

Only one of these is not a climate simulation.

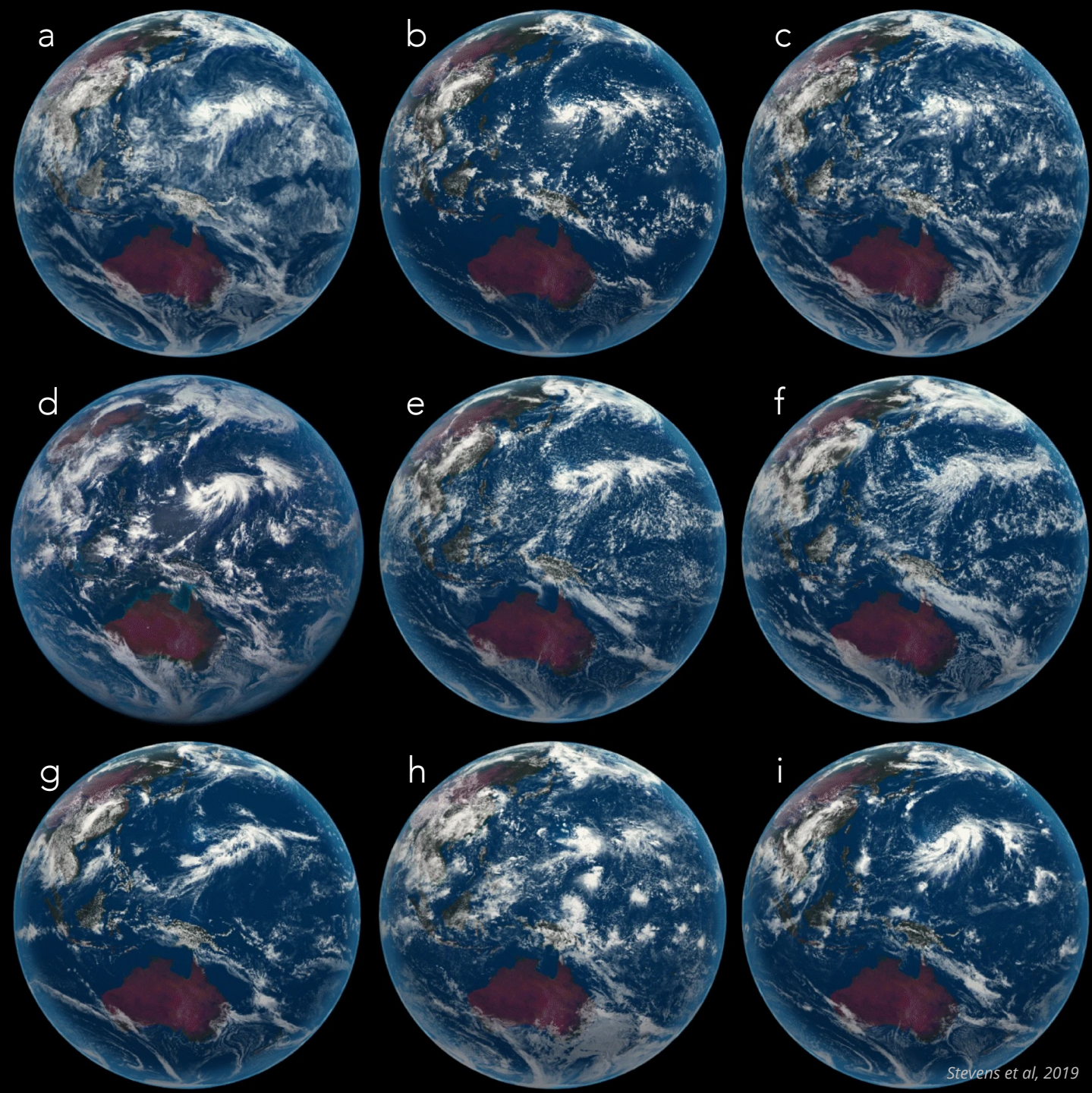
Which is the “real” photo of Earth?



To submit a guess,  
scan the QR code!

OR

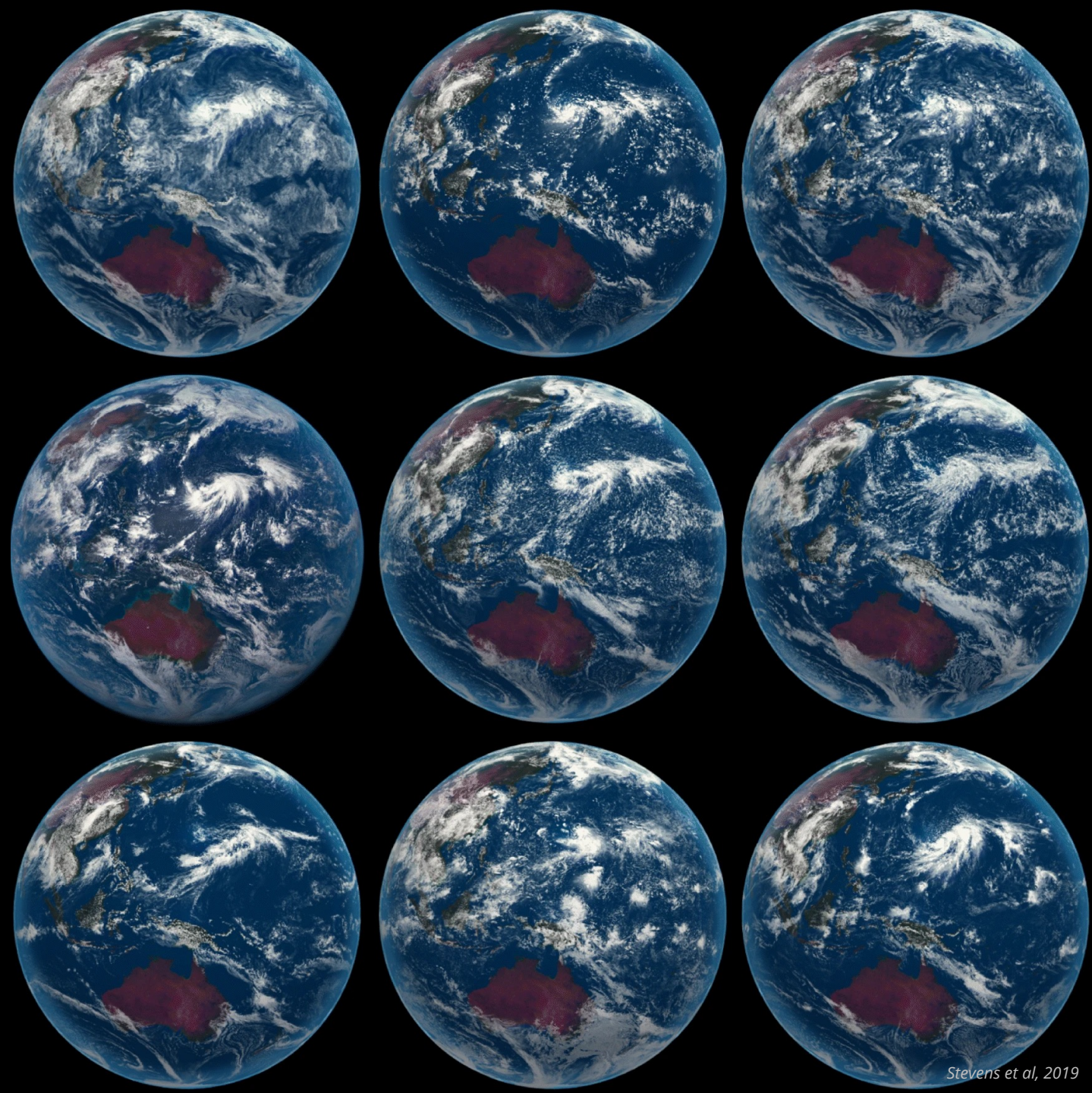
1. Go to [vevox.app](https://vevox.app)
2. 156-136-777



*Climate Action Flagship :  
Machine Learning for Regional Climate*

# Machine Learning for Understanding Climate Physics

Geet George (GRS) & Jing Sun (INSY)



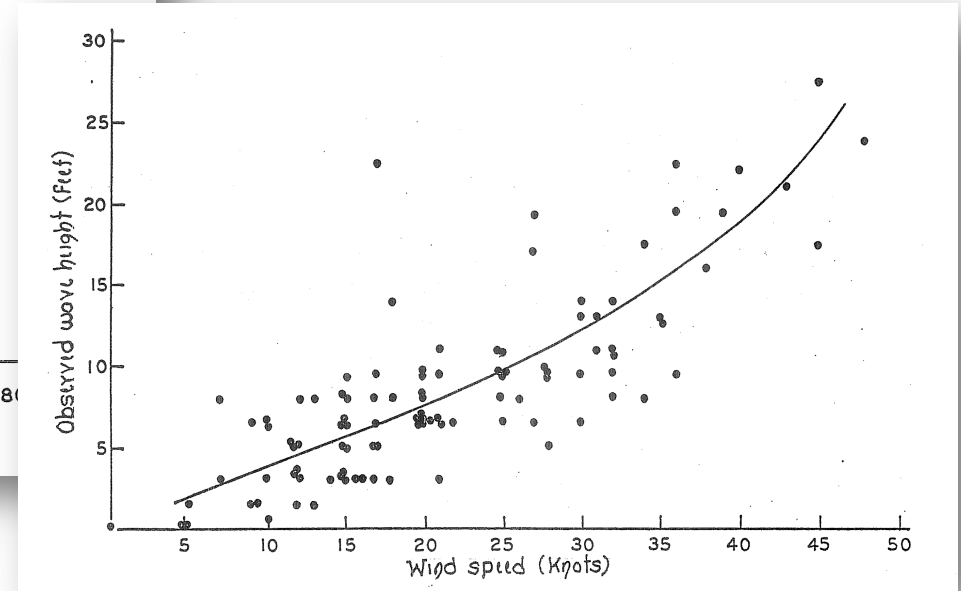
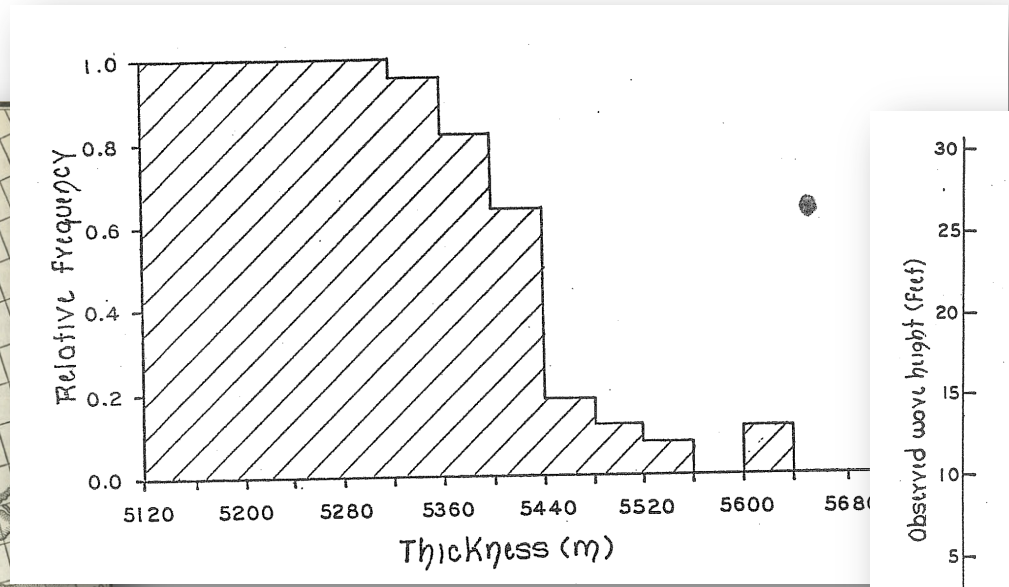
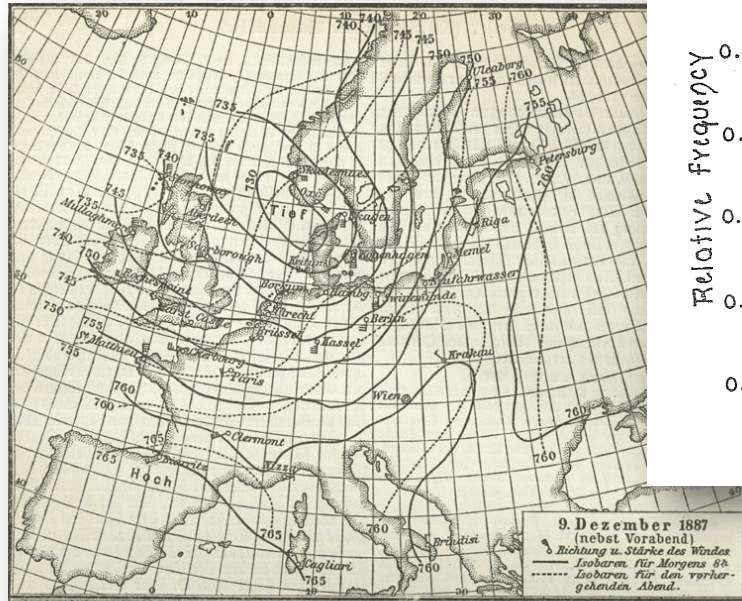
It's very difficult to make predictions especially about the future...

Global surface temperature change relative to 1850–1900



# A hundred years ago, what did we do?

Look at historical patterns & make a statistical prediction!



*"... may one play with a fantasy?  
Imagine a large hall like a theatre..."*

*- Richardson (1922)*

Measurements & monitoring



Computers...

