



Vienna, Austria & Online | 27 April – 2 May 2025

Precipitation-driven storm types and their climatology across the Alpine range

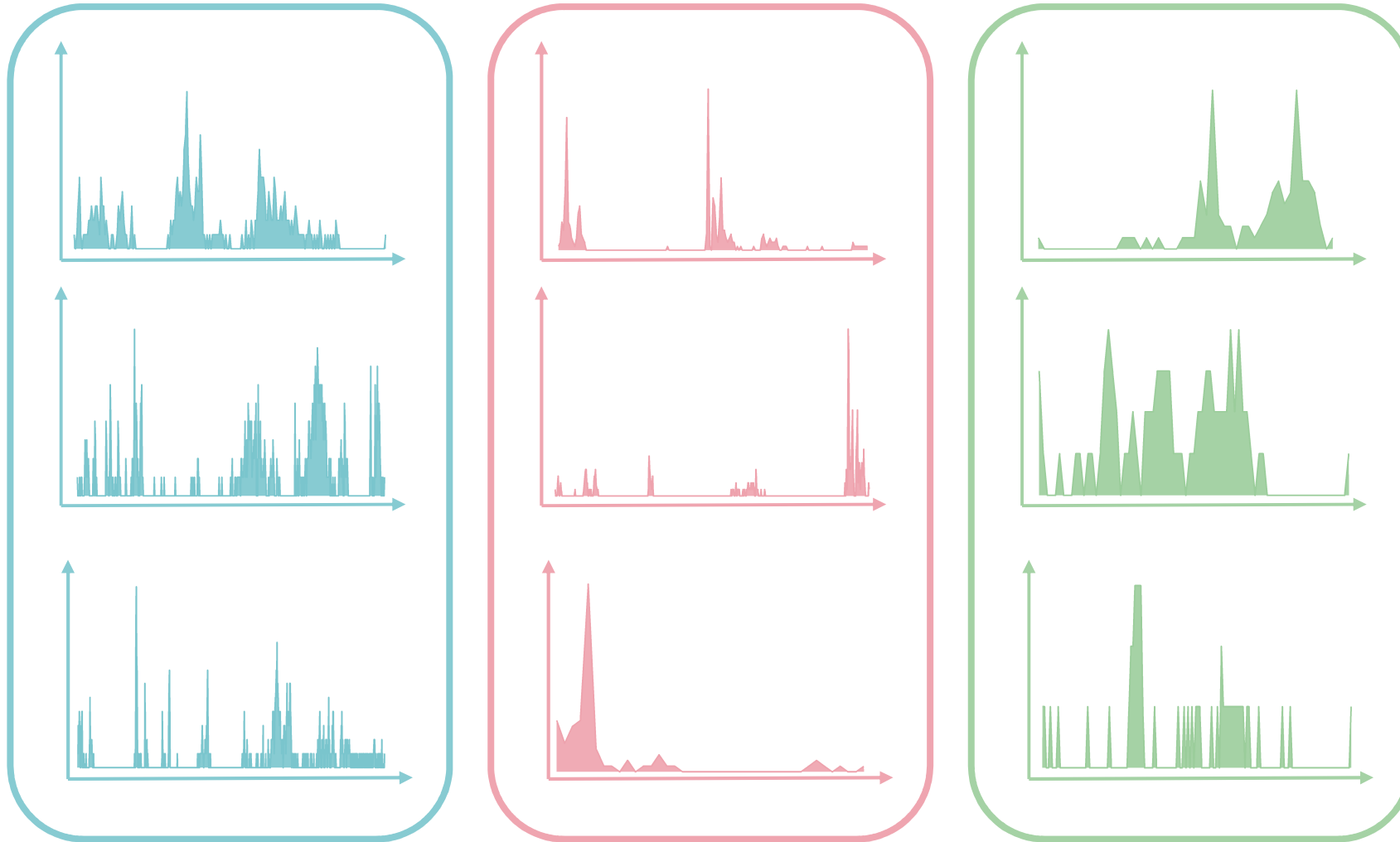
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Colin Price, Marco Borga, and Francesco Marra



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Storm typologies



Useful in:

Weather simulation

Operational forecasting

Bias correction of
climate projections

Research questions

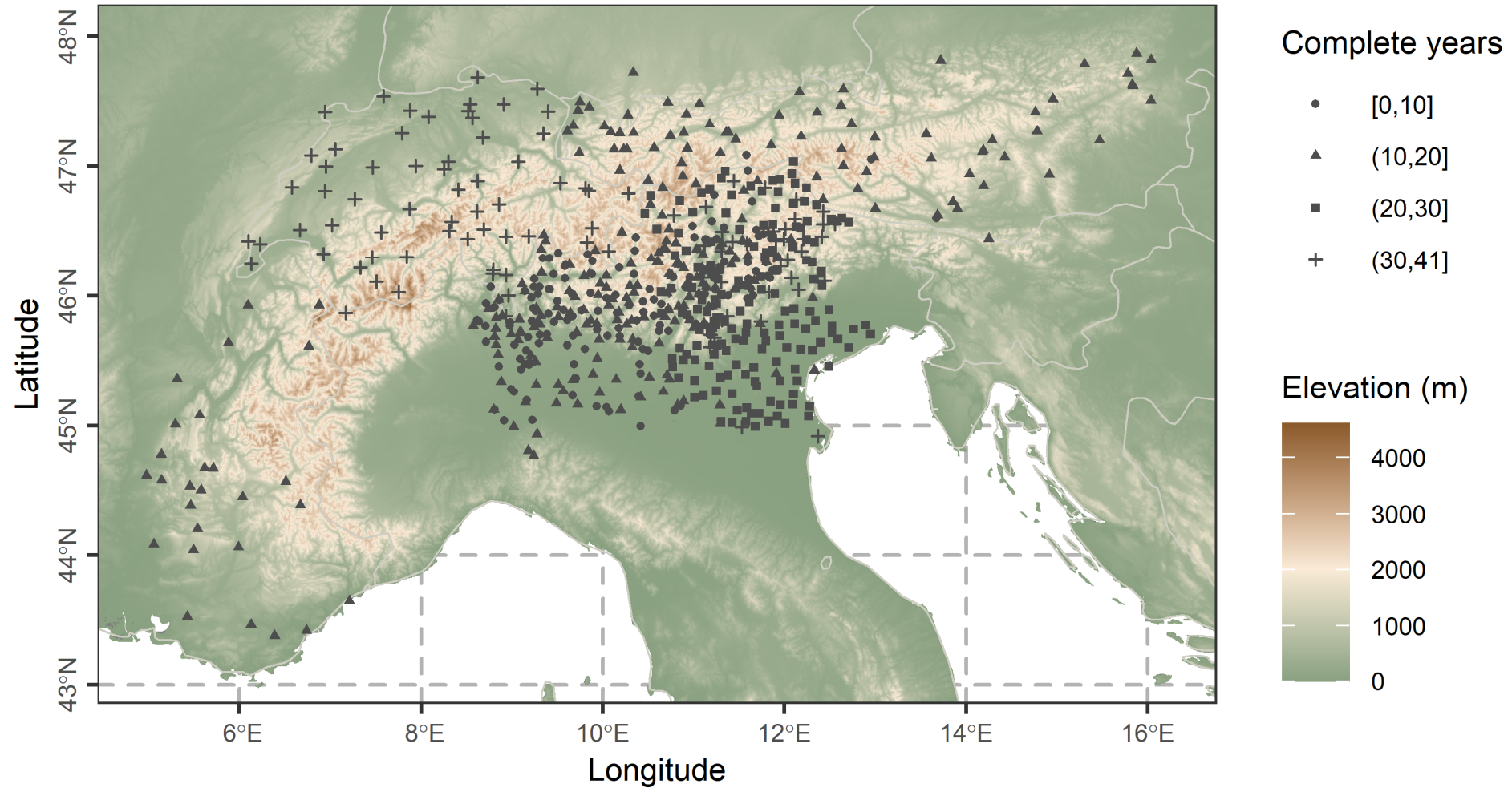
How can I categorize a precipitation storm database into physically meaningful classes?

