

VERIFICATIONS OF THE NEW OPERATIONAL 27:9:3 km HWRF for 2010-2011 Stratified by Initial Storm Intensity and Shear

Presented by

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HWRF: Advancing Track and Structure Predictions

AOML/HRD – NCEP/EMC

What it takes to forecast a Tropical Cyclone (TC)

1. Higher Resolution for resolving convection & terrain
2. Model Physics valid for higher resolution
3. Improved representation of initial conditions
4. Advanced understanding of the TCs (observations)

Warmer sea surface temperatures and no shear

Vortex tilt, dry air, and size of the storm

Terrain interactions

Northerly shear and dry air impedes the development of circulation

Enhanced Water Vapor Equivalents obtained from HWRF in the Life cycle of Hurricane Isaac

SUMMARY OF HWRF VERSIONS

PREVIOUS OPERATIONAL HWRF 27:9 km

- Operational version from 2007-2011

H3GP 27:9:3 km TRIPLE NESTED VERSION

- Real-time testing for 2011 season
- Numerous Modifications over HWRF & HWRFX
- Verified for 4-years of runs (2008-2011)

NEW OPERATIONAL HWRF 27:9:3 km TRIPLE NESTED VERSION

- Operational version starting 2012
- Numerous Modifications over H3GP (by EMC)

Reference:

Gopalakrishnan, S. G., F. D. Marks, Xuejin Zhang, J.-W. Bao, K.-S. Yeh, and R. Atlas, 2011: The Experimental HWRF System: A Study on the Influence of Horizontal Resolution on the Structure and Intensity Changes in Tropical Cyclones using an Idealized Framework. Mon. Wea. Rev. 1762–1784

