# Numerical analysis on mesoscale dynamics and mechanism of the extreme rainfall event (May 2016) over Sri Lanka

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Observed development of the low pressure system / later tropical cyclone '*Roanu*' over the Bay of Bengal (14-22 May 2016)

Date	Synoptics
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Meteorology Department issued a severe weather advisory for twelve hours commencing 11:30 am (local).
2016	Low pressure area developed over southwest Bay of Bengal
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Nearly 100mm of rainfall was reported in many areas in western & southern Sri Lanka.
2016	Several parts of the capital Colombo were flooded
16 <sup>th</sup> May	The system paralleled the east coast of Sri Lanka & developed in to a <b>depression</b> (D)
2016	Water levels on the major rivers rising and the flooding
17 <sup>th</sup> May	By the morning the system is already passed Northern part of the island.
2016	Several landslides in central part of the country
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Intensified into a deep depression (DD) 0300 utc
2016	Water levels on the <i>Kelani</i> River rose rapidly, Flooding continued
19 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Further drifted North & intensified into a cyclonic storm (CS) 0000 utc
21 <sup>th</sup> May	Landfall into Bangladesh coast north of <i>Chittagong</i> , Bangladesh 1000 utc
2016	Gradually weakened into a DD over <i>Mizoram</i> 1800 utc
<b>22<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Gradually weakened into a D near Myanmar and adjoining Manipur - 0000 utc
2016	well marked low pressure area over Myanmar - 0300 utc Source: India Meteorological Department, 2016

# The flooding event

- A depression in the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean to the South East of Sri Lanka caused heavy rainfall across Sri Lanka since 14 May 2016
- Causing wide spread heavy rains, flooding and land slide in as many as 22 districts,.
- According to the Meteorology Department the last four days had seen one of the highest rainfalls in Sri Lanka
- Total number of people affected 427,918, 101 deaths, 100 missing (landslide)
- Worst affected district Colombo (Capital) 185,835 affected
- Kelani Ganga is one of the main river basin in Sri Lanka which experienced large scale flooding and sub sequent damage to property and livelihoods.



The Floods and Landslides included in the Top 10 Natural Disasters in Sri Lanka (<u>CRED/EM-DAT</u>) for the period 2000-2016 sorted by number of dead are shown below (current event is in RED):





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# Natural Disaster profile of Sri Lanka



Disaster Event Trend: 1974 - 2008

Profile of the people affected due to disasters : 1974 - 2008

 Flood is a frequent disaster event and also the most affected disaster event in Sri Lanka

**Source:** DMC/www.desinventar.lk

# Questions & Assumptions of the study

What was the main cause for the heavy rainfall and flooding in western part of Sri Lanka?

— Main cause for the heavy rainfall was the low pressure system.

- Why May 15 & 16 received the maximum rainfall over western part of Sri Lanka?
  - May 15 & 16 was the period low pressure system approaching and passing along Sri Lanka
- Why only western part of Sri Lanka received relatively maximum rainfall and why not the eastern part of Sri Lanka?
  - Location of the heavy rainfall was following the low pressure system
  - Westerlies and the low pressure system winds were interacting with mountain only over western part of Sri Lanka





Max actual = 2,524 m Max in the model results = 1,992m Model deficit = 532m

# WRF Model Configuration

#### Model:

Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) Advanced Research (ARW) Version 3.6.1

Time period:

May 14<sup>th</sup> 0000 – 21<sup>st</sup> May 0000, 2016

- Initial and Boundary Conditions: NCEP (CFSv2) 6-hourly
- Re-initialize WRF every 6 hours





## WRF Model parametrization & configuration

Horizontal Resolution	3 km (170 X 135 grids) / 9km
Time interval ( $\Delta t$ )	60 mins
Run time	4 days (96 hours)
Vertical Levels	38
Feedback	Off
Radiation	LW: RRTM; SW: Dudhia
Surface Layer	Revised MM5 Monin-Obukhov scheme
Land Surface Model	unified Noah land-surface model
Boundary Layer	YSU
Cumulus	Kain-Fritsch (new Eta) scheme
Microphysics	Lin et al. scheme
Nudging	Grid nudging, Initial conditions 6hrs
SSTs	SST update