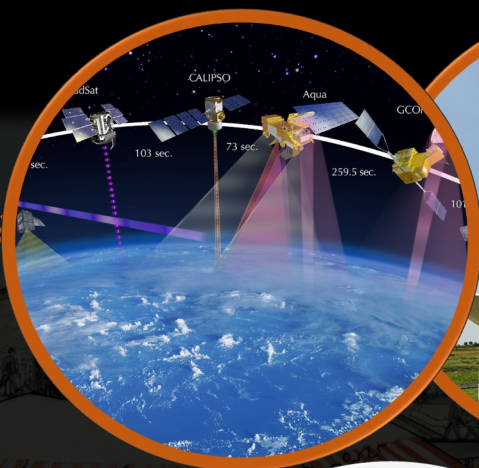
Global grid-based computation



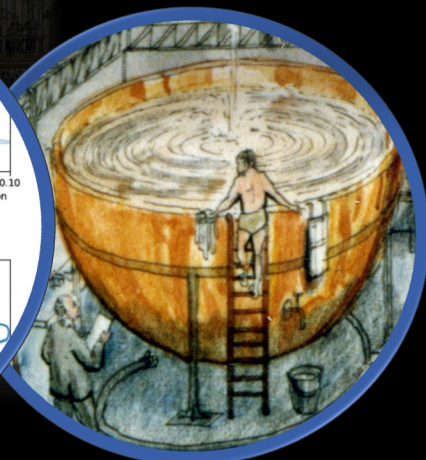
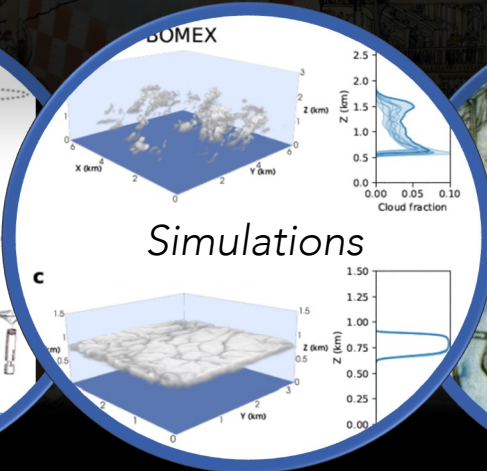
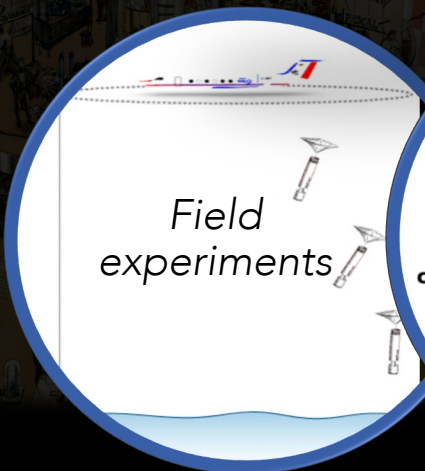
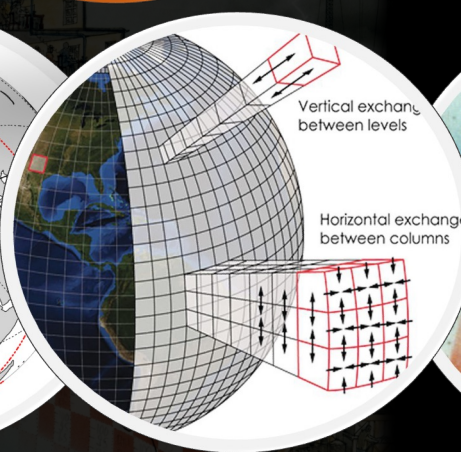
Geophysical experiments



Mea



Global



Measurements & monitoring



Global grid-based computation

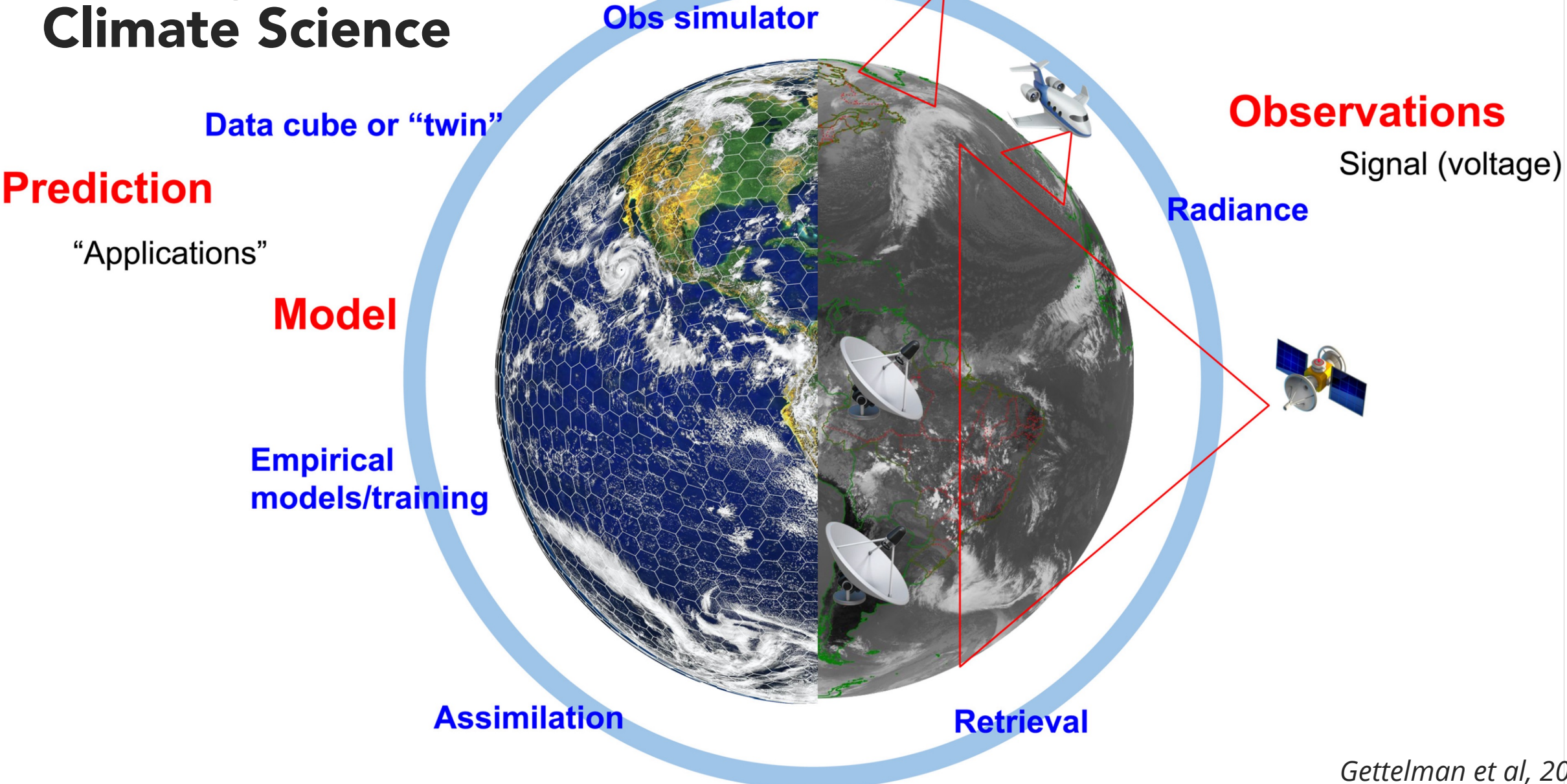


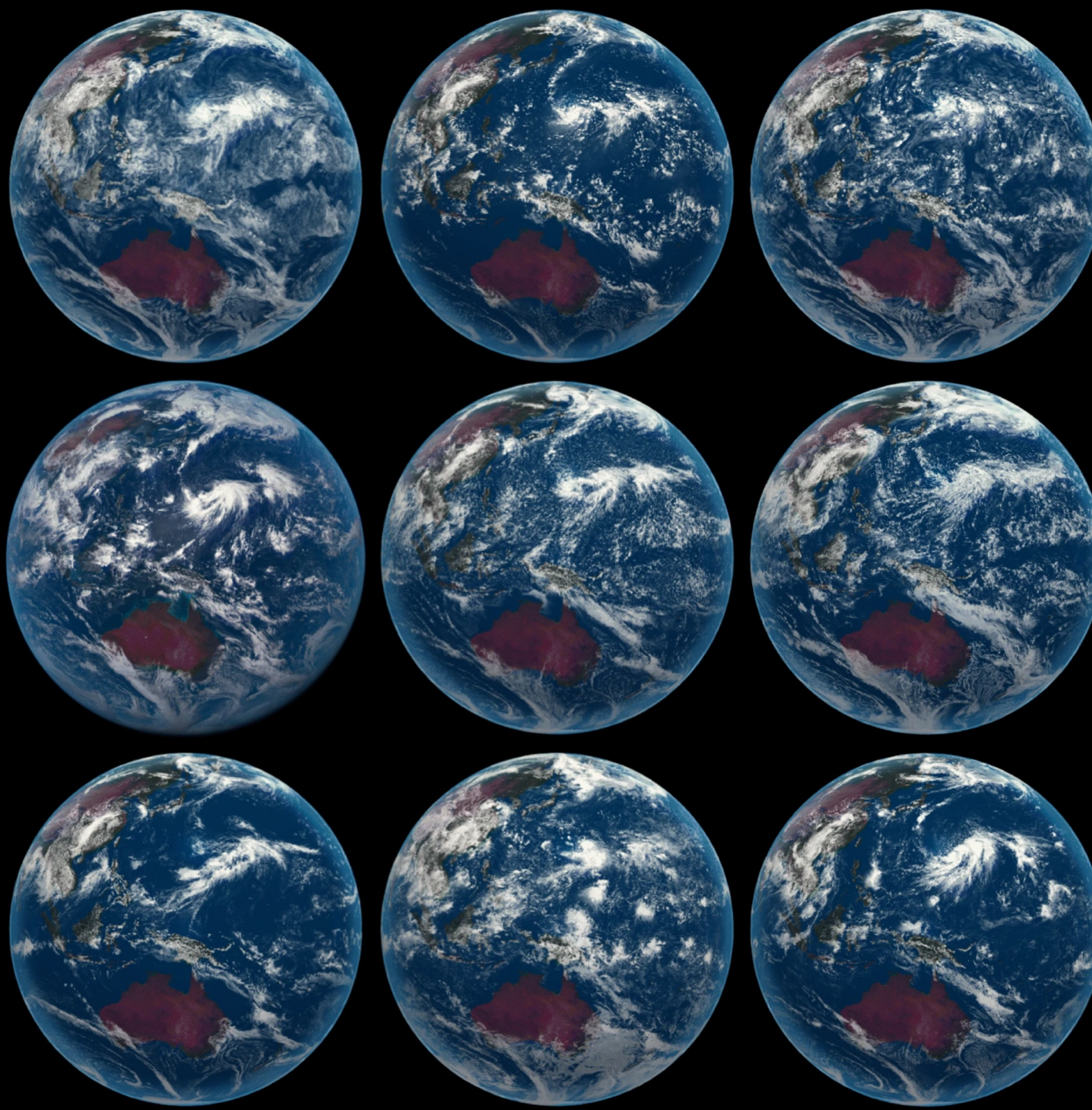
Geophysical experiments





# The Engine of Climate Science





High-resolution  
climate models,  
e.g. DYAMOND,  
NextGEMS, etc.

*Stevens et al, 2019*

Coupling  
components of  
the Earth system

*Hohenegger et al, 2022*

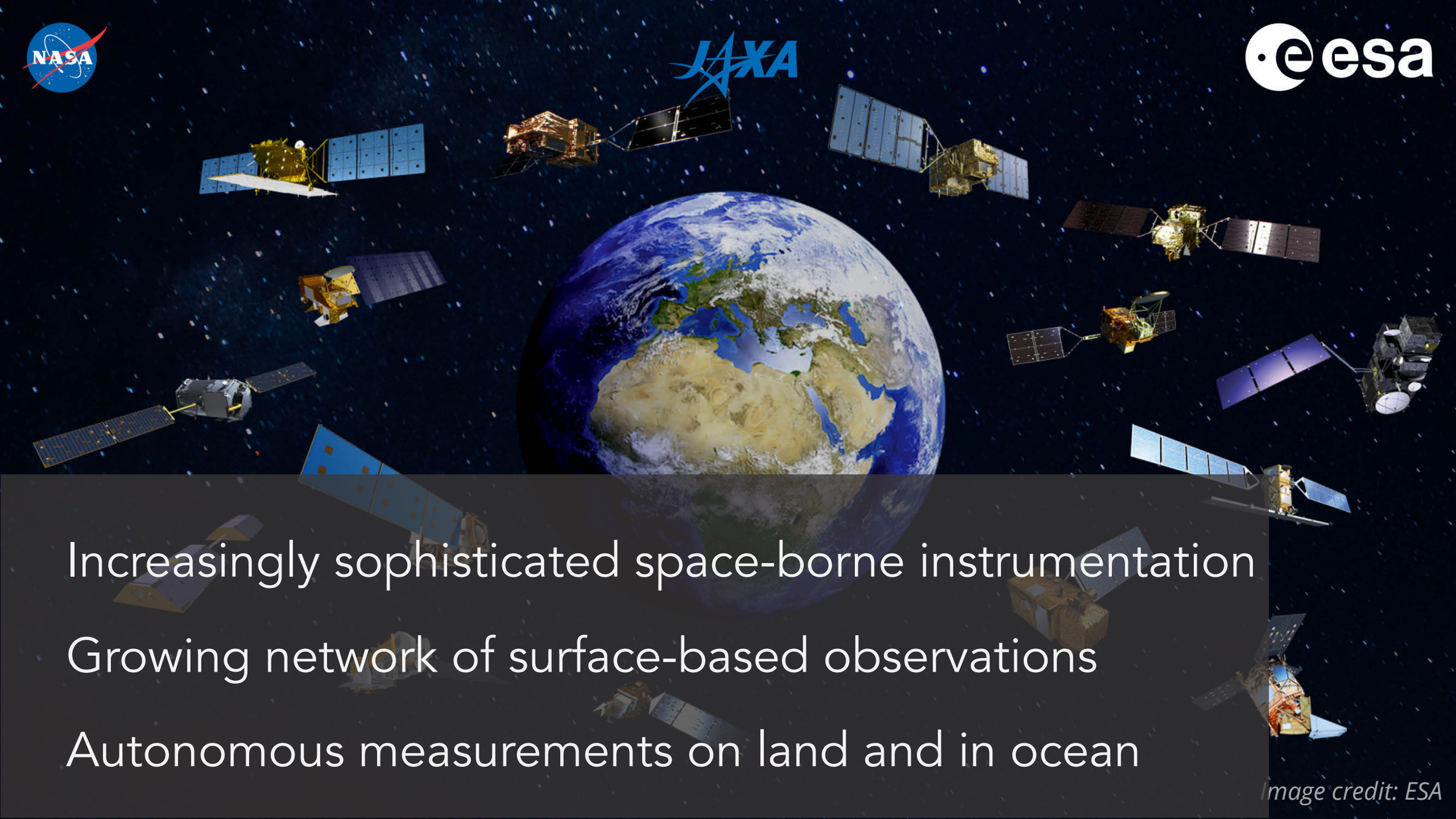
Larger-domain  
simulations in  
limited-area  
models like LES

*Schulz et al, 2023*

Hypercube  
ensembles of  
simulations to  
study phase-space

*Jansson et al, 2023*

*Stevens et al, 2019*



Increasingly sophisticated space-borne instrumentation  
Growing network of surface-based observations  
Autonomous measurements on land and in ocean

# Big Data Challenge

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## The 4 Vs

# AI ?

> 100 petabytes of data

> 5 petabytes / year  
10 Hz data collection

Widely different sources

Errors & inconsistencies

# Climatic Research Questions in Our Flagship

With ML

**Patterns:** Detecting and studying patterns in climate science

**Physics:** Data-driven understanding of climate physics, as opposed to pure theory-driven

**Predictions:** Forecasting weather and climate across different scales, including how subsystems, such as ice sheet and sea level, will respond to climate change

