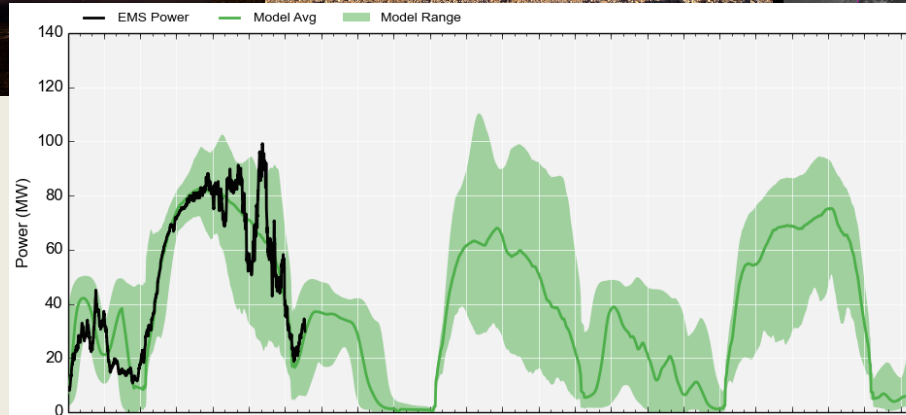
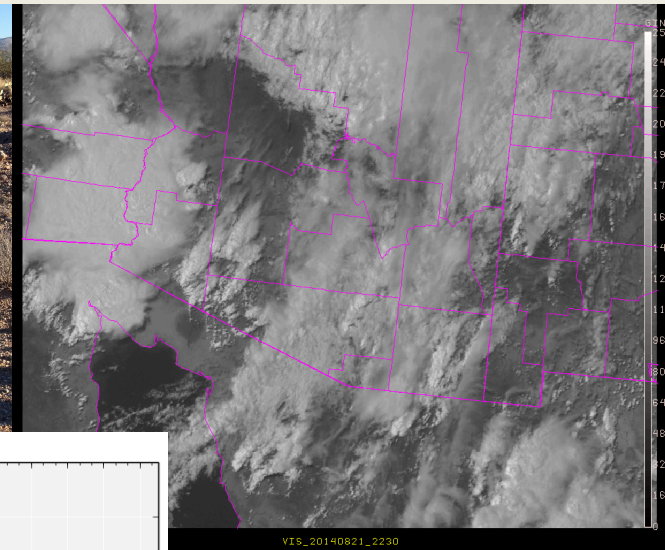


# U. Arizona Renewable Power Forecasting



Charles Miles, Creative Commons



**Will Holmgren**

DOE EERE Postdoctoral Fellow  
UA Department of Atmospheric  
Sciences

**Antonio Lorenzo**, Grad Student, Opt. Sci.

**Mike Leuthold**, Meteorologist, Atmo. Sci.

**Chang Ki Kim**, Post doc, Atmo. Sci.

**Yang Cao**, Post doc, Atmo. Sci.

**Alex Cronin**, Associate Professor, Physics

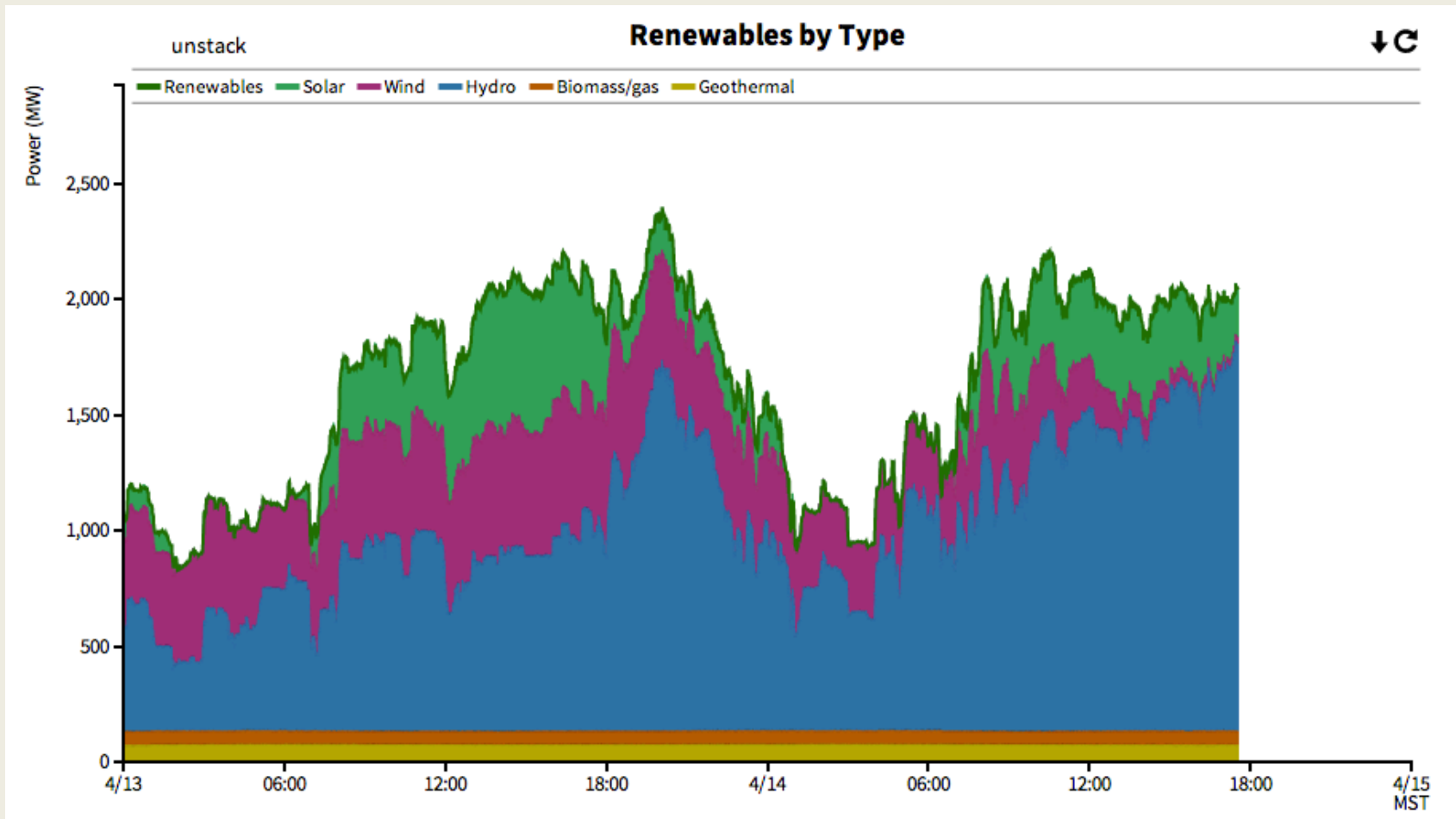
**Eric Betterton**, Dept. Head, Atmo. Sci.

**Ardeth Barnhart**, Director, UA-REN



# But first,

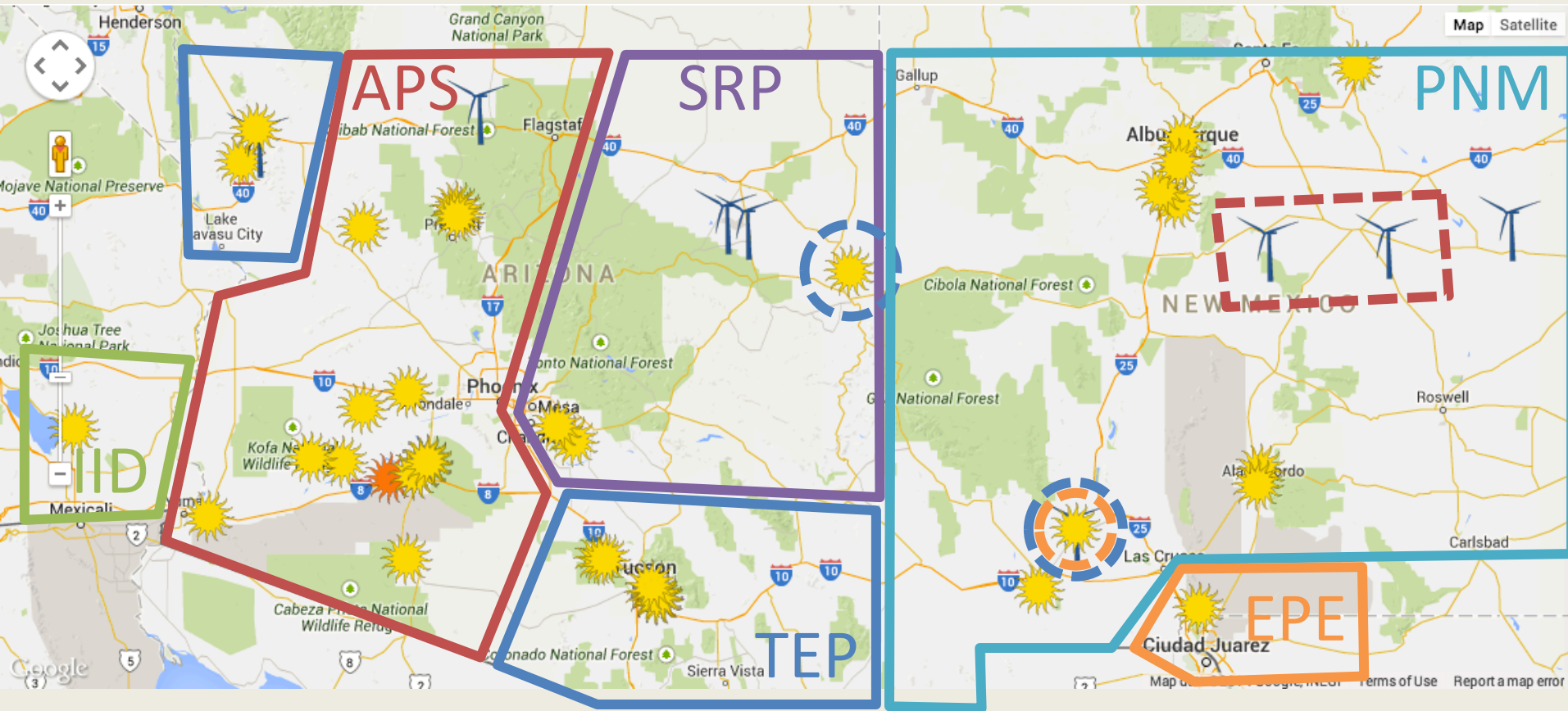
## The status and future of renewables in the Southwest





# SVERI

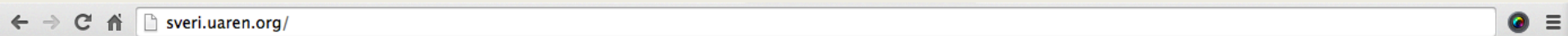
## Southwest Variable Energy Resource Initiative



from [sveri.uaren.org](http://sveri.uaren.org)

# sveri.uaren.org

Southwest Variable Energy Resource Initiative • University of Arizona Renewable Energy Network • org

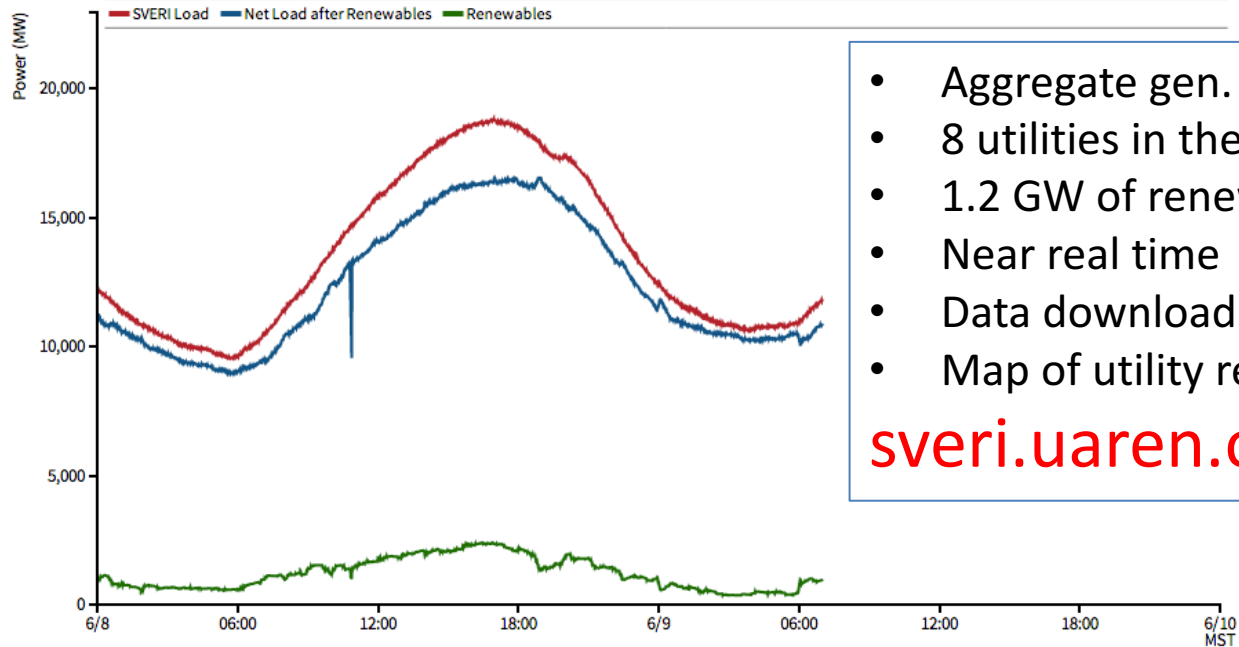


## SVERI Public Access Data Portal

Change theme

- About
  - About SVERI and UA REN
  - How to use this website
  - Glossary
- Date Selection
  - Select the date range:
  - Start: 2014-06-08
  - End: 2014-06-10
- Graphs
  - Generation and Load
  - Renewables and Load
  - Variable Energy Resources (VERs) and Load
  - Generation by Fuel Type
  - Renewables by Type
  - Dispatchable vs. Variable Renewables
  - Solar
  - Wind
  - Rooftop Solar
- Maps

### Renewables and Load



- Aggregate gen. and load
- 8 utilities in the southwest
- 1.2 GW of renewables
- Near real time
- Data downloads
- Map of utility renewables

[sveri.uaren.org](http://sveri.uaren.org)

The Renewables and Load graph shows the total SVERI Load, the total SVERI renewable generation, and the Net Load after Renewables. The Net Load after Renewables is the load that must be met using conventional resources such as coal, gas, and nuclear or by importing energy from other regions of the Western Interconnection. Net Load after Renewables is calculated by subtracting the total renewable generation from the total load.

Tip: hover your pointer over one of the lines on the graph to get its value at that point in time.

[Next: Variable Energy Resources \(VERs\) and Load](#)

User Controlled Graph

- stack

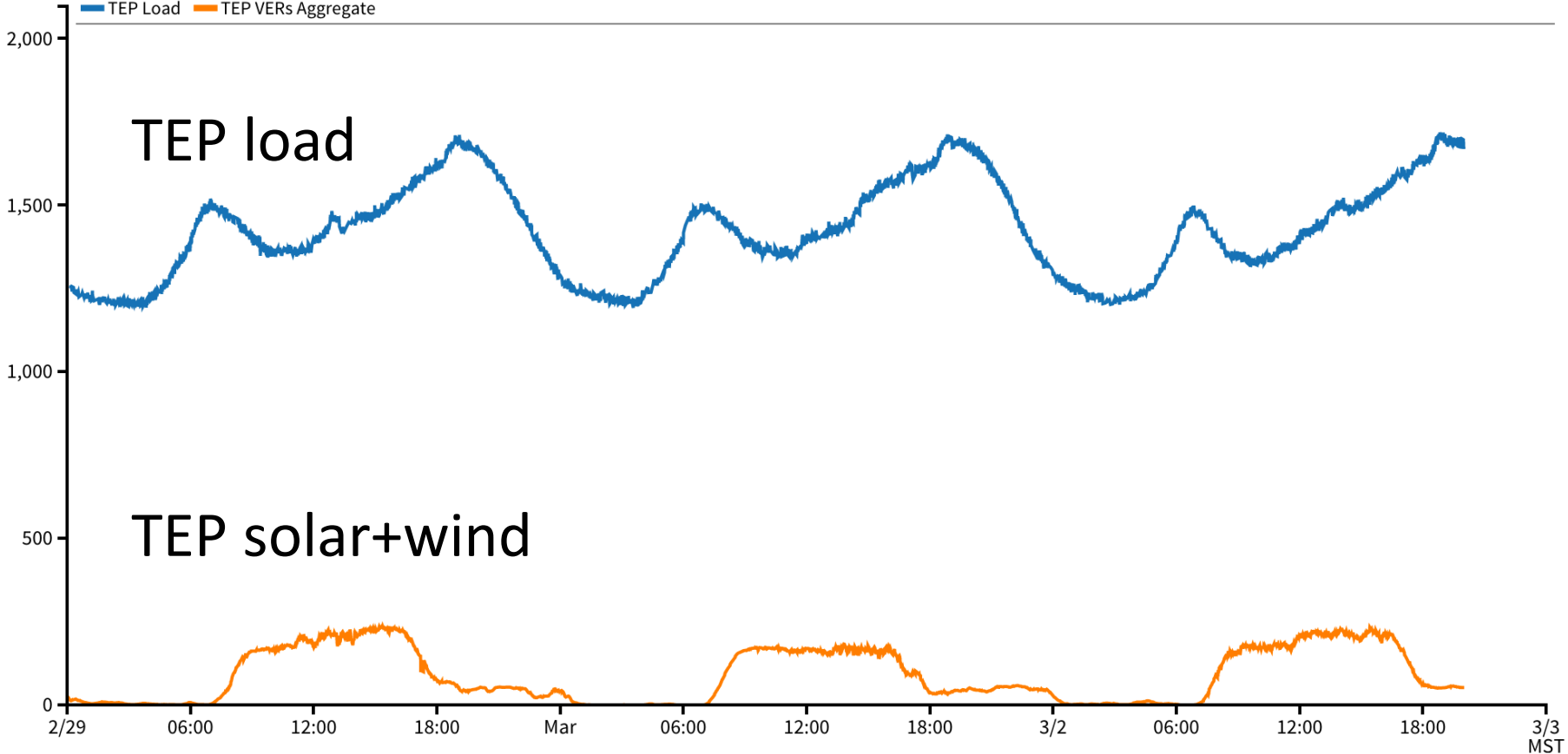
sort ↓

Power (MW)

