

# Data assimilation in meteorology

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# Plan of the talk

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- Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) and Data Assimilation (DA)
- Observations (in-situ and remote sensing)
- Error covariance estimation and modelling



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# 1. Numerical Weather Prediction and Data Assimilation

# The two main ingredients of weather forecasting

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What will be the weather tomorrow ?

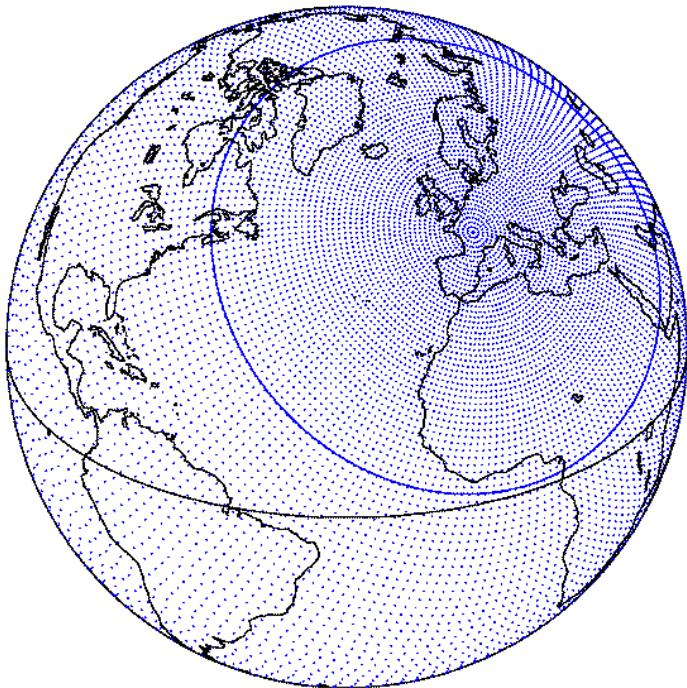
Bjerknes (1904) :

In order to do a good forecast, we need to know :

- the atmospheric evolution laws  
(~ modelling) ;
- the atmospheric state at initial time  
(~ data assimilation).

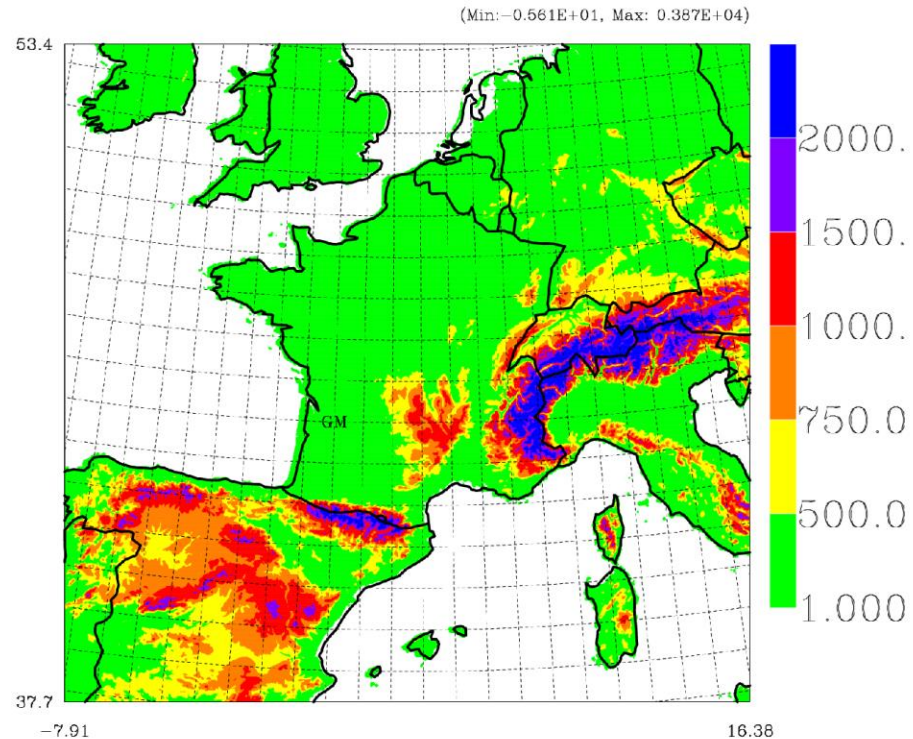
# Numerical Weather Prediction at Météo-France (in collaboration with e.g. ECMWF)

**Global model (Arpège) : DX ~ 7-40 km**



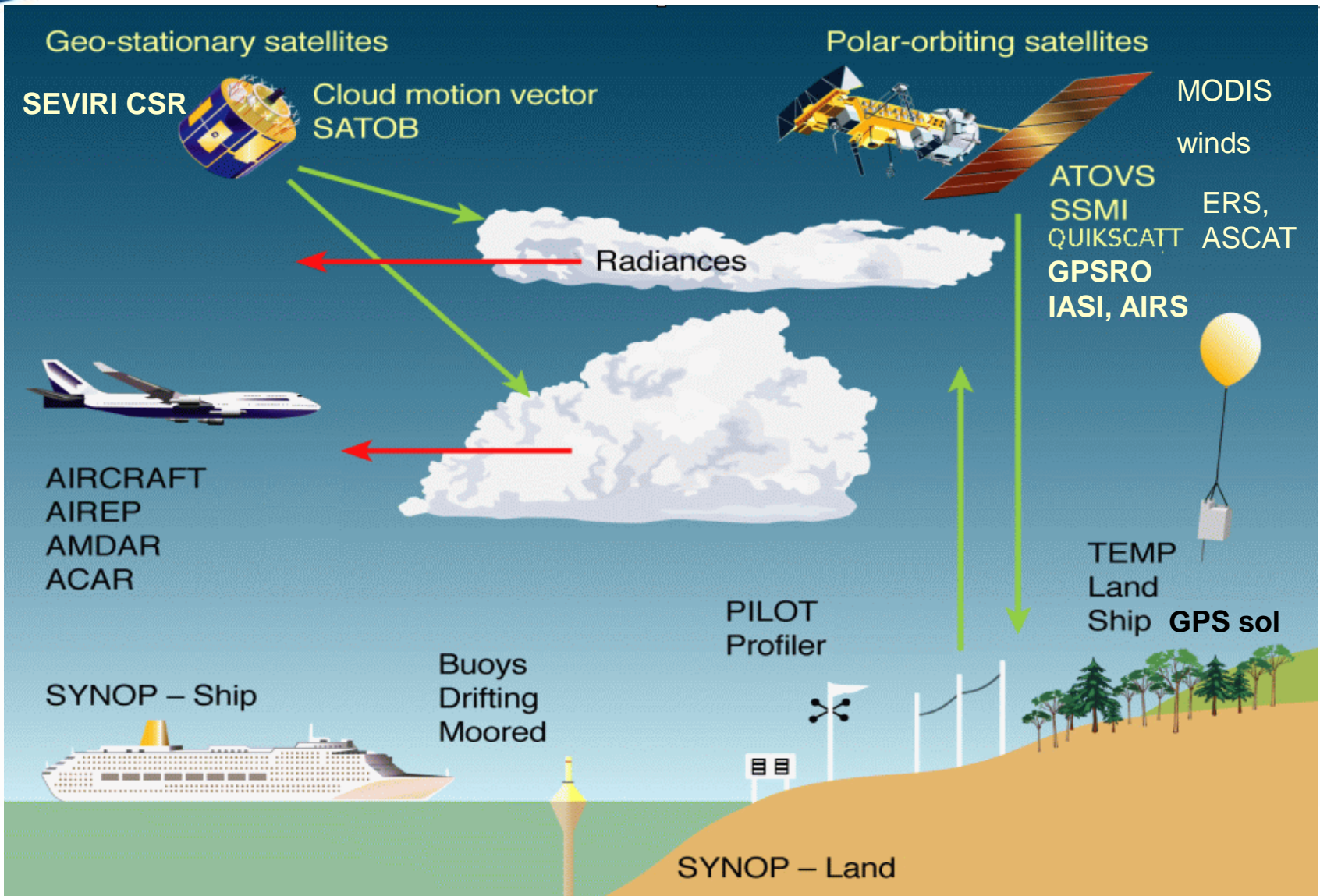
**Arome :**

**DX ~ 1.3 km**



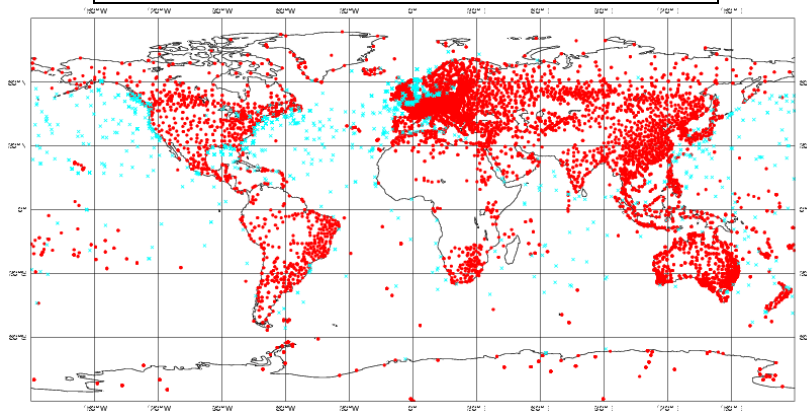
Equations of hydrodynamics and physical parametrizations (radiation, convection,...)  
to predict the evolution of temperature, wind, humidity, ...

# Data that are assimilated in NWP models

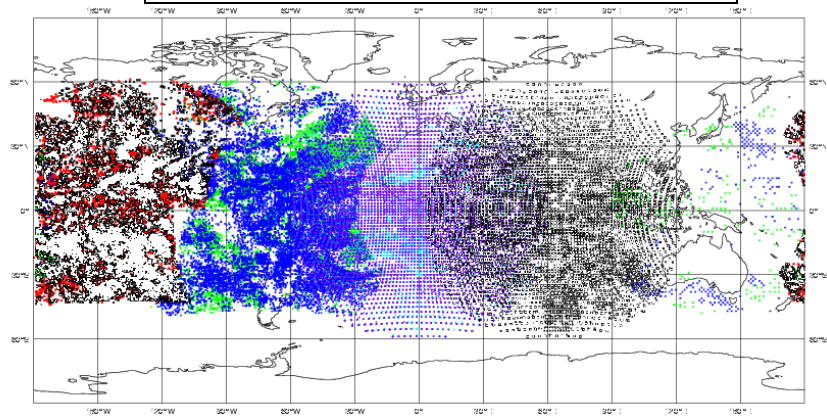


# Spatial coverage and density of observations

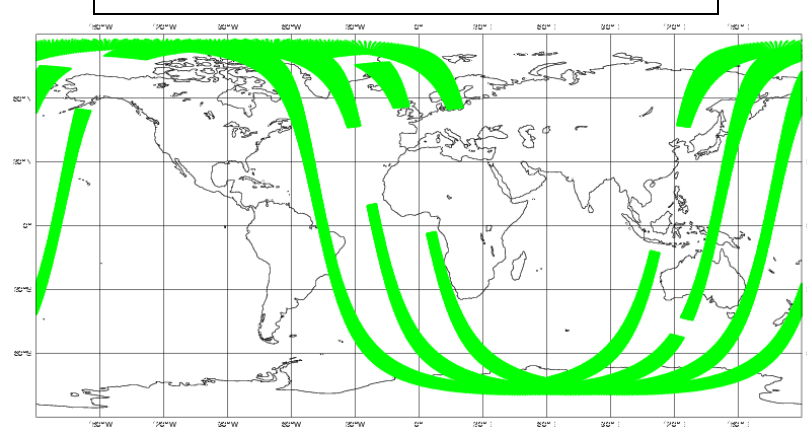
## SURFACE DATA



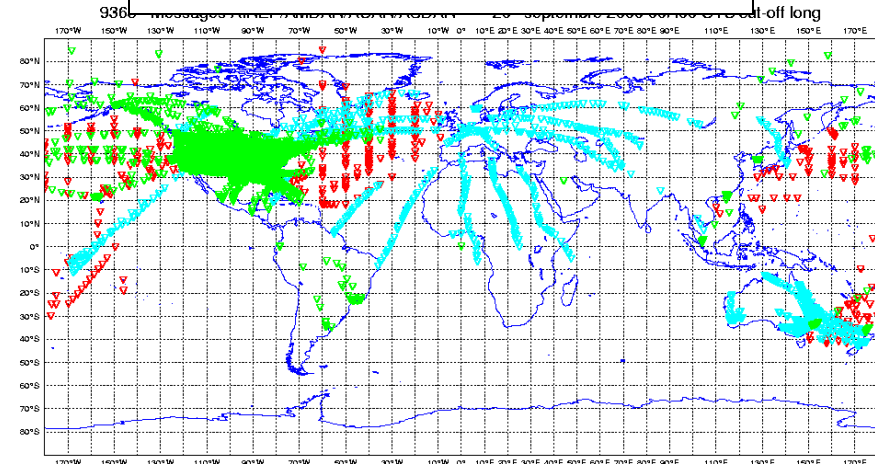
## GEOSAT. WINDS



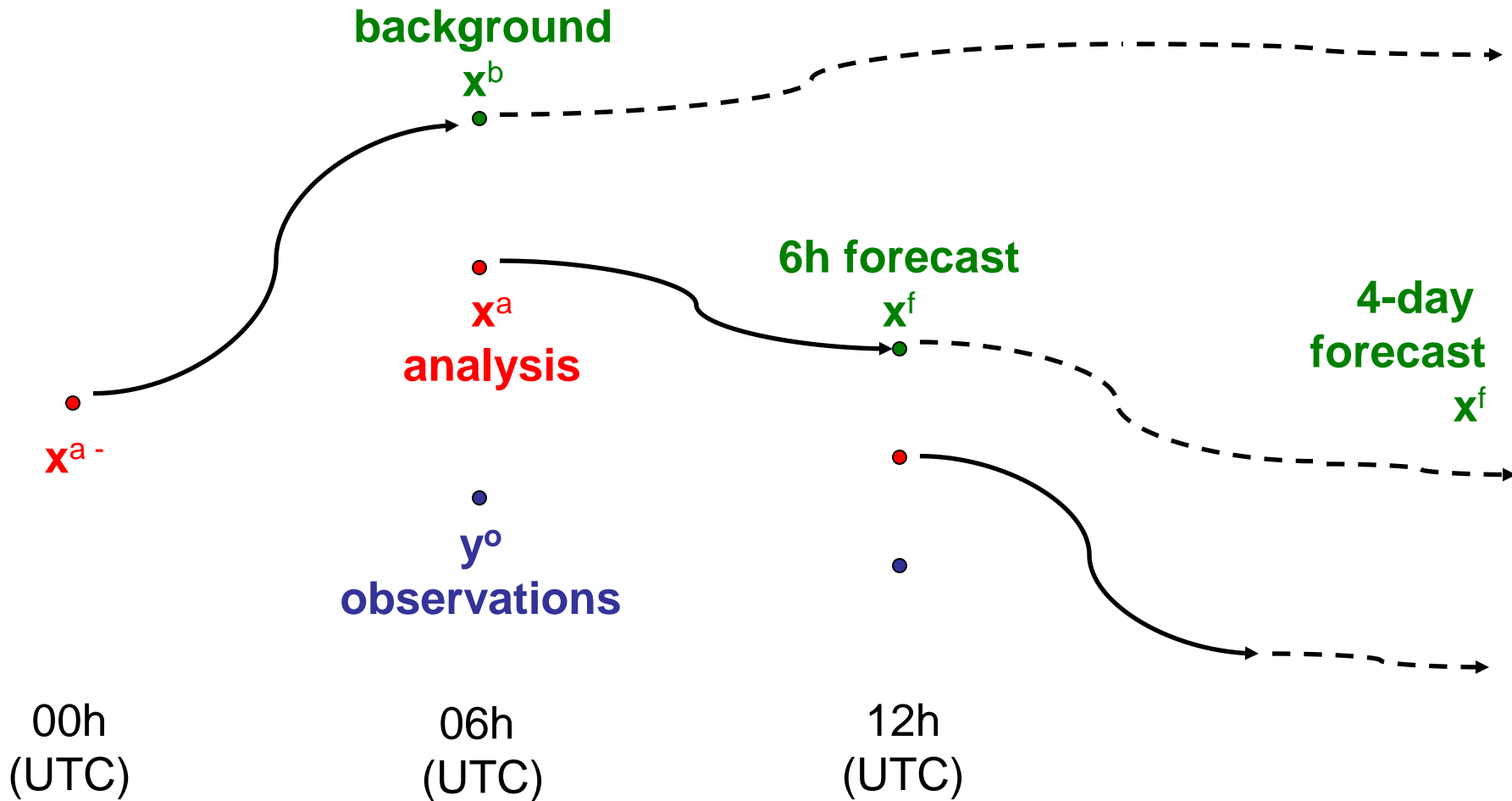
## SCATTEROMETER



## AIRCRAFT DATA



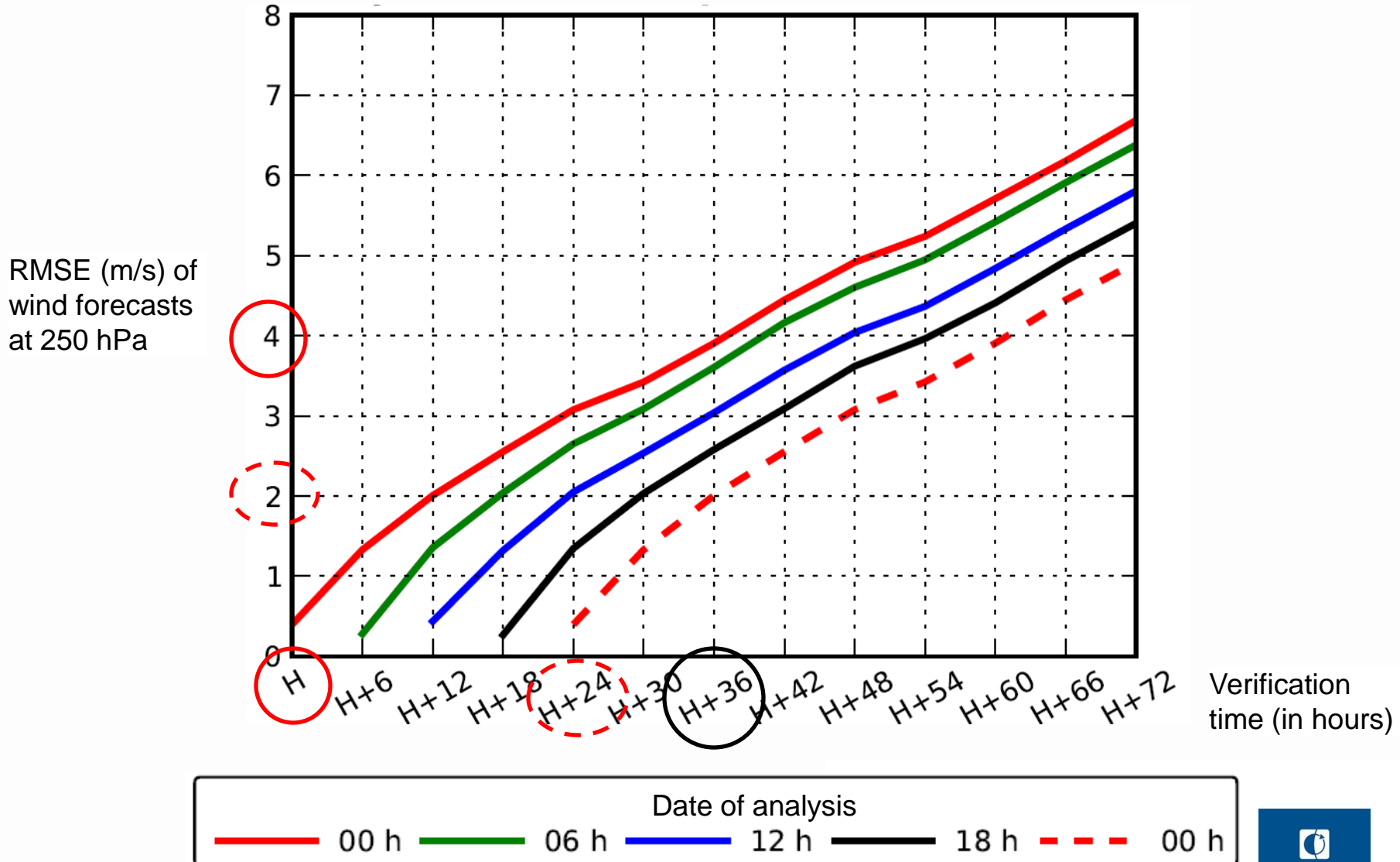
# Temporal cycling of data assimilation : succession of analyses and forecasts



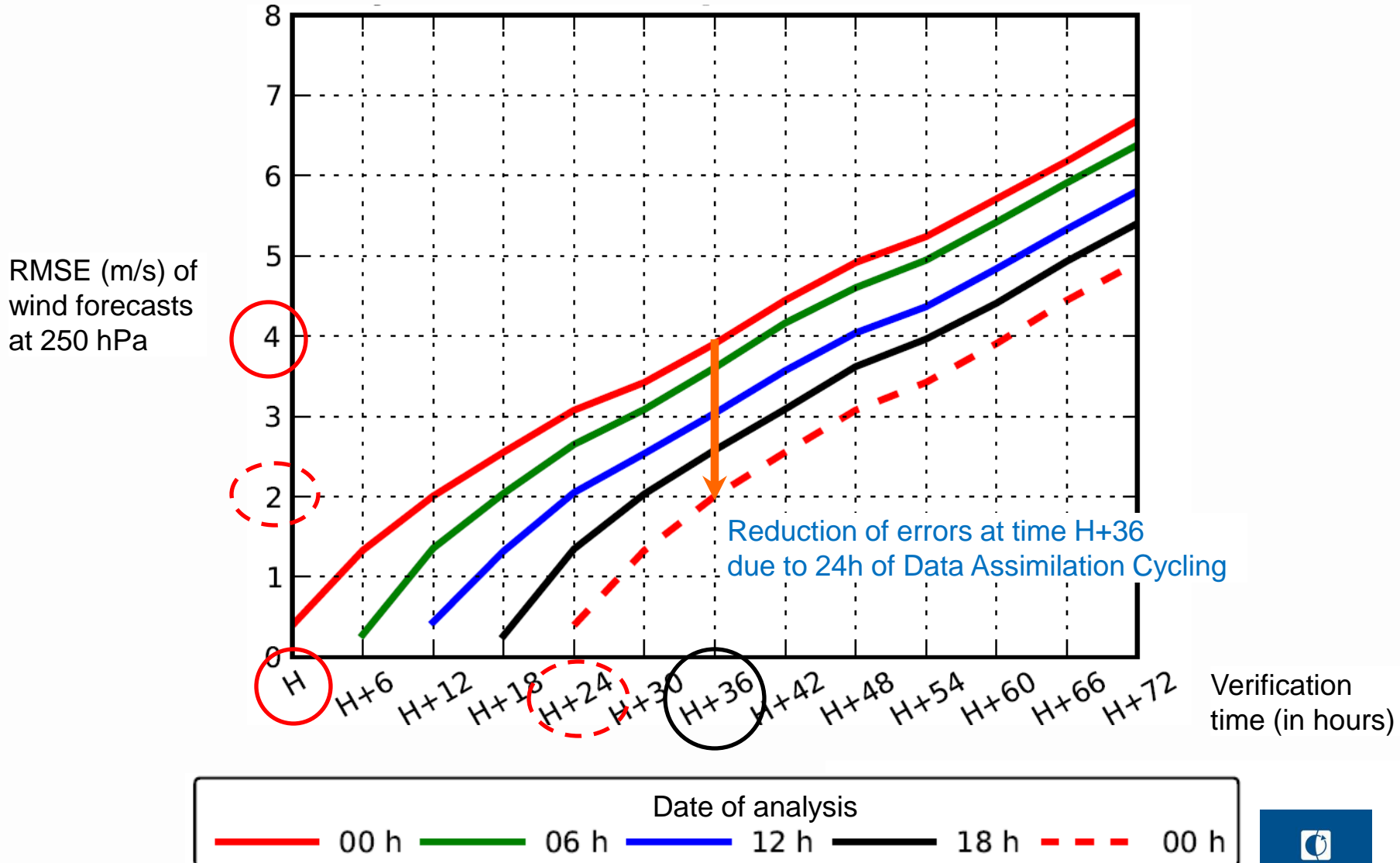
State of DA system is updated ~ continuously



# Forecast errors, as a function of verification time and analysis date



# Forecast errors, as a function of verification time and analysis date



# Quasi-linear analysis (BLUE)

- BLUE analysis equation :  $\mathbf{x}^a = \mathbf{x}^b + \mathbf{K} (\mathbf{y}^o - H[\mathbf{x}^b])$
- $H$  = non linear observation operator  
= projection from model space to observation space  
(e.g. spatial interpolation, radiative transfer, NWP model).

