# Intense Arctic Cyclones in June 2018

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#### **Case Overview**

- Two sequential intense Arctic cyclones, AC1 and AC2, occurred in early June 2018
- AC1 forms northeast of the Caspian Sea within a frontal trough
- AC2 forms east of Greenland and may be linked to the remnants of Tropical Storm (TS) Alberto
- AC1 and AC2 strengthen over western Eurasia as they interact with tropopause polar vortices (TPVs)
- AC1 and AC2 undergo a cyclonic rotation over the Arctic Ocean, during which AC2 absorbs AC1

#### **Data and Methods**

- Obtained gridded analyses from ERA-5 (Hersbach and Dee 2016) at 0.25° resolution
- Tracked cyclones manually by following locations of minimum sea level pressure (SLP)
- Identified and tracked TPVs objectively by utilizing a TPV tracking algorithm (Szapiro and Cavallo 2018)
- Computed backward trajectories by using NOAA HYSPLIT trajectory model

### **Big Picture**

- Depict AC1 and AC2 tracks and intensities
- Show relevant TPV tracks
- Illustrate large-scale flow evolution

#### **Track and Intensity of Cyclones**



Cyclone	Genesis	Lysis	Lifetime
AC1	1 June	6 June	~5 d
AC2	2 June	13 June	~11 d

(a) 26 May–1 June 2018 time-mean 300-hPa geopotential height (dam, black) and standardized geopotential height anomalies ( $\sigma$ , shaded); (b) 1–7 June 2018 time-mean 850-hPa temperature (°C, black) and standardized temperature anomalies ( $\sigma$ , shaded).

# **Track and Intensity of Cyclones**



#### **Tracks of TPVs**



# Synoptic-Scale Flow Evolution: North America 30 May–2 June 2018

#### 0000 UTC 30 May 2018



#### 1200 UTC 30 May 2018







#### 0000 UTC 30 May 2018



#### 1200 UTC 30 May 2018







#### 1200 UTC 29 May 2018



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies (σ, shaded)

#### 0000 UTC 30 May 2018



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies ( $\sigma$ , shaded)

#### 1200 UTC 30 May 2018



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies (σ, shaded)



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies (σ, shaded)



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies (σ, shaded)



(a) PV (PVU, shaded), θ (K, black), ascent (red, every 5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> hPa s<sup>-1</sup>), and wind speed (white, every 10 m s<sup>-1</sup> starting at 30 m s<sup>-1</sup>); (b) 300-hPa wind speed (m s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded),1000–500-hPa thickness (dam, blue/red), SLP (hPa, black), and PW (mm, shaded); (c) 850-hPa θ<sub>e</sub> (K, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and wind (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barb)

#### 0000 UTC 1 Jun 2018



#### 1200 UTC 1 Jun 2018



#### 0000 UTC 2 Jun 2018



#### 1200 UTC 2 Jun 2018



#### 0000 UTC 1 Jun 2018



#### 1200 UTC 1 Jun 2018



#### 0000 UTC 2 Jun 2018



winds (m  $s^{-1}$ , flags and barbs)

700-hPa geopotential height (dam, black)

#### 1200 UTC 2 Jun 2018



Lagrangian Perspective: Selected Trajectories (Pre-AC2)

NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL





#### 1200 UTC 1 Jun 2018





#### 1200 UTC 2 Jun 2018



# Synoptic-Scale Flow Evolution: Eurasia 2–7 June 2018

#### 1200 UTC 2 Jun 2018








(a) PV (PVU, shaded), θ (K, black), ascent (red, every 5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> hPa s<sup>-1</sup>), and wind speed (white, every 10 m s<sup>-1</sup> starting at 30 m s<sup>-1</sup>); (b) 300-hPa wind speed (m s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded),1000–500-hPa thickness (dam, blue/red), SLP (hPa, black), and PW (mm, shaded); (c) 850-hPa θ<sub>e</sub> (K, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and wind (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barb)

#### 0000 UTC 4 Jun 2018



#### 1200 UTC 4 Jun 2018



#### 0000 UTC 5 Jun 2018



## 1200 UTC 5 Jun 2018



## 0000 UTC 6 Jun 2018



### 1200 UTC 6 Jun 2018







(a) PV (PVU, shaded),  $\theta$  (K, black), ascent (red, every 5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> hPa s<sup>-1</sup>), and wind speed (white, every 10 m s<sup>-1</sup> starting at 30 m s<sup>-1</sup>); (b) 300-hPa wind speed (m s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded),1000–500-hPa thickness (dam, blue/red), SLP (hPa, black), and PW (mm, shaded); (c) 850-hPa  $\theta_e$  (K, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and wind (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barb)



