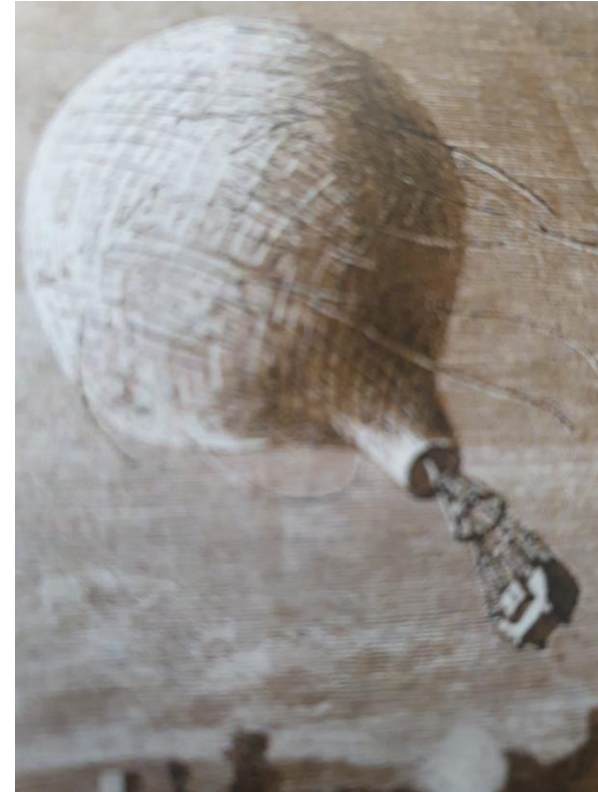




Ab Maas



The role of the wind in ballooning

Montgolfier balloon, first flight november 1783



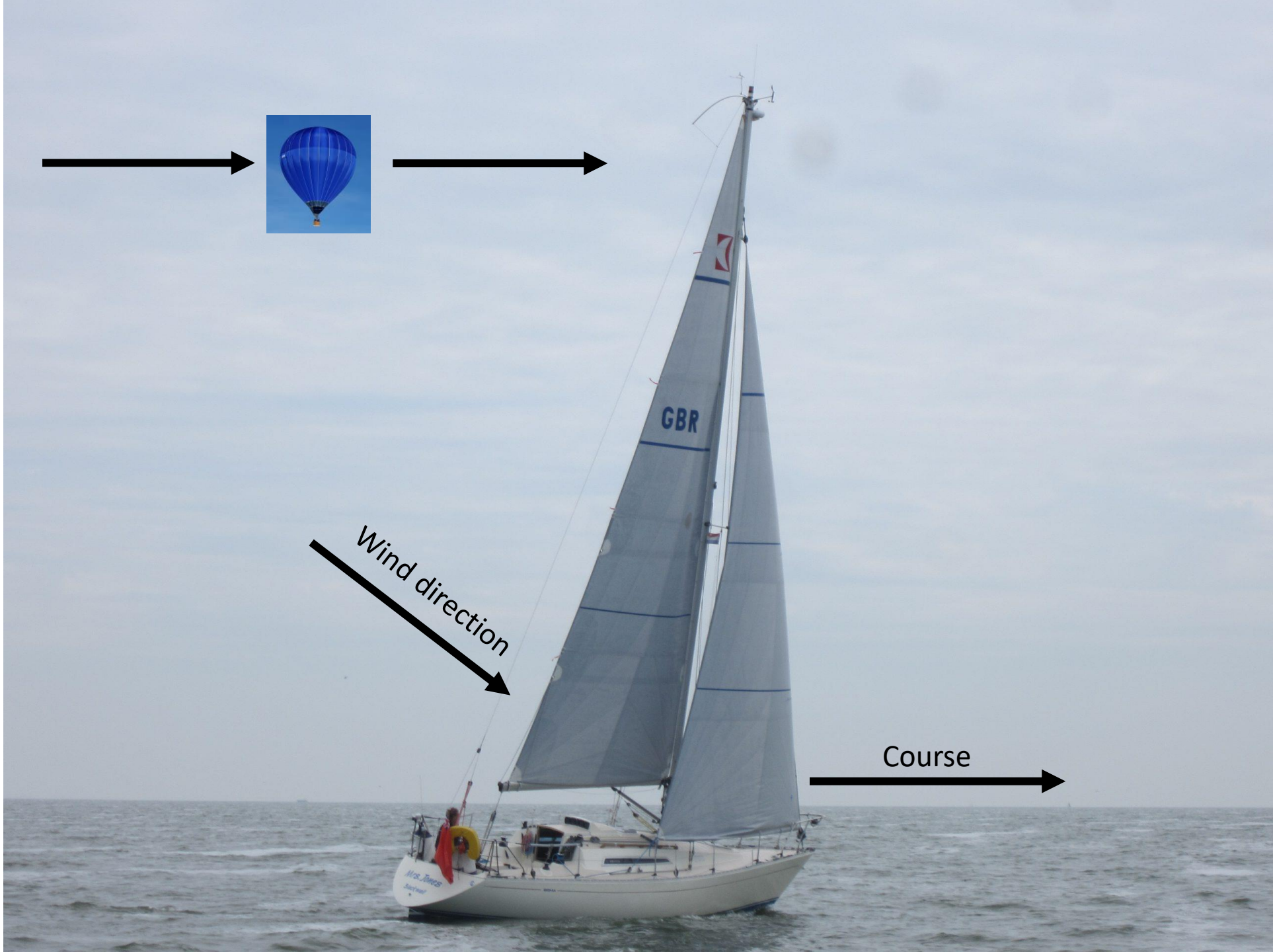
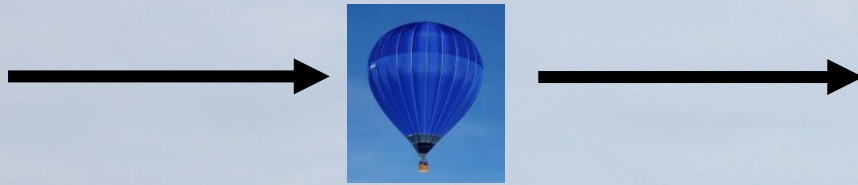
Gas balloon, first flight 1 december 1783



