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An index of anomalous convective instability to detect tornadic and hail storms

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25 **Abstract**

26 In this article, the synoptic-scale spatial structures for raising tornadic and hail storms are
27 compared by analyzing the total and anomalous variable fields from the troposphere to the
28 stratosphere. 15 cases of tornado outbreaks and 20 cases of hail storms occurred in the central
29 United States during 1980–2011 were studied. The anomalous temperature-height field shows
30 that a tornadic or hail storm usually occurs at the boundary of anomalous warm and cold air
31 masses horizontally in the troposphere. In one side, an anomalous warm air mass in the mid-low
32 troposphere and an anomalous cold air mass in the stratosphere are vertically separated by a
33 positive center of height anomalies at the upper troposphere. In another side, an opposite vertical
34 pattern shows that an anomalous cold air mass in the mid-low troposphere and an anomalous
35 warm air mass in the stratosphere are separated by a negative center of height anomalies at the
36 upper troposphere. Therefore, two pairs of adjacent anomalous warm/cold centers and one pair
37 of anomalous high/low centers combining together form a major tornadic or hail storm paradigm,
38 which can be physically considered as the storage of anomalous potential energy (APE) to
39 generate severe weather. To quantitatively measure the APE, we define an index of anomalous
40 convective instability (ACI) which is a difference of integrating temperature anomalies based on
41 two vertically opposite anomalous air masses. The APE transformation to anomalous kinetic
42 energy, which reduces horizontal and vertical gradients of temperature anomalies, produces
43 anomalous rising and sinking flows in the lower-layer anomalous warm and cold air mass sides
44 respectively. The intensity of ACI index for tornadic storm cases is 1.5 times larger than that of
45 hail storm cases in average. Thus, this expression of anomalous variables is better than total
46 variables used in the traditional synoptic chart and the ACI index is better than other indices to
47 detect potential tornadic and hail storms in order to understand the environmental conditions

48 affecting severe weather in analytical and model output datasets.

49

50 **1 Introduction**

51 Extreme weather events, such as heat wave, cold surge, heavy rainfall and unusual tropical
52 cyclone frequently hit some places in the world. Locating and forecasting these events are a
53 challenge for meteorologists. In recent years, an approach of anomaly-based analysis has been
54 introduced in studying extreme weather events by Qian et al. (2016a), Chen et al. (2016), Jiang et
55 al. (2016) and Huang et al. (2015) respectively. Particularly, we want to further examine whether
56 the same approach can be used to indicate severe weather such as tornadic and hail storms
57 because both are the most extreme in the world. Qian et al. (2017a) recently studied six historical
58 tornadic storm events in the lower Huaihe River basin of eastern China during 1979–2016 using
59 the approach of anomaly-based analysis. They found that tornadic storms always occur in the
60 warm-wet side from both of anomalous warm and cold air masses separated by the trough axes
61 of negative low-level height anomalies. They further found that the ECMWF model and the
62 NCEP GFS can predict the trough-axis location for leading 42 and 18 hours in advance
63 respectively. Previous studies show that the predicting ability of anomalous variables, such as for
64 height and temperature anomalies, from the ECMWF model can reach 6–7 days in advance in
65 eastern China (Qian et al. 2013; Chen et al. 2016) and 7–8 days in advance in the central United
66 States to the North Atlantic (Bassil 2014; Qian 2017c). It means that the current operational
67 numerical weather prediction models have adequate ability to predict anomalous synoptic
68 precursors indicating weather extremes for leading about a week.

69 The central United States is home to the most frequent violent tornadic storms on Earth
70 (Doswell et al. 2012). In most cases, multiple tornado occurrences can observe within a single

71 synoptic-scale system in the central and southern United States. Although a tornado track
72 warning is usually limited within 10–20 minutes, many studies always adhere to pursuing their
73 goal to find notable synoptic precursors and environmental conditions by using the traditional
74 synoptic charts and dynamical (or thermo-dynamical) diagnostic methods (Agee et al. 1975;
75 Bunkers et al. 2006; Metz and Bosart 2010; Corfidi et al. 2010; Thompson and Edwards 2000).
76 Particularly, Mercer et al. (2012) assessed the differences between tornadic and non-tornadic
77 storms using synoptic-scale pattern composites in the United States. The Glossary of
78 Meteorology (Glickman 2000) describes a tornado outbreak as “multiple tornado occurrences
79 within a single synoptic-scale system”. Thus, identifying and expressing synoptic-scale systems
80 that favor tornadic storm is critical if model prediction skill can reach several days in advance.

81 In this study, the synoptic-scale environmental condition for raising tornadic and hail storms
82 are compared by analyzing the total and anomalous variable fields from the troposphere to the
83 stratosphere. The other goal of this study is to construct a new index of anomalous convective
84 instability that is different from traditional severe weather indices and can distinguish tornado
85 outbreaks from hail storms in the central United States. After this introduction, datasets and the
86 anomaly-based approach are described in section 2. The spatial distributions of anomalous
87 variables indicating synoptic-scale systems for tornadic/non-tornadic storm cases are given in
88 sections 3. In section 4, the new index of anomalous convective instability is proposed and
89 compared with other indices. Conclusion and discussion are summarized in section 5.

90

91 **2 Datasets and approach**

92 To identify synoptic-scale systems which may favor the formation of severe weather, four
93 datasets and a case of tornadic storm are used in this article. The first is the CMORPH (CPC

94 MORPHing technique) precipitation dataset that has 3-hourly temporal and 0.25-degree
95 horizontal spatial resolutions, derived from satellite observations (Joyce et al. 2004). The second
96 is the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) Re-Analysis Interim
97 (ERA-Interim) data (Dee et al. 2011) that has a resolution of $0.75^\circ \times 0.75^\circ$ in latitude and
98 longitude at 37 pressure levels, obtained from <http://www.ecmwf.int/research/era/do/get/index> or
99 http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/interim_full_daily. The third is the tornado/severe
100 thunderstorm database that records the tornado and non-tornadic severe thunderstorm reports
101 (Schaefer and Edwards 1999; Verbout et al. 2006). The fourth is the convective available
102 potential energy (CAPE) data from the North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR) (Mesinger
103 et al. 2006). The NARR data has an approximate resolution of 0.3 degrees (32 km) in space and
104 a 3-hour interval in time.

105 Using a simple and flexible method, Doswell et al. (2006) has ranked the top-20 tornadic
106 storms and the top-20 days with primarily non-tornadic severe weather (only hail storms) during
107 the period 1970–2003. For the top-20 tornadic storms, the five cases (3 Apr 1974, 27 May 1973,
108 17 Apr 1970, 21 Feb 1971, and 20 Mar 1976) occurred before 1979 are not analyzed in this
109 paper because the ERA-Interim product is available since 1979. We examine the height and
110 temperature anomalies for other 15 cases of tornadic storms after 1979 using the ERA-Interim
111 product and the tornado/severe thunderstorm database. In Table 5 of Doswell et al. (2006), two
112 tornadic storm cases occurred within the same day on 13 Mar 1990 and are considered as one
113 case in this study. Therefore, only 14 cases of tornadic storm, together with an additional special
114 case on 27 to 28 Apr 2011, are analyzed in this paper (Table 1).

115 The tornadic storm during 27–28 Apr 2011 is first studied in the spatial comparison of total
116 and anomalous variable distributions. In April 2011, around 758 tornadoes occurred in America.

117 During 25–28 Apr 2011, 350 tornadoes occurred from Texas (TX) to eastern Virginia (VA),
 118 causing 321 fatalities (Simmons and Sutter 2012). On 27 Apr 2011, the number of tornadoes
 119 reached 199, causing 316 deaths (the most casualties in a 24-h period), and more than 2700
 120 injuries. Three distinct episodes of tornadoes over this 24-h period (0500 UTC 27 Apr to 0500
 121 UTC 28 Apr 2011) showed a mesoscale convective system (MCS), a quasi-linear convective
 122 system (QLCS), and widespread discrete supercell storms in succession (Knupp et al. 2014).
 123 These mesoscale convective systems and supercell storms were directly associated with and
 124 raised by a single synoptic-scale system (Qian 2017c).

125 In our previous studies (Qian 2017c), daily extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall
 126 and severe weather storms were seen as results of anomalous synoptic-scale systems related to
 127 temporal climatology. The temporal climatology of a certain location and a certain time is
 128 considered as a state under the thermodynamic equilibrium of earth-atmosphere system, which is
 129 only forced by the solar radiation (solar declination) and surface conditions rather than daily
 130 weather disturbances. Thus, an hourly atmospheric total or full field $F_{\{d,y\}}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t)$ such as
 131 geopotential height and temperature at diurnal time t (24 hours a day), for a particular time on a
 132 calendar date d in a year y at a spatial point of longitude λ and latitude φ , and pressure level p ,
 133 is decomposed into an hourly climatic field $\bar{F}_d^{\varphi}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t)$ and an hourly anomalous field
 134 $F'_{\{d,y\}}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t)$ following Qian et al. (2014):

$$135 \quad F_{\{d,y\}}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t) = \bar{F}_d^{\varphi}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t) + F'_{\{d,y\}}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t) \quad (1)$$

136 The hourly climatic field is estimated by averaging over M years based on the reanalysis
 137 data on the calendar date d and at the diurnal time t ,

138
$$\bar{F}_d^{\alpha}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t) = \sum_{y=1}^M F_{(d,y)}(\lambda, \varphi, p, t) / M \quad (2)$$

139 where y runs for M years such as 30 to 100 years. It is assumed that the positive and negative
 140 anomalies of meteorological variables at a specific grid point and a given calendar time cancel
 141 each other during the M years. The climatic state (or climatology) defined by Eq. (2) contains
 142 diurnal cycle since it varies temporally from hour to hour. In previous studies (Qian et al. 2014;
 143 Huang et al. 2015), y runs from 1981 to 2010 for $M=30$ years. To prove the robustness of the
 144 resulting climatology, Qian and Huang (2017b) have tested the climatology with and without a
 145 super typhoon for 30 years and found the difference to be negligible. Their studies showed that
 146 typhoon track forecast using hourly climatic wind on the same calendar day is more accurate
 147 than that using a several-day-mean climatic wind.

148

149 **3 Anomalous synoptic systems for tornadic and non-tornadic cases**

150 Many previous studies (Maddox et al. 1980; Markowski et al. 1998; Rasmussen et al. 2000;
 151 Wurman et al. 2007) showed that tornadogenesis can be influenced by the interaction of an
 152 ongoing supercell with a preexisting air-mass boundary. As indicated by Schultz et al. (2014),
 153 some supercell storms move along or across air-mass boundaries such as warm fronts, stationary
 154 fronts, or outflow boundaries produced by other storms. The likelihood of tornado formation
 155 may locally increase in these areas because of the enhanced wind shear and moisture near the
 156 boundary. In these cases, the temperature gradient along a front is a favorable environment
 157 condition for tornadic supercells. For our case, the tornadic outbreak on 27 Apr 2011 was the
 158 major component of an extended 4-day disastrous tornado event from 25 Apr to 28 Apr 2011
 159 following a synoptic-scale system moving eastward. On 25 Apr 2011, about 64 tornadoes (only

160 four with EF-2 or greater in intensity) accompanied with the first rainfall process were spawned
161 between northeast TX, western Tennessee (TN), and Kentucky (KY). On 26 Apr 2011,
162 approximately 50 tornadoes with the second rainfall process occurred from eastern TX to the
163 western parts of TN and KY. After three catastrophic days of the tornadic storm and the third
164 rainfall process on 27 Apr 2011, the residual synoptic-scale system produced 43 additional
165 tornadoes (four with EF-2 and one with EF-3) from Georgia (GA) to New York (NY). For this
166 case, horizontal distributions at 925 hPa and vertical profiles of temperature-height anomalies
167 have been given by Qian (2017c). The comparison between total and climatic fields for the case
168 is additionally given in this section.

