MEDICANE RISK IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

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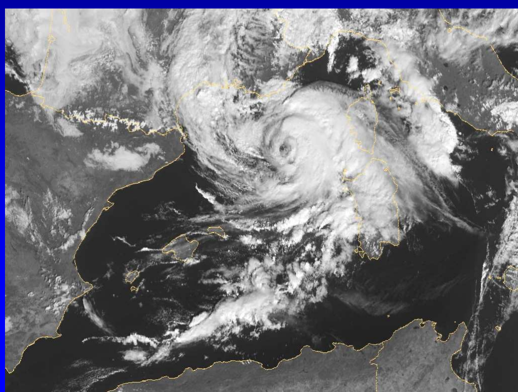
MOTIVATION

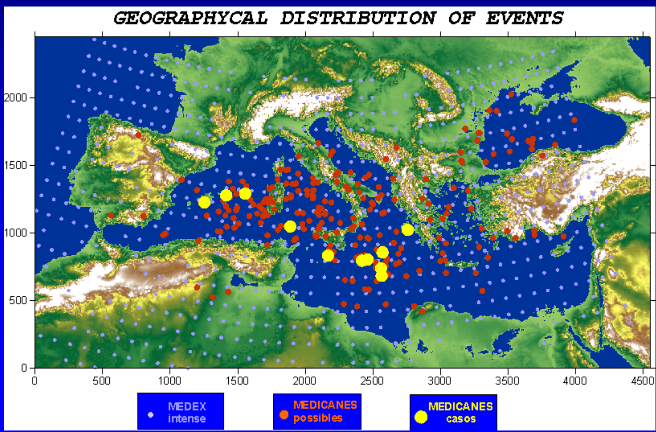
Medicanes are warm-core, surface flux-driven extreme windstorms potentially threatening the islands and coastal areas:

- Are there favoured locations for medicane development ?
- How intense can they become ?
- How could they react in frequency and intensity to global warming ?



MEDICANE RISK ???

With an average frequency of only 1-2 events per year and given the lack of systematic, multidecadal databases, an objective evaluation of the long-term risk of medicane-induced winds is impractical with standard methods

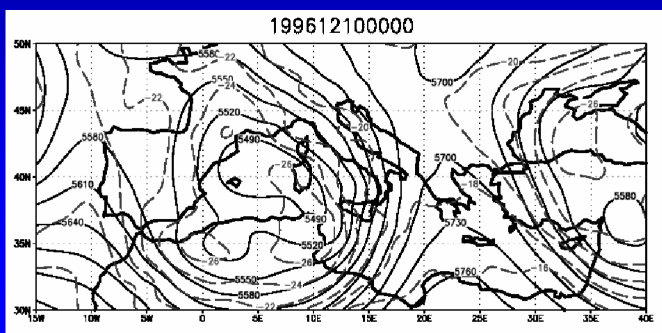


Database from satellite
(Tous and Romero, 2012)

APPROACH: Large-scale environmental proxies

Synoptic analyses of a few studied cases show that an inevitable precursor is the presence of a deep, cut-off, cold-core low in the upper and middle troposphere:

• But the infrequent occurrence of medicanes suggests that additional and very special meteorological conditions are necessary for these storms to occur …



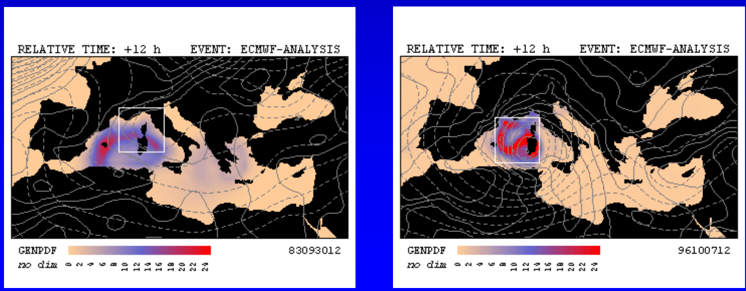
APPROACH: Large-scale environmental proxies

Application of an empirical index of genesis:

$$I = \left|10^5 \eta\right|^{3/2} \left(\frac{H}{50}\right)^3 \left(\frac{V_{pot}}{70}\right)^3 \left(1 + 0.1 V_{shear}\right)^{-2},$$

GENIX parameter (Emanuel and Nolan, 2004)

