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The Use of Satellite Data for Nowcasting: The ForTraCC Technique

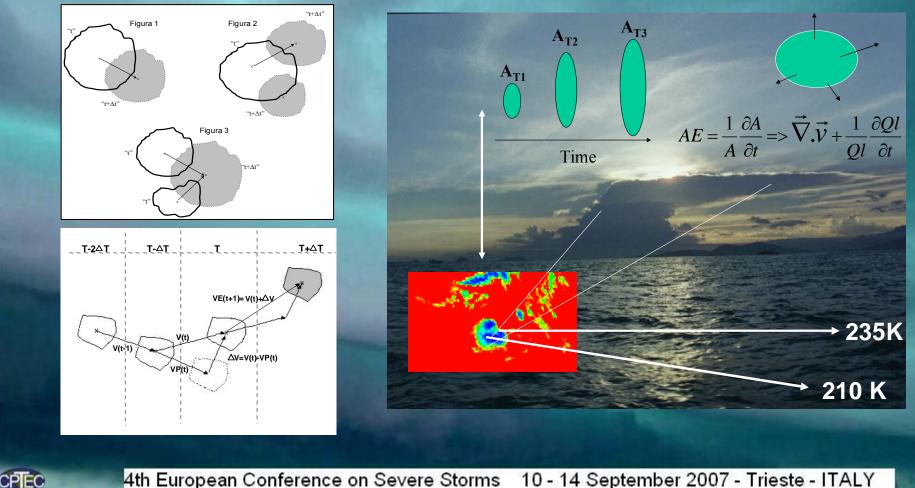
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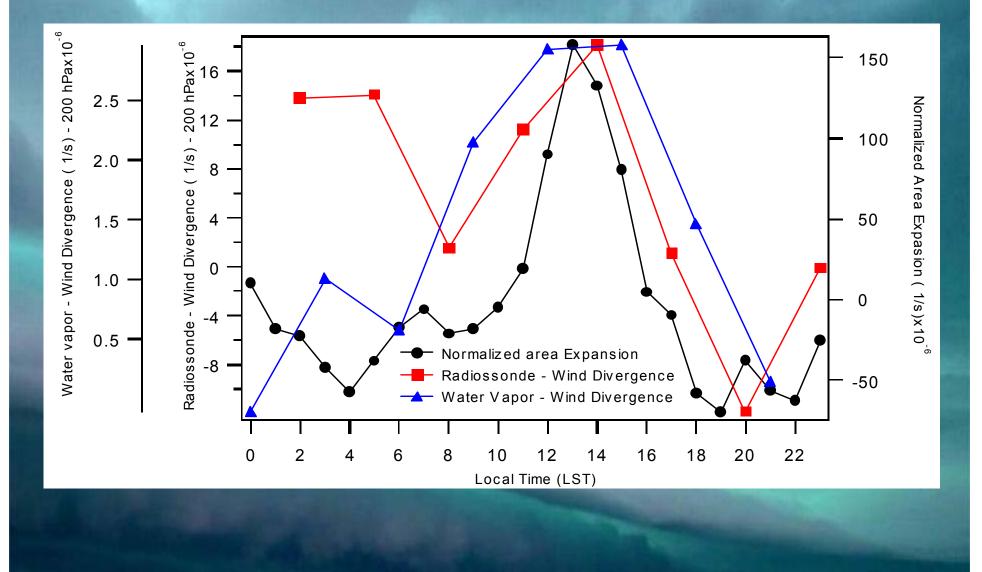
This study presents the ForTraCC (Forecasting and Tracking of Cloud Cluster) technique using satellite or radar data. ForTraCC is an algorithm for tracking and forecast the physical characteristic of mesoscale convective systems through its whole life cycle



4th European Conference on Severe Storms 10 - 14 September 2007 - Trieste - ITALY

