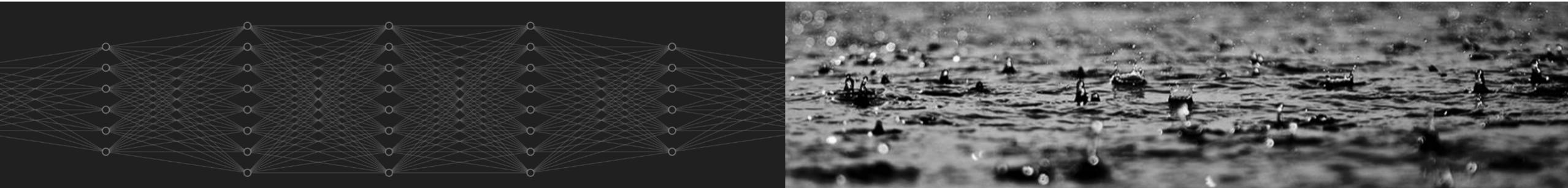


# Deep Learning for Subseasonal Global Precipitation Prediction

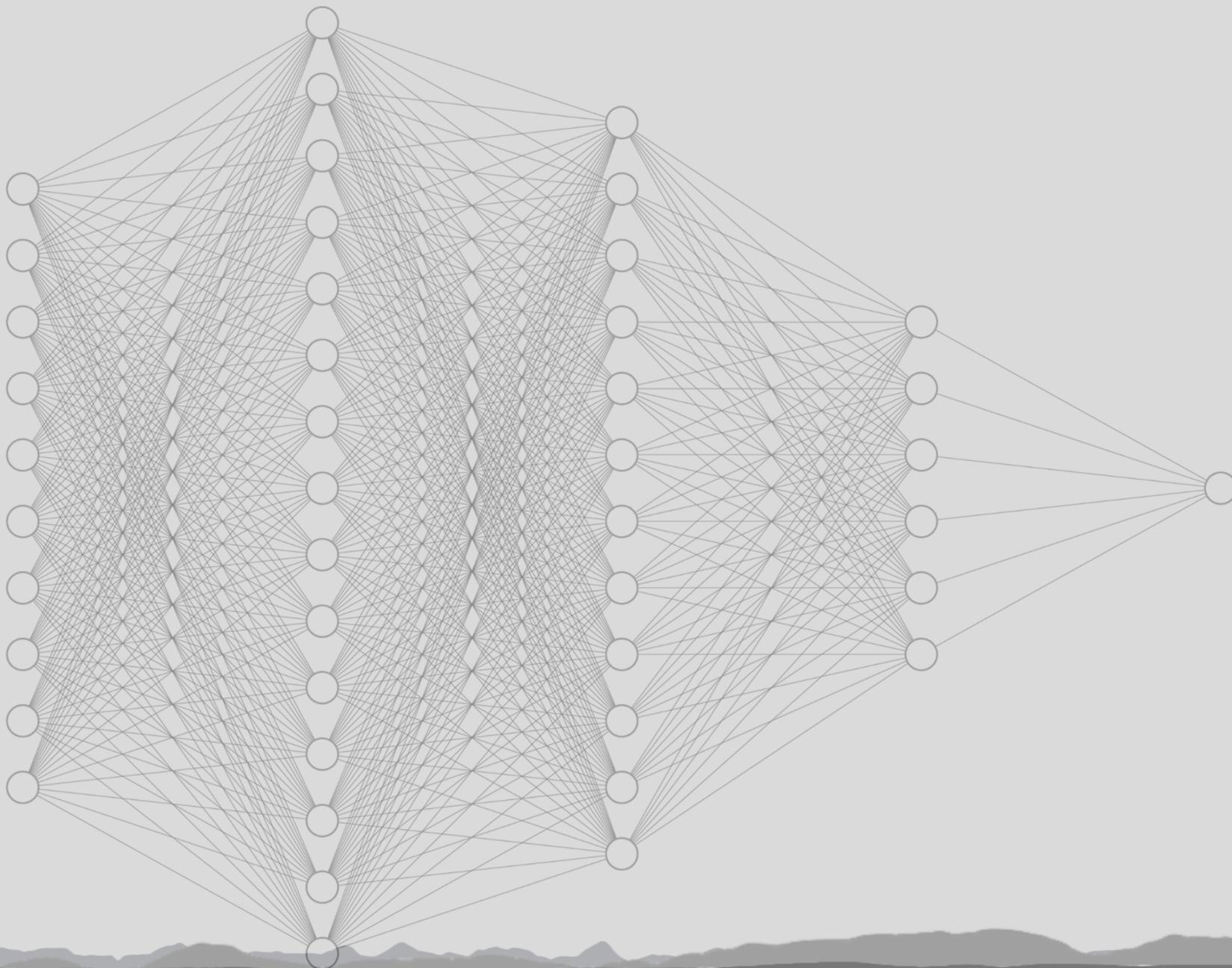


Maria J. Molina

National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado

In collaboration with Jadwiga Richter, Judith Berner, Anne Sasha Glanville, Katie Dagon,  
Abby Jaye, Aixue Hu, Gerald Meehl, and others



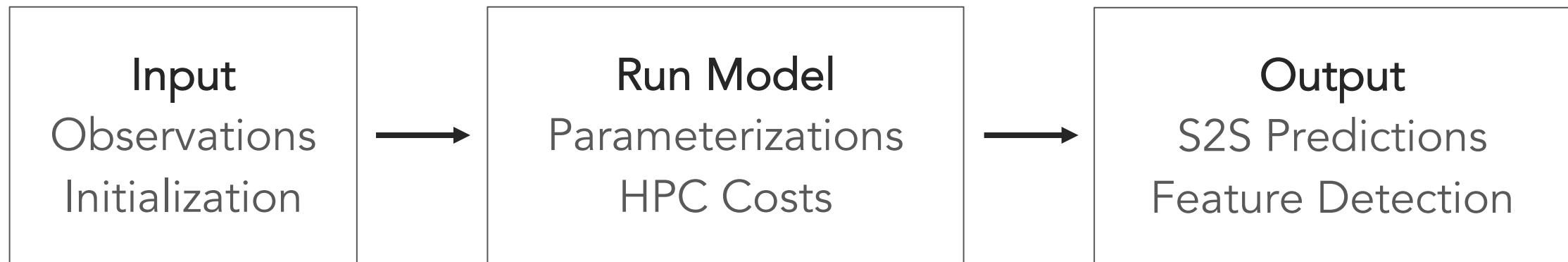


1959, ML defined

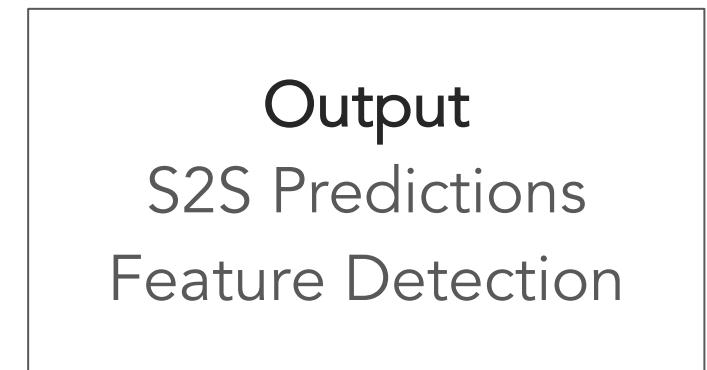
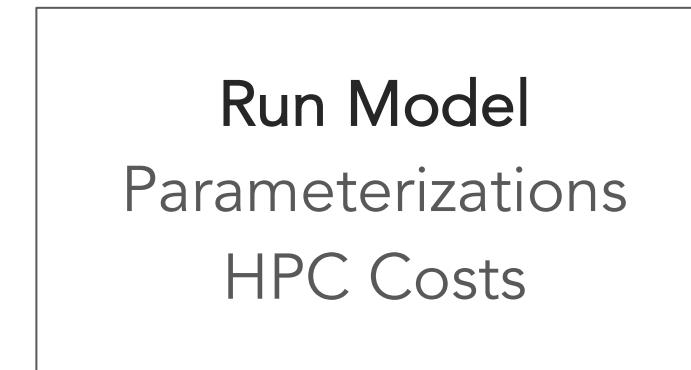
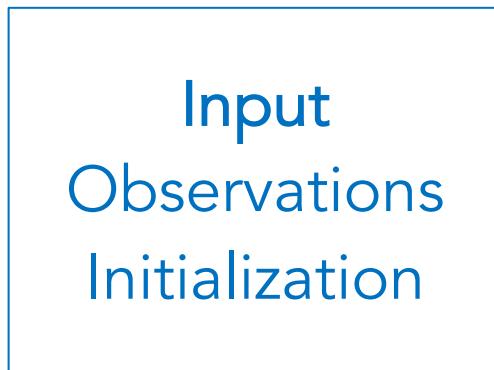
1986,  
Backpropagation

Since 1990s,  
GPUs  
ImageNet  
DL advances

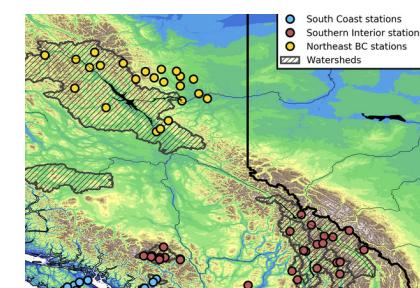
# Where does machine learning fit in Earth system modeling?



# Where does machine learning fit in Earth system modeling?



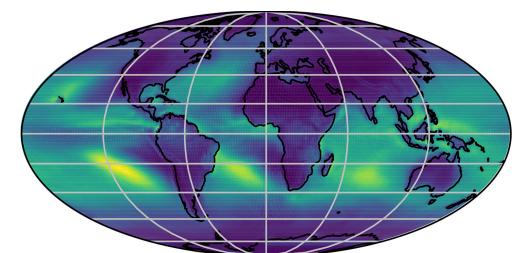
Sha, Y., Gagne, D.J., West, G. and Stull, R., 2021. **Deep-learning-based precipitation observation quality control.** Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology.



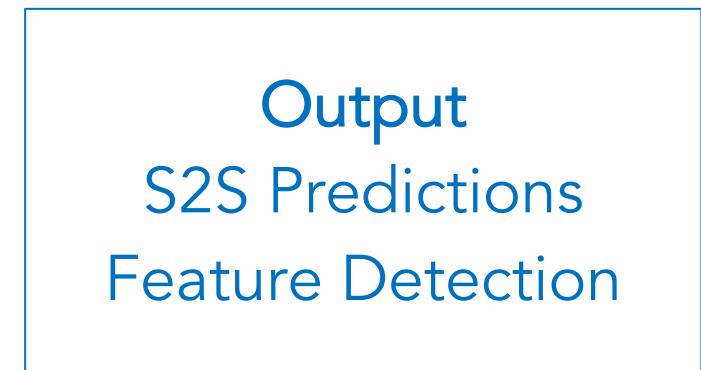
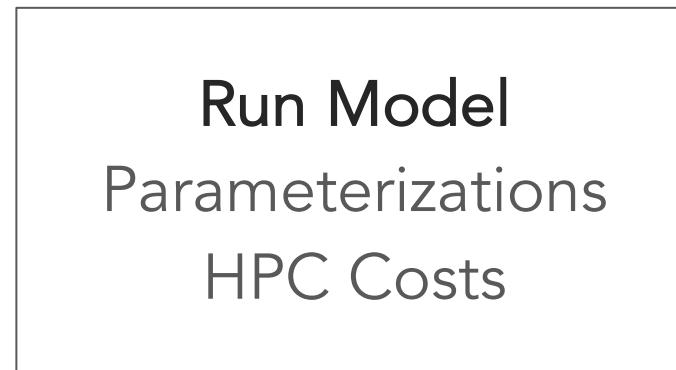
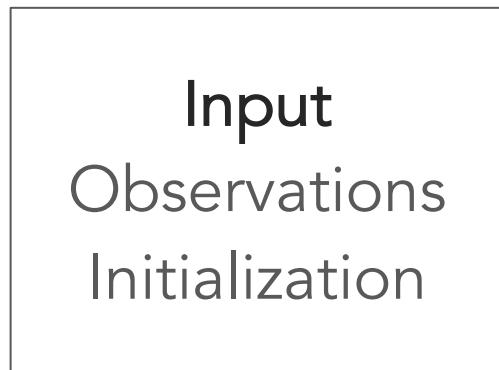
# Where does machine learning fit in Earth system modeling?



