

Climatology and extreme value analysis of a high-resolution blended radar and rain-gauge sub-daily precipitation dataset for Switzerland

Olivia Martius¹ Yannick Barton¹ Luca Panziera^{2,1}

¹ Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, Institute of Geography, Mobilar Lab for Natural Risks, University of Bern

² Federal Office of Meteorology, MeteoSwiss

High impact events related to sub-daily precipitation extremes

Sub-daily extreme precipitation is relevant for

- surface water floods
- flash floods
- urban flooding

Often high intensity, very localized convective events

→ need for high-resolution (space / time) data



Data set

1. CPC

Combination of radar and rain gauges
(Co-kriging with external drift)
real-time operational product
5 minutes temporal resolution
1 km² spatial resolution

Sideris et al. 2014

12 years: 2005 to 2017 (no 2011)

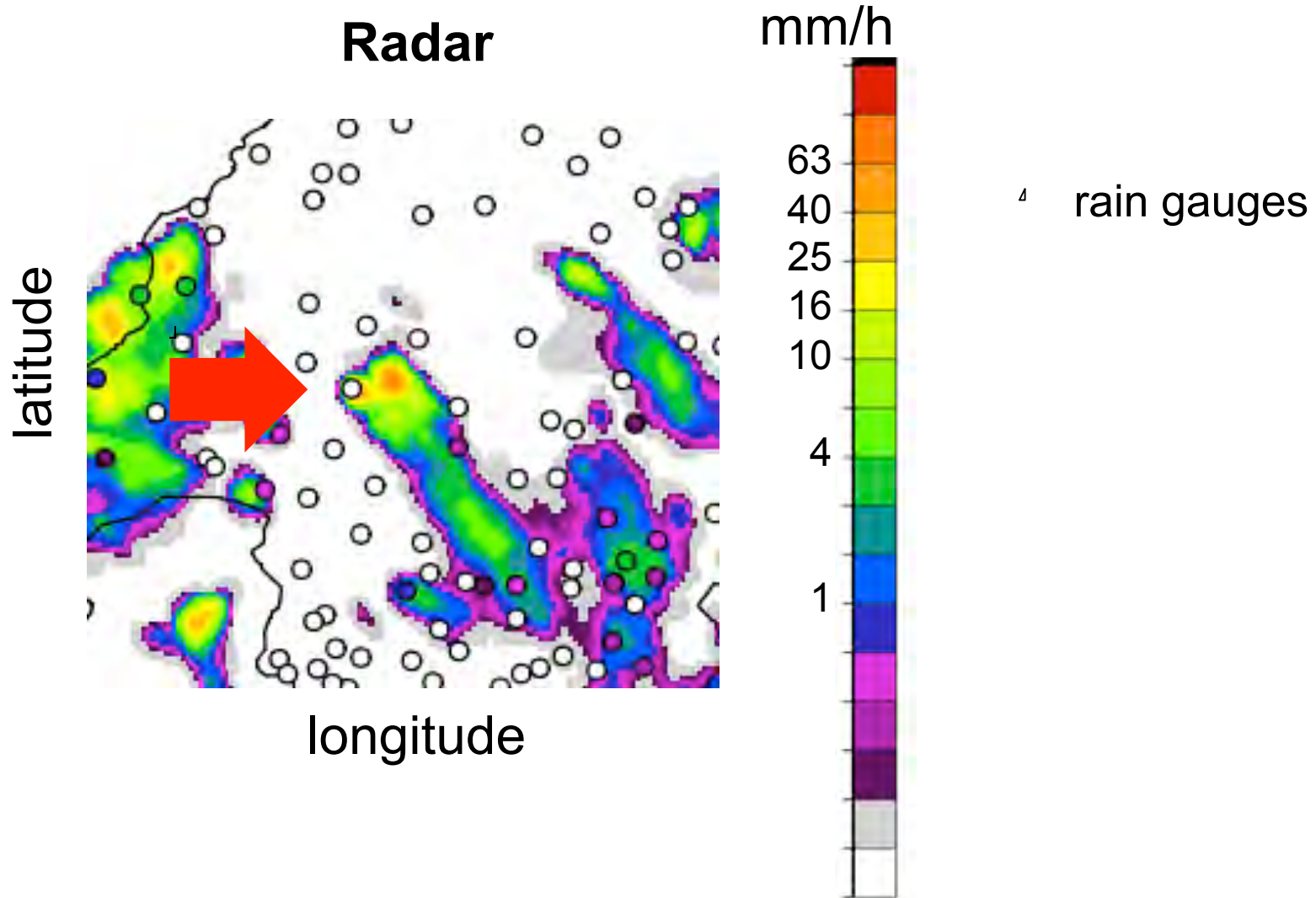
2. 68 rain gauges



Storyline

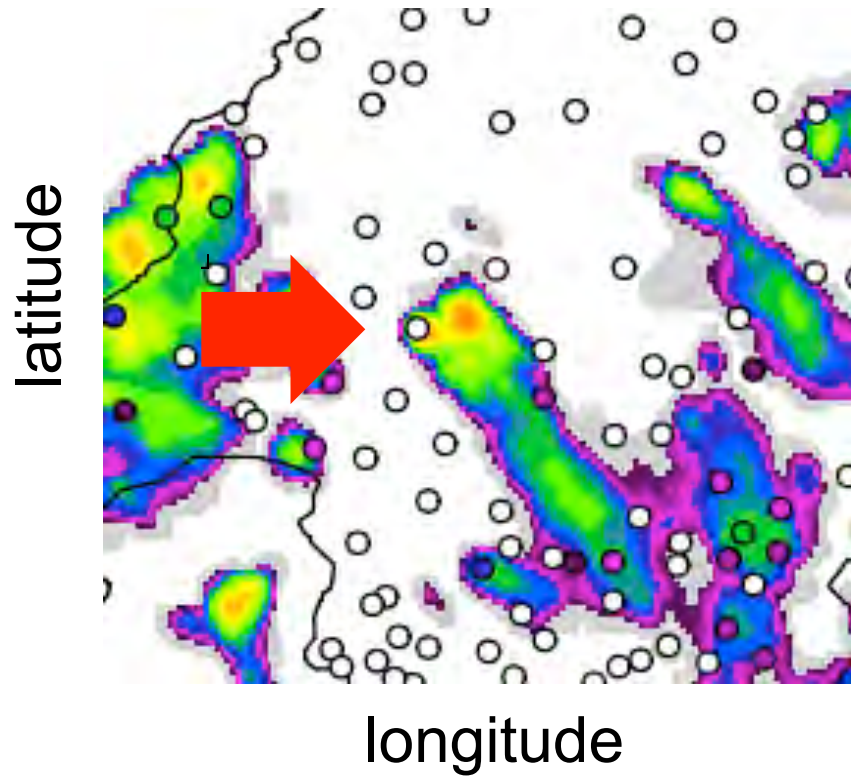
- > A data set that captures convective precipitation extremes?
- > Some ideas for simple indices for convection-permitting model validation
- > Compare rain gauge and CPC extreme precipitation – point scale vs. volume integral scale
- > Can we provide return levels of rainfall for automatic alert systems?

Challenging small-scale thunderstorms

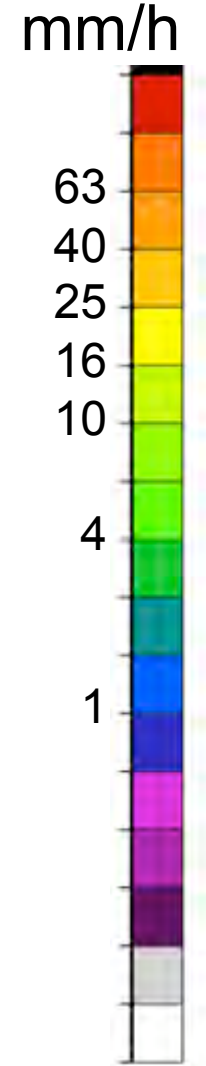
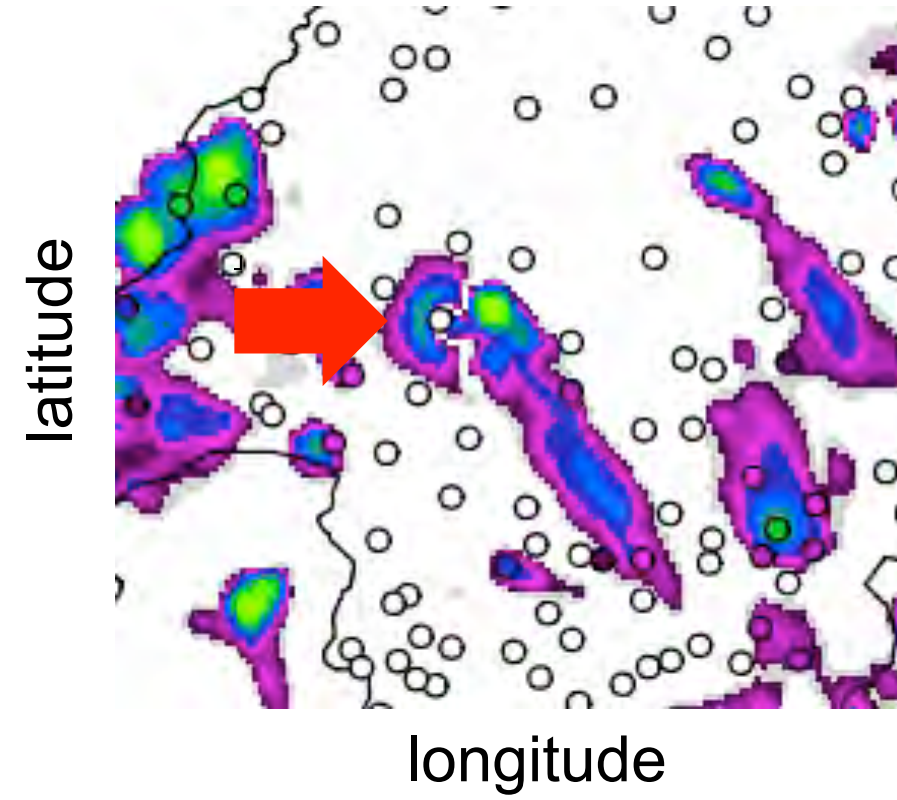


Challenging small-scale thunderstorms

Radar

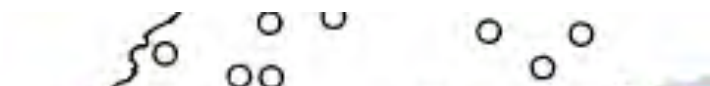


CPC

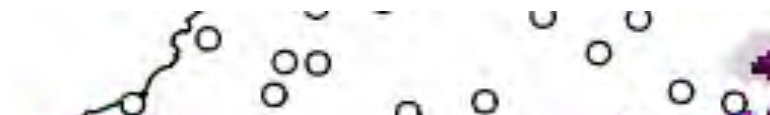


Challenging small-scale thunderstorms

Radar

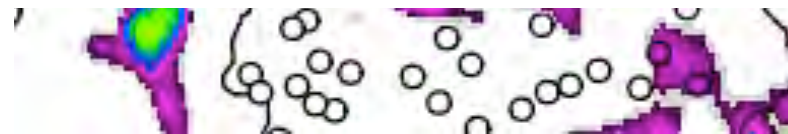


CPC



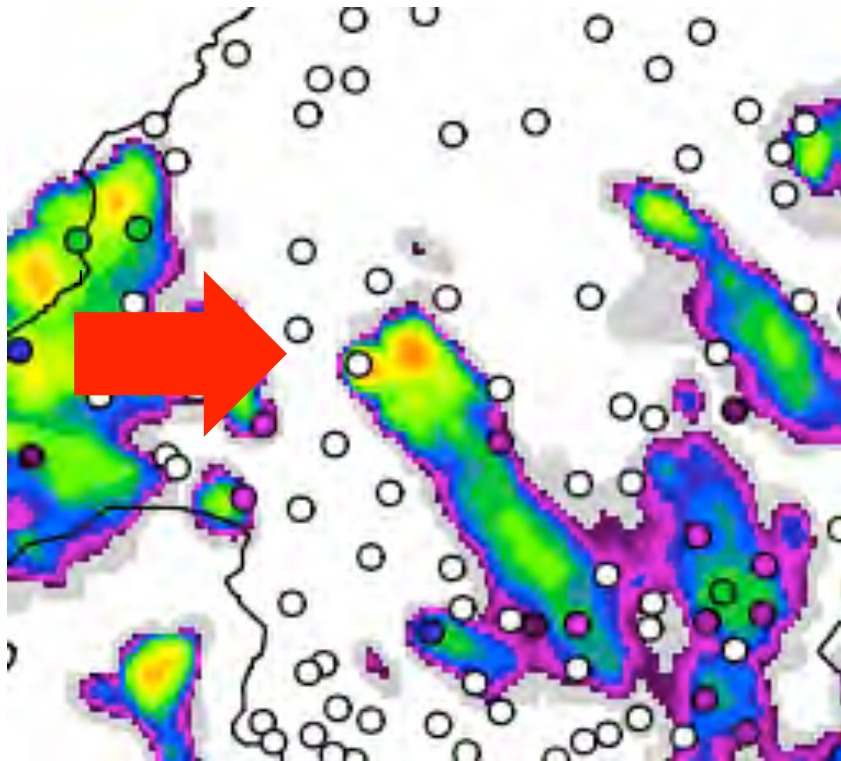
→ Coefficient of variation (STD/mean) in a 5 by 5 km box

