

Does the Diurnal Variability of Tropical Cyclone Tornadoes Change with Increasing Distance Inland?

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3: Howard University, 4: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center

Third Symposium on Mesoscale Processes

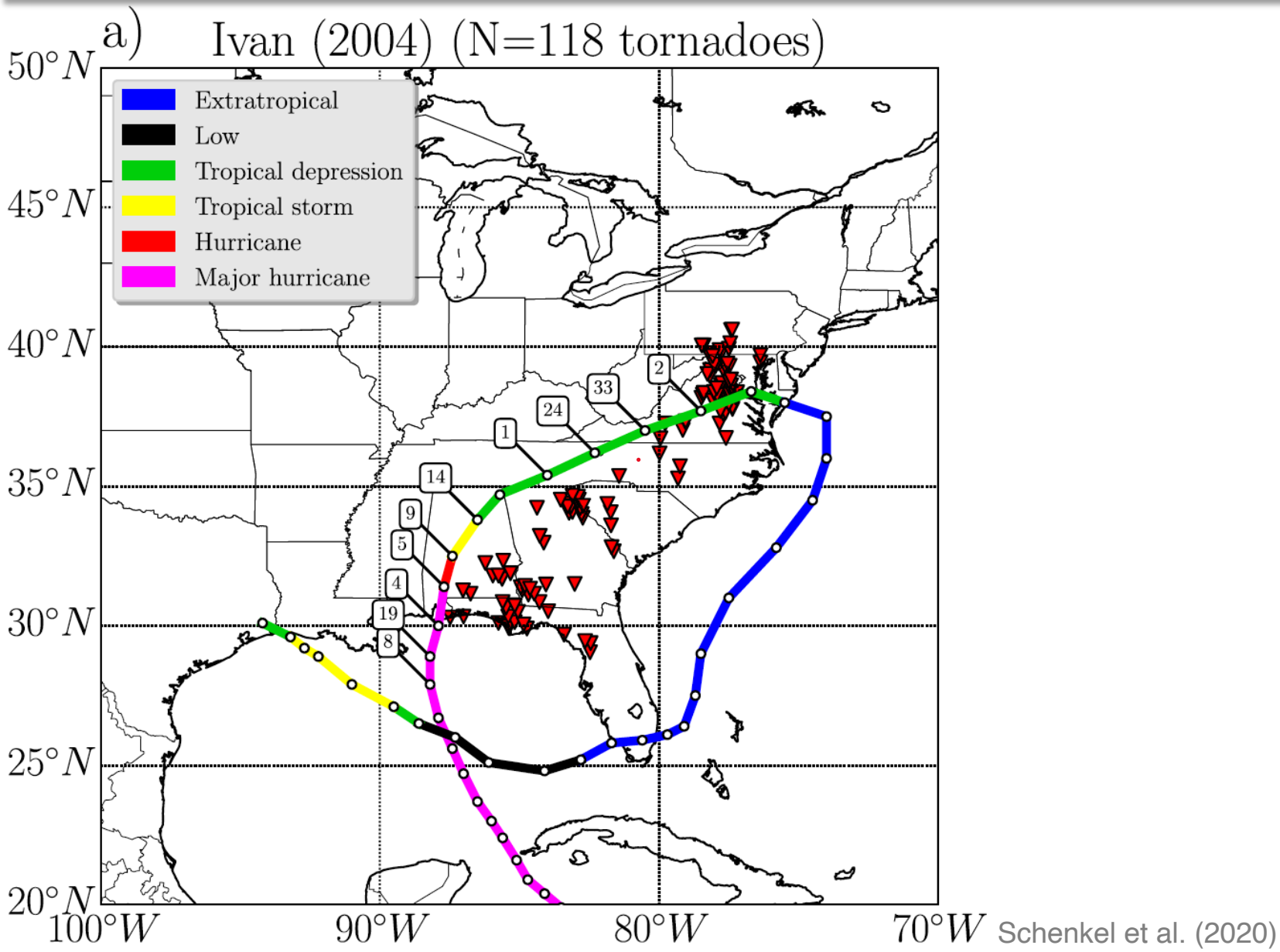
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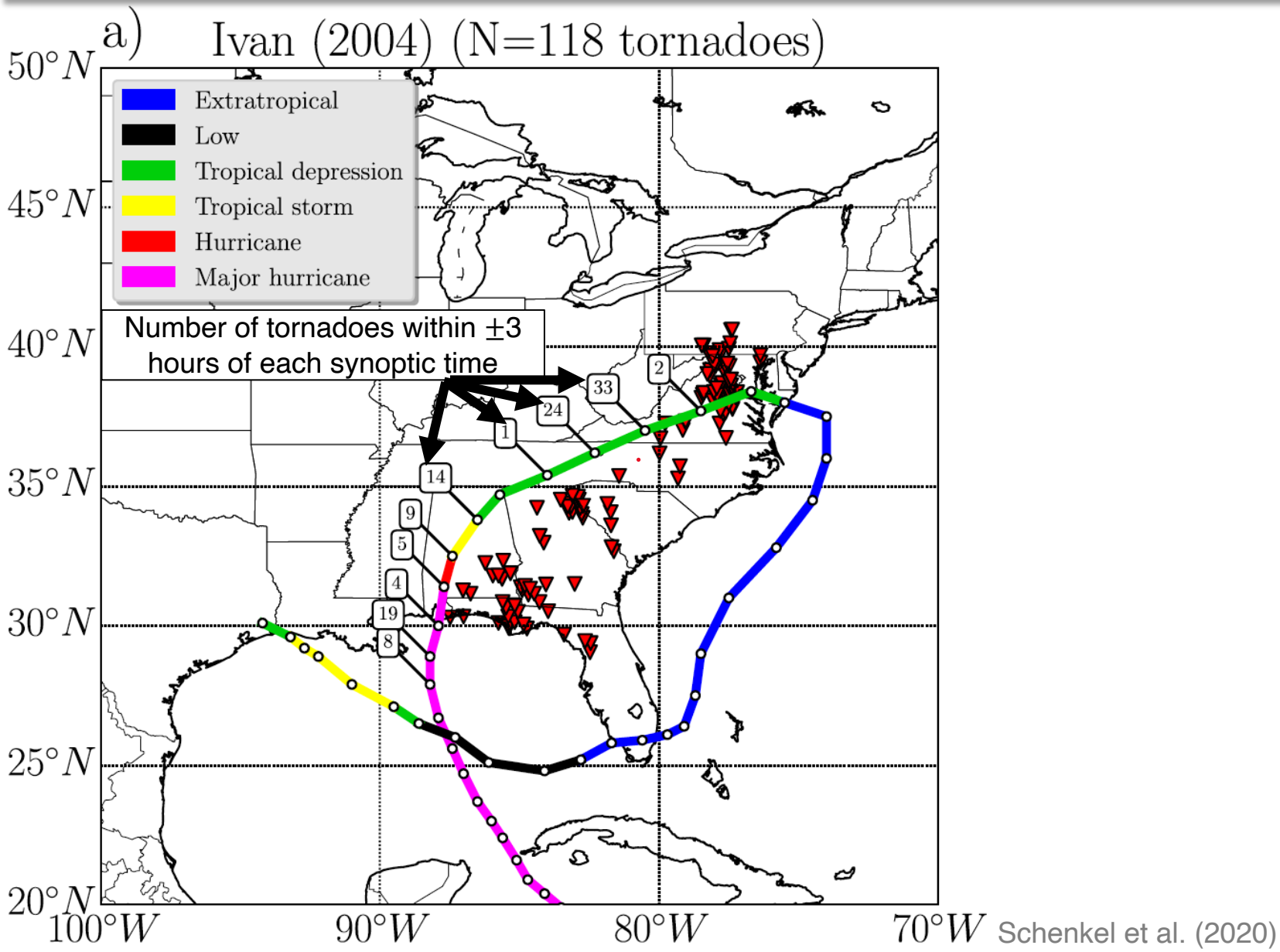
Funding from NSF AGS-2028151



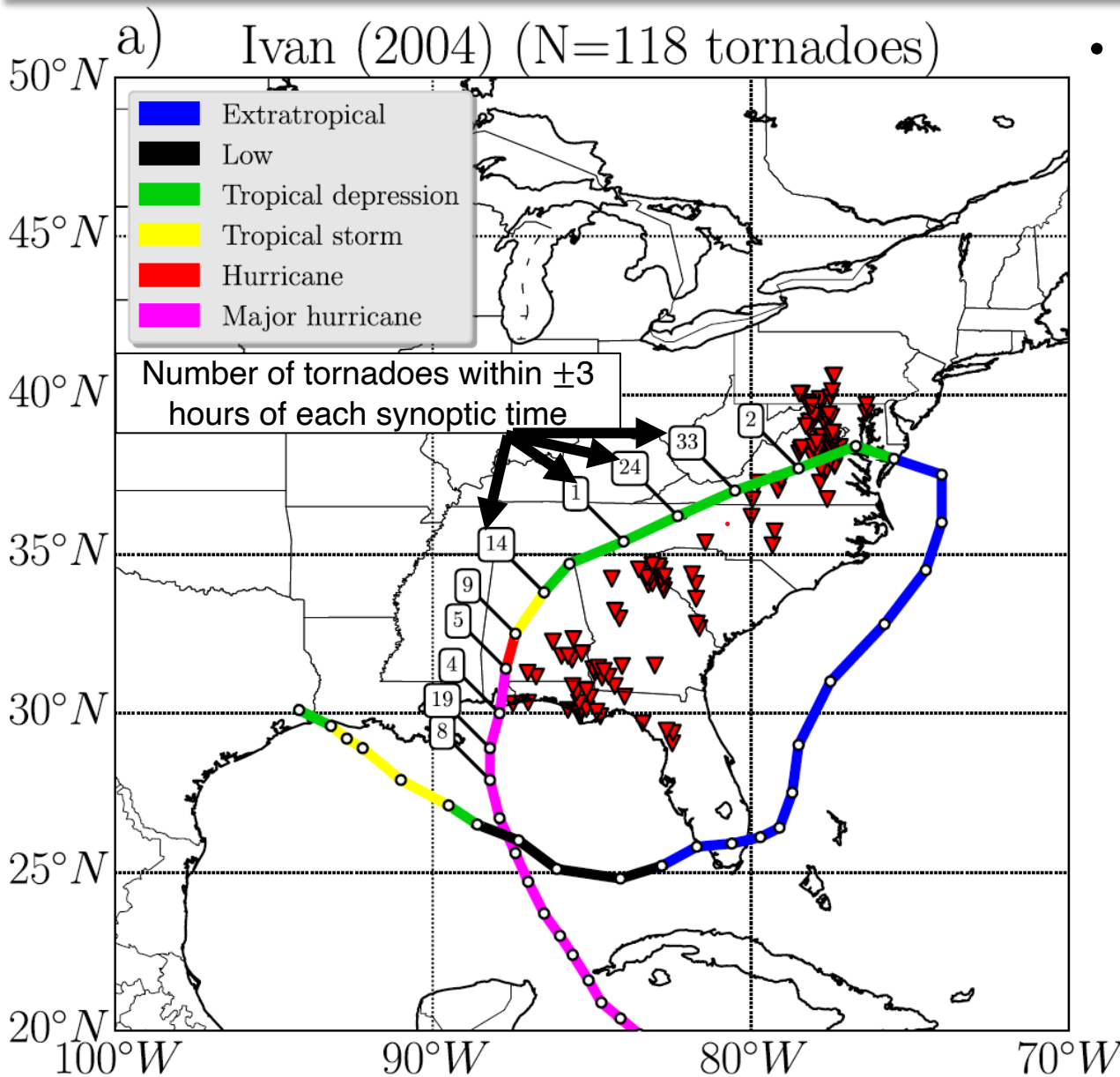
Example of Diurnal Variability in TC Tornadoes



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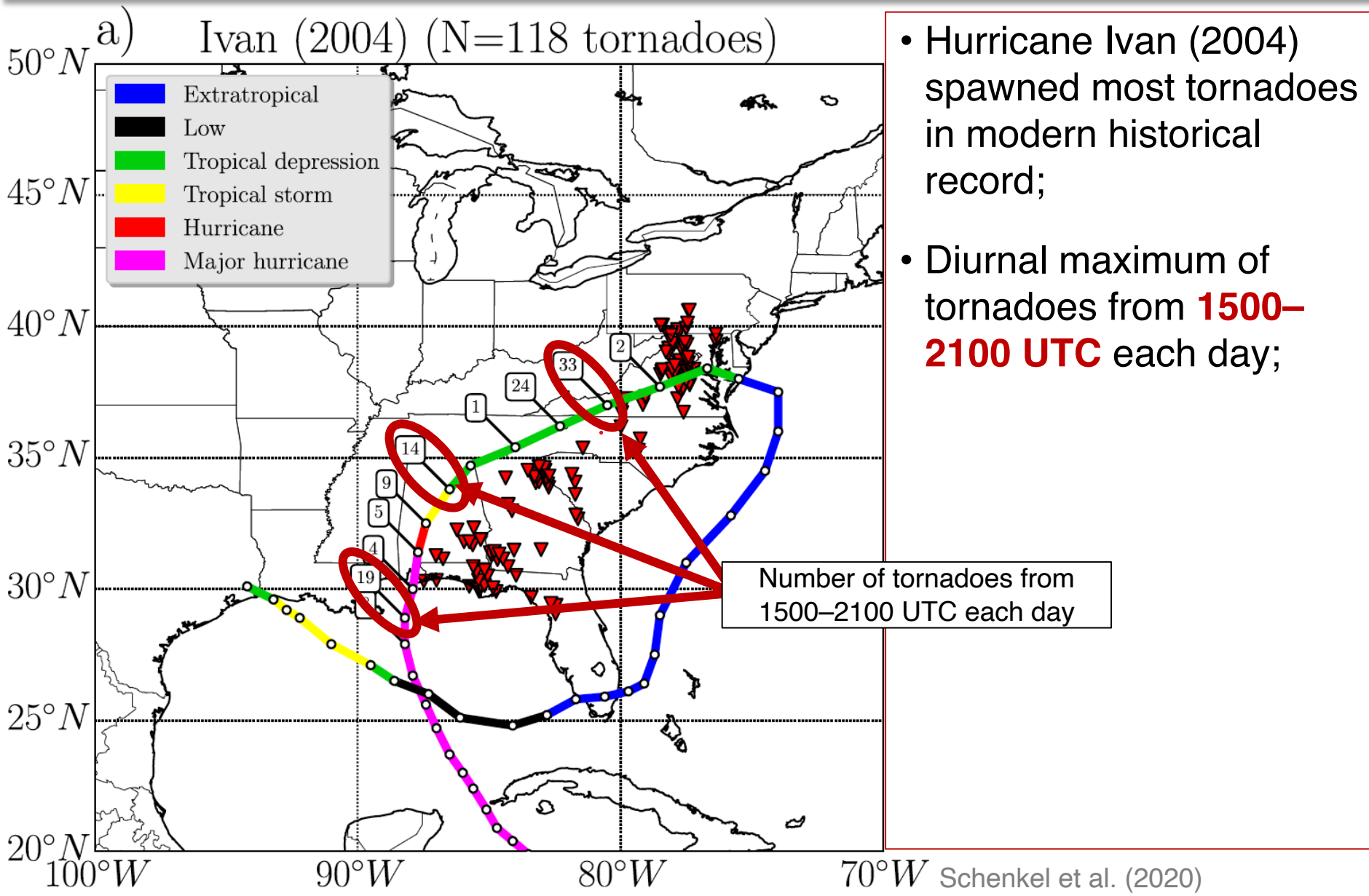


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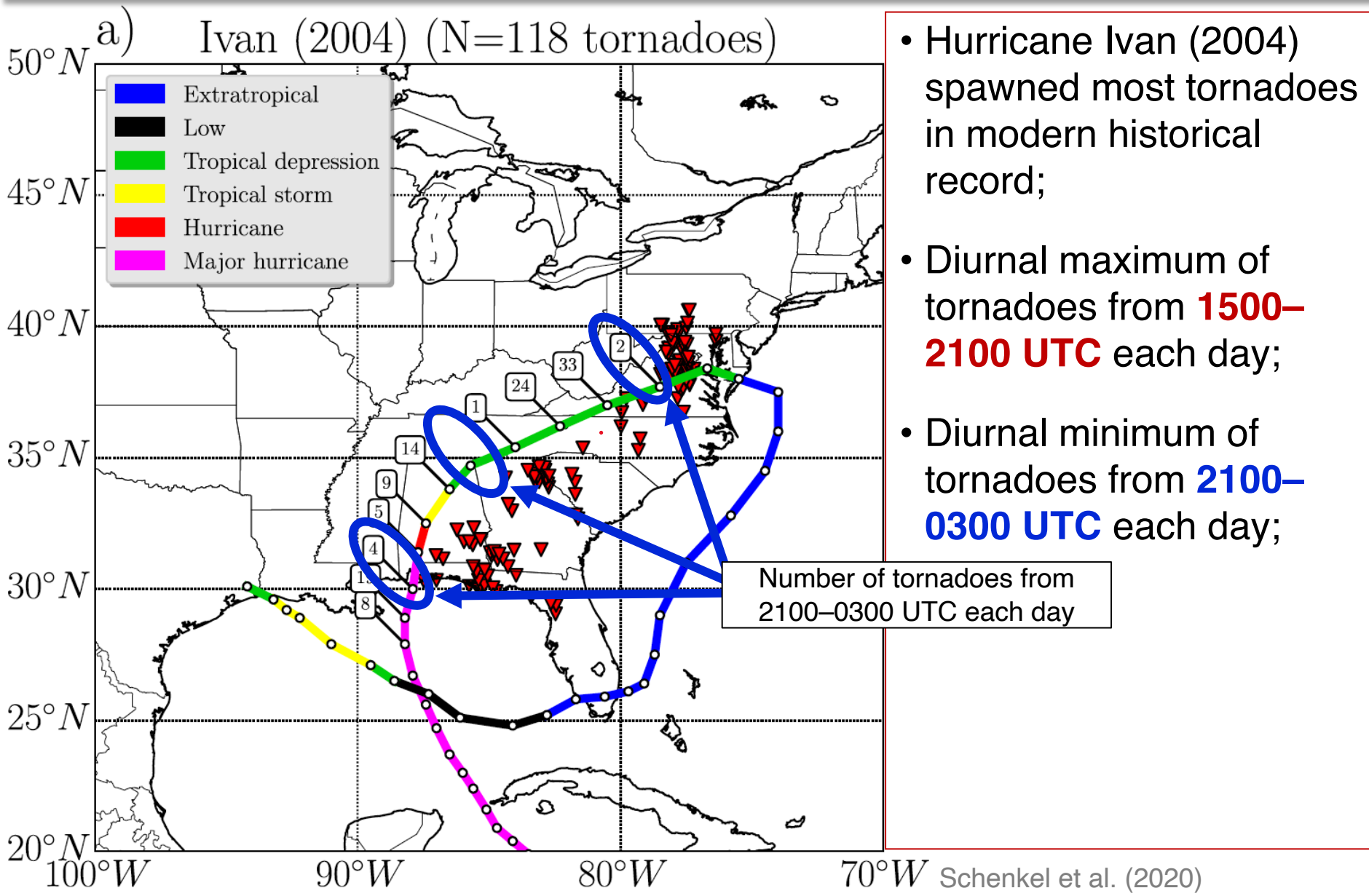