- $\mathbf{K}$  = gain matrix :

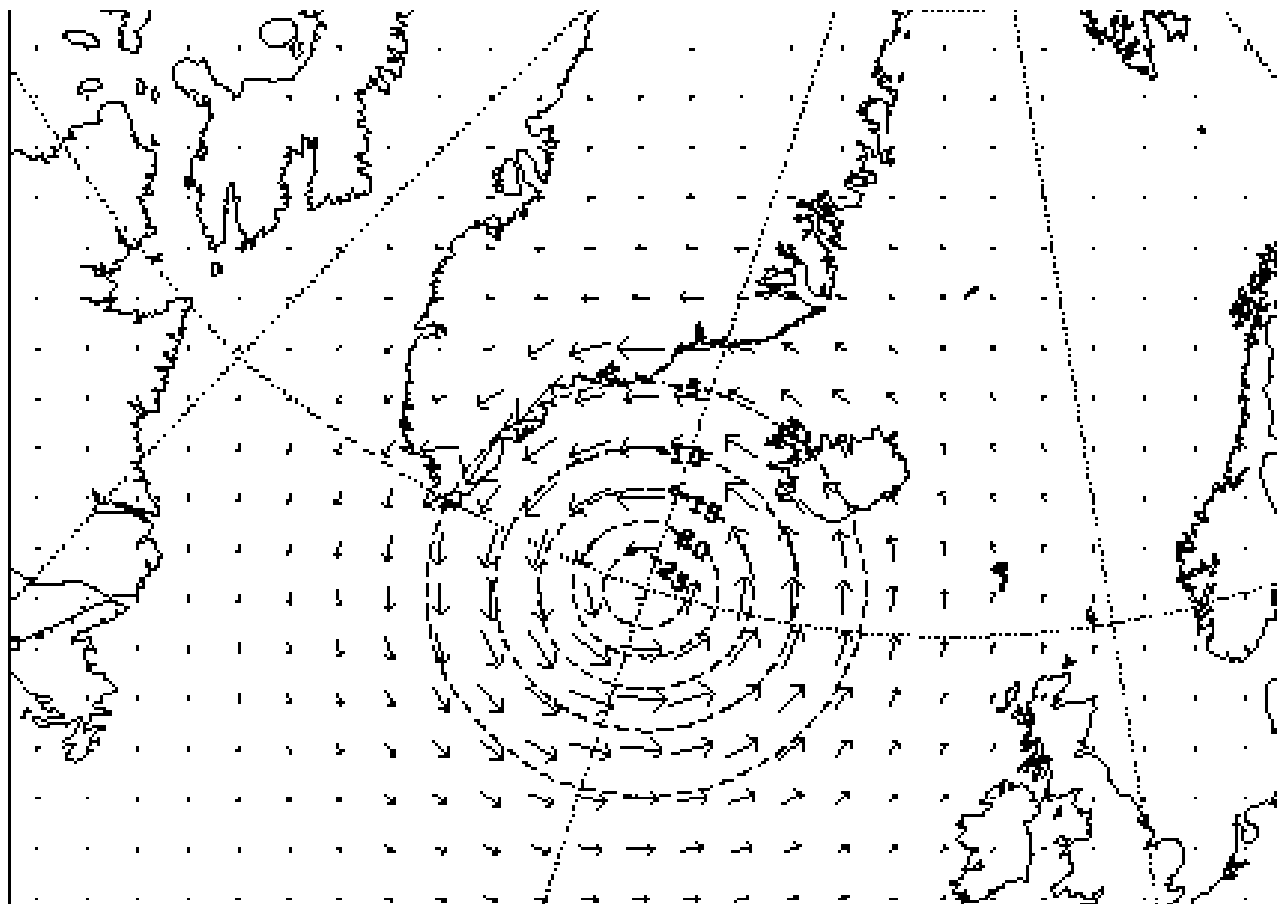
$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

with  $\mathbf{H}$  = tangent linear version of  $H$ ,  
 $\mathbf{B}$  = background error covariance matrix,  
 $\mathbf{R}$  = observation error covariance matrix.

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{K} = (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T)^{-1})^{-1}$$

- ⇒ Accounts for relative accuracy of observations,  
and for spatial structures of background errors.

# Impact of one observation of temperature on the wind analysis (2D)



⇒ Typical spatial scales and multivariate couplings (ex: mass/wind) in B.

# 4D-Var

- Analysis equation (BLUE) :

$$\mathbf{x}^a = \mathbf{x}^b + \mathbf{K} ( \mathbf{y}^o - H[\mathbf{x}^b] ) = \mathbf{x}^b + \mathbf{K} \delta\mathbf{y}$$

but  $\mathbf{K}$  is difficult to handle explicitly in a real size system.

- Variational formulation = minimize distance  $J$  to all available information :

$$\text{cost function : } J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + (\mathbf{y}^o - H[\mathbf{x}])^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}^o - H[\mathbf{x}])$$

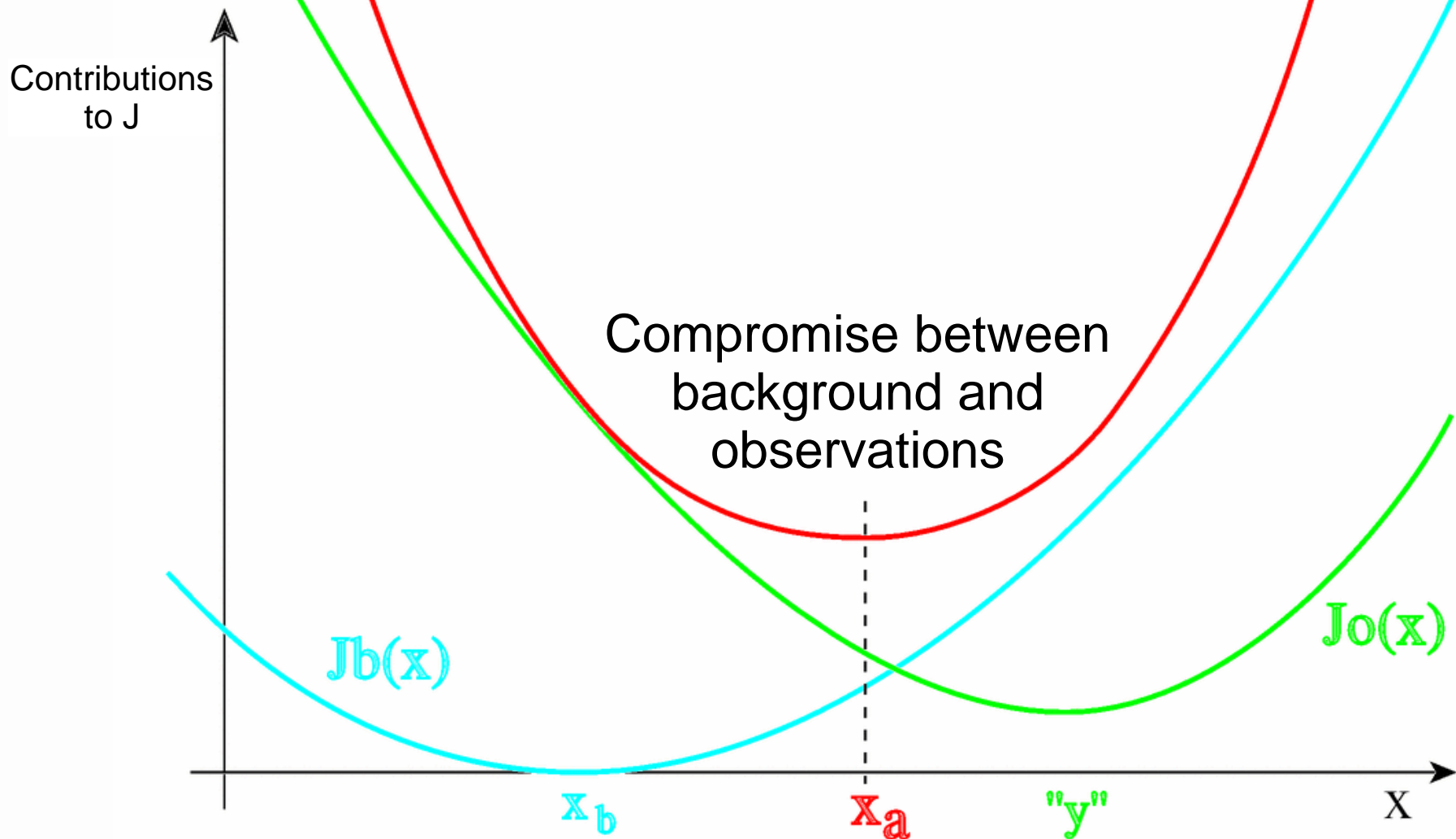
minimised when gradient  $J'(\mathbf{x})=0$  (equivalent to BLUE).

- Computation of  $J'$ : development and use of adjoint operators (transpose).
- 4D-Var = use generalized observation operator  $H$  :  
it includes the NWP model  $M$   
in order to assimilate observations distributed in time.
- Implicit flow-dependent evolution of  $\mathbf{B}$ , through  $\mathbf{HBH}^T$ .

Schematic representation (scalar case) of

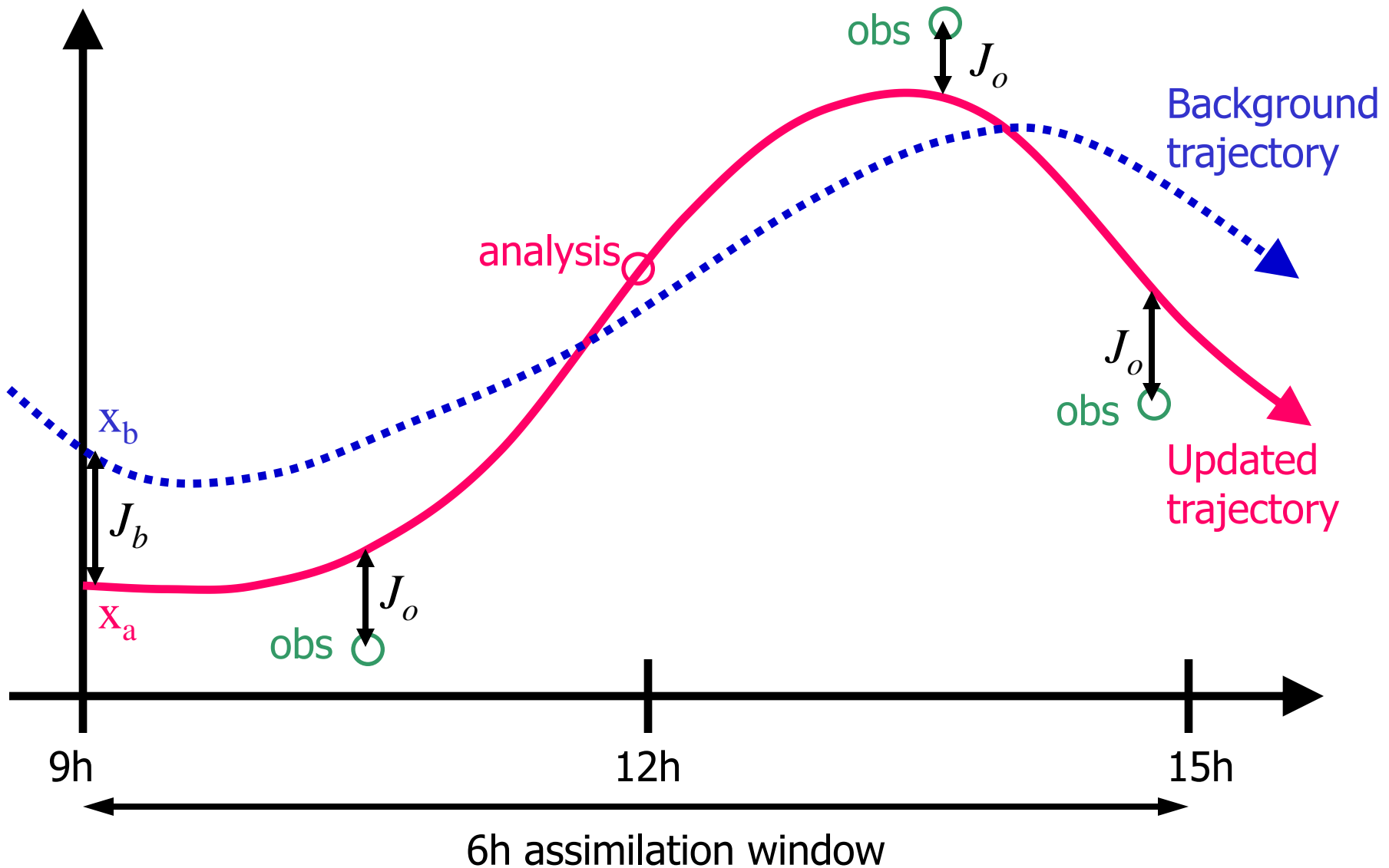
$$J(x) = (x - x^b)^T B^{-1} (x - x^b) + (y^o - H[x])^T R^{-1} (y^o - H[x])$$

$$J(x) = J_b(x) + J_o(x)$$



# Principle of 4D-VAR assimilation

(e.g. Talagrand and Courtier 1987, Rabier et al 2000)



# Incremental formulation of 4D-Var

- Full variational formulation :

$$\text{cost function : } J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + (\mathbf{y} - H[\mathbf{x}])^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - H[\mathbf{x}])$$

- Incremental formulation :  $\delta\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b$

$$\mathbf{y} - H[\mathbf{x}] = \mathbf{y} - H[\mathbf{x}^b] + H[\mathbf{x}^b] - H[\mathbf{x}] \sim \delta\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \delta\mathbf{x}$$

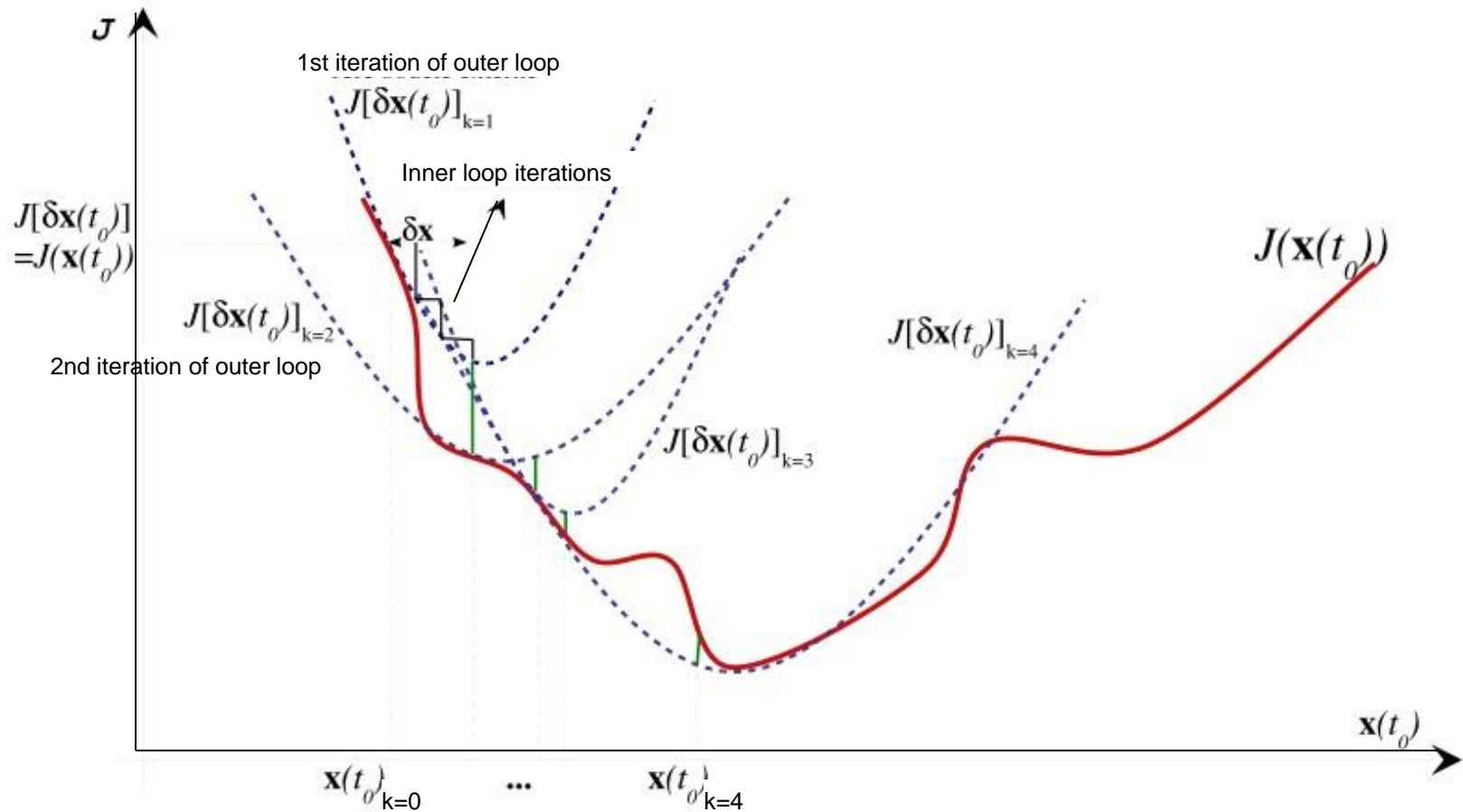
$$\text{cost function : } J(\delta\mathbf{x}) = \delta\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \delta\mathbf{x} + (\delta\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \delta\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\delta\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \delta\mathbf{x})$$

minimised when gradient  $J'(\delta\mathbf{x})=0$  (equivalent to BLUE).

- Cost reduction : analysis increment  $\delta\mathbf{x}$  can be computed at low resolution. (Courtier, Thépaut and Hollingsworth, 1994)
- Some non linear features accounted / calculation of departures  $\mathbf{y}^o - H(\mathbf{x}^b)$ , and in non linear trajectory updates (outer loop).

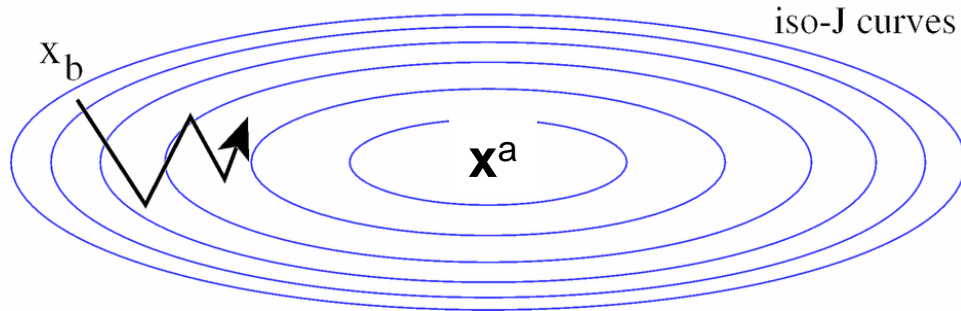


# Incremental 4D-Var as a sequence of updated quadratic minimizations

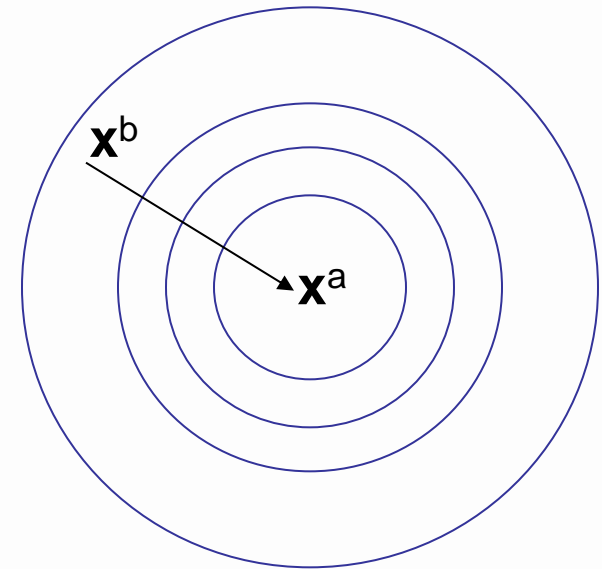


(from A. Vidard ; e.g. Courtier, Thépaut et Hollingsworth, 1994)

# Importance of preconditioning of minimization



Bad preconditioning




Good preconditioning

- Slow convergence if iso-J curves are elliptical / quick convergence if circular.
- Shape of J is determined by eigen-structure of its matrix  $\mathbf{J}''$  of second derivatives :

$$\mathbf{J}'' = \mathbf{B}^{-1} + \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{H}$$

- Small scale components of  $\mathbf{B}$  = large eigen-values of  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}$  ;  
Large scale components of  $\mathbf{B}$  = small eigen-values of  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}$  .  
=> problem of “narrow valley”.