TEP Load TEP VERs Aggregate

TEP load

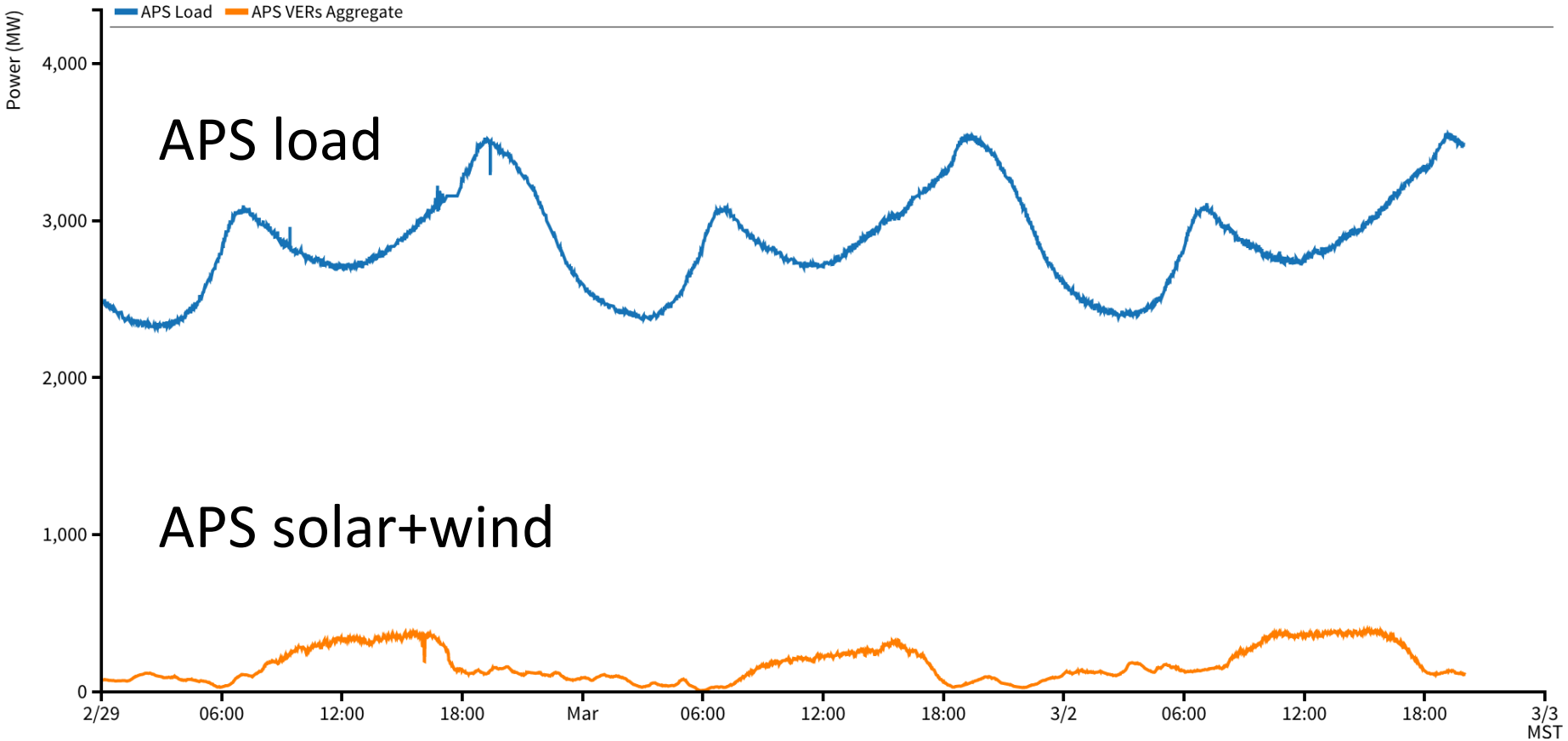
TEP solar+wind



3/3  
MST

# User Controlled Graph

sort ↓

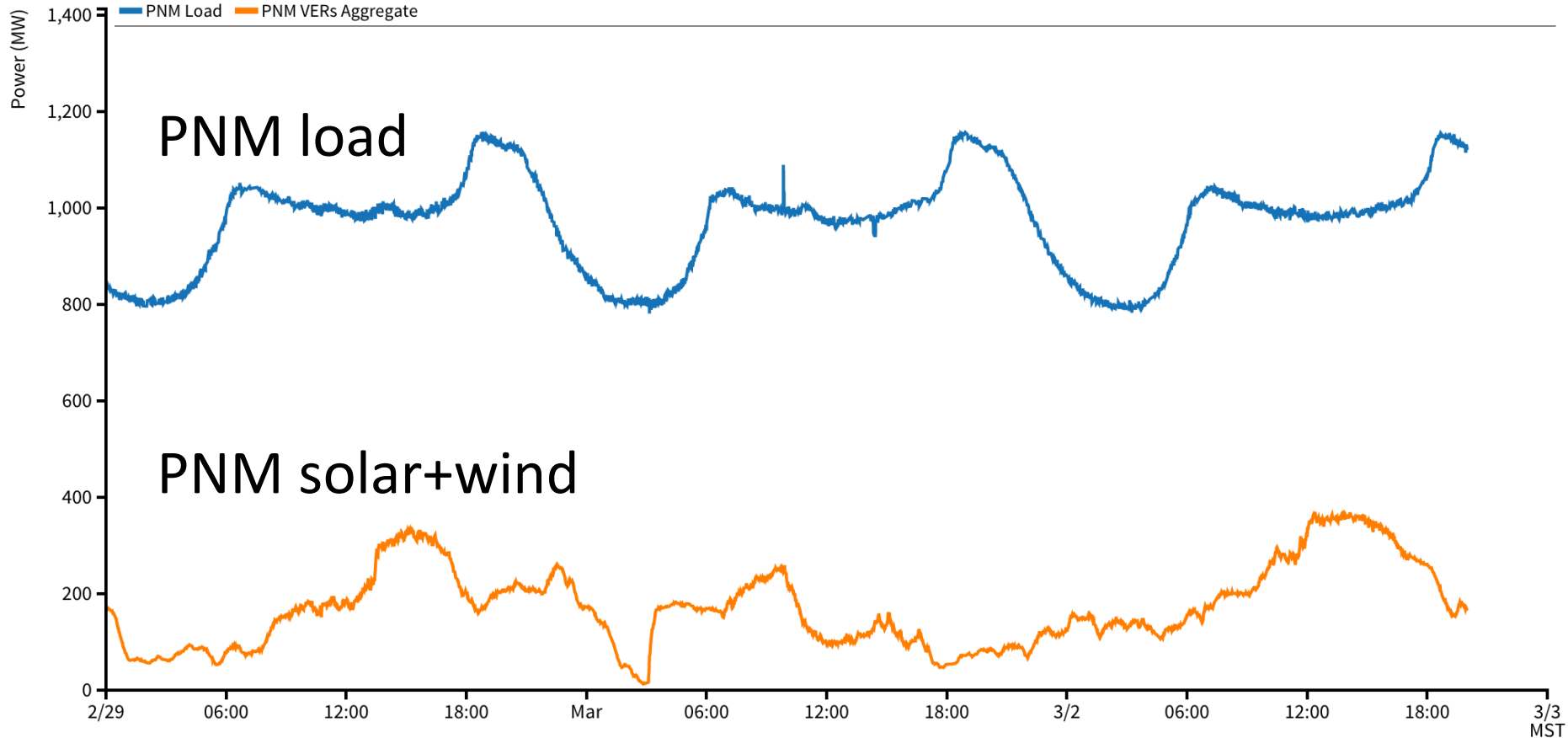




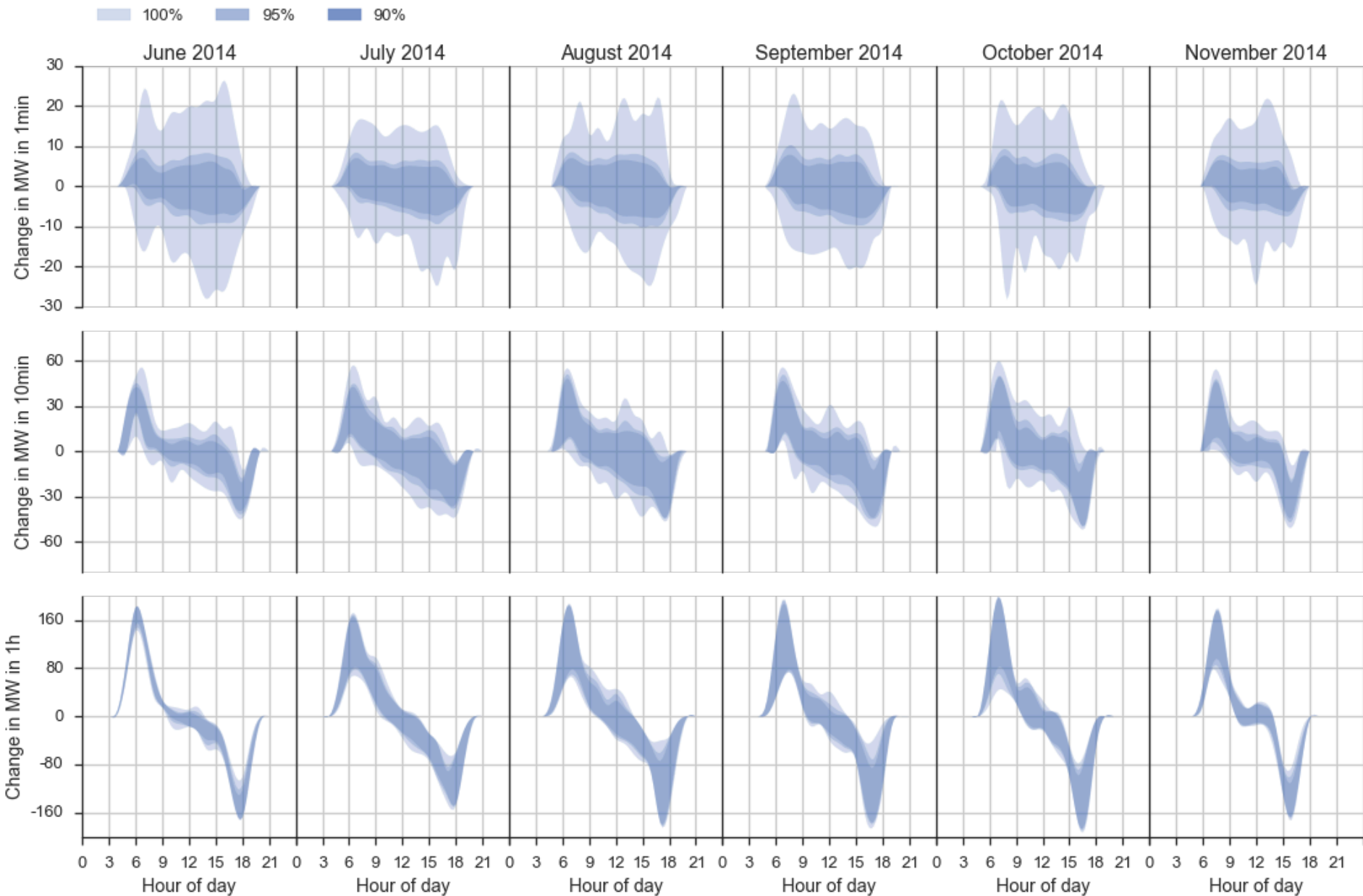
# User Controlled Graph

- stack

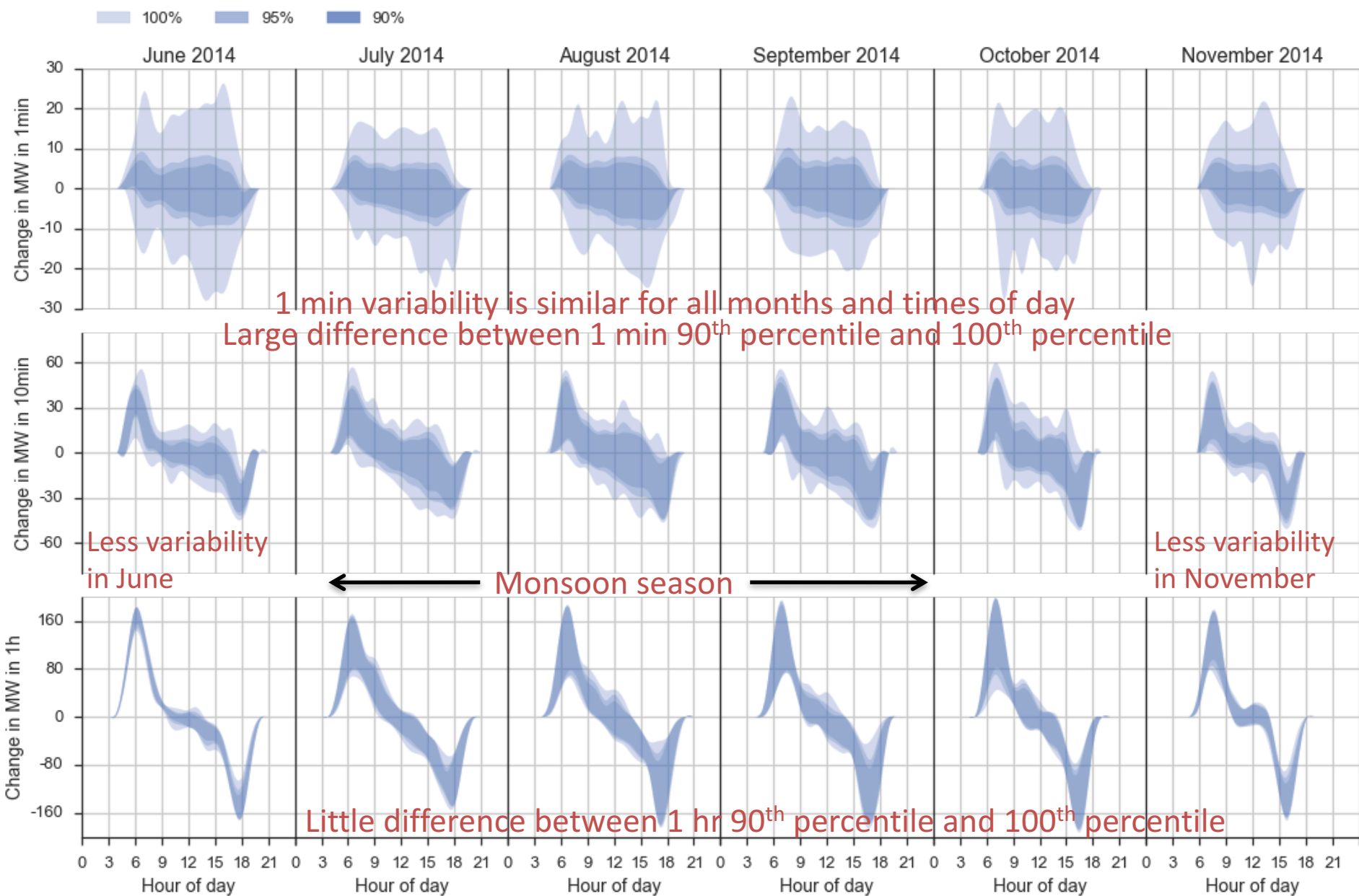
sort ↓



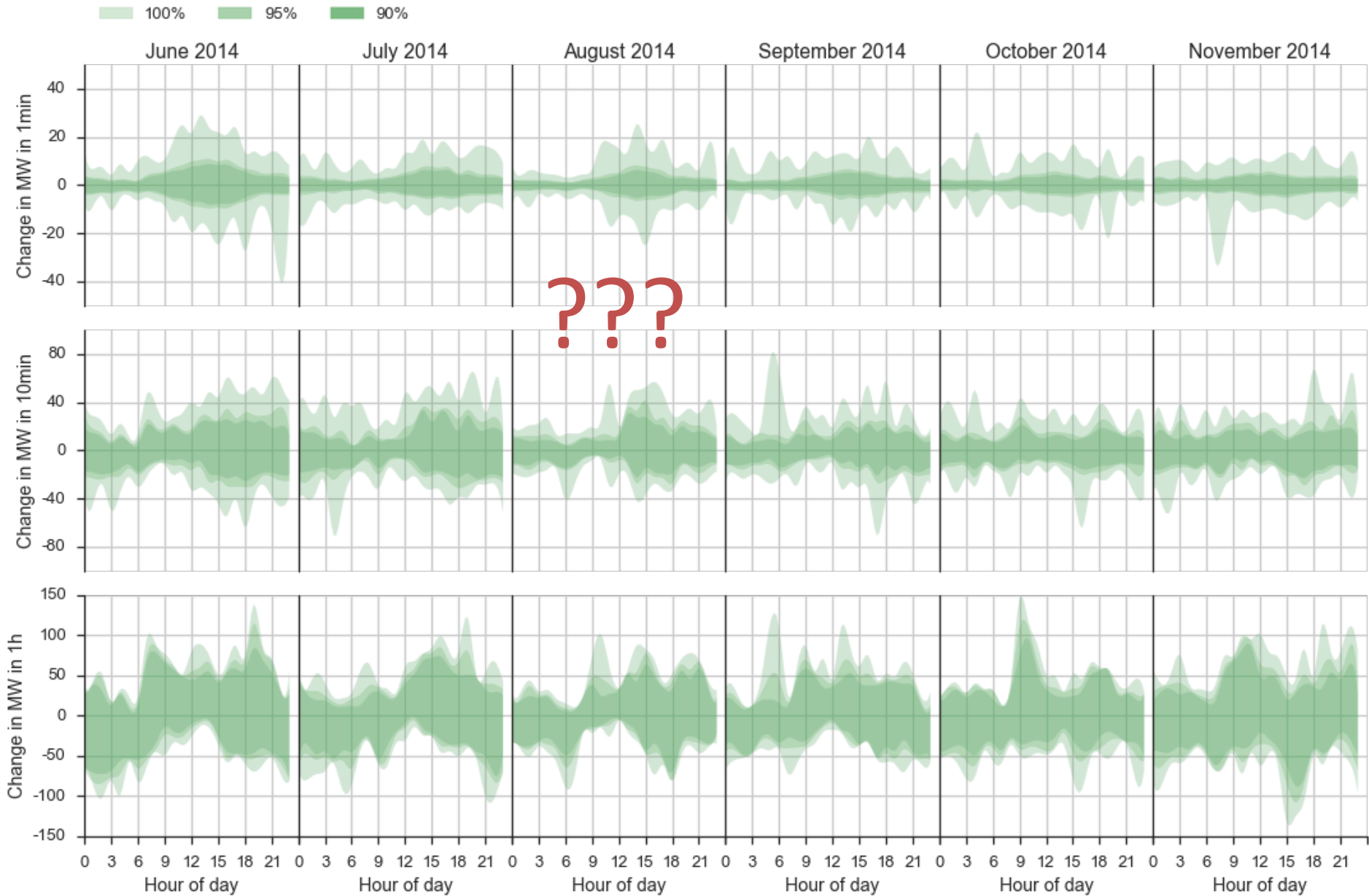
# SVERI solar variability



# SVERI solar variability

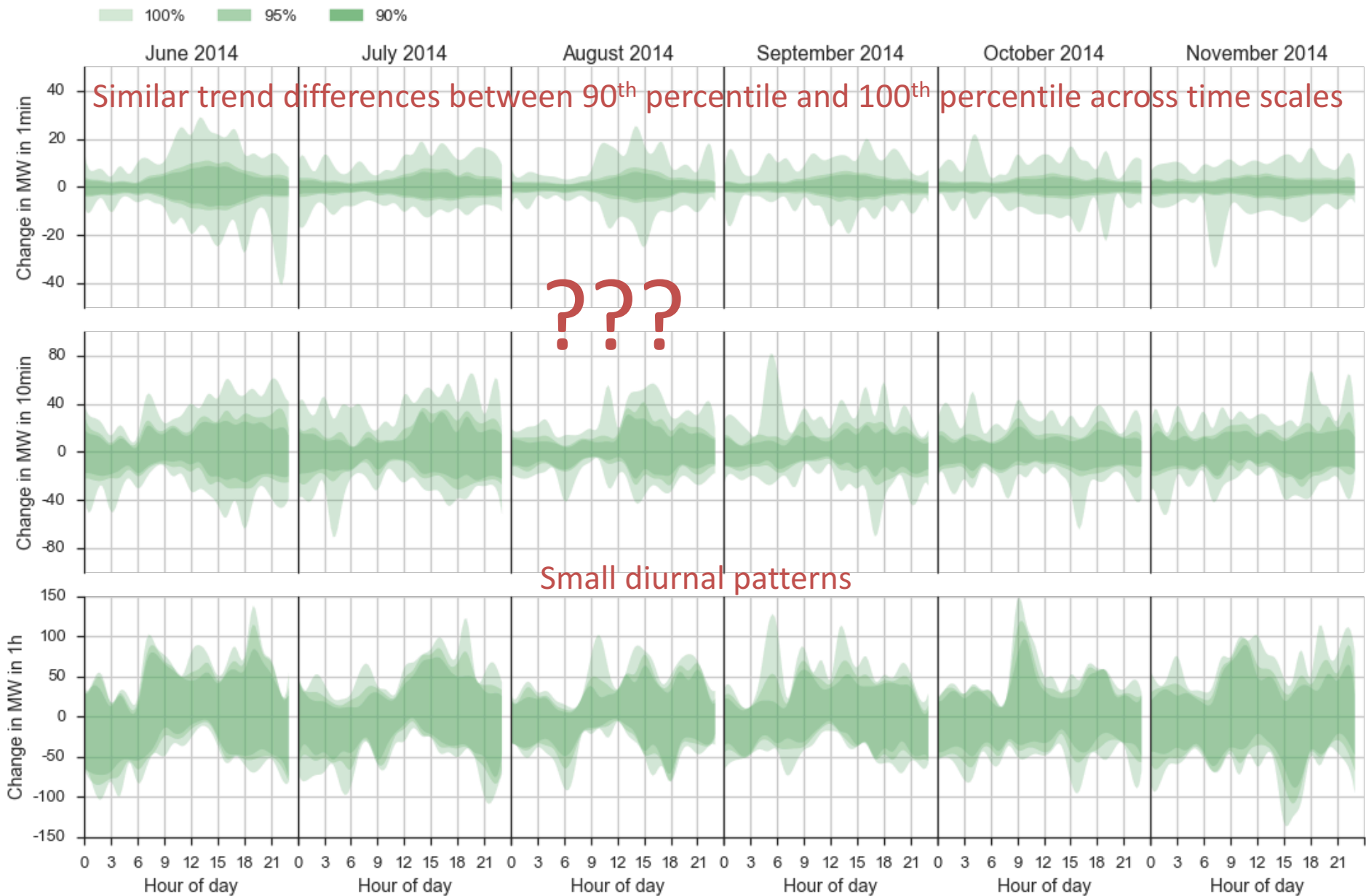


# SVERI wind variability

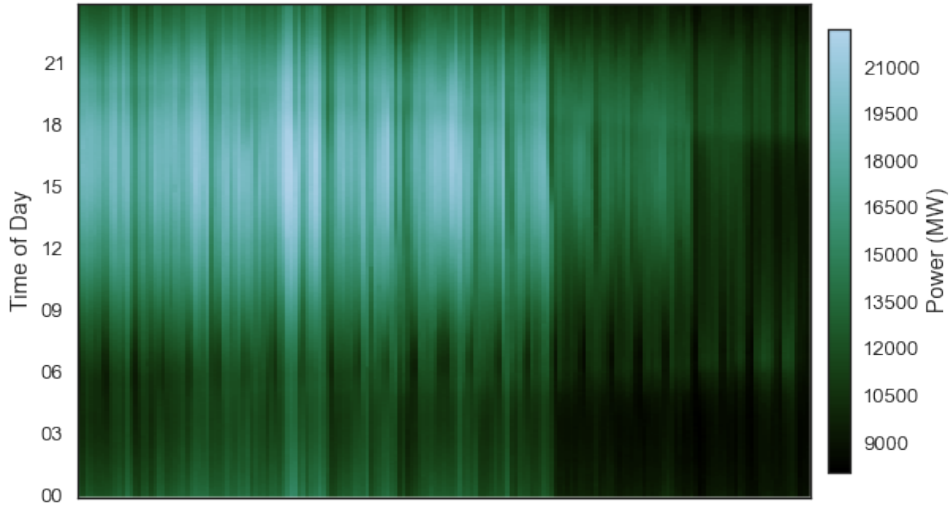




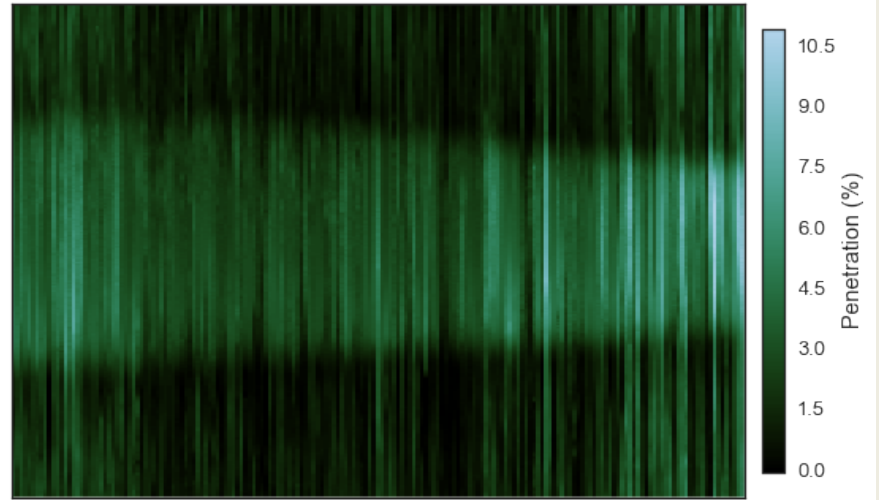
# SVERI wind variability



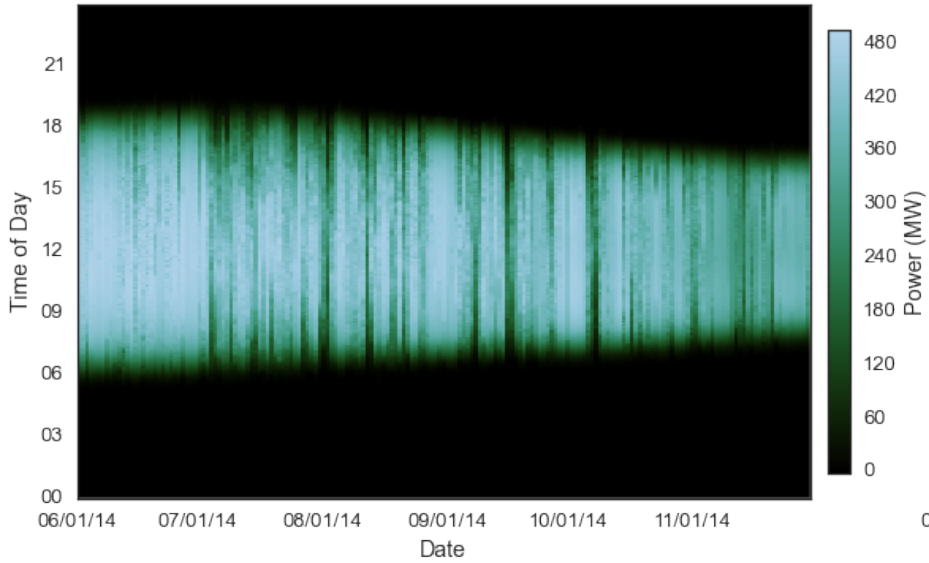
Aggregate Load



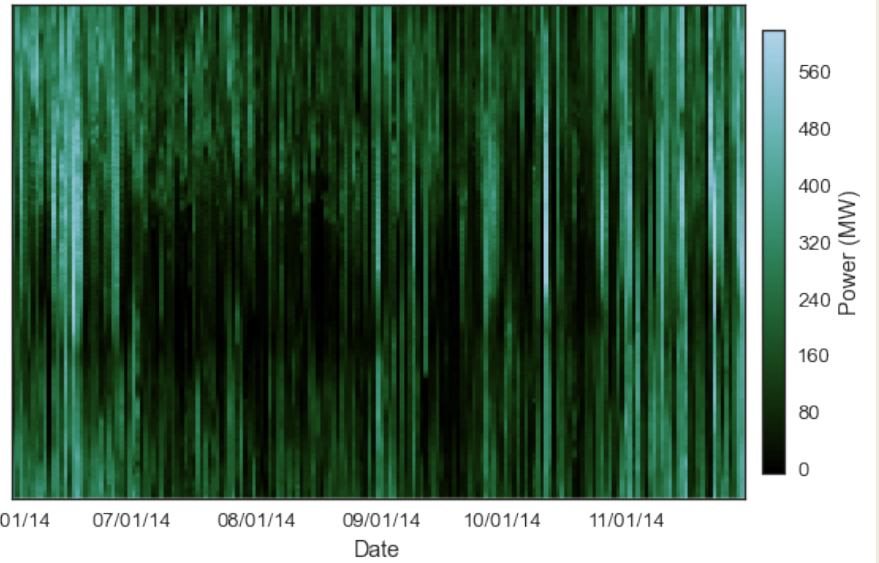
Aggregate VERs Penetration



Aggregate Solar



Aggregate Wind



# VERs penetration

Penetration = renewables gen. / load

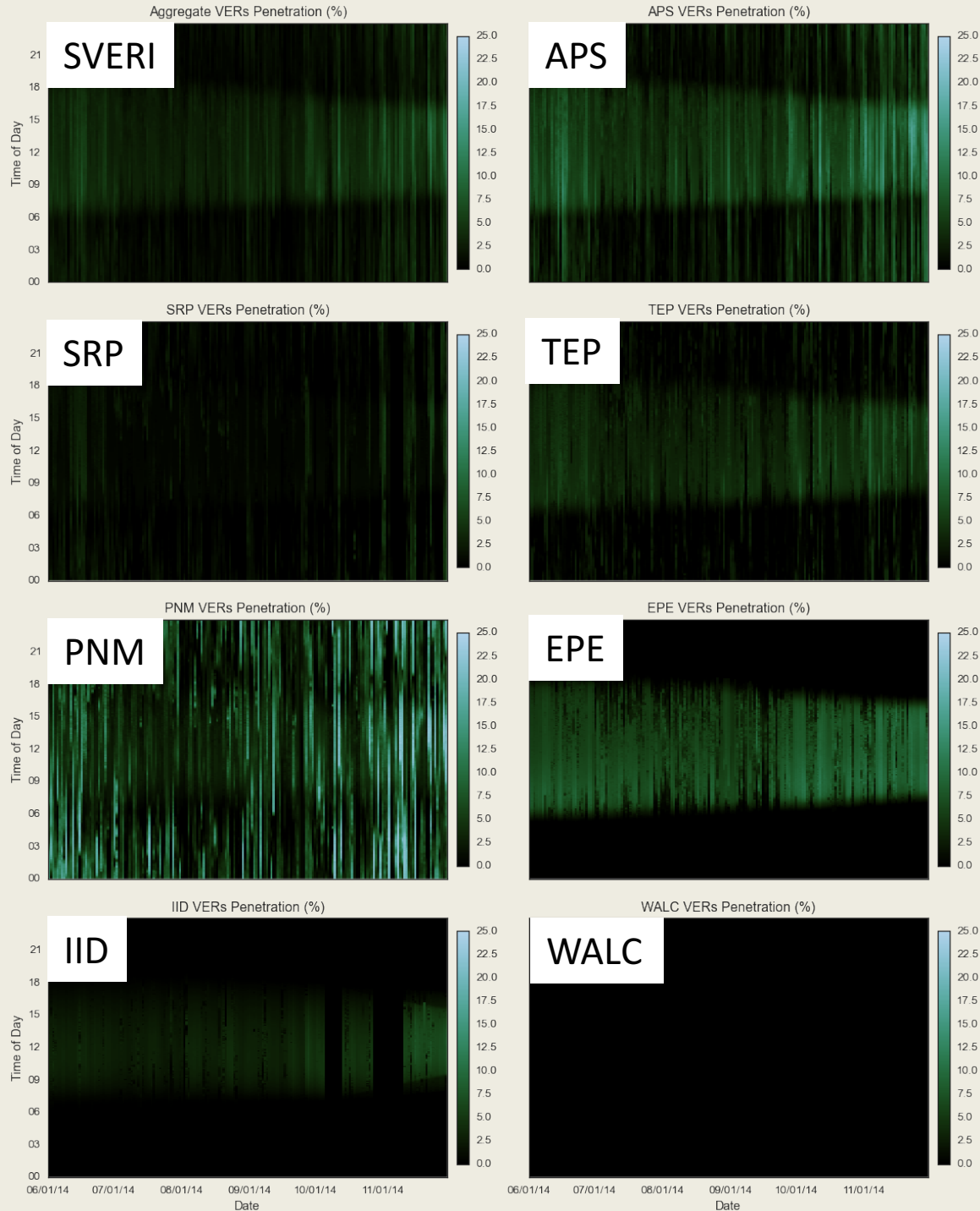
Black = 0%

White = 25%

APS occasionally has high penetration

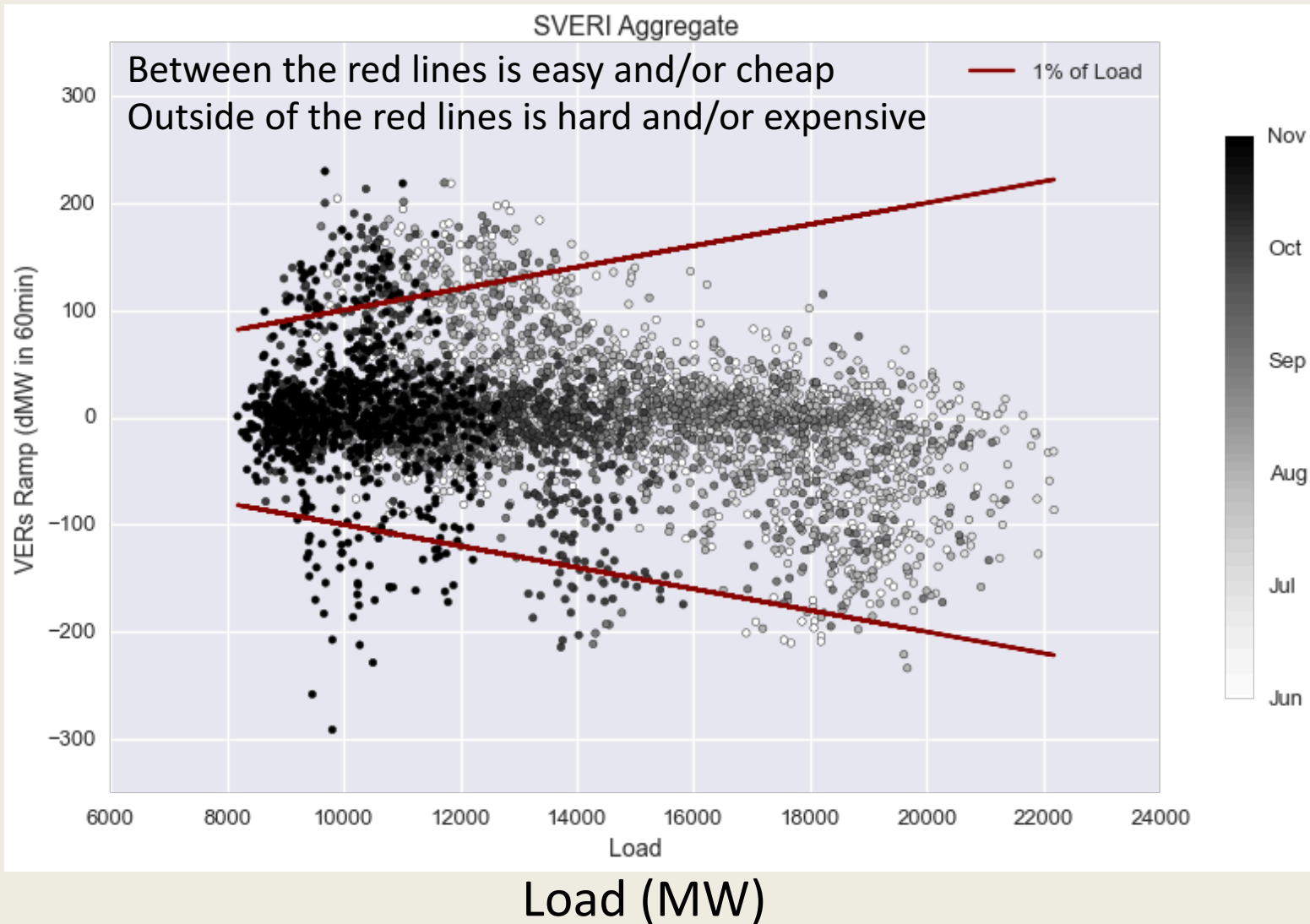
PNM penetration is huge

EPE solar penetration is consistently large



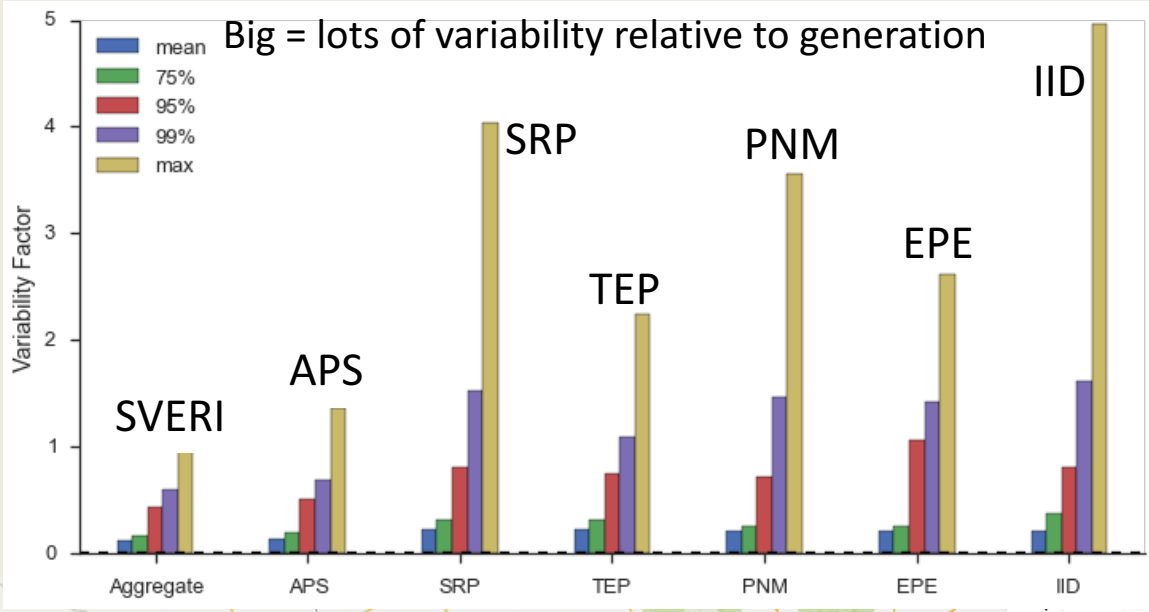
# Renewables Ramps vs. Load

Change in renewable gen. in 1 hour (MW)

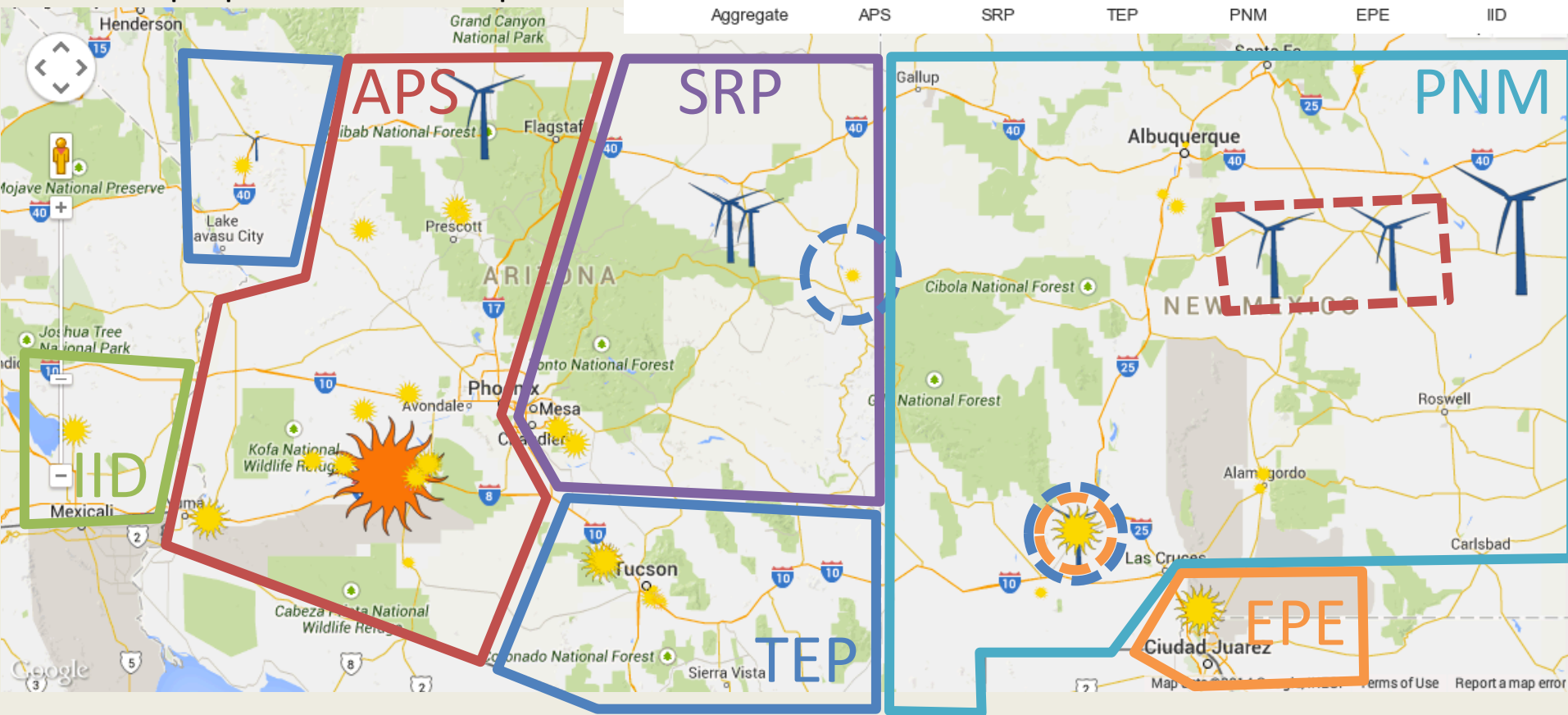




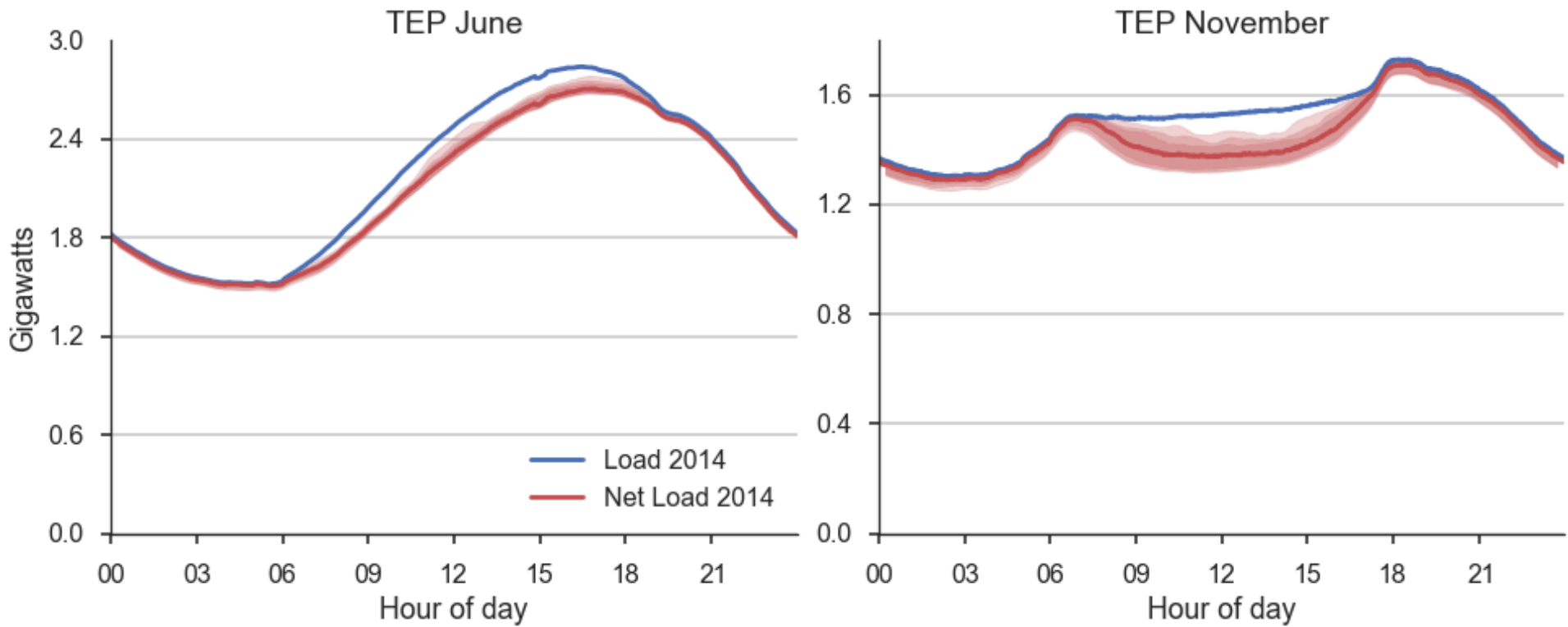
# Geographic diversity is beneficial



Icon area proportional to max power



# TEP 2014 Net Load Range



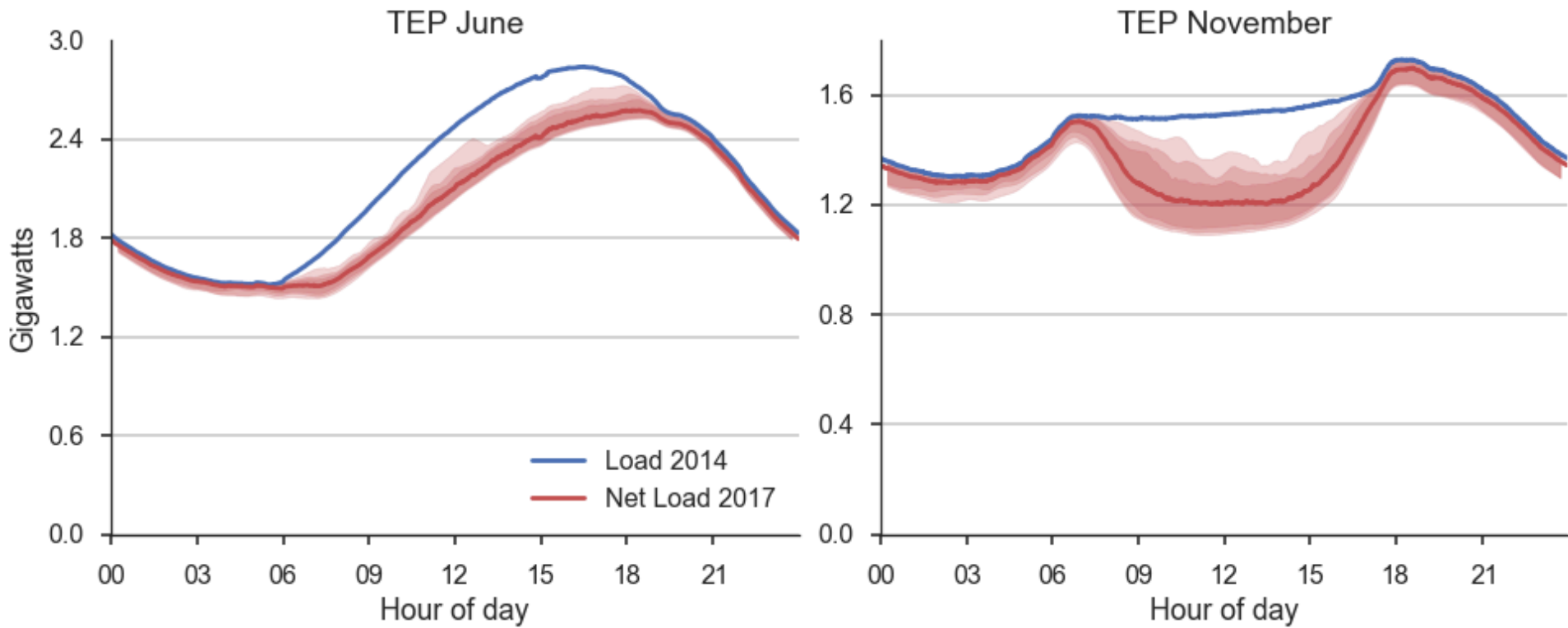
Light shading: all possibilities

Medium shading: 95%

Dark shading: 90%

Similar plots available for all SVERI utilities

# TEP 2017 Net Load Range



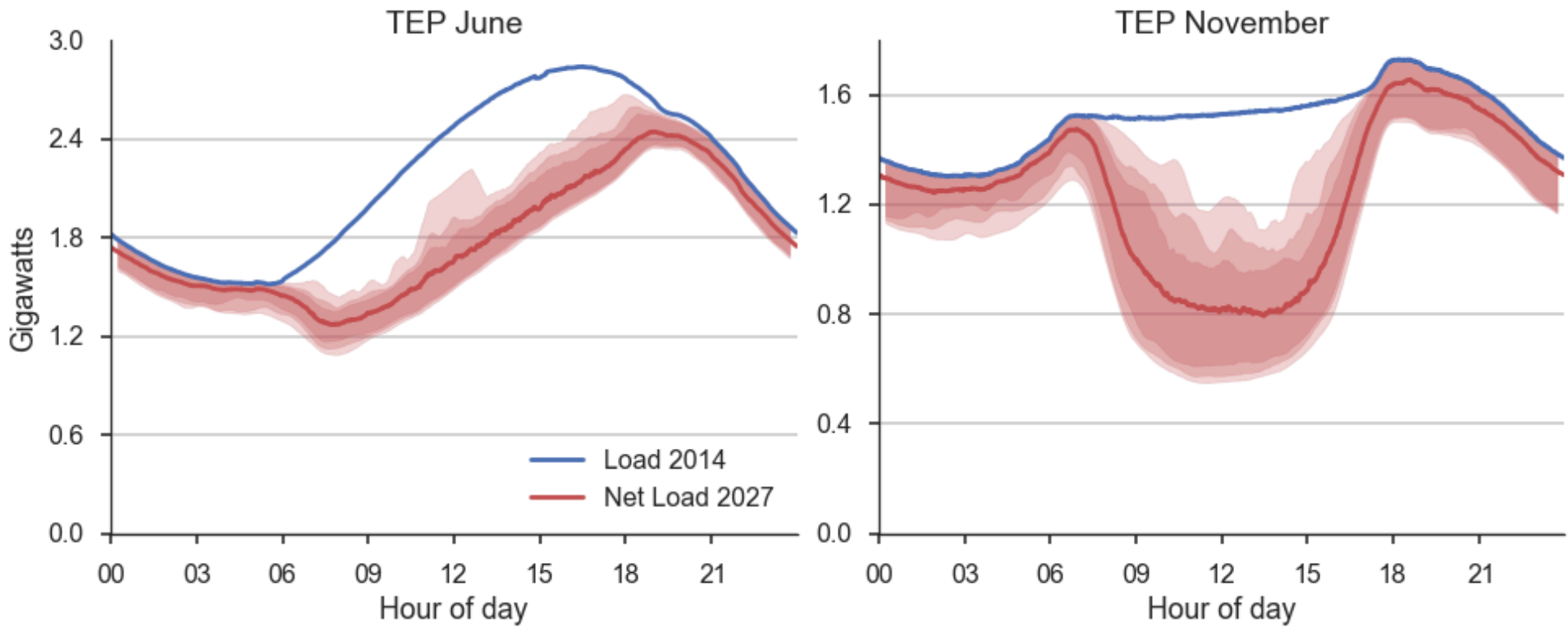
Light shading: all possibilities

Medium shading: 95%

Dark shading: 90%

Similar plots available for all SVERI utilities

# TEP 2027 Net Load Range



Light shading: all possibilities

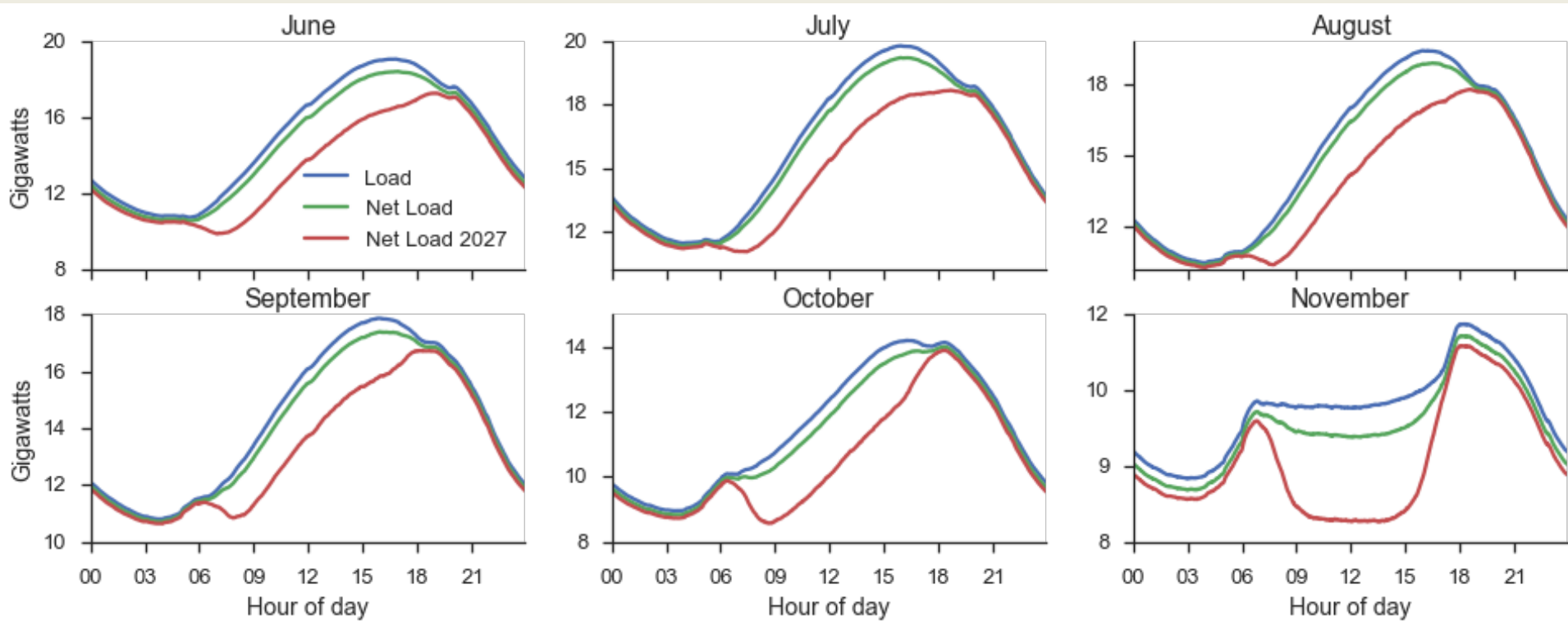
Medium shading: 95%

Dark shading: 90%

Similar plots available for all SVERI utilities



# SVERI Net Load



Note the changing y axis range

The “duck curve”

# 2027 TEP Variability Scenarios

2027 TEP with 2014 TEP diversity    2027 TEP with 2014 APS diversity    2027 TEP with 2014 SVERI diversity

June 2027

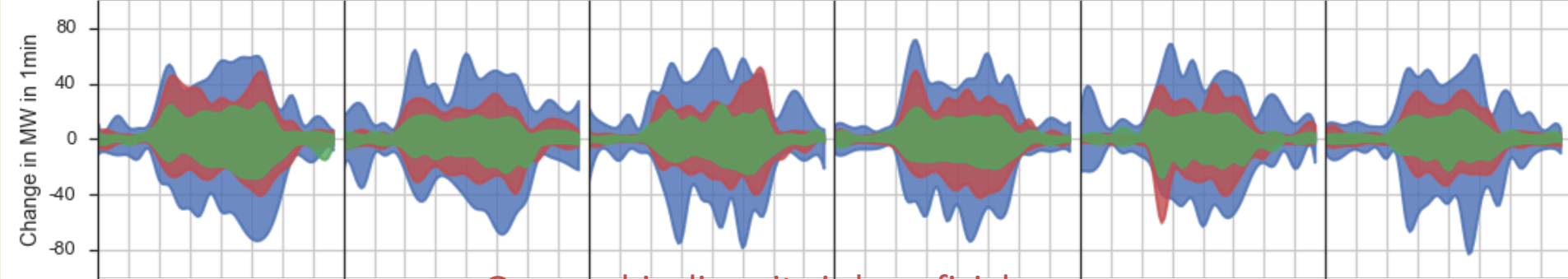
July 2027

August 2027

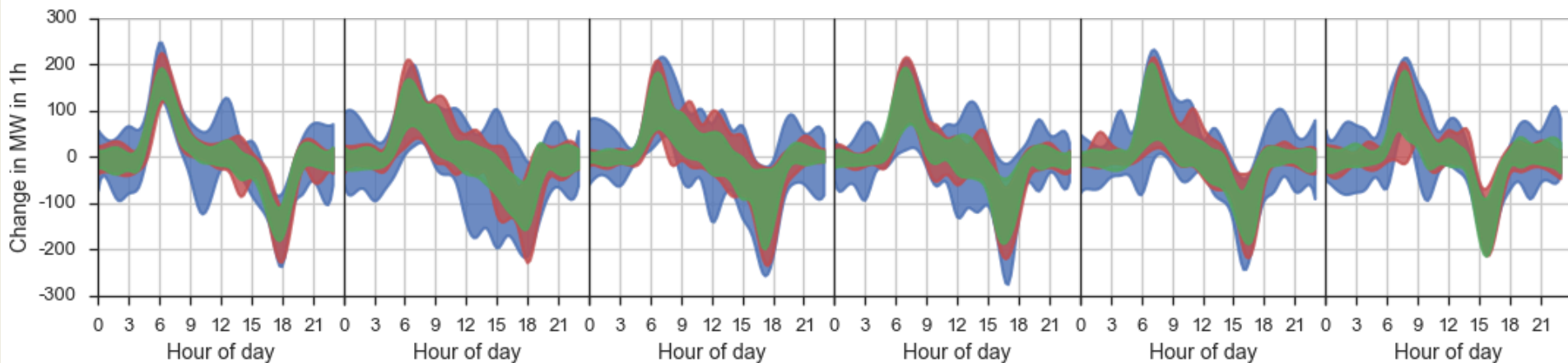
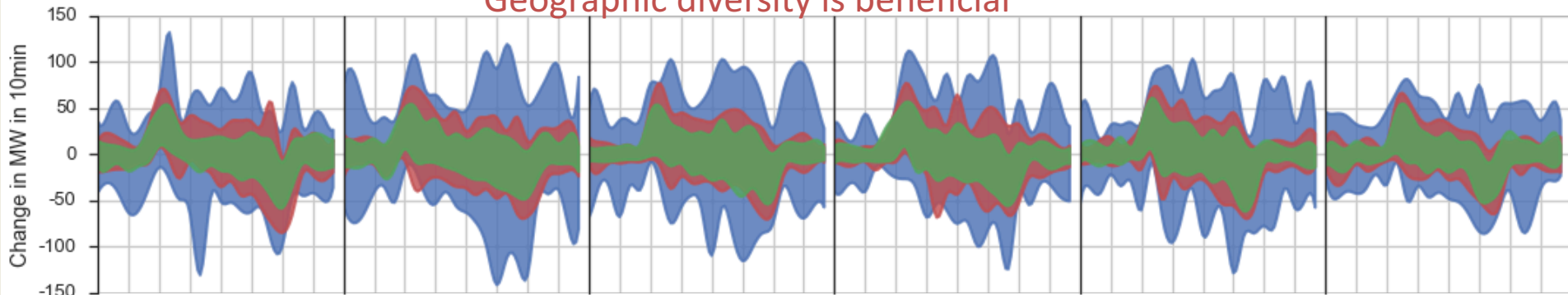
September 2027

October 2027

November 2027



Geographic diversity is beneficial



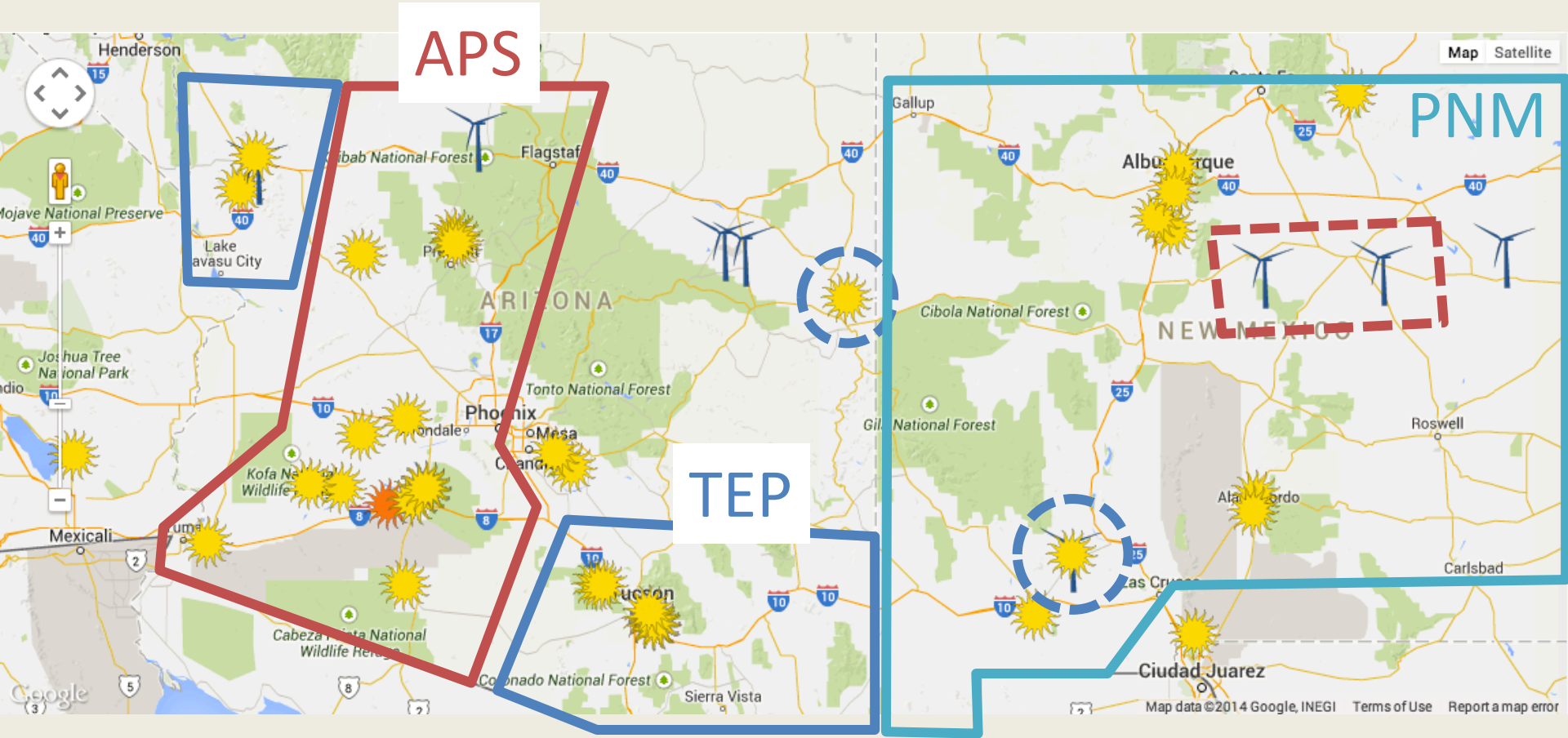
# (Part of) The Solution: UA renewable power forecasts

How can forecasts help utilities keep energy costs low and maintain grid reliability?