169 Figure 1 compares the horizontal distributions of total height and temperature, climatic
170 height and temperature, and height and temperature anomalies at 925 hPa at four different
171 occasions. The horizontal traditional synoptic chart, climatic synoptic chart and anomalous
172 synoptic chart can be compared in Figs. 1a, 1b and 1c, respectively. At 1200 UTC 27 Apr 2011,
173 tornado tracks and strong rainfall were observed over a relatively broad area of total height and
174 temperature gradients as shown in the traditional synoptic chart (Fig. 1a1), but not within the
175 maximum temperature gradient (or front). Figure 1b shows that the climatic temperature field is
176 mostly parallel to latitude lines and the zonal departures are the results of sea-land contrast.
177 Thus, there is a strong center of climatic temperature varying with diurnal cycle over the
178 southwest United States. After removing the climatic height and temperature (Fig. 1b1) from the
179 total height and temperature, we found that tornado tracks and rainfall occurred near the
180 boundary of anomalous warm and cold air masses as shown on the anomalous synoptic chart
181 (Fig. 1c1). The same feature was also observed at other three occasions. At 0000 UTC 28 Apr
182 2011, most strong tornadoes with the longest track were also located near the boundary of

183 anomalous warm and cold air masses within the warm side (Fig. 1c3). The trough of height
184 anomalies was basically along the zero line of temperature anomalies, separating an anomalous
185 warm air mass and an anomalous cold air mass. It is clear that the central locations of height and
186 temperature anomalies are different from that of total height and temperature (Fig. 1a vs. Fig.
187 1c). A small negative center of temperature anomalies near the low center (Lt) was influenced by
188 the heavy rainfall (Figs. 1c1 and 1c2).

189 Similarly, Fig. 2 reveals the vertical distributions of total height and temperature, climatic
190 height and temperature, and height and temperature anomalies along different latitudes at the
191 four occasions. The vertical traditional synoptic chart, climatic synoptic chart and anomalous
192 synoptic chart can be compared in Figs. 2a, 2b and 2c, respectively. At 1200 UTC 27 Apr (Fig.
193 2a1), waves in the total height field were weaker than that of total temperature. The diurnal-cycle
194 pattern of climatic temperature is also clearly observed in Fig. 2b with a strong warm center over
195 the southwest United States as compared from Fig. 1b. The anomalous synoptic charts show that
196 rainfall centers and tornadoes were touched down horizontally near the boundary between an
197 anomalous warm mass (a warm air column) and an anomalous cold air mass (a cold air column)
198 and vertically near the low axis of height anomalies in the troposphere (Fig. 2c1). Ascending
199 flow and tornado tracks were located in the anomalous warm air mass side while descending
200 flow was situated in the anomalous cold air mass side. Waves in the total temperature field
201 became stronger from 1800 UTC 27 to 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011 (Figs. 2a2 and 2a3). In the
202 anomalous synoptic charts (Figs. 2c2 and 2c3), four centers of temperature anomalies indicate
203 two anomalous warm air masses (W2 and W3) and two anomalous cold air masses (C2 and C3),
204 which vertically show a baroclinic pattern (or structure) of height and temperature anomalies. An
205 anomalous high center H3 at the upper troposphere separated the anomalous warm air mass (W3)

206 below and the anomalous cold air mass (C3) above while an anomalous low center (L2) at the
207 upper troposphere separated the cold air mass (C2) below and the warm air mass (W2) above.
208 Height and temperature anomalies satisfy the hydrostatic balance relationship vertically. It means
209 that the vertical pattern of temperature anomalies can be derived by height anomalies from the
210 troposphere to the stratosphere.

211 Why were the tornadic storm and heavy rainfall physically associated with the two pairs of
212 adjacent anomalous air masses? In the troposphere below 300 hPa, there were an anomalous
213 warm air mass (W3) in the east side of tornadic storm and an anomalous cold air mass (C2) in
214 the west side. On the stratosphere, however, an anomalous cold air mass (C3) and an anomalous
215 warm air mass (W2) were located in the east and west sides of the tornadic storm respectively.
216 Thermodynamically and vertically, the anomalous warm air mass (W3) below the anomalous
217 cold air mass (C3) is strongly unstable so a question is how to quantitatively describe this
218 instability. The anomalous cold air mass (C2) below the anomalous warm air mass (W2) is also
219 another type of largely unstable situation to departure away from the temporal climatic state.
220 Dynamically and horizontally, the anomalous warm air mass (W3) and the anomalous cold air
221 mass (C2) were adjacently located nearby in the troposphere which possessed a large amount of
222 anomalous potential energy (APE). The release of these APEs could produce strong anomalous
223 kinetic energy (AKE) with ascending flow (green dashed contour) in the anomalous warm side
224 and descending flow (green solid contour) in the anomalous cold side (Fig. 2c). The strongest
225 contrast of anomalous warm-cold air masses and anomalous ascending-descending flows were
226 around the place of tornadic storm and heavy rainfall. This vertical structure of height and
227 temperature anomalies still remained but became weaker at 0600 UTC 28 Apr (Fig. 2c4). This
228 vertical pattern of anomalous warm and cold air masses as well as negative and positive centers

229 of height anomalies in the central United States is the same as that in the single-tornado events
230 occurred in eastern China (Qian et al. 2017a).

231 The vertical pattern of height and temperature anomalies, with a pair of anomalous height
232 centers (L2 and H3) at the upper troposphere and the anomalous low (Lt) near the surface,
233 persisted from 1200 UTC to 1800 UTC 27 Apr and 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011. The strengthening
234 process before 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011 is evident in the rising flow shown in Fig. 2c. Thus, we
235 assume that most strong tornadoes or supercell storms occurred from 1800 UTC 27 to 0000 UTC
236 28 Apr 2011 was a dynamical result releasing APE (reducing horizontal and vertical gradients of
237 temperature anomalies), which transforms AKE to the anomalous rising flow in the mid-low
238 troposphere. Therefore, the prediction of this vertical pattern of temperature-height anomalies
239 should be relevant to that of severe weather events such as tornadic storm.

240 For this tornadic storm, we also examine its spatial distributions of specific humidity
241 anomalies. Figure 3a shows the total and climatic specific humidity at the moment of a lot of
242 tornado touchdowns at 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011 along 38°N. High specific humidity spans from
243 east to west in the lower troposphere (Fig.3a). In Fig.3b, a positive center of specific humidity
244 anomalies was just located over the surface low (Lt), within the places of tornado touchdown and
245 heavy rainfall. So the tornado outbreak can be clearly indicated by a central place of specific
246 humidity anomalies in the lower troposphere.

247 As we have previously noted, surface weather extremes are directly associated to variable
248 anomalies aloft (Chen et al. 2016; Qian et al. 2016a; 2016b). Figure 4 illustrates the wind
249 distributions at 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011 from total, climatic, and anomalous components along
250 38°N. In spring and over the central United States, prevailing climatic southwesterly (SW) flow
251 exists in the upper troposphere and climatic northeasterly (NE) flow in the lower troposphere

252 (Fig. 4b). After removing the climatic wind from total wind (Fig. 4a), the residual wind shows
253 that the tornado outbreak occurred in the boundary of anomalous southerly and northerly winds
254 with strong rising flows in the troposphere (Fig. 4c).

255 The above case showed that a tornadic outbreak is directly associated with a vertically coupled
256 variable anomalies deeply from the troposphere to the stratosphere. To confirm if this vertical air
257 mass pattern can be generalized or not, we examine the 14 cases listed in Table 1. The first case
258 occurred from 31 May to 1 Jun 1985. In Fig. 5, the horizontal distribution of height and
259 temperature anomalies at 925 hPa was similar to that in Fig. 1c. There was no tornado
260 touchdown at 1200 UTC 31 May 1985 (Fig. 5a), but a tornado was observed near the anomalous
261 warm center (W1) at 1800 UTC 31 May 1985 (Fig. 5b). At 0000 UTC 1 Jun 1985, several
262 tornadoes occurred within the anomalous warm center (W1) (Fig. 5c), while no tornadoes were
263 recorded at 0600 UTC 1 Jun 1985 (Fig. 5d). For this case, the tornado outbreak was directly
264 associated with a pair of anomalous cold-warm air masses (C and W1), but tornadoes occurred
265 within the strengthening anomalous warm sector usually at 0000 UTC. The anomalous warm air
266 mass (or warm sector) was located in the southeastern side of anomalous low center (L) and
267 between two low troughs (two bold dashed lines) of height anomalies.

268 The eight cases of tornadic storm selected from Doswell et al. (2006) are illustrated in
269 Fig. 6. Each of them had a multiple of tornadoes touched down simultaneously. Similar
270 structures of height and temperature anomalies were also observed for other cases of tornadic
271 storm, i.e. they are all associated with a pair of anomalous warm-cold air masses, and tornadoes
272 occurred within warm side. These cases happened not only in spring (Mar, Apr and May), but
273 also in the cold season (Nov and Dec). We find that all these cases showed the same vertical
274 pattern of height and temperature anomalies.

275 Are there any differences in synoptic conditions between tornado and non-tornado severe
276 events? Doswell et al. (2006) have ranked tornado and non-tornado environments, but they did
277 not mention the horizontal distribution and vertical pattern of height and temperature anomalies
278 for those non-tornadic severe storms. In this paper, we examine the 20 cases of the top-20 days
279 with hail storms (Table 1) studied in Doswell et al. (2006b). The first case of hail storm was on
280 19 Jul 1983 but the hail sites were few compared to all 20 cases. Figs. 7 and 8 illustrate the
281 height and temperature anomalies of the second and third cases of the hail days. Similar
282 horizontal structures of anomalous warm-cold air masses and height anomalies at 925 hPa are
283 observed from both of tornado and non-tornado (hail) cases, but vertical profiles are different
284 from them, particularly for the depth of each air mass. For example, in the case from 8 to 9 Jun
285 1982, hail storms poured down near the boundary line of anomalous warm-cold air masses and
286 the trough of height anomalies at 925 hPa (Figs.7a1–7a3). Therefore, the horizontal distribution
287 of anomalous warm-cold air masses and height anomalies at the lower troposphere cannot
288 distinguish tornado cases from non-tornado (hail) cases. Figure 7b reveals that although hail
289 storms occurred near the boundary line of anomalous warm-cold air masses and the trough of
290 height anomalies and within anomalous ascending flow in the lower troposphere, the center of
291 anomalous warm or cold air mass was very shallow in depth so its intensity is weaker limited in
292 the lower troposphere. Meanwhile, the central intensity of anomalous cold or warm air masses is
293 also weaker at the upper troposphere. A comparison shows that the lower-layer anomalous warm
294 air mass and upper-layer anomalous cold air mass are stronger for the tornado cases than that of
295 hail cases (Fig. 2c vs. Fig. 7b).

296 In the case from 1800 UTC 7 Jun to 0600 UTC 8 Jun 1985, hail storm occurred only at the
297 first two time points and near the boundary line of anomalous warm-cold air masses (W and C)

298 and the trough of height anomalies at 925 hPa (Fig. 8a). The weakening process of anomalous
299 warm-cold contrast is also observed in their horizontal and vertical sections in Fig. 8. This case
300 reconfirms that although the same horizontal distribution of height and temperature anomalies at
301 925 hPa is valid for both tornado and hail cases, their difference probably exists in the intensity
302 of vertical anomalous warm-cold air masses, which needs to be quantified.

303 All these cases showed that the spatial structure and expression are different between
304 traditional and anomalous synoptic charts in indicating the location of supercell tornadic and hail
305 storms. In the traditional synoptic charts, supercell storms move along or across air mass
306 boundaries such as warm fronts and stationary fronts as indicated by Schultz et al. (2014). It
307 means that the boundary of warm and cold air masses is divided by maximum temperature
308 gradient lines or fronts. In the anomalous synoptic charts, however, supercell storms are located
309 near the boundary of anomalous warm and cold air masses as well as within the places of higher
310 humidity anomalies and anomalous ascending flow (Fig. 2c, Fig. 3b and Fig. 10). It is noted that
311 tornado and hail outbreaks are anomalous weather events so they should well correspond to
312 anomalous weather systems as shown in Figs. 1c, 2c, 3b and 4c, and thus to the anomalous warm
313 and cold air masses in this study.

