

## APPLICATION OF FACTOR SEPARATION TO HEAVY RAINFALL AND CYCLOGENESIS EVENTS: MEDITERRANEAN EXAMPLES

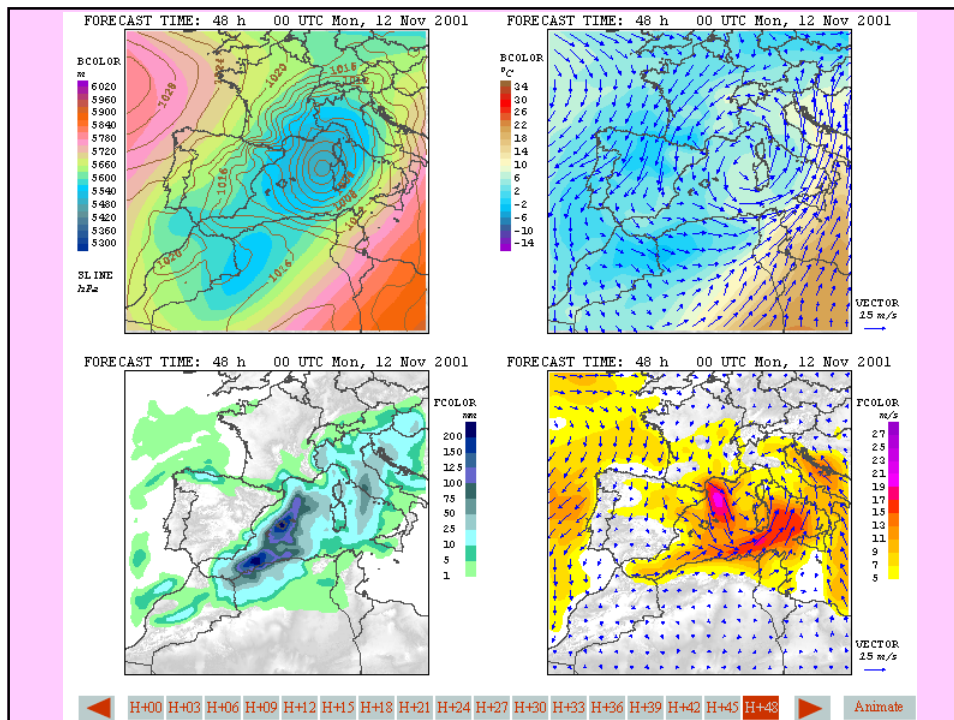
12th EGU Plinius Conference on Mediterranean Storms  
(Corfu Island, Greece, 1-4 September, 2010)

*Romu Romero*

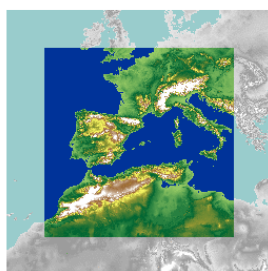


## THE STUDY OF ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENA

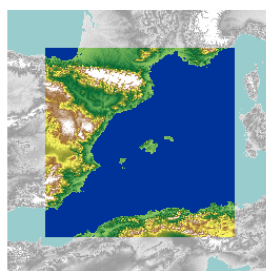
- Observations (limited in number, space and time)
- Theory (requires simplifications)
- Experimentation (*Numerical Modeling*)



- *Multiscale* perspective of the problem



DOMAIN 1 (22.5 km resolution)

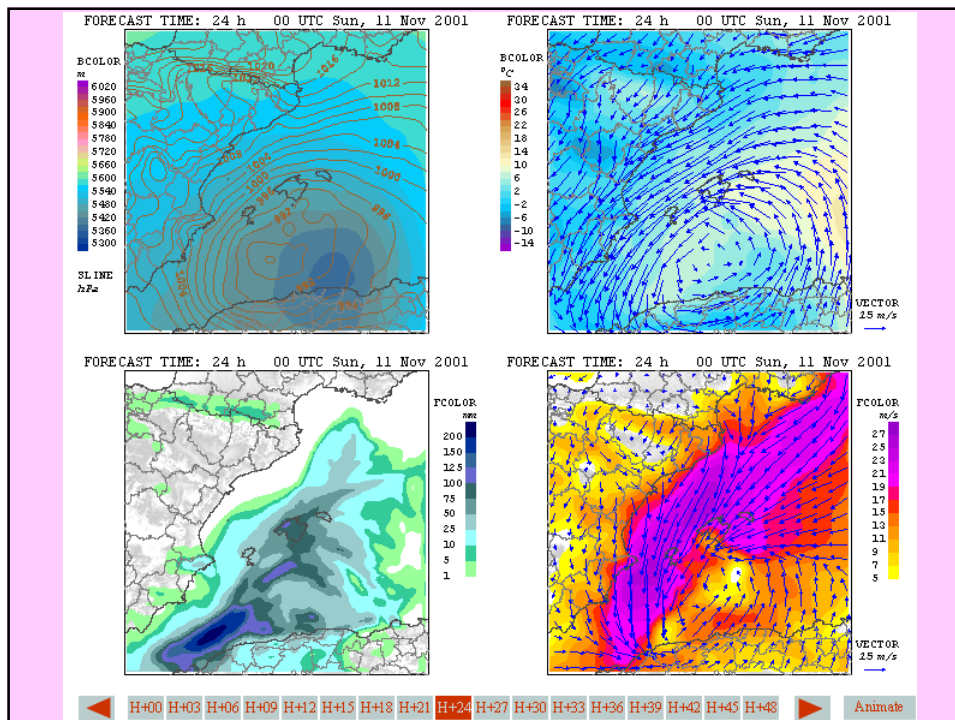
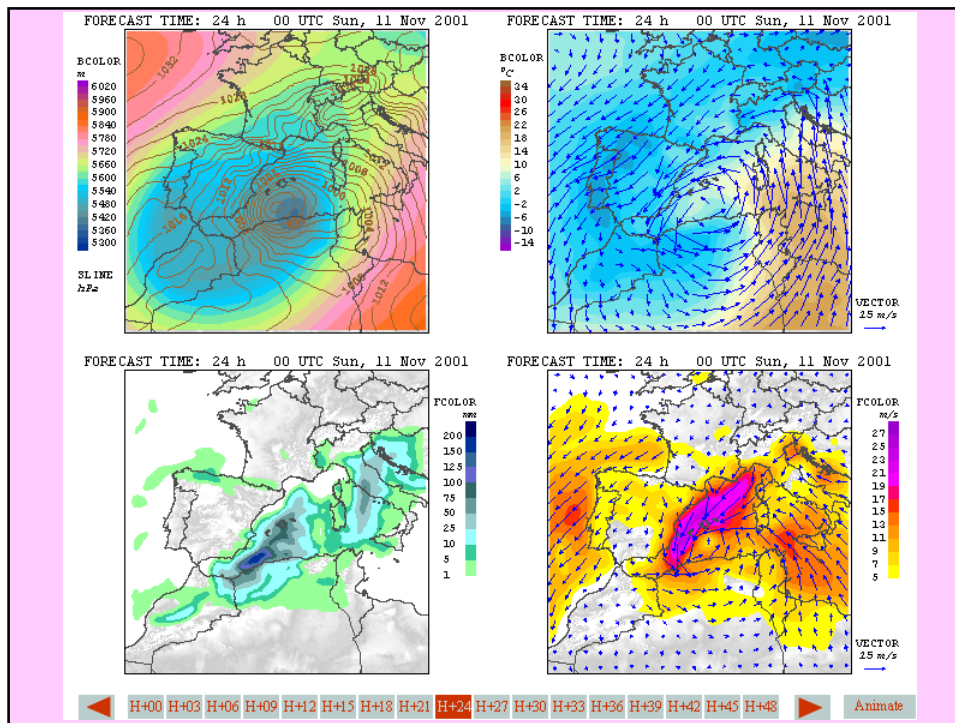


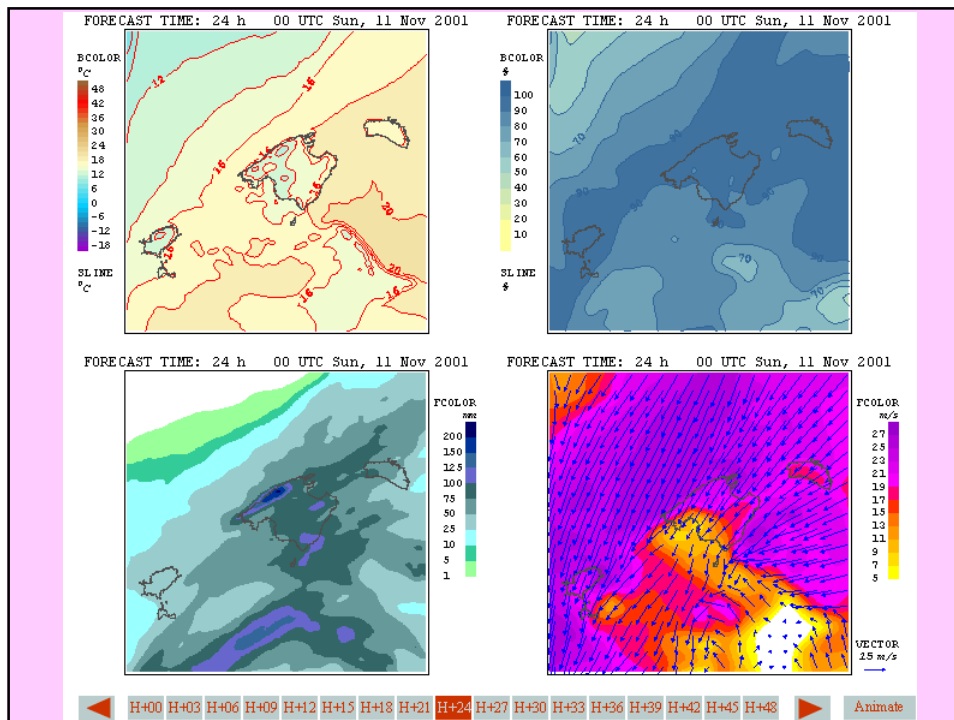
DOMAIN 2 (7.5 km resolution)



DOMAIN 3 (2.5 km resolution)

