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International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



**2148-Presentations**

**Fifth ICTP Workshop on the Theory and Use of Regional Climate  
Models**

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**RegCM4 simulation of dust storm in Arizona December 22nd 2009**

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# RegCM4 simulation of dust storm in Arizona December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009

## INTERSTATE - 10

### Interstate pileup

A sudden dust storm was the likely cause of a fatal accident along Interstate 10 near Cottonwood Lane.



Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety  
The Phoenix Republic



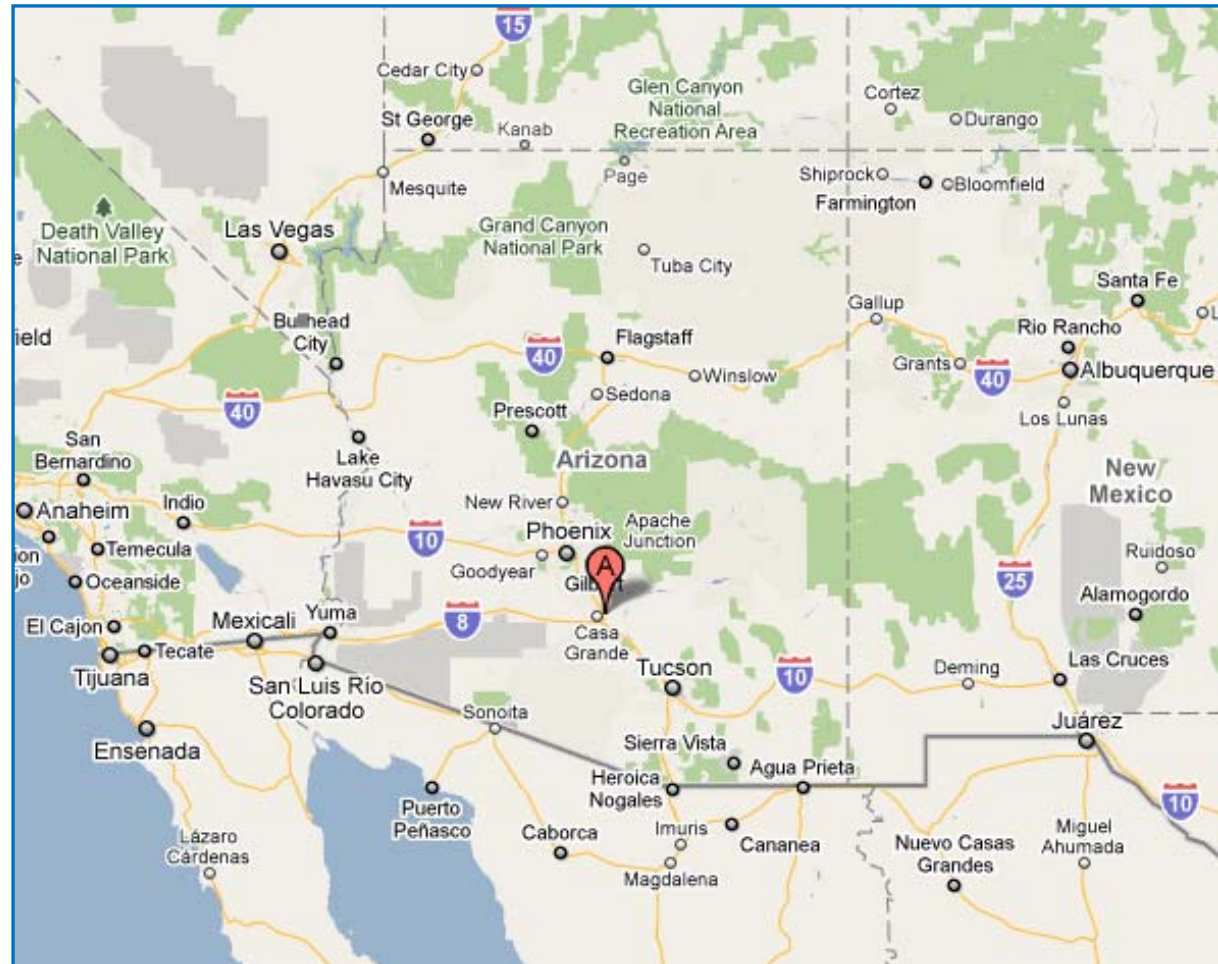
Mirjam Vujadinovic  
Ana Vukovic  
University of Belgrade  
Serbia

## Model setup:

- resolution: 10km
- model run: 72 hours; 21<sup>st</sup> 00 UTC - 24<sup>th</sup> 00 UTC December 2009
- icbc: ECMWF analysis; resolution 0.5 degrees
- output on 1h
- model domain:  
Arizona

