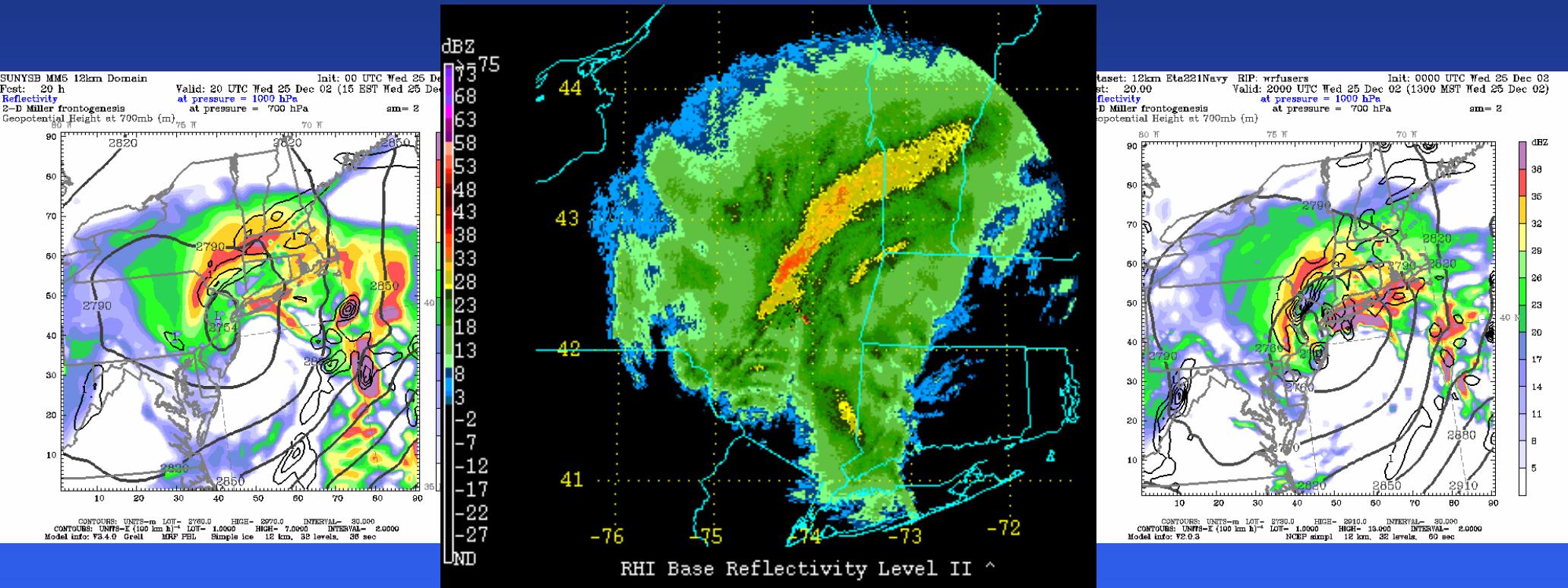


# Comparison of MM5 and WRF Forecasts of the 25 December 2002 Banded Snowstorm



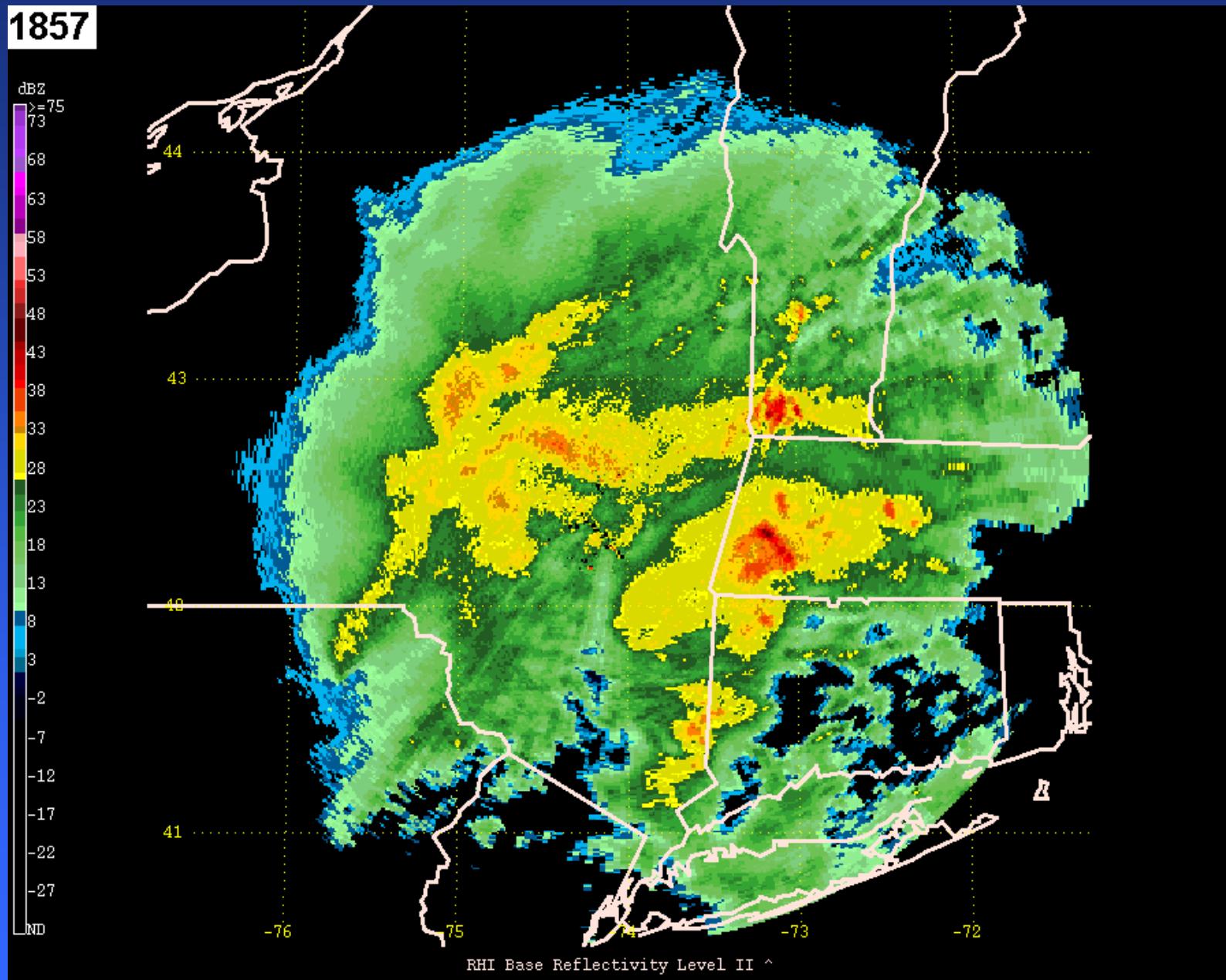
David Novak

Stony Brook University, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York  
NOAA/ NWS Eastern Region Headquarters, Scientific Services Division, Bohemia, New York

Brian Colle

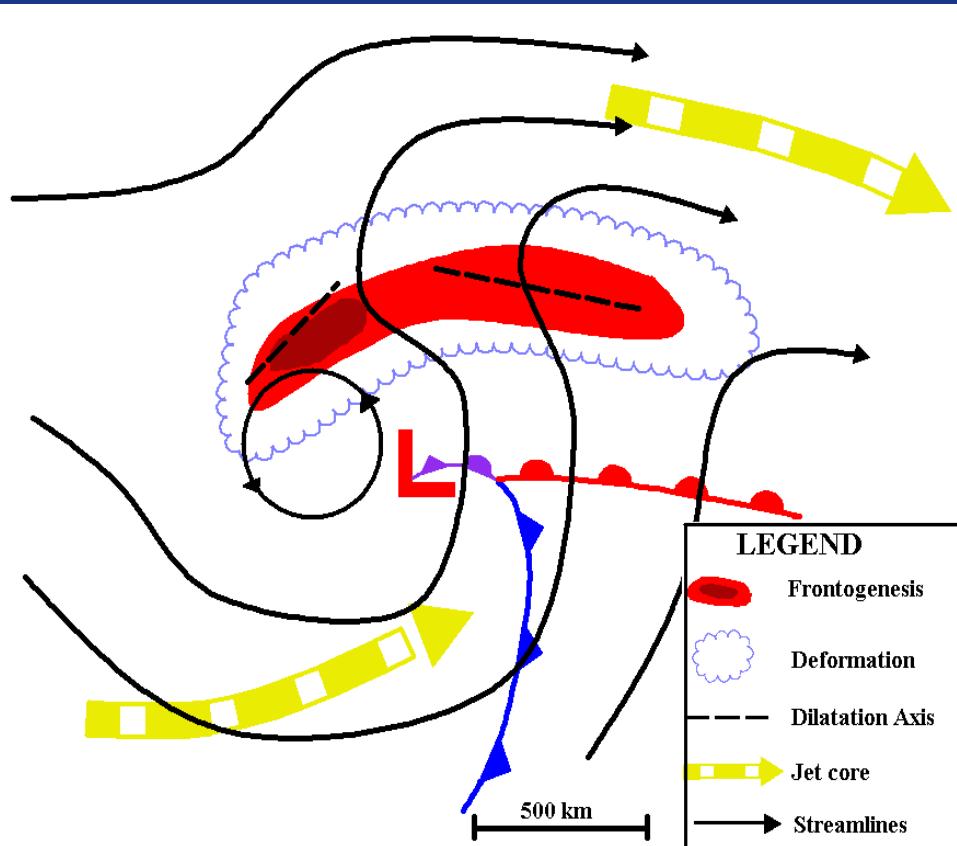
Stony Brook University, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York

# 25 December 2002 Snowstorm



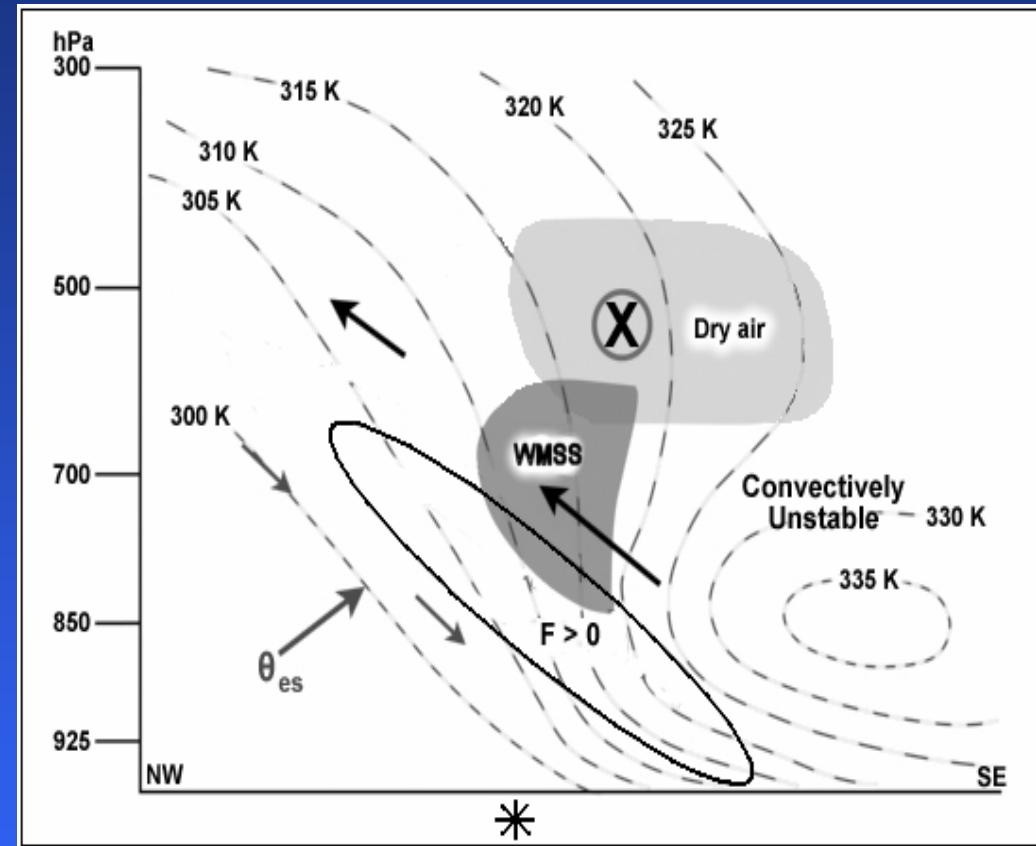
# Conceptual Models

Plan-view



Novak et al. 2004

Cross Section

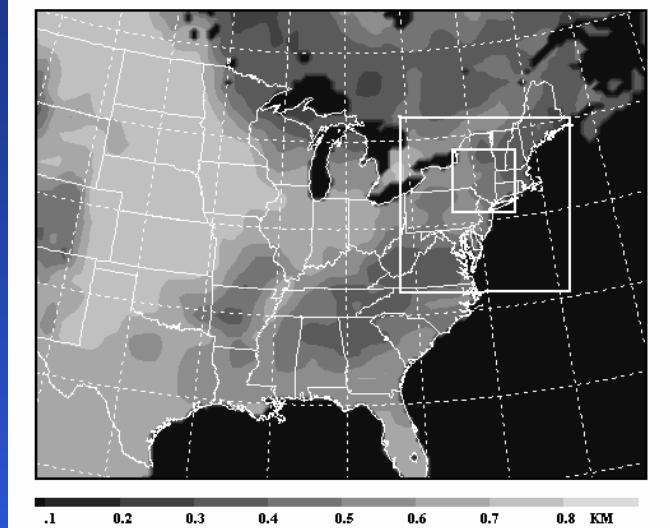


Novak et al. 2005  
(adapted from Moore et al. 2004)

