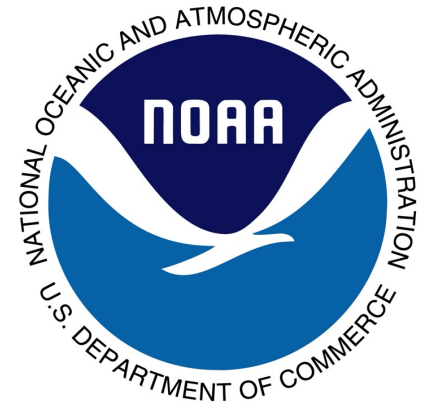


The UAlbany–NWS CSTAR Partnership 2014–2024: High-Impact Weather in Complex Terrain



Kristen Corbosiero
Brian Filipiak and Dylan Card
Ross Lazear and Nick Bassill
University at Albany



CSTAR Goals

- **Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research**
 - ~ **Foster collaboration between researchers and operational forecasters to help improve forecast accuracy and methods**



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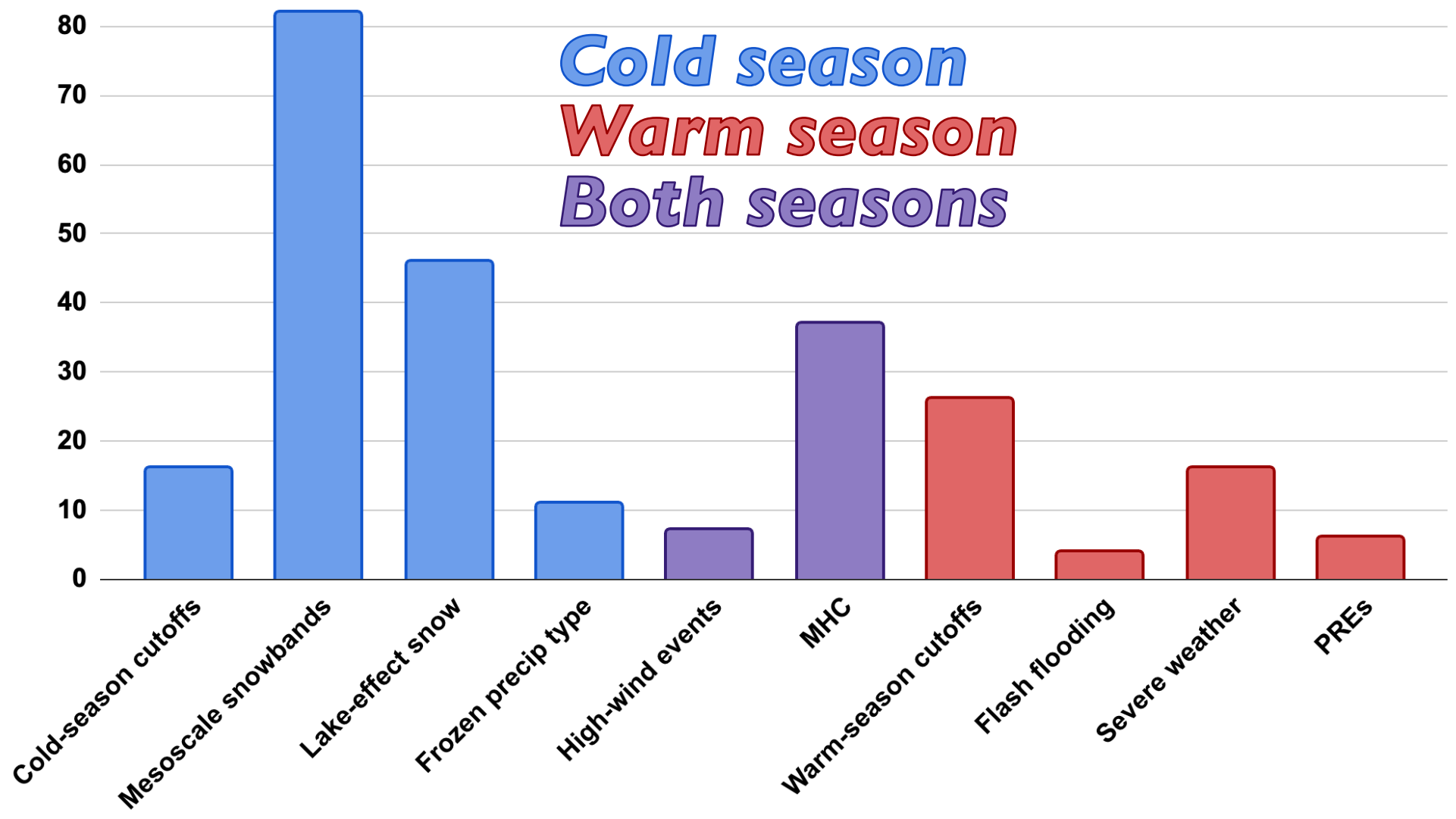
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 - ~ How do we *assess if we've achieved our goals?*