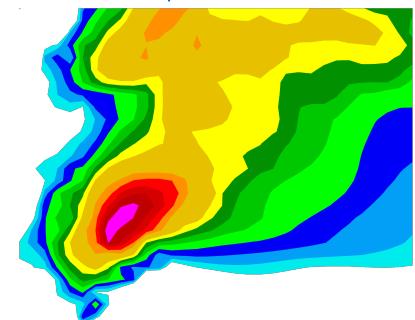
Gettelman, A., Gagne, D.J., Chen, C.C., Christensen, M.W., Lebo, Z.J., Morrison, H. and Gantos, G., 2021. **Machine learning the warm rain process.** Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems.



# Where does machine learning fit in Earth system modeling?



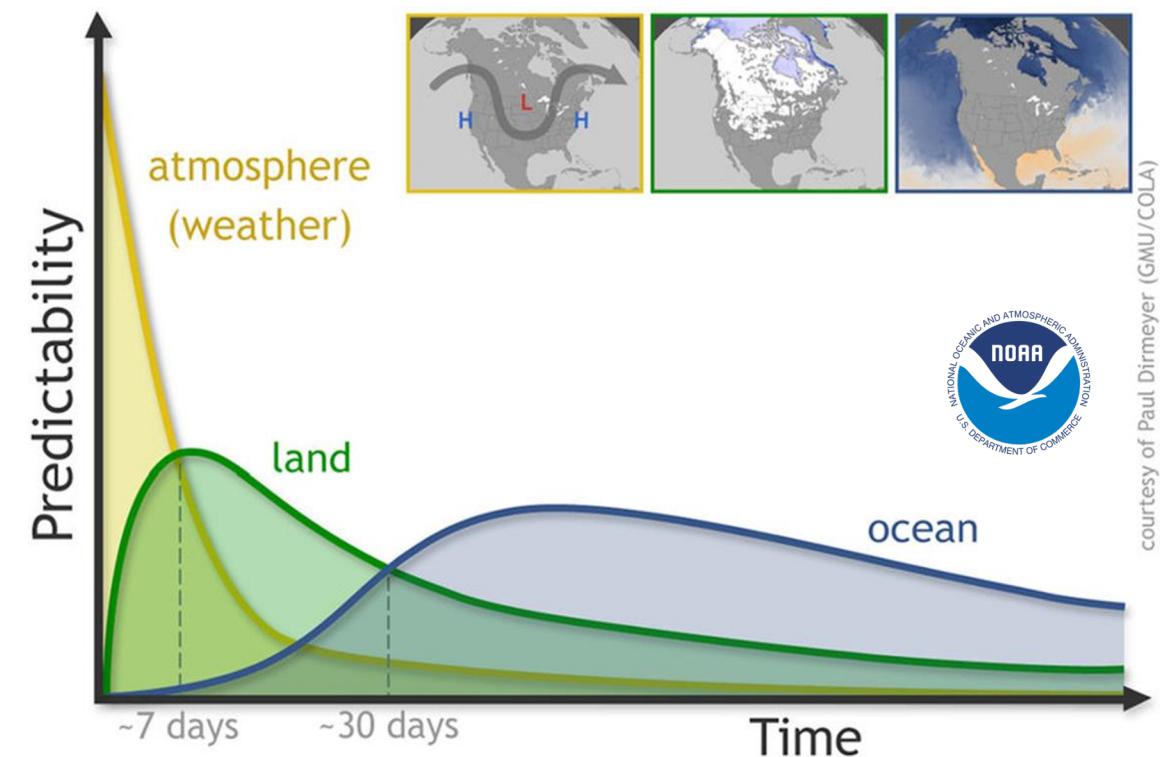
Molina, M.J., Gagne, D.J., Prein, A.F., 2021. **A benchmark to test generalization capabilities of deep learning methods to classify severe convective storms in a changing climate.** Earth and Space Science.



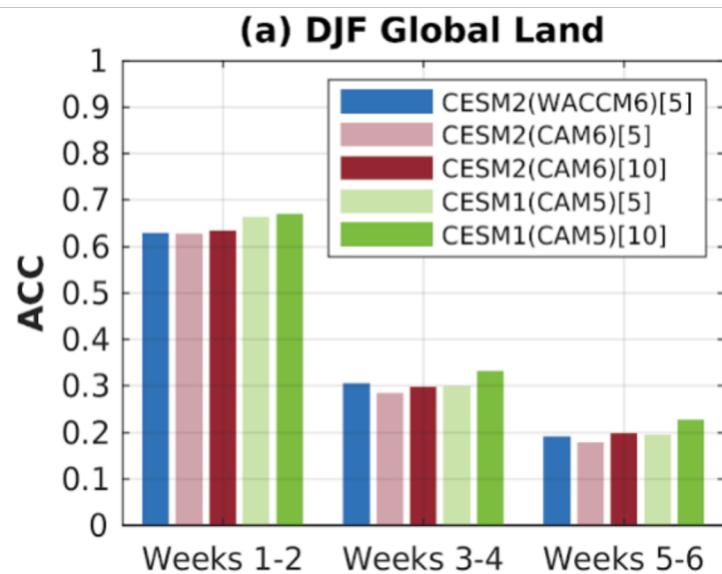
S2S simulations created using CESM2  
(Richter et al. 2021; under review).

Subseasonal reforecasts follow SubX  
protocol (Pegion et al. 2019).

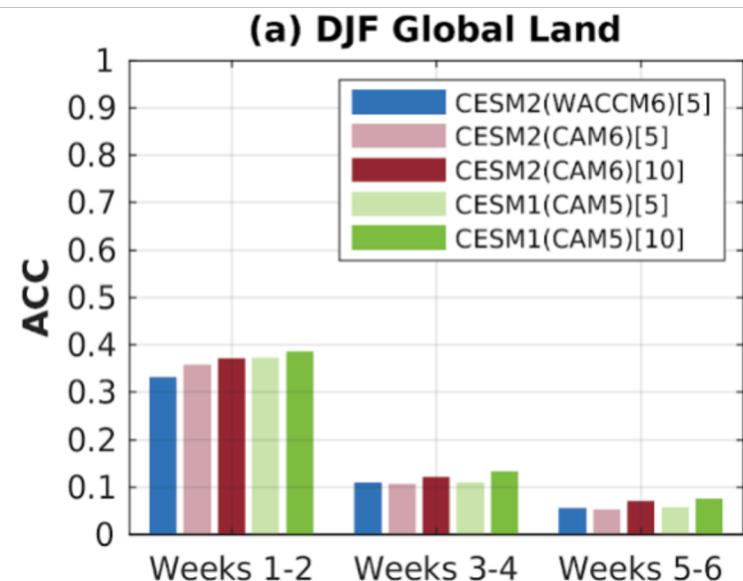
Near real-time forecasts are ongoing  
and contribute to the SubX multi-  
model mean ensemble.



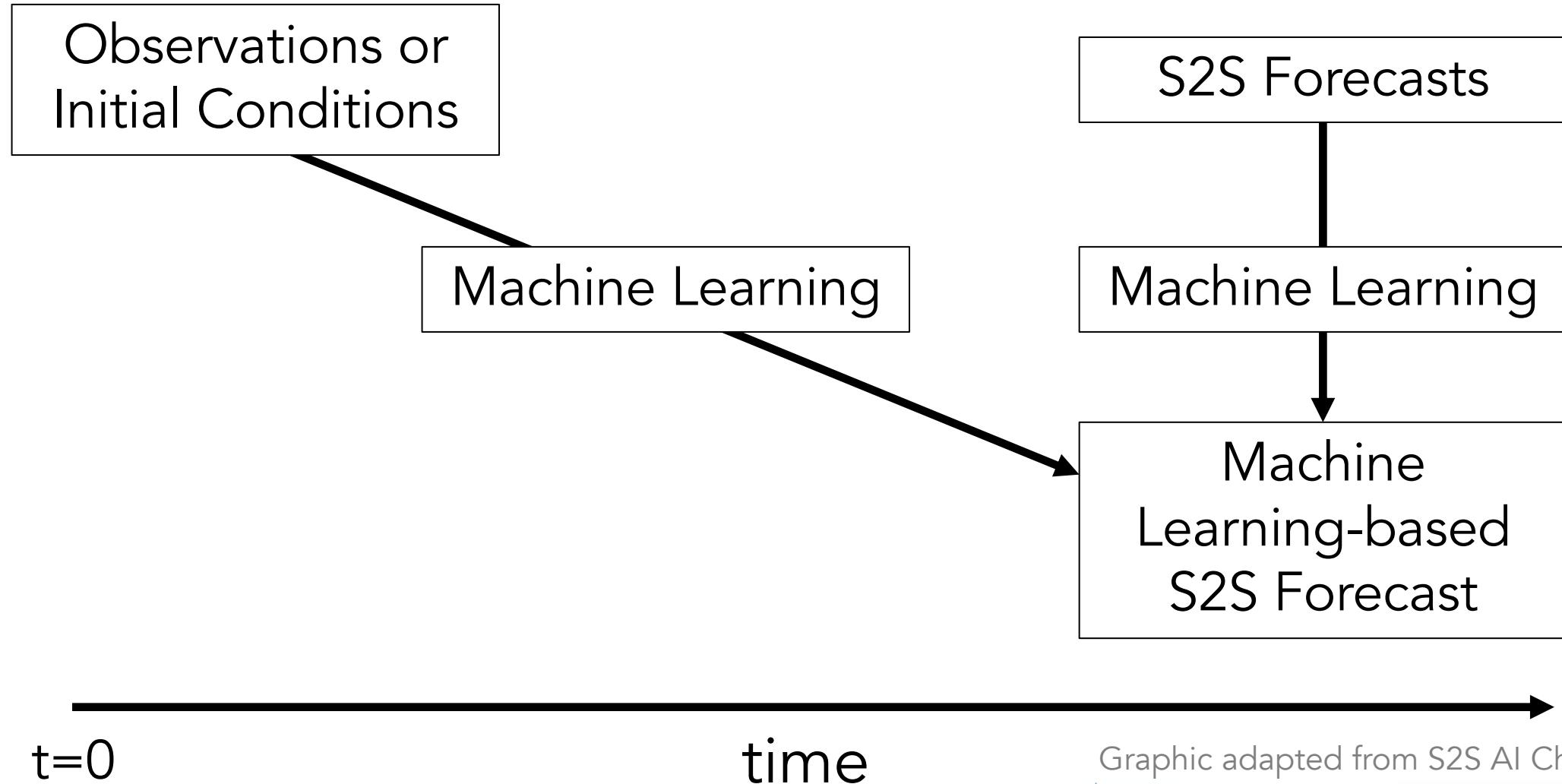
# Temperature skill



# Precipitation skill



(Richter et al. 2021; under review)



