

Plume Rise from Wildfires: BlueSky & Large Eddy Simulations

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Topics:

1. BlueSky
2. Smoke Plume Rise
3. WRF-SFIRE
4. DALES
5. Plume Variations
6. Wind Modification
Region of Influence

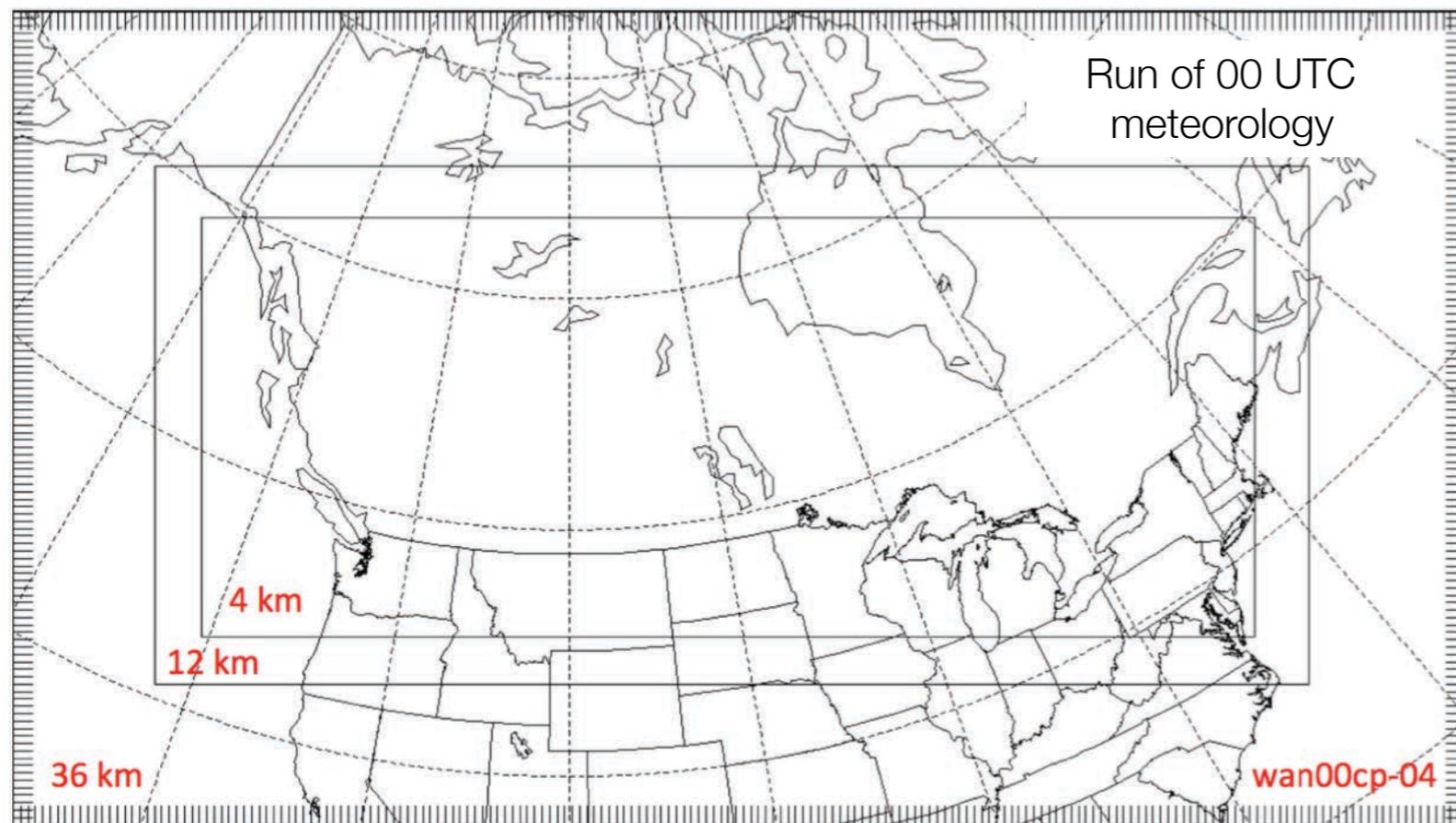
BlueSky-Canada

Operational BlueSky runs made by Roland Schigas at UBC

Sponsored by Provinces BC, AB, SK, ON, YT, and by NSERC & DND/CSSP.

Run 4 times per day at UBC. 1 April thru 31 October.

Based on WRF meteorology with NAM initial & lateral-boundary conditions.



Operational WRF runs made by Tim Chui at UBC

2017 - Smoke oozing down the valleys and fjords toward Vancouver and Washington State

(not classic Gaussian plume)

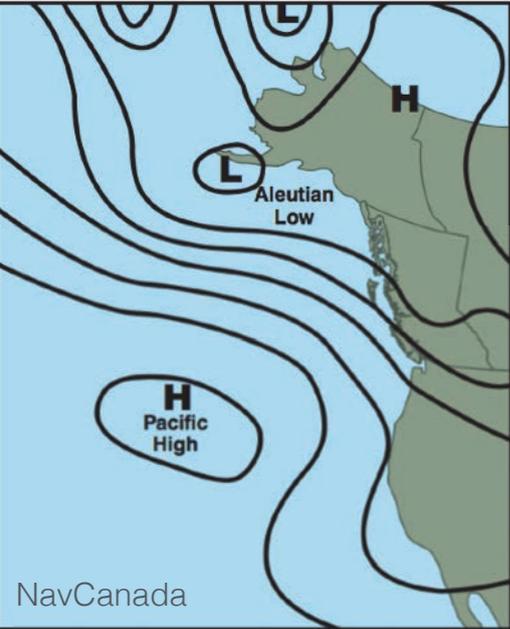
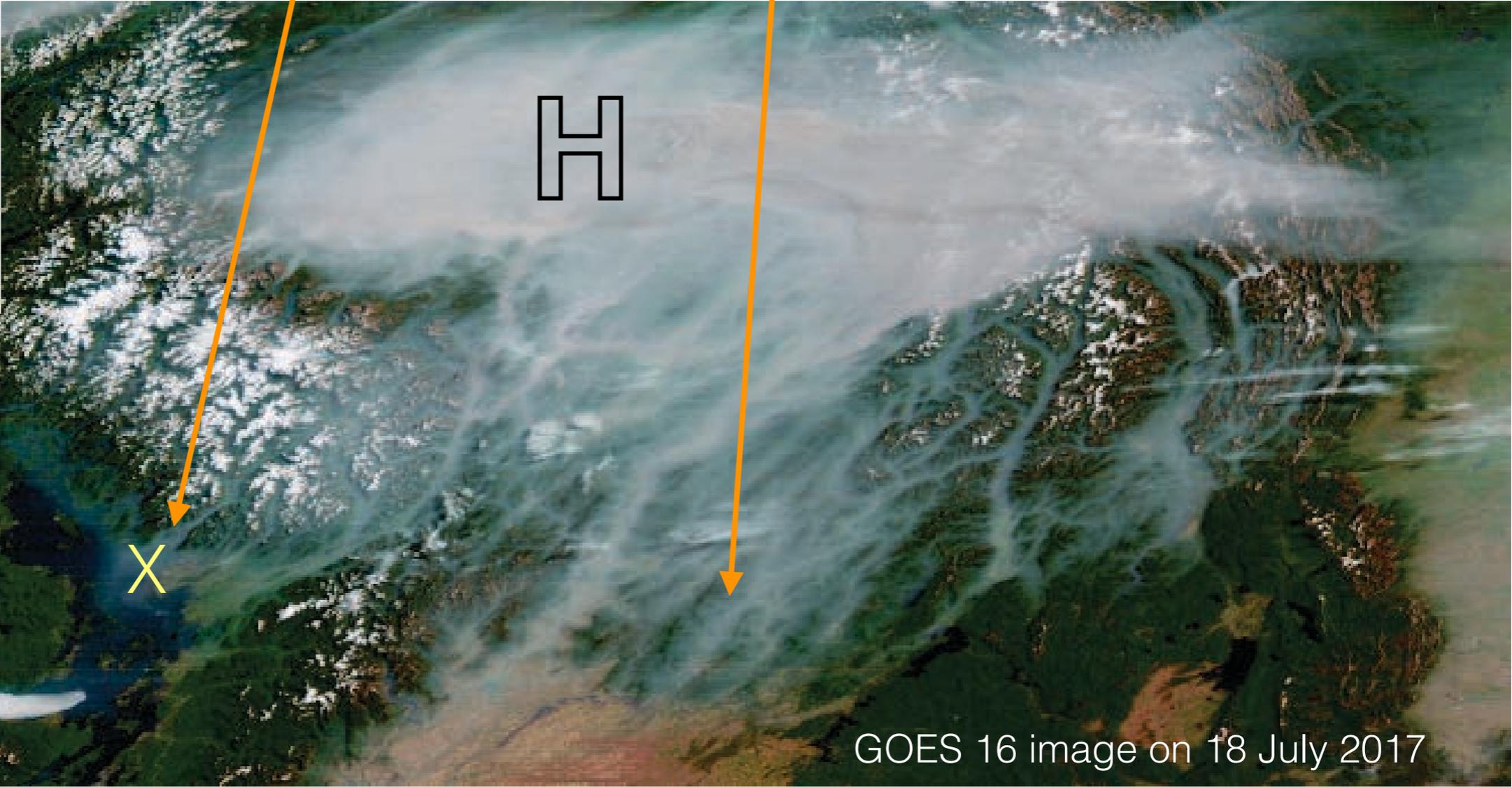