- Use a change of variable ( $\chi = \mathbf{B}^{-1/2} \delta \mathbf{x}$ ) such as J becomes nearly “circular”.



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## 2. In-situ observations and remote sensing data

# Observation networks in meteorology: in situ measurements

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# Observation networks in meteorology: satellite data



Constellation of polar orbiting or geostationary satellites

# Geostationary satellites

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## Advantages

Very high temporal resolution (15 min)

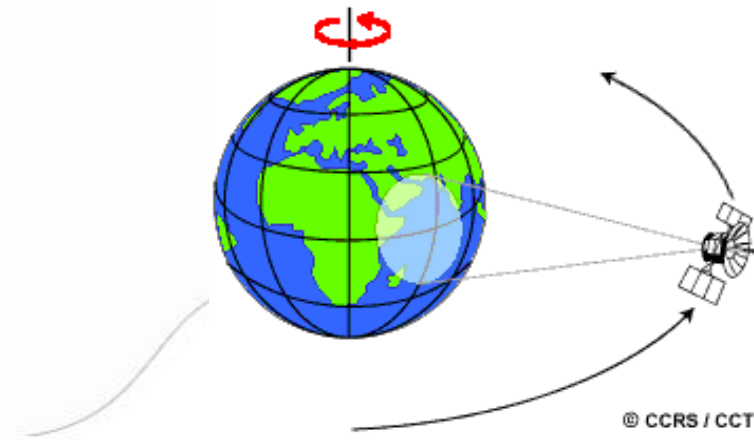
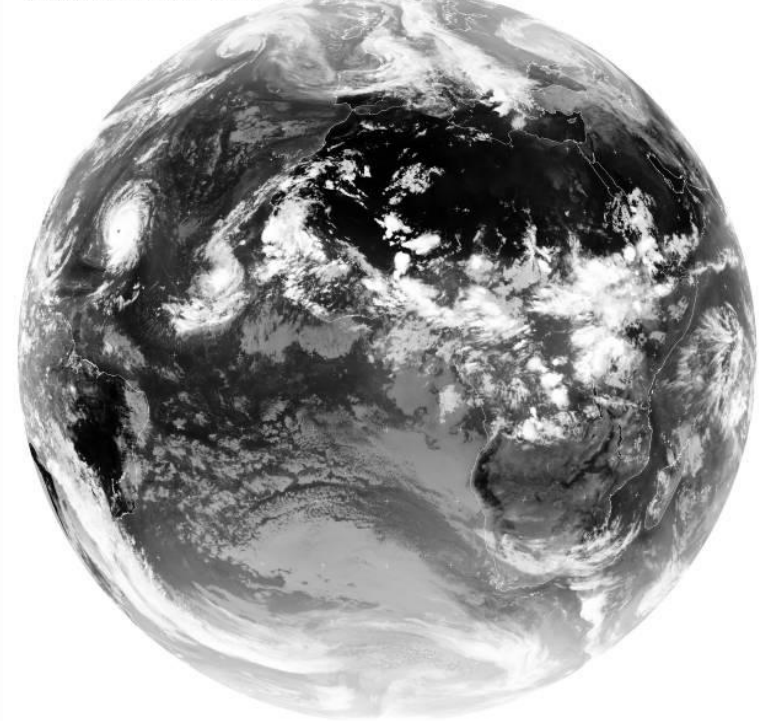
Useful for nowcasting

Dynamics of meteorological structures

## Drawbacks

Insufficient spatial coverage

Not adapted to polar regions



# Polar orbiting satellites

Low orbit satellites :

## ❑ Advantages

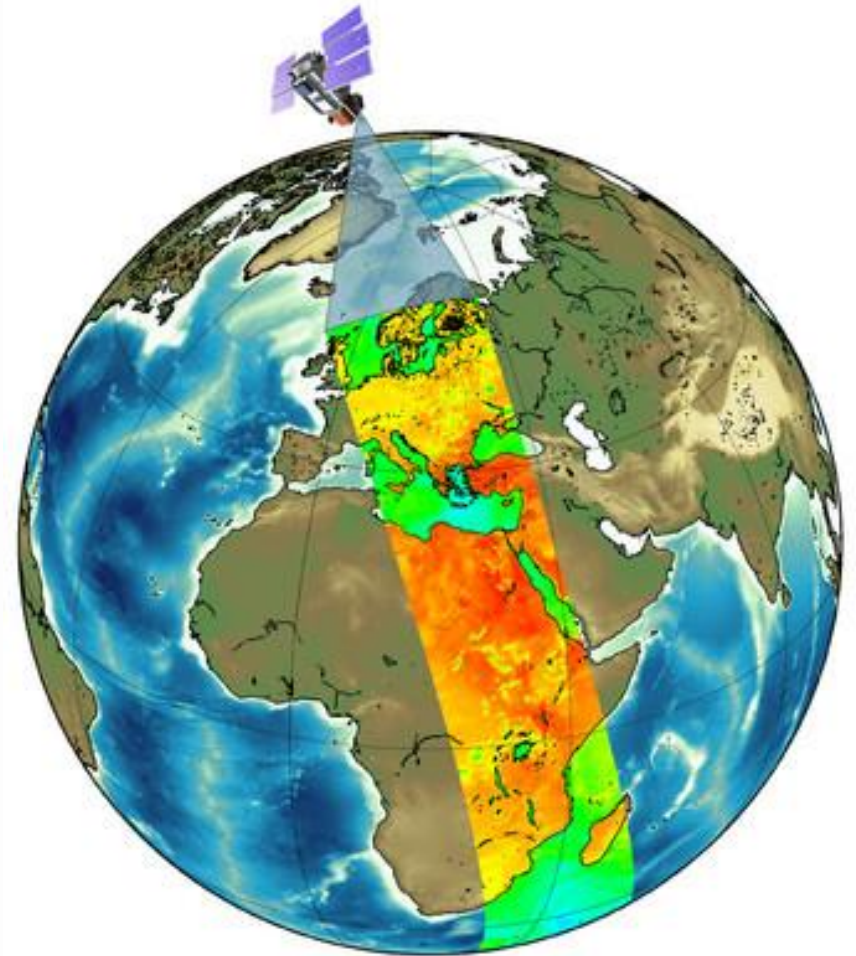
High spatial resolution

Global spatial coverage

Sounding instruments  
(over several vertical layers)

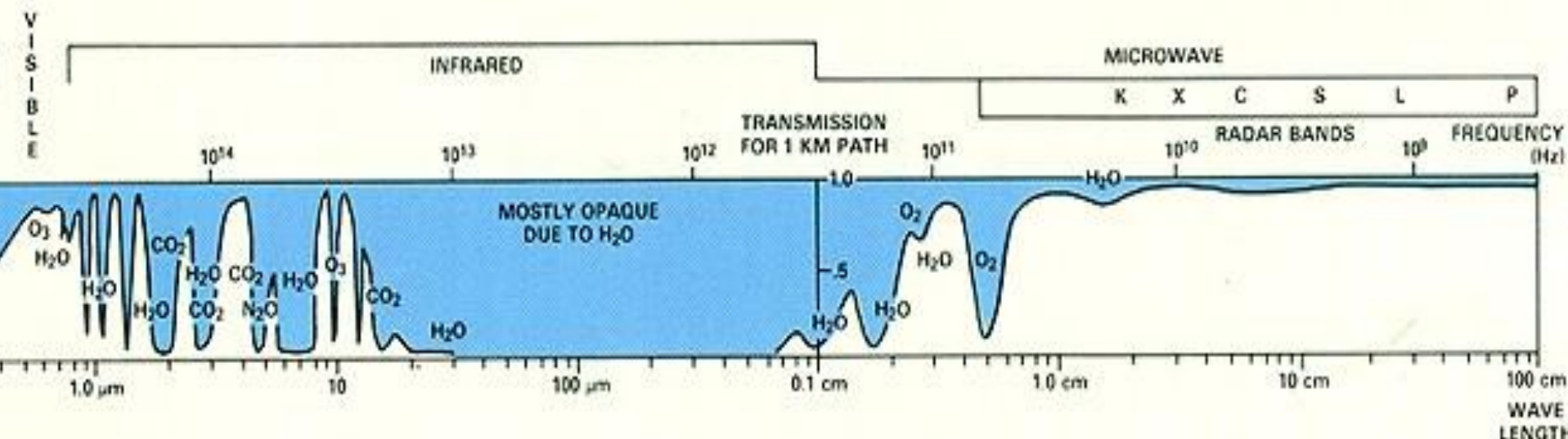
## ❑ Drawbacks

Insufficient temporal resolution  
(several satellites are needed)



# What is measured by satellite sensors ?

- ❑ Sensors do not measure directly atmospheric temperature and humidity, but electromagnetic radiation : brightness temperature or radiance.
- ❑ Depending on wave length (or frequency), information on gas concentration or physical properties (temperature or pressure or humidity) of atmosphere.
- ❑ Observations in atmospheric windows → information on surface.

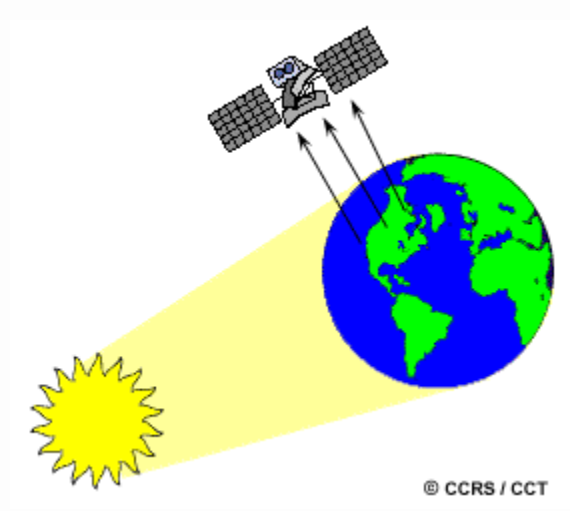




# What is measured by satellite sensors ?

## Passive measures

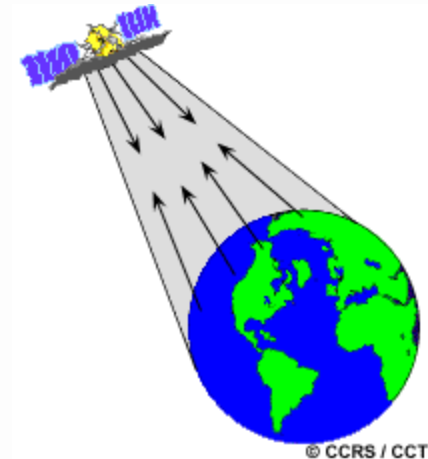
(no energy emitted from instrument)



Measures natural radiation emitted by Earth/Atmosphere from Sun origin

## Active measures

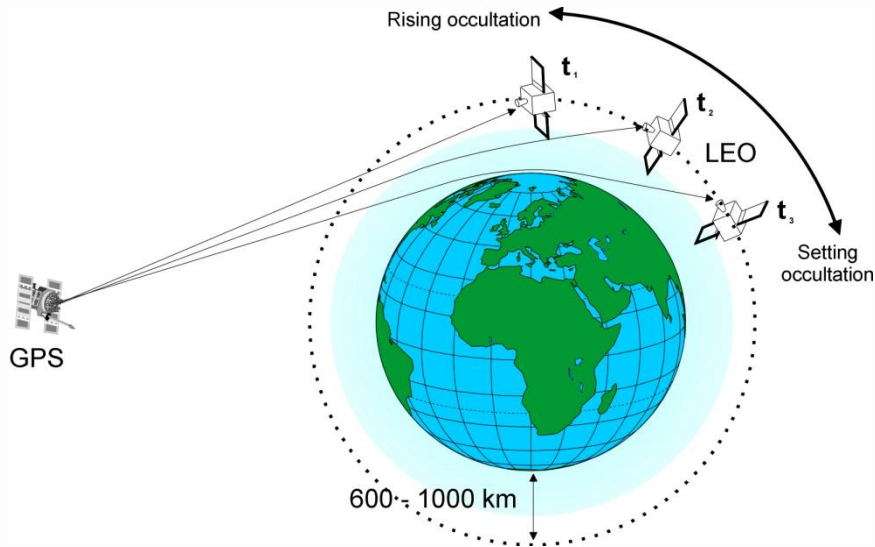
(energy emitted from instrument)



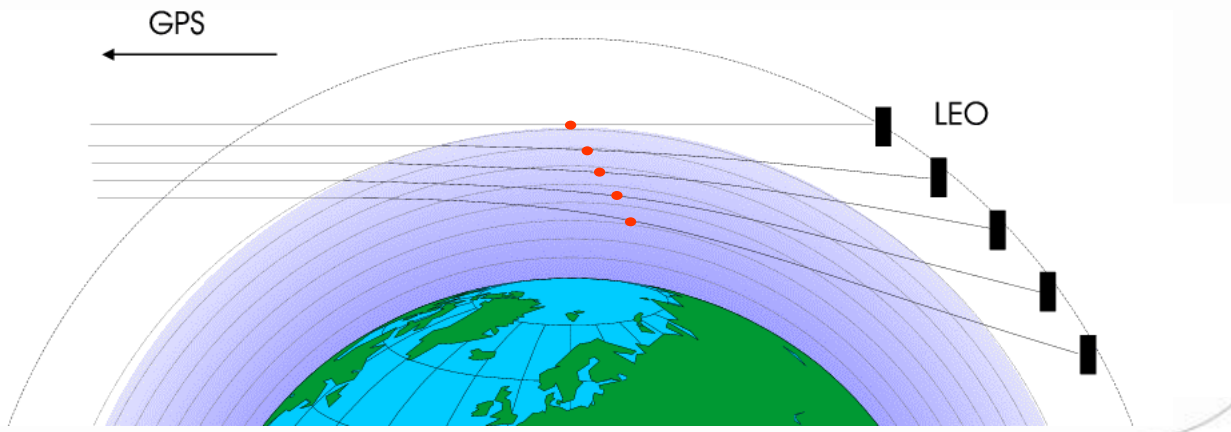
Radiation emitted by satellite and then reflected or diffused by Earth/Atmosphere

# Example of active remote sensing

## GPS radio occultation:



- Low-Earth Orbit satellites receive a signal from a GPS satellite.
- The signal passes through the atmosphere and gets refracted along the way.
- The magnitude of the refraction depends on temperature, moisture and pressure.
- The relative position of GPS and LEO changes over time => vertical scanning of the atmosphere.



## GPS stations of Météo France: Toulouse and Brest

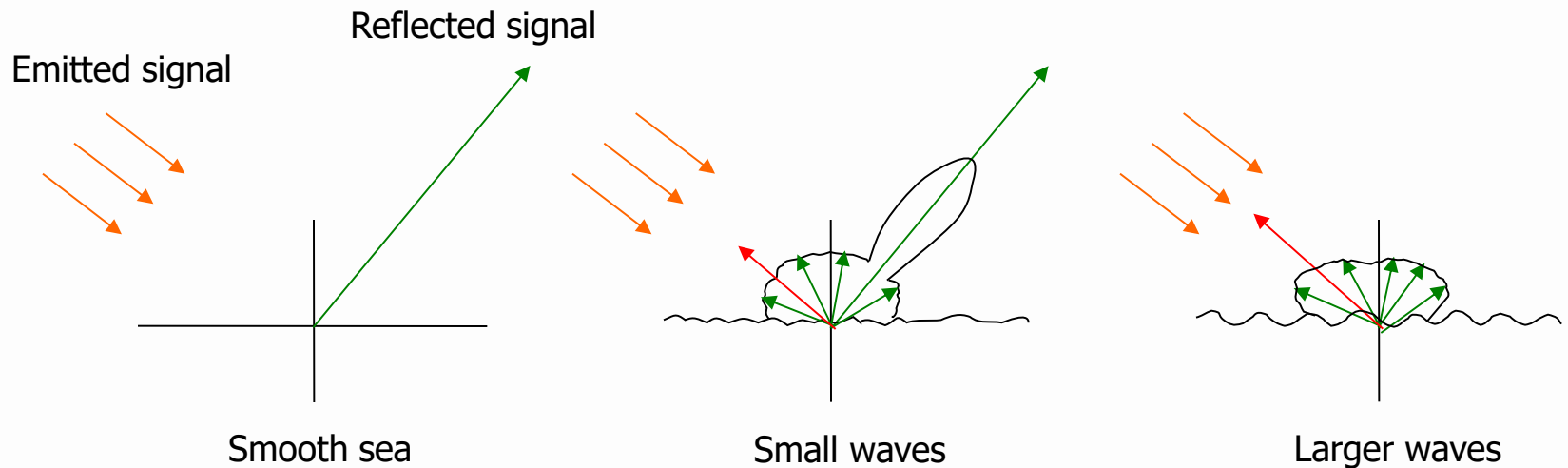


- Propagation of GPS signal is slowed by atmosphere (dry air and water vapour).
- More than 500 GPS stations over Europe provide an estimation of Zenith Total Delay (ZTD) in real time to weather centres.
  - All weather instrument
  - High temporal resolution

## Scatterometers

They send out a microwave signal towards a sea target.

The fraction of energy returned to the satellite depends on wind speed and direction.



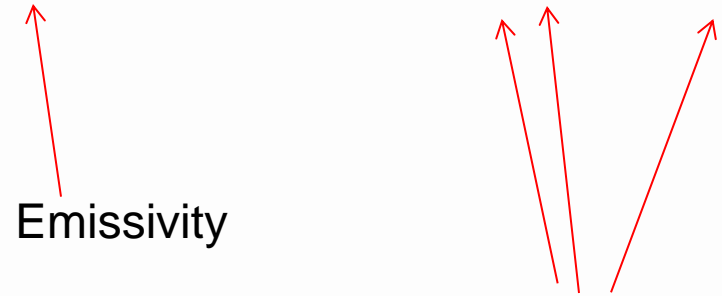
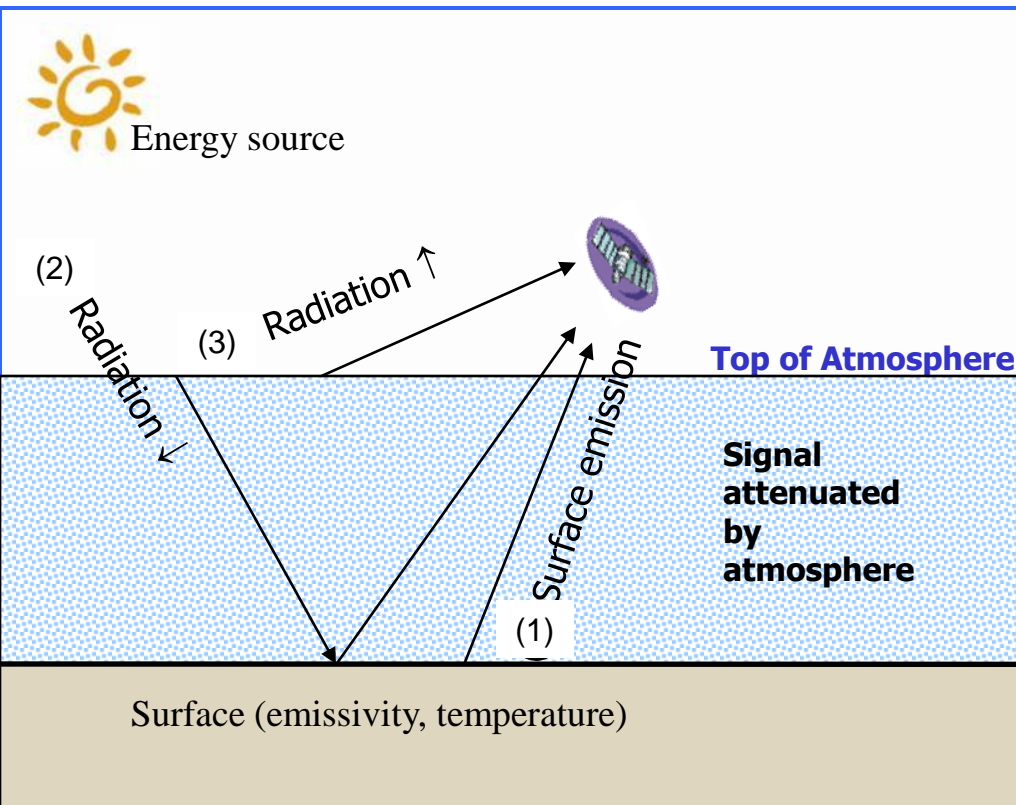
=> Measurements of near surface wind over the ocean,  
through backscattering of microwave signal reflected by waves.

# Passive remote sensing

Only natural sources of radiation (sun, earth...) are involved, and the sensor is a simple receiver, « passive ».