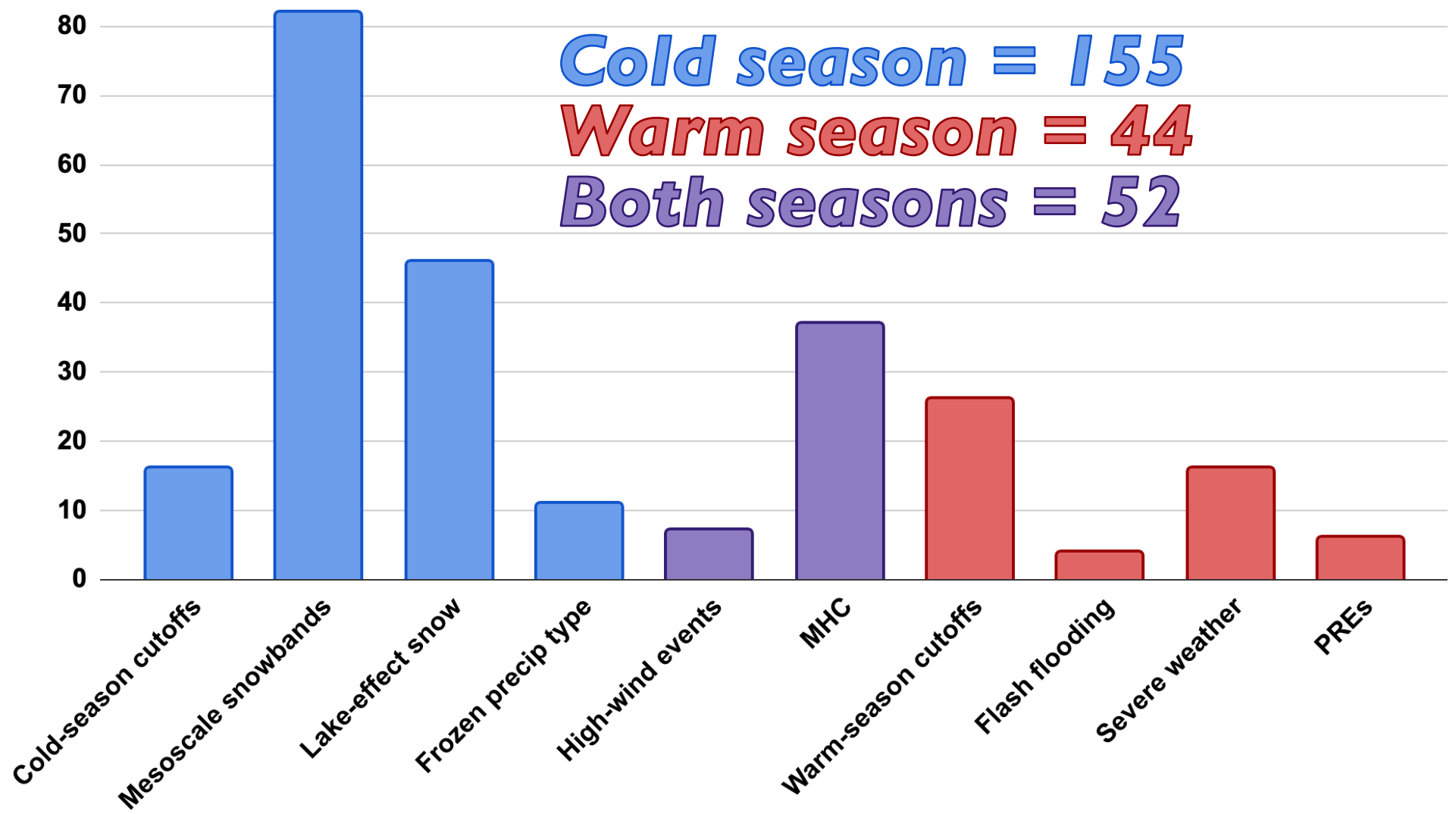


CSTAR Mentions in NWS AFDs: 2014–2024

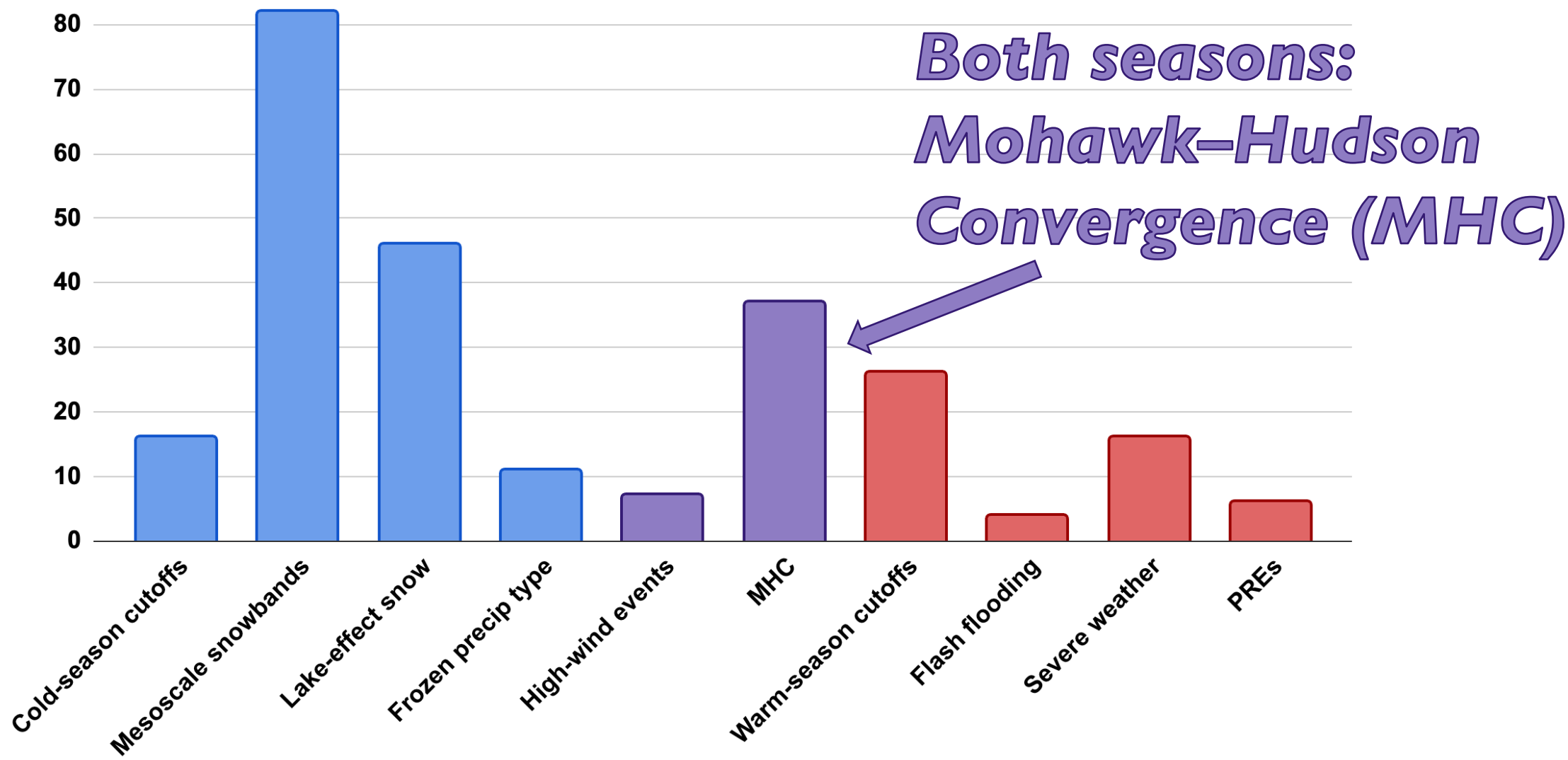
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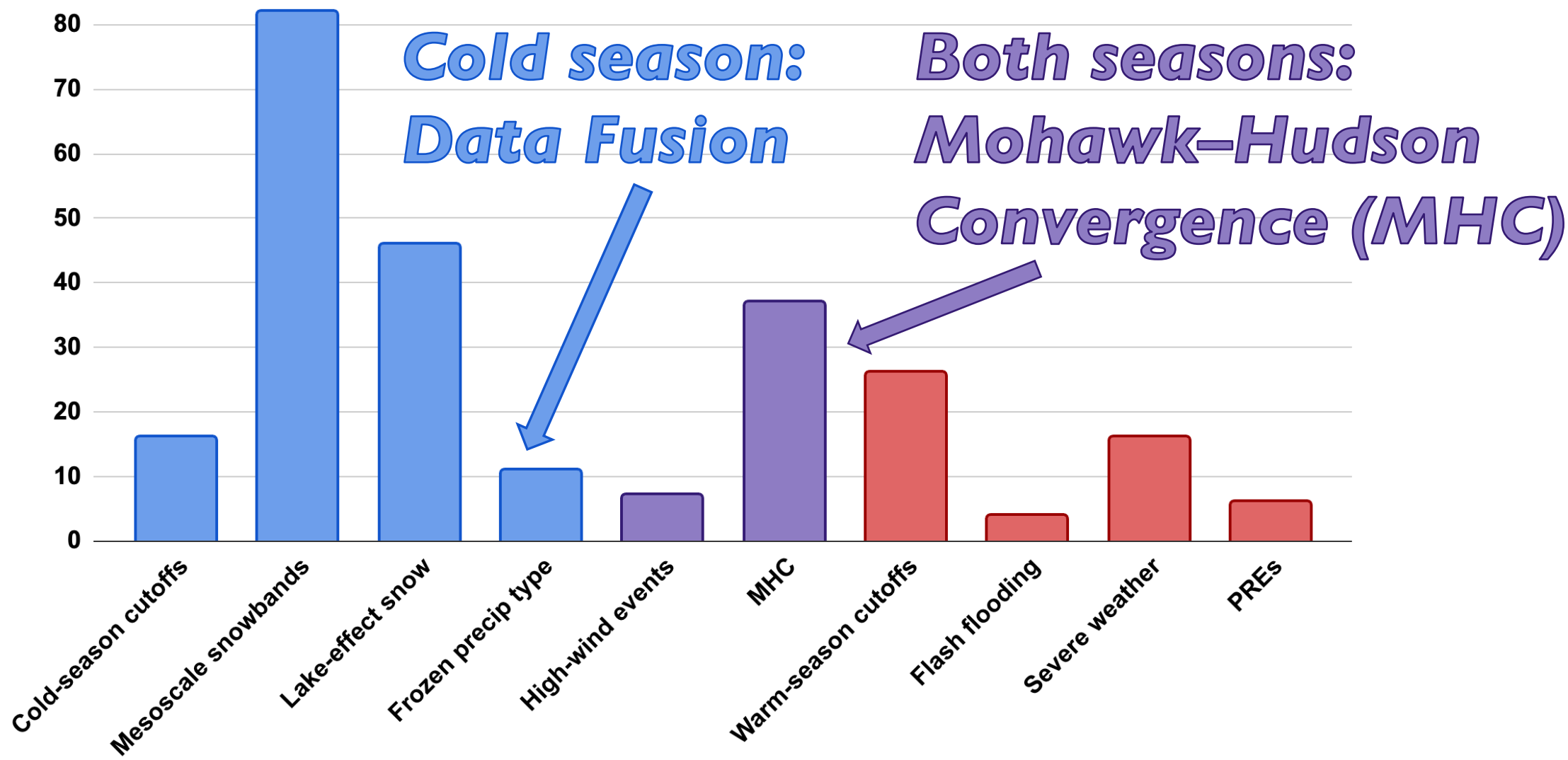
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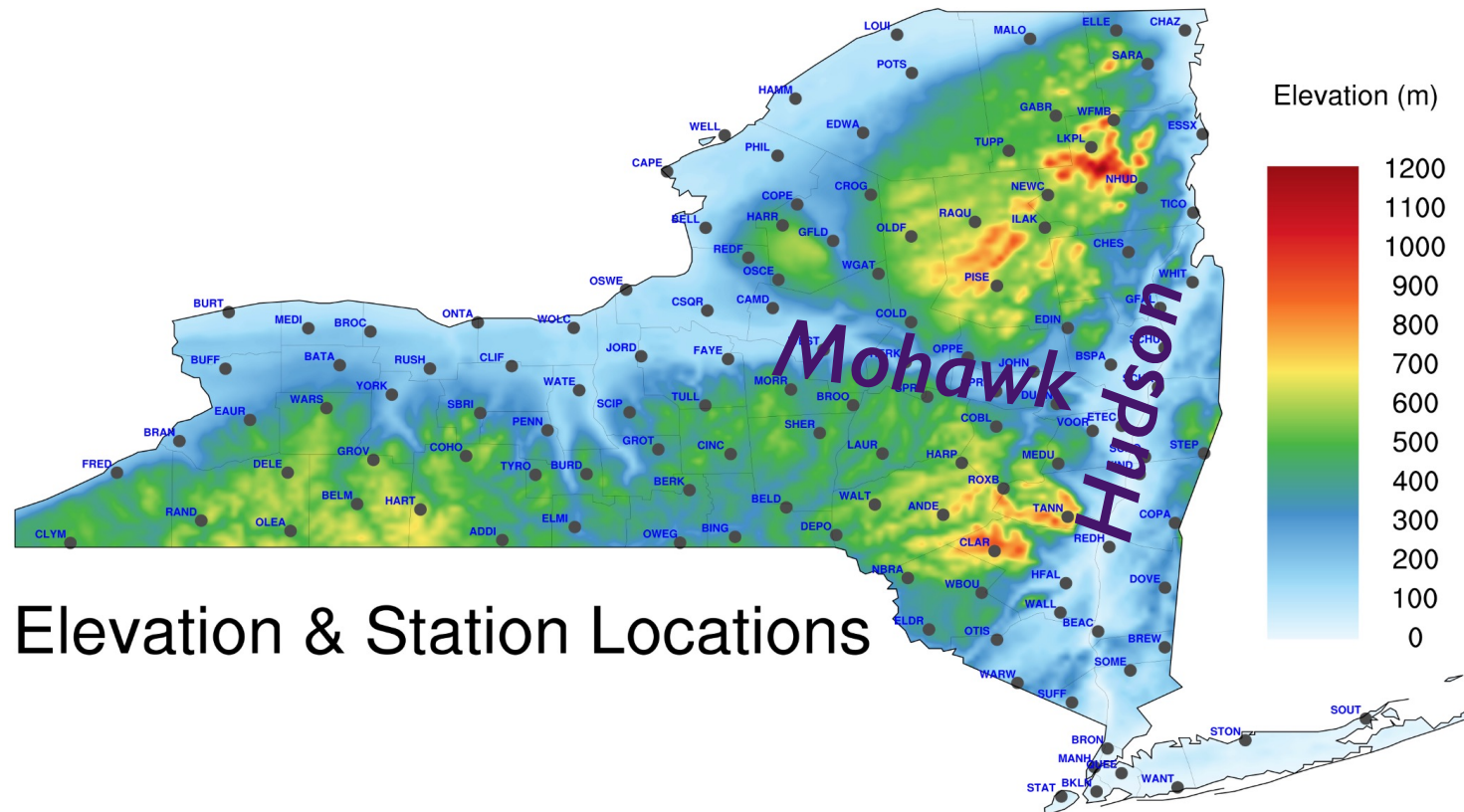
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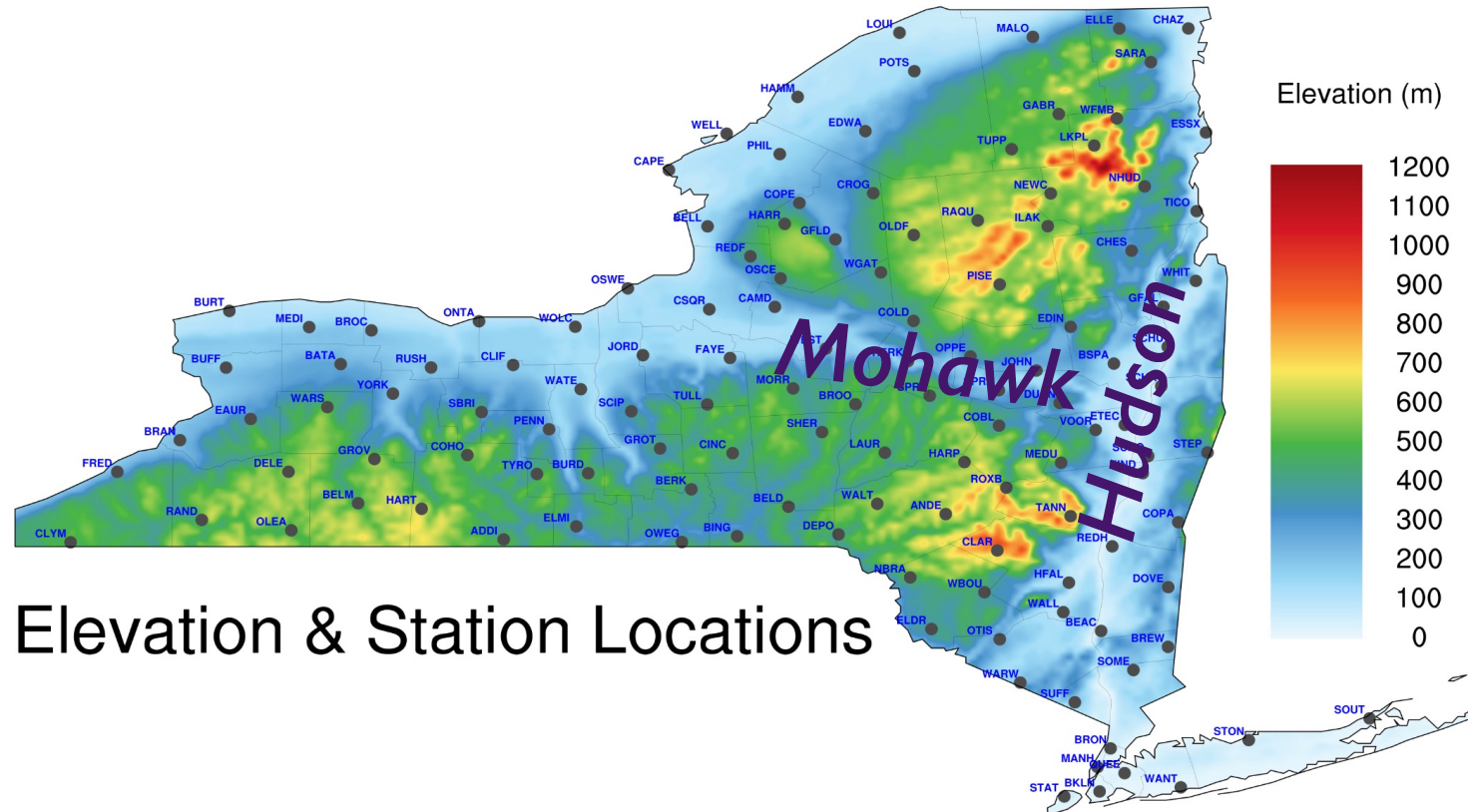


Mohawk–Hudson Convergence



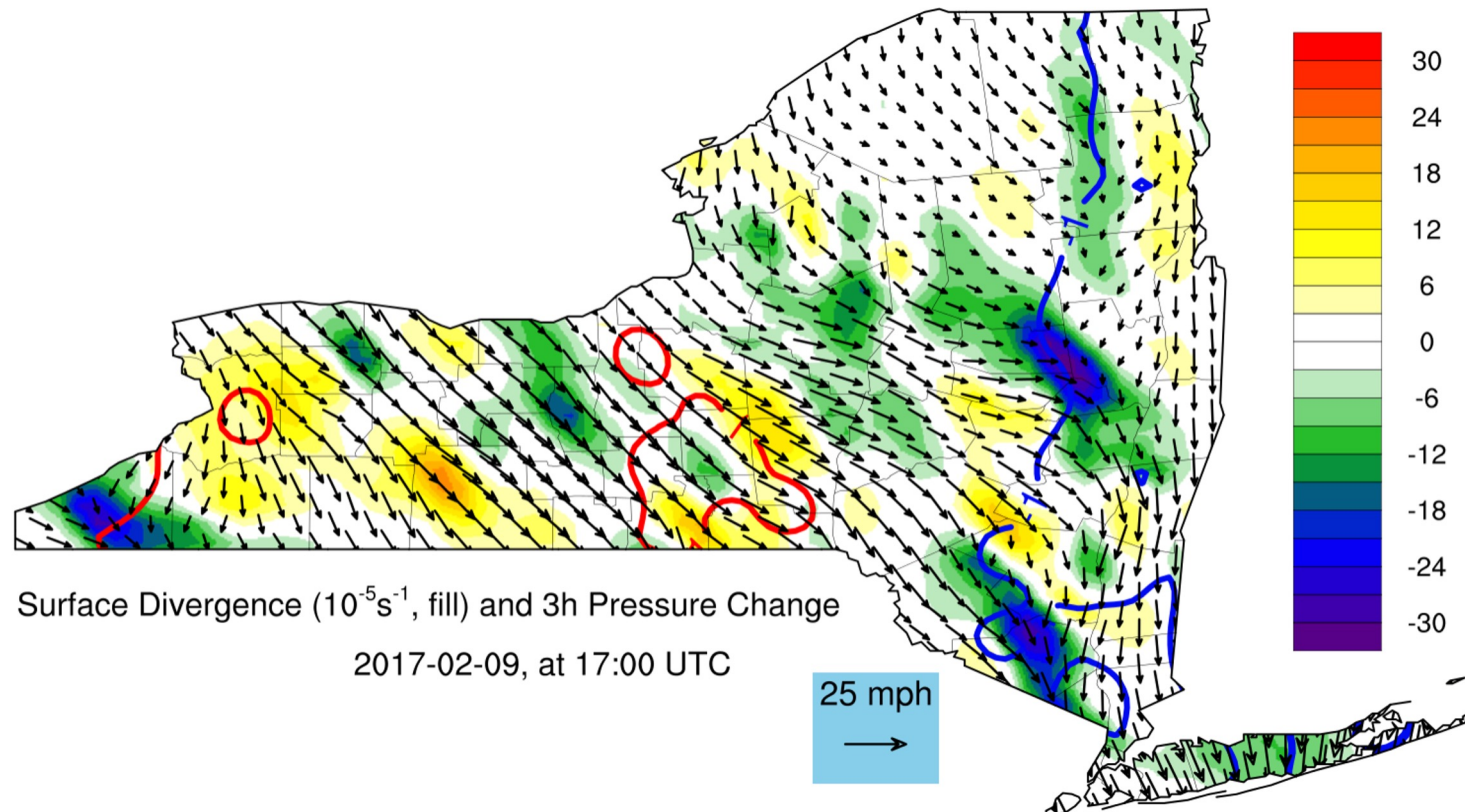
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence

- Localized *flow channeling* and *convergence* in the *Capital Region* at the *intersection* of the west–east *Mohawk* and north–south *Hudson River* valleys



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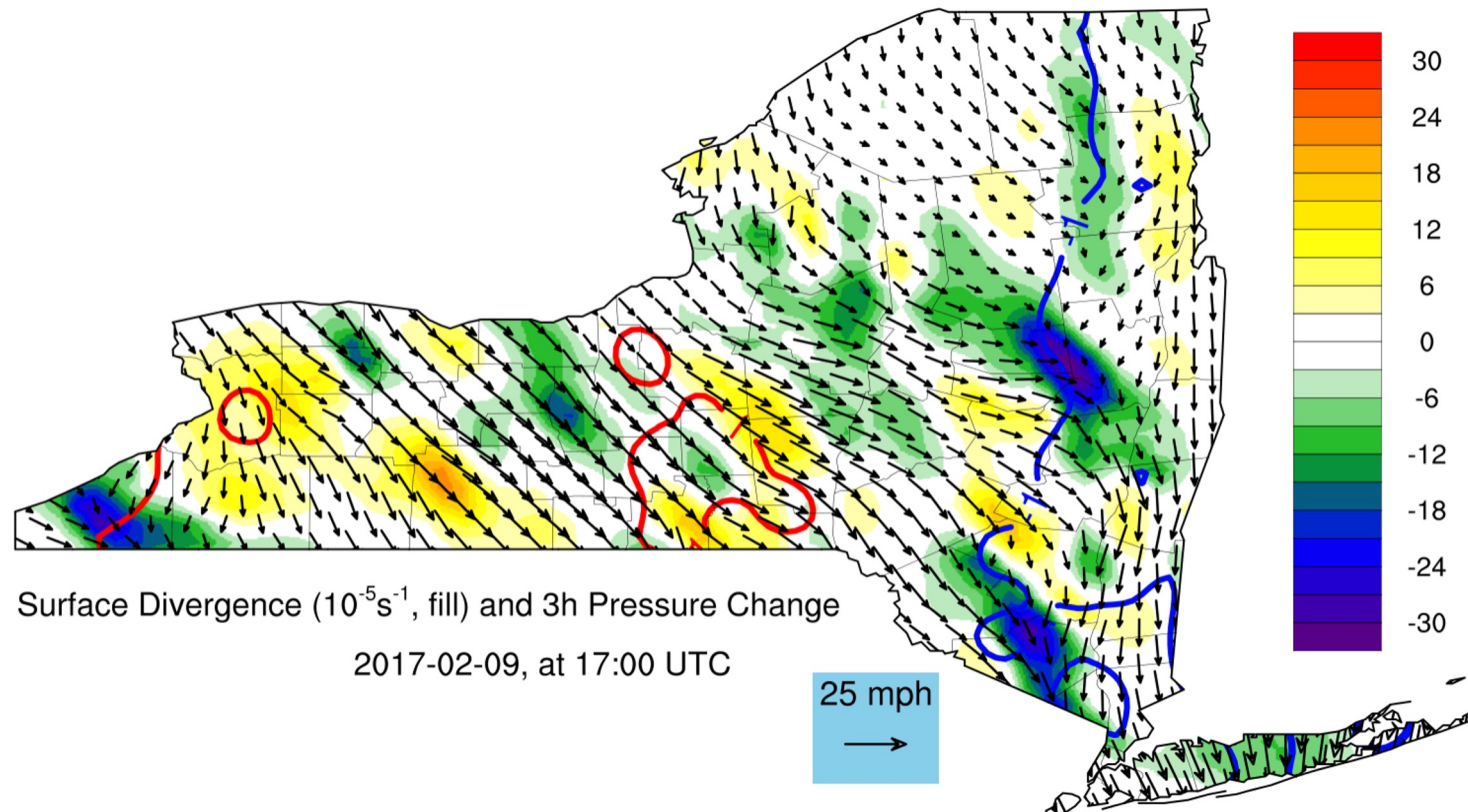


