

Identifying stratospheric air intrusions and associated hurricane-force wind events over the north Pacific Ocean

Kelsey Malloy^{1,2}, Michael J. Folmer^{2,3}, LT Joseph Phillips², Joseph M. Sienkiewicz², Emily Berndt⁴

¹University of Maryland-College Park, ²NOAA/NWS Ocean Prediction Center,

³Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites, Maryland, ⁴NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition



BACKGROUND

Motivation

- Ocean data is sparse
 - Reliance on satellite imagery for marine forecasting
- Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) - "mariner's weather lifeline"
 - Responsible for:
 - Pacific, Atlantic, Pacific Alaska surface analyses/forecasts - 24, 48, 96 hr
 - Wind & wave analyses/forecasts - 24, 48, 96 hr
 - Warning Services & Decision Support
- Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite - R Series (now GOES-16)⁴ comparable to Japanese Meteorological Agency's Himawari-8

Stratospheric Air Intrusions

AKA: *tropopause folds*, *stratosphere-troposphere exchange (STE)*, *dry intrusion*

- Exchanges of air between stratosphere and troposphere
 - Differences in humidity, ozone levels, and potential vorticity
- Importance to weather systems^{1,3}
 - +PV anomaly changes vertical distribution of potential temperature & vorticity
 - Promotes rapid cyclogenesis

Research Question: How can integrating satellite data imagery and derived products help forecasters improve prognosis of rapid cyclogenesis and hurricane-force wind events?

Phase I - Identifying stratospheric air intrusions

- Water Vapor - 6.2, 6.9, 7.3 μm channels
- Airmass RGB Product
- AIRS, IASI, ATMS/CrIS total column ozone & ozone anomaly
- ASCAT (A/B) and AMSR-2 wind data

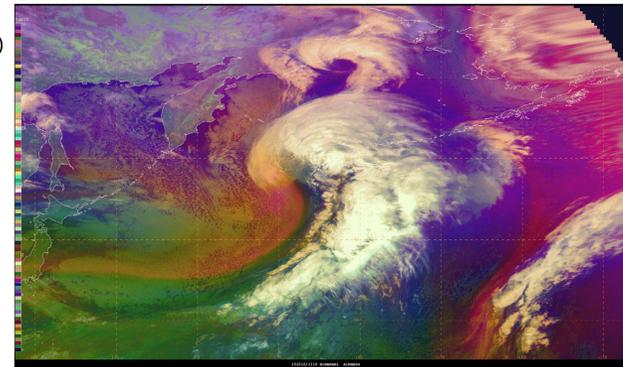
DATA & METHODS

Himawari-8 Airmass RGB

- Each color band represents a wavelength (difference)
- Different wavelengths capture different layers of atmosphere

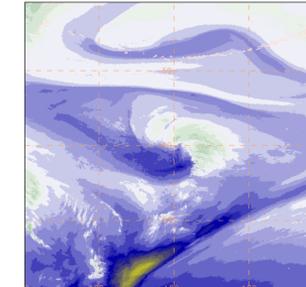
Red	6.2 μm minus 7.3 μm , representing moisture between 300-700 mb
Green	9.6 μm minus 10.3 μm , representing thermal response & tropopause height
Blue	6.2 μm inverted, representing moisture between 200-400 mb

DRY **MOIST**

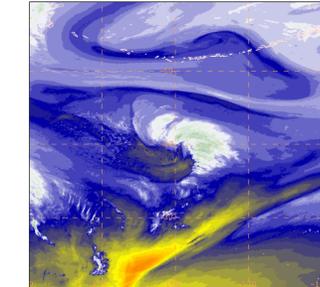


Himawari-8 Water Vapor

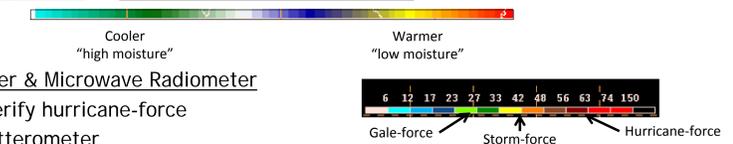
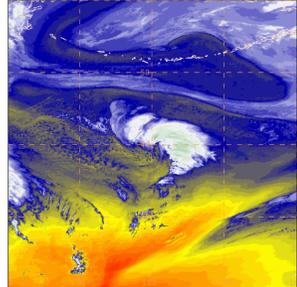
- Upper-layer**
- 6.2 μm channel
 - Peak response at ~ 350 mb