- Hurricane Ivan (2004) spawned most tornadoes in modern historical record;

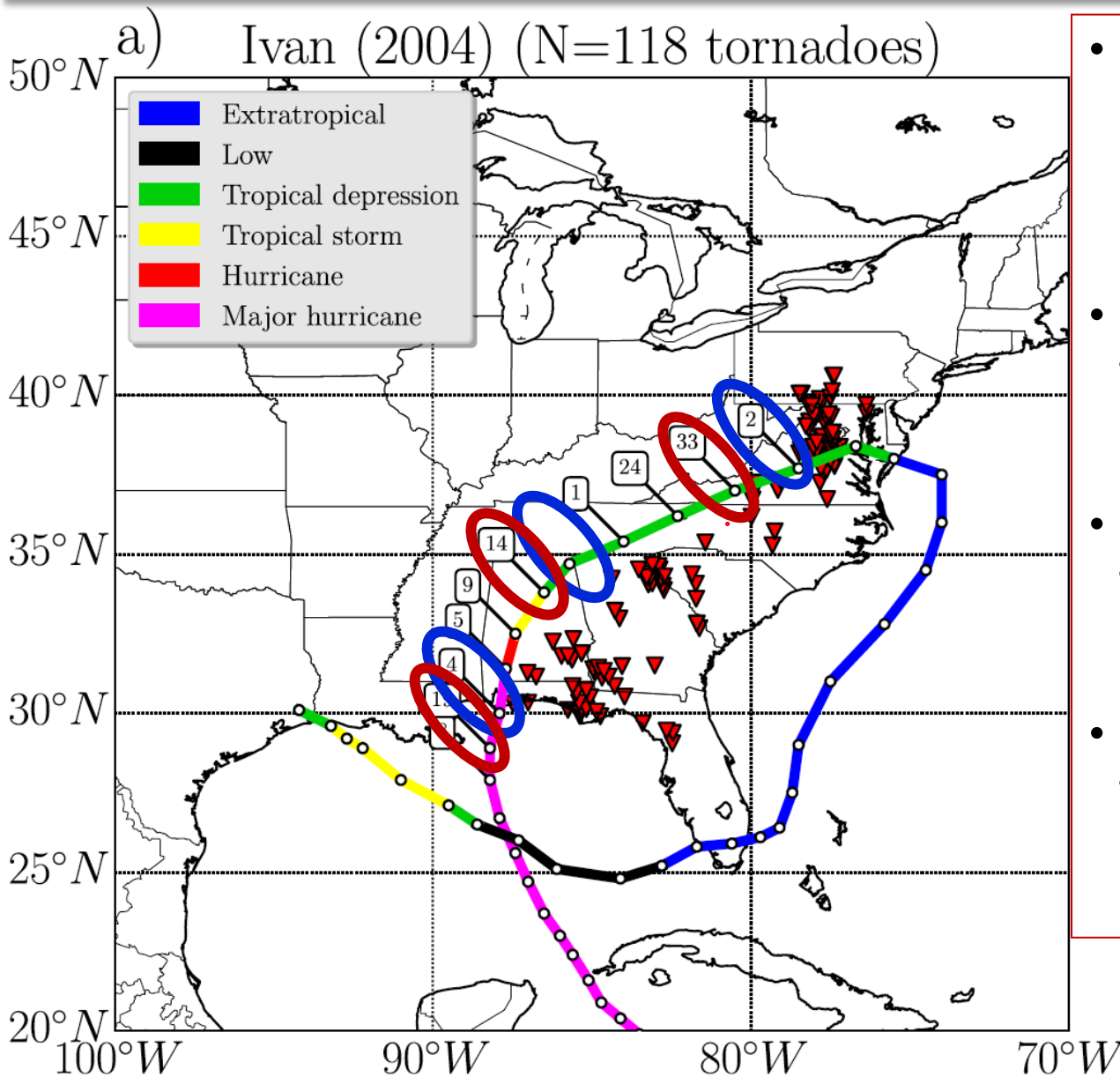
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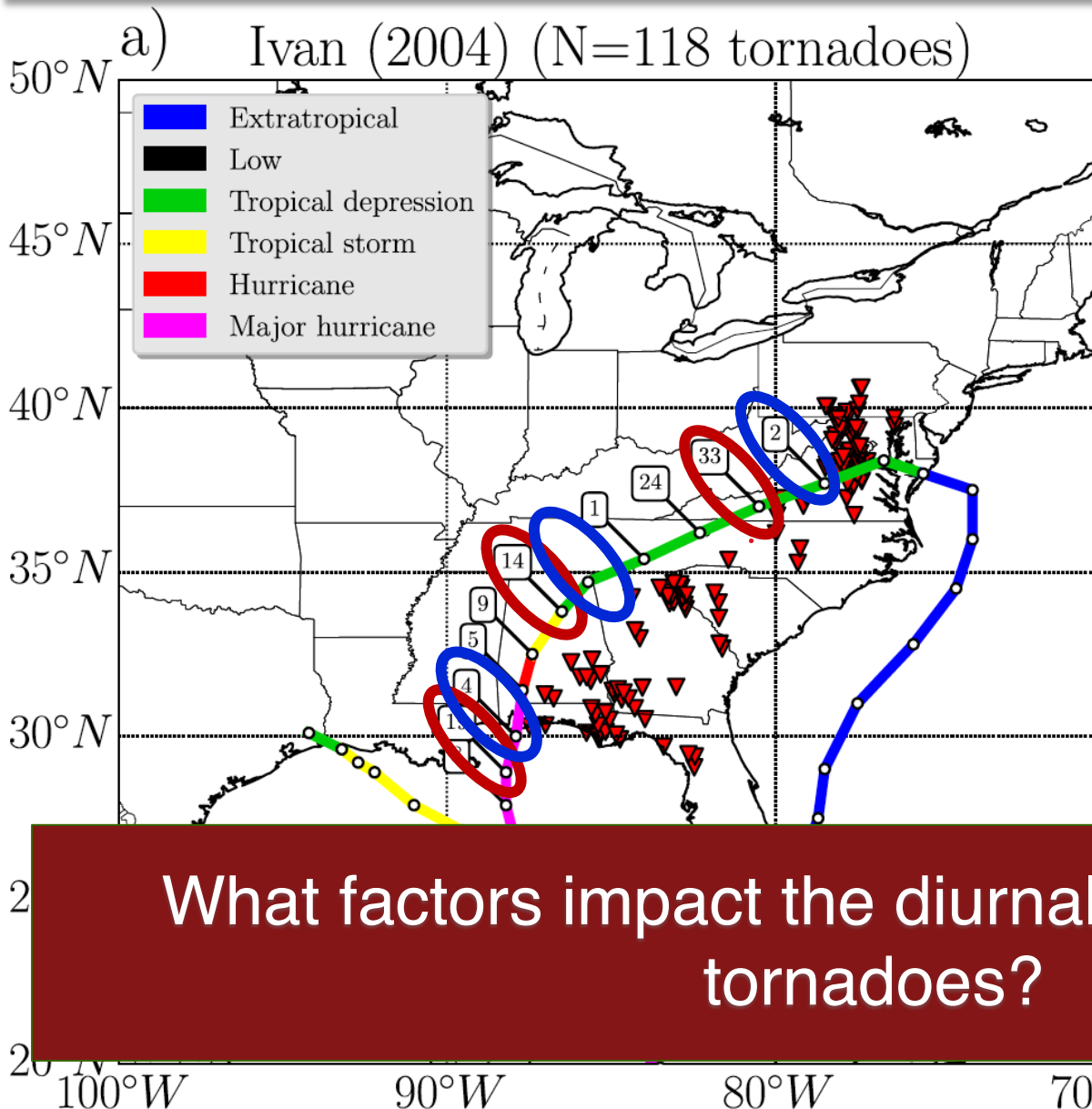


Example of Diurnal Variability in TC Tornadoes



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- Diurnal maximum of tornadoes from **1500–2100 UTC** each day;
- Diurnal minimum of tornadoes from **2100–0300 UTC** each day;
- Large diurnal variability in tornadoes associated with Hurricane Ivan.

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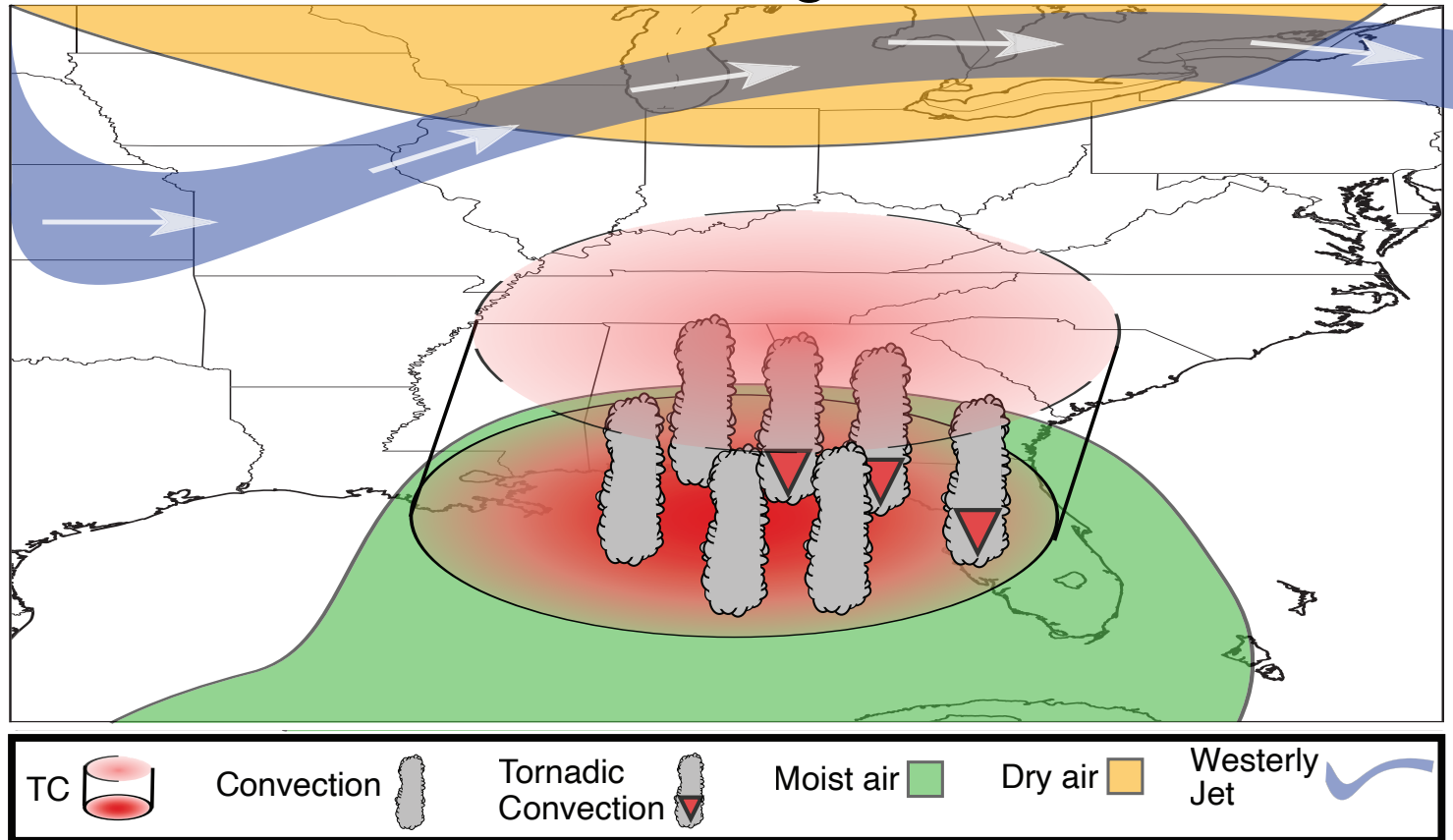


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What factors impact the diurnal variability of TC tornadoes?

How Might Diurnal Variability of Tornadoes Change as TC Moves Inland?

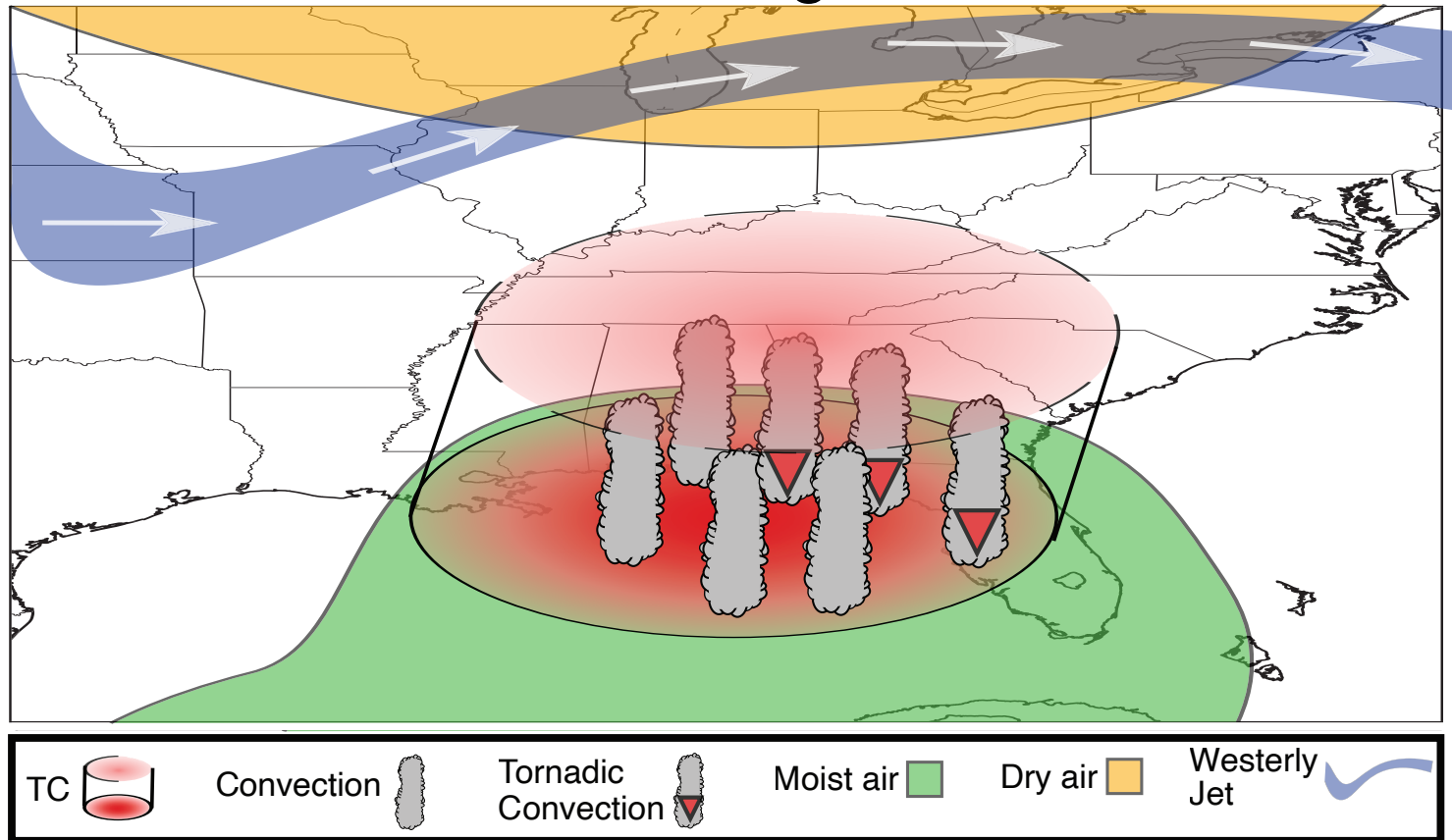
Landfalling TC



Schenkel et al. (2021)