Atmosphere in Parallel Plan, no diffusion, specular surface

$$T(p, \nu) = \varepsilon(p, \nu) T_s \tau + (1 - \varepsilon(p, \nu)) \tau T(\nu, \downarrow) + T(\nu, \uparrow)$$

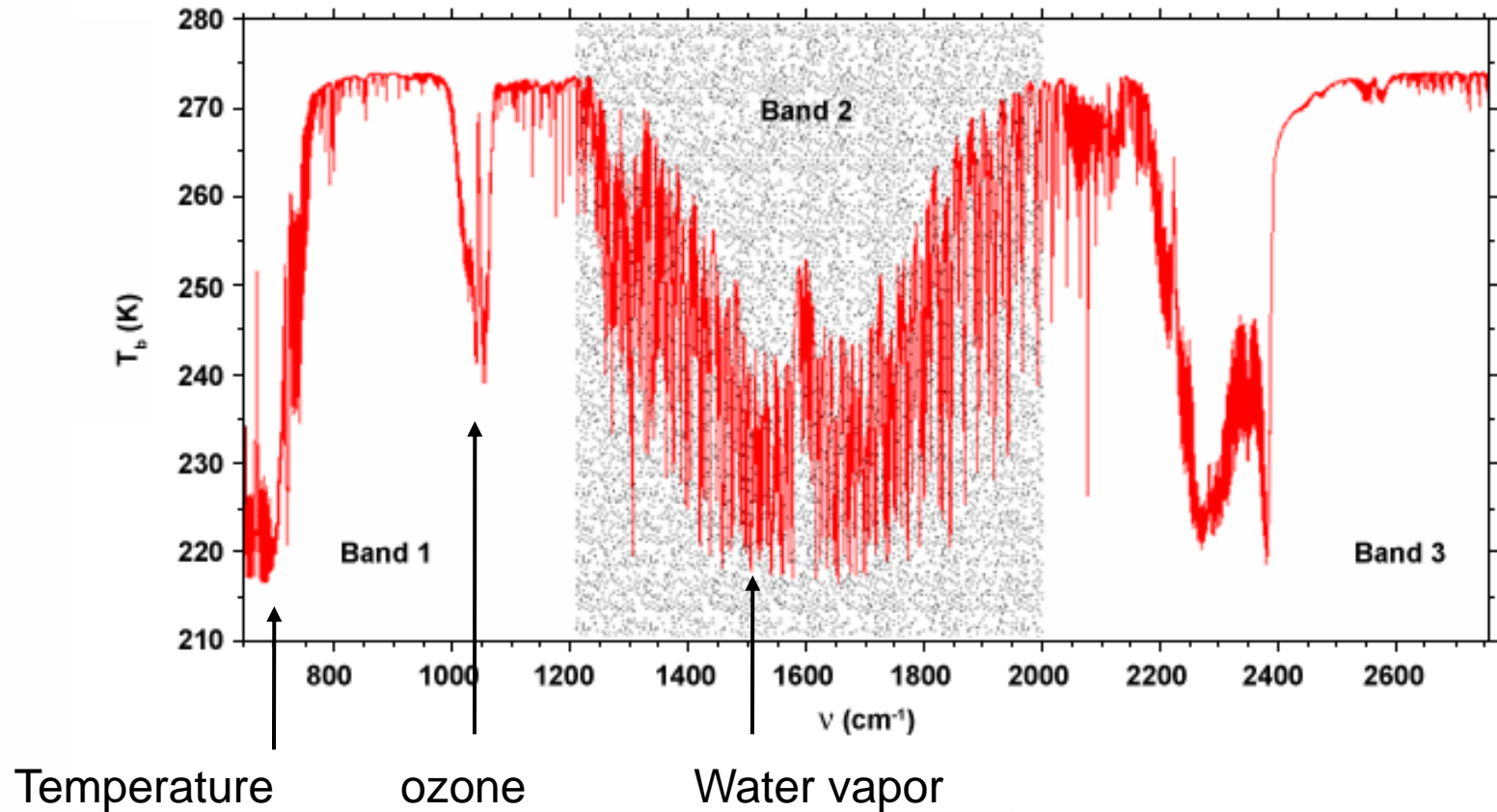


Radiative transfer equation, dependent on T,q :

Observation operator for satellite radiances.

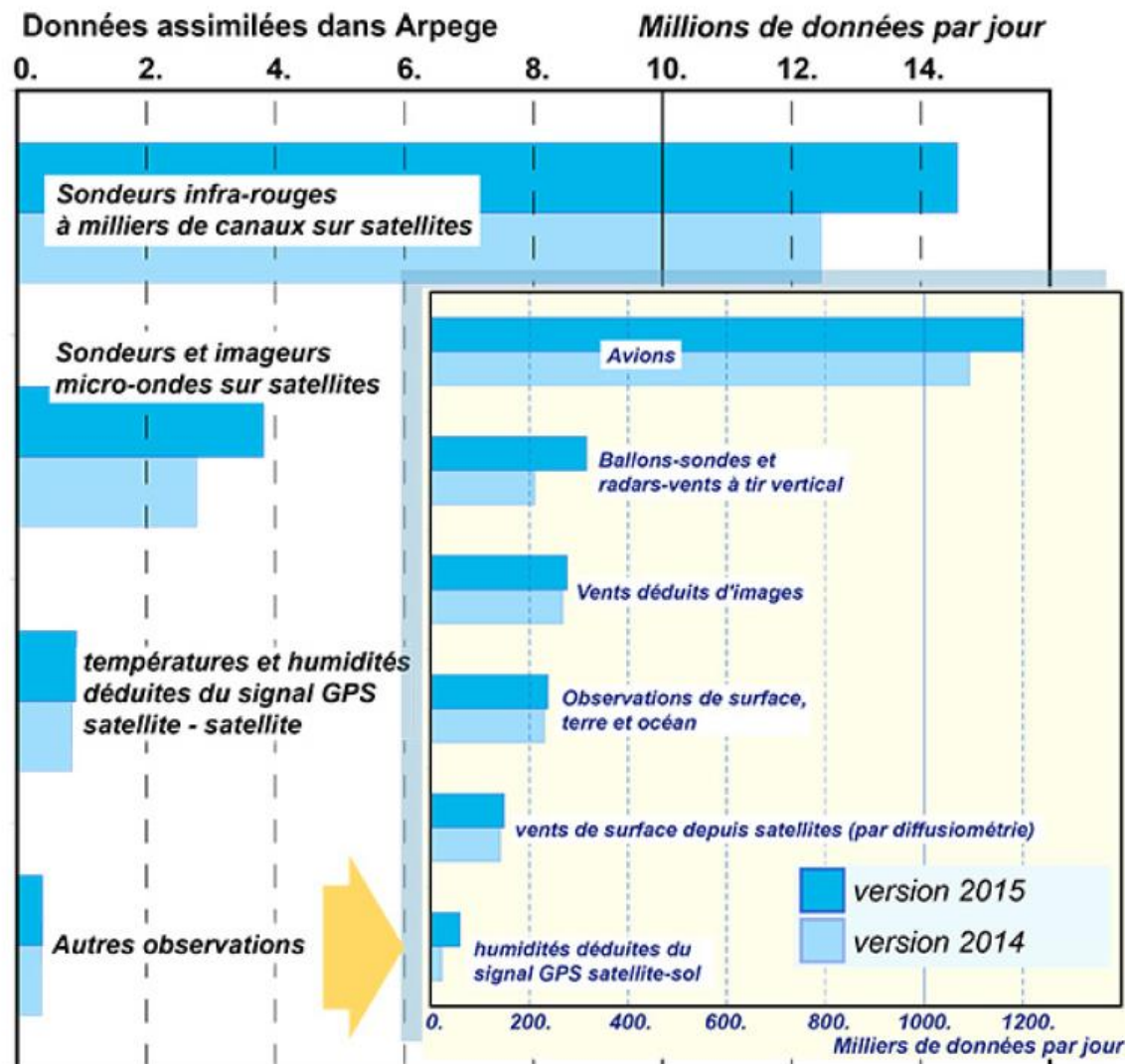
# IASI, infra-red interferometer developed by CNES and EUMETSAT

IASI offers a very high spectral resolution



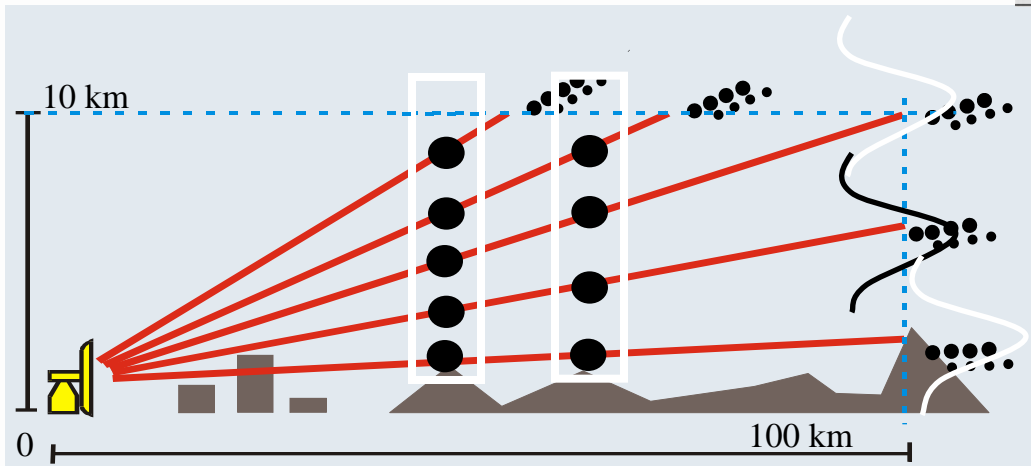
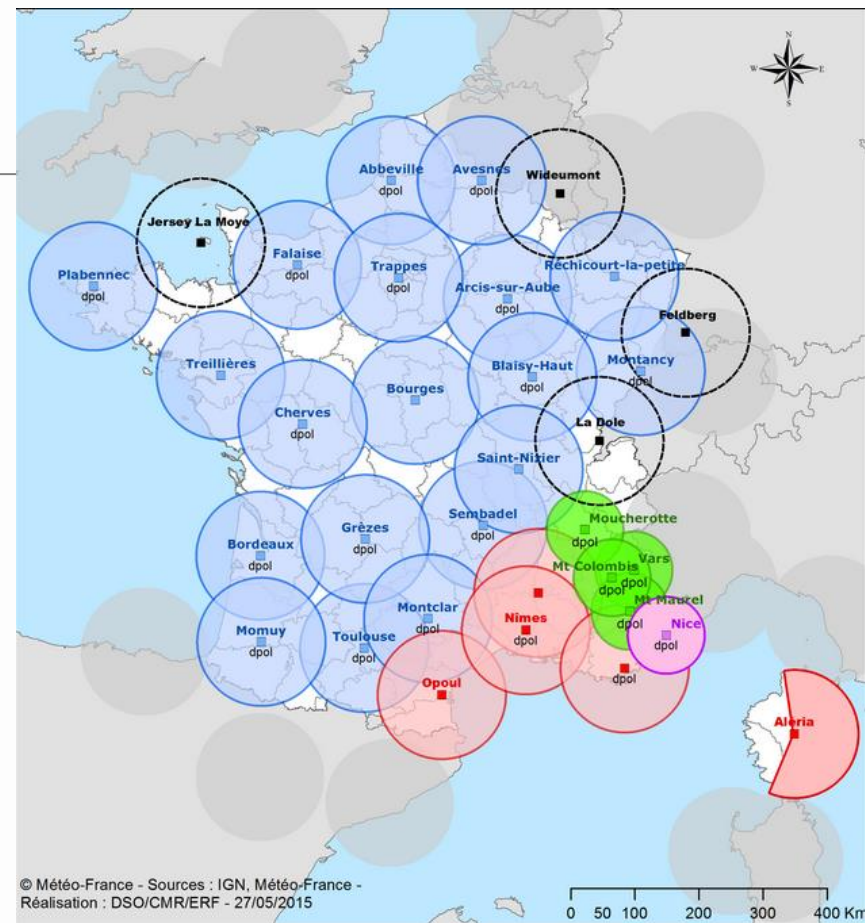
# Number of observations used in ARPEGE (global DA at Météo-France)

Total ~ 20 million obs  
per day



# Radar network in France

- 29 radars (19 C-band, 5S, 5X every 15 minutes, at 1 km resolution).
- Observations :  
reflectivities  $Z$  (related to precipitation),  
radial winds  $V_r$  (doppler effect : modified frequency of signal, when the target is moving => wind observation).



## Observations assimilated as vertical profiles

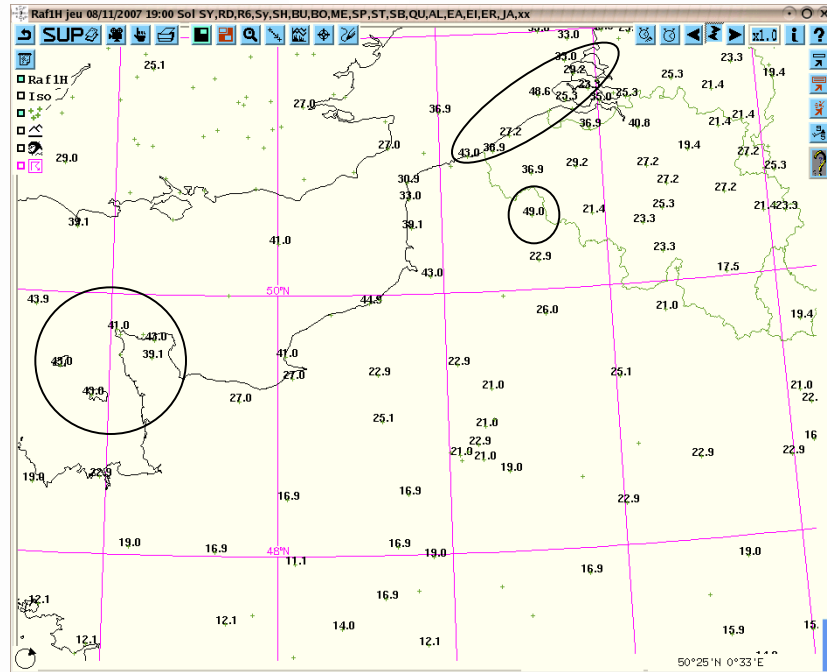
Pixel altitude is computed using a constant refractivity index along the path (effective radius approximation)



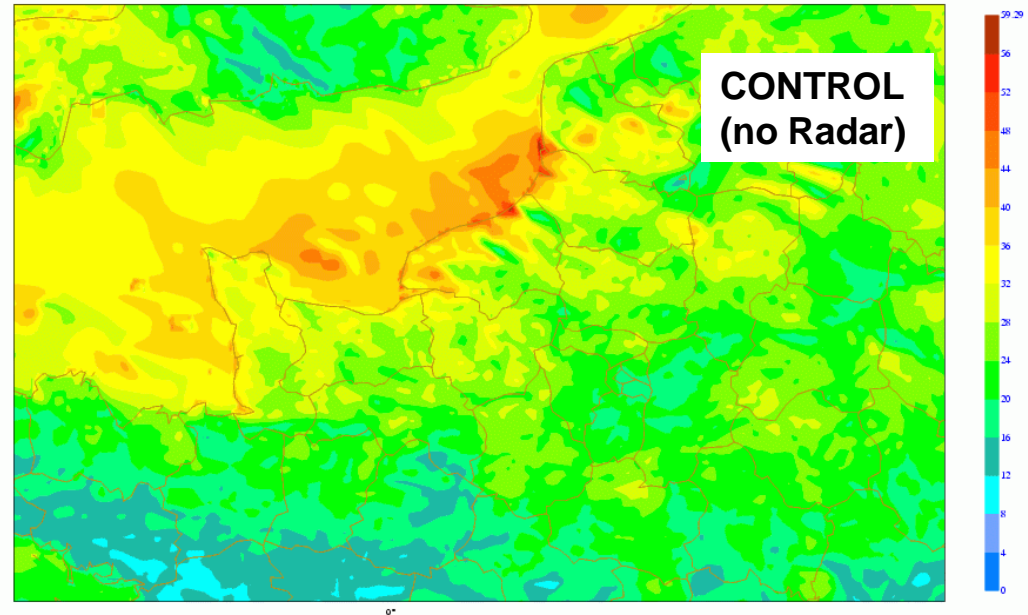
# Assimilation of radar radial winds

Wind gust at 10 m (kt)  
Forecast +1h (19 UTC)

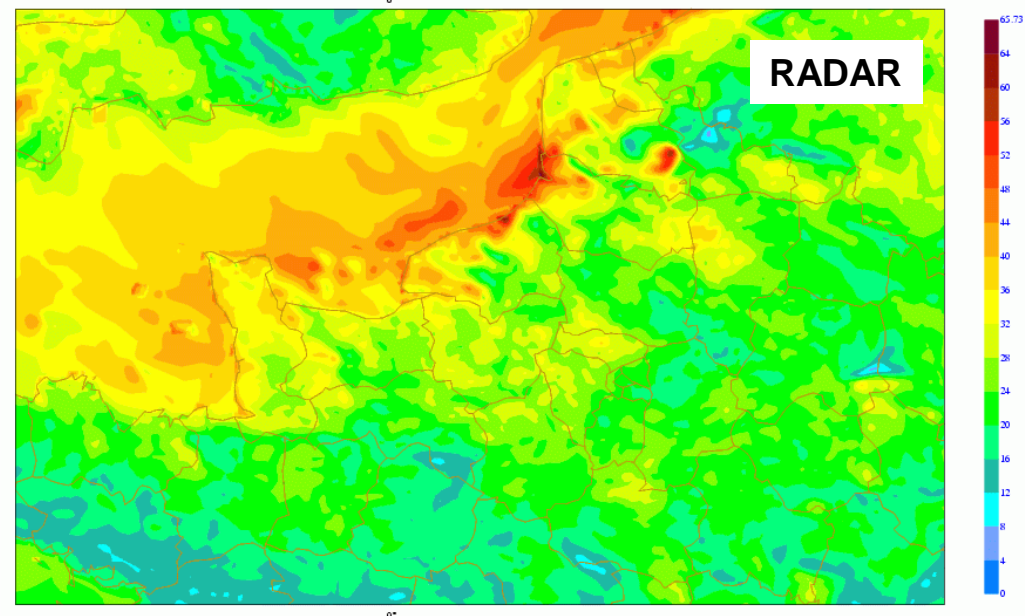
OBS



Thursday 8 November 2007 18UTC PARIS Forecast t+1 VT: Thursday 8 November 2007 19UTC 10m \*\*

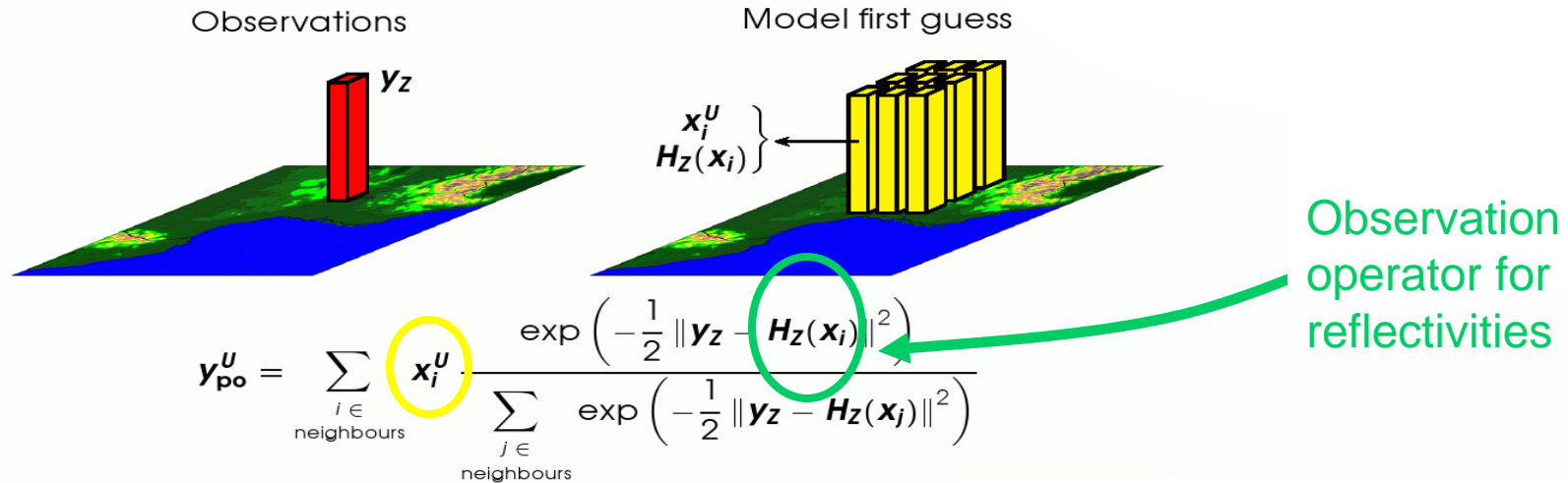


Thursday 8 November 2007 18UTC PARIS Forecast t+1 VT: Thursday 8 November 2007 19UTC 10m \*\*



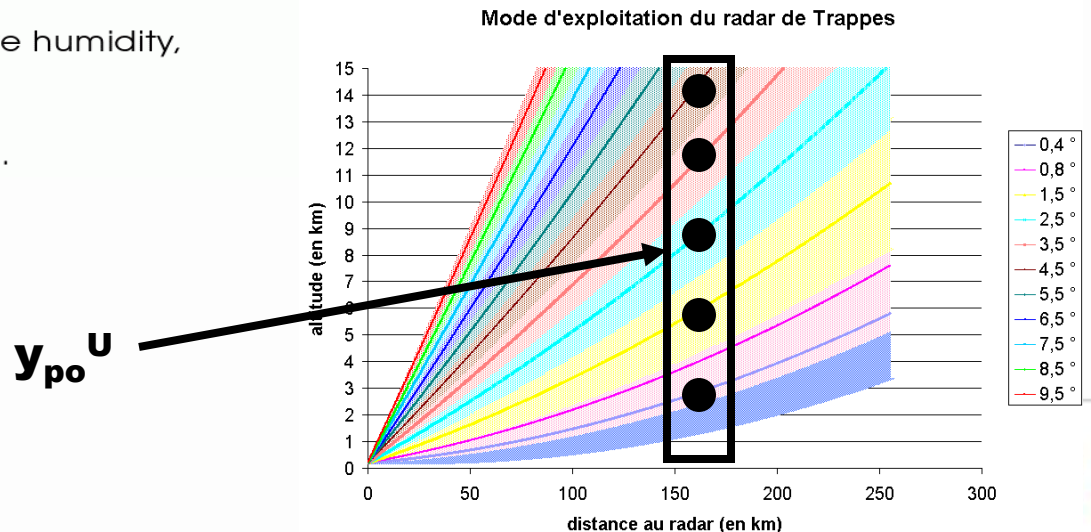
# Inversion method of reflectivity profiles

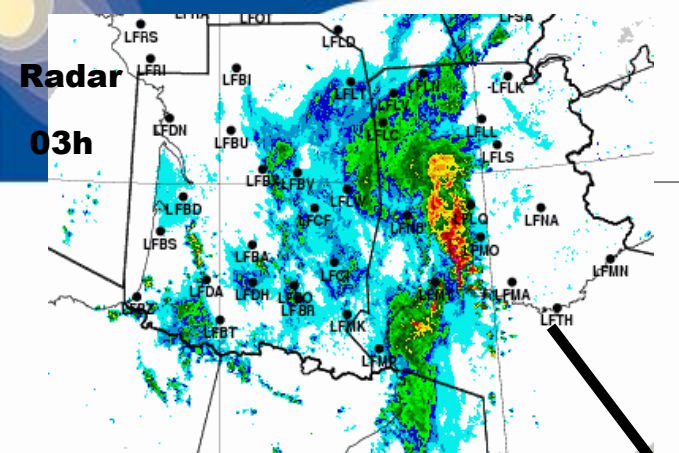
Caumont, 2006: use model profiles in the neighborhood of observations (in 3 steps)



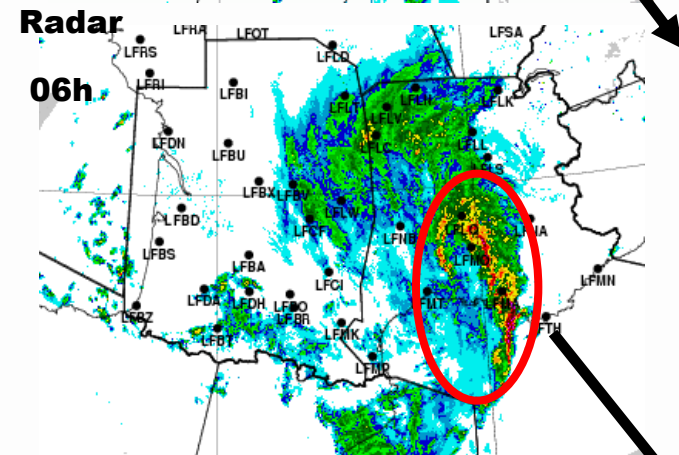
$y_{po}^u$ : column of pseudo-observed relative humidity,  
 $y_z$ : column of observed reflectivities,  
 $x_i^u$ : column of relative humidity,  
 $H_z(x_i)$ : column of simulated reflectivities.

