



# Tropical Cyclones in Global High-Resolution Simulations using the IPSL Model

*Preprint in  
Climate Dynamics*



SCAN ME

Stella Bourdin<sup>1</sup>, Sébastien Fromang<sup>1</sup>,

Arnaud Caubel<sup>1</sup>, Josephine Ghattas<sup>2</sup>,

Yann Meurdesoif<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Dubos<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>LSCE / IPSL

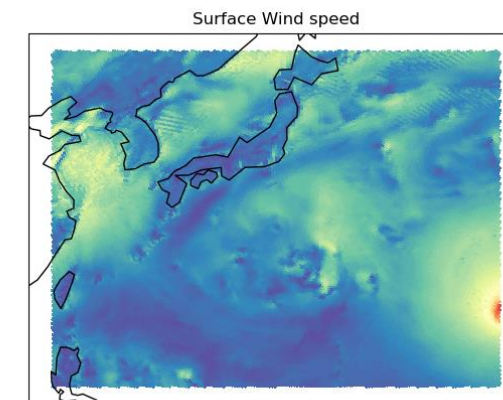
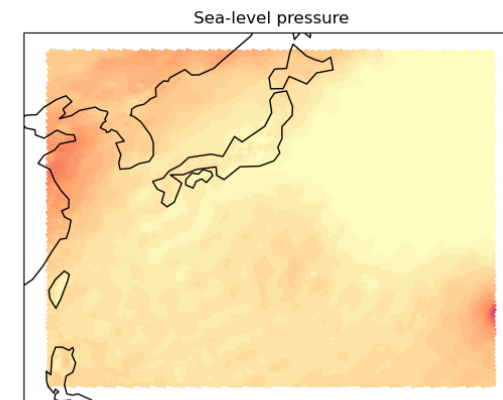
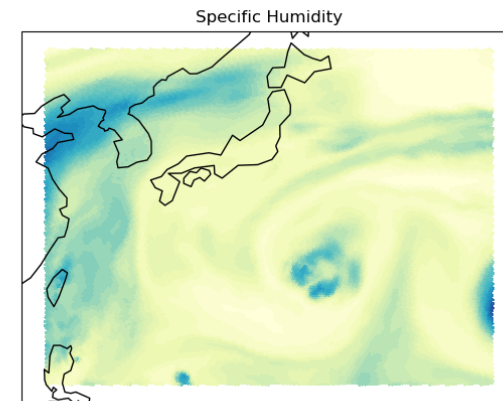
<sup>2</sup>IPSL

<sup>3</sup>LMD / IPSL

*October 3rd, 2023 — LMDZ days*

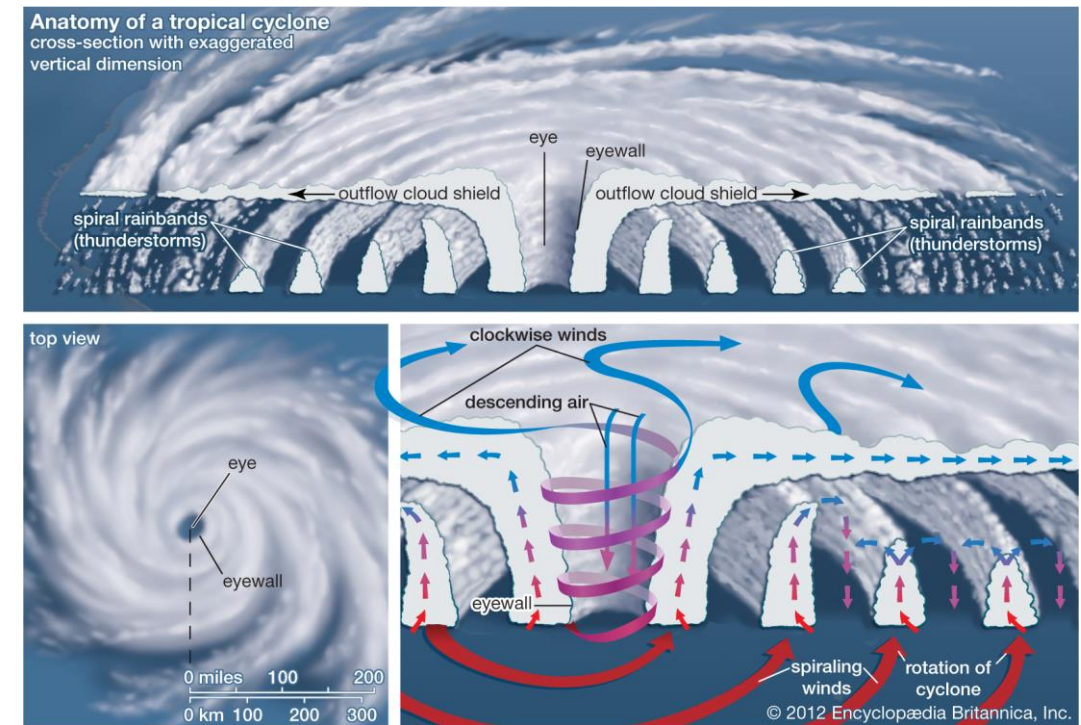


université  
PARIS-SACLAY

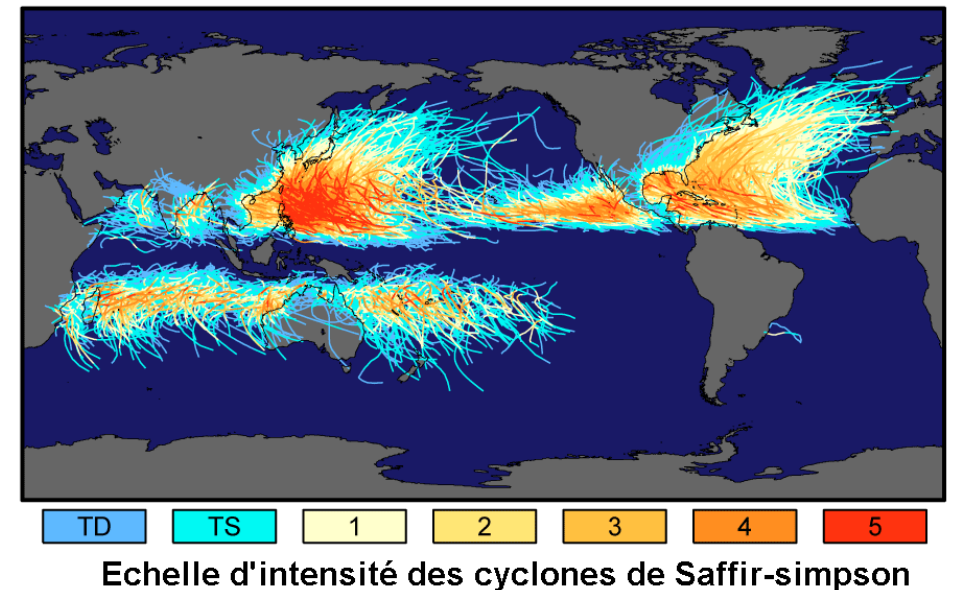


# Tropical cyclones

- « cyclone » en français = ouragan, typhon
- Vents et precip. Intenses
- ~80-90 / an
- Impacts énormes:
  - Désastre le plus coûteux
  - Deuxième type de désastre le plus mortel (UNDDR)



Trajets et intensités des cyclones tropicaux

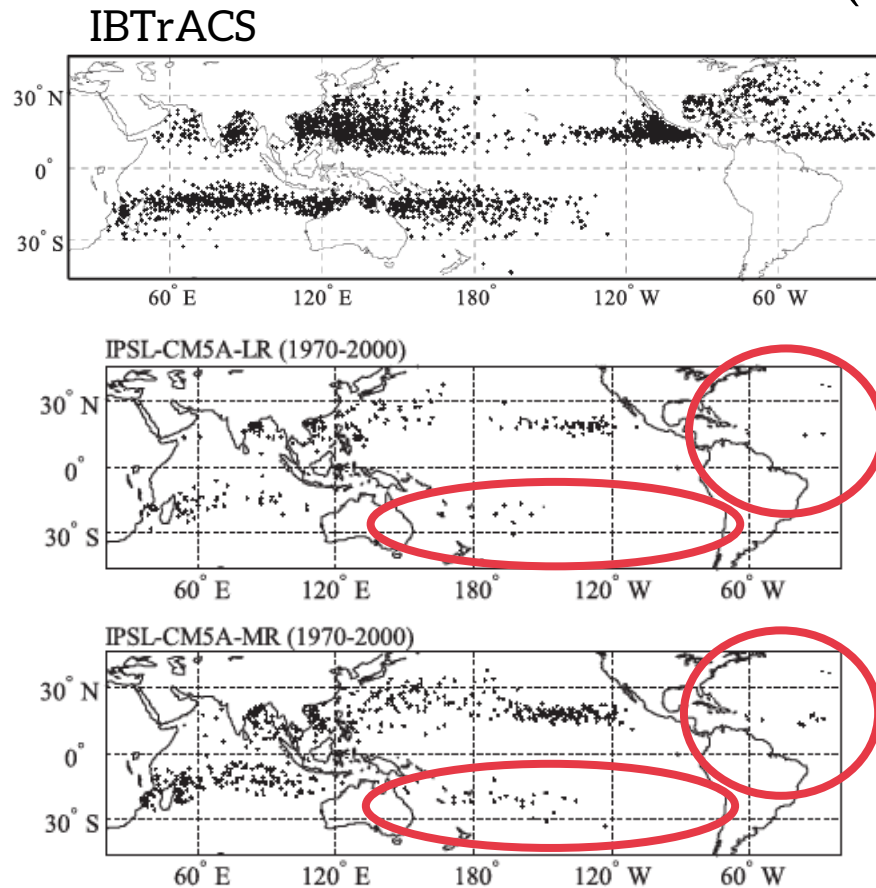


# Context:

## Why do we need GCMs to study TCs?

- Risk associated with Tropical Cyclones (TCs) in the future remains uncertain (IPCC)
    - What sets the frequency? (Sobel et al., 2021)
  - Observations are very scarce
    - 40 years of satellite observations
    - Challenge to obtain measurements within TCs.
- We need models to simulate TCs
- Global Climate Models (GCMs) that simulate realistic TC climatologies can be useful in investigating links between TCs and the environment
- Ability to simulate TC varies a lot among the models, but improves systematically with resolution (Roberts et al., 2020a)

# At the IPSL ? TCs in previous versions of the IPSL model (coupled version)



- No dedicated assessment.
- IPSL included in a number of CMIP comparison, but never commented (and often removed because too low frequency)
- TC climatology highly flawed...
  - Very low frequency
  - No TC in the North Atlantic and South Pacific
- ... for understandable reasons
  - Coarse resolution, mainly
- Slight improvement with resolution.

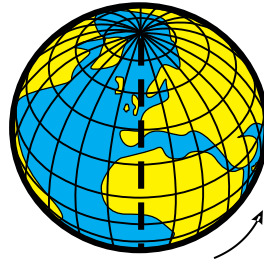
*Genesis points in the observations and the IPSL model,  
from Tory et al. (2013)*

# The IPSL-CM6A-ATM model

Dynamico allows increasing the resolution.  
→ Opportunity to study new phenomena!



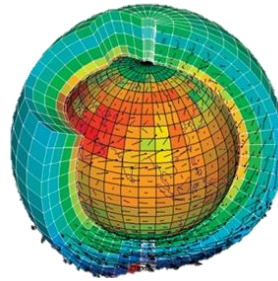
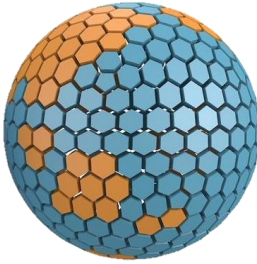
Is the IPSL model at high resolution a suitable tool for studying TCs?



Lon-Lat

OR

DYNAMICO

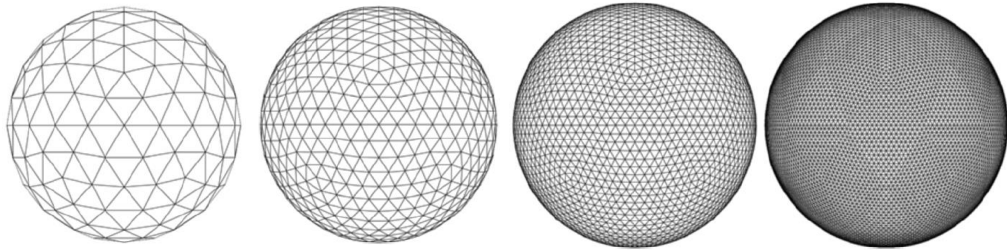


Physics:  
LMDz



Land surface:  
ORCHIDEE

# HighResMIP simulations



Lon-Lat

LR	HR
2°	½°
200 km	50 km

ICO

LR	MR	HR	VHR
2°	1°	½°	¼°
200 km	100 km	50 km	25 km



HighResMIP framework:

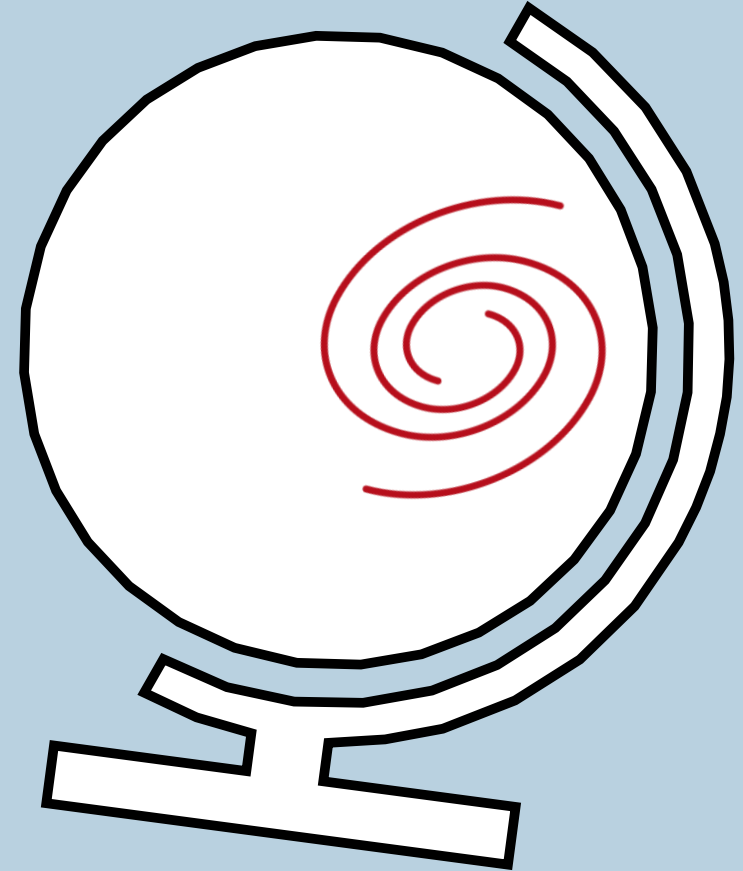
- Atmosphere-only
- global
- forced SST
- 65 historical years
  - 1950-2014



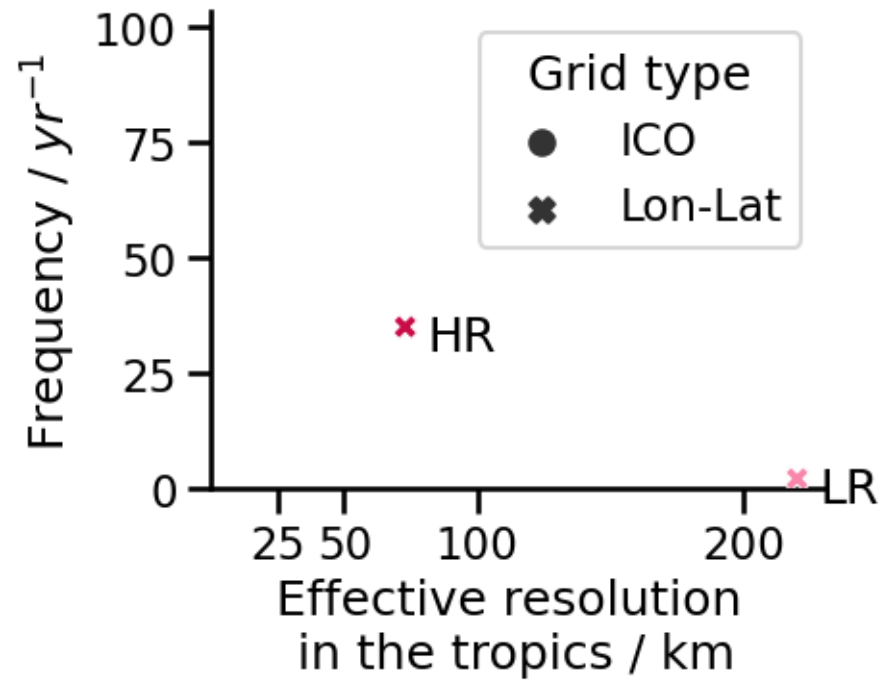
TC tracked with  
UZ/TempestExtremes

*(Zarzycki & Ullrich, 2017)*

# Results

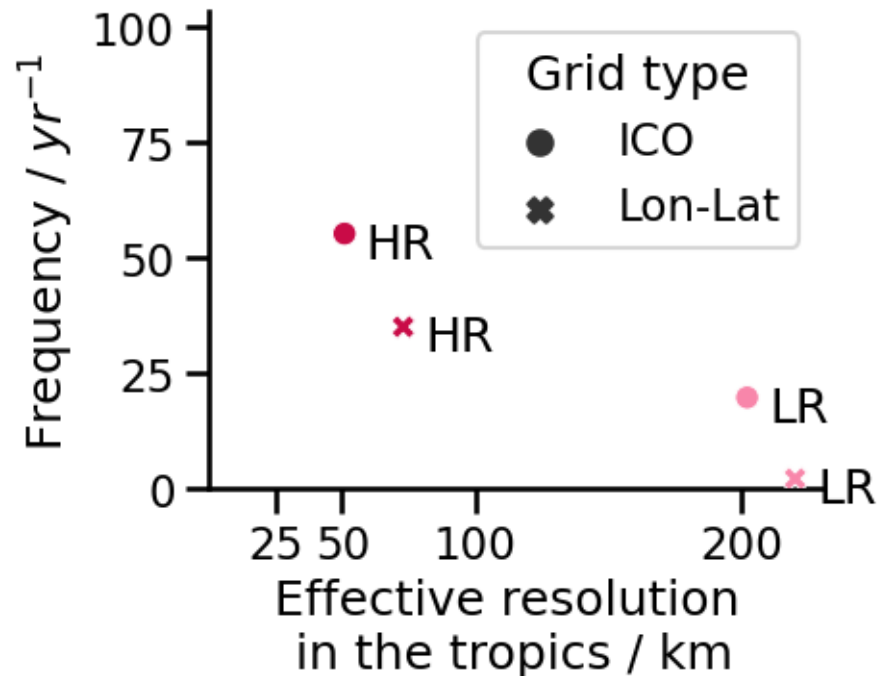


# Lon-Lat vs. ICO



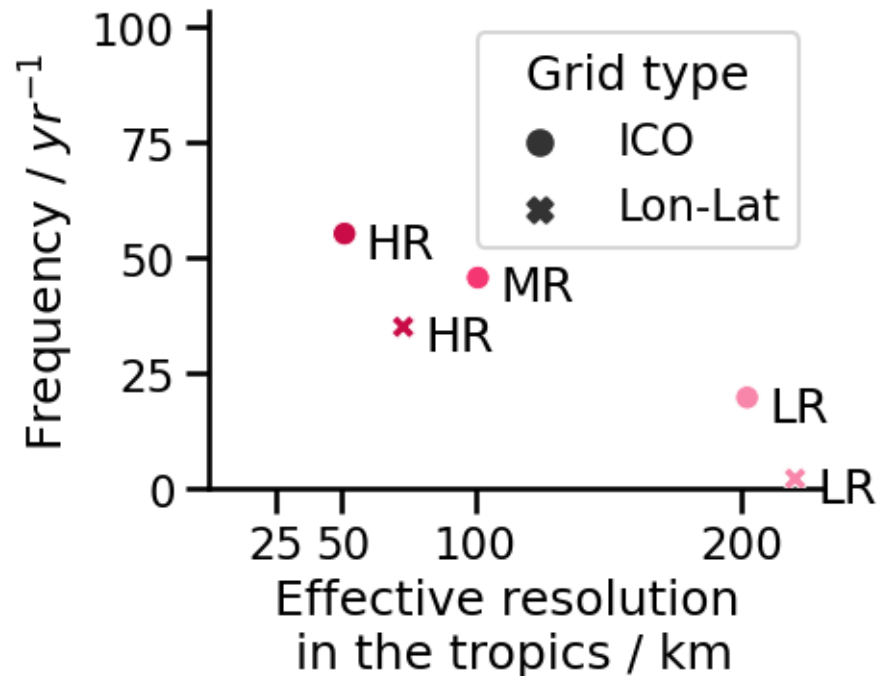


# Lon-Lat vs. ICO



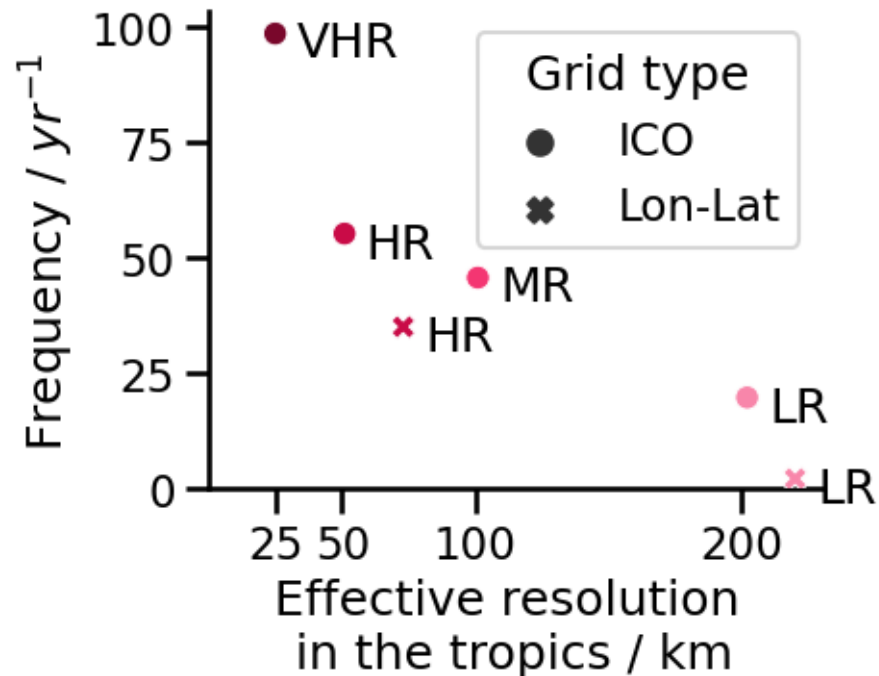
- Activity is comparatively lower in simulation with the Lon-Lat core at same nominal resolution
  - Because effective resolution in the tropics is lower

# Lon-Lat vs. ICO



- Activity is comparatively lower in simulation with the Lon-Lat core at same nominal resolution
  - Because effective resolution in the tropics is lower
- Frequency in Lon-Lat HR is below ICO-MR
  - Likely effect of dissipation