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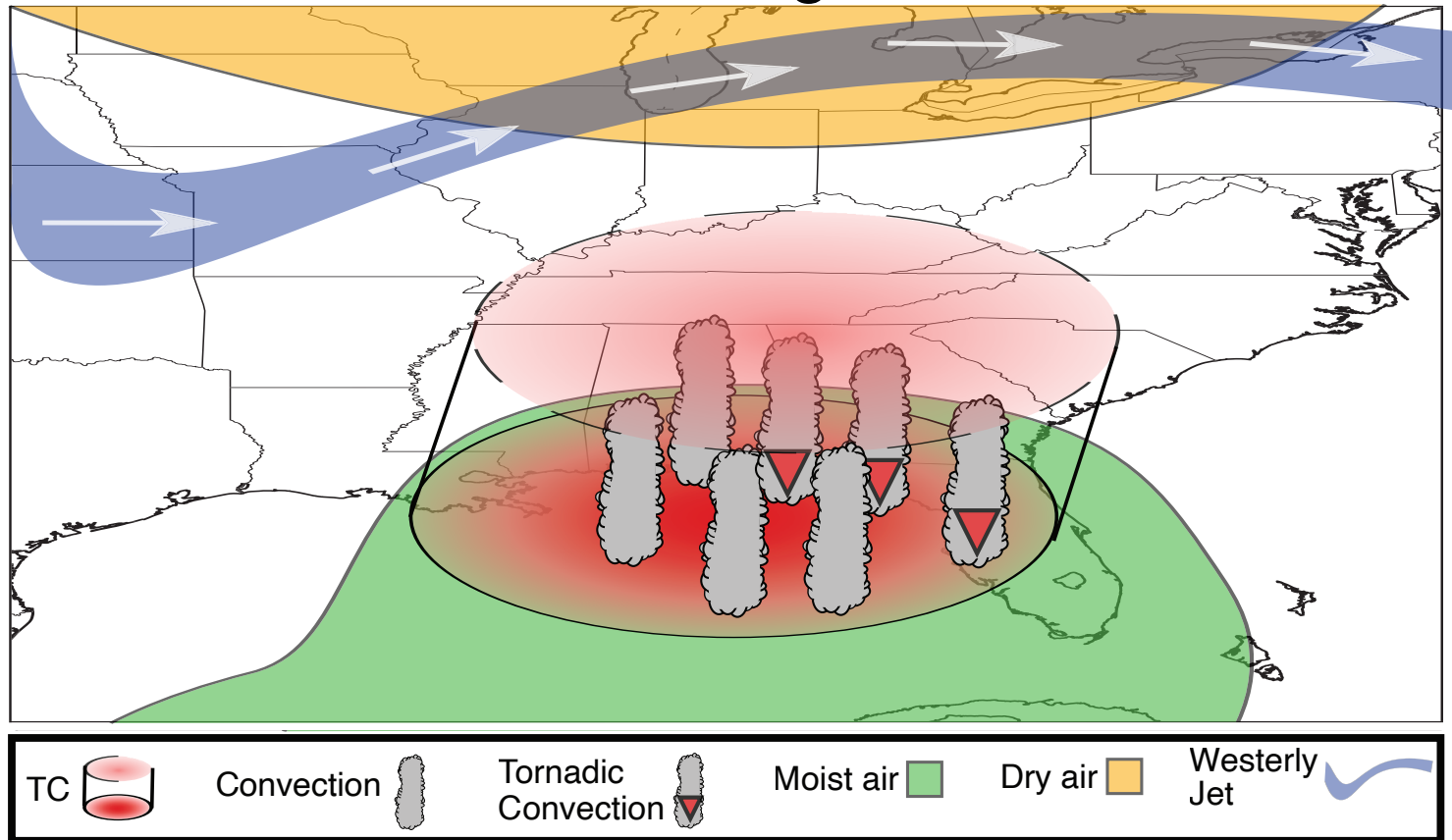


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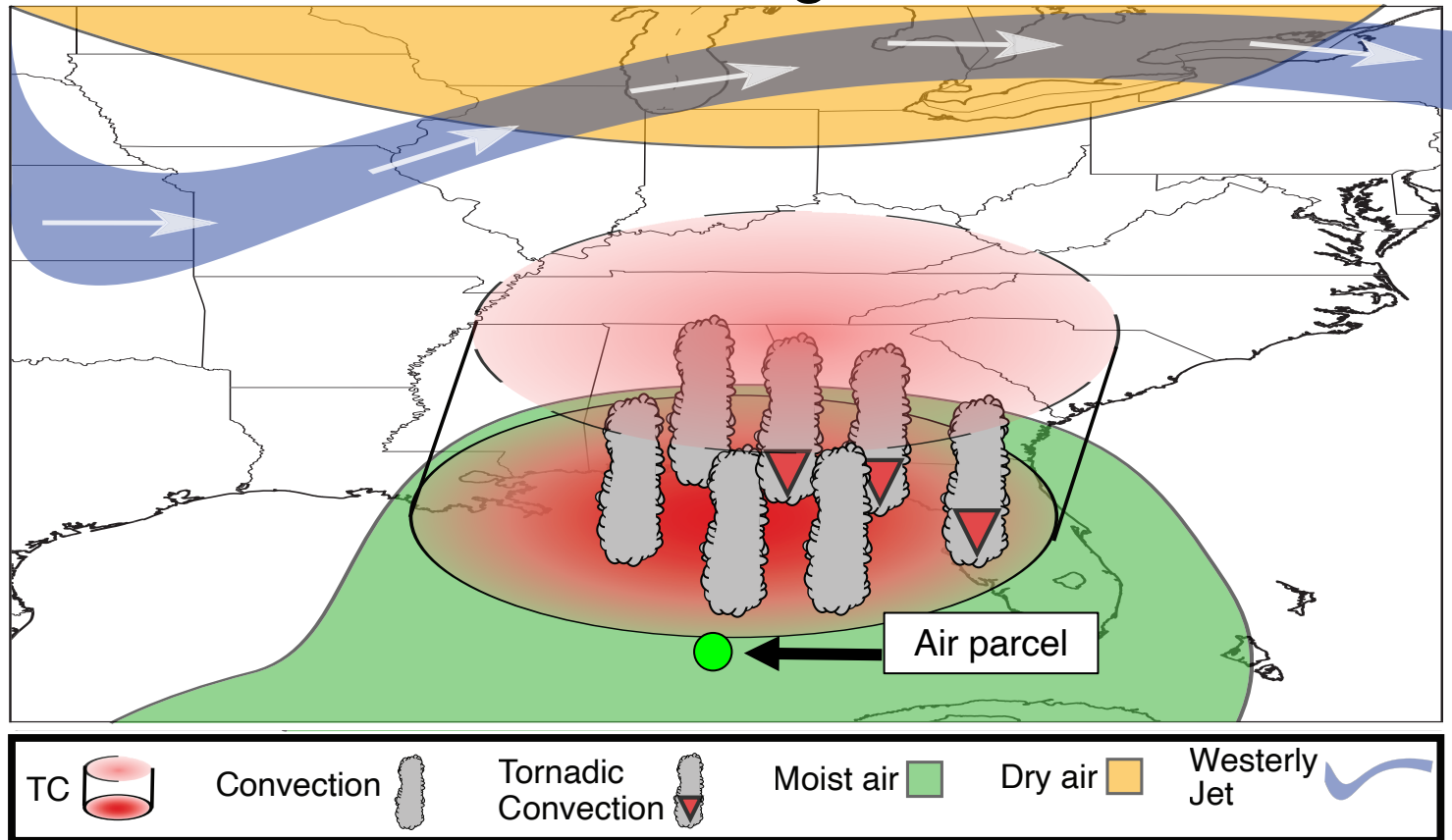
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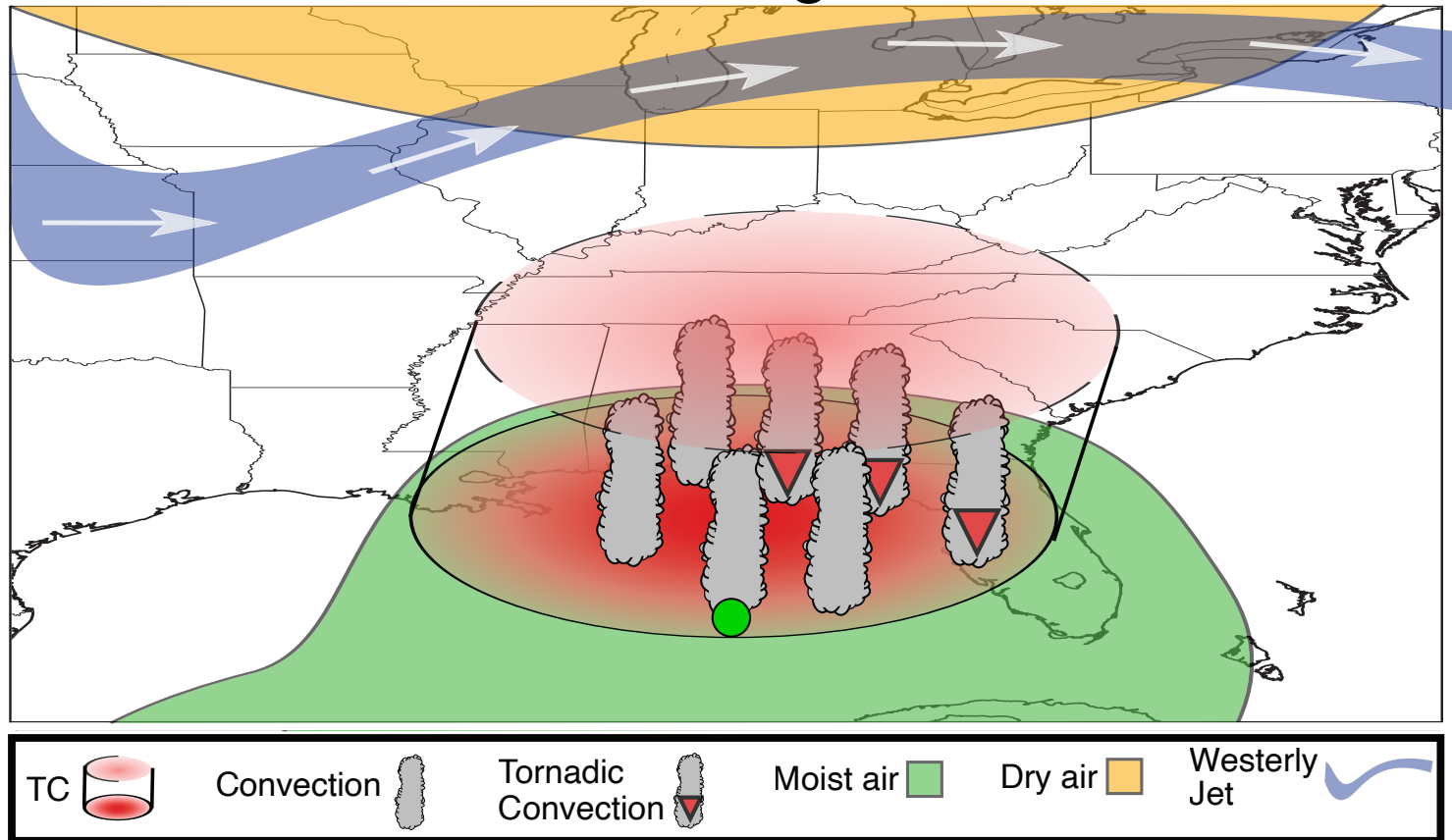
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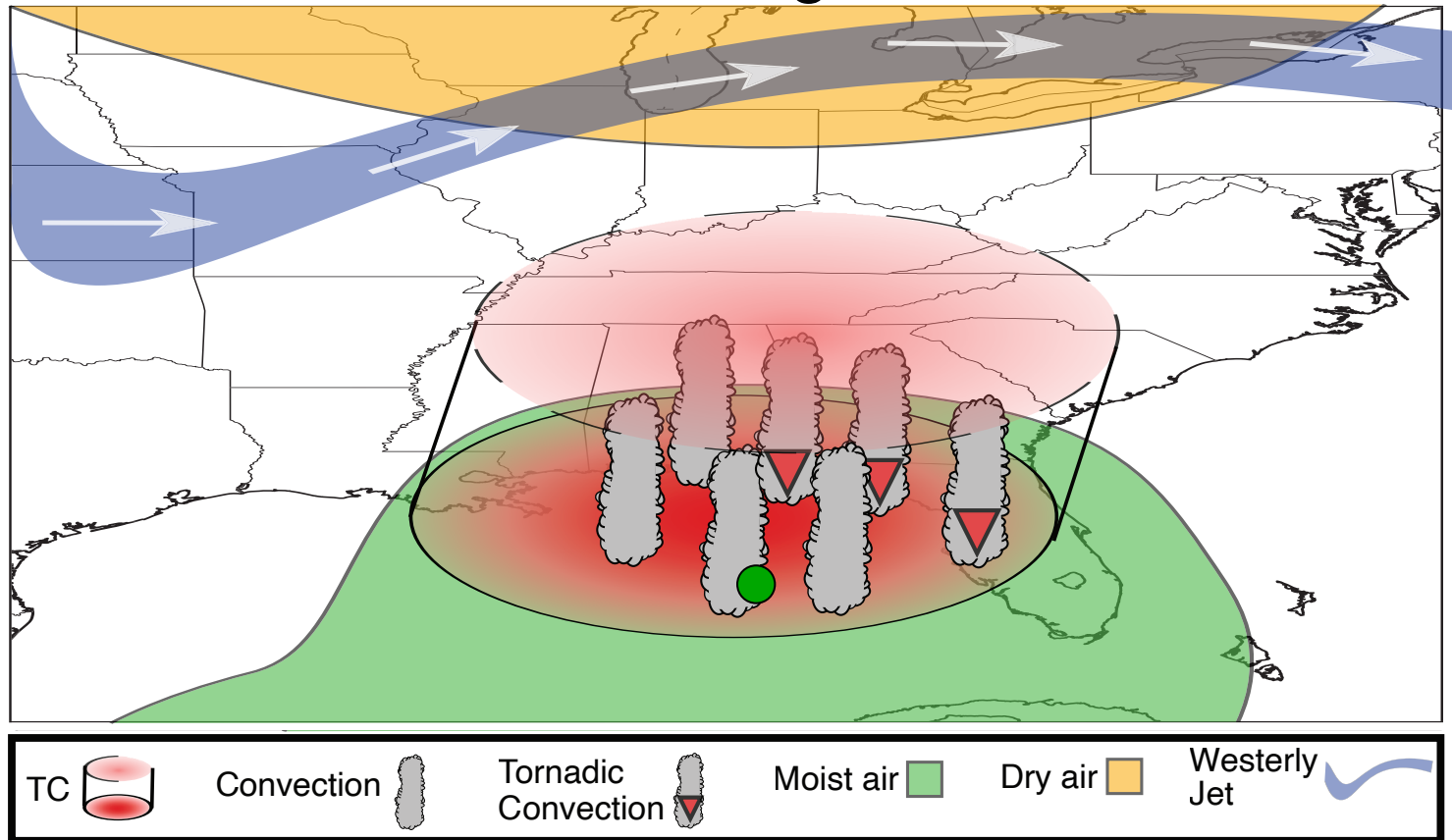
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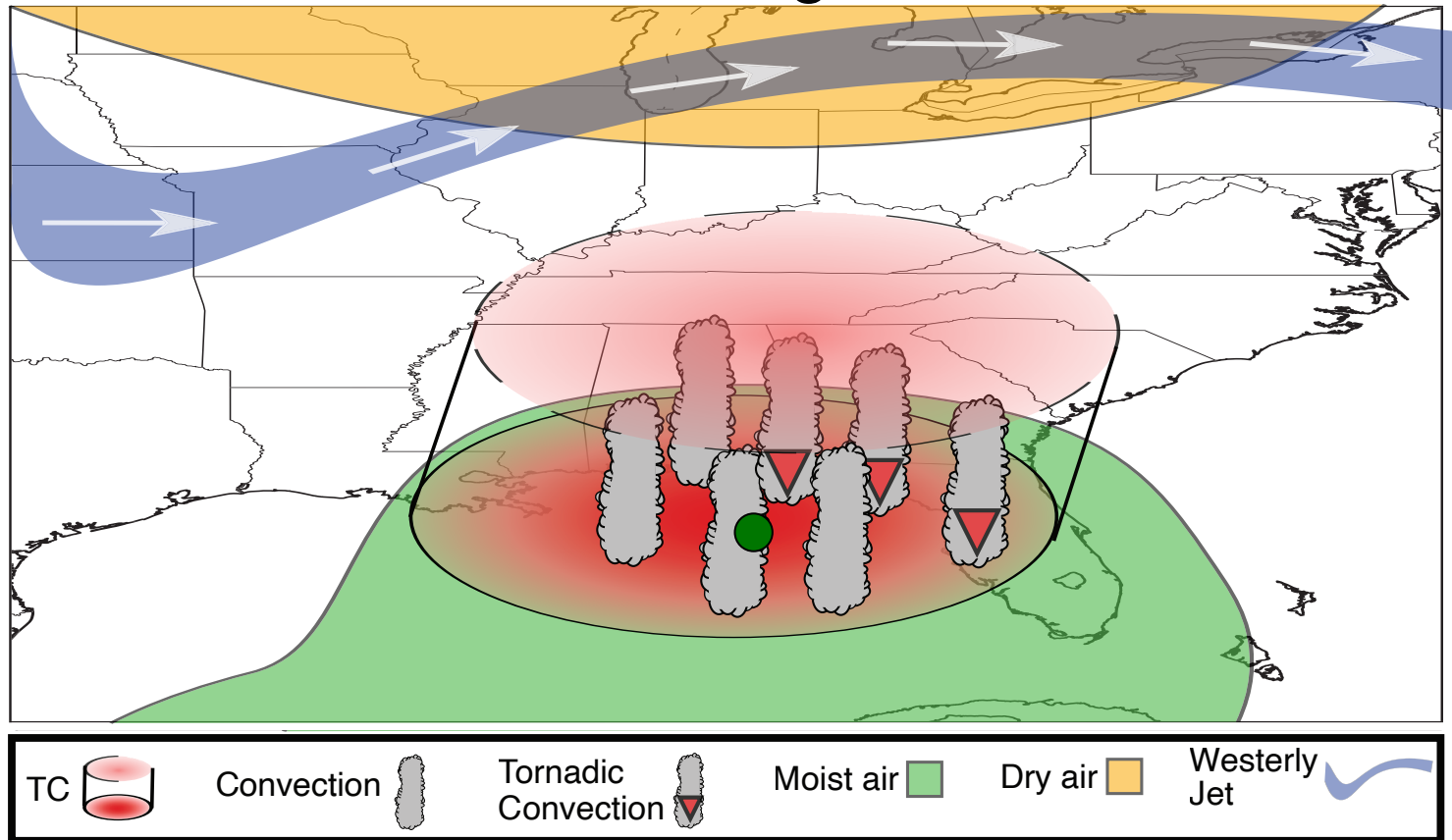
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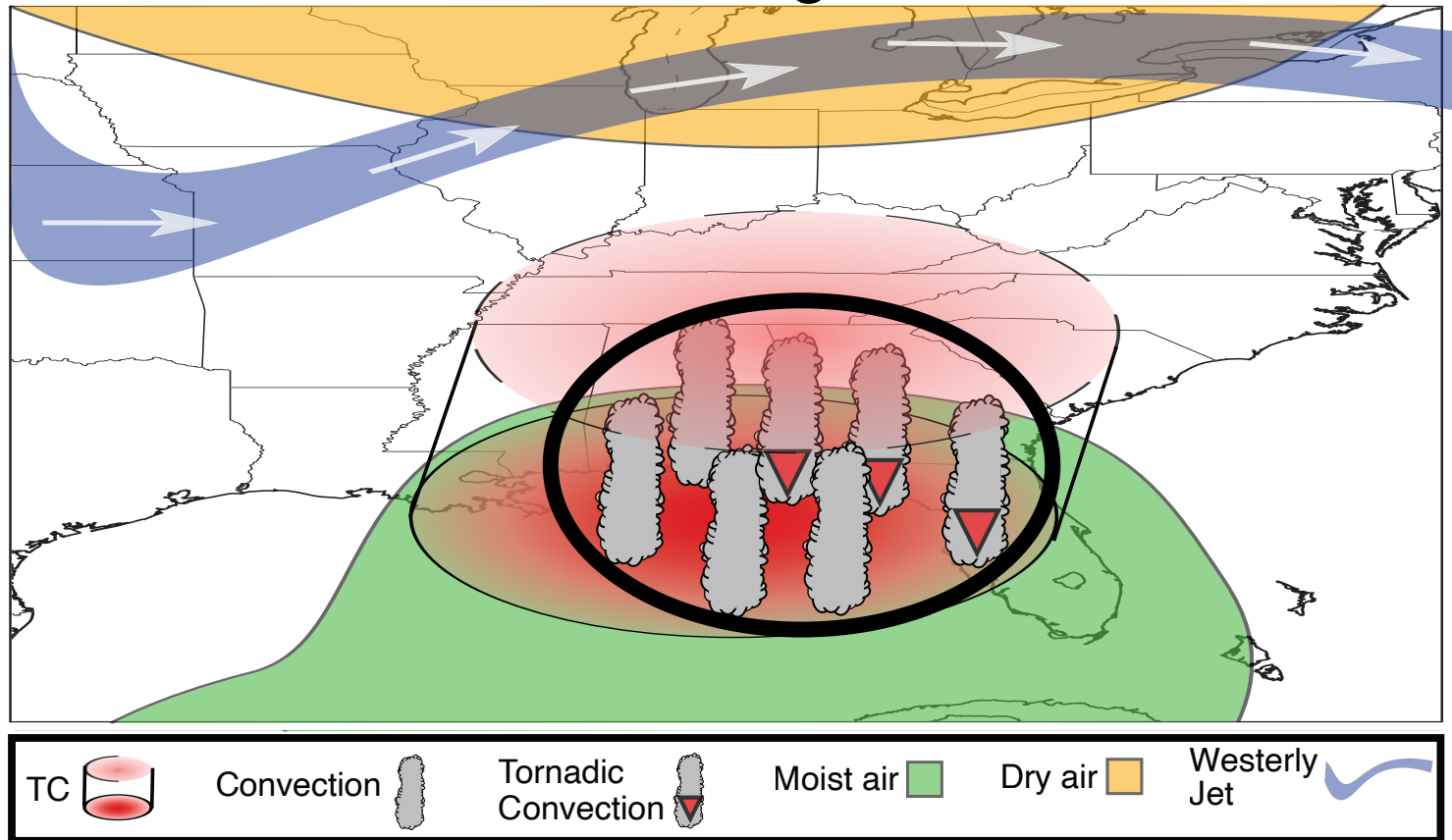
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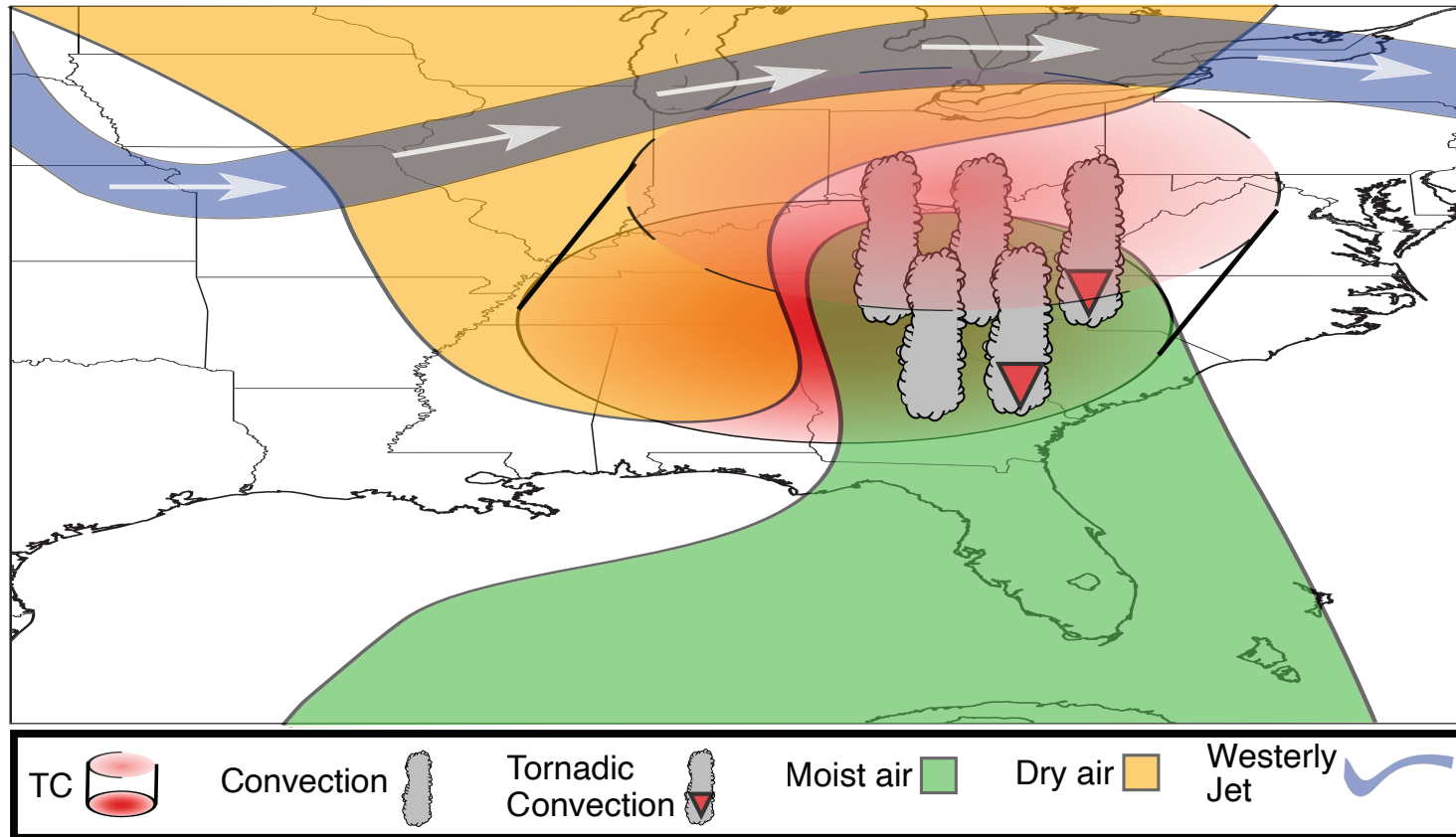
Schenkel et al. (2021)