Fig. 3-3 - Typical summer pattern



Whistler Ski Resort

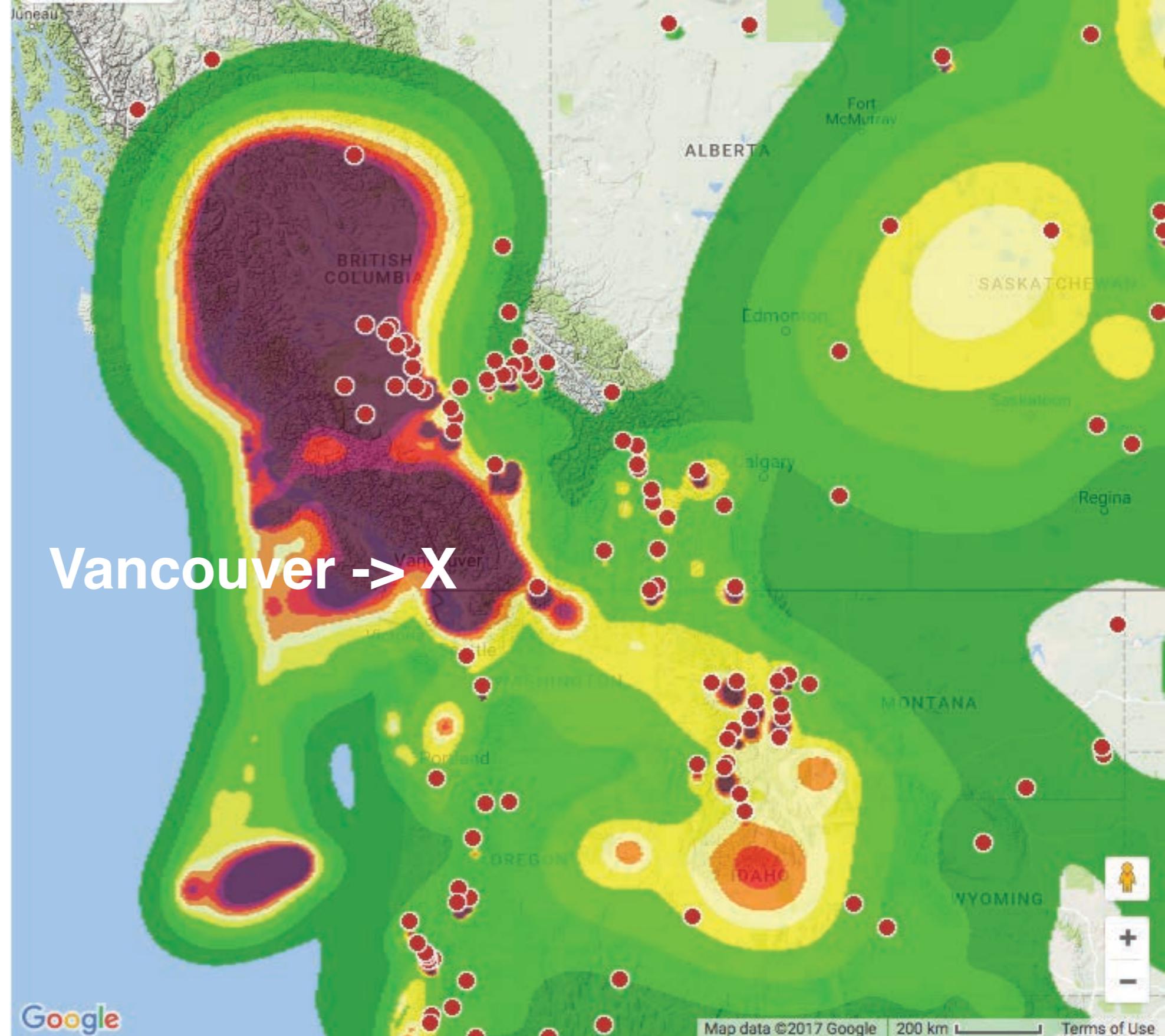


BlueSky-Canada

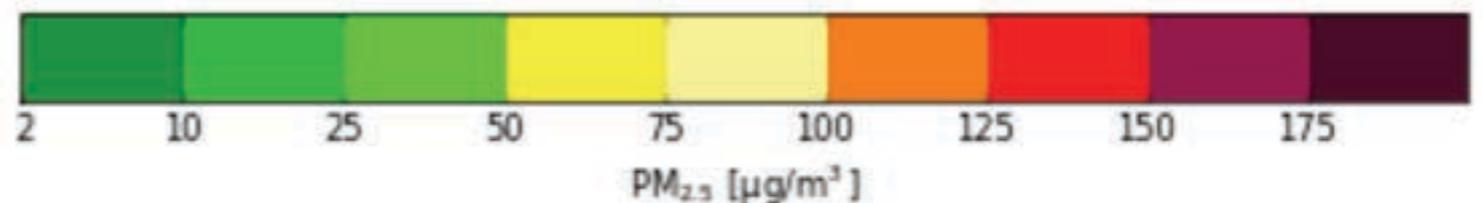
firesmoke.ca

Example of forecast from summer 2017

- hotspots from satellite
- forest/fuel map
- flame energy & propagation
- smoke emissions
- plume rise \leq our research
- meteorology
- dispersion (hysplit model)

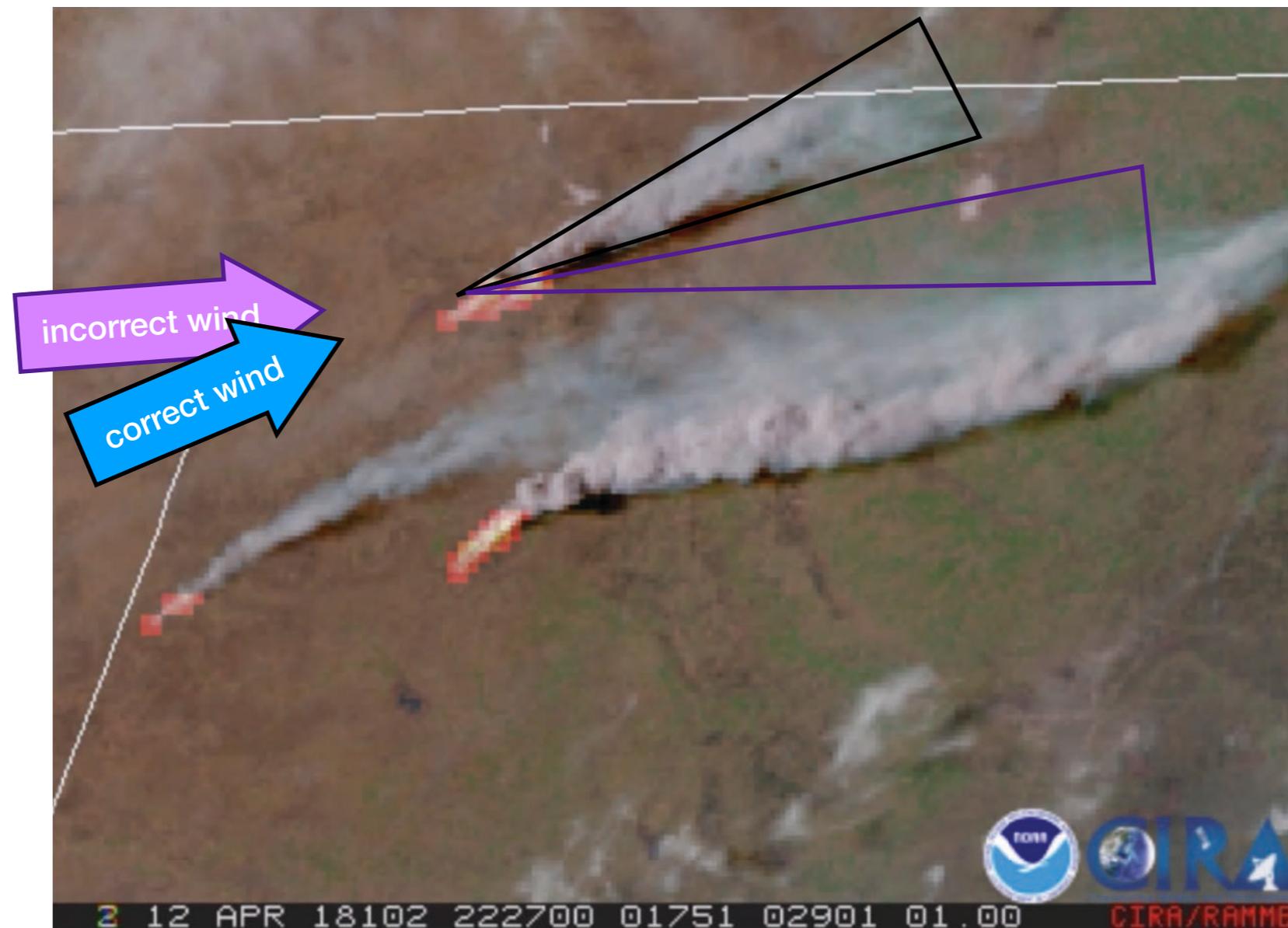


• = fire hotspot



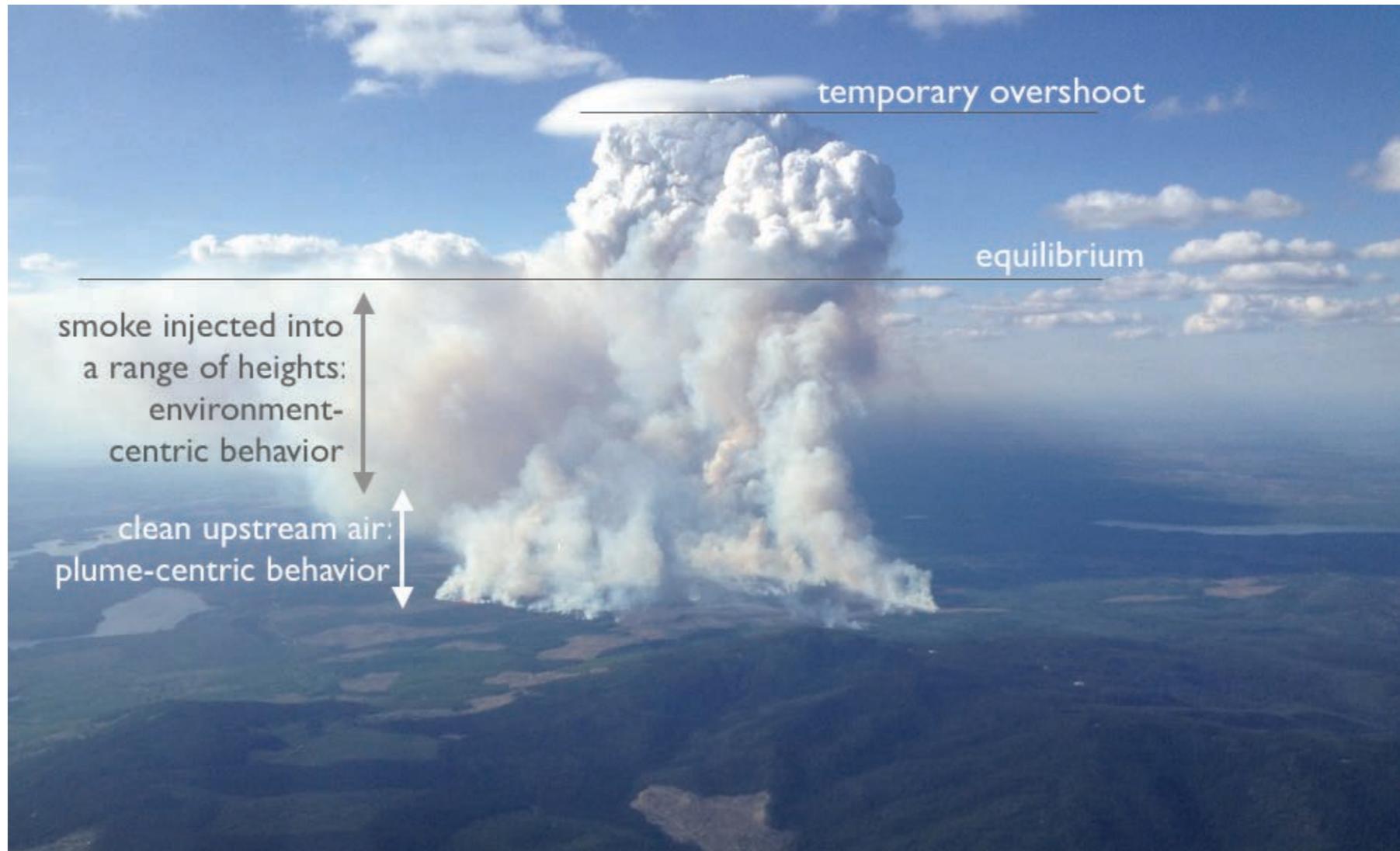
Motivation for Plume-Rise Studies

Smoke injected into the incorrect altitude experiences winds of incorrect directions & speeds, causing erroneous plume-forecast locations...



...resulting in smoke warnings and evacuations of the wrong communities.

