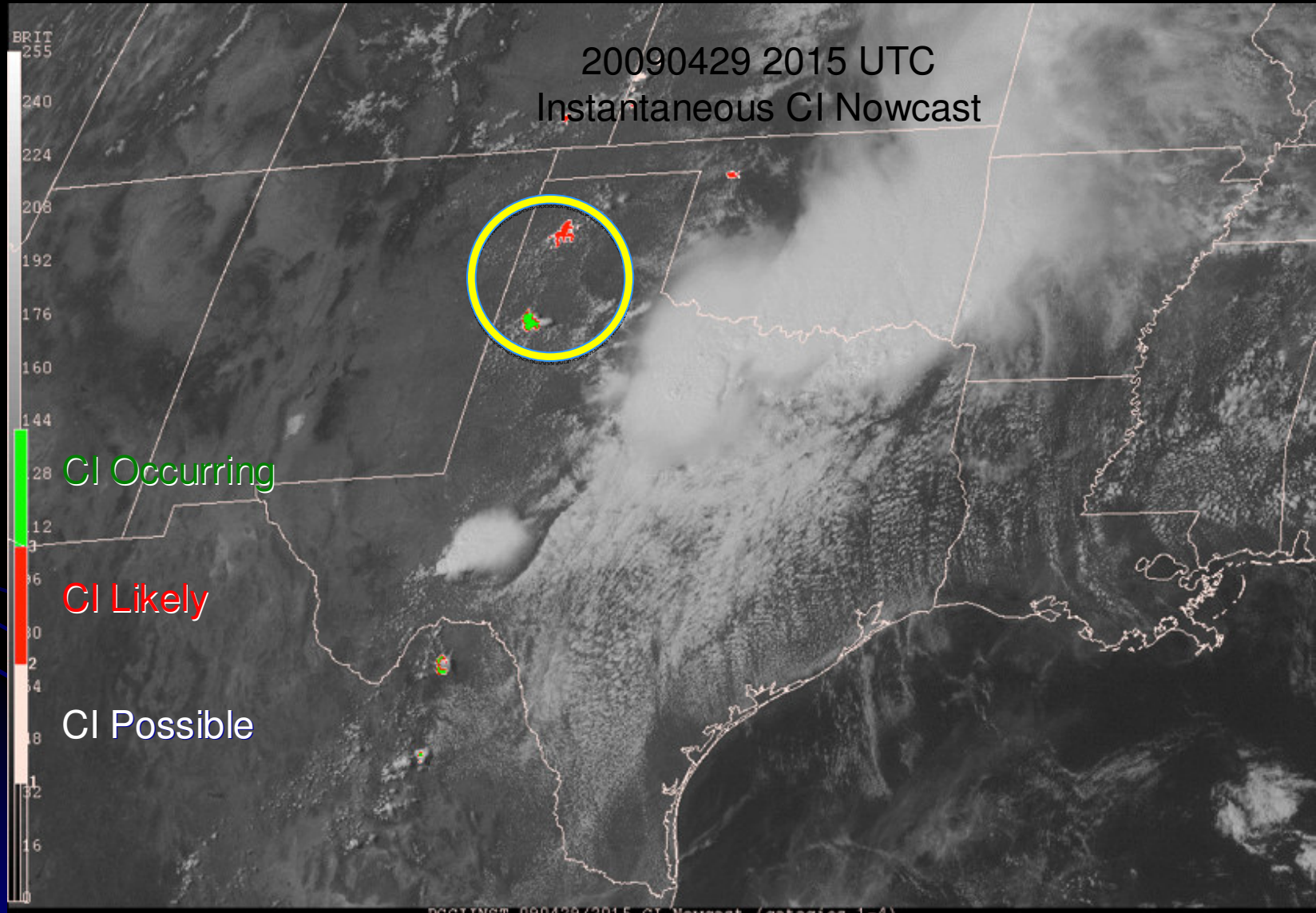




# 20090429 Dryline CI Case



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20090429 2015 UTC  
Instantaneous CI Nowcast

BRIT  
255  
240  
224  
208  
192  
176  
160  
144  
128  
112  
96  
80  
64  
48  
32  
16  
0

CI Occurring

CI Likely

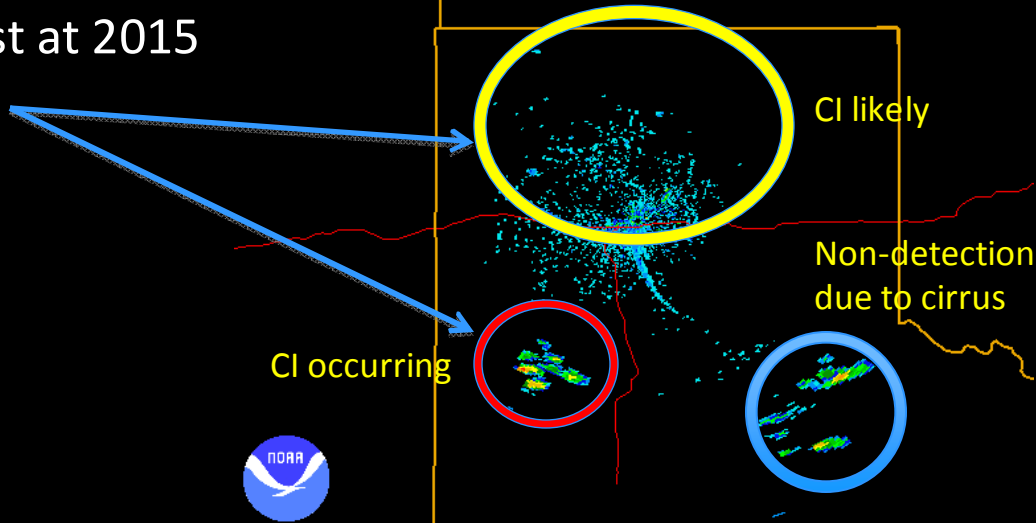
CI Possible

PGCIINST 090429/2015 CI Nowcast (catagies 1-4)  
090429/2015 GOES12 VIS

CI nowcast at 2015 UTC

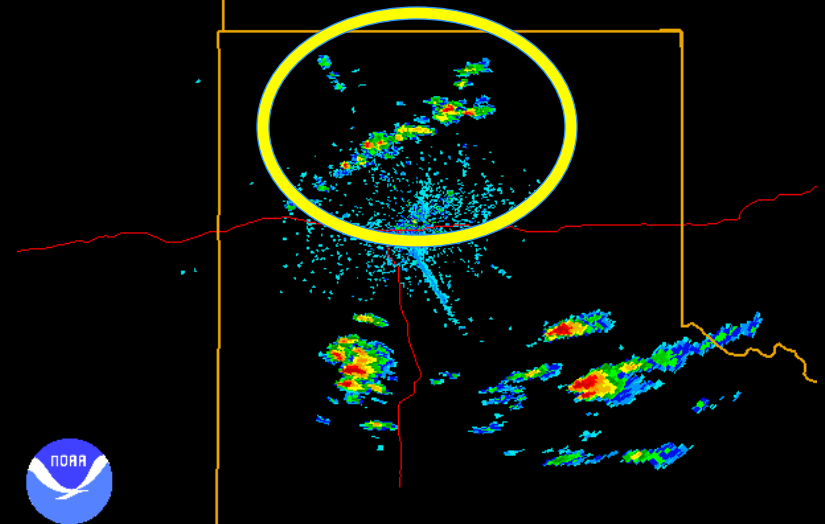
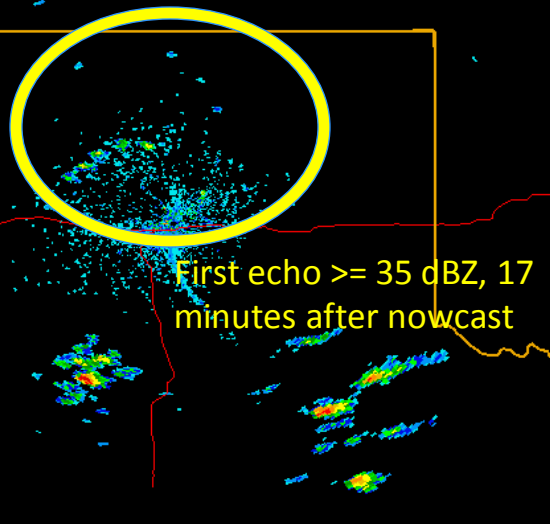
### KAMA 2018 UTC Base Reflectivity

29 April 2009



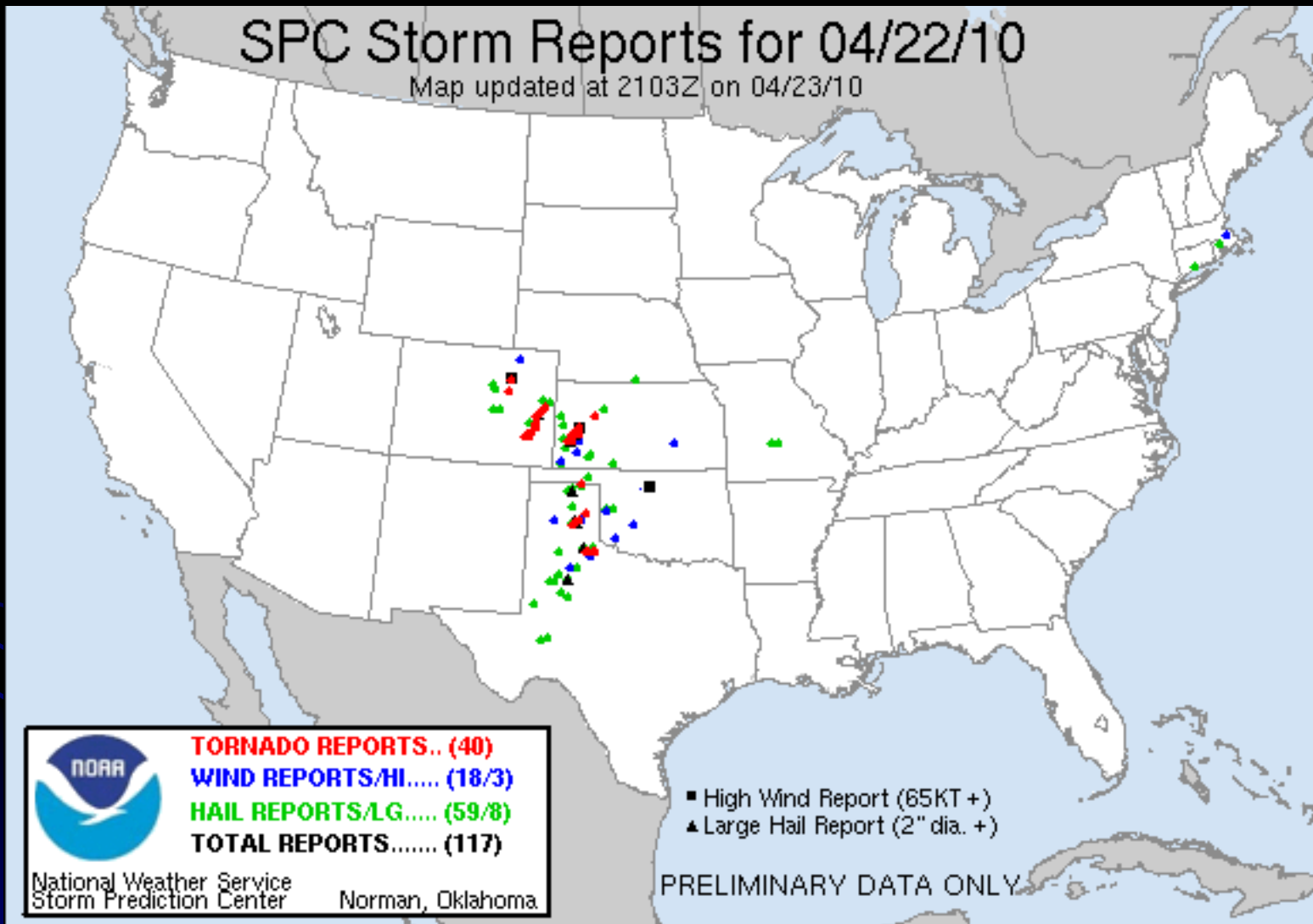
### KAMA 2035 UTC Base Reflectivity

### KAMA 2103 UTC Base Reflectivity



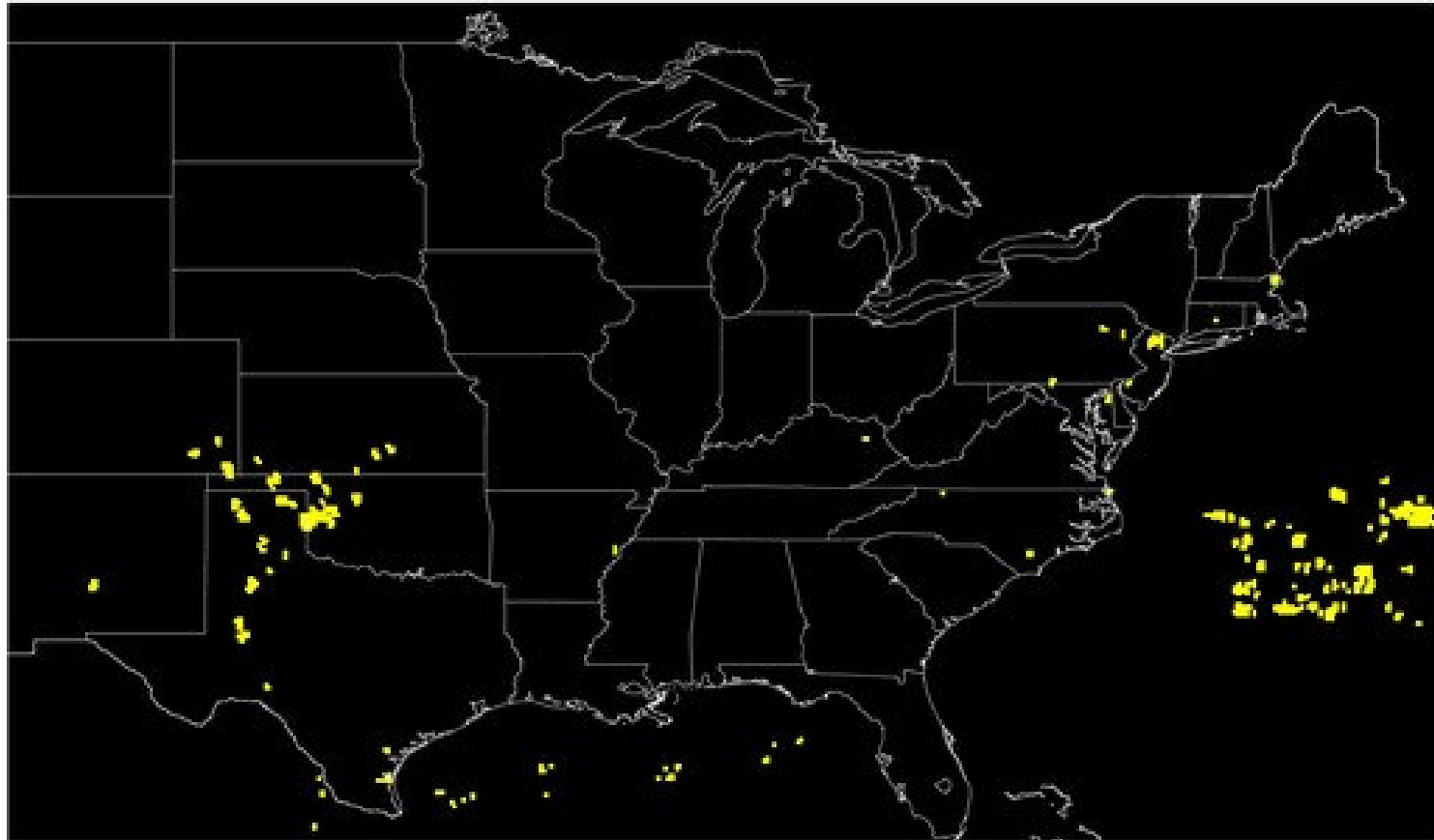
# SPC Storm Reports for 04/22/10

Map updated at 2103Z on 04/23/10





24-hour CI valid from  
20100422 1200 UTC to 20100423 1200 UTC



- Algorithm considers both cloud-top temperature changes and cloud type changes
- Works day and night
- Lead time of up 45 minutes before 35 dbZ echoes is common
- Several checks to minimize false alarms:  
When CI says convection is initiating, it usually is (POD: 55.6%; FAR: 26.0%)

Nowcast forecasts more than half the storms that develop

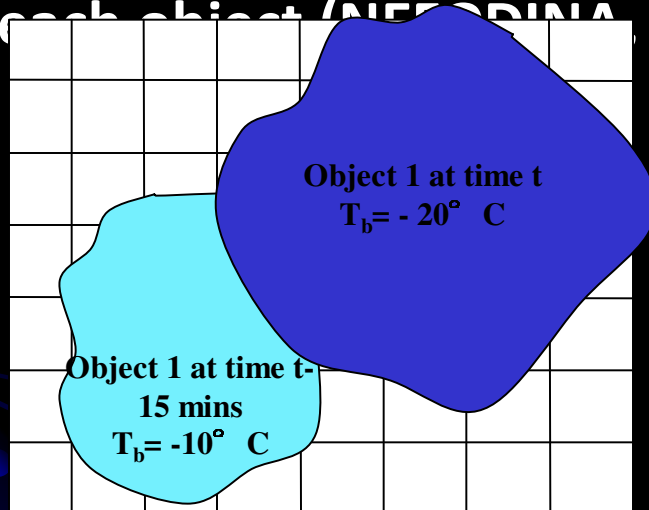
top  
type

- Works day and night
- Lead time of 30 minutes to 1 hour
- Echoes is confirmed
- Several checks to minimize false alarms:  
When CI says convection is initiating, it usually is (POD: 55.6%; FAR: 26.0%)
- Ongoing study to connect radar to UWCI using WDSS-II

Forecaster can trust that 3 out of 4 forecasts verifies

# Object Tracking Approach for Nowcasting Convective Storm Development Using Geostationary Imagery

Develop method to group cumulus cloud pixels into coherent “objects”, which can then be objectively tracked over time (cloud overlap, cross-correlation?) to determine IRW  $T_B$  cooling rate for each object (NEFODINA, Nowcast SAF RDT, WDSS-II)



Cumulus objects overlap (or “look” very similar) in 2 images...so they must be the same cloud!!!

Identify properties such as object size, temperature, mean cloud particle size and microphysical

## Advantages

Explicitly tracks cumulus cloud motion, producing accurate time trends of numerous cloud properties

Allows for easier and more comprehensive validation of nowcast products

## Disadvantages

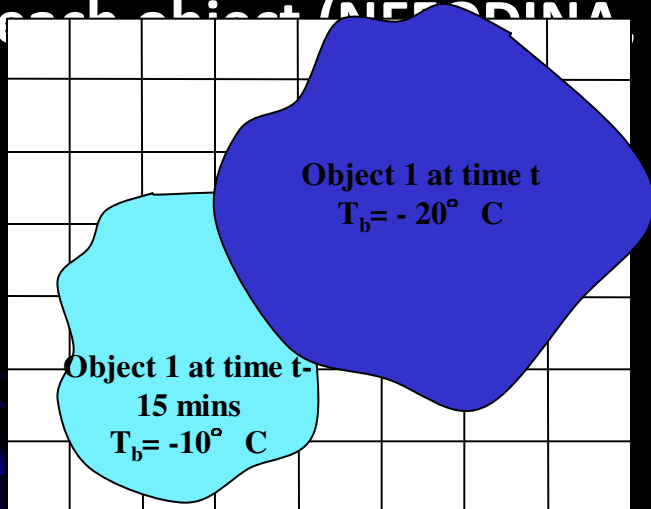
Can be very computationally expensive

Some current generation methods focus on tracking colder objects (NEFODINA  $T_B < 260$  K), missing the initiation phase. RDT is much warmer with max  $T_B$  suggested to be 278 K.



# Object Tracking Approach for Nowcasting Convective Storm Development Using Geostationary Imagery

Develop method to group cumulus clouds into “objects”, which can then be objectively tracked (e.g., overlap, cross-correlation?) to determine if each object (NEFODINA, Nowcast)



Cumulus objects overlap (or “look” very similar) in 2 images...so they must be the same cloud!!!

Identify properties such as object size, temperature, mean cloud particle size and microphysical phase changes

Coming  
Soon  
using  
WDSS-  
II!