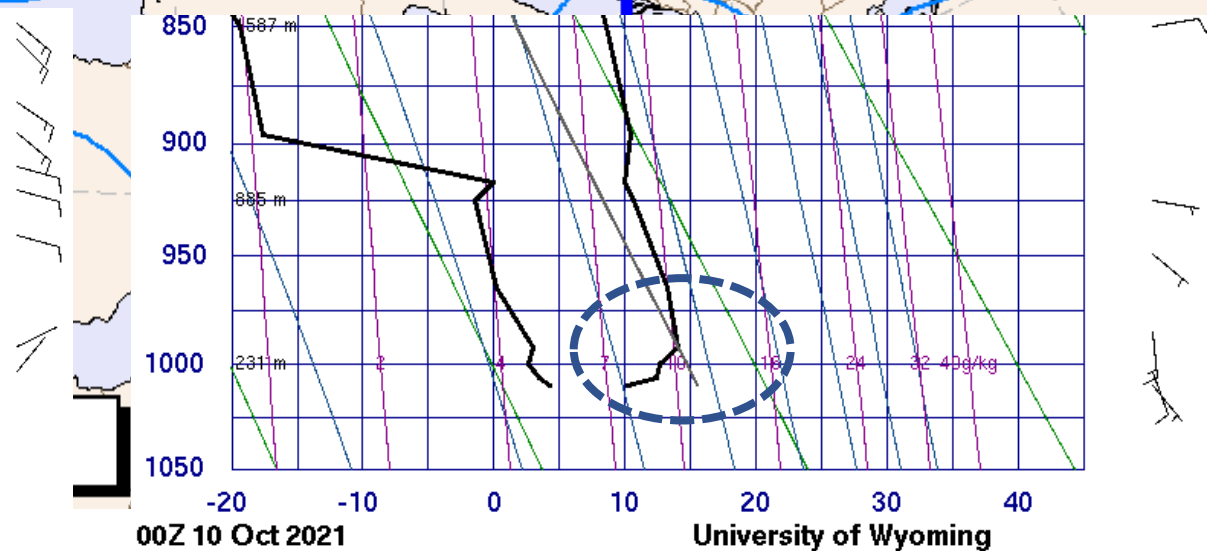
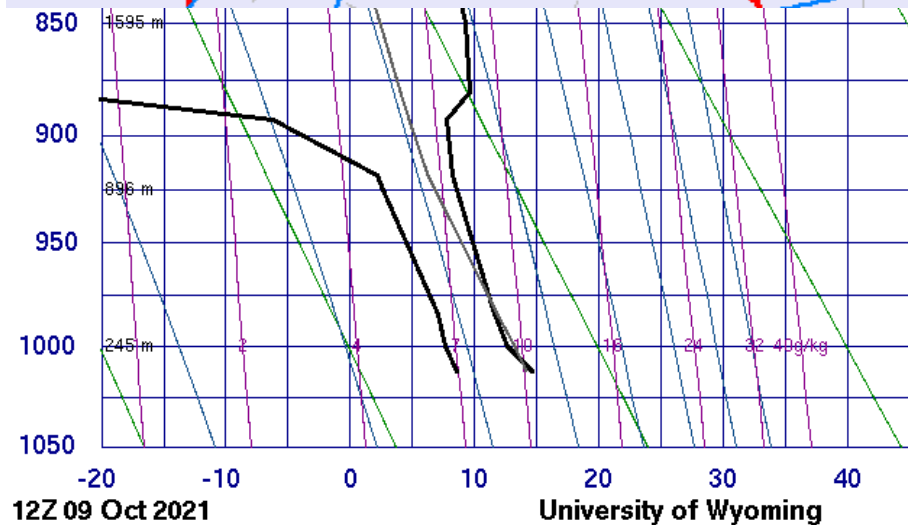
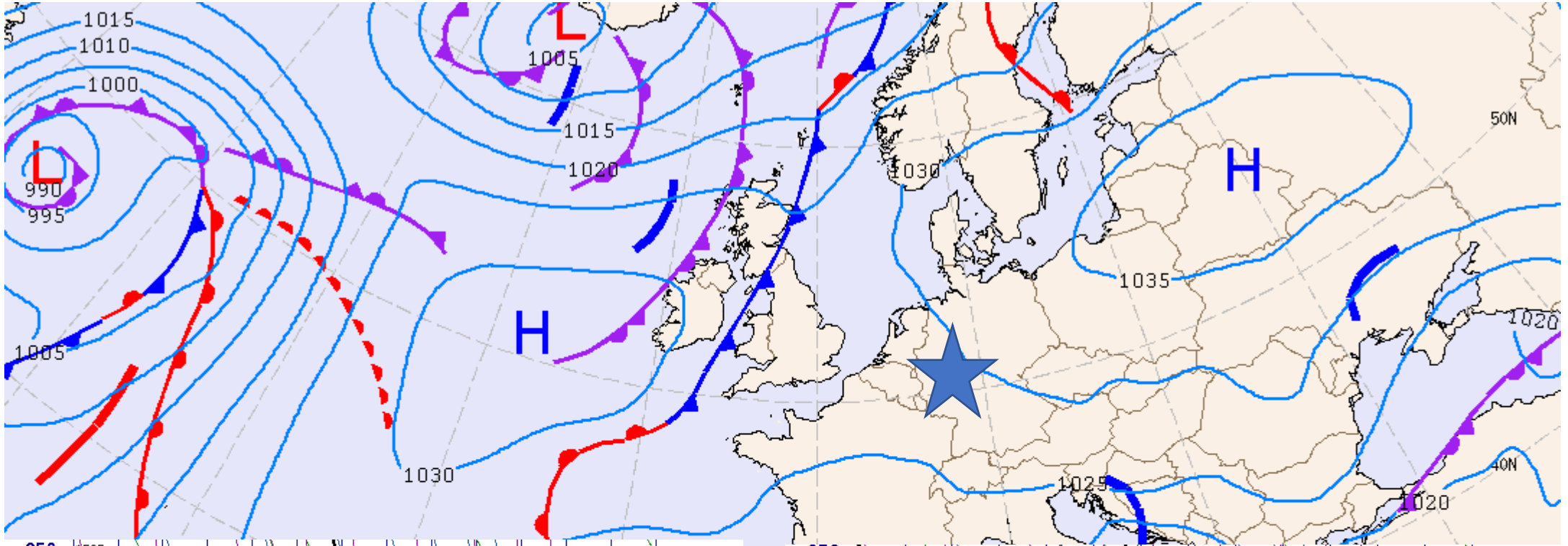
Aeroplane, first flight 17 december 1903

Wind is one of the biggest factor affecting hot air balloon flight since it will affect the stability and direction in which the balloon will fly to.

1. Without wind no balloon flights
2. With to much wind also no balloon flight
3. The only way to steer a balloon is by using different wind directions at different heights



For a balloon flight a stable boundary layer is essential



With a very stable atmosphere the wind direction is difficult to forecast and depends on local circumstances



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Title: 2022 Jan 24 10:58 [pts: 1061]

Steering with height

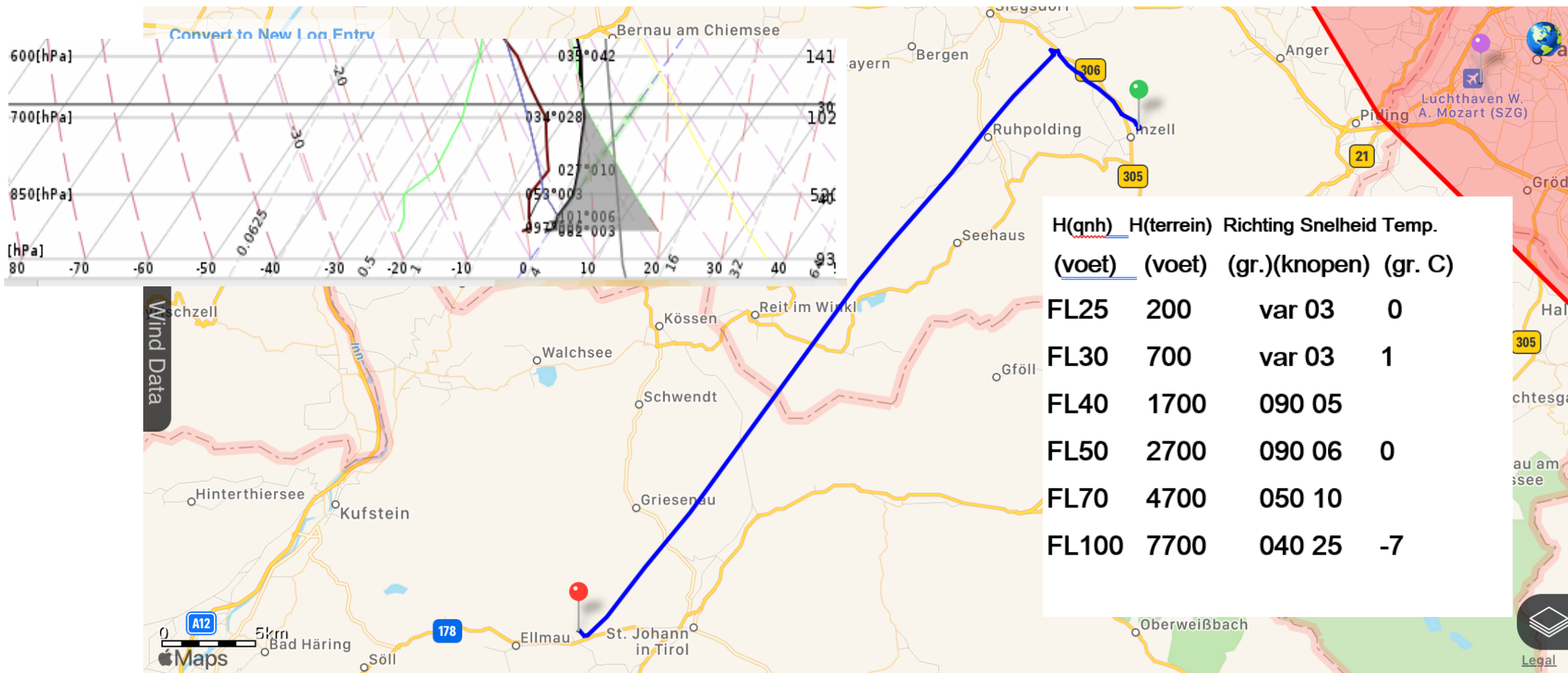
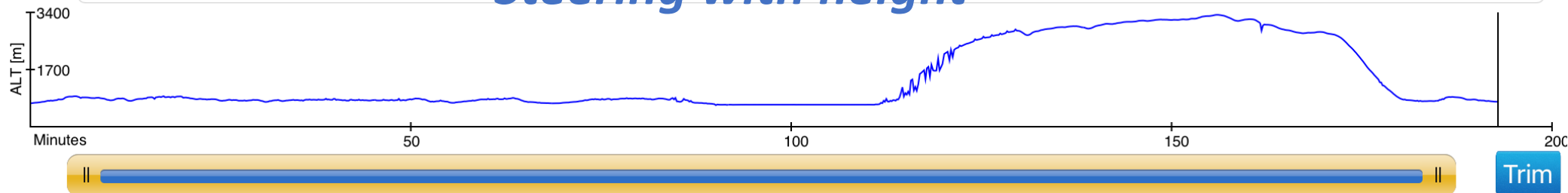




