



Hurricanes continued Weather Prediction

#### GEOG/ENST 2331 – Lecture 18 Ahrens: Chapters 15 and 13



# Canadian Weather Service

1873

- "Great Nova Scotia Cyclone"
- Category 2 hurricane off the Nova Scotia coast
- Over 500 people killed

1876

 Telegraph lines set up to every major city in Eastern Canada.





#### Canadian Hurricanes

- Eastern provinces occasionally are hit by tropical storms – as far west as the Great Lakes
  - Great Lakes 1 in 5
    years
- Not an issue in the Western provinces
- Canadian Hurricane Centre
  - 🛚 Halifax
  - Founded in 1986





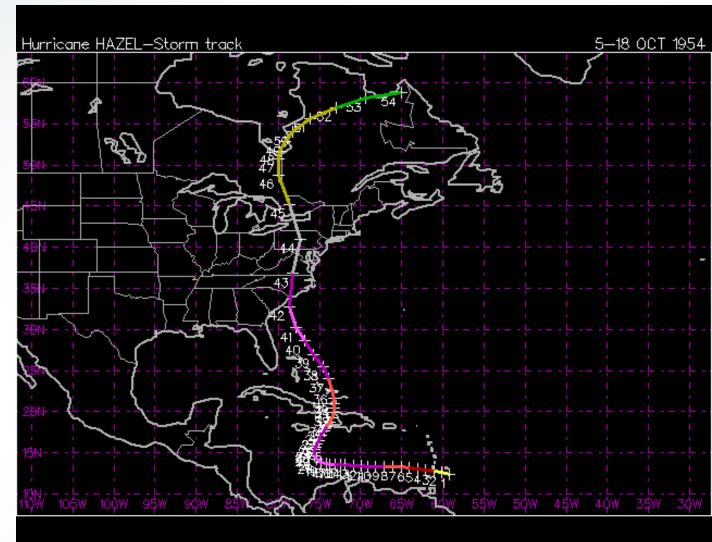
Igor floods Newfoundland Source: CTV

# Hurricane Hazel (1954)

October 15, 1954

121.4 mm at Toronto International Airport

Transitioned storm



"...It was a gigantic flood with smashed houses and uprooted trees bobbing like corks, everything going down the river so fast. Houses crashing into the sides of other houses, people everywhere screaming. And then you couldn't even hear the screams anymore." Volunteer fireman Bryan Mitchell (Toronto Star, October 14, 1984)

