

Welcome to the

Technical Workshop on Numerical Guidance to Support NWS Warn-On-Forecast Capability



Agenda for Tuesday

Session 1: Warn-on-Forecast Vision and Customer Expectations

Session 2: EMC needs and Expectations

Lunch

Session 3: Warn-on-Forecast: CAPS Experiences and Challenges

Session 4: Warn-on-Forecast: New Observing Systems

Session 5: Discussion: WoF Vision and Requirements

! ICE BREAKER !

Special Thanks

Linda McGuckin, NSSL

Tonia Rollins, NSSL

Dan Miles, NSSL

Session chairs: Ken Howard, Steve Goodman, Bill
Lapenta

Discussion Moderator: Bill Lapenta and Steve Koch

WiFi Access

“OUGuest”

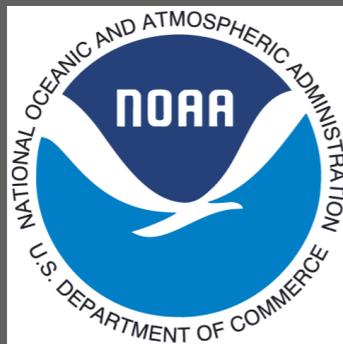
NSSL's WoF Project

Lou Wicker
NSSL

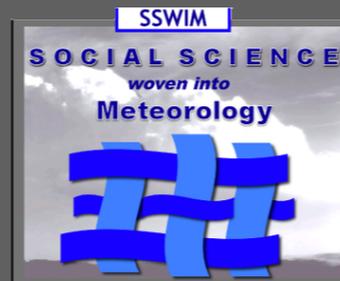
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Thanks to
Warn-on-Forecast partners
for their hard work and dedication!



cimms



Talk Outline

- What is Warn on Forecast?
- WoF vision and evolution?
- Current research achievements
- Forecast/customer for an operational WoF-TTP system
- Challenges
- Components of a future system
 - Data requirements
 - Modeling systems and resolution requirements
 - Data assimilation
 - Initial testing

What is Warn on Forecast?

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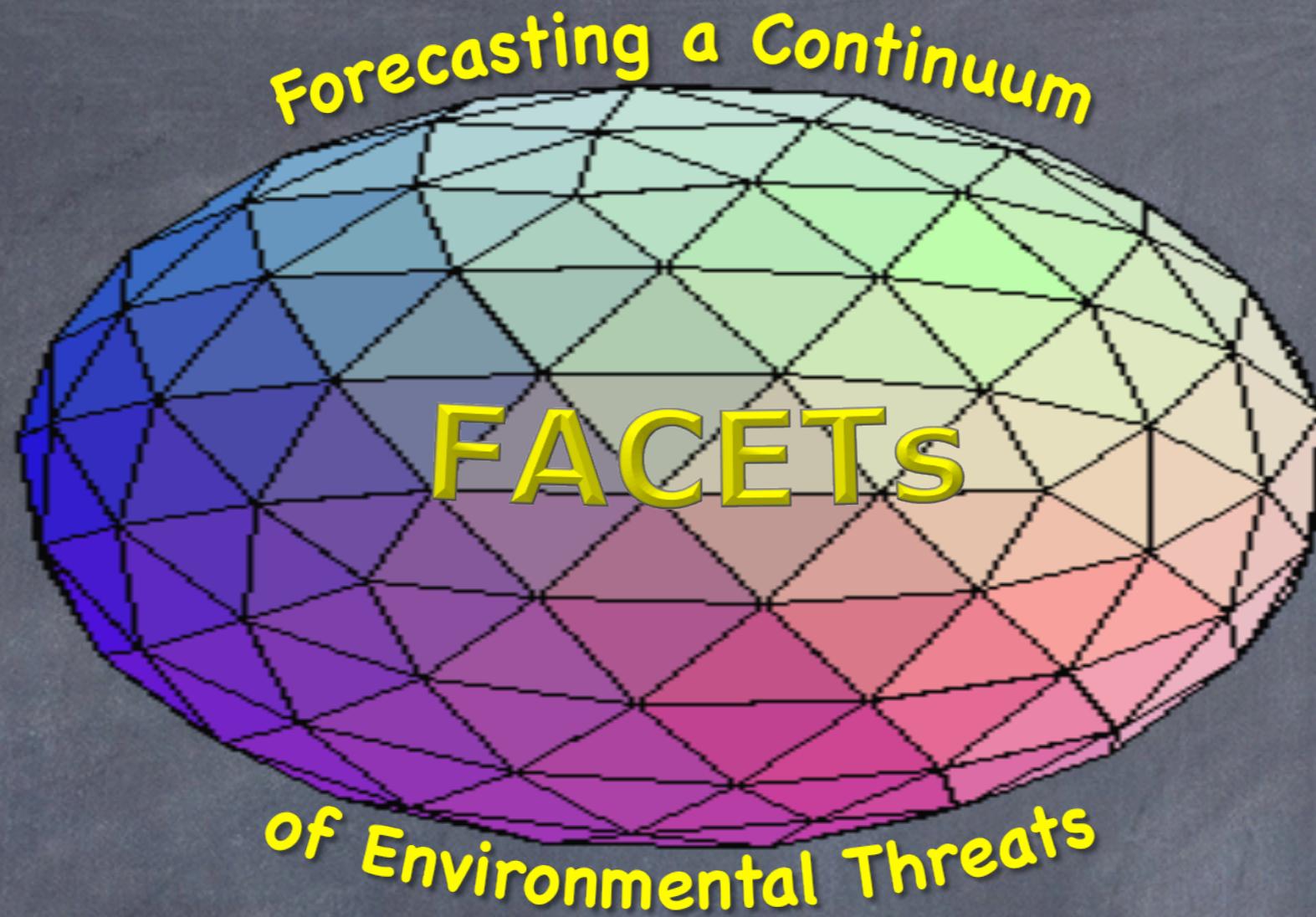
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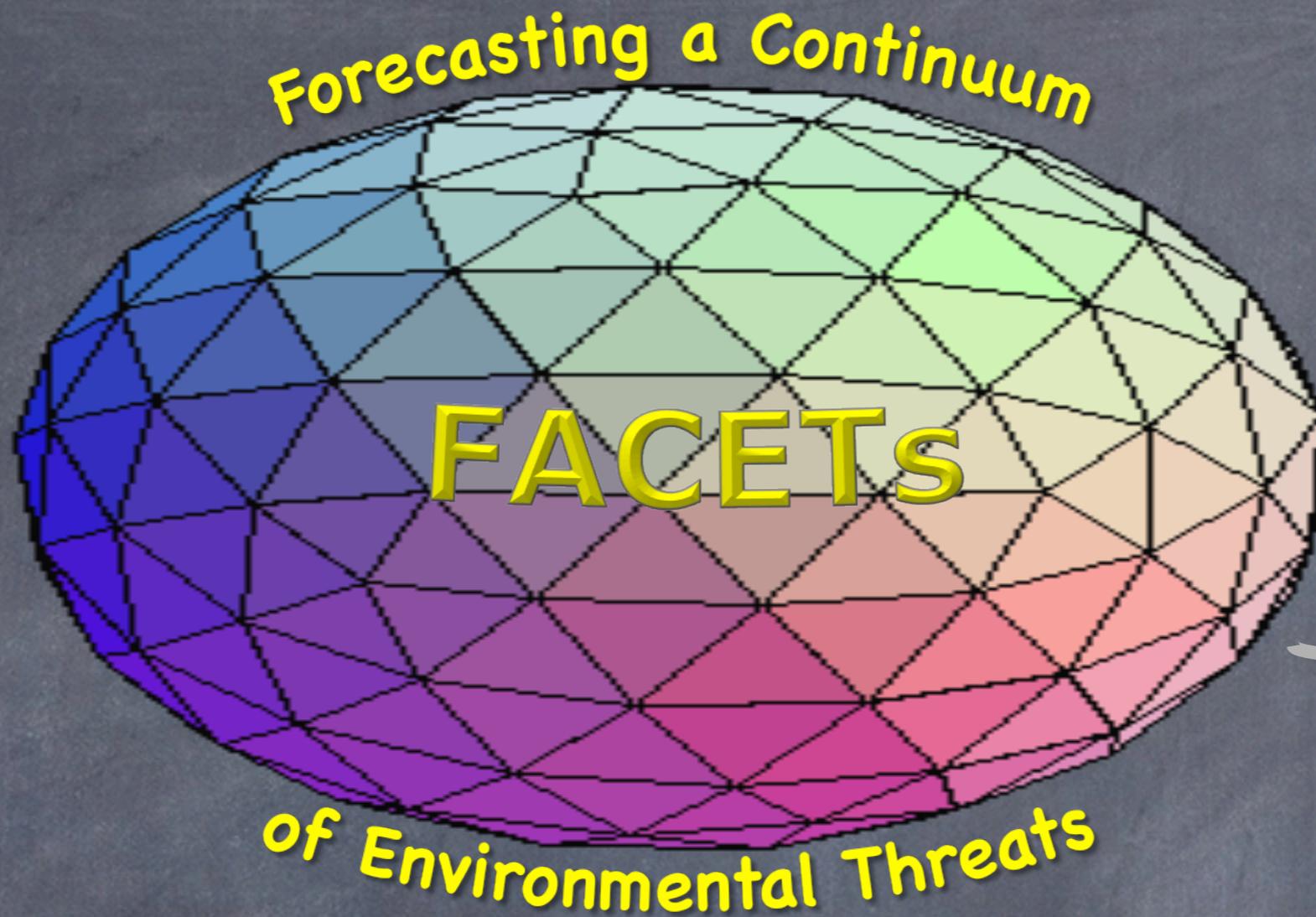
What is FACETS?



Thursday
morning
talk!

Idea: Coalesce the disparate watch and warning activities into a single vision for a **new threat forecasting paradigm** that is...

- ***Modern***
- ***Effective***
- ***Scientifically robust***
- ***Holistic***
- ***Unifying***



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Lans Rothfusz

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 - WoF-TTP is a specific capability which will be integrated into **FACETS** tornado threat products

Relationship between NSSL's WoF-TTP and other projects

- Example: High Resolution Rapid Refresh ensemble (HRRRe)
 - 3 km resolution ensemble of HRRRs
 - Forecasts produced every hour
 - full DA capability including radar, satellite, etc!
- Great Idea! We love this! We want to see this happen!
- But its **NOT** WoF-TTP! Cannot forecast tornadoes at these resolutions
- A 3 km grid is convection-permitting, but not convection-resolving!
- WoF-TTP will require grid resolution 3-10x higher than this to reliably predict the internal dynamics of convective entities.
- Think of a HRRRe as the initial background fields for a WoF-TTP system

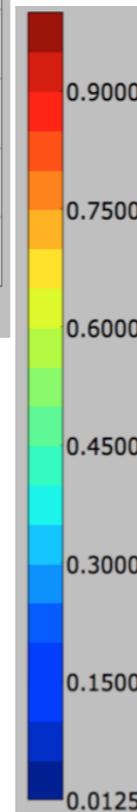
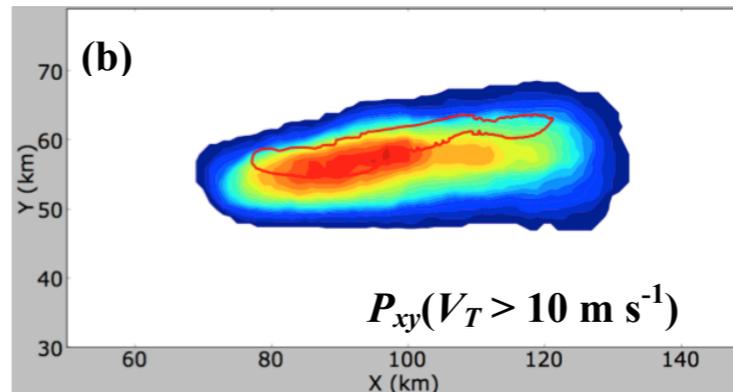
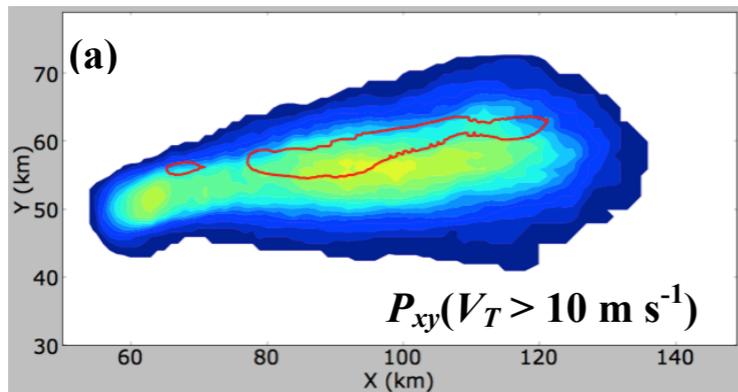
NSSL's WoF-TTP is a research project to develop a 0-1 hour, 1-km resolution ensemble-based NWP system to forecast individual convective storms and their tornadoes.

Grid Resolution 3 km vs 1 km

DA for 30 min / FCST 70 min

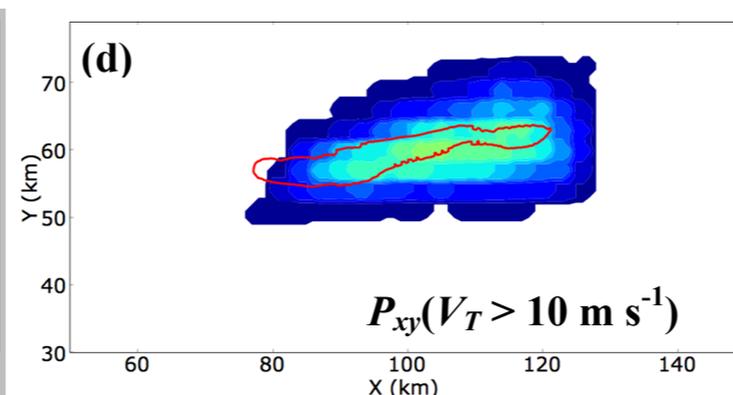
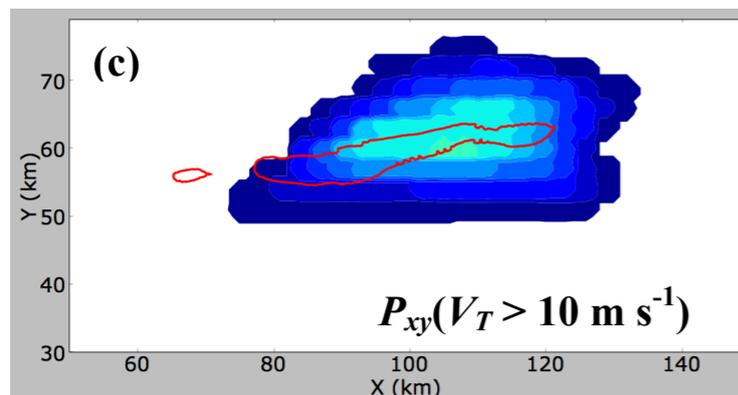
DA for 50 min / FCST 50 min

$\Delta x = 1 \text{ km}$



2 radars ~100 km away

$\Delta x = 3 \text{ km}$



OSSE EnKF DA Exp
Truth = 200m
Predict intensification of
low-level rotation
with realistic radar
locations?

Here we show the change
in probability of rotation
greater than 10 m/s
as a function of horizontal
grid resolution

Potvin and Wicker 2013

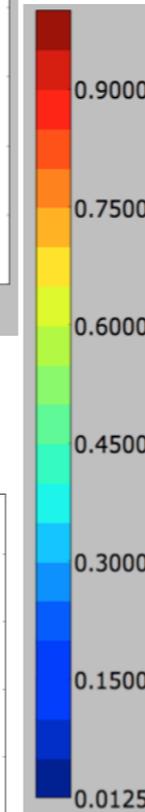
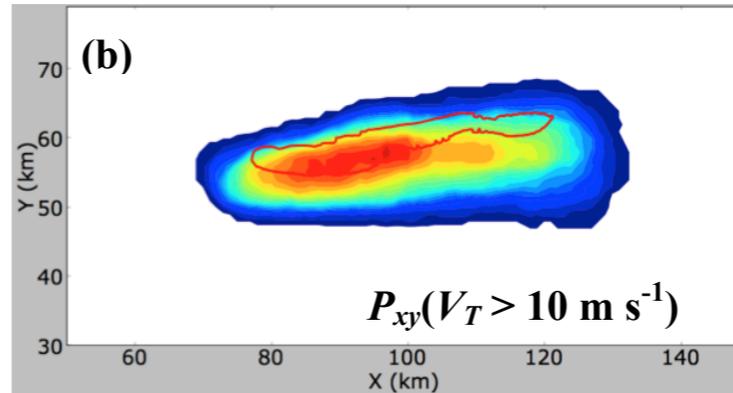
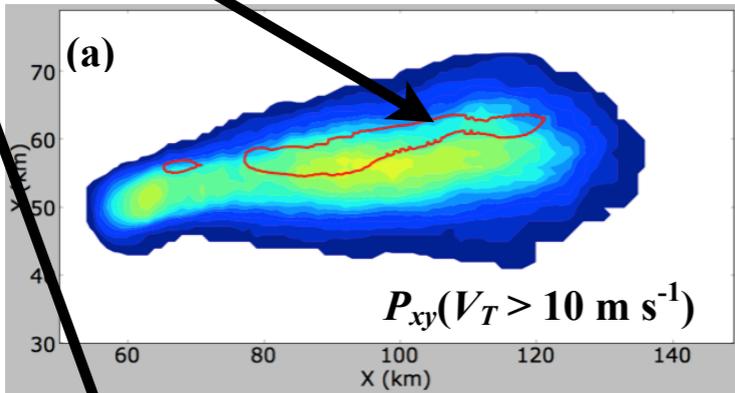
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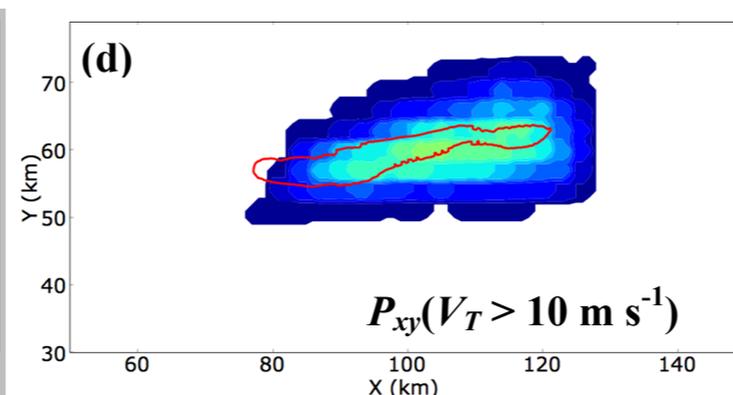
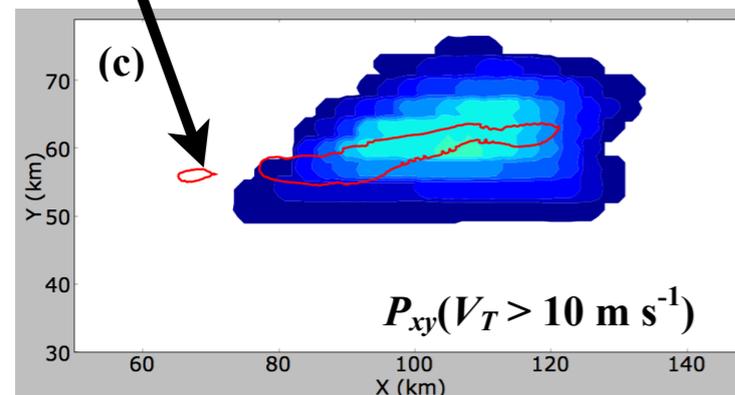
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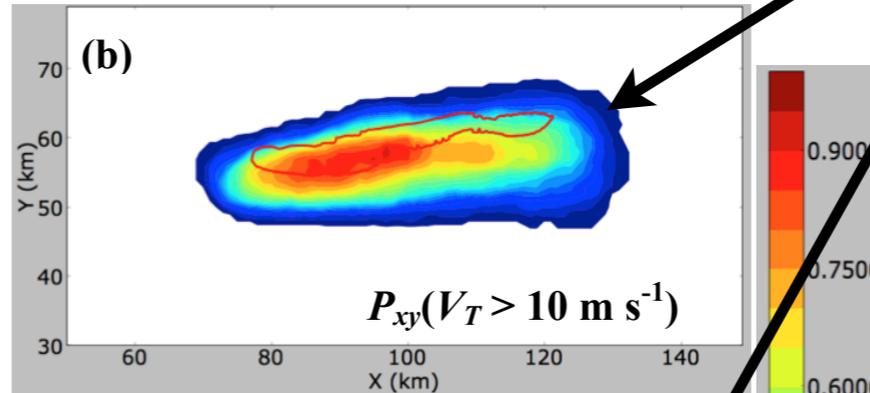
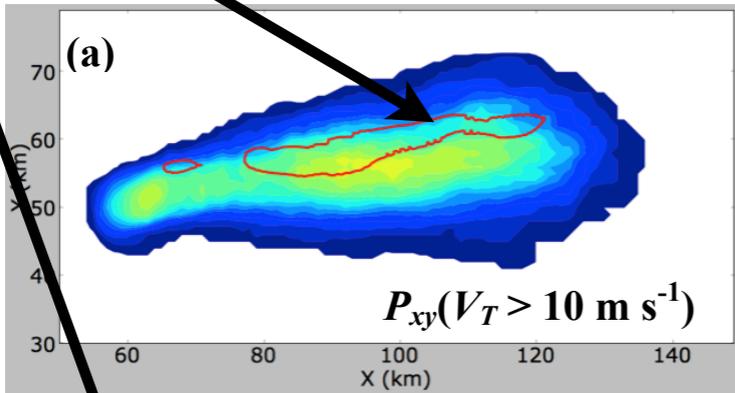
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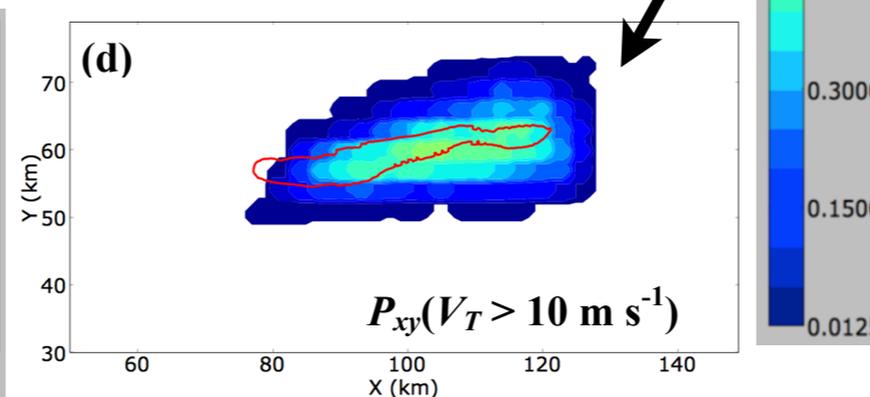
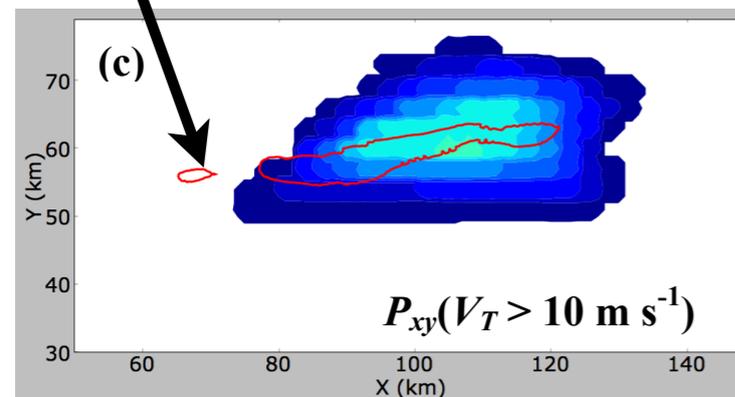
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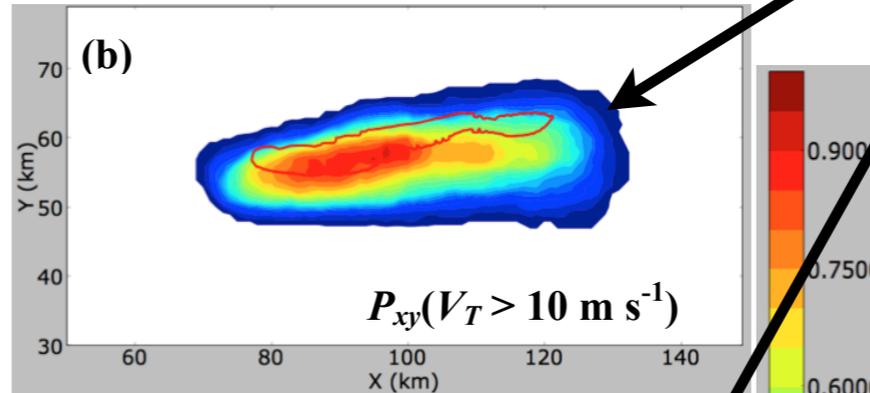
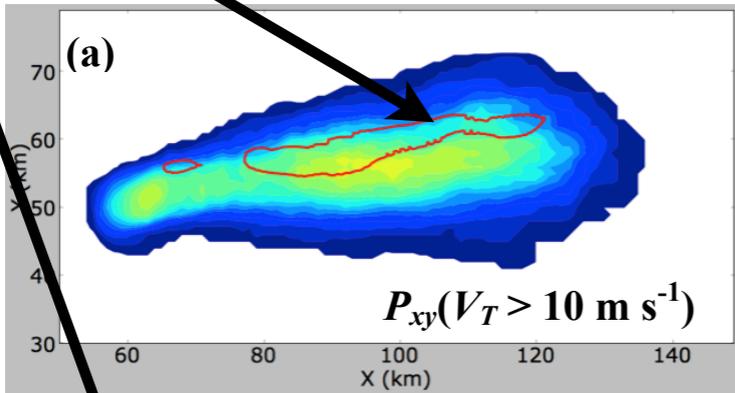
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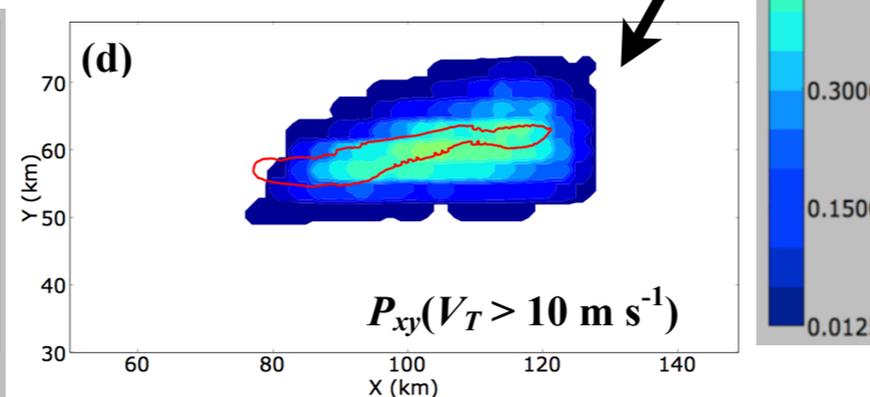
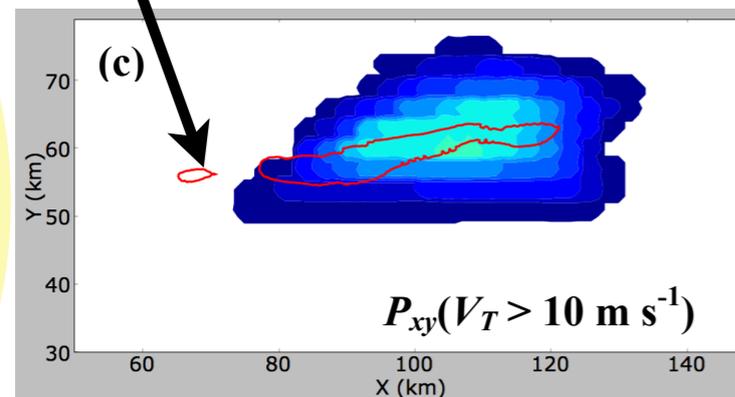
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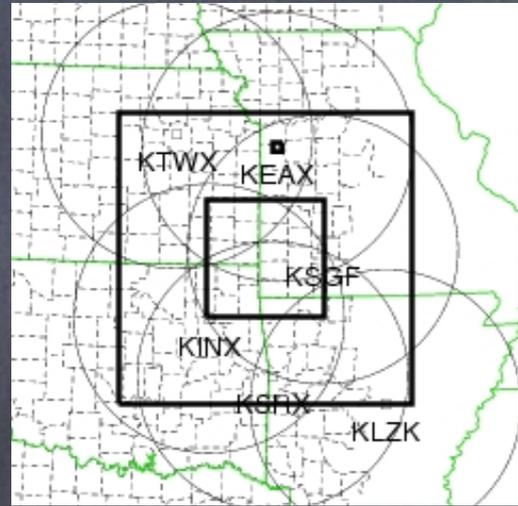