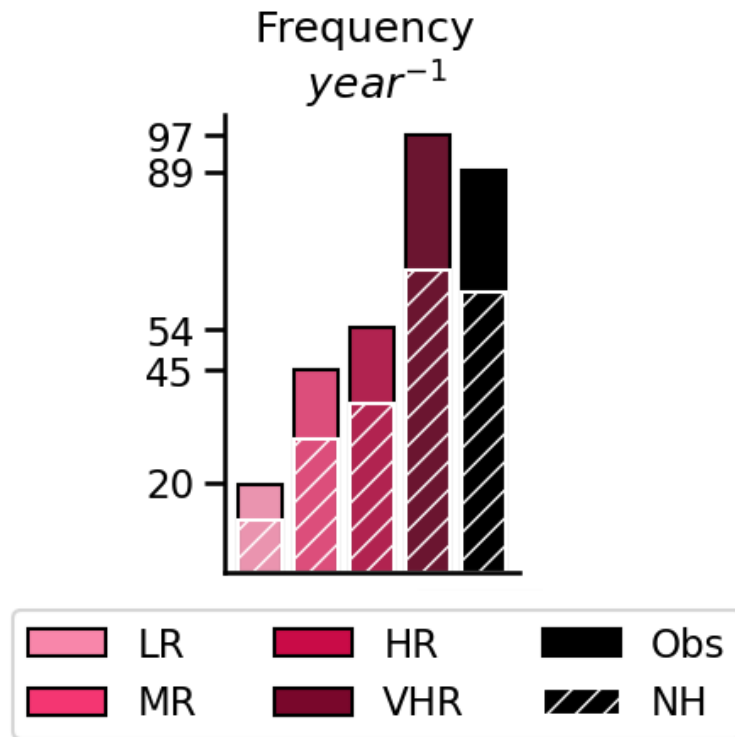
# Lon-Lat vs. ICO



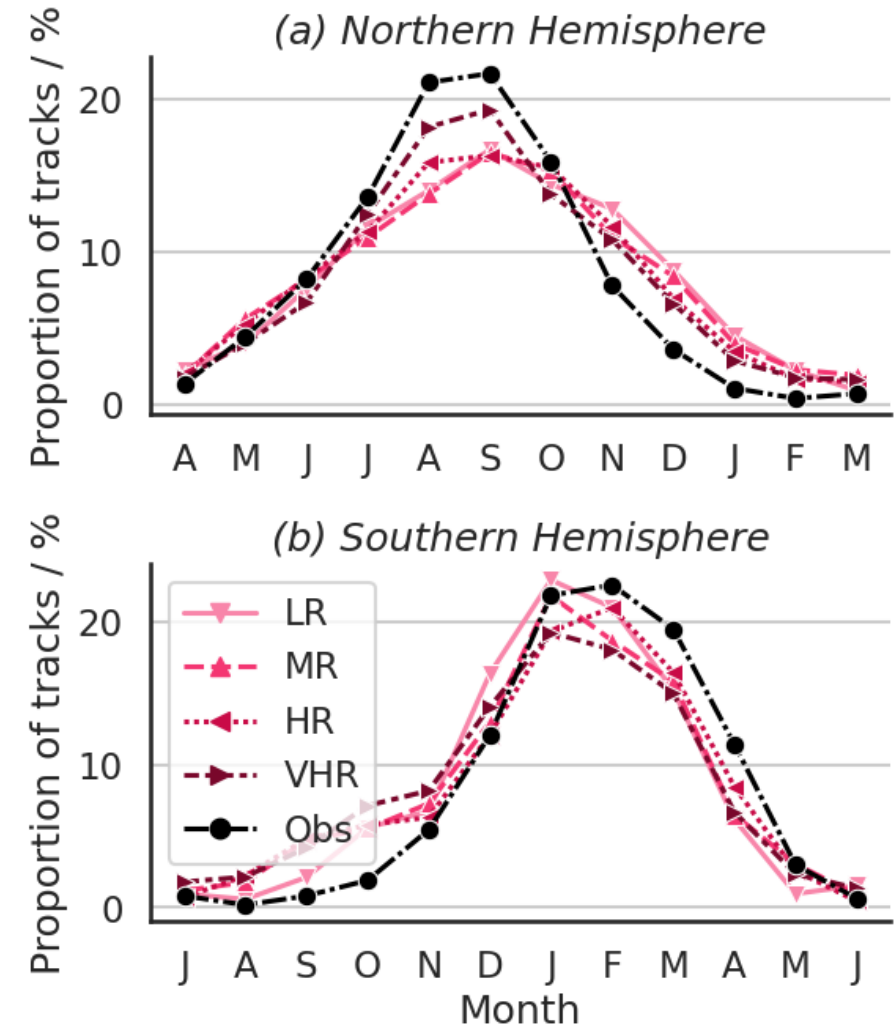
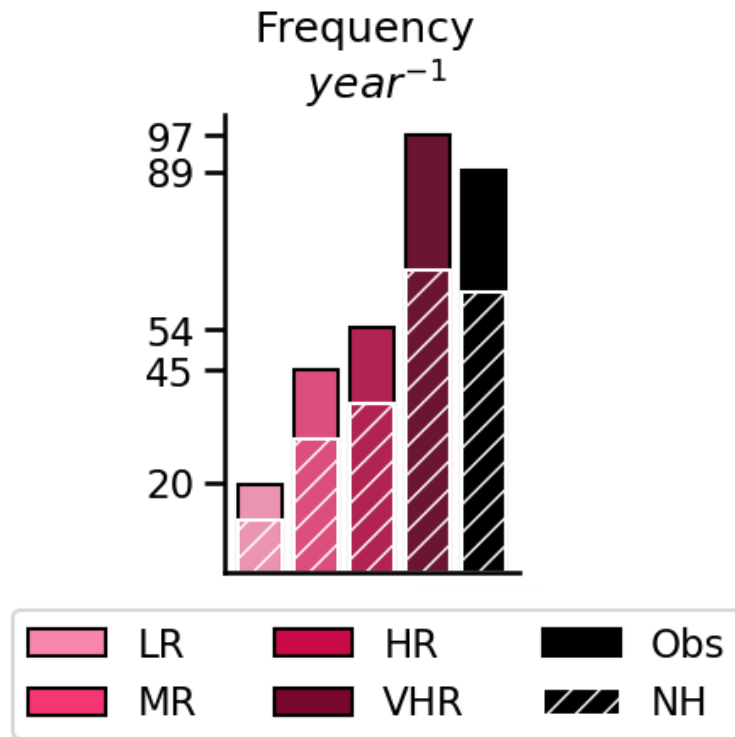
- Activity is comparatively lower in simulation with the Lon-Lat core at same nominal resolution
  - Because effective resolution in the tropics is lower
- Frequency in Lon-Lat HR is below ICO-MR
  - Likely effect of dissipation

**DYNAMICO is an advantage because we can have higher resolution and lower dissipation**

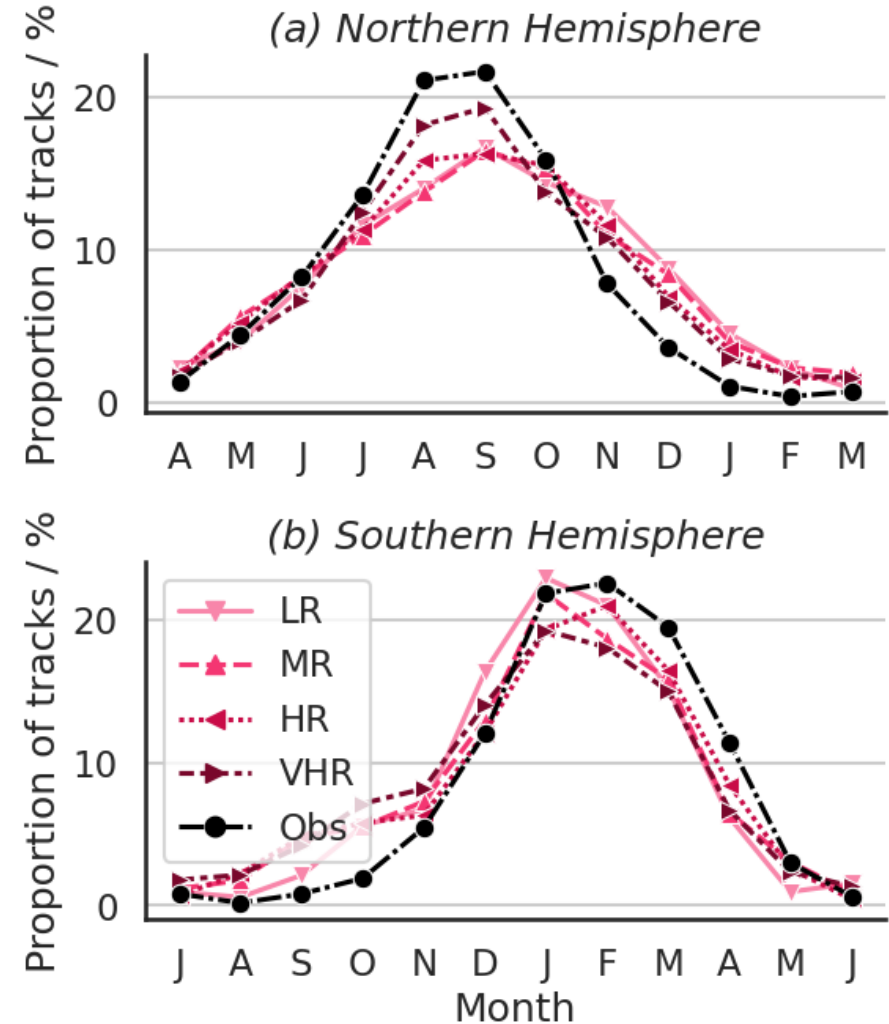
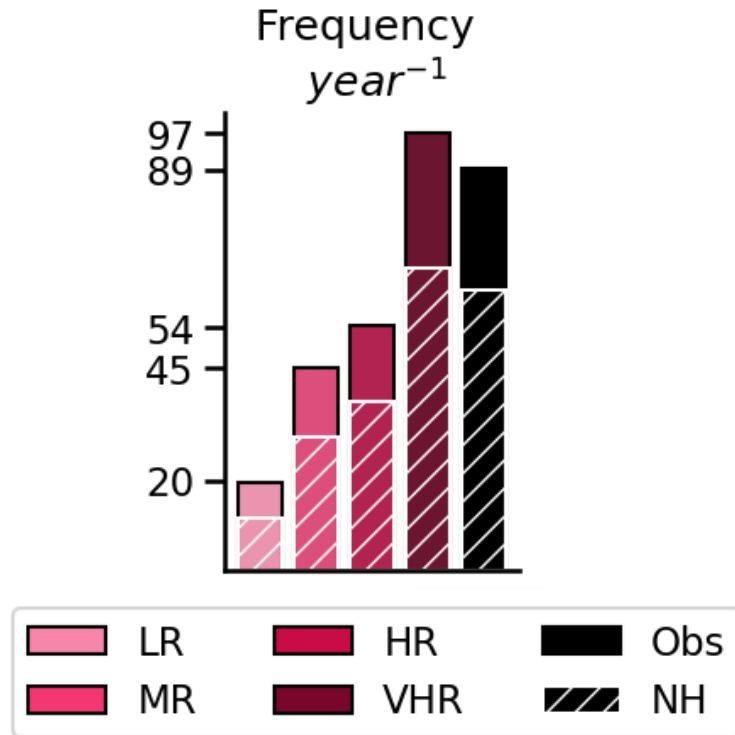
# Global activity



# Global activity



# Global activity



Activity increases globally with resolution, up to observed levels.  
Seasonal cycle are good.

# Other results

## At the regional scale

- The distribution of TCs improves among the basins, and within them when resolution is increased.
- Frequency increases in all the basins.

## At the TC scale

- Intensity increases, but not up to observed values
- The structure of the TC is better represented when resolution is increased.
- Intensification is not fast enough, except in the last 6 hours.

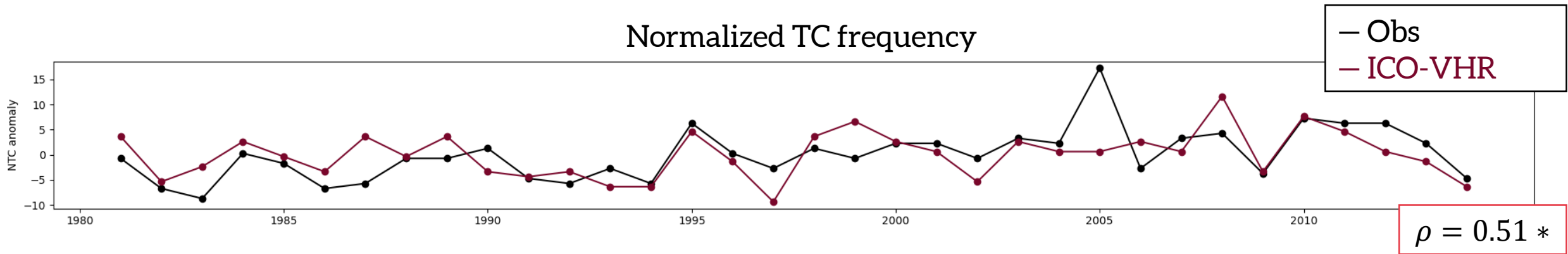
Increase in resolution brings huge improvement in the TC climatology  
In the North Atlantic in particular, and with the exception of the West Pacific

**Zoom on two basins  
in ICO-VHR**



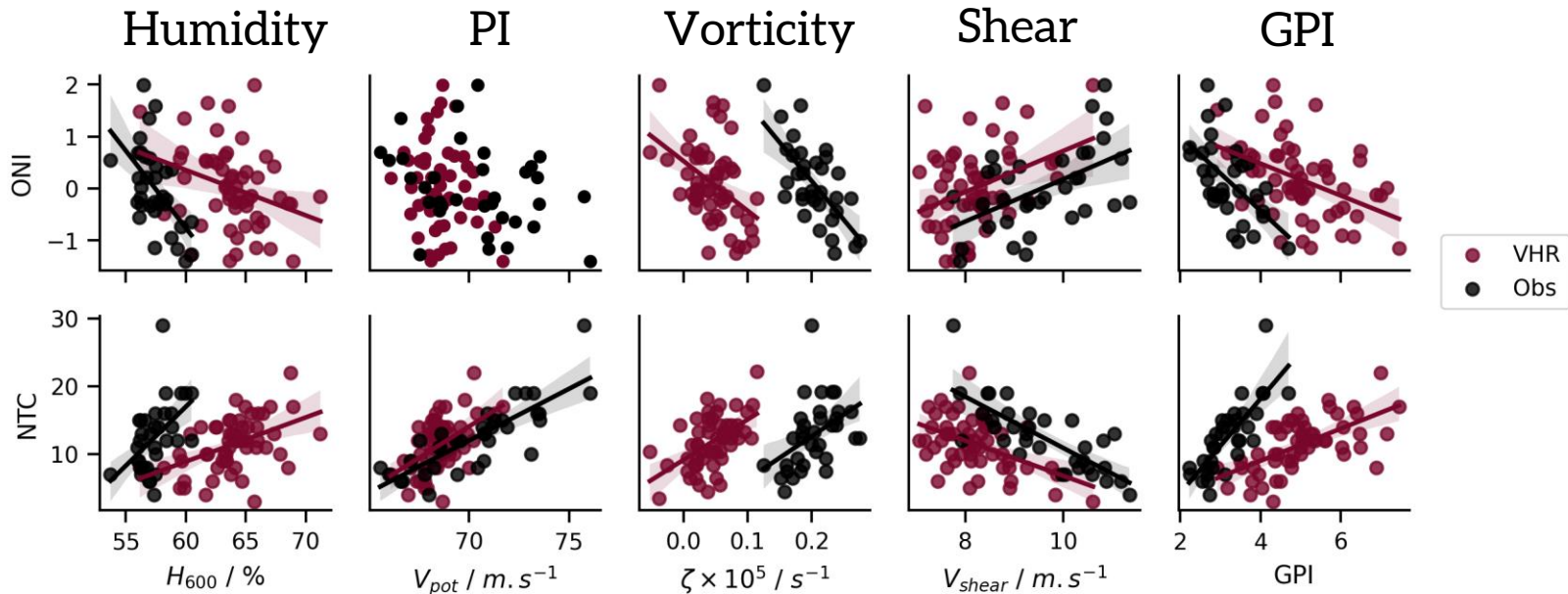
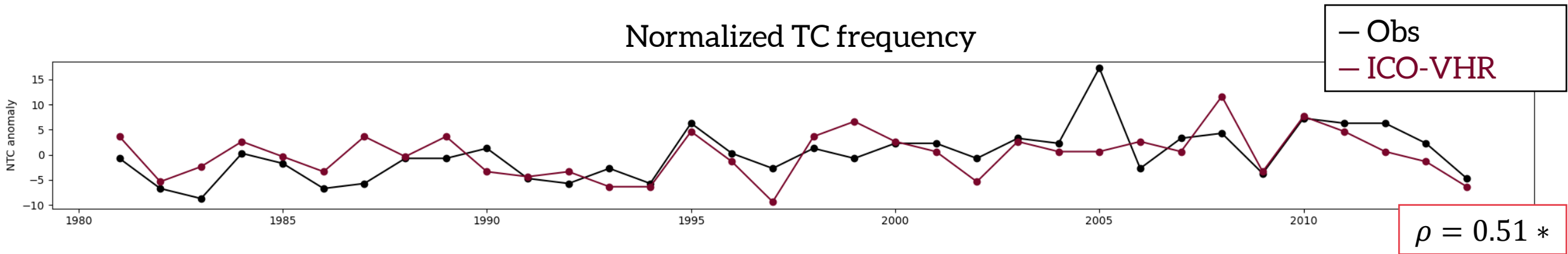


# 1/ North Atlantic



The model reproduces well the observed variability.

# 1/ North Atlantic

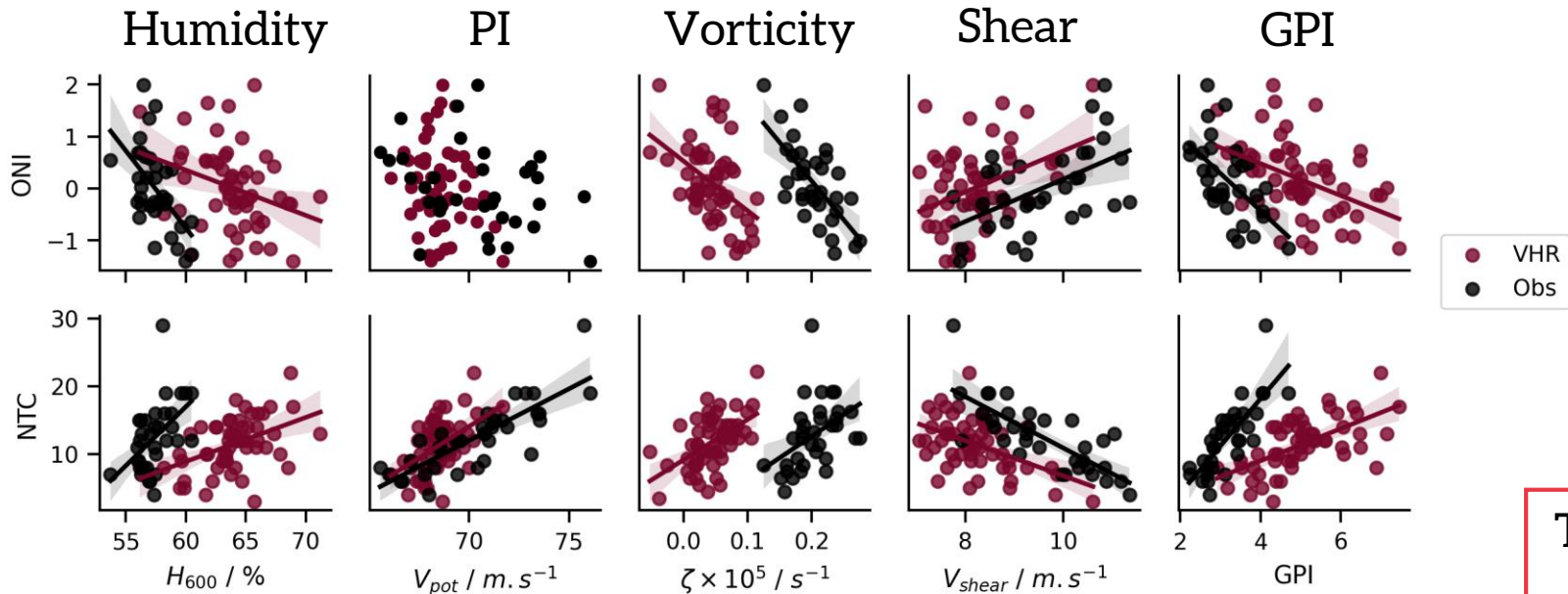
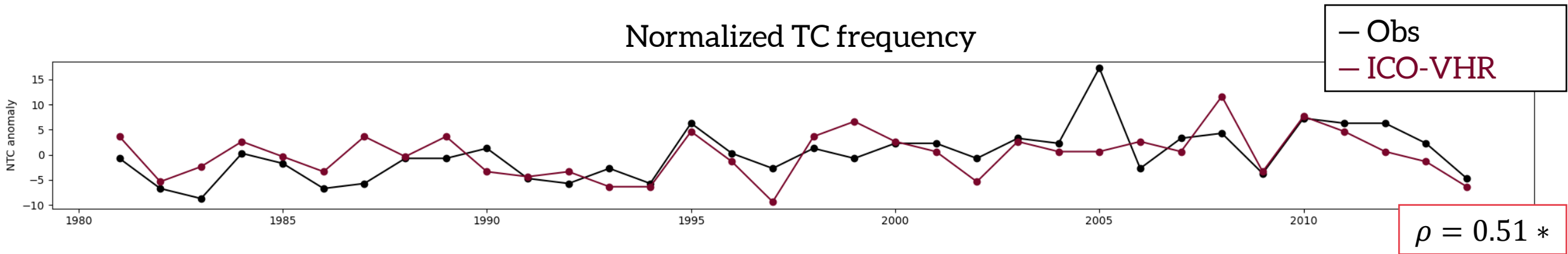


The model reproduces well the observed variability.

Why?

Because it reproduces well how ENSO modulates the large-scale environment, and the large scale environment forces the TC activity as expected.

# 1/ North Atlantic



The model reproduces well the observed variability.

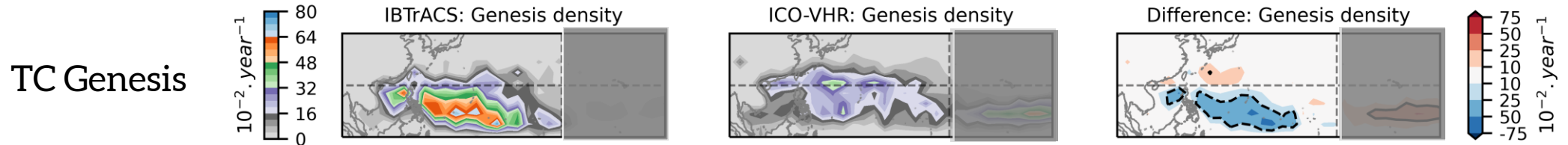
Why?

Because it reproduces well how ENSO modulates the large-scale environment, and the large scale environment forces the TC activity as expected.

The IPSL model performs well in a basin that is challenging for most models!