314

315 **4 Anomalous convective instability and comparison with other indices**

316 In the anomalous synoptic chart, anomalous warm and cold air masses observed are in synoptic
317 scale. For most tornado-producing storm systems such as in Fig. 2c panel, a pair of anomalous
318 warm-cold air masses (C2 and W3) horizontally spreads in the mid-low troposphere (below the
319 red dotted line) while another pair of anomalous warm-cold air masses (W2 and C3) penetrates
320 vertically from the upper troposphere to the stratosphere (above the red dotted line). Thus, two

321 pairs of adjacent anomalous air masses near tornado touchdown area are vertically deep from the
 322 troposphere to the stratosphere. When a cold anomaly lies above a warm anomaly it is defined as
 323 anomalous convectively unstable in the two deep layers. This spatial structure tells us that the
 324 traditional indices associated with the vertical temperature difference between 500 (or 600) and
 325 850 hPa is not suitable to describe the instability of a pair of anomalous warm and cold air
 326 masses penetrated from the troposphere to the stratosphere. To quantitatively measure this
 327 structure of a pair of anomalous warm and cold air masses, the anomalous convective instability
 328 (*ACI*) index is defined as the difference of integrating temperature anomalies (T') between two
 329 opposite air masses vertically at each grid point from 1000 to 100 hPa,

$$330 \quad ACI = \left[\int T' dp \right]_{\text{lower-layer}} - \left[\int T' dp \right]_{\text{upper-layer}} \quad (3)$$

331 In the calculation of *ACI* index, the major anomalous warm and cold air masses are first
 332 identified by the vertically maximum and minimum centers of temperature anomalies such as the
 333 anomalous cold air mass (C2) versus the anomalous warm one (W2) or the anomalous warm air
 334 mass (W3) versus the anomalous cold one (C3) in Fig. 2c. Then, the temperature anomalies are
 335 vertically integrated within the anomalous warm (cold) air mass from the bottom +1°C to the top
 336 +1°C (or the bottom -1°C to the top -1°C) centering the maximum (or minimum) temperature
 337 anomaly (the vertical thick red or blue line in Figs. 2c4 or 7b1). The upper layer and the lower
 338 layer are vertically a pair of anomalous warm and cold air masses. For tornado cases, the two
 339 upper-layer anomalous air masses (W2 and C3) and the two lower-layer anomalous air masses
 340 (C2 and W3) are clearly separated by the zero-anomaly line (red-dot line in Figs. 2c), so are the
 341 non-tornado (hail) cases (Figs. 7b and 8b).

342 Figure 9 shows the horizontal distributions of the *ACI* index at 1200 UTC 27, 1800 UTC 27,
 343 0000 UTC 28, and 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011, respectively. The horizontal gradient of *ACI* index

344 indicates the contrast of two pairs of anomalous warm and cold air masses. The total APE should
345 be directly proportional to the difference between the positive and negative ACIs. In Fig. 9, the
346 tornadoes touched down near the boundary between the positive and negative ACI areas but
347 within the positive area because of the anomalous ascending flow in Fig. 2c. The detail location
348 of tornadoes can also be determined by higher center of specific humidity anomalies and rising
349 flow (Figs. 2c and 3b) along the boundary of positive-negative ACI areas. The longest track with
350 most tornado touchdowns was associated to the strongest contrast of positive and negative ACI
351 areas with their central values of 10522 °C hPa and -6729 °C hPa respectively (Fig. 9c). Figure
352 10 shows the relation of tornado tracks associated with specific humidity and vertical flow at
353 four time points. Tornadoes touched down within higher humidity and rising flow. Tornadoes are
354 the most intense and touch down from other 14 tornado cases shown in Fig. 11. All 14 cases of
355 tornado outbreak happened near the boundary of positive and negative ACI areas or in the
356 positive ACI side, where the condition of specific humidity and wind anomalies was also
357 satisfied.

358 As a comparison, Fig. 12 is the horizontal distribution of ACI index calculated from the hail
359 storm cases shown in Figs. 7 and 8 at 0000 UTC 9 Jun 1982 and 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1985,
360 respectively. Hail storms also occur near the boundary between positive and negative ACI areas
361 but the contrast between the positive and negative ACI centers is weaker than that of the tornado
362 cases. Other 18 day cases show similar features as illustrated in Fig. 13. Most of the 20 hail day
363 cases showed weaker areas of ACI index except of several cases such as at 0000 UTC 21 Nov
364 1989 with only one hail site (Fig. 13k) and 0000 UTC 10 Apr 2001 with more hail sites (Fig.
365 13o). All cases of tornadic and hail storms occurred within anomalous high humidity and near
366 the boundary between positive and negative ACI areas. Most hail sites (16 of 20 cases) were

367 found in the positive ACI side and others in the negative side. In the triangle place as shown in
 368 Fig. 8b2, where ACI is negative due to the baroclinic structure of anomalous temperature-height
 369 system. The uncertainty of severe weather occurring in positive or negative ACI sides results
 370 from baroclinic system in anomalous variables. A comparison between tornado and hail cases
 371 (Table 1) shows that the ACI index of tornado cases is averagely about 1.5 times larger than that
 372 of hail storms: about 7355 °C hPa to -8420 °C hPa with their difference 15783 °C hPa for the
 373 former and about 4808 °C hPa to -5856 °C hPa with their difference 10452 °C hPa for the latter.

374 For the severe weather diagnostic analysis or forecasting, many indices have been developed
 375 in the last decades. Doswell and Schultz (2006) have given a selection of indices commonly used
 376 in the United States for severe storm forecasting. Most indices used in tornadic/non-tornadic
 377 storm detections are only associated with the vertical temperature difference or thermal wind
 378 between 500 (or 600) and 850 hPa in the lower troposphere. The updraft helicity (UH) is often
 379 used in the diagnostic analysis of strong convective weather events such as tornado outbreaks
 380 (Clark et al. 2013). An algorithm based on the concept of helicity, H , which is a scalar measure
 381 of potential for helicity flow (i.e., the pattern of a corkscrew) to develop in a moving fluid, was
 382 proposed by Kain et al. (2008). Rotating storms can be detected directly by measuring the
 383 vertical component of helicity, H_v , given by

$$384 \quad H_v = w \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = w\zeta . \quad (4)$$

385 Its vertical component H_v is integrated over a layer to yield a measure of the updraft helicity,
 386 UH , given by

$$387 \quad UH = \int_{Z_0}^{Z_1} w\zeta dz \quad (5)$$

388 The UH thus is calculated from 850 hPa (Z_o) to 500 hPa (Z_i) by (5). Figure 14 shows the
389 horizontal distributions of UHs and tornado tracks from 1200 UTC 27 to 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011.
390 The anomalous rising flow (Fig. 2a) combined a positive vorticity anomaly (figures are not
391 shown) is a possible cause of severe weather. In Fig. 14, a positive center of UH was
392 accompanied with tornadic storms at 1200 UTC 27 Apr and then weakened and moved
393 northward to separate tornadic storms at 1800 UTC 27 Apr, 0000 UTC 28 and 0600 UTC 28 Apr
394 2011. This disadvantage showed that the positive UH center was weakened and moved away as
395 tornadic storm became stronger (Fig. 14). The UH is also used to calculate the two hail cases at
396 0000 UTC 9 Jun 1982 and 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1985 in Fig. 15. No signals of UH can indicate the
397 two hail occasions.

398 Convective available potential energy (CAPE) is an index commonly used in predicting
399 severe convective storms (Moncrieff and Miller 1976; Doswell and Rasmussen 1994). Generic
400 CAPE is calculated by integrating vertically the local buoyancy of a parcel from the level of free
401 convection (LFC) to the equilibrium level (EL). Mostly, the LFC and EL are respectively located
402 at around 800 and 600 hPa in the lower troposphere. Thus, CAPE is effectively the positive
403 buoyancy of an air parcel and is an indicator of atmospheric instability in the lower troposphere.
404 When an air mass is unstable, the warm air is displaced and accelerated upward by the ambient
405 air. This usually creates vertically-developed local clouds from convection, due to the rising
406 motion, which can sometimes lead to thunderstorms.

407 Usually, positive and high CAPE is an indicator to where convective weather events might
408 occur. Figures 16 and 17 show the horizontal distributions of CAPE for tornado and hail cases,
409 respectively, using the NARR data. It is noted that most tornadoes of the 14 cases occurred in the
410 northward moderate CAPE area rather than the high-value center of CAPE (Fig. 16). For the 20

411 hail days, the first shows that hail sites occurred in the northward moderate CAPE area far away
412 to the high CAPE center (Fig. 17a) while the second depicts that most hail sites occurred near the
413 high CAPE center (Fig. 17b). Similar relationship between hail occurrence and CAPE value can
414 be observed from other days in Fig. 17. This result suggests that although CAPE is a useful
415 indicator for severe convective weather events such as tornadic and hail storms but it cannot
416 distinguish tornado and non-tornado events as done by the *ACI* index.

417 Another index is the severe weather threat (SWEAT) index which evaluates the potential
418 for severe weather by combining several parameters into one index. The SWEAT index was
419 developed by Bidner (1970).

$$420 \quad \text{SWEAT} = 12[T_d(850\text{hPa})] + 20(TT - 49) + 2(f8) + f5 + 125(S + 0.2) \quad (6)$$

421 It includes: 1) the low-level moisture (850 hPa dew point T_d in degree Celsius, if $T_d < 0$, the term
422 is set to zero), 2) the instability (Total Totals Index, TT is the sum of the 850 hPa temperature
423 and dew point, minus twice the 500 hPa temperature, if $TT < 49$, the term $20(TT - 49)$ is set to
424 zero), 3) the wind speeds in knots at the 850 hPa ($f8$) and the 500 hPa ($f5$), and the wind shear
425 $S = \sin(\text{wind direction difference by 500 hPa minus 850 hPa})$ under many conditions. The
426 SWEAT over 400 is potential for tornadic storms and the SWEAT values in between 300 and
427 400 indicate the threshold for severe thunderstorms and the SWEAT values in between 250 and
428 300 indicate a potential for strong convection in practice.

429 Figure 18 shows the distributions of SWEAT index at 1200 UTC 27, 1800 UTC 27, 0000
430 UTC 28, and 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011. Most tornado tracks occurred in northeast side of the
431 region with SWEAT over 400 in the first two time points and they were locally accompanied
432 well with one of SWEAT centers in the last two time points, where anomalous high humidity
433 was located (Fig. 10). In Fig. 18, there are other several centers of SWEAT without tornado

434 appearance. In Fig. 19, one stronger center of SWEAT over 400 accompanied scattering hail
435 sites at 0000 UTC 9 Jun 1982 while one weaker SWEAT center at 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1985 shows
436 many hail sites in its southwest side.

437 It is clear that all these indices the SWEAT, UH and CAPE used air temperature, dew point
438 and wind are limited in the lower troposphere between 500 and 850 hPa. In all three indices, the
439 SWEAT considering the low-level moisture and wind shear is better than others to indicate the
440 locations of potential weather extreme but they cannot distinguish tornadic and hail storms. As in
441 Fig. 2c and Fig. 7b, the layer between 500 and 850 hPa is located within only an anomalous air
442 mass. It implies that traditional indices cannot deeply reflect the strong contrast of two opposite
443 anomalous air masses to indicate a potential weather extreme such as tornadic and hail storms.

444

445 **5. Conclusions and discussion**

446 This paper first clarified that the spatial structure and expression are different from traditional
447 and anomalous synoptic charts in indicating the location of tornadic and hail storms. In the
448 traditional synoptic charts, supercell storms are considered to move along or across the warm and
449 stationary fronts where a maximum temperature gradient line is further considered as the
450 boundary of warm and cold air masses (Schultz et al. 2014). In the anomalous synoptic charts,
451 however, supercell storms are located near the boundary of anomalous warm and cold air masses,
452 and within the places of higher humidity anomalies and anomalous ascending flow. By using the
453 anomalous synoptic charts, we can construct the internal relation between the surface weather
454 extremes and spatial pattern of anomalous variables. Horizontal and vertical structures cannot be
455 found in the traditional synoptic charts (Fig. 1a, Fig. 2a and Fig. 3a), but spatial structures of all
456 anomalous variables connecting to the surface weather extremes become clear in the anomalous

457 synoptic charts (Fig. 1c, Fig. 2c, Fig. 3b, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8). This means that the anomaly-based
458 method is clearer and less confusing to locate the surface weather extremes than the traditional
459 way. These spatial structures or patterns can be used by forecasters in practical extreme weather
460 recognition based on observations and medium-range model products in the future.

461 Through case analyses we conclude the notion that tornadic and hail storms are directly related
462 to the vertical pattern of anomalous warm and cold air masses revealed in anomalous synoptic
463 chart. The appearance of two horizontal adjacent high and low centers of height anomalies at the
464 upper troposphere as well as two pairs of adjacent anomalous warm and cold centers (or air
465 masses) from the troposphere to the stratosphere are the critical environmental elements
466 producing severe weather including tornadic and non-tornadic storms. Horizontally, tornado
467 outbreaks usually occur near the boundary between anomalous warm and cold air masses, and
468 mostly within anomalous warmer and moister updraft air mass in the mid-low troposphere.
469 Vertically, an anomalous cold air mass located above an anomalous warm air mass produces the
470 instability necessary for intense convective storms. Thus, a pair of strong adjacent anomalous
471 warm and cold air masses horizontally in the troposphere is favorable for the release of
472 anomalous potential energy to produce anomalous kinetic energy. The tornado outbreak is
473 associated with a pattern of two pairs of adjacent synoptic-scale centers of temperature
474 anomalies horizontally and by a vertical pattern of anomalous warm-cold air masses from the
475 troposphere to the stratosphere.

