



**Climatological depiction of hurricane structure from passive microwave and scatterometer observations:  
Using the 12-year JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System (TCIS) to create composites and establish reliable statistics.**

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P. Peggy Li, Brian Knosp, Quoc Vu, Bjorn Lambrigtsen**

**31<sup>st</sup> Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**



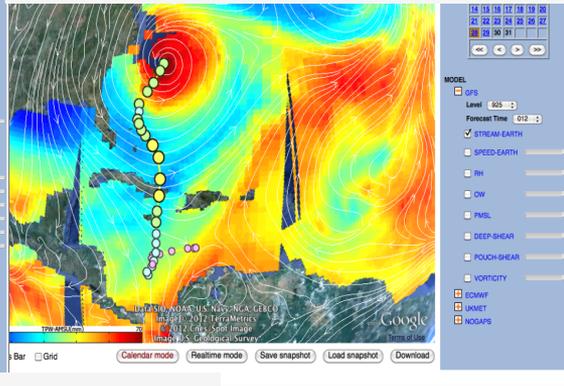
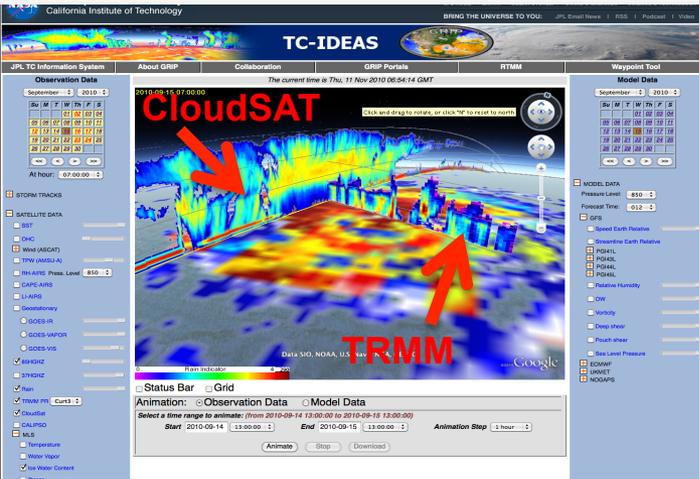
# Motivation for our project - The critical pathways to hurricane forecast improvement

• Is the representation of the precipitation structure correct?

• Is the environment captured correctly?  
• Is the interaction between the storm and its environment realistic?

To improve Hurricane Intensity forecasts, we need to understand how well the models reflect the physical processes and their interactions.

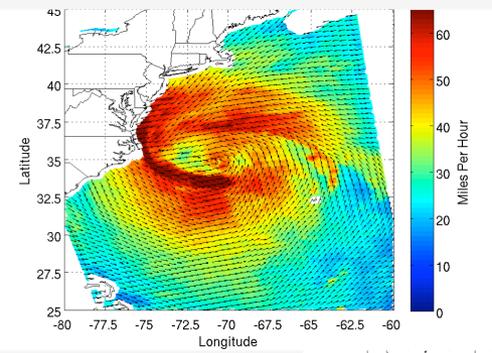
Satellite observations can help in 3 important ways!



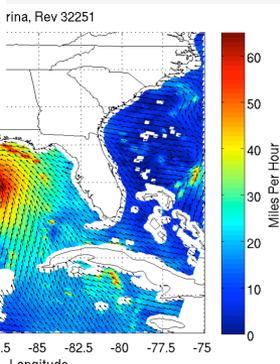
• Is the storm scale and asymmetry reflected properly?

1. Understanding the physical processes
2. Validation and improvement of hurricane models through the use of satellite data
3. Development and implementation of advanced techniques for assimilation of satellite observations inside the hurricane core.

• Despite the significant amount of satellite data today, they are still underutilized in hurricane research and operations, due to complexity and volume.



Hurricane Sandy  
As seen by the  
ISRO's OSCAT



Hurricane Katrina  
As seen by the  
NASA's QuikSCAT



# The JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System (TCIS)



<http://tropicalcyclone.jpl.nasa.gov>

## ***Objective of the TCIS***

To provide a one-stop place that facilitates fusion of multi-parameter, multi-instrument observations (satellite, airborne and in-situ) and model output, relevant to both the large-scale and the storm-scale hurricane processes. These observations pertain to:

- the thermodynamic and microphysical structure of the storms;
- the air-sea interaction processes;
- the larger-scale environment

## ***Goal:***

- help understand the physical processes that determine hurricane genesis, intensity, track and impact on large-scale environment
- help improve hurricane forecast accuracy by facilitating validation and improvement of hurricane models through comparison with observations and development of new data assimilation techniques
- enable studies aimed at developing new algorithms, sensor systems and missions.



### Tropical Cyclone Data Archive

- Satellite depiction of hurricanes over the globe
- 12-year record (1999-2010)
- offers both data and imagery, making it a unique source to support:
  - hurricane research
  - forecast improvement
  - algorithm development
  - instrument design

### HS3 – Interactive NRT Atlantic portal

- Integrates model forecasts with satellite and airborne observations from a variety of instruments and platforms, allowing for easy model/observations comparisons.
- Allows interrogation of a large number of atmospheric and ocean variables to better understand the large-scale and storm-scale processes associated with hurricane genesis, track and intensity changes.
- Very rich information source during the analysis stages of the field campaigns.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology

JPL HOME | EARTH | SOLAR SYSTEM | STARS & GALAXIES | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BRING THE UNIVERSE TO YOU: [Social Media Icons]

### TROPICAL CYCLONE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Super typhoon Pongsona struck the U.S. island of Guam on Sunday, December 8, 2002. The composite image (left) of the super typhoon was made by overlaying data from the infrared, microwave, and visible/near-infrared sensors that make up the AIRS sounding system. This storm can also be seen with the standard AIRS Vis/NIR (right).

#### Welcome to the JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System

The JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System (TCIS) was developed to support hurricane research. It has two components: a 12-year global archive of multi-satellite hurricane observations and, what was a near real-time portal, that supported the 2010 NASA Genesis and Rapid Intensification Processes (GRIP) hurricane field campaign. Together, data and visualizations from the near-real time system and data archive can be used to study hurricane process, validate and improve models, and assist in developing new algorithms and data assimilation techniques. Below you will find links to various portals where you can view different types of data.

- ◀ Introduction
- ◀ Team
- ◀ Colaborators
- ◀ Funding
- ◀ Publications

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#### Tropical Cyclone Data Archive

The TCIS Data Archive is a comprehensive tropical cyclone database of multi-parameter satellite observations pertaining to the thermodynamic and microphysical structure of the storms, the air-sea interaction processes and the larger-scale environment. Currently, it contains satellite depictions of hurricanes over the globe from 1999-2010. Users are able to browse through hurricane seasons and ocean basins to find specific storms of interest. The portal is designed to facilitate the finding of coincident observations from multiple instruments, and it provides fast access to pre-subsetted data and plots, making this a unique tool for hurricane research. Additionally, data files can be directly accessed through our [FTP site](#).

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#### HS3 Data Portal

This near real-time interactive portal was developed to support the multi-year Hurricane and Severe Storm Sentinel (HS3) aircraft campaign. HS3 is a five year mission with a three year airborne component (2012-2014). The campaign's main goal is to investigate the processes that underlie hurricane formation and intensity change in the Atlantic Ocean basin. This portal allows users to analyze and compare observation data and model forecasts in the North Atlantic basin from July to November of each year of the campaign.

Site Manager: Svetlana M Hristova-Velova      PRIVACY      Webmaster: Quoc Vu (JPL Clearance: CL#08-348)



# The 12-year Global Data Archive

- A wide variety of data types
- **Organized by year, basin, storm - no need to search!**
- **DATA and imagery**
- **Large-scale and storm scale**
  - **Large-scale (over the ocean basins; +2 days on either side)**
    - SST (Sea Surface Temperature)
    - Scatterometer winds (ASCAT)
    - TPW (Total Precipitable Water) from AMSU
    - Thermodynamic atmospheric structure from AIRS
  - **Storm scale**
    - **2000 x 2000km regions centered on the “Best Track” that was interpolated to the time of the satellite observation**
    - Geostationary IR: GOES, MTSAT, FY2, Meteosat, MSG (HURSAT Version 5)
    - Multi-frequency brightness temperatures from TRMM-TMI, AMSR-E, SSMI
    - full set of radar observations from TRMM-PR and CloudSAT
    - QuikSCAT and OSCAT surface winds – new JPL product (Stiles et al., 2013)
    - MLS, OMI

<http://tropicalcyclone.jpl.nasa.gov>

- Satellite depictions of hurricanes over the globe
- 12-year record (1999-2010)
- Offers both data and imagery, making it a unique source to support hurricane research.

The screenshot displays the JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System interface. At the top, it identifies the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and California Institute of Technology. The main content area is titled 'JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System' and includes a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Team/Collaborations', 'Feedback', 'Data Archive', and 'GRIP Portal'. A 'Select Year' dropdown is set to 2010. On the left, a tree view shows the hierarchy of tropical cyclones, with 'Earl' selected under 'Category 4'. The main panel features a 'Timeline' graph showing 'Wind Speed (m/s)' and 'Air Pressure (hPa)' from August 24 to September 10. Below the graph is a 'Storm-Scale data for Tropical Cyclone Earl' section with a table of instrument data (AIRS, AMSR-E, AMSU-A, AMSU-B, CPR, MHS, MLS, OMI, TMI). A satellite image of the storm is shown with a yellow track line. To the right of the image is a calendar for August 2010, with the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th highlighted. Below the calendar is a 'Download' button, which is circled in red. The page footer includes 'PRIVACY', 'Webmaster: Quoc Vu', and 'JPL Clearance: OL#00-3490'.

Earl, 2010  
Download all data from this Instrument (TMI)

Timeline

View and download Storm-scale data

Download Selected large-scale data from this day



# JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System

Home

Project

Feedback

Data Portal

Analysis Tool

## Tropical Cyclone Rita

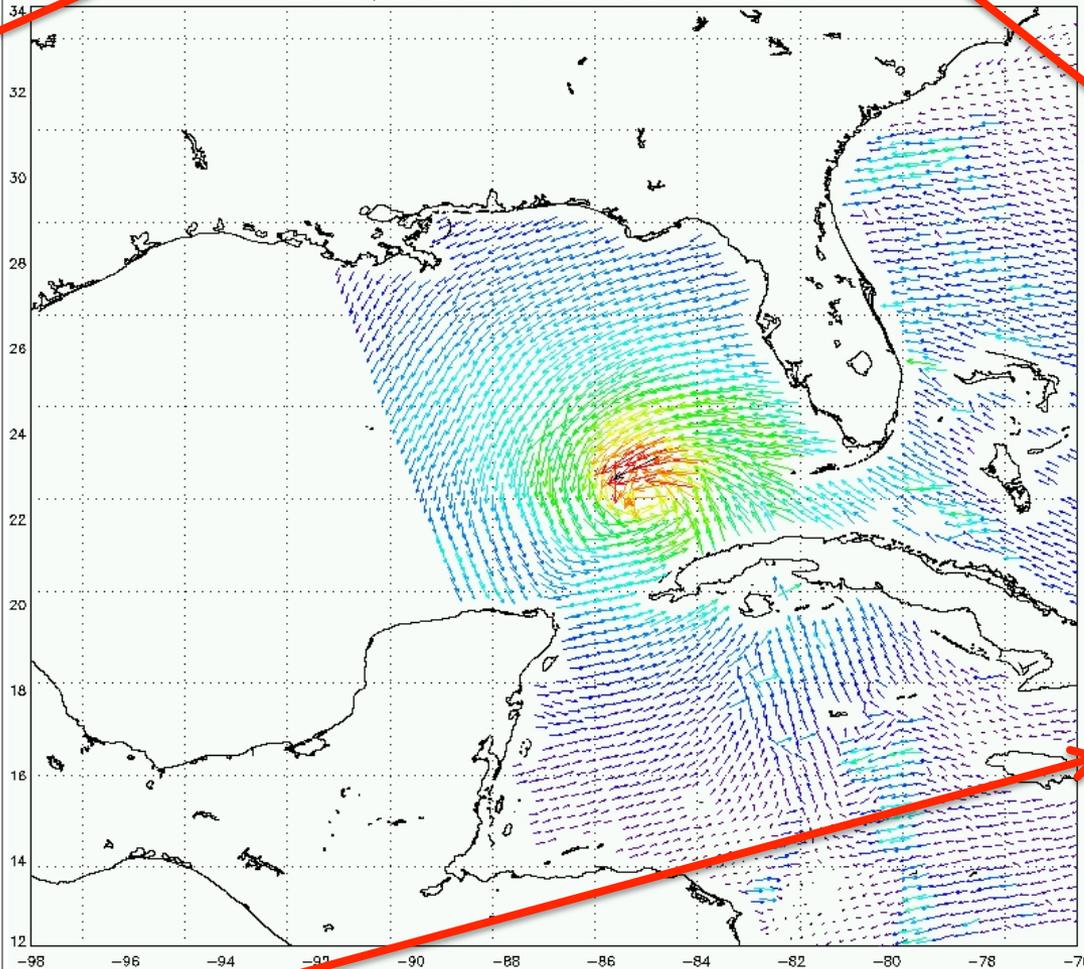
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