Which are the dominant precipitation storm types in the Alps?

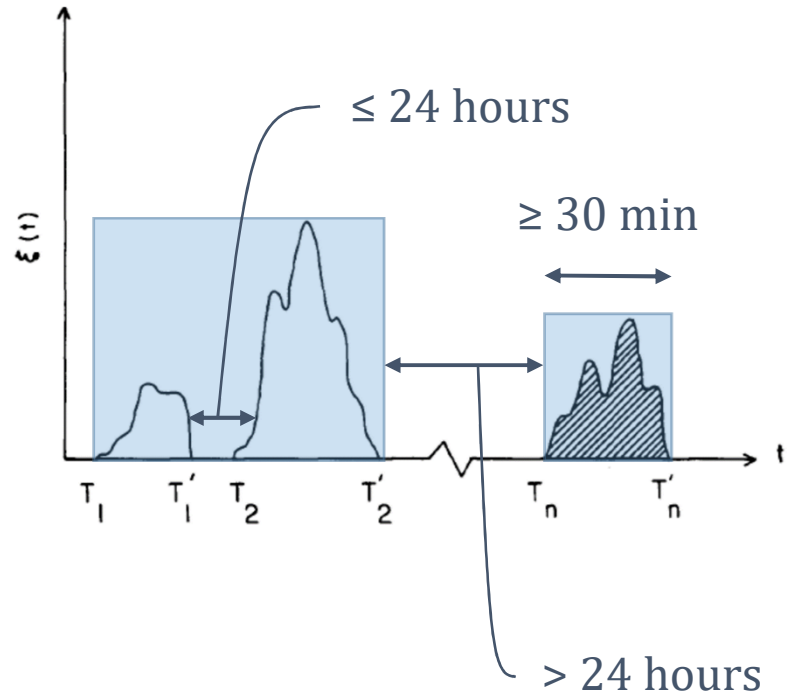
What is the climatology of these types across the Alpine range?