476 This horizontal structure and vertical pattern of height and temperature anomalies are suitable
477 for both tornadic and hail storms. But, the intensity and contrast of two pairs of adjacent warm-
478 cold air masses for hail storms are usually weaker. Thus, we defined an ACI index: the
479 difference of two anomalous warm and cold air masses vertically from the troposphere to the

480 stratosphere. The ACI index can be physically considered as the storage of anomalous potential
481 energy to generate severe weather. It is found that the ACI intensity of tornado-producing storm
482 is about 1.5 times larger than that of hail-producing storm. In most strong cases, tornadic and hail
483 storms usually occur in the side of anomalous warm air mass with anomalous high humidity and
484 ascending flow. Sometimes they are located in the side of anomalous cold air mass due to some
485 baroclinic systems of height and temperature anomalies from the troposphere to the stratosphere.
486 The ACI index is different from the traditional instability indices such as the UH, CAPE and
487 SWEAT, whose are vertically limited within the mid-low troposphere, usually in the layer
488 between 500 and 850 hPa. This limitation and case analysis indicated that the three indices
489 cannot distinguish tornadic and hail storms.

490 This paper shows the advantages of anomaly-based approach in analyzing severe storm
491 environment. The anomalous variables can be used to plot anomalous synoptic charts (Qian et al.
492 2014) and construct diagnostic indices (Qian et al. 2016b) like the ACI index. In this study, for
493 example, by using the anomalous synoptic chart, severe weather storms have been proved to
494 result from the contrast between anomalous warm-wet and cold-dry air masses. In practice, many
495 approaches already exist to get a “quick look” for the potential of severe weather (Doswell and
496 Schultz, 2006). *In this study, however, the analysis is not sufficient to categorically prove the
497 superiority of ACI index in predicting when and where tornadic or hail storms will occur. To
498 make this conclusion genuinely robust, the verification from more tornado cases and non-tornado
499 days is still needed, but the current paper can serve as a starting point.*

500 Finally, the pattern of two pairs of adjacent warm-cold centers and the ACI index derived from
501 the anomaly-based analysis allow forecasters to detect severe weather events, and possibly to
502 distinguish tornado outbreaks and non-tornadic storm events if a critical threshold can be found

503 in future research statistically based on more cases, and use them as a guide in making their
504 prediction of tornado outbreak and hail storm. This method can also be applied to the products of
505 meso-scale numerical model predictions of 24–36 hours to serve as early anomaly signals
506 leading to tornadic outbreak and hail storm at early time. This utility certainly relies on the
507 model ability to accurately predict the presence of those anomalies.

508

509

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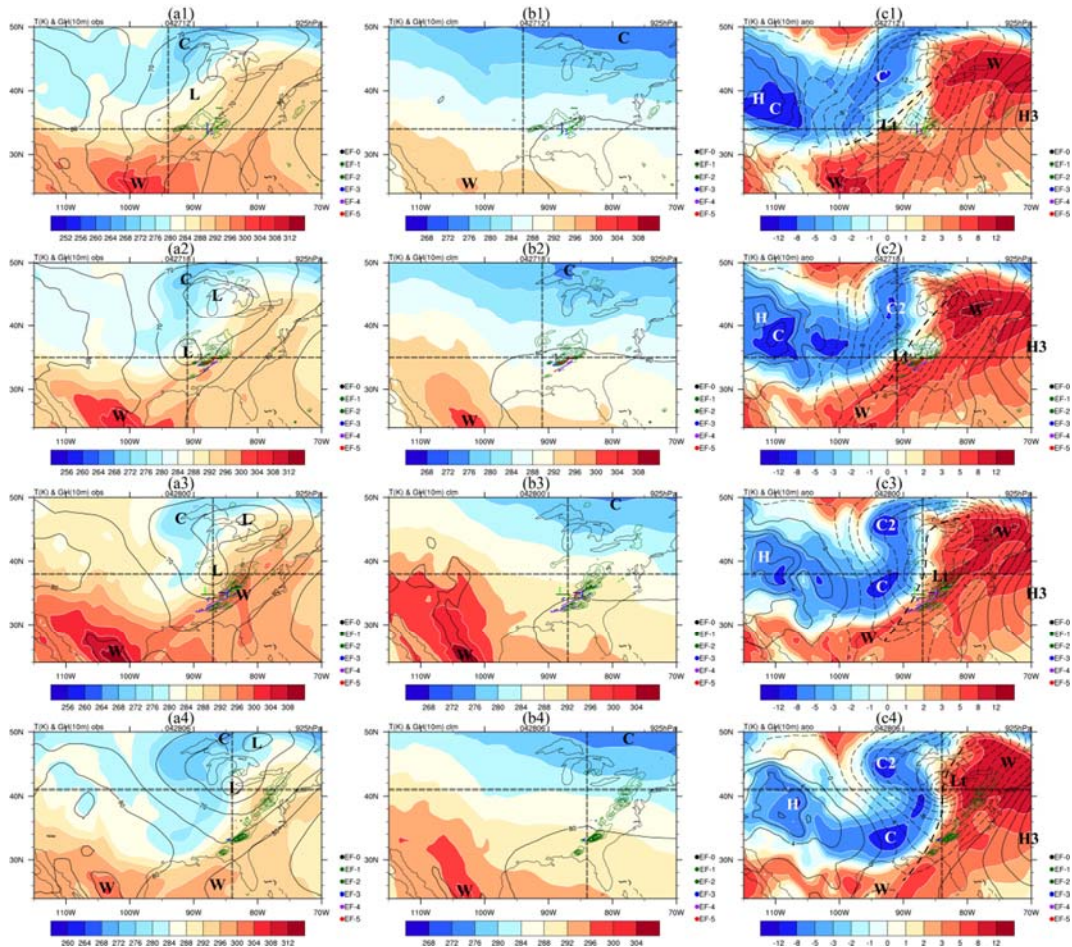
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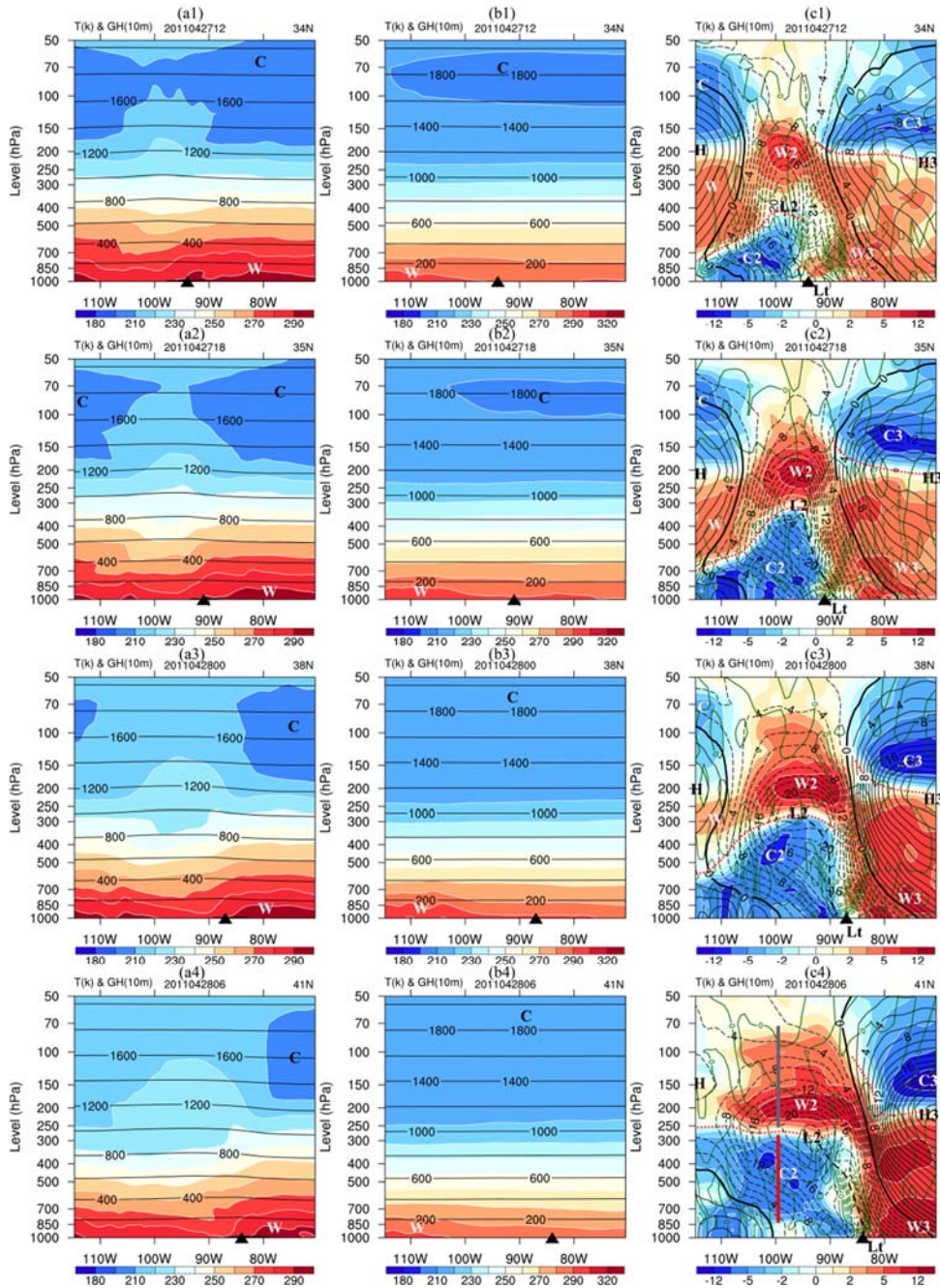
606 **Figure 1.** Horizontal distributions of (a1) total height (contour, 5×10 gpm interval) and total
 607 temperature (shading, 4 K interval), (b1) climatic height (contour, 5×10 gpm interval) and
 608 climatic temperature (shading, 4 K interval), and (c1) height anomalies (contours, 2×10 gpm
 609 interval) and temperature anomalies (shading, 1, 2, 3 and 4K intervals) at 925 hPa at 1200 UTC
 610 27 Apr 2011. Similarly, panels (a2)–(c2) are at 1800 UTC 27, (a3)–(c3) at 0000 UTC 28, and
 611 (a4)–(c4) at 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011. Green contour indicates the hourly precipitation rate (2.5
 612 mm h^{-1} interval) and the thick dashed line in (c) denotes the trough of height anomalies. Colored
 613 straight lines denote tornado tracks from EF-0 to EF-5 scales centered within 6 hours. Letters
 614 “H/L” and “W/C” indicate the centers of height and temperature (or anomalies).