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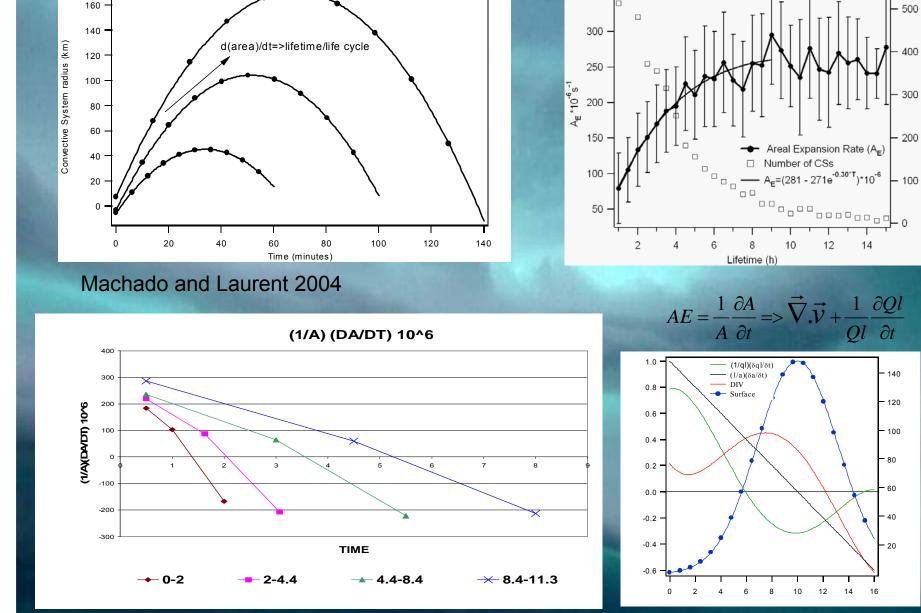
Hourly average area expansion, water vapor wind divergence and wind divergence from radiossonde for 200 hPa level at WETAMC/LBA region.



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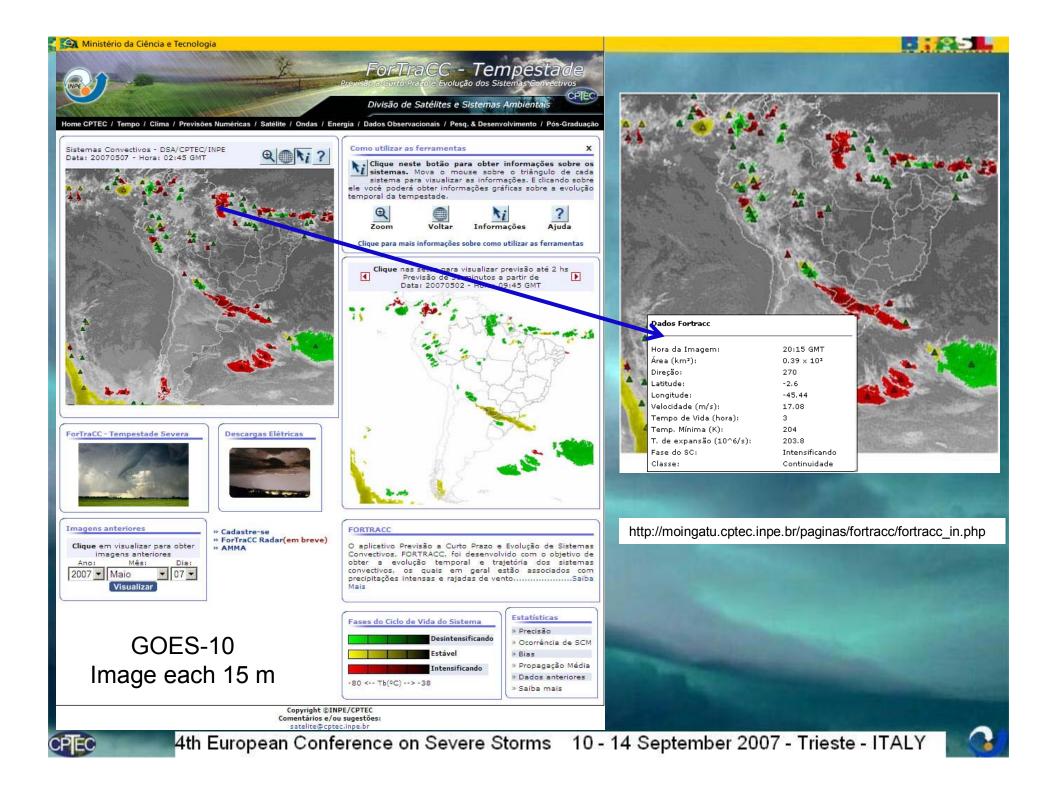