- Realistic *physical processes* parameterized





## UNIQUE FEATURE OF NUMERICAL MODELS

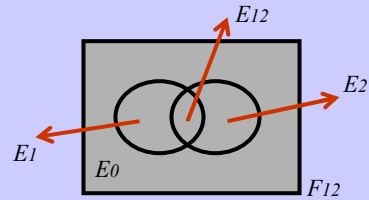
- Reasonably *good* control simulation of your case study
- Specifically *designed* simulations (by perturbing factors)  
(sensitivity studies / factor separation)
- Improved physical *understanding* of your case study



## FACTOR SEPARATION (Stein and Alpert, JAS 1993)

### 2 FACTORS

Run	Factor 1	Factor 2	
$F_{12}$	on	on	$= E_0 + E_1 + E_2 + E_{12}$
$F_1$	on	off	$= E_0 + E_1$
$F_2$	off	on	$= E_0 + E_2$
$F_0$	off	off	$= E_0$



**Unrelated** with factors 1 and 2

$$E_0 = F_0$$

Induced by the **factor 1** (independent of 2)

$$E_1 = F_1 - F_0$$

Induced by the **factor 2** (independent of 1)

$$E_2 = F_2 - F_0$$

Induced by the **synergism** of factors 1 and 2

$$E_{12} = F_{12} - (F_1 + F_2) + F_0$$

\* Generalization:

**n FACTORS**

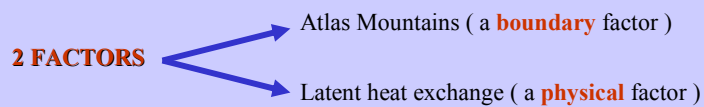
**→ 2<sup>n</sup> SIMULATIONS**

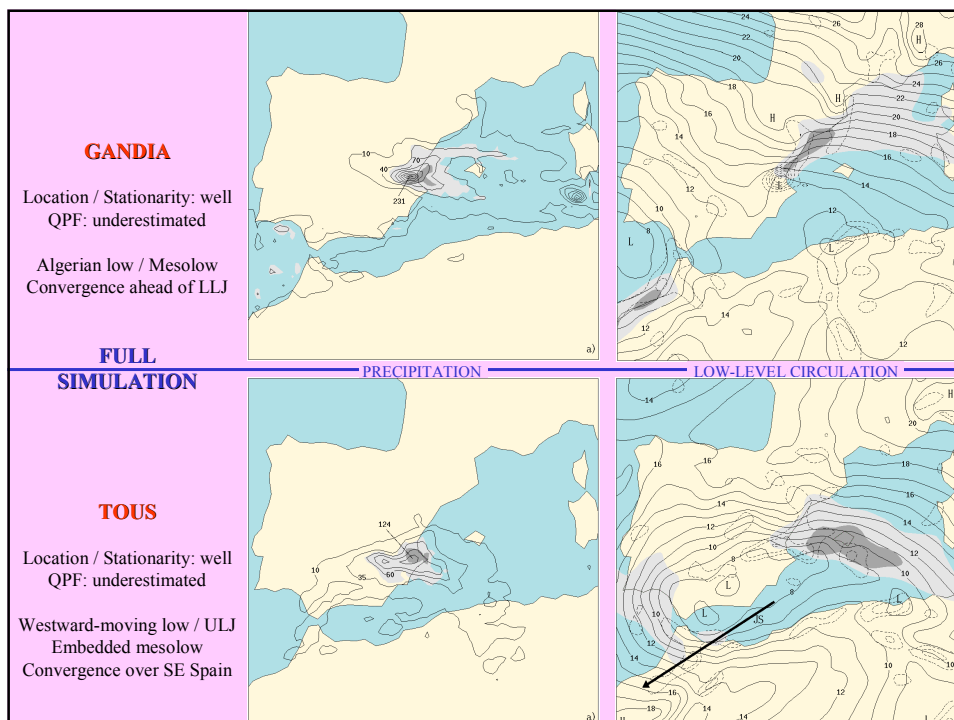
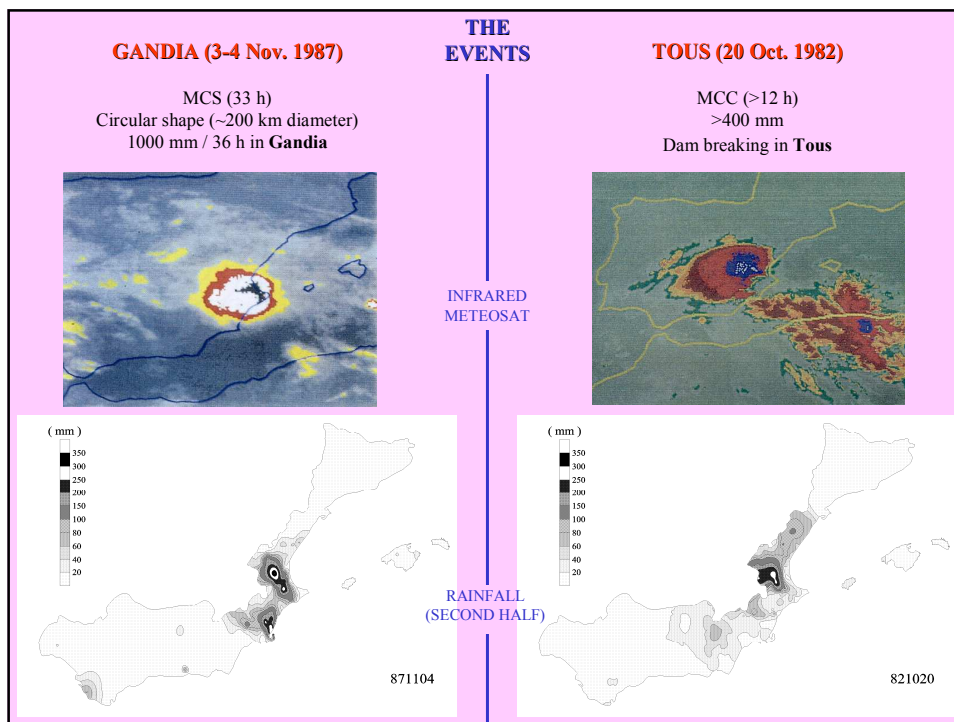
$$E_{i_1 i_2 i_3 \dots i_k} = \sum_{m=0}^k (-1)^{k-m} \left( \sum_{\text{sort}} F_{j_1 j_2 j_3 \dots j_m} \right) \quad 0 \leq k \leq n$$

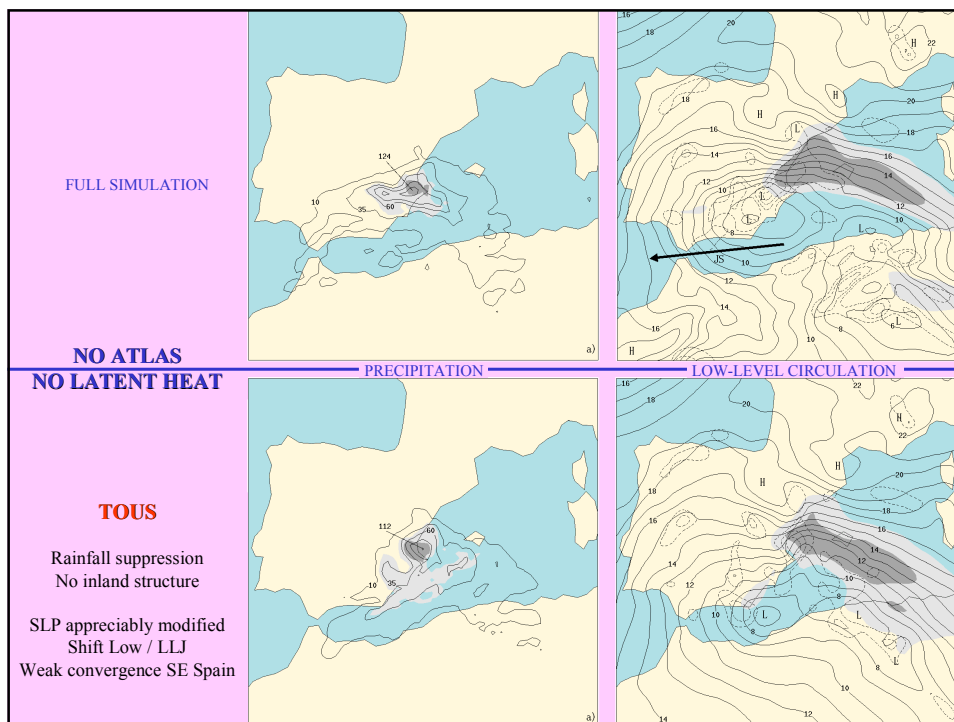
where  $\sum_{\text{sort}}$  is over all groups of  $m$  sorted indices  $j_1 j_2 j_3 \dots j_m$  chosen from  $k$  indices  $i_1 i_2 i_3 \dots i_k$

## Part 1.- CASE STUDIES

### 2 FLASH FLOOD EVENTS OVER EASTERN SPAIN







## FACTOR SEPARATION STUDY

Method of Stein and Alpert (1993)

