

# Sobre la prediccibilidad de algunos fenómenos mediterráneos: medicanes, rissagues

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- Medicanes. El caso Zorbas.
- Rissagues:
  - Predicción *subjetiva* (AEMET)
  - Predicción *objetiva/determinista/ensemble* (SOCIB)

**About tropical-like cyclones in the Mediterranean:  
the Ionian Sea case of 28-29 September 2018**

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About the cyclogenetic mechanism of intense Mediterranean cyclones, there is a *continuous spectrum*:

*Extratropical cyclone → Hybrid/Subtropical → Tropical-like*

Baroclinic → → → → → → → → → Diabatic (latent heat release)

What a *medicane* is ?

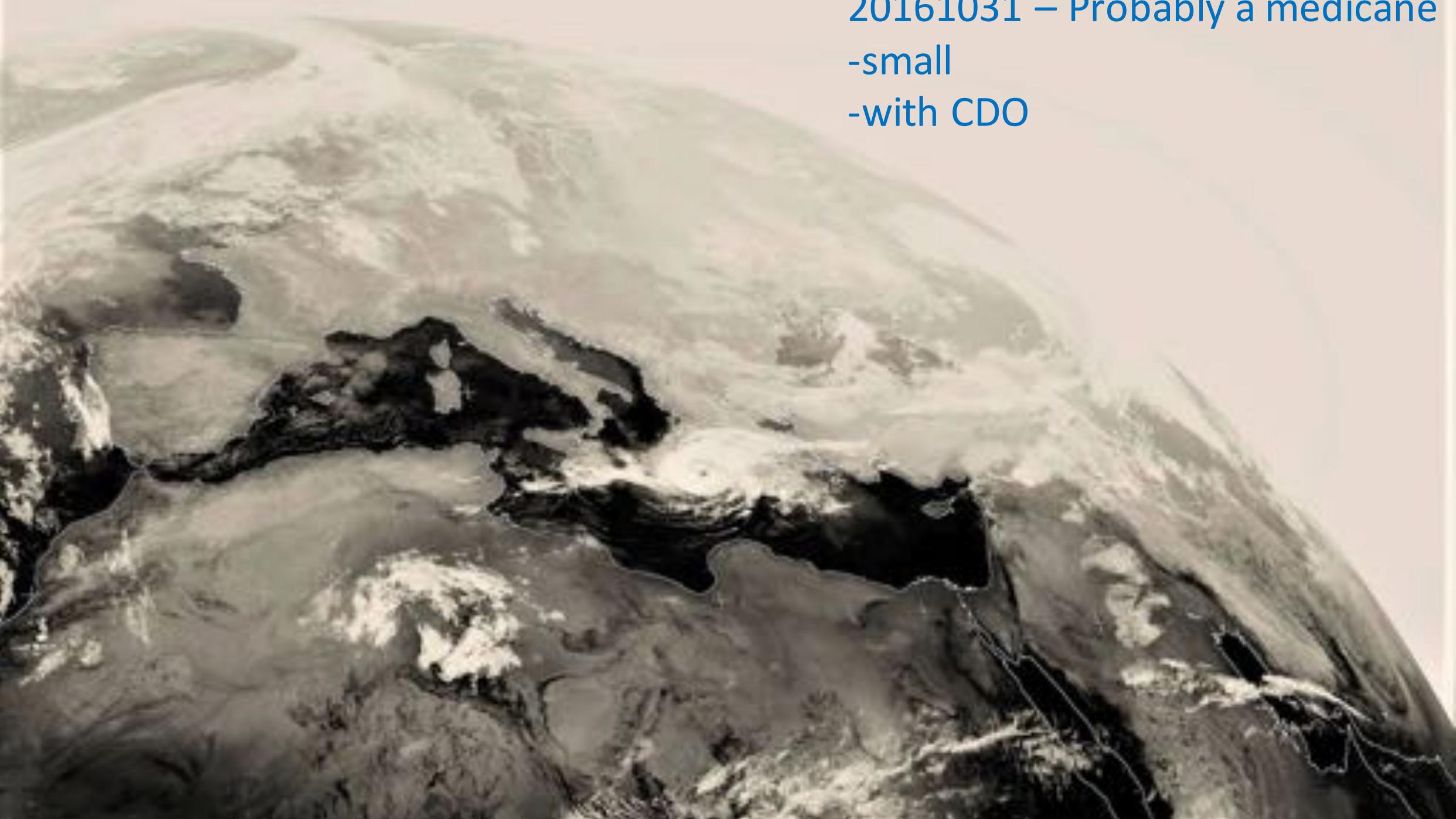
(*Medicane* = Mediterranean tropical-like cyclone, warm core cyclones, mini-cyclone)

**Central dense overcast** (CDO, according glossary NHC) (Tous & Romero, 2011, 2013; see Dvorak, 1975)

**Characterisation** (size, gradient, wind:  $\phi < 300$  km, 1 hPa/10 km,  $w > f8, f10, f12$  B) (Jansà, 2003)

**Thermal structure** (Hart diagrams: warm/warm/symmetric?) (Picornell et al., 2014, among other)

**Cyclogenetic mechanism** (purely diabatic? Diabatic process necessary but not enough? Baroclinic/diabatic synergism?)



20161031 – Probably a medicane  
-small  
-with CDO

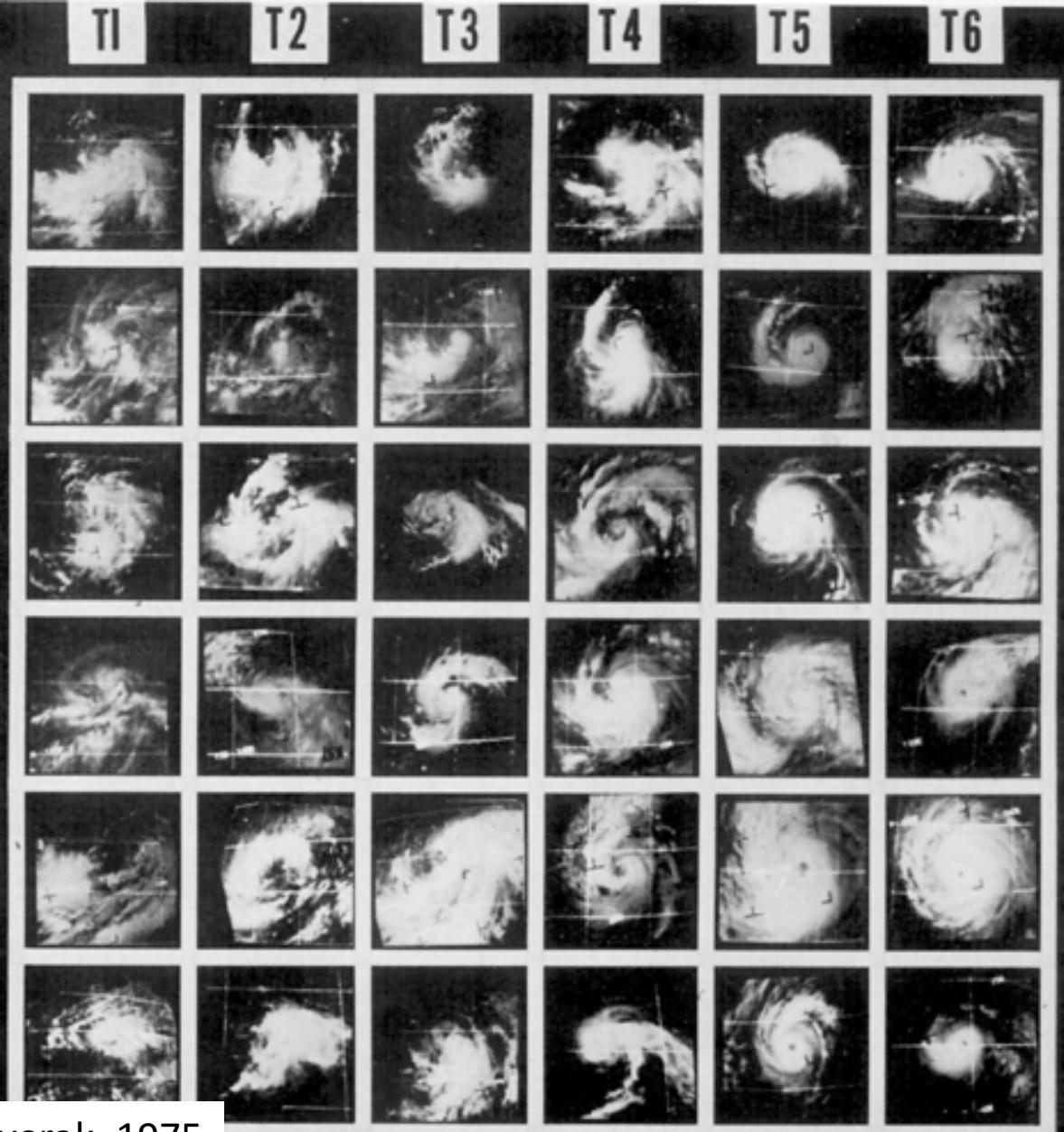
What is Zorbas, the Ionian Sea intense cyclone  
that developed from 27 to 29 September 2018?

Is it a *medicane*?

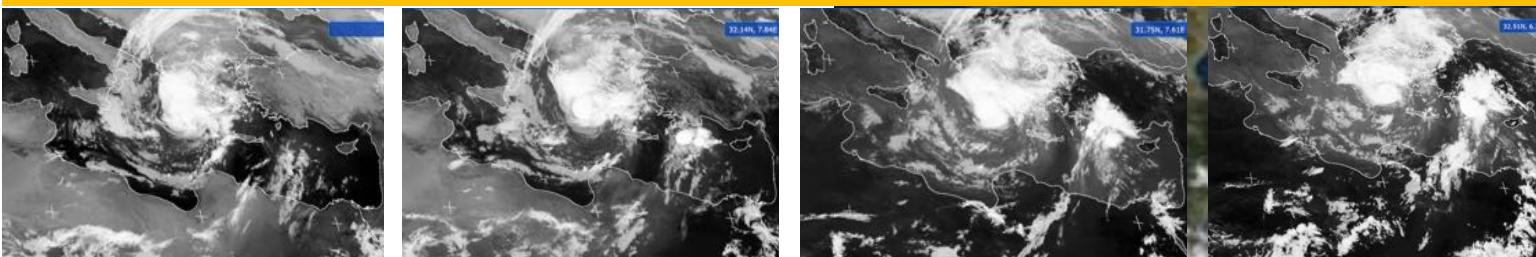
# Ionian sea 28-29 Sep 2018 cyclone (Zorbas): Has it a *central dense overcast*?

Pre-TS

Intense-TC



Ionian sea 28-29 Sep 2016 cyclone (Zorbas): Has it a *central dense overcast*?



2903

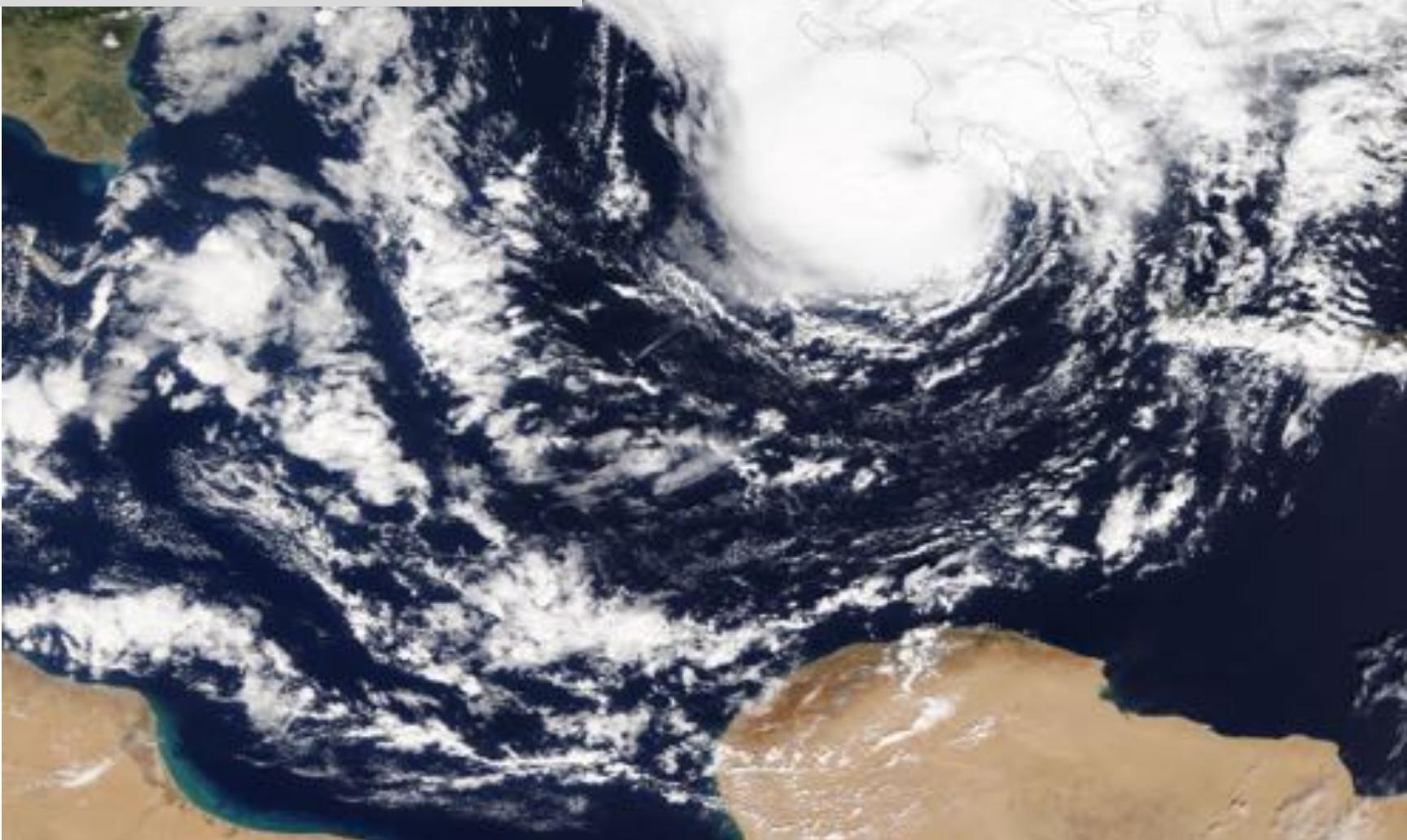
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2909

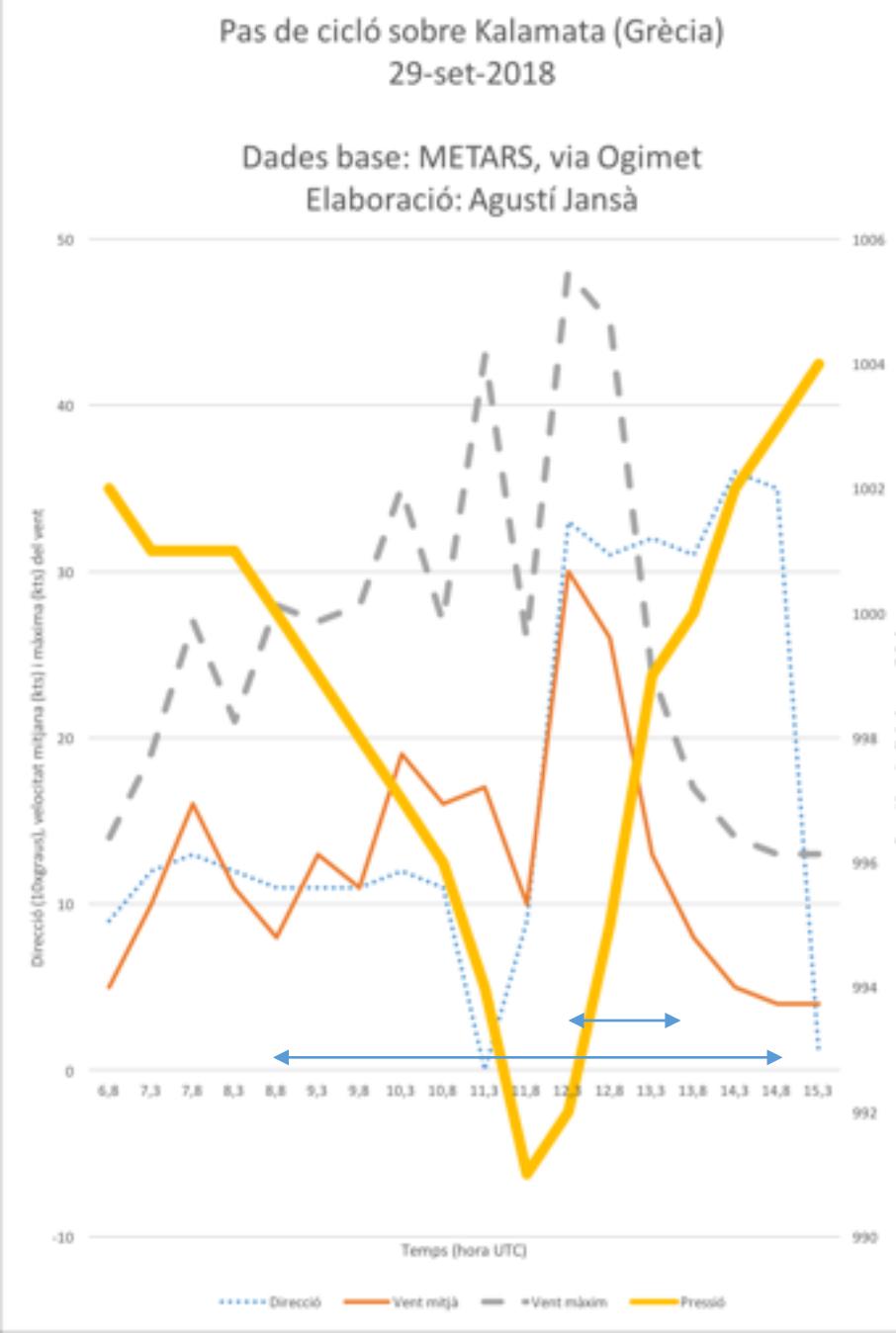
2912

Quite clear **CDO** from 2821 to 2912.

Possible **CDO** by 2800-2806.