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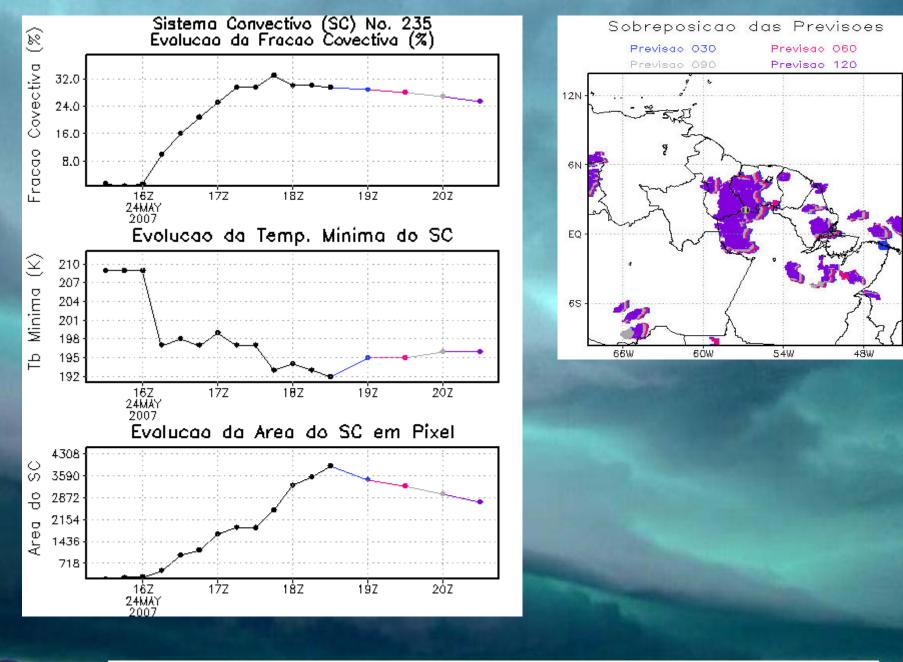
350

Number of Convective System



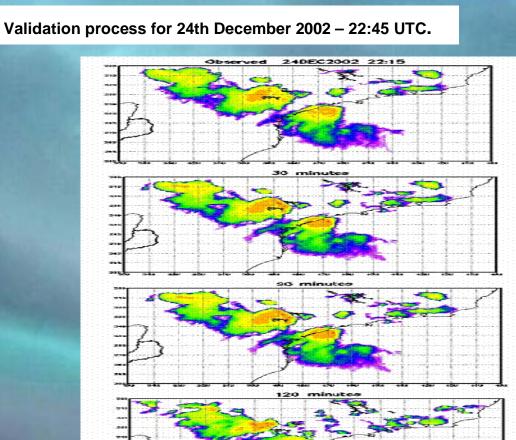
Al Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia

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Observed 24th December 2002 – 22:45 UTC

30 minutes – Forecast initiated on 24th December 2002 – 22:15

90 minutes – Forecast initiated on 24th December 2002 – 21:15

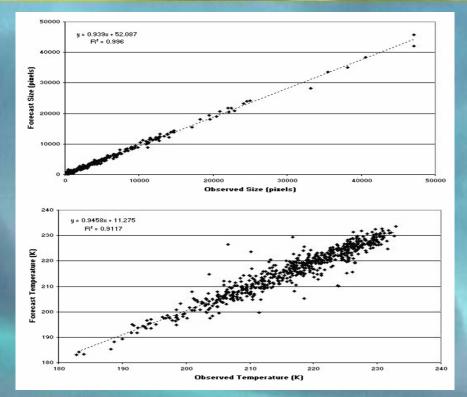
120 minutes – Forecast initiated on 24th December 2002 – 20:45

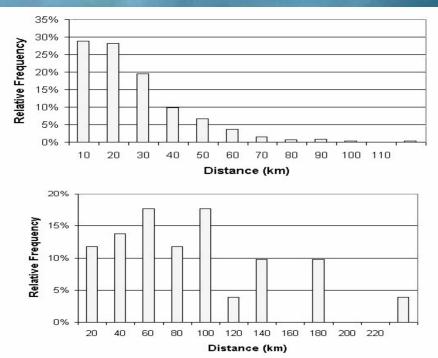
	30 min	60 min	90 min	120 min
ACU	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.96
BIAS	0.96	0.95	0.91	0.87
POD	0.77	0.64	0.54	0.44
FAR	0.20	0.32	0.41	0.49



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□ Relative Frequency

Observed and forecasted MCS size and minimum temperature. 30-minutes forecast

Relative frequency of distance classes between observed and forecasted mass center. 30-120 minutes forecast

Time	Forecast			Non-Forecast		
	Δ Size (in %)	Δ Tmed (in K)	Δ Tmin (in K)	Δ Size (in %)	Δ Tmed (in K)	Δ Tmin (in K)
30	-1.87%	0.25	0.35	-3.17%	0.34	0.46
60	-4.20%	0.59	0.66	-8.24%	0.50	0.62
90	-7.80%	0.75	0.52	-23.50%	0.79	0.93
120	1.81%	0.75	-0.35	-28.80%	1.00	0.88