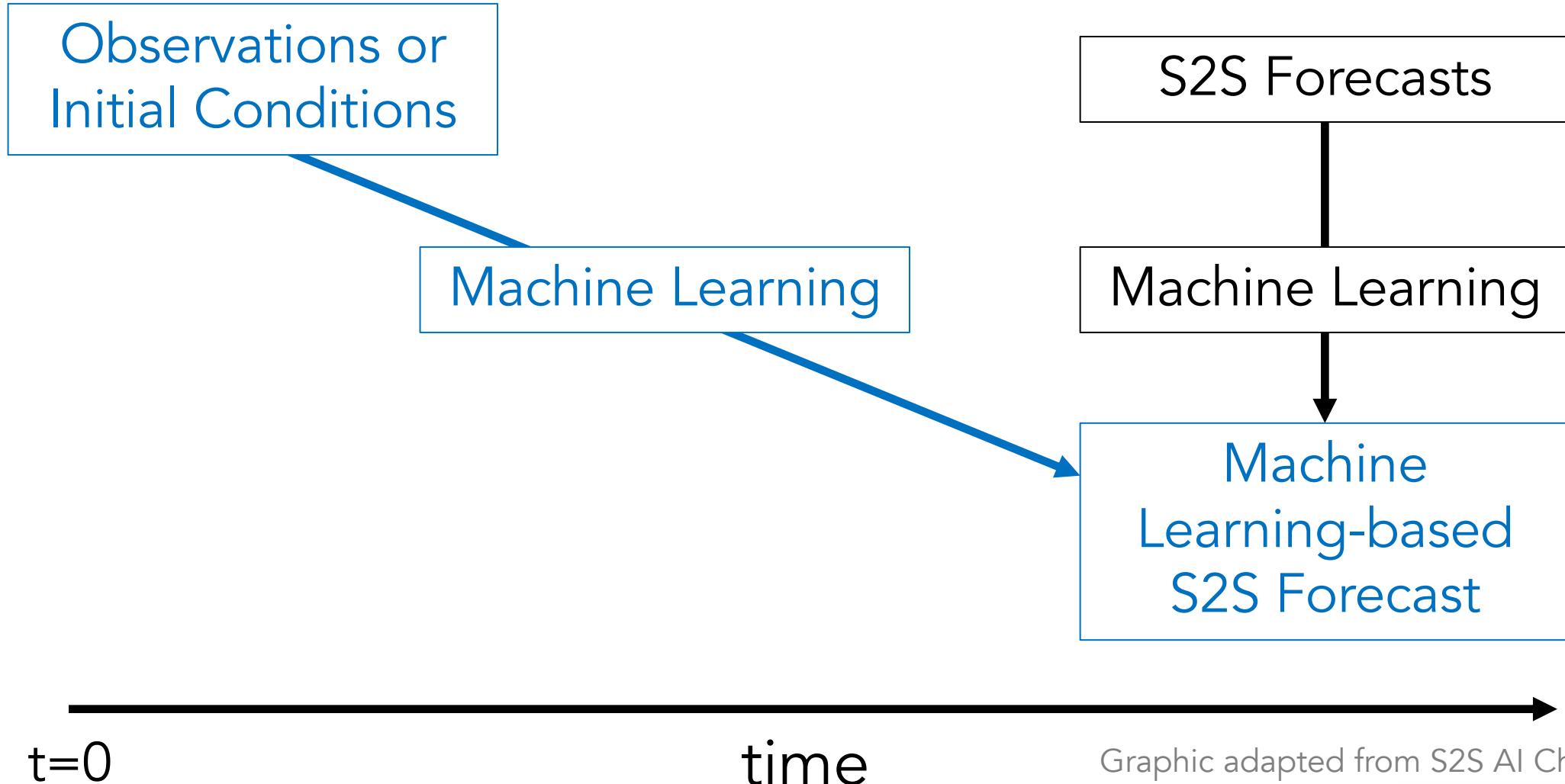
$t=0$

time

(Pegion et al. 2019, Merryfield et al. 2020, Barnes et al. 2020, Meehl et al. 2021)

Graphic adapted from S2S AI Challenge 2021





(Pegion et al. 2019, Merryfield et al. 2020, Barnes et al. 2020, Meehl et al. 2021)



Observations or  
Initial Conditions

S2S Forecasts

Machine Learning

Machine Learning

Vigaud, et al. 2018. Predictability of recurrent weather regimes over North America during winter from submonthly reforecasts. *MWR*.

Robertson, et al. 2020. Toward Identifying Subseasonal Forecasts of Opportunity Using North American Weather Regimes. *MWR*.

t=0

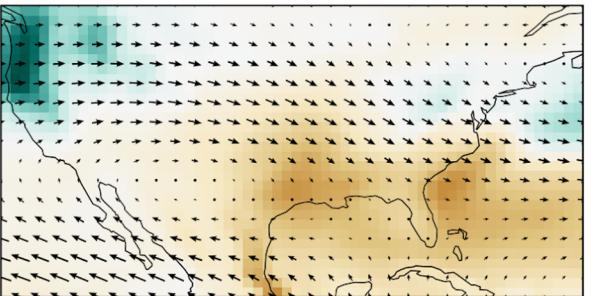
time

(Pegion et al. 2019, Merryfield et al. 2020, Barnes et al. 2020, Meehl et al. 2021)

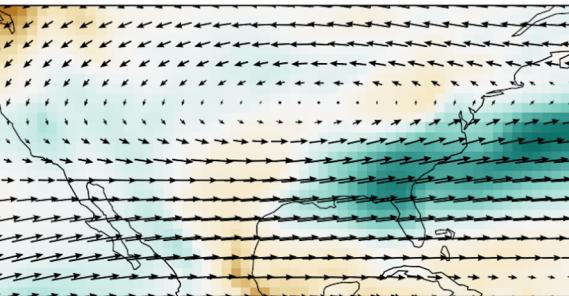


Graphic adapted from S2S AI Challenge 2021

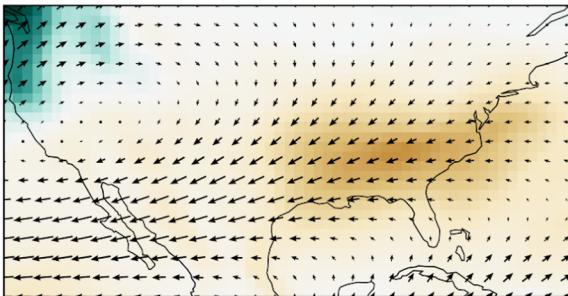
Sample size: 56.0



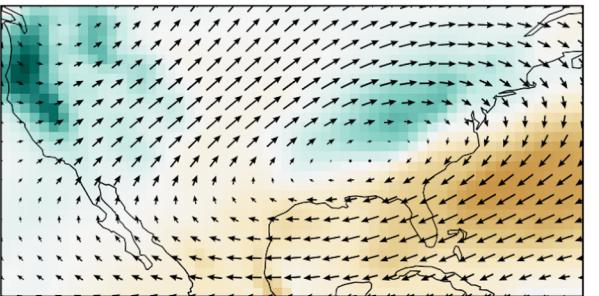
Sample size: 25.0



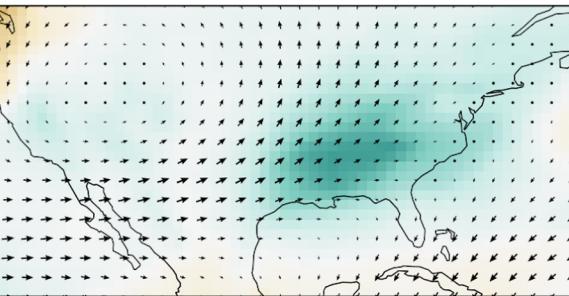
Sample size: 75.0



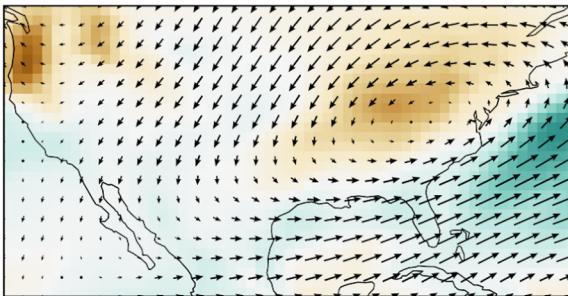
Sample size: 50.0



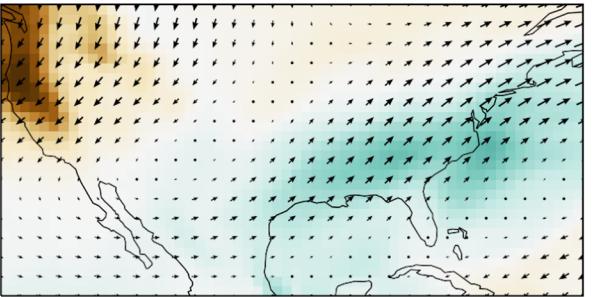
Sample size: 70.0



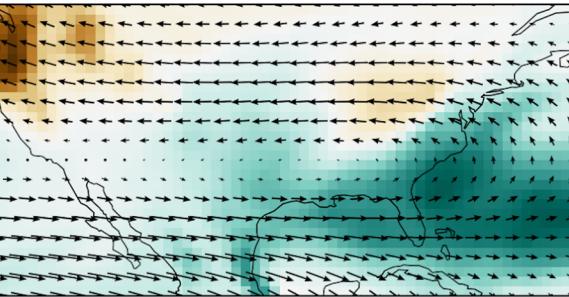
Sample size: 43.0



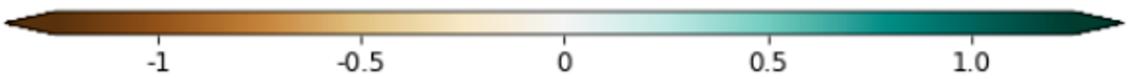
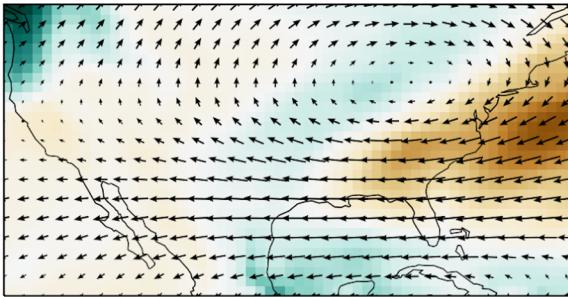
Sample size: 54.0



Sample size: 33.0

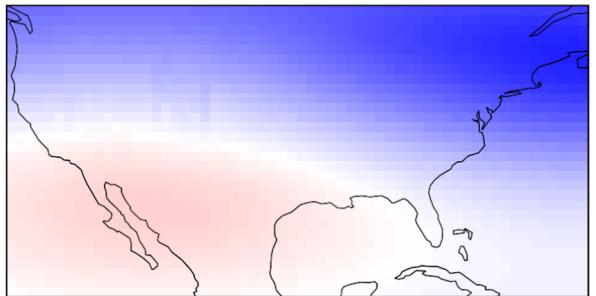


Sample size: 47.0

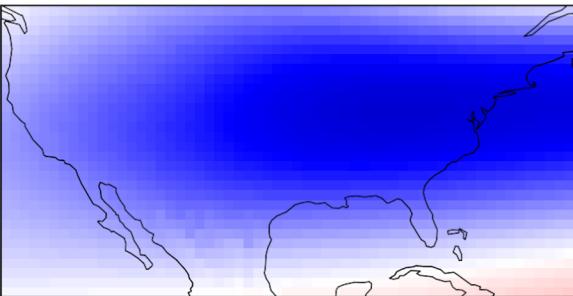


Weeks 3-4 mean total precipitation  
anomaly (mm/day)