\*Frontogenesis in the presence of weak moist symmetric stability and sufficient moisture\*

# Case Study Design

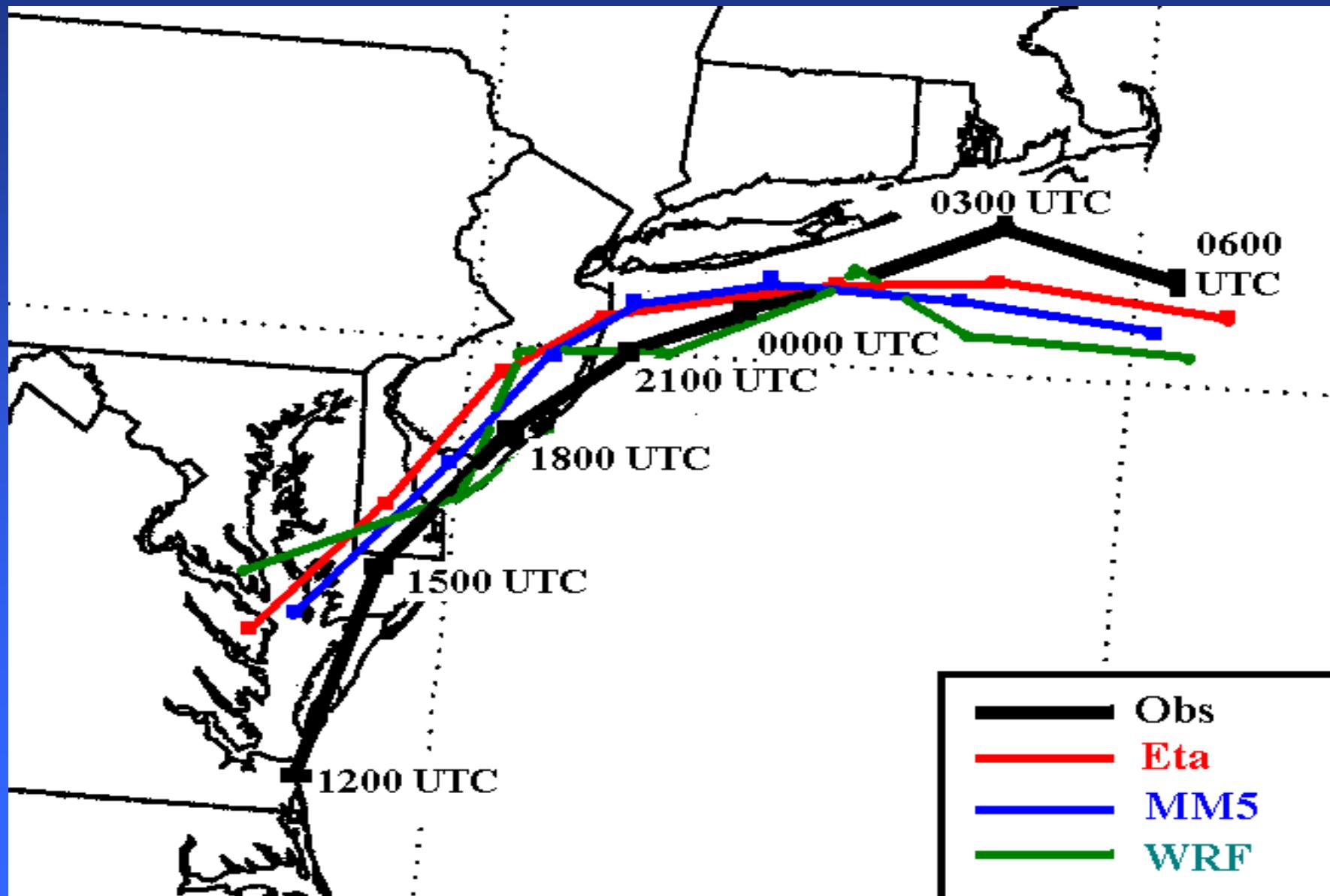
- Compare Eta, MM5, and WRF forecasts to observations
- Models initialized at 0000 UTC 25 Dec 2002
- MM5/WRF one way nest



Model	SST	Convection	BL	Micro-physics
Eta	Eta	BMJ	MYJ	Ferrier
<b>MM5 v3.4.0</b>	Navy	Grell	MRF	Simple Ice (3 class)
<b>WRF v2.0.3</b>	Navy	Grell–Devenyi	MRF	WSM-3

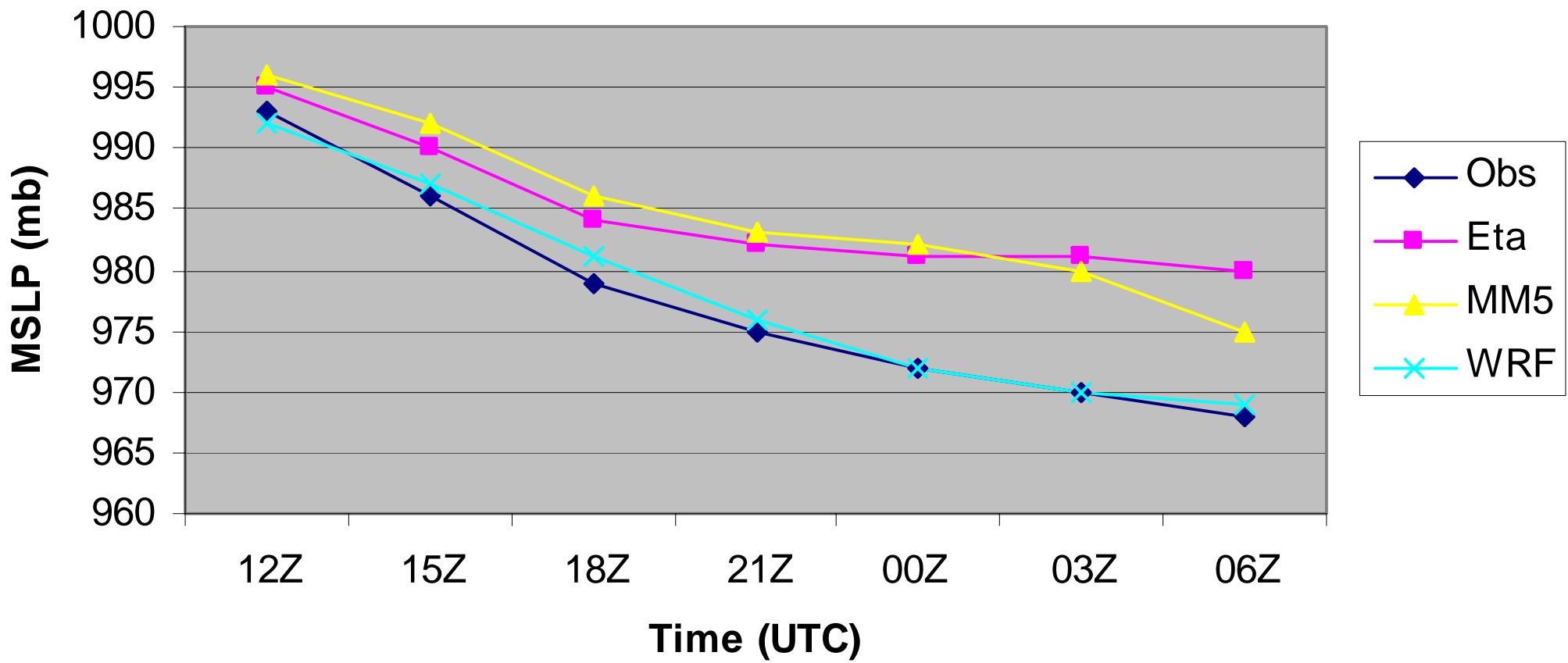
# 25 December 2002 Snowstorm

## Low Track Comparison



# 25 December 2002 Snowstorm

## MSLP Time Series

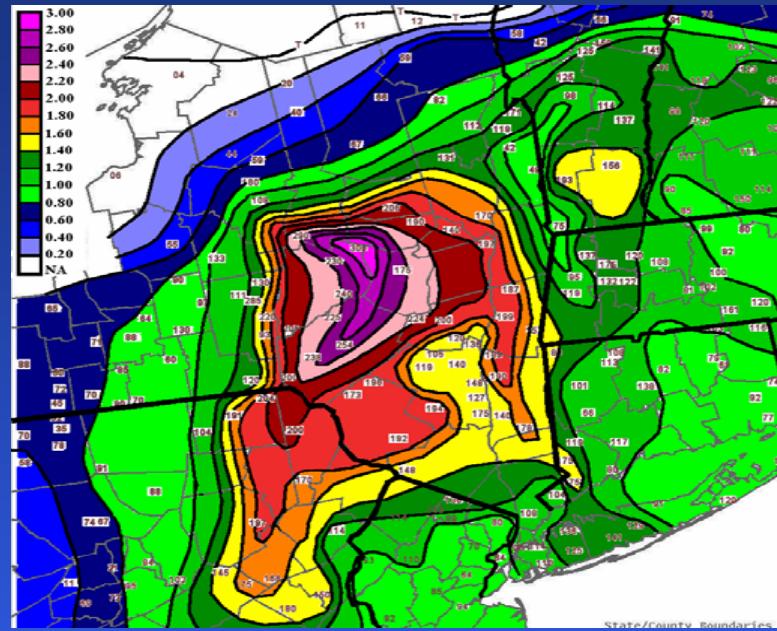


# QPF Performance

## 12 UTC 25 Dec – 12 UTC 26 Dec QPF

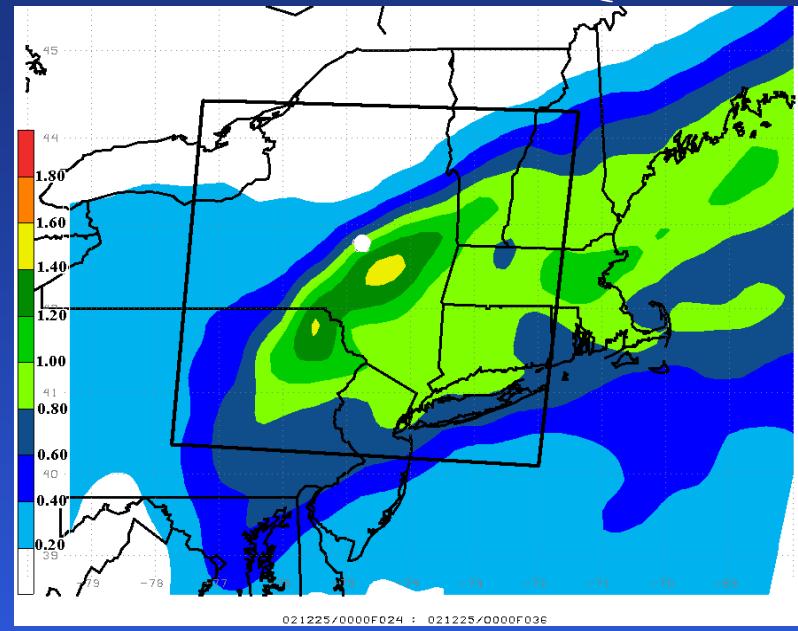
Obs

Max = 3.00 in  
(76.2 mm)



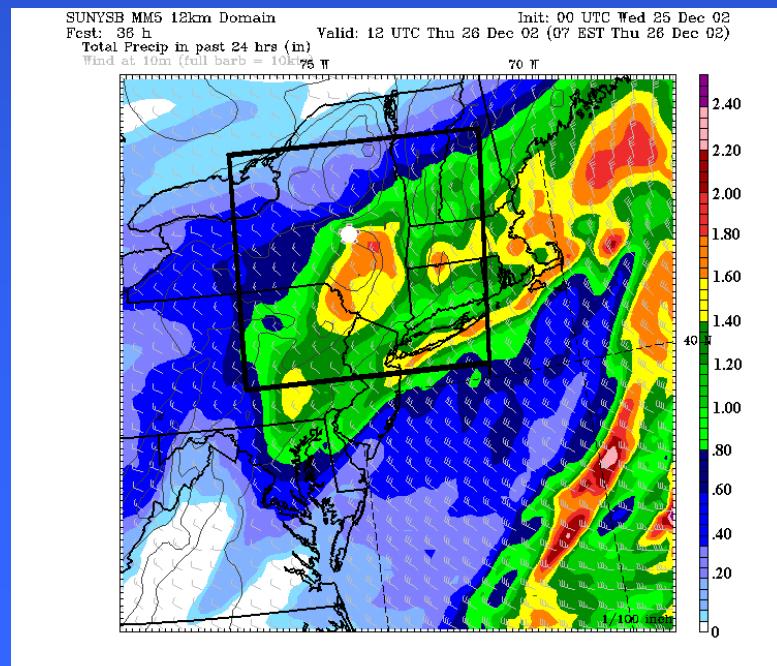
Eta

Max = 1.50 in  
(38.1 mm)