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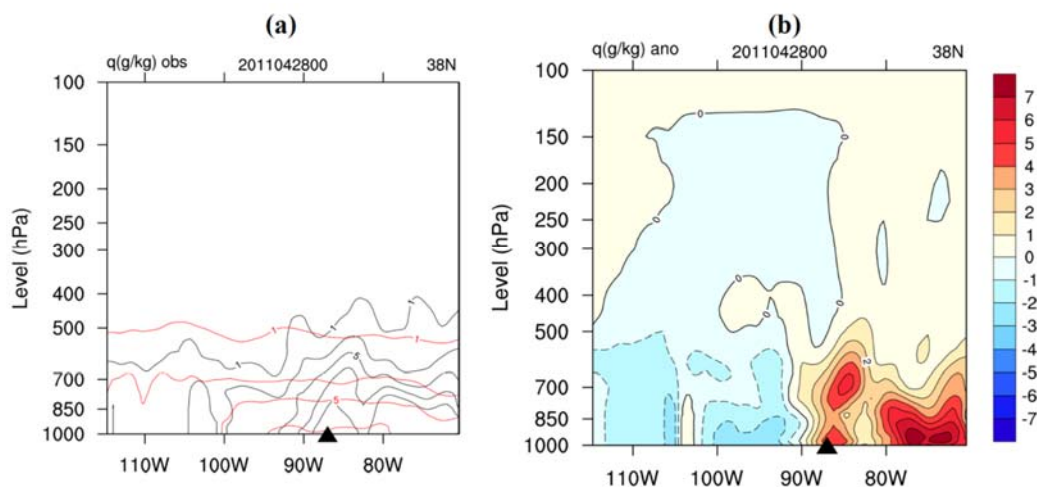


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620 **Figure 2.** Vertical distributions of (a1) total height (contour, 200×10 gpm interval) and total
 621 temperature (shading, 10 K interval), (b1) climatic height (contour, 200×10 gpm interval) and
 622 climatic temperature (shading, 10 K interval), and (c1) height anomalies (contours, 2×10 gpm
 623 interval) and temperature anomalies (shading, 1, 1.5, and 3.5K intervals) along 34°N at 1200
 624 UTC 27 Apr 2011. Similarly, panels (a2)–(c2) are along 35°N at 1800 UTC 27 Apr 2011, (a3)–
 625 (c3) along 38°N at 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011, and (a4)–(c4) along 41°N at 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011.
 626 The filled triangle “▲” indicates the central position of the surface anomalous low (Lt), while
 627 thick dashed lines indicate the trough axis of height anomalies. The green solid and dashed

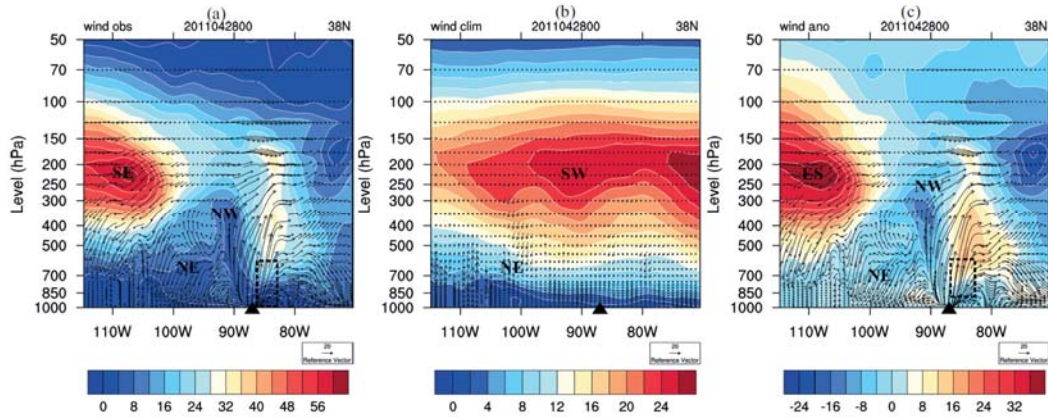
628 contours respectively indicate anomalous sinking and rising pressure velocities (0.2 Pa s^{-1}
 629 interval) while the red-dot line is the zero line of temperature anomalies in (c). Letters “H/L” and
 630 “W/C” denote the centers of height and temperature (or anomalies). In (c4), the vertical thick red
 631 and blue lines denote the depths (lower-layer or higher-layer) of anomalous warm (over $+1^\circ\text{C}$)
 632 and cold (below -1°C) air masses, respectively.

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 637 **Figure 3.** Vertical distributions of specific humidity at 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011 for (a) total
 638 specific humidity (black contours, 2 g/kg interval) and climatic specific humidity (red contours,
 639 2 g/kg interval) and (b) specific humidity anomalies (shading, 1g/kg interval) along 38°N. The
 640 filled triangle “▲” indicates the central position of the surface anomalous low (Lt) near the place
 641 of tornado touchdowns and heavy rainfall.

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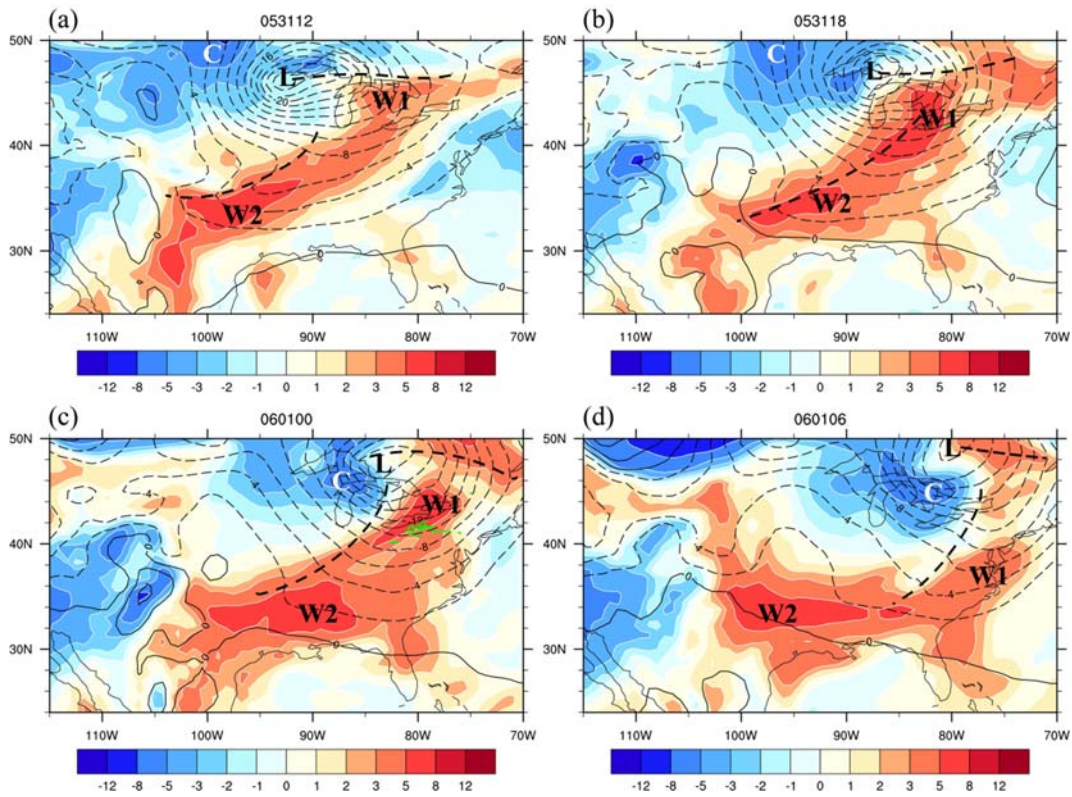
647 **Figure 4.** Vertical distributions of wind (m/s) at 0000 UTC 28 Apr 2011 for (a) total wind, (b)
 648 climatic wind, and (c) wind anomaly along 38°W. Red and blue shadings are southerly and
 649 northerly velocities. The dashed box is the place of tornado touchdowns and heavy rainfall. The
 650 vertical velocity has been amplified 100 times. Letters “SW”, “ES”, “NW” and “NE” indicate
 651 the southwesterly, southeasterly, northwesterly and northeasterly flows respectively. The filled
 652 triangle “▲” indicates the central position of the surface anomalous low (Lt).

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658 **Figure 5.** Horizontal distributions of height anomalies (contours, 2×10 gpm interval) and
 659 temperature anomalies (shading, 1, 2, 3 and 4K intervals) at 925 hPa at (a) 1200 UTC 31 May,
 660 (b) 1800 UTC 31 May, (c) 0000 UTC 1 Jun, and (d) 0600 UTC 1 Jun 1985. Green stars and lines
 661 are locations and tracks of tornadoes centered within 6 hours. The bold dashed line denotes the
 662 trough of height anomalies.

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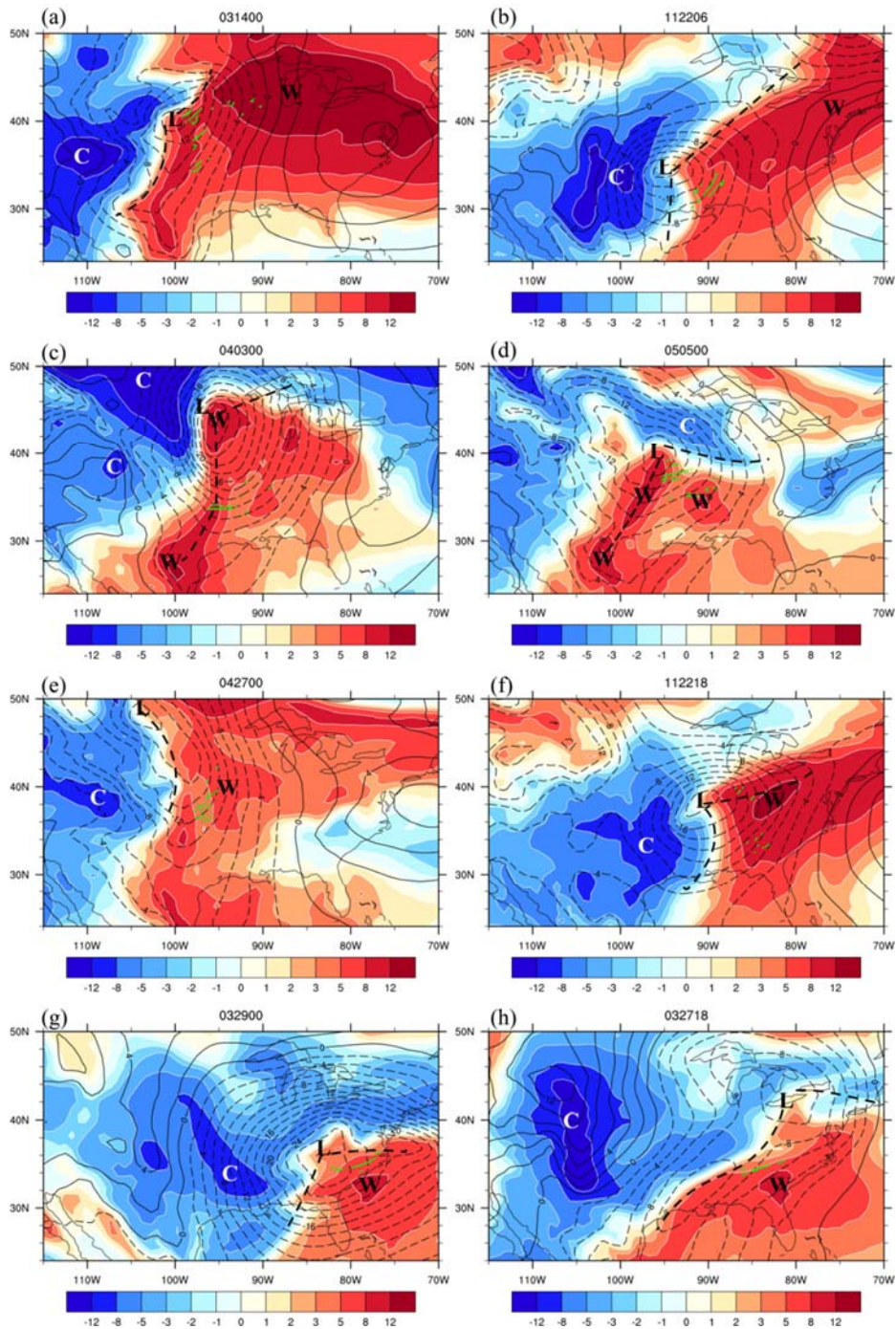
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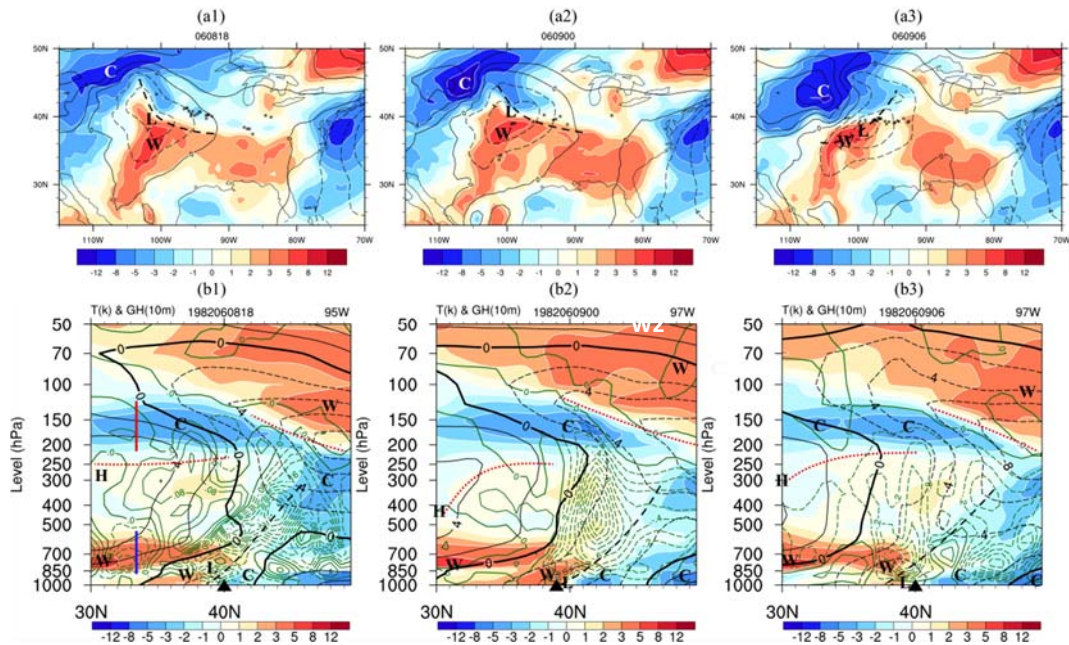
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673 **Figure 6.** Same as Fig. 5 except at (a) 0000 UTC 14 Mar 1990, (b) 0600 UTC 22 Nov 1992, (c)
 674 0000 UTC 3 Apr 1982, (d) 0000 UTC 5 May 2003, (e) 0000 UTC 27 Apr 1991, (f) 1800 UTC 22
 675 Nov 1992, (g) 0000 UTC 29 Mar 1984, (h) 1800 UTC 27 Mar 1994, when many tornadoes
 676 touched down.