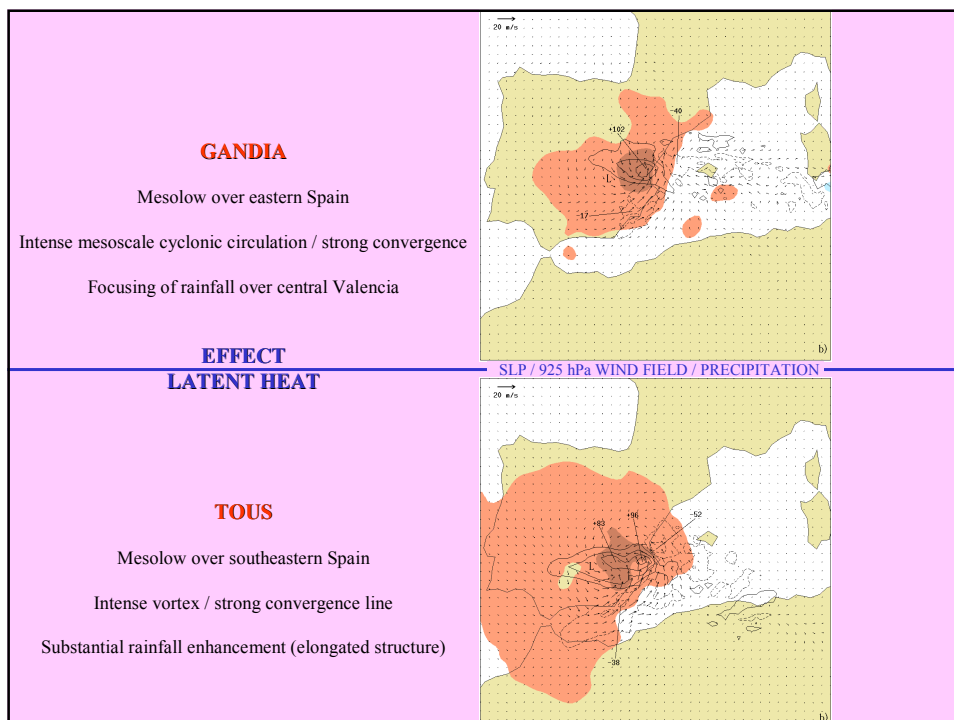
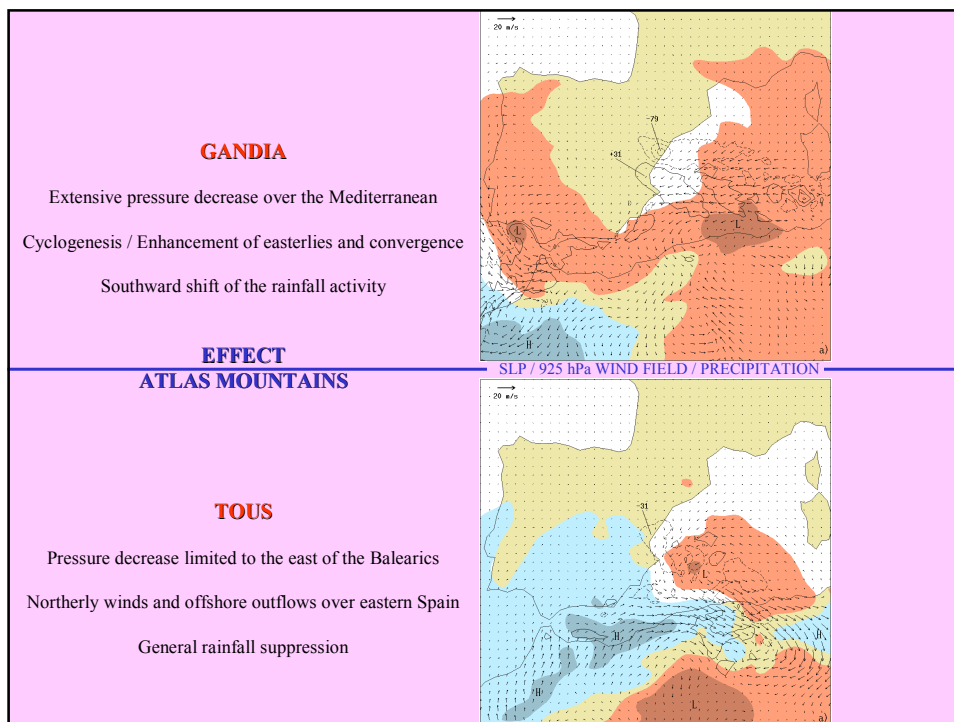
$n$  factors  $\longrightarrow 2^n$  simulations

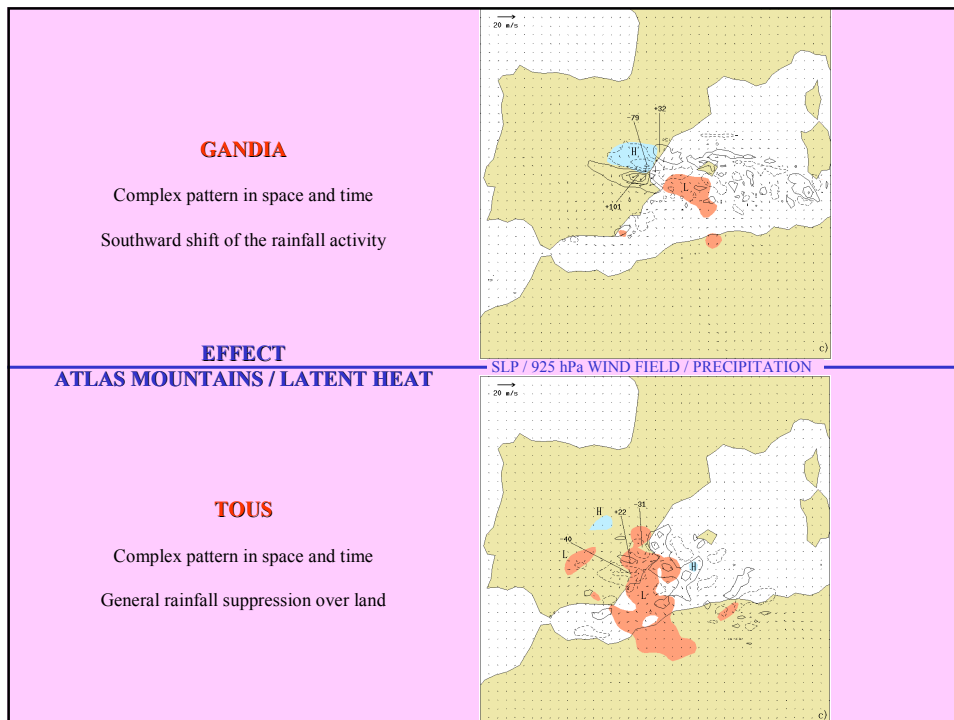
Experiment	Atlas orography	Latent heat exchange
F <sub>0</sub>	no	no
F <sub>1</sub>	yes	no
F <sub>2</sub>	no	yes
F <sub>12</sub>	yes	yes

a. Effect of the Atlas Mountains =  $F_1 - F_0$

b. Effect of the Latent heat =  $F_2 - F_0$

c. Effect of the interaction Atlas/Latent heat =  $F_{12} - (F_1 + F_2) + F_0$





**CONCLUSIONS (I) - Part 1**

The **numerical modeling** of atmospheric circulations is the most powerful tool available to scientists to develop a better **physical understanding** of the responsible mechanisms and its relation to the **weather or the environment**

↓

**FACTOR SEPARATION**

By **switching on / off** some given factors in the numerical simulations, the **role** played by these factors on our meteorological or environmental problem can be **isolated** !!!

## CONCLUSIONS (II) - Part 1

### 1) Factor separation technique (PROS):

- Numerical simulations can be utilized to obtain the **pure contribution** of any factor to any predicted field, as well as the contributions due to the mutual **interactions** among two or more factors.
- **Easy to apply** (algebraic combinations of model outputs).

### 2) Factor separation technique (CONS):

- **n factors**  $\longrightarrow$  **2<sup>n</sup> simulations**  
(e.g. 10 factors would require 1024 simulations, **but** only 56 simulations would be needed to obtain double interactions only).
- The interactions can be **complex** and difficult to interpret

### 3) What about the nature of the factors ?

- **Boundary** and **physical** factors, no problem !
- **But** ... how to deal with **dynamical** factors (**I.C**) ?

## INTRODUCTION - Part 2

### HEAVY RAIN PRODUCING WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN CYCLONE

**FACTORS**  $\longrightarrow$  Two embedded upper level disturbances ( positive PV anomalies )  
( **dynamical** factors )

**How** can the internal features of the flow dynamics (jet streaks, troughs, fronts, etc...) present in the initial conditions be **switched on / off** without compromising the delicate 3-D dynamical balances that govern both the model and actual meteorological fields ???



**PIECEWISE PV INVERSION**



## FUNDAMENTALS PV - QG framework

**a) Conservation principle:**  $\frac{D_g}{Dt}(QGPV) = 0$  In an adiabatic and frictionless atmosphere, it is conserved **following the geostrophic motion**

**b) Invertibility principle:**

$QGPV \text{ field}$	+	$\text{Balance condition}$	+	$\text{Boundary conditions}$
Function of $\phi$		Geostrophic balance (Requires $Ro \rightarrow 0$ )		On $\phi / \phi_p$

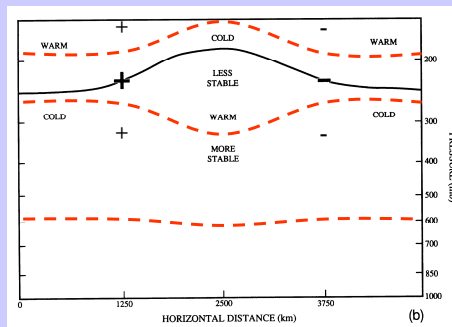
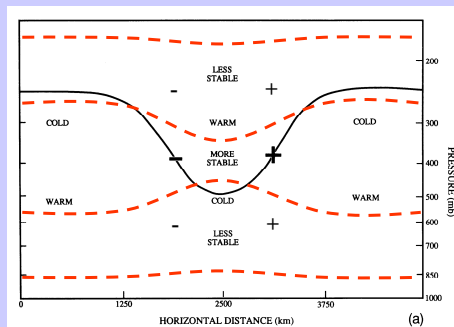
**Linear operator (anomalies)**  
 $\downarrow$   
 A balance flow can be calculated from the  $QGPV$  field:  $\phi, \vec{V}_g, T$

**c) About the anomalies:**  $QGPV \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \zeta_g + f \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left( \frac{f_0}{\sigma} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial p} \right) = - \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left( \frac{f_0 R_d}{\sigma p} T \right) \approx - \frac{f_0 R_d}{\sigma p} \frac{\partial T}{\partial p} \end{array} \right.$  Coriolis parameter increases with latitude

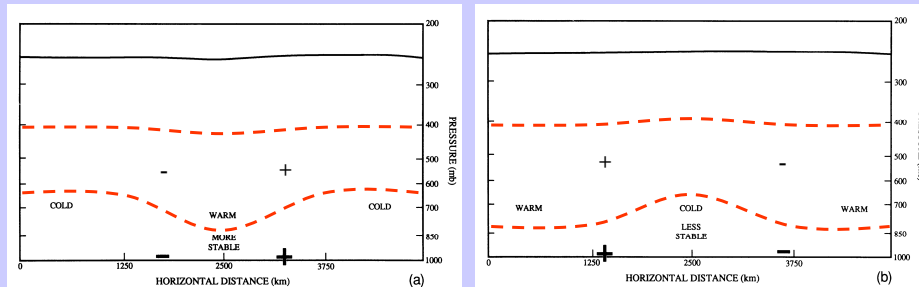
$< 0$  in troposphere  
 $> 0$  in stratosphere