September 2005

- MLS
- SeaWINDS
  - QuikScat
  - WIND
    - 2005-09-21 11:05:00
    - 2005-09-21 23:28:00
- GPS-RO
- OMI
- AIRS
- PR
- TMI
- AMSRE
- AMSU-A
- SSMI
- GEO

Download 2005-09-21 11:05:00 SeaWINDS WIND Data

18L-RITA QSCAT REV 32586 at 2005-09-21 11:05:10.825 UTC



Download NetCDF

At this time

All data on this day

Download All



# JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System

Home Project Feedback Data Portal Analysis Tool

## Tropical Cyclone Rita

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

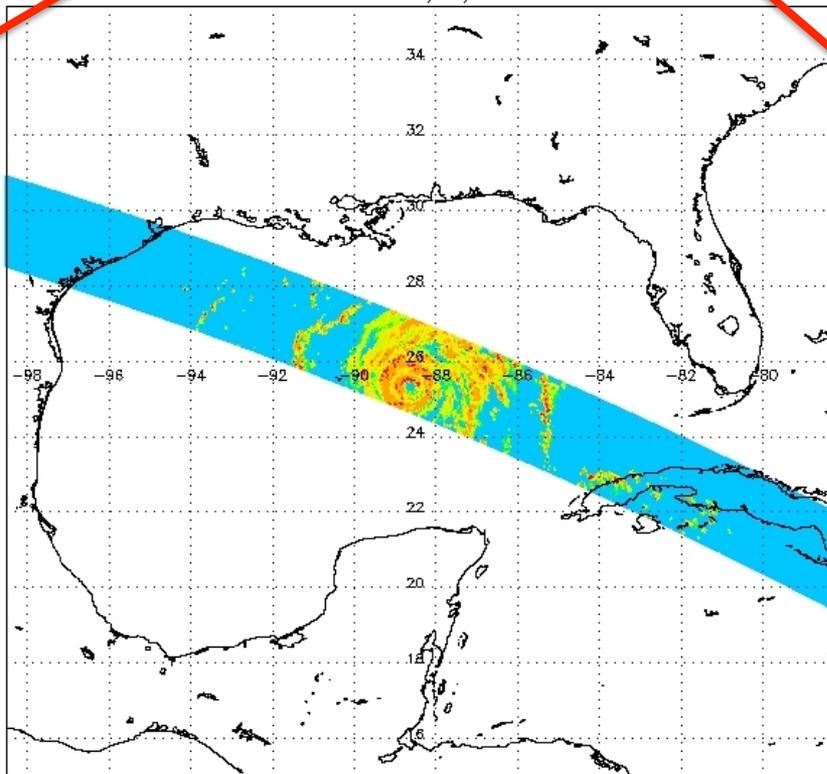
September 2005

- MLS
- SeaWINDS
- GPS-RO
- OMI
- AIRS
- PR
- TRMM
- MaxZ-PIA-RR-RT
  - 2005-09-22 08:10:00
  - 2005-09-22 14:42:00
- TMI
- AMSRE
- AMSU-A
- SSMI
- GEO

Download All

Download 2005-09-22 14:42:00 PR MaxZ-PIA-RR-RT Data

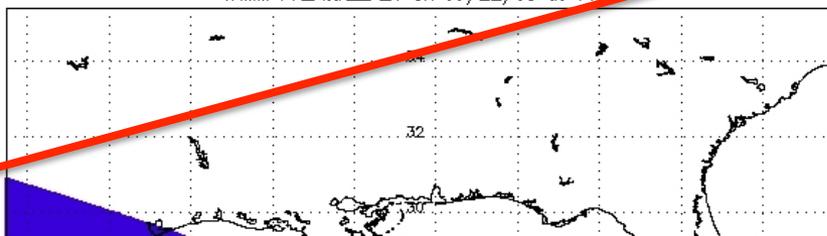
TRMM MaxZ on 09/22/05 at 14:42



At this time

All data on this day

TRMM PR\_Attn\_2A21 on 09/22/05 at 14:42



Download NetCDF

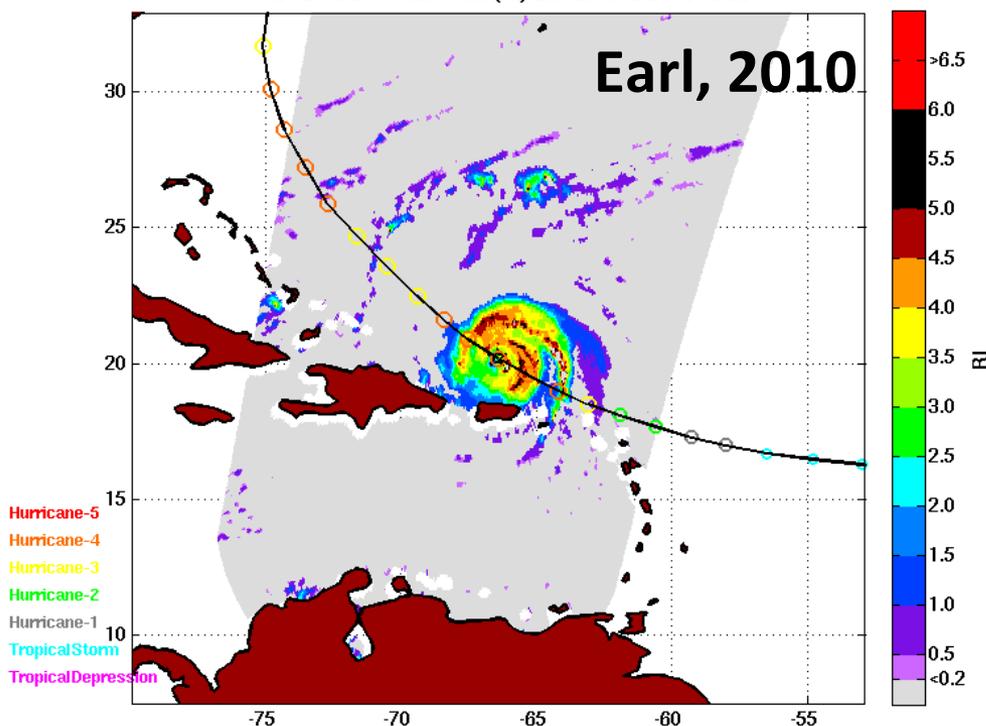
# The Rain Indicator – a multi-channel depiction of the storm structure

*Hristova-Veleva et al., 2013: "Revealing the Winds Under the Rain. Part I. Passive Microwave Rain Retrievals Using a New, Observations-Based, Parameterization of Sub-Satellite Rain Variability and Intensity: Algorithm Description", 2013, JAMC 52, 2828–2848*

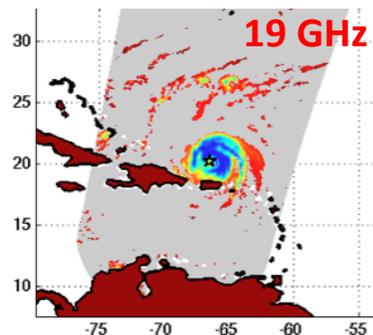
Microwave signals at the top of the atmosphere can be classified into two categories:

- **emission signal** - dominant at lower frequencies; **warming**; **better for light rain**. **Strong emission in the atmosphere reduces the polarization difference (PD) in the ocean surface radiation. Hence, PD is representative of the atmospheric emission.**
- **scattering signal** - dominant at higher frequencies; **cooling**; **better for heavy rain**; **PCT**
- Hence, both signals have to be incorporated to cover the entire rainfall spectrum.

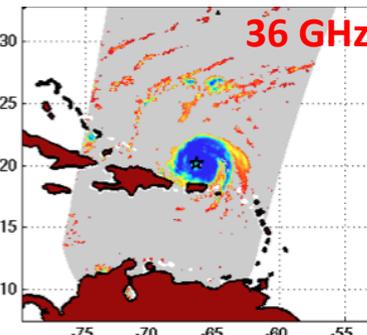
AMSRE AQUA-1 Rain Index(RI) Earl 2010/08/31 06:19:38



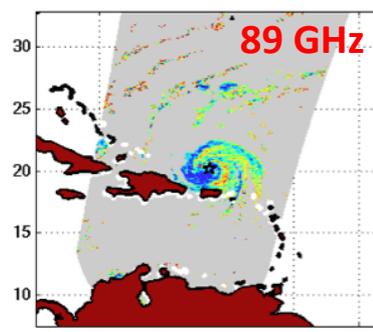
Polarization Difference



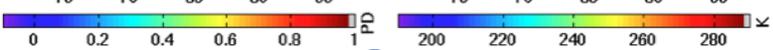
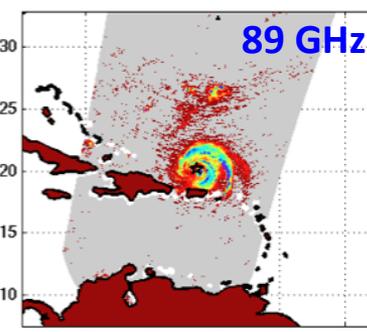
Polarization Difference

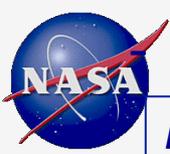


Polarization Difference



Polarization Corrected Temp.

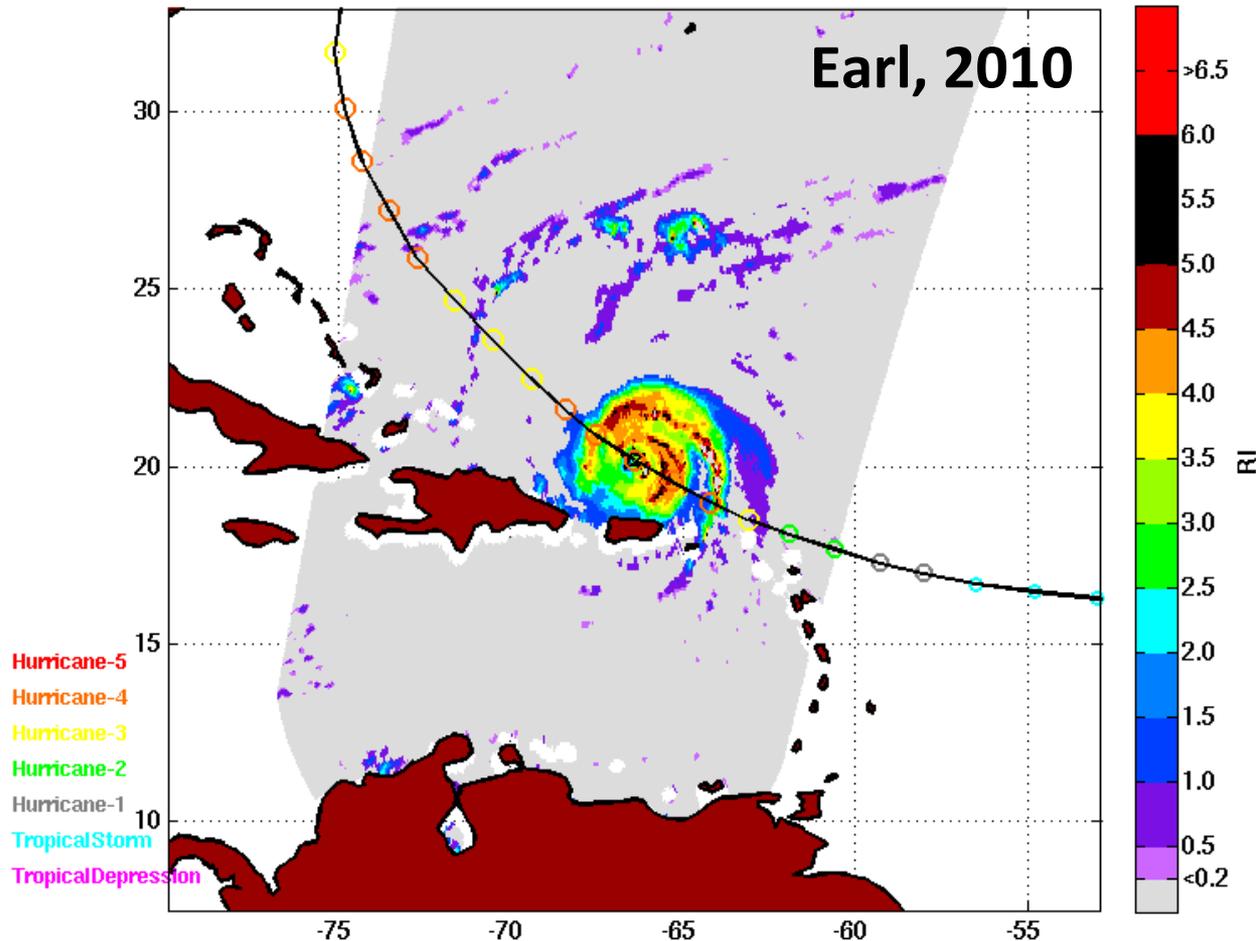




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AMSRE AQUA-1 Rain Index(RI) Earl 2010/08/31 06:19:38