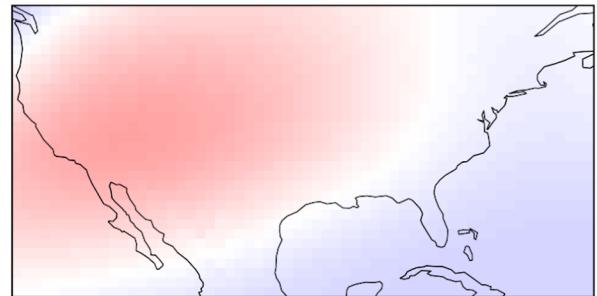
Sample size: 56



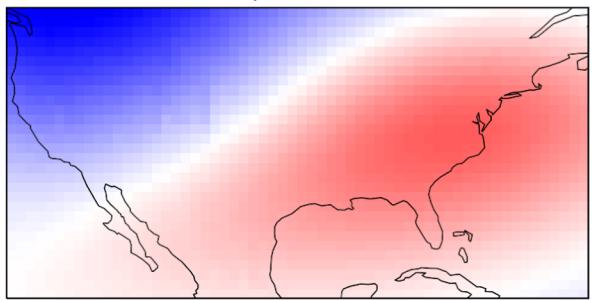
Sample size: 25



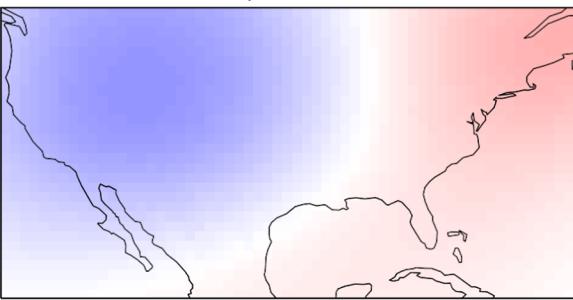
Sample size: 75



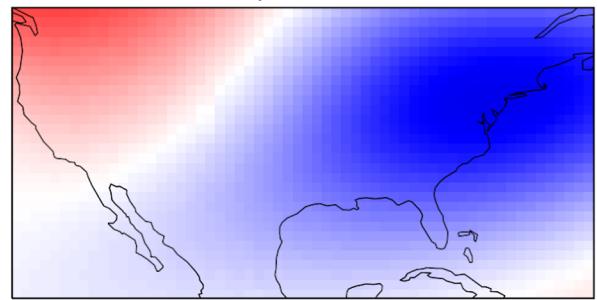
Sample size: 50



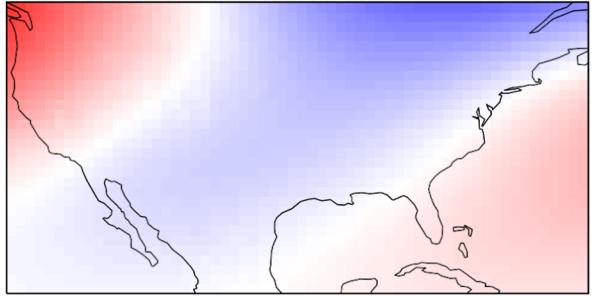
Sample size: 70



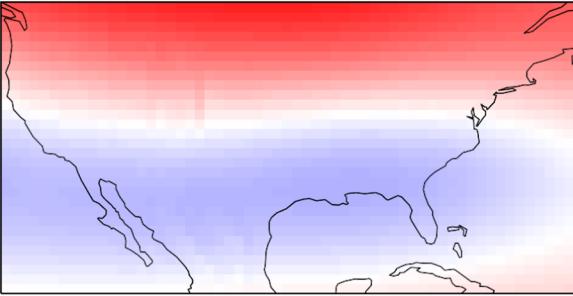
Sample size: 43



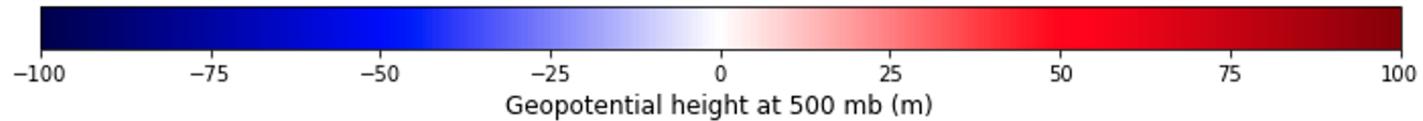
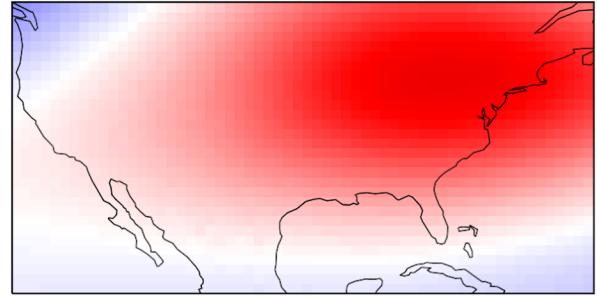
Sample size: 54



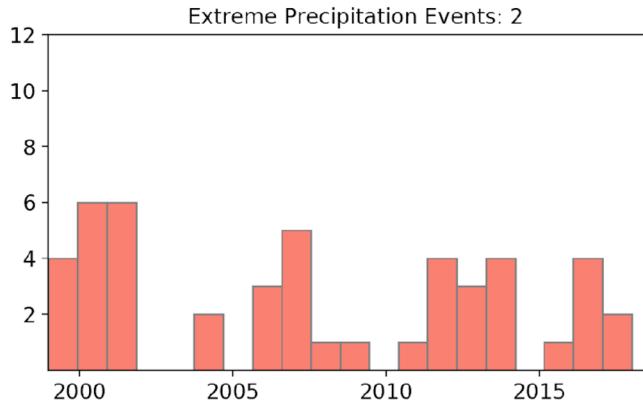
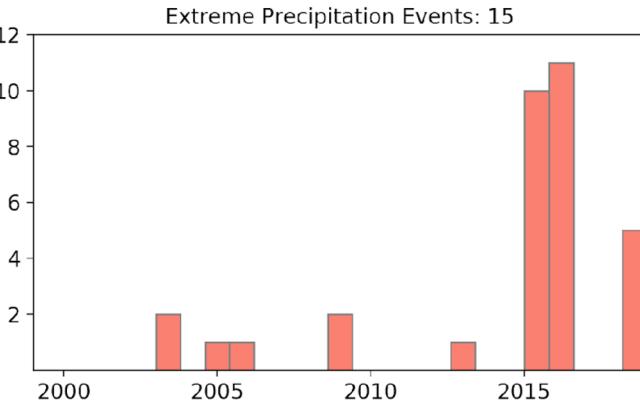
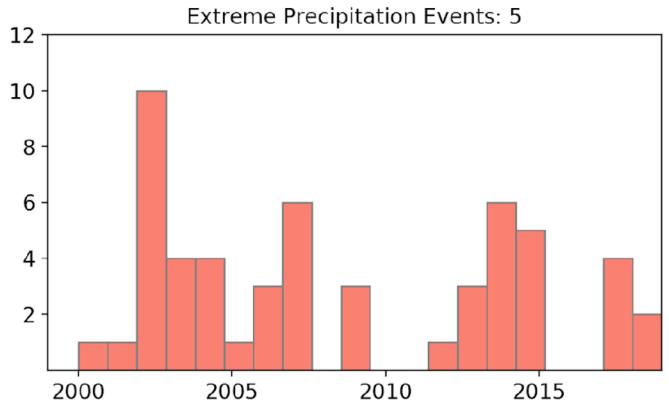
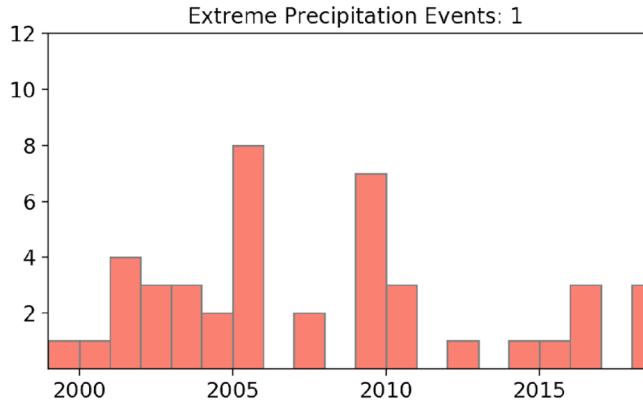
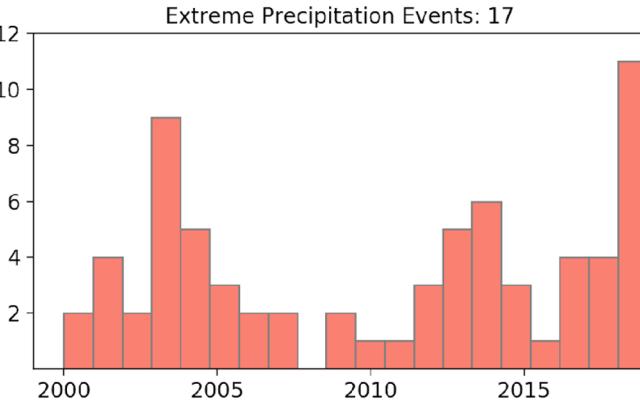
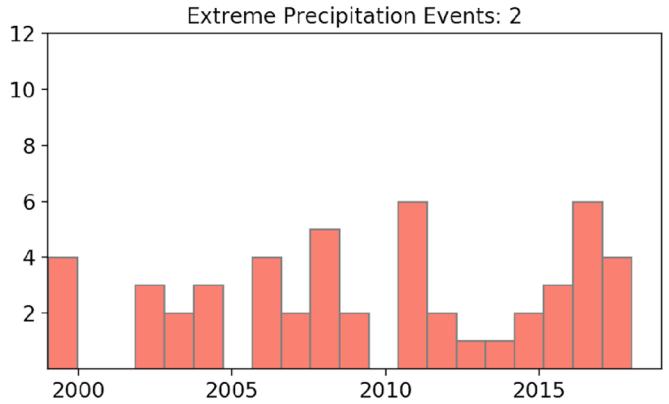
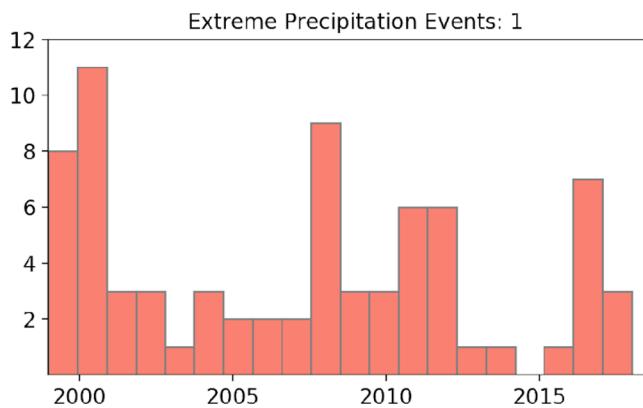
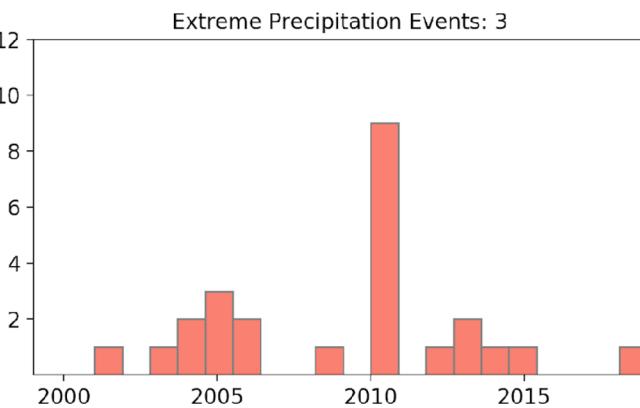
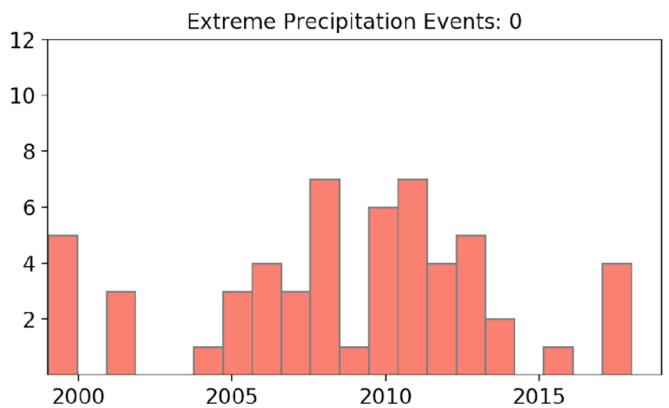
Sample size: 33

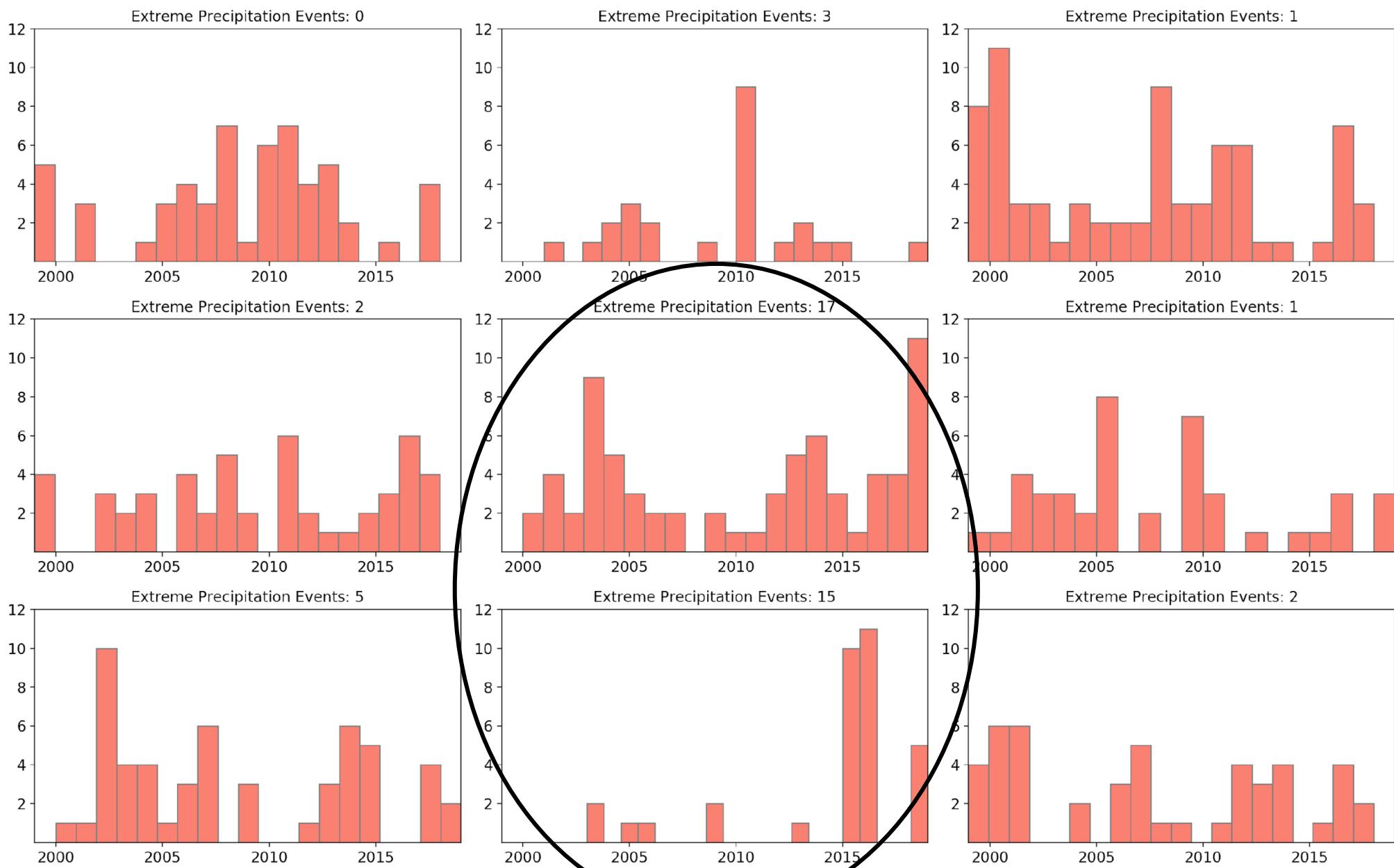


Sample size: 47



Weeks 3-4 mean 500-hPa  
geopotential height anomaly (m)