Allows for easier and more comprehensive validation of nowcast products

## Disadvantages

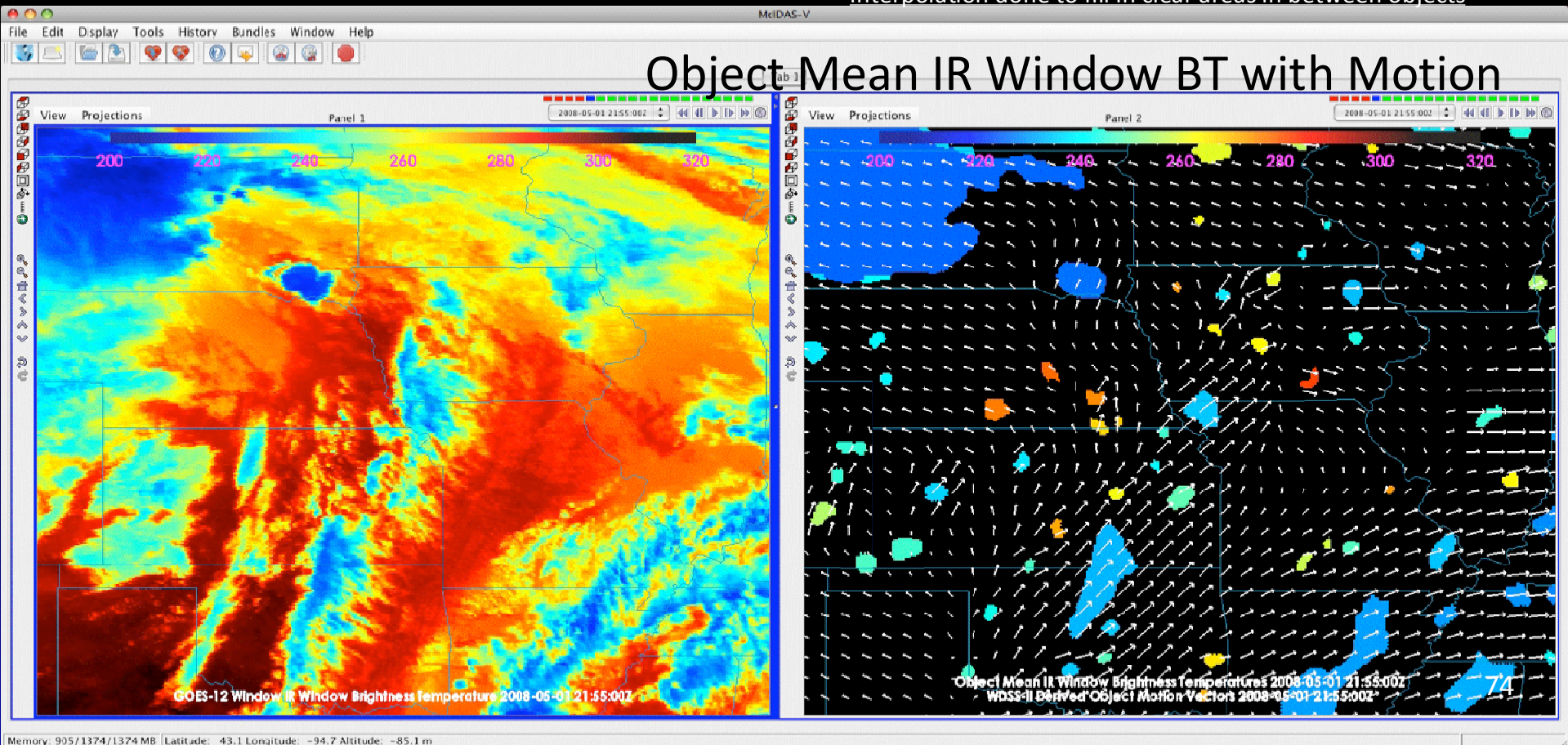
Can be very computationally expensive

Some current generation methods focus on tracking colder objects (NEFODINA  $T_B < 260$  K), missing the initiation phase. RDT is much warmer with max  $T_B$  suggested to be 278 K.

- Used Warning Decision Support System – Integrated Information (WDSS-II, Lakshmanan et al. (WAF, 2007)) to define cloud *objects* based on normalized IR temperature and compute their motion across an image sequence
- Our experience using the WDSS-II framework is still evolving, so these results are preliminary, but demonstrating the object tracking concept is the primary focus here

Motion field generated entirely from object motion and interpolation done to fill in clear areas in between objects

## Object Mean IR Window BT with Motion

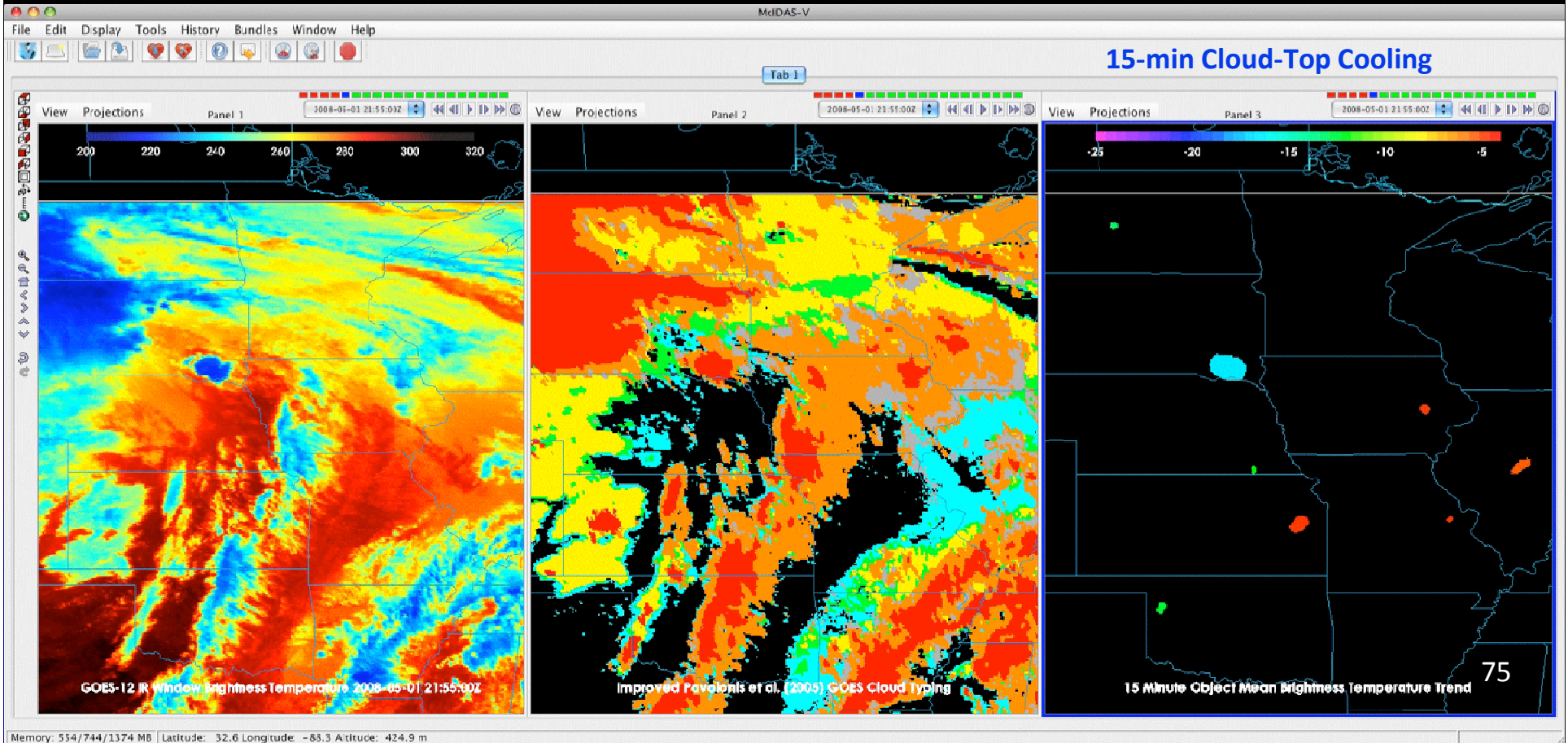


Based upon cloud object motion, compute cloud-top cooling rates to identify rapid growing cumulus

Combine persistent cloud-top cooling with cloud microphysical type changes to identify new convective storm initiation

Pavolonis et al. (2005) GOES Cloud Typing

Cyan: Liquid Water Cloud  
Green: Supercooled Water Cloud  
Yellow: Mixed Phase Cloud  
Red: Thick Cirrus Ice Cloud  
Orange: Thin Cirrus Ice Cloud



# Additional Resources

UWCI Qualitative Automated Validation Page

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/snaap/convinit/validation/>

UWCI/OTTC Data access and Training:

[http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes\\_r/proving-ground/SPC/SPC.html](http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes_r/proving-ground/SPC/SPC.html)



# Satellite-based Turbulence Applications



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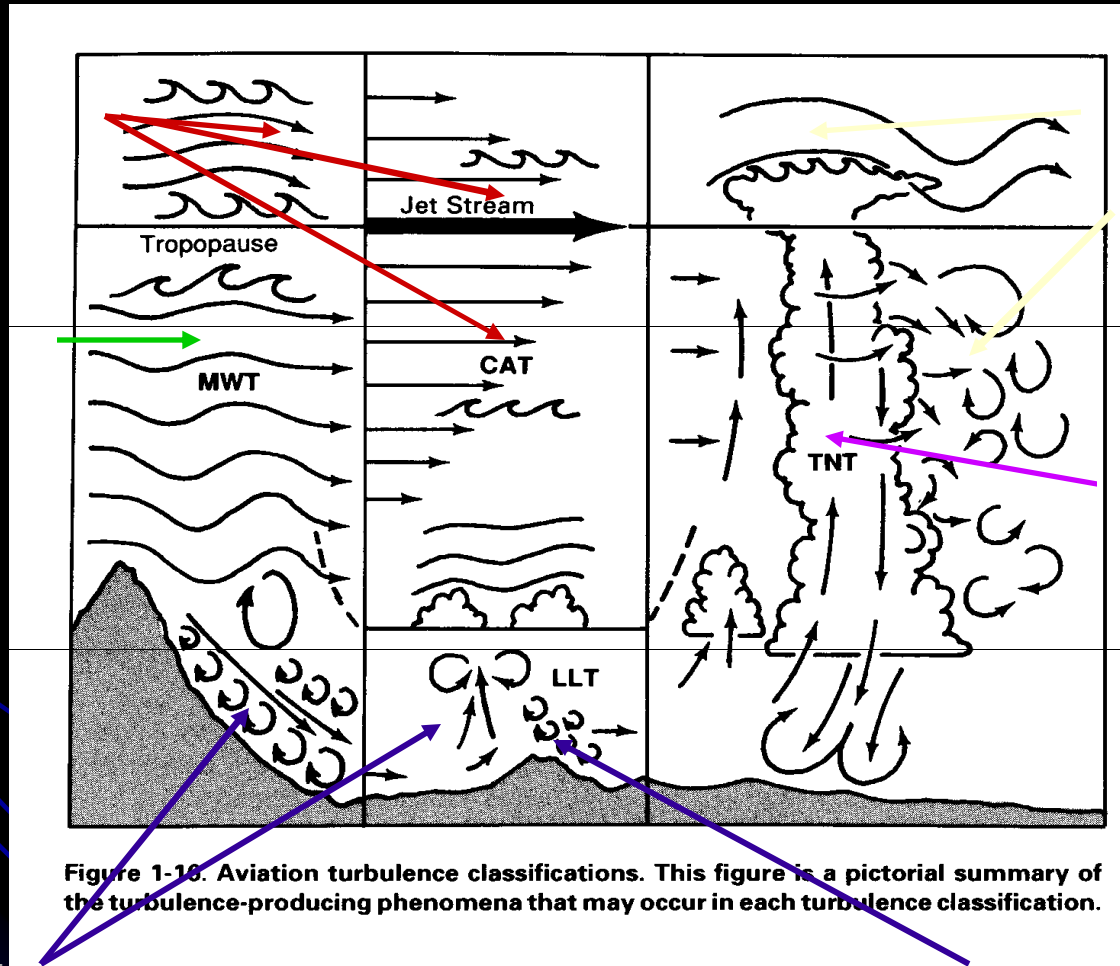


# Background – known turbulence sources

Clear-air  
Turbulence  
(CAT)

Mountain  
wave  
Turbulence  
(MWT)

Low level  
Terrain-induced  
Turbulence (LLT)



Cloud-induced or  
Convectively-  
induced  
Turbulence (CIT)

In-cloud turbulence

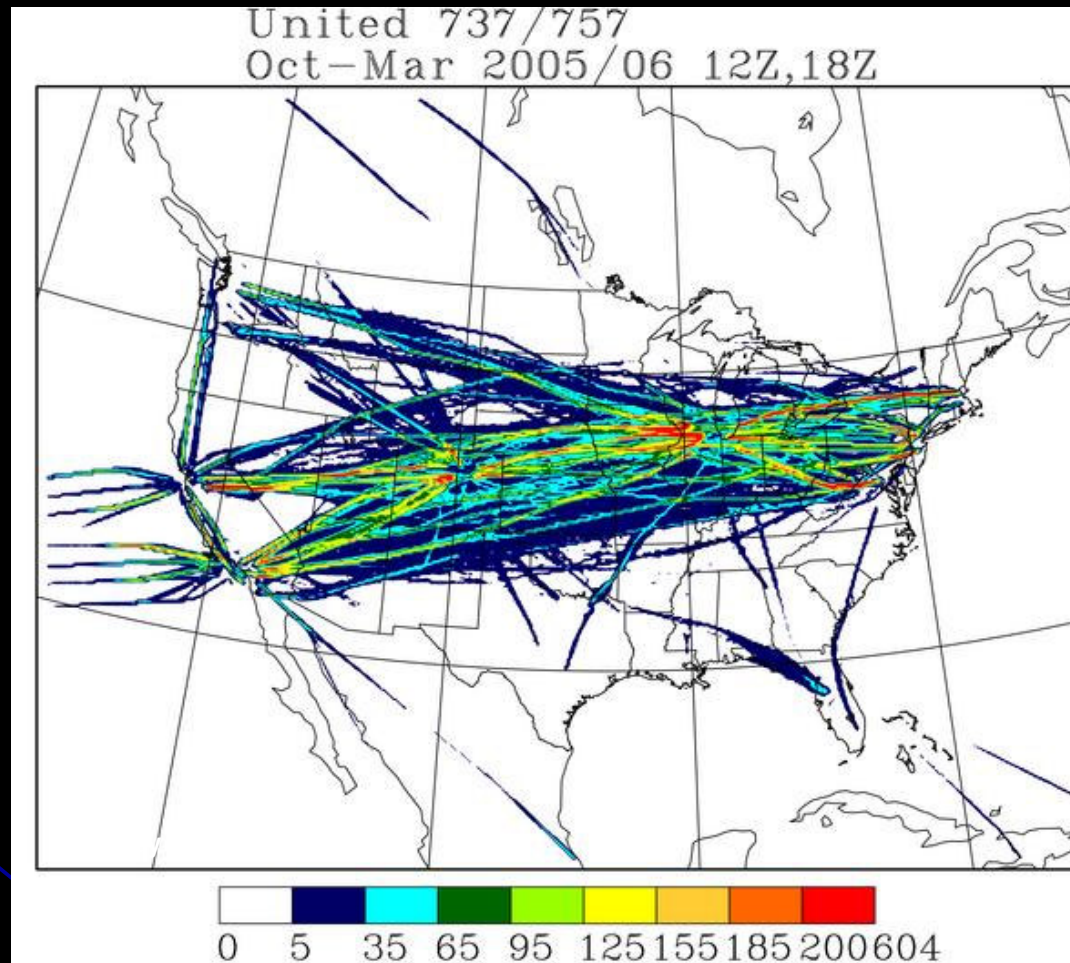
Convective boundary  
Layer turbulence

Source: P. Lester, "Turbulence – A new perspective for pilots," Jeppesen, 1994

# Adapting to aircraft hazard awareness

- **Validation data - Eddy Dissipation Rate**
  - Automated reporting of inertial disturbance on commercial aircraft
  - 3-minute integration time per measurement (short). This indicates several measurements through any single turbulent region.
  - Collected and quality-checked by NCAR
  - ~ 1 month latency

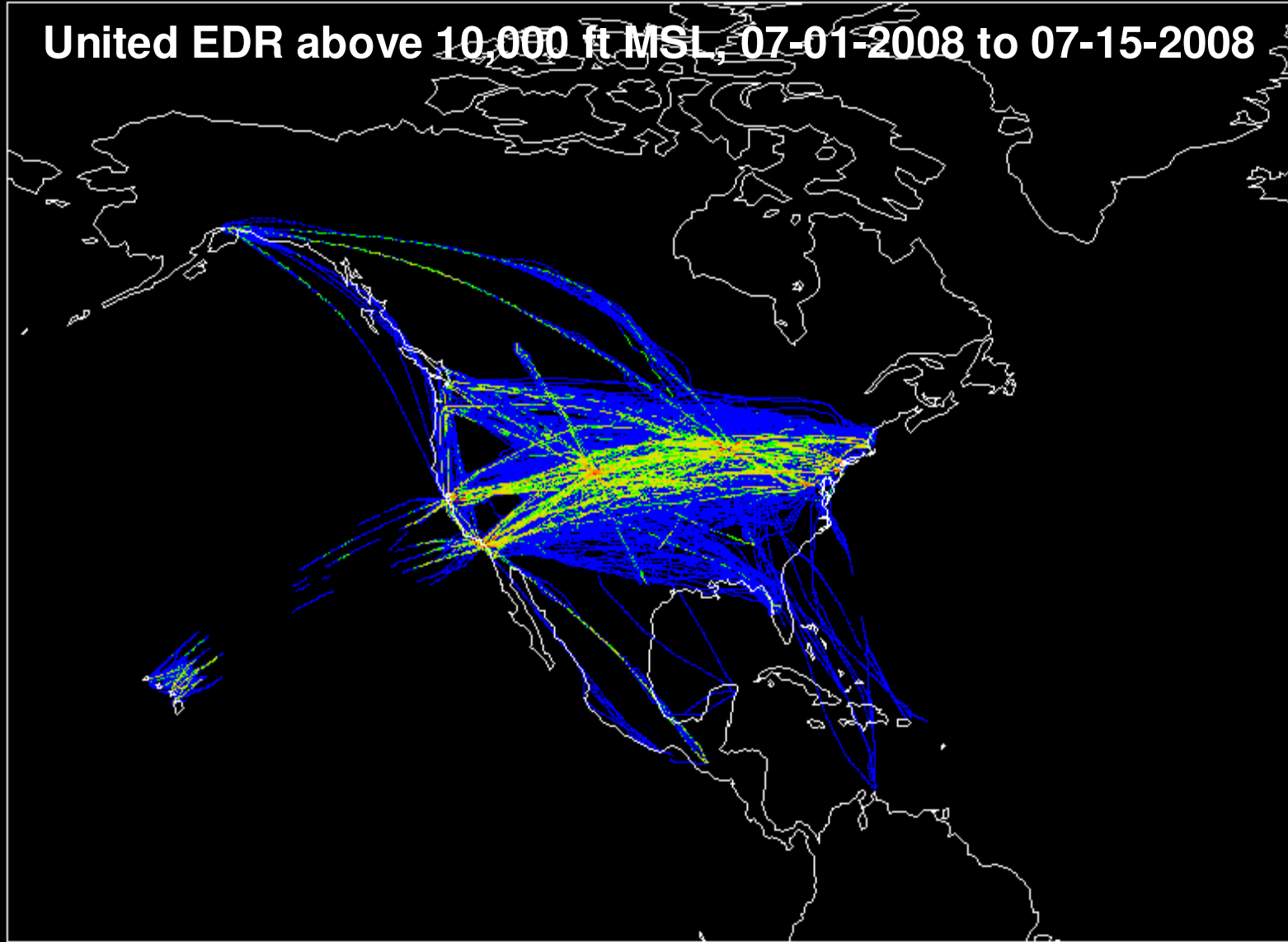
# EDR Turbulence Observations



- Many United Airlines Boeing 757 aircraft are collecting Eddy Dissipation Rate (EDR) observations, an objective measure of aircraft turbulence (Cornman et al., *J. Aircraft*, 1995)
- *Delta and Southwest Airlines EDR observations are now available as of 2009*
- EDR provides a significant advantage over PIREPS in their: 1) objectivity, 2) positional accuracy, and 3) frequency of turbulent + null reporting (every minute)

