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► **To cite this version:**

Thiruvengadam Padmanabhan, Volatiana Ramanamahefa Ambinintsoa, Guillaume Lesage, Baelen Van. Dynamics of Orographic Precipitation Associated with the Passage of the Batsirai Cyclone nearby Reunion Island. 40th Conference on Radar Meteorology, Aug 2023, Minneapolis, United States. 2023. hal-04429136

**HAL Id: hal-04429136**

**<https://hal.science/hal-04429136v1>**

Submitted on 31 Jan 2024

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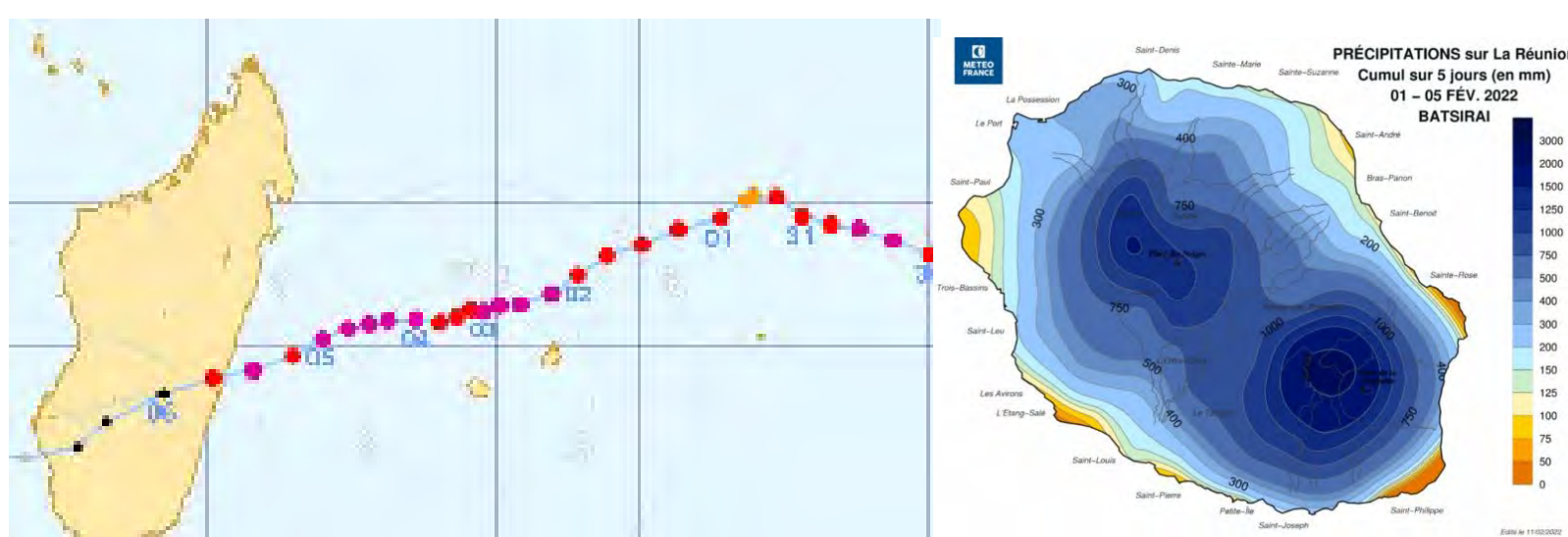
# Dynamics of Orographic Precipitation Associated with the Passage of the Batsirai Cyclone nearby Reunion Island