# When we talk about AI, what are we talking about?

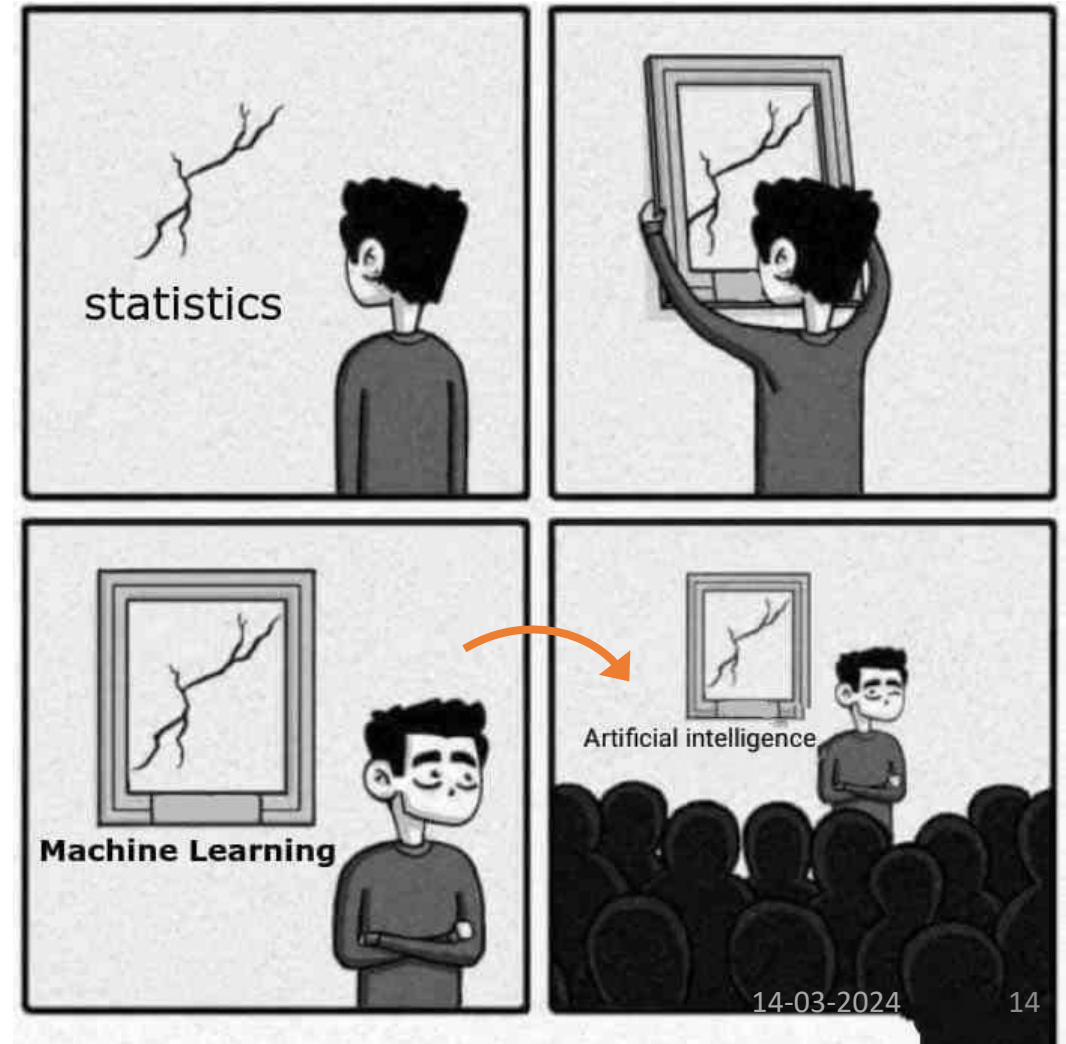
## Artificial Intelligence

-- Alan Turing (1950)

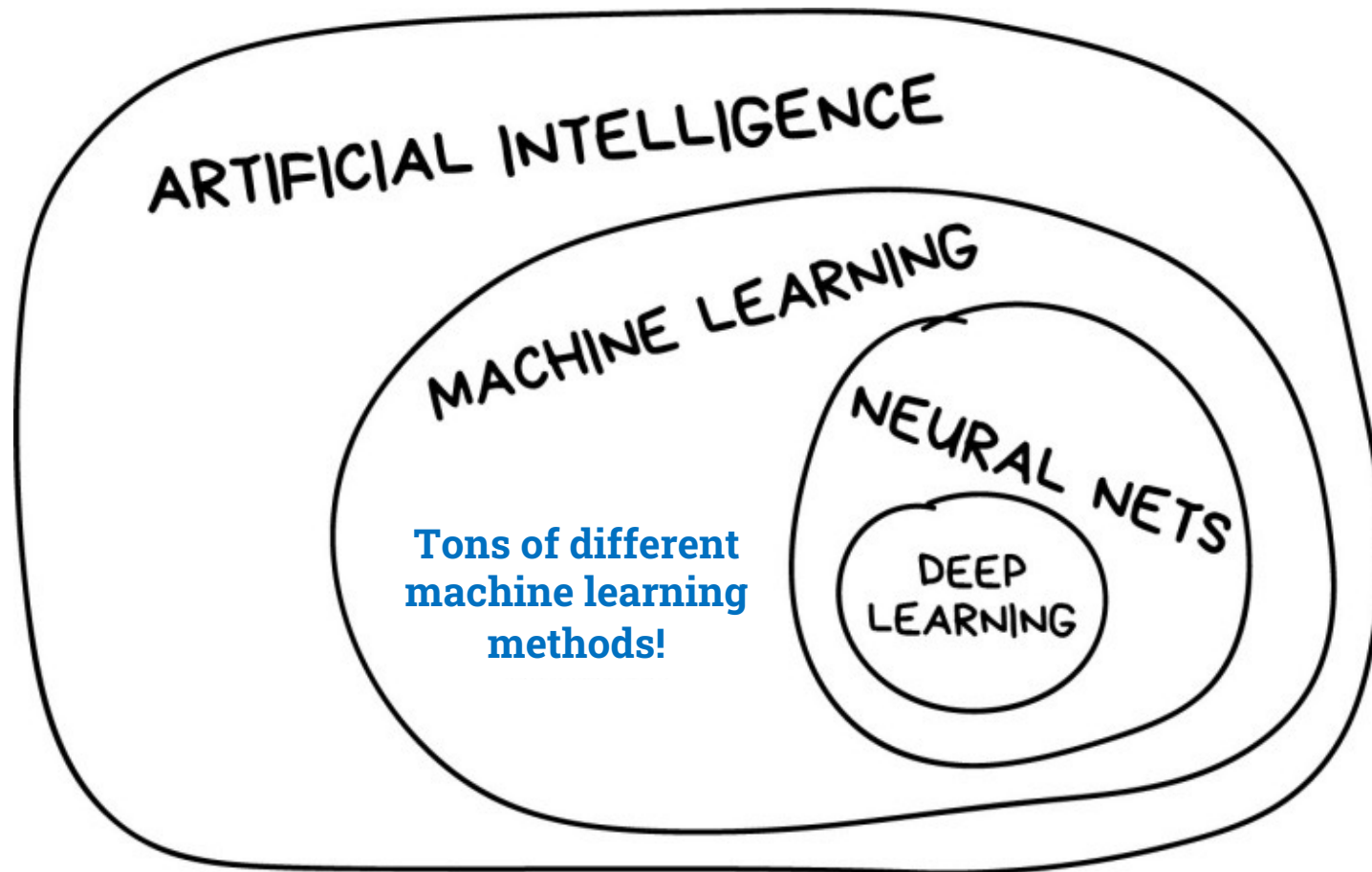
“Computing Machinery and Intelligence”

Even at the official opening of the academic year 2024-2025 at TU Delft, the theme was “**Enter the Age of AI**”.

**Who brought AI to the center of attention?**

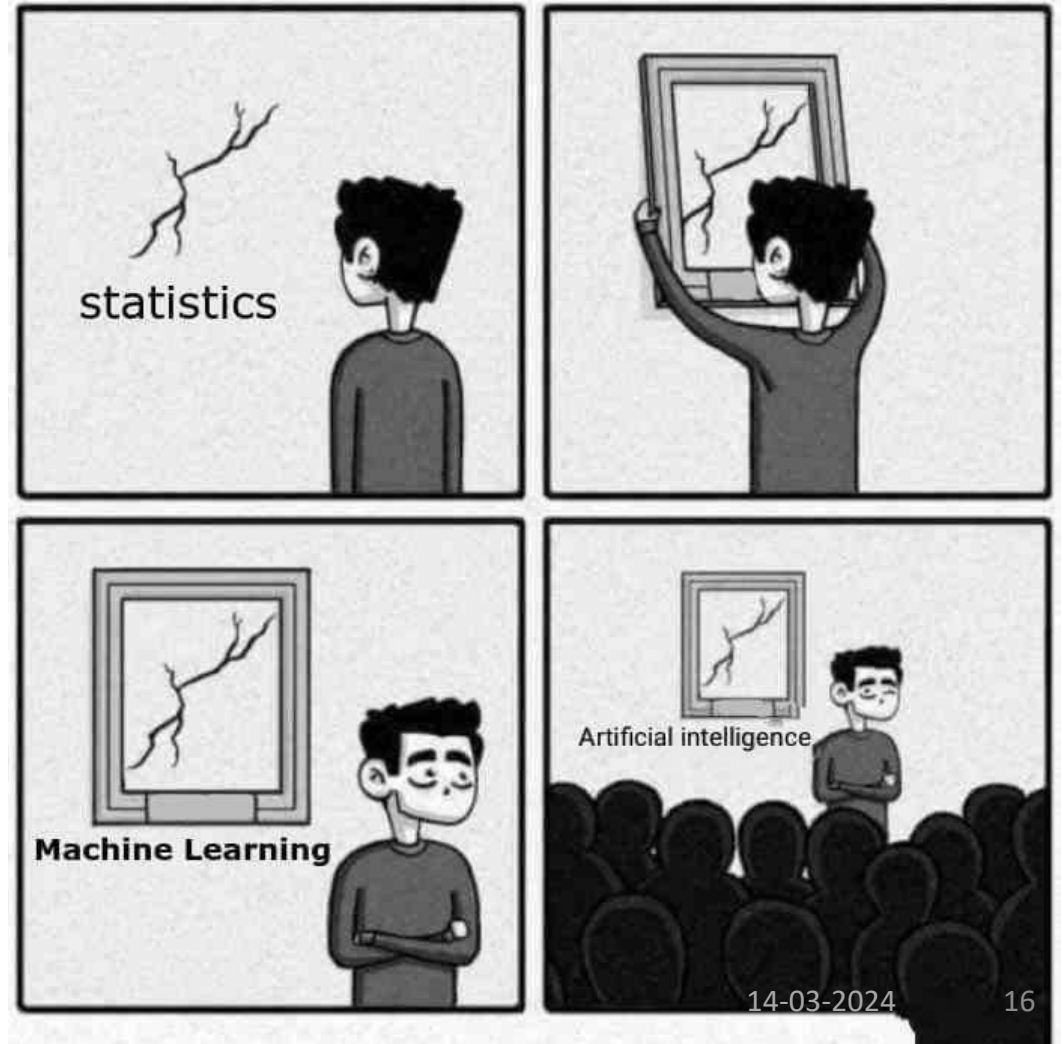


# “Enter the Age of AI” – TU Delft



# When we talk about ML, what are we talking about?

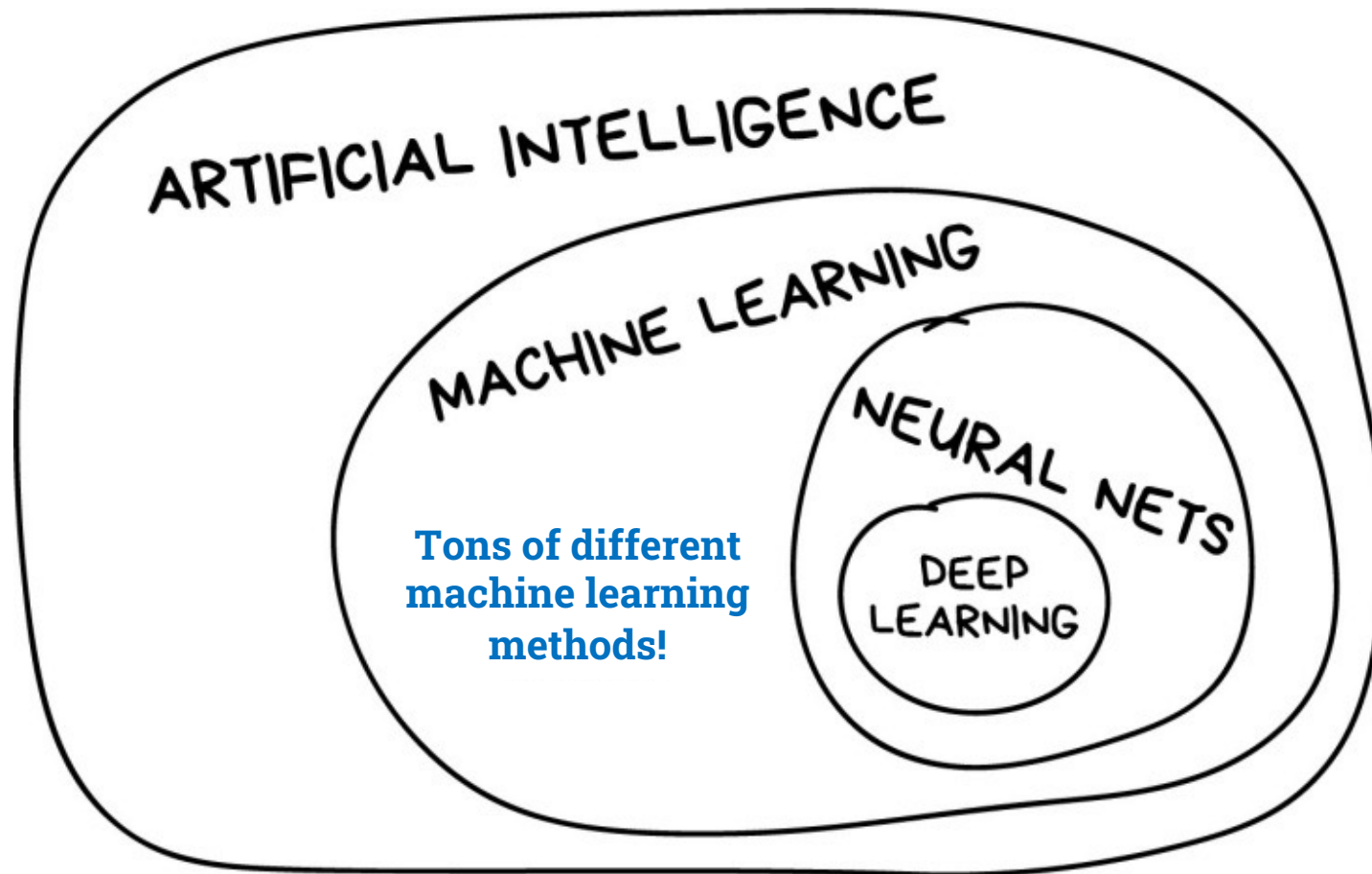
In **1959**, Arthur Samuel described ML as the “field of study that **gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed**”.