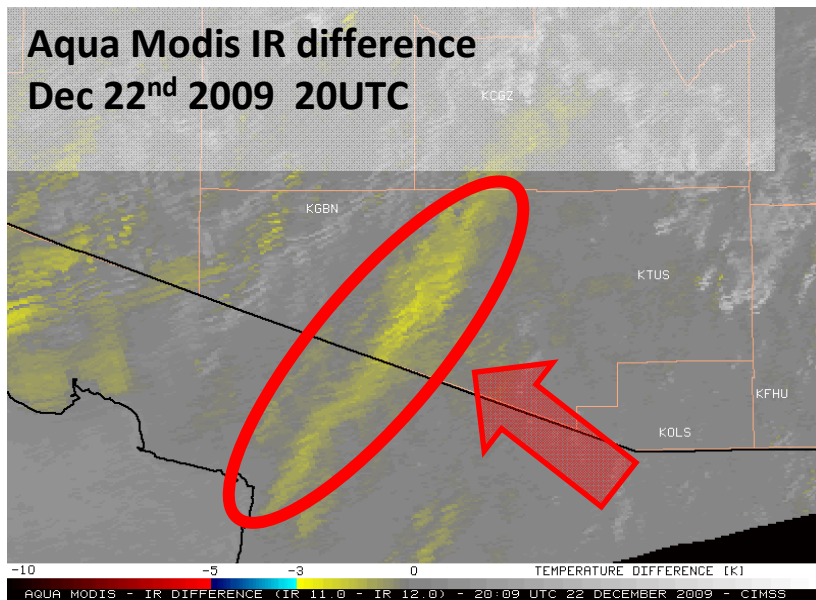
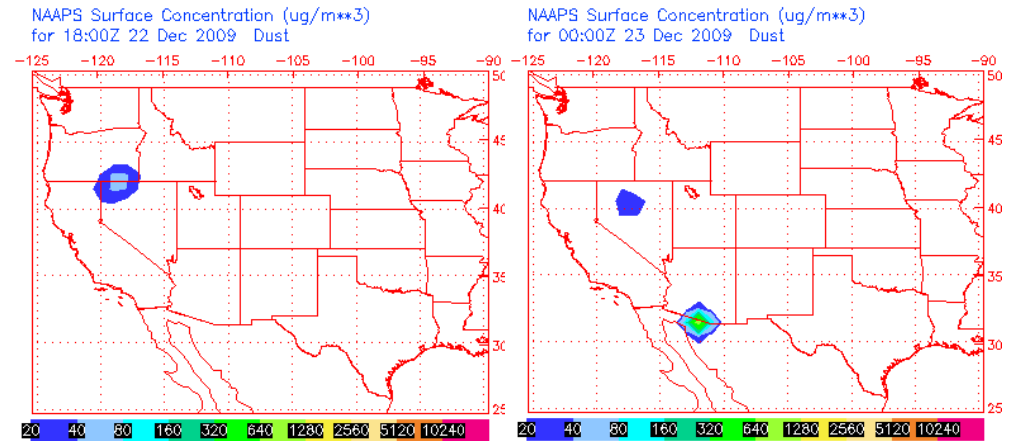
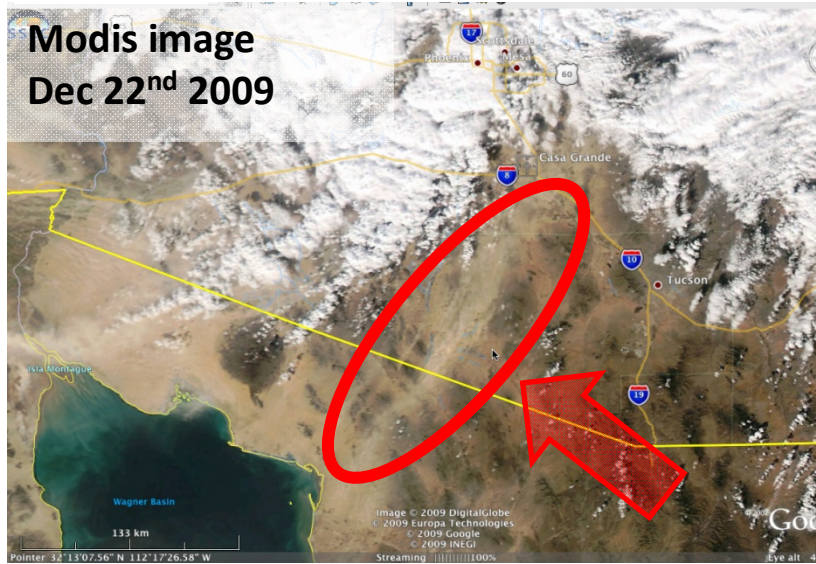
## Verification:

- pm10 measurements
- satellite images

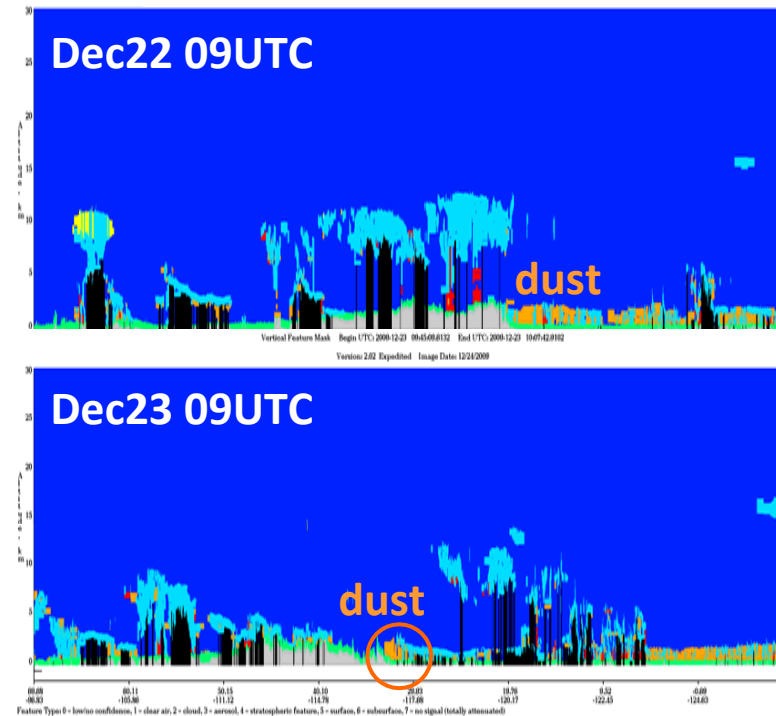


# Satellite images and NAAPS:

## NAAPS Global Aerosol Model



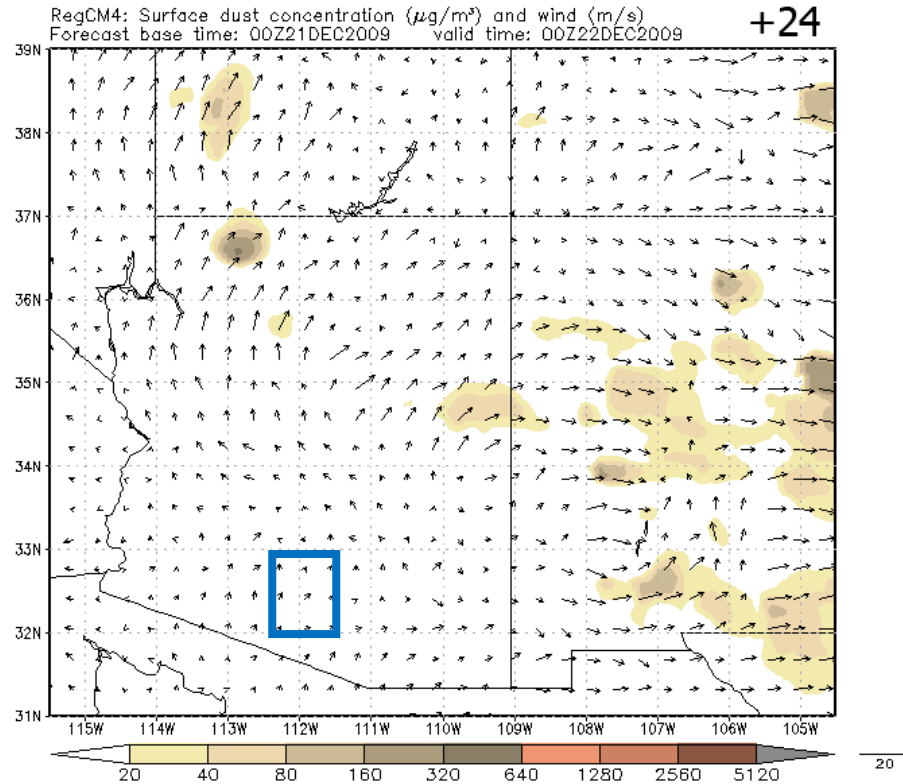
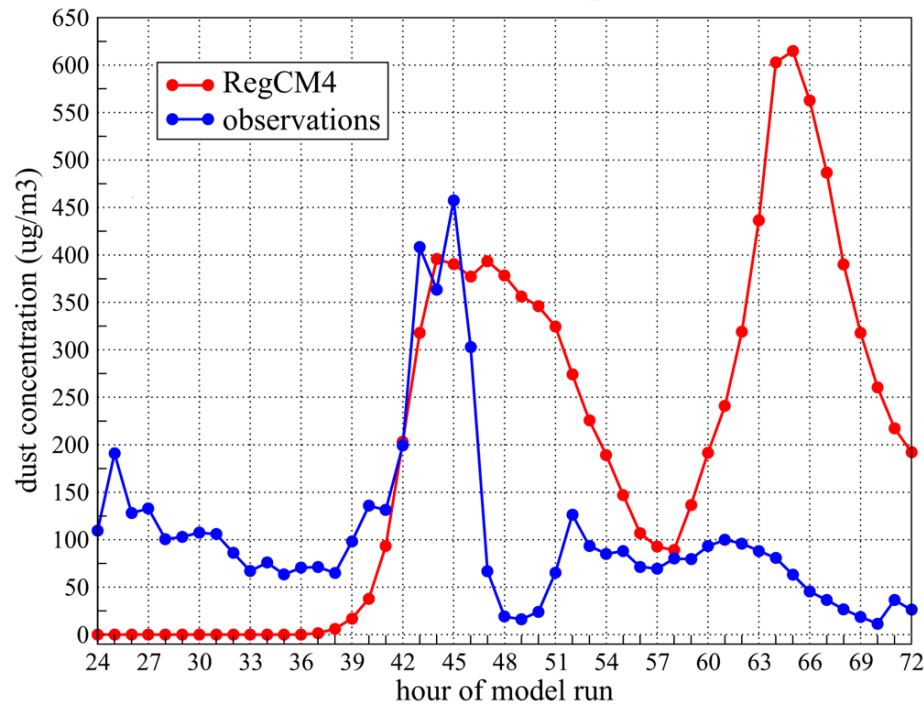
## CALIPSO DATA NEAR ARIZONA