# 2/ Western North Pacific

Frequency too low : 19TC/year instead of 26 TC/year  
Poorly correlated with large-scale environment

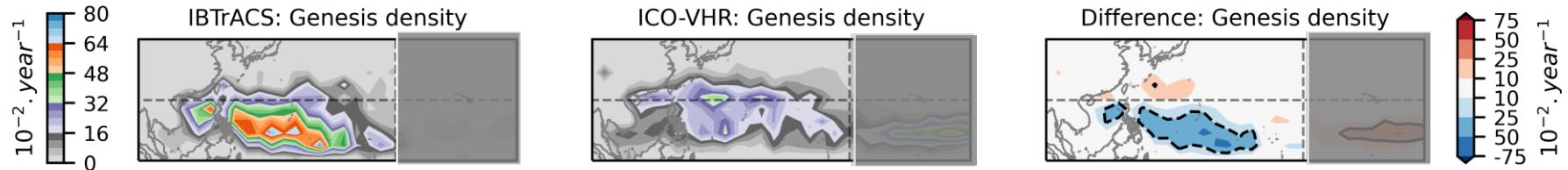


**Genesis deficit in the south-west of the basin...**

# 2/ Western North Pacific

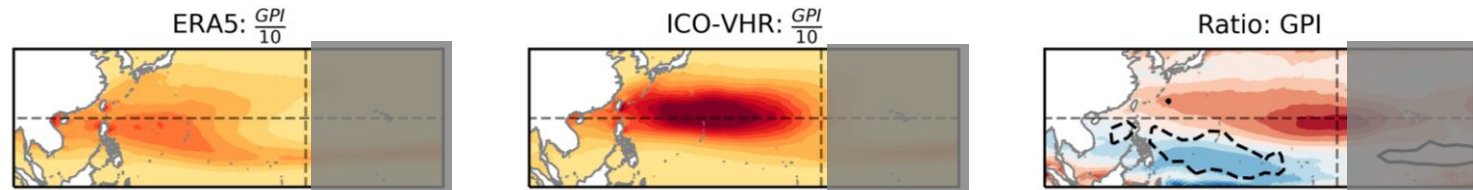
Frequency too low : 19TC/year instead of 26 TC/year  
Poorly correlated with large-scale environment

TC Genesis



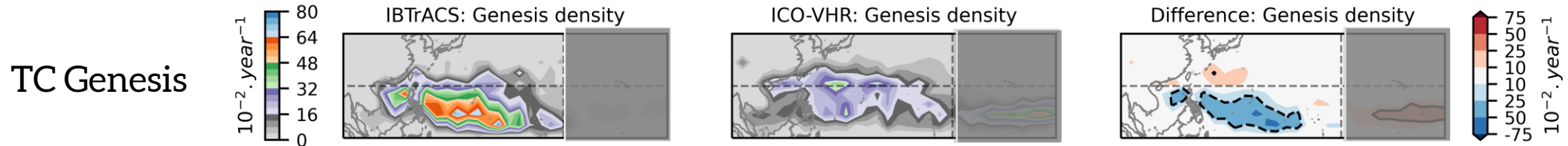
Genesis deficit in the south-west of the basin...

Genesis potential index  
(Climatology over the WNP cyclonic season)



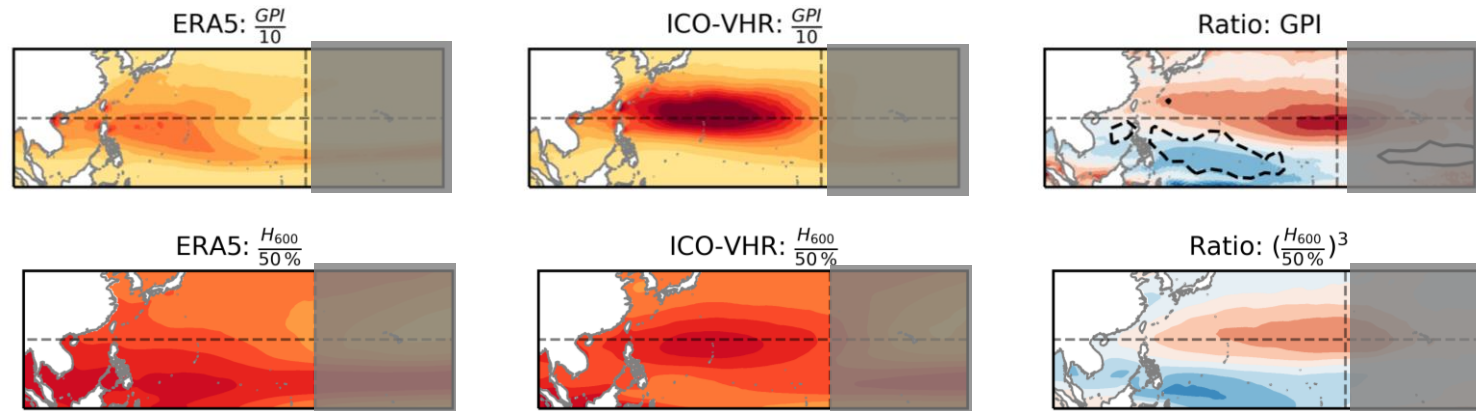
# 2/ Western North Pacific

Frequency too low : 19TC/year instead of 26 TC/year  
 Poorly correlated with large-scale environment



**Genesis deficit in the south-west of the basin...**

**Genesis potential index**  
*(Climatology over the WNP cyclonic season)*



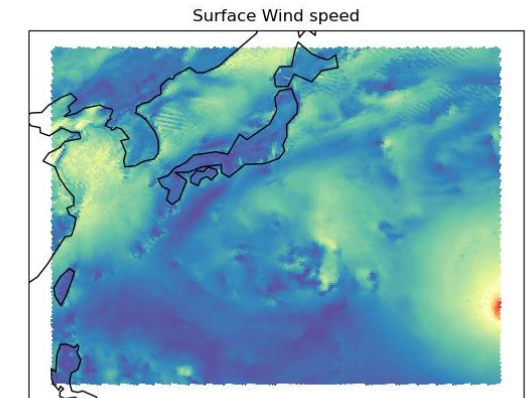
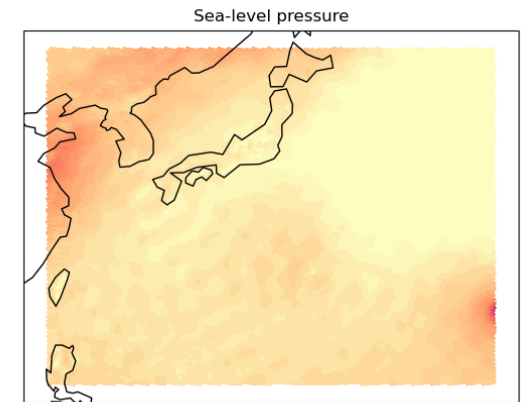
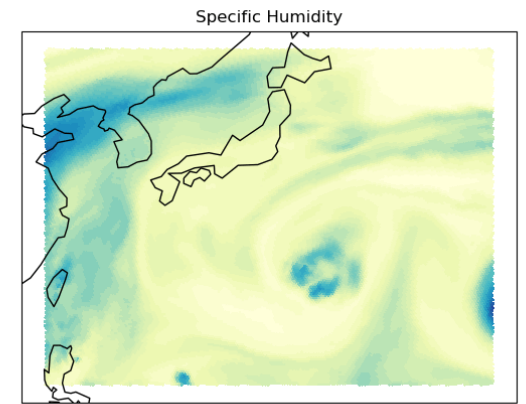
**Humidity**

**... Associated with a climatological humidity bias**

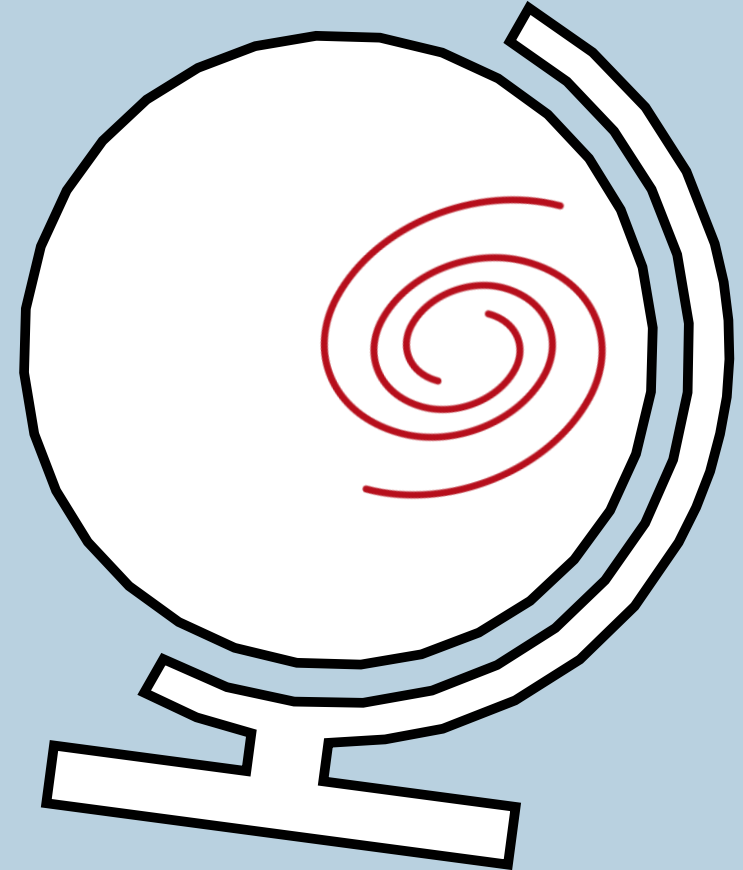
# Conclusion

TCs in the IPSL model at 25 km:

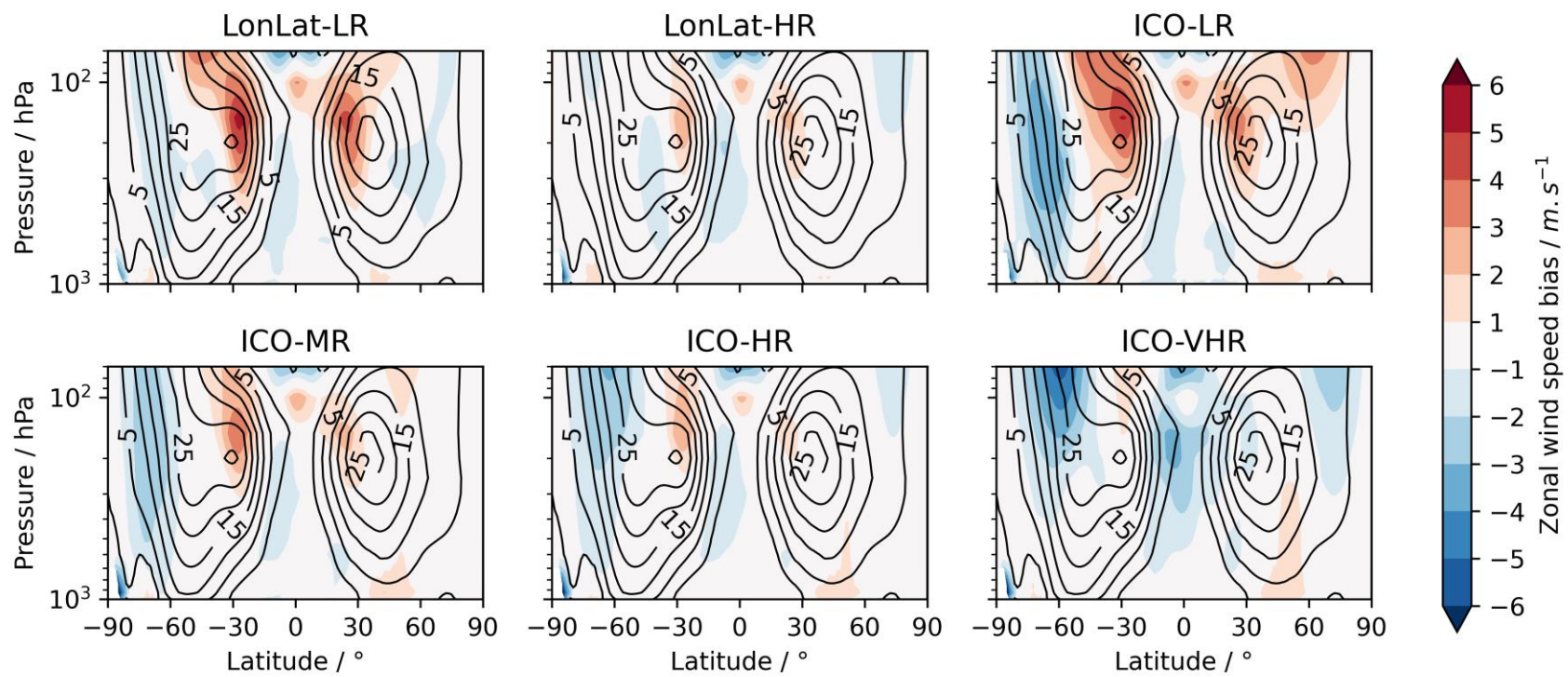
- 97 TCs/year
  - Well distributed in the basins
  - Up to category 2 in winds and 5 in pressure
  - Realistic structure
  - Especially good in the North Atlantic
- Model fit for most purpose
- Biases in the convection in the western pacific at high-resolution

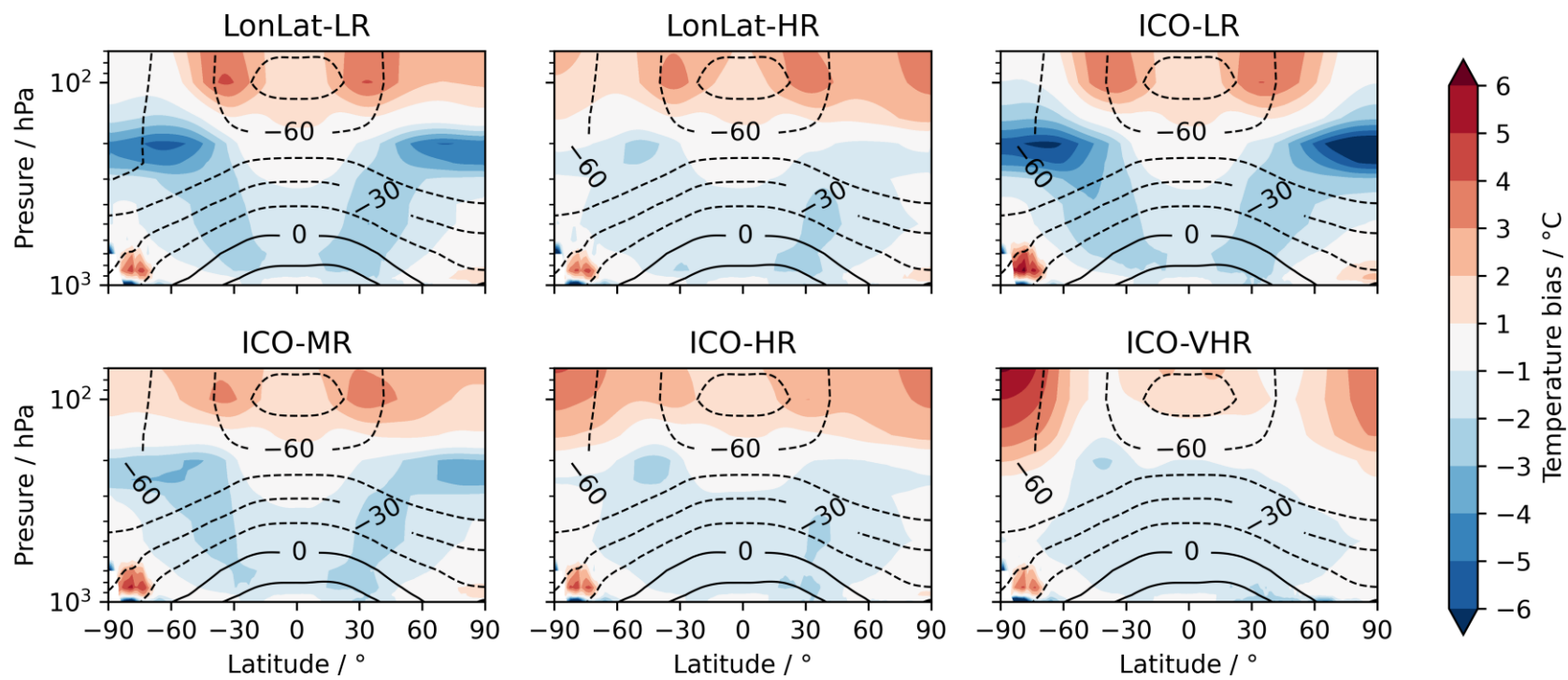


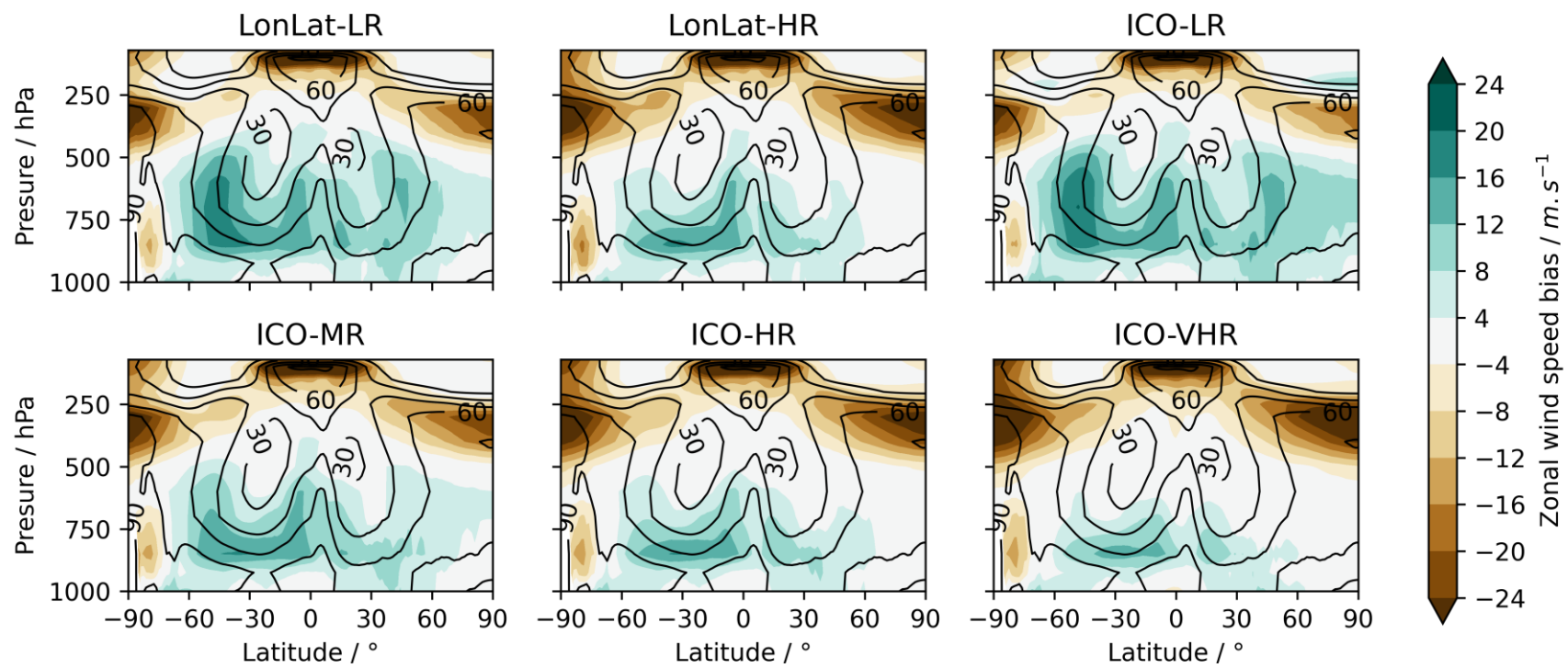
# Appendices

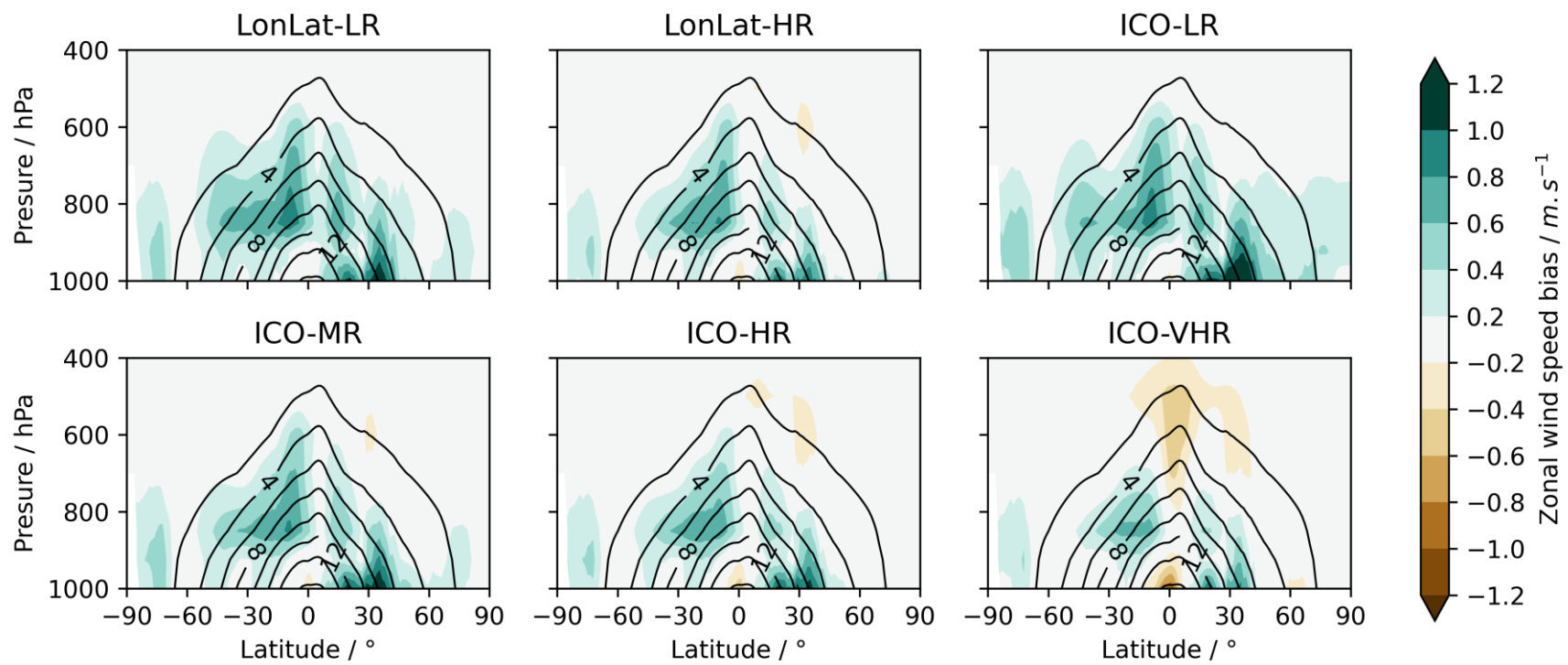


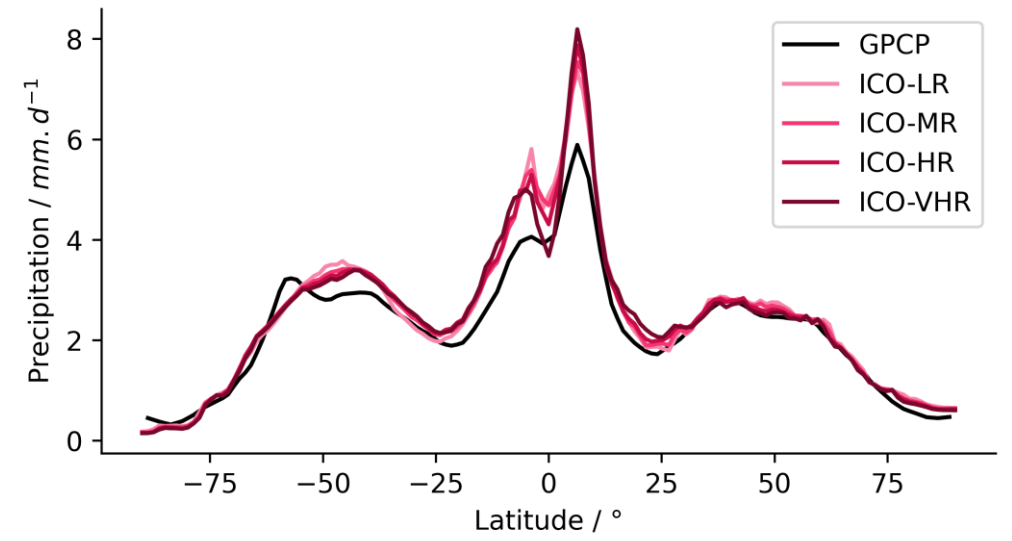
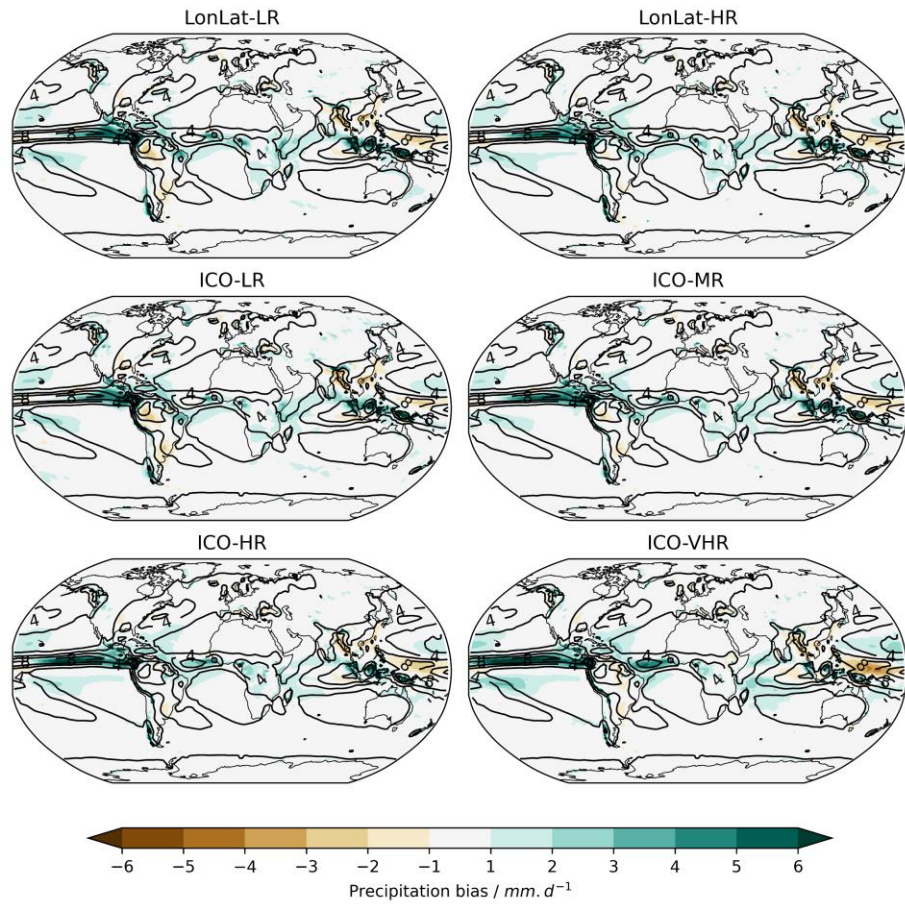