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678

679 **Figure 7.** The upper panel is the same as Fig. 1c except at (a1) 1800 UTC 8, (a2) 0000 UTC 9,
 680 and (a3) 0600 UTC 9 Jun 1982. The lower panel is the same as Fig. 2c except at (a1) 1800 UTC
 681 8 along 95°W, (a2) 0000 UTC 9 along 97°W, and 0600 UTC 9 Jun 1982 along 97°W. Small stars
 682 in (a) are locations of hails centered within 6 hours. The filled triangle “▲” in (b) indicates the
 683 central position of hail storms. The green solid and dashed contours in (b) respectively indicate
 684 anomalous sinking and rising pressure velocities (0.2 Pa s^{-1} interval). In (b1), the vertical thick
 685 red and blue lines denote the depths (lower-layer or higher-layer) of anomalous warm (over
 686 $+1^\circ\text{C}$) and cold (below -1°C) air masses, respectively.

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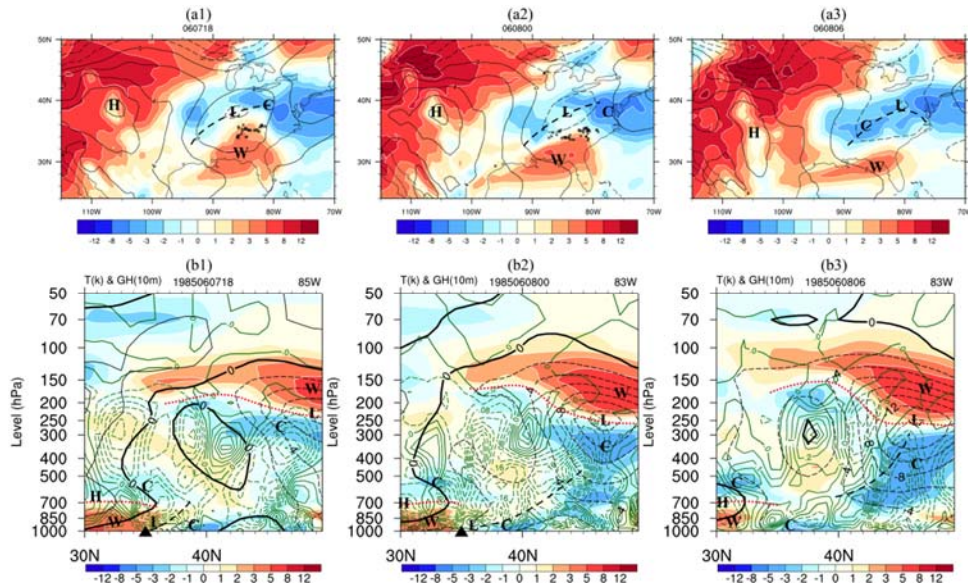
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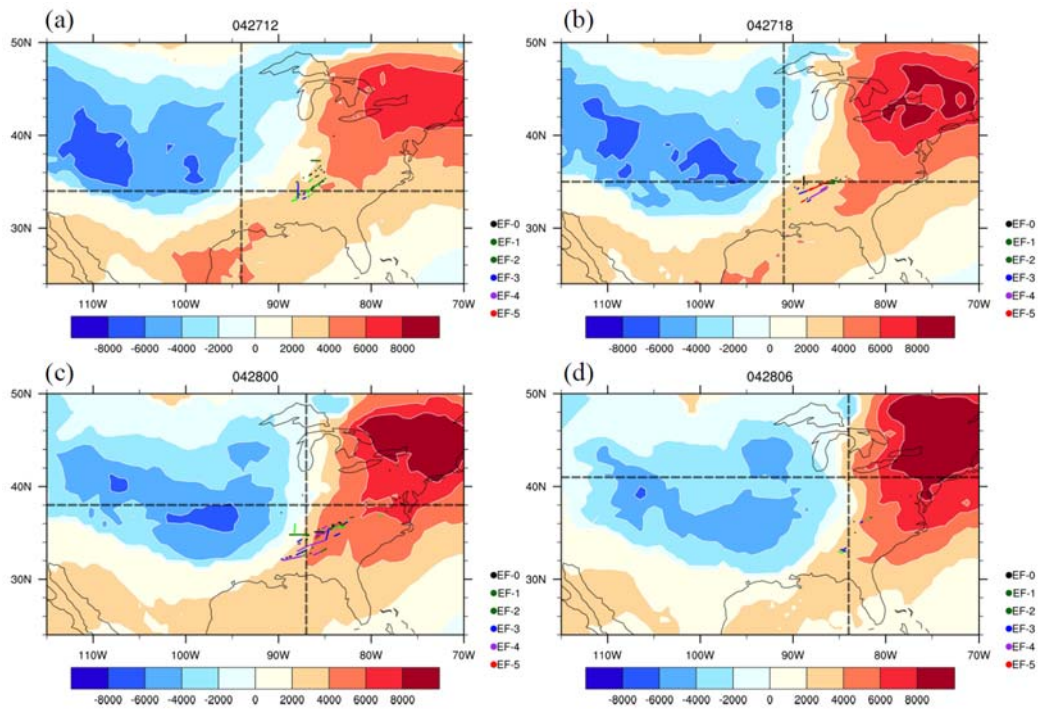
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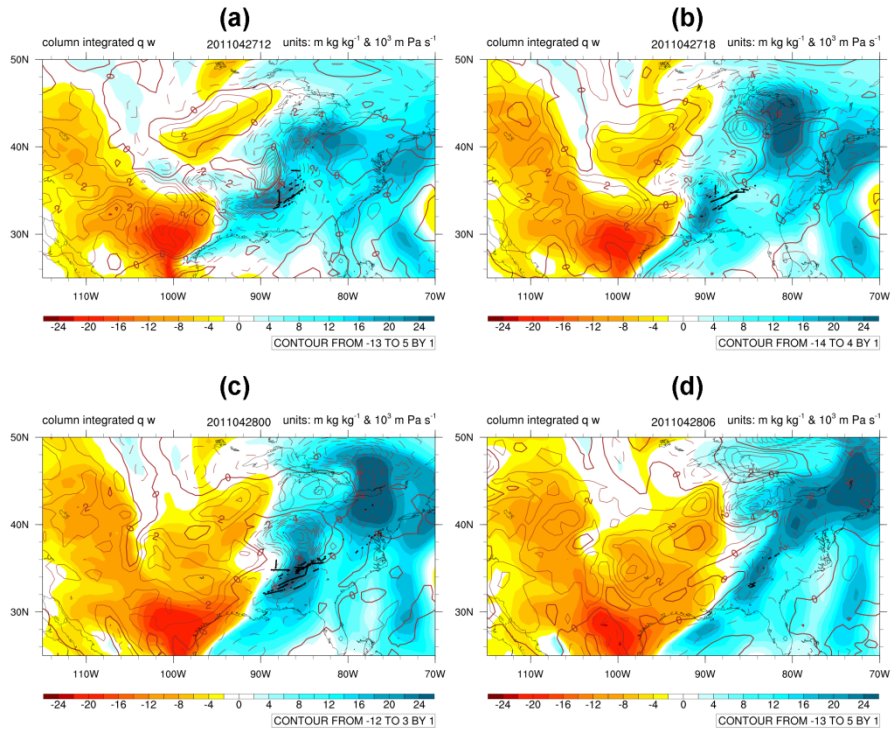
699 **Figure 8.** Same as Fig.7 except at 1800 UTC 7, 0000 UTC 8, and 0600 UTC 8 Jun 1985.

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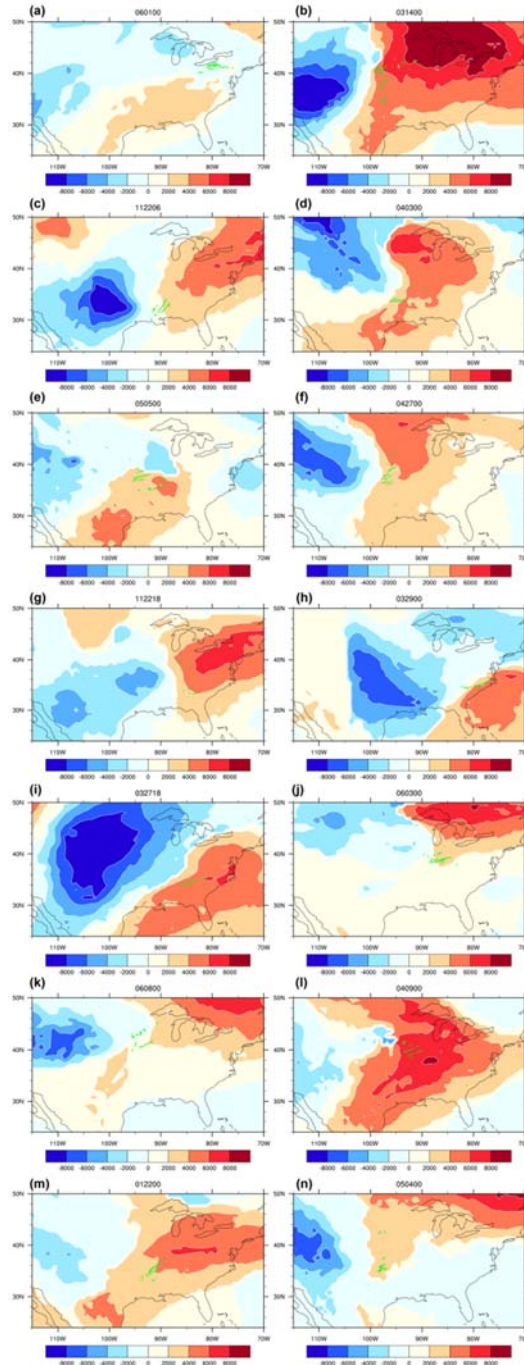
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702 **Figure 9.** Same as Fig. 1c except of horizontal distributions of the ACI index (shading, 2000°C
703 interval) at (a) 1200 UTC 27, (b) 1800 UTC 27, (c) 0000 UTC 28, and (d) 0600 UTC 28 Apr
704 2011.



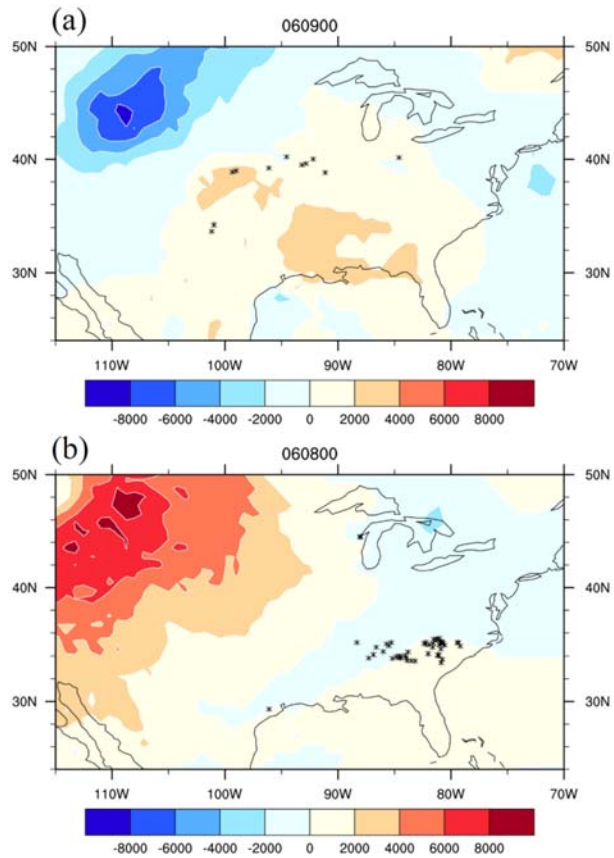
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706 **Figure 10.** Same as Fig. 9 except of horizontal distributions of the 500–1000hPa column
 707 integrated specific humidity (shading, 2 m kg kg⁻¹ interval) and 300–1000hPa column integrated
 708 vertical velocity (contour, 10⁻³ m Pa s⁻¹ interval) and at (a) 1200 UTC 27, (b) 1800 UTC 27, (c)
 709 0000 UTC 28, and (d) 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011.