- Weak diurnal variability of coastal tornadoes due to:

1. Strong impact of ocean-to-land changes in friction;
2. Parcels moisten from sea surface fluxes upon being entrained into TC;
3. Extensive TC convection and cloud cover reduces surface heating.

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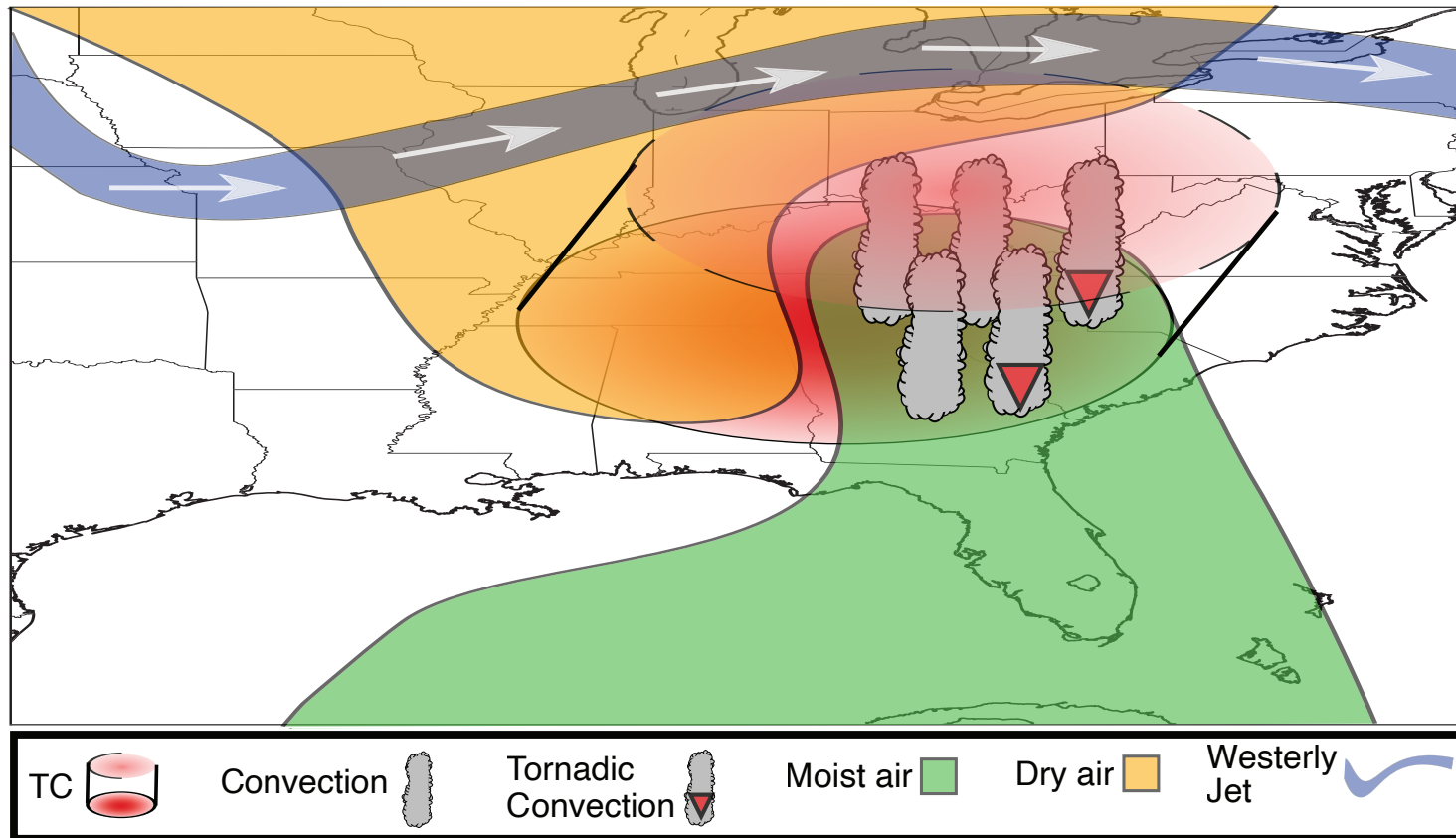
Inland TC



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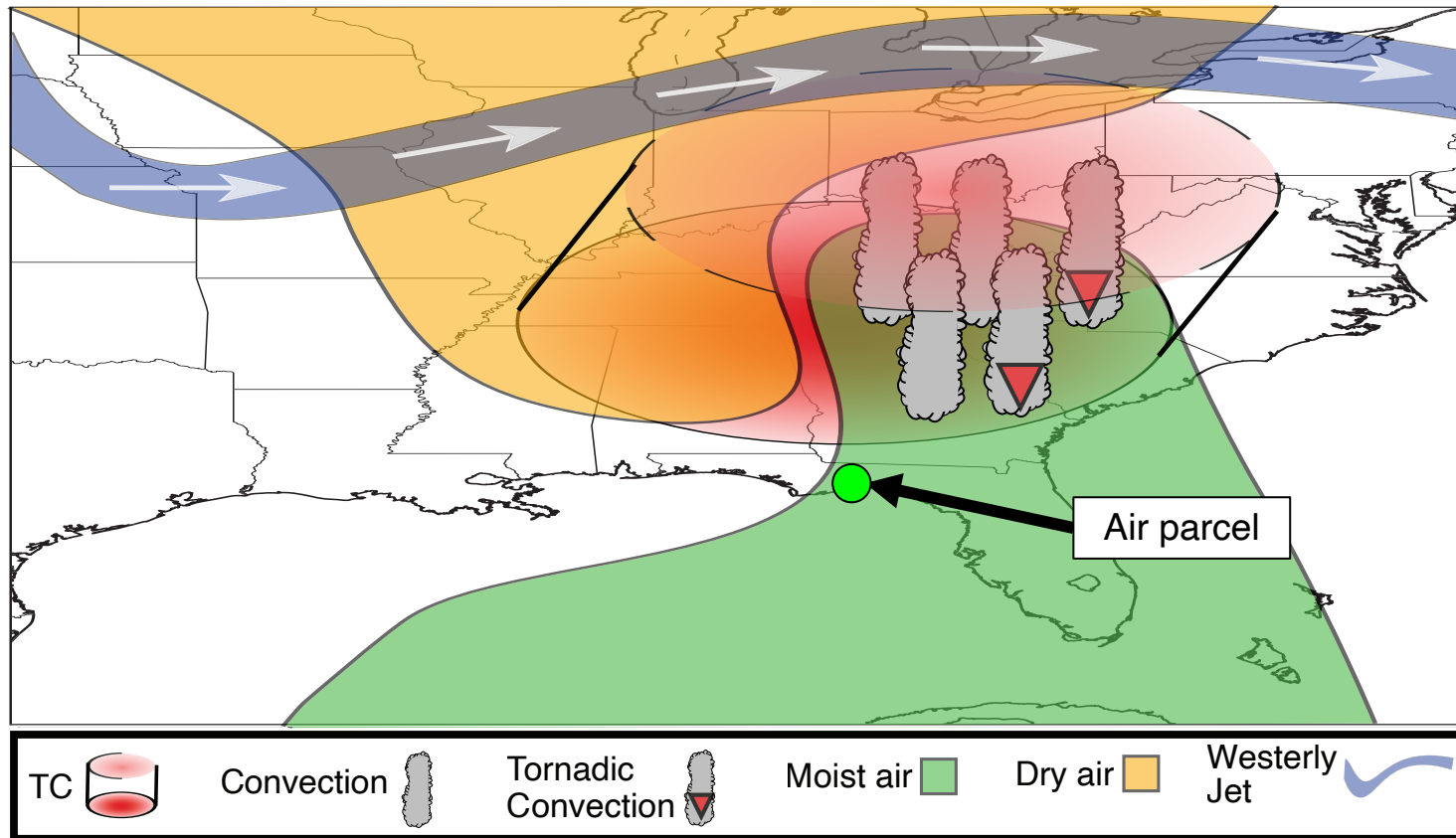


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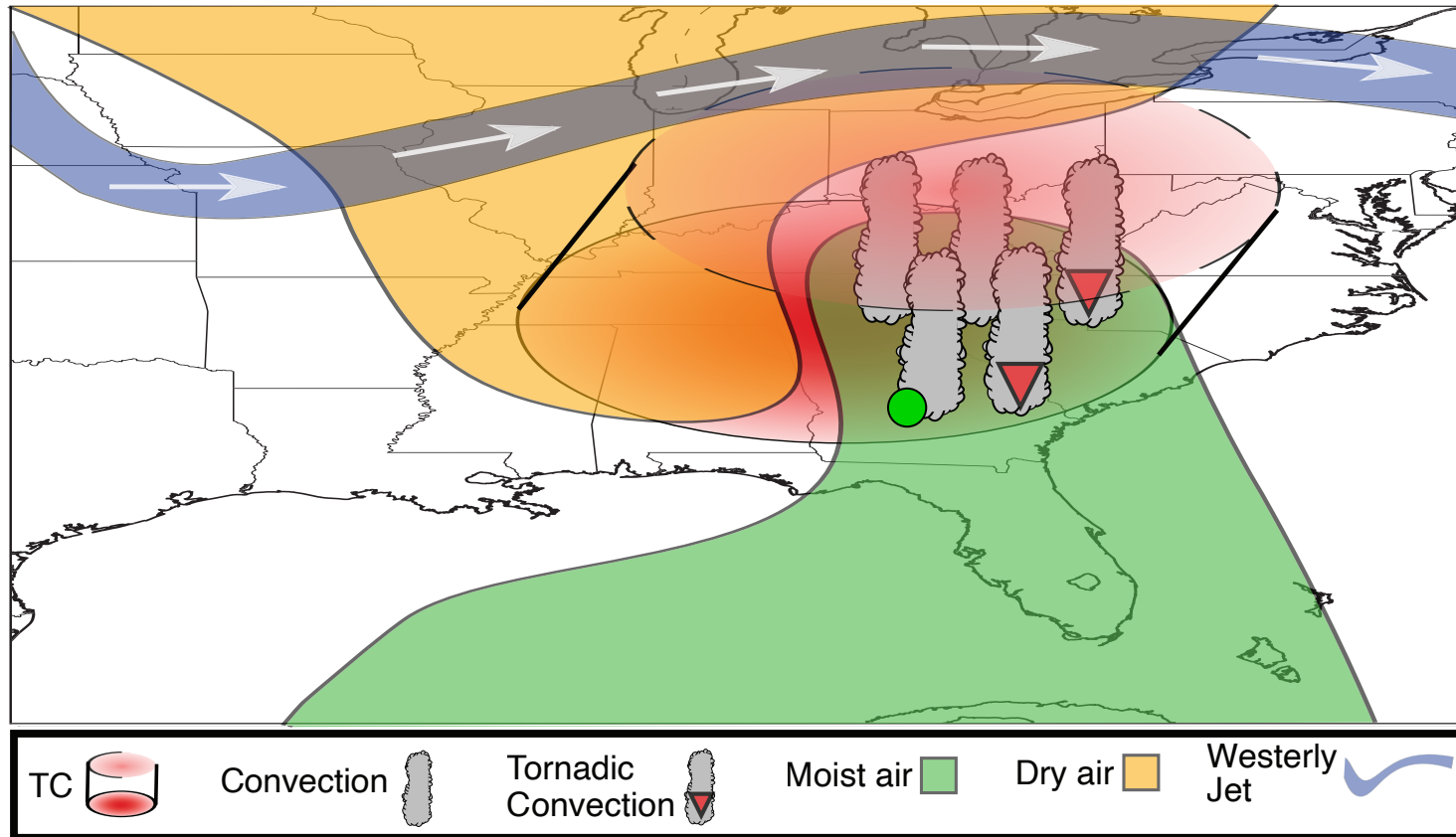