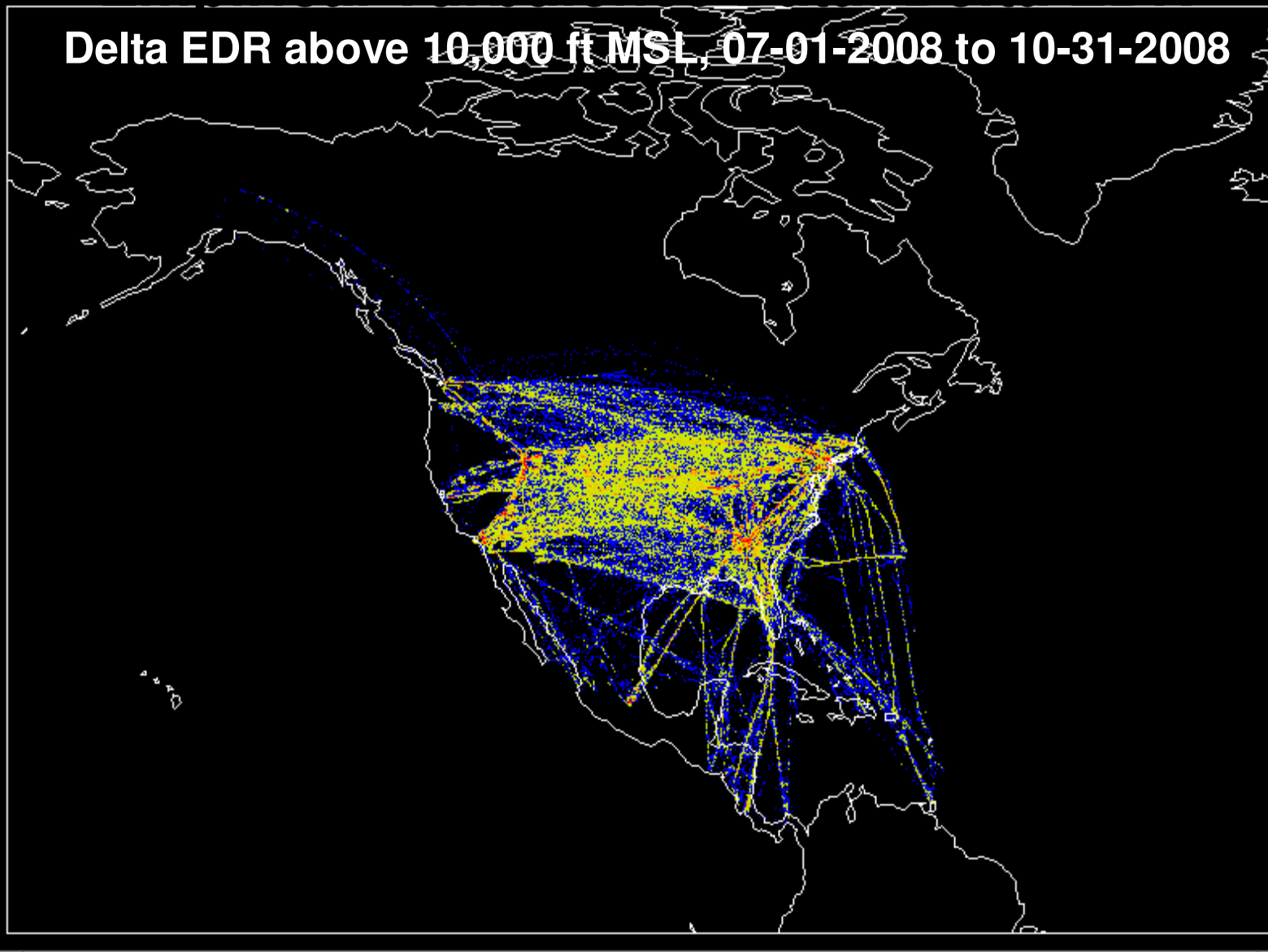
# EDR = Treasure Chest!

United EDR above 10,000 ft MSL, 07-01-2008 to 07-15-2008



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**Delta EDR above 10,000 ft MSL, 07-01-2008 to 10-31-2008**

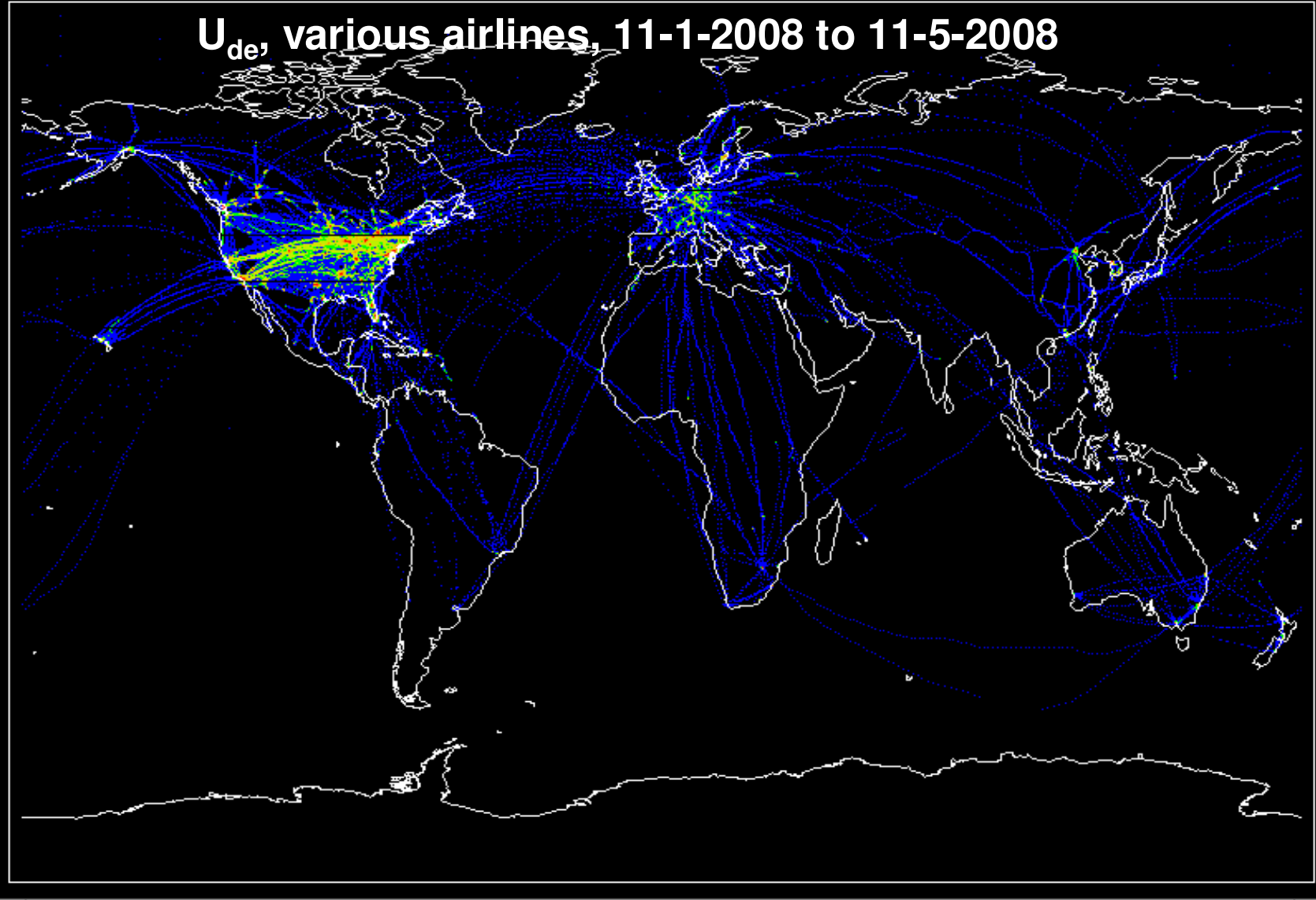


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# Empirical Turbulence Data: $U_{de}$

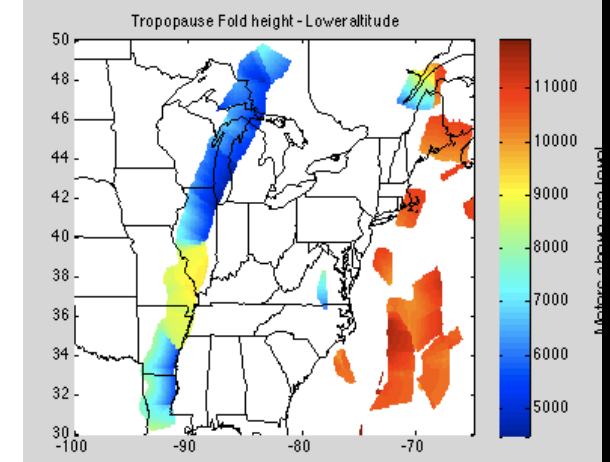
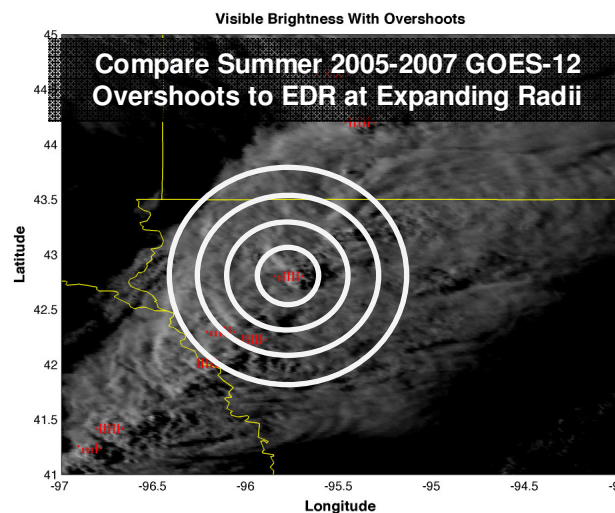
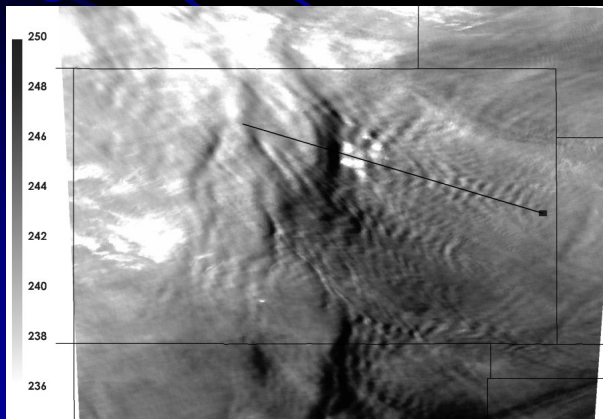
$U_{de}$ , various airlines, 11-1-2008 to 11-5-2008



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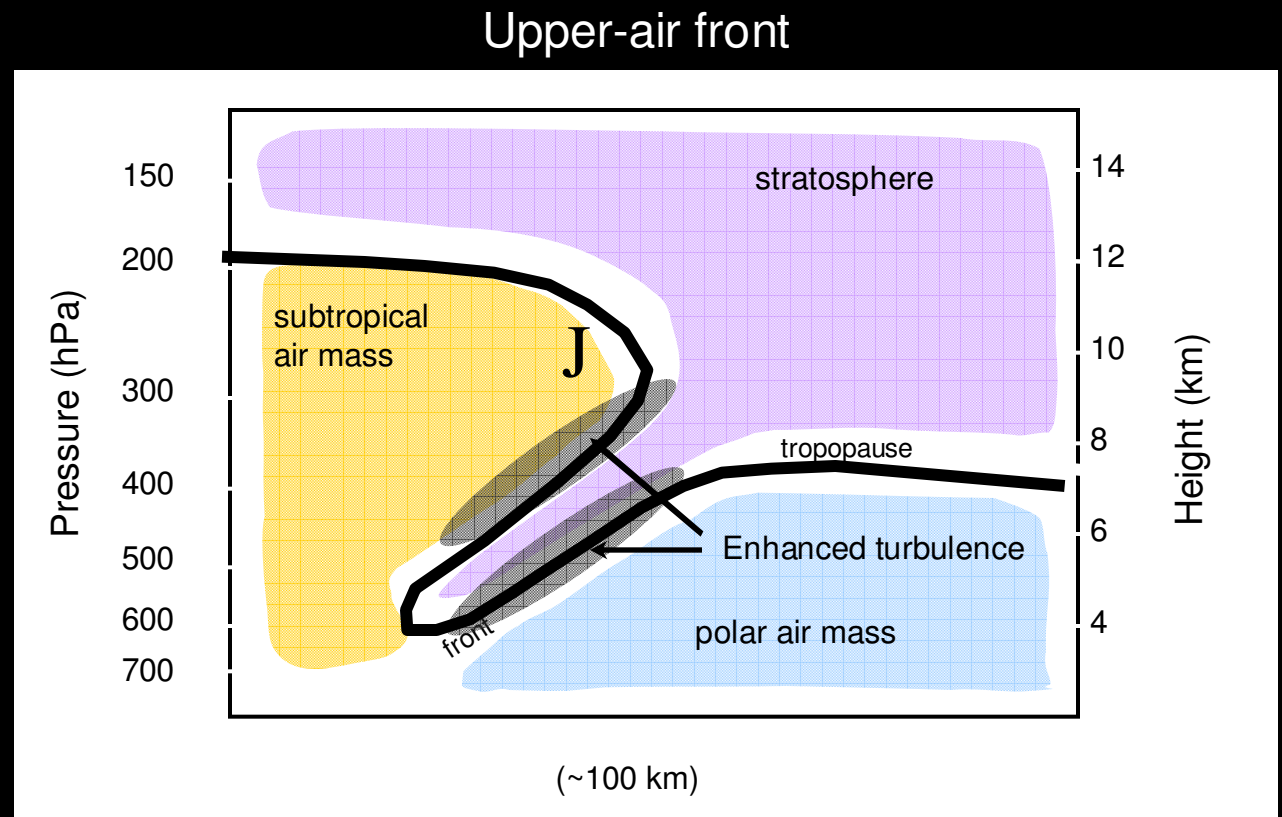
# Satellite-based Turbulence Interest Field Detection

- Convectively Induced Turbulence
- Tropopause Folding
- Mountain Wave Turbulence



# What Is a Tropopause Fold?

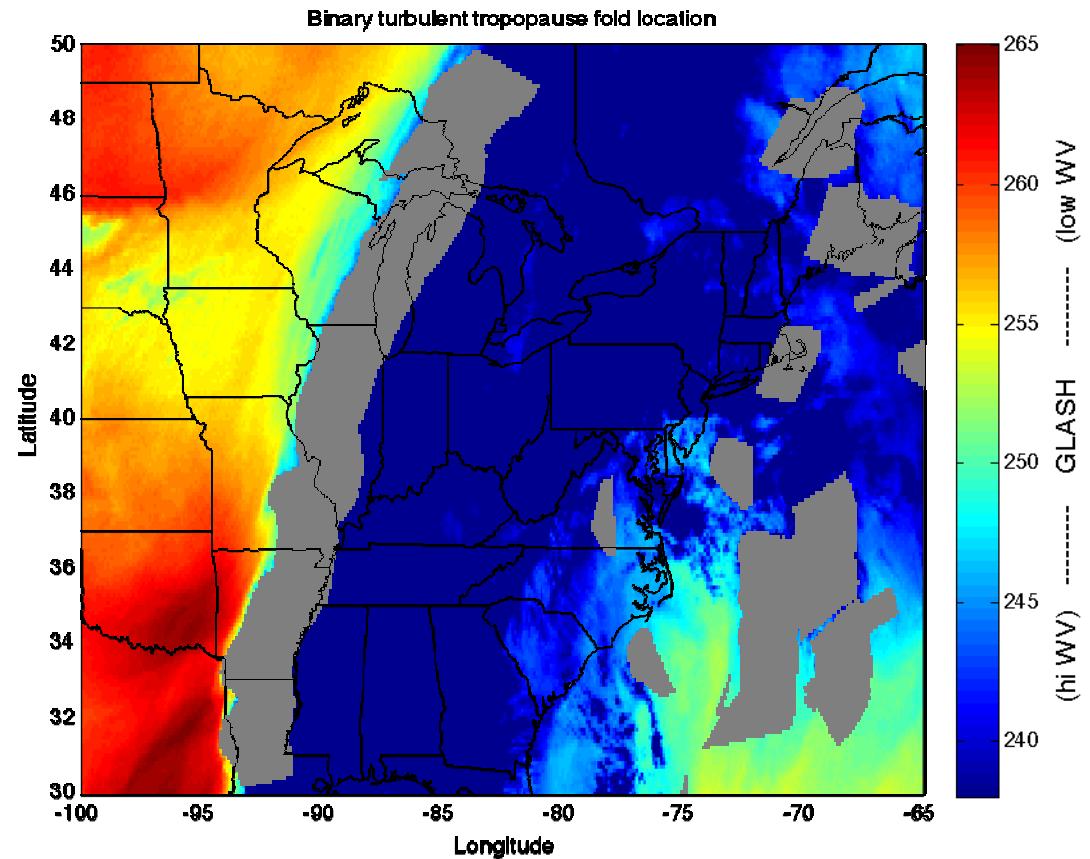
- Tropopause folding describes an event at the tropopause break in which the tropopause folds into the troposphere due to ageostrophic flow around the jet stream.
- This frequently leads to dynamical instability (enhanced turbulence) because of high levels of vertical shear across the boundary of the tropopause fold, which contains elevated potential vorticity.

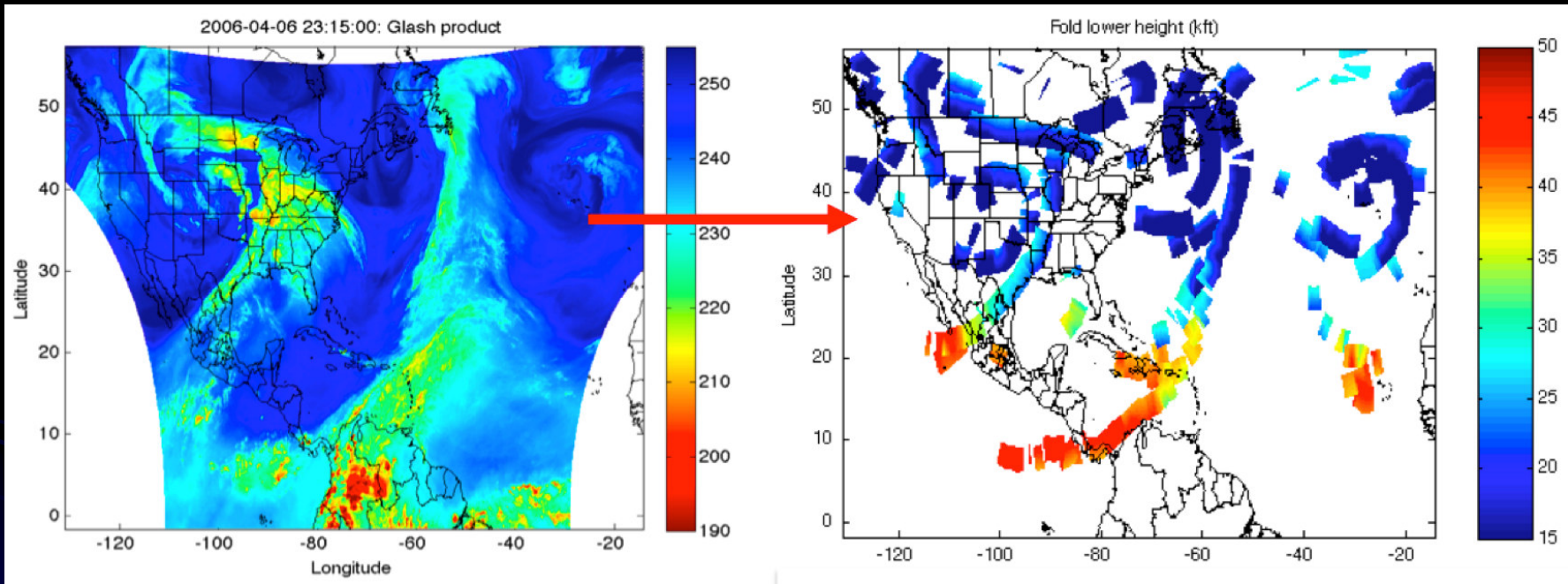


# GOES-R Aviation: Tropopause Fold Turbulence Prediction (TFTP) product

Uses gradients in ABI water vapor (upper troposphere) to find regions of turbulent tropopause folds in upper-level air mass boundaries

Product consists of tropopause fold location (right, in gray), vertical boundaries and the ranges of vulnerable flight directions.