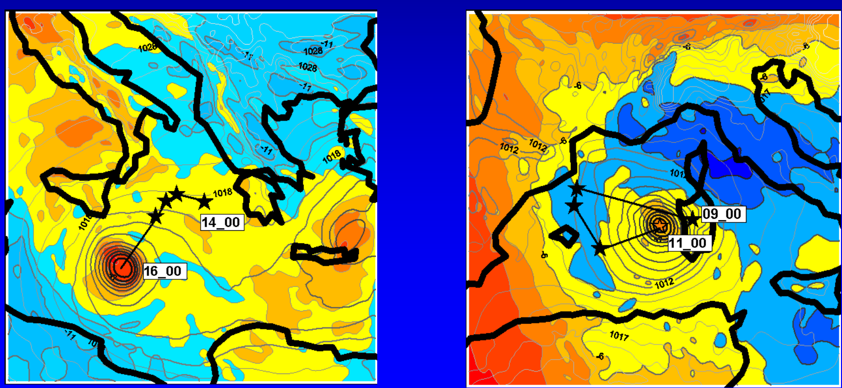
- ***But these environmental proxies behave as necessary but no sufficient ingredients for the successful genesis of a medicane …***



FIRST METHOD: Nested climatic simulations

Detection and tracking of symmetric warm-core cyclonic disturbances generated in mesoscale simulations (MM5) forced by Reanalysis and GCM data:

- ***But high computational cost: Limited horizontal resolution; Too few climatic realizations to permit a full sampling of the PDF of storms …***



SECOND METHOD: Global climatic simulations

Detection and tracking of symmetric warm-core cyclonic disturbances generated in the weather-resolving global simulations made with HadGEM3 N512 (25 km) model (UPSCALE project)

- *Two visits of Maria Tous to NCAS/University of Reading working in collaboration with Len Shaffrey, Giuseppe Zappa, …*

- *Preliminary results: NEXT TALK …*

THIRD METHOD: Statistical-deterministic approach

Developed by Kerry Emanuel and his team in the context of the long-term wind risk associated with tropical cyclones:

- *Low-cost generation of thousands of synthetic storms*
- *Statistically robust assessment of risk (e.g. return periods for winds)*

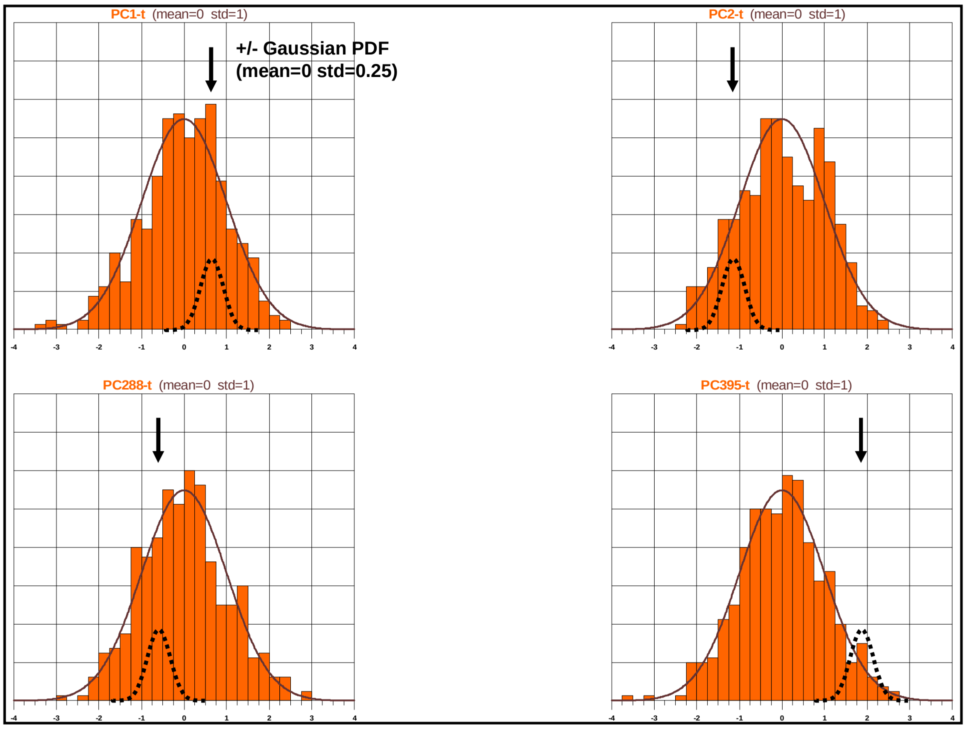
- *Genesis: Random draws from observed PDF or Random seeding*
- *Track: Randomly varying synthetic winds (respecting climatology)*
- *Environment: Previous winds + monthly-mean thermodynamic fields*
- *Intensity and radial distribution of winds: CHIPS model*