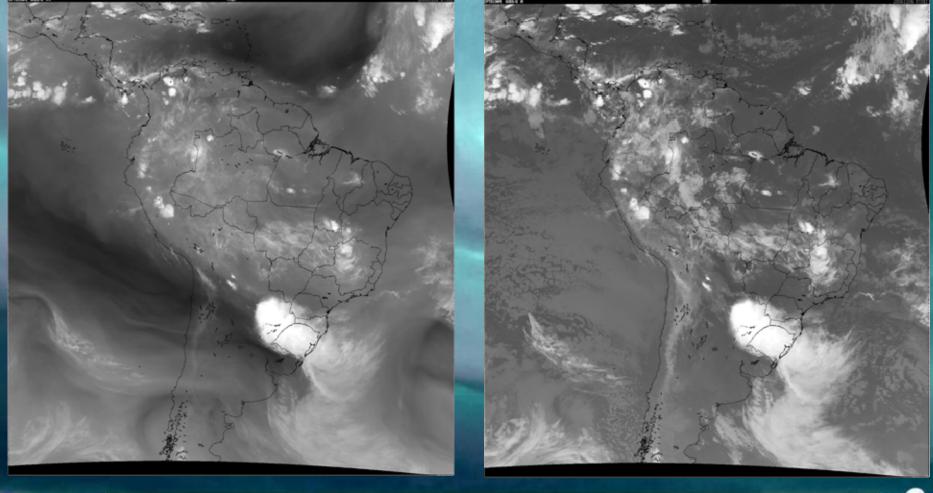
Mean bias (Δ) of the size (expressed in % to express the relative variation in size) and minimum temperature for forecast and non-forecast (conservative situation).