# 1. case: large domain

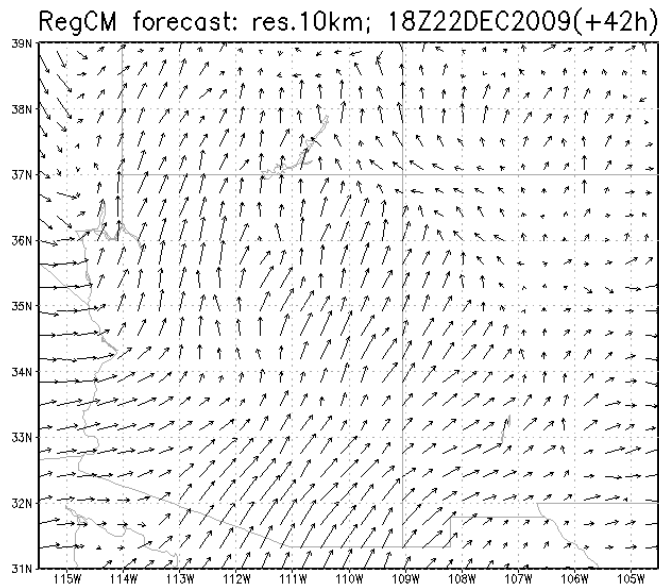
- 22 Dec 00 UTC (+24h) – 24 Dec 00 UTC (+72h)

Surface dust concentration pm10  
mean value for: Casa Grande, Maricopa, Stanfield, Cowtown

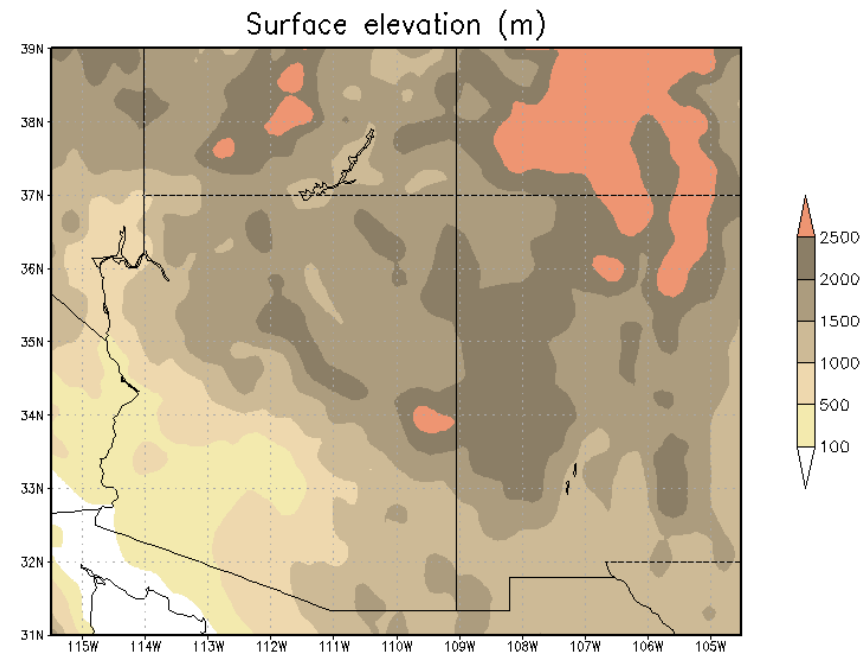
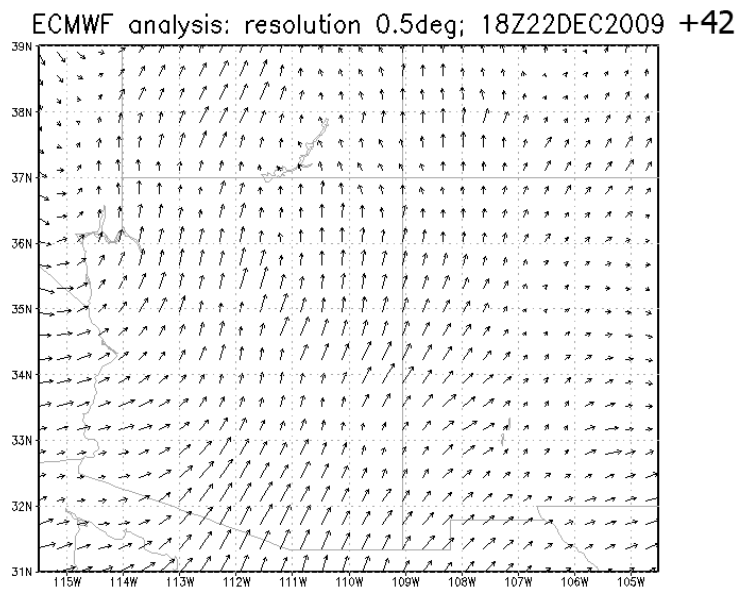


- first signal is well simulated, but second signal is fake !

# Explanation of the fake signal

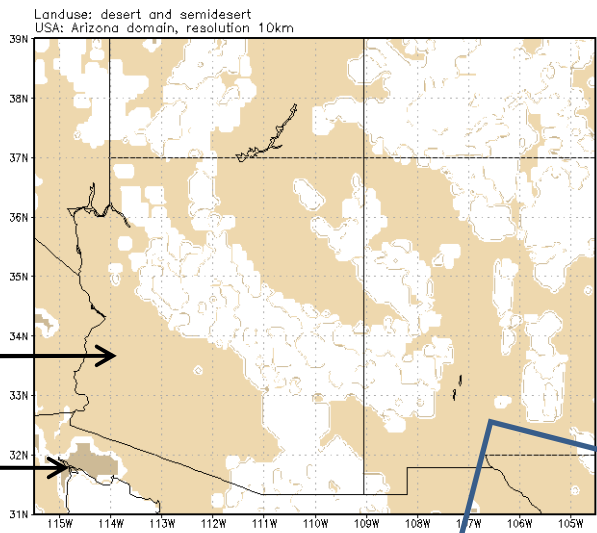


- velocity field: RegCM4 and ECMWF analysis at lowest model level: velocity is well forecasted with RegCM4 !
- elevation: south-west Arizona is at low altitudes and with no snow; at higher altitudes and in Dec. probably with snow; in model – no initialization of snow !

