



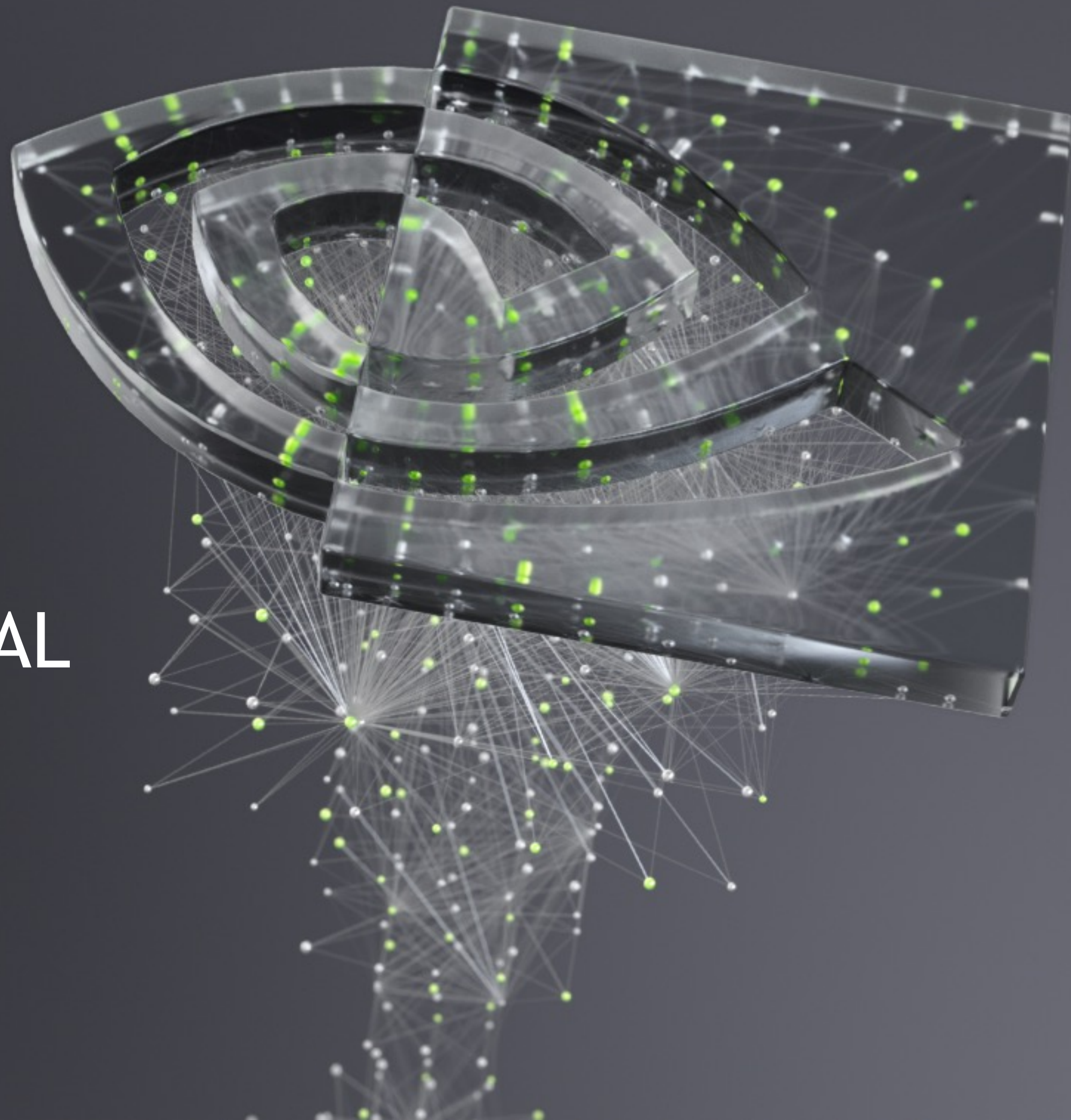
**NVIDIA**

# BUILDING EARTH DIGITAL TWINS FOR NVIDIA'S EARTH-2 INITIATIVE

Karthik Kashinath

Principal Engineer and Scientist, AI-HPC, NVIDIA

Engineering Lead, Earth-2, NVIDIA



An aerial photograph of a large forest fire. The fire is intense, with bright orange and red flames rising from a dense forest of evergreen trees. Thick, dark smoke billows upwards from the fire, partially obscuring the sky. In the upper right portion of the image, a helicopter is visible, flying over the fire. The background shows a mountain range with patches of snow and more forested areas under a hazy, smoke-filled sky.

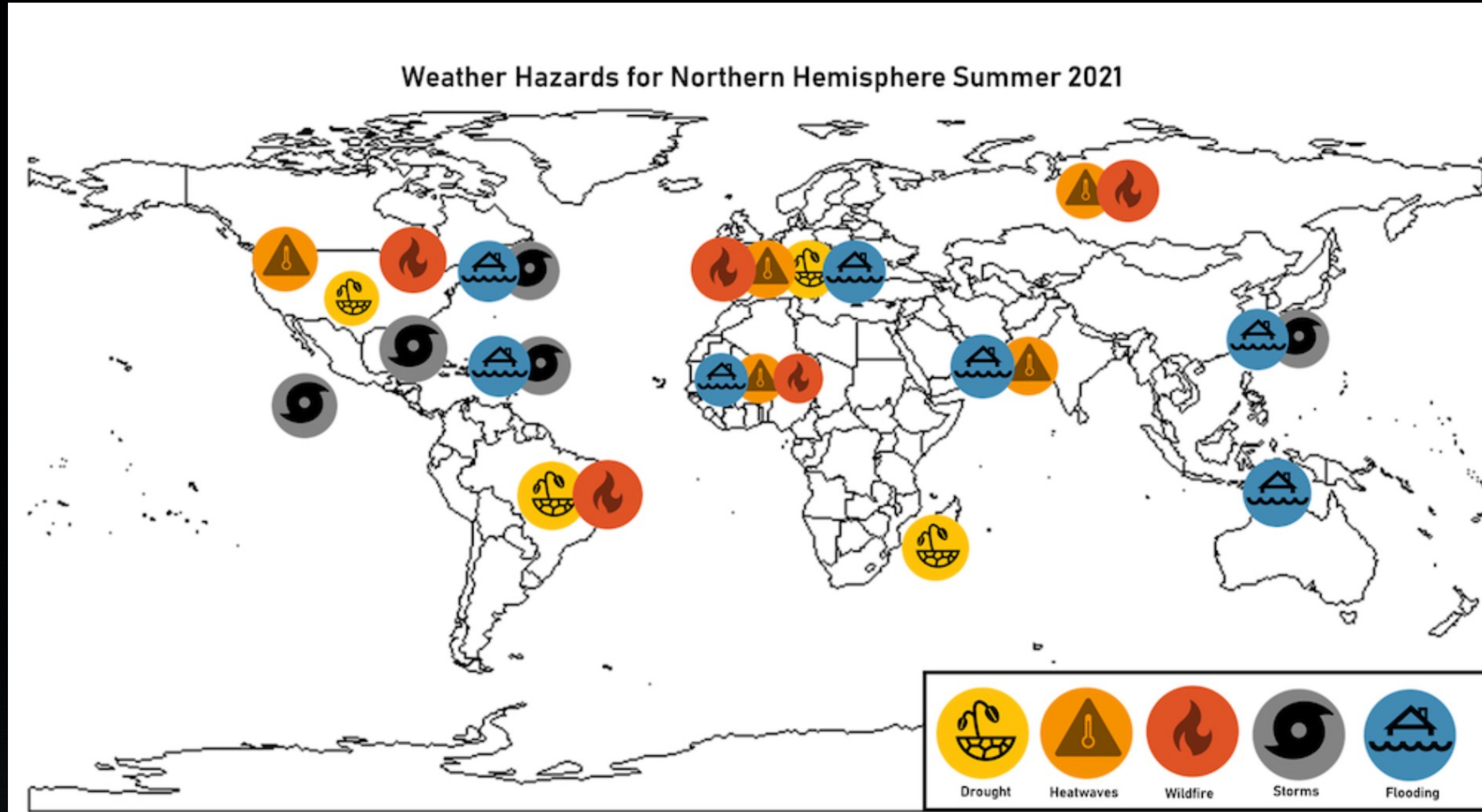
# AGENDA

WHY CLIMATE SCIENCE NEEDS DIGITAL TWINS  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICS-INFORMED ML  
FOURCASTNET: A STEP TOWARDS DIGITAL TWIN EARTH



