

THE MEDEX: A PROJECT ON MEDITERRANEAN CYCLONES (SPECIAL PRESENTATION)

Mediterranean School on Mesoscale Meteorology – 1st Edition
(Alghero, Sardinia, June 7-11, 2004)

Romu Romero (Lecture 5)

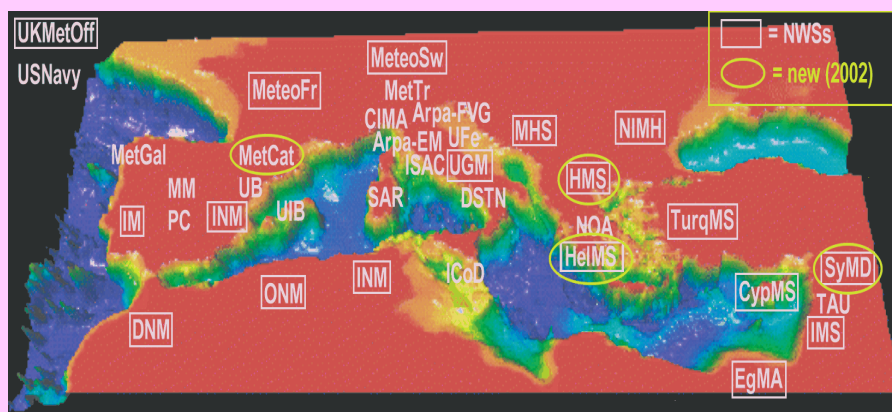


<http://medex.inm.uib.es/>

WMO
World Weather Research Programme

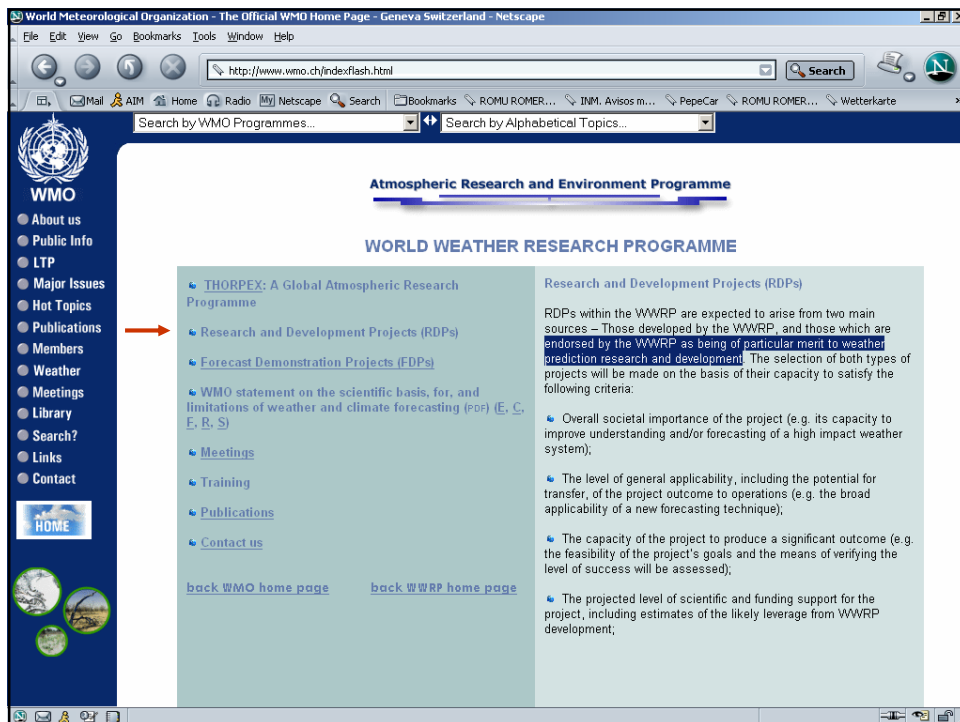
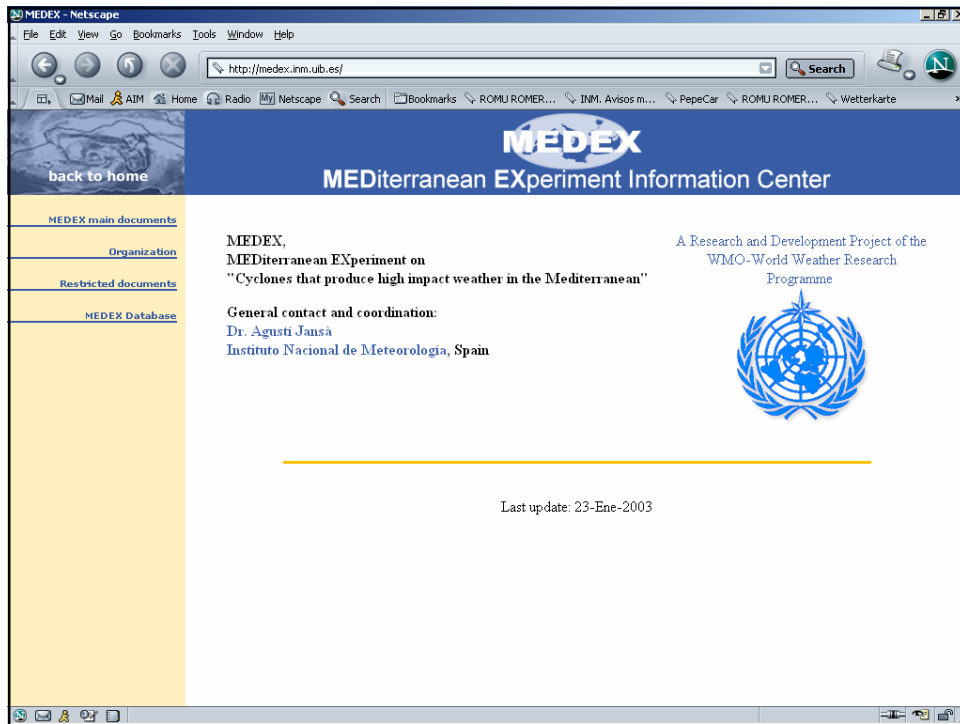


MEDiterranean EXperiment on Cyclones that produce High Impact Weather in the Mediterranean



A project coordinated by Dr. Agustí Jansà (Spanish *Instituto Nacional de Meteorología*, INM)

Proposer institutions: INM (Spain), ISAC-CNR (Italy) and IMS/Tel Aviv University (Israel)



MEDEX HISTORY: A starting point

"The inhabitants of the countries of the Mediterranean basin are quite aware of the frequent occurrence of severe weather in the Mediterranean region, such as heavy rainfall and strong winds associated with extreme weather events. Rainfalls of over 200 mm, and in some extreme cases, in excess of 800 mm, in 24 hours have been known to occur from time to time, while sustained wind speeds in excess of 100 km/h have been recorded in connection with events such as the Mistral, Tramontane, Ethesian and the Bora. As a result of these phenomena, significant losses in life and property are frequently reported in many countries. We recall some of the events which made headline news in the last few years. These include the exceptional and extensive heavy rains which affected wide parts of Egypt, including the Sinai Peninsula, in November 1994. In that event, more than 500 people lost their lives and large areas were inundated; even the famous ancient tombs of Luxor were menaced by flood surges. Fifty people died when a bridge collapsed after heavy rains in northern Algeria in October 1995. Torrential cloudbursts, reported to be the worst in 80 years at some locations, caused severe, widespread flooding and landslides in Southeast France, Corsica and north-western Italy during a four-day period in early November 1994. Over 50 lives were lost and thousands were left homeless in France, while the floods in Italy were even worse than the notorious event of November 1951 when the River Po overflowed its banks. Economic losses in northern Italy were reported at US \$9 billion. During 1996 as a whole, several periods of above normal precipitation affected the Mediterranean basin. The drought-prone regions of southern Spain and northern Morocco received annual precipitation between 700 to 900 mm above normal, while 250 to 750 mm above normal were received in other areas on both sides of the western half of Mediterranean. Despite the benefits of the rainfall, excessive amounts resulted in some deaths, dislocation of people and significant crop damage. Notable example is the disastrous flash flood which caused significant loss of life at a camp site in Spain in August last year."

(Prof. Obasi, Secretary-General WMO, Opening address at the INM/WMO International Symposium on Cyclones and Hazardous Weather in the Mediterranean, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 14 April 1997)

MEDEX HISTORY: Weaknesses of the present knowledge

- The connection between cyclones and high impact weather has not yet been analyzed in a coherent, comprehensive and systematic way:

A good dynamically oriented climatology of the cyclones that produce high impact weather in the Mediterranean is needed

- The inaccuracy on the forecasting of a cyclone formation and evolution would imply inaccuracy in the forecasting of the high impact weather itself:

... But to which extent ?

- The limited skill of the NWP models can be due to: (a) inaccuracy of the initial conditions; (b) inappropriate representation of some physical processes or their interactions; (c) intrinsic limitations in the predictability of the atmospheric flow:

The details and relative weight of each contribution should be investigated

MEDEX HISTORY: Weaknesses of the present knowledge

- The identification of relevant factors for the cyclone and high impact weather generation and evolution is a prerequisite for the assessment of the influence of the representation of the physical processes in NWP models on the accuracy of the predictions:

A coordinated and more systematic effort is necessary in this direction

- The characteristic small scale of Mediterranean systems and the scarce density of observations in the Mediterranean and surrounding areas suggest a particularly strong influence of initial conditions on the inaccuracy of some predictions:

The identification of the sensitive areas where better defined initial conditions (i.e. more observations) would most likely lead to improved forecasts becomes an important point in which our knowledge has to improve

MEDEX HISTORY: First proposal (September 1998)

GENERAL AIM

“ The main general objective of the MEDEX project is the better understanding of the mechanisms leading to severe weather –heavy rain and strong wind- in the Mediterranean area, as much those related to cyclones as those not related to them, in order to improve the forecasting of this kind of events. Due to the close relationship between severe weather and cyclogenesis in the Mediterranean, the better understanding of the Mediterranean cyclogenesis has to be included as a secondary objective for MEDEX.