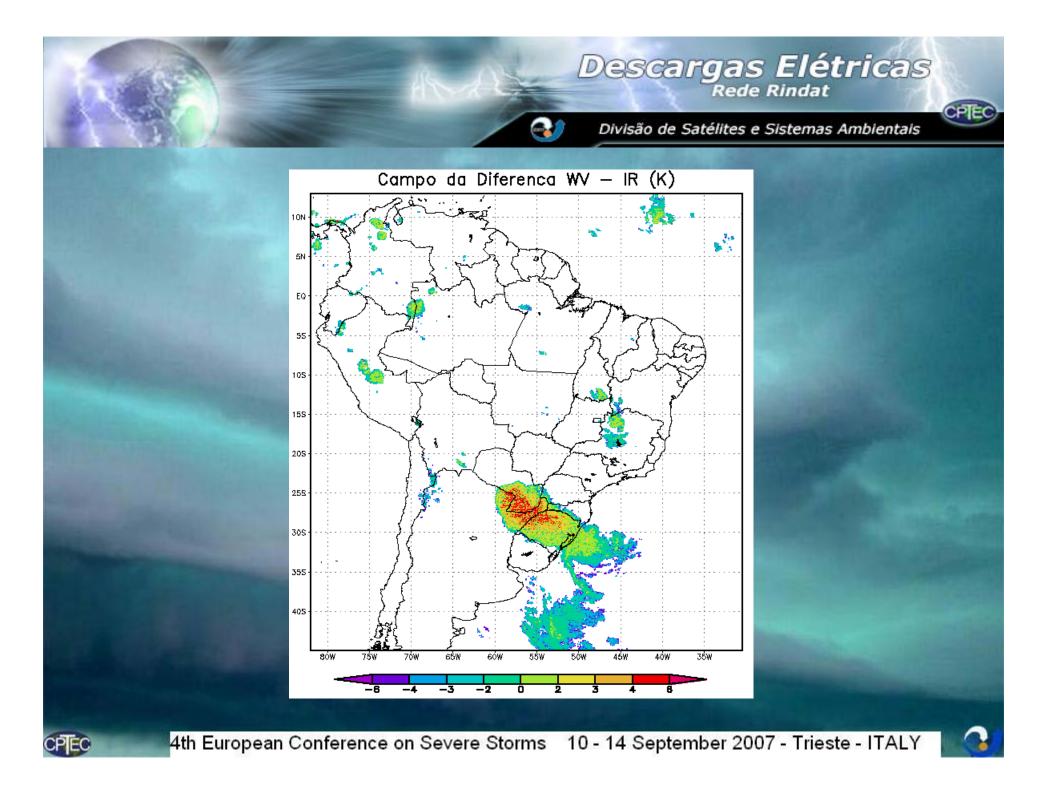


WV – IR Channel Difference CANAL WV CANAL IR



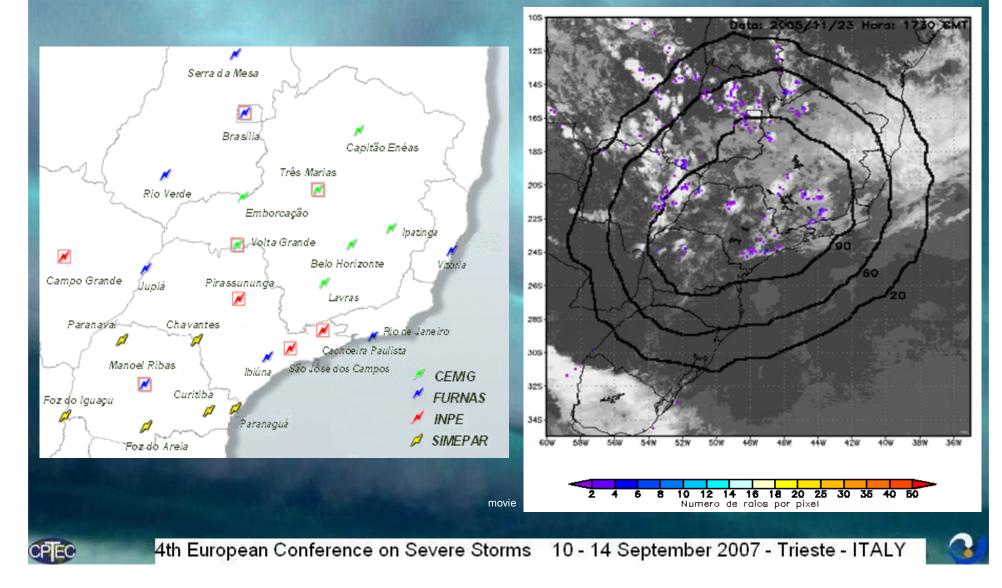
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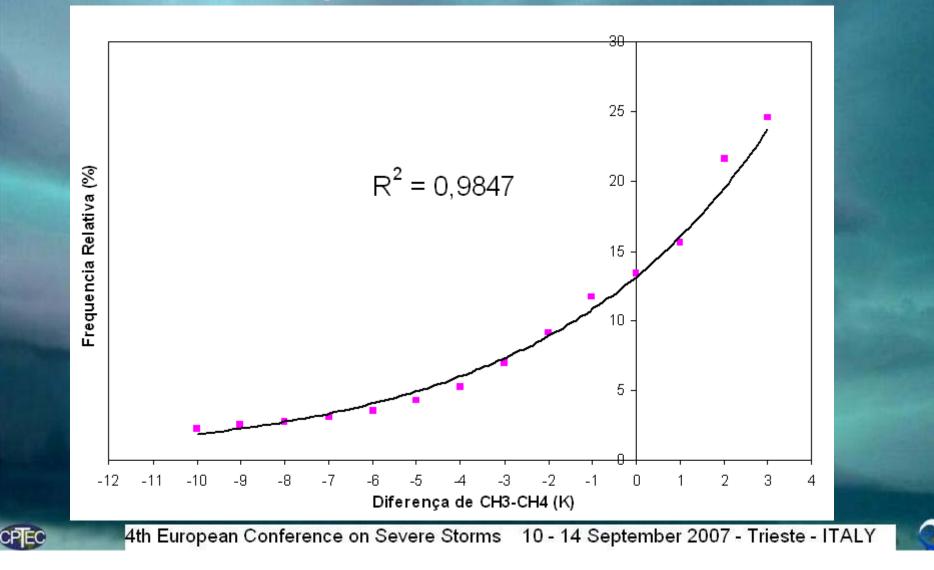