# **Observational Data**

Satellite Data –

- Rainfall NASA GPM, (TRMM+Other)
- Cloud Eurosat Meteosat VISSR

Ground based Rainfall Data

- Metrological Department of Sri Lanka
- Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka



#### Stations with available Rainfall Data

 Weather stations with uninterrupted hourly data for 2016.05.14<sup>th</sup> 0900 – 17<sup>th</sup> 0900

Highest rainfall was recorded on 2016.05.15 as 355.5 mm at *Deraniyagala* gauge station A Department of Irrigation Weather Station









### Rainfall comparison – Satellite data Vs Model results



Global Rainfall Map in Near-Real-Time (GSMaP\_NRT) by JAXA Global Rainfall Watch'

Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission (GPM-GSMaP Ver.6) algorithm [A Combine product of MW-IR algorithm using GPM-Core GMI, TRMM TMI, GCOM-W1 AMSR2, DMSP series SSMIS, NOAA series AMSU, MetOp series AMSU, and Geostationary IR]



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-14\_00:00:00 to 2016-05-14\_01:00:18 (mm) Terrain Height (m)



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-14\_10:00:18 to 2016-05-14\_11:00:09 (mm) Terrain Height (m)



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-14\_12:00:00 to 2016-05-14\_13:00:18 (mm) Terrain Height (m)



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-14\_14:00:09 to 2016-05-14\_15:00:00 (mm) Terrain Height (m)



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-14\_17:00:09 to 2016-05-14\_18:00:00 (mm) Terrain Height (m)



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-15\_15:00:00 to 2016-05-15\_16:00:18 (mm) Terrain Height (m)

#### 2016.05.15 : 1600



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-15\_18:00:00 to 2016-05-15\_19:00:18 (mm) Terrain Height (m)

#### 2016.05.15 : 1900



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-16\_16:00:18 to 2016-05-16\_17:00:09 (mm) Terrain Height (m)

#### 2016.05.16 : 1700



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-16\_20:00:09 to 2016-05-16\_21:00:00 (mm) Terrain Height (m)

#### 2016.05.16 : 2100



Precipitation - Run 04 - D01 (3km 1hrly ) From 2016-05-17\_09:00:00 to 2016-05-17\_10:00:18 (mm) Terrain Height (m)

2016.05.17:1000

### Rainfall comparison – Ground Observational data Vs Model results









#### Why the heavy rainfall and flooding in western part of Sri Lanka?





#### Observation (Weather Station Data) 2016.05.14 -17

### Why the heavy rainfall and flooding in western part of Sri Lanka?

Cumulative Total Precipitation (mm) From 2016.05.14\_03:00:00 to 2016-05-18\_02:00:09 Topography Height >250 (m)

100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 600



Rainfall 14 -17 (Weather Station Data )

No of Affected People as of 2016.05.22

#### Low Pressure System Development



Thermal Infrared Satellite Images Meteosat VISSR Indian Ocean Data Coverage (IODC) Dundee Satellite Receiving Station, UK



WRF Results
Precipitation and 10m wind vectors
#### Cloud Image – TIR Satellite Images



#### Model Results / wrfout



## Cloud Image (Satellite) and Cloud Fractions (weighted vertical column sum) (WRF)- 1hourly

#### Met\_em Data / NCEP\_CFSv2



#### Model Results / wrfout



## Cloud Image (Satellite) and Cloud Fractions (weighted vertical column sum) (WRF)- 1hourly



## **Cumulative Rainfall** (mm)

Wind (850 hPa) & Cumulative Rainfall (mm) - 2016-05-14\_01:00:18



### from 2016.05.14:0000 to 2016.05.16:2300

# Why May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> received the maximum rainfall over western part of Sri Lanka?



# Why May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> received the maximum rainfall over western part of Sri Lanka?