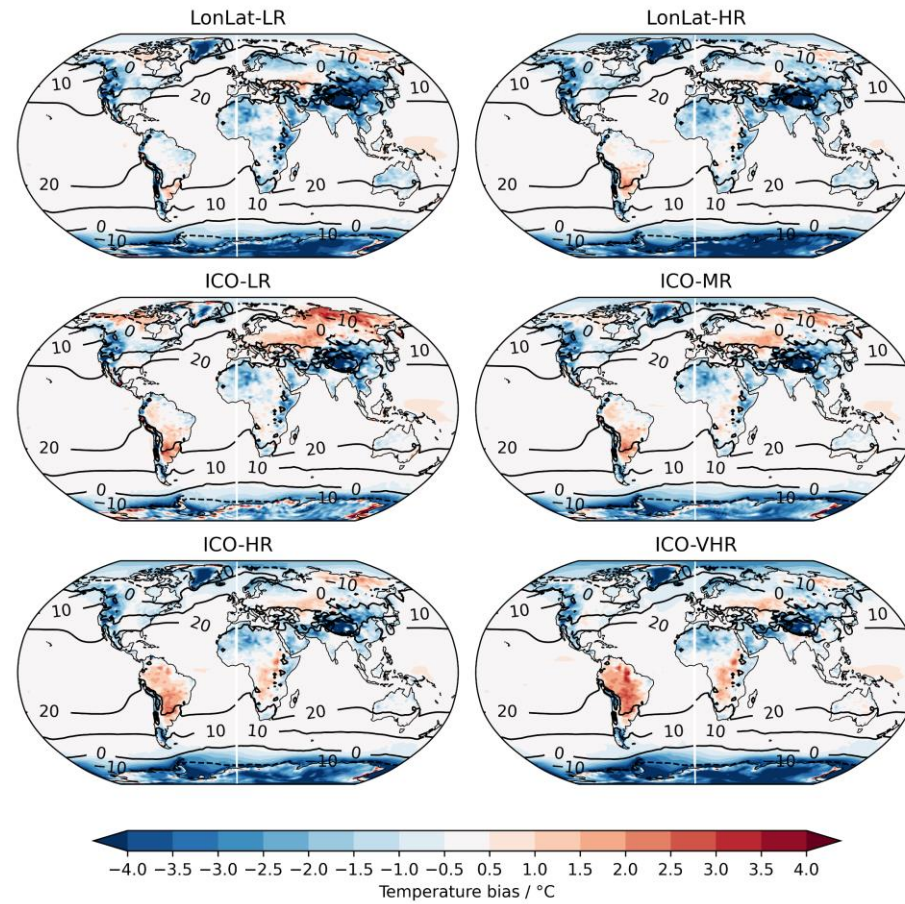








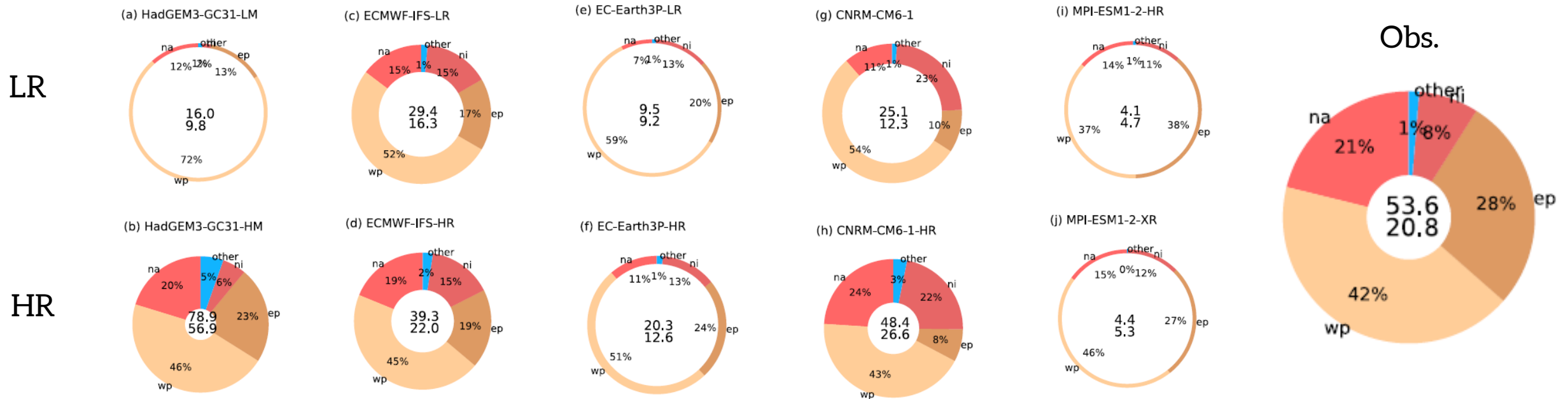




# Roberts et al. 2020b (Figure 2)

TC activity at low- and high-resolution in 5 HighResMIP models

*Thickness represent cyclonic activity level*

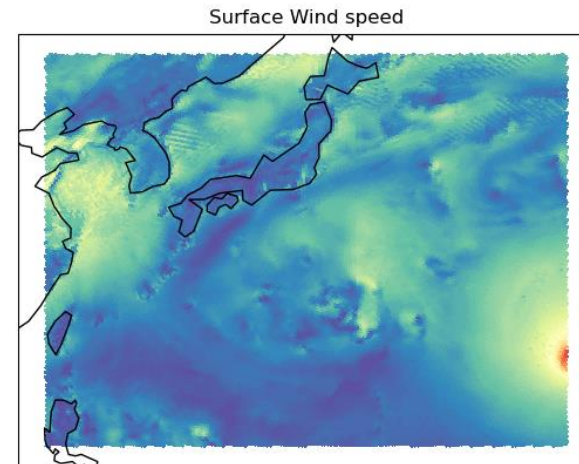
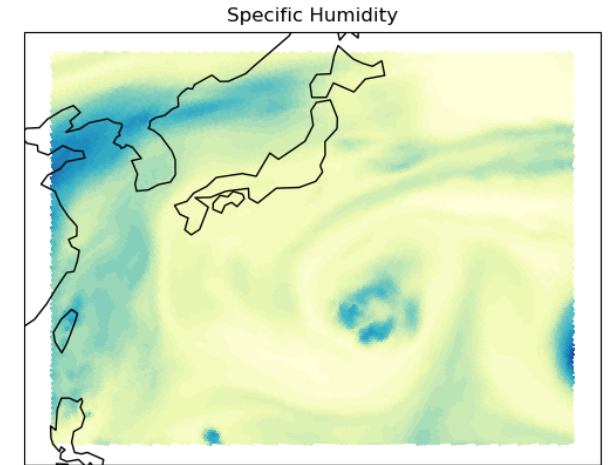
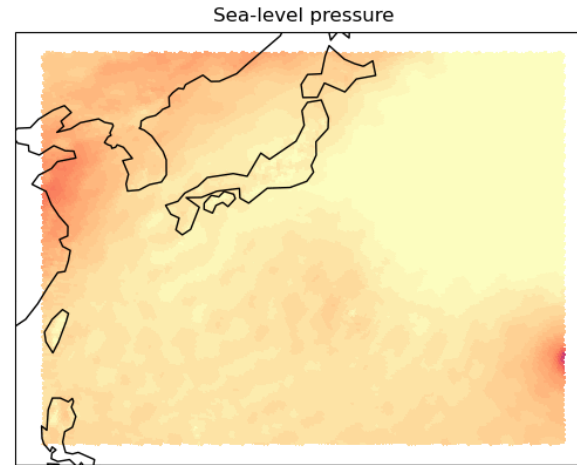
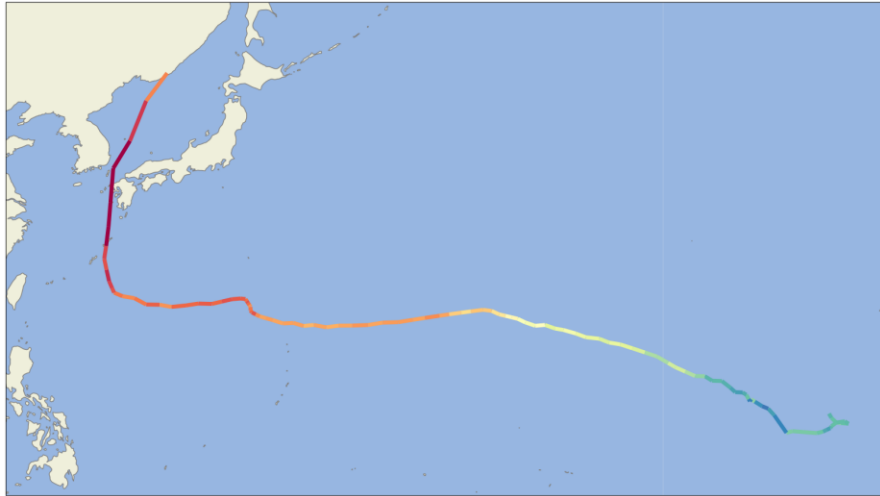


*Roberts, Camp, Seddon et al. 2020b in Journal of Climate*

Ability to simulate TCs varies among models.  
Increasing resolution improves TC climatology.

# It works!

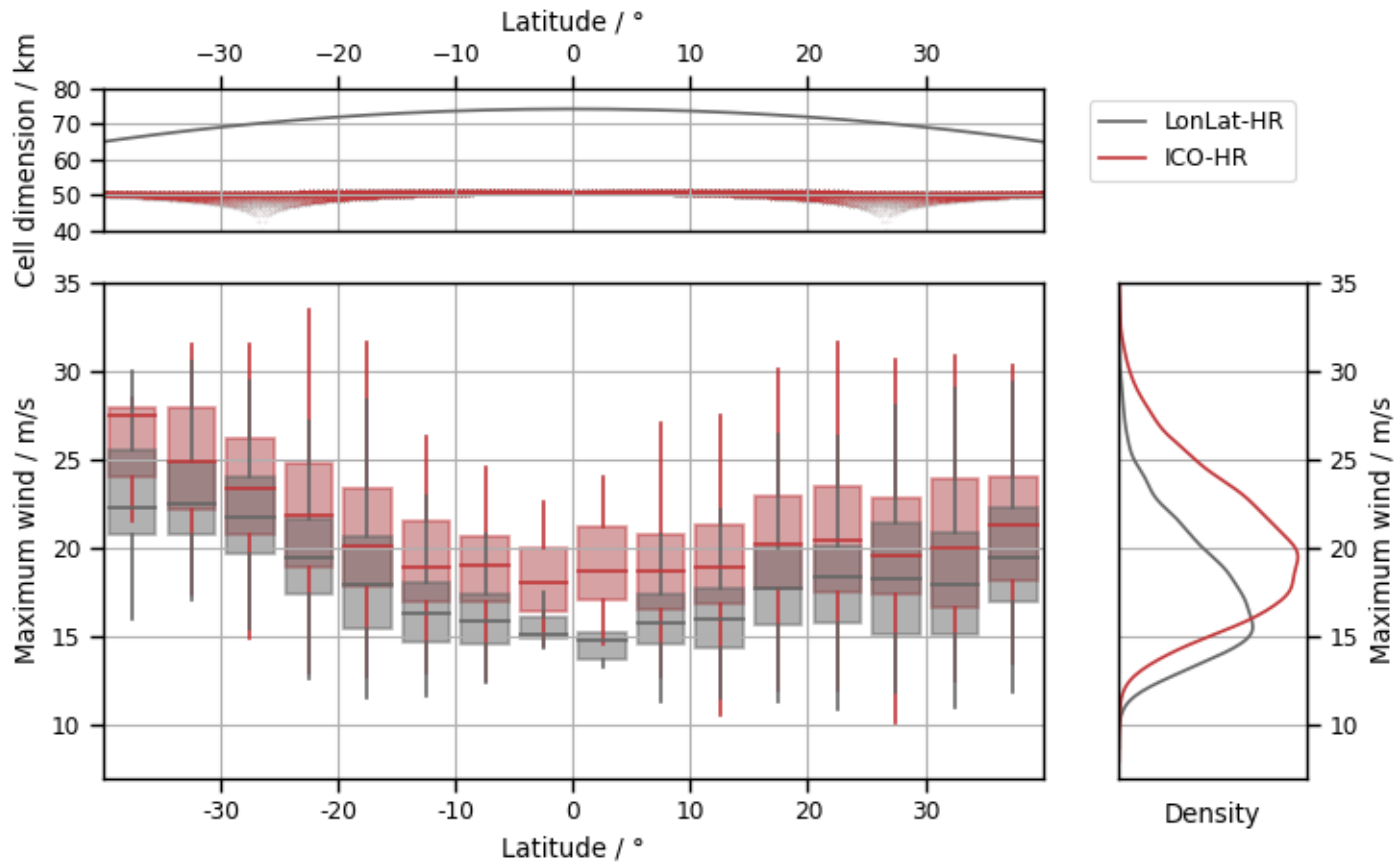
*Example: The most intense TC in ICO-VHR*



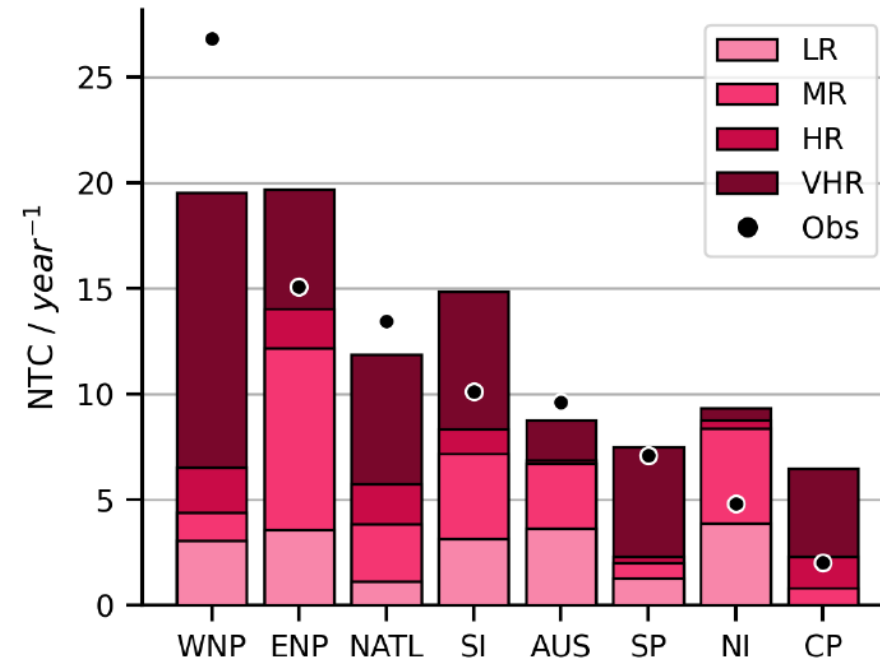
There are Tropical Cyclones in the simulations.



# Impact of irregular grid



Irregular grid in LonLat-HR makes difference with ICO-HR more prominent near the equator

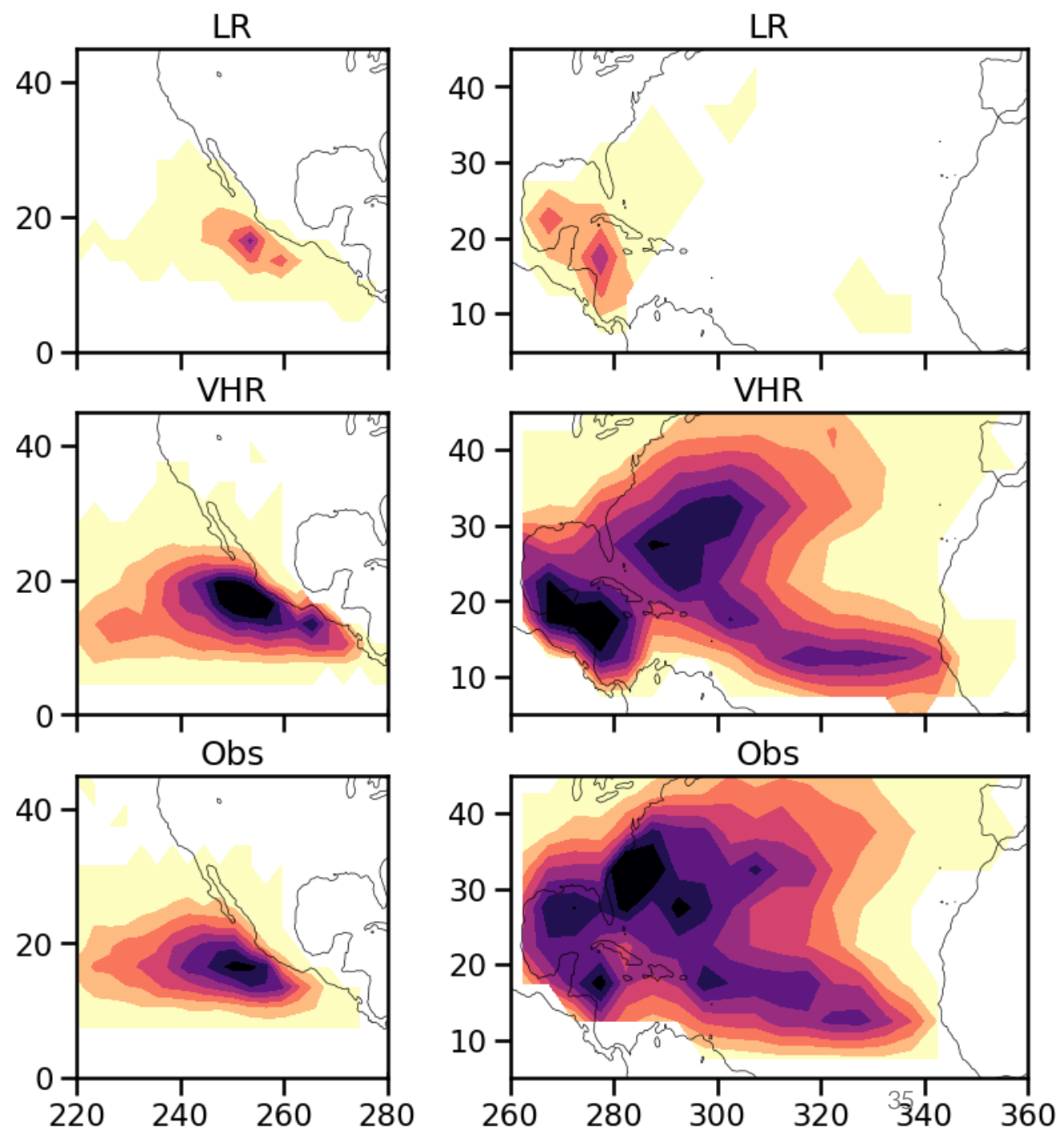


**Figure 6.** TC frequencies in each basin and each simulation and in the observation. Basins are displayed in order of decreasing frequencies in the observations.

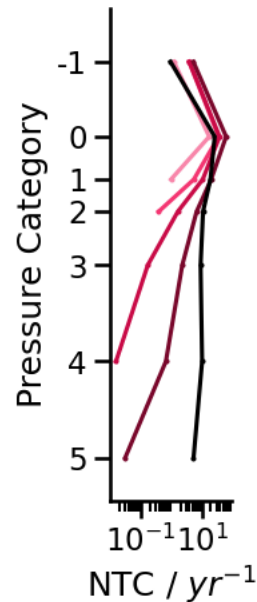
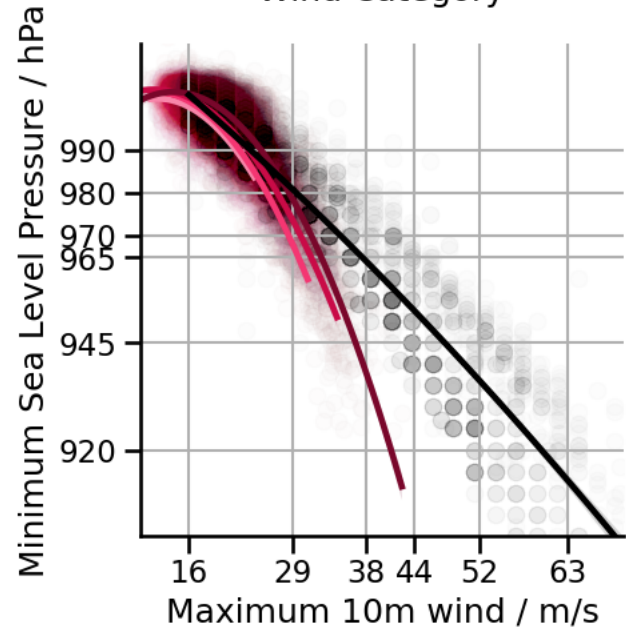
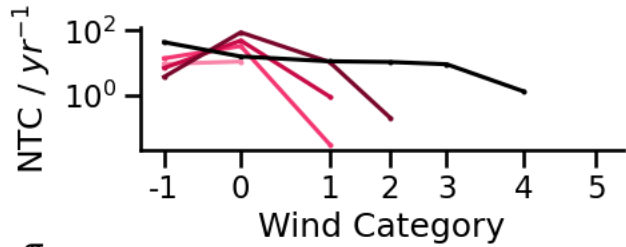
# Regional activity

- With increasing resolution...
- Activity  $\nearrow$  in all basins
  - Geographical distribution improve

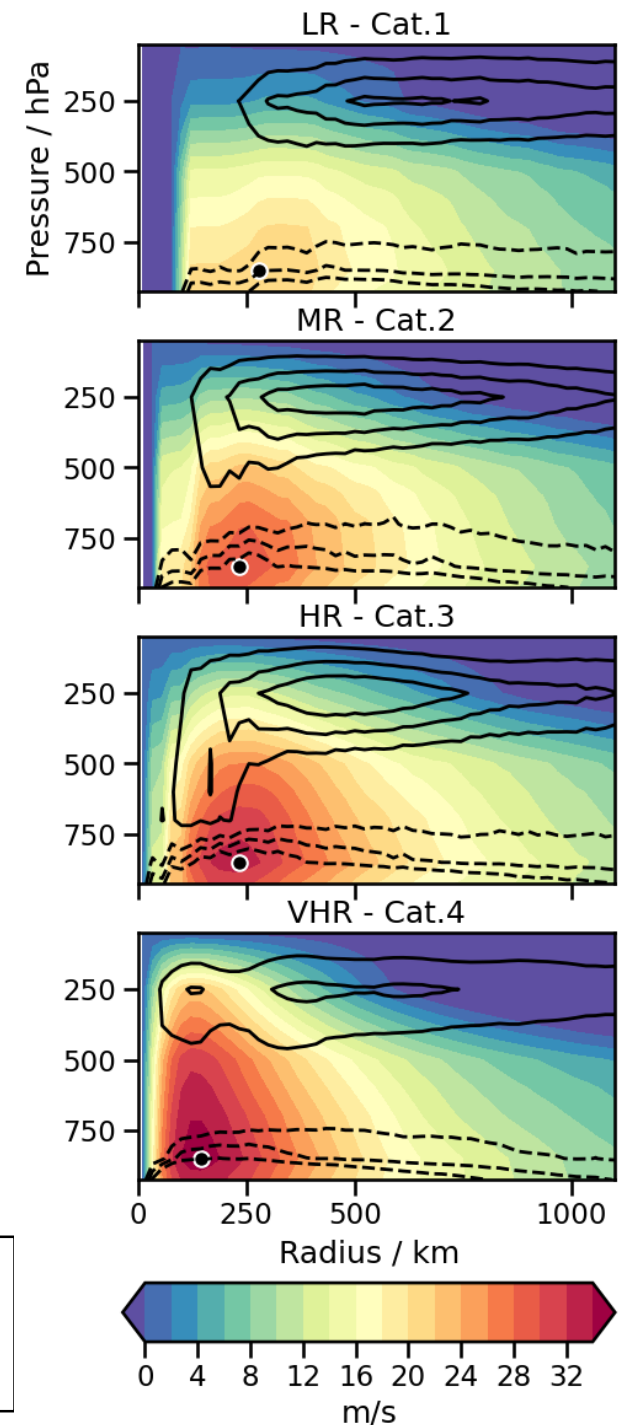
With disparities among basins, esp. WNP, see later.