Study area and data

Sub-hourly observations from 670 precipitation stations

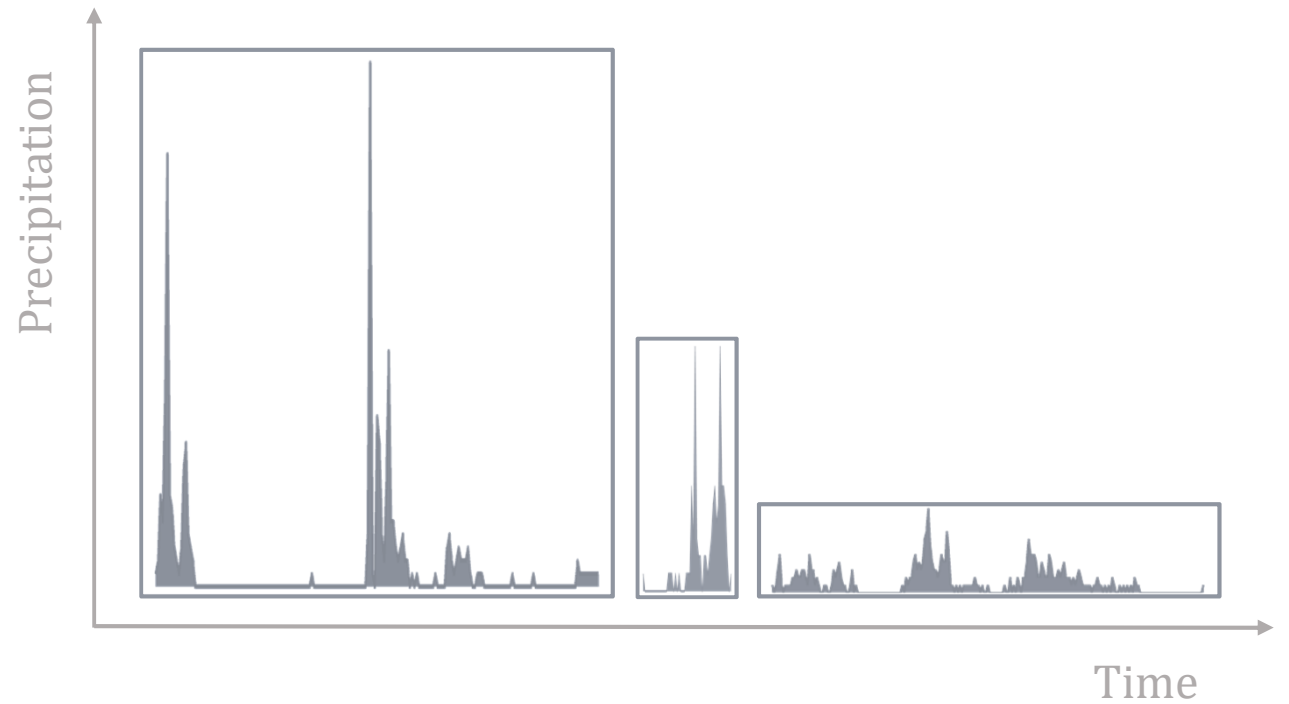


Storm identification



792,786 storm time series

Observed in the period 1981–2024



Storm clustering

- **Feature-based:**

Maximum intensity

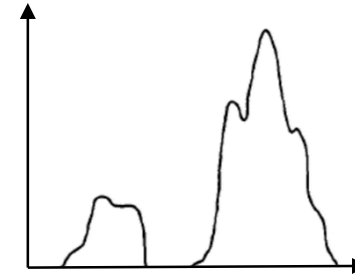
Total volume

Duration

Coefficient of variation



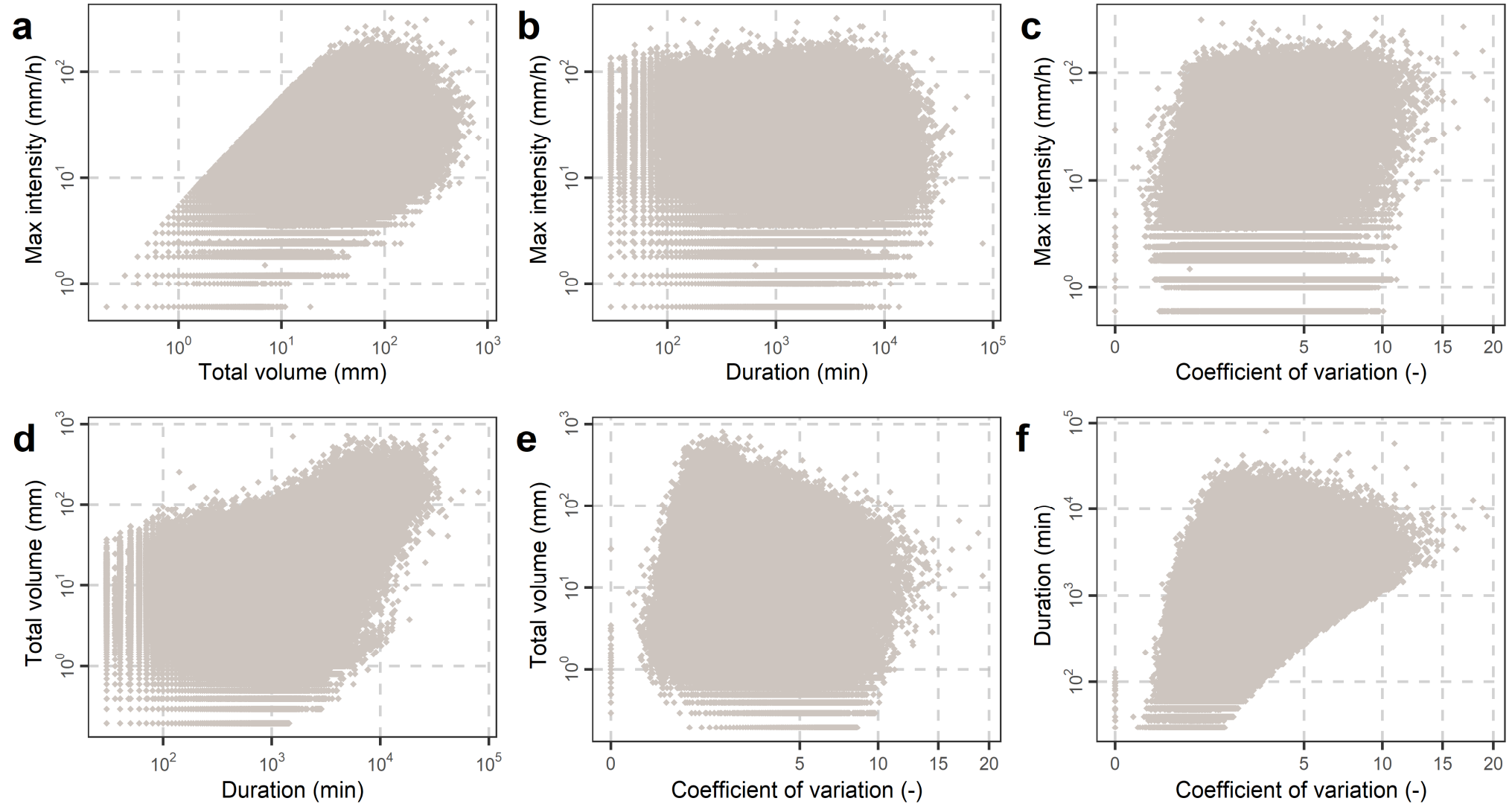
Features estimated
from each storm