Photo by Victor Banta



V. Sue Cleveland
High School

*Our flight path

Corrales

Pueblo of
Sandia Village

Bernalillo

Launch field

Balloon Fiesta Park

Alameda
Elementary School

North Valley Bike Park

Anderson Abruzzo
Middle

Google Earth

Threads

Strong winds and wind gusts, therefore the limits for hot air balloons are around 10 knots (gas balloons 15 knots)

Wind gusts, not more than 5 knots above surface wind force

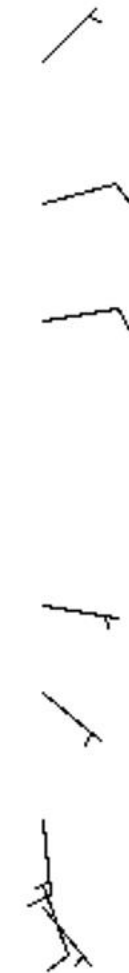
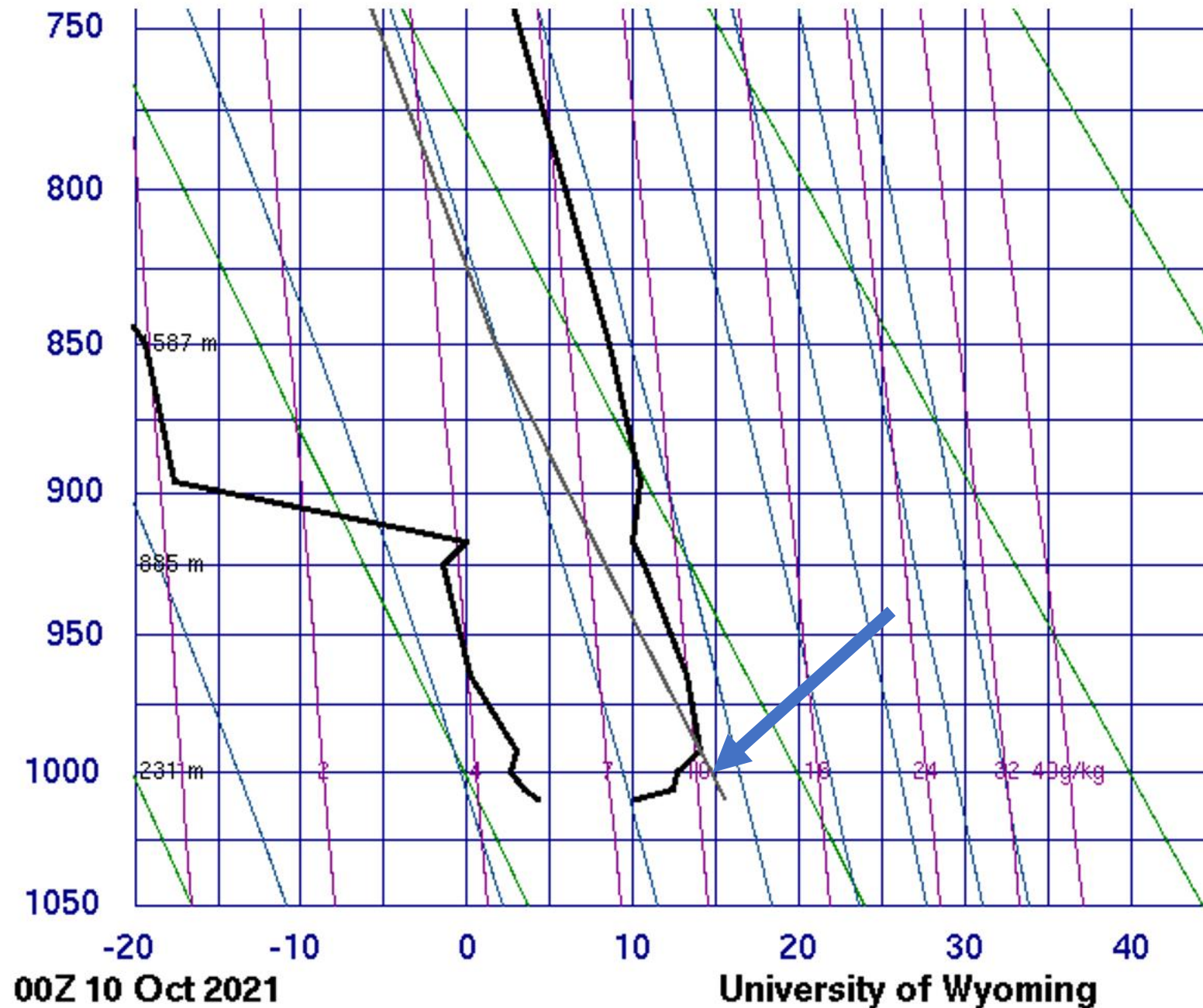
Thermals, thermals are dangerous for HAB because of deformation of the canopy (gas balloons are less vulnerable because of their rigid canopy)

Windshear, wind at 500 feet less than 15 kts

Thunderstorms, extremely dangerous, gust fronts

Precipitation, enhances the weight of the balloon, only light rain/snow possible

Hot air balloons need a stable boundary layer to launch and to land

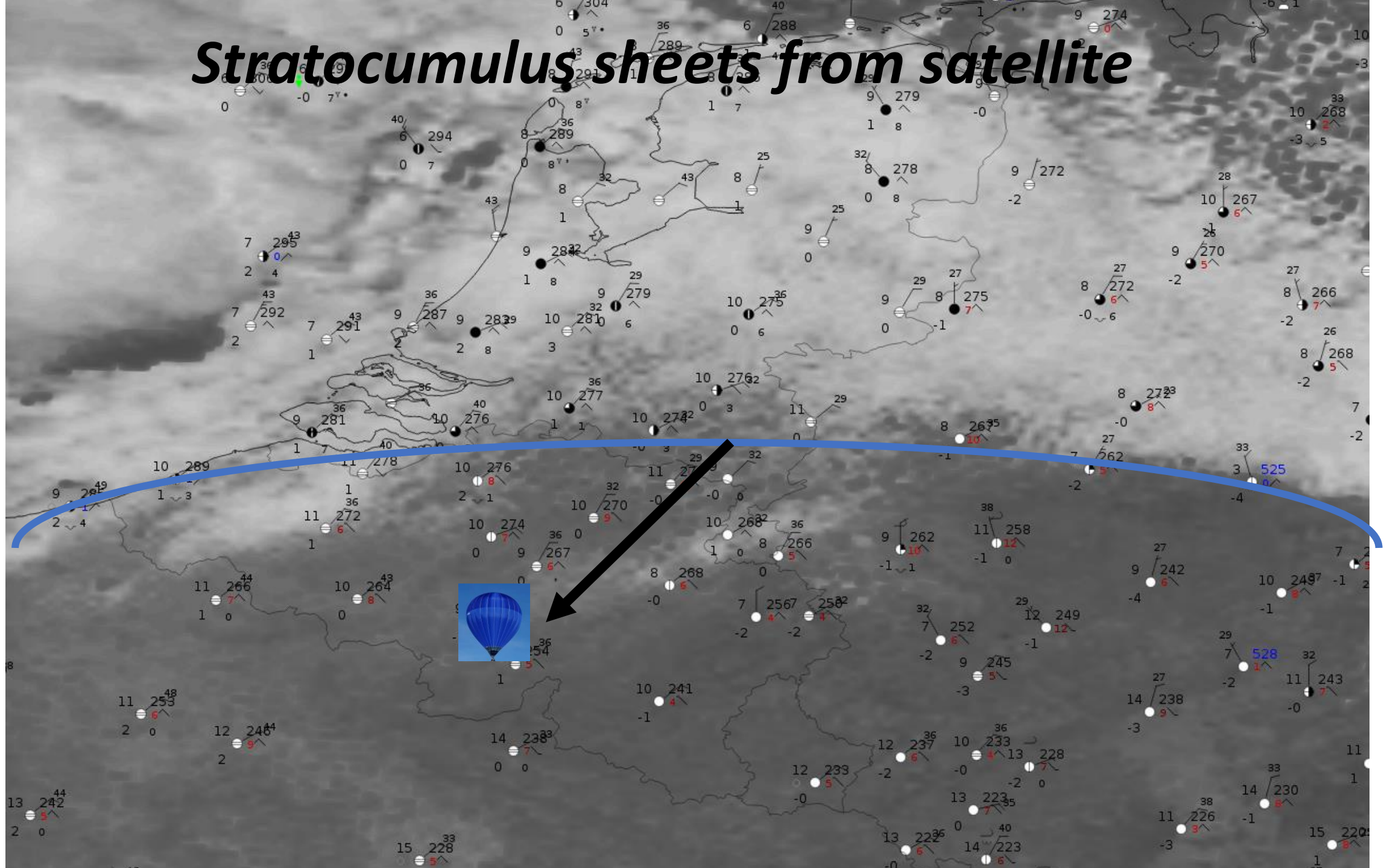


An aerial photograph showing a vast expanse of white, puffy stratocumulus clouds. A thick black line is drawn diagonally across the upper portion of the image, sloping downwards from left to right. A yellow arrow points upwards and to the right, originating from the black line. In the upper right corner, there is a small square inset image of a blue hot air balloon against a clear blue sky.