*Coherence between the inverted profile and the precipitating cloud that the model is able to create*

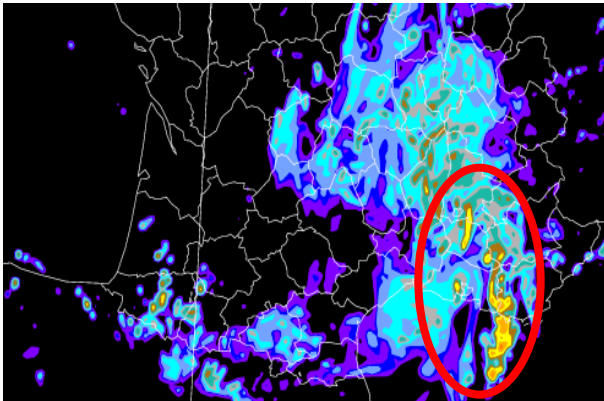




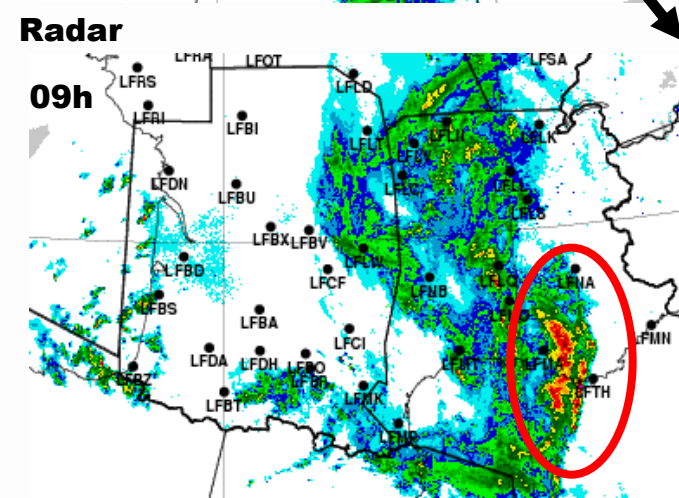
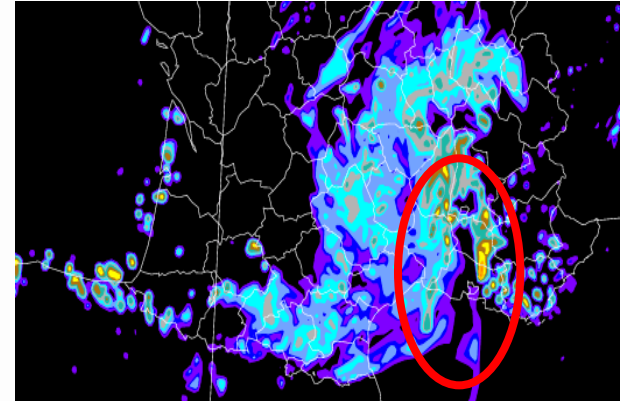
Case 7/8 october: South-East  
 Comparison of 3h FORECASTS  
 between REFL runs and CONTROL runs:  
 line of heavy precipitation is well analysed in REFL.



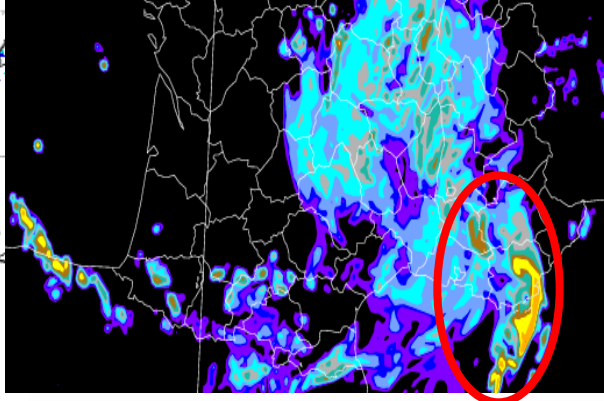
**r3 - REFL**



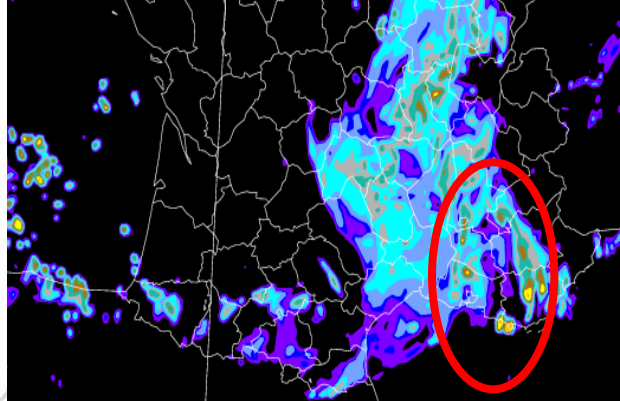
**r3 - CONTROL**




**r6 - REFL**



**r6 - CONTROL**





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# 3. Error covariance estimation and modelling

# Estimation and specification of error covariances

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- Minimisation of cost function :

$$J(\delta\mathbf{x}) = \delta\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \delta\mathbf{x} + (\delta\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \delta\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\delta\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \delta\mathbf{x})$$

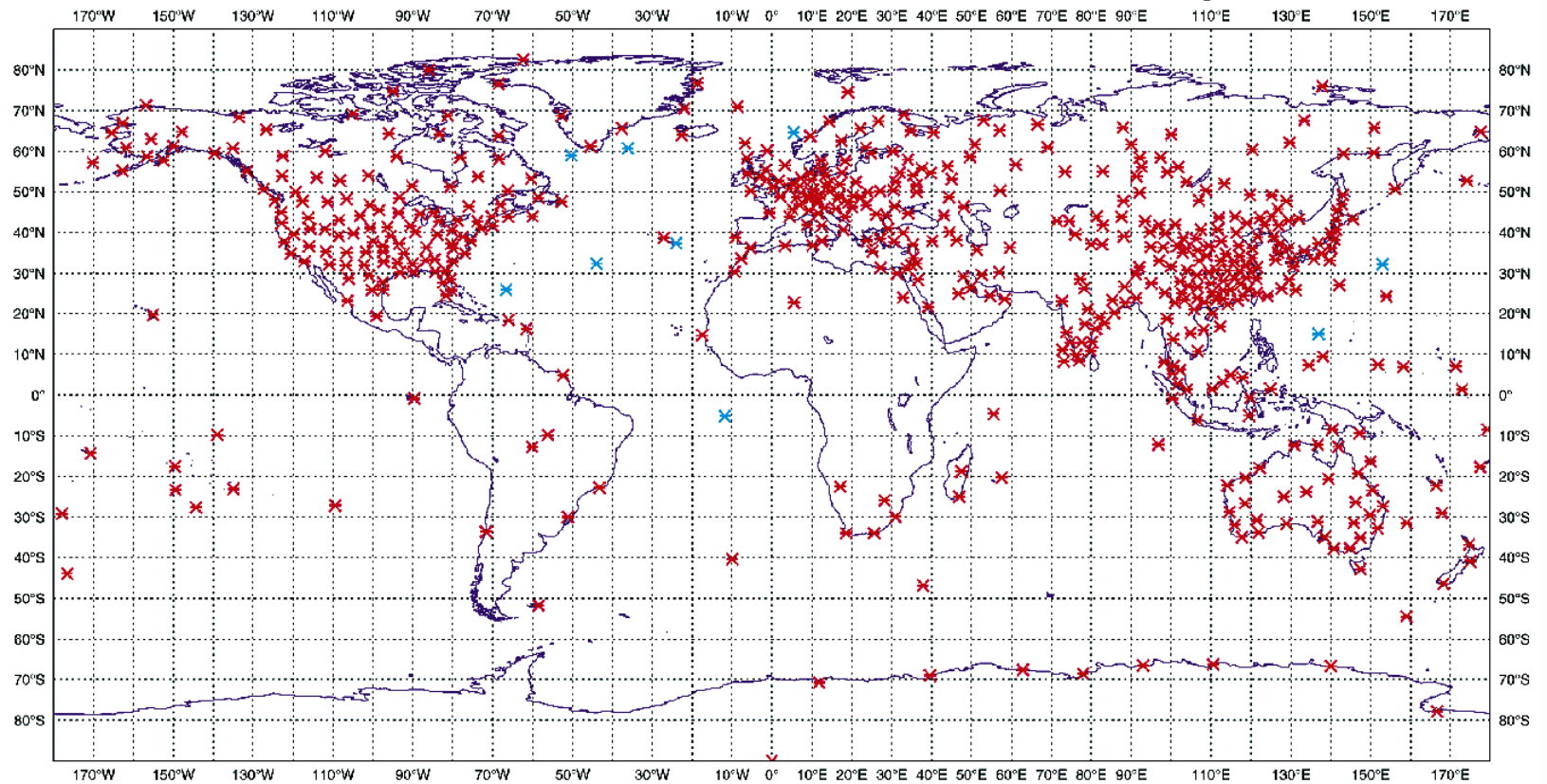
⇒ Need to estimate **B** and **R**, in order to define J.

## How can we estimate error covariances ?

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- The **true atmospheric state** is never known.
- Use **observation-minus-background** departures to estimate some **space/time-averaged** features of **R** and **B**, using assumptions on spatial structures of errors.
- Use **ensemble** to simulate the error evolution and to estimate **flow-dependent** background error structures.
- Use **covariance modelling** to filter sampling noise and other uncertainties in the ensemble.

# RADIOSONDE OBSERVATIONS



# Covariances of innovations

- Innovation = observation-minus-background :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_o - H(\mathbf{x}_b) &= \mathbf{y}_o - H(\mathbf{x}_t) + H(\mathbf{x}_t) - H(\mathbf{x}_b) \\ &\sim \mathbf{e}_o - \mathbf{H} \mathbf{e}_b \end{aligned}$$

- Innovation covariances :

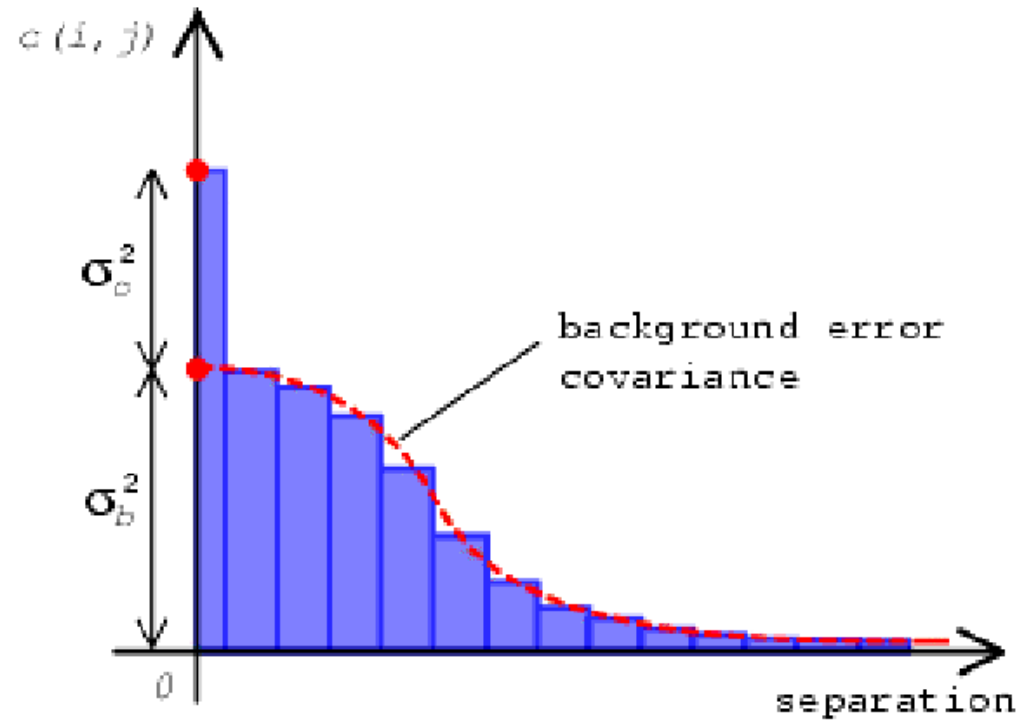
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[(\mathbf{y}_o - H(\mathbf{x}_b))(\mathbf{y}_o - H(\mathbf{x}_b))^T] &\sim \mathbf{E}[(\mathbf{e}_o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{e}_b)(\mathbf{e}_o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{e}_b)^T] \\ &\sim \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T \end{aligned}$$

assuming that  $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{e}_o(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{e}_b)^T] = \mathbf{0}$ .

(e.g. Hollingsworth and Lönnberg 1986)

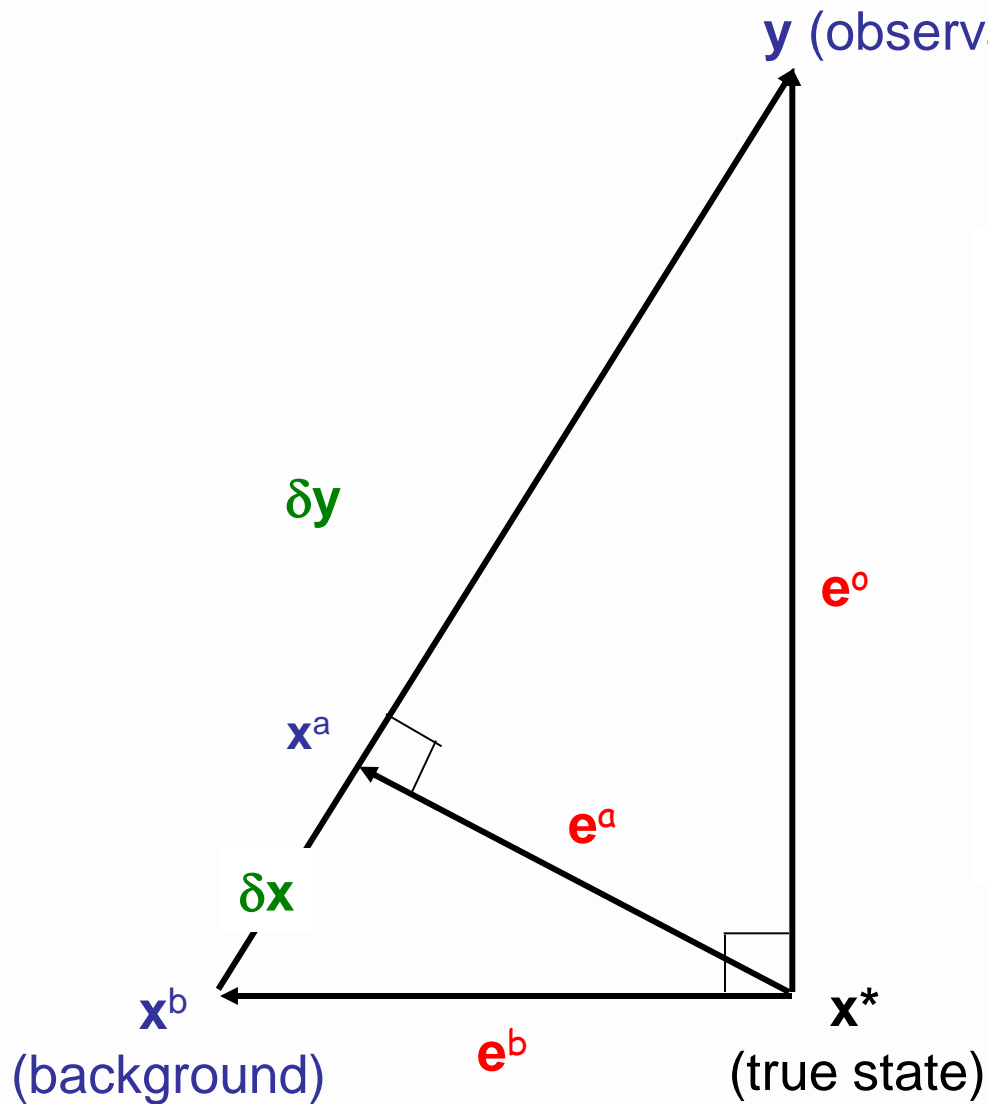


# Contributions to innovation covariances



$$E[(y_o - H(x_b))(y_o - H(x_b))^T] = R + HBH^T$$

# Covariances of analysis residuals



$$\delta \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}^b) \quad (\text{innovation})$$

$$\mathbf{H} \delta \mathbf{x} = H(\mathbf{x}^b) - H(\mathbf{x}^a) \quad (\text{increment})$$

$$E[\mathbf{H} \delta \mathbf{x} \delta \mathbf{y}^T] = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{H}^T$$

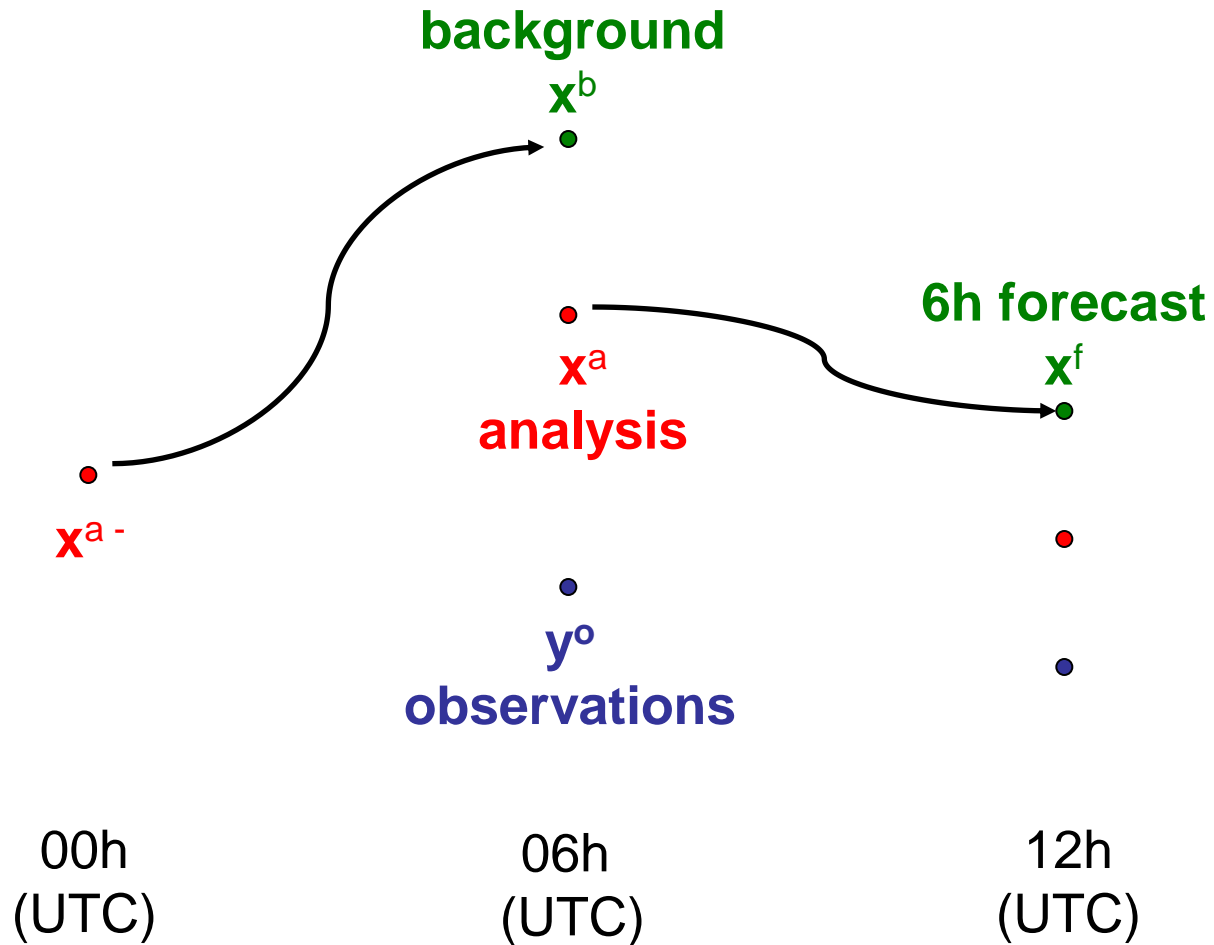
$$E[(\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}^a)) \delta \mathbf{y}^T] = \mathbf{R}$$