Ground Lightning Network

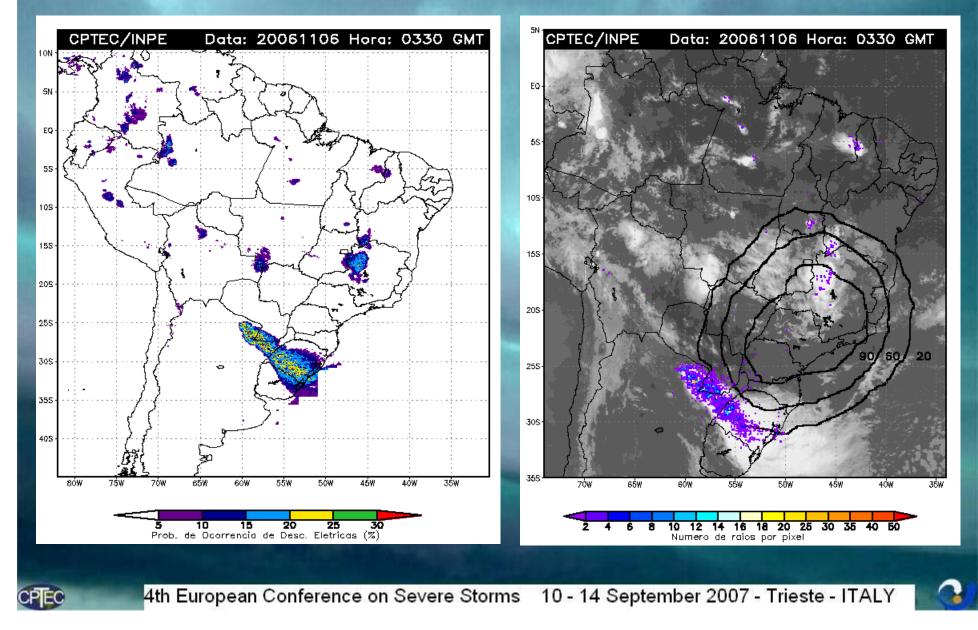


$\Delta T = Tb3 - Tb4$

∆T ≥ - 2.0, >~10% Probability to have Lightning Classify as Penetrative Clouds

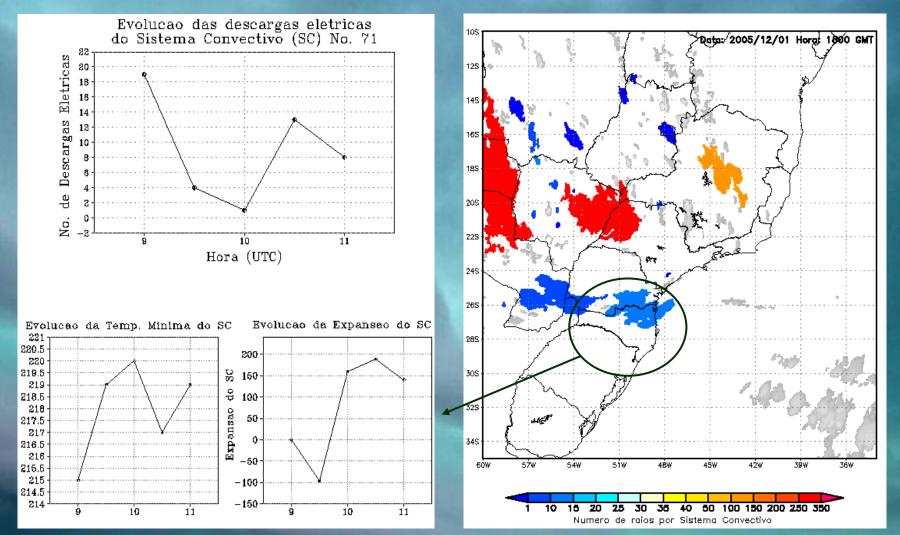






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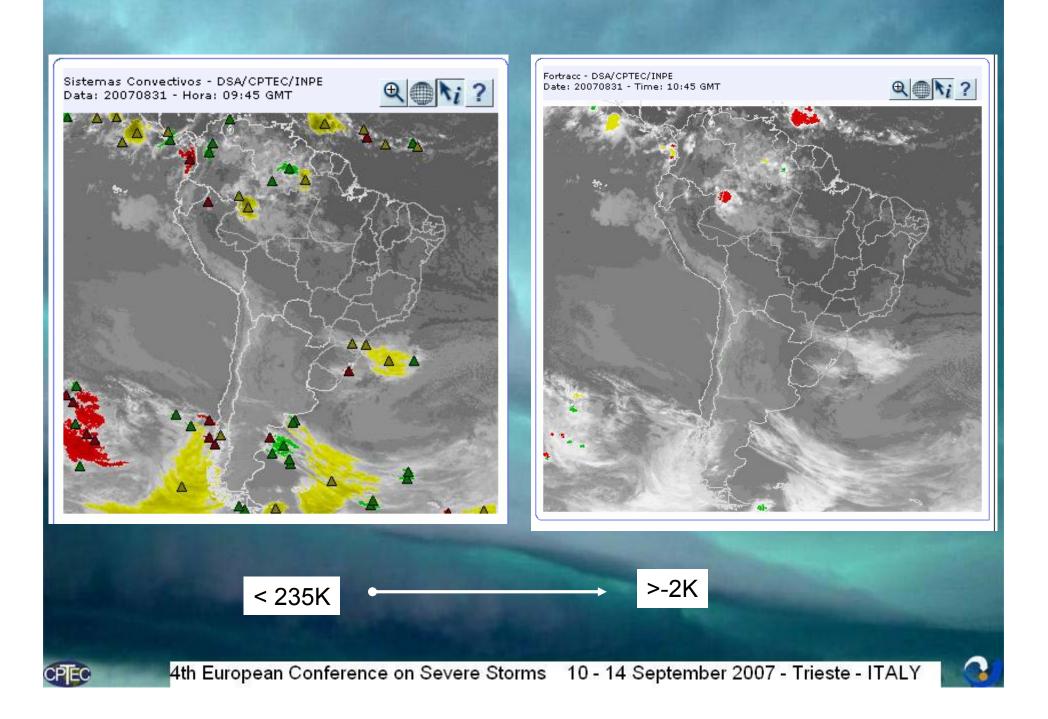