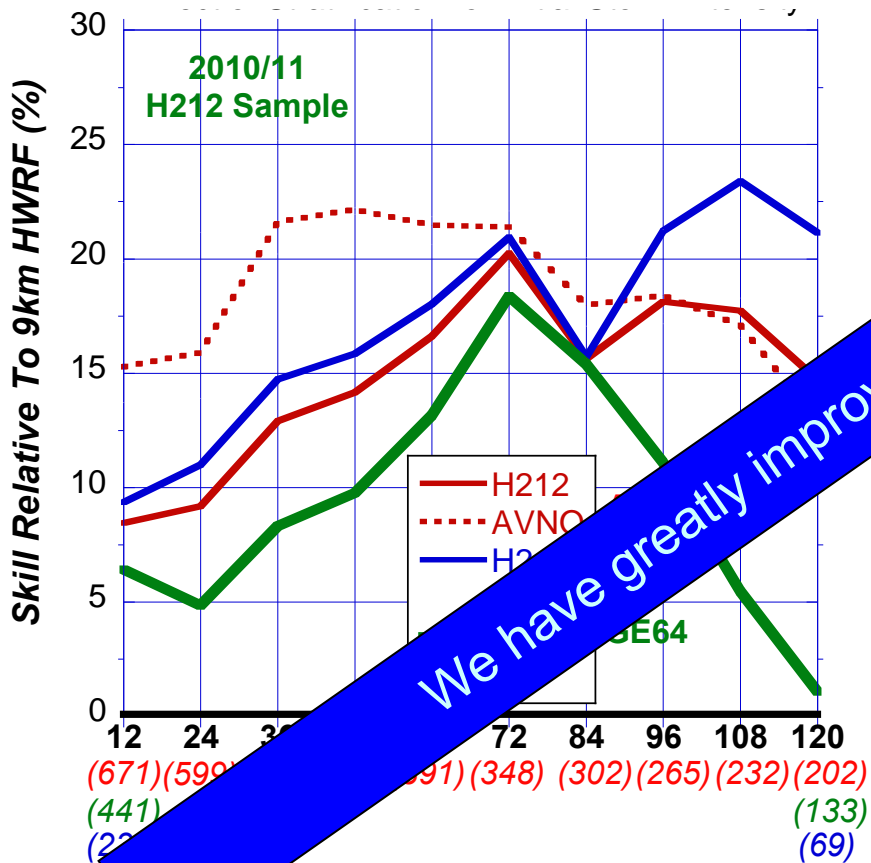
Stratified Track Forecast Skill

2010-2011 Seasons Retrospective Runs

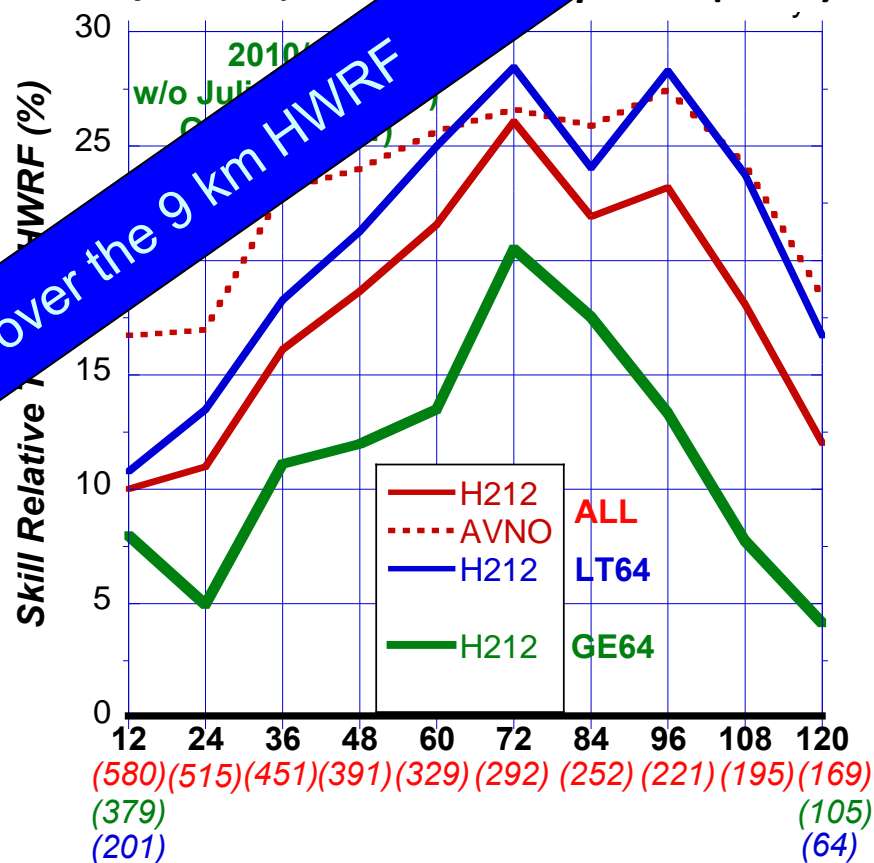
H212 (27:9:3 km) & GFS (AVN0) relative to HWRF (27:9 km)

All Cases / Initially < Hurricane / Initially Hurricane

All Storms



w/o Julia, Lisa (2010) & Phyllis, Phyllia (2011)