- Improve energy market trading strategies
- Schedule more efficient generators (e.g. combined cycle vs. combustion turbine)
- Reduce costs associated with generator starts
- Defer maintenance associated with excessive generator set point seeking
- Optimize the use of battery storage

UA is providing TEP and APS with forecasts as we speak

# Renewable Power Forecast Clients: TEP, APS, PNM

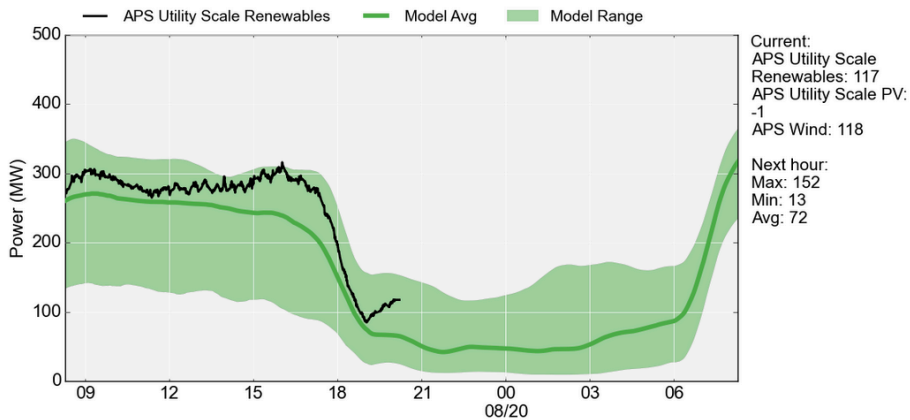


# UA Forecasting Website for TEP, APS, PNM

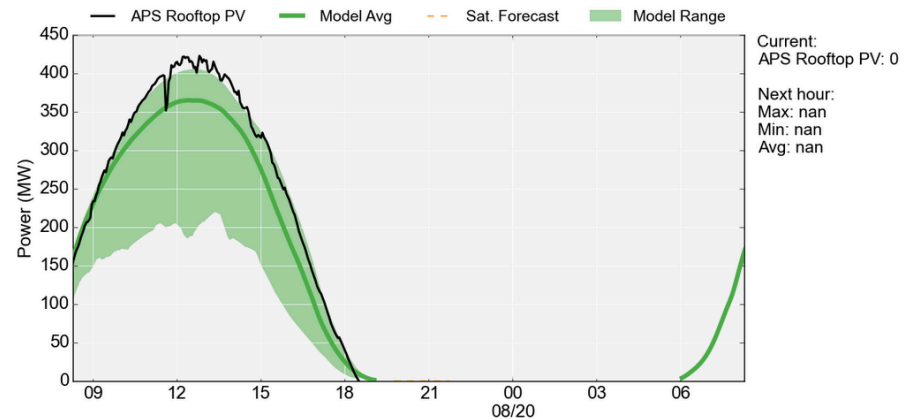
Toggle 1 day / Multi day view APS Home Help

Aggregate plots EMS data csv files Rooftop PV Environmental data Other resources

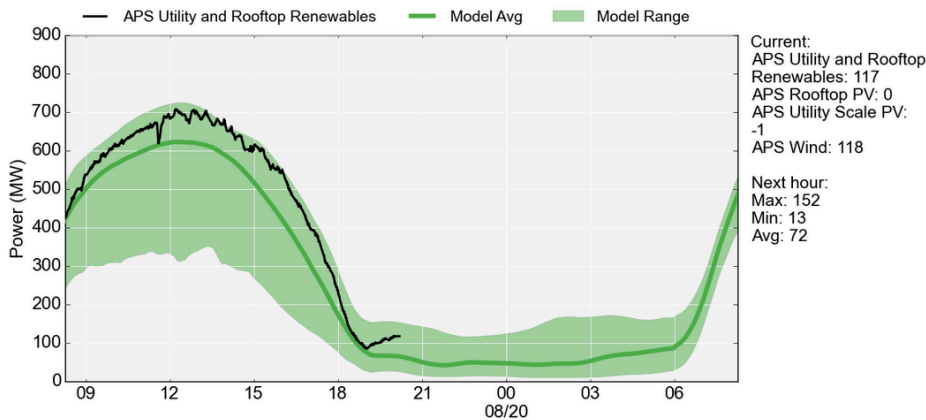
APS Utility Scale Renewables 08/19/15 20:16:19



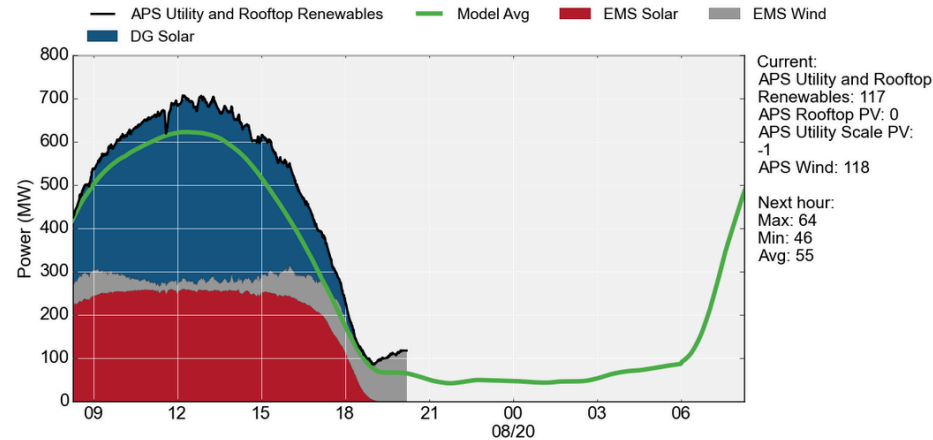
APS Rooftop PV 08/19/15 20:16:22



APS Utility and Rooftop Renewables 08/19/15 20:16:12



APS Utility and Rooftop Renewables 08/19/15 20:16:12

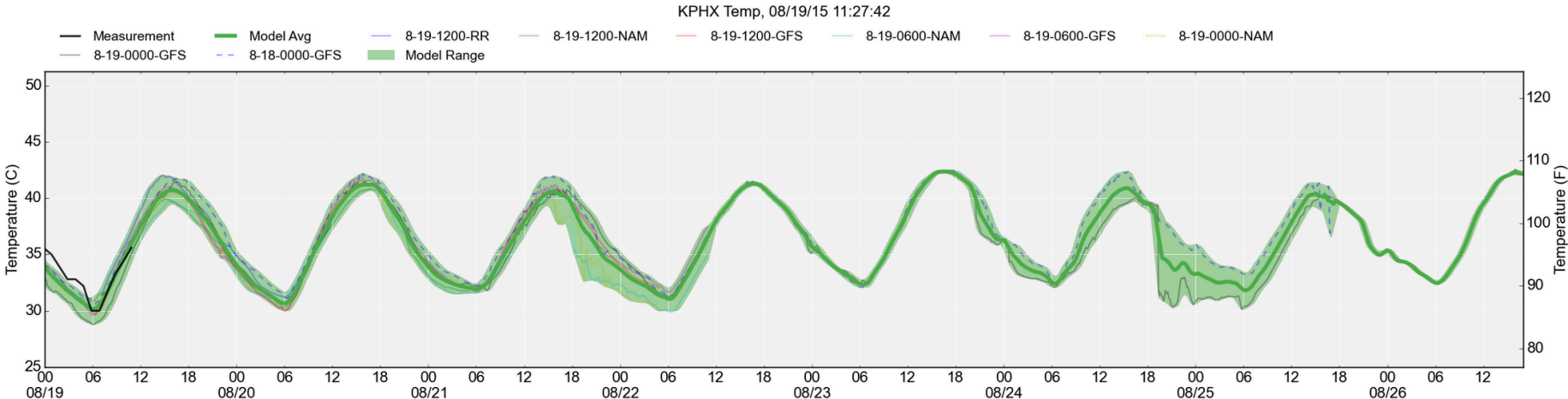
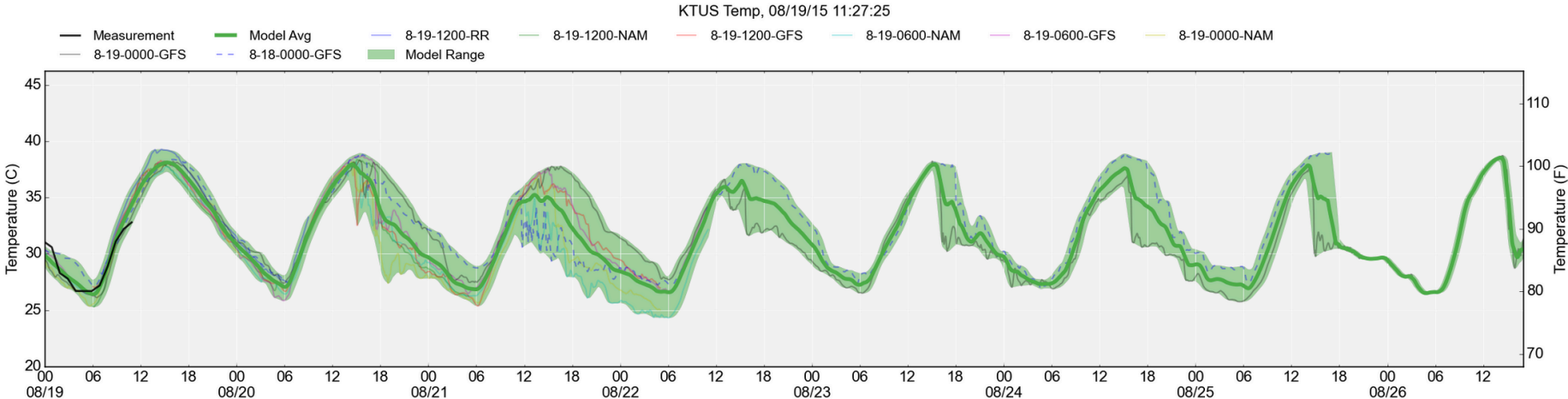




# UA Forecasting Website for Public

[Toggle 1 day / Multi day view](#) [Public](#) [Home](#)

[Irradiance sensors](#) [Environmental data](#) [Other resources](#)



# Different forecasting methods work better at different time scales

Minutes

Hours

Days

Seasons

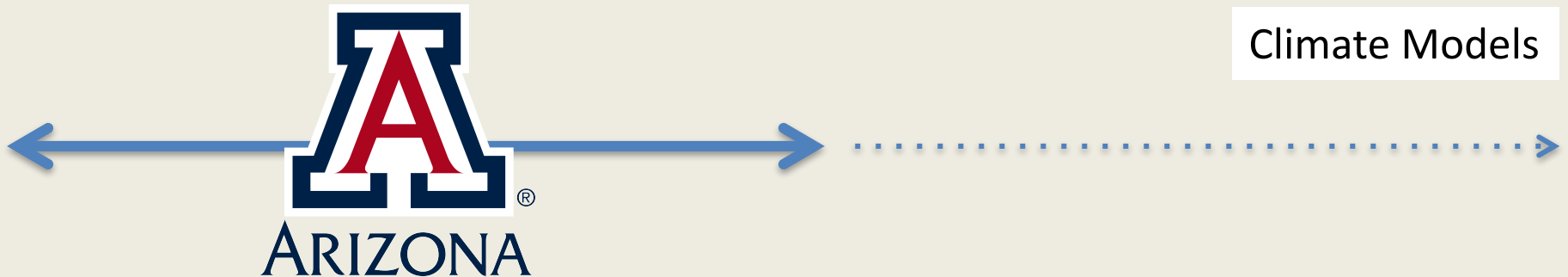
Years

Sensor Network

Satellite Imagery

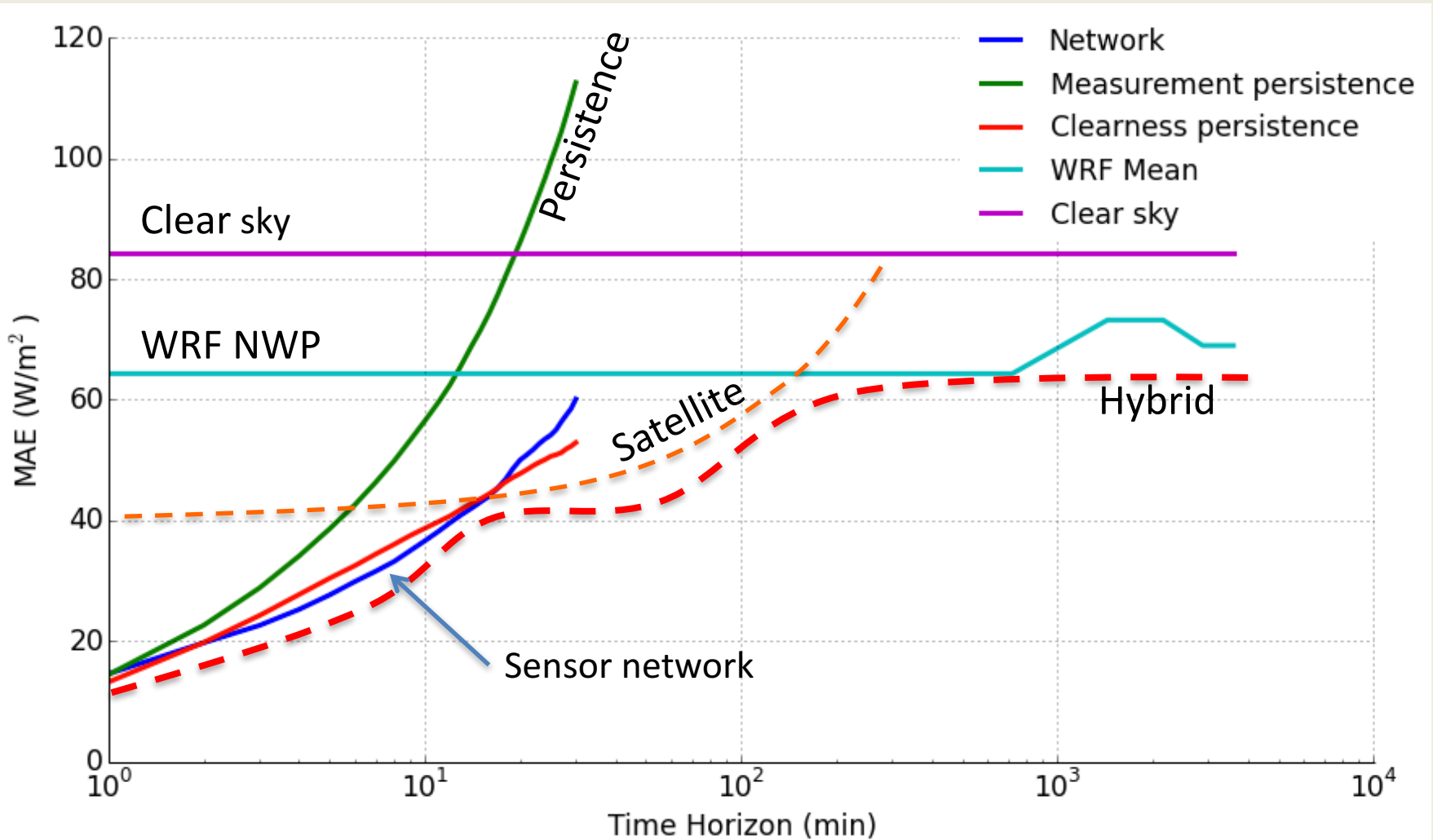
Numerical Weather Models

Climate Models



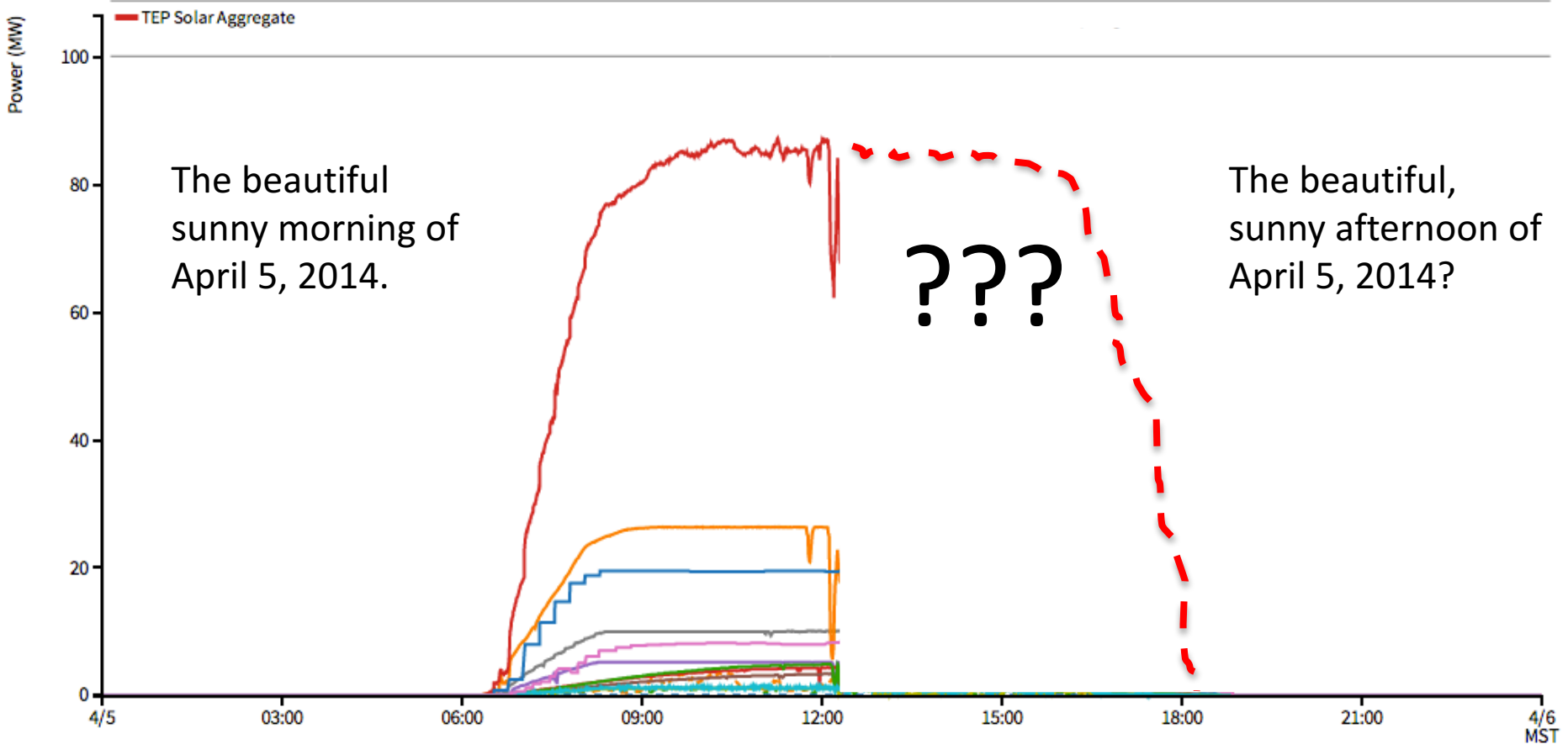


# UA forecasting summary



# TEP's Solar Power Variability

TEP Solar Power Generation



# TEP's Solar Power Variability

## Days ahead (NWP)

It's going to be sunny in the morning and cloudy in the afternoon.

## Day ahead (NWP)

It's going to be this cloudy in these hours with that much variability.

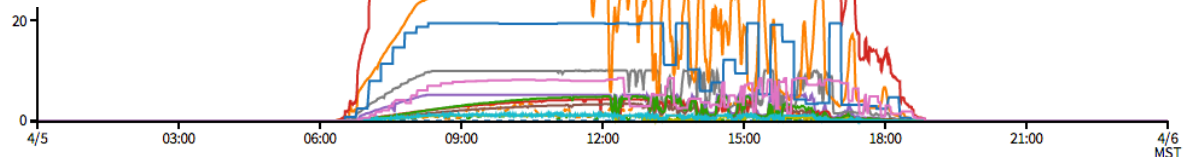
## Hours ahead (Satellite)

It's going to be roughly this cloudy in these 30 minute chunks.

## Minutes ahead (network, persistence)

It's going to be exactly this cloudy in 13 minutes.

TEP Solar Power Generation



4/5

03:00

06:00

09:00

12:00

15:00

18:00

21:00

4/6  
MST

# Numerical Weather Prediction at UA



Christopher Marks, Creative Commons

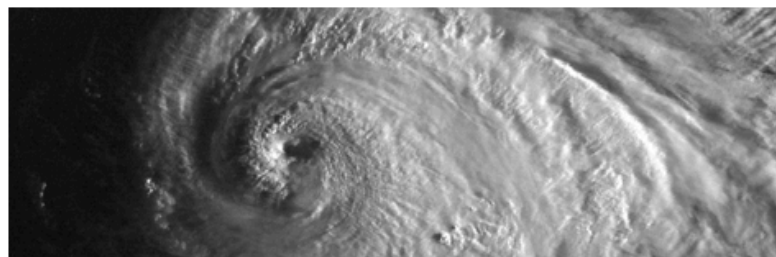
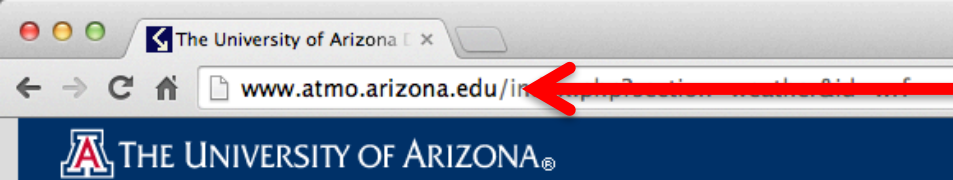
- UA WRF Model highlights
  - 5.4 km outer domain, 1.8 km inner domain
  - Initialized on the 0Z, 6Z, and 12Z GFS and NAM
  - Many days include 13Z RAP initialization (esp. in summer)
- Local challenges include:
  - Mountains + moisture + heating = monsoon storms
  - Unreliable initialization data from Mexico
  - Extreme planetary boundary layer heights
  - Rapidly changing land/surface characteristics
- 1.8 km resolution, 3 minute outputs of:
  - GHI, DNI, 10 m wind, 80 m wind, temp

WRF configuration details:

- RRTMG
- Morrison 2 mom. or SBUYLIN
- Bougeault-Lacarre or ACM2
- Noah LSM

Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) community model developed at NCAR, NCEP, ESRL, universities, and more

# Raw UA WRF forecasts available at [atmo.arizona.edu](http://atmo.arizona.edu)



## Arizona Regional WRF Model Data

### Model Derived Forecasts

[SE AZ Forecast](#) [Phx Area Forecast](#) [AM Optical Depth](#)

### Model Discussion

During the monsoon season and for significant weather events, a model discussion may be available.

[Current Discussion](#) [Previous Discussion](#)

### Model Products

	06z AZ WRF-GFS	06z AZ WRF-NAM	12z AZ WRF-NAM	12z AZ WRF-GFS	12z AZ WRF-RUC
<b>Domain-Level Products</b>					
Composite RADAR	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>
Precipitation	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>
Accumulated Precipitation	<a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>
Accumulated Snow	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>
Snow Cover	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a>
2m Temp	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>
10m Wind	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>	<a href="#">1.8km 5.4km</a> <a href="#">1.8kmz 5.4kmz</a>
Precipitable					

[Current Weather](#)

[Campus Weather Conditions](#)

[Campus Weather Plots \(English Units\)](#)

[Daily, Weekly & Monthly Plots](#)

[Solar Observatory Data \(opens new tab or window\)](#)

[Satellite Imagery](#)

[RADAR](#)

[Lightning Plots \(arizona.edu only\)](#)

[Maps and Plots](#)

[Arizona Regional WRF Model Data](#)

[Idaho Regional WRF Model Data](#)

[GPS Precipitable Water](#)

[Cloud movies](#)

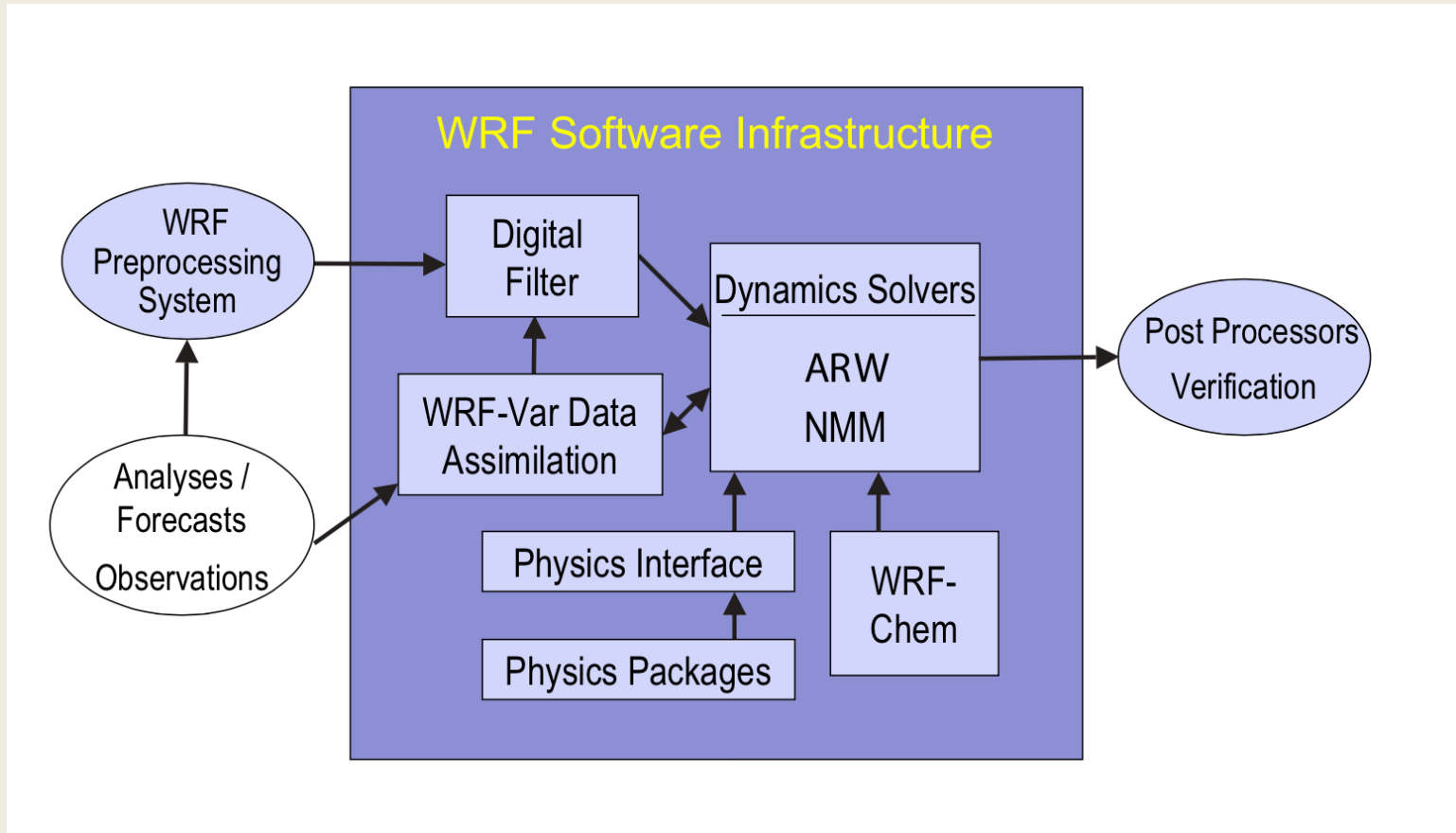
[Full Day Cloud Camera Movie](#)

[Last 90 mins. Movie](#)

[Yesterday's Movie](#)

["Best Of" ATMO Cloud Movies](#)

# A small selection of WRF details



# A small selection of WRF details

## 2.2 Flux-Form Euler Equations

Using the variables defined above, the flux-form Euler equations can be written

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t U + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}u) - \partial_x(p\phi_\eta) + \partial_\eta(p\phi_x) &= F_U \\ \partial_t V + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}v) - \partial_y(p\phi_\eta) + \partial_\eta(p\phi_y) &= F_V \\ \partial_t W + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}w) - g(\partial_\eta p - \mu) &= F_W \\ \partial_t \Theta + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}\theta) &= F_\Theta \\ \partial_t \mu + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}) &= 0 \\ \partial_t \phi + \mu^{-1}[(\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \phi) - gW] &= 0\end{aligned}$$

along with the diagnostic relation for the inverse density

$$\partial_\eta \phi = -\alpha\mu,$$

and the equation of state

$$p = p_0(R_d\theta/p_0\alpha)^\gamma.$$

In (2.3) – (2.10), the subscripts  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $\eta$  denote differentiation,

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}a = \partial_x(Ua) + \partial_y(Va) + \partial_\eta(\Omega a),$$

and

$$\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla a = U\partial_x a + V\partial_y a + \Omega\partial_\eta a,$$

where  $a$  represents a generic variable.  $\gamma = c_p/c_v = 1.4$  is the ratio of the heat air,  $R_d$  is the gas constant for dry air, and  $p_0$  is a reference pressure (typically right-hand-side (RHS) terms  $F_U$ ,  $F_V$ ,  $F_W$ , and  $F_\Theta$  represent forcing terms a physics, turbulent mixing, spherical projections, and the earth's rotation.

## 2.3 Inclusion of Moisture

In formulating the moist Euler equations, we retain the coupling of dry air mass variables, and we retain the conservation equation for dry air (2.7), as opposed to the full (moist) air mass and hence introducing source terms in the equation (2.7). Additionally, we define the coordinate with respect to the dry air on these principles, the vertical coordinate can be written as

$$\eta = (p_{dh} - p_{dht})/\mu_d$$

where  $\mu_d$  represents the mass of the dry air in the column and  $p_{dh}$  and  $p_{dht}$  are the hydrostatic pressure of the dry atmosphere and the hydrostatic pressure at the top of the atmosphere. The coupled variables are defined as

$$\mathbf{V} = \mu_d \mathbf{v}, \quad \Omega = \mu_d \dot{\eta}, \quad \Theta = \mu_d \theta.$$

With these definitions, the moist Euler equations can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t U + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}u) + \mu_d \alpha \partial_x p + (\alpha/\alpha_d) \partial_\eta p \partial_x \phi &= F_U \\ \partial_t V + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}v) + \mu_d \alpha \partial_y p + (\alpha/\alpha_d) \partial_\eta p \partial_y \phi &= F_V \\ \partial_t W + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}w) - g[(\alpha/\alpha_d) \partial_\eta p - \mu_d] &= F_W \\ \partial_t \Theta + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}\theta) &= F_\Theta \\ \partial_t \mu_d + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}) &= 0 \\ \partial_t \phi + \mu_d^{-1}[(\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \phi) - gW] &= 0 \\ \partial_t Q_m + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}q_m) &= F_{Q_m}\end{aligned}$$

with the diagnostic equation for dry inverse density

$$\partial_\eta \phi = -\alpha_d \mu_d$$

for dry air)



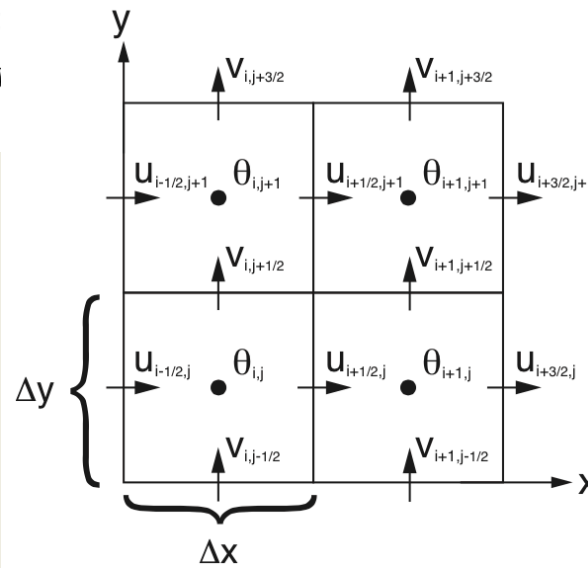
# A small selection of WRF details

## Runge-Kutta Time Integration Scheme

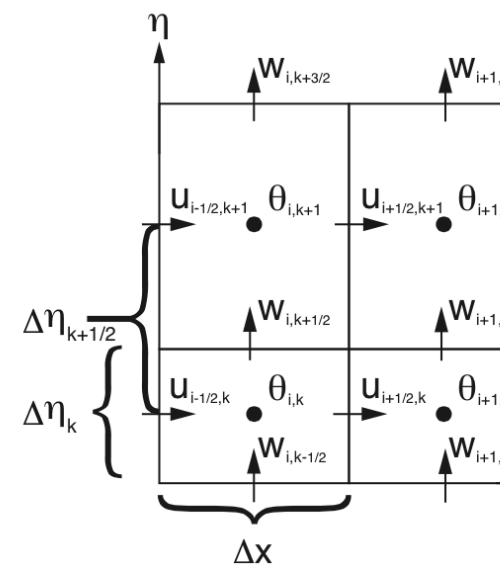
3 scheme, described in [Wicker and Skamarock \(2002\)](#), integrates a set of ordinary differential equations using a predictor-corrector formulation. Defining the prognostic variables as the RW solver as  $\Phi = (U, V, W, \Theta, \phi', \mu', Q_m)$  and the model equations as  $\Phi_t = R(\Phi)$ , the integration takes the form of 3 steps to advance a solution  $\Phi(t)$  to  $\Phi(t + \Delta t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^* &= \Phi^t + \frac{\Delta t}{3} R(\Phi^t) \\ \Phi^{**} &= \Phi^t + \frac{\Delta t}{2} R(\Phi^*) \\ \Phi^{t+\Delta t} &= \Phi^t + \Delta t R(\Phi^{**}) \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

Skamarock et. al. "A description of the Advanced Research WRF Version 3" (2008)



horizontal grid



vertical grid

## 1.2 Major Features of the ARW System, Version 3

### ARW Solver

- *Equations:* Fully compressible, Euler nonhydrostatic with a run-time hydrostatic option available. Conservative for scalar variables.
- *Prognostic Variables:* Velocity components  $u$  and  $v$  in Cartesian coordinate, vertical velocity  $w$ , perturbation potential temperature, perturbation geopotential, and perturbation surface pressure of dry air. Optionally, turbulent kinetic energy and any number of scalars such as water vapor mixing ratio, rain/snow mixing ratio, cloud water/ice mixing ratio, and chemical species and tracers.
- *Vertical Coordinate:* Terrain following, dry hydrostatic pressure, with vertical grid stretching

### Model Physics

- *Microphysics:* Schemes ranging from simplified physics suitable for idealized studies to sophisticated mixed-phase physics suitable for process studies and NWP.
- *Cumulus parameterizations:* Adjustment and mass-flux schemes for mesoscale modeling.
- *Surface physics:* Multi-layer land surface models ranging from a simple thermal model to full vegetation and soil moisture models, including snow cover and sea ice.
- *Planetary boundary layer physics:* Turbulent kinetic energy prediction or non-local  $K$  schemes.
- *Atmospheric radiation physics:* Longwave and shortwave schemes with multiple spectral bands and a simple shortwave scheme suitable for climate and weather applications. Cloud effects and surface fluxes are included.