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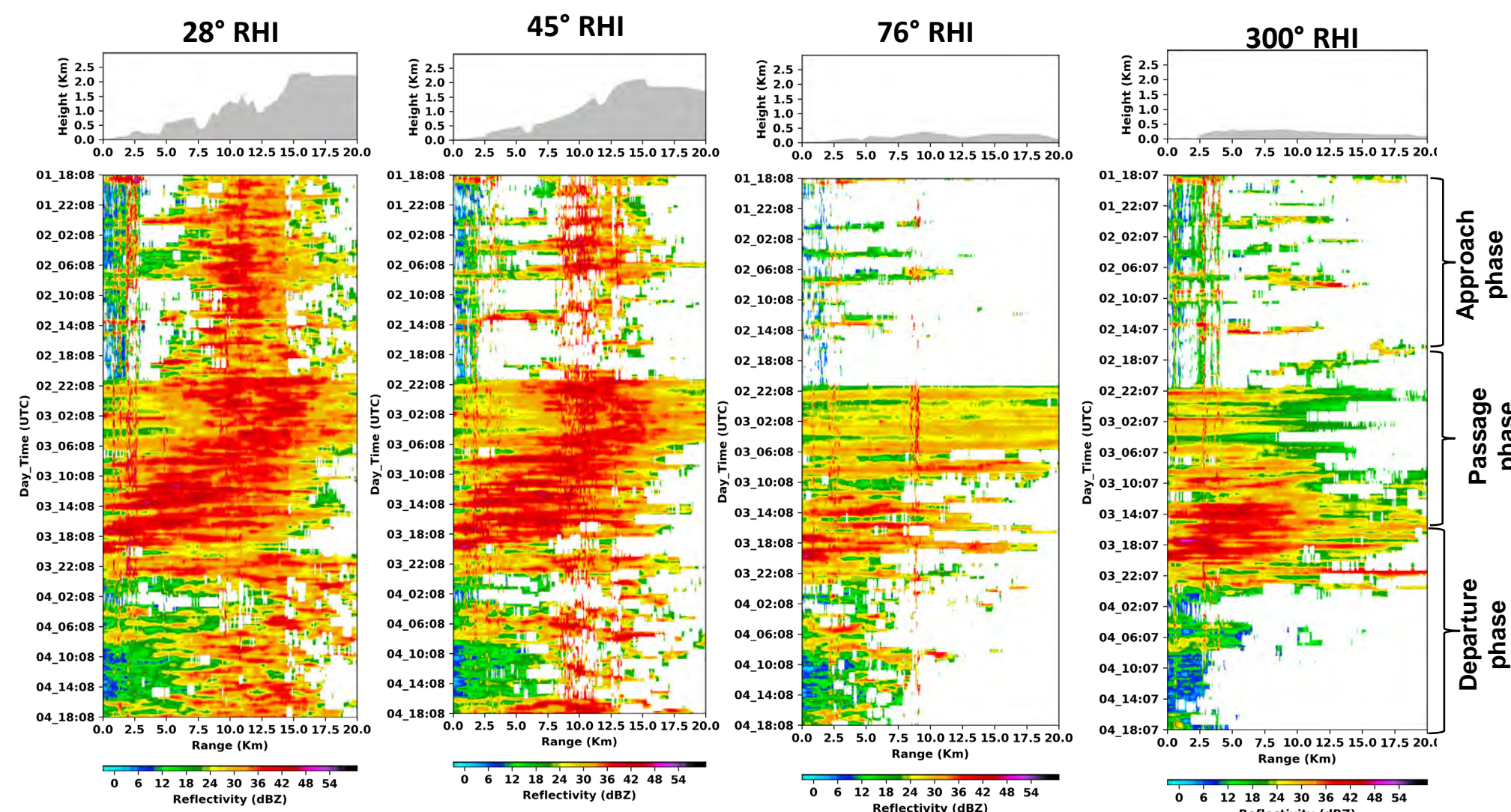
## Background

- Reunion Island, known for its cyclone-prone nature and diverse topography, experienced significant impacts from Batsirai Cyclone between Feb 2-5, 2022.
- The cyclone's slow movement caused prolonged rain and wind, especially affecting the island's interior.
- Objective:** To study the dynamics of orographic precipitation associated with Batsirai cyclone through observed radar observations and modelled wind and mass fields.