# Innovation method : properties

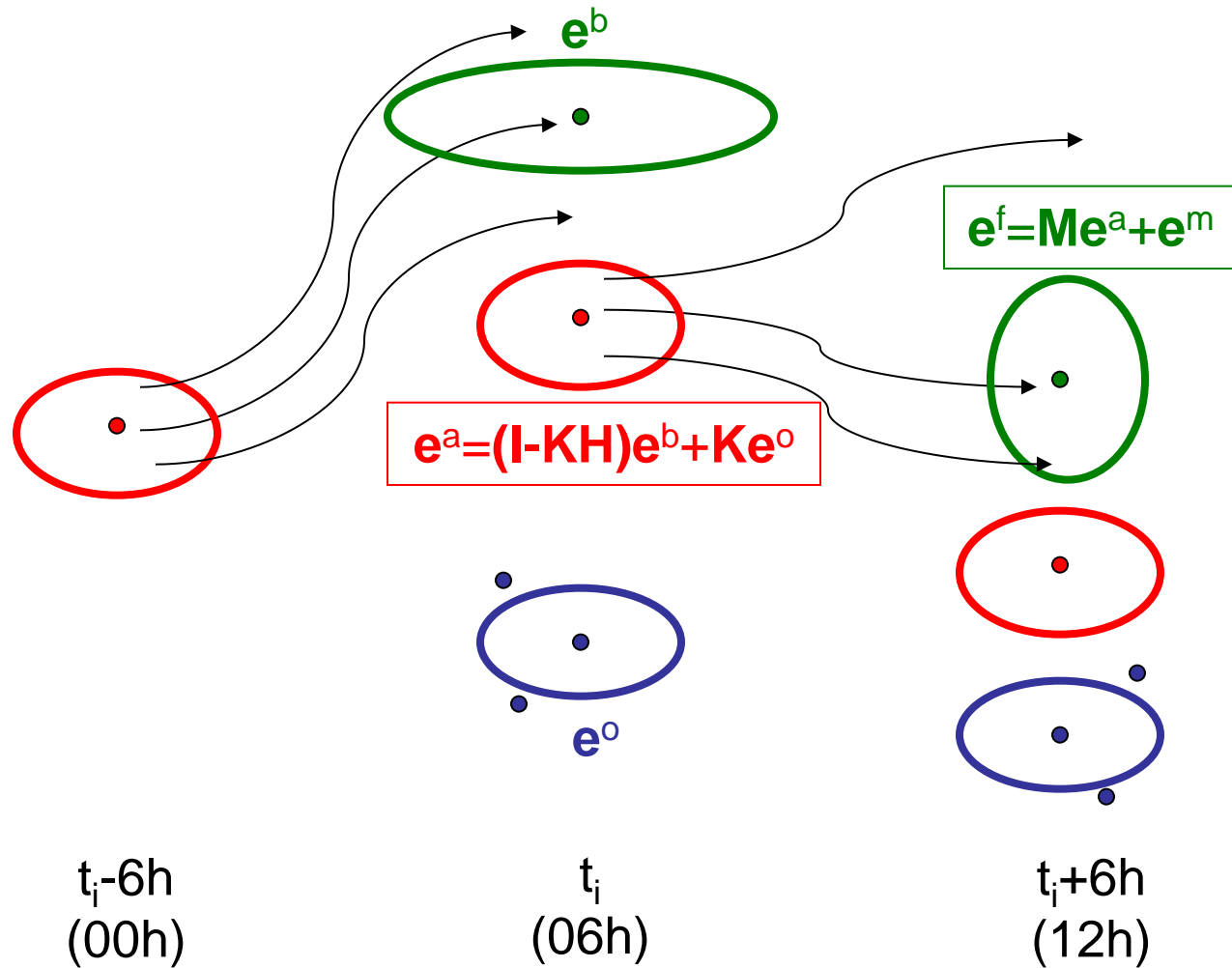
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- Provides estimates in observation space only.
  - A good quality data dense network is needed.
  - Assumption that observation errors are spatially uncorrelated (white noise).
  - An objective source of information on **B** and **R**.
  - At a given location and time, only 1 innovation value : a single realization of errors is available.
- ⇒ **Statistical averages** (expectations) are replaced by **space and time averages** (ergodicity assumption).
- ⇒ Estimation of space/time-averages of **B** and **R**.

# Data Assimilation cycling



# Simulation of error cycling using an Ensemble of Data Assimilations (EDA)

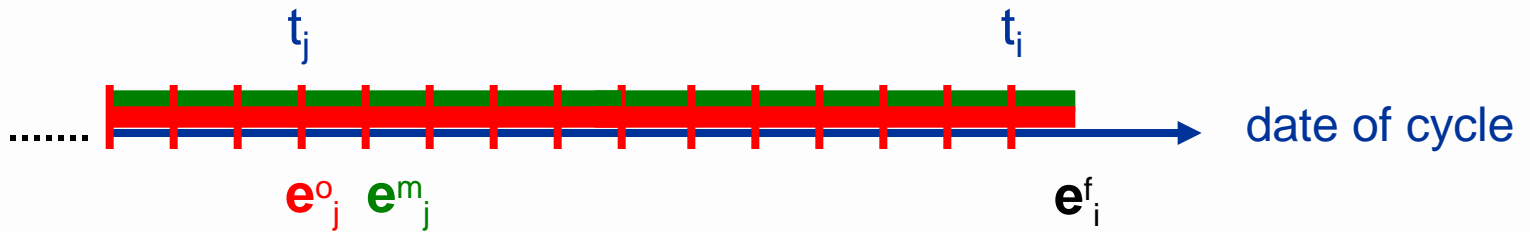


## Contributions to error cycling

Quasi-linear expansion of forecast errors / cycling of observation and model errors :

$$\mathbf{e}_i^f = \sum_{j \leq i} \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{M}_j \mathbf{K}_j \mathbf{e}_j^o + \sum_{j \leq i} \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{e}_j^m$$

where  $\mathbf{T}_{i-j} = \prod_k \mathbf{M}_k (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \mathbf{H}_k) =$  cycling operator  
(over  $k$  successive analysis/forecast steps from  $t_j$  to  $t_i$ ).



## Estimation and simulation of observation errors

- Observation perturbations / random draws of  $\mathbf{R}$  :

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^o = \mathbf{R}^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\eta}^o \quad \text{with } \boldsymbol{\eta}^o \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$

- Estimation of  $\mathbf{R}$  / spatio-temporal averages

via covariances of innovations ( $\delta\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}^o - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}^b = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^o - \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^b$ ,  $E[\delta\mathbf{y} \delta\mathbf{y}^T] = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T$ ) :

$$\mathbf{R} \simeq E[\delta\mathbf{y} \delta\mathbf{y}^T] - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{H}^T$$

after subtracting estimated contribution of background errors.

- Filtering and propagation of observation perturbations /

contribution to forecast errors :  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{f,o}_i = \sum_{j \leq i} \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{M}_j \mathbf{K}_j \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^o_j$

## Estimation and simulation of model errors

- Forecast errors = cycling of observation and model errors :

$$\mathbf{e}_i^f = \mathbf{e}_i^{f,o} + \mathbf{e}_i^{f,m} = \sum_{j \leq i} \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{M}_j \mathbf{K}_j \mathbf{e}_j^o + \sum_{j \leq i} \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{e}_j^m$$

- Model perturbations / random draws of  $\mathbf{Q}$  :

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^m = \mathbf{Q}^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\eta}^m \quad \text{with } \boldsymbol{\eta}^m \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$

- Estimation of  $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{H}^T$  / spatio-temporal averages via covariances of innovations ; ex : accumulated contribution of  $\mathbf{e}^{f,m}$  :

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{Q}^{f,m}\mathbf{H}^T \simeq \mathbf{H}\mathbf{B}^f\mathbf{H}^T - \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{f,o}(\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{f,o})^T]$$

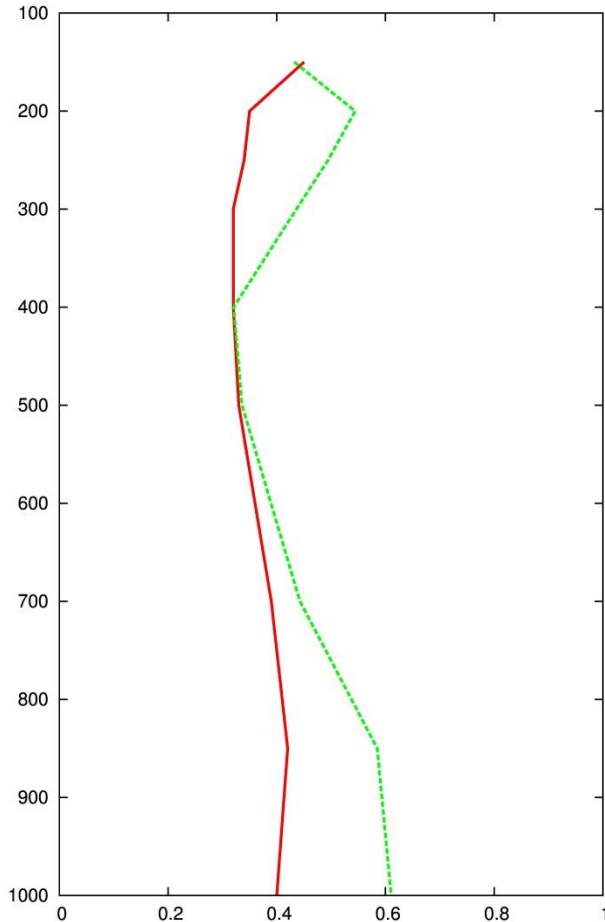
after subtracting estimated contribution of cycled observation errors.

- Different variants of representation (*multiplicative inflation (oper.)* or additive, SPPT, SKEB, etc) (e.g. Houtekamer et al 2009).



# Model error accumulated during cycling

Pressure  
(hPa)



—  $\sigma_{\delta y/ens}(\mathbf{e}^{f,m}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{e}^m_j)$

—  $\sigma_{ens}(\mathbf{e}^{f,o}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{T}_{i-j} \mathbf{M}_j \mathbf{K}_j \mathbf{e}^o_j)$

(Raynaud et al 2012)

Standard deviations of contributions to forecast errors  
(aircraft observations of temperature (K))

# Modelling and filtering covariances

**Huge size** of **B** :  $(10^9)^2 = 10^{18}$  elements.

=> modelling with **operators that are sparse and/or of small size**.

**Sampling noise**, and other uncertainties.

=> **spatio-temporal filtering**.

Factorisation :  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}^{1/2} \mathbf{B}^{T/2}$

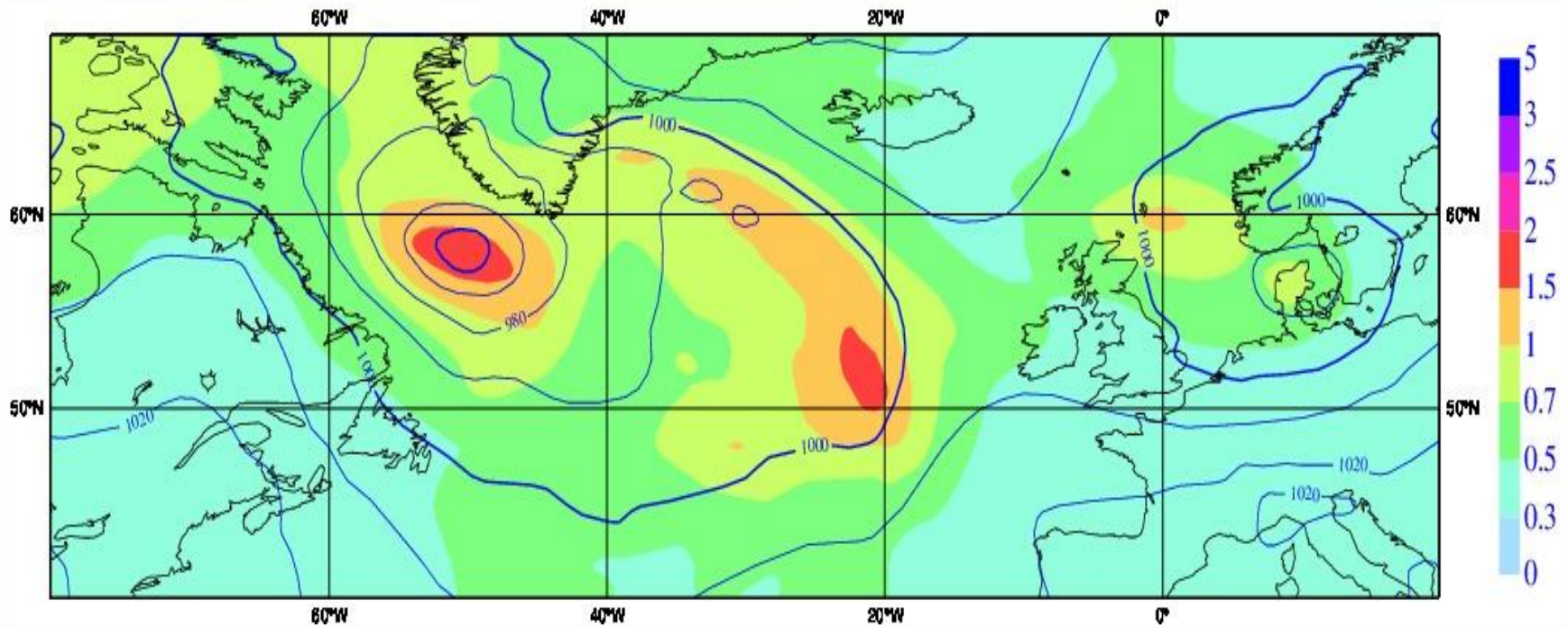
$$\mathbf{B}^{1/2} = \mathbf{L} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{C}^{1/2}$$

**L** ~ mass/wind **cross-covariances** (related to geostrophy), including flow-dependence (non linear balances).

**S** flow-dependent **standard deviations** (~ expected error amplitudes), filtered spatially.

**C** matrix of **3D spatial correlations** (~ spatial structures of errors), filtered in wavelet space (block-diagonal model).

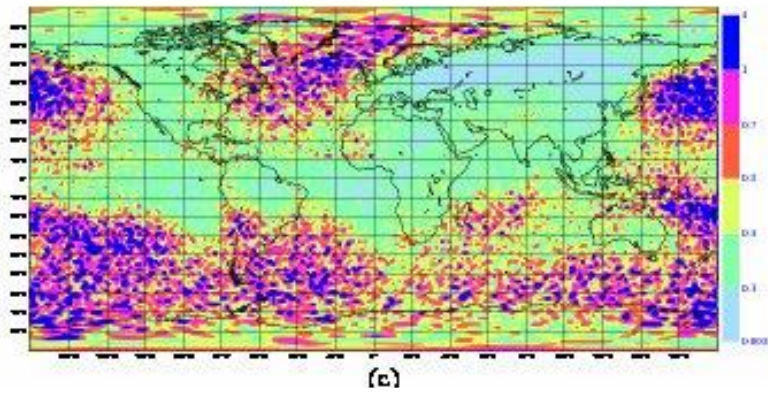
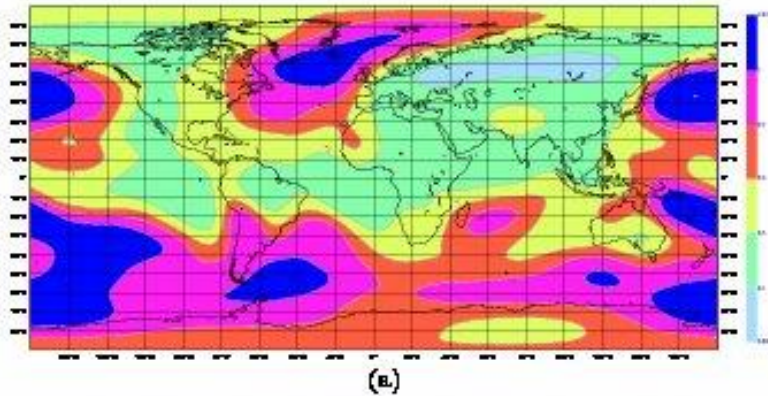
# Dynamics of background error variances



Standard deviations of surface pressure (hPa) (2/2/2010),  
superimposed with mean sea level pressure analysis (hPa)

# Spatial filtering of variance field

« true » variances

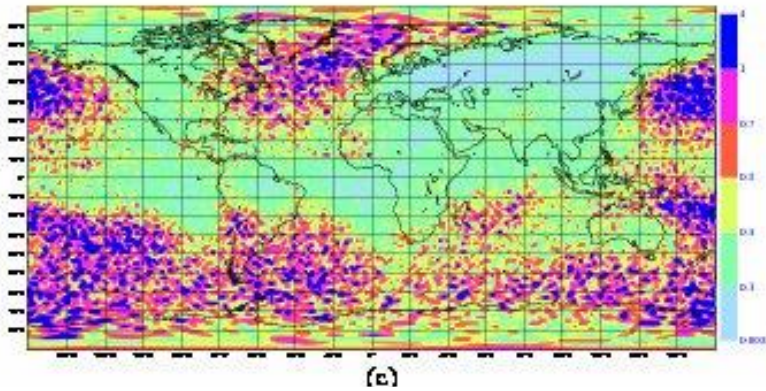
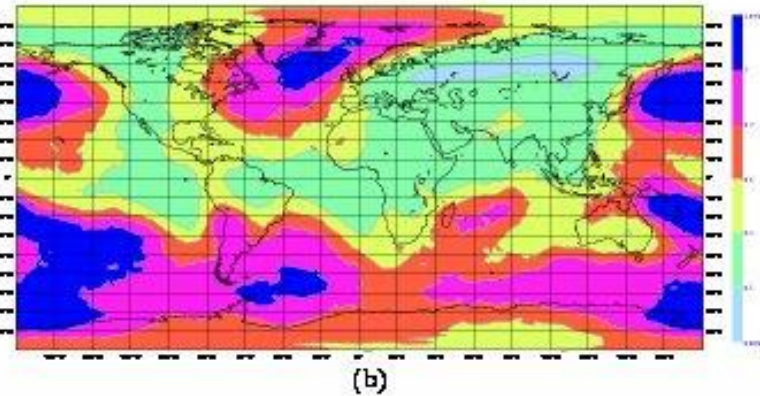
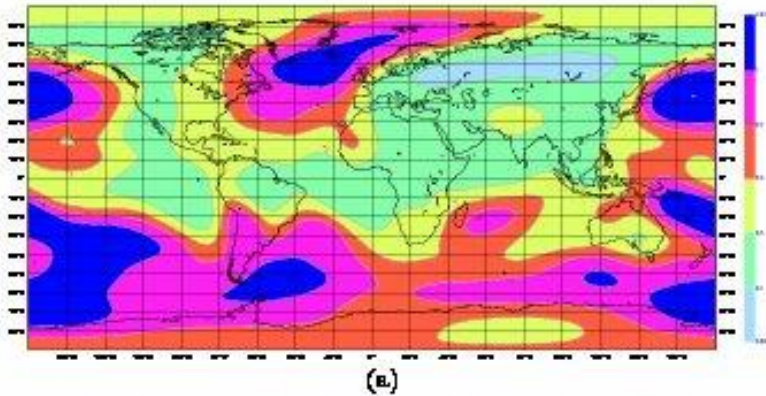


raw variances  $\mathbf{v}_b$  ( $N = 6$ )

# Spatial filtering of variance field

« true » variances

filtered variances  $\mathbf{v}'_b$  (N = 6)