CHALLENGE: DRAMATIC RISE IN EXTREME WEATHER ACROSS THE GLOBE

# EXTREME WEATHER EVERYWHERE



# CLIMATE SCIENCE REQUIRES MILLION-X SPEEDUPS

Computational constraints limit model resolution

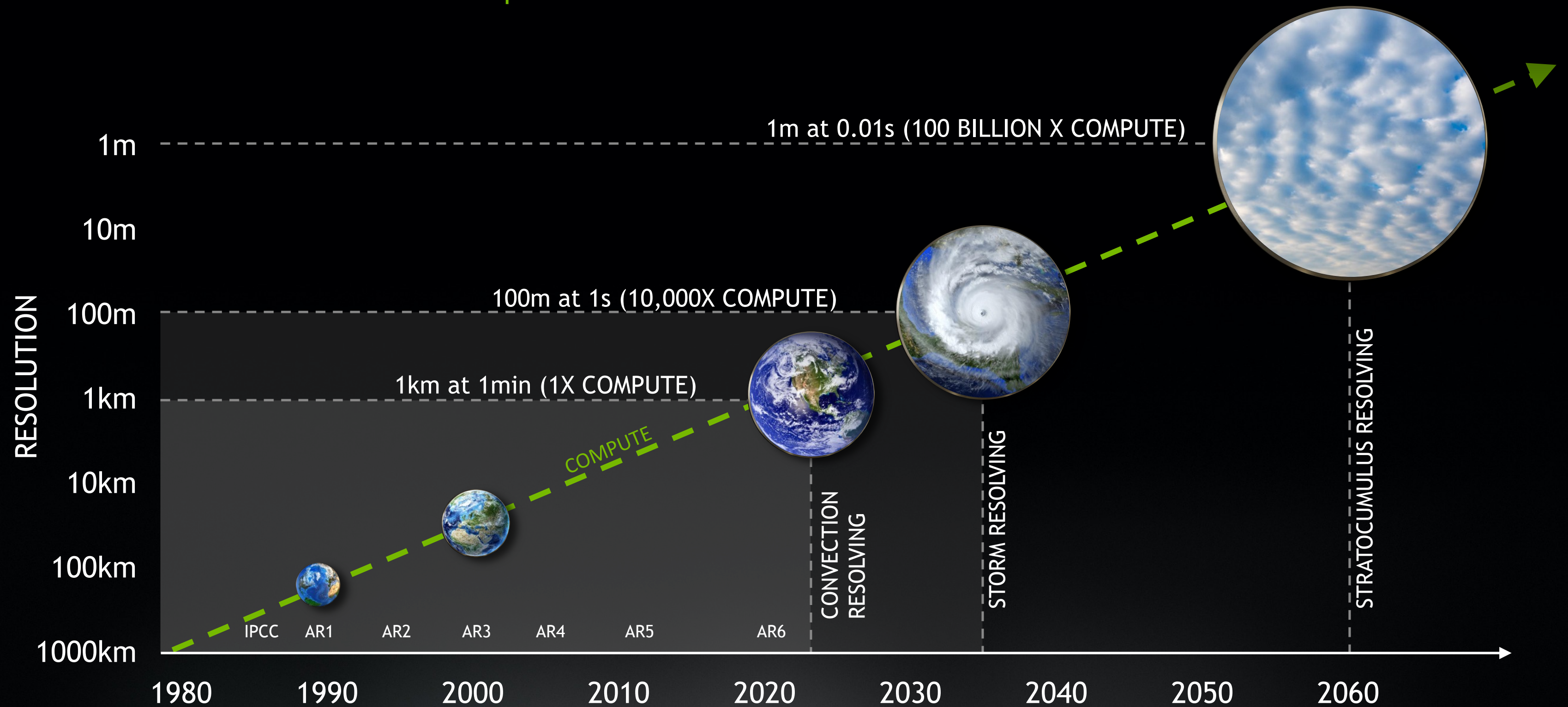
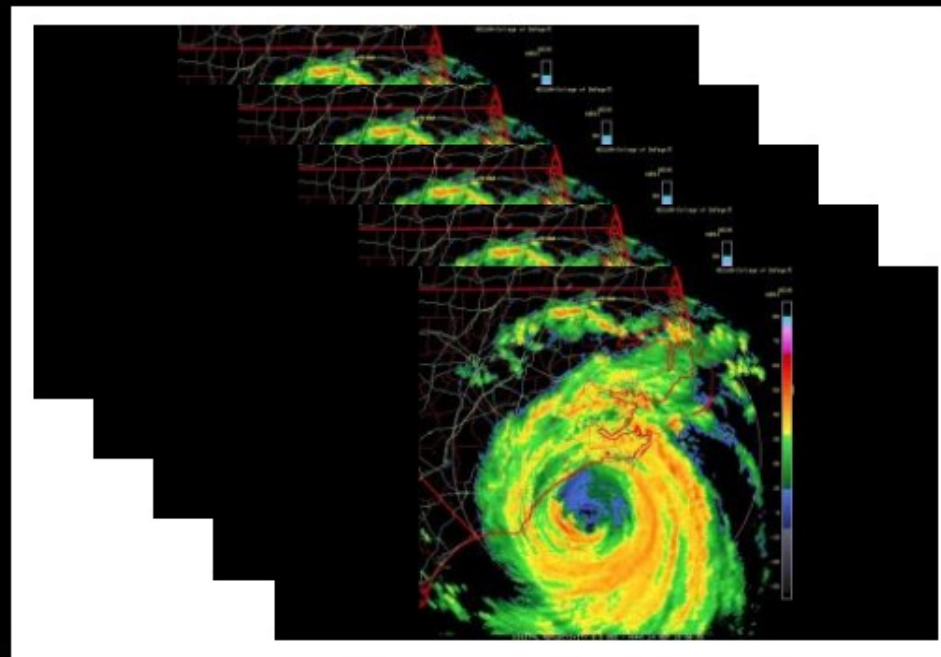


Figure adapted from: Schneider, T., Teixeira, J., Bretherton, C. et al. Climate goals and computing the future of clouds. *Nature Climate Change* 7, 3–5 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate3190>

# CLIMATE SCIENCE REQUIRES MILLION-X SPEEDUPS

Computational constraints limit the size of ensembles and how many scenarios can be explored