Clouds can disturb the stabilizing proces

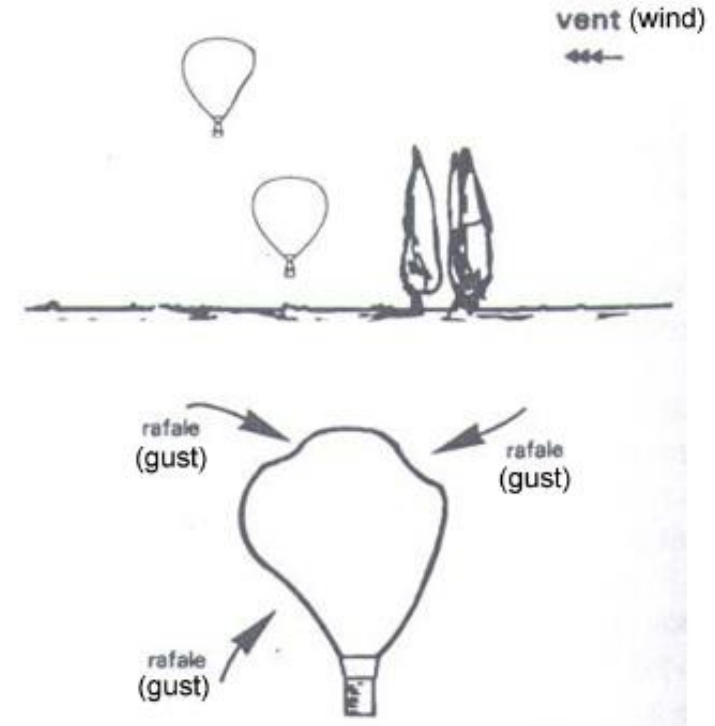
Stratocumulus sheets

Stratocumulus sheets from satellite

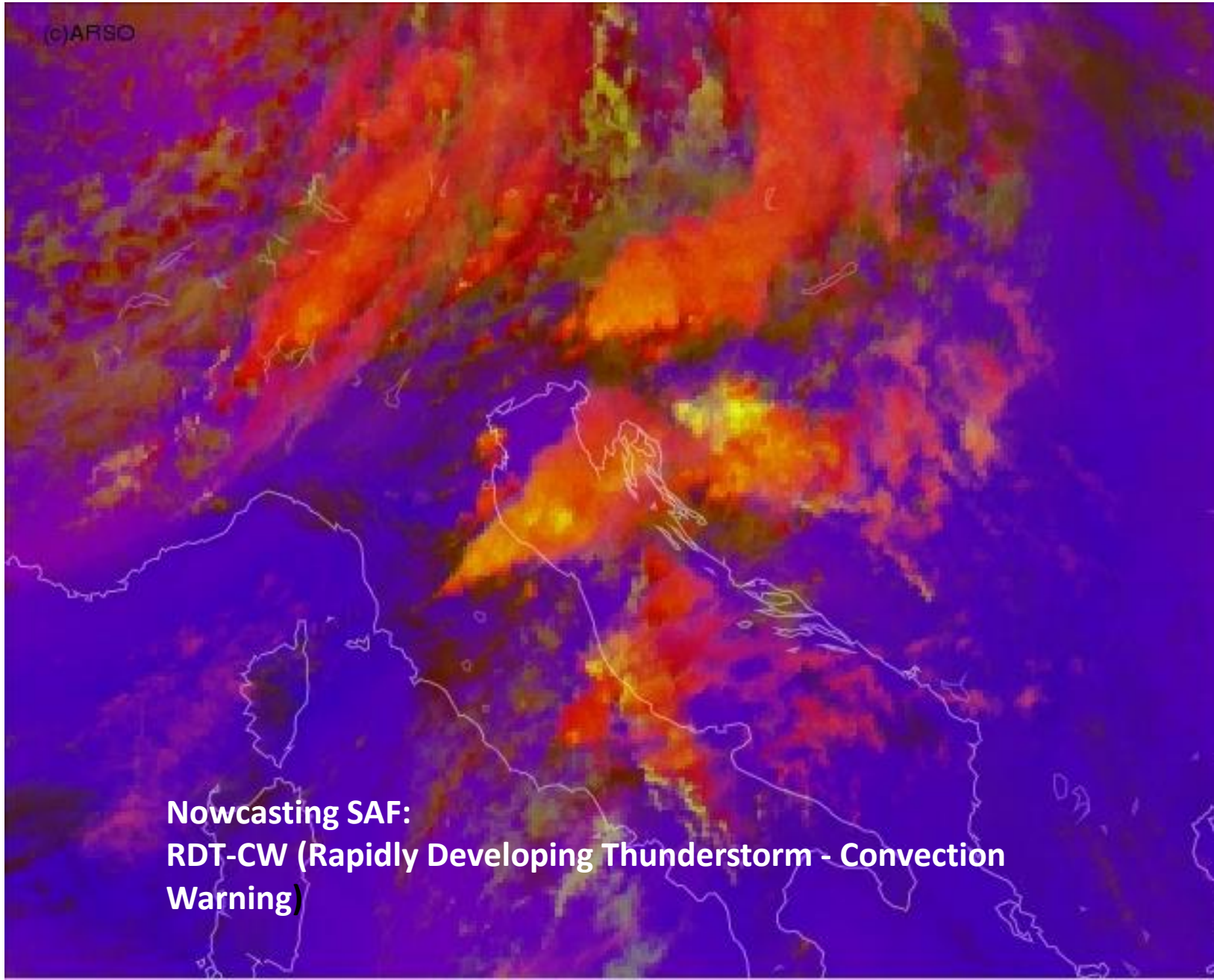


Thermals and gusts

What thermals can do with a balloon when the boundary layer is not stable yet



Thunderstorms

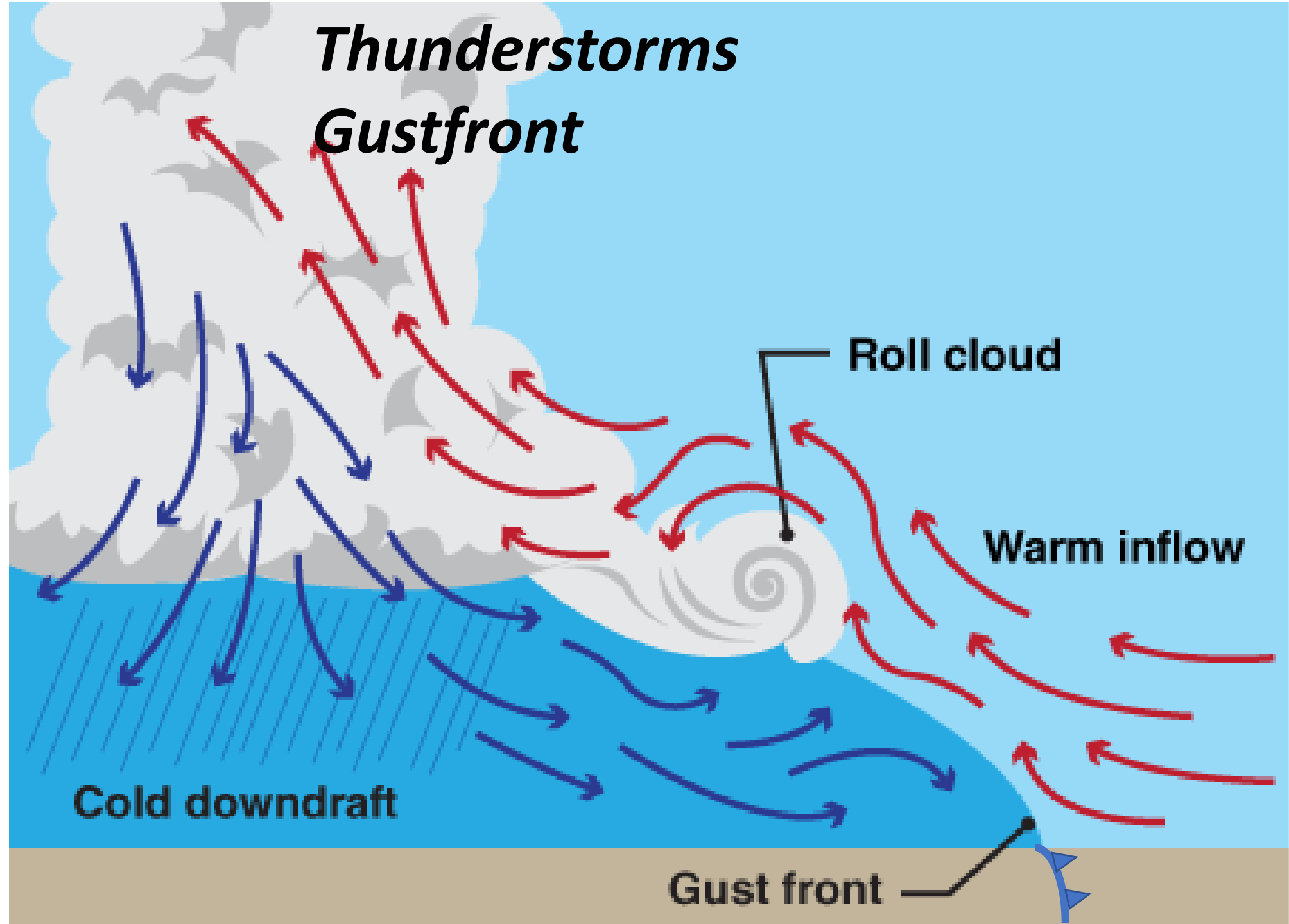


