



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

West Texas LMA

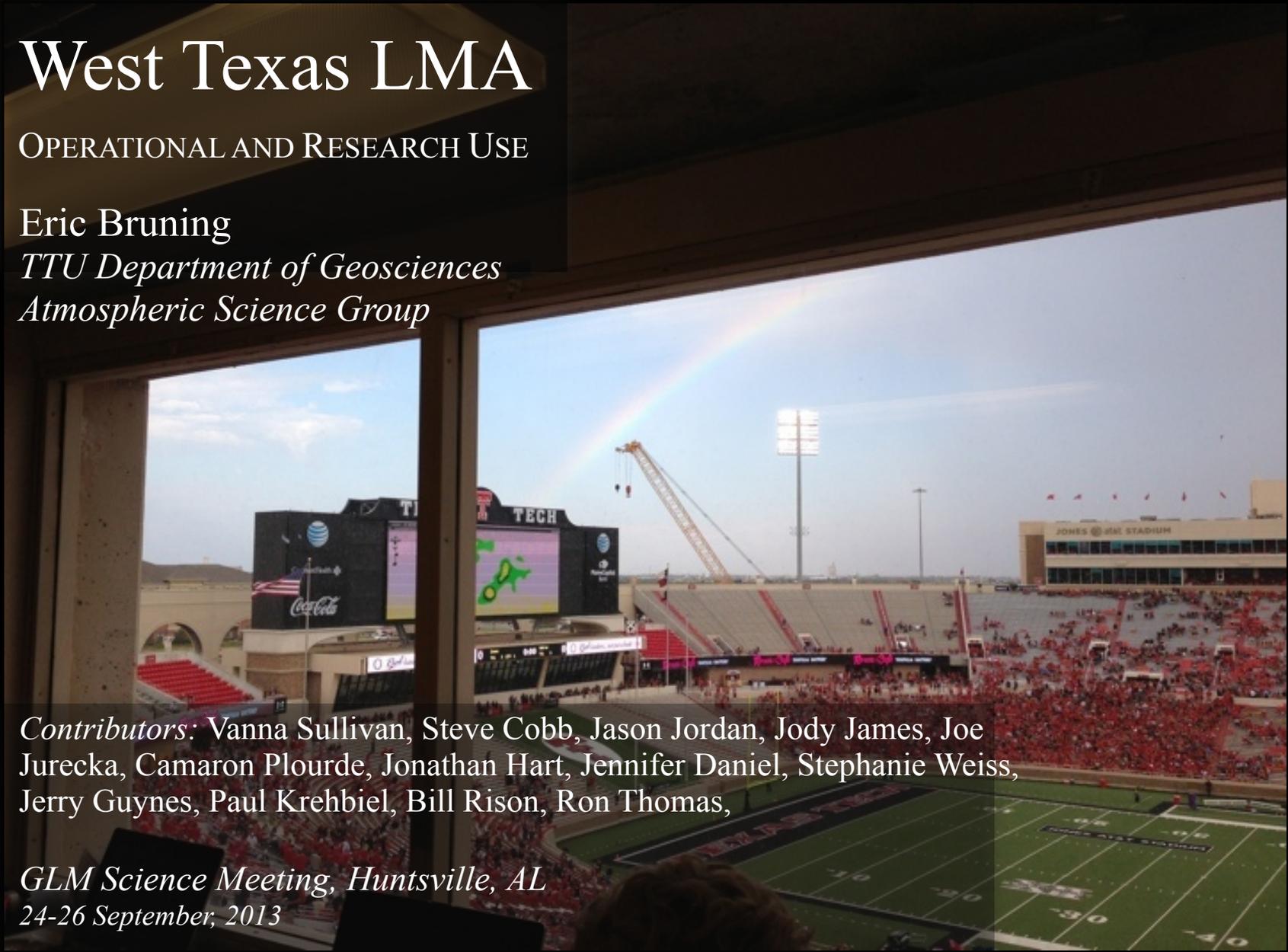
OPERATIONAL AND RESEARCH USE

Eric Bruning

*TTU Department of Geosciences
Atmospheric Science Group*

Contributors: Vanna Sullivan, Steve Cobb, Jason Jordan, Jody James, Joe Jurecka, Camaron Plourde, Jonathan Hart, Jennifer Daniel, Stephanie Weiss, Jerry Guynes, Paul Krehbiel, Bill Rison, Ron Thomas,

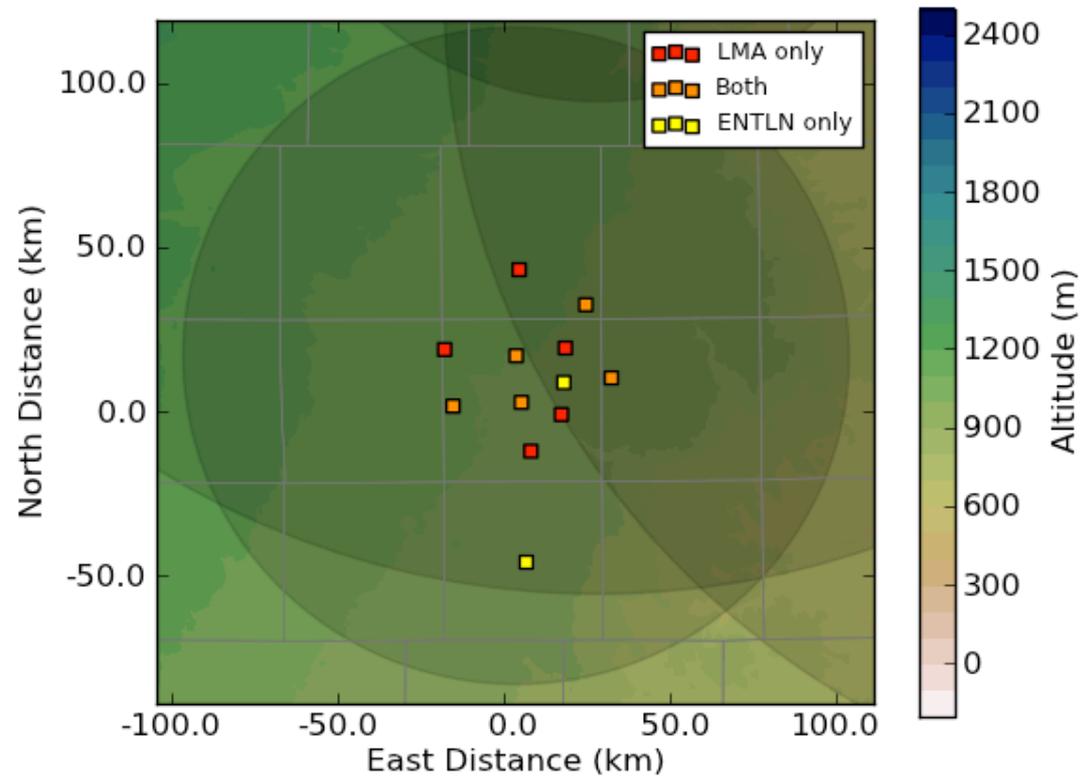
*GLM Science Meeting, Huntsville, AL
24-26 September, 2013*



WEST TEXAS LMA



10 stations
(red, orange squares)



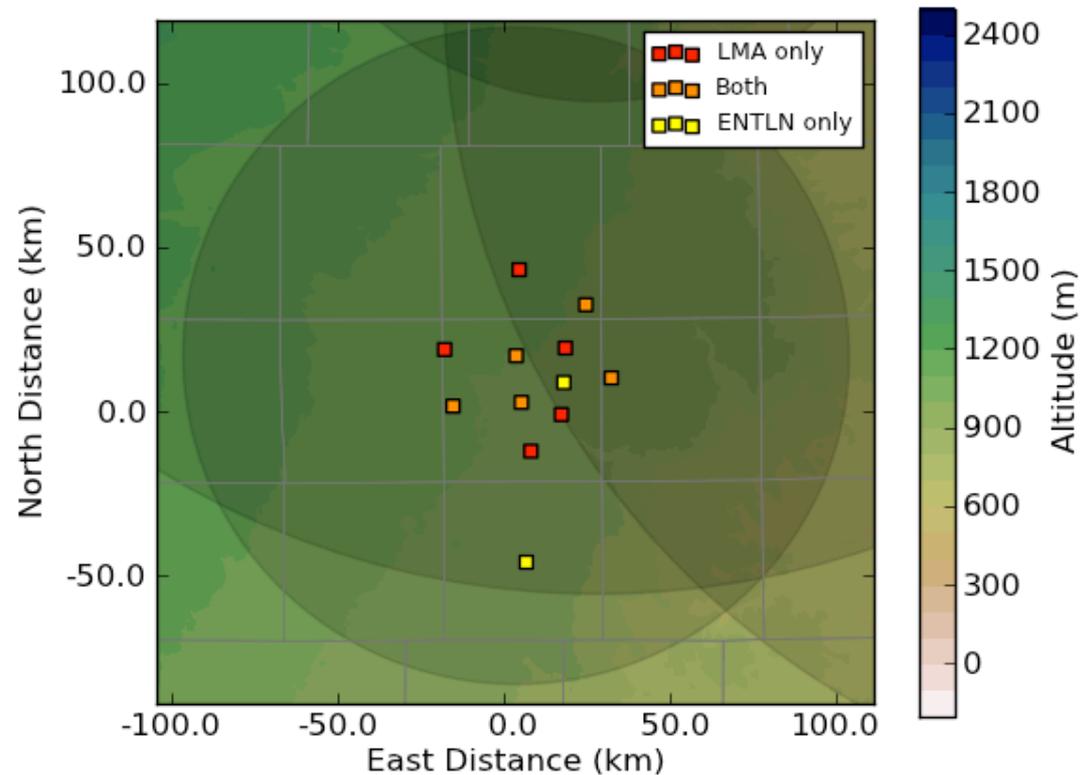


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Real-time data (LDM, NMT LiveLMA) to

NWS LUB (and nearby offices), NOAA HWT, NASA SPoRT



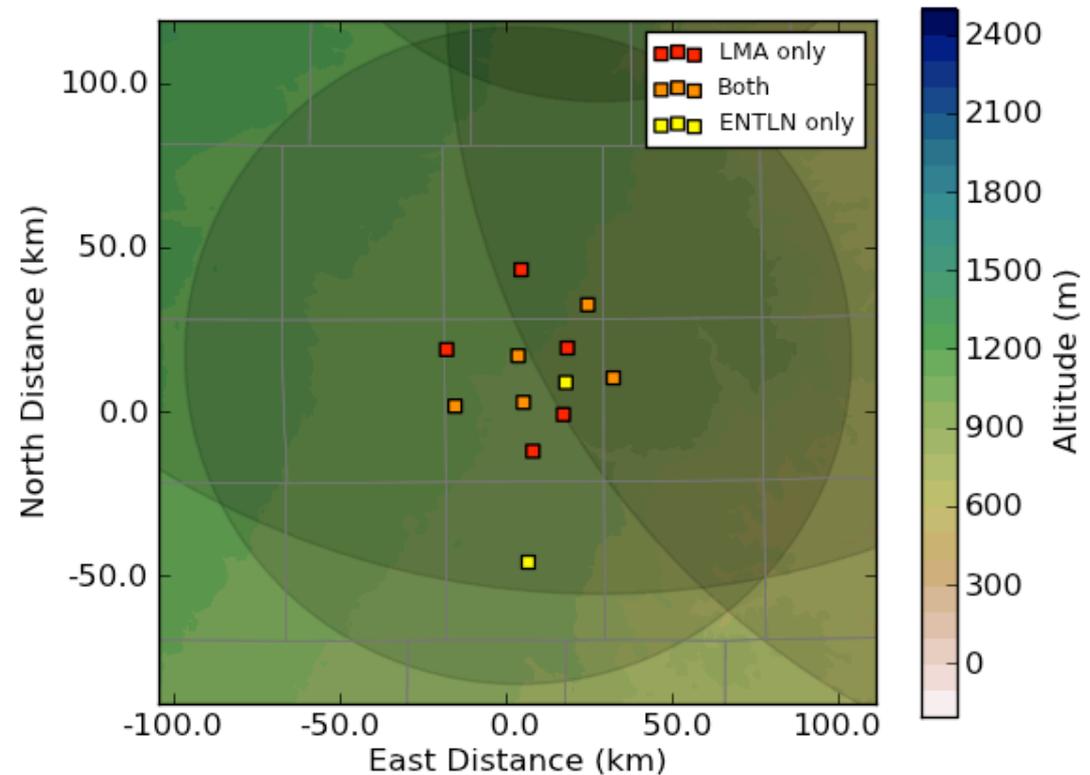
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**Upgrades during
Summer 2013**