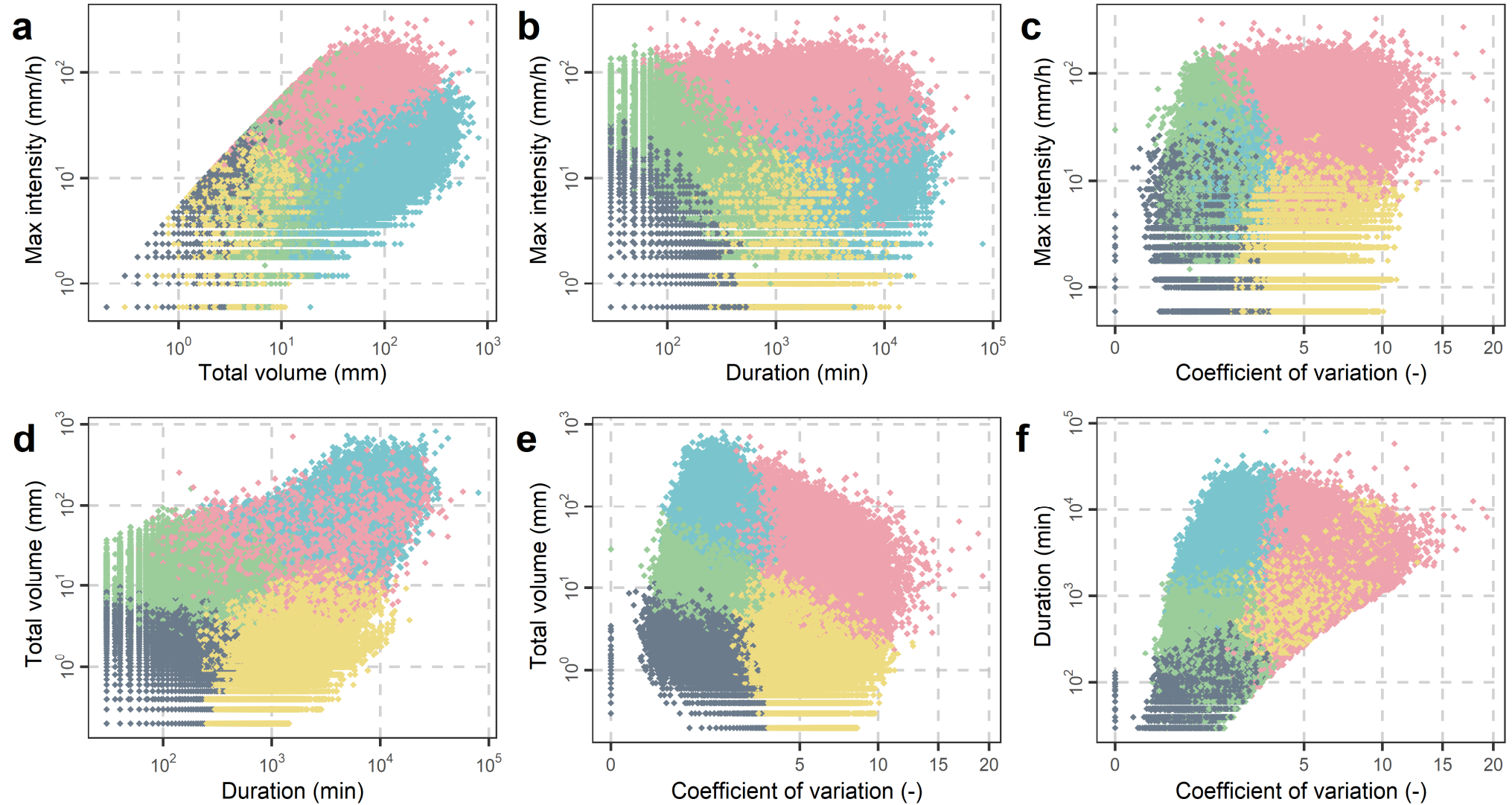
- **CLARA-based:**

Resampling + k-medoids

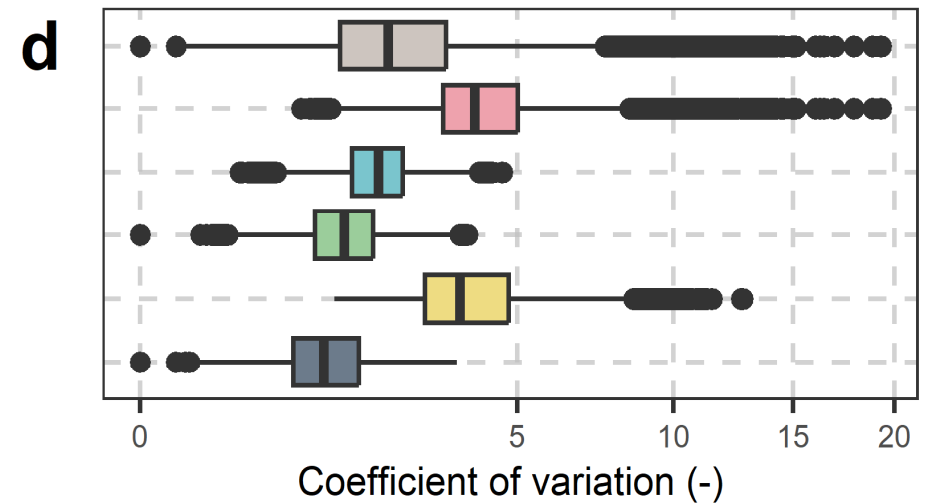
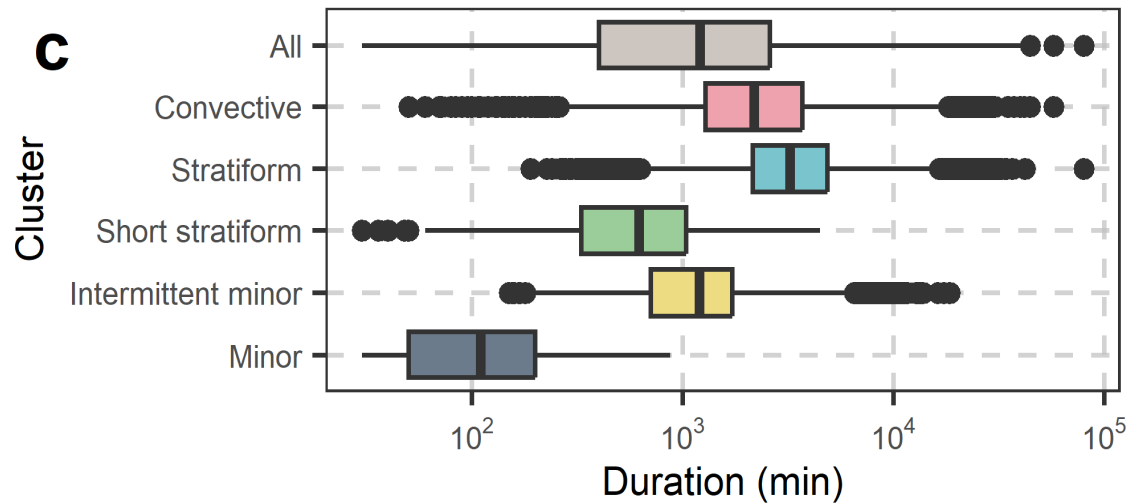
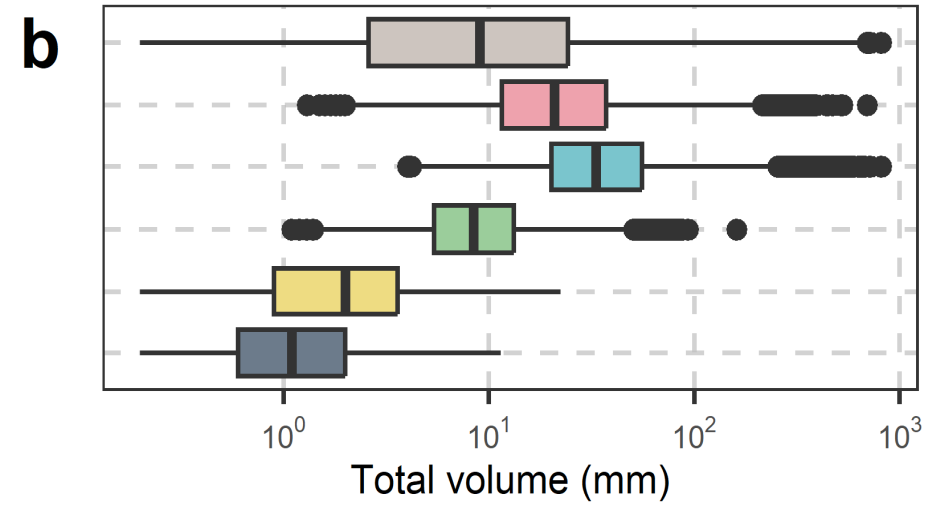
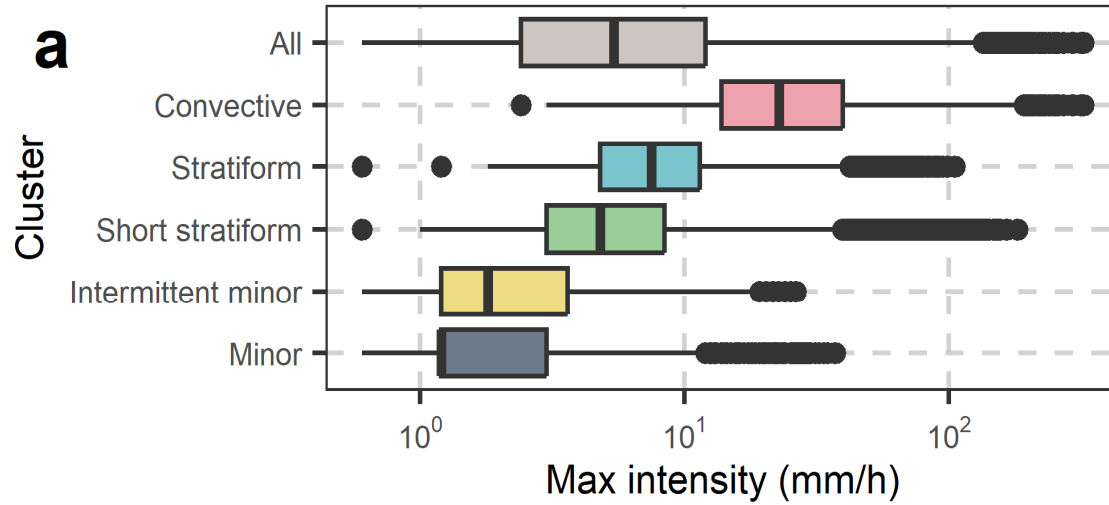
Features driving the clustering



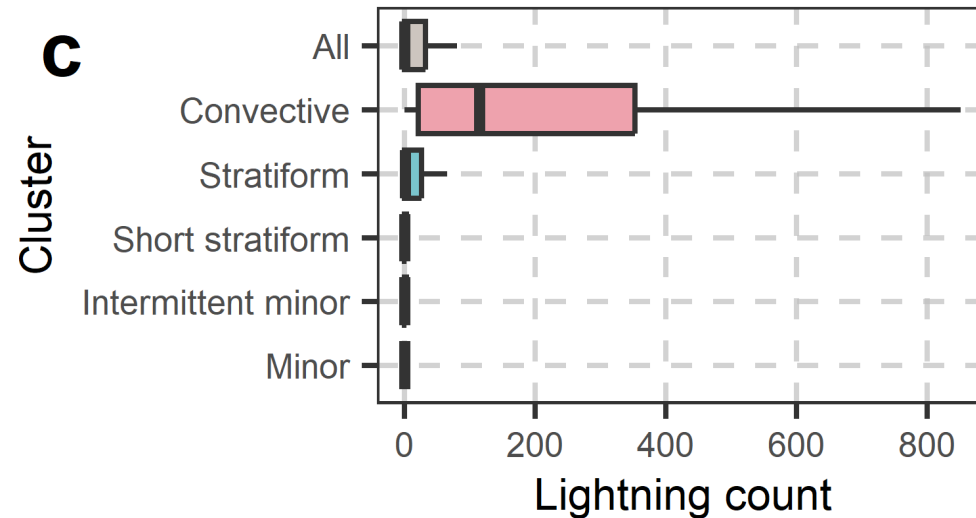
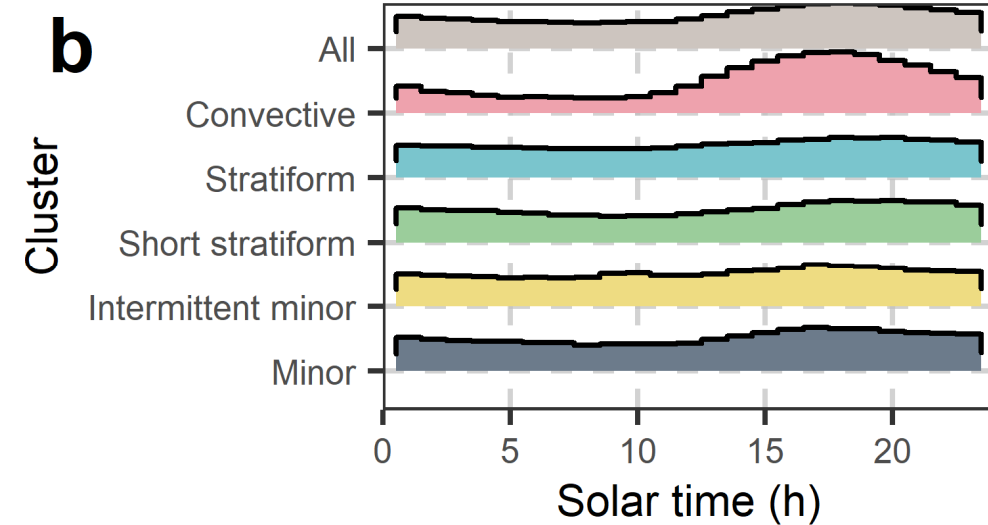
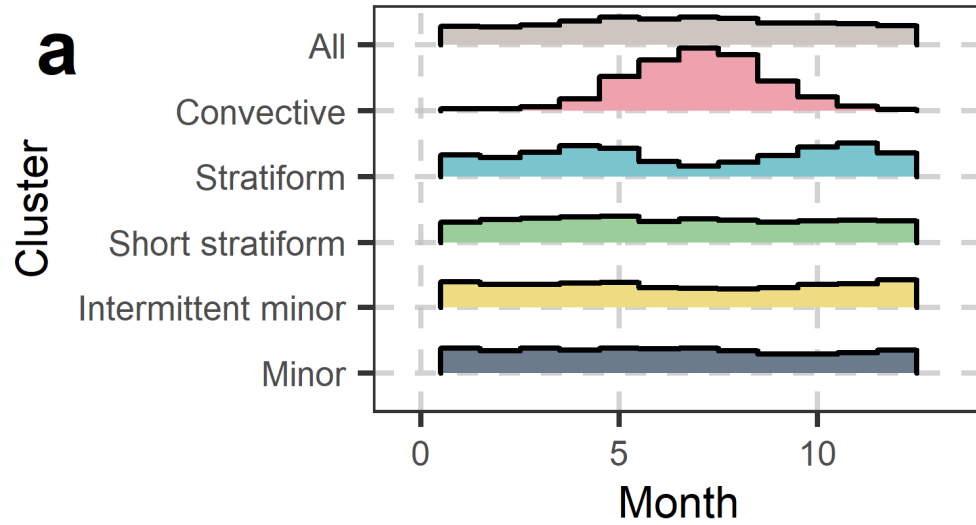
Features driving the clustering