## Advantages of Using the Rain Indicator over single passive microwave channels

- combines the emission and scattering signals from the **multi-channel information** to present **a cohesive depiction of the rain and the graupel above**, covering the precipitation spectrum
- Uses polarization difference. Hence, it is **less affected by calibration accuracy.**

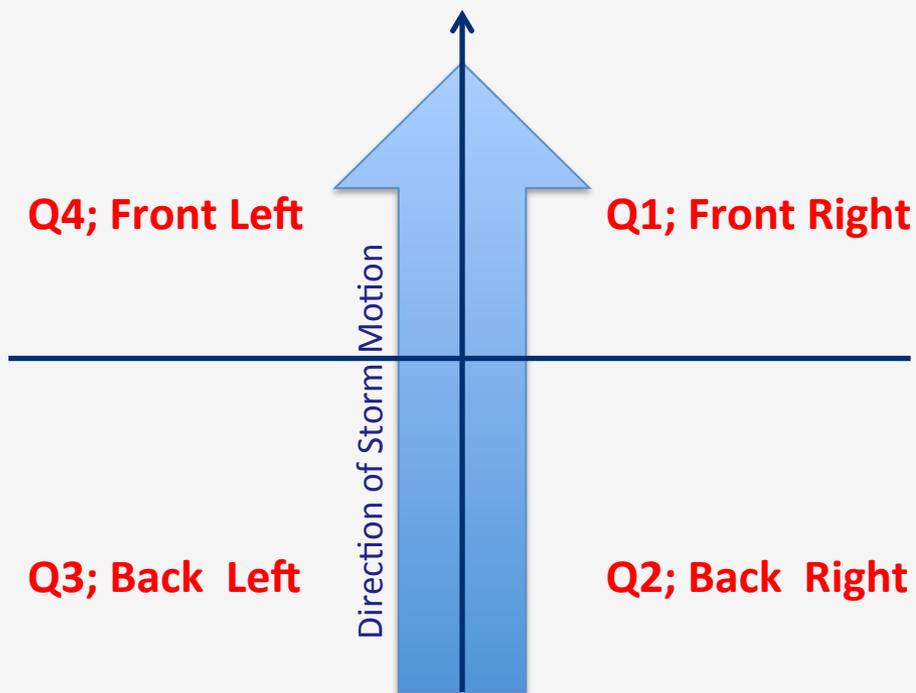


# Asymmetry and Evolution

## Statistics from observations ; North Atlantic Hurricanes

Parameter as a function of:

- Quadrant with respect to storm motion



### Created composites following similar approaches:

*Lonfat, M., F.D. Marks, and S.S.Chen, 2004: "Precipitation Distribution in Tropical Cyclones using the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) microwave imager : A Global Perspective" MWR 132(7)*

*Rogers et al., 2012 : "Multiscale analysis of mature tropical cyclone structure from airborne Doppler composites," MWR, 140 (1)*

*Wu, L, H. Su, R. G. Fovell, B. Wang, J. T. Shen, B. H. Kahn, S. M. Hristova-Veleva, B. H. Lambrigtsen, E. J. Fetzer, J. H. Jiang, 2012: "Relationship of Environmental Relative Humidity with Tropical Cyclone Intensity and Intensification Rate over North Atlantic", Geophys. Res. Lett., 39, L20809, doi:10.1029/2012GL053546.*

*Many others.*

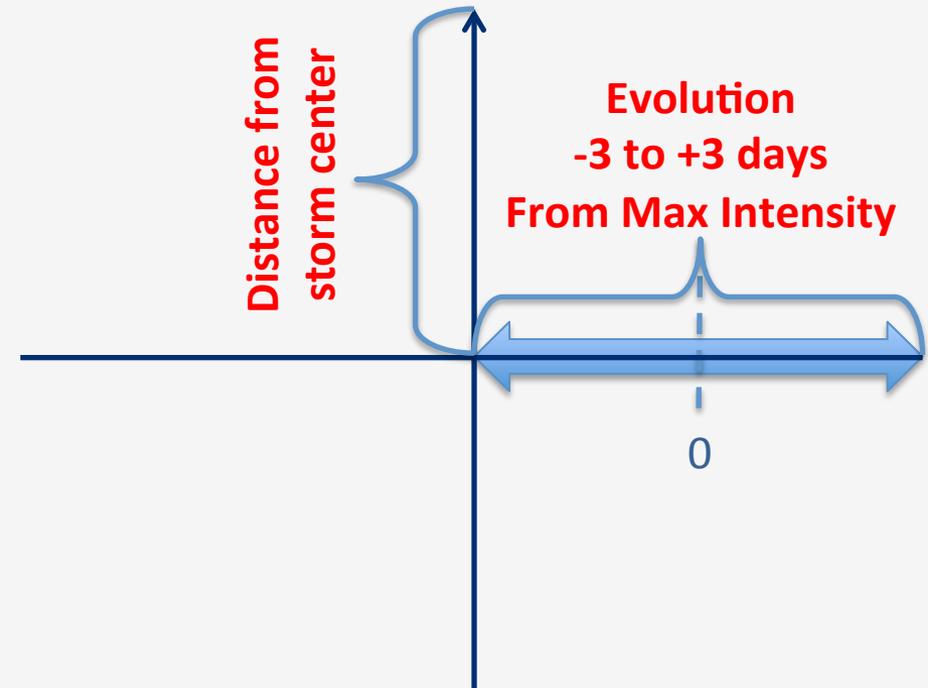
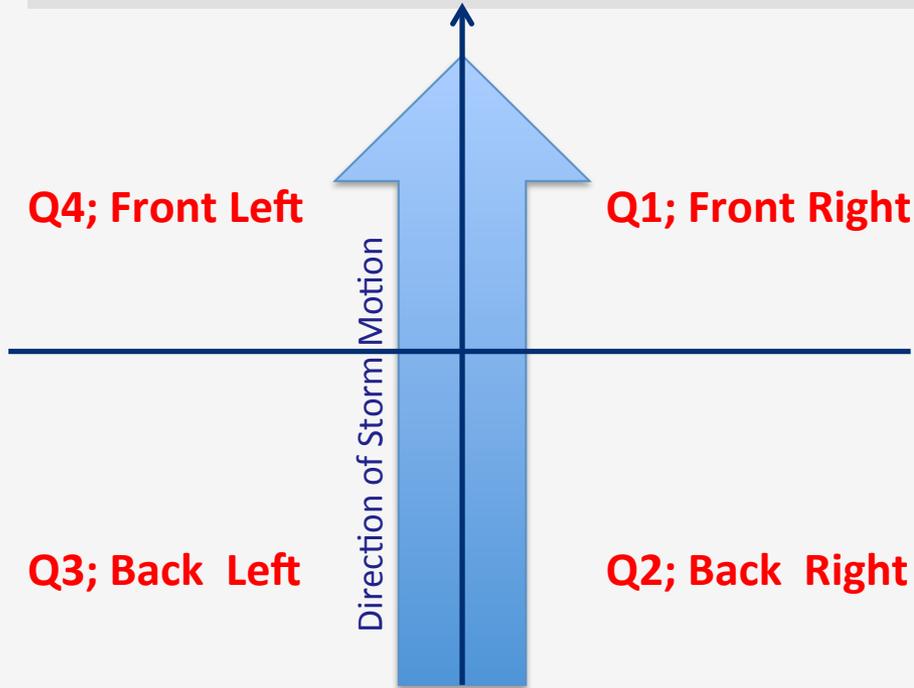


# Asymmetry and Evolution

Statistics from observations ; North Atlantic Hurricanes

Parameter as a function of:

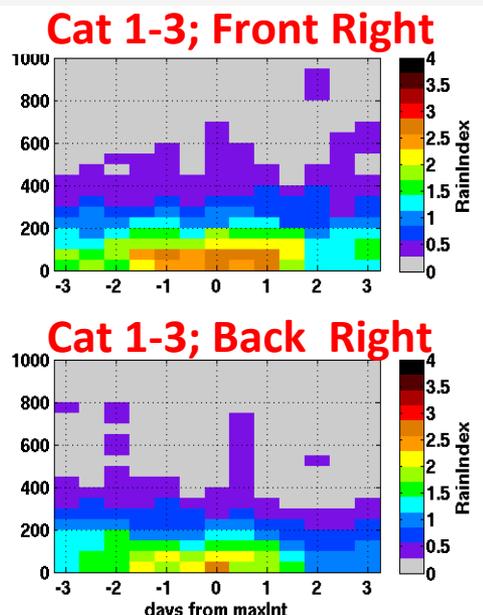
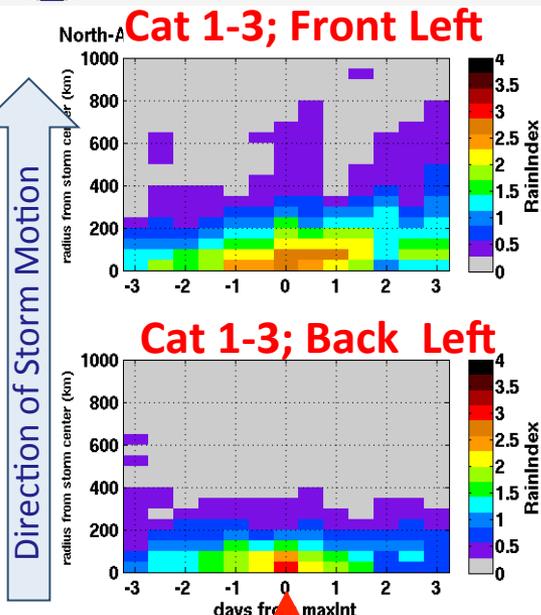
- Quadrant with respect to storm motion
- distance from storm center (y-axis)
- days from maximum intensity (x-axis)





# 9-year statistics from AMSR-E observations

## North Atlantic Hurricanes; 2002-2011



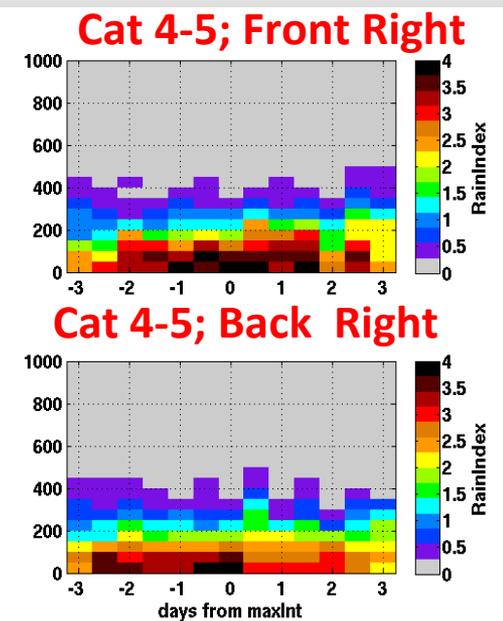
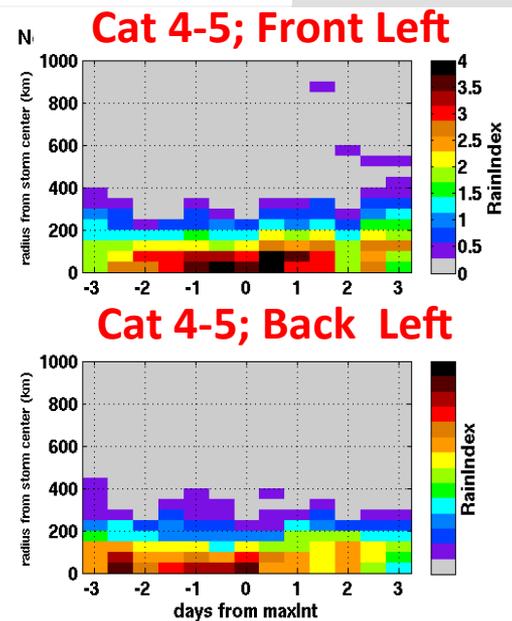
Evolution of asymmetry  
Azimuthal/Range Distributions of