# Intensity & Structure



Contour: Radial wind  
Shading: Azimuthal wind →

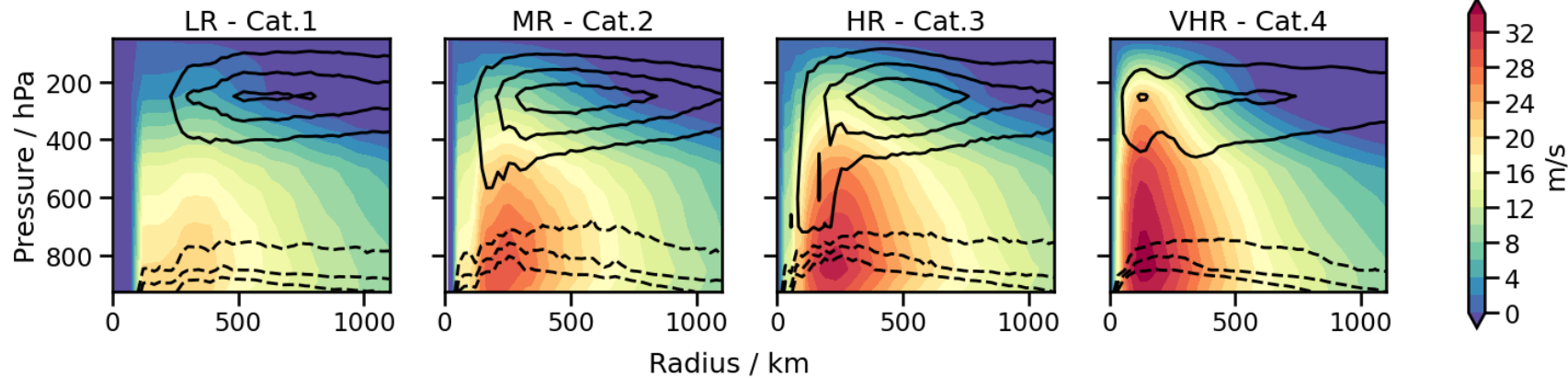


With increasing resolution, TCs become more intense, ...

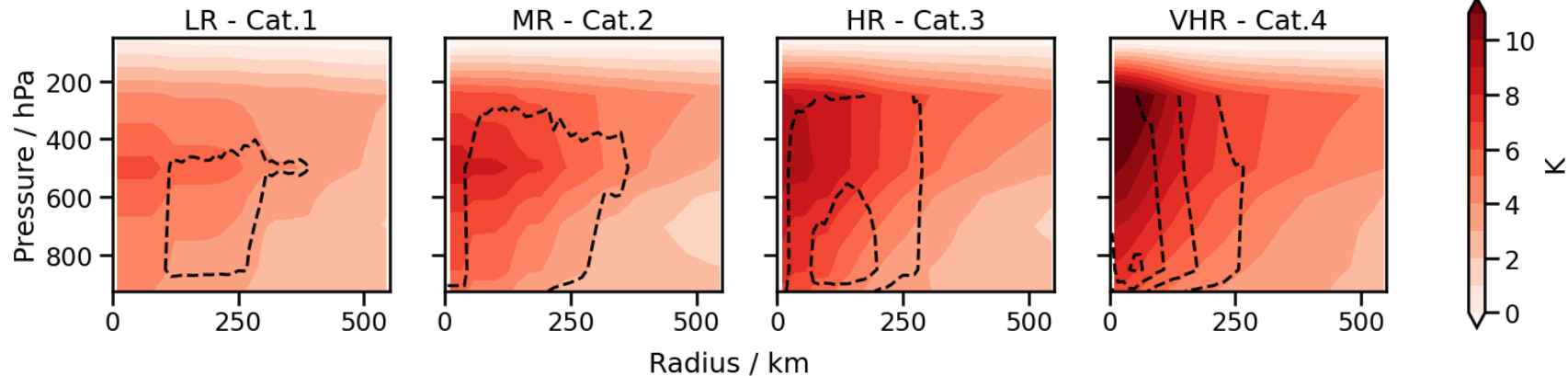
... and the primary circulation tightens around the eye

# TC properties : Composites

Contour: Radial wind --- Shading: Azimuthal wind



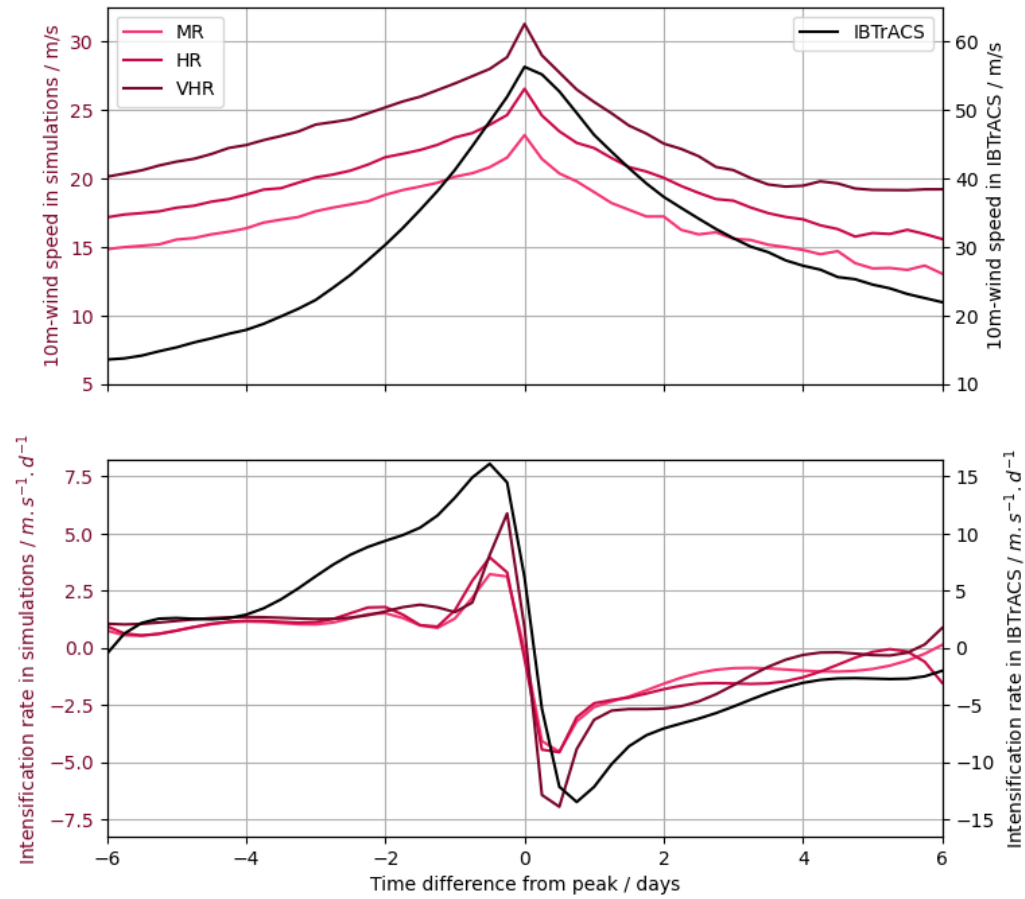
Contour: Temperature anomaly --- Shading: Vertical velocity



With increasing resolution...

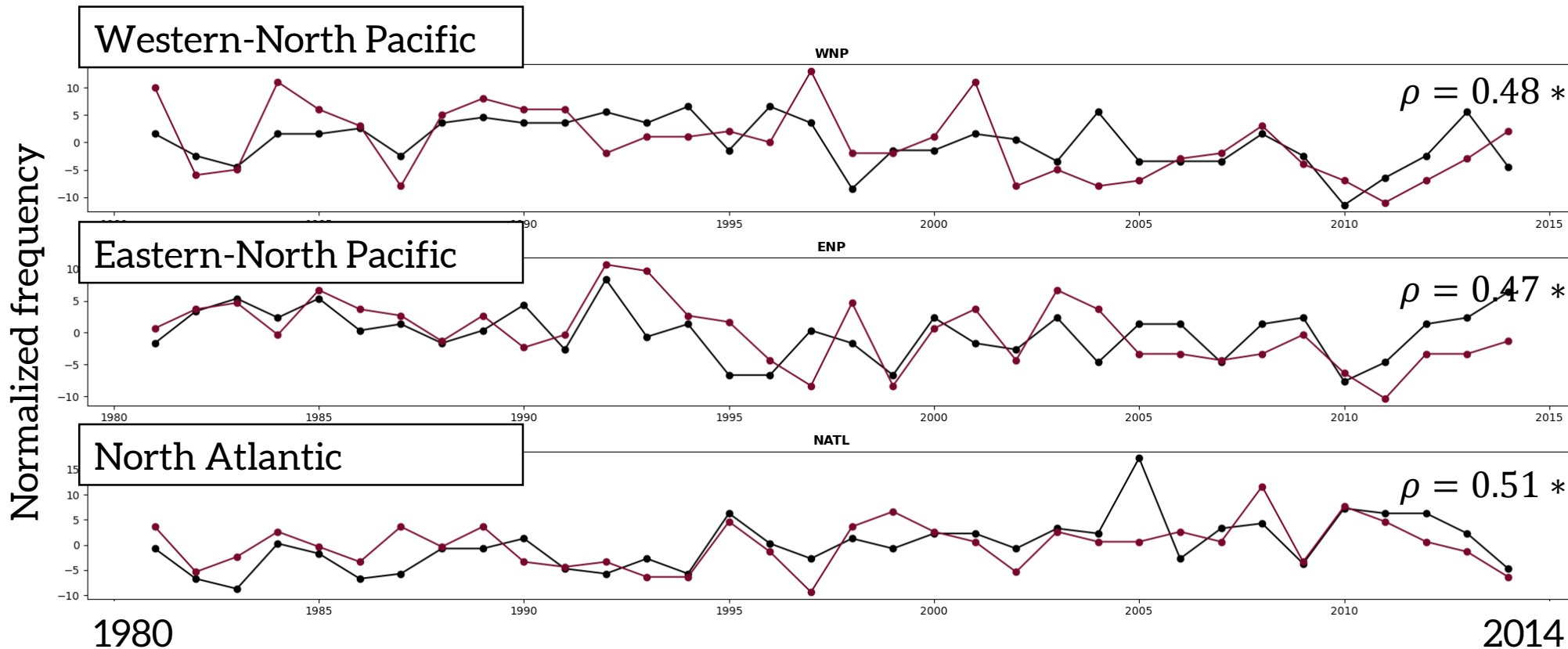
- TC structure become more intense,
- Primary circulation tightens around the eye,
- Realism improves.

# Lifecycle



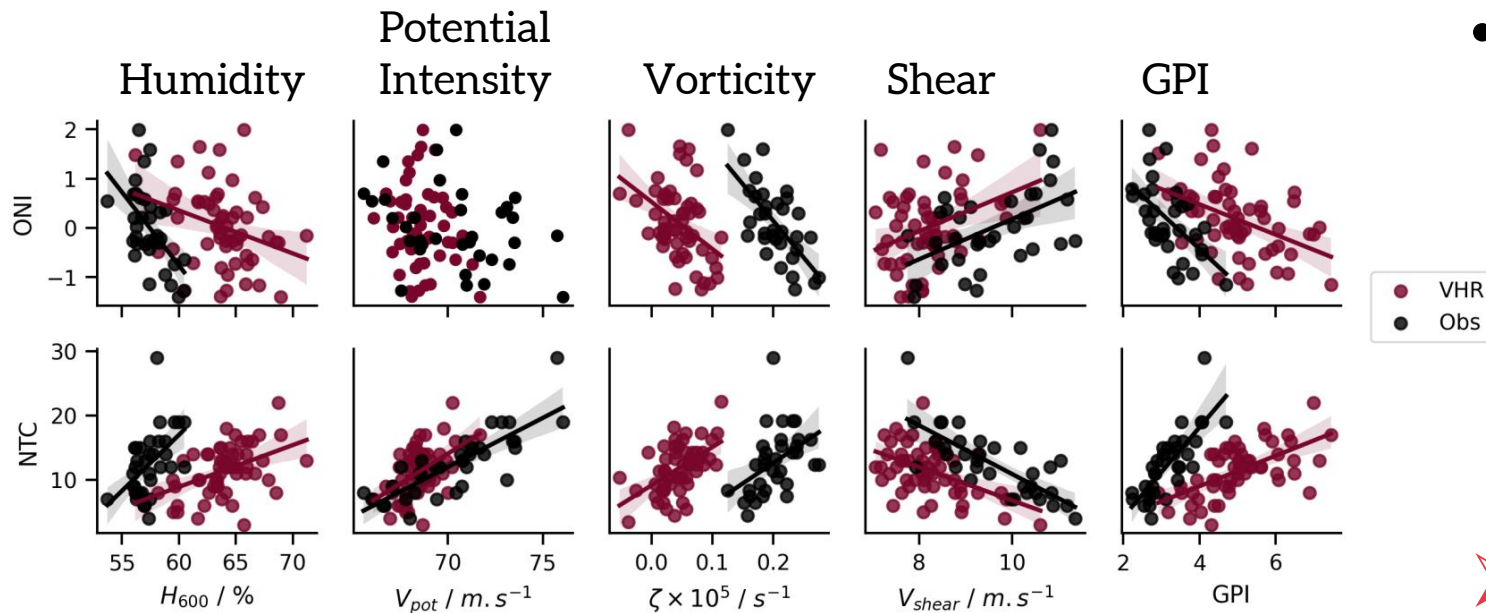
# Inter-annual variability

Correlations increase with resolution,  
and are robust only for NATL & ENP.



— Obs  
— ICO-VHR  
\* : Significant correlations

# North Atlantic basin



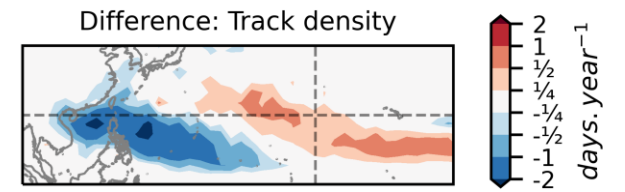
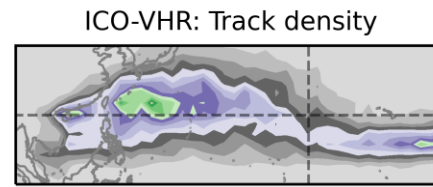
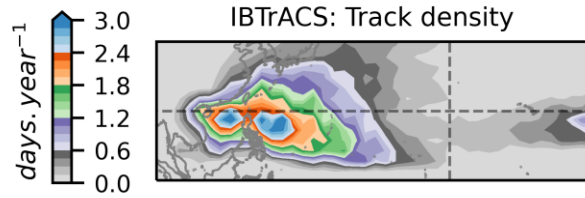
- In the North Atlantic:
  - Link between ENSO and large-scale environment is well reproduced
  - Link between large-scale environment and TC activity is well depicted

➤ Inter-annual variability and its correlation with ENSO is well simulated

ONI and NTC vs. Large-scale environment variables  
(Linear regression drawn when correlation significant.)



# Track density



# ENSO

- ENSO is an important mode of variability for TC activity in the Pacific and Atlantic basins
- Affects TC large-scale environment
  - Sea-surface temperature
  - Wind shear
  - Humidity
  - Circulation

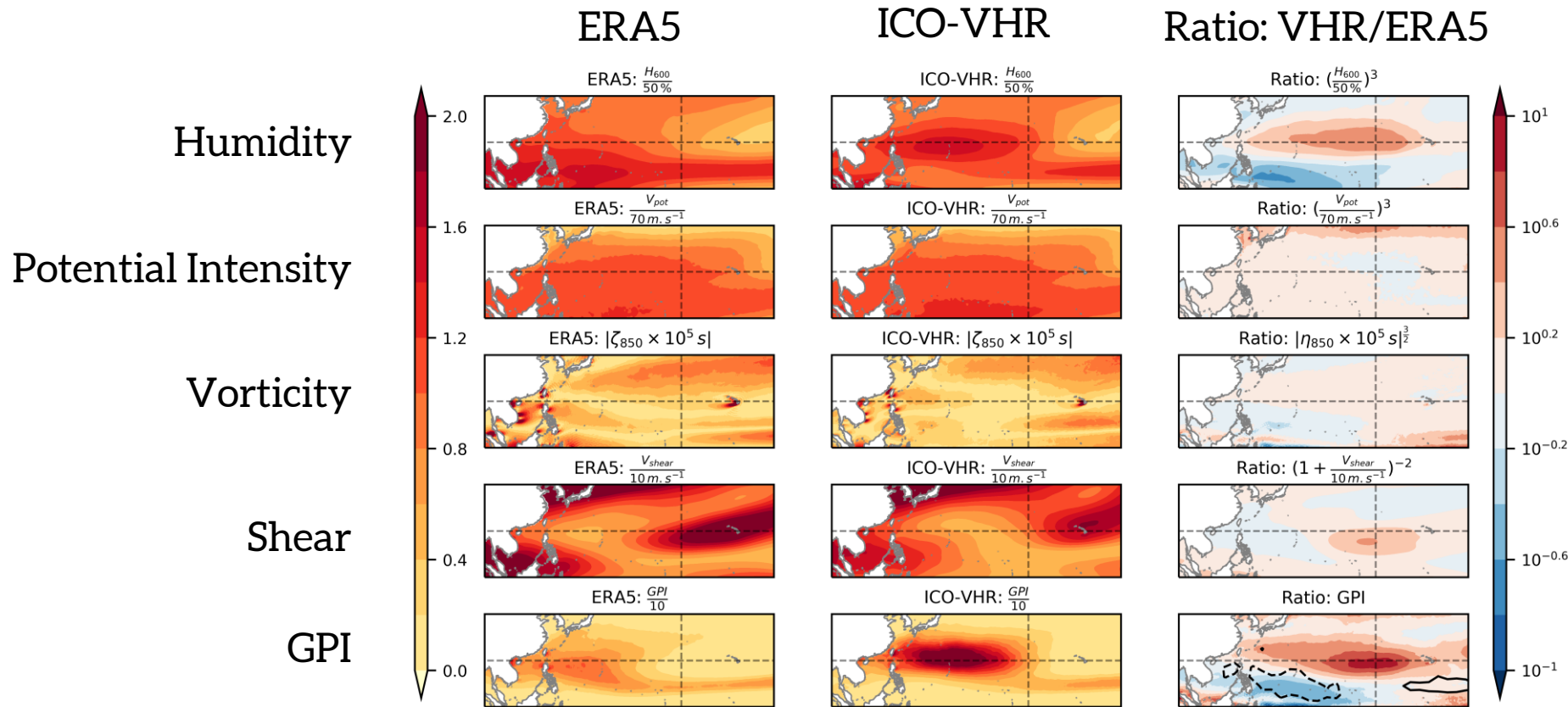
Variable	Data	WNP	ENP	NATL
ACE	Obs	<b>0.47*</b>	<b>0.16*</b>	<b>-0.23*</b>
	ICO-VHR	0.01	<b>0.15*</b>	<b>-0.20*</b>
NTC	Obs	0.00	<b>0.21*</b>	<b>-0.30*</b>
	ICO-VHR	0.0	0.00	<b>-0.34*</b>

**Table 4.** Correlations coefficient (and associated p-value in parenthesis) between the yearly ACE or NTC and the mean of the ONI index between August to October of the same year. \* and bold denote significant correlations ( $p < 5e - 2$ ).