710

711 **Figure 11.** Same as Fig. 9 except at (a) 0000 UTC 1 Jun 1985, (b) 0000 UTC 14 Mar 1990, (c)
 712 0600 UTC 22 Nov 1992, (d) 0000 UTC 3 Apr 1982, (e) 0000 UTC 5 May 2003, (f) 0000 UTC
 713 27 Apr 1991, (g) 1800 UTC 22 Nov 1992, (h) 0000 UTC 29 Mar 1984, (i) 1800 UTC 27 Mar
 714 1994, (j) 0000 UTC 3 Jun 1990, (k) 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1984, (l) 0000 UTC 9 Apr 1999, (m) 0000
 715 UTC 22 Feb 1999, (n) 0000 UTC 4 May 1999.



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717 **Figure 12.** Same as Fig. 9 except at (a) 0000 UTC 9 Jun 1982 and (b) 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1985.
 718 Black stars are locations of hail centered within 6 hours.

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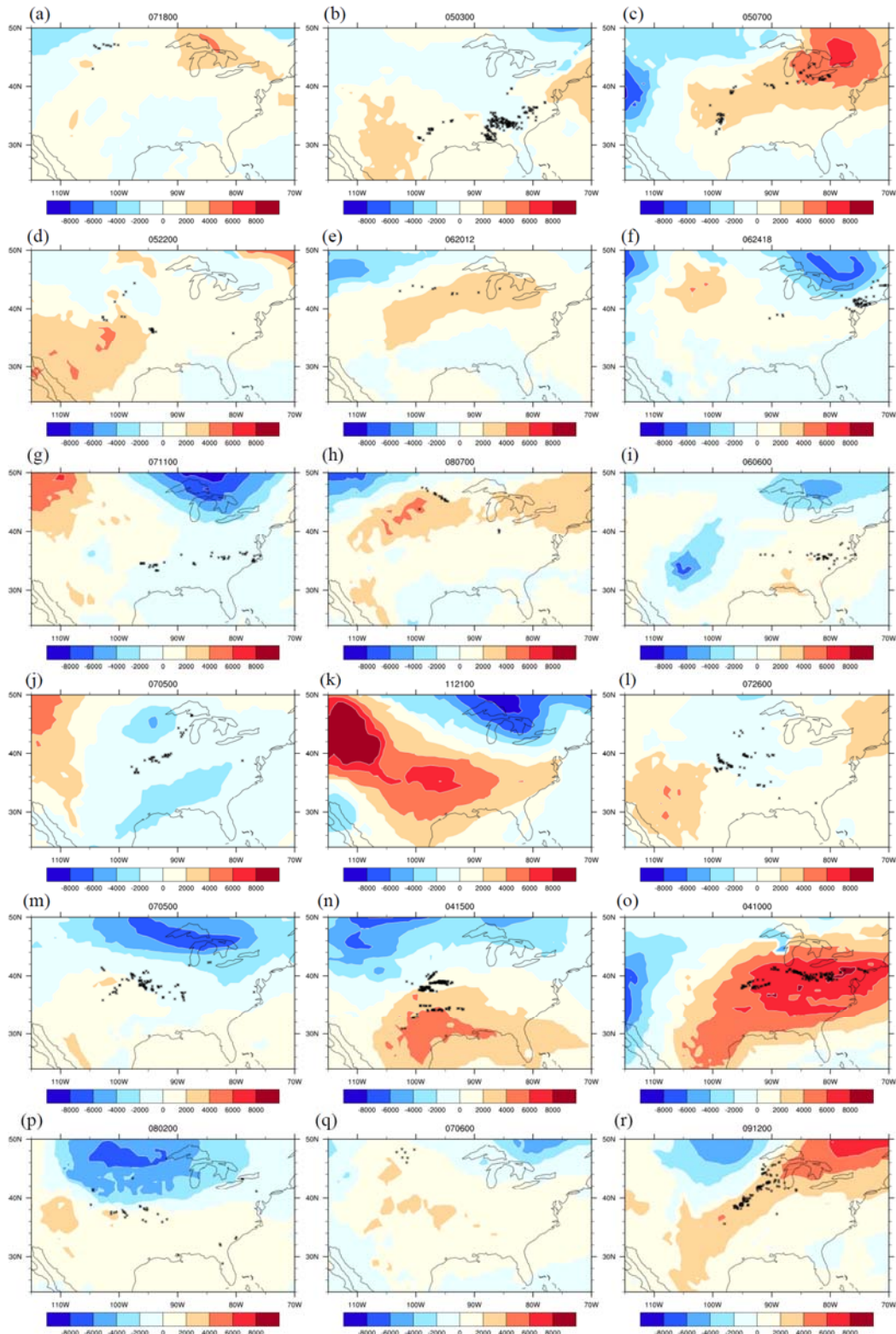
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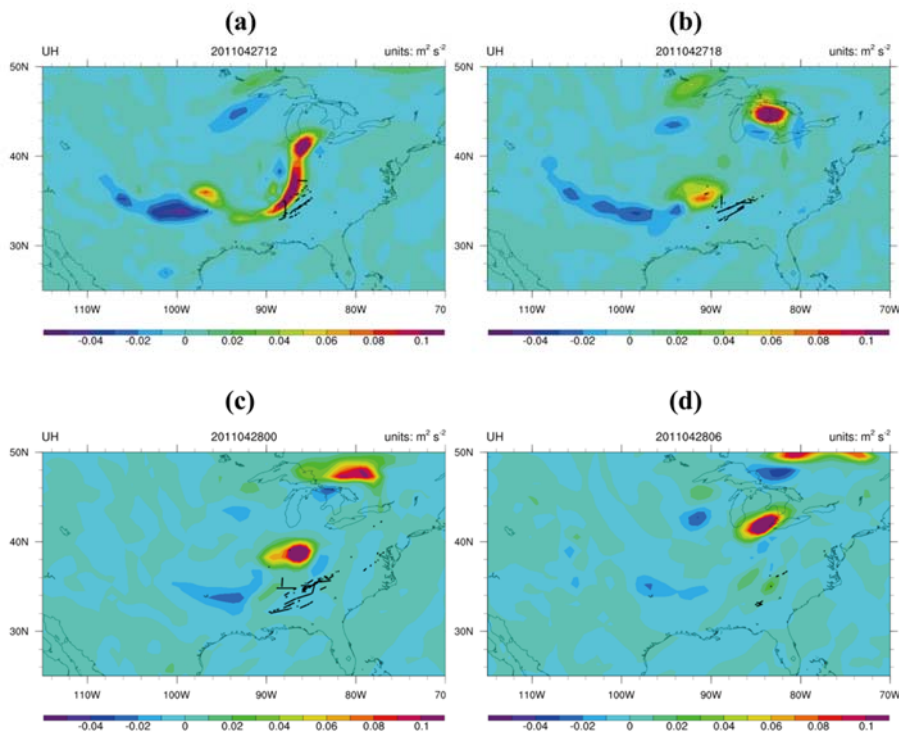


729

730 **Figure 13.** Same as Fig. 9 except for hail storms at (a) 0000 UTC 18 Jul 1983, (b) 0000 UTC 3
 731 May 2003, (c) 0000 UTC 7 May 1986, (d) 0000 UTC 22 May 1989, (e) 1200 UTC 20 Jun 1997,

732 (f) 1800 UTC 24 Jun 1985, (g) 0000 UTC 11 Jul 1985, (h) 0000 UTC 7 Aug 1980, (i) 0000 UTC
 733 6 Jun 1985, (j) 0000 UTC 5 Jul 1985, (k) 0000 UTC 21 Nov 1989, (l) 0000 UTC 26 Jul 1995,
 734 (m) 0000 UTC 5 Jul 1992, (n) 0000 UTC 15 Apr 2001, (o) 0000 UTC 10 Apr 2001, (p) 0000
 735 UTC 2 Aug 1986, (q) 0000 UTC 6 Jul 1980, and (r) 0000 UTC 12 Sep 2000. In (k), one star is
 736 near 40°N and 75°W.

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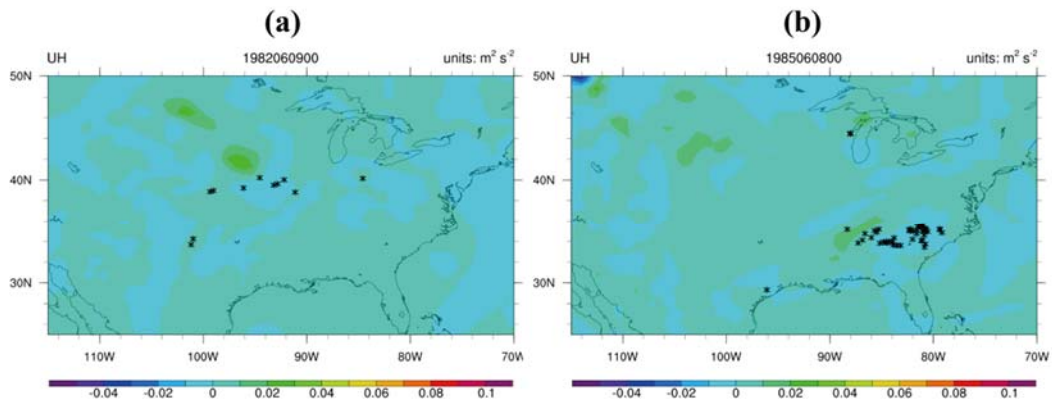


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 739 **Figure 14.** Horizontal distributions of UH (shading, 0.02–0.1 m^2s^{-2} interval) integrated over 850–
 740 500 hPa at (a) 1200 UTC 27, (b) 1800 UTC 27, (c) 0000UTC 28, and (d) 0600 UTC 28 Apr
 741 2011. Black stars and lines are locations and tracks of tornadoes centered within 6 hours.

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746 **Figure 15.** Horizontal distributions of UH (shading, $0.02-0.1 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-2}$ interval) integrated over 850–
 747 500 hPa at (a) 0000 UTC 9 Jun 1982, (b) 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1985. Black ~~stars~~asterisks are
 748 locations of hail centered within 6 hours.