# Rain Index

Cat1: 31 cases  
Cat2: 9 cases  
Cat3: 12 cases  
**Total Cat1-3 = 52 cases**

Cat4: 18 cases  
Cat5: 7 cases  
**Total Cat4-5 = 25 cases**

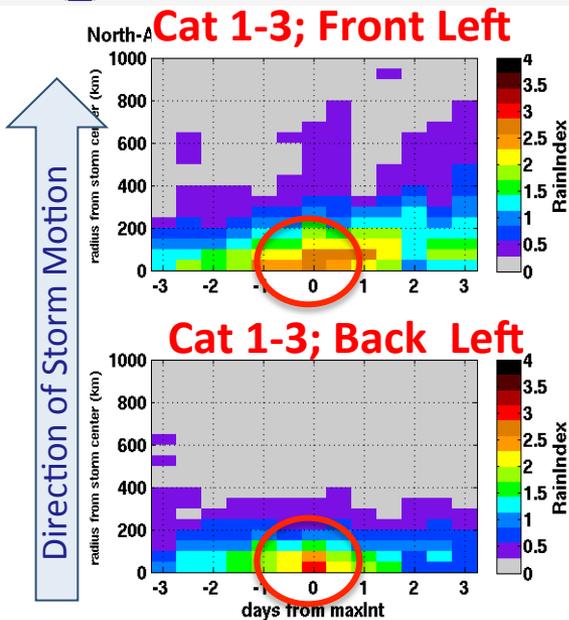
**Day of Maximum Intensity**





# 9-year statistics from AMSR-E observations

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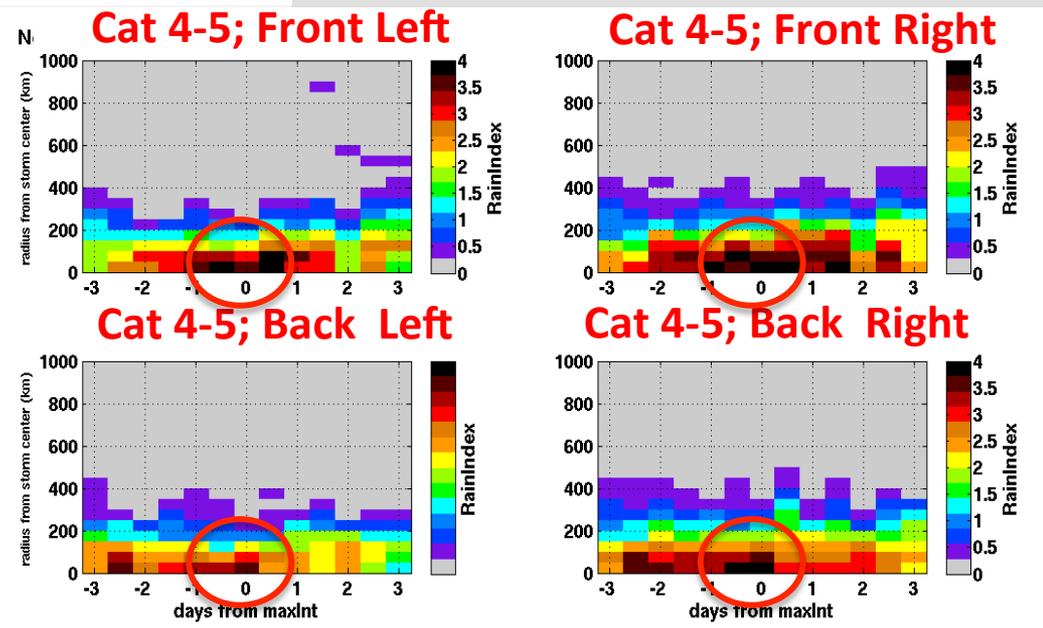
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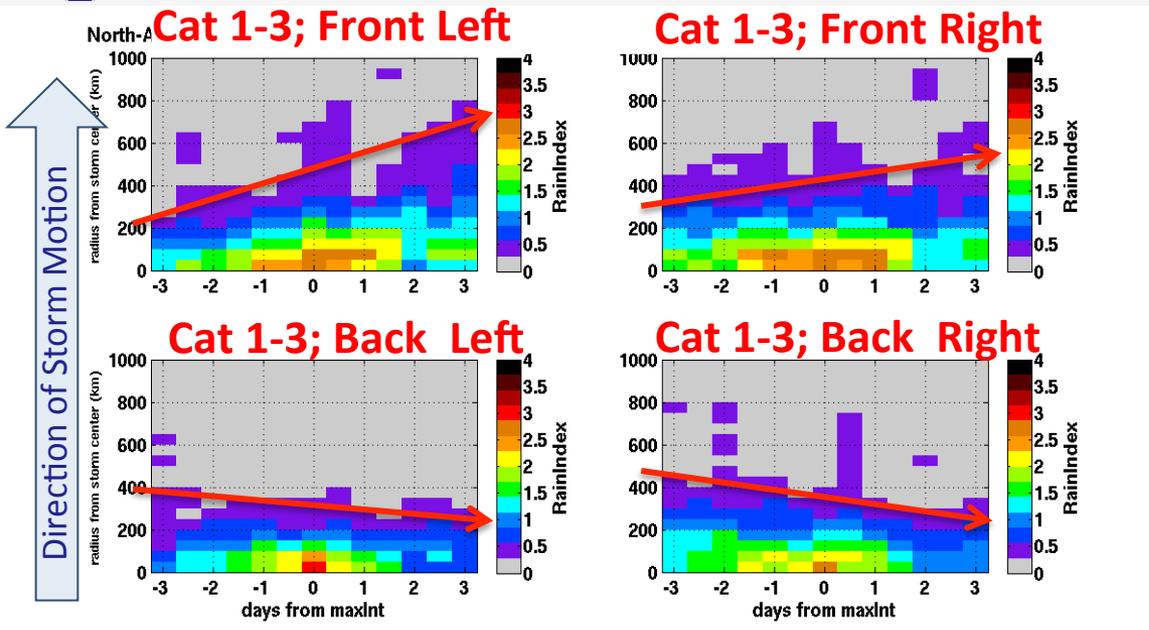
Cat 1-3 have rain fields that are **larger, weaker and less symmetric** in:

- Space
  - More intense precipitation is in the **front** 2 quadrants





## North Atlantic Hurricanes; 2002-2011



Evolution of asymmetry  
Azimuthal/Range Distributions of

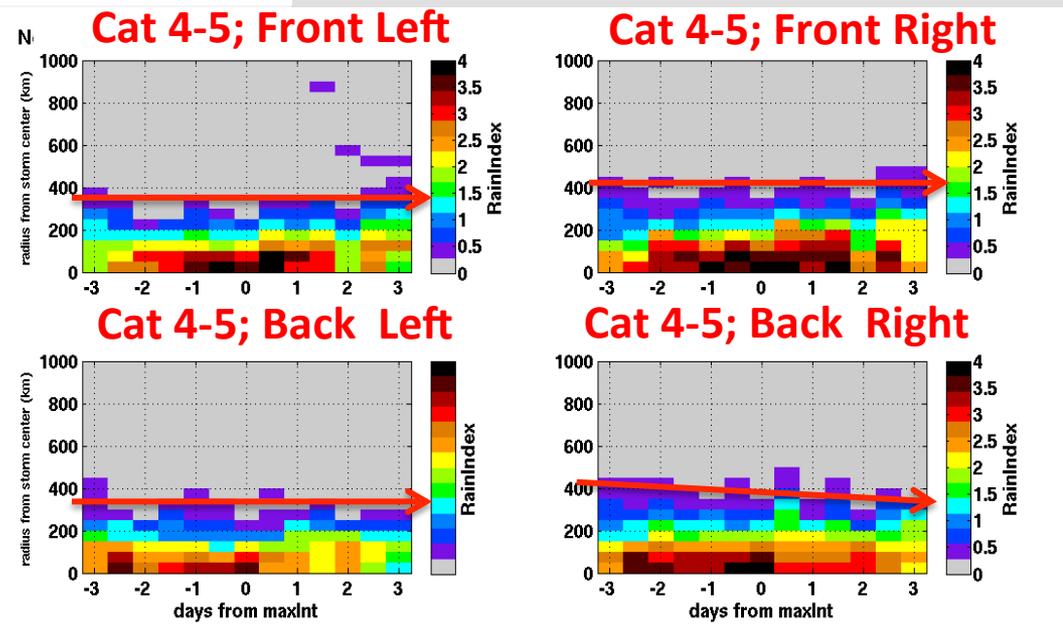
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**Cat 1-3 have rain fields that are larger, weaker and less symmetric in:**

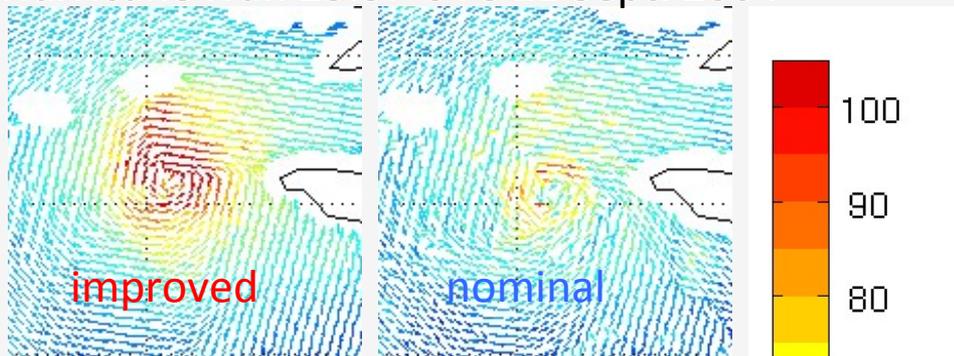
- Space
  - More intense precipitation is in the front 2 quadrants
- Time
  - Tendency for radial expansion of precipitation after the peak of the storm. Only in the front 2 quadrants.
  - Increase in asymmetry



# Improved QuikSCAT Hurricane Winds

**Stiles, B.W.,** R. E. Danielson, W. Lee Poulsen, M. J. Brennan, S. Hristova-Veleva, T.-P. J. Shen, and A. G. Fore, "Optimized Tropical Cyclone Winds from QuikSCAT: A Neural Network Approach," accepted IEEE TGARS, 2013.

Hurricane Ivan 23:37 UTC 11 Sept. 2004

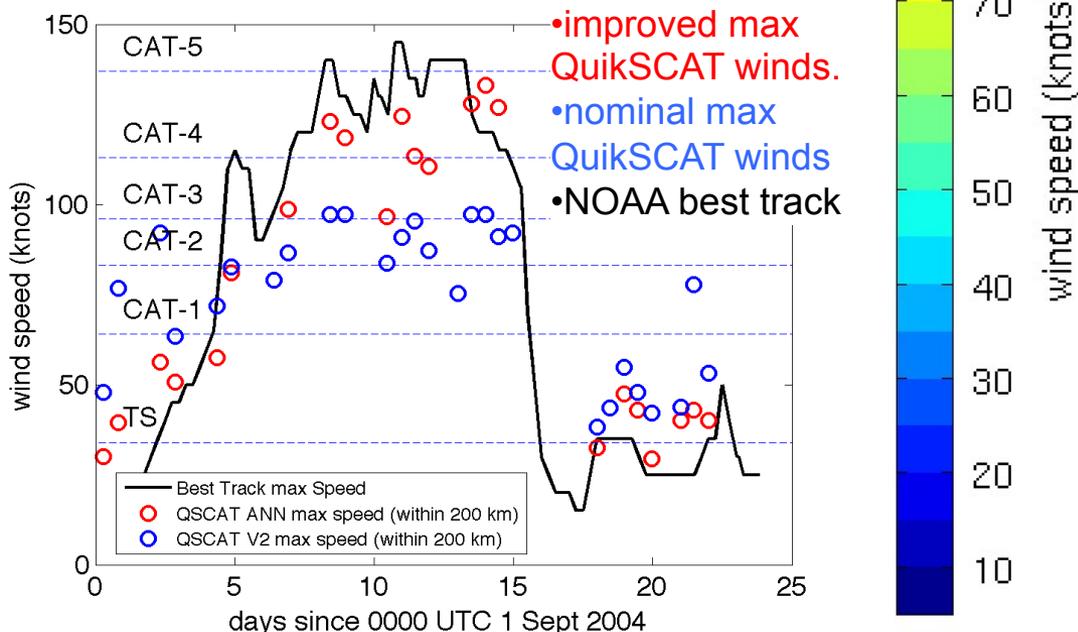


- Improved QuikSCAT tropical cyclone (TC) wind speed fields
  - 10,000 storm scenes over 10 years
  - Validated vs. hurricane analysis fields and aircraft overflight measurements.

- **Problem:** Scatterometer winds are corrupted by rain and use empirical retrievals not optimized for high winds.

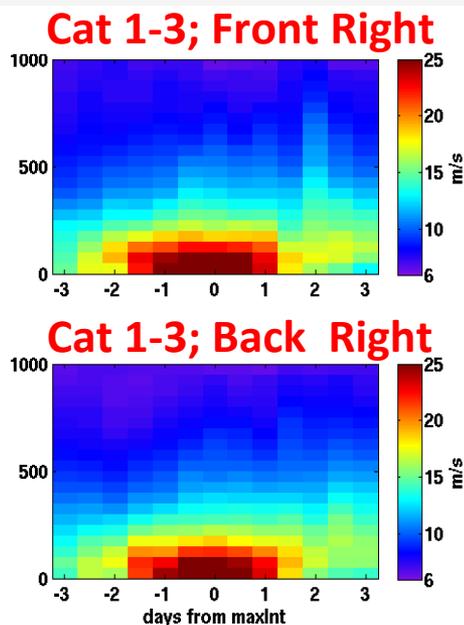
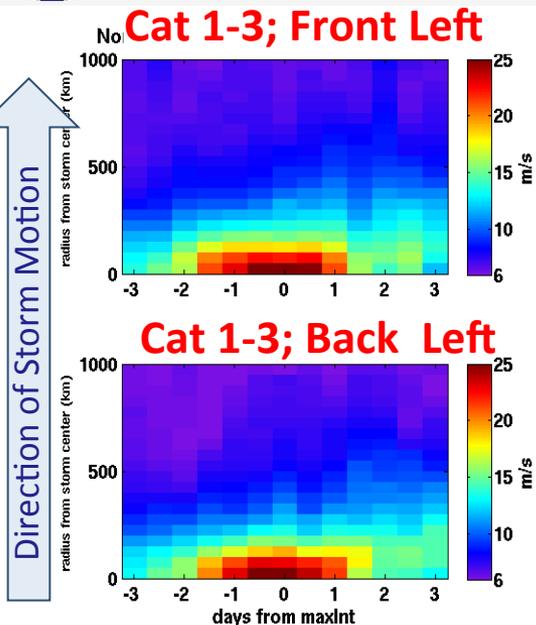
- **Solution:** Neural network retrieval method trained specifically for TC winds.