Mohawk–Hudson Convergence

- *Cold MHC* can result in persistent *moderate to heavy snow* in the wake of a *departing low pressure system*, whereas *warm MHC* cases can initiate *unexpected thunderstorms* close to KALB

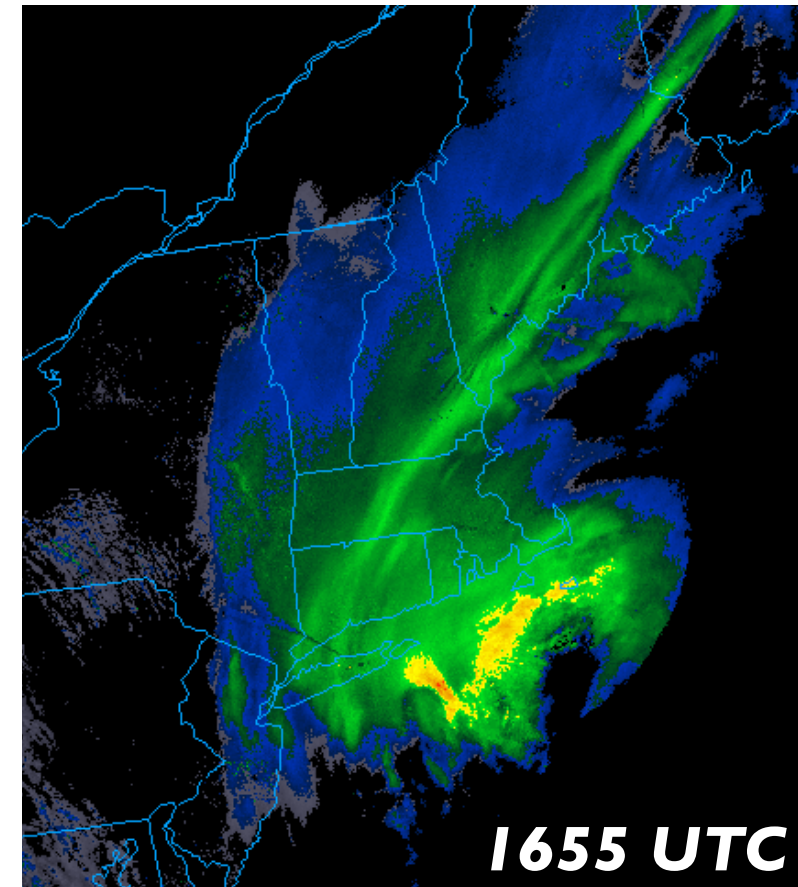
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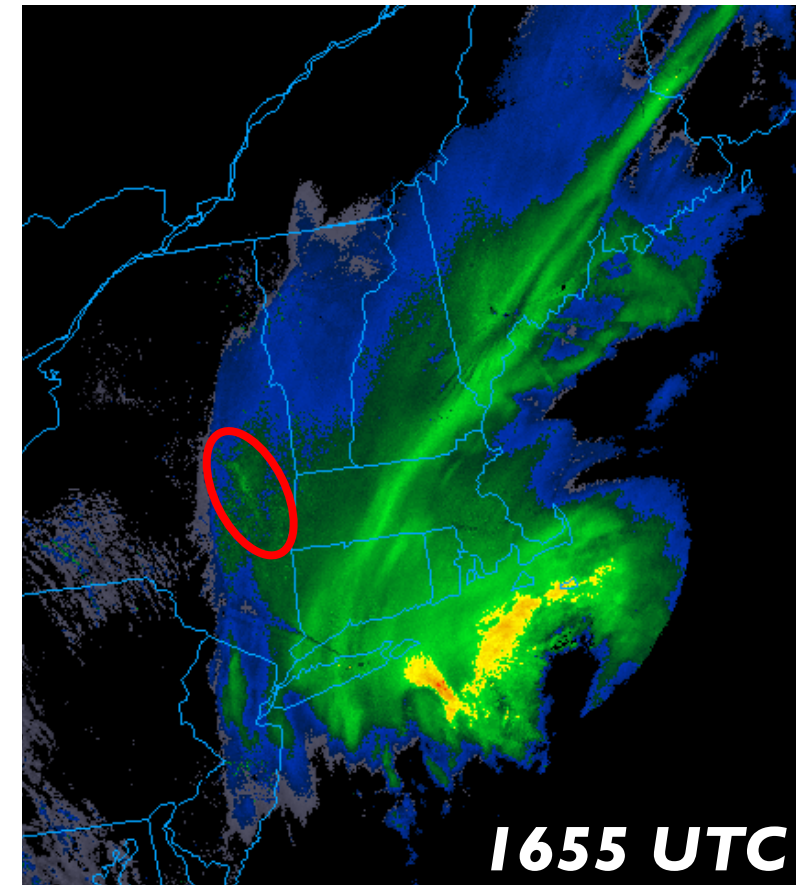
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: Radar

- *Cold MHC* can result in persistent *moderate to heavy snow* in the wake of a *departing low pressure system*



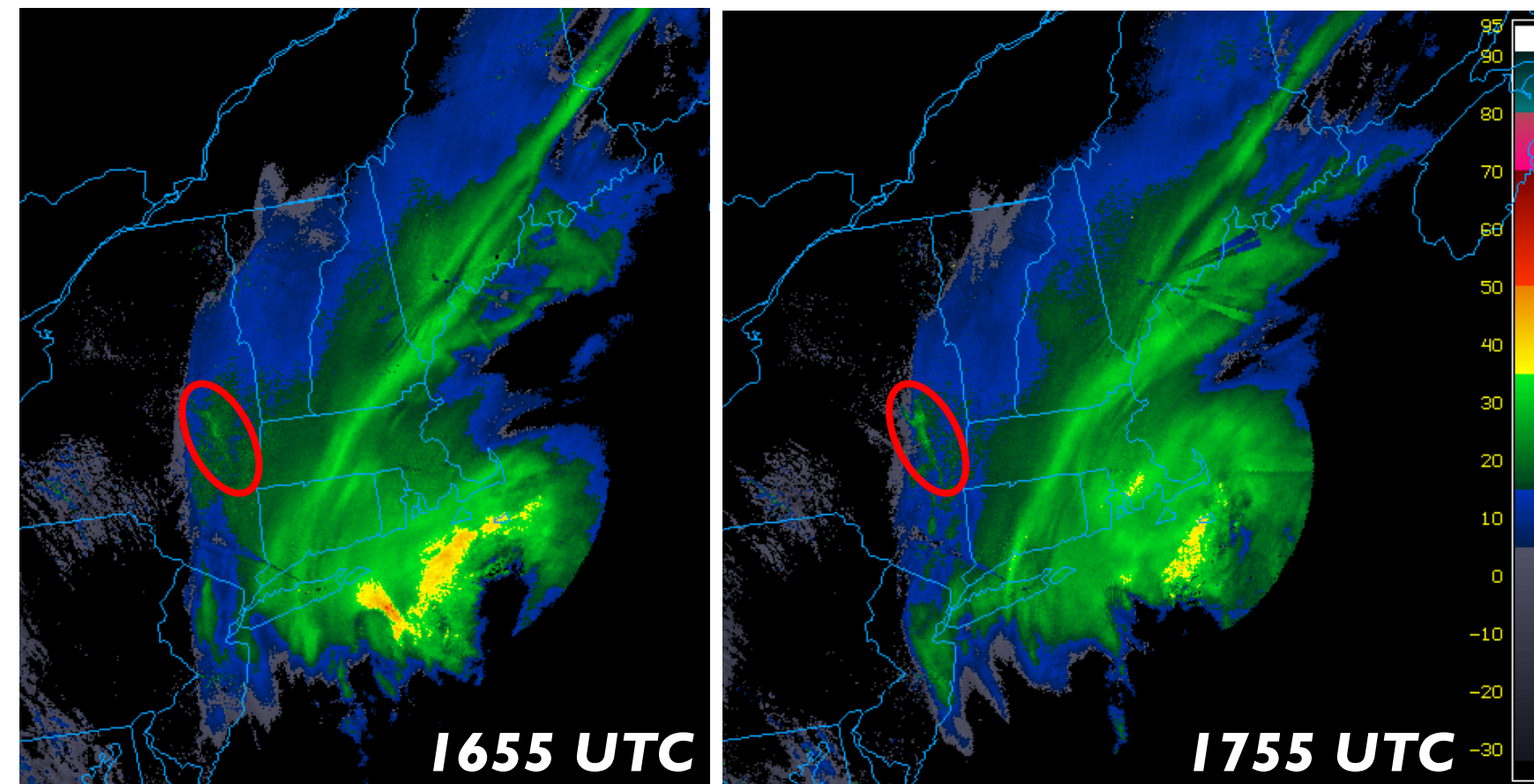
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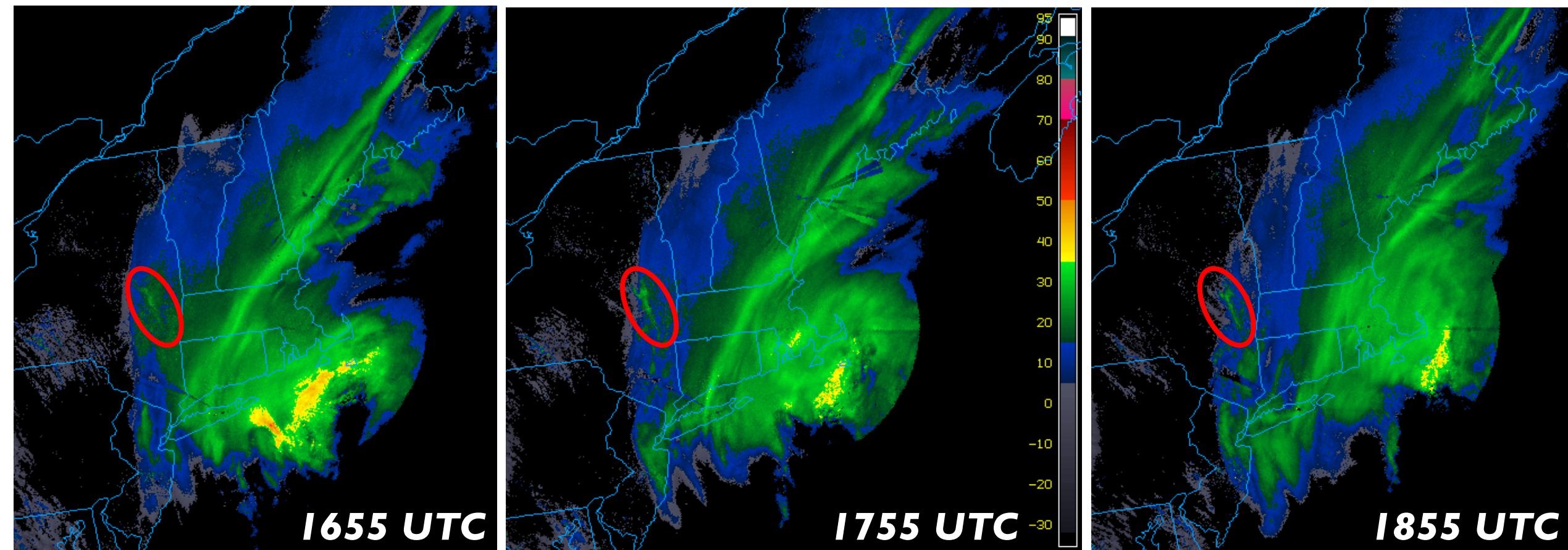
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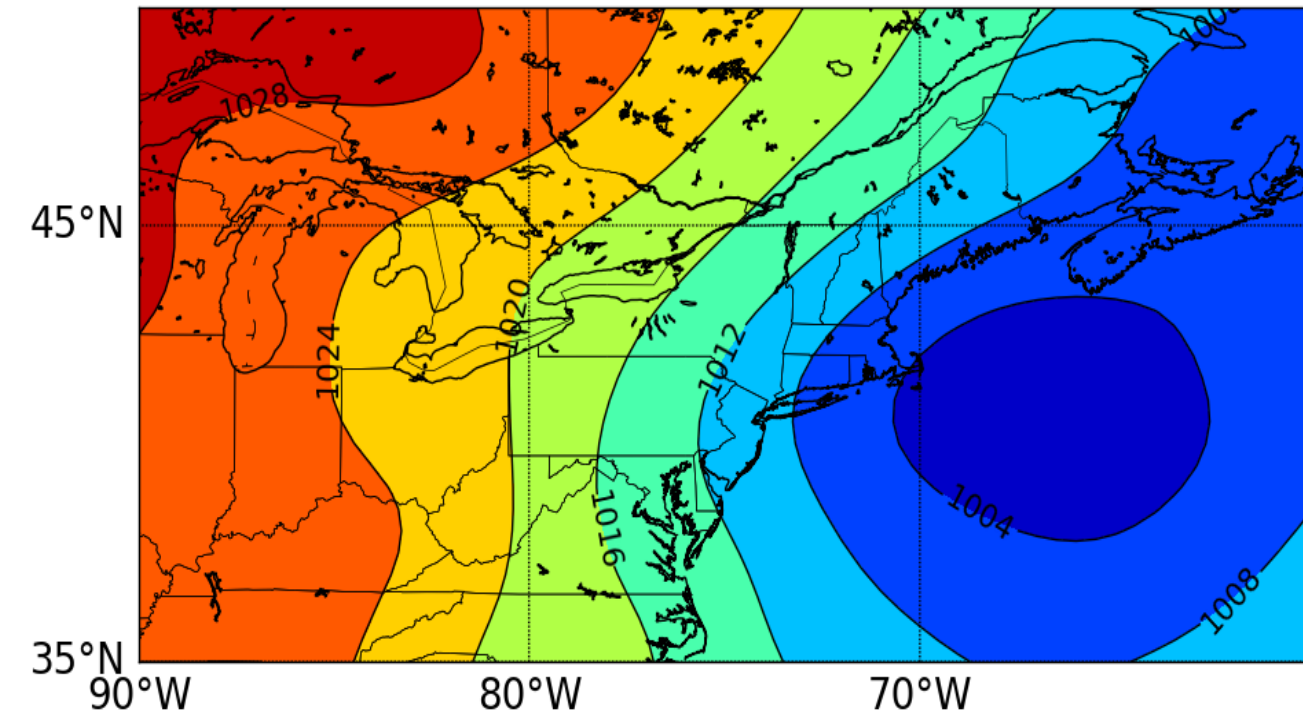
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: Radar