Better understanding and forecasting of hazardous weather in the Mediterranean will positively affect the understanding and forecasting of hazardous weather around the world. The Mediterranean area is a good target region for a project devoted to the hazardous weather knowledge due to the high intensity and frequency of this type of events in it. ”

MEDEX HISTORY: First proposal (September 1998)

HEAVY RAIN

“ Concerning heavy rain, particular objectives of the project would be:

- To study the instabilisation, triggering and feeding mechanisms, both in the synoptic- and mesoscale, leading to heavy precipitation events and to analyse the ability of the numerical models to reproduce these mechanisms in the short term and of the remote sensing observations to contribute to monitor them.*
- To establish the relationship or independence between heavy rain and cyclogenesis or cyclone presence in different kind of cases. ”*

MEDEX HISTORY: First proposal (September 1998)

STRONG WINDS

“ Concerning strong wind, particular objectives of the project would be:

- To establish the relationship between strong wind and cyclogenesis or cyclone presence in different kind of cases.*
- To measure or diagnose the acceleration field in strong local winds and to compare them with the accelerations provided by the numerical models. ”*

MEDEX HISTORY: First proposal (September 1998)

CYCLONES

“ Particular objectives of the project concerning cyclone would be:

- To identify different kind of 3D structure in the Mediterranean cyclones.*
- To identify and to evaluate the main factors involved in the Mediterranean cyclogenesis events (when accompanied by severe weather) and to check the ability of the numerical models to simulate these factors.*
- To establish the relationship between cyclones and hazardous weather (heavy rain and strong wind). ”*

MEDEX HISTORY: Second proposal (July 1999)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

*“The improvement of the knowledge and forecasting of **cyclones** –in the most general sense of the word- **that produce high impact weather** in the Mediterranean area”*

MEDEX HISTORY: Second proposal (July 1999)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) “To construct an exhaustive database of **cyclones and high impact weather** events, covering a period long enough and all the Mediterranean area, and the exploitation of such database”*
- 2) “To improve the knowledge on the physical mechanisms of the Mediterranean **cyclogenesis related to high impact weather** and of the mechanisms of this relationship, to identify the insufficiencies of available operational NWP in forecasting cyclones that produce high impact weather and the formulation of recommendations to improve them”*
- 3) “To check the impact on the analysis and forecasting of **cyclones (that produce high impact weather)** of the introduction of additional conventional (or manageable as conventional) observing systems as well as the criticism of some of the existing observing systems”*

MEDEX HISTORY: Second proposal (July 1999)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 4) “To assess the effect on the forecasting of **cyclones (that produce high impact weather)** of the introduction of variational assimilation schemes and other alternative assimilation procedures to introduce non-conventional or modified conventional sets of data”*
- 5) “To measure the social benefit of the improvement of forecasting of **cyclones that produce high impact weather**”*
- 6) “The formulation of conceptual models to help the forecasters ”*

MEDEX: Phase 1 (2001-2004)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

*“The improvement of the knowledge and forecasting of **cyclones** –in the most general sense of the word- **that produce high impact weather** in the Mediterranean area”*

MEDEX: Phase 1 (2001-2004)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1

*“To implement an initial approach to a **dynamically oriented climatology** of the cyclones that produce high impact weather in the Mediterranean. Working in a systematic way, we want to know the type of cyclonic structures that appears related to high impact weather events of different kind, in different areas within the Mediterranean area, as well as the percentage of high impact weather events that may or may not be related to cyclones. This is a necessary step to evaluate the potential impact of the improvement of the forecasting of cyclones on the prediction of the high impact weather itself. It is also necessary to know how representative is the work done on the base of a selection of particular cases”*

MEDEX: Phase 1 (2001-2004)

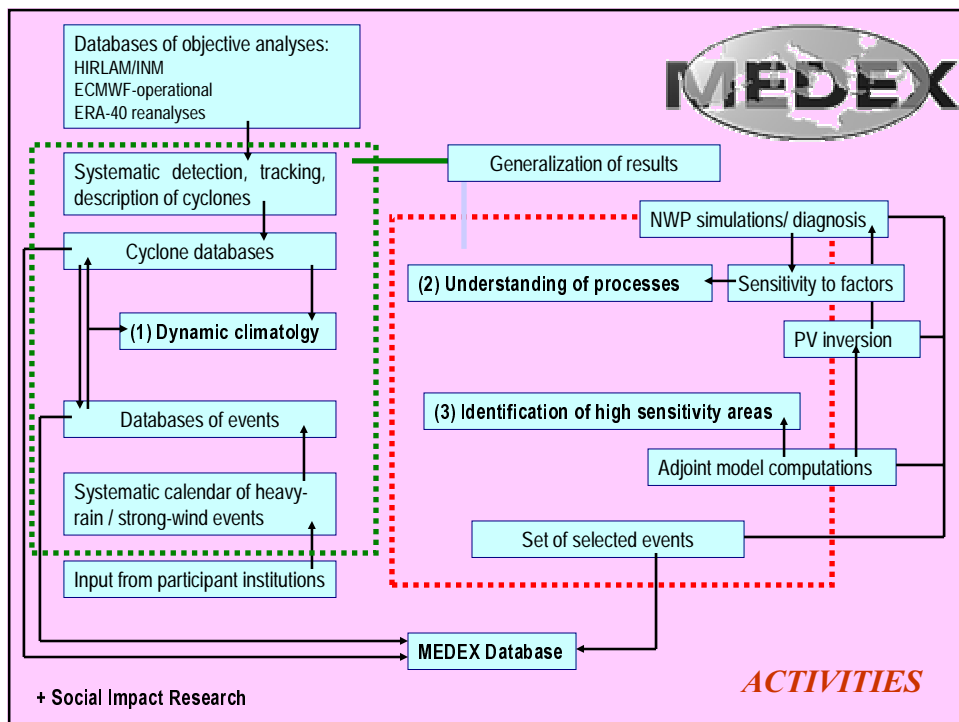
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

*“To determine and rank the multiple **geographical and meteorological factors** that are acting in the generation and evolution of the different types of cyclones that produce high impact weather in the Mediterranean. The skill of NWP models to predict the Mediterranean cyclones has to be connected with the determined factors”*

MEDEX: Phase 1 (2001-2004)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

*“The identification of **sensitive areas** where better initial conditions may likely lead to improved forecasts. In general, the inaccuracy in the initial conditions can be a source of error of the numerical prediction. It is necessary to know the areas, levels and magnitudes for which the analysis error produces most significant errors in the prediction of the cyclones. Closely connected with the former objective is an assessment of the impact of better defined initial conditions in sensitive areas”*



2001-1 st S	2001-2 nd S	2002-1 st S	2002-2 nd S	2003-1 st S	2003-2 nd S	2004-1 st S	2004-2 nd S
Selection of cases 1995-2000							
		Updating selection of cases (2001-2003)					
		Establishment of the MEDEX database					
		Collection of ordinary and additional data in the database					
		Western Mediterranean cyclone database 1995-2002		Eastern Mediterranean cyclone database 1995-2002			
			Calendar of high impact weather events 1995-2002		Dynamic climatology of cyclones vs. high impact weather 1995-2002		
		Diagnosis studies and sensitive experiments concerning factors (selected cases)					
			Identification of sensitive areas for selected cases				
MEDEX Meeting 2001		MEDEX Meeting 2002		MEDEX Meeting 2003		MEDEX Meeting 2004	Final report for MEDEX phase 1
			Planning a possible second phase for MEDEX				

SCHEDULE

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back to home

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Systematic Studies

Cyclone catalogue

Calendar of events

Stations List

Selected cases

List of selected cases

<<Back to main menu

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Cyclone search

Day: From 11/11/2001 to 11/11/2001

Time: From 00:00 to 00:00

Latitude: From (min. 25 °) to (max. 49 °)

Longitude: From (min. -12 °) to (max. 38 °)

Central pressure: From (min. 940) to (max. 1040)

Circulation: From (min. 0) to (max. 40)

Top: From (max. 1000) to (min. 300)