- Developing similar datasets for OceanSAT-2 (ISRO) and ASCAT (ESA) scatterometers.





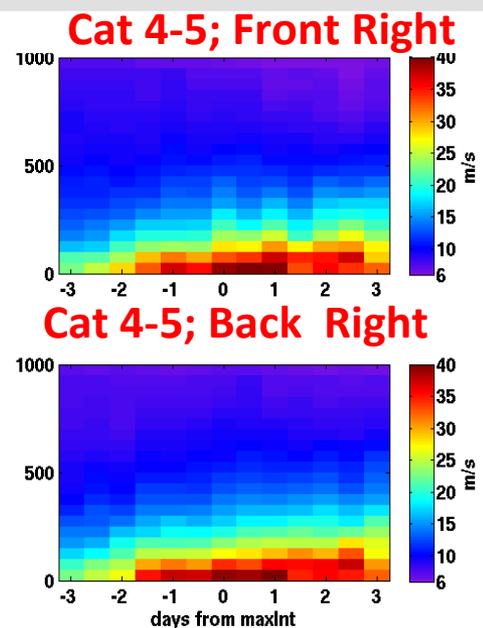
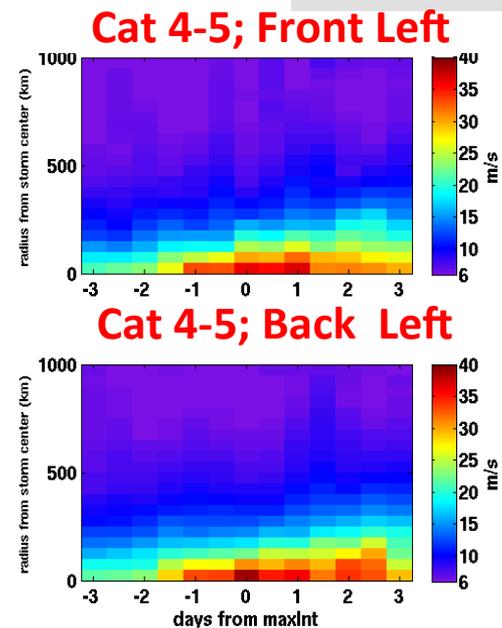
# 10-year statistics from QuikSCAT observations North Atlantic Hurricanes; 2000-2009



Evolution of asymmetry  
Azimuthal/Range Distributions of  
**WIND speed**

- Cat1: 38 cases
- Cat2: 11 cases
- Cat3: 17 cases
- Total Cat1-3 = 66 cases**
- Cat4: 21 cases
- Cat5: 7 cases

**Total Cat4-5 = 28 cases**

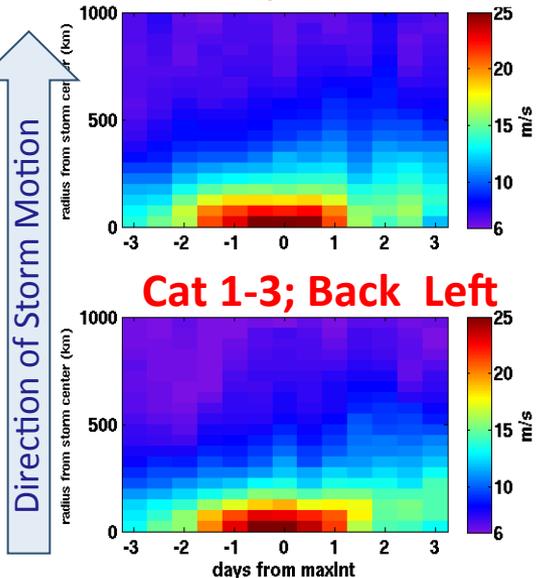




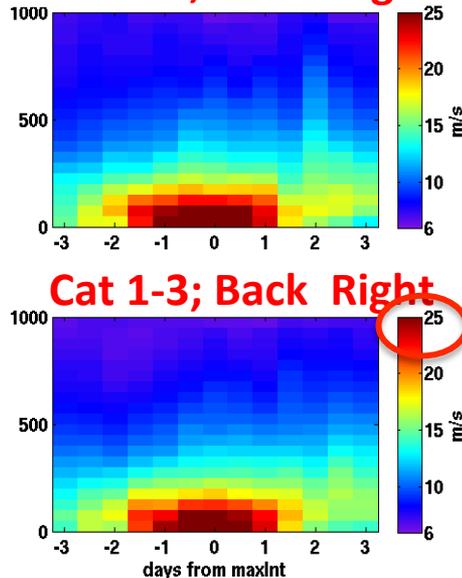
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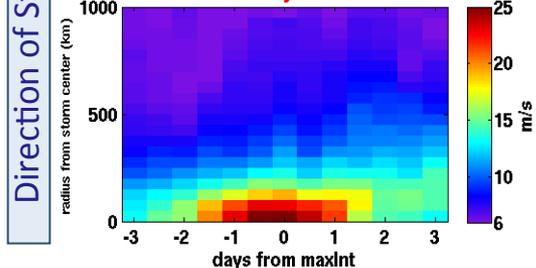
### Cat 1-3; Front Left



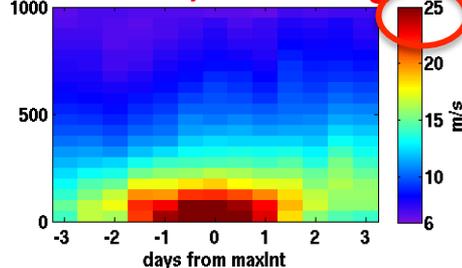
### Cat 1-3; Front Right



### Cat 1-3; Back Left



### Cat 1-3; Back Right



↑ Direction of Storm Motion  
radius from storm center (km)

## Evolution of asymmetry Azimuthal/Range Distributions of **WIND speed**

Cat1: 38 cases

Cat2: 11 cases

Cat3: 17 cases

Total Cat1-3 = 66 cases

Cat4: 21 cases

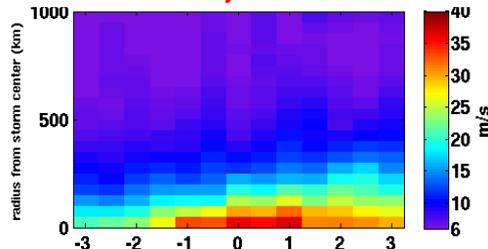
Cat5: 7 cases

Total Cat4-5 = 28 cases

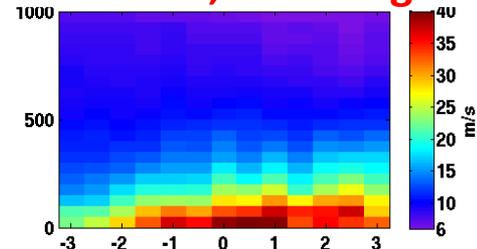
Cat 4-5 have wind fields that are **larger**  
and **less symmetric** in:

- Space
  - More intense winds in the **right 2 quadrants**

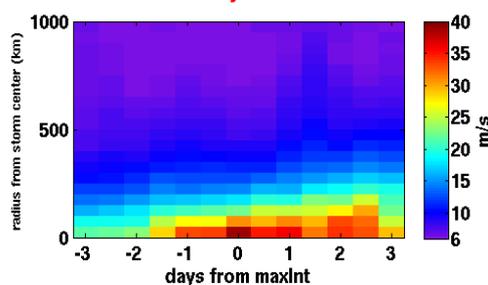
### Cat 4-5; Front Left



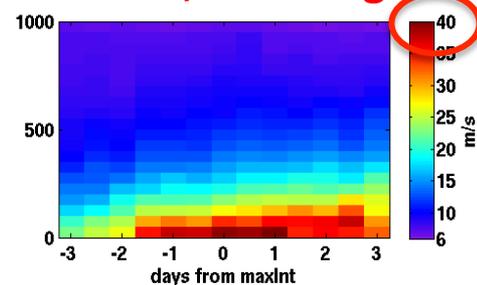
### Cat 4-5; Front Right



### Cat 4-5; Back Left



### Cat 4-5; Back Right

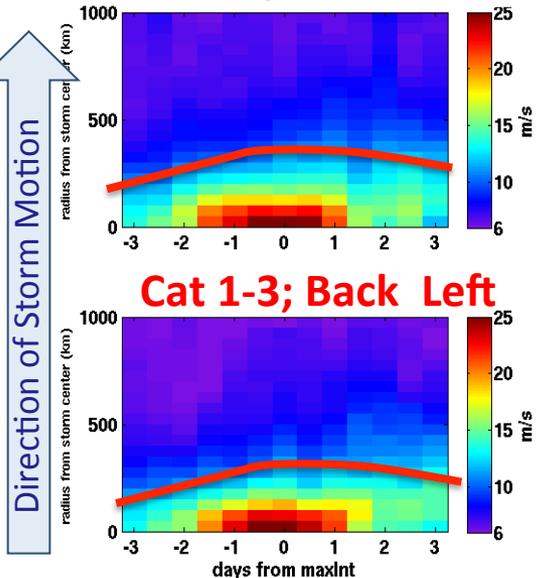




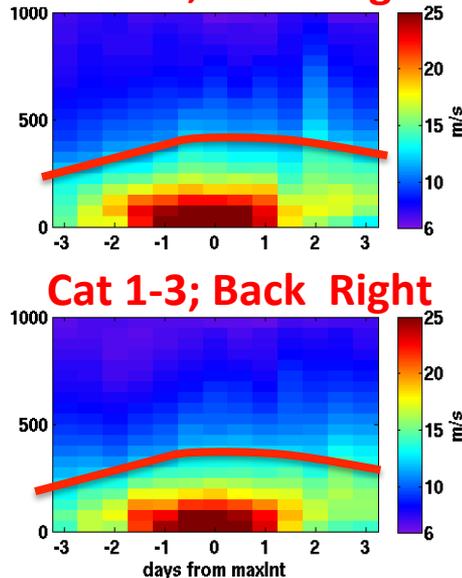
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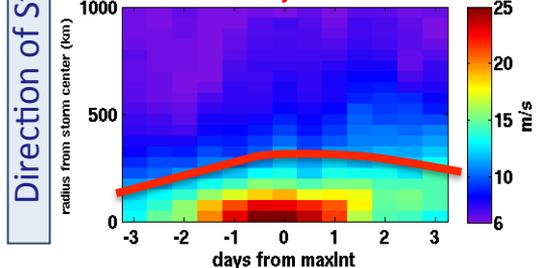
### Cat 1-3; Front Left



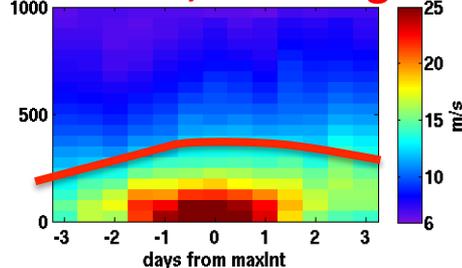
### Cat 1-3; Front Right



### Cat 1-3; Back Left



### Cat 1-3; Back Right



↑ Direction of Storm Motion  
radius from storm center (km)

## Evolution of asymmetry Azimuthal/Range Distributions of **WIND speed**

Cat1: 38 cases

Cat2: 11 cases

Cat3: 17 cases

**Total Cat1-3 = 66 cases**

Cat4: 21 cases

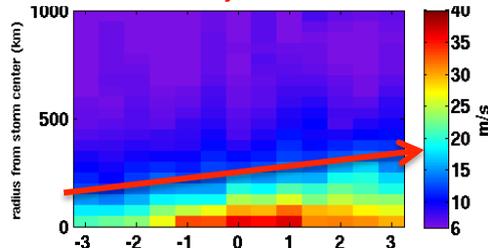
Cat5: 7 cases

**Total Cat4-5 = 28 cases**

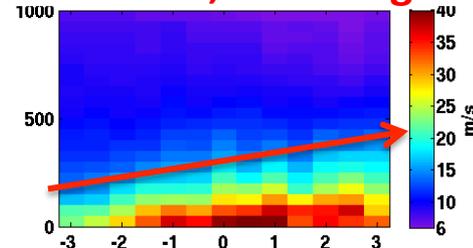
**Cat 4-5 have wind fields that are larger and less symmetric in:**

- Space
  - More intense winds in the right 2 quadrants
- Time
  - Tendency for radial expansion of high winds after the peak of the storm. More pronounced in the right 2 quadrants.
  - Increase in asymmetry