Convective storm RGB

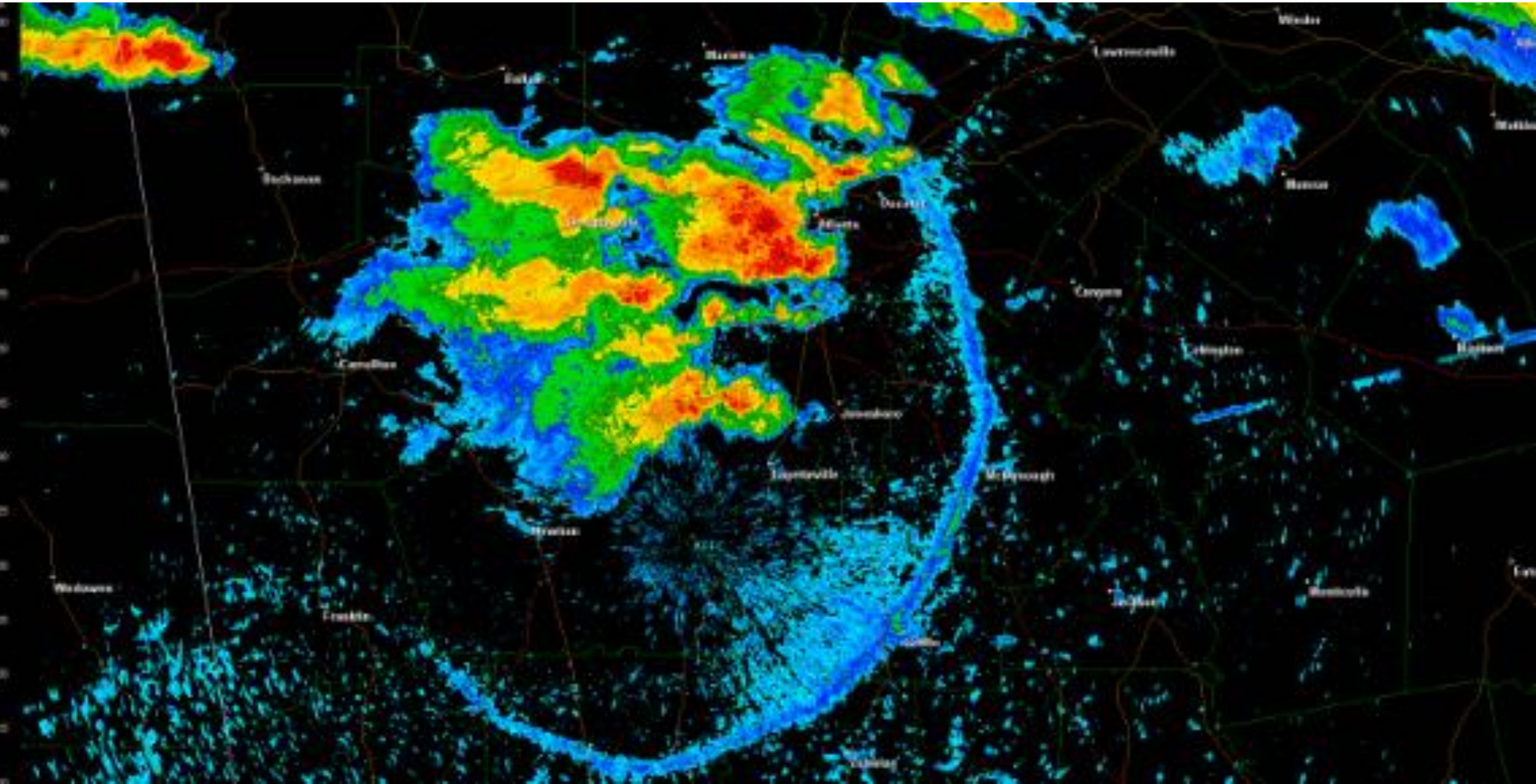
**Nowcasting SAF:
RDT-CW (Rapidly Developing Thunderstorm - Convection
Warning)**

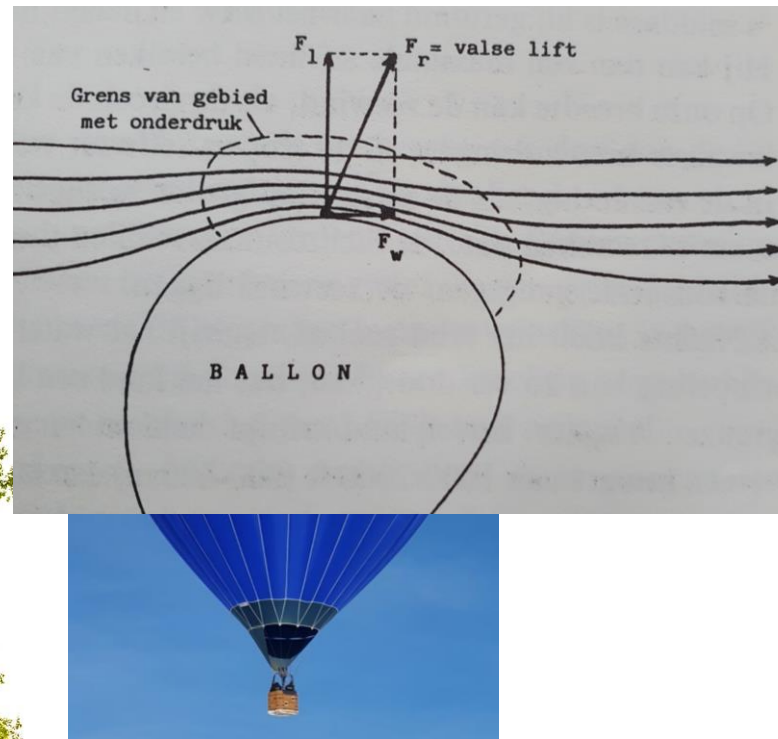
Thunderstorms

Gustfront



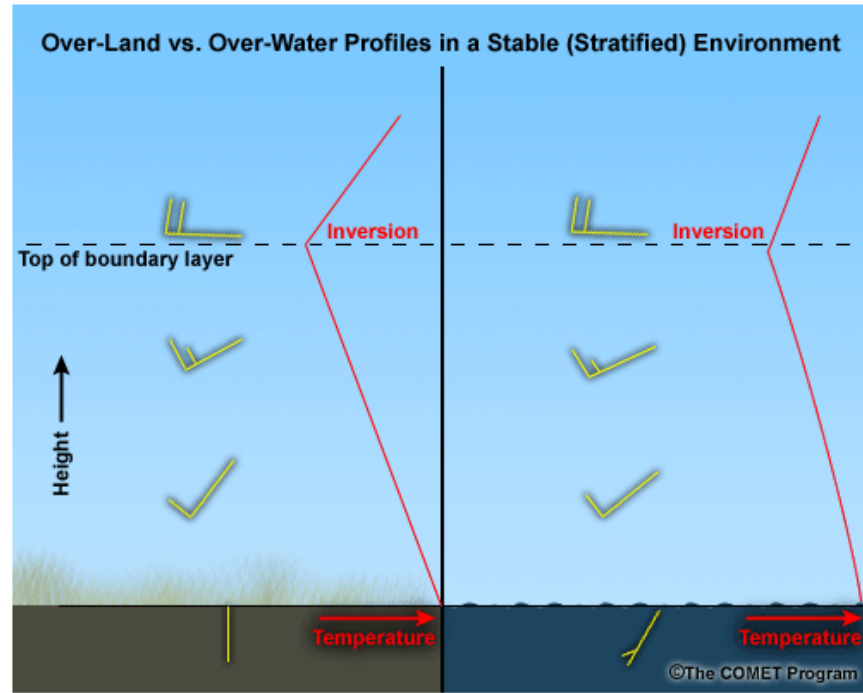
Thunderstorms Gustfront





Wind behind barriers
False Lift

Nocturnal wind maximum



Description:

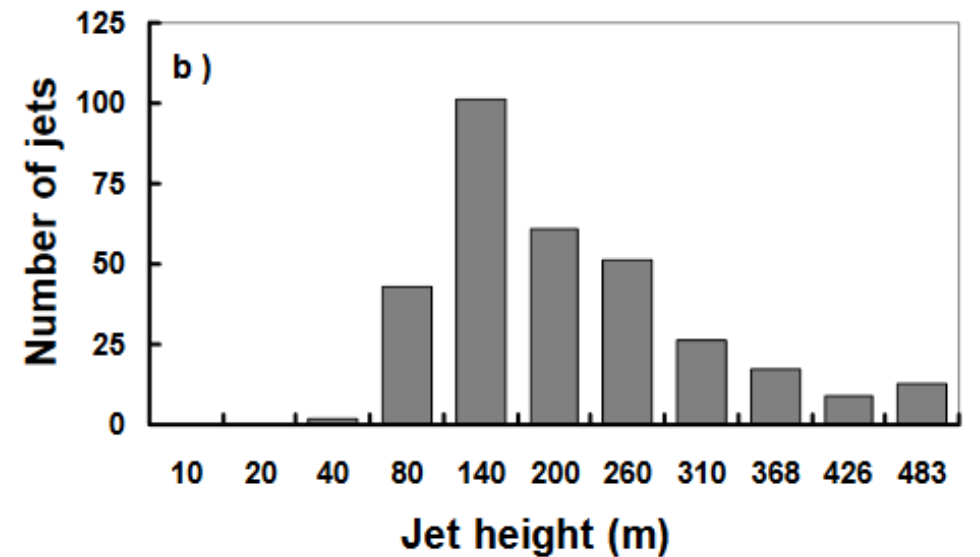
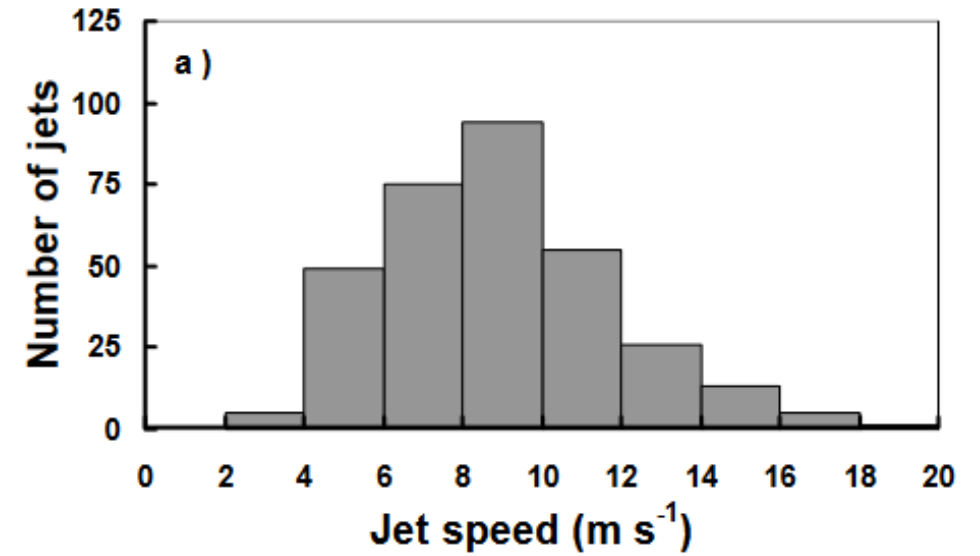
Comparison of temperature and wind profile in a stable (stratified) boundary layer over land vs. over water.

Credits:

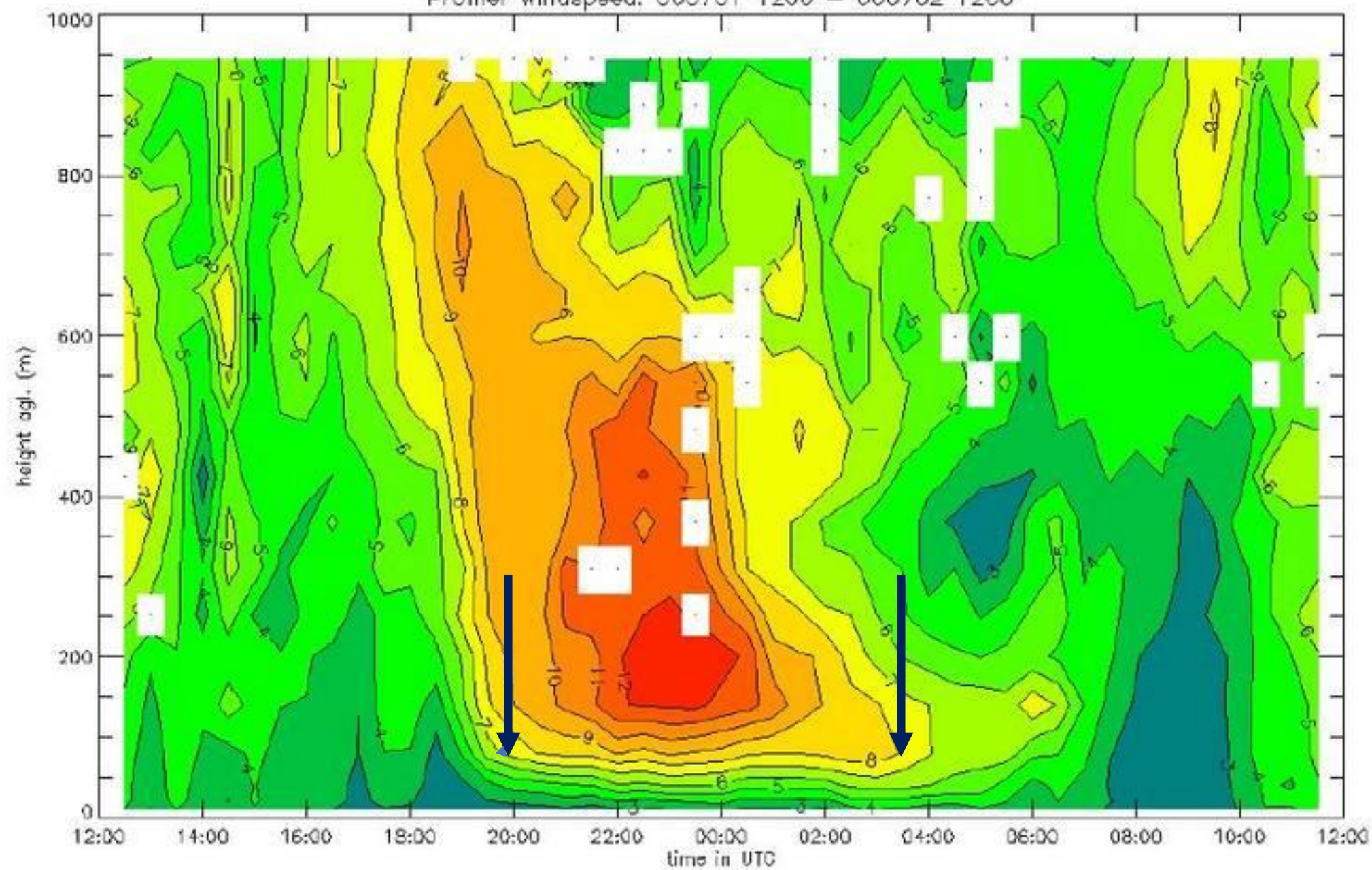
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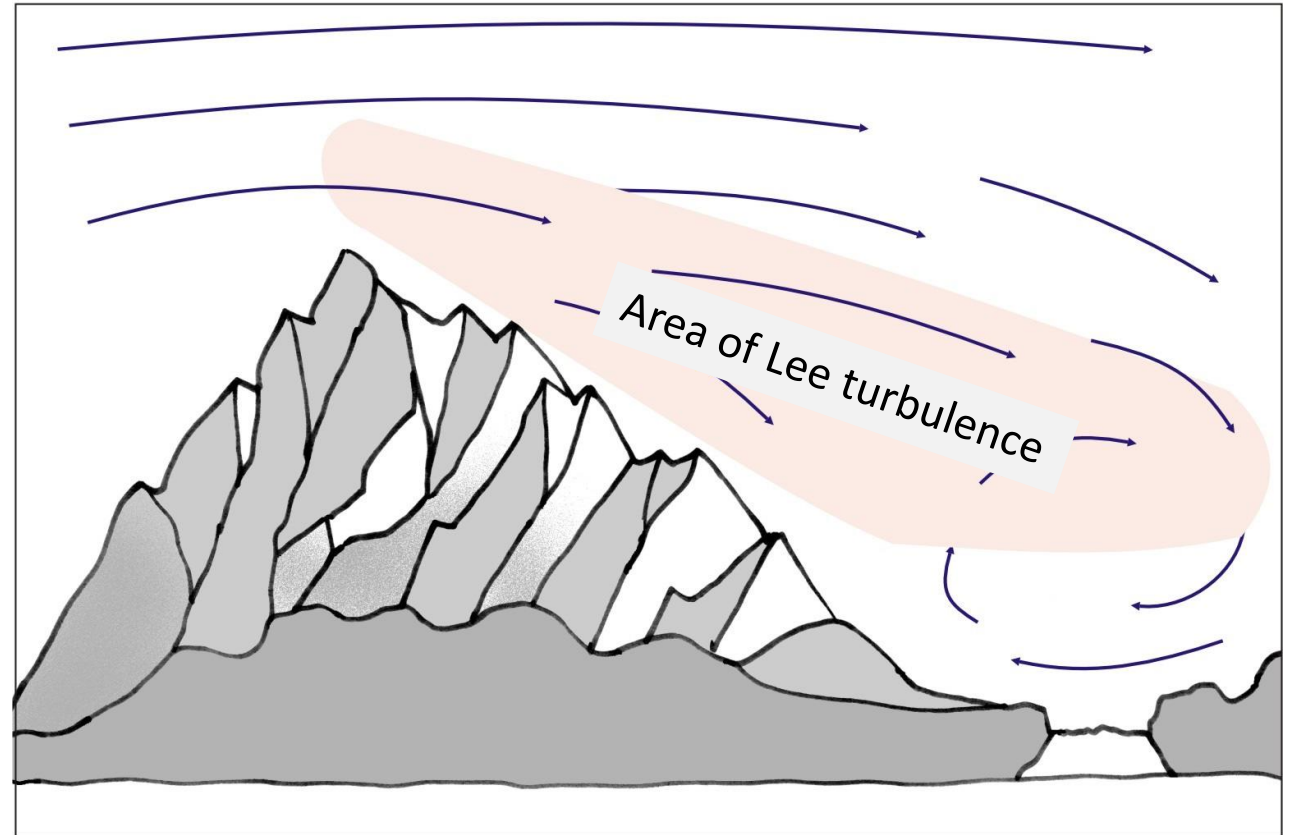
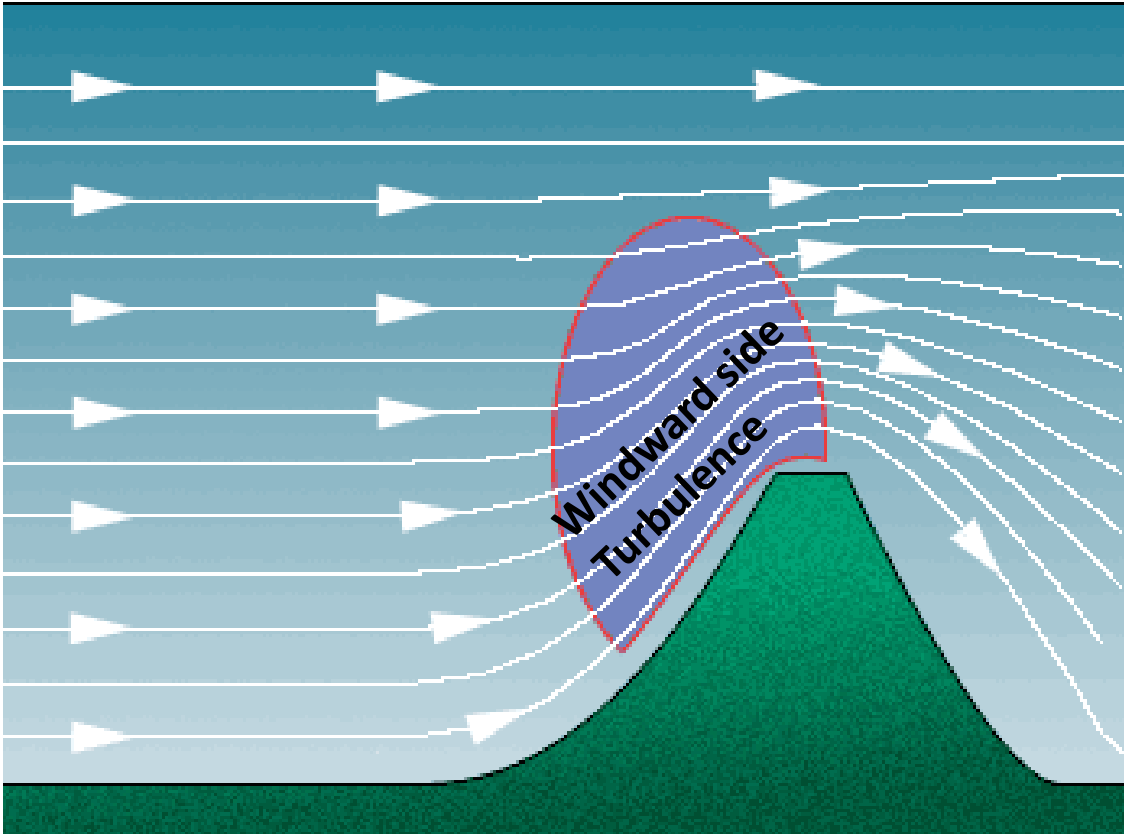
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Profiler windspeed: 060701 1200 - 060702 1200