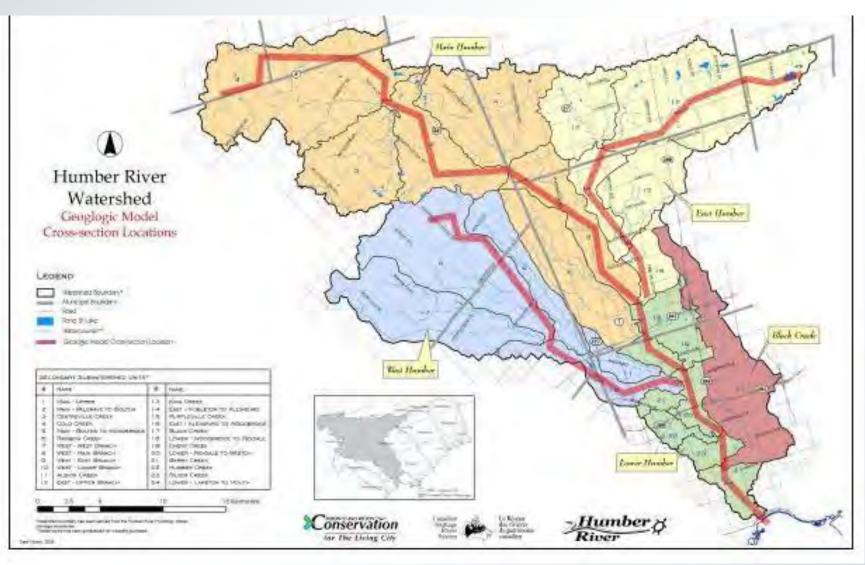




#### Humber River flood situation







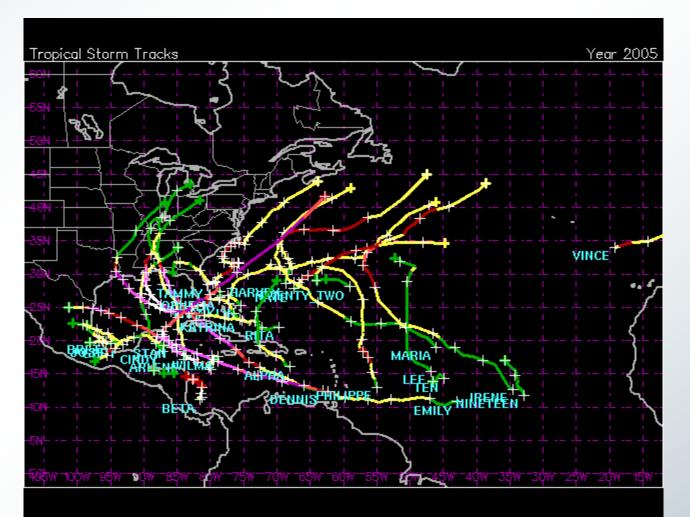


#### CSU: ATLANTIC BASIN SEASONAL HURRICANE FORECAST FOR 2005

	Dec	April	June	2005
Named Storms (9.6)	11	13	15	27
Hurricanes (5.9)	6	7	8	15
Intense Hurricanes (2.3)	3	3	4	7



## 2005 Hurricane season





#### CSU Forecasting

# 2005 – poorest forecast on record for Atlantic tropical storms NOAA forecast was similarly poor

- 2006 forecast number was far too high
- 2013 too high again; "biggest bust" in CSU history



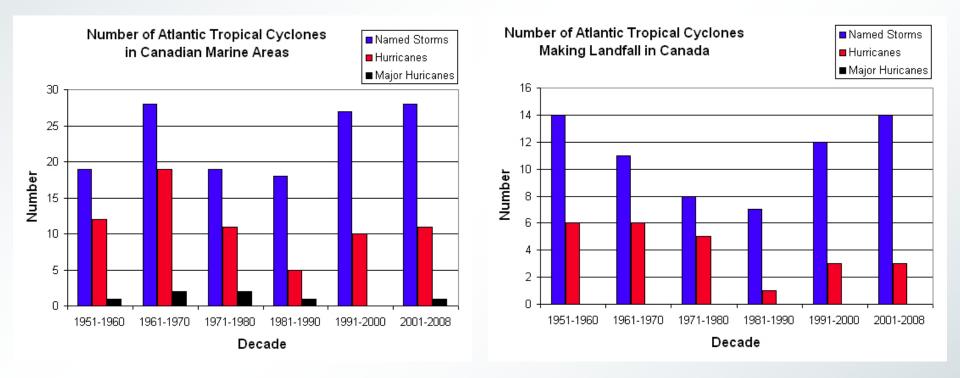
#### 2019 Forecasts

		Named Storms	Hurricanes	Major Hurricanes
Climatology	1950-2000	9.6	5.9	2.3
Climatology	1981-2010	12.1	6.4	2.7
TSR*		12	5	2
Observed	2019	16	5	3

- Due to the anticipated presence of El Niño conditions during the season
- Season so far 100 fatalities, \$12 billion (US)



## Canadian Hurricanes



Source: Canadian Hurricane Centre



Hurricanes and climate change

2001-2005 was the most active 5-year period ever for Atlantic Hurricanes

- Global warming is not predicted to bring increased tropical cyclone incidence
  - May bring more intense cyclones
  - May bring longer cyclone seasons



#### Climate change

#### Opposing factors at work:

- Higher SST *should* result in more and more powerful cyclones
- Greater stability in tropical troposphere *should* result in fewer storms
- May combine for fewer but more powerful cyclones
  - Some studies predict greater numbers in the North Atlantic specifically



# Hurricane Sandy

 October 25, 2013
 Sandy peaks at Category 3
 Landfall in Cuba
 October 30
 Tropical storm
 Landfall in New Jersey



Hurricane Sandy

#### **European Centre for Medium-Range** Weather Forecasts

- Independent intergovernmental organisation
- Supported by 21 European Member States
- World's largest archive of numerical weather prediction data
- Global weather forecasts to 15 days and seasonal forecasts to 12 months
- prediction of Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 making landfall on the East Coast of the United States seven days before it happened