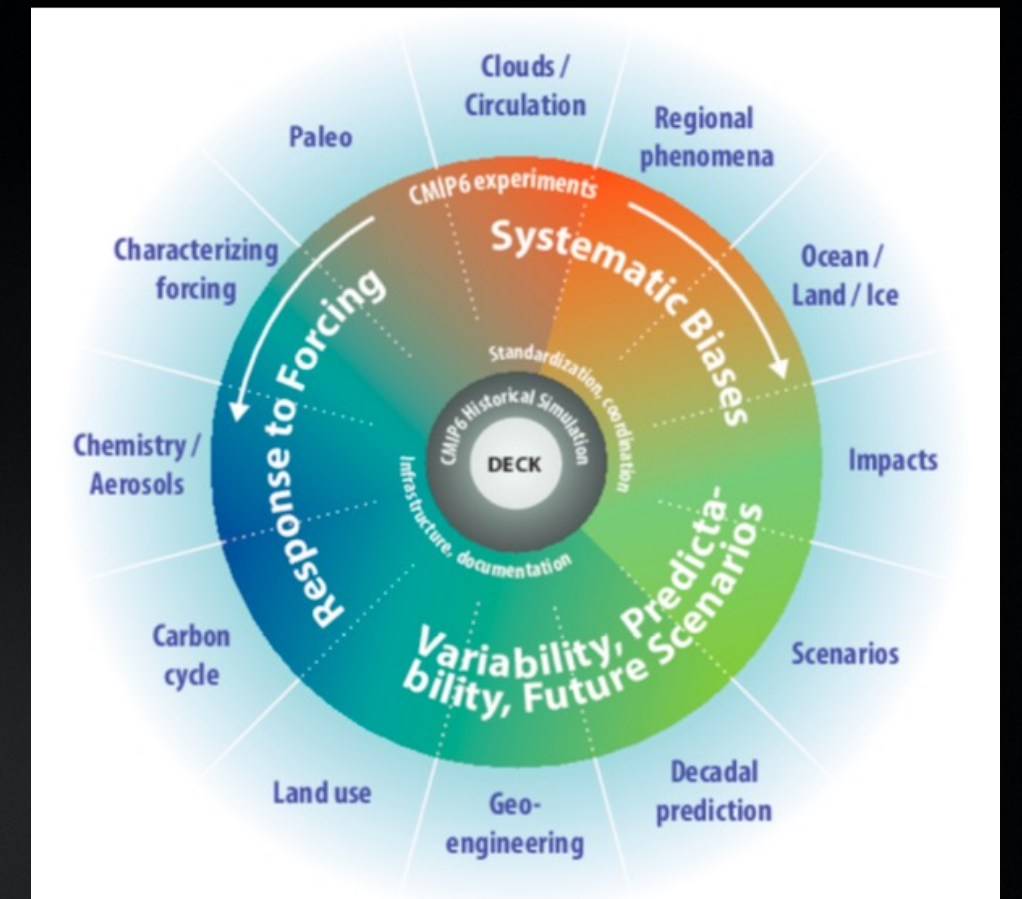
10s → 1000s OF MEMBERS



ENSEMBLES

SCENARIOS

10s → 1000s OF SCENARIOS

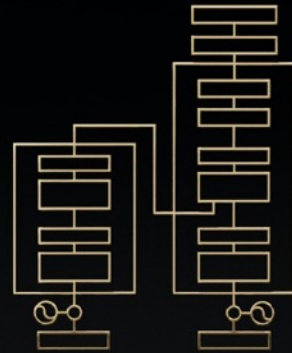


# ADVANCES IN COMPUTING AND ML PROMISE MILLION-X SPEEDUPS

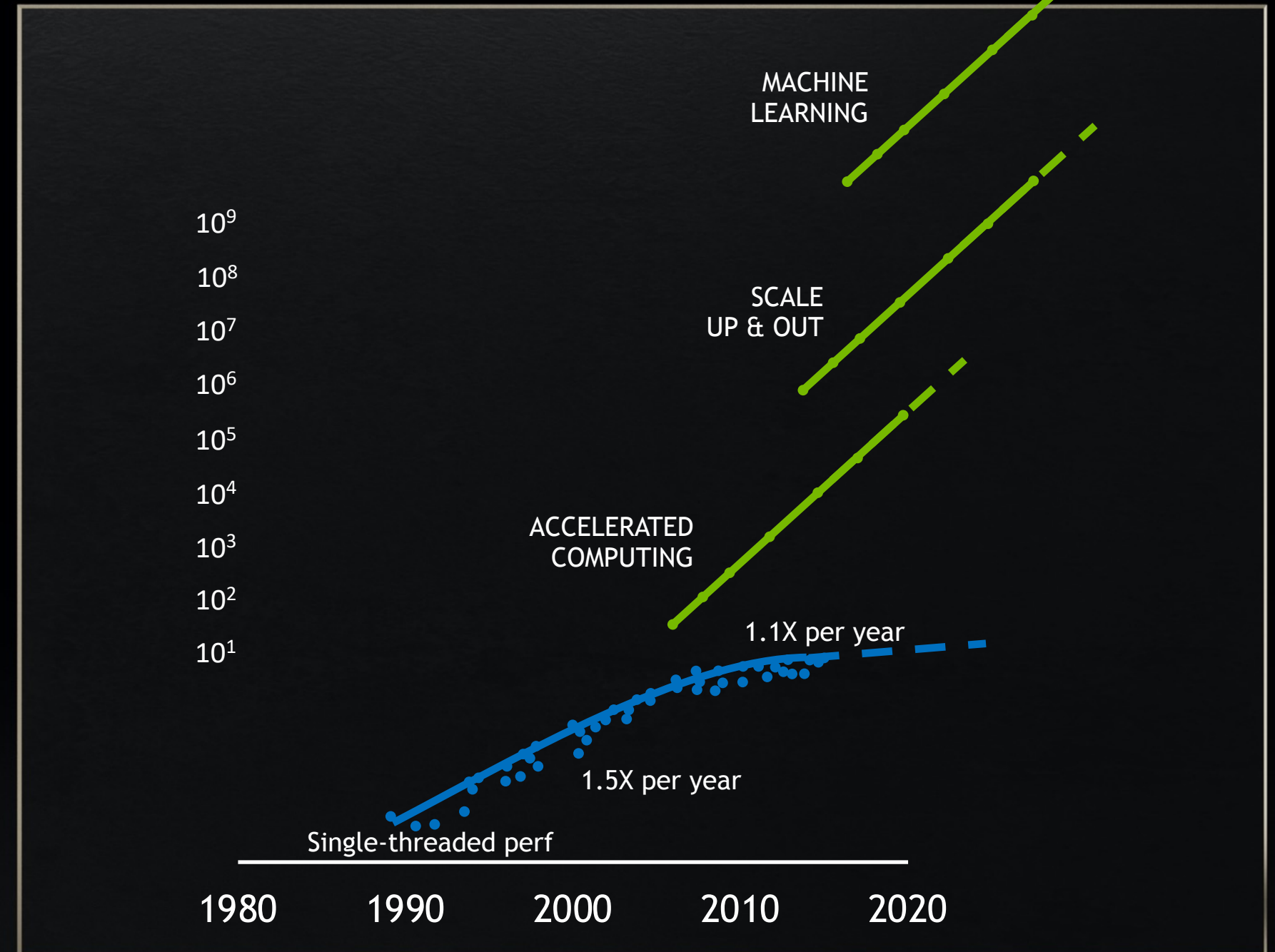
Accelerated Computing



AI



Data Center Scale



# DESTINATION-EARTH: DIGITAL REPLICAS OF EARTH

Project DestinE envisions what Earth-system modeling could be

Intuitive User Interface:

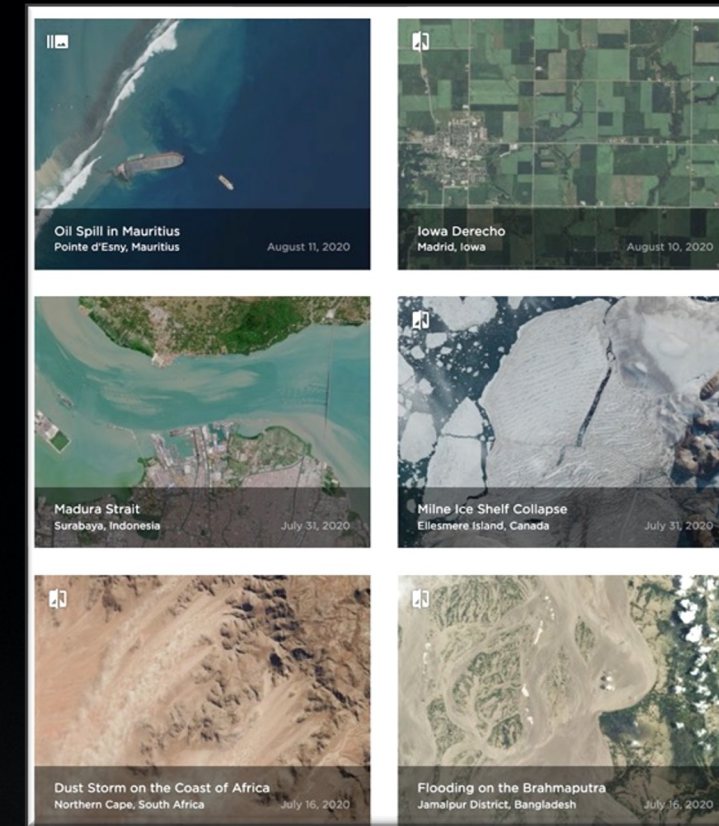
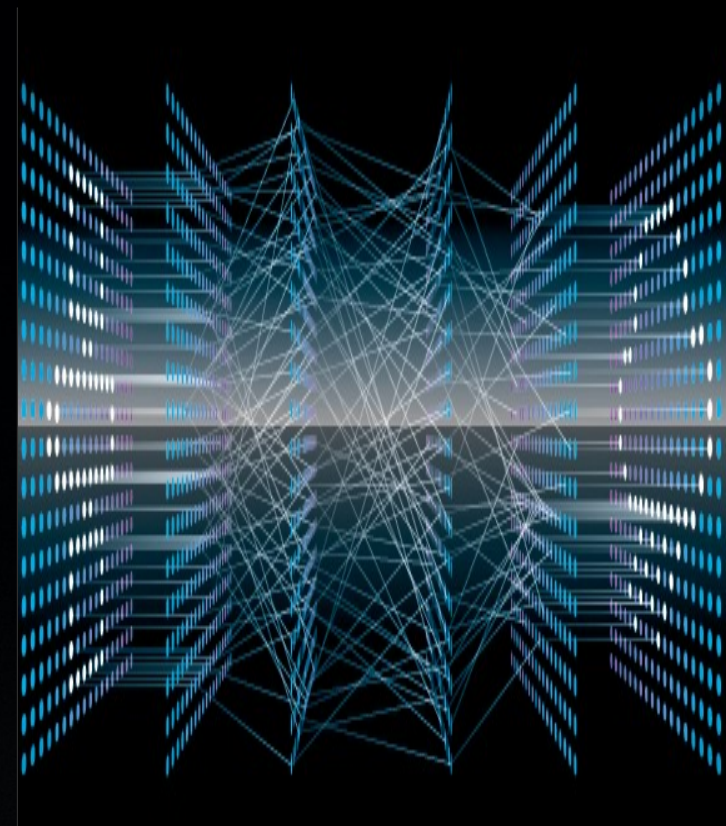
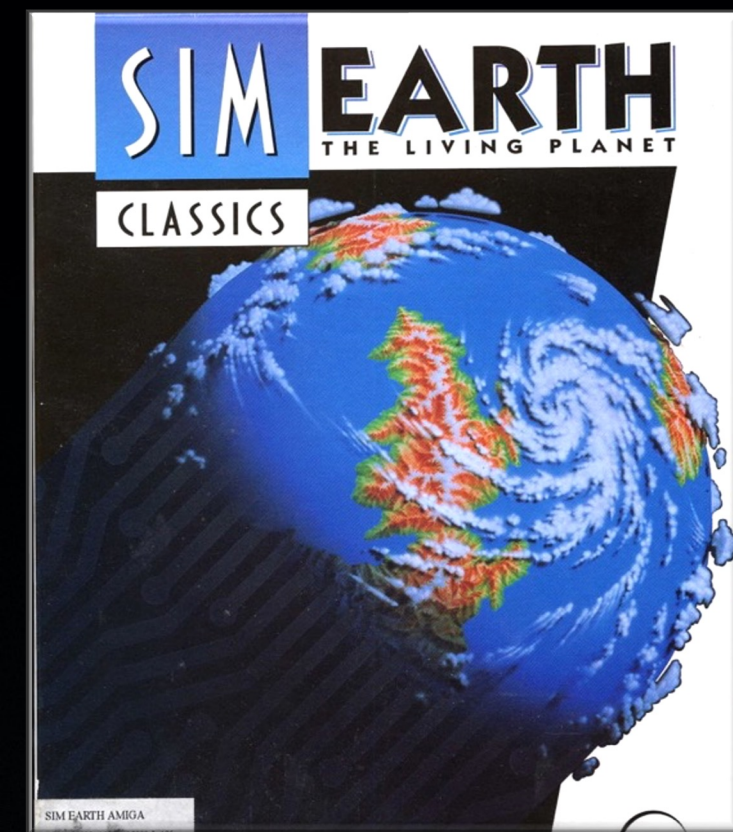
What-if Q & A