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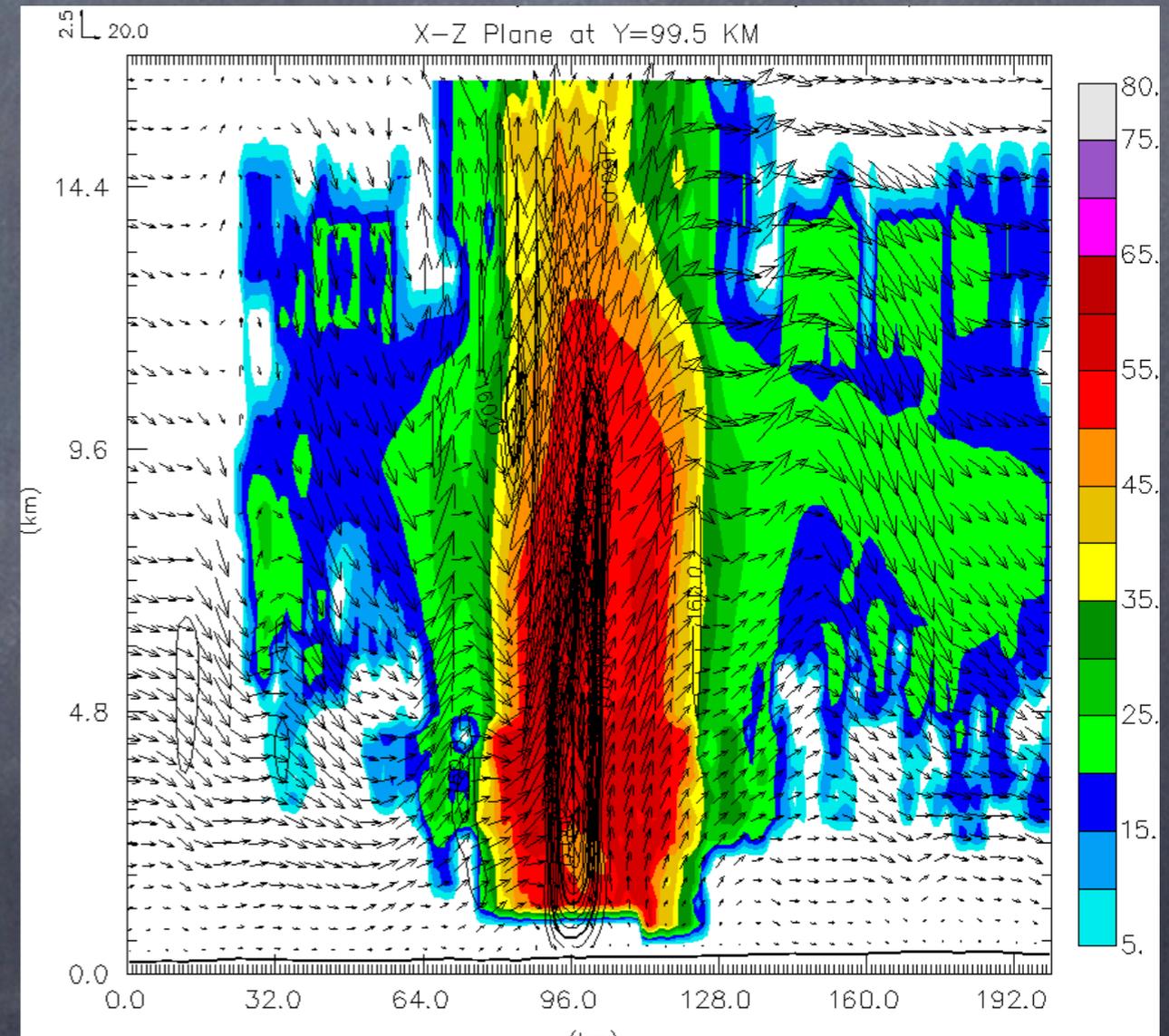
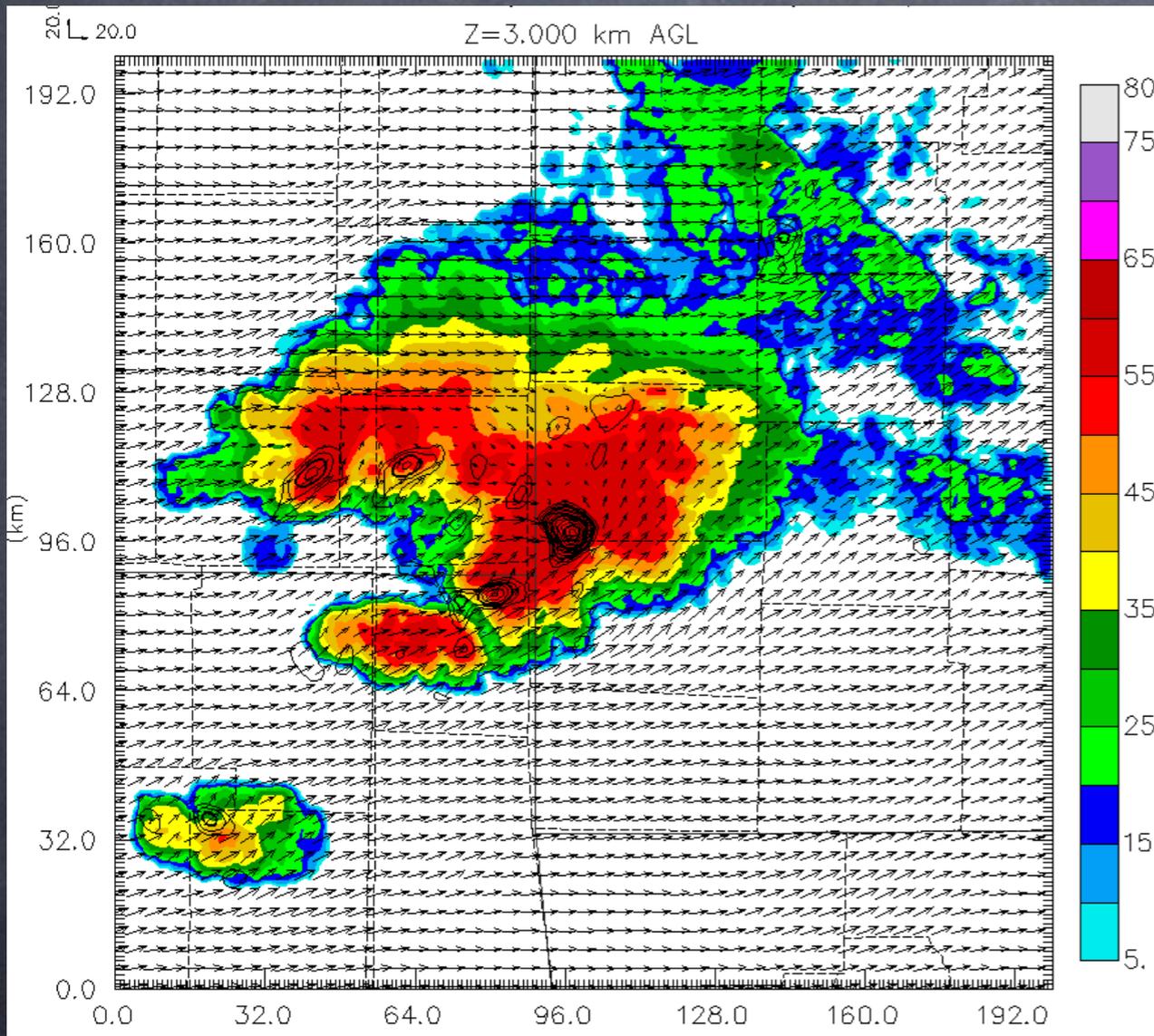
Potvin and Wicker 2013

Current research achievements



Realtime Analysis

3DVAR Analysis of Joplin Tornado (J. Gao)



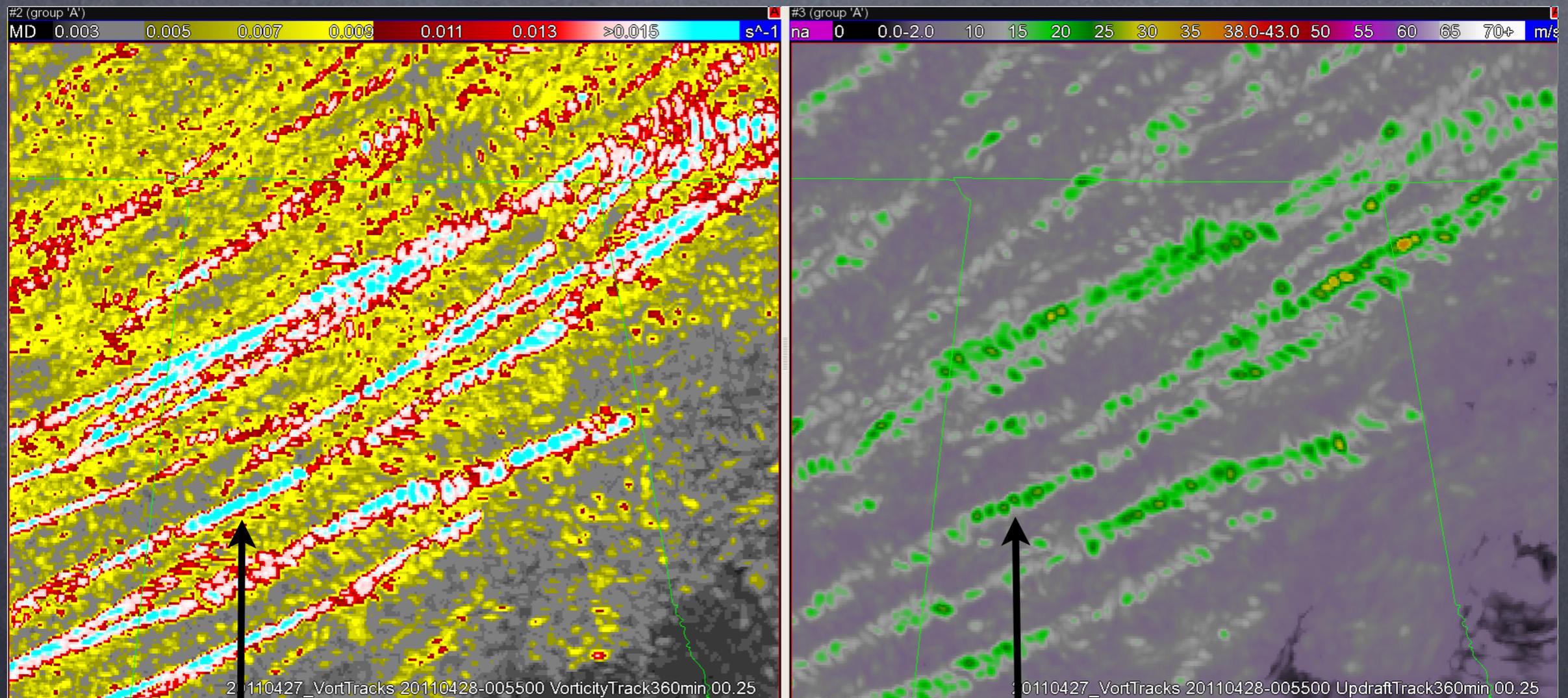
Ref
Vort
U-V

Domain is 200 x 200 km. 5 min latency

=60.3
30.00
26.44

Near RT: Large-Domain 3DVAR Analysis

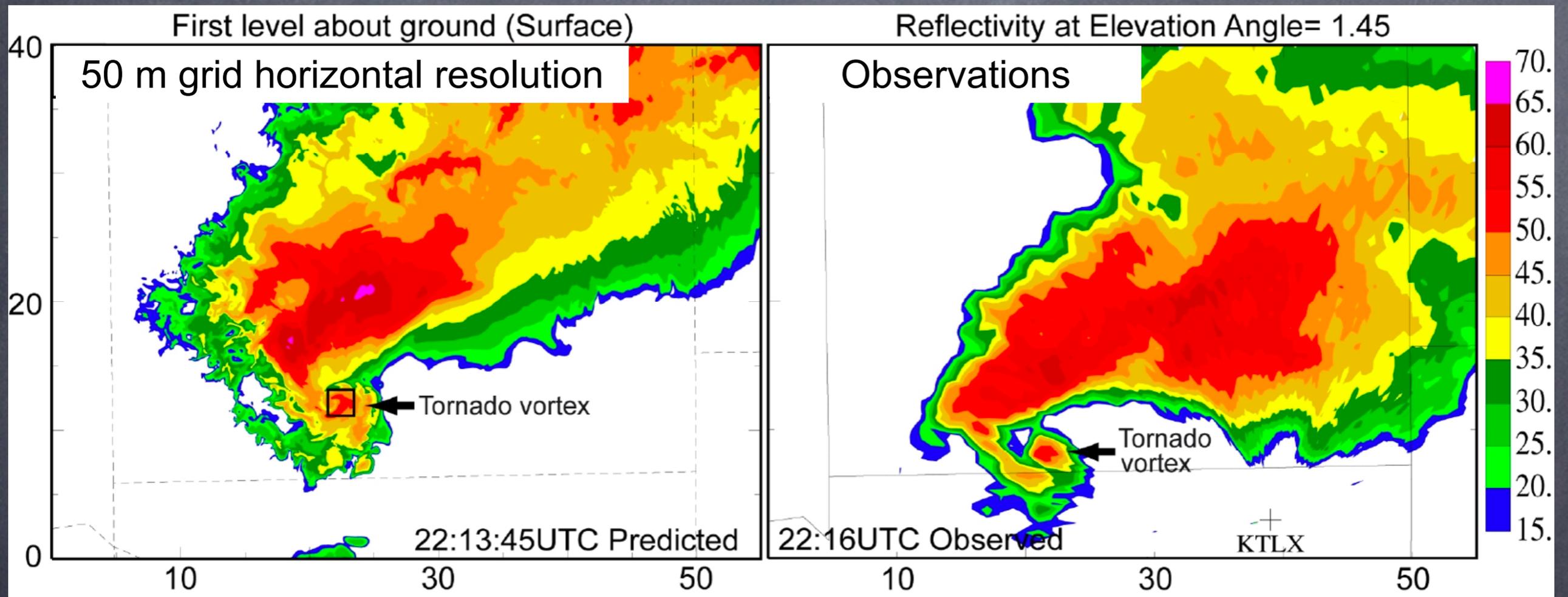
3DVAR Analysis of Alabama Tornado Outbreak (J. Gao, T. Smith)



Tuscaloosa rotation track from Doppler radar

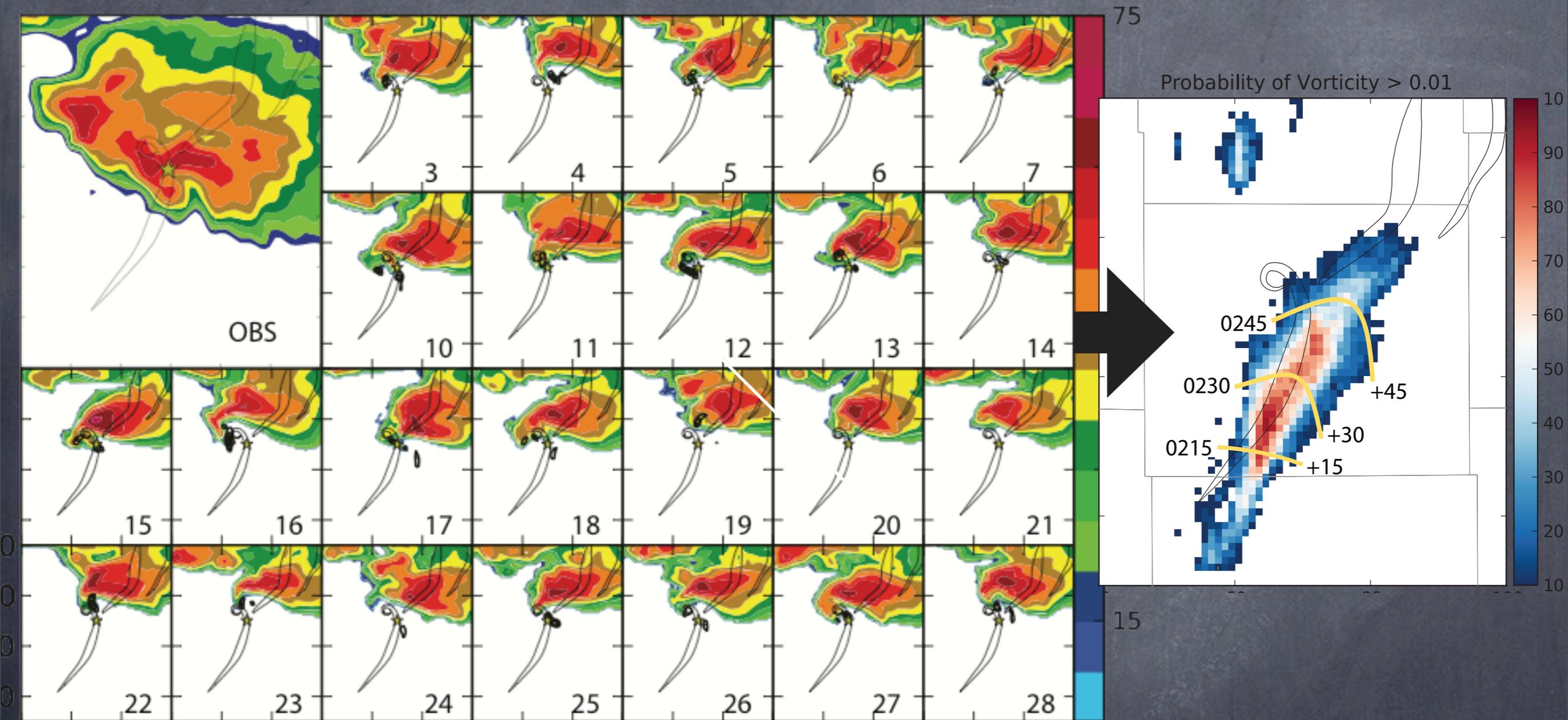
Tuscaloosa updraft track from 3DVAR analysis

Research Mode: Deterministic Ultra-high Resolution Forecast



Deterministic 33 minute forecast of 8 May 2003 supercell/
tornado using radar observations and 50 m grid resolution
Xue, Droegeemeier and Weber (2007)

Research Mode: EnKF DA Probabilistic Forecasts at 1 km



40 60 80 100

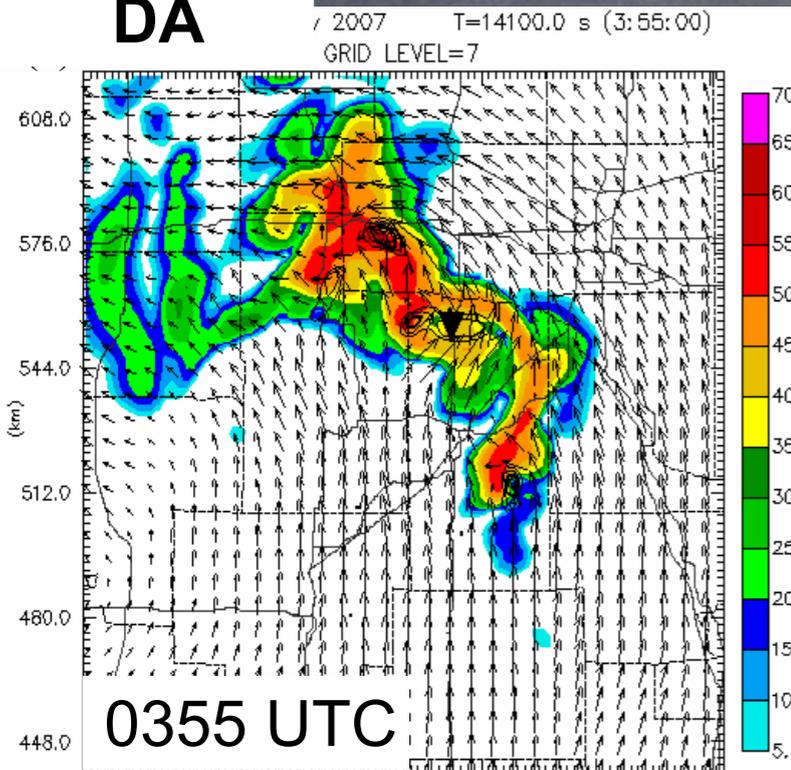
Ensemble forecast valid at 0245 UTC (45-min forecast) of simulated reflectivity 24 of the 30 members shown

Synthesis of a lot of information!

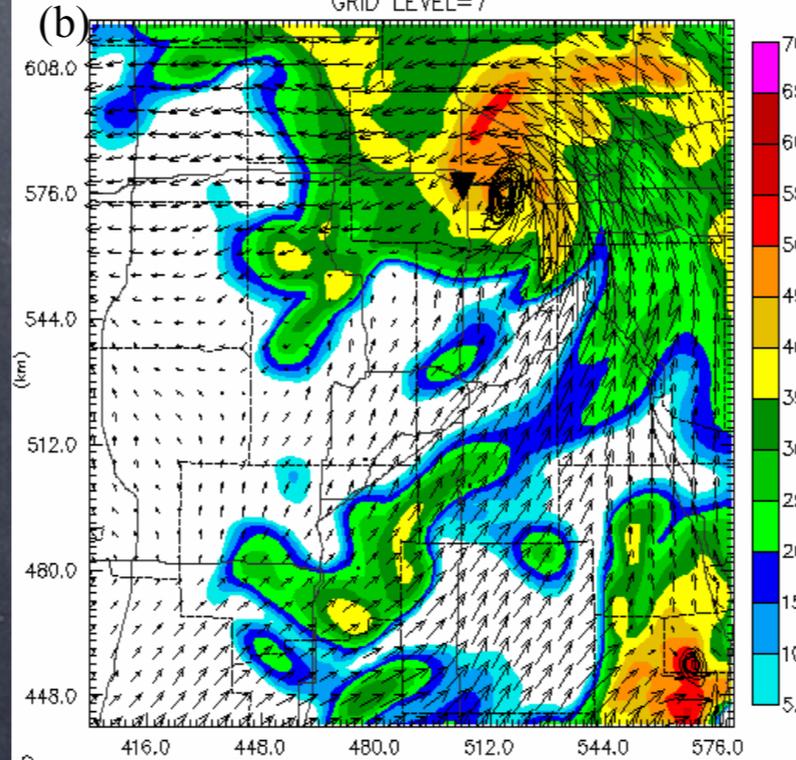
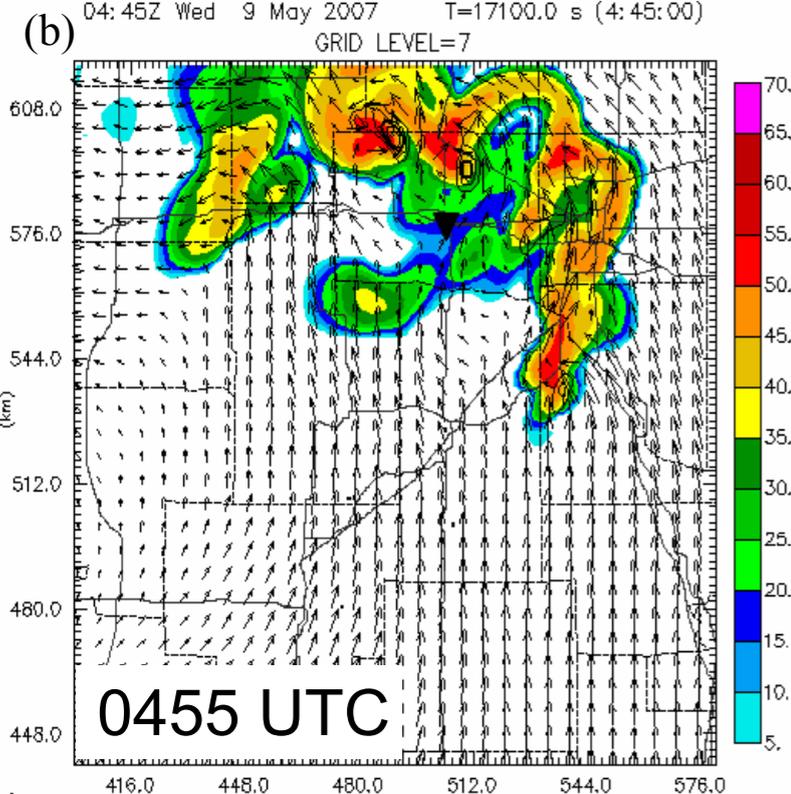
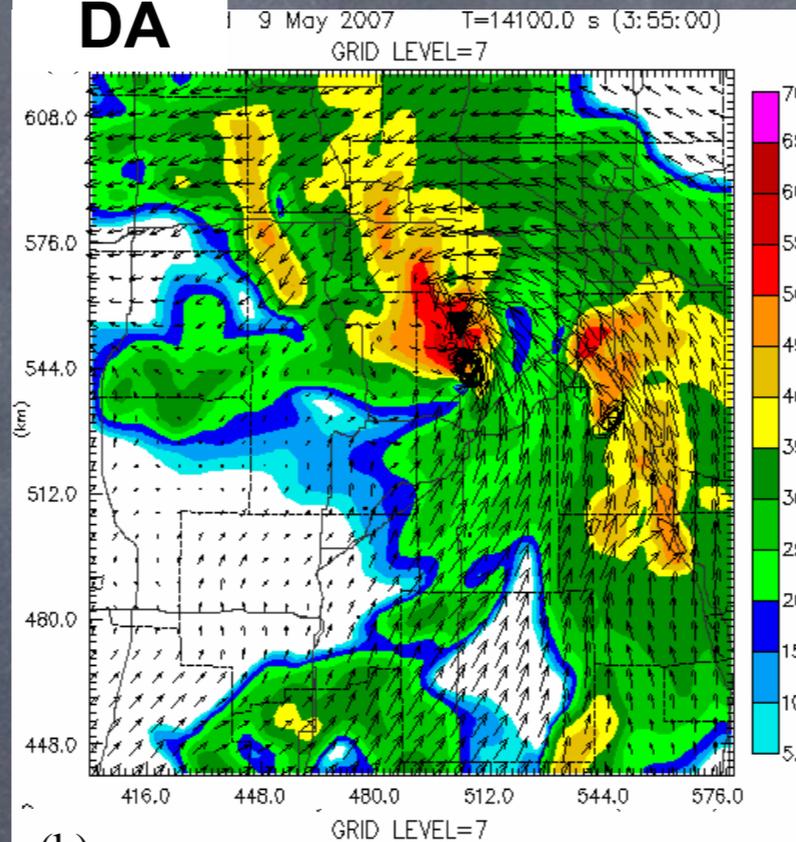


Research Mode: Multiscale DA for MCS tornadoes using 0.4 km grid resolution

**No Radar
DA**



**Radar
DA**



CAPS has successfully forecasted the development of several tornadic vortices within the comma head of a central OK MCS with 40-60 min lead time.