- *Earth's Rotation:* Full Coriolis terms included.
- *Mapping to Sphere:* Four map projections are supported for real-data simulation: polar stereographic, Lambert conformal, Mercator, and latitude-longitude (allowing rotated pole).

A complicated model with a lot of options. With effort and expertise, you can tune it to perform better in your environment. We've tuned it to perform better in Arizona.

conditions.

s and

-west

Animation available at:  
<http://forecasting.uaren.org>

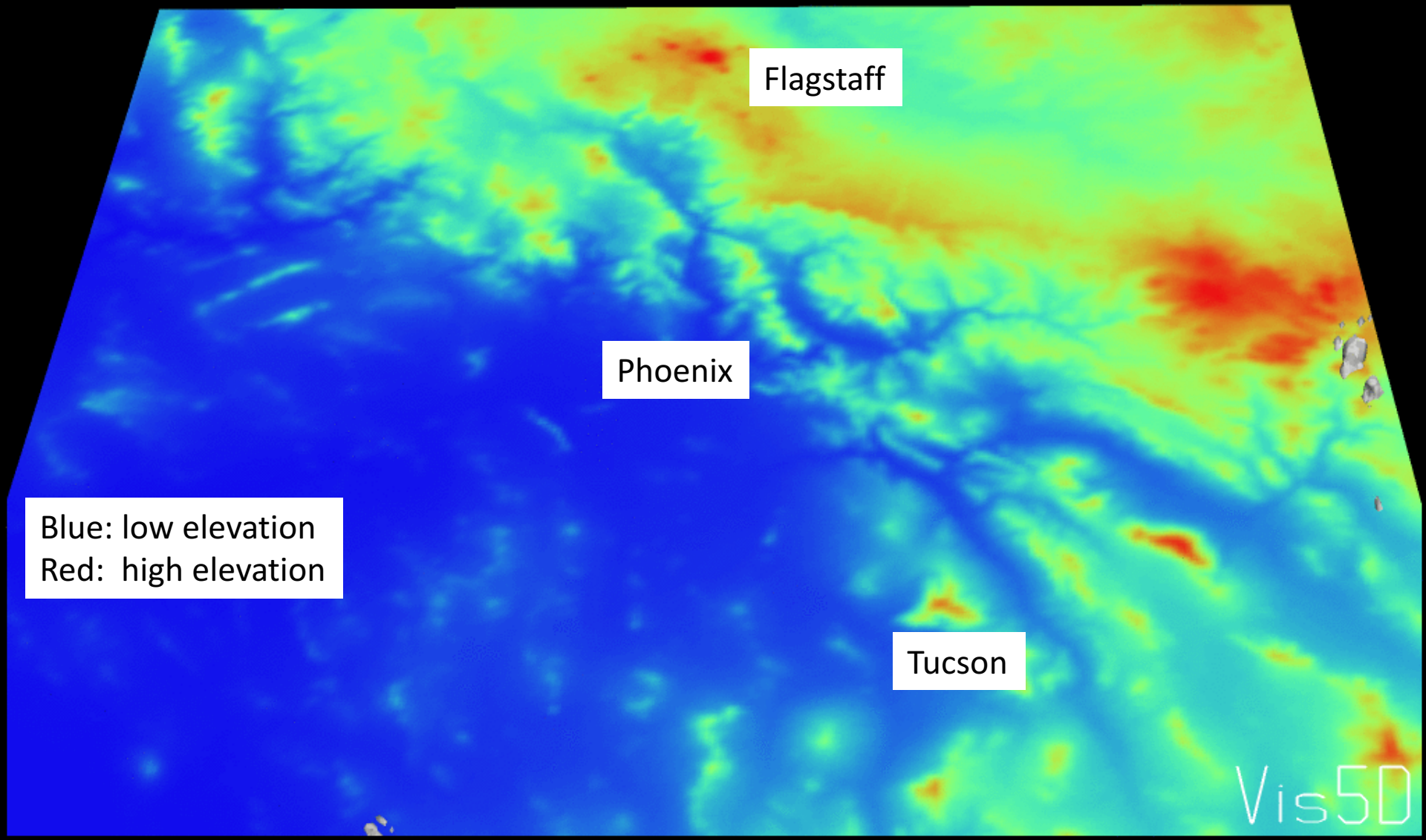


Flagstaff

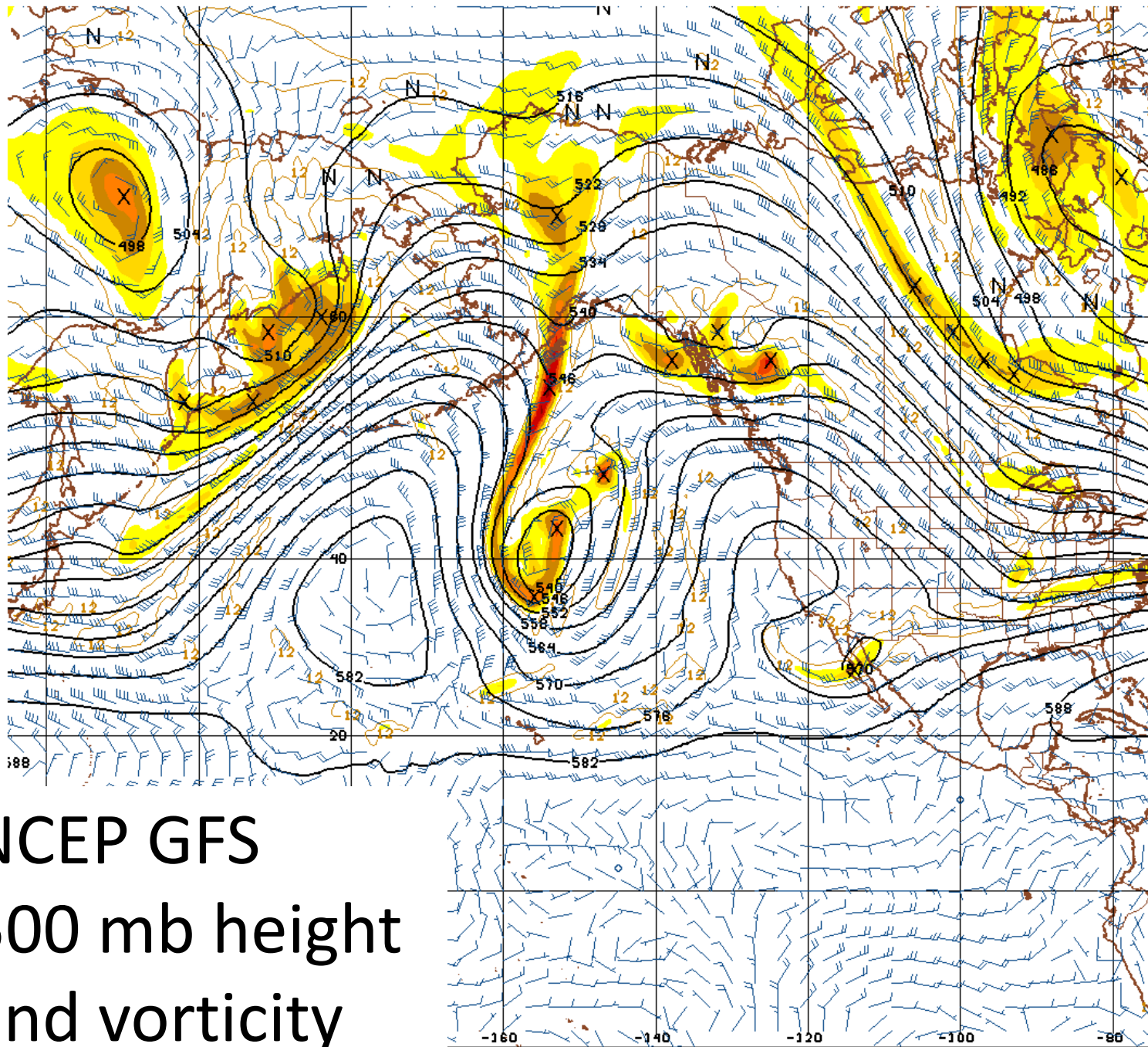
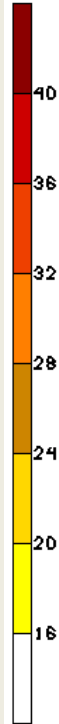
Phoenix

Blue: low elevation  
Red: high elevation

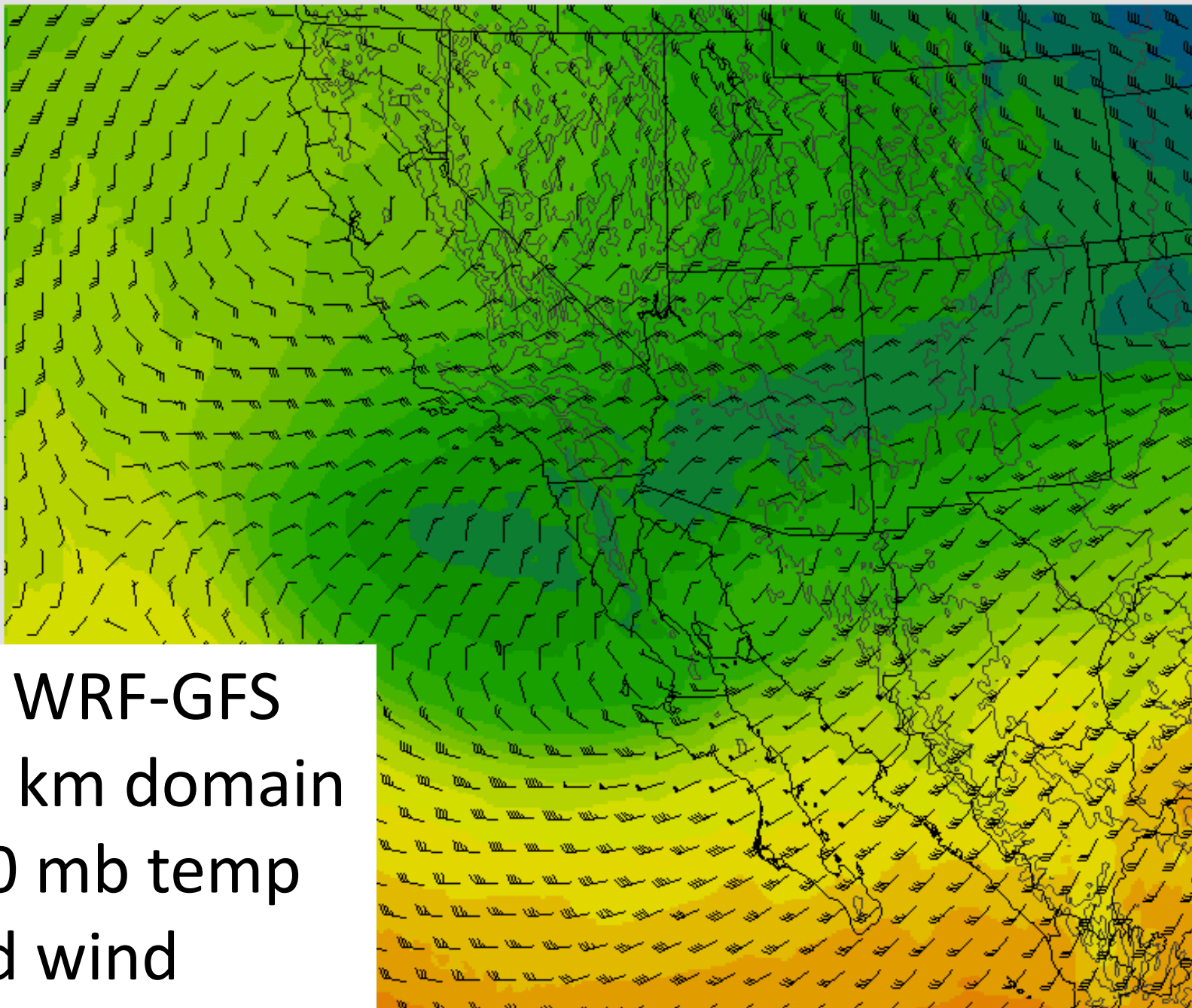
Tucson







# NCEP GFS 500 mb height and vorticity



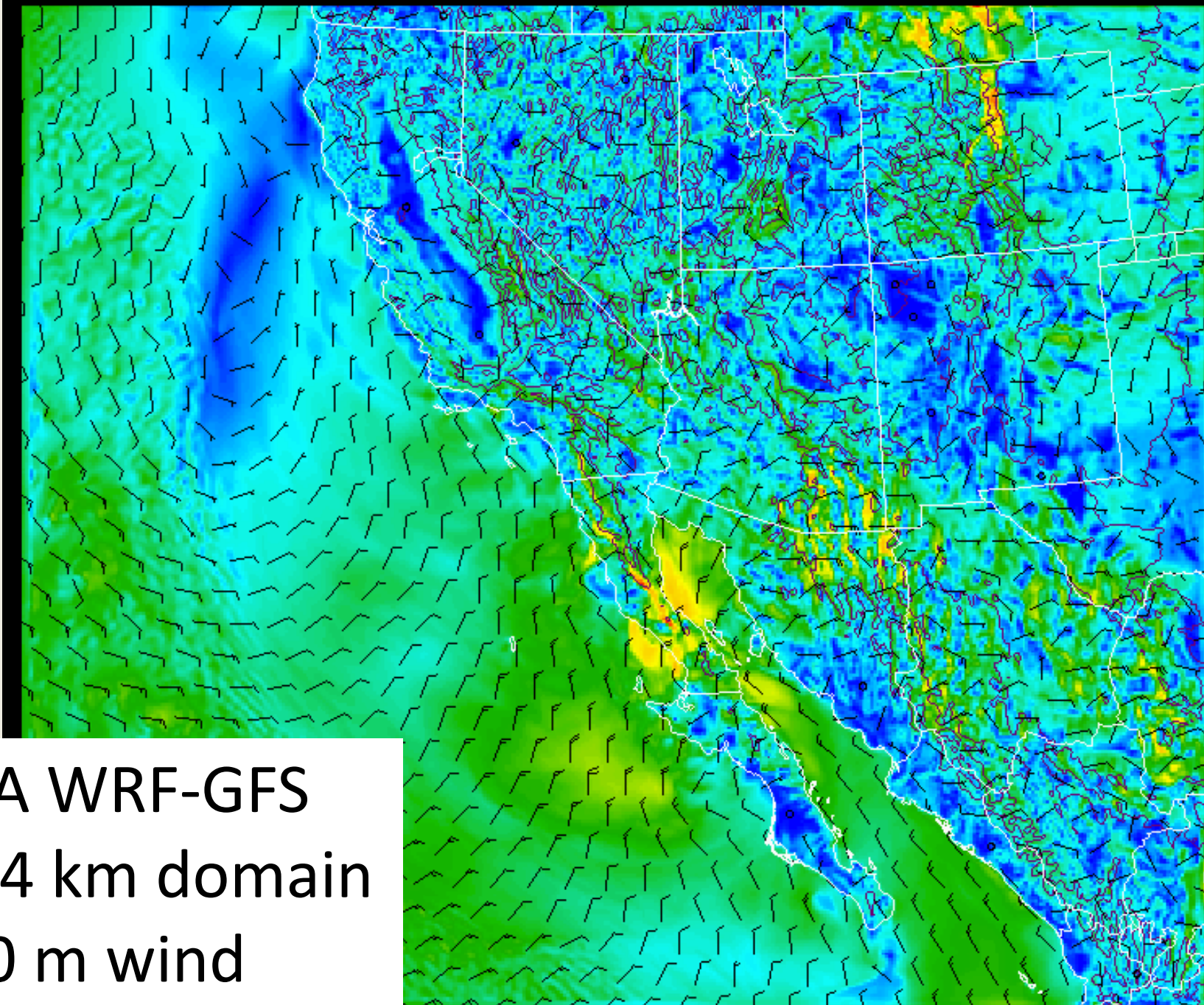
UA WRF-GFS  
5.4 km domain  
500 mb temp  
and wind



Valid 2015-03-06 00:00AM MST

10m Wind (knots)

2015-03-06\_07:00:00 Z



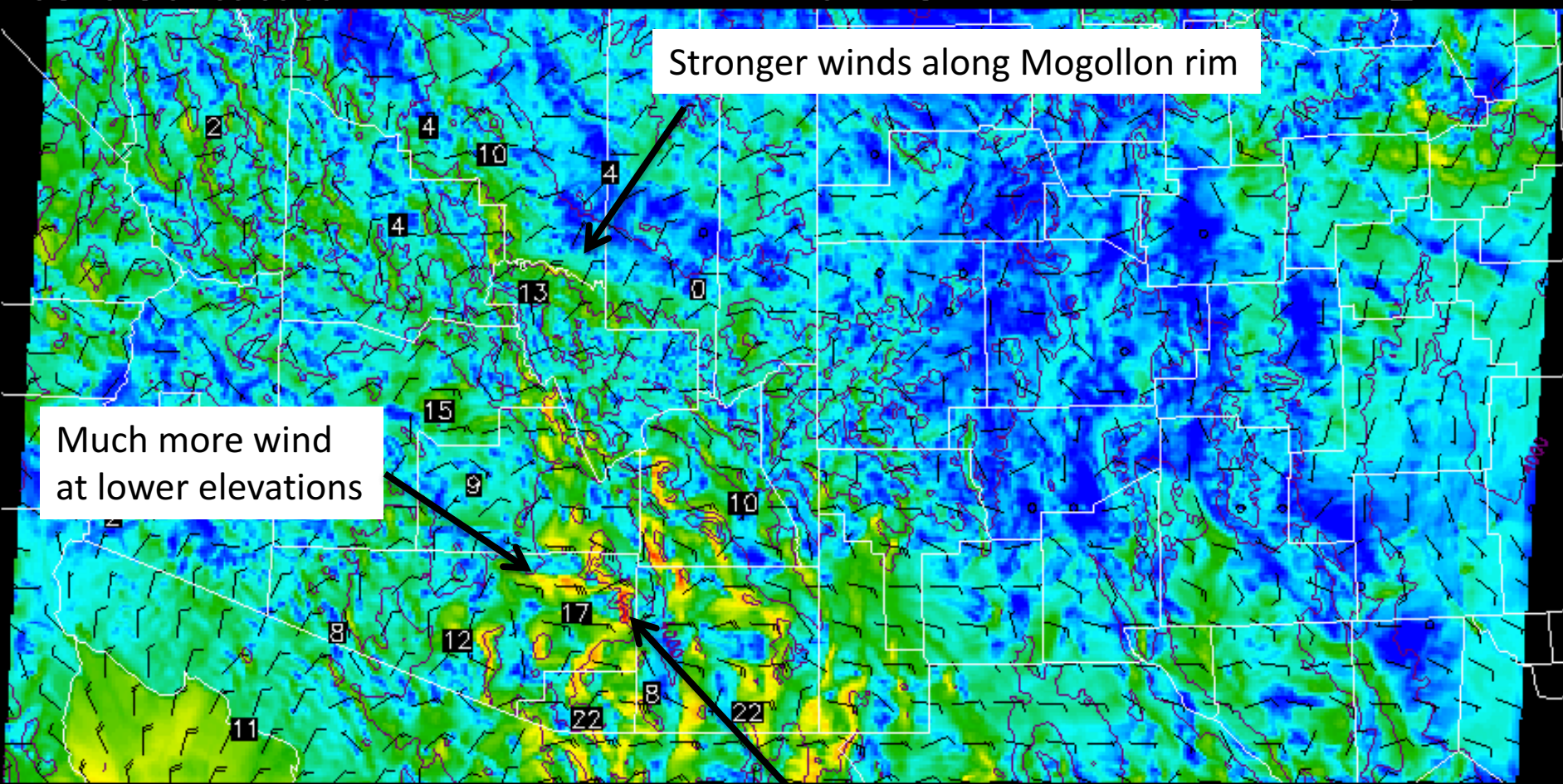
UA WRF-GFS  
5.4 km domain  
10 m wind



Valid 2015-03-06 00:00AM MST

10m Wind (knots)

2015-03-06\_07:00:00 Z



Stronger winds along Mogollon rim

Much more wind at lower elevations

Stronger mountain winds

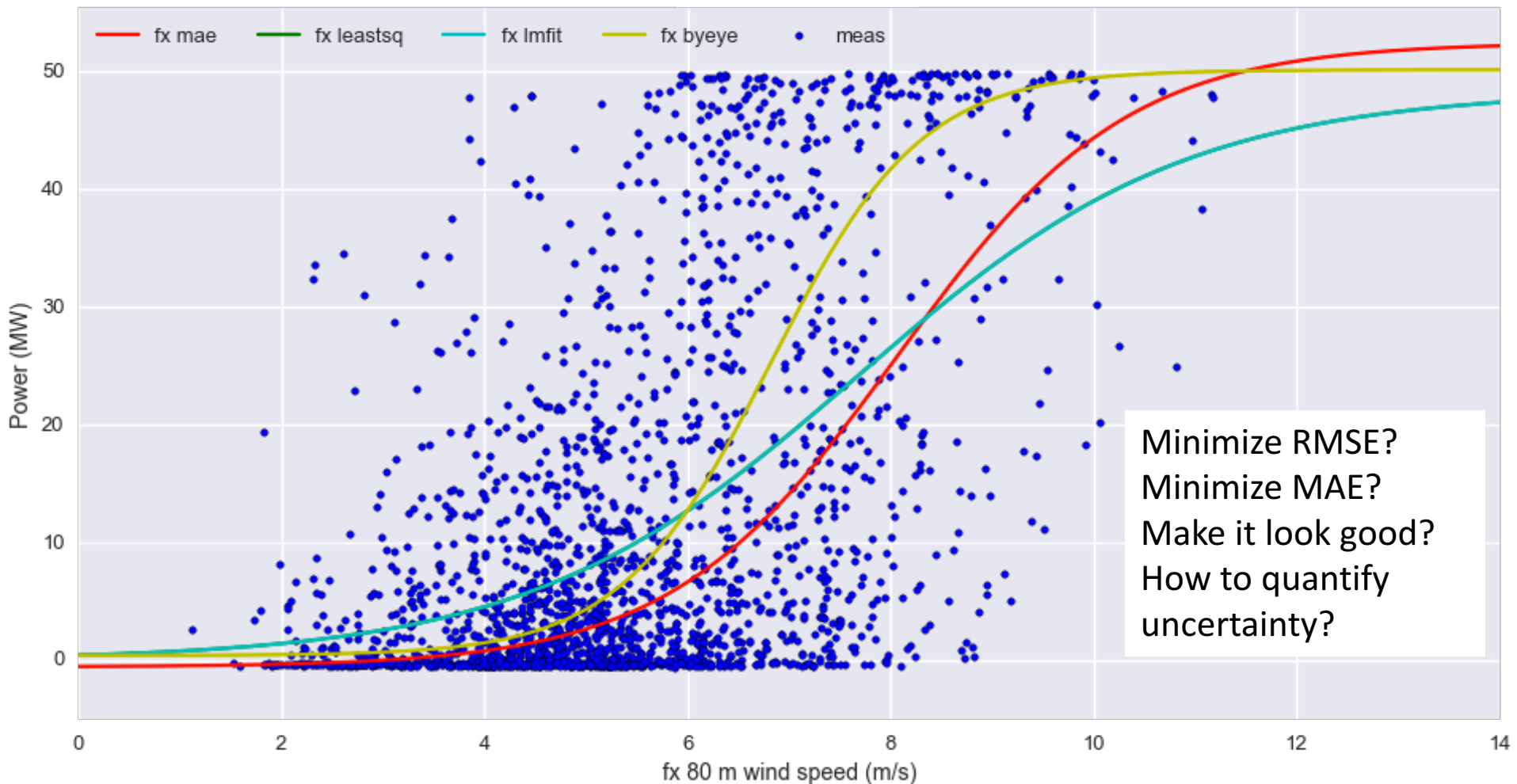
UA WRF-GFS  
 1.8 km domain  
 10 m wind

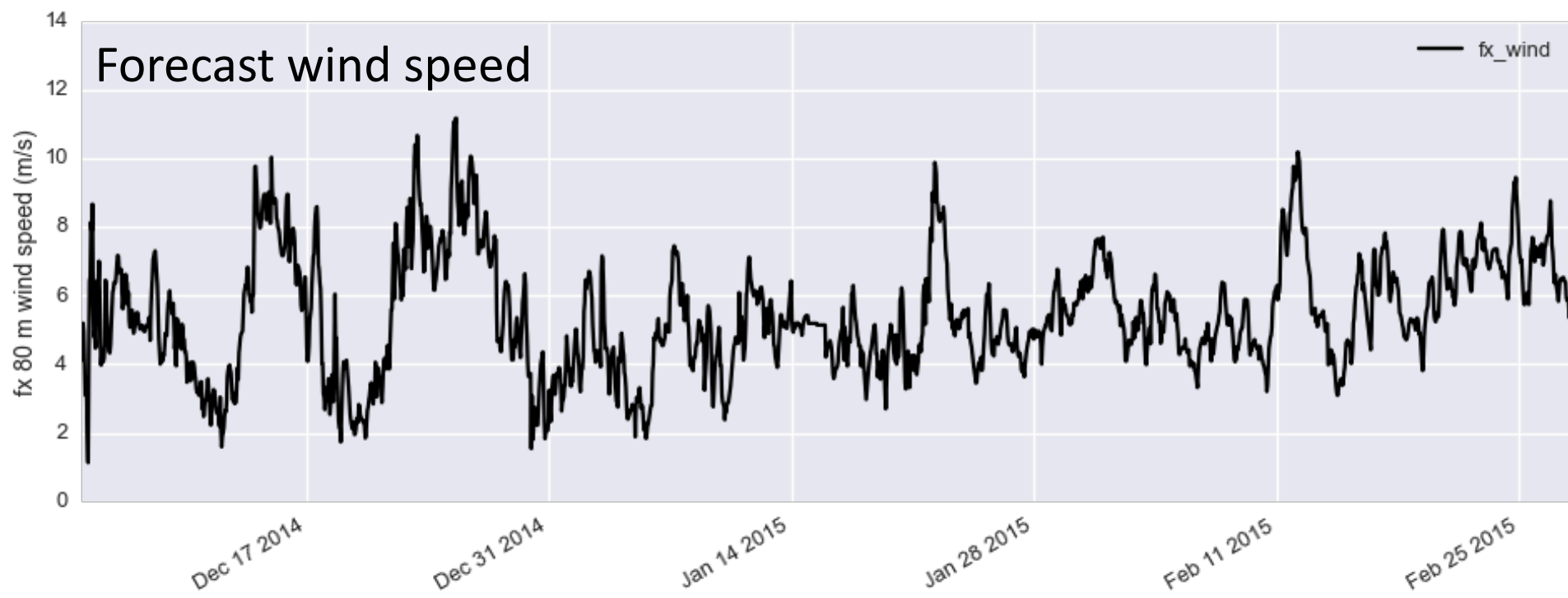
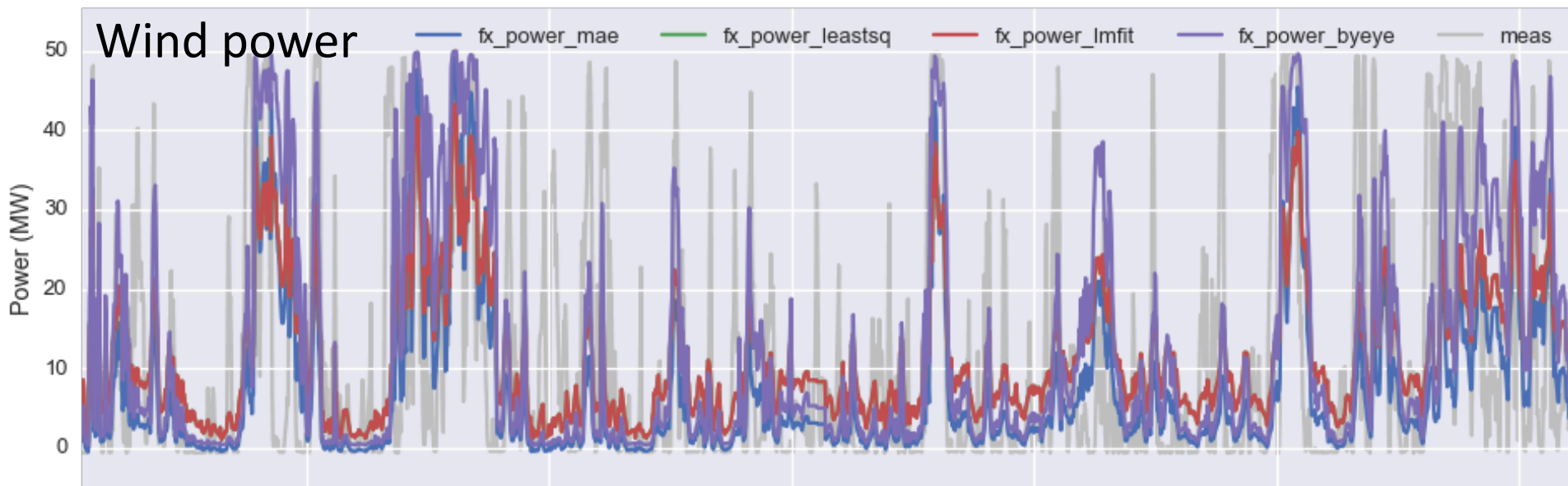
Difference between 5.4 km and 1.8 km domains increases as weather becomes more severe



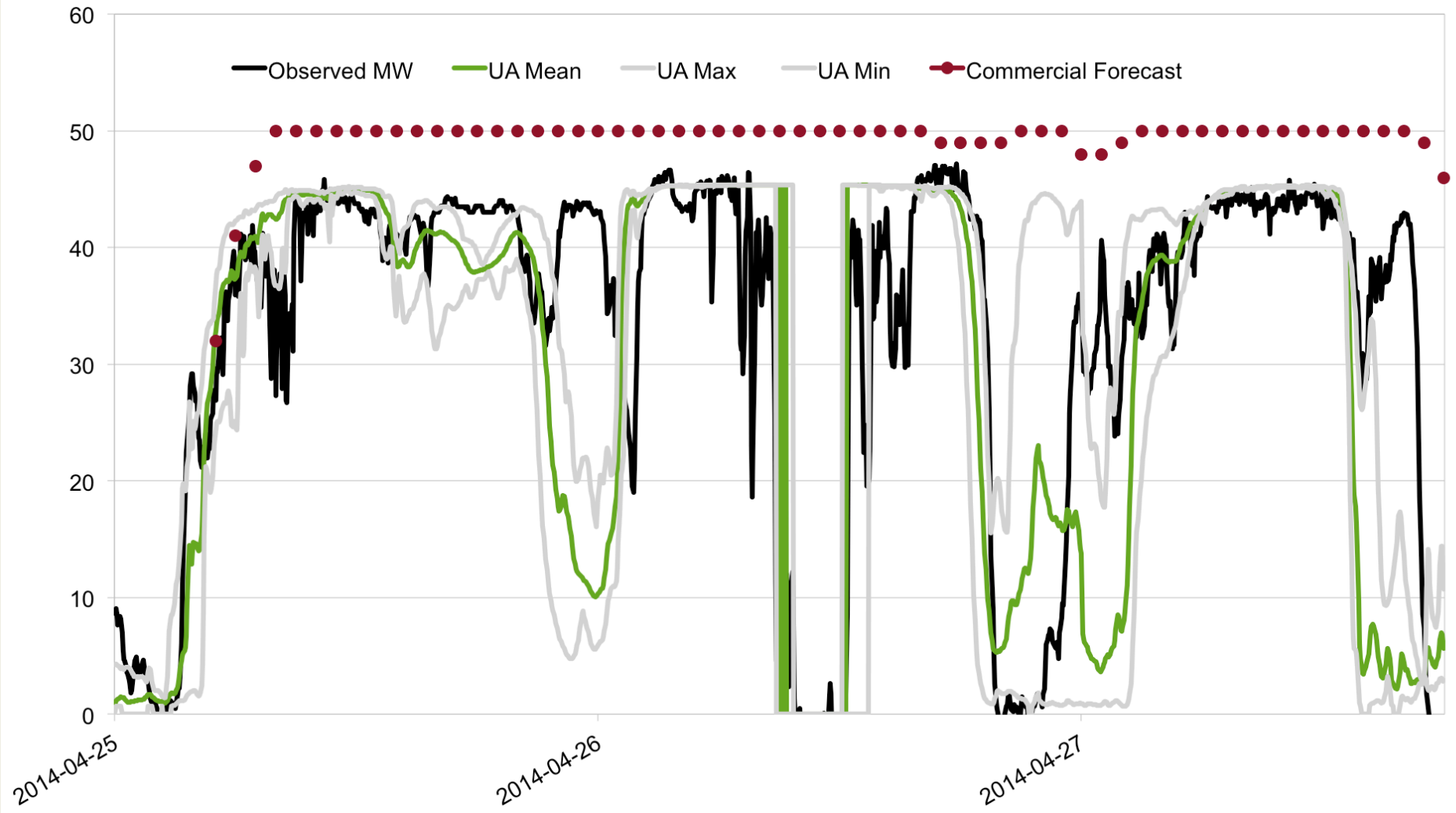
# UA-WRF Wind Power Curve

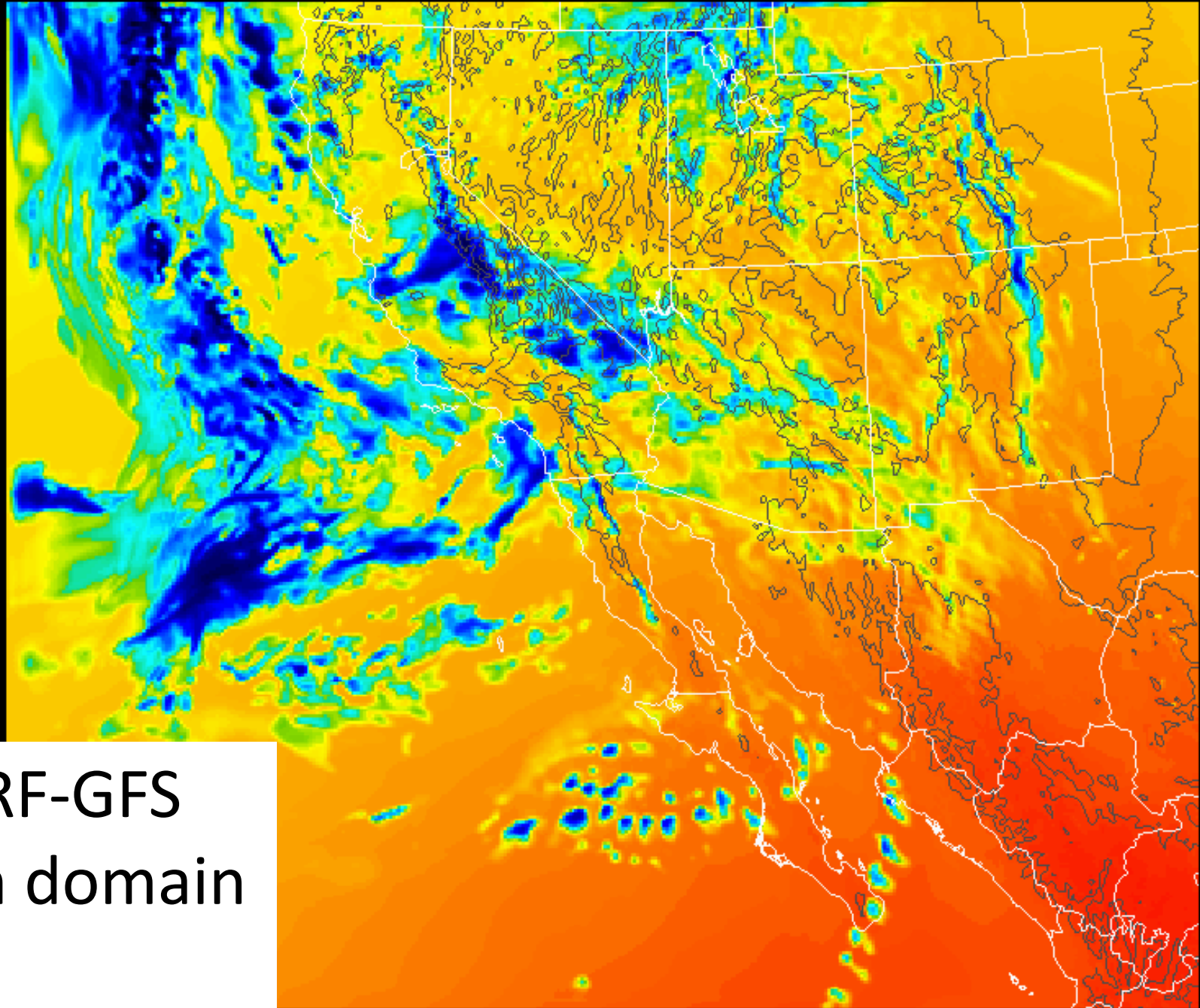
Hourly average wind power vs. hourly average forecast wind speed





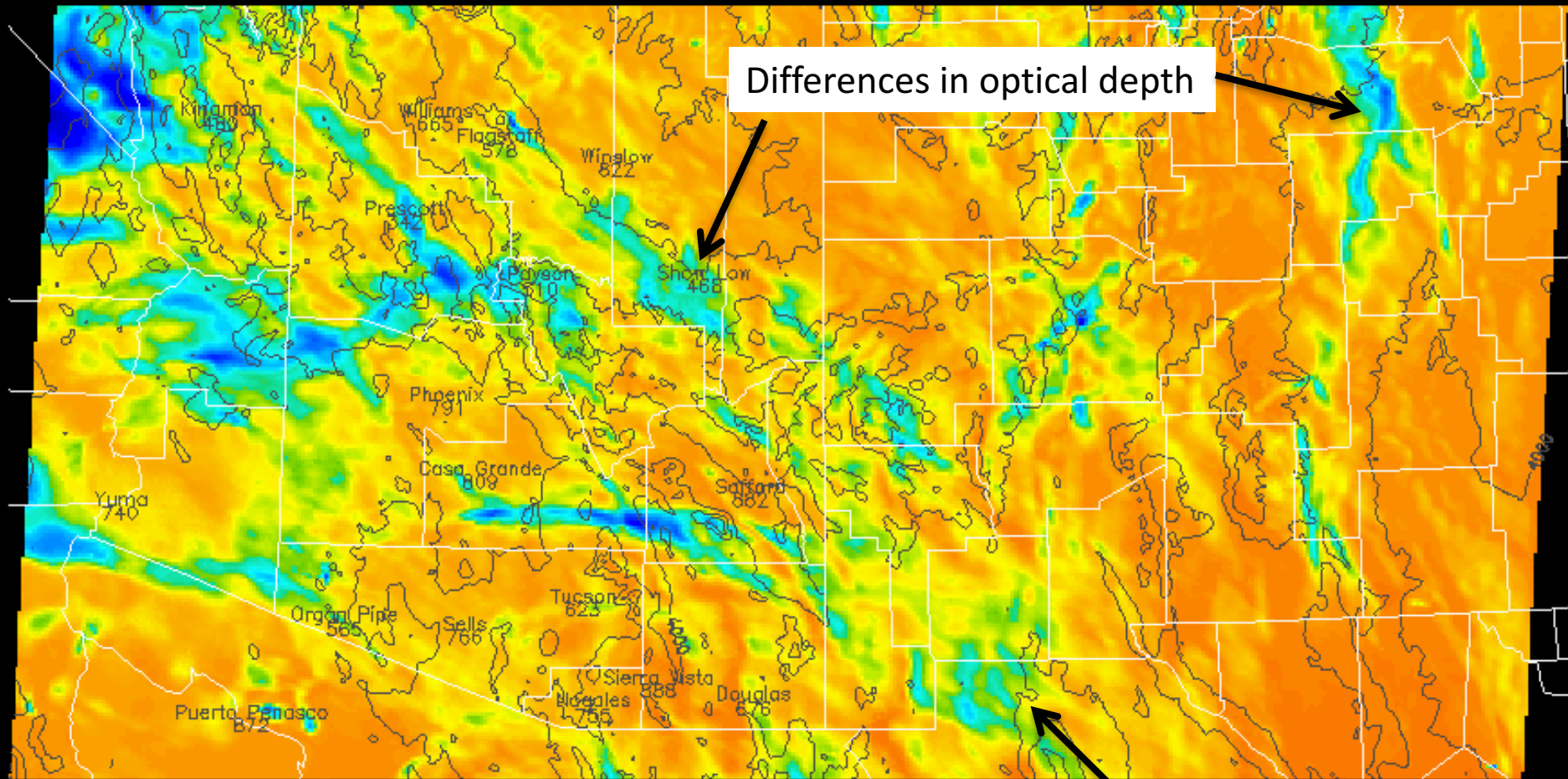
# Wind forecasting: UA vs. TEP vendor





UA WRF-GFS  
5.4 km domain  
GHI





UA WRF-GFS  
1.8 km domain  
GHI

Finer structure

Difference between 5.4 km and 1.8 km domains increases as weather becomes more severe

# PVLIB Python

Tool for modeling solar power systems in a Matlab-like environment

Open source

Descendant of Sandia's PVLIB MATLAB

Basis for some of the UA modeling

Solar power forecast module

github.com/pvlib

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `pvlib / pvlib-python`. At the top, there are navigation links for "Pull requests", "Issues", and "Gist". The repository name is displayed as `pvlib / pvlib-python` with interaction buttons for "Unwatch" (17), "Unstar" (17), and "Fork" (22). Below the repository name, a description reads: "A set of documented functions for simulating the performance of photovoltaic energy systems. — Edit".