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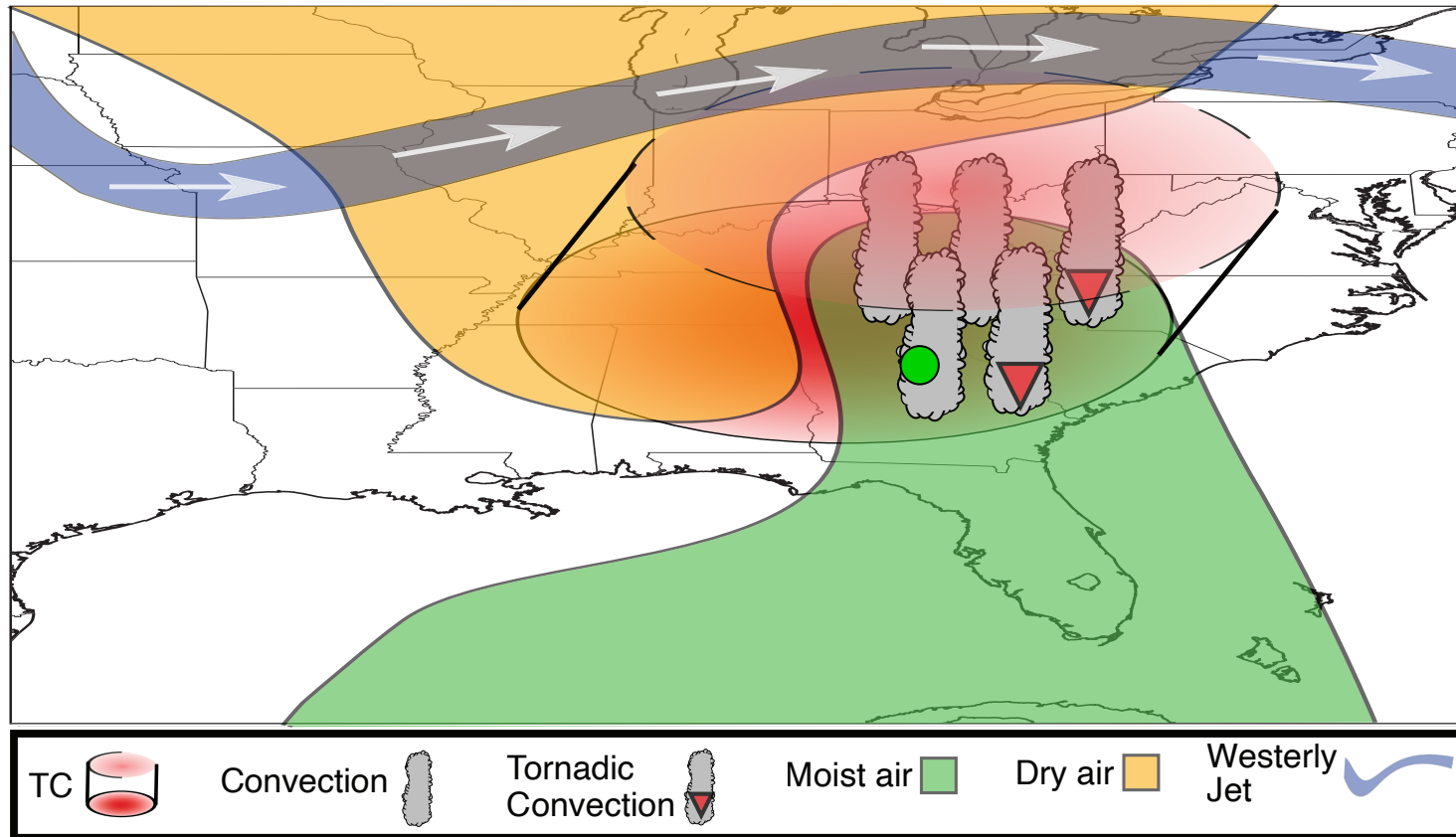


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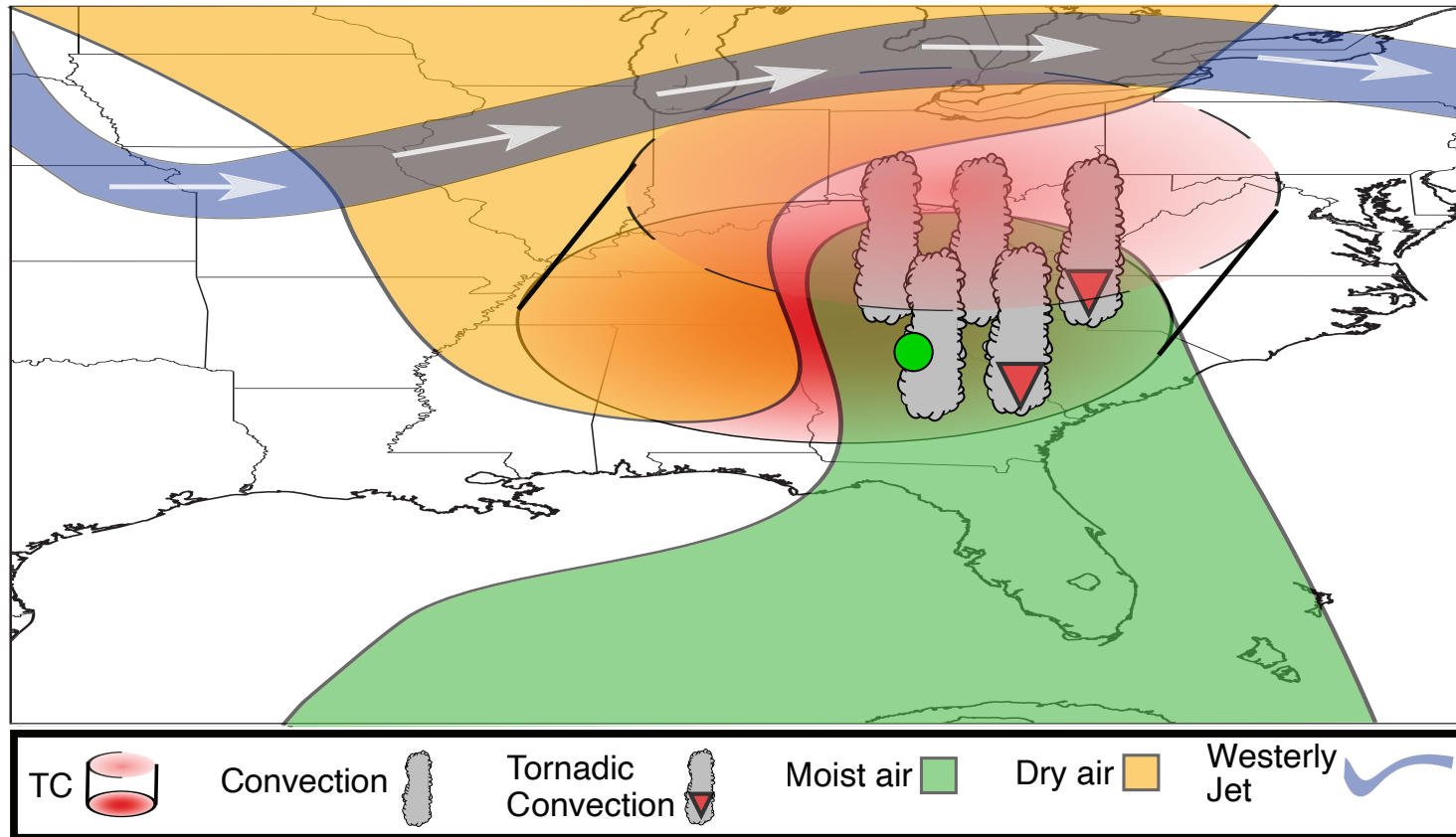


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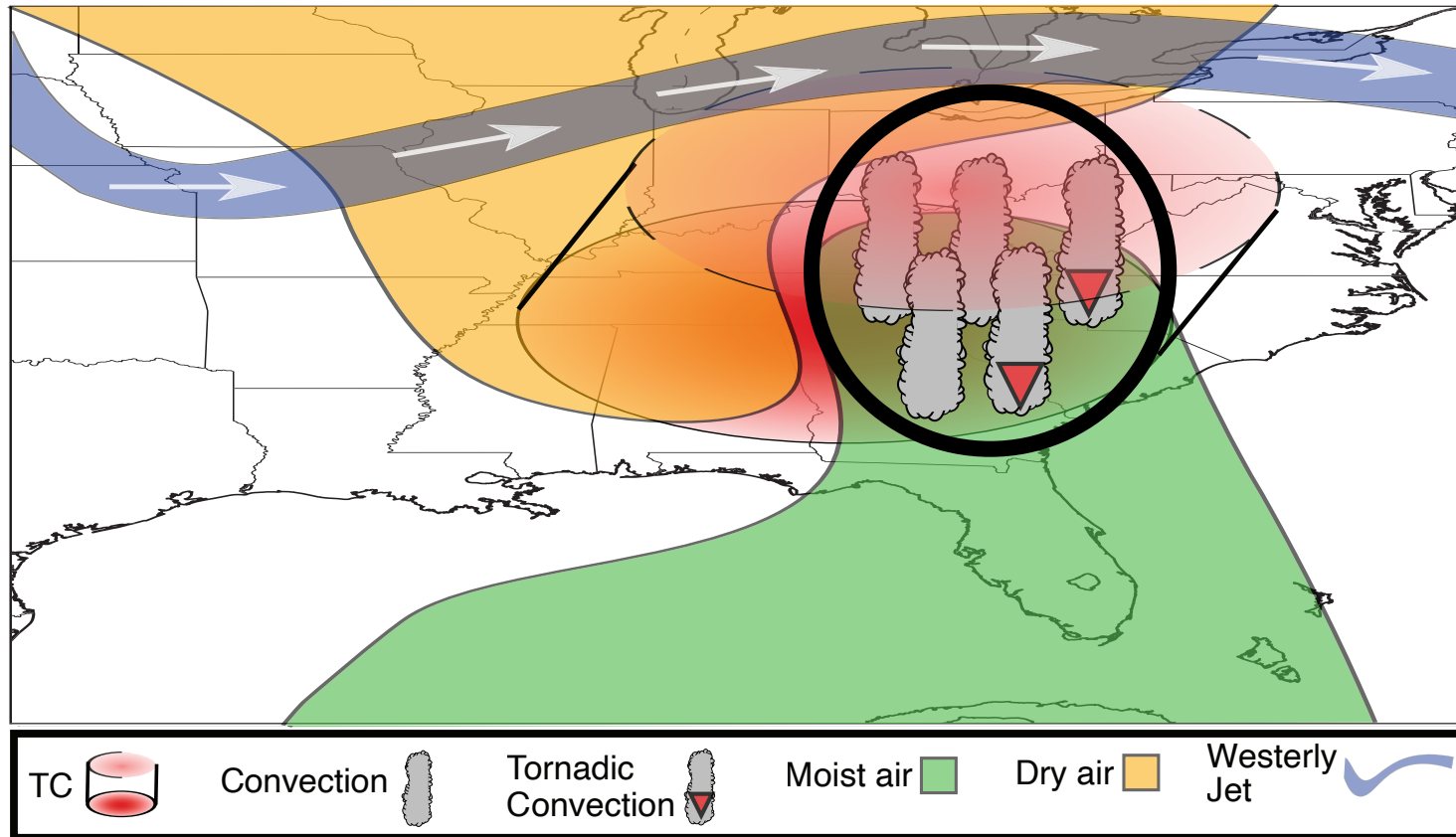
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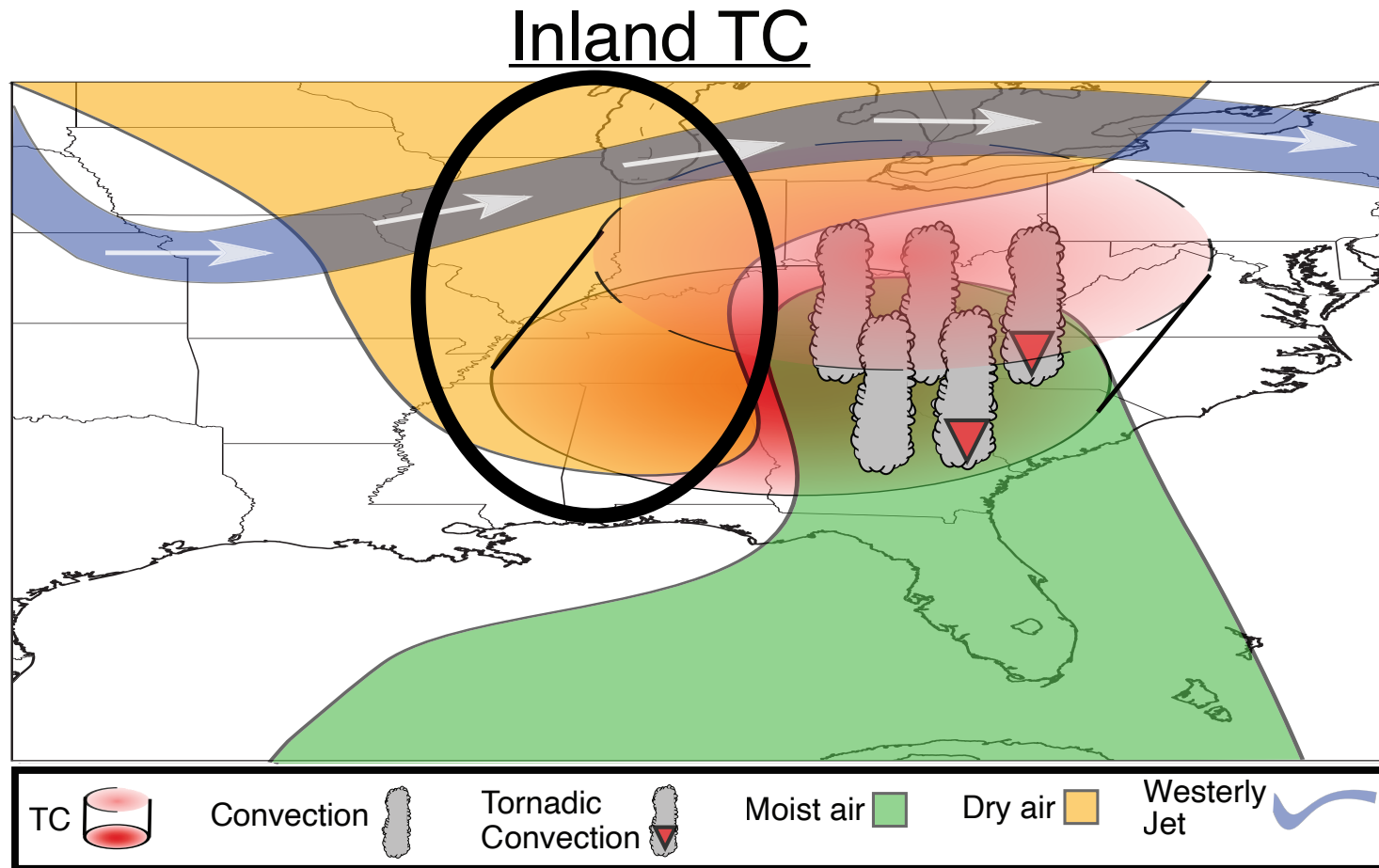


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- Strong diurnal variability of inland tornadoes due to:

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2. Reduced cloud cover as TC weakens;

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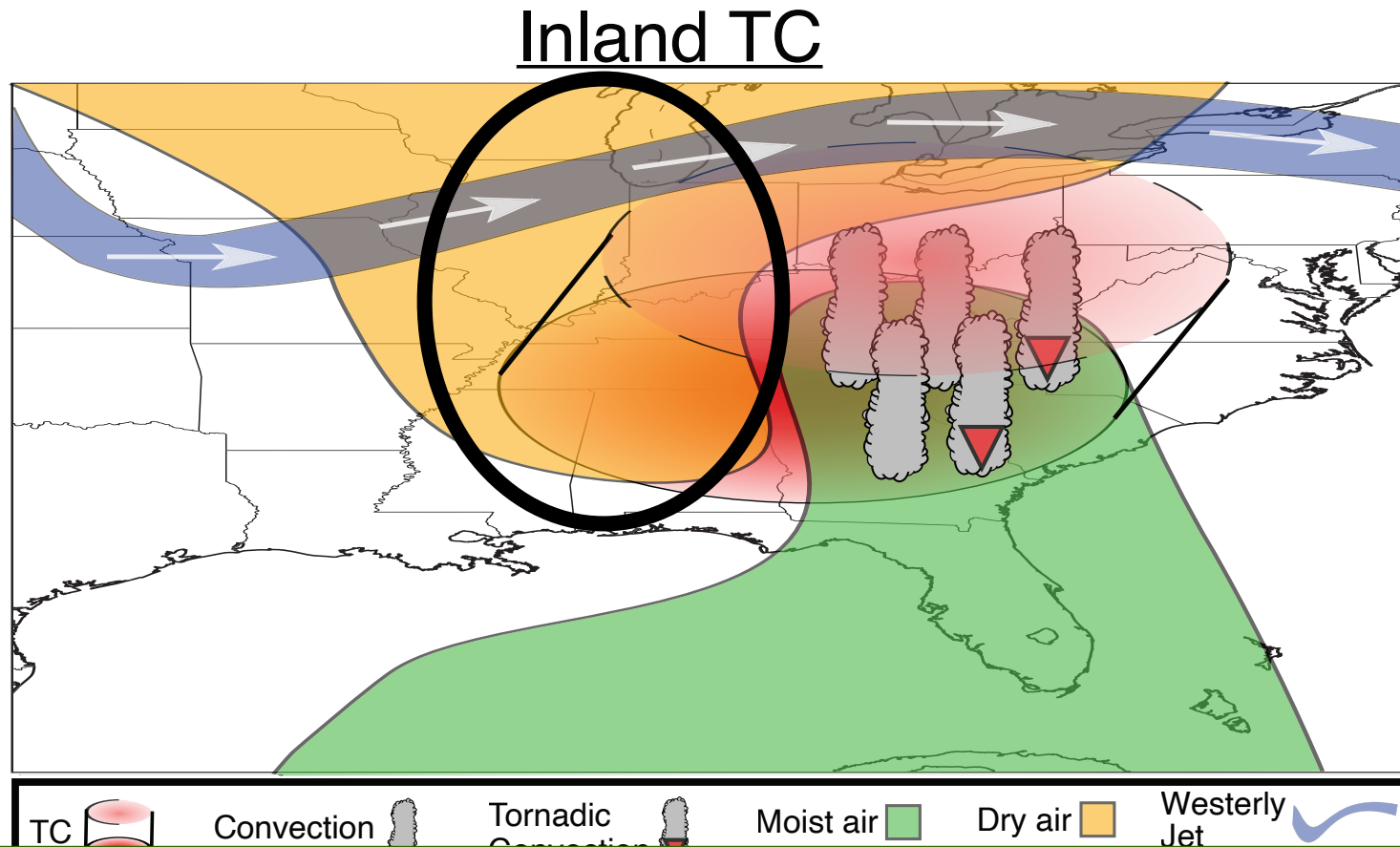


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How Might Diurnal Variability of Tornadoes Change as TC Moves Inland?