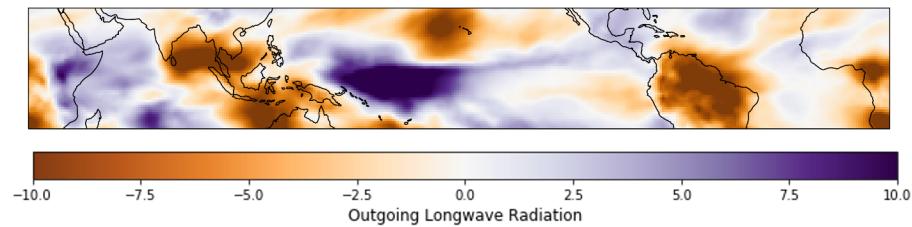




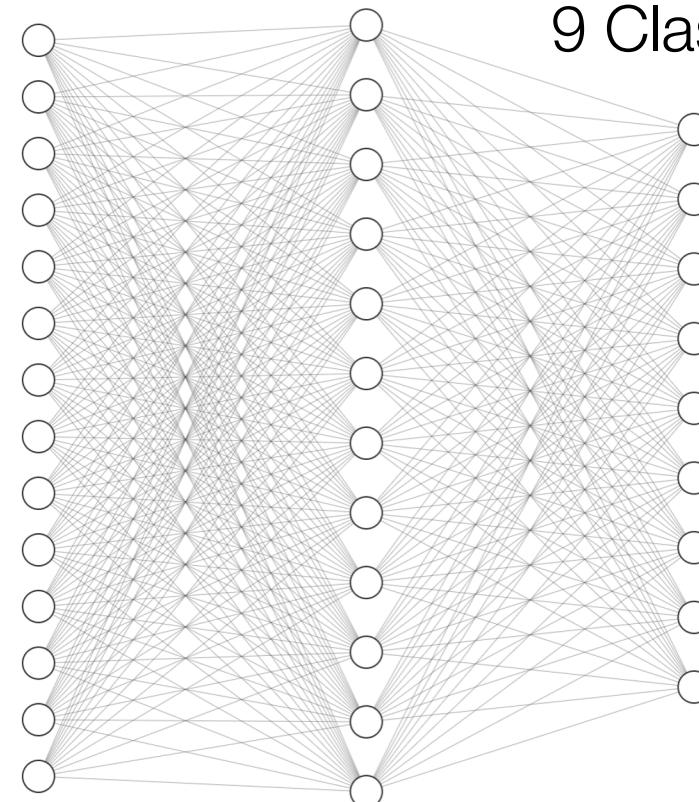
Molina et al. (in prep.)

Neurons: 256, 128

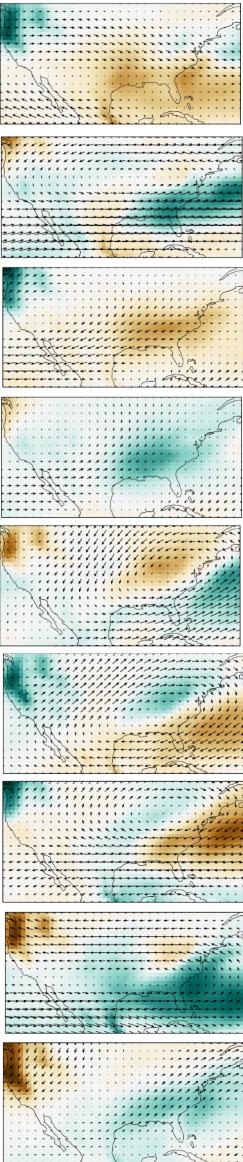
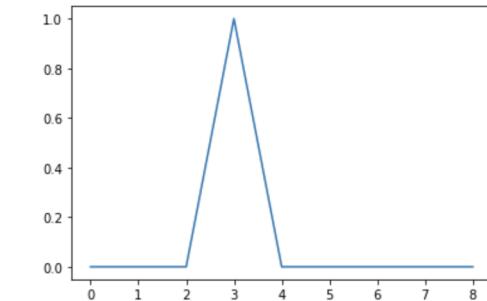
51 x 116



OLR



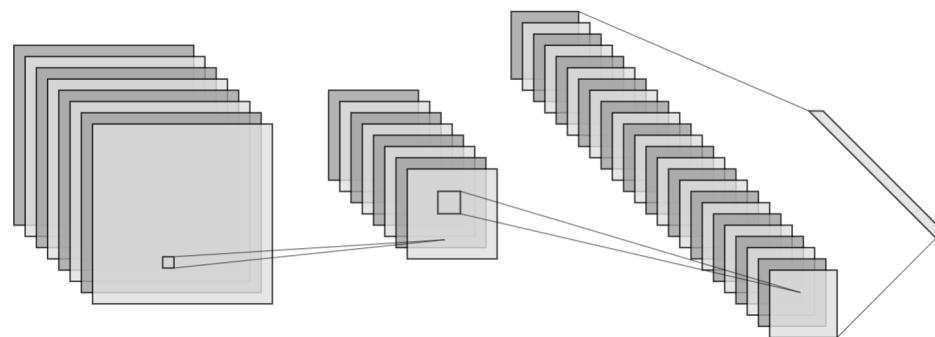
9 Classes



Molina et al. (in prep.)

## Step 1: Train ML

- Physically relevant upstream fields (SSTs, OLR).



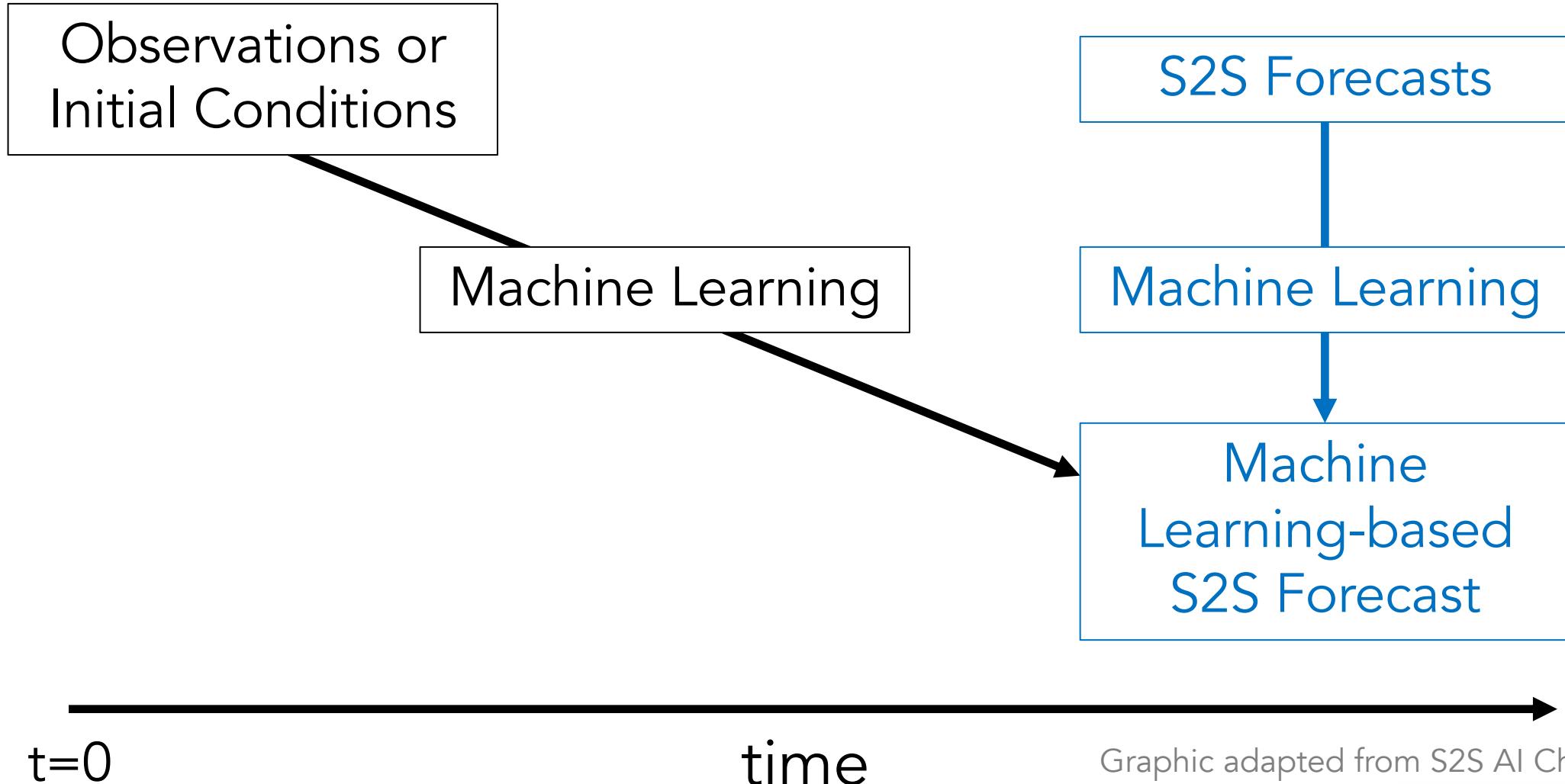
## S2S/S2D Prediction

- Modes of variability (MJO, ENSO).
- Impacts (temperature, precipitation).

## Step 2: Explainable AI



Generate heatmaps (saliency maps, LRP) using input fields (e.g., Barnes et al. 2020).



