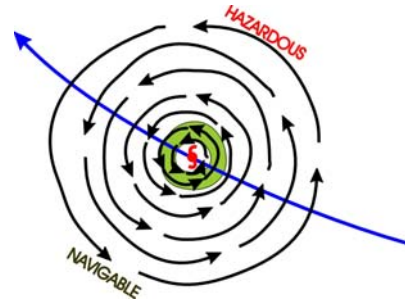


MET3003

Lecture 19: Hurricanes
4APR07

Redfield & Reid Model



Classification

- **Tropical Cyclone:** Nonfrontal, synoptic scale, cyclonic storm with organized convection that formed over the tropical seas
- **Tropical Depression:** Closed circulation with winds $< 17 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (or 35 kt or 39 mph)
- **Tropical Disturbance:** Like a depression, but the winds don't blow completely around the center.
- **Tropical Storm:** Has a closed circulation with winds between 17 m s^{-1} and 33 m s^{-1} (64 kt or 74 mph)

Classification for Winds $> 33 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (64 kt or 74 mph)

- **Hurricane:** North Atlantic; NE Pacific, east of 180° , and SE Pacific east of 160° W
- **Typhoon:** NE Pacific, west of 180°
- **Severe Tropical Cyclone:** SW Pacific and SE Indian Ocean, east of 90° E (Australia)
- **Severe Cyclonic Storm:** N Indian Ocean
- **Tropical Cyclone:** SW Indian Ocean, west of 90° E

Saffir-Simpson Scale

Cat	Winds	Effects
One	74-95 mph	No real damage to building structures.
Two	96-110 mph	Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers.
Three	111-130 mph	Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed.
Four	131-155 mph	More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore.
Five	$> 155 \text{ mph}$	Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away.

• Major hurricanes, CAT 3-5, cause 80% of US damage

WINDS OF THE HURRICANE

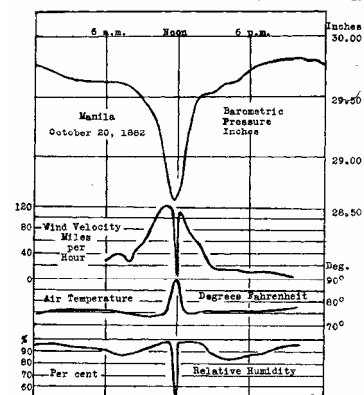
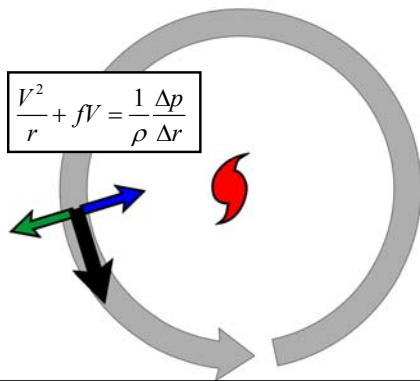
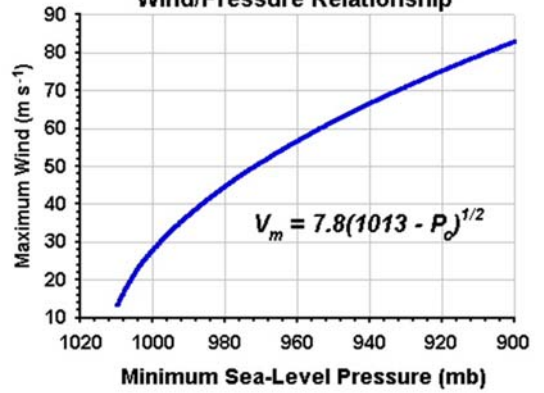


FIGURE 10. Barometric pressure, wind velocity, temperature and relative humidity during passage of typhoon over Manila on October 20, 1982.