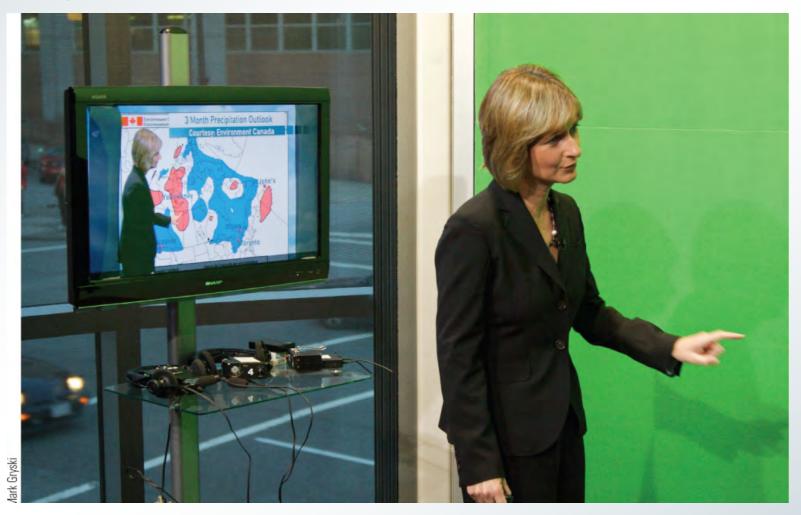
Cyclone Catarina

- March 26-27, 2004
- First hurricane-strength storm observed in the South Atlantic
  - Category 2, 160 km/h
- Why now?
  - Combination SSTs and atmospheric flow
- Four tropical storms over 2010-2019

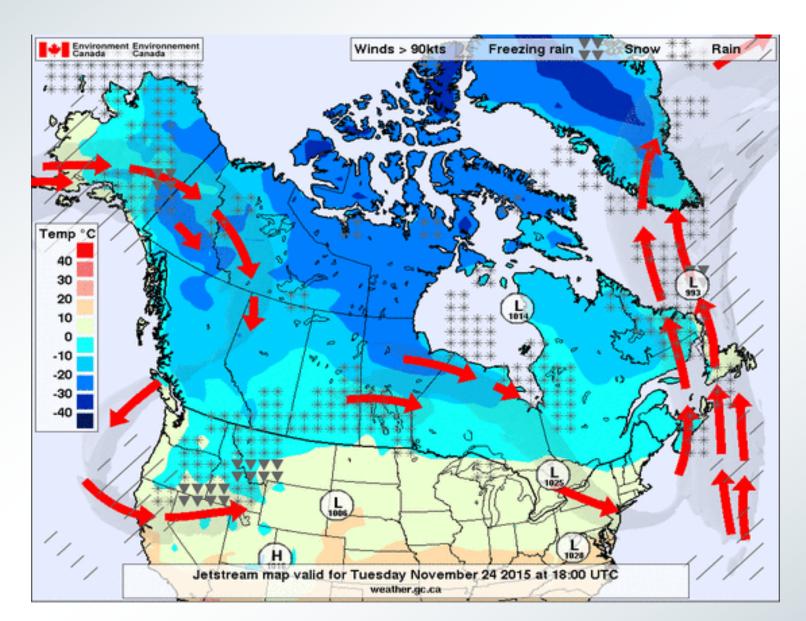




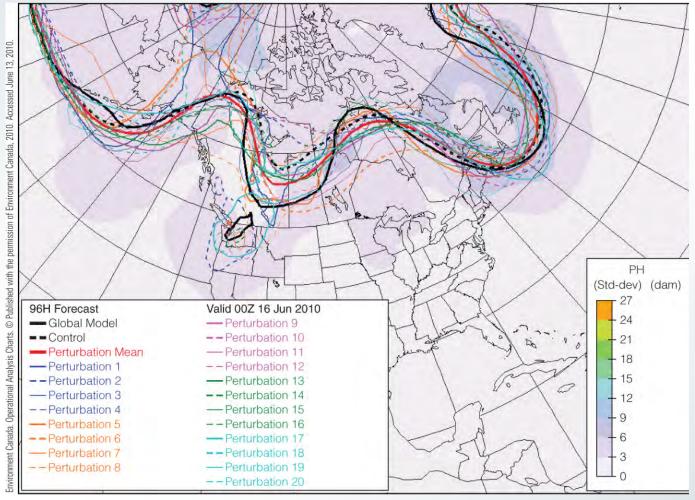
### **Daily/Seasonal Weather Prediction**







#### Ensemble 500-mb forecast



Ahrens: Fig. 13.6, p. 452



Models . . . better agreement overall with slow moving frontal boundary and by 00z Friday have it from NE Ontario through S Wisconsin . . .

Most models generally agree on precipitation amounts Thursday night . . . the NAM is an outlier with heftier totals. We did not go as low as the GFS/ECMWF/Gem suggest.

There will likely be some lake enhancement . . ..

