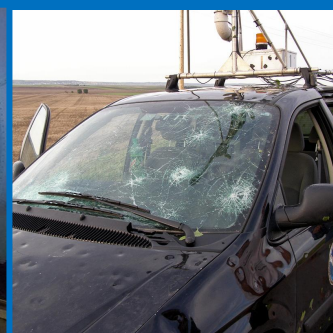
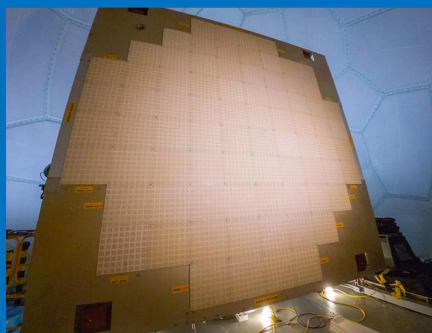




Better forecast/warning tools and techniques

Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor Overview

Heather Grams, PhD, NSSL Research Meteorologist, WRDD





Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS)

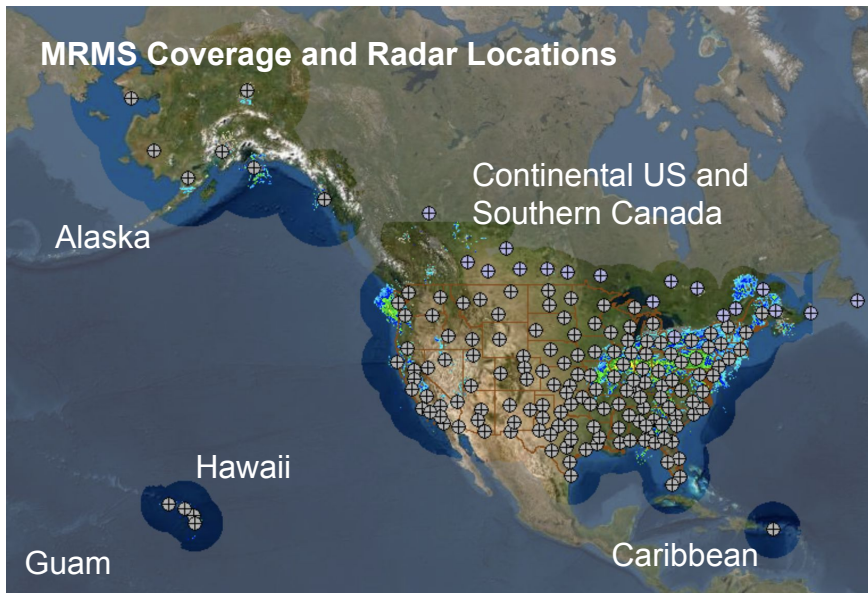
is an advanced remote sensing processing system that:

- Integrates radar, surface observations, satellite, lightning, and numerical weather prediction data into common reference grid
- Automatically generates complete seamless national 3D radar mosaic, storm attributes and multi-sensor quantitative precipitation estimates at high temporal and spatial resolution

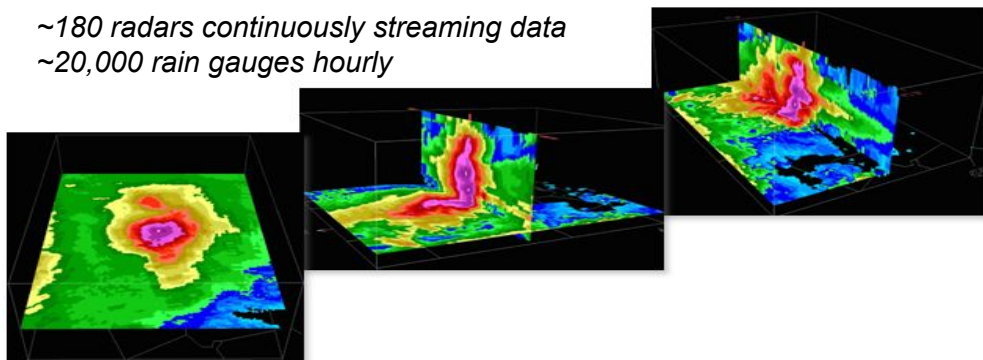
Running operationally at NOAA/NCEP since 2014

Operational Product Viewer:

https://mrms.nssl.noaa.gov/qvs/product_viewer/



~180 radars continuously streaming data
 ~20,000 rain gauges hourly





MRMS Core Research Impacts

Cited over **125** times since 2016
1387 Full Text Views/Downloads this year (AMS)

MULTI-RADAR MULTI-SENSOR (MRMS) SEVERE WEATHER AND AVIATION PRODUCTS

Initial Operating Capabilities

BY TRAVIS M. SMITH, VALIAPPA LAKSHMANAN, GREGORY J. STUPHS, KYLE L. OTEGIA, KURT HONIG, KAREN COOPER, KRISTIN M. CALHOUN, DARRYL N. KINGFIELD, KEVIN L. MANNISS, ROBERT TOOMEY, AND JIM BRODGEN

The MRMS system's initial operating capabilities for severe weather and aviation include quality-controlled multiradar fields of three-dimensional reflectivity, near-storm environment, and radar velocity derivatives that are used to produce severe weather guidance information.

The Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS) system, developed at the National Severe Storms Laboratory and the University of Oklahoma, is now

operational at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). The MRMS system consists of the Warning Decision Support System-Integrated Information (WDSS-II; Lakshmanan et al. 2007) suite of severe weather and aviation products and the quantitative precipitation estimation (QPE) products created by the National Mosaic and Multi-Sensor QPE (NMQ; Zhang et al. 2011) system. The MRMS system provides operational guidance for severe convective weather, QPE, and aviation hazards on a seamless three-dimensional grid that is created at a spatial resolution of 0.67° latitude × 0.67° longitude, with 33 vertical levels, every 2 min over the conterminous United States (CONUS) and southern Canada. This paper focuses on the severe weather and aviation set of products that include a three-dimensional (3D) mosaic of reflectivity, guidance for hail, tornado, and lightning hazards, as well as warnings of storm location, height, and intensity. MRMS algorithms focusing on quantitative precipitation estimation are discussed in Zhang et al. (2016).

The WDSS-II system (also called MRMS-Severe/Aviation) is a multiradar, multiresolver system distributed

AFFILIATIONS: SMITH, LAKSHMANAN, OTEGIA, COOPER, CALHOUN, KINGFIELD, TOOMEY, AND BRODGEN—Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, University of Oklahoma, and NOAA/OAR/OSLS, Norman, Oklahoma; STUPHS—Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma; HONIG—NOAA/NWS/NCEP, Silver Spring, Maryland; HONIG—NOAA/OAR/OSLS, Norman, Oklahoma; REEVES—Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, University of Colorado Boulder, and NOAA/OAR/ERL, Boulder, Colorado

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Travis Smith, WRDQ, NSSL, National Weather Center, 120 David L. Boren Bldg., Norman, OK 73072
E-mail: travis.smith@noaa.gov

The abstract for this article can be found in this issue. Following the table of contents.
DOI:10.1175/IRMSA-D-14-00073.1

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MULTI-RADAR MULTI-SENSOR (MRMS) QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION ESTIMATION

Initial Operating Capabilities

BY JIAN ZHANG, KENNETH HOWARD, CARLE LANGSTON, BRIAN KANEK, YOUNG Q. LI, LIN TANG, HEATHER GRAHS, TONGDING WANG, STEPHEN COOKS, STEVEN MARTINAITIS, AMY ARTHUR, KAREN COOPER, JIM BRODGEN, AND DAVID KRZYWIELL

The initial operating capabilities of the Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor quantitative precipitation system include an ensemble of quantitative precipitation estimations and associated diagnostic products based on radar, gauge, and atmospheric environmental and climatological data at 1-km resolution and a 2-min update cycle over the conterminous United States.

Over the last two decades, there has been a focus on developing new applications and systems to address requirements for seamless national radar information for use in model data assimilation, transportation, and quantitative precipitation

estimation, which integrate multiple overlapping radars with other in situ or remote sensing observations and numerical weather prediction (NWP) model output. Advances in computational speed and expanding Internet bandwidth facilitated the ability to move radar base data from single radars into regional and national centers for processing (Frogeberg et al. 2002; Kelleher et al. 2007).

The Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS) system recently implemented at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) demonstrated such capabilities. MRMS currently integrates about 180 operational radars and creates a seamless 3D radar mosaic across the conterminous United States (CONUS) and southern Canada at a very high spatial (1 km) and temporal (2 min) resolution. The radar base data are integrated with atmospheric environmental data, satellite data, and lightning and rain gauge observations to generate a suite of severe weather and quantitative precipitation estimation (QPE) products. Multiradar integration can mitigate deficiencies in the single-radar framework

AFFILIATIONS: ZHANG AND HOWARD—NOAA/OAR/NSSL, Norman, Oklahoma; LANGSTON, KANEK, QI, TANG, GRAHS, WANG, COOKS, MARTINAITIS, ARTHUR, COOPER, AND BRODGEN—NOAA/OAR/OSLS, and Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma; KRZYWIELL—NOAA/NWS/OIG/ES, Silver Spring, Maryland

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Jian Zhang, NSSL, National Weather Center, 120 David L. Boren Bldg., Norman, OK 73072
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The abstract for this article can be found in this issue. Following the table of contents.
DOI:10.1175/IRMSA-D-14-00174.1

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THE FLASH PROJECT

Improving the Tools for Flash Flood Monitoring and Prediction across the United States

JONATHAN J. GOURLAY, ZACHARY L. FLANG, HUBERTO VERGARA, PIERRE-EMMANUEL KRISTETTER, ROBERT A. CLARK III, ELIZABETH ARGYLE, AMY ARTHUR, STEVEN MARTINAITIS, GALATIYA TERZI, JESSICA M. ERLINGER, YANG HONG, AND KENNETH W. HOWARD

FLASH advances the state of the science in operational flash flood monitoring and prediction in the U.S. National Weather Service.

Flash flooding remains a significant threat to those who live in the United States and beyond. From 1 October 2007 to 1 October 2015, the National Weather Service (NWS) reported a total of 28,826 flash flood events in the United States, yielding an average of 5,603 per year according to the Storm Events Database (available at www.ncep.noaa.gov/stormevents/rep.jsp). Ten percent of these flash flood events resulted in completed crop and property damages exceeding \$100,000 (U.S. dollars) per event. A total of 278 individuals lost their lives due to flash floods in the United States during this 8-yr period. Fatalities resulting from floods and flash floods show no trend in recent decades. A brief point regarding the substation of floods into faster responding flash floods is required here, as this segregation impacts some of the statistics reported in the literature. While there is no real physical basis for separating floods and flash floods, it is often times necessary to divide them based on scale due to differing operational responsibilities within agencies, including the NWS. According to the NWS Glossary (NWS 2012), lakes address flash floods as rapid rises of water in a stream or creek above a predetermined flood level, beginning within six hours of the causative event. Flash floods fall within the responsibility of local NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) distributed

throughout the United States, while the 13 regional River Forecast Centers (RFCs) handle larger-scale river flood events. The tools and product displays utilized within the WFOs differ from what is used for river flood warnings at the RFCs. The primary focus hereafter is on flash floods, while some of the statistics reported below apply to larger-scale river floods. Spitalar et al. (2014) studied flash flood fatalities and injuries from 2006 to 2012 in the United States and revealed no apparent trend in either. An interesting result from this study was the finding that most human-impacting events occur in rural settings. However, when a flash flood occurs in an urban center, there are many more human impacts per event. Ashley and Ashley (2008) analyzed flood fatalities from 1959 to 2005; they found a median value of flood fatalities at 81 per year with no statistically significant trend. Several studies cite the role of vehicles as a significant factor in the cause of death during flash floods in the United States, accounting for more than half of the fatalities (Frensch et al. 1988; Ashley and Ashley 2008; Keller and Schumidin 2012; Shatt et al. 2015; Terzi et al. 2017). Despite the lack of increases in flash flood events or fatalities over this short period, the will likely increase in frequency and magnitude in coming decades. First, the U.S. population continues to urbanize (United

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Google Scholar Mentions (peer-reviewed journals, conference presentations):

- “Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor” returns 1,070 papers



MRMS Product Impacts

Part 1: Situational Awareness

MRMS radar mosaics in nationwide decision support displays

NWS

radar.weather.gov

[SAFER Hazard Dashboard](#)

NOAA

[nowCOAST](#)