Data-driven Models

Storm-resolving Models

Unified Observations

Exascale Compute



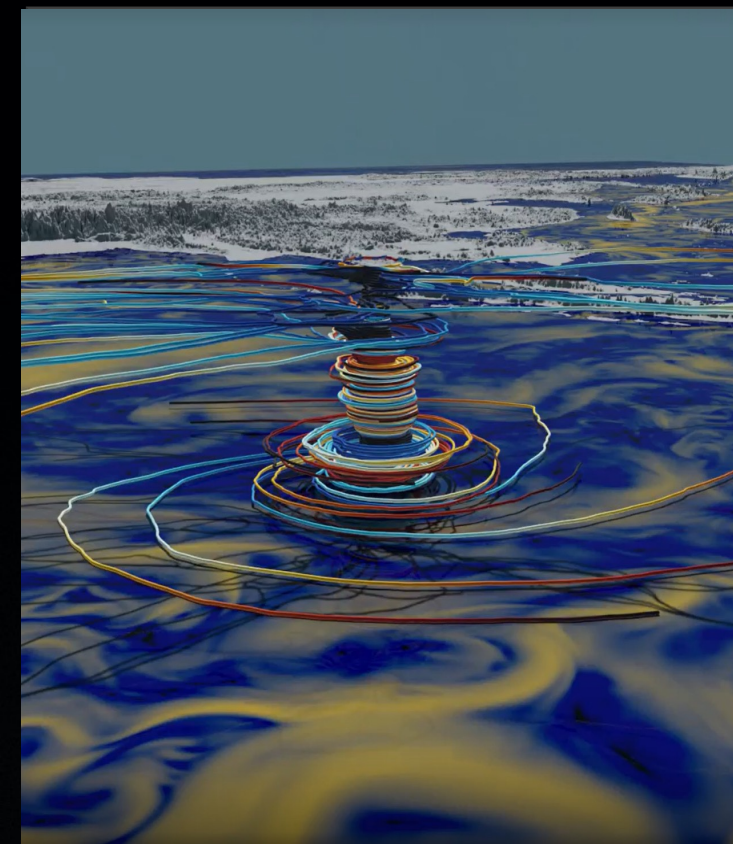
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/destination-earth>

# DESTINATION-EARTH: DIGITAL REPLICAS OF EARTH

NVIDIA has technologies needed to make this vision a reality

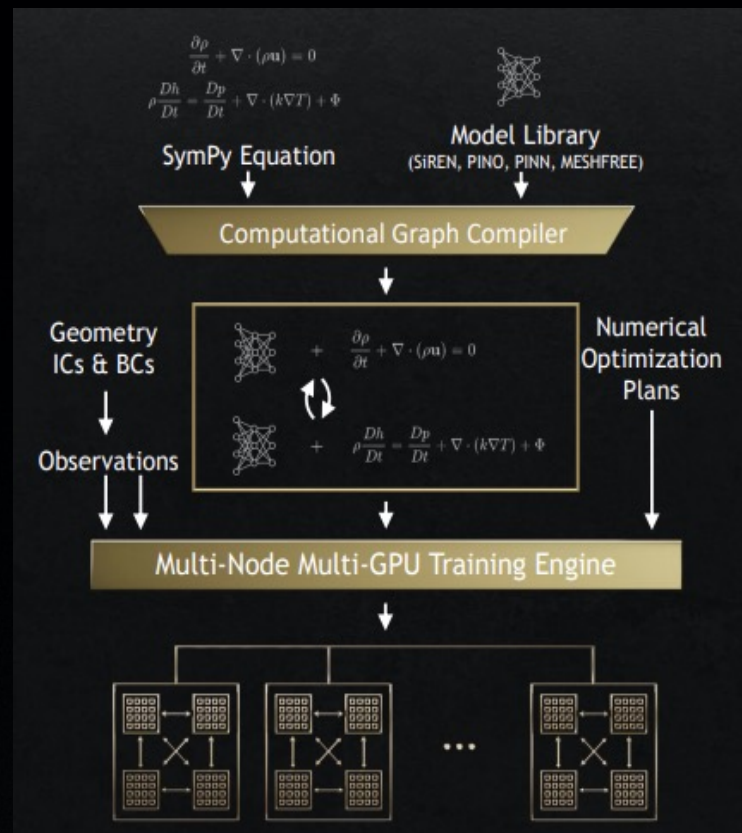
Intuitive User Interface:

What-if Q & A



OMNIVERSE

Data-driven Models



PHYSICS-ML /  
MODULUS

Storm-resolving Models



GPU-ACCELERATION

Unified Observations

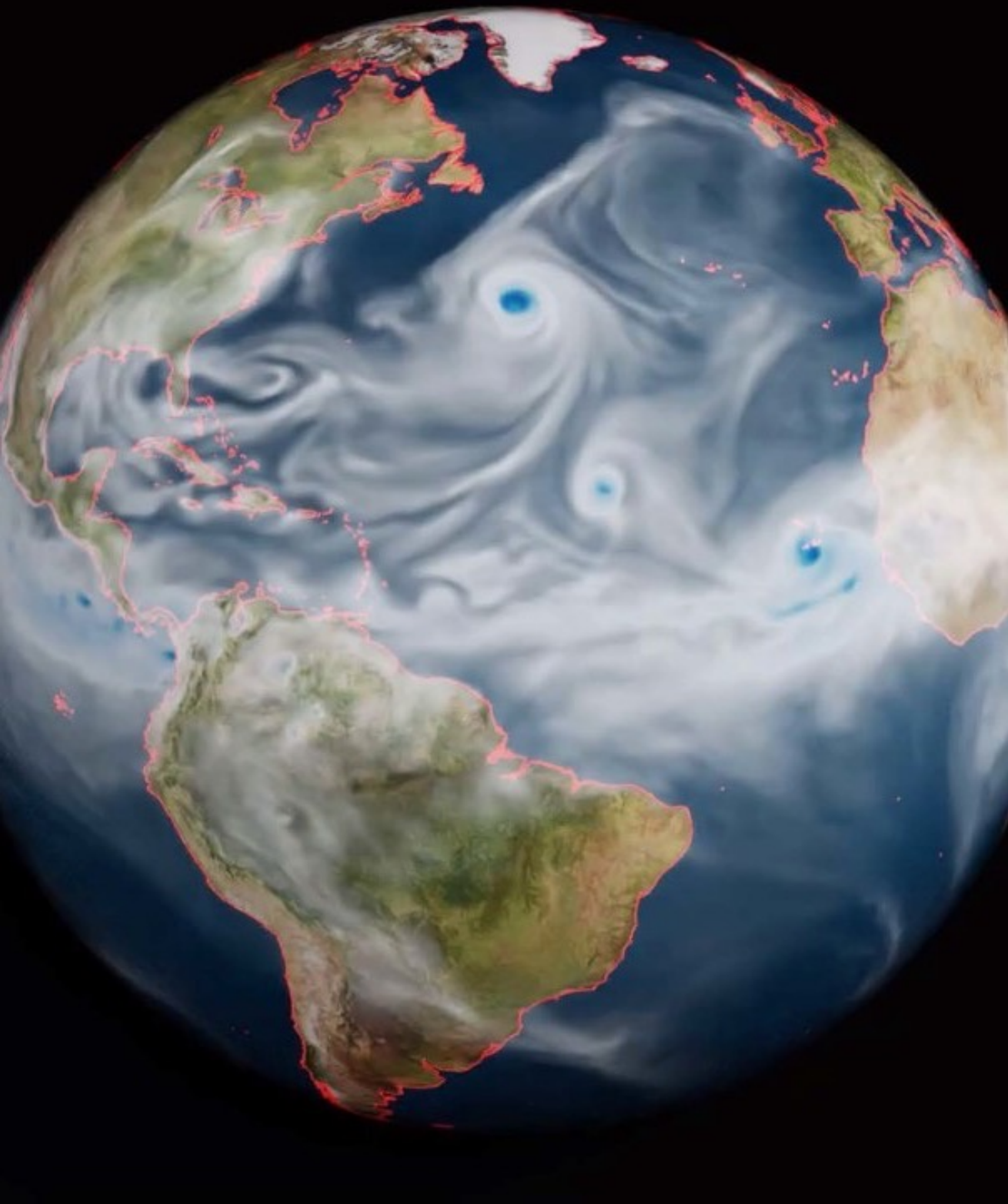


OMNIVERSE NUCLEUS

Exascale Compute



OVX SUPERPOD



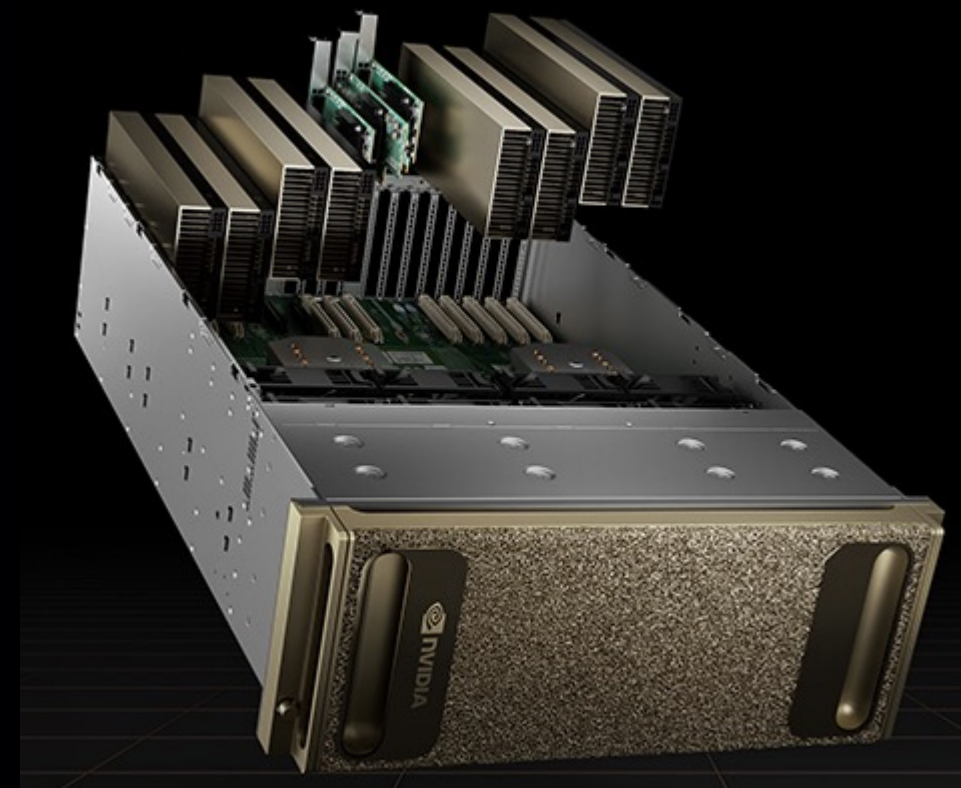
# Earth-2

*WHY?*

**INTERACTIVITY AT SCALE:  
UNFOLD AND EXTRACT  
INFORMATION**

*HOW?*

**DIGITAL TWINS TO MONITOR,  
PREDICT, MITIGATE, AND  
ADAPT**

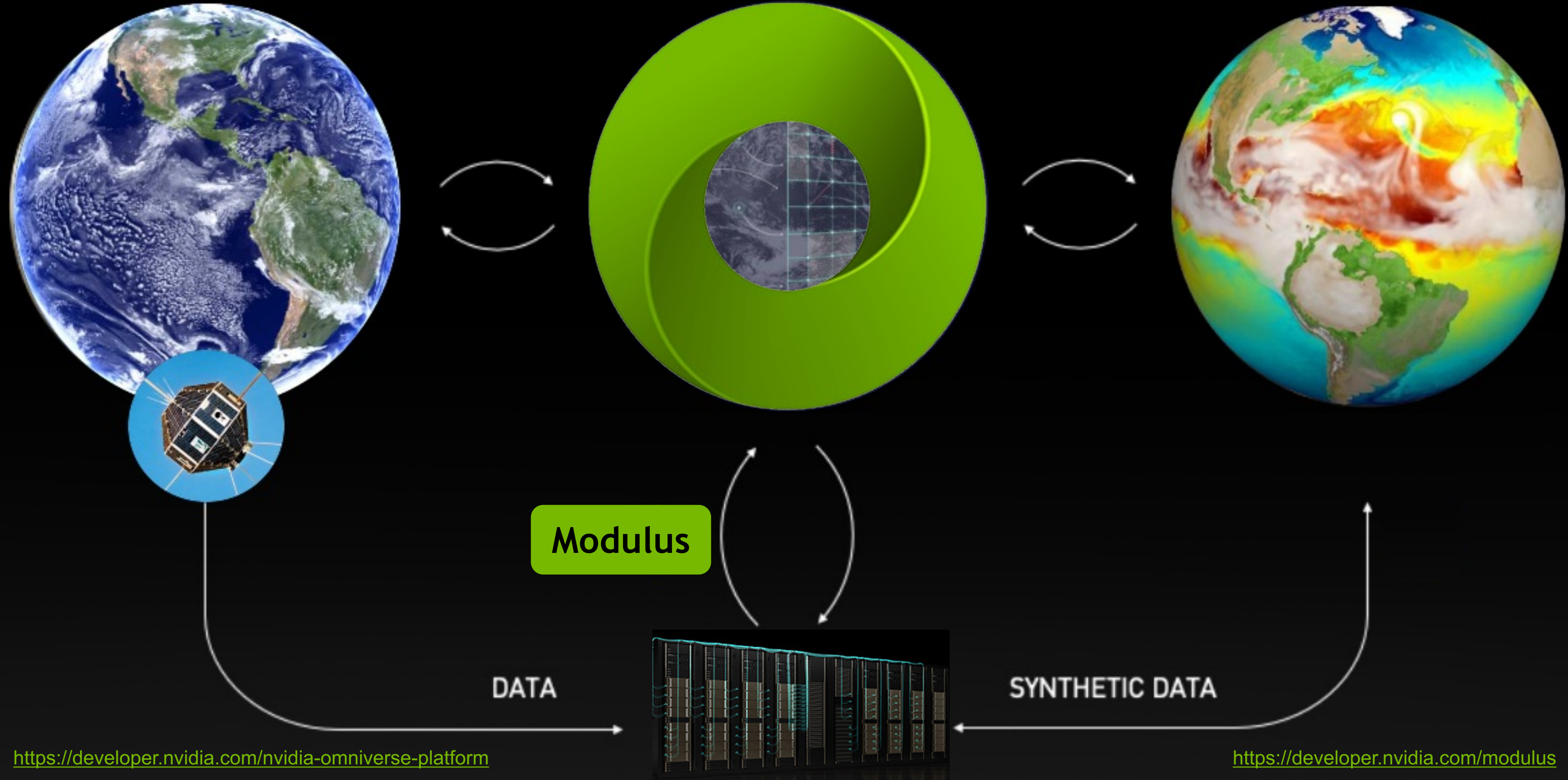


<https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/2021/11/12/earth-2-supercomputer/>

PHYSICAL WORLD

DIGITAL TWIN

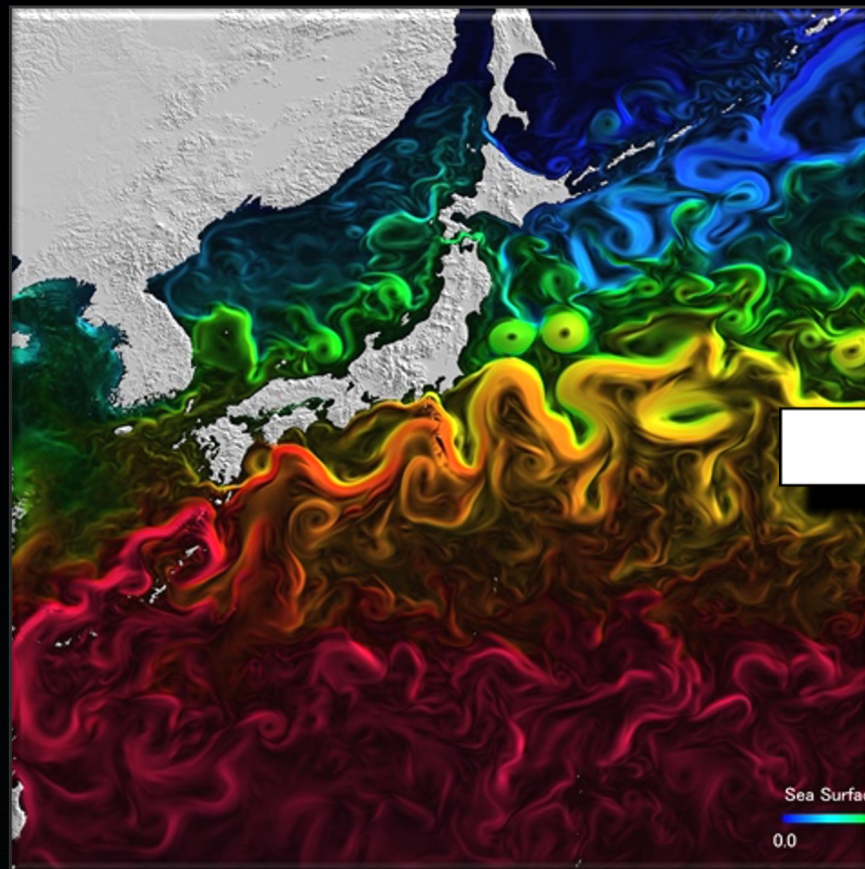
SIMULATION



# DIGITAL TWIN USES MODEL COUPLING TO ANSWER WHAT-IF QUESTIONS

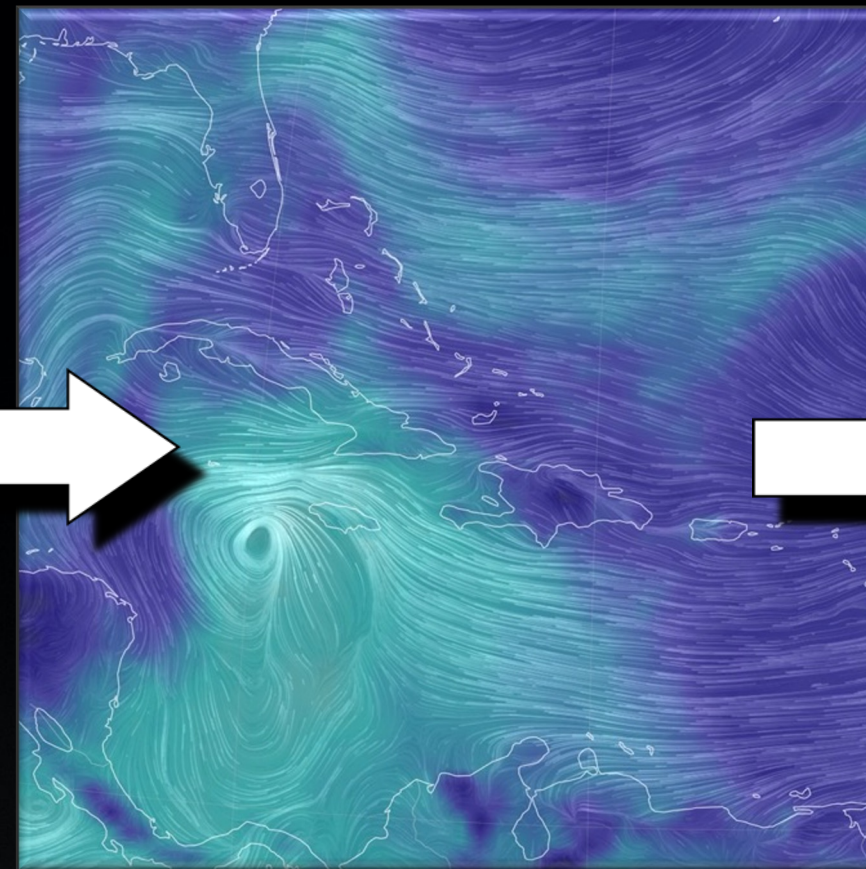
Coupling fast and accurate ML models together enables end-to-end analyses