Correlation between ONI index and TC activity  
(Bold = significant)

**Link between ENSO and TC activity is well reproduced in the NATL, not in the Pacific**

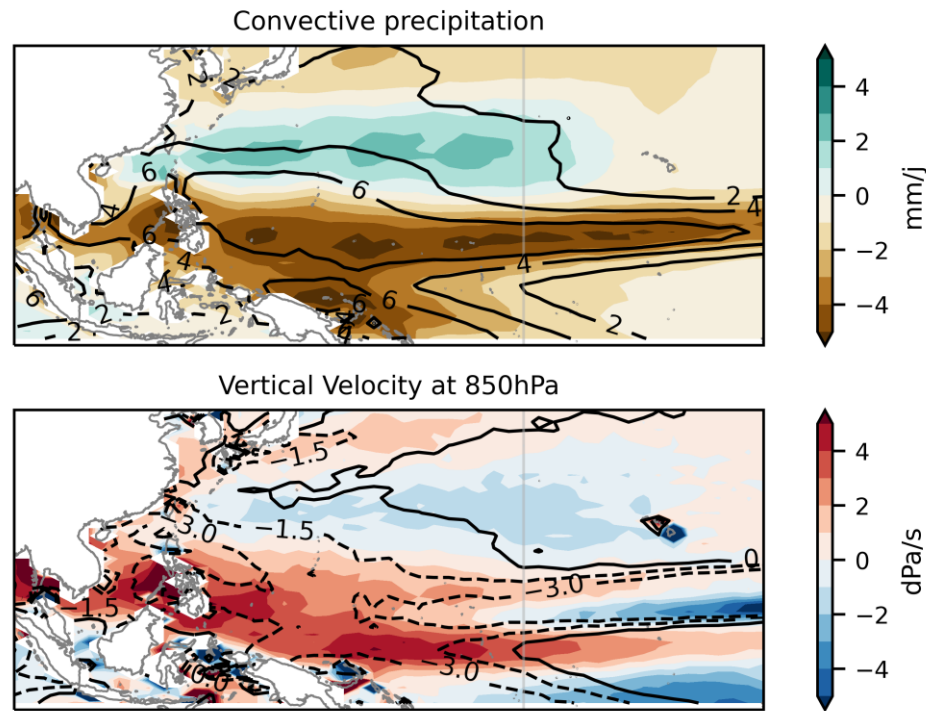
# Western North Pacific



*Climatology during the months of July to October*

**Deficit in genesis is associated with a deficit in GPI, for which deficit in humidity is mainly responsible**

# A problem with convection in the warm pool?



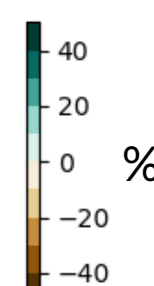
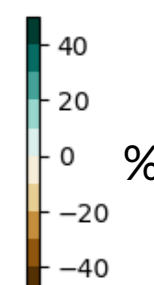
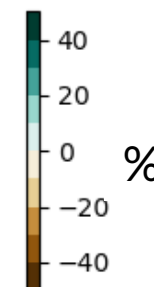
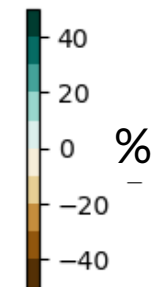
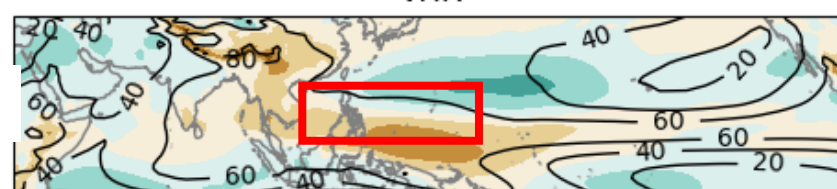
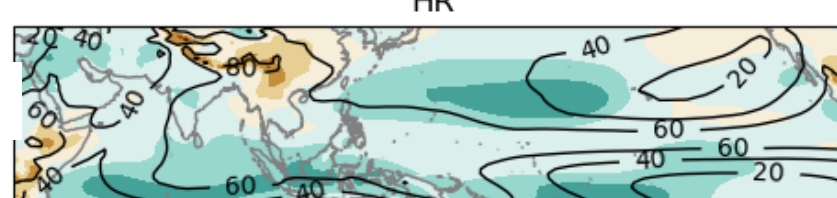
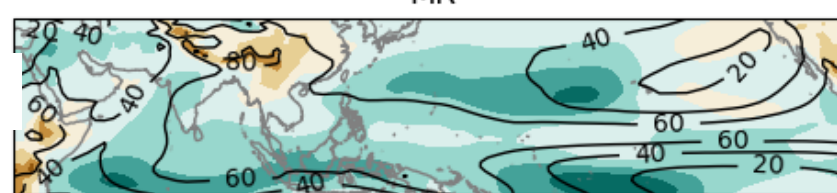
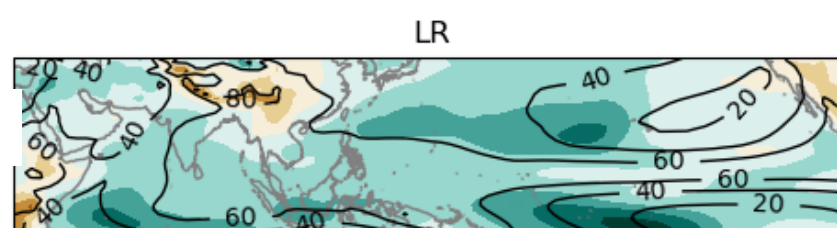
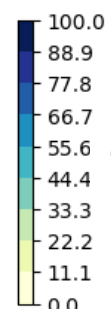
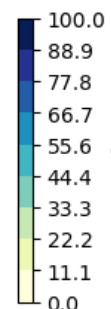
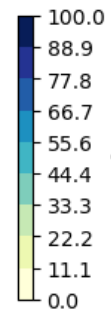
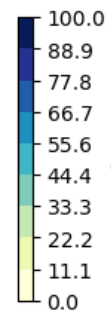
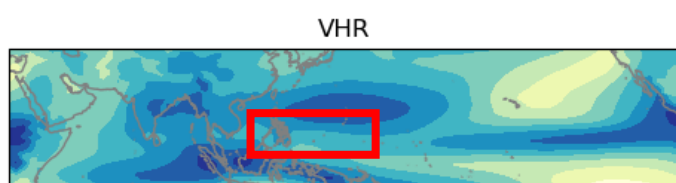
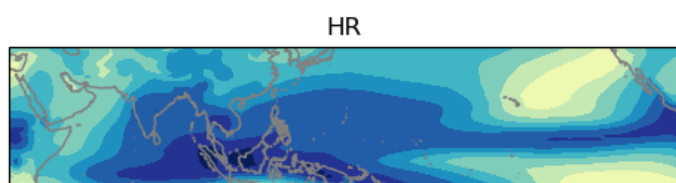
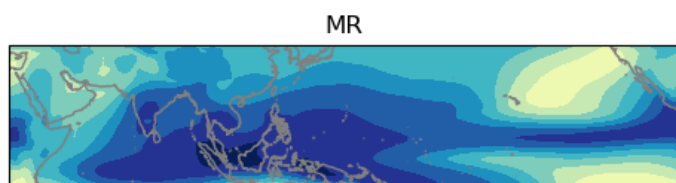
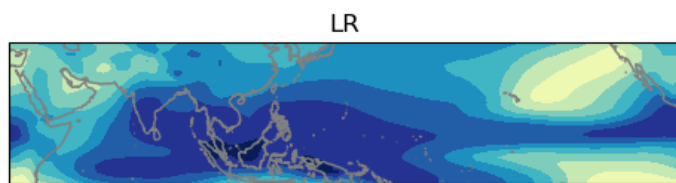
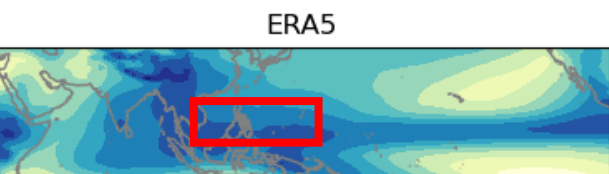
Biases in ICO-VHR with respect to ERA5  
Over the cyclonic season (July to October)  
(contour = ERA5, shading = difference)

In the WNP TC genesis area

- Convective precipitation are very low
- Climatological circulation is subsident
- Associated with problem in large-scale circulation (zonal wind, vorticity)

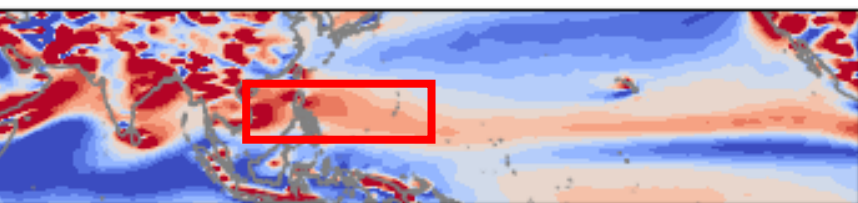
Dynamical bias is present at all resolutions, humidity & precip bias accentuates with increasing resolution.

# RH 600

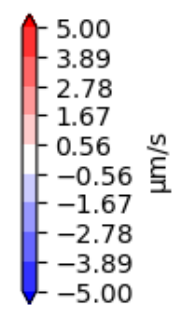
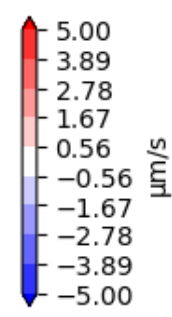
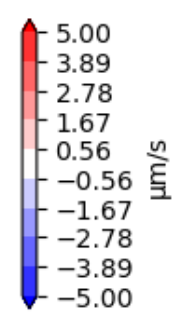
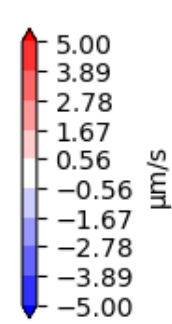
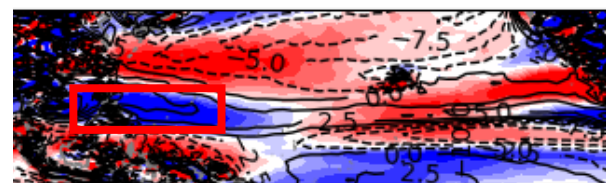
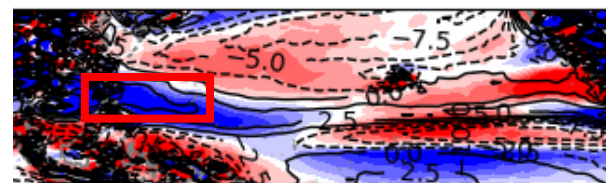
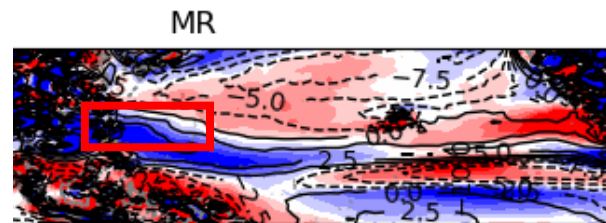
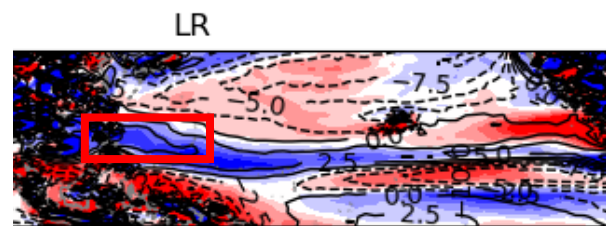
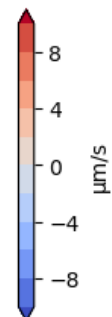
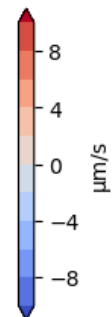
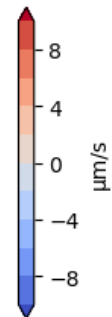
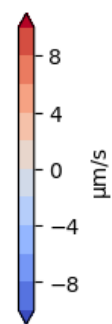
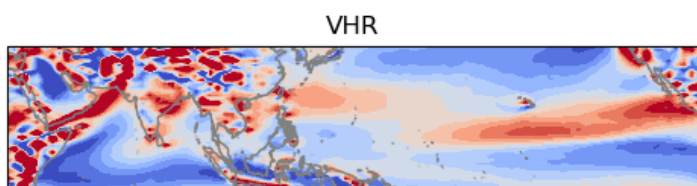
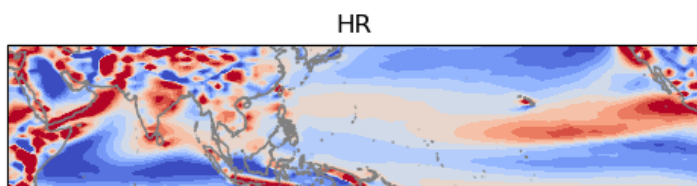
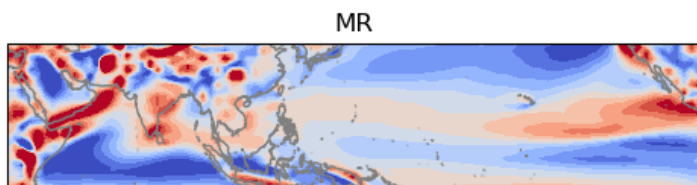
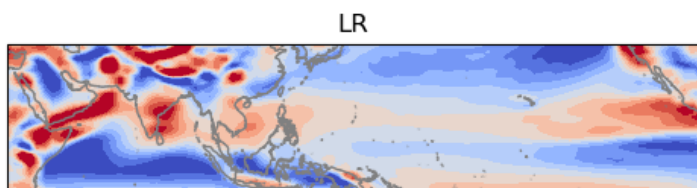


# V0850

ERA5

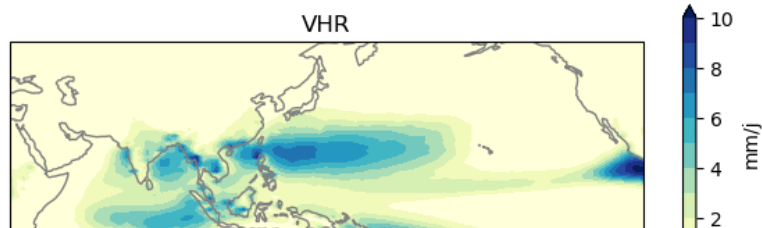
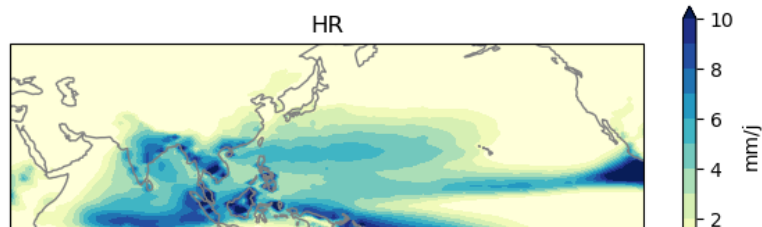
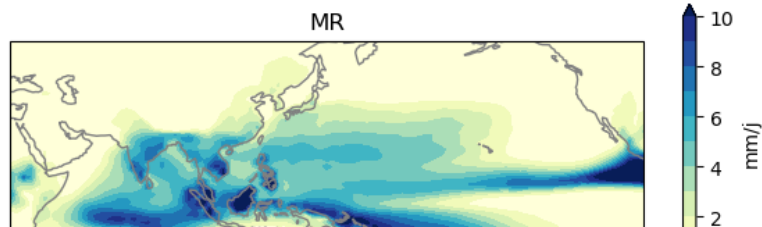
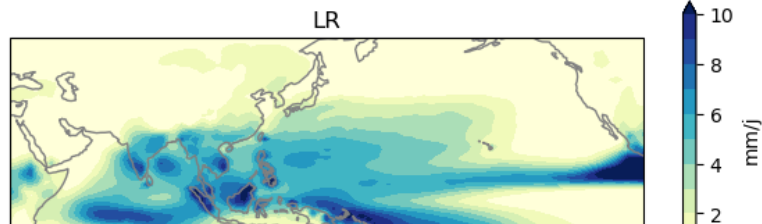


Deficit de vorticité à toutes les résolutions

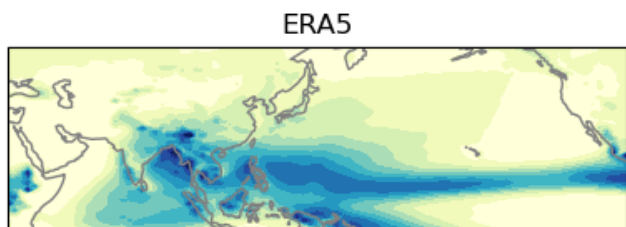
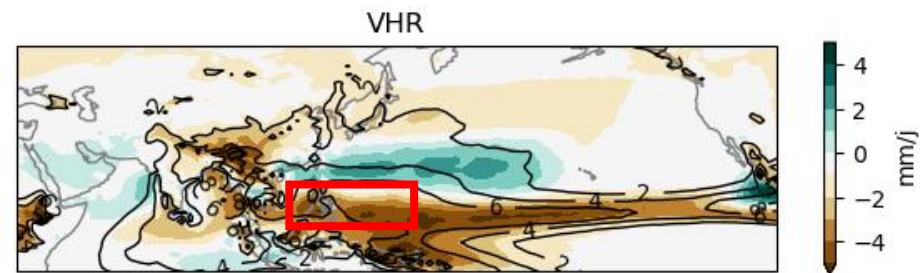
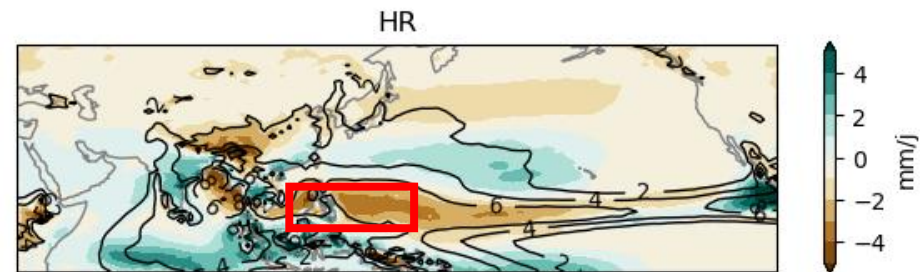
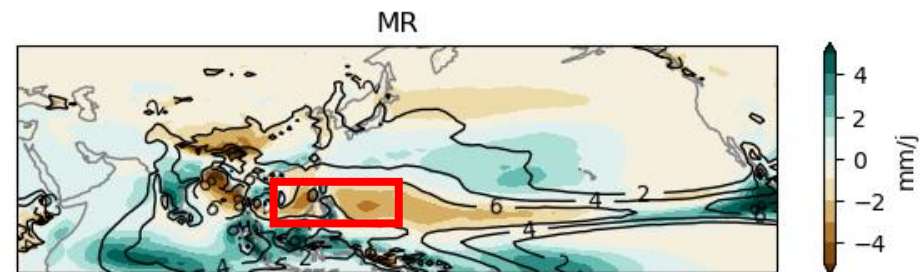
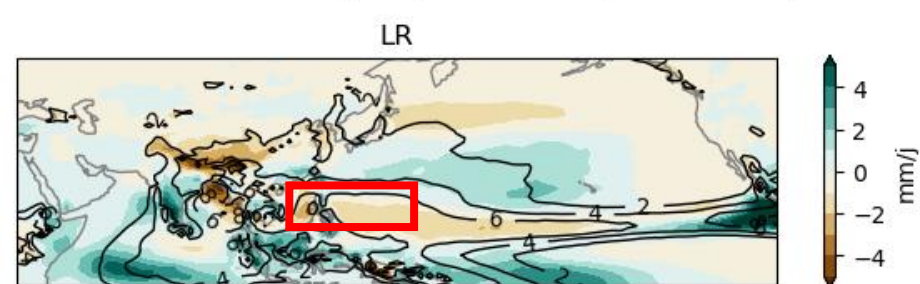


# Precipitations convectives

Convective precipitation in the model



Convective precipitation bias (model - ERA5)

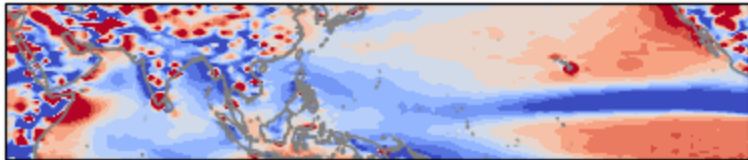


Déficit de précipitation convective à toute les résolutions, s'accroît avec la résolution

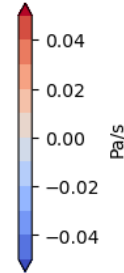
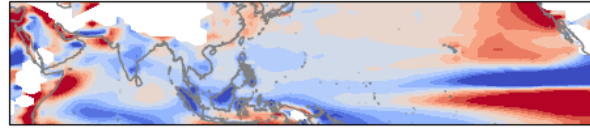
# Vitesse verticales 850hPa

/!\  $w > 0$  = descente  
et biais de  $w > 0$  veut dire  
que ça monte pas assez ou  
descend trop  
Remplacer  $\mu\text{m/s}$  par  $\text{Pa/s}$

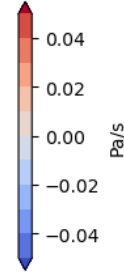
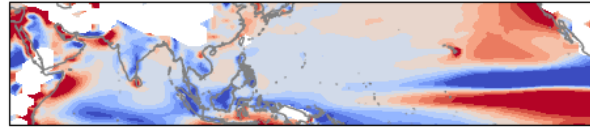
ERA5



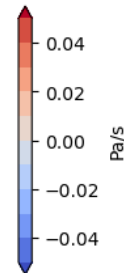
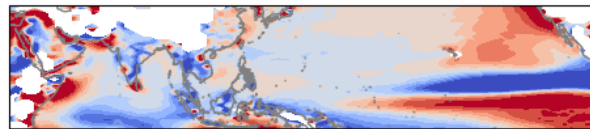
LR



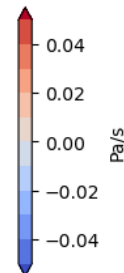
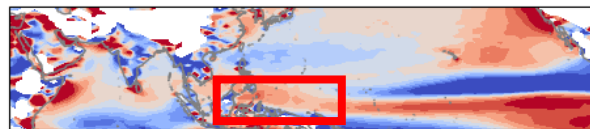
MR



HR

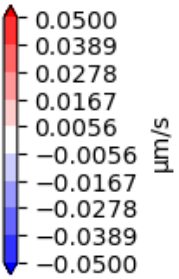
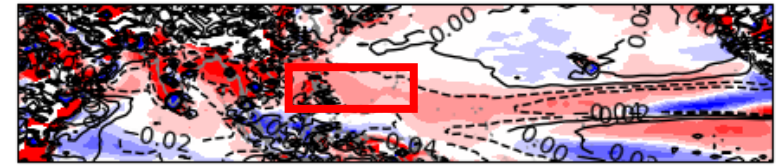


VHR

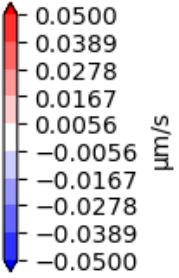
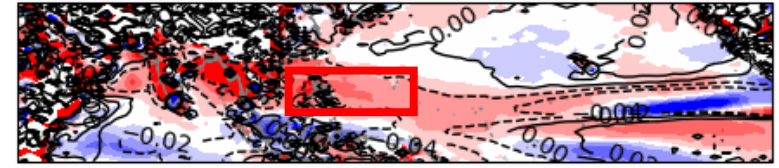


Subsidence climatologique  
dans la warm pool !