- Middle-layer**
- 6.9 μm channel
 - Peak response at ~ 450 mb



- Lower-layer**
- 7.3 μm channel
 - Peak response at ~ 650 mb

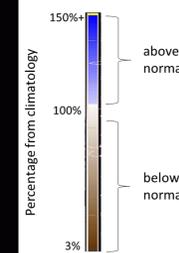
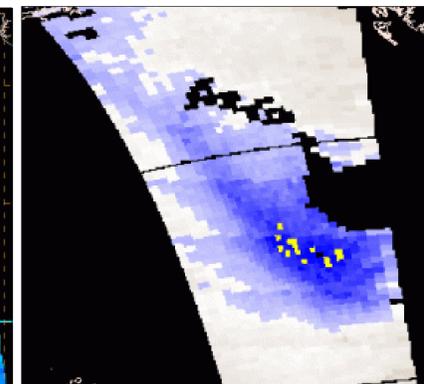
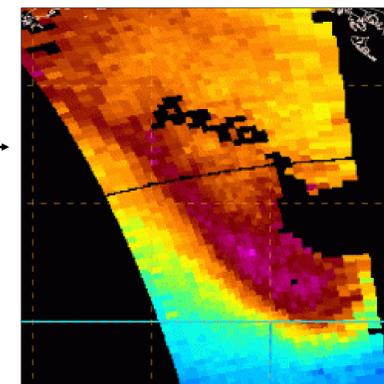


Total Column Ozone & Ozone Anomaly

- Used to help quantify Airmass RGB

Examples of instruments:

- Aqua's Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS)
- S-NPP's Cross-track Infrared Sounder/Advanced Technology Microwave Sounder (CrIS/ATMS)
- Metop-B's Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI)



Scatterometer & Microwave Radiometer

- Used to verify hurricane-force

Scatterometer

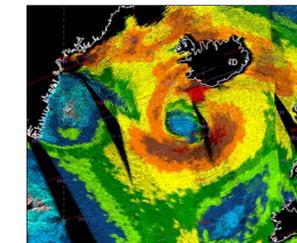
- Measures backscatter of radar signal for wind speed & direction

e.g. Advanced SCATterometer (A/B)

Microwave Radiometer

- Measures microwave signal response for only wind speed

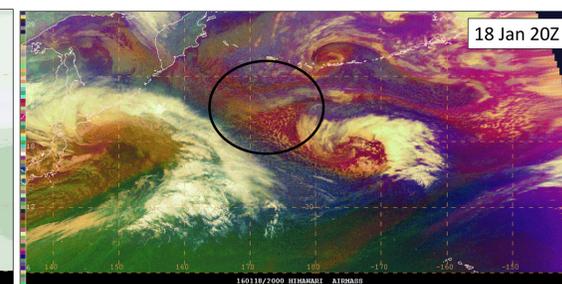
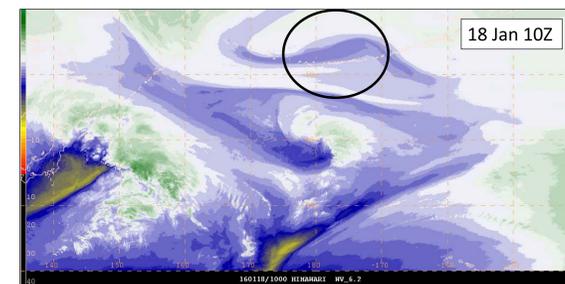
e.g. Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer (AMSR-2)



CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

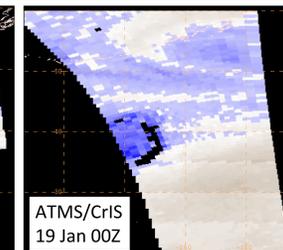
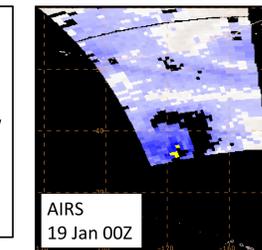
Case: January 17-19, 2016