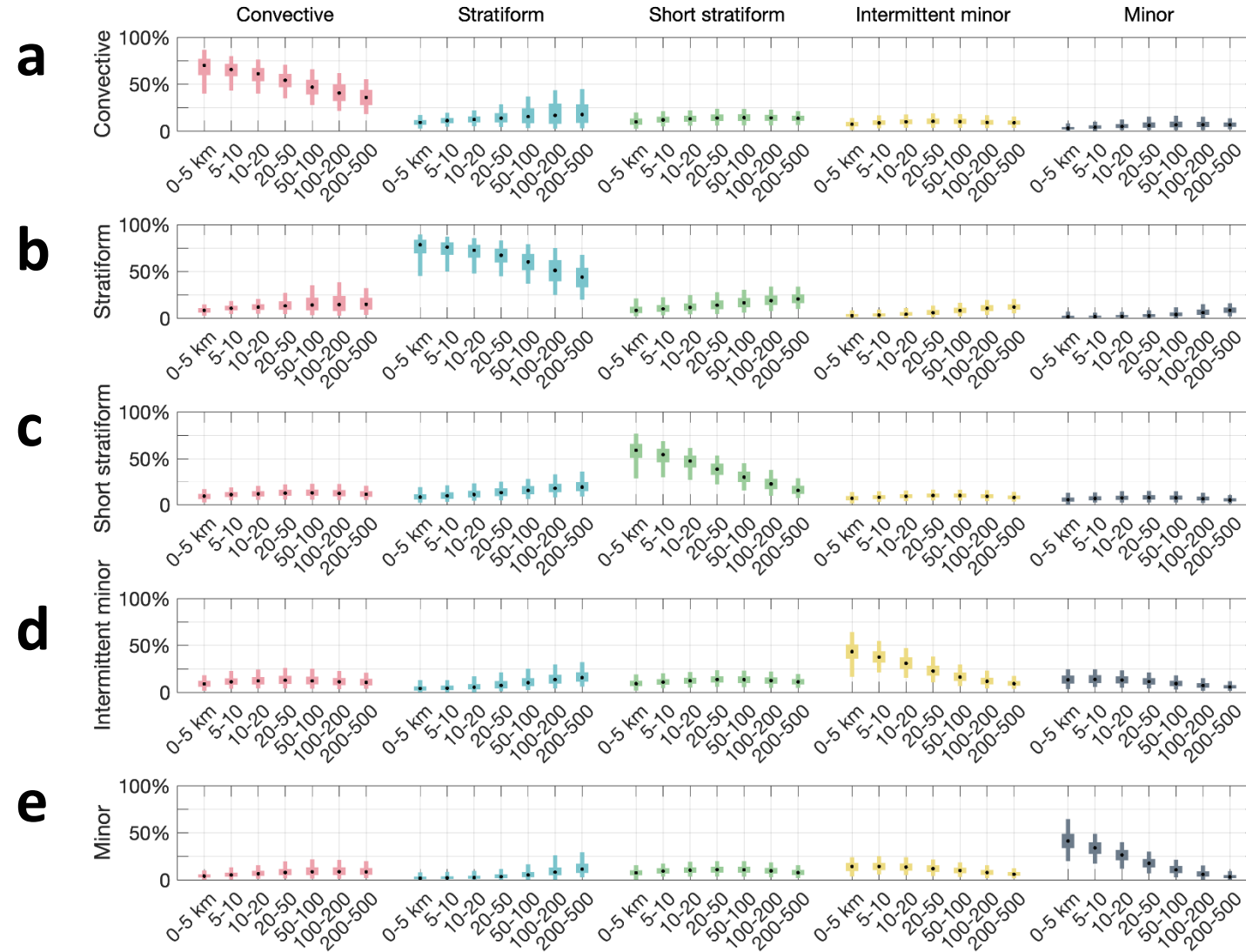
Analysis of storm types through their driving features