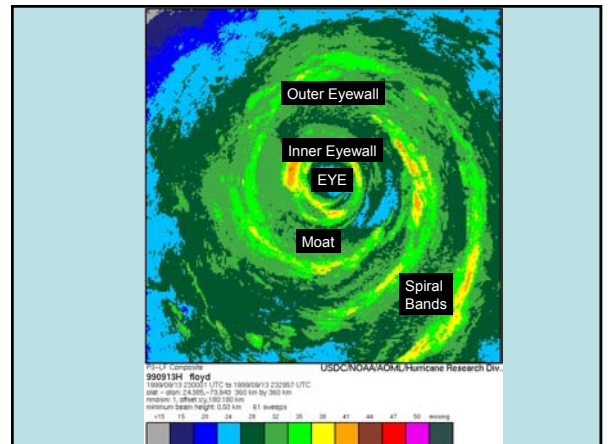
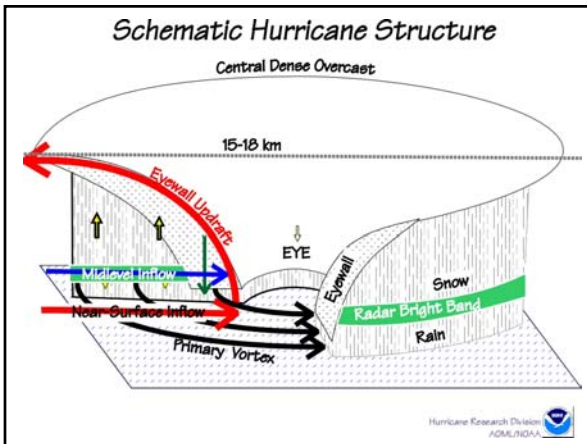
Gradient Balance



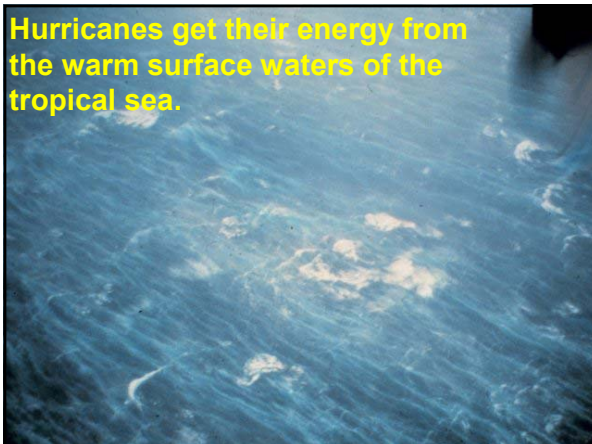
Wind/Pressure Relationship



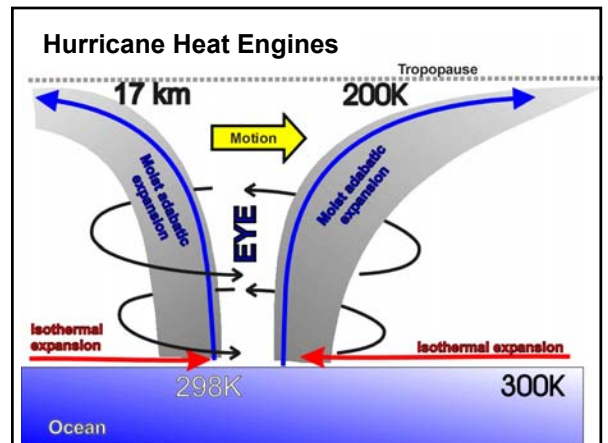
Schematic Hurricane Structure



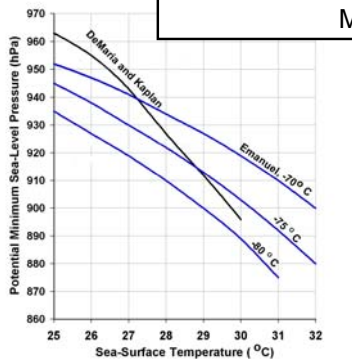
Hurricanes get their energy from the warm surface waters of the tropical sea.