$t=0$

time

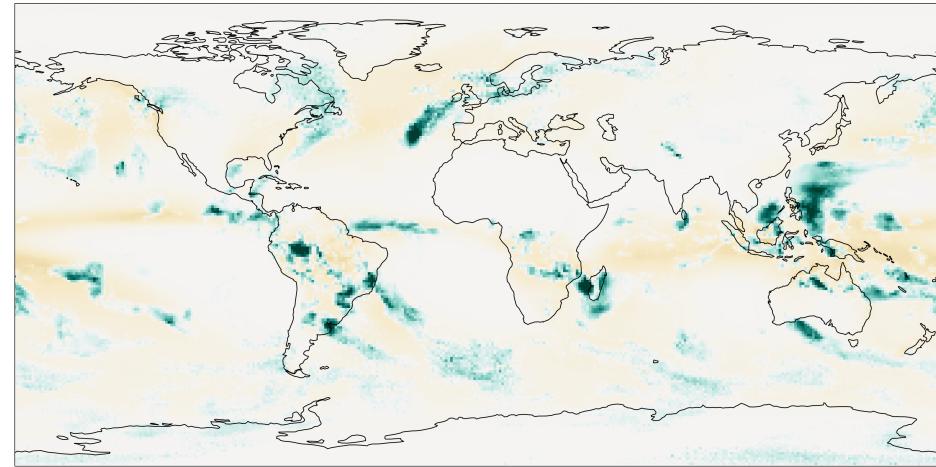
(Pegion et al. 2019, Merryfield et al. 2020, Barnes et al. 2020, Meehl et al. 2021)

Graphic adapted from S2S AI Challenge 2021



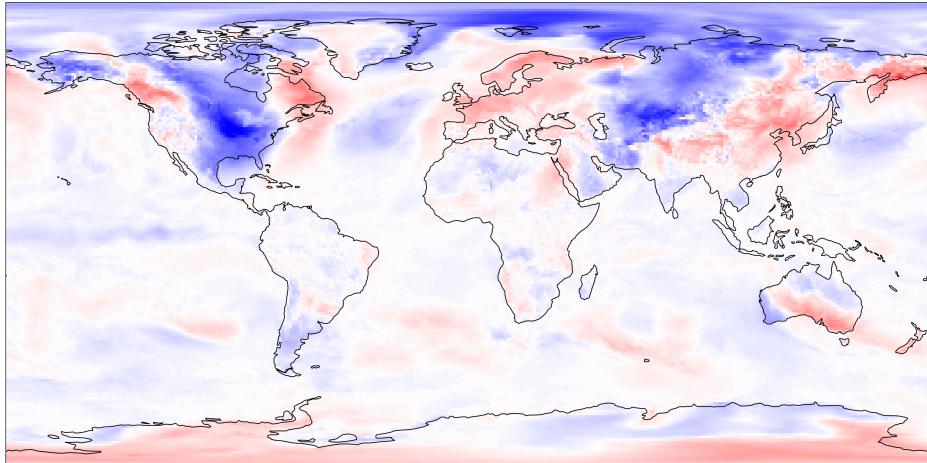
# Climatology and lead time bias corrected anomalies

NOAA Global Precipitation Climatology Project  
(GPCP) Climate Data Record (CDR), Daily V1.3  
(1999-2020).



(Adler et al. 2017)

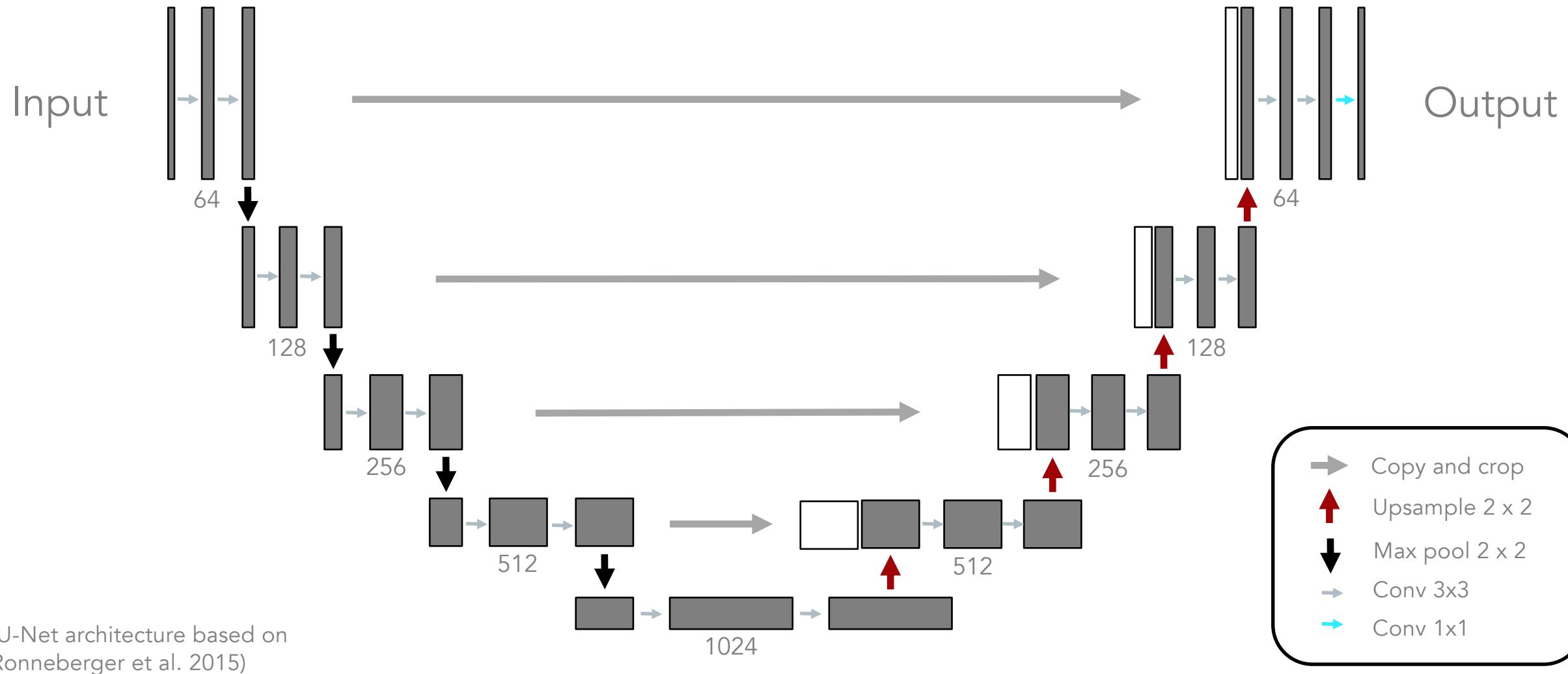
# Climatology and lead time bias corrected anomalies



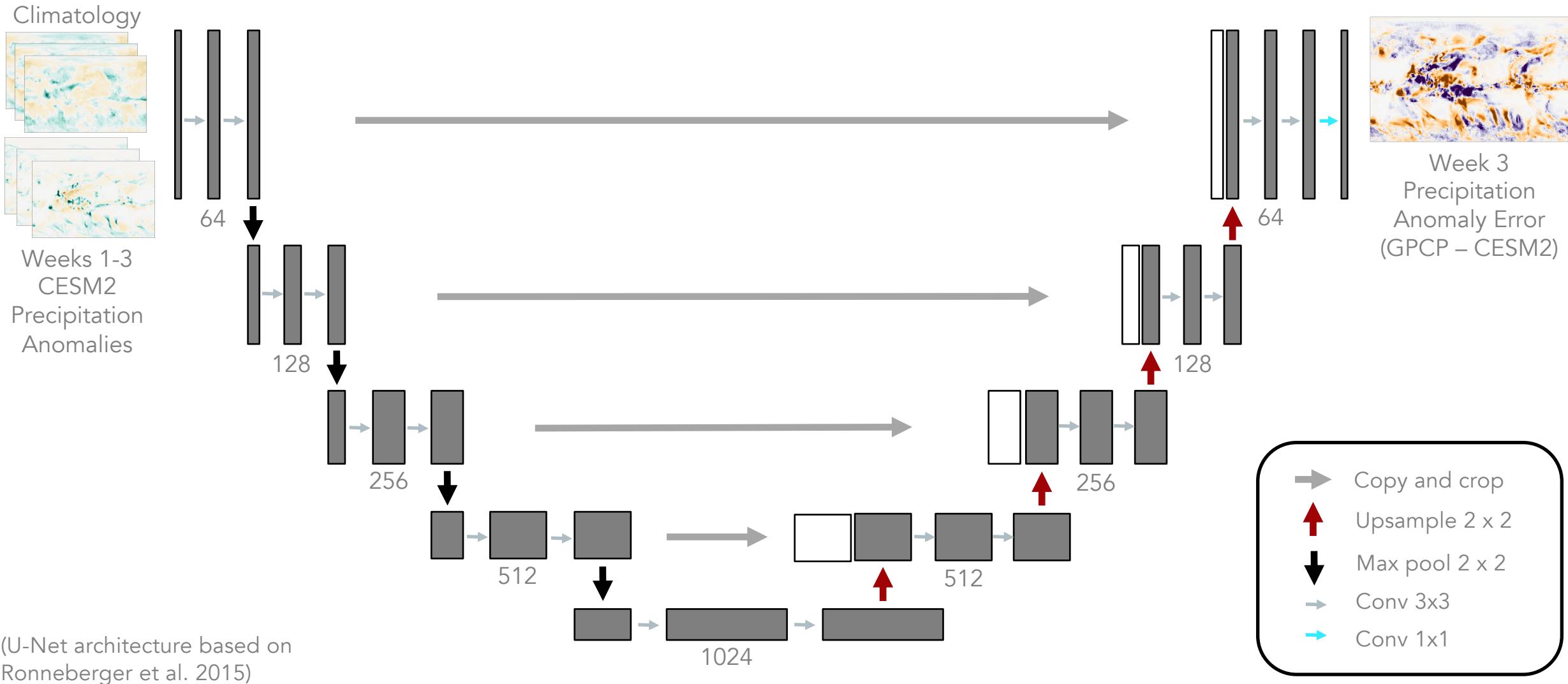
(Hersbach et al. 2020)

ERA5 Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperature  
Average (1999-2020).

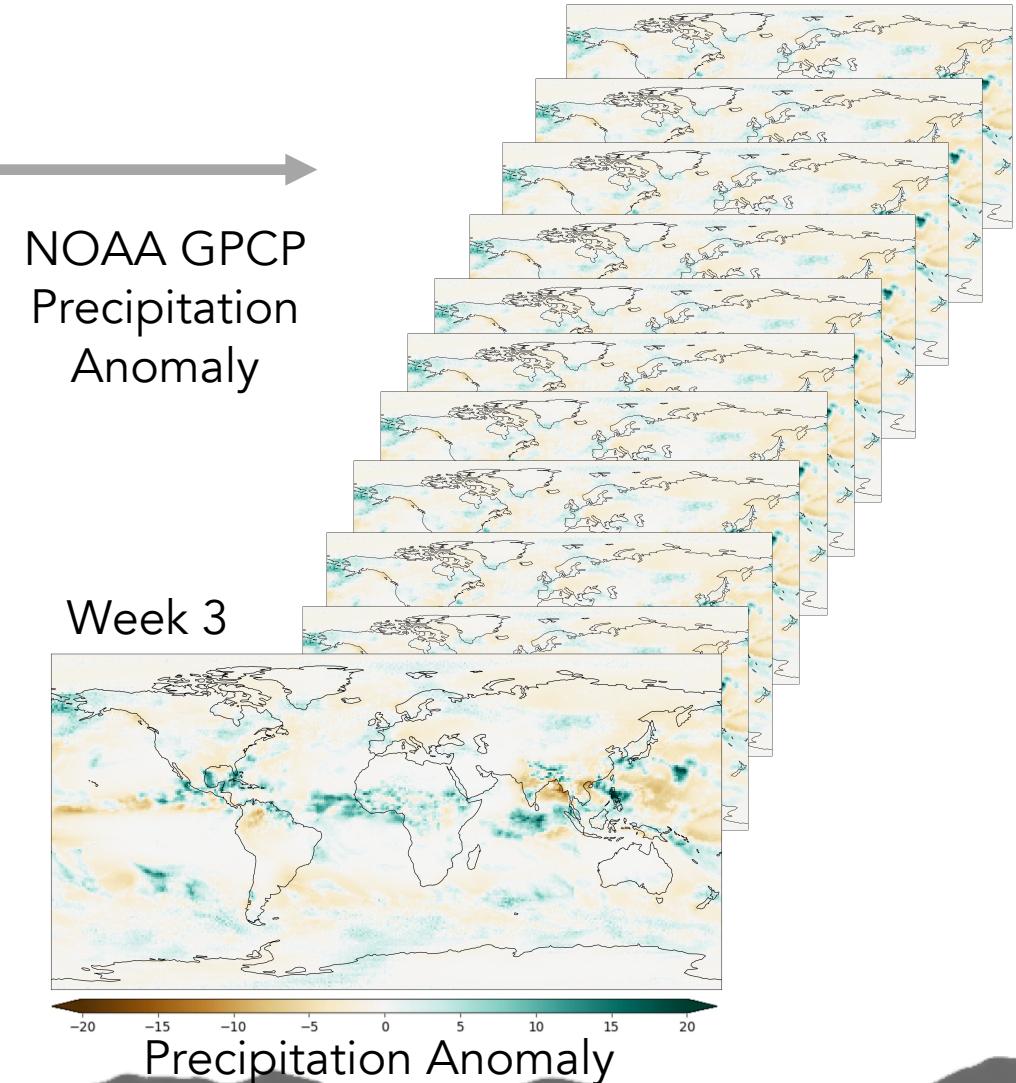
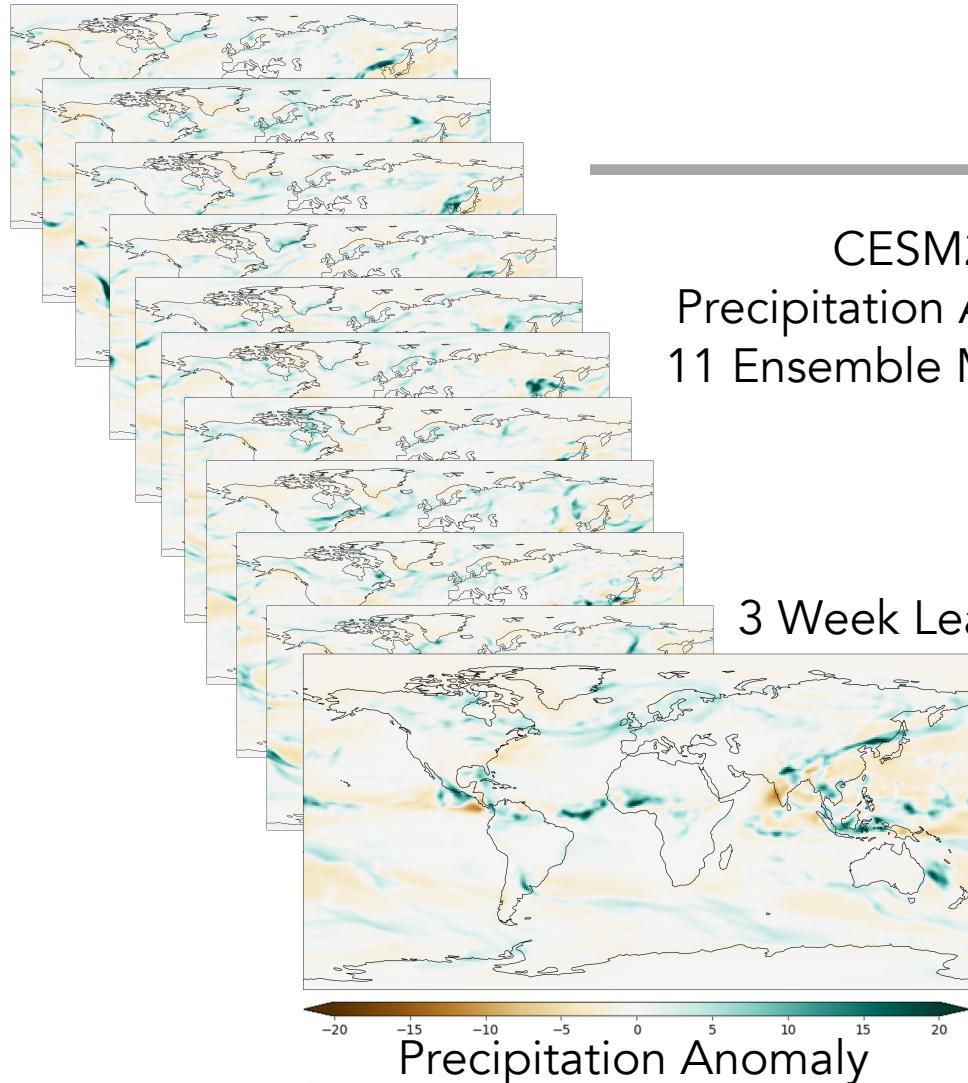
# U-Net Architecture (training and validation: 1999-2015)