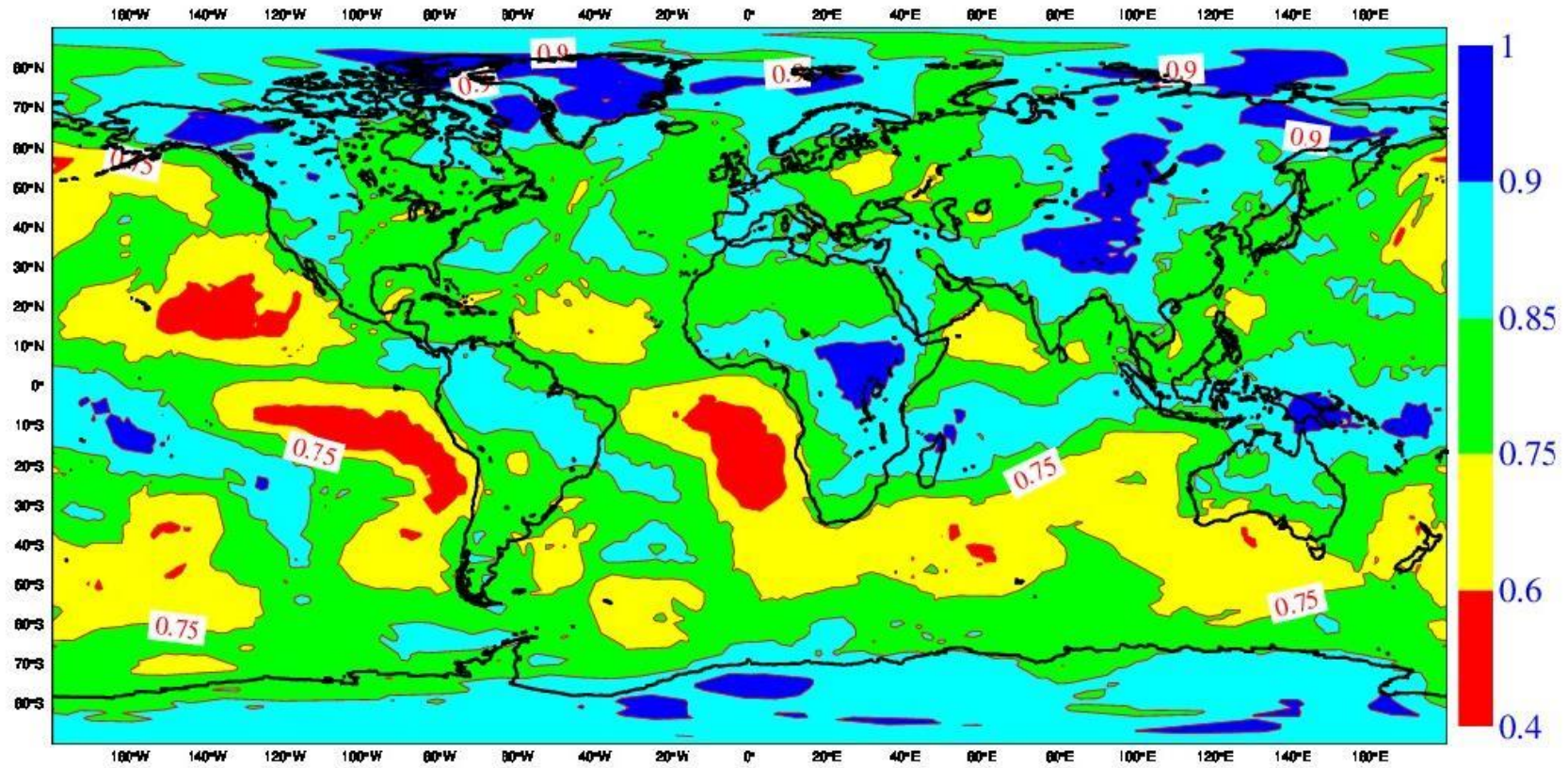
raw variances  $\mathbf{v}_b$  (N = 6)

$$\mathbf{v}'_b = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{v}_b$$

$$\mathbf{F} = 1 / ( 1 + E[\text{noise}^2]/\text{signal}^2 )$$

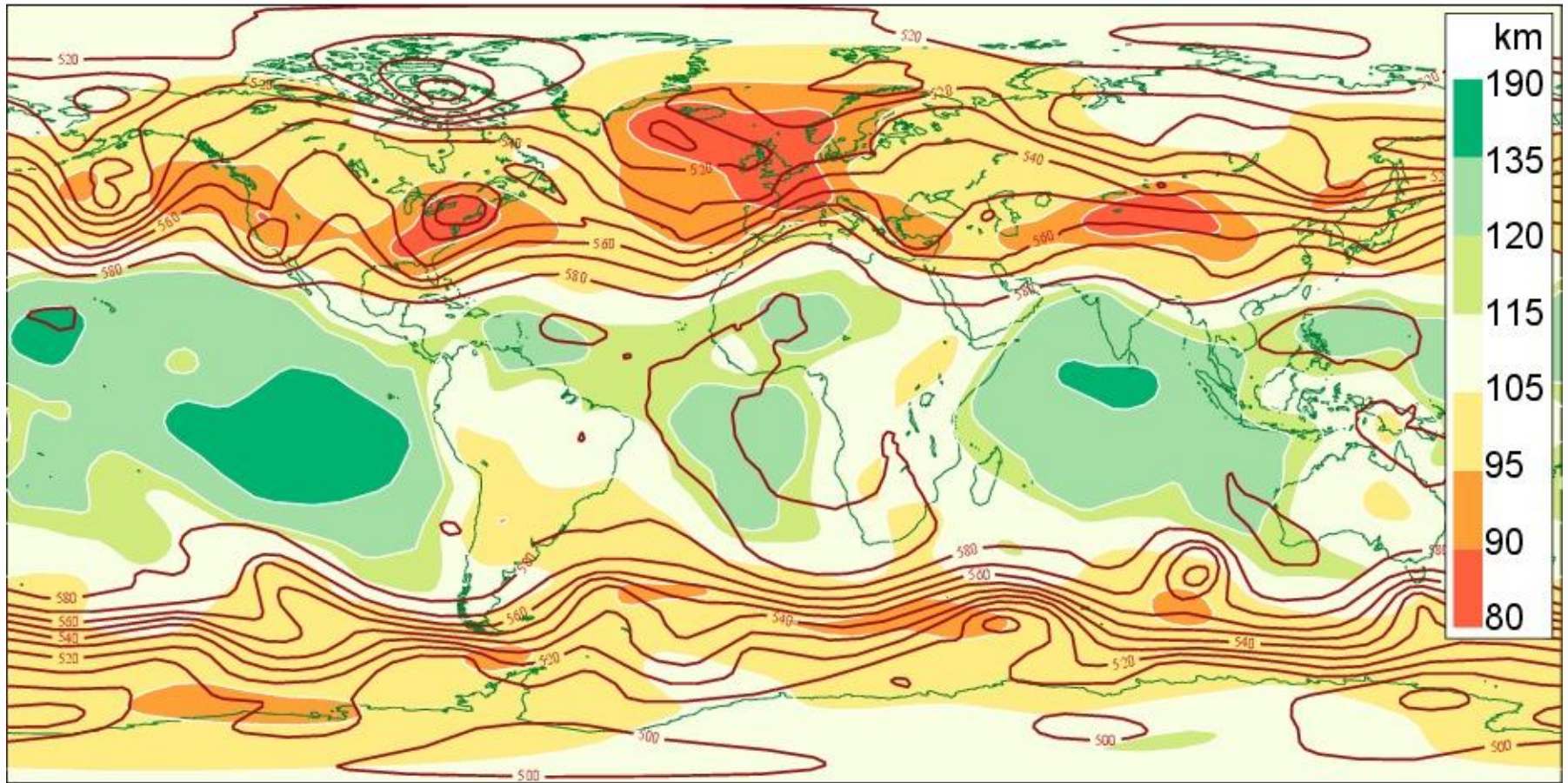
with  $E[\mathbf{v}_b^2] = \text{signal}^2 + E[\text{noise}^2]$ .

# Dynamics of vertical correlations (ensemble + wavelet filtering)



Vertical correlations of temperature between 850 & 870 hPa (28/2/2010)

# Dynamics of horizontal correlations (ensemble + wavelet filtering)



Length-scales (in km) of wind near 500 hPa,  
superimposed to geopotential.

# Modelling of covariances in ensemble space

$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{raw}} = \mathbf{X}'_b \mathbf{X}'_b{}^T / (N-1)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{raw}}^{1/2} = \mathbf{X}'_b / \sqrt{N-1}$$

where the perturbation matrix  $\mathbf{X}'_b$  contains the perturbation field of each member as a column (Lorenz 2003).

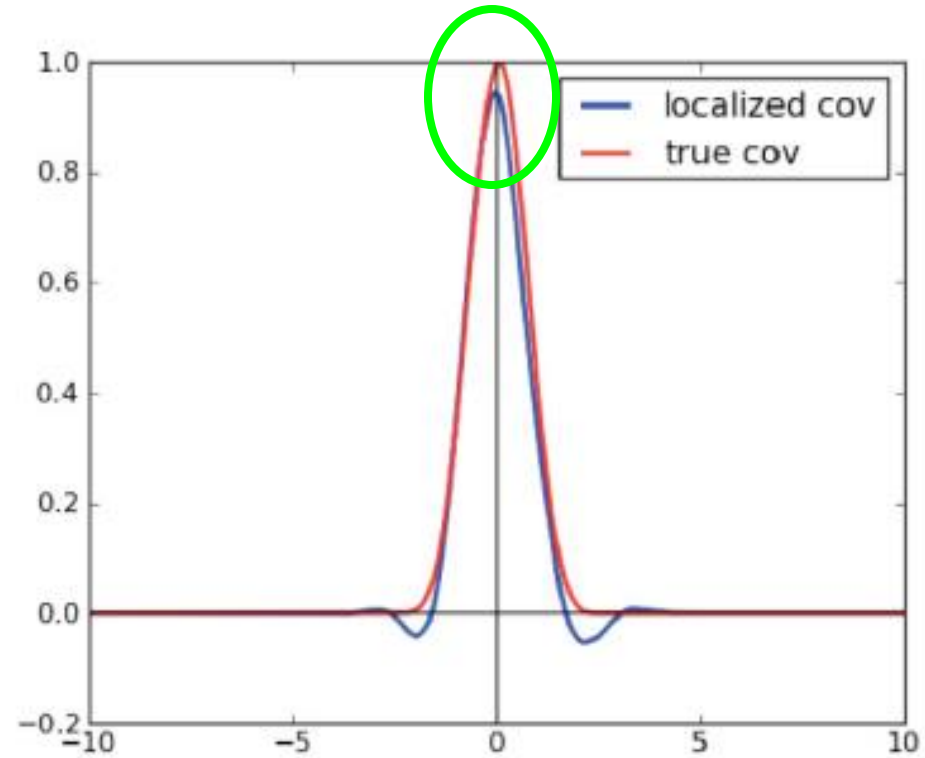
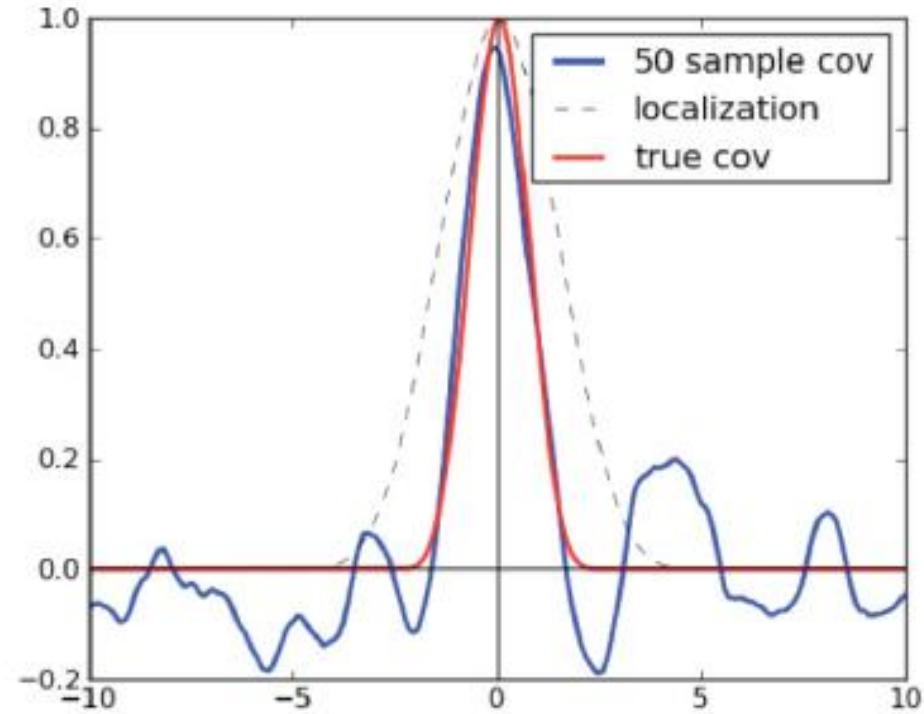
Schur filtering for long-distance correlations :

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_{\text{raw}} \circ \mathbf{C}_L$$

where  $\mathbf{C}_L$  is a localisation matrix ( $\sim$  correlation model).

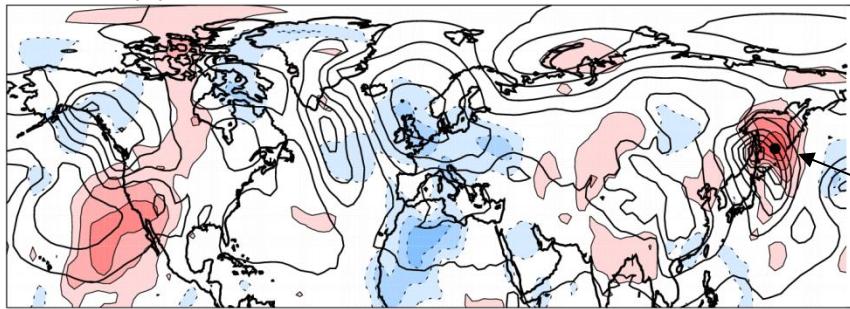


# Schur filtering of covariances



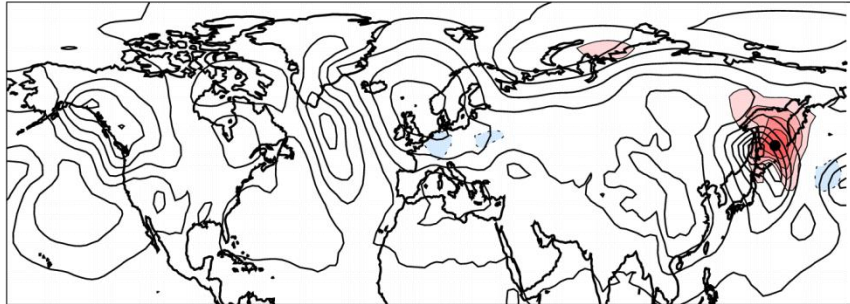
(Figure Whitaker (2011), N=50)

(a) Correlations in  $P^b$ , 25-member ensemble

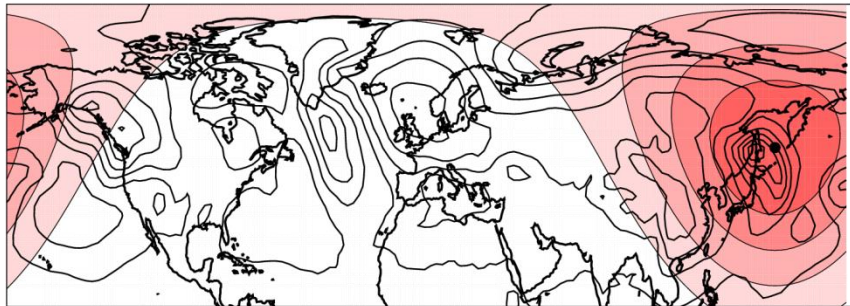


Observation  
location

(b) Correlations in  $P^b$ , 200-member ensemble

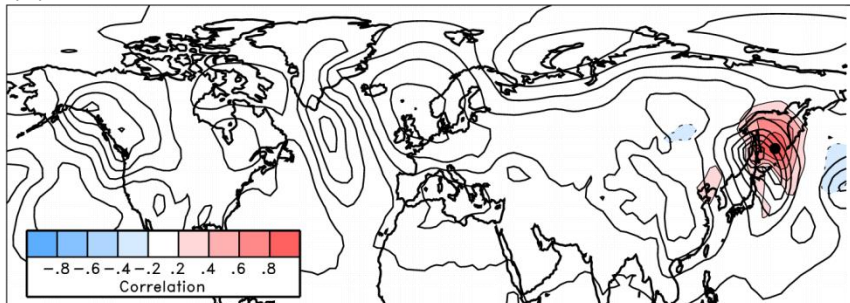


(c) Gaspari & Cohn correlation function



Schur filtering of  
long-distance correlations

(d) Correlations in  $P^b$  after localization, 25-member ensemble



from Hamill, Chapter 6 of  
*“Predictability of Weather and Climate”*

# Conclusions

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- **Data Assimilation (DA)** is vital for weather forecasting (NWP).
- **Observations** are very diverse in type, density and quality.
- **4D-Var** for temporal and non linear aspects.
- **Innovation departures** for space-averaged estimation of error covariances.
- **Ensemble DA** methods for error simulation and flow-dependent estimation.
- **Covariance modelling/filtering** for sampling noise and other uncertainties.



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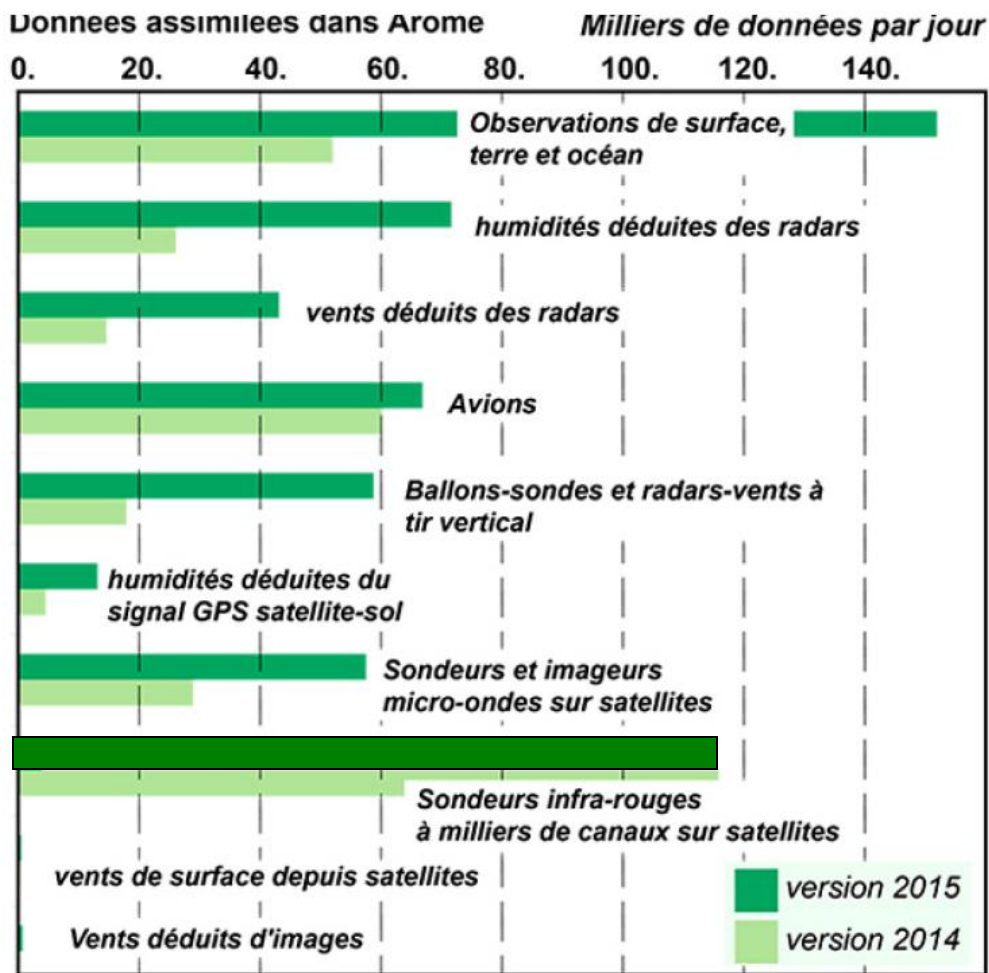
Thank you  
for your attention

# Some references

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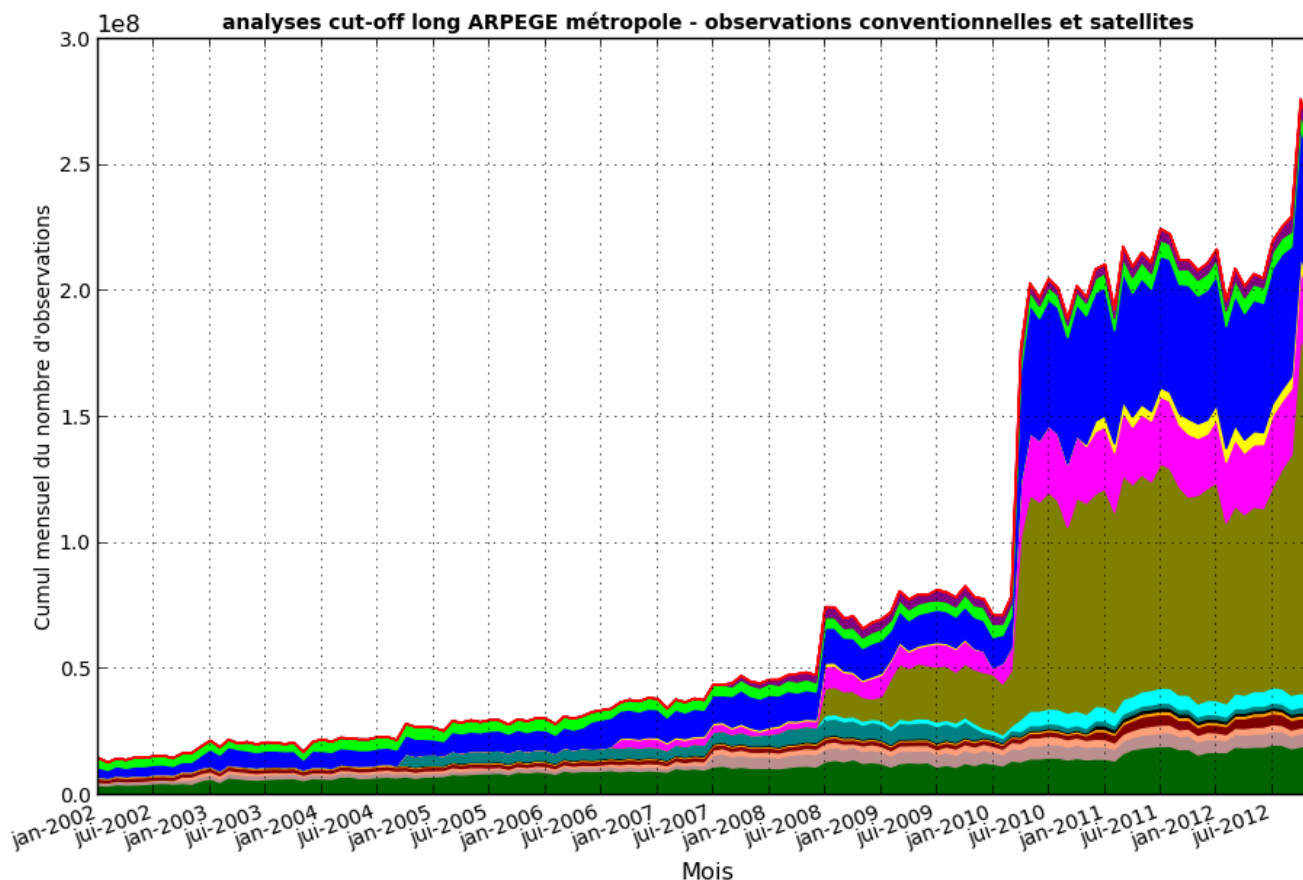
# Number of observations used in AROME (regional DA at Météo-France)



Total ~ 800,000 obs per day

# Number of observations used in ARPEGE (global DA at Météo-France)

Evolution des cumuls mensuels de nombre d'observations utilisées par type d'observation