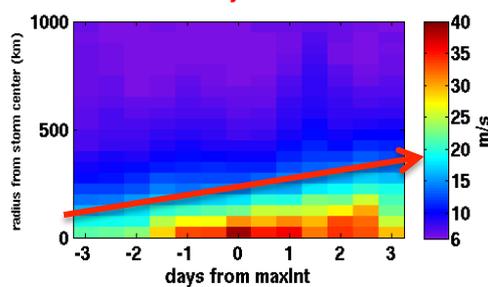
### Cat 4-5; Front Left



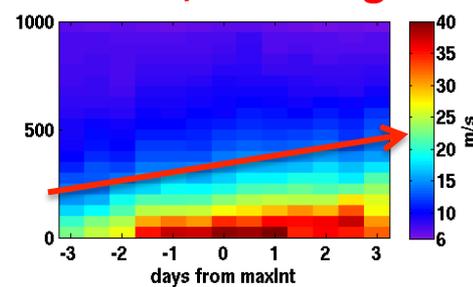
### Cat 4-5; Front Right



### Cat 4-5; Back Left

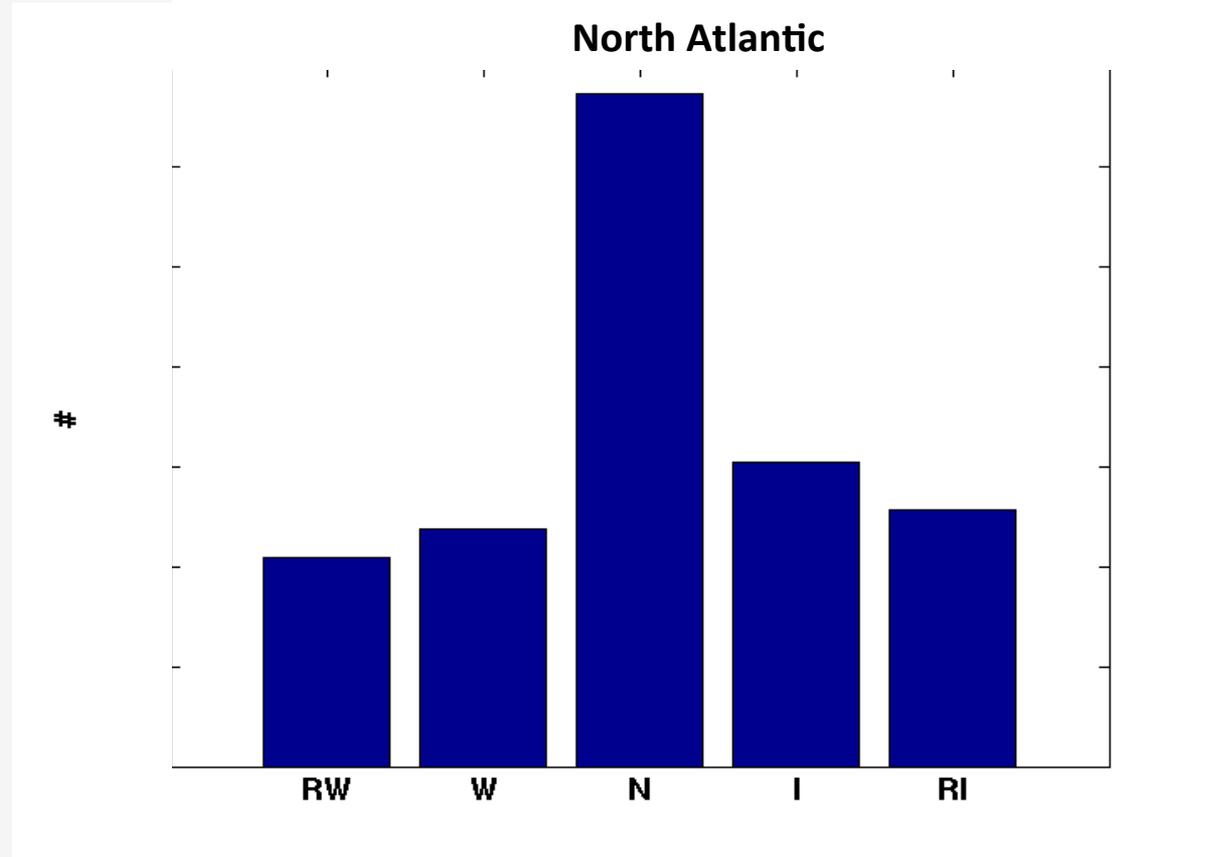


### Cat 4-5; Back Right





# Classifying by Intensity change



**RW= Rapidly Weakening**

**W= Weakening**

**N= No change**

**I= Intensifying**

**RI= Rapidly Intensifying**

**DeltaSpeed**

**-4.75 m/s per 6hr < DeltaSpeed**

**-0.75 m/s per 6hr < DeltaSpeed**

**2.25 m/s per 6hr < DelatSpeed**

**DeltaSpeed**

**< - 4.75 m/s per 6hr (-37.0kt per 24h)**

**< - 0.75 m/s per 6hr (- 5.8kt per 24h)**

**< 2.25 m/s per 6hr (+17.5kt per 24h)**

**< 4.75 m/s per 6hr (+37.0kt per 24h)**

**> 4.75 m/s per 6hr (+37.0kt per 24h)**

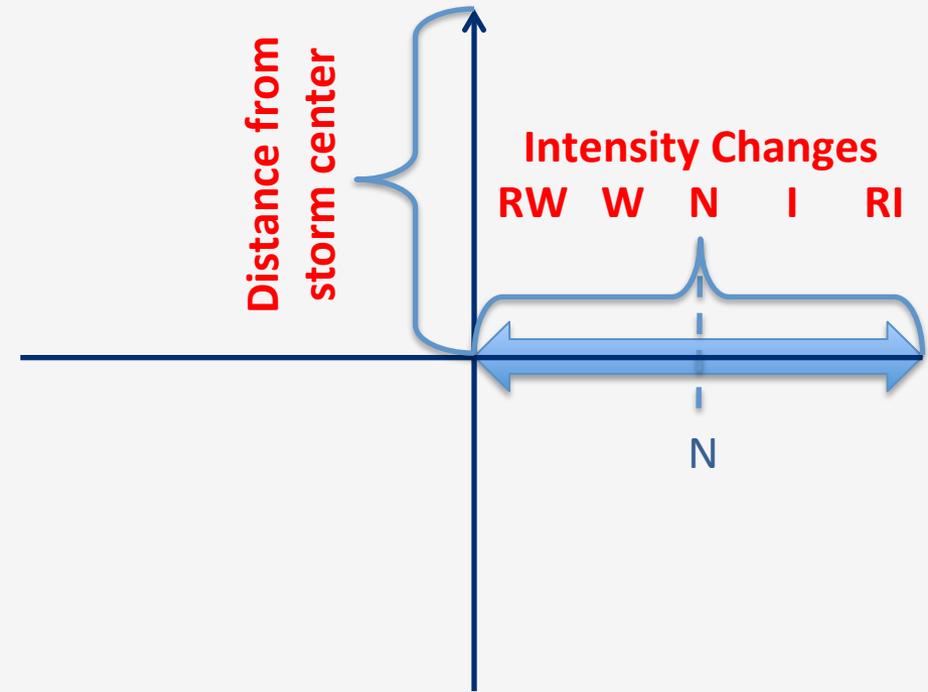
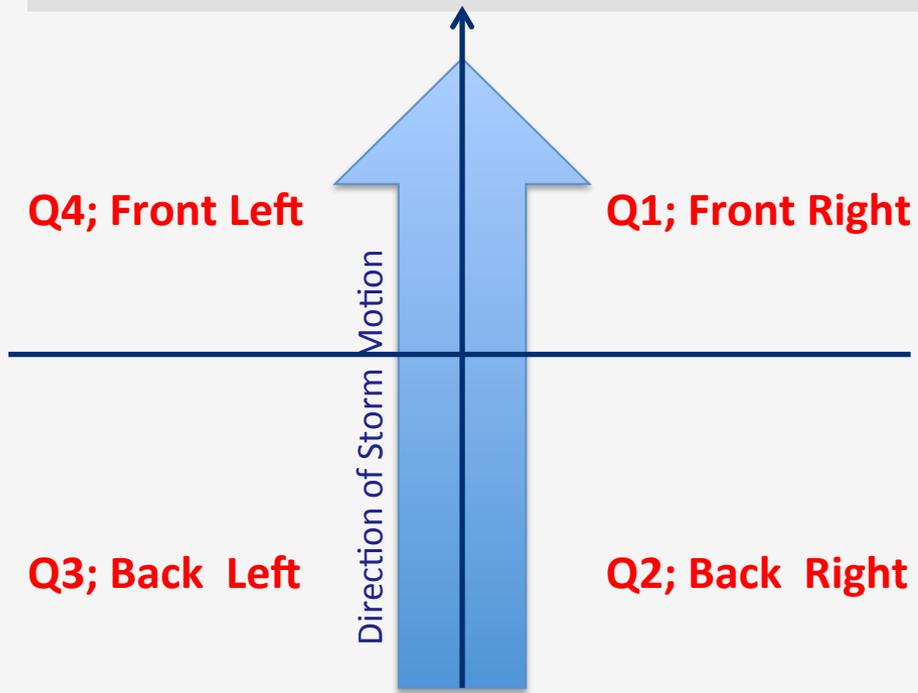


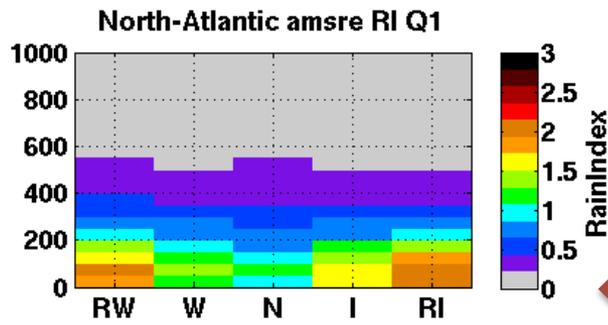
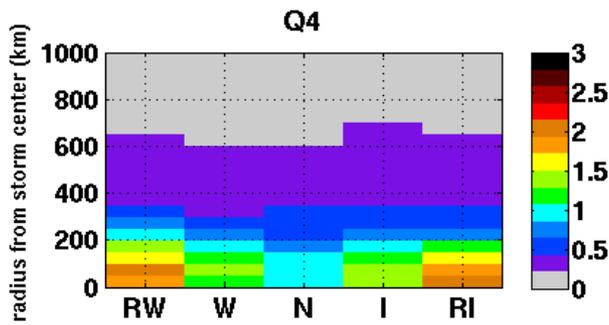
# Asymmetry and Intensity Changes

Statistics from observations ; North Atlantic Hurricanes

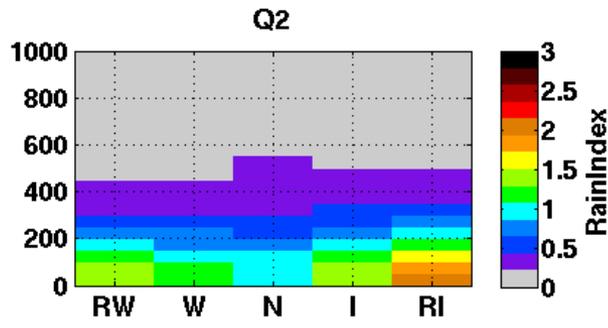
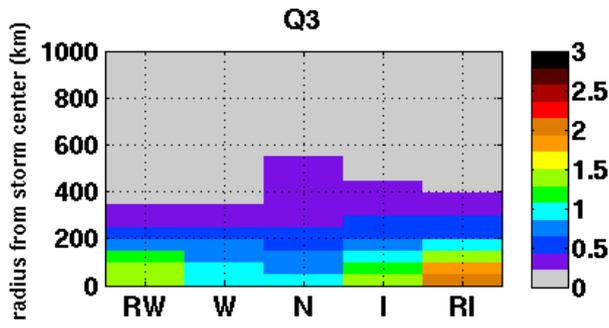
Parameter as a function of:

- Quadrant wrt storm motion
- distance from storm center (y-axis)
- days from maximum intensity (x-axis)