Show the following groups: Select all Unselect all

Basic data: ☒ Additional data by levels: Dynamical ☒ Size ☒ Thermal ☒ Humidity ☒

Hiriam (Western Mediterranean Only) ☐ ECMWF (Whole Mediterranean) ☒

Format result as: Search

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back to home

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Login

Systematic Studies

Cyclone catalogue

Calendar of events

Stations List

Selected cases

List of selected cases

<<Back to main menu

Legal notice

Glossary

Search criteria

Date between 11/11/2001 and 11/11/2001

Time between 00:00 and 00:00

Top between 1000 and 300

Perform another search

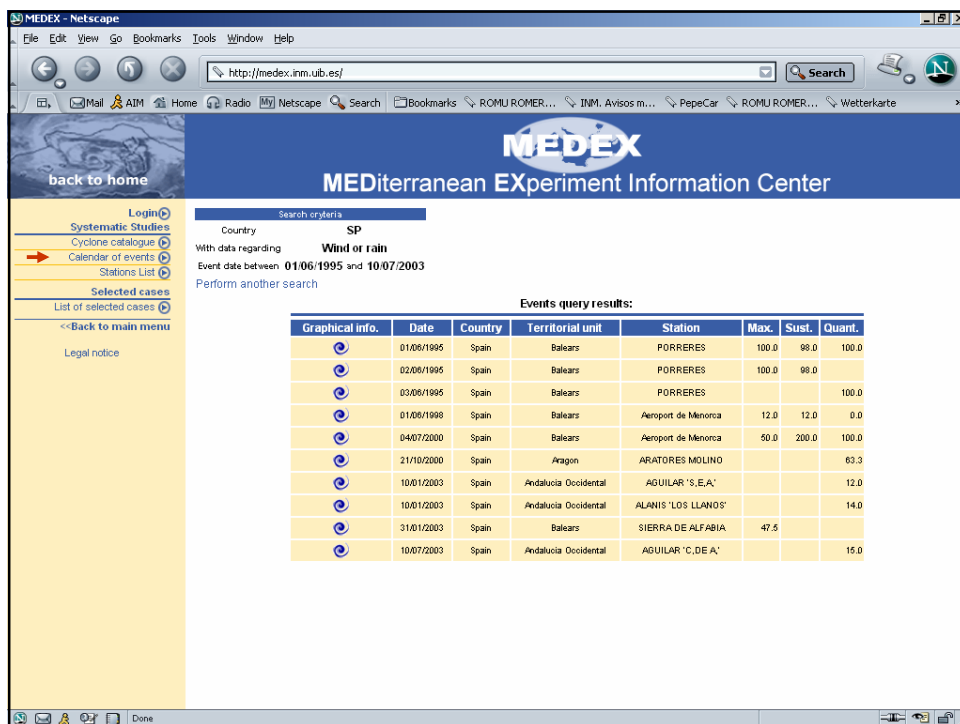
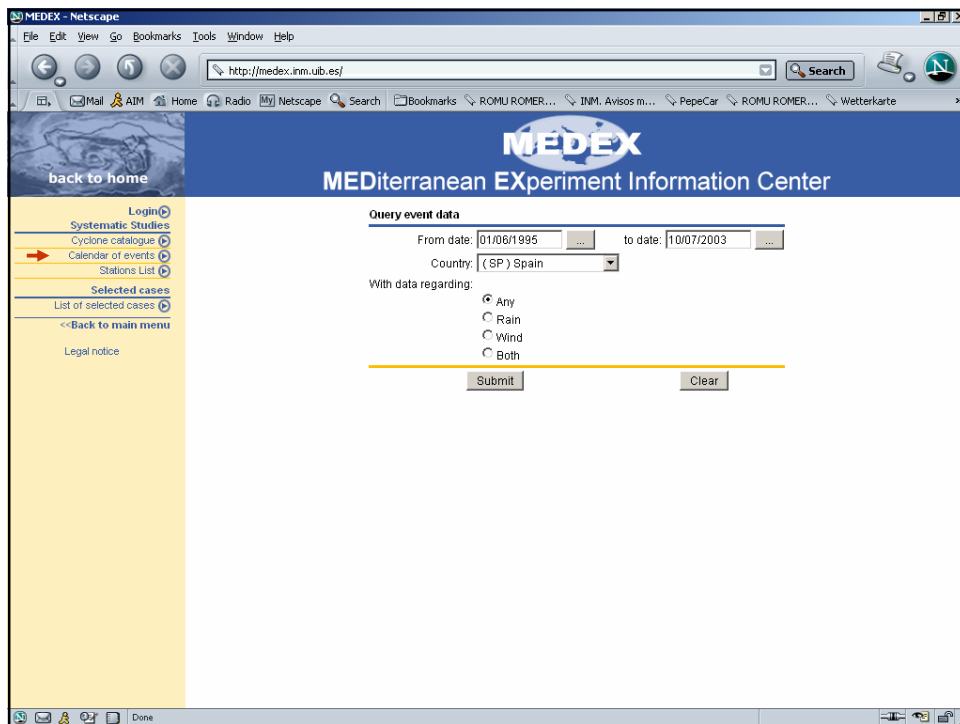
Cyclone query results:

Date	Time	Code	Char	Main	Top	Lat.	Lon.	P(0)	Shift		Stability			Wind speed					
									dist	angle	1000/850	850/500	925/500	1000	925	850	700	500	300
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	0	10893	300.0	39.0	5.0	993.8	257.0	210.0	-2.4	5.1	4.4	13.2	20.4	22.1	24.2	25.5	31.0

Date	Time	Code	Level	Open/Closed	Lat	Lon	P@ge 0	Geos.vort 0	Circul 0	Ares	Radius mean	Temp 0	Laps 0	Grad T mean	Grad Tc mean	Hum 0						
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	mst		0	39.0	5.0	993.8	485.3	151.5	12.56	81.9	518.8	197.4								
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	1000		0	39.0	4.5	-53.8	590.5	170.8	10.93	63.8	459.4	189.9	15.8	-97.3	1.7	0.9	3.8	1.5	77.0	7.9
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	925		0	39.0	4.5	603.0	577.5	135.4	11.22	82.7	518.8	210.5	10.8	-71.6	2.4	1.1	3.5	1.4	75.7	13.5
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	850		0	39.0	4.5	1,303.8	564.1	120.3	9.88	82.3	515.6	188.8	6.7	-38.3	2.3	0.9	3.2	1.5	76.9	12.9
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	700		0	38.0	4.0	2,888.8	324.1	117.9	10.62	91.0	543.8	188.8	-3.9	53.4	1.3	0.7	2.5	1.4	68.7	16.9
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	500		0	37.0	4.0	5,432.1	398.7	153.8	12.13	79.3	506.2	171.1	-22.4	81.1	1.6	0.7	1.8	0.7	43.0	25.9
11/11/2001	00:00	10893	300		0	37.0	3.5	9,010.4	556.9	176.8	18.50	104.7	556.2	216.7	-43.2	15.4	2.3	0.8	2.3	0.7	39.3	22.7

Date	Time	Code	Char	Main	Top	Lat.	Lon.	P(0)	Shift		Stability			Wind speed					
									dist	angle	1000/850	850/500	925/500	1000	925	850	700	500	300
11/11/2001	00:00	10896	1	10896	850.0	27.5	-5.5	1,009.4	228.0	347.0	7.7	20.8	18.5	4.5	8.4	6.2	16.9	30.9	45.3

Date	Time	Code	Level	Open/Closed	Lat	Lon	P@ge 0	Geos.vort 0	Circul 0	Ares	Radius mean	Temp 0	Laps 0	Grad T mean	Grad Tc mean	Hum 0						
11/11/2001	00:00	10896	mst		0	27.5	-5.5	1,008.4	127.4	76.9	4.77	62.2	456.2	212.8								
11/11/2001	00:00	10896	1000		0	27.5	-5.5	71.3	126.9	74.7	4.75	64.4	462.5	221.7	17.0	-88.7	1.4	0.5	2.3	1.2	34.1	5.8
11/11/2001	00:00	10896	925		0	28.0	-5.5	726.7	82.7	64.8	4.51	83.4	512.5	202.9	13.8	-67.3	1.8	0.4	2.1	0.8	33.1	8.8
11/11/2001	00:00	10896	850		0	29.5	-6.0	1,433.0	66.9	47.3	4.33	92.0	500.0	273.9	6.8	-55.5	1.2	0.8	1.9	0.7	34.8	5.9



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back to home

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Login
Systematic Studies
Cyclone catalogue
Calendar of events
Stations List
Selected cases
List of selected cases
Back to main menu
Legal notice

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Date	Priority	Country affected	Severe weather: SW = strong wind HP = heavy precipitation SH = heavy snow	Societal impacts	Alerts Warnings	Models Forecast tools Forecast quality	Studies	Access to data
18 Aug. 1995	Low	Morocco	HP Orographic thunderstorm (Ourika)	Flood in Ourika valley. Damages. Several casualties	No warning	Precipitation under-estimated by ARPEGE		
21-22 Jan. 1996	Medium	Morocco (Tanger to Essaouira)	HP, SW 200 mm/24 h (Cheffaouen), 75 mm/24 h (Casa), 130 mm/24 h (El Jadida)	Extended floods. Traffic disruption. Damages in infrastructures	Warning	Quite good precipitation forecasted by Al Bache, Arpege. Good by ECMWF		
11-12 Sep. 1996	Medium	Spain	HP, SW heavy precip. over Valencia (600 mm/24h), and over Bal. Islands (100 mm/24 h in Mallorca, 170 in Ibiza), tornado outbreak (6) in the Balearic and quasi-tropical cyclone crossing Mallorca (wind >	Flood in Valencia region. Serious damages from winds in Bal. Isl. High risk for navigation	Generic alert 1 day in advance for heavy rain and strong wind, no tornado watches and no warning on sub-synoptic vortex	HIRLAM, MMS, Under-predicted cyclone intensity and wind strength importance of evaporation over the sea and upper level trough	Gilli et al (1997), RMT-WMO Int. Symp. on Cyclones and Hazardous Weather in the Mediterranean, Homar et al (2001), IV Plinius Conference Homar et al (2002), XXIV EGS GA Homar et al (in press), Quart J. R. Meteorol. Soc.	