- Schenkman, A. D., A. M. Shapiro, K. Brewster, M. Xue, J. Gao, and N. Snook, 2008a,b
- Schenkman, A., M. Xue, and A. Shapiro, 2011a,b.
- Snook, N., M. Xue, and J. Jung, 2012

See <http://twister.ou.edu/vita.html>

Fig. 5 As Fig. 4 but for EXP1.

Forecaster/Customer Requirements for a WoF-TTP system

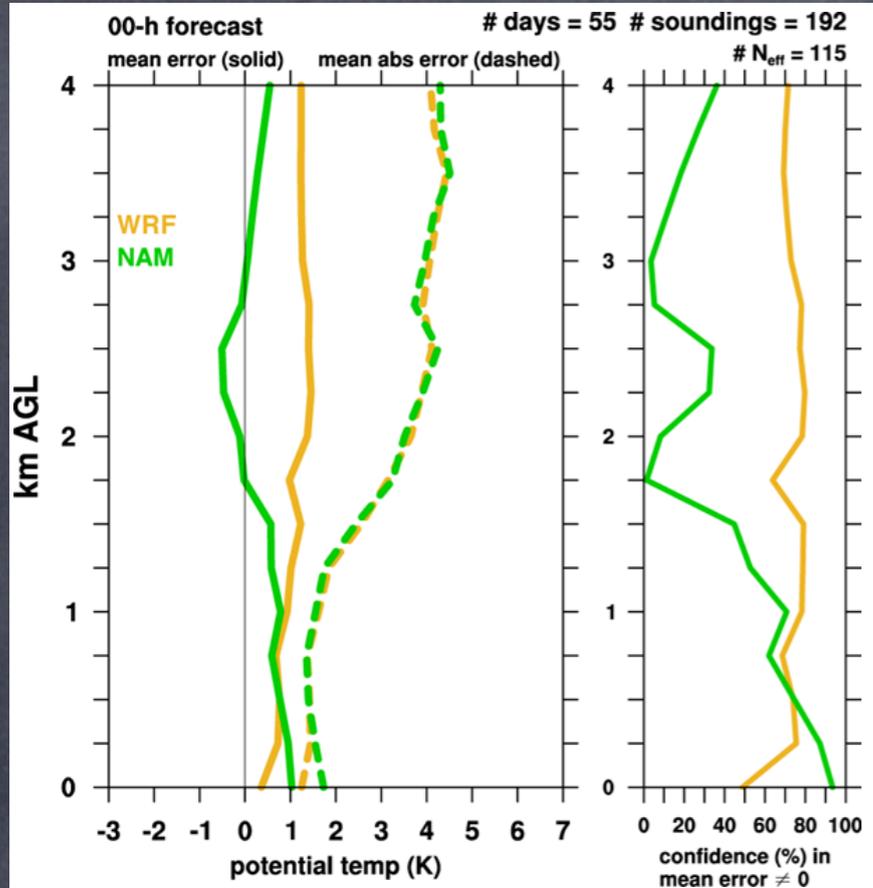
- **Fast** *(there when forecaster can best/most use it)*
 - Forecasters will continue to use radar, WoF-TTP will have to be available multiple times per hour.
 - Assimilation/forecast cycle < 10-15 min latency, 1 hour forecasts needed
- **Reliable** *(earns forecaster trust)*
 - Output needs to be calibrated and consistent across a variety of situations
 - For 30-60 min, this means at least providing threat information at our current PoD and FAR values from radar
- **Effective** *(adds value forecaster recognizes)*
 - Adds value relative to radar, satellite and other high resolution observations
 - Helps increase warning lead times (any reduction in FAR alone would present a significant advance)
- **Probabilistic** *(communication to public from forecaster can be more precise)*
 - Nature of phenomena being predicted (intermittent and highly nonlinear) requires uncertainty information
 - Future weather threat dissemination will be centered around providing uncertainty information for various users

Challenges

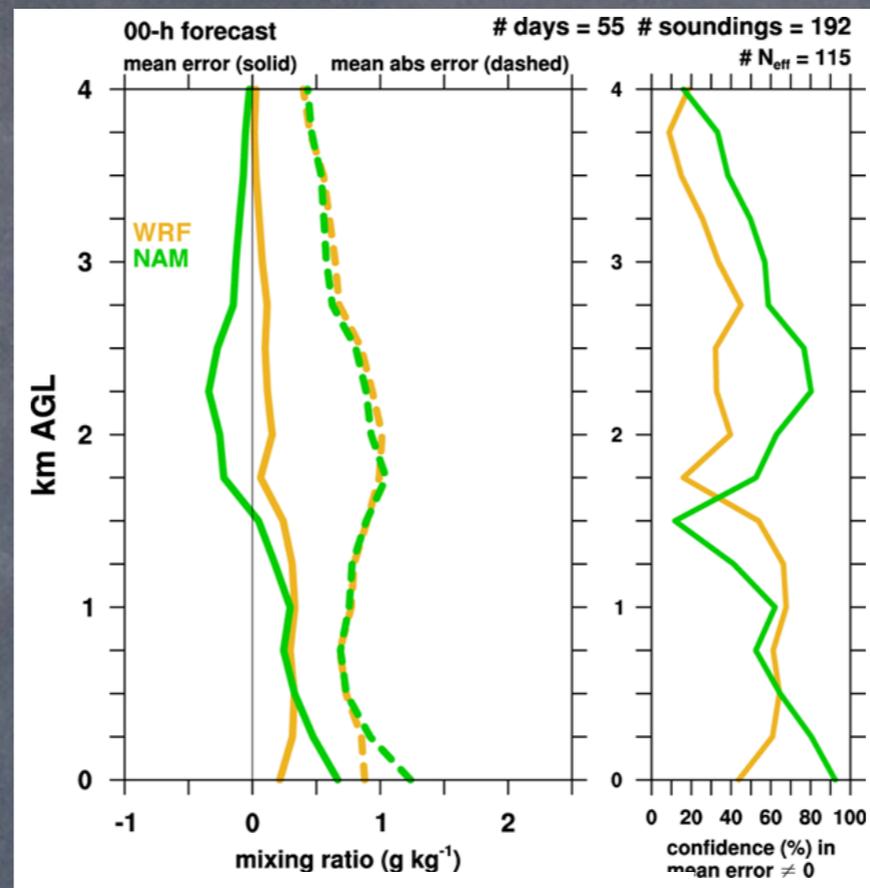
Mesoscale Errors & Predictability

- Mesoscale forecast errors!
 - Impact of environmental heterogeneities on storm rotation
 - Relative roles of internal dynamics versus external environment in controlling evolution?
 - mesoscale can also enhance convective-scale predictability (e.g., terrain, fronts)

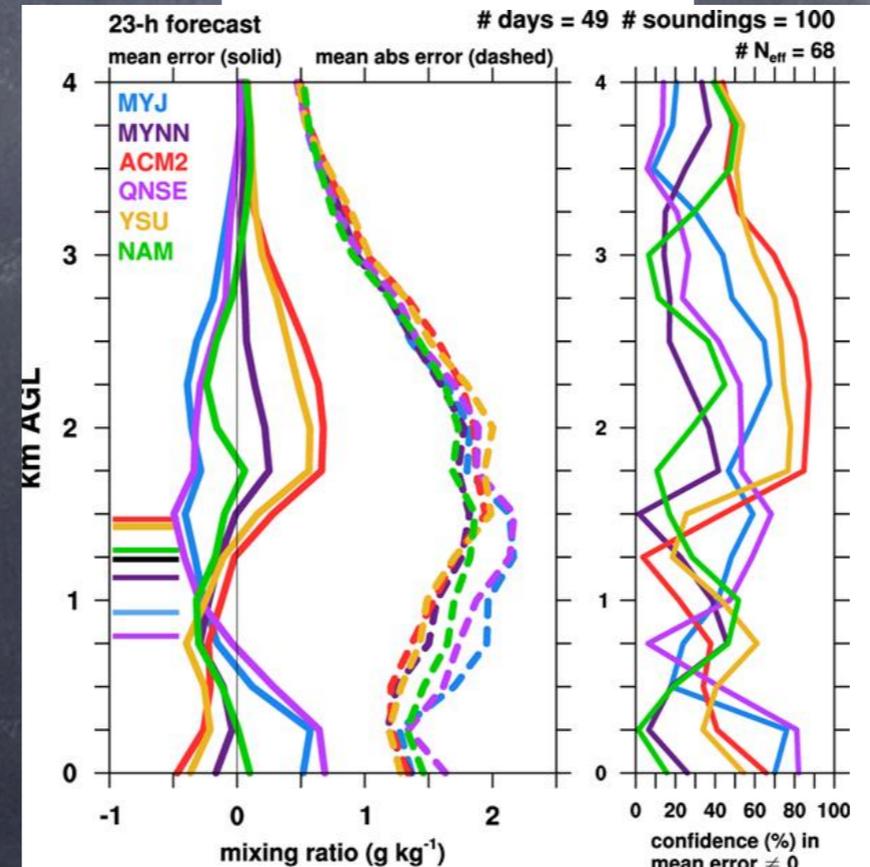
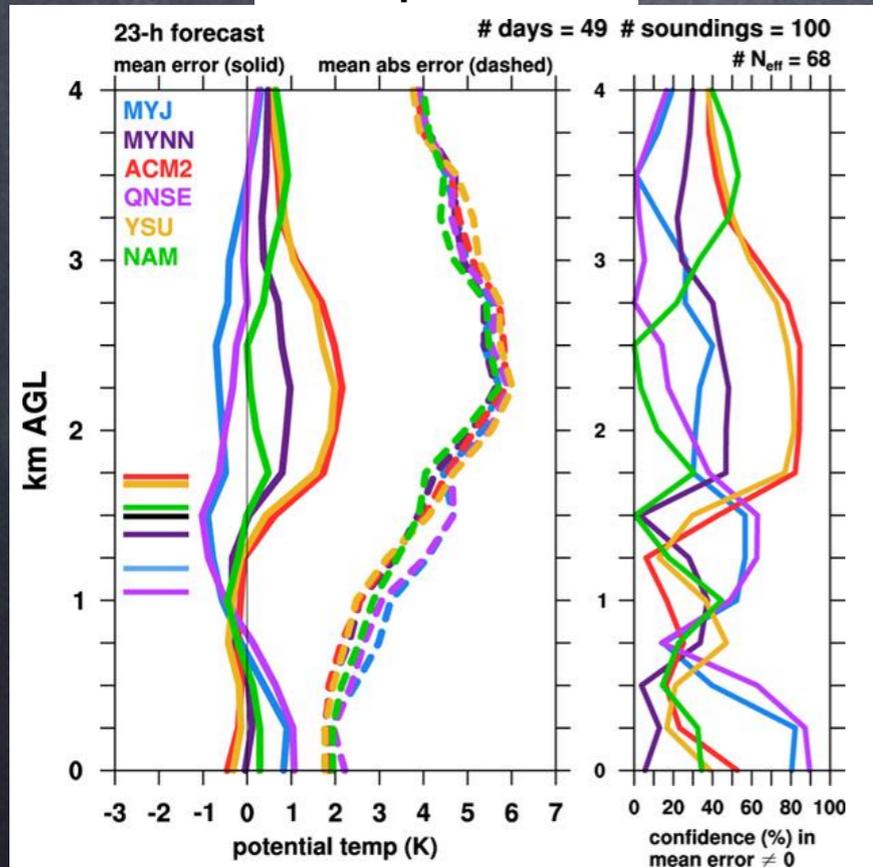
PBL Error/Uncertainty (Coniglio et al 2013)



Temp Errors



Moisture Errors



Sensitivity of Moist Convection Forced by Boundary Layer Processes to Low-Level Thermodynamic Fields

N. ANDREW CROOK
National Center for Atmospheric Research, * Boulder, Colorado
(Manuscript received 21 August 1995, in final form 18 January 1996)

ABSTRACT

..variations in boundary layer temperature and moisture that are within typical observational variability (1 C / 1 g/kg) can make the difference between no initiation and intense convection

The Impact of Spatial Variations of Low-Level Stability on the Life Cycle of a Simulated Supercell Storm

CONRAD L. ZIEGLER AND EDWARD R. MANSELL
NOAA/National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Oklahoma

JERRY M. STRAKA
School of Meteorology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

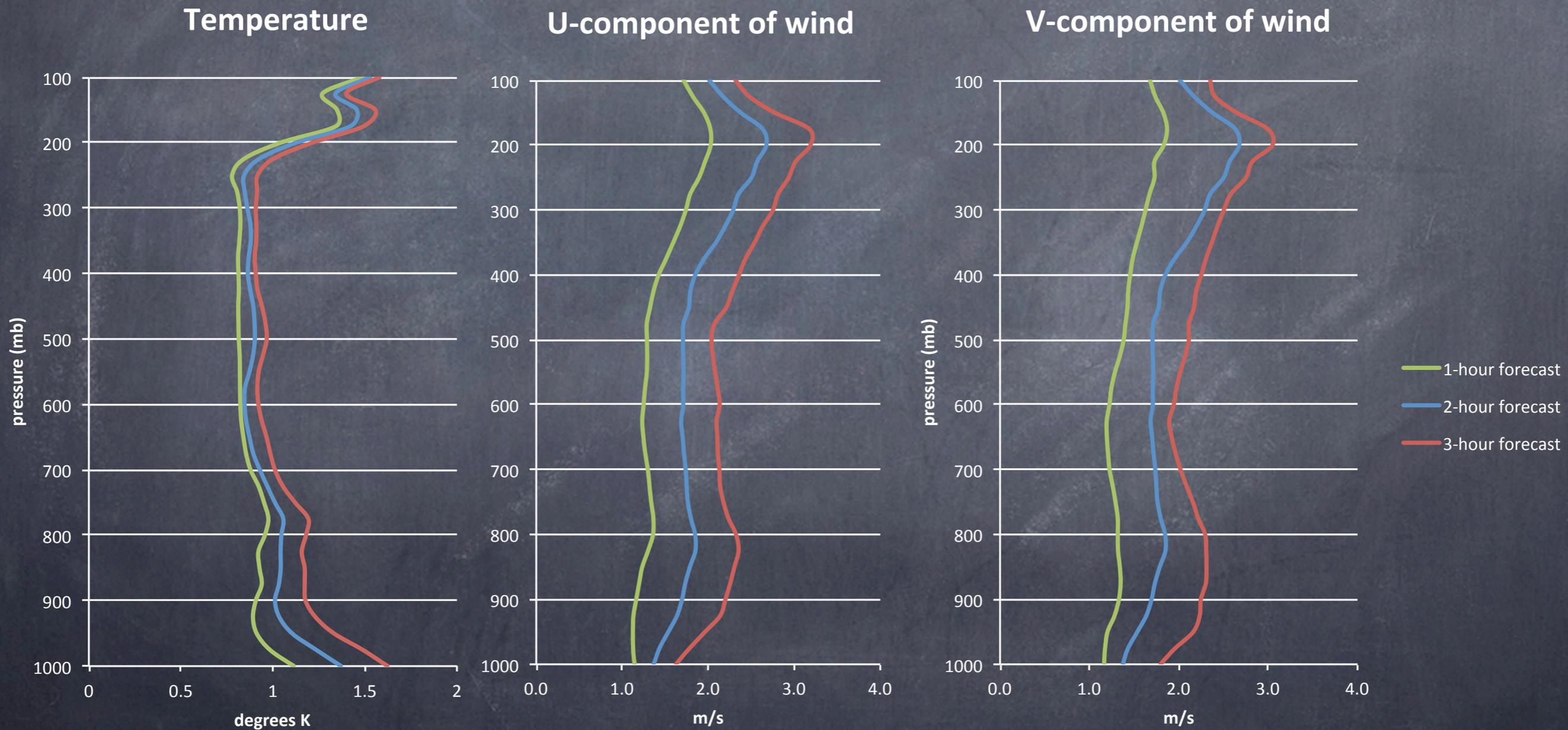
DONALD R. MACGORMAN
NOAA/National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Oklahoma

DONALD W. BURGESS
Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

...Despite the same levels of CAPE and shear supporting the observed and simulated severe convection....a significant sensitivity of supercell lifetime is noted even having moist BLs ...where the virtual temperature differences did not exceed 0.3 K and MLCIN differences of 5-10 J/kg..

All the mean errors for the model PBL schemes exceed these sensitivity levels

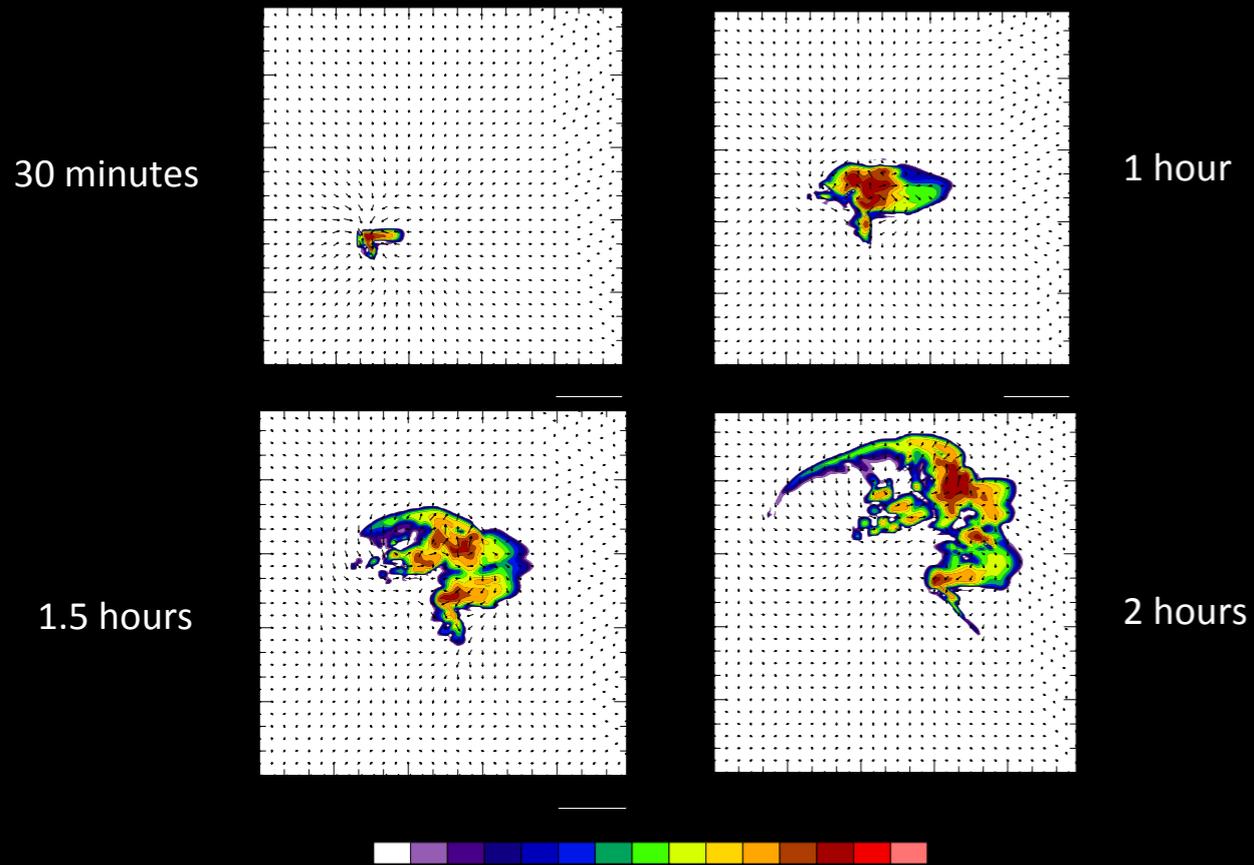
1/2/3 Hour Soundings Errors from Severe Weather Regions obtained from NCEP RUC Model



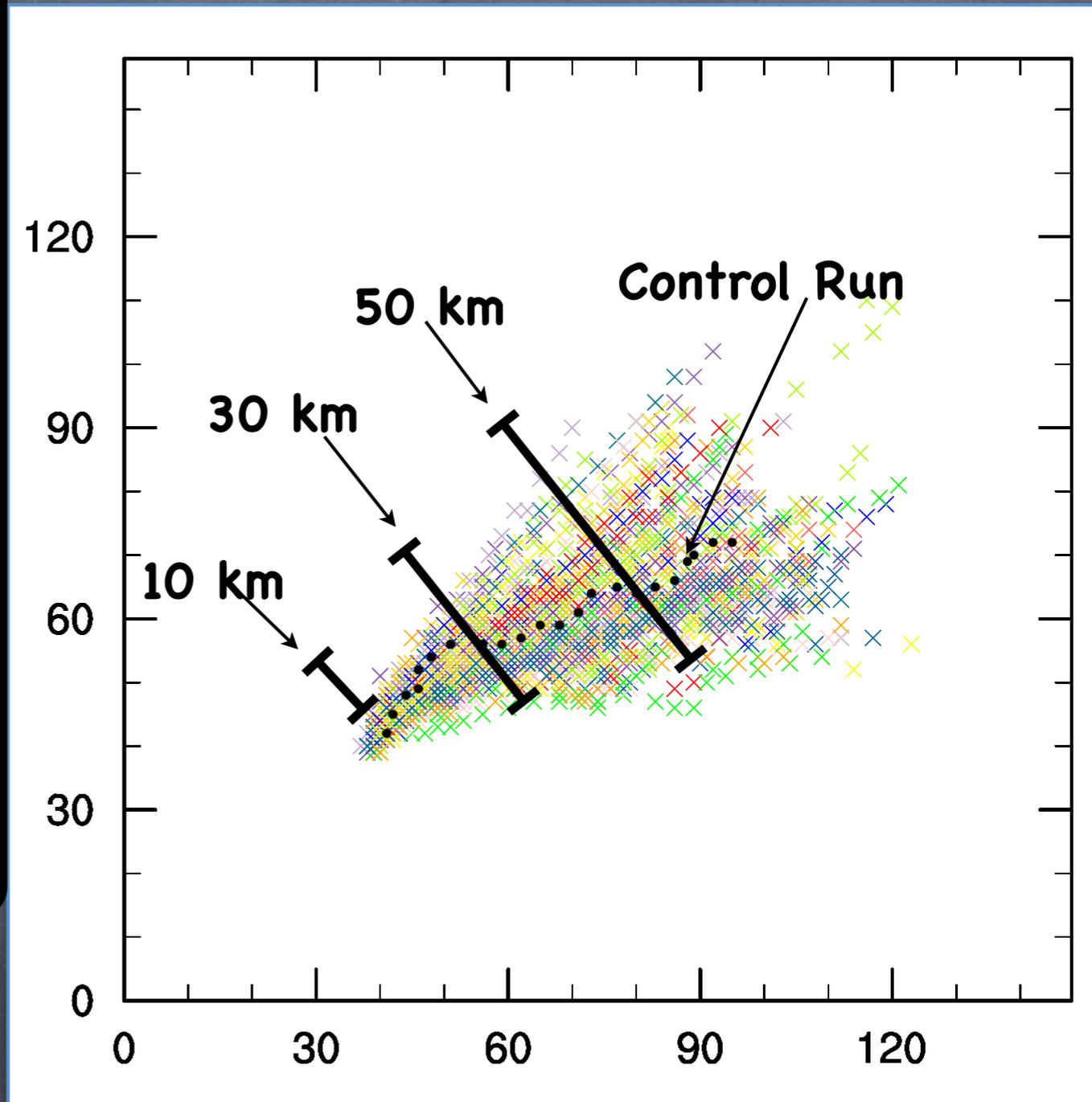
Cintineo and Stensrud, JAS, 2012

Updraft Helicity Paths

Control Run



Cintineo and Stensrud, JAS, 2012

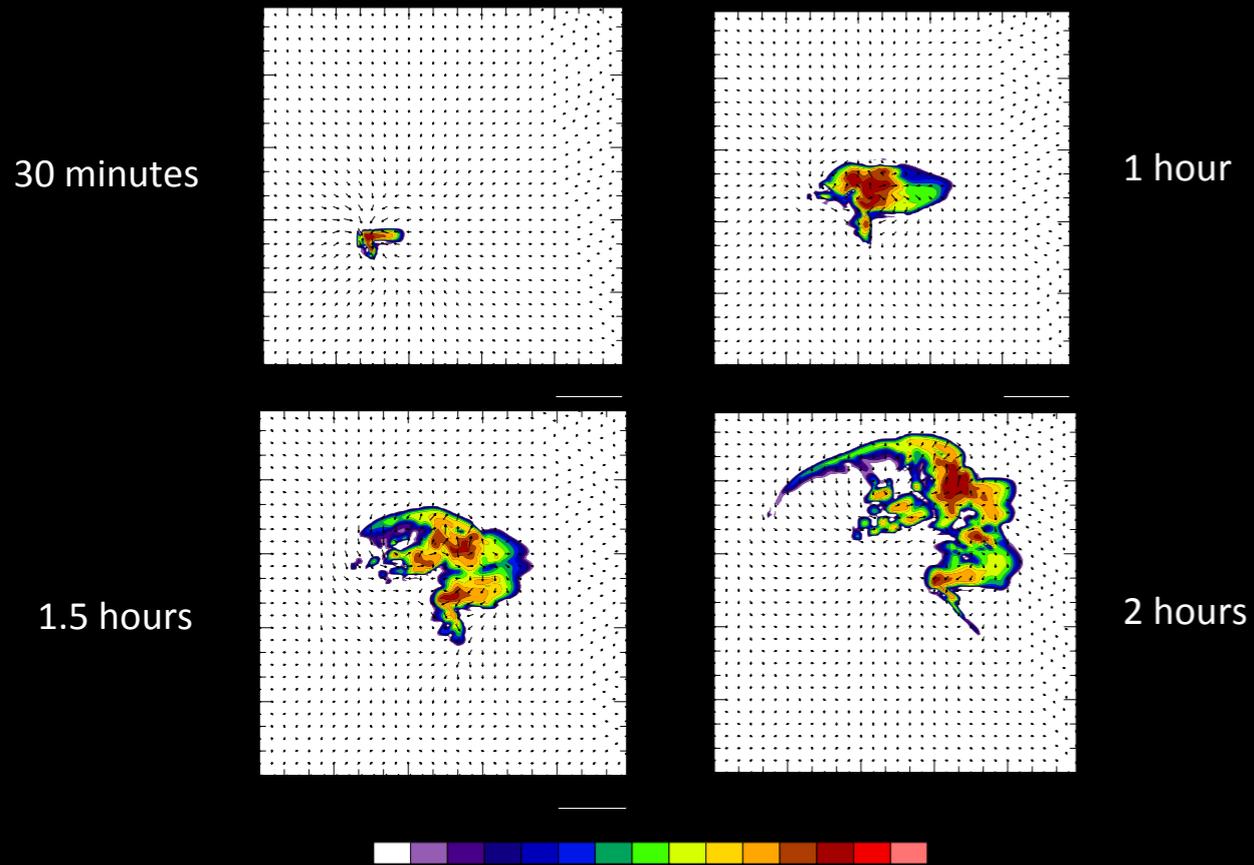


• Control run × Perturbation runs

**Storm track errors from 3 hr simulations using
1-hour sounding errors!**

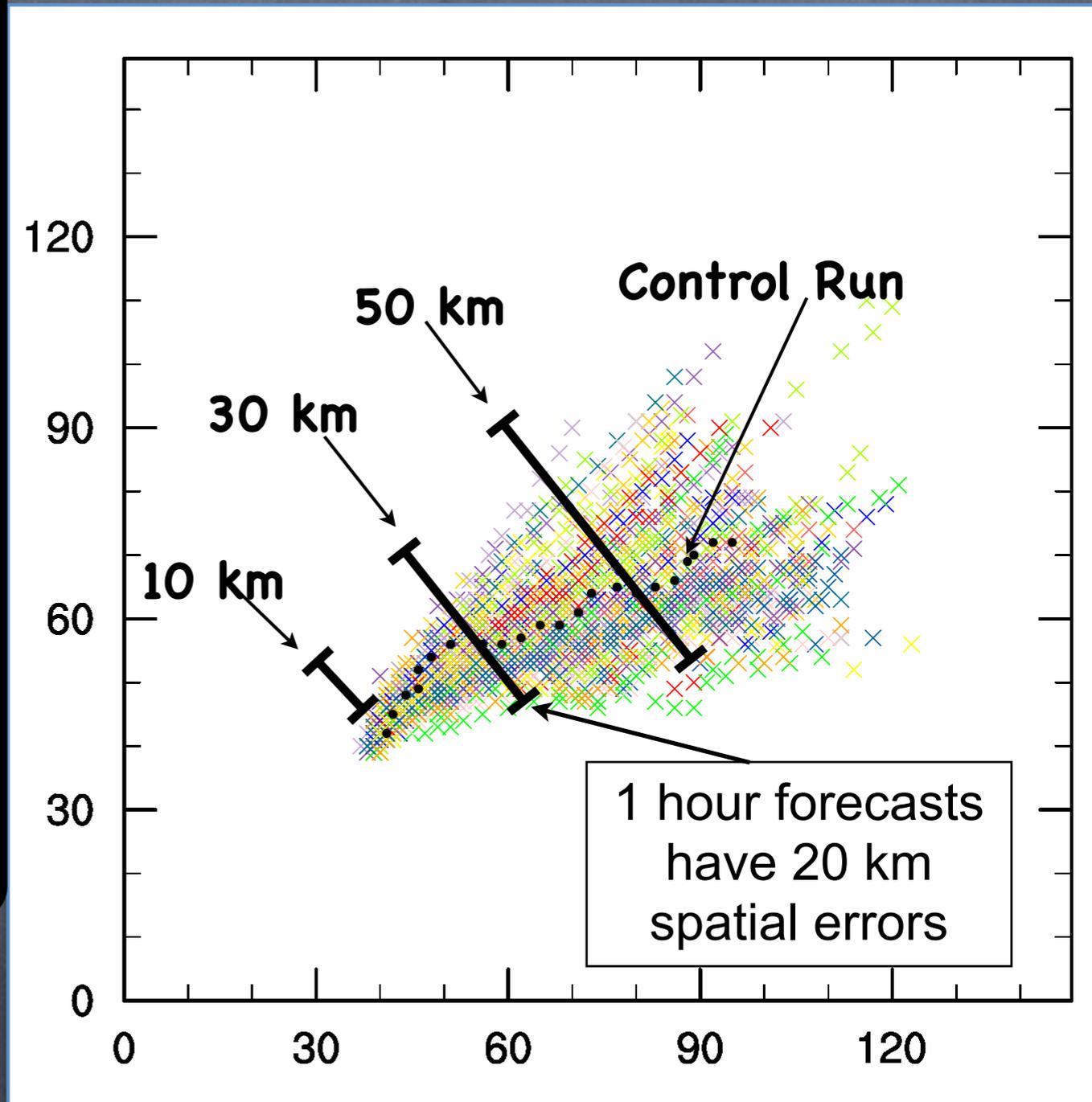
Updraft Helicity Paths

Control Run



Plotted values are $UH \geq 50 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-2}$