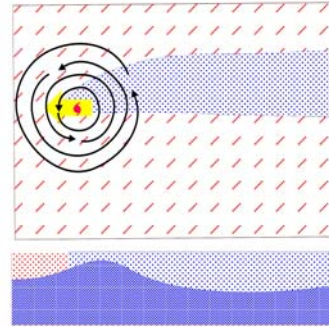
Hurricane Heat Engines



Observational and Theoretical MPI Compared

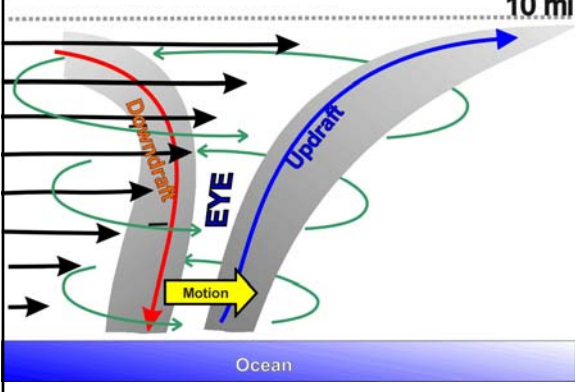


Effect on Ocean Thermal Stratification

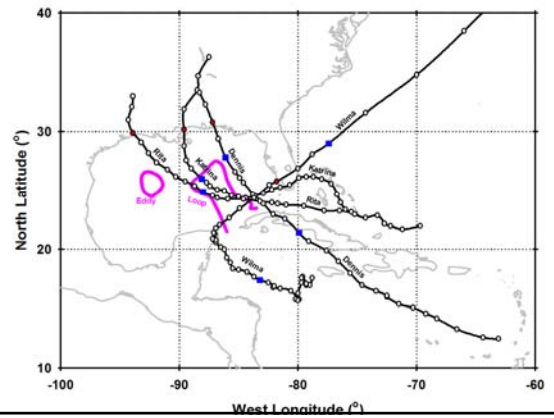


- Momentum transport causes upwelling.
- Wind-induced turbulence mixes cool water upward.

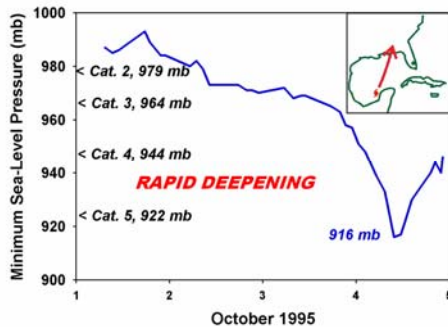
Environmental Wind Shear



Role of the Loop Current

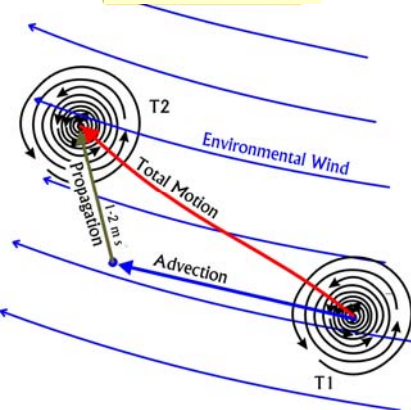


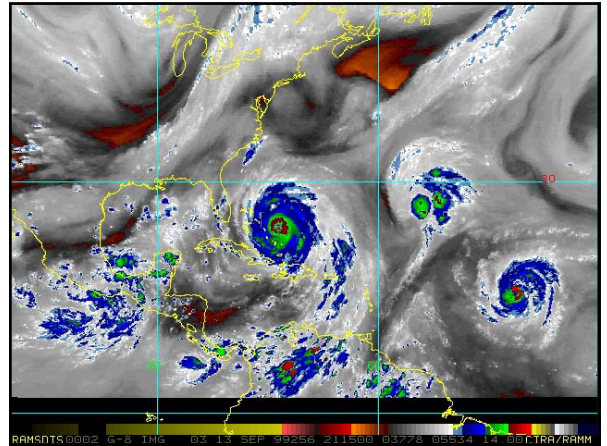
Hurricane Opal, 1-5 October 1995



- Rapid deepening causes most major hurricanes
- Time-scale is so short that adequate warnings are difficult