**H212: Large improvement over HWRF
(More improvement for <H)
Much closer to AVNO – equal ≥72h**

**H212: Larger improvement over HWRF
(More improvement for <H)
Much closer to AVNO**

Stratified Intensity Forecast Skill

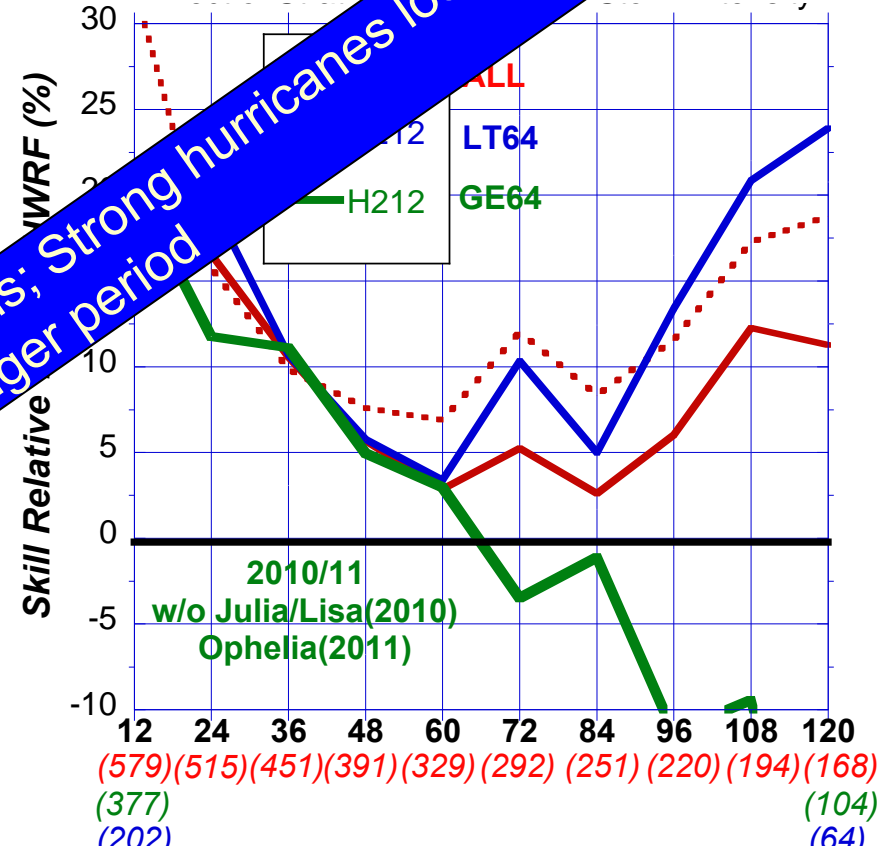
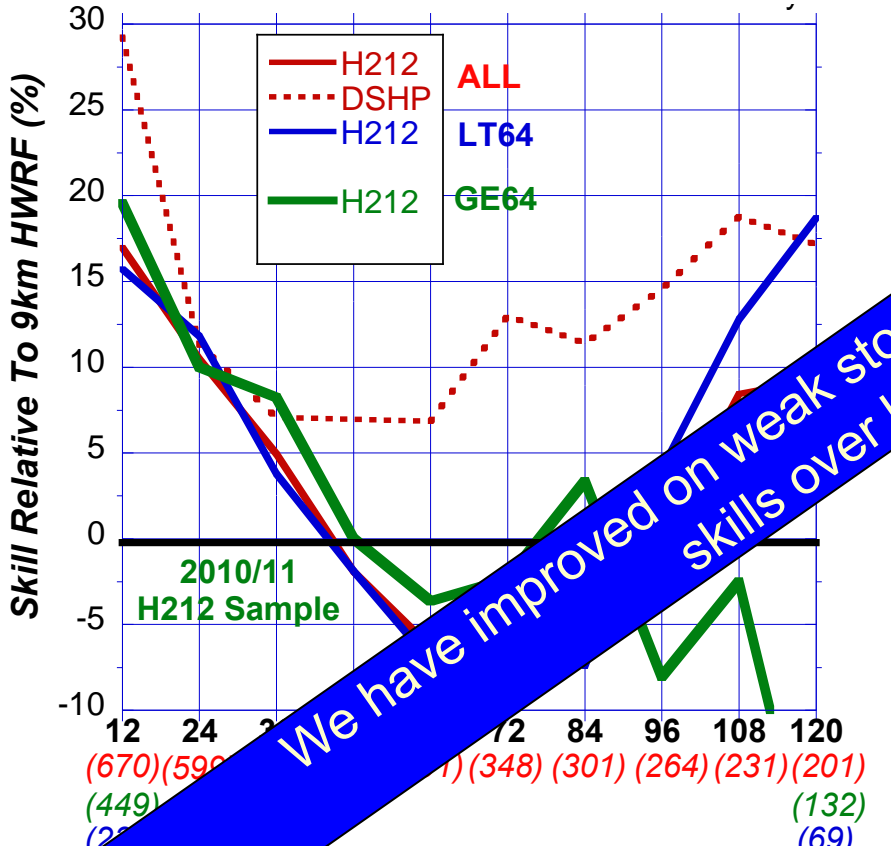
2010-2011 Seasons Retrospective Runs

H212 (27:9:3 km) & DSHP relative to HWRF (27:9 km)

All Cases/Initially <Hurricane/Initially Hurricane

All Storms

w/o Julia, Lisa (2010) & Ophelia (2011)



We have improved on weak storms; Strong hurricanes loose skills over longer period

H212: Improved over HWRF (esp. thru 24h*)
& except from 48-96h
Has problem with HR after 84h

H212: Improved over HWRF at all times
(esp. thru 24h*) esp. for <H
Has problem with HR after 84h

(*) Much better initialization?

