# **NUCAPS Soundings in AWIPS**

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Guam WFO: April 2018



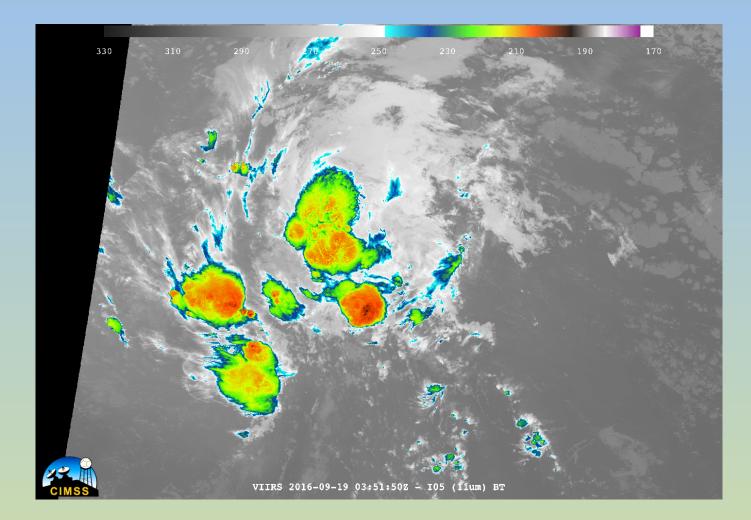


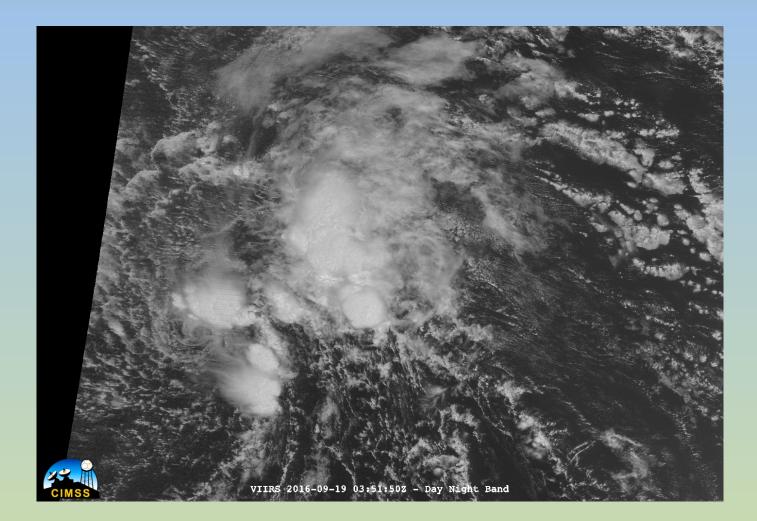


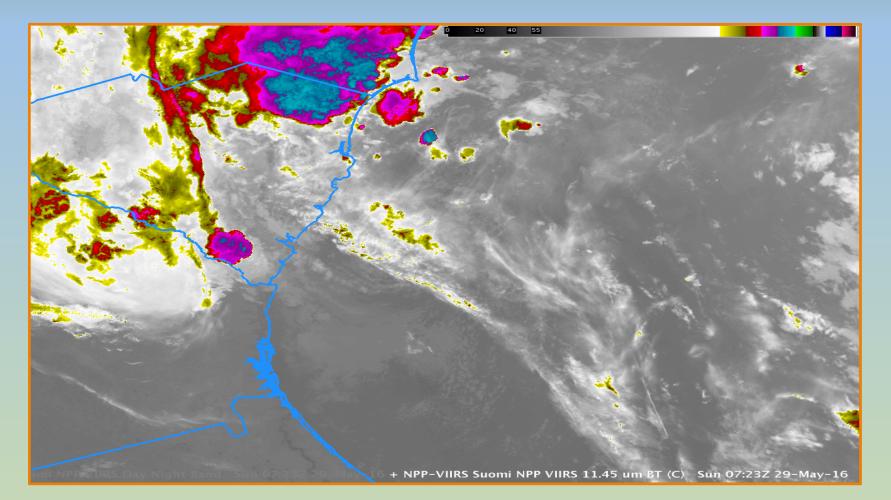


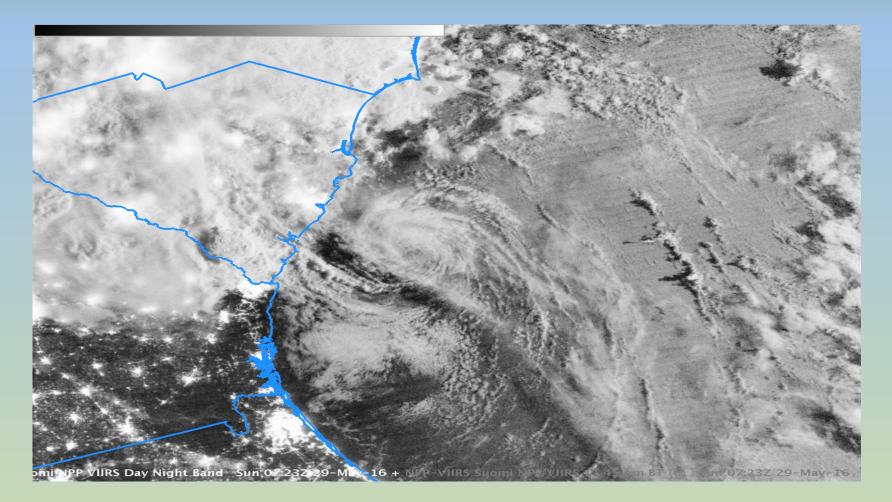




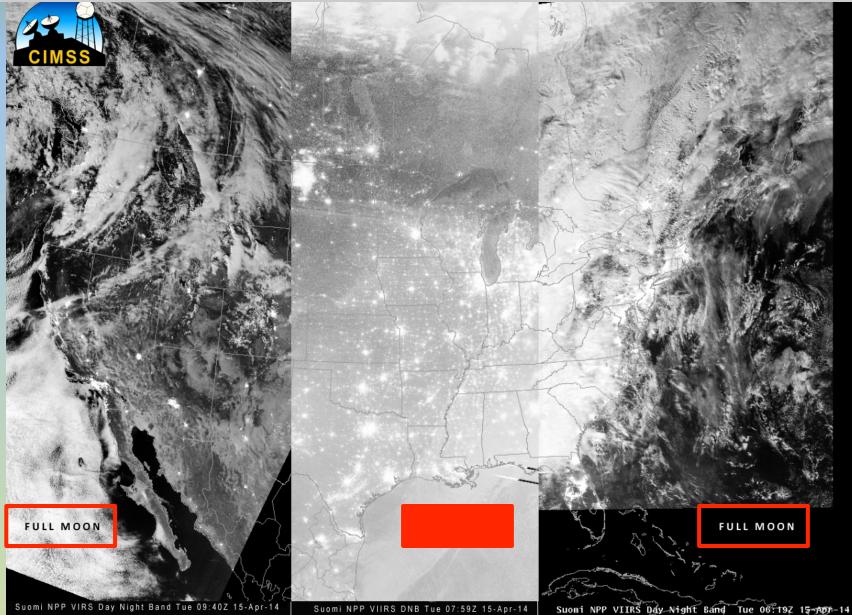








#### Reminder: It's Moonlight that is illuminating things! (This shows three successive scans)



# NOAA-Unique Combined Atmospheric Processing System

Clouds and the Earth

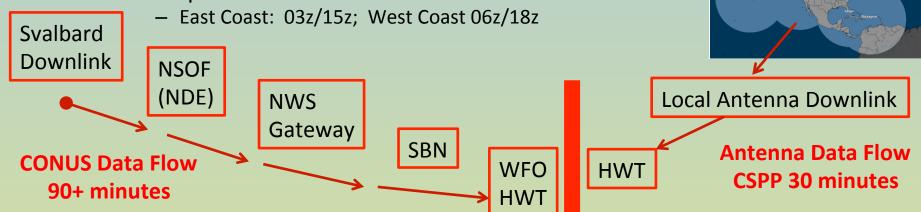
ADCS

- What is Combined?
  - Suomi NPP/JPSS-1
    - CrIS: Cross-track Infrared Sounder (1305 channels)
    - ATMS: Advanced Technology Microwave Sounder (22 channels
  - Metop-A/Metop-B
    - IASI: Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (8461 channels)
    - AMSU: Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (12 channels)
    - MHS: Microwave Humidity Sensor (4+1 Channels)