Or you may call it  
Statistical Learning



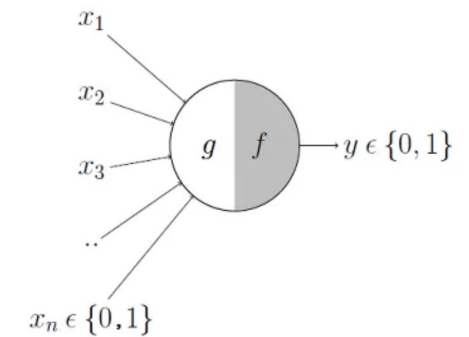
# “Enter the Age of AI” – TU Delft



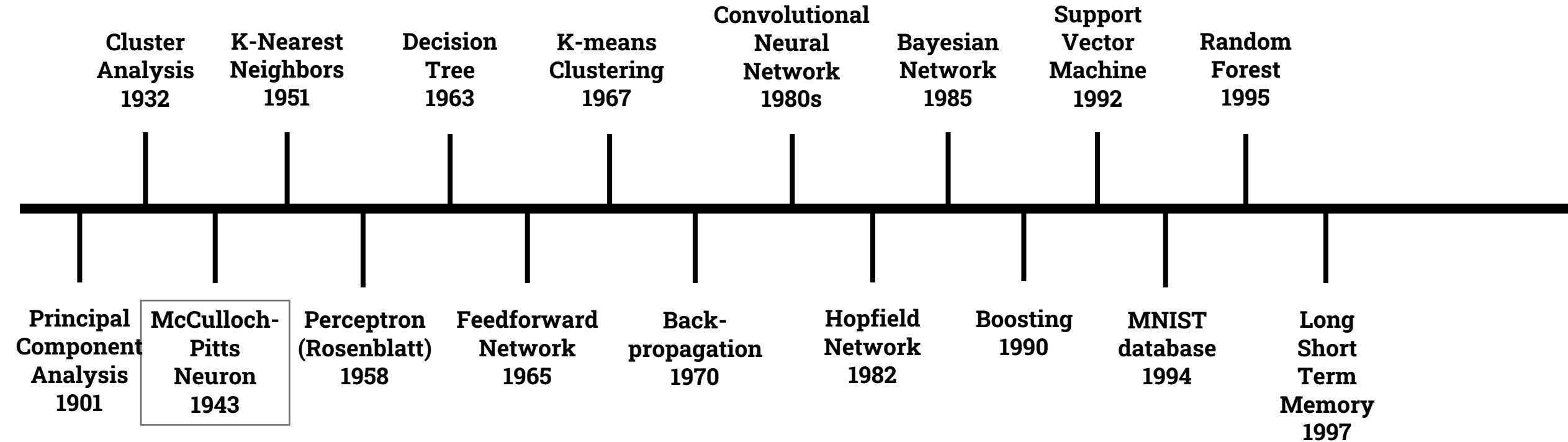
Warren McCulloch & Walter Pitts

“A Logical Calculus of Ideas Immanent in Nervous Activity” (1943):

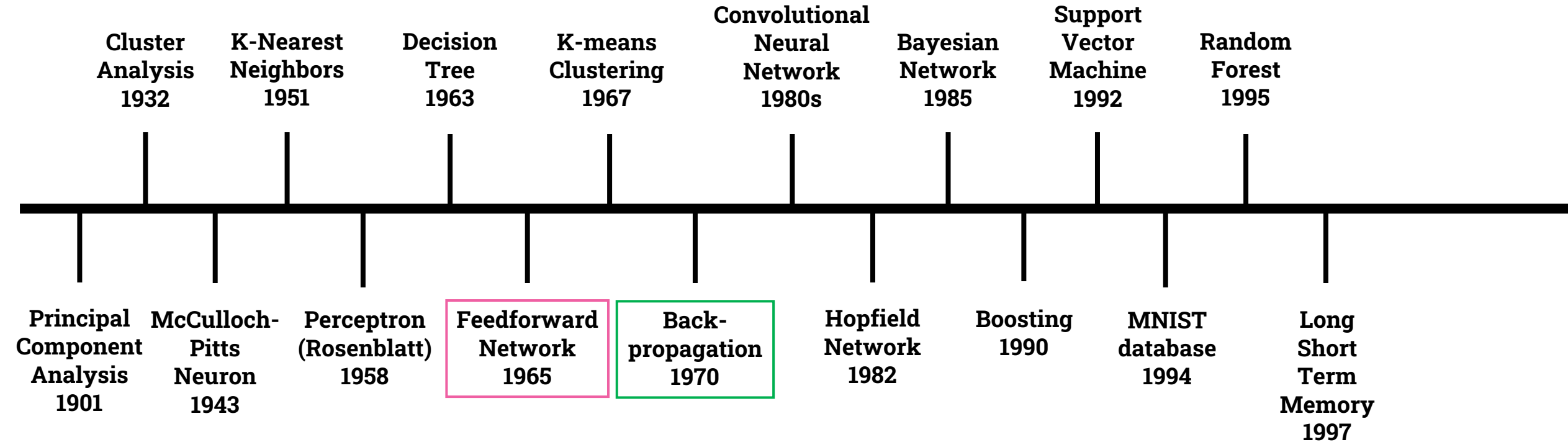
The first mathematical model of a neural network.



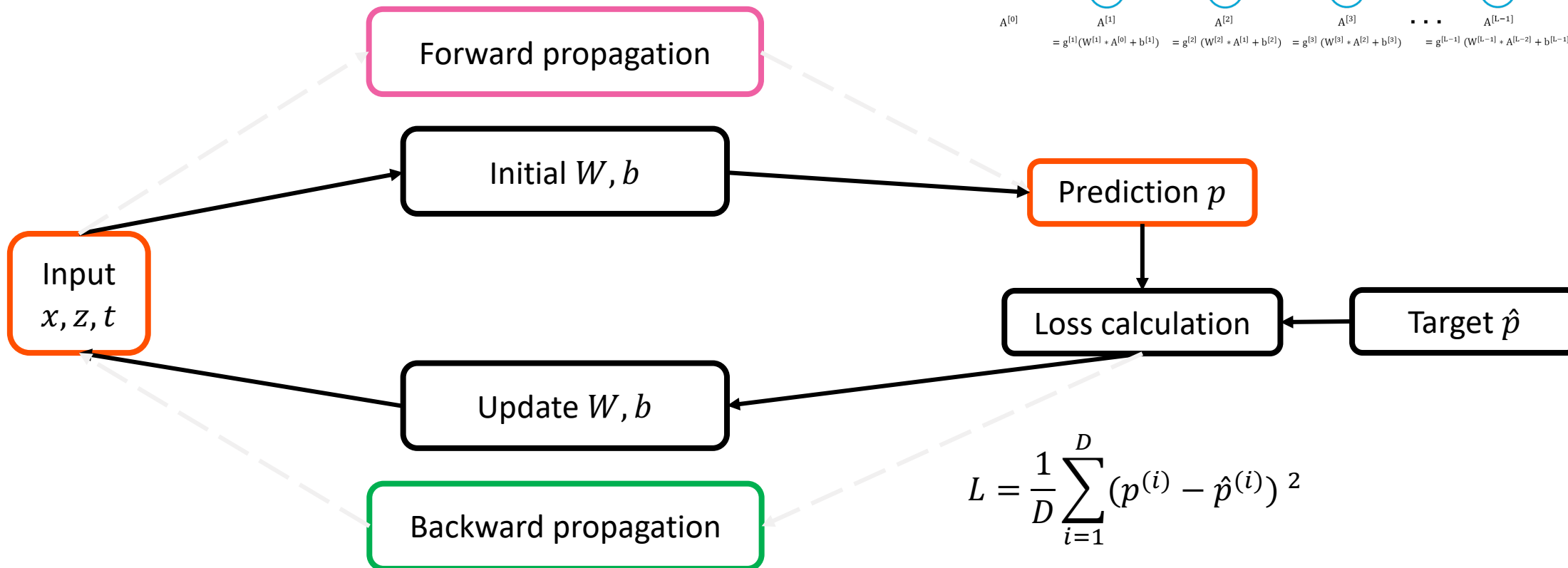
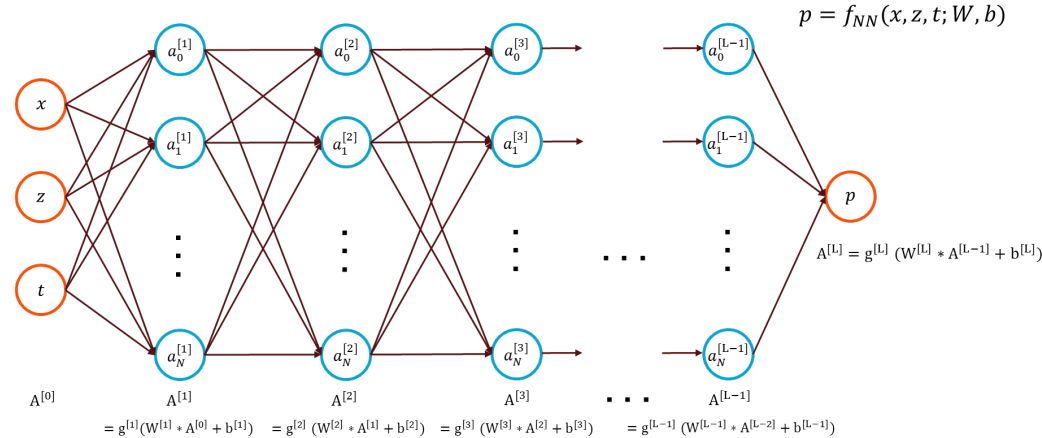
# Milestones in ML



# Milestones in ML



# A Deep Neural Network



$$L = \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i=1}^D (p^{(i)} - \hat{p}^{(i)})^2$$

$D$  : size of the training data set

$p^{(i)}$ : prediction from the NN of the  $i^{th}$  data point

$\hat{p}^{(i)}$ : desired output of the  $i^{th}$  data point

# Milestones in ML

**Cluster Analysis**  
1932

**K-Nearest Neighbors**  
1951

**Decision Tree**  
1963

**K-means Clustering**  
1967

**Convolutional Neural Network**  
1980s

**Bayesian Network**  
1985

**Support Vector Machine**  
1992

**Random Forest**  
1995

**Principal Component Analysis**  
1901

**McCulloch-Pitts Neuron**  
1943

**Perceptron (Rosenblatt)**  
1958

**Feedforward Network**  
1965

**Back-propagation**  
1970

**Hopfield Network**  
1982

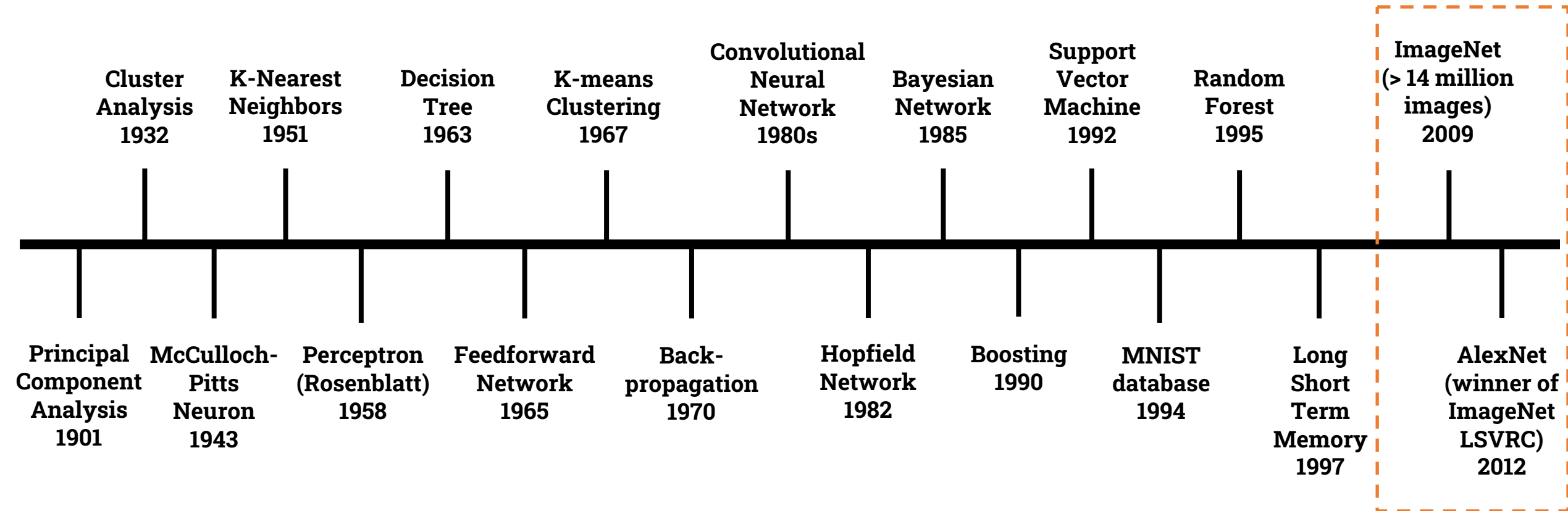
**Boosting**  
1990

**MNIST database**  
1994

**Long Short Term Memory**  
1997

*Computation Limitation...*

# Milestones in ML



“Enter the Age of **Deep Learning!**”  
(or **AI Boom!**)

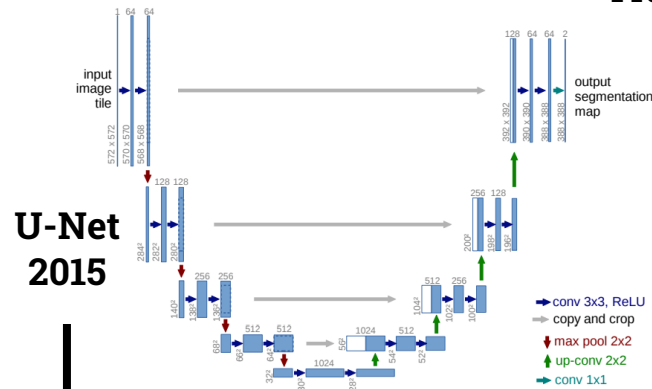
# Milestones in DL & ML

ImageNet  
(> 14 million images)  
2009

AlexNet  
(winner of ImageNet LSVRC)  
2012

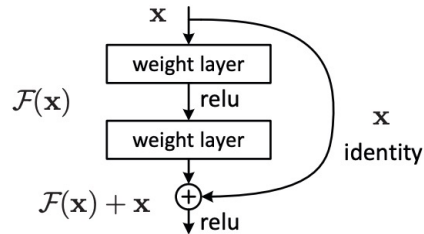
VGG  
2014  
FCN (Fully Convolutional Network)  
2014

GAN  
(Generative Adversarial Networks)  
2014



Diffusion Model  
2015

ResNet  
2016



NeurIPS  
<https://papers.nips.cc/paper/7181-attention-is-all-you-need>  
**Attention is All you Need**  
 by A Vaswani · 2017 · Cited by 111587 — We propose a based solely on an attention mechanism, dispensing with

Transformer  
2017

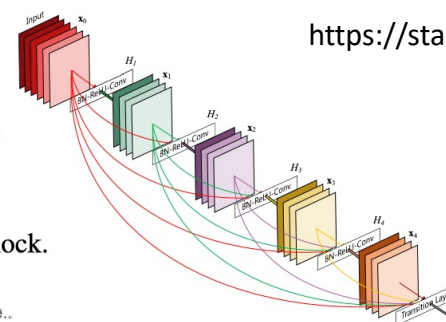
GPT-1 2018  
 GPT-2 2019  
 GPT-3 2020  
 DALL-E 2021  
 GPT-3.5 2022  
 DALL-E2 2022  
 GPT-4 2023  
 DALL-E3 2023

<https://openai.com/>



The real party...