Cintineo and Stensrud, JAS, 2012



• Control run × Perturbation runs

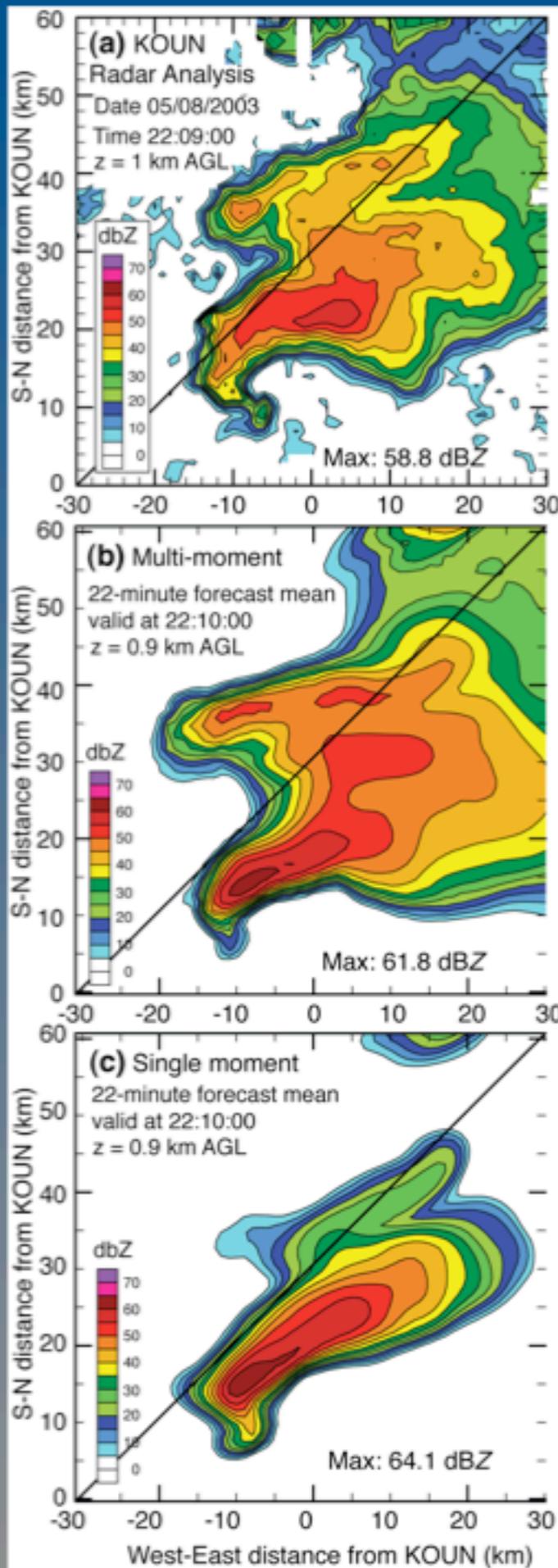
Storm track errors from 3 hr simulations using 1-hour sounding errors!

Convective Model Errors

- Convective-scale modeling errors?
 - Sensitivity to numerical grid choices (particular vertical grid spacing)
 - Sensitivity to numerical dissipation
- Parameterizations
 - **Microphysics** (*Observations confined to Polarimetric radar?*)
 - Turbulence and entrainment (*Few direct observations*)
 - Surface fluxes (*Few observations*)
 - Radiation (*only top of cloud observations*)

Microphysical Sensitivity

Observations 8 May 2003
22:10 (tornadogenesis)



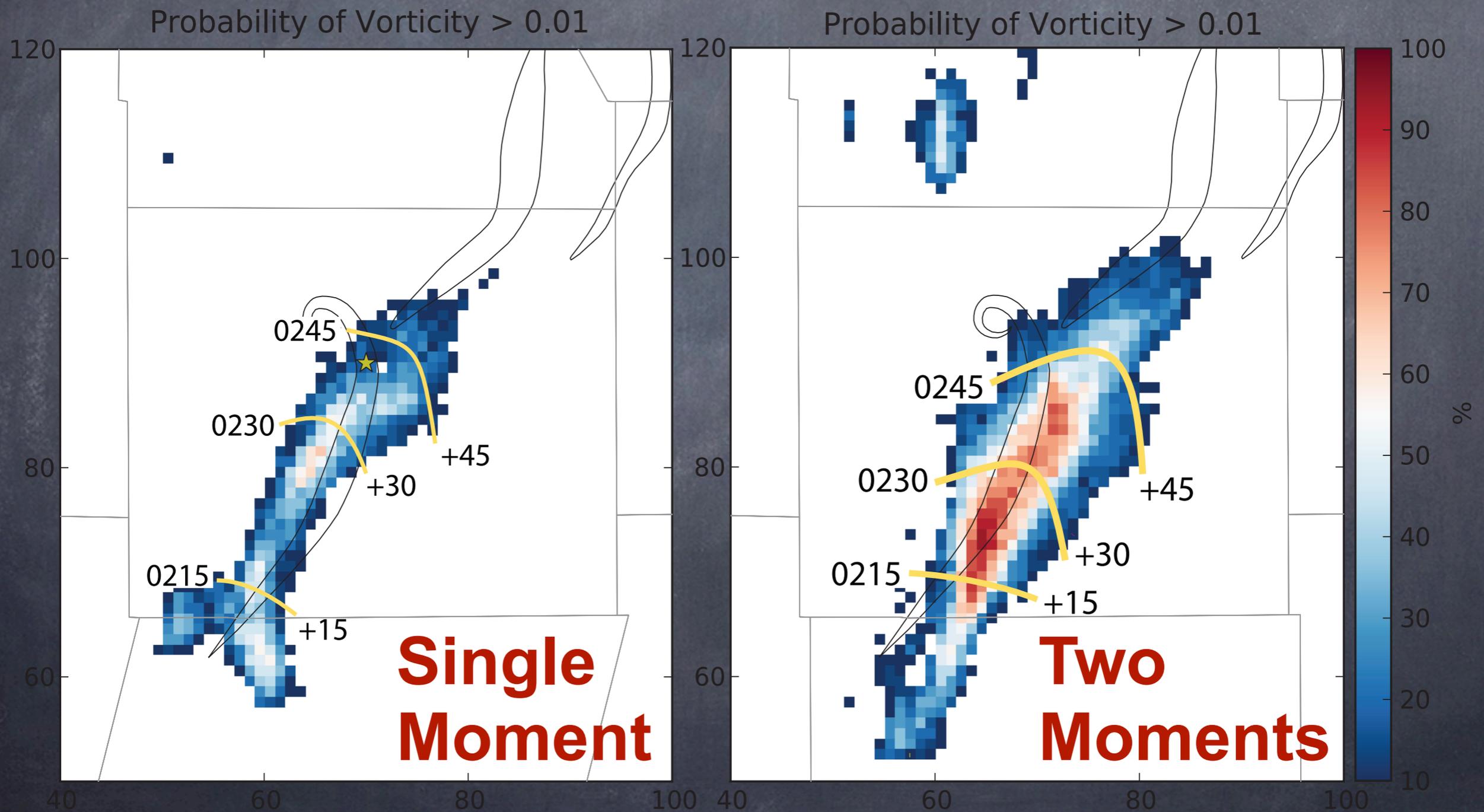
22 minute ensemble mean forecast
with multi-moment microphysics
valid 22:10

22 minute ensemble mean forecast
with single-moment microphysics
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Microphysics Sensitivity

Greensburg KS Storm Forecasts:

Single vs. Two Moment Microphysics



Technical Requirements for a WoF-TTP

- Data QC
- Grid & Computer
- Modeling approaches
- Data assimilation approaches
- Getting there from here....

Radar Data QC

- Quality control of data from WSR-88D
 - velocity dealiasing/clutter/clear air cleanup can be difficult on storm-scale
 - Velocity folding occurs on both small (storm) AND large (meso) scales
 - time-sensitive processing – need QC data within minutes
 - After two decades - cannot automate QC for Doppler velocity/reflectivity at storm-scales
 - Polarimetric variables help characterize the echo better - but they are noisier than Vr and dBZ



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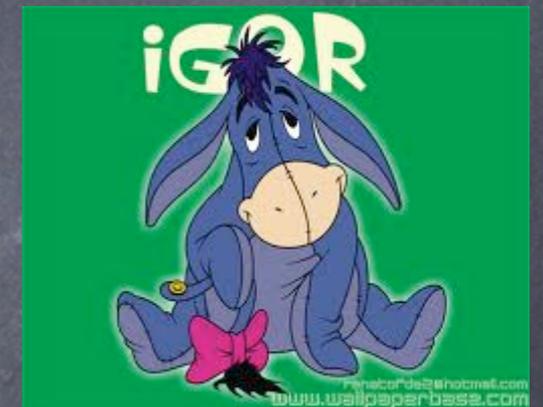
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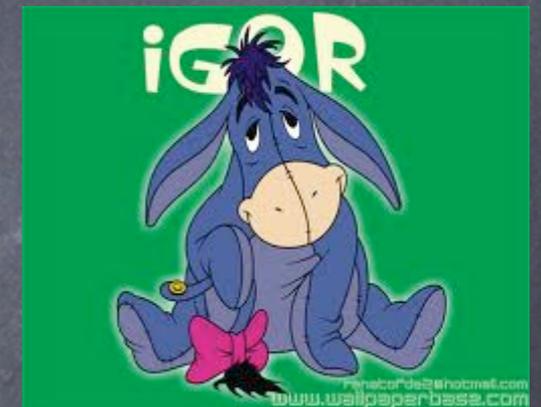
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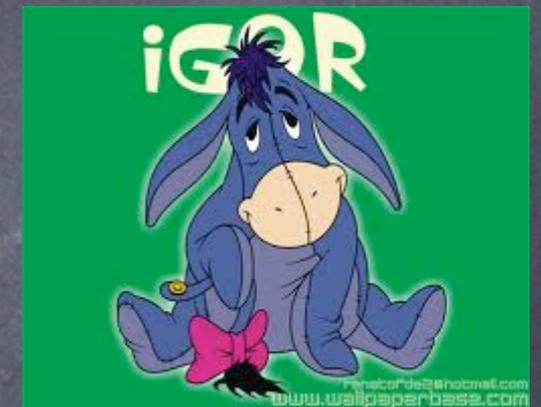
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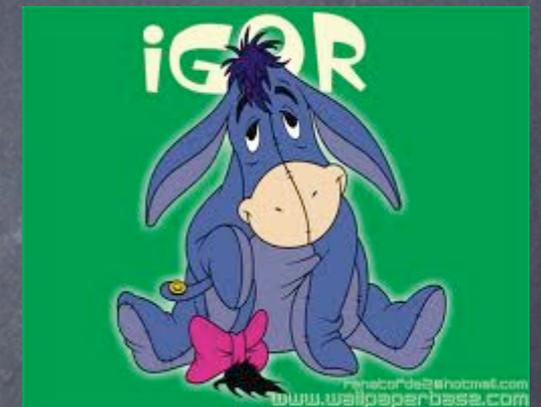
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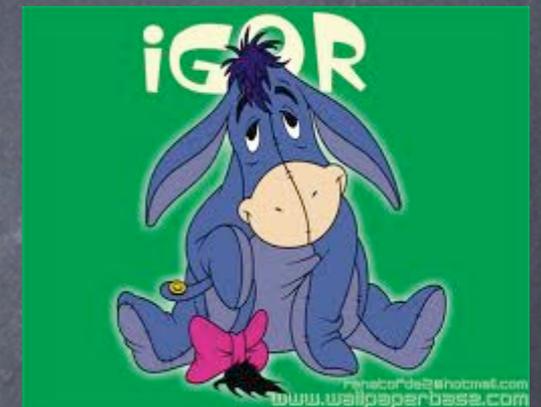
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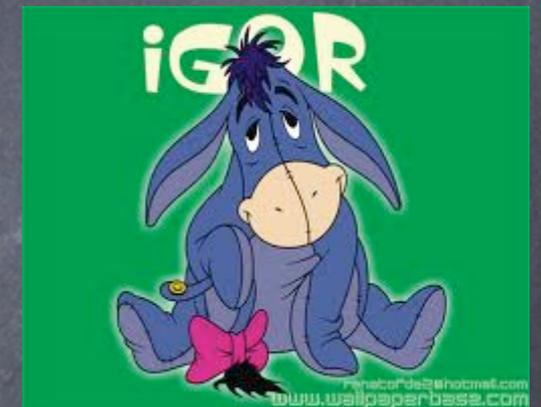
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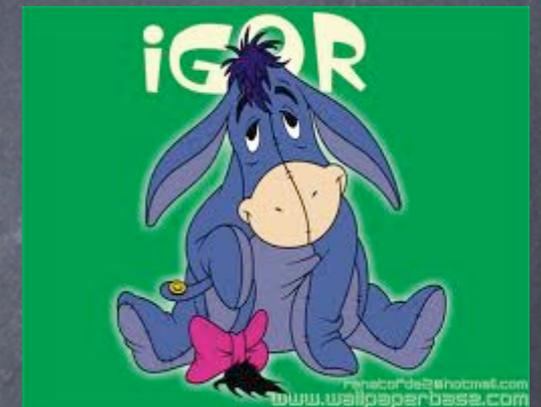
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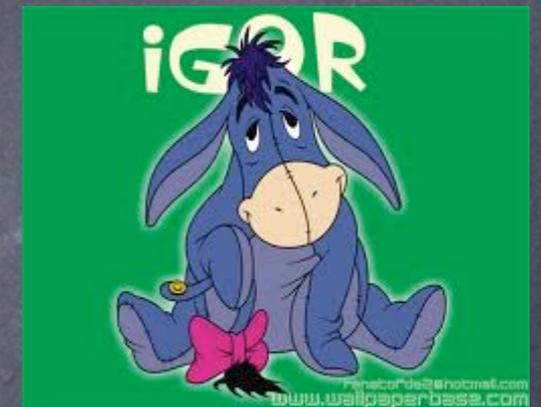
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- **IMHO: the model needed to run accurate convective-permitting/resolving IS NOT YET BUILT**

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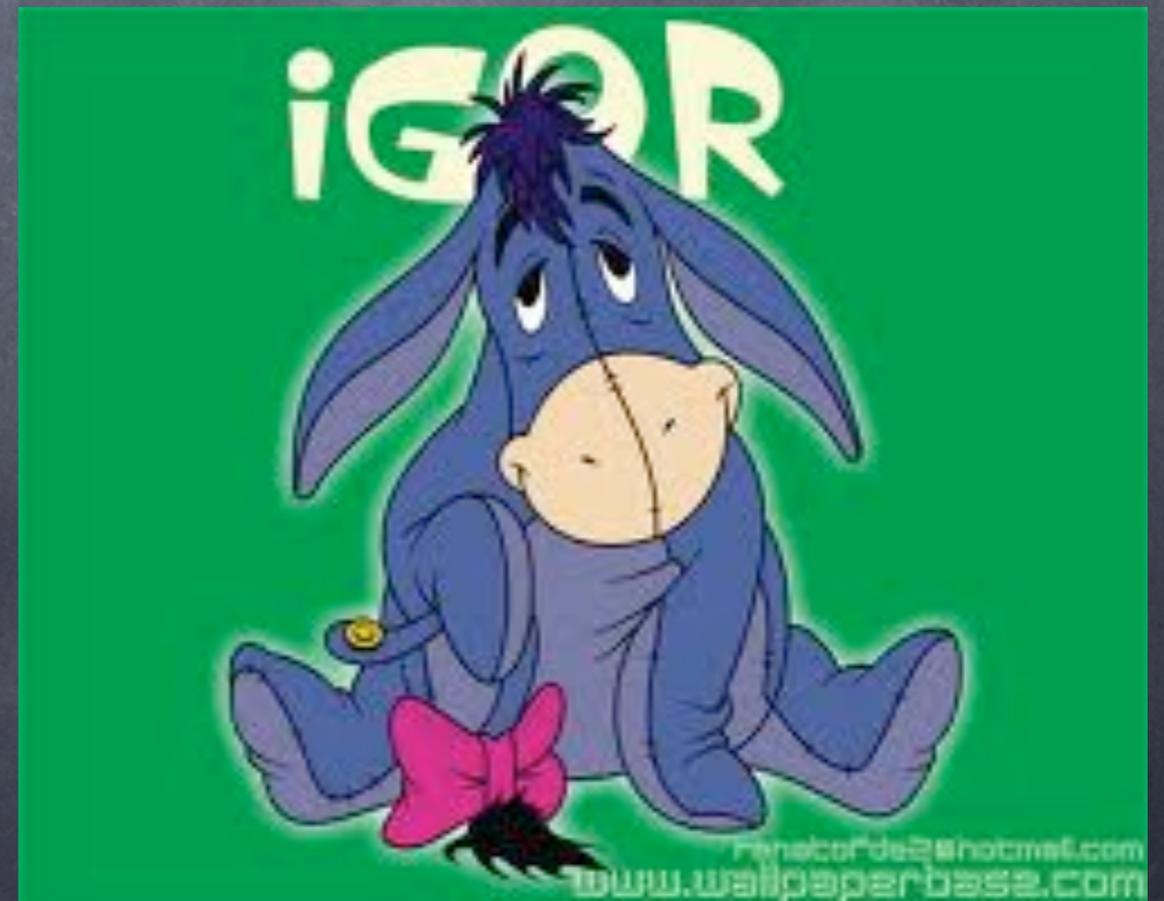
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- **Multiple scales/Multiple passes?**
 - 3DVAR/Hybrid at larger scales, ensemble DA at convective scales
 - fully-in-core ensemble lowers cost barrier to multi-pass methods: No I/O cost.
 - may make sense to do some DA at coarser resolutions (Ansell MWR 2012)

Summary

- Sufficient progress has been made by CAPS, NCAR, GSD, and NSSL etc to continue supporting WoF-TTP research.
- An operational WoF-TTP is ~decade away
- Significant issues remain with RT radar data QC, NextGen radar systems must QC at hardware level
- For convective scales - DA requires ensemble approach for BECs
- CONUS deployment of monolithic 1 km ensemble may have significant technical hurdles
- Adaptive NWP approach is needed for foreseeable future
- Initial WoF-TTP system should be deployed first to SPC
 - possible to test in 5-7 years.

Thank You

Questions?



Overall Approaches

- That was the Monolithic Version of WoF-TTP
 - Could it work? Eh...High-risk? Probably!
- Adaptive Approaches
 - Limited region, on-demand WoF-TTP modeling
 - EMC does this already: GFDL model, HWRF, NMMB Fire-Wx
- Other Adaptive
 - Dynamic Grid adaption
 - Spectral Element / DG block adaptive
 - Berger-Oliger adaptive gridding

Dynamic Grid Adaption

A Fast Dynamic Grid Adaption Scheme for Meteorological Flows

BRIAN H. FIEDLER AND R. JEFFREY TRAPP

School of Meteorology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

(Manuscript received 5 October 1992, in final form 27 April 1993)

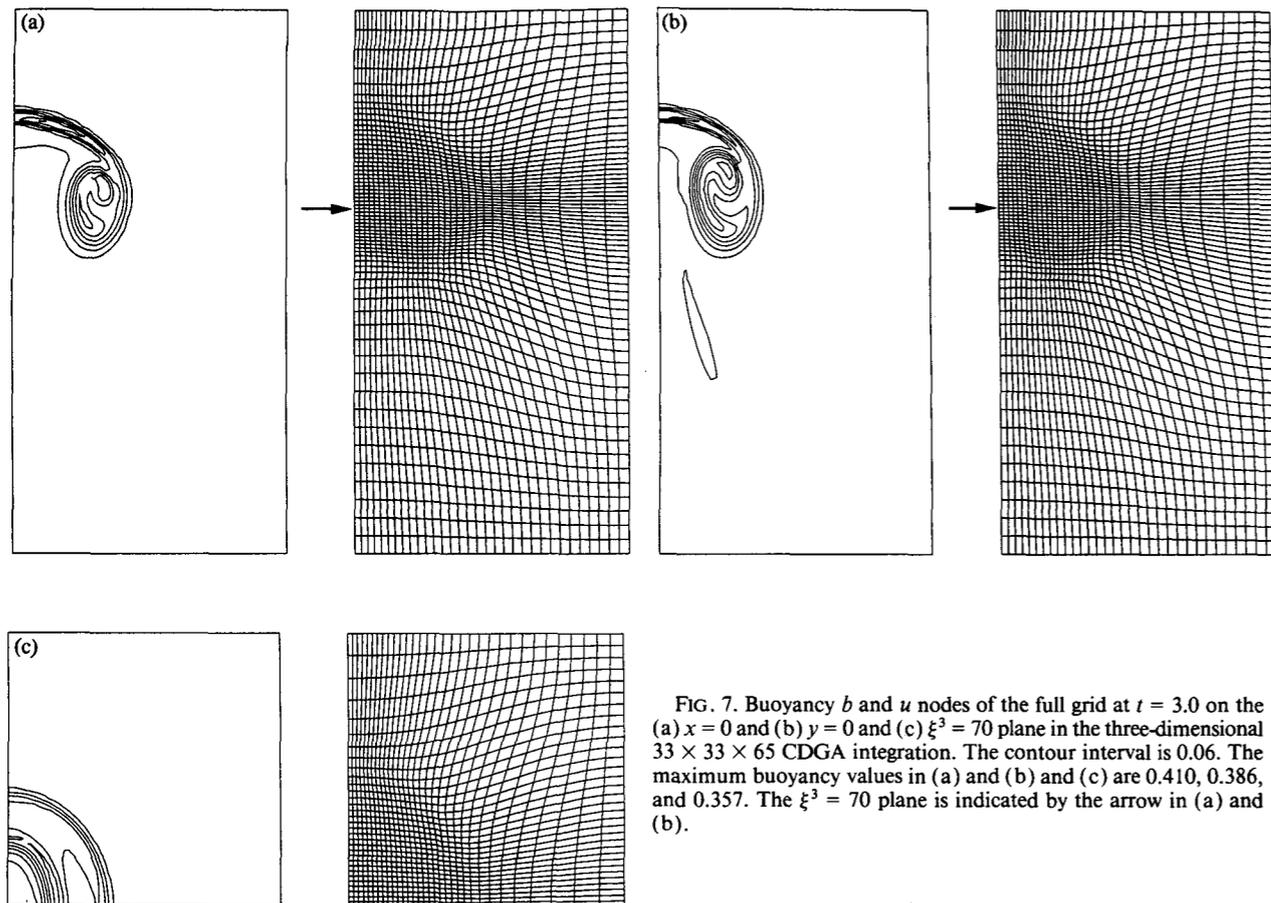


FIG. 7. Buoyancy b and u nodes of the full grid at $t = 3.0$ on the (a) $x = 0$ and (b) $y = 0$ and (c) $\xi^3 = 70$ plane in the three-dimensional $33 \times 33 \times 65$ CDGA integration. The contour interval is 0.06. The maximum buoyancy values in (a) and (b) and (c) are 0.410, 0.386, and 0.357. The $\xi^3 = 70$ plane is indicated by the arrow in (a) and (b).