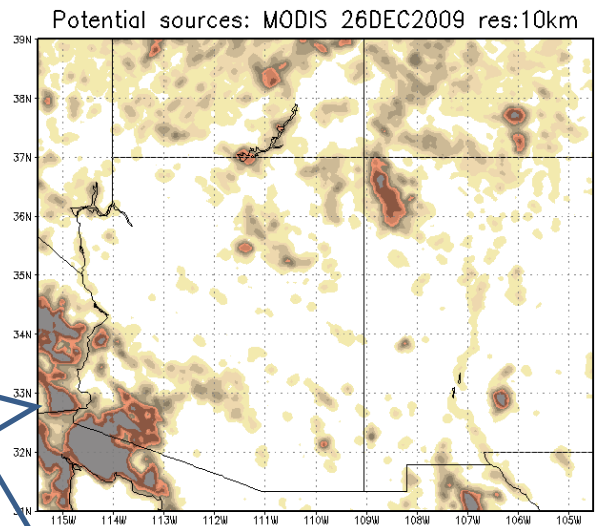


- landuse and texture: RegCM4 and MODIS

**RegCM4 potential sources**



**MODIS potential sources**



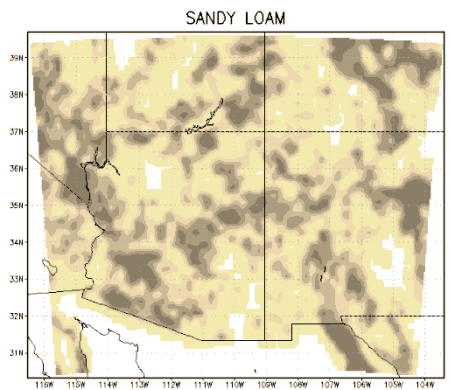
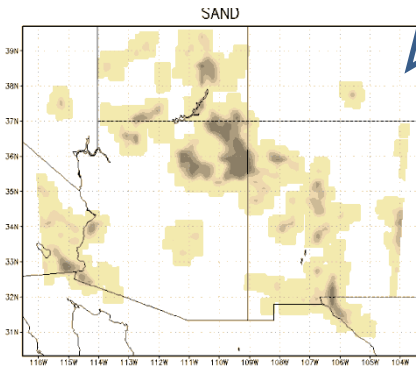
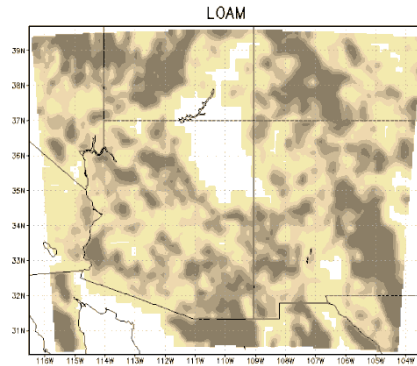
↑ Bare soil  
full vegetation