http://medex.inm.ub.es/data/Selection_cases.htm

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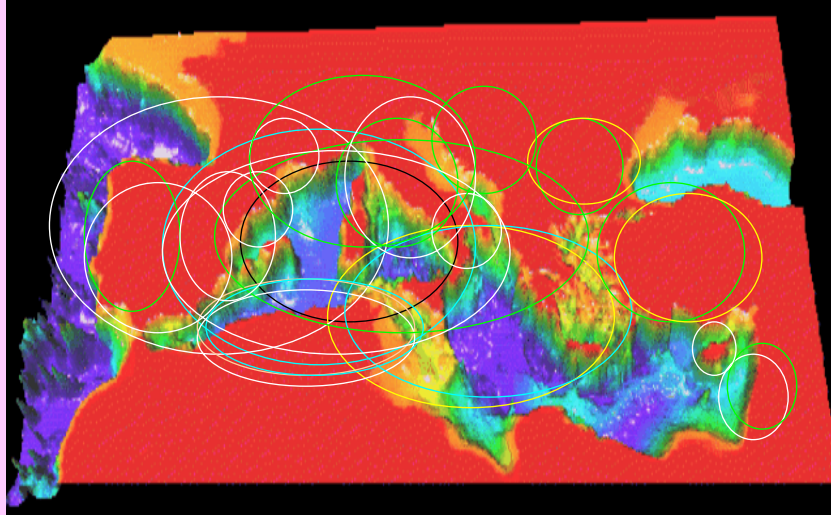
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back to home

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Login
Systematic Studies
Cyclone catalogue
Calendar of events
Stations List
Selected cases
List of selected cases
Back to main menu
Legal notice

11 Aug. 2001	Medium	Croatia	Extremely cold outbreak (for summer) with cyclogenesis and strong Bora	Traffic and electric power system interruptions				
26-27 Sep. 2001	Medium	Bulgaria	HP Rapid cyclogenesis	Unknown	Unknown			
2-5 Nov. 2001	Low	Spain (Murcia, Castellón, Málaga, Almería)	HP	Important floods				
9-13 Nov. 2001	High	Algeria, Spain (Balears), Croatia, Morocco	SW, HP 262 mm/24 h (Algiers), 240 mm/24 h (Balears), extreme winds: >42 m/s gust and >30 m/s sustained speed (Balears), 7.5 m sig. wave height (measured) and 11 m analysed (Balears). 100 mm/17 h (Ouda, Morocco)	Disaster in Algiers: about 600 victims, thousands homeless. Floods also in Morocco (Oudja) In Balears: 4 casualties, 220,000 trees uprooted, up to 60% sand removal in beaches, 100 ME private damage, infrastructures damages, serious interruptions of traffic, electric power system and telephone.	Warning of heavy rain and wind 24 hours in advance (Algeria and Morocco). Particularly emphasised warning 36 hours in advance in Balears, but surprising impact (unknown before).	ETA: 140 mm/24 h forecasted (Algeria) Under-estimation of precipitation Al Bache, Arpege (and ECMWF) Very good forecasting of the cyclone from ECMWF. Not so good from other models	Ramis et al (2002), IV Asamblea Hispano-Portuguesa de Geofísica y Geofísica Romero et al (2002), XXIV EGS GA Romero et al (2002), European Conference on Severe Storms Anzola et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Samsel et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Anzola et al (2002), IV Simposio de Meteorología e Geofísica de APMG Fierli et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Gomes et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Hamadouchi et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Orús et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Pinon et al (2002), IV Plinius Conference Tripoli et al (2002), IV	



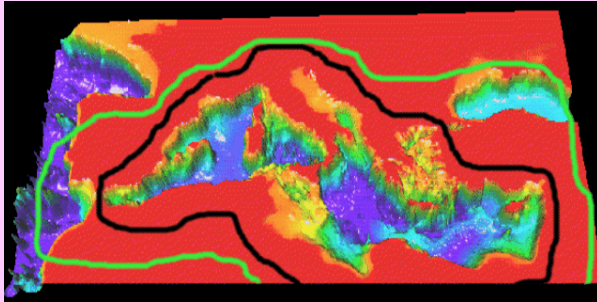
Geographical coverage of the selected events

<i>MEDEX objective</i>	<i>Type of data</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Details</i>
Dynamical climatology	Rainfall and wind	Inner Mediterranean	All peak values that overpass defined thresholds, since 1995.
	Analysed fields	Inner Mediterranean (at least)	4 daily at standard levels, at least since 1995.
Sensitivity to factors (validation)	Rainfall and wind	Inner Mediterranean	All data in the affected area for selected events only.
	Radar and other non-conventional	Inner Mediterranean	All data in the affected area for selected events only.
Impact of observations	Upper air data	Outer Mediterranean (Eastern Atlantic incl.)	All data in sensitive areas for selected events only.
	Surface data	Outer Mediterranean (mainly inner area)	All data in sensitive areas for selected events only.

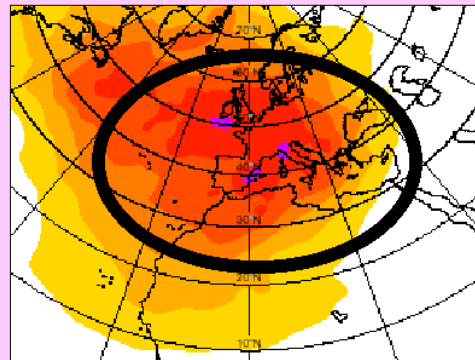
Additional possibilities:

- Surface winds from scatterometers
- Data from aircrafts
- Data collected for common events in other projects (MAP, THORPEX, etc.)