- $QGPV$  is typically higher/lower in high/low latitude, stratospheric/tropospheric air: Source of +/- anomalies
- +/- anomalies are consistent with positive/negative relative vorticity **and** enhanced/reduced stability

## FUNDAMENTALS PV - Upper Level PV Anomalies



## FUNDAMENTALS PV - Surface Thermal Anomalies



## COMPARISON – Ertel's Potential Vorticity

$$EPV \equiv \frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\eta} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \theta$$

a) Conservation principle:

$$\frac{D}{Dt}(EPV) = 0$$

In an adiabatic and frictionless atmosphere, it is conserved **following air-parcel motion** (even if the atmosphere is nonhydrostatic)

b) Invertibility principle:

$$\text{Balance condition} + \text{EPV field} + \text{Boundary conditions}$$

Charney nonlinear balance (very small irrot. wind) (Accurate for  $Ro \rightarrow 1$ )

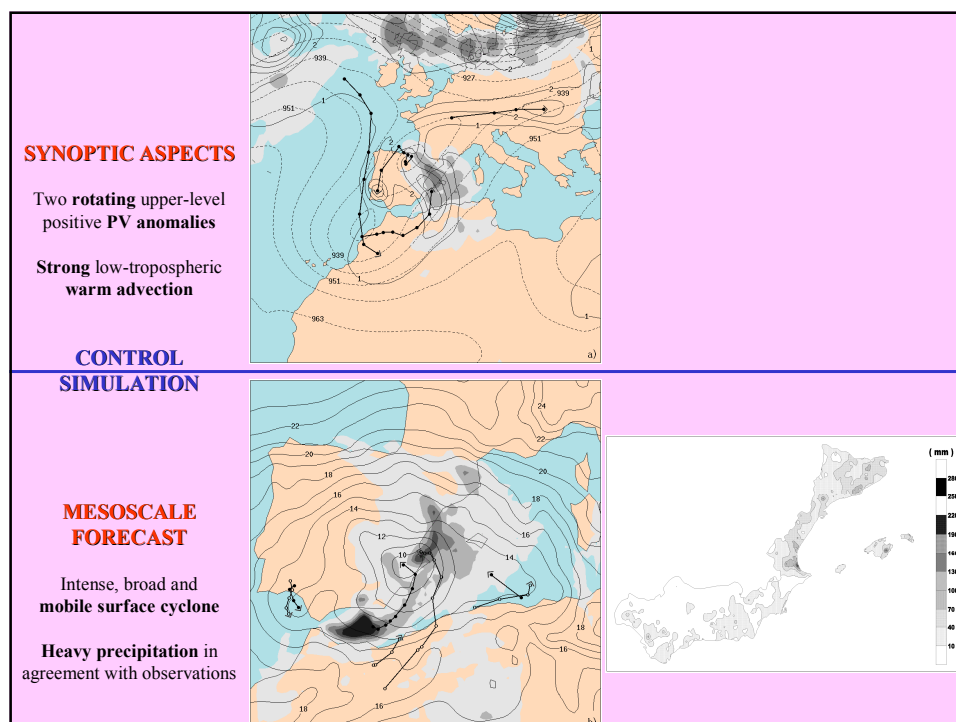
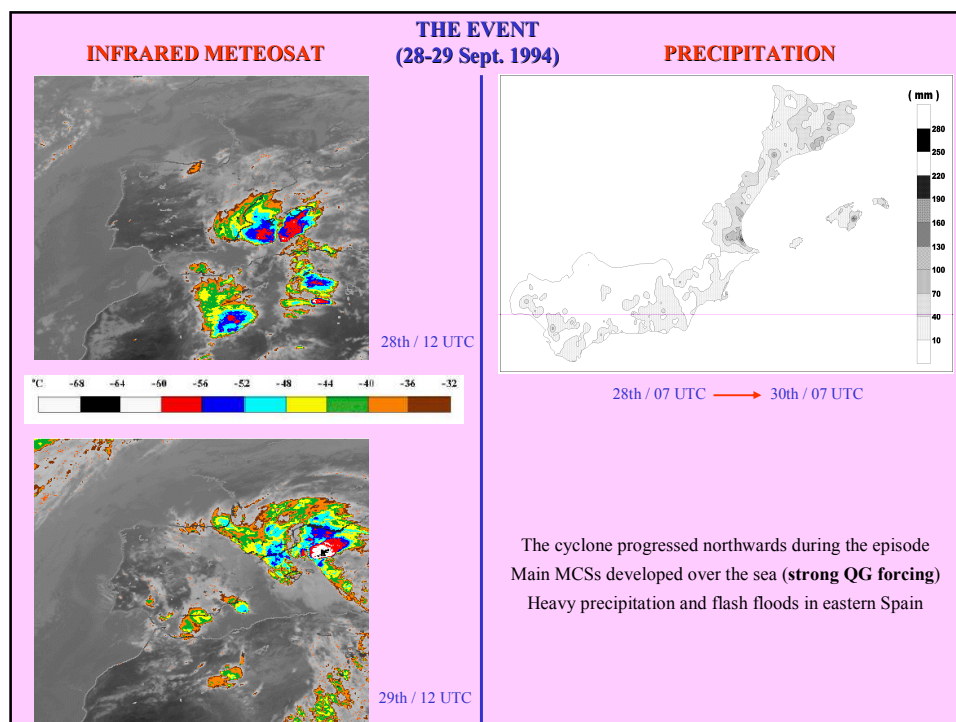
Under the same scale analysis

Nonlinear operator (anomalies !!!)

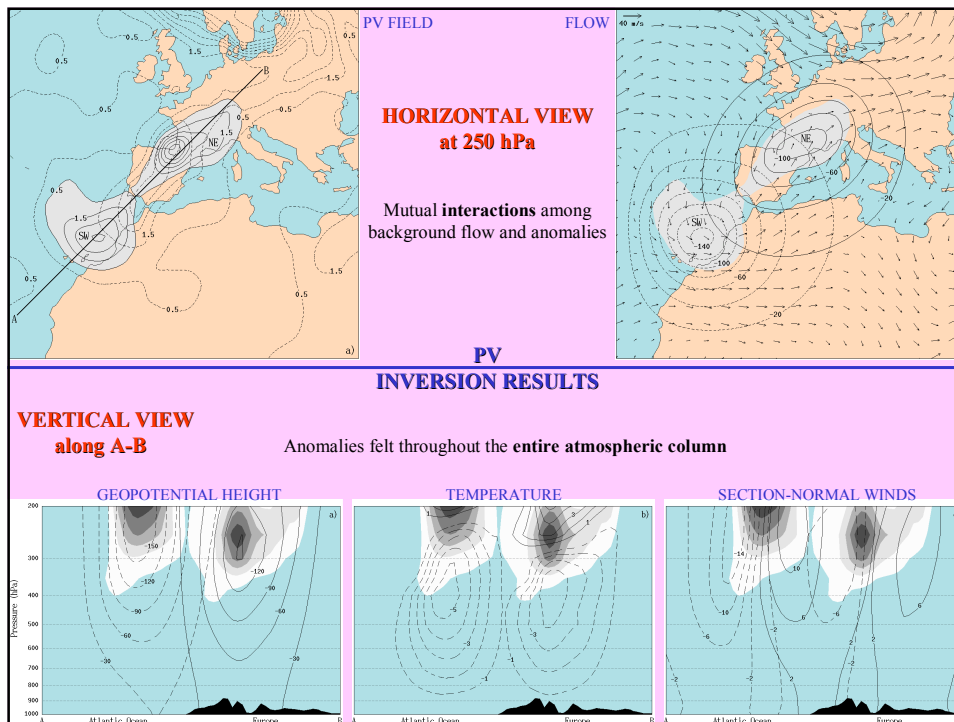
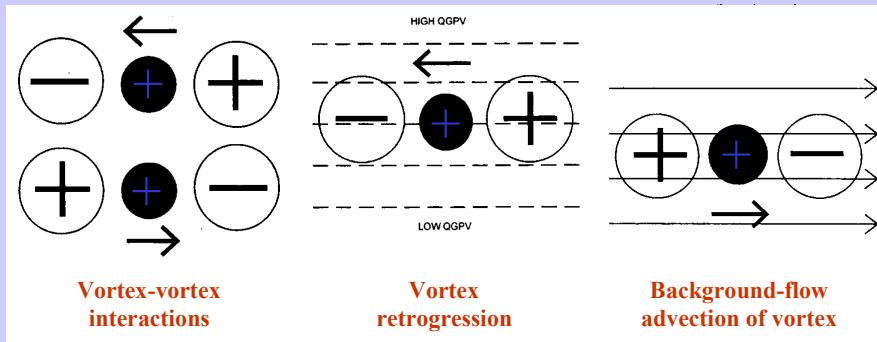
A balance flow can be calculated from the EPV field:  $\phi, \vec{V}_\psi, T$

c) About the anomalies:

Same qualitative picture as for the QGPV anomalies



## PV THINKING - Lateral Interactions



## SENSITIVITY EXPERIMENTS

By adding and/or subtracting the PV-inverted balanced fields  
(geopotential, temperature and wind) into the model initial conditions

### Sensitivity to the intensity

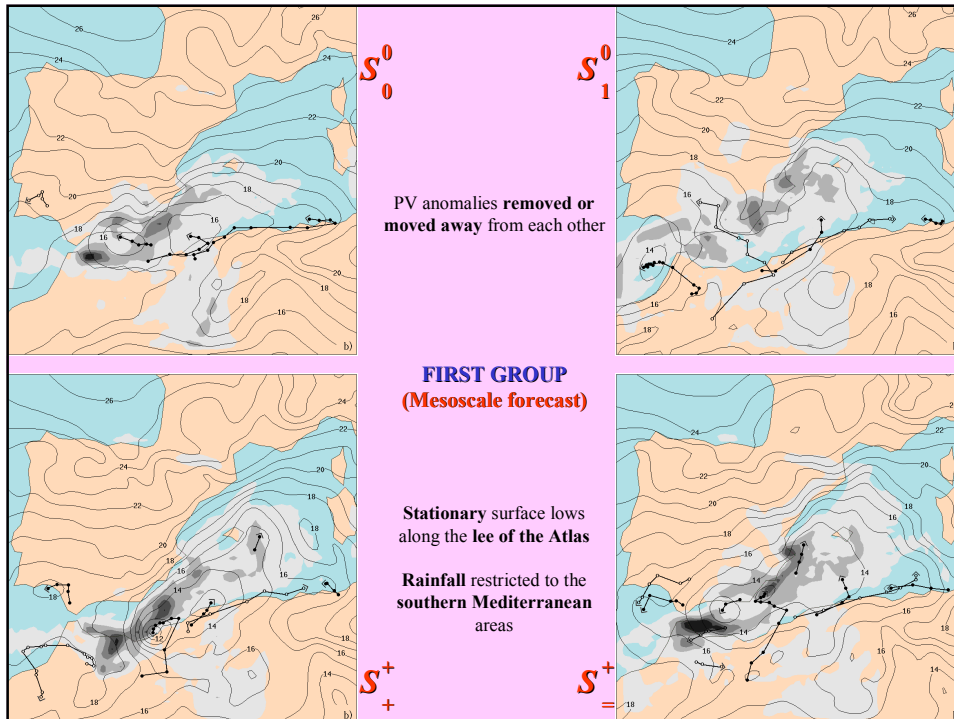
(One or both PV anomalies removed or doubled)