→ Solution replace radar pixel above the rain gauge with a nearby pixel that best matches the rain gauge value

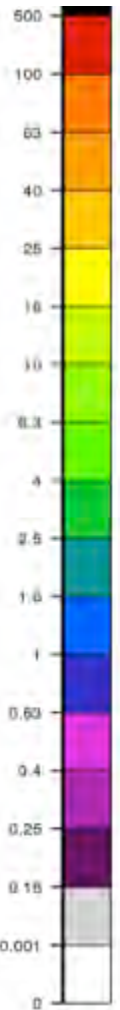
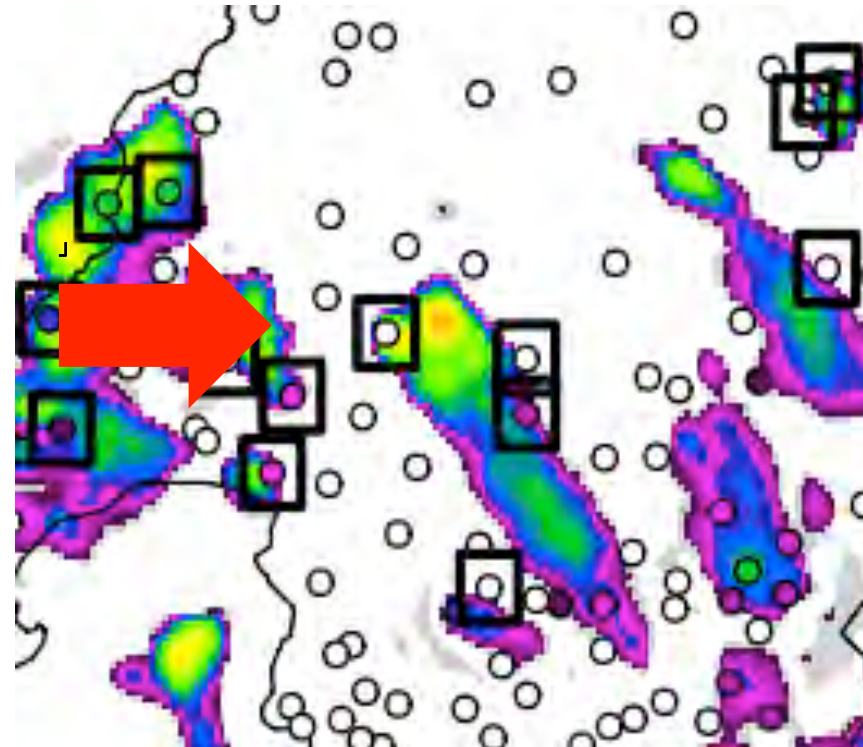


Challenging small-scale thunderstorms

Radar

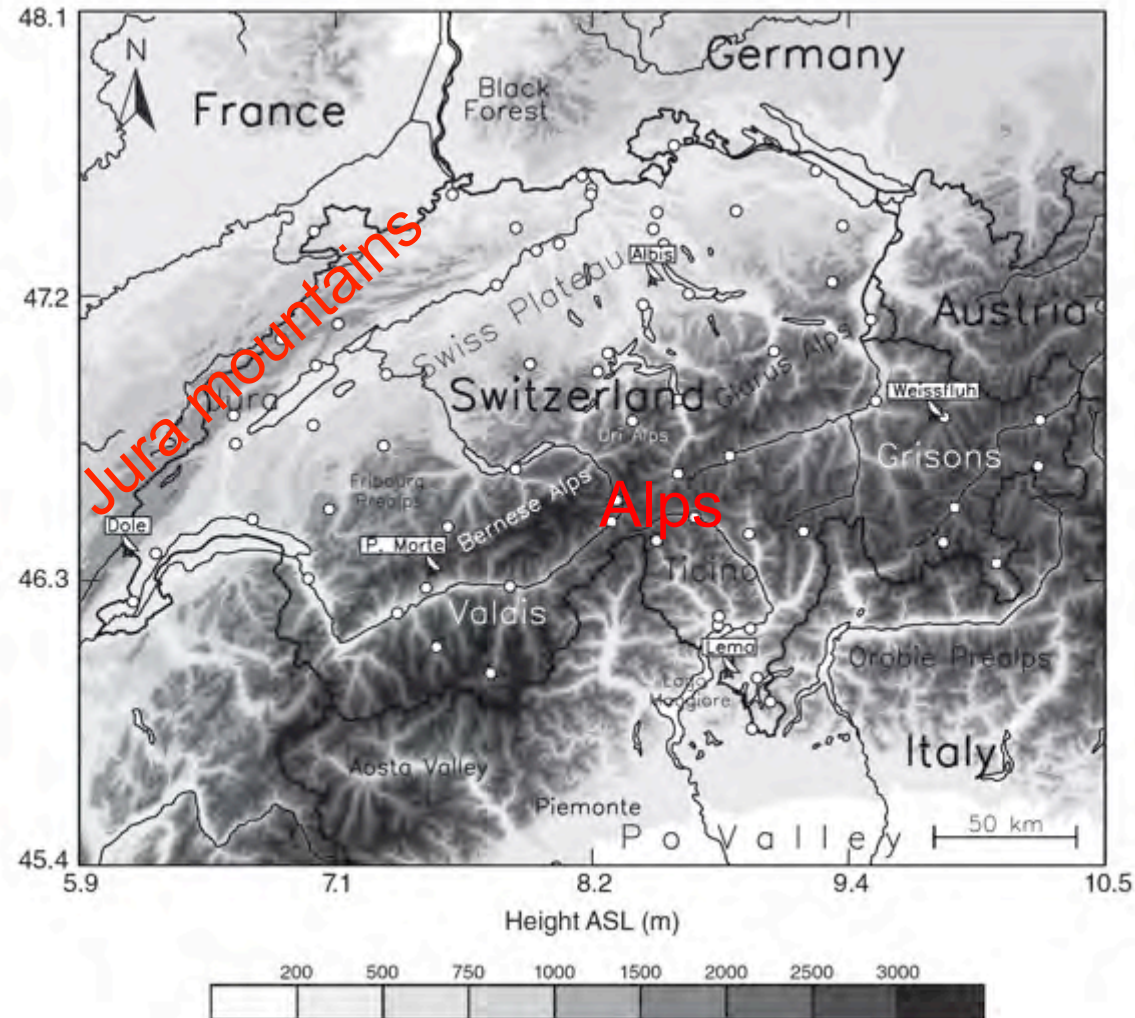


CPC



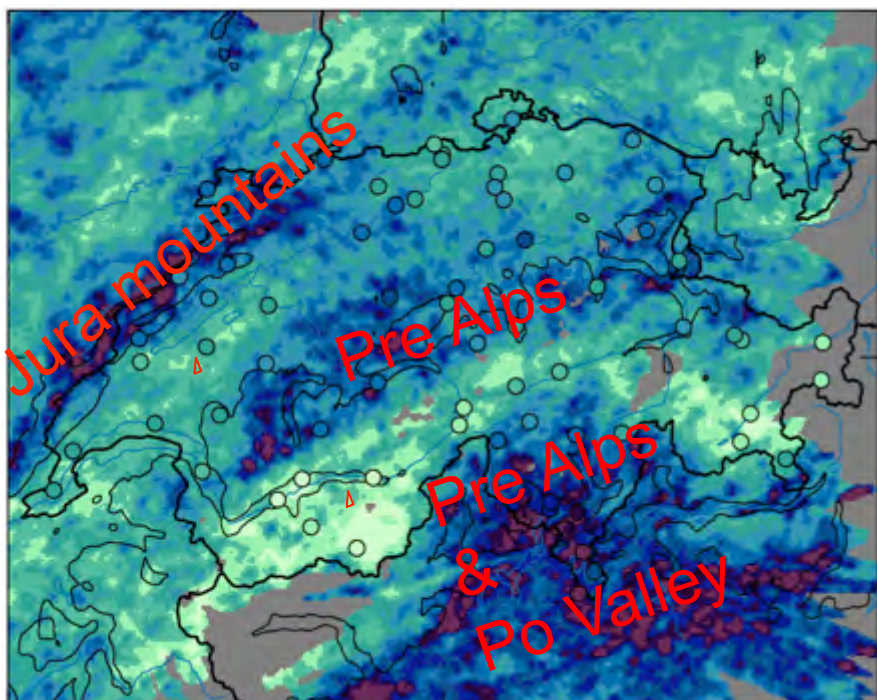
mm/h

Geographical setting



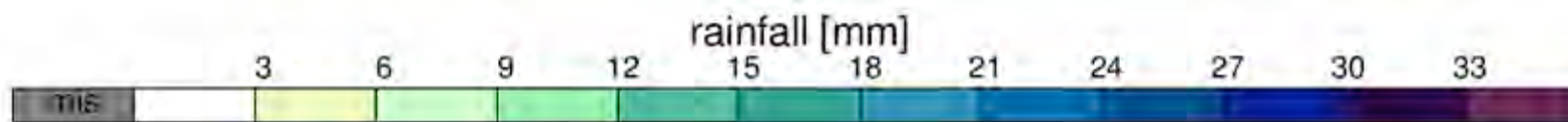
12-year average seasonal maximum 1 hour rainfall

Summer JJA



△ rain gauges

■ radar data
not reliable

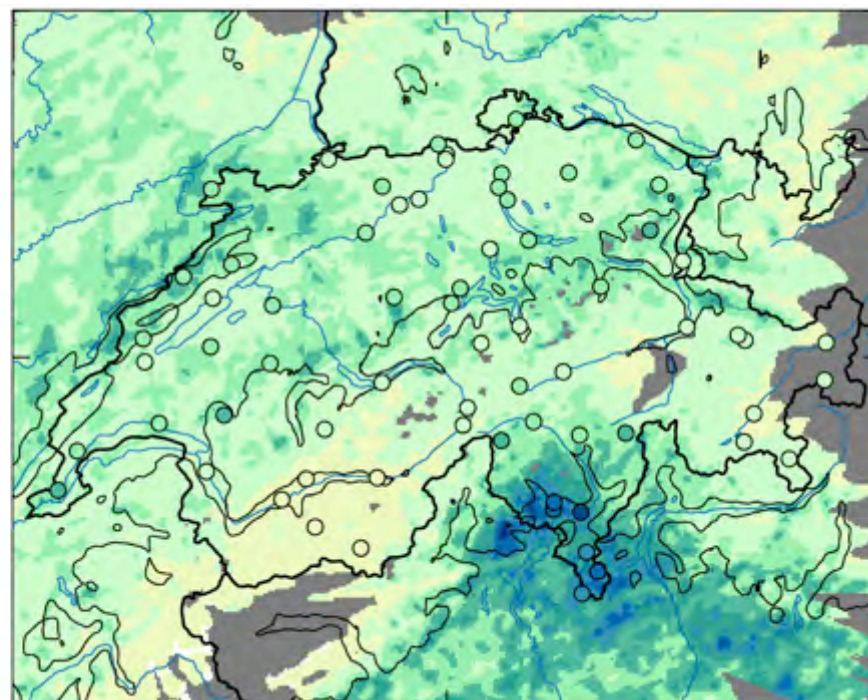
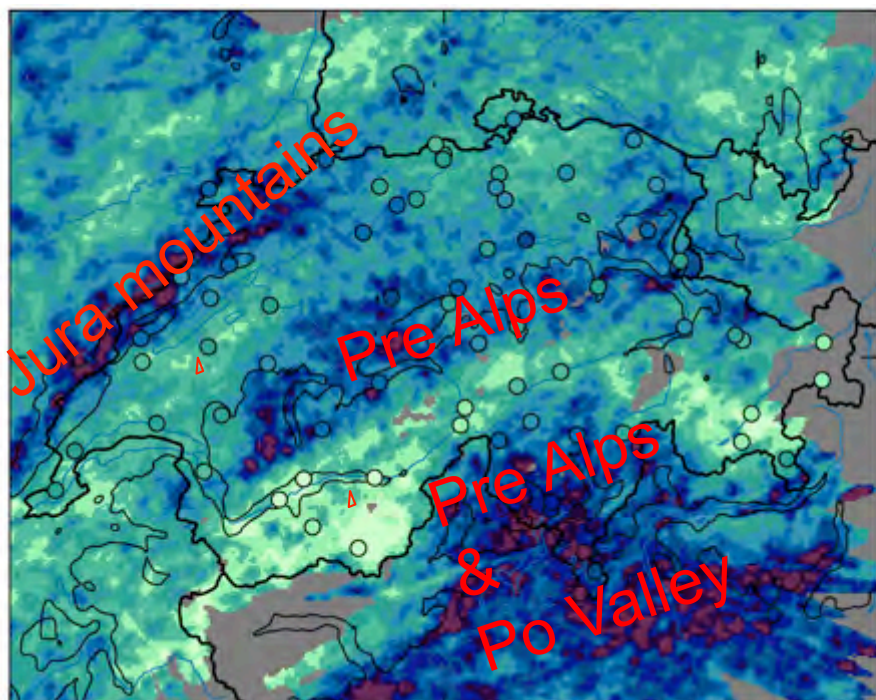