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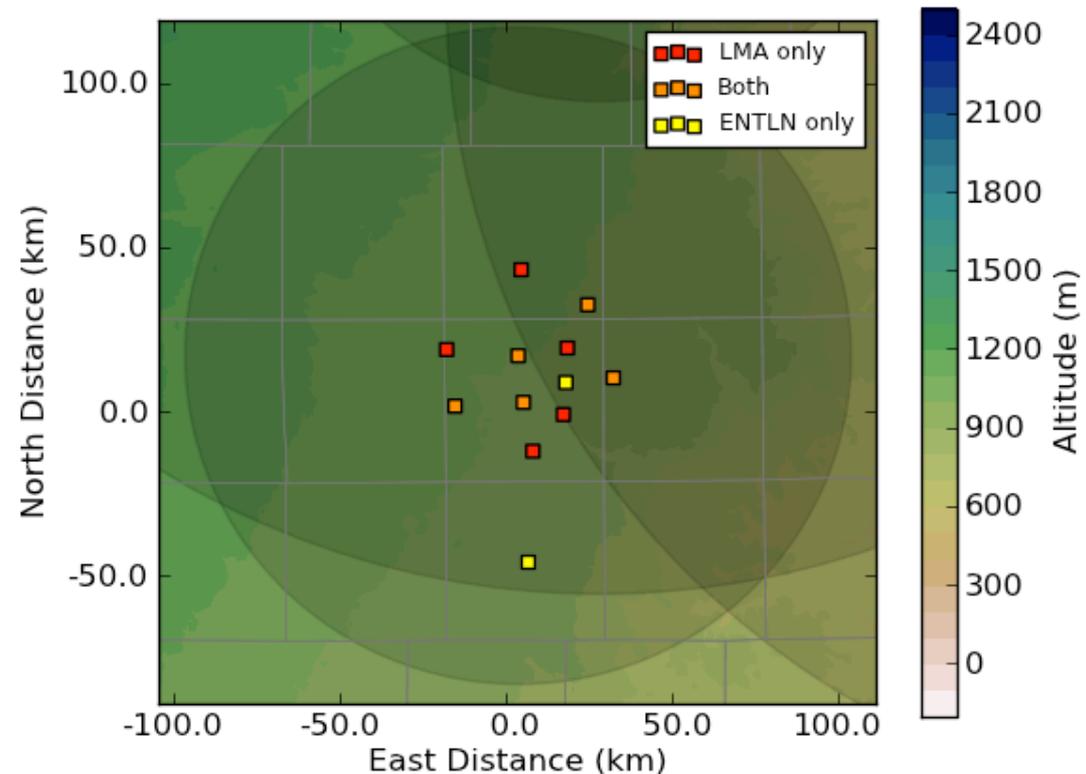
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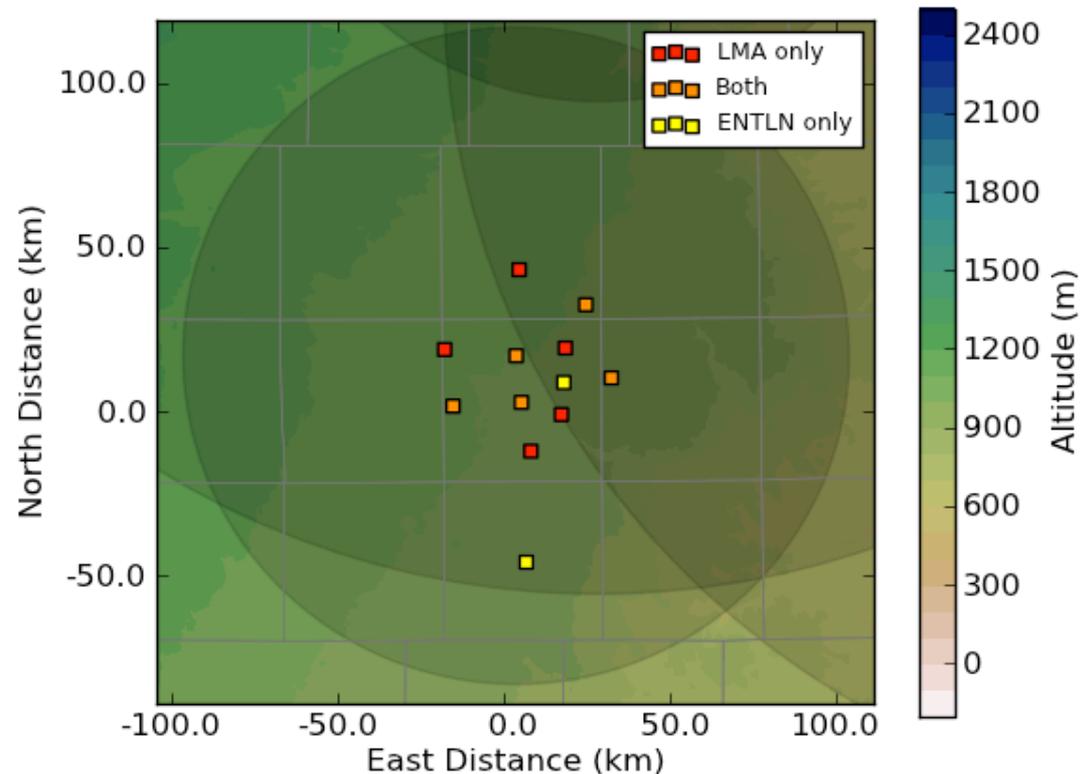
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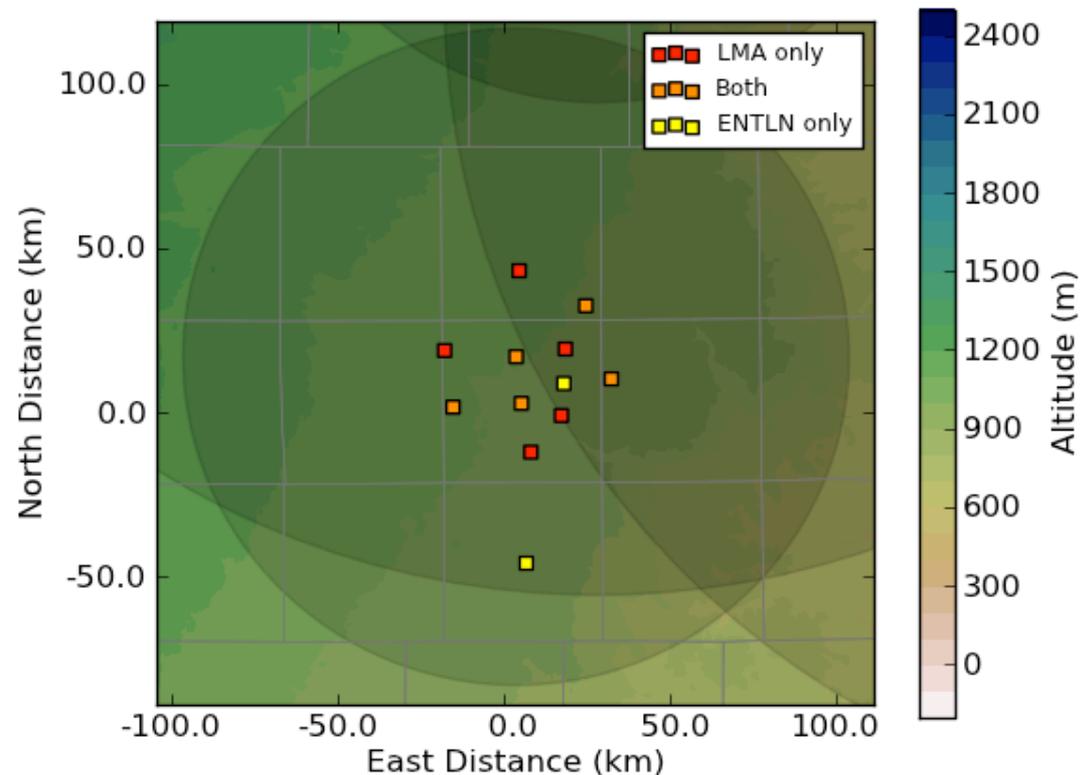
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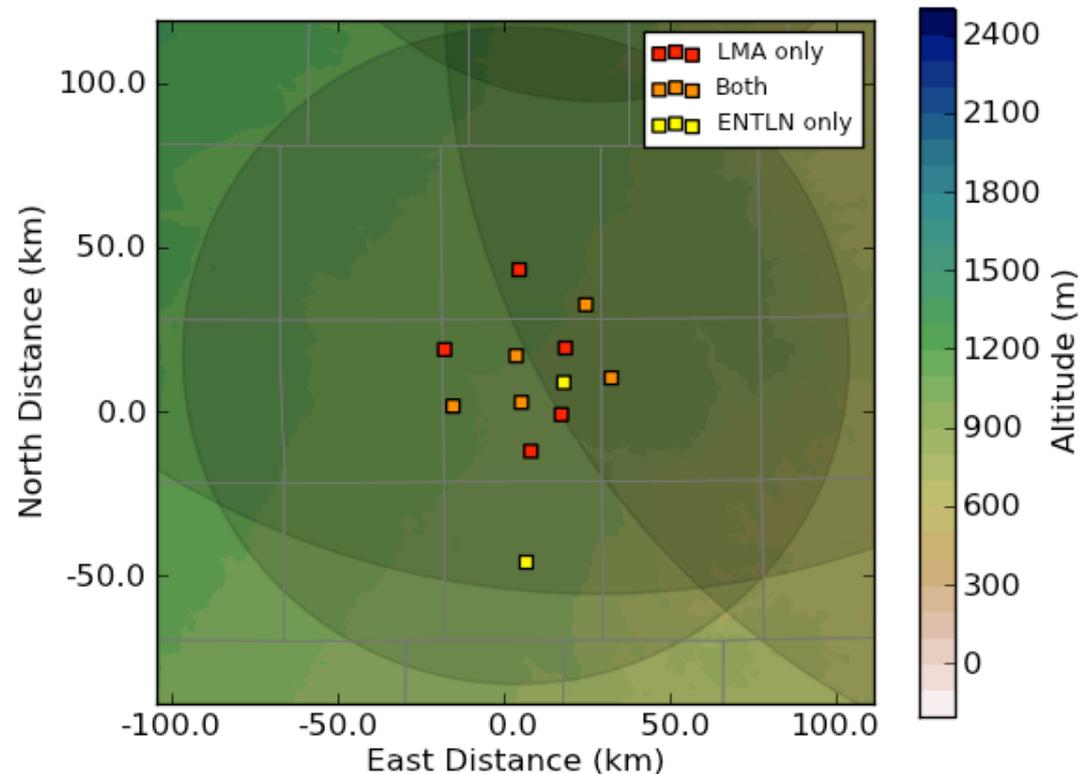
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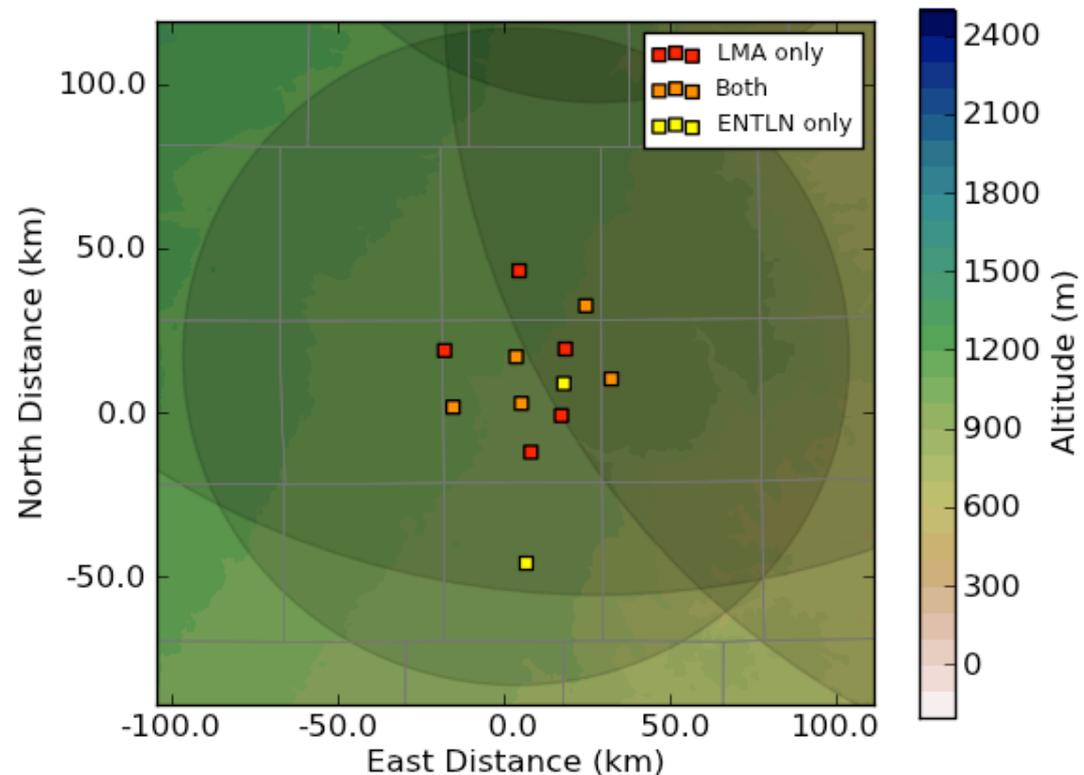
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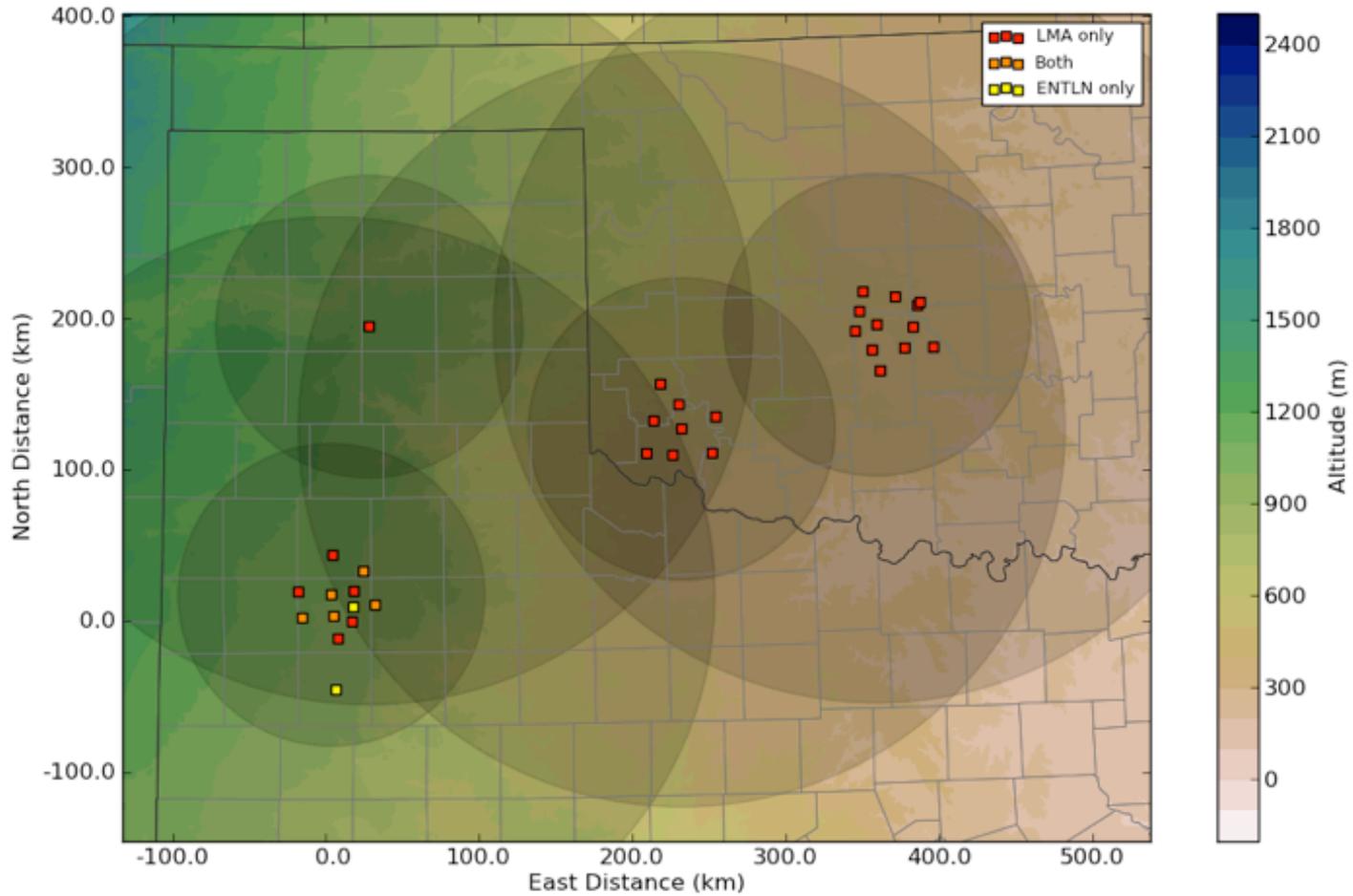
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 - 6 more to go
- Should be useful for detailed validation studies, especially with broadband waveform data



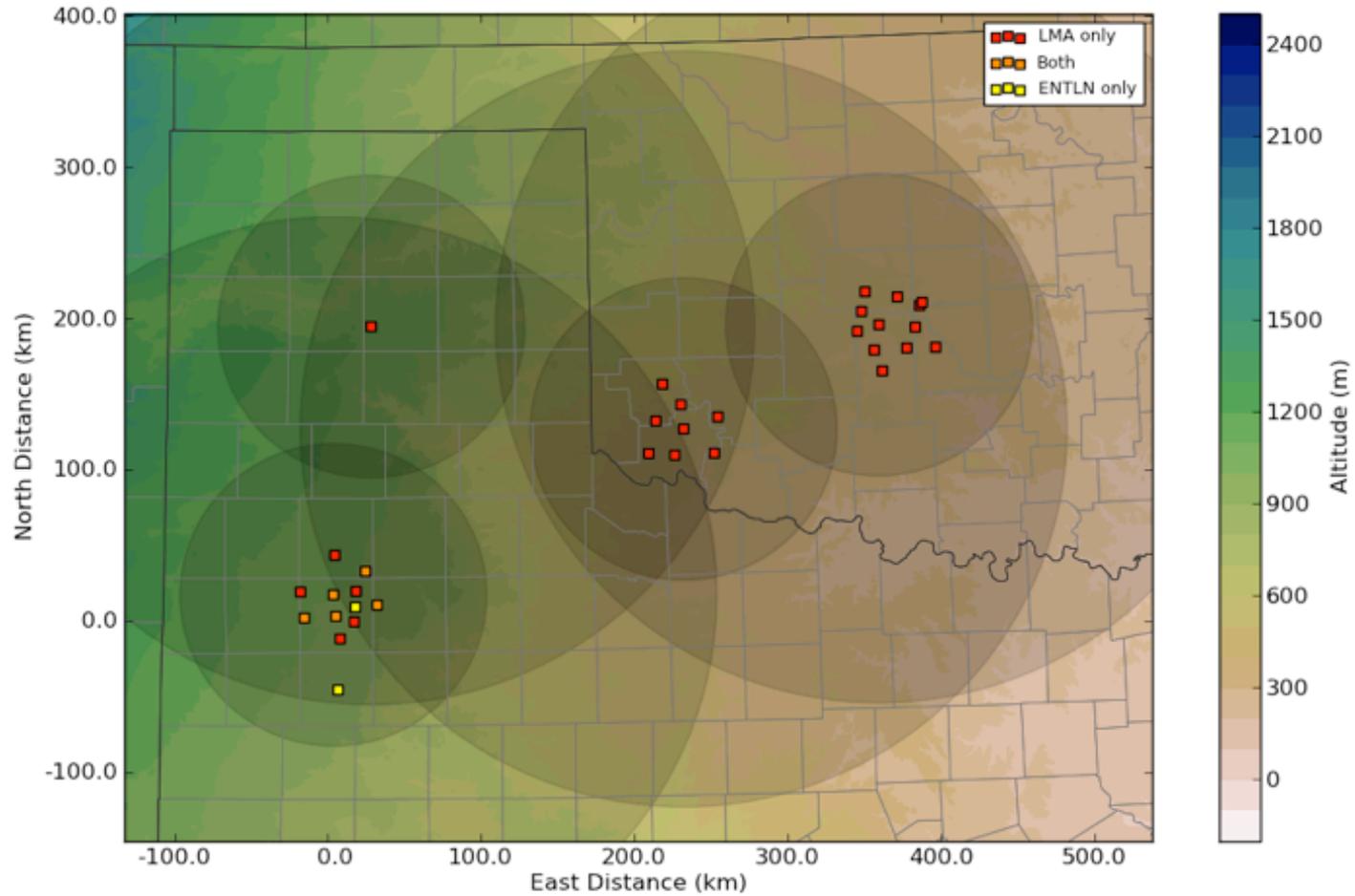
WEST TEXAS LMA: REGIONAL LINKS



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**Overlaps with
OKLMA coverage**