#### • Overpass Times:

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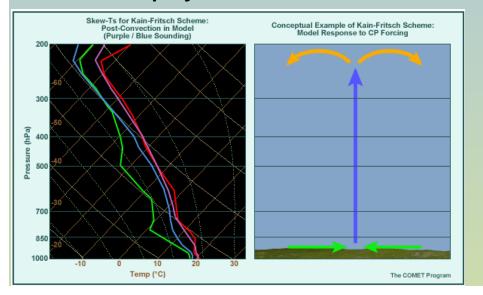
- Suomi NPP/NOAA-20: 0130 AM/1330 PM
  - East Coast: 05z/17z; Plains 07z/19z; West Coast 09z/21z
- Metop-A
  - East Coast: 02z/14z; West Coast 05z/17z
- Metop-B

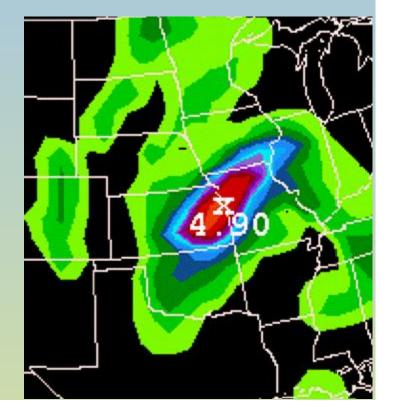


# Why not use the NWP sounding?

- Sometimes do, but subject to NWP issues/ errors
- Soundings within model convection

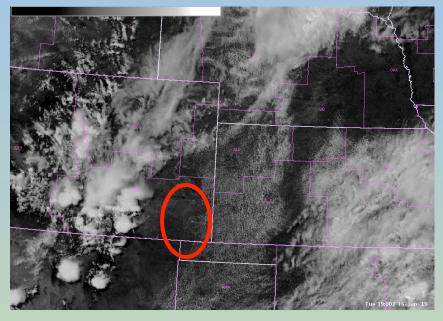
#### Convective Parameterization Schemes result in unrealistic profiles





# Real vs. Modeled

#### **Observed GOES Visible**



*1900 UTC June 16, 2015* Atmosphere with clear, blue sky

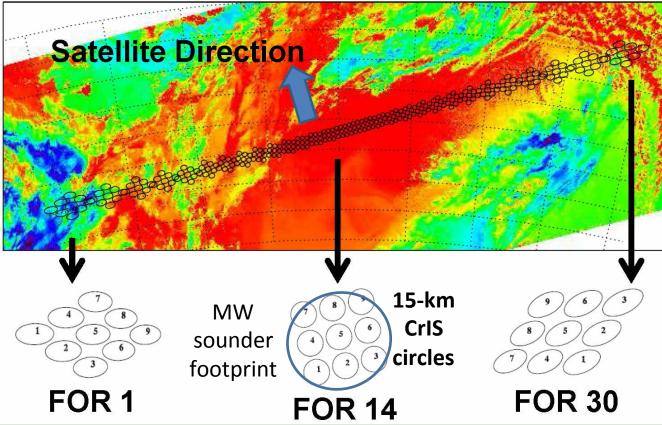
HRRE 2-br forecast

*1900 UTC June 16, 2015* Atmosphere with deep convection

### How are Vertical Profiles Produced

- **Regression** uses static coefficients (derived from ECMWF output for four focus days [2014: 6/18, 9/15, 12/20; 2015: 3/21]) to create a first guess/cloud-clearing field.
  - Regression uses all Sounder and Microwave channels
- **Retrieval** minimizes Observation-Calculation value
  - First Guess: NCEP-based Climatology + GFS Surface Pressure
  - If this doesn't converge to a solution, (because of clouds for infrared data, because of precipitation for Microwave data) sounding is still produced, but flagged
  - Retrieval uses a subset of channels
  - Shape-preserving; adjusts regression to the solution
- Final Sounding is computed on the 100 levels that are present in the Radiative Transfer Model
  - More levels than warranted by Sounder resolution
  - You always see the same levels in AWIPS : they're the Radiative Transfer Model levels

### **CrIS Cross-Track Infrared Sounder**



Each of the green dots in the NUCAPS display includes information from up to 9 Fields of Regard from the CrIS (or up to 4 from IASI). Dot #5 is the location of the green dot in the NUCAPS AWIPS Display **It takes 8 seconds to scan these 30 Fields of Regard** 

For Suomi-NPP/JPSS-1/JPSS-2 Satellite

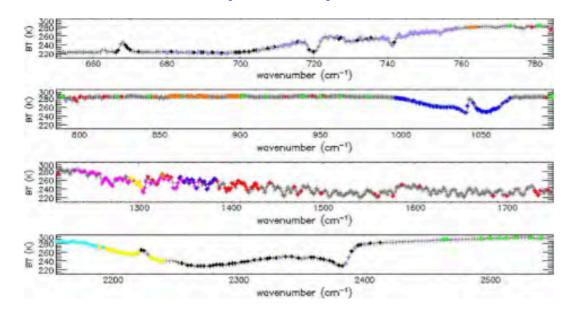


Fig. 2. Final channel selection. Gray cross symbols indicate the location of all 1305 channels present in CrIS original spectra. Superimposed colored cross symbols indicate the 10 channel subsets forming our final channel selection. The final selection is composed of (green) 24 surface temperature and emissivity, (black) 87 temperature, (red) 62 water vapor, (blue) 53 ozone, (cyan) 27 carbon monoxide, (magenta) 54 methane, (light purple) 53 carbon dioxide, (yellow) 24 N<sub>2</sub>O, (orange) 28 HNO<sub>3</sub>, and (dark purple) 24 SO<sub>2</sub> sounding channels. The total number of channels is 399.