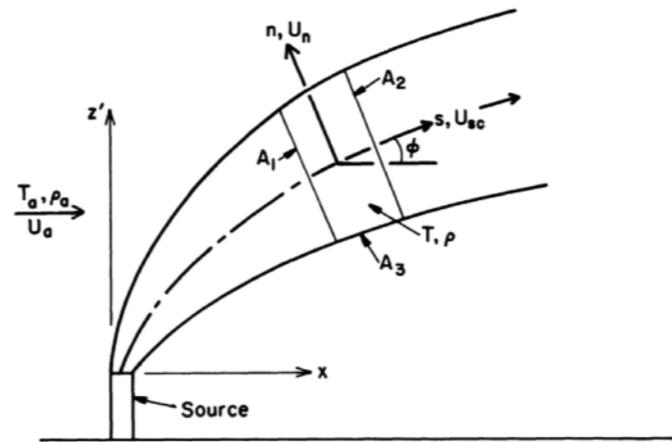
Focus: Distribution of PM_{2.5} injection below equilibrium height.



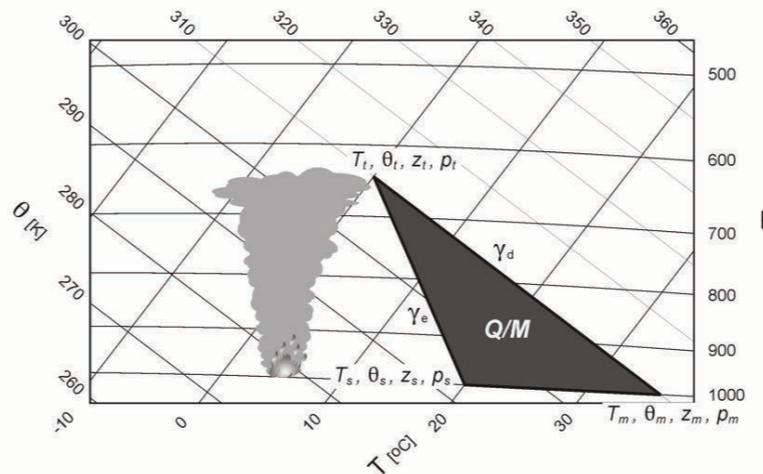
Goal: to devise an improved, simple, plume-rise approximation for BlueSky

Plume Rise Models

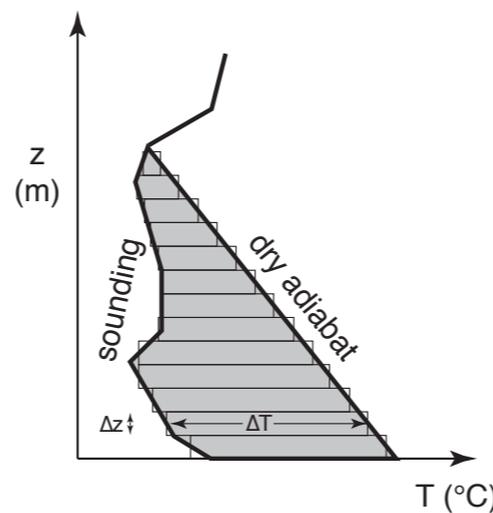
- BlueSky currently uses Gary Brigg's (1969 - 1975) eqs for smoke-stack plumes, as enhanced by Jeff Weil (1974-1988).



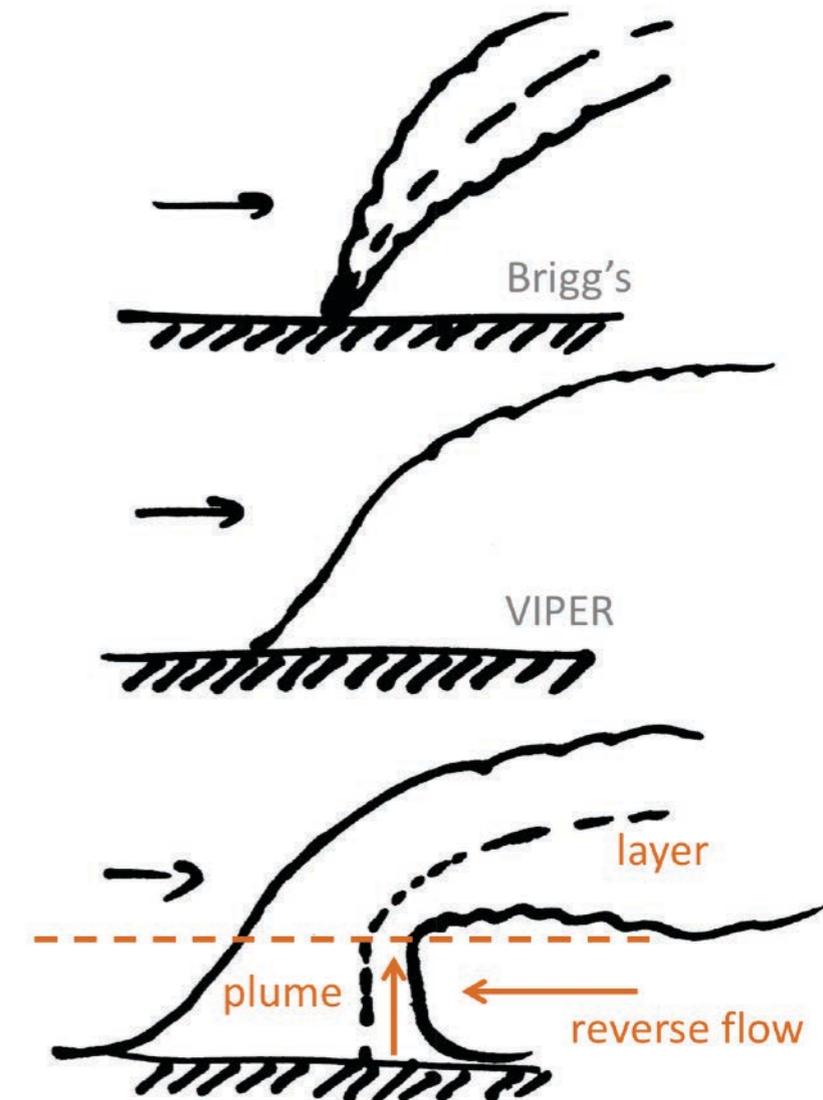
- Kerry Anderson, Al Pankratz & Curtis Mooney (2011-2014): Thermodynamic Approach, based on amount of heat that warms a conical volume.



- Roland Stull & Rosie Howard: Vertical Injection of Particulates Emitted from Wildfires (VIPER), based on rate of heat that creates a mixed layer.

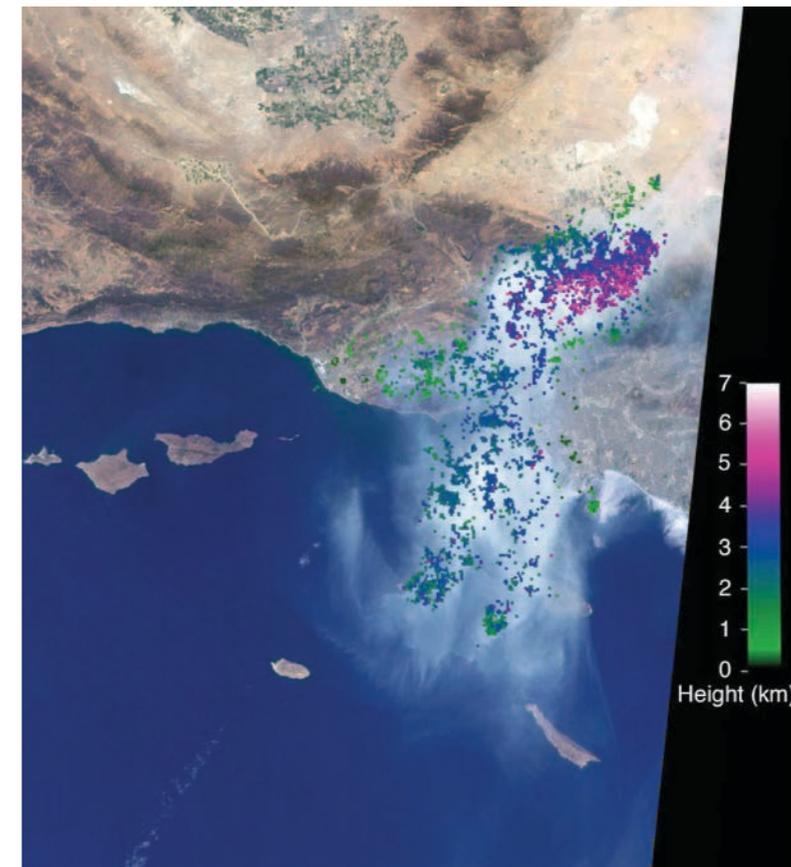
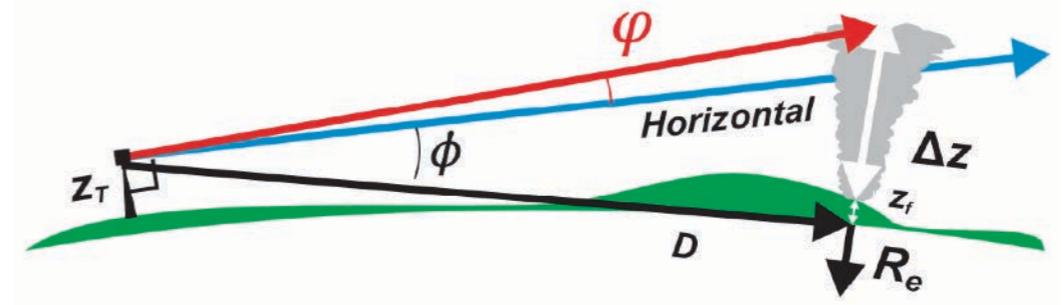


- UBC new research => Hybrid conceptual model



Plume Rise Observations

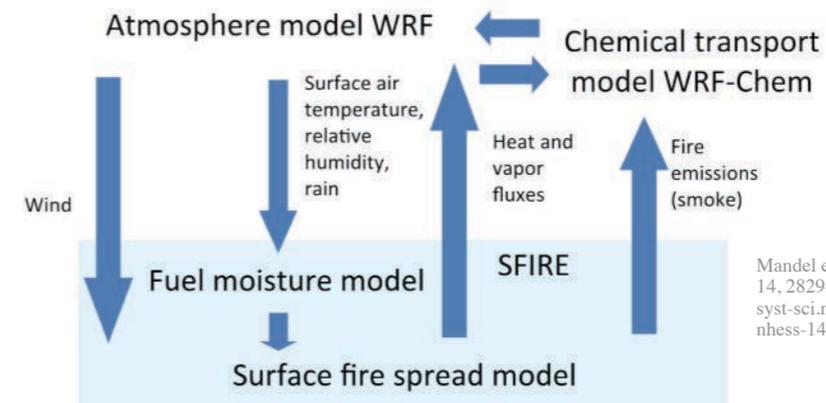
- Kerry Anderson, Al Pankratz, Curtis Mooney & Kelly Fleetham, 2018: "The Alberta smoke plume observation study". Based on inclinometer obs from fire towers.
- Multi-angle Imaging SpectroRadiometer (MISR):
Satellite aerosols. Stereoscopic analysis of multiple camera angles is used to estimate the height of the smoke plume.
- But the resulting plume heights were unreliable. Try LES instead, to get surrogate "data" to test plume-rise-models.



Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) Models

DALES = Dutch
Atmospheric LES

WRF-SFIRE = coupled Weather
Research & Forecast and FIRE-spread

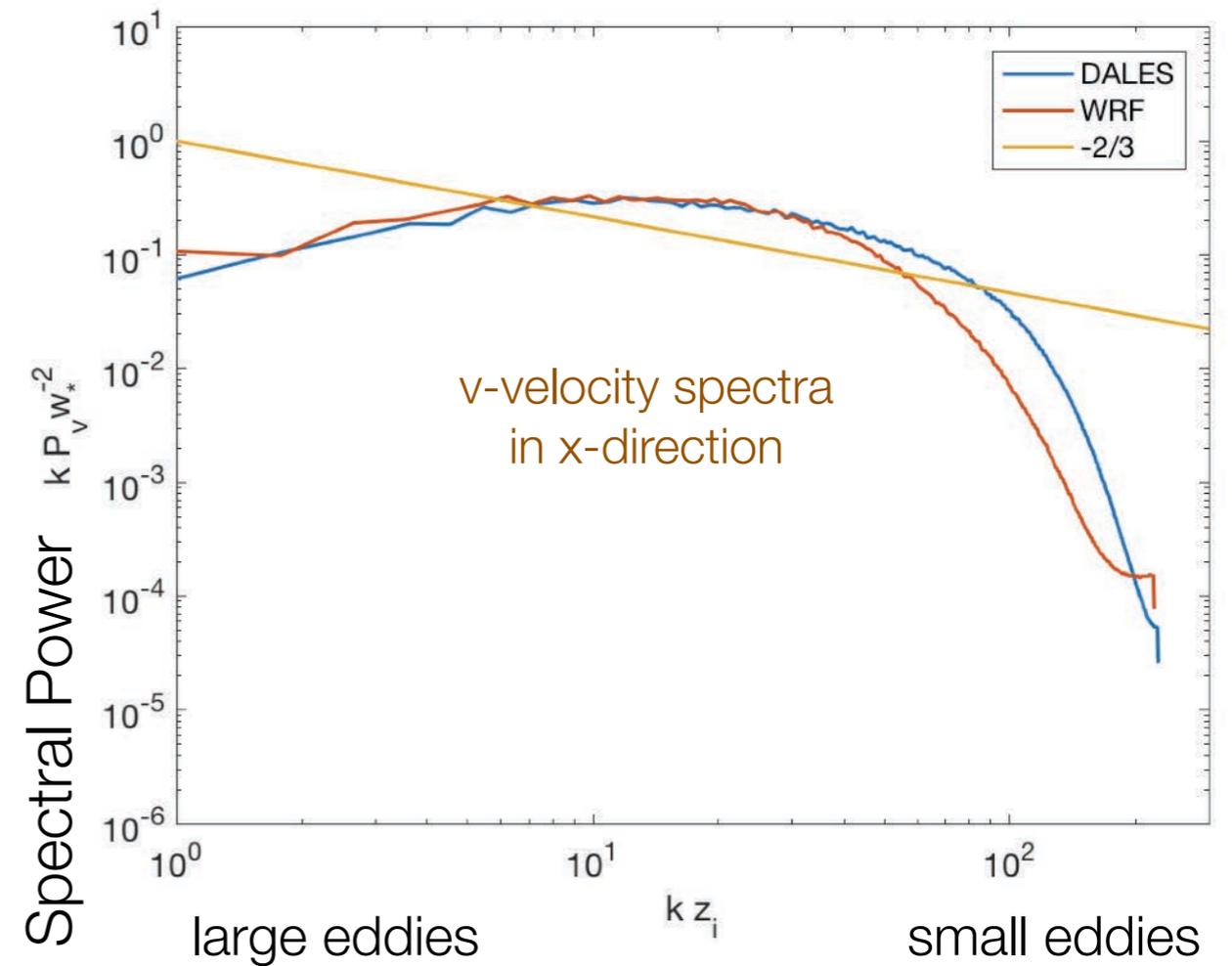
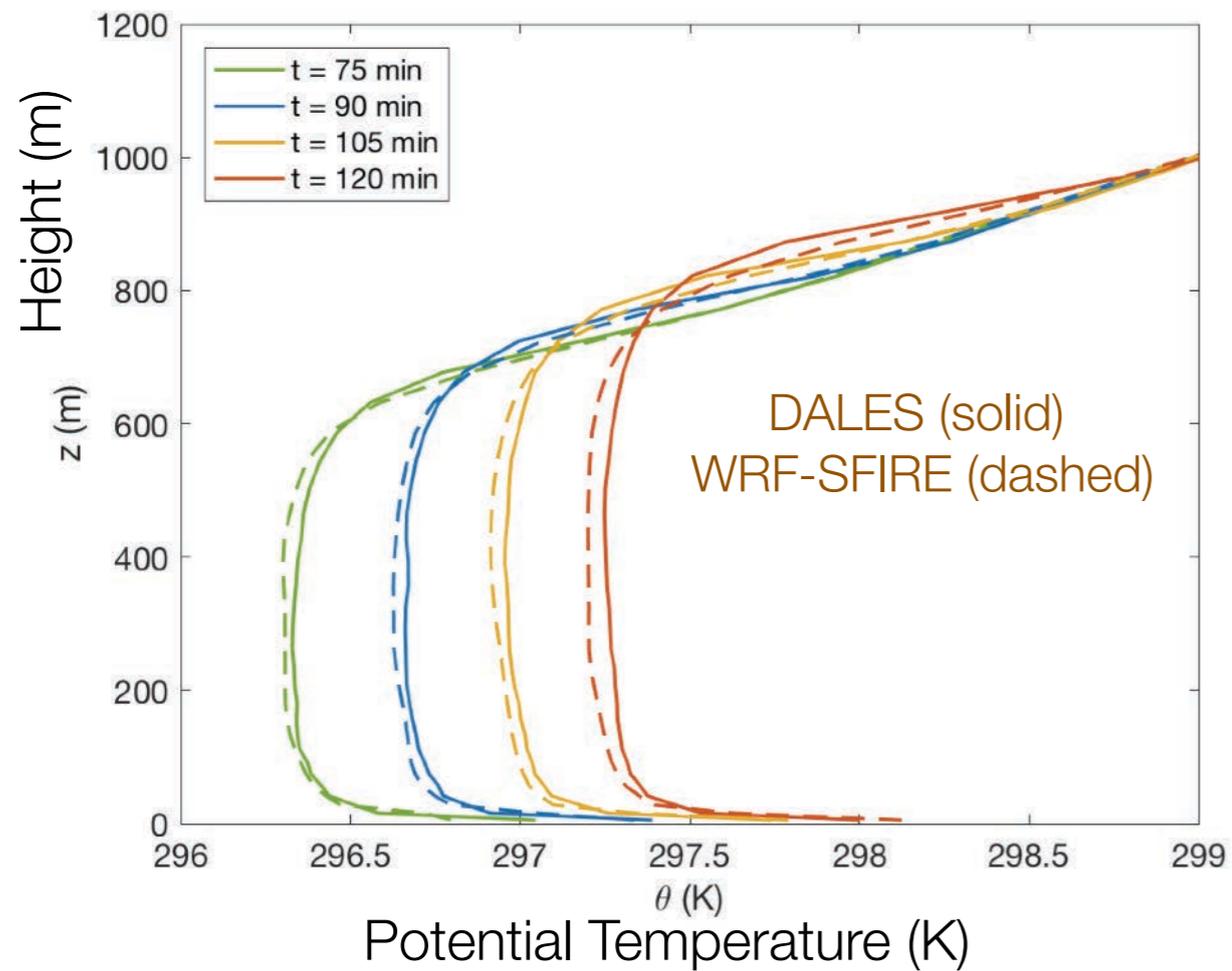


Mandel et al, 2014: Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.,
14, 2829–2845, 2014 www.nat-hazards-earth-
syst-sci.net/14/2829/2014/ doi:10.5194/
nhess-14-2829-2014

DALES	WRF-SFIRE
Non-hydrostatic	Non-hydrostatic
Boussinesq approximation	Fully compressible
FFT Pressure solver	Prognostic P eq.
Imposed net zero vertical velocity	
Cartesian height levels	Pressure eta levels
Subgrid Turb.: K theory based on TKE	Subgrid Turb: 3-D 1.5 order TKE closure
Handles multiple tracers	Moisture is surrogate for smoke emissions
Flat or simple sloped terrain only	Complex terrain
$\Delta x = 10 \text{ m}$	$\Delta x = 40 \text{ m}$ for WRF, with 4 m for SFIRE
55 layers in vertical, up to 2.8 km	50 layers in vertical, up to 2.5 km
Cyclic lateral boundary conditions	Cyclic lateral boundary conditions
Fireline approximated by enhanced surface heat flux	Models fire spread & heat & H ₂ O
Infinitely long fireline	Finite length fireline

Model Comparison of PBL Evolution

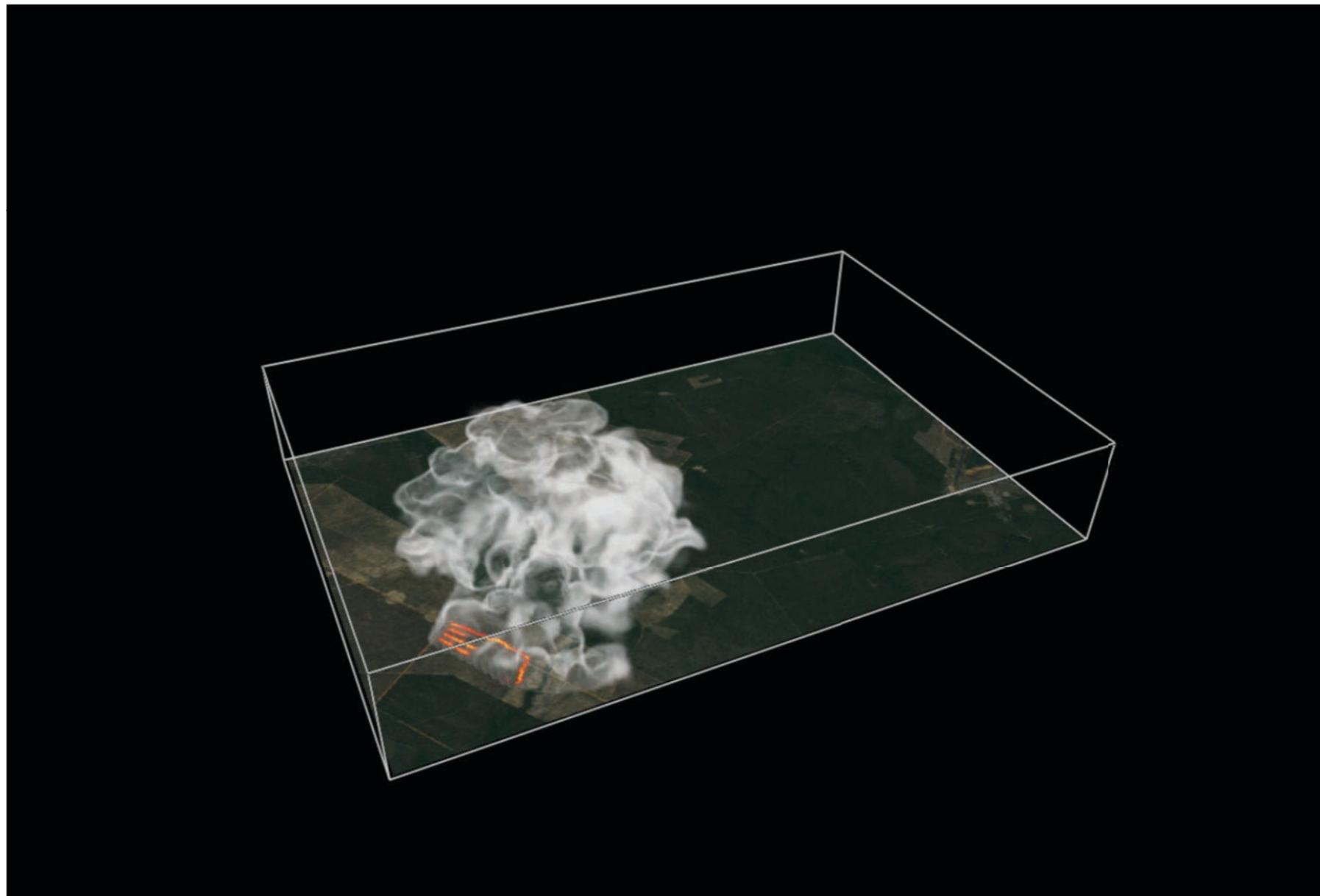
LES spin-up comparison by Frans Liqui Lung at UBC & Delft



Large-Eddy Simulation (WRF-SFIRE): first experiments

- research by Nadya Moisseeva at UBC.