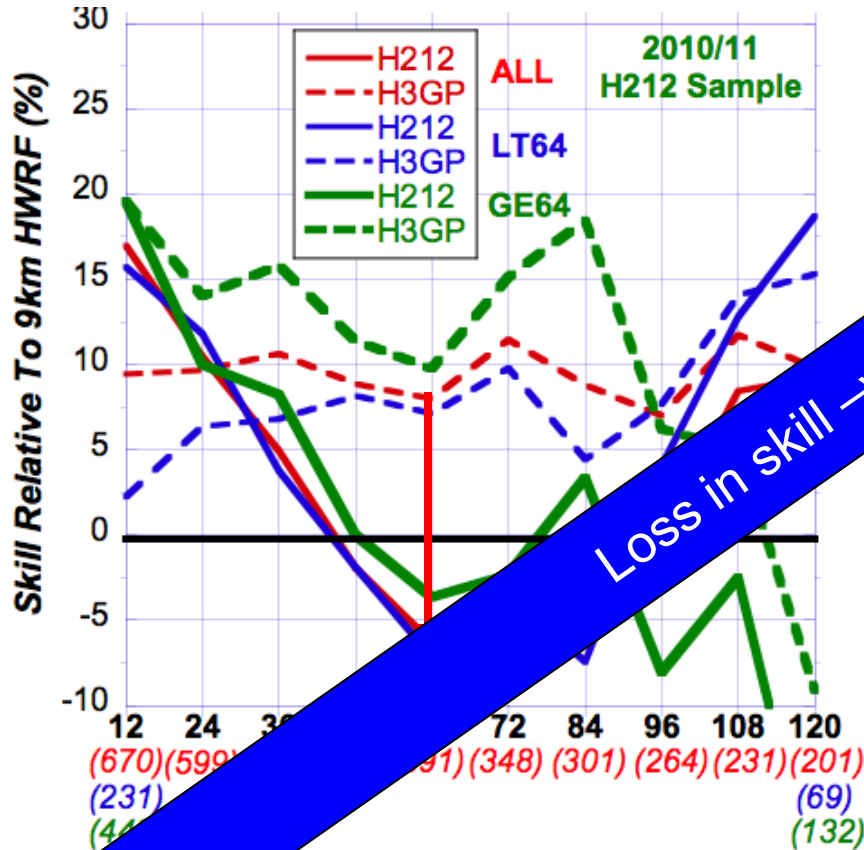
Stratified Intensity Forecast Skill

2010-2011 Seasons Retrospective Runs

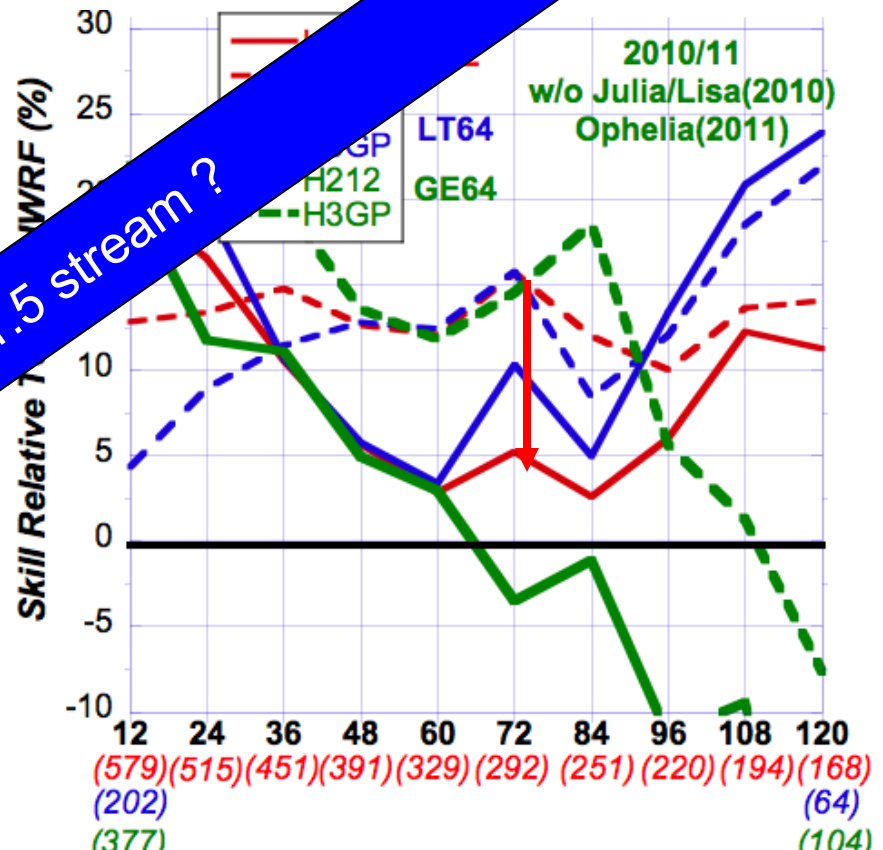
H212/H3GP (27:9:3 km) relative to HWRF (27:9 km)