Ballooning in mountainous ares



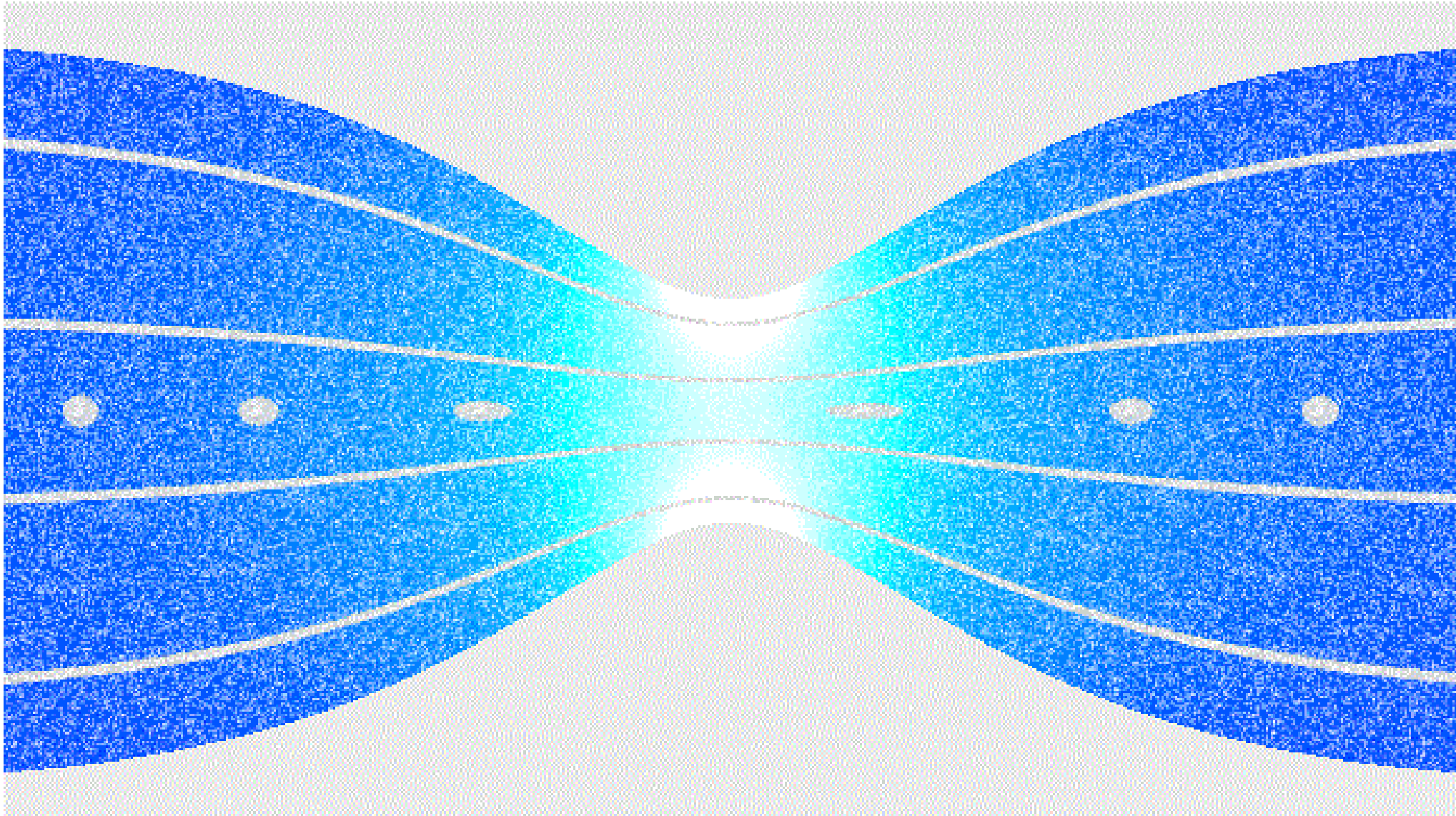
Turbulence near mountain tops (only > 20 kts)