- Simulating the prescribed burn: **RxCADRE 2012** (Nov 10, 2012 – Elgin Air Force Base, Florida) two large lots (shrub/forest). . Surface/air measurements of emissions, including H₂O vapor

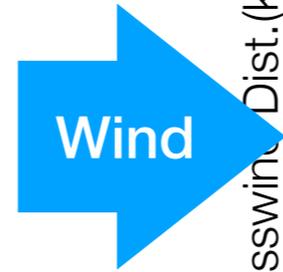
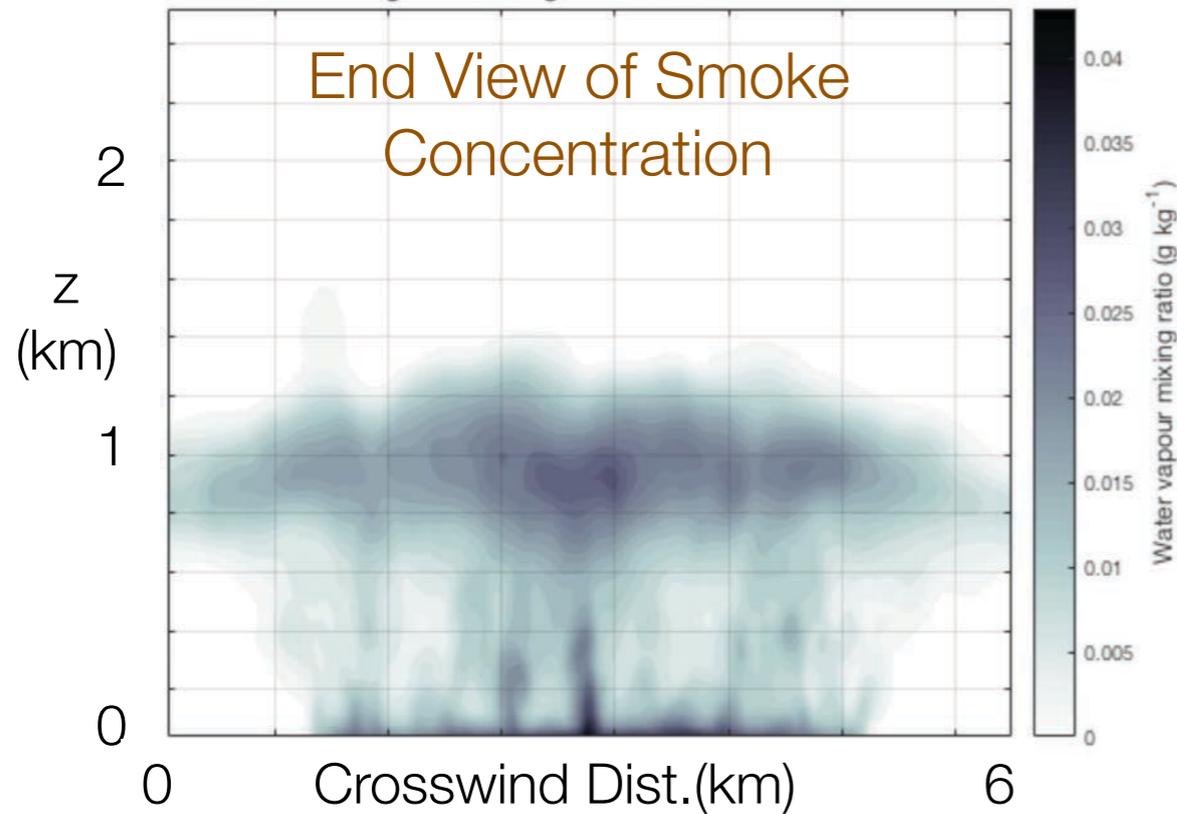


WFR-SFIRE

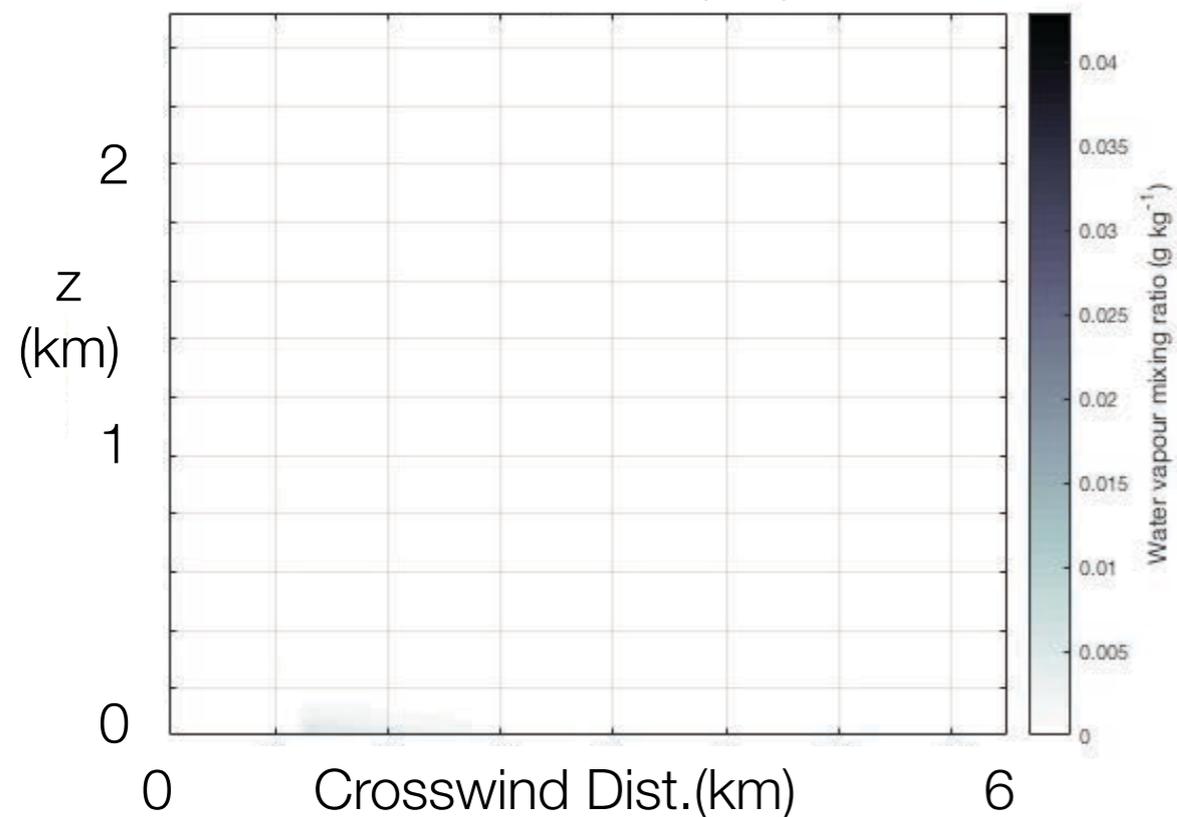
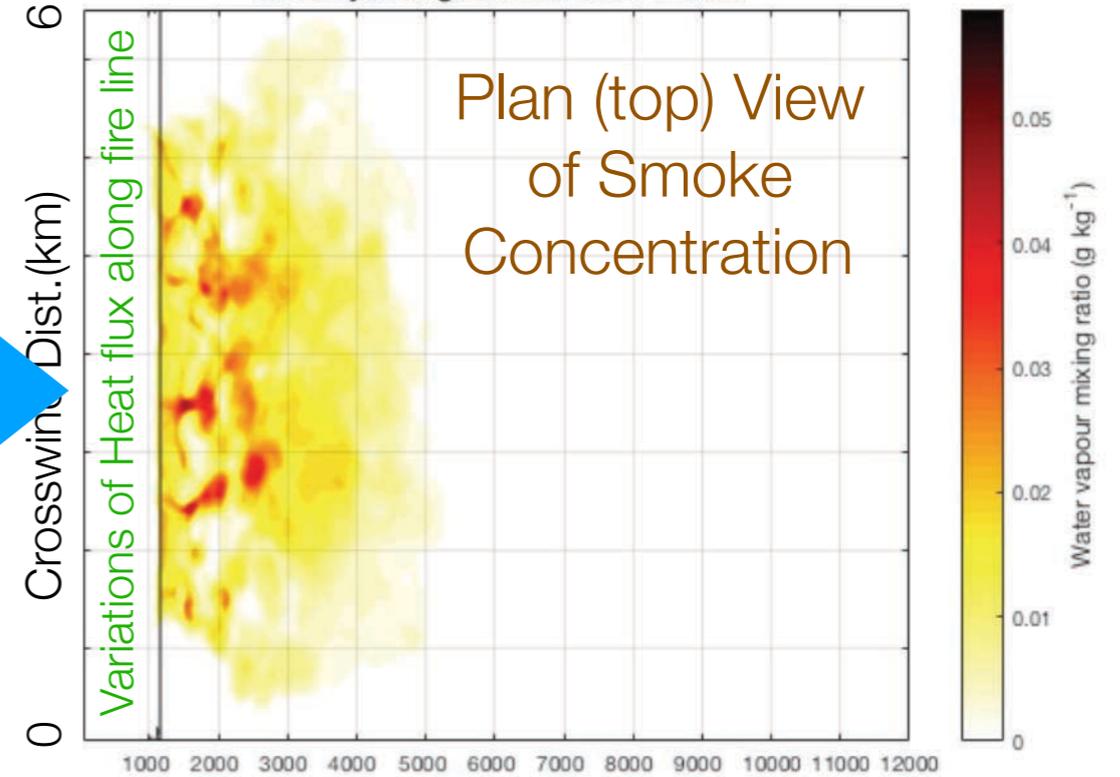
Convective-Structures. LES runs by Nadya Moisseeva. Analysis by Rosie Howard at UBC

Case: W6S400F3R0 = wind = 6 m/s, H = 400 W/m², fuel = tall grass, no background pollutants