FAA

Flight Information System for pilots

DOD

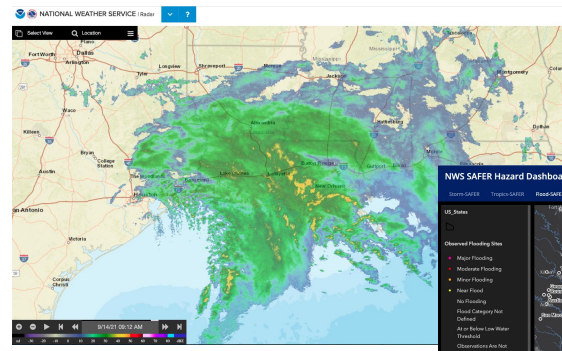
AFW-WEBS

USGS

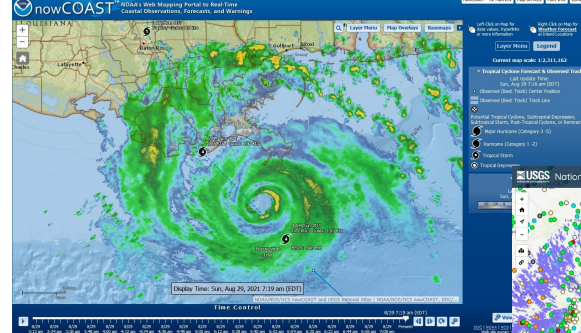
[National Water Dashboard](#)

Private Sector

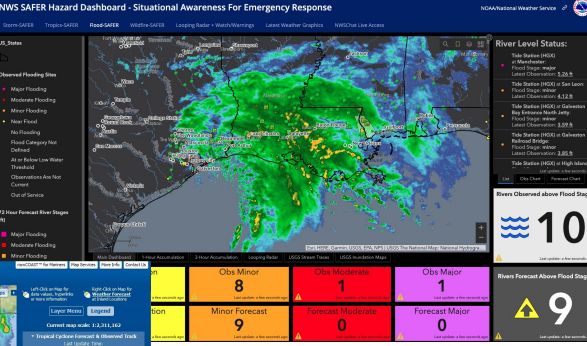
GR-Earth, mobile radar apps, and many others



NWS



NOAA



USGS





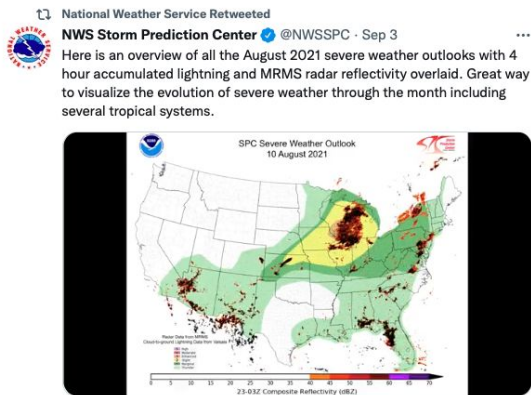
MRMS History



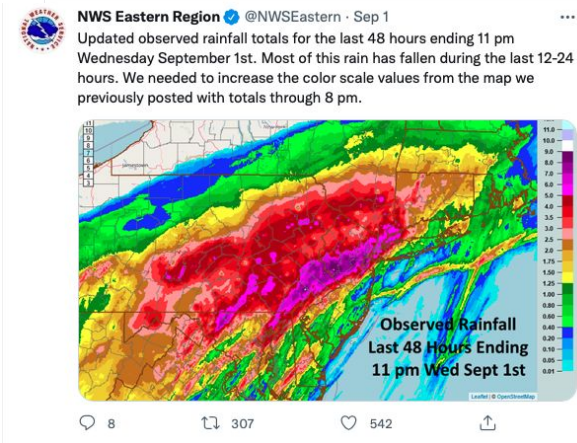
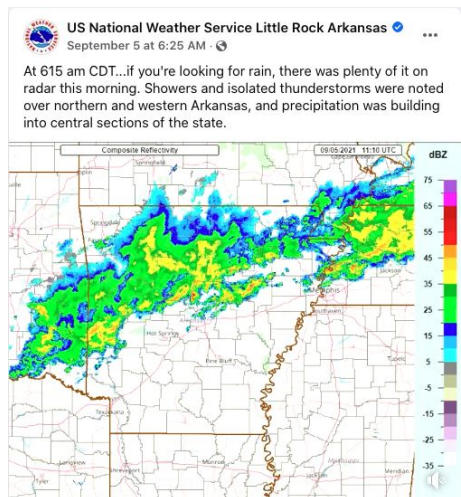
MRMS Product Impacts

Part 2: Improving Warnings and Public Messaging

- MRMS reflectivity, hail, precipitation, and FLASH products used routinely in NWS severe weather operations and public messaging
- MRMS rotation tracks used for post-event emergency response and for tornado damage surveys



NWS Houston Office Social Media Messaging for Tropical Storm Imelda (2019)



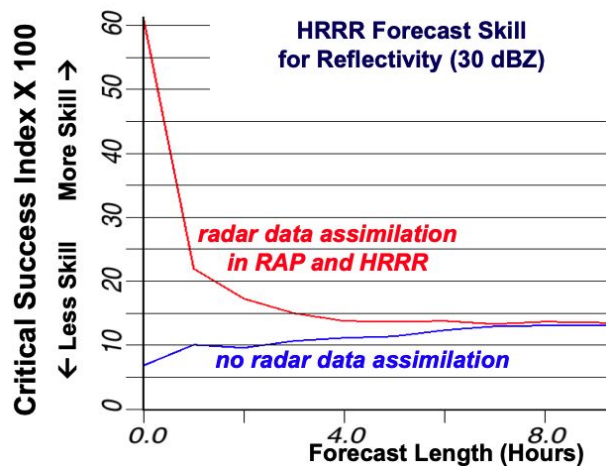
Northeast US Flash Flooding from Remnants of Hurricane Ida (2021)



MRMS Product Impacts

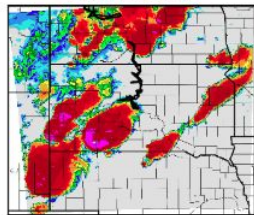
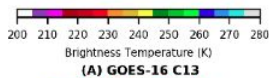
Part 3: Improving NWP

Impact of Radar Data Assimilation on NWP Skill

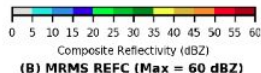


(Source: Dowell 2015)

- MRMS reflectivity and precipitation used for weather model data assimilation (e.g., WoFS and HRRR/RRFS) and verification
- MRMS precipitation used as driver for NWS National Water Model and as starting point for NWS River Forecast Center precipitation analysis
- Growing adoption within machine learning community as input for training and validation



Input: GOES Ch. 13

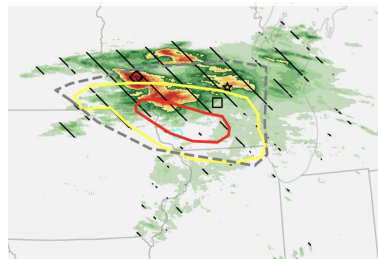


Desired Output (MRMS)

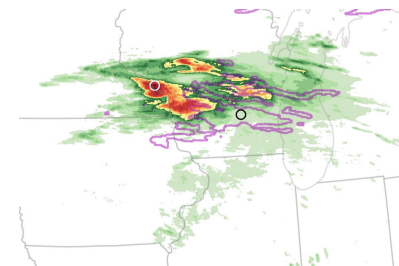
NN

Hilburn et al. (2020) predicting MRMS radar from GOES-16 satellite using Deep Learning AI/ML

2021 FFaIR Experimental Product and Model Verification



Experimental Rainfall Outlook



Purple = Model-Forecasted Precipitation



Alignment with NOAA and OAR Goals



NOAA R&D Vision Areas 2020-2026

OAR Strategic Goals

OAR Strategic Goals		Vision Area 1: Reducing societal impacts from hazardous weather and other phenomena	Vision Area 2: Sustainable use and stewardship of ocean/coastal resources	Vision Area 3: Robust and effective research, development, and transition enterprise
Goal 3: Make Forecasts Better	3.1 Develop interdisciplinary Earth system models			
	3.2 Tools and Processes to forecast high-impact weather and water events	✓	MRMS serves as a key data assimilation input and a verification resource for development of atmospheric and hydrologic forecast systems	✓
	3.3 Transition science that meets users' current and future needs	✓		✓
Goal 4: Drive Innovative Science	4.1 Reinforce a culture of innovation and adaptability	✓		MRMS is a platform for rapid integration of new observations with a proven track record of successful transitions of new science into operational environments
	4.2 Invest in high-risk, high-reward science			
	4.3 Accelerate the delivery of mission-ready, next-gen science	✓	✓	





Alignment with NWS Strategic Goals and Science Areas



NWS Strategic Plan Objectives 2.4 & 2.5 - Integrated Observations

- Supports consistent and continuously updating guidance across all NWS Offices using integration of best available observing systems

NWS Strategic Plan Objectives 2.10 & 2.11 - Research to Operation/Operations to Research (R2O/O2R)

- Use of testbeds to evaluate new techniques and algorithm improvements with NWS operational users, and close coordination with NWS/NCO to streamline transition of new versions of MRMS into operations

NOAA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FOCUS AREAS



Cloud - The MRMS team at NSSL are leaders within NOAA to fully embrace transitioning R&D efforts to the cloud to accelerate the pace of R2O.

Artificial Intelligence - Multiple R&D efforts ongoing to integrate AI/ML techniques into MRMS processing, and improving AI knowledge/proficiency among the MRMS R&D team is a top strategic objective



Key Stakeholders & Collaborative Partners



NOAA Partners

Logos for NOAA, WSR-88D (Commerce, Defense, Transportation), NCEP (National Centers for Environmental Prediction), National Weather Service, AWC (Aviation Weather Center), Storm Prediction Center (Norman, Oklahoma), and WPD Training Division.

Non-NOAA Government Agencies

Logos for Federal Aviation Administration, BTS (Bureau of Transportation Statistics), NASA, Department of Defense (50th Anniversary), and National Transportation Safety Board.

Academia and Other Entities

Logos for CIWRO (Cooperative Institute for Severe and High-Impact Weather Research and Operations), CAPS (Coastal and Atmospheric Prediction System), Harris County Flood Control District, NCAR (National Center for Atmospheric Research), and other academic and research entities.





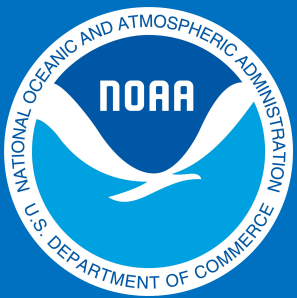
Summary

- MRMS is a critical operational resource that provides high resolution, rapidly updating, integrated radar and sensor derived decision support products for multiple agencies
- Operational products are widely used across government, private, and academic sectors for applications ranging from severe weather warning operations to improving weather forecast models to development of new machine learning tools.
- MRMS research, development, and transitions into operations align with multiple strategic areas across NOAA, OAR, and the NWS



NSSL and CIWRO researchers discussing MRMS and NWS operations with RFC forecasters (January 2020)

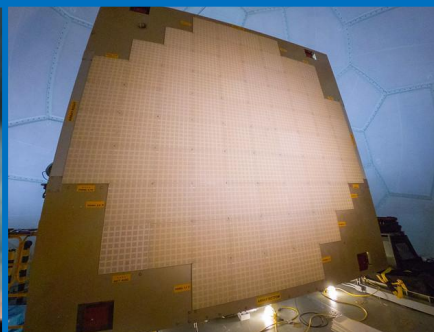




Better forecast/warning tools and techniques

MRMS Products and Capabilities

Steven Martinaitis, CIWRO Research Associate, WRDD





MRMS: Product Creation Process



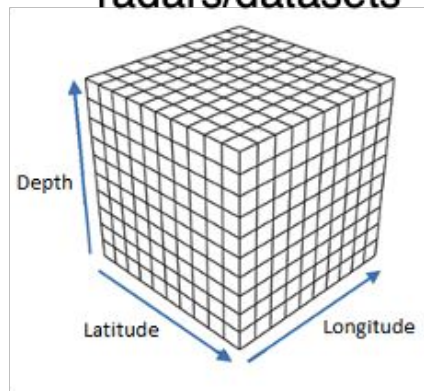
Data collection:
Active “listeners” that download data as soon as it becomes available