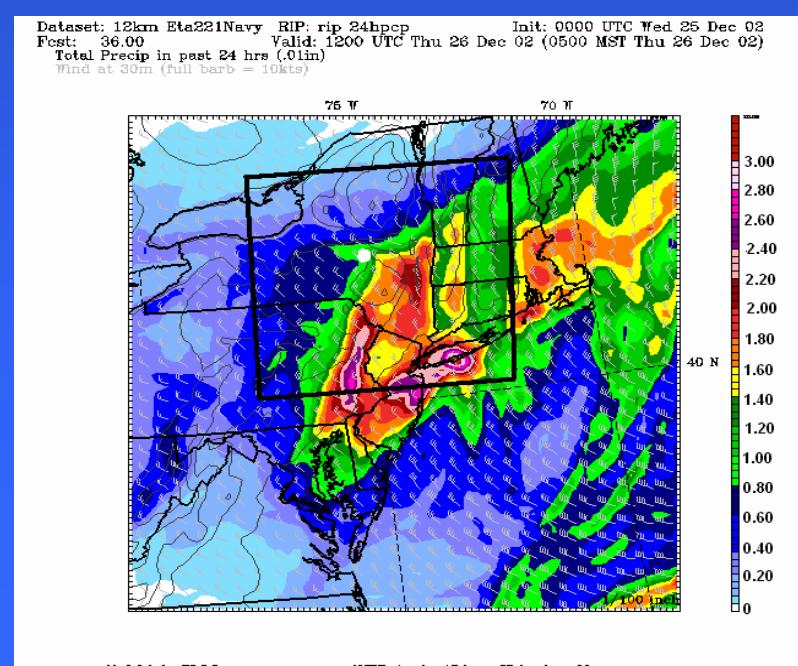
MM5

Max = 1.85 in  
(47 mm)



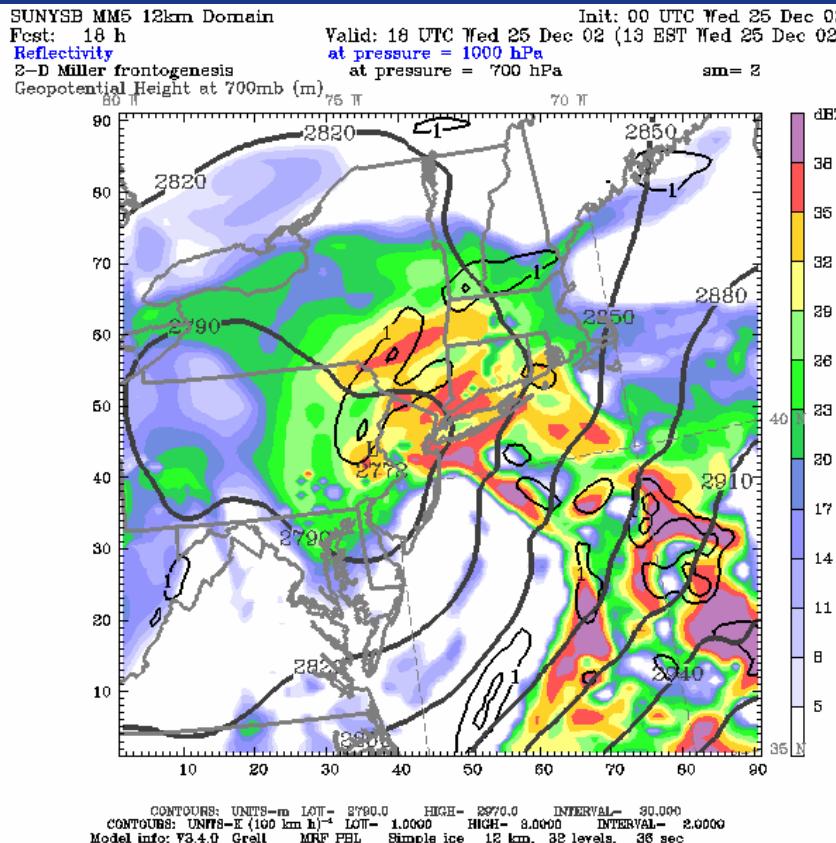
WRF

Max = 2.70 in  
(68.6 mm)

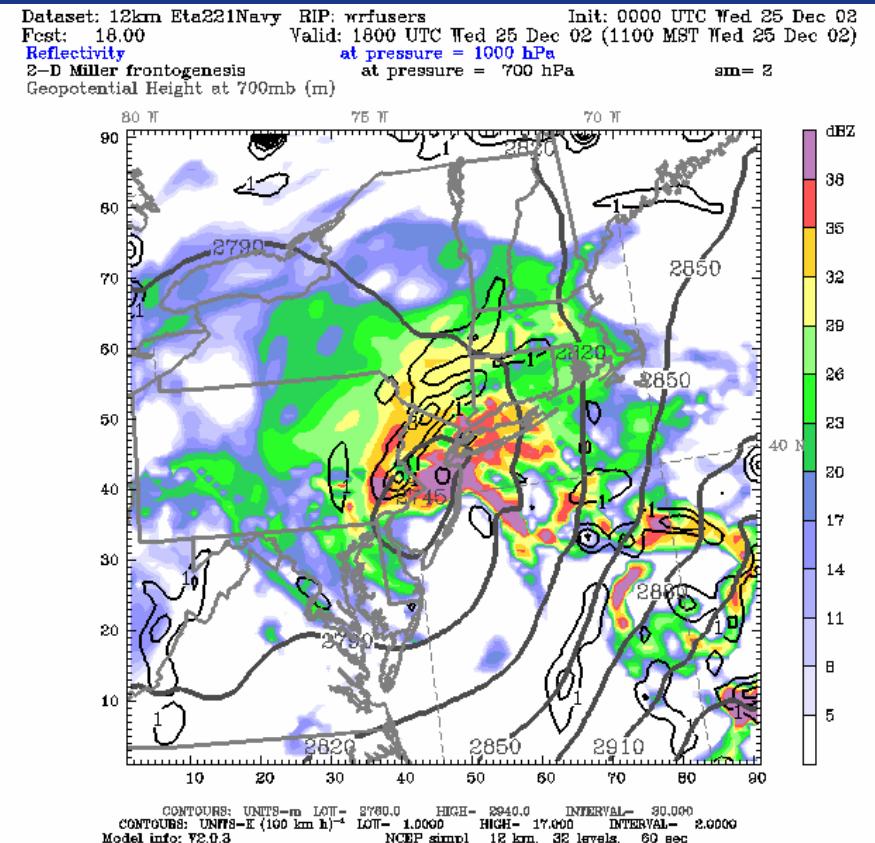


# 0000 UTC

## 12 km MM5



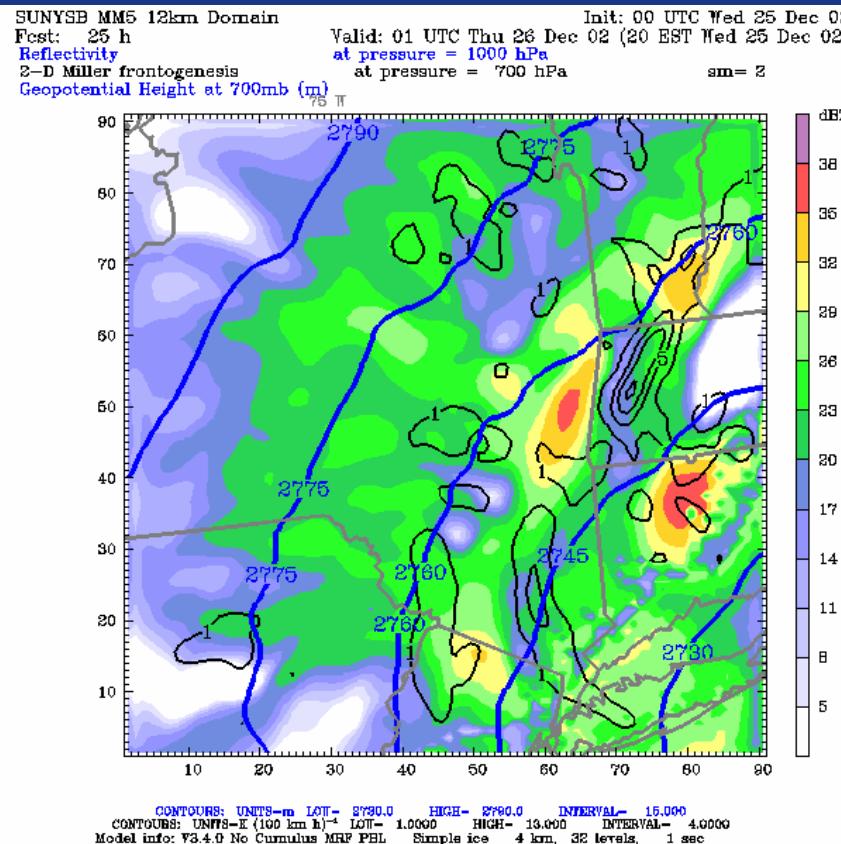
## 12 km WRF



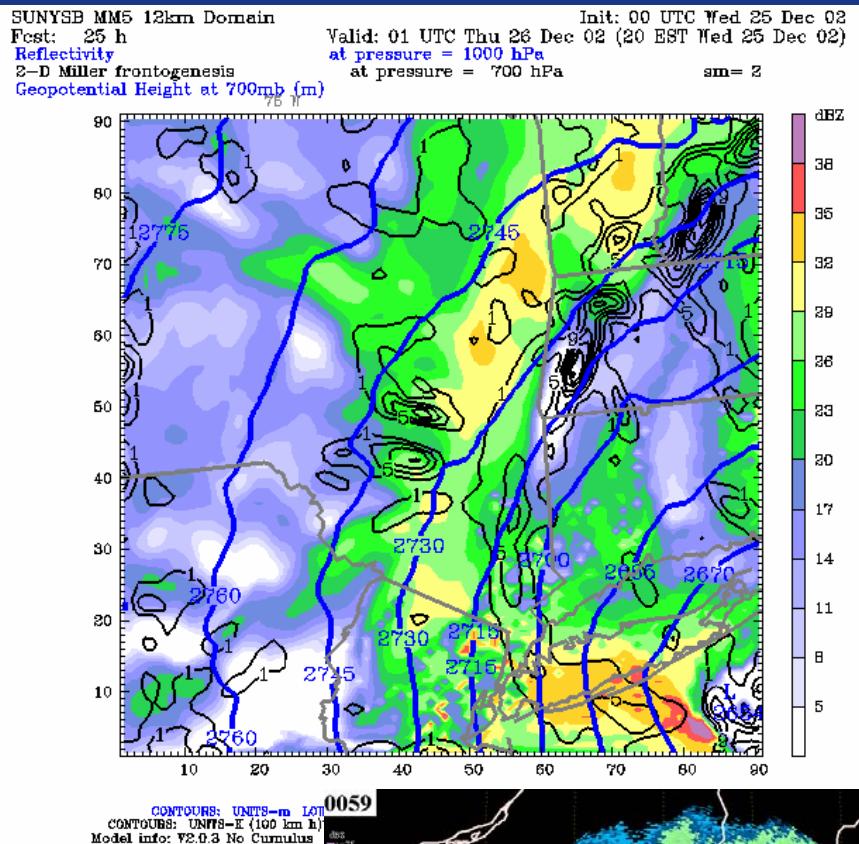
- Simulated Radar Reflectivity (shaded, dBZ)
- 700-hPa height (thick solid, m)
- 700-hPa 2D Miller Frontogenesis (thin solid,  $^{\circ}\text{C } 100 \text{ km}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ )

# 0000 UTC

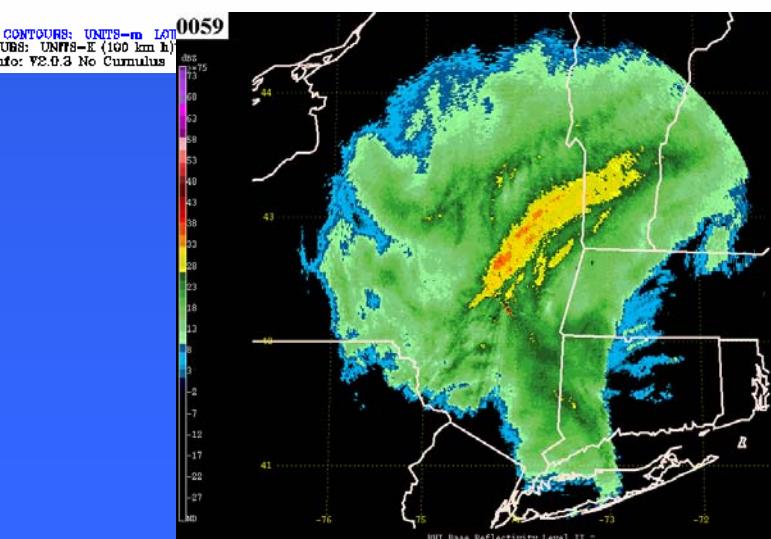
## 4 km MM5



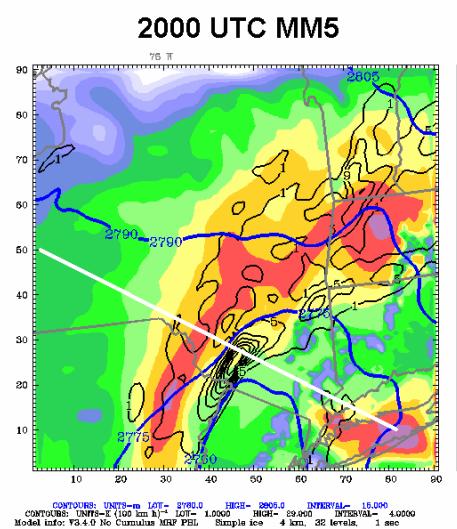
## 4 km WRF



- Simulated Radar Reflectivity (shaded, dBZ)
- 700-hPa height (thick solid, m)
- 700-hPa 2D Miller Frontogenesis (thin solid,  $^{\circ}\text{C } 100 \text{ km}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ )



# 4 km MM5



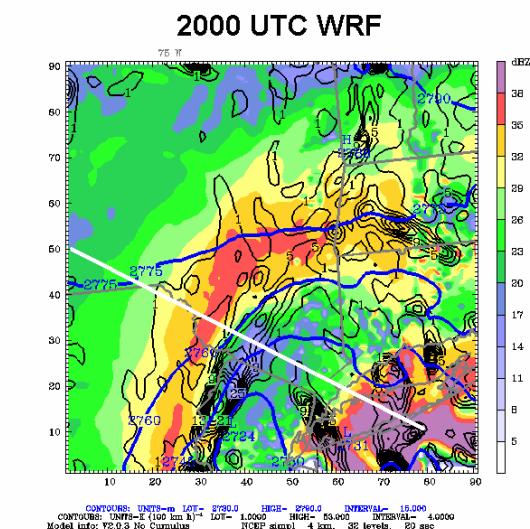
# 4 km WRF

Reflectivity (shaded)

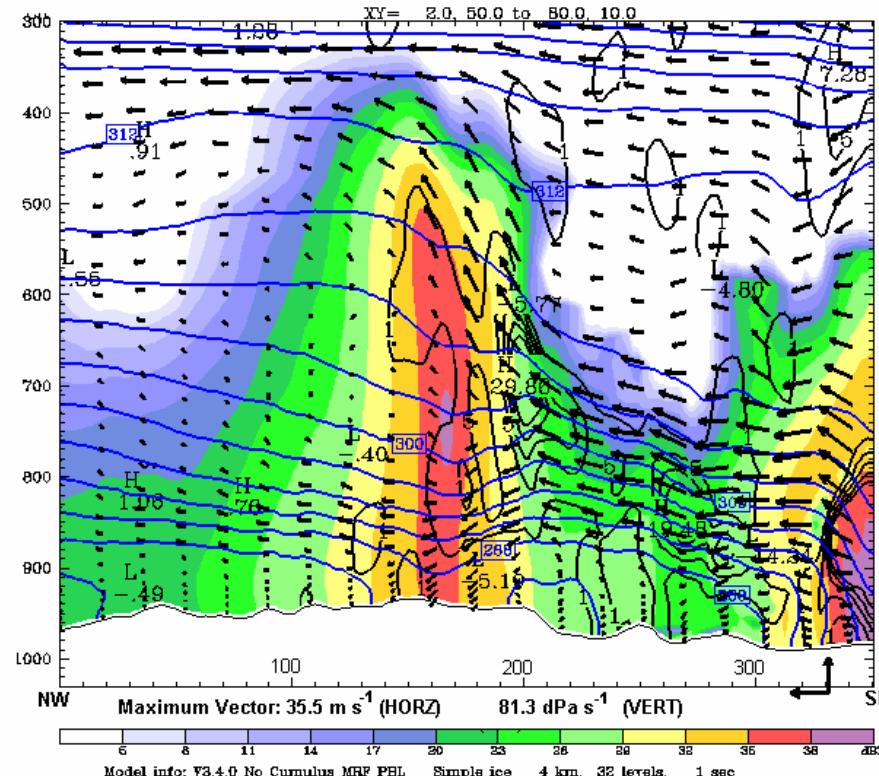
2D Frontogenesis

$\Theta_{es}$  (blue)

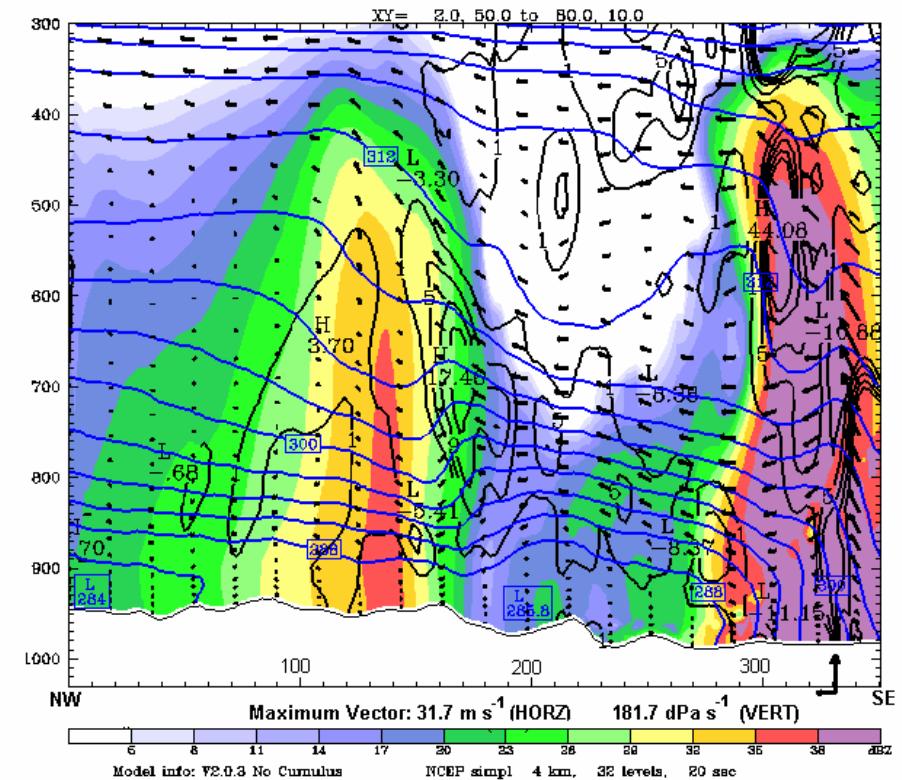
Circulation



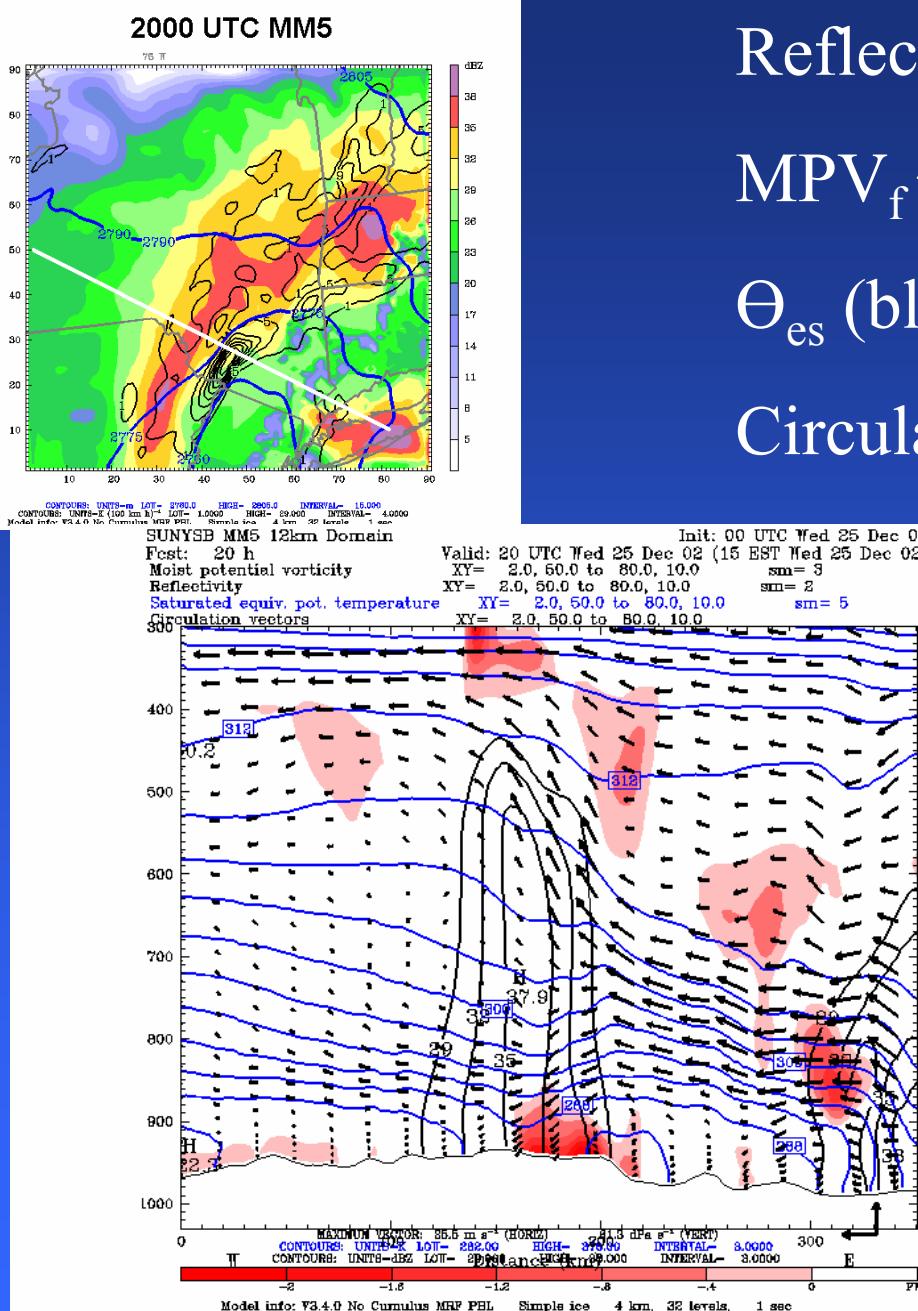
## 2000 UTC MM5



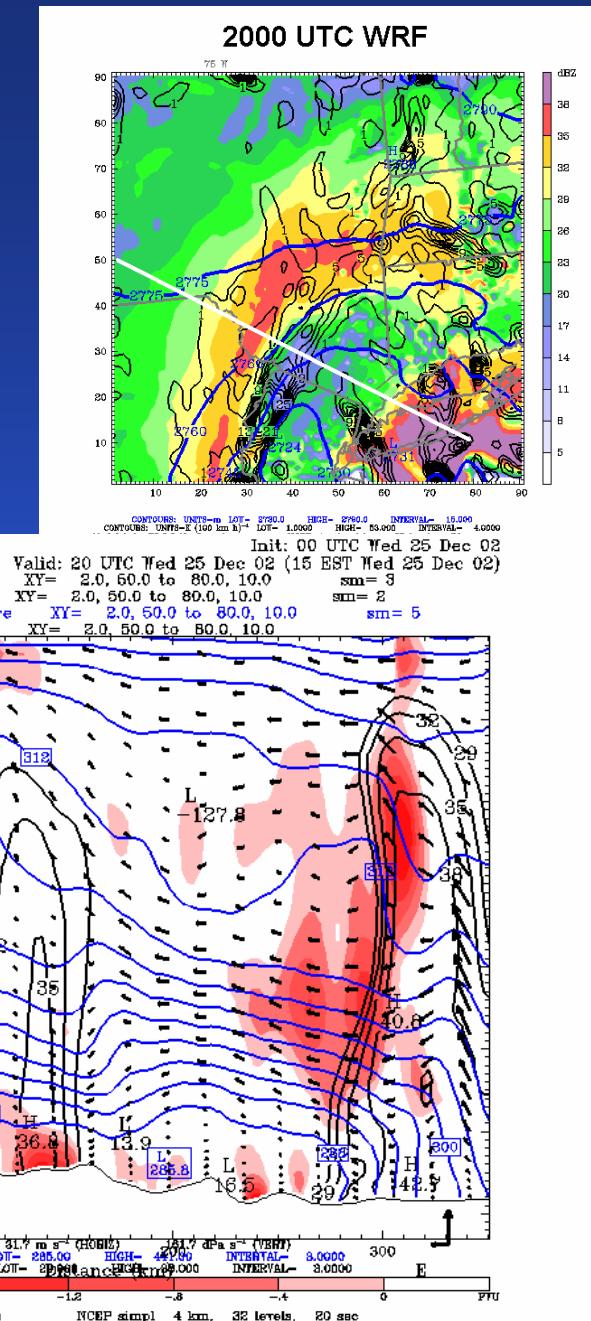
## 2000 UTC WRF



# 4 km MM5



# 4 km WRF



Reflectivity

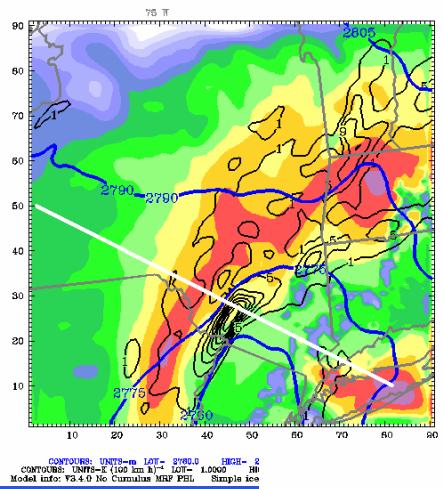
$MPV_f < 0$  (shaded)