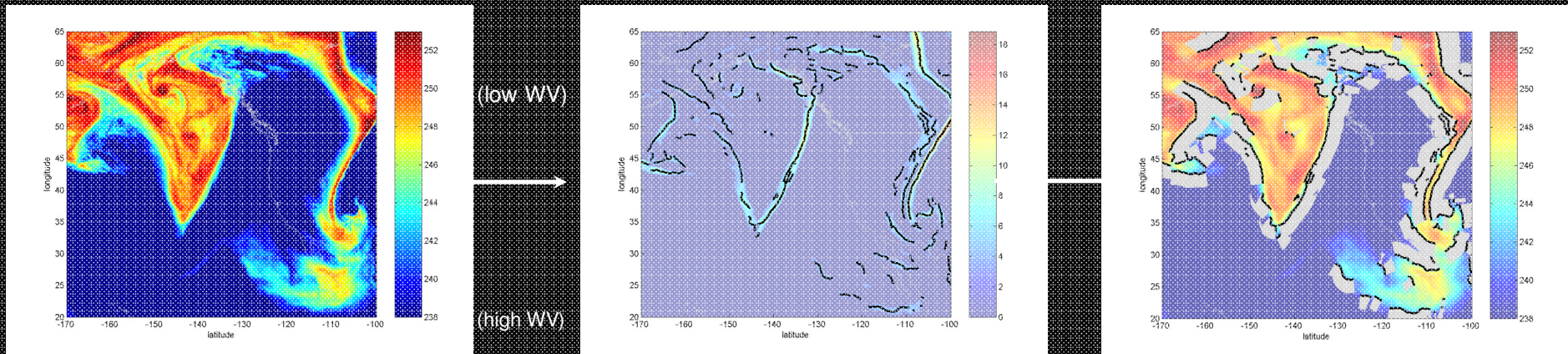


*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*



# Tropopause Folding Turbulence Prediction (TFTP)

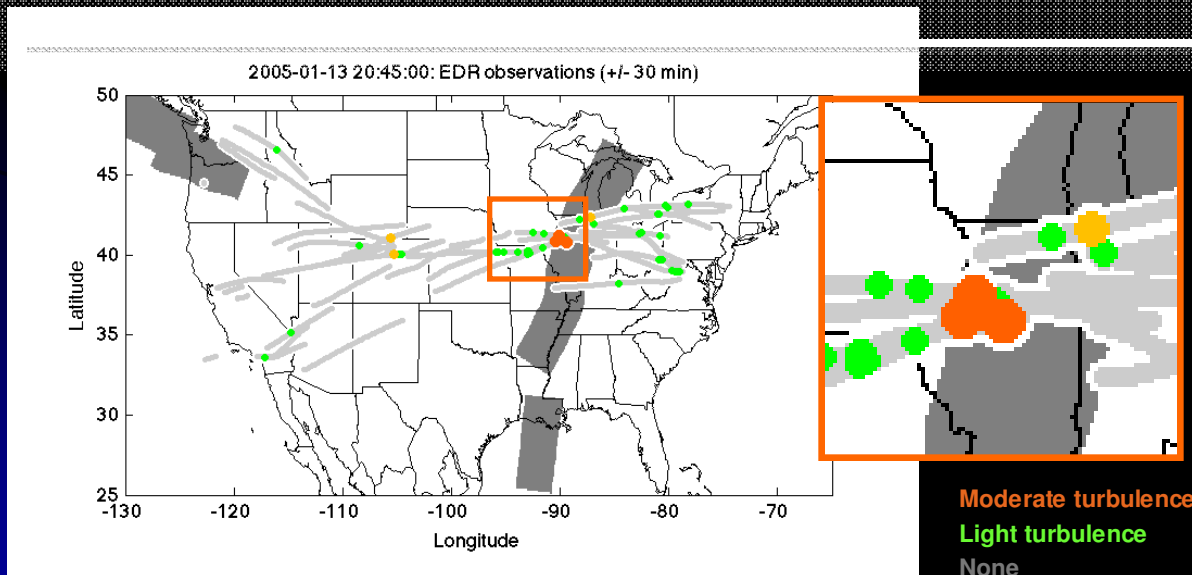
“Tropopause folding” is the entrainment of high-vorticity stratospheric air underneath a warm air mass, along a front. It creates eddy circulations and unstable flow around the jet stream, causing CAT.



GOES Water Vapor

Edge Detection

Tropopause fold layer

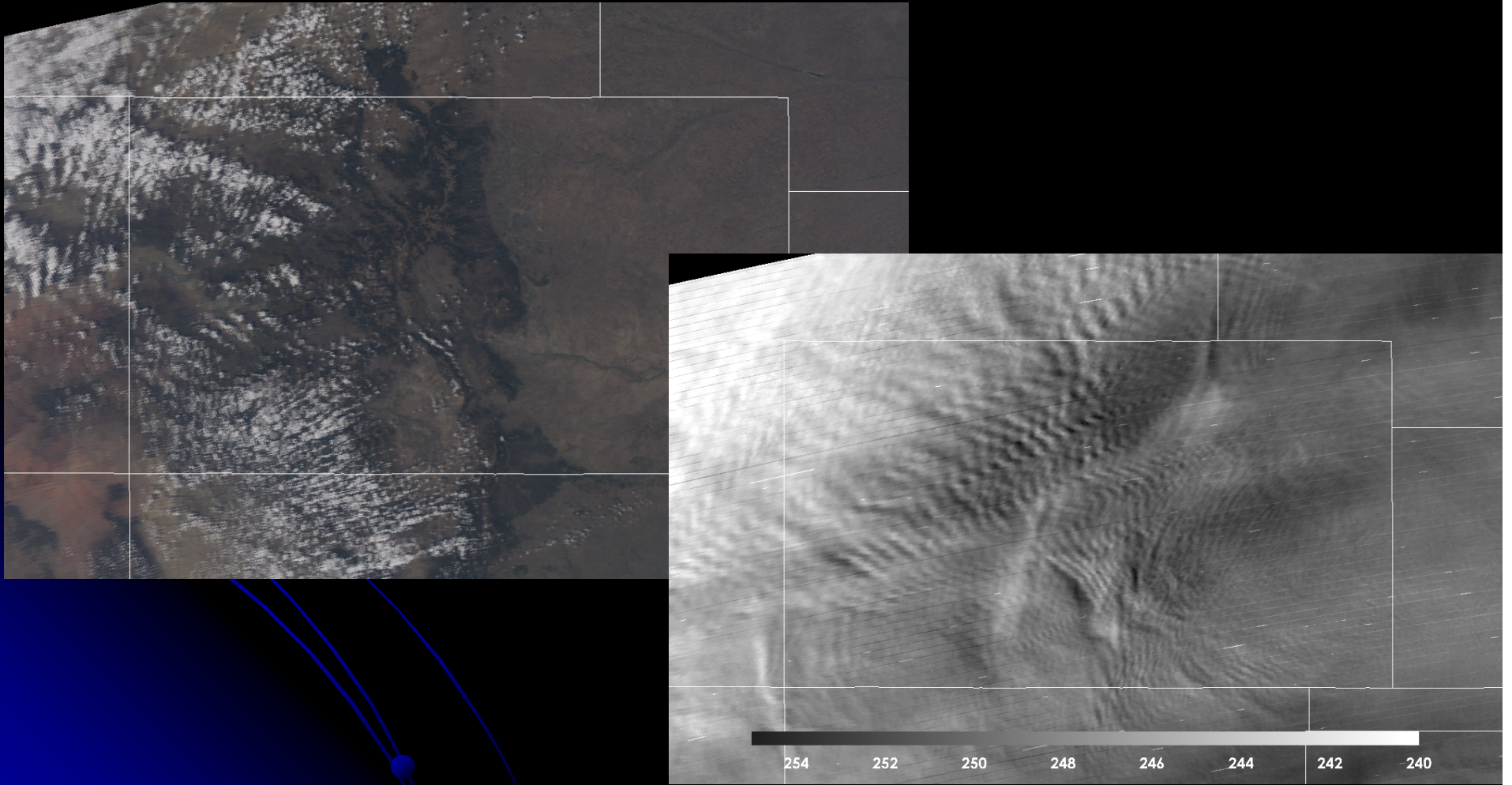


Trop folding product with EDR observations

## Key attributes, status

- Can be produced from any satellite water vapor channel.
- Performing at 50% accurate detection of Moderate turbulence
- TFTP is being integrated into the GTG project with global geostationary coverage.
- TFTP will be available as a GOES-R product in 2014

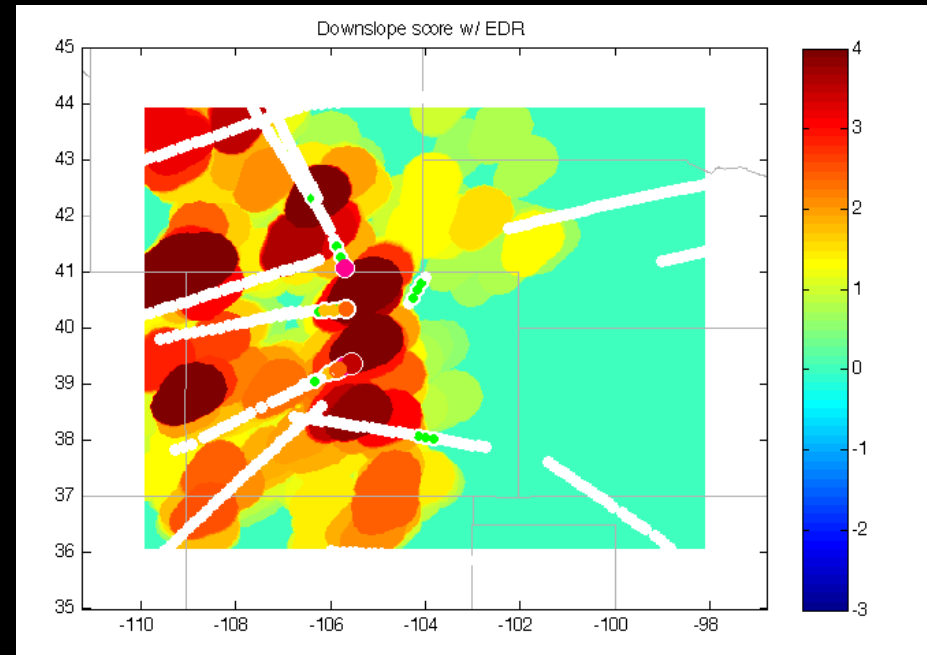
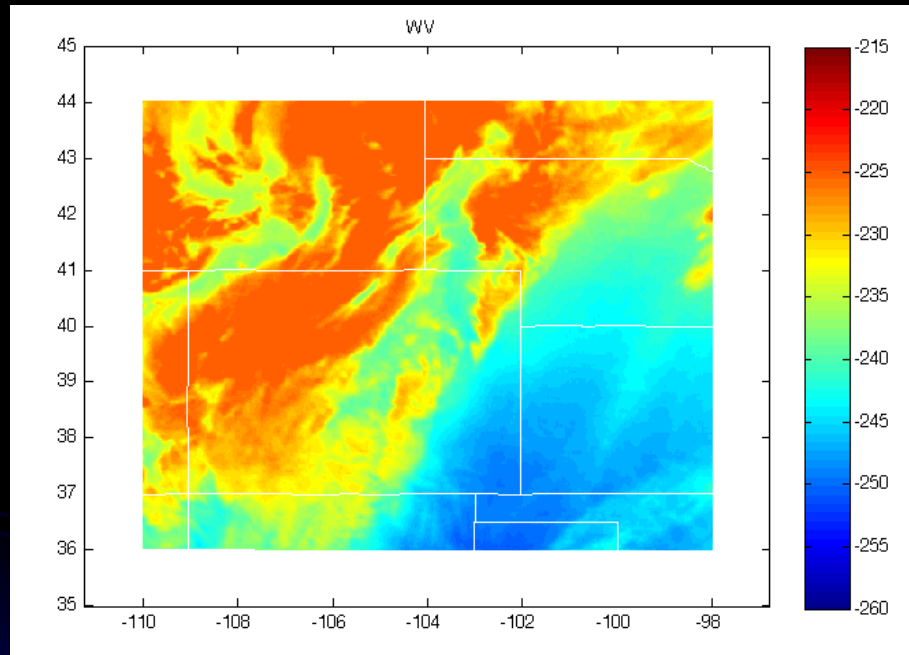
# Mountain Wave Turbulence



*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# Detecting sources of mountain wave turbulence

Tony Wimmers, Wayne Feltz  
Graphical Turbulence Guidance Project



GOES-12 WV over Colorado  
(Input to downslope turbulence product)

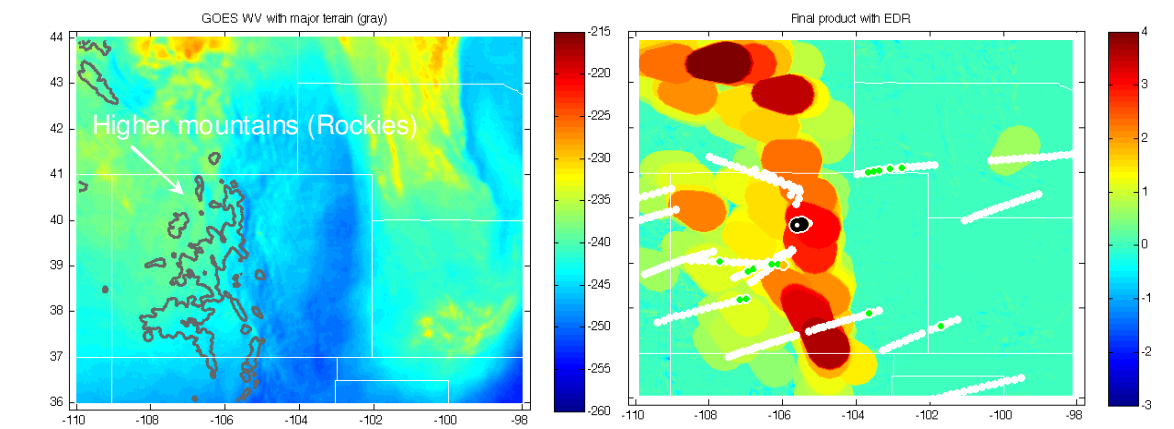
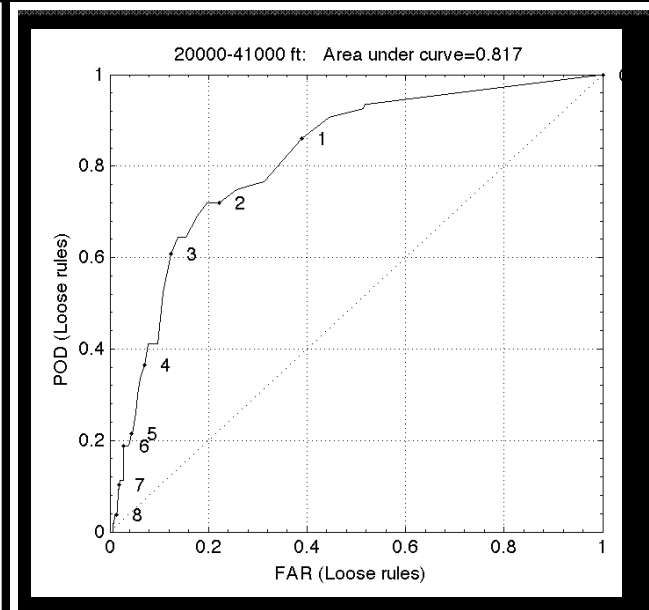
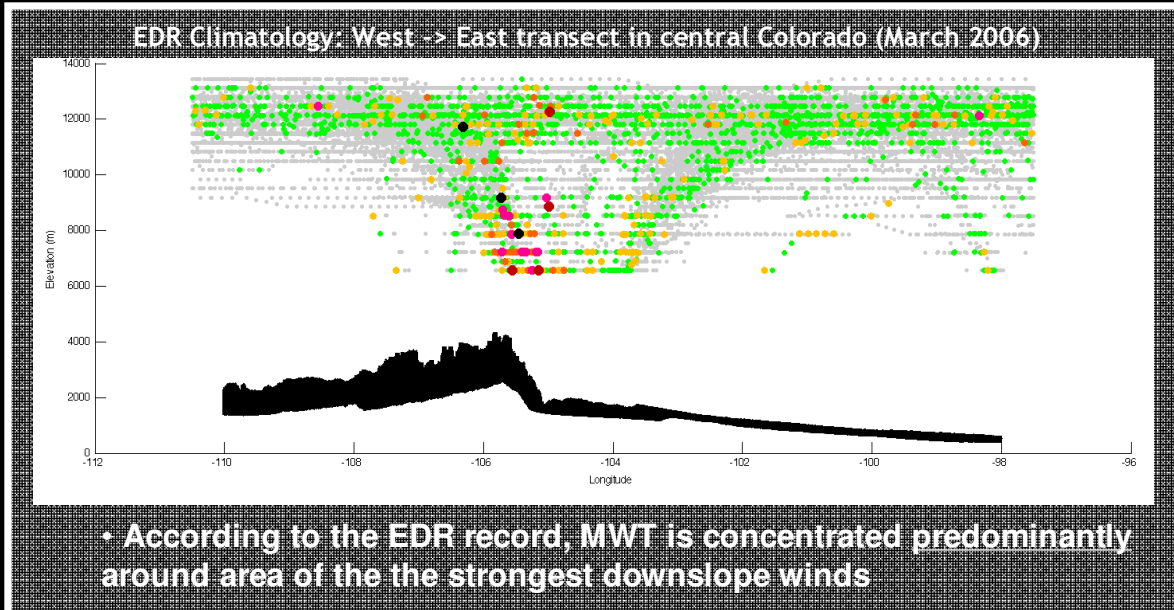
- Turbulence tends to occur where water vapor decreases down elevation gradients (associated with downslope winds)

Downslope turbulence product

- Hot colors predict turbulence
- Overlaid with automated aircraft reports:
  - Green: Light Turbulence
  - Orange: Moderate
  - Red: Severe



# NEW: Mountain Wave Turbulence (MWT) detection



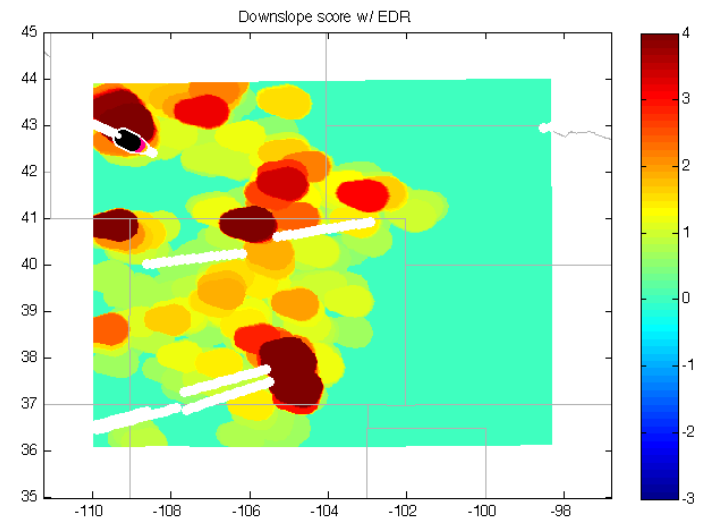
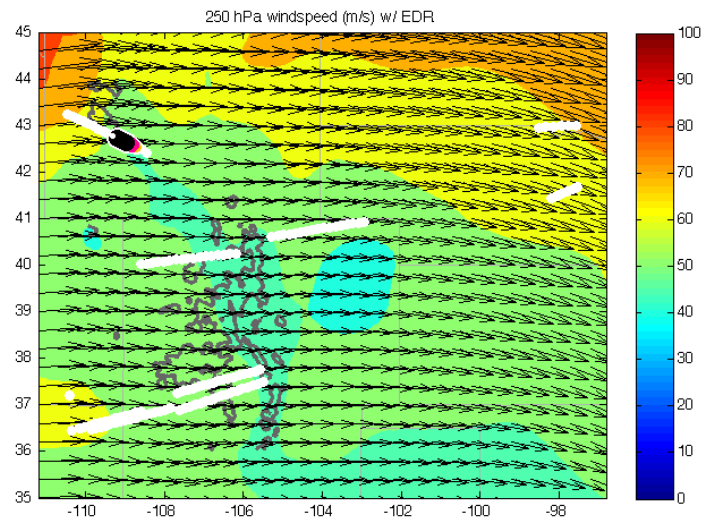
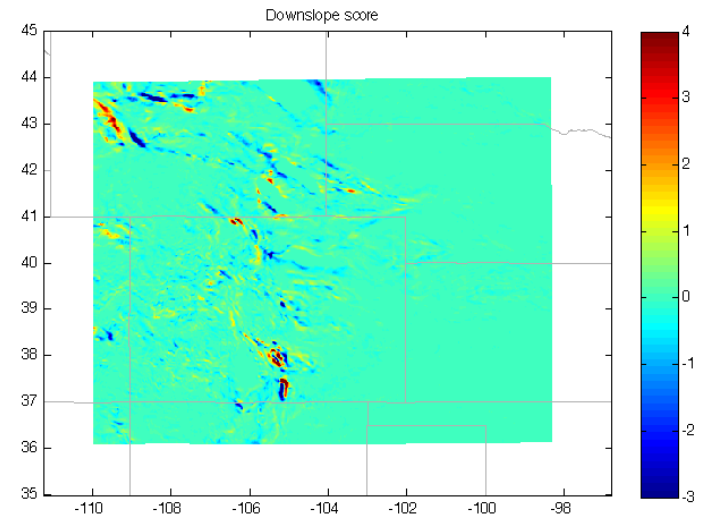
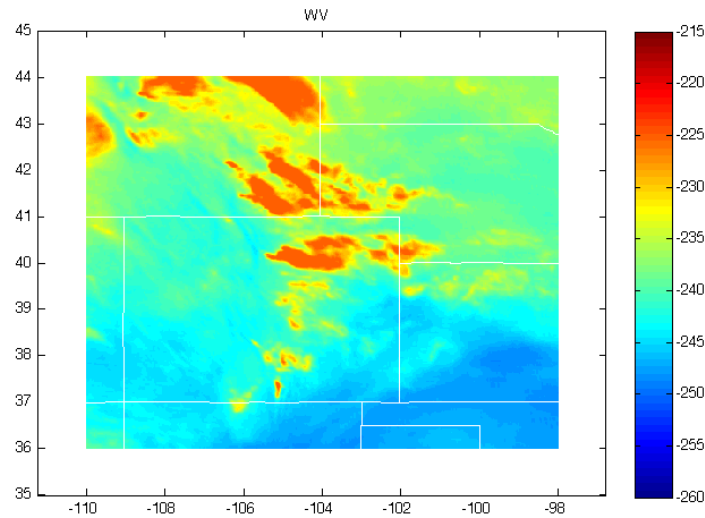
GOES-12 WV for 12 Nov 2005 1745 UTC