DATA REQUIREMENTS

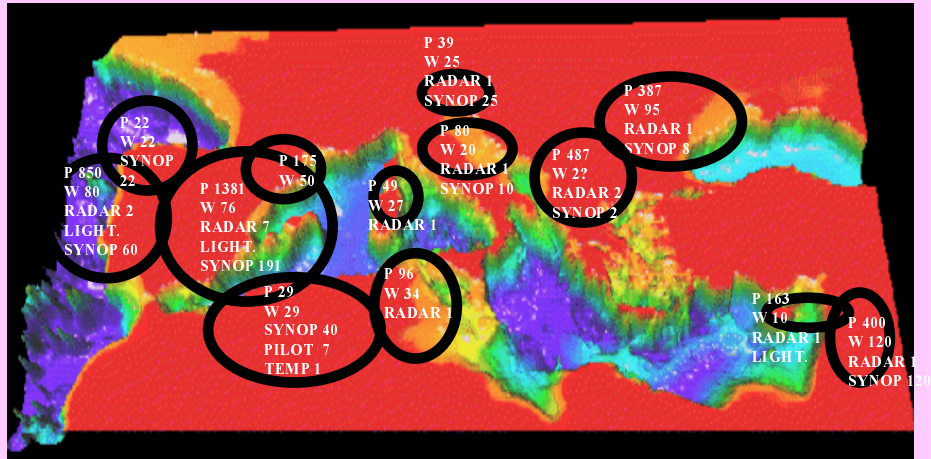


***INNER AND OUTER
MEDITERRANEAN AREA***

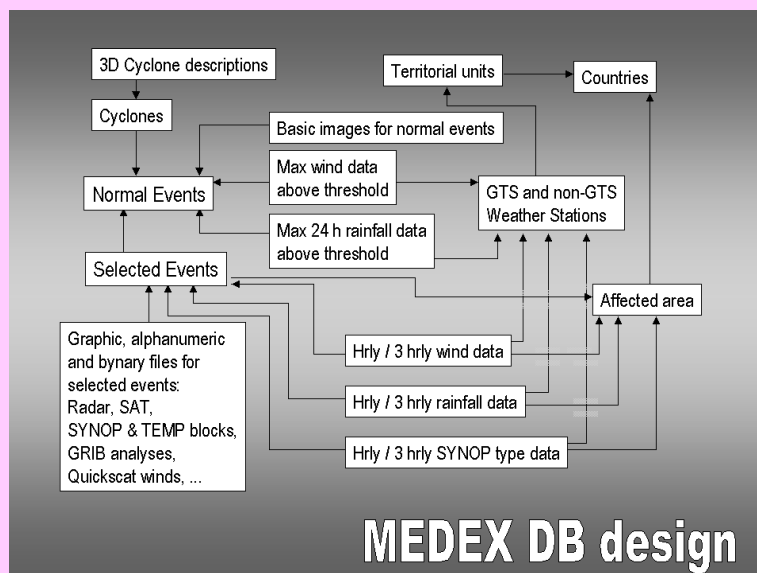


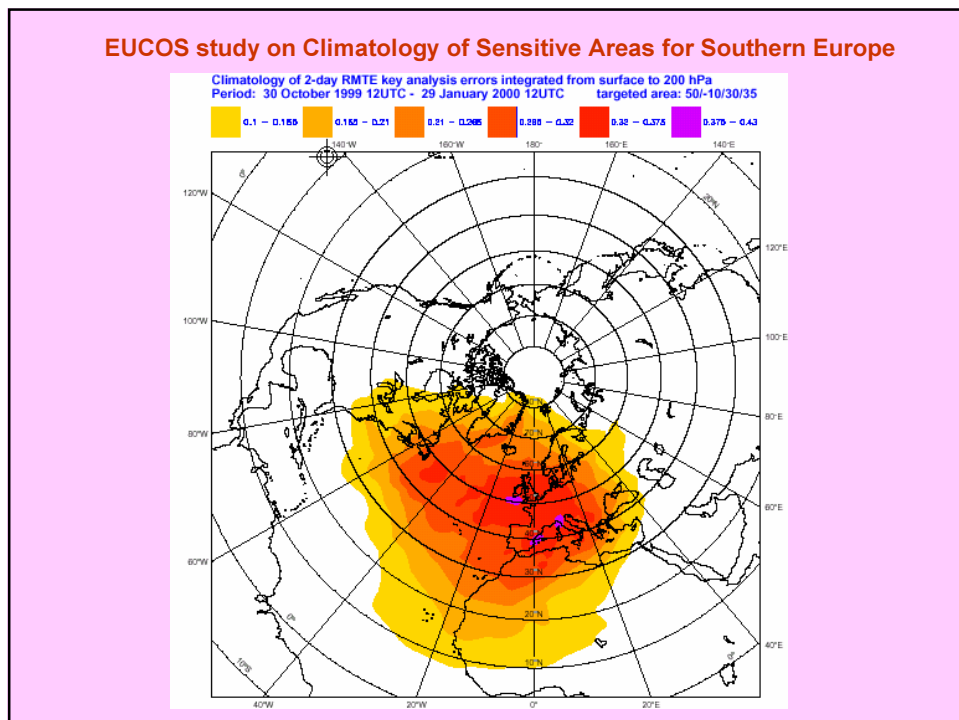
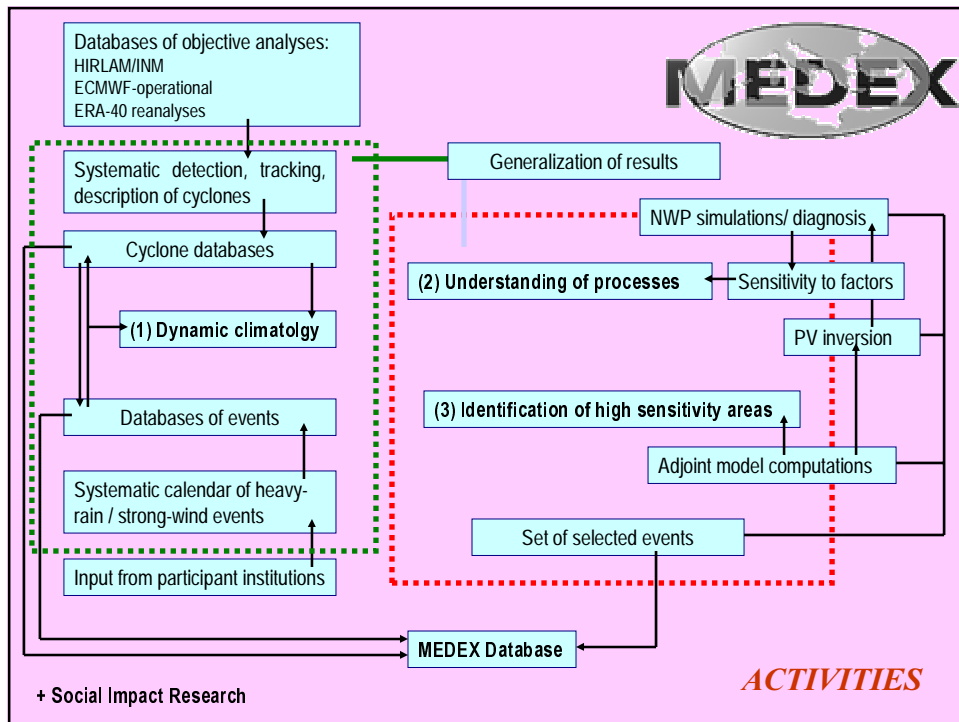
<i>Institution</i>	<i>Rain. mm.</i>	<i>Wind num.</i>	<i>Radar num.</i>	<i>Lightening</i>	<i>Synop num.</i>	<i>Pilot num.</i>	<i>Temp num.</i>
IM, Portugal	850	80	2	Yes	60		
INM, Spain	1381	76	7	Yes	191		
UB, Spain	175	50					
ONM, Algeria	29	29			40	7	1
SAR, Sardinia	49	27	1				
INM, Tunisia	96	34	1				
ARPA-FVG, Italy	39	25	1		25		
ARPA-ER, Italy	80	20	1		10		
MHS, Croatia	487		2		2		
NIMH, Bulgaria	387	95	1		8		
Cyprus MS	163	10	1	Yes			
IMS, Israel	400	120	1		120		
CITA, Galicia, Spain	22	22			22		

***DATA presently not
available on the GTS***



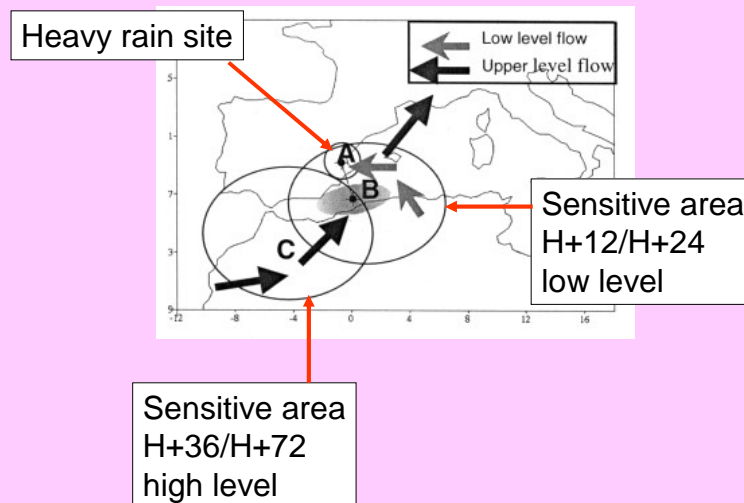
*Non-GTS data
availability*





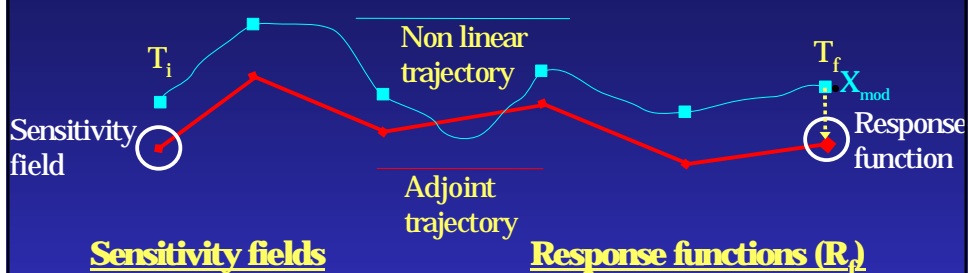
Too general! ... We need to know sensitive areas for specific cases

- **An example:** Hypothesis about sensitive areas and targeted observations for heavy rain in Valencia:



Use of the adjoint modeling system

Schematic view:

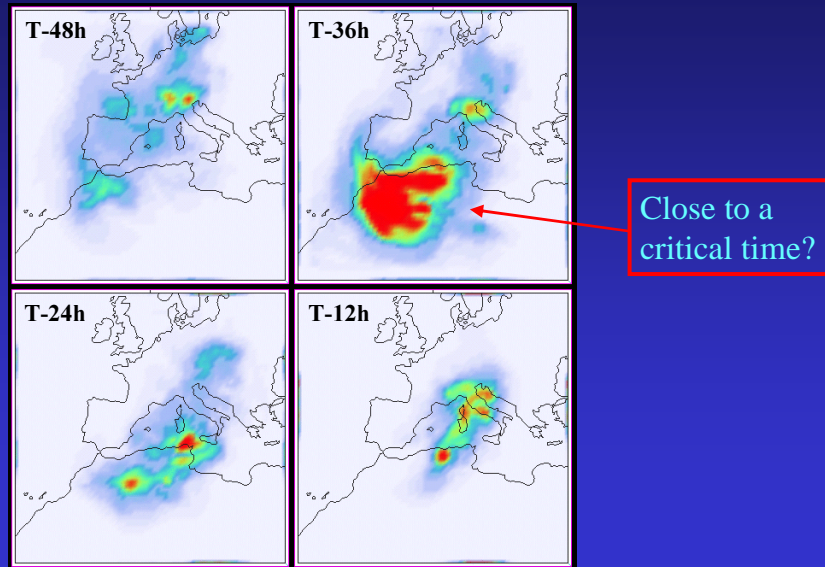


- Units of: $\frac{[R_f]}{[\text{Init. Cond.}]}$
- It shows the sensitivity of R_f to the model initial fields

- Model error: $X_{\text{obs}} - X_{\text{mod}}$
- Particular feature of interest
 - Cyclone's central pressure
 - Jet stream location and intensity
 - Temperature at a certain point
 - ...
- Any differentiable function of X_{mod}

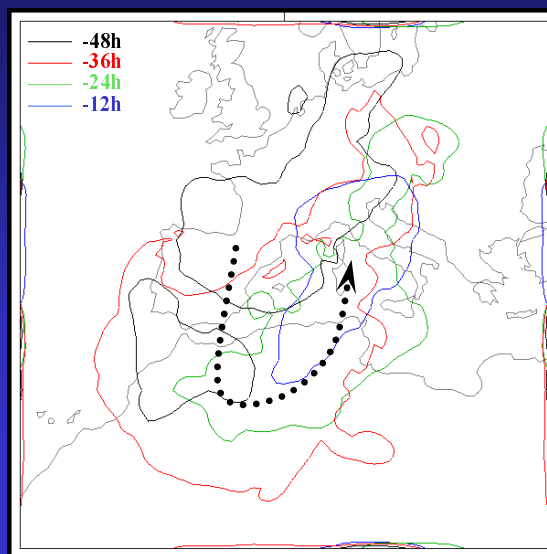
Example: Superstorm 10 and 11 November 2001

Averaged sensitivity field for the wind maximum over the Balearics:



Example: Superstorm 10 and 11 November 2001

Sensitivity progression backwards:

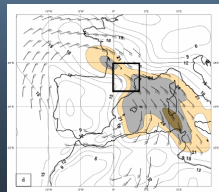
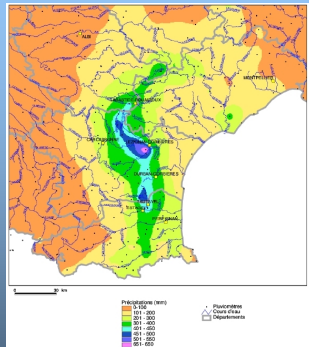


A contribution of Météo France to MEDEX: case study of the 11-14 November 1999 floods on south-west of France.