Panziera et al. 2018

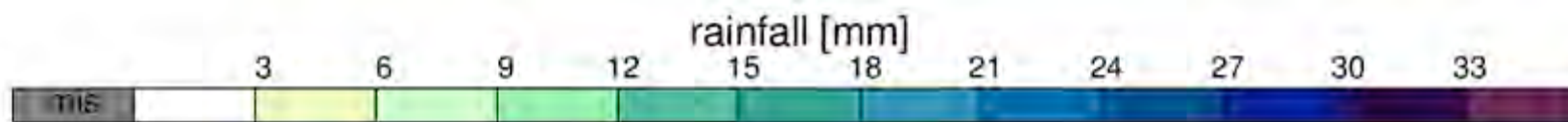
12-year average seasonal maximum 1 hour rainfall

Summer JJA

Autumn SON



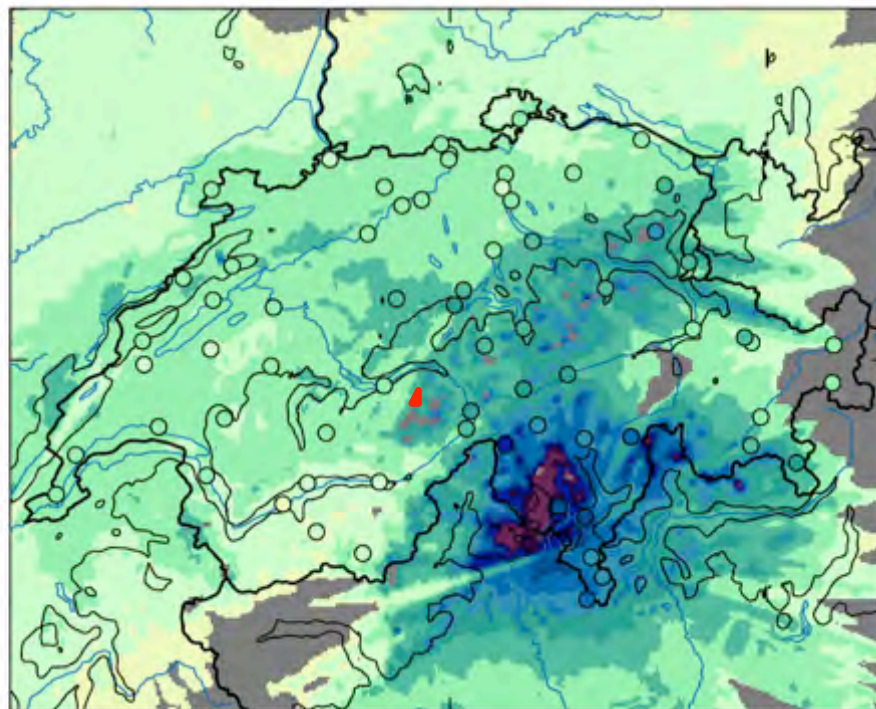
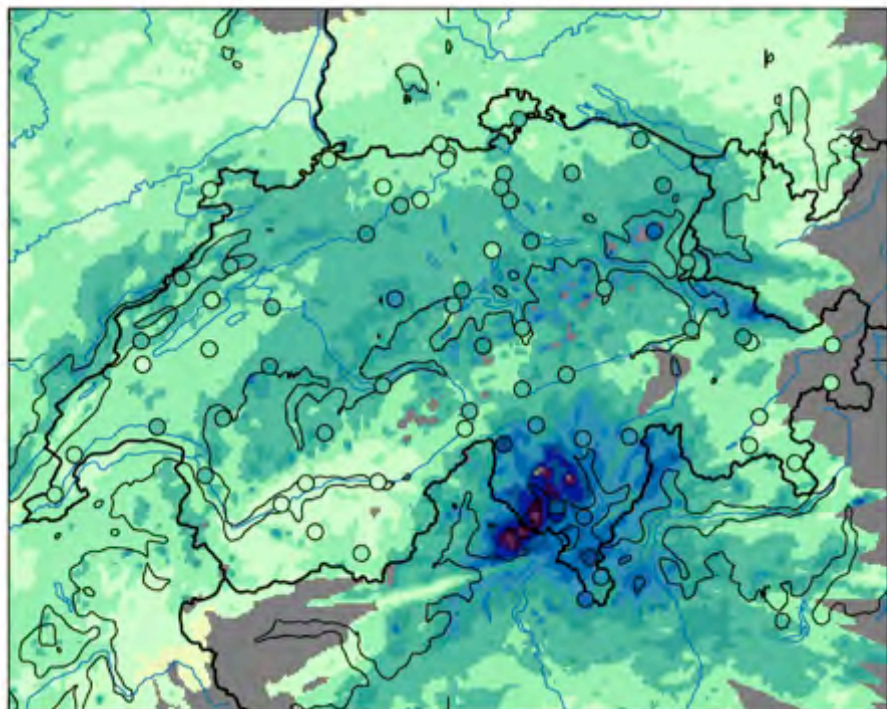
- rain gauges
- radar data not reliable



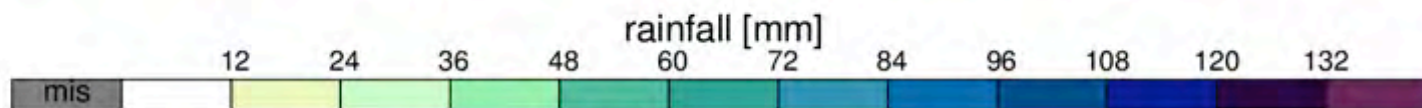
12-year average seasonal maximum daily rainfall

Summer JJA

Autumn SON



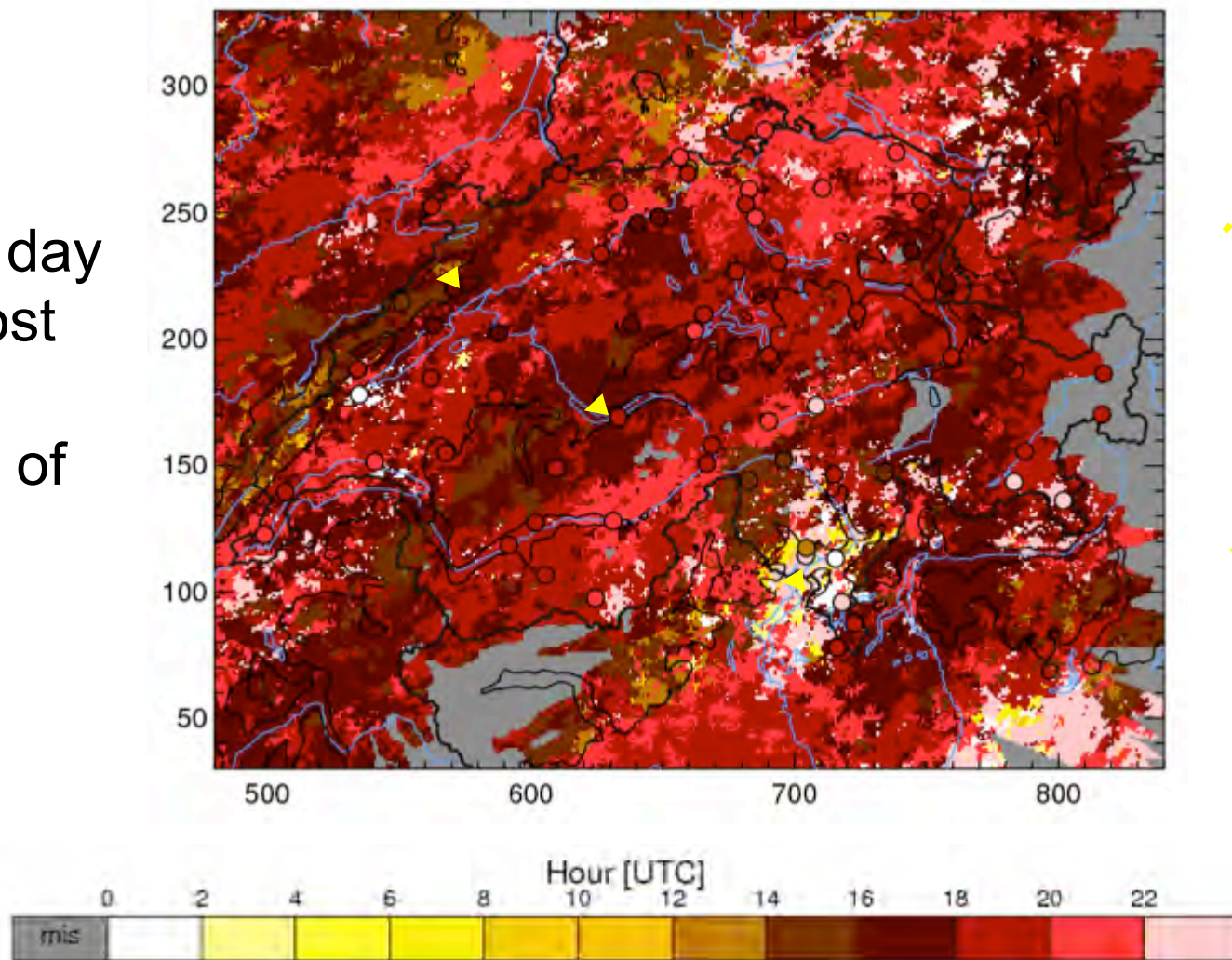
^ rain gauges



Diurnal cycle of extremes in summer (JJA)

Panziera et al. 2018

hour of the day
with the most
frequent
occurrence of
extremes



- Alpine pumping
valley → mountain winds
- drainage flow
mountain → foreland winds

+ 2 hours for local time

Verification CPC Cross Val. vs. rain gauges

50% - 65% of the rain gauge extremes are also extremes in CPC (POD)

40% - 50% of the CPC extremes are not extremes for the rain gauges (FAR)

The agreement between radar-derived and rain gauge rainfall:

- is lower in winter → snowfall
- increases with reducing the threshold used to define extremes
- increases with increasing length of the accumulation period

Modeling of precipitation extremes for short time series

Automated Peaks over
threshold:
Generalized Pareto
distribution (Fukutome
et al. 2015)

Extended Generalized
Pareto Distribution
(Naveau et al. 2016)

Modeling of precipitation extremes for short time series

Automated Peaks over
threshold:
Generalized Pareto
distribution (Fukutome
et al. 2015)

Need to choose threshold and run
parameter in an automatic way

Extended Generalized
Pareto Distribution
(Naveau et al. 2016)