Corresponding downslope MWT product

• The downslope MWT product identifies the regions in the mid-to-upper troposphere influenced directly by downslope vertical winds evident in the WV imagery

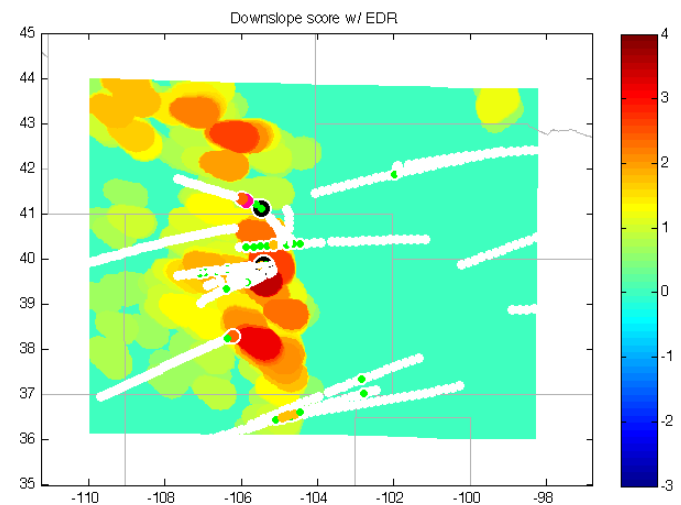
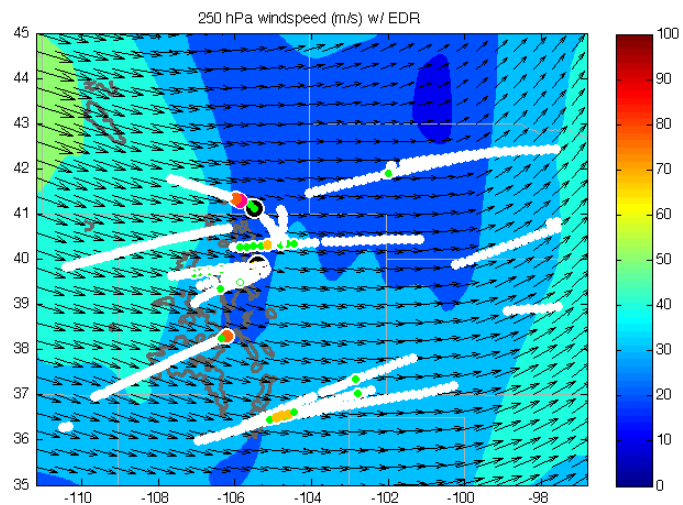
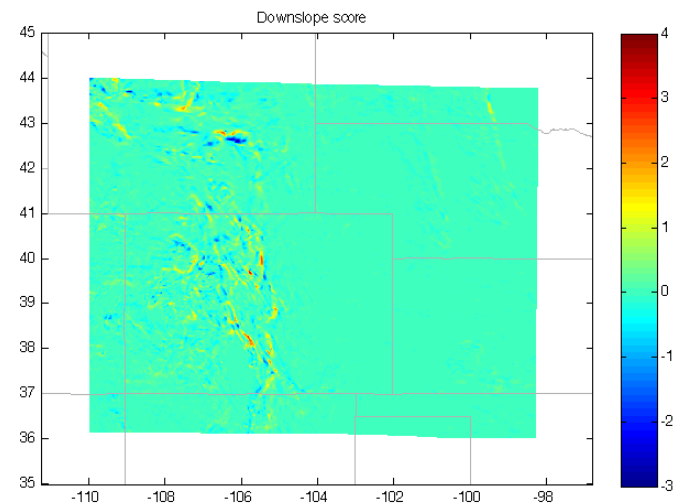
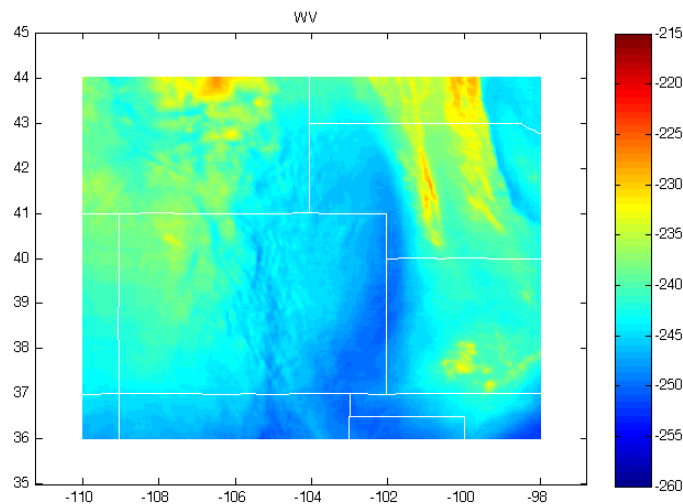
## Key attributes, status

- Can be produced from any satellite water vapor channel.
- Optimum: POD: 70% / FAR: 20%
- Forecast capability of 0-3 hrs.
- Downslope MWT product is being integrated into the GTG project with global geostationary coverage.

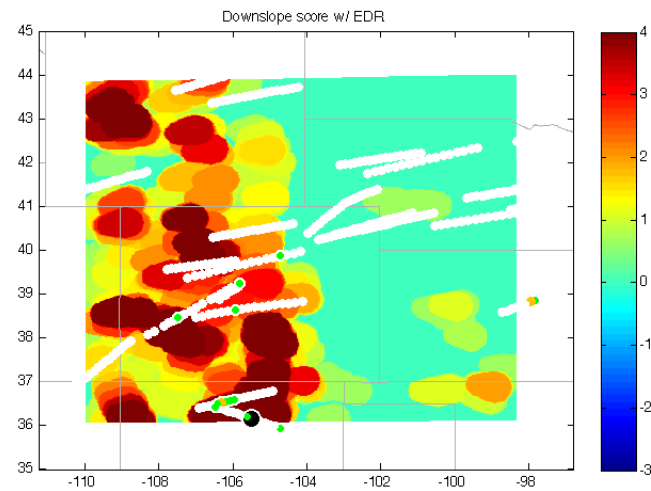
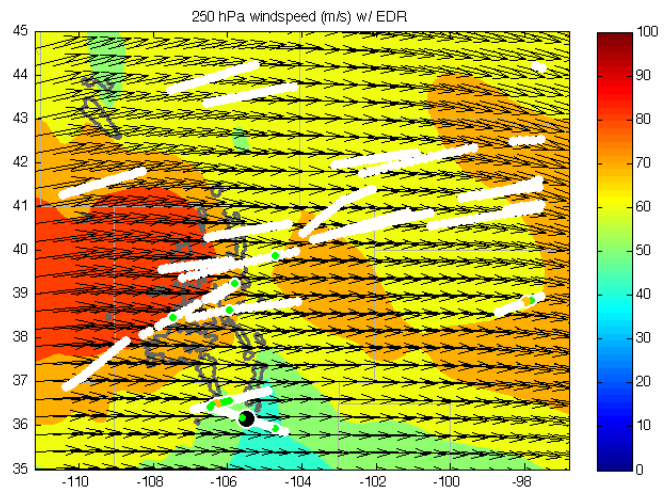
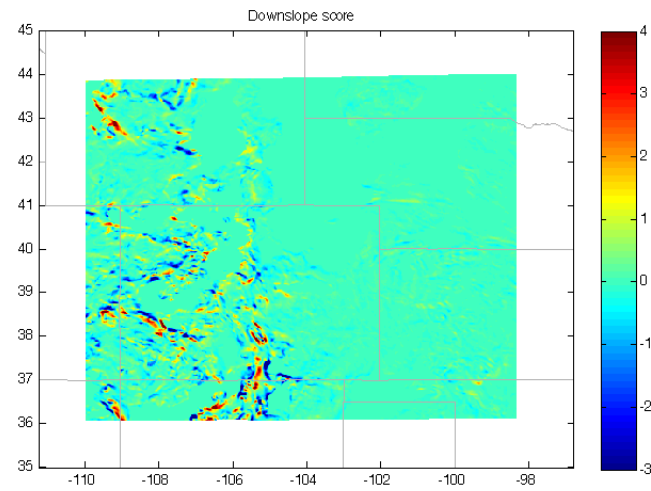
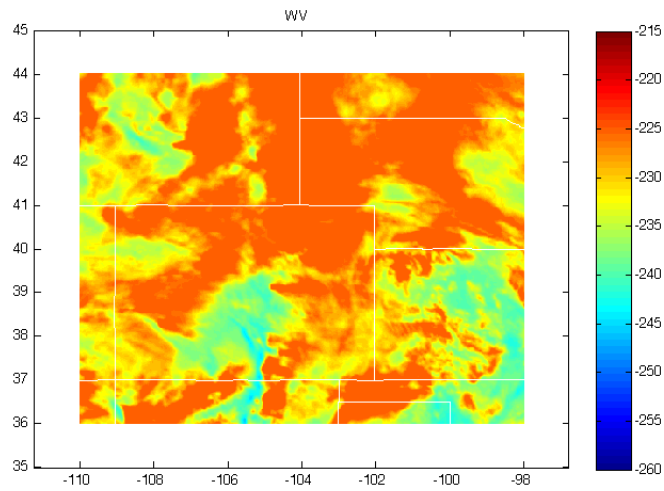


Dot product of water vapor gradient and elevation: Extreme Turbulence at Wind River Range

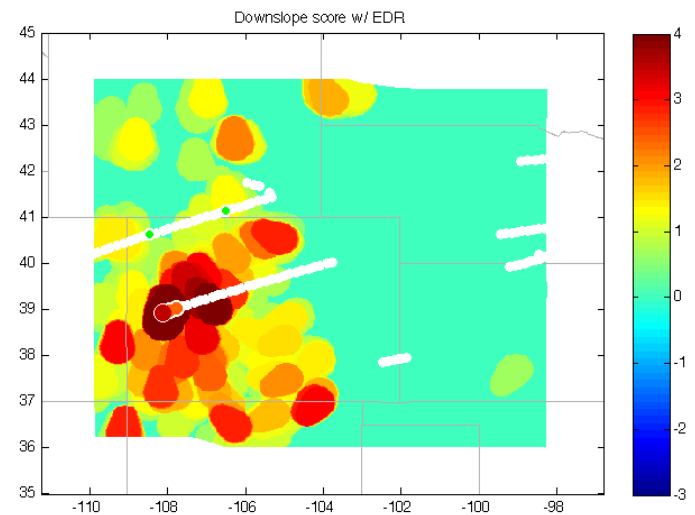
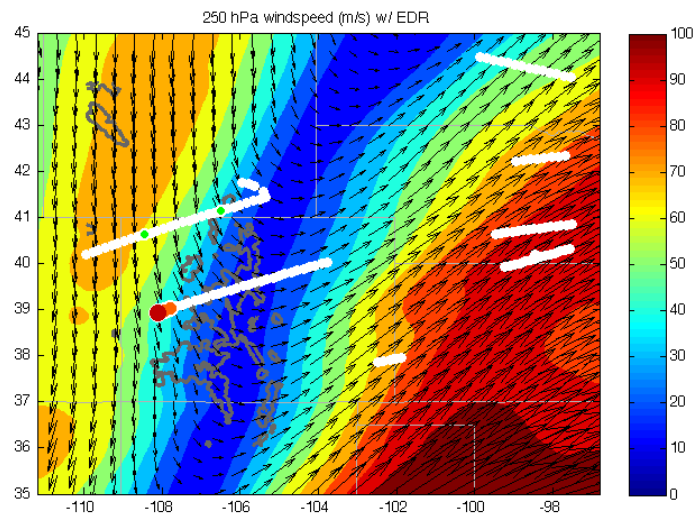
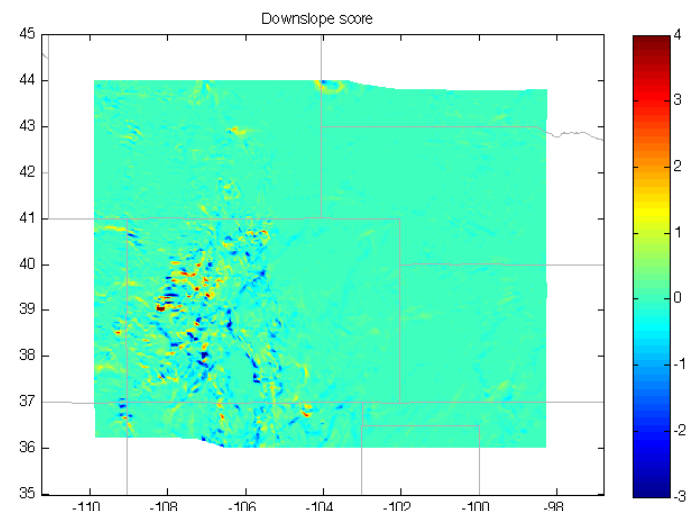
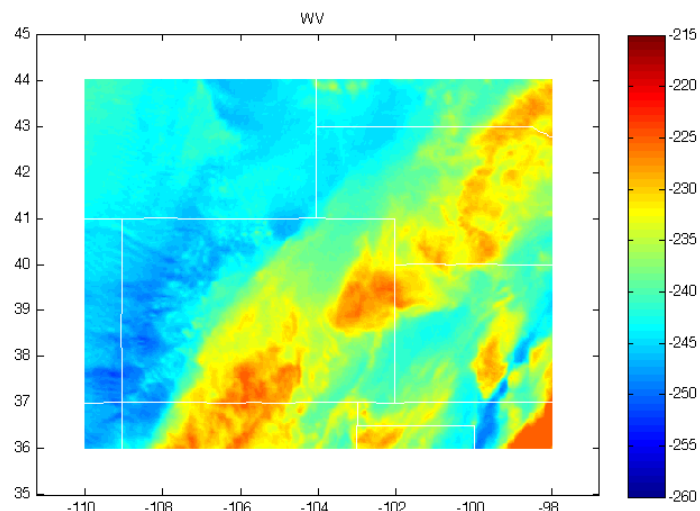




Extreme turbulence with low model winds at the Front Range (and north)



Extreme turbulence in northern New Mexico



Severe turbulence: Northerly wind over Grand Mesa



# The Future



From: FAA Aviation  
Safety Journal Vol. 2  
(3)



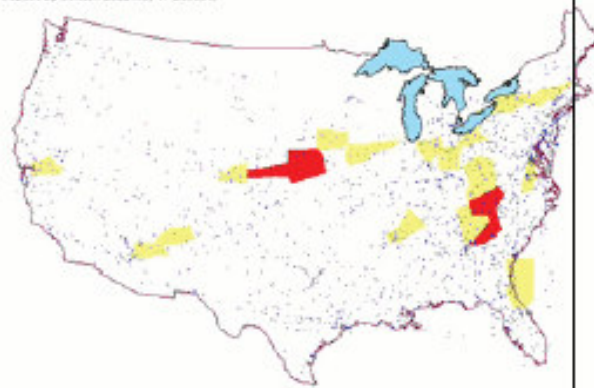
*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# Airspace Loading: Mid-Day EST Demand for Airspace

Snapshot at ~1pm EDT

## Baseline Demand (2002)

Demand for NAS Airspace by Sector: 2002 May 17 Baseline

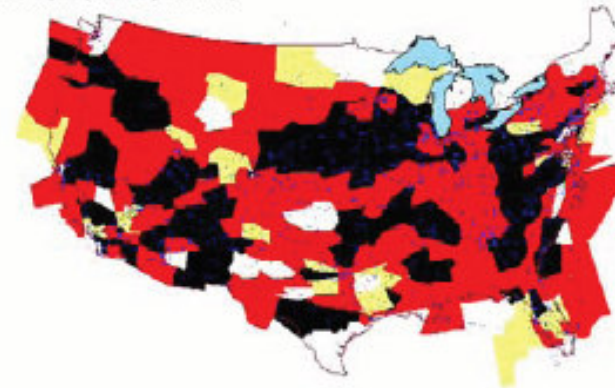


10:01

Active Flights : 2289

## Future 2X Demand

Demand for NAS Airspace by Sector: 2X (Baseline: 2002)



10:01

Active Flights : 5034

### Sector Color Loading index:

VAMS ACES Simulation B 2.0.3  
Unconstrained Airports & Airspace  
250 Airports, 24 hour simulation  
Future growth based on Terminal Area  
Forecast (TAF)