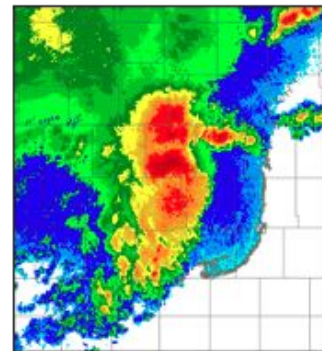
QC
Immediately processes data as soon as system ingest is finished



Interpolation & 3D Mosaic
Data is converted to regular grid and merged with other radars/datasets



Derivatives
Final products are computed from the mosaics (< 90 secs start to finish)





MRMS Radar Quality Control

Mitigation of non-meteorological radar echoes:

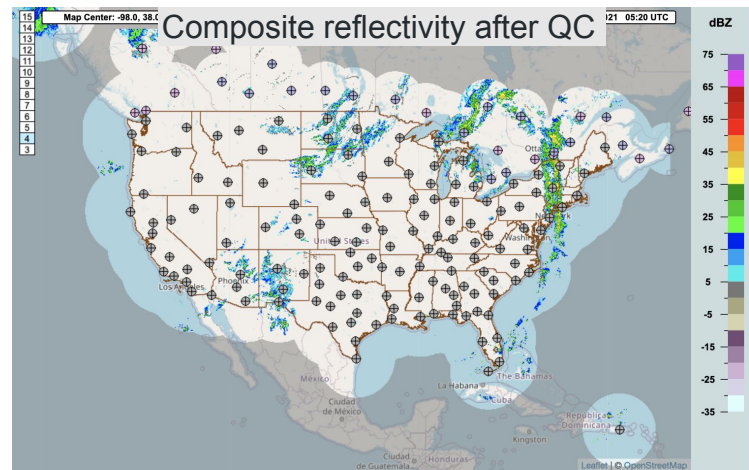
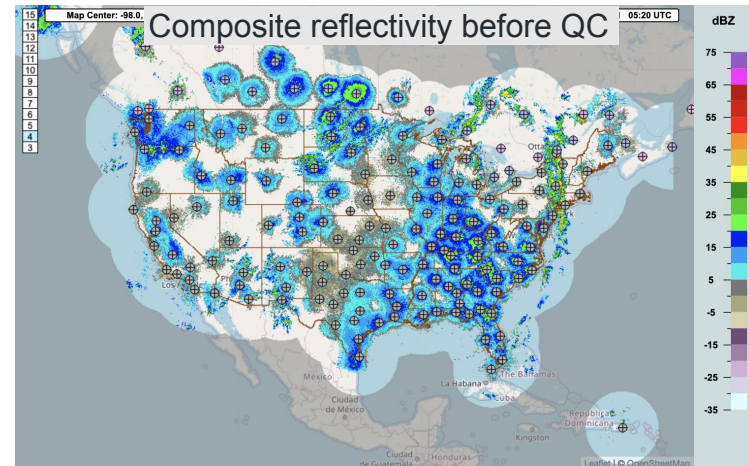
- Ground clutter (terrain, trees, buildings, etc.)
- Biological returns (birds, bats and bugs)
- Sunspikes & electronic interferences
- Wind Farms

Mitigation of meteorological artifacts/influences in radar data:

- Bright banding from melting layer
- Three-body scatter spikes
- Virga and anvil overhang

Different QC measures used for different applications

Tang et al. 2014 WAF
Tang et al. 2020 JTECH



0520 UTC 24 September 2021



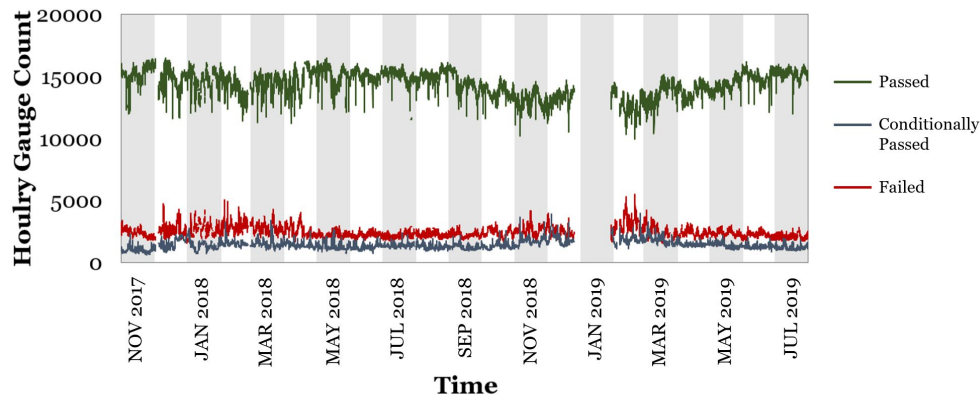
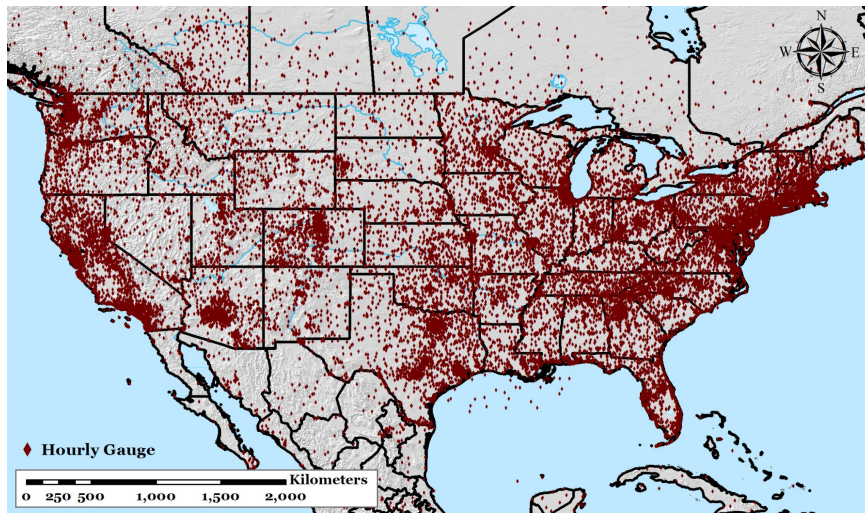
Gauge Quality Control

Ingest over 20,000 hourly automated gauge observations per hour across all MRMS domains

Complex decision trees leveraging radar and model data to remove erroneous observations

Average of 86% of all observations are retained per hour (Varies seasonally)

Automated gauge QC conducted in MRMS system correctly matches manual QC > 99%



Qi et al. 2016 JHM
Martinaitis et al. 2021 JHM



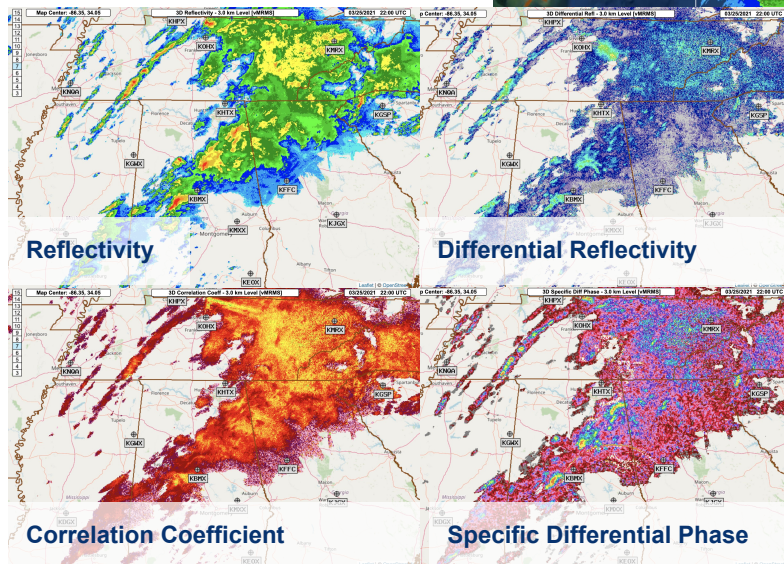
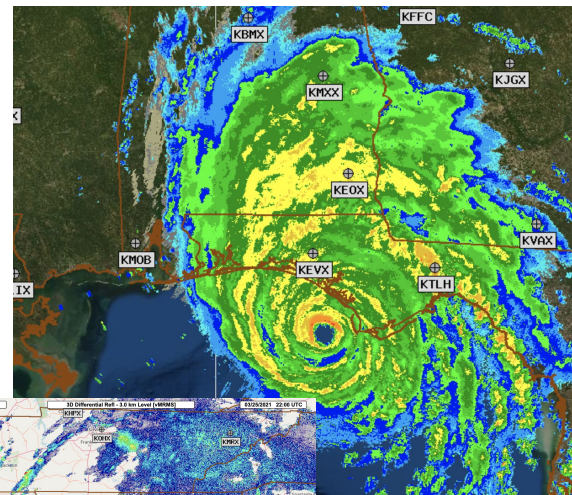
MRMS Radar Mosaics

Creation of three-dimensional, multi-radar cubes of fundamental dual-polarization radar variables at a 2-minute resolution

- *Horizontal resolution of 1-km or 500-m*
- *33 vertical levels*

Two-dimensional multi-radar mosaics of derived radar values used to drive product development within the MRMS system

MRMS Composite Reflectivity from Hurricane Michael (2018)



Dual-Polarization Variables at 3-km height level from 3-D mosaic

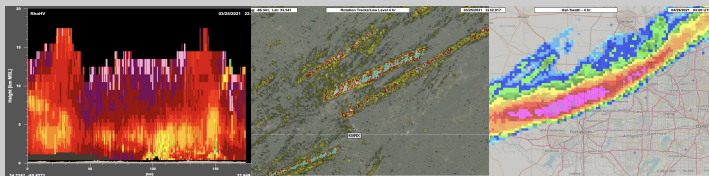
Zhang et al. 2016 BAMS



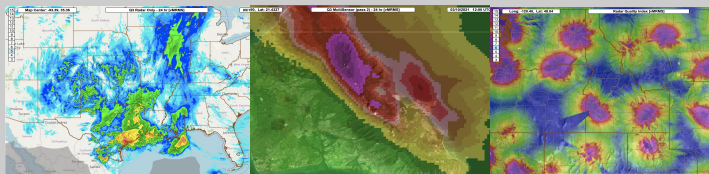


MRMS Product Suites

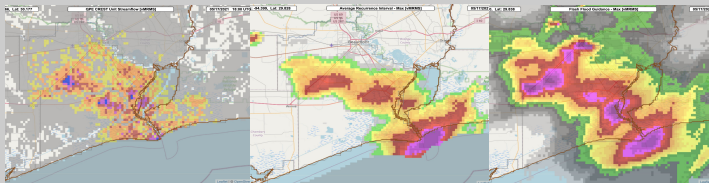
Severe Weather Applications



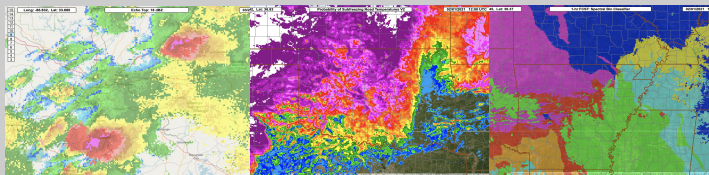
Quantitative Precipitation Estimation (QPE)



Flooded Locations and Simulated Hydrographs (FLASH)

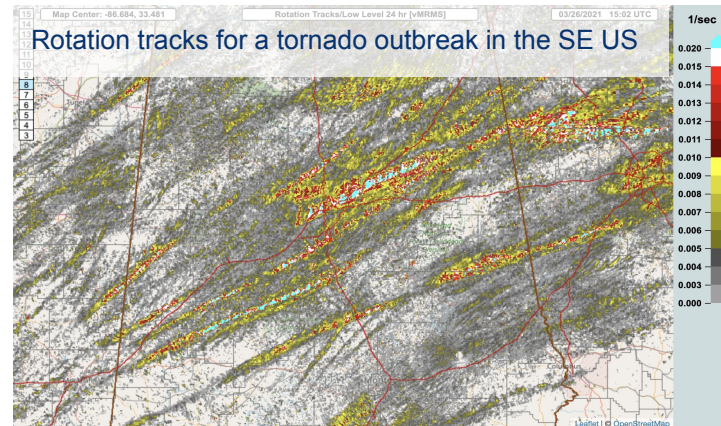
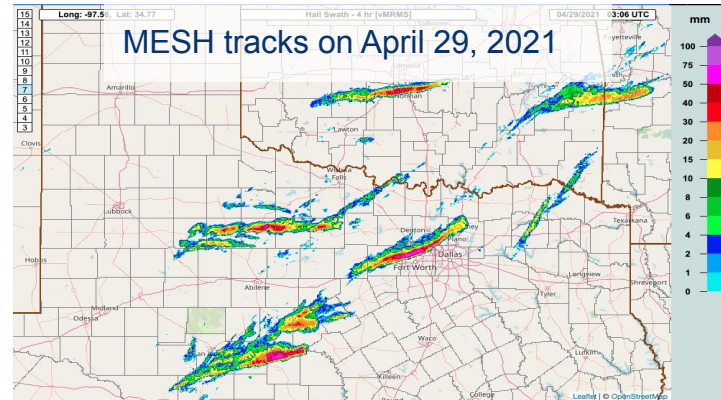