semi-desert →

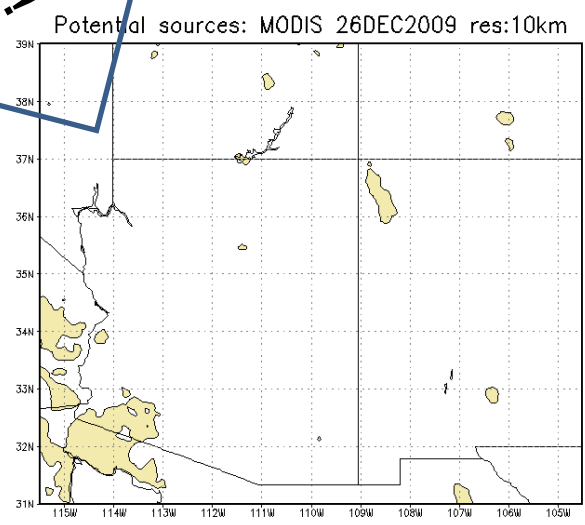
desert →

**Compare!**

**how model would see the MODIS mask:**



80  
60  
40  
20  
0



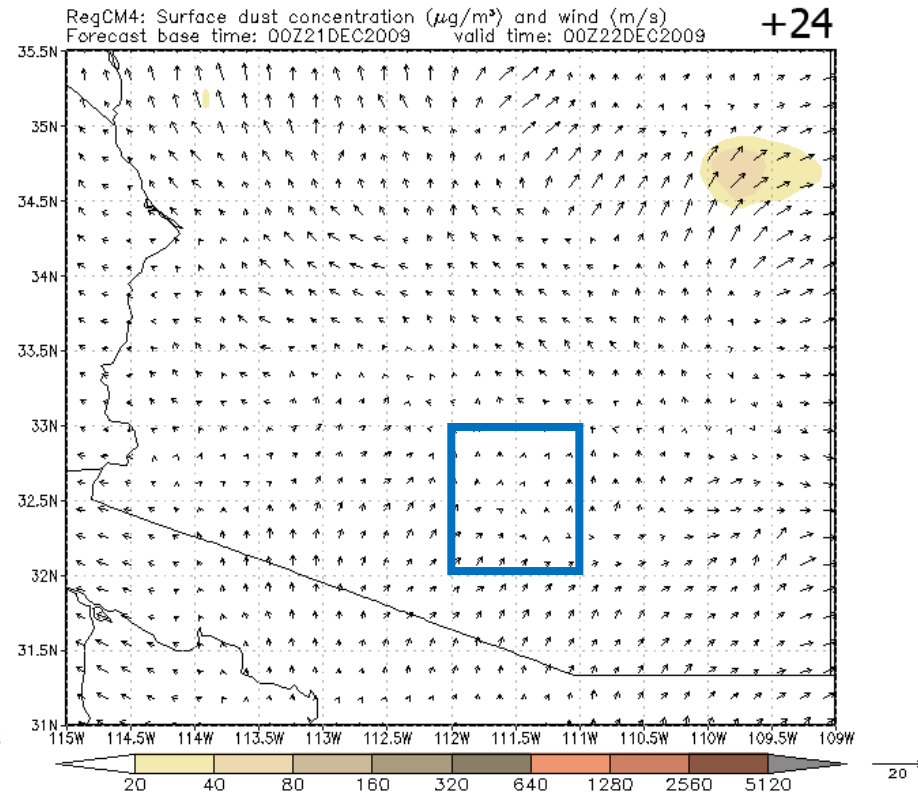
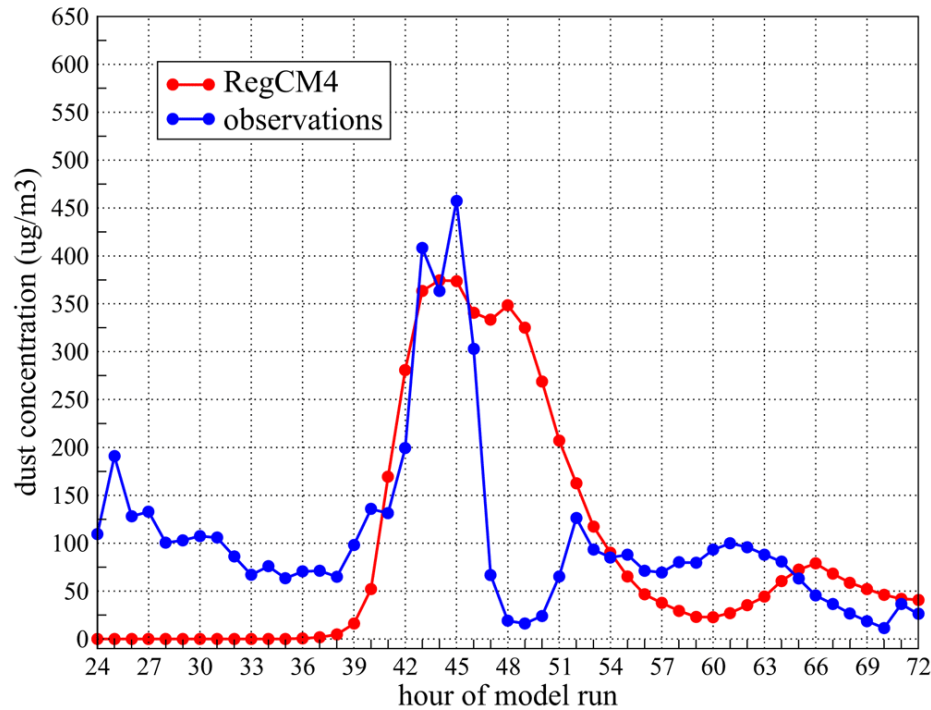
0.5

24/05/05

## 2. case: small domain

- 22 Dec 00 UTC (+24h) – 24 Dec 00 UTC (+72h)

Surface dust concentration pm10 (smaller domain)  
mean value for: Casa Grande, Maricopa, Stanfield, Cowtown