2002: ~27K flights total  
Future 2X: ~54K flights total



**Yellow:** 80 – 125% of sector capacity



**Red:** 125 - 200% of sector capacity

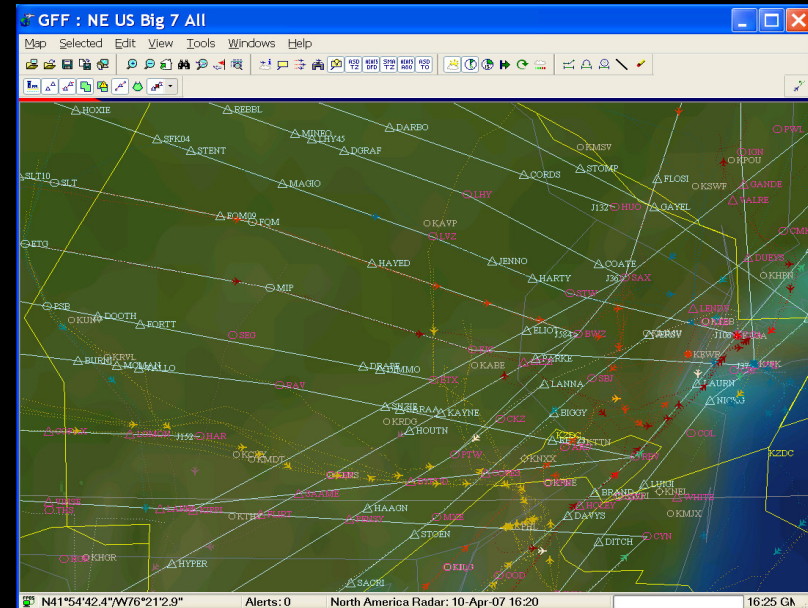


**Black:** > 200% of sector capacity



# National Airspace System is unable to respond to weather impacts

- Highly-structured
- Rigid networks of routes
- Complex Coordination



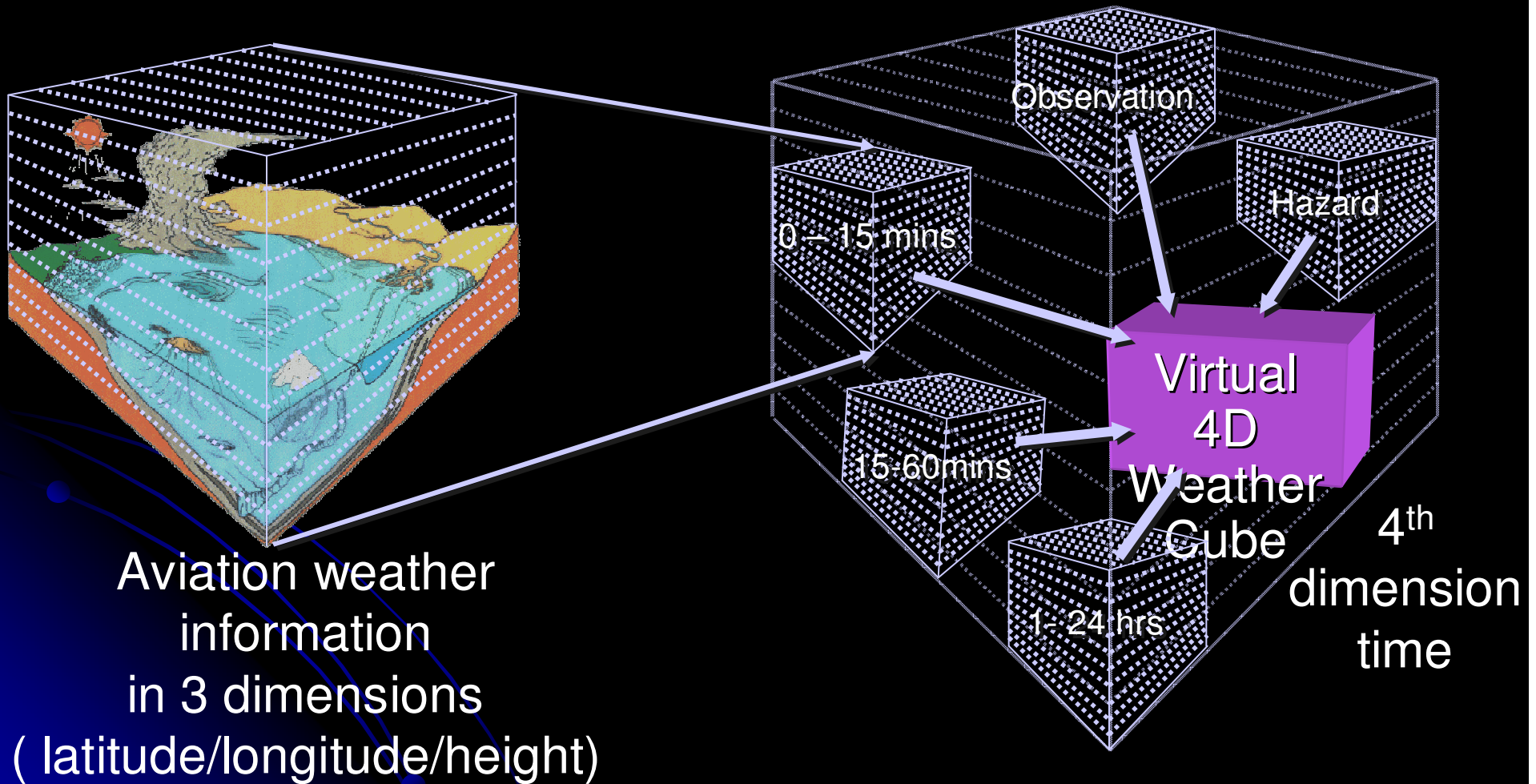
Research is underway to create flexible airspace designs that can adapt to weather impacts

# NextGen Weather



*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# Virtual 4D Weather Cube



Aviation weather  
information  
in 3 dimensions  
( latitude/longitude/height)



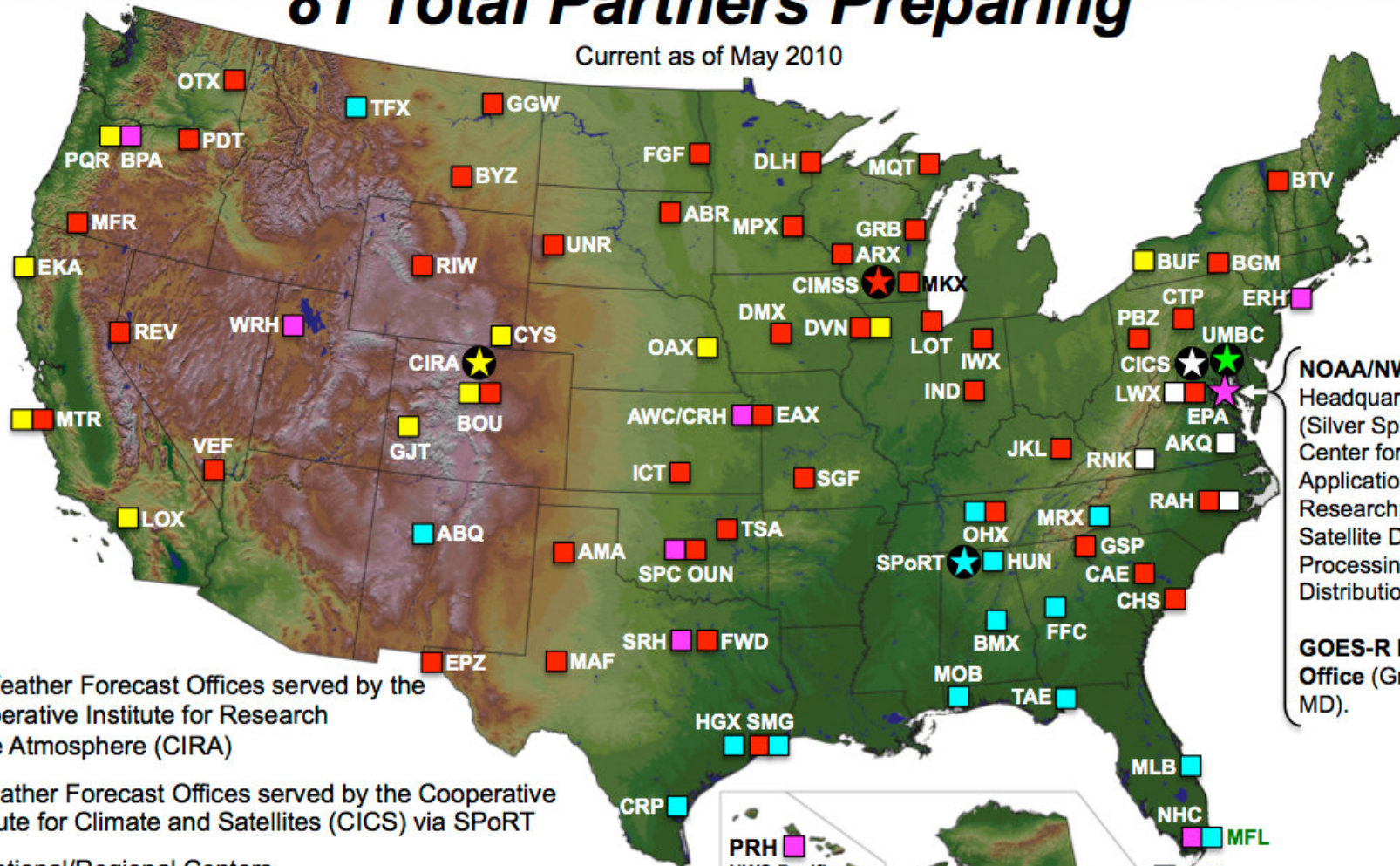


# GOES-R Proving Ground Partners



## 81 Total Partners Preparing

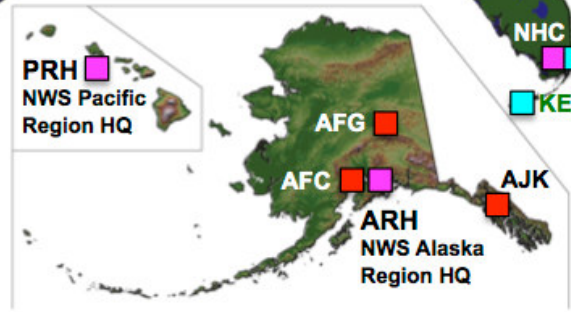
Current as of May 2010



**NOAA/NWS**  
 Headquarters  
 (Silver Spring, MD);  
 Center for Satellite  
 Applications and  
 Research; Office of  
 Satellite Data  
 Processing and  
 Distribution.

**GOES-R Program  
 Office** (Greenbelt,  
 MD).

- 10 Weather Forecast Offices served by the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA)
- 4 Weather Forecast Offices served by the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites (CICS) via SPoRT
- 11 National/Regional Centers
- 15 Weather Forecast Offices served by the NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition Center (SPoRT)
- 48 Weather Forecast Offices served by the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS)

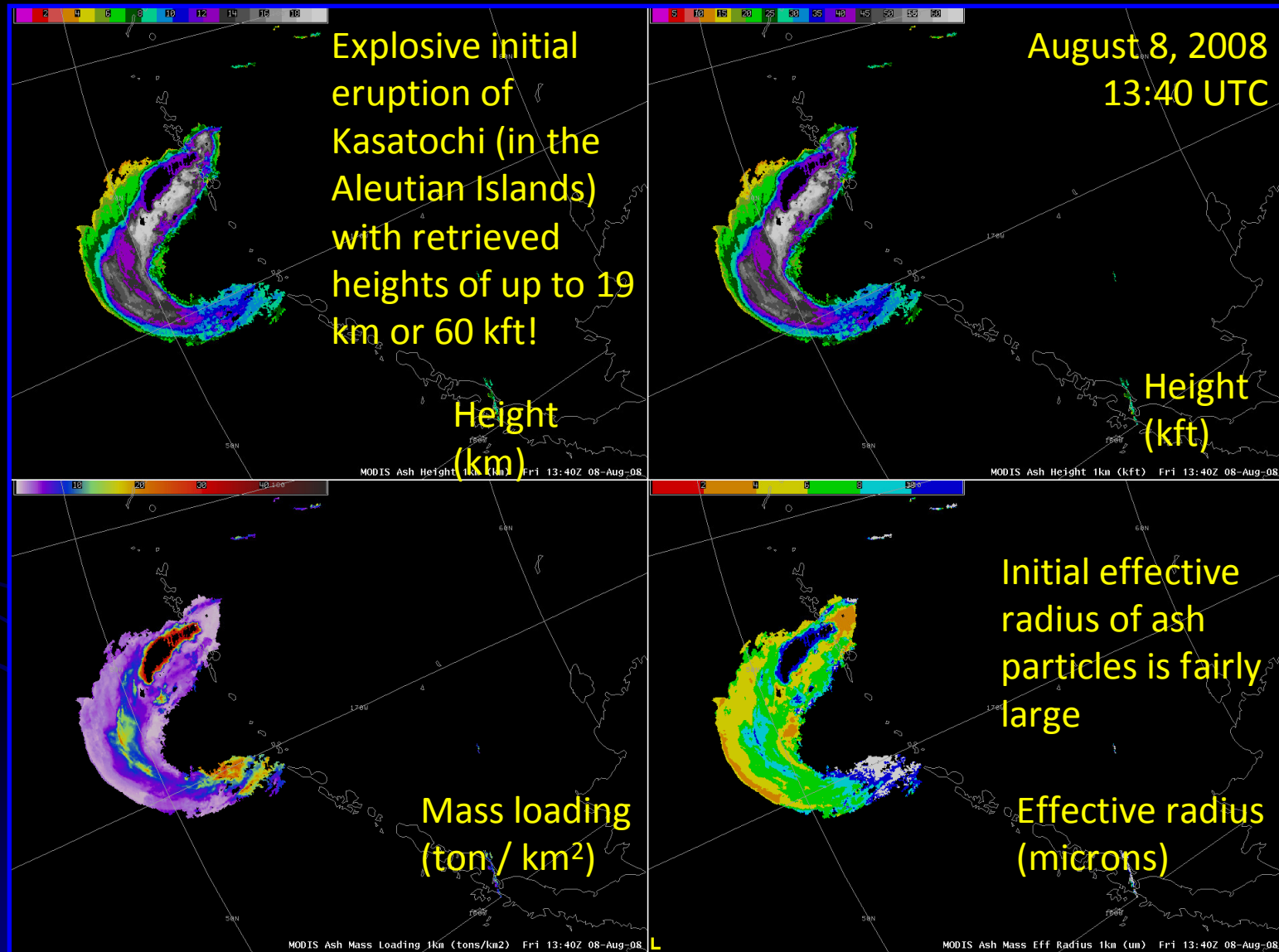




# Volcanic Ash/SO<sub>2</sub>

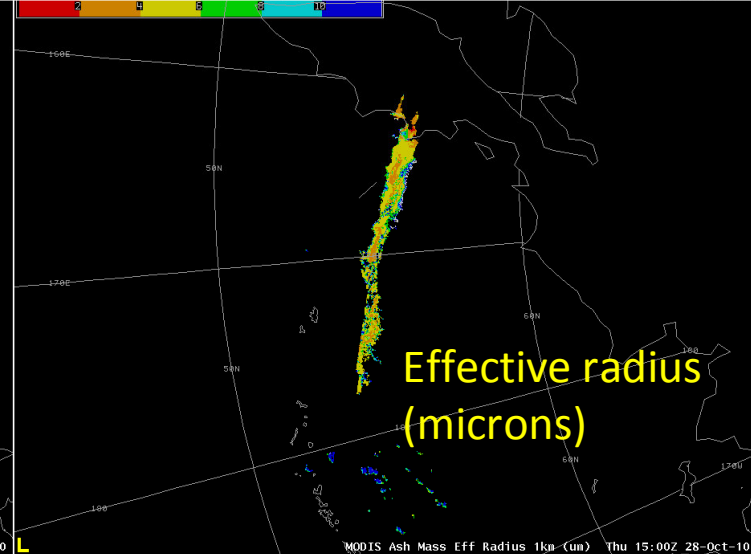
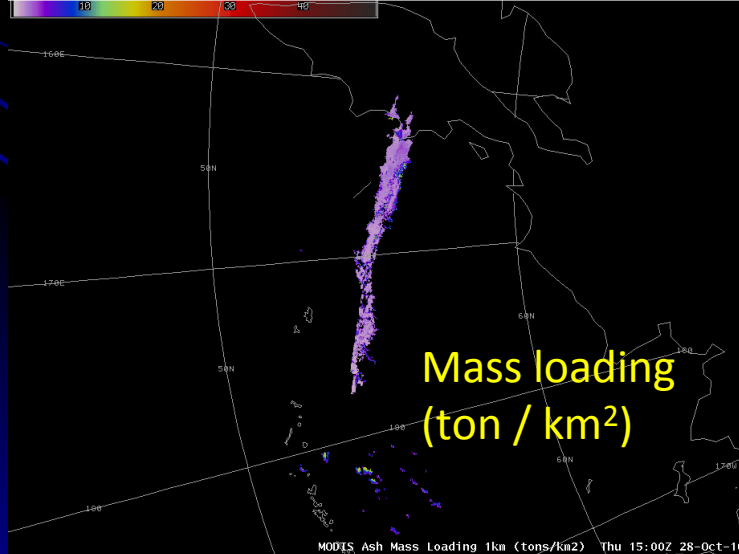
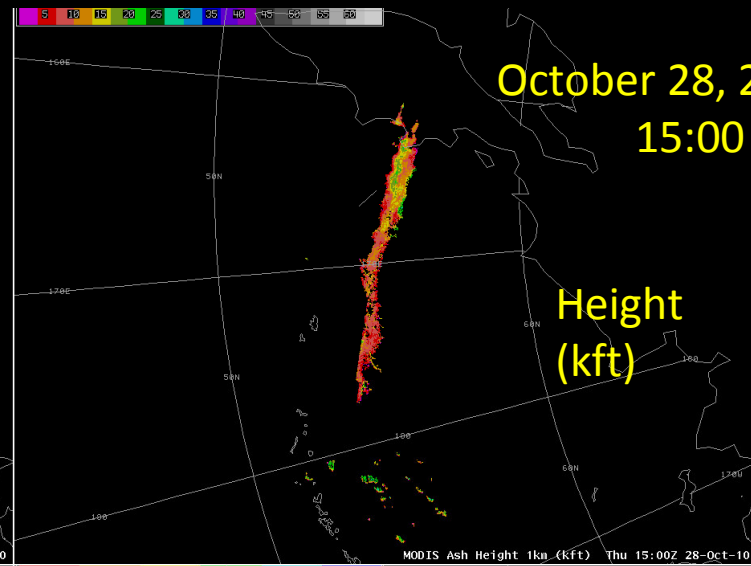
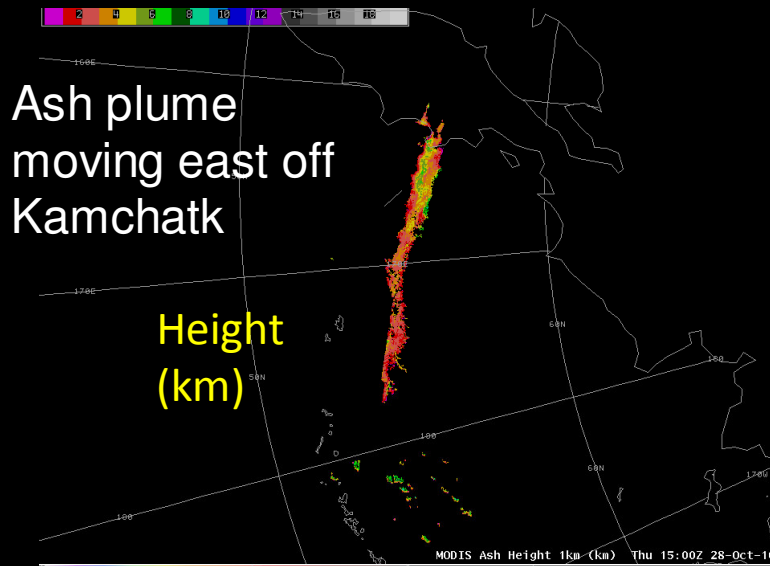
*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# GOES-R (MODIS Proxy) Volcanic Ash



# GOES-R (MODIS Proxy) Volcanic Ash

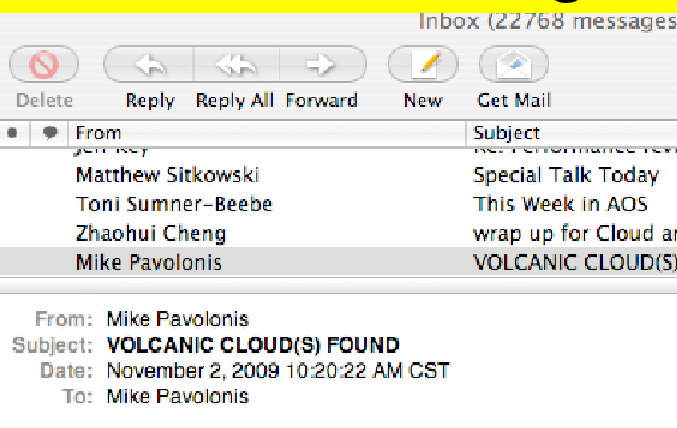
Products being evaluated by Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center as part of GOES-R PG



# AVHRR automated ash cloud warning system

- The warning criteria is fully user configurable.
- In addition to the text message, an automatically generated, pre-analyzed false color image along with product images are supplied to the user.