How does the diurnal variability of tornadoes change as TCs move inland?

5. Entrainment of drier continental air reduces cloud cover.

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- **TC tornado environments:** Examined composite differences in median temperature, dewpoint, and mixed-layer CAPE;
 - NOAA Integrated Global Radiosonde Archive version 2 and NSSL sondes within 75–750 km of TC center from 1995–2020 (N=5786 sondes, 259 TCs; Durre et al. 2006; Fernández-Cabán et al. 2019).

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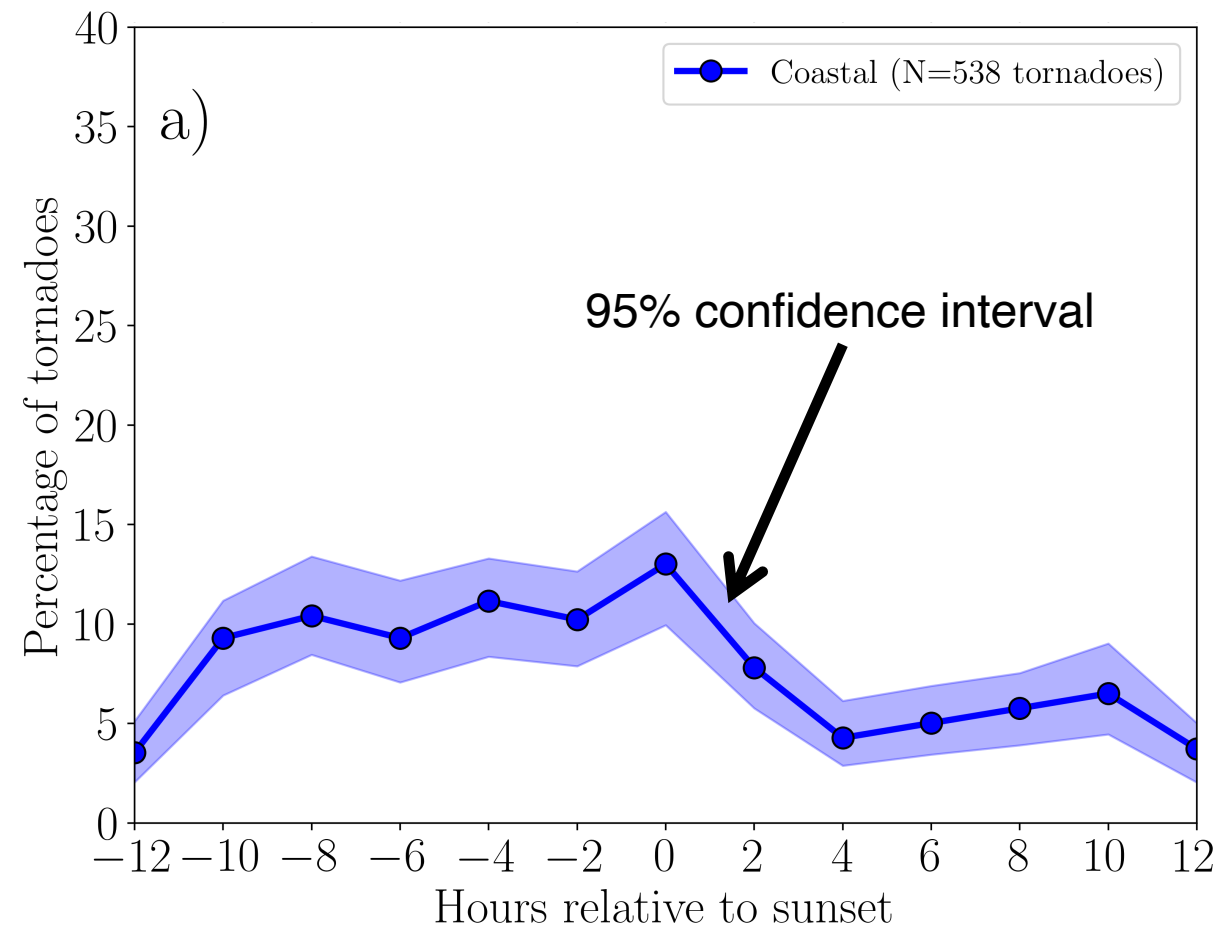
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 1. **Coastal** tornadoes: <21 km from coast (N=538)
 2. **Transition** tornadoes: 21–121 km from coast (N=537)
 3. **Inland** tornadoes: >121 km from coast (N=554)

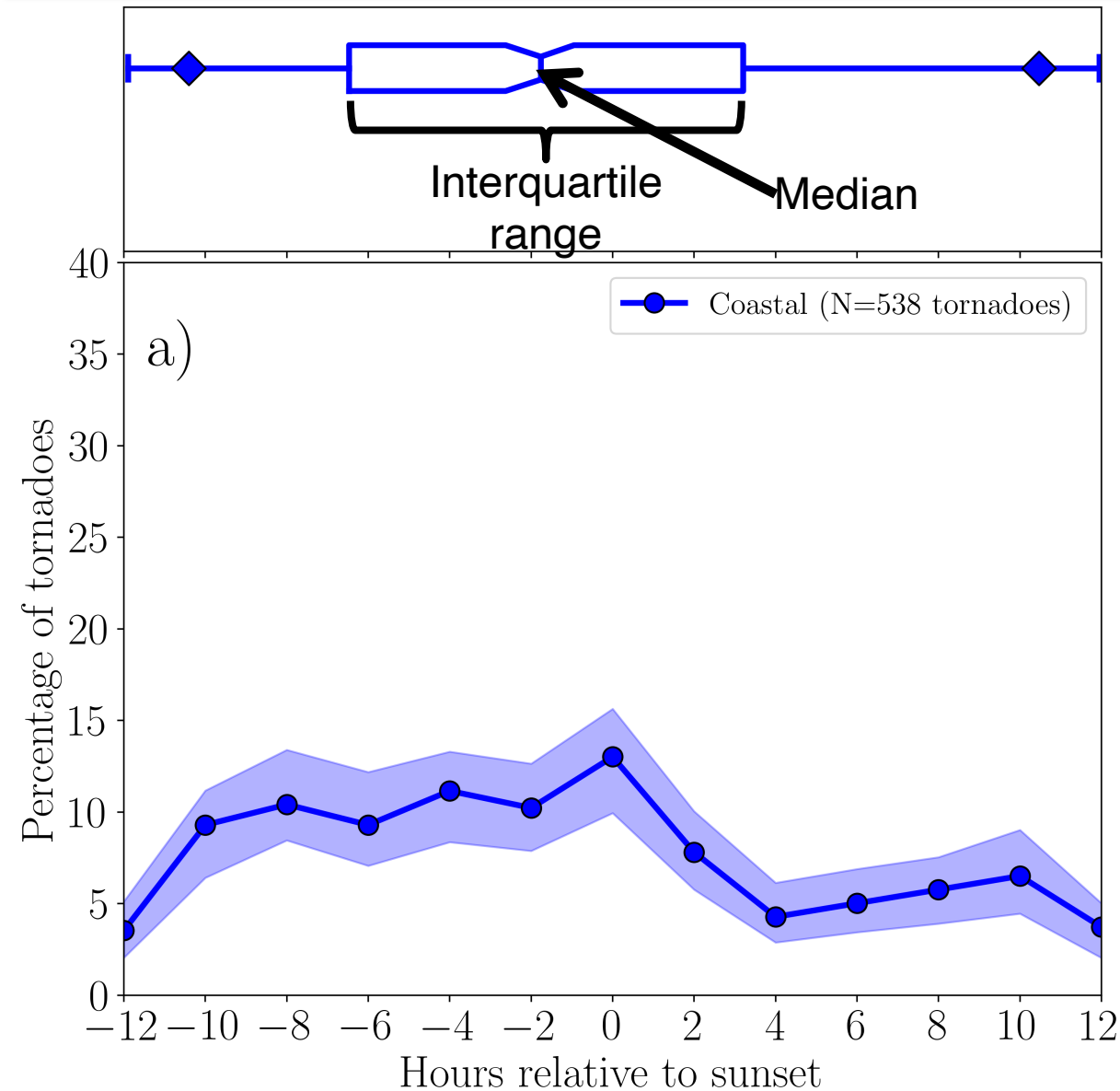
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- Analyze changes in the timing and location of tornadoes along with their convective-scale environments for inland, transition, and coastal regimes **relative to local sunset**.

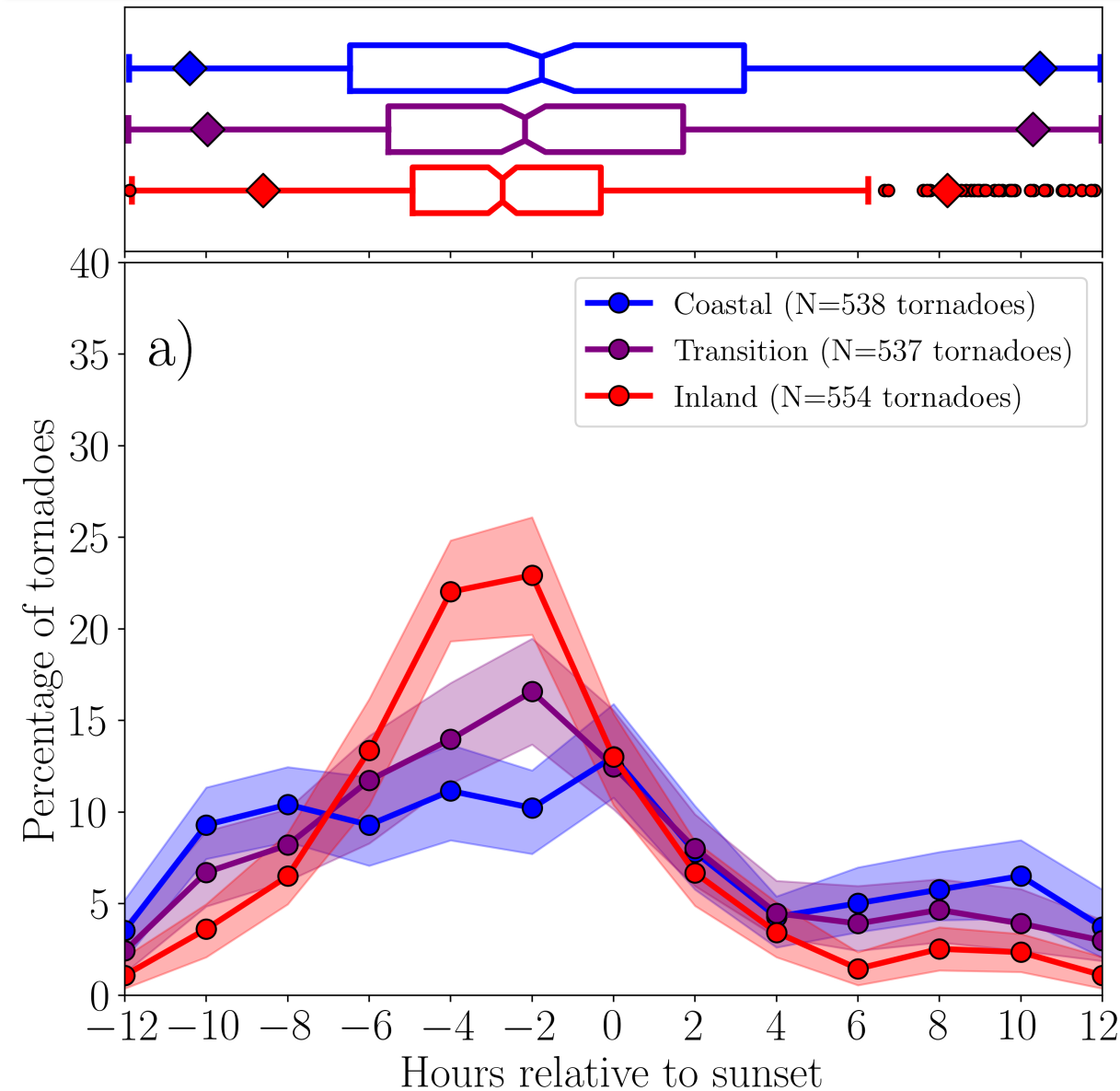
Diurnal Variability of TC Tornadoes



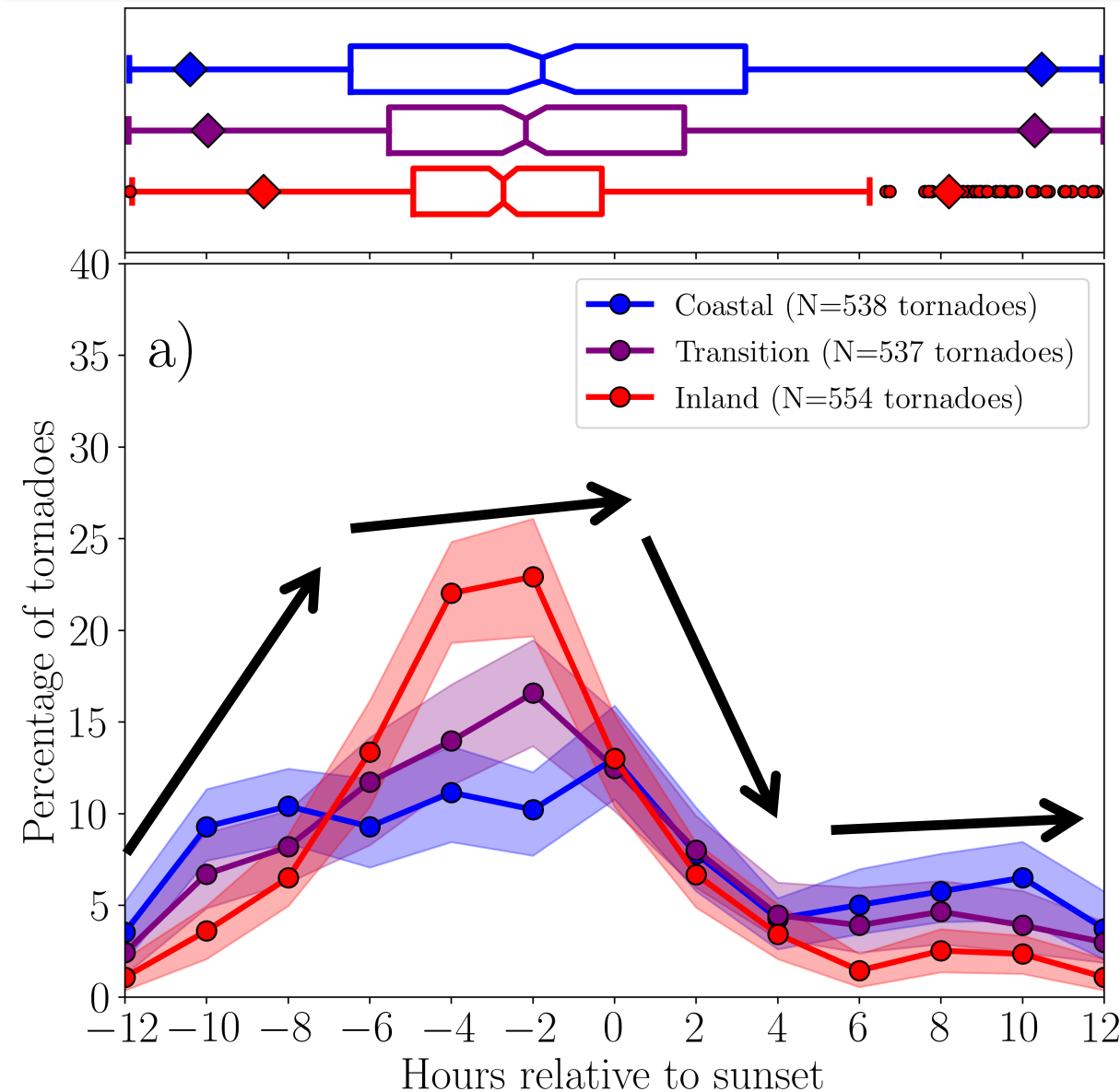
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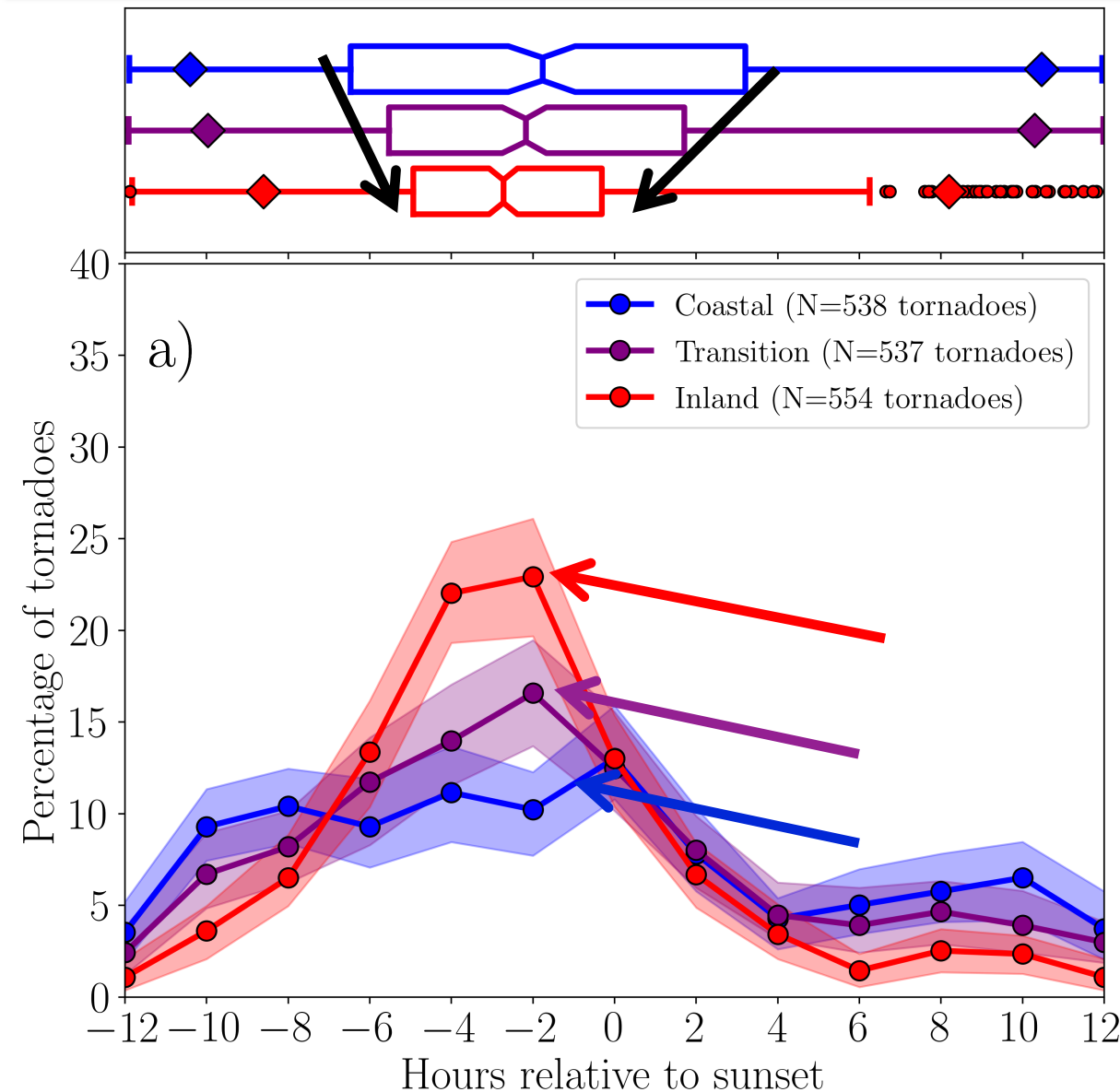