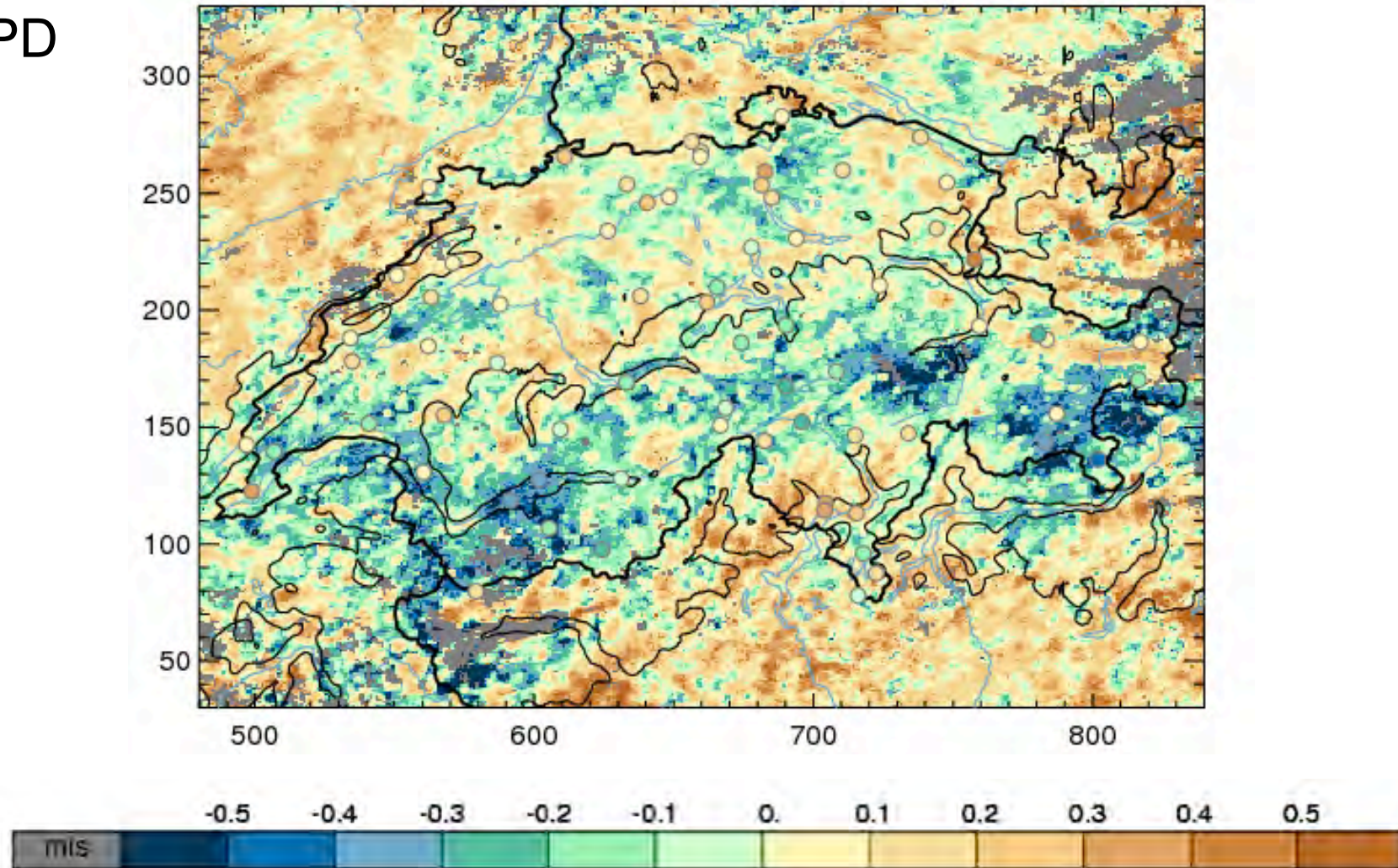
Model the entire distribution

Temporal dependence not easy to
remove

Assumes a positive shape parameter

Autumn 1-hour rainfall \rightarrow shape parameter

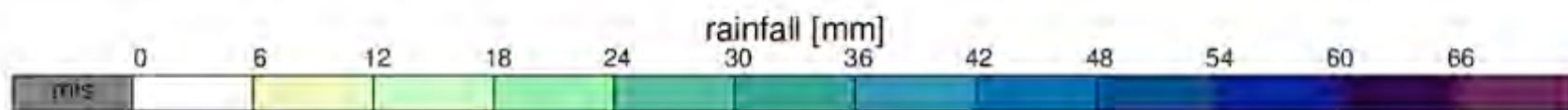
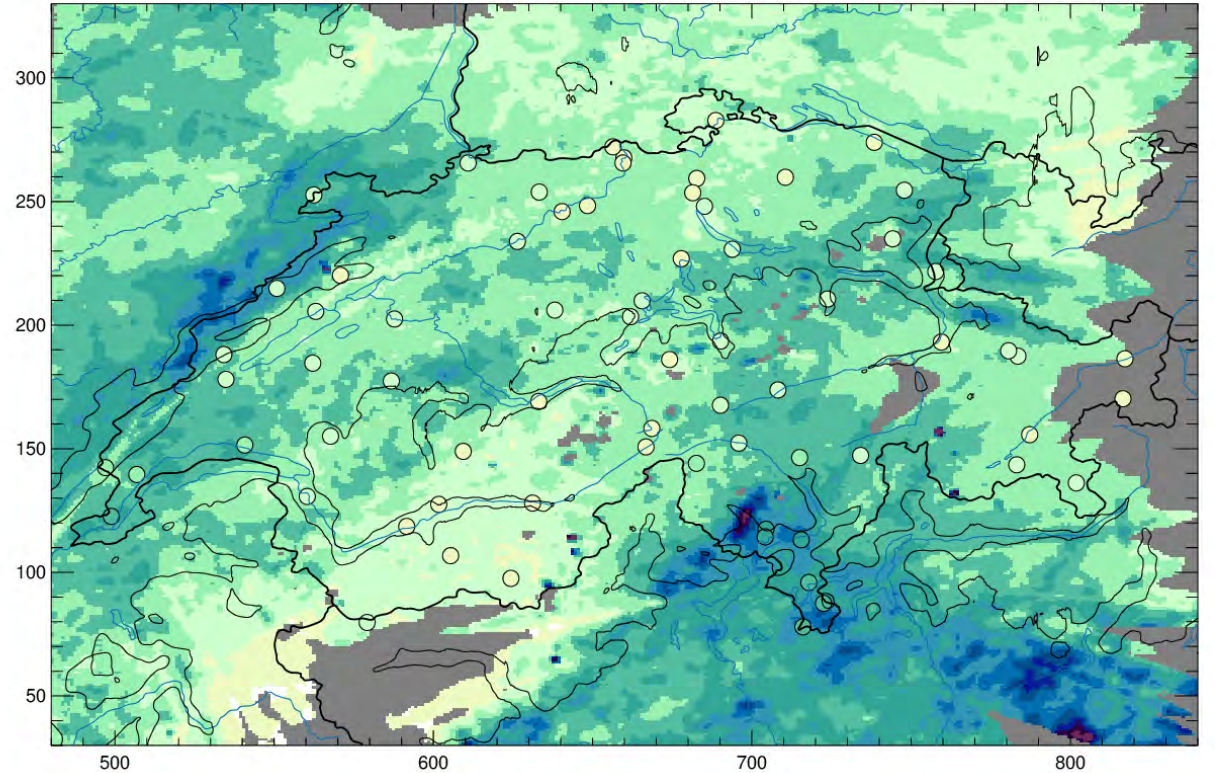
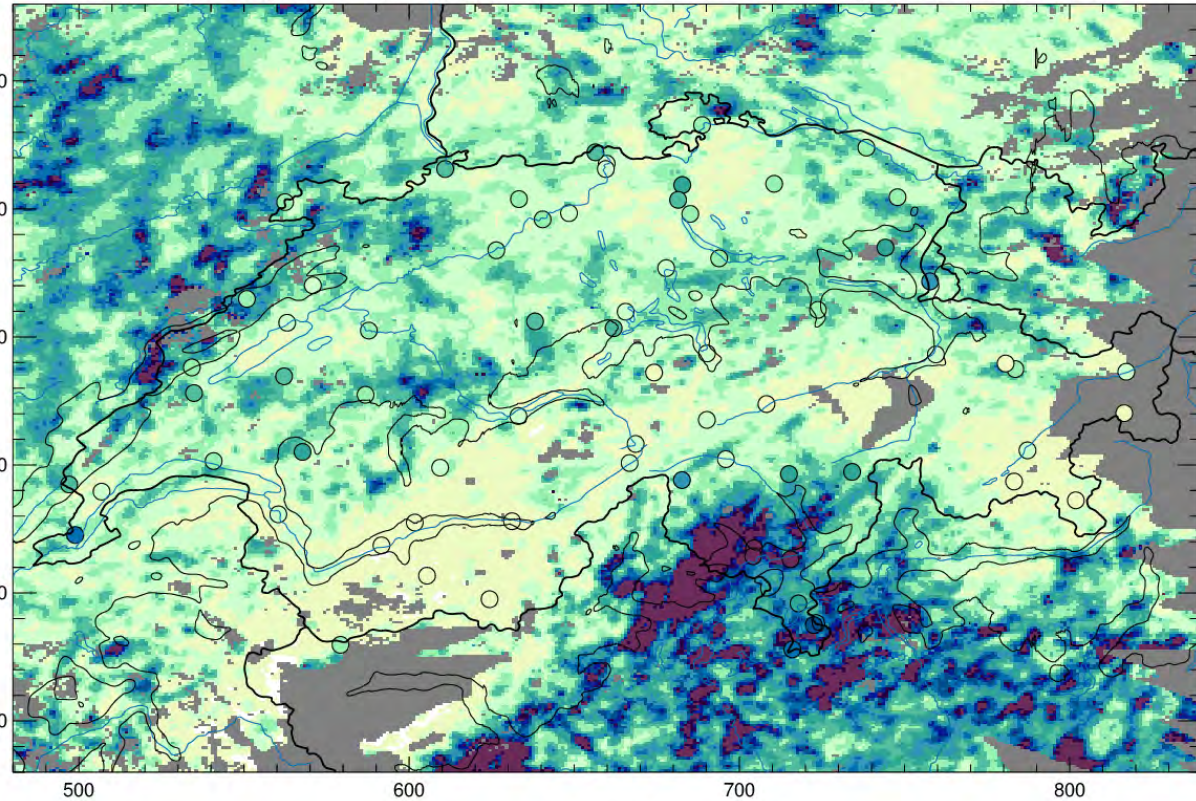
GPD



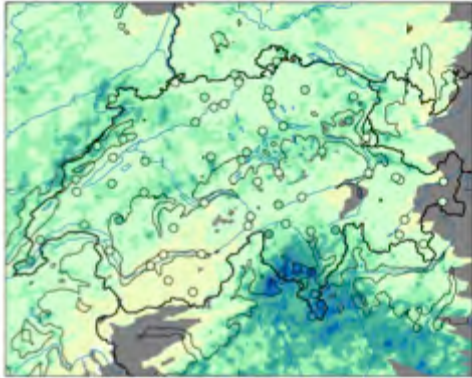
2-seasons return-level for 1-hour rainfall in autumn

GPD

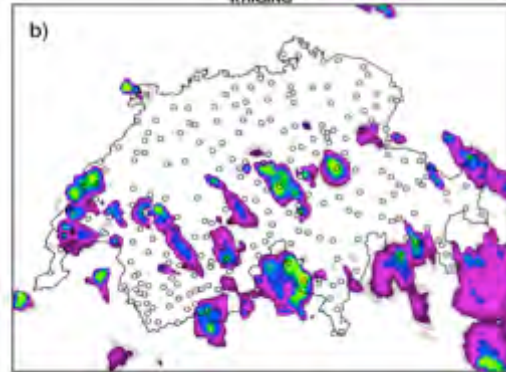
extended GPD



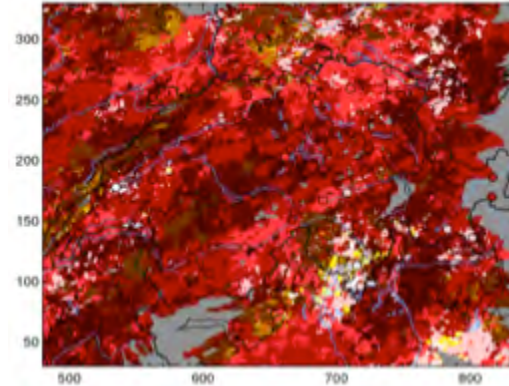
Summary



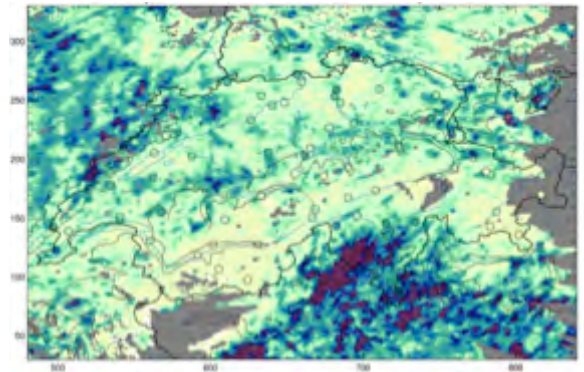
Blended precipitation maps can be used to investigate (subdaily) extremes



Careful treatment of convective situations is required



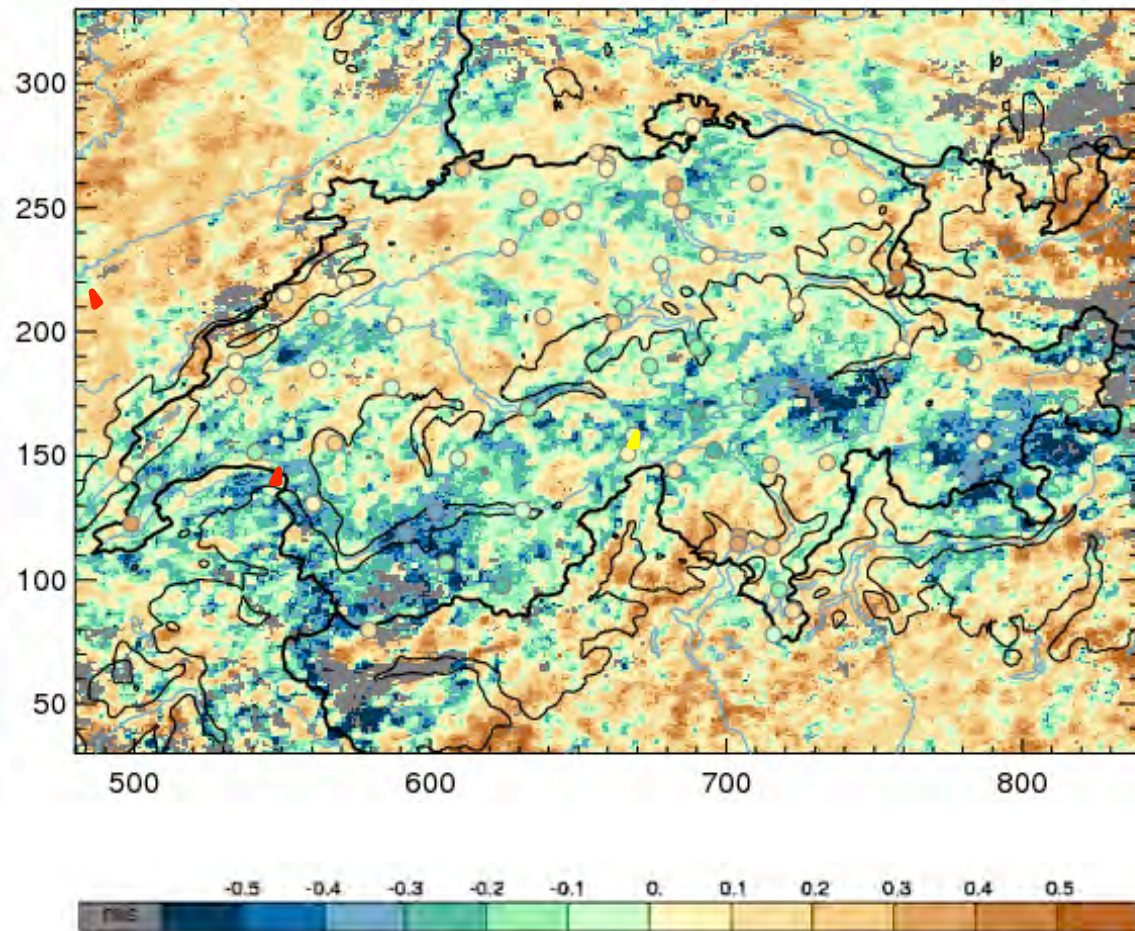
Climatologies of sub-daily extremes are valuable for convection-permitting model validation and process studies