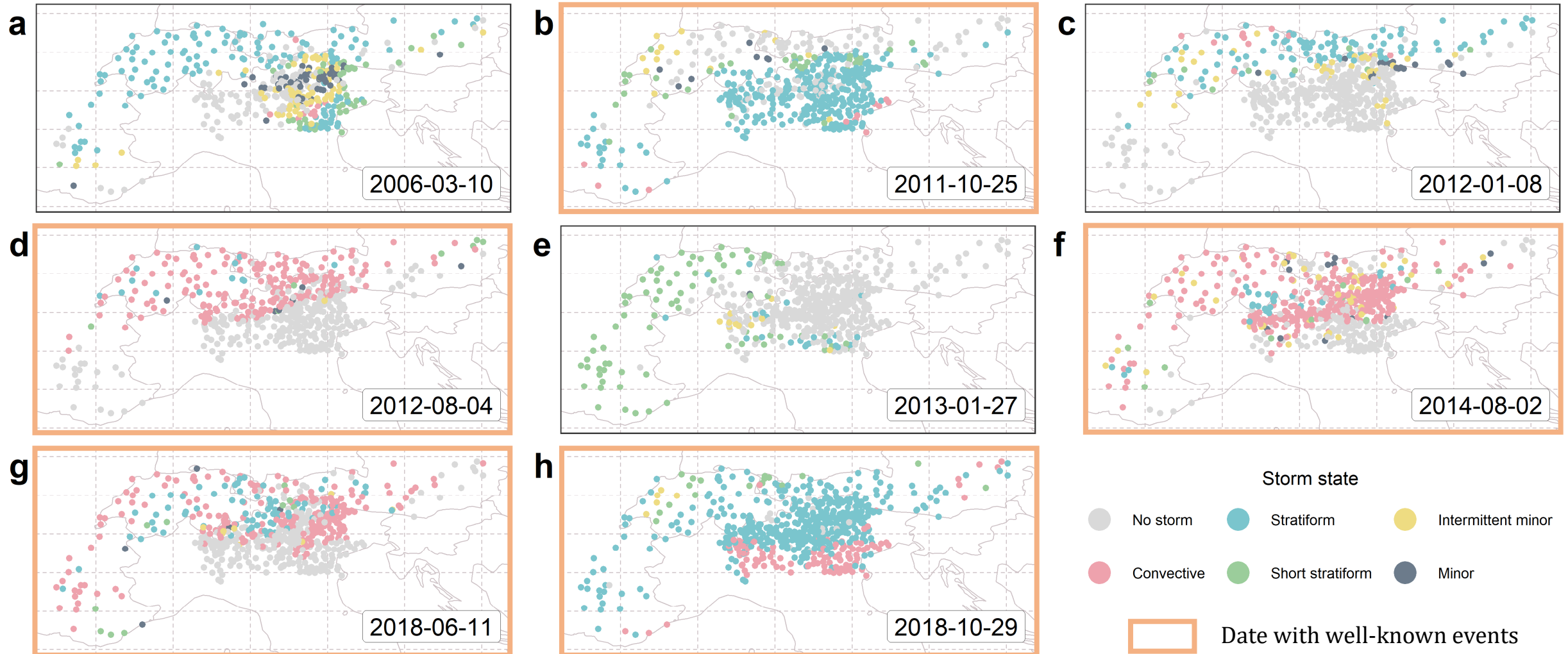
Validation using independent features



Validation through spatial clustering investigations



Well-known and random events



Proportion of the classes at each location

Percentage (%)

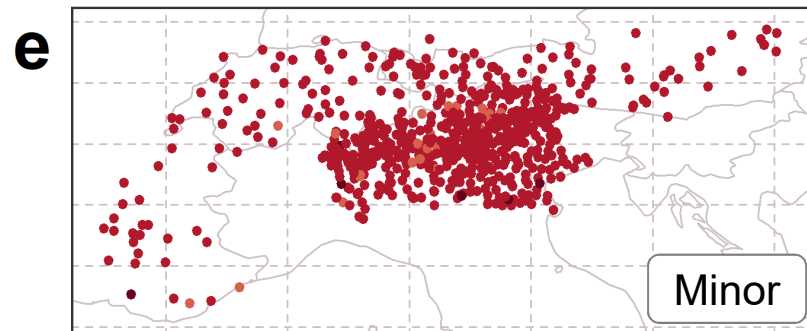
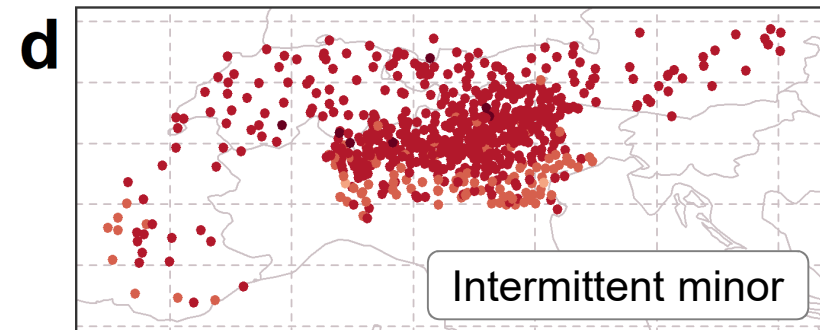
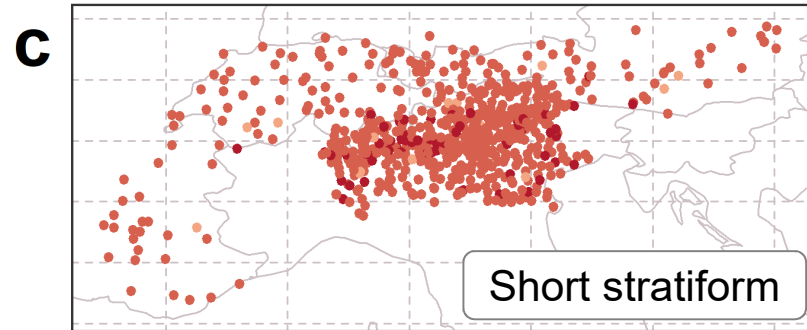
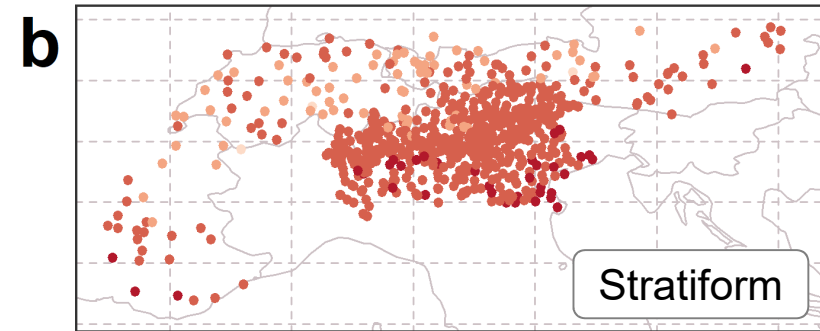
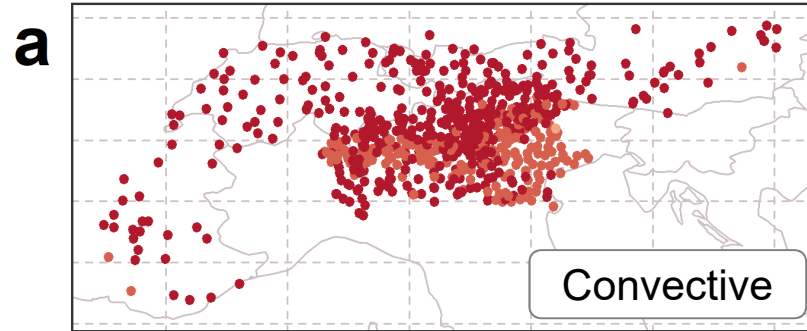
● [0,10]

● (10,20]