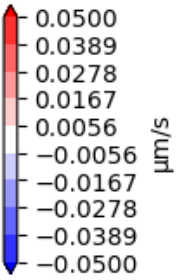
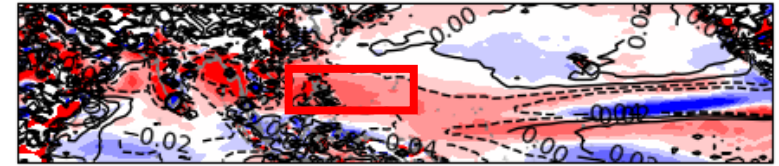
LR



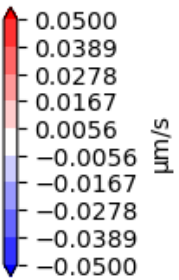
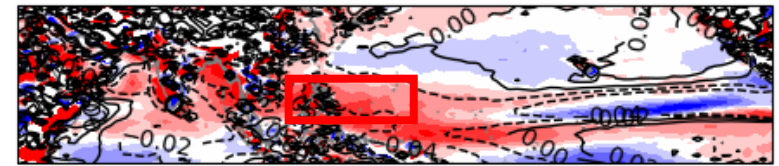
MR



HR

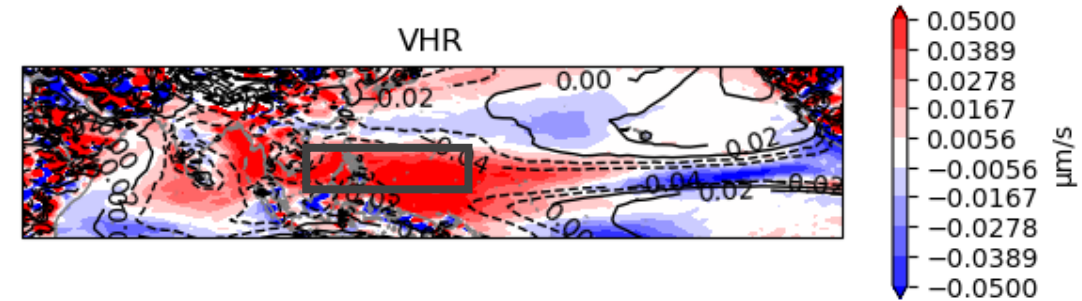
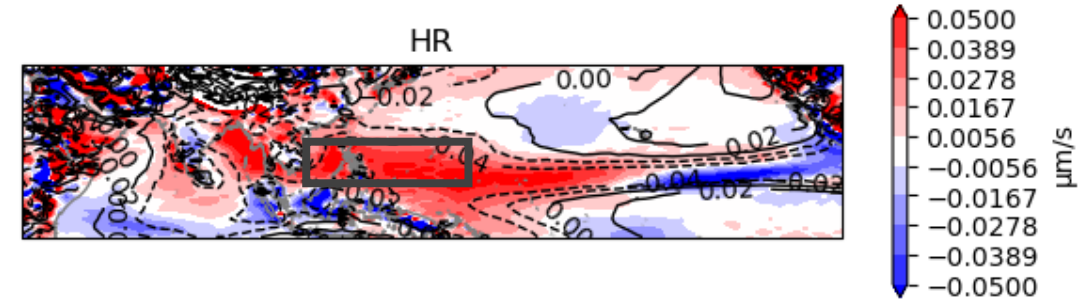
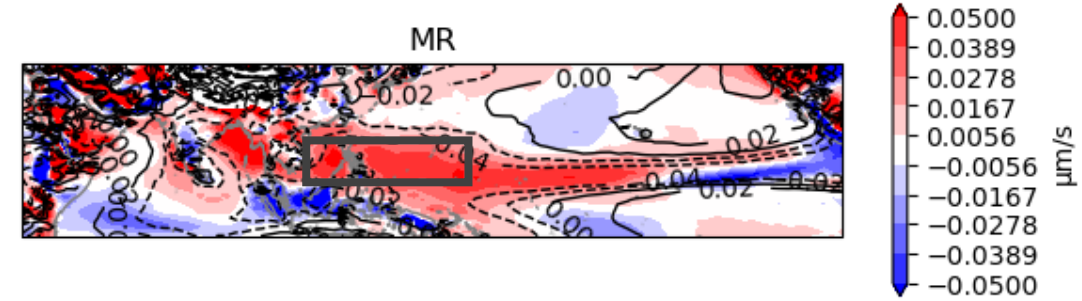
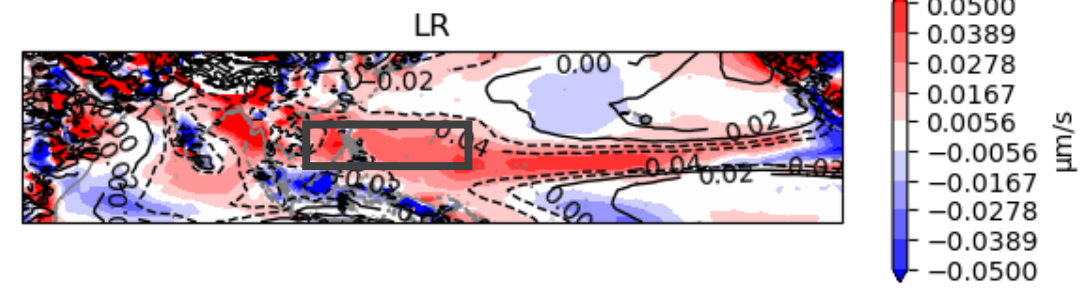
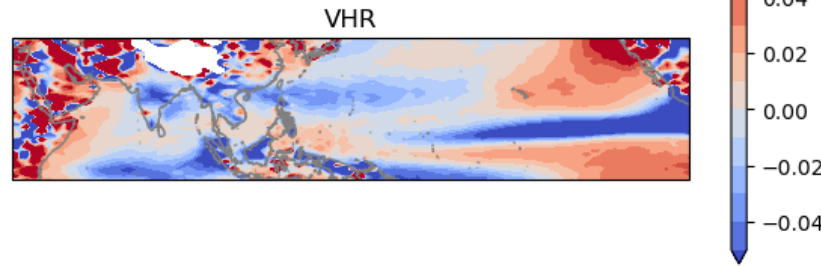
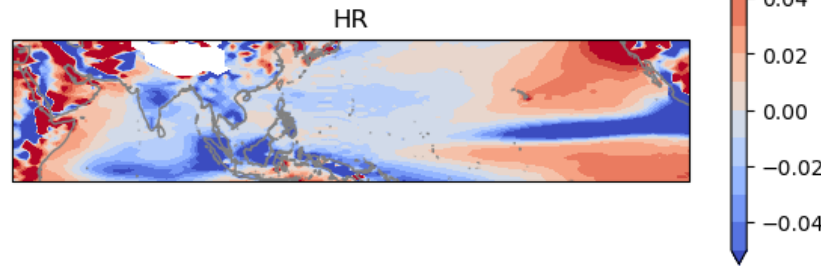
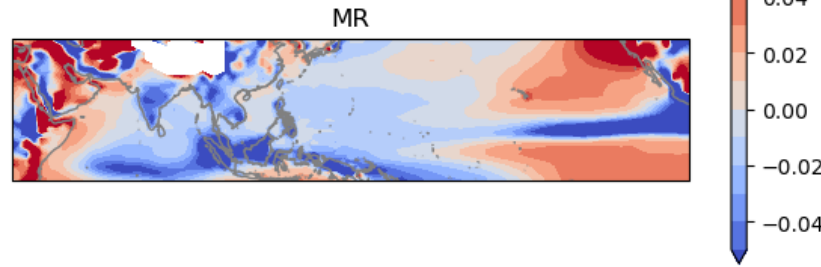
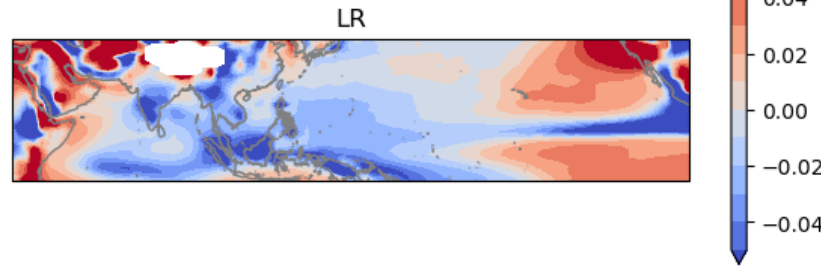


VHR

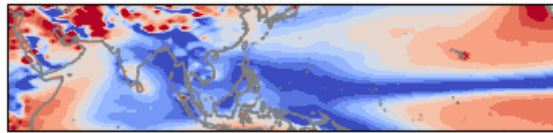




# Vitesse verticale 600hPa

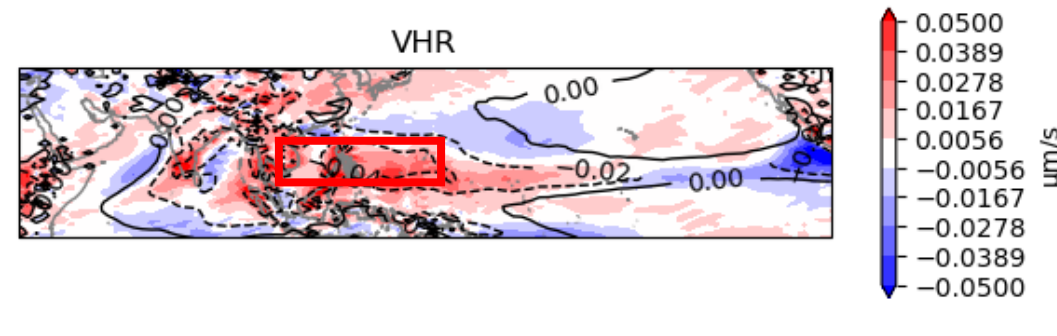
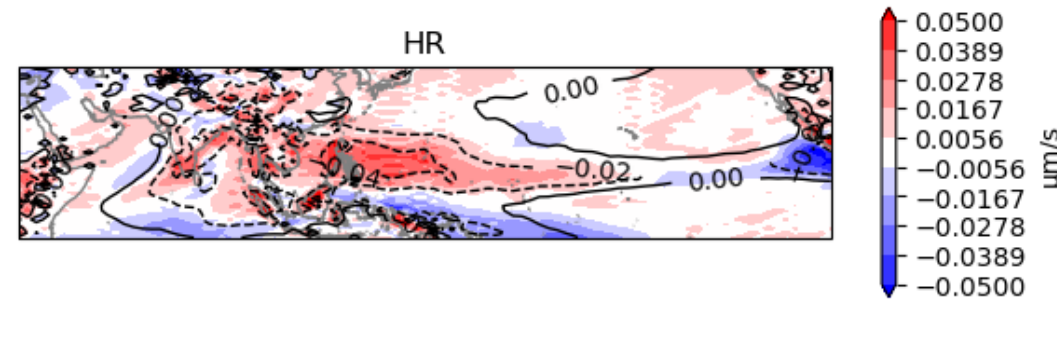
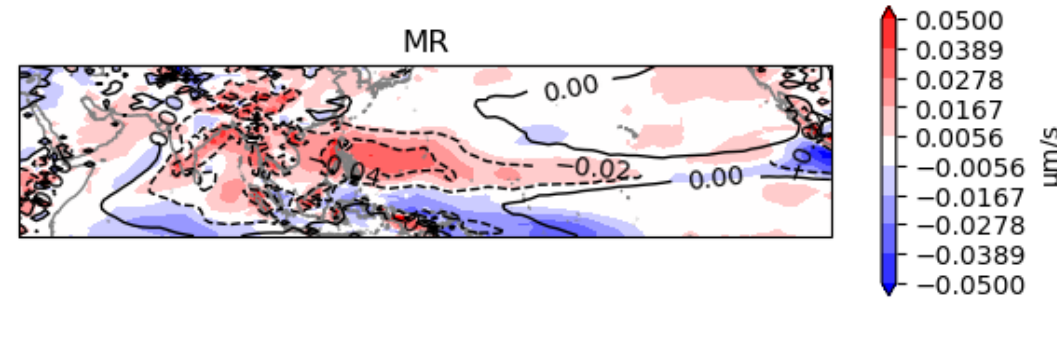
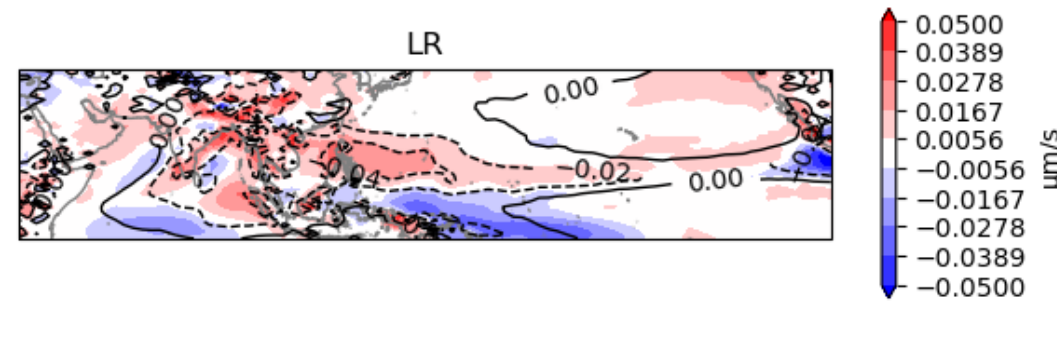
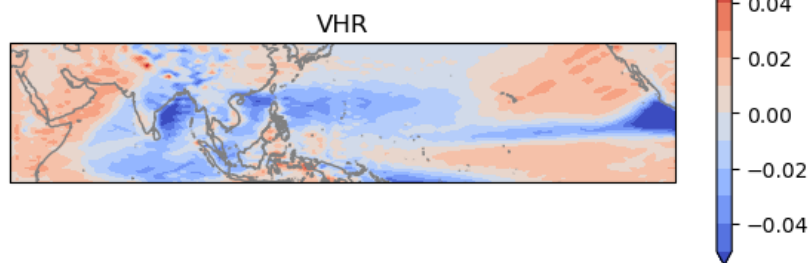
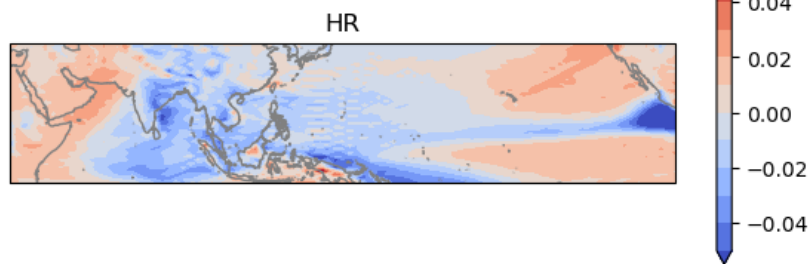
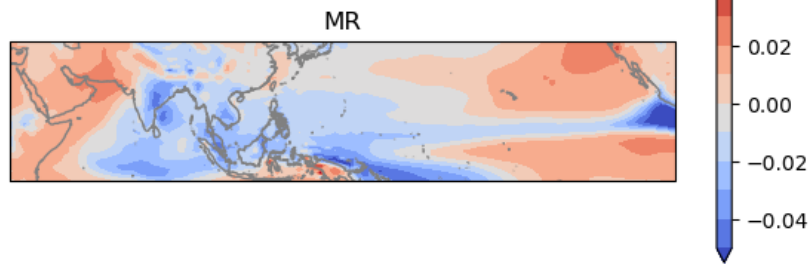
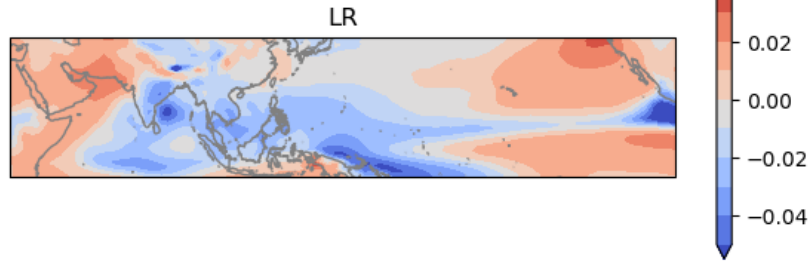
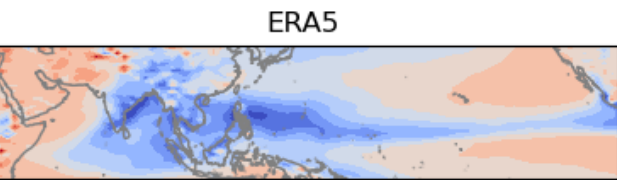


ERA5



Déficit de vitesse  
verticales de moyenne  
altitude à toutes les  
résolutions

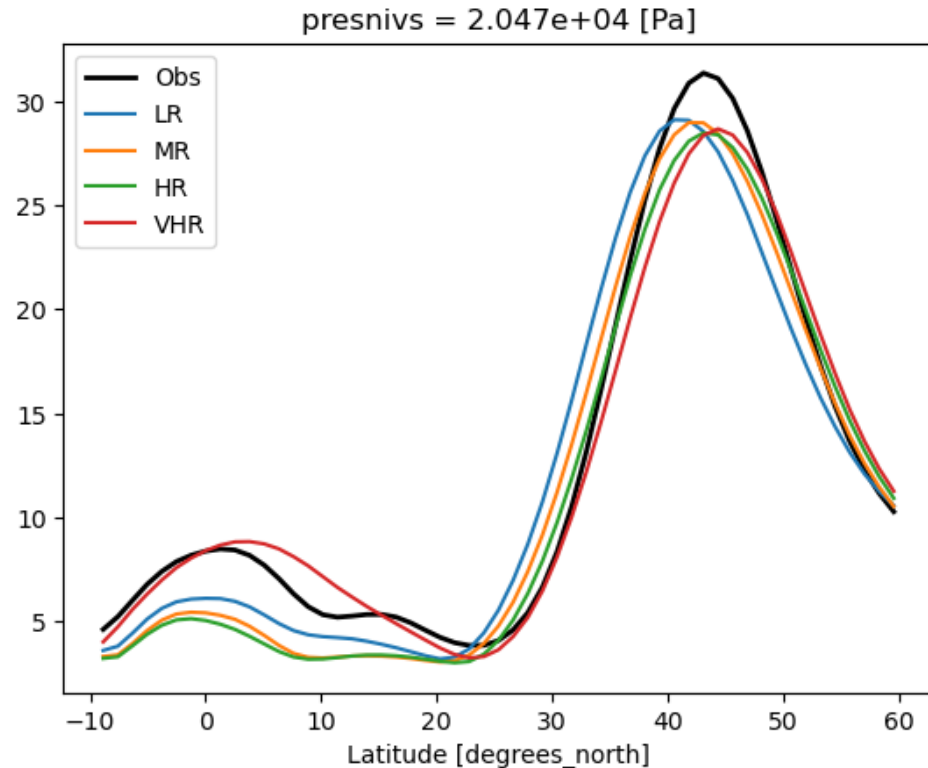
# Vitesse verticales 200hPa



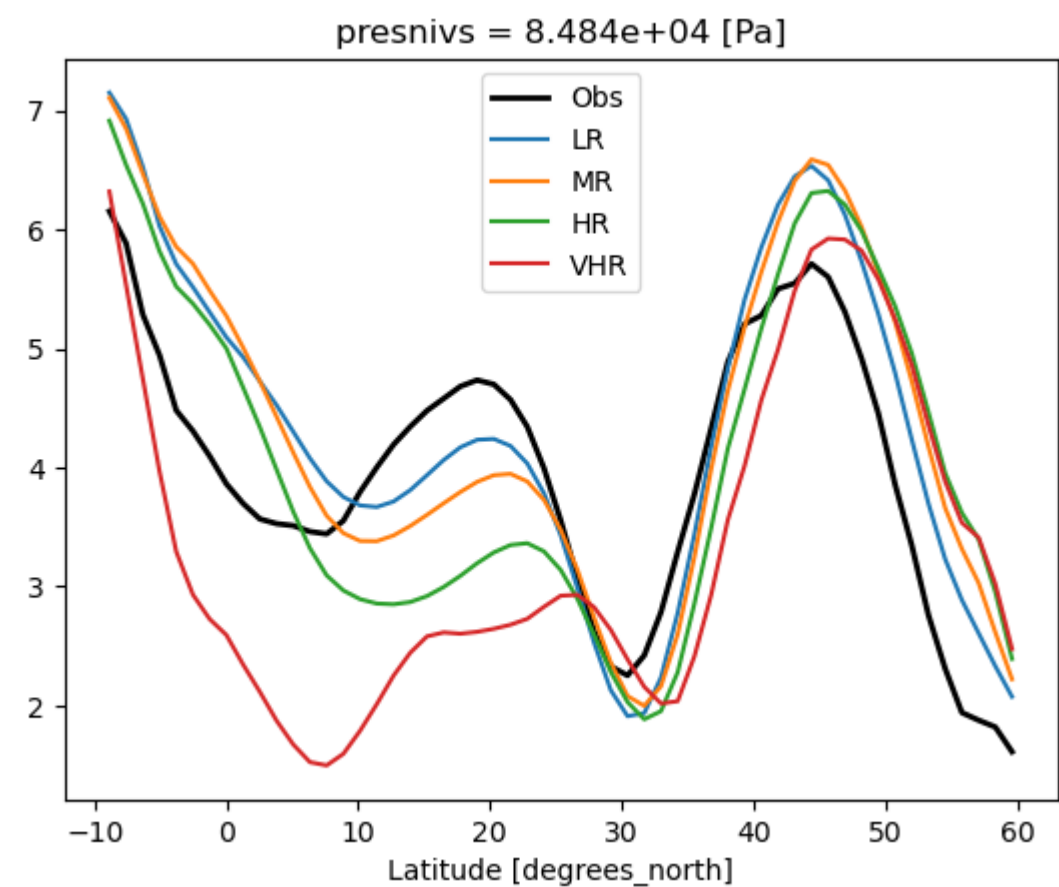
Déficit de vitesse  
verticales de haute  
altitude à toutes les  
résolutions

# Zonal wind speed profiles

Moyenne de 125 à 180° longitude

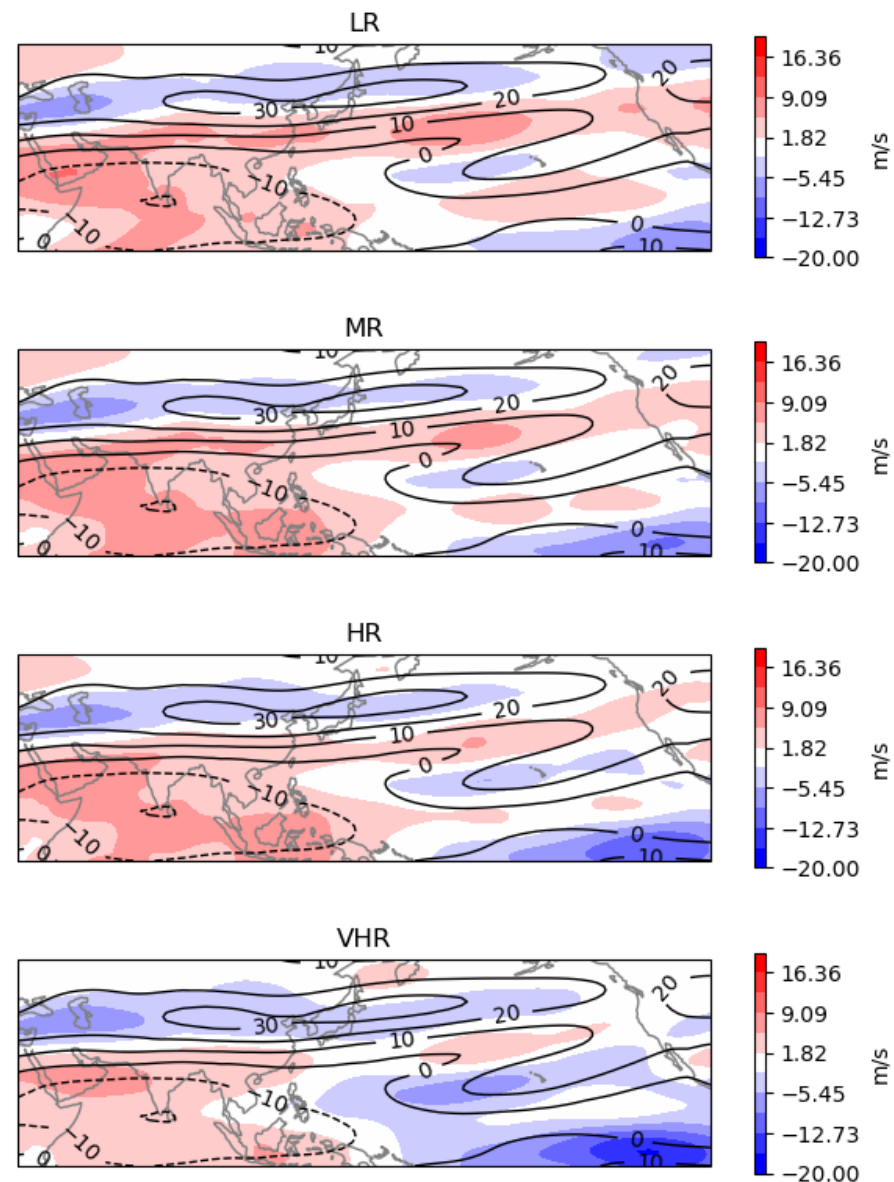
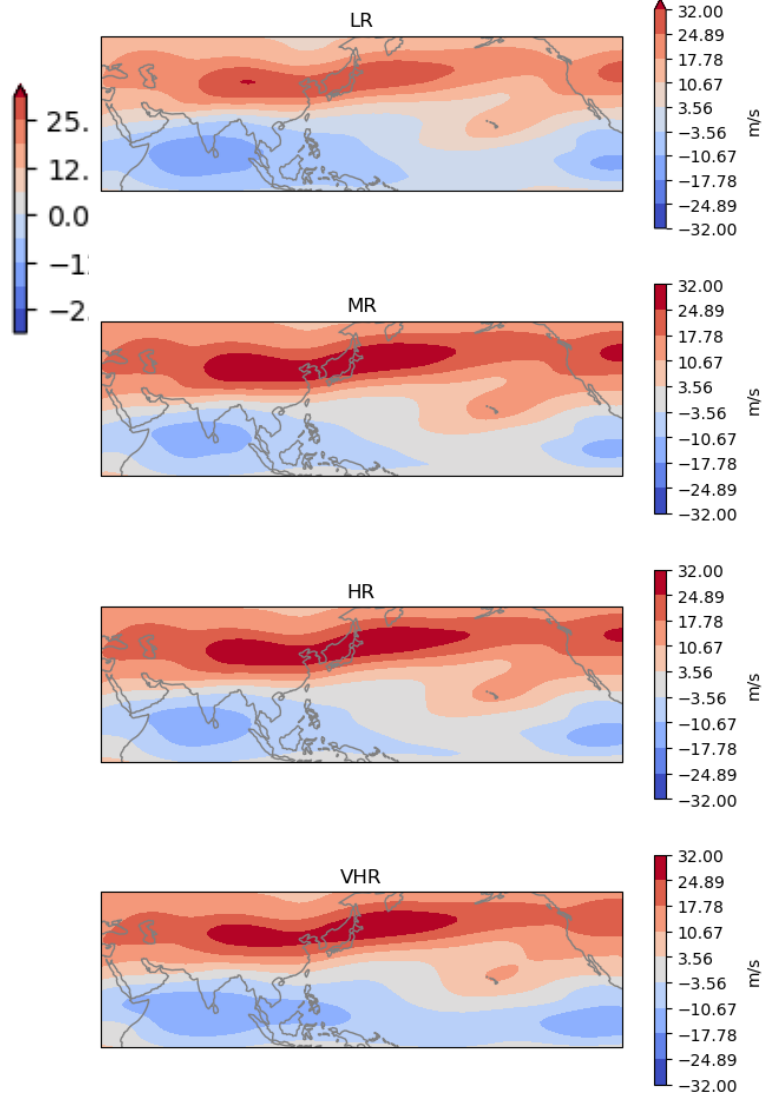
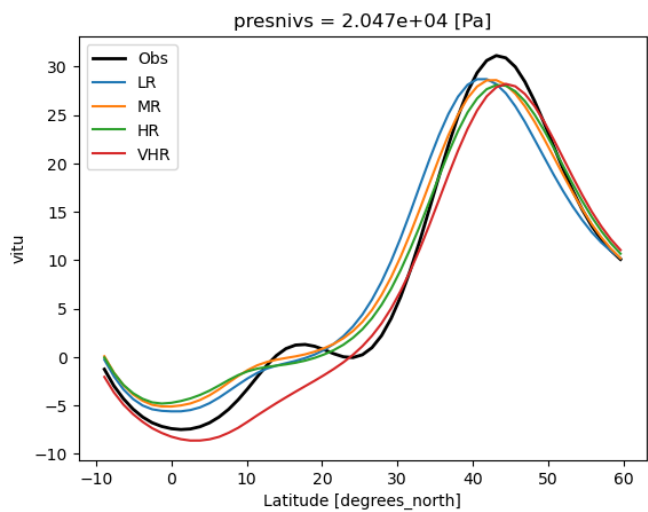
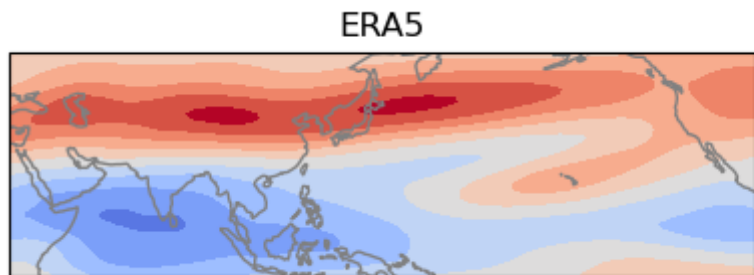