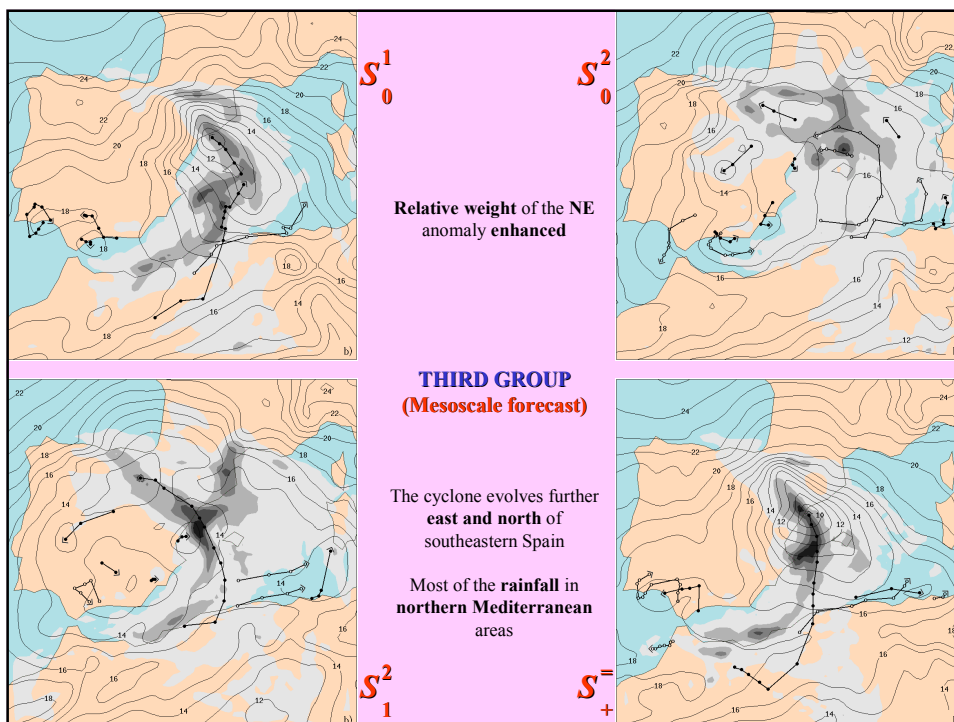
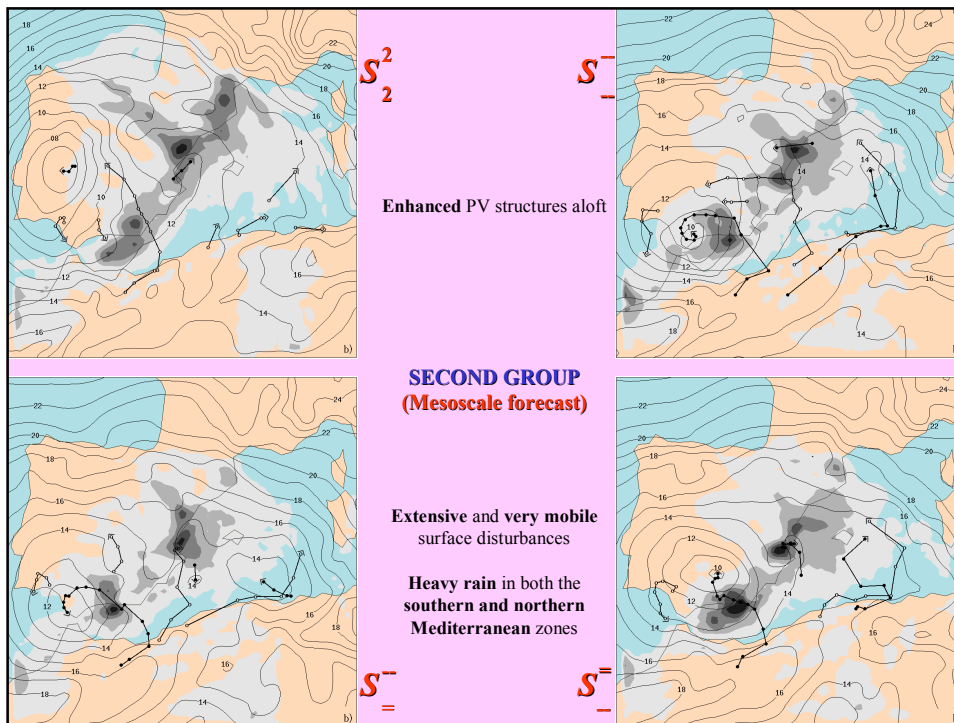
Experiment	SW anomaly	NE anomaly
$S_0^0$	Removed	Removed
$S_2^2$	Doubled	Doubled
$S_1^0$	Unchanged	Removed
$S_2^0$	Doubled	Removed
$S_0^1$	Removed	Unchanged
$S_0^2$	Removed	Doubled
$S_2^1$	Doubled	Unchanged
$S_1^2$	Unchanged	Doubled

### Sensitivity to the position

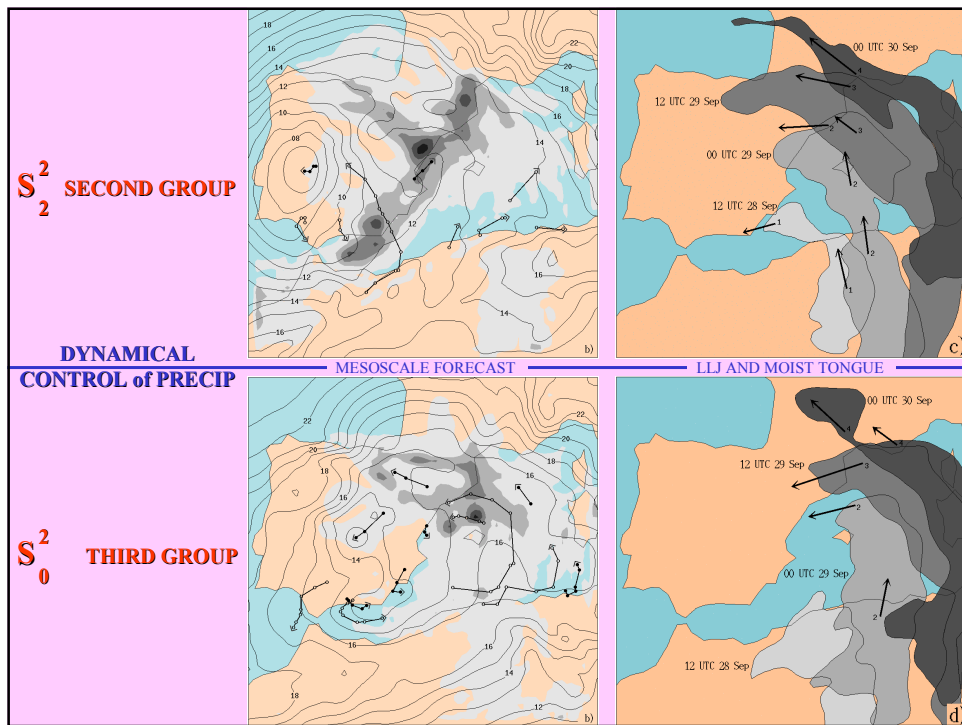
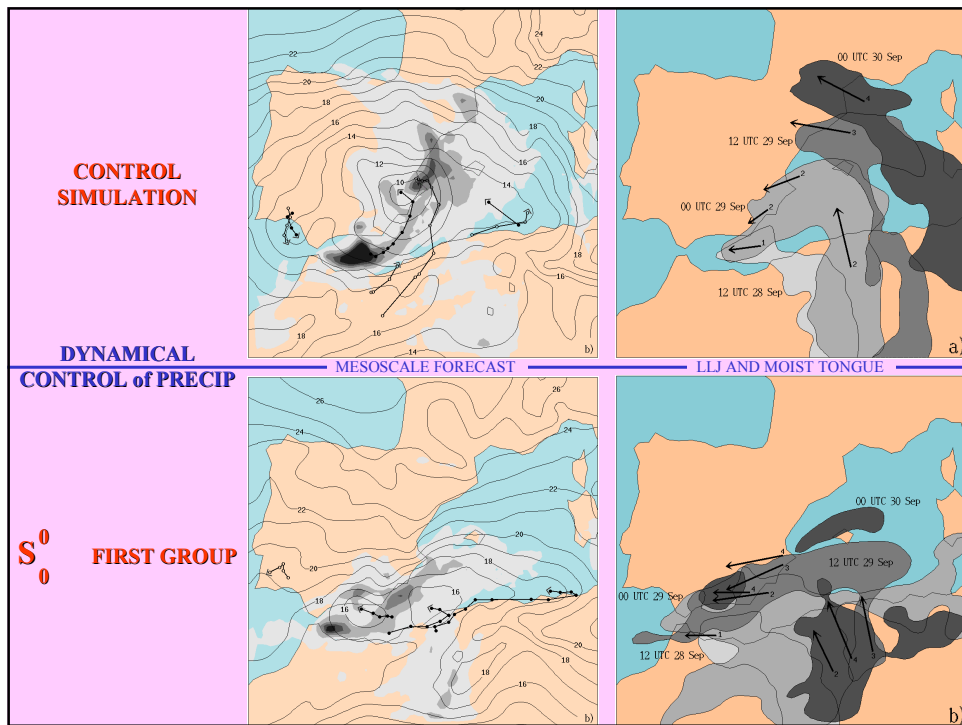
(One or both PV anomalies shifted 425 km along A-B)