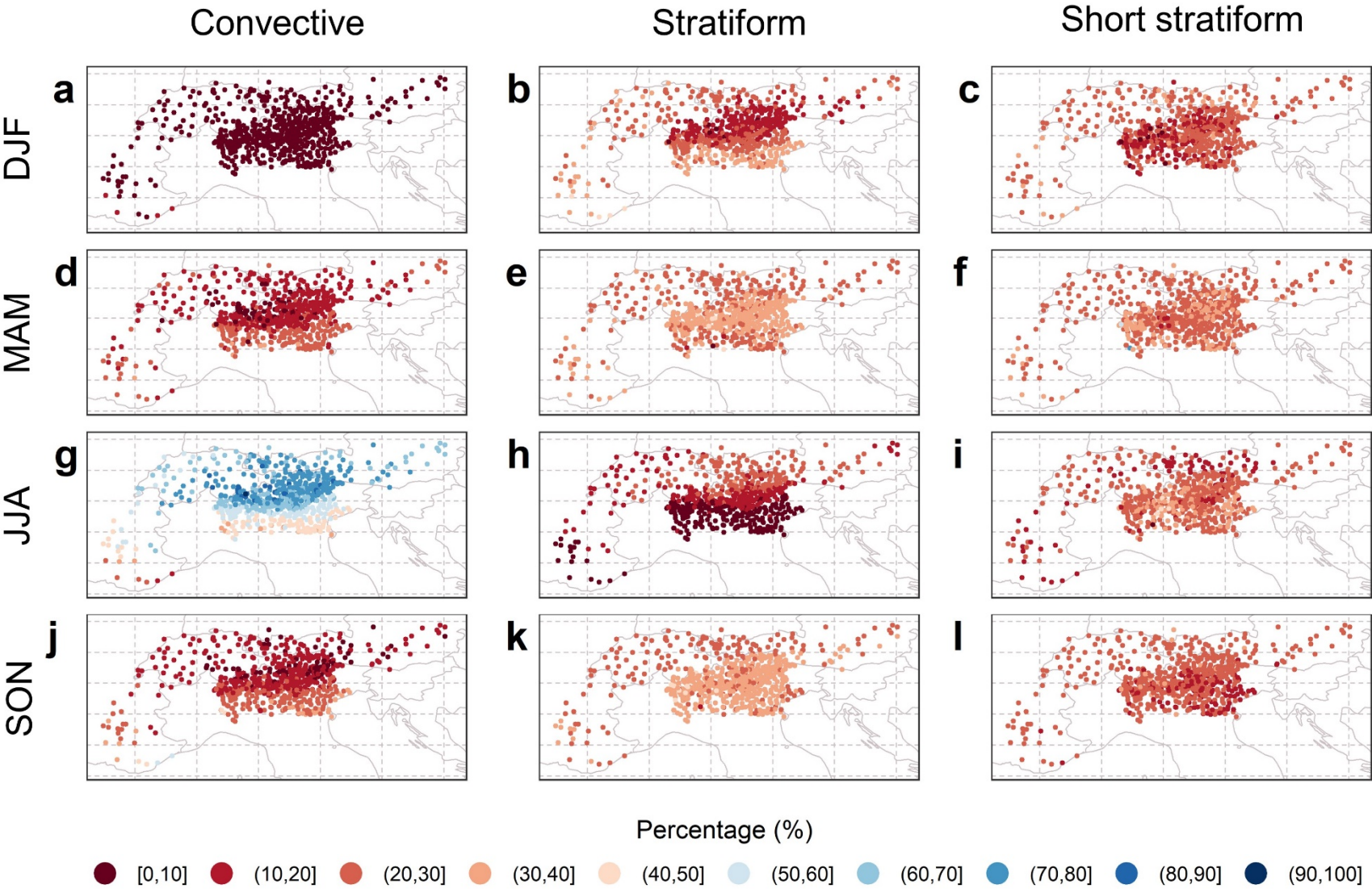
● (20,30]

● (30,40]

● (40,50]

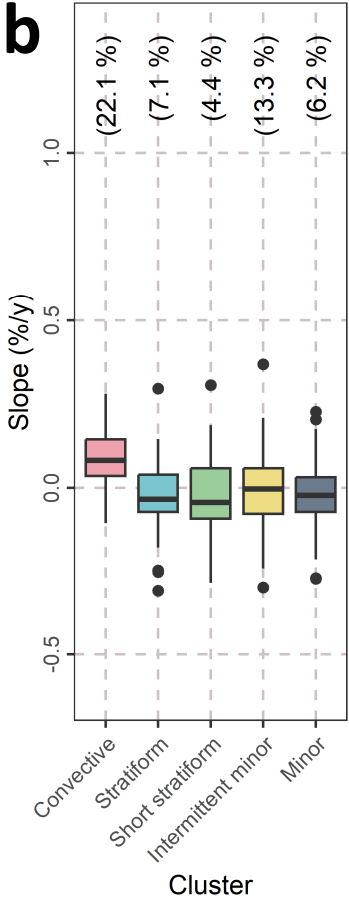
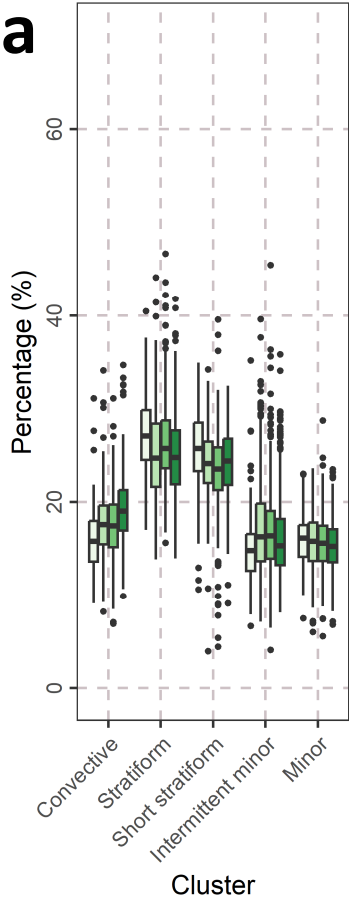


Proportion of each season in the class occurrences

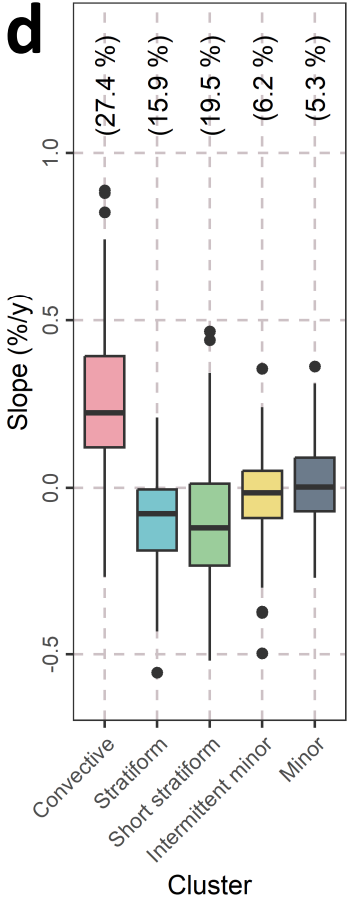
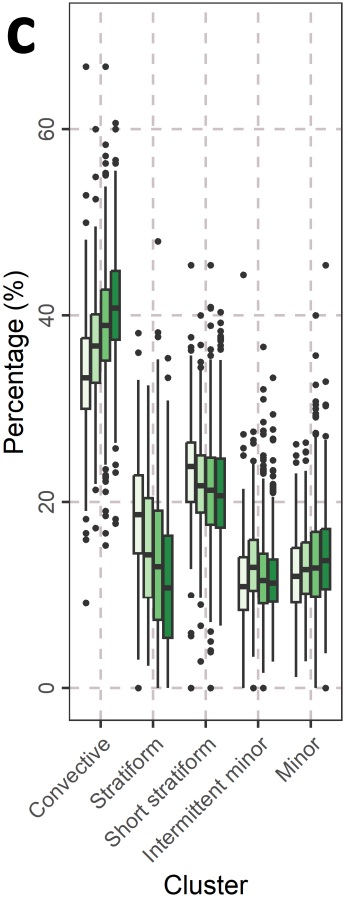