Which CrIS channels are used for physical retrieval step? 399 of them

#### 24 for surface temperature

#### 87 for atmospheric temperature

#### 62 for water vapor

Channels chosen most sensitive to one gas and least sensitive to other gases All ATMS channels (22 of them) are used in NUCAPS for SNPP (Similar channel selection for Metop-A/B instruments – IASI has 8461 channels)

### Summary of products from

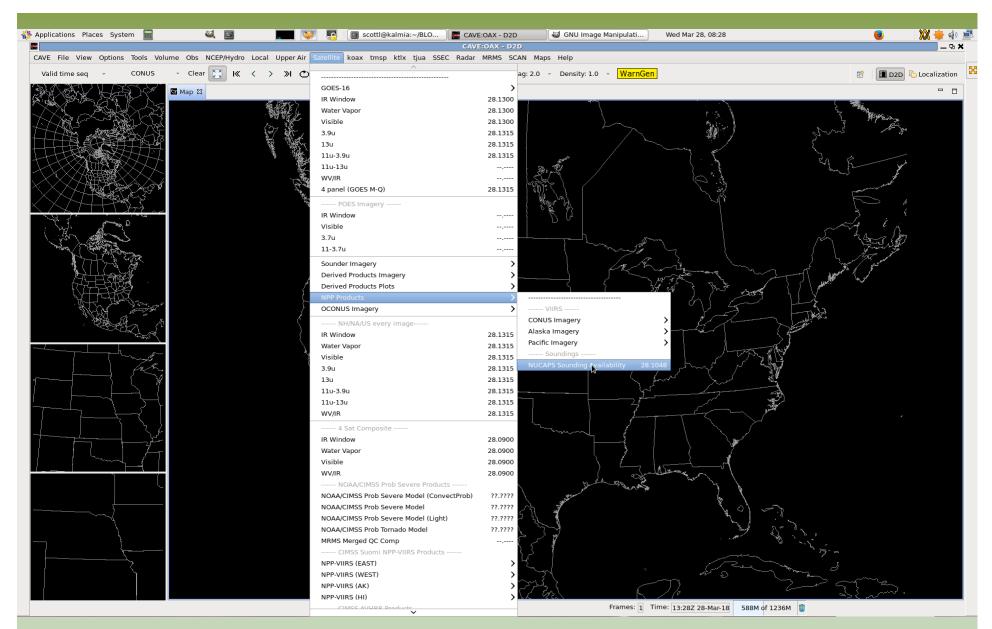
NUCAPS (and AWIPS) For Troposphere

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	gas	Precision	d.o.f.	Interfering Parameters	Sensitivity				
	Temperature Profile, T(p), SST, LST	1.5K/km	6-10	Emissivity, H <sub>2</sub> O, O3, N2O	surface to ~1 mb				
	Water Profile, H <sub>2</sub> O(p)	15%	4-6	CH4, HNO3	surface to ~300 mb				
	Cloud Top Pressure Cloud fraction	25 mbar, 1.5K, 5%	2 18	CO2, H2O	surface to tropopause				
	Ozone, O <sub>3</sub>	10%	1+	H2O, emissivity	Lower stratosphere				
ľ	Carbon Monoxide, CO	15%	≈ 1	H <sub>2</sub> O, N2O	Mid-troposphere				
ľ	Methane, CH <sub>4</sub>	1.5%	≈ 1	H2O, HNO3, N2O	Mid-troposphere				
ľ	Carbon Dioxide, CO <sub>2</sub>	0.5%	≈ 1	H2O, O3, T(p)	Mid-troposphere				
	Sulfur Dioxide, SO <sub>2</sub>	≈ 50%	< 1	H2O, HNO3	Volcanic flag				
	Nitric Acid, HNO <sub>3</sub>	≈ 50%	< 1	emissivity H2O, CH4, N2O	Upper troposphere				
	Nitrous Oxide, N <sub>2</sub> O	≈ 5%	< 1	H2O, CO	Mid-troposphere				

A NUCAPS Sounding includes information for a volume surrounding the point, not just the point itself

Don't think of this point as being at the cloud's edge! It includes information within a region surrounding the point – the point on the screen is the centroid of 9 different points from Suomi NPP

UCAPS Availability (Editable) 30 Begn Wed 19:207 11-Mar-15. Suomi NPP VIIRS 0.64 um refl Wed 19:36Z 11-Mar-15