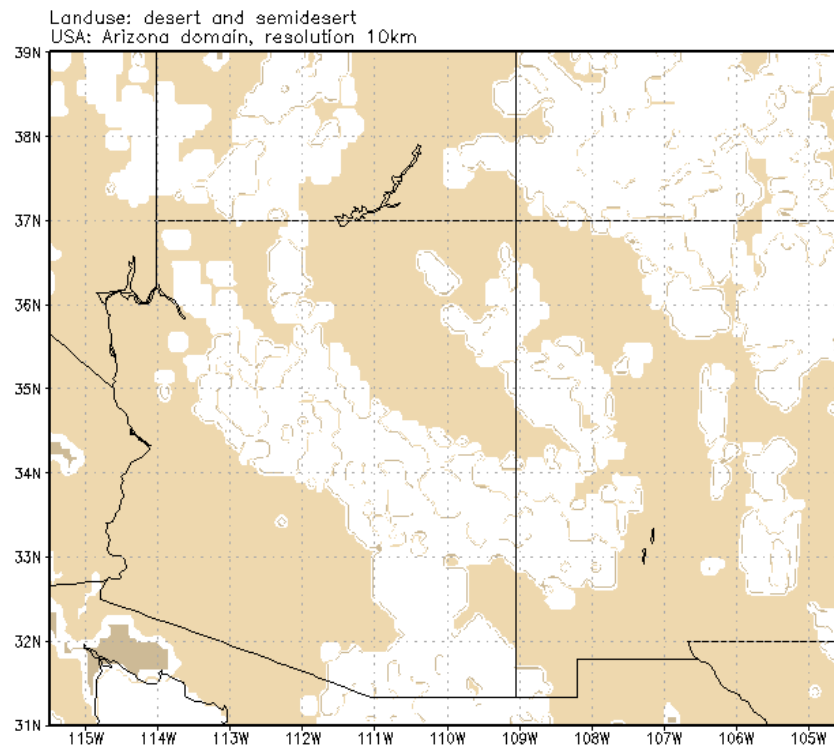


- first signal is well simulated, **NO MORE FAKE SIGNAL !**

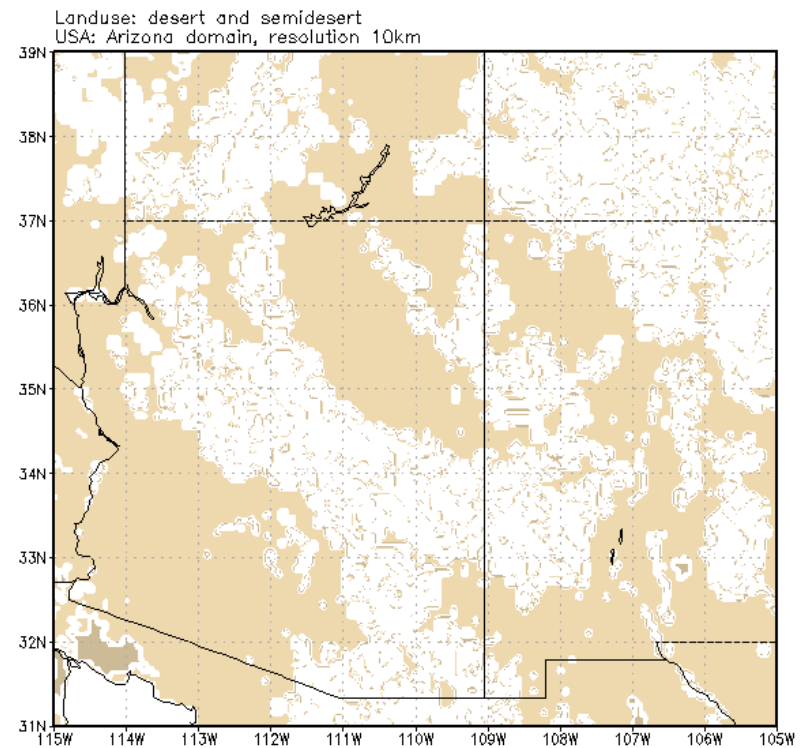


### 3. case: large domain with 7km resolution

landuse – 10km resolution



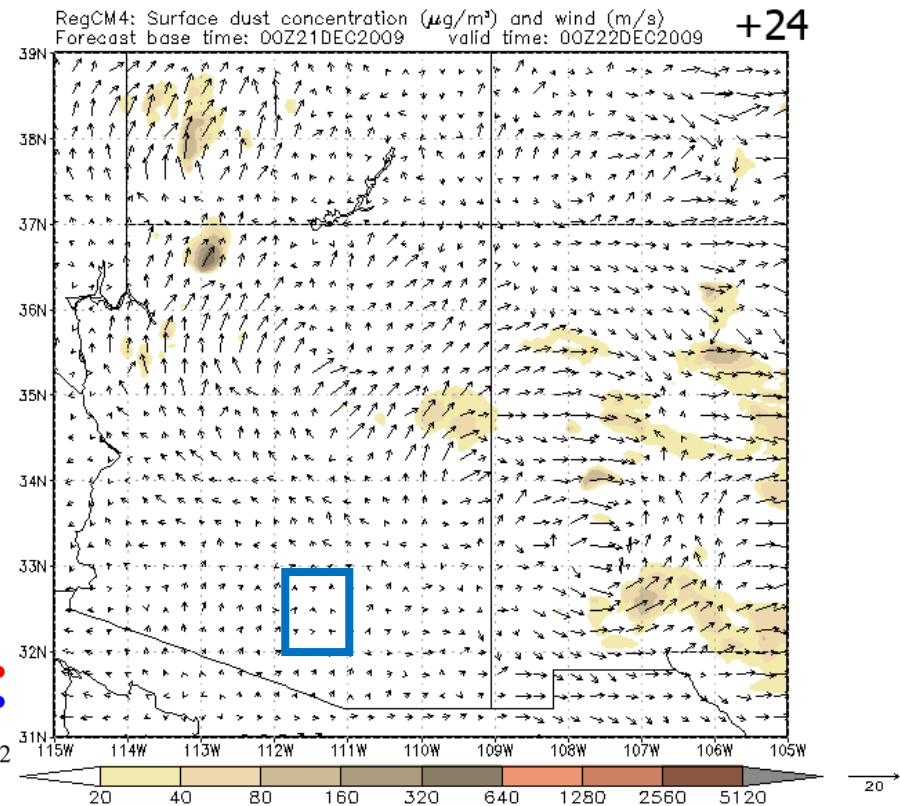
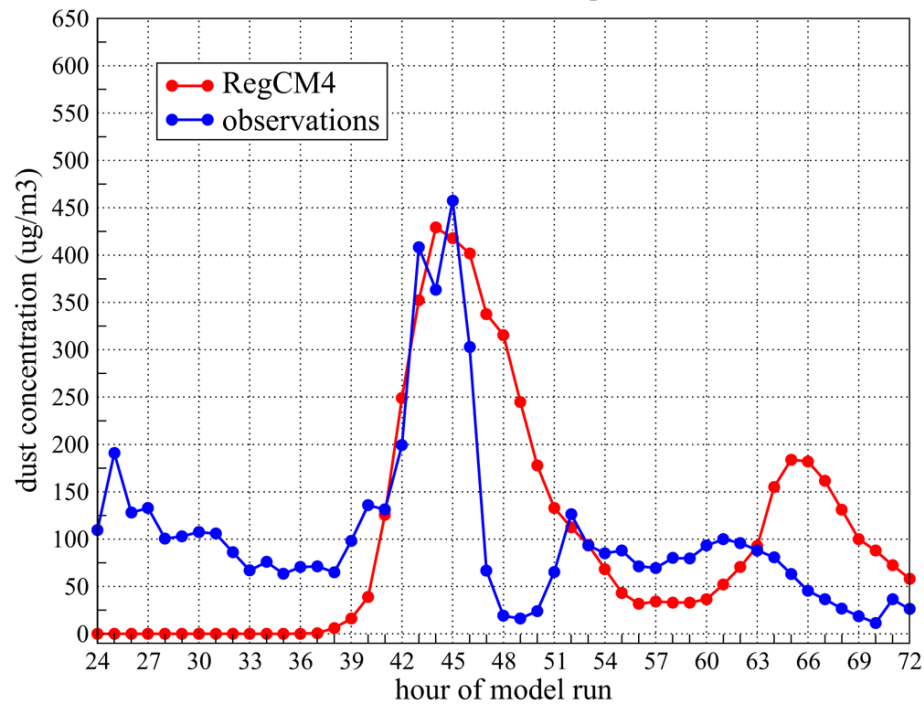
landuse – 7km resolution