Statistics for the repository are shown: 558 commits, 1 branch, 3 releases, and 7 contributors. The current branch is `master`, and the selected branch is `pvlib-python / +`.

A merge pull request #81 from `dacoex/patch-2` is highlighted. The commit history is listed below, showing the following changes:

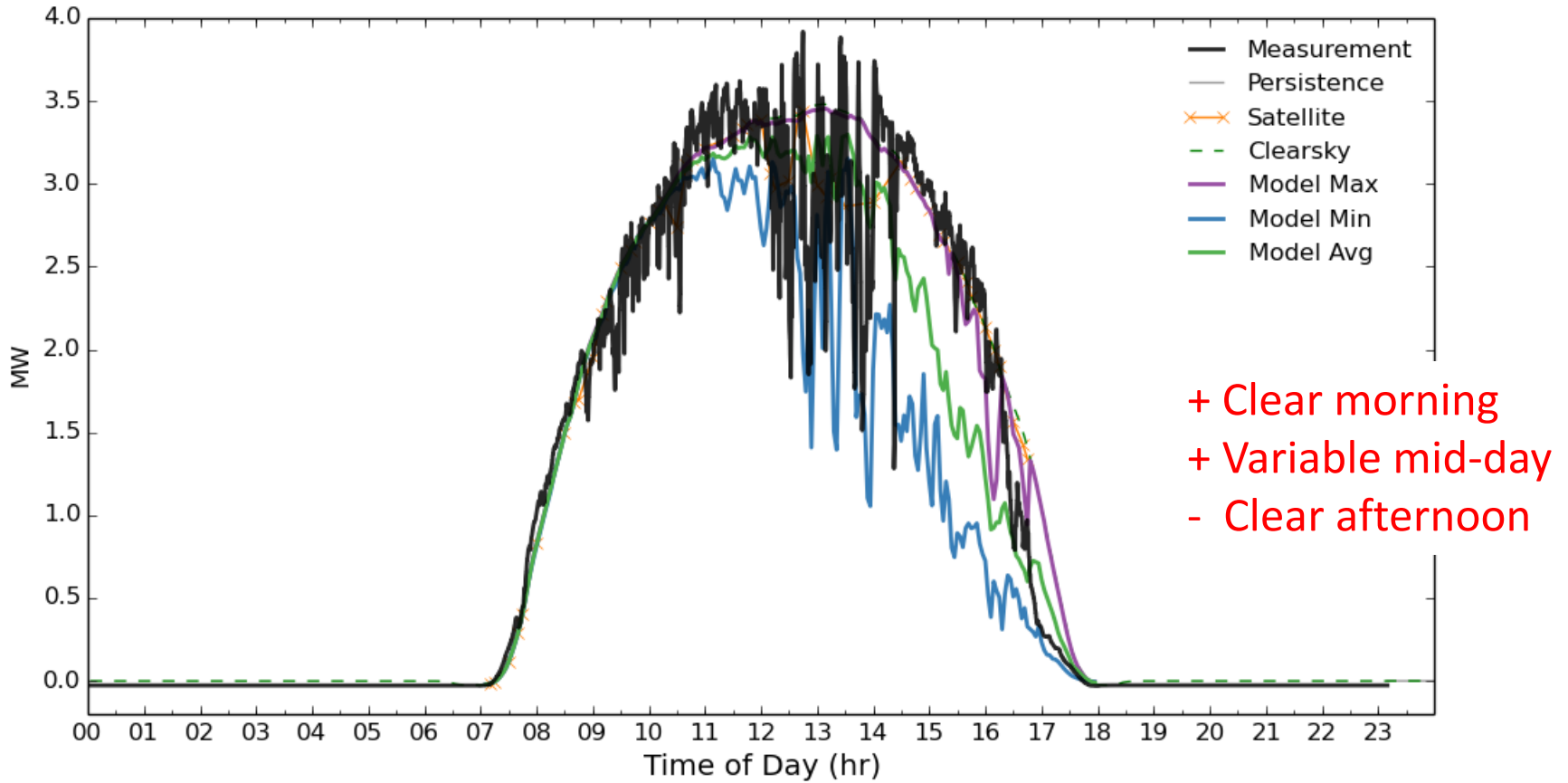
File	Change	Time
<code>docs</code>	added link to wiki	15 days ago
<code>pvlib</code>	bump to 0.2.2dev	2 months ago
<code>.gitignore</code>	add spa sources to .gitignore	6 months ago
<code>.travis.yml</code>	change travis config to hack around python3 testing	2 months ago
<code>LICENSE</code>	restore original Sandia copyright	5 months ago
<code>MANIFEST.in</code>	added <code>get_time</code> function to calculate time for a given solar position	10 months ago
<code>README.md</code>	update zenodo	2 months ago
<code>setup.py</code>	added sunrise/set/transit to python spa, removed <code>pyephem</code> dependency	5 months ago

The `README.md` section is visible, showing the repository name `pvlib-python` and a status bar with the following information: `build passing`, `coverage 92%`, `docs latest`, and DOI `10.5281/zenodo.20562`.

On the right side, there are links for "Code", "Issues" (19), "Pull requests" (0), "Wiki", "Pulse", "Graphs", and "Settings". The "SSH clone URL" is `git@github.com:pvlib/pv`, and there are buttons for "Clone in Desktop" and "Download ZIP".

# UA-WRF Solar Power Forecast

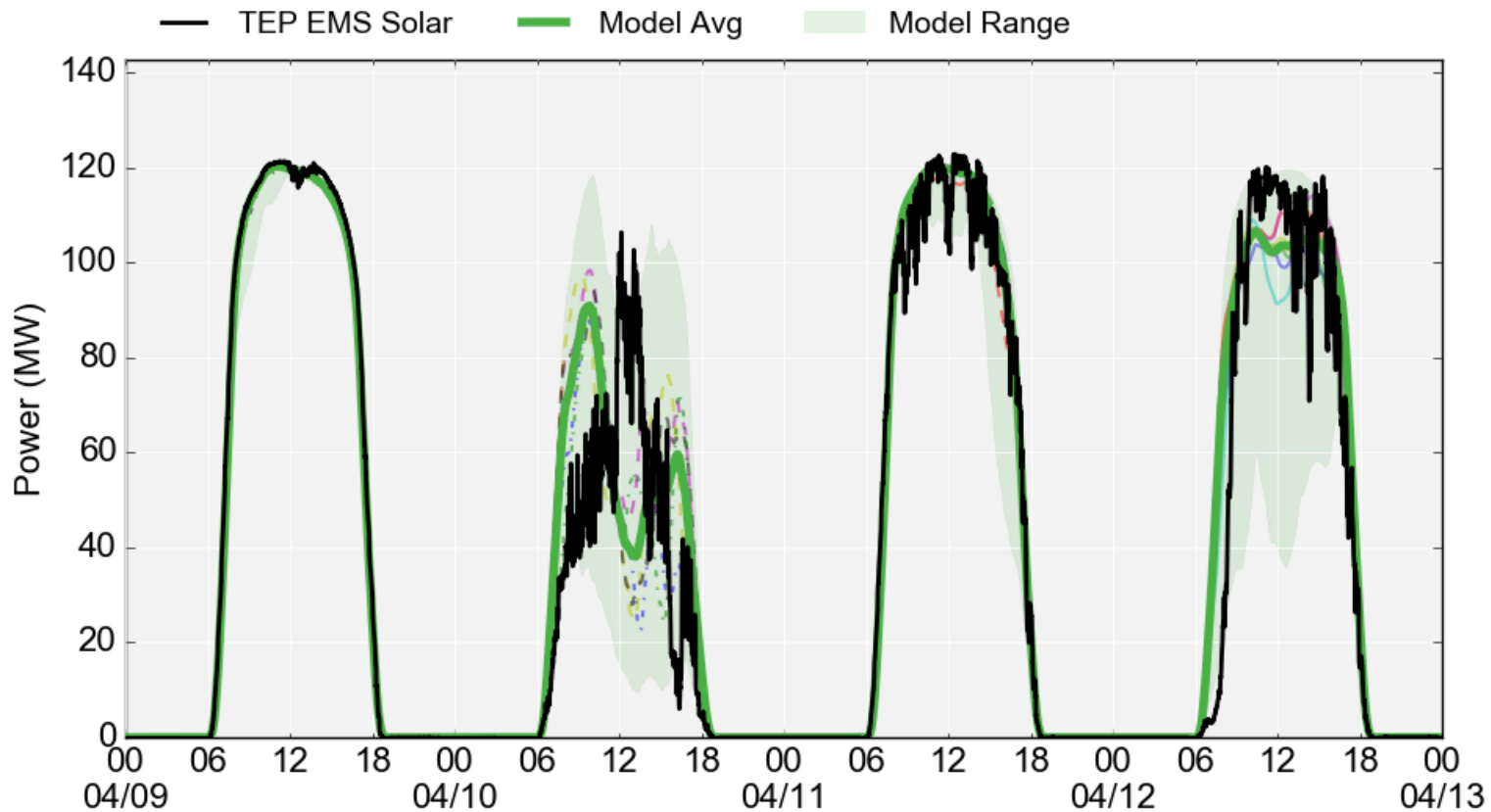
Springerville Solar EMS, 912. 02/18/14 23:13:55



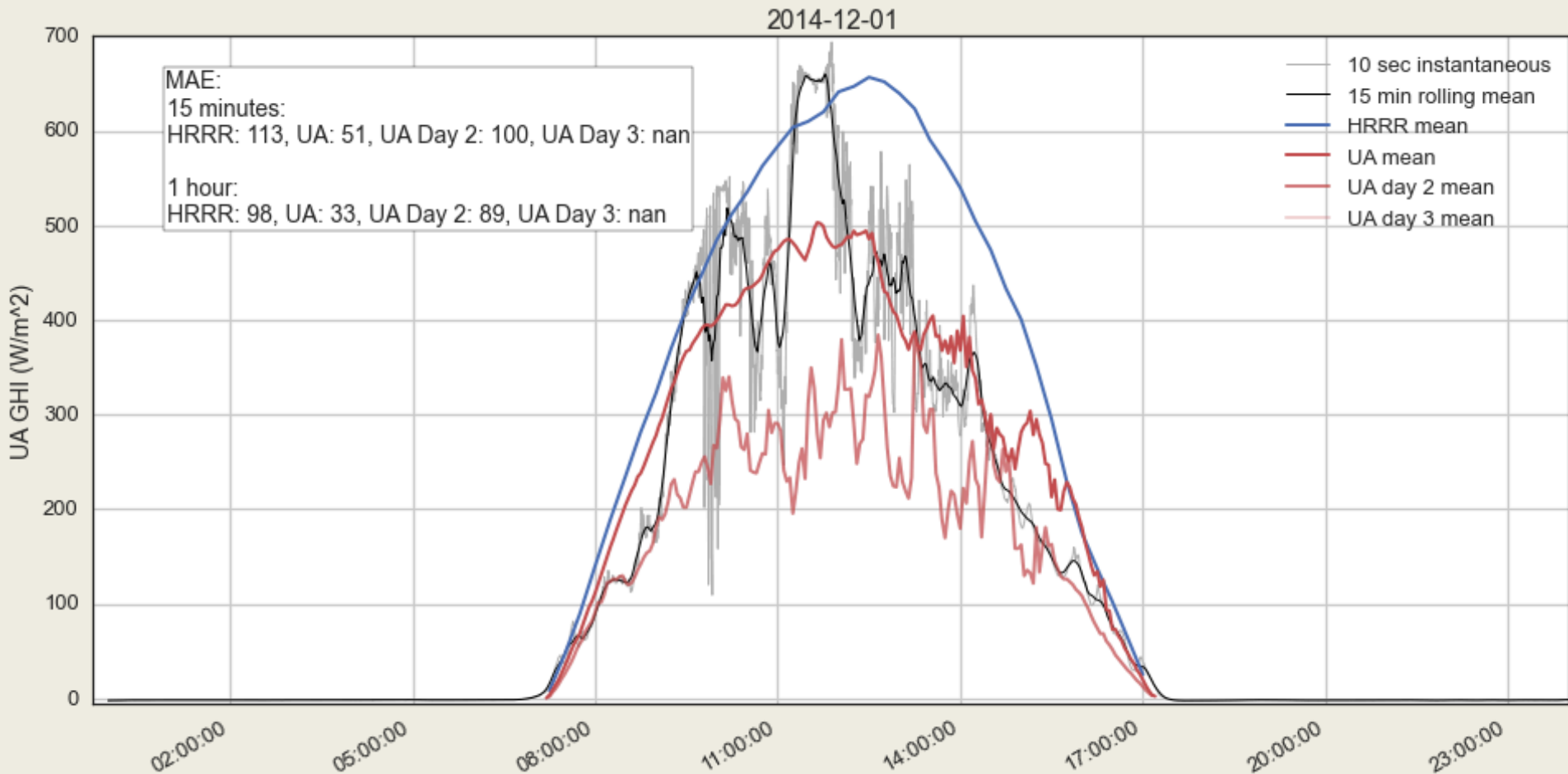


# UA-WRF Solar Power Forecast

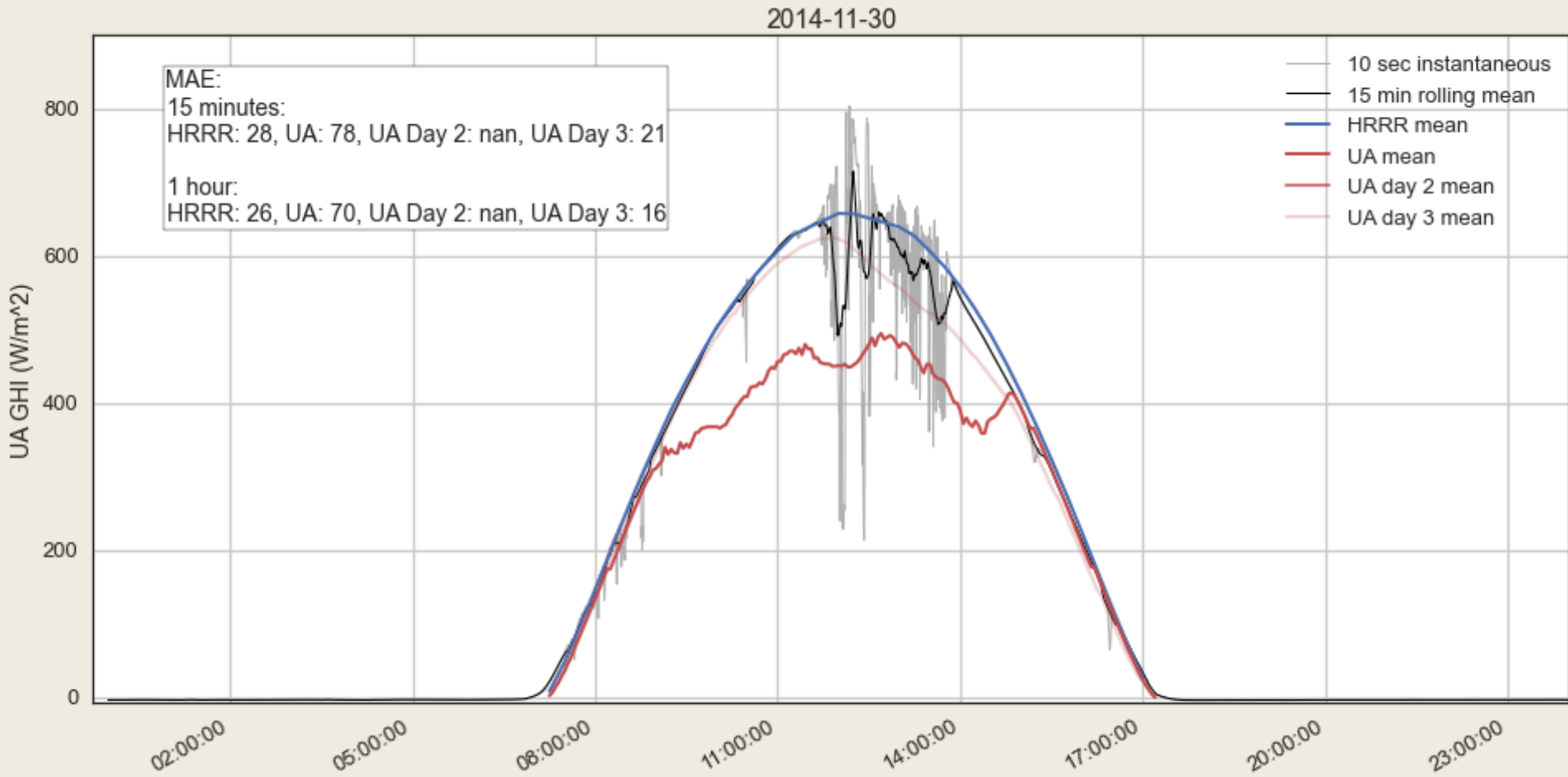
TEP EMS Solar 0 day-ahead



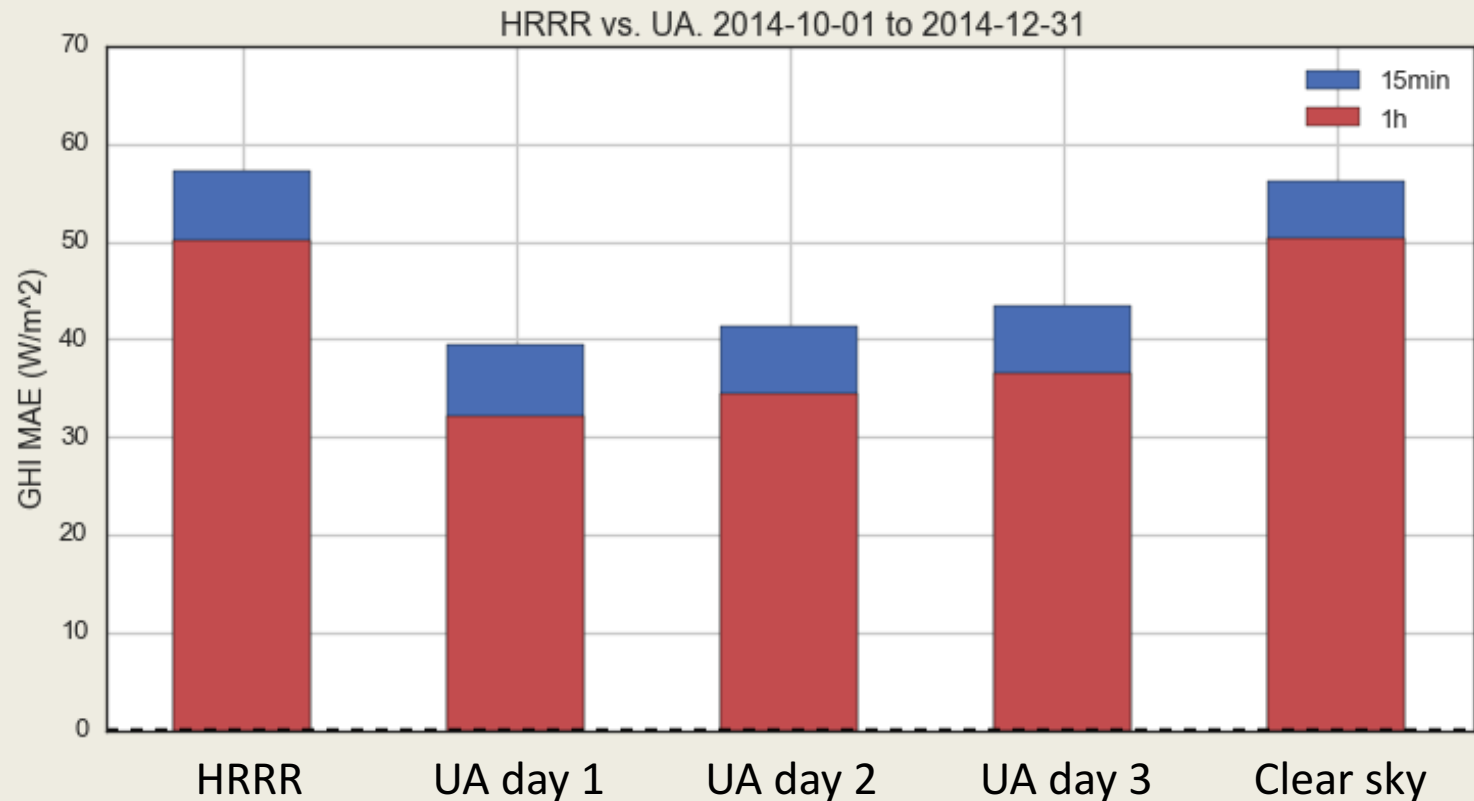
# UA-WRF vs. NCEP HRRR Tucson GHI



# UA-WRF vs. NCEP HRRR Tucson GHI



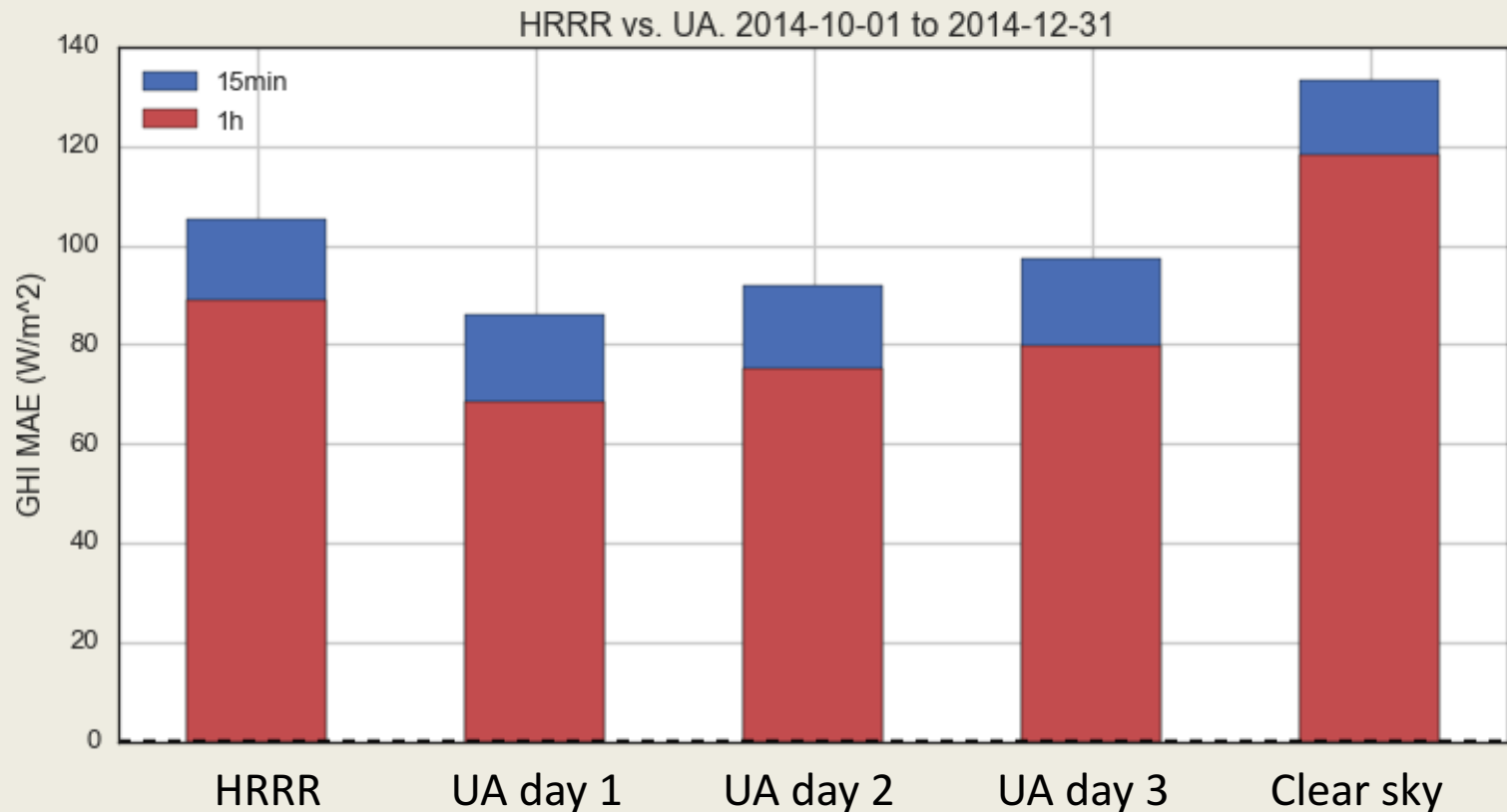
# UA-WRF vs. NCEP HRRR Tucson GHI



Not a fair comparison because NCEP HRRR does not use the correct eqn. of time  
So, we subtracted 15 minutes from HRRR time for approximate correction for these months  
First HRRR point also discarded

Oct-Dec average of the daily average of 15 minute or 1 hour MAEs

# UA-WRF vs. NCEP HRRR Tucson GHI



Limit analysis to large (MAE > 60) errors.

Eliminates clear days.

Helps HRRR, relatively, since it is much worse than UA on clear days.

UA day 3 still outperforming NCEP HRRR

# WRF Microphysics

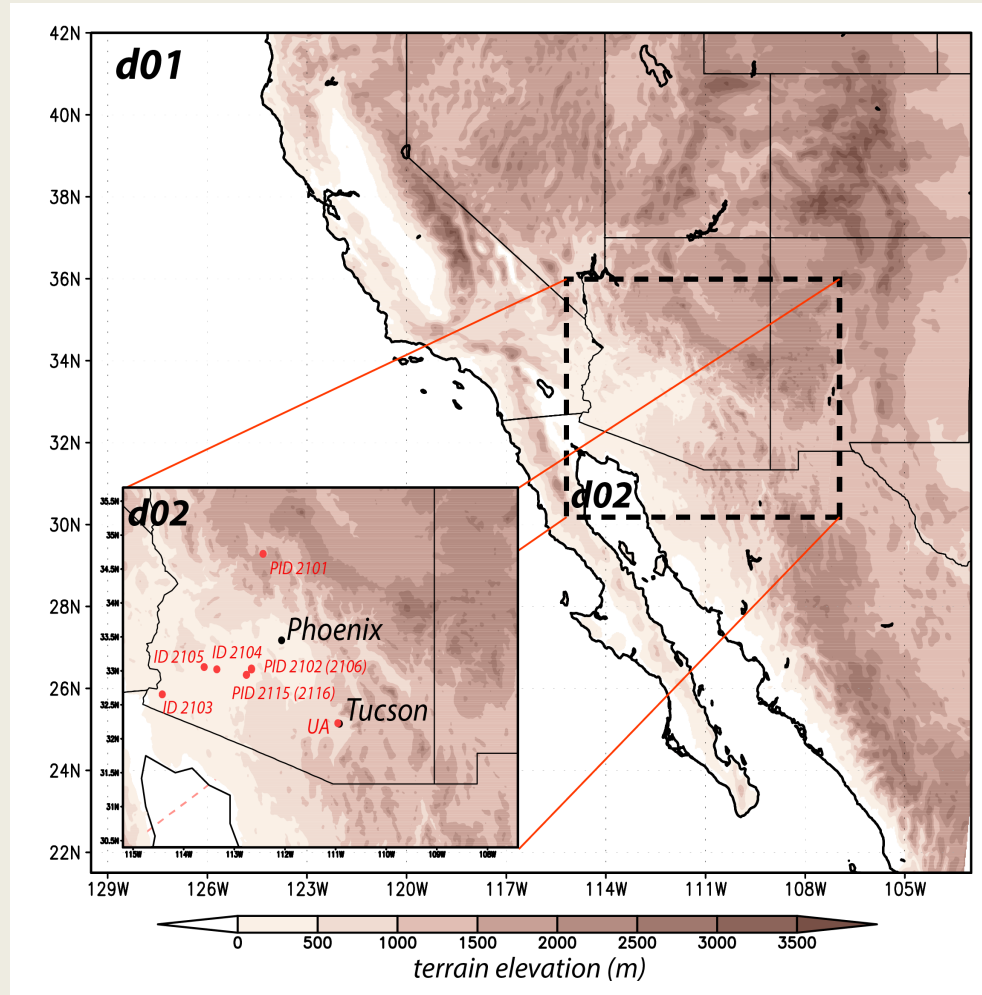
The model **microphysics scheme** governs how water changes from gas to liquid and different solids, so it is essential to cloud and irradiance forecasts.

Most microphysics research focuses on the impacts for e.g. severe storm or snow forecasts, not much concern for irradiance. Best parameterization may also depend on regional climate.

## New UA study:

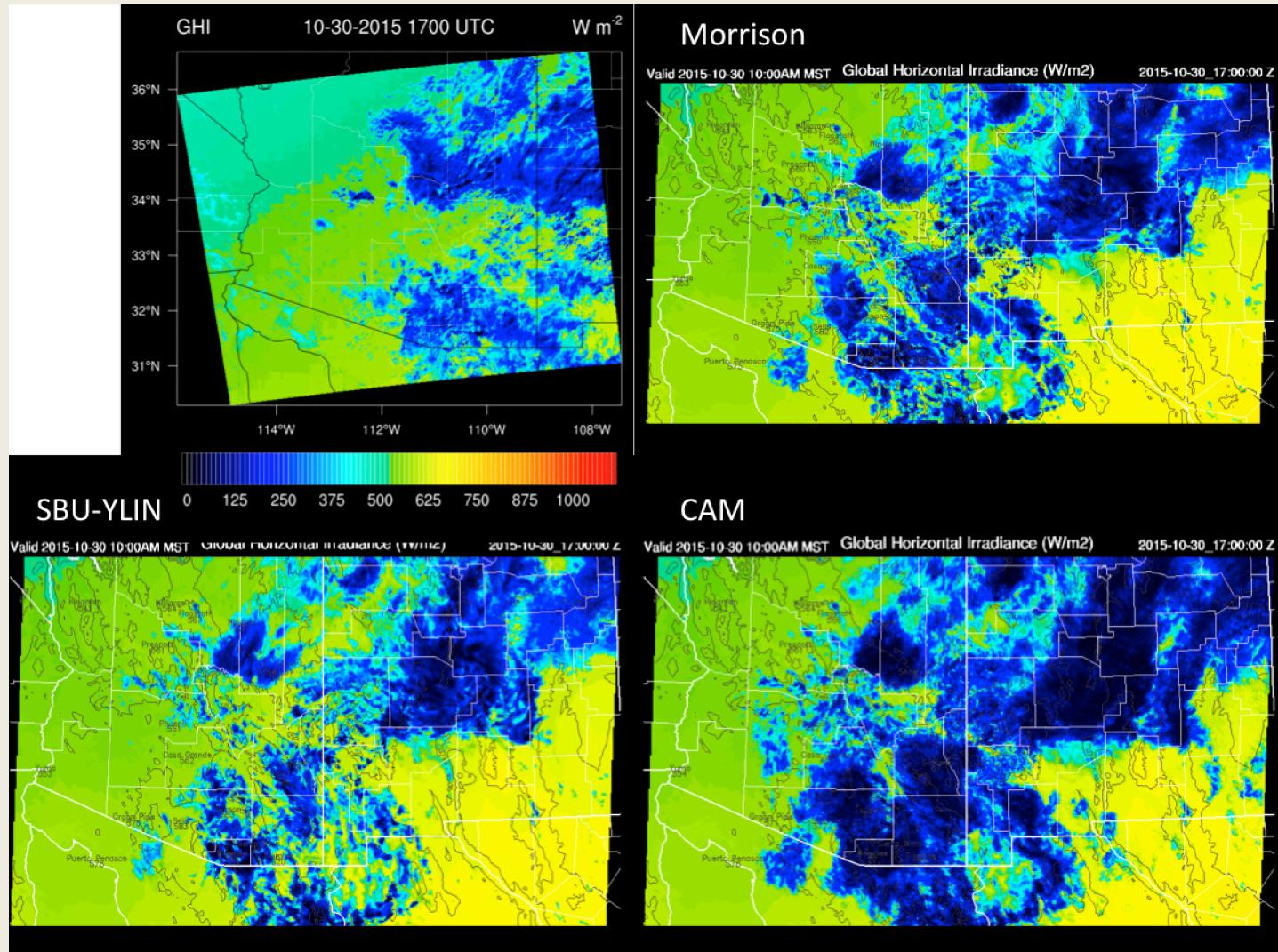
Reevaluate the microphysics parameterizations for solar irradiance forecasting in AZ.

Use UA and APS AZ Sun irradiance sensors.



# WRF Microphysics

None of the models look exactly like reality, but the range in models can be useful.





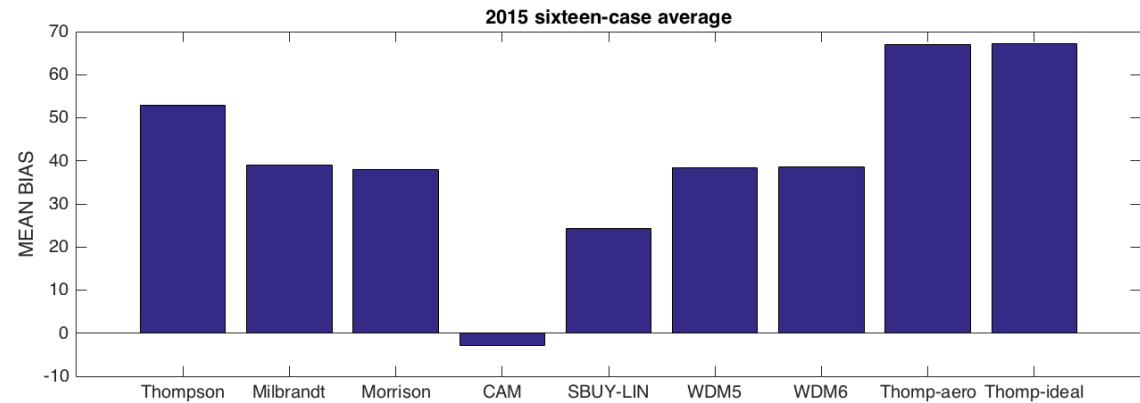
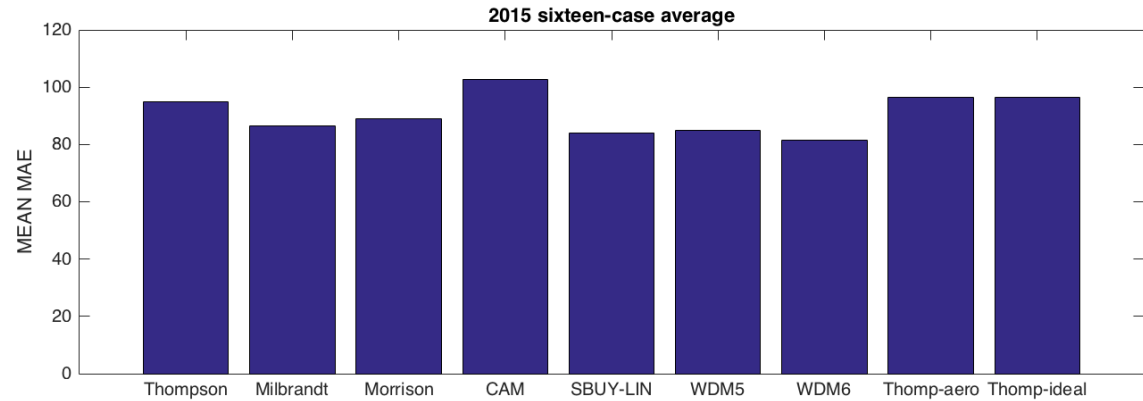
# WRF Microphysics

Conclusions:

Not much difference between existing schemes.

Clouds are hard.

The new “WRF-Solar” microphysics scheme is worse than most (in AZ)!



# Forecast Email Discussions

[atmo-uwrf] Utility Discussion 20150812 — Inbox

★ Mike Leuthold  
To: uwrf@atmo.arizona.edu  
Reply-To: Mike Leuthold  
[atmo-uwrf] Utility Discussion 20150812

August 12, 2015 at 9:21 AM

I made a terrible forecast by not calling for late afternoon/evening redevelopment. Most of the models were correct and I went against them and paid the price and I apologize for the mistake. My excuse is that I did not follow my typical morning routine of checking the weather details because of the ongoing storms. You can see the detailed postmortem in the WRF discussion.

As I was concerned about yesterday, the model runs were too aggressive with moving in the dry air from the east. Also, it's mostly clear so there is good heating so I now expect more activity than was previously forecast. However, the dividing line is very close to both Tucson and Phoenix so it's a tough call. My guess is storms forming during the afternoon, 2-3pm, just south through west of the Tucson area and mostly staying out of the valley proper.