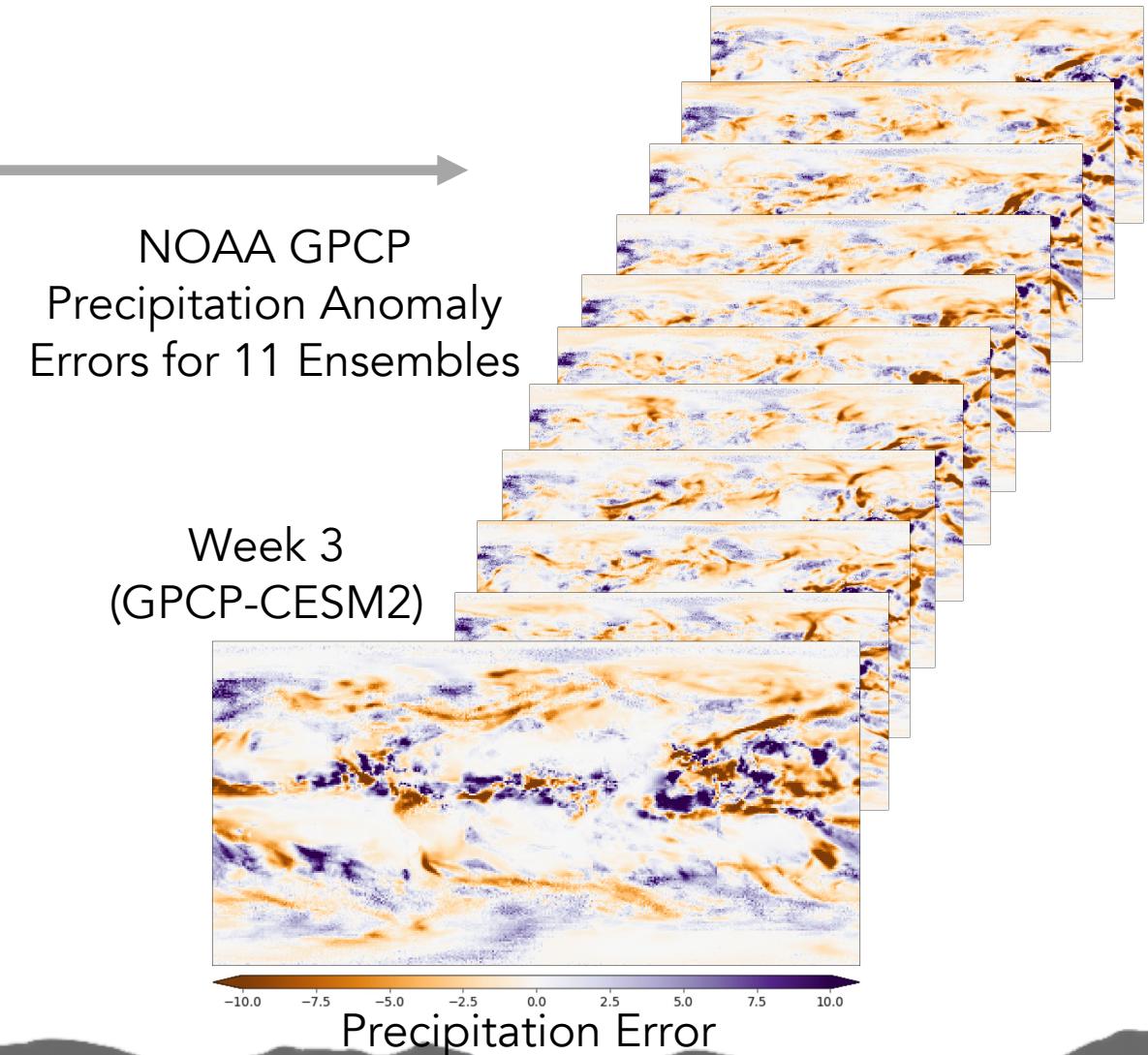
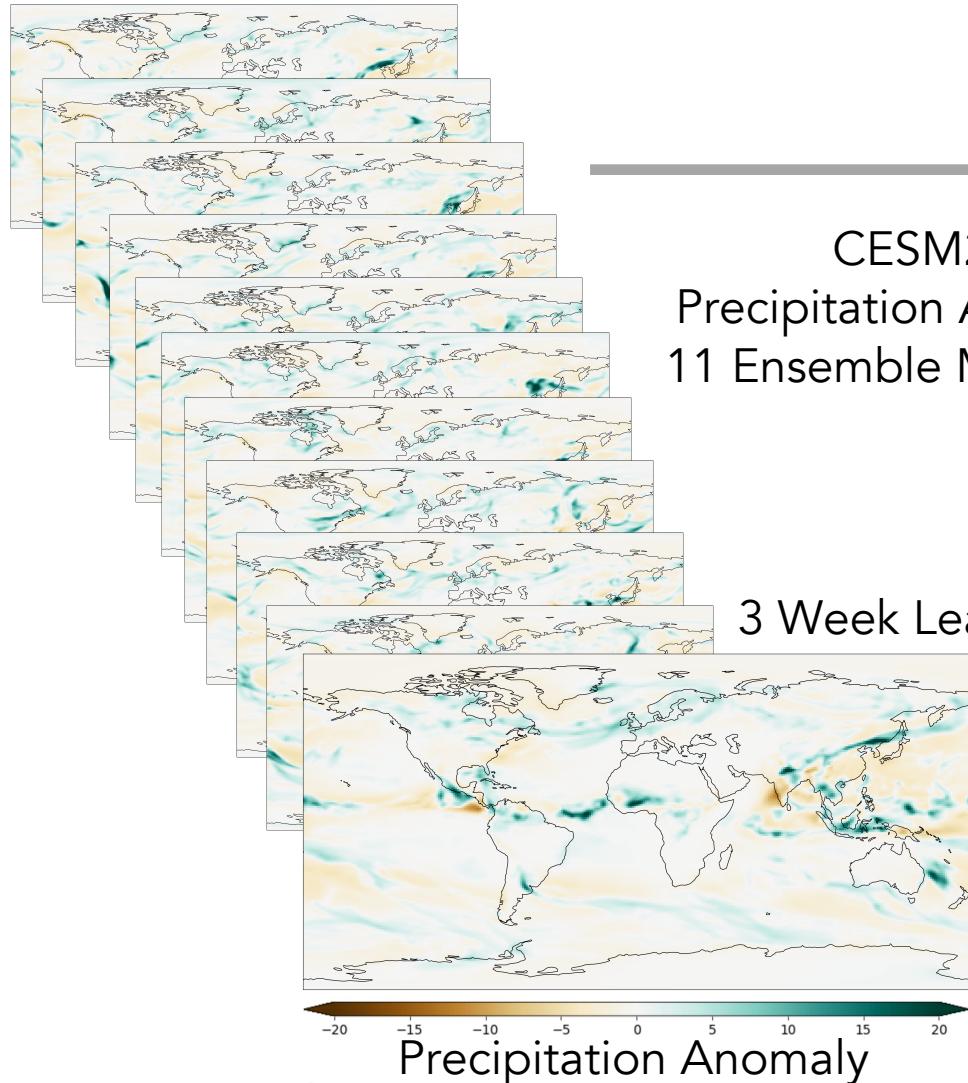
# U-Net Architecture (training and validation: 1999-2015)