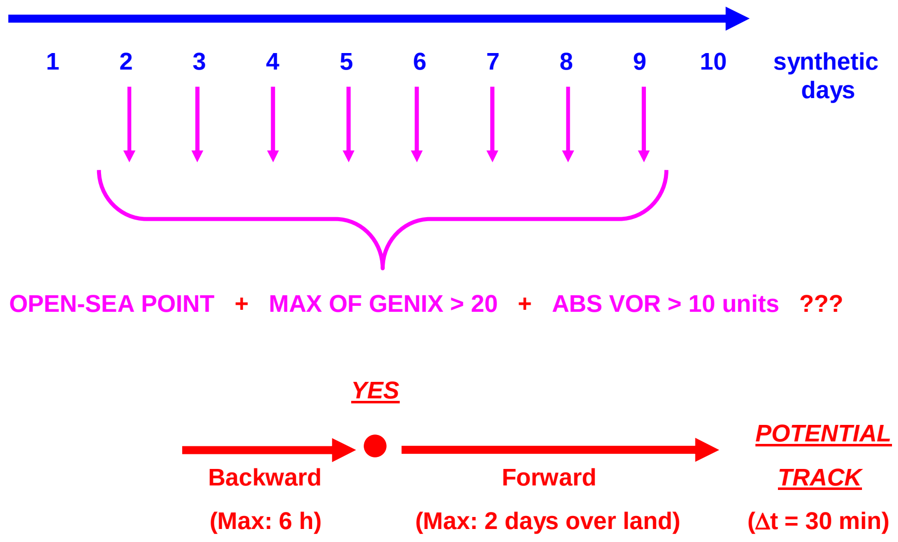
ADAPTATION OF THE THIRD METHOD

The separation of timescales made in the tropics between the synthetic wind field (fast scale) and the thermodynamic environment (slow scale) is not appropriate to represent the movement, growth and decay of mid-latitude weather systems. In addition, the history of medicane genesis is far too sparse to form a reasonable PDF of genesis, and random seeding would be very inefficient:

- *For each month, decomposition through PCA of 10-day synoptic evolutions of z250, z850, T600, R600 and PINT into the new space of independent PCs*
- *Random selection + random perturbation of the set of PCs*
- *This perturbed set of PCs is converted back into physical space*
- *This is tantamount to generating 10-day sequences of spatiotemporal coherent z250, z850, T600, R600 and PINT synthetic fields which also respect their mutual covariances*

- *Potential Genesis: Based on the GENIX parameter*



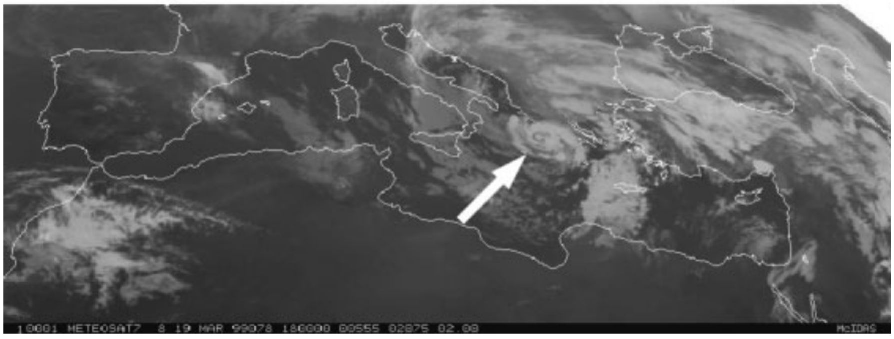


$$\begin{cases} u_{track} = \alpha\, u_{850} + (1 - \alpha)\, u_{250} \\ v_{track} = \alpha\, v_{850} + (1 - \alpha)\, v_{250} + v_{\beta} \end{cases}$$