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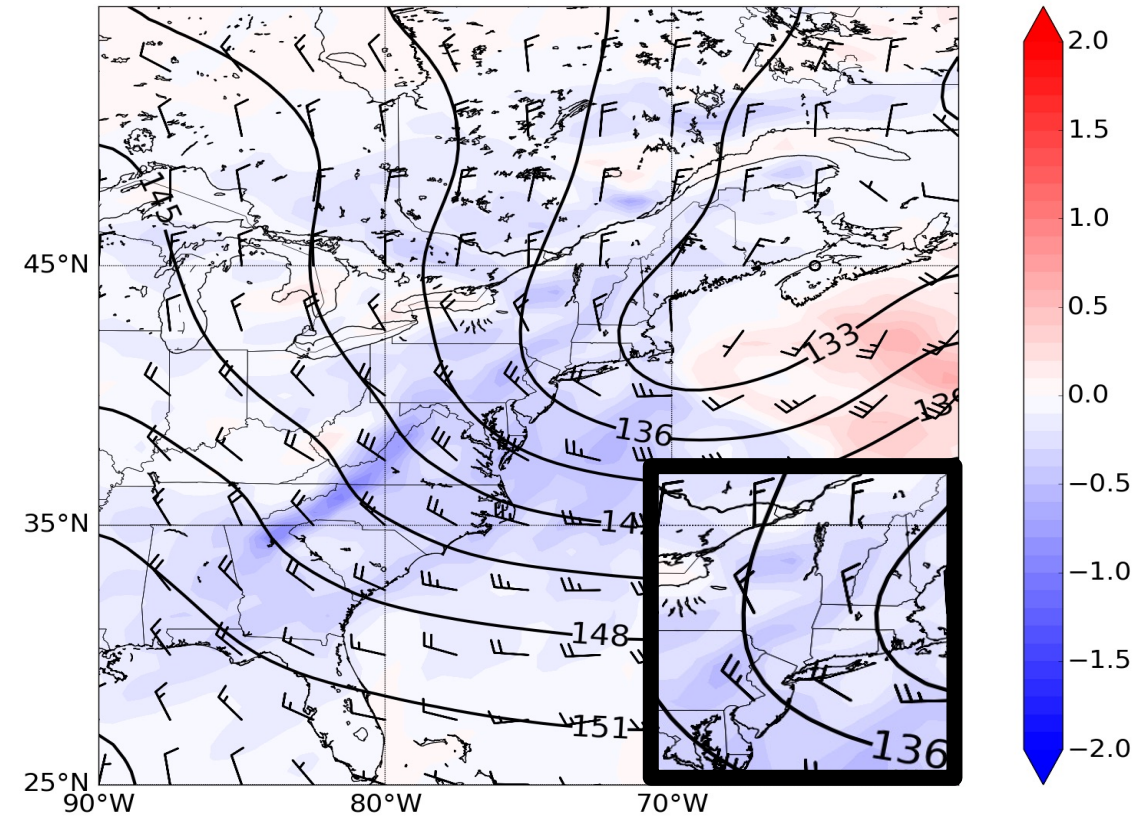
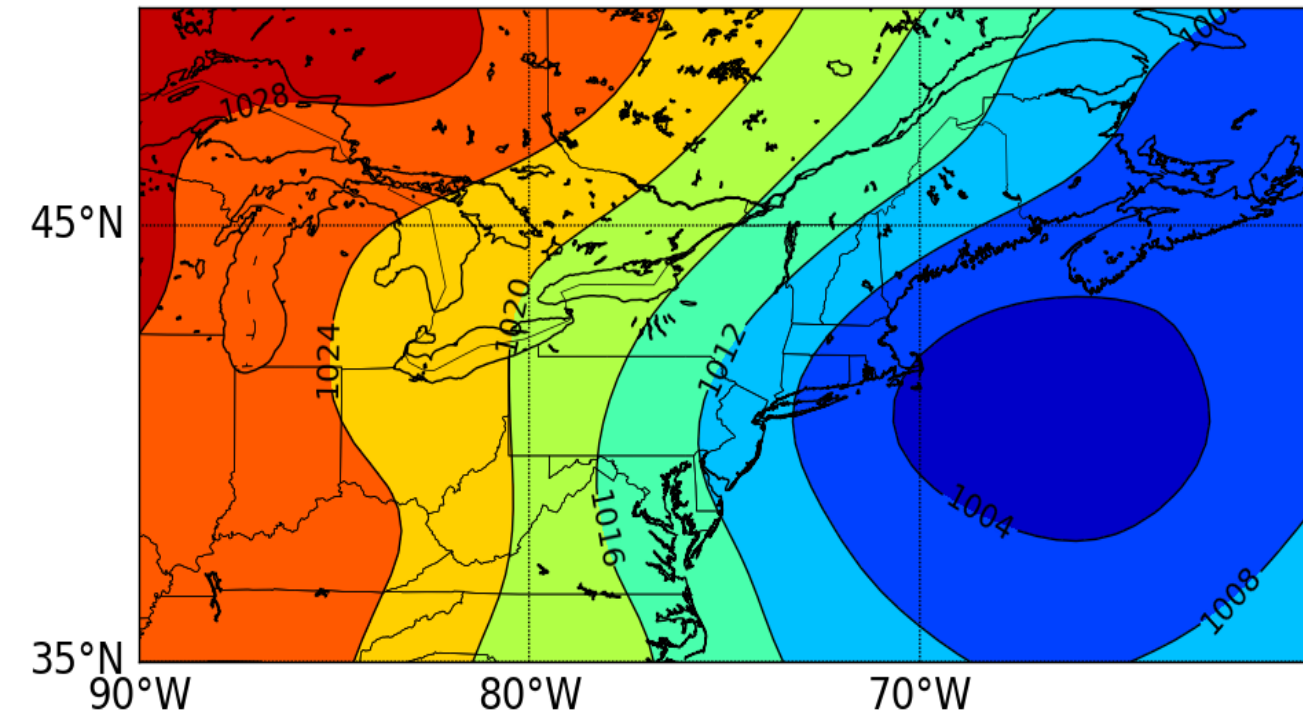
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: SLP

- *Cold MHC* can result in persistent *moderate to heavy snow* in the wake of a *departing low pressure system*



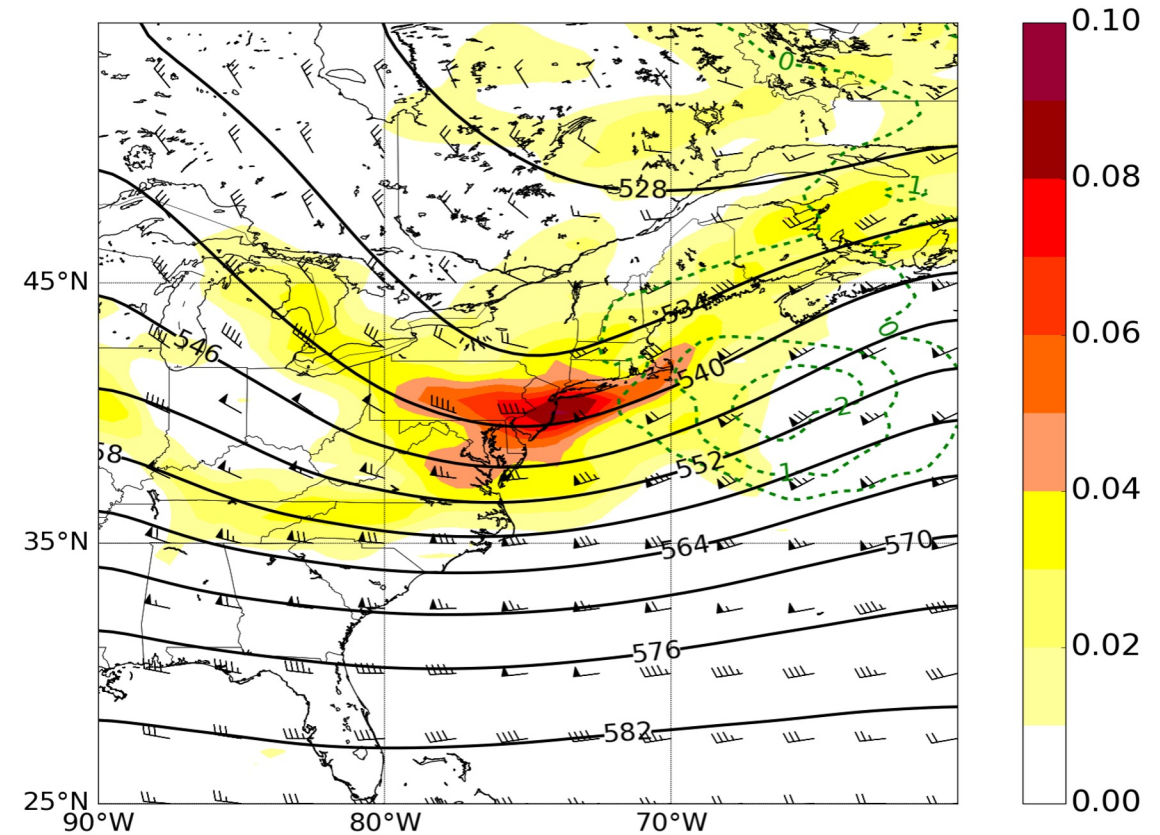
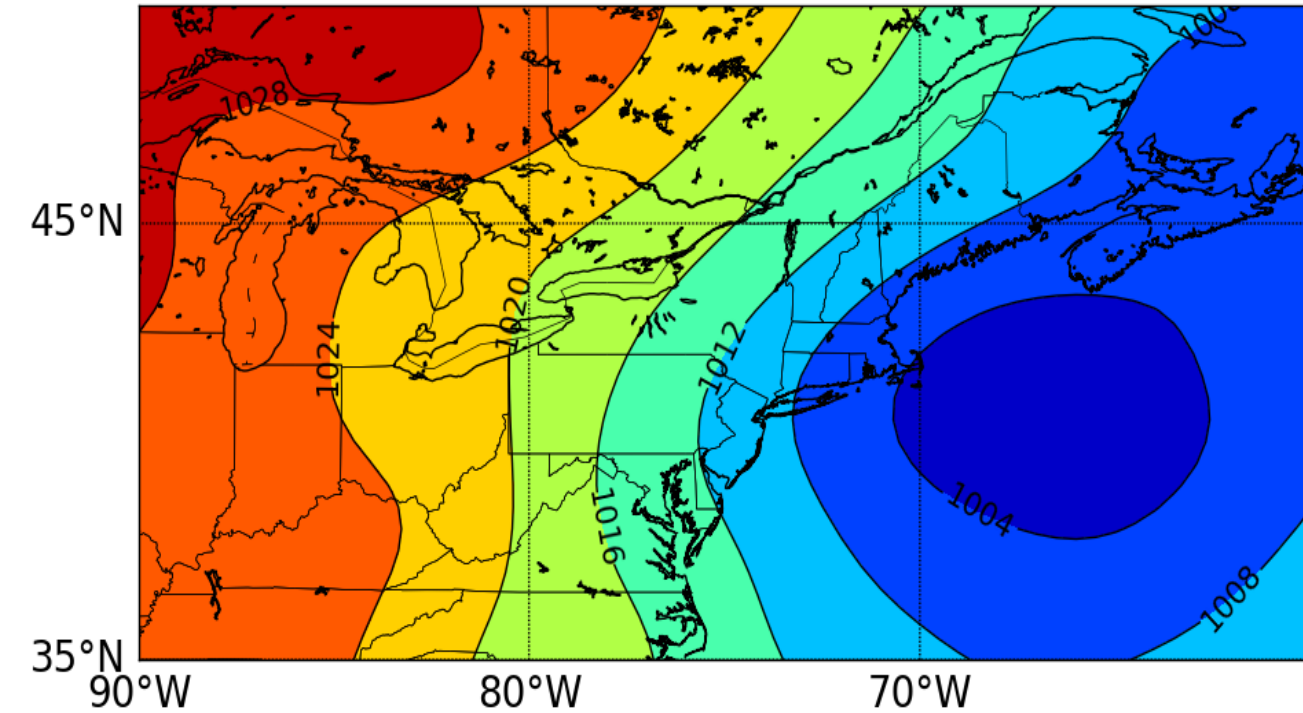
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: Temp. advection

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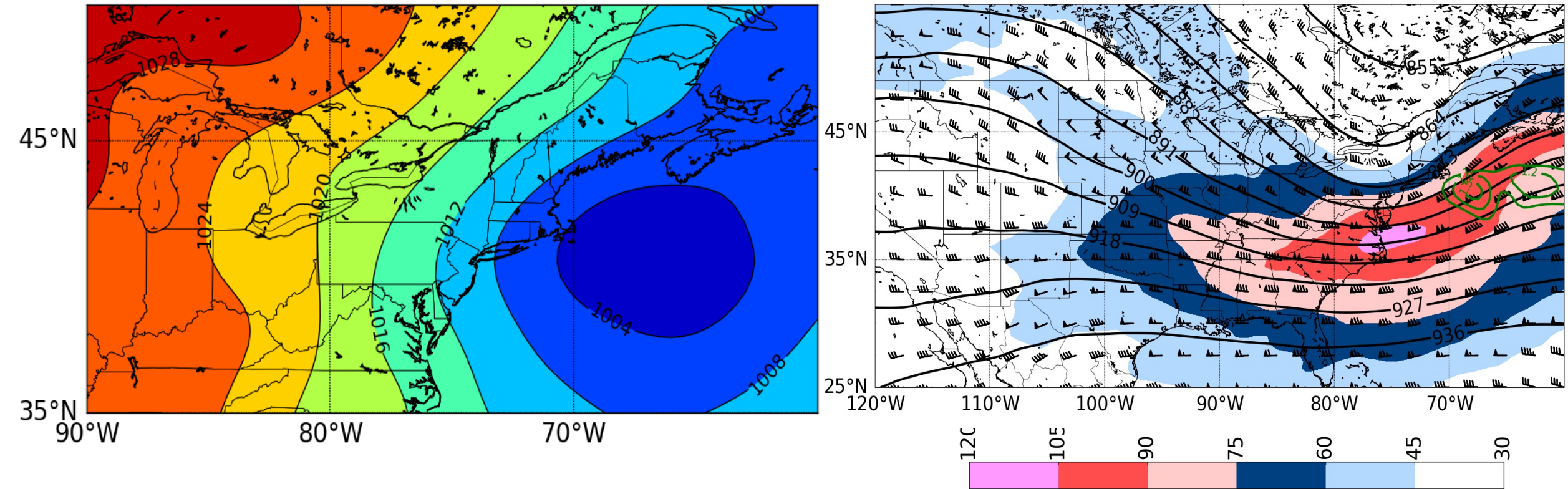
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: Vorticity