# Results for 7km resolution:

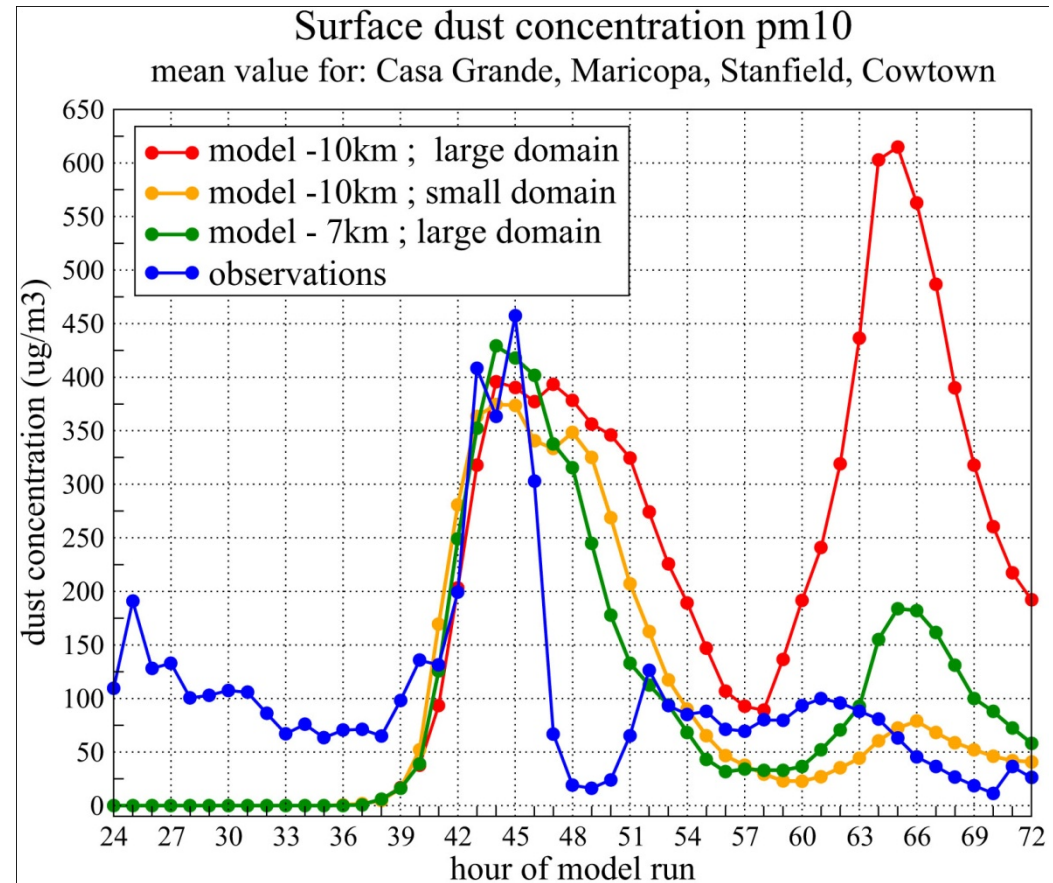
- 22 Dec 00 UTC (+24h) – 24 Dec 00 UTC (+72h)

Surface dust concentration pm10 (resolution 7km)  
mean value for: Casa Grande, Maricopa, Stanfield, Cowtown



- first signal is better simulated (narrow signal),  
higher resolution reduced fake signal !

... at the end ...  
all in one



thanks to: Bi  
Ashraf  
Fabien  
Baris  
Deniz

for: PreProc EINT50  
idea to run dust simulation  
tips & tricks in dust scheme  
ntypc ntypc\_s

Special thanks to Filippo & crew for introducing us to RegCM community :)