Outptst of ForTraCC combined with the lightning information. Left side shows the time evolution of the number of lightning due to the MCS (No de Descargas Elétricas) and the time evolution of the Minimum Brightness temperature (Temp. minima) and the Area Expansion (Expansão). The right side shows the number of lightning occurrences in the MCS, color means the number of lightning per MCS

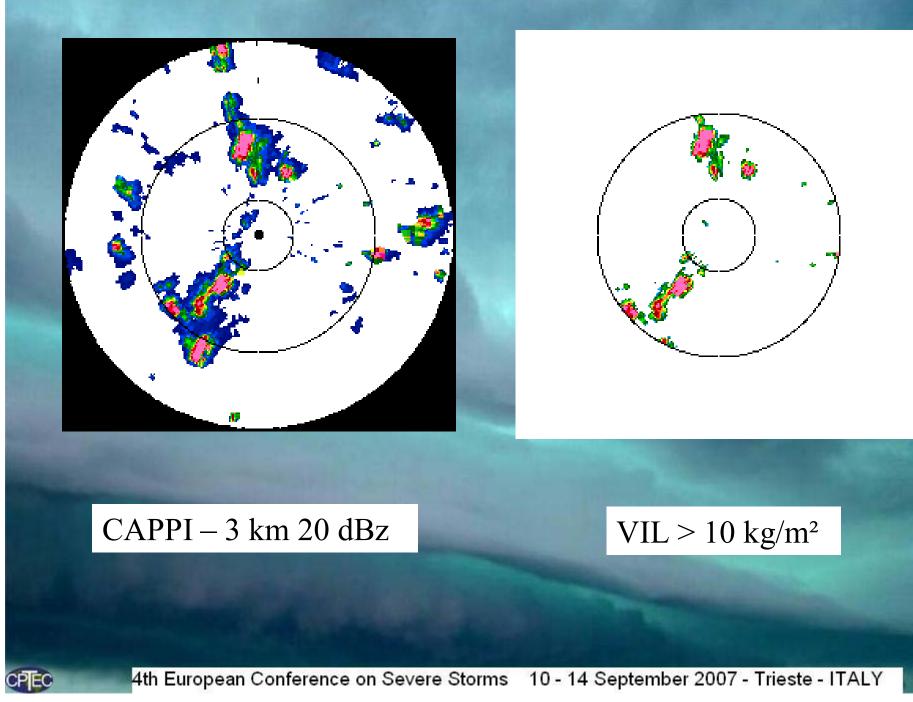




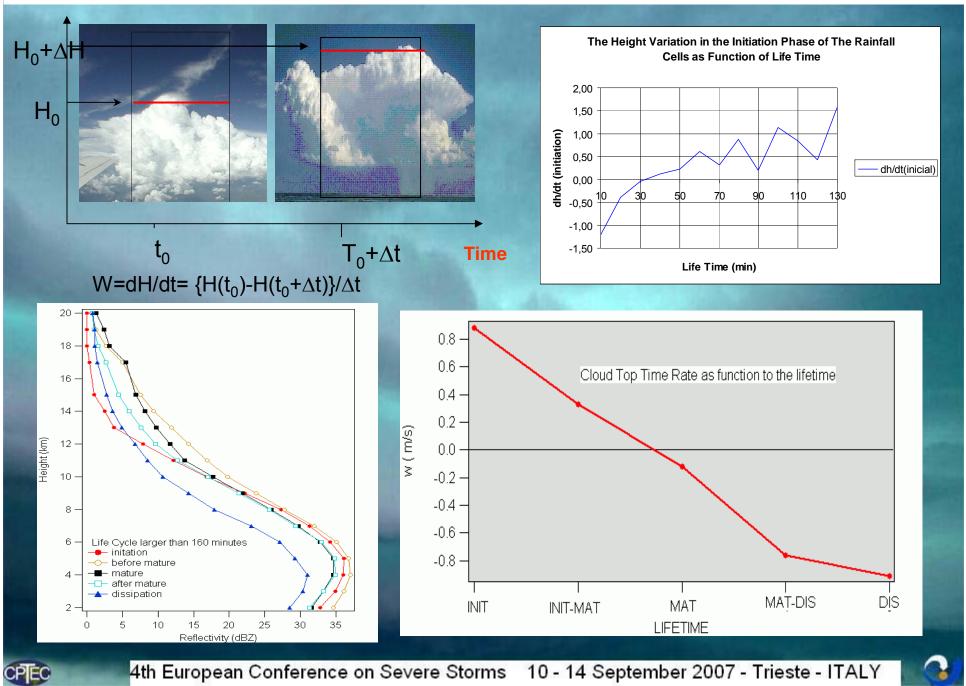




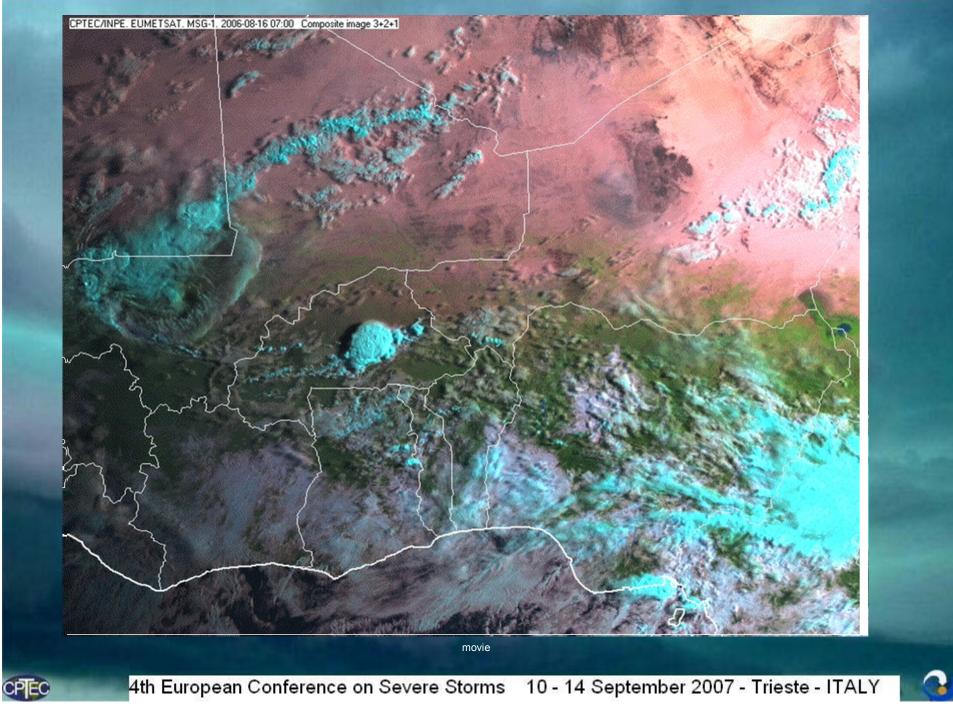




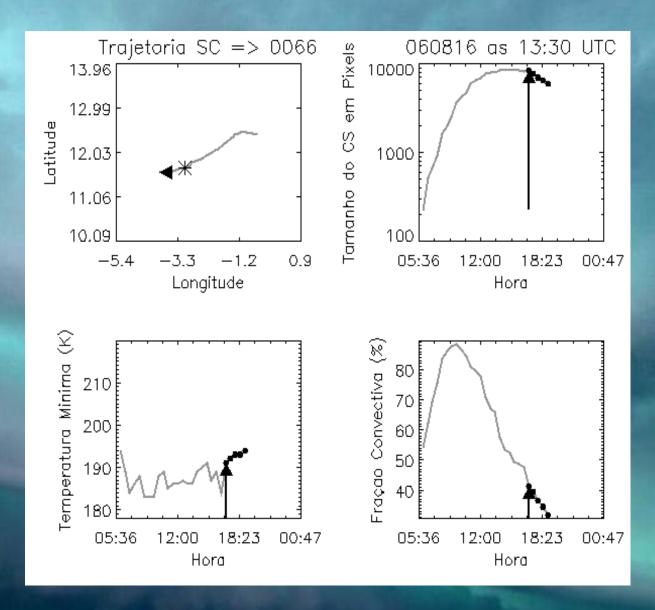
ForTraCC Using Radar Data







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Conclusions

The area expansion is closely linked to the phase of the convective system's life. At the beginning of its life the convective system presents a large positive area expansion. The area expansion becomes close to zero during the mature stage of the system and negative in the dissipation stage.

The results demonstrate the ability to predict the lifetime of a convective system from its initial area expansion. The physical explanation for this result is founded on the principle that this parameter measures the vigor of the convective forcing indicating the time/space scale of the convective cloud organization.

Large values of cloud top increase are associated with a clear increase of ice phase (ice particles aloft)

➤The rate of cloud top increase can be approximately related to the average vertical velocity of the convective core. The time variations of this variable can also be used as a proxy for the stage, intensity and lifetime duration of the convective activity.

ForTraCC is an operational utility for nowcasting available on line, using 15 minutes GOES 10 images.