Temporal changes in the proportion of the classes

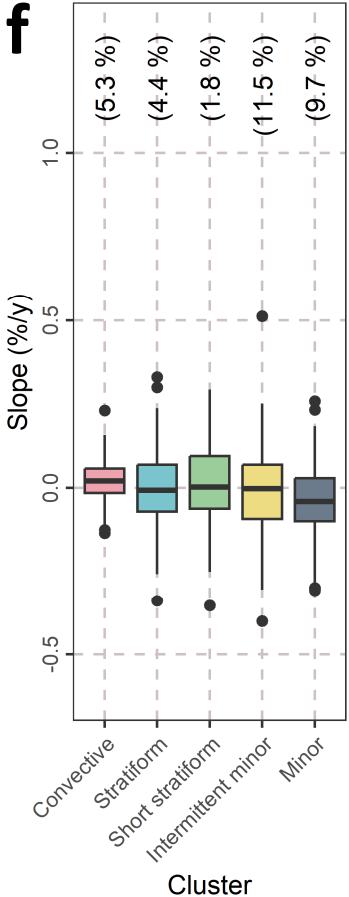
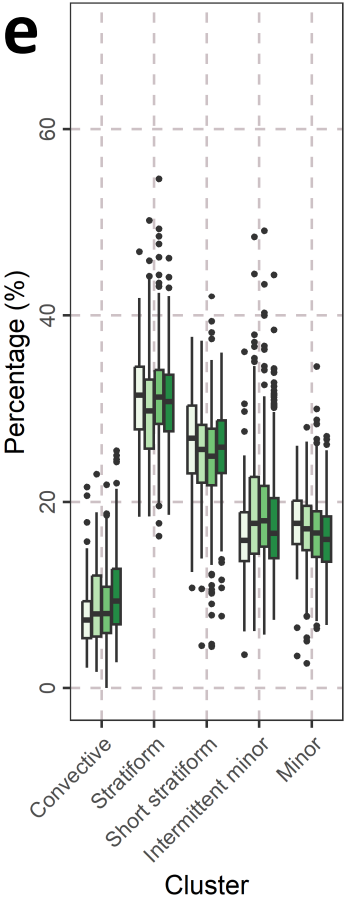
All seasons



JJA



DJF + MAM + SON

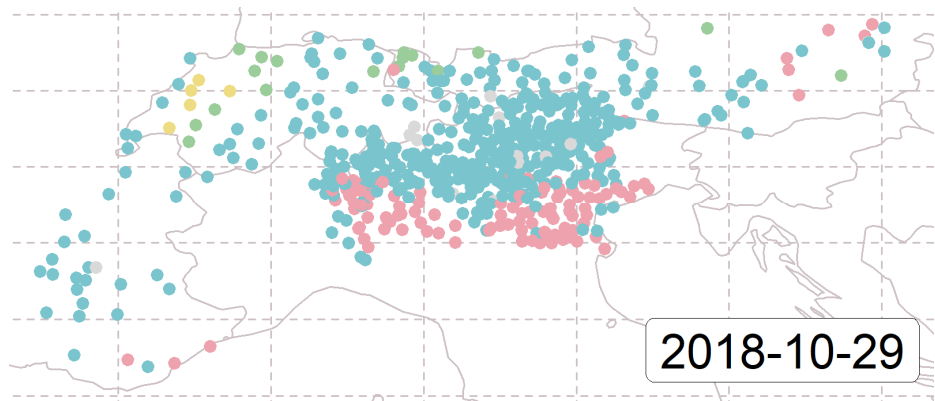


Time period

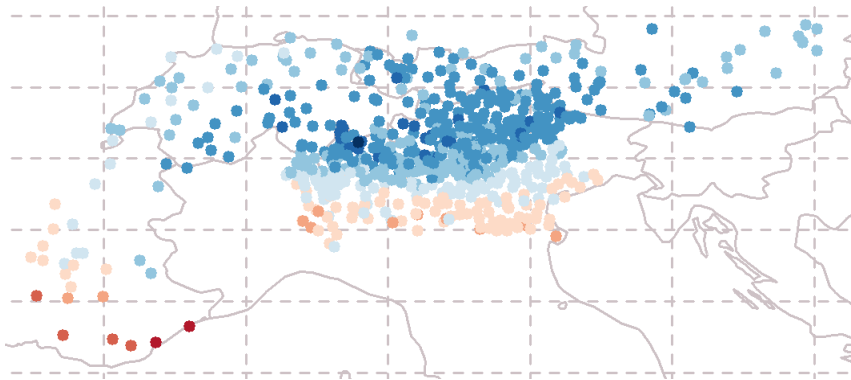
1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2023
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Conclusions

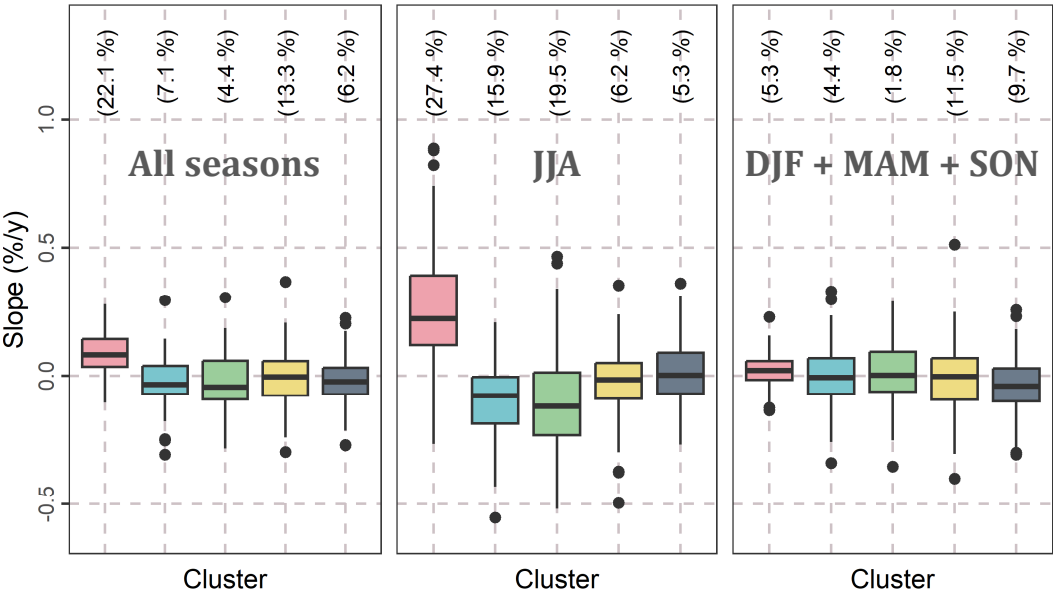
Spatial clustering characterizes the class occurrences.



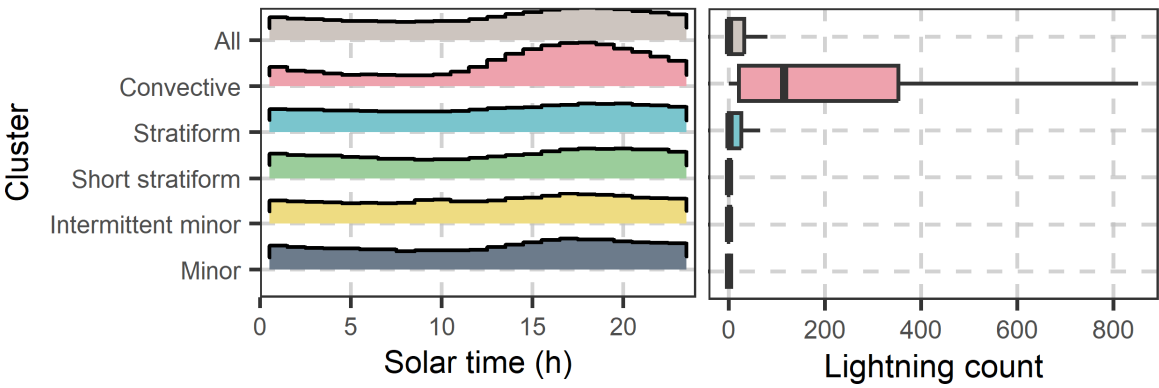
Distinct regions with consistent occurrence rates were identified for key storm classes.



The convective storms are trending upward.



The convective storms were successfully grouped together.



Coming soon

Preprint on arXiv

“Precipitation-driven typology of storms in the Alps”

Open data on Zenodo

“Precipitation-driven typology of storms in the Alps: Data”



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