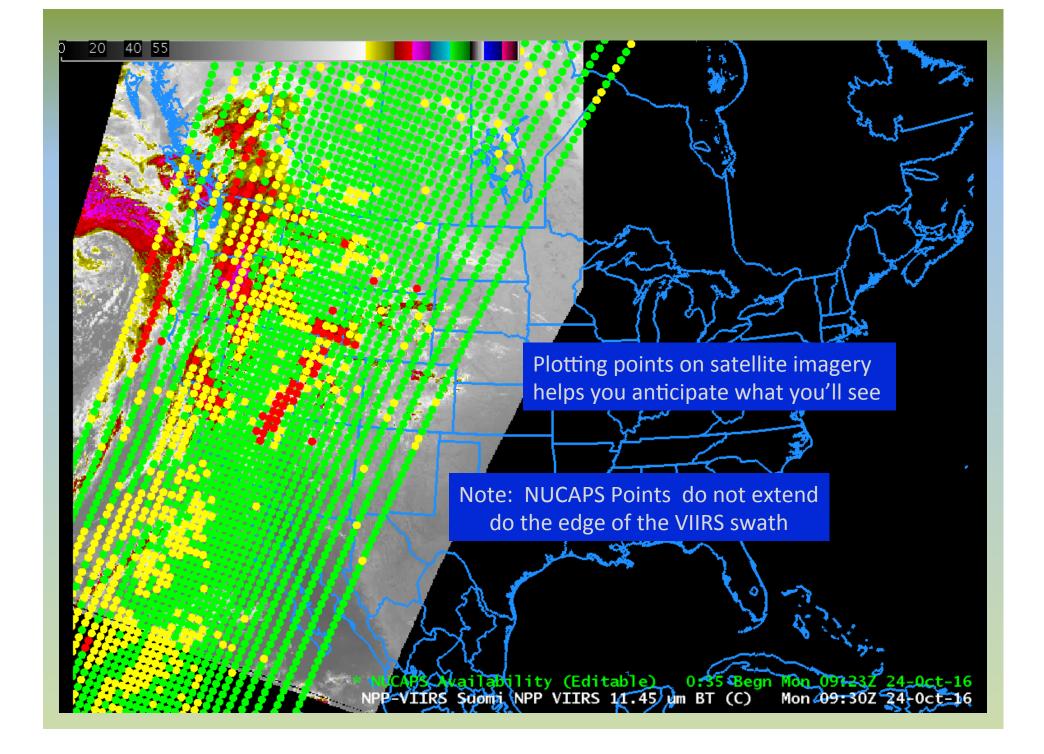


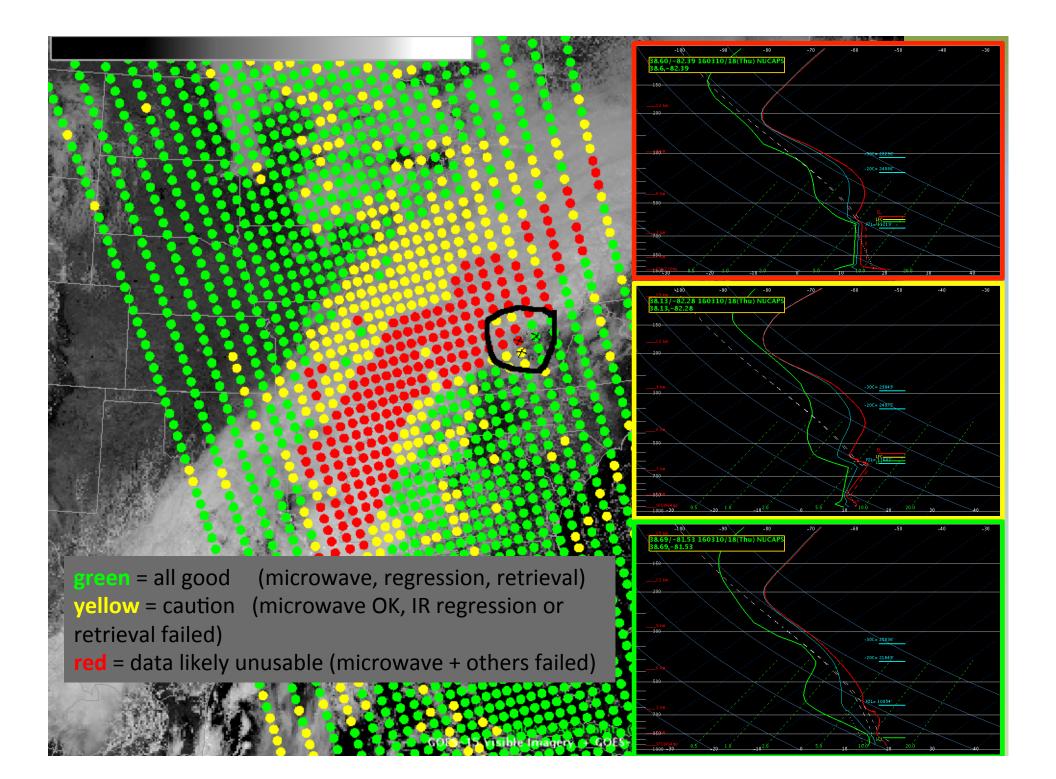
In the WFO AWIPS, NUCAPS soundings are under Satellite > NPP Products > NUCAPS Sounding Availability

**Green Dots**: Retrievals Completed Successfully Yellow Dots: IR Retrieval Failed

ed Dots: IR and Microwave Retrievals failed

- If the Soundings are flowing from Direct Broadcast (DB) sites, the swath will typically show up about 30 minutes after the pass – Improved Latency/FASTER
- If the Soundings are flowing from Svalbard/the SBN, The swath will typically show up 90 or more minutes after the pass SLOW!





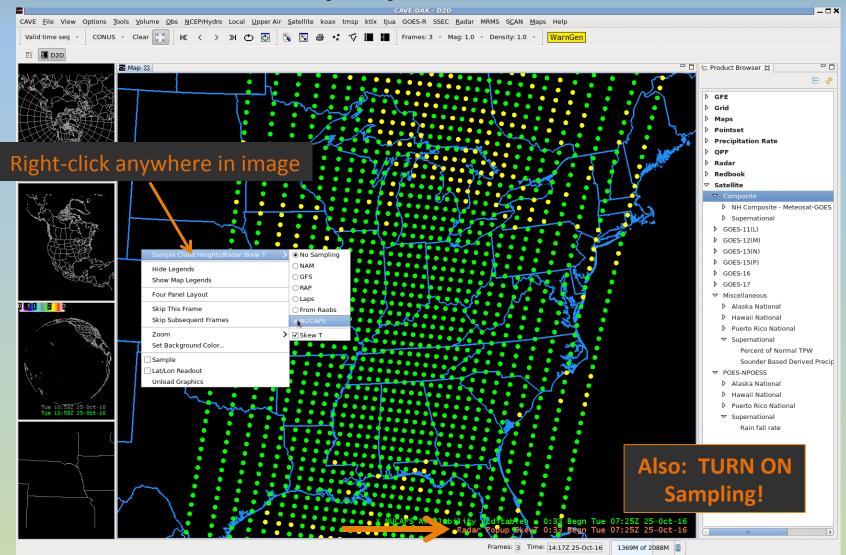
### Popup SkewTs

After you load the Soundings, enable Popup
 SkewT in Volume Browser so you can browse
 quickly through many Skew-Ts

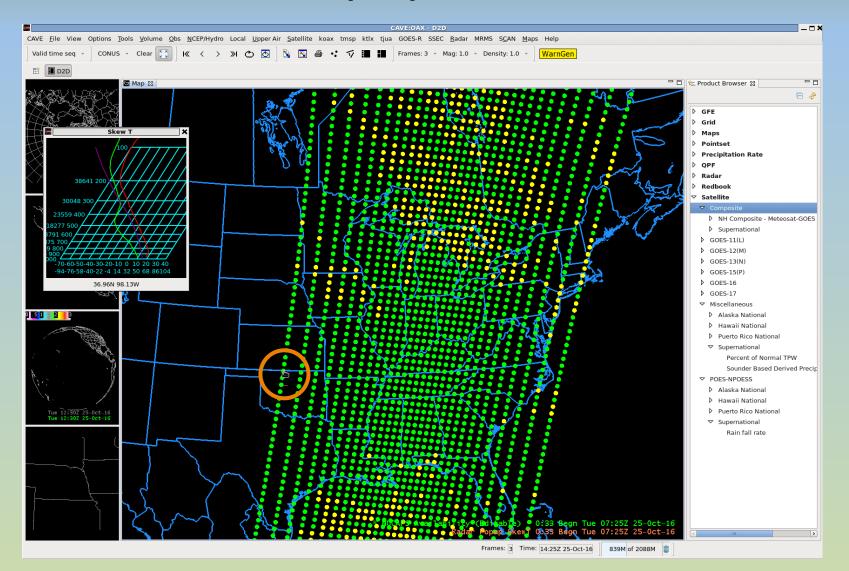
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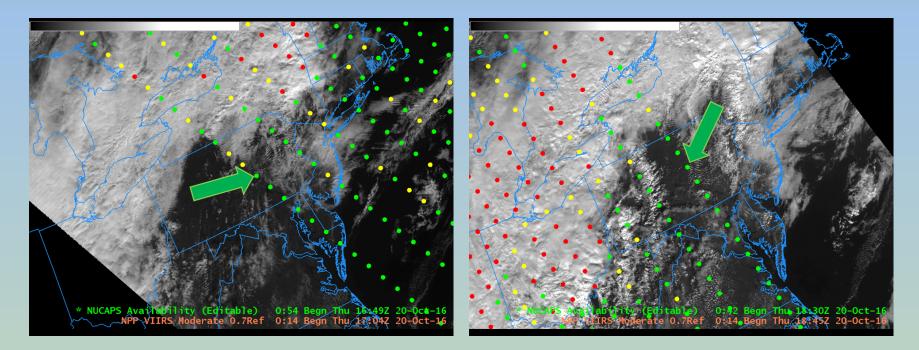
### Popup SkewTs