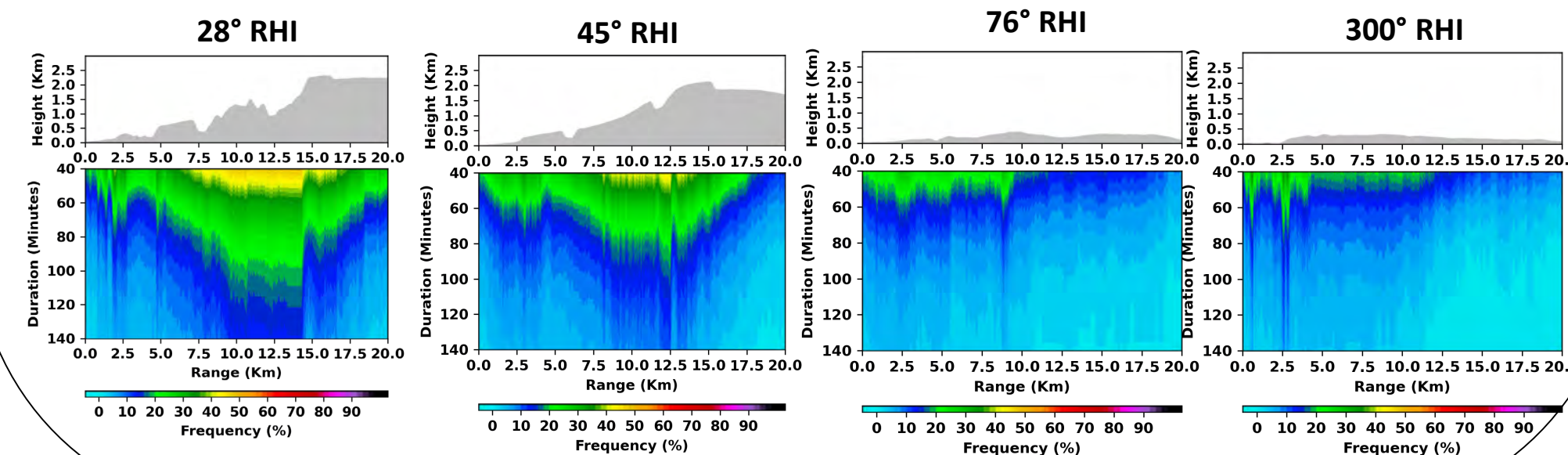


## Signatures of orographic enhancement

- Throughout the lifespan of a cyclone, distinct variations in higher reflectivity become evident, especially exhibiting higher reflectivity over elevated mountains.
- The significance of orography in enhancing and sustaining precipitation is clearly observed.



## Precipitation duration frequencies



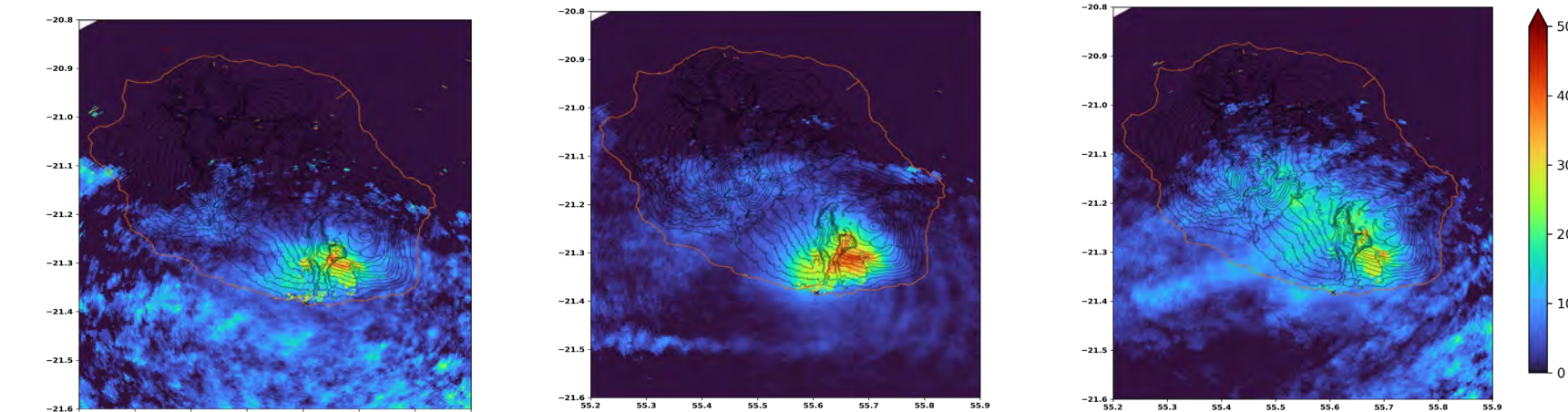
## Reflectivity patterns across cyclone phases