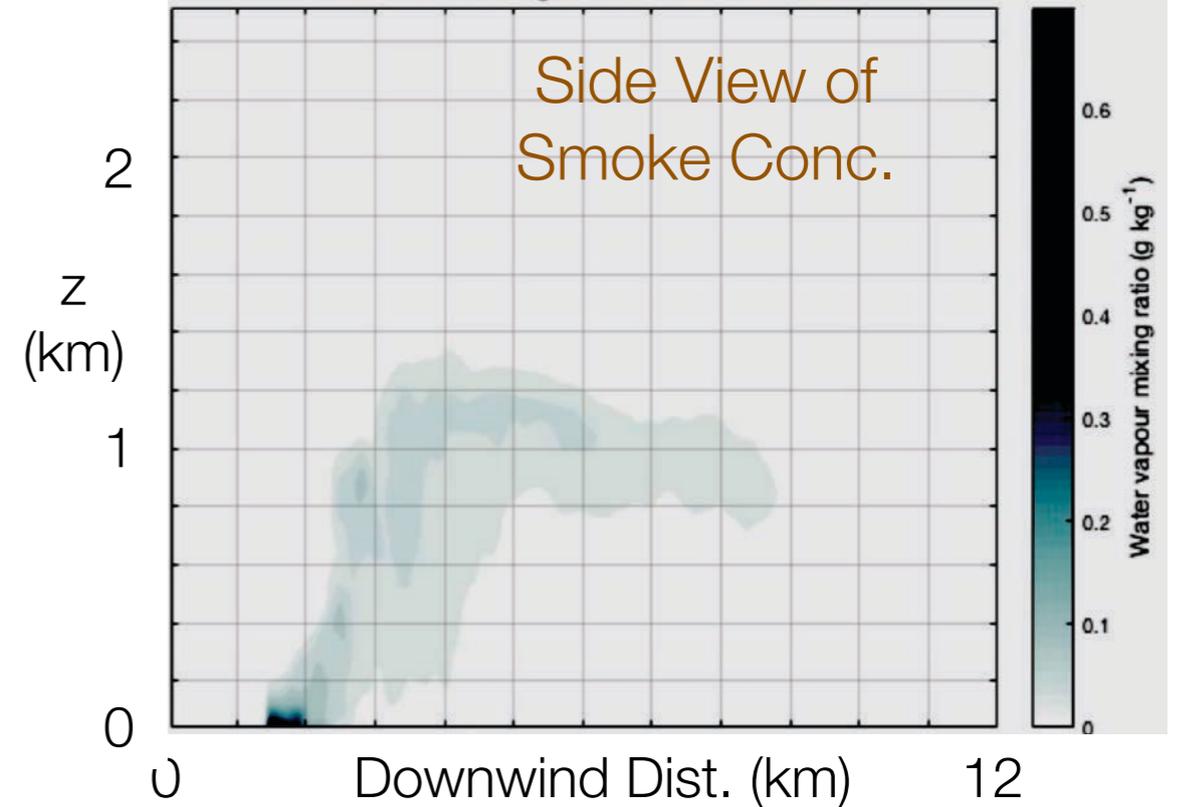
Along-wind averaged smoke at t = 20 mins



Vertically averaged smoke at t = 11 mins

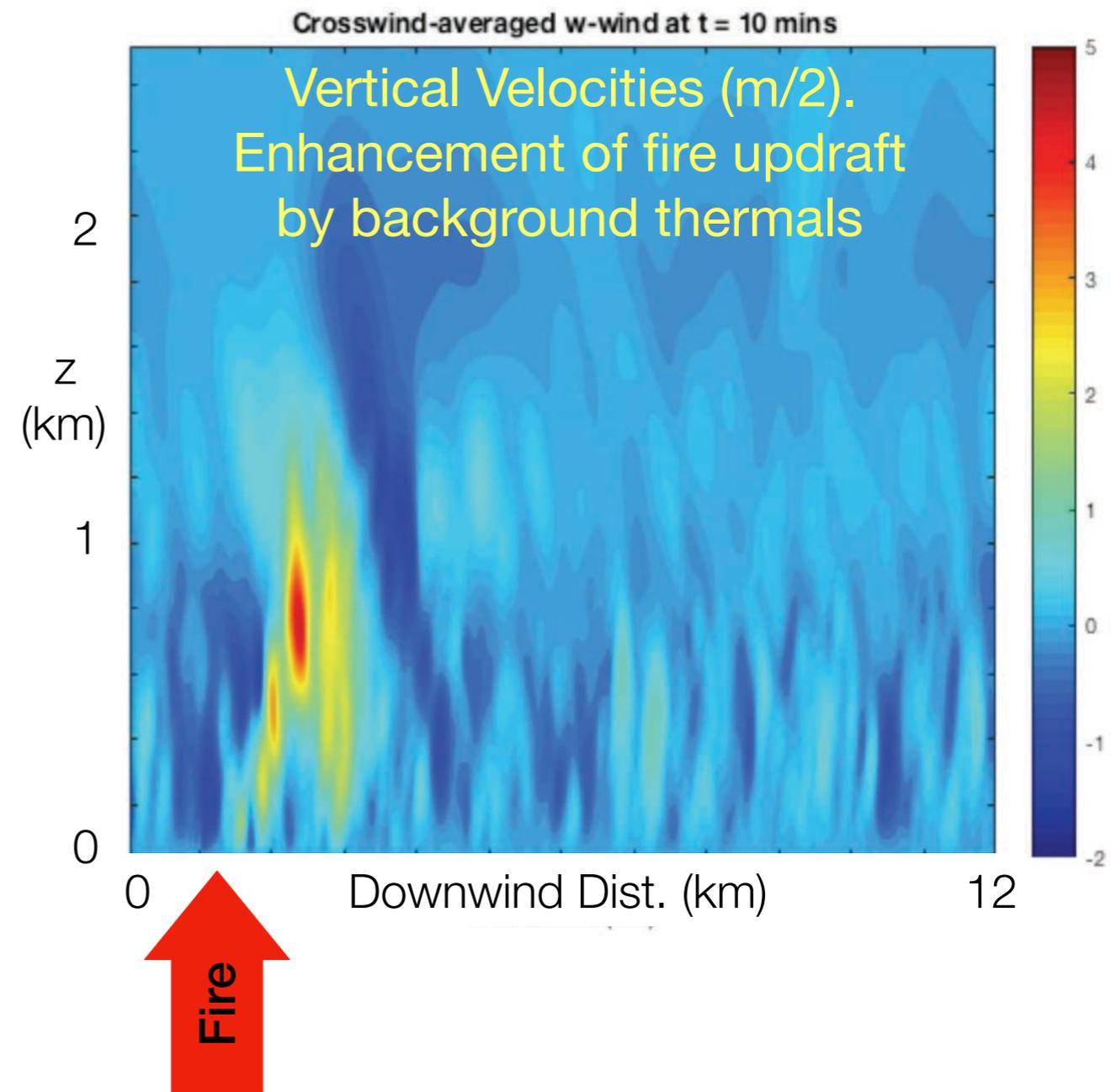
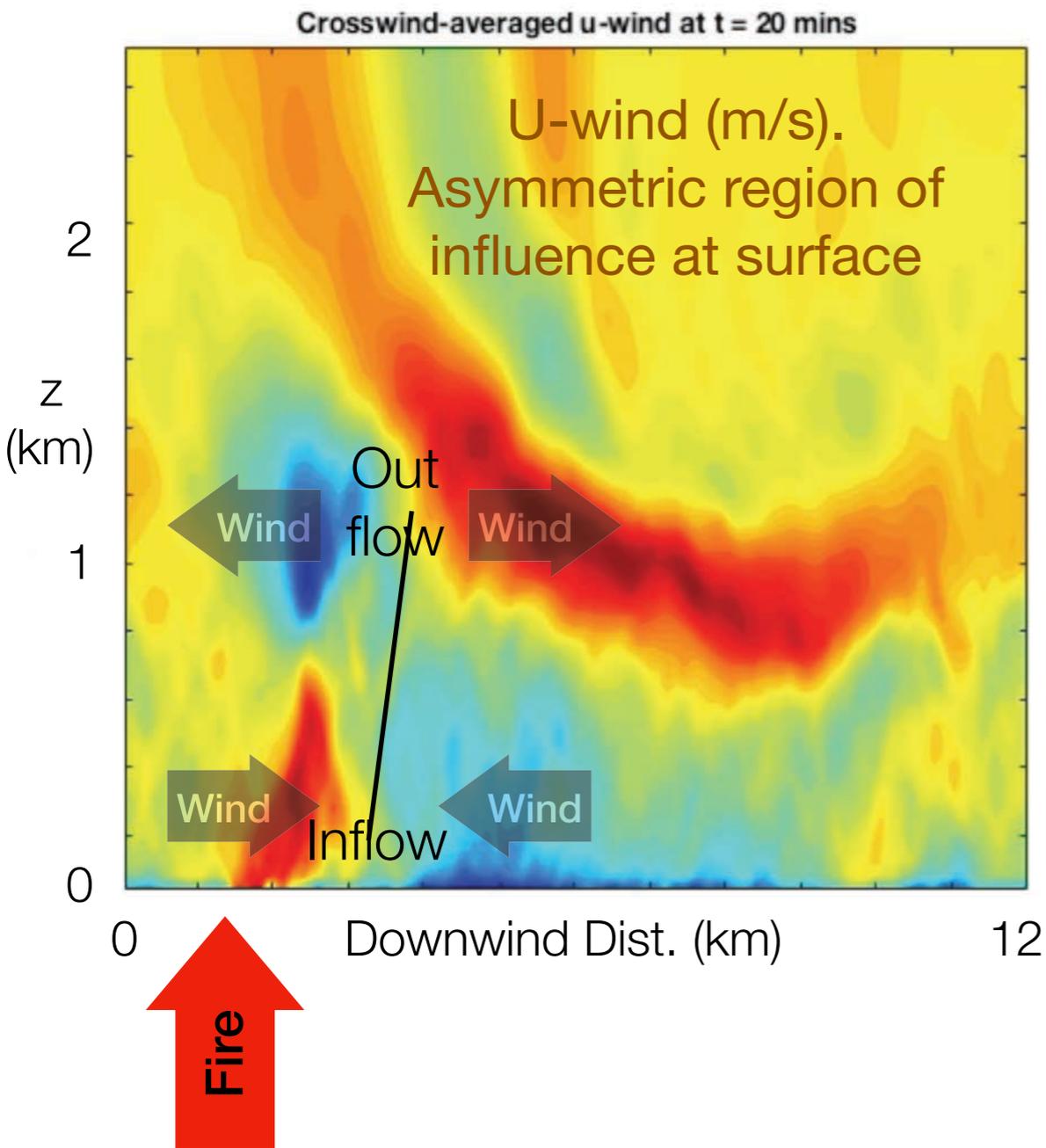