$\Theta_{es}$  (blue)

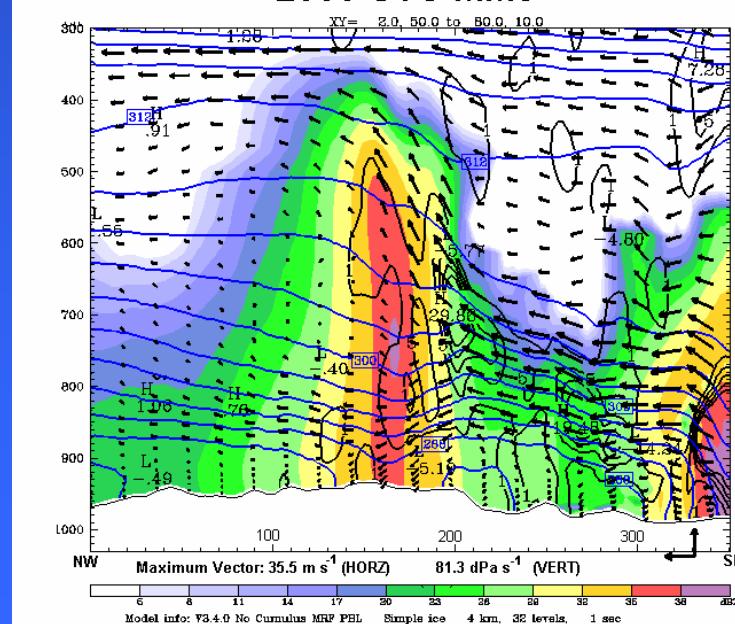
Circulation

# Relationship between the Band, Frontogenesis, WSS, Moisture and Ascent

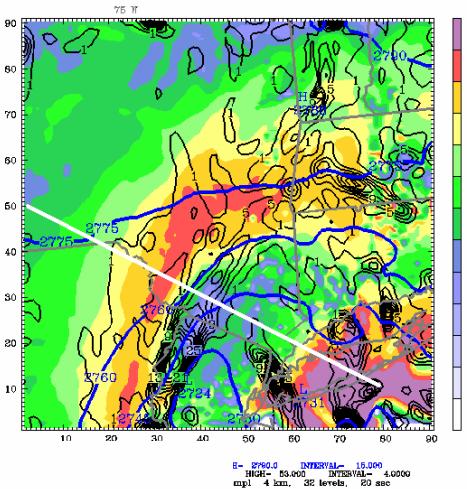
2000 UTC MM5



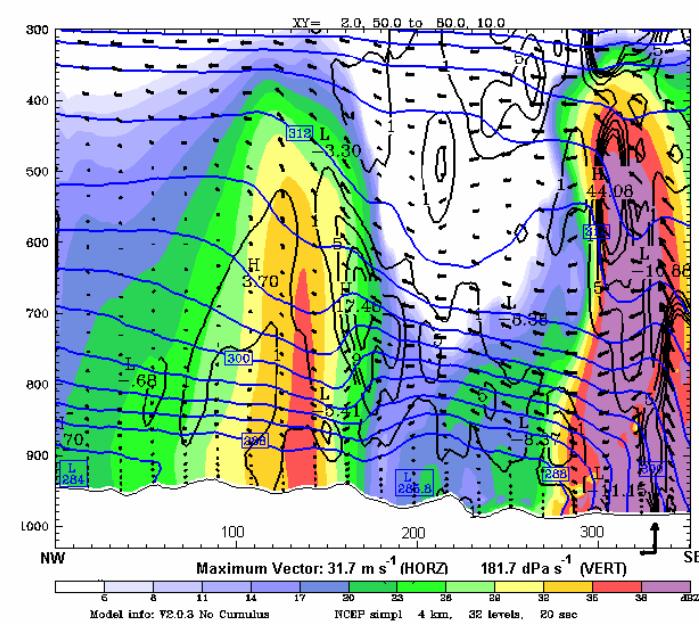
2000 UTC MM5



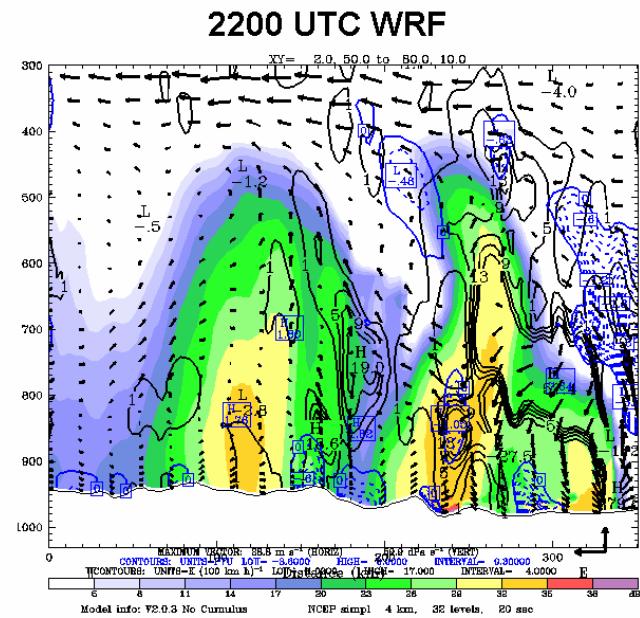
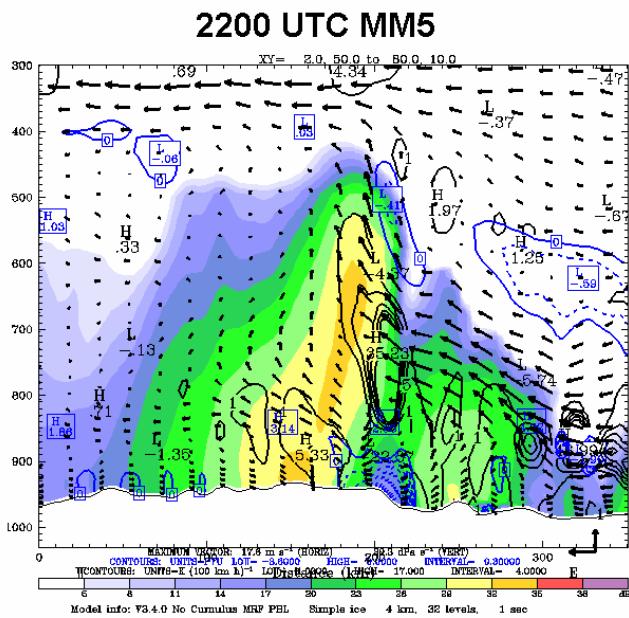
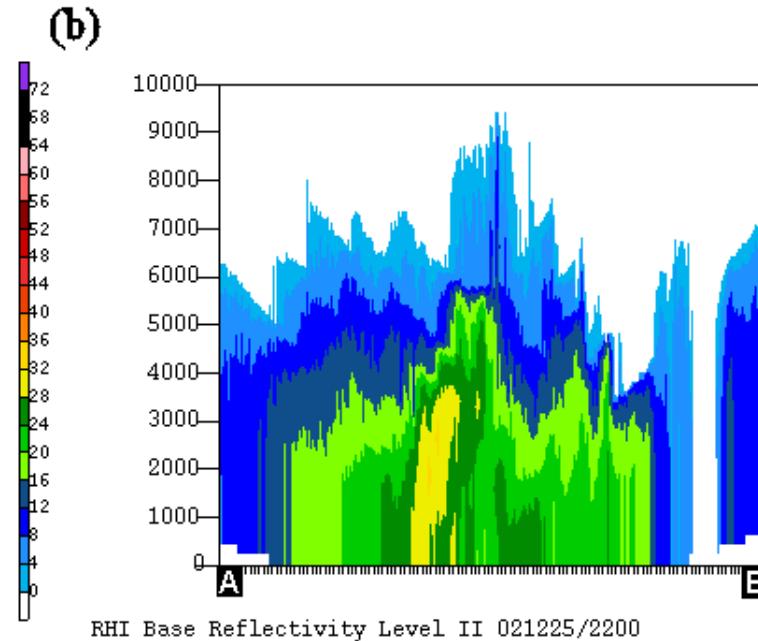
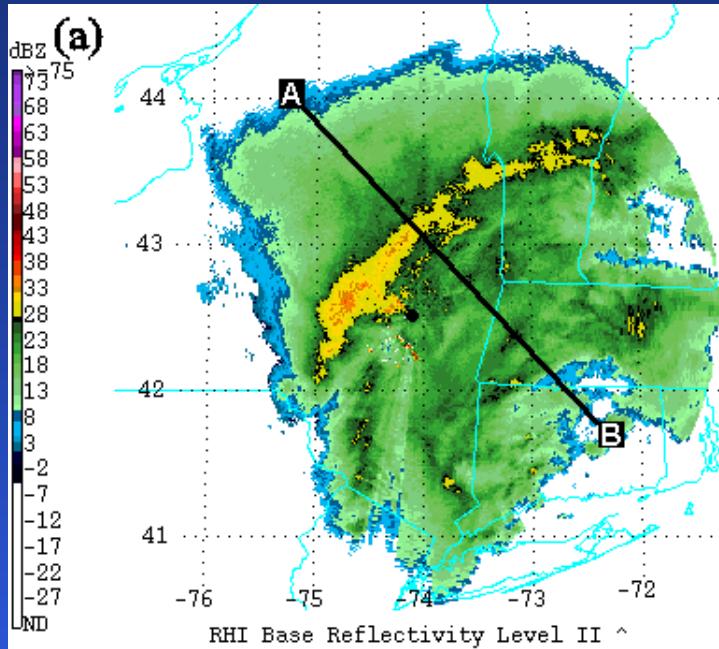
2000 UTC WRF



2000 UTC WRF

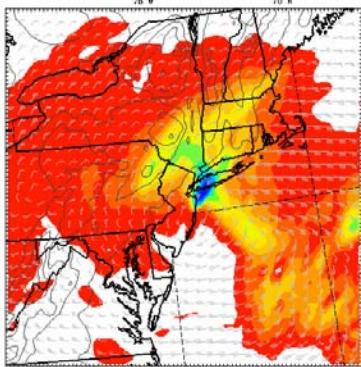


# Precipitation Drift?



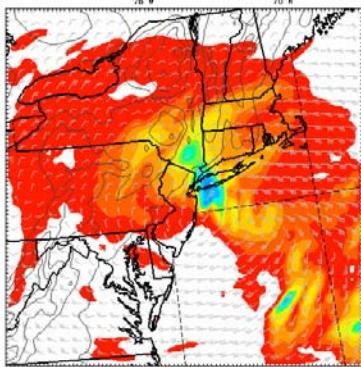
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 19 UTC)

Dataset: Lin YSU KF RIP: pop 1h  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 19:00  
 Valid: 1800 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1400 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



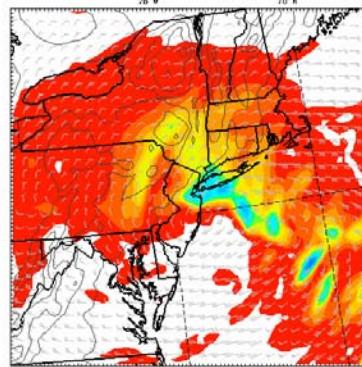
WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin

Dataset: mp3 YSU KF RIP: pop 1h  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 19:00  
 Valid: 1800 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1400 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3

Dataset: mp4 MRF Grell RIP: pop 1h  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 19:00  
 Valid: 1800 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1400 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec

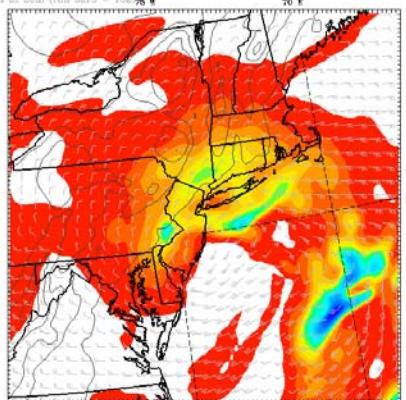


WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



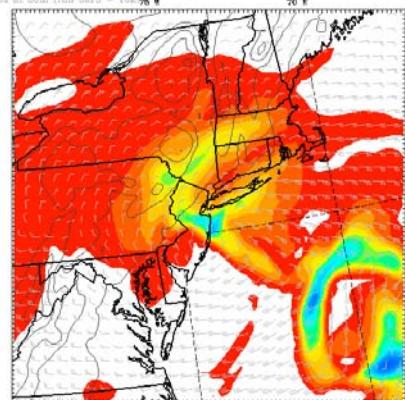
19 UTC  
Radar

SUNYSB MM5 12km Domain  
 Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 19 h  
 Valid: 19 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (14 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



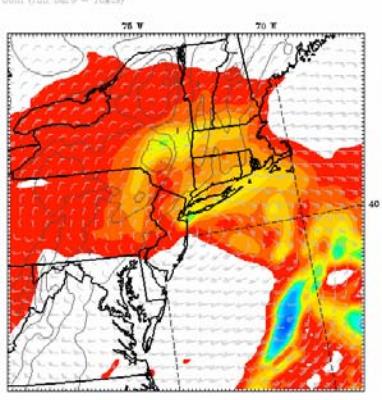
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice

SUNYSB MM5 12km Domain  
 Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 19 h  
 Valid: 19 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (14 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



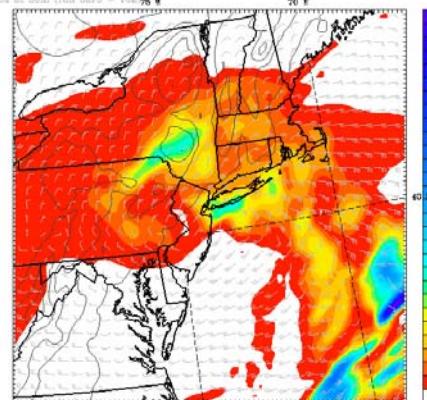
MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

Dataset: RIP RIP: rip master12km  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 18:00  
 Valid: 1859 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1159 MST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

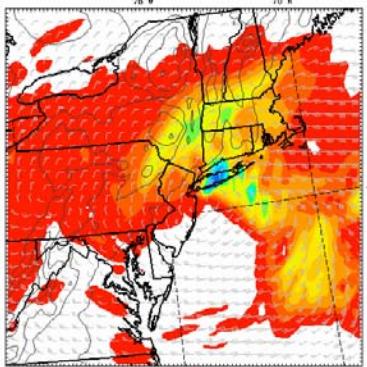
SUNYSB MM5 12km Domain  
 Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 19 h  
 Valid: 19 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (14 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

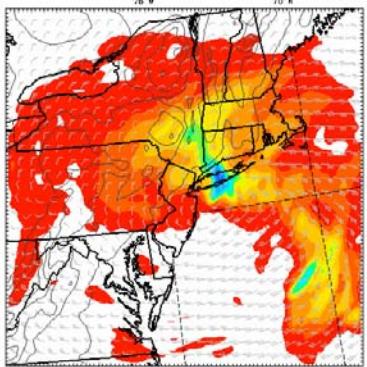
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 20 UTC)

Dataset: Lin YSU KF RIP: pop 1h  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20:00  
Valid: 2000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1500 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in



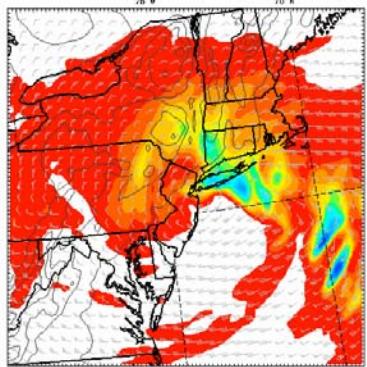
WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin

Dataset: mp3 YSU KF RIP: pop 1h  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20:00  
Valid: 2000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1500 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in

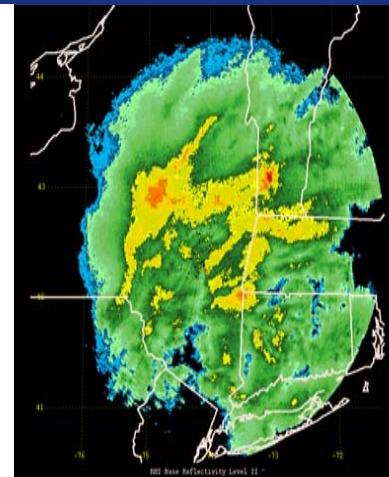


WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3

Dataset: mp4 MRF Grell RIP: pop 1h  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20:00  
Valid: 2000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1500 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in

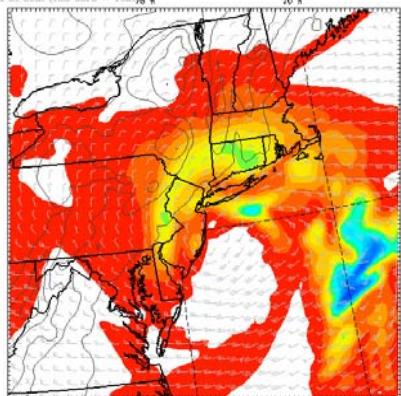


WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



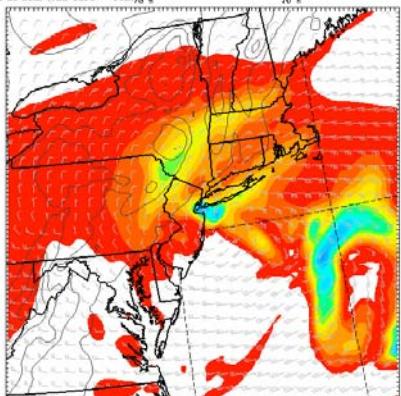
20 UTC  
Radar

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20 h  
Valid: 20 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (15 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in



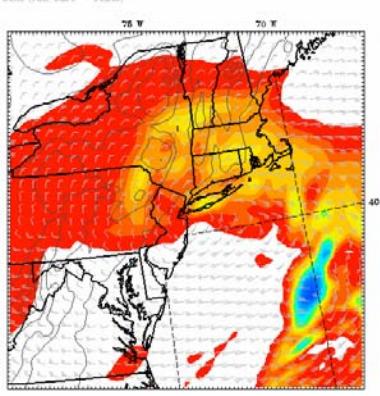
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20 h  
Valid: 20 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (15 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in



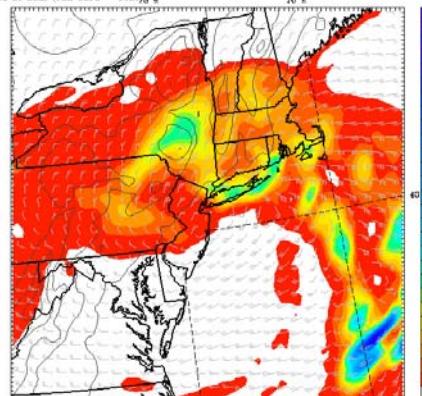
MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

Dataset: RIP RIP: rip master12km  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20:01  
Valid: 2000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1300 MST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

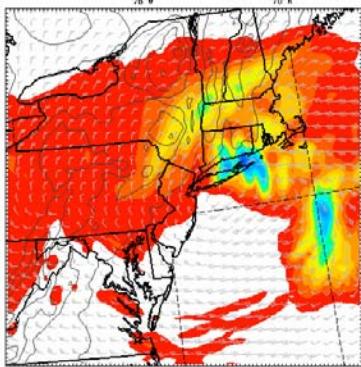
SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 20 h  
Valid: 20 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (15 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in) - 11.83in



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

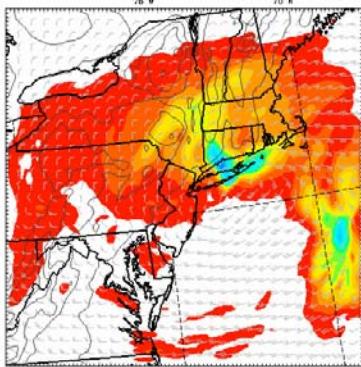
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 21 UTC)

Dataset: Lin YSU KF RIP; pop 1h  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21:00  
 Valid: 2100 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1800 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



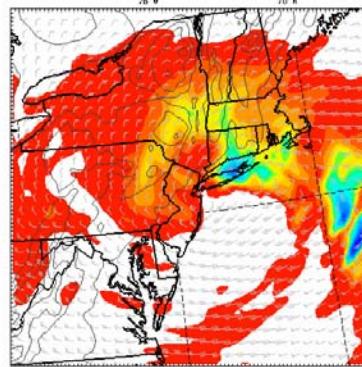
WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin

Dataset: mp3 YSU KF RIP; pop 1h  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21:00  
 Valid: 2100 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1800 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec

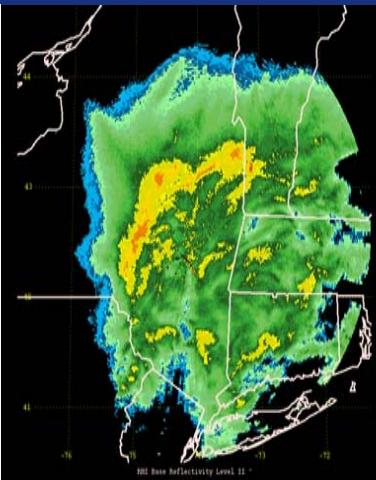


WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3

Dataset: mp4 MRF Grell RIP; pop 1h  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21:00  
 Valid: 2100 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1800 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec

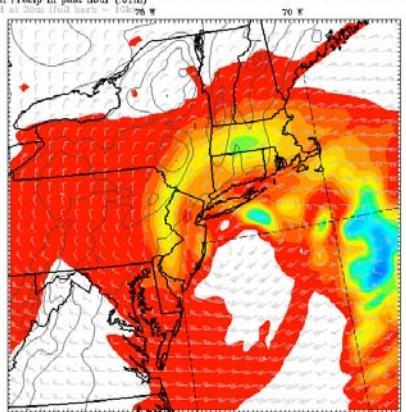


WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



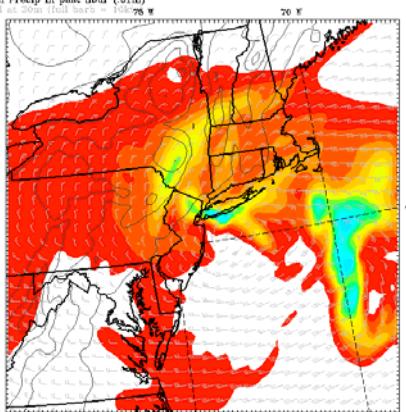
21 UTC  
Radar

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
 Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21 h  
 Valid: 21 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (18 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



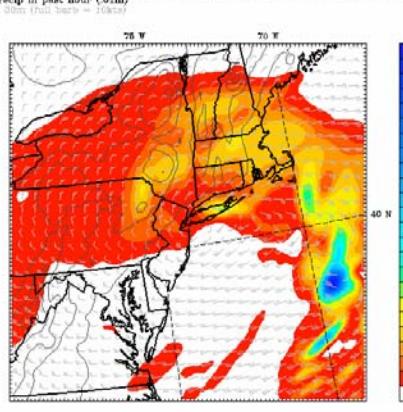
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
 Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21 h  
 Valid: 21 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (18 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



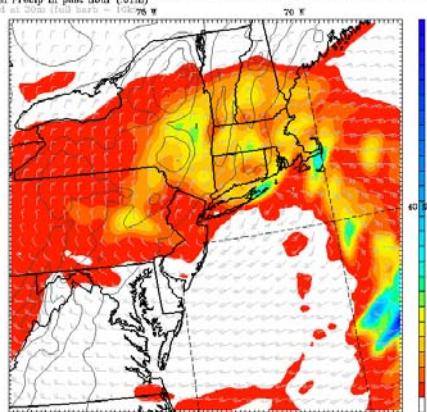
MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

Dataset: RIP RIP rip master12km  
 Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21:00  
 Valid: 2100 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1800 MST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

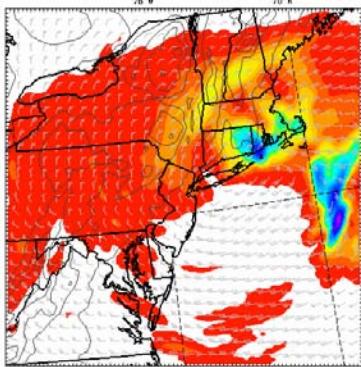
SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
 Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
 Fest: 21 h  
 Valid: 21 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (18 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
 Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
 Wind at 10m (true wind) - 10sec