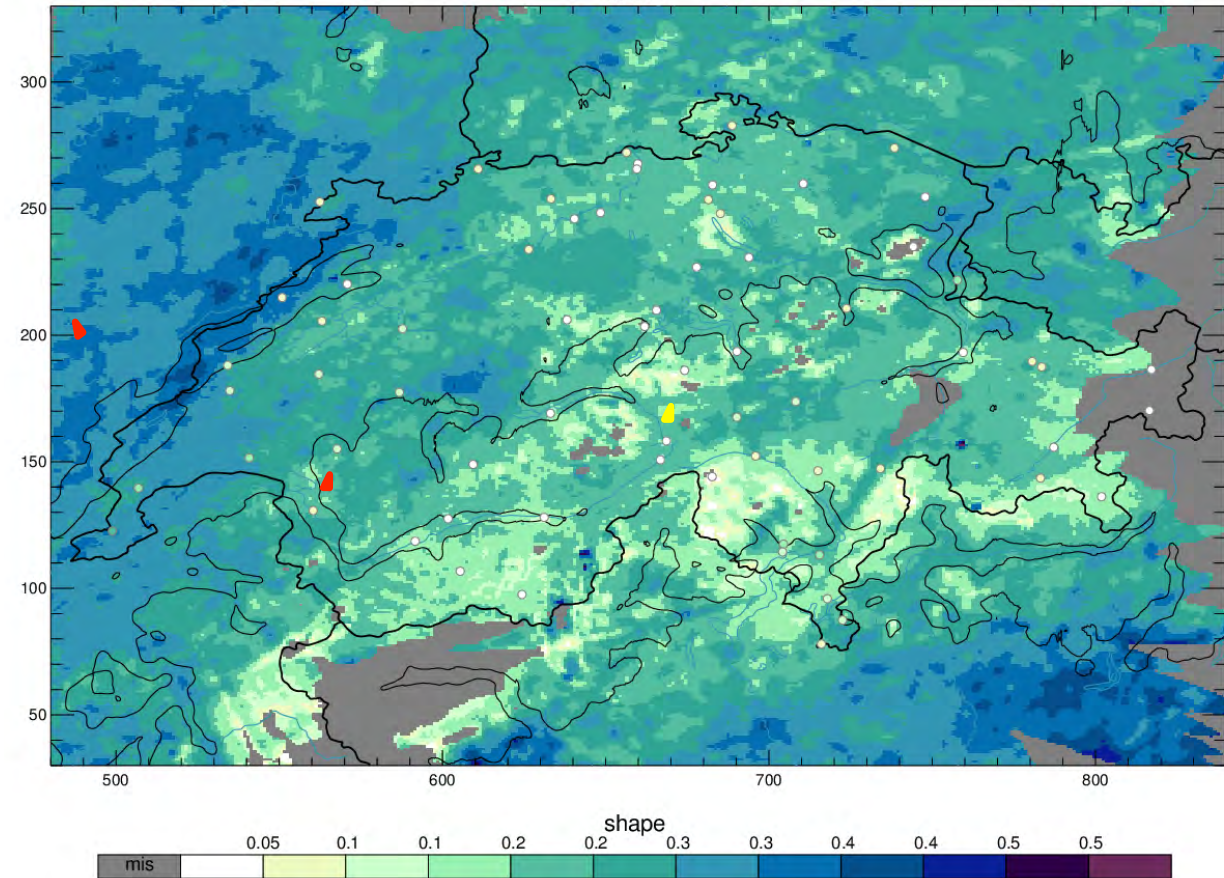
Unexplored potential for extreme value analysis

Autumn 1-hour rainfall \rightarrow shape parameter

GPD



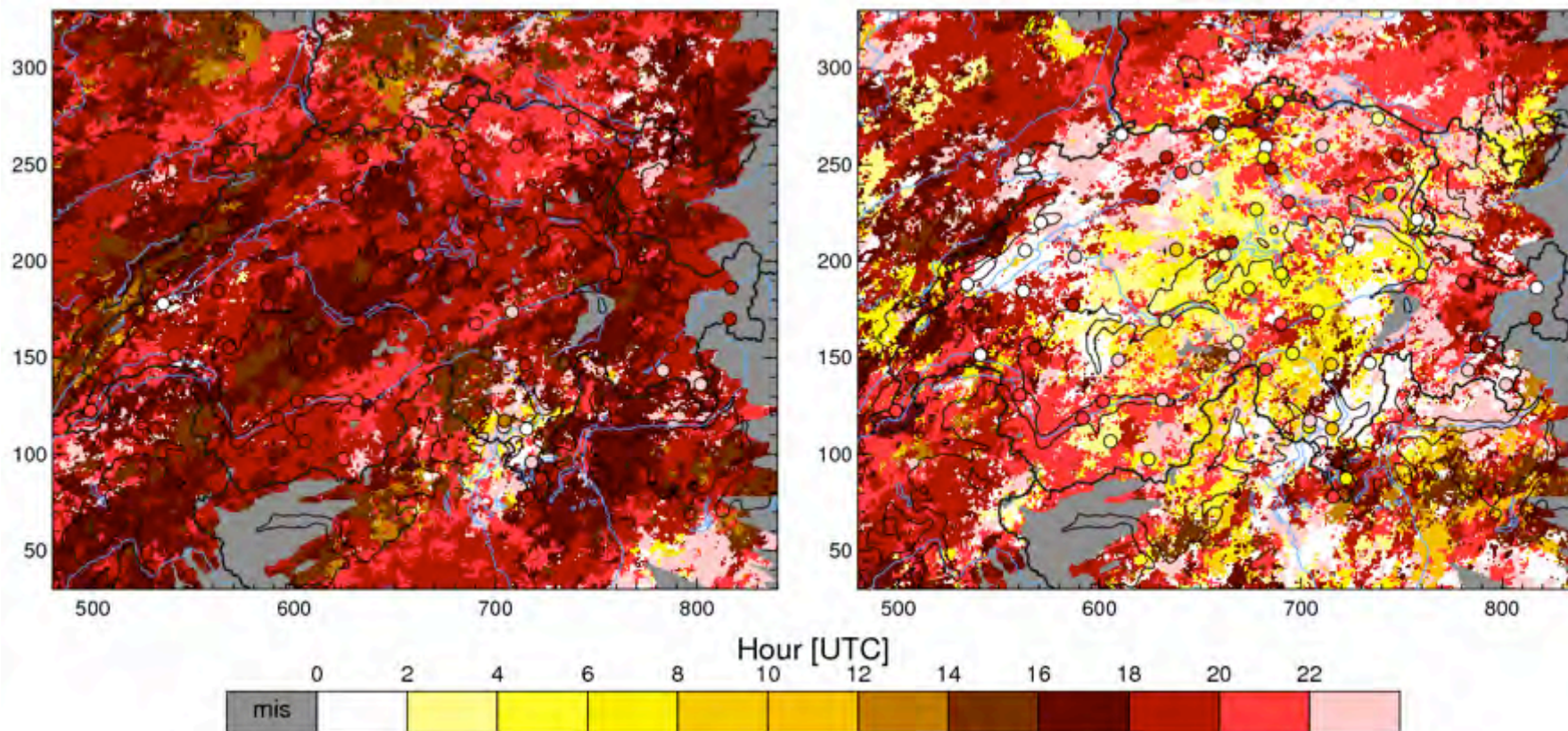
extended GPD



Diurnal cycle of extremes

summer JJA

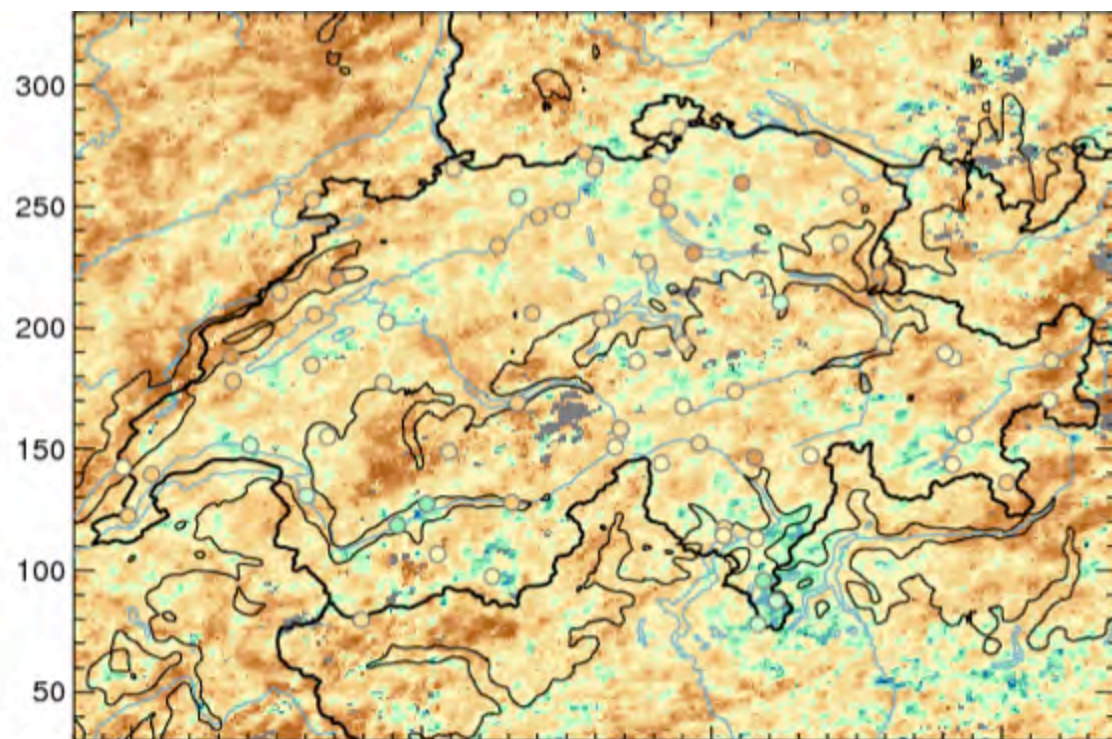
autumn SON



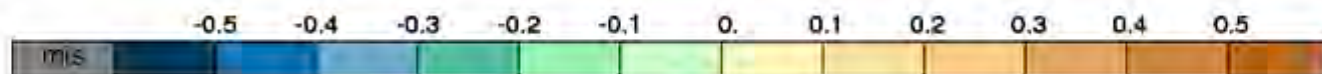
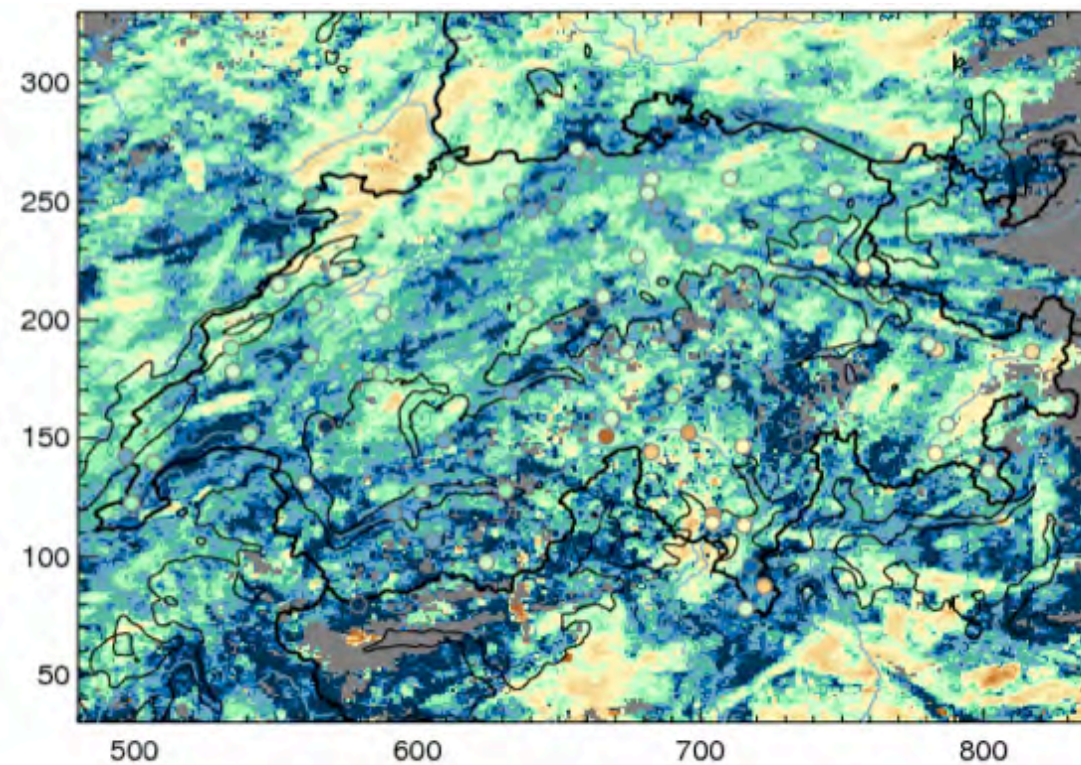
hour of the day
with the most
frequent
occurrence of
extremes

1-hour rainfall GPD shape parameter

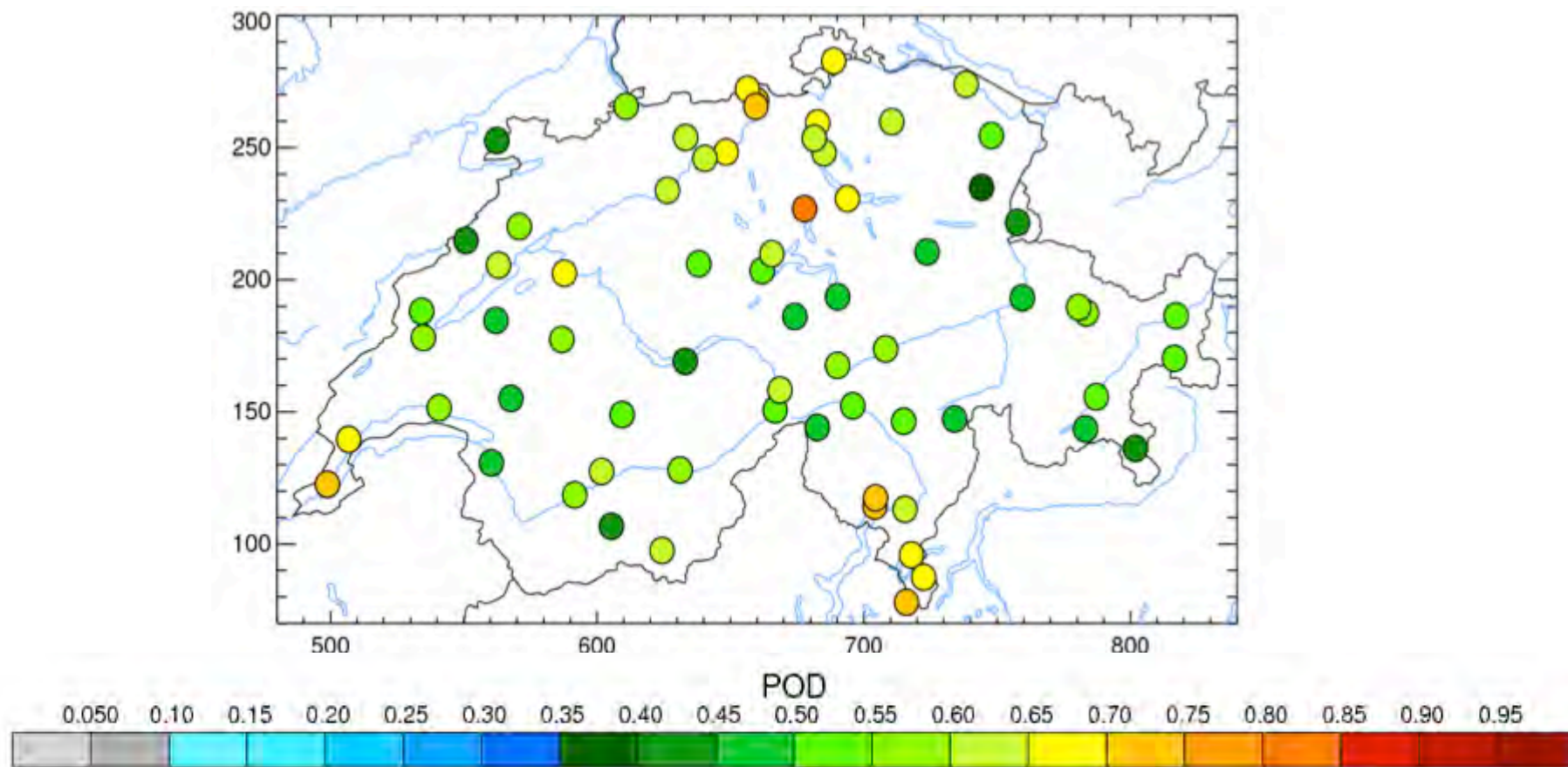
JJA (summer)



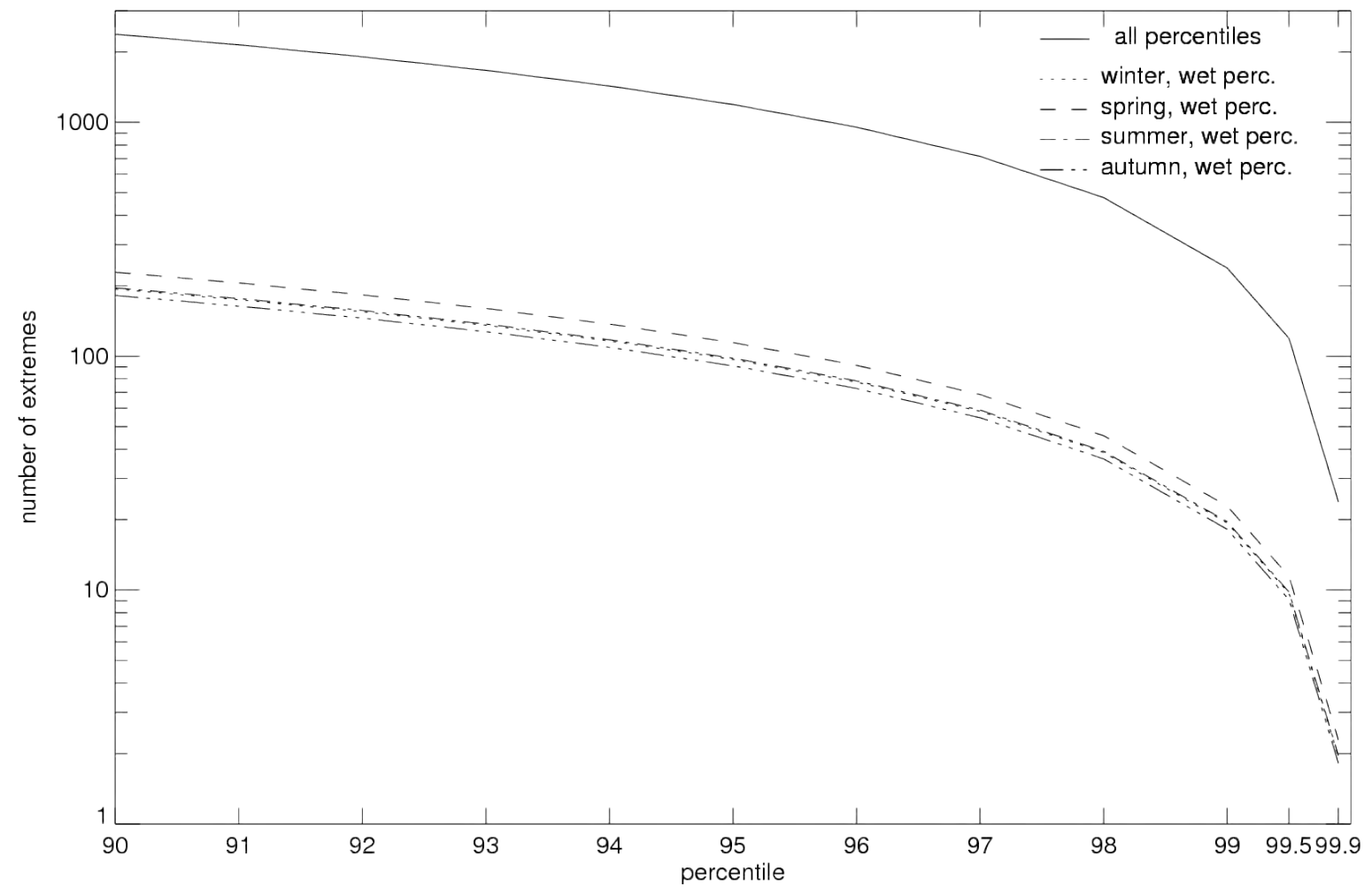
DJF (winter)



Verification CombiPrecip Cross Val. vs. rain gauges – Probability of Detection (POD) in summer

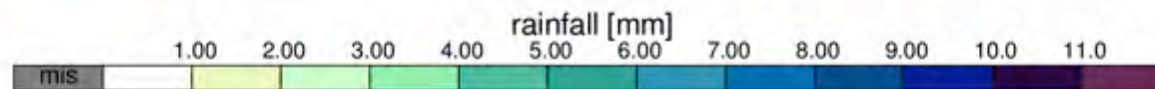
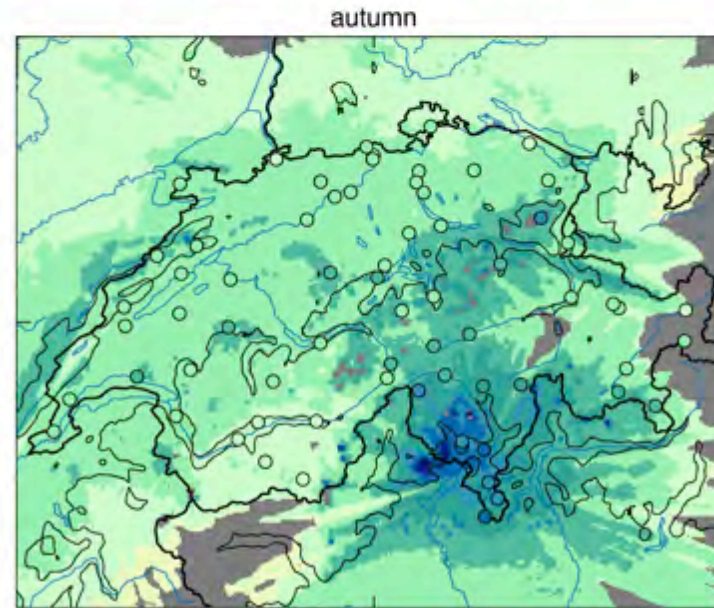
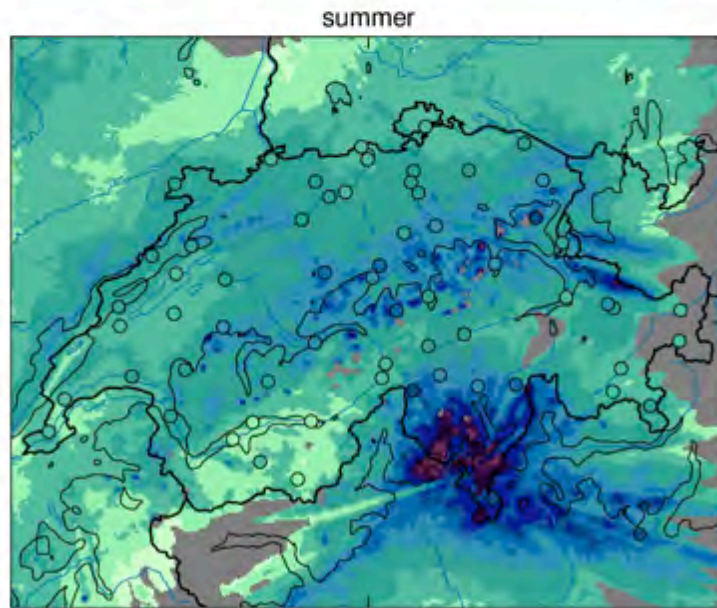
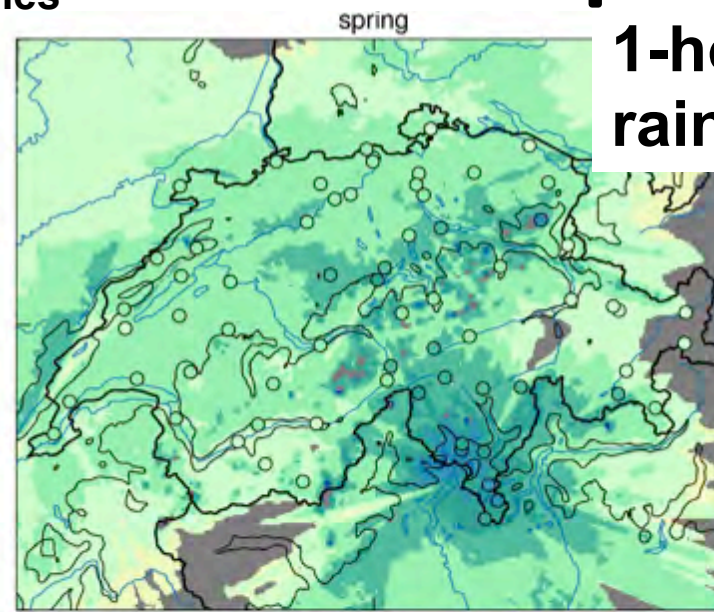
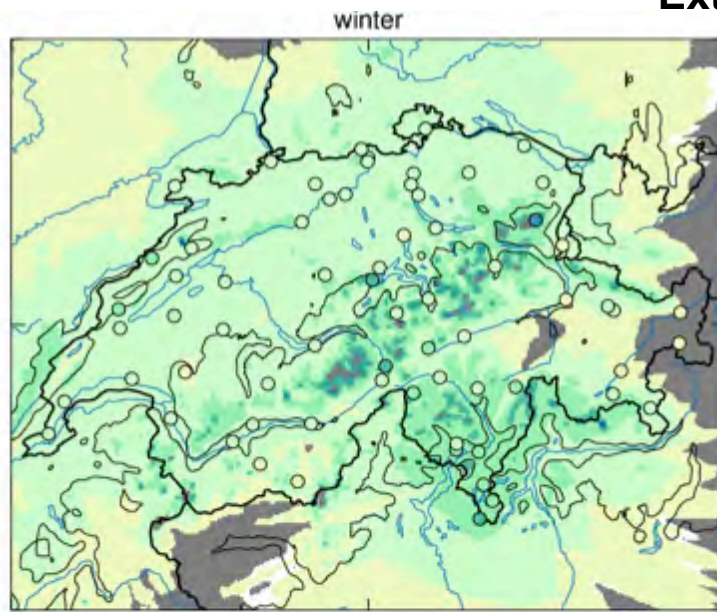


50% - 65% of the rain gauges extremes are extremes also in CPC



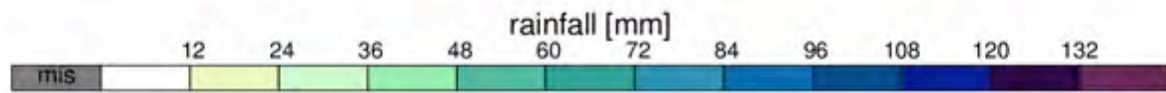
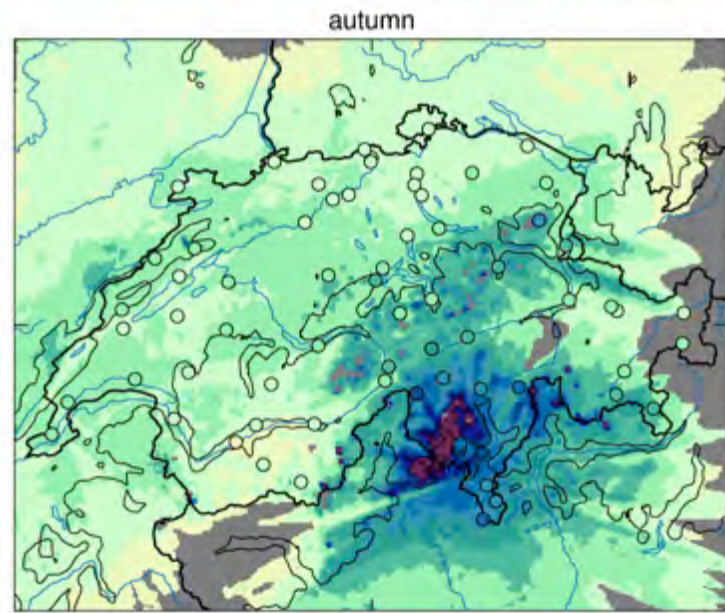
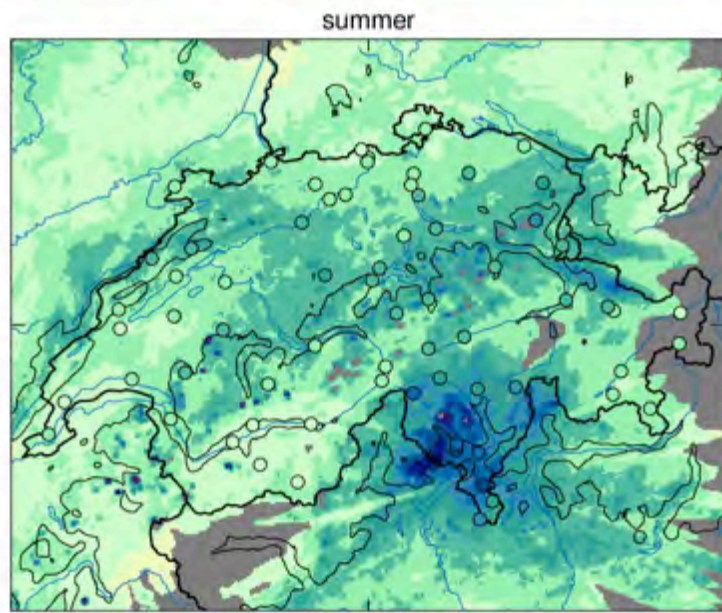
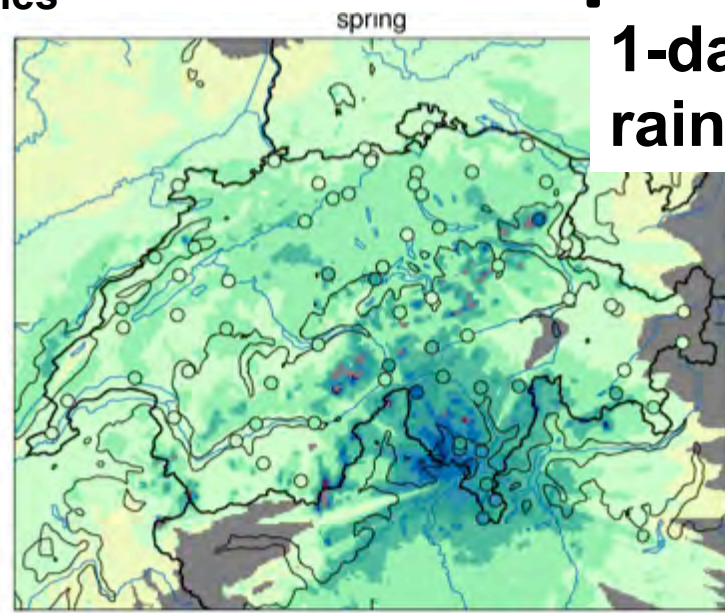
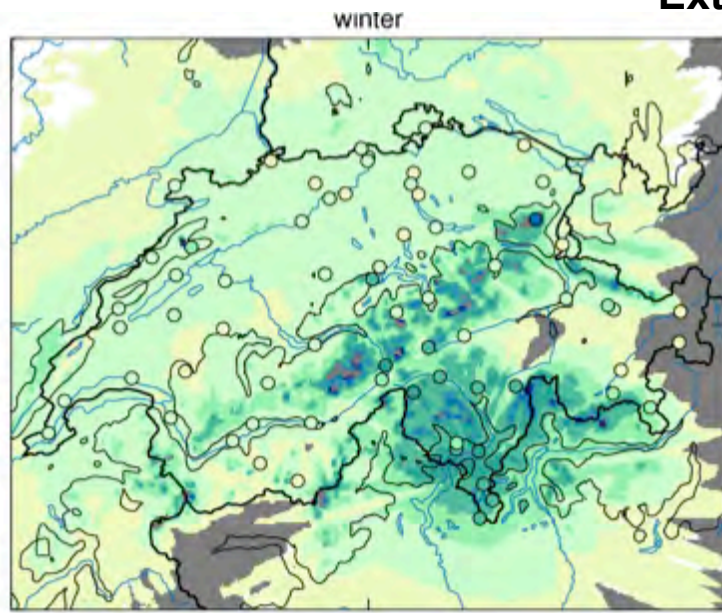
Extremes