Crosswind-averaged smoke at t = 20 mins



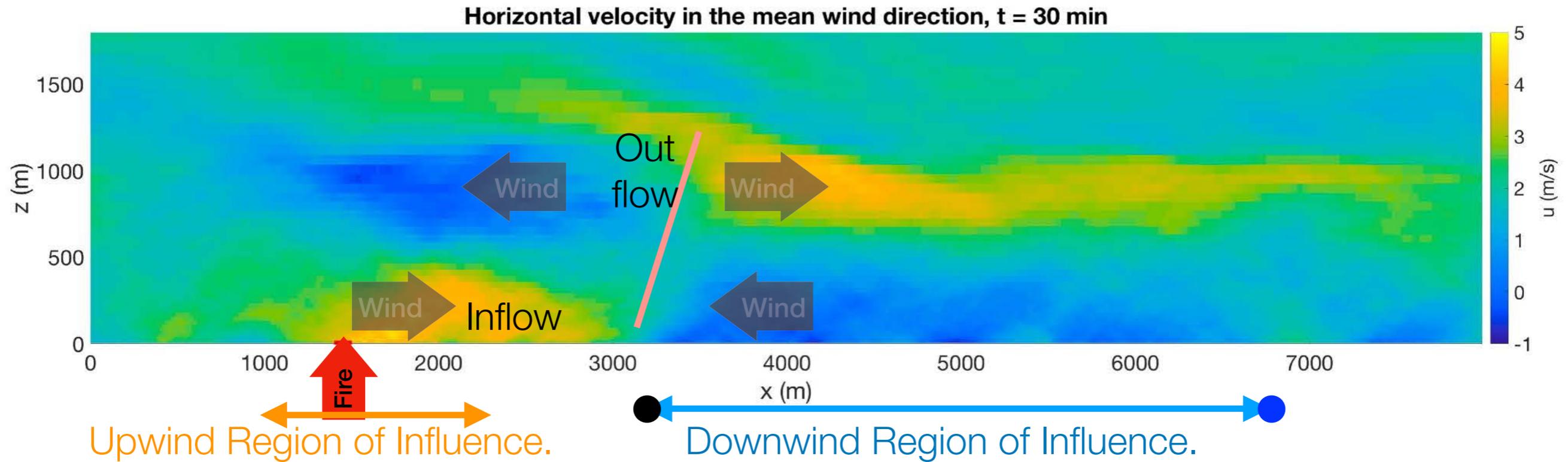
WRF-SFIRE

Convective-Structures. LES runs by Nadya Moisseeva. Analysis by Rosie Howard at UBC

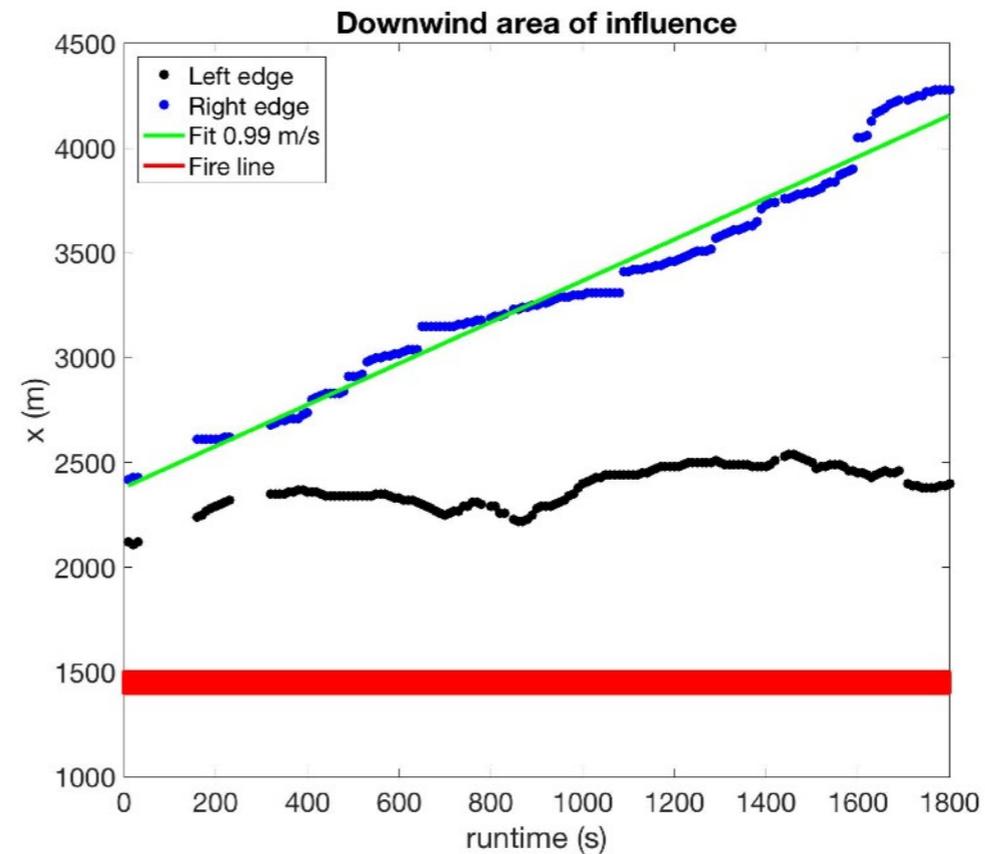


DALES

Region of Influence. Analysis by Frans Liqui Lung at UBC & Delft



Mean wind is 2 m/s, heat flux plume is 8 K m/s, heat flux environment is 0.2 K m/s. Width fire line is 100 meters.

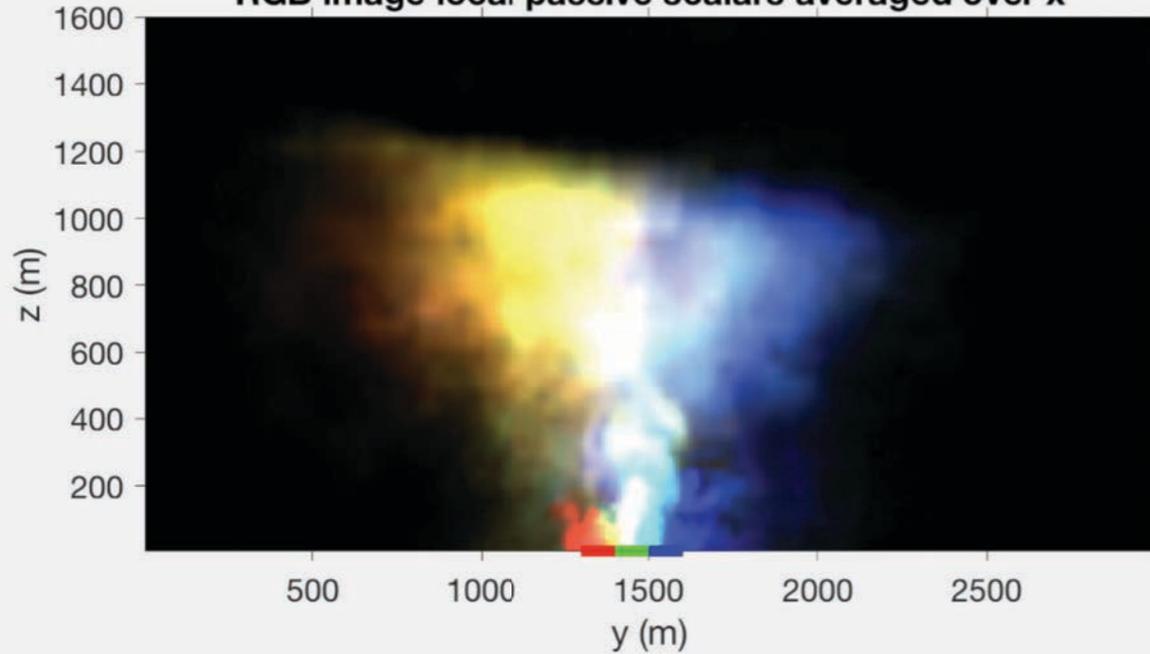


DALES

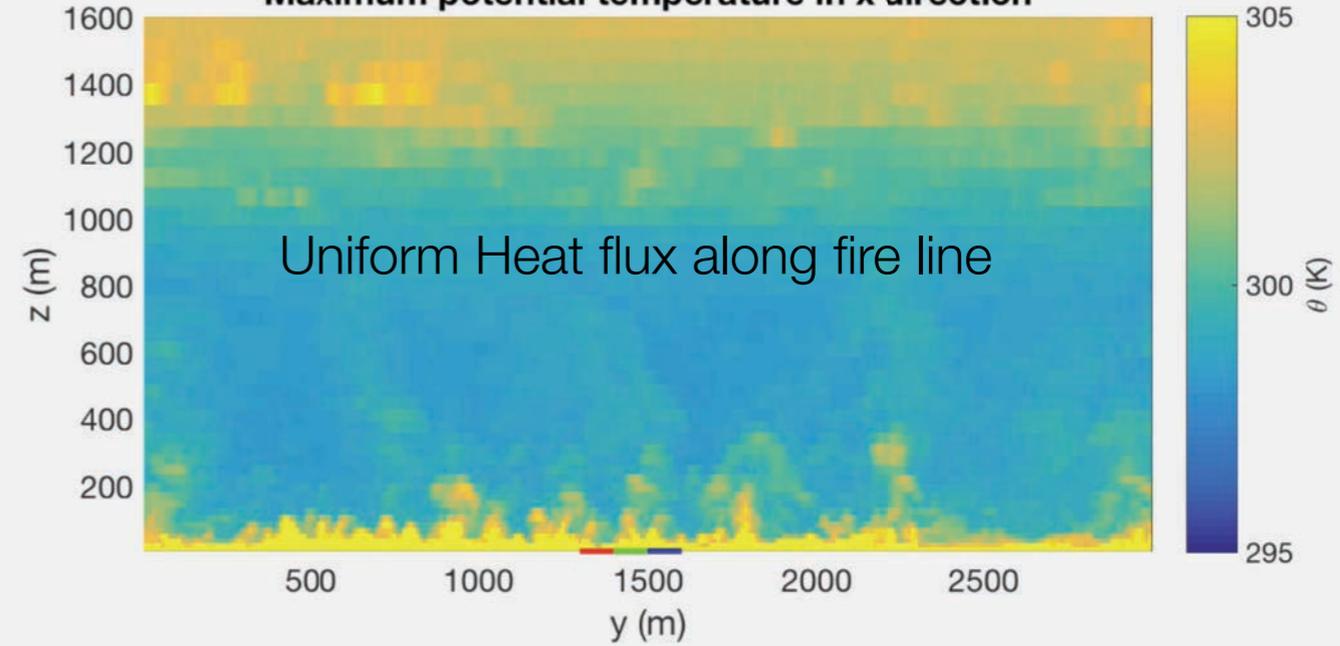
Convective-Structures. Analysis by Frans Liqui Lung at UBC & Delft

Runtime is 1650 seconds

RGB image local passive scalars averaged over x

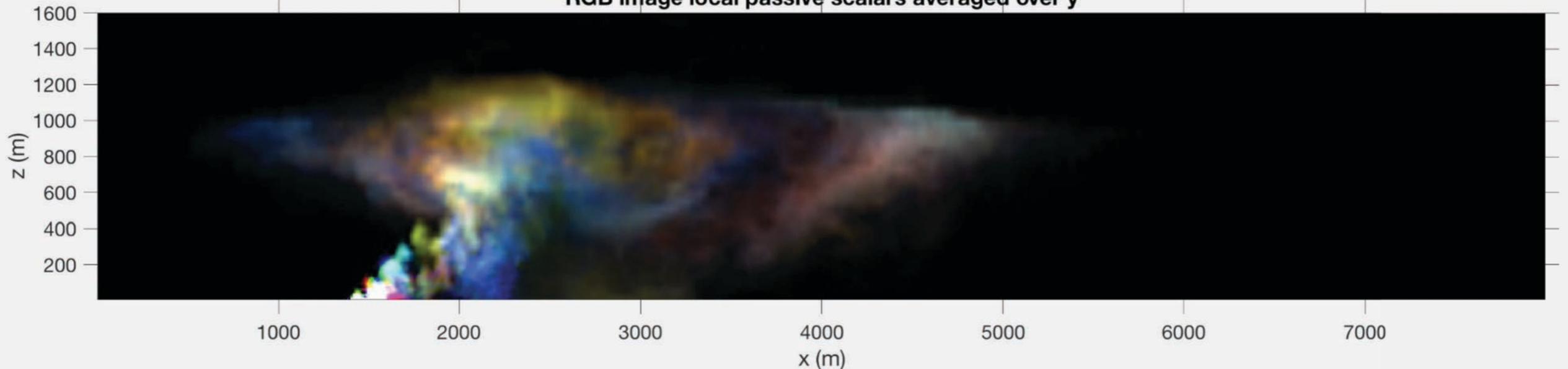


Maximum potential temperature in x direction



Absolute Concentrations. But emitted from very small portion of fire line.