All Cases/Initially <Hurricane/Initially Hurricane

All Storms



w/o Julia, Lisa (2010), Ophelia (2011)



**H212: Improved over HWRF (esp. thru 36h*)
& except from 48-96h
BUT H3GP better than H212 & HWRF
(* Much better initialization?)**

**H212: Improved over HWRF at all times
(esp. thru 24h*) esp. for <H
Has problem with HR after 84h
BUT H3GP better than H212 & HWRF**

Loss in skill -vs- 1.5 stream ?

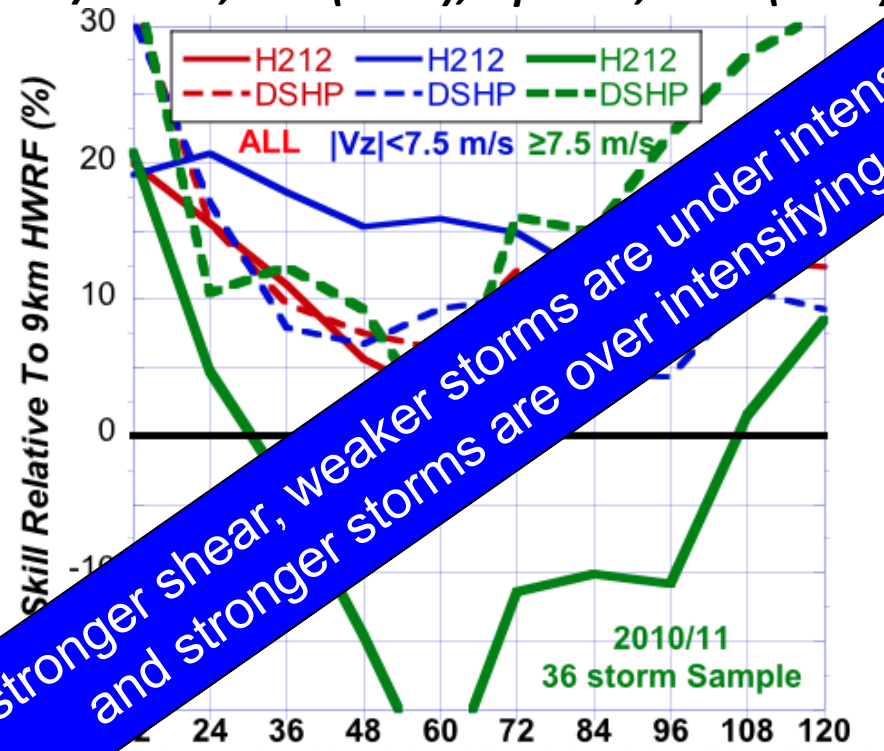
Intensity Forecast Skill Stratified by Initial Vertical Shear $|V_z|$

2010-2011 Seasons Retrospective Runs

H212/H3GP (27:9:3 km) relative to HWRF (27:9 km)

All Cases / $|V_z| < 7.5 \text{ m/s}$ / $|V_z| \geq 7.5 \text{ m/s}$

w/o Julia, Lisa (2010), Ophelia, Sean (2011)



With stronger shear, weaker storms are under intensifying and stronger storms are over intensifying

(564)(502)(442)(383)(325)(290)(249)(218)(192)(166)
 (360)
 (204) **H212: Close to DSHP for ALL** (114)
 (52)

**Better than DSHP for Low Shear
 But Much worse for High Shear!**

H212 better than HWRF except for High Shear. NOTE H212 (High Shear) good at 12 h

Scope for Future Improvements

- TRACK and STRUCTURE improvements
 - Significant
 - Basin Scale shows promise
- INTENSITY (*Why is H3GP better for intensity?*)
 - Why did we lose some skill in transitions from 1.5 to 1.
 - Changes to physics ? Initial conditions ?