Experiment	SW anomaly	NE anomaly
$S_-^-$	Moved inwards	Moved inwards
$S_+^+$	Moved outwards	Moved outwards
$S_-^-$	Unchanged	Moved inwards
$S_+^+$	Moved outwards	Moved inwards
$S_-^-$	Moved inwards	Unchanged
$S_+^+$	Moved inwards	Moved outwards
$S_-^-$	Moved outwards	Unchanged
$S_+^+$	Unchanged	Moved outwards









## INTRODUCTION - Part 3

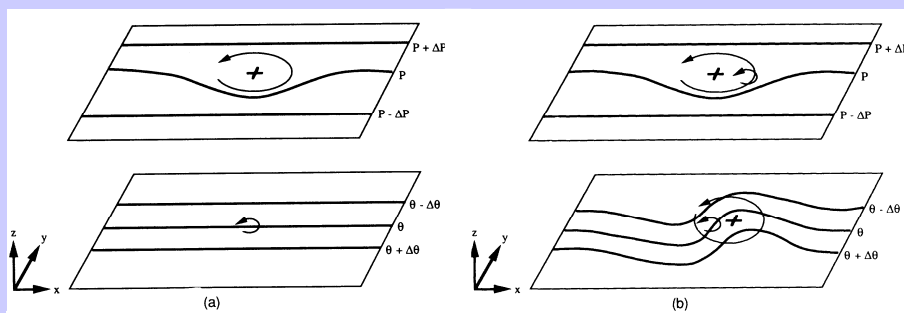
### LIFE CYCLE OF AN INTENSE MEDITERRANEAN CYCLONE

**PV THINKING** → An analysis of the cyclone event in terms of the **impacts** and **interactions** of dry and moist **PV anomalies** (and mean flow)

Beyond a qualitative analysis, **how** can these impacts and interactions be **quantified ???**

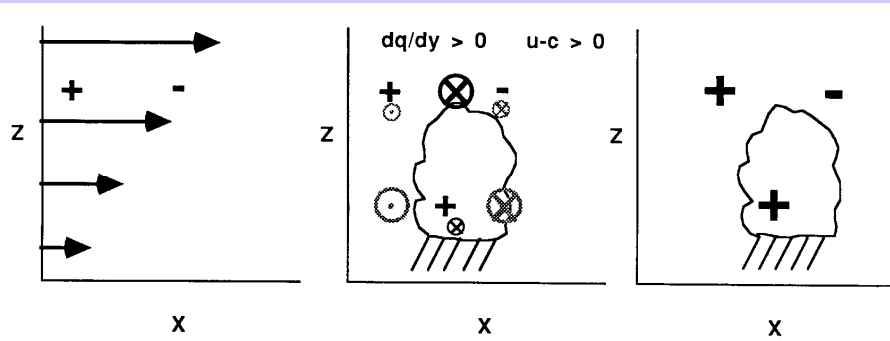
**PV-BASED PROGNOSTIC SYSTEM + FACTOR SEPARATION**  
(without the need of numerical simulations !!!)

### PV THINKING - Vertical Interactions



Growth of an idealized baroclinic wave-cyclone

## PV THINKING - Vertical Interactions

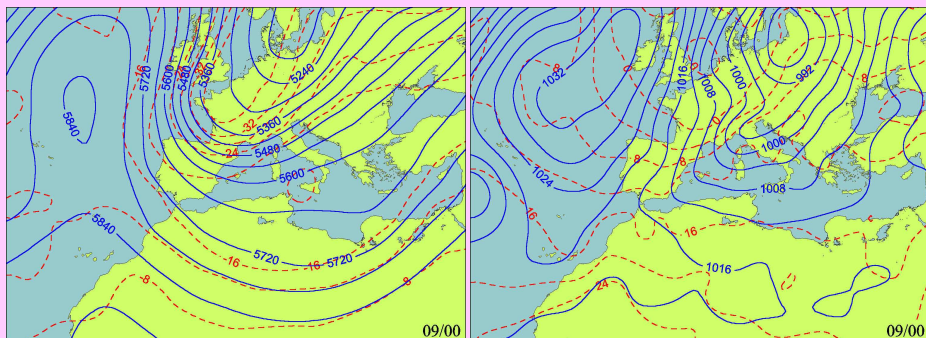


Effects of diabatic processes (condensation)

## LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)

Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)

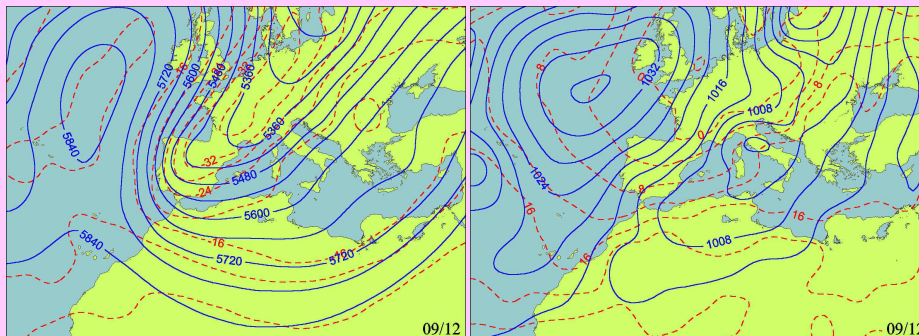
Low levels (SLP / T 925)



**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)

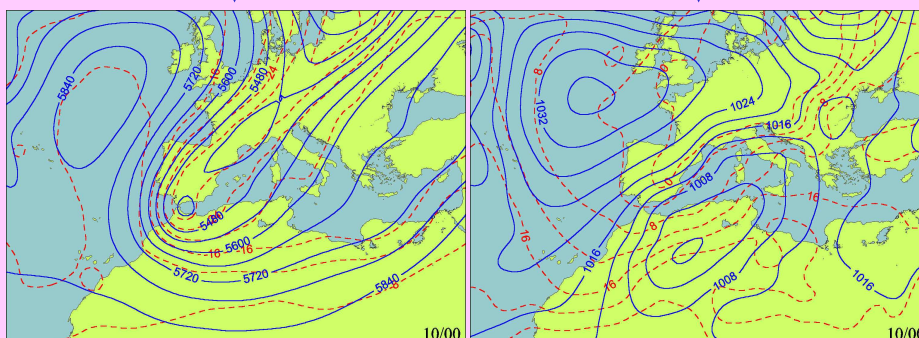
Low levels (SLP / T 925)



**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)

Low levels (SLP / T 925)



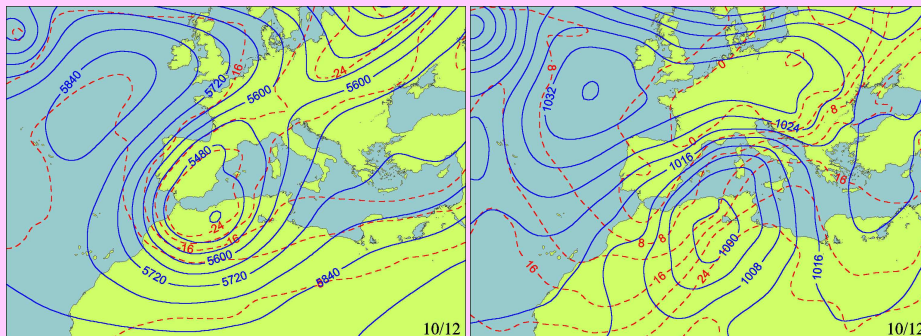
**ALGERIA**

- Over 100 mm/6 h that led to catastrophic flooding
- 737 people were killed and 23000 left homeless

**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)

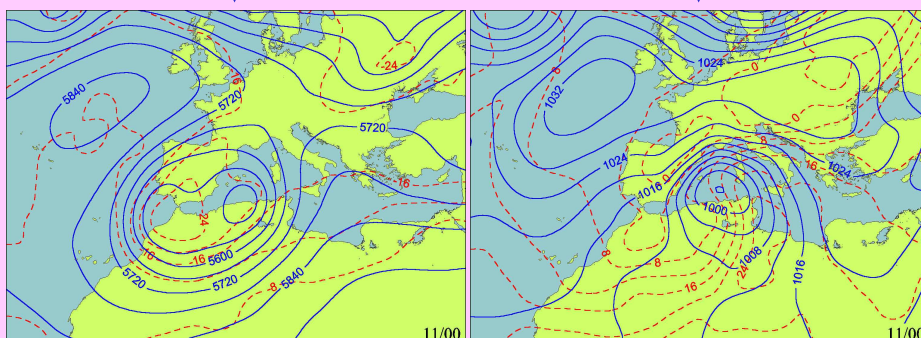
Low levels (SLP / T 925)



**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)

Low levels (SLP / T 925)

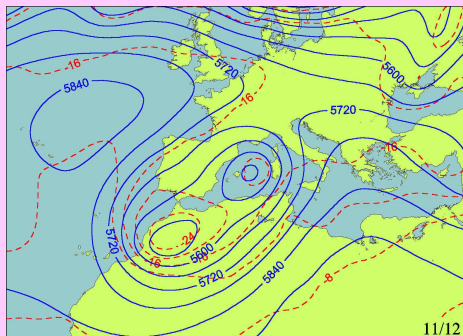


**BALEARIC ISLANDS**

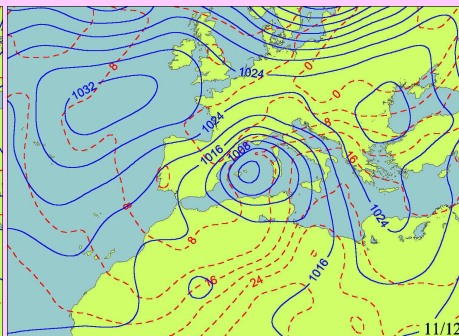
- Up to 400 mm/24 h, 150 km/h winds and 12 m sea waves
- 4 casualties, 500000 trees uprooted, floods and severe damages on coasts