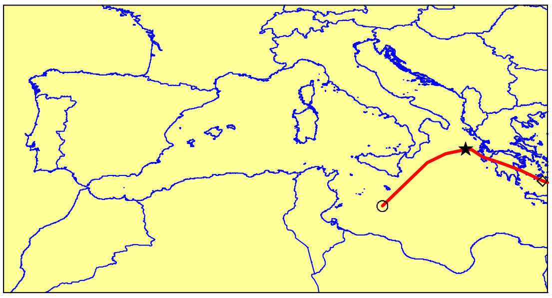
$\alpha = 0.8$ $v_{\beta} = 2.5$ m/s

EXEMPLE FOR A REAL EVENT

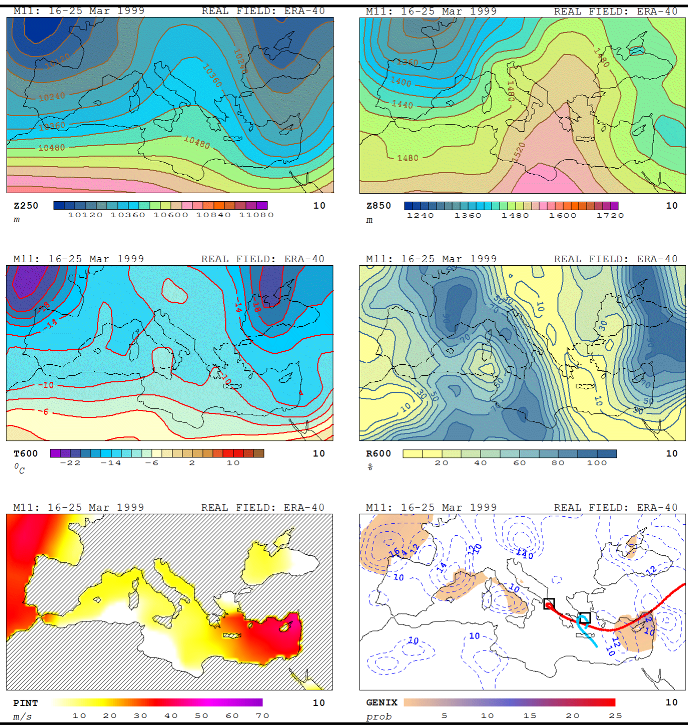
(d) 19-March-1999, 18 UTC

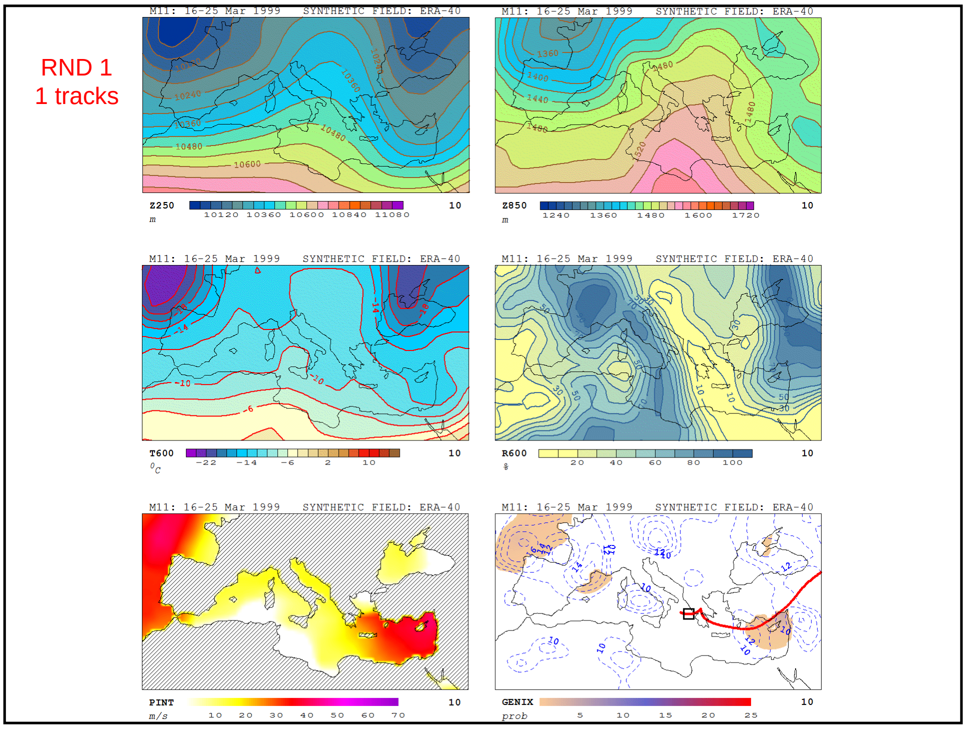


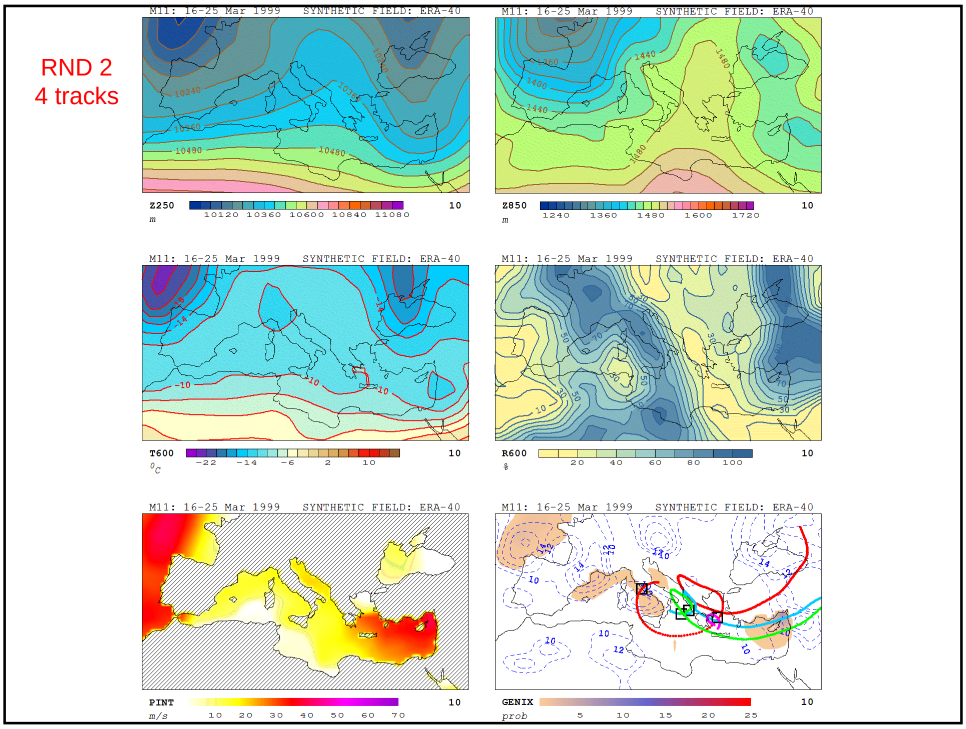
M11



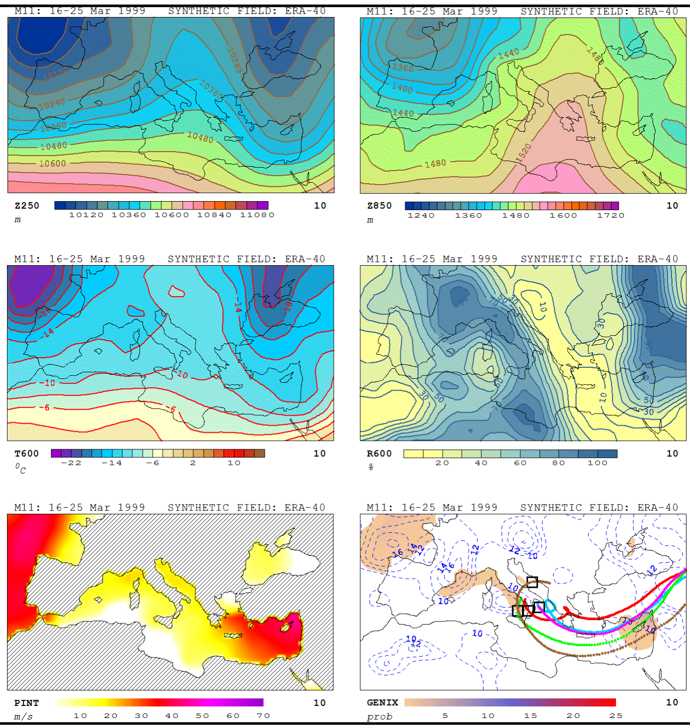