Application of Continuous Dynamic Grid Adaption Techniques to Meteorological Modeling. Part II: Efficiency

GARY S. DIETACHMAYER

Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre, Melbourne, Australia

(Manuscript received 11 November 1990, in final form 27 August 1991)

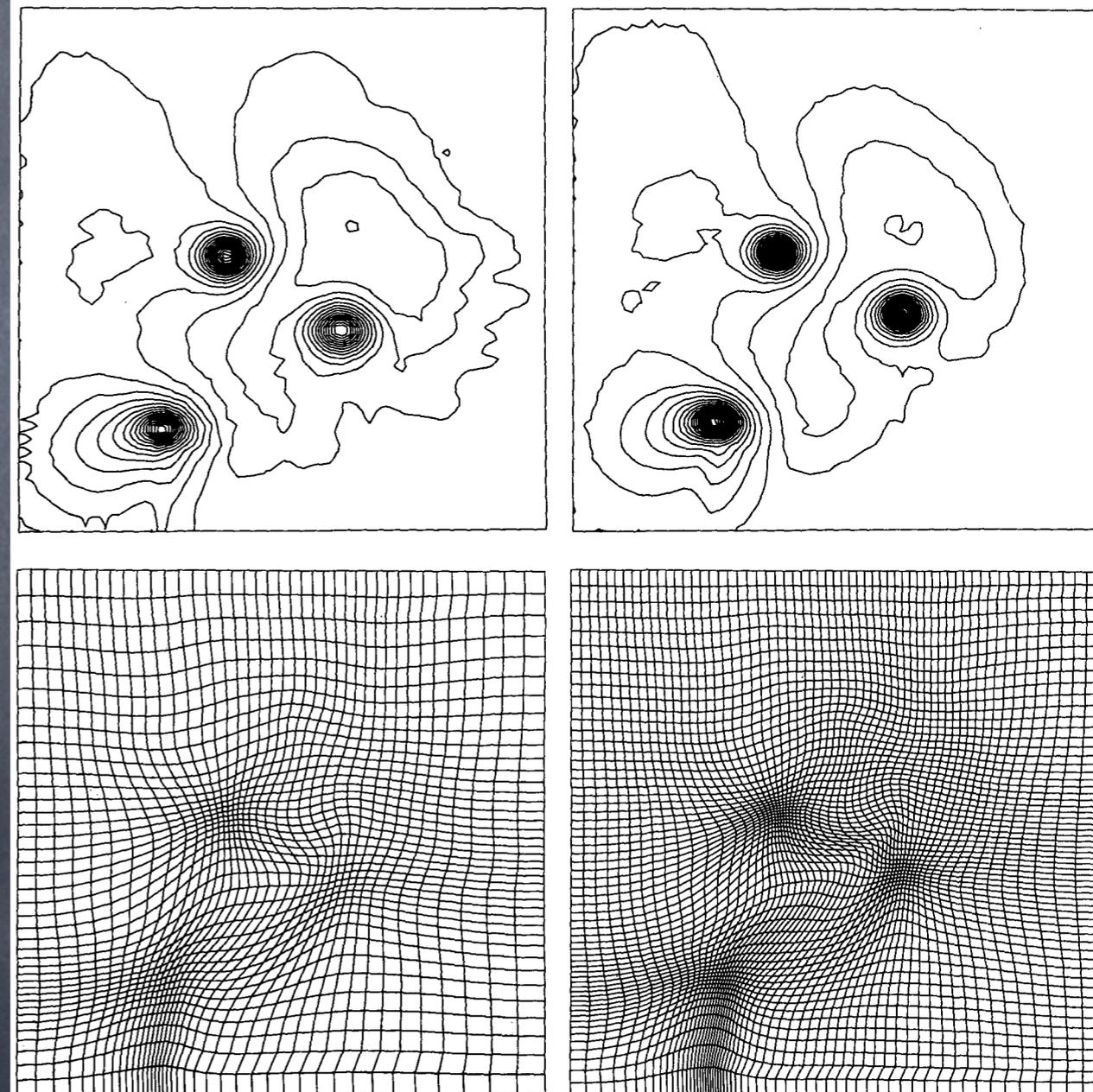


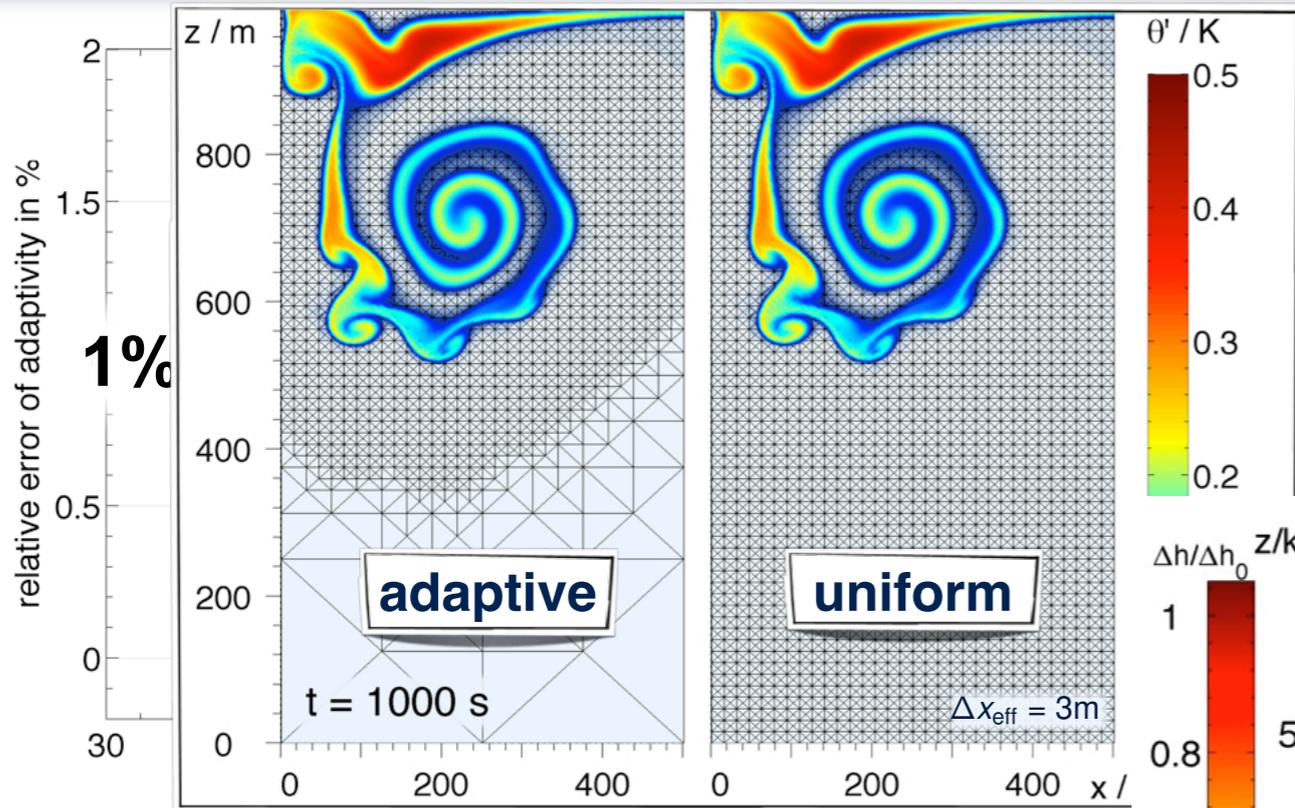
FIG. 4. Height field and associated gridpoint distribution at 72 h for the adaptive primary experiments of section 4a. Contour interval is 20 m. Specific experiments: [(a) and (b)] $A 41^2$, [(c) and (d)] $A 61^2$, and [(e) and (f)] $A 81^2$. Maximum and minimum height values (m): (a) 4280, 3865, (c) 4265, 3743, and (e) 4263, 3709.

Could a 2 km CONUS grid do a large convective outbreak at 1 km?
(do you have enough degrees of freedom?)

Block Adaptive DG

F. Giraldo, NUMA Model, etc.

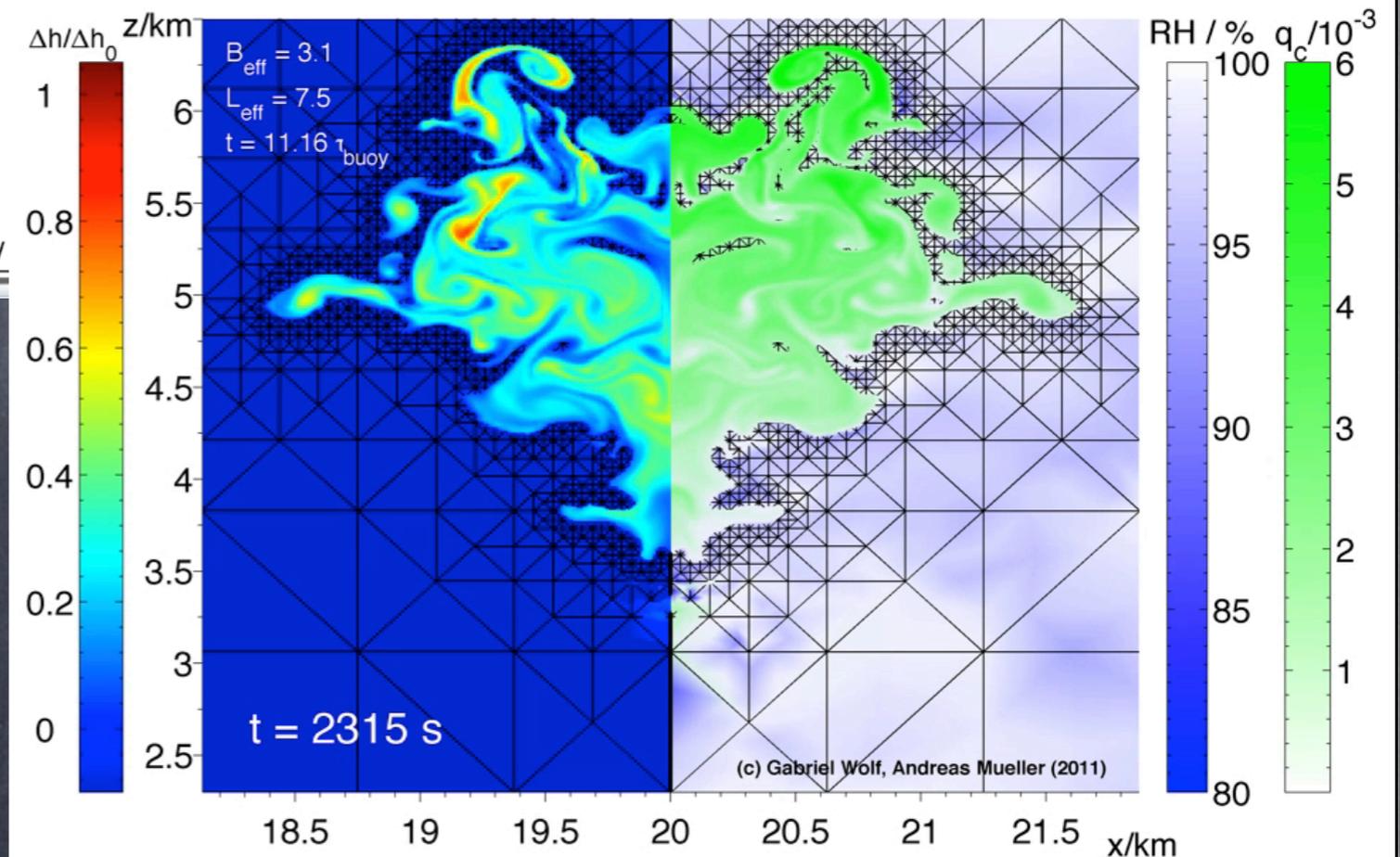
Relative error of adaptivity
error estimator d adaptive vs. uniform



Credit: A. Muller, NPS
From: <http://www.newton.ac.uk/programmes/AMM/seminars/2012082313301.pdf>

Moist Cloud

Dry Thermal



(c) Gabriel Wolf, Andreas Mueller (2011)

Berger-Oliger Adaption

Adaptive Grid Refinement for Two-Dimensional and Three-Dimensional Nonhydrostatic Atmospheric Flow

WILLIAM C. SKAMAROCK AND JOSEPH B. KLEMP

National Center for Atmospheric Research,* Boulder, Colorado

(Manuscript received 7 February 1992, in final form 19 July 1992)

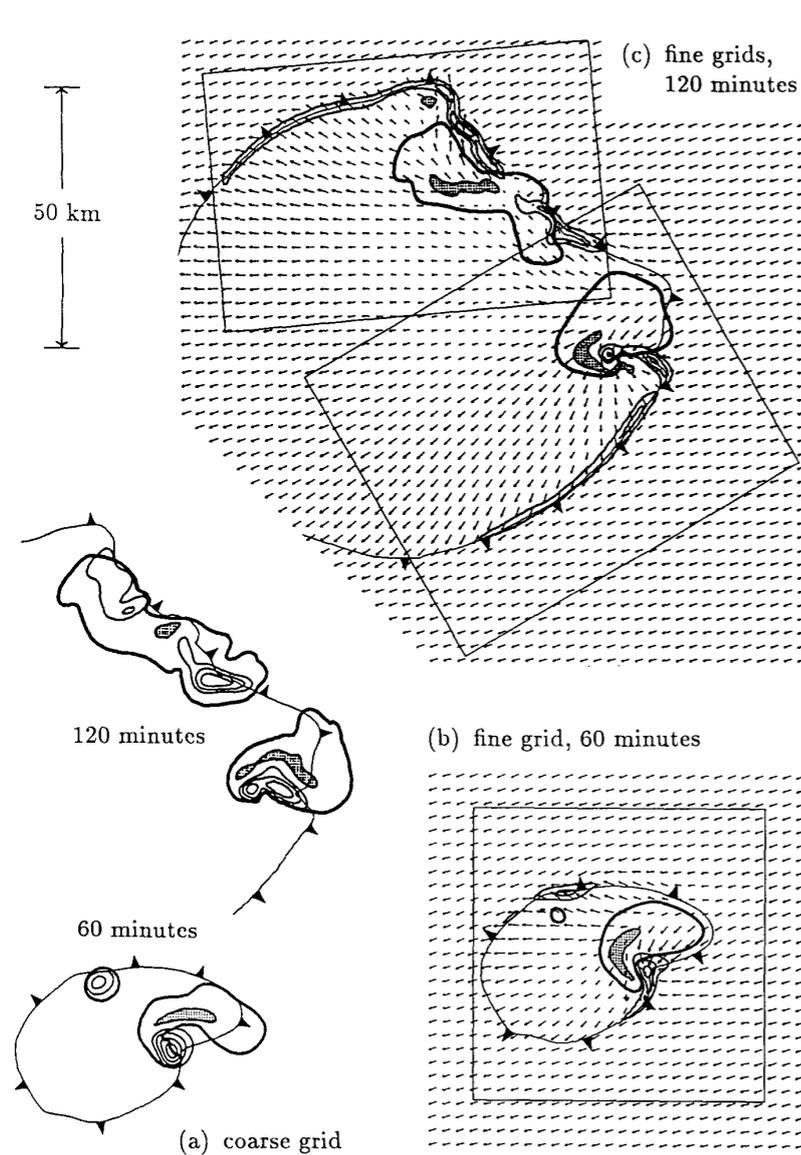


FIG. 6. Adaptive simulation of 20 May Del City supercell storm with $\Delta x_c = 3$ km, $\Delta x_f = 1$ km: (a) at $z = 3150$ m on the stationary coarse grid at 60 and 120 min, (b) at $z = 250$ m on the fine grid at 60 min, and (c) on the two fine grids at 120 min. The cold-frontal boundary in all figures is at $z = 250$ m and denotes the -1°C potential temperature perturbation. The heavy solid lines represent the 0.5 g kg^{-1} rainwater contour. Velocity vectors are for storm relative winds with storm velocities $U_s = 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and $V_s = 14.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$. Vertical velocity is contoured at 1 m s^{-1} in (b) and (c) and at 5 m s^{-1} in (a) with the negative regions being stippled and zero contours removed.

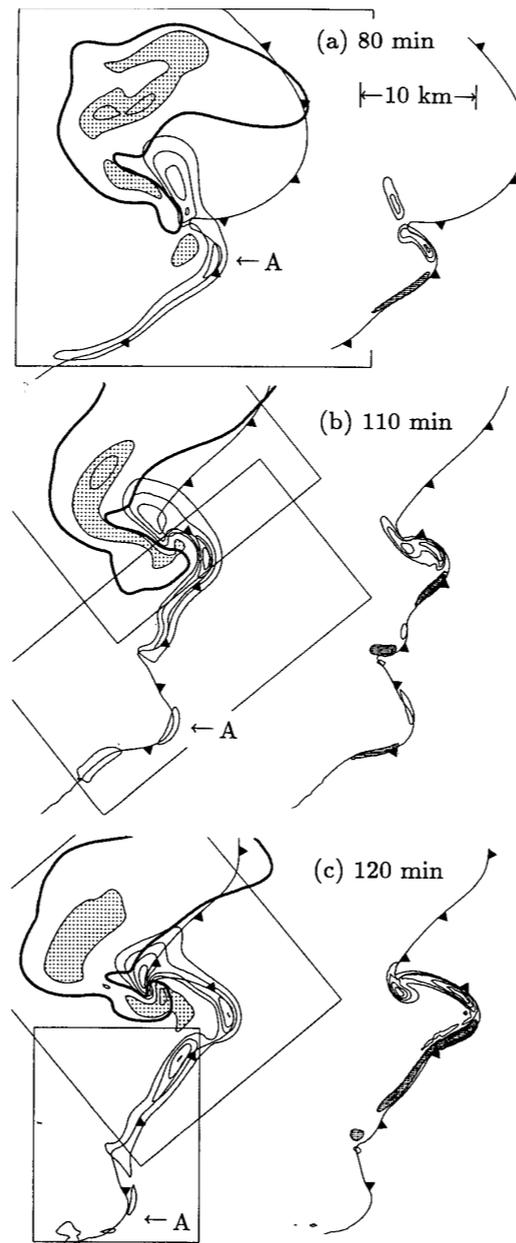


FIG. 9. Fields and vorticity at $z = 250$ m for the fine grids at (a) 80 min, (b) 110 min, and (c) 120 min. The vorticity is plotted to the right of the flow fields. Plotting is as in Figs. 7 and 8.

Three-Dimensional Evolution of Simulated Long-Lived Squall Lines

WILLIAM C. SKAMAROCK, MORRIS L. WEISMAN, AND JOSEPH B. KLEMP

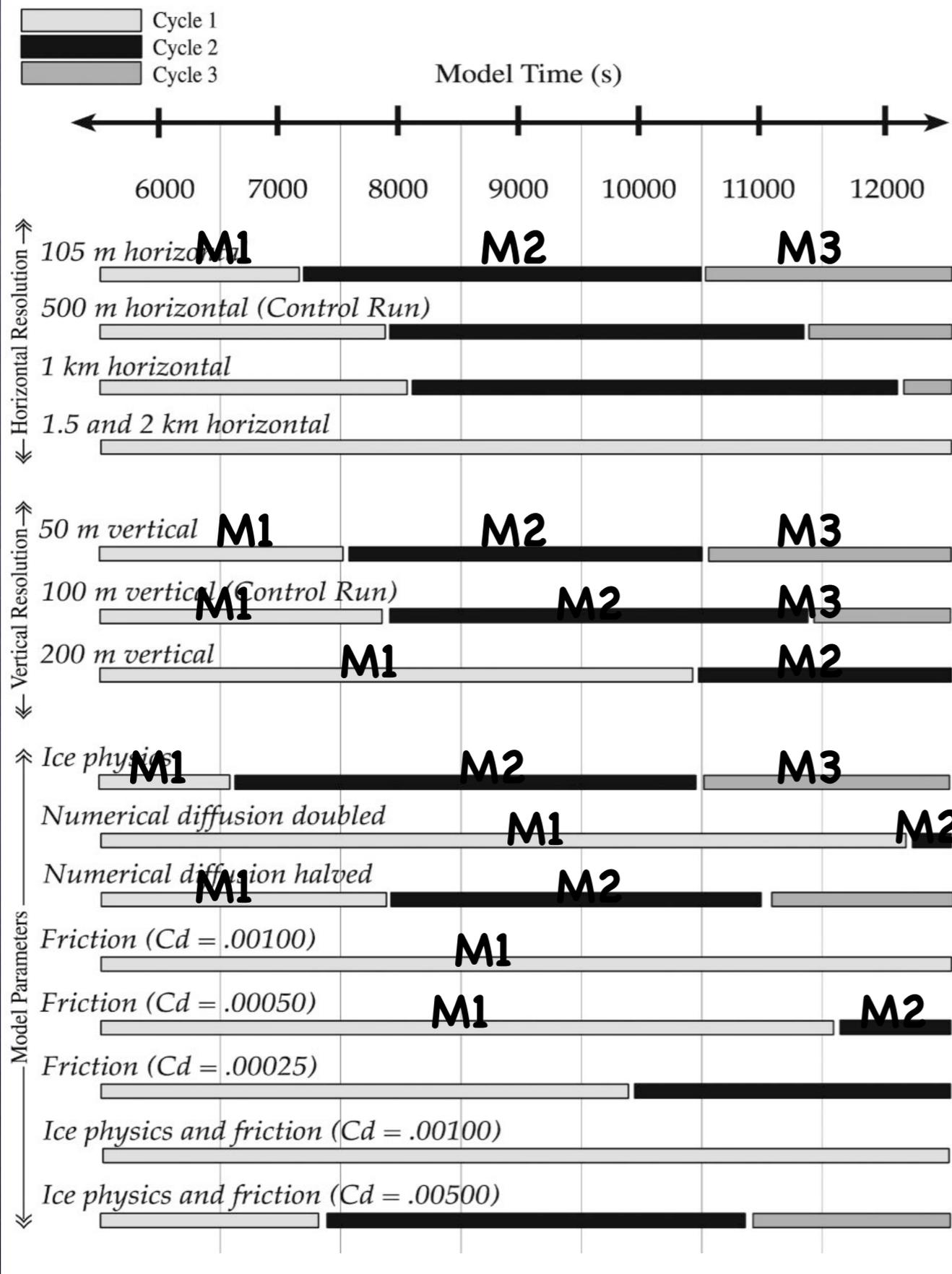
National Center for Atmospheric Research,* Boulder, Colorado

(Manuscript received 17 May 1993, in final form 2 February 1994)



FIG. 11. Horizontal cross sections from the Coriolis simulations at 3000 m plotted in ground-relative coordinates at 2, 6, and 10 h. Plotted as in Fig. 4. Note the strong system growth and migration toward the southeast. The finest-resolution grids are included at the three times.

Model Uncertainty?



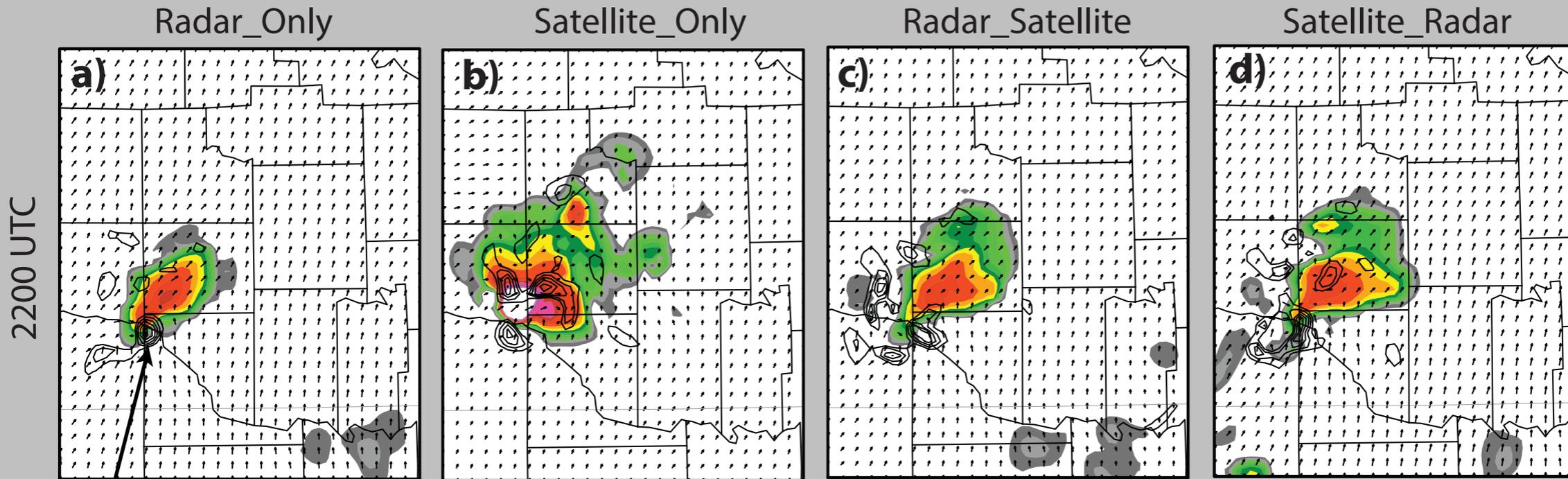
Timing of sequential mesocyclone circulations in supercell

- Importance of current convective scale model errors need to more carefully studied
- Models have a number of parameters, parameterizations, and choices which can greatly impact the internal evolution of the storm.