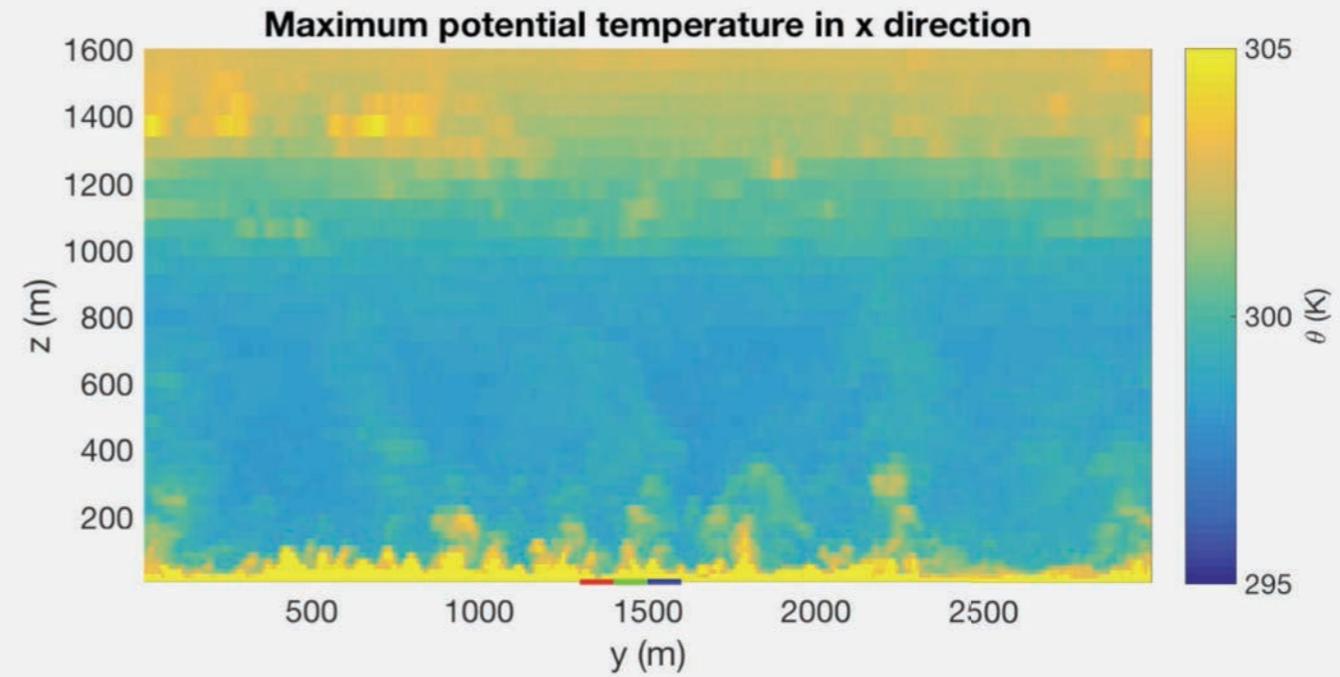
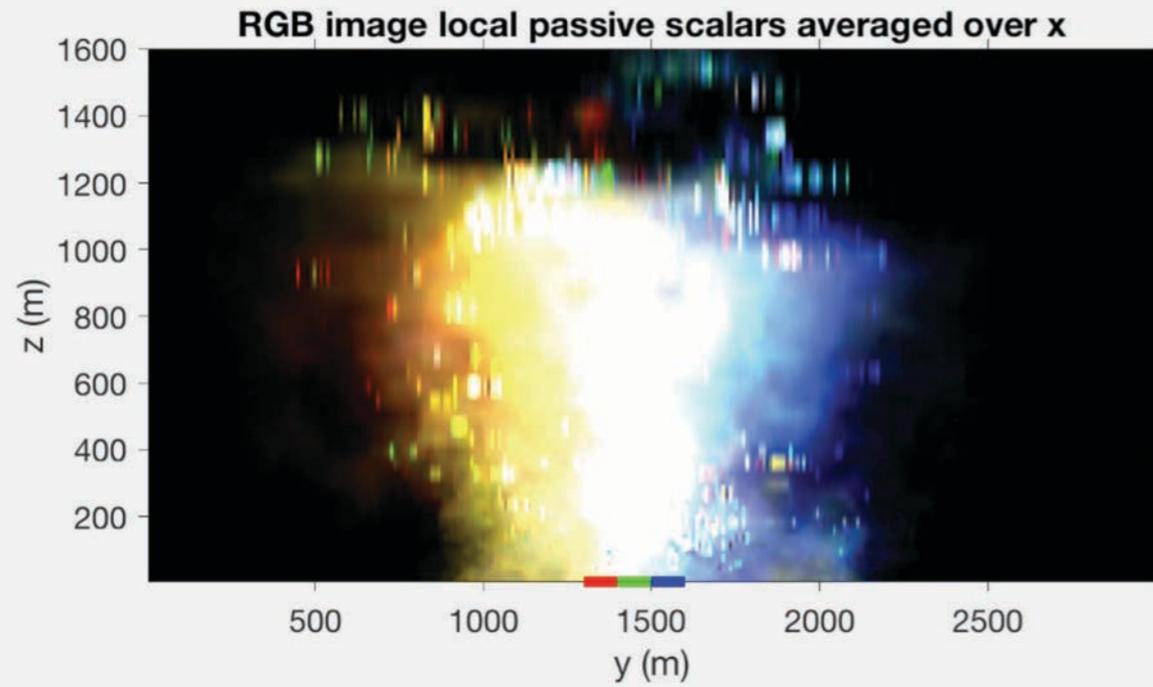
RGB image local passive scalars averaged over y



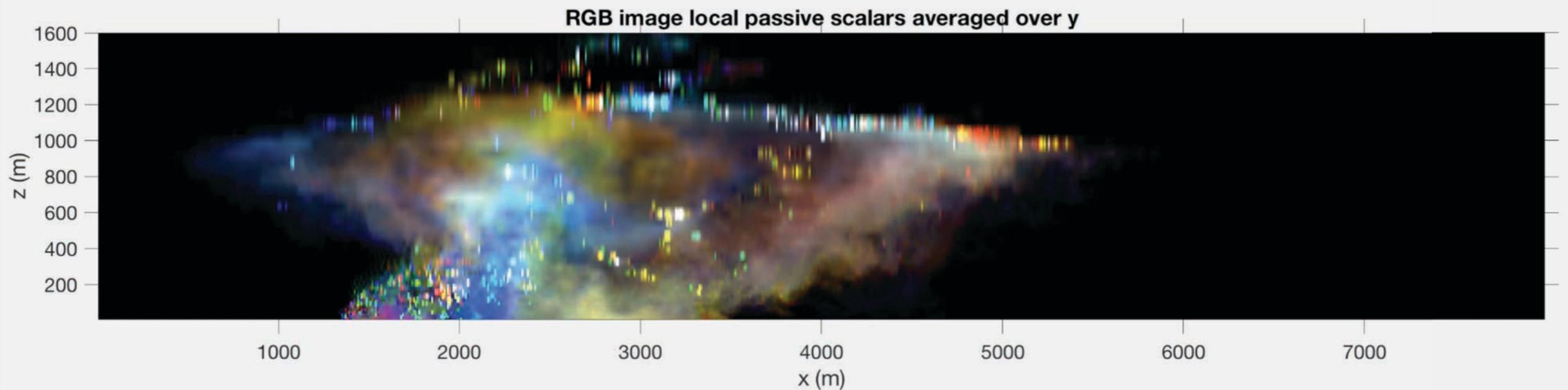
DALES

Convective-Structures. Analysis by Frans Liqui Lung at UBC & Delft

Runtime is 1650 seconds



Relative (percentage) Concentration. Reveals backflow toward fireline at surface



2017 Fire season in British Columbia

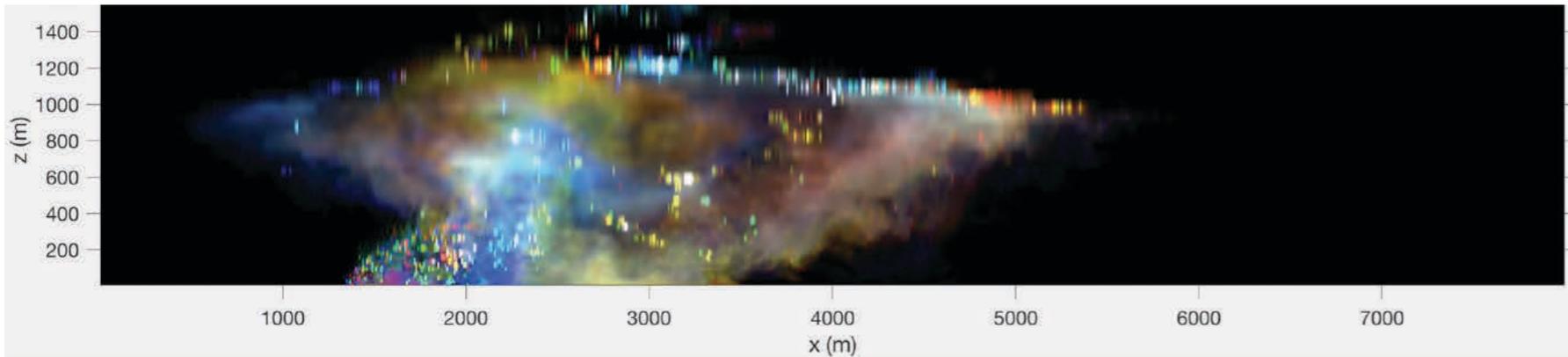


Image courtesy of BC Wildfire Service. <https://www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo/videos/10155384746680673/>

Bishop Bluffs fire in central BC - 13 Aug 2017

Over 65 provincial parks closed.

Dozens of highways closed. Dozens of towns evacuated.



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Plume Rise from Wildfires: BlueSky & Large Eddy Simulations

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Conclusions:

1. Smoke plume diameters scale to fire-line width.
2. Variability in smoke injection heights depend partly on variation of heat sources along the fire line.
3. Some of this variability forms in air even over a uniform fire line.
4. Downwind region of influence on winds grows larger with time, while upwind becomes const.