- *Cold MHC* can result in persistent *moderate to heavy snow* in the wake of a *departing low pressure system*



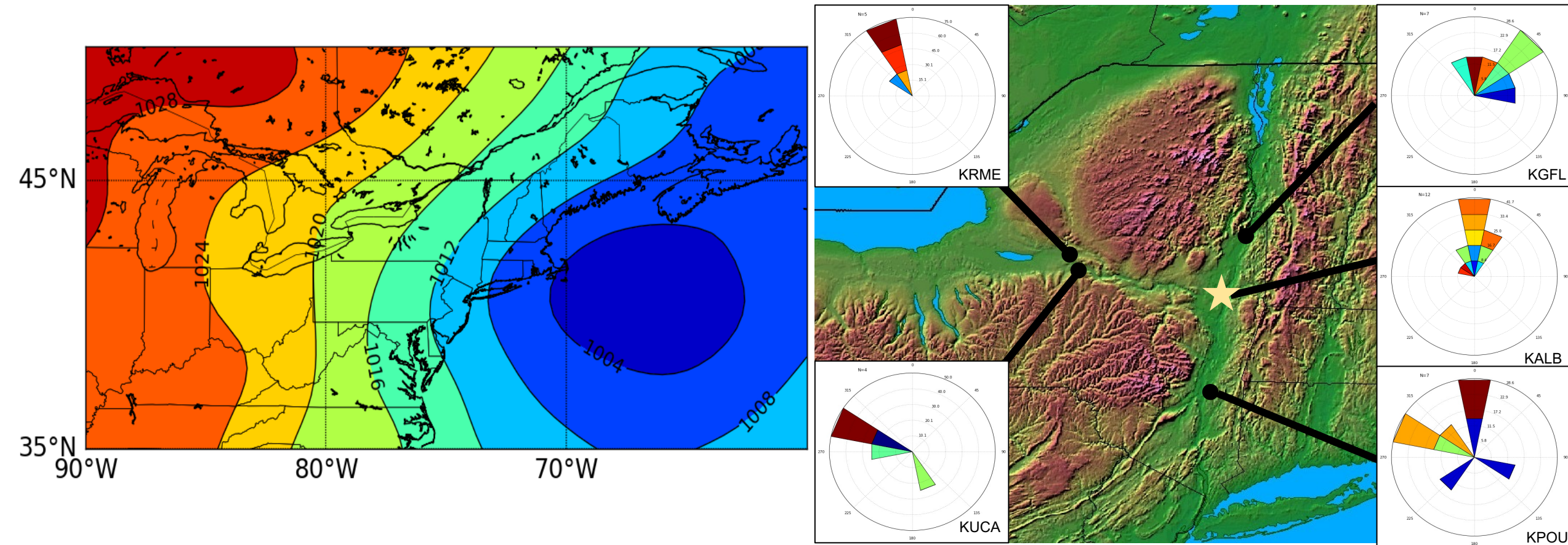
Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: Jet

- *Cold MHC* can result in persistent *moderate to heavy snow* in the wake of a *departing low pressure system*



Mohawk–Hudson Convergence: Surface winds

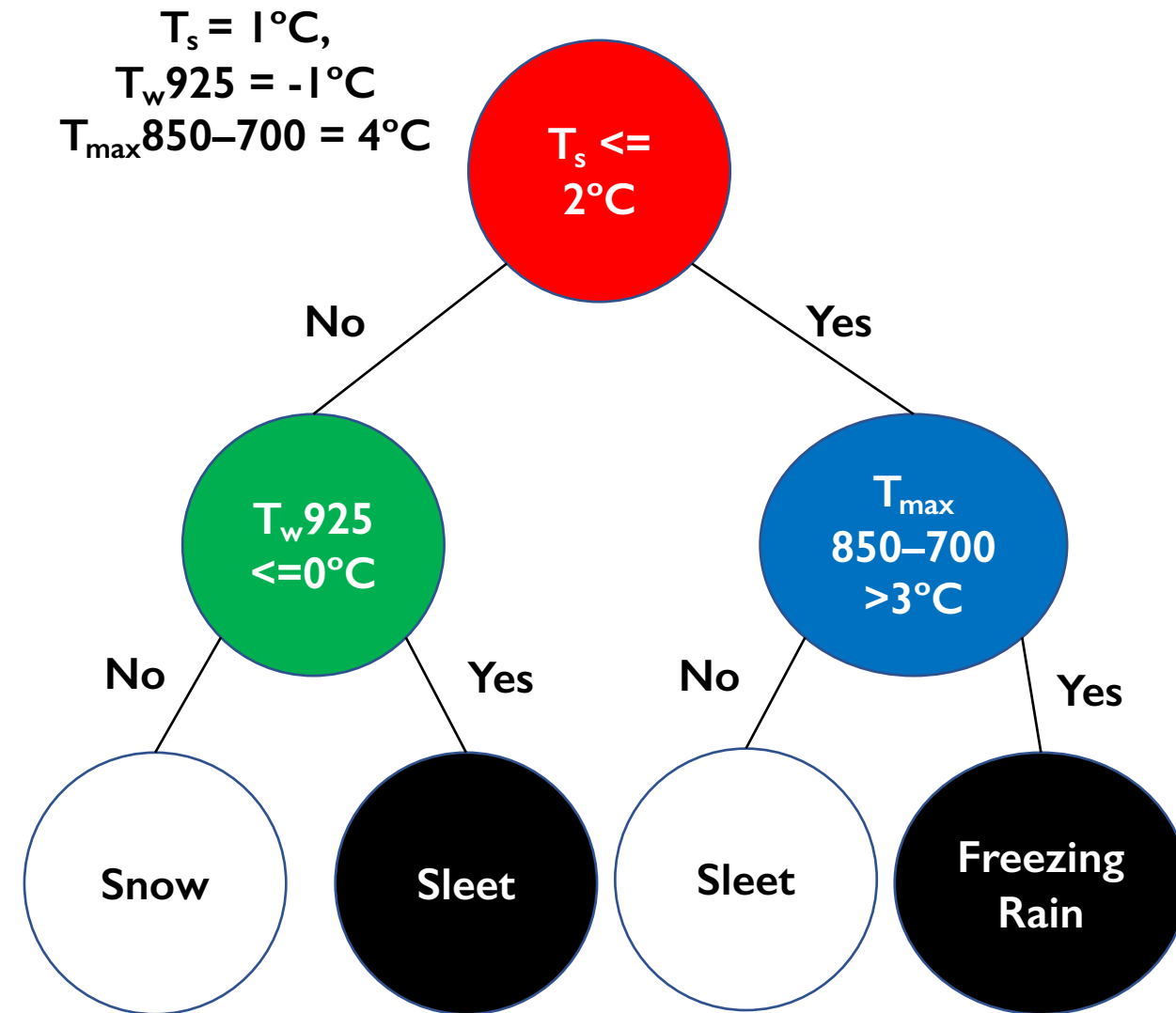
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Data Fusion: Random Forest for Precipitation Type

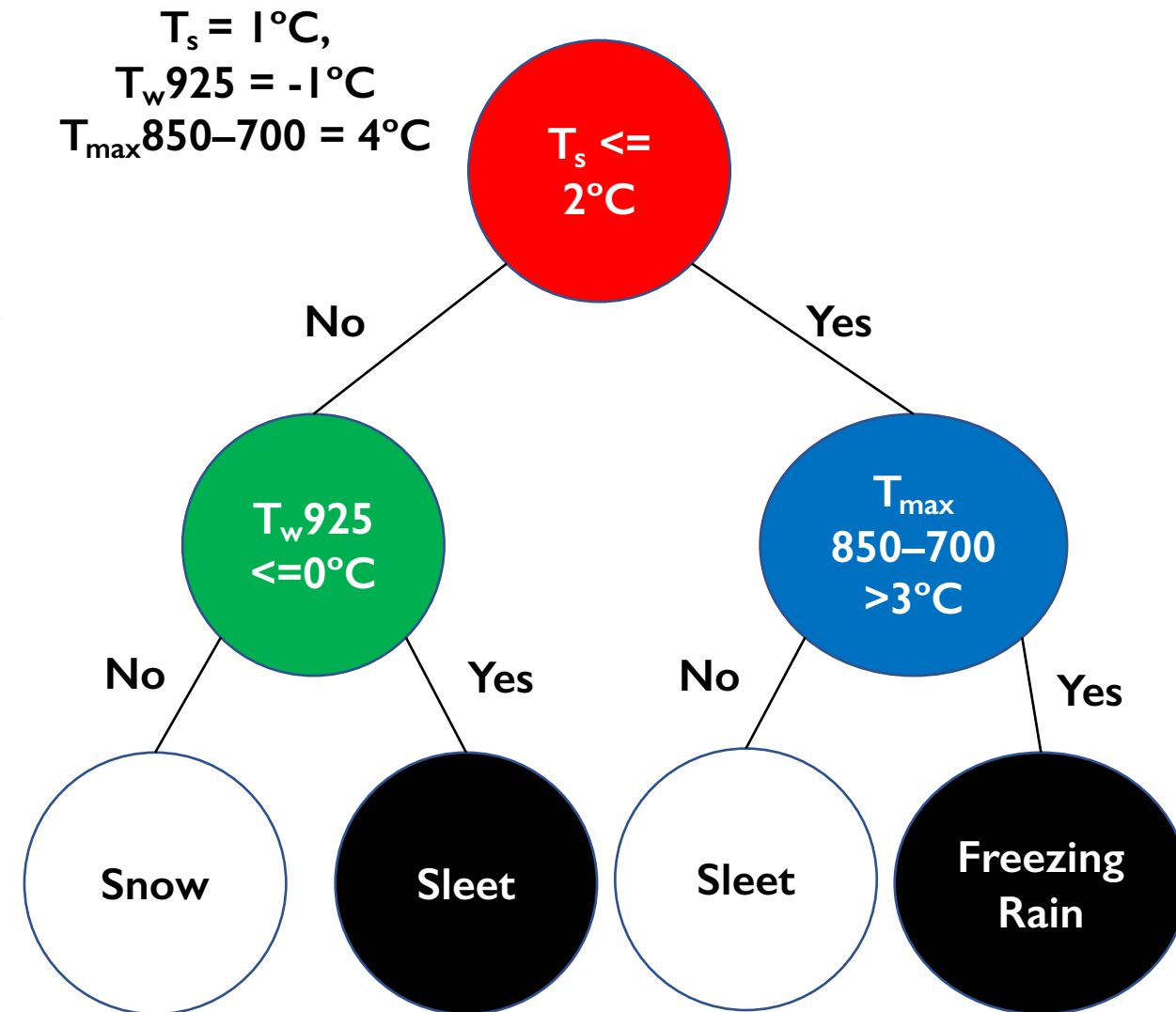
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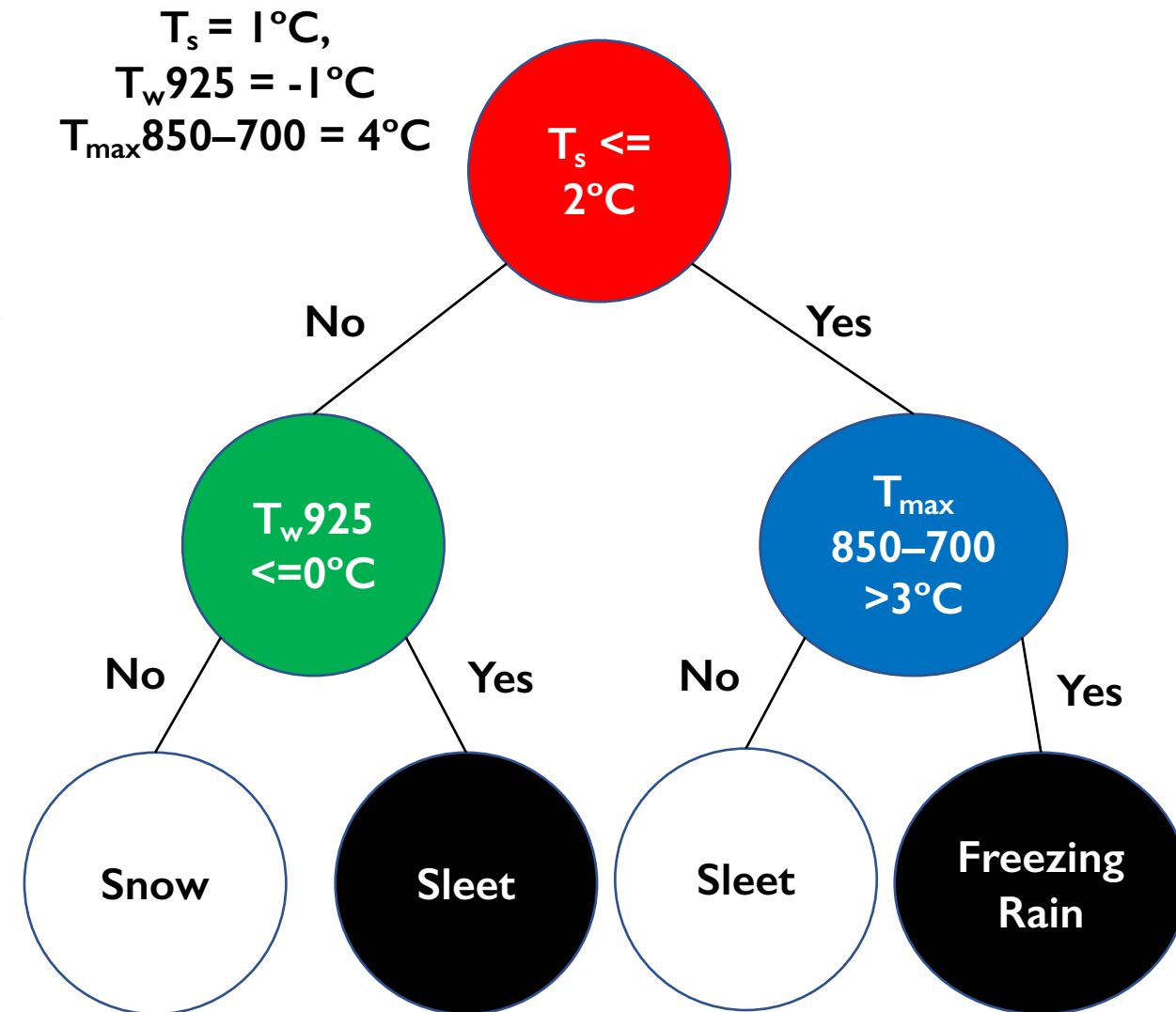
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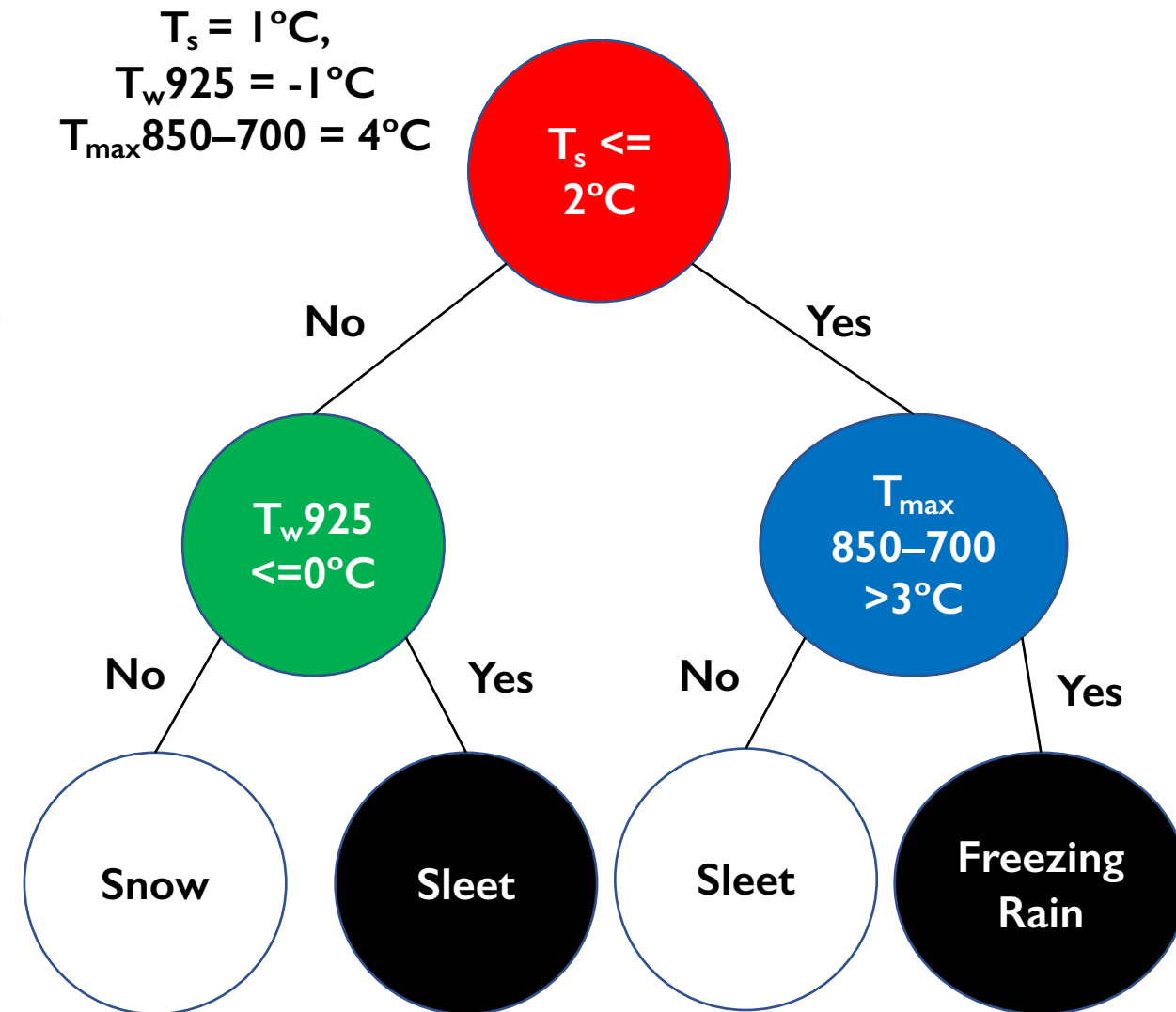
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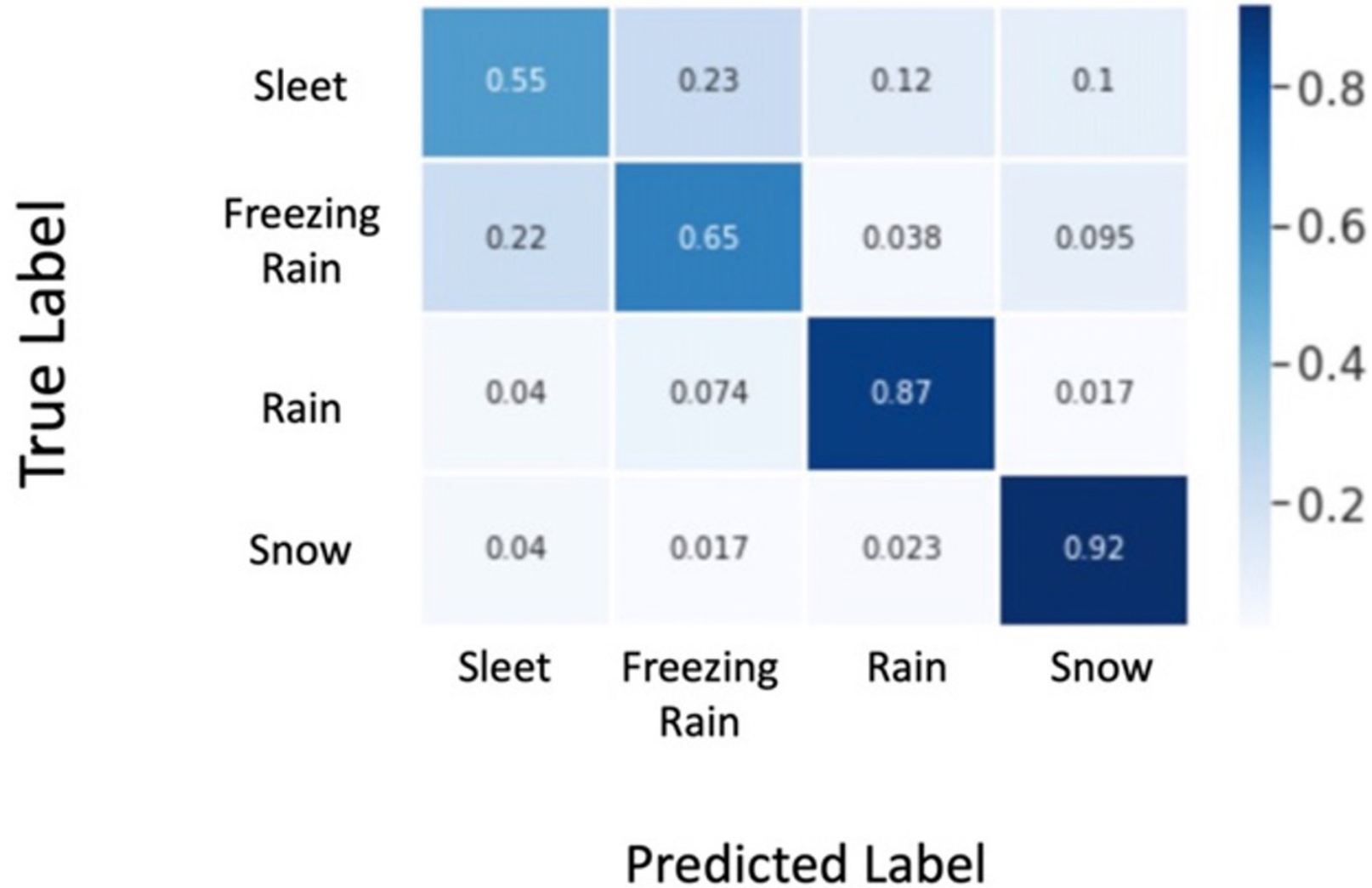