# **Popup SkewTs**



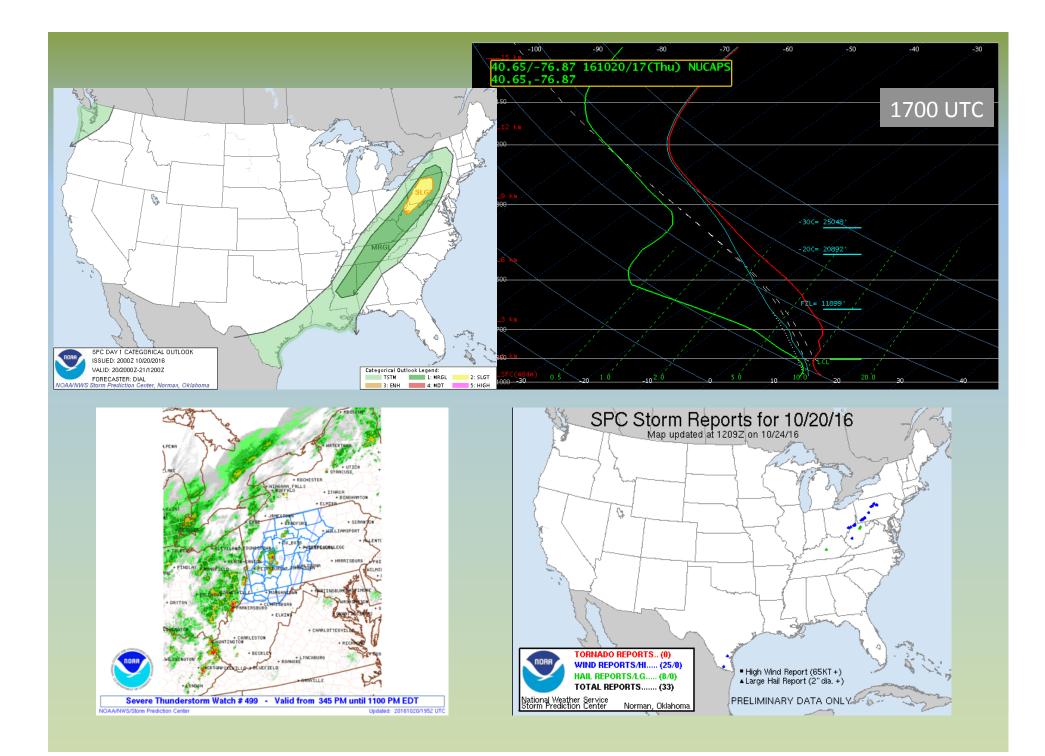
### What do Consecutive Soundings Get you?

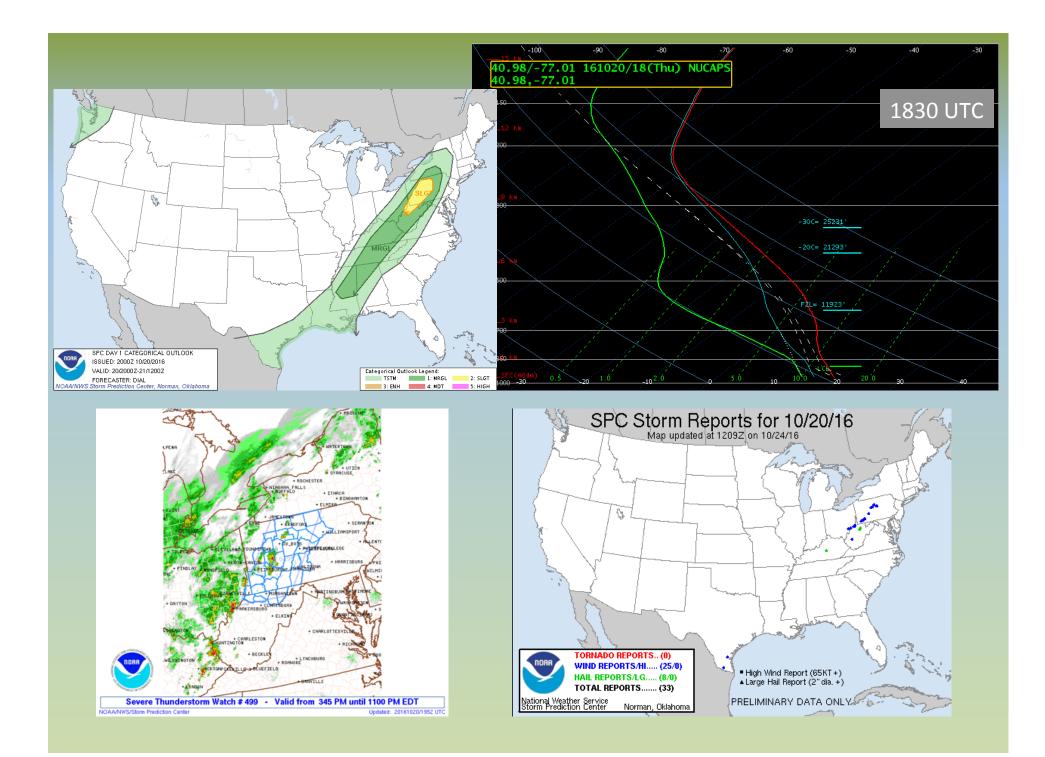


Western-most scan at ~1700 UTC

Eastern-most scan at ~1830 UTC

Two samplings of a destabilizing atmosphere 90 minutes apart – if you're lucky over CONUS. It's possible this will happen over Guam once NOAA-20 NUCAPS profiles are in AWIPS



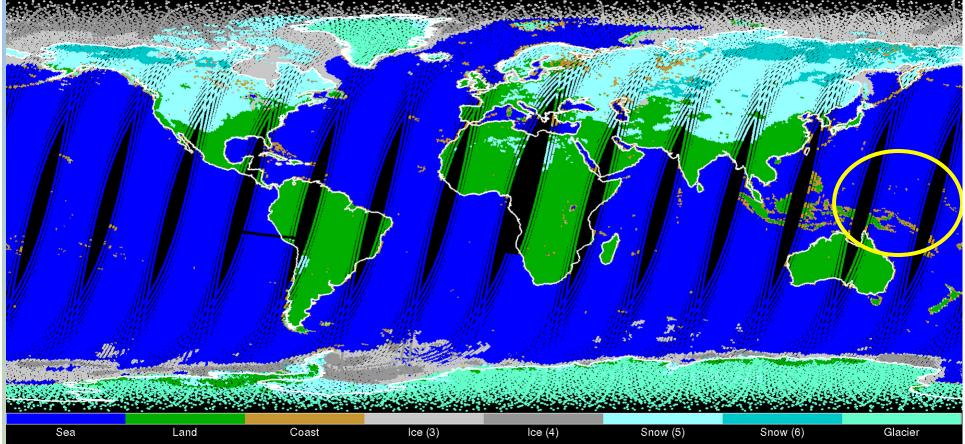


# NPP Polar Orbiting Global



NUCAPS

#### January 4, 2016



Near the Equator, there are holes in NUCAPS coverage every 12 hours Note: If NOAA-20 orbits were plotted, the holes would be filled in

# Feedback from HWT 2016

"One of the beautiful things about NUCAPS in AWIPS is the ability to view pop-up Skew-Ts. One can move the cursor over the points from the .... satellite. These pop-up Skew-T can give a quick-look of thermodynamic profile across the green dots. Some of the yellow dots may look good too. Overall, Pop-Up Skew-Ts they rule!!! "

"The lure is that it is an observation. I think it should remain observationally driven, even though we know there could be a source of error. If so, we know the source of the error. If you add in model data, you don't always know the source of the error. "

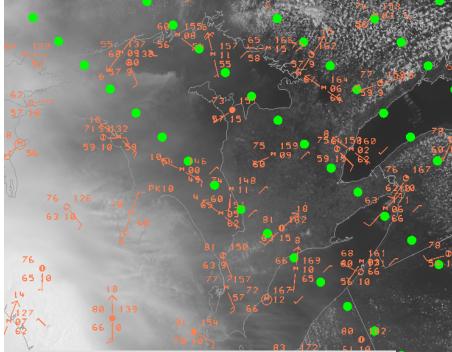
" A modified NUCAPS sounding was sampled over the same location. The sounding depicts a similar moist low-layer, with a dry layer around 400 mb. CAPE is about 2200 j/kg, and TPW is 1.36 in, both similar to that from the observed radiosonde. "

"Pueblo is not an upper air site, so it was helpful there. IASI NUCAPS indicated only weak instability, which made sense given only weak convection/showers. Surface dew point and temperature were very accurate, perhaps because the atmosphere was so dry.