Transportation Applications



MRMS Severe Weather Products

- **Maximum Estimated Size of Hail (MESH)** provides hail size estimation that can be expected
- **Rotation Tracks** indicate where rotation in storms is occurring; Strong values indicate high tornadic likelihood
- **Vertically Integrated Liquid and Ice** indicate the amount of liquid or ice in a storm vertically at each point and relates to rainfall/hail potential
- **Lightning Probability** is a machine learning algorithm that determines the likelihood of cloud-to-ground lightning that could occur over a given area in the next 30-60 minutes



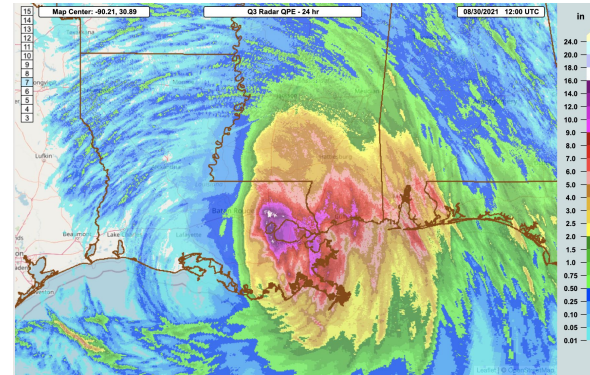
Smith et al. 2016 BAMS



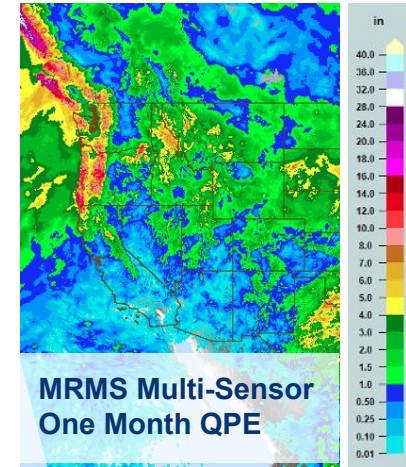
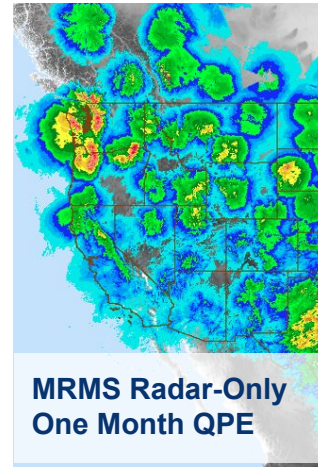
MRMS Precipitation Estimation Products



- **Radar-Only QPE:** Dual-polarization scheme with evaporation correction algorithm
 - Instantaneous rates
 - Accumulations from 15-min to 72-h
- **Radar Quality Index (RQI)** product shows best coverage of radar-based precip estimates based on radar beam height, beam blockage, and beam location with respect to the melting layer
- **Multi-Sensor QPE:** Leverage non-radar sources like quality-controlled gauges and short-term model forecasts to supplement radar coverage and improve QPE accuracy



**24-hour
Rainfall
Totals from
Hurricane
Ida (2021)**

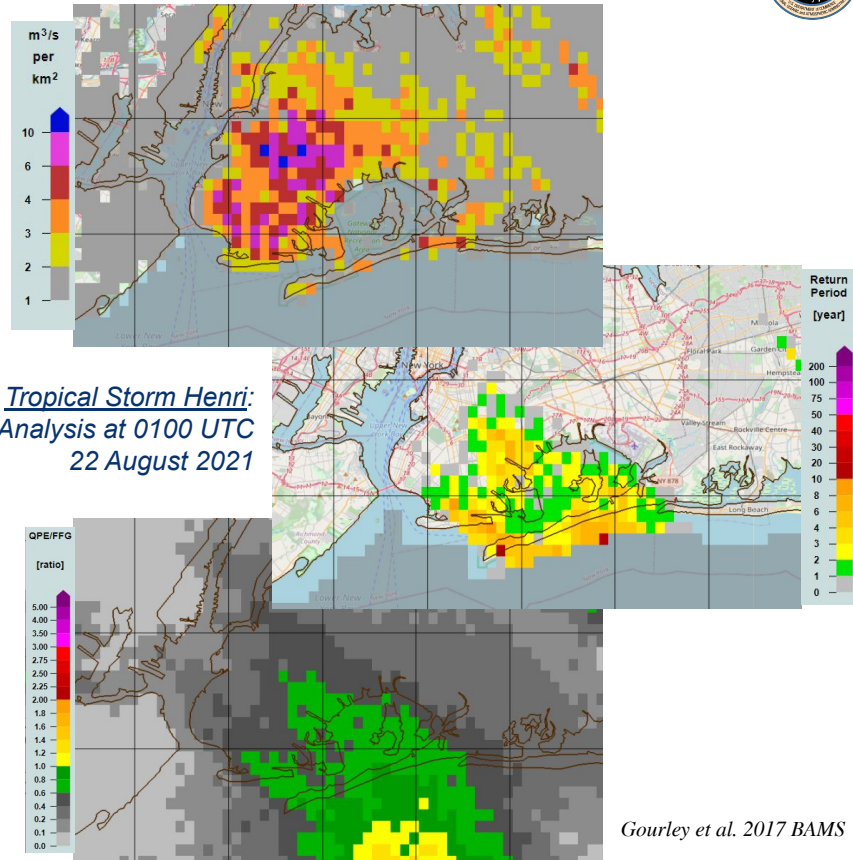


Zhang et al. 2016 BAMS
Martinaitis et al. 2020 JHM



MRMS Flooded Locations and Simulated Hydrographs (FLASH) Products

- **Unit Streamflow** is based on hydrologic rainfall-runoff simulations driven by MRMS radar-only QPEs; Surface water flow is normalized to the basin area, providing standardized values to identify anomalous runoff
- **QPE Average Recurrence Intervals** compare observed precipitation in real-time to historic records (NOAA Atlas 14) to estimate the rarity of a rainfall event for a specific location
- **QPE to Flash Flood Guidance Ratio** indicates when rainfall can initiate out-of-bank flows in small creeks and streams



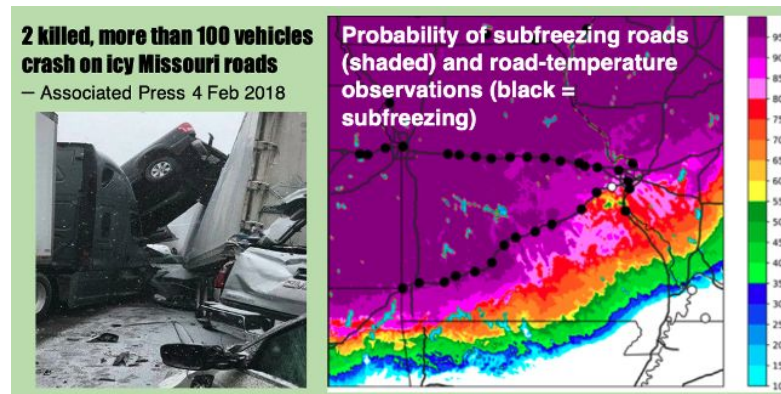
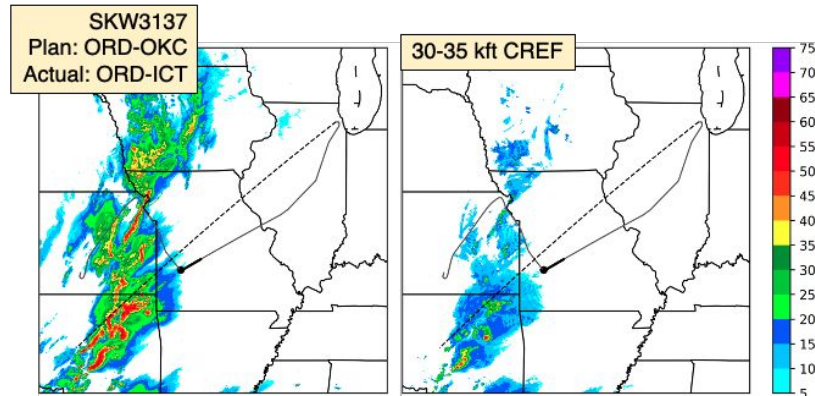
Gourley et al. 2017 BAMS



MRMS Transportation Products



- **Echo Top Heights** provide an estimate of storm top heights from radar, which is useful for both severe weather warning operations and aviation
- **Flight-Level Composite Reflectivity** provides derived reflectivity layers (from the 3D mosaic) in the flight-level reference frame that pilots need for routing around storms
- **Probability of Sub-Freezing Roads** is a machine learning-based, probabilistic depiction of where freezing of roads and highways are most likely to occur



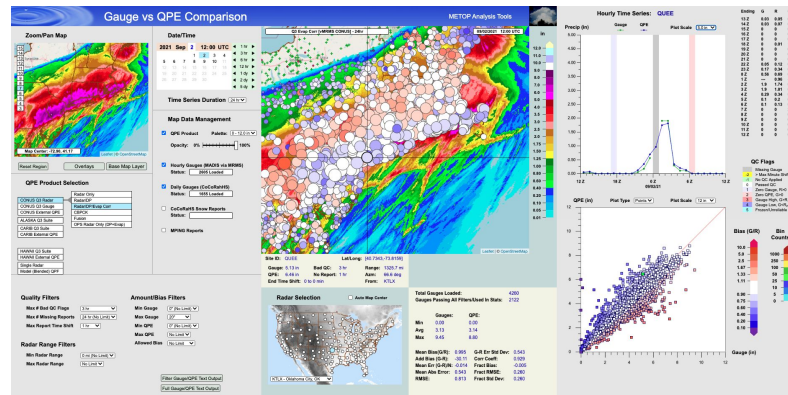


Product Testing/Validation

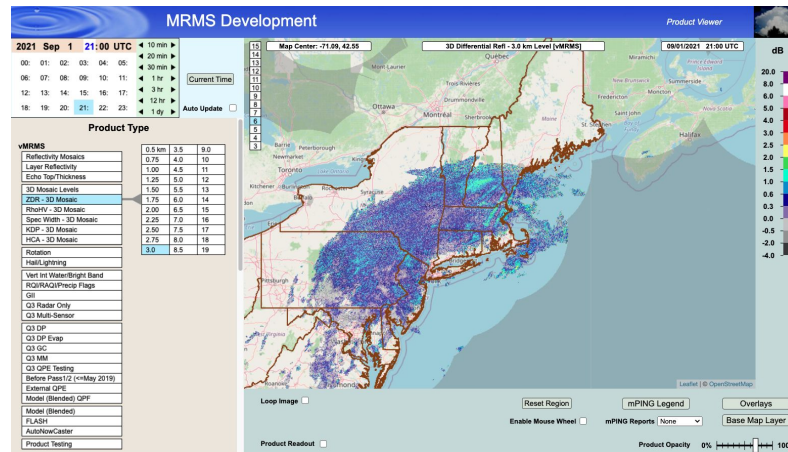
Operational and experimental MRMS are evaluated in real-time on the NSSL development system to verify product stability and quality

- Real-time products are displayed on internal web pages to allow scientists and software developers to monitor their quality
- Internal displays of products under development are made available for key external stakeholders for additional quality assurance and feedback prior to operational transition