Climate Twin



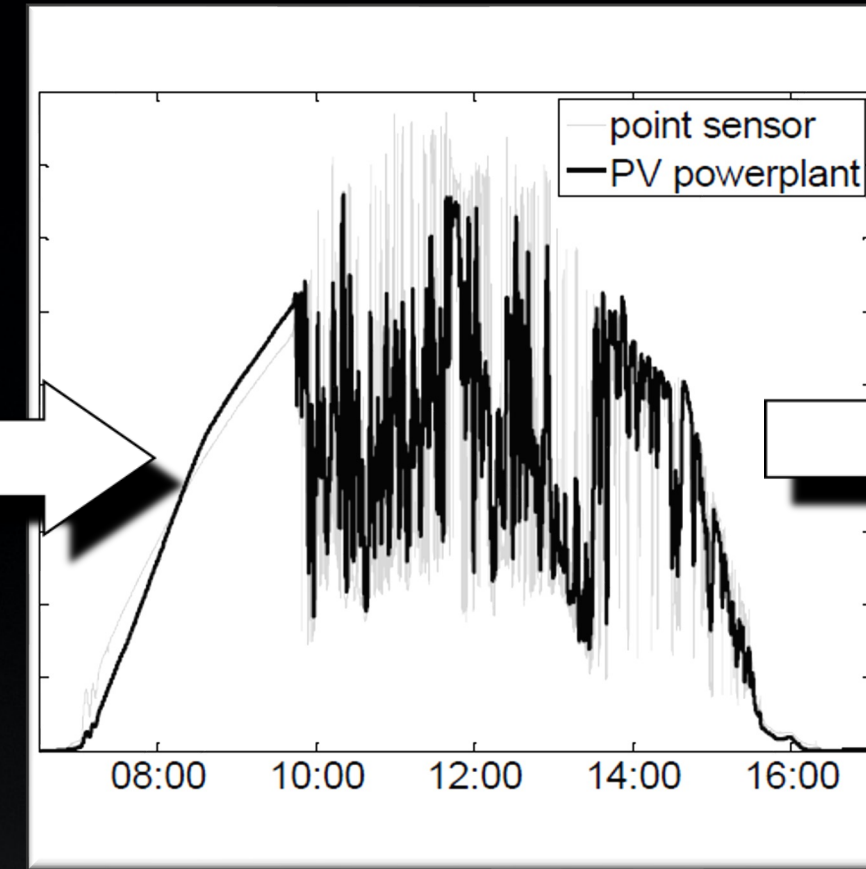
<http://www.jamstec.go.jp/gallery/e/simulation/weather/002.html>

Weather Twin



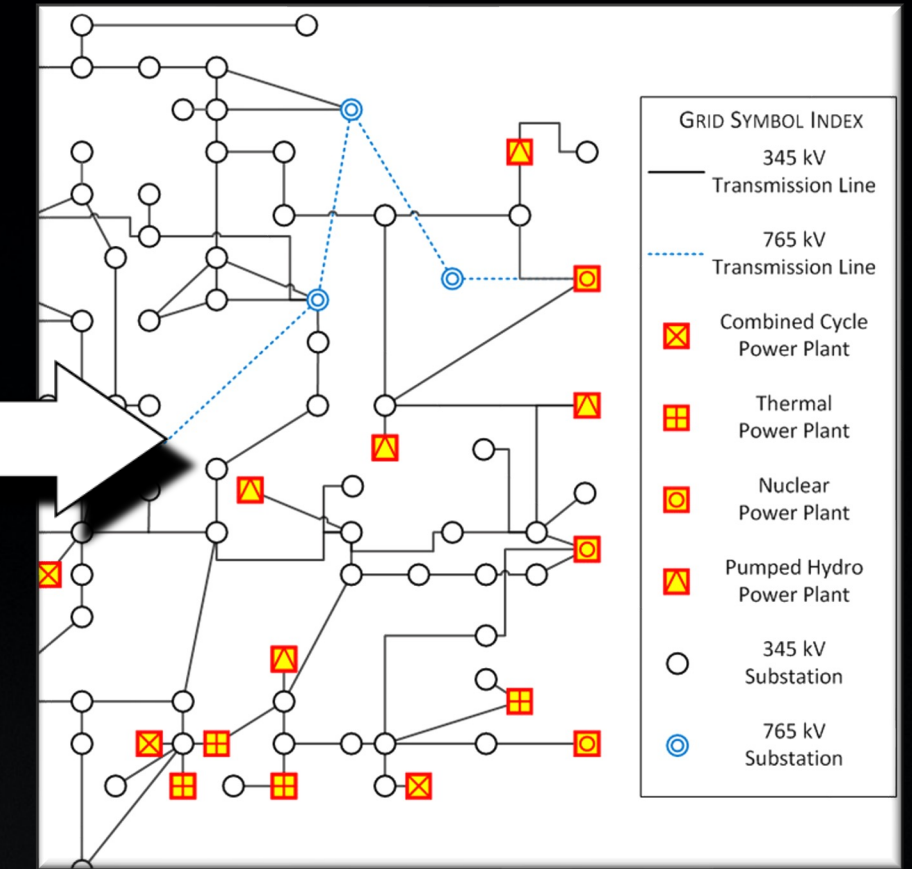
[https://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/surface/level/overlay=total\\_precipitable\\_water/orthographic=-64.71,19.12,2322](https://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/surface/level/overlay=total_precipitable_water/orthographic=-64.71,19.12,2322)

Powerplant Twin



<https://www.esig.energy/wiki-main-page/simulating-solar-power-plant-variability-a-review-of-current-methods/>

Electric Grid Model



[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Overall-configuration-of-electric-power-grid-modelling\\_fig2\\_311217737](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Overall-configuration-of-electric-power-grid-modelling_fig2_311217737)

# EARTH DIGITAL TWIN

## MACHINE LEARNING CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES

### CHALLENGES

- Extrapolation
- Physical consistency & causality
- Uncertainty quantification & Calibration
- Data fusion & assimilation
- Scale up & out
- ...

### APPROACHES

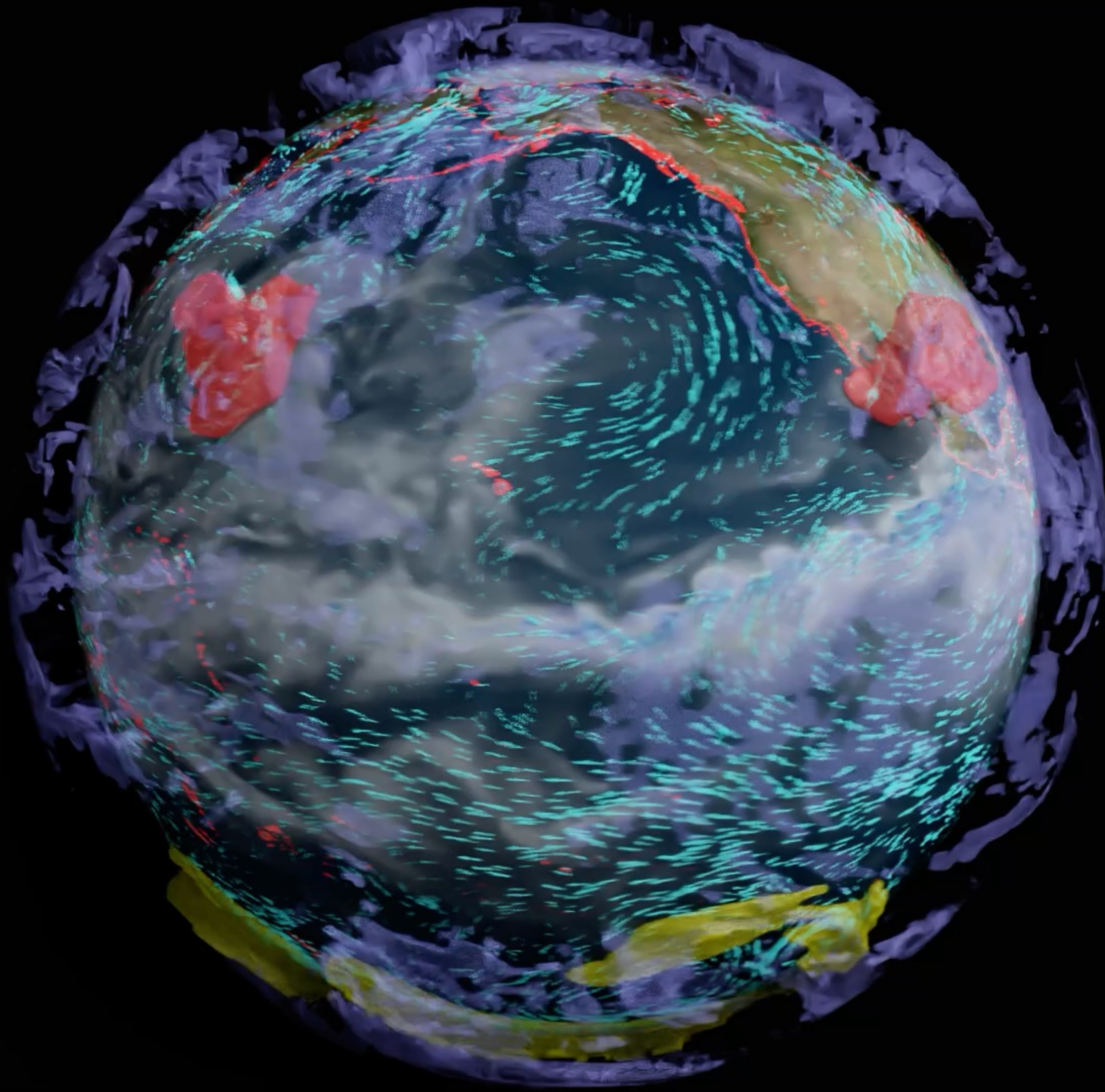
- Emulation
- Super-resolution
- Segmentation
- Online learning
- Reinforcement Learning
- ...