DenseNet  
2017



stability ai  
<https://stability.ai/>



Stable Diffusion  
2022



Sora  
2024



NeurIPS  
<https://papers.nips.cc/paper/5423-generative-adversarial-nets>  
**Generative Adversarial Nets**  
 by I Goodfellow · 2014 · Cited by 65246 — We propose generative models via adversarial nets, in which we si

The Computer Vision Foundation  
<https://www.cv-foundation.org/papers/208219-deep-residual-learning-for-image-recognition>  
**Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition**  
 by K He · 2016 · Cited by 208219 — Deeper neural networks are mor present a residual learning framework to ease the training of networl

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# “Opportunities and Risks”

“Though foundation models are based on standard deep learning and transfer learning, **their scale results in new emergent capabilities**, and their effectiveness across so many tasks incentivizes homogenization. Homogenization provides powerful leverage but demands caution, as the defects of the foundation model are inherited by all the adapted models downstream. Despite the impending widespread deployment of foundation models, **we currently lack a clear understanding of how they work, when they fail, and what they are even capable of due to their emergent properties**. To tackle these questions, we believe much of the critical research on foundation models will require deep interdisciplinary collaboration commensurate with their fundamentally sociotechnical nature.”

Greater Power (of the AI),  
Greater Responsibility (for the AI researchers).

## On the Opportunities and Risks of Foundation Models

[Download the report.](#)

**114 AI researchers**

**Authors:** Rishi Bommasani\*, Drew A. Hudson, Ehsan Adeli, Russ Altman, Simran Arora, Sydney von Arx, Michael S. Bernstein, Jeannette Bohg, Antoine Bosselut, Emma Brunskill, Erik Brynjolfsson, Shyamal Buch, Dallas Card, Rodrigo Castellon, Niladri Chatterji, Annie Chen, Kathleen Creel, Jared Quincy Davis, Dora Demszky, Chris Donahue, Moussa Doumbouya, Esin Durmus, Stefano Ermon, John Etchemendy, Kawin Ethayarajh, Li Fei-Fei, Chelsea Finn, Trevor Gale, Lauren Gillespie, Karan Goel, Noah Goodman, Shelby Grossman, Neel Guha, Tatsunori Hashimoto, Peter Henderson, John Hewitt, Daniel E. Ho, Jenny Hong, Kyle Hsu, Jing Huang, Thomas Icard, Saahil Jain, Dan Jurafsky, Pratyusha Kalluri, Siddharth Karamcheti, Geoff Keeling, Fereshte Khani, Omar Khattab, Pang Wei Koh, Mark Krass, Ranjay Krishna, Rohith Kuditipudi, Ananya Kumar, Faisal Ladhak, Mina Lee, Tony Lee, Jure Leskovec, Isabelle Levent, Xiang Lisa Li, Xuechen Li, Tengyu Ma, Ali Malik, Christopher D. Manning, Suvir Mirchandani, Eric Mitchell, Zanele Munyikwa, Suraj Nair, Avanika Narayan, Deepak Narayanan, Ben Newman, Allen Nie, Juan Carlos Niebles, Hamed Nilforoshan, Julian Nyarko, Giray Ogut, Laurel Orr, Isabel Papadimitriou, Joon Sung Park, Chris Piech, Eva Portelance, Christopher Potts, Aditi Raghunathan, Rob Reich, Hongyu Ren, Frieda Rong, Yusuf Roohani, Camilo Ruiz, Jack Ryan, Christopher Ré, Dorsa Sadigh, Shiori Sagawa, Keshav Santhanam, Andy Shih, Krishnan Srinivasan, Alex Tamkin, Rohan Taori, Armin W. Thomas, Florian Tramèr, Rose E. Wang, William Wang, Bohan Wu, Jiajun Wu, Yuhuai Wu, Sang Michael Xie, Michihiro Yasunaga, Jiaxuan You, Matei Zaharia, Michael Zhang, Tianyi Zhang, Xikun Zhang, Yuhui Zhang, Lucia Zheng, Kaitlyn Zhou, Percy Liang\*

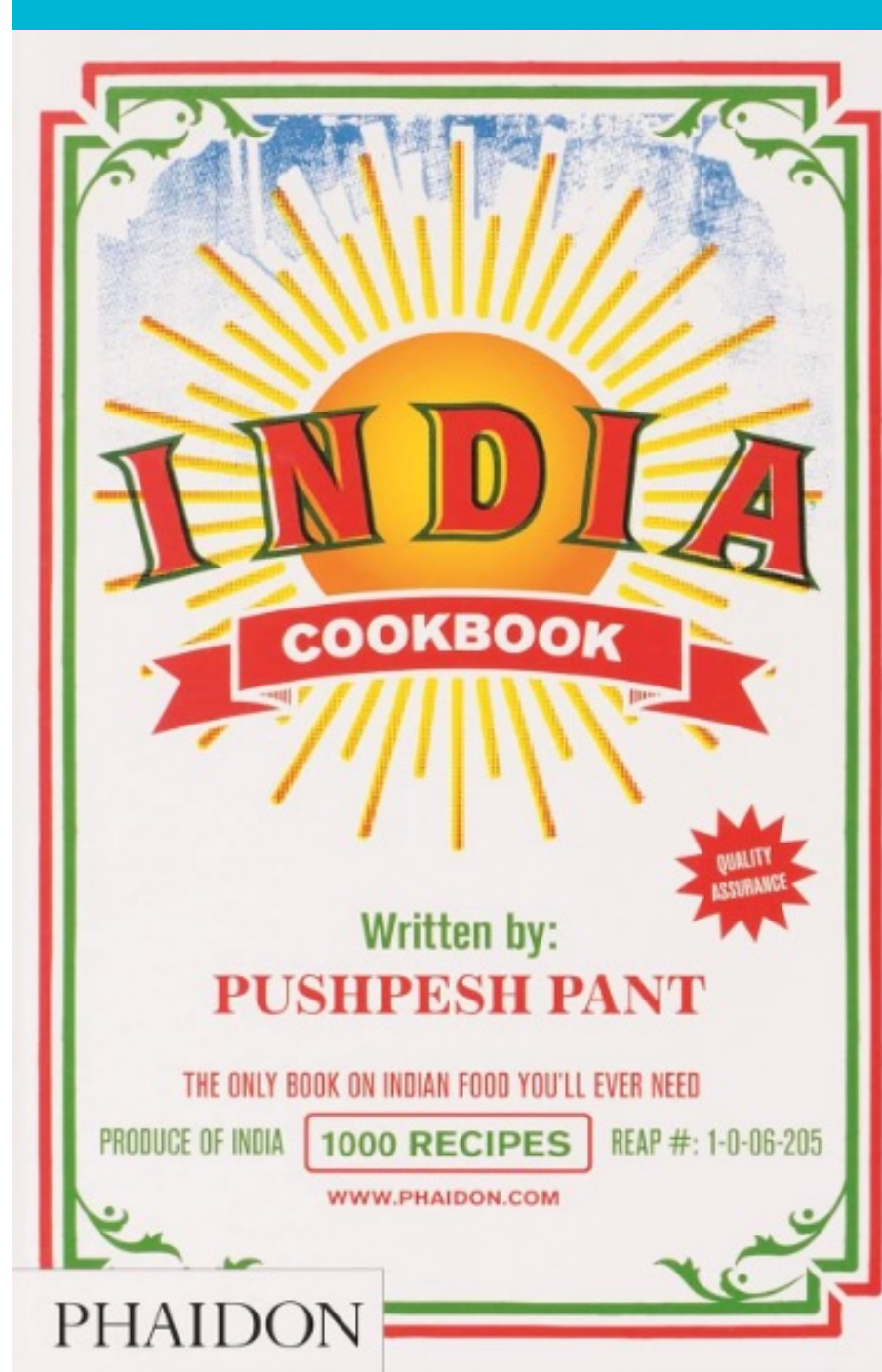
# Where is the Solution to My Task!

This is like teaching someone Chinese to cook Indian food;

you have 1,000 successful recipes from experts' experiences beforehand,

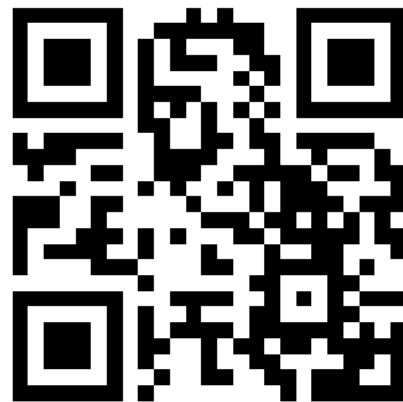
but you never foresee what you will actually serve at the table in the end.

You do get lucky in some cases where "transplanting" simply works!



# What are **the correct connections** based on your intuition?

Give your answer:



Scan the QR Code!

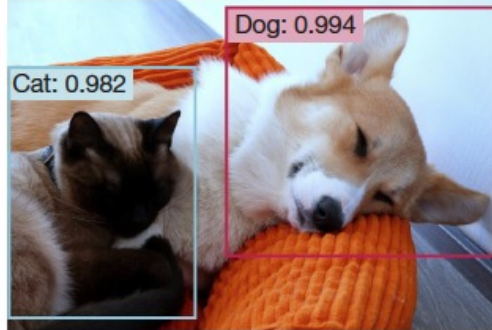
OR

1. Go to [vevox.app](https://vevox.app)
2. 156-136-777

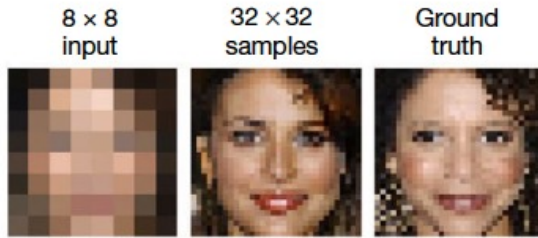
Left panels: AI tasks in **computer vision**.

### Machine learning tasks

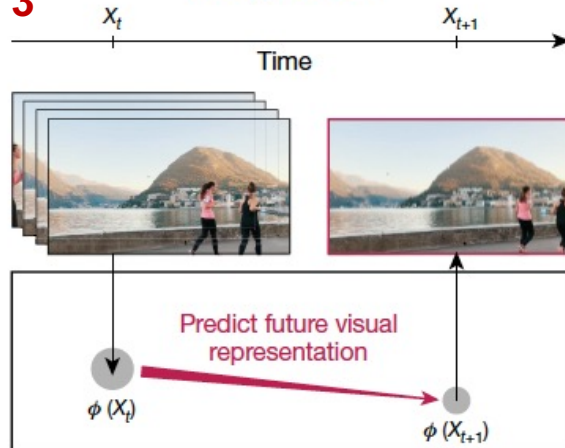
#### 1 Object classification and localization



#### 2 Super-resolution and fusion



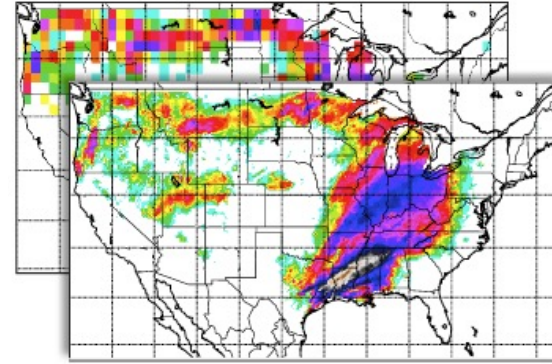
#### 3 Video prediction



### Earth science tasks

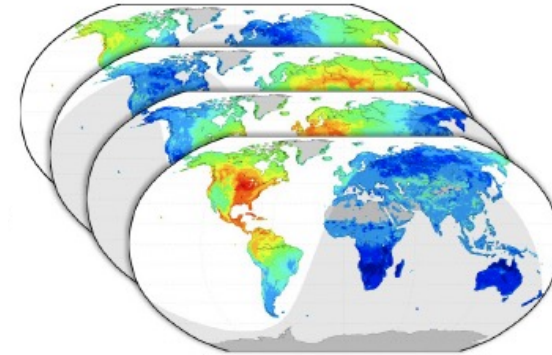
Statistical downscaling (from a larger-scale model to a smaller-scale; from a coarse resolution to a refined resolution)

A



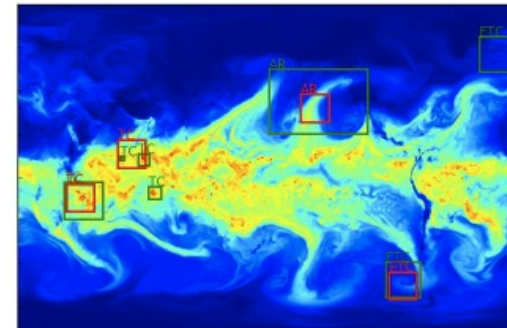
Short-term forecasting (predicting the weather for a short period, usually up to 48 hours ahead)

B



Classification and detection of extreme weather patterns on climate simulation data.

C

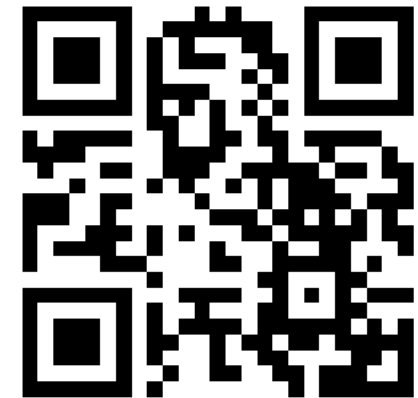


Right panels: **geoscientific problems** to which the same AI techniques can be applied.

Scan the QR Code!

OR

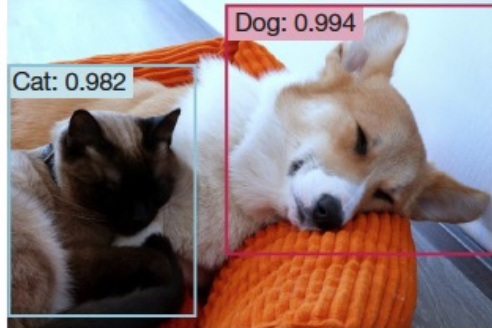
1. Go to [vevox.app](https://vevox.app)
2. 156-136-777



Left panels: AI tasks in **computer vision**.