Rain Gauge vs. QPE Comparisons



Real-Time Display of Internal and Operational Products

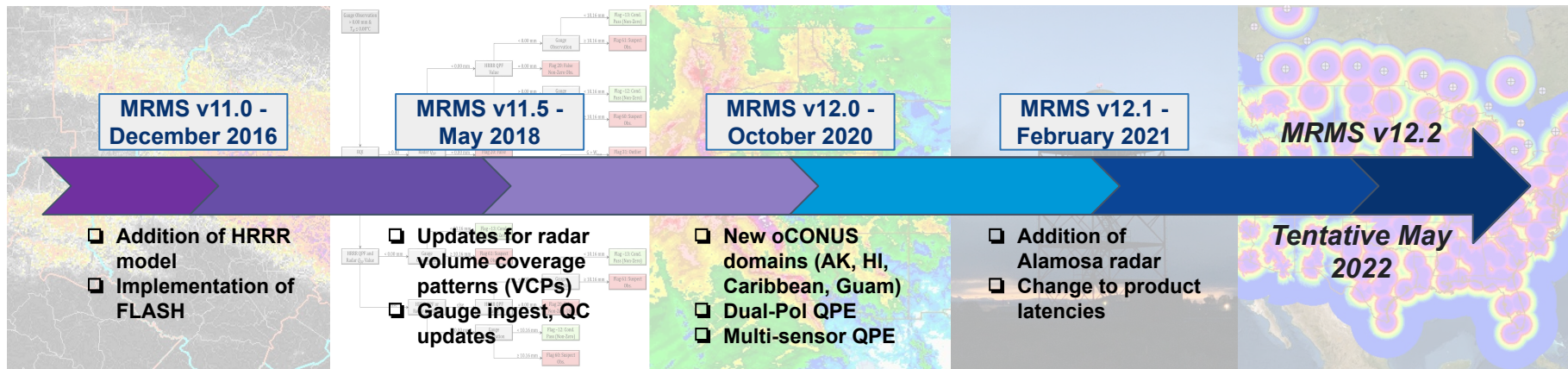




MRMS Operational Success

- NSSL team works directly with the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations staff on the operational implementation for the NWS, including on-site training and interactions
- NSSL built and maintains a real time MRMS system processing environment nearly identical to the NCEP system, in addition to a second real-time system in the Cloud

Notable MRMS Builds over the Past Five Years

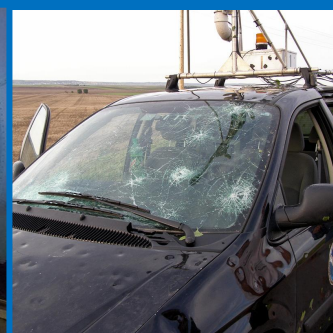




Better forecast/warning tools and techniques

MRMS Development Update

Jian Zhang, PhD; NSSL Research Meteorologist; WRDD



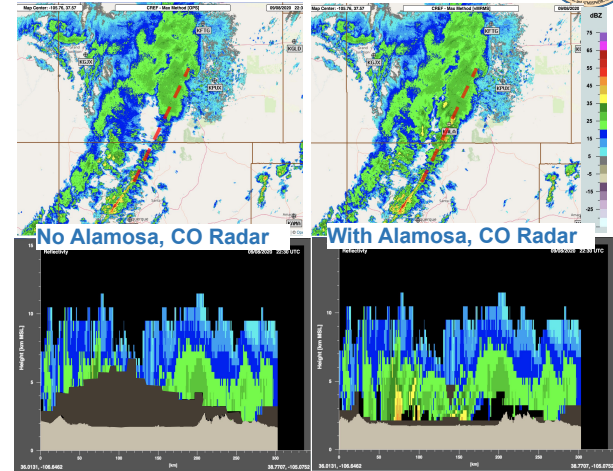
MRMS Development (2016-present)

- Integration of new radars
 - S-band dual-pol Canadian radars; Alamosa, CO radar
- Radar data quality control (QC) improvements
- 3D dual-pol radar mosaic and hydrometeor classification
- Severe weather and aviation hazard warning products
- Dual-pol vertical profile of reflectivity (VPR) correction
- Dual-pol radar synthetic QPE with evaporation correction
- Gauge QC improvements
- Multi-sensor QPE
- Enhanced multisensor precipitation estimator (eMPE) prototype
- Software/system optimizations

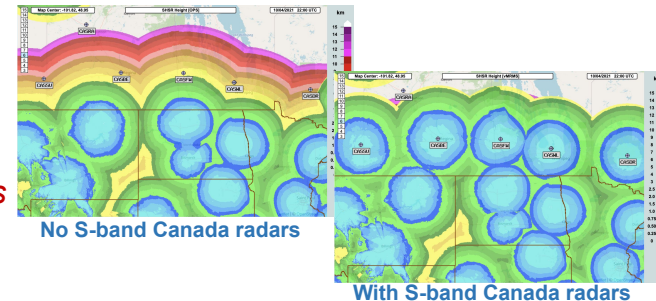
In addition to the scientific challenges, MRMS development tries to address various data quality challenges across large domains on a 24/7 basis.



Comp. Refl. 22:30Z 9/8/2020



Lowest radar beam bottom height (AGL)



MRMS Radar QC Challenges and Solutions



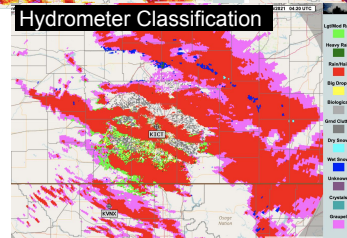
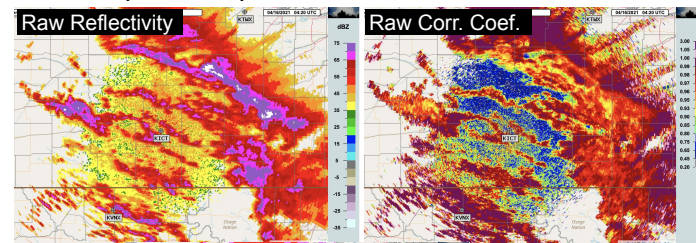
While dual-pol radar observations provided significant QC improvements over single-pol, some challenges remain, e.g.:

- Corrupt data from hardware malfunctions
- Wind farms contaminations, especially when mixed with precipitation

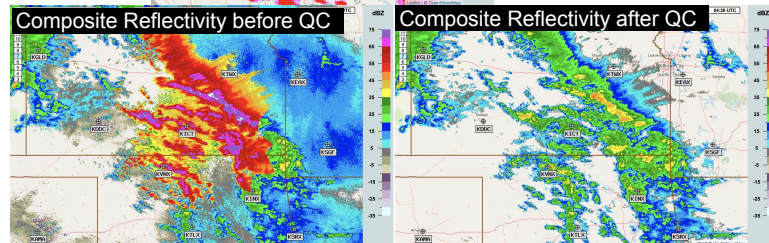
Specific techniques were developed to address these issues, e.g.:

- Application of global properties to identify corrupt data (figures to the right)
- Targeted QC in pre-defined wind farm areas to mitigate contaminations more effectively

Example corrupt data: KICT 04:20Z 4/16/2021



pixel-based QC

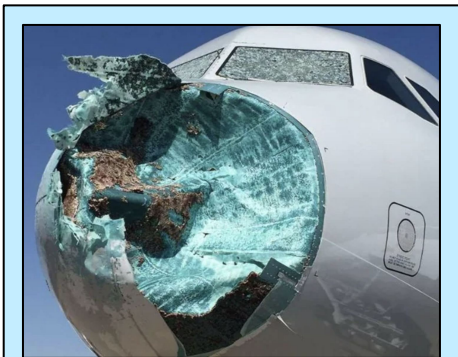


global QC based on intensity and areal coverage





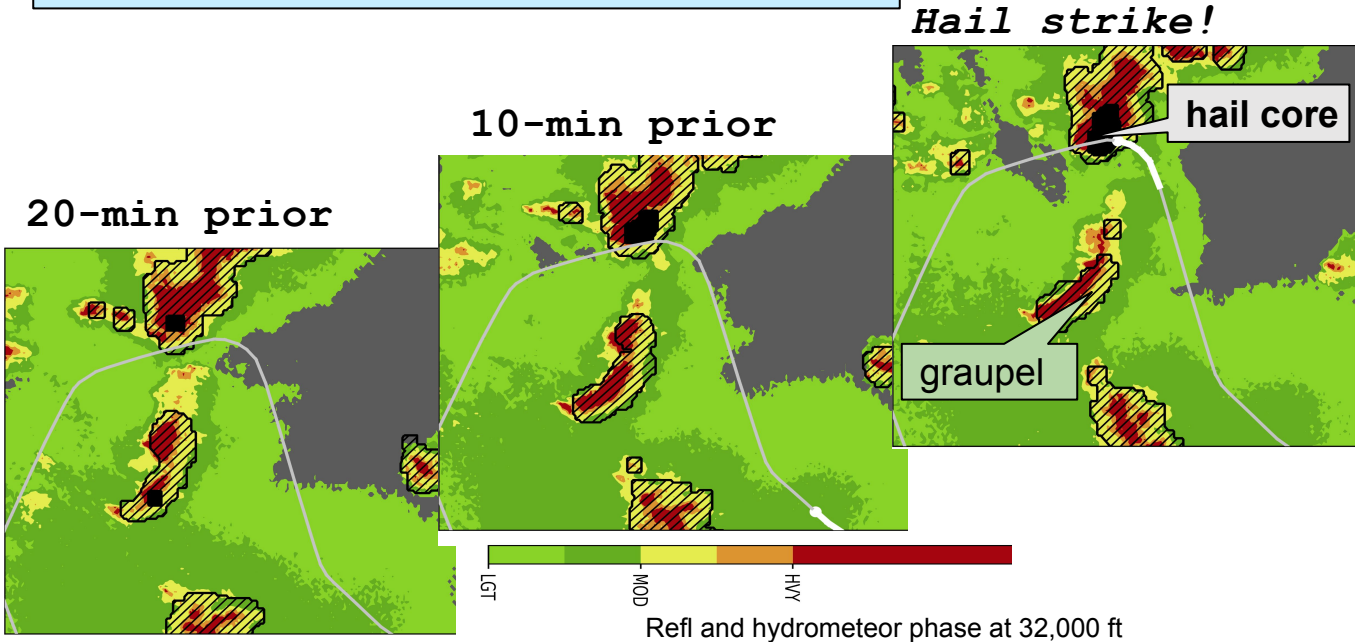
Flight Level Hail/Graupel Detection



Hail smashes nose of plane that flew into towering storm

-Washington Post, 5 June 2018

3D hail/graupel detection
Dual-pol-based detection of graupel and hail at flight level for improved avoidance of weather hazards





Low Altitude Freezing Rain/Freezing Drizzle Identification

Terminal-area phase diagnosis

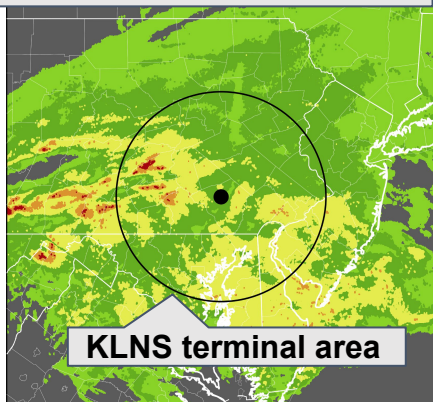
3D microphysics-based phase diagnosis (spectral-bin classifier or "SBC") allows for discrimination between FZRA and FZDZ

Regulation on flight in freezing drizzle to be issued "soon"