### Location frequency of intense precipitation

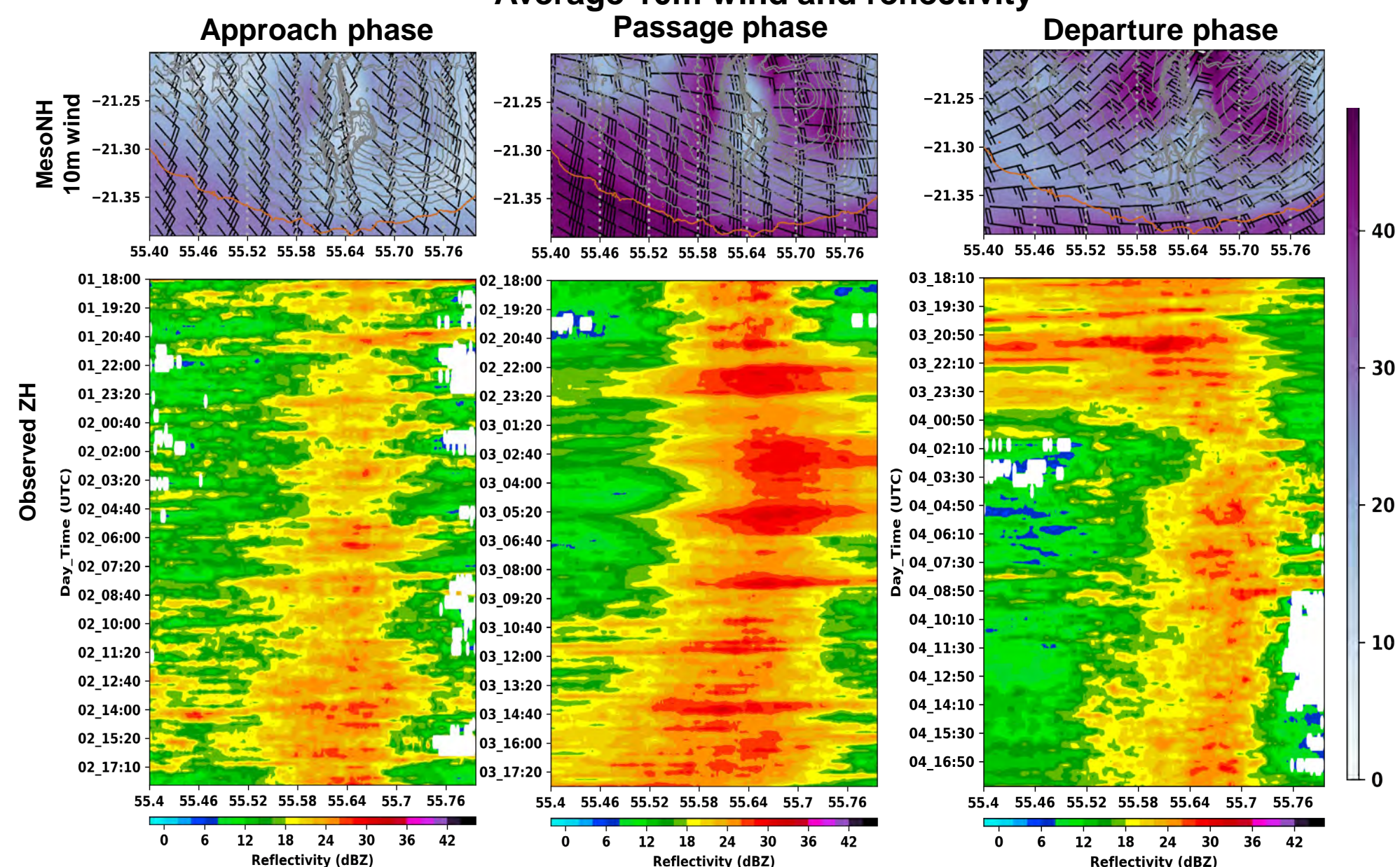
Approach phase  
1 Feb 2022 18 -  
2 Feb 2022 18 UTC