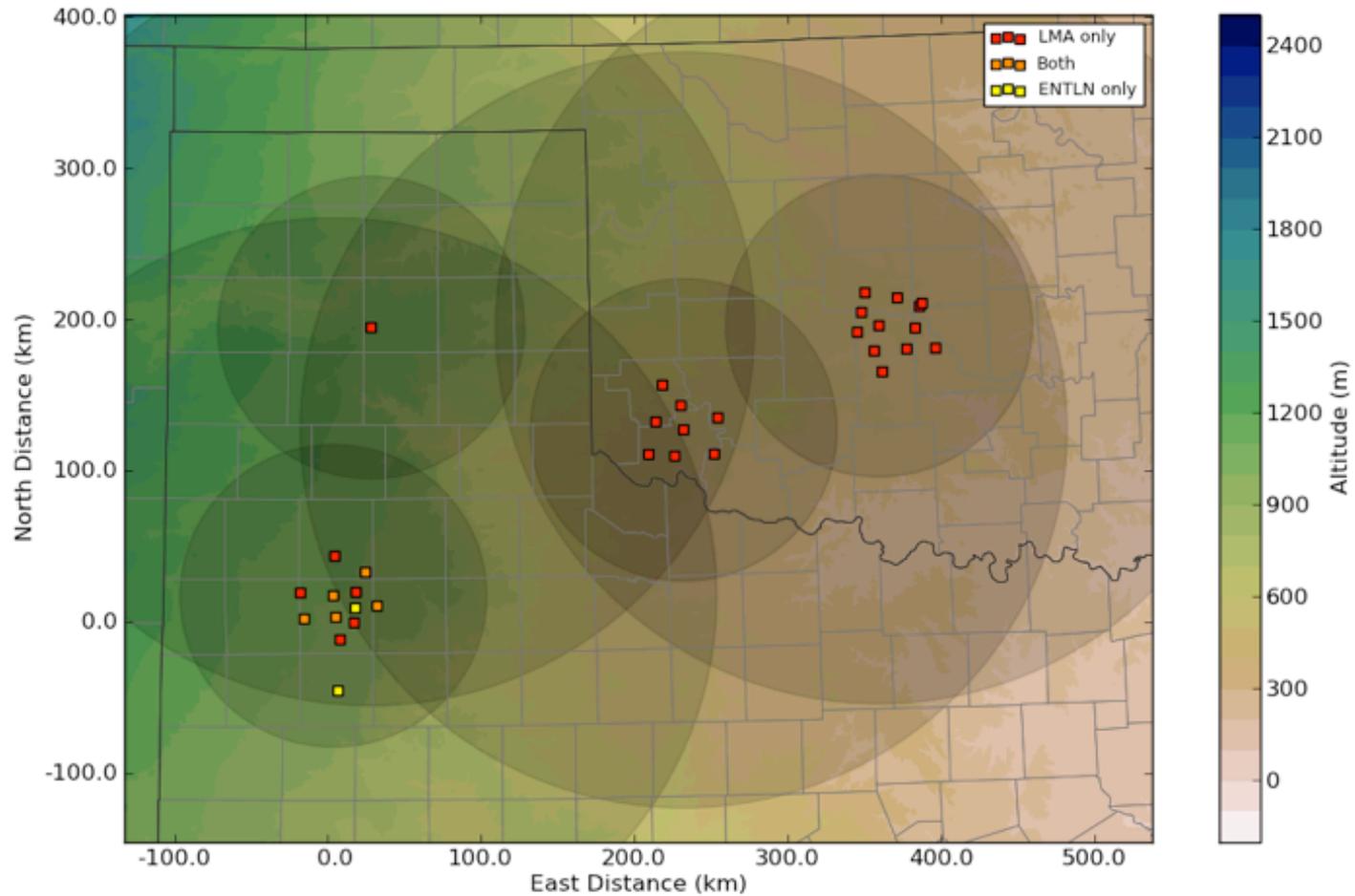


WEST TEXAS LMA: REGIONAL LINKS



**Overlaps with
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**New network
near Amarillo,
operated by Pantex**



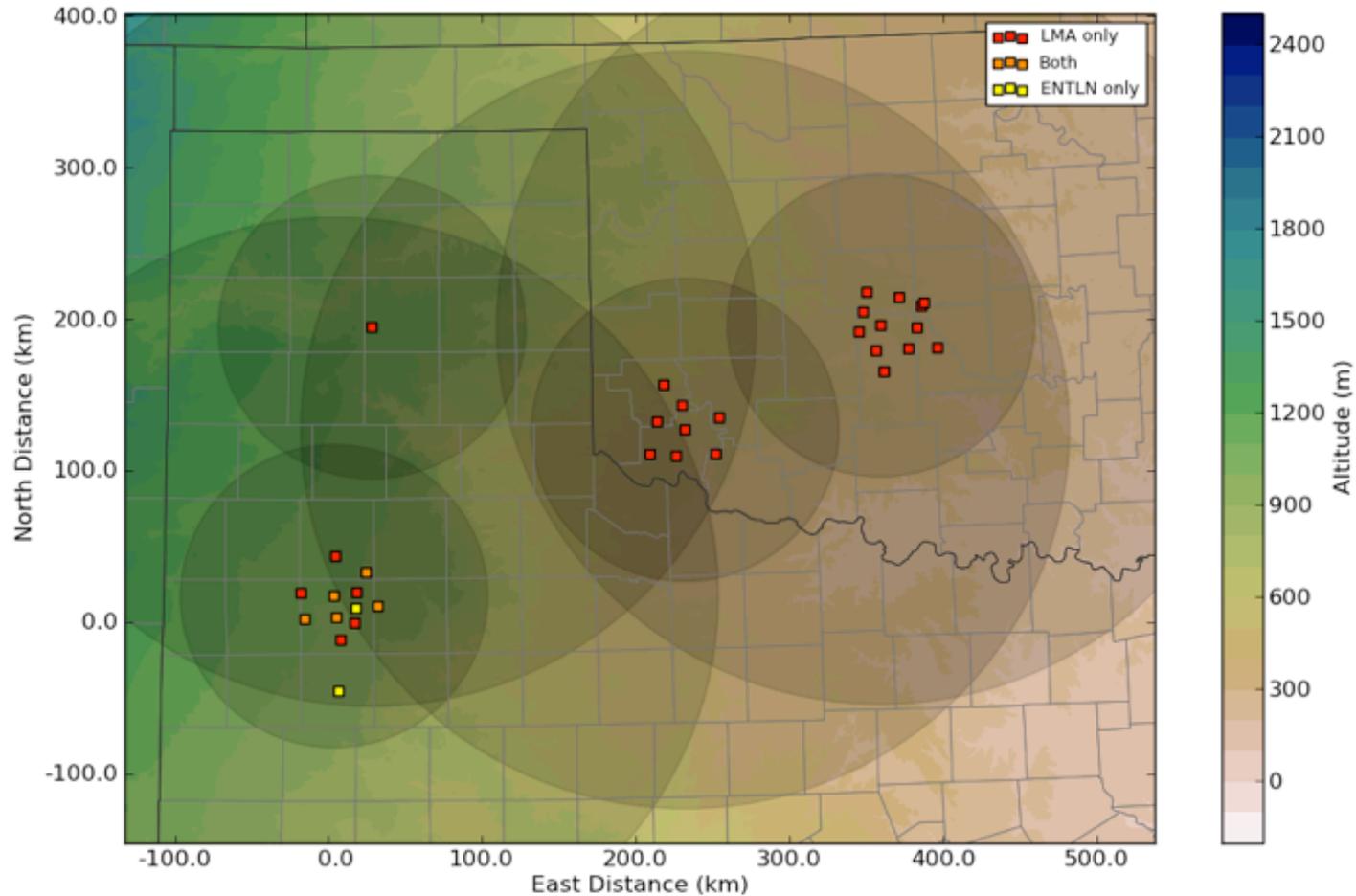
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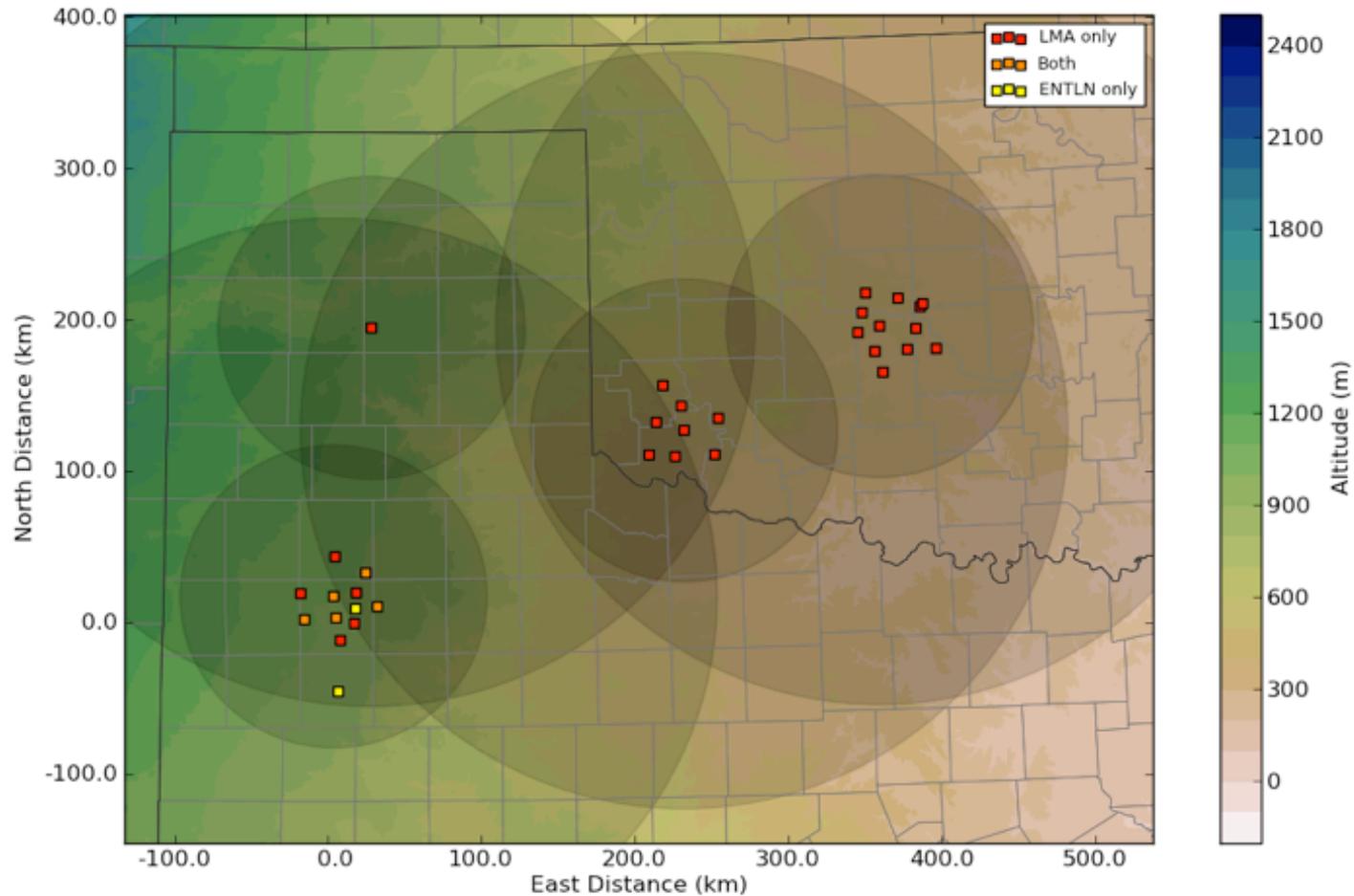
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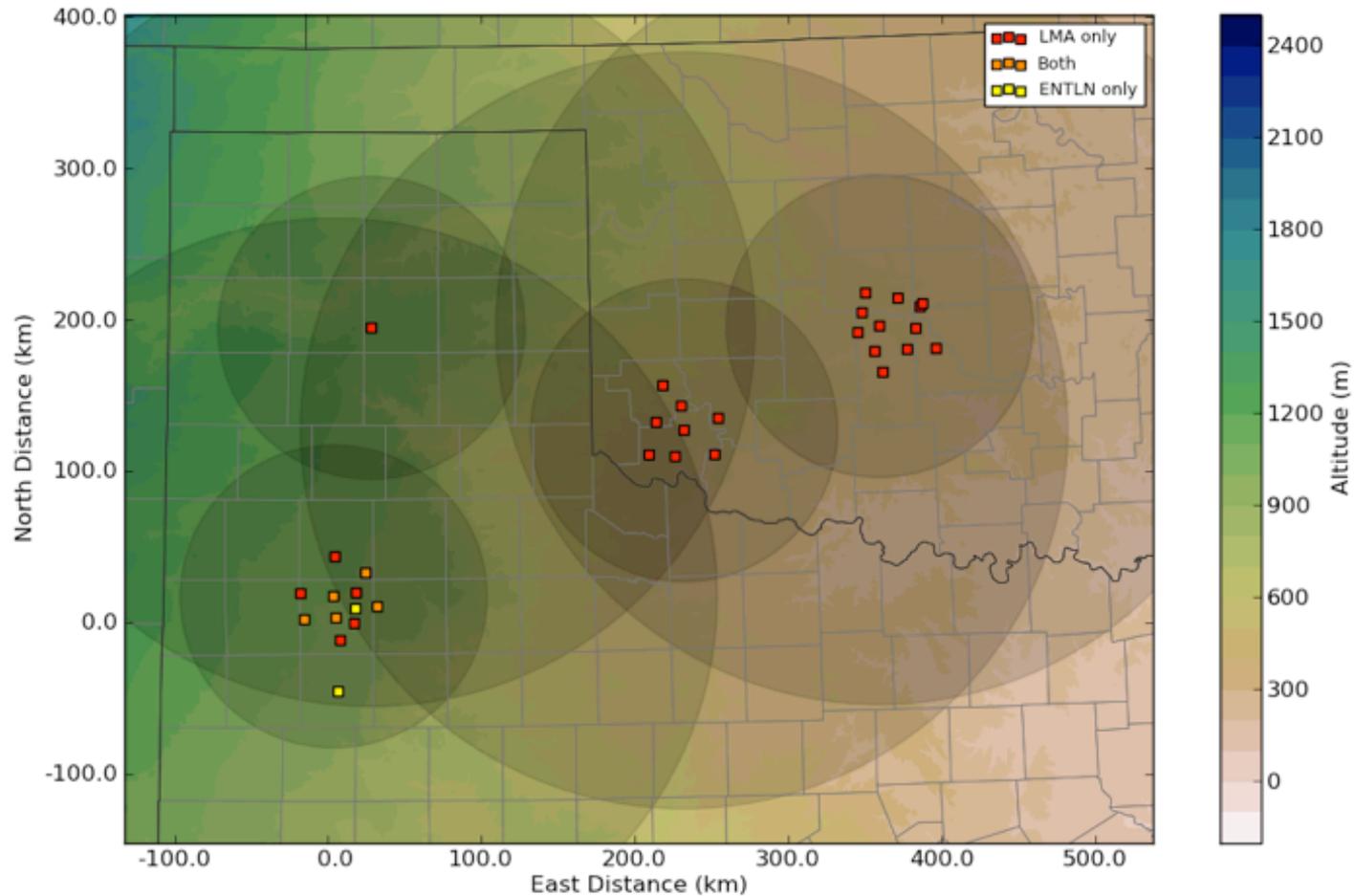
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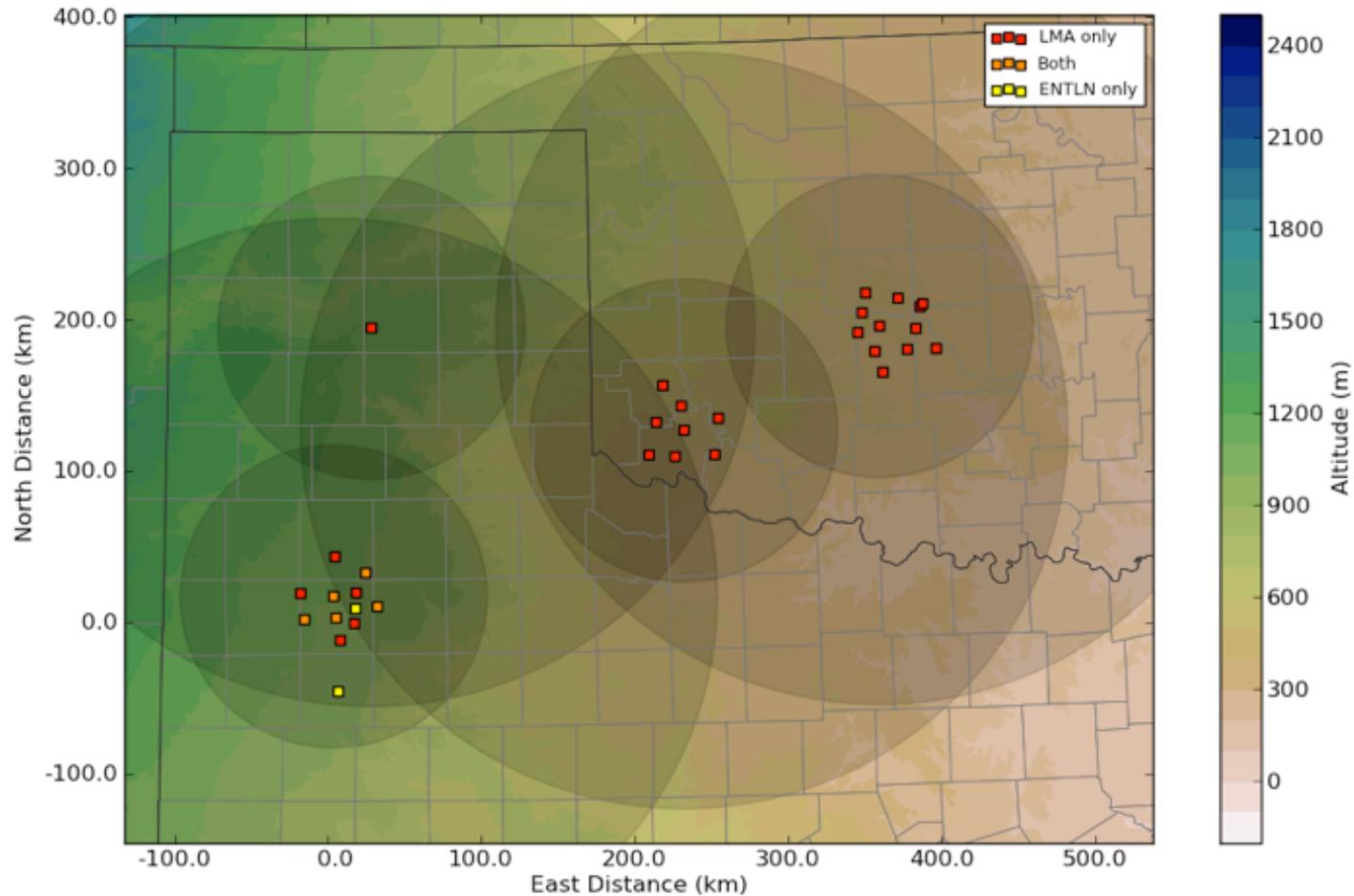
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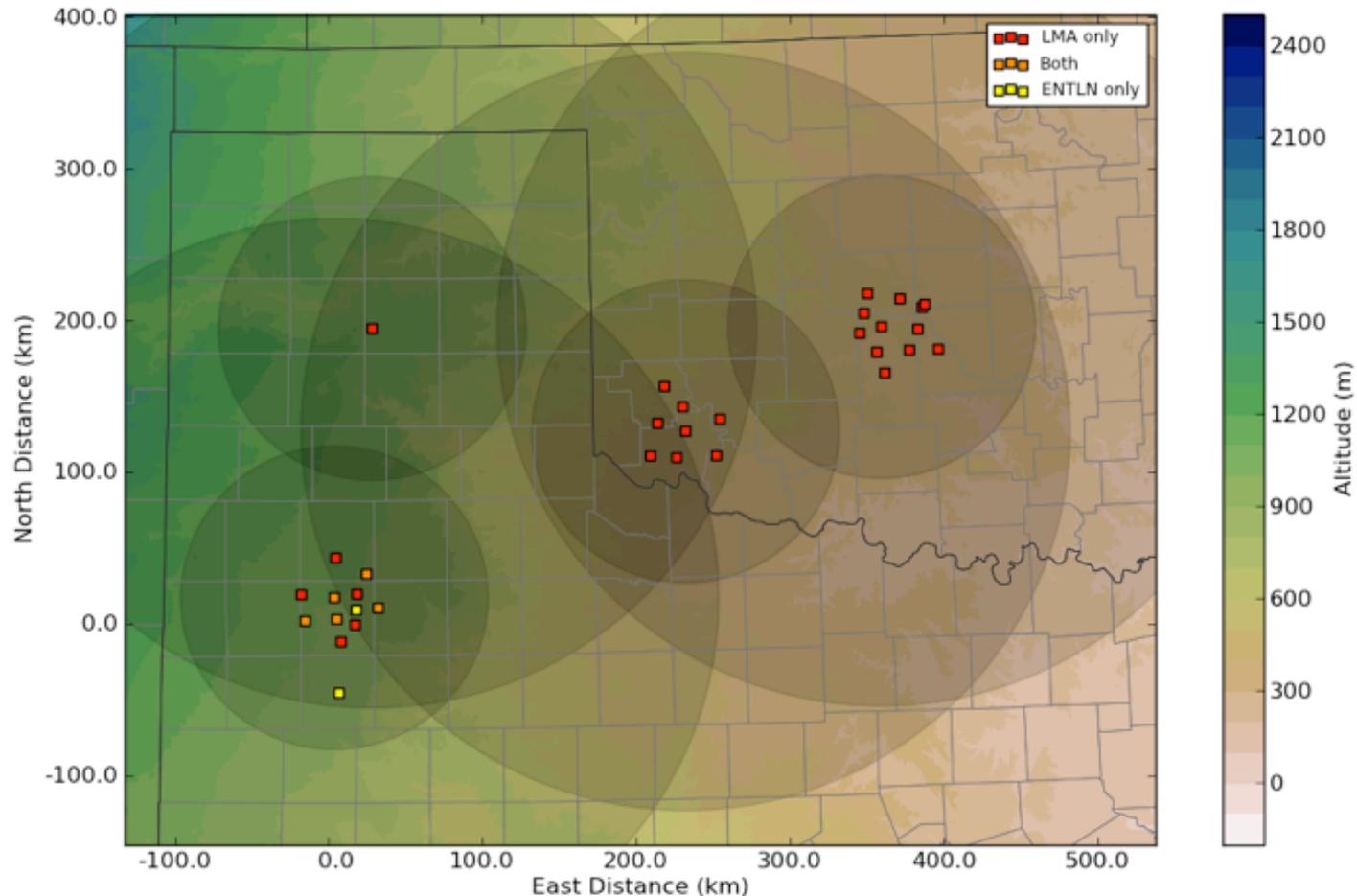


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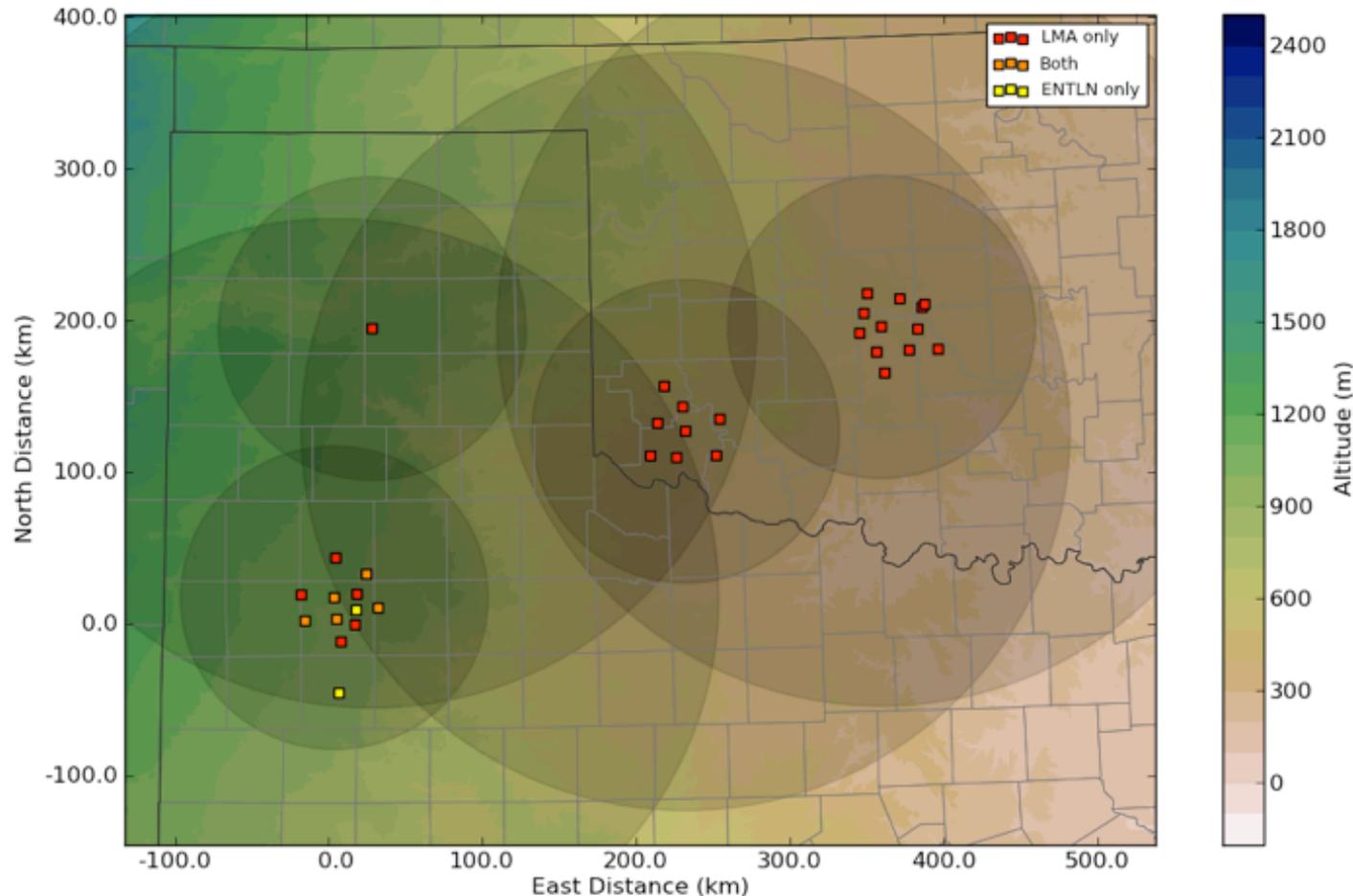
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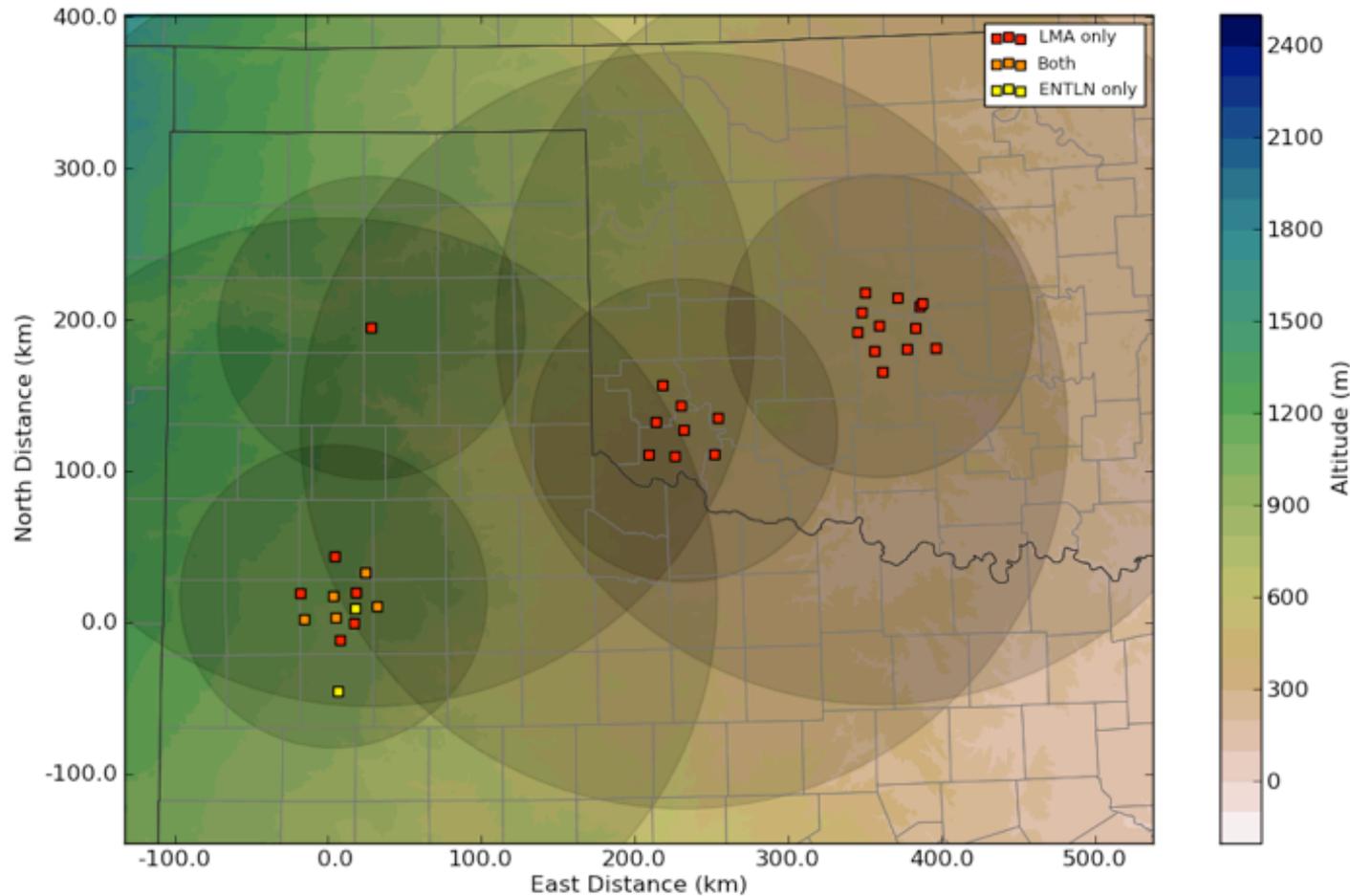
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- LASA
- Duke Univ. sprite camera; LF/CMC



LUBBOCK FORECAST OFFICE INTERACTION



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 - *Decision support remains a major use of WTLMA data*

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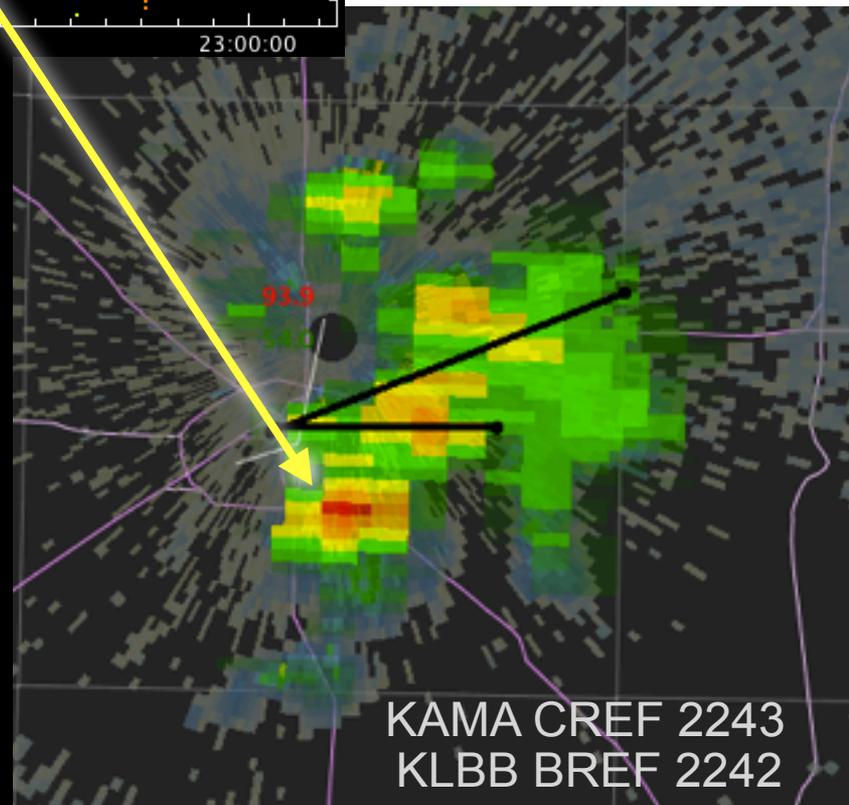
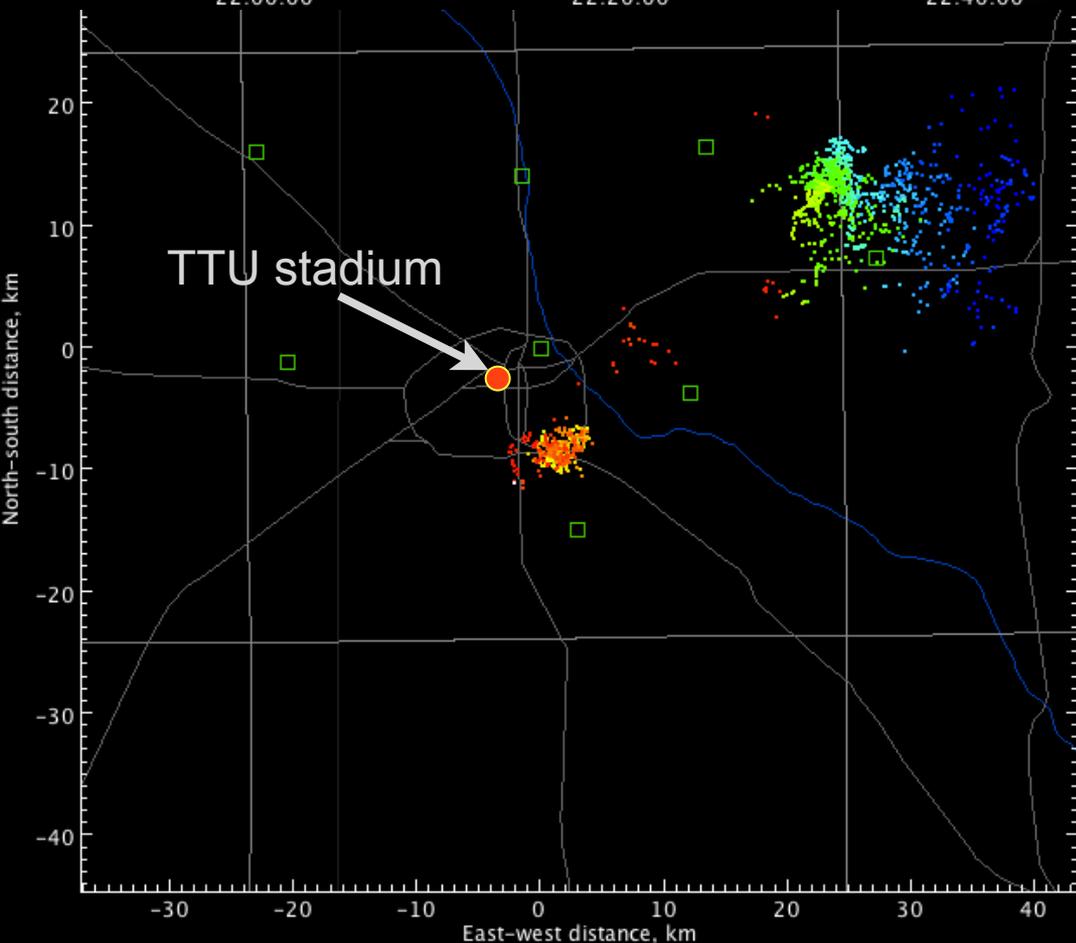
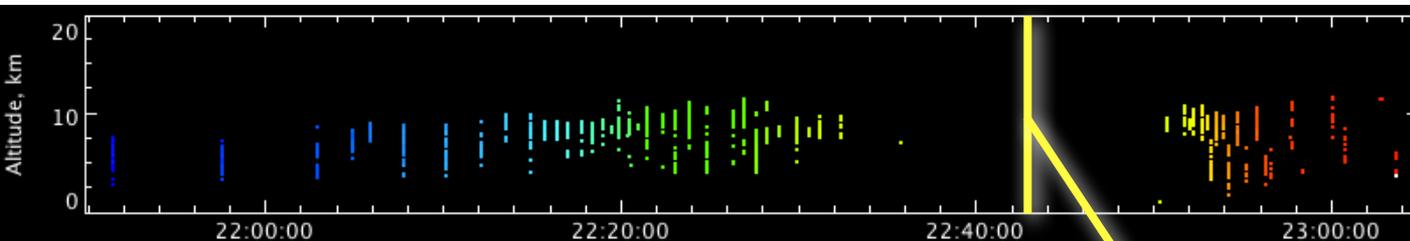
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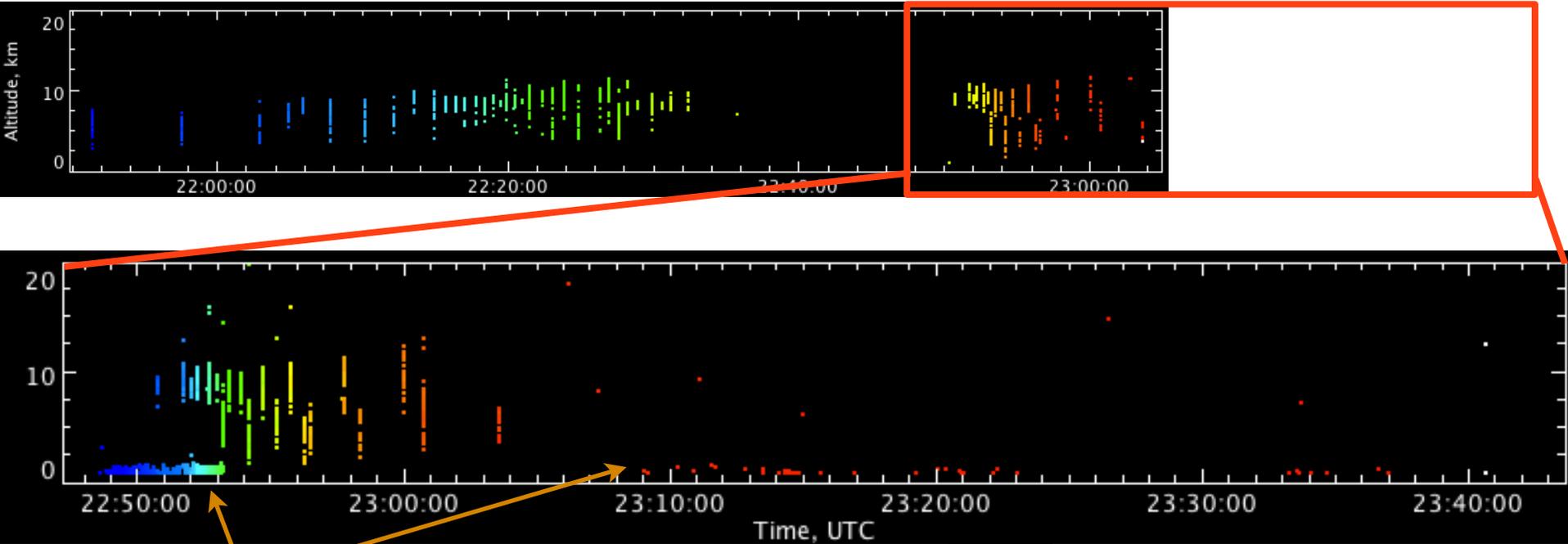
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- Knowledge (from forecast, lightning, and radar) of storm mode and its typical flashing pattern gave high confidence in imminent ground strikes within action radius upon the first flash.

OPERATIONAL SUCCESS: TTU ATHLETICS



Total lightning gave 3 min lead
time on first low-level flash (~CG)

BENEFIT OF SENSITIVITY UPGRADE: DISCHARGES FROM TALL TOWER IN SE LUBBOCK



Tower discharges:
about -10 dBm

Temporarily end
with the first
low-level flash

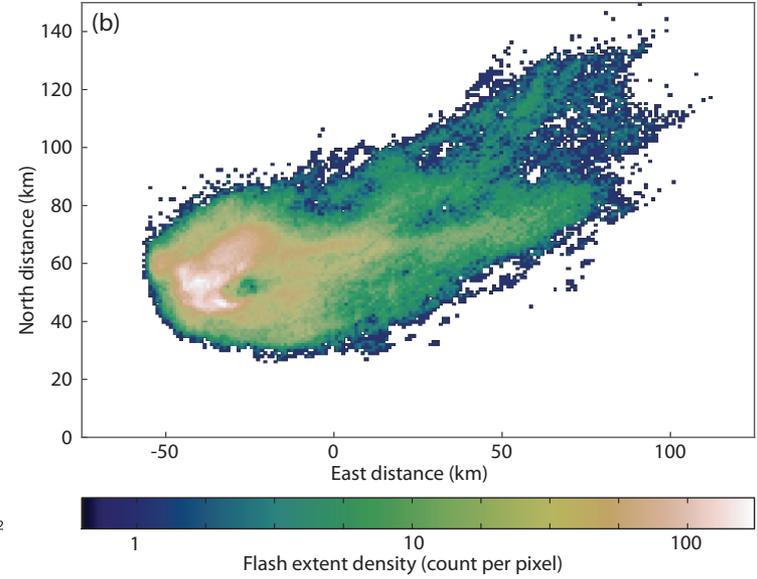
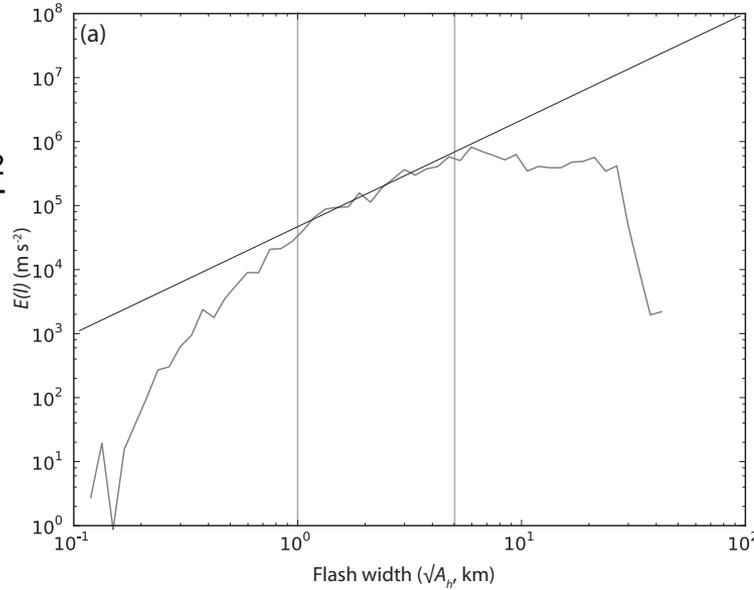


Scattered tower sources
continued ~30 min after
last flash, ending as
anvil overhead moved
away and/or charge
overhead dissipated

ENERGETIC SCALING IN THE FLASH SIZE SPECTRUM: RELEVANT QUANTITIES FOR TOTAL LIGHTNING PRODUCTS

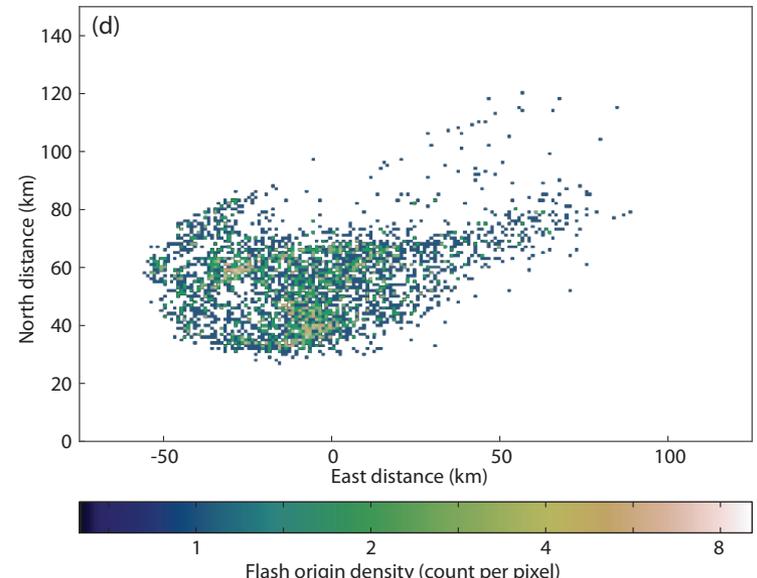
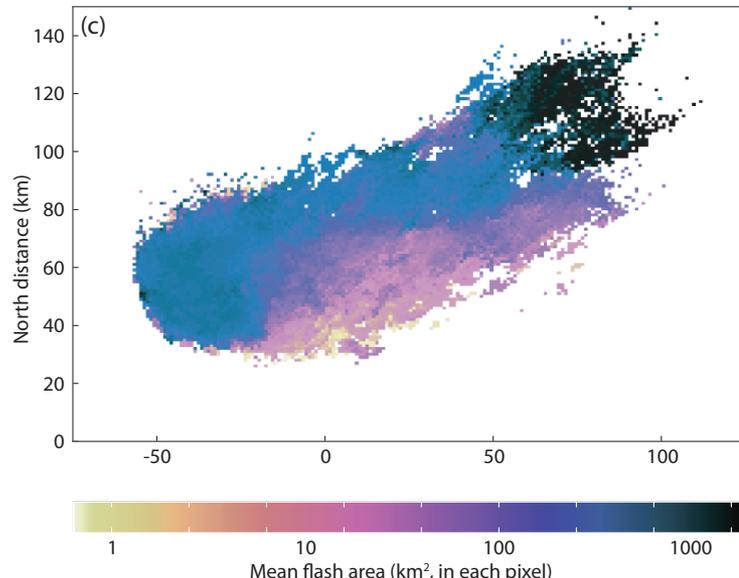


$\frac{\text{area} * \text{rate}^2}{\text{bin width}}$
 vs.
 $\sqrt{\text{area}}$



Flash extent density

Average area

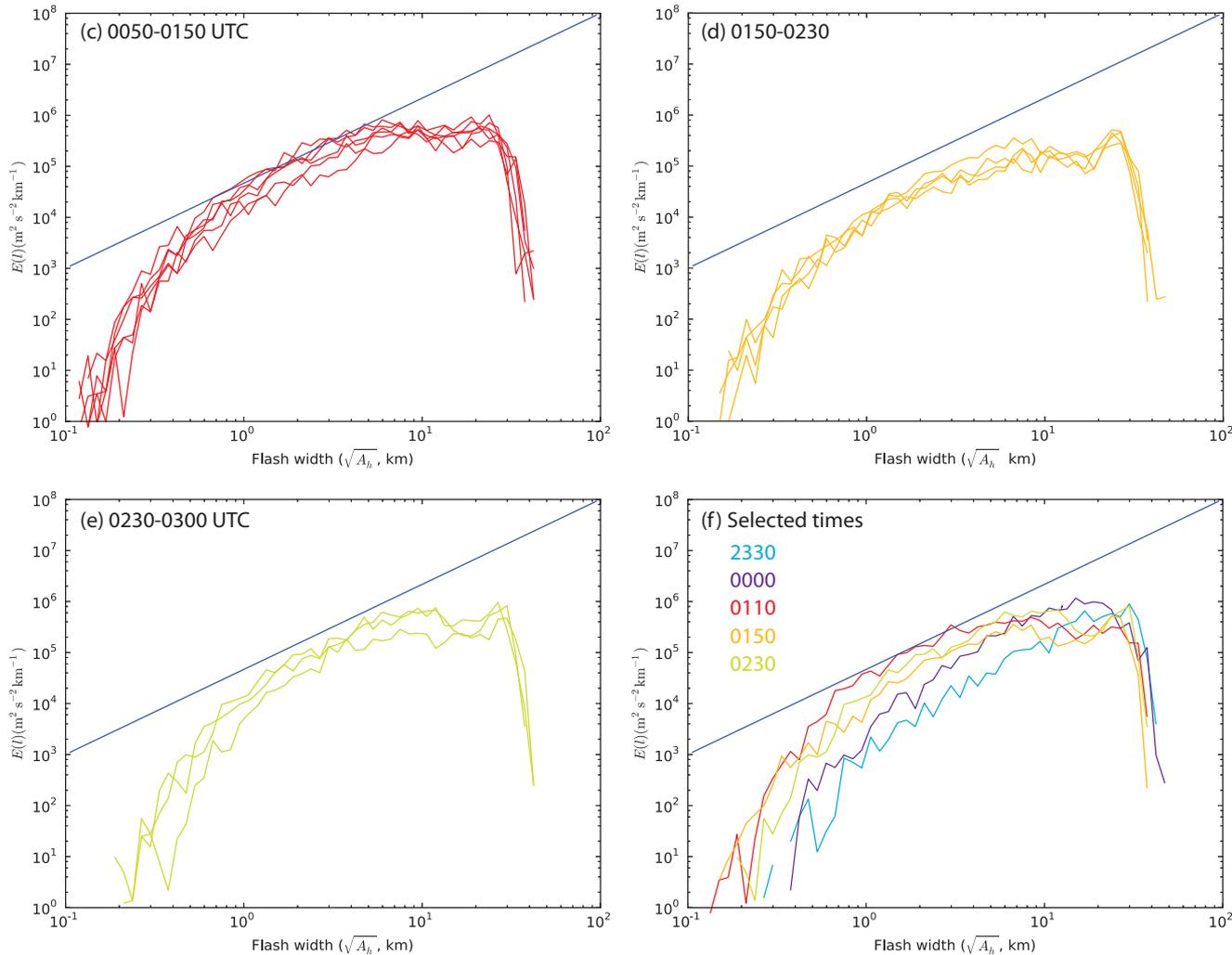


Flash initiation density

FLASH ENERGY SPECTRUM: CONSISTENT IN TIME AND ACROSS STORM MODES



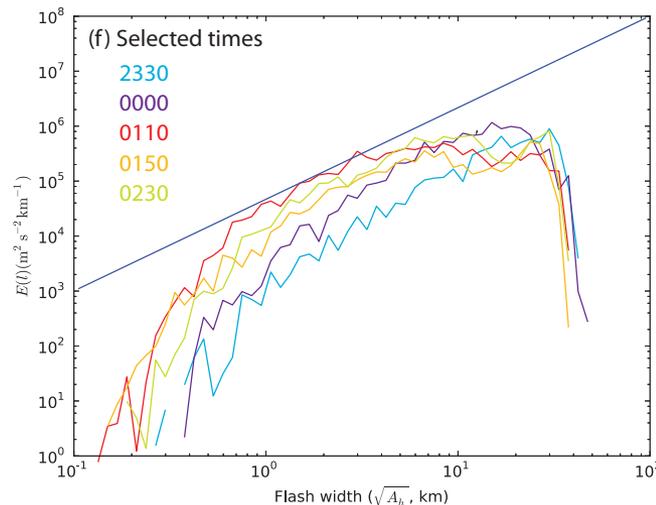
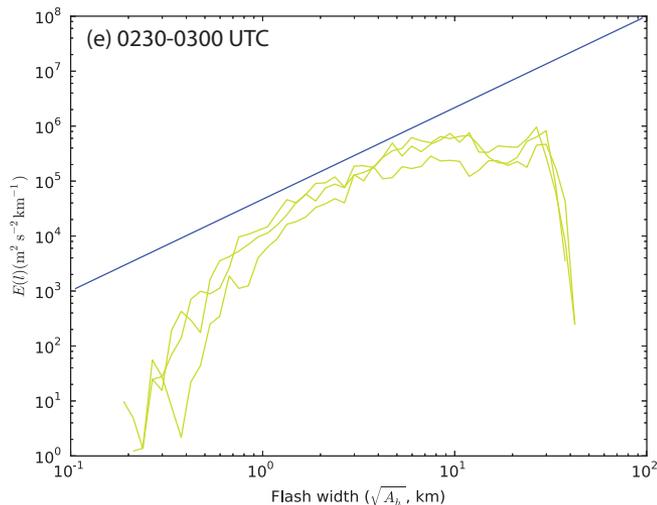
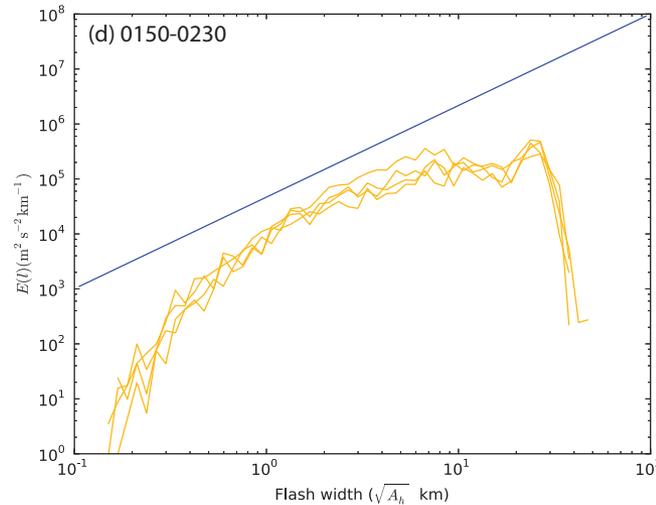
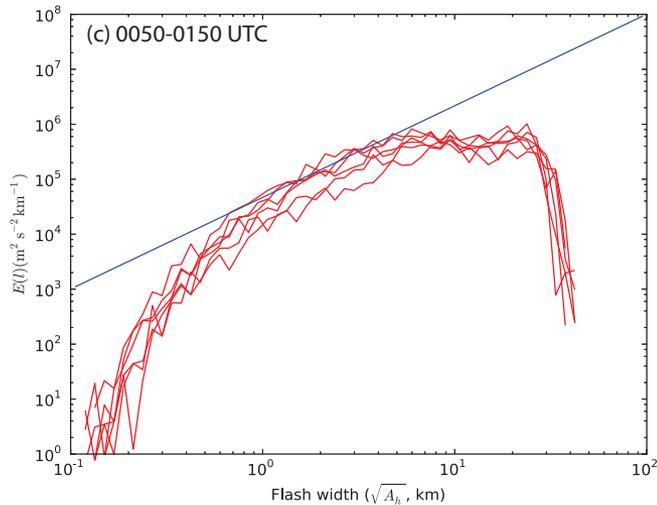
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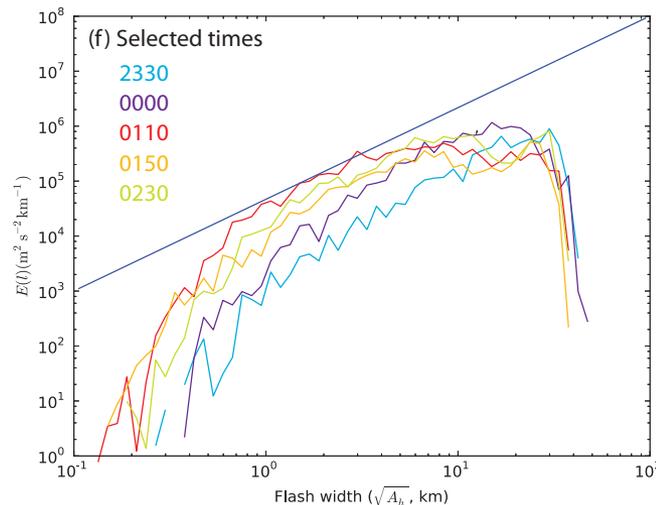
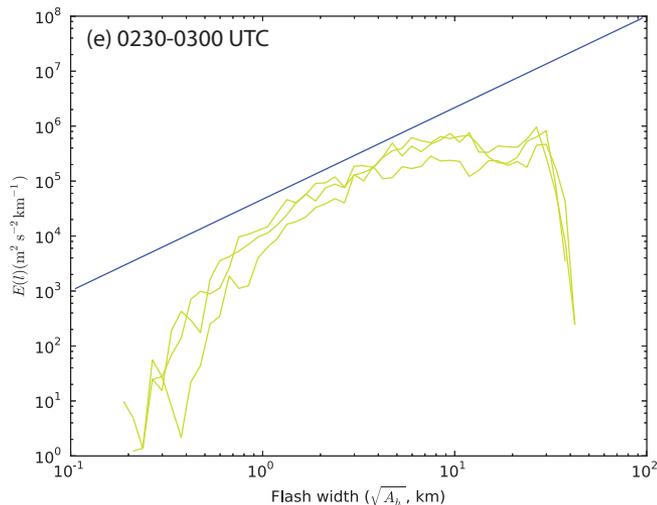
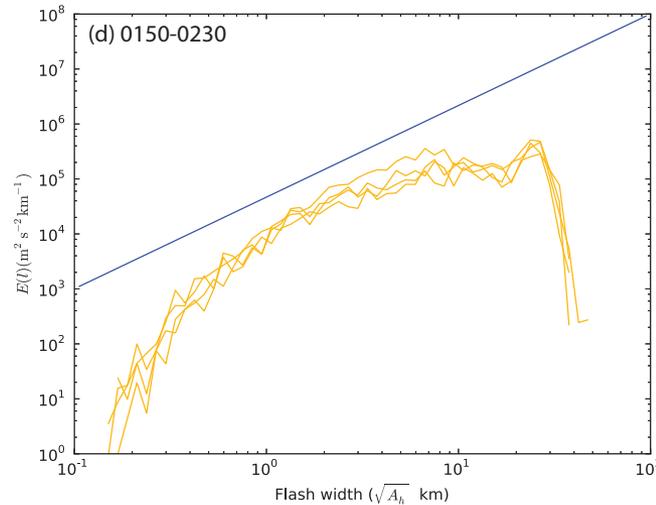
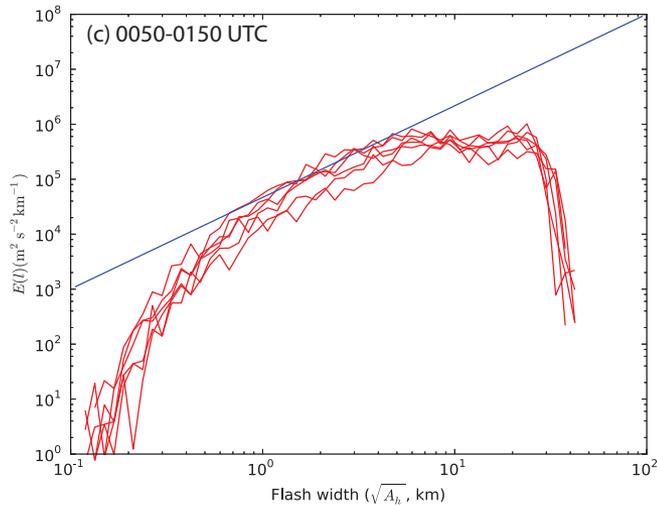


**29-30 May 2004,
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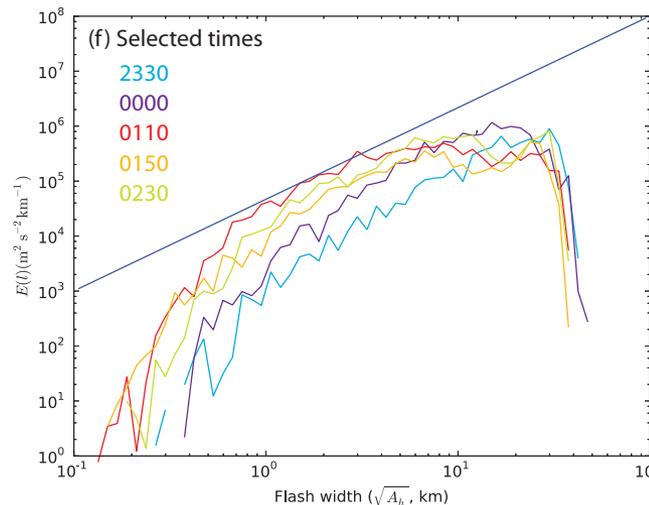
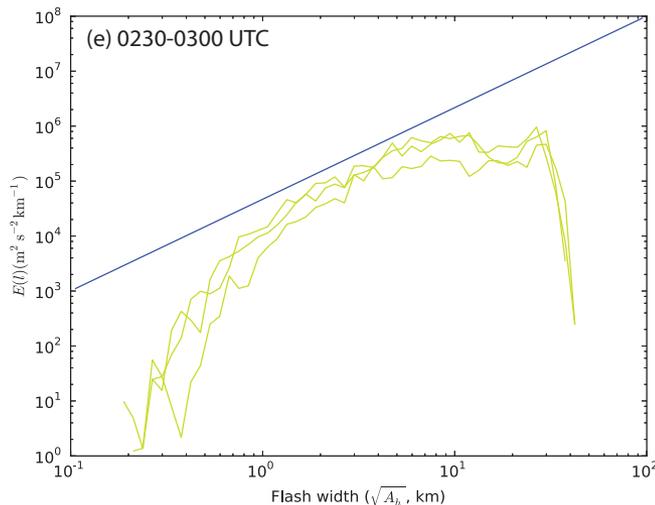
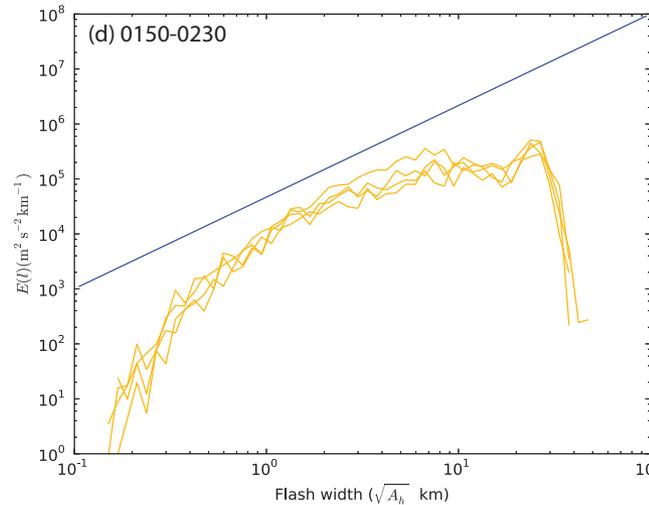
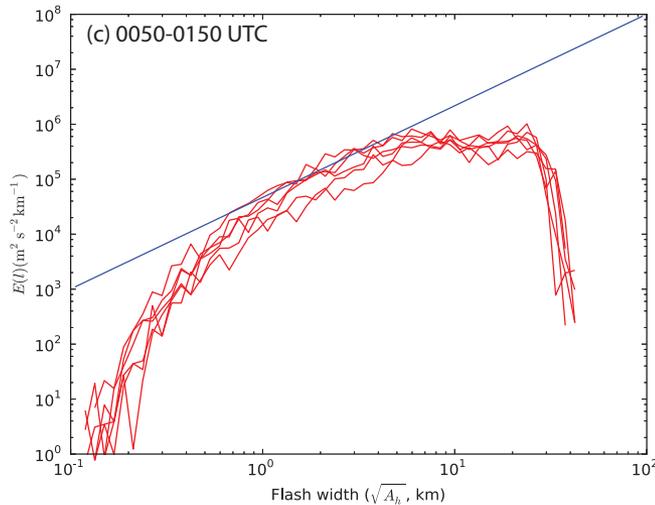
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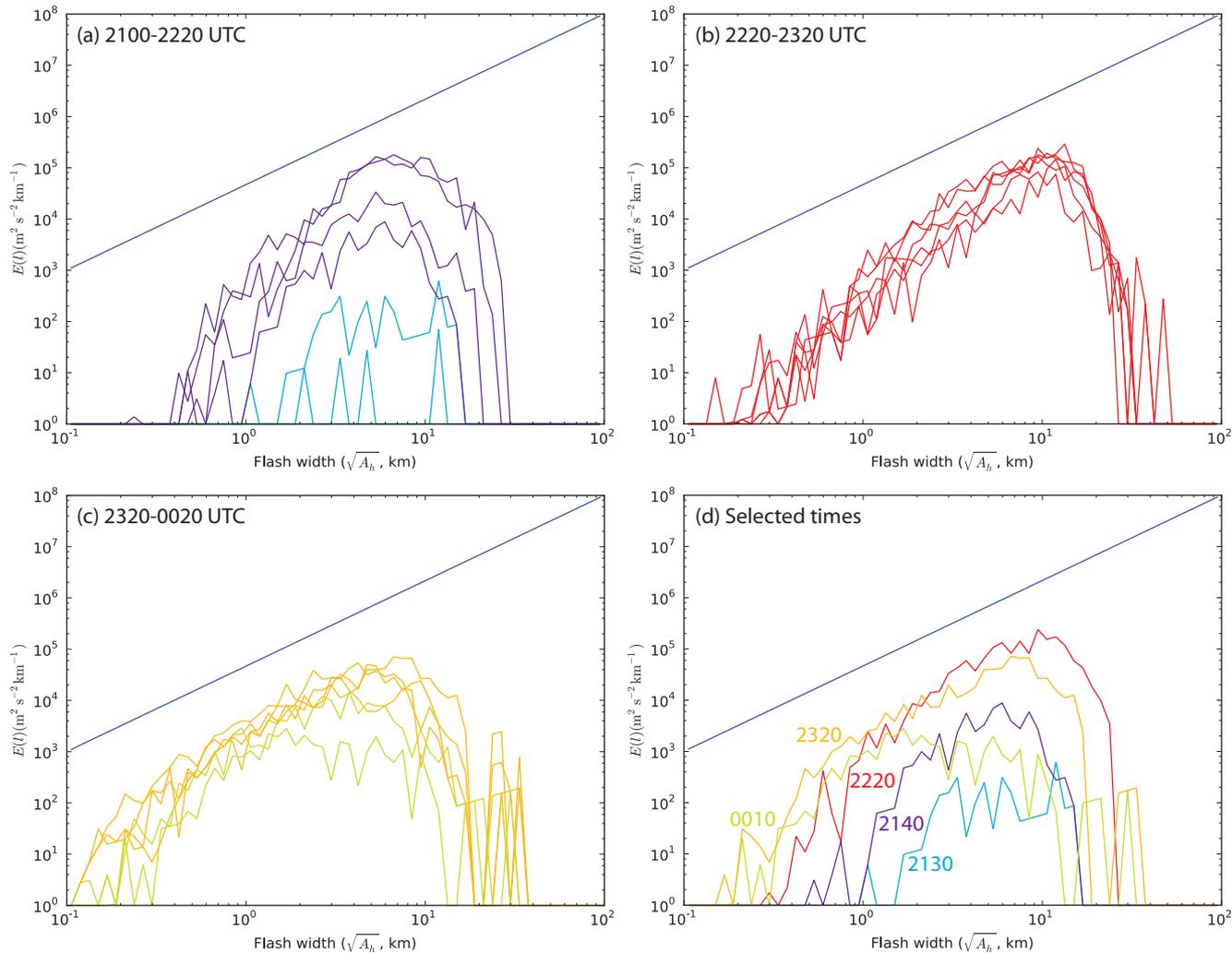
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- Modulations in flash rate change the height of spectrum

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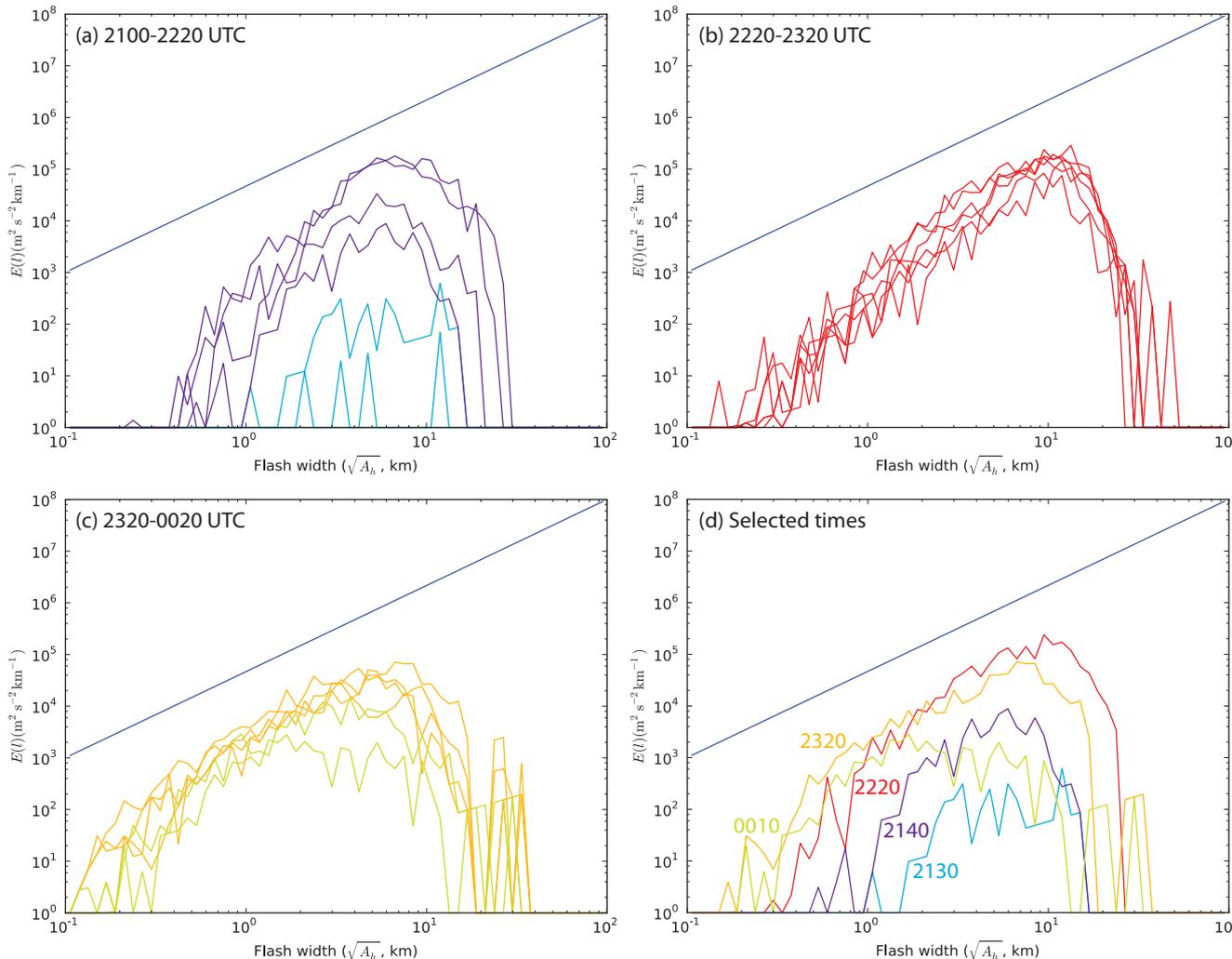
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BRUNING AND MACGORMAN 2013, THEORY AND OBSERVATIONS OF CONTROLS ON LIGHTNING FLASH SIZE SPECTRA
[HTTP://JOURNALS.AMETSOC.ORG/DOI/ABS/10.1175/JAS-D-12-0289.1](http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JAS-D-12-0289.1)

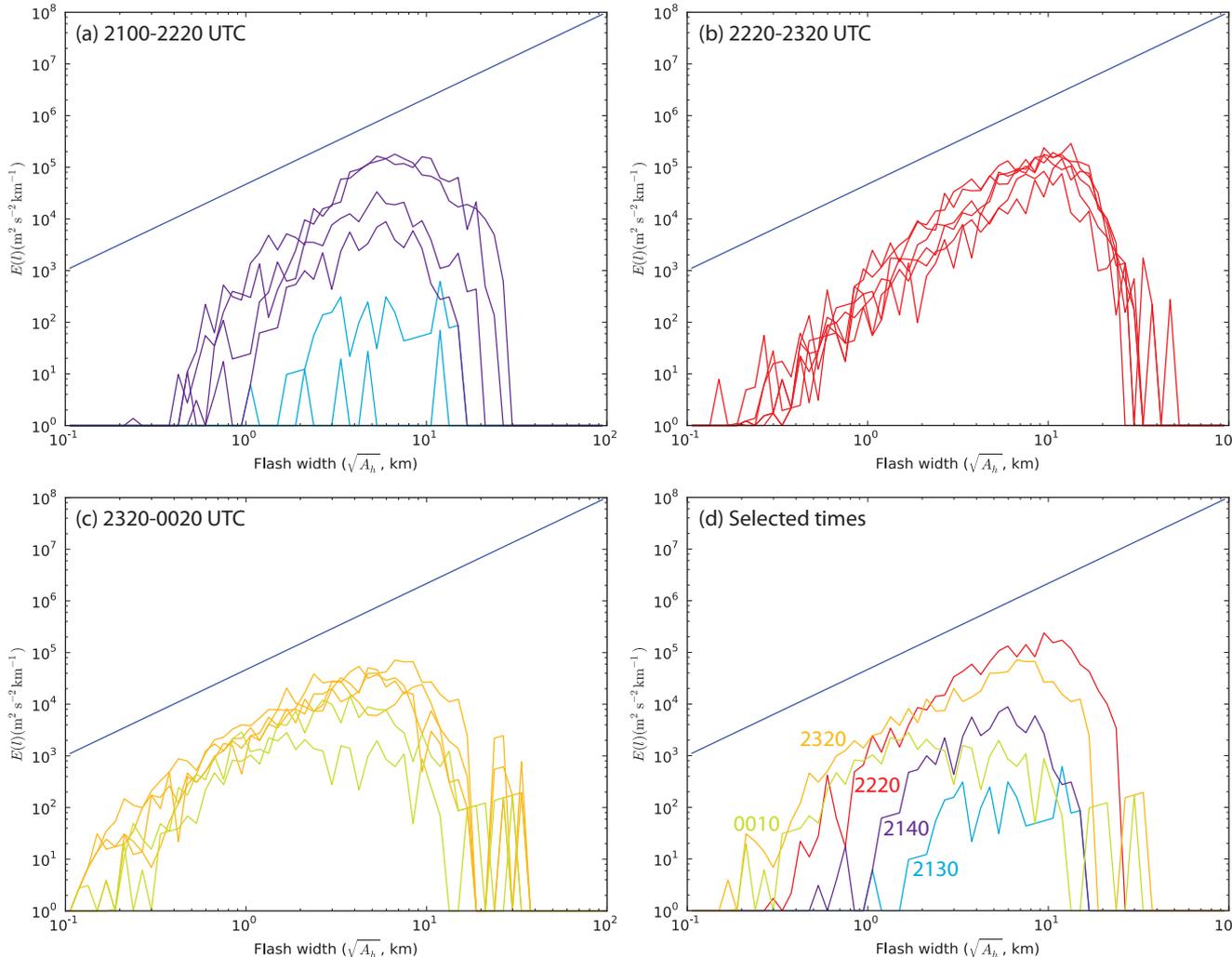


**26-27 May 2004,
Hinton Classic/LP
Supercell**

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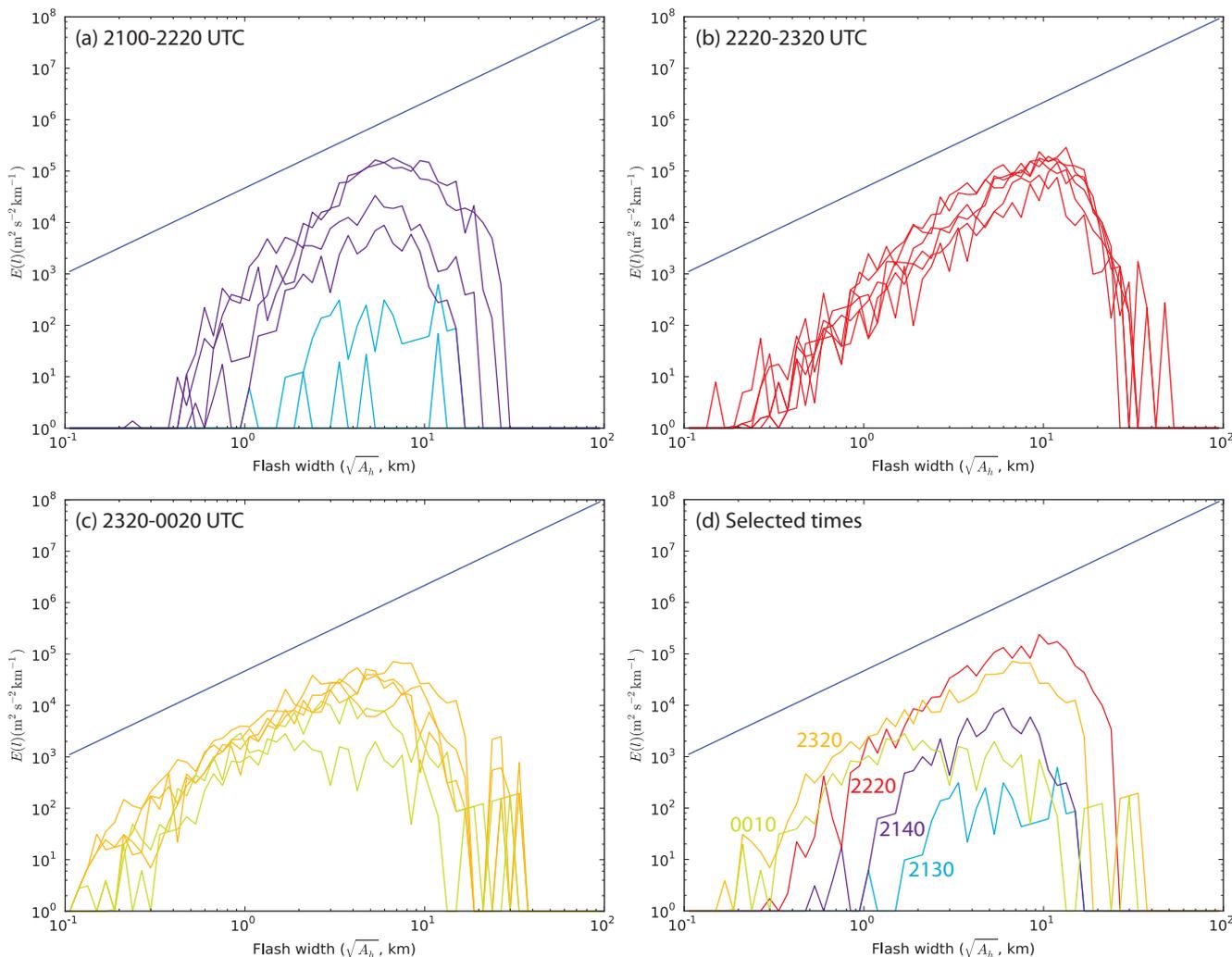
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- Spectral shape, length scale of power-law regime change with time

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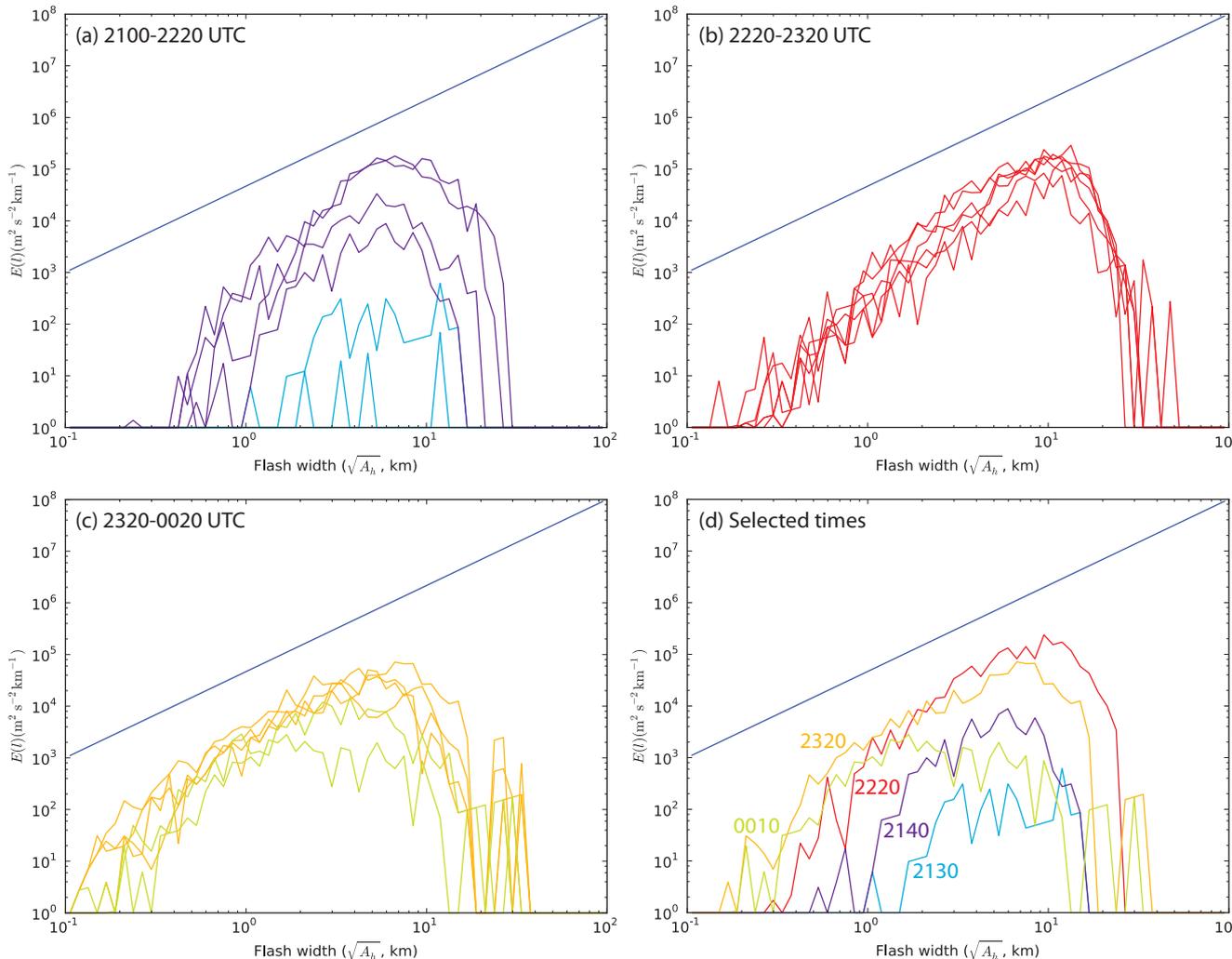
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- Spectral shape, length scale of power-law regime change with time
- Storm was less steady, as reflected in lightning

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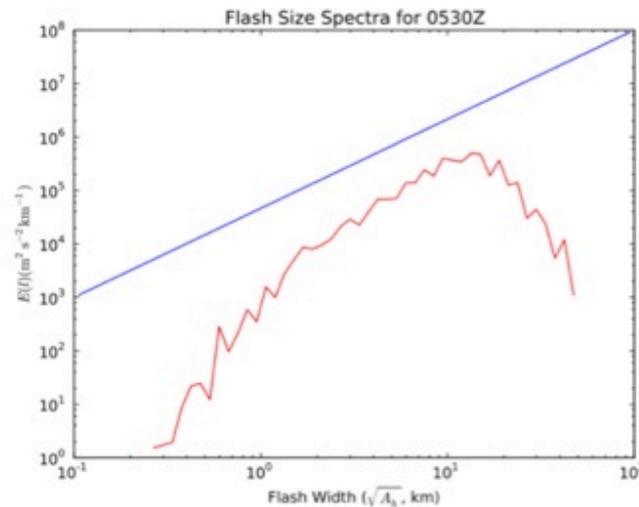
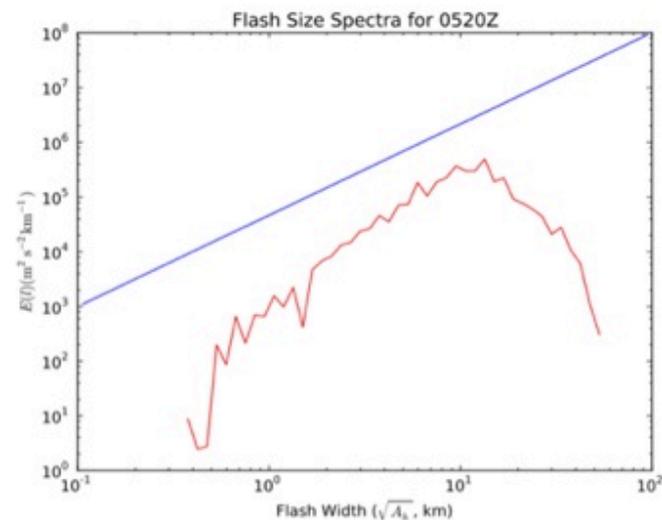
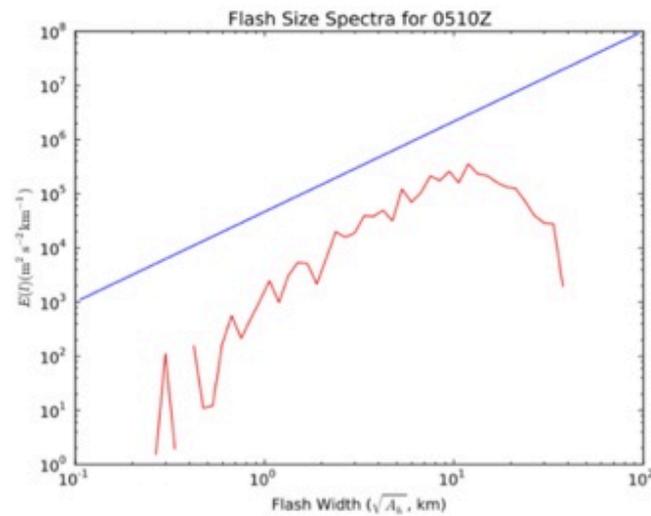
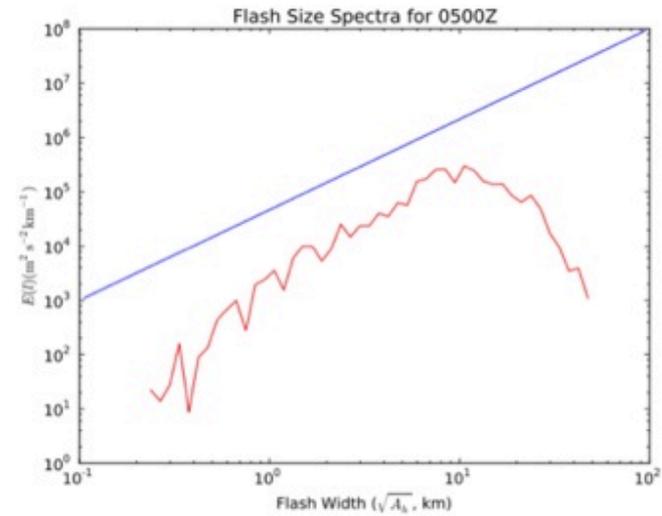
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- Spectral shape, length scale of power-law regime change with time
- Storm was less steady, as reflected in lightning
- Need about 200 flashes to resolve the spectrum

FLASH ENERGY SPECTRUM: CONSISTENT IN TIME AND ACROSS STORM MODES



PLOURDE, C., 2013, M.S. THESIS, TTU

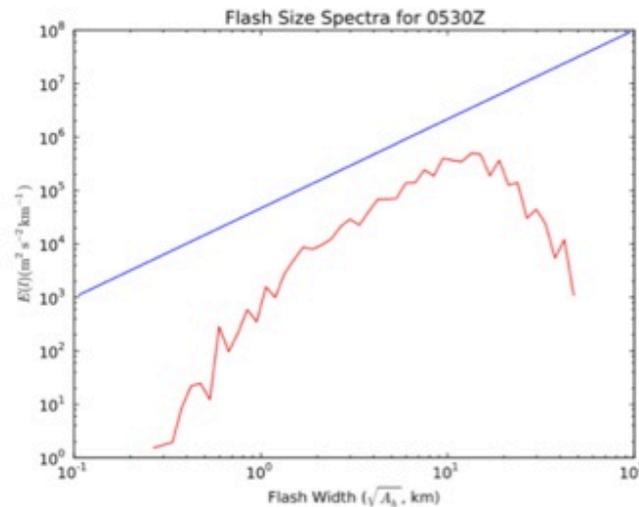
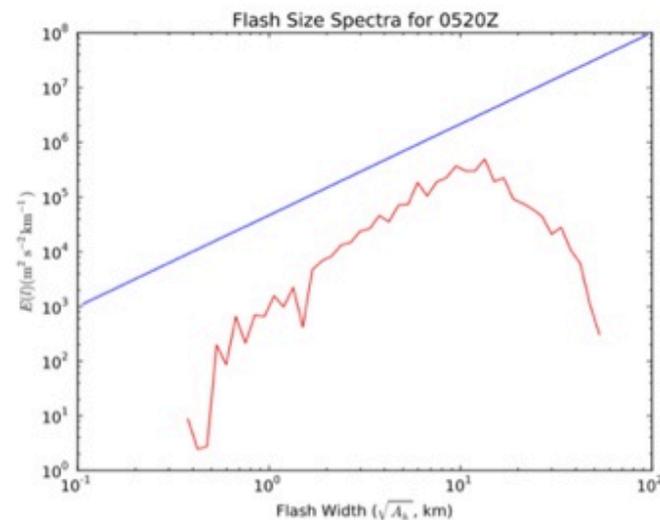
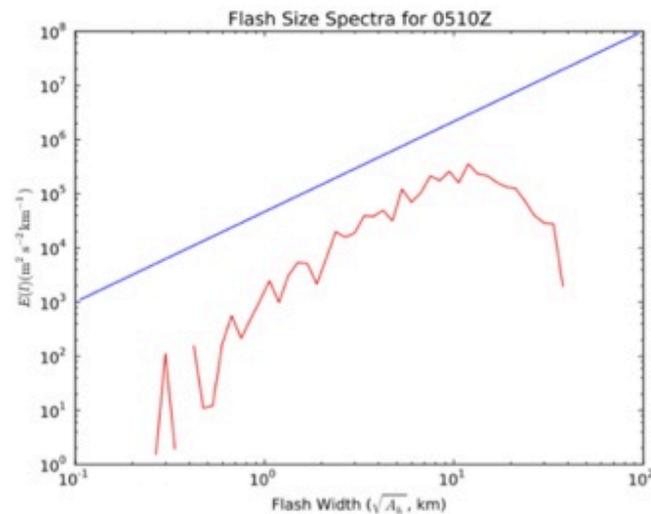
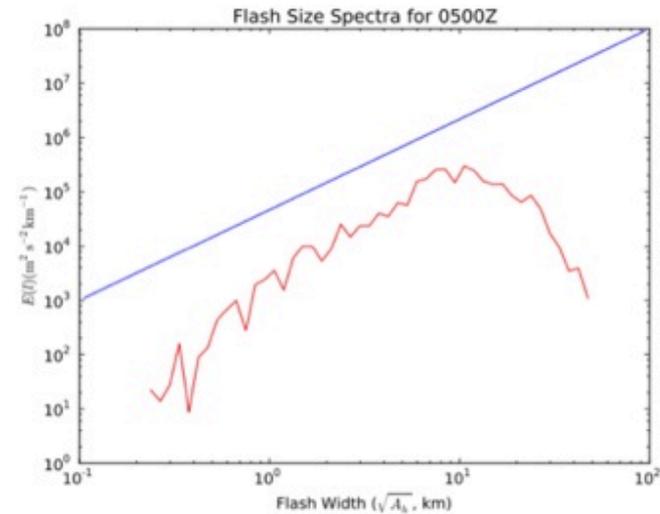


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PLOURDE, C., 2013, M.S. THESIS, TTU

19 March 2012



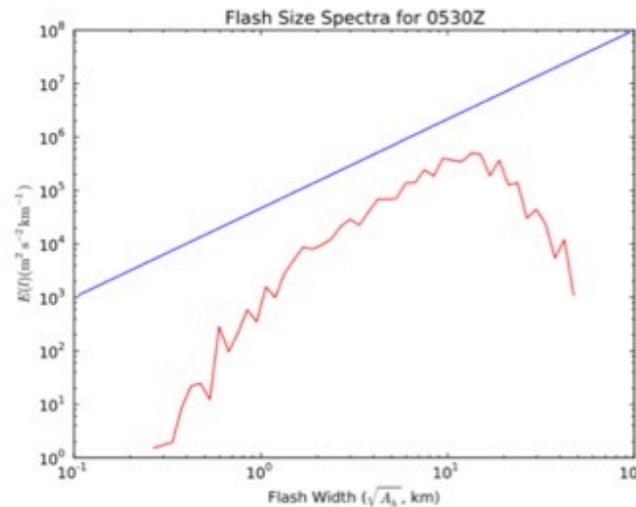
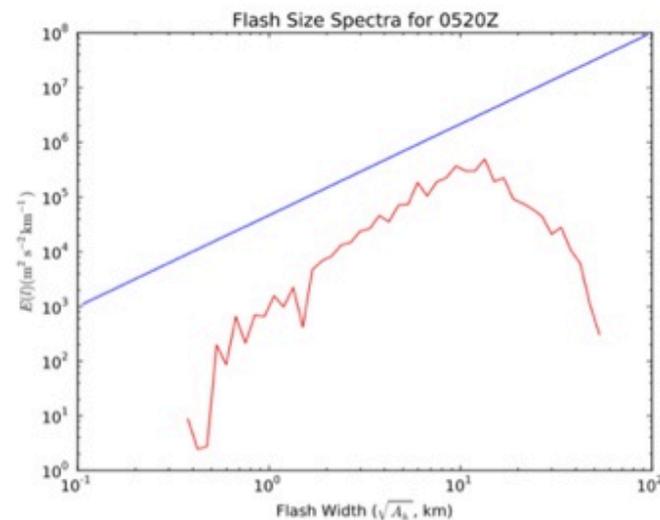
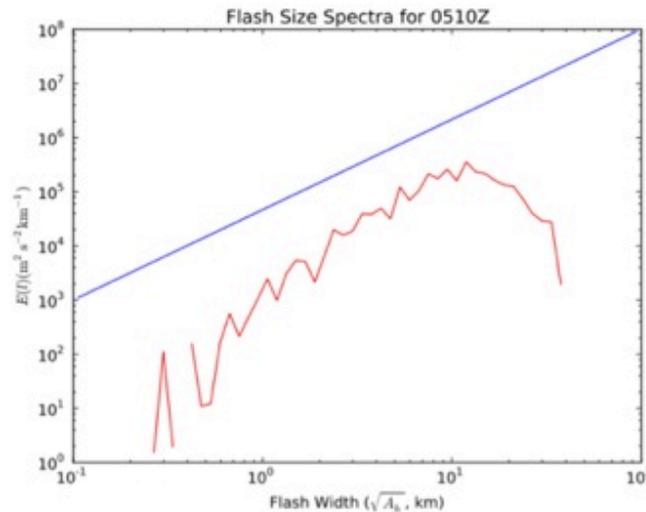
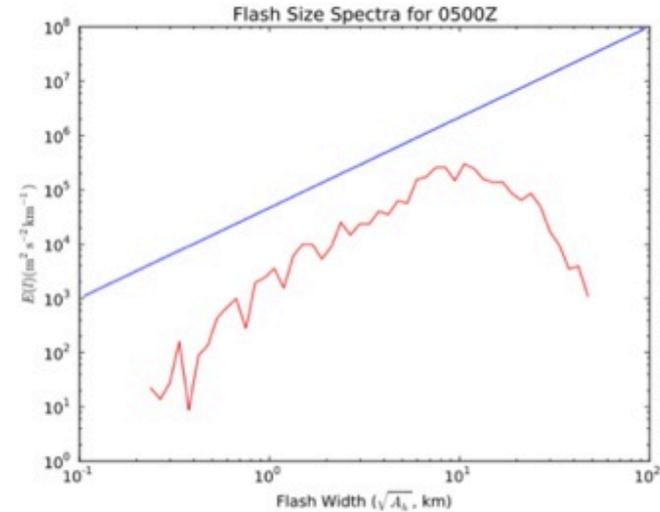
FLASH ENERGY SPECTRUM: CONSISTENT IN TIME AND ACROSS STORM MODES



PLOURDE, C., 2013, M.S. THESIS, TTU

19 March 2012

- 300 km severe QLCS, minimal stratiform region



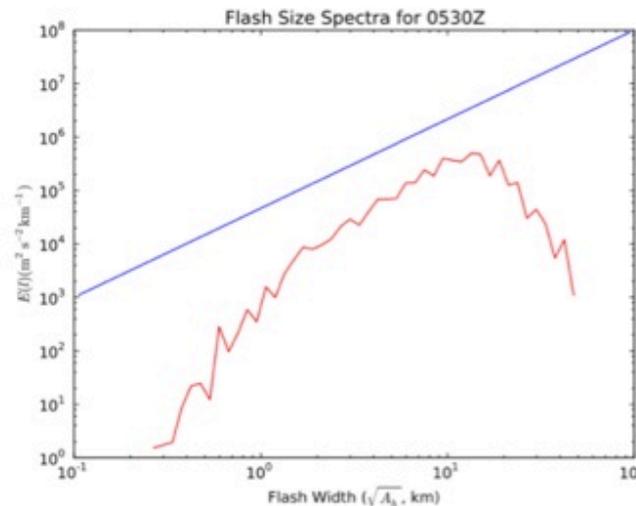
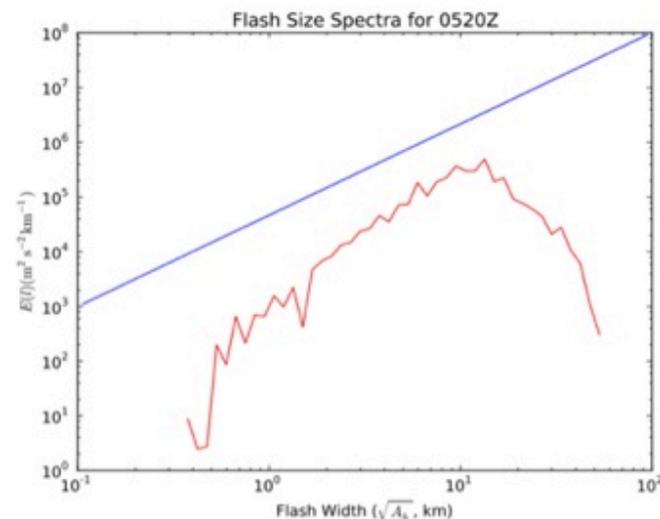
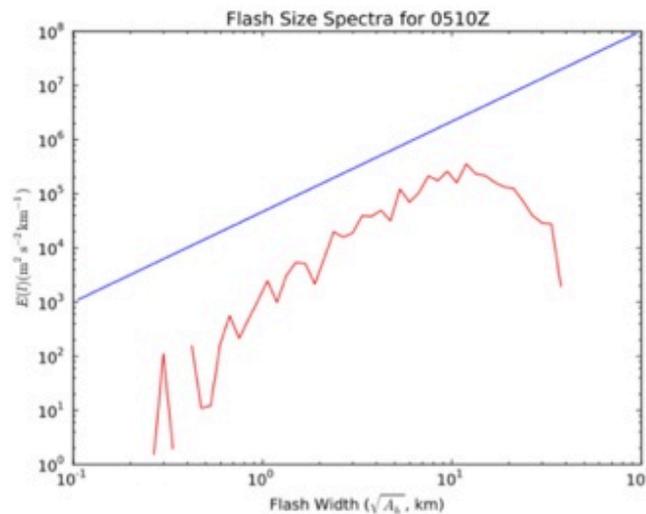
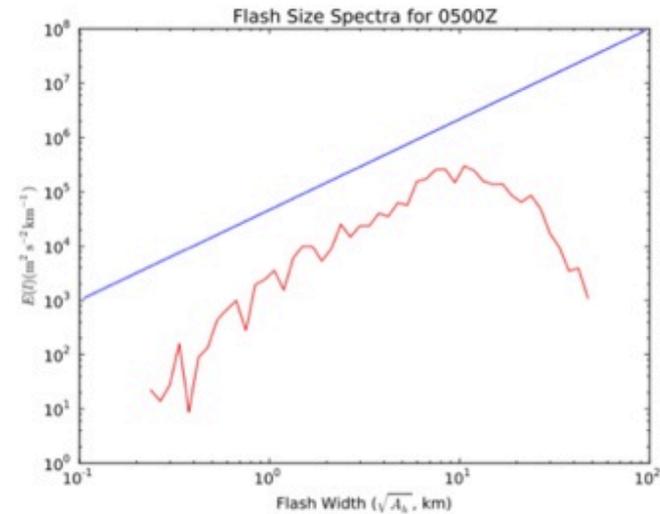
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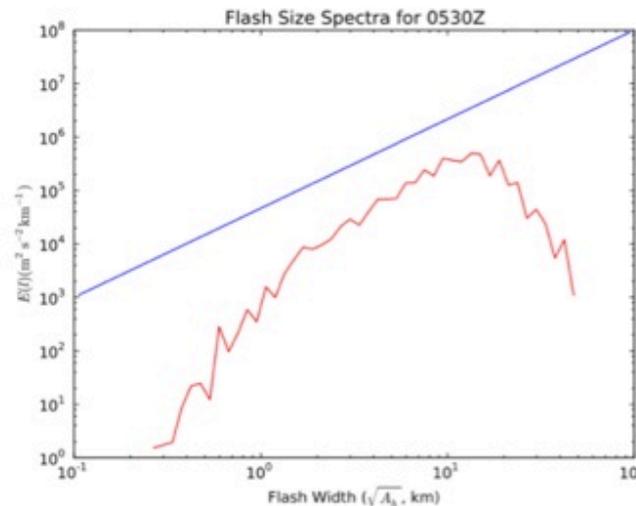
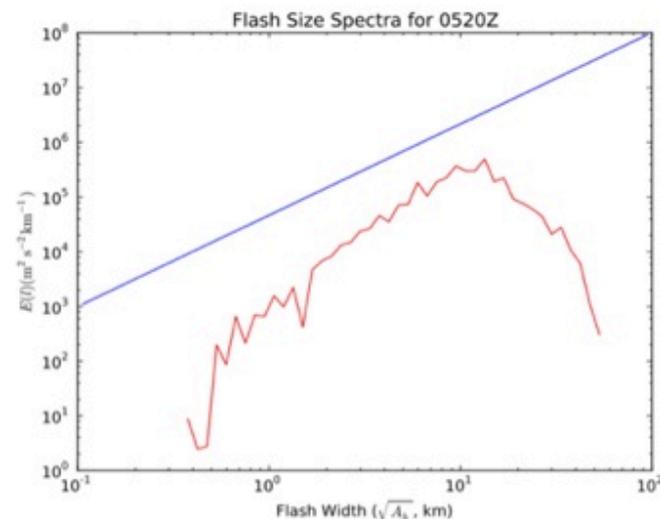
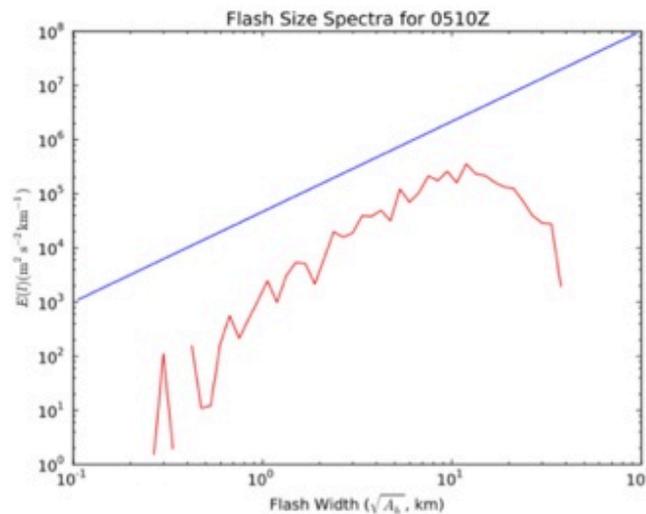
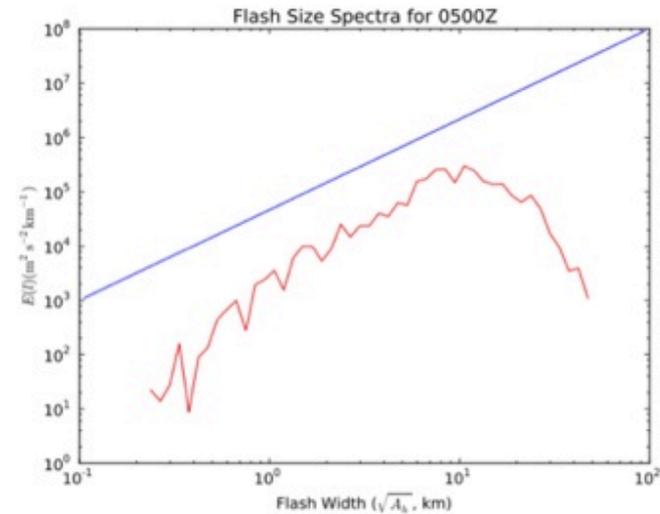
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- Line-total spectra when line was centered on the WTLMA



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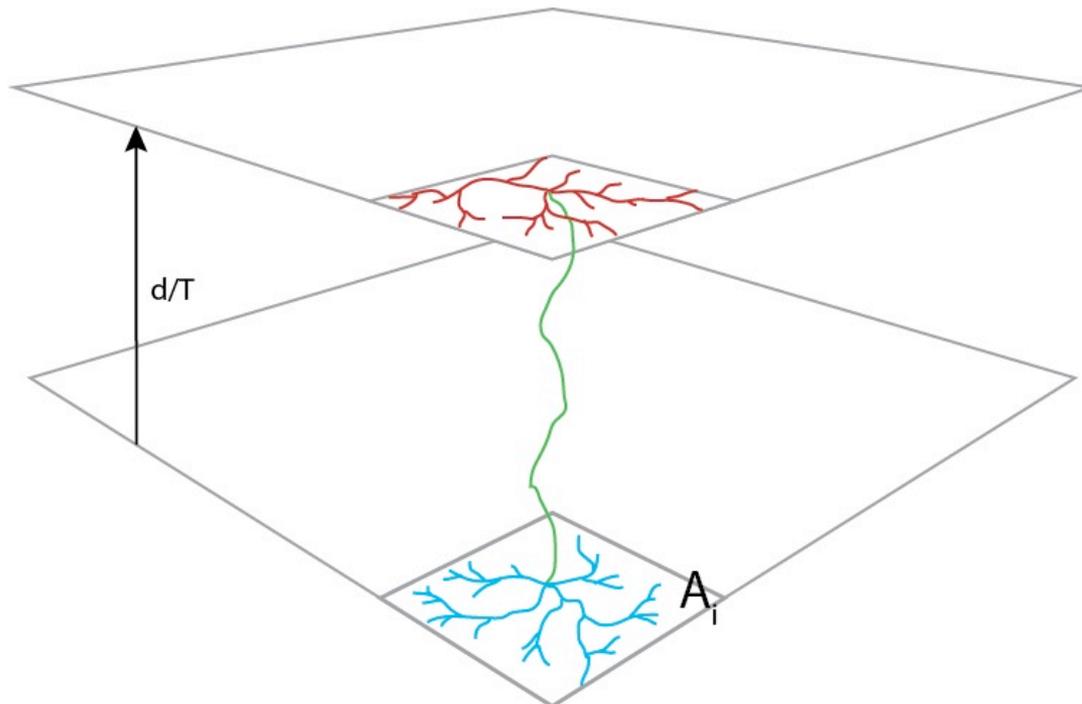
- 300 km severe QLCS, minimal stratiform region
- Line-total spectra when line was centered on the WTLMA
- Perhaps surprisingly, same spectral shape, and some modulation in shape / scale as storm evolves

FLASH ENERGY SPECTRUM: COUPLING BETWEEN CONVECTIVE MOTION AND FLASH SIZE



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$$E_W = \frac{W_i}{\rho_a V_I} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q_i^2}{\rho_a \epsilon_0} \frac{d^3}{V_I^3} A_i \eta_i^2 T^2$$



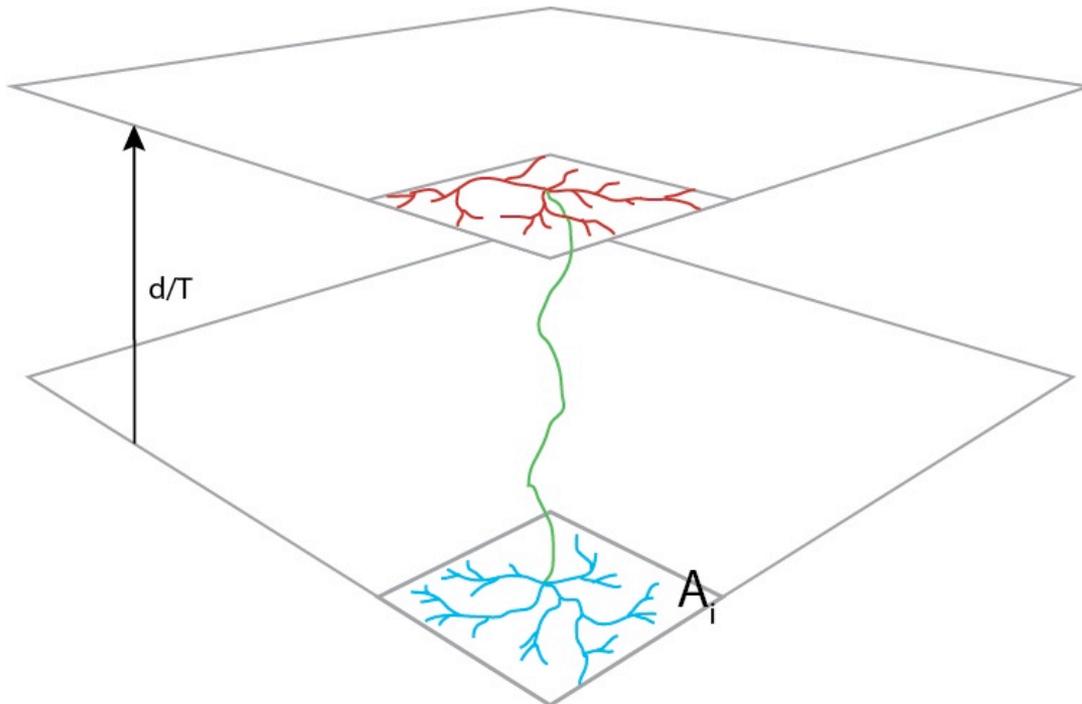
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**Partitioned capacitor
flash model**

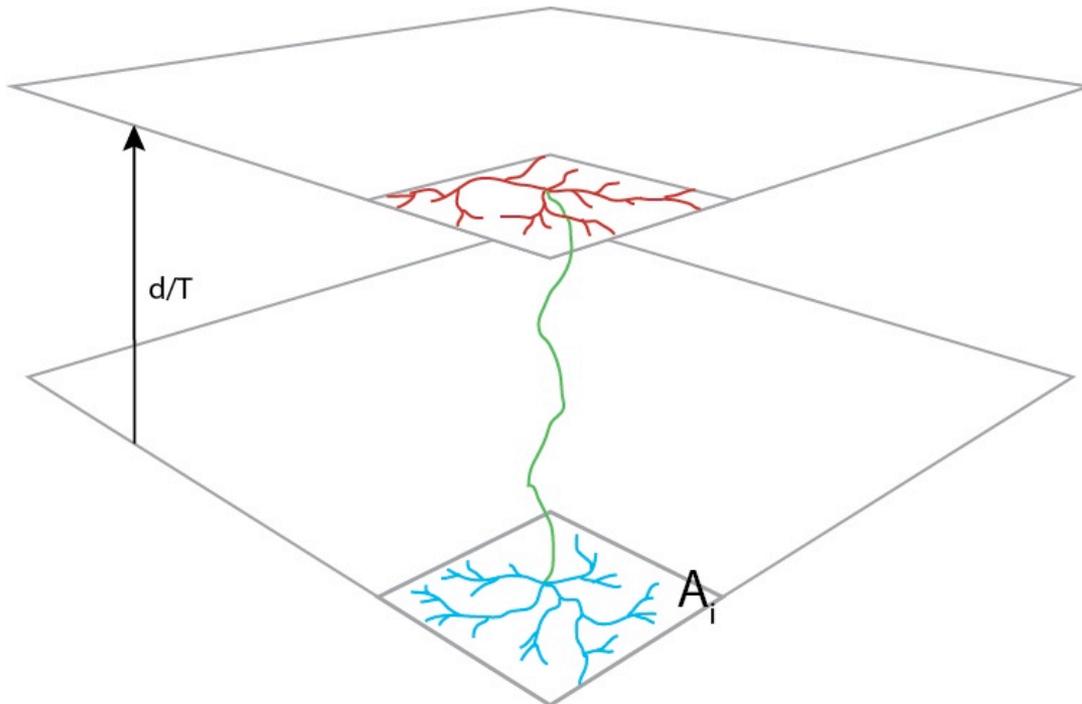


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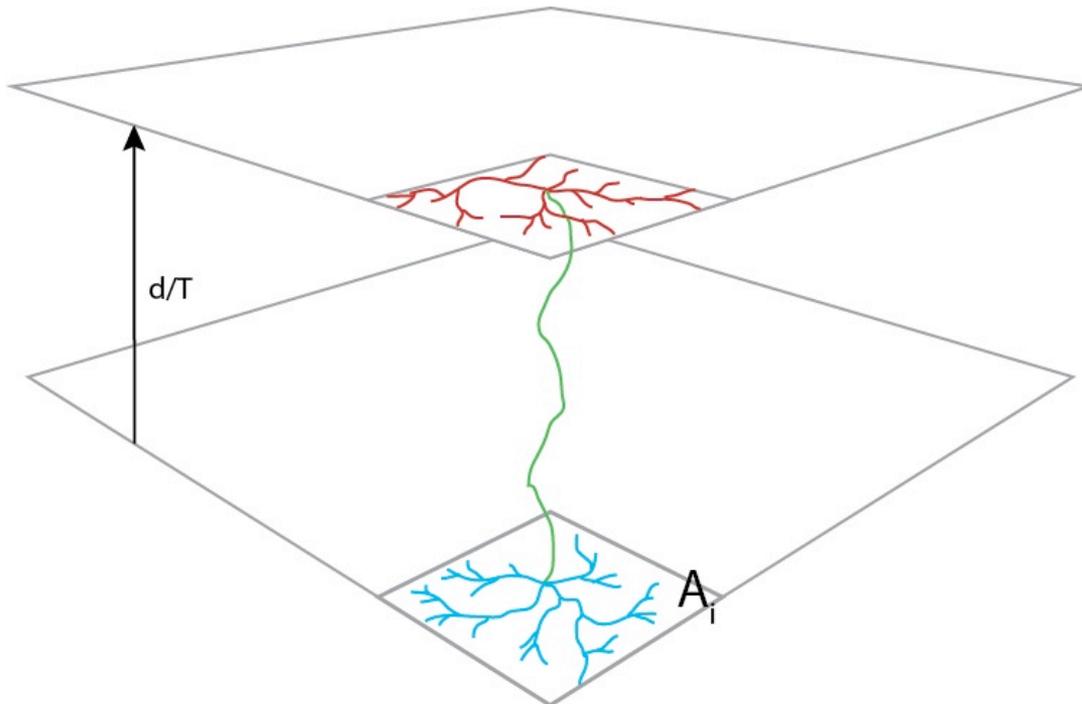
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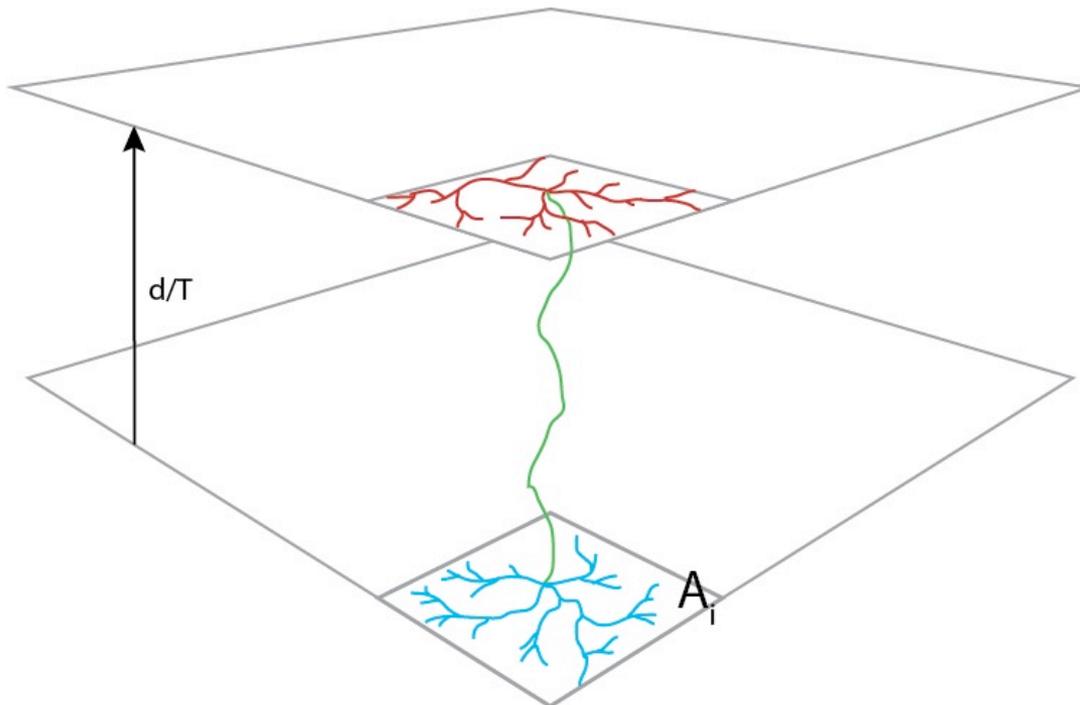
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Partitioned capacitor flash model

- Total volume $V_I = A_I d$ is partitioned into η_i flashes with area A_i in T seconds at scale i
- Plates separated by convective velocity d/T
- Coupling of advective motion with simple model of energy discharged shows validity of energy spectrum based on $\text{area} \cdot \text{rate}^2$

VALIDATION: IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL VARIABILITY

4 JUNE 2012



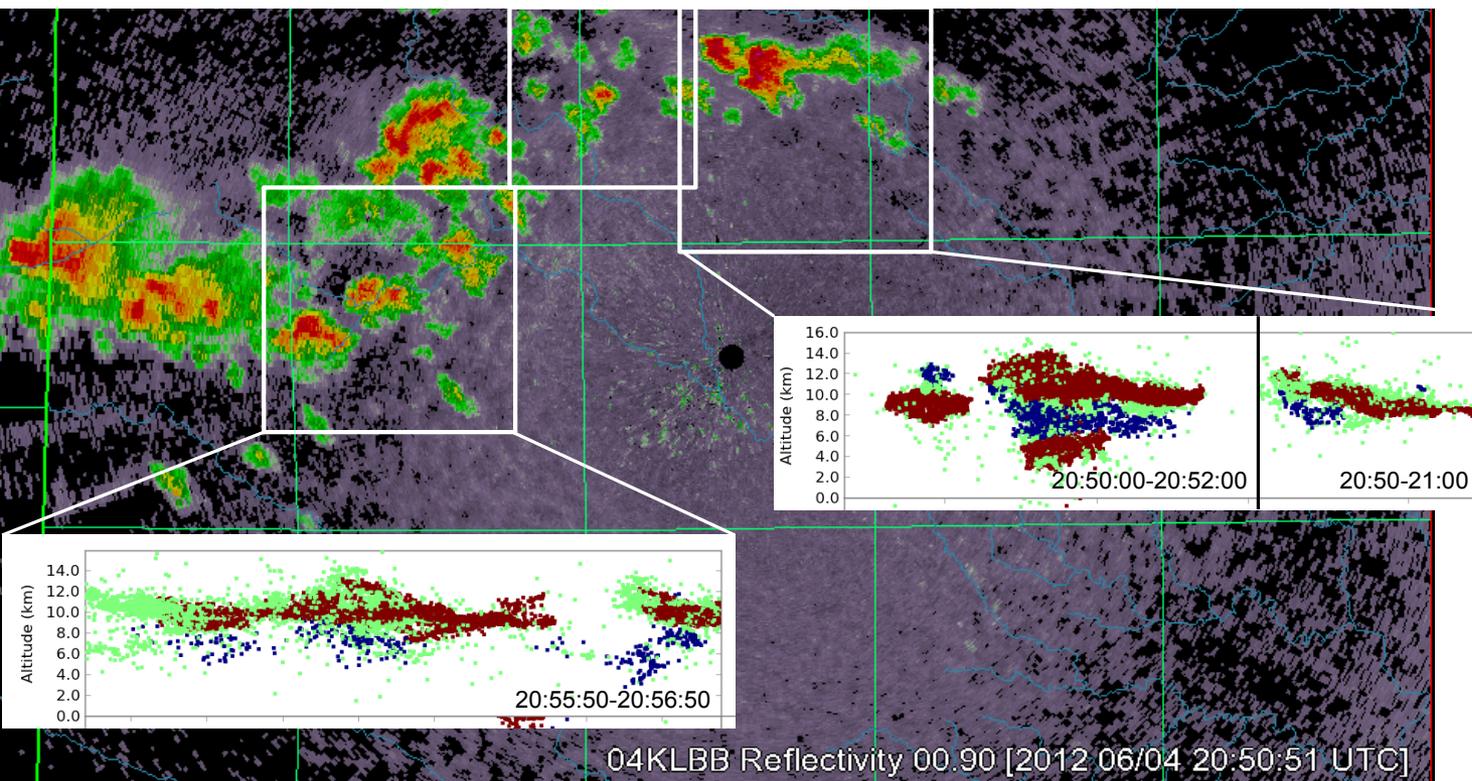
VANNA SULLIVAN - ONGOING PH.D. WORK

Some storms have typical multicellular electrical structure

- Upper +IC, lower -IC/CG

Within 5 km, other cells appear anomalous

- Upper -ICs



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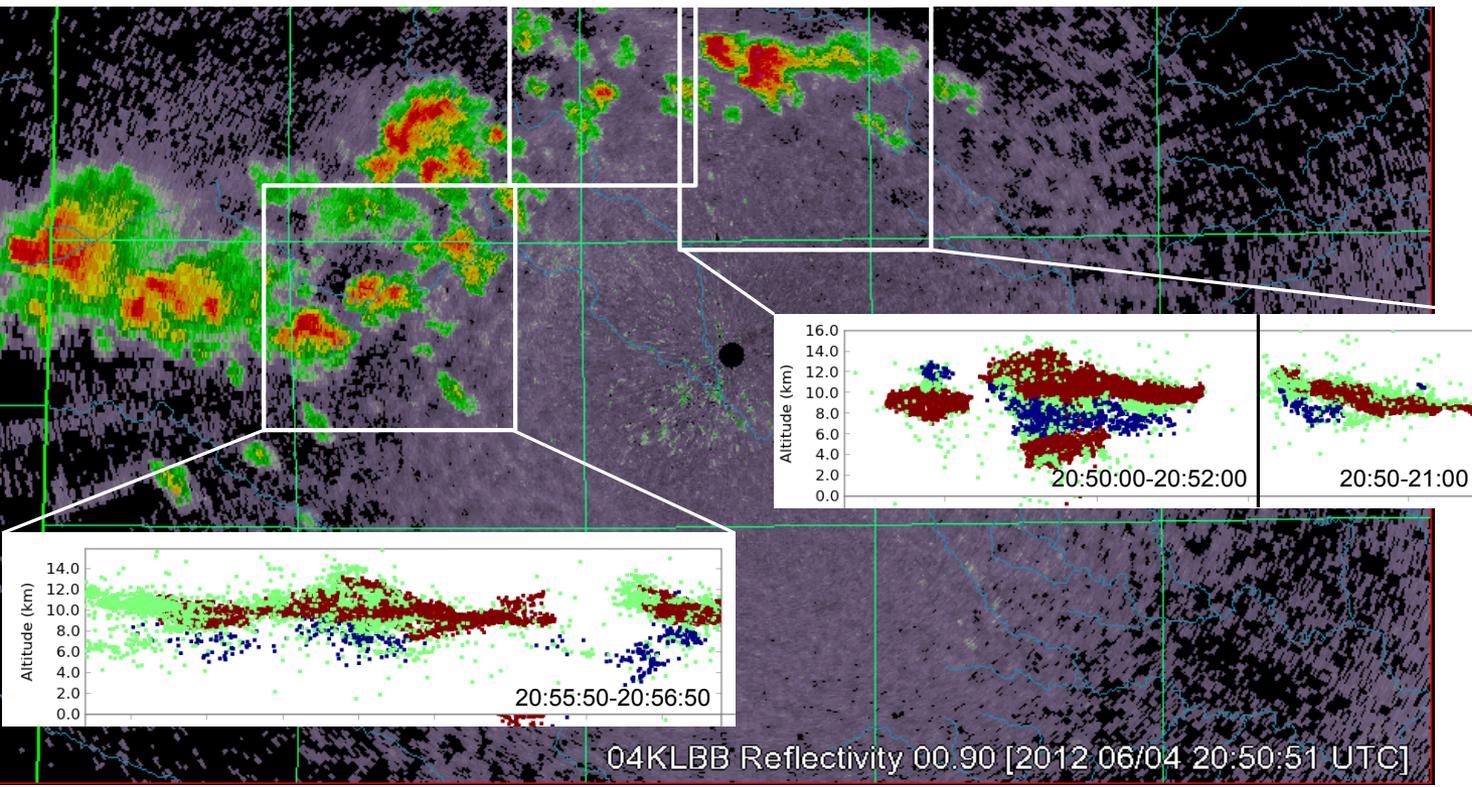
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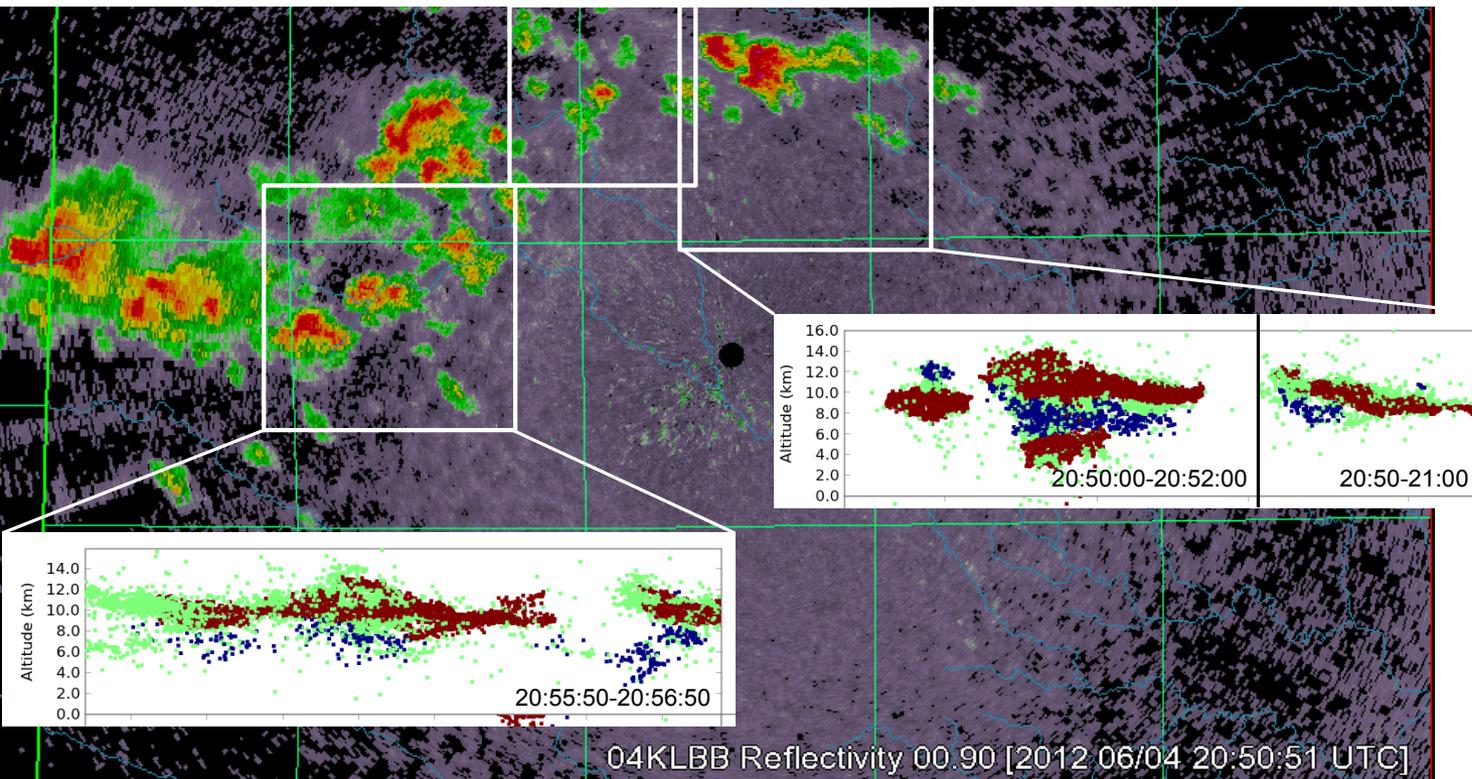
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Are there implications for expected distribution of optical pulse characteristics in different regions, with different relative weight of flashing at high and low levels? (Thomas et al. 2000, GRL)



SOFTWARE





Open-source software for LMA display and analysis (<http://github.com/deeplycloudy/brawl4d>)



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(2) Ester, M., H. P. Kriegel, J. Sander, and X. Xu, 1996: "A Density-Based Algorithm for Discovering Clusters in Large Spatial Databases with Noise, *Proc. 2nd Int'l Conf. on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining*, Portland, OR, AAAI Press, pp. 226–231.