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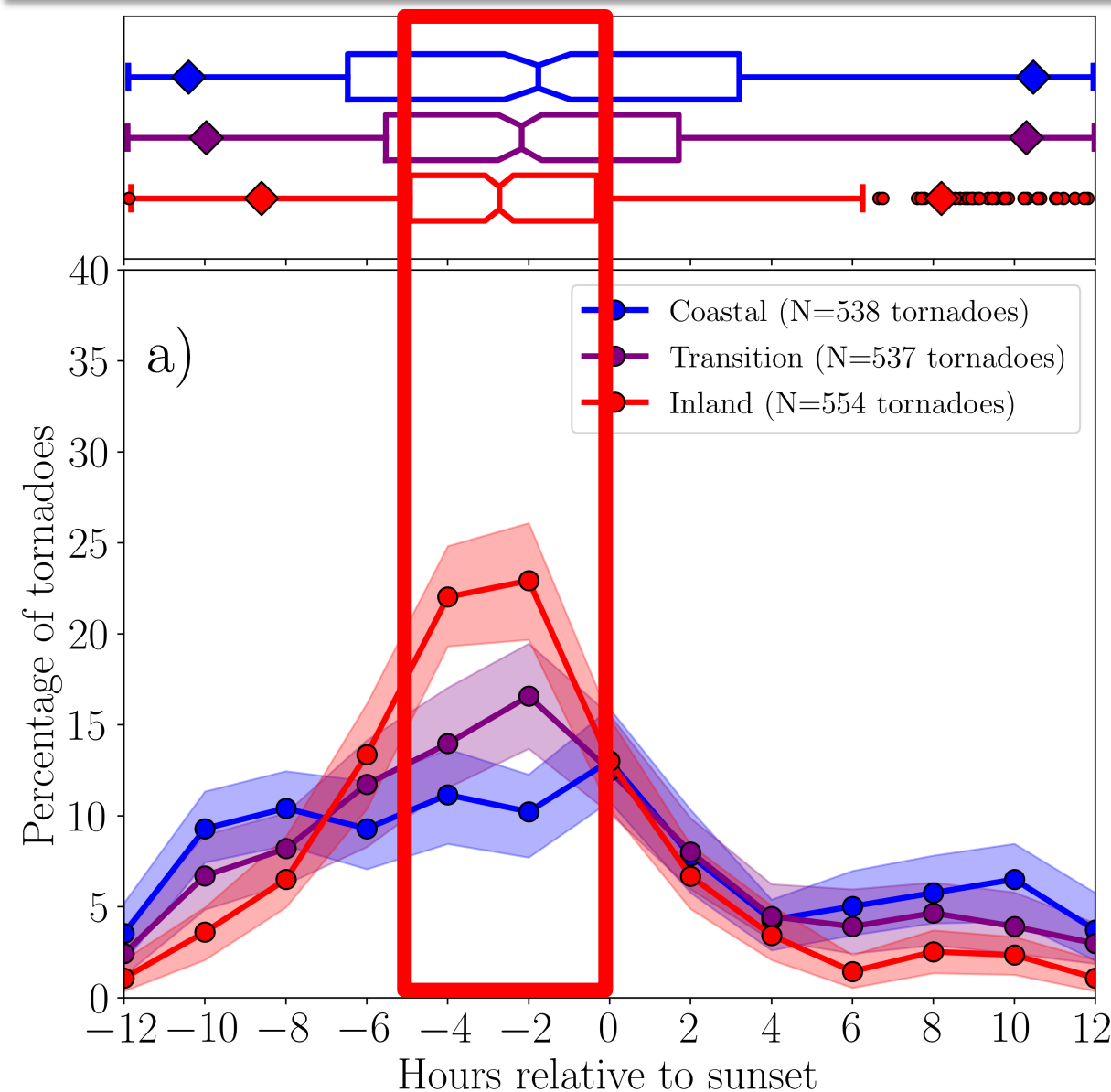
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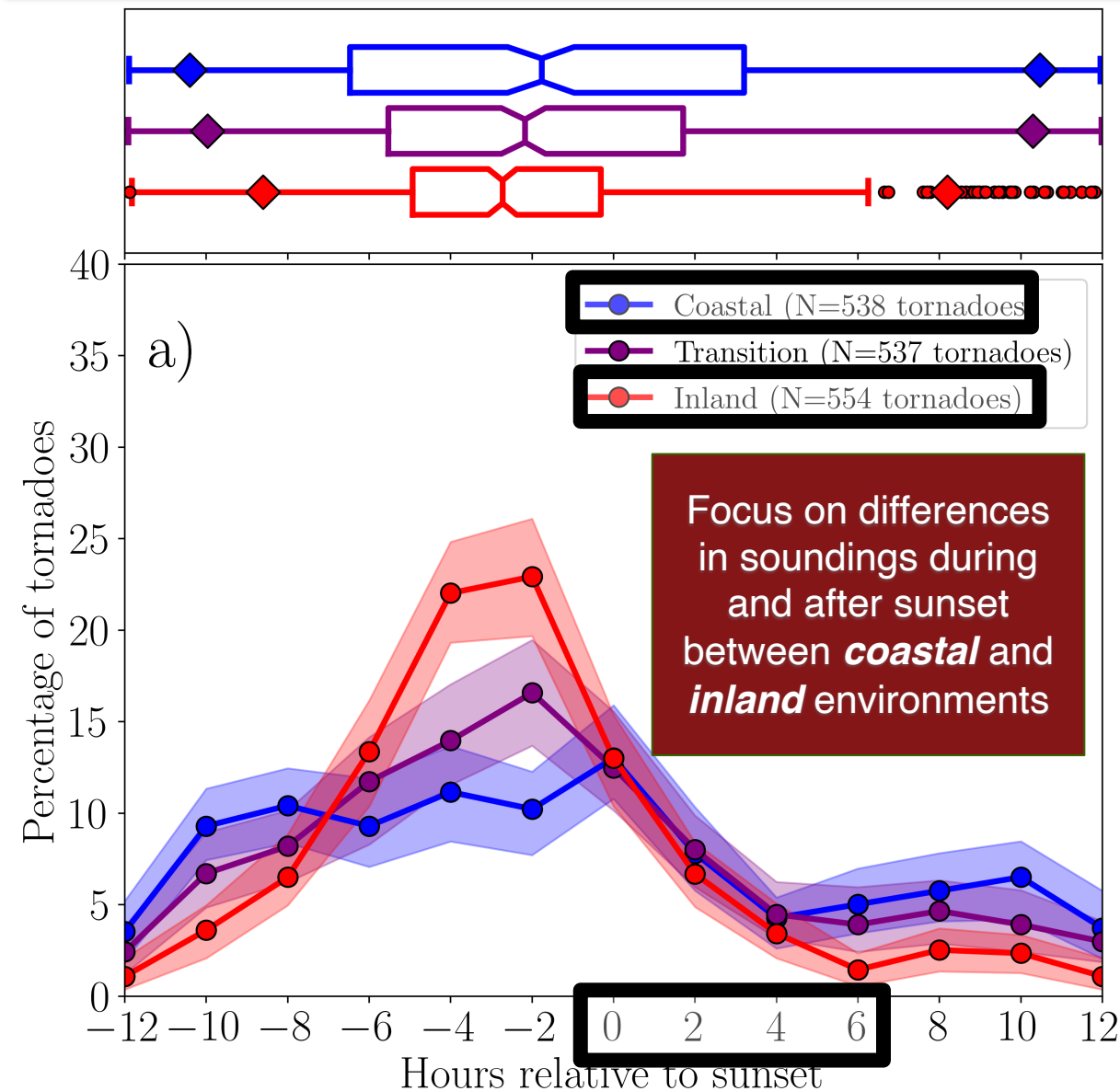
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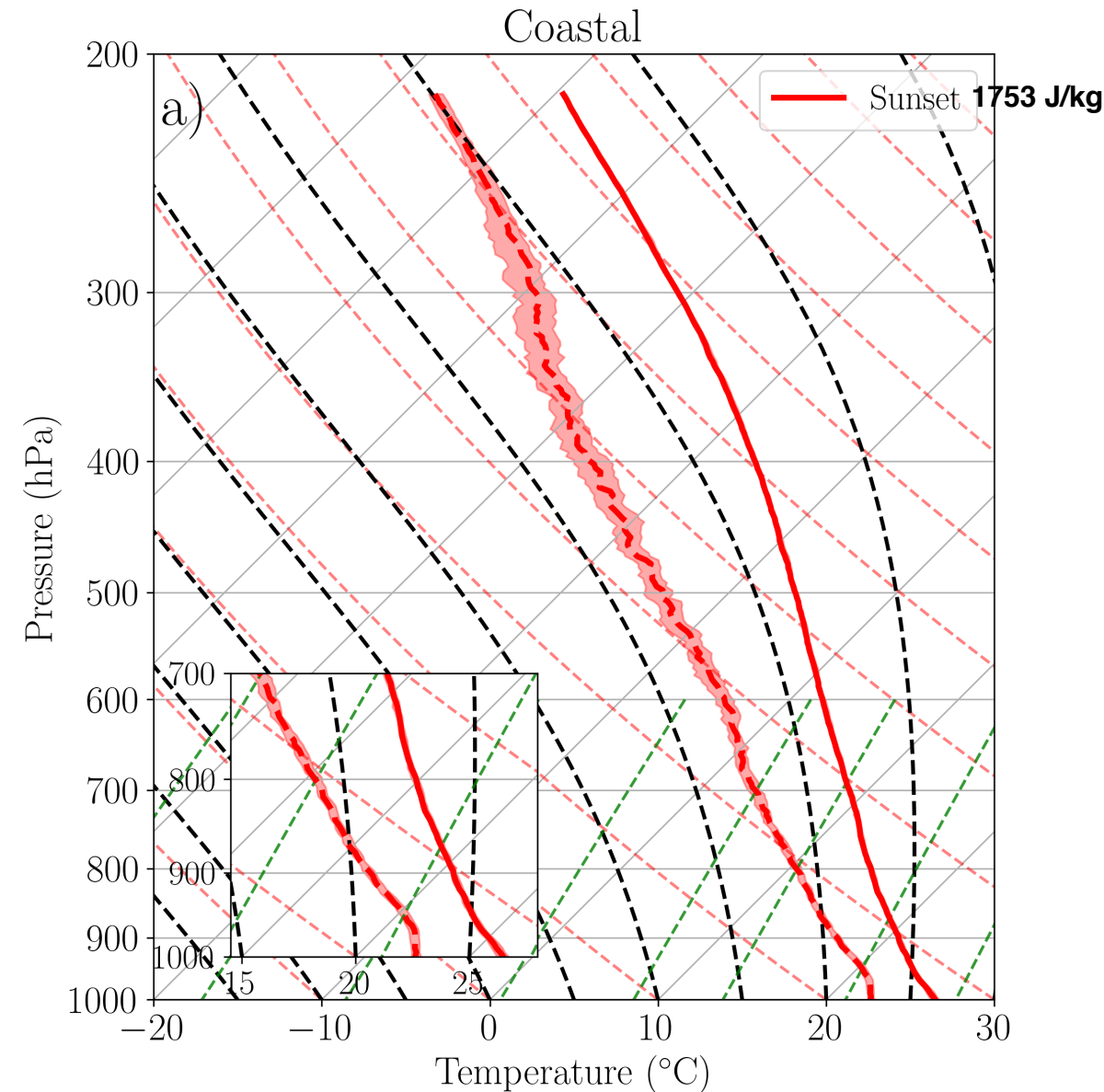
- Tornadoes more frequent during daytime hours regardless of coastal distance;
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- Inland tornadoes concentrated in ~5 hours before sunset;

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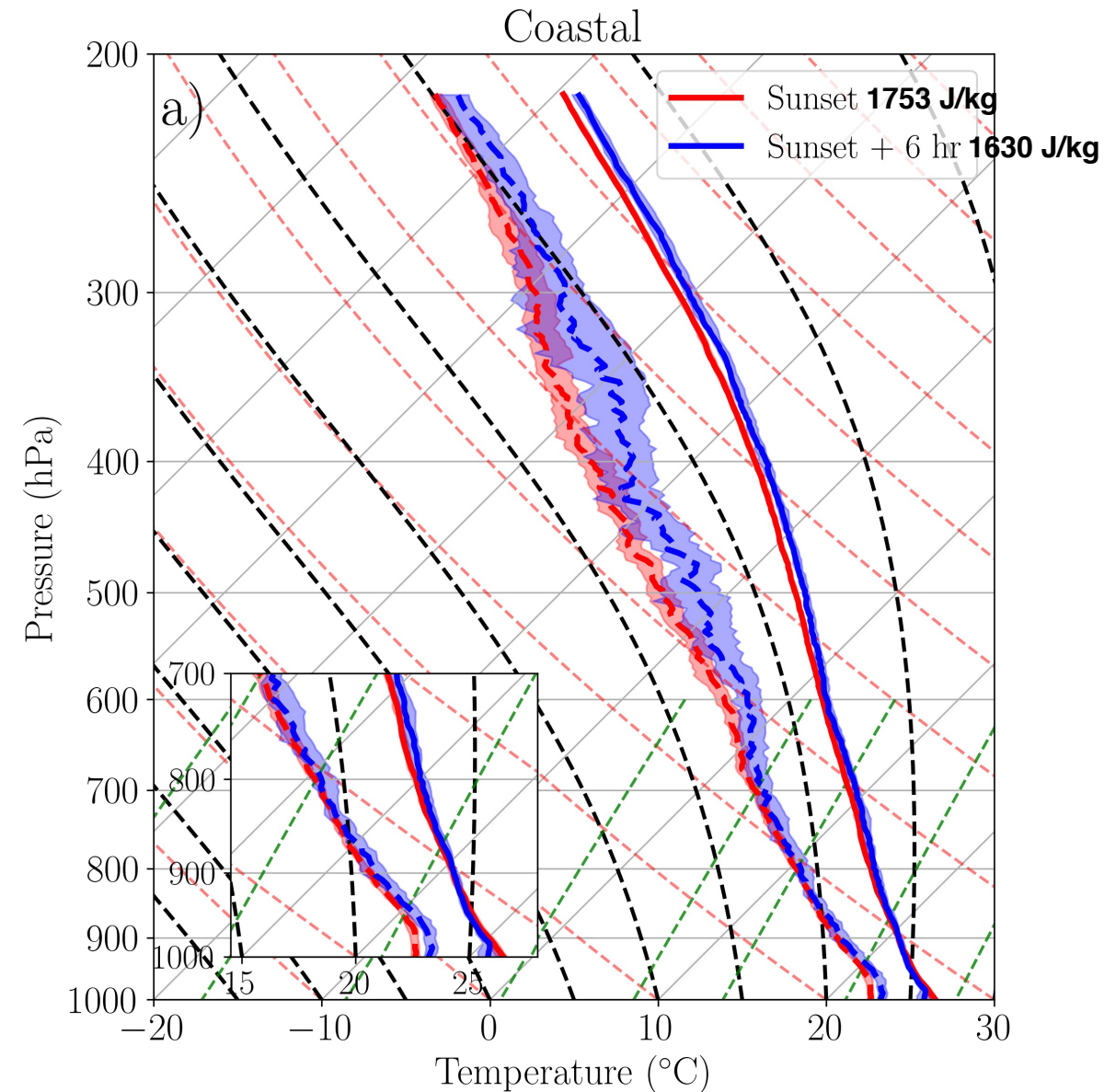
- Do convective-scale environments in TCs show similar diurnal variability?



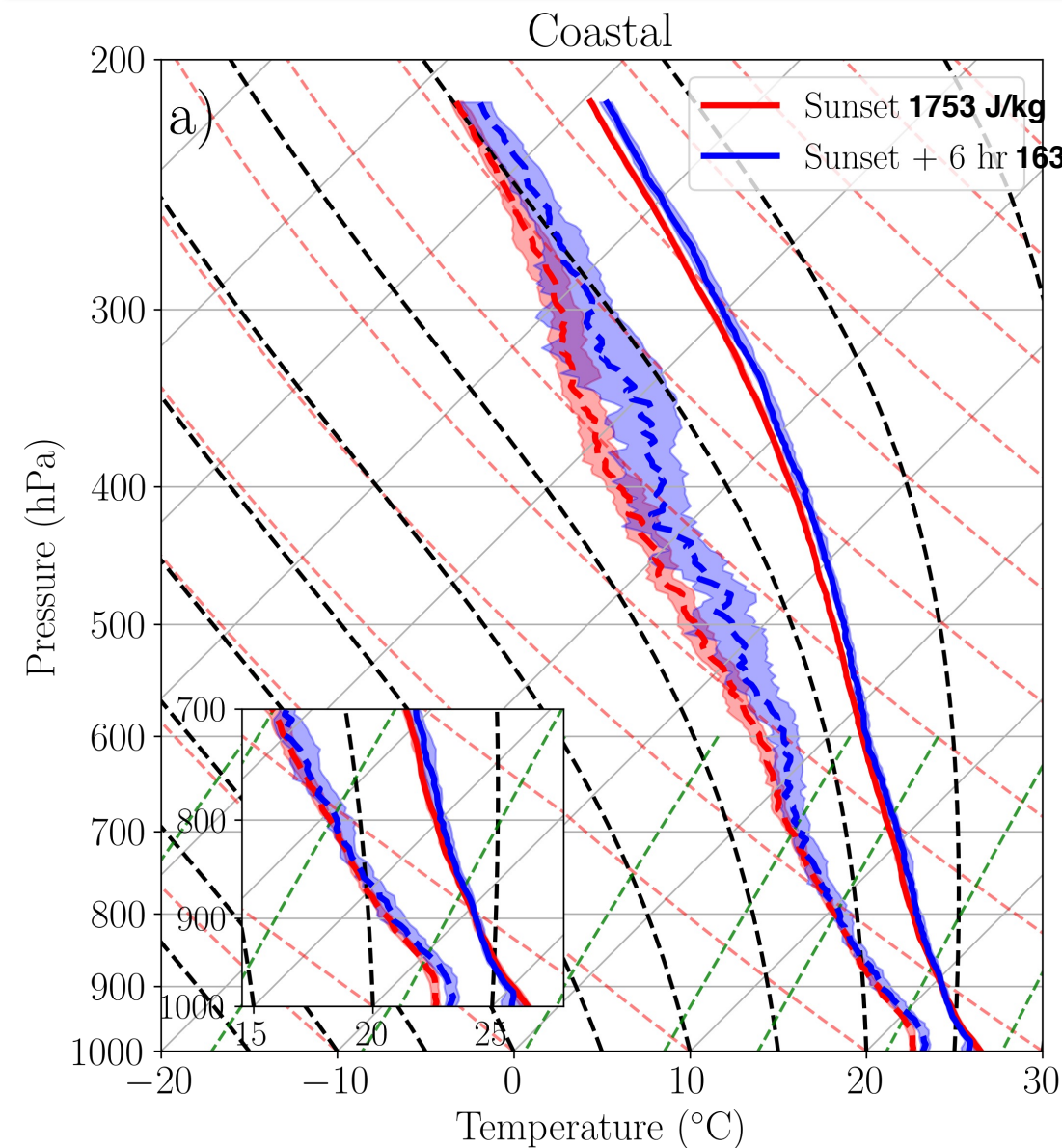
Diurnal Variability of Soundings Versus Coastal Distance



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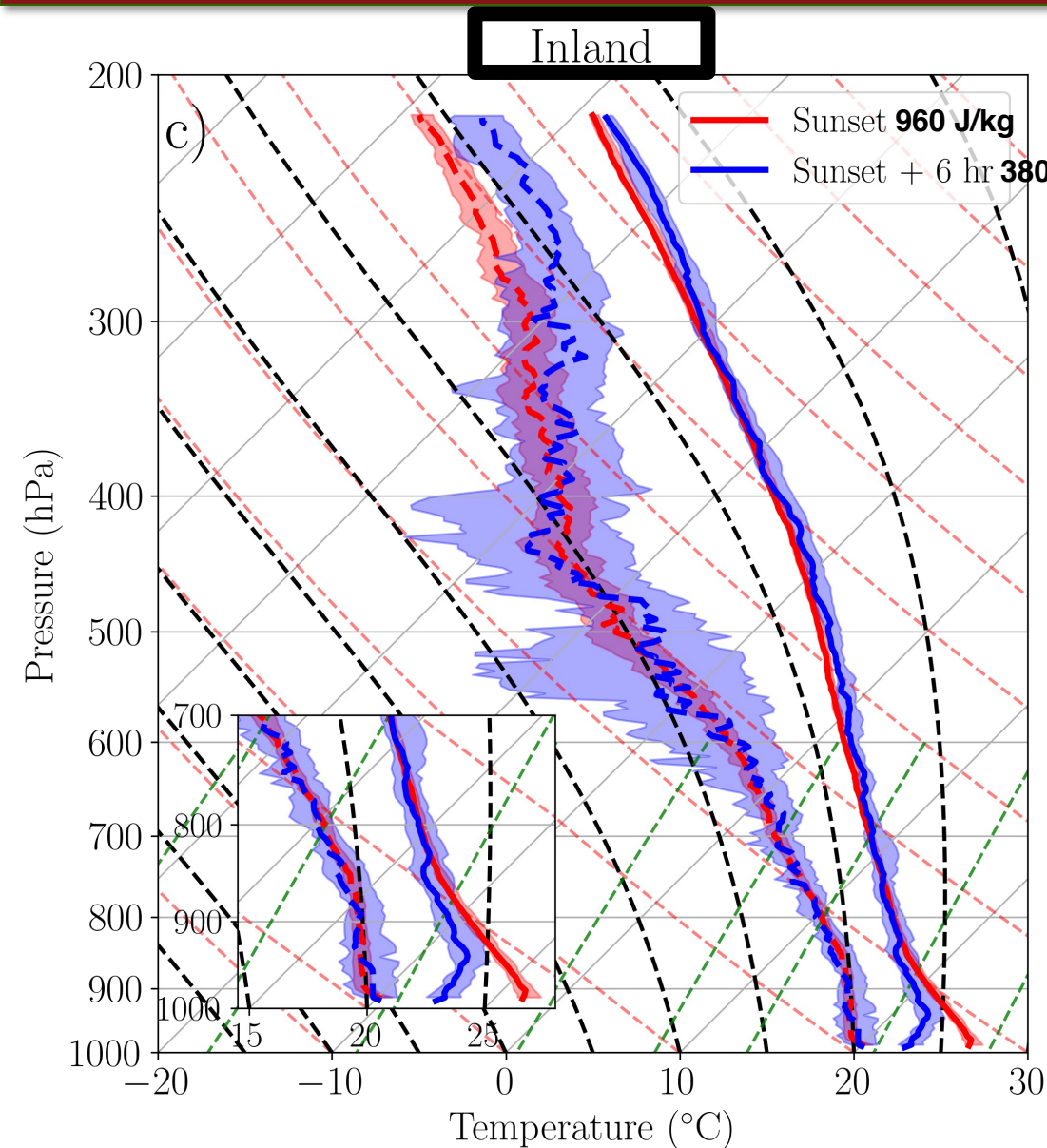


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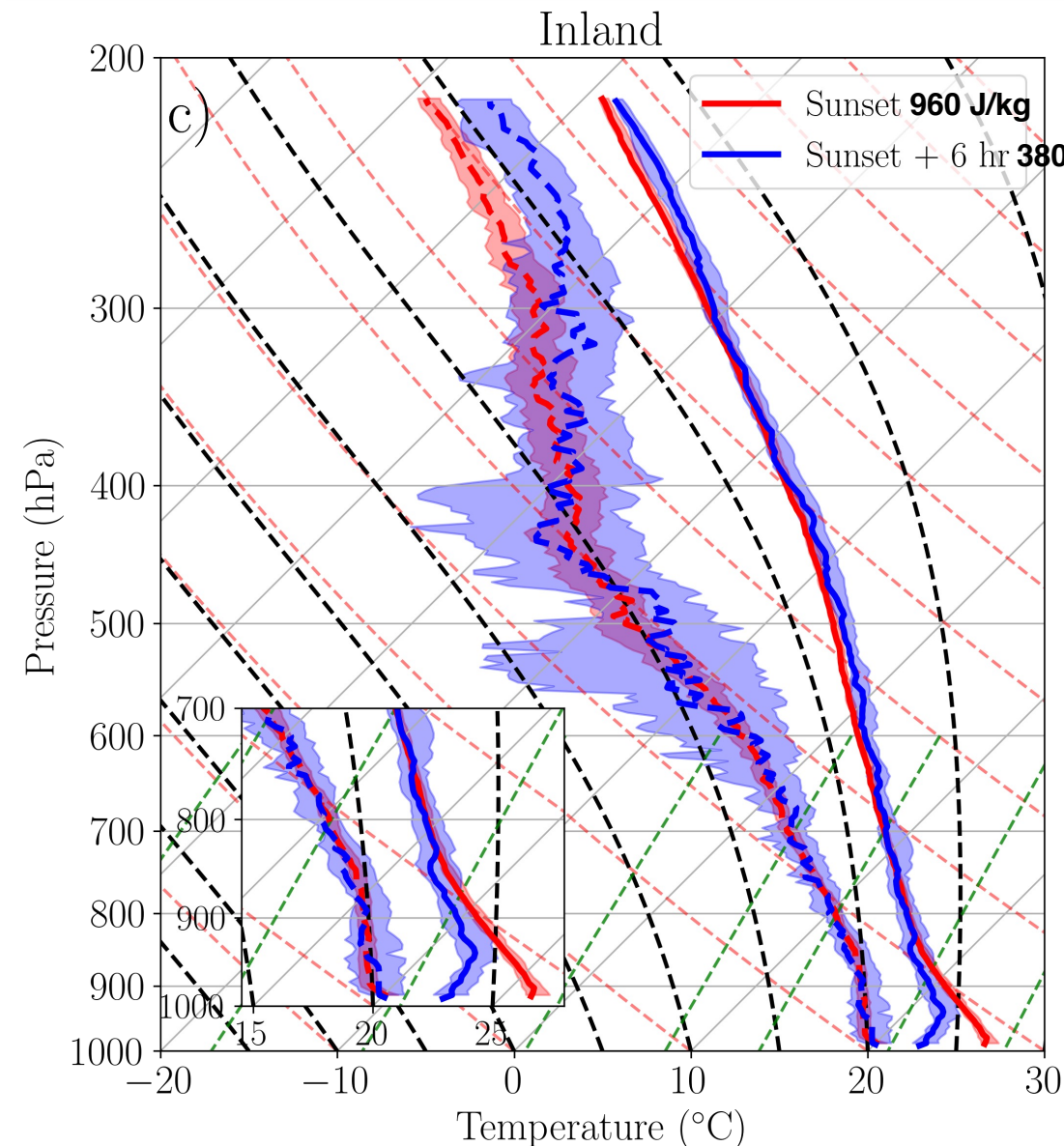
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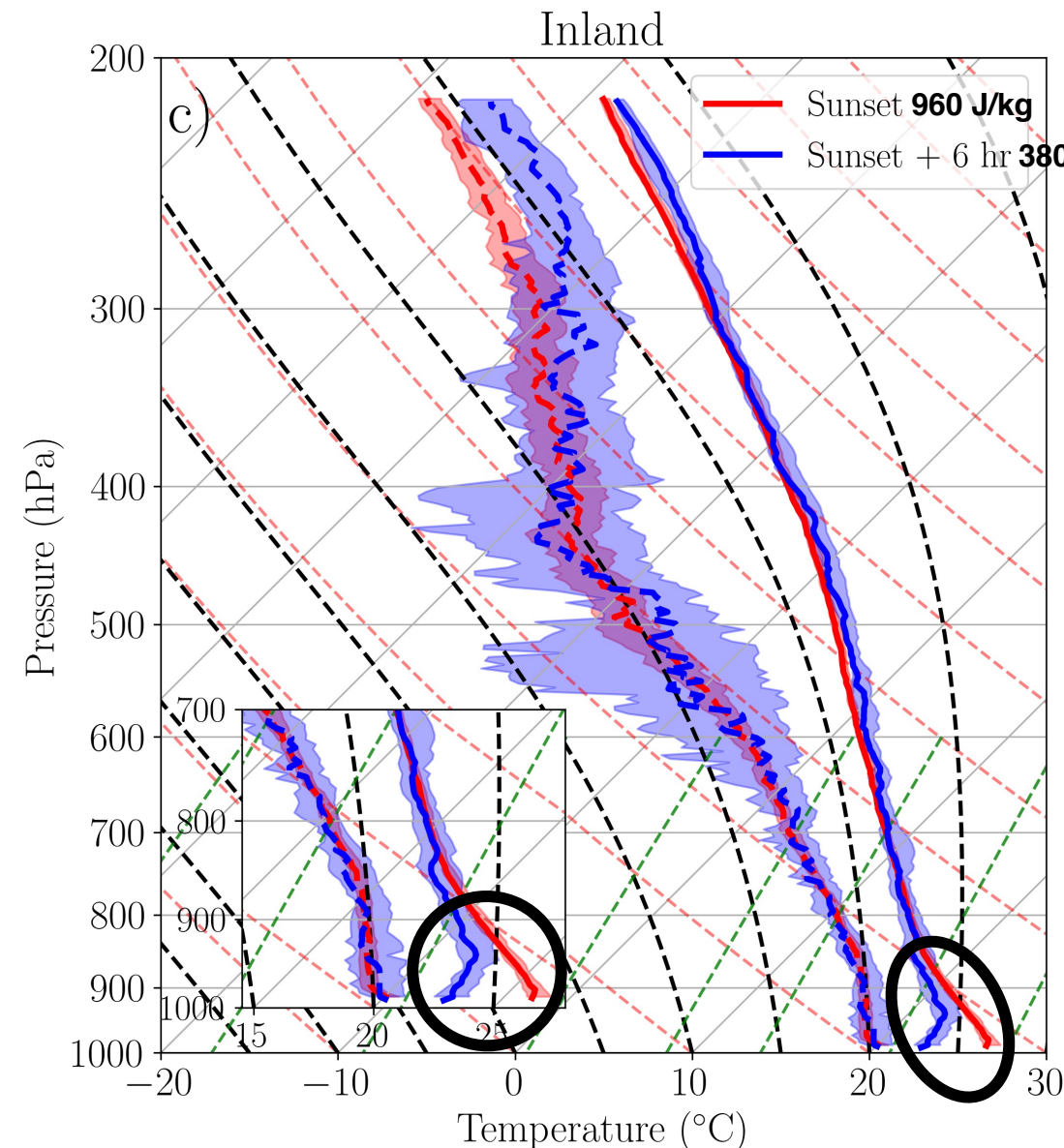
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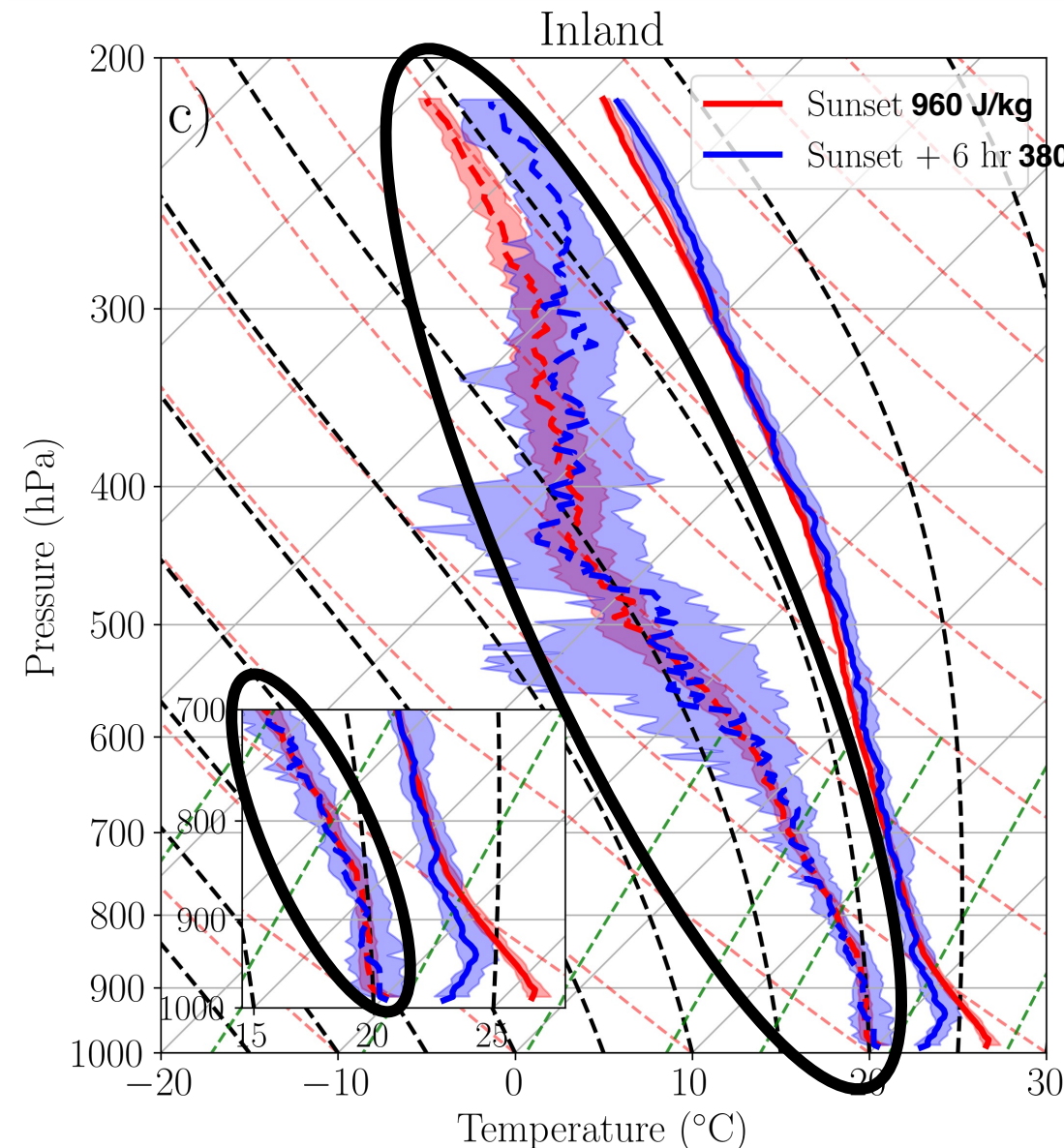
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- Small differences in moisture and temperature throughout troposphere in coastal environments;
- Compared to coastal environments, inland environments characterized by:
 1. Stronger diurnal variability with development of nocturnal near-surface temperature inversion;
 2. Reduced tropospheric moisture during day and night.

Summary and Discussion

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 2. Drier troposphere with stronger diurnal variability in inland environments compared to coastal environments.
- Which processes are key to creating stronger diurnal variability in inland environments?