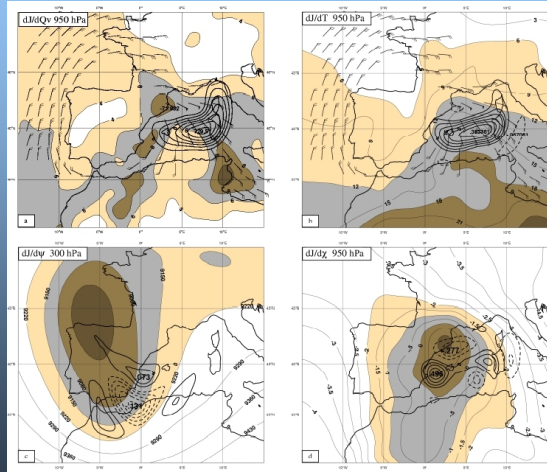
Ph. Lopez, A. Mezdour, Ph. Arbogast, P. Santurette, J. Coier; Edited by B. Joly & A. Joly

METEO FRANCE / CNRM, Toulouse, France

(Document for the MEDEX Community)



Sensitivities of J (T-09h)



J is the vertically integrated precipitable water in the box

**Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)**

African Cyclogenesis 79

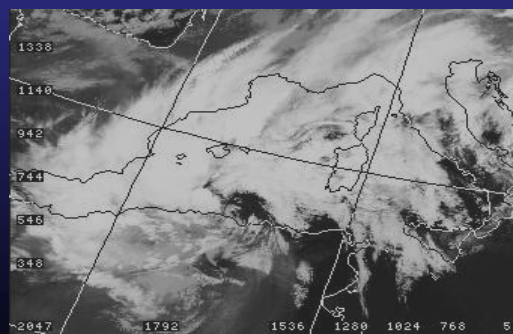
19-22 December 1979

Balearics and eastern Iberian Peninsula:

78h winds stronger than 35 km h^{-1} (gusts 90 km h^{-1})

-35 hPa in 60 h (Palma) → Bomb

*Dr. Victor Homar
(NSSL, OK, USA)*



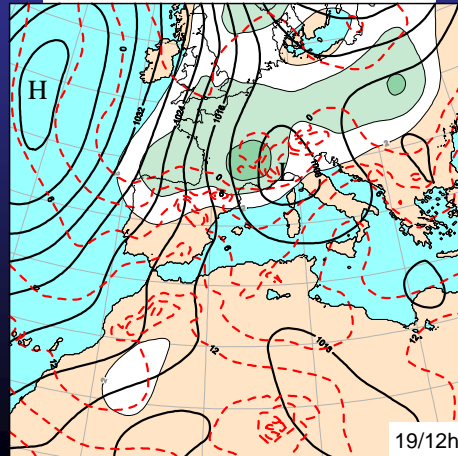
21 December. NOAA4

Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Analysis

60 24 0
19 12UTC 22 00UTC

PV 300hPa PseaL Press. T 900 hPa

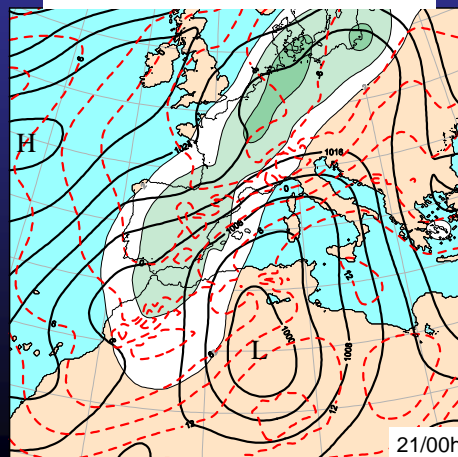


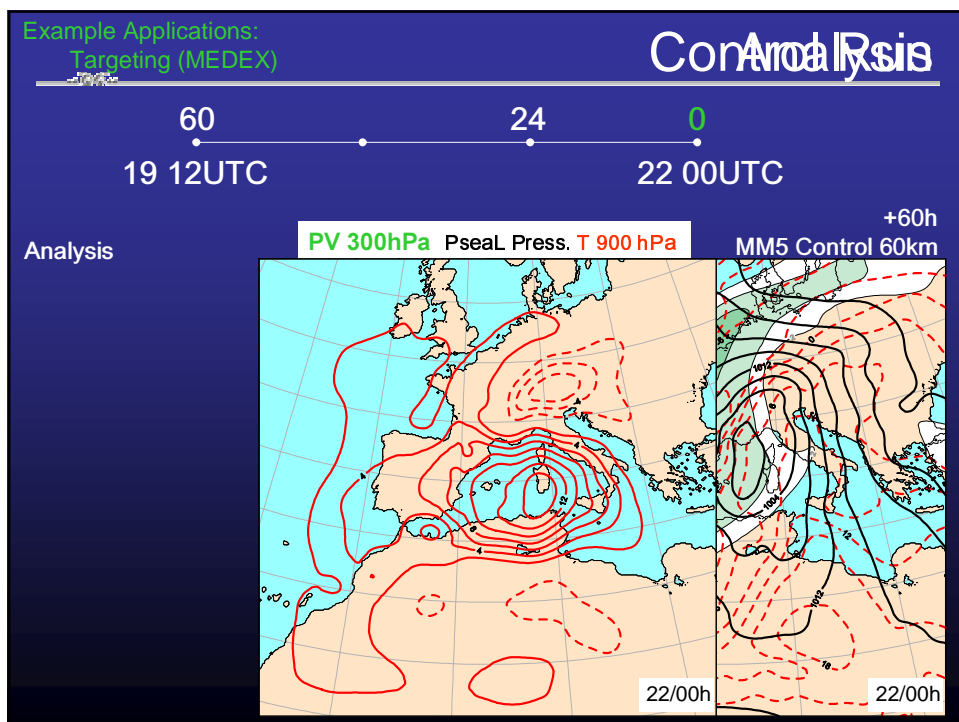
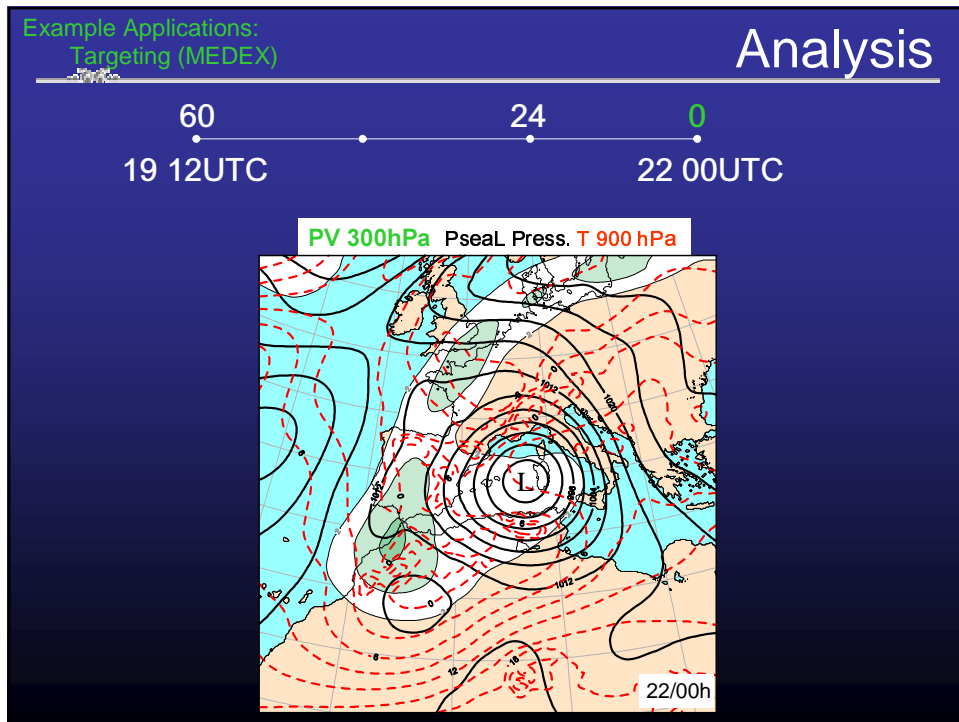
Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Analysis

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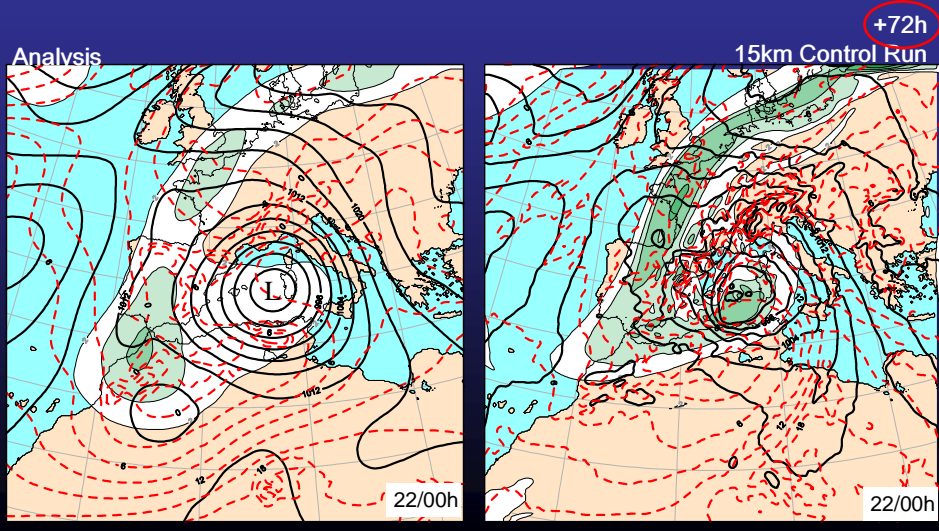




Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

ECMWF run

- Better simulation with ECMWF re-analysis fields:

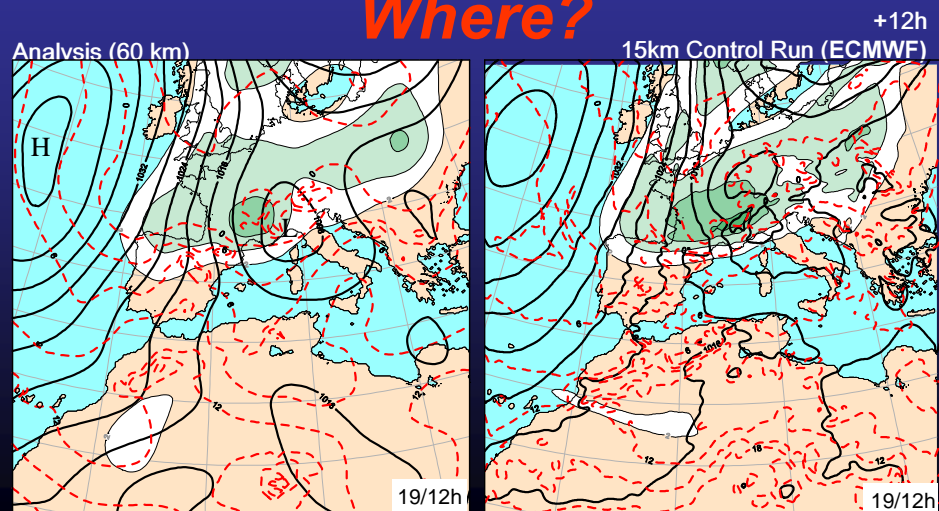


Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

OSSE run

- Observation System Simulation Experiments:
Create artificial observations from a successful run

Where?



Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Sensitivity estimates

Open Competition! Come and sign in!!

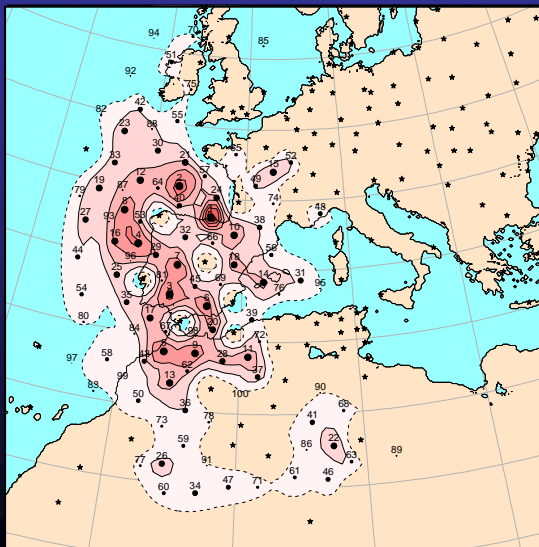


- Finalists:
 - MM5 Adjoint model 60h 60km
 - Human manual I
 - Human manual II
 - Gradients in the IC (upper PV, lower T, V, Q)
 - Sum of Adjoint and Gradients estimates

Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Adjoint sens. estimate

- Response Function at 22 00 UTC: SL Pressure at center of observed cyclone

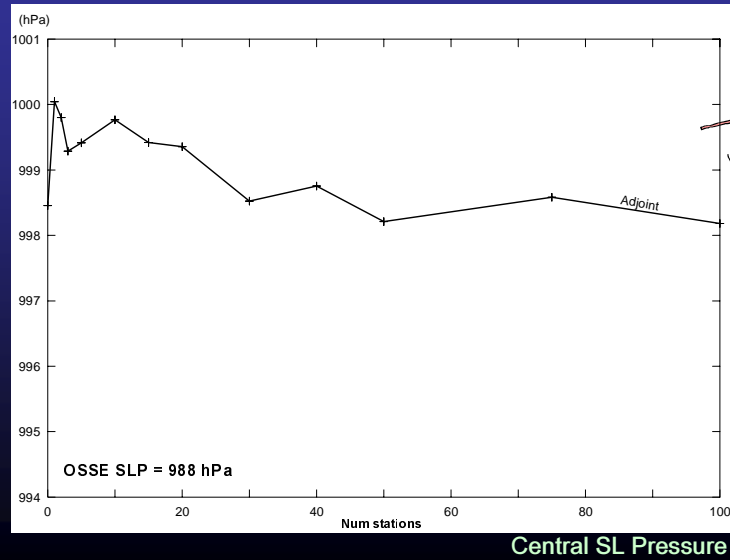


- Gaussian kernel stations
- 100 stations ranked using effective sensitivity
- 100 new simulations, each with an additional artificial sounding
- Actually "only" 12 runs: 1,2,3,5,10,15,20,30,40,50,75,100

Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Adjoint sens. estimate

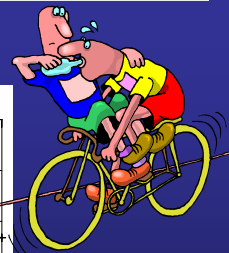
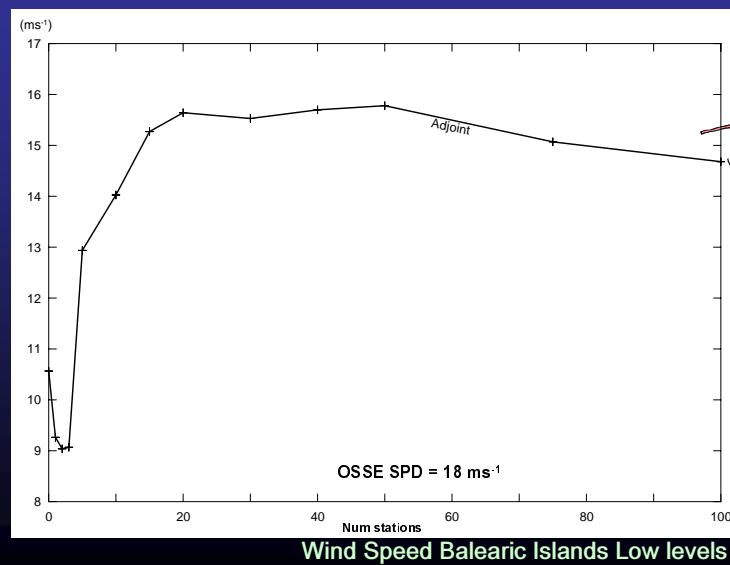
- First competitor scores:



Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Adjoint sens. estimate

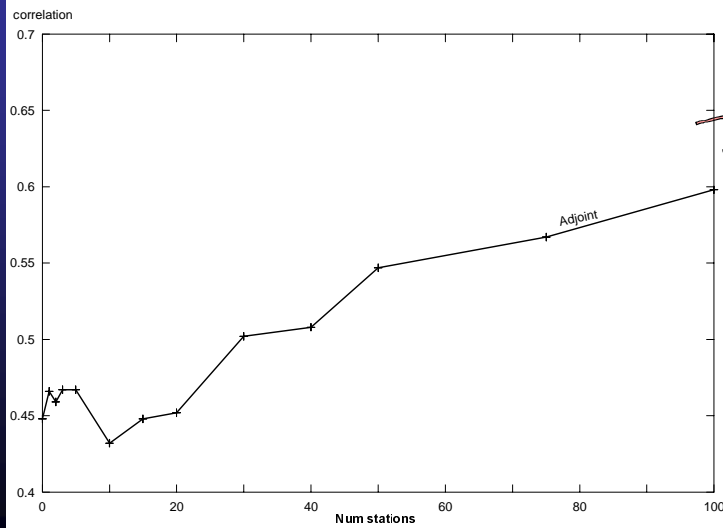
- First competitor scores:



Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

Adjoint sens. estimate

- First competitor scores:



Correlation of PV300 over West Med.