Does Zorba fit a medicane **characterisation (on land trace)**? (size, gradient, wind:  $\phi < 300$  km, 1 hPa/10 km,  $w > f8, f10, f12$  B)



Speed of translation (from satellite and tracking based on analyses):

22 km/h  $\rightarrow$  6 hrs  $\leftarrow$   $\rightarrow$  132 km ( $\phi \approx 150$  km)

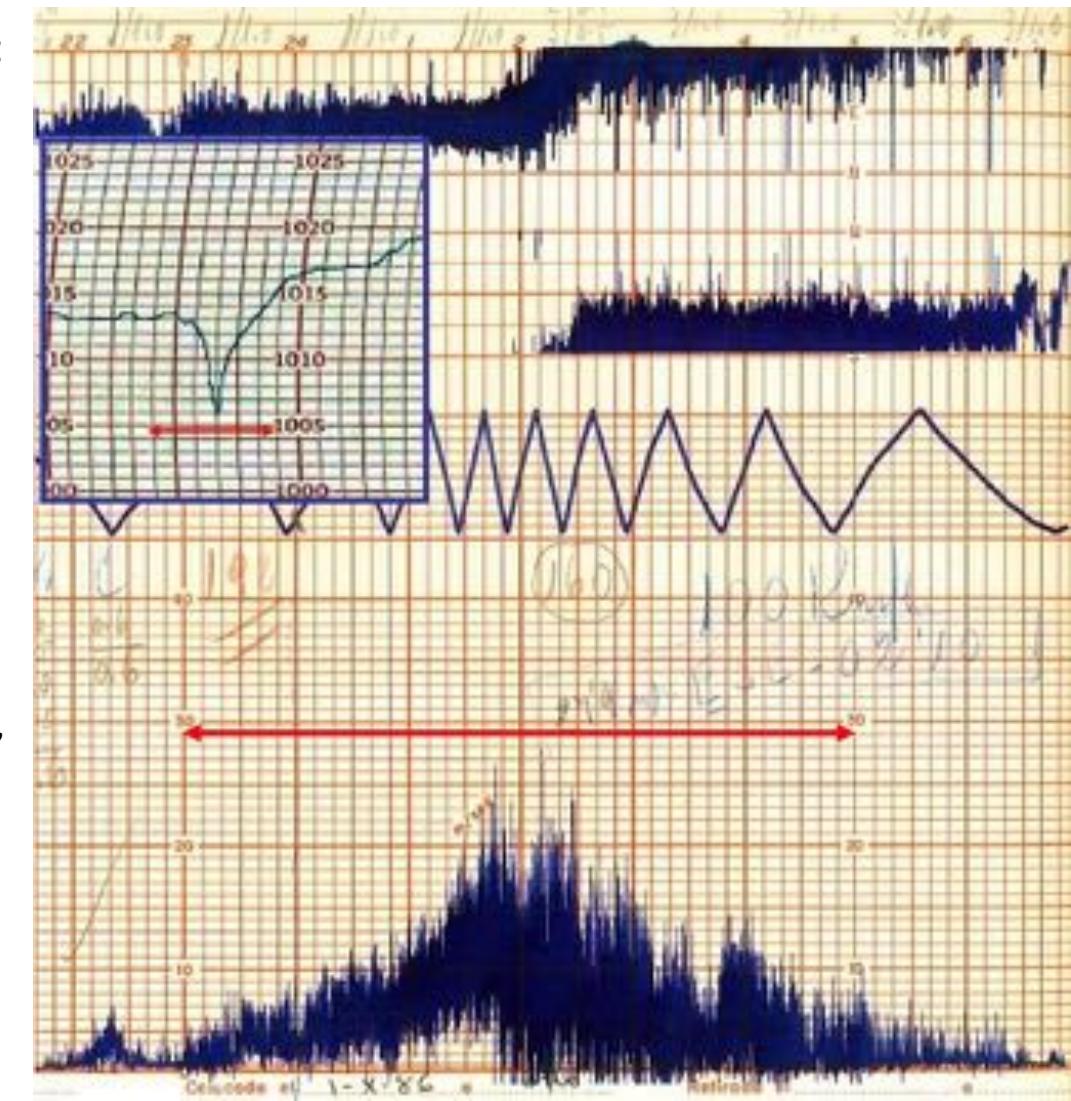
Gradient  $\sim 7$  hPa / 1.5 h = 33 km  $\sim 2$  hPa/10 km

Total  $\Delta p = 13$  hPa

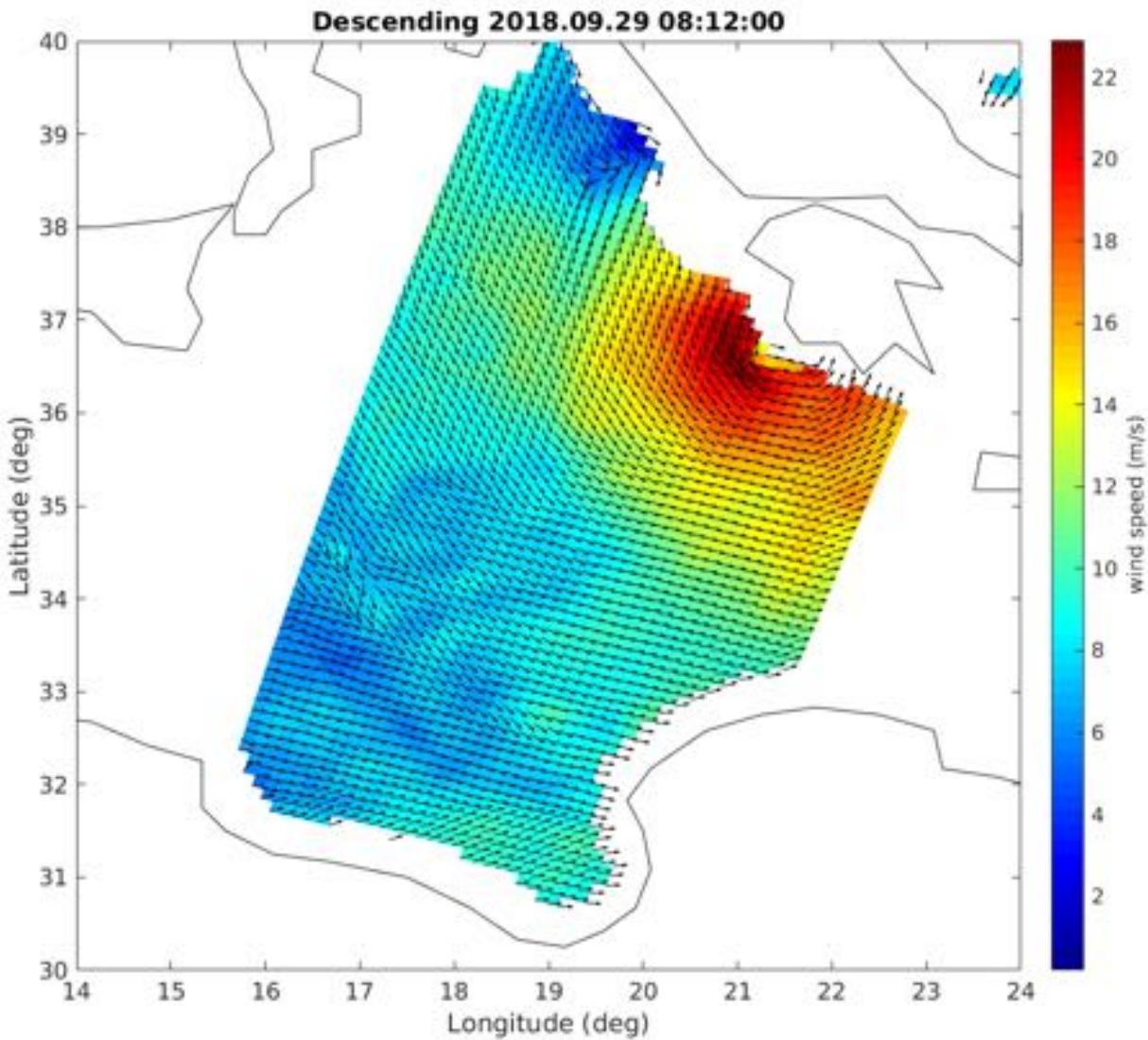
Sustained wind (on land):

30 kts

(7 Beaufort)



A comparison:  
Tropical-like cyclone  
in Palma de Mallorca,  
2 Oct 1986

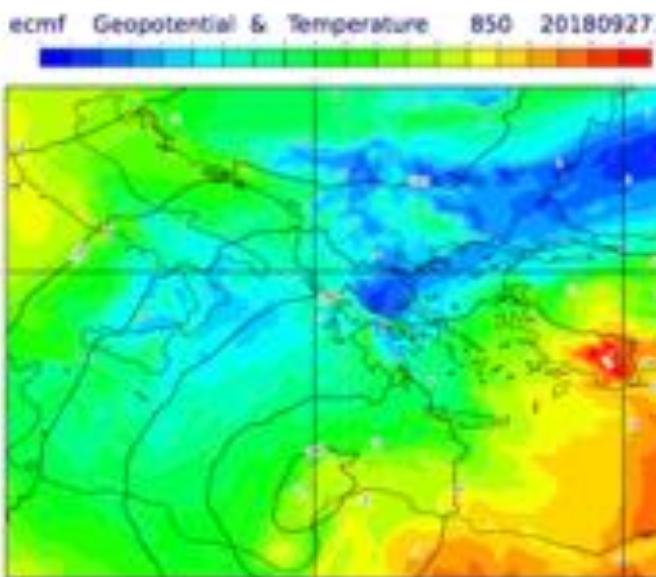
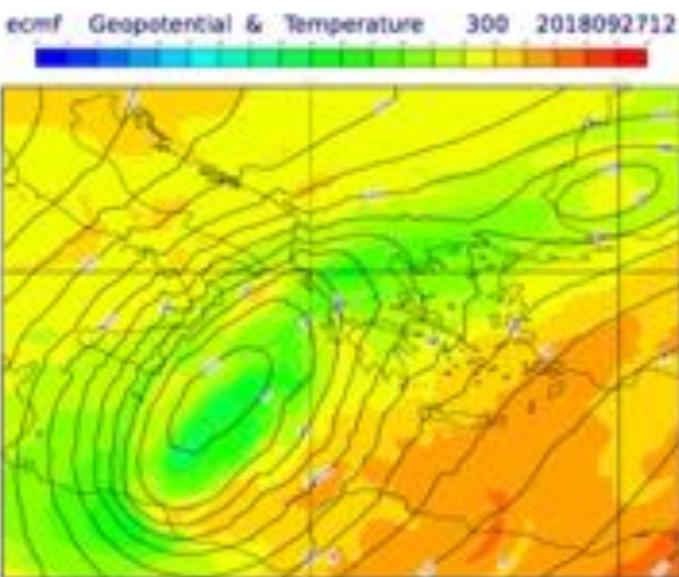
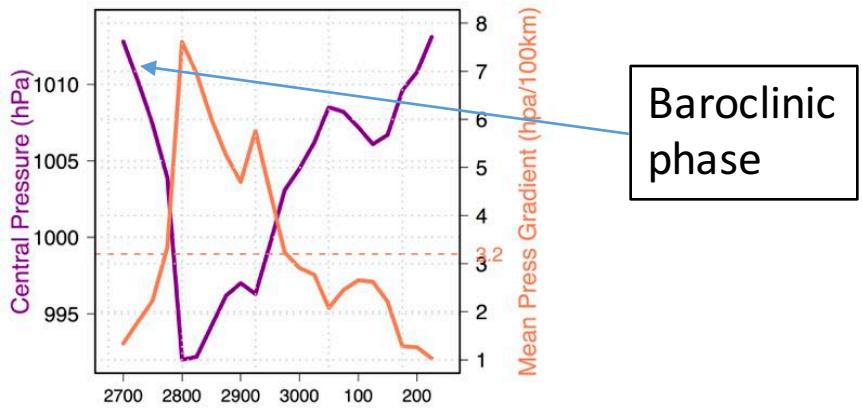


Wind at sea → 22 m/s (8-9 Beaufort)  
ASCAT image

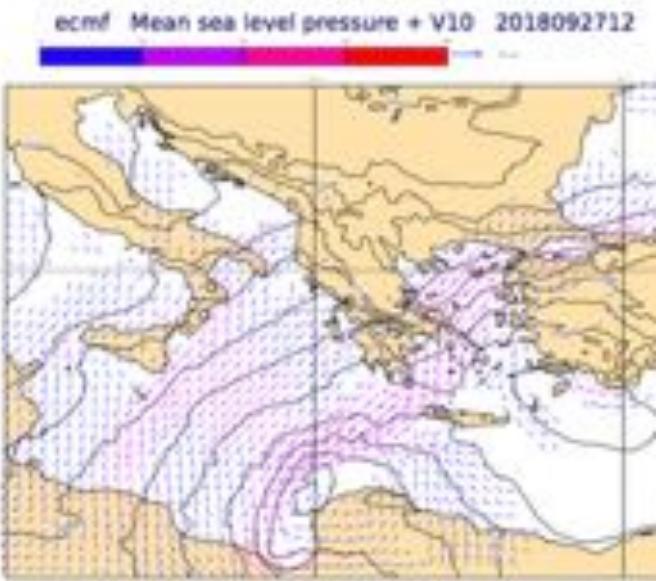
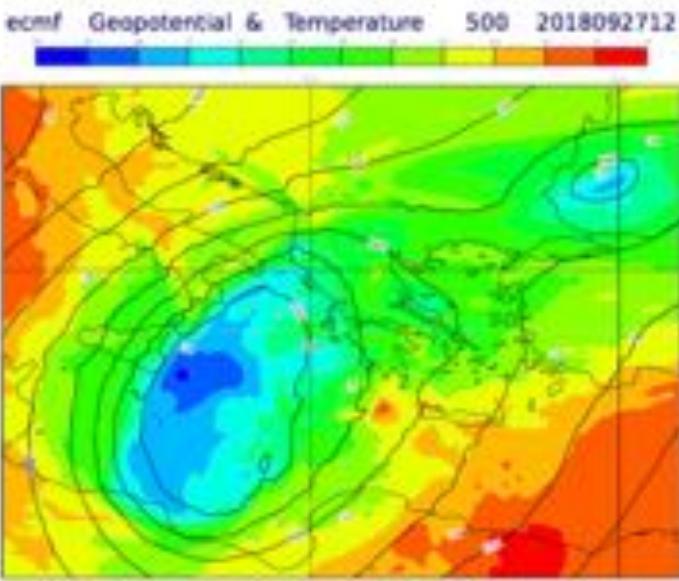
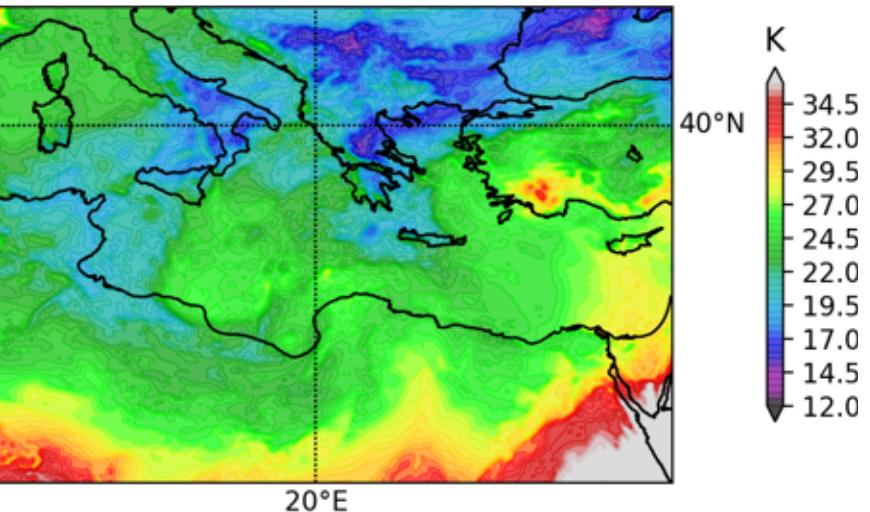
(courtesy of Marcos Portabella)

A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

27 SEP 12UTC

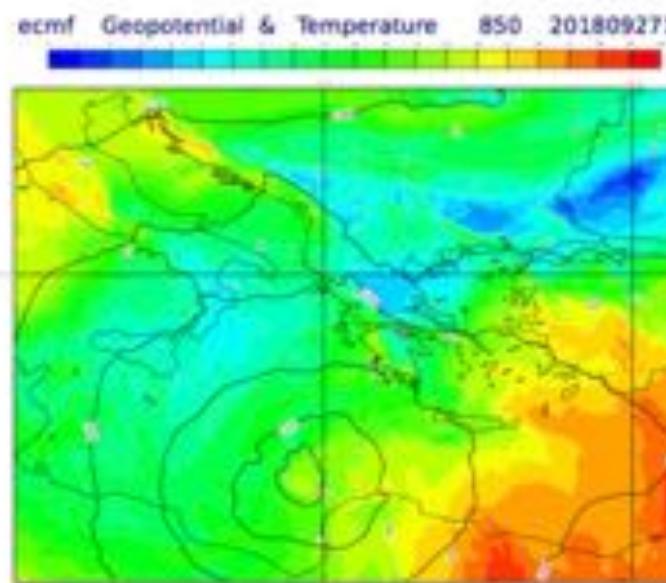
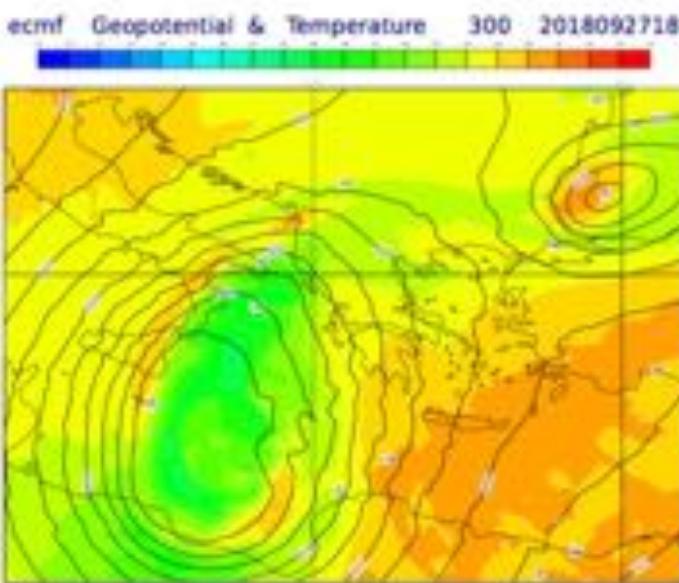
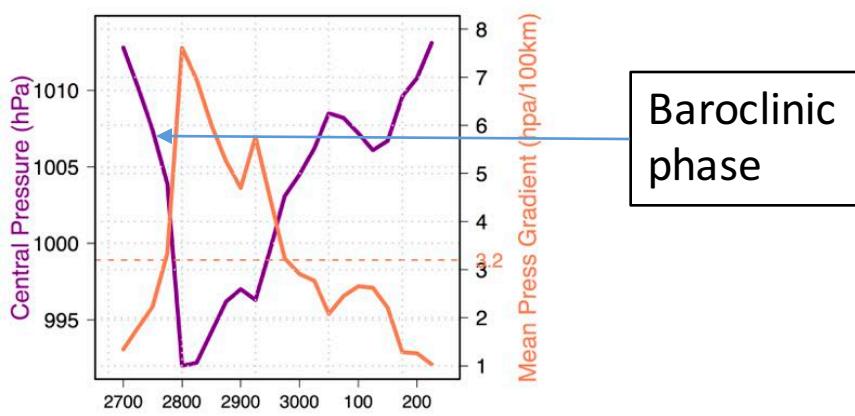


T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/27 12H

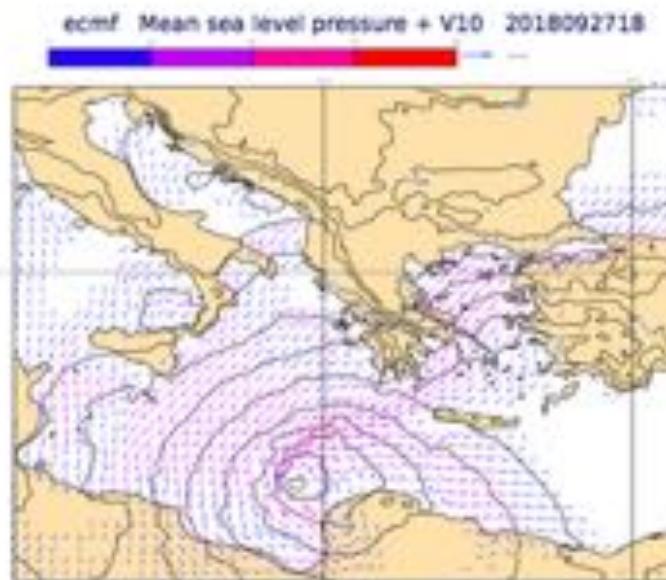
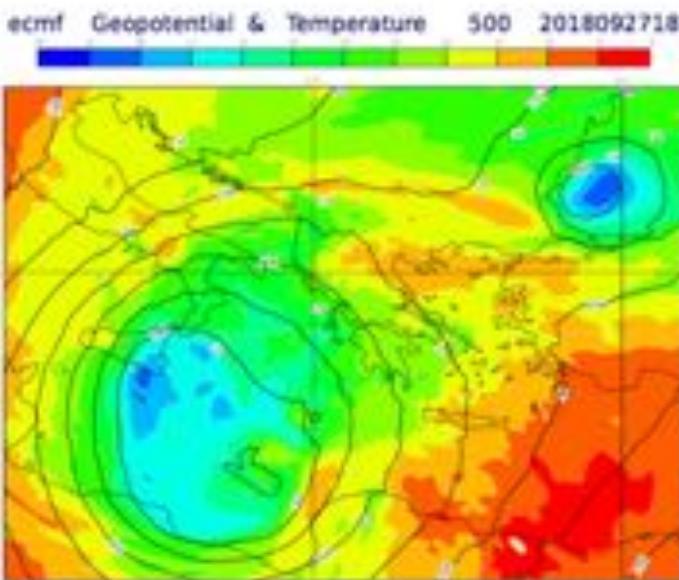
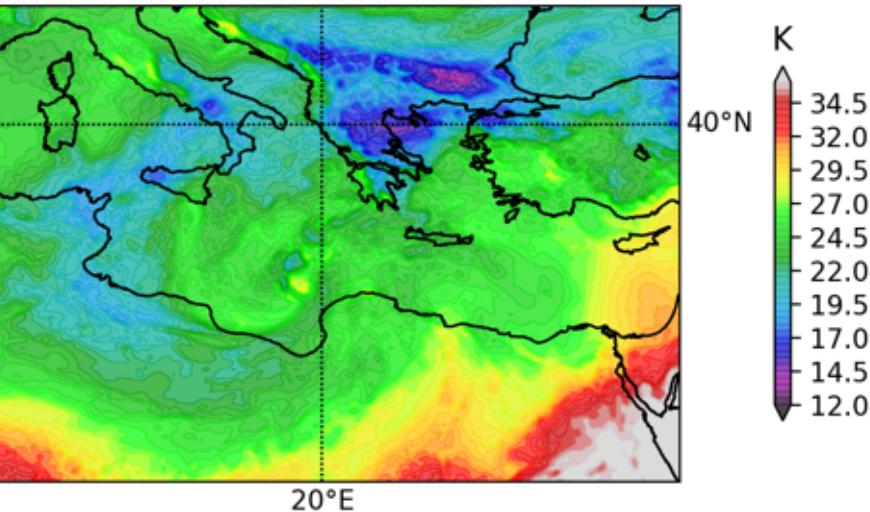


A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

27 SEP 18UTC

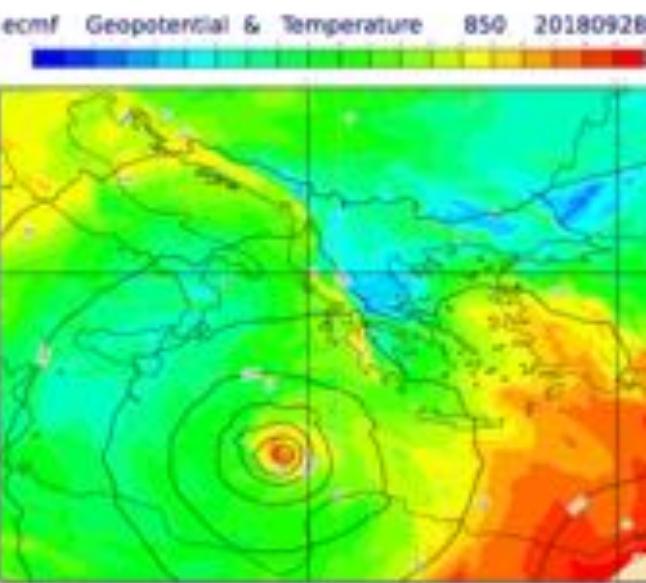
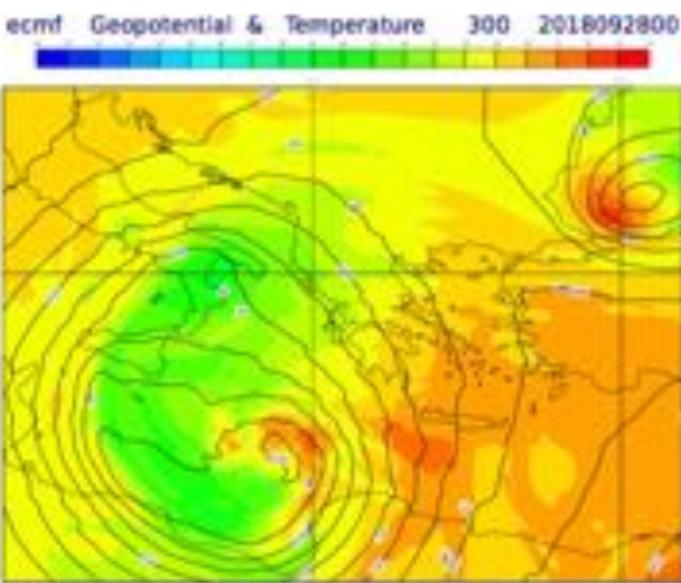
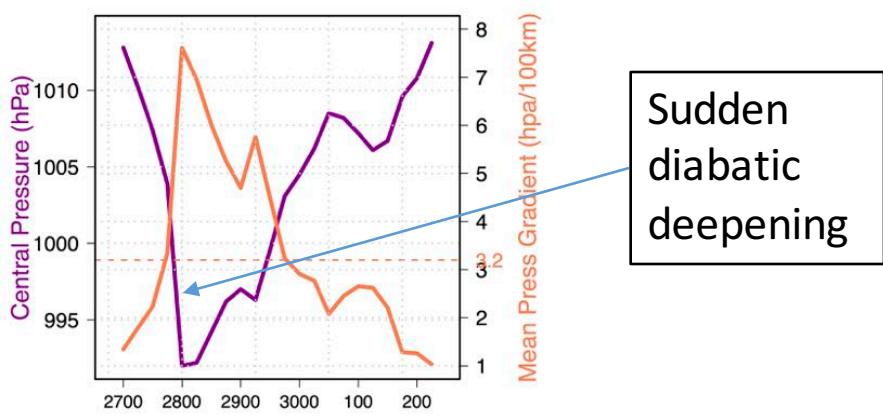


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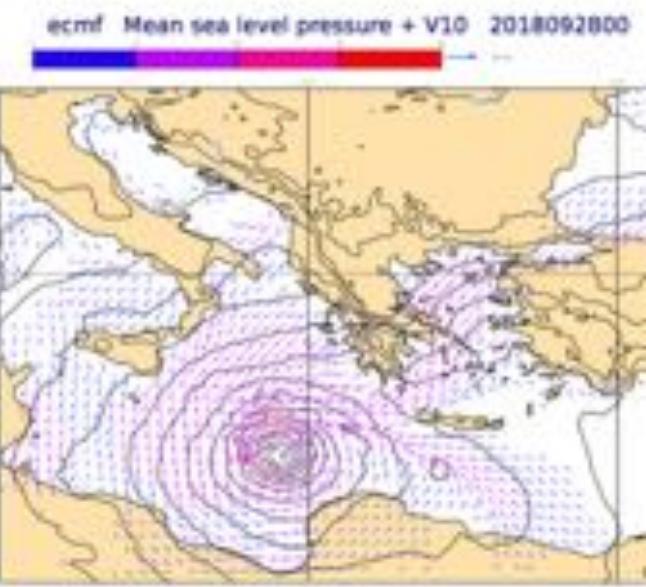
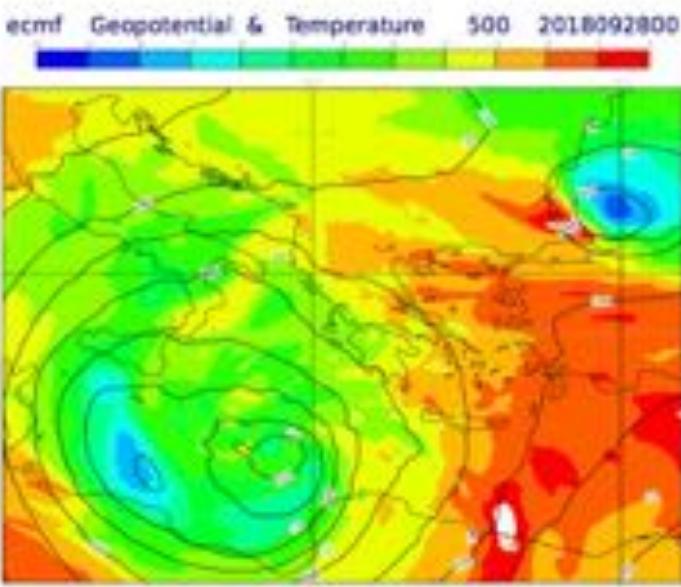
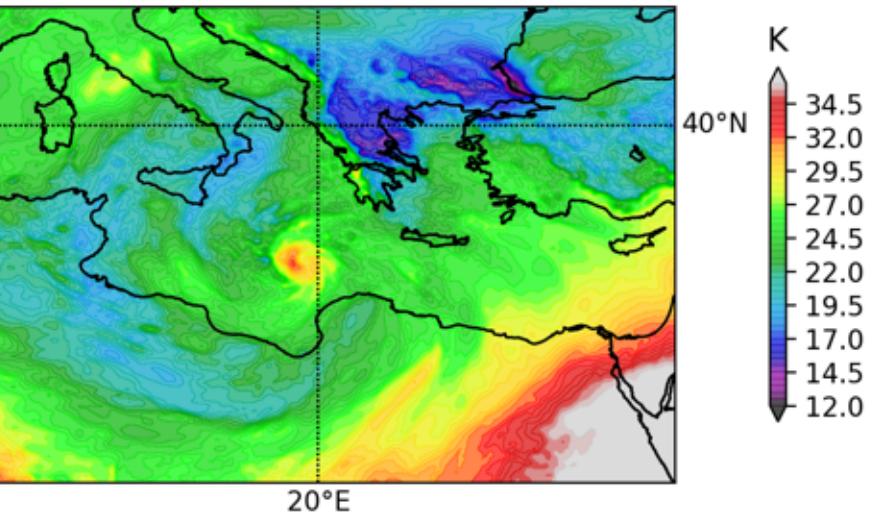


A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

28 SEP 00UTC

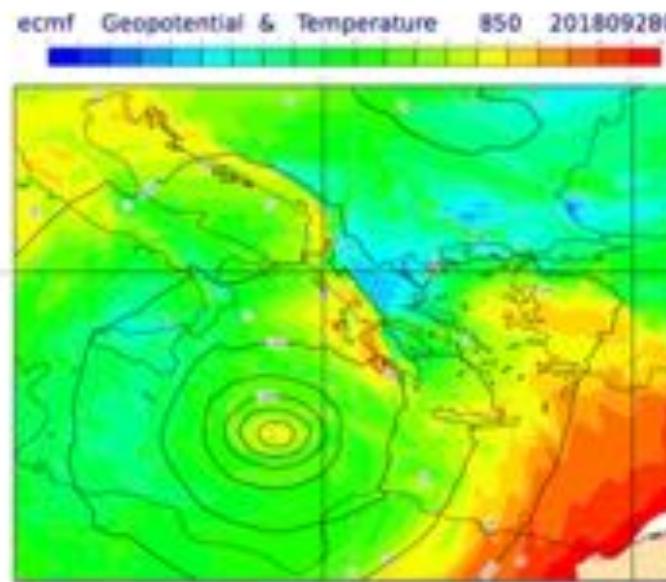
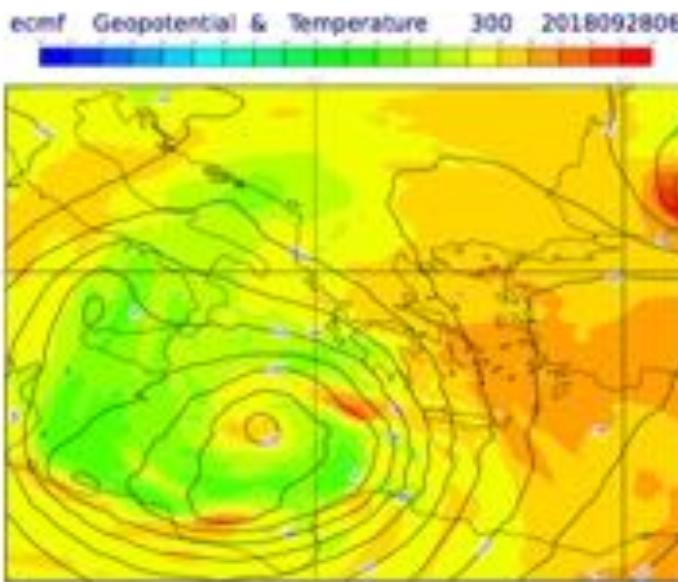
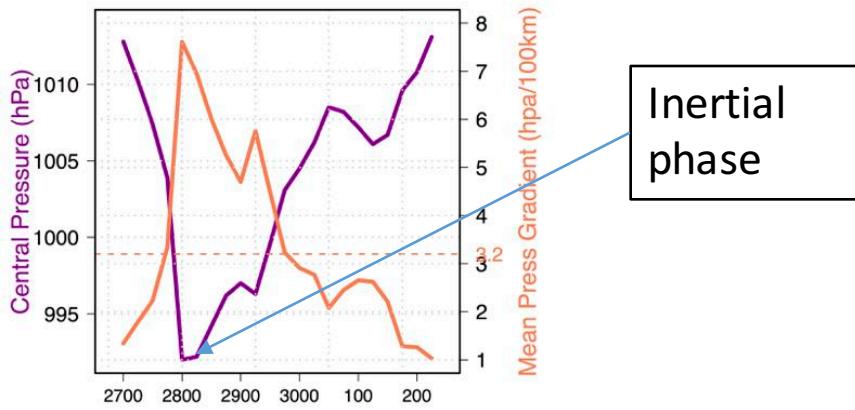


T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/28 0H

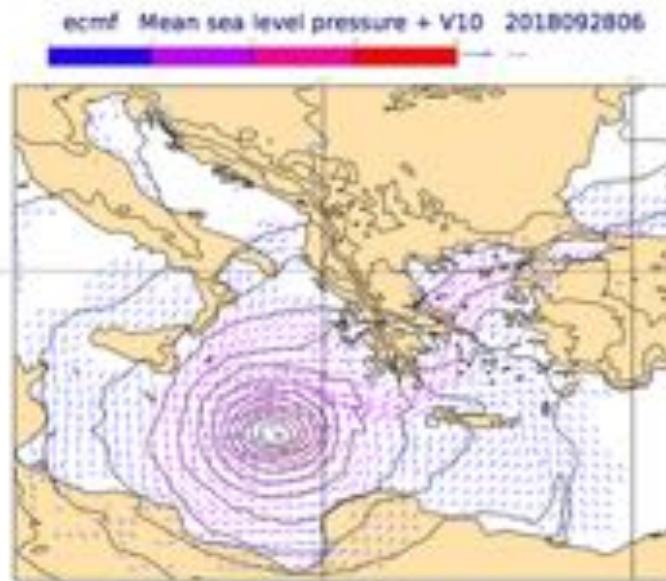
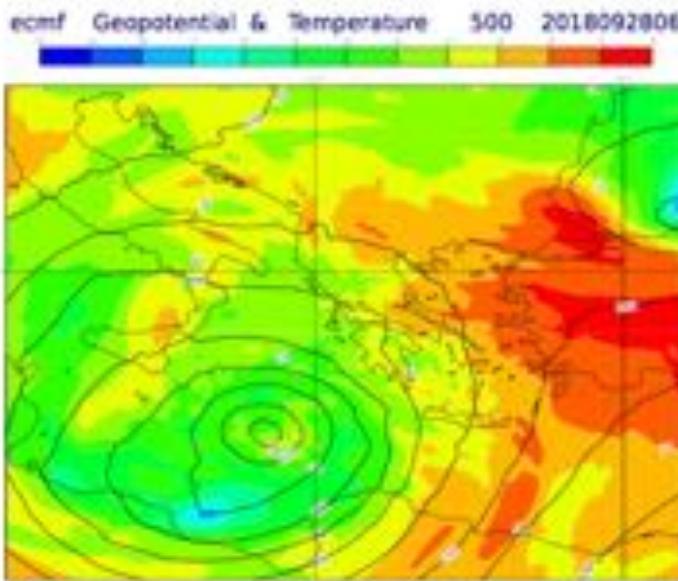
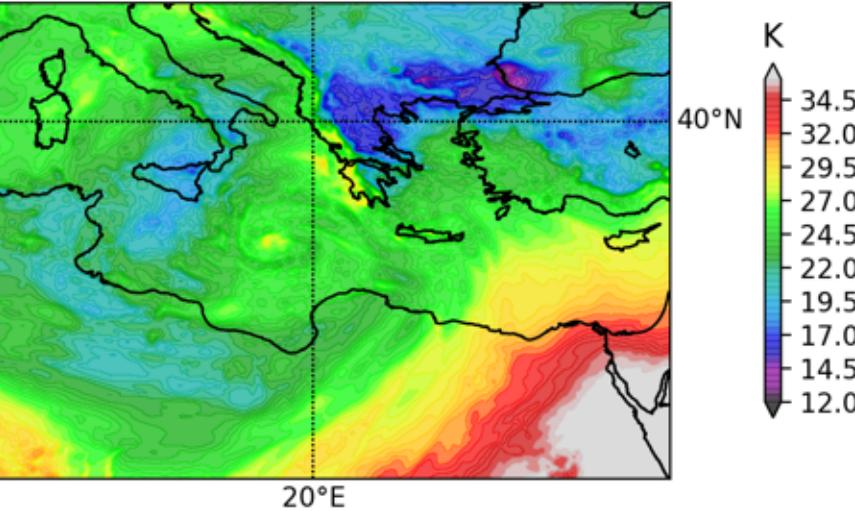


A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

28 SEP 06UTC

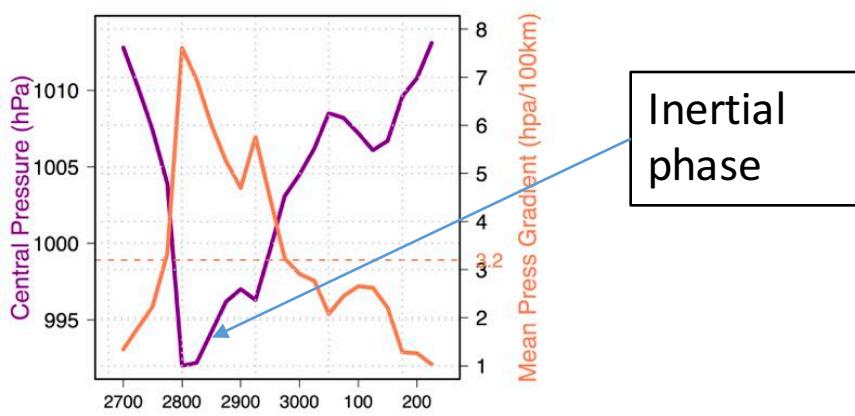


T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/28 6H

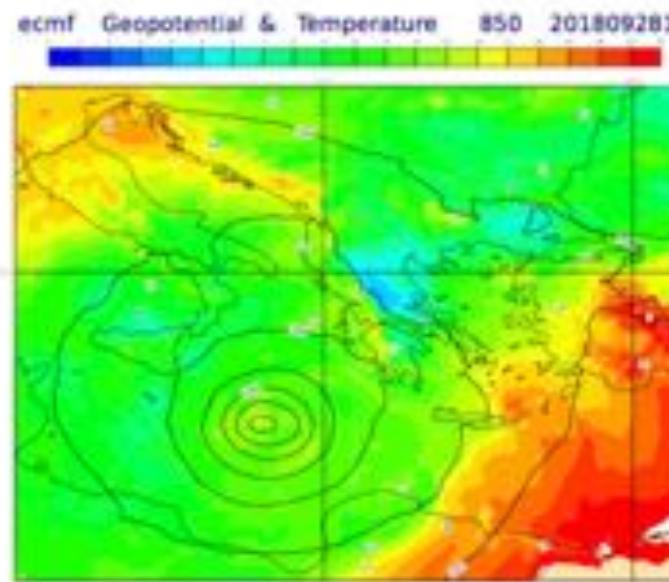
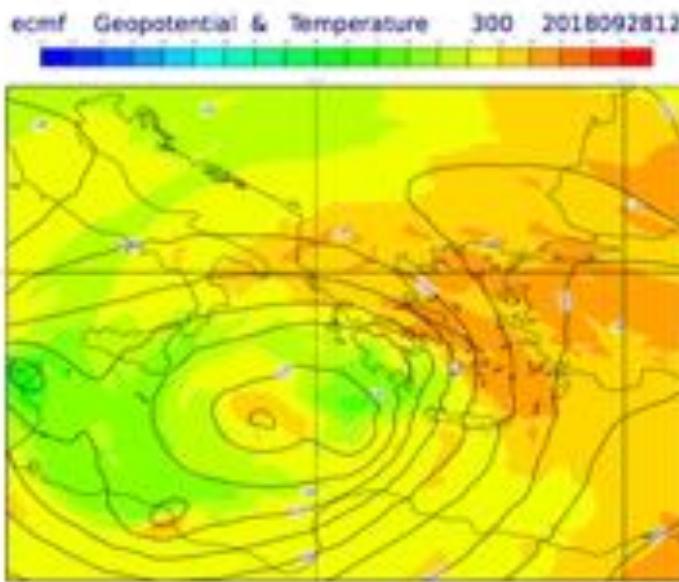


A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

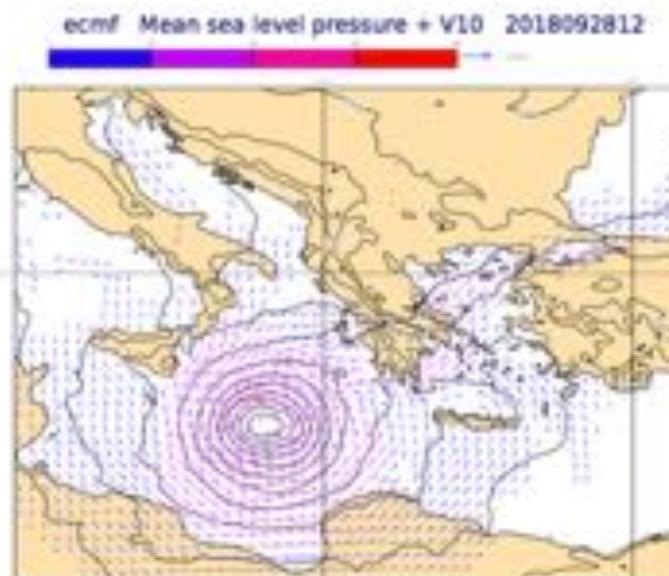
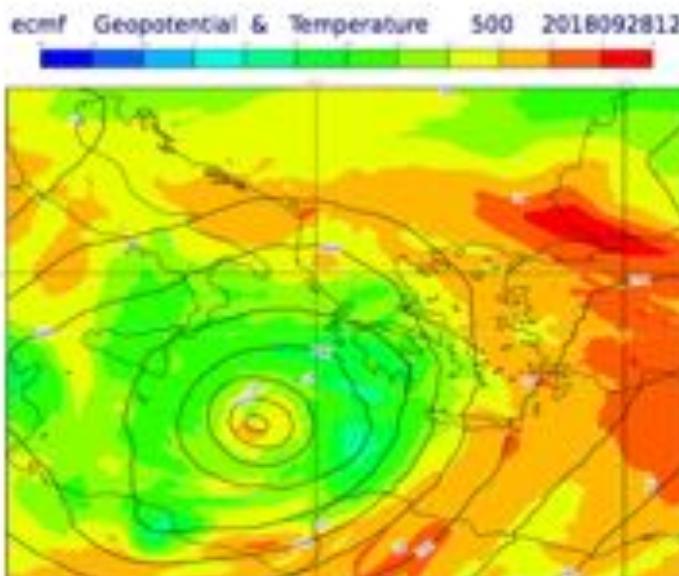
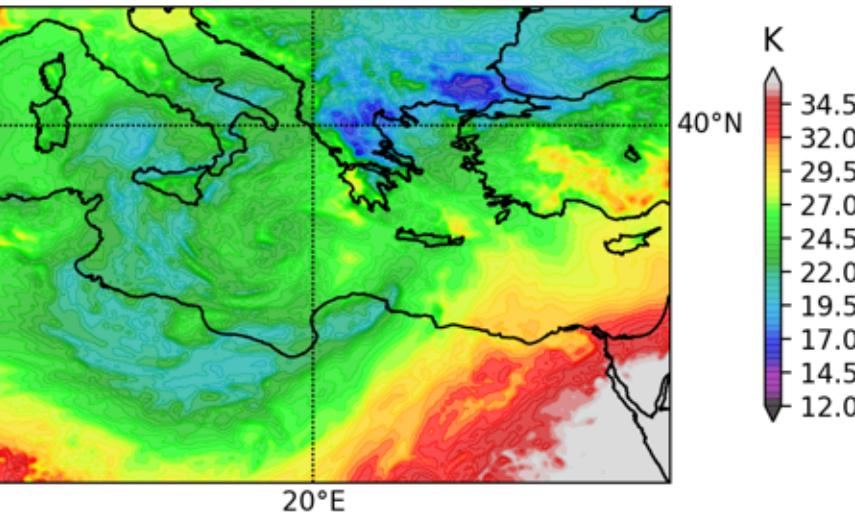
28 SEP 12UTC



Inertial  
phase

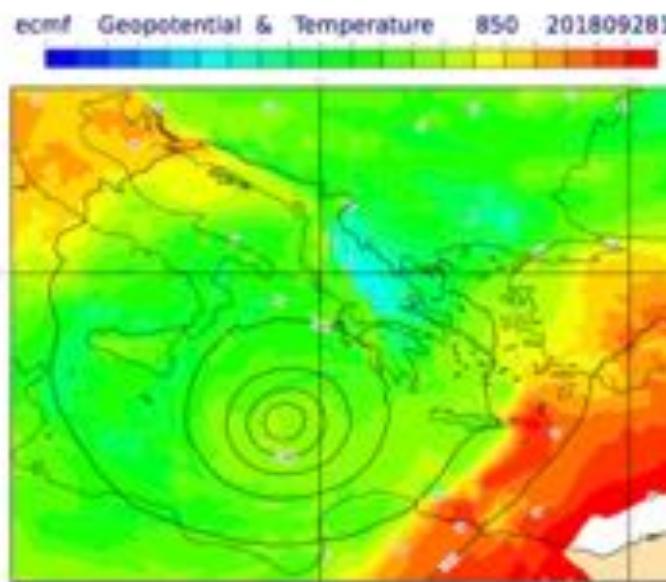
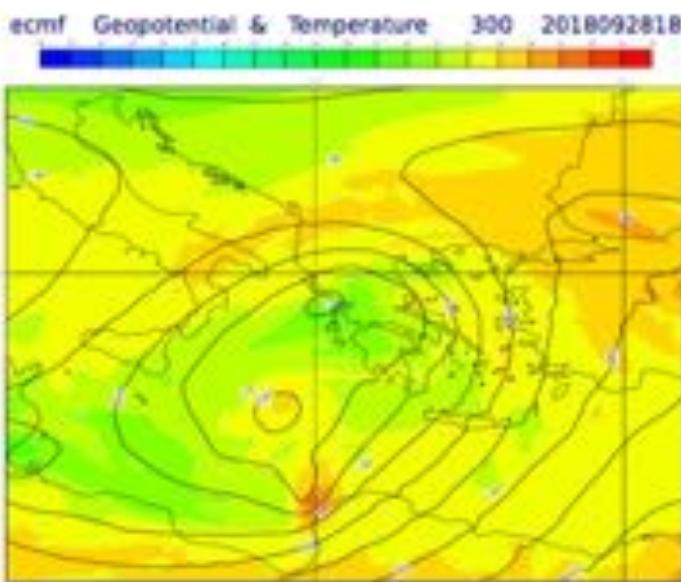
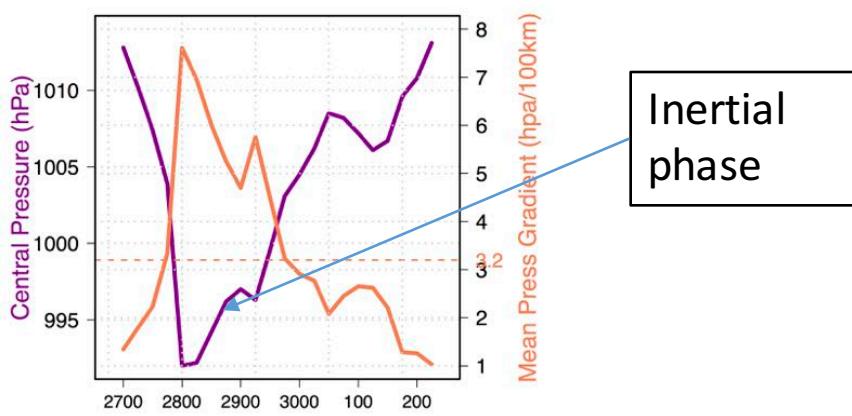


T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/28 12H

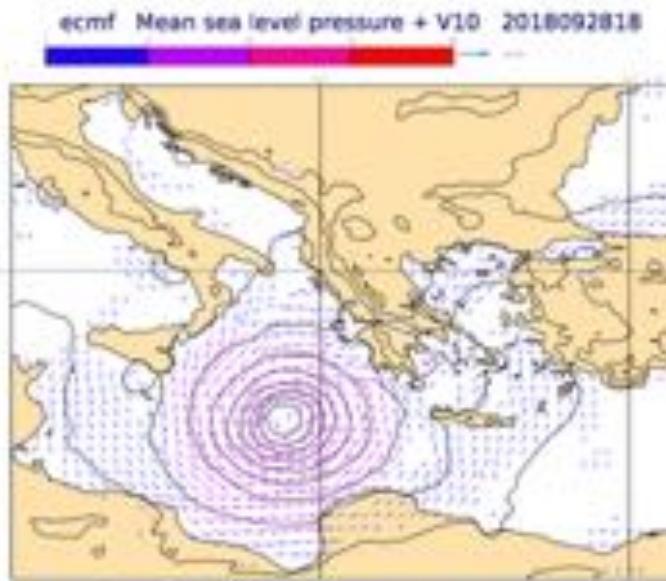
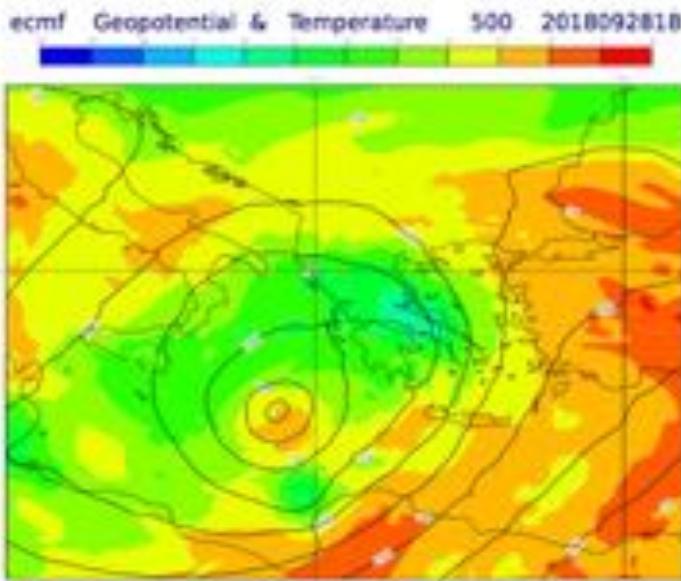
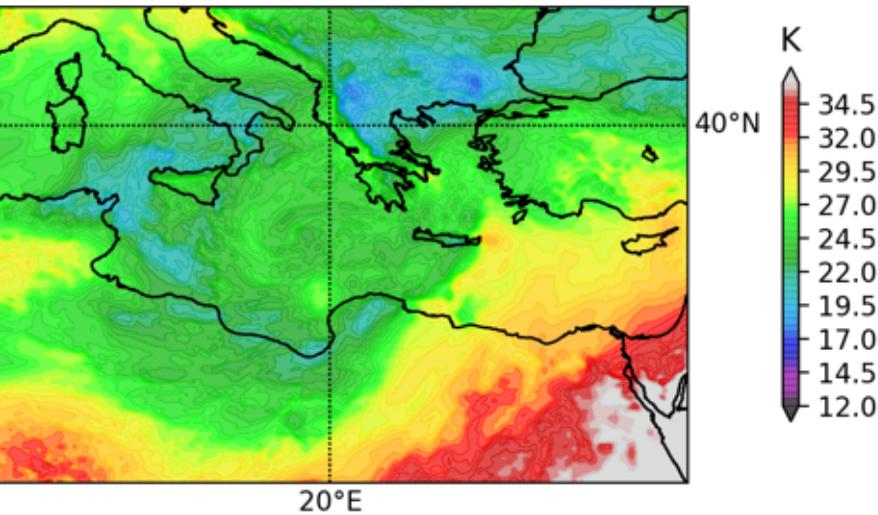


A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

28 SEP 18UTC

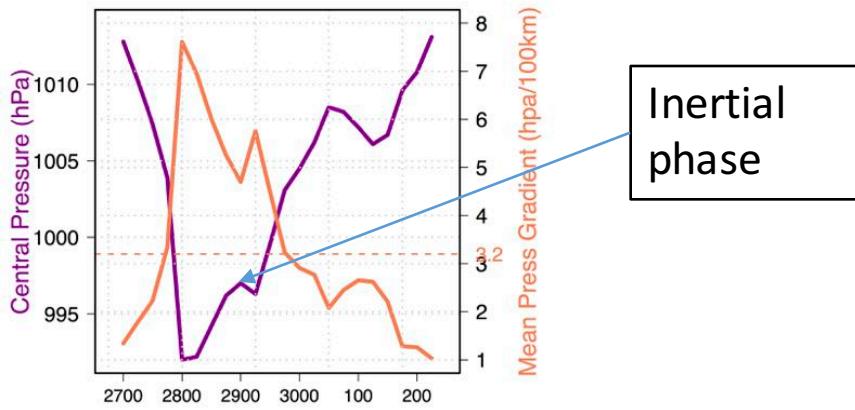


T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/28 18H



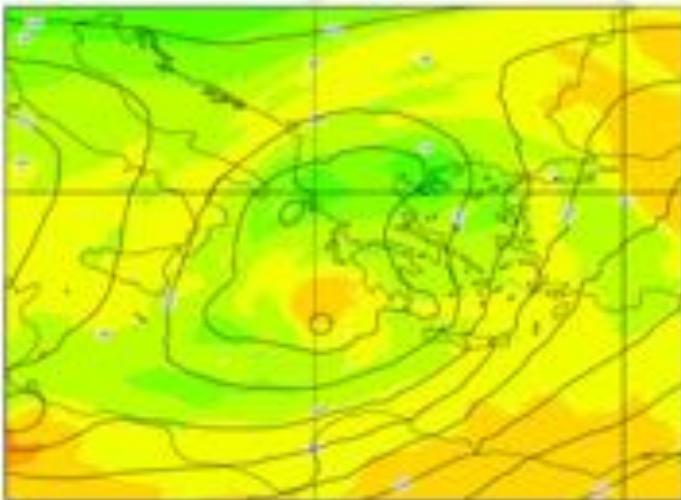
A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

29 SEP 00UTC

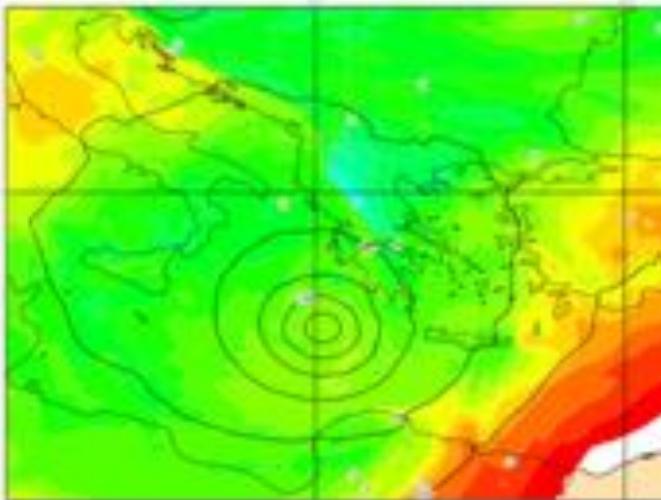


Inertial  
phase

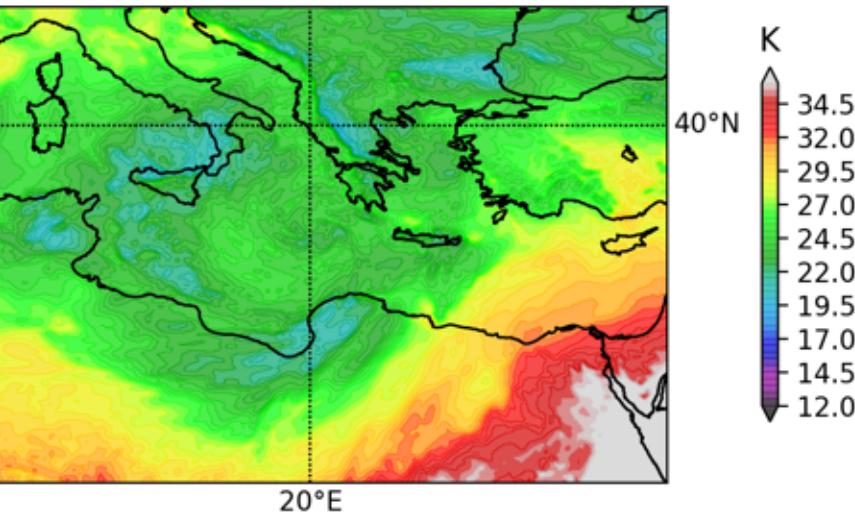
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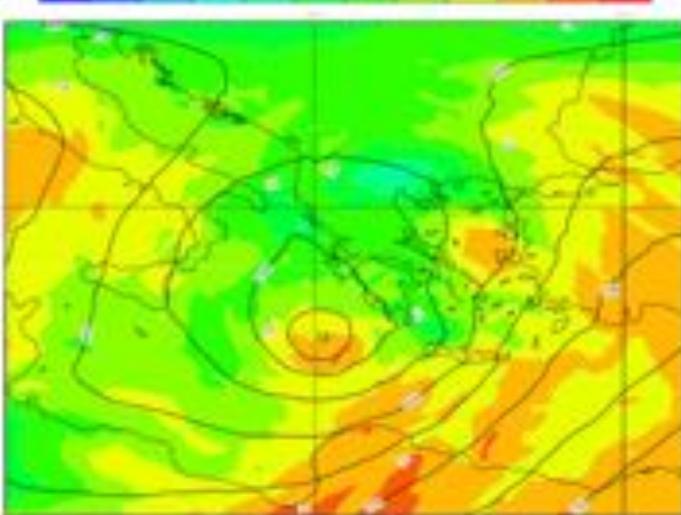
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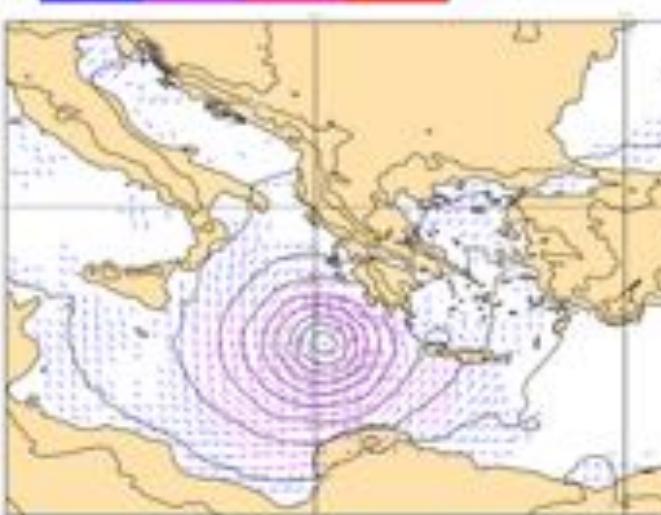
T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/29 0H



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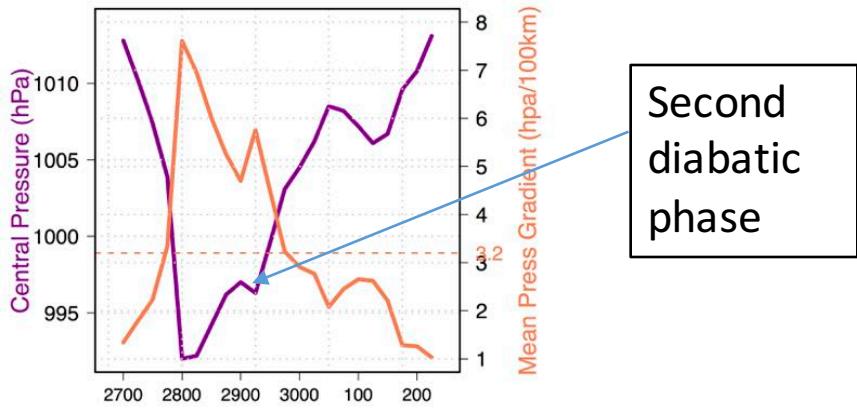


ecmf Mean sea level pressure + V10 2018092900

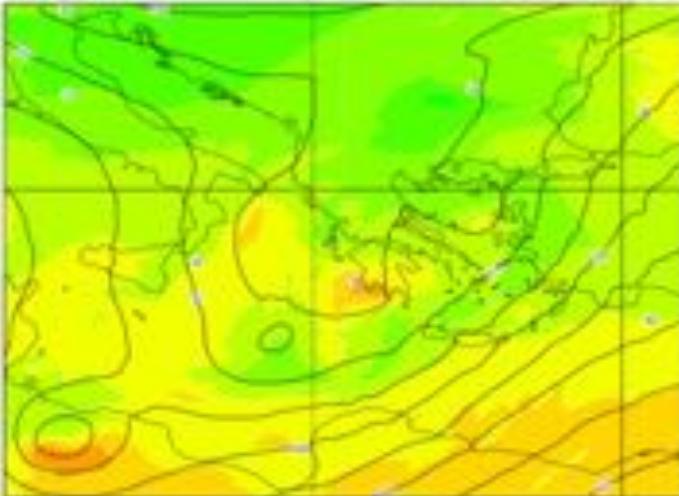


A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

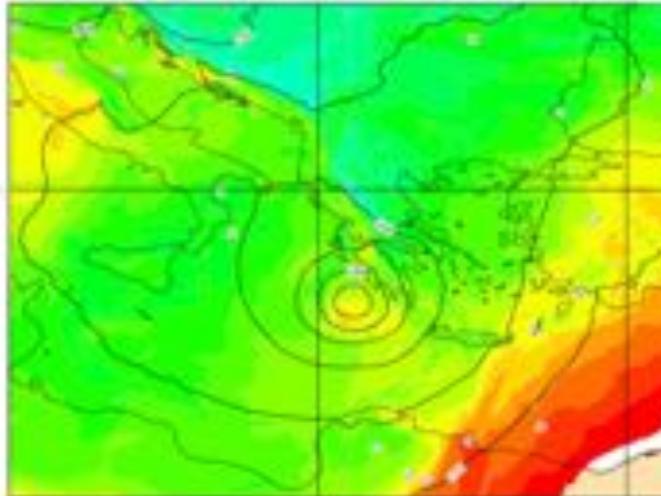
29 SEP 06UTC



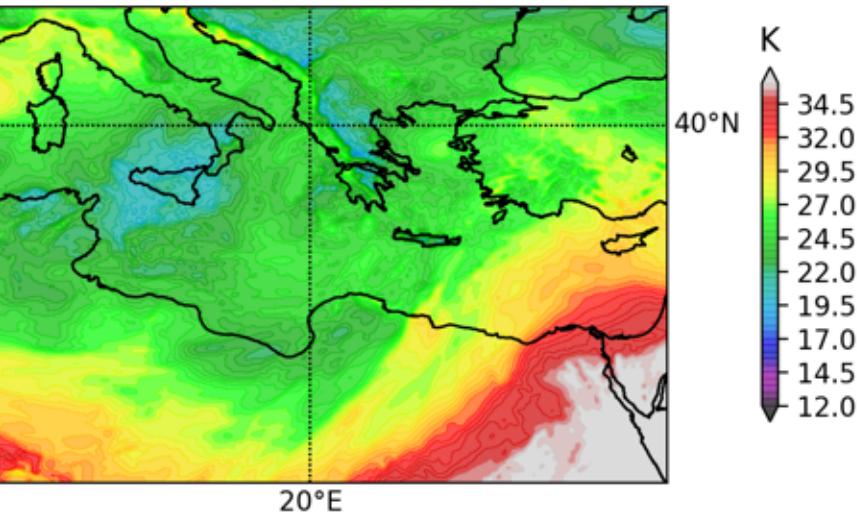
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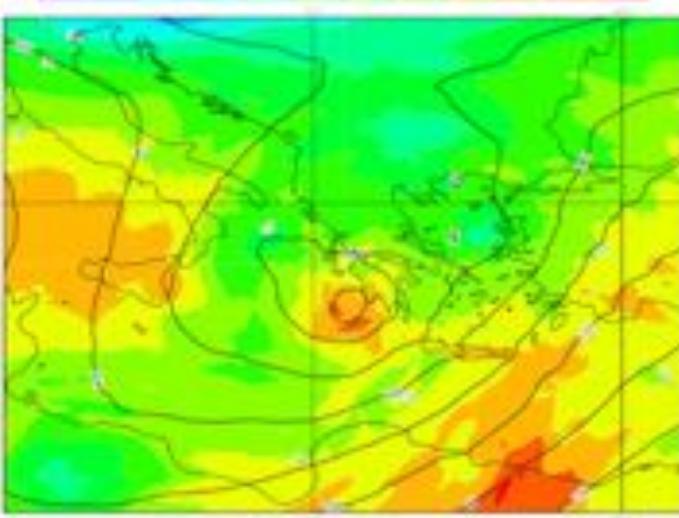
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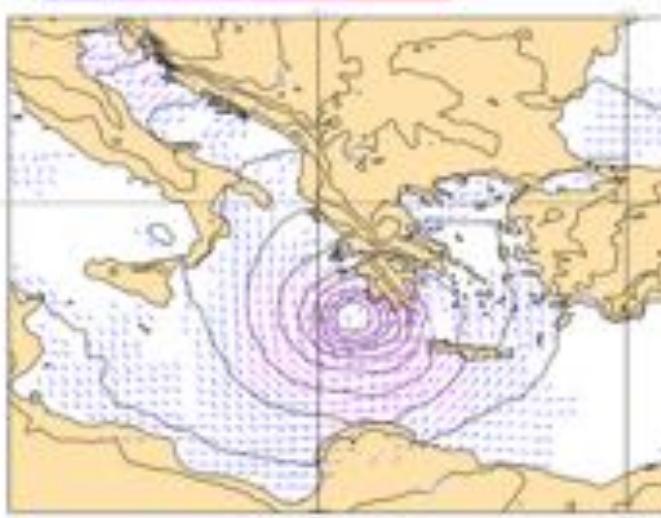
T 850hPa - T 500hPa 2018/09/29 6H



ecmf Geopotential & Temperature 500 2018092906

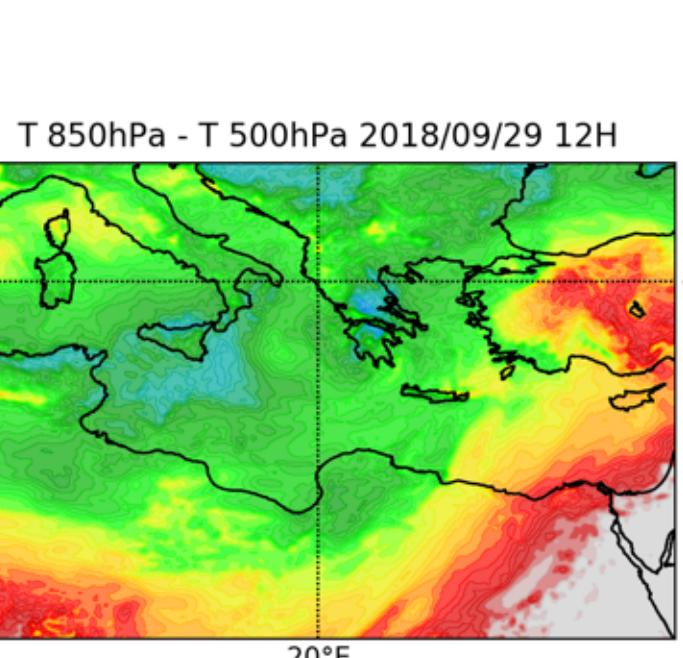
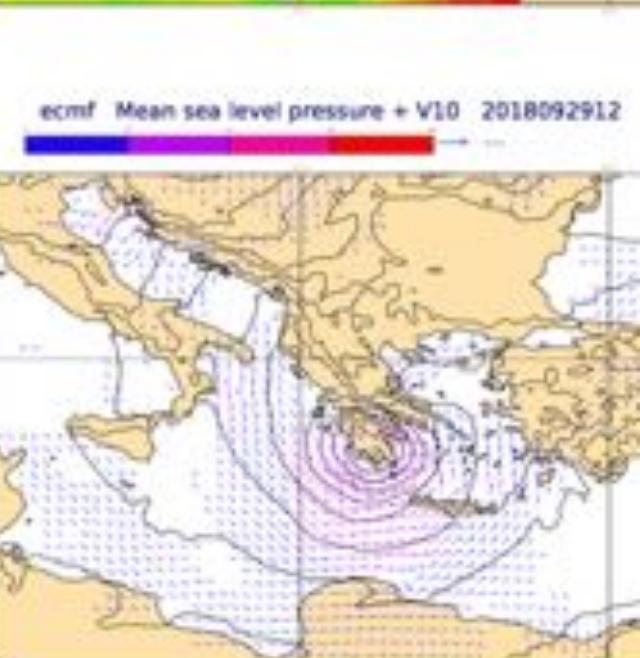
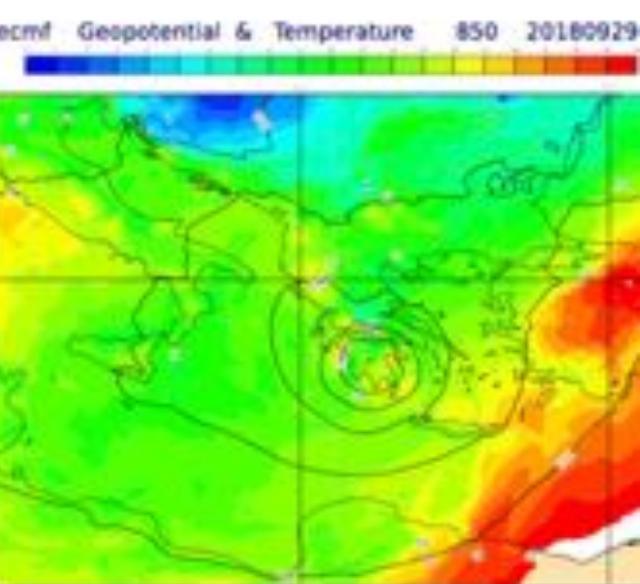
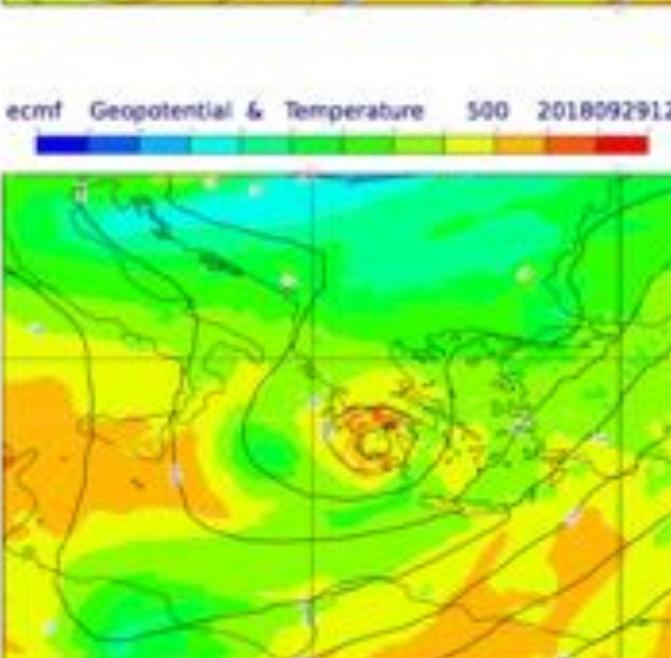
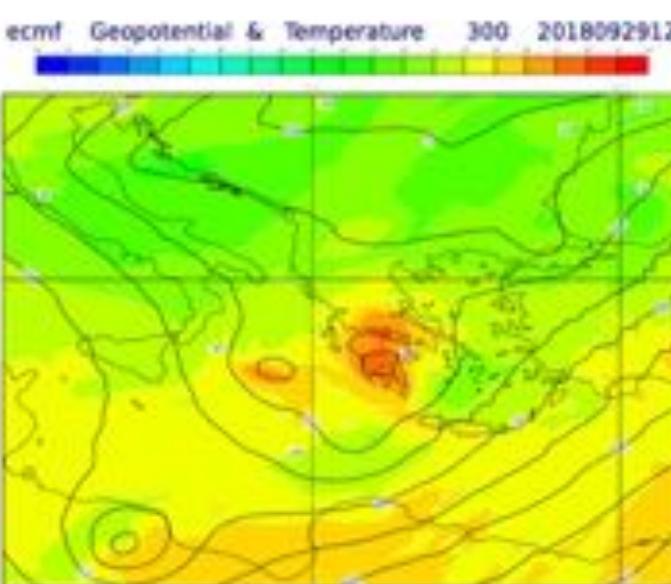
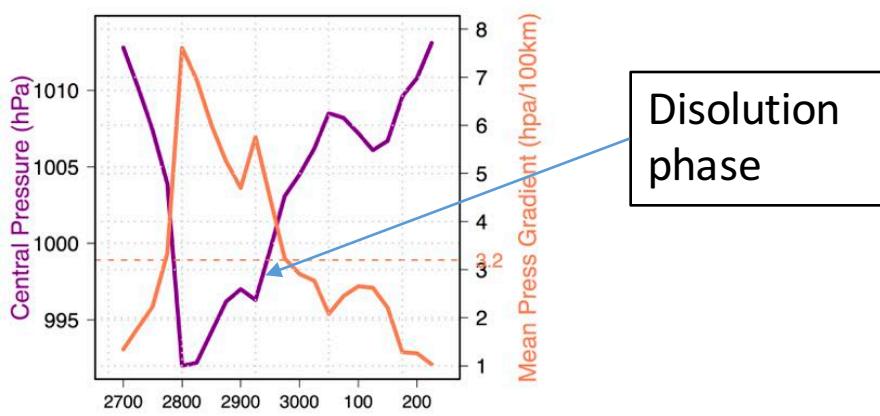


ecmf Mean sea level pressure + V10 2018092906



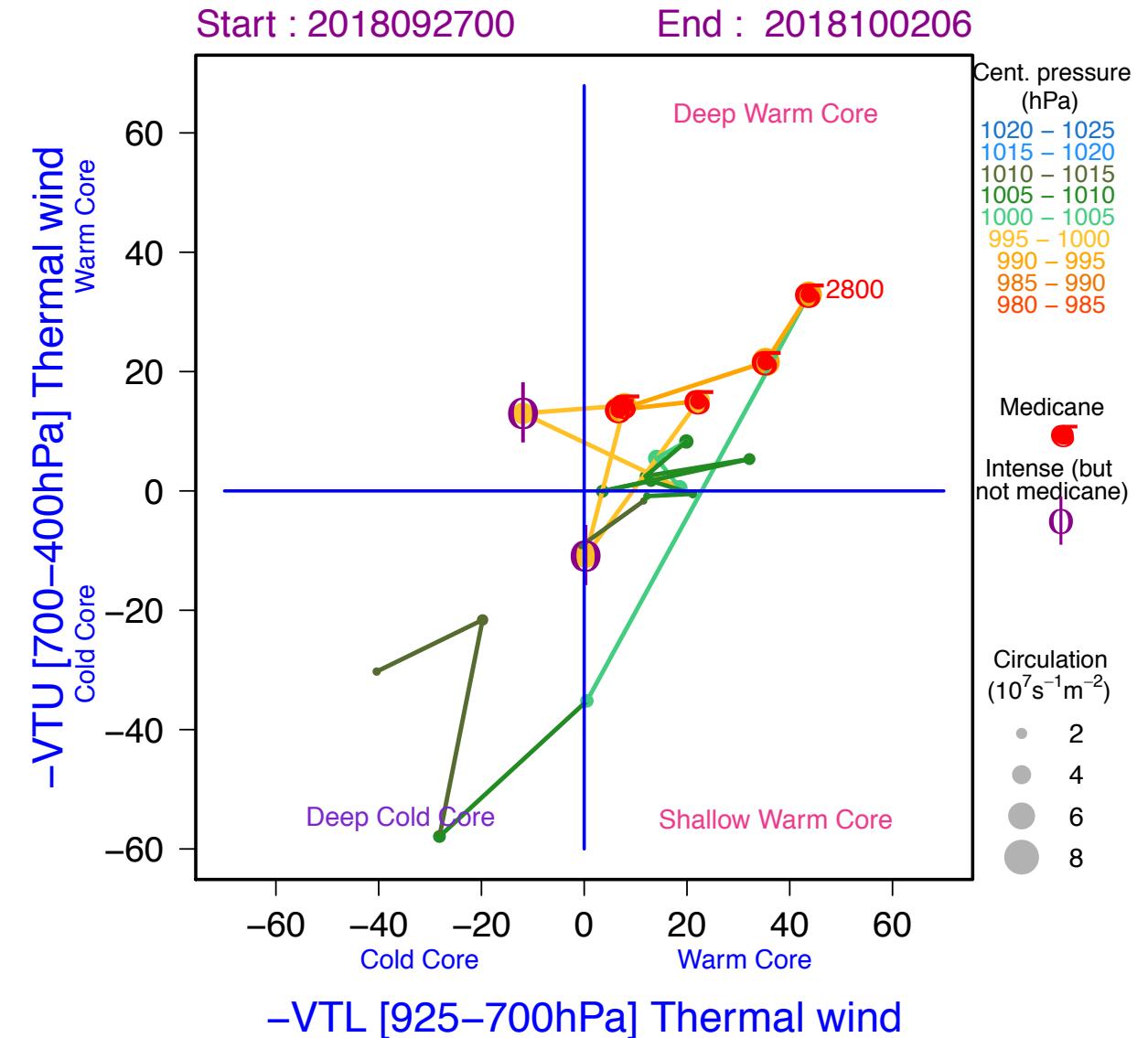
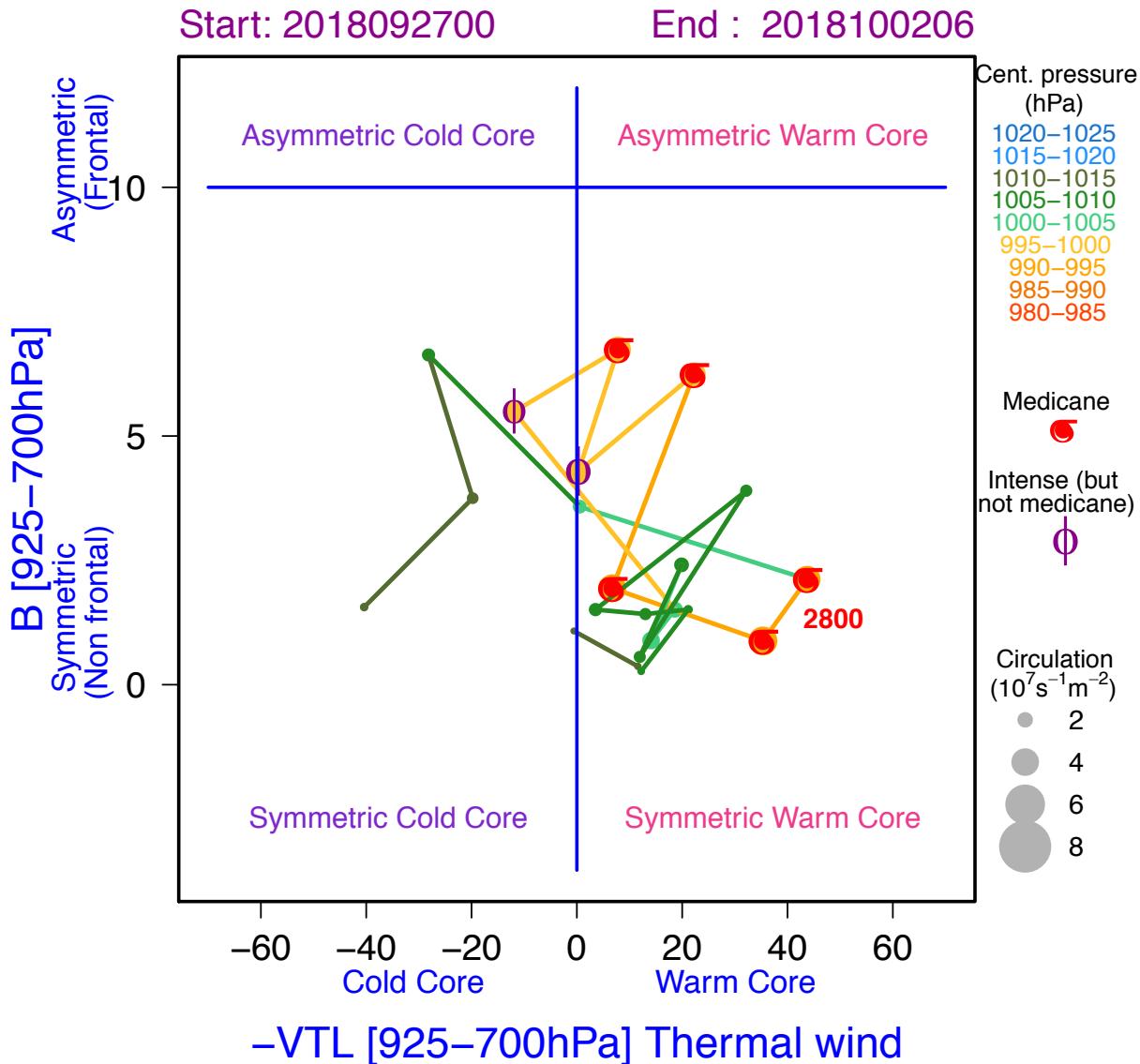
A quick look to the cyclone evolution from ECMWF operational analyses

29 SEP 12UTC



# Thermal structure:

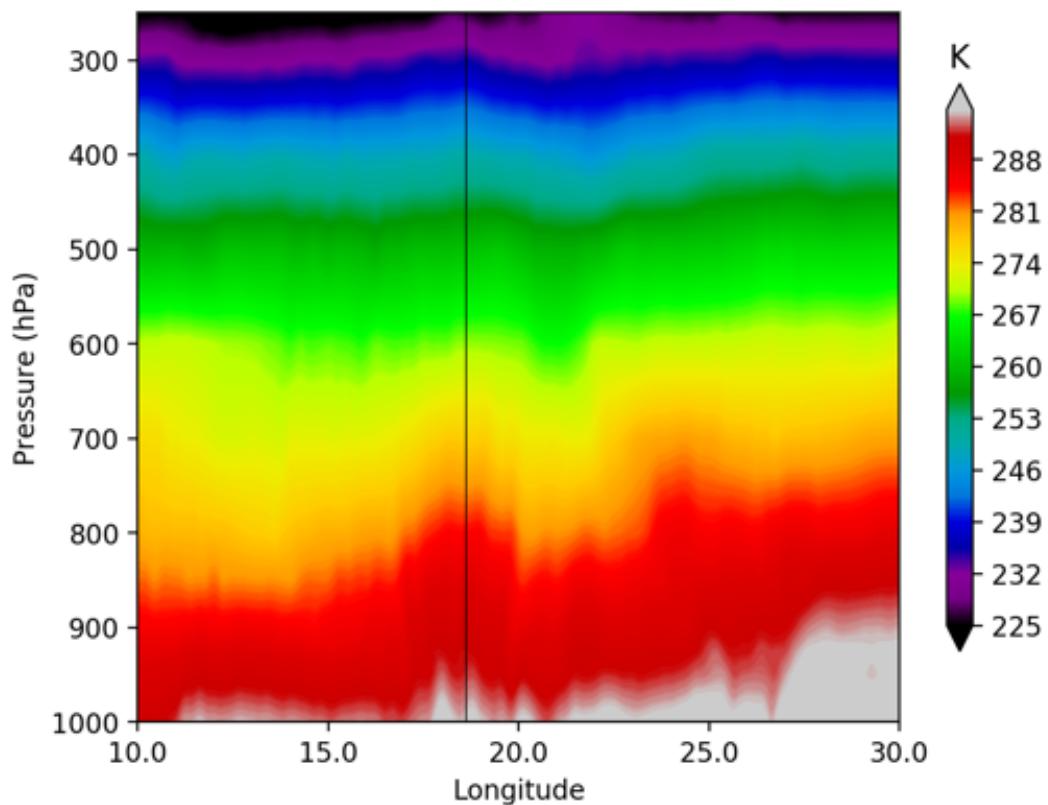
Hart's diagrams, adapted as in Picornell et al., 2014



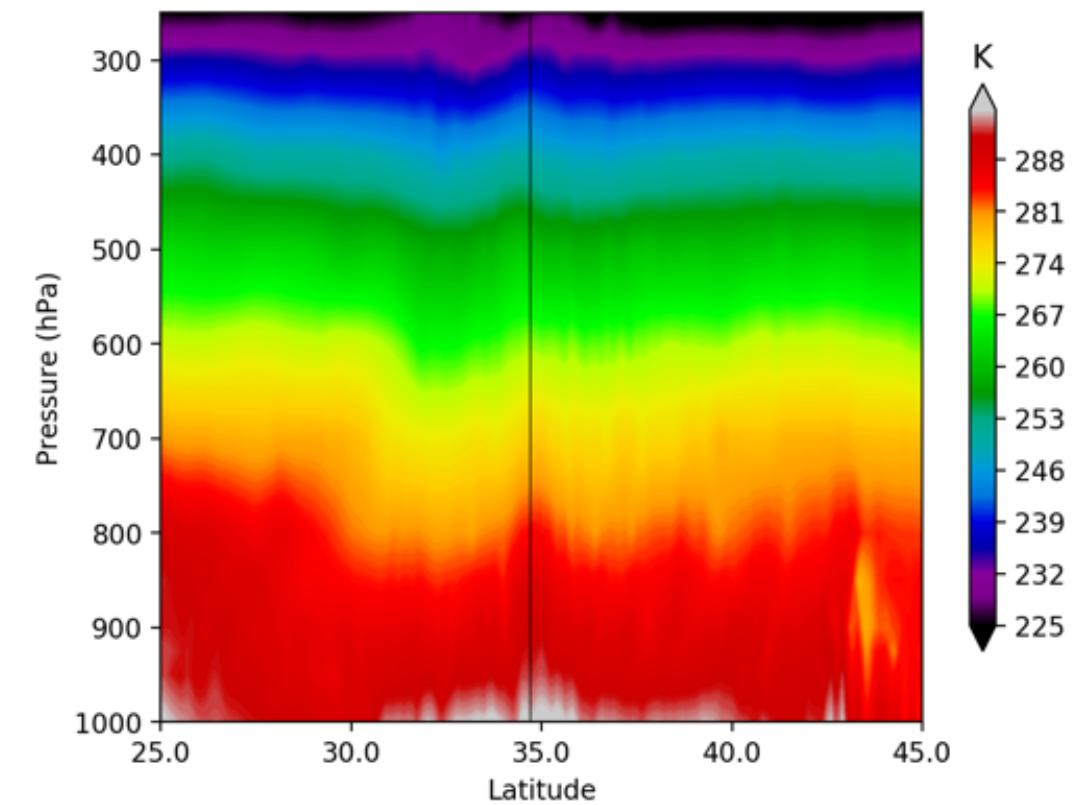
Thermal structure:

Vertical profile of temperature

Vertical cross-section for temperature at 34.7N 28/09 06UTC

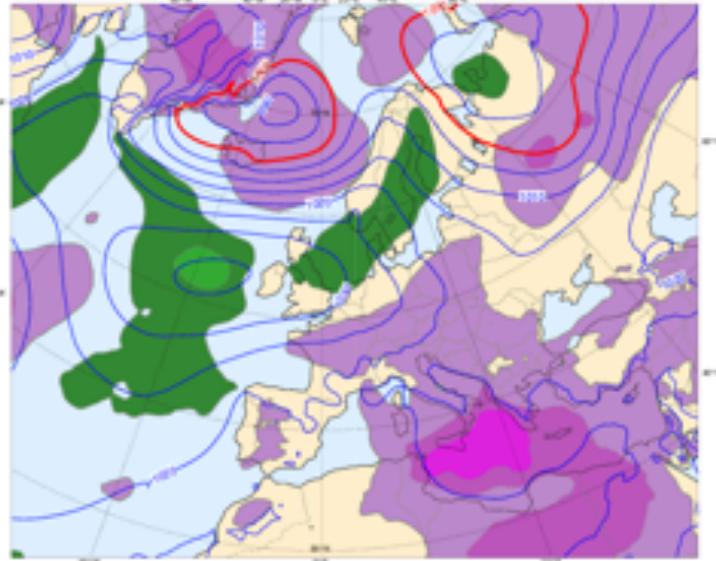


Vertical cross-section for temperature at 18.6E 28/09 06UTC

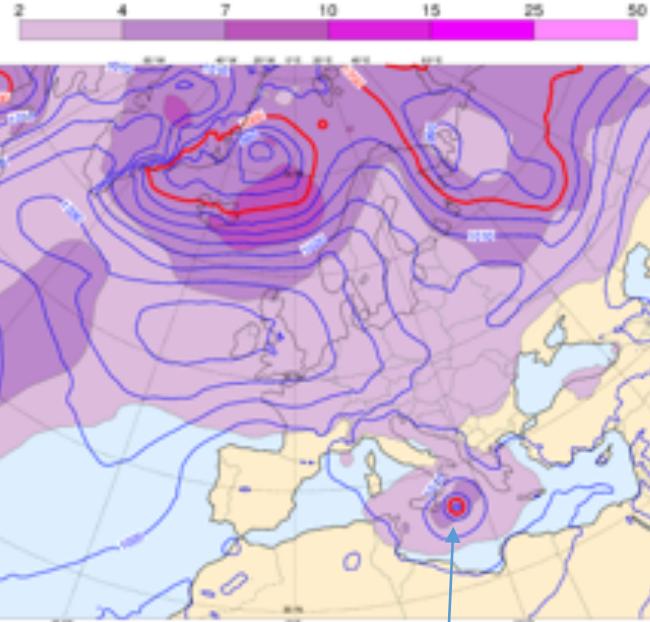


## Predictability Probabilistic: ECMWF EPS

Mon 24 Sep 2018 00UTC @ECMWF Forecast T=120 VT; Sat 29 Sep 2018 00UTC  
Mean sea level pressure (MSLP) Ensemble Mean, and Normalized Standard Deviation (shaded)

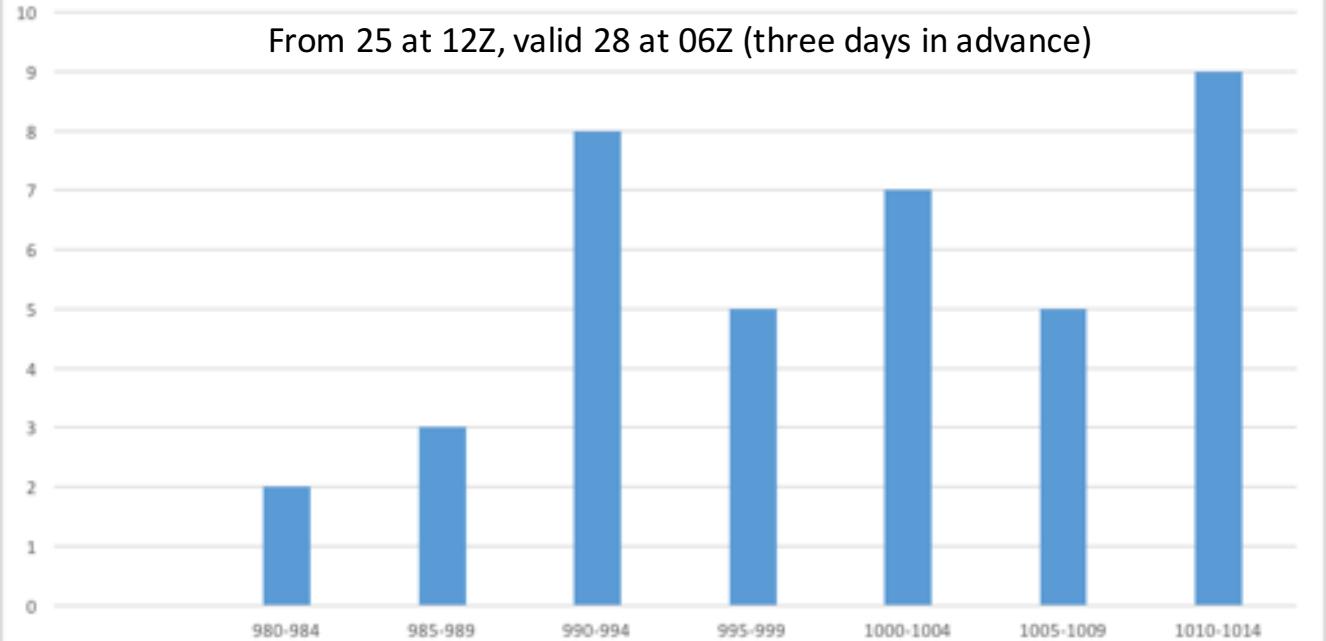


Mon 24 Sep 2018 00UTC @ECMWF Forecast T=120 VT; Sat 29 Sep 2018 00UTC  
Mean sea level pressure (MSLP) High-Resolution Forecast, and Standard Deviation (shaded)



Pressió central, segons els 50 membres de l'EPS (Centre Europeu)

From 25 at 12Z, valid 28 at 06Z (three days in advance)



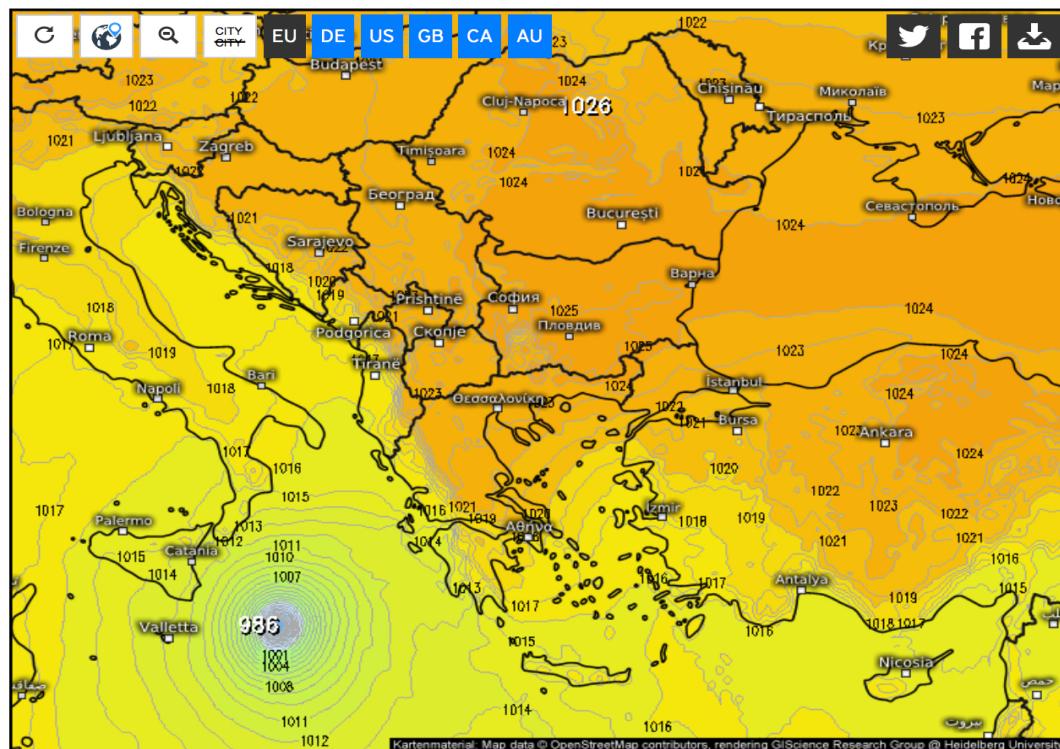
From 24 at 12Z, valid 29 at 06Z  
(5 days in advance)

993 hPa

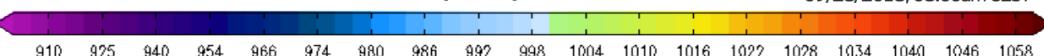
Even 4-5 days before members of the ECMWF EPS were able to anticipate a small and intense cyclone, not far from the later observed location, although the uncertainty is important

# Predictability

## Deterministic: ECMWF IFS forecast vs ECMWF analysis



Mean Sea Level Pressure (hPa)



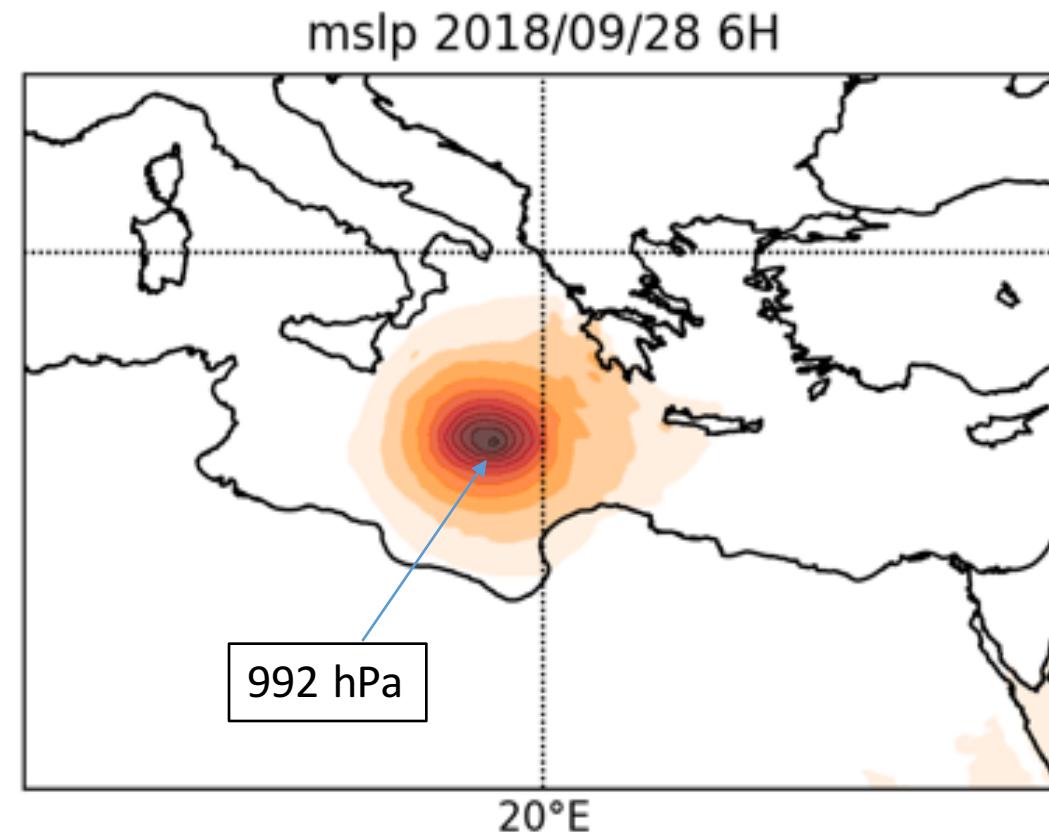
Valid for  
09/28/2018, 08:00am CEST

Southeastern Europe

ECMWF/Global Euro HD (10 days) from 09/25/2018/00z

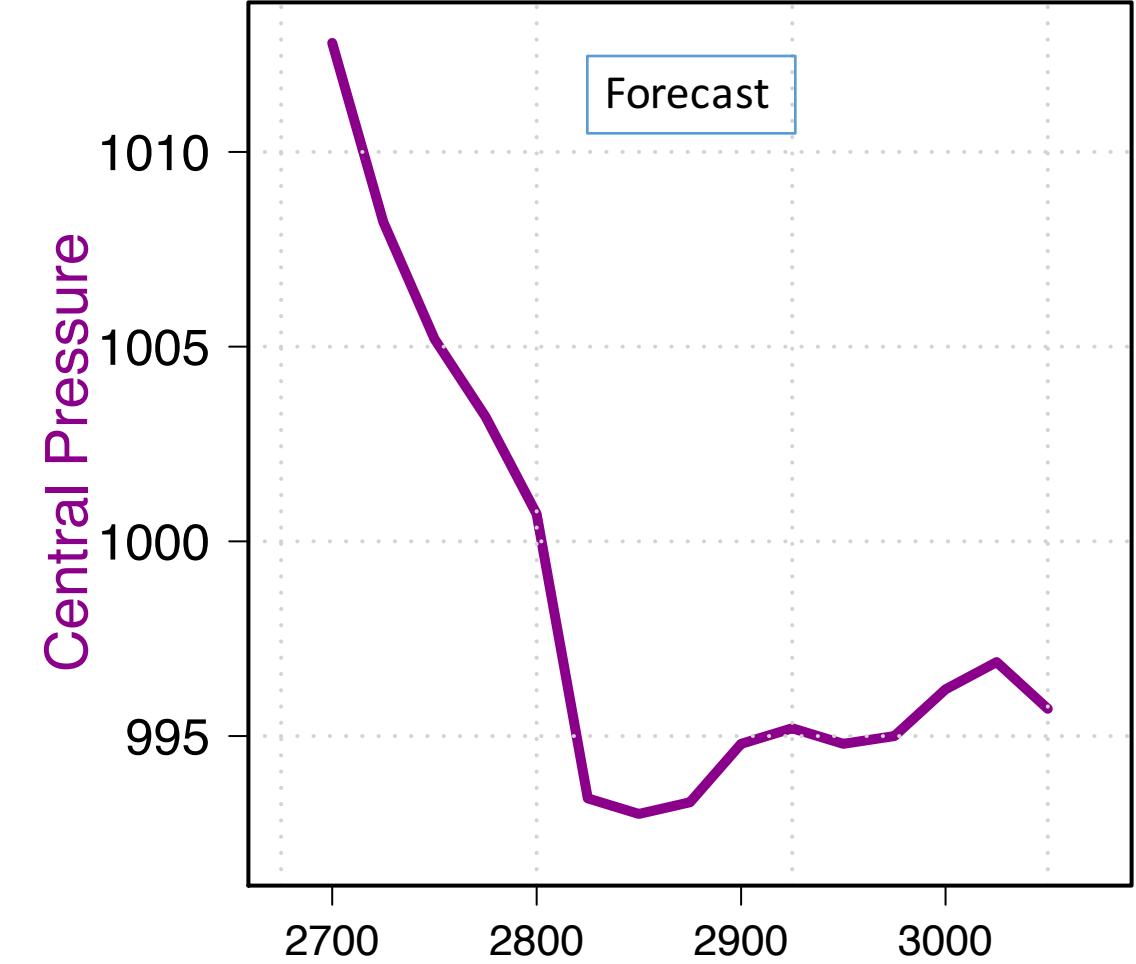
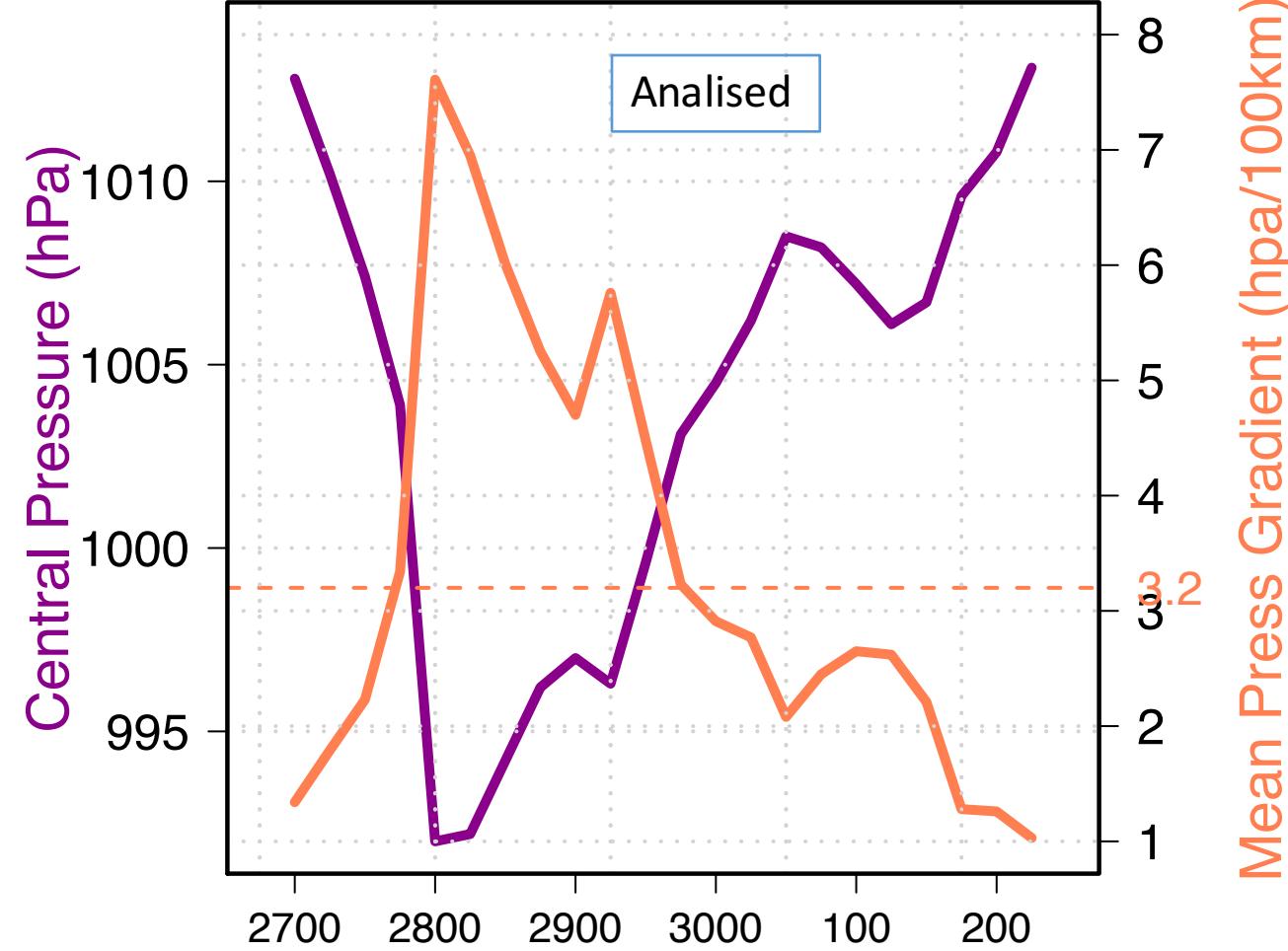
This service is based on data and products of the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

Update times: ca. 8:00am-9:00am and 8:00pm-9:00pm(parameters), 10:30am and 10:30pm (ensembles)



3 days in advance, the deterministic ECMWF forecasted cyclone is even deeper than the cyclone later analysed.  
The location is not bad.

In the short range (from 2700), the EVMWF IFS deterministic is quite accurate, although some details are not perfect.



- Rissagues:

- Predicción *subjetiva* (AEMET)
- Predicción *objetiva/determinista/ensemble* (SOCIB)

**Pioneering research on Balearic Islands *rissagues***

Agustí Jansà and Climent Ramis

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**The First World Conference on Meteotsunamis**  
**Split, Croatia, 8-11 May 2019**

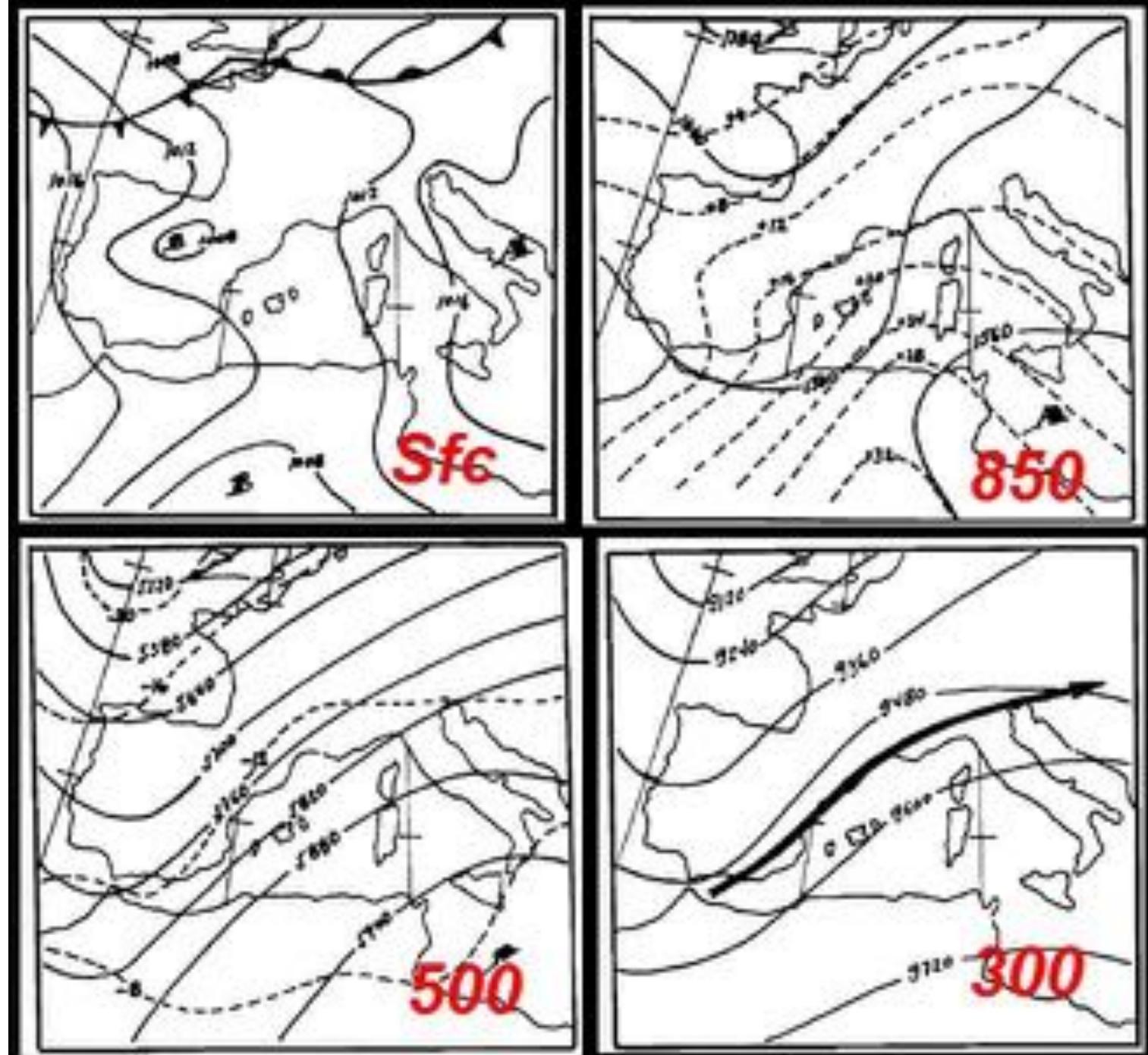
**Sensitivity studies of Menorcan  
meteotsunamis under synthetic gravity  
wave forcing**

Baptiste Mourre, Matjaz Ličer,  
Charles Troupin, Agustí Jansà, Alejandro Orfila, Joaquín Tintoré

**Evaluation of four years of daily predictions  
of the SOCIB Rissaga Forecasting System**

Baptiste Mourre, Albert Buils,  
Lola Gautreau, Benjamin Casas, Matjaz Ličer, Agustí Jansà, Bernat  
Amengual, Joaquín Tintoré

El fundamento de la predicción subjetiva AEMET de riscas és la identificación de condiciones macro-meteo favorables, ya identificadas en Ramis&Jansà (1983), complementada con los resultados de Jansà (1986)



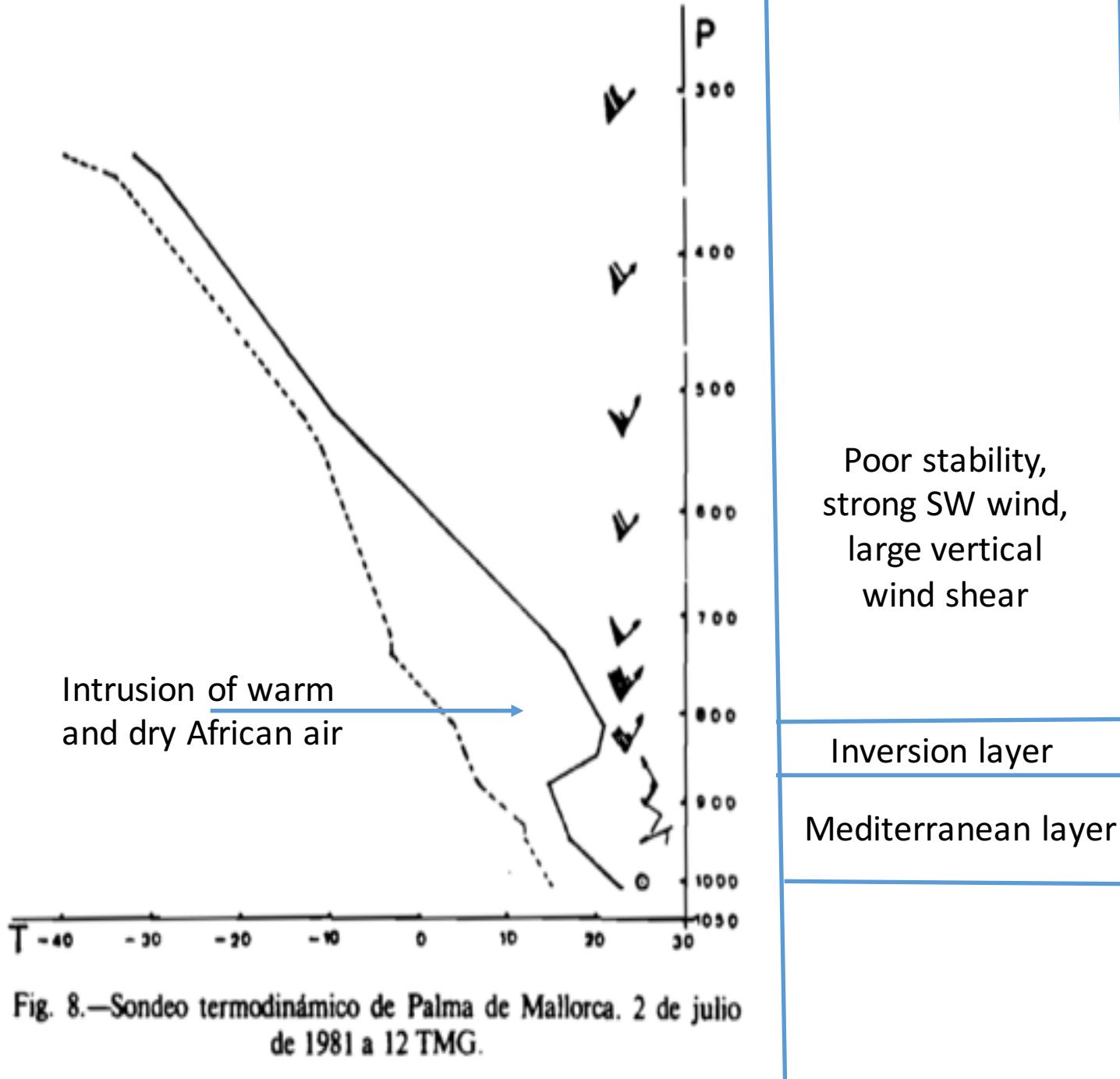


Fig. 8.—Sondeo termodinámico de Palma de Mallorca. 2 de julio de 1981 a 12 TMG.