Data Fusion: Random Forest for Precipitation Type

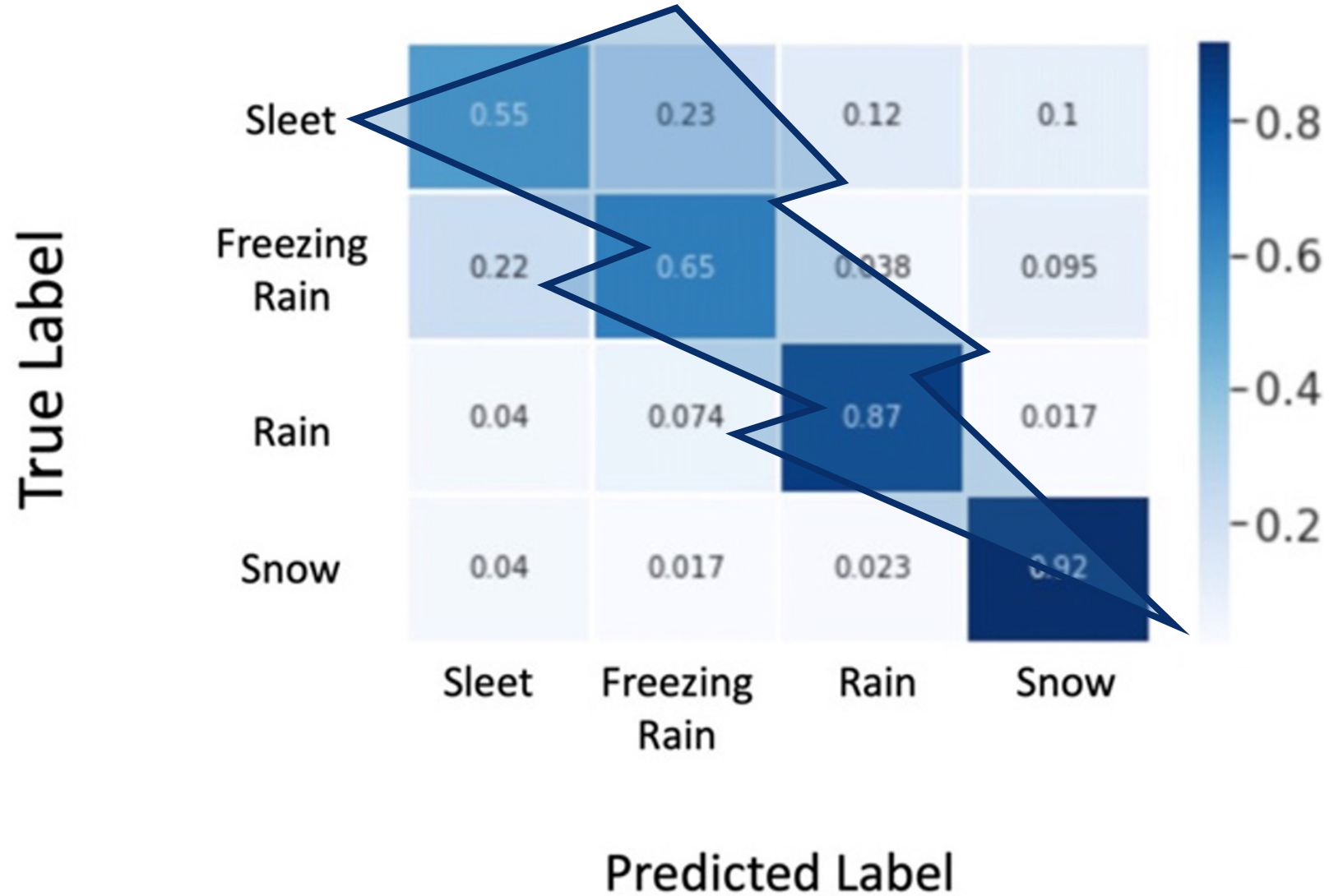
- ‘Forest’ or *ensemble of decision trees*
- *Train the trees* to make predictions from previous knowledge
- *CoCoRaHS reports, Mesonet data, upper-air soundings, NAMNEST, HRRR*
- Generate *probabilistic outcomes*



Data Fusion: Random Forest Testing



Data Fusion: Random Forest Testing

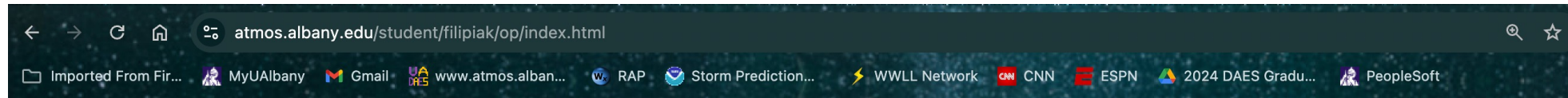


Data Fusion: Operational Product Guidance

- *Website* was developed in *2021* to *display* output and *forecast* guidance

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Welcome to the Albany CSTAR Data Fusion Winter Weather Project!

Home	NYSM & Upper Air	NAMNEST	HRRR	NYSM & HRRR	Model and Observation Comparison	Product Description Document	Archived Plots
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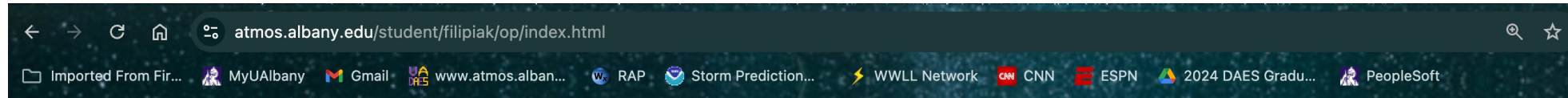
This page has been developed through research conducted as a part of a NOAA CSTAR grant

All plots and data displayed is experimental in nature and should not be used other than in a research framework

**To learn more about the algorithm, please visit the Data and Methods section
For information about how to use this product, please visit the Training tab**

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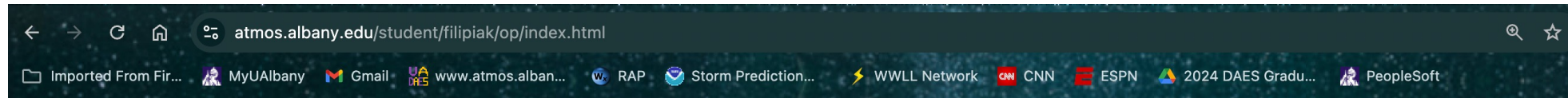
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- *Live updating map* of *probabilities* with radar or reflectivity