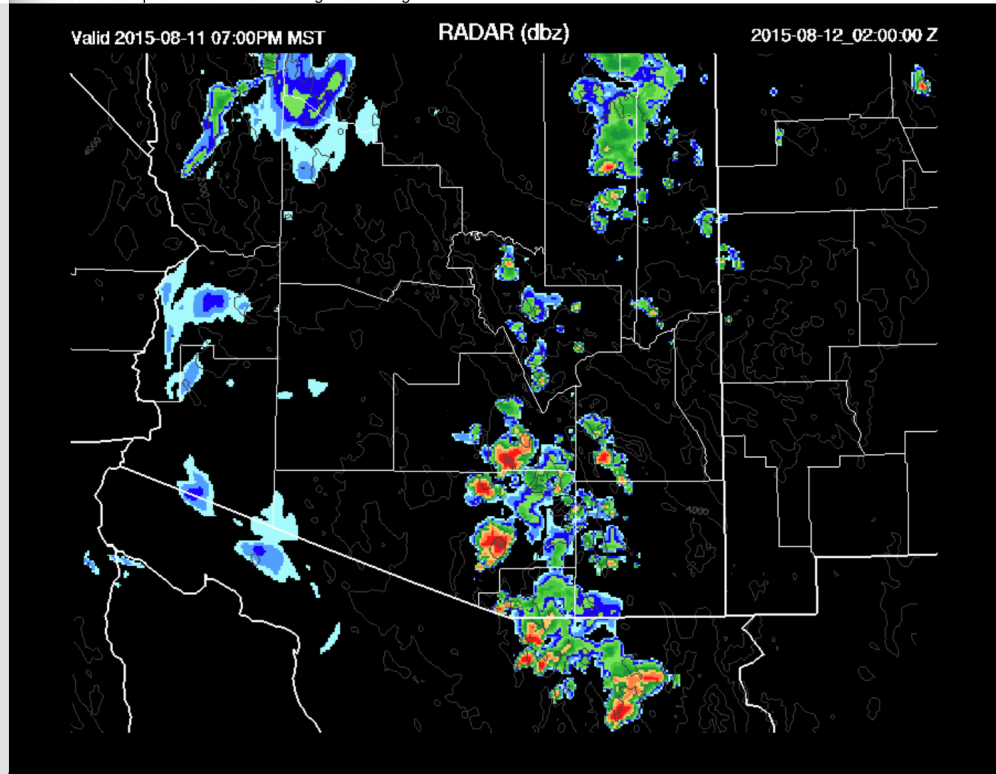
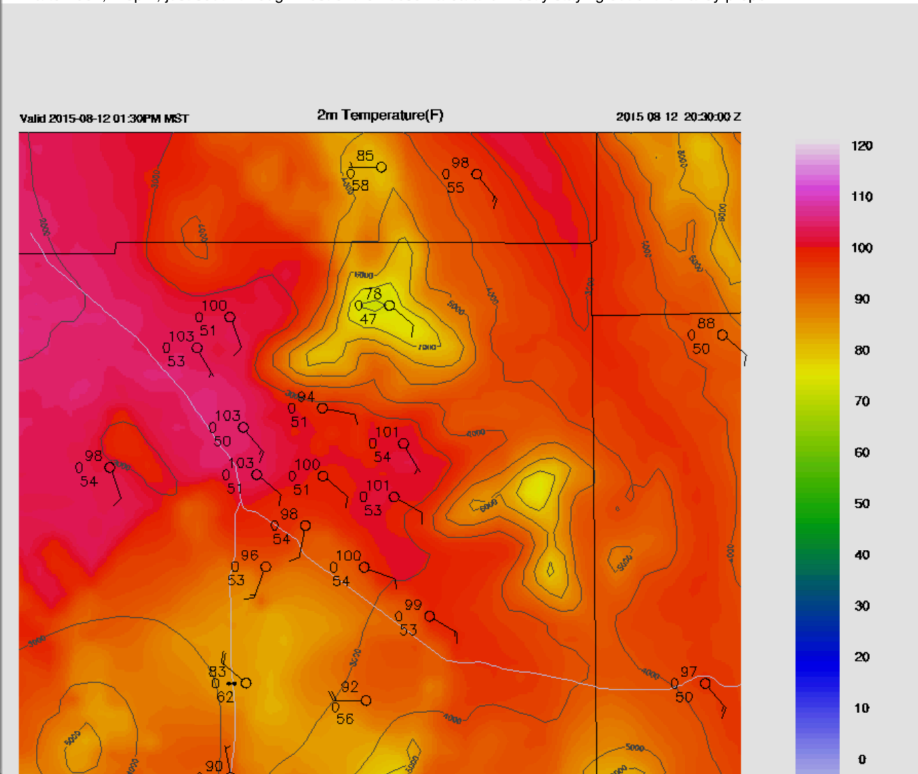
[atmo-wrf] Arizona Regional WRF Discussion 20150812 — Inbox

★ Mike Leuthold  
To: wrf@atmo.arizona.edu  
Reply-To: Mike Leuthold  
[atmo-wrf] Arizona Regional WRF Discussion 20150812

August 12, 2015 at 9:04 AM

## Previous Day

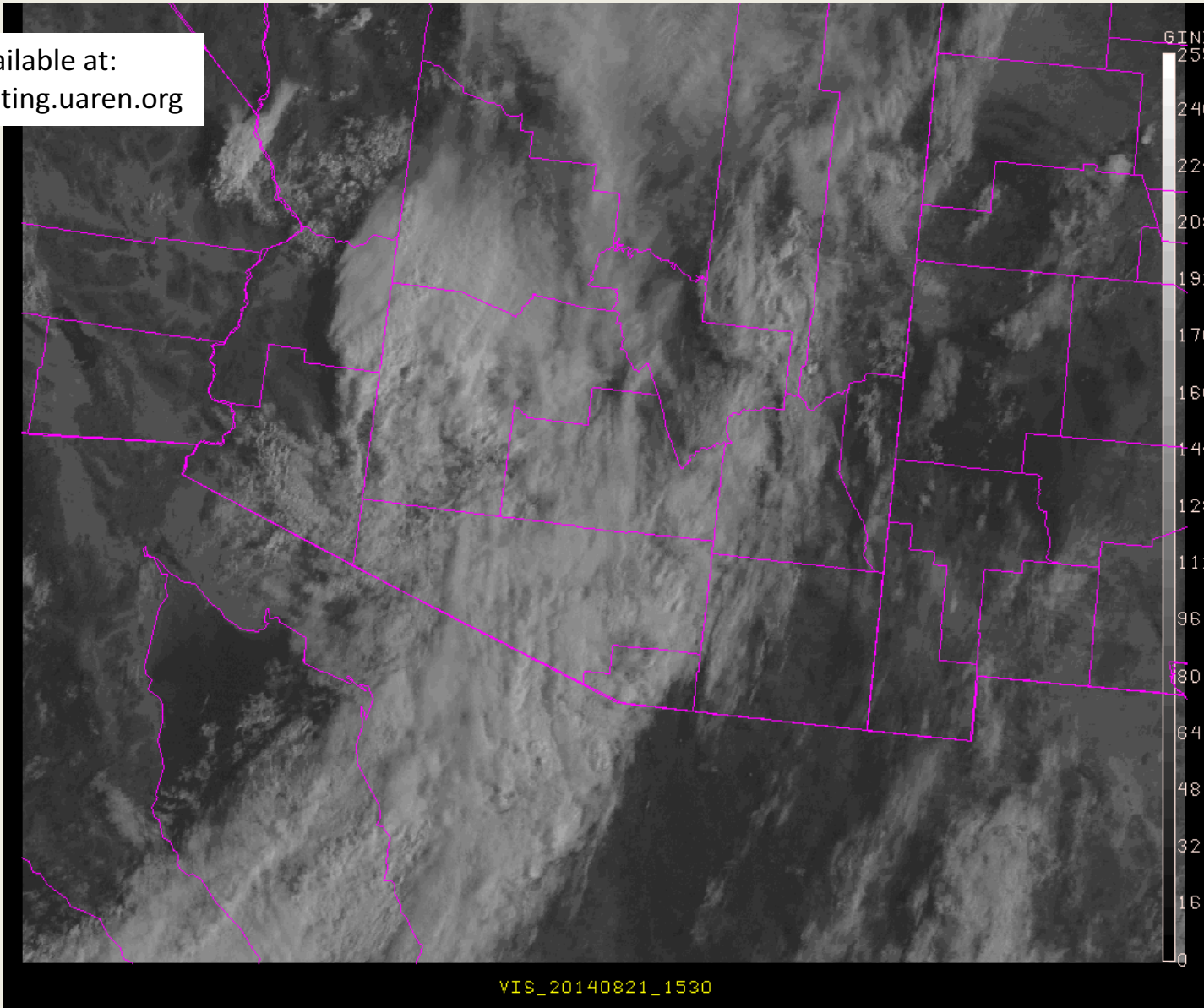
Not a good day for the human (me) but an excellent day for the model. I really didn't think the atmosphere would recover enough in the lower deserts between Tucson and Phoenix for a second round during the evening. That was not the case as 0z MLCAPE at Tucson was 1500 J/Kg with great mid level steering of 30 knots between 700 and 500mb. Another excuse is that I was preoccupied with the morning activity and skipped my usual process thus missing the obvious inverted trough which moved into the southern part of the state during the afternoon which helped organize the storms. The 15Z WRFRR which I typically run later in the morning was especially good as it developed strong storms around Tucson from 5-7pm and moved them rapidly to the northwest into Pinal and Maricopa counties. The 12Z WRFRR was similar. The 12Z WRFGRFS also had a lot of activity around the Tucson area up towards Phoenix during the evening.



# Satellite Imagery

Animation available at:  
<http://forecasting.uaren.org>

GOES  
1 km visible



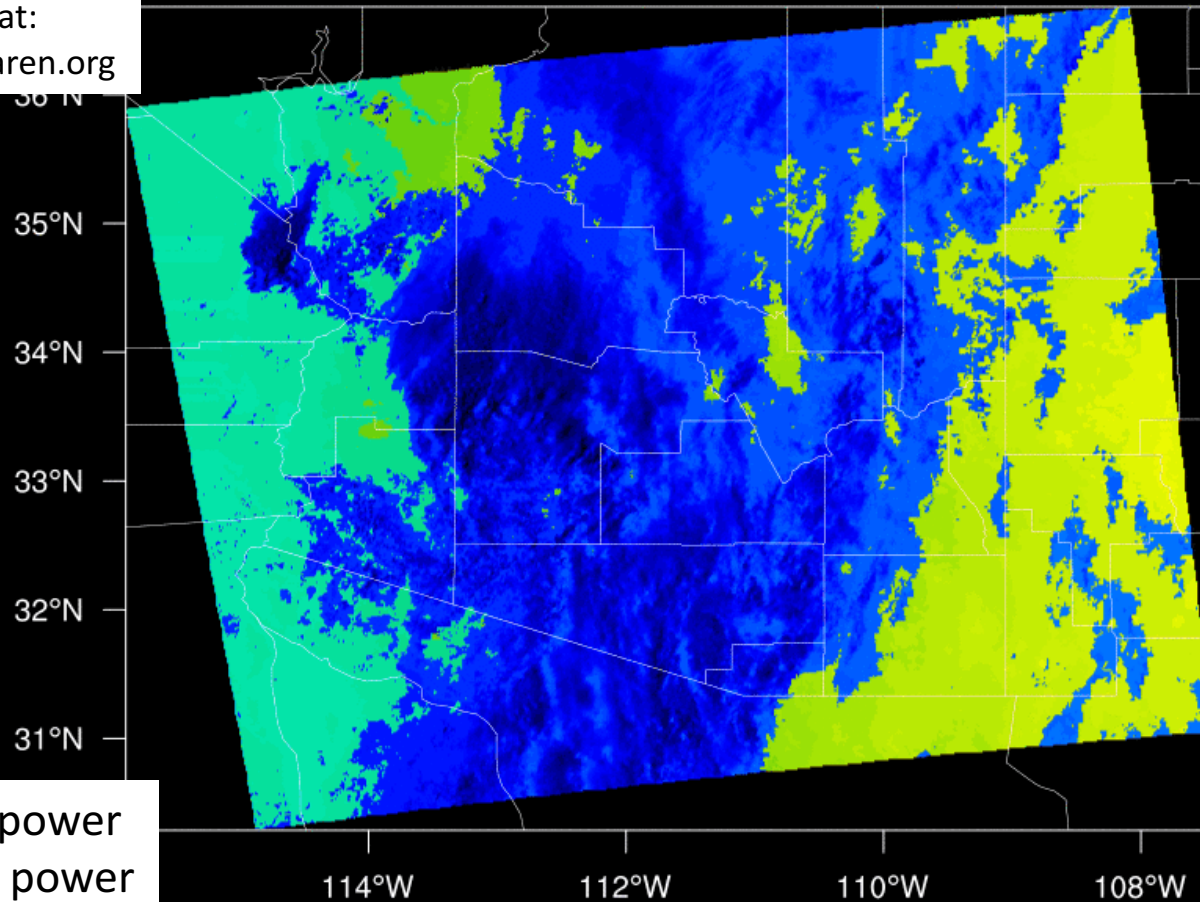
# Satellite Derived Solar Irradiance

GHI

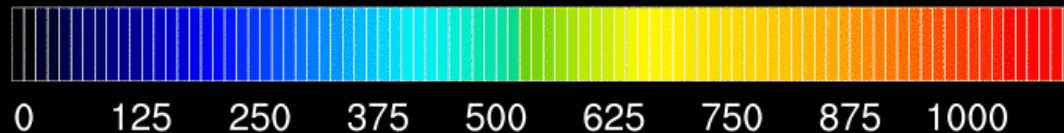
08-21-2014 1545 UTC

$W m^{-2}$

Animation available at:  
<http://forecasting.uaren.org>

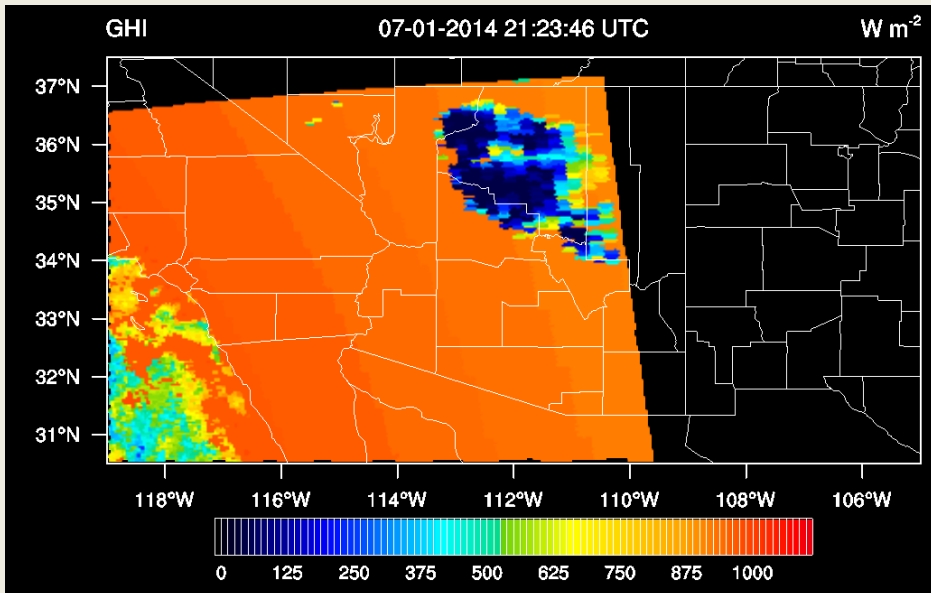


Blue: low solar power  
Red: high solar power

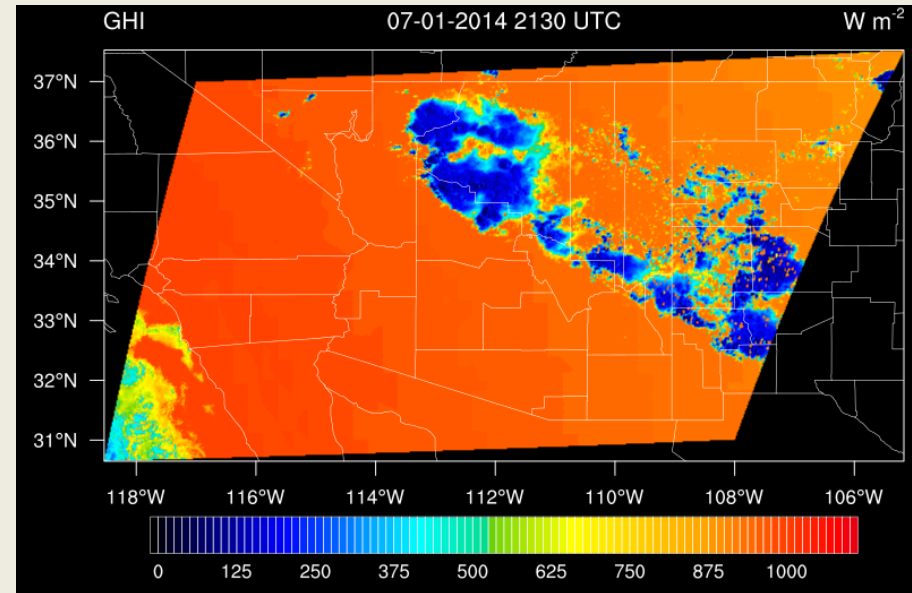


# Satellite Derived Solar Irradiance

MODIS onboard Aqua

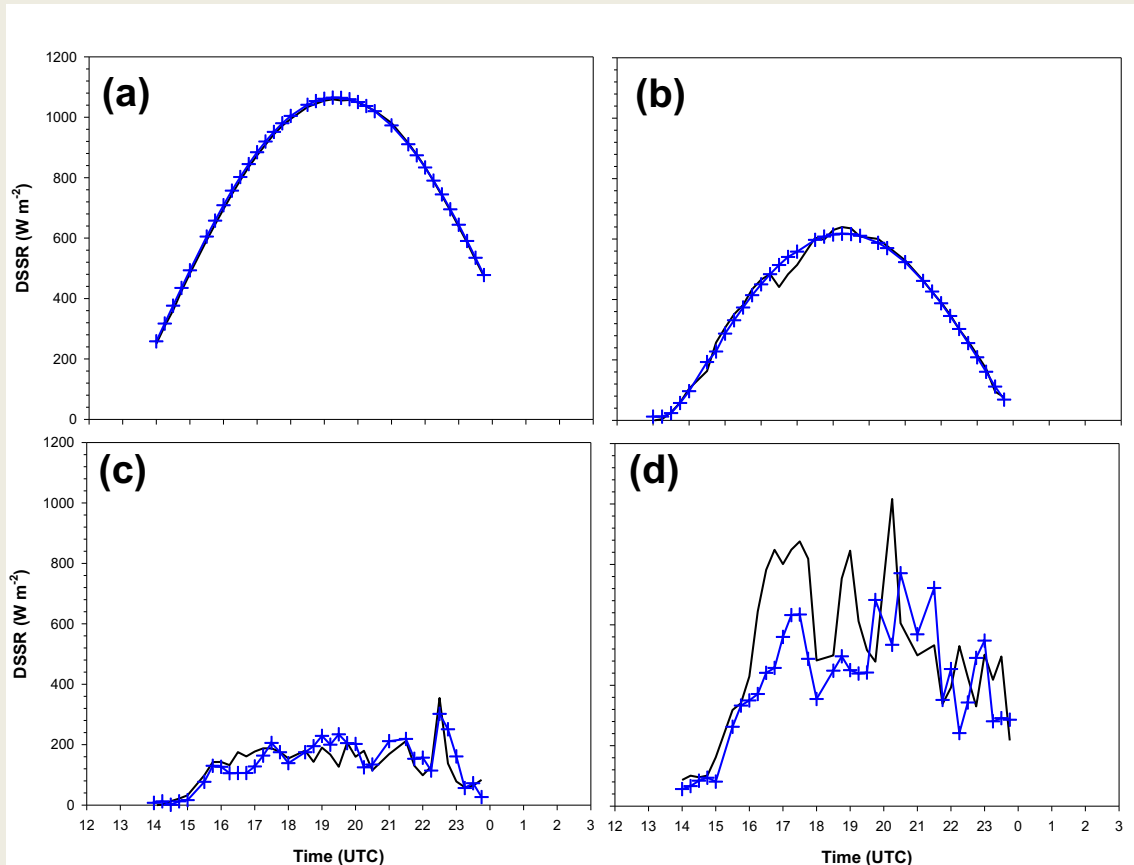


UASIBS



DSSR (GHI) is produced from Goddard Space Flight Center Radiative Transfer Model with MODIS L2 data.

# Satellite Derived Solar Irradiance



Clear sky conditions

Cloudy sky conditions

- Forecasts made by advecting clouds using wind speeds from WRF model (easy, ok accuracy)
- Image to image changes can also be used (hard to do well, potentially more accurate)



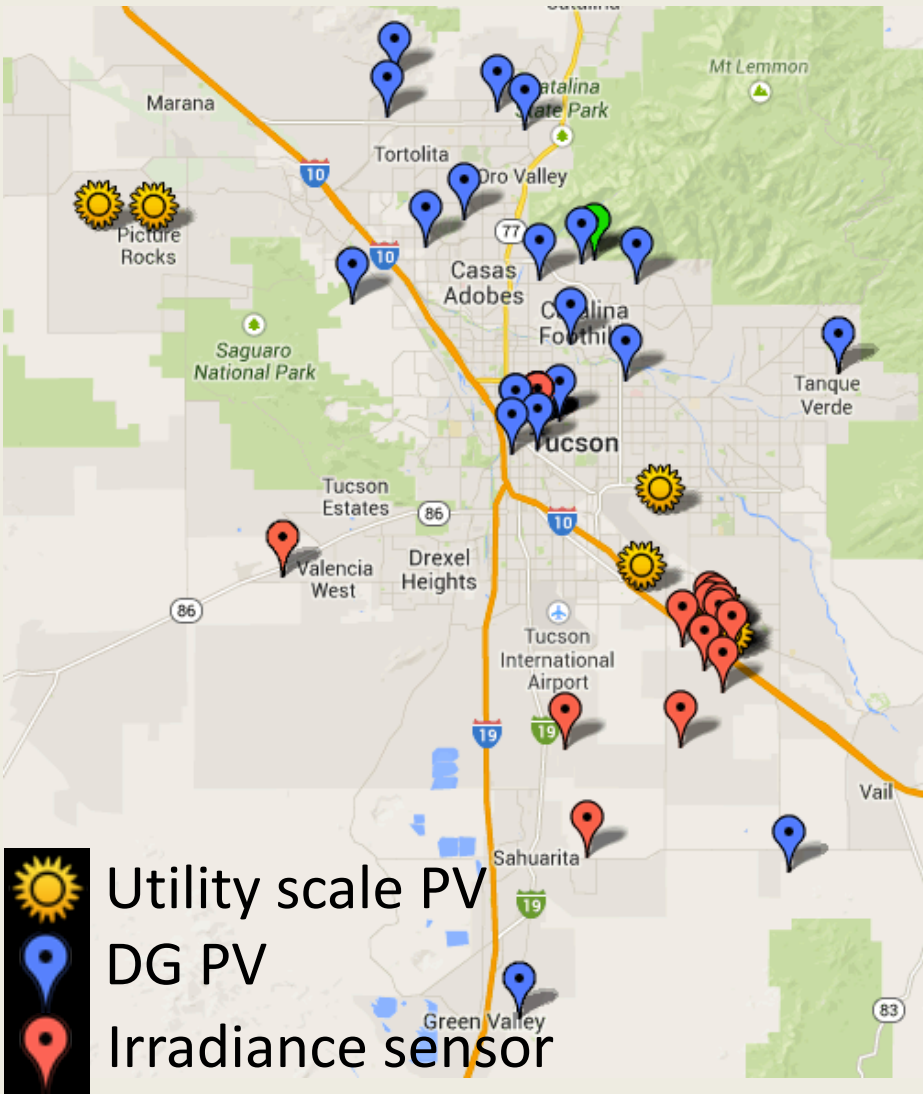
# Sensor network forecast

Partnered with local PV installer Technicians for Sustainability to obtain access to real-time (5 min latency) data feeds from residential PV systems.

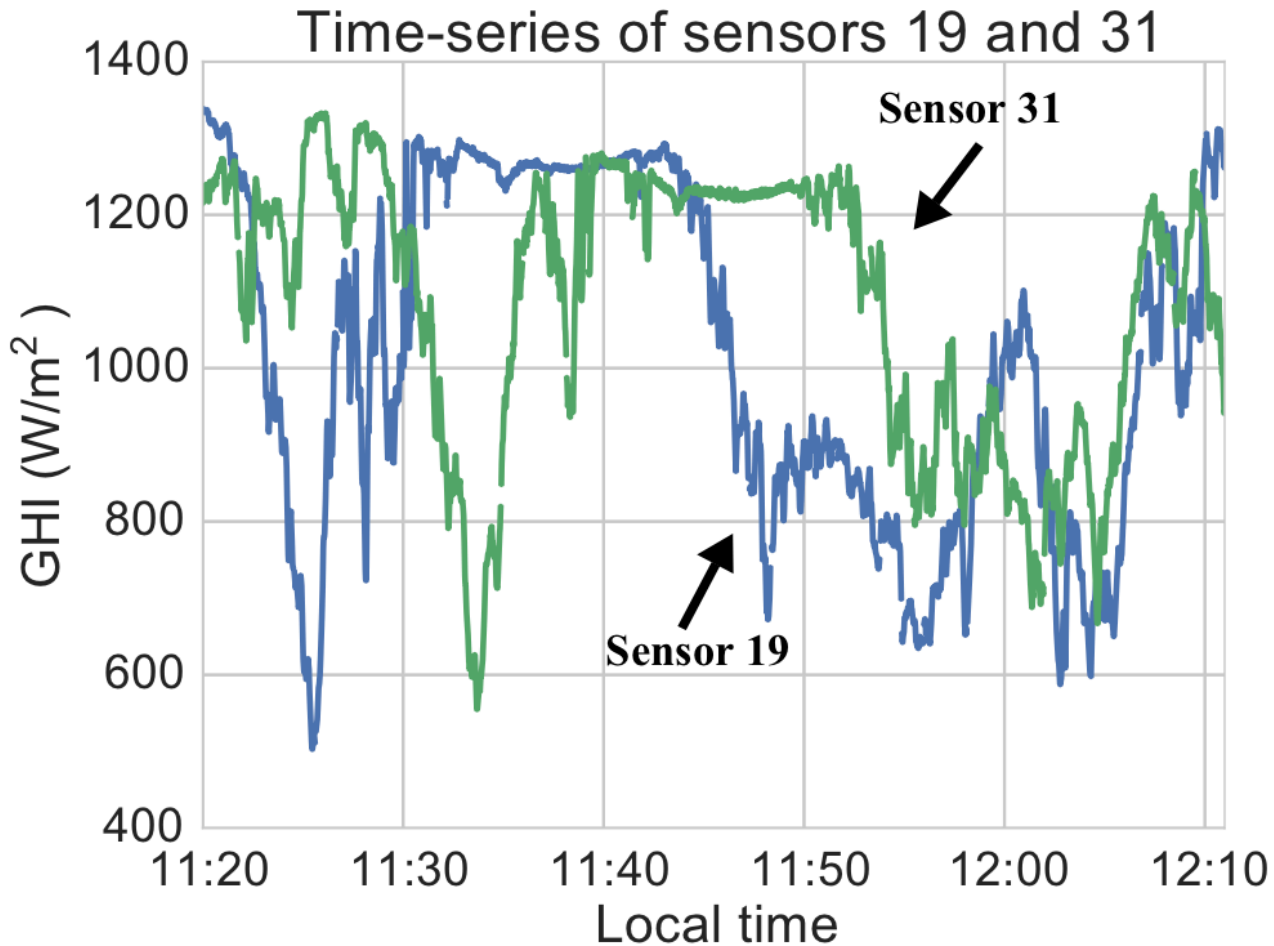
Prototype: Homebuilt irradiance sensors will cell modems (see A. Lorenzo, AMS 2015).

Next step: obtain real-time data from TEP and APS owned distributed generation.

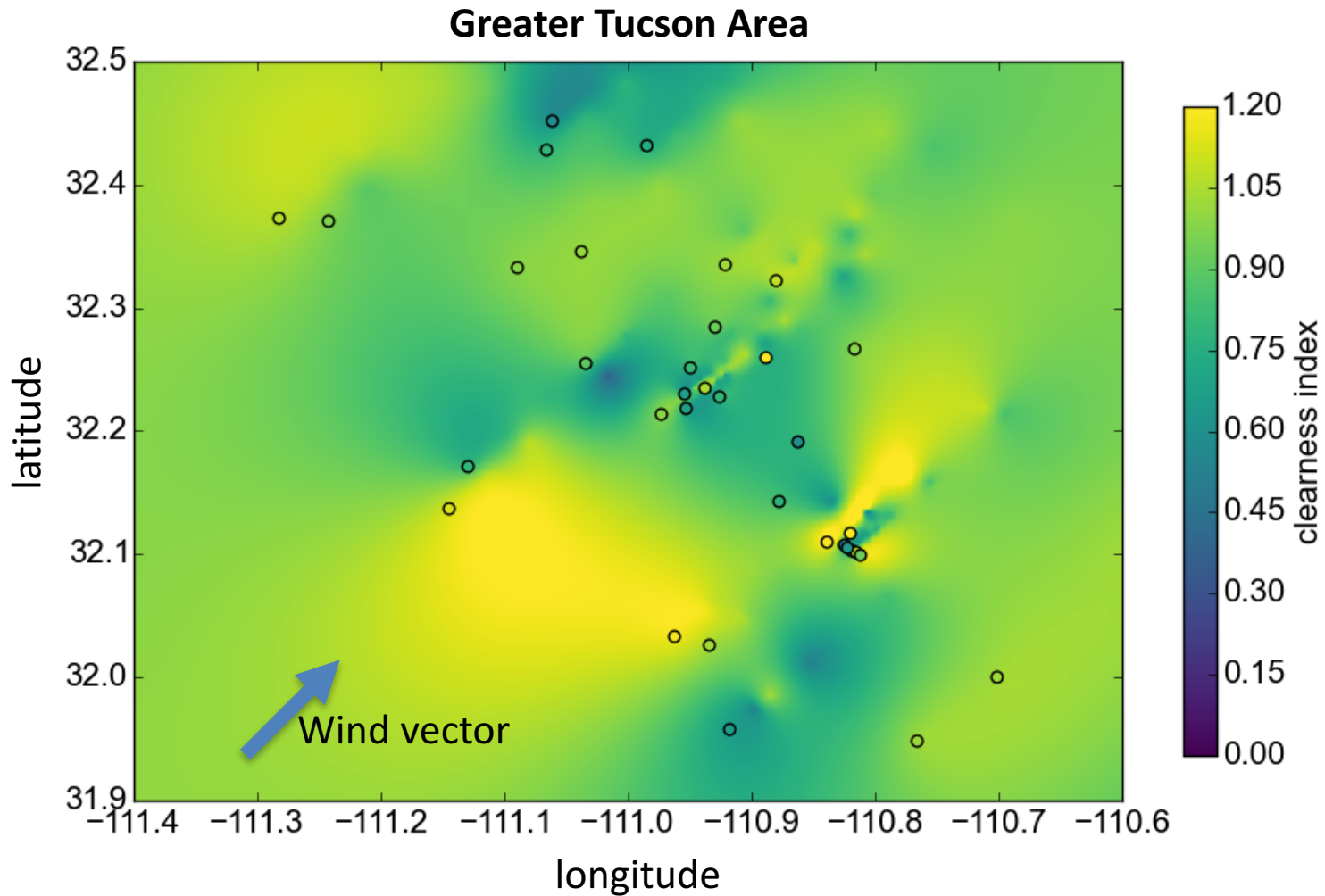
Network of rooftop solar data and irradiance sensors provides most accurate 30 minute forecasts.



# Sensor network forecast

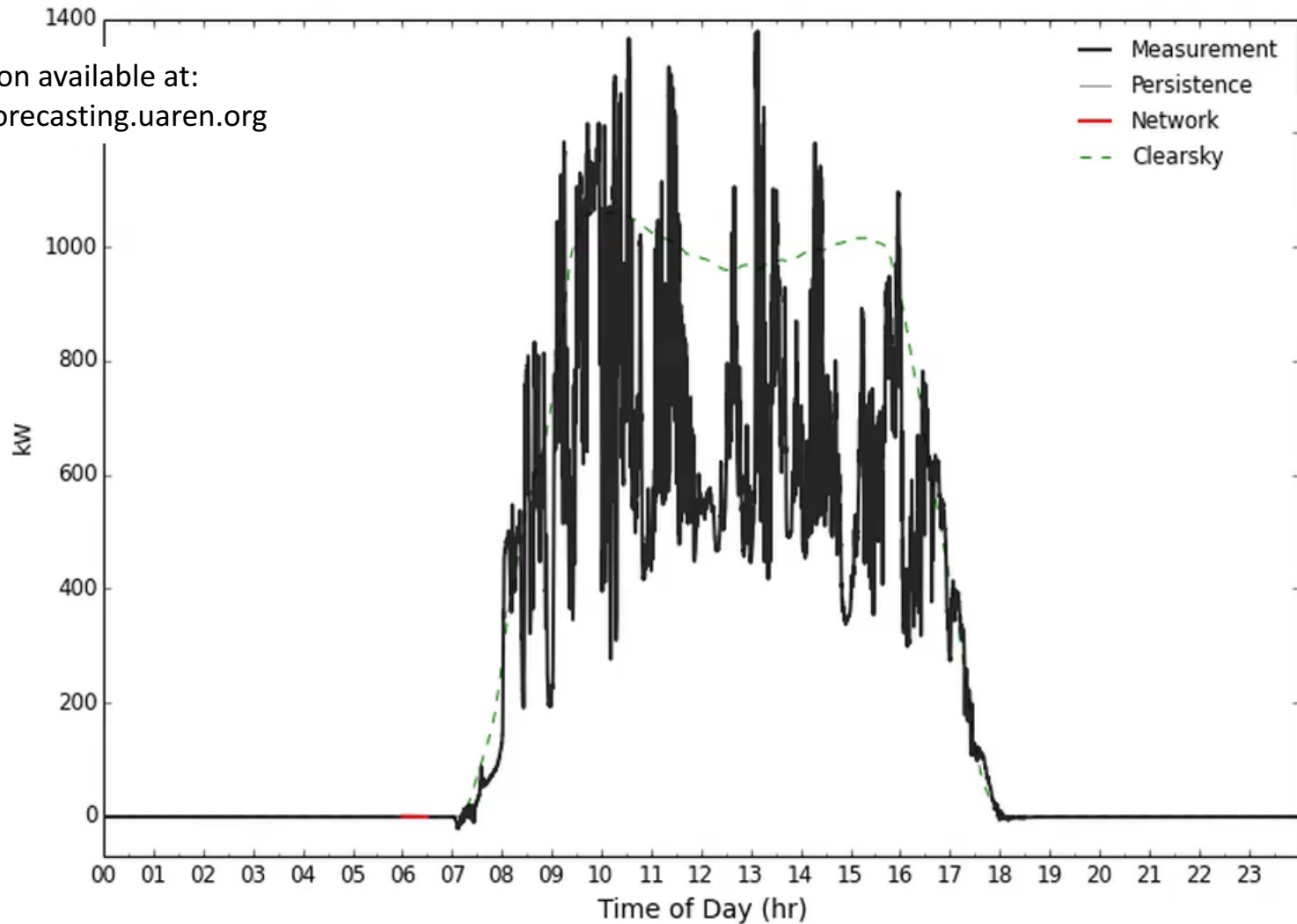


# Sensor network interpolation

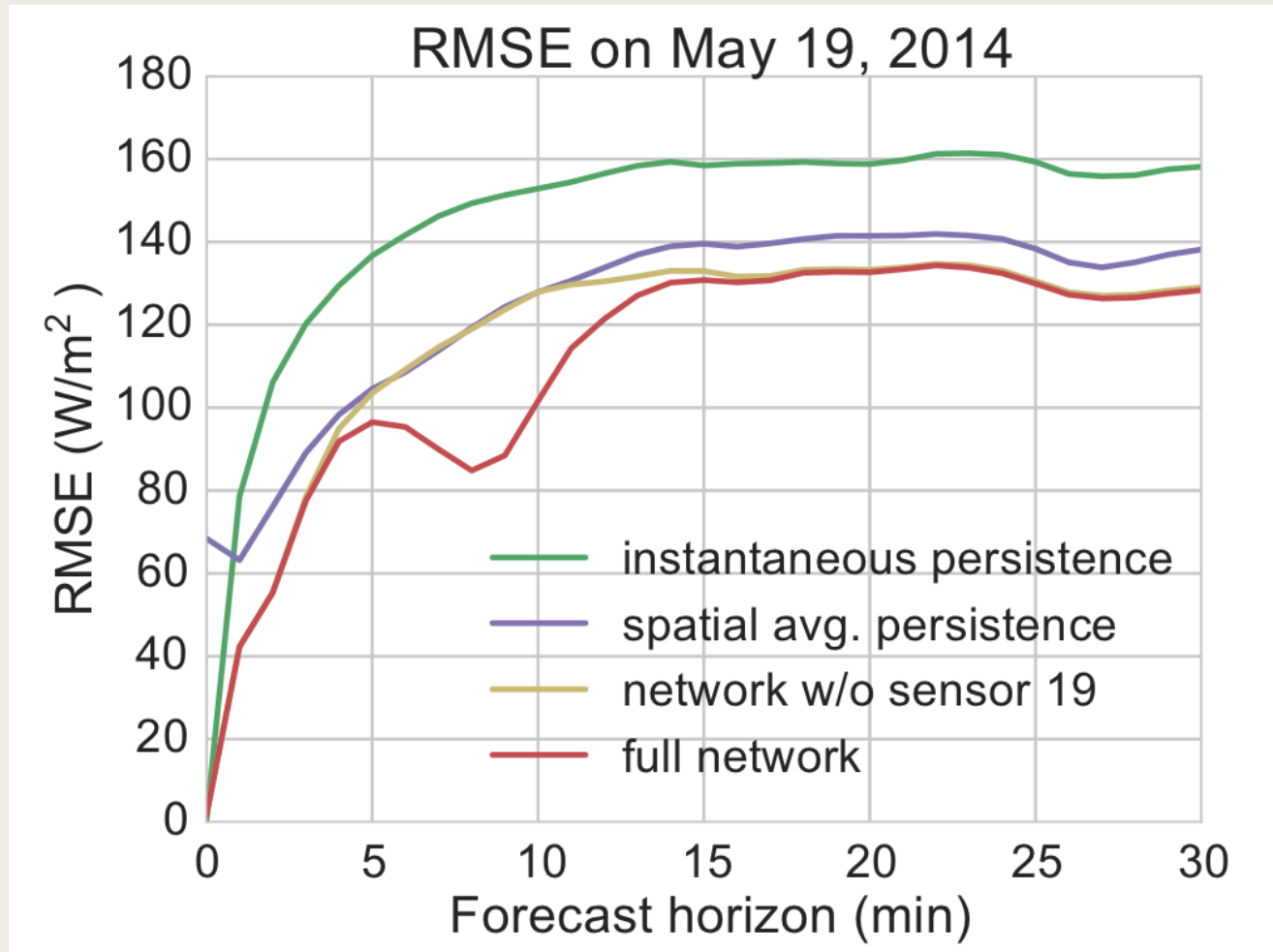


# Sensor network forecast

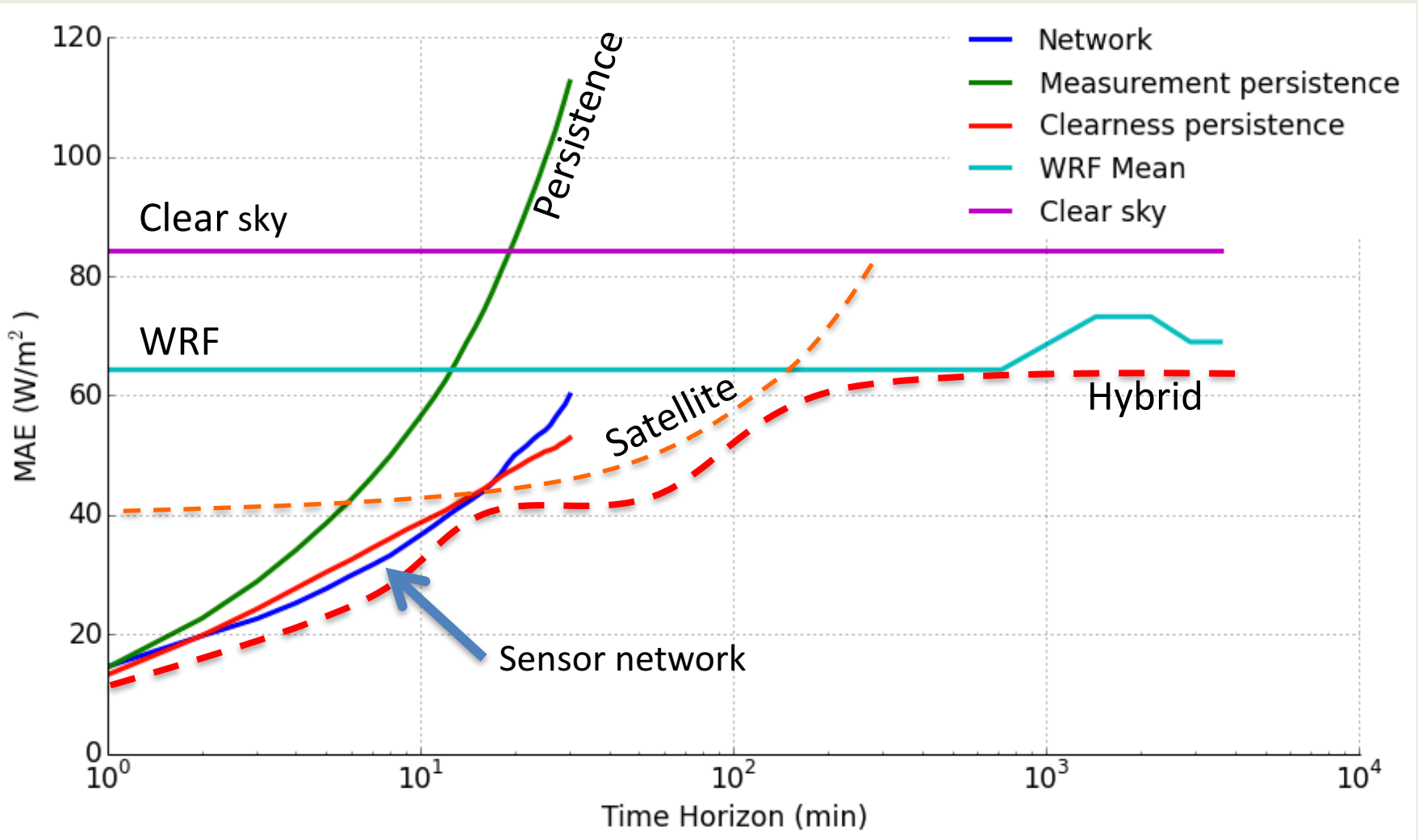
Animation available at:  
<http://forecasting.uaren.org>