ERA-40
2 tracks



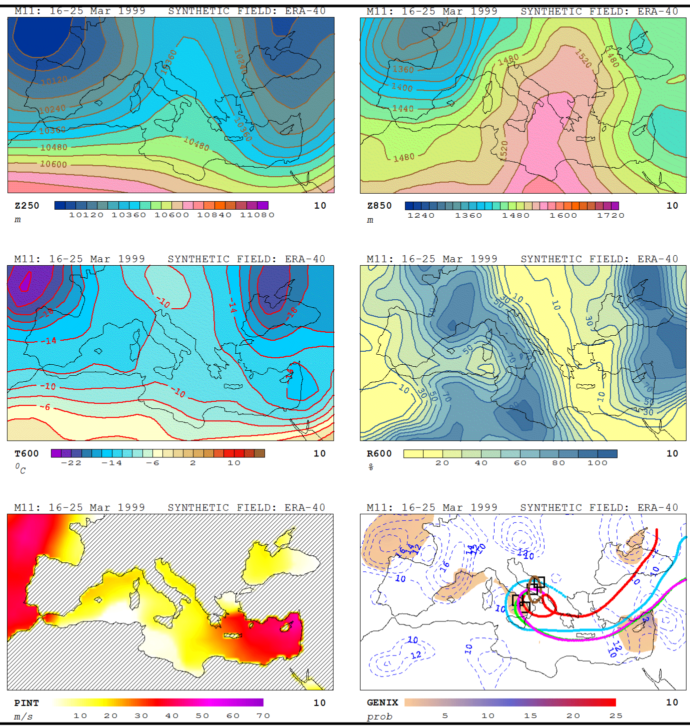

RND 1
1 tracks
M11: 16-25 Mar 1999 SYNTHETIC FIELD: ERA-40
Z250
m
10120 10360 10600 10840 11080
Z850
1240 1360 1480 1600 1720
T600
-22 -14 -6 2 10
R600
20 40 60 80 100
PINT
m/s
10 20 30 40 50 60 70
GENIX
prob
5 10 15 20 25