### Machine learning tasks

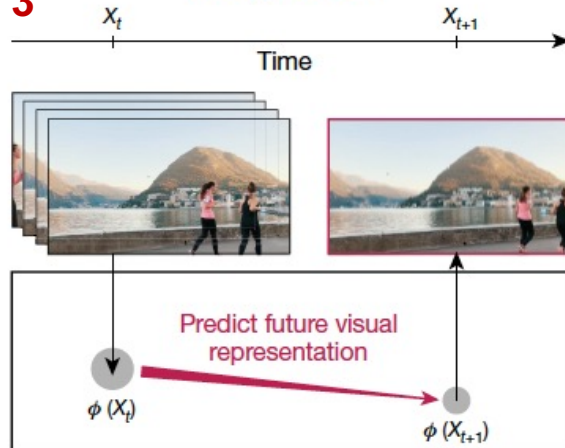
#### 1 Object classification and localization



#### 2 Super-resolution and fusion



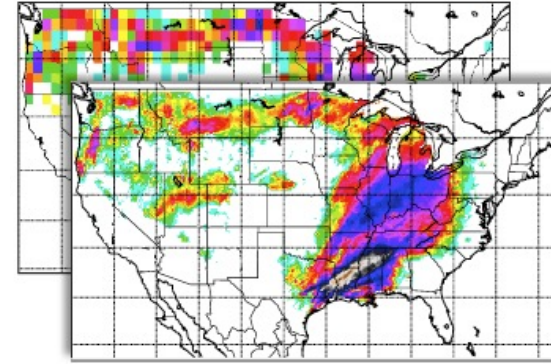
#### 3 Video prediction



### Earth science tasks

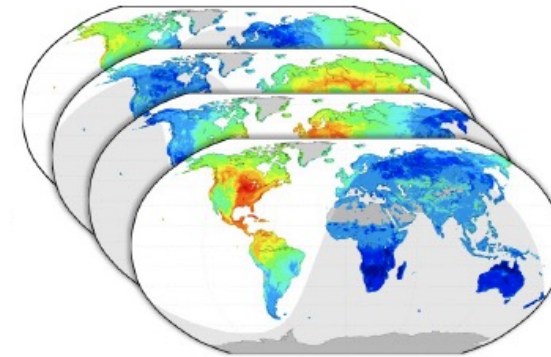
Statistical downscaling (from a larger-scale model to a smaller-scale; from a coarse resolution to a refined resolution)

A



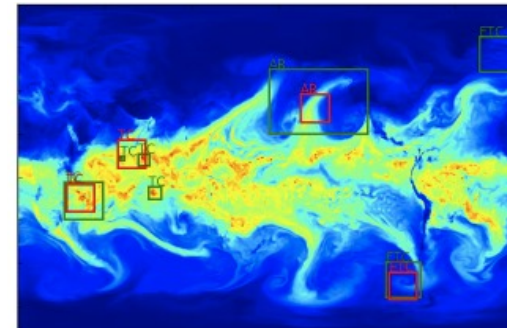
Short-term forecasting (predicting the weather for a short period, usually up to 48 hours ahead)

B



Classification and detection of extreme weather patterns on climate simulation data.

C



Right panels: **geoscientific problems** to which the same AI techniques can be applied.

# Case Studies

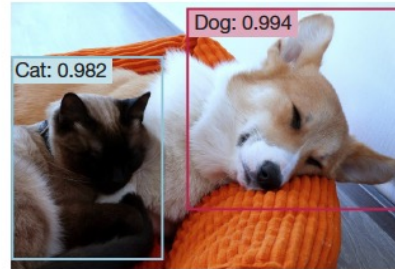
With ML

Patterns

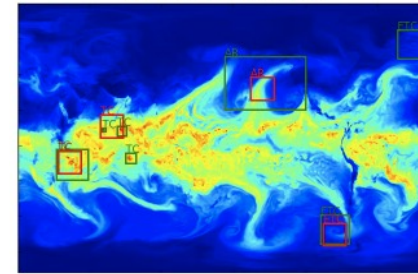
Physics

Predictions

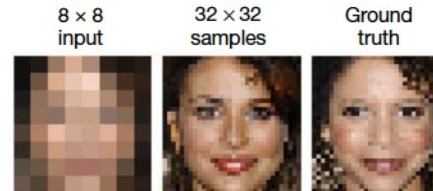
**a** Object classification and localization



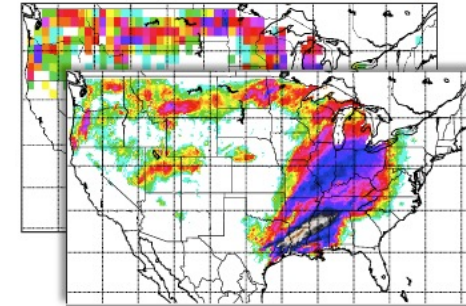
Classification and detection of extreme weather patterns on climate simulation data.



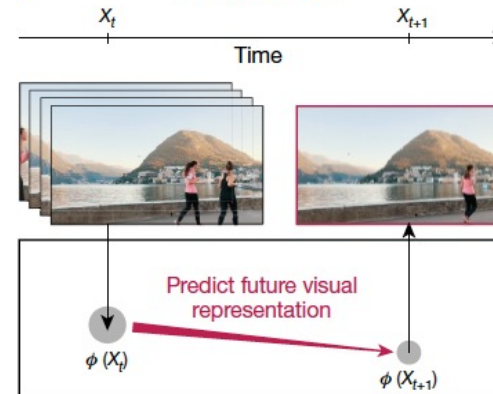
**b** Super-resolution and fusion



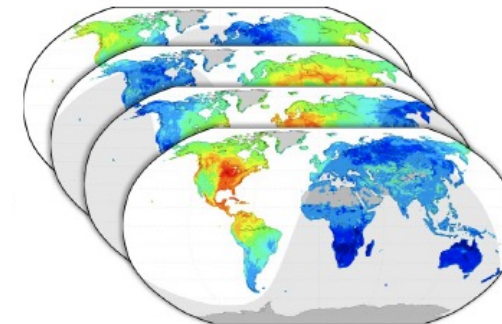
Statistical downscaling (from a larger-scale model to a smaller-scale; from a coarse resolution to a refined resolution)



**c** Video prediction

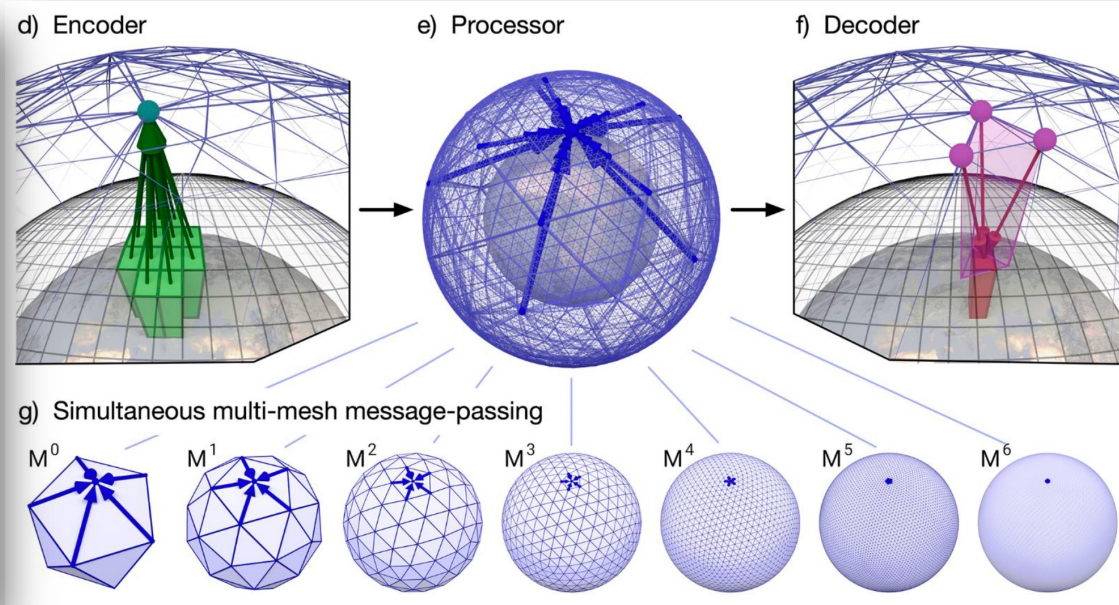
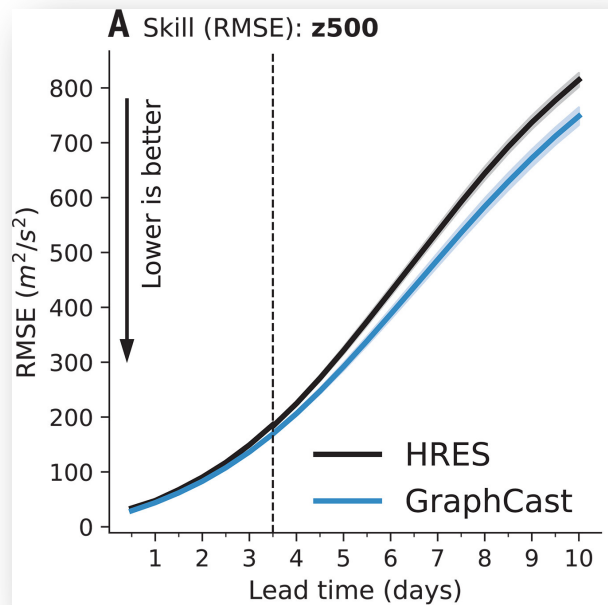


Short-term forecasting (predicting the weather for a short period, usually up to 48 hours ahead)



# Recent developments in AI-Climate

“Data”-driven weather forecasts (early work by Düben & Bauer, 2018 and Weyn et al, 2019)



Graphcast (Google),  
Lam et al, 2023

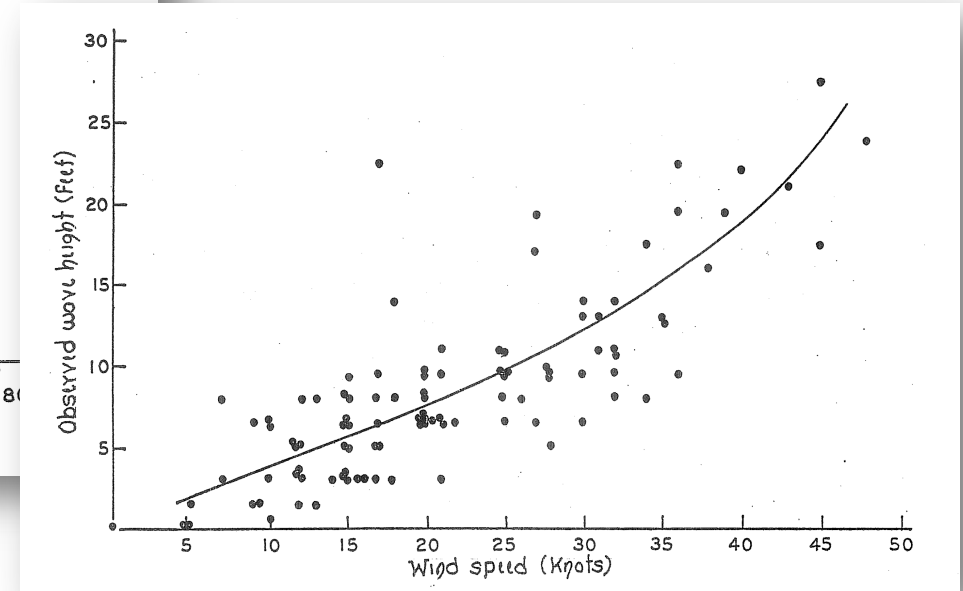
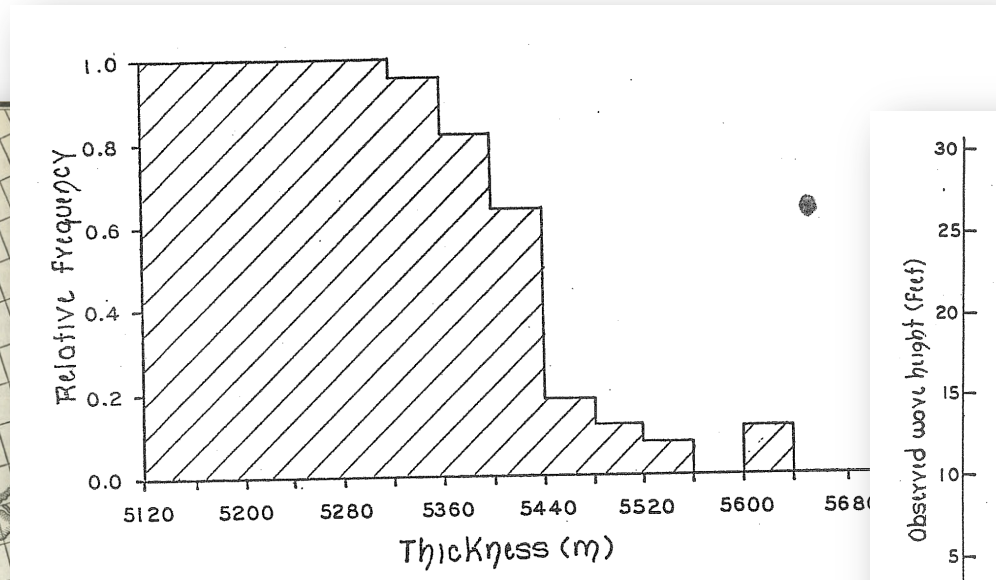
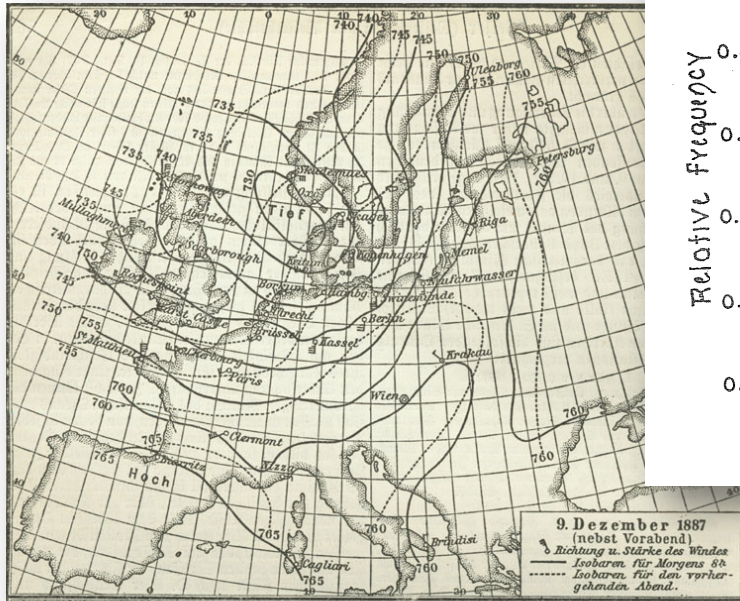
*Similar approaches,  
differing AI strategies*

Fourcastnet (NVIDIA),  
FuXi (Fudan Uni),  
PanguWeather (Huawei),  
Keisler (2022)