# Sensor network error statistics



# UA forecasting summary

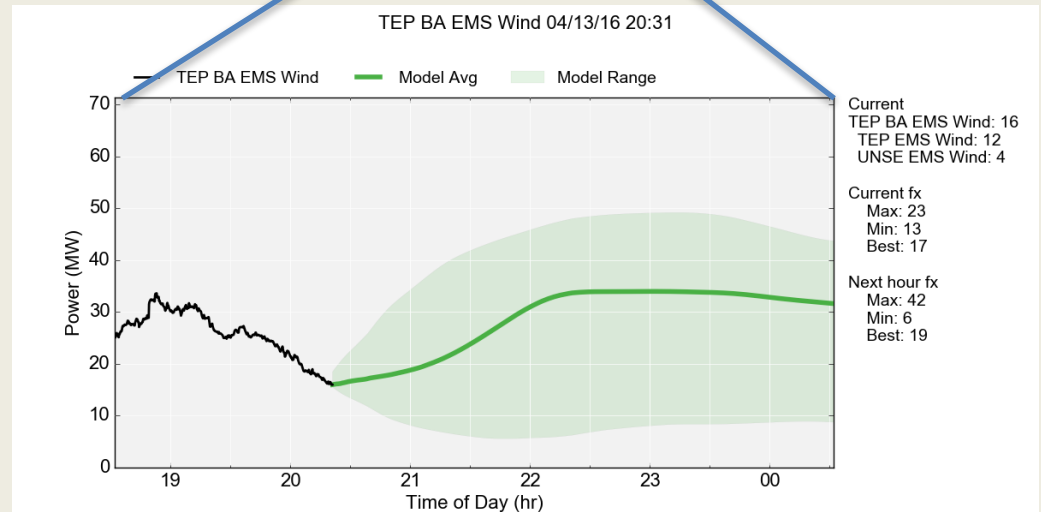
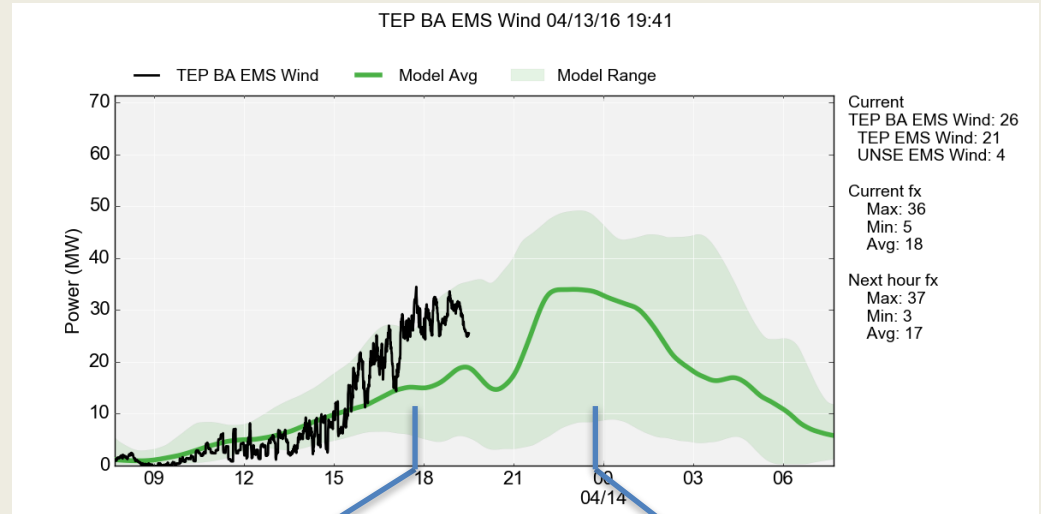




What about combining  
some or all of this data?

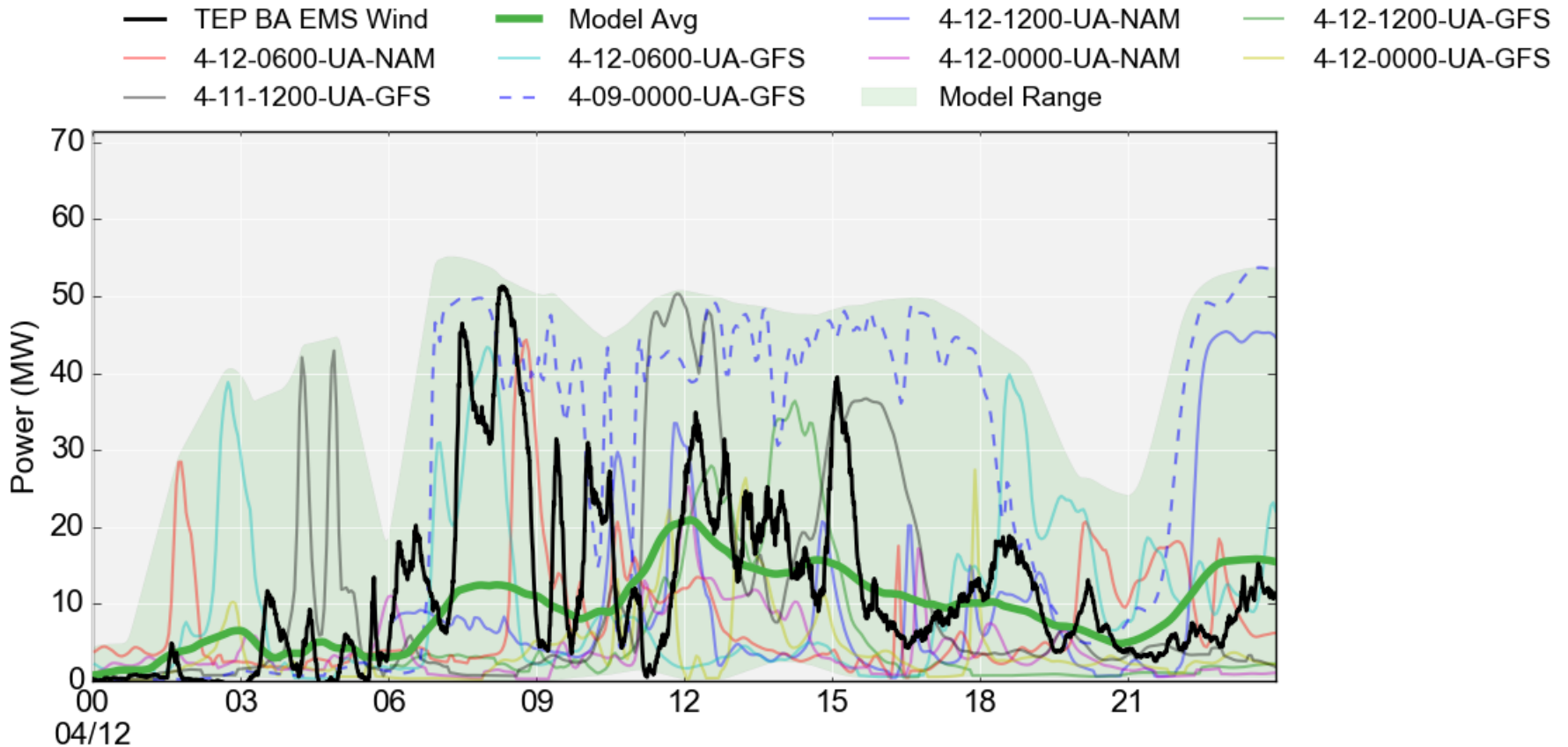
# Short term forecast blending

Blending persistence and WRF forecast products into a single forecast



# Model selection?

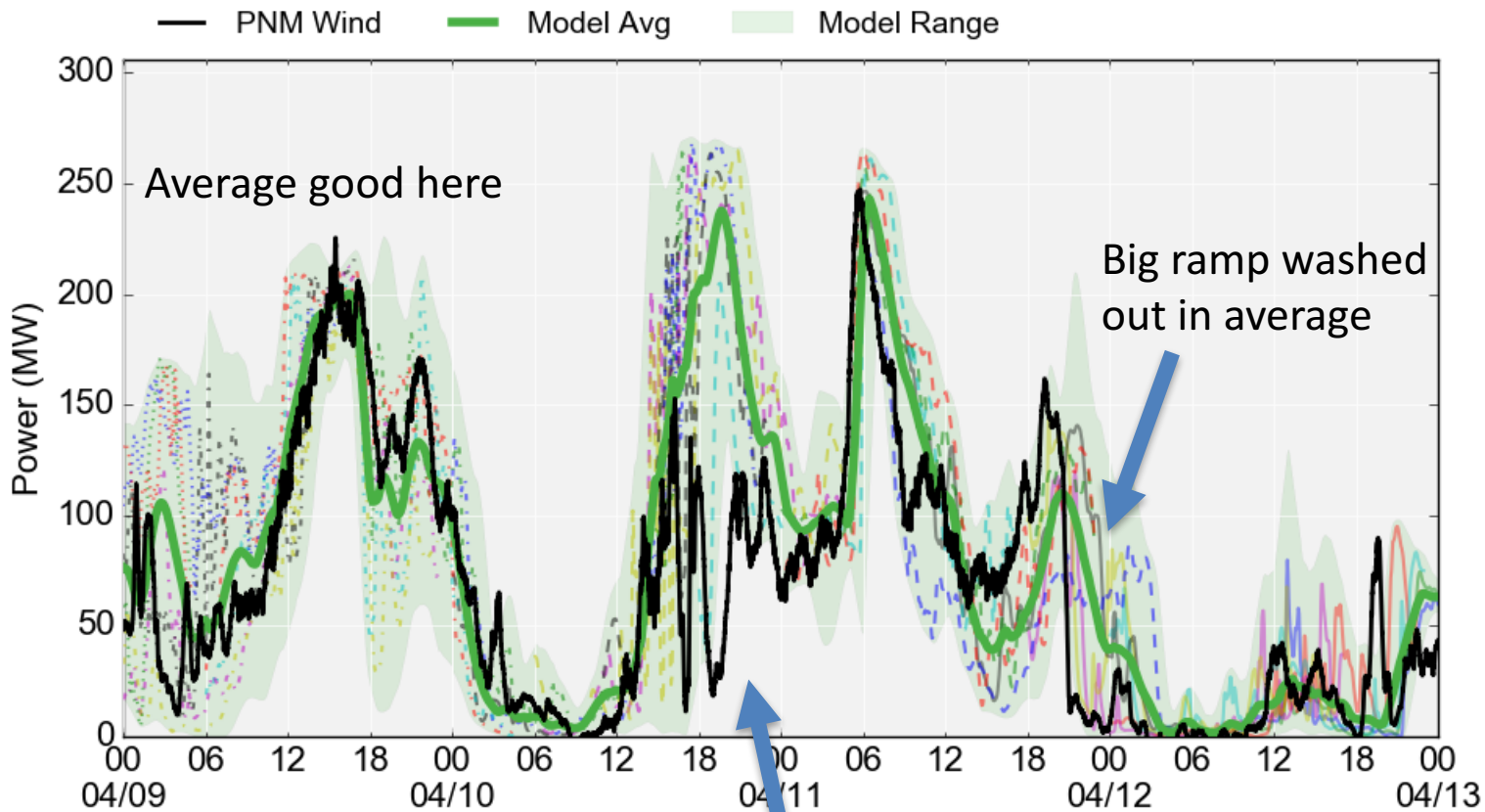
TEP BA EMS Wind, 2016-04-12



Average washes out variability

# Model selection?

PNM Wind 0 day-ahead



One model got this dropout

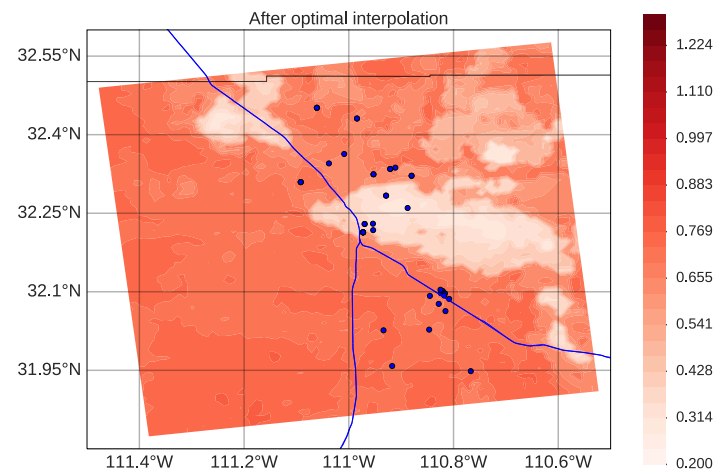
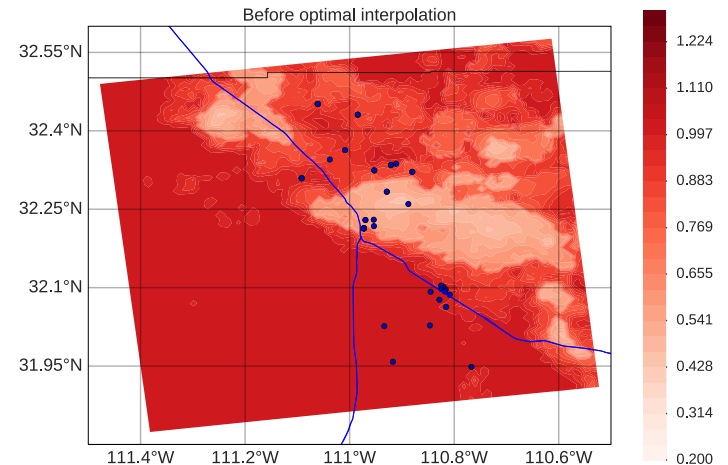
# Ground irradiance data to improve satellite irradiance estimates

Satellite irradiance estimates rely on algorithms that convert the observation (light reflected by cloud tops) into transmitted irradiance.

Can we use real time ground data to improve the estimate?

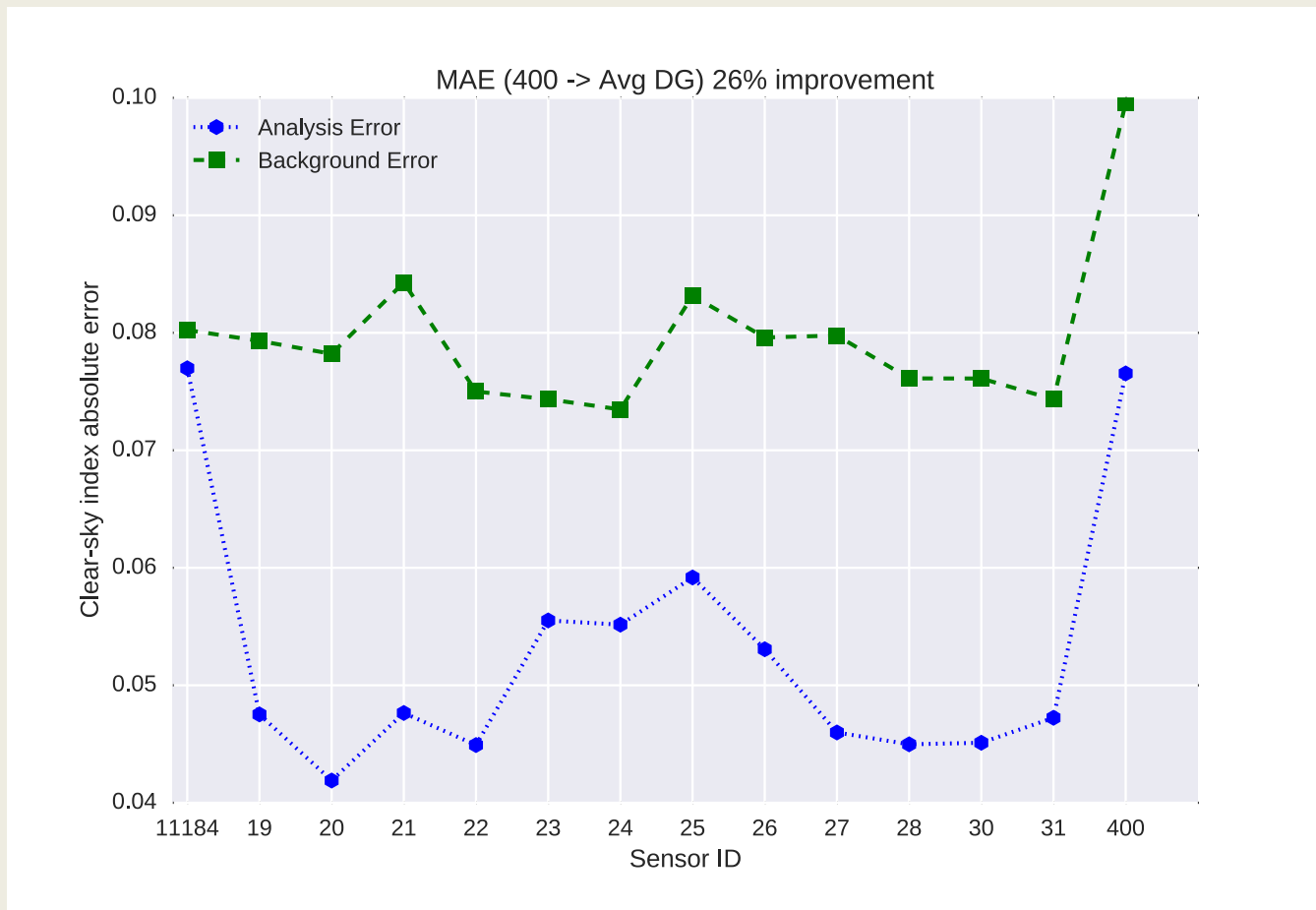
Yes, UA demonstrated that **optimal interpolation** can improve the accuracy.

Lorenzo, Holmgren, Morzfeld, Cronin, IEEE PVSC 2016 Proceedings





# Ground irradiance data to improve satellite irradiance estimates

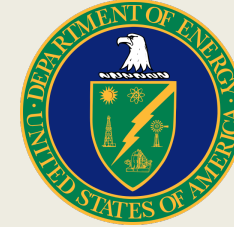


# What about combining some or all of this data?

- Shove the data into WRF?
- Probably need a combination of complex and simple WRF configurations
- Create a separate blending platform?
- Throw it all into a black box machine learning algorithm and hope for the best?
- What is the effort to reward ratio for different approaches?

# Thanks to our funding agencies

Major support from



DOE EERE  
Postdoctoral  
Fellowship

Additional support from

The SVERI utilities



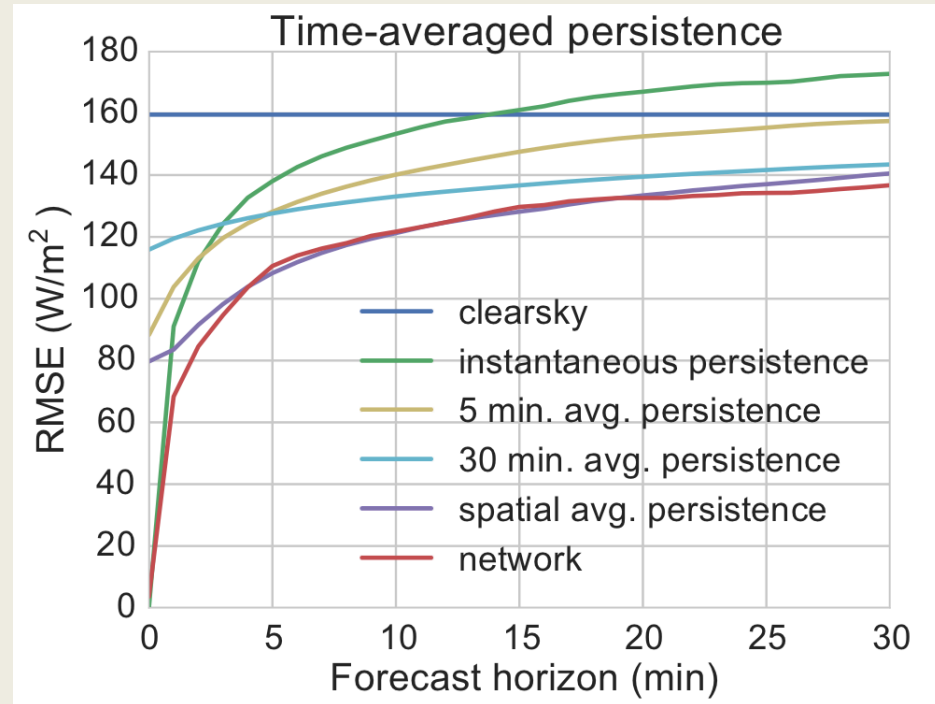
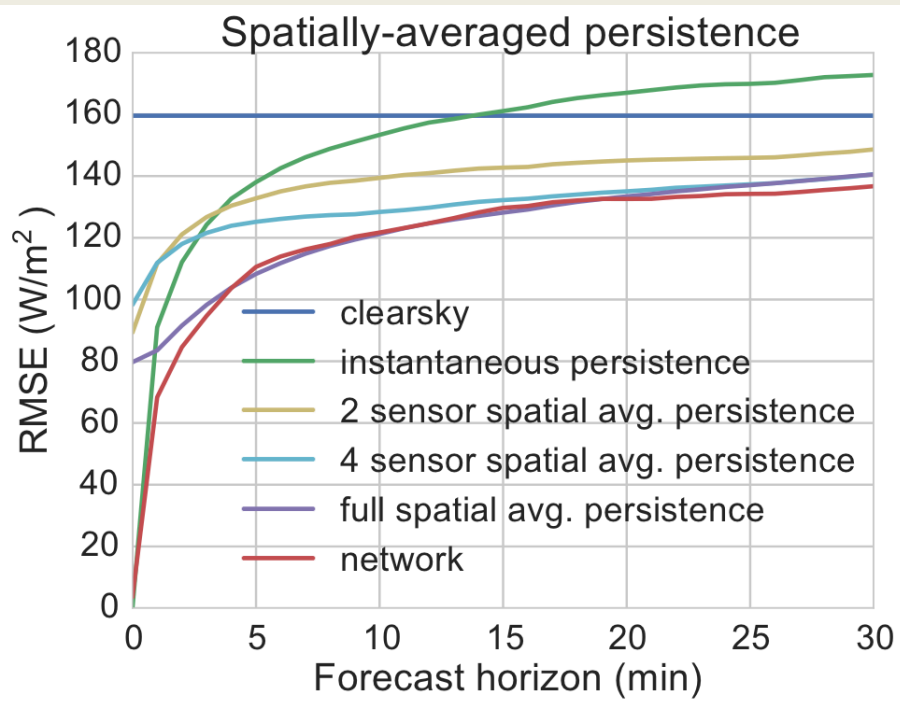
Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality

U of A

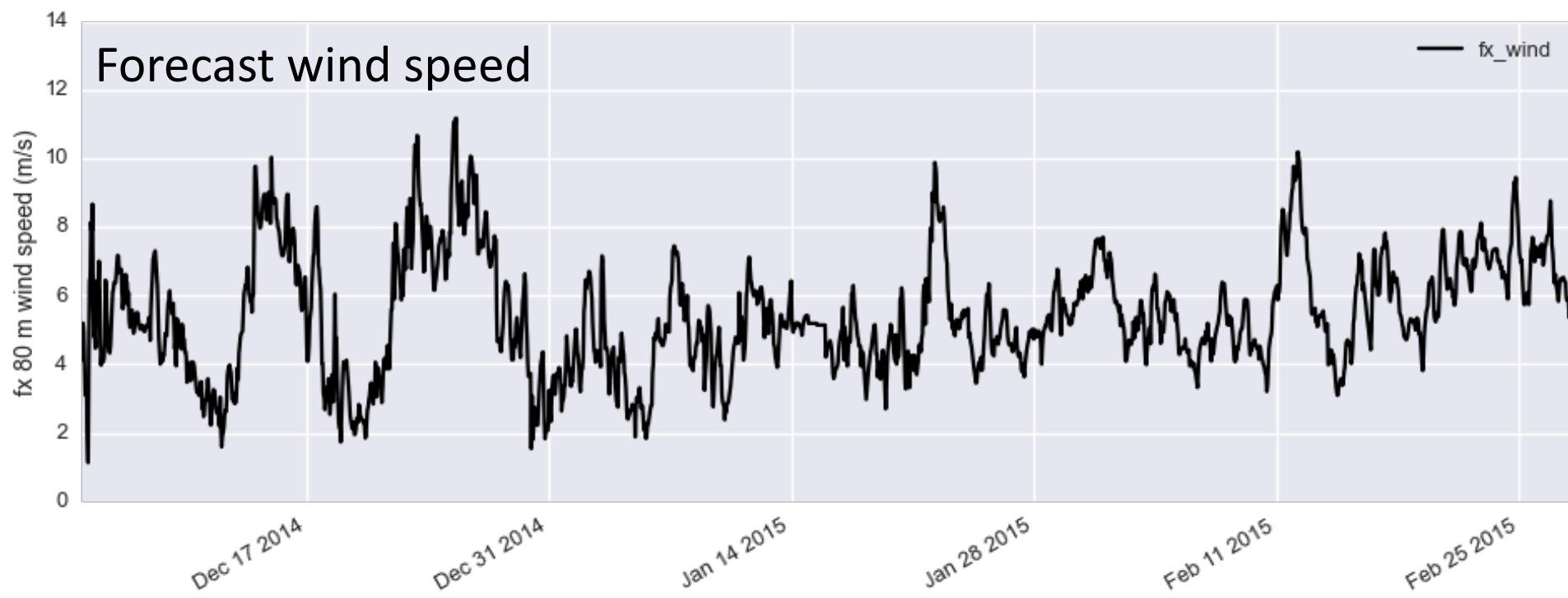
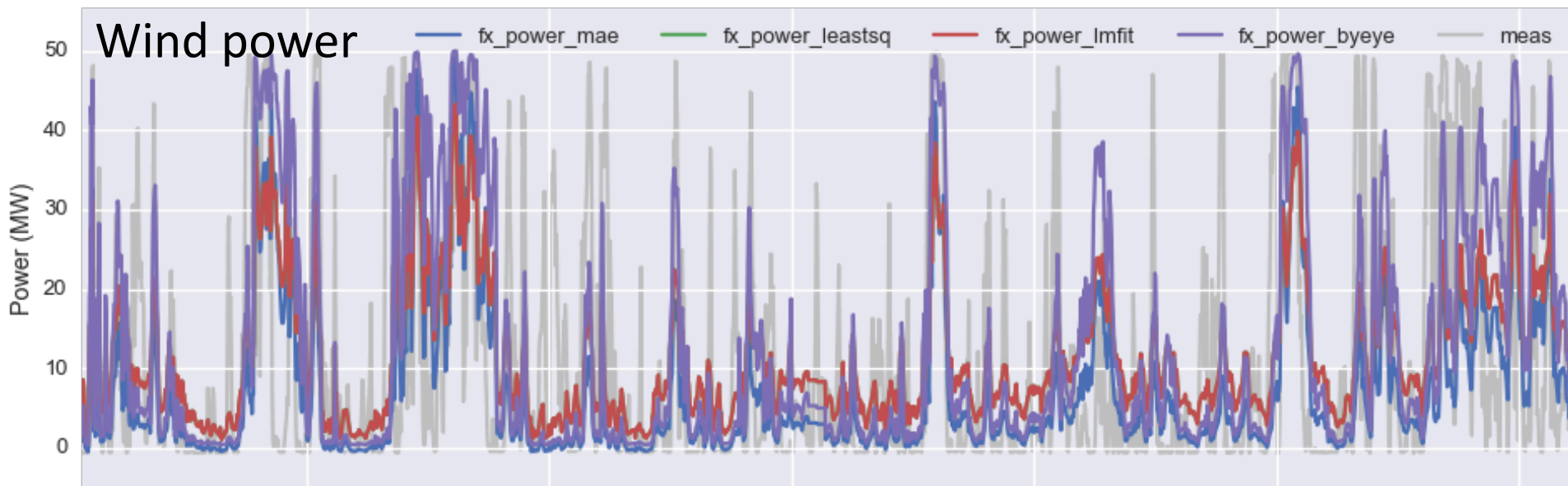


# Sensor network error statistics

How much of the improvement over persistence is due to our fancy algorithm and how much is due to simple aspects such as averaging over space and/or time?

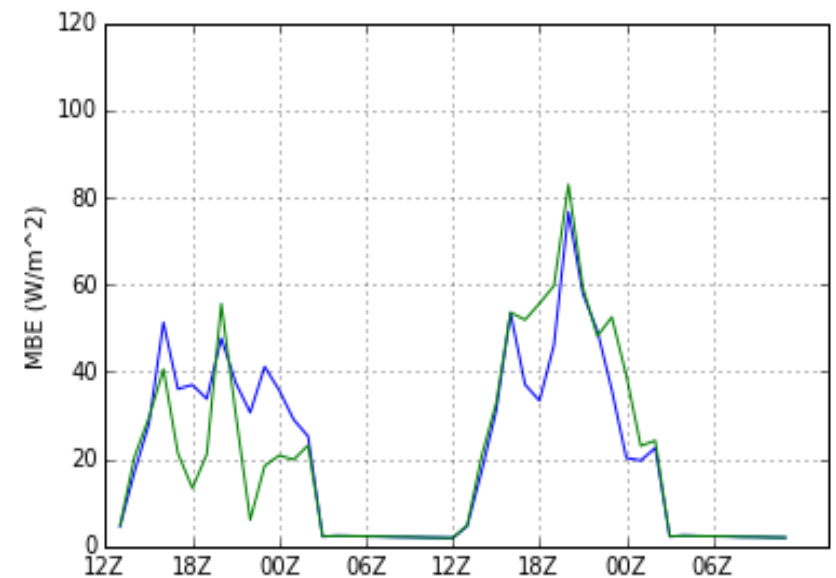
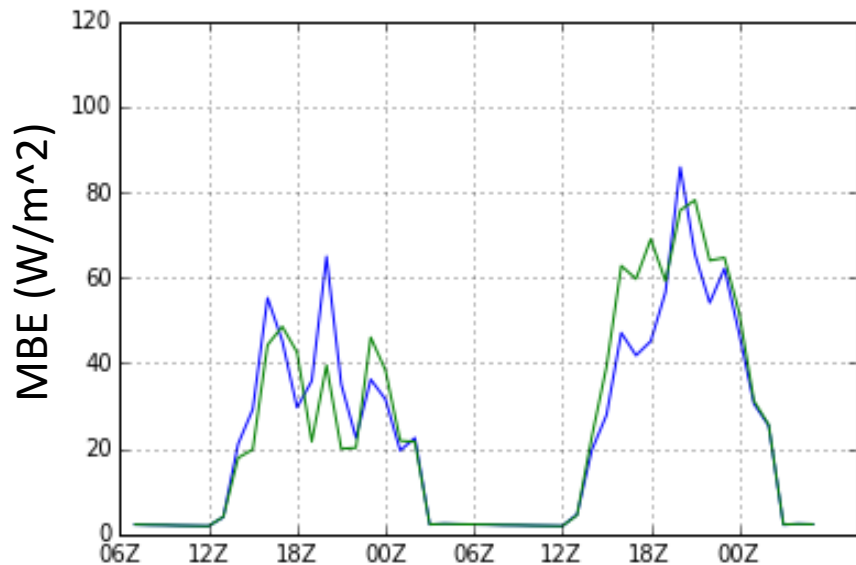
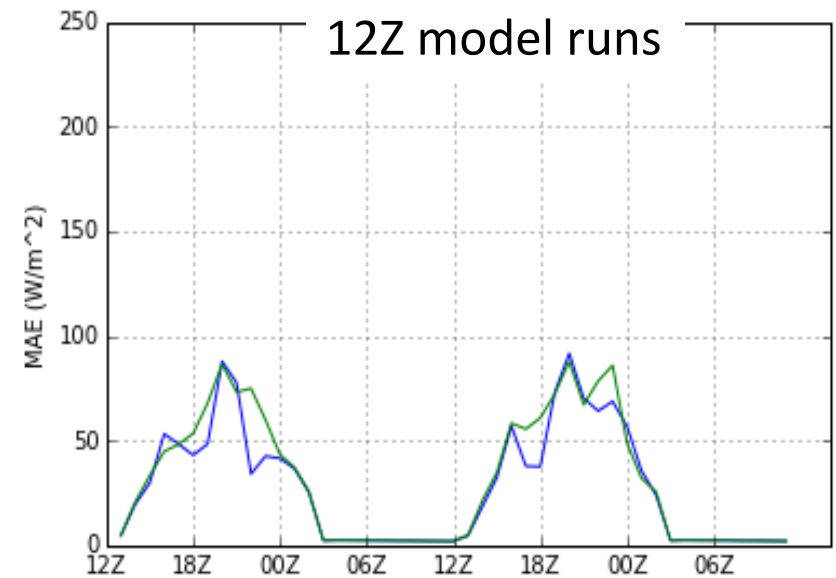
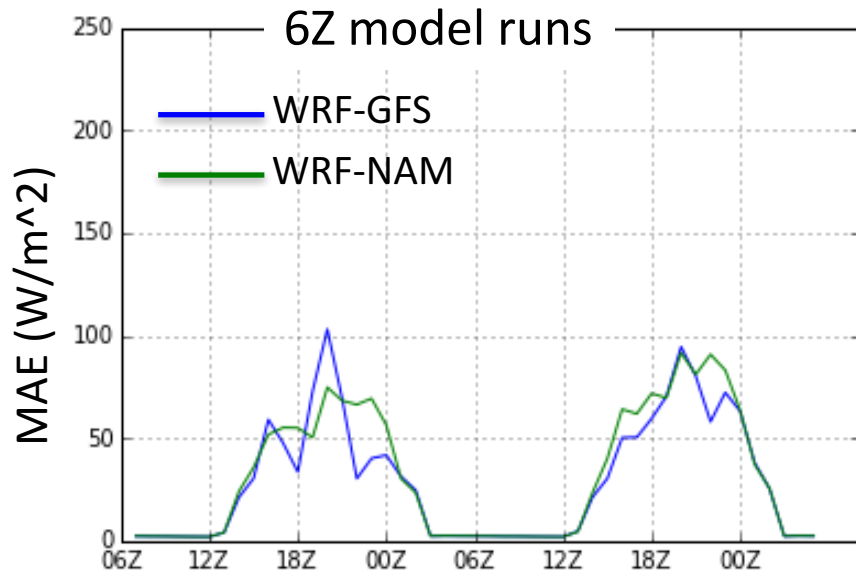


Depends on the day and the forecast horizon, but most of the improvement can usually be achieved by just averaging irradiance over space and/or time.