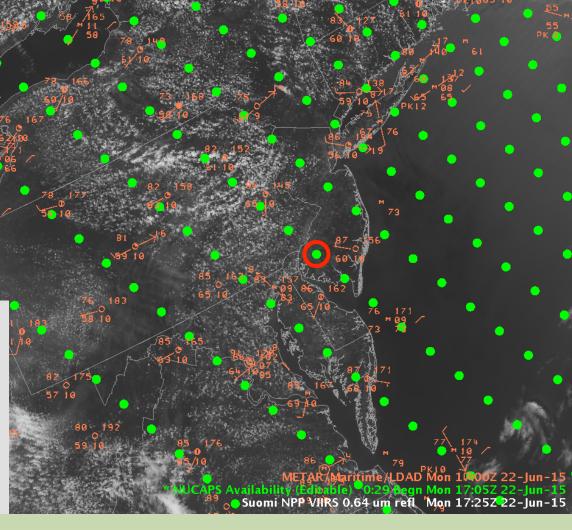
- In Texas, we used NUCAPS in our early analysis which proved to be helpful given sparse UA obs.

- NUCAPS had Wet Bulb Zero heights around 9000 ft, and FL around 12000 ft. With the kind of updrafts we had, I am not surprised we had such large hail."

# Editing



It's common for the lowest part of the sounding to be at odds with nearby observations. You can modify NUCAPS Soundings in AWIPS. This example just south of Philadelphia is for a sounding where the observed T/ Td there is upper 80s/60-65



Or you can edit things directly!



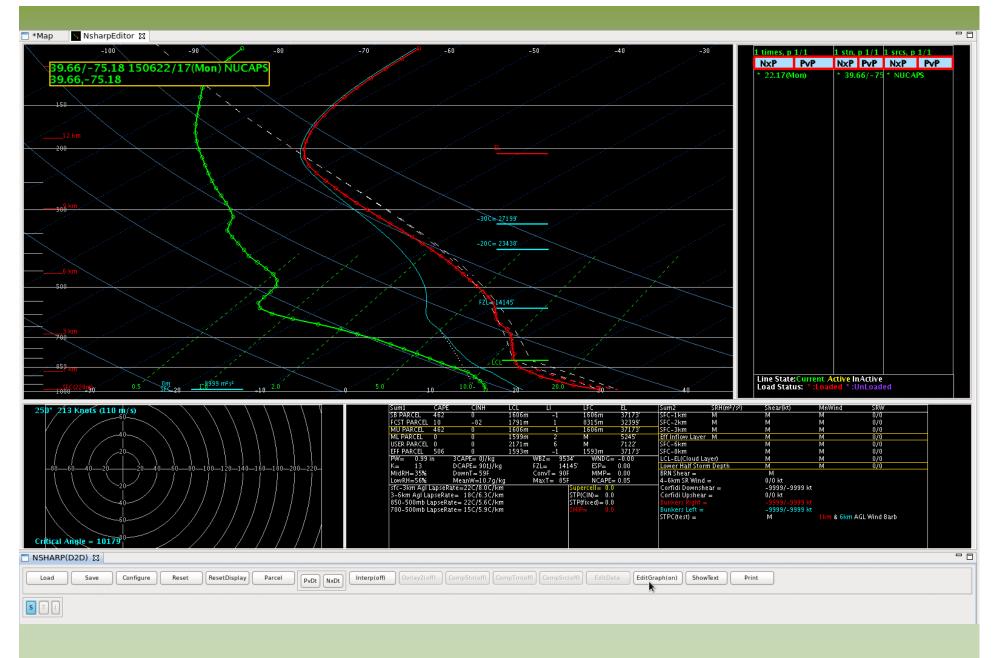
Do the surface values match observations as seen in the METAR plot? No. Change them. Toggle 'Edit Graph' to 'On'



Draggable Points appear on the Temperature and Dewpoint lines. Move those points to values that are more appropriate



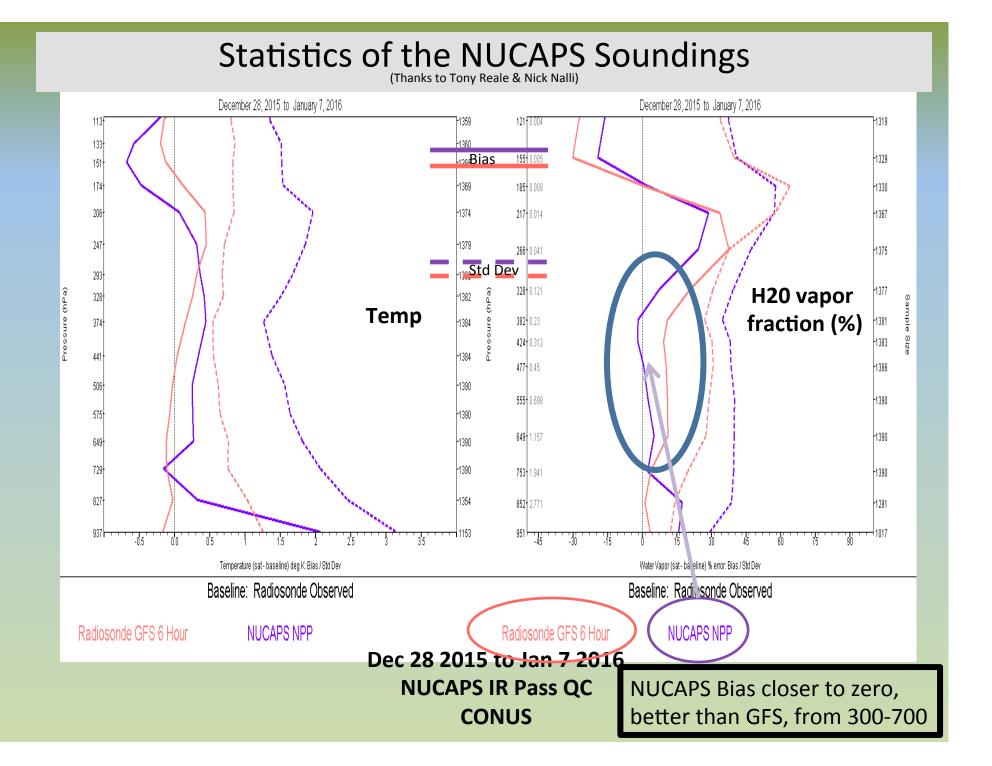
Don't like things you've changed? Click 'Reset' and start over. Once you're satisfied...