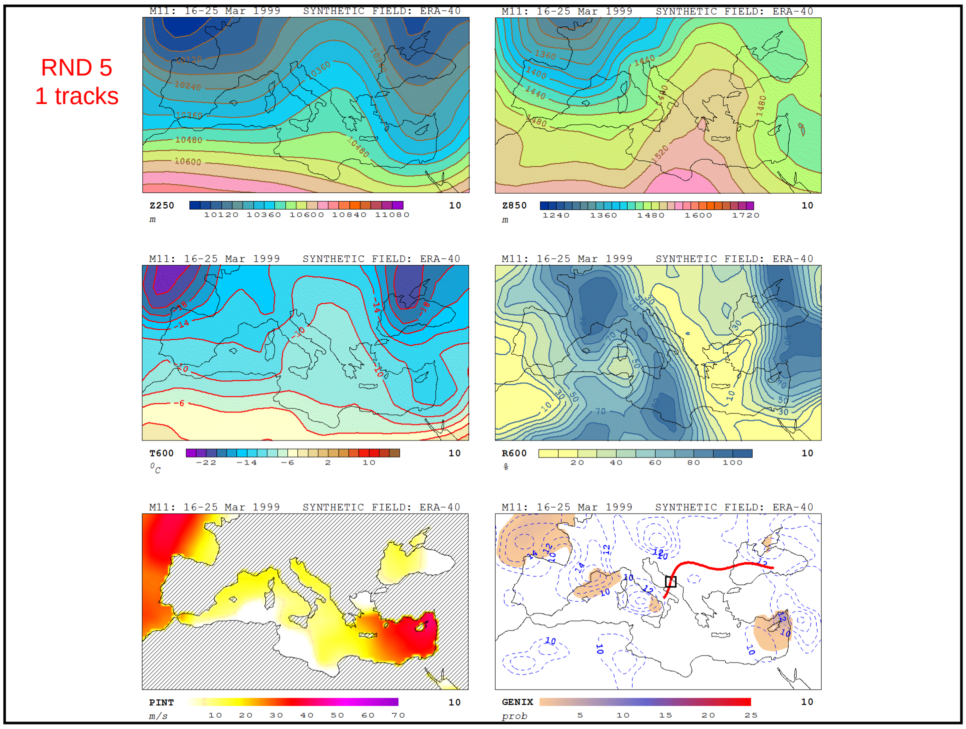

RND 2
4 tracks
M11: 16-25 Mar 1999 SYNTHETIC FIELD: ERA-40
Z250
m
10120 10360 10600 10840 11080
Z850
1240 1360 1480 1600 1720
T600
-22 -14 -6 2 10
R600
20 40 60 80 100
PINT
m/s
10 20 30 40 50 60 70
GENIX
prob
5 10 15 20 25