## YEAR 2100

+3 C Global Temperature

+60% Extreme Tropical Cyclones

+400% Extreme Atmospheric Rivers



2100, SEP 14

- TROPICAL CYCLONES
- ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS
- CLOUDS
- WINDS

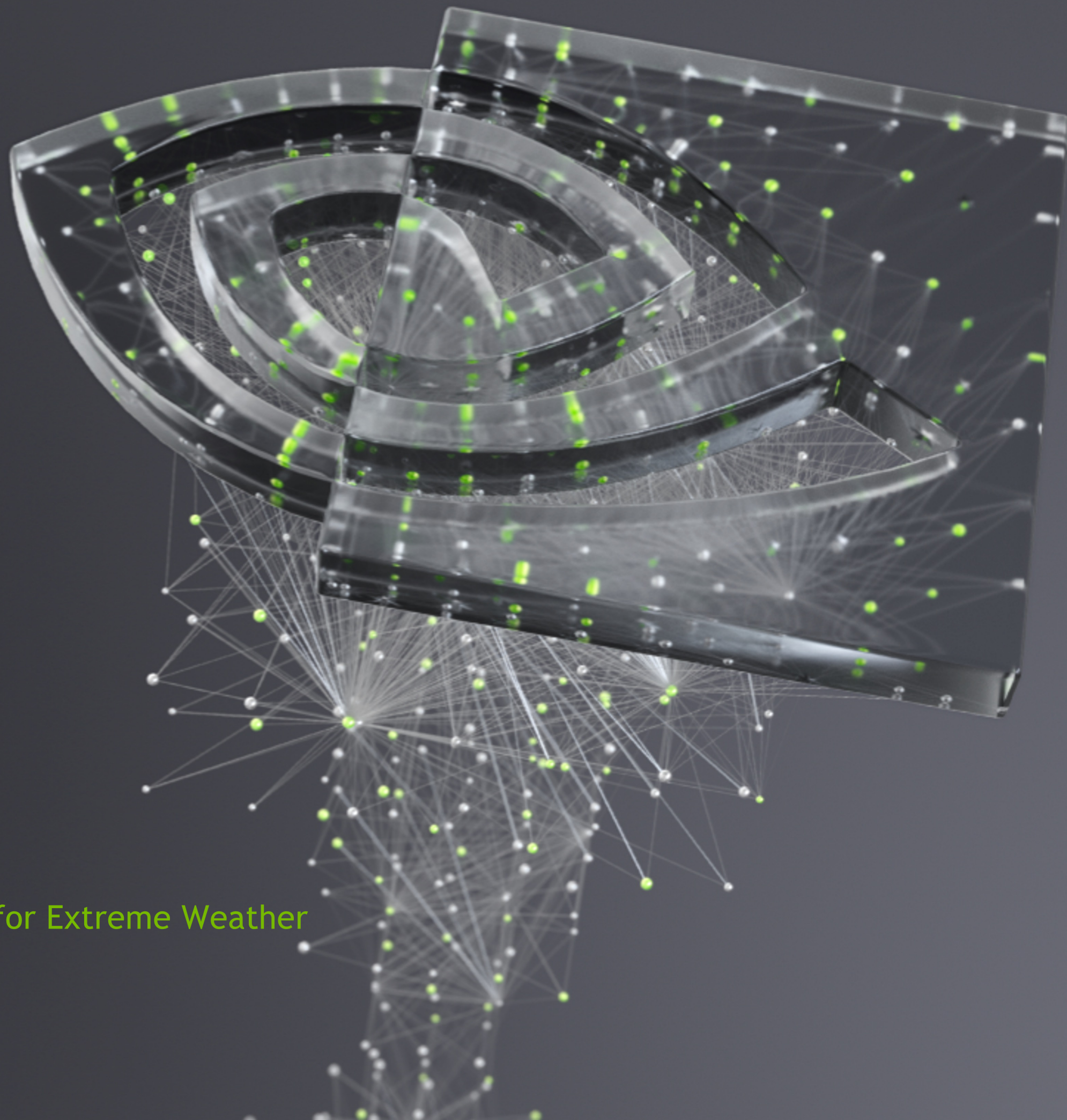


NVIDIA.



# FourCastNet

Global data-driven high-resolution Earth digital twin for Extreme Weather





J. Pathak  
NVIDIA



S. Subramanian  
LBL



P. Harrington  
LBL



S. Raja  
U. Michigan



A. Chattopadyay  
Rice. U.



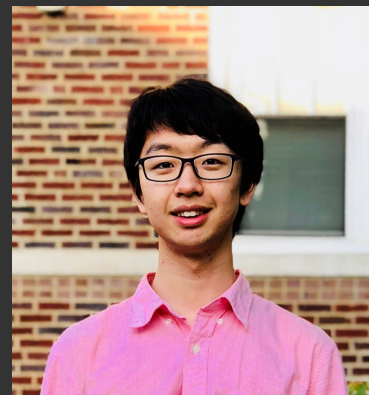
M. Mardani  
NVIDIA



T. Kurth  
NVIDIA



D. Hall  
NVIDIA



Z. Li  
Caltech



K. Azzizzadenesheli  
Purdue



P. Hassanzadeh  
Rice U.



K. Kashinath  
NVIDIA



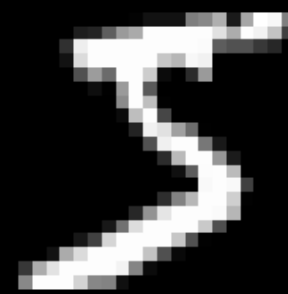
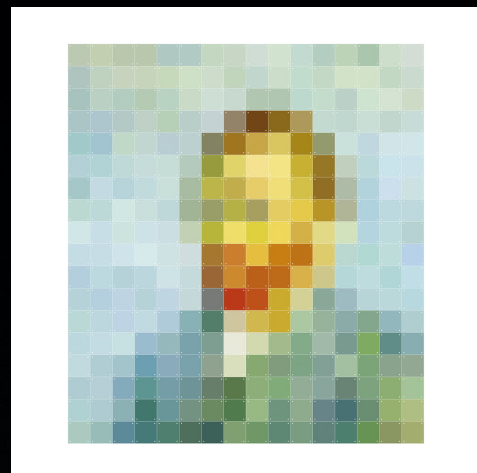
A. Anandkumar  
Caltech/NVIDIA

# MULTI-SCALE MODELING: RESOLUTION-FREE LEARNING

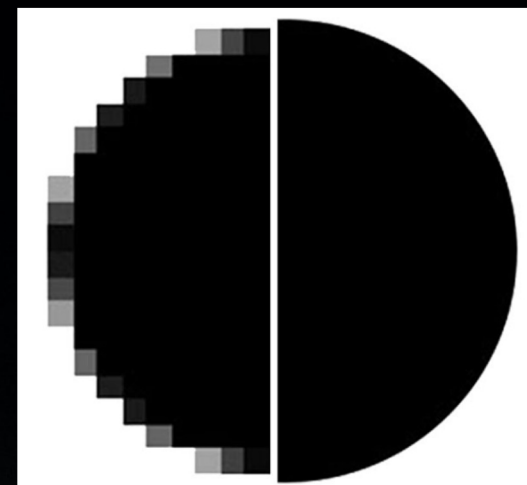
Learning Operators Between Continuous Inputs and Outputs

## NEURAL NETWORK

Function: Mapping in Finite Dimensions

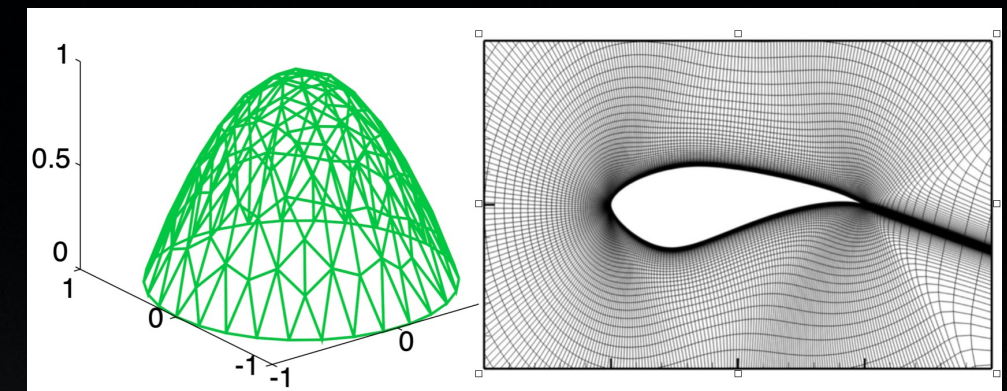
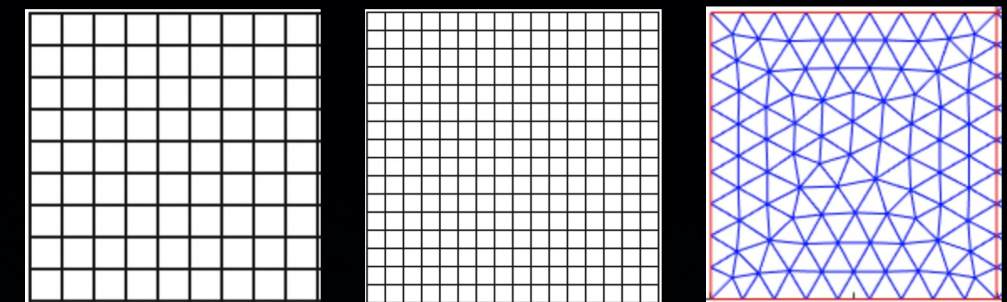


Discretized Input



## NEURAL OPERATOR

Operator: Mapping in Infinite Dimensions (Function Space)