#### November 14, 2019 0800 EDT





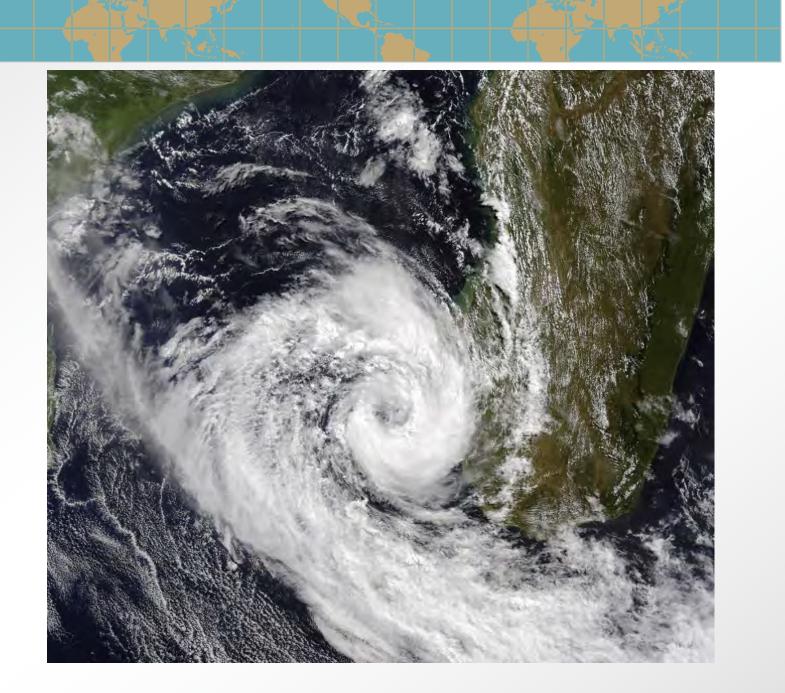
#### Canadian Weather Service

Eastern Canada.



#### Lecture outline

# Polar cyclones Dynamics



# Polar Lows

- Cyclones forming over the open sea in polar regions
- Winds must be gale force
  >60 km/h
- Several hundred kilometres in diameter
- Last up to two days

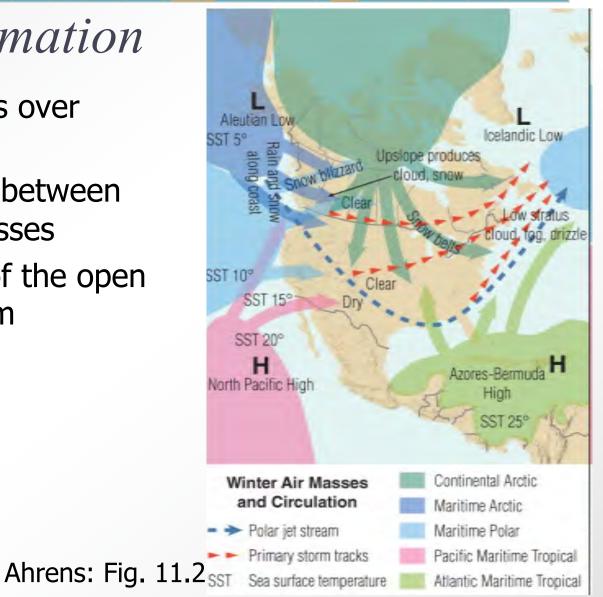
Barents Sea Feb 27 1987 Ahrens: Fig. 12.27





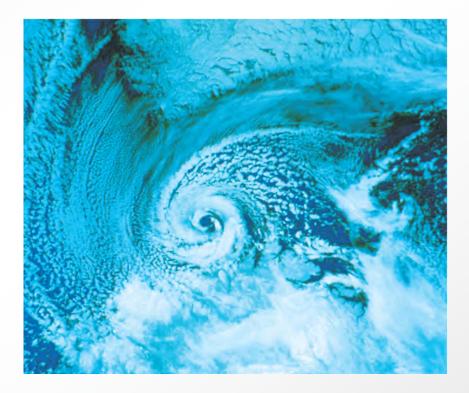
# Polar low formation

- cA air mass moves over open sea water
- Arctic front forms between
  cA and mP air masses
- Relative warmth of the open sea fuels the storm



## Similarity to tropical cyclones

- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) as energy source
- Eye formation
- Warm core
- Dissipate over land (or ice)
- Differences:
  - Much weaker winds
  - Heavy snow instead of rain





# Coming up

Course evaluations!

Weather forecasting continued

Climate classification