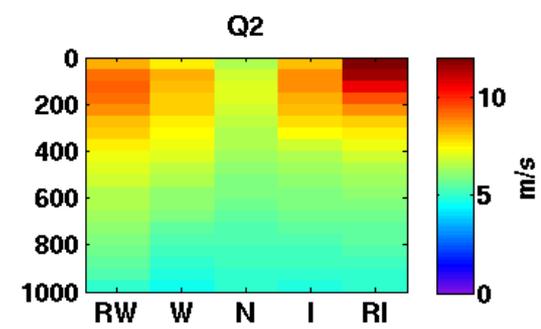
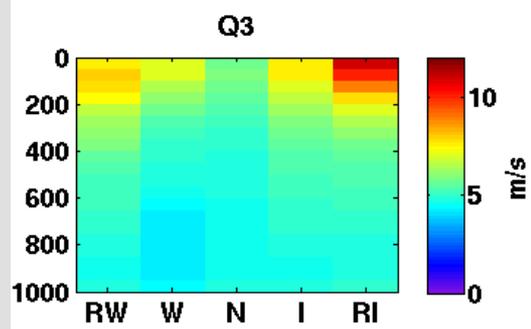
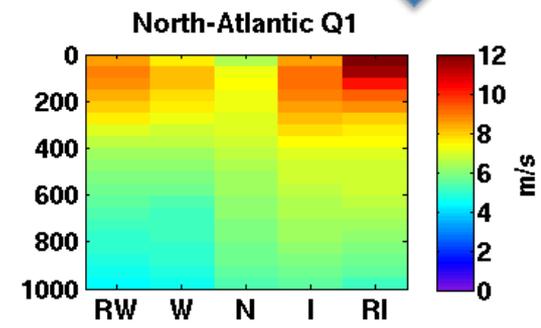
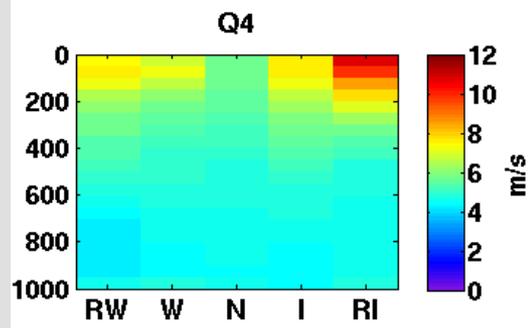
← AMSR-E Rain Index



QuikSCAT wind



- RI storms have most symmetric wind and rain fields
- RW storms have most asymmetric wind and rain
  - Stronger rain in the 2 forward quadrants
  - Stronger wind in the 2 right quadrants
- I and W storms are similar in asymmetry with the I storms being somewhat stronger
- N storms have the weakest fields





# Summary

- To facilitate hurricane research, we developed the JPL Tropical Cyclone Information System (TCIS) of multi-parameter multi-instrument observations (satellite, airborne and in-situ) pertaining to:
  - the thermodynamic and microphysical structure of the storms;
  - the air-sea interaction processes;
  - the larger-scale environment.
- One of the two main components of the JPL TCIS is an archival database of satellite observations (<http://tropicalcyclone.jpl.nasa.gov/hurricane/gemain.jsp>)
  - It presents the satellite depiction of hurricanes
    - over the globe
    - during the period 1999-2011
    - *offering both data and imagery*
  - It provides a one-stop place to obtain an extensive set of multi-parameter data from multiple observing systems, making the TCIS-archival Database a unique source to support hurricane research, forecast improvement and algorithm development.



# Summary (cont.)

- We analyzed the rain and wind fields of the Atlantic hurricanes during the last decade
- Looked at **two new products**
  - **The Rain Indicator** – a multi-channel passive microwave measure
  - **New hurricane-specific surface wind product (from QuikSCAT)** that provides reliable wind estimates under rain and in high-wind conditions typical for hurricanes
- Investigated
  - the storm **asymmetry and its evolution** as a function of storm intensity (Cat1-3 versus Cat4-5)
  - the **storm asymmetry and its relationship to the storm intensity changes**
    - Rapidly **W**eakening, **W**eakening, **N**eutral, **I**ntensifying, **R**apidly **I**ntensifying



# Summary (cont.)

- **We find that:**
  - Category 1-3 hurricanes show different evolution of the storm asymmetry than Cat 4-5.
  - **Rain and Wind fields show different evolution of the asymmetry**
    - **Rain: Cat 1-3 fields are larger and less symmetric in both space and time** (more intense precipitation is in the **front 2 quadrants**; Radial expansion of precipitation after the storm peak (**front 2 quadrants**). Increase in asymmetry
    - **Wind: Cat 4-5 fields are larger and less symmetric in both space and time** (stronger winds in the **right 2 quadrants**; Radial expansion of high winds after the peak of the storm. More pronounced in the **right 2 quadrants**; Increase in asymmetry)
    - Of course, in both cases (rain and wind) Cat4-5 have more intense fields.
  - Rapidly Intensifying (**RI**) and Rapidly Weakening (**RW**) storms show structures that make them distinguishable from the other storms.
    - **RI storms have most symmetric wind and rain fields**
    - **RW storms have most asymmetric wind and rain**
      - **Stronger rain in the 2 forward quadrants**
      - **Stronger wind in the 2 right quadrants**
- Looking at the **statistics of multiple variables** (rain and wind) provides **a more complete view of the storm structure and evolution.**



# Backup



# The NRT Interactive PORTALS

- Two near-real-time (NRT) web portal
- Developed to facilitate the hurricane field campaigns:
  - GRIP in 2010 – <http://grip.jpl.nasa.gov>
  - HS3 in 2012-2014 – <http://hs3.jpl.nasa.gov>
- Integrates model forecasts with satellite observations from a variety of instruments and platforms.
- The unique features of the portal allow users to interrogate a large number of atmospheric and ocean variables to better understand the large-scale and storm-scale processes associated with hurricane genesis, track and intensity changes.
- By including a diverse set of satellite observations and model forecasts, it provides a good spatial and temporal context for the high-resolution, but limited in space and time, airborne observations.
- Such knowledge is essential for the experiment design, providing critical input for the flight planning and serving as a very rich source of information in the analysis stage of the airborne experiment

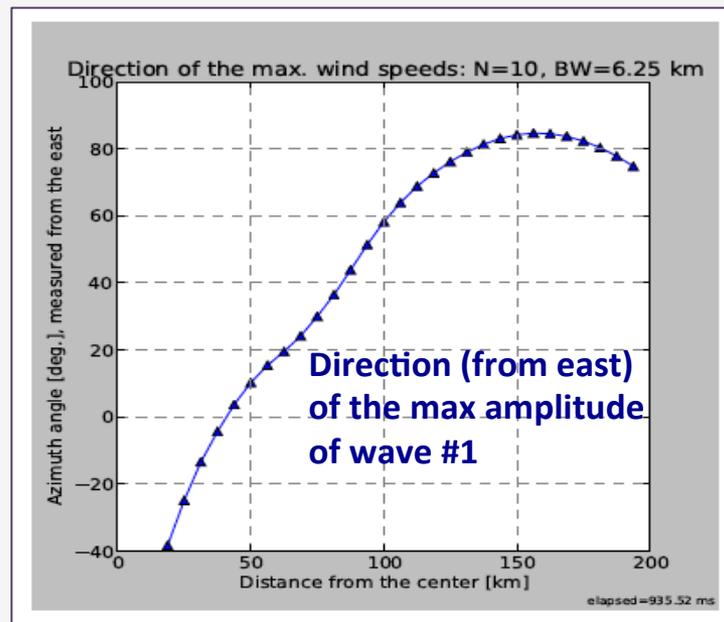
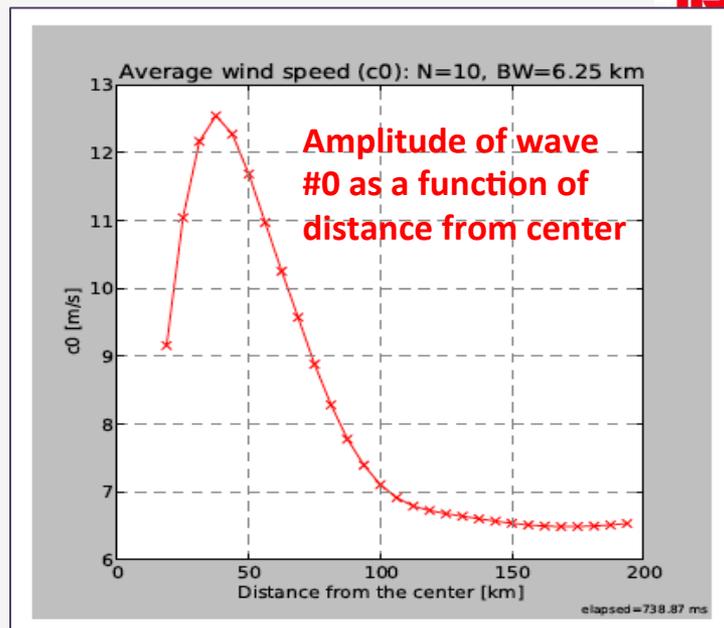
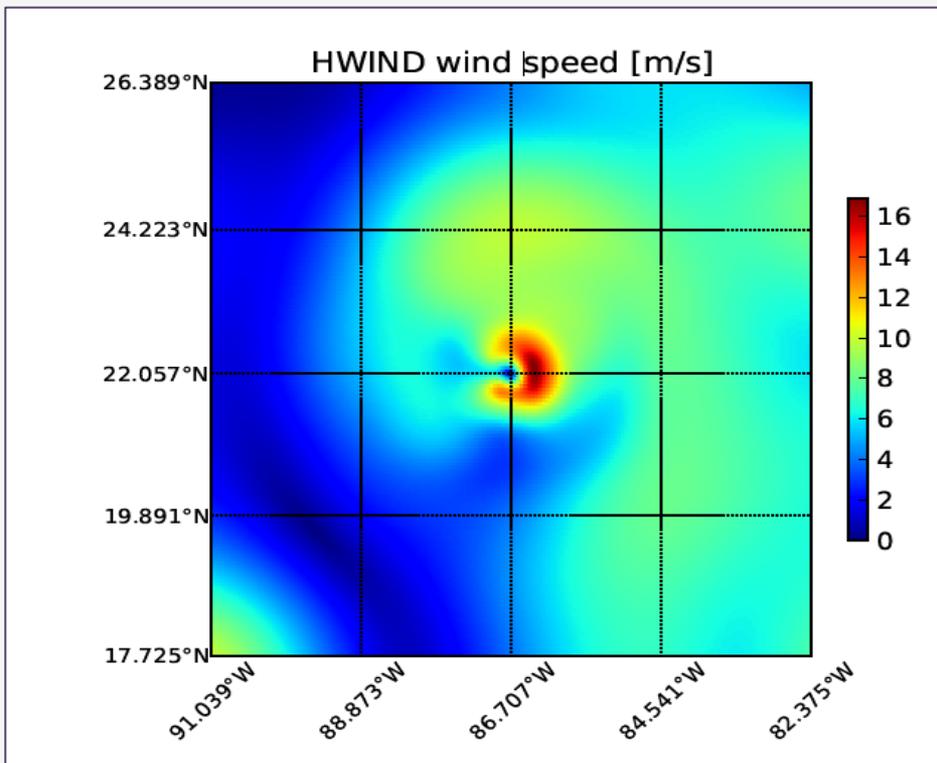


# Analysis tools to allow interrogation of a large number of atmospheric and ocean variables

- To evaluate and improve models
- To better understand the large-scale and storm-scale processes and their interaction

## Wavenumber analysis tool

- First adopted and used by NOAA/AOML/HRD
- Developed for us by Z. Haddad and N. Niamsuwan



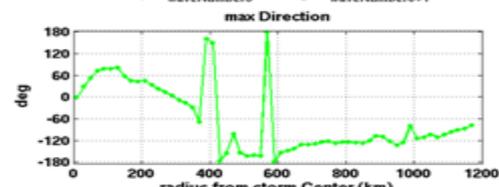
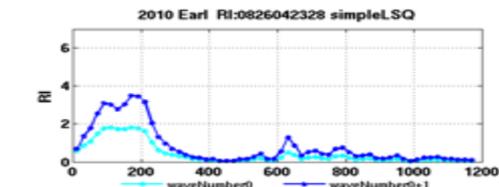
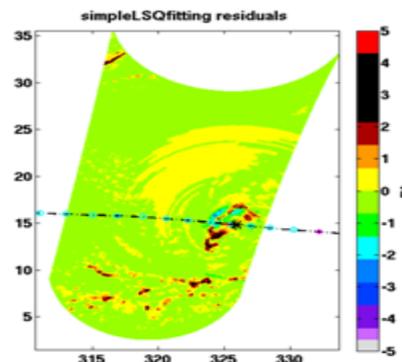
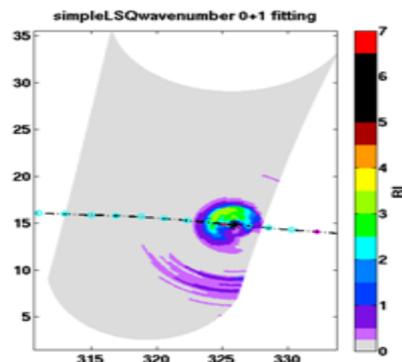
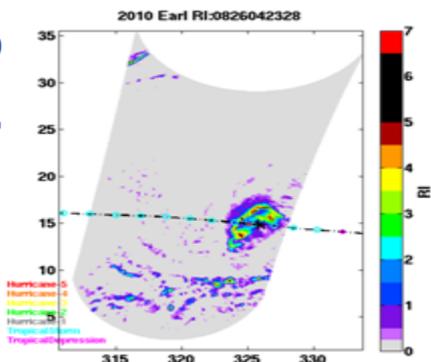


# Storm structure Tool: Storm Size and Asymmetry

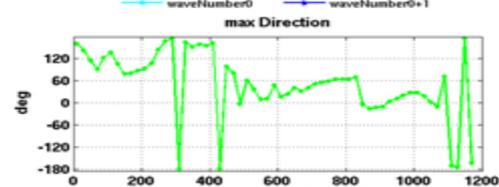
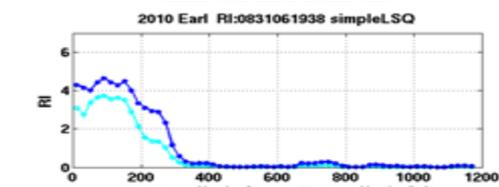
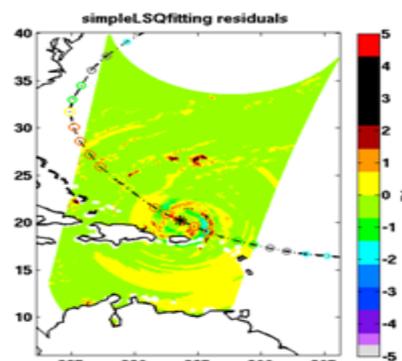
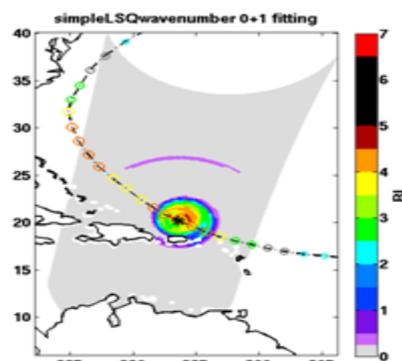
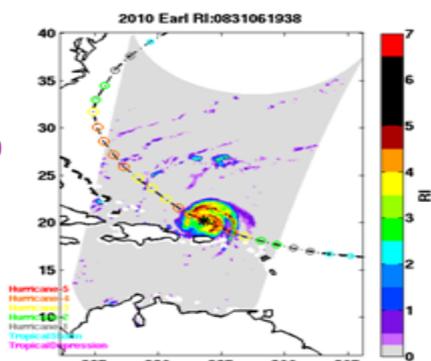
*The Wave Number Analysis Tool using the Rain Index (multi-channel PMW index)*

More details in the Rain Index can be found in Hristova-Veleva et al. 2013, JAMC 52, 2828–2848

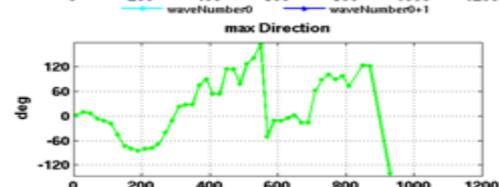
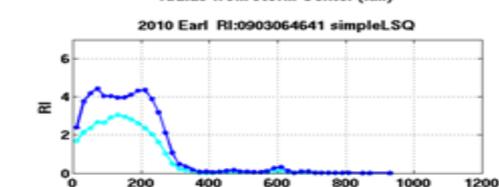
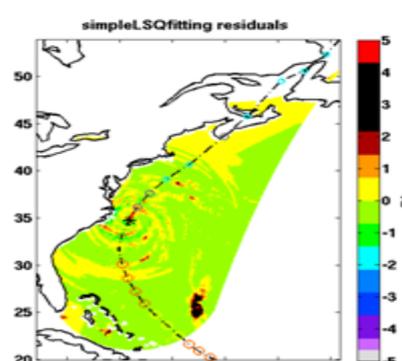
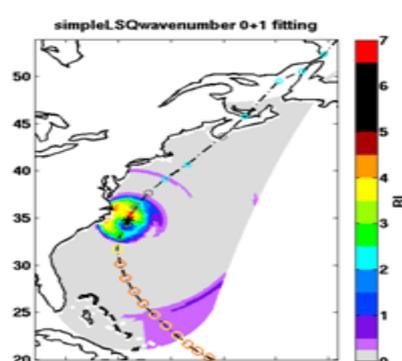
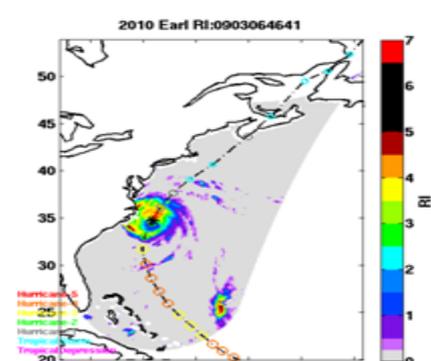
Developing



During RI



Mature



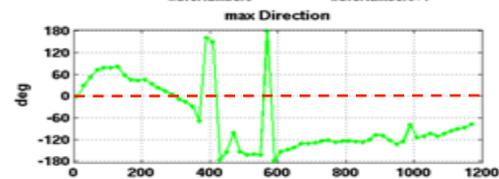
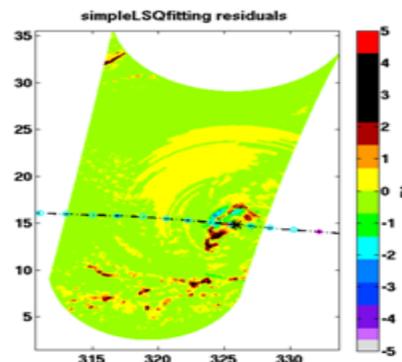
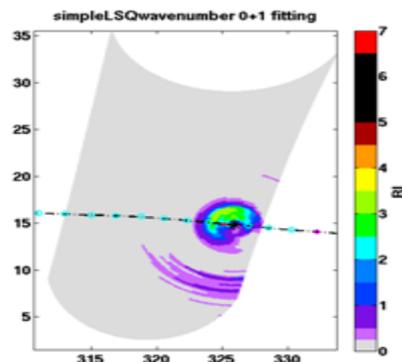
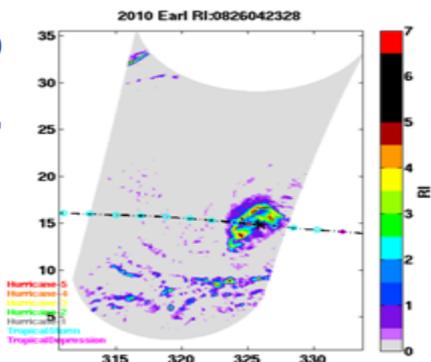


# Storm structure Tool: Storm Size and Asymmetry

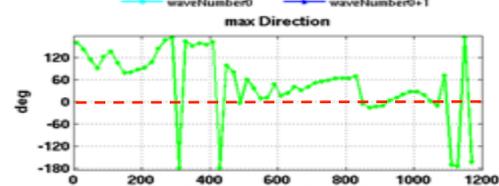
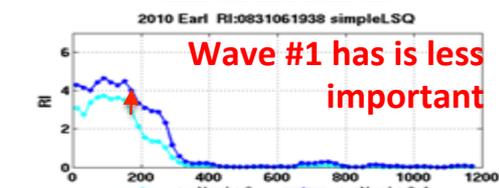
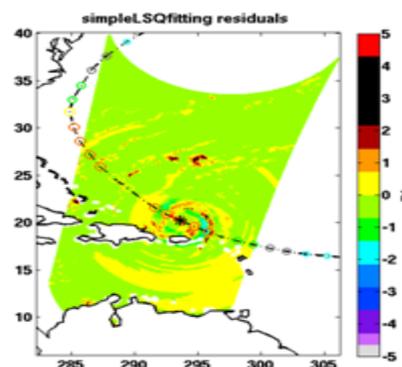
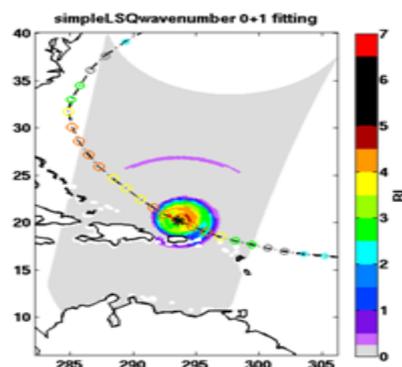
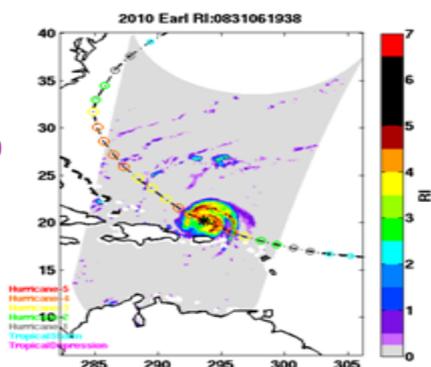
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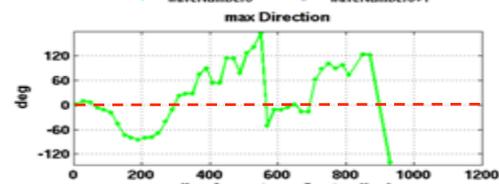
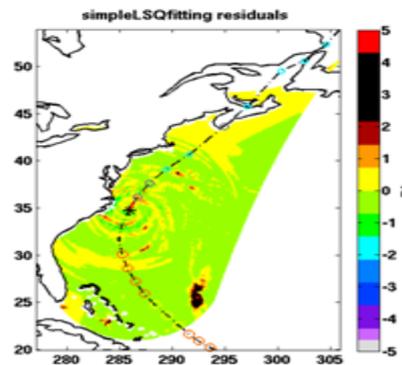
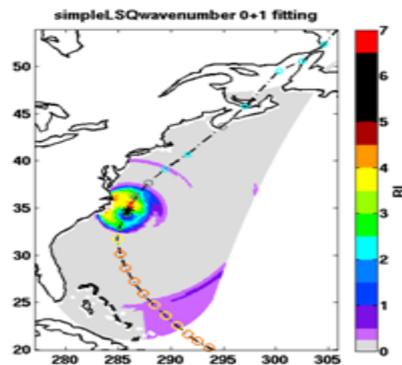
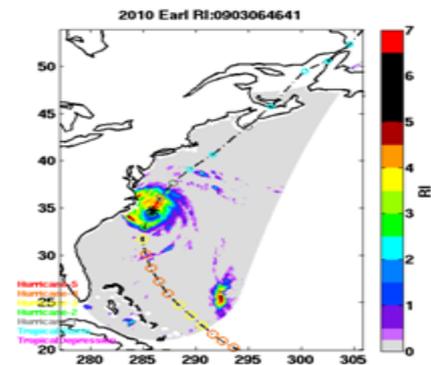
Developing



During RI



Mature

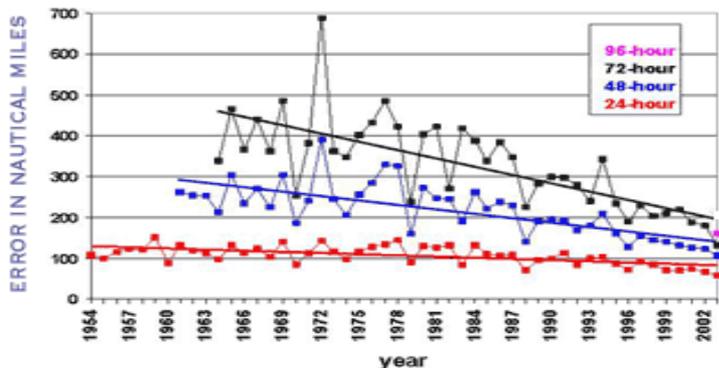




# Current state-of-the-art hurricane prediction

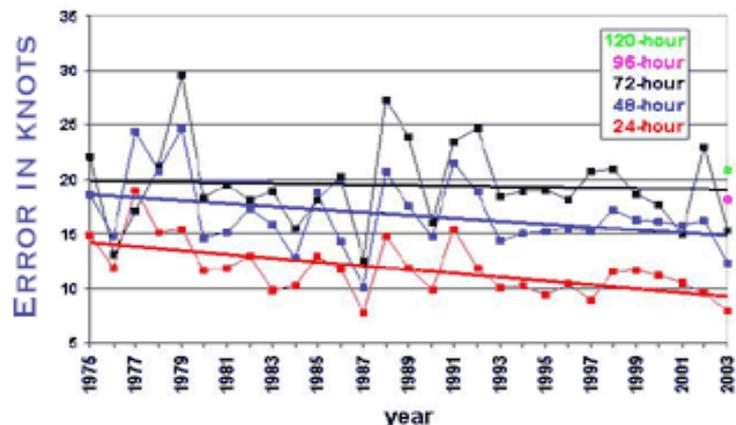
- **25% reduction in 48 hour track error over the past 6 years**

AVERAGE ERRORS FOR HURRICANE TRACK PREDICTIONS



- **Intensity forecasts have not improved.**

AVERAGE ERRORS IN INTENSITY PREDICTIONS FOR ATLANTIC HURRICANES



## But WHY ???

- What are the sources of the intensity errors?
- **Do the models properly reflect the physical processes and their interactions?**
  - Is the representation of the precipitation structure correct?
  - Is the storm scale and asymmetry reflected properly
  - Is the environment captured correctly
  - Is the interaction between the storm and its environment represented accurately
- **Recognizing an urgent need for more accurate hurricane forecasts, NOAA recently established the multi-agency 10-year Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project (HFIP).**