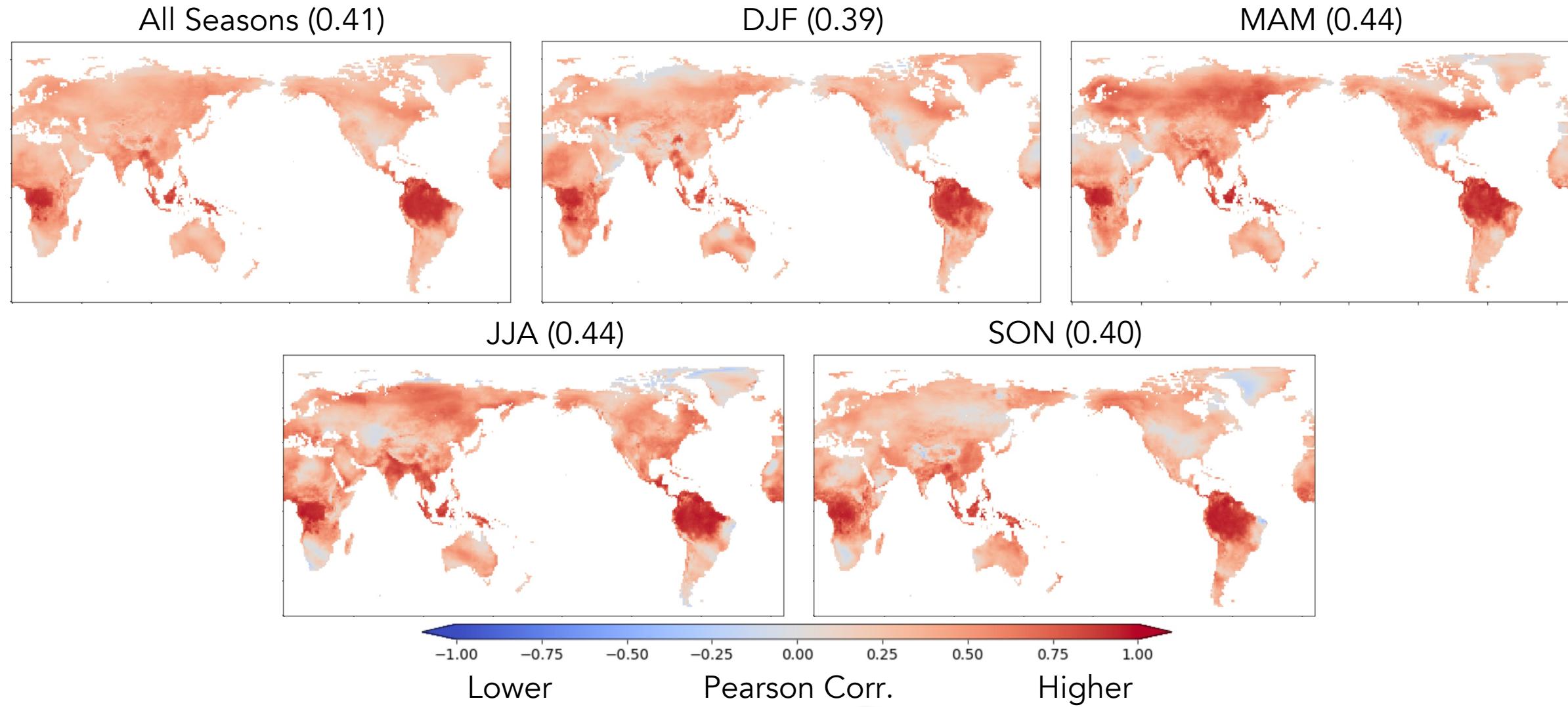
# U-Net Architecture (training and validation: 1999-2015)



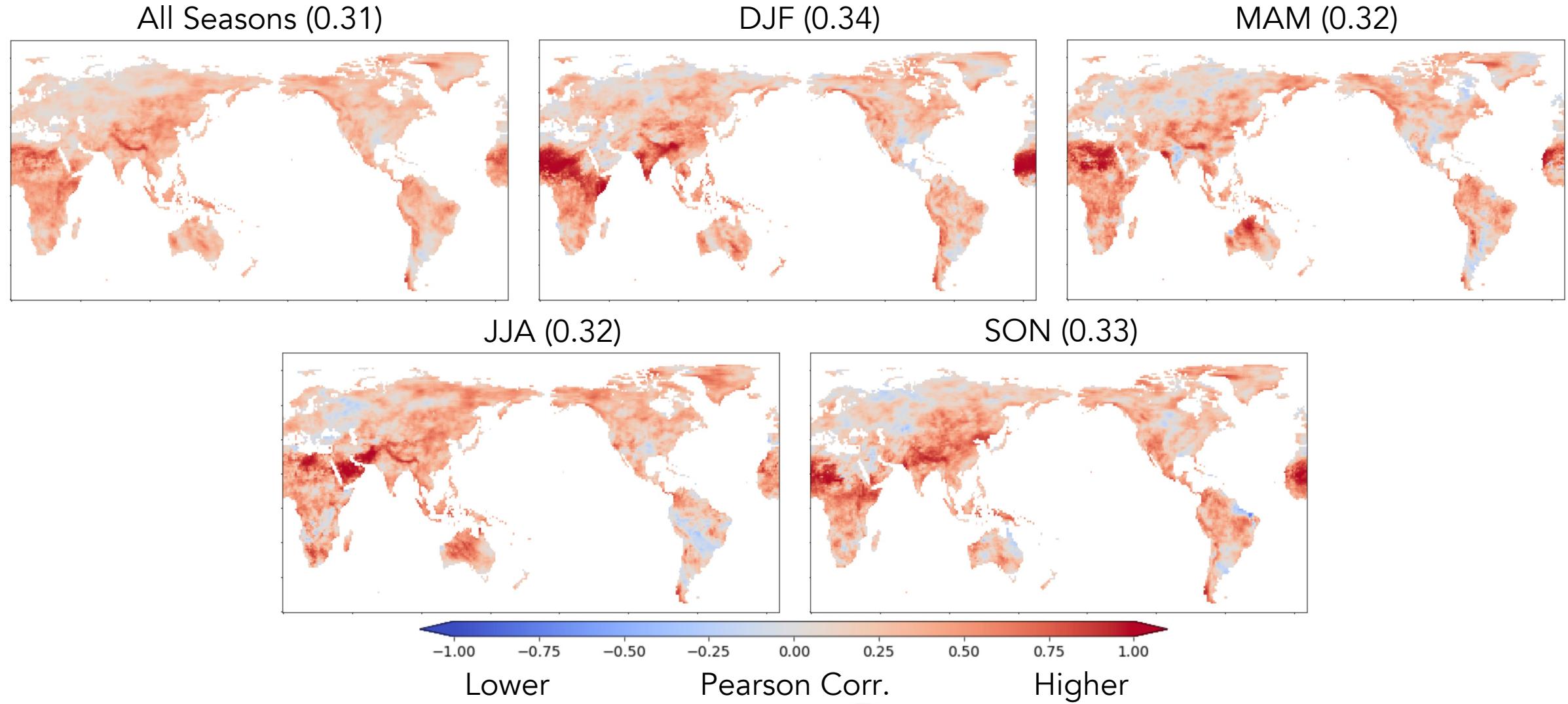
# U-Net Architecture (training and validation: 1999-2015)



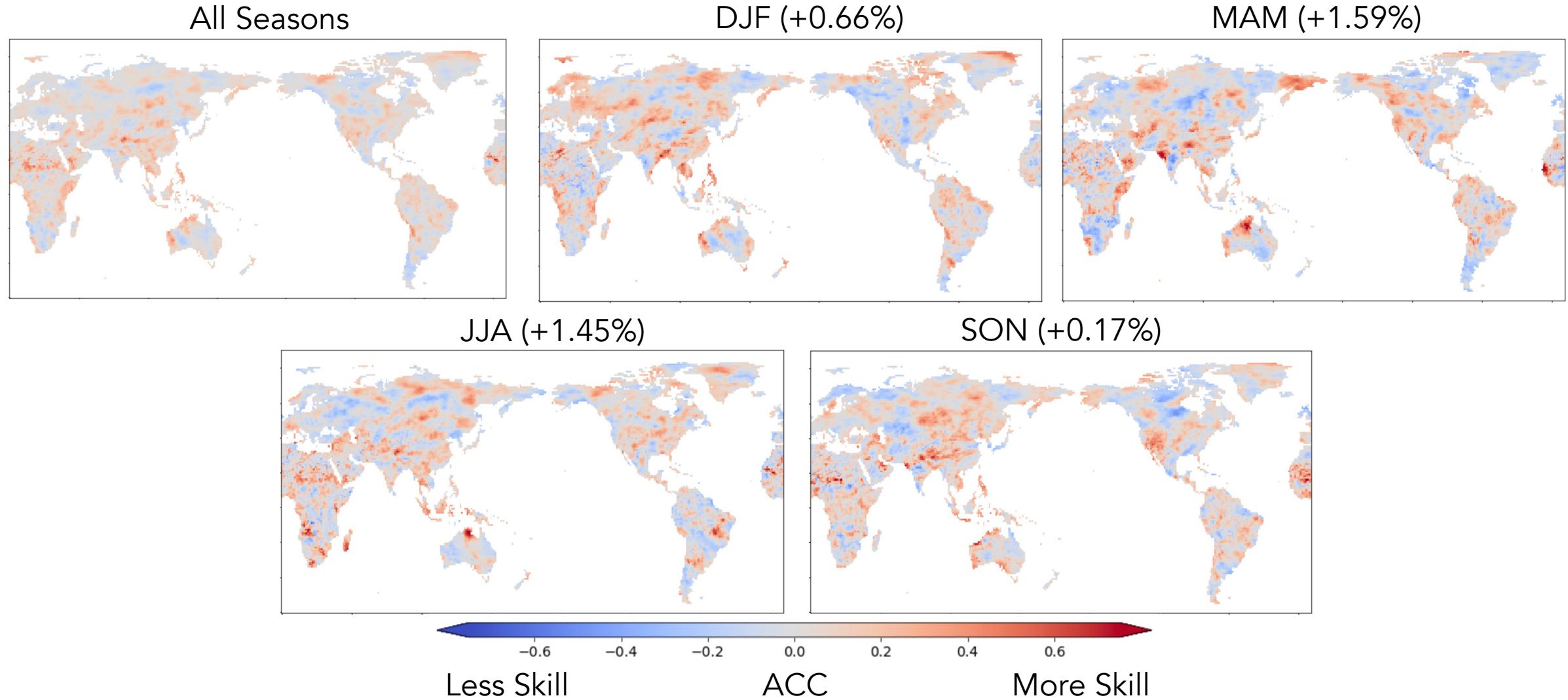
# Skill of Week 3 Temperature Error Prediction (2016-2019)



# Skill of Week 3 Precipitation Error Prediction (2016-2019)



# Skill of Week 3 Precipitation Prediction (2016-2019)



## Future work and opportunities:

- Application of Explainable AI.
- Comparison to other bias correction methods.
- Creation of a large ML-based ensemble.





# Ethics in AI

Face-Depixelizer  
<https://github.com/tg-bomze/Face-Depixelizer>



catalyst

# Ethics in AI for Weather and Climate

## Are Black Americans Underserved by the NWS Radar Network?

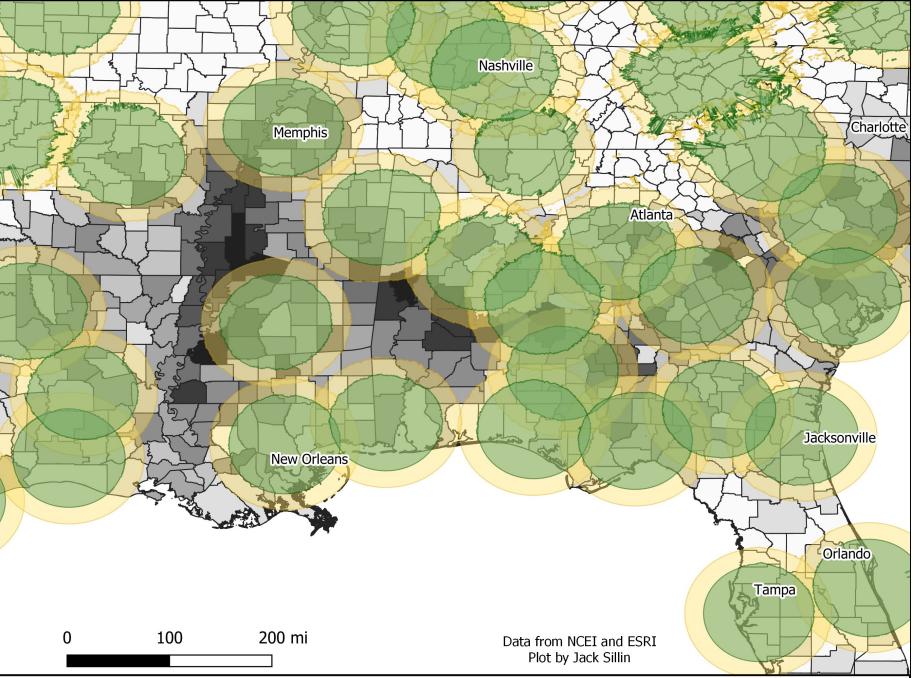
Excellent Radar Coverage  
Good Radar Coverage

Weather radars detect storms by sending beams of energy out into the atmosphere and listening for energy that bounces back off rain, snow, hail, and anything else in the atmosphere.

The farther a storm is from a radar site, the less information we can get about it due to the beam height rising farther off the ground, and the beam width expanding leading to lower resolution.

High resolution radar data near the ground can be critical in many situations such as when severe thunderstorms and tornadoes threaten.

Many majority-Black parts of the Southeast are relatively far from radar sites, meaning that it's harder to gather information about storms impacting these areas.



Data from NCEI and ESRI  
Plot by Jack Sillin

Black Population Share

0-10% 10-20% 20-30% 30-40% 40-50% 50-60% 60-70% 70-80% 80-90% 90-100%

Funded NCAR Innovator Program  
grant led by Dr. Amy Yeboah  
(Howard University; 2021-23).