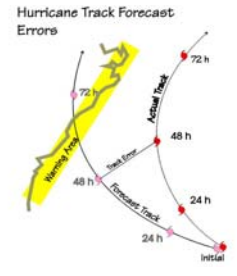
Hurricane Motion





A map of the North Atlantic region showing the progression of hurricane tracks. The y-axis represents North Latitude (°) from 10 to 50, and the x-axis represents West Longitude (°) from -100 to -30. The map illustrates the stages of hurricane development and movement, with labels for 'Extratropical Transition', 'Dissipation', 'Landfall', 'Recurvature', and 'Cape Verde'. Specific hurricanes are marked with colored dots and labeled: Bret (red), Harvey (blue), Irma (red), Floyd (blue), and Charley (red). The tracks show the movement of these storms across the Atlantic, with some storms undergoing extratropical transitions and others dissipating.

- Based upon "guidance" from numerical models
- Evaluated in terms of "vector error" distance from forecast position to actual
- Forecasts cast in terms of:
 - **Watches:** Hurricane-force winds expected within 36 h
 - **Warnings:** Hurricane force winds expected within 24 h
- Trigger evacuation and other preparations under direction of local authorities
- Cost of warnings can be \$200-400M

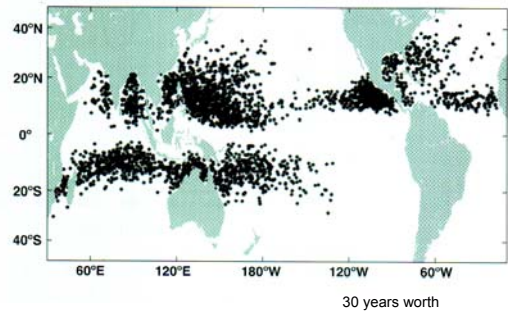


*Evacuation keeps
People from drowning in the wind
driven rise of the sea over the land*

Necessary Conditions for Tropical Cyclone Formation

- Ocean warmer than 26°C
- Reasonably humid at 2-5 km altitude (~80% RH... under reexamination)
- Rising saturated air is warmer than its surroundings (conditional instability)
- Weak vertical shear ($< 12.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$)
- Pre-existing disturbance
- More than 5° latitude from the Equator

Where Do Hurricanes Form?

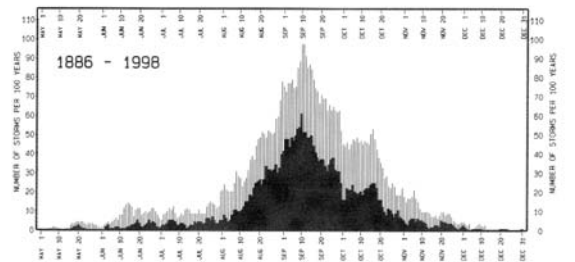


Worldwide Tropical Cyclone Occurrence

Basin	Named	Nonmajor	Major
NW Pacific	26.7	16.9	8.5
S Indian	20.6	10.3	4.3
NE Pacific	16.3	9.0	4.1
N Atlantic	10.6	5.9	2.0
SW Pacific	10.6	4.8	1.9
N Indian	5.4	2.2	0.4