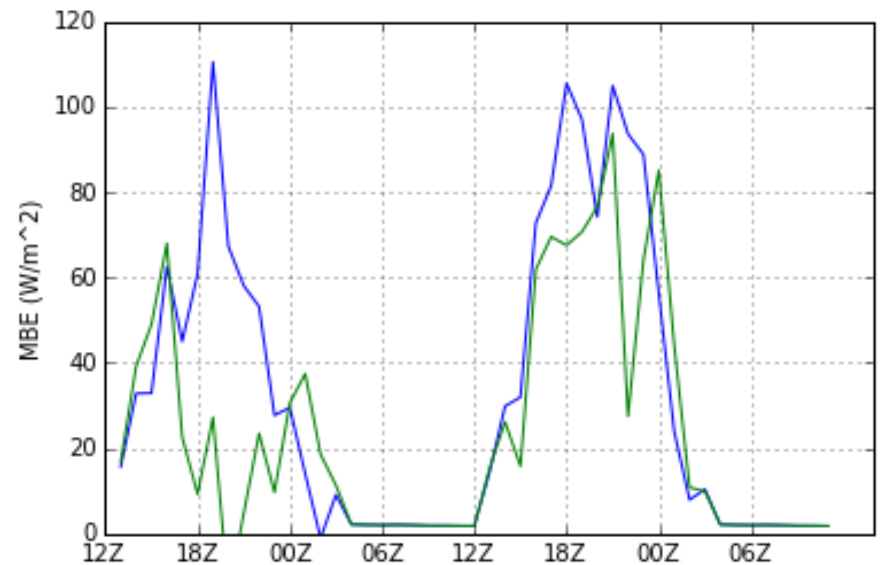
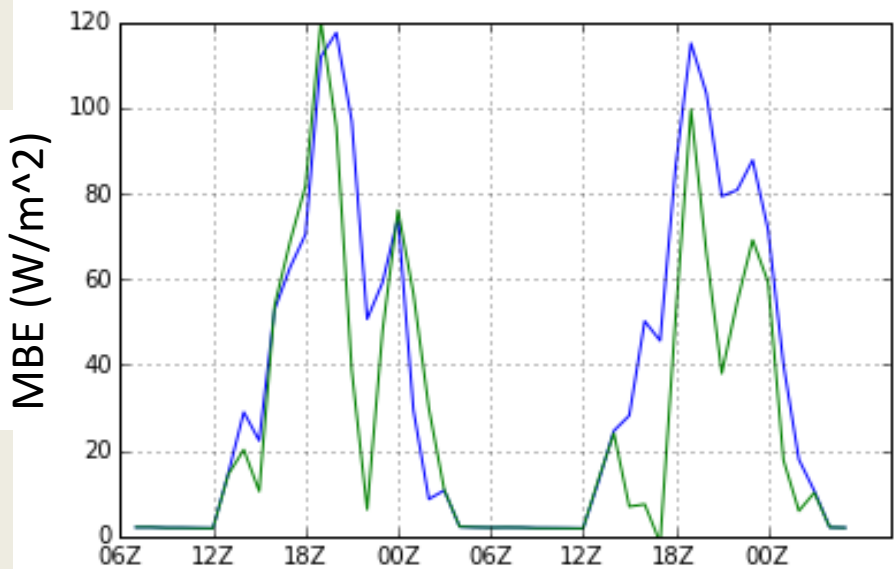
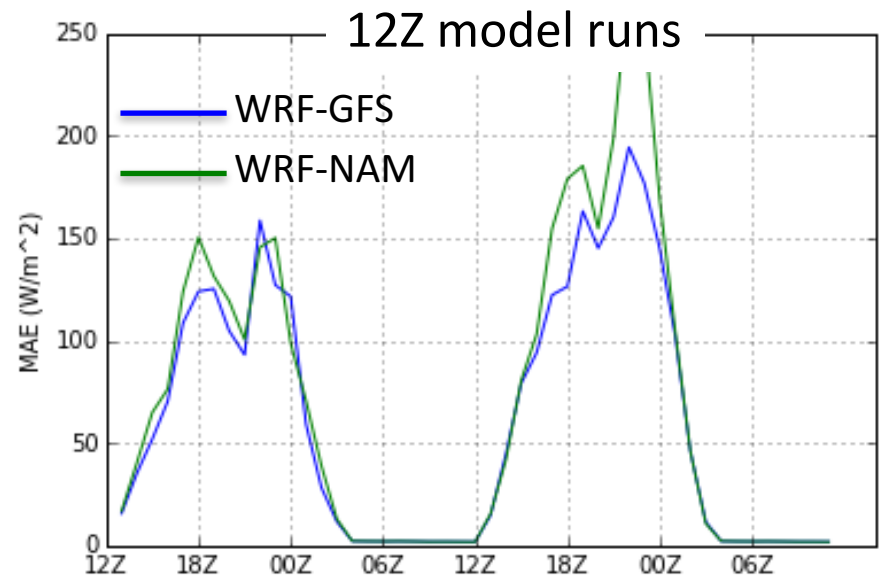
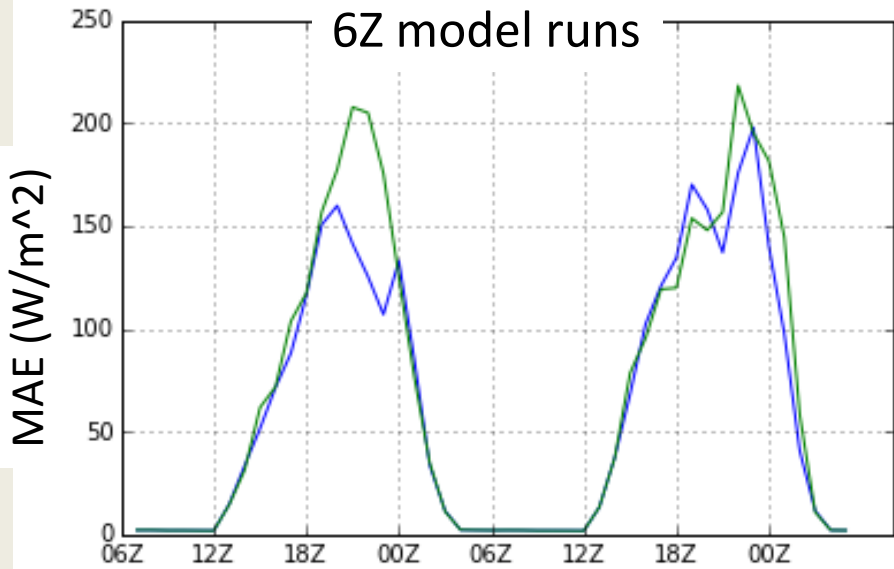




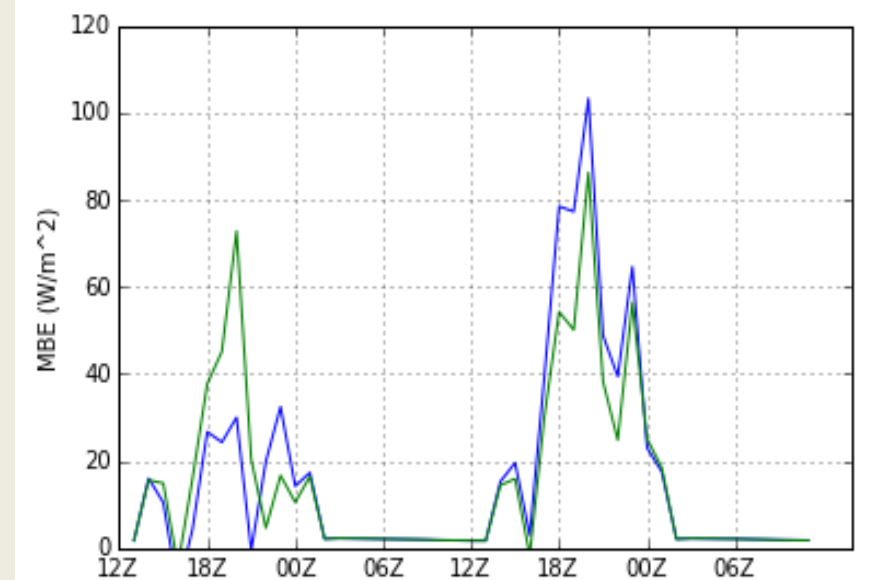
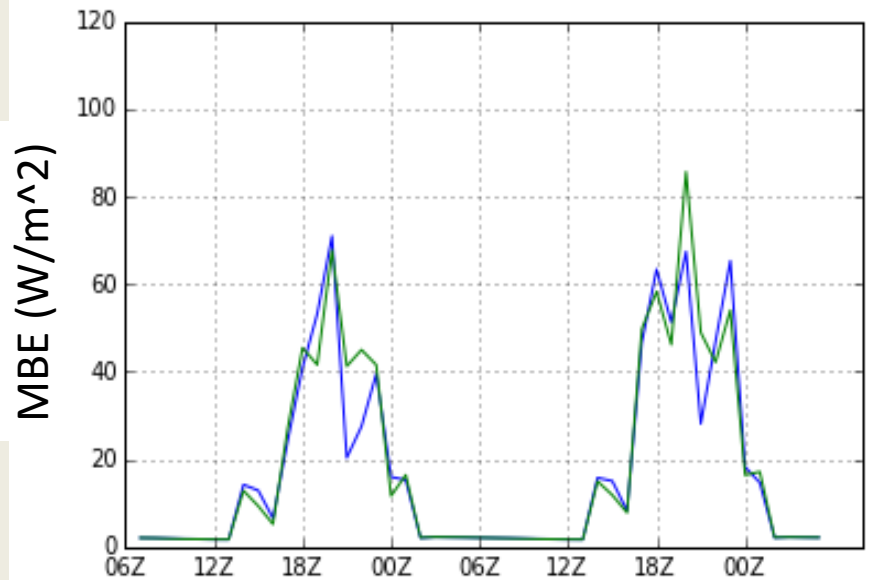
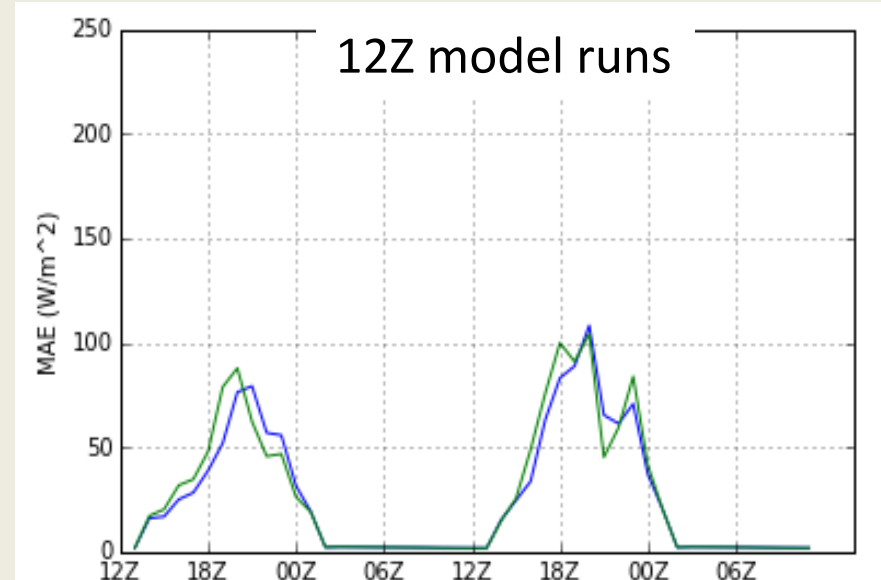
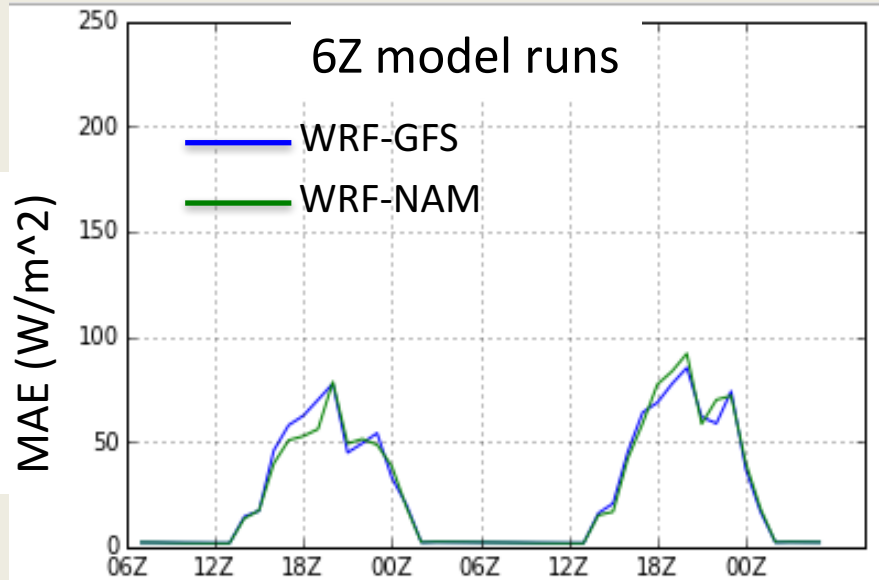
# April 2014 UA-WRF GHI



# July 2014 UA-WRF GHI



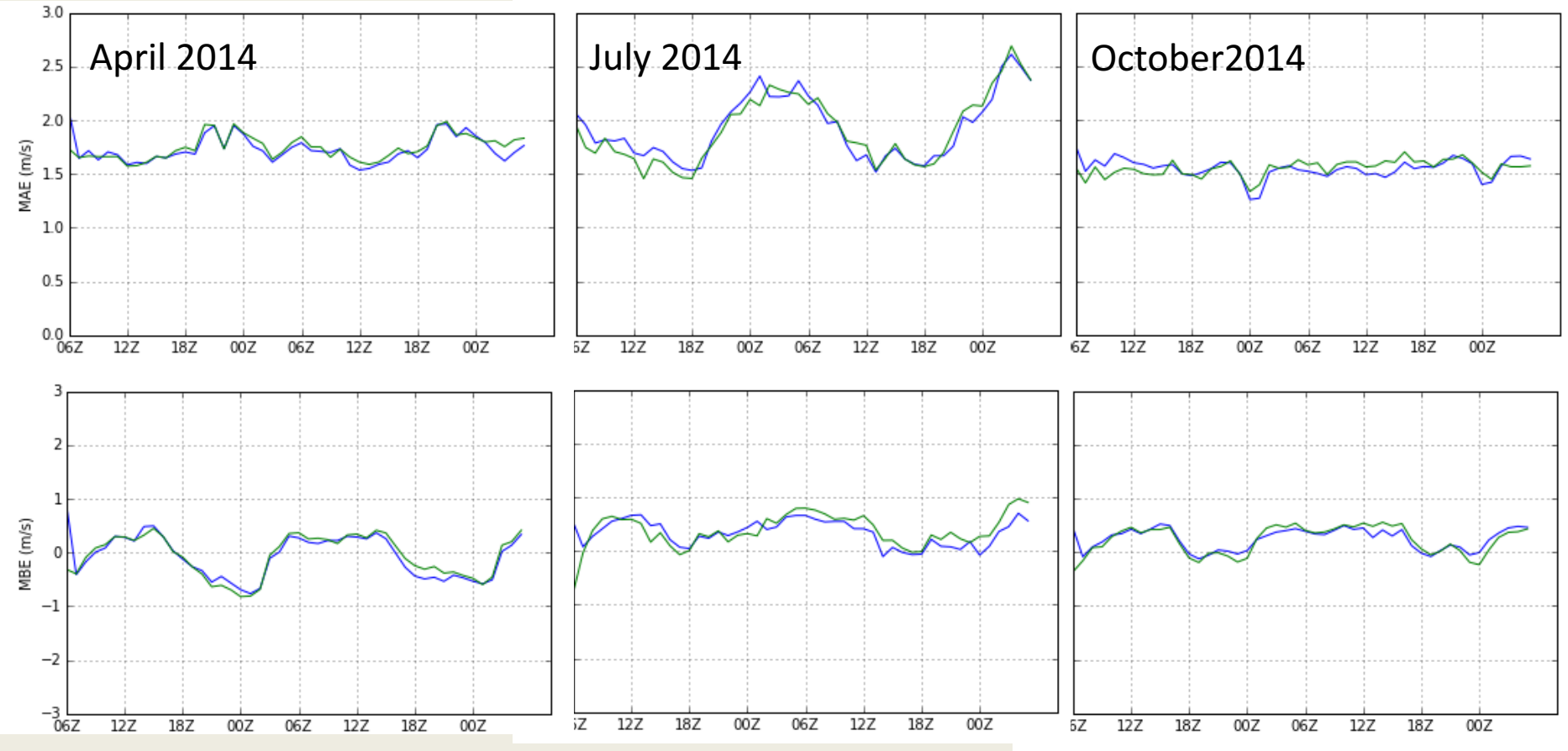
# October 2014 UA-WRF GHI



# Wind Errors 6Z UA-WRF

WRF-GFS

WRF-NAM

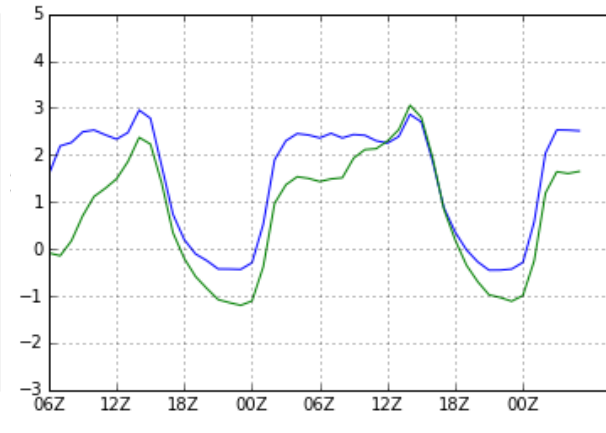
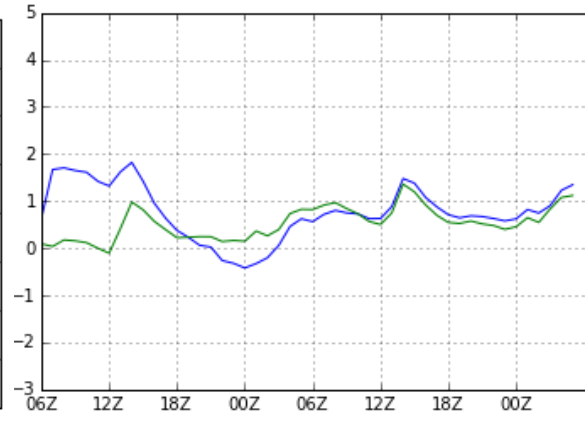
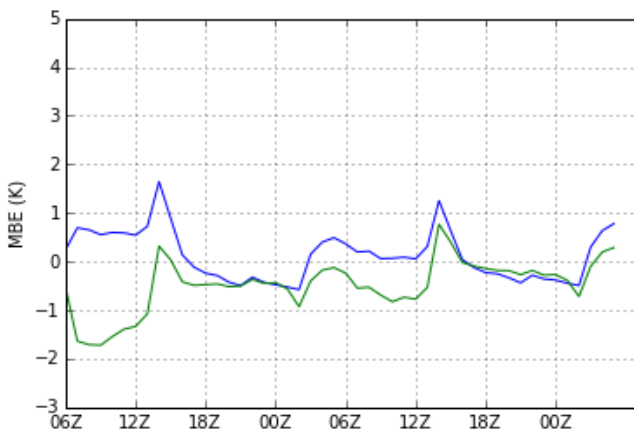
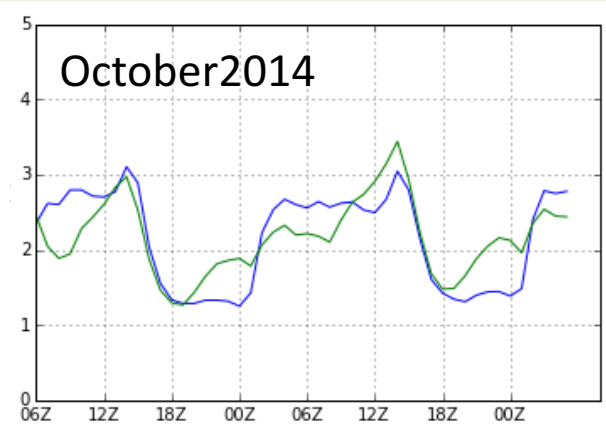
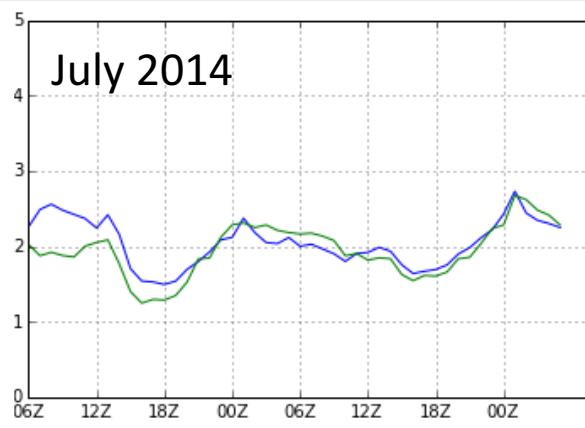
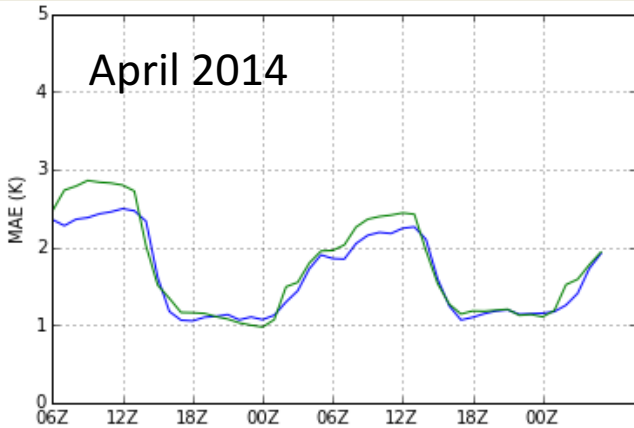


Average errors for all AZ METARs stations

# Temp Errors 6Z UA-WRF

WRF-GFS

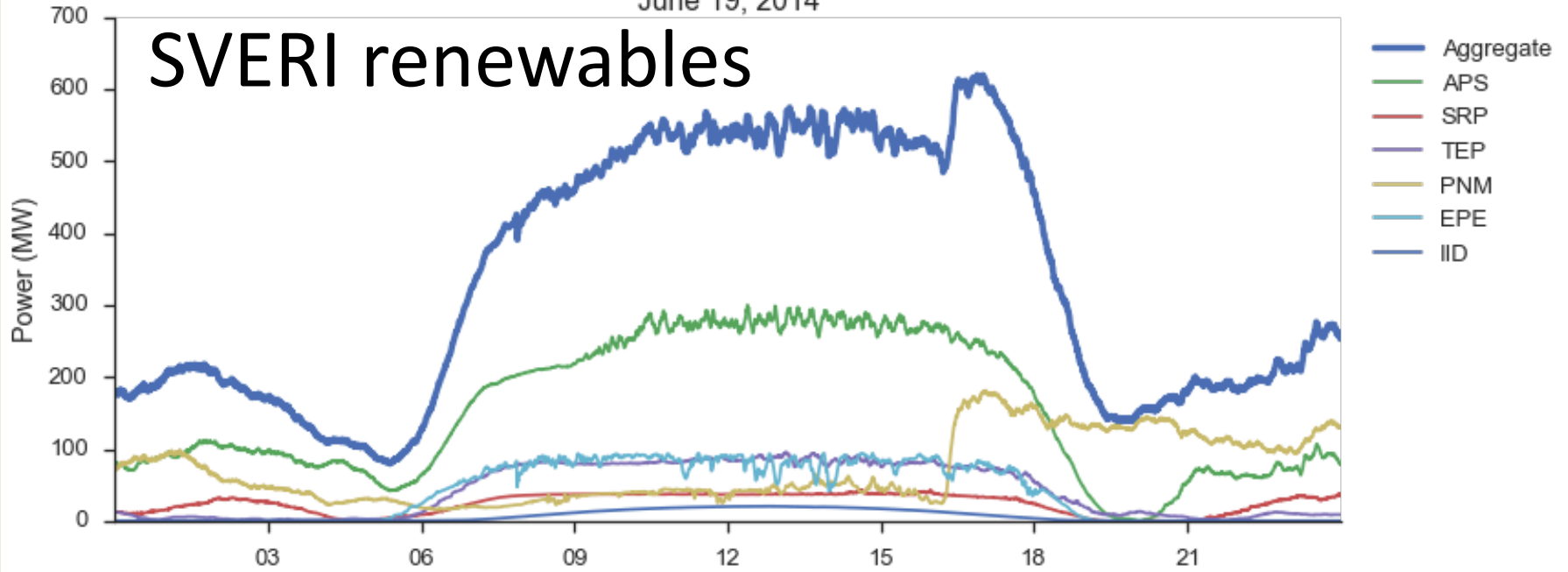
WRF-NAM



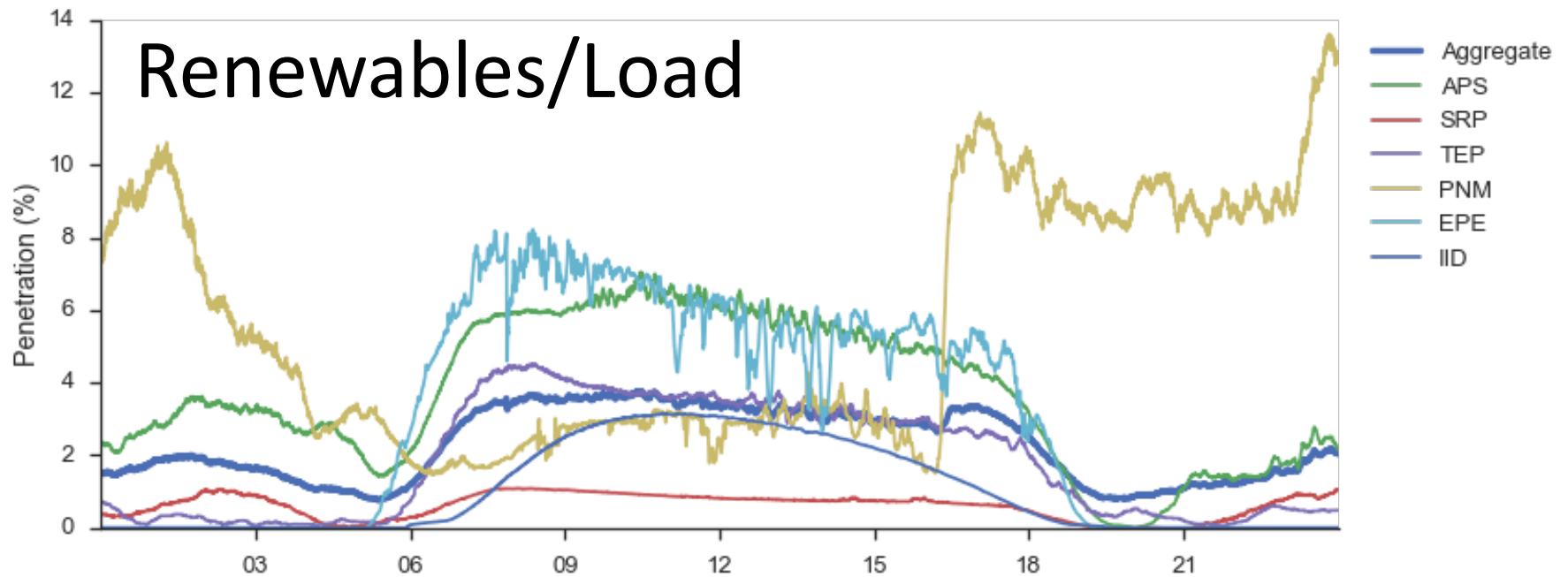


June 19, 2014

# SVERI renewables



# Renewables/Load



# SVERI Internal Website

### Date Selection

Select the date range:

Start:

End:

Home

Dashboard

Intro

Feedback Form

Search Stations

Aggregate

TEP

APS

PNM

SRP

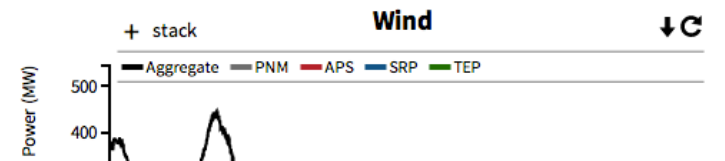
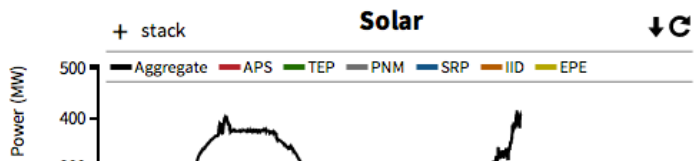
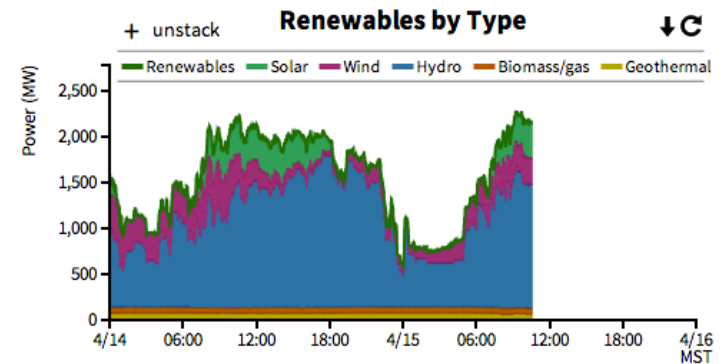
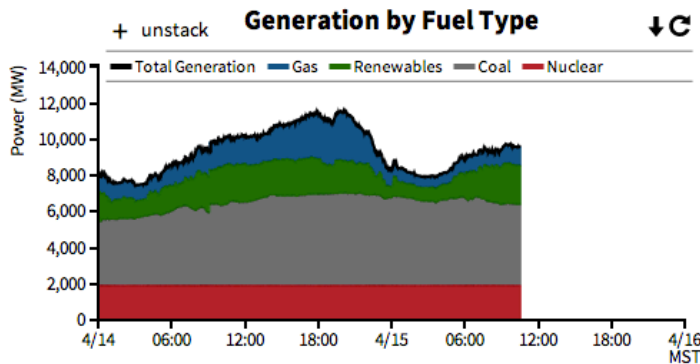
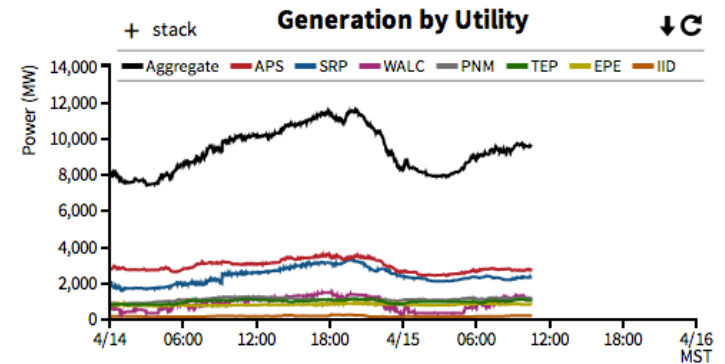
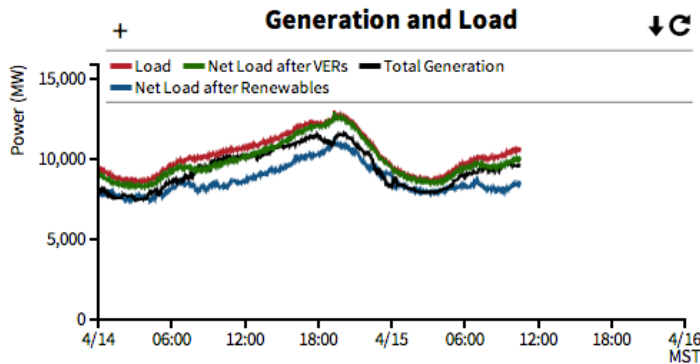
WALC

EPE

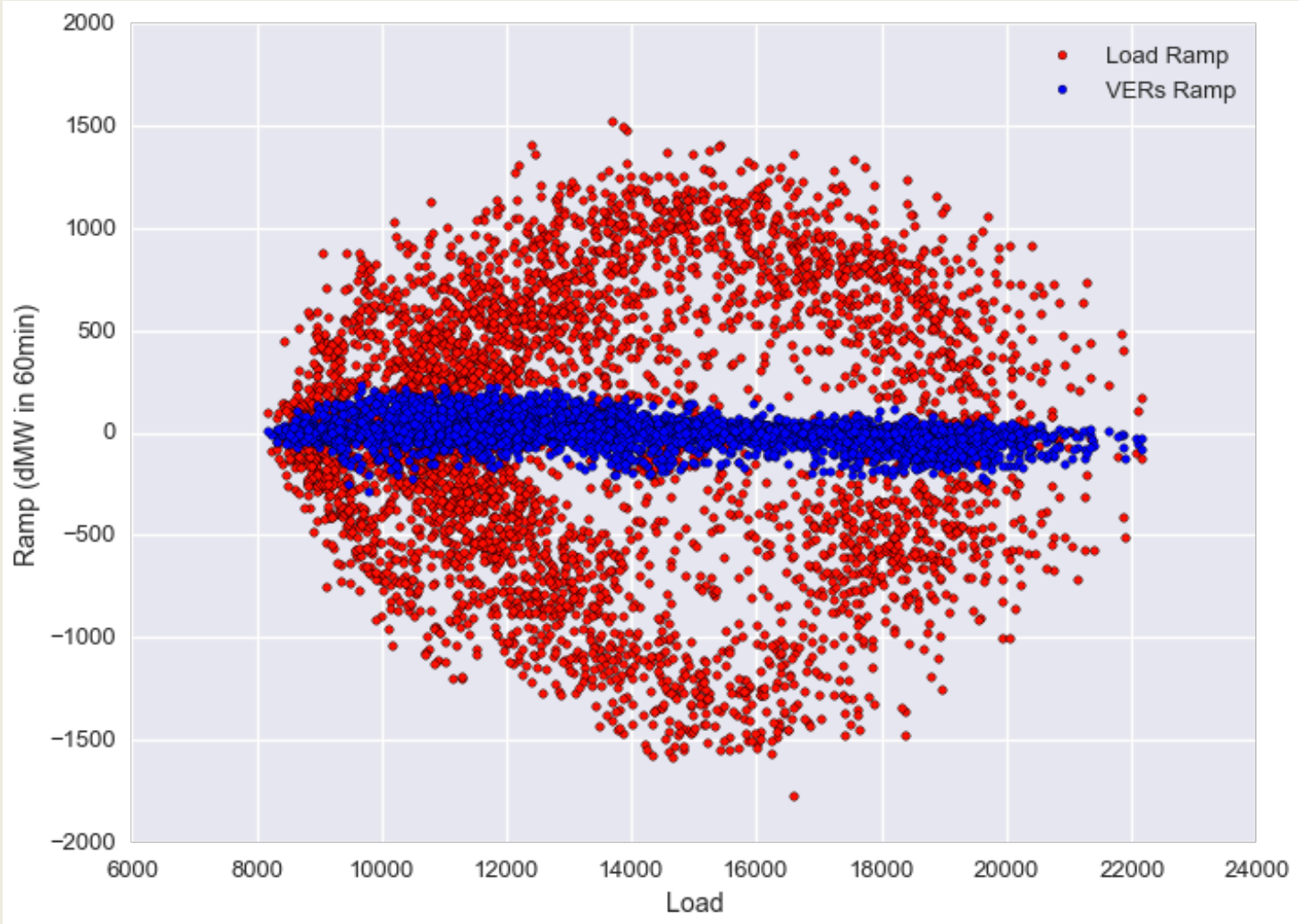
IID

Maps

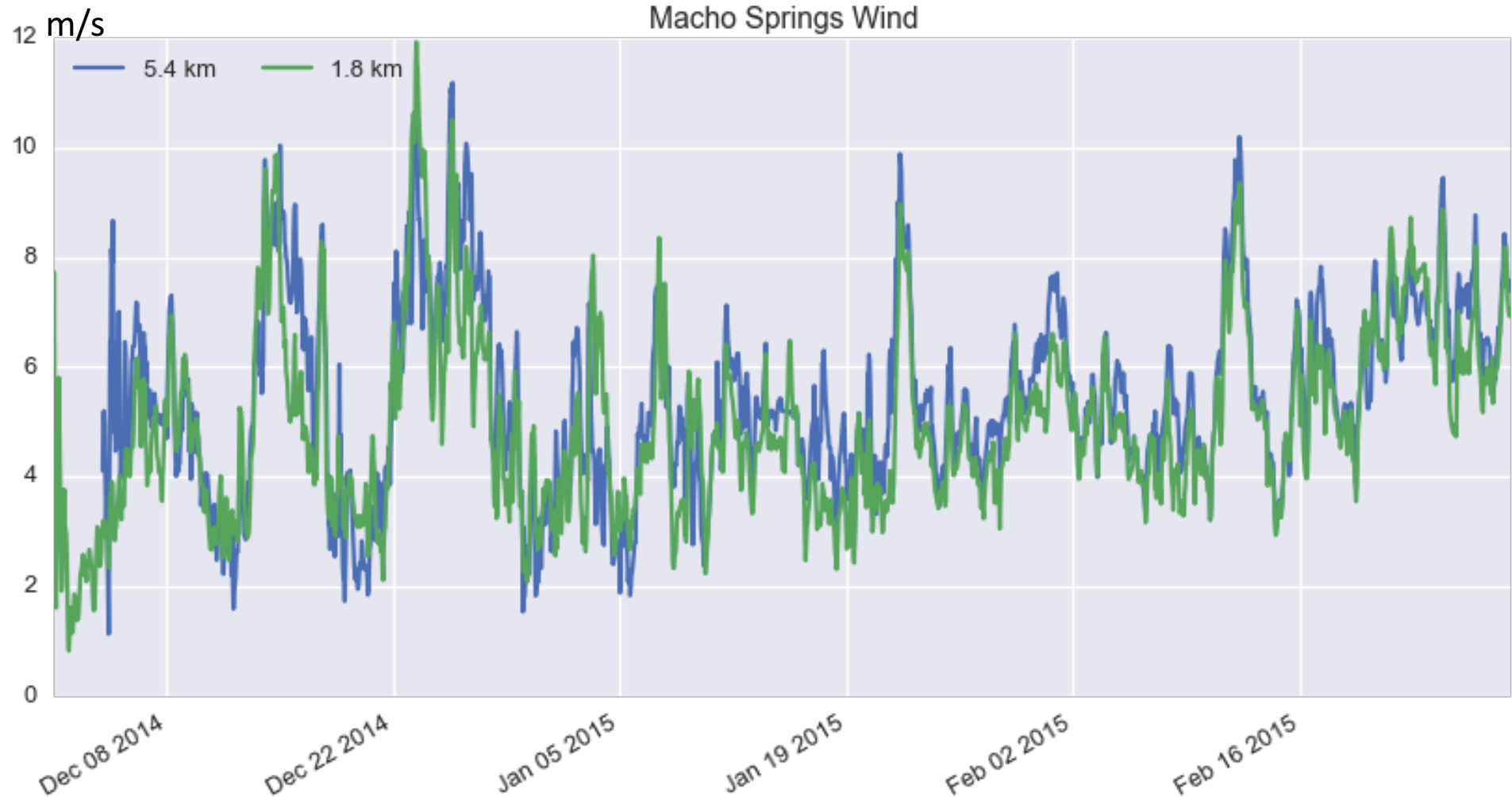
Other Resources



# Ramps vs. Load



# 5.4 vs. 1.8 km wind forecasts



# 5.4 vs. 1.8 km wind forecasts