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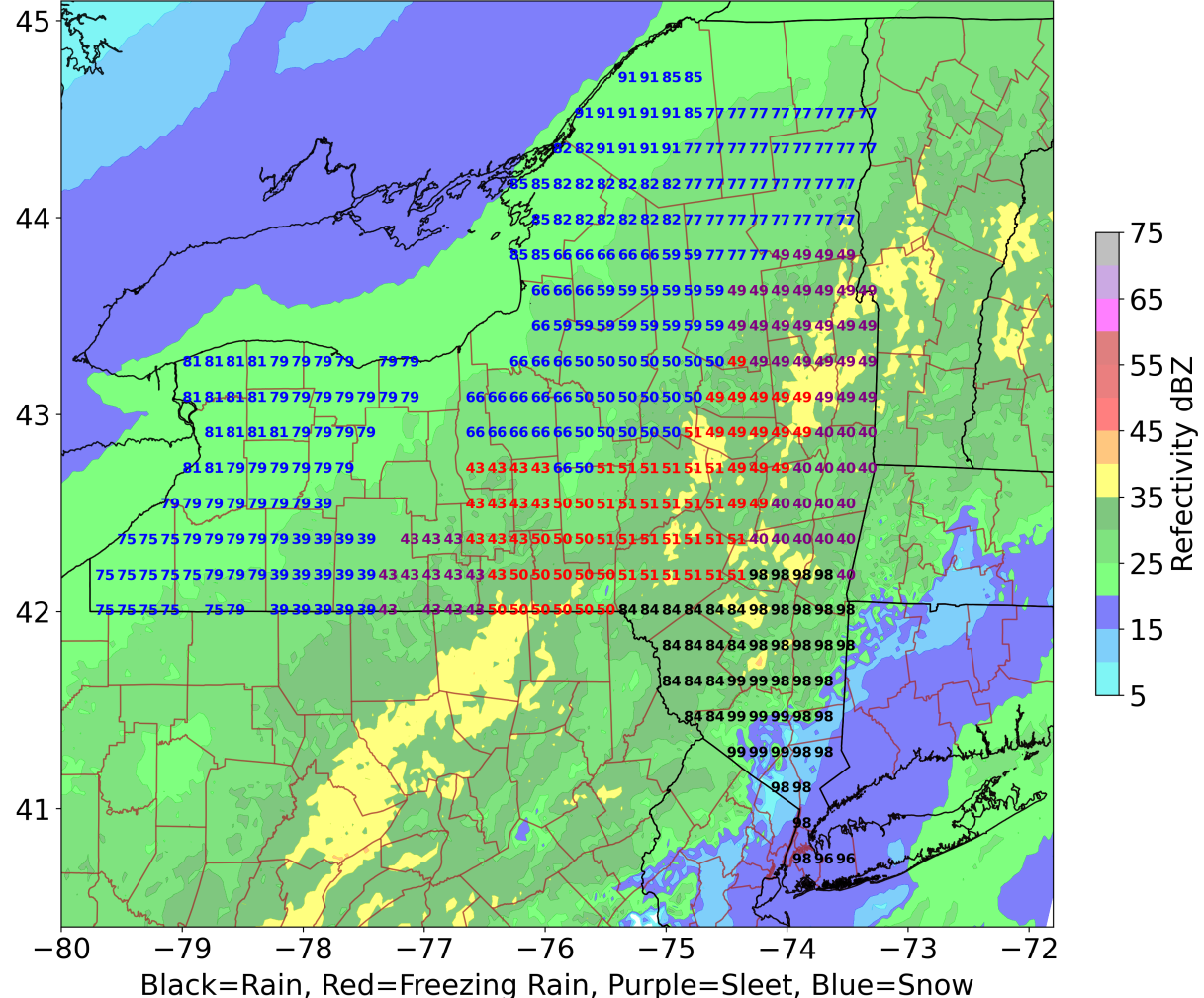
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- *Live updating map* of *probabilities* with radar or reflectivity
- *Six probabilistic products* available: rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow, mixed precipitation (sleet + freezing rain), and dominant precipitation type



Random Forest: Operational Product Guidance

Dominant Precipitation Probabilities with NAM Composite Reflectivity
Valid at 02_04_2022_0400Z



Random Forest: Operational Product Guidance

993
FXUS61 KALY 040234
AFDALY

AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION
National Weather Service Albany NY
934 PM EST Thu Feb 3 2022

.NEAR TERM /THROUGH FRIDAY/...
Winter Storm Warning for Herkimer, Hamilton, northern Fulton,
northern Warren and northern Washington Counties until to 1 pm
Friday...

Winter Storm Warning for southern Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie,
western Schenectady and western Albany Counties from 1 pm today
to 5 pm Friday...

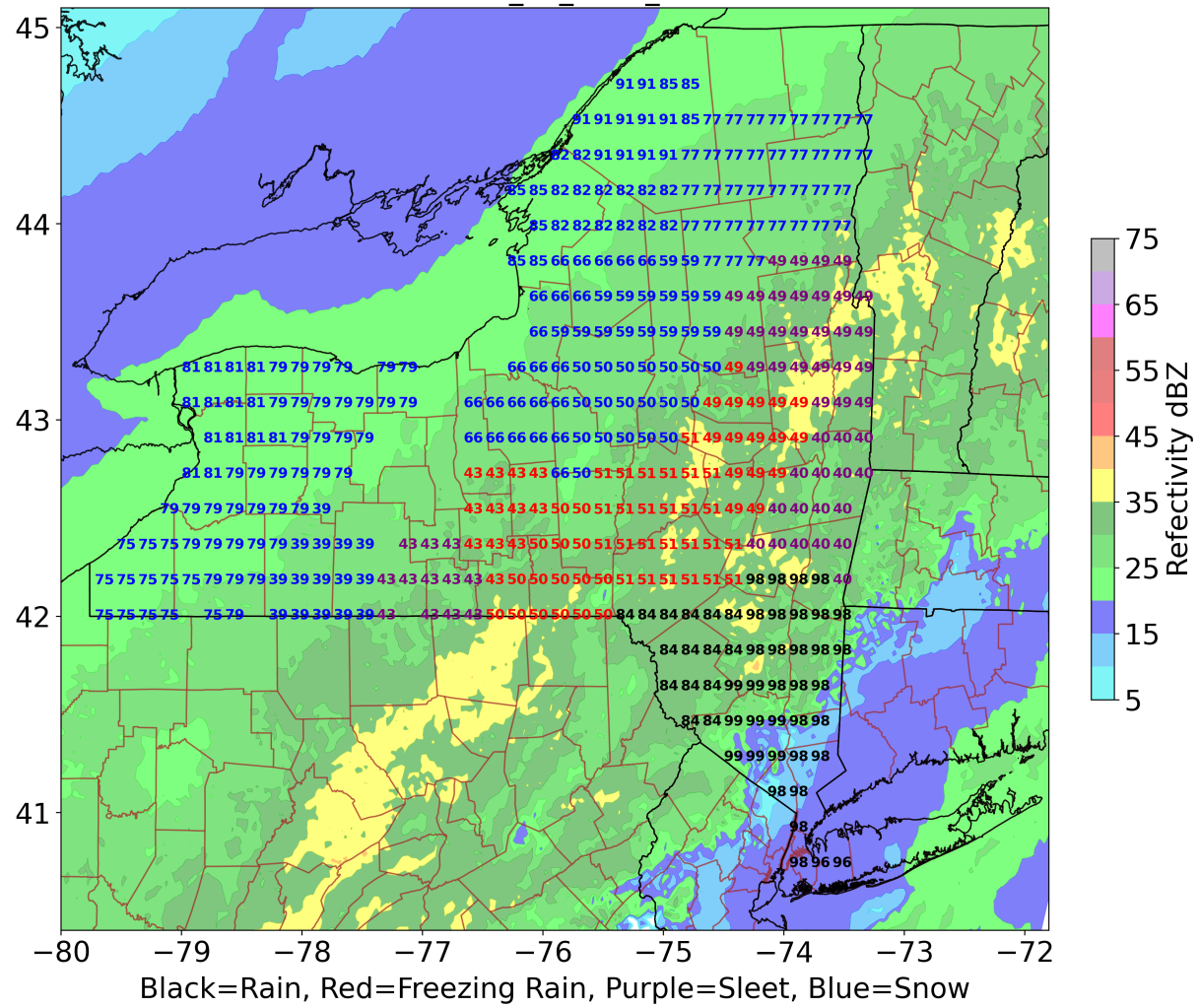
Winter Storm Warning for Southern Vermont, the Capital Region, Glens
Falls and northern Saratoga Region, and the northern Taconics
in eastern New York and northern Berkshire County in western
Massachusetts from 5 pm this afternoon to 5 pm Friday...

Winter Weather Advisory for western Greene and western Ulster
Counties from 5 pm this afternoon to 5 pm Friday...

Winter Weather Advisory for the mid Hudson Valley, southern and
central Taconics, and Litchfield County, CT from 7 pm tonight
to 5 pm Friday...

Based on reports from spotters, social media and data from the
NY State Mesonet, and experimental precipitation type CSTAR
output, sleet and freezing rain occurring to the
Johnstown/Amsterdam area and even near the Herkimer sawtooth.
Some slight reductions in the snow forecasts out there and a
alight increase in the ice forecasts from the Capital Region
east and south.

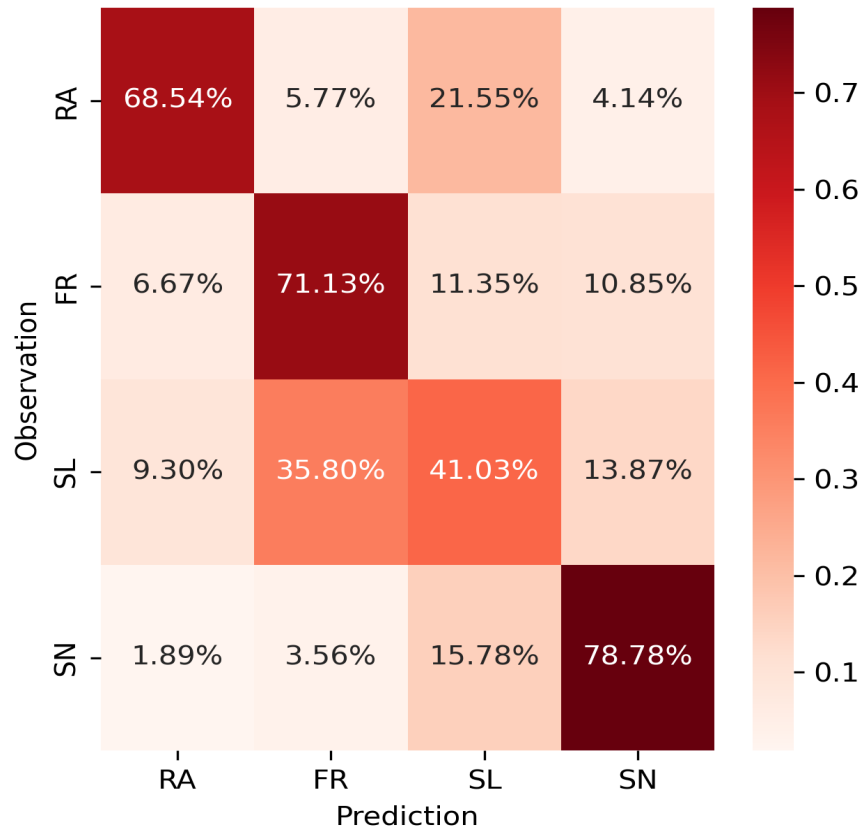
Dominant Precipitation Probabilities with NAM Composite Reflectivity
Valid at 02_04_2022_0400Z



Random Forest (RF) Verification: 2020–2022

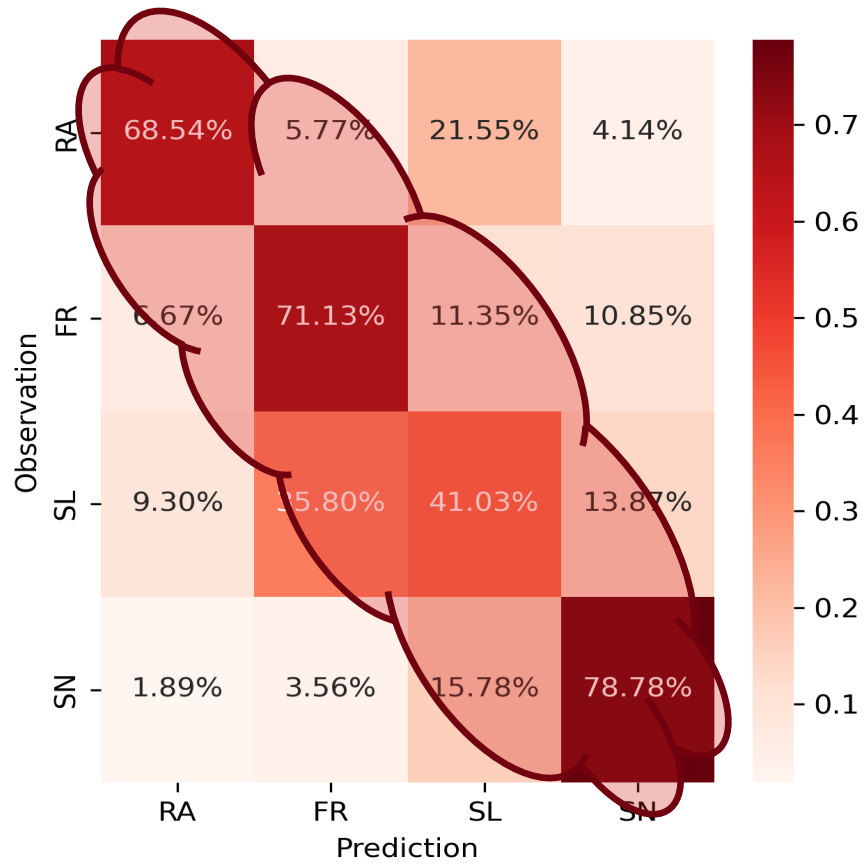
Random Forest (RF) Verification: 2020–2022