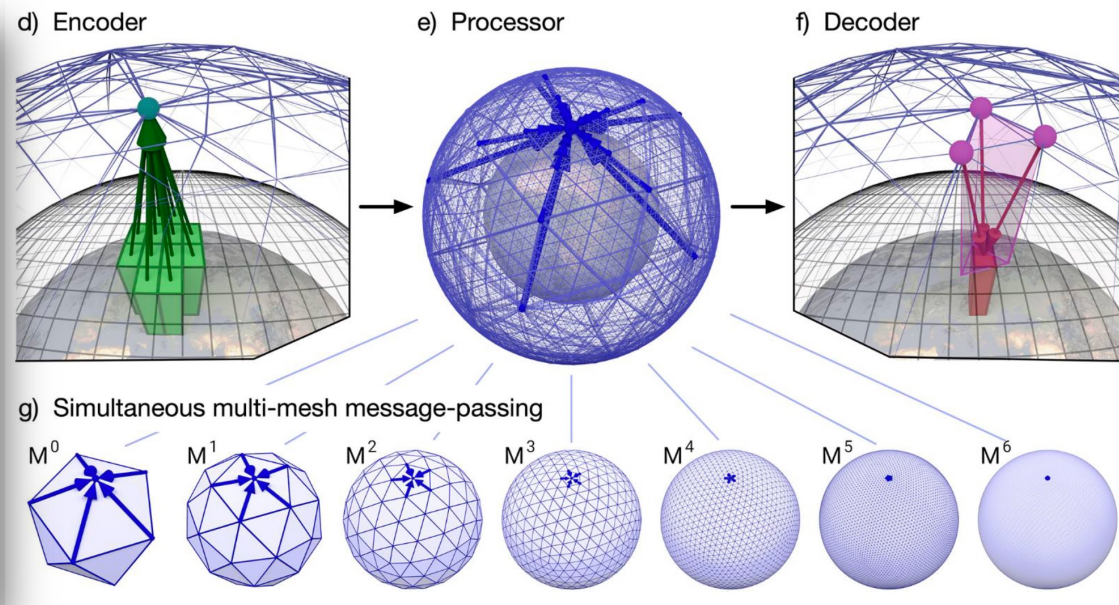
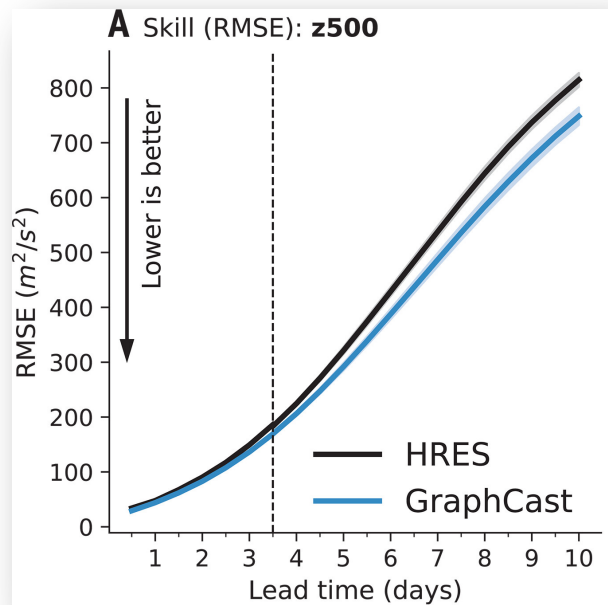
# A hundred years ago, what did we do?

Look at historical patterns & make a statistical prediction!



# Recent developments in AI-Climate

“Data”-driven weather forecasts (*early work by Düben & Bauer, 2018 and Weyn et al, 2019*)



Graphcast (Google),  
Lam et al, 2023

*Similar approaches,  
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# Case Studies

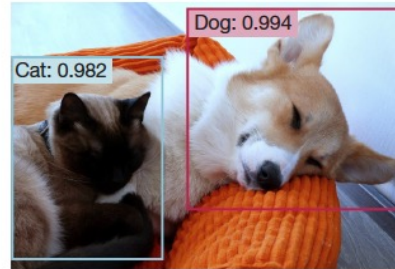
With ML

Patterns

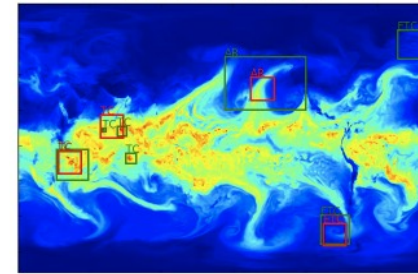
Physics

Predictions

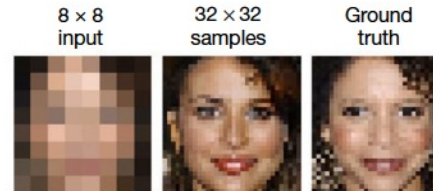
**a** Object classification and localization



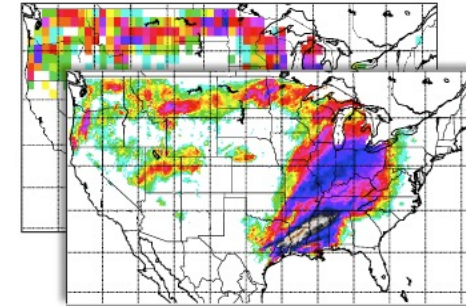
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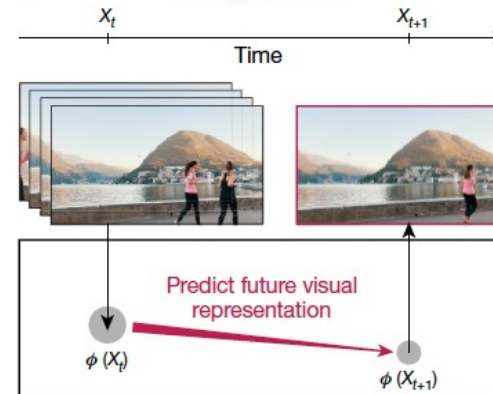
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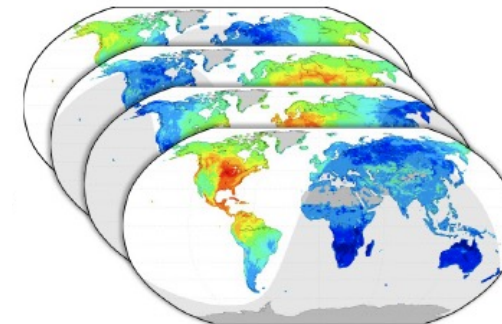
Statistical downscaling (from a larger-scale model to a smaller-scale; from a coarse resolution to a refined resolution)



**c** Video prediction

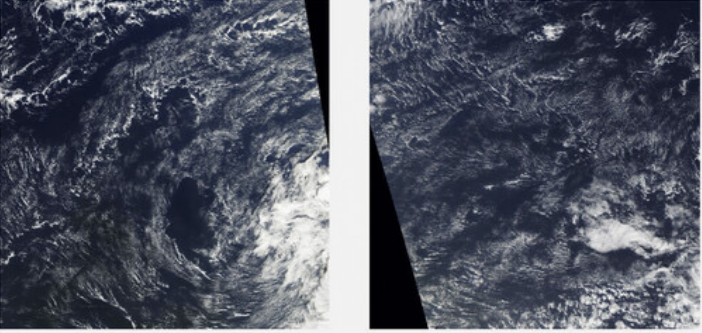


Short-term forecasting (predicting the weather for a short period, usually up to 48 hours ahead)



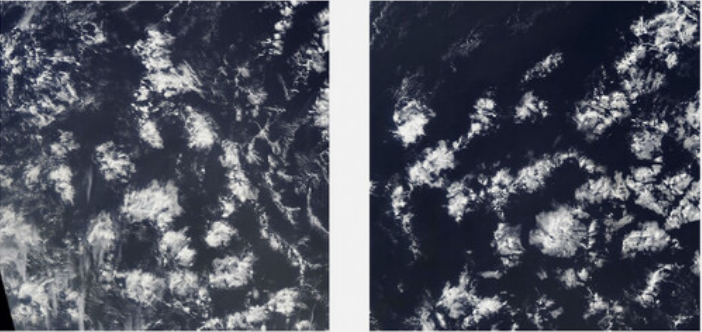
# Detect Cloud Organization Patterns

**Sugar**  
Dusting of very fine clouds, little evidence of self-organization



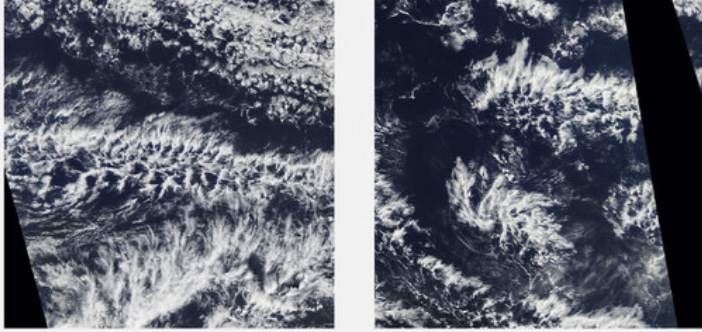
500 km

**Flower**  
Large-scale stratiform cloud features appearing in bouquets, well separated from each other

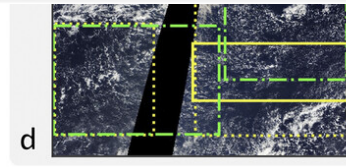
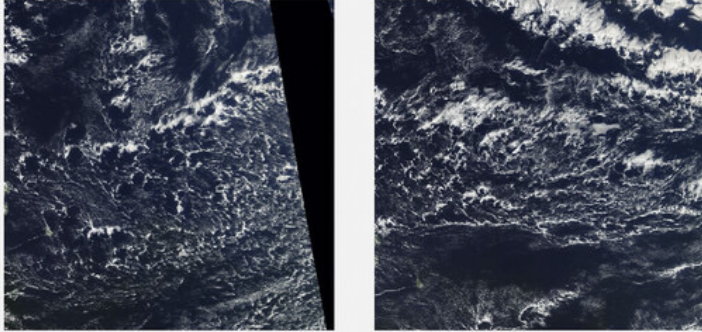


Humans

**Fish**  
Large-scale skeletal networks of clouds separated from other cloud forms



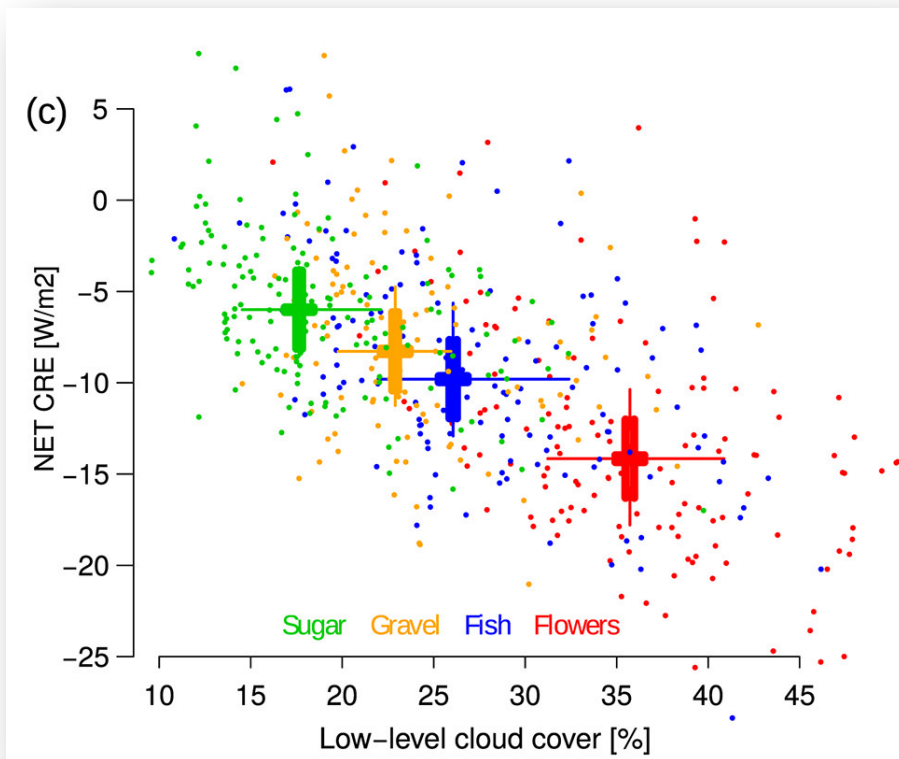
**Gravel**  
Meso-beta lines or arcs defining randomly interacting cells with intermediate granularity



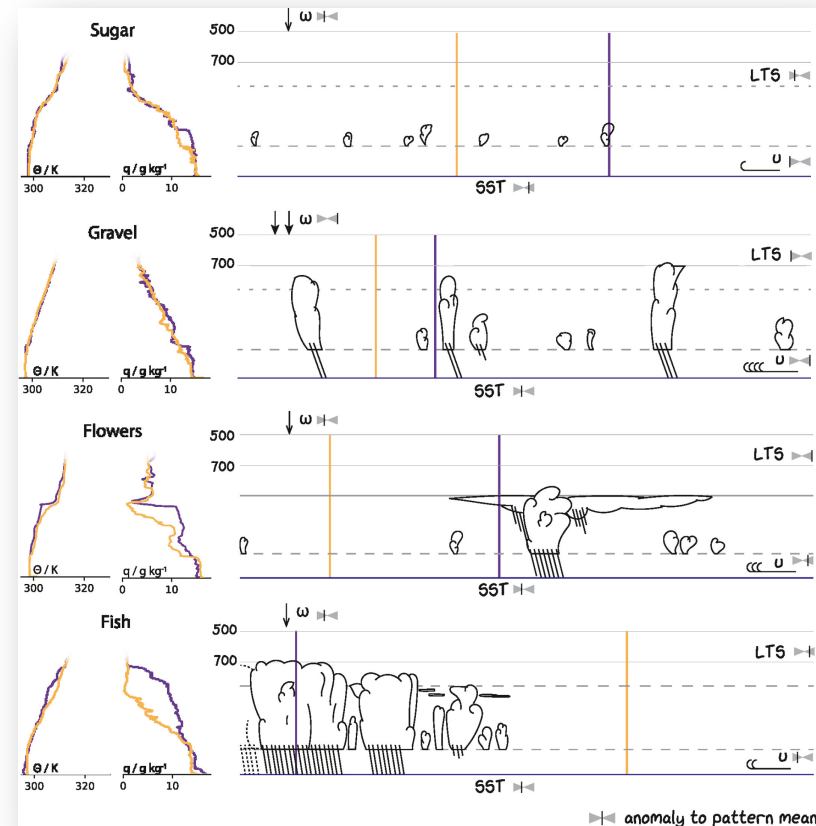
Object detection: RetinaNet  
Segmentation: UNet