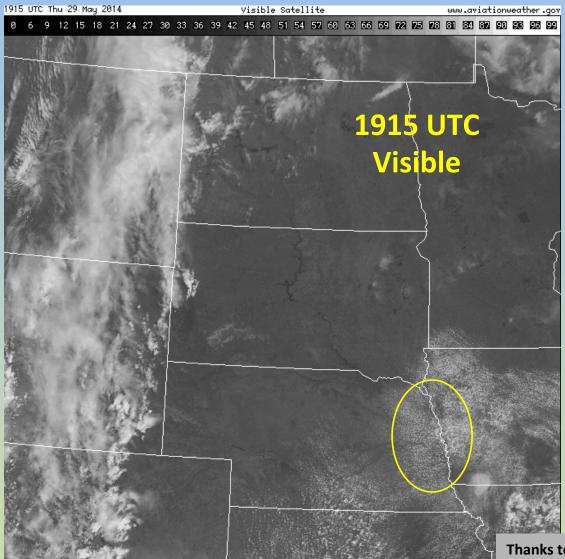
Toggle 'Edit Graph' back to off



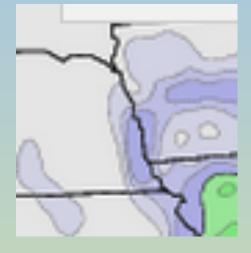
How have convective parameters changed? CAPE? LCL? EL? Compare the two soundings. All that was changed was the temperature at a few of the lower levels



# Forecast Problem: 29 May 2014 Afternoon/Evening Convection ?



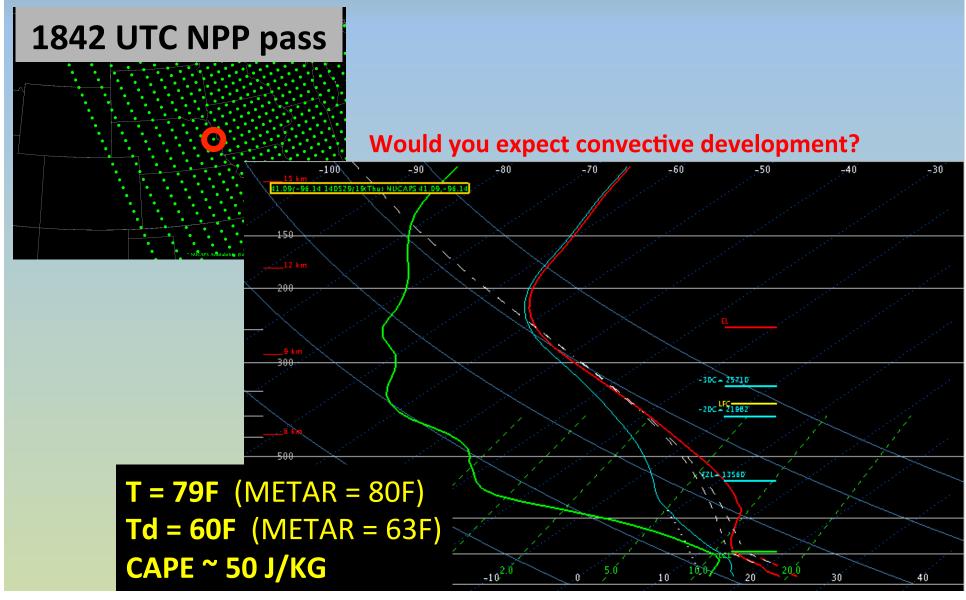
GFS 9 hour forecast From 12UTC 29 May Valid 21 UTC 29 May

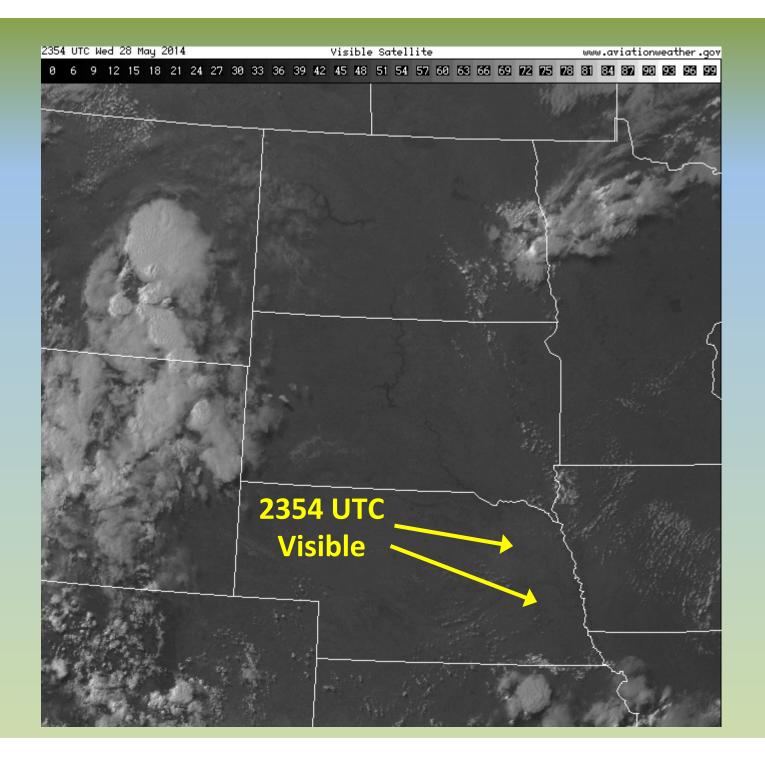


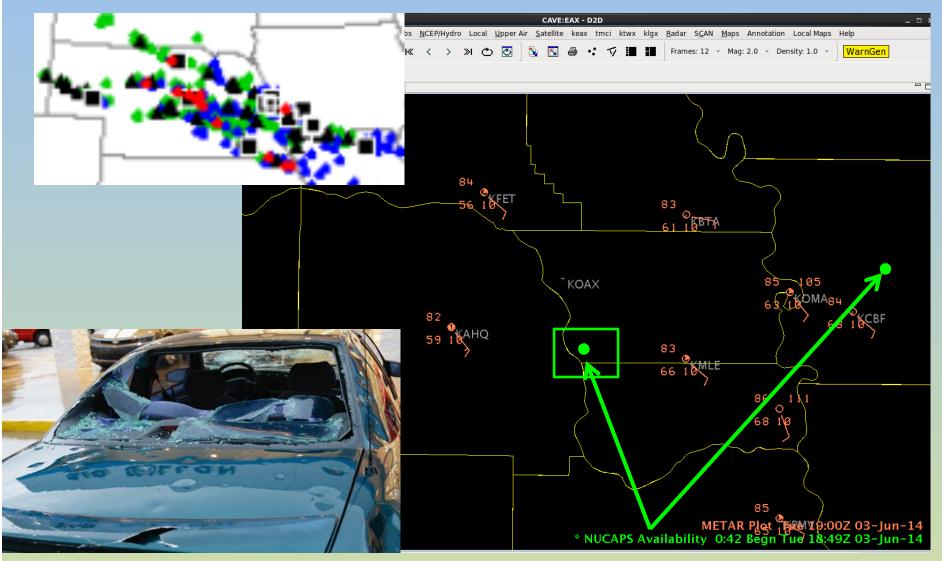
Will the Cumulus Field develop further? (As suggested by the GFS)

Thanks to Dan Nietfeld for this example and the next one too!