# Why only western part of Sri Lanka received relatively maximum rainfall and why not the eastern part of Sri Lanka?







Water Vapor Flux

**Total Rainfall** 

× ×

83°E

85



Water Vapor Flux

Total Rainfall

83°E



Water Vapor Flux



Water Vapor Flux



Water Vapor Flux



Water Vapor Flux



Water Vapor Flux

**Total Rainfall** 

83°E

85



**Total Rainfall** 

Min= 0 Max= 98.6

83°E

75

85

Water Vapor Flux

## 2016.05.16:0000



**Total Rainfall** 

82°E

75

85

83°E

in= 0 Max= 177.02

Water Vapor Flux

## 2016.05.16:0300



Wind (10m) & Hourly Rainfall (mm) - 2016-05-16\_03:00:00

82°E 83°E 65 75 85 Total Precipitation (mm)

Water Vapor Flux

## 2016.05.16 : 0600





Water Vapor Flux

## Horizontal & Vertical development

Horizontal

- Precipitation + 10m wind
- Water vapor flux + WVF vectors@925hP
- Divergent Wind & Vertical wind velocity (w) @ 850 hPa
- Wind, Surface Temperature & Pressure





76°E

78°E

80°E

82°E

100 300 500 750 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2500

Terrain Height (m)

84°E

86°E

## Horizontal & Vertical development

2016.05.15 : 0800









#### 2016.05.15 : 1400

Pressure (hPa)



Water vapor flux + Vertical wind (uw)

Rainwater mixing ratio



#### 2016.05.15 : 1700

Pressure (hPa)





0.5 50 100 300 500 750 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2500

#### 2016.05.15 : 2000

Pressure (hPa)



Water vapor flux + Vertical wind (uw)

Rainwater mixing ratio







0.5 50 100 300 500 750 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2500

#### 2016.05.16 : 0200





#### 2016.05.16 : 0500



Precipitation & 10m Wind (ms-1) - Run 04 - D01 (9km NewD 1hrly) From 2016-05-15\_21:00:00 to 2016-05-15\_22:00:18 (mm) Main Terrain Height (m) Sea Level Pressure (hPa)





## The possible mechanism of the weather system

- The low pressure system was moving along the east coast.
- While the observed rainfall was highest particularly in the western part of the country.
- Westerlies influenced by the south west monsoon converged with the winds of the low pressure system over the western part of Sri Lanka.
- This convergence zone sustain over western part of Sri Lanka the for relatively longer period with respect to the low pressure system movement.
- High vertical motion can enhance the convective activity and also bring more moisture.

## Taiwan's case : Typhoon Morakot (2009) ?

## Massive deep landsliding Caused by Morakot





#### **32 killed** at this area



Table 1. Record of the 10 highest typhoon rainfall accumulations during the last 50 years. Stations' elevation for A-Li station, An Pu and Chu Tze Hu are 2413 m, 826 m and 607 m, respectively (TC: Tropical Cyclone, NE: Northeasterly, SW: southwesterly).

Typhoon name (CWB warning period)	Intensity classification* Characteristics	Accumulation rainfall in mm (duration) station	Casualties including Death and missing	
MORAKOT 5–10 August 2009	Intermediate TC Traversing CMR+ SW monsoon	2855 mm (100 h) A-Li Shan	695	
FLOSSIE 1–7 October 1969	Intermediate TC nearby + NE monsoon	2162 mm (120 h) An Pu	105	
HERB 29 July–1 August 1996	Strong TC Traversing CMR	1987 mm (48 h) A-Li Shan	73	
LYNN 23–27 October 1987	Strong TC nearby + NE monsoon	1497 mm (96 h) Chu Tze Hu	63	
SINLAKU 9–17 September 2008	Strong TC Traversing CMR	1458 mm (96 h) A-Li Shan	21	
ORA 11–14 October 1978	Intermediate TC nearby + NE monsoon	1434 mm (96 h) Chu Tze Hu	7	
GLORIA 8–13 September 1963	Strong TC nearby + NE monsoon	1433 mm (96 h) A-Li Shan	363	
NARI 6–20 September 2001	Intermediate TC Traversing CMR	1304 mm (72 h) Chu Tze Hu	104	
HAITANG 16–20 July 2005	Strong TC Traversing CMR	1216 mm (72 h) A-Li Shan	15	
MINDULLE 28 June–2 July 2004	Intermediate TC Traversing CMR	1182 mm (72 h) A-Li Shan	45	