Passage phase  
2 Feb 2022 18 -  
3 Feb 2022 18 UTC

Departure phase  
3 Feb 2022 18 -  
4 Feb 2022 18 UTC



### Average 10m wind and reflectivity



- The majority of elevated precipitation is consistently identified in the northeastern mountainous regions relative to the radar station.
- Wind patterns exhibit distinct changes throughout the cyclone's progression: originating from the southeast during approach, shifting to an easterly direction during passage, and altering to a northeasterly direction during departure. This dynamic wind behavior leads to a displacement of both the precipitation distribution,

## Data and Methodology

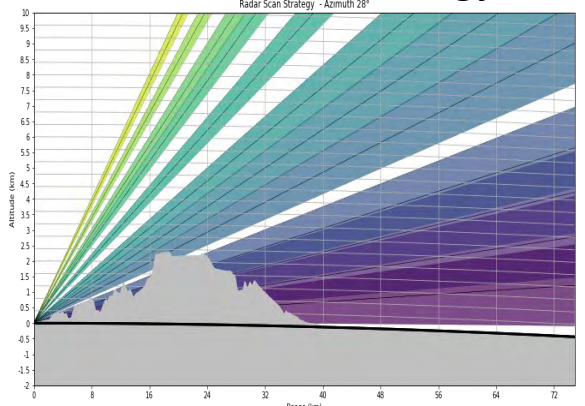
- Dual polarization Doppler X-band radar :**
  - PPI's resolution : 125 m, range : 75 km, temporal resolution: 10 min
  - RHI's resolution : 25 m, range : 50 km, temporal resolution: 20 min
- MesoNH (2 km model) :** 10m wind simulation
- Howmoller analysis** is used to visualise the evolution of preprocessed reflectivity observations.
- In the RHI scan, we select the maximum reflectivity values below 4 km altitude and aggregate them over the cyclone's lifetime.
- In PPI scans, we calculate the maximum values across 12 scan angles, average them by latitude, aggregate over cyclone phases, and compare with average 2km simulated wind.



RHI scan strategy



PPI scan strategy



## Summary

- Analyzing the radar observations showed that the occurrence of high-intensity precipitation was influenced by the local topography, the movement of the cyclone, and its associated winds.
- Further comparison of observed reflectivity with 2 Km MESO-NH model wind fields revealed that the strong moisture-laden winds from the Batsirai cyclone impinged on the steep slope of Piton de La Fournaise volcano, inducing strong upward vertical motion and moisture convergence in the slopes of the mountain.

## Acknowledgment

This work is part of the INTERREG V ESPOIRS project (Study of Precipitating Systems in the Indian Ocean by Radar and Satellites). The ESPOIRS scientific program is led by LACy (University of La Réunion / CNRS / MétéoFrance) and funded by the European Union (FEDER program - GURDTI/20201589-0021087), the Réunion Region, SGAR-Réunion, the French State ( CPER) and the University of La Réunion.