1-hour
rainfall

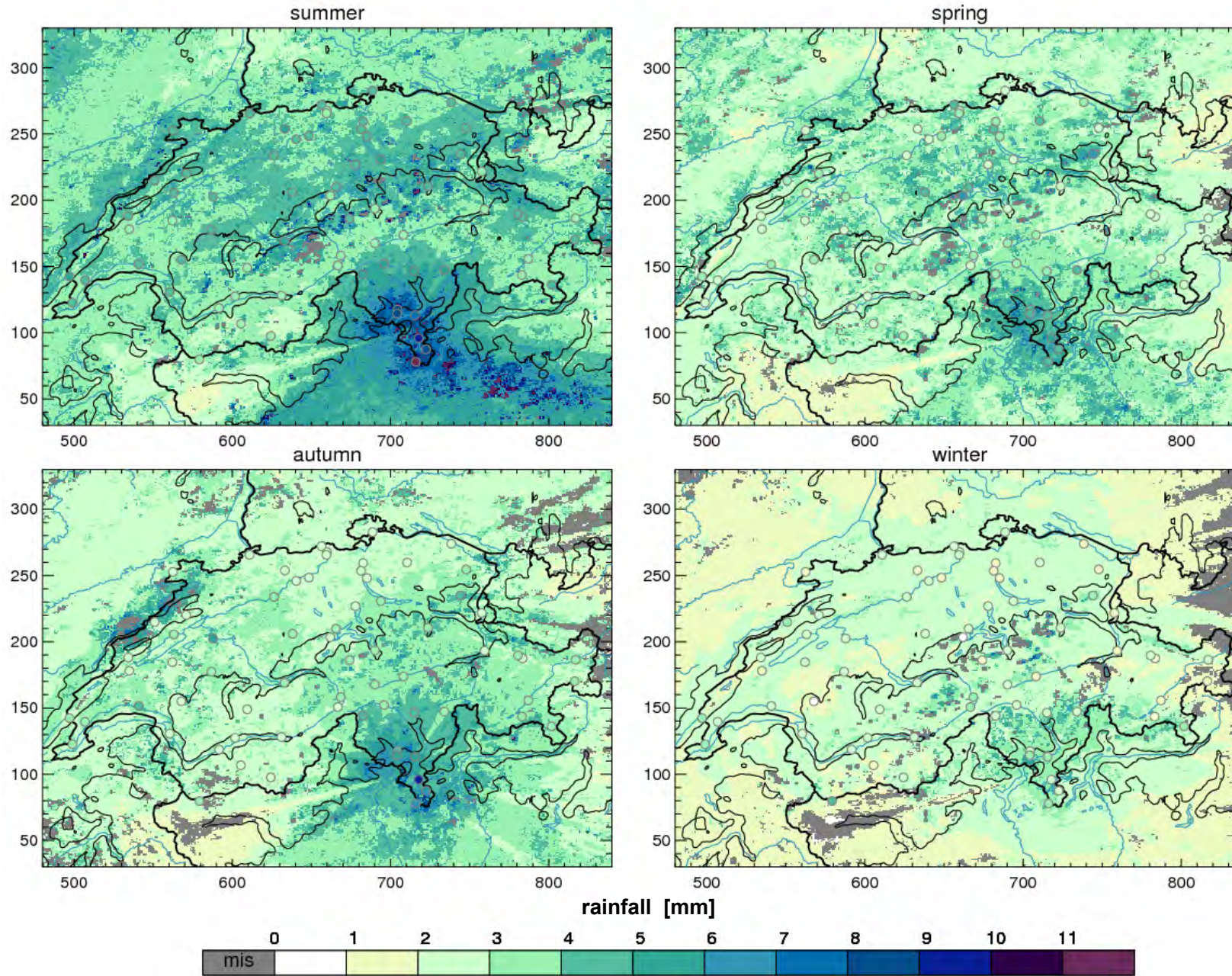


Extremes

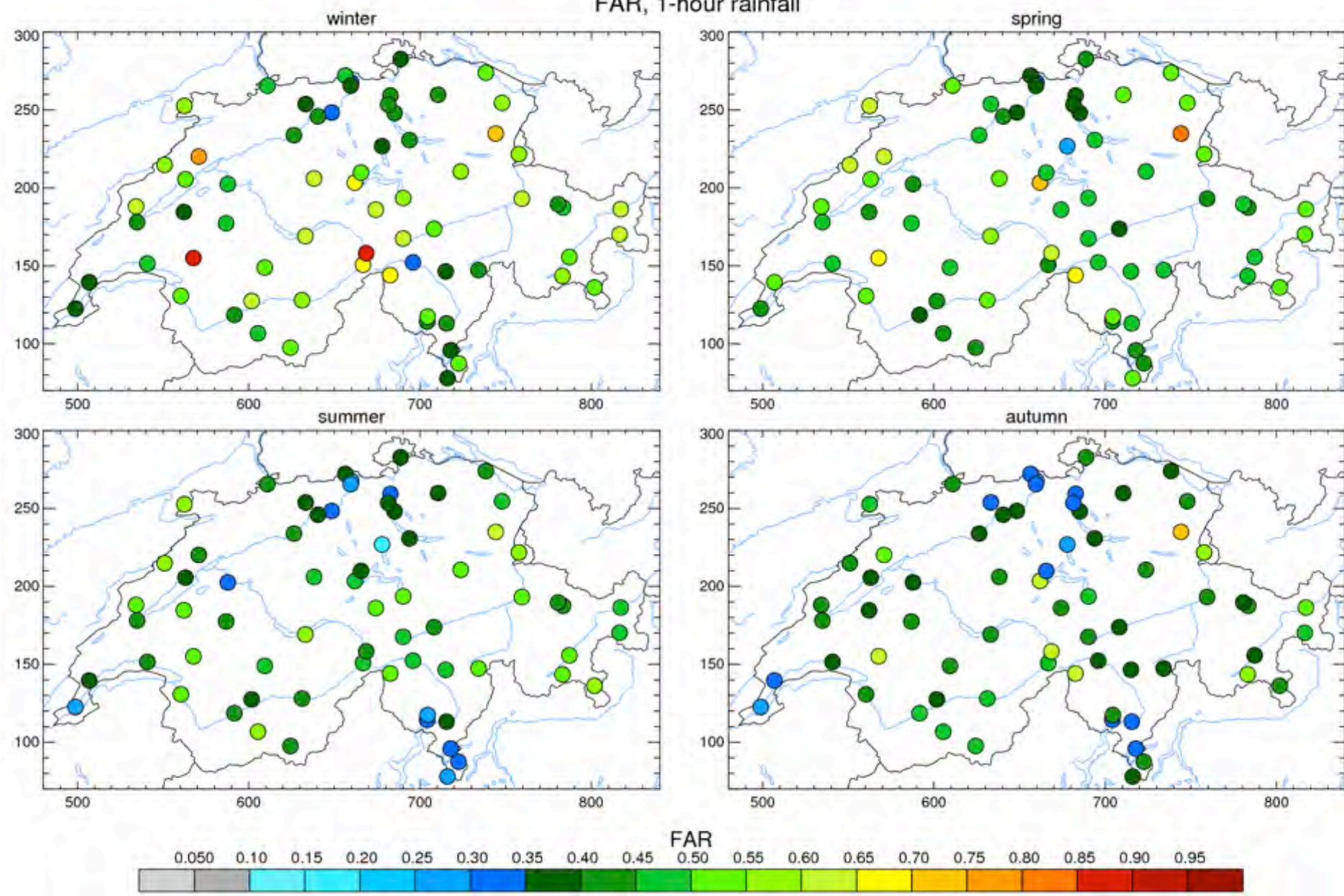
1-day rainfall



1-hour rainfall, GP



FAR, 1-hour rainfall



Verification skill scores

CPC Cross Val. vs. rain gauges

0.5 dB = 12 %
 1 dB = 26%
 2 dB = 59 %

Contingency table

	G > th.	G < th.
CPC > th.	a	b
CPC < th.	c	d

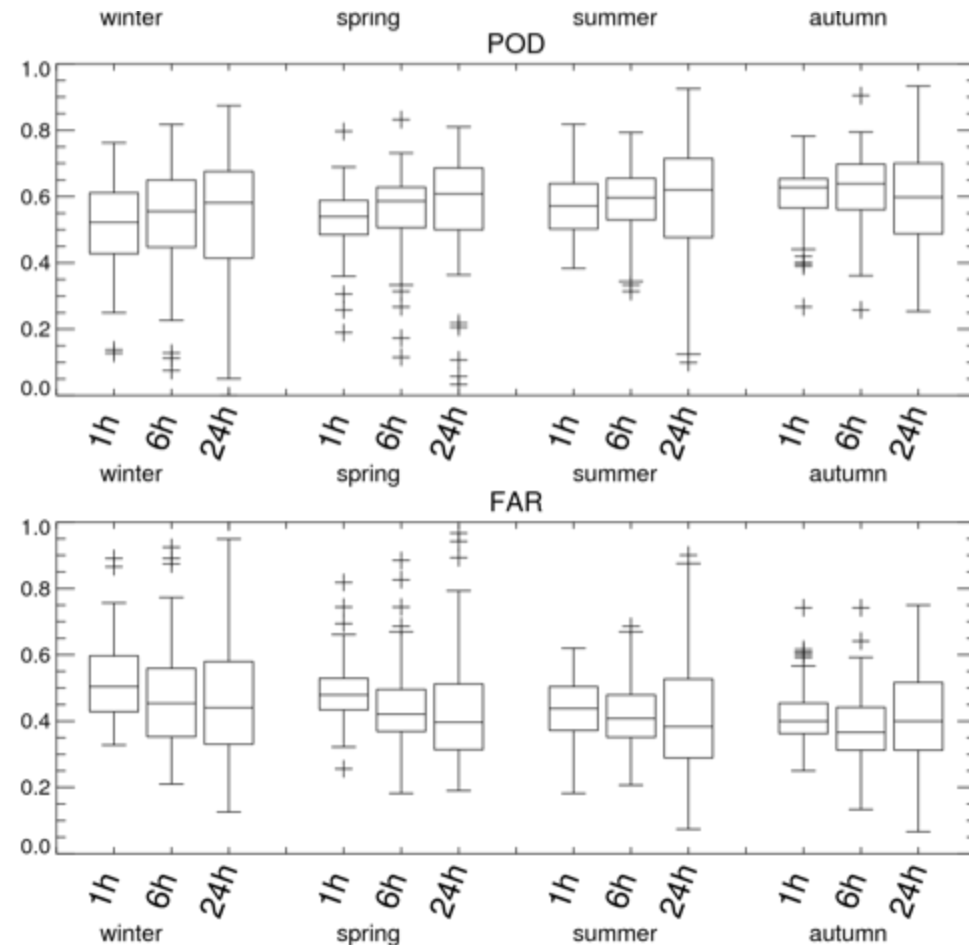
$th = 99.5^{th}$ percentile

Probability of detection

$$POD = a / (a + c)$$

False alarm ratio

$$FAR = b / (a + b)$$



Verification skill scores CPC Cross Val. Vs. rain gauges

Contingency table

	G > th.	G < th.
CPC > th.	a	b
CPC < th.	c	d

th = 99.5th percentile

Bias of hits

$$bias [dB] = 10 \log_{10} (tot(CPC \downarrow a) / tot(G \downarrow a))$$

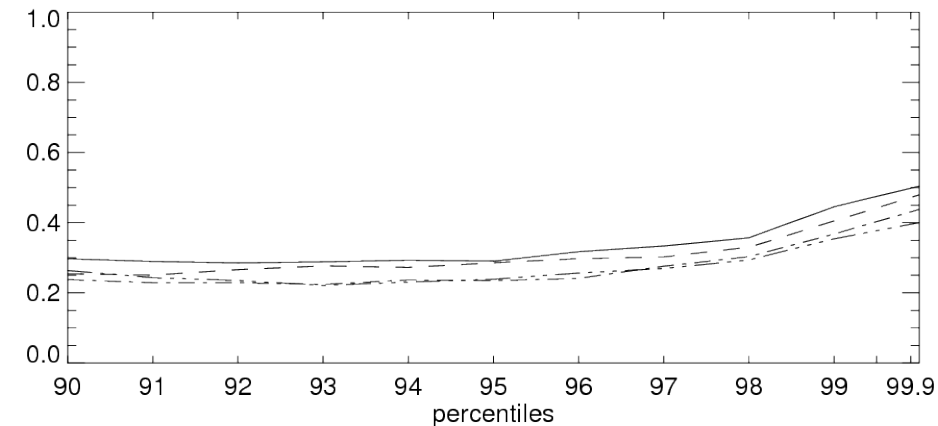
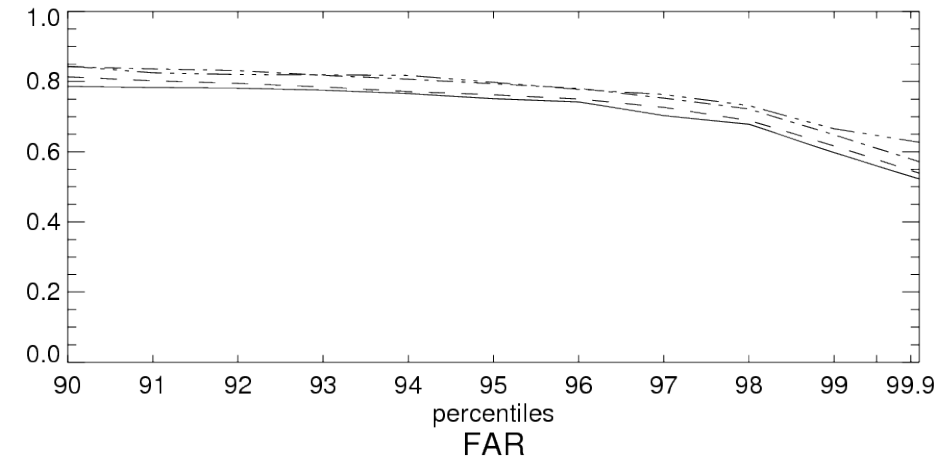
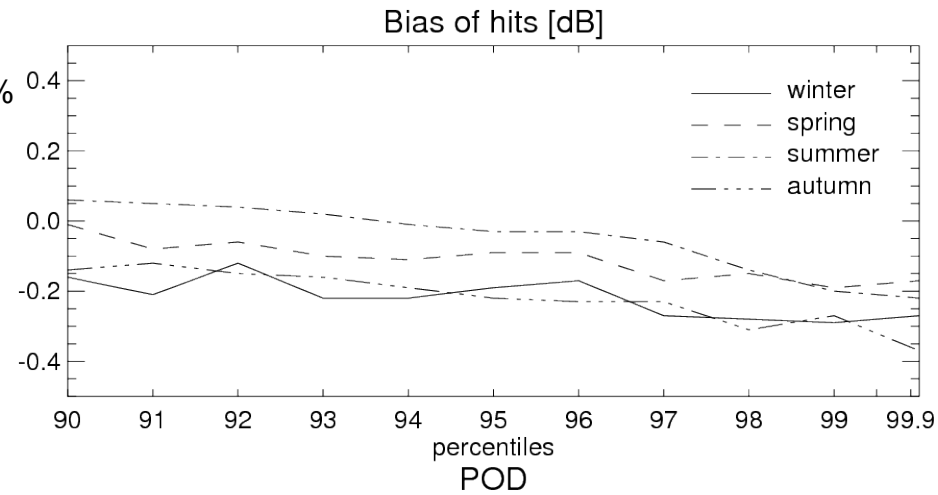
Probability of detection

$$POD = a / (a + c)$$

False alarm ratio

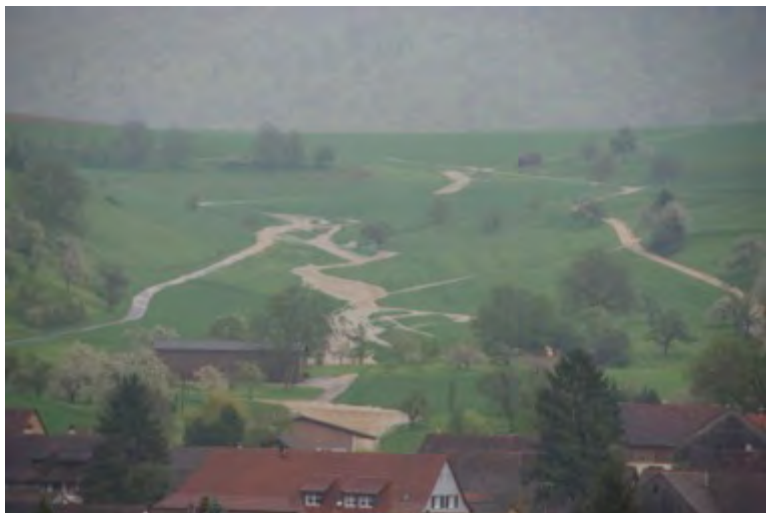
$$FAR = b / (a + b)$$

0.5 dB = 12 %
1 dB = 26 %
2 dB = 59 %



High impact events related to sub-daily precipitation extremes

Sub-daily precipitation is relevant for



surface water floods



flash floods



urban flooding

Often high intensity, very localized convective events → need for high-resolution (space / time) data