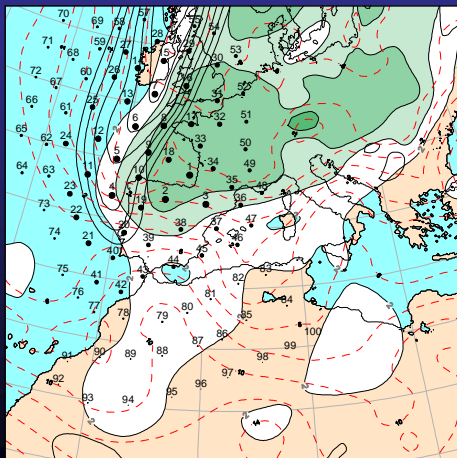


Example Applications:
Targeting (MEDEX)

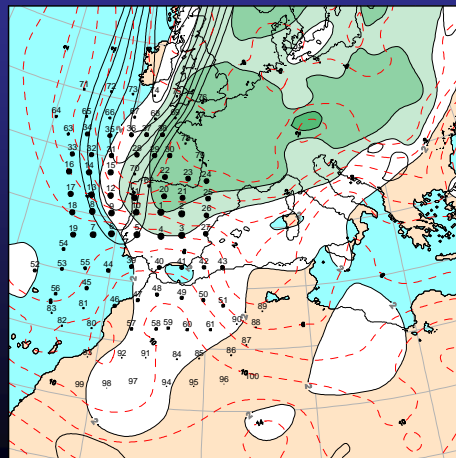
Human sens. estimate

- Forecast run information provided to human

Human I

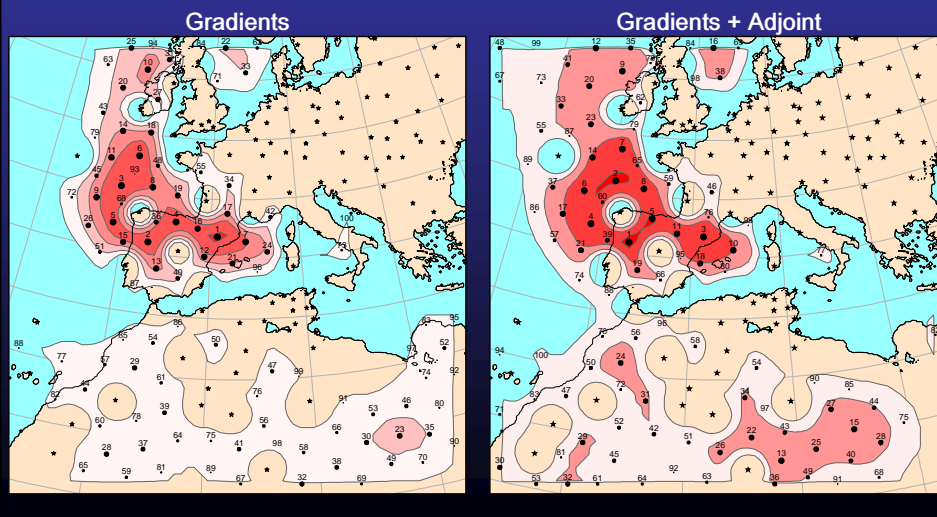


Human II



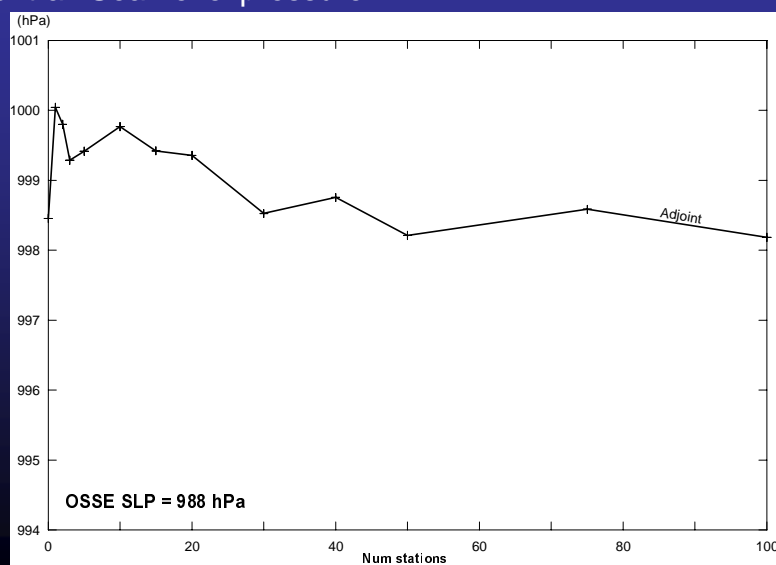
Subjective sens. estimate

- Subjective rules on IC fields:

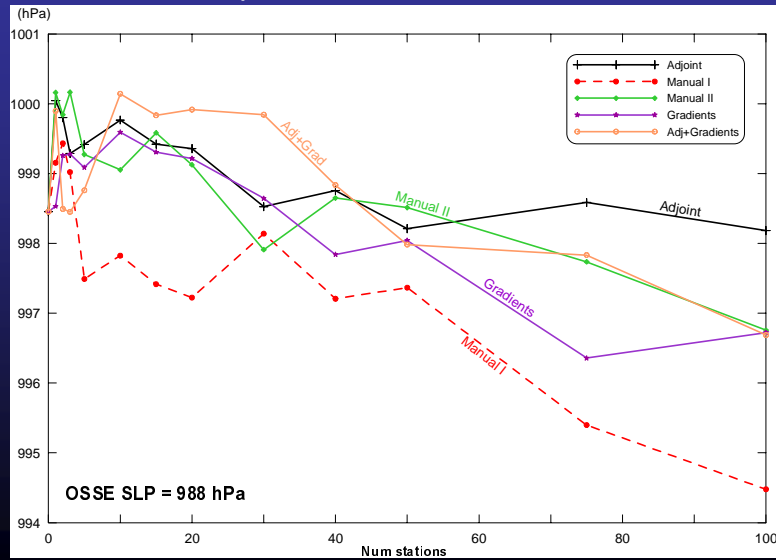


Score board

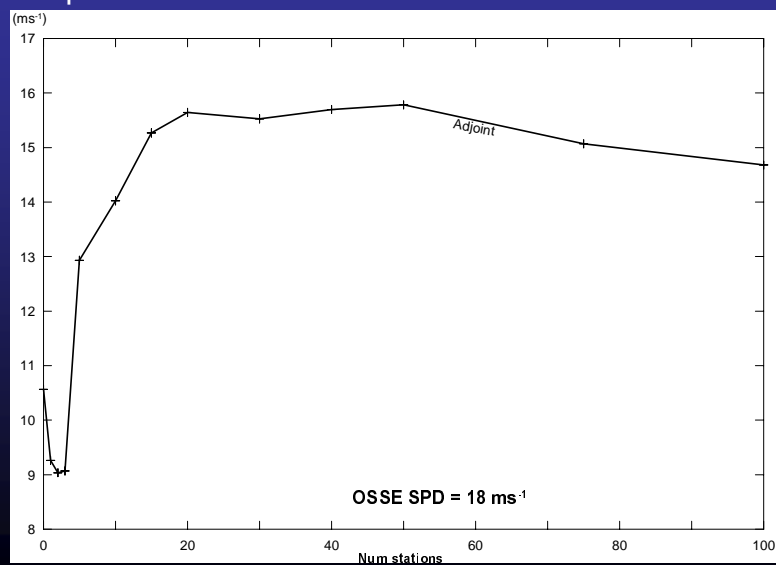
- Central Sea Level pressure:



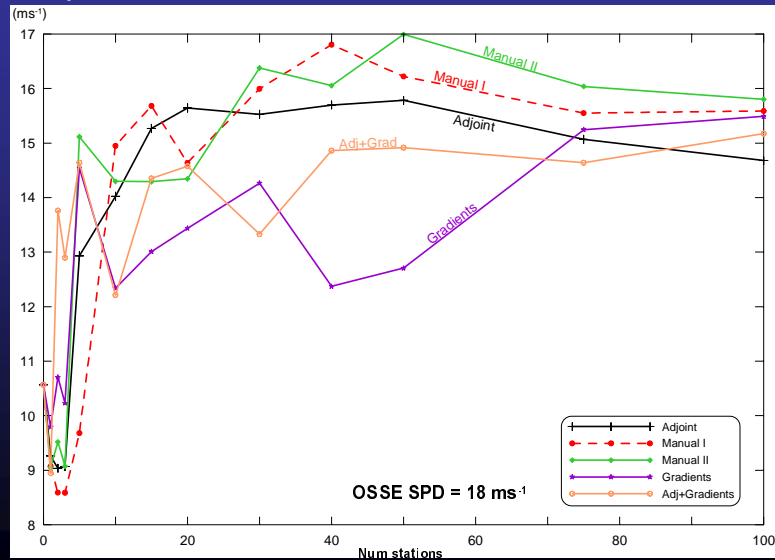
- Central Sea Level pressure:



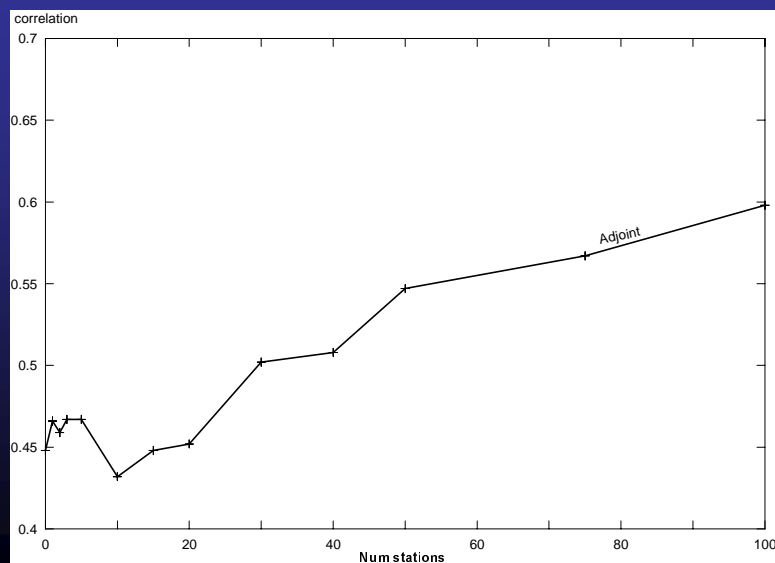
- Wind speed Balearics low levels:



- Wind speed Balearics low levels:



- Correlation PV300:



- Correlation PV300:

