

# A Multiple-Model Ensemble Examination of the Probabilistic Prediction of Hurricanes Sandy (2012) and Edouard (2014)

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Sponsored by ONR, NOAA, and NASA

# Given pseudo-operational configurations of three TC-tuned regional models ...

- 1) How do the mean and spread of an ensemble with the same initial perturbations evolve using “multiple-models”?
- 2) Are single-core ensembles sufficient for representing model uncertainties in TC prediction or do we need multi-core ensembles?

- **Pseudo-operational configurations of TC tuned regional models**

- Same initial conditions for all models
- Fixed SST from operational GFS
- Atmospheric component only

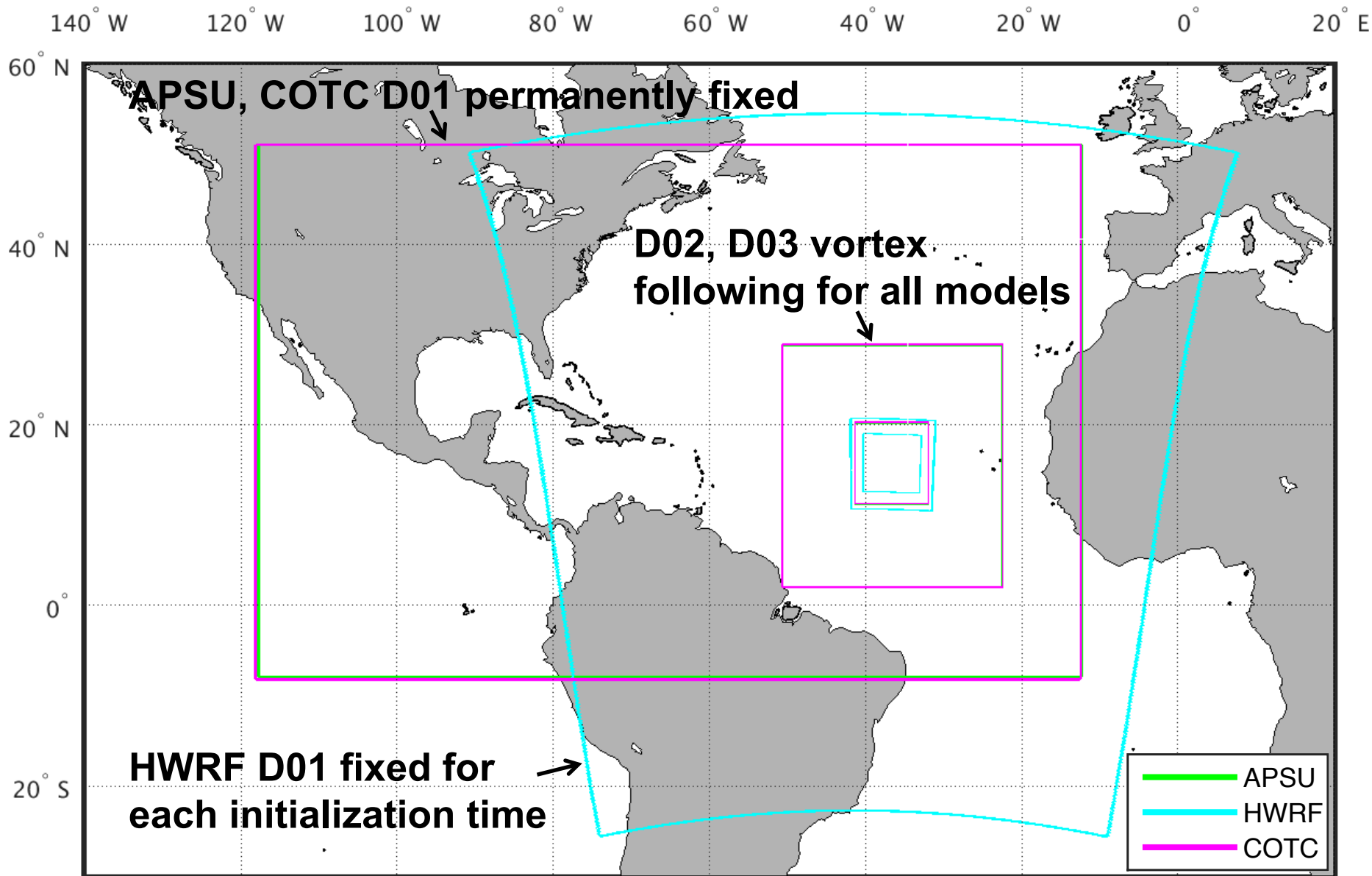
- **Model Versions**

- WRF-ARW v3.6
- HWRF v3.5b
- COAMPS-TC v1.0 (Feb 2015)

- **Model Configurations**

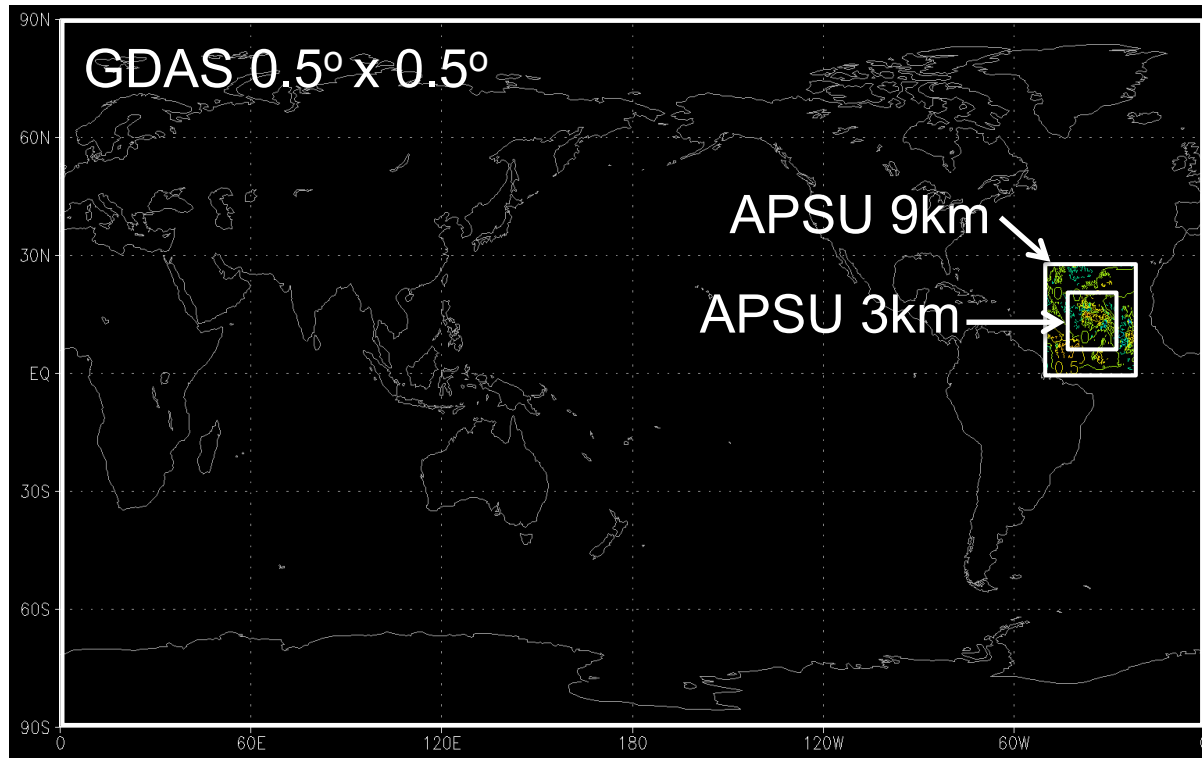
 APSU	PSU WRF-ARW w/ 2014 real-time configuration
 HWRF	HWRF w/ 2013 HWRF configuration, but no ocean
 COTC	COAMPS-TC w/ 2014 HFIP configuration

# Domain Setup



# Initial and Boundary Conditions

- Initial Conditions:
  - PSU WRF-EnKF (APSU) real-time 60-member ensemble analysis and perturbations
  - Operational GDAS analysis
  - APSU + GDAS interpolated and merged onto  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  grid on standard pressure levels



- Boundary Conditions: GFS forecast 6-120 hr (not perturbed)

# Hurricane Sandy (2012)

## Ensemble Track

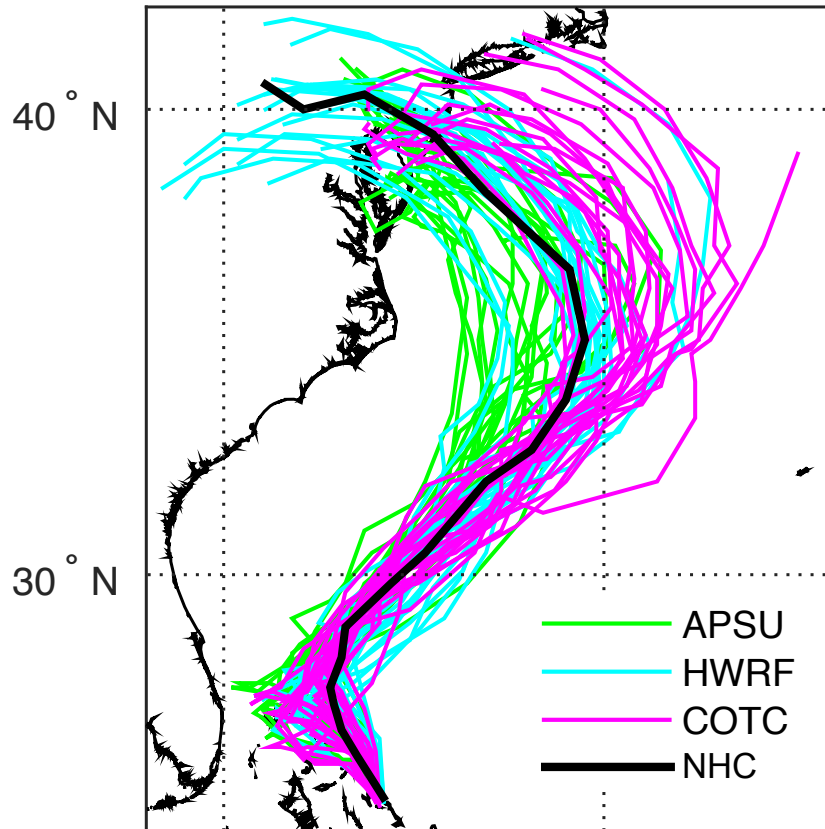
5 day forecast initialized 2012-10-26 00 UTC

Ensemble track mean and spread reproduced by each model-core

- Systematic mean difference at longer lead times

### Ensemble Track\*

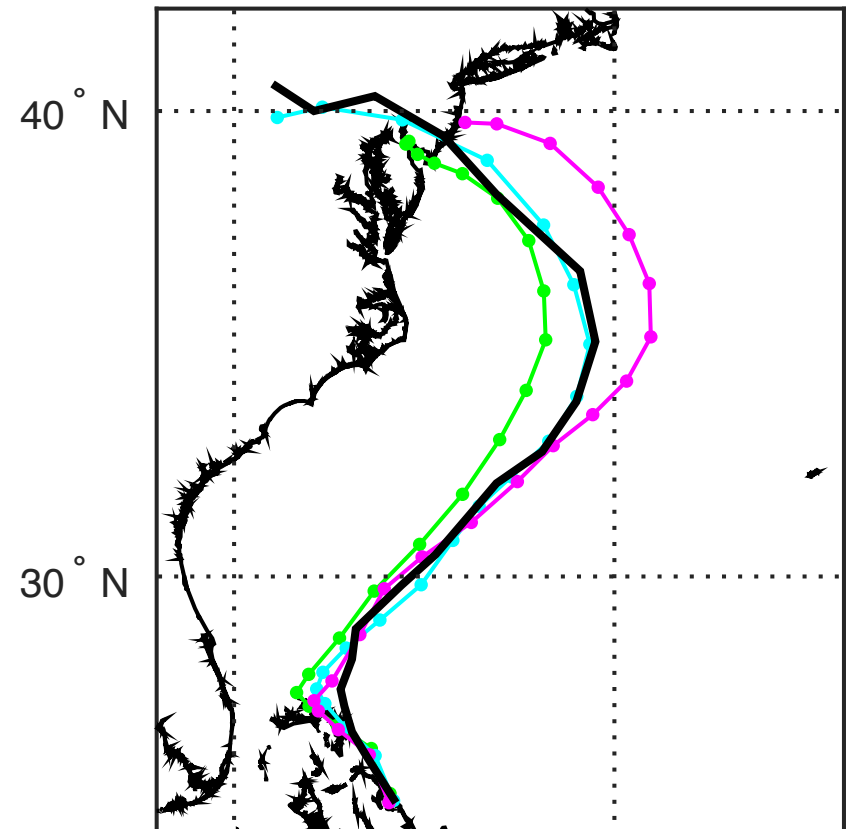
80° W      70° W



*\*20 of 60 members shown*

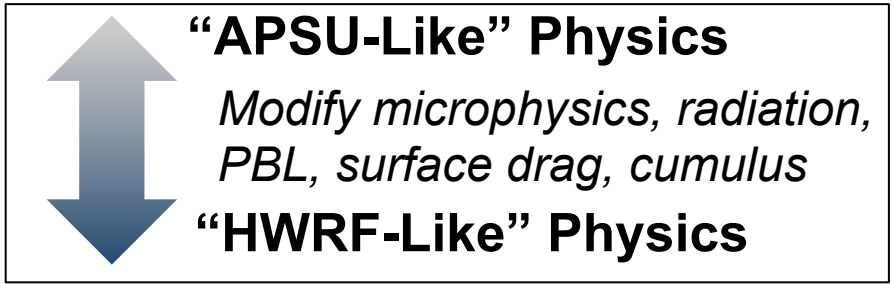
### Ensemble Mean Track

80° W      70° W

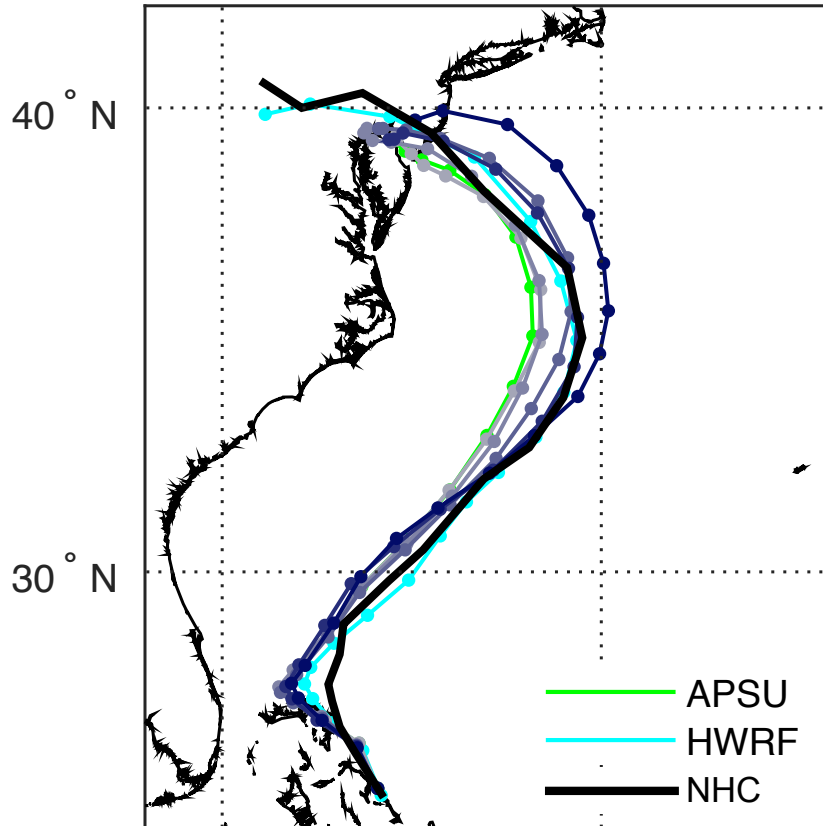


# Hurricane Sandy (2012)

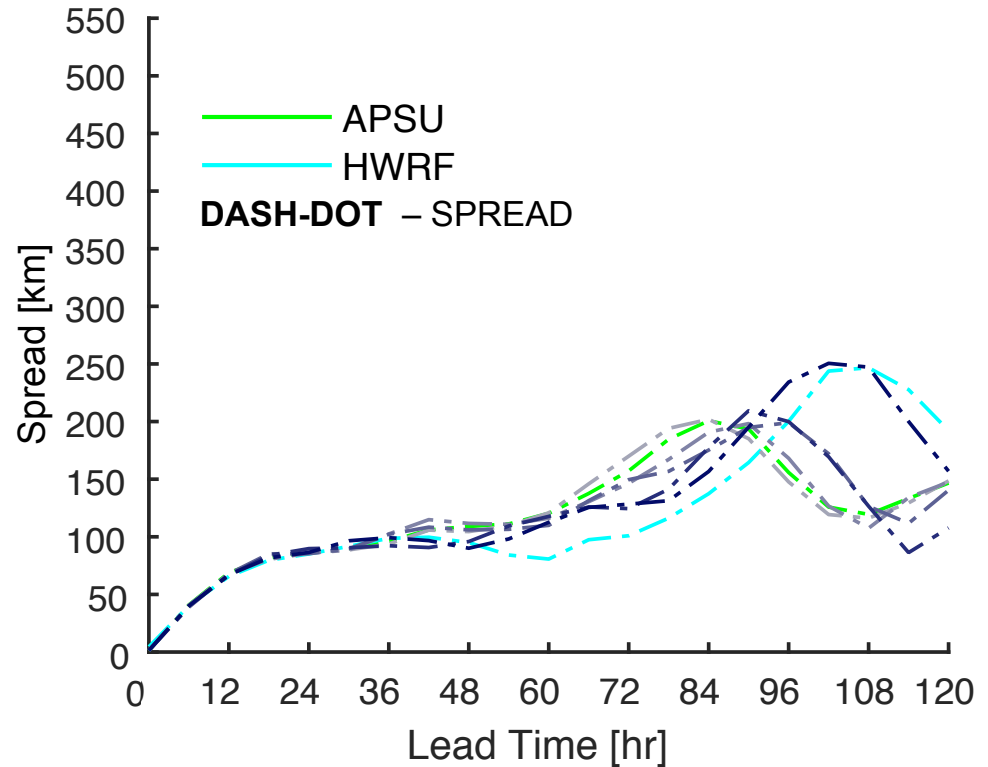
## Multiple Physics Ensembles



**Ensemble Mean Track**  
80° W      70° W



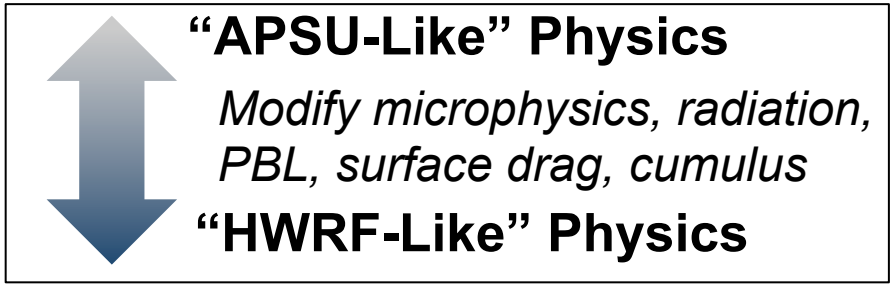
**Track Spread\***



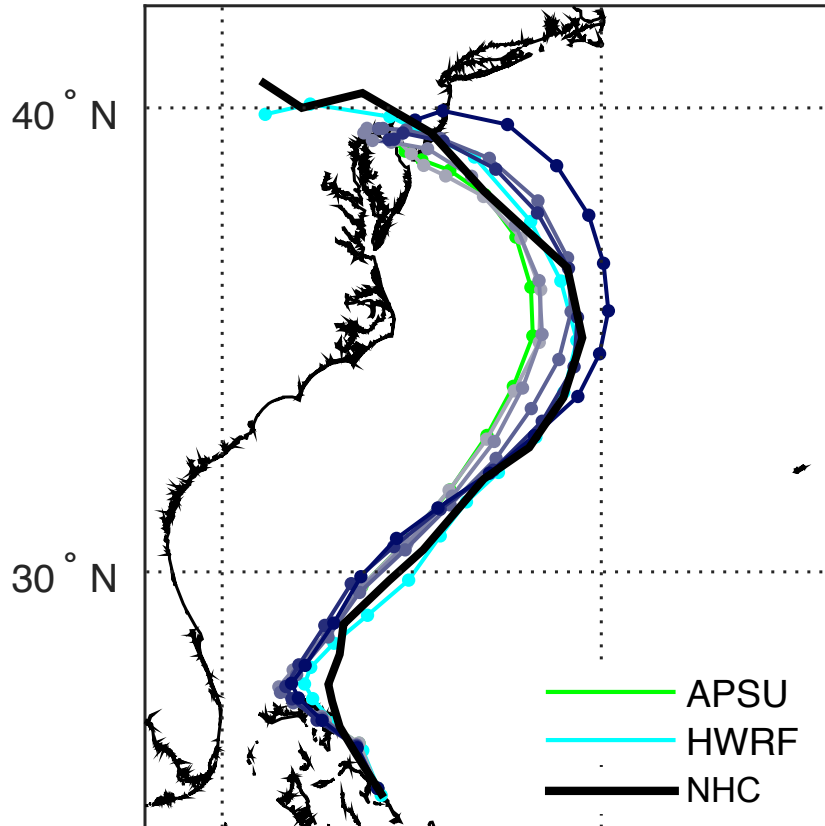
*\*NHC best track data as verification*

# Hurricane Sandy (2012)

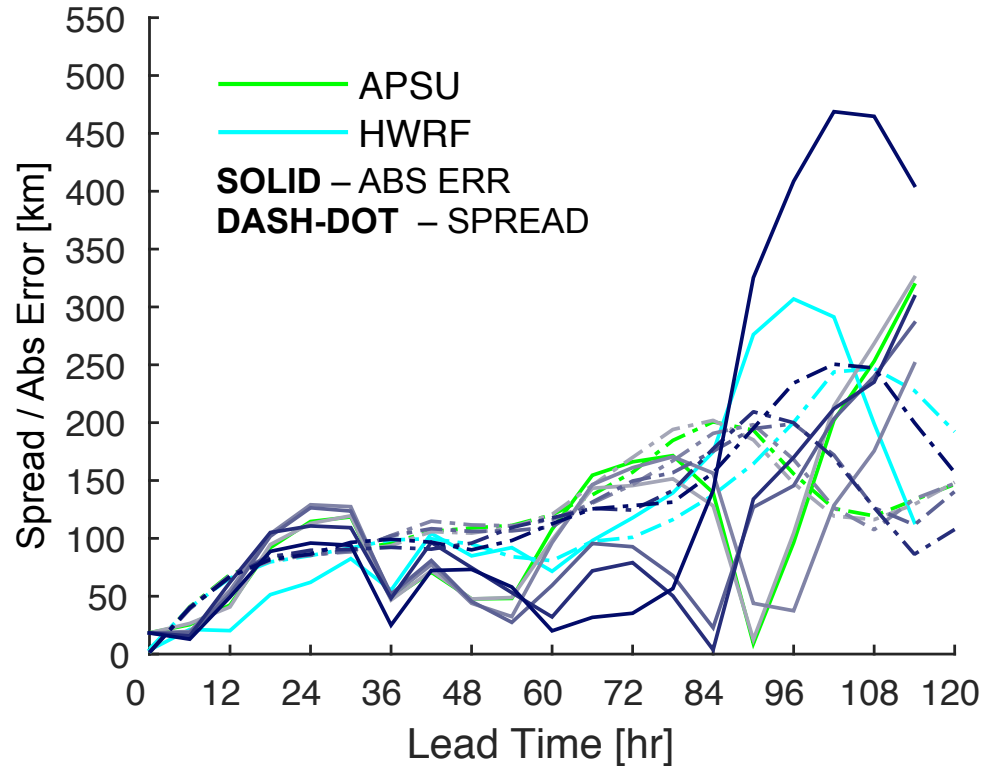
## Multiple Physics Ensembles



**Ensemble Mean Track**  
80° W      70° W



**Track Spread/Abs. Error\***



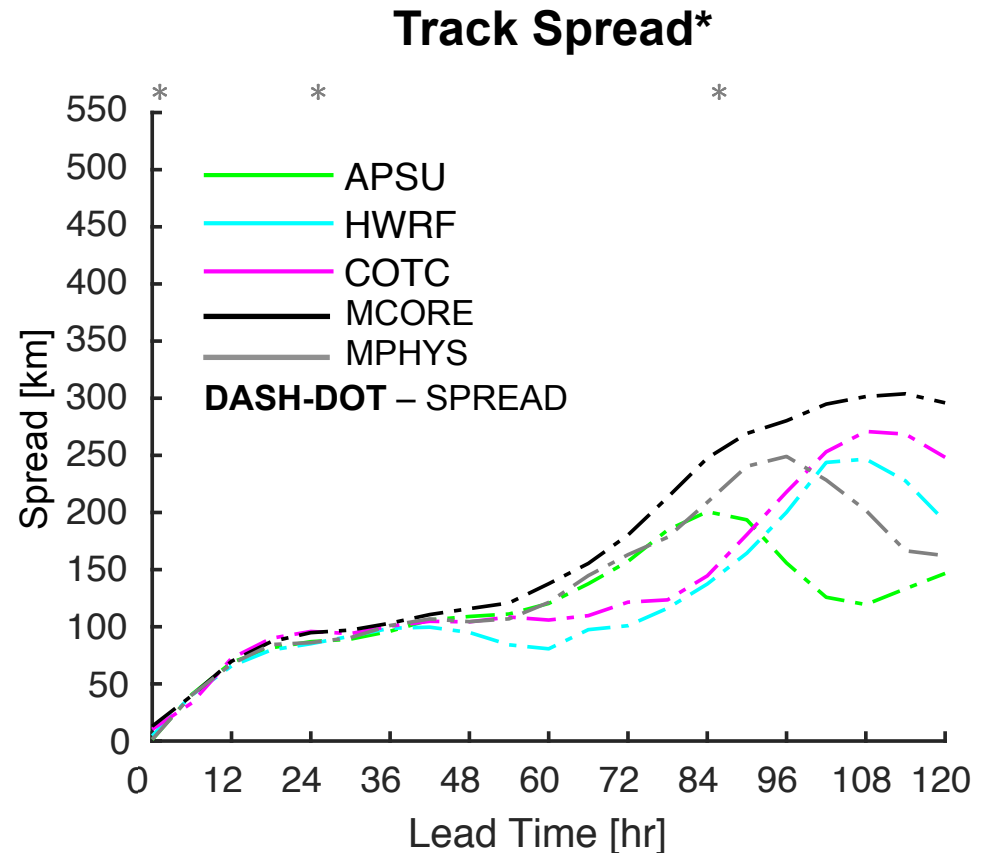
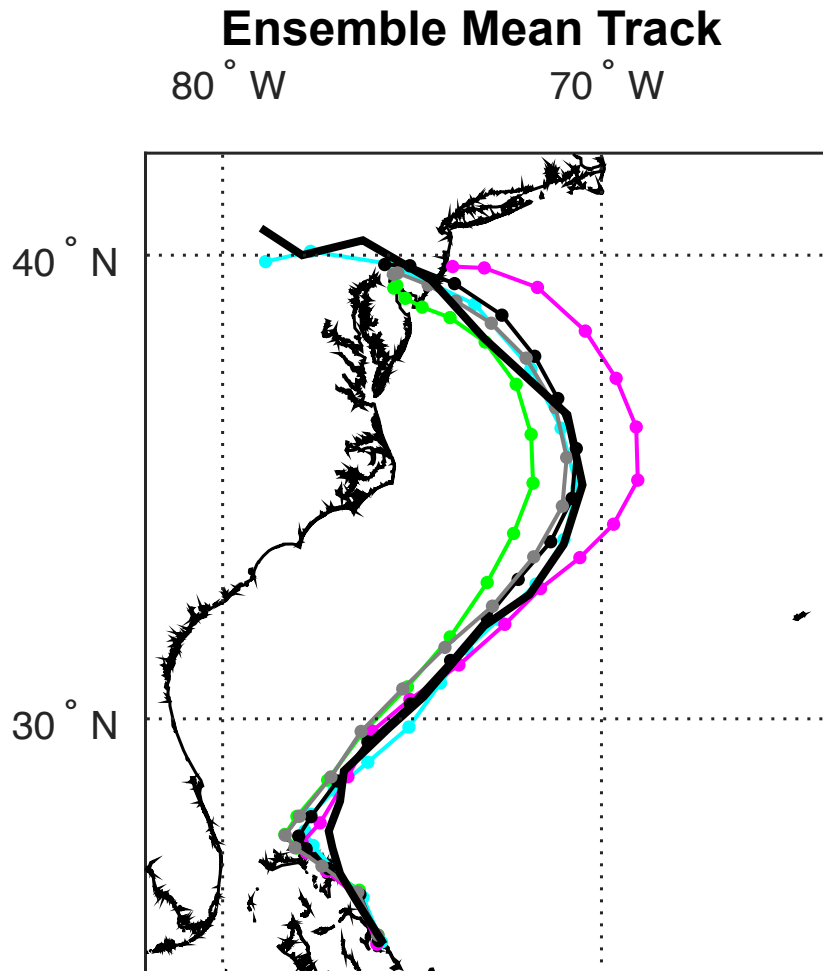
*\*NHC best track data as verification*



# Hurricane Sandy (2012) Multi-Model Ensembles

Multi-core and multi-physics ensemble track error distributions cannot be proven statistically different\*\*

Increased track spread at longer lead times for multi-core or multi-physics



\*NHC best track data as verification

\*\* Bootstrapped Kolmogorov–Smirnov test  
(10,000 samples;  $\alpha=0.05$ )

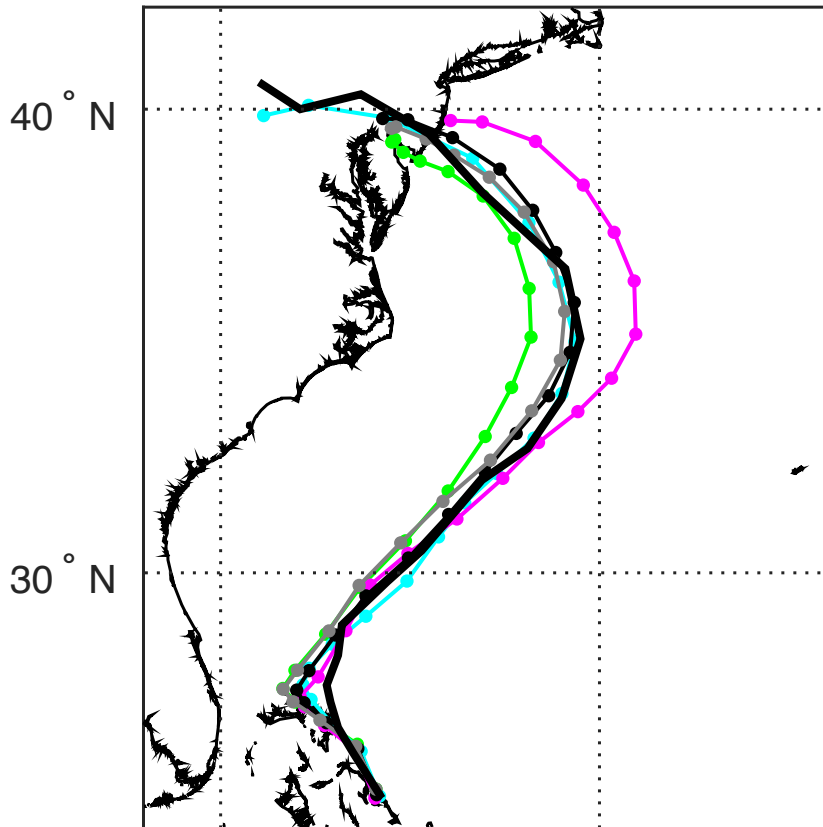
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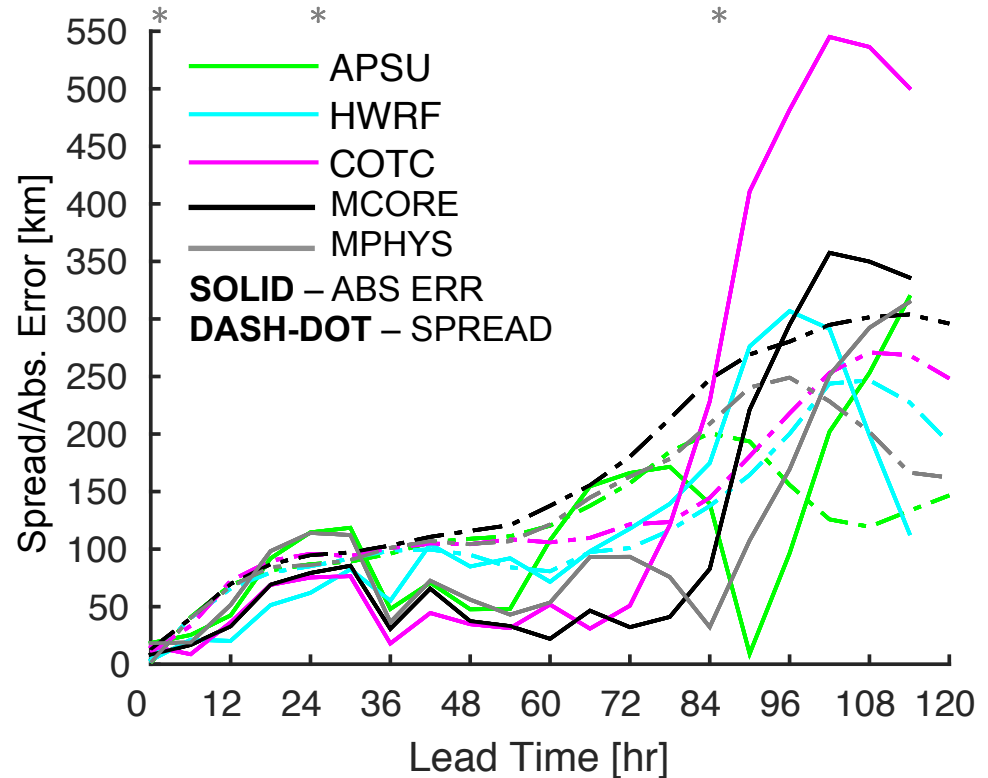
Increased track spread at longer lead times for multi-core or multi-physics

Ensemble Mean Track

80 ° W                      70 ° W



Track Spread/Abs. Error\*



\*NHC best track data as verification

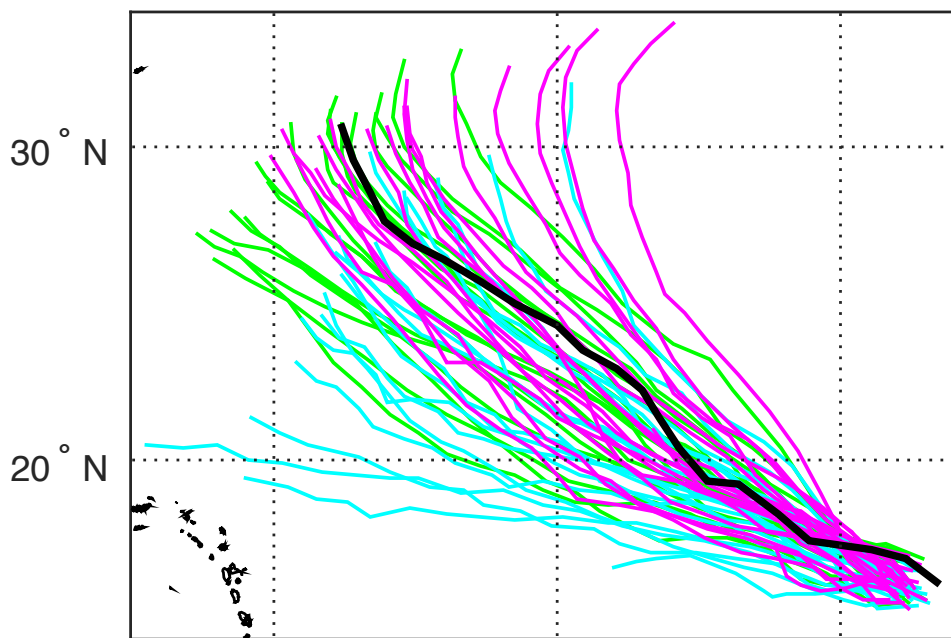
\*\* Bootstrapped Kolmogorov–Smirnov test (10,000 samples;  $\alpha=0.05$ )

# Hurricane Edouard (2014) Ensemble Track and Intensity

5 day forecast initialized  
2014-09-11 12 UTC

## Ensemble Track\*

60° W      50° W      40° W



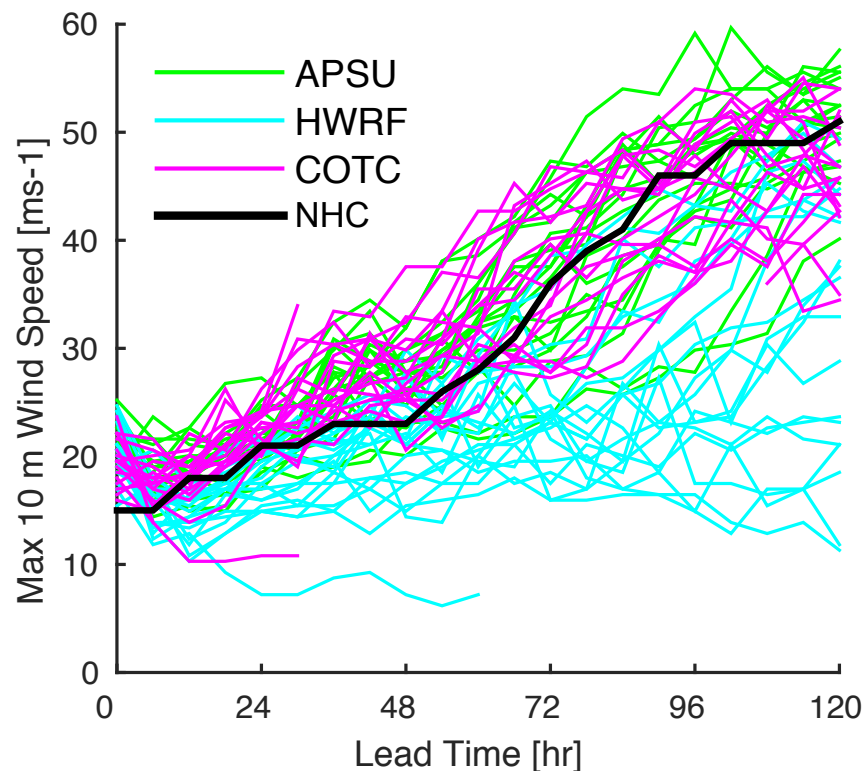
*\*20 of 60 members shown*

Multi-core ensemble spread  
larger than any individual  
single-core

Spread:

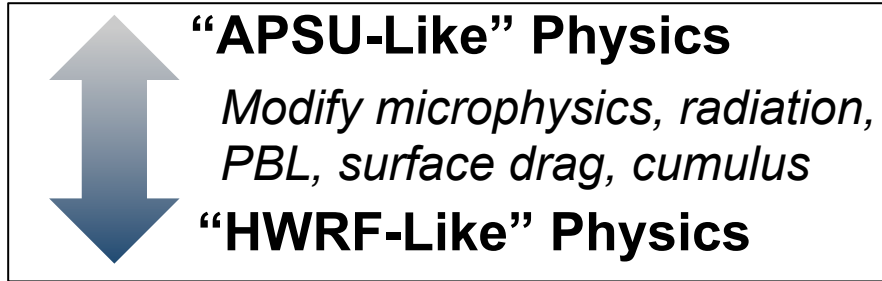
APSU ~ COTC !~ HWRF

## Ensemble Intensity\*



# Hurricane Edouard (2014)

## Ensemble Mean - Physics

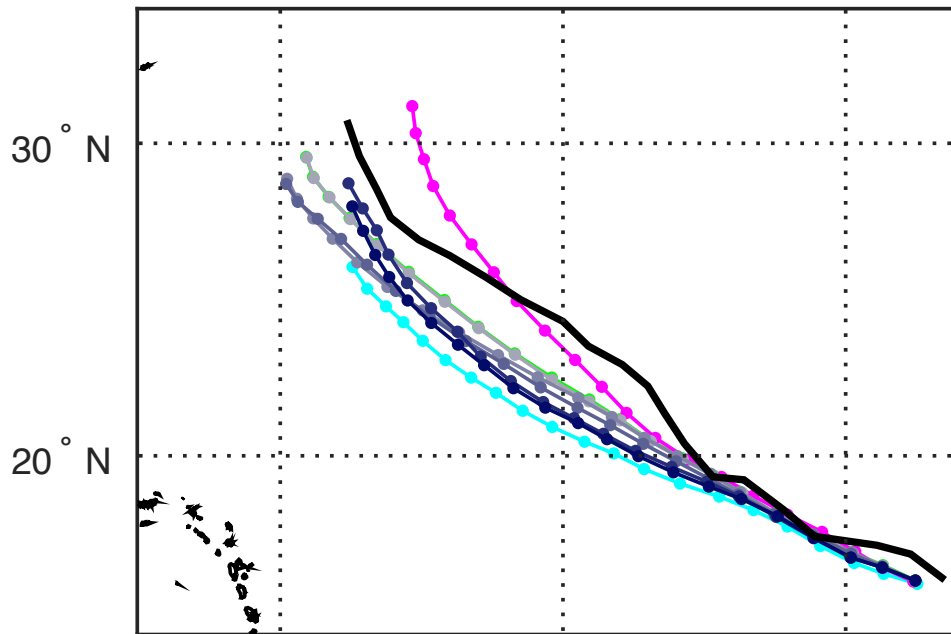


Shift single-core mean to behave similarly to a different model-core

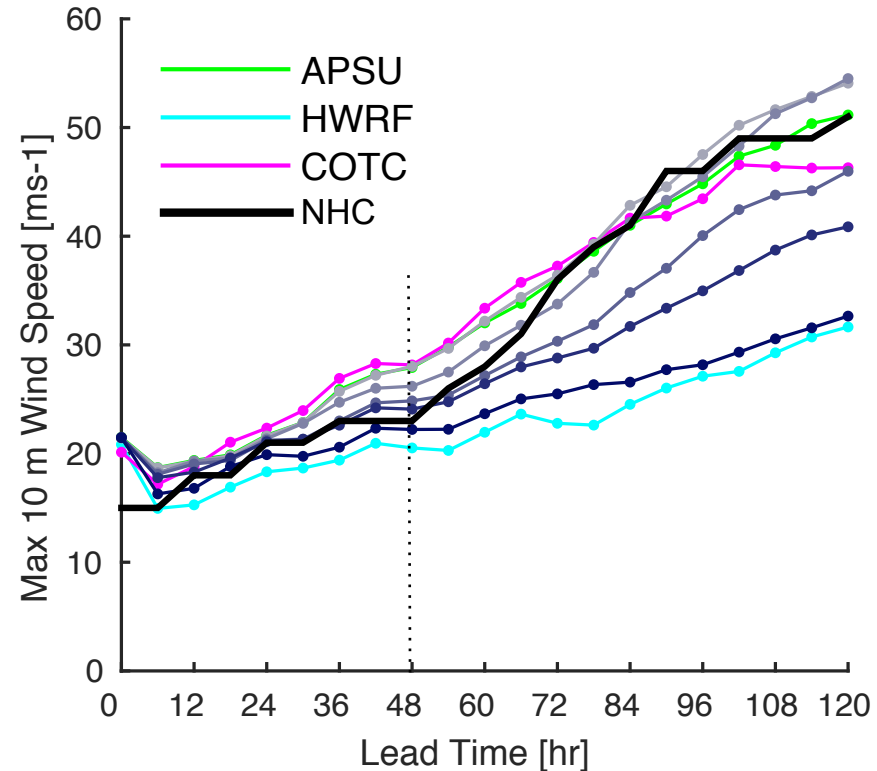
- Physics configuration has a leading influence
- More evident in intensity

### Ensemble Mean Track

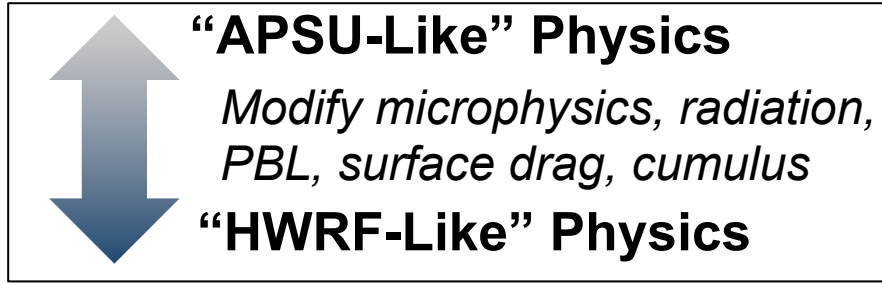
60° W      50° W      40° W



### Ensemble Mean Intensity



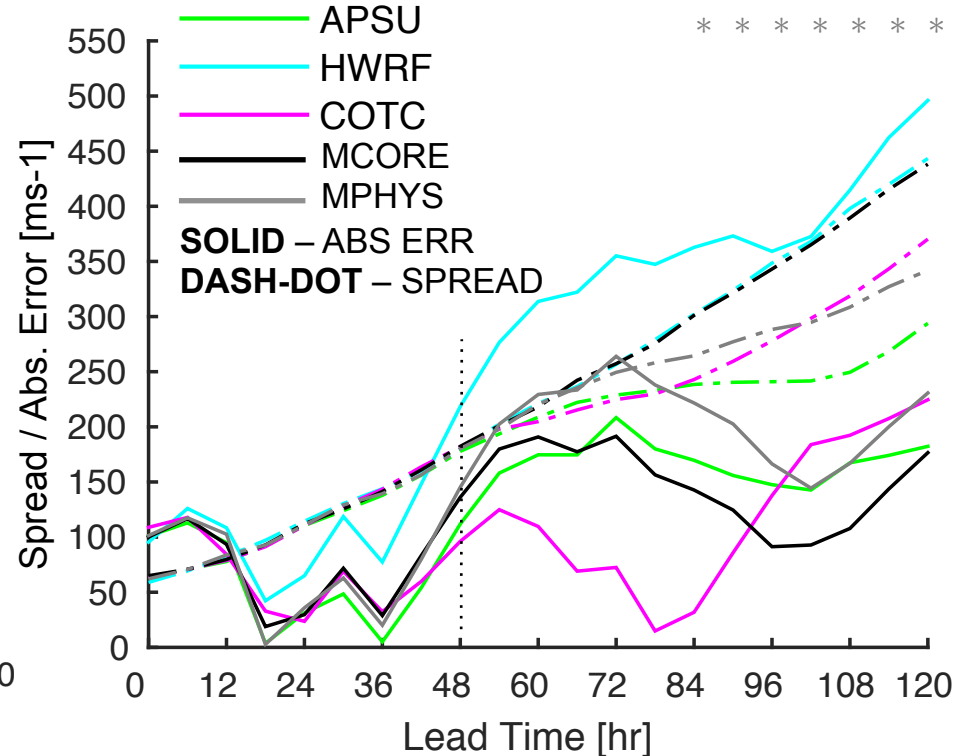
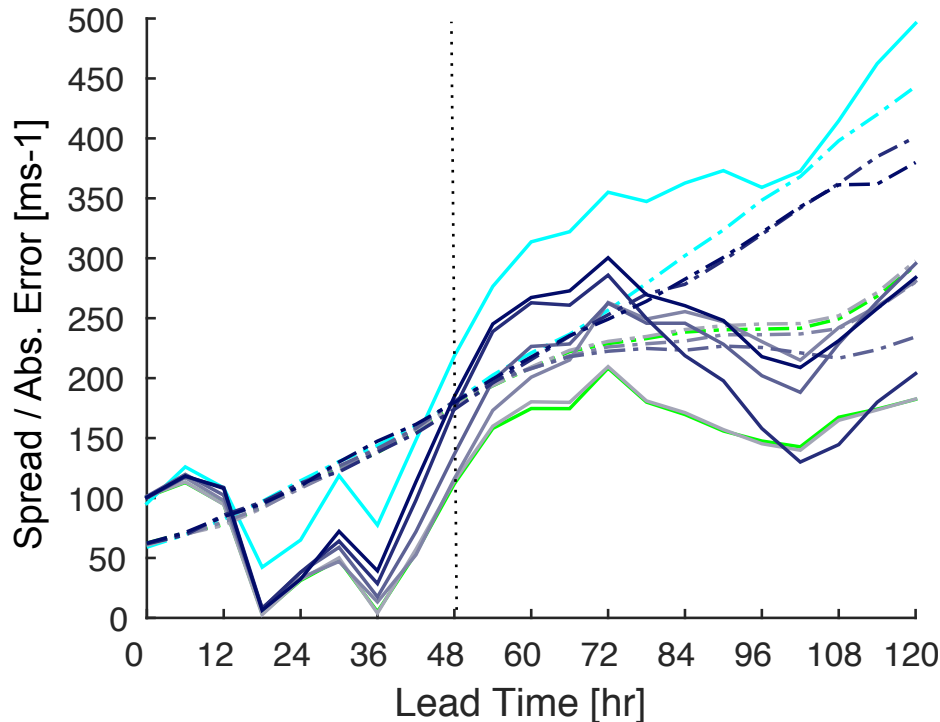
# Hurricane Edouard (2014) Track Verification



Missing solutions similar to COTC (further east track displacement) in multi-physics ensemble

Lacking broad set of physics combinations

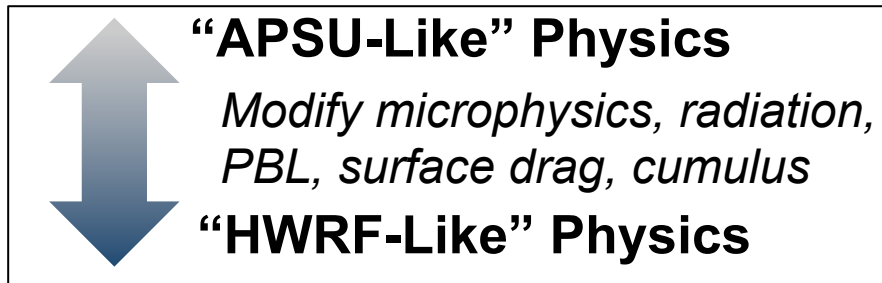
**Intensity Spread/Abs. Error of Mean\***



\*NHC best track data as verification \*\* Bootstrapped K-S test (10,000 samples;  $\alpha=0.05$ )

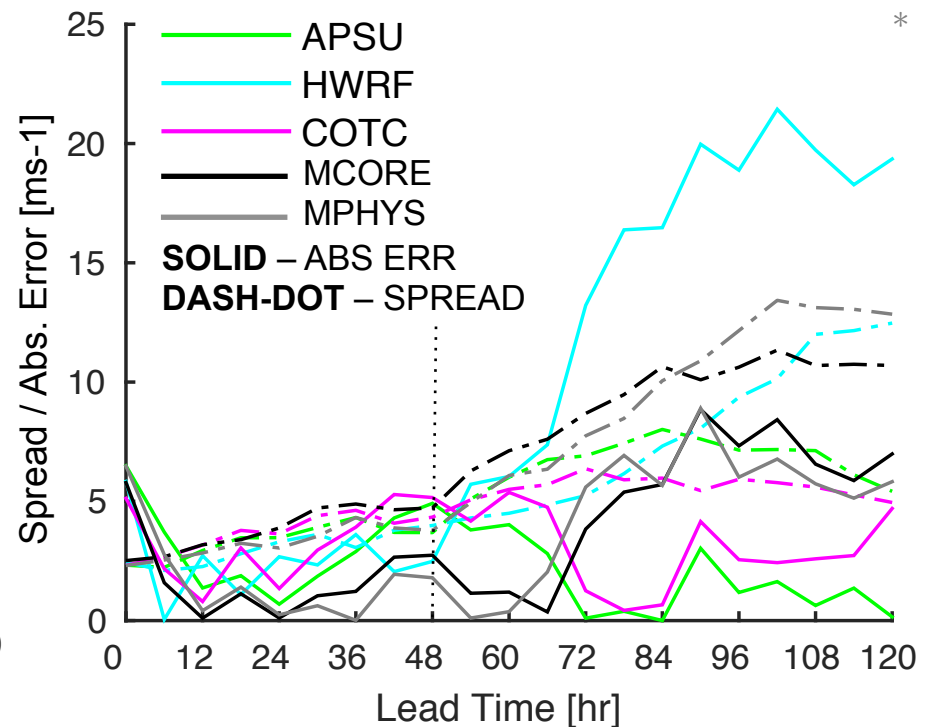
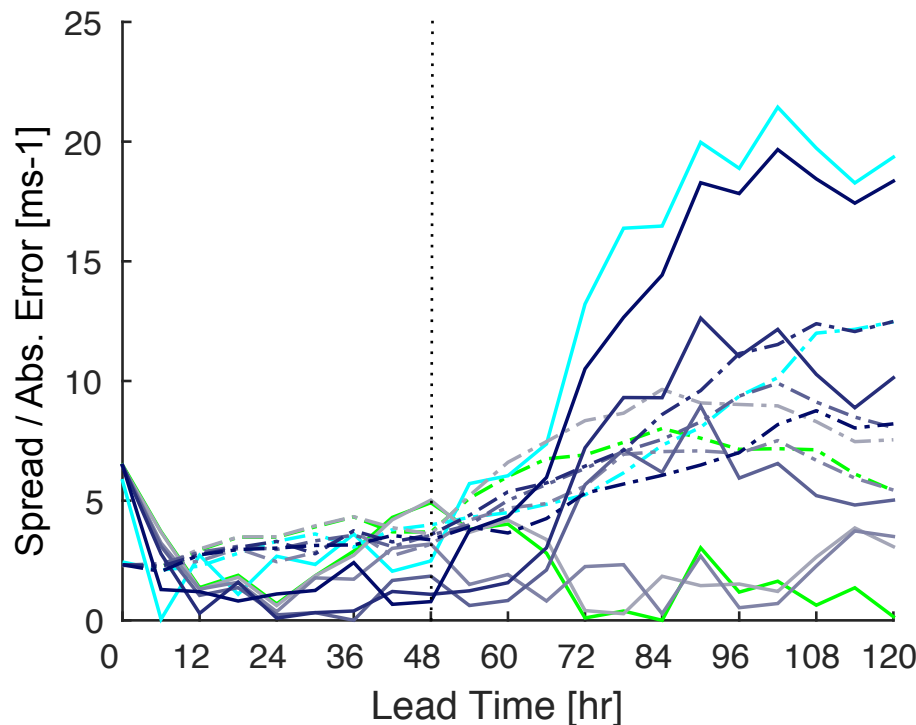
# Hurricane Edouard (2014) Intensity Verification

Similar spread evolution for multi-core and multi-physics ensembles



Both multi-core and multi-physics improve mean error within 3 days, but detriment after RI

**Intensity Spread/Abs. Error of Mean\***



\*NHC best track data as verification \*\* Bootstrapped K-S test (10,000 samples;  $\alpha=0.05$ )

# Hurricane Edouard (2014)

## Ensemble Mean – Stochastic Physics

- Stochastic Kinetic Energy Backscatter Scheme (SKEBS; Shutts (2005), Berner et al. 2009)
  - Simulate upscale-propagating errors to account for shortcomings in un-resolved subgrid-scale processes
  - Perturb rotational u- and v-wind components and potential temperature (additive)
  - Spatially and temporally correlated perturbations
- Stochastically Perturbed Parameterization Tendencies (SPPT; Palmer et al. 2009, Berner et al. 2015)
  - Account for uncertainties in existing parameterization schemes
  - Perturb parameterization tendencies (multiplicative)
  - Similar spatial and temporally correlated perturbations to SKEBS

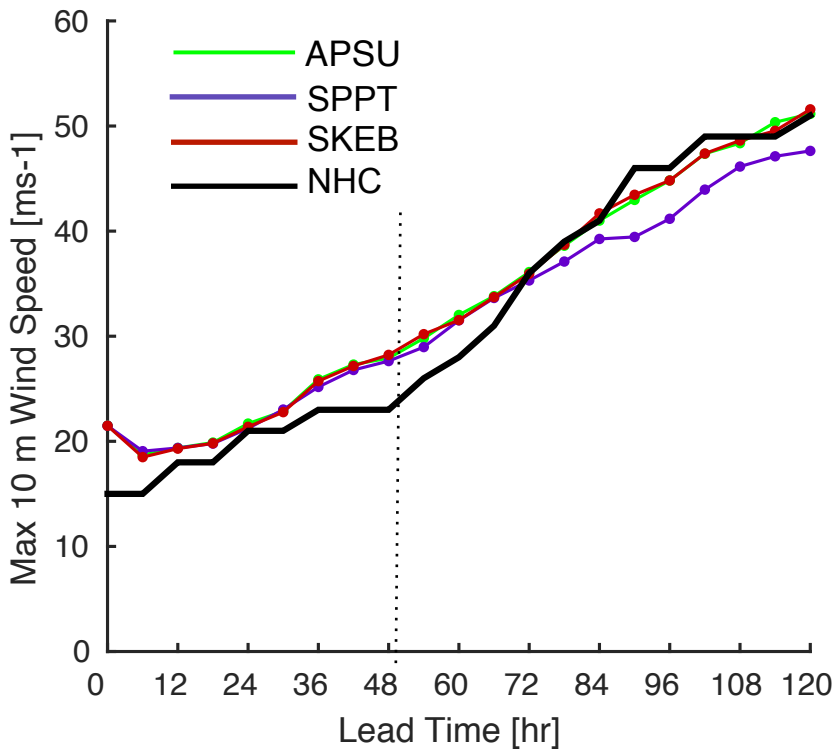
# Hurricane Edouard (2014)

## Ensemble Mean – Stochastic Physics

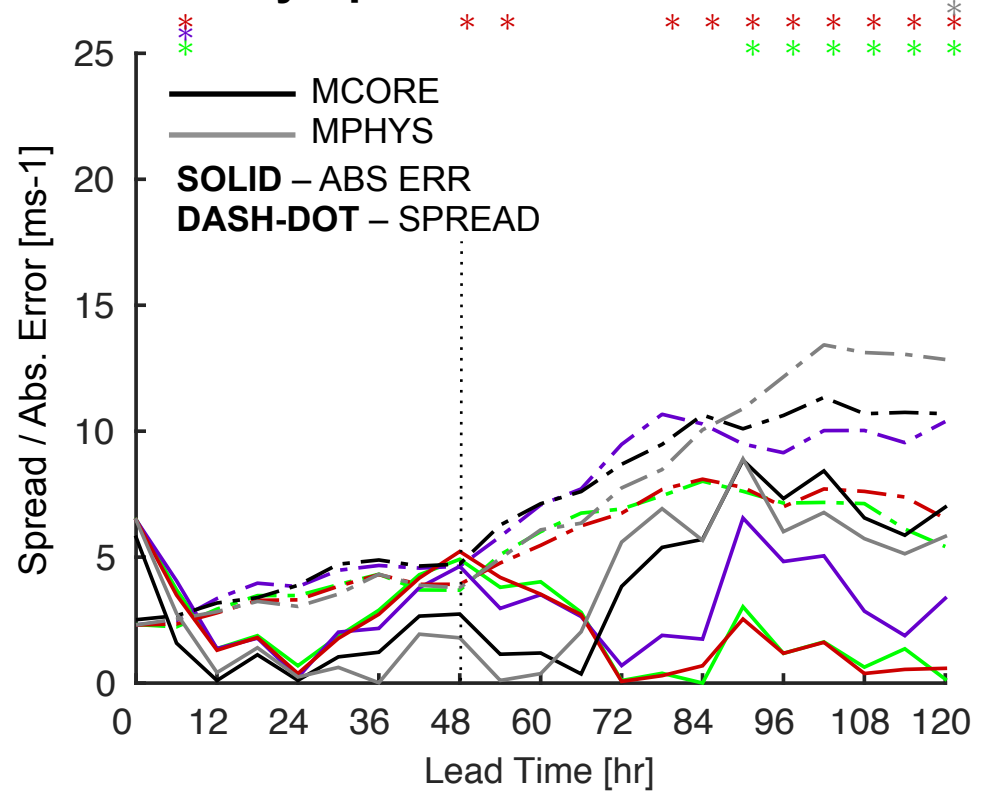
SKEBS minimally impacts ensemble mean intensity and intensity spread.

SPPT increases spread, but degrades mean at longer lead times relative to control.

### Ensemble Mean Intensity



### Intensity Spread/Abs. Error of Mean\*



\*\* Bootstrapped K-S test (10,000 samples;  $\alpha=0.05$ )



# Hurricane Edouard (2014)

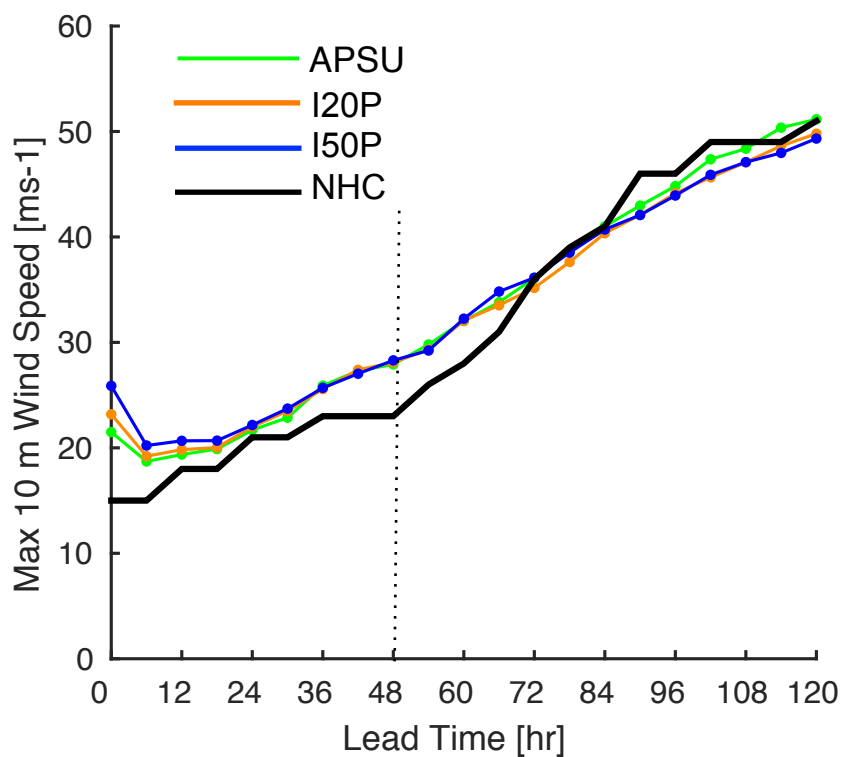
## Ensemble Mean – Increased Initial Perturbations

I20P: 20% inflation

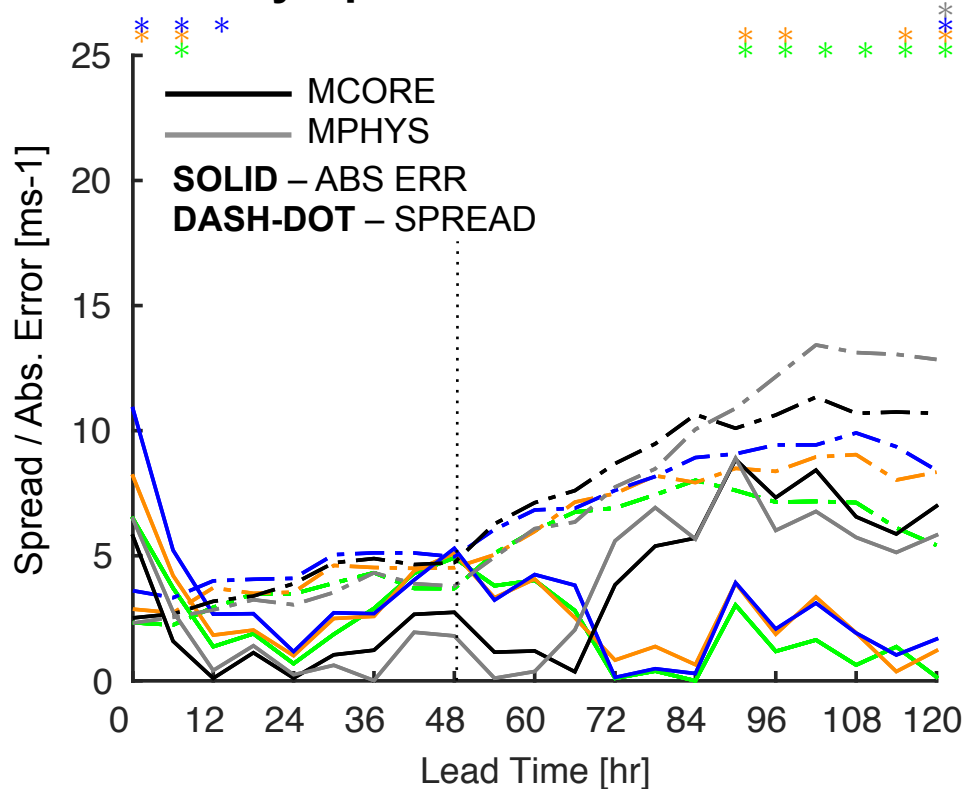
I50P: 50% inflation

Inflating initial perturbations can cover the intensity spread of multi-core and multi-physics ensemble while providing lower error and longer lead times

### Ensemble Mean Intensity



### Intensity Spread/Abs. Error of Mean\*



\*\* Bootstrapped K-S test (10,000 samples;  $\alpha=0.05$ )

# Discussion

- Recall: initializing three state-of-the-art regional TC-tuned models with the same global resolution IC/BC
- Ensemble track mean and spread generally reproduced by each model-core track and intensity solutions using identical initial perturbations
  - Systematic differences in mean track and intensity evident between model-cores
- Modifying single-core physics can alter mean and spread. Track and intensity error distributions for single-core multi-physics ensemble generally cannot be statistically proven different from multi-core ensemble
  - Stochastic physics and inflating initial perturbations can have similar effect
- Single-core multi-physics may be sufficient for TC prediction
- How much spread is sufficient?? Extremely hard to determine!

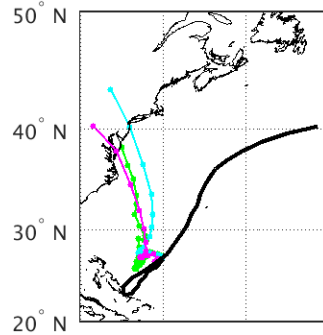
# **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

# HU JOAQUIN (2015)

Initialized: 09-29 00 UTC

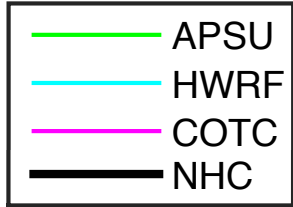
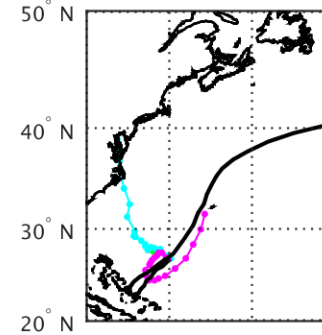
## Operational/Real-time

80° W 70° W 60° W 50° W

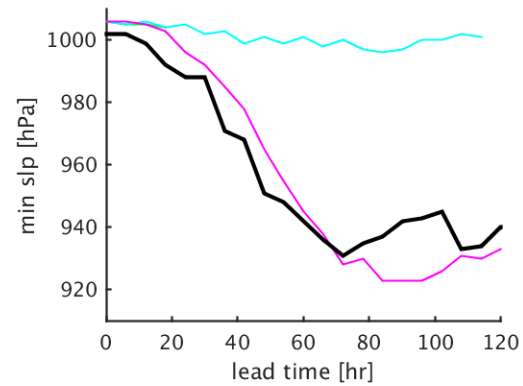
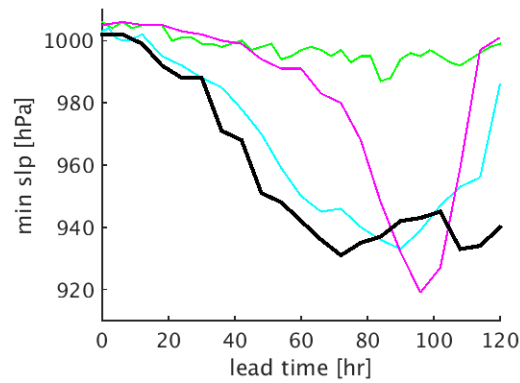
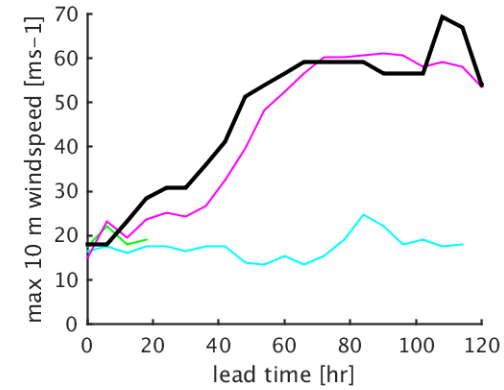
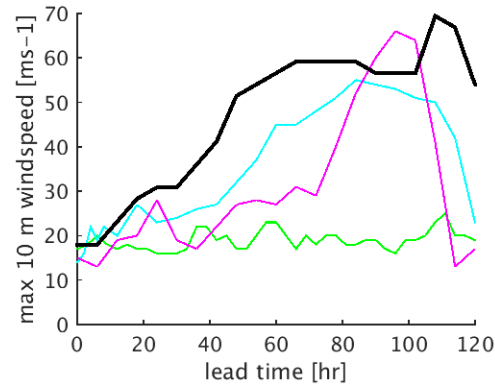


## Experimental Common Grid

80° W 70° W 60° W 50° W

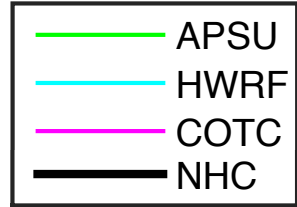


\*APSU could not be tracked in experimental grid



# HU JOAQUIN (2015)

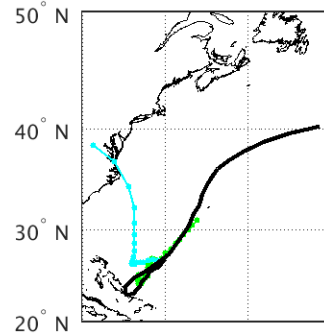
Initialized: 09-29 12 UTC



\*COTC not in adeck file

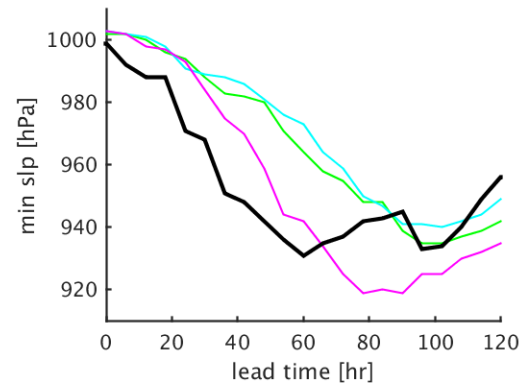
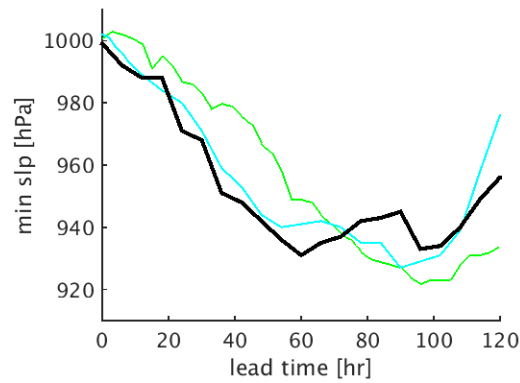
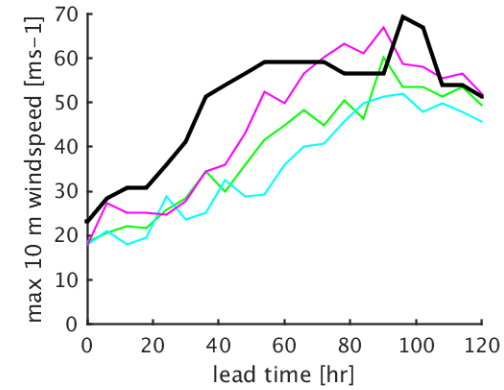
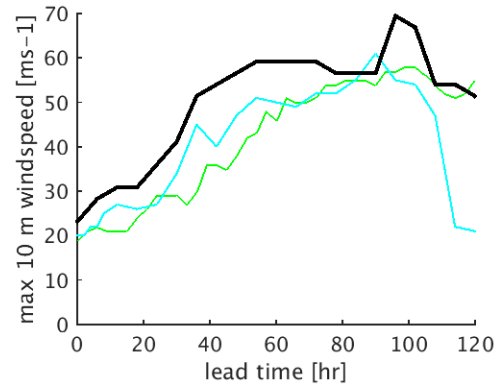
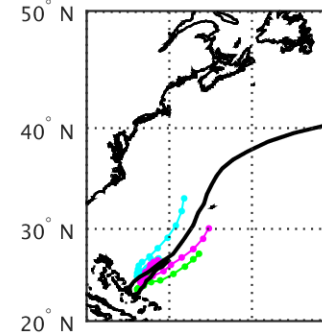
## Operational/Real-time

80° W 70° W 60° W 50° W



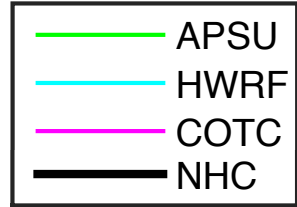
## Experimental Common Grid

80° W 70° W 60° W 50° W



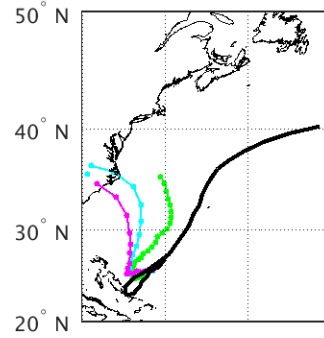
# HU JOAQUIN (2015)

Initialized: 09-30 00 UTC



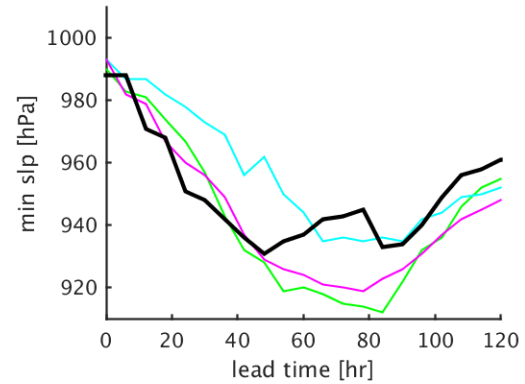
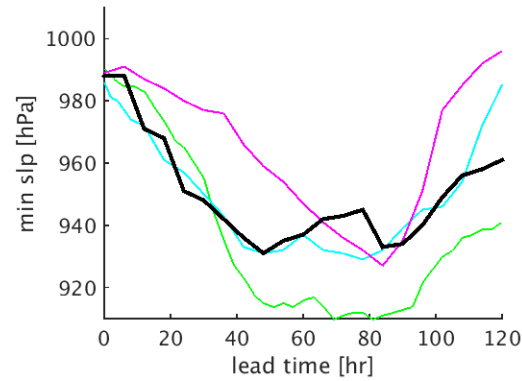
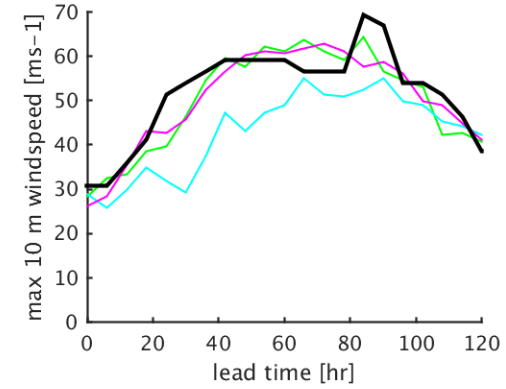
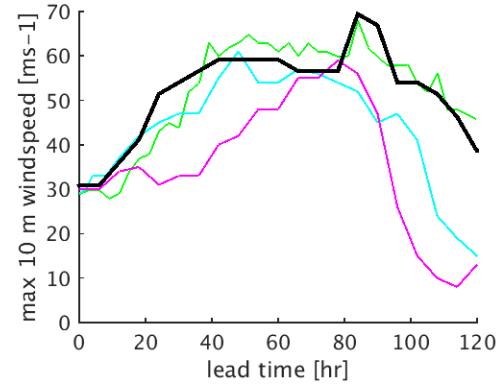
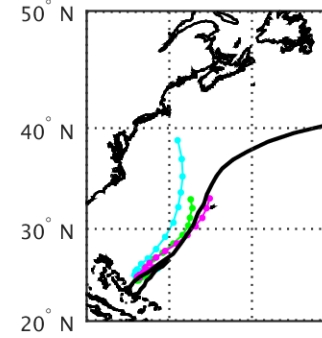
## Operational/Real-time

80° W 70° W 60° W 50° W



## Experimental Common Grid

80° W 70° W 60° W 50° W



# PSU-EnKF real-time systems for Joaquin (2015): Ensemble at 12Z/29

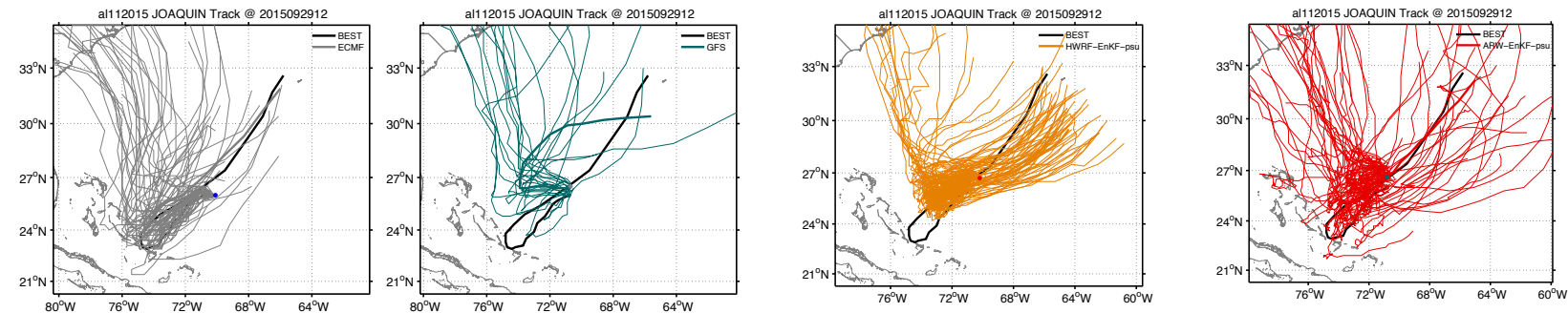
ECMWF

GEFS

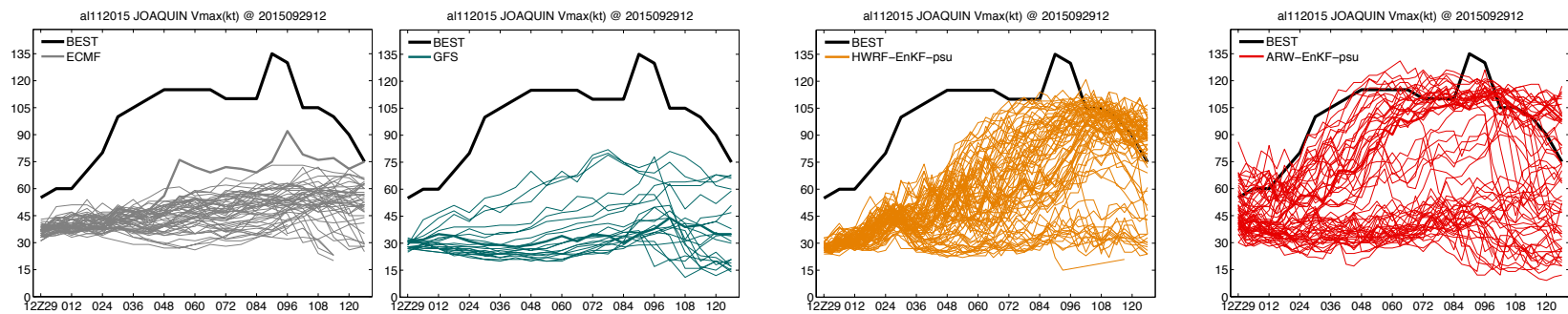
PSU HWRF-EnKF

PSU ARW-EnKF

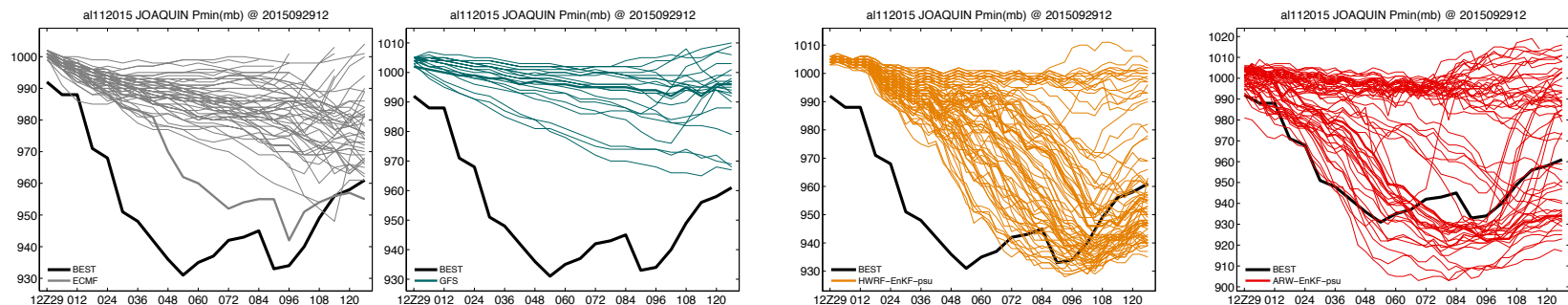
Track



Vmax



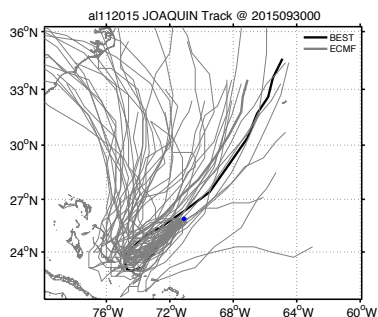
Pmin



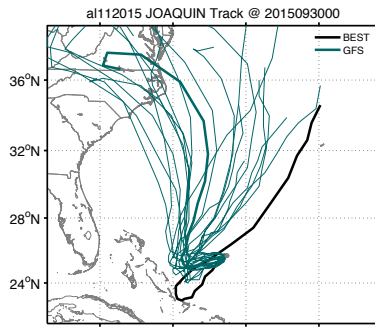
# PSU-EnKF real-time systems for Joaquin (2015): Ensemble at 00Z/30

Track

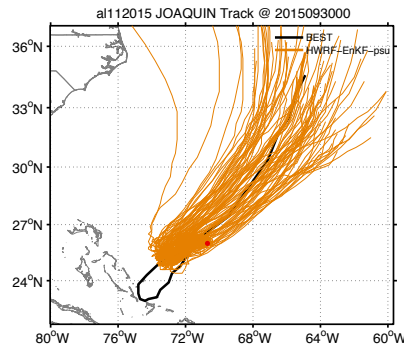
ECMWF



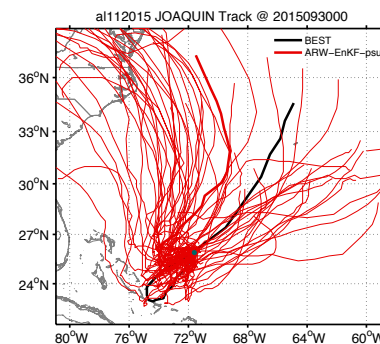
GEFS



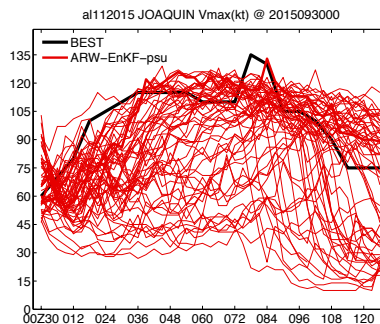
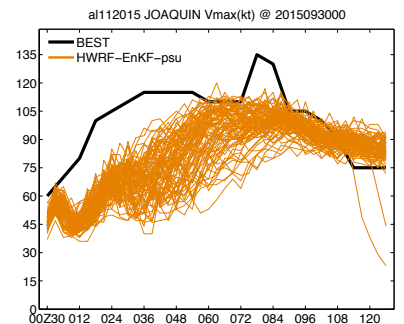
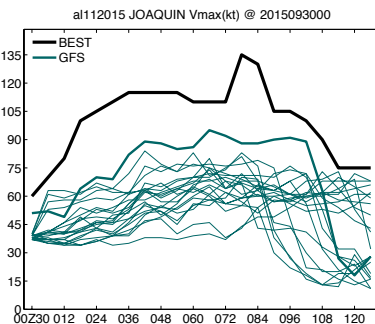
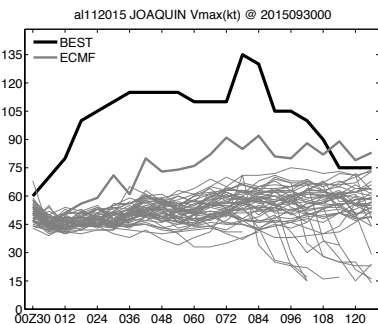
PSU HWRf-EnKF



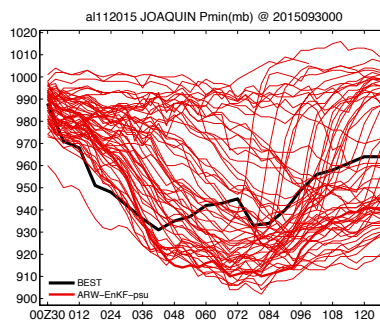
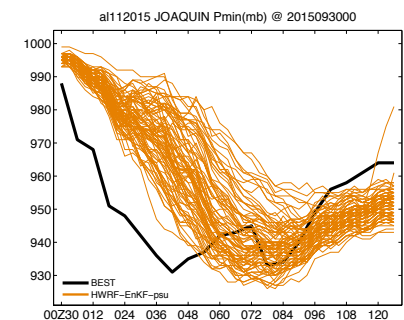
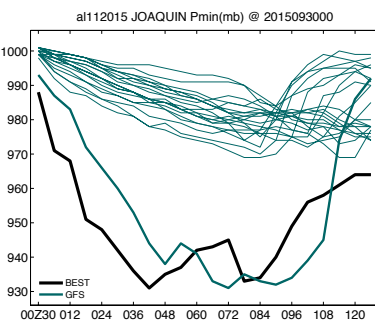
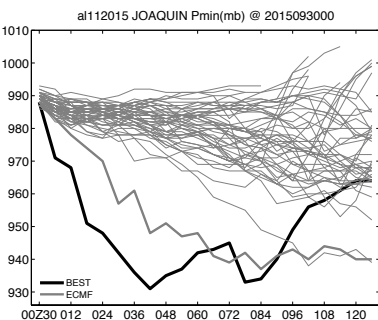
PSU ARW-EnKF



Vmax



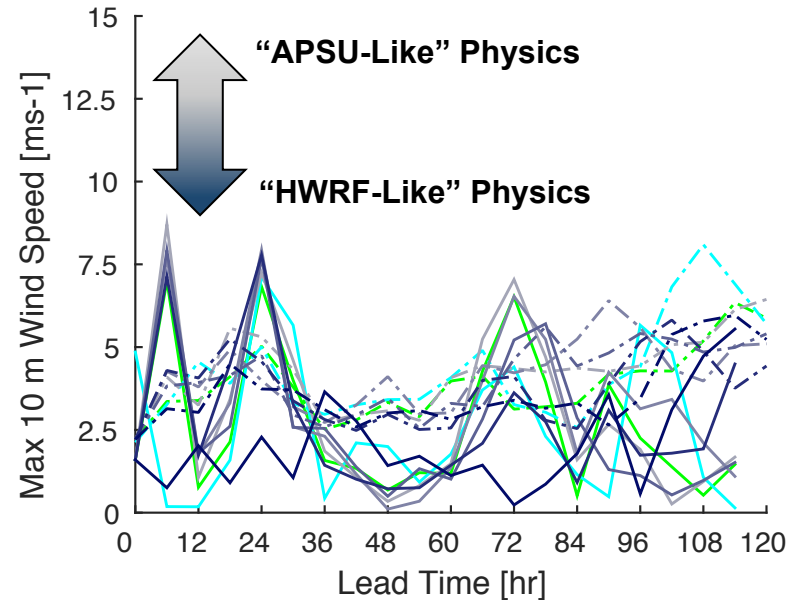
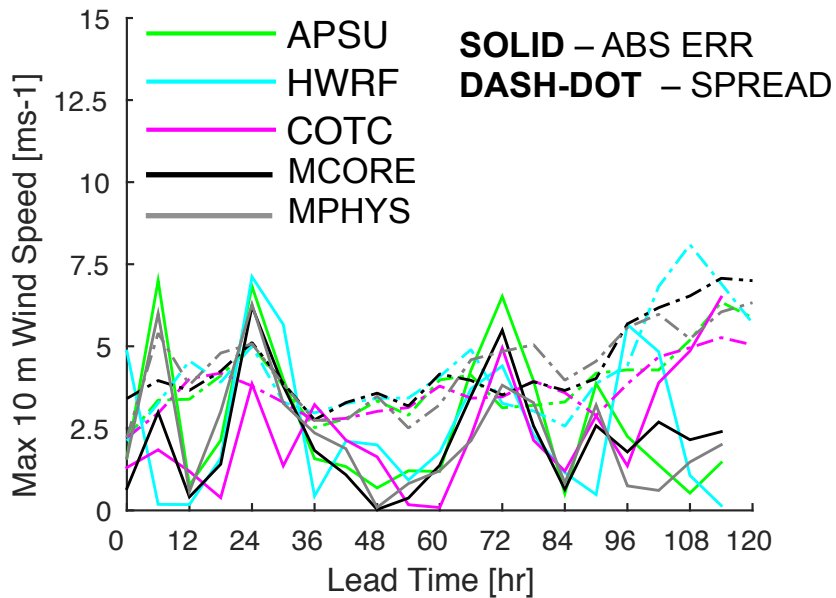
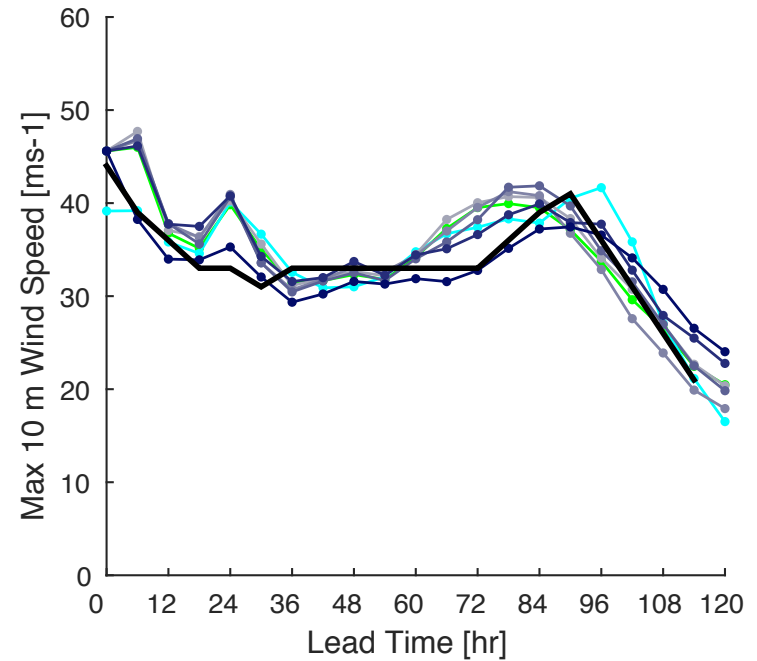
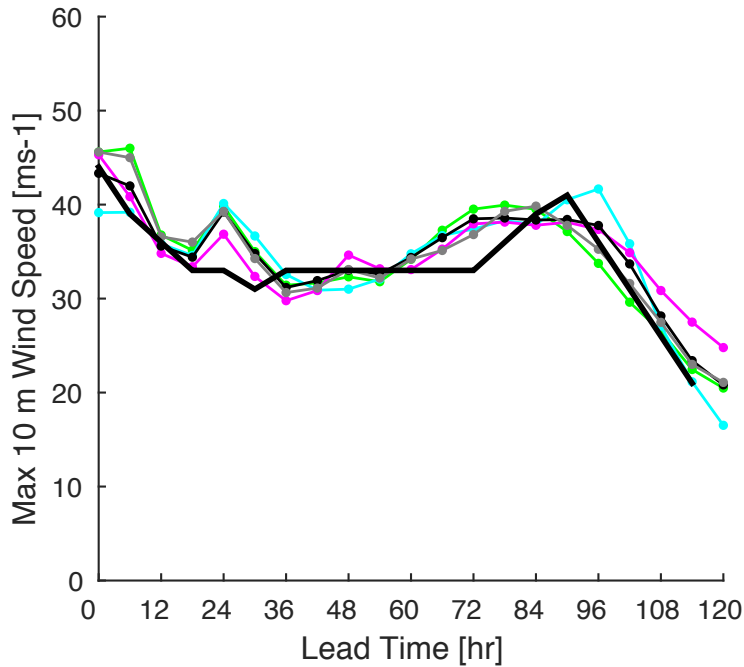
Pmin





# Hurricane Sandy (2012)

*\*NHC best track data as verification*



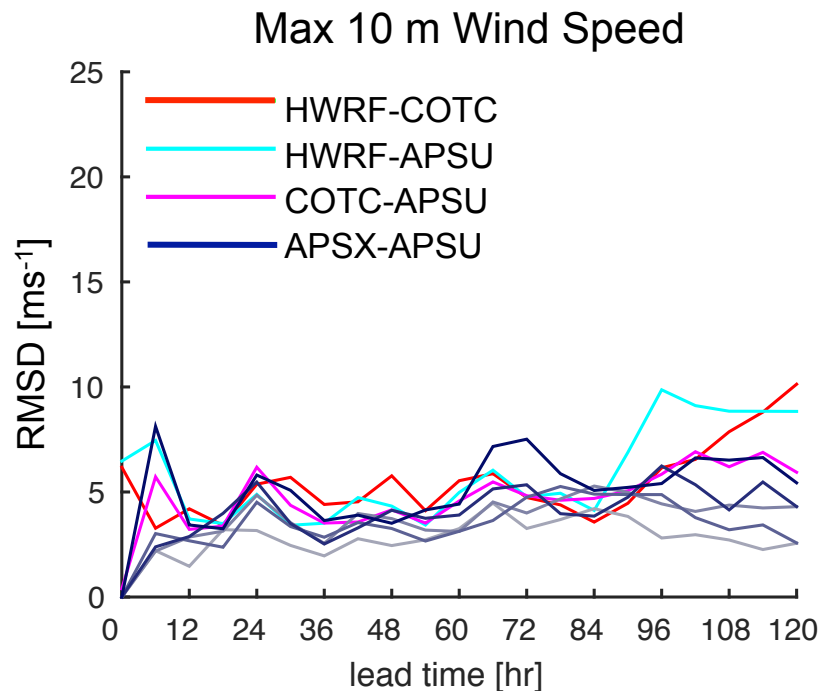
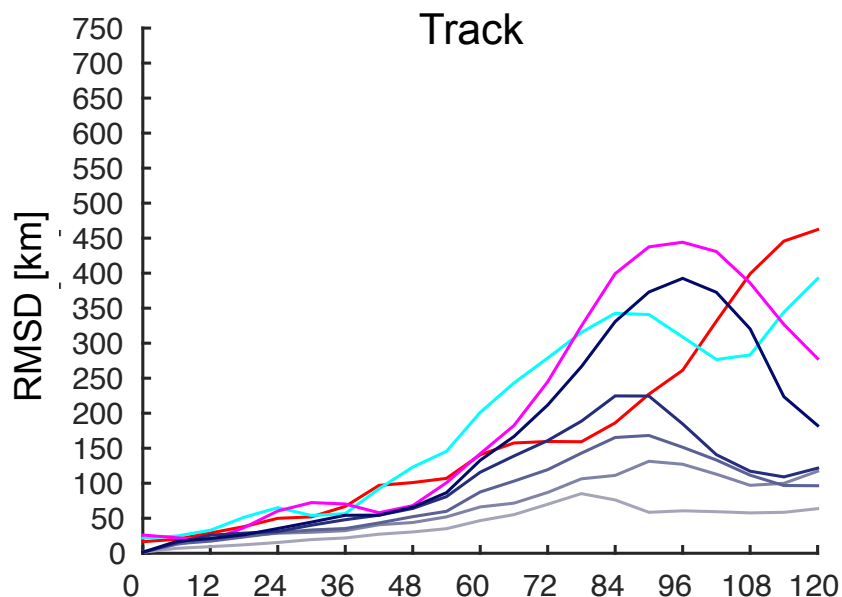
# Hurricane Sandy (2012) Model Error Growth



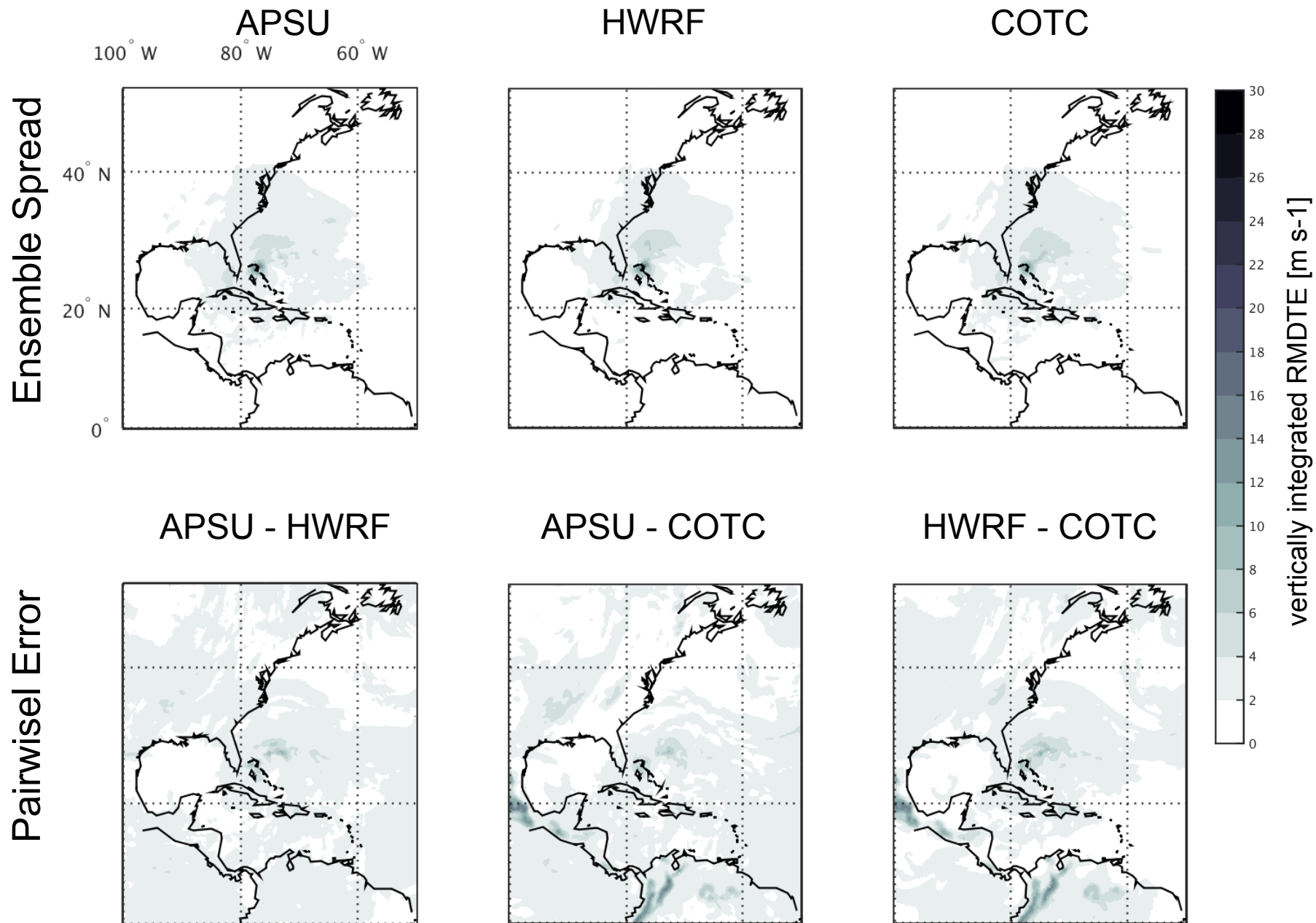
**“APSU-Like” Physics**

*Modify microphysics, radiation,  
PBL, surface drag, cumulus*

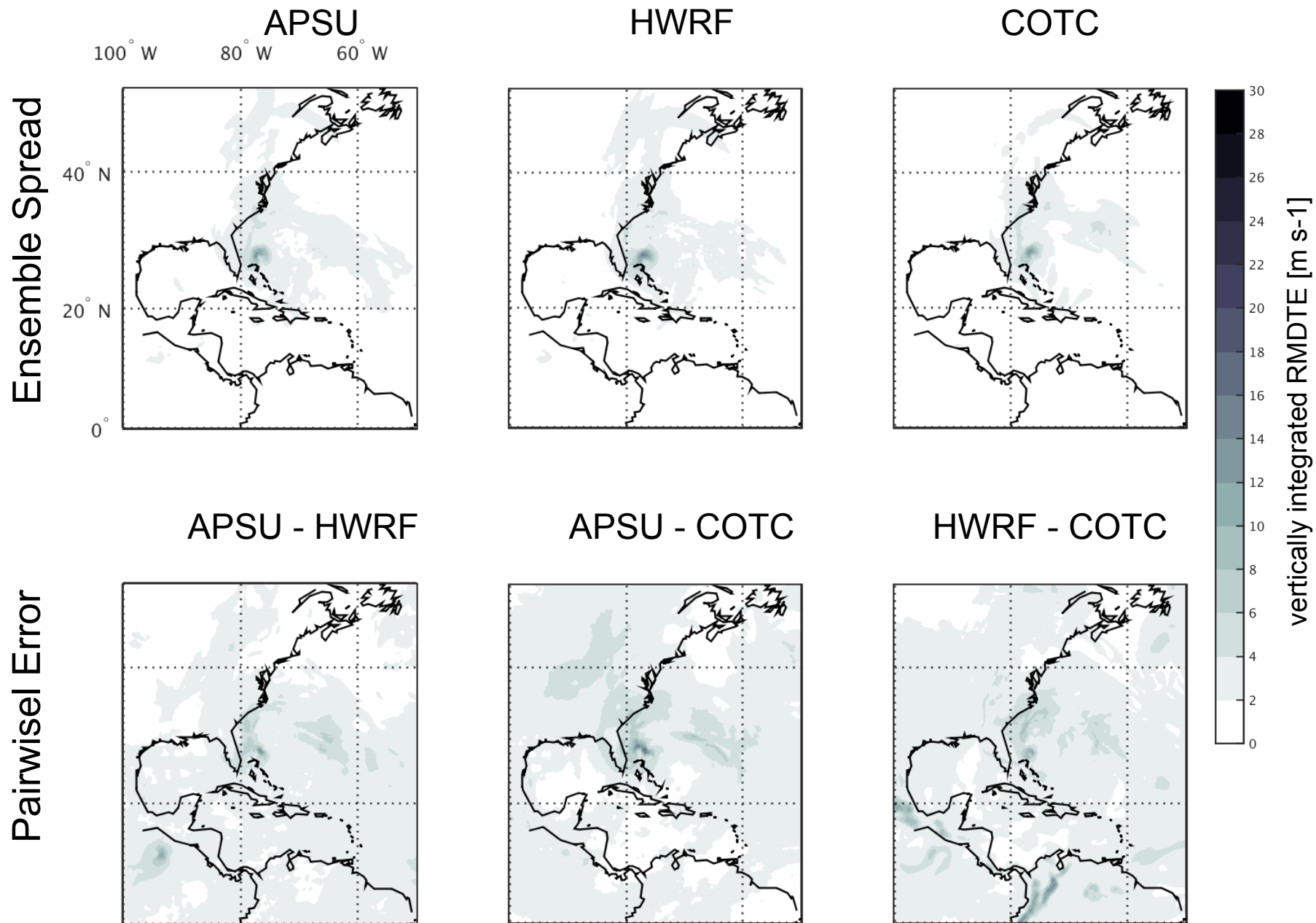
**“HWRF-Like” Physics**



# Hurricane Sandy (2012) Dom. Int. DTE (FHR 012)

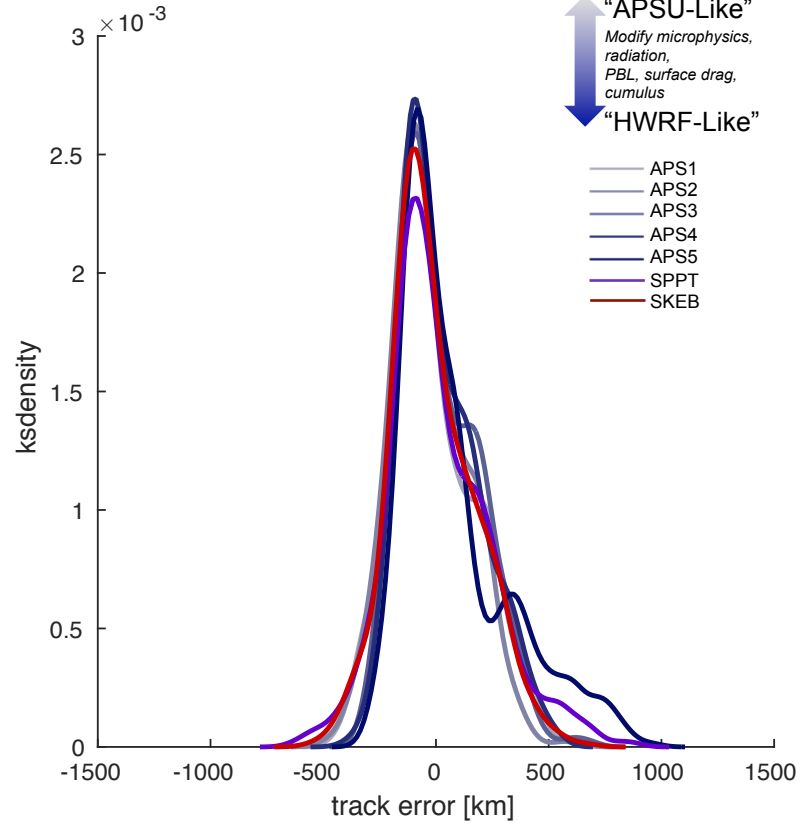
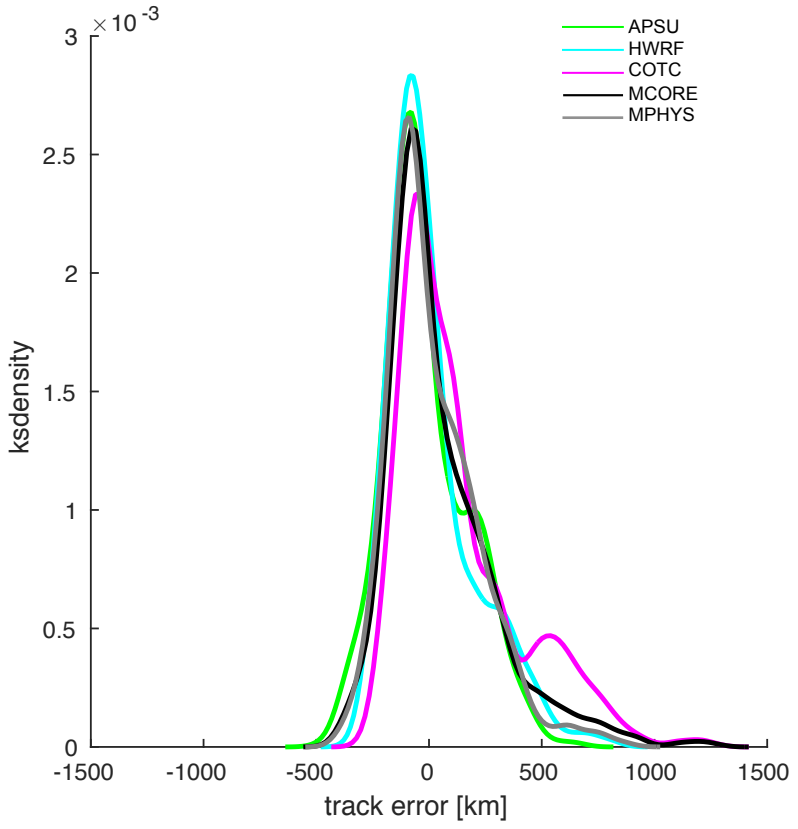


# Hurricane Sandy (2012) Dom. Int. DTE (FHR 036)



# Track Error kernel smoothed density distribution (HU Sandy)

Including all 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h) and ensemble members

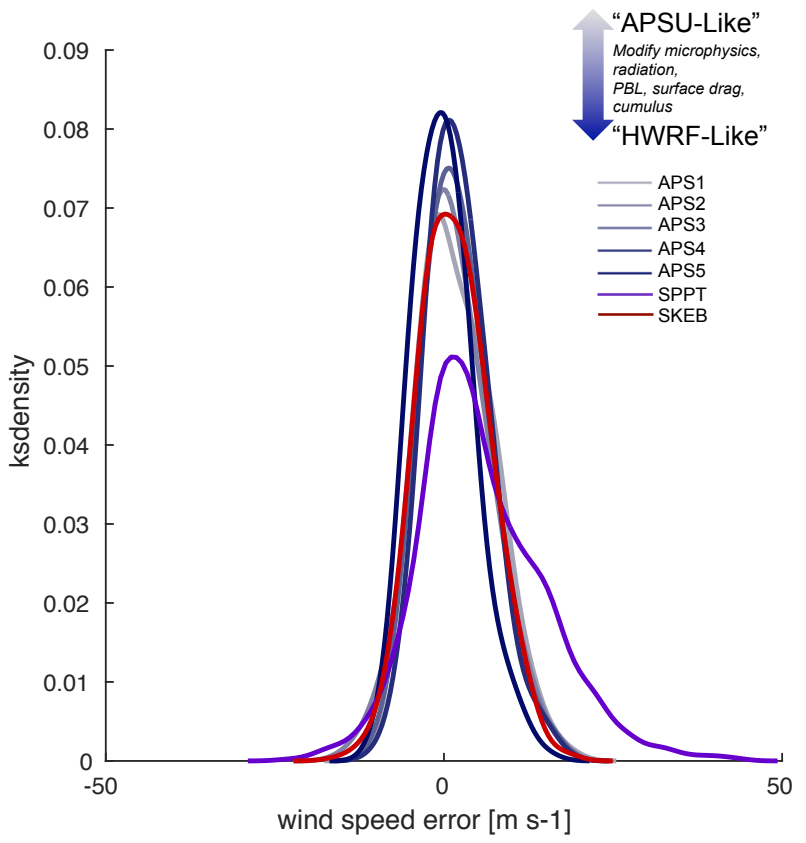
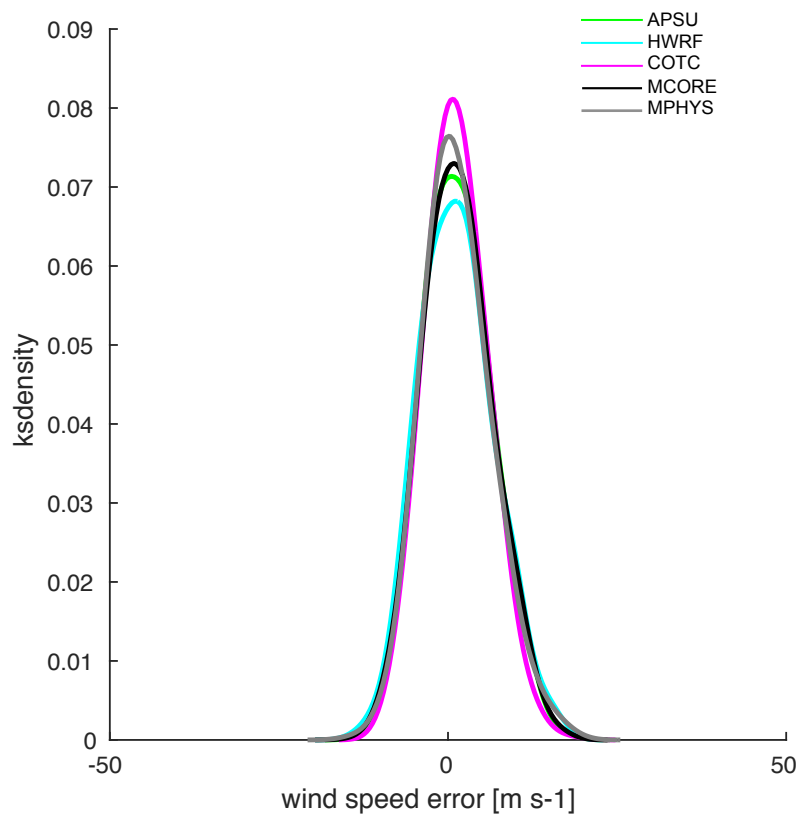


↑ “APSU-Like”  
*Modify microphysics,  
radiation,  
PBL, surface drag,  
cumulus*  
↓ “HWRF-Like”

• ...

# WSP error kernel smoothed density distribution (HU Sandy)

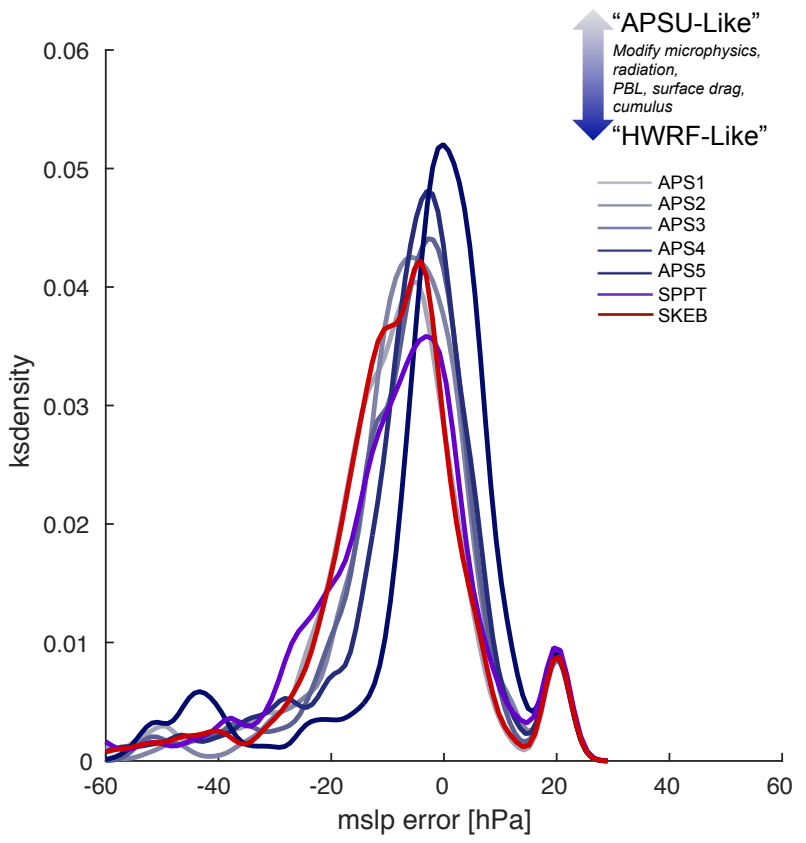
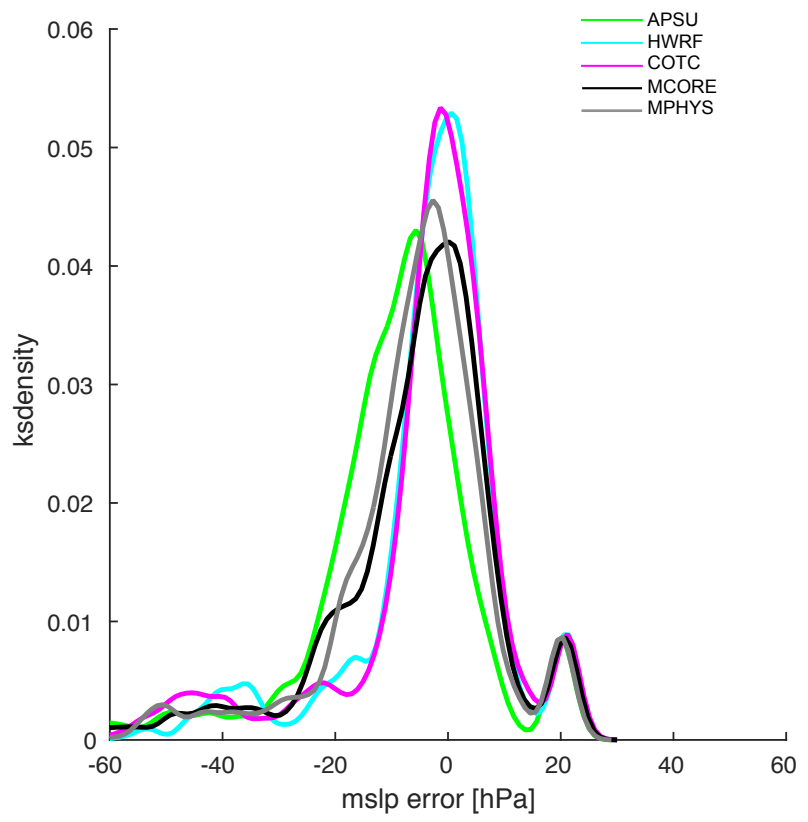
Including all 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h) and ensemble members



• ...

# MSLP error kernel smoothed density distribution (HU Sandy)

Including all 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h) and ensemble members



↑ “APSU-Like”  
Modify microphysics,  
radiation,  
PBL, surface drag,  
cumulus  
↓ “HWRF-Like”

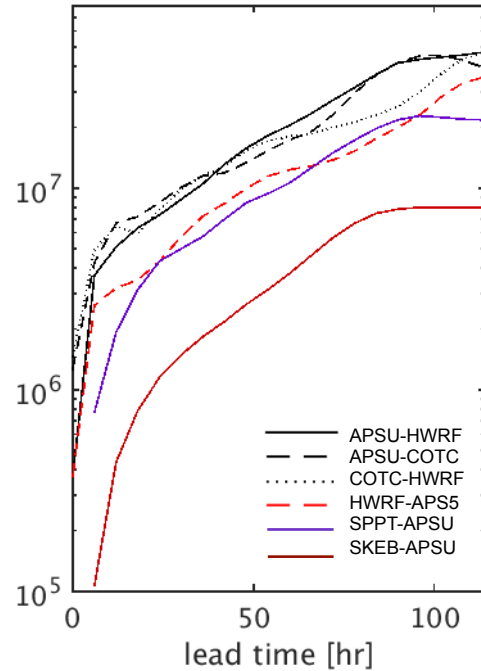
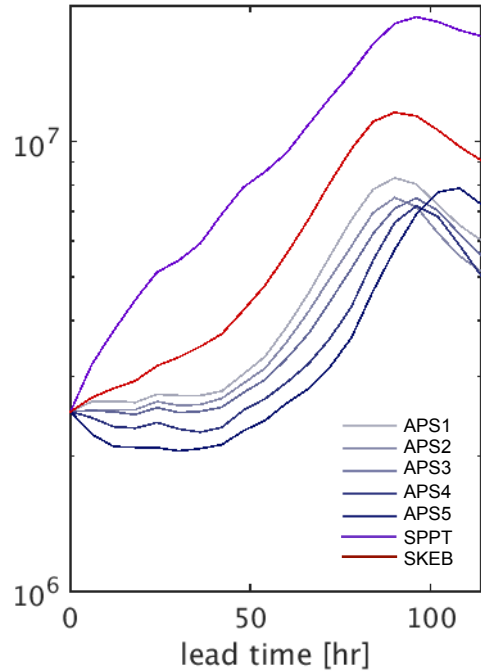
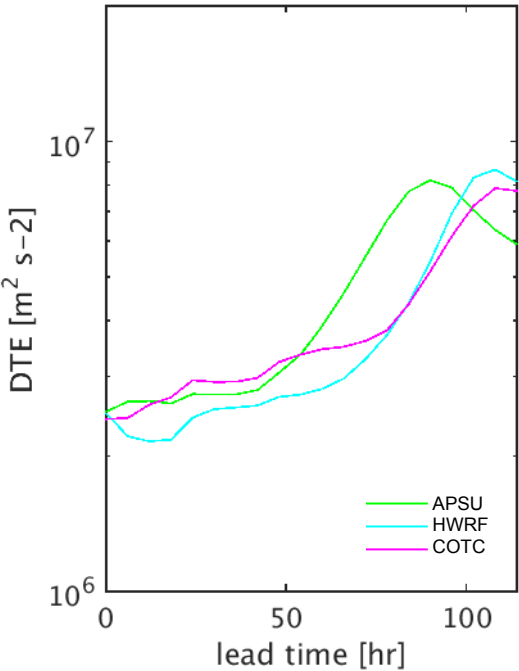
• ...





# Domain integrated DTE (HU Sandy)

6-hrly forecasts initialized at 2012-10-26 00 UTC



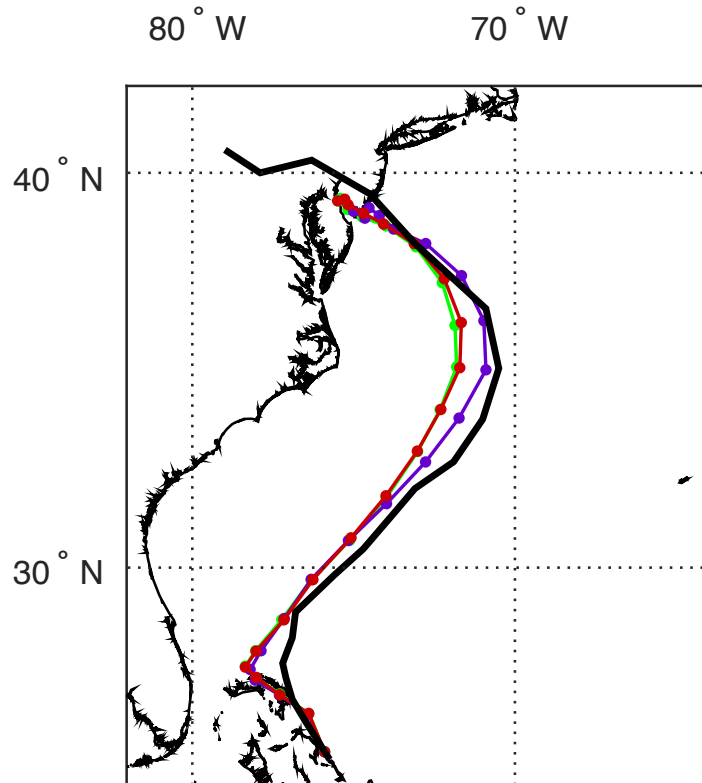
# Hurricane Sandy (2012)

## Ensemble Mean – Stochastic Physics

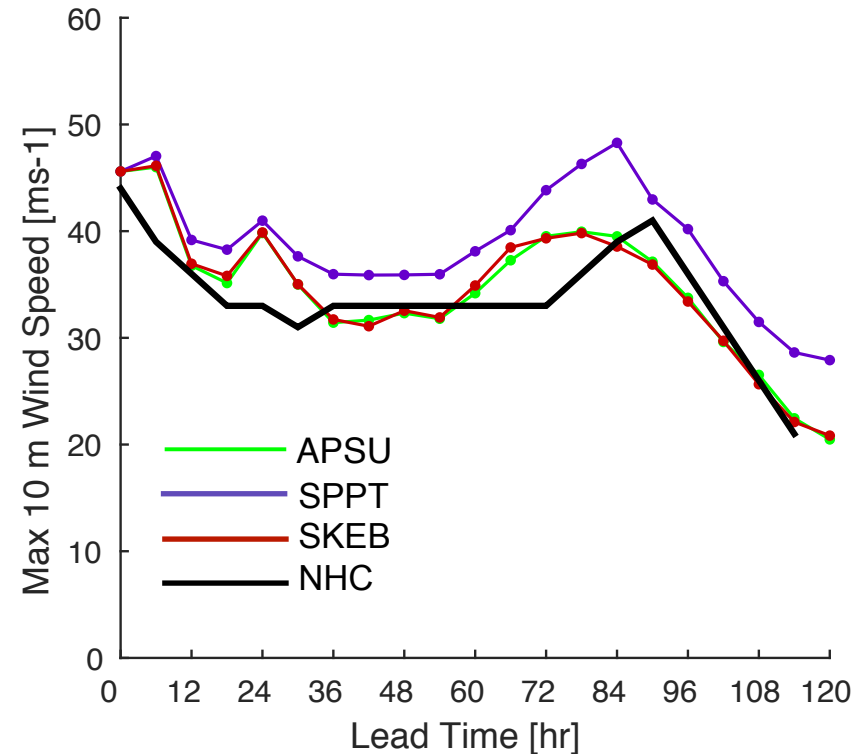
SPPT shifts both the ensemble mean, improving track but degrading intensity

SKEBS minimally impacts mean

### Ensemble Mean Track



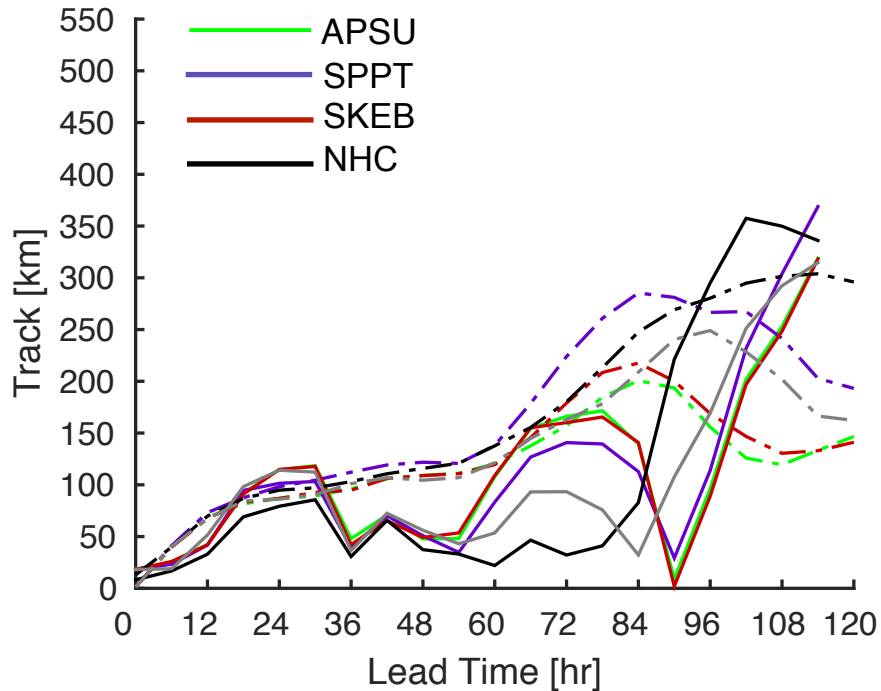
### Ensemble Mean Intensity



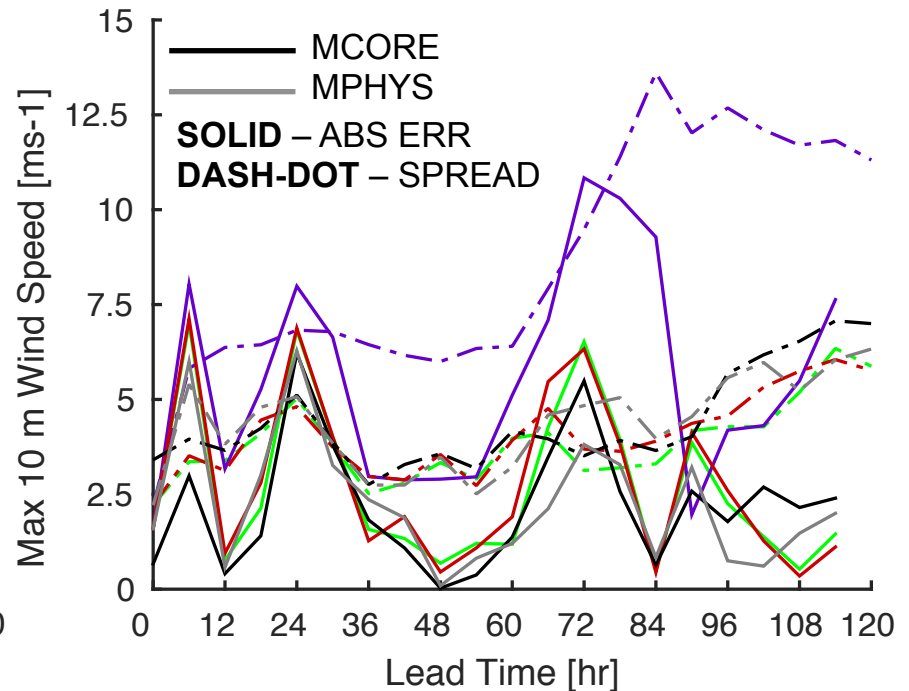
# Hurricane Sandy (2012) ...

## Absolute Error and Spread – Stochastic Physics

### Track Spread/Abs. Error



### Intensity Spread/Abs. Error



# Horizontal RMDTE (HU Sandy) – Stochastic

Initialized at 2012-10-26 00 UTC

FHR 012

FHR 036

**SPPT**

**SKEB**

**SPPT**

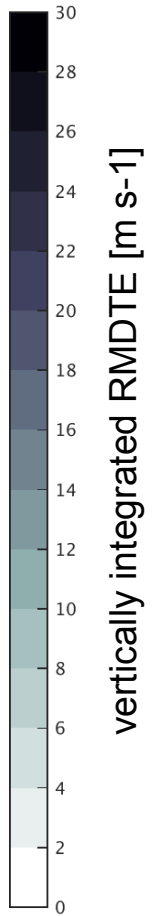
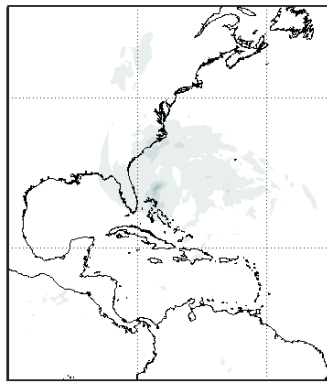
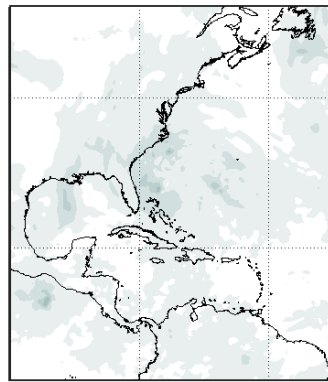
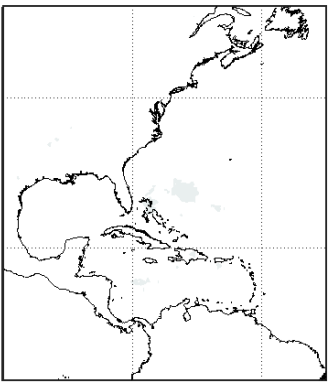
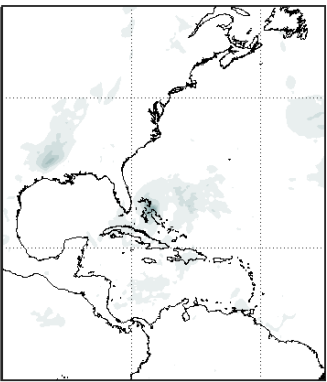
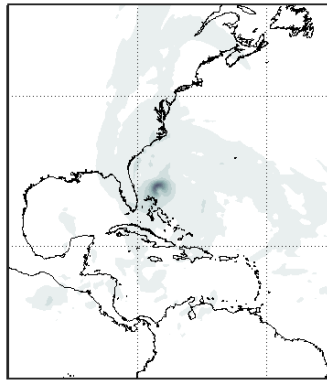
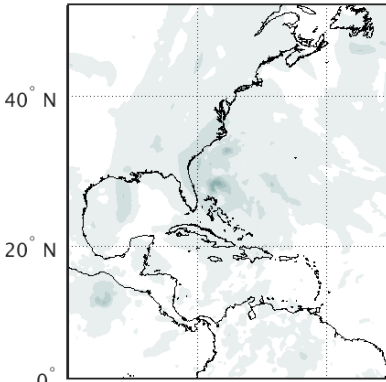
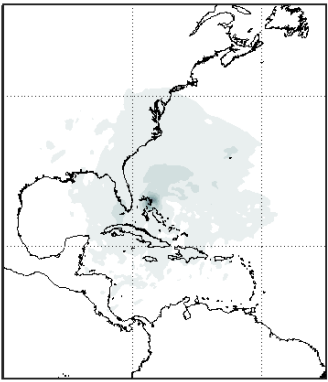
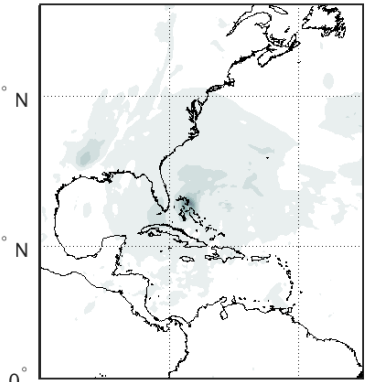
**SKEB**

100° W    80° W    60° W

100° W    80° W    60° W

Ensemble Spread

Pairwise Error



# Horizontal RMDTE (HU Edouard) – Stochastic

Initialized at 2012-10-26 00 UTC

FHR 012

FHR 036

**SPPT**

**SKEB**

**SPPT**

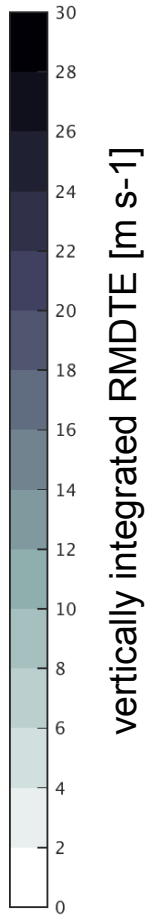
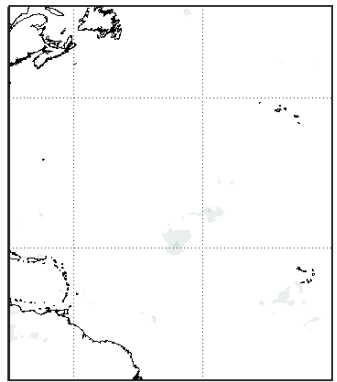
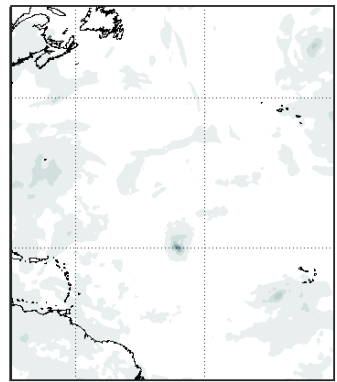
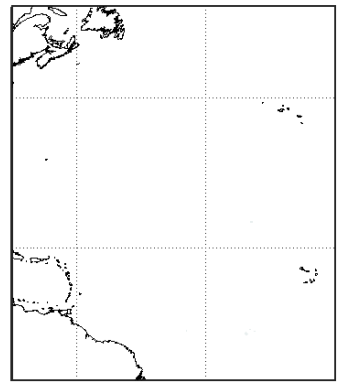
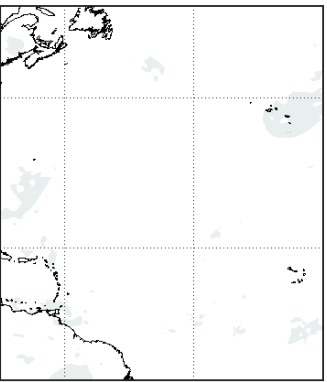
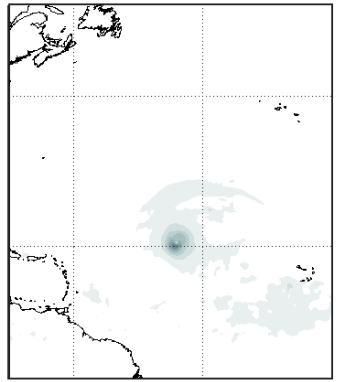
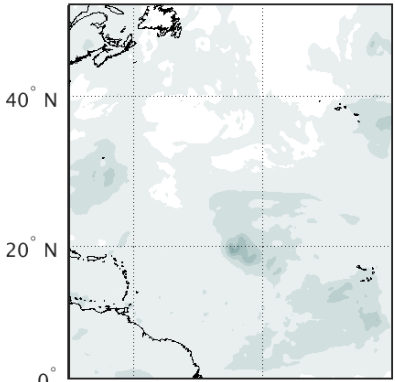
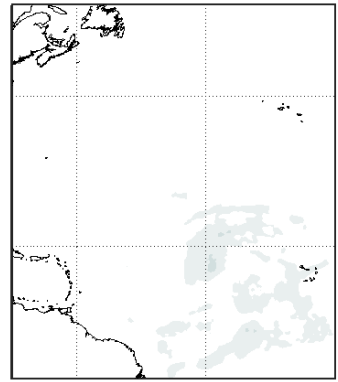
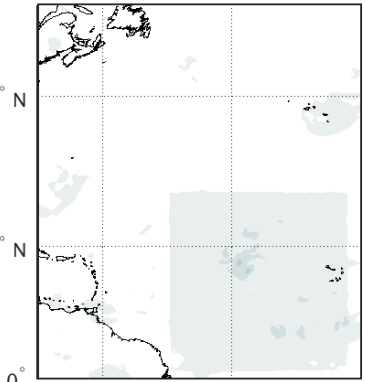
**SKEB**

60° W 40° W 20°

60° W 40° W 20°

Ensemble Spread

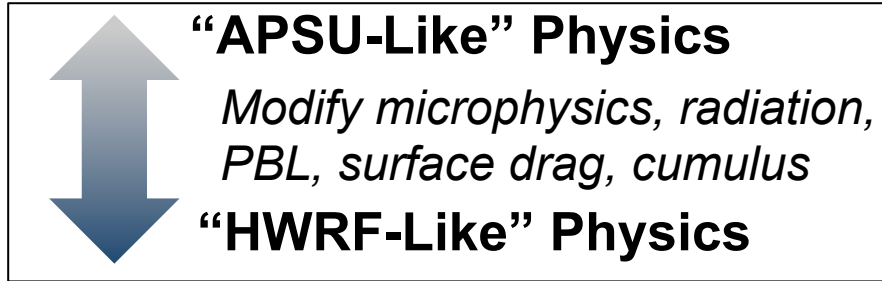
Pairwise Error



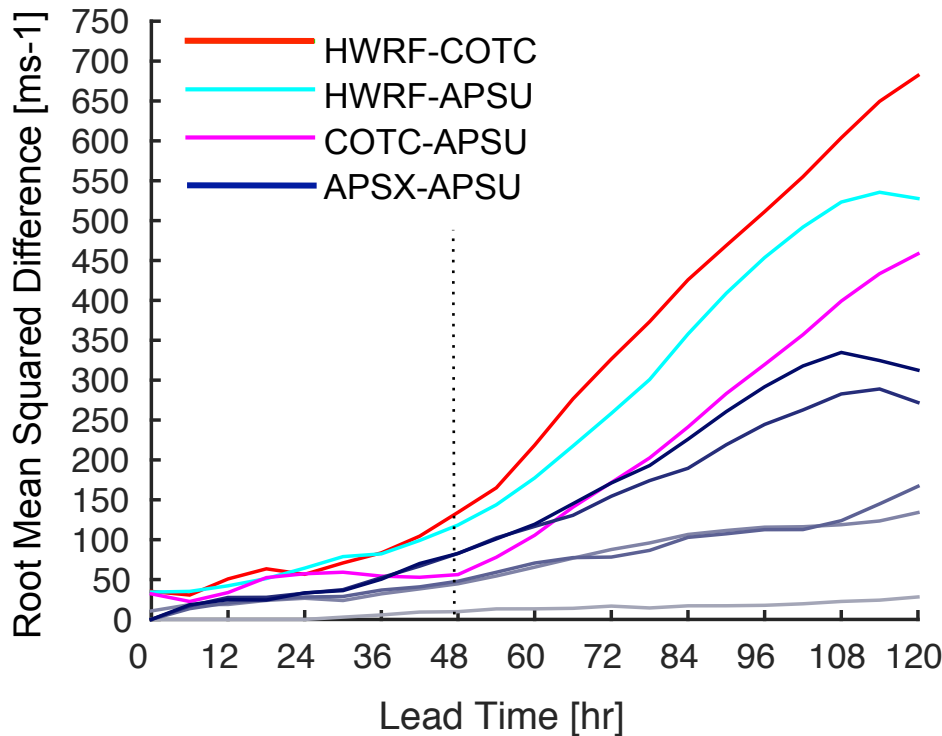
# Hurricane Edouard (2014)

## Model Error Growth

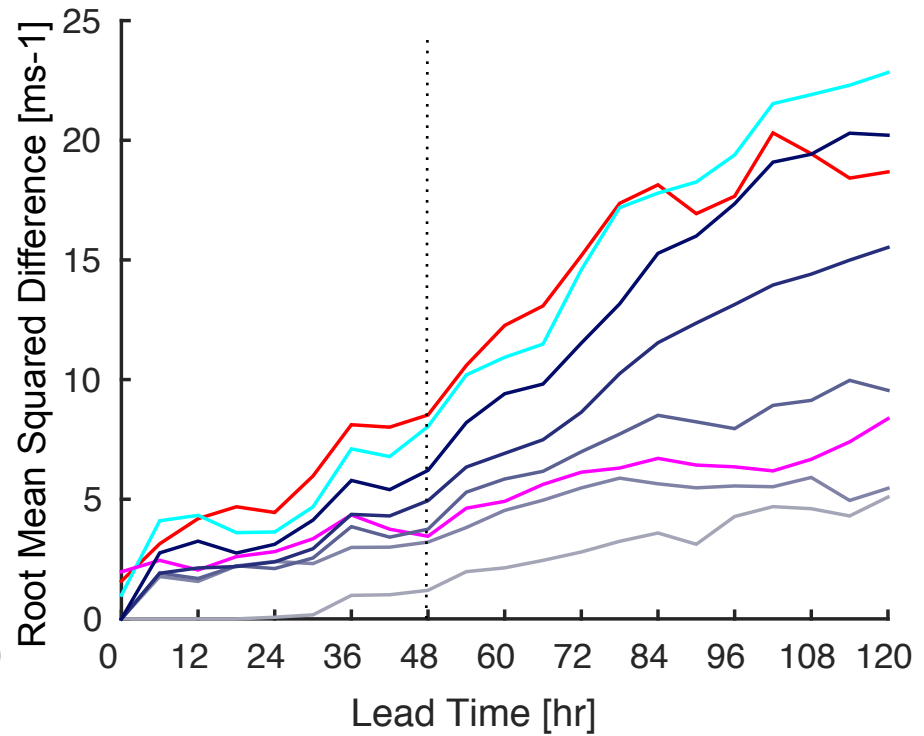
Error growth between models for the same ensemble member is highly dependent on model and/or physics configuration



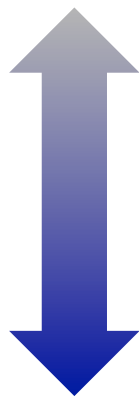
### Pairwise Track RMS Difference



### Pairwise Intensity RMS Difference



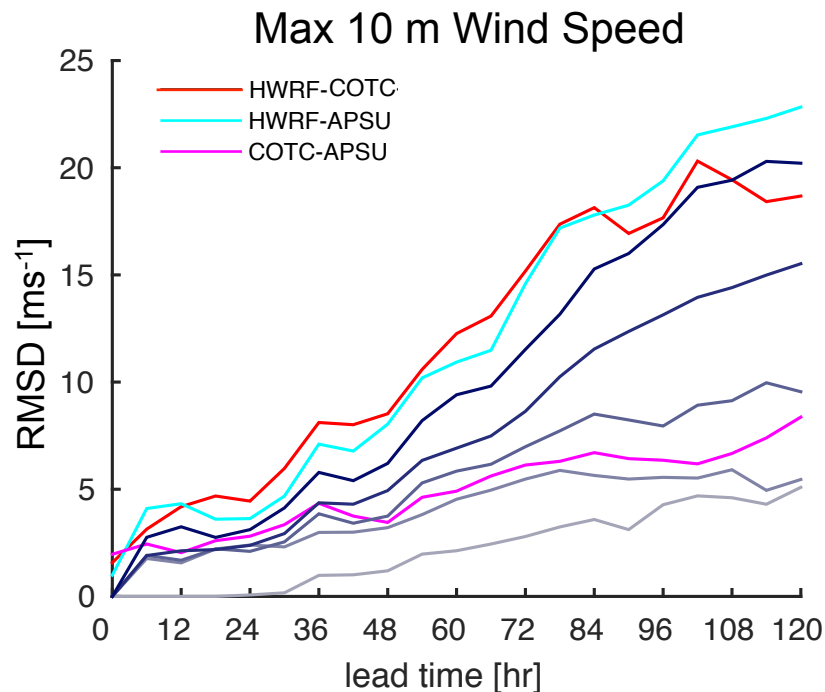
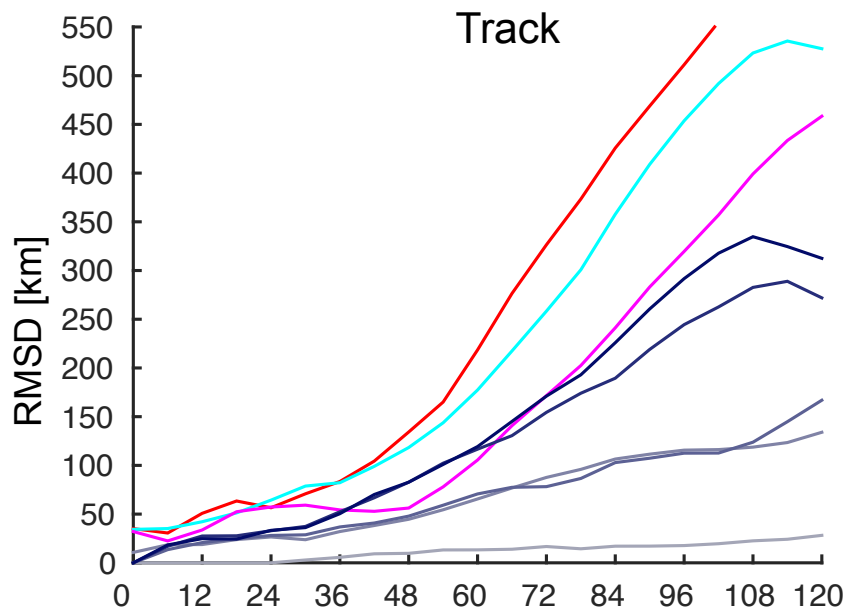
# Hurricane Edouard (2014) Model Error Growth



**“APSU-Like” Physics**

*Modify microphysics, radiation,  
PBL, surface drag, cumulus*

**“HWRF-Like” Physics**



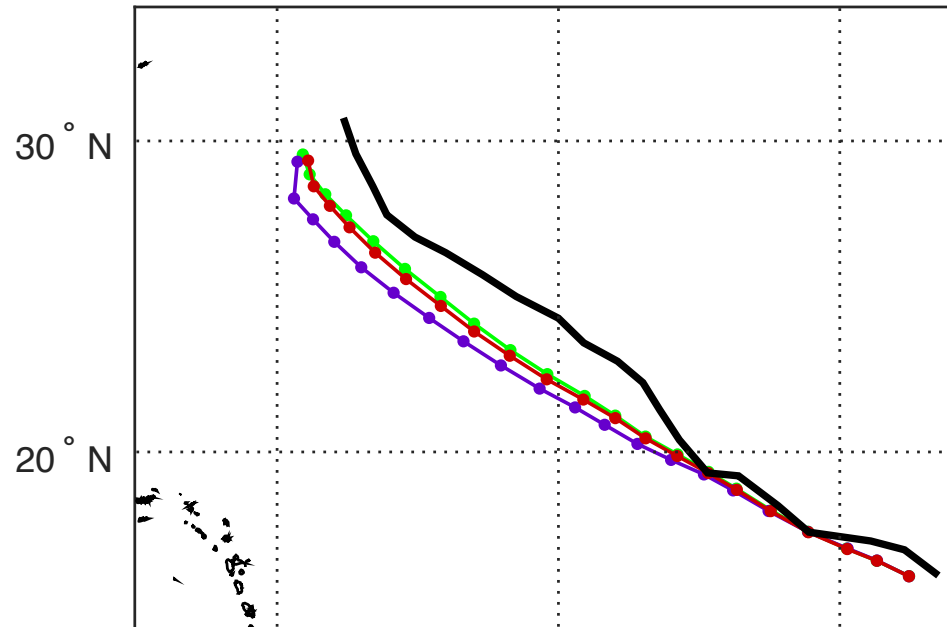
# Hurricane Edouard (2014)

## Absolute Error and Spread – Stochastic Physics

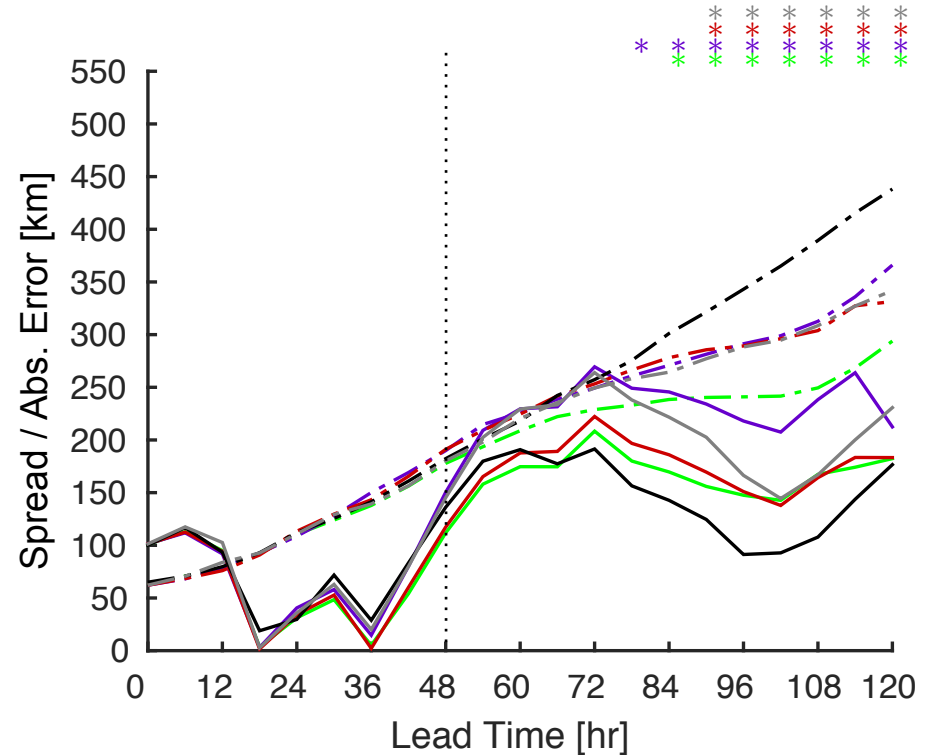
...

### Ensemble Mean Track

60° W      50° W      40° W



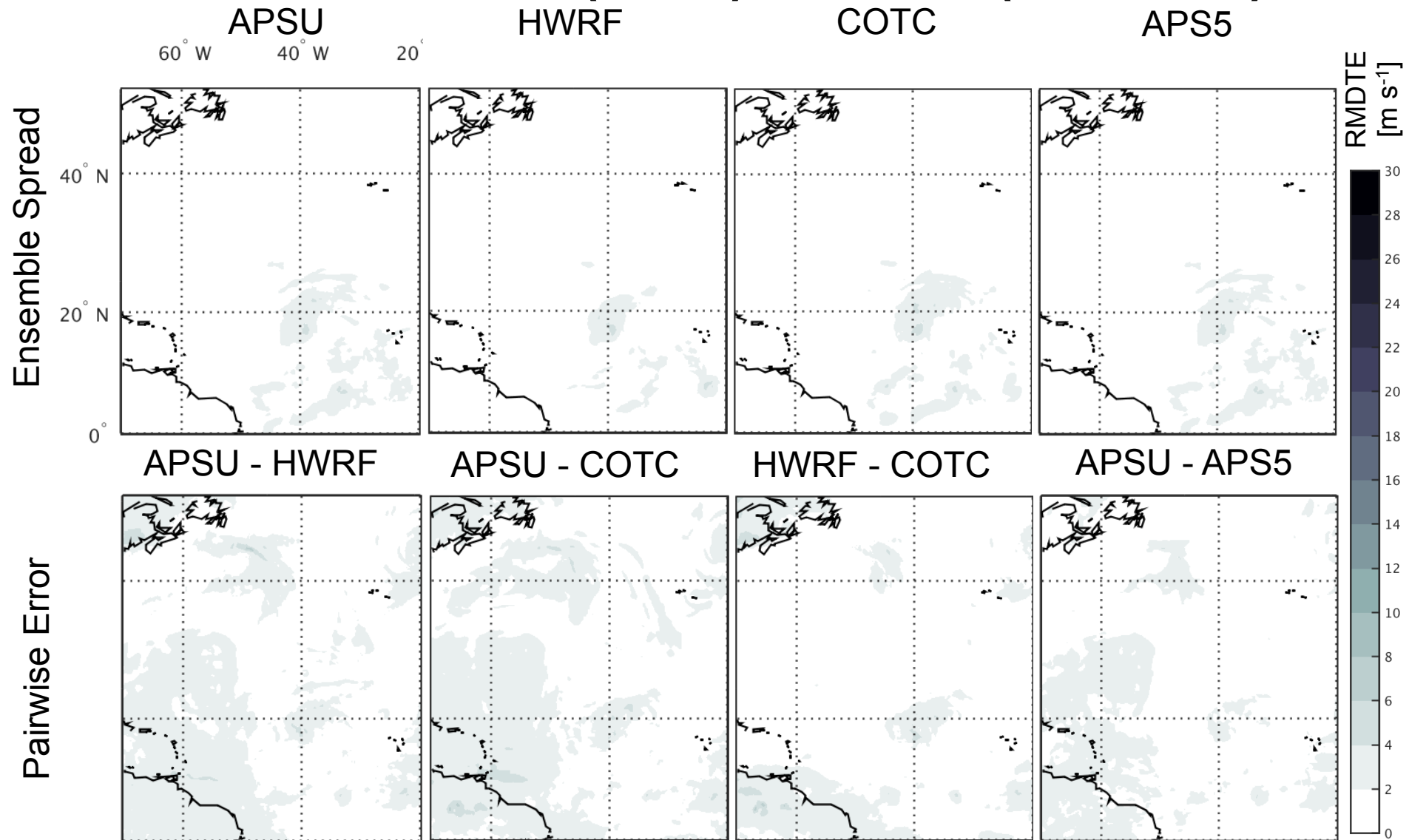
### Track Verification







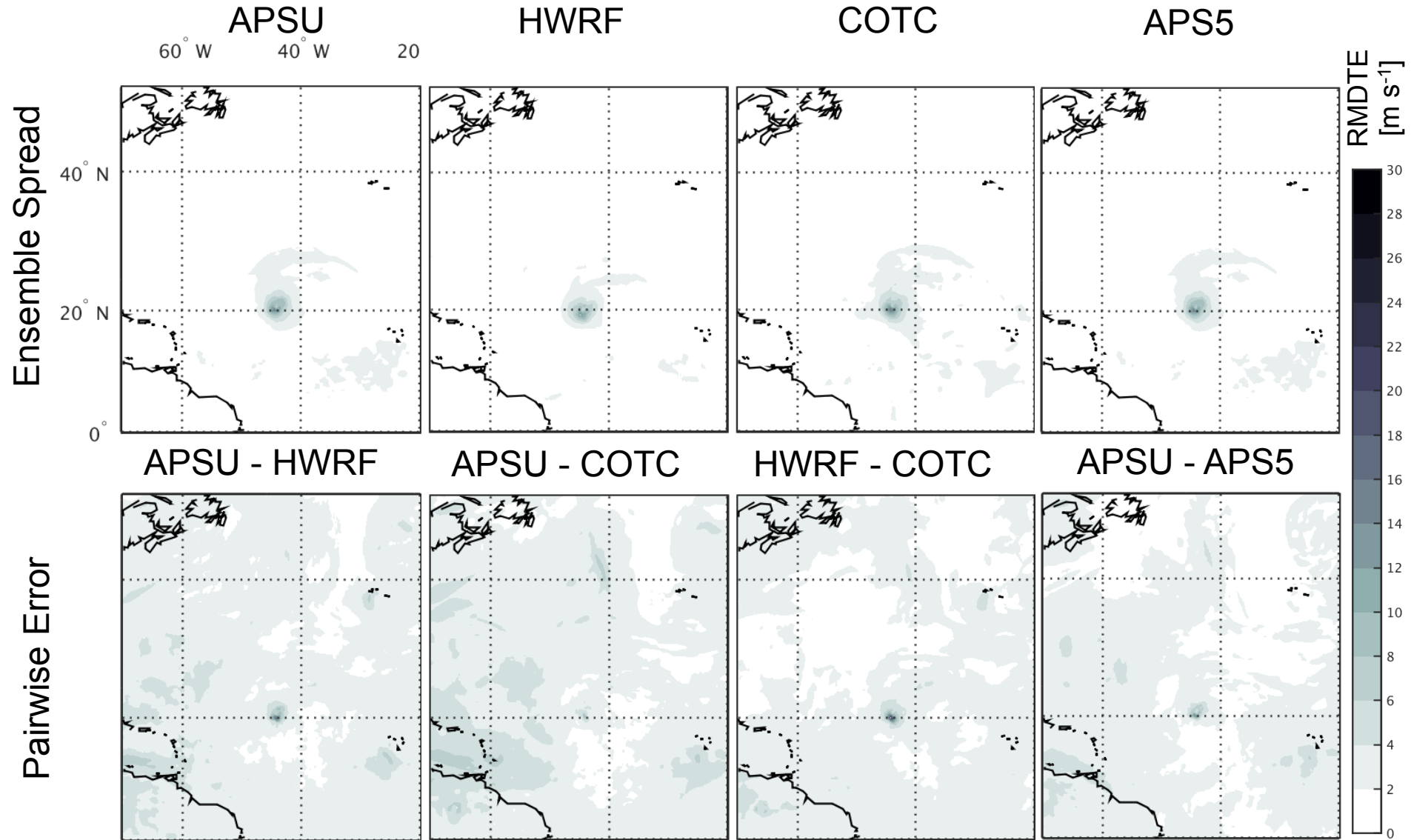
# Hurricane Edouard (2014) RMDTE (FHR 012)



$$RMDTE_{i,j} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{k} \sum_k \frac{1}{n} \sum_n U_{i,j,k,n}'^2 + V_{i,j,k,n}'^2 + \kappa T_{i,j,k,n}'^2}$$

where ' indicates difference between experiments and  $\kappa = \frac{C_p}{T_0}$

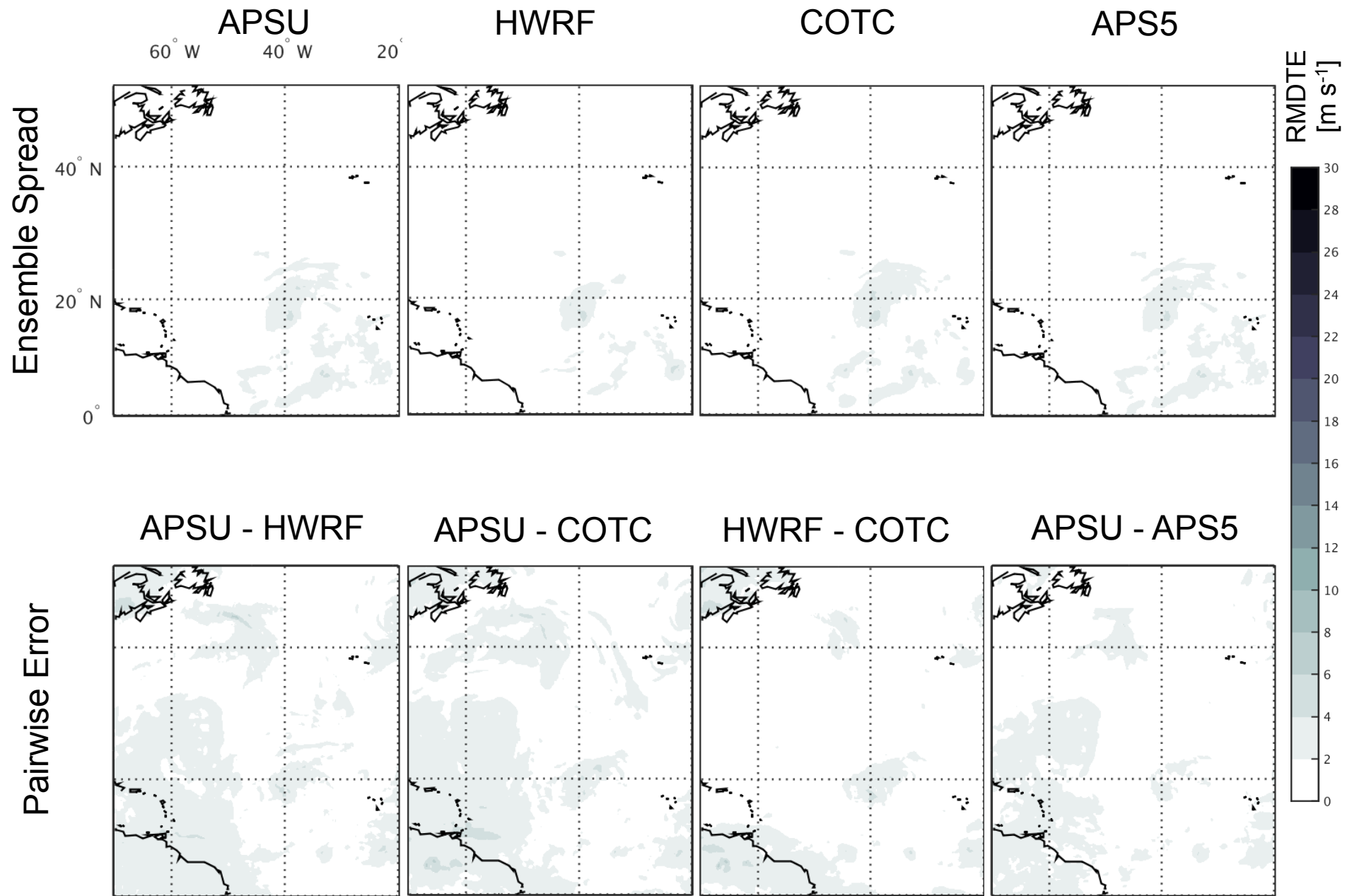
# Hurricane Edouard (2014) RMDTE (FHR 036)



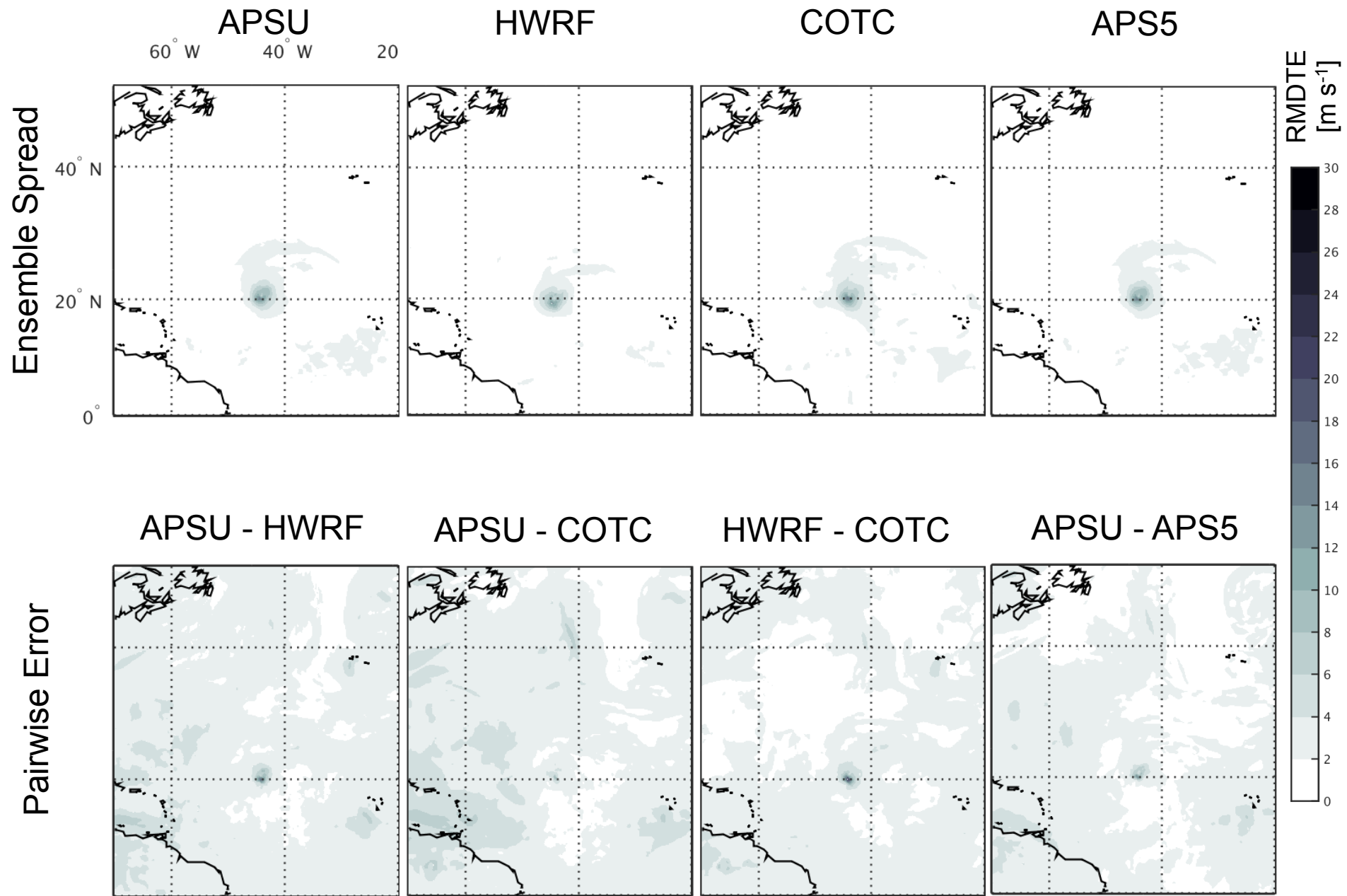
$$RMDTE_{i,j} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{k} \sum_k \frac{1}{n} \sum_n U_{i,j,k,n}'^2 + V_{i,j,k,n}'^2 + \kappa T_{i,j,k,n}'^2}$$

where ' indicates difference between experiments and  $\kappa = \frac{C_p}{T_0}$

# Hurricane Edouard (2014) RMDTE (FHR 012)

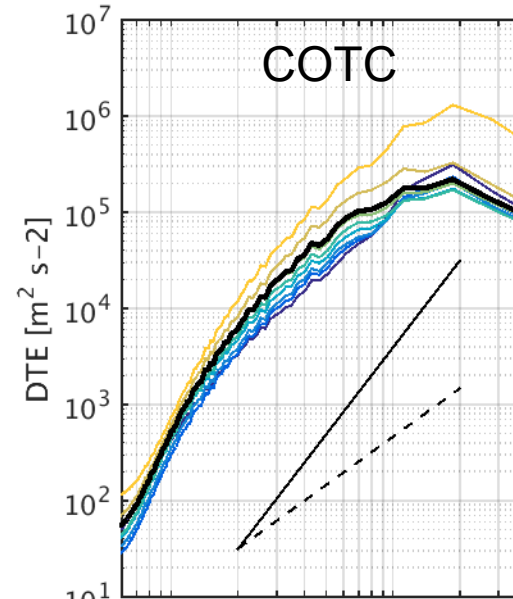
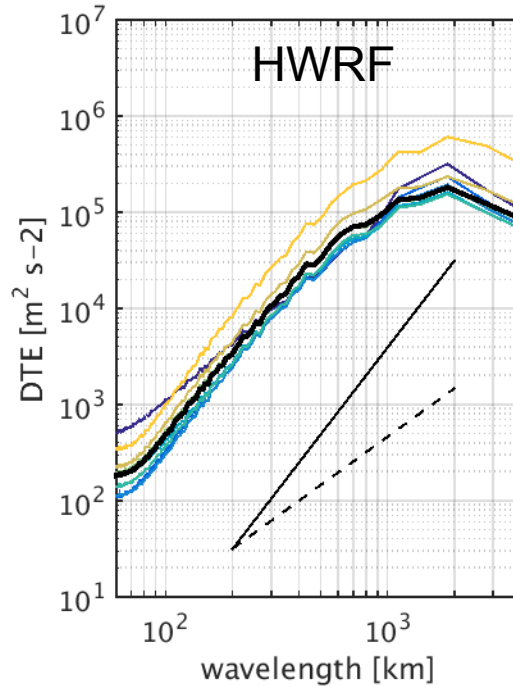
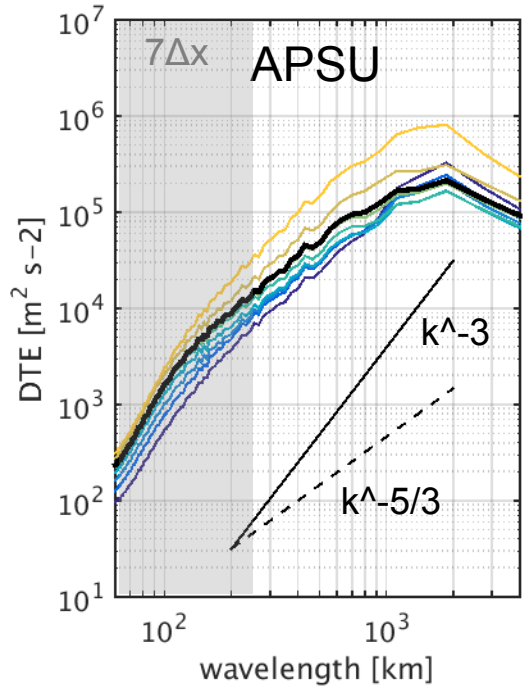


# Hurricane Edouard (2014) RMDTE (FHR 036)

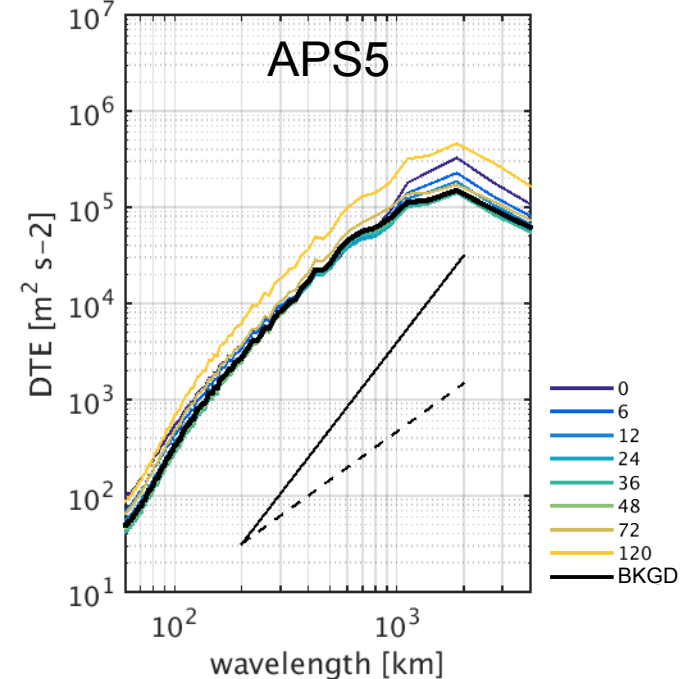


# Hurricane Edouard

## 2D power spectra of DTE at selected times



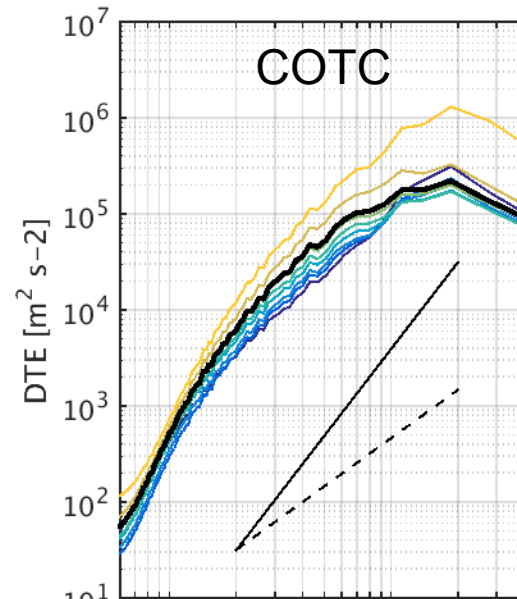
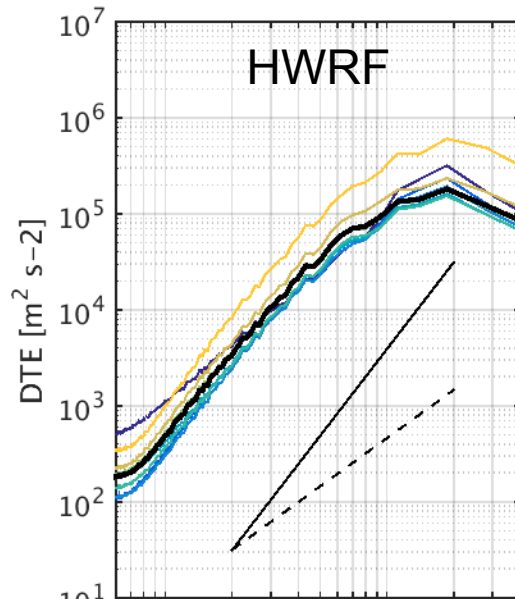
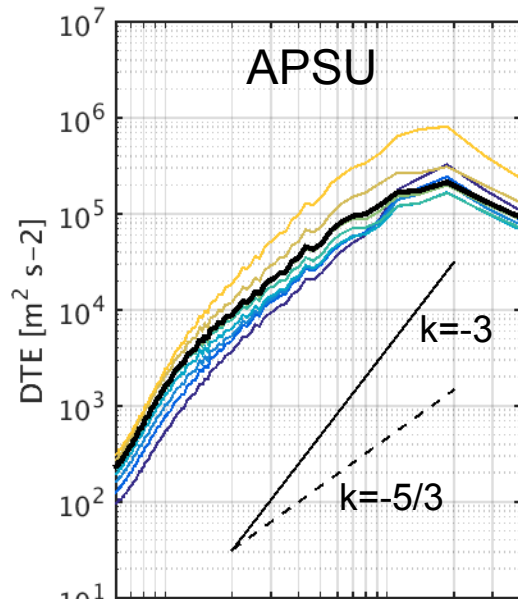
- Only energetic system in domain, upscale error growth within models
  - Model physics can drastically alter the error growth characteristics (HWRF and APS5)
  - Differences at smaller wavelengths due to diffusion/damping



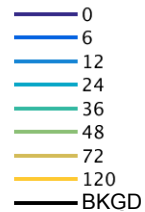
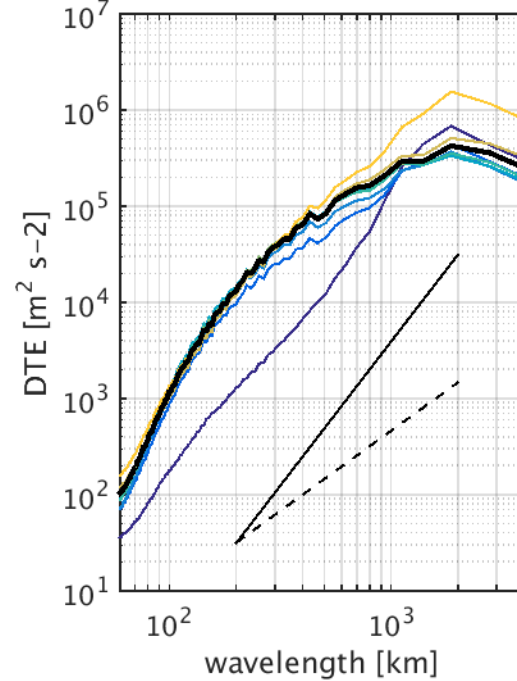
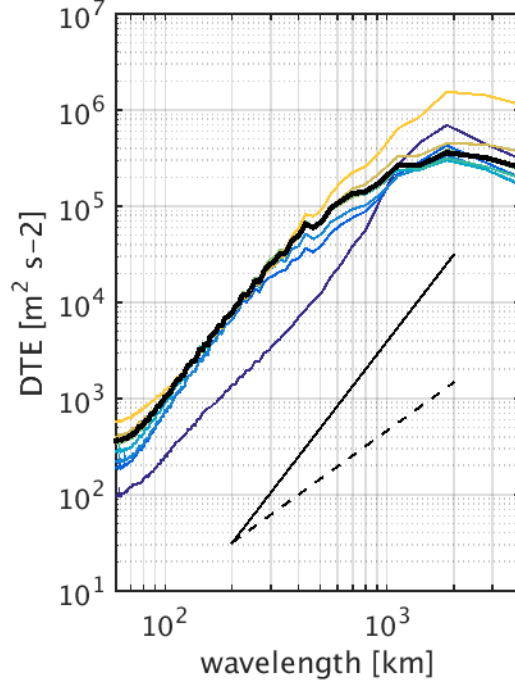
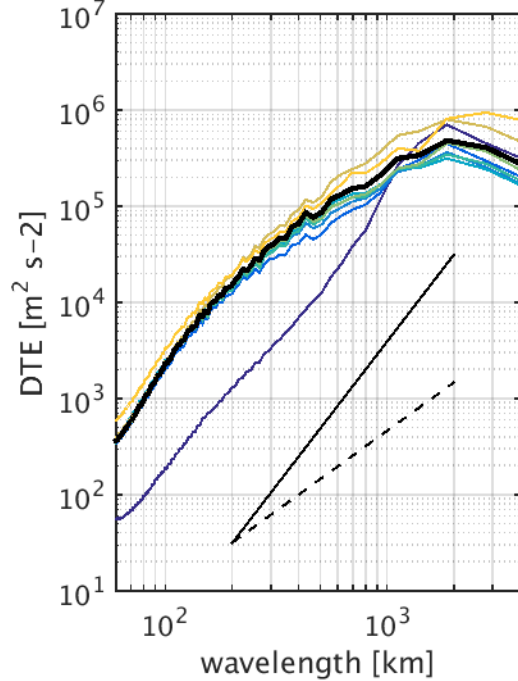
# Hurricane Edouard and Sandy

## 2D power spectra of DTE at selected times

**Edouard**



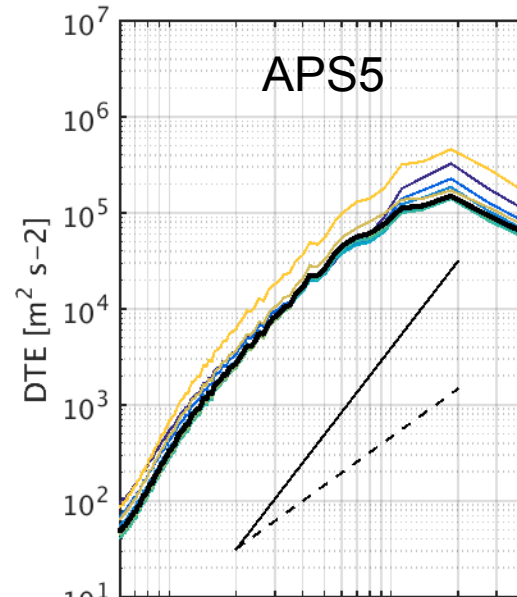
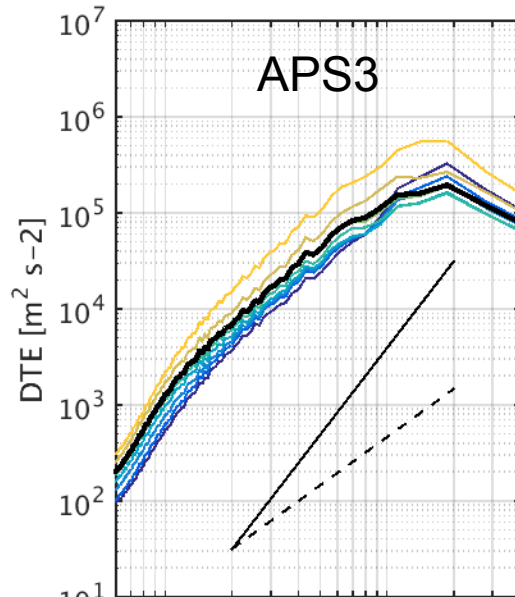
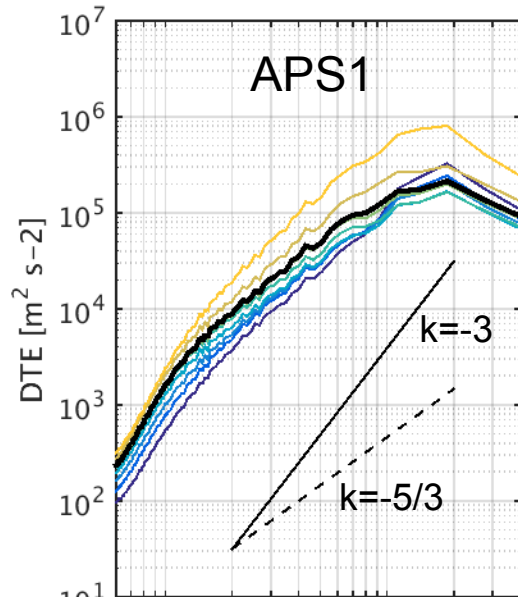
**Sandy**



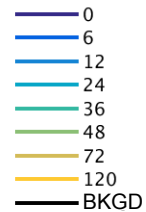
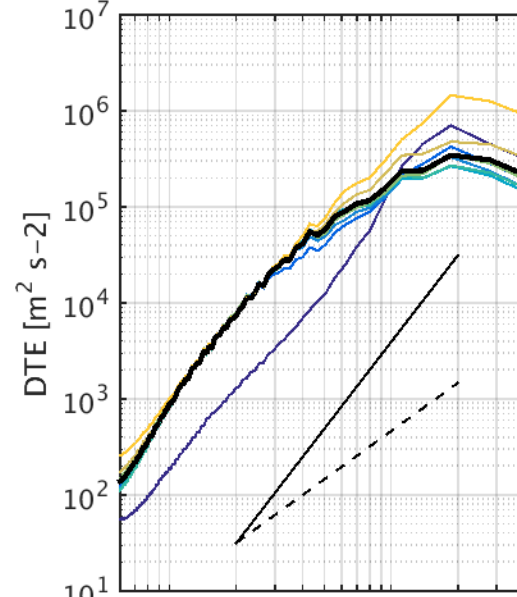
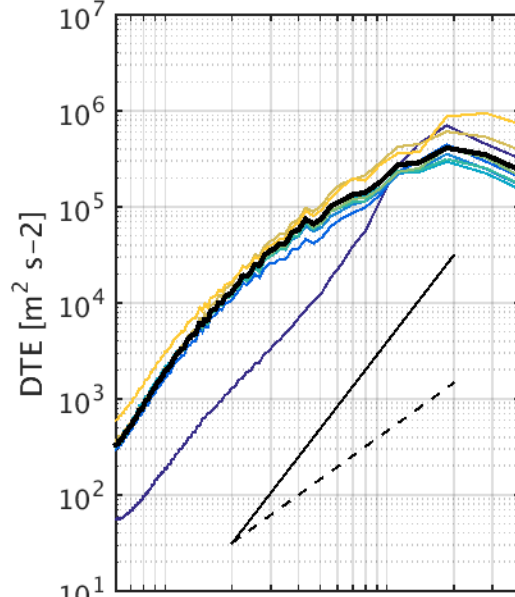
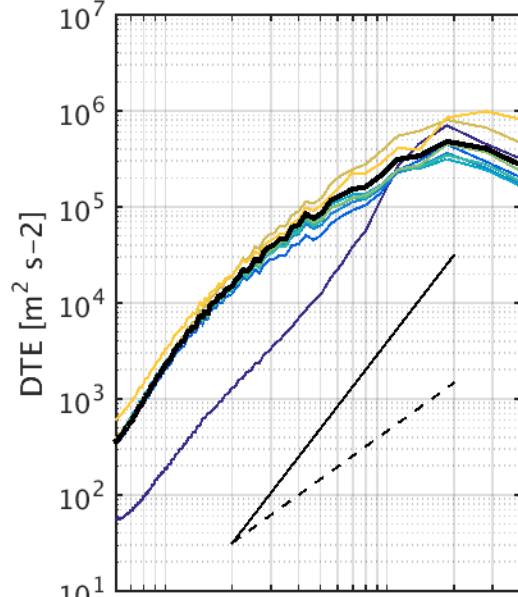
# Hurricane Edouard and Sandy

## 2D power spectra of DTE at selected times

**Edouard**



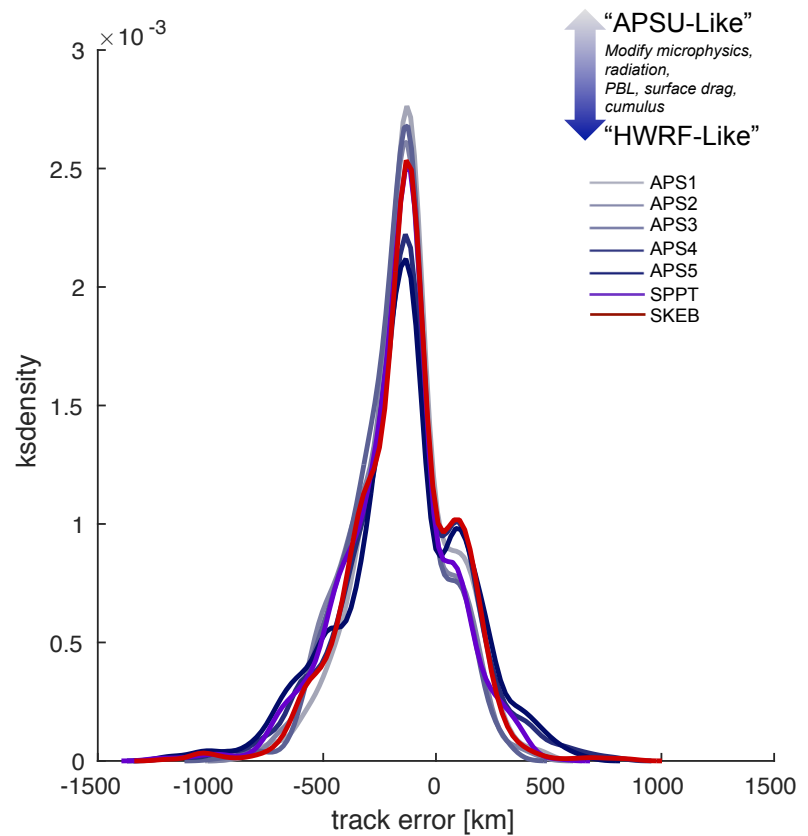
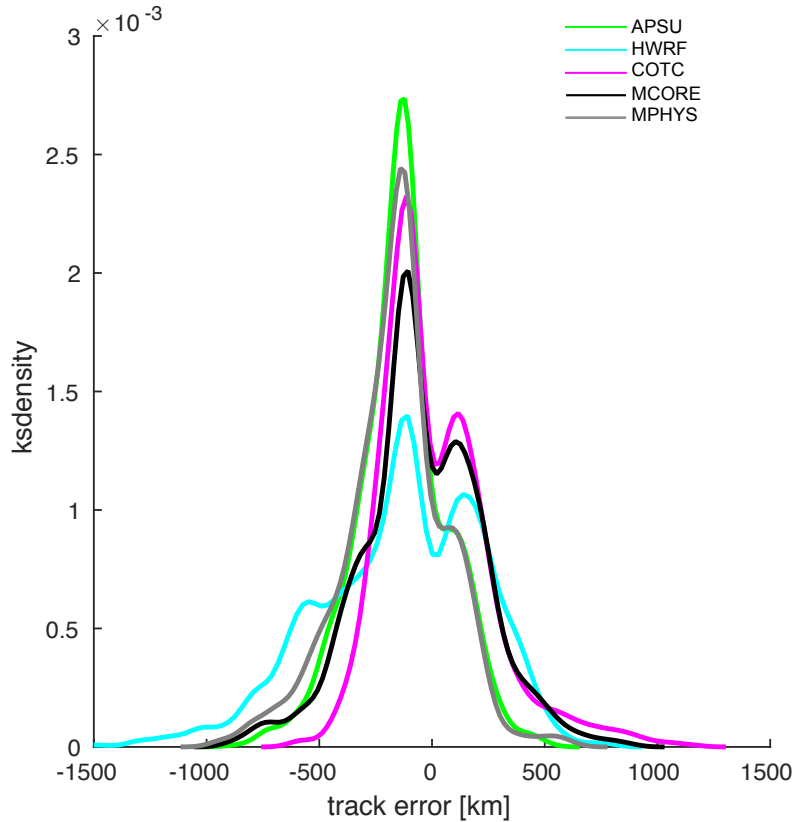
**Sandy**





# Track Error kernel smoothed density distribution (HU Edouard)

Including all 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h) and ensemble members

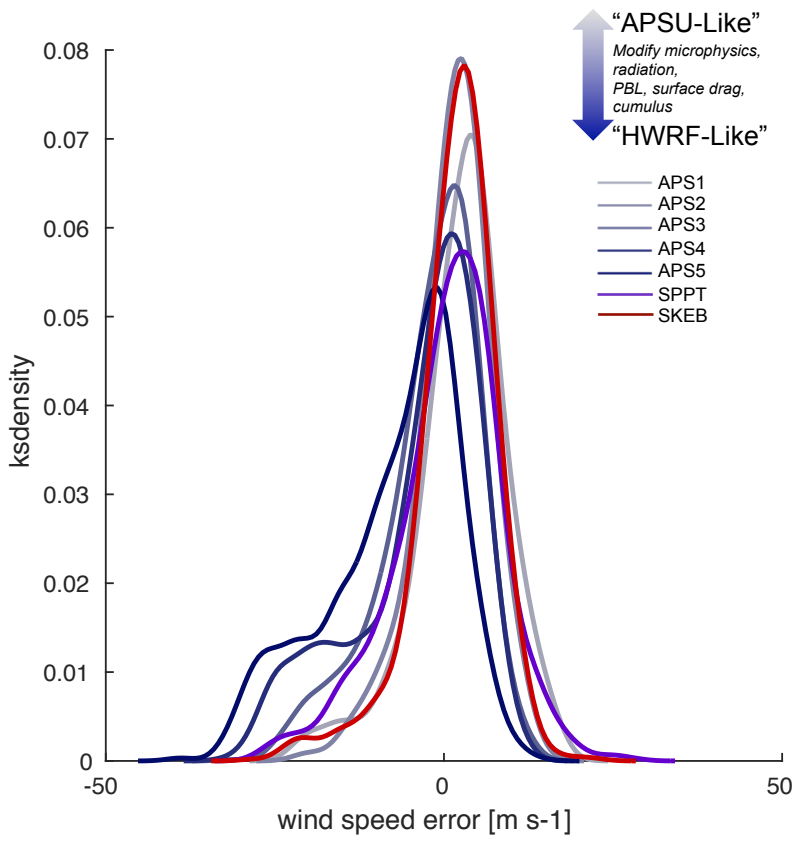
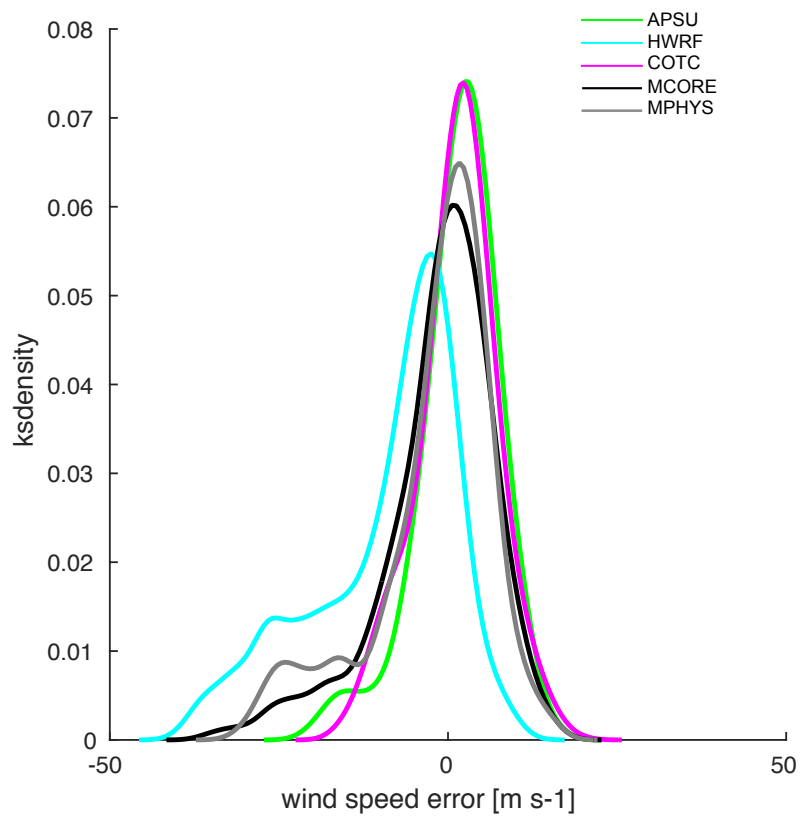


↑ “APSU-Like”  
Modify microphysics,  
radiation,  
PBL, surface drag,  
cumulus  
↓ “HWRF-Like”

- APS1
- APS2
- APS3
- APS4
- APS5
- SPPT
- SKEB

# WSP error kernel smoothed density distribution (HU Edouard)

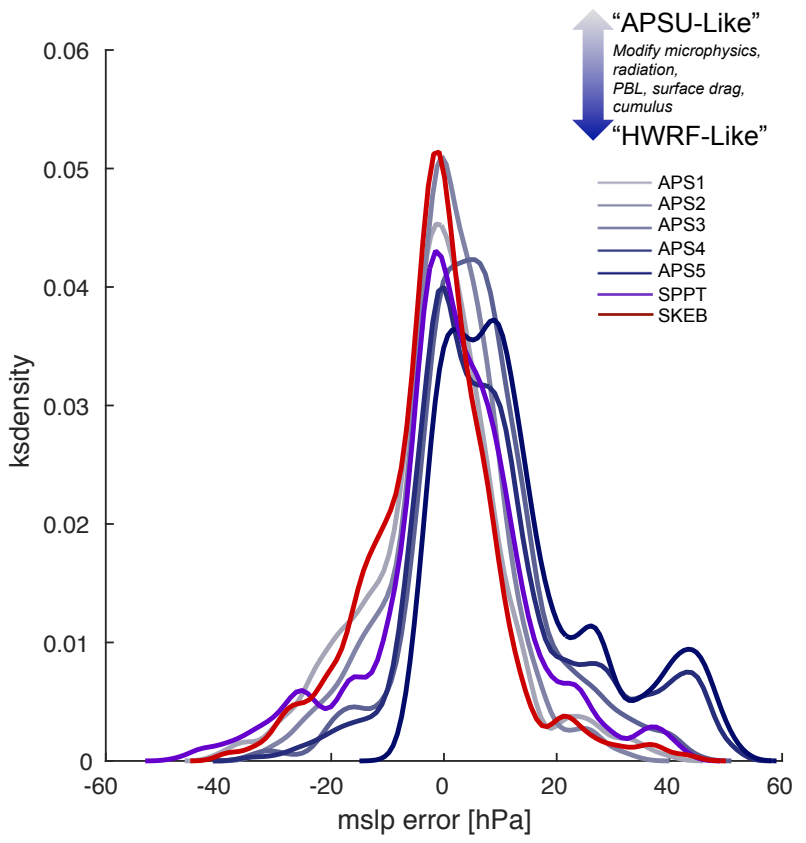
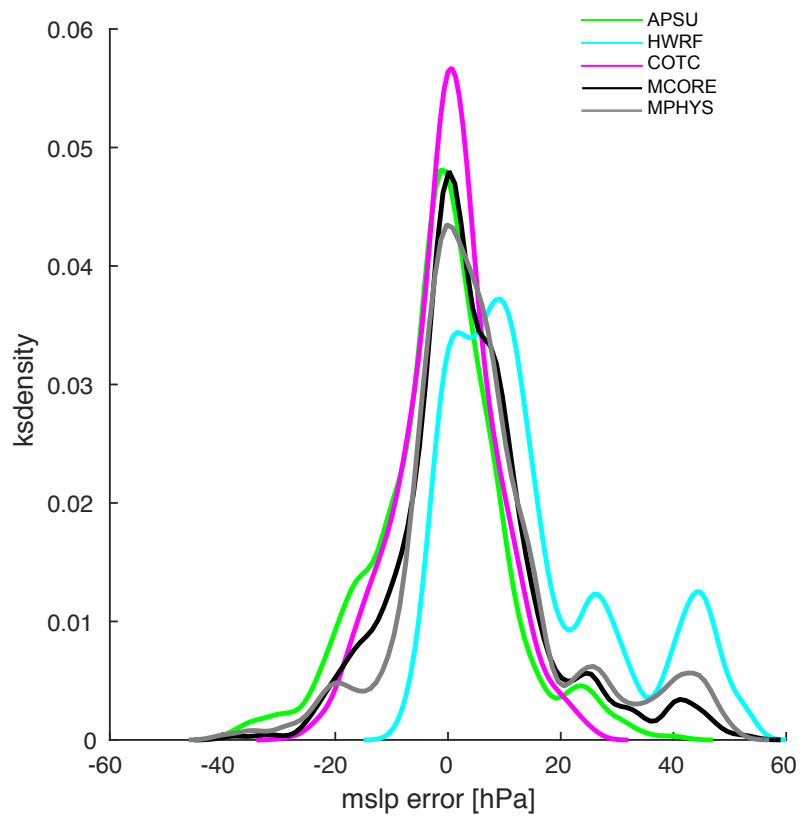
Including all 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h) and ensemble members



• ...

# MSLP error kernel smoothed density distribution (HU Edouard)

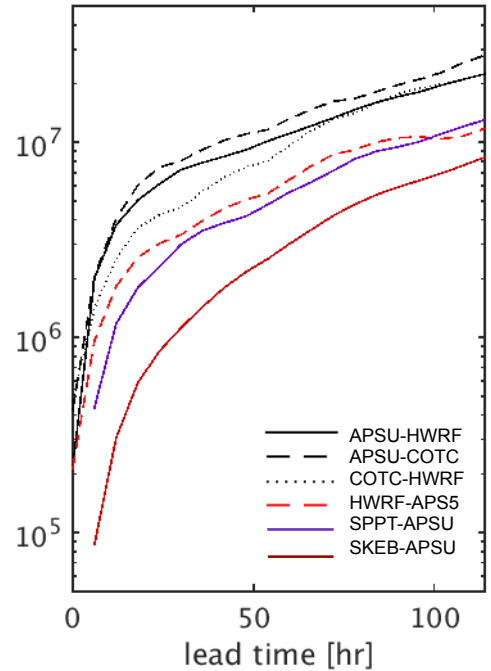
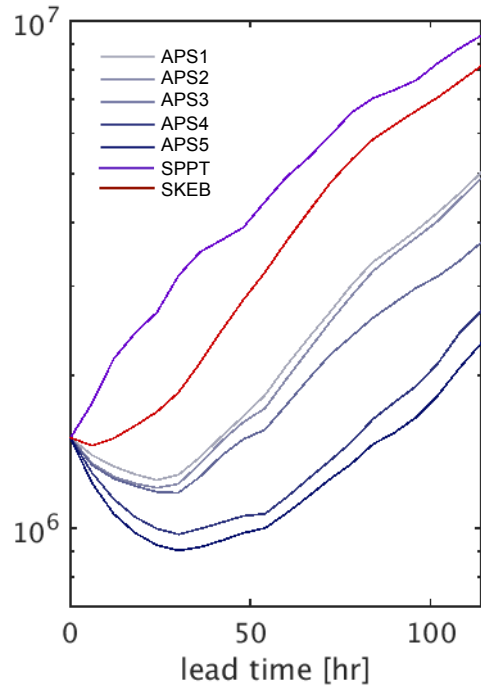
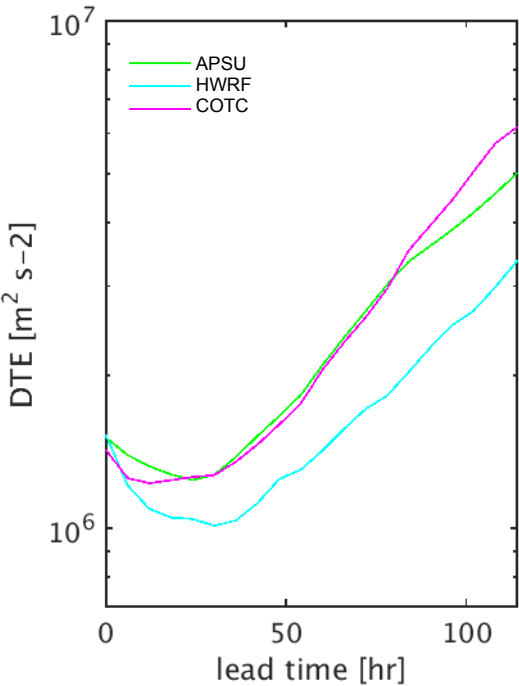
Including all 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h) and ensemble members



• ...

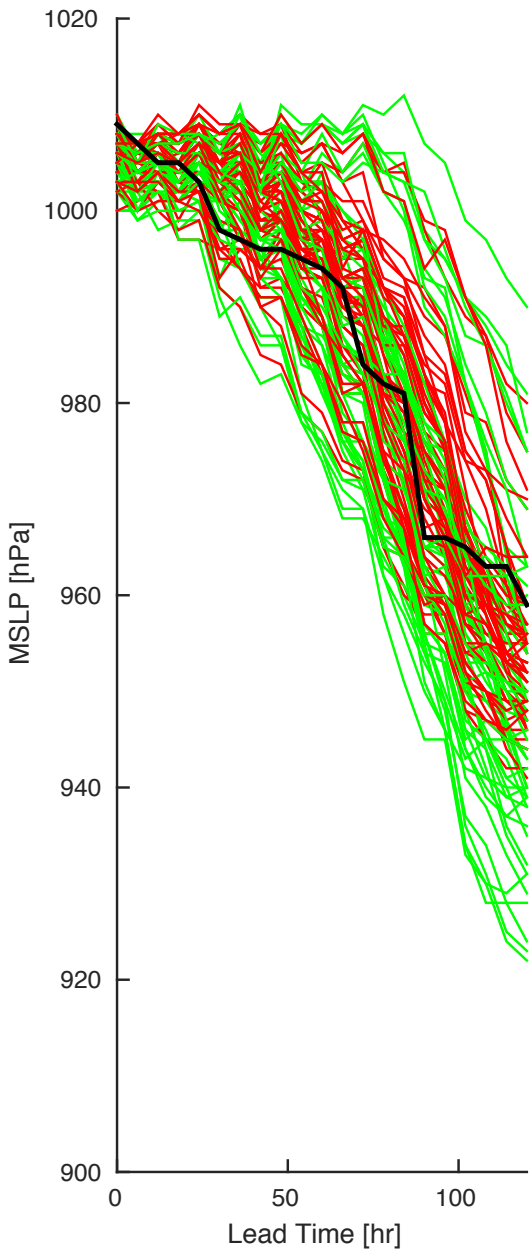
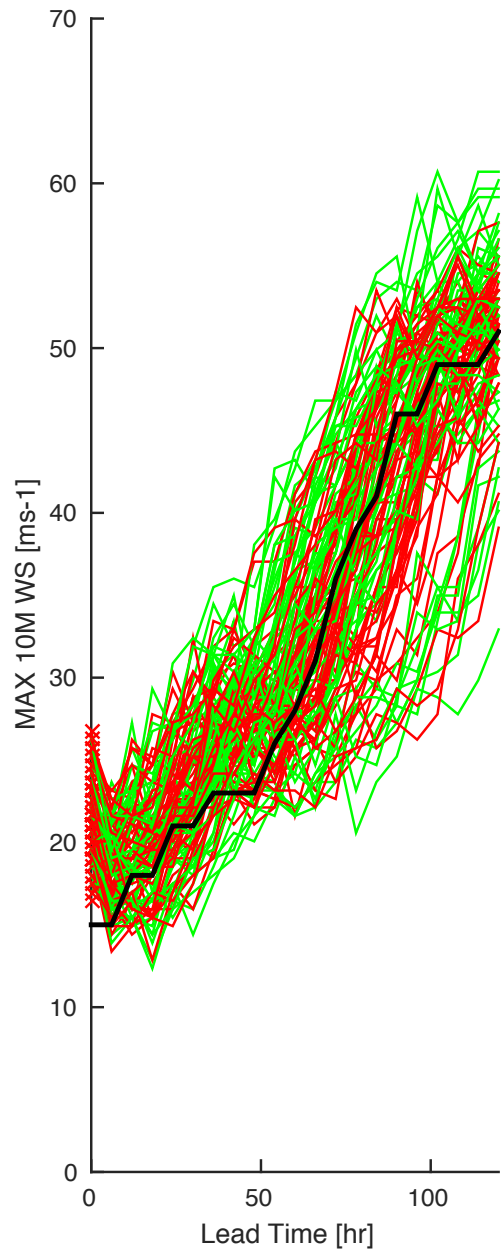
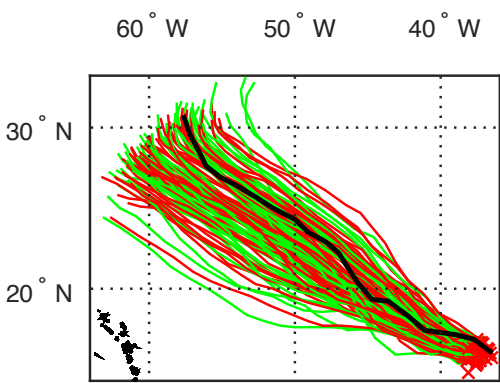
# Domain integrated DTE (HU Edouard)

6-hrly forecasts initialized at 2014-09-11 12 UTC



# Altering APSU dynamics (HU Edouard)

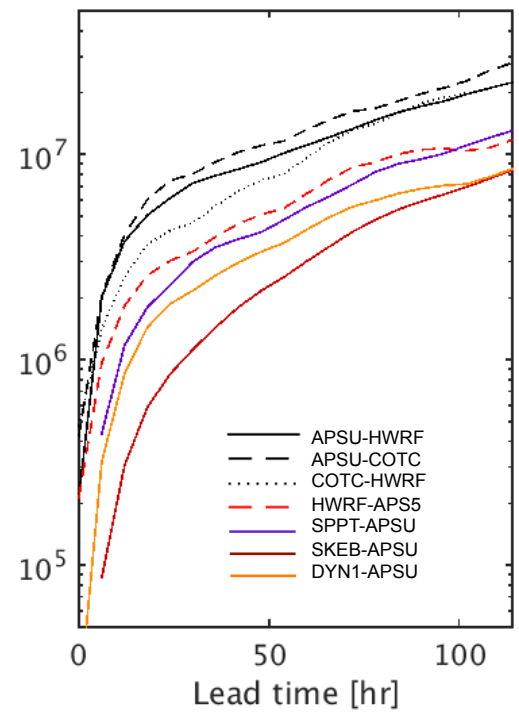
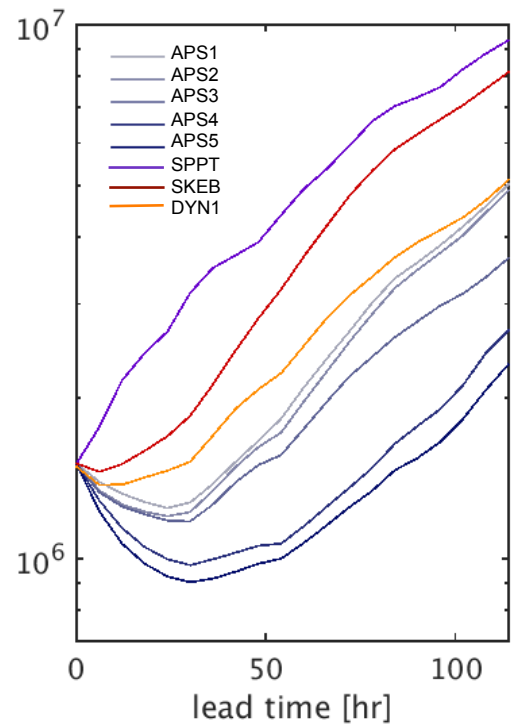
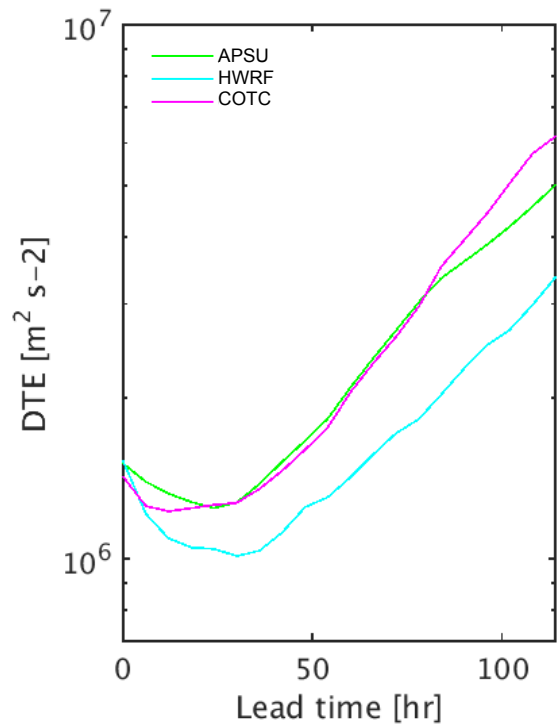
Including 60 ensemble member 6-hrly forecasts (0 to 120 h)





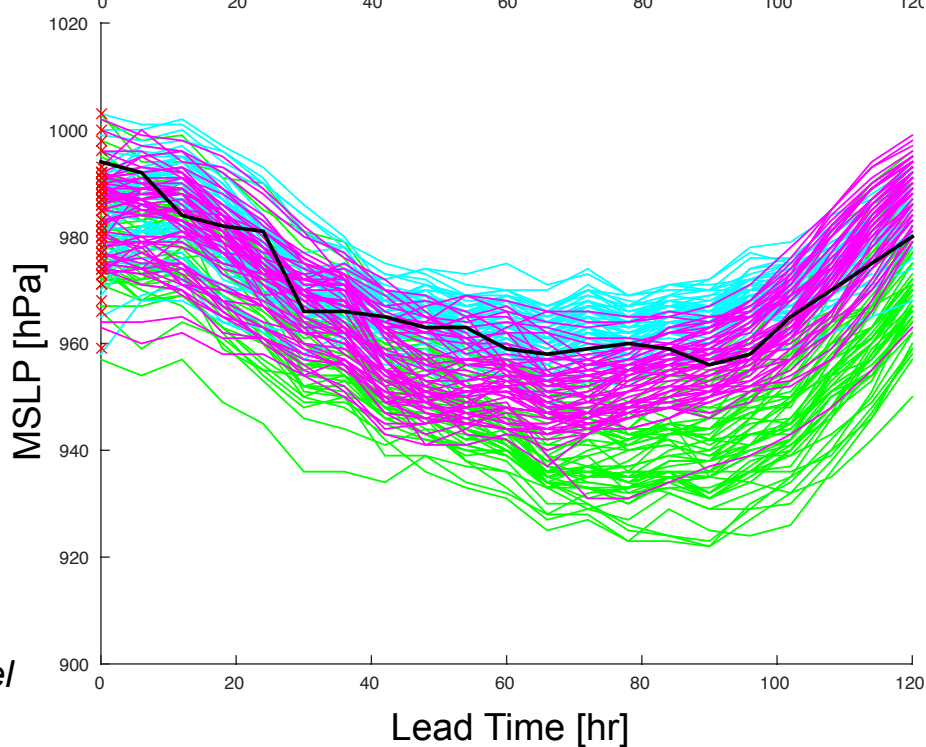
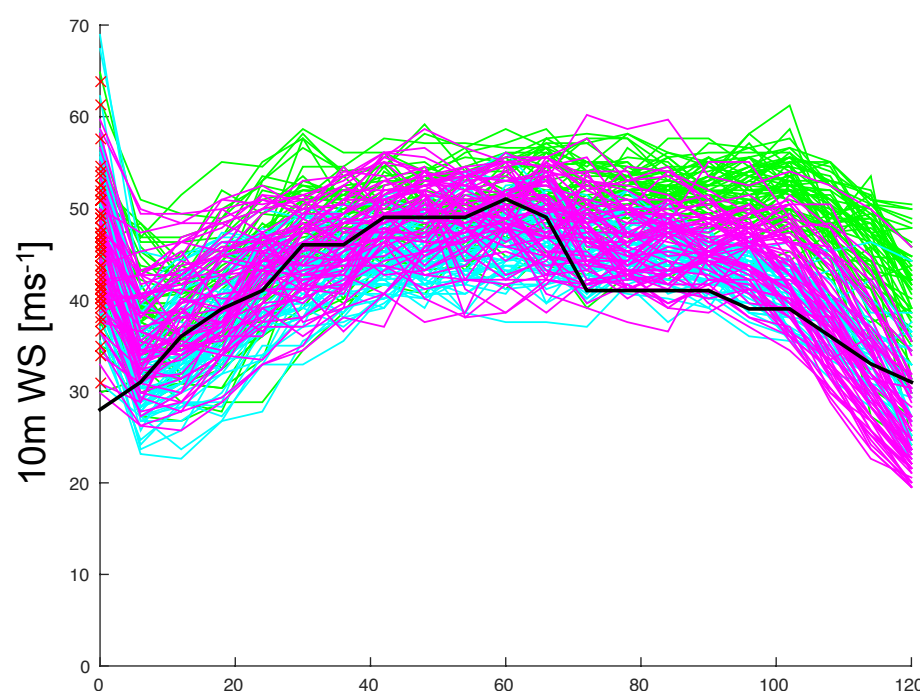
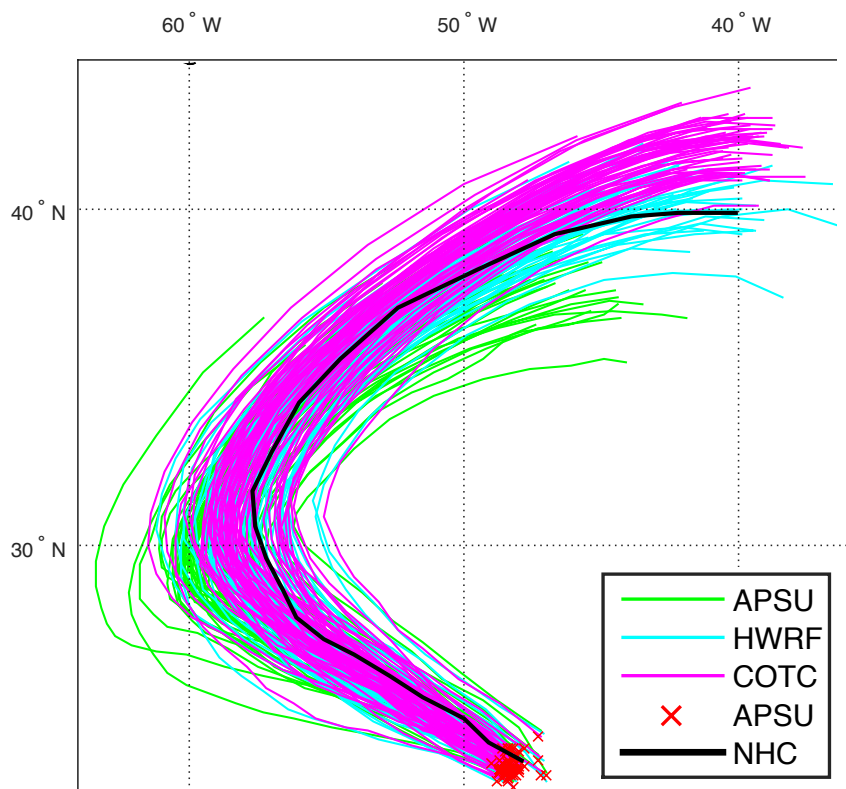
# Domain integrated DTE (HU Edouard)

6-hrly forecasts initialized at 2014-09-11 12 UTC



# Hurricane Edouard (2014) Ensemble Simulations

- APSU 2014 IC; GFS BC
- Initialized 2014-09-14 00 UTC
- 5 day forecast



*\*APSG: original high resolution GRIB IC before model initialization*



# Hurricane Edouard (2014) Ensemble Mean Simulations

- Initialized  
2014-09-14 00UTC

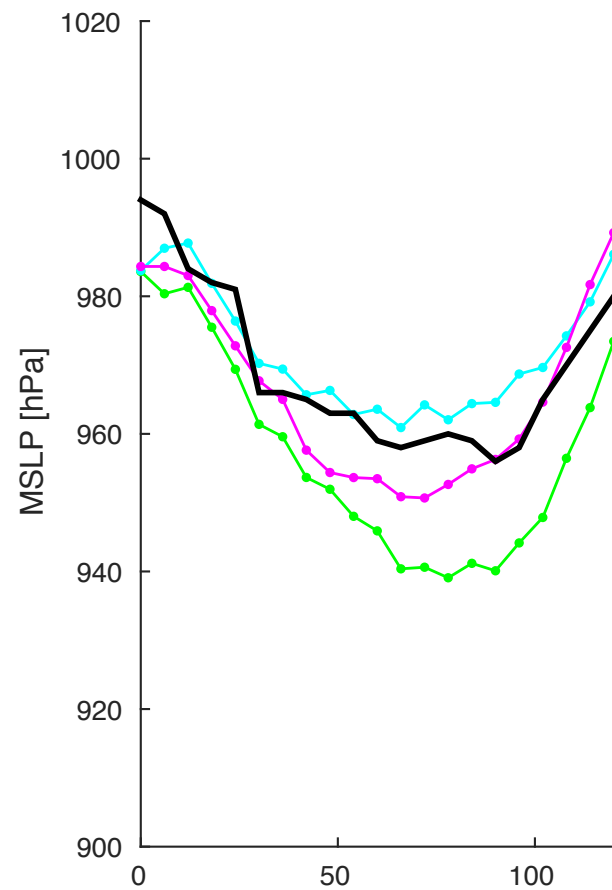
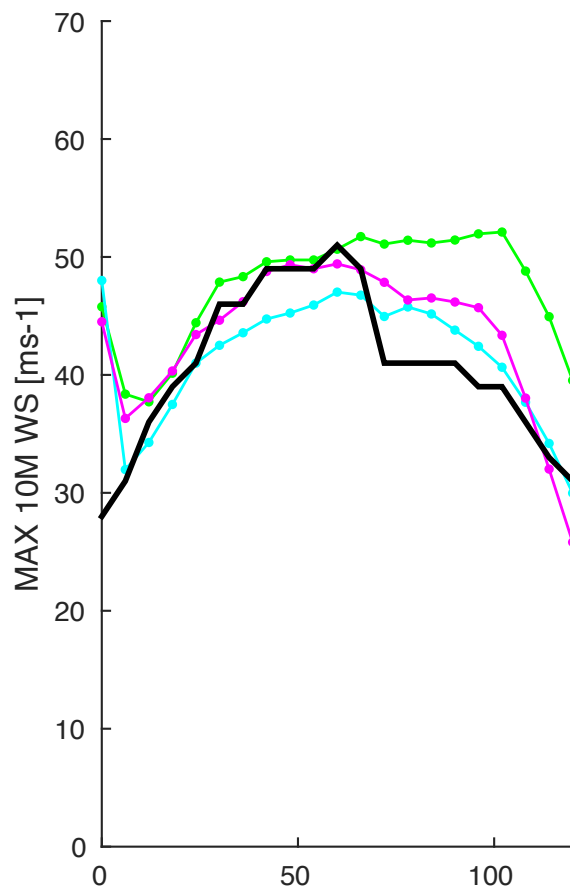
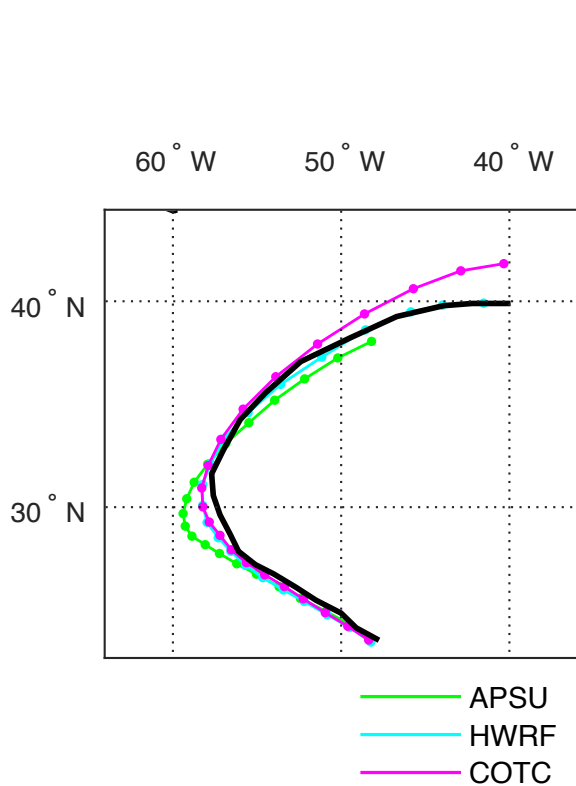


Table 1

Model	DOMAIN	CP	MP	PBL	RAD	SFC
<b>APSU (2014)</b> (WRF-ARW)	D01: 27km (379x244) D02: 9km (304x304) D03: 3km (304x304)  Vertical Levels: 43  Model Top: 10 hPa	D01 ONLY Grell-Freitas (Grell et al. 2013)	WSM-6 (Hong and Lim 1996)	YSU (Hong et al. 2006)	Dudhia shortwave (Dudhia 1989) RRTM longwave (Mlawer et al. 1997)	- Modified MM5 similarity (WRF option 91) - PSU formulation surface TC flux (Green and Zhang, 2013) - 5-layer thermal diffusion land surface
<b>HWRF (2013)</b> (modified WRF-NMM)	D01: 0.18 deg (216x432) D02: 0.06 deg (88x170) D03: 0.02 deg (180x324)  Vertical Levels: 43  Model Top: 50 hPa	D01 & D02 New SAS (HWRF) (Han and Pan 2011)	Tropical Ferrier (Ferrier 2005)	Modified GFS (Hong and Pan(1996); e.g. Gopalakrishnan et al. (2013); Zhang et al. (2013))	GFDL shortwave and longwave (Fels and Schwarzkopf 1981)	- HWRF surface physics - GFDL hurricane slab model land surface (Bob Tuleya 2011)
<b>COTC (2015)</b> (COAMPS-TC)	D01: 27km (379x244) D02: 9km (304x304) D03: 3km (304x304)  Vertical Levels: 40  Model Top: ~ 12 hPa	D01 ONLY Kain-Fritsch scheme (Kain and Fritsch, 1983)	COAMPS v2 single-bulk (Rutledge and Hobbs, 1983) w/ drizzle	Mellor-Yamada 2.5 scheme (Mellor and Yamada 1982) w/ prognostic TKE	NOGAPS SW/LW (Harshvardhan et al., 1987)	COAMPS surface physics (Louis, 1979)

Table 2

Model	Time Discretization	Spatial Discretization	Prognostic Variables	Advection	Diffusion
<p><b>APSU (2014)</b> (WRF-ARW)</p> <p>(see Skamarock et al. 2008 and references therein)</p>	<p>Runge-Kutta 3rd order predictor-corrector scheme (Wicker and Skamarock (2002)) with short time step time-splitting for high frequency acoustic modes</p>	<p>Horizontal: Arakawa C-grid</p> <p>Vertical: mass + U,V and vertical velocity staggering</p>	<p>U, V, W, perturbation potential temperature, perturbation geopotential, perturbation surface pressure of dry air, TKE, <math>Q_v</math>, <math>Q_r</math>, <math>Q_s</math>, <math>Q_g</math>, <math>Q_i</math>, <math>Q_c</math></p>	<p>6th order accurate for momentum, scalars and geopotential</p>	<p>6th order accurate</p>
<p><b>HWRF (2013)</b> (modified WRF-NMM)</p> <p>(see Janjic et al. (2010), Tallapragada et al. (2013), and references therein)</p>	<p>Forward-backward scheme with an implicit scheme for high frequency vertically propagating modes</p>	<p>Horizontal: Arakawa E-grid</p> <p>Vertical: Lorenz staggering (mass + U,V on consistent levels)</p>	<p>U, V, T, non-hydrostatic pressure, hydrostatic surface pressure, <math>Q_v</math>, <math>Q_r</math>, <math>Q_i</math>, <math>Q_{ci}</math>, <math>Q_c</math></p>	<p>Horizontal: modified Adams-Bashforth, for horizontal advection of u,v, and T, and Coriolis terms,</p> <p>Vertical: Crank Nicholson for vertical advection of u,v, and T,</p> <p>Scalars: upstream Lagrangian forward time differencing</p>	<p>2nd order accurate</p>
<p><b>COTC (2015)</b> (COAMPS-TC)</p> <p>(see Hack (1996), Chen et al. (2003), and references therein)</p>	<p>Centered-in-time (i.e. leap frog) 2nd order scheme with short time step time-splitting for high frequency acoustic modes</p>	<p>Horizontal: Arakawa C-grid</p> <p>Vertical: mass + U,V and vertical velocity staggering</p>	<p>U, V, W, <math>\theta</math>, <math>\pi</math>, TKE, <math>Q_v</math>, <math>Q_r</math>, <math>Q_i</math>, <math>Q_g</math>, <math>Q_s</math>, <math>Q_c</math></p>	<p>2nd order accurate upstream, forward-in-time advection</p>	<p>4th order accurate</p>

Table 3

Experiment Name	CP	MP	PBL	RAD	SFC
<b>ALT1</b> APSU w/mod TC SFC flux	D01 ONLY Grell-Freitas	WSM-6	YSU	Dudhia shortwave RRTM longwave	Same to APSU w/ WRF TC surface flux (Garratt formulation)
<b>ALT2</b> APSU w/mod TC SFC flux, MP	D01 ONLY Grell-Freitas	Eta (Ferrier)	YSU	Dudhia shortwave RRTM longwave	Same as ALT2
<b>ALT3</b> APSU w/mod TC SFC flux, MP, RAD	D01 ONLY Grell-Freitas	Eta (Ferrier)	YSU	GFDL shortwave/ longwave	Same as ALT2
<b>ALT4</b> APSU w/mod TC SFC flux, MP, RAD, CP	D01 & D02 New SAS (HWRF)	Eta (Ferrier)	YSU	GFDL shortwave/ longwave	Same as ALT2
<b>ALT5</b> “HWRF-LIKE”	D01 & D02 New SAS (HWRF) (Han and Pan 2011)	Eta (Ferrier) (Rogers, Black, Ferrier, Lin, Parrish and DiMego 2001)	GFS (Hong and Pan 1996)	GFDL shortwave/ longwave (Fels and Schwarzkopf 1981)	Same as ALT2