RF



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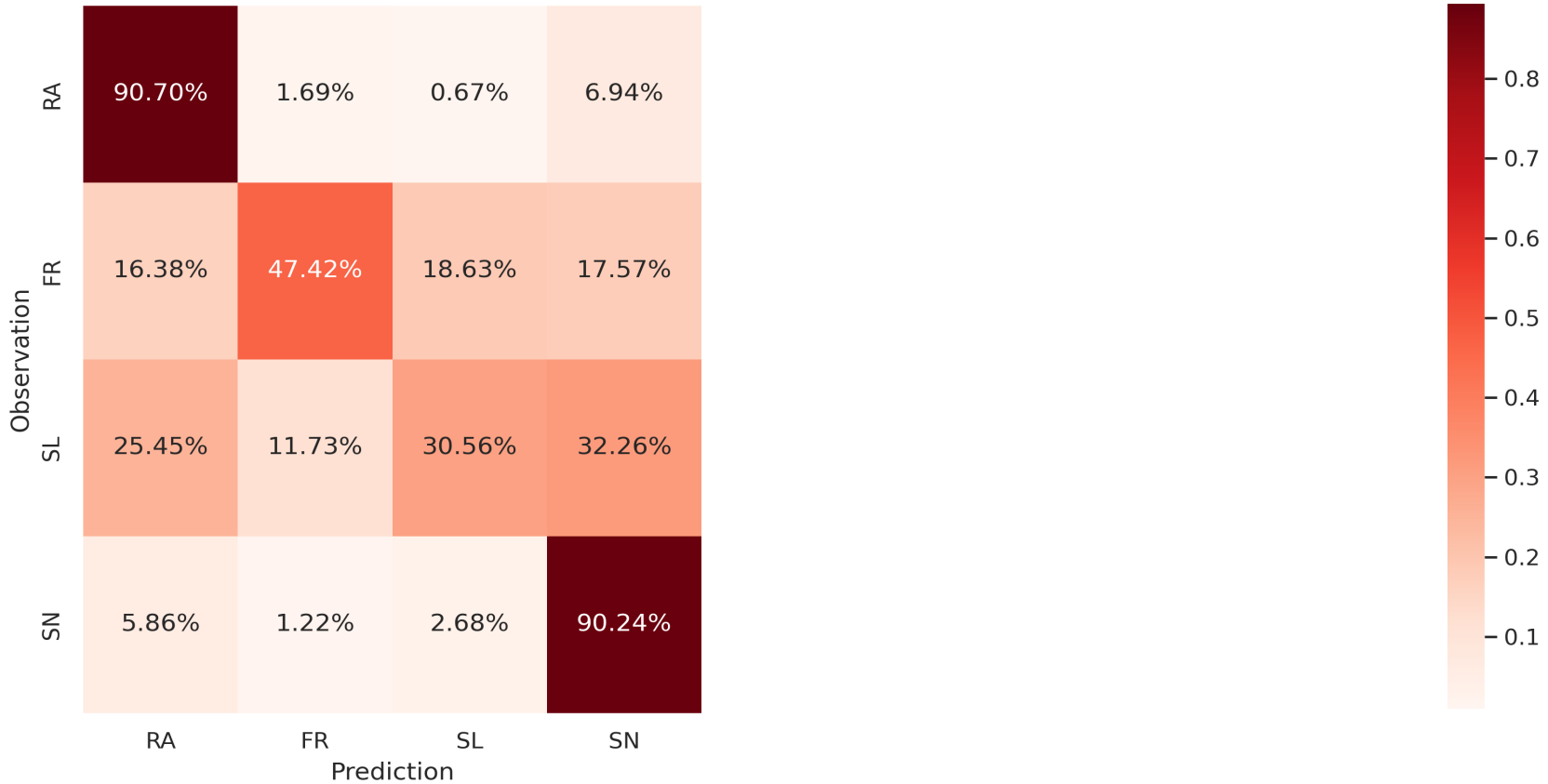
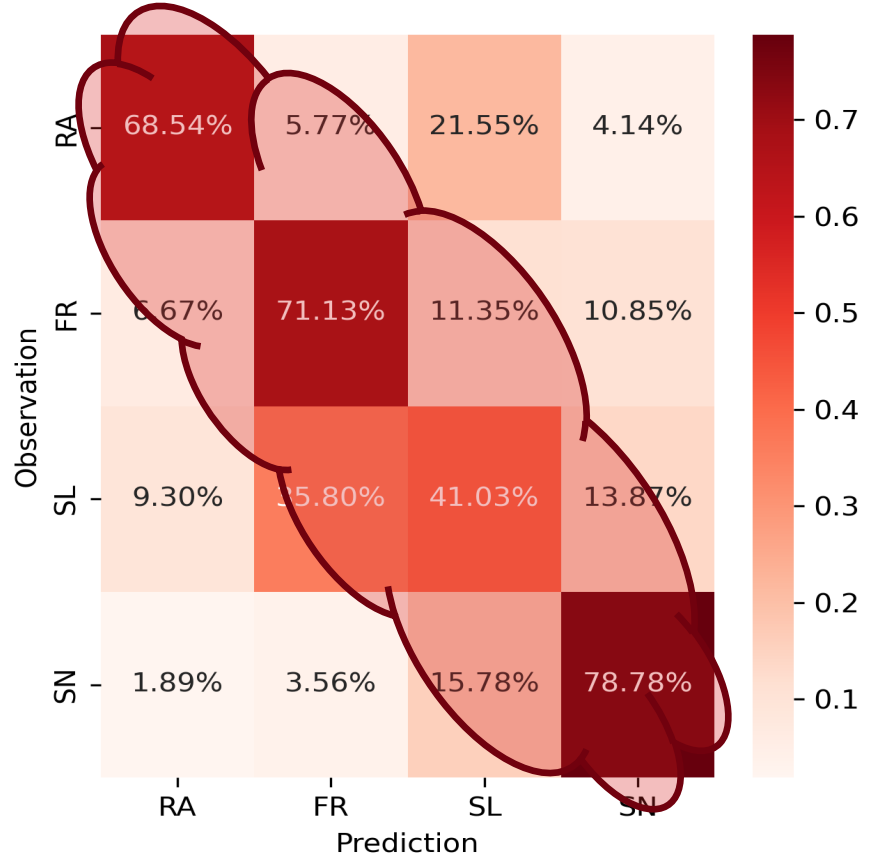
RF



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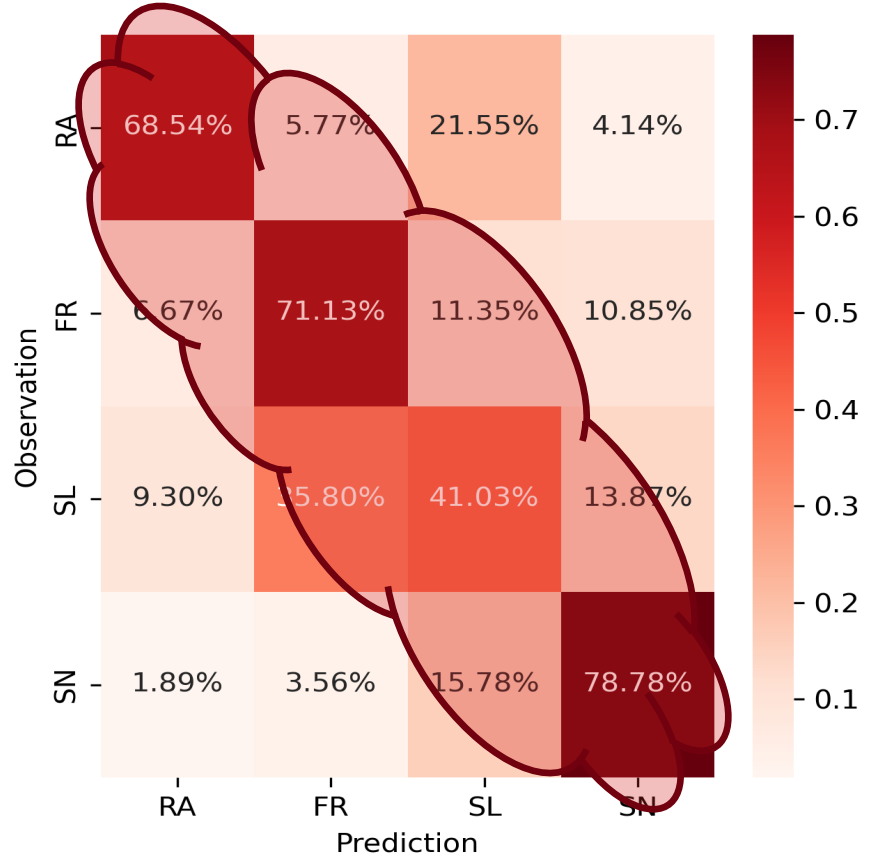
RF

NAM

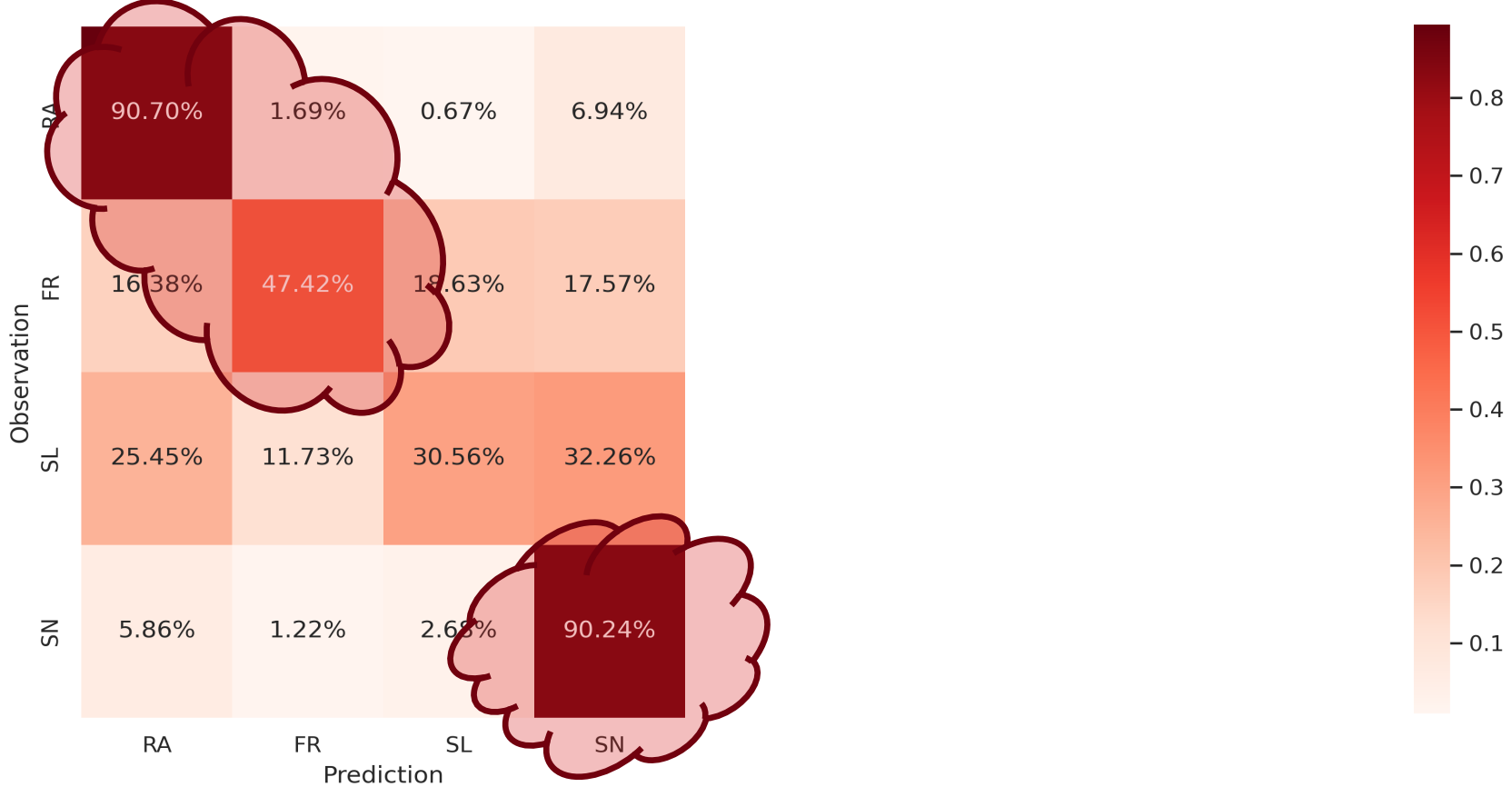


Random Forest (RF) Verification: 2020–2022

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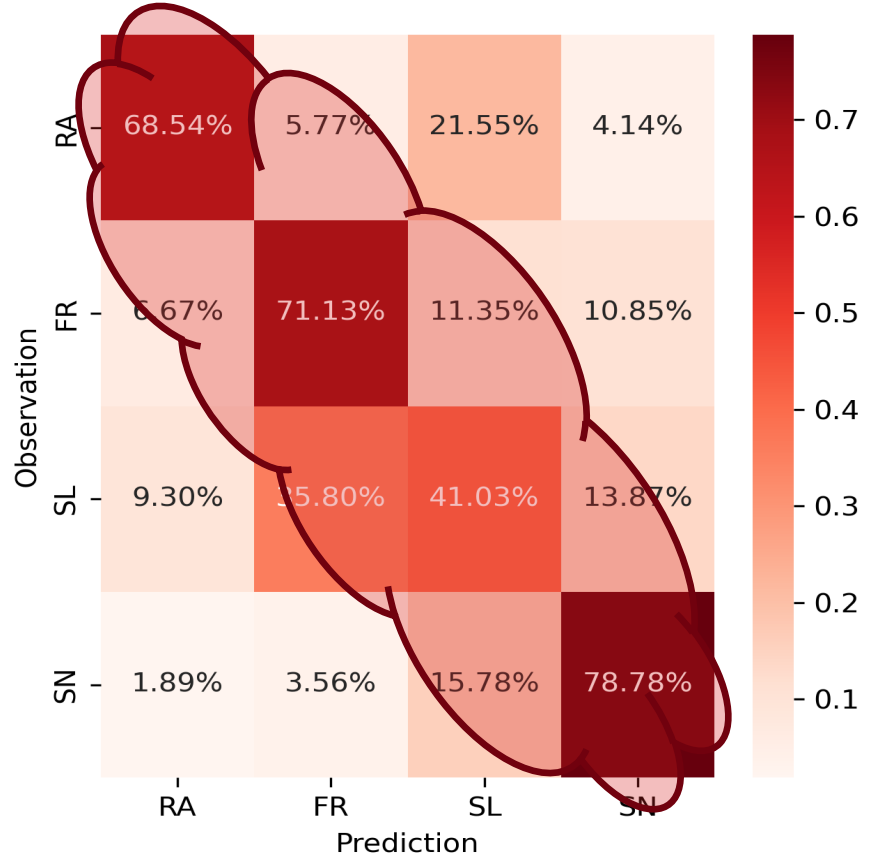


NAM

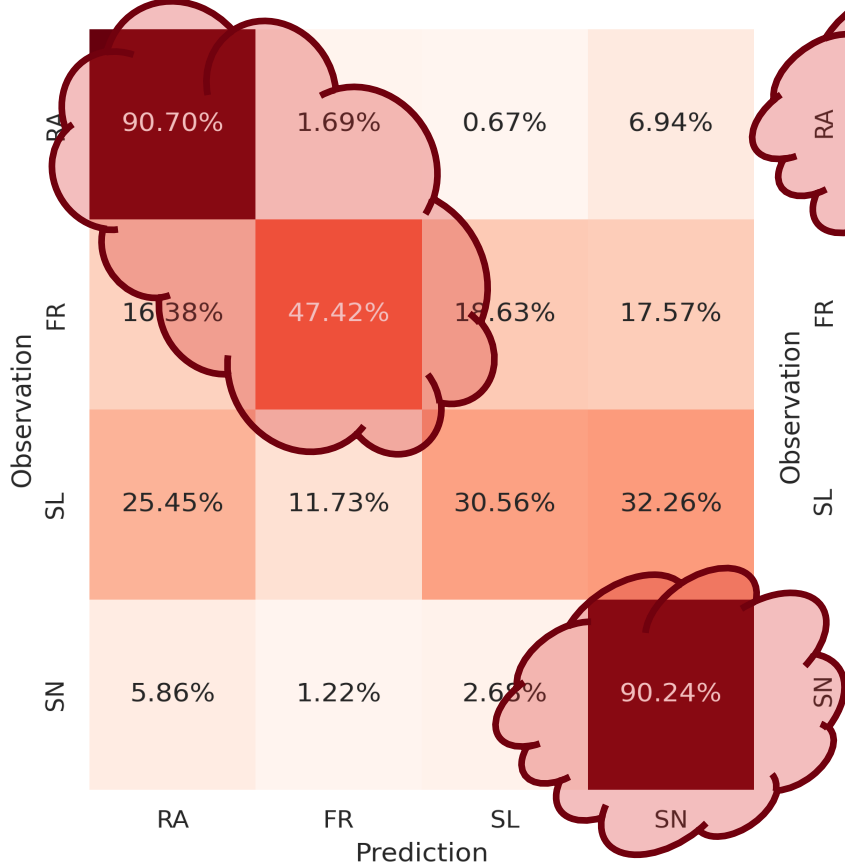


Random Forest (RF) Verification: 2020–2022

RF



NAM



HRRR