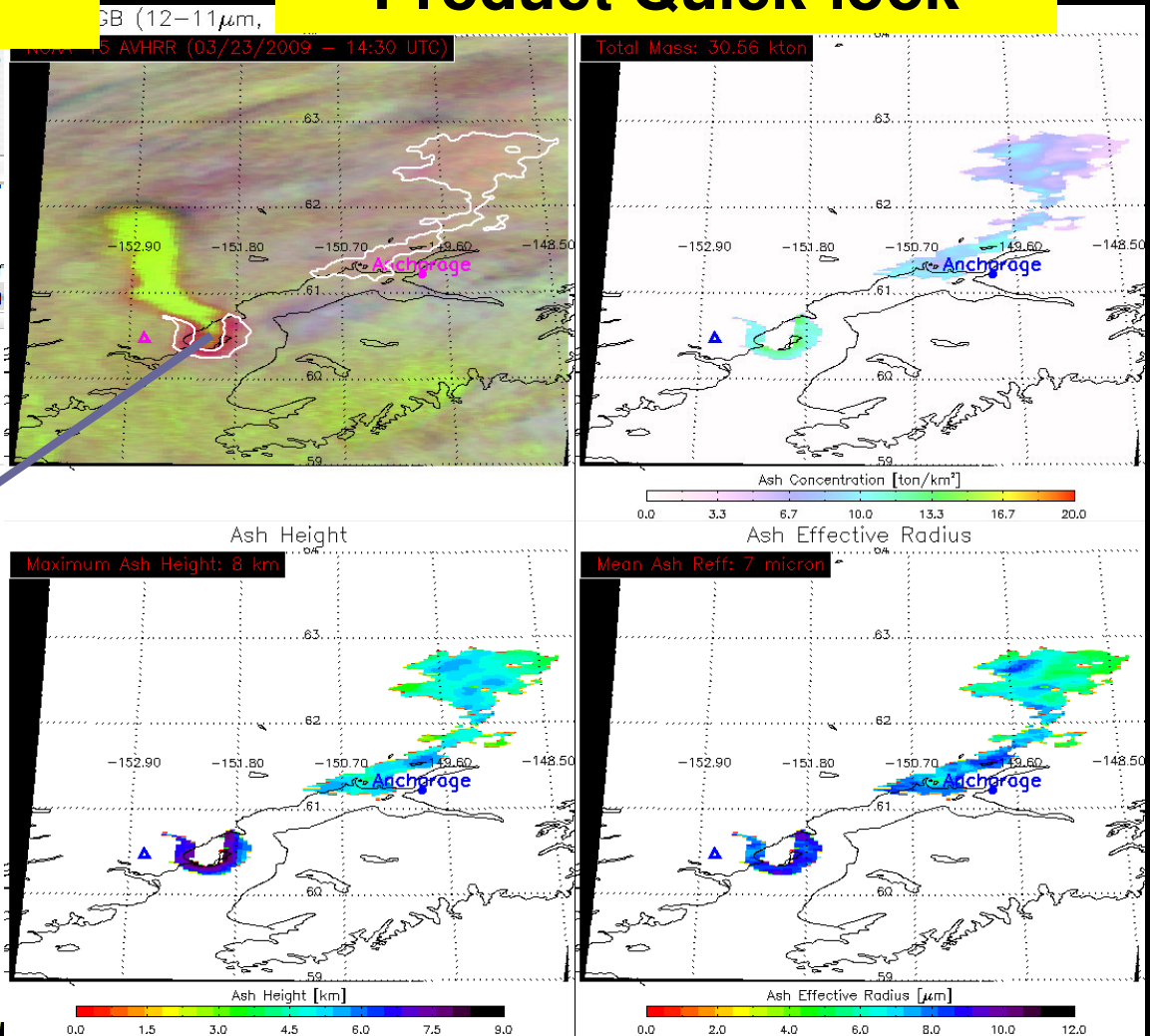
## Text Warning



DATE: 3/23/2009  
TIME: 13:27 UTC  
SATELLITE: NOAA-18 AVHRR  
L1B FILENAME: NSS.HRPT.NN.D09082.S1327.E1341.B1078787.GC

VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD FOUND  
Radiative Center (Lat, Lon): 60.347, -152.057  
Nearby Volcanoes:  
Redoubt(40.73 km)  
Iliamna(67.09 km)  
Spurr(106.55 km)  
Augustine(133.72 km)  
Hayes(145.26 km)  
False Alarm Potential: 8 out of 10073  
Maximum Height: 8.6 km  
Median Effective Radius: 9.58 micron  
Total Mass: 2.12 ktons  
Total Mass of Fine Ash: 0.00 ktons  
Total AREA: 140.00 km<sup>2</sup>

## Product Quick-look





# Automated Warning

Thu 16 Sep 2010 20:20 UTC  
Thu 16 Sep 2010 20:20 GMT

Alarm/Alert

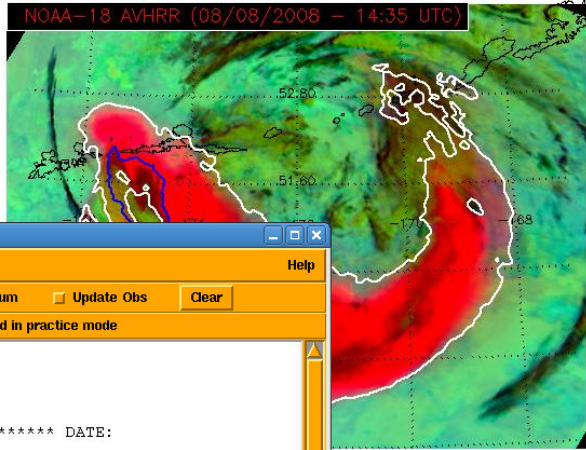
Text 1: MKEWRKASH

Text 2

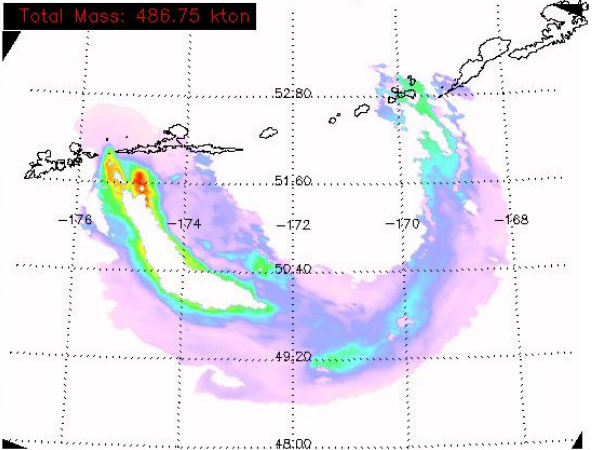
Text 3

Text 4

RGB (12-11 $\mu$ m, 11-3.75 $\mu$ m, 11 $\mu$ m)  
NOAA-18 AVHRR (08/08/2008 - 14:35 UTC)



Ash Loading  
Total Mass: 486.75 kton



Ash Concentration [ton/km²]

0.0 4.3 8.6 13.0 17.3 21.6 25.9

Text 1: MKEWRKASH

File Edit Options Version Tools Scripts Products Help

AFOS Browser Load History WMO Search Enter Editor Accum Update Obs Clear

AFOS Cmd: WMO and AWIPS queries are not supported in practice mode

```

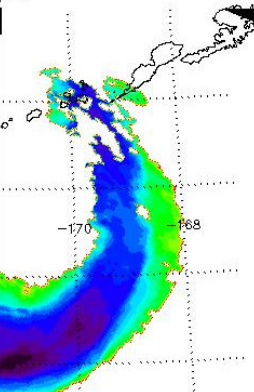
EZCZC MKEWRKASH ALL
TTAA00 KMRE 162004

...THIS IS A TEST...

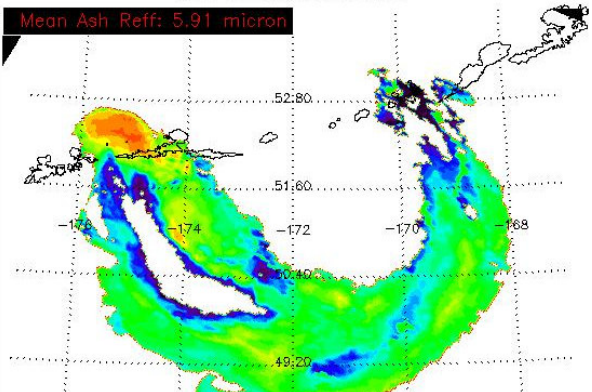
@*****GENERATING VOLCANIC CLOUD WARNINGS***** DATE:
08/08/2008
TIME: 14:35 UTC
SATELLITE: NOAA-18 AVHRR
LIB FILENAME: NSS.HRPT.NN.D08221.S1435.E1448.B1658686.GC
ORBIT NUMBER: 1658686
NUMBER OF ASH CLOUD WARNINGS: 1
NUMBER OF VOLCANIC CB WARNINGS: 0
NUMBER OF VOLCANIC HOT SPOT WARNINGS: 0

*****
VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD FOUND
RADIATIVE CENTER (LAT, LON): 51.855, -175.294
MEAN VIEWING ANGLE (DEGREES): 53.47
MEAN SOLAR ZENITH ANGLE (DEGREES): 100.96
NEARBY VOLCANOES:
    SERGIEF(32.06 KM)
    KASATOCHI(38.71 KM)
    KONIUJI(42.13 KM)
    GREAT SITKIN(62.37 KM)
    ATKA(95.31 KM)
FALSE ALARM POTENTIAL: 0 OUT OF 276994
MAXIMUM HEIGHT: 10.9 KM (35890.07 FT)
MEAN TROPOPAUSE HEIGHT: 10.9 KM (35917.70 FT)
MEDIAN EFFECTIVE RADIUS: 5.05 MICRON
TOTAL MASS: 486.67 KTONS
TOTAL MASS OF FINE ASH: 9.45 KTONS
TOTAL AREA: 58982.00 KM^2
*****
                    
```

ht



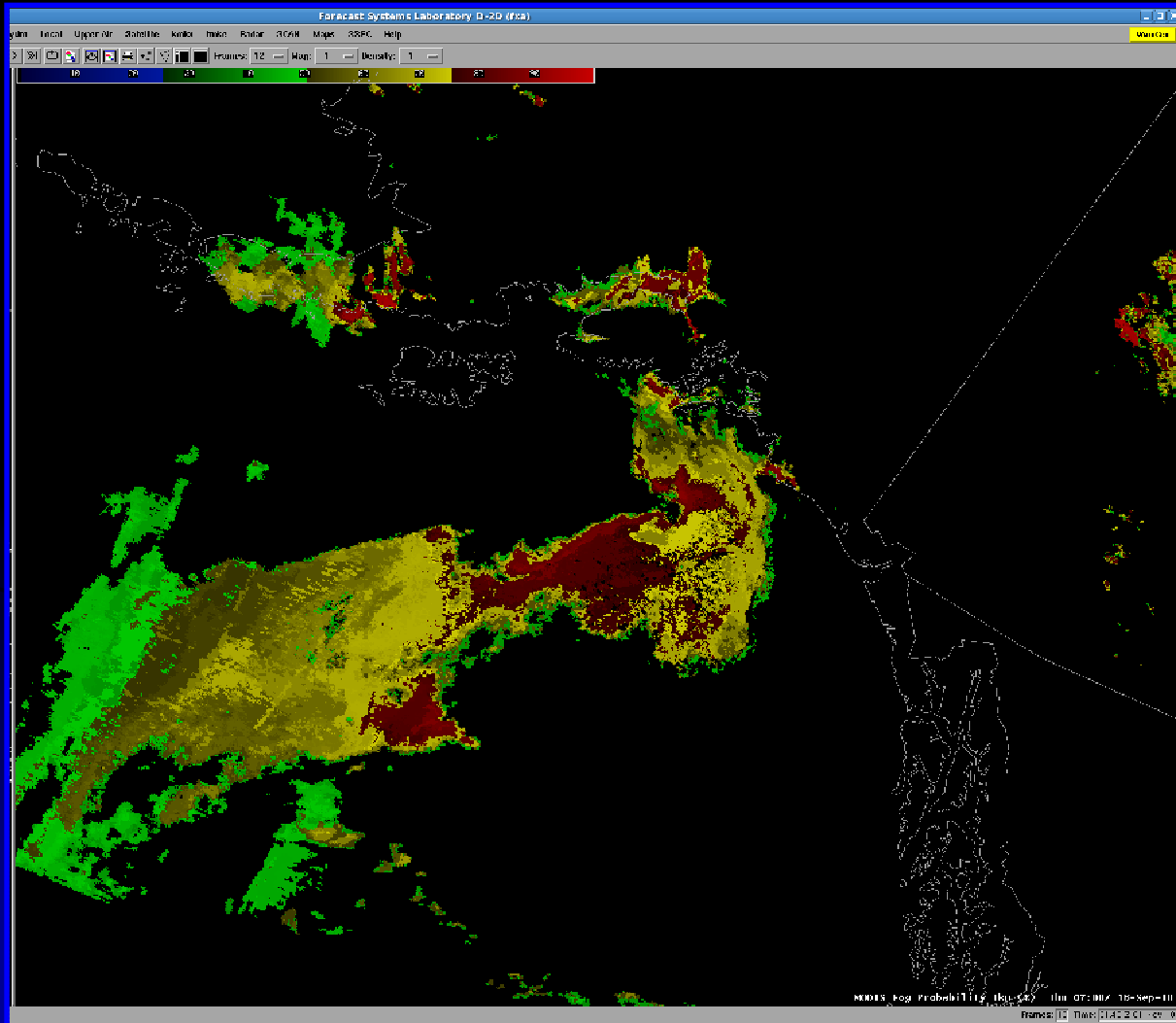
Ash Effective Radius  
Mean Ash Reff: 5.91 micron



# Low Cloud/Fog

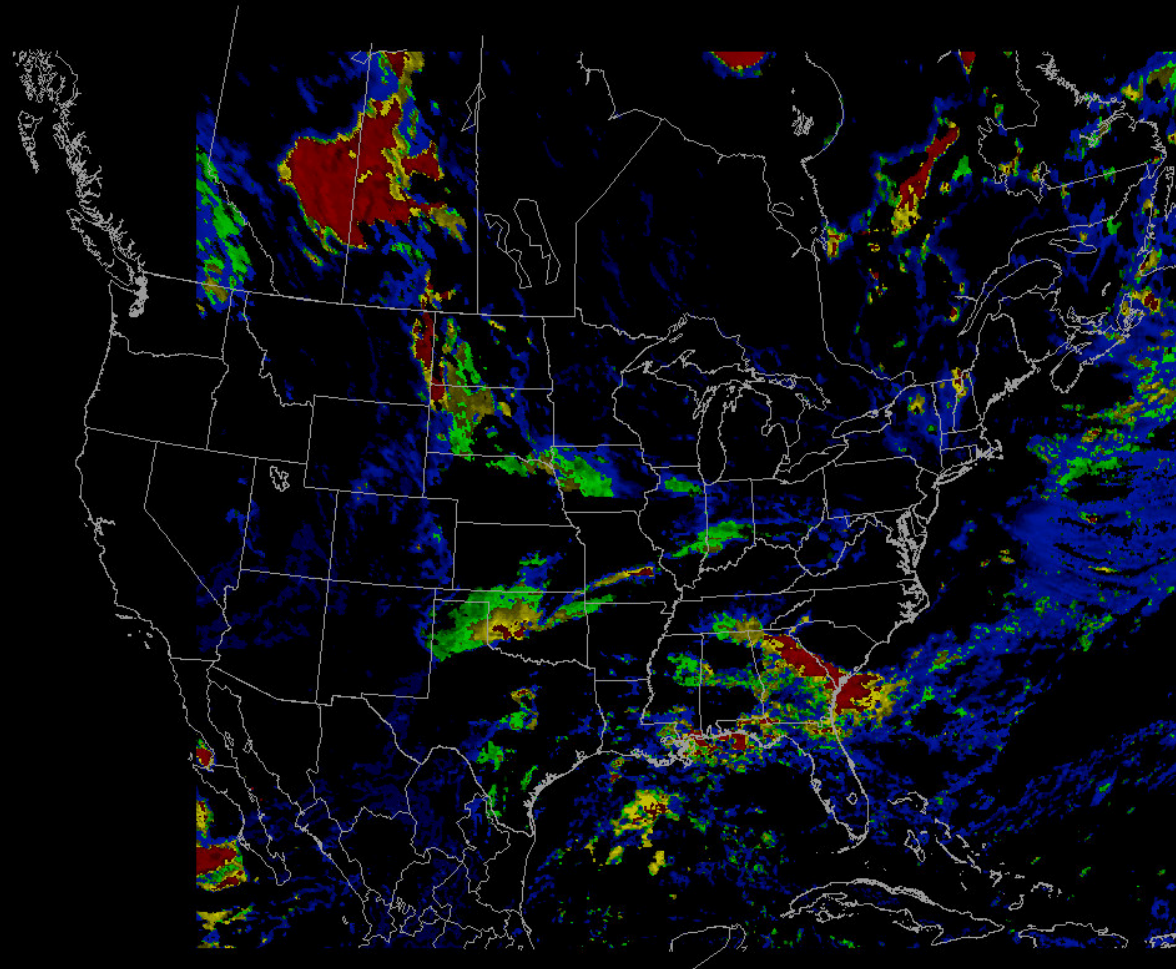
*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*

# High Latitude Testbed/AK Example Fog Probability (MODIS)



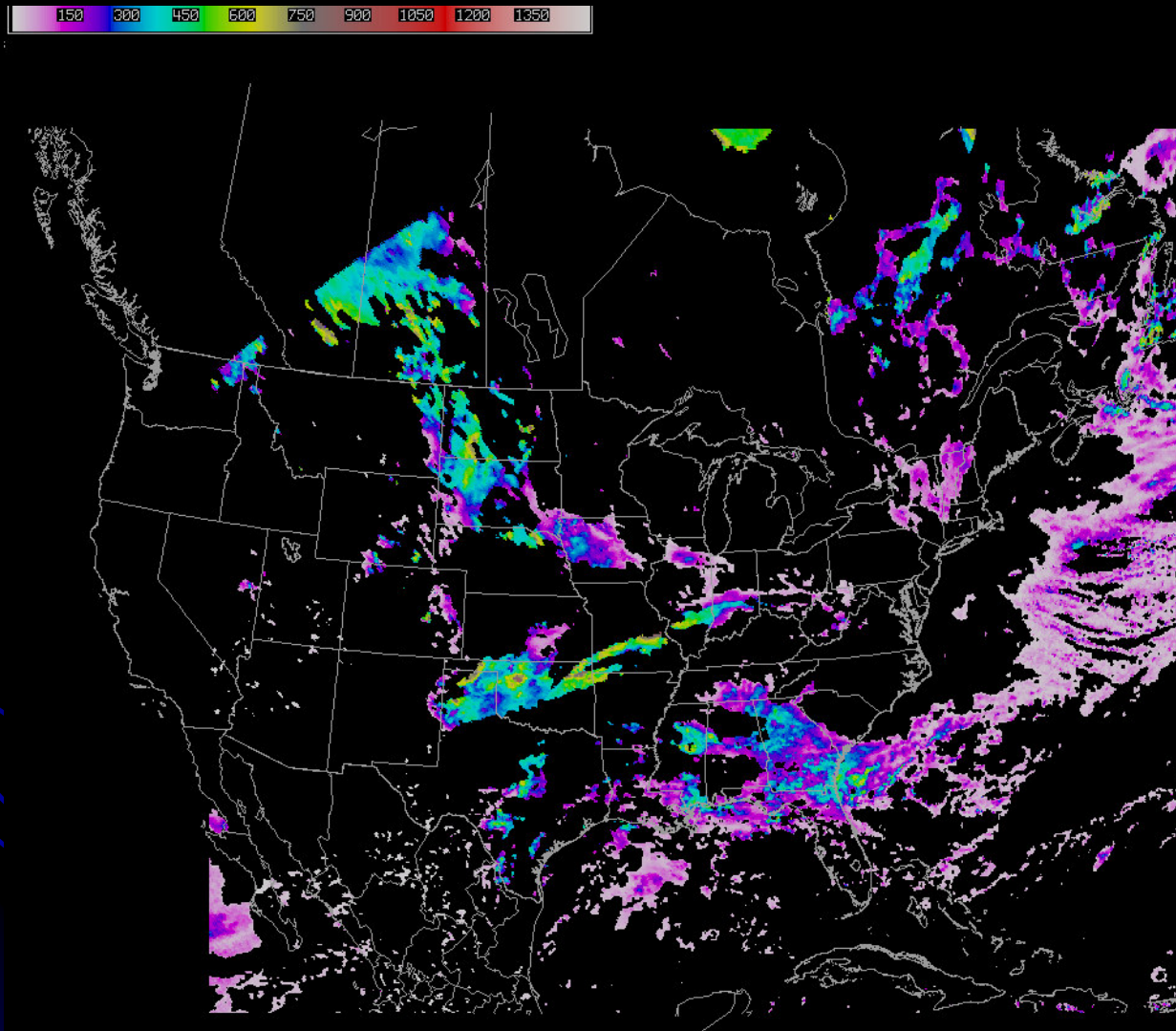
GOES-R (MODIS  
Proxy) Fog  
Probability Product  
in AWIPS  
September 16, 2010  
– 07:00 UTC