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

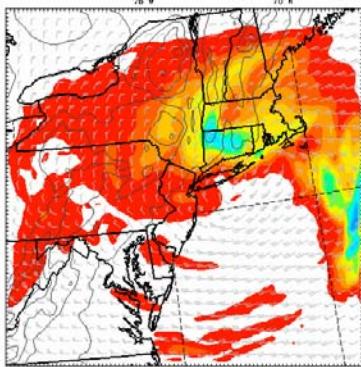
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 22 UTC)

Dataset: Lin YSU KF RIP: pop 1h  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 22:00  
Valid: 2200 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1700 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in)



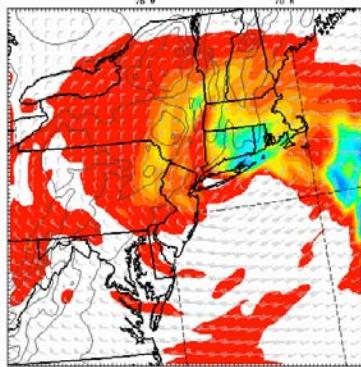
WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin

Dataset: mp3 YSU KF RIP: pop 1h  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 22:00  
Valid: 2200 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1700 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in)

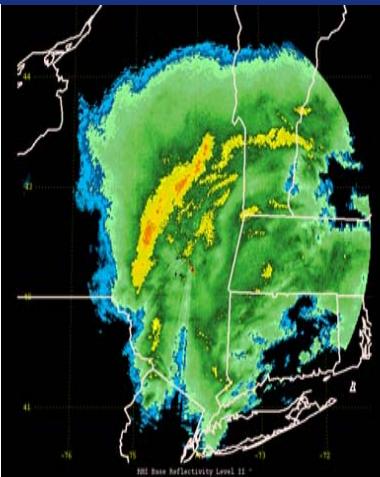


WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3

Dataset: mp4 MRF Grell RIP: pop 1h  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 22:00  
Valid: 2200 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1700 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in)

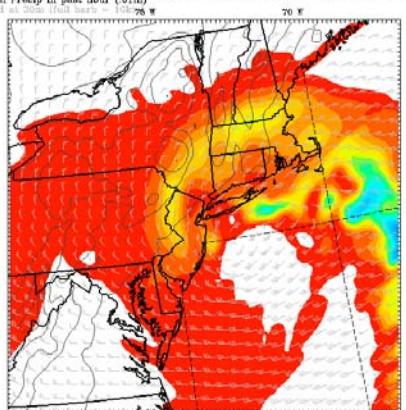


WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



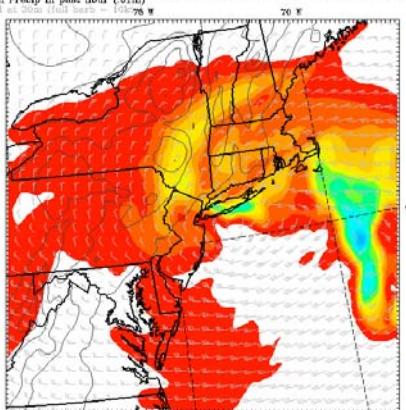
22 UTC  
Radar

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 22 h  
Valid: 22 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (17 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)



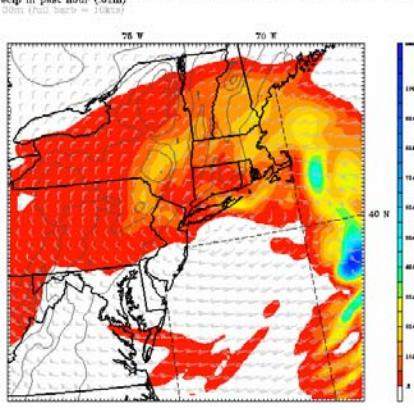
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 22 h  
Valid: 22 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (17 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)



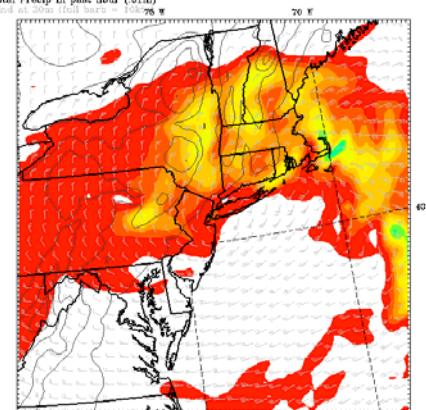
MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

Dataset: RIP RIP: rip master12km  
Init: 0000 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 21:00  
Valid: 2159 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (1459 MST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)  
Rain at time (0.1in)



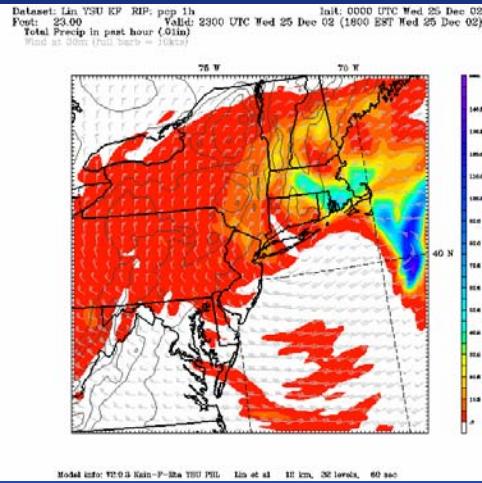
MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

SUNYB MM5 12km Domain  
Init: 00 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02  
Fest: 22 h  
Valid: 22 UTC Wed 25 Dec 02 (17 EST Wed 25 Dec 02)  
Total Precip in past hour (0.1in)

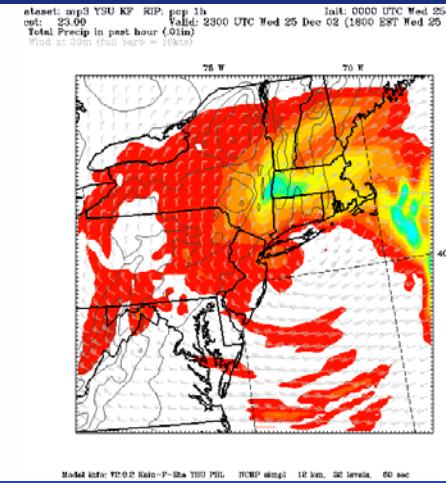


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

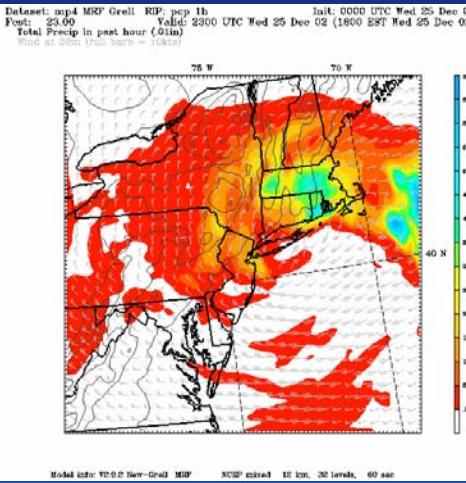
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 23 UTC)



WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin



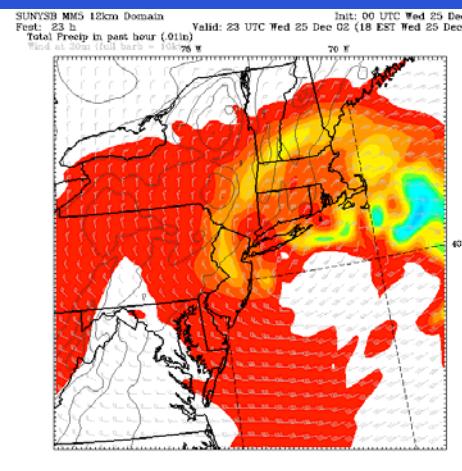
WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3



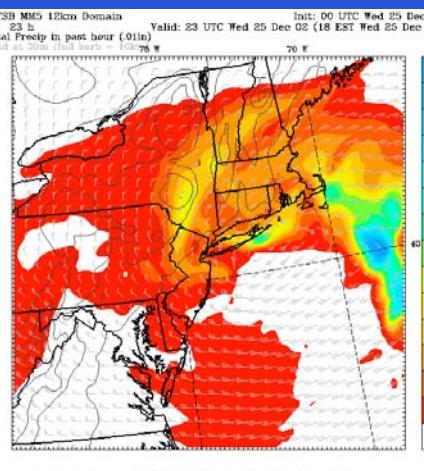
WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



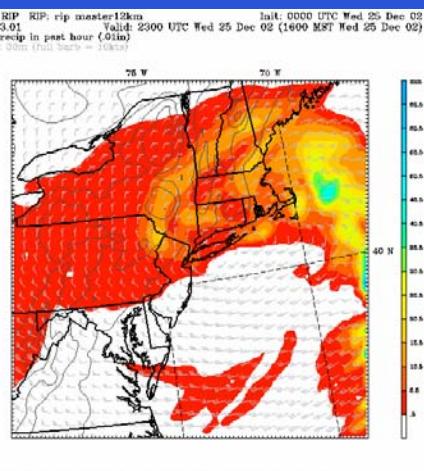
23 UTC  
Radar



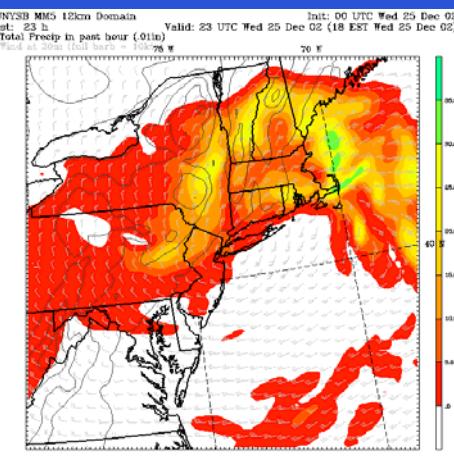
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice



MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

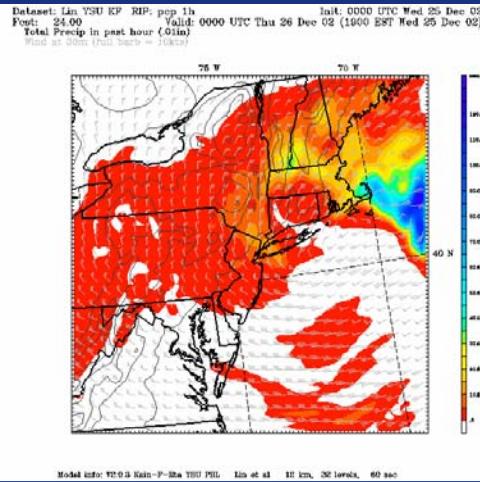


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

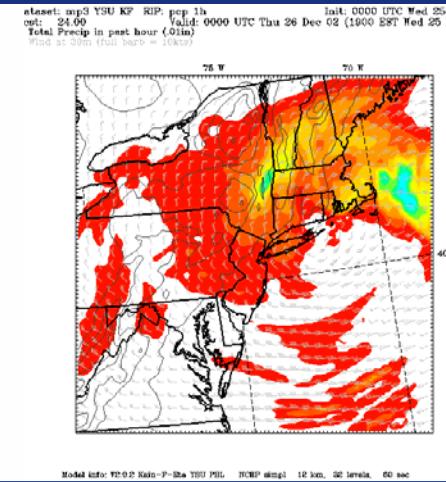


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

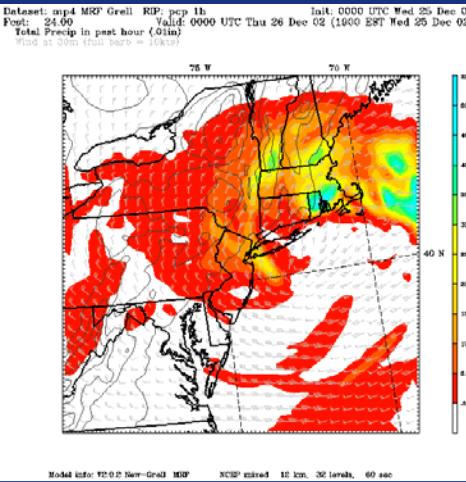
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 00 UTC)



WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin



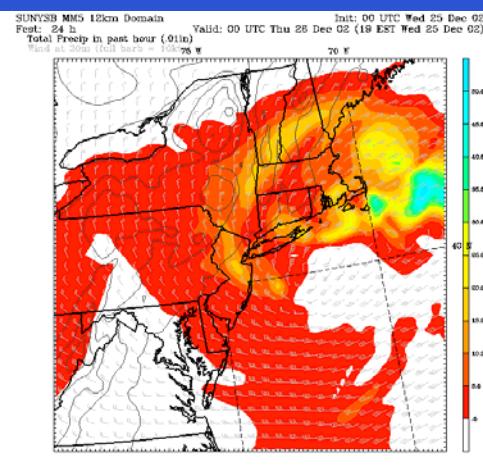
WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3