**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

**Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)**

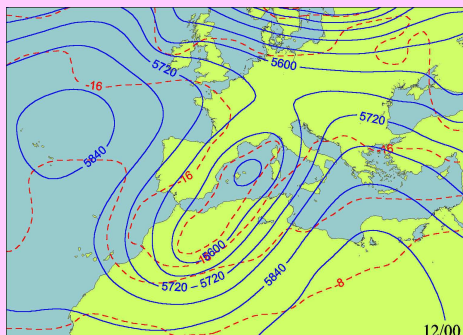


**Low levels (SLP / T 925)**

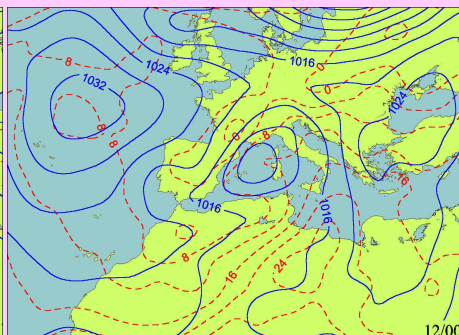


**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

**Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)**



**Low levels (SLP / T 925)**



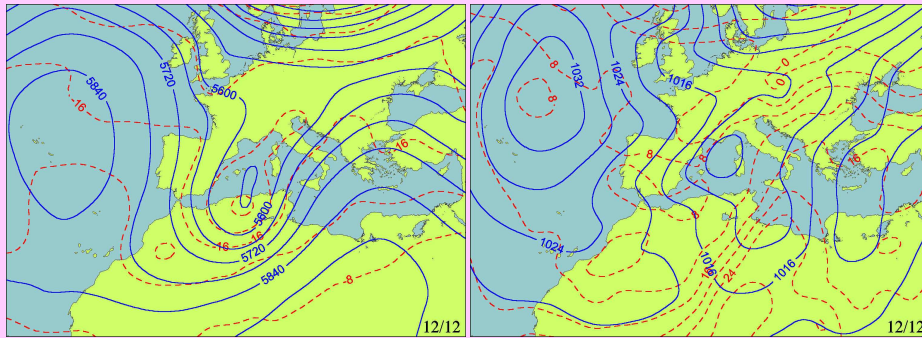


**LIFE CYCLE OF THE CYCLONE (9-12 November 2001)**

**Mid-Upper levels ( H 500 / T 500)**

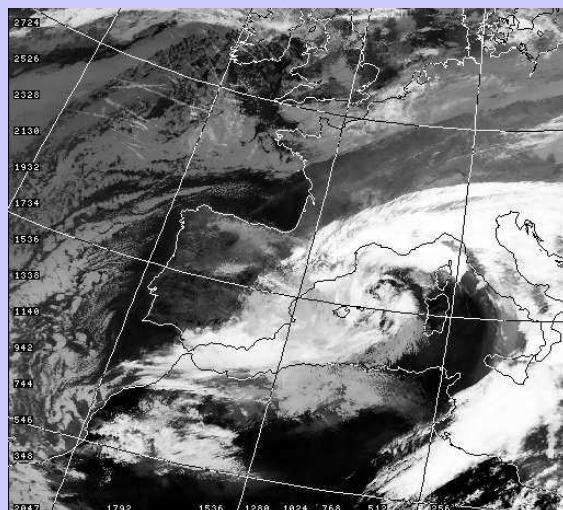


**Low levels (SLP / T 925)**



**Strong baroclinic  
development**

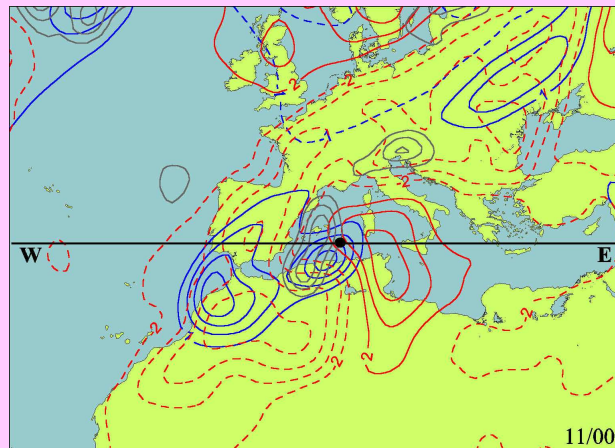
**Ch4-IR NOAA image (11 Nov / 13.29 UTC)**



**Diabatic  
contribution ?**

*PV-based  
DIAGNOSIS*

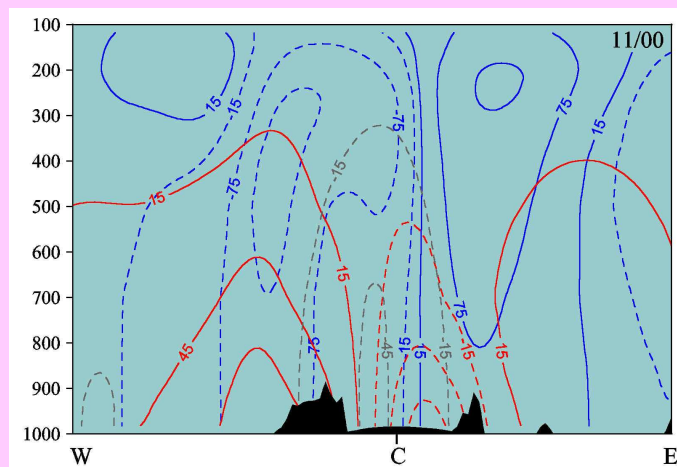
<b>ULev</b>	PV perturbation above 700 hPa
<b>LLev</b>	Surface thermal anomaly and PV perturbation below 700 hPa
<b>DIAB</b>	Positive PV perturbation below 500 hPa in areas with RH > 70%



*PV-based  
DIAGNOSIS*

<b>ULev</b>	PV perturbation above 700 hPa
<b>LLev</b>	Surface thermal anomaly and PV perturbation below 700 hPa
<b>DIAB</b>	Positive PV perturbation below 500 hPa in areas with RH > 70%

Geopotential  
height perturbation



## PV-BASED PROGNOSTIC SYSTEM (Davis and Emanuel; MWR 1991)

0) A balanced flow has been first found using the PV inversion technique:  $q \longrightarrow (\phi, \psi)$

1) Tendency of the Charney (1955) nonlinear balance equation:

$$\nabla^2 \phi^t = \nabla \cdot f \nabla \psi^t + 2m^2 \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial y^2} - 2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial x \partial y} \right]$$

2) Tendency of the approximate form of Ertel's PV:

$$q^t = \frac{g\kappa\pi}{p} \left[ (f + m^2 \nabla^2 \psi) \frac{\partial^2 \phi^t}{\partial \pi^2} + m^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \pi^2} \nabla^2 \psi^t - m^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial x \partial \pi} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x \partial \pi} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial \pi} \frac{\partial^2 \phi^t}{\partial x \partial \pi} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial y \partial \pi} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y \partial \pi} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial \pi} \frac{\partial^2 \phi^t}{\partial y \partial \pi} \right) \right]$$

3) Ertel's PV tendency equation (frictionless but with diabatic term included):

$$q^t = -m(\mathbf{V}_\psi + \mathbf{V}_\chi) \cdot \nabla q - \omega^* \frac{\partial q}{\partial \pi} + \frac{m}{\rho} \boldsymbol{\eta} \cdot \nabla LH$$

Horizontal wind

 $\mathbf{V}_\psi = m\mathbf{k} \times \nabla \psi$ 
 $\mathbf{V}_\chi = m\nabla \chi$

Vertical velocity

 $\omega^* = \frac{d\pi}{dt} = \frac{\kappa\pi}{p} \omega$

$q^t$

## PV-BASED PROGNOSTIC SYSTEM

4) Omega equation:

$$\begin{aligned} & f\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi} \left[ \pi^{1-1/\kappa} \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi} (\pi^{1/\kappa-1} \omega^*) \right] + m^2 \nabla^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \pi^2} \omega^* \right) \\ & - m^2 f \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi} \left( \frac{\partial \omega^*}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x \partial \pi} + \frac{\partial \omega^*}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y \partial \pi} \right) \\ & + \left( f \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial \pi} \frac{1/\kappa - 1}{\pi} - f \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial \pi^2} \right) \omega^* = m^3 \nabla^2 [(\mathbf{V}_\psi + \mathbf{V}_\chi) \cdot \nabla \theta] \\ & + mf \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi} [(\mathbf{V}_\psi + \mathbf{V}_\chi) \cdot \nabla \eta] - m^2 \nabla f \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{\partial \psi^t}{\partial \pi} \right) \\ & - 2m^4 \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial y^2} - 2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\partial^2 \psi^t}{\partial x \partial y} \right] \\ & - m^2 \nabla^2 LH \end{aligned} \longrightarrow \omega^*$$

5) Continuity equation:

$$m^2 \nabla^2 \chi + \pi^{1-1/\kappa} \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi} (\pi^{1/\kappa-1} \omega^*) = 0 \longrightarrow \chi$$

**Lateral** B.C (Homogeneous)    **Top-Bottom** B.C (Neumann)

$$\phi^t = \psi^t = q^t = \omega^* = \chi = 0$$

$$\partial \phi^t / \partial \pi = f \partial \psi^t / \partial \pi = -\theta^t$$

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^t &= -m(\mathbf{V}_\psi + \mathbf{V}_\chi) \cdot \nabla \theta - \omega^* \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \pi} + LH \\ \omega_T^* &= 0 \quad \quad \omega_B^* = \text{Topographic} \end{aligned}$$