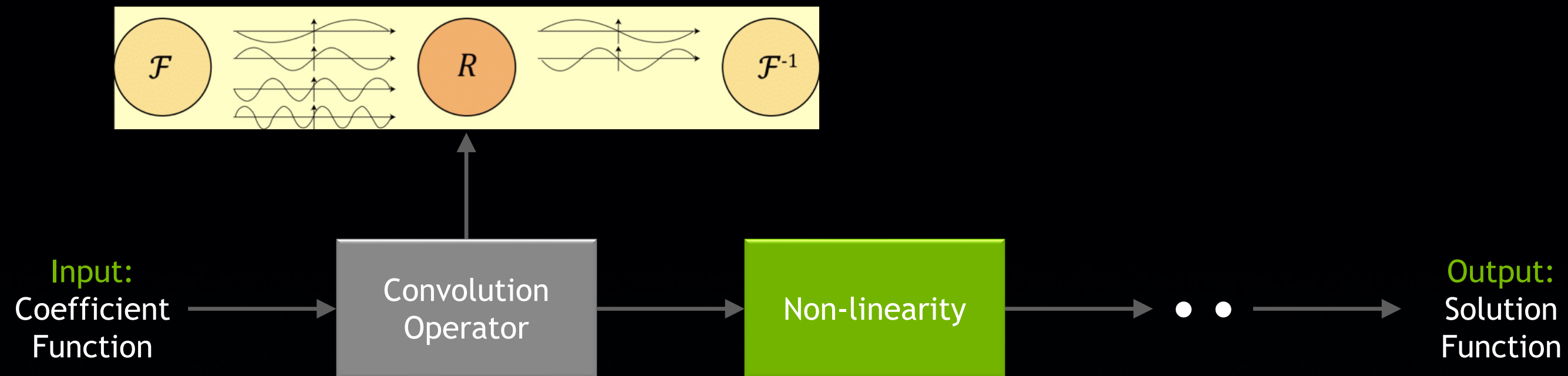


Continuous Function

Can be applied to simulations, experiments / observations, or both, spanning multiple orders of magnitude in spatio-temporal scales, thus allowing scientists to estimate dynamics better by pooling existing data

# FOURIER NEURAL OPERATOR

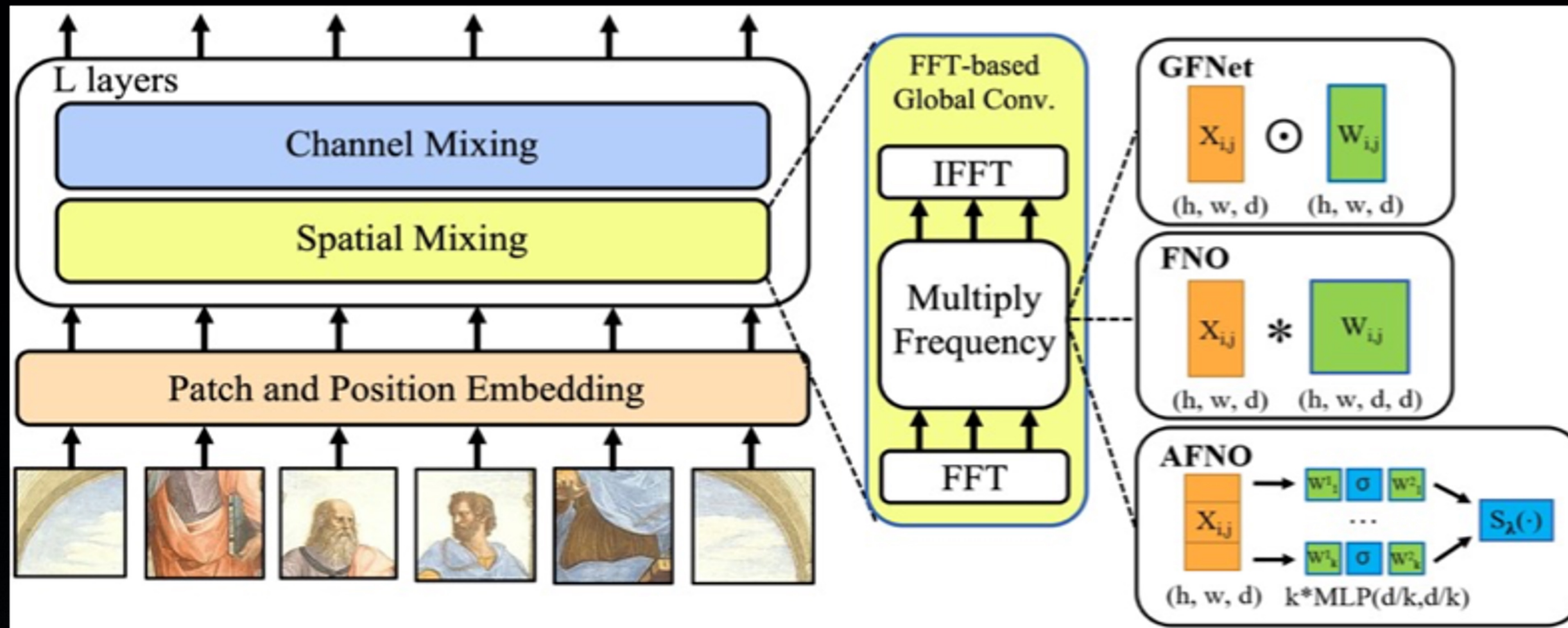
New Framework for Learning PDEs



- Fourier transform for global convolution
- Efficient (few modes)
- Learn solution operator
- Continuous, mesh-independent, resolution-invariant

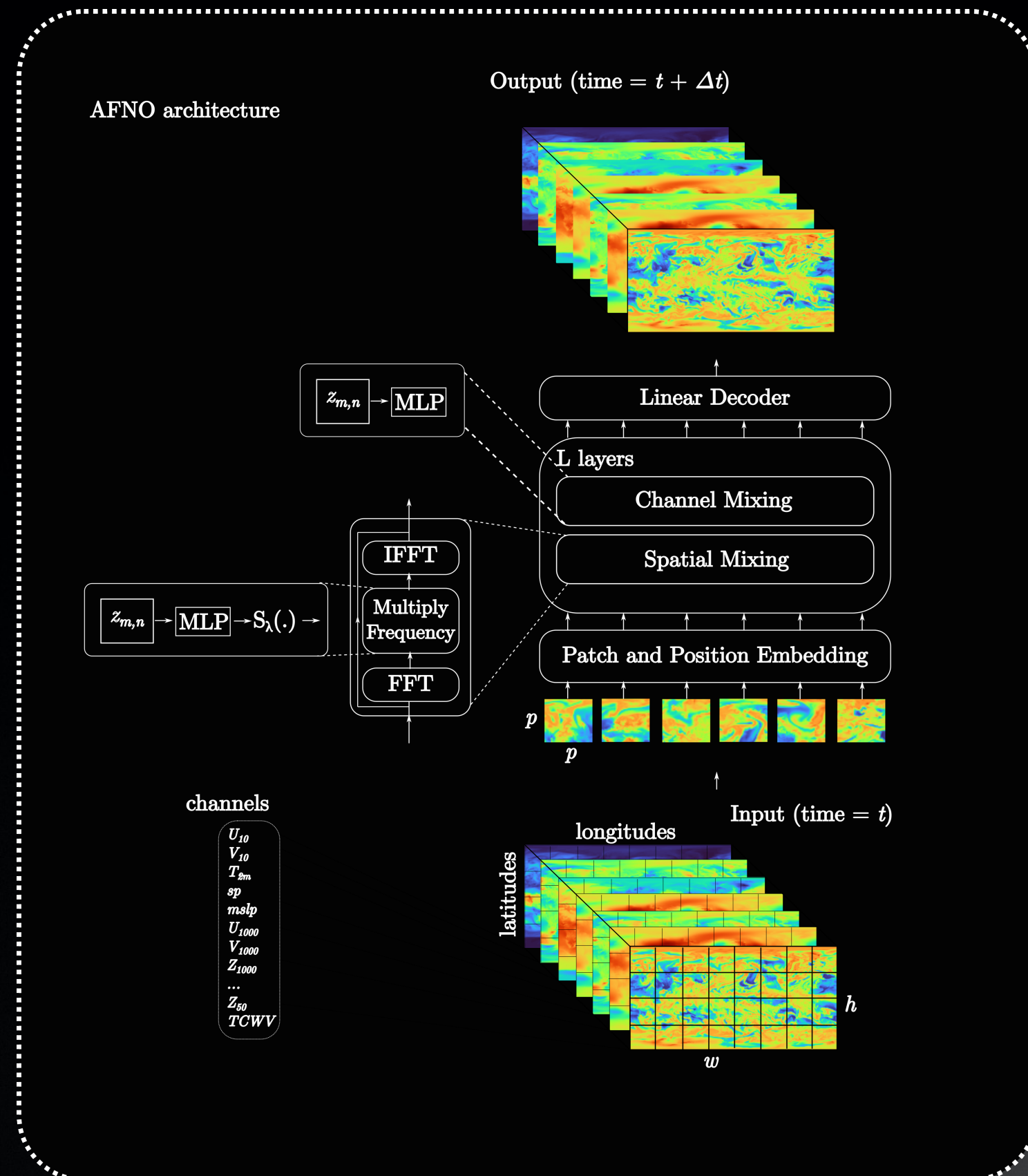
# ADAPTIVE FNO: CONNECTION BETWEEN FNO AND TRANSFORMERS

## Efficient self-attention through FNO



- Transformers are a special case of neural operators
- Self-attention can be generalized to continuous integration
- FNO can be used in self-attention layers
- AFNO: Efficient token-mixing; Block-diagonal channel-mixing; Adaptive weight-sharing

# FOURCASTNET (FOURIER FORECASTING NETWORK)