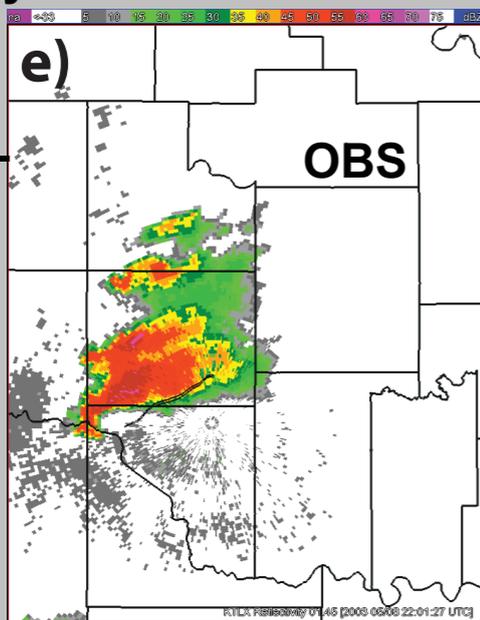
from Adlerman and Droegemeier
MWR 2002

Research Mode: Multiscale EnKF using both Radar and Satellite Data

M. Vaughn, T. Jones, N. Yussouf



Vert. Vorticity KTLX Observation
Contours
at
z = 1km AGL



2200 UTC Analysis

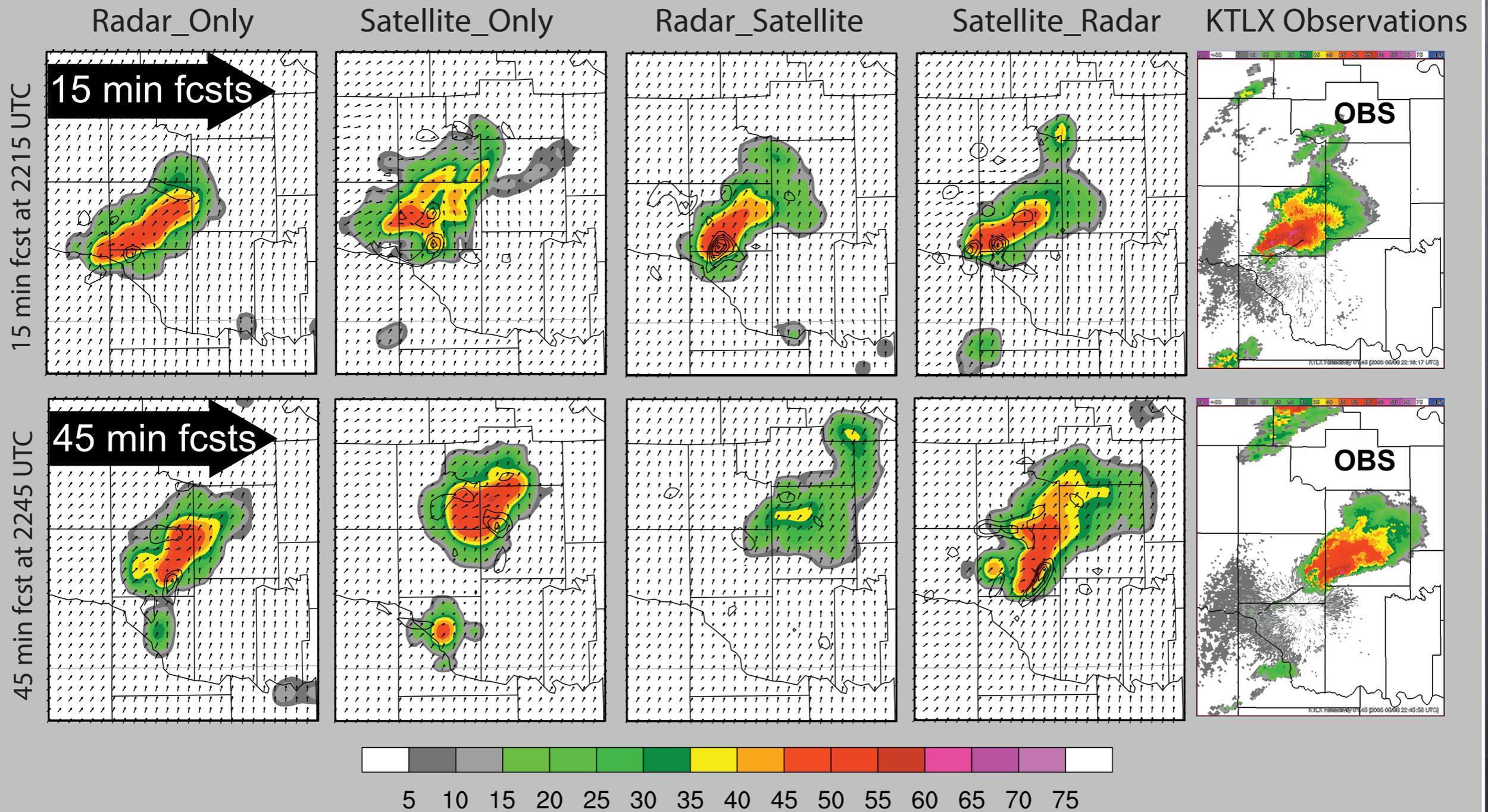
Radar_Satellite = DA radar then CLWP

Radar_Satellite: Assim radar then Cloud Liq Water Path

Satellite_Radar: Assim Cloud Liq Water Path then radar

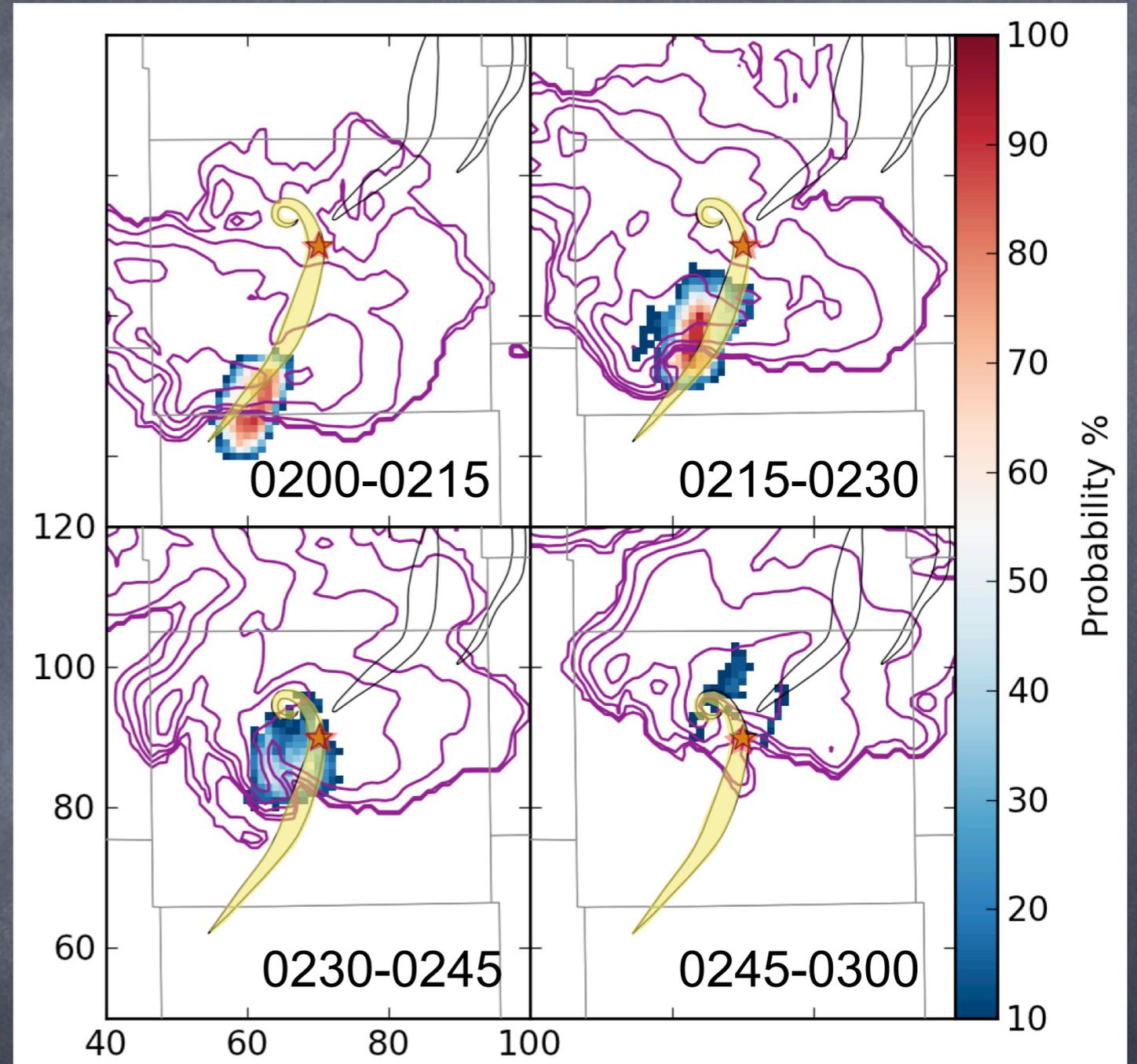
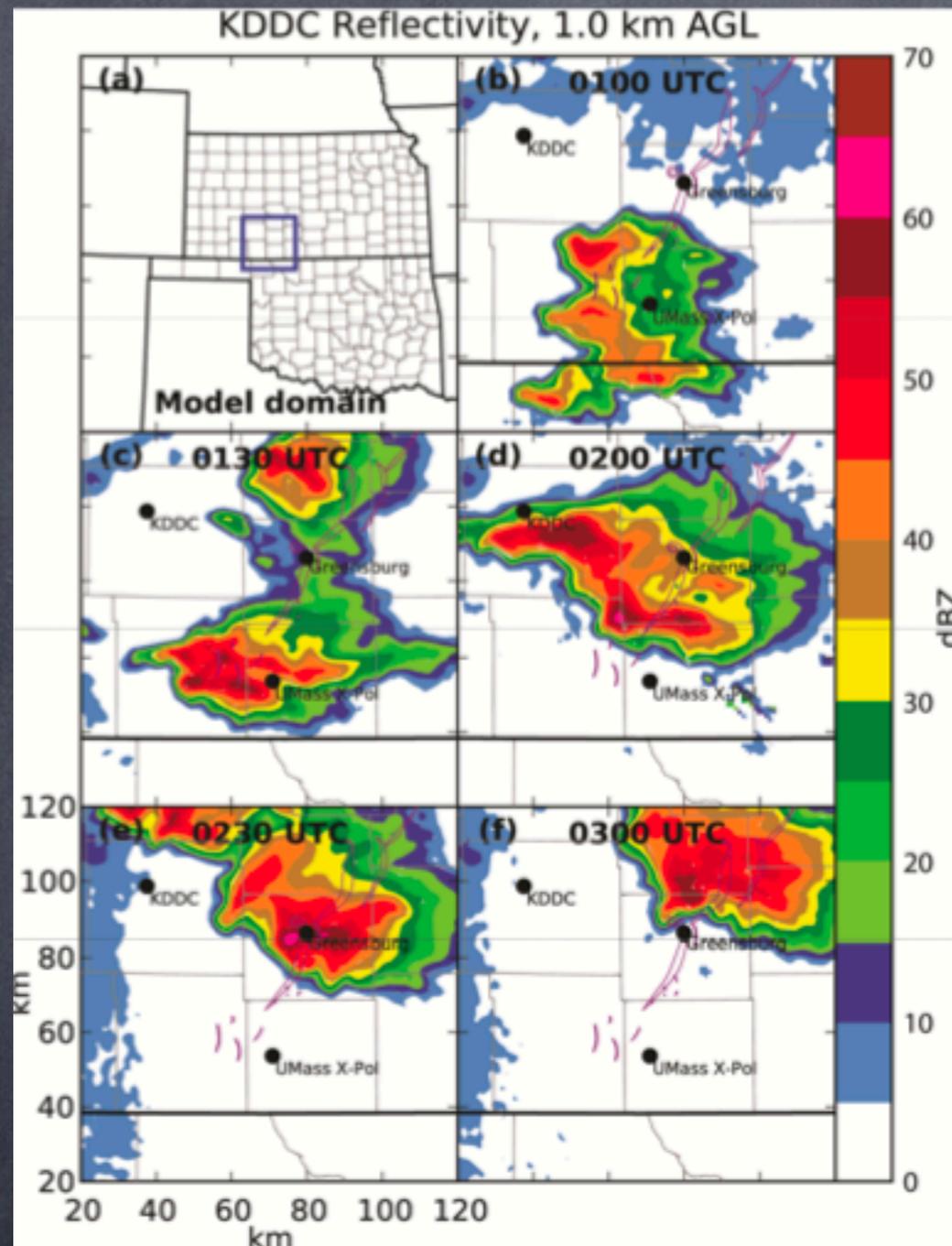
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M. Vaughn, T. Jones, N. Yussouf



Research Mode: EnKF DA

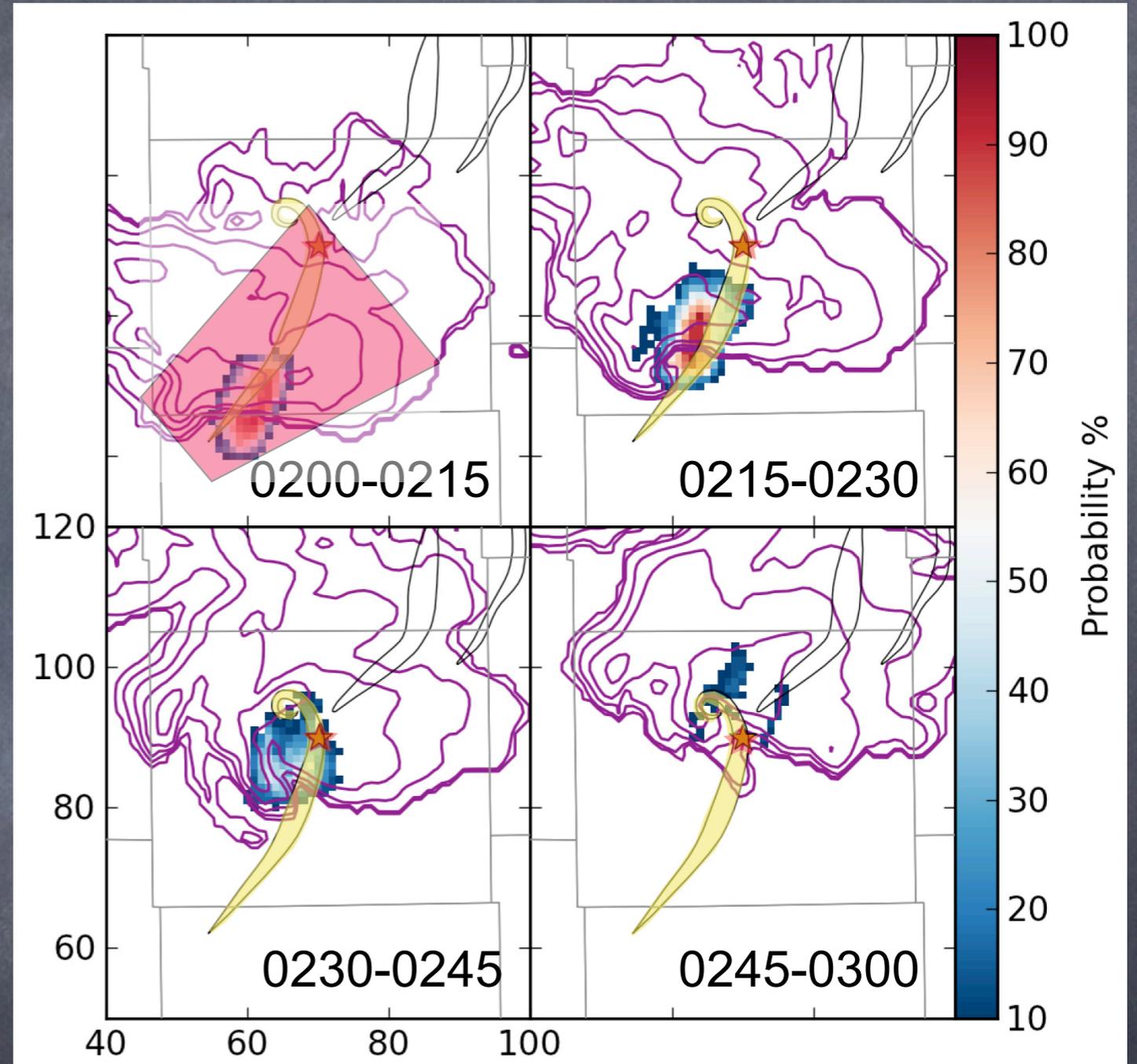
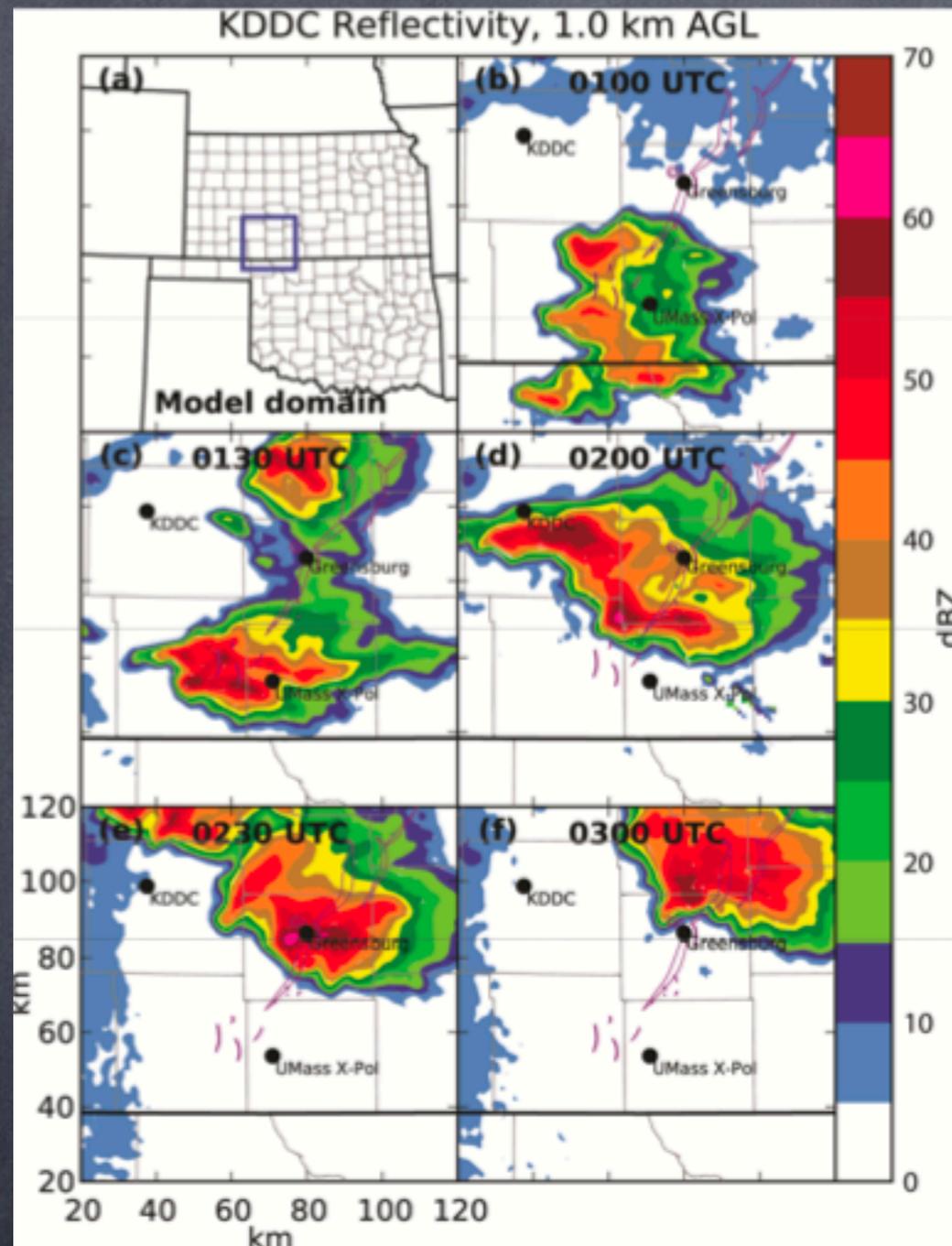
Probabilistic Forecasts at 1 km



- Greensburg KS 4 May 2007 EF5 tornado
- Probability of strong low-level rotation over 15-minute forecast intervals
- Greensburg tornado track is shaded yellow, other tornadoes only black lines.
- Model-derived mean radar reflectivity by purple lines.
- Location of Greensburg KS indicated by the star.

Research Mode: EnKF DA

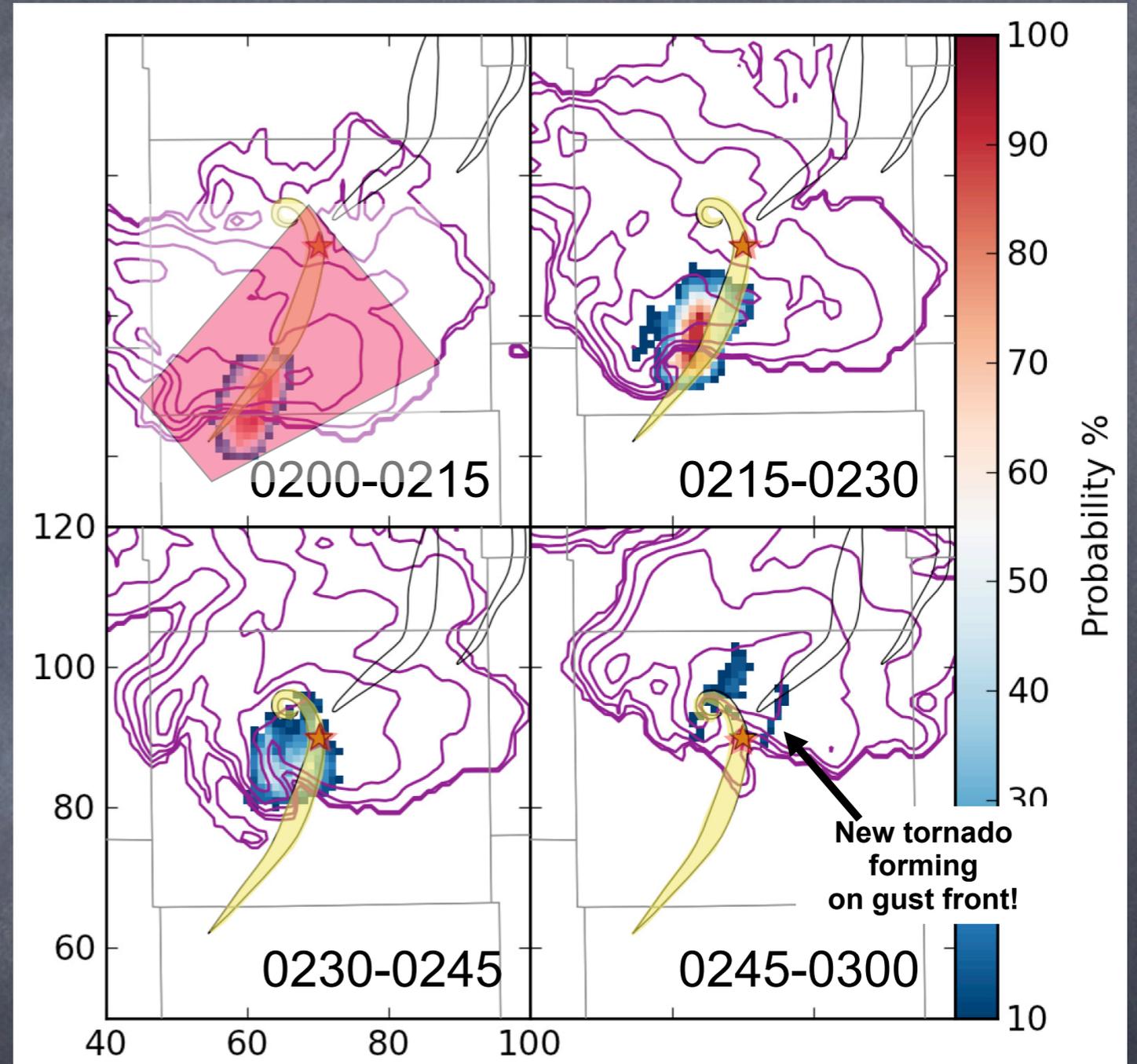
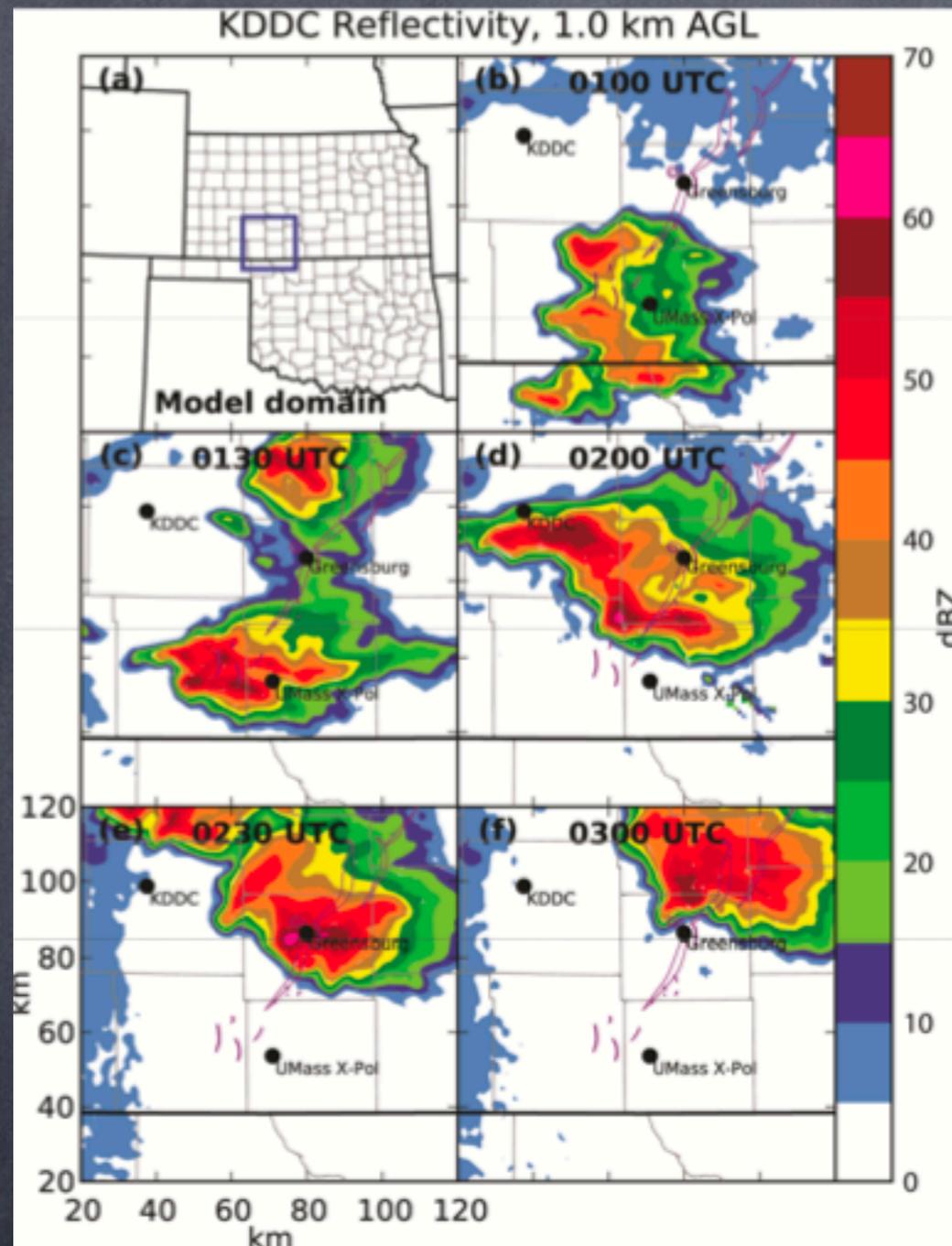
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Radar Data QC Improvements

Case Studies: Where are we now?

Environmental Sensitivity, Improved Mesoscale Prediction

Development of Data Assimilation Methods, Linkages to RR/HRRR

How to best use probabilistic information: HWT, SDPG and SSWIM

VORTEX2 Studies

Model Physics Improvements

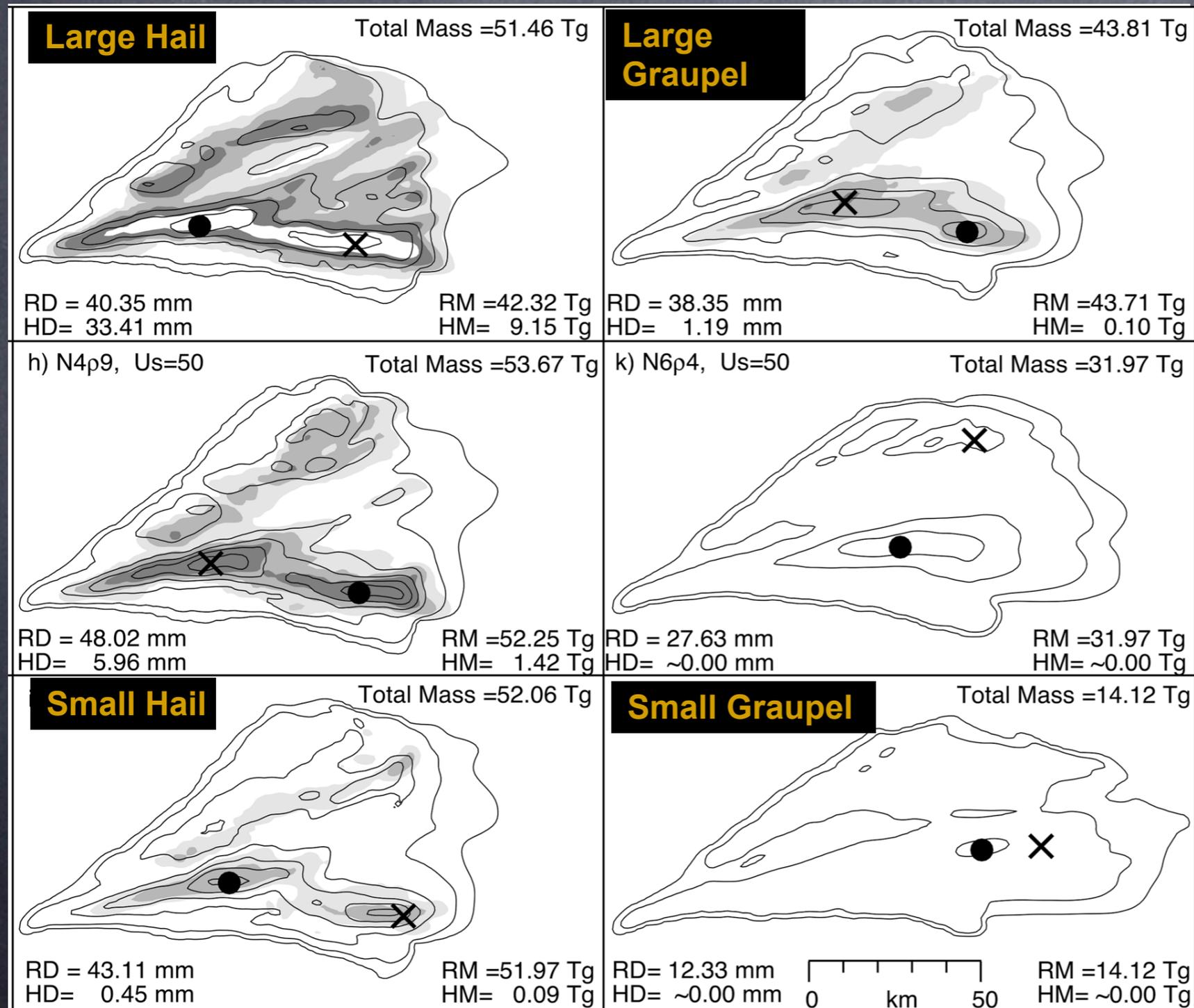
2010

2015

2020

Microphysics Sensitivity:

Accumulated Precip affected by Hail/Graupel Density and No. Concentration parameters