# AWIPS GOES-EAST MVFR Fog Probability at 1845 UTC 29 March 2011





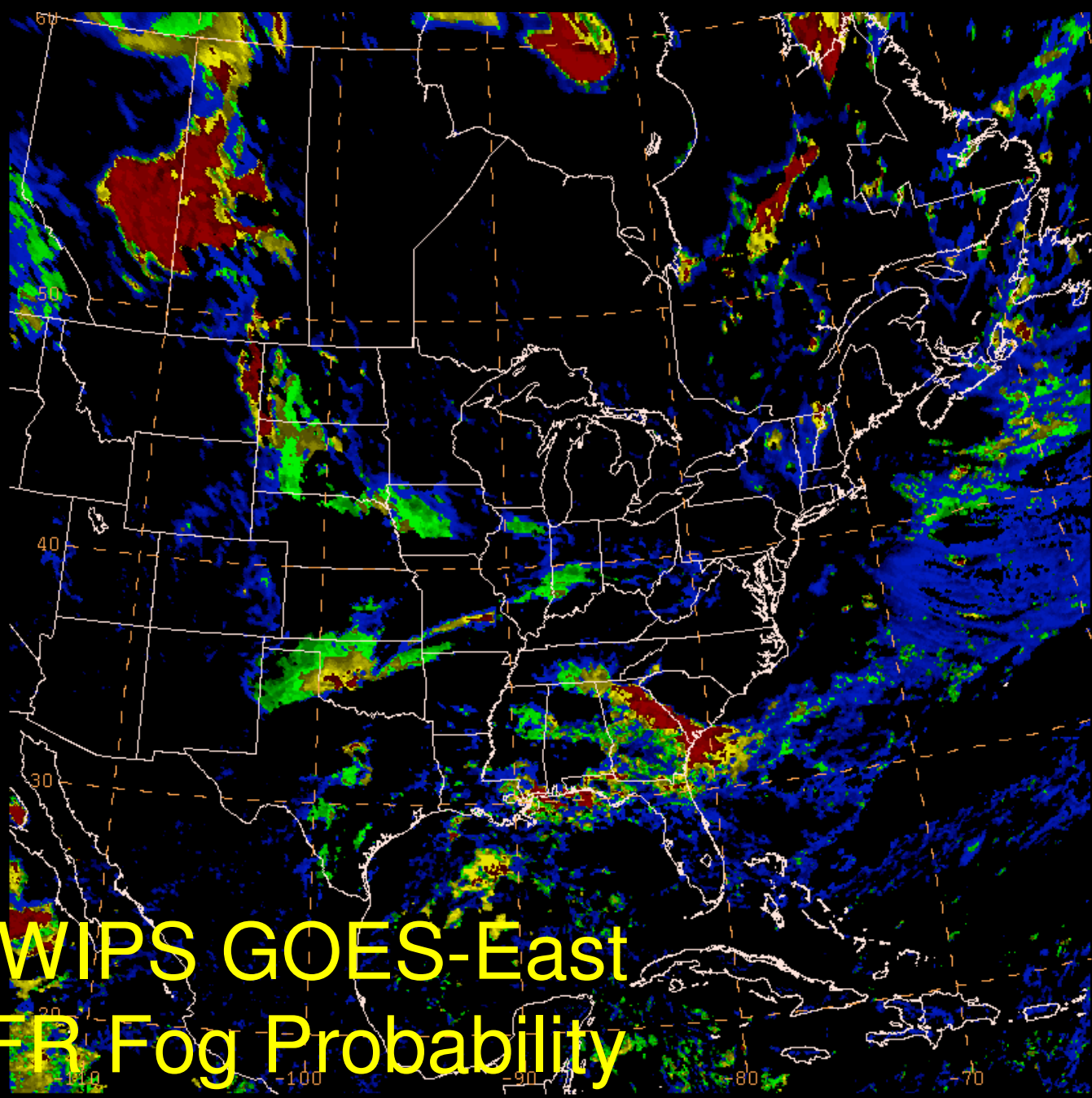
# AWIPS GOES-EAST Fog Depth (meters) at 1845 UTC 29 March 2011.



Products available in AWIPS and N-AWIPS include MVFR Fog probability, IFR fog probability, and fog

GOES-E Fog Depth 4km (m) Tue 18:45Z 29-Mar-11

BRIT  
255  
240  
224  
208  
192  
176  
160  
144  
128  
112  
96  
80  
64  
48  
32  
16  
0



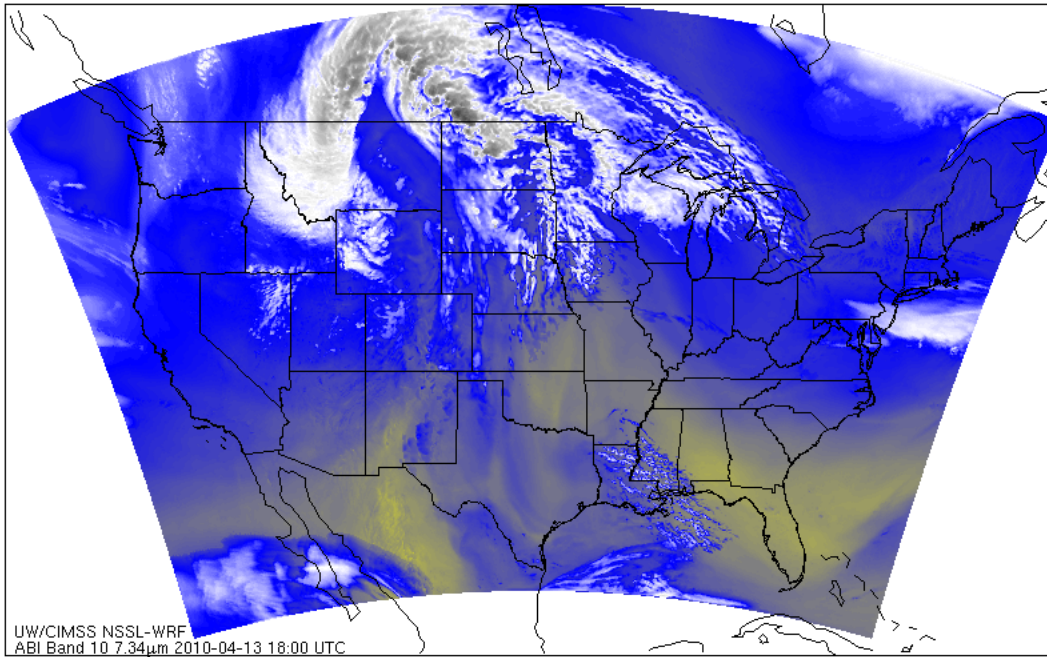
# N-AWIPS GOES-East MVFR Fog Probability

110329/1845 FOG MVFRPROB

# NSSL WRF ARW Simulated ABI Imagery

*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*





UW/CIMSS is generating simulated ABI Bands 8-16 using NSSL-WRF once daily

Webpage is updated by 11am for 11 time steps.

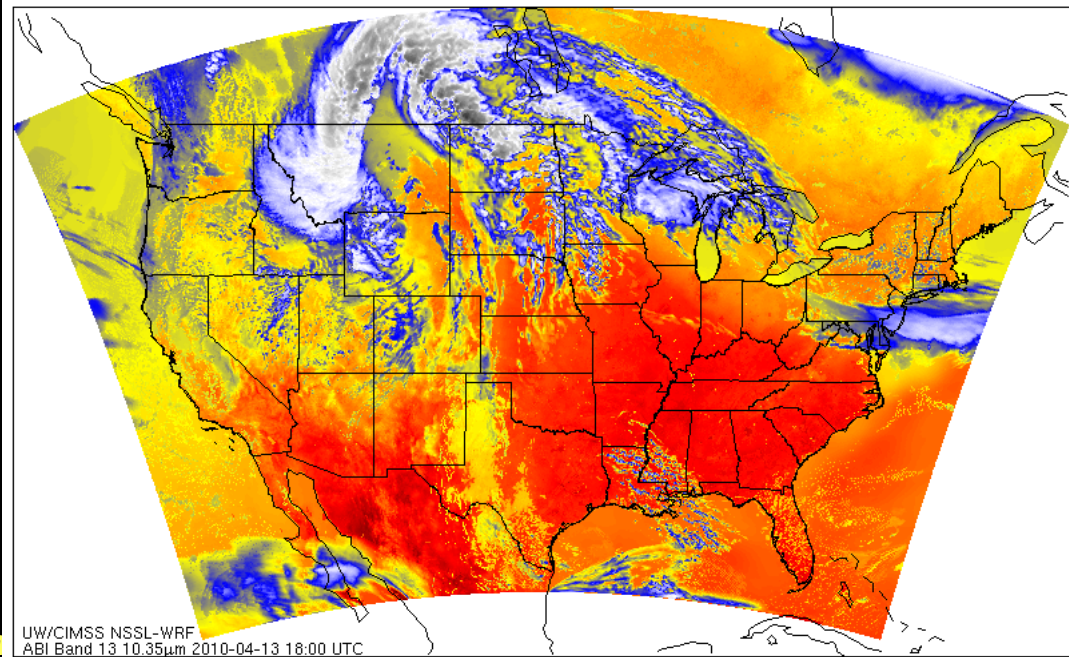
McIDAS areas for N-AWIPS display

ABI Band 10  
(7.34  $\mu\text{m}$ )

ABI Band 13  
(10.35  $\mu\text{m}$ )

[http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes\\_r/provinc-ground/nssl\\_abi/nssl\\_abi\\_rt.html](http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes_r/provinc-ground/nssl_abi/nssl_abi_rt.html)

Environmen





Simulated

N

-

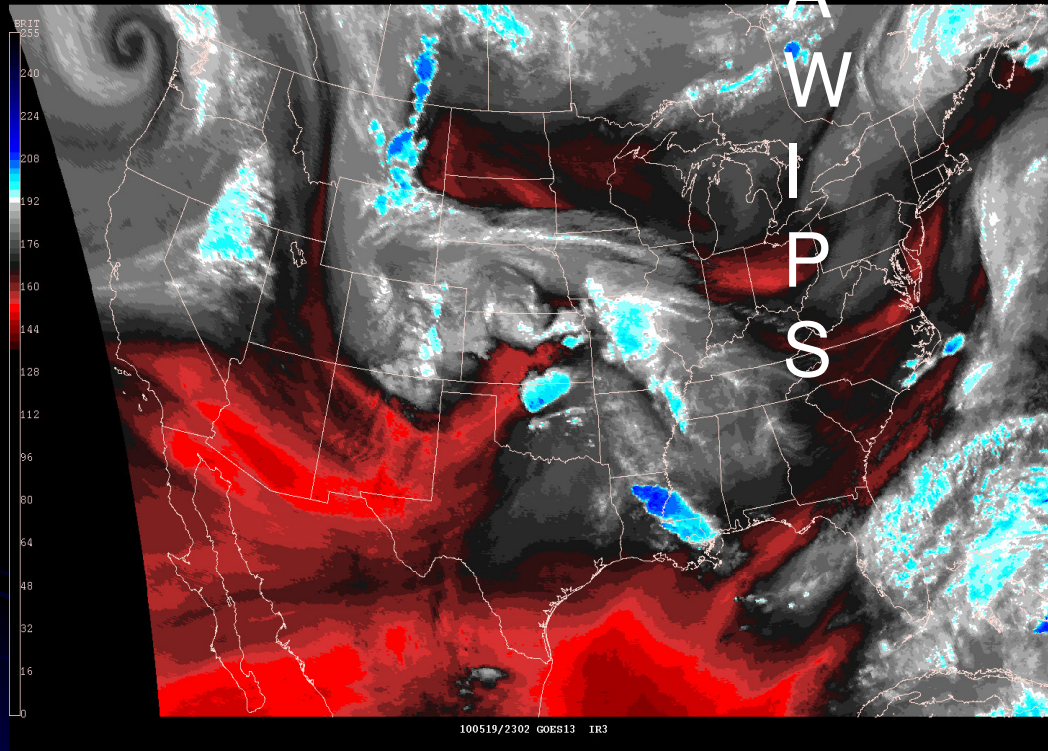
A

W

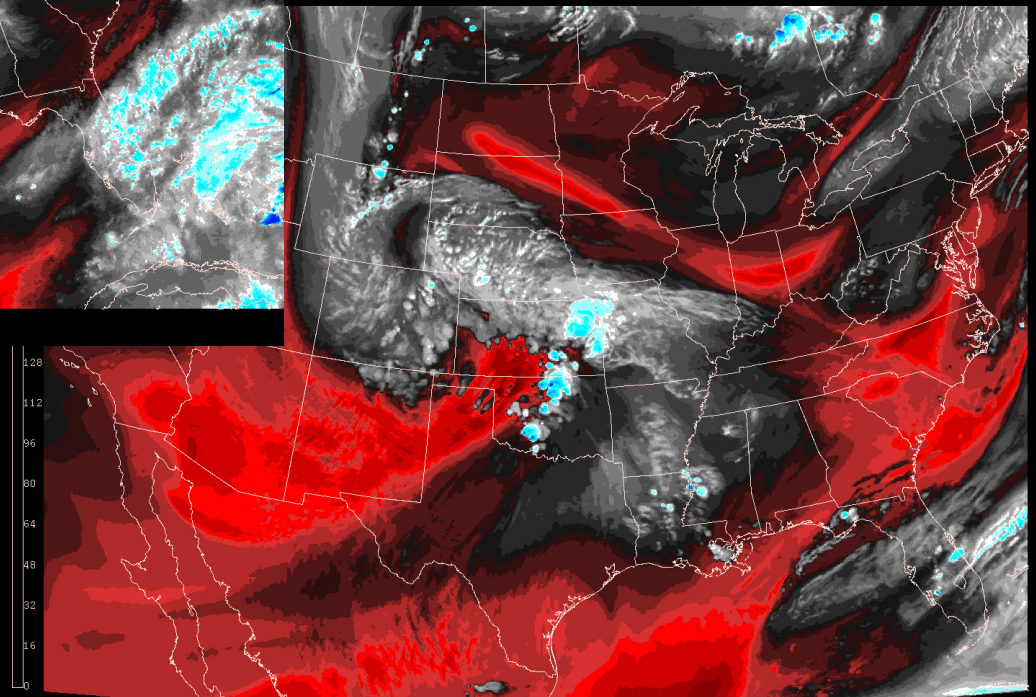
I

P

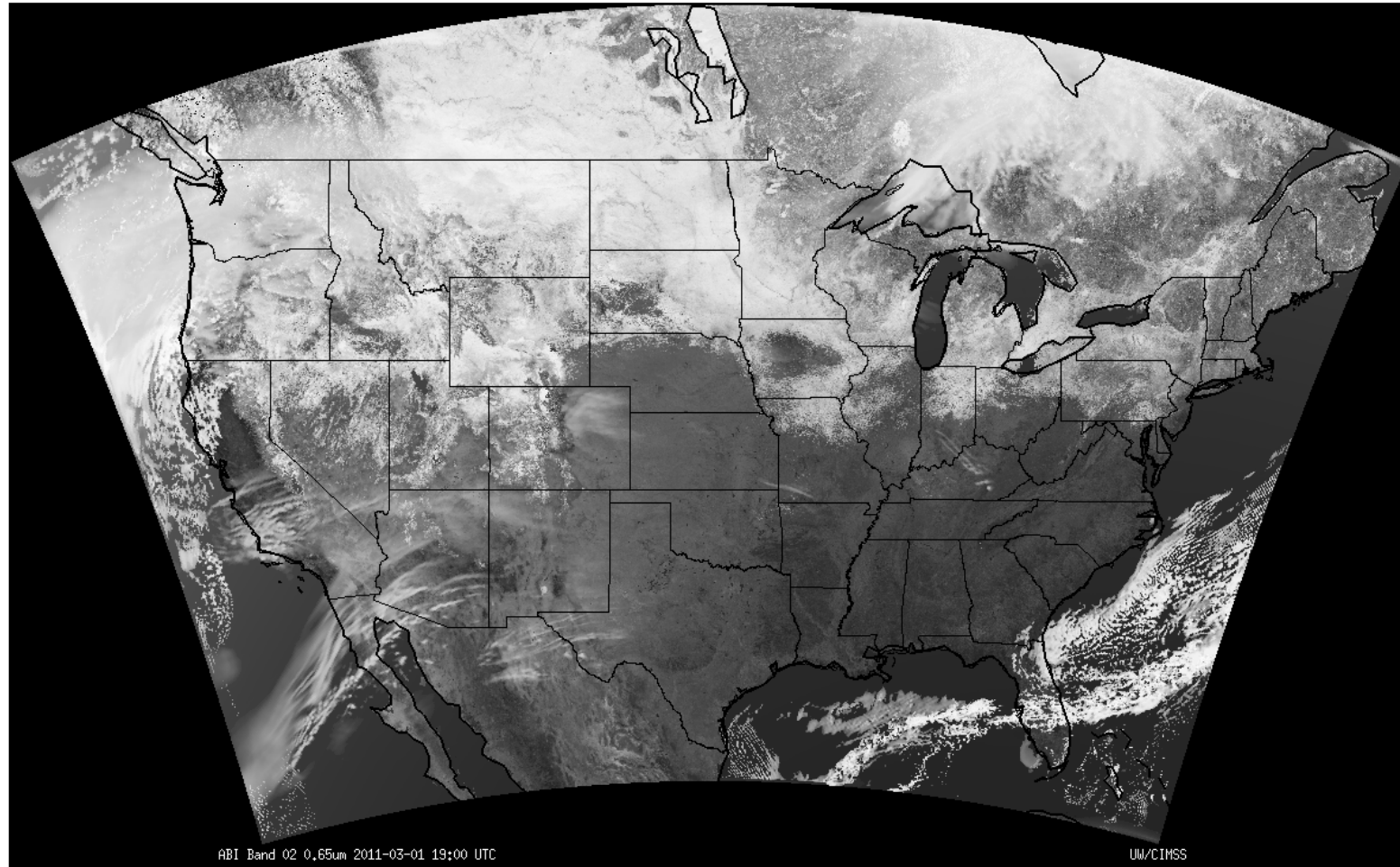
S



GOES-13 Observed



# New near real-time visible channel simulation (HWT 2011)



[http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes\\_r/proving-ground/nssl\\_wbf/abi/Band2/Simulated%20by%20CIMSS](http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes_r/proving-ground/nssl_wbf/abi/Band2/Simulated%20by%20CIMSS) using 'fast' solar RTM  
1900 UTC -- 01 March 2011

# Avoid Stovepiping

Most of these science product requirements are being dovetailed into operational venue (examples below), other avenues to operations are becoming apparent (DOD AFWA)

- Turbulence – GTG-N
- Convective initiation - CoSPA
- Icing - CIP
- Volcanic Ash – VAACs



# Summary

- Transition of National Airspace to NextGen environment will heavily use various satellite based weather information
- The GOES-R AWG teams are working toward algorithms ready to produce level-2 data at first light (~2015)
- New validation resources have provided decision support confidence that was non-existent a decade before, therefore we are still learning how to use current GOES imager technology
- GOES-R algorithm development has fostered new decision support applications with current imager technology



# Summary

- GOES-R science requirement algorithms have a valid use in operations with current (proxy) imager radiances and are finding new decision support value as methodology matures
- With transition to future operational satellite sensors such as NPOESS and GOES-R, reliance on this information for operational support decisions
- Successful research to operations requires diversity in agency objectives and funding requirements =  
**COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES!!**

# Acknowledgments

- NASA Applied Sciences Program through the Advanced Satellite Aviation Weather Products (ASAP) initiative and NASA ROSES Decision Support resources
- NOAA GIMPAP and GOES-R AWG, R3, and PG Research Program Support

# Turbulence References

- Bedka, K. M., J. Brunner, R. Dworak, W. Feltz, J. Otkin, and Thomas Greenwald, 2009. Objective Satellite-Based Overshooting Top Detection Using Infrared Window Channel Brightness Temperature Gradients, Accepted for publication within JAMC
- Feltz, W. F.; Bedka, K. M.; Otkin, J. A.; Greenwald, T. and Ackerman, S. A., 2009. Understanding satellite-observed mountain-wave signatures using high-resolution numerical model data. *Weather and Forecasting*, Volume 24, Issue 1, 2009, pp.76-86. Call Number: Reprint # 6016
- Lenz, A., 2008: Identification of Aviation Turbulence Signatures from Mesoscale Convective Features using Satellite Imagery. UW-Madison Senior Undergraduate Thesis, Atmospheric Oceanic Sciences Department
- Lenz, A., K. Bedka, W. Feltz, and S. Ackerman, 2009: Convectively-Induced Transverse Band Signatures in Satellite Imagery. Accepted for publication in *J. of Weather and Forecasting*.
- Uhlenbrock, N. L., K. M. Bedka, W. F. Feltz, and S. A. Ackerman, 2007: Mountain Wave Signatures in MODIS 6.7- $\mu$  m Imagery and Their Relation to Pilot Reports of Turbulence. *Wea. Forecasting*, 22, 662–670.

# Convection References

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# Questions?

*Environment Canada 28-29 April 2011*