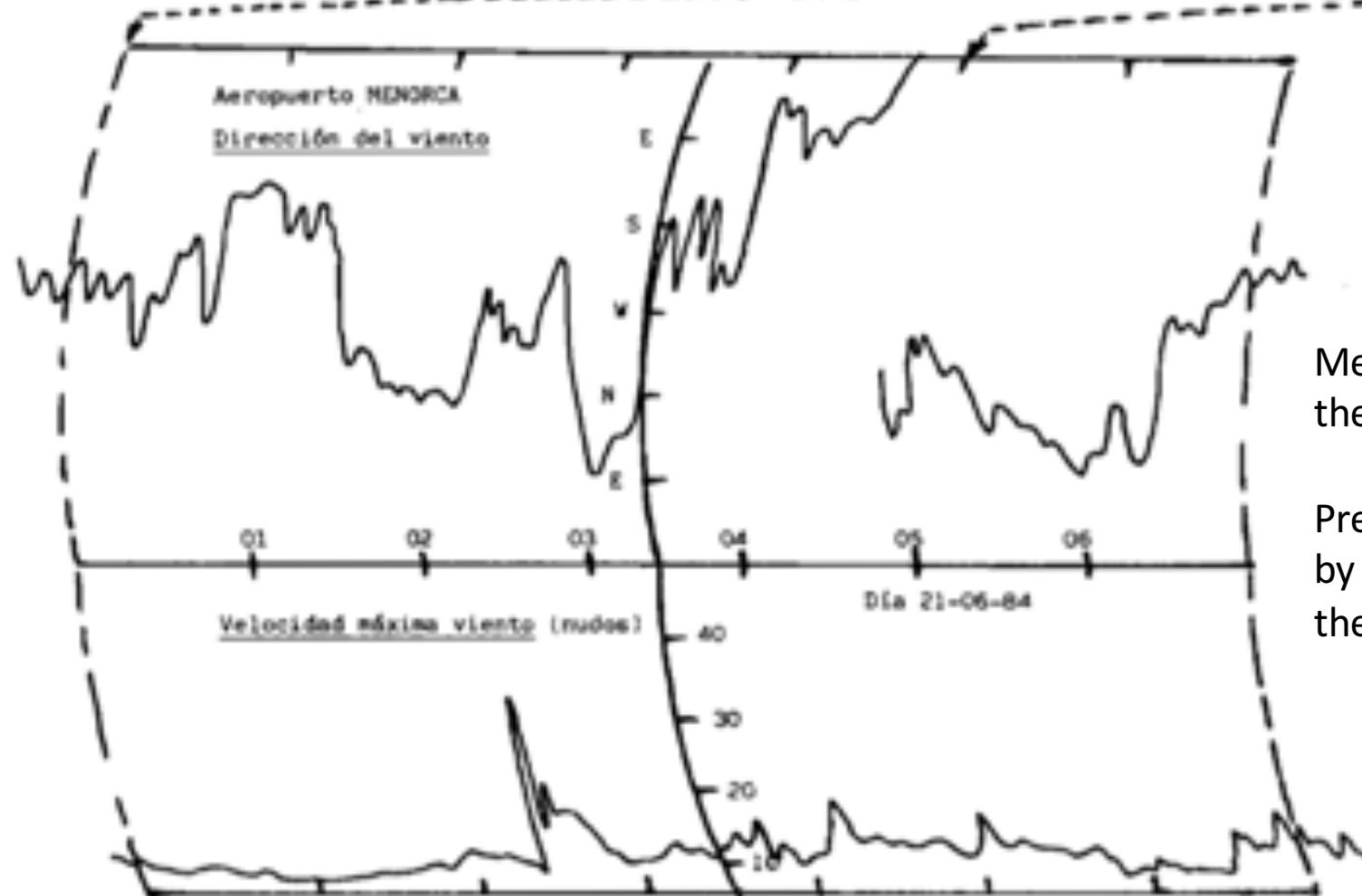
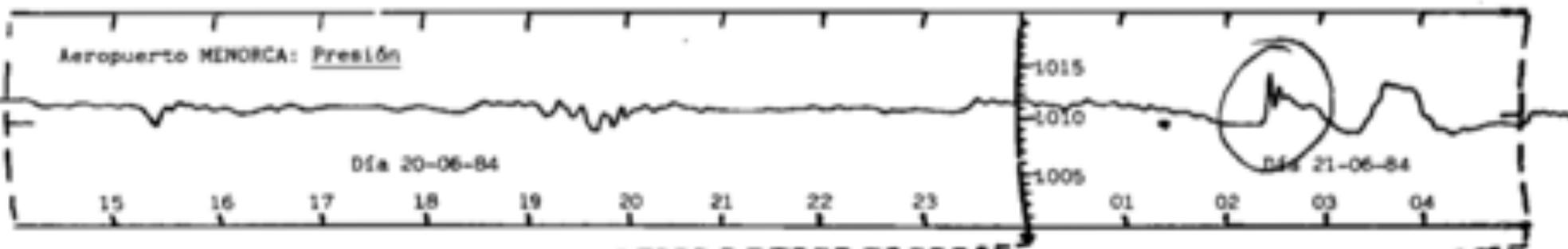
*Gravity waves generation and amplification*

*The oscillation of the inversion layer produces surface atmospheric pressure oscillations*

*Marine response –long waves– amplified by port resonance*



Gravity waves and convective nucleus  
From 20 June 1984 at 23 UTC,  
to 21 June at 02 UTC



Meteorological registers at the airport of Menorca:

Pressure jump and wind gust by 02:30, about the time of the rissaga at Cutadella

Verification –through a contingency table- of a sample (2003-2006) of the analogical rissaga prediction service established in 1985 at the Spanish National Meteorological Service

Rissaga	Observed amplitude (when amplitude $\geq 30$ cm)			
Forecast amplitude	30-75 cm	75-150 cm	$> 150$ cm	total
No forecast ( $< 30$ cm)	4	1	1	6
30-75 cm	2	1	1	4
75-150 cm	9	11	4	24
$> 150$ cm	1	2	1	4
Total	16	15	7	38



Under-prediction



Correct prediction

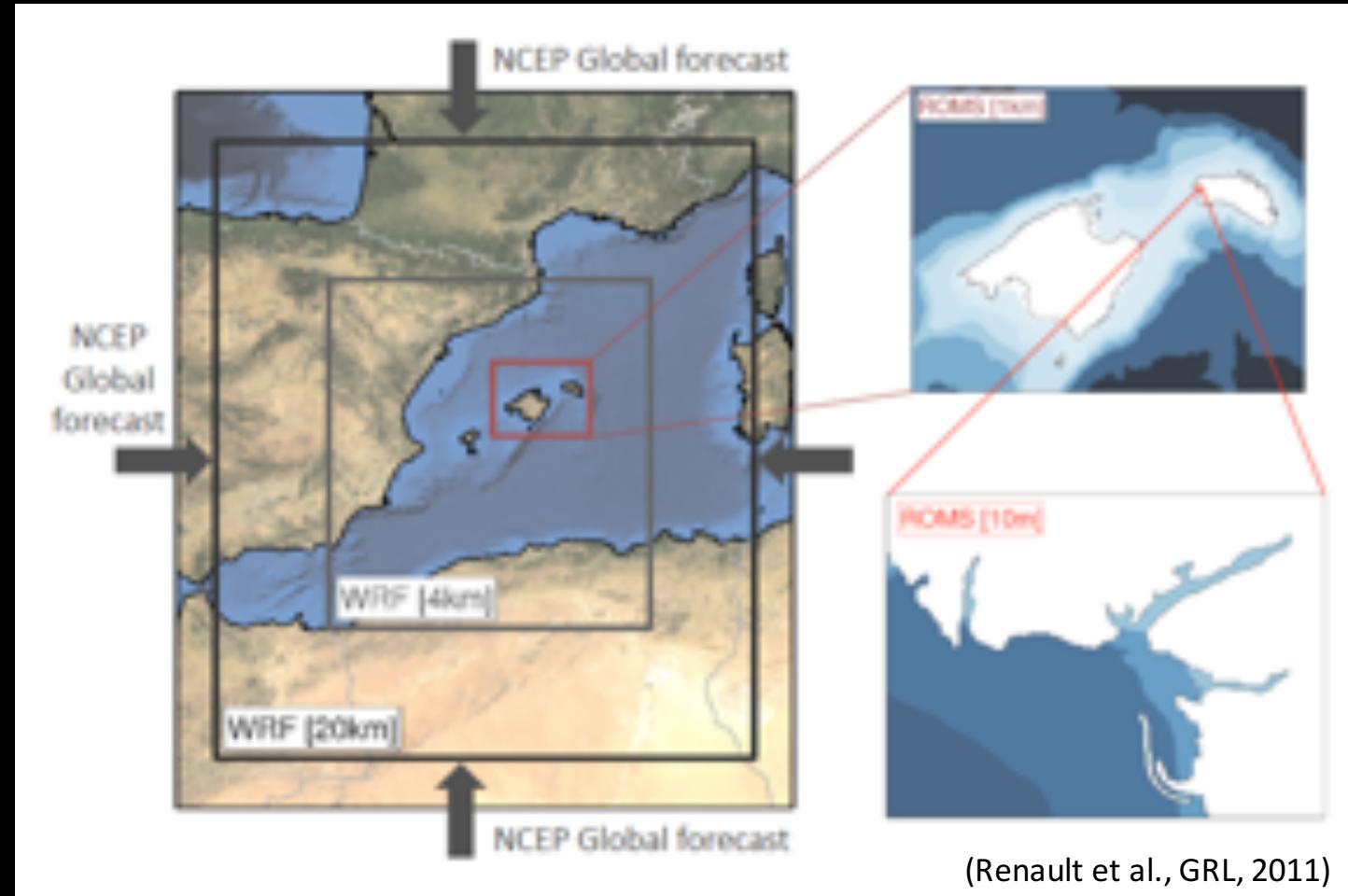


Over-prediction

When rissaga ( $>30$  cm) is observed:  
 Rissaga was not forecast: 16%  
 Rissaga was forecast: 84%

# **BRIFS - Balearic RIssaga Forecasting System (SOCIB)**

Ocean-atmosphere modelling prediction system



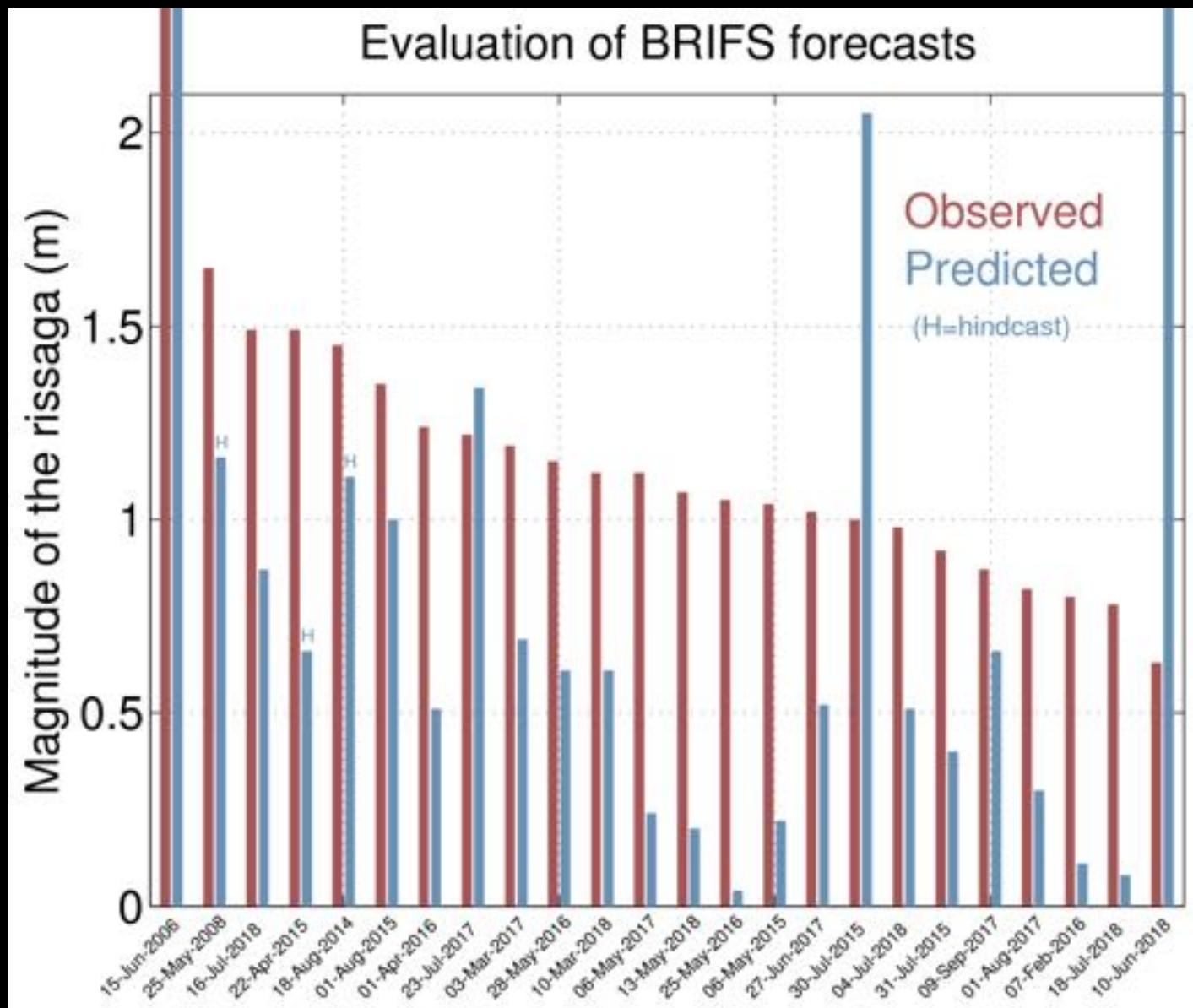
(Renault et al., GRL, 2011)

WRF: Weather Research and Forecasting Model

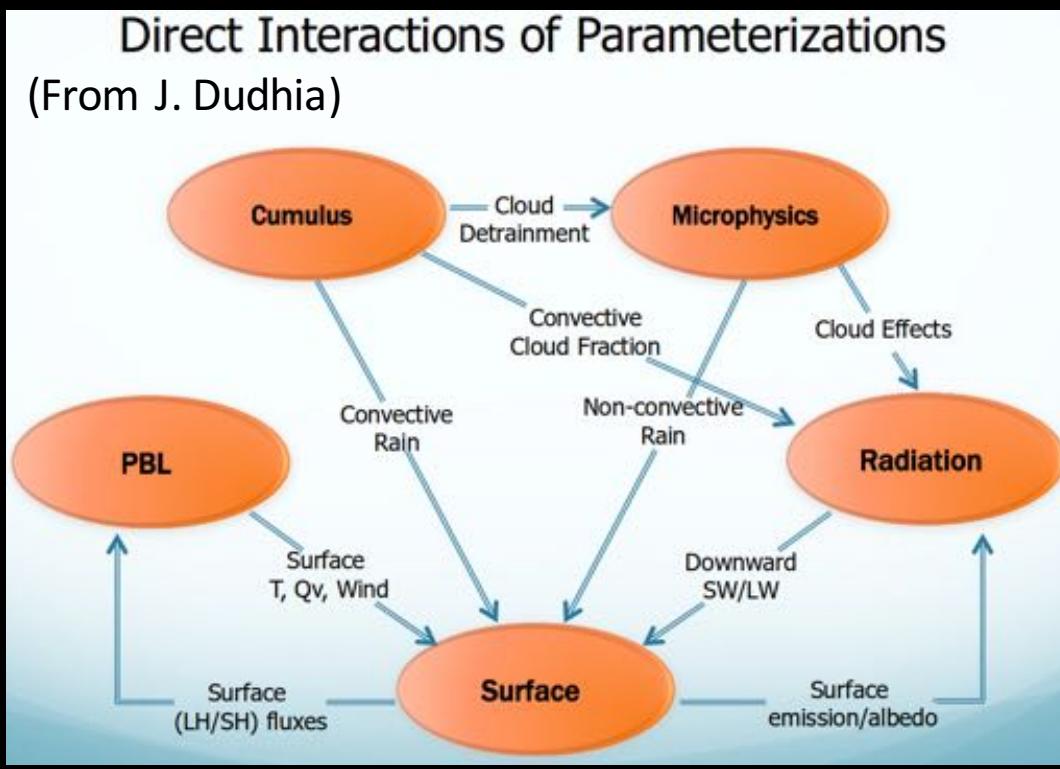
NCEP: National Centers for Environmental Prediction

ROMS: Regional Ocean Modeling System

## BRIFS evaluation – *rissagues* > 0.7m



# *WRF sensitivity experiments – ensemble modelling*



WRF 3.3.1  
→ WRF 3.6.1

Radiation  
1-2 Lw RRTM Sw Goddard  
4 Lw&Sw RRTMG

Radiation calls frequency  
4 4min  
10 10min

Cumulus  
1 Kain-Fritsch  
3 Grell-Freitas  
6 Tiedtke

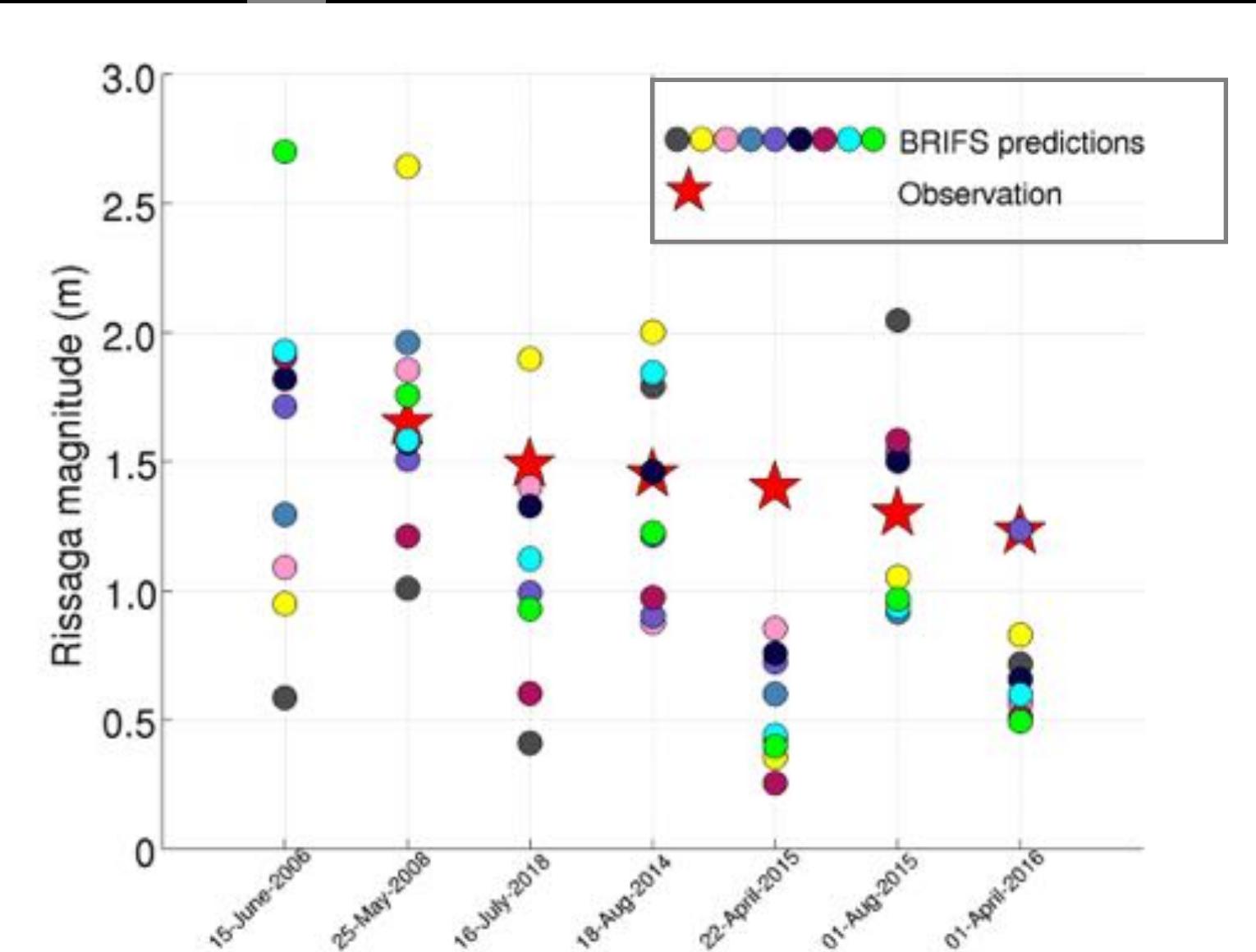
PBL  
1 YSU  
2 MYJ  
5 MYNN3

Microphysics  
6 WSM6  
7 Goddard  
8 Thompson

Radiation		Radiation dt		PBL			Cumulus			Microphysics		
1-2	4	4	10	1	2	5	3	1	6	8	7	6



## *WRF sensitivity experiments – ensemble modelling*



Las predicciones deterministas de *medicanes* y de *rissagues* pueden ser buenas, pero incluyen un considerable nivel de incertidumbre que una complementaria predicción *ensemble*, probabilista, nos acota, al menos parcialmente

Moltes gràcies!  
¡Muchas gracias!