\* The CWB's classification of typhoons is based on the maximum wind speed: the light typhoon:  $17.2 \sim 32.6 \text{ m/s}$ ; the intermediate typhoon:  $32.7 \sim 50.9 \text{ m/s}$ ; the severe typhoon:  $\geq 51 \text{ m/s}$ 



(Lin et al. 2011, ACP)



Spatial and temporal variations of the average rainfall in 0.1 deg latitude increments between 120 and 121 E over western Taiwan .



Fig. 2. (a) Composite of the maximum radar reflectivity in a volume (colored) at 12:00 UTC 6, 00:00 UTC 7 and 00:00 UTC 8 August, 2009. (b) Infrared Satellite image from Japan MTSAT satellite at 18:00 UTC 06 and 00:00 UTC 8 August 2009. The colored areas represent cold brightness temperatures (°K).



Fig. 3. (a)Moisture flux (colored) and wind field (arrow) deduced from NCEP GFS data at 900 hPa level at 00:00 UTC 7 August 2009. Colored scales represent the magnitude of moisture flux. The lower right corner of arrow denotes the scale of wind speed. (b) Same as but for 00:00 UTC 8 August 2009. (c) Same as (a) but for 00:00 UTC 9 August 2009. (d) Same as (a) but for 00:00 UTC 10 August, 200

## WRF-ARW model










(d) A northwest-southeast vertical perspective views for depth by VIS5D for the moisture flux at 00:00 UTC 8 August taken from the direction of the arrow in (e) The grey shading is the moisture flux surface of 550 g/kg m/s.

(e) Three-dimensional perspective views by VIS5D for the moisture flux at 00:00 UTC 8 August. The blue (red) arrow represents the wind field at 650 hPa (925 hPa). The grey shading is the moisture flux surface of 550 g/kg m/s.

#### (Lin et al. 2011, ACP)



WRF 950~700 hPa Zonal Mean (120~121)



Simulation of vertical velocity fields (colored shades: positive in red and negative in blue) and potential vorticity (contours: positive in black and negative in green, interval:2 PVU) at 750 hPa for (a) 06Z 07 August (b), 12Z 07 August (c) 18Z 07 August and (d) 00Z 08 August.

1218





### Summary Morakot Typhoon study

- Based on our data analyses, the first stage of the heavy rainfall during 7 and early 8 August was dominated by the N-S convergence south of 23°N in the low troposphere, and the second stage during the rest of 8 August was controlled by the E-W convergence and mountain blocking between 22.5 and 24°N.
- From the fine-scale numerical simulation it seems that the heavy rainfall was caused not only by the convergence itself when it interacted with the topography, but also by the wave-train convective cells within the typhoon's main rainband.

Thank you...



Tracks of all tropical cyclones which formed worldwide between 1985 and 2005.

(from Joint Typhoon Warning Center)

# Future Warming and Typhoon



ghcbfs.html



## How good can we simulate (predict) typhoon ?

- I.C., B.C. and resolution :the forecasting of track, intensity
- dynamic of Typhoon circulation and their interaction with the Taiwan terrain
- mesoscale wind and precipitation distribution





## Model:WRF/WRF-Chem

WRF-ARW Modeling System Flow Chart



### Initial condition impacts on landfall simulation

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

5

08/04-12Z



08/05-12Z

38

36

34

32

30

28

26

24

22

20

18

16

14

12

10

25A

24N

234

22N

10m Nind(m/s) Roin(mm/Sh) T2m(C)

Initial Time:20150805 12Z Valid Time:20150807 21Z

0 39.7

27.

121E

028

120E

0.29

0 28.8

27.9

29.3

#### 08/06-12Z



08/07-12Z

Initial Time:20150807\_12Z Valid Time:20150807\_21Z





1225

15