~85 named storms worldwide
~50 $> 33 \text{ m s}^{-1}$

Annual Distribution



Tropical Cyclone Tracks 1886-1998

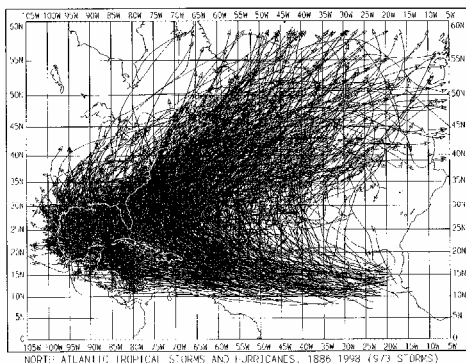
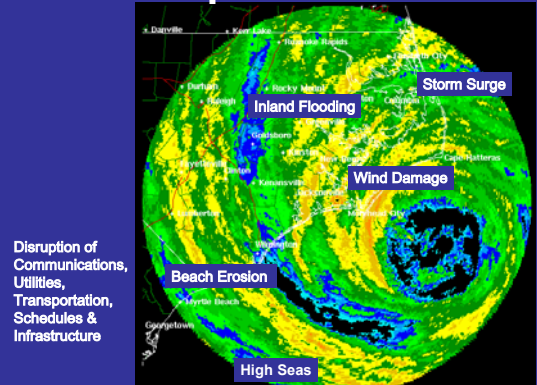


Figure 1. Computer plot showing the tracks of the 873 known North Atlantic tropical cyclones reaching at least tropical storm (see Table 1) intensity over the 113-year period, 1886-1998.

Hurricane Impacts at Landfall

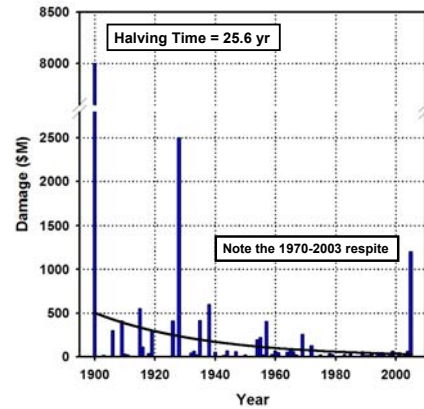


Drowning in freshwater flooding

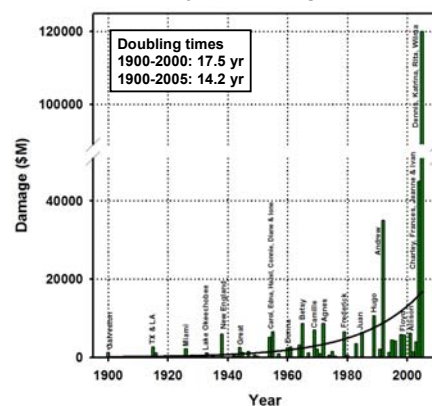


caused by torrential hurricane rainfall has accounted for 60% of hurricane related deaths since 1970. Wind accounted for ~17%.

Deaths 1900-2005



Inflation-Adjusted Damage 1900-2005



Everybody wants a view like this



Summary

- Be able to draw and explain the Redfield-Ried Model.
- Be able to define: **Hurricane, Typhoon, Tropical Cyclone (TC), Tropical Storm, Tropical Depression, Tropical Disturbance**
- Understand the **Saffir Simpson Scale** in general terms
- Understand the pressure, wind, thermal, and humidity structure of tropical cyclones
- Understand gradient balance in TCs and the **Pressure-Wind Relation**
- Understand TC's **Primary Circulation, Secondary Circulation**, and radar reflectivity structure
- Understand the thermodynamics that determine TC **Maximum Potential Intensity** and the factors (shear, ocean cooling, encounters with land or cold water) that keep most TCs from reaching their MPI
- Know what **Rapid Intensification** is and why it is dangerous
- Know the necessary conditions for TC formation
- Memorize the annual average number of TCs (named storms) worldwide and the number of Hurricanes and named storms in the Atlantic
- Be able to compare and contrast deaths and economic losses due to hurricanes in the US
- For next time **Read Chapter 12**. The final reading assignment will be Chapter 14, The Changing Climate