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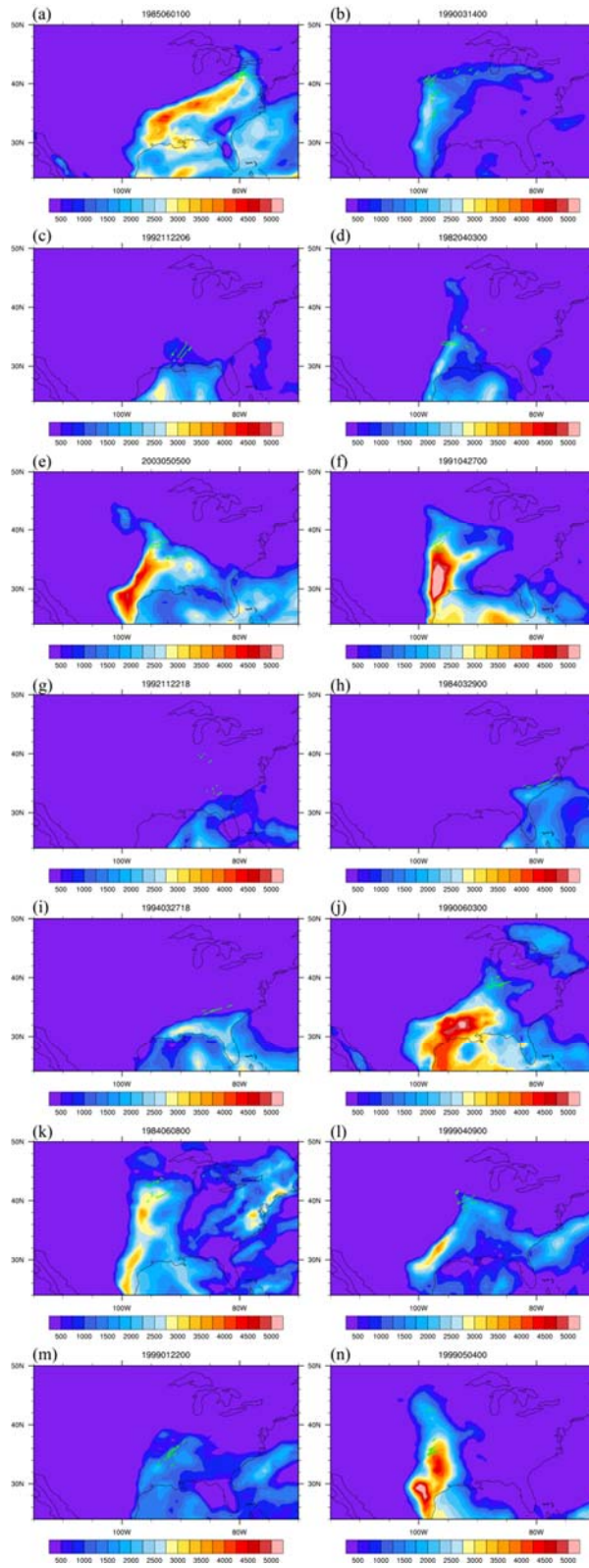
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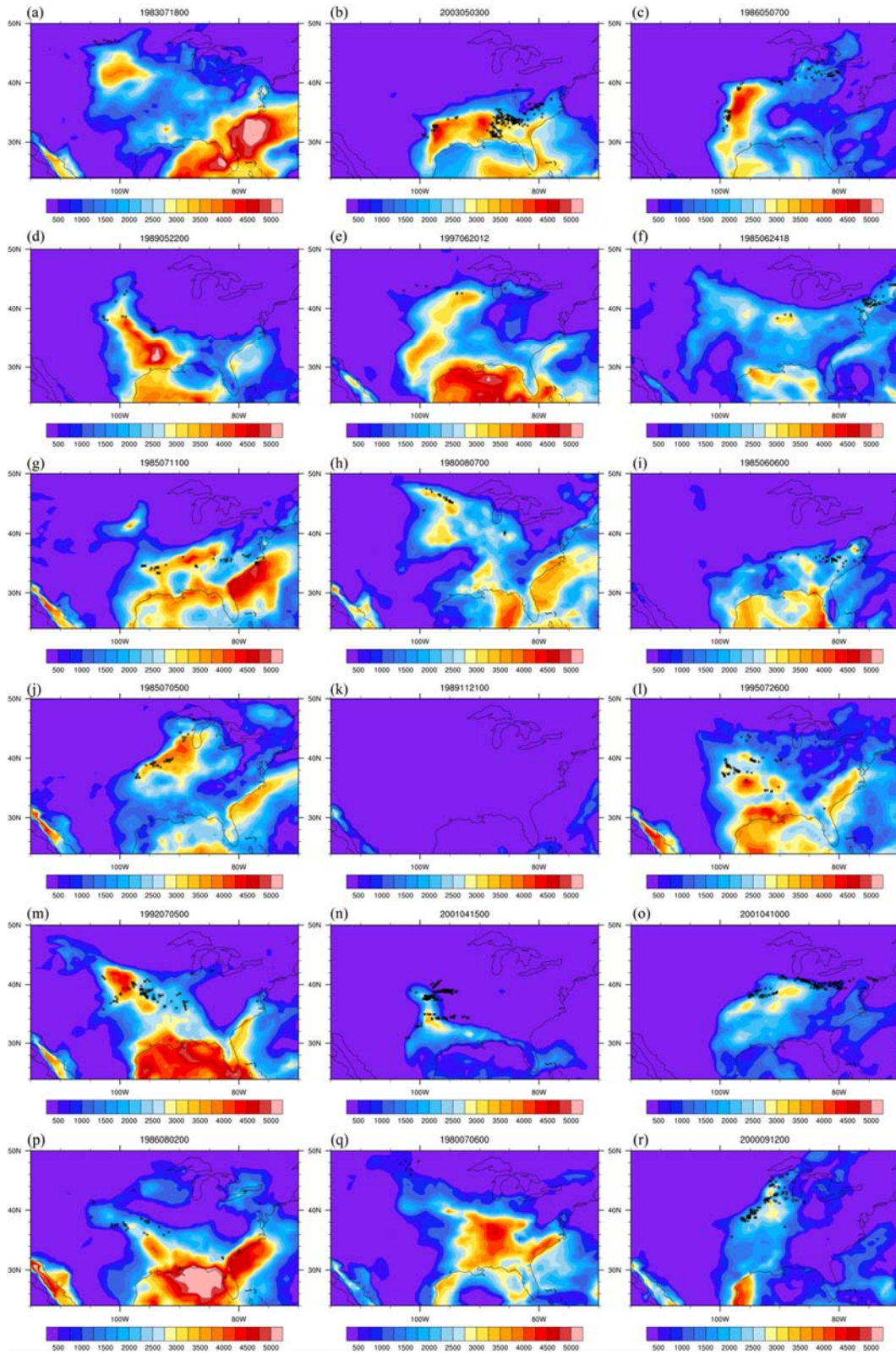
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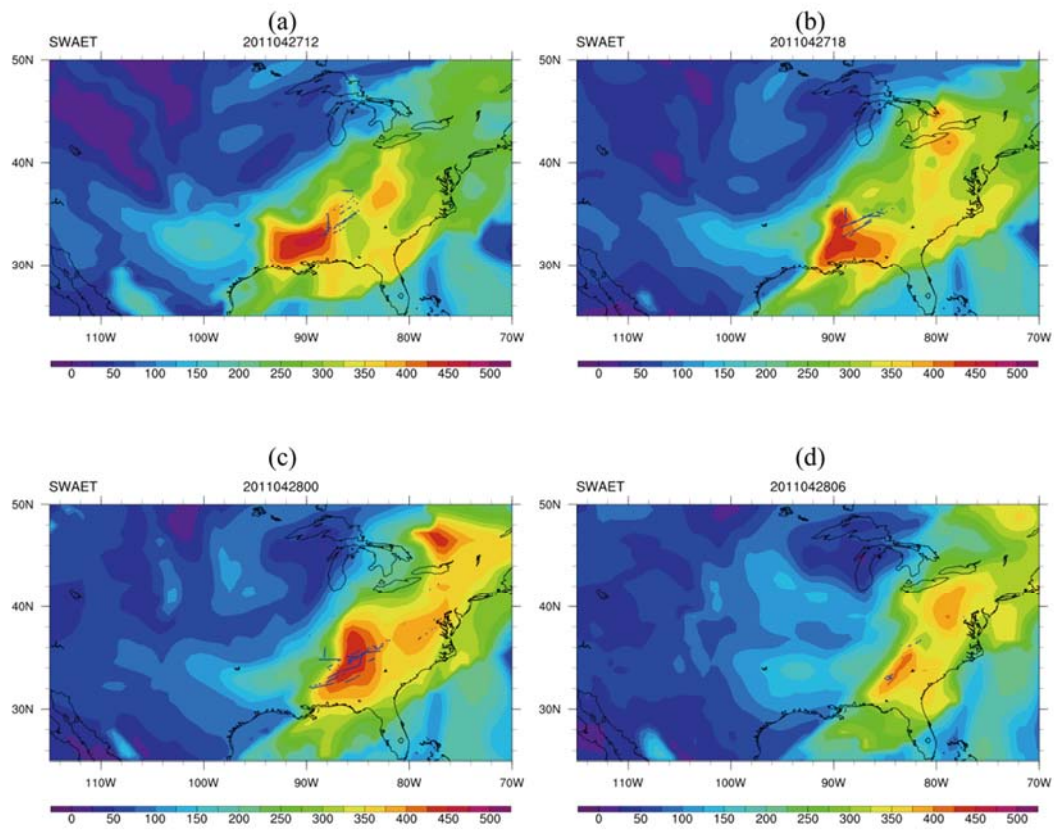
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756 **Figure 16.** Same as Fig. 11 except CAPE (shading, 250 J/kg interval) for tornadoes.



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758 **Figure 17.** Same as Fig. 13 except CAPE (shading, 250 J/kg interval) for hails.



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760 **Figure 18.** Same as Fig. 9 except SWEAT index at (a) 1200 UTC 27, (b) 1800 UTC 27, (c) 0000
 761 UTC 28, and (d) 0600 UTC 28 Apr 2011.

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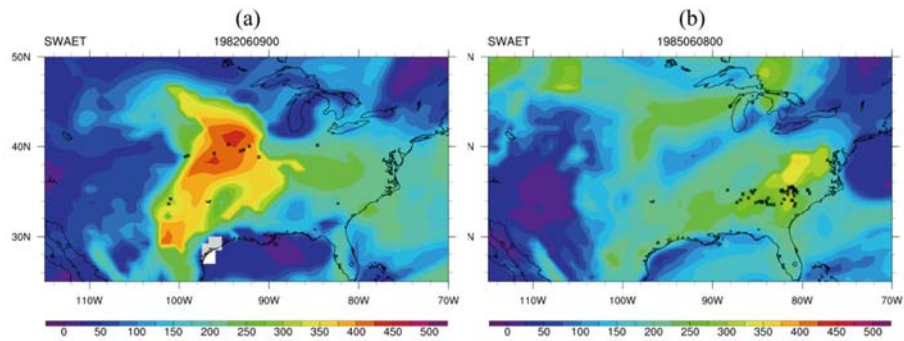
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775 **Figure 19.** Same as Fig. 12 and Fig. 18 except SWEAT index at (a) 0000 UTC 9 Jun 1982 and
776 (b) 0000 UTC 8 Jun 1985

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790 **Table 1** A comparison of the ACI index central values (°C) between tornadic and hail storms

No.	Tornadic outbreak cases				Hail day cases			
	Date	Positive	Negative	Difference	Date	Positive	Negative	Difference
1	3 Apr 1974				18 Jul 1983	4267.4	-4966.6	9234.0
2	1 Jun 1985	4273.3	-4249.9	8523.2	9 Jun 1982	4086.7	-9329.1	13415.8
3	14 May 1990	11063.6	-11938.5	23002.1	7 Jun 1985	4858.5	-2493.8	7352.3
4	14 May 1990				2 May 2003	4132.5	-5619.3	9751.9
5	22 Nov 1992	6831.7	-9987.9	16819.7	6 May 1986	7186.5	-3129.5	10316.0
6	3 Apr 1982	7261.9	-10562.1	17824.0	22 May 1989	5688.5	-3141.5	8830.0
7	5 May 2003	5648.1	-6707.9	12356.0	20 Jun 1997	3996.5	-5676.2	9672.7
8	27 Apr 1991	6790.7	-8004.2	14794.9	24 Jun 1985	2030.2	-7329.6	9359.8
9	22 Nov 1992	7170.3	-5503.3	12673.6	11 Jul 1985	2266.4	-9788.5	12054.9
10	27 May 1973				7 Aug 1980	5598.0	-7367.9	12965.9
11	29 May 1984	6502.5	-7682.3	14184.8	6 Jun 1985	2729.0	-4693.3	7422.3
12	27 May 1994	6721.4	-12159.0	18880.4	5 Jul 1985	5772.1	-4332.0	10104.1
13	3 Jun 1990	8358.6	-5855.4	14214.0	21 Nov 1989	2266.4	-8924.9	11191.3
14	8 Jun 1984	8615.8	-7827.8	16443.6	26 Jul 1995	4894.6	-2755.9	7650.5
15	9 Apr 1999	8840.3	-5920.4	14760.7	5 Jul 1992	3807.0	-7640.4	11447.4
16	17 Apr 1970				15 Apr 2001	5352.7	-9889.6	15242.3
17	21 Feb 1971				10 Apr 2001	8489.0	-1440.0	9929.0
18	22 Feb 1999	4168.5	-12656.4	16824.9	2 Aug 1986	3485.7	-7309.2	10794.9
19	20 Mar 1976				6 Jul 1980	3284.5	-5547.1	8831.6
20	3 May 1999	10722.8	-8937.3	19660.0	11 Sep 2000	7722.5	-5746.3	13468.8
	28 Apr 2011	10522.0	-6728.9	17250.9				
	Average	7355.0	-8428.0	15783.0	Average	4808.7	-5856.0	10451.7

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