### **NUCAPS Soundings give thermodynamic** information at a convenient time!

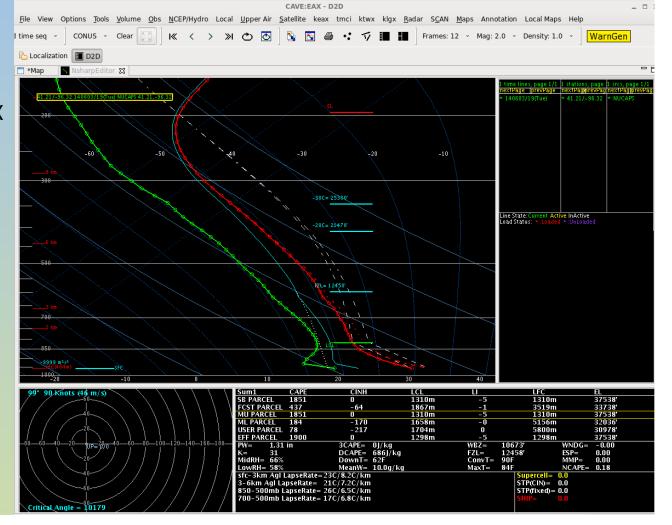




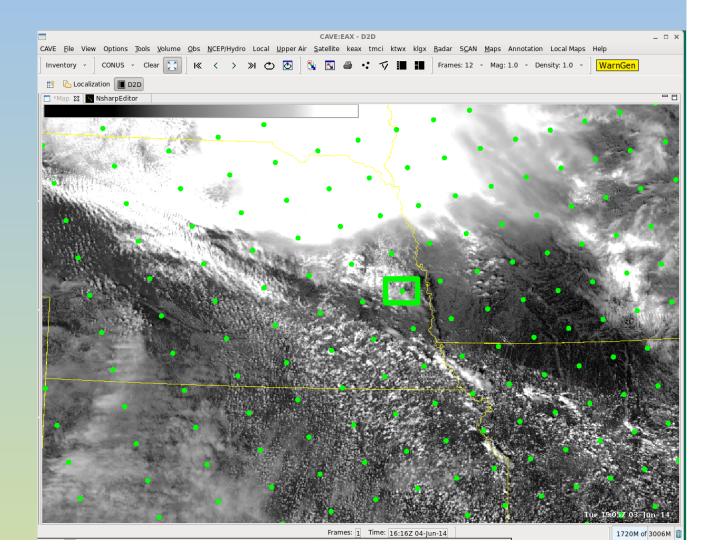


NUCAPS ~10 KM south of OAX 1849Z June 3, 2014 – cloudy scene, but still gives info!

**Modified** for surface METAR Ob of T=83, Td=63 SB CAPE = 1851



NUCAPS sounding locations overlain on VIIRS 0.64 1905Z June 3, 2014

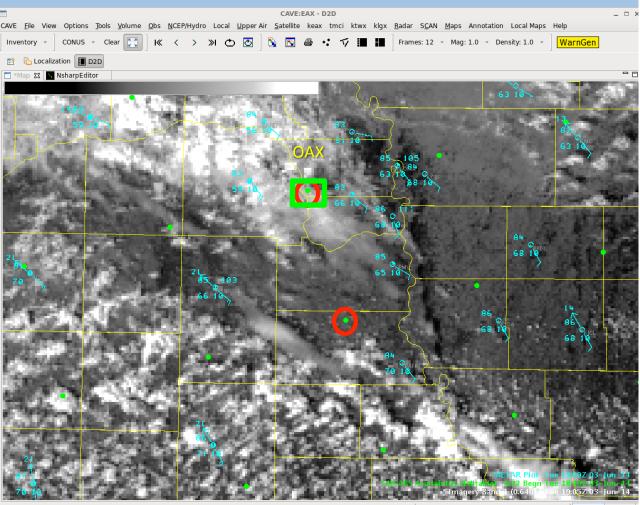


NUCAPS sounding locations Overlaid with VIIRS 0.64 1905Z June 3, 2014

Location of OAX in yellow

Northern dot is within a few KM of KOAX, but under cloud cover

Southern dot is in a nearly Cloud-free location, and is warmer and more humid

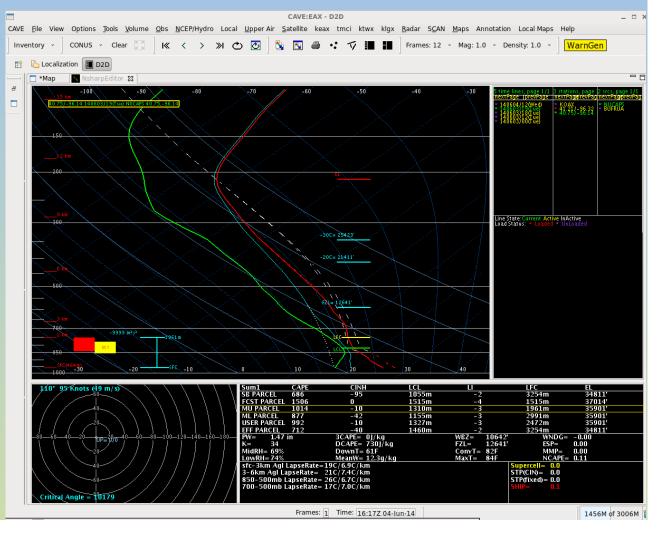


ames: 1 Time: 16:21Z 04-Jun-14

1547M of 3006M

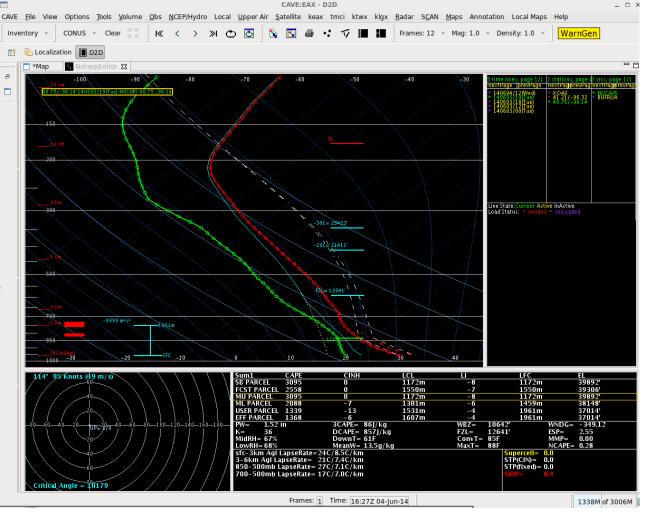
NUCAPS sounding 40 km south of OAX 1849Z June 3, 2014

Unmodified SB CAPE = 686



NUCAPS sounding 40 km south of OAX 1849Z June 3, 2014

Modified for surface METAR Ob of T=85, Td=68 SB CAPE = 3095



### You can find these online!

- Link is :
- <u>http://www.ospo.noaa.gov/Products/</u> <u>atmosphere/soundings/nucaps/pskewt/</u> <u>USACON.html</u>

# Summary

- A mix of infrared and microwave information. If Infrared regression or retrieval fails, a microwave-only sounding will still be produced.
- At most 10 temperature layers and about five moisture layers are resolved in the troposphere.
- Time latency is about 30 minutes via DB sources for Suomi NPP NUCAPS!
- NUCAPS Soundings are also computed from Metop A and Metop B. Only Suomi NPP passes are in WFO AWIPS now
  - Metop A and Metop B NUCAPS Soundings are available at HWT via the SBN
- Learn how to modify the soundings if the lowest layers don't agree with nearby METARs or the RTMA
  - Modified Soundings have been modified to match RTMA Thermodynamics: Is the boundary layer that is inserted correct?
- NUCAPS data are also presented HWT as horizontal fields at one layer. There is training on that too!
- The HWT Blog has many NUCAPS examples. (Link)