## 1200 UTC 2 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

### 0000 UTC 4 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

## 1200 UTC 4 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

## 0000 UTC 5 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

## 1200 UTC 5 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

## 0000 UTC 6 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

## 1200 UTC 6 Jun 2018



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)



925-hPa relative vorticity (10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, shaded), geopotential height (dam, black), and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs)

Lagrangian Perspective: Selected Trajectories (AC1)

## 1200 UTC 2 Jun 2018





Lagrangian Perspective: Selected Trajectories (AC2)

## 0000 UTC 4 Jun 2018

NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL



												$(kg m^{-1} s^{-1})$
20	0 3	600 4	00 50	00 60	0 70	00 80	00 10 <sup>0</sup>	00 12	00 14	·00 ·	1600	
IVT 700-	(kg m⁻ୀ hPa ge	<sup>1</sup> s <sup>−1</sup> , sh eopotent	aded ar tial heig	nd vector ht (dam	rs) and , black)		NOA/ e	A HYSP ending a	LIT 5-d t 0000	backv UTC 4	ward traje 1 June 20	ectories )18

## 1200 UTC 5 Jun 2018





												$(kg m^{-1} s^{-1})$
20	0 30	00 40	00 5	00 60	00 7	00 80	00 10	00 12	200	1400	1600	
IVT ( 700-	(kg m⁻¹ hPa ge	s <sup>−1</sup> , sha sopotent	aded ar ial heig	nd vecto ht (dam	rs) and , black)	)	NOA/ e	A HYSF ending a	PLIT 5 at 120	5-d back 00 UTC	ward traj 5 June 20	ectories 018



												$(kg m^{-1} s^{-1})$
20	00 3	00 40	00 50	00 60	0 7	00 8	00 10	00 12	200	1400	1600	
IVT 700-	(kg m⁻¹ hPa ge	<sup>I</sup> s <sup>−1</sup> , sha sopotent	aded ar tial heig	nd vecto ht (dam	rs) and , black)	,	NOA/ e	A HYSF ending a	PLIT 5 at 000	-d back 0 UTC 7	ward traj 7 June 2	ectories 018

## **Interactions between Arctic Cyclones**



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies ( $\sigma$ , shaded)

# Impacts of AC1 and AC2 on Arctic Sea Ice





## 0000 UTC 4 Jun 2018



## 1200 UTC 4 Jun 2018


# 0000 UTC 5 Jun 2018



# 1200 UTC 5 Jun 2018



# 0000 UTC 6 Jun 2018



# 1200 UTC 6 Jun 2018



# 0000 UTC 7 Jun 2018



# 1200 UTC 7 Jun 2018



#### 0000 UTC 8 Jun 2018



#### 1200 UTC 8 Jun 2018



# 0000 UTC 9 Jun 2018



# **Conclusions:**

- Anomalously amplified flow from eastern North America to Europe permits midlatitude disturbances to reach the Arctic
- TS Alberto remnants merge with a Canadian cyclone, move northeastward, and weaken over the Davis Strait windward of Greenland
- AC2 forms leeward of Greenland near the nose of a strong upper-level jet and along a moisture axis linked back to the remnants of TS Alberto
- AC1 forms along a cold front near the Caspian Sea ahead of an amplified upper-level trough

# **Conclusions:**

- Anomalously amplifying flow over western and central Eurasia enables AC1 and AC2 to strengthen and move poleward
- TPVs embedded within amplified upper-level troughs foster rapid deepening of AC1 and AC2 in the left-exit regions of jet streaks
- AC2 absorbs AC1 after a Fujiwara cyclonic rotation and becomes the dominant Arctic cyclone, with a peak intensity of 962 hPa (SLP standardized anomaly of < -6 σ)</li>
- Warm, moist air and strong low-level winds associated with AC1 and AC2 may contribute to reductions in Arctic sea ice

# **Extra Slides**

#### **Ocean Currents**

#### 1200 UTC 4 June 2018

0000 UTC 8 June 2018



Ocean current speed and direction (cm s<sup>-1</sup>, streamlines colored according to speed) at 5 m below sea level (Data source: CFSR)

# 0000 UTC 1 Jun 2018



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies ( $\sigma$ , shaded)

700-hPa geopotential height (dam, black) and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized PW anomalies (σ, shaded)

# 1200 UTC 1 Jun 2018



SLP (hPa, black), 10-m winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized SLP anomalies ( $\sigma$ , shaded)

700-hPa geopotential height (dam, black) and winds (m s<sup>-1</sup>, flags and barbs), and standardized PW anomalies (σ, shaded)