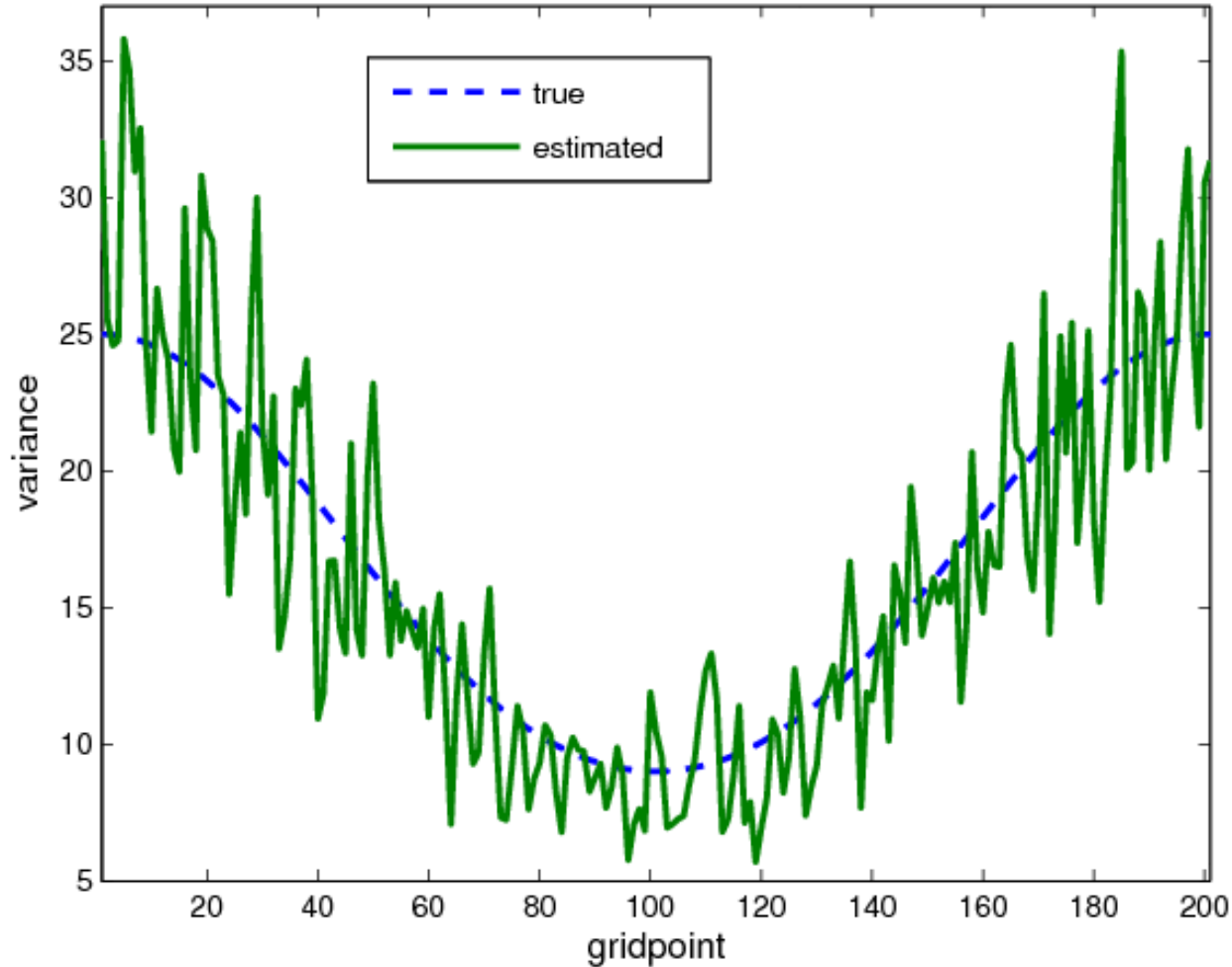
~100 million  
obs per day

## Estimation of background error variances from ensemble spread

$$\text{Var}(e_b) = 1/(N-1) \sum_n [x'_b(n) - \overline{x'_b}]^2$$



# Spatial structure of sampling noise for variances



$$\varepsilon_b = \mathbf{B}^{1/2} \eta$$
$$\eta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

$N = 50$  members

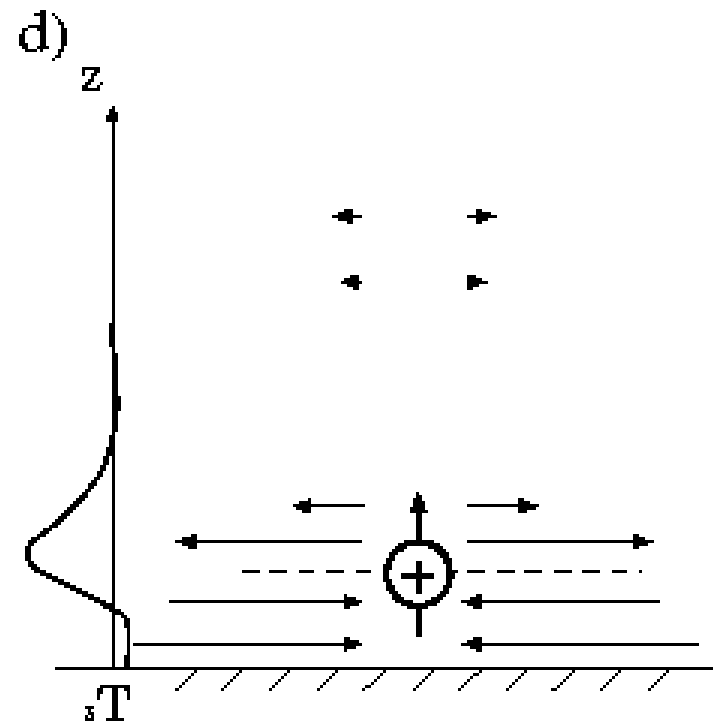
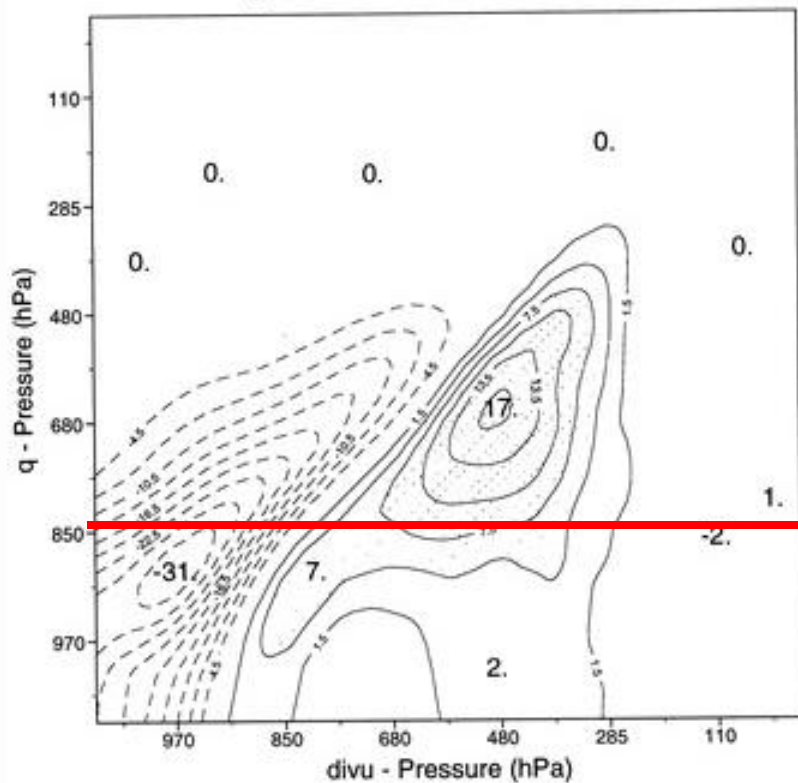
$L(\varepsilon_b) = 200$  km

$$\overline{V^e (V^e)^T} = 2/(N-1) \mathbf{B}^* \circ \mathbf{B}^*$$

⇒ Spatial filtering in order to extract large scale **signal**,  
and remove small scale **sampling noise**.

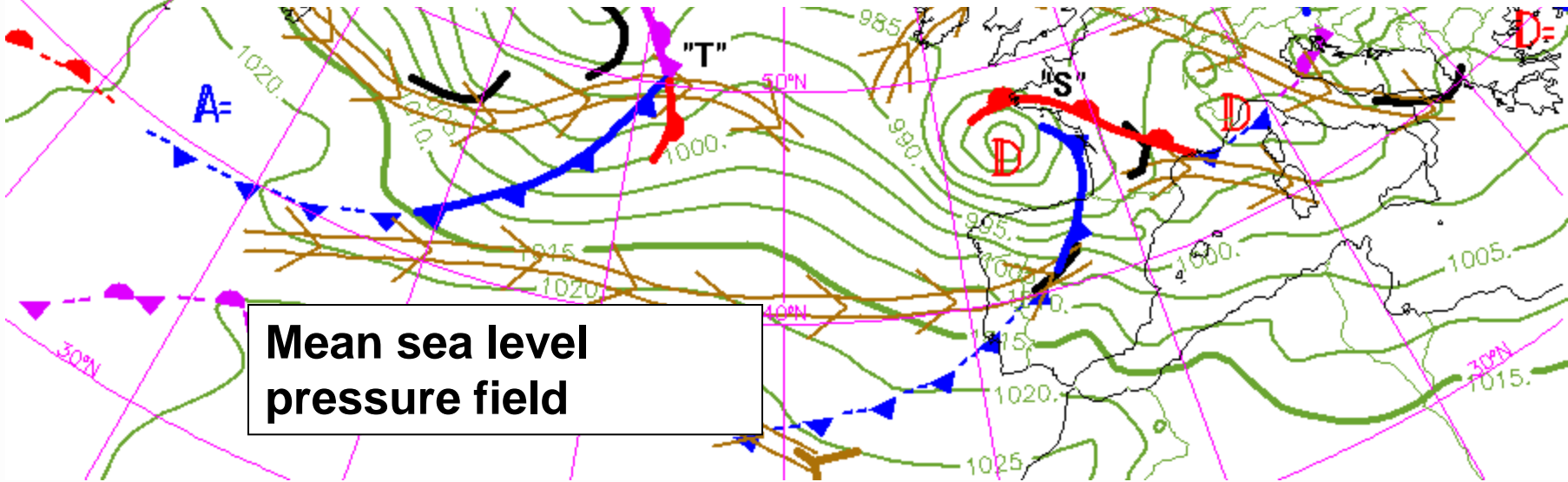
(e.g. Raynaud et al 2009)

# Divergence/humidity couplings

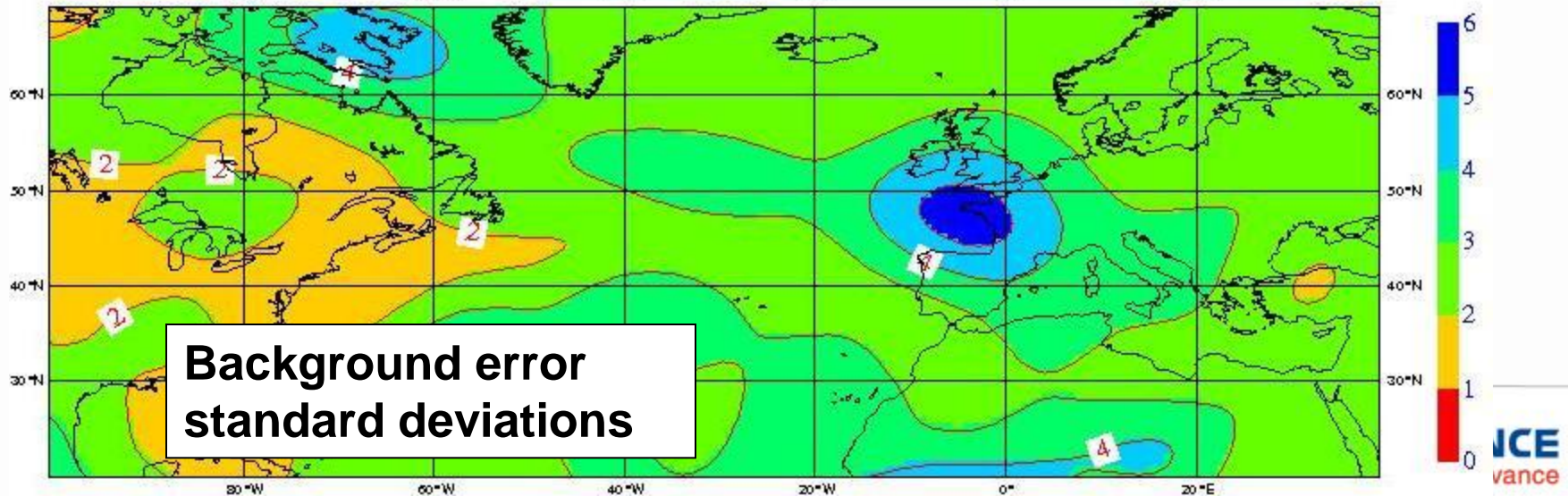


(Berre 2000, Montmerle et al 2006)

# Connexion between large errors and intense weather ( Klaus storm, 24/01/2009, 00/03 UTC )

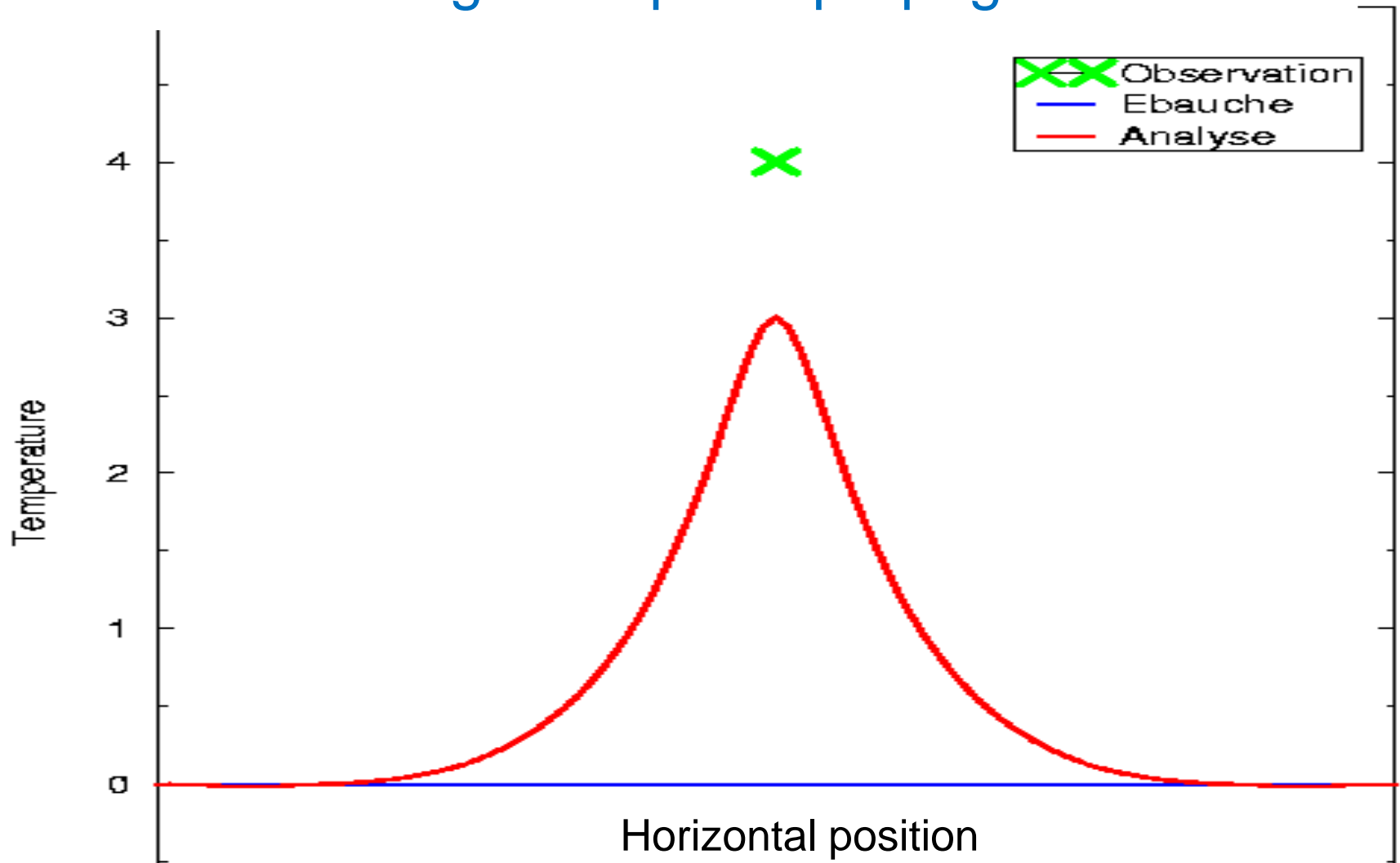


**Mean sea level  
pressure field**



**Background error  
standard deviations**

# Impact of one observation (1D) : filtering and spatial propagation



⇒ relative accuracies of observations and background, and characteristic spatial scales of background errors are accounted for.

# Analysis error equation

---

- Analysis state (BLUE,  $K = 4D$ -Var gain matrix) :

$$\mathbf{x}_a = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{H}) \mathbf{x}_b + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{y}_o$$

- True state :

$$\mathbf{x}_t = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{H}) \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}_t$$

- Analysis error :

$$\mathbf{e}_a = \mathbf{x}_a - \mathbf{x}_t$$

i.e.

$$\mathbf{e}_a = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{H}) \mathbf{e}_b + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{e}_o$$

# Analysis perturbation equation

- Perturbed analysis :

$$\mathbf{x}'_a = (\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{KH}) \mathbf{x}'_b + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{y}'_o$$

- Unperturbed analysis :

$$\mathbf{x}_a = (\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{KH}) \mathbf{x}_b + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{y}_o$$

- Analysis perturbation :

$$\mathbf{e}_a = \mathbf{x}'_a - \mathbf{x}_a$$

i.e.

$$\mathbf{e}_a = (\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{KH}) \mathbf{e}_b + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{e}_o$$

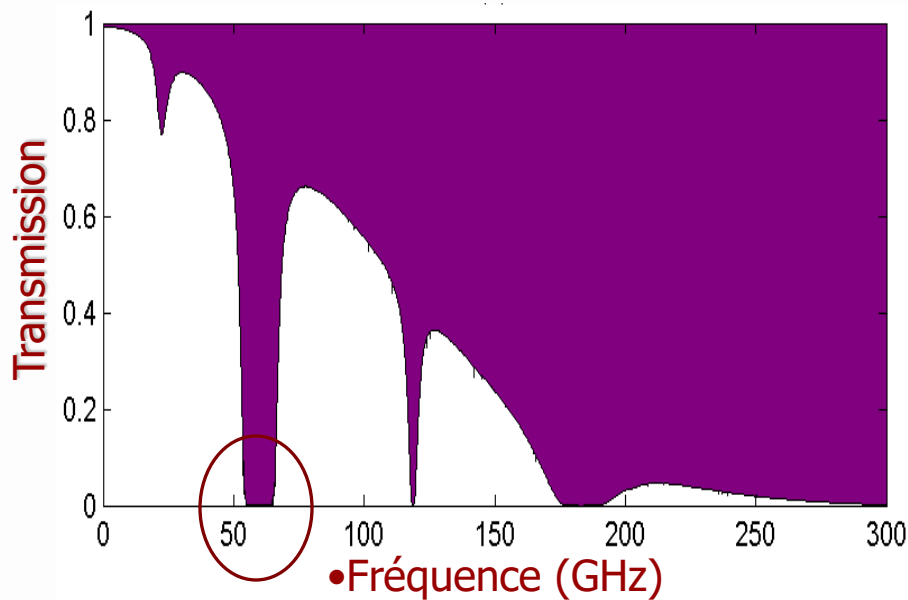
=> Estimate 4D-Var errors by using perturbed inputs.

# What is measured by satellite sensors ?

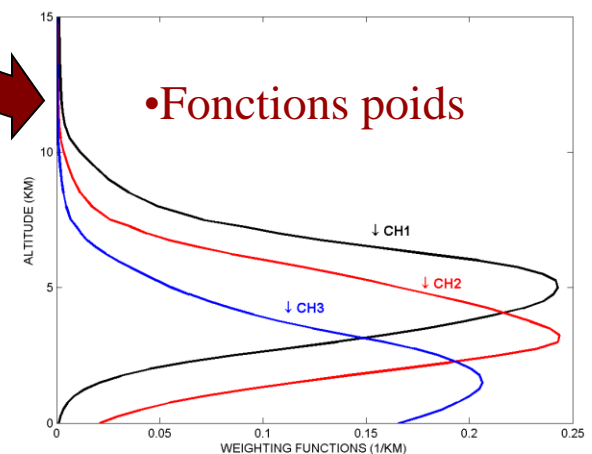
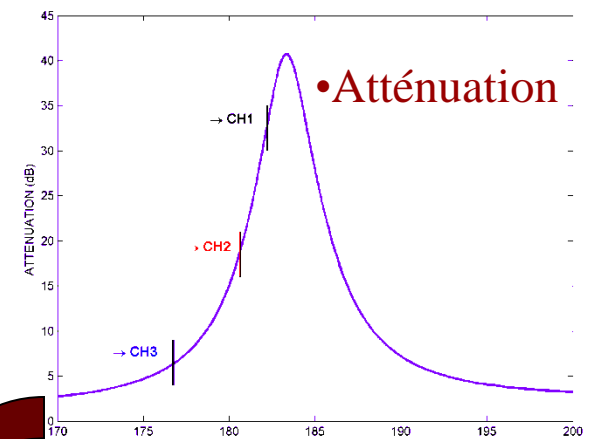
## Soundings of atmosphere ?

- In micro-waves: absorption par by water vapor, oxygen
- Largeur des bandes d'absorption: Pression (altitude) (< 60km): les bandes d'absorption plus larges quand la pression augmente

Les mesures loin (proches) d'une bande d'absorption: information sur les basses (hautes) couches atmosphériques



*trace*  
*atténuation*



# Covariances of residuals

- Analysis increment :  $H \delta x = HK (y_o - Hx_b)$   
with  $HK = HBH^T (HBH^T + R)^{-1}$
- Covariances between  $H\delta x$  and  $o_{mb}$  :  
$$E[(H \delta x)(y_o - Hx_b)^T] = HK E[(y_o - Hx_b)(y_o - Hx_b)^T]$$
$$\sim HK (HB_+H^T + R_+)$$
$$\sim HBH^T (HBH^T + R)^{-1} (HB_+H^T + R_+)$$
$$\sim HB_+H^T$$

either assuming  $K \sim$  optimal,

or, for averaged  $\sigma_b$ , assuming that structures

in  $B, R$  are much different. (Desroziers et al 2005)