-Aviation Safety Journal, 26 Feb 2010

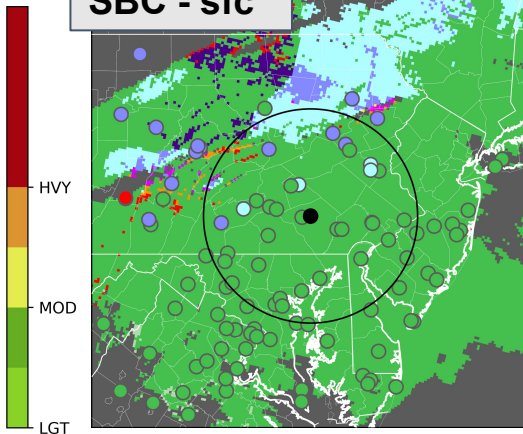


Refl - 0~4km AGL

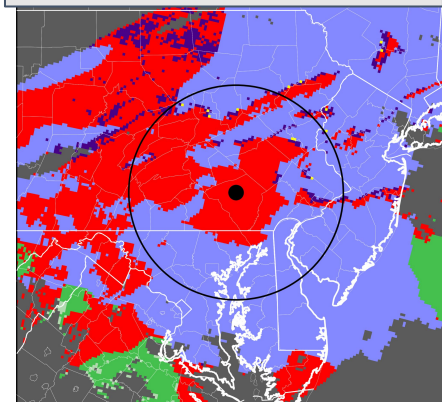


KLNS terminal area

SBC - sfc



SBC - 0~4km AGL



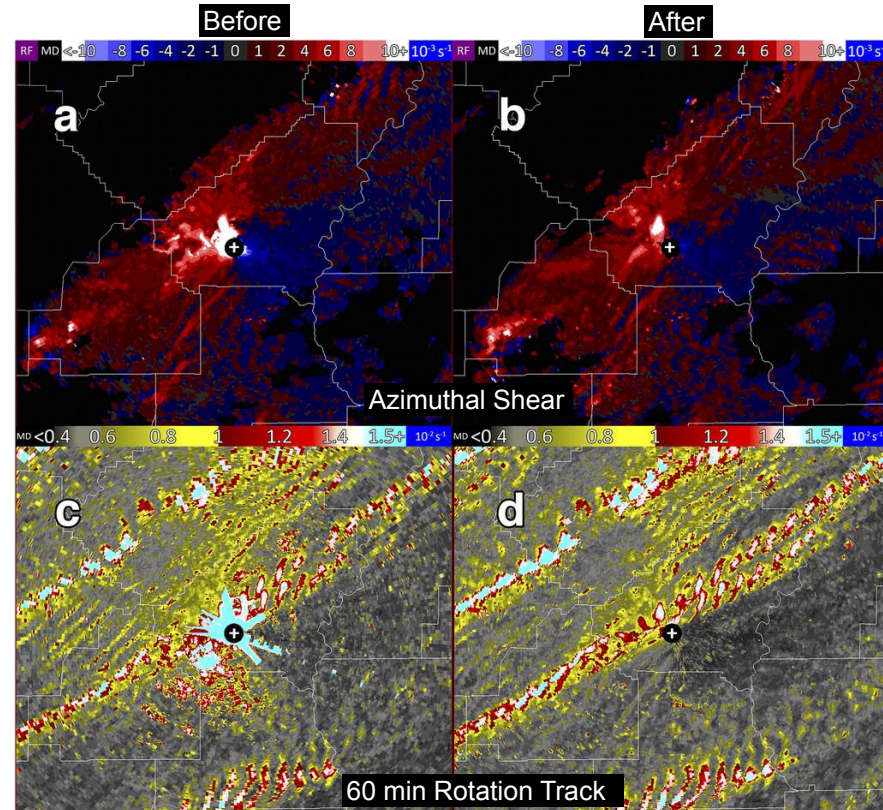
- rain
- rasn
- snow
- fzra
- fzdz





Rotation Track Improvements

- Azimuthal Shear was reengineered
 - Reducing near radar artifacts
 - Spike removal to account for velocity errors
 - Implemented a better linear least squares algorithm
 - Accounts for beam broadening
- Allows for more consistent values across all rotation events



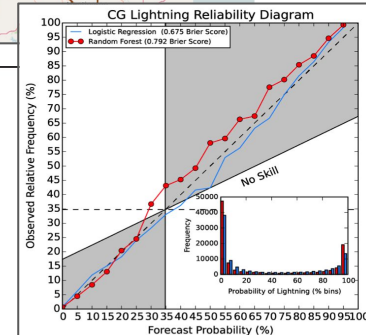
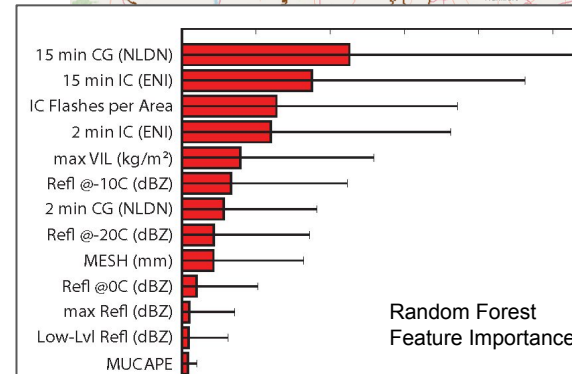
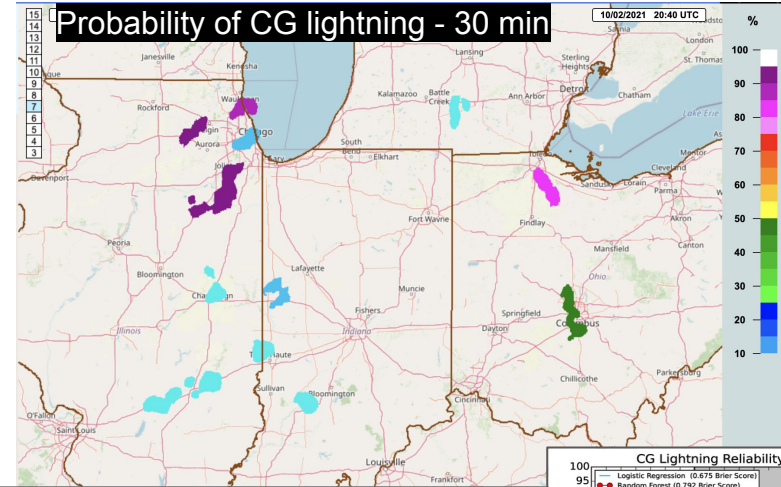
Mahalik et al. 2019 WAF





ProbCG: Storm-based Probability of Cloud-to-Ground (CG) Lightning

- Provide guidance on the likelihood of CG lightning activity associated with a storm over the next 30 to 60 minutes
- Machine learning (random forest) used to train a model using inputs from multiple lightning networks, MRMS radar data, and near storm environment information.



Dual-pol Radar Synthetic QPE



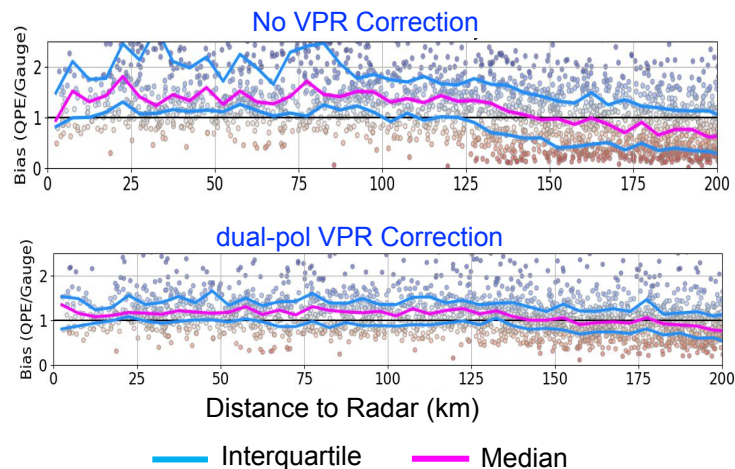
Advancements in radar QPE and their impacts

Techniques	Impacts
Specific attenuation based QPE	Significantly lowered dry biases and uncertainty in heavy to extreme rainfalls
Dual-pol VPR correction	Reduced range dependent biases and random errors (see Figure to the right)
Evaporation correction	Improved QPE accuracy in cool season and in semi-arid regions
Non-standard blockage mitigation	Reduced discontinuities and underestimation in QPE
Improved precipitation classification	Reduced false convective rain identification in bright band and reduced overestimation errors

Wang et al. 2019 JHM
 Cocks et al. 2019 JHM
 Zhang et al. 2020 JHM

Radar QPE/gauge bias ratios vs. range

14 cases of different melting layer heights across CONUS



Hanft et al. 2022 JHM (under internal review)



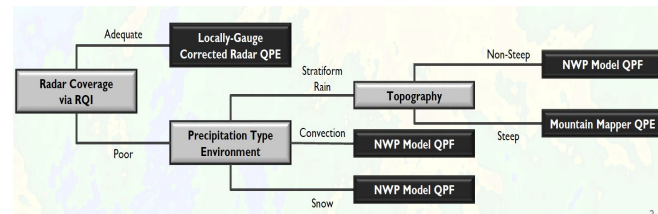
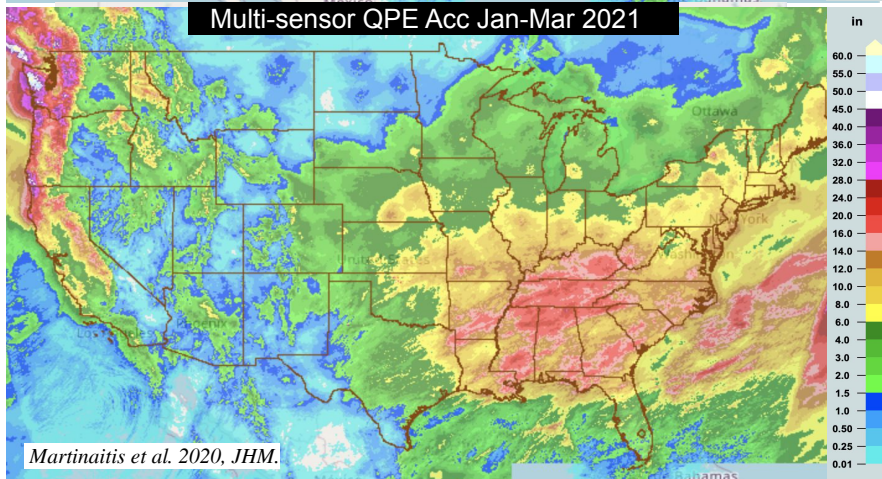
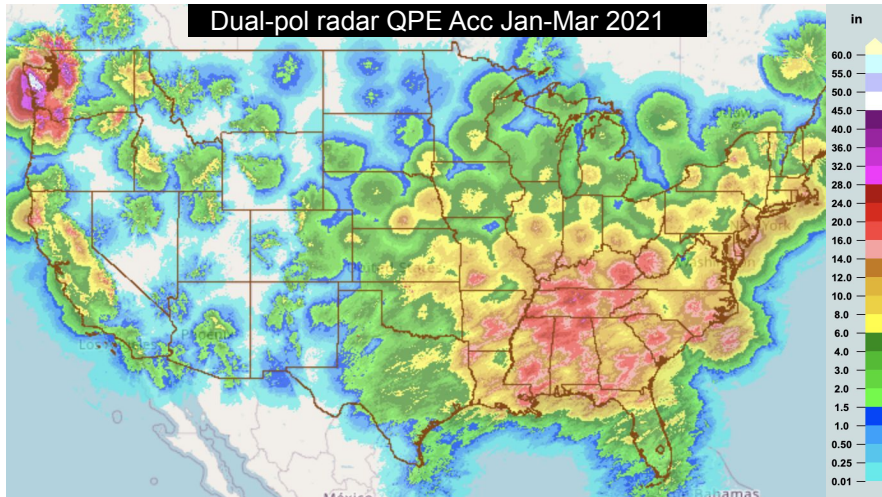


Multi-Sensor QPE

Seamlessly blend different precipitation information sources via physically-based methodology for optimal coverage and accuracy.

The blending scheme is based on the following information:

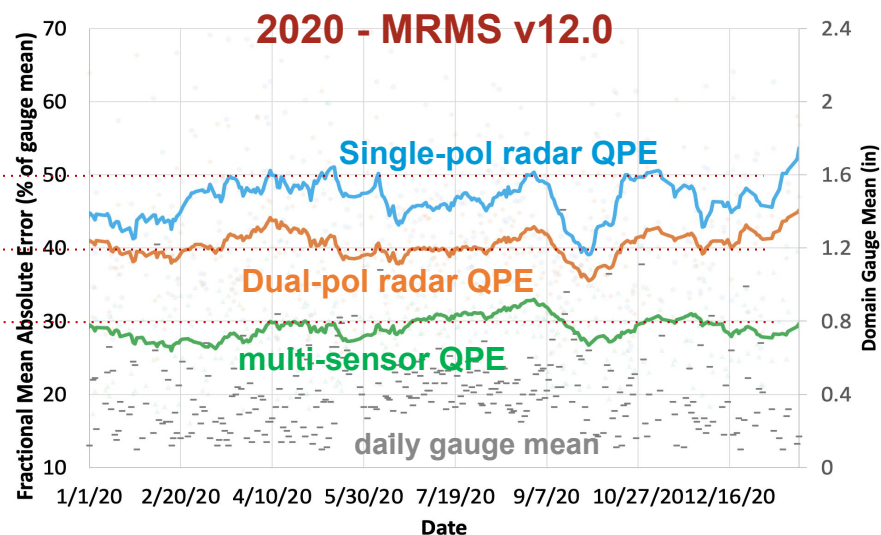
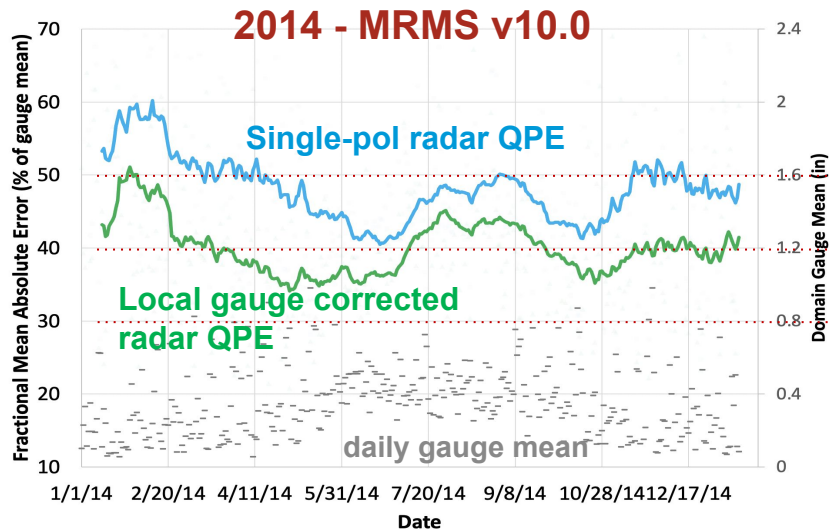
- Radar QPE Quality Index (RQI)
- Topography
- Precipitation Type
- MRMS Locally Gauge-Corrected Radar QPE
- MRMS Mountain Mapper QPE
- Model 1-hr Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPFs)



MRMS QPE: Advancements Since 2015



30-day Running Mean of Daily Fractional Mean Absolute Errors of MRMS QPEs
(with respect to CoCoRaHS Gauges over CONUS)



Error reductions:

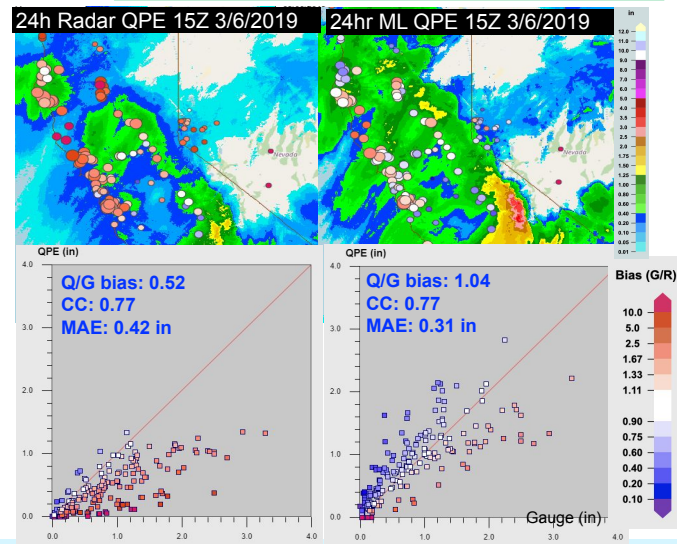
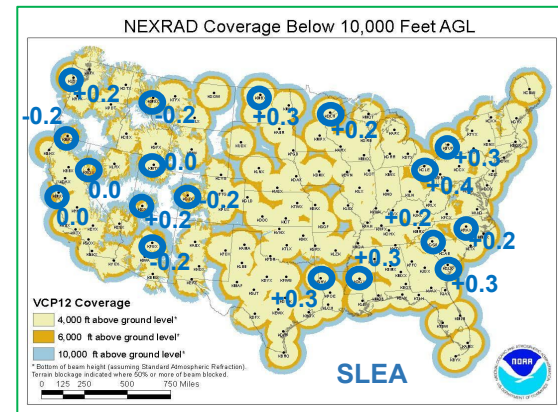
Dual-pol vs. single-pol radar QPE: ~5-10%

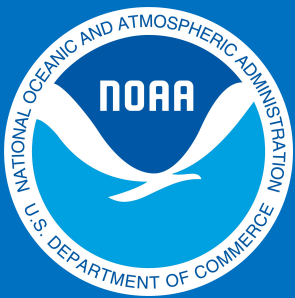
Multi-sensor vs. dual-pol radar QPE: ~10-13%



MRMS Development (2021 and beyond)

- Integration of new data and new radars, e.g.,
 - WSR-88D supplemental low elevation angle (SLEA)
 - Terminal Doppler Weather Radars
 - Radars deployed by local governments
- Divergence Shear
- Transportation safety products:
 - Surface ice accretion and snow accumulations
- Machine Learning QPE and severe weather products
- Probabilistic QPE
- Satellite QPE
- New Multisensor Precipitation Estimator for NWS River Forecast Centers

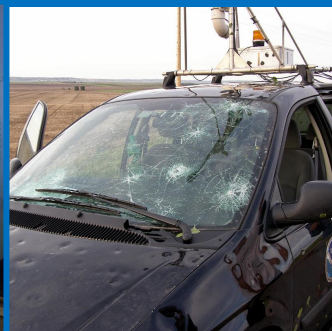
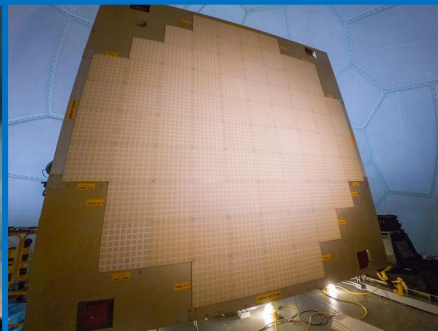




Better forecast/warning tools and techniques

MRMS Cloud Computing

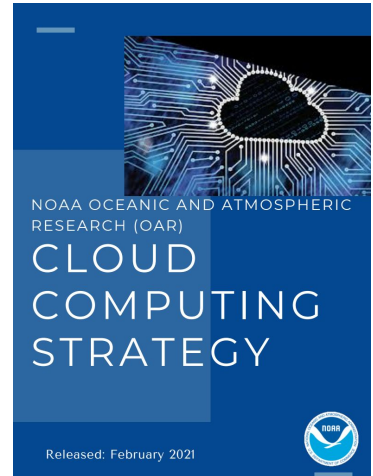
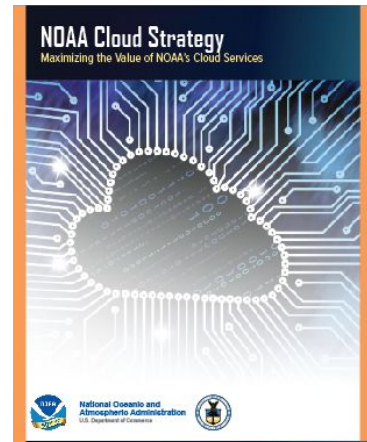
Anthony Reinhart PhD; NSSL Research Meteorologist; WRDD





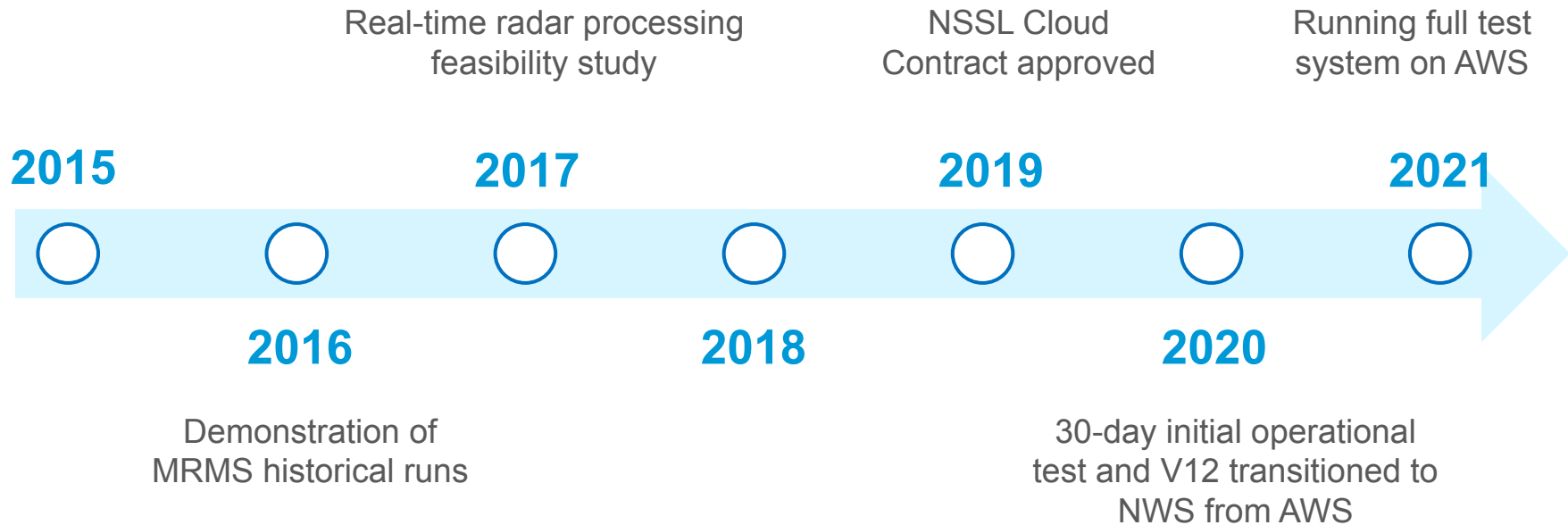
Cloud Computing at NSSL

- Leading the way in utilizing cloud computing
- Aided in developing OAR Cloud Strategy
- Scientific advances are dynamic and fast paced
- Decrease risk while increasing innovation
- Embrace transitioning R&D efforts to the cloud
 - Accelerate scientific research
 - Increase collaboration across the weather enterprise
 - Improve the R2X paradigm
- Drive down costs





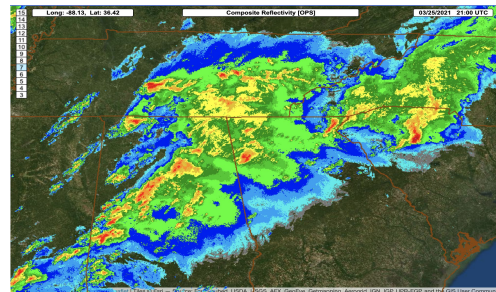
MRMS Cloud



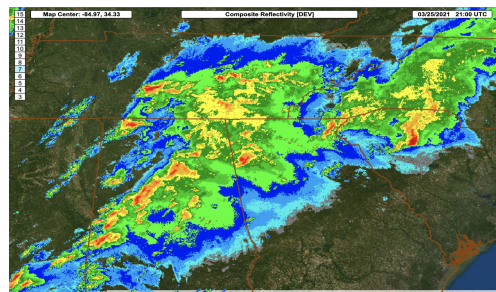


MRMS-Cloud

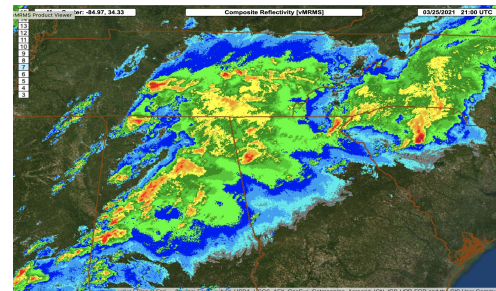
- MRMS system test run in 2020
- MRMS Development system
 - Implemented on AWS January 2021
 - Real-time and 24/7
 - Data availability and quality match both operational and on-prem hardware systems.
- V12.0 and later operational updates come from AWS as they transition to NWS



NCO OPS
(remote)



AWS DEV
(cloud)



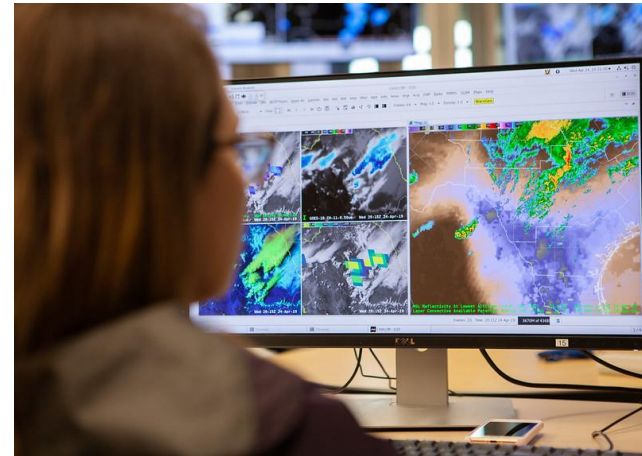
NSSL DEV
(on prem)





MRMS - Cloud accomplishments

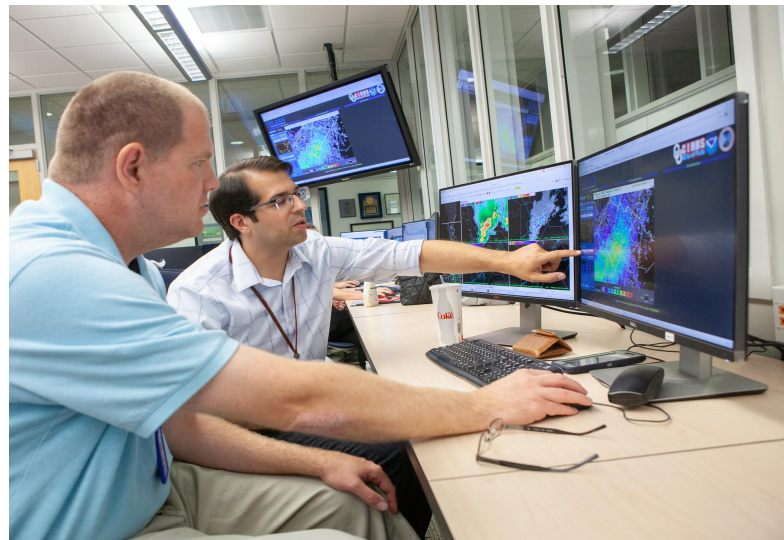
- Transitioned MRMS on to AWS
- Used in the testing and transition of MRMS updates to NWS since 2020
- Developmental version of MRMS running 24/7
 - 99% uptime since January 2021
 - 2 minor hardware failures
- Web display and research tools migrated
- Innovating how NSSL does research
- Support from NWS and OAR partners

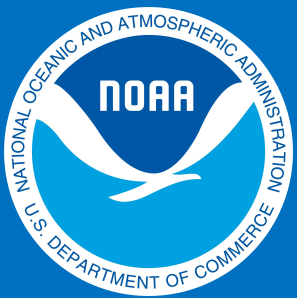




MRMS Cloud Future

- Evolutionary step in computing
- Migration of scientific tools to cloud using best practices
- Continue to reduce barriers to cloud adoption
- Harness cloud native technologies
 - Automated testing and integration of software to accelerate R2X
 - Improve implementation of AI/ML tools

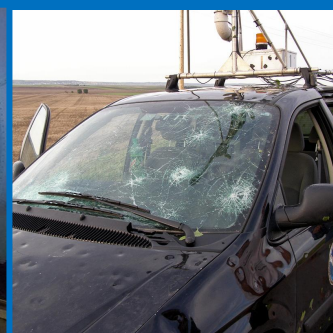
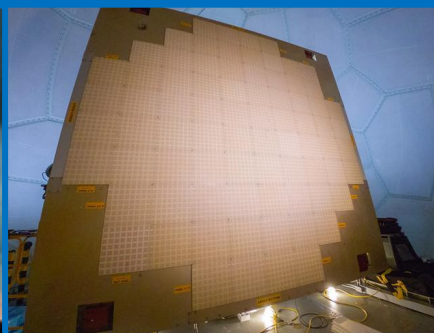




Better forecast/warning tools and techniques

MRMS Research-to-Operations Continuing Success and Evolution

Heather Grams, PhD; NSSL Research Meteorologist; WRDD





MRMS R2O Process: Where we are now

- NSSL team works directly with NWS staff on the operational implementation including on-site training and interactions (pre-covid)
- NSSL maintains a real time MRMS system processing environment nearly identical to the operational environment, in addition to a second real-time system in the AWS Public Cloud
 - Provides a straightforward and cloud-ready research-to-operations integration platform
- Collaborative transition/implementation plan with each major release
 - Schedule detailed tasks and identify roles/responsibilities
 - Communication!
 - User and stakeholder awareness and buy-in





MRMS R2O Process: Goals and Objectives

Objective: Accelerate delivery of latest science and high quality software into operational environments

Deliver the Latest Science

- Integrate and fully leverage all existing and emerging observing systems, datasets, and technology to optimize MRMS performance

Deliver High-Quality Software

- Work with NWS to plan and schedule R2O release cycles
- Embrace proven industry best practices for software development
- Long-term planning and coordination with operational partners



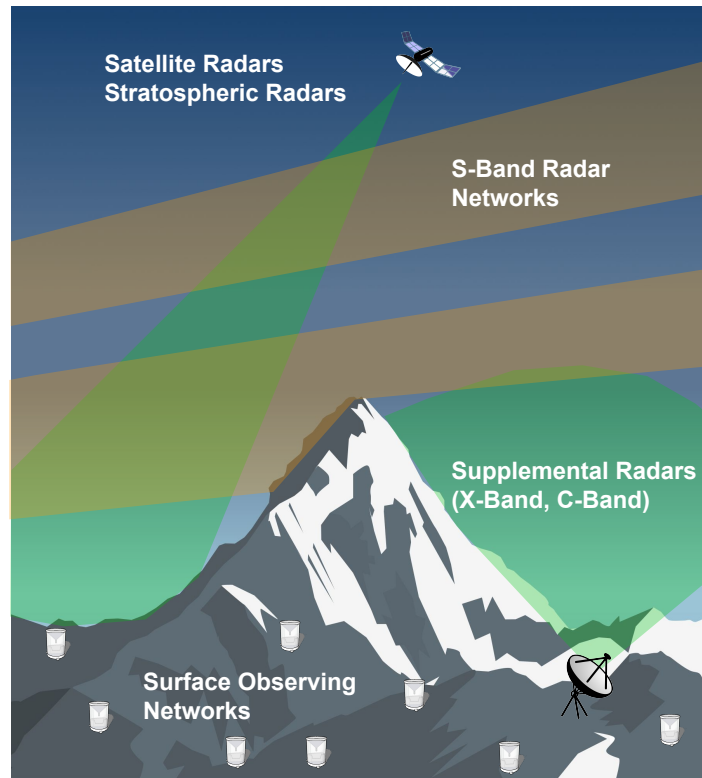


MRMS as an R2O Platform for new Observations



MRMS is ideally positioned to serve as the R2O gateway for new and emerging observing systems.

- Initial successes demonstrated with Canadian radar networks and supplemental radars
- Established processes for ingest, quality control, and optimized merging of widely varying data sources
- Established pathway to model data assimilation and operational agencies



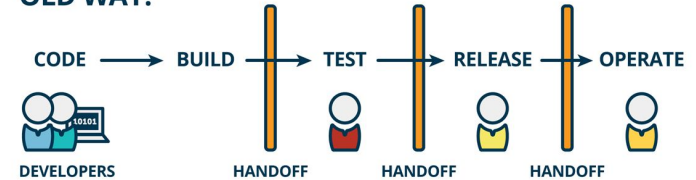


What are DevOps and DevSecOps?

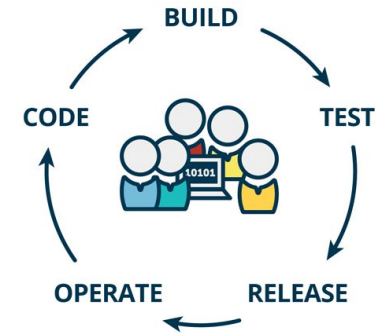
DevOps

“Development and Operations”. Shared collaborative model for system with both sides working continuously to implement improvements. Testing occurs at all phases.

OLD WAY:



NEW WAY:



DevSecOps

“DevSecOps stands for Development, Security, and Operations. It's an approach to culture, automation, and platform design that integrates security as a shared responsibility throughout the entire IT lifecycle.” - RedHat.com

Source: https://tech.gsa.gov/guides/what_is_devops/





The MRMS R2O Lifecycle: Where we are going



Concept Planning

Development

Implementation

Operations and Maintenance

Close coordination with operational stakeholders.

Centralize and standardize software development across all teams

Asynchronous implementation of small updates based on criticality

Frequent, small updates rather than multi-year release cycles

Validating user requirements and needs for updates before development phase

Culture shift for developers to “DevOps”

Paradigm shift for testing/QA to “DevOps”

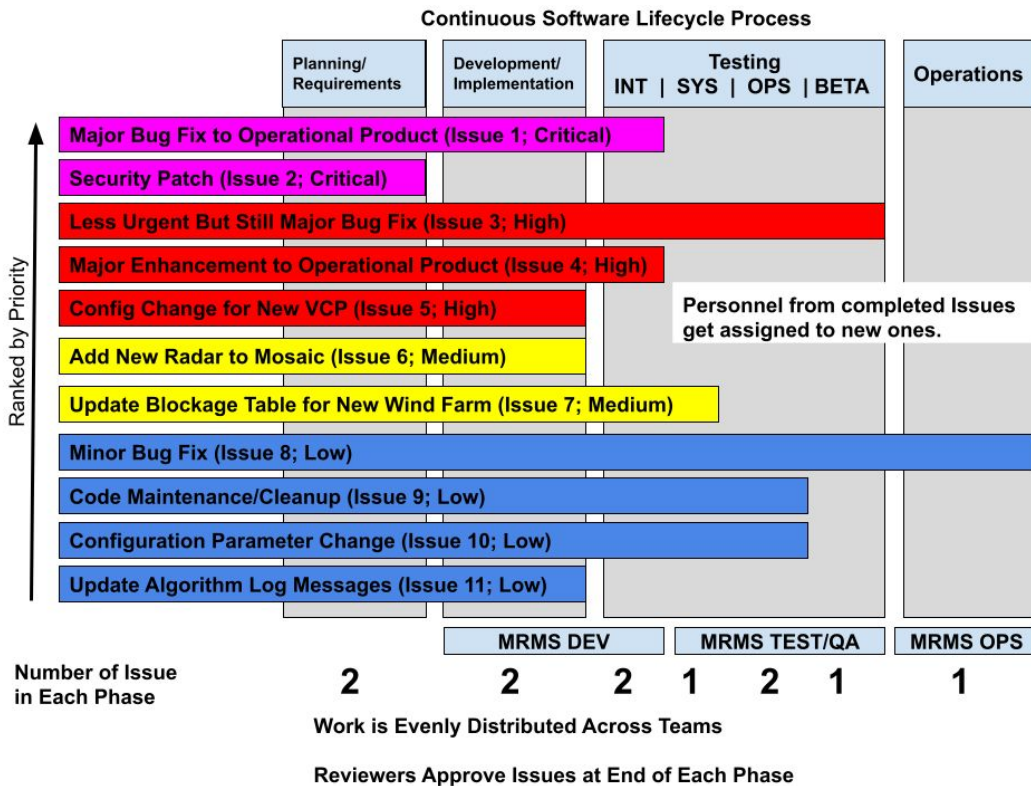
Established process for user feedback, which informs concept planning phase

All development in cloud environment

All testing/validation in cloud environment



Concept for Accelerating Transitions to Operations



Critical Updates can be moved to operations quickly without waiting for a scheduled major release

Status and progress of each update is documented and tracked

List and timeline of changes are transparent to all stakeholders



R2O Accomplishment(s)

MRMS code has been on-boarded to NWS directly from AWS cloud development system for all releases since Version 12.

MRMS development system has been running in real-time on AWS 24/7 since January 2021 with high availability and reliability.

Funding and support from NOAA to build out cloud-based development environment and change management processes.





The MRMS Development and R2O Teams at NSSL

For MRMS questions: mrms@noaa.gov

For More Information: <https://mrms.nssl.noaa.gov/>

MRMS Program Manager: Kenneth Howard (kenneth.howard@noaa.gov)

Precip and Hydro Teams -- Jian Zhang, JJ Gourley, Heather Grams, Race Clark, Steve Martinaitis, Steve Cocks, Lin Tang, Micheal Simpson, Andrew Osborne, Humberto Vergara-Arrieta, Wolfgang Hanft, Jackson Anthony

Severe Weather Teams -- Travis Smith, Anthony Reinhart, Kristin Calhoun, Kiel Ortega, Thea Sandmael, Brandon Smith, Jake Segall, Adrian Campbell, Rebecca Steeves, Claire Satrio

Transportation Team -- Heather Reeves, Andrew Rosenow, Shawn Handler, Daniel Tripp, Dana Tobin

Applied Computing Team -- Jeff Brogden, Karen Cooper, Carrie Langston, Robert Toomey, Brian Kaney, Mike Taylor, Ami Arthur, Nathaniel Indik, Noah LaFon, Brent Kraninger

