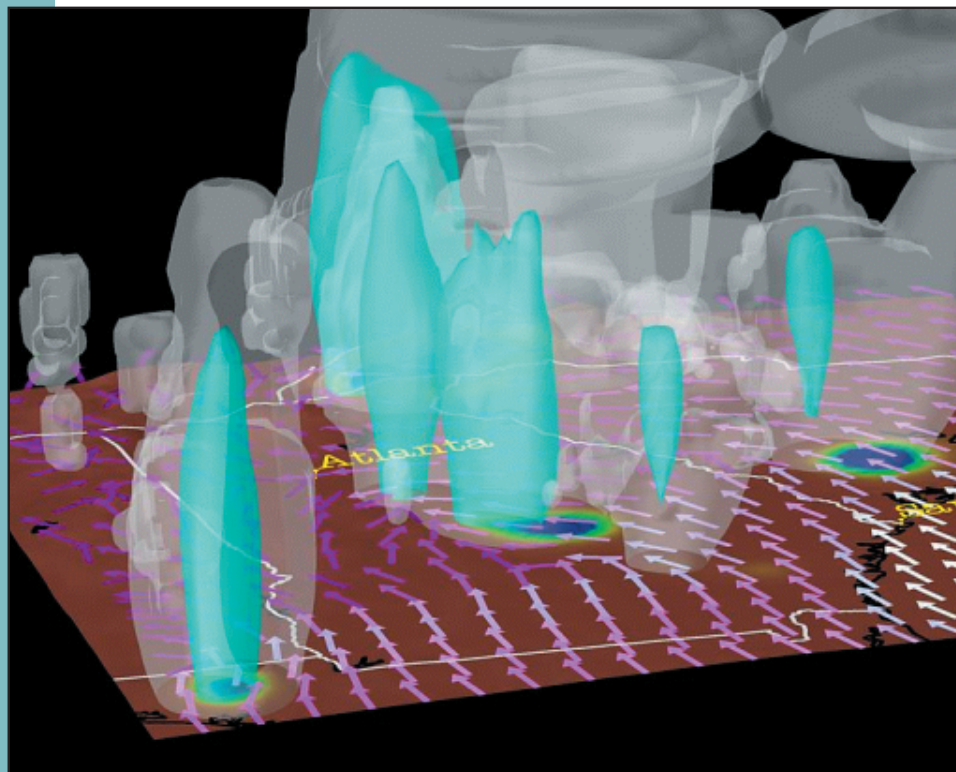


Forecasting Weather

Forecasting the weather requires enormous amounts of data and computation. In order to have an accurate model of the weather, one must know the temperature, humidity, air pressure and wind speed (among other things) at different points and elevations. Although incorrect forecasts may be more memorable, current three- to seven-day forecasts are better than 36-hour forecasts were just 20 years ago. Increases in computing power have helped improve weather forecasts, but it's the mathematics behind the models that has led to the great increase in accuracy.



Photograph courtesy of Lloyd Treinish, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center.