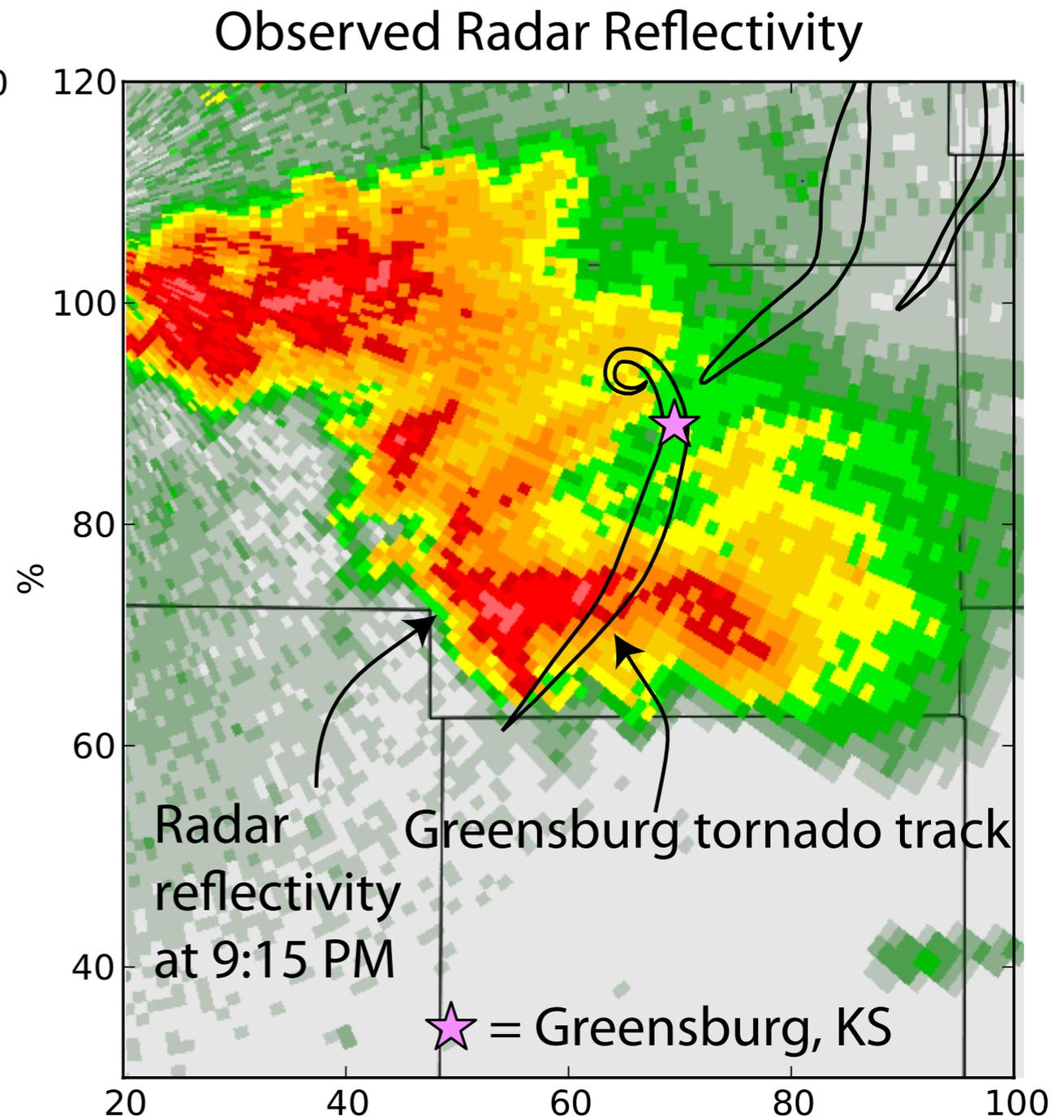
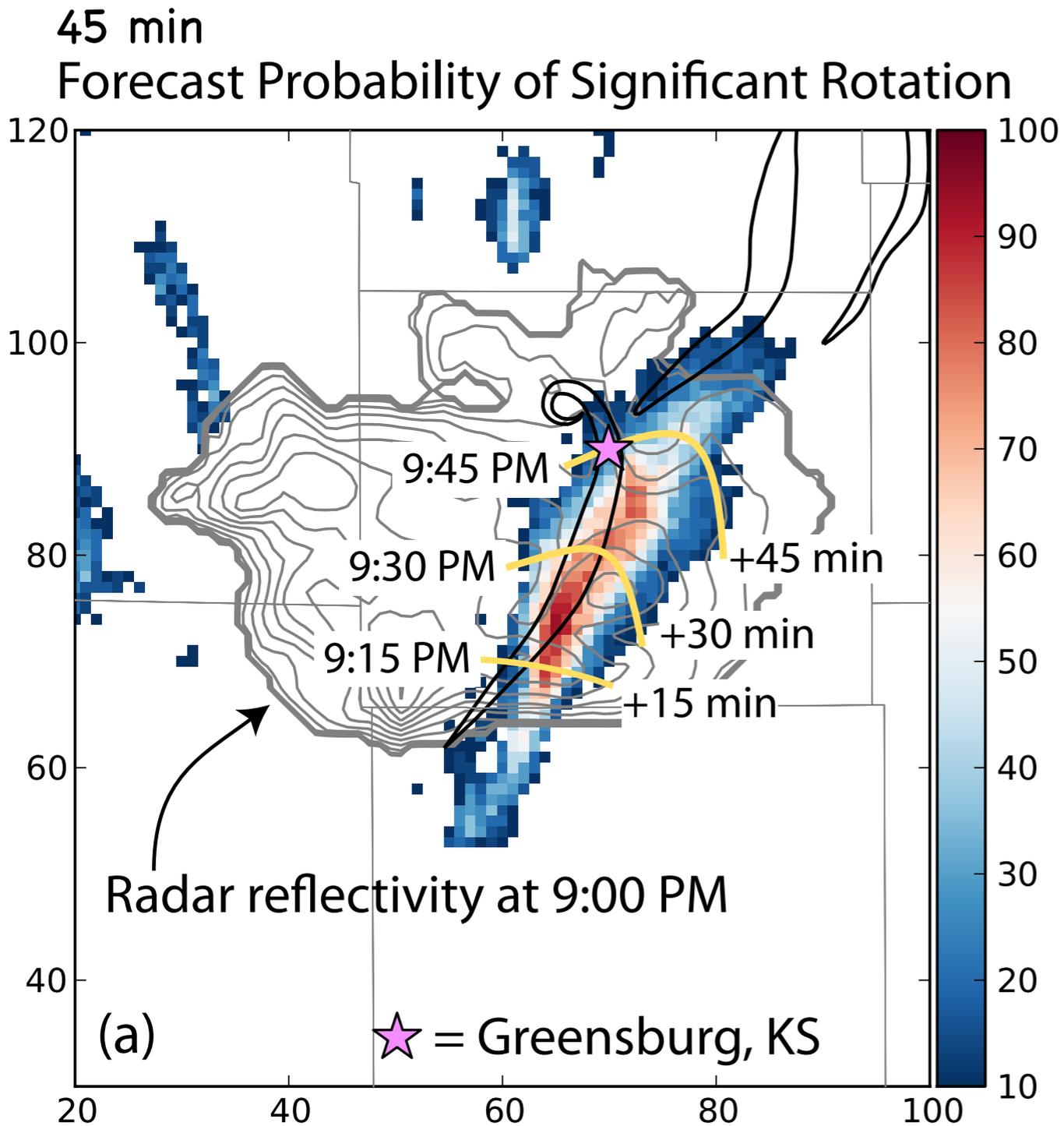
Single moment microphysics...
3 hour integration

from Gilmore et al. MWR, 2004b

Large Sensitivity!

Parameter variations over observed ranges of changes total precip by factor of ~4

But if things were so bleak...



Impact of Mesoscale Forecast Errors on convective forecasts

- *Cintineo and Stensrud, JAS, 2012*
 - obtained typical forecast errors from mesoscale models soundings (U, V, T, RH)
 - generated ensemble forecasts in simple homogeneous environments for supercells using these errors
 - examine the impacts from these uncertainties
 - perfect model assumption

Radar Data QC

Velocity QC

DIFFERENCE	N	hit	Gate missed for dealias	Gate used wrong Nyquist
2D-Raw	62,898,616	61,036,300	1,697,813	164,503
Legacy-Raw	62,898,616	61,039,078	1,696,103	163,435
Truth-2D	62,899,323	62,881,353	6,754	8,587
Truth-Legacy	62,899,323	62,873,003	10,982	12,675
Truth-Raw	62,899,323	61,033,726	1,698,514	167,063

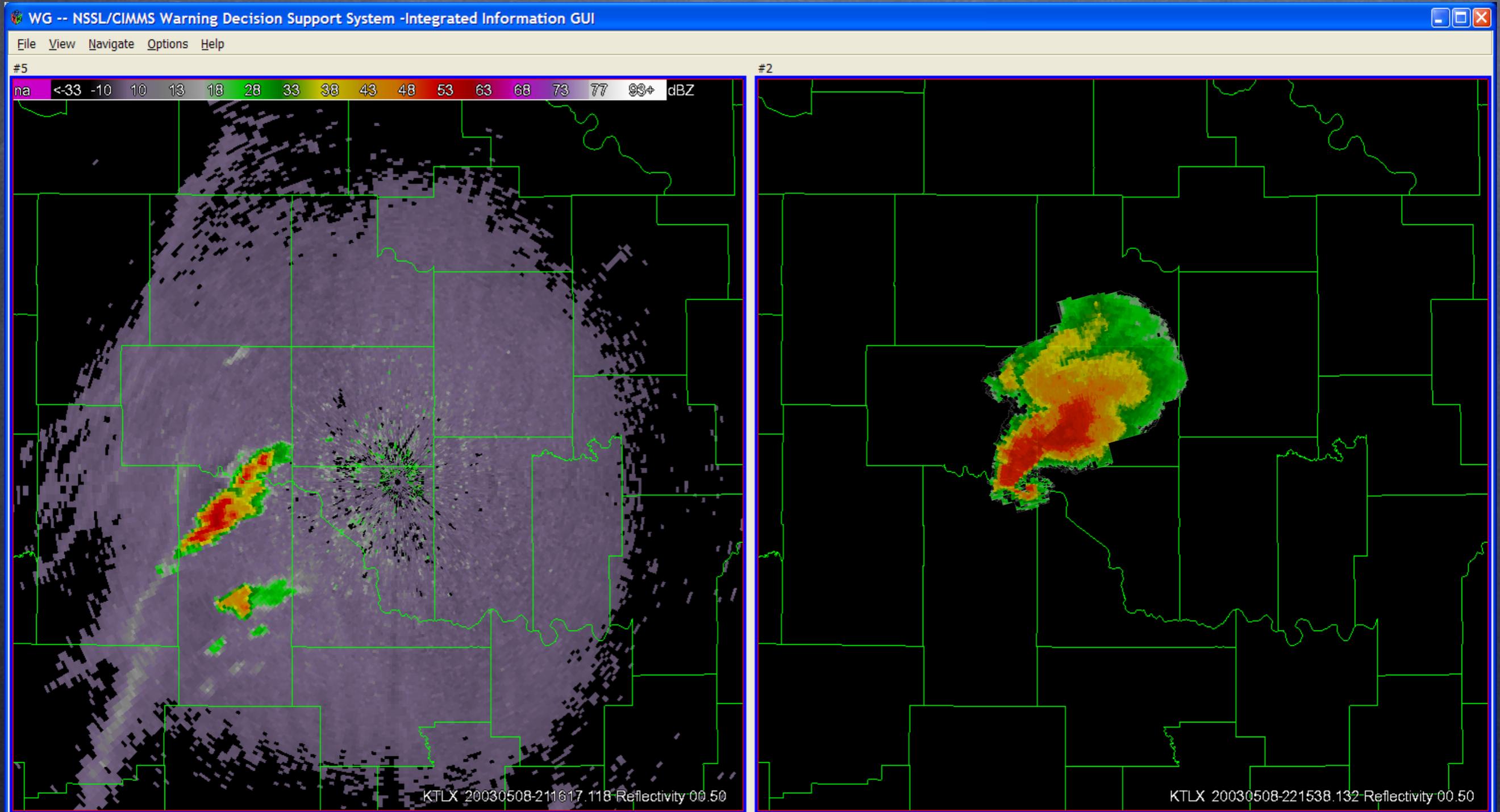
Radar Data QC

Errors ~4%
Problem: Many errors occur in regions of high velocity gradient from storm dynamics

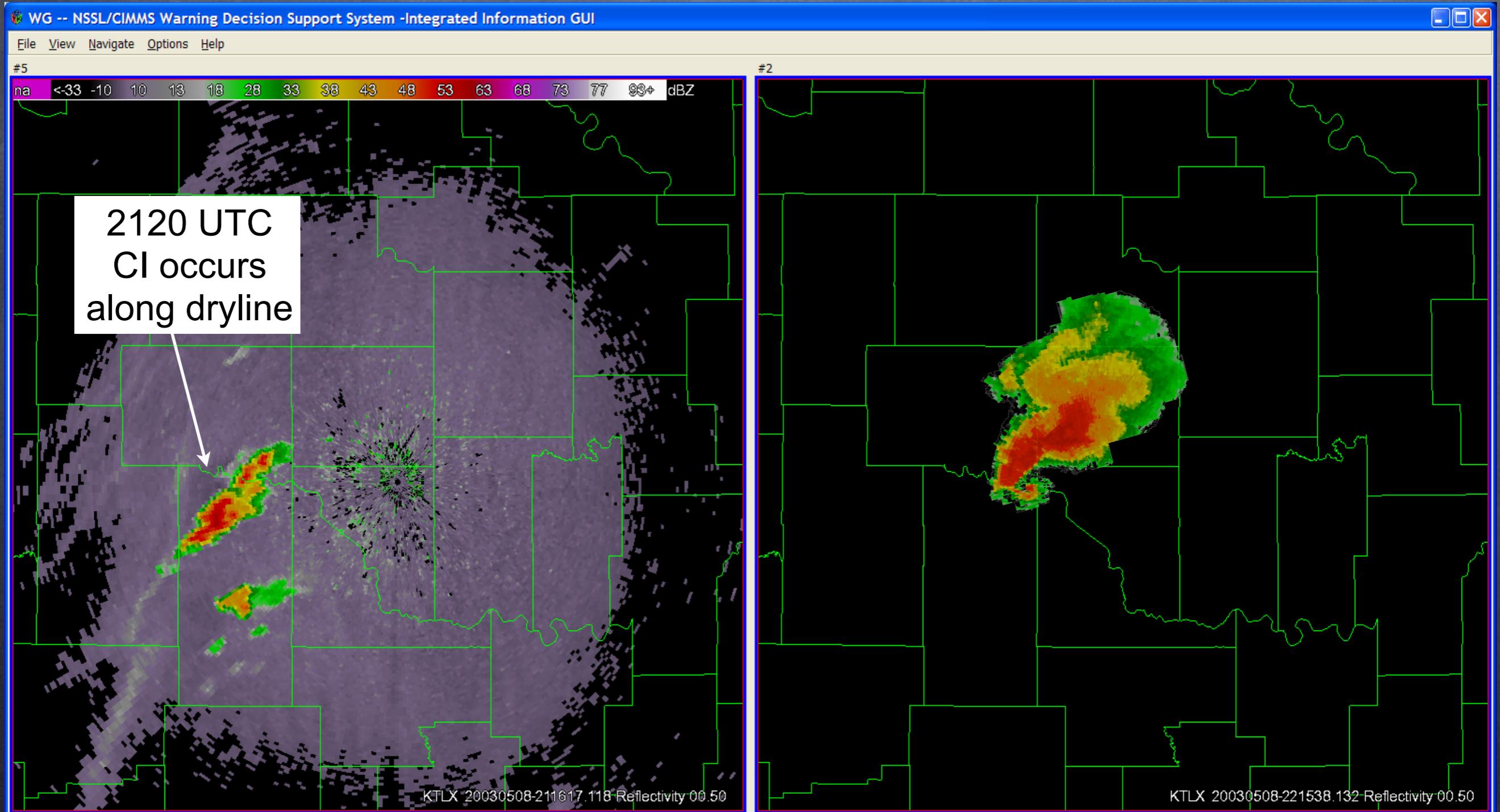
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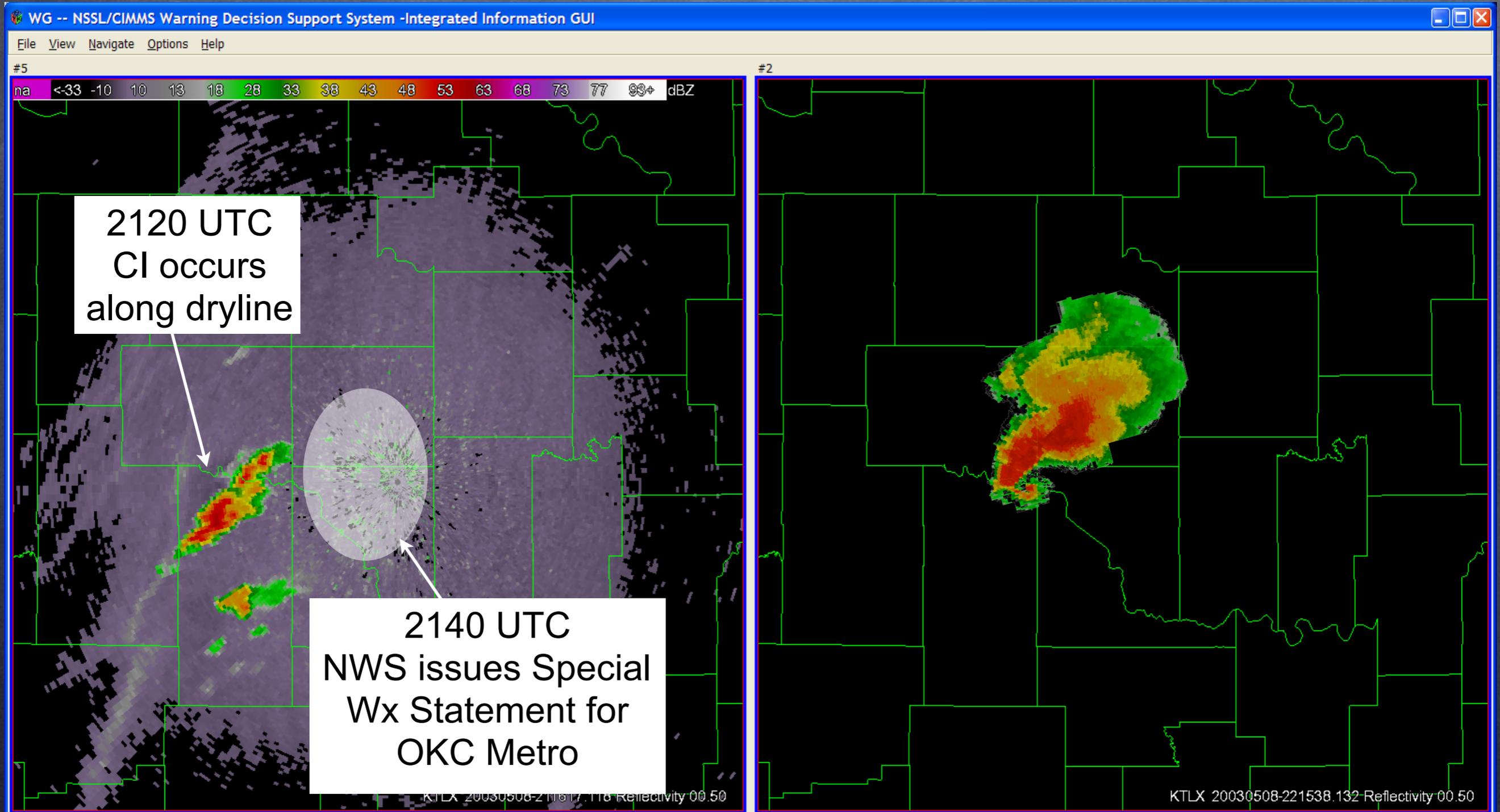
Current T-Warning Process



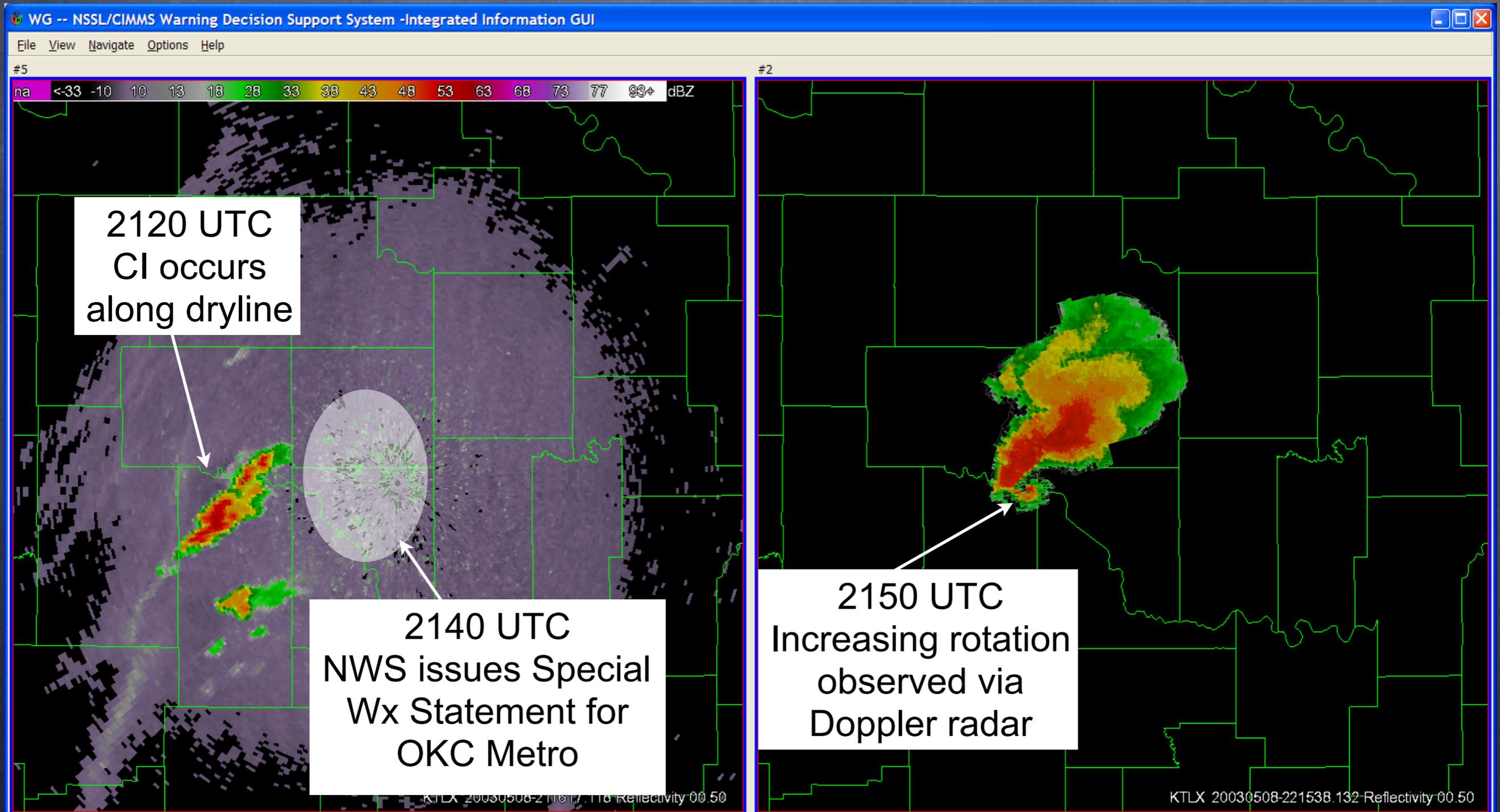
Current T-Warning Process



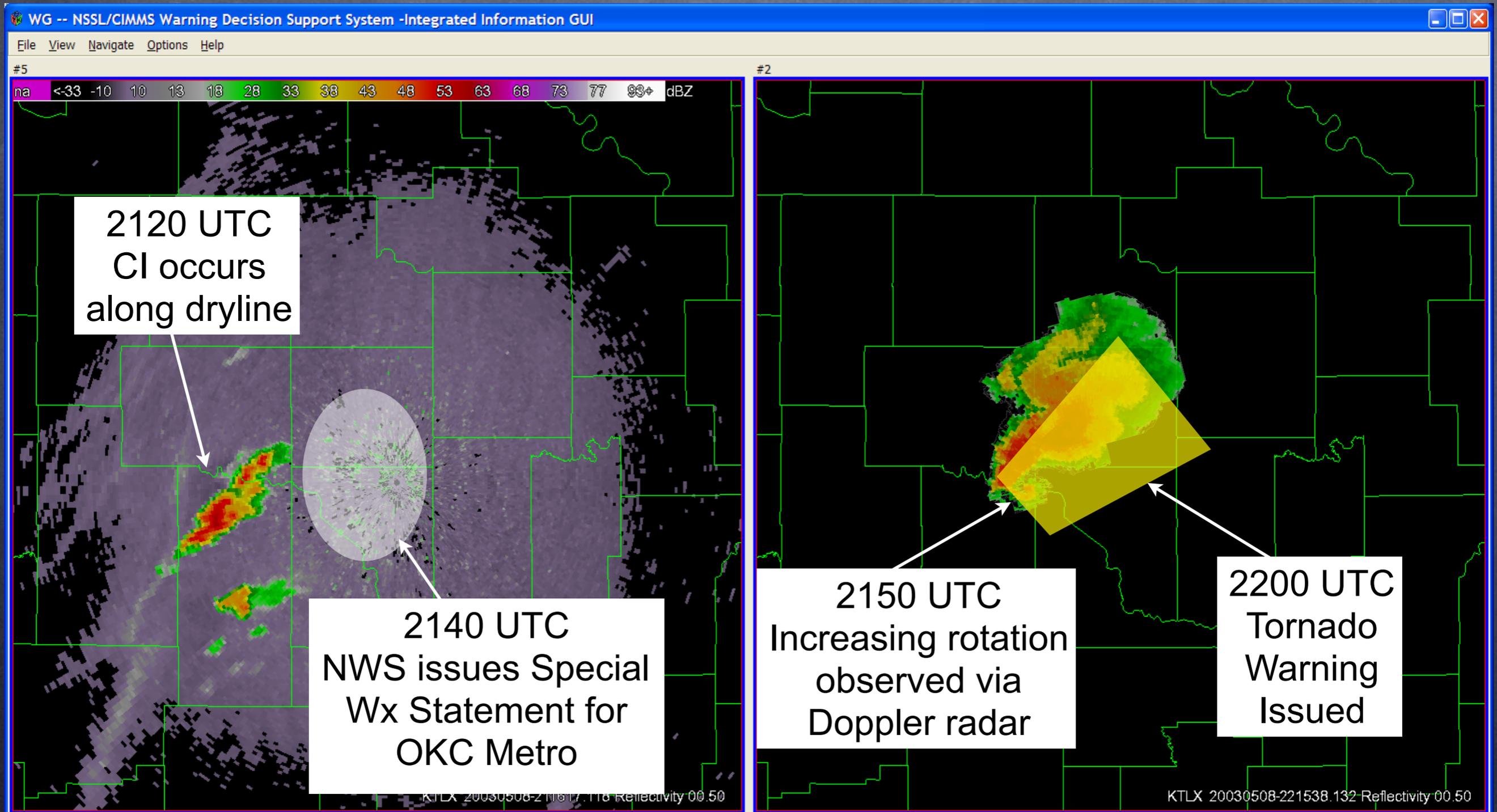
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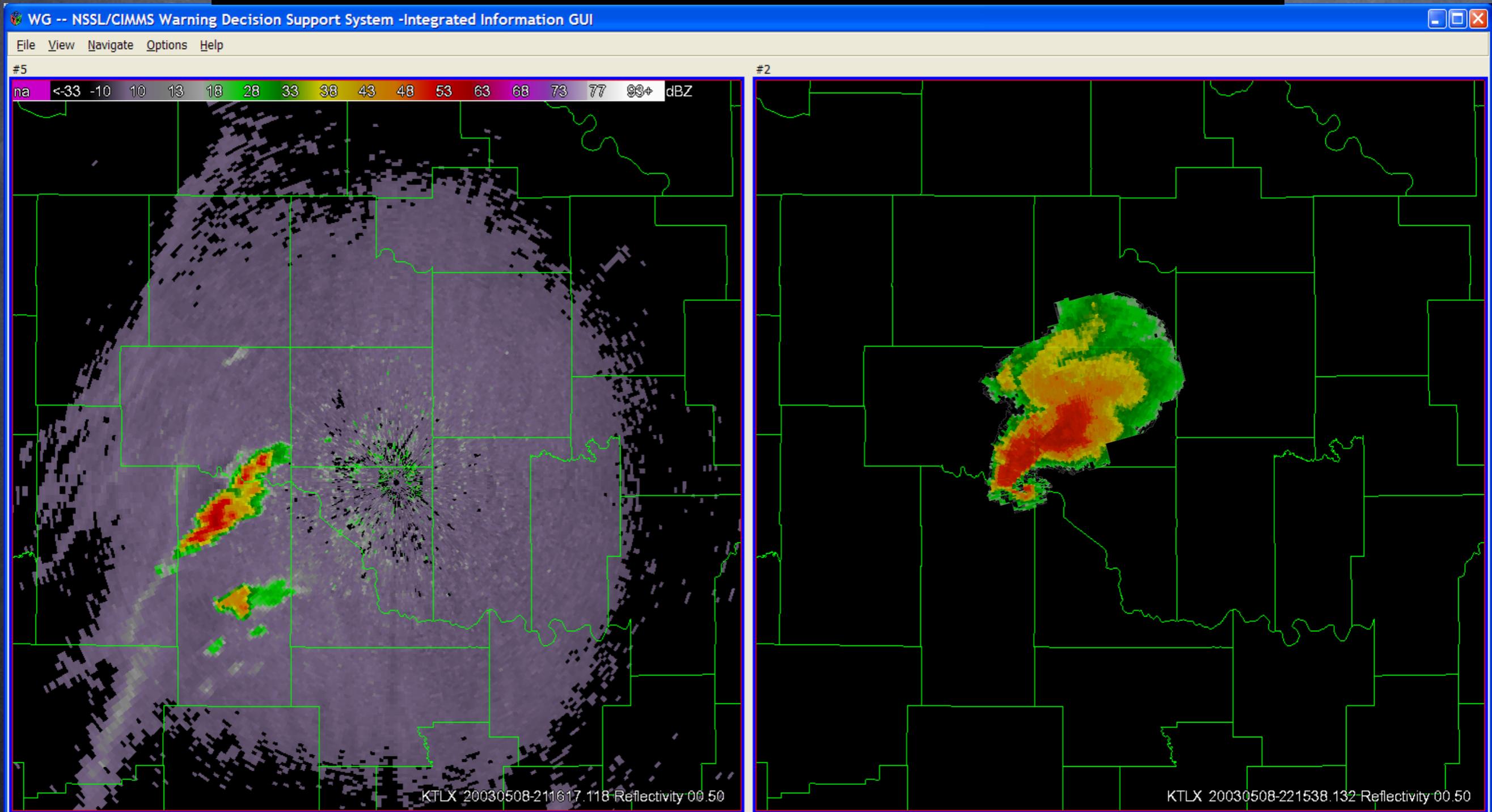