RND 3
5 tracks



RND 4
5 tracks

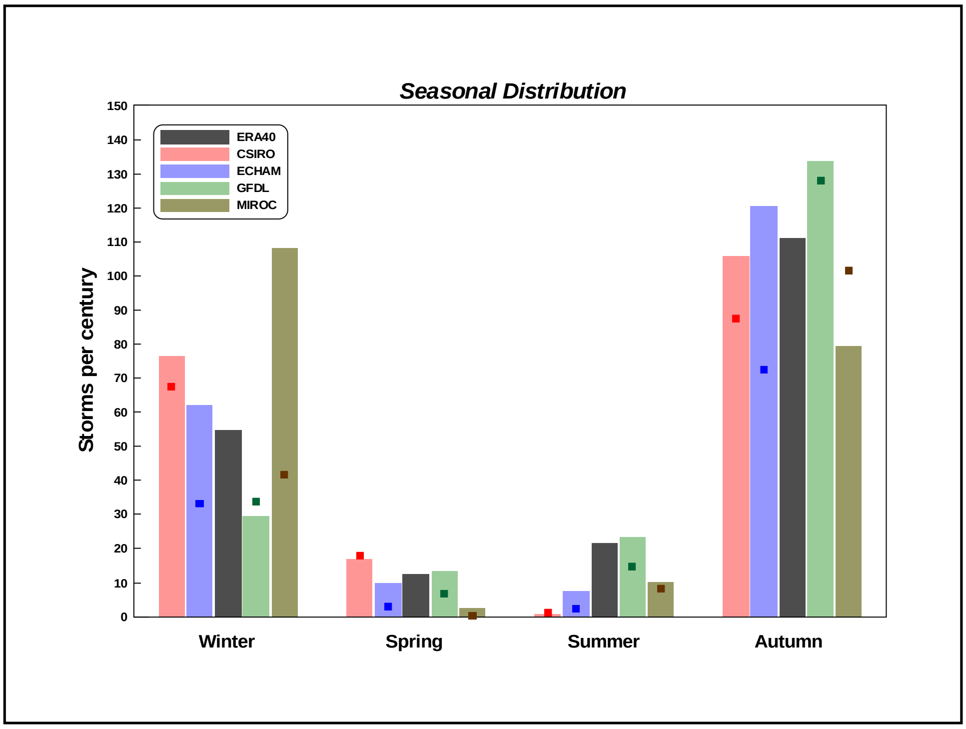


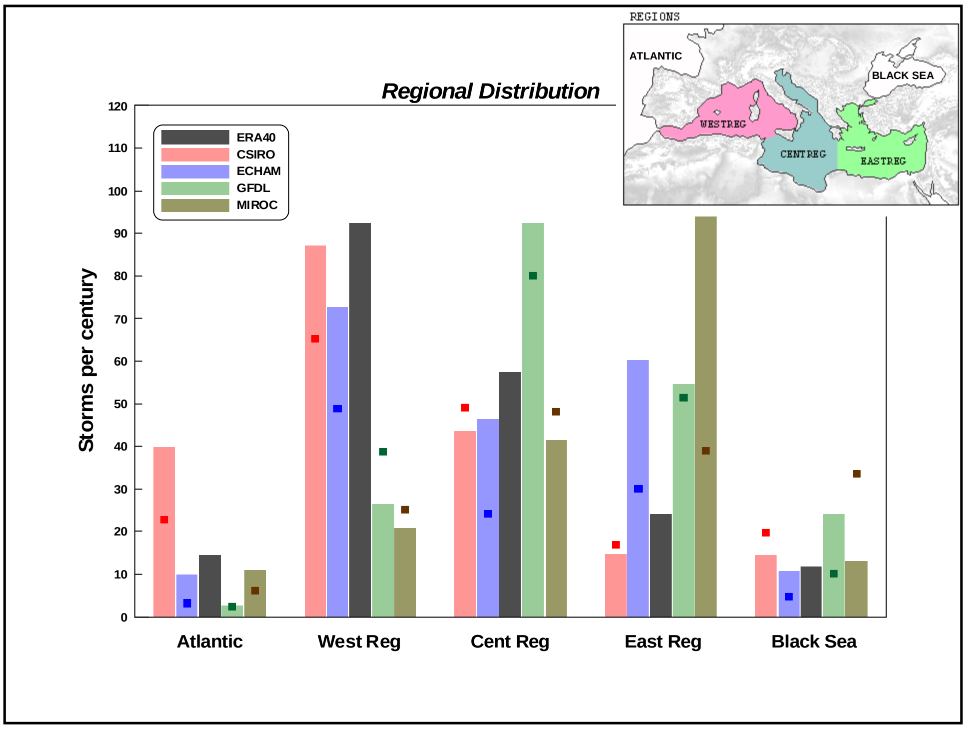


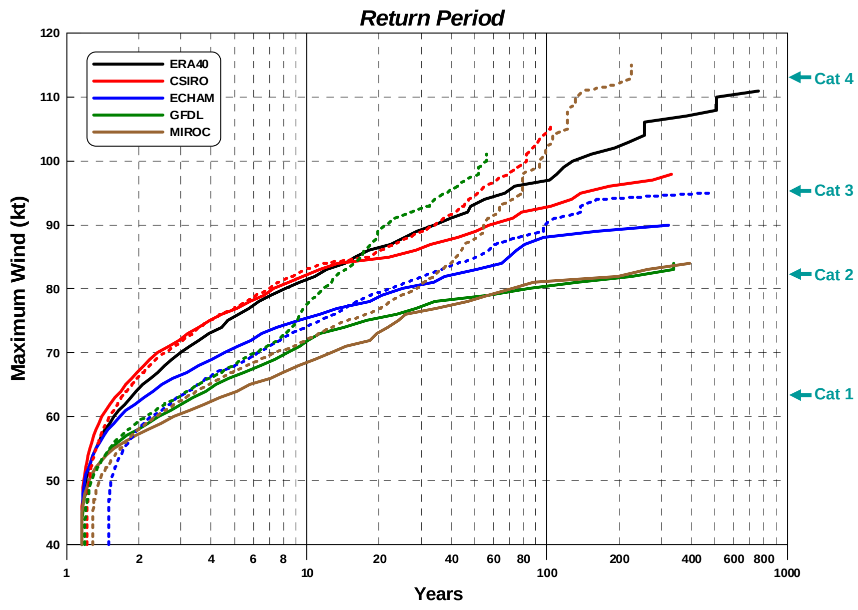
APPLICATION OF THE SECOND METHOD

We synthetically generate a total of ~15000 potential tracks for each climate/model. These are simulated with CHIPS and checked for intensification above TS category (34 kt):