- Developed rapidly despite small size
- Hard to distinguish its early features



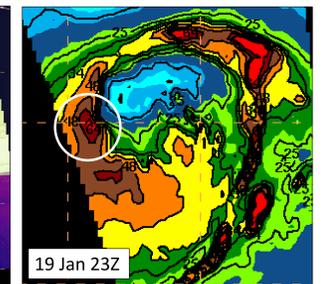
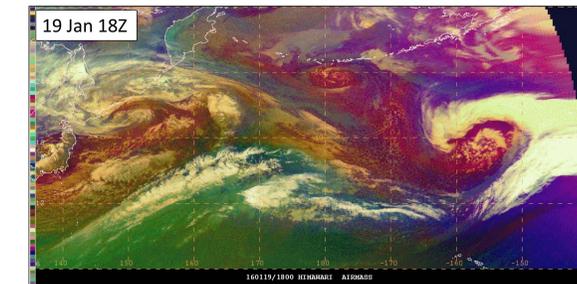
2. Rapid Development

- Small comma cloud that gets brighter
- Clear dry belt using RGB Airmass red colors
- Vortex lobe north of system that threatens, eventually intersecting with original streamer
- Anomalous ozone becoming more condensed
- AIRS suggesting 150%+ climatology



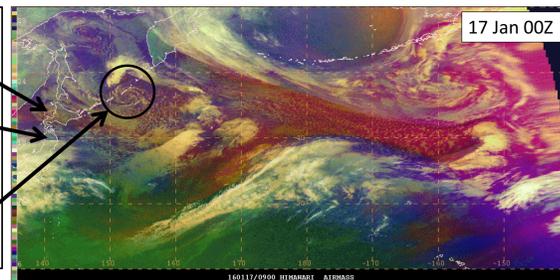
3. Peak Intensity

- Shapiro-Keyser cyclone model features
 - Before peak intensity, cloud head becomes more zonally oriented
 - Vortex shedding
- Can spot the dry belt, cold front, occlusion using RGB Airmass
- Possible warm seclusion in low pressure center
- AMSR-2 picks up hurricane-force winds right outside occlusion



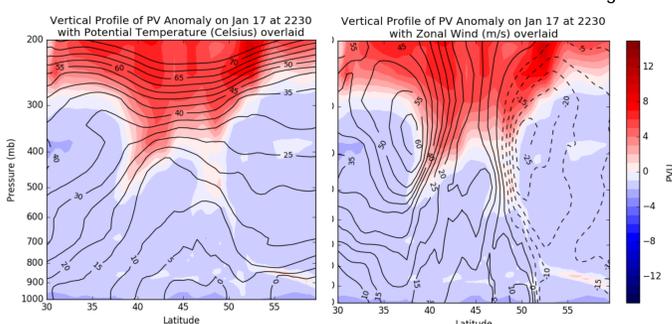
1. Early features

- PV streamer
- Baroclinic leaf supplying latent heat
- Piece of vorticity absorbed by streamer



MERRA-2 Global Reanalysis Model Visualization

- Intrusion develops January 17 seen by dip of anomalous PV
- Stable air associated with stratosphere and less-stable air in troposphere
- Counterclockwise rotation around intrusion and max winds at PV gradient



Cross-section (170°E, 30° to 60°N) of intrusion for 17 January 2230 UTC with PV anomaly with respect to 2 PVU as dynamical tropopause; (left) overlaid with potential temperature and (right) overlaid with zonal wind

CONCLUSION

Summary

- Stratospheric air intrusions \rightarrow +PV \rightarrow Explosive cyclogenesis \rightarrow Hurricane-force winds
- Single Water Vapor channels supply forecasters with information about jet stream interactions and tropopause folds
 - Can only look at single layer of atmosphere at a time
 - Doesn't give info about if air is from stratosphere
- Potential in Airmass RGB + ozone products to identify stratospheric air intrusions
 - Demonstrated in case studies
 - Experimental for real-time use

Future Work

- Finishing case studies
 - Similar satellite imagery
 - MERRA-2 global reanalysis model visualization
- Build instructional toolkit for OPC and Alaskan Weather Forecast Offices
 - More real-time use
 - Training for RGB Airmass and ozone products as supplementary information about stratospheric air intrusions
 - Apply to GOES-16

Name	Date Range	Reasons for Interest
Bering Sea Bomb	December 10-13, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the strongest (924 mb center) non-tropical storms on record Large impacts
Spring Transition	April 5-9, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late season cyclone Atypical development
TC Songda Transition	October 12-15, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lost most of its tropical features Atypical extratropical transition & development

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CONTACT

kelsey.malloy@noaa.gov
michael.folmer@noaa.gov