# Detect Cloud Organization Patterns



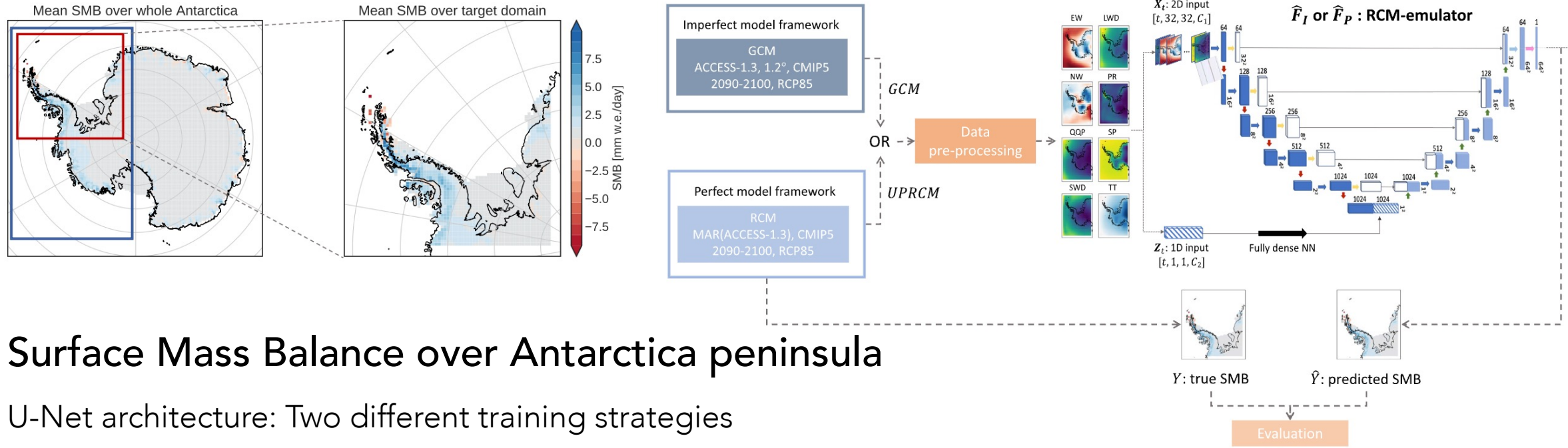
Radiative effects of these patterns



Distinguishing physics of these patterns

# Downscaling: Global to Regional Climate Model

Data-driven emulator instead of a dynamical model



## Surface Mass Balance over Antarctica peninsula

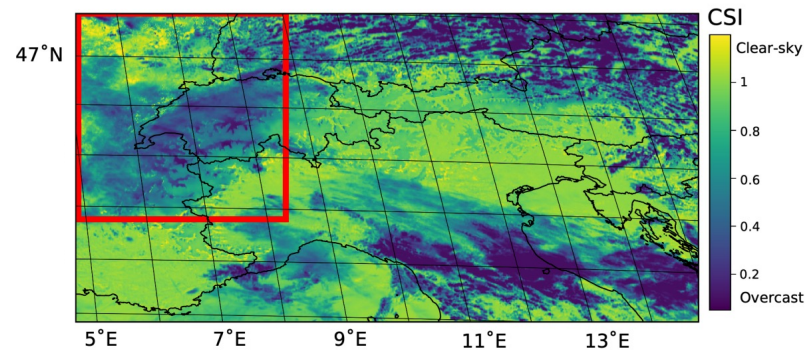
U-Net architecture: Two different training strategies

Perfect (blind to global) and Imperfect (can see global-regional coupling)

Near-instantaneous predictions instead of several weeks on a supercomputer!

# Short-term weather forecasting (Nowcasting)

Intra-day solar forecast with deep learning – Enhancing solar energy



Clear-sky irradiances from satellite data

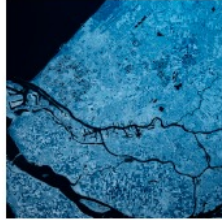
Deterministic & probabilistic for large-scale vs noisy dynamics

Performance & accuracy!

# Visions of the Climate Action Flagship

## Flagship project

### Machine Learning for Regional Climate



Climate models are the primary tools used for generating projections of climate change under different future socio- economic scenarios and provide key input for regional decision making for a future climate resilient society. However, due to the large range of spatial and temporal scales and huge number of processes being modelled, these climate models are extremely computationally expensive to run, analyze and interpret using traditional tools and methods. Therefore, there is great interest in how machine learning (ML) might help to improve regional climate projections, especially with novel ML methodologies that are interpretable, show physical consistency, allow assimilation of observations and models across different scales, and that can handle complex and uncertain data. On the application side, these ML techniques should contribute potentially to the improvement of regional projections for the Dutch delta, where downscaling of global circulation models and uncertainties in circulation patterns are some of the main challenges.

## Flagship team

Geet George  
Angela Meyer  
Franziska Glassmeier  
Riccardo Riva  
Pier Siebesma  
Marcel Reinders  
[Jing Sun \(Academic Career Tracker\)](#)

Improving regional climate projections

Downscaling global models

Uncertainties in circulation patterns

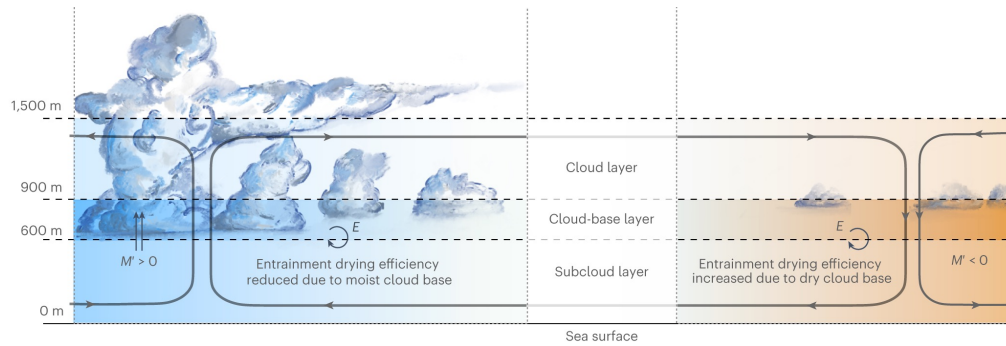
*We showcase a few projects and ideas...*



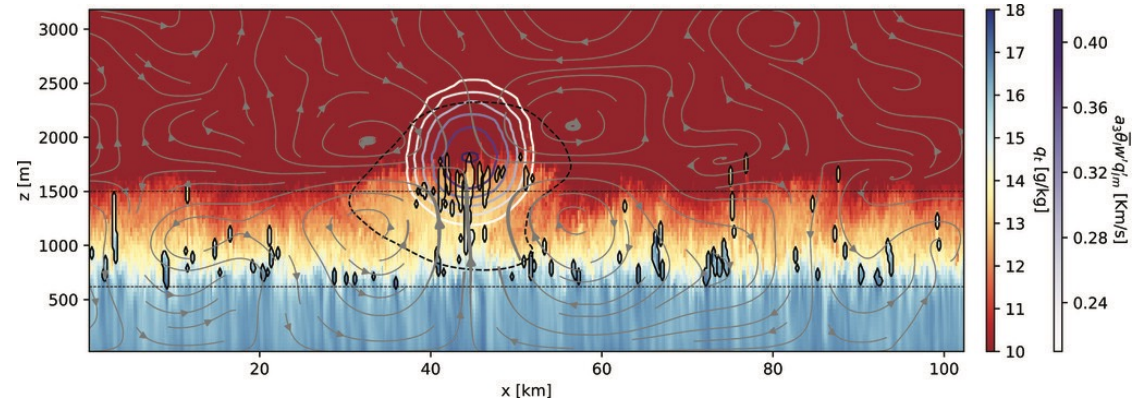
# AI for Data Enhancement

## Understanding clouds-circulations coupling

Circulations in measurements



Circulations in models

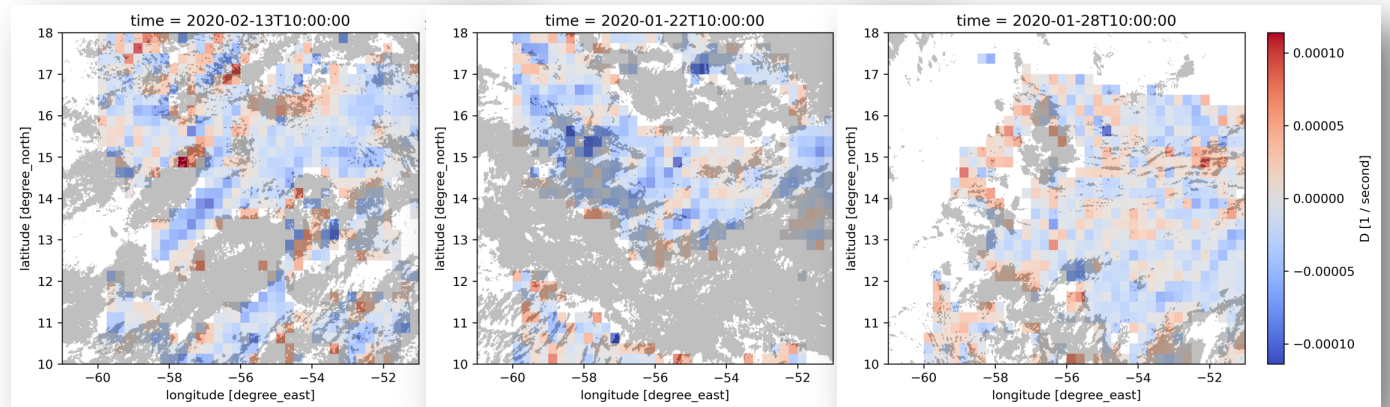


Uncertainties in understanding of circulations

Satellites can provide large data to help

Data-gaps & coarse-resolution

Gap-filling & increasing SnR with deep learning



# AI for Physics in Data

## Physical interpretations from raw data



Synergistic use of observations to understand physical processes

Assumptions hidden in retrievals of physical quantities

AI works with raw, native data: Look for stable hypervolumes in raw-data space

# Sea Level + ML

**Riccardo Riva** ([Sea Level Change](#)) and **Jing Sun** ([ML](#)) are collaboratively supervising a PhD project focusing the following research questions:

- Can we quantify mass changes in freshwater reservoirs from satellite altimetry observations over the oceans?
- How can we use machine learning techniques to detect slow and large-scale signals due to geophysical processes?



Riva, R., 2022. A novel reconstruction of sea level sources from satellite altimetry. NWO. Use of space infrastructure for Earth observation and planetary research (GO).

## Flagship project

### Regional Sea Level Rise



Sea level rise is one of the main effects of climate change that the Netherlands faces. While coastal engineers and policymakers need accurate regional sea level projections, our physical understanding of how the circulation in deep oceans impacts sea level in shallow seas like the North Sea, and hence our ability to model this, is still limited. We will address this issue by studying the connections between sea level change on ocean basin scales and coastal scales, as well as the underlying dynamical processes in the ocean driving them, for present-day and for future climates. Possible approaches include the development and application of high-resolution numerical models and sophisticated analyses of observations.

#### Flagship team

Caroline Katsman  
Riccardo Riva  
[Renske Gelderloos \(Academic Career Tracker\)](#)

## In-Theme Collaboration

### Flagship project

### Machine Learning for Regional Climate



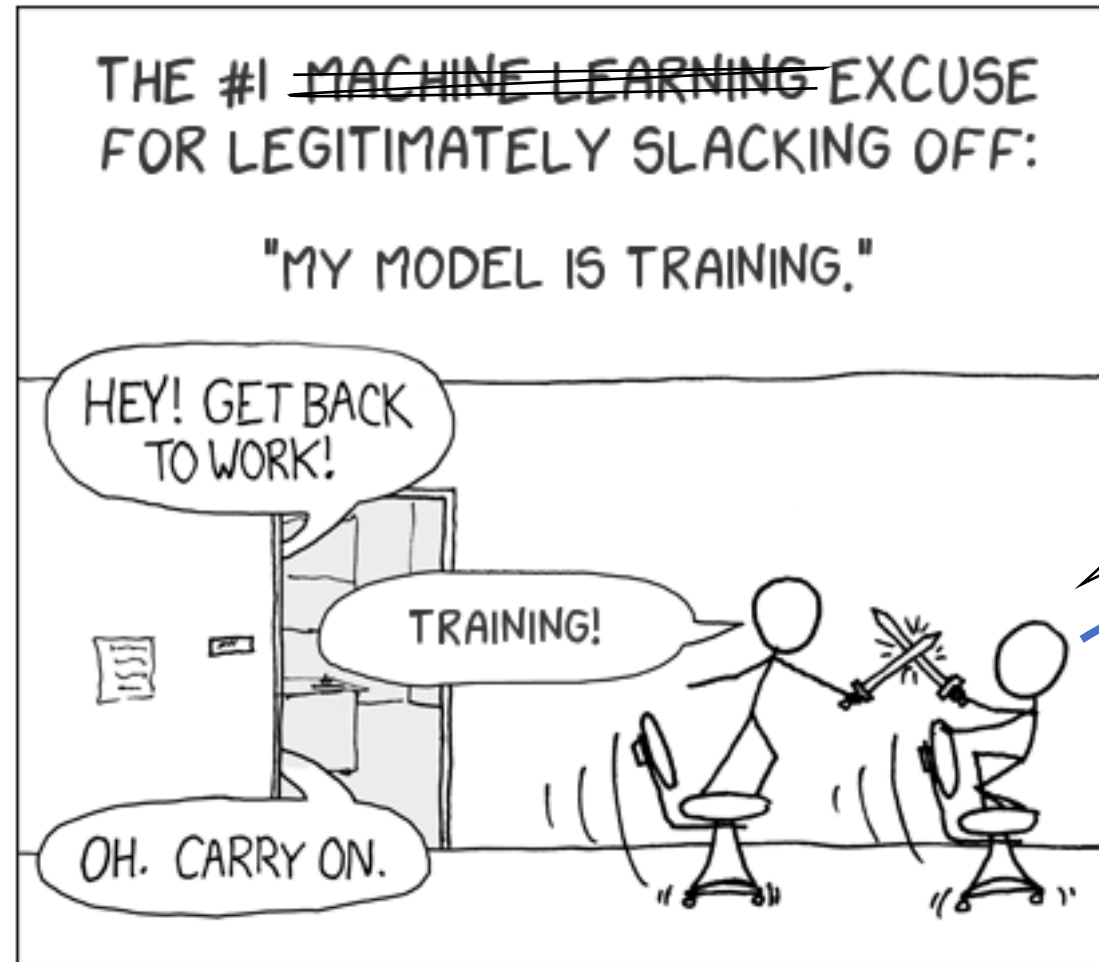
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Marcel Reinders  
14-03-2024 43  
[Jing Sun \(Academic Career Tracker\)](#)

# Larger Model! Bigger Data!

## DEEP LEARNING



Out of the house! It should be Machine AND Deep Learning!

**THE MACHINE LEARNING**

# Challenges in AI

- Interpretability
- Physics Consistency
- Uncertainty Quantification
- Computational Efficiency

Electricity Consumption: **ChatGPT = 17,000 US household users**

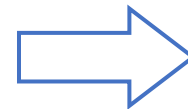
-- THE NEW YORKER

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-obscene-energy-demands-of-ai>

The comparison was based on ChatGPT responding to 200 million requests per day, and the average U.S. household consuming 29 kilowatt-hours daily.

## Climate is Climate!

A poor Netflix recommendation ruins a movie night;  
a poor climate decision-making dims the future's light.



## Trustworthy AI

# Computation

> 1.5 years

1 second



Image Courtesy: LUMI

Traditional mechanical  
computation



# Computation

~70 years ago...

Image Courtesy: LUMI



Machine  
computation

Traditional statistical  
learning

Data  
Today!

Deep  
learning

Bedankt voor uw aandacht!  
Thanks for your attention!

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G.George@tudelft.nl  
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Department of Geoscience and Remote Sensing

Dr. Jing Sun  
Jing.Sun@tudelft.nl  
Office 6.E.100, Building 28  
Department of Intelligent Systems