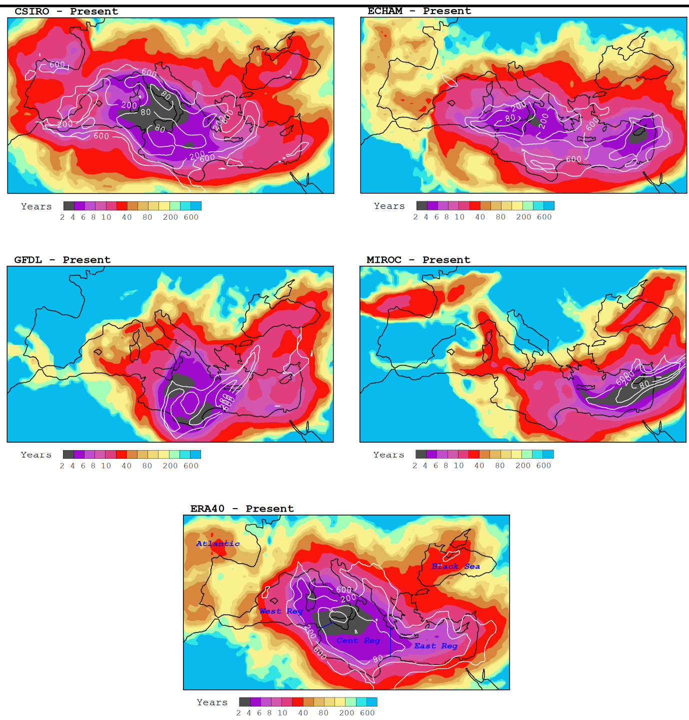
Climate Scenario	Reanalysis or GCM	Successful Storms	Storms per century
PRESENT 1981 – 2000	ERA40	3048	200
	CSIRO	3286	200
	ECHAM	1924	200
	GFDL	1343	200
	MIROC	1567	200
FUTURE 2081 – 2100 SRES A2	CSIRO	2857	174
	ECHAM	1072	111
	GFDL	1226	183
	MIROC	2389	152


Seasonal Distribution
Storms per century
ERA40
CSIRO
ECHAM
GFDL
MIROC
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
130
140
150
Winter
Spring
Summer
Autumn

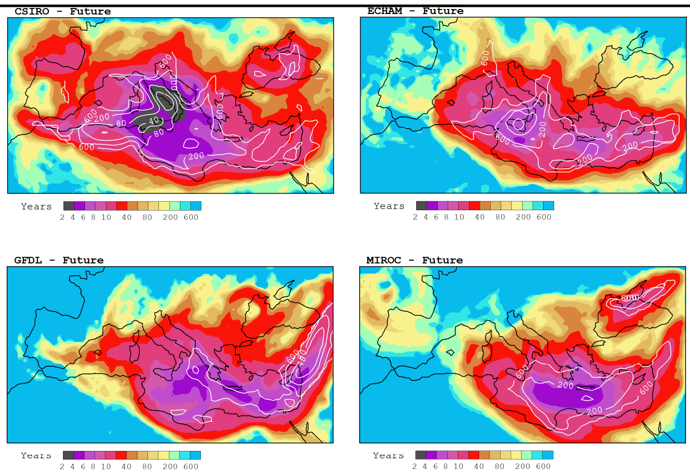

Regional Distribution
REGIONS
ATLANTIC
BLACK SEA
WESTREG
CENTREG
EASTREG
Storms per century
ERA40
CSIRO
ECHAM
GFDL
MIROC
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
Atlantic
West Reg
Cent Reg
East Reg
Black Sea



20C3M
scenario

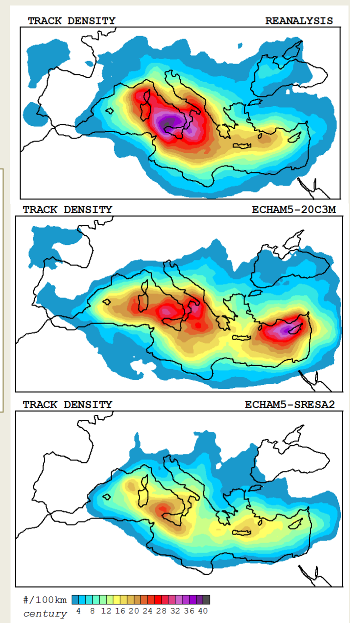


SRESA2
scenario

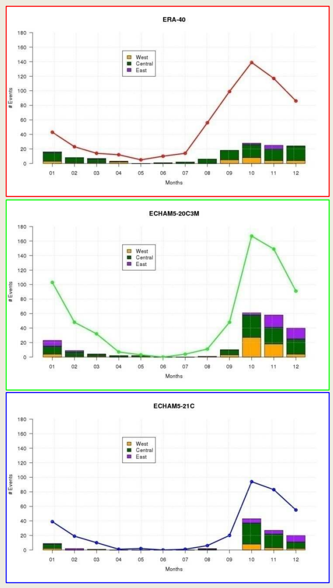


COMPARISON OF BOTH METHODS

SYNTHETIC generation



DYNAMICAL downscaling



28
101
9

60
105
45

16
64
23

CONCLUSIONS

- The statistical-deterministic approach is a good alternative to computationally expensive classical methods (e.g. dynamical downscaling of medicanes), with the extra benefit of producing statistically large populations of events

- We attained unprecedented medicane-wind risk maps for the Mediterranean region

- General agreement with the "known" phenomenology of medicanes in the current climate (e.g. maximum in the cold season and central Mediterranean) and between both methods

- In spite of some geographical uncertainties, GCMs tend to project fewer medicanes at the end of the century compared to present but a higher number of violent storms, suggesting an increased probability of major economic and social impacts as the century progresses