Current T-Warning Process



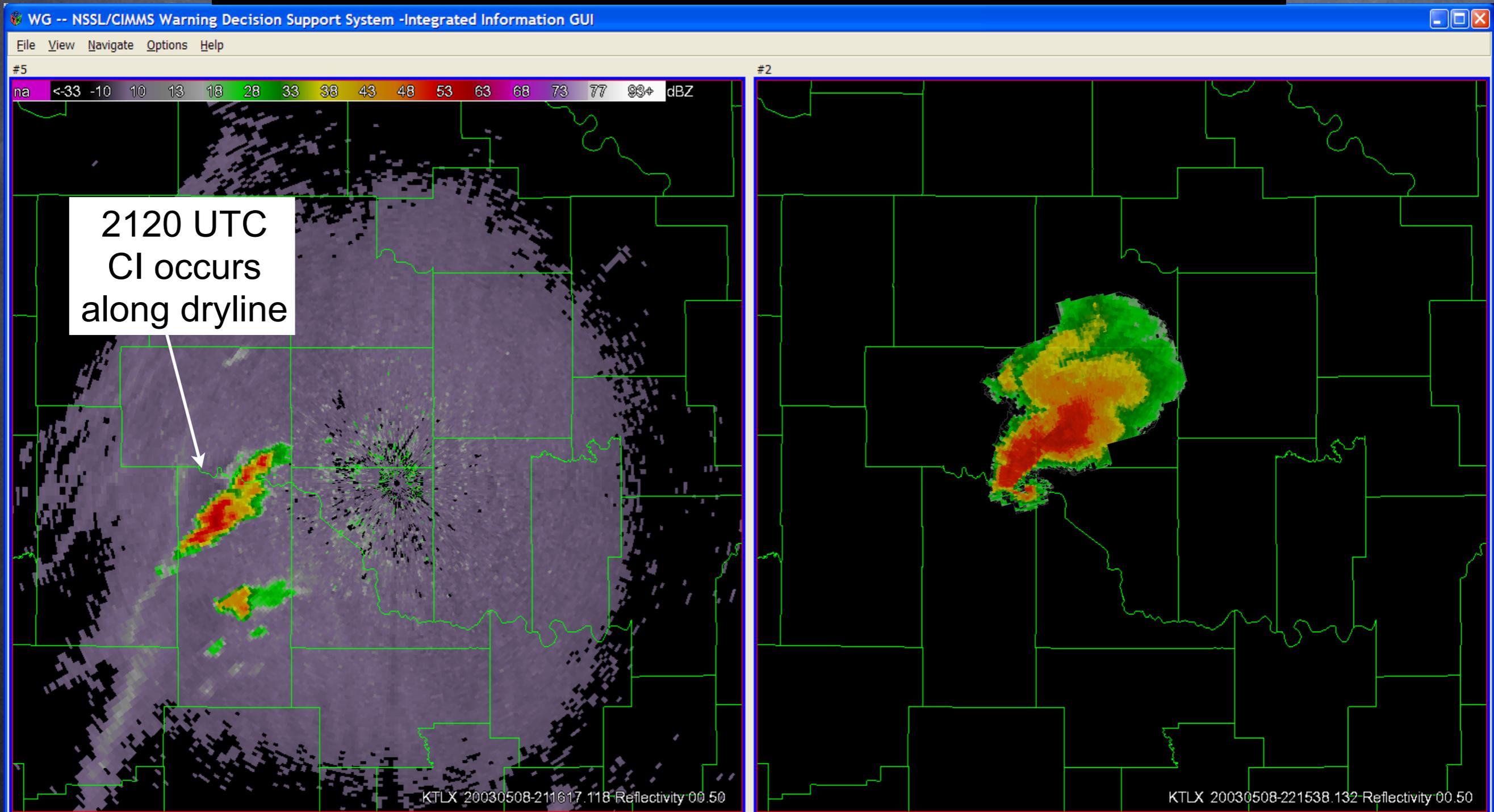
WoF-TTP Process

An ensemble of storm-scale NWP models predict the path of a potentially tornadic supercells during the next 40-60 min. The ensemble is used to create probabilistic tornado guidance.



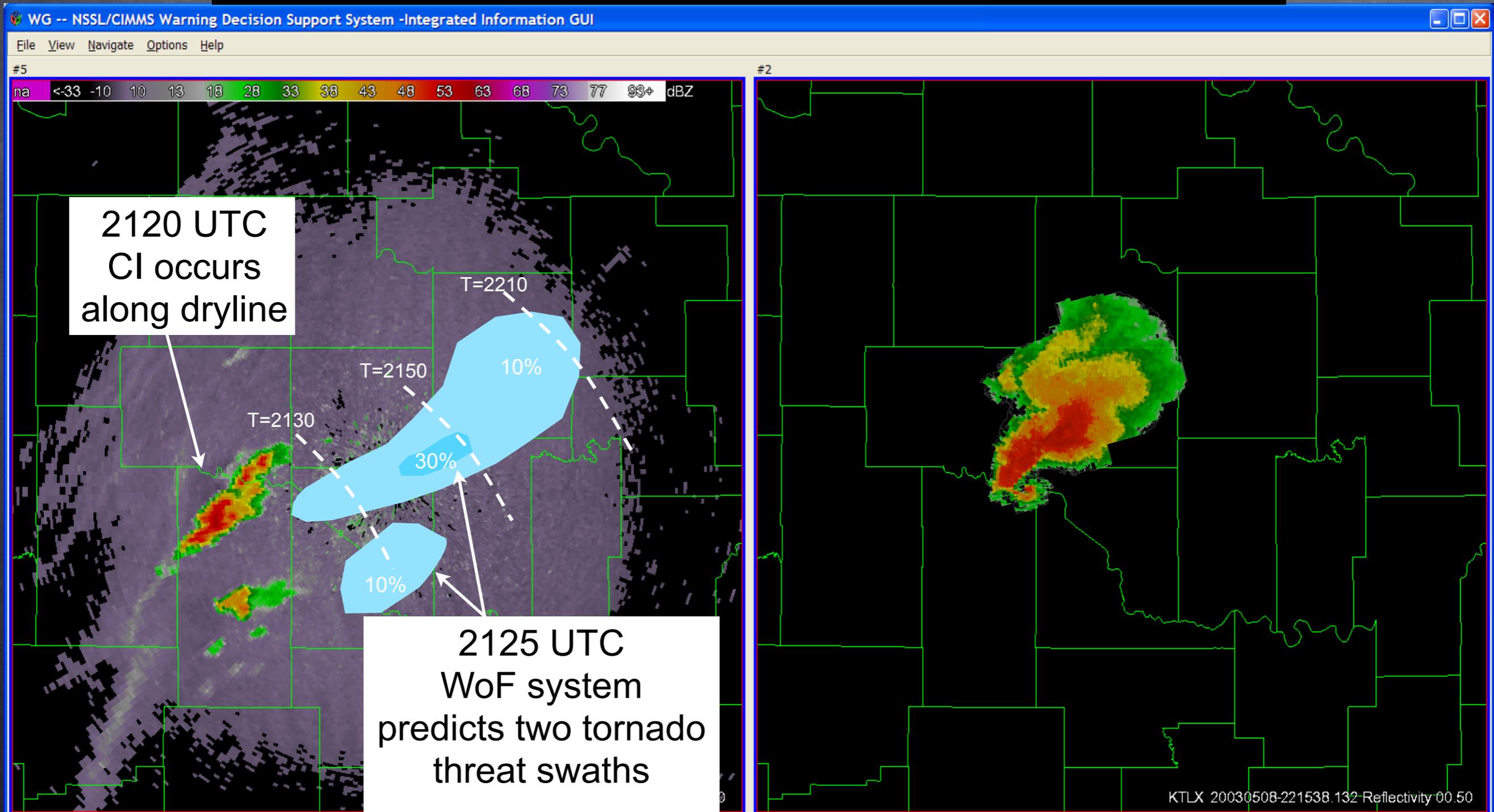
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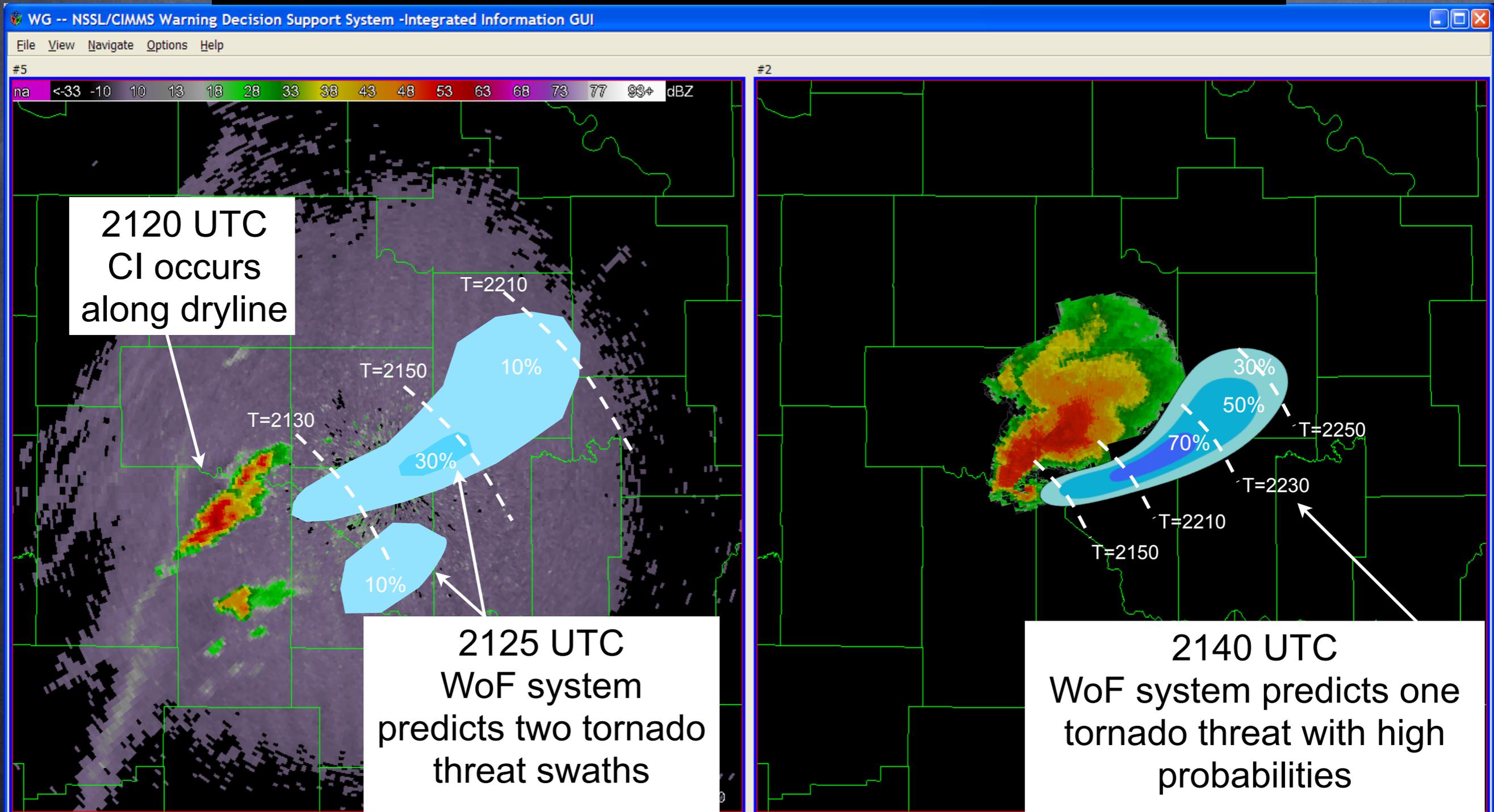
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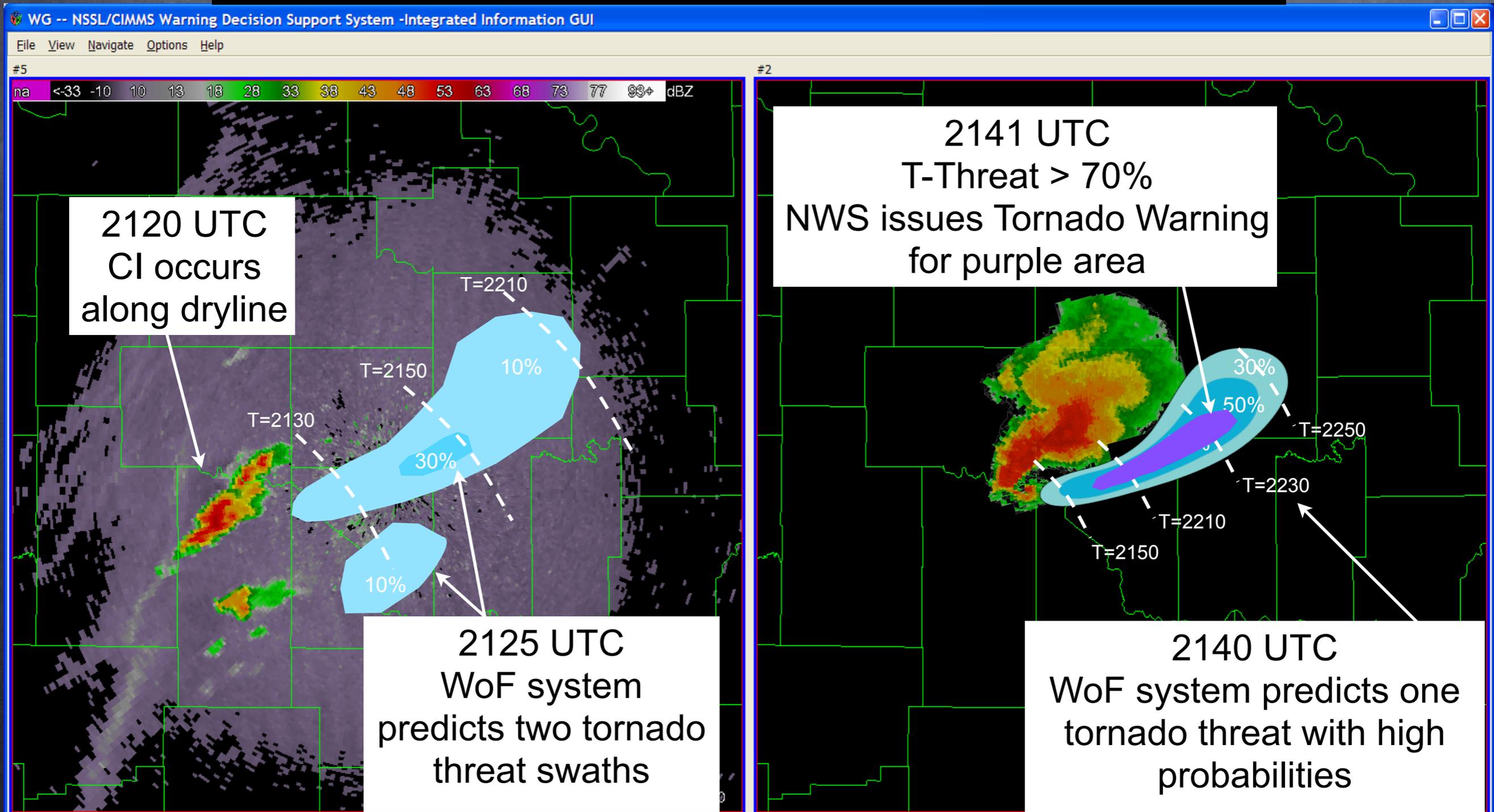
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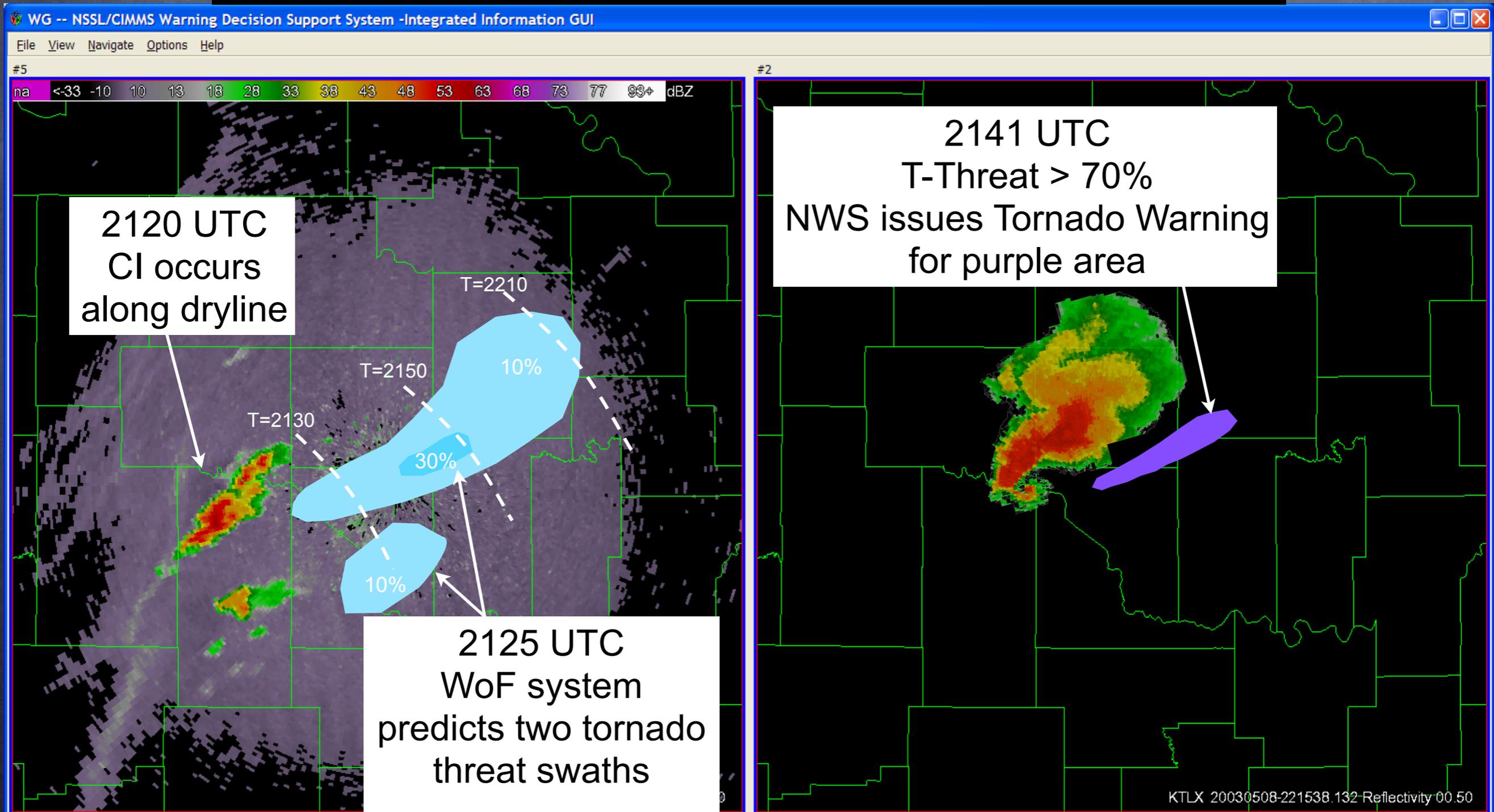
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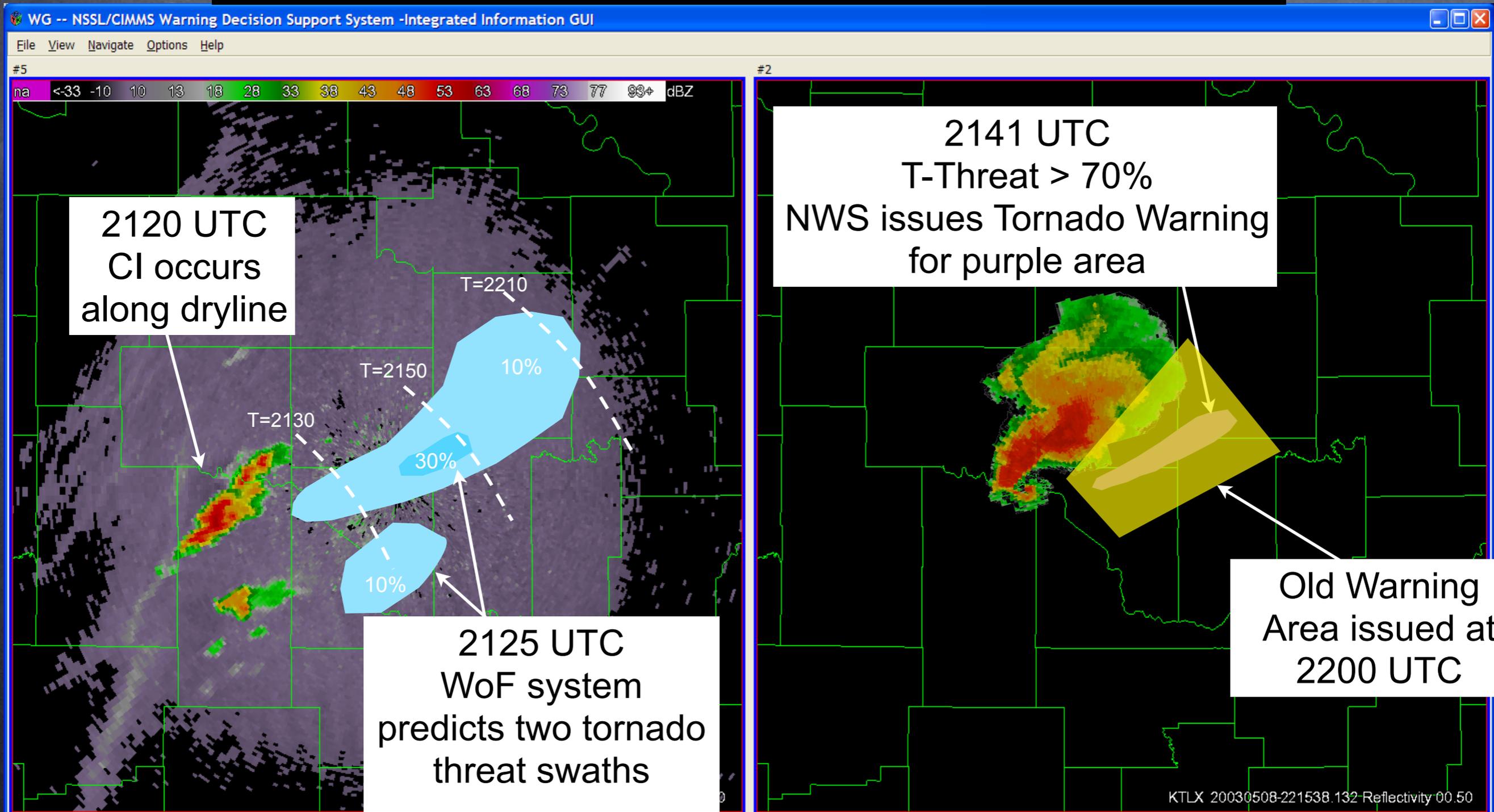
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Mesoscale Errors & Predictability

- Mesoscale forecast errors!
 - Impact of environmental heterogeneities on storm rotation
 - Relative roles of internal dynamics versus external environment in controlling evolution?
 - mesoscale can also enhance convective-scale predictability (e.g., terrain, fronts)
- Convective-scale forecast errors?
 - How do these feedback up scale?
 - Storm-storm interactions are very poorly understood
 - Convective scale errors saturate within 6 hours (Zhang et al., 2007)
 - Large-scale errors begin to saturate by 24 hours (Zhang et al., 2007)
- Intrinsic limit to cycling a coupled system (< 18 hours?)

So, is this ever going to be possible?



Story behind this:
Ken Johnson, SSD
chief for Eastern
Region told me I was
Eor'in on a WoF
conference call
recently...

How to Test WoF-TTP System?

- Proposal: If a storm-scale numerical weather prediction is to be...
 - an on-demand, regionally placed enhanced NWP capability similar to HWRF
 - SPC would be the analogous place to disseminate WoF-TTP forecasts to offices
- Advantages of deploying an initial WoF-TTP system through SPC?:
 - Initial products will require sophisticated user interaction
 - Initial products will not replace radar interrogation @ offices
 - Initial products will likely only be available 3-4x times / hour
- Initial WoF-TTP impact via SPC?
 - Generates sub-watch scale / super-warning scale set of products for dissemination
 - Leverages EMC/GSD plans for HRRR ensemble as background
 - Presents a more manageable vision of a WoF capability
 - Does not preclude more capability running regionally/locally in future.

Initial WoF-TTP System?

- **2020?**

- Initial operational WoF system much like current GFDL/HWRF
- Background may be from HRRRe, or an adaptive HRRRe system
- WoF model resolution is ~ 1.0 km
- 50-100 member ensemble forecasts produced 2-4x hourly
- Ensemble probabilities of rotation tracks will be the primary products created and disseminated by SPC

- **2030?**

- WoF model resolution ~ 0.1-0.3 km nationally
- Detailed model output available to local offices
- Local offices generate 3DVAR convective storm analyses using local radar over small domain every few minutes (using WoF-TTP as background)