A 200hPa, le champ zonal montre un pic principal au bon endroit, le pic secondaire est moins bien reproduit.

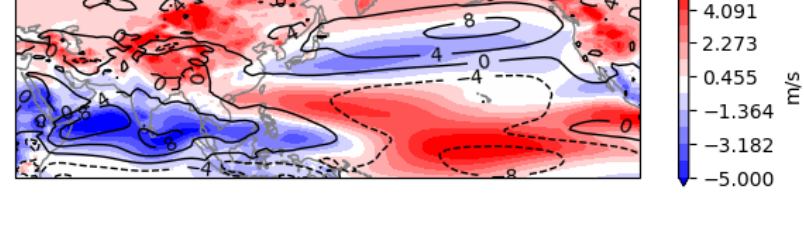
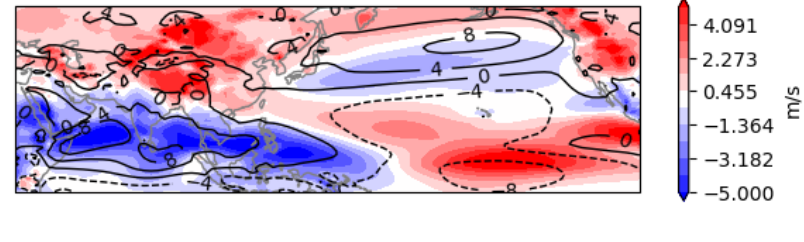
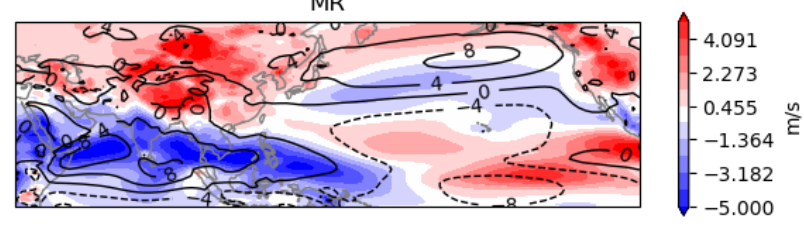
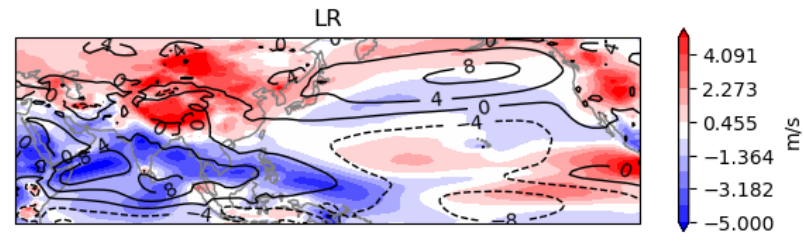
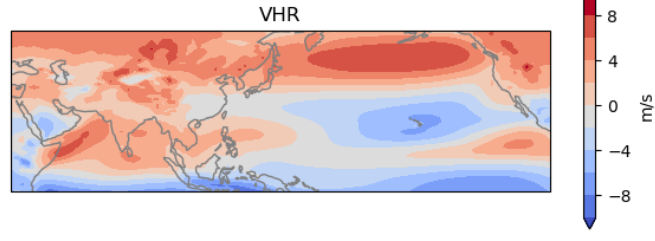
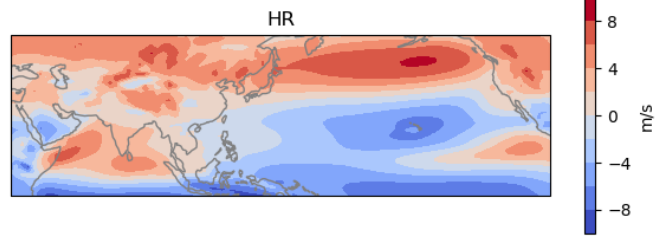
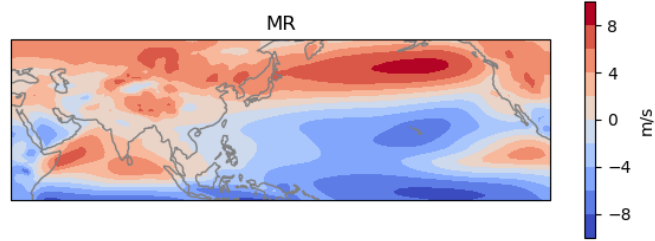
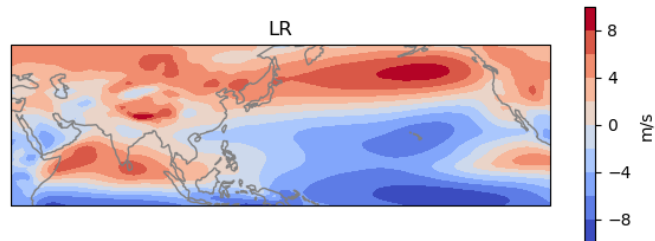
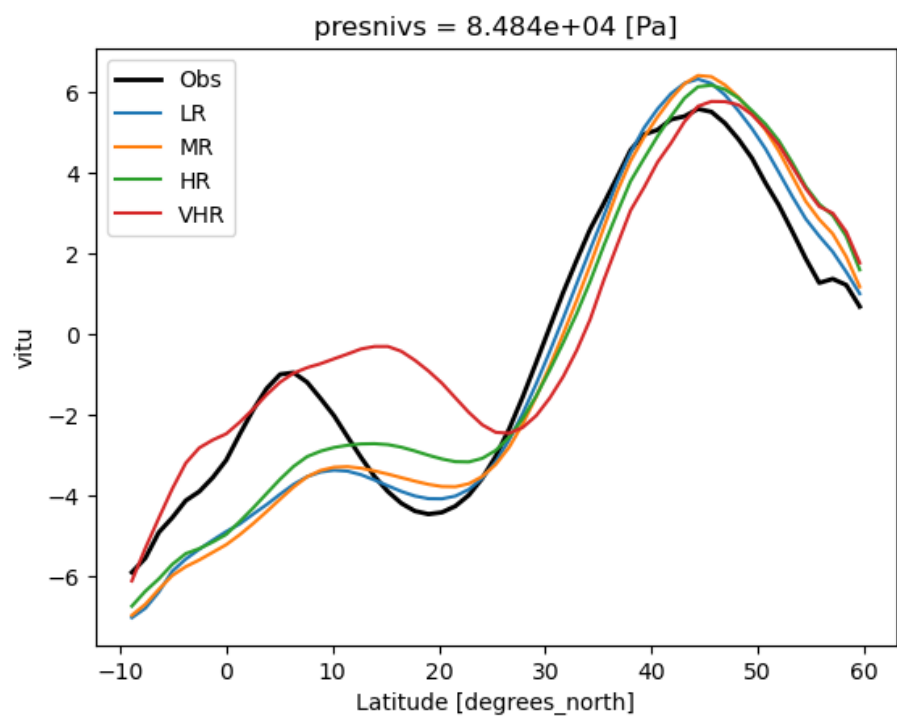
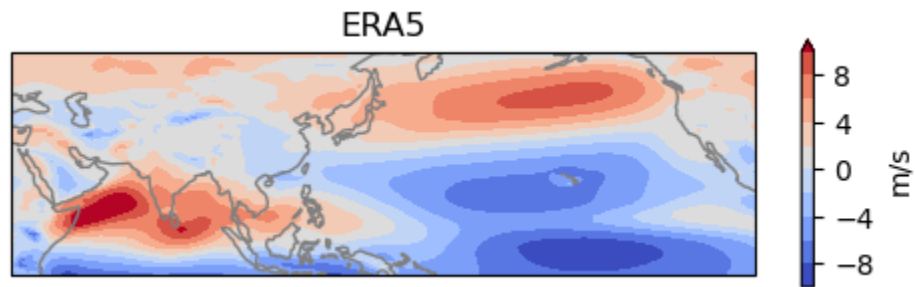


Le pic principal à 45°N est au bon endroit quoiqu'un peu fort et un peu au nord. Le pic secondaire est trop faible, trop au nord et problématique en VHR.

# U200

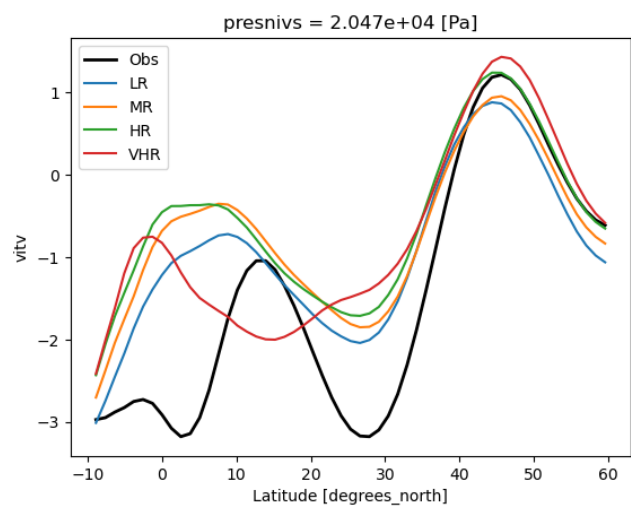
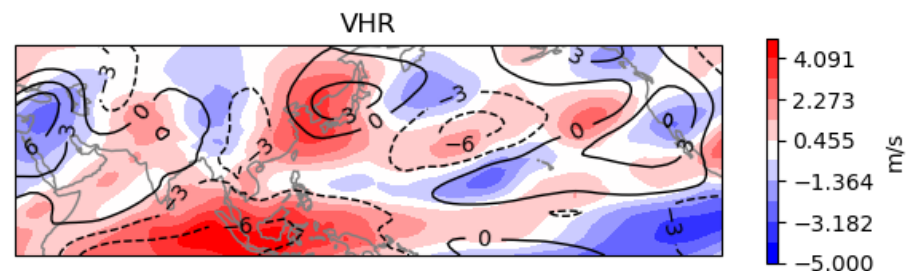
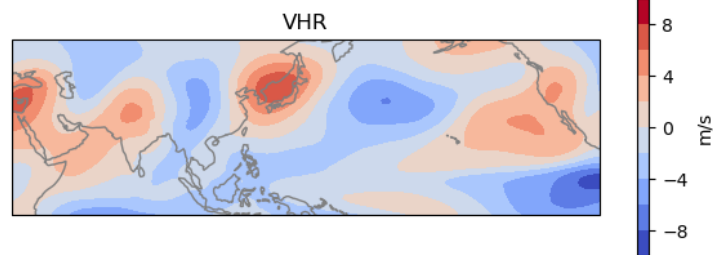
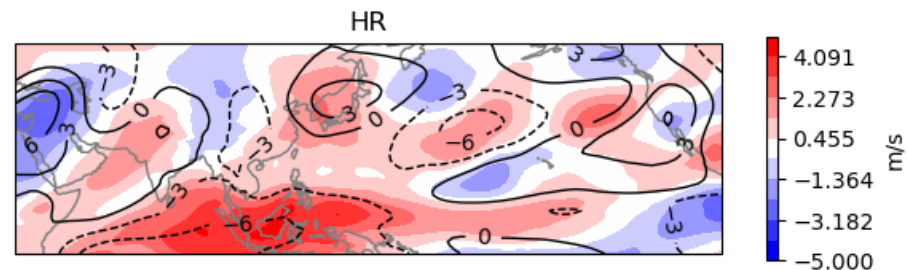
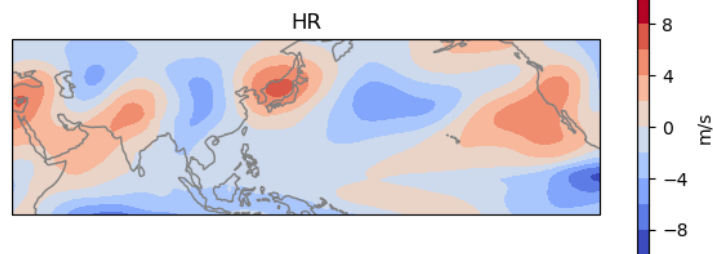
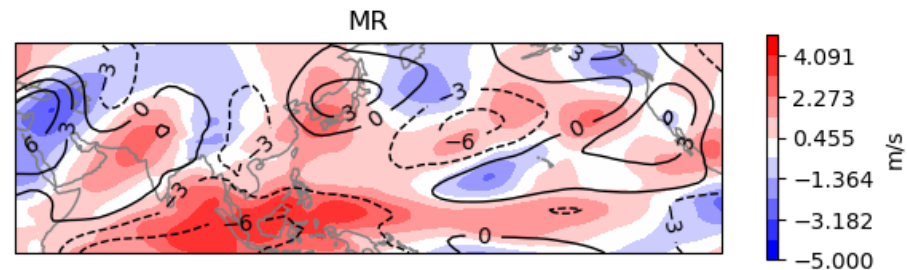
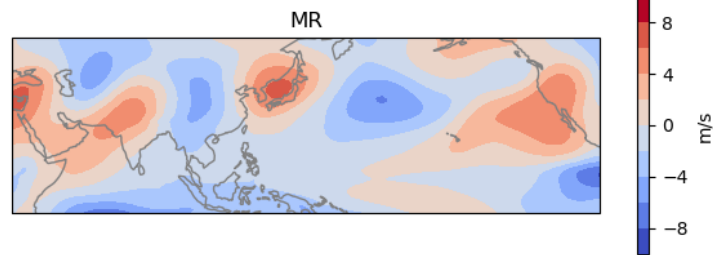
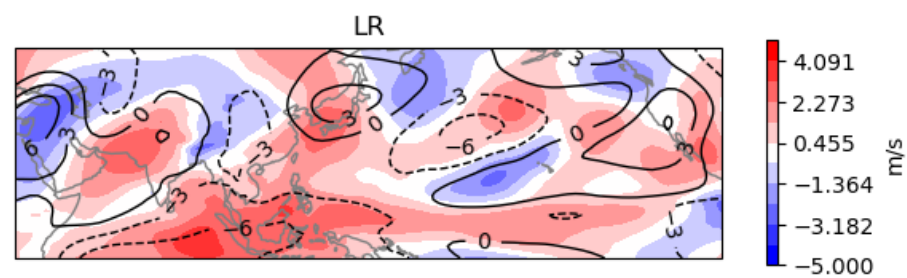
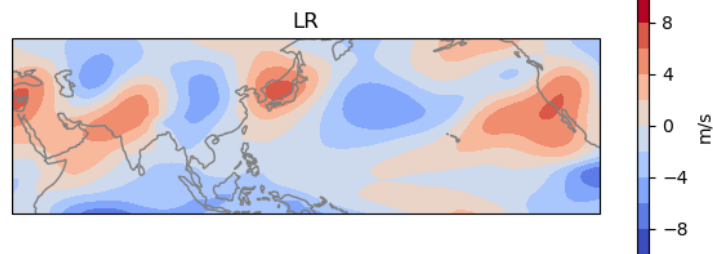
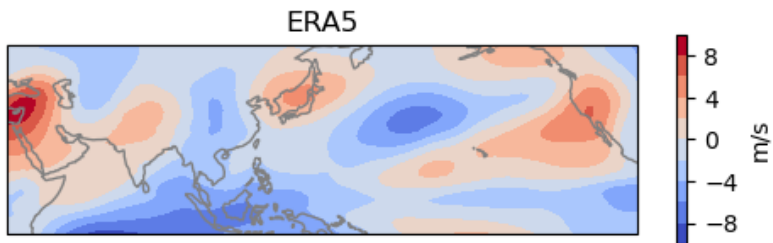


# U850



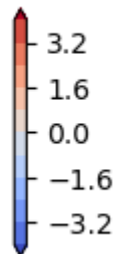
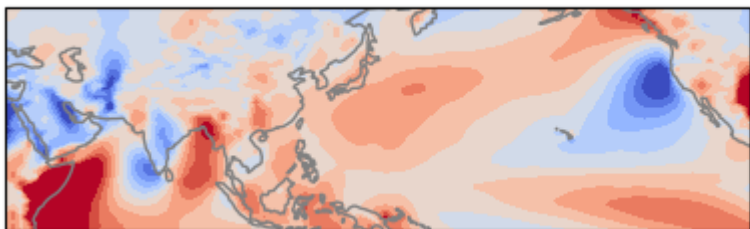
Pic principal assez bien reproduit, minimum à  $20^\circ\text{N}$  trop au nord en VHR

# V200

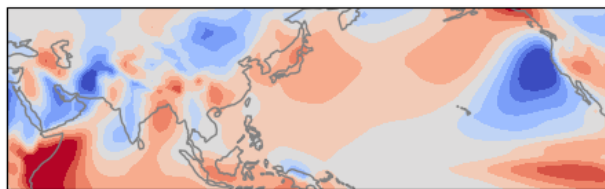


# V850

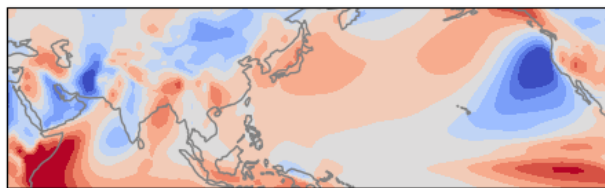
ERA5



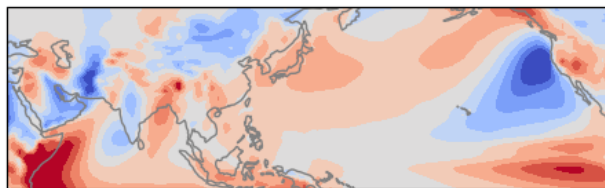
LR



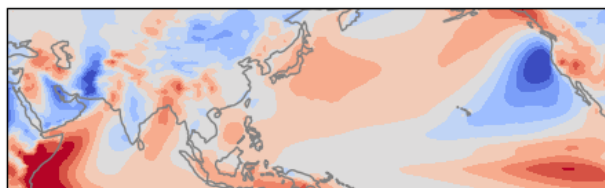
MR



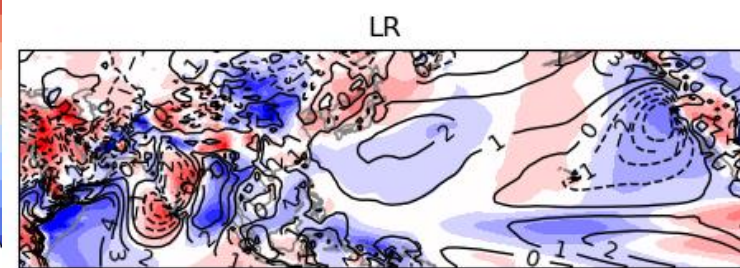
HR



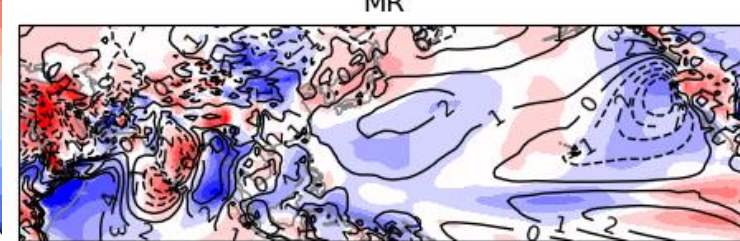
VHR



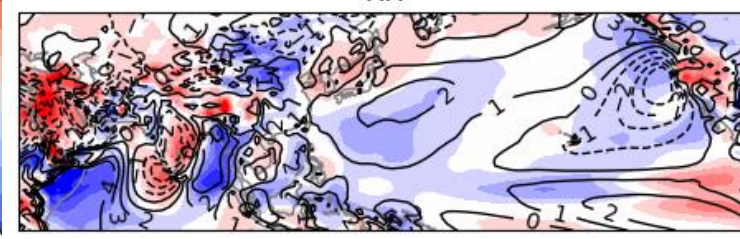
4.000



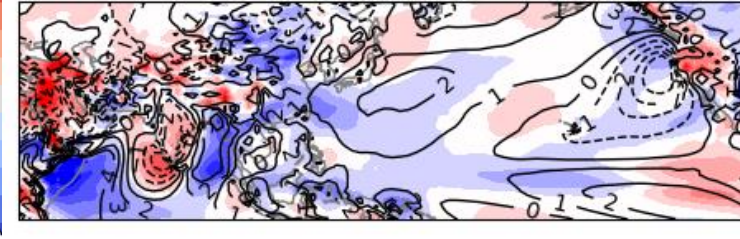
4.000



4.000



4.000



presnivs = 8.484e+04 [Pa]