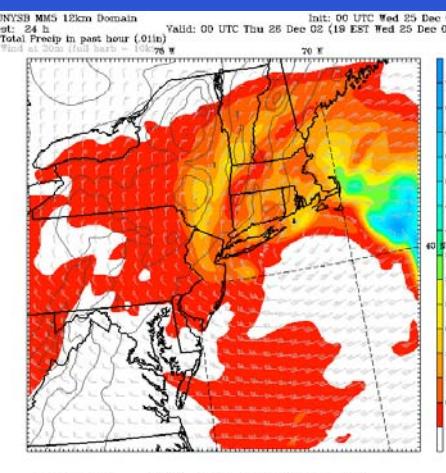
WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



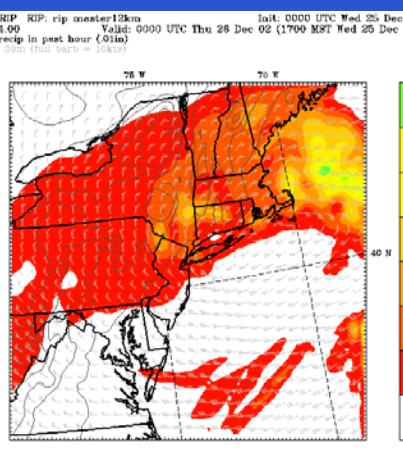
00 UTC  
Radar



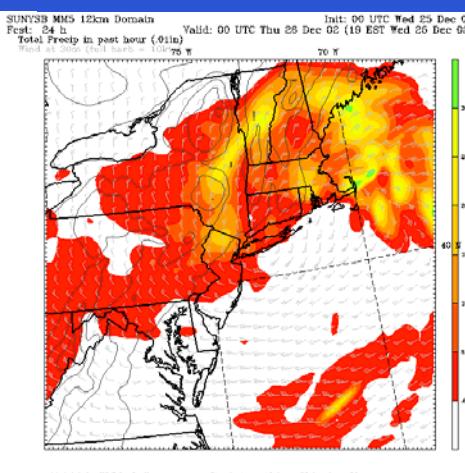
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice



MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

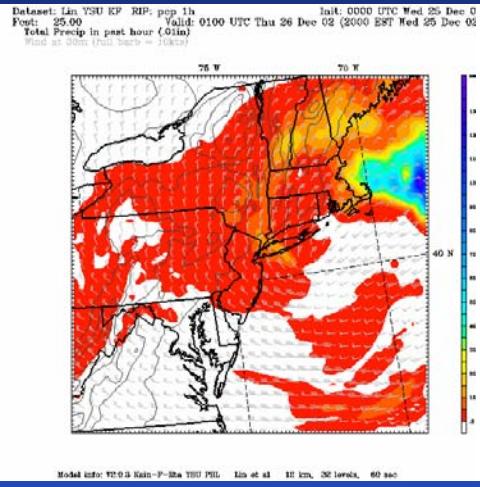


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

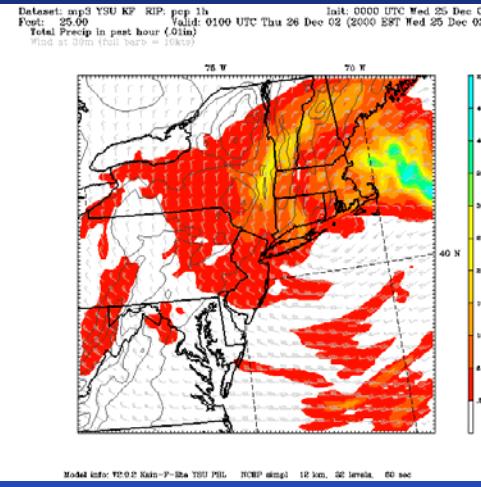


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

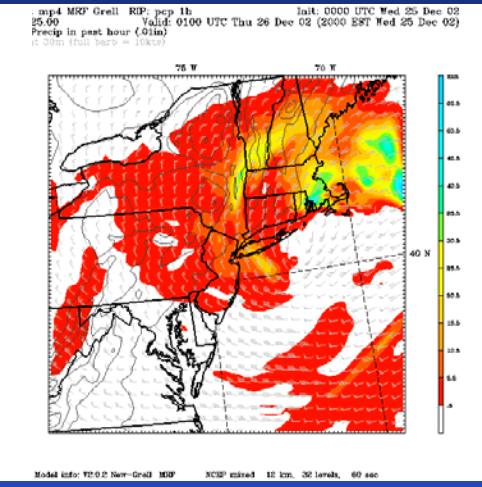
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 01 UTC)



WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin



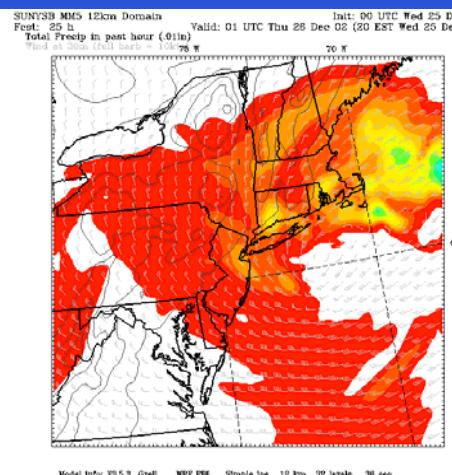
WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3



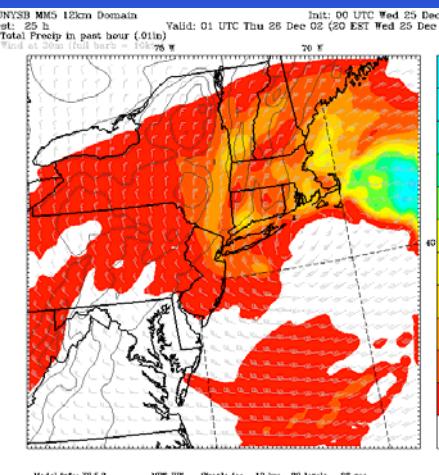
WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



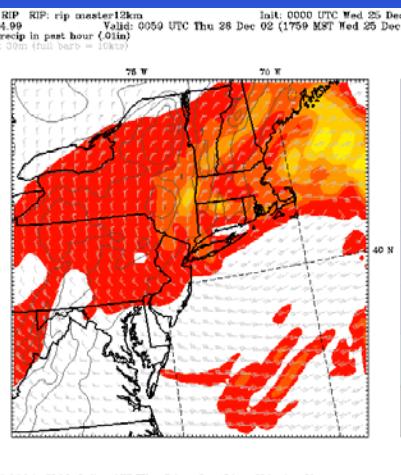
01 UTC  
Radar



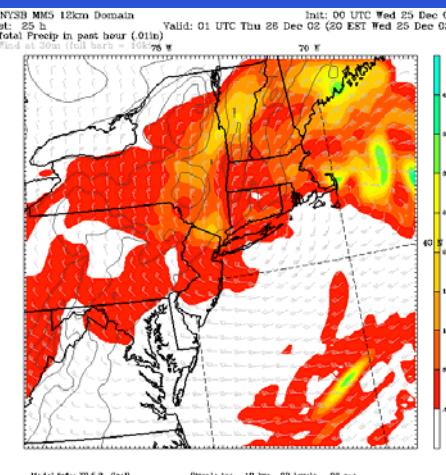
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice



MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice

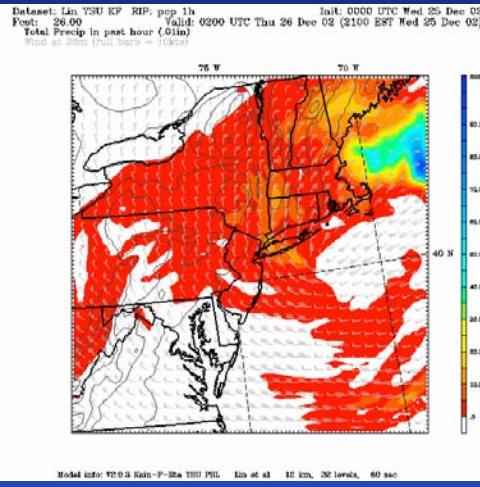


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2

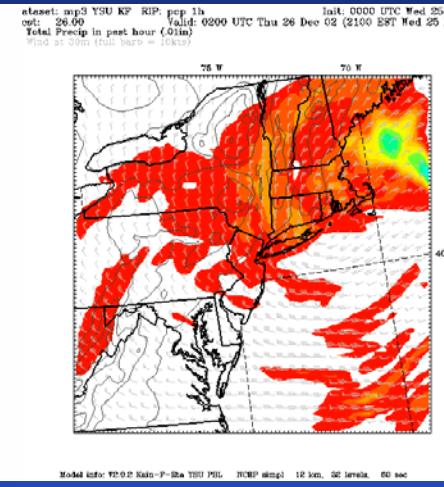


MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

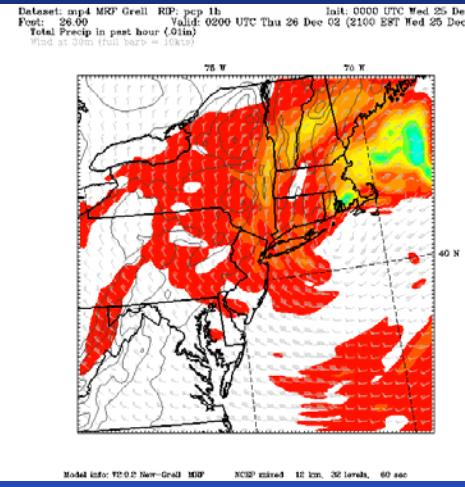
# Ensemble Members (1 h precip ending 02 UTC)



WRF Eta init  
KF / YSU  
Lin



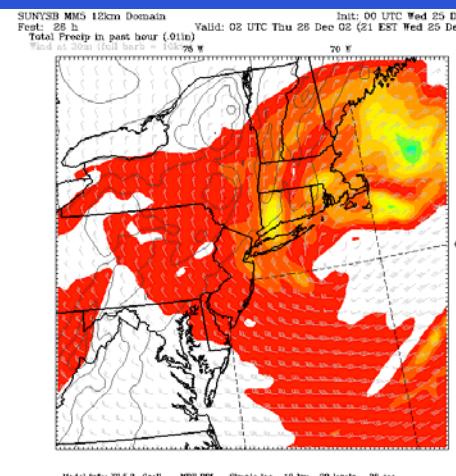
WRF Eta Init  
KF/ YSU  
WSM-3



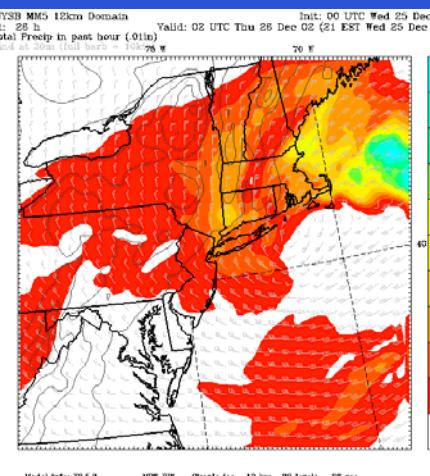
WRF Eta Init Grell–  
Devenyi / MRF  
WSM-5



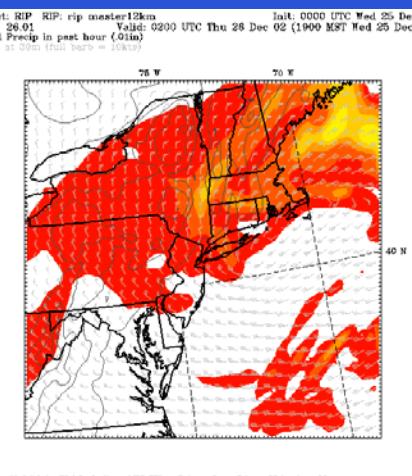
02 UTC  
Radar



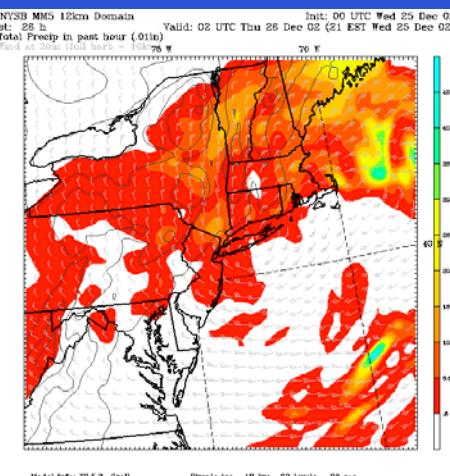
MM5 GFS init  
Grell /MRF  
Simple Ice



MM5 Eta init  
KF / MRF  
Simple Ice



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / MRF  
Reisner 2



MM5 Eta init  
Grell / GS  
Simple Ice

# Findings

- WRF and MM5 capable of simulating mesoscale band formation and dissipation
- WRF more accurate in cyclone strength and precipitation amount than MM5
- MM5 more accurate in initial band formation timing and location
- Both model forecasts showed a narrow sloping ascent maxima associated with strong midlevel frontogenesis and weak moist symmetric stability
- Small ensemble suggests some predictability in this case

# Future Work

- Diagnose 3D hydrometeor trajectories across the band
- Explore role of diabatic heating on MPV destruction
- Use more diverse ensemble system to explore model sensitivities in this case