Rule of thumb: Keep 100 ft separation from summit per knot

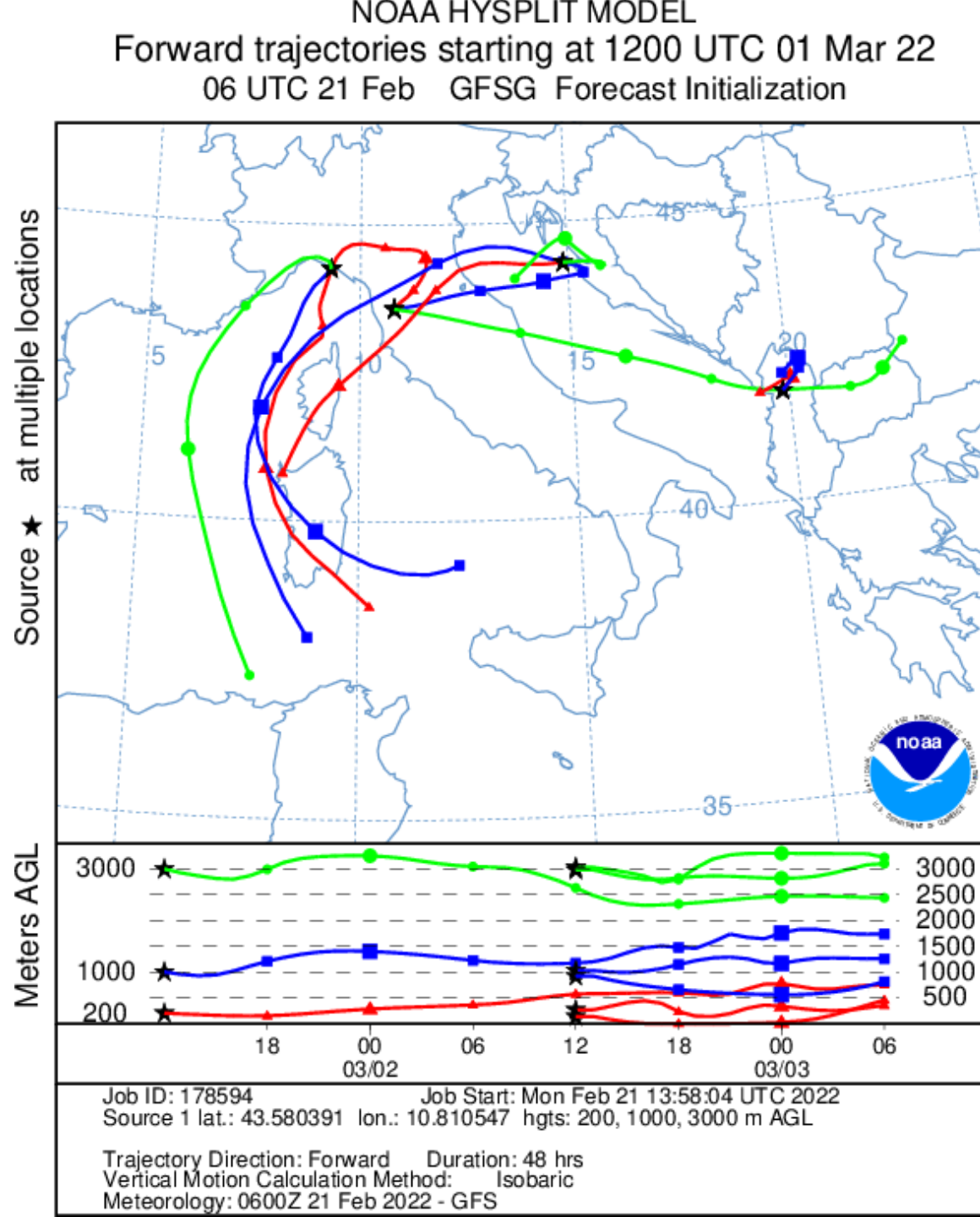
Example: 50 kt = 5000 feet above summit

Ballooning in mountainous areas

Wind forced between two mountains/hills: Venturi effect



Forward trajectories



Gordon Bennett Gasballoon race



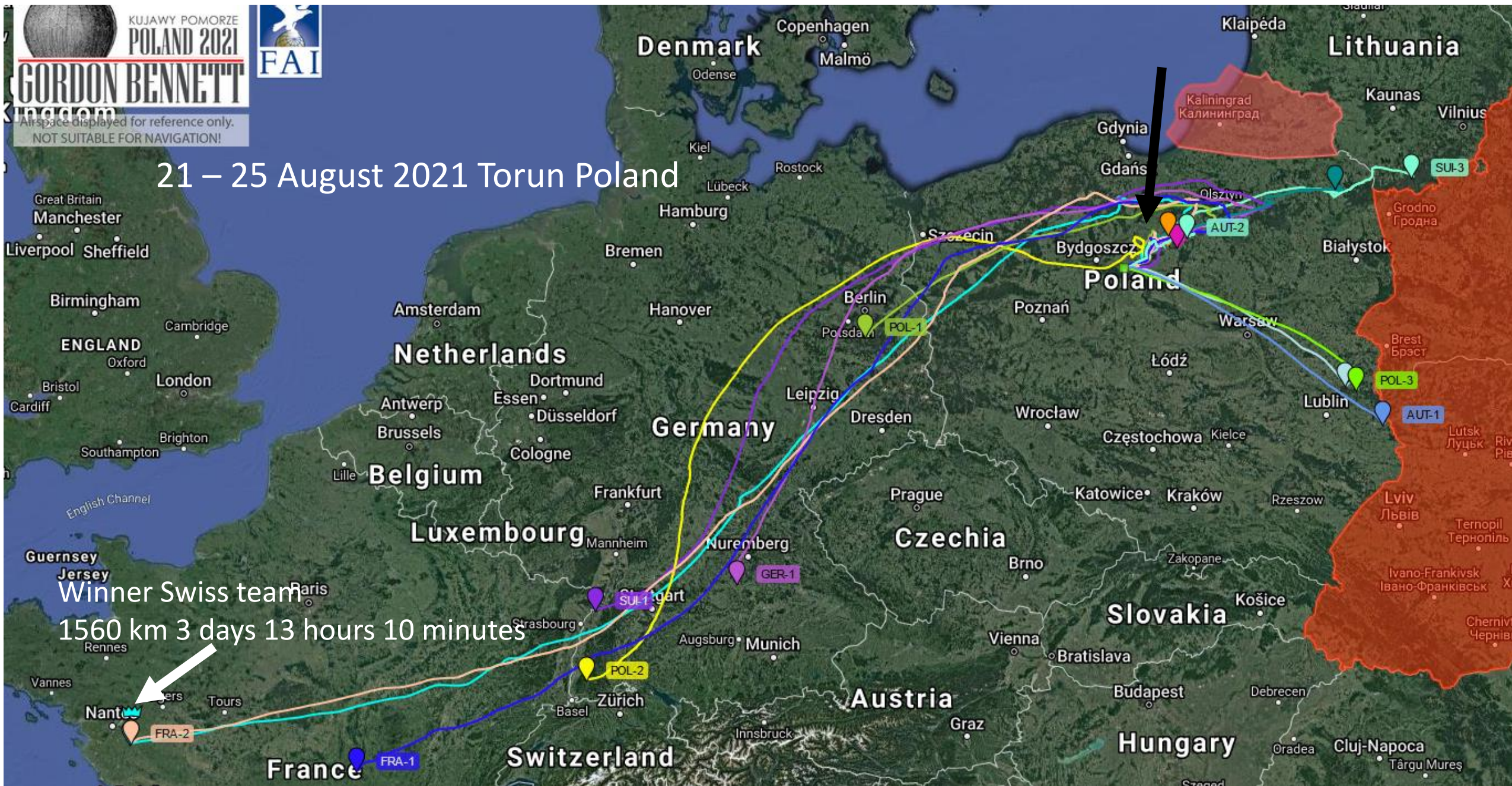
An aerial photograph capturing the starting area of the Gordon Bennett Gasballoon race. Dozens of large, spherical gas balloons are clustered on a vast green field. The balloons are predominantly white, with several featuring bright yellow or blue accents and various logos, including the Swiss flag, a red 'M', and a yellow 'Waghever' logo. People are gathered around the balloons, and several white vans and trailers are parked nearby. In the background, a small cluster of buildings and a parking lot filled with cars are visible under a clear sky.





21 – 25 August 2021 Torun Poland

Winner Swiss team
1560 km 3 days 13 hours 10 minutes



Thank you for your attention