## FACTOR SEPARATION (Stein and Alpert, JAS 1993)

0: MEAN + 3 FACTORS ( 1: ULev 2: LLev 3: DIAB )

$$E_0 = F_0$$

$$E_1 = F_1 - F_0$$

$$E_2 = F_2 - F_0$$

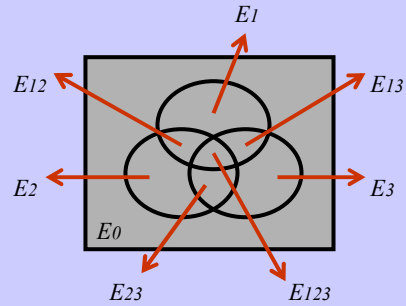
$$E_3 = F_3 - F_0$$

$$E_{12} = F_{12} - (F_1 + F_2) + F_0$$

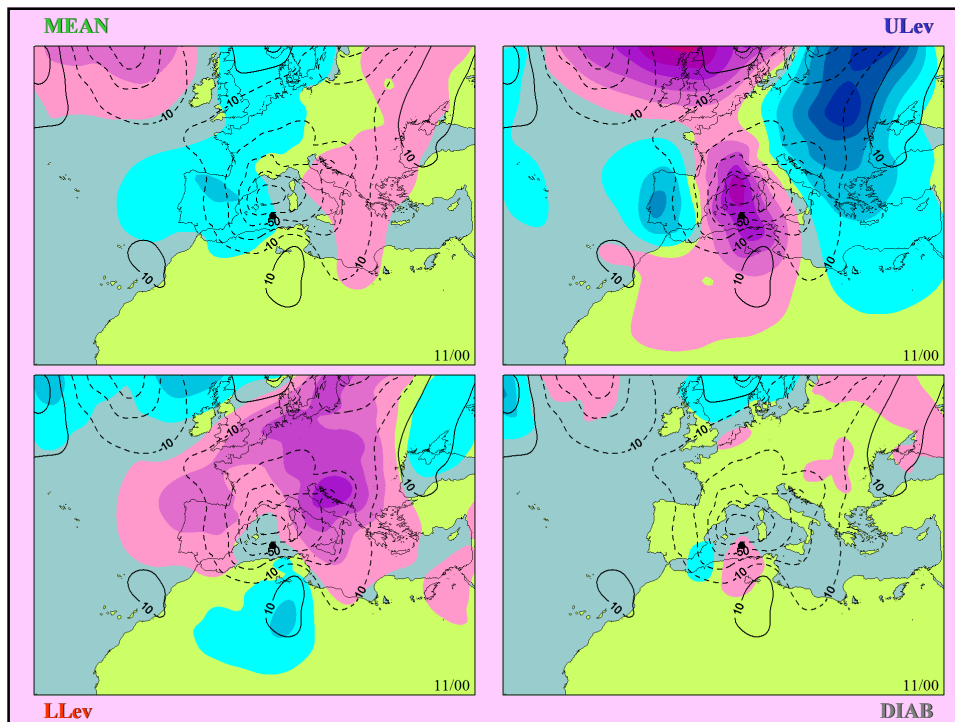
$$E_{13} = F_{13} - (F_1 + F_3) + F_0$$

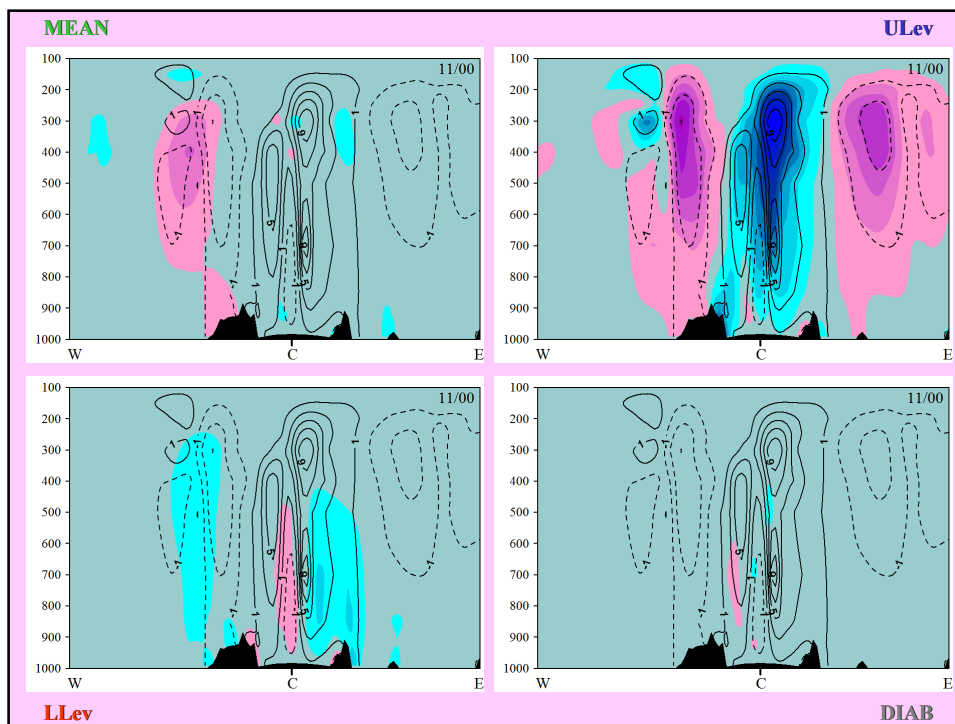
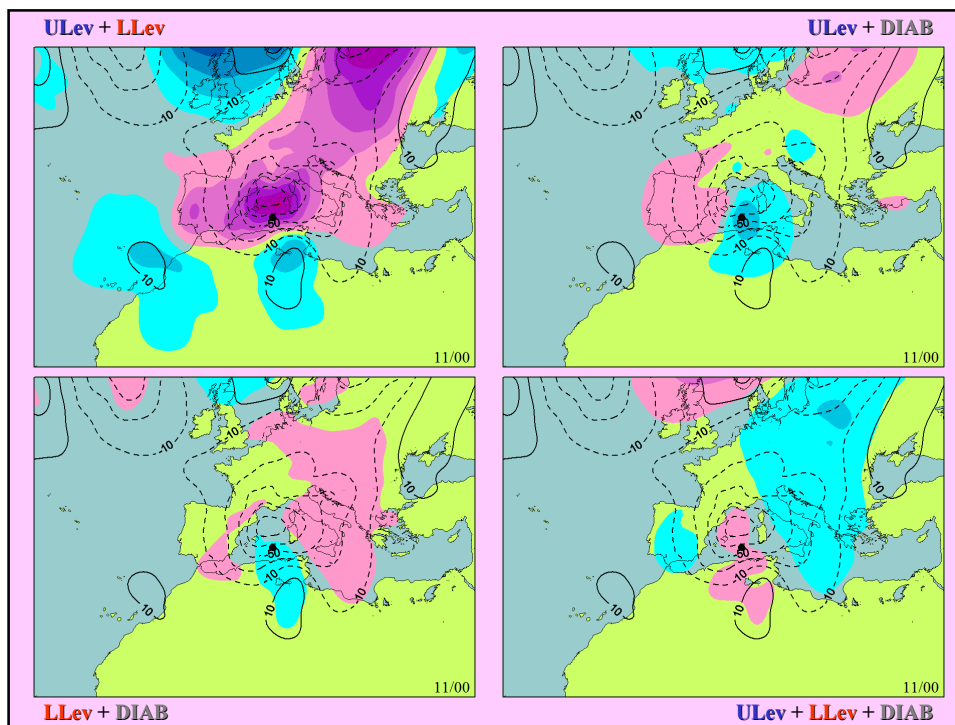
$$E_{23} = F_{23} - (F_2 + F_3) + F_0$$

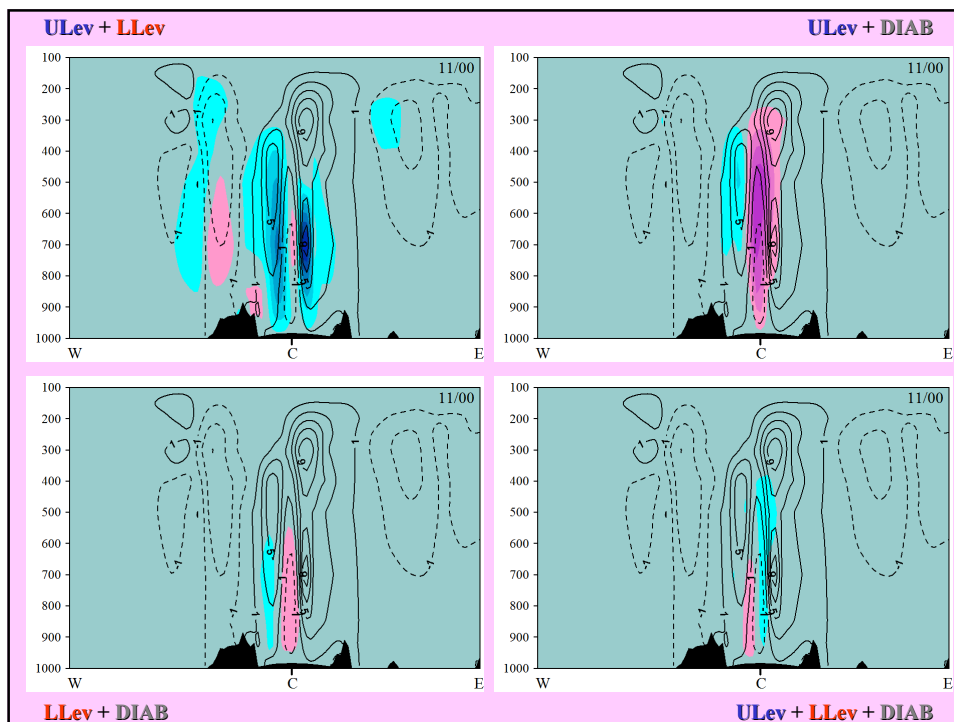
$$E_{123} = F_{123} - (F_{12} + F_{13} + F_{23}) + (F_1 + F_2 + F_3) - F_0$$



( 8 flow configurations necessary )







## Factor Separation in the Atmosphere

Modeling atmospheric processes in order to forecast the weather or future climate change is an extremely complex and computationally intensive undertaking. One of the main difficulties is that there are a huge number of factors that need to be taken into account, some of which are still poorly understood. The Factor Separation (FS) method is a computational procedure that helps deal with these nonlinear factors. Pinhas Alpert was the main pioneer of the FS method in meteorology, and in recent years many scientists have applied this methodology to a range of modeling problems, including paleoclimatology, limnology, regional climate change, rainfall analysis, cloud modeling, pollution, crop growth, and other forecasting applications. This book is the first to describe the fundamentals of the method, and to bring together its many applications in the atmospheric sciences, with chapters from many of the leading atmospheric modeling teams around the world. The main audience is researchers and graduate students using the FS method, but it is also of interest to advanced students, researchers, and professionals across the atmospheric sciences.

Cover illustration: sun setting over the Mediterranean near Cesaria, Israel coast. Low-level stratocumulus, typical for evening coastal cloudiness. Image © Tatiana Sholokhman.

**This topic is now included as Chapter 7 in the BOOK**

## Factor Separation in the Atmosphere

**Applications and Future Prospects**

Edited by **Pinhas Alpert** and **Tatiana Sholokhman**

**THANK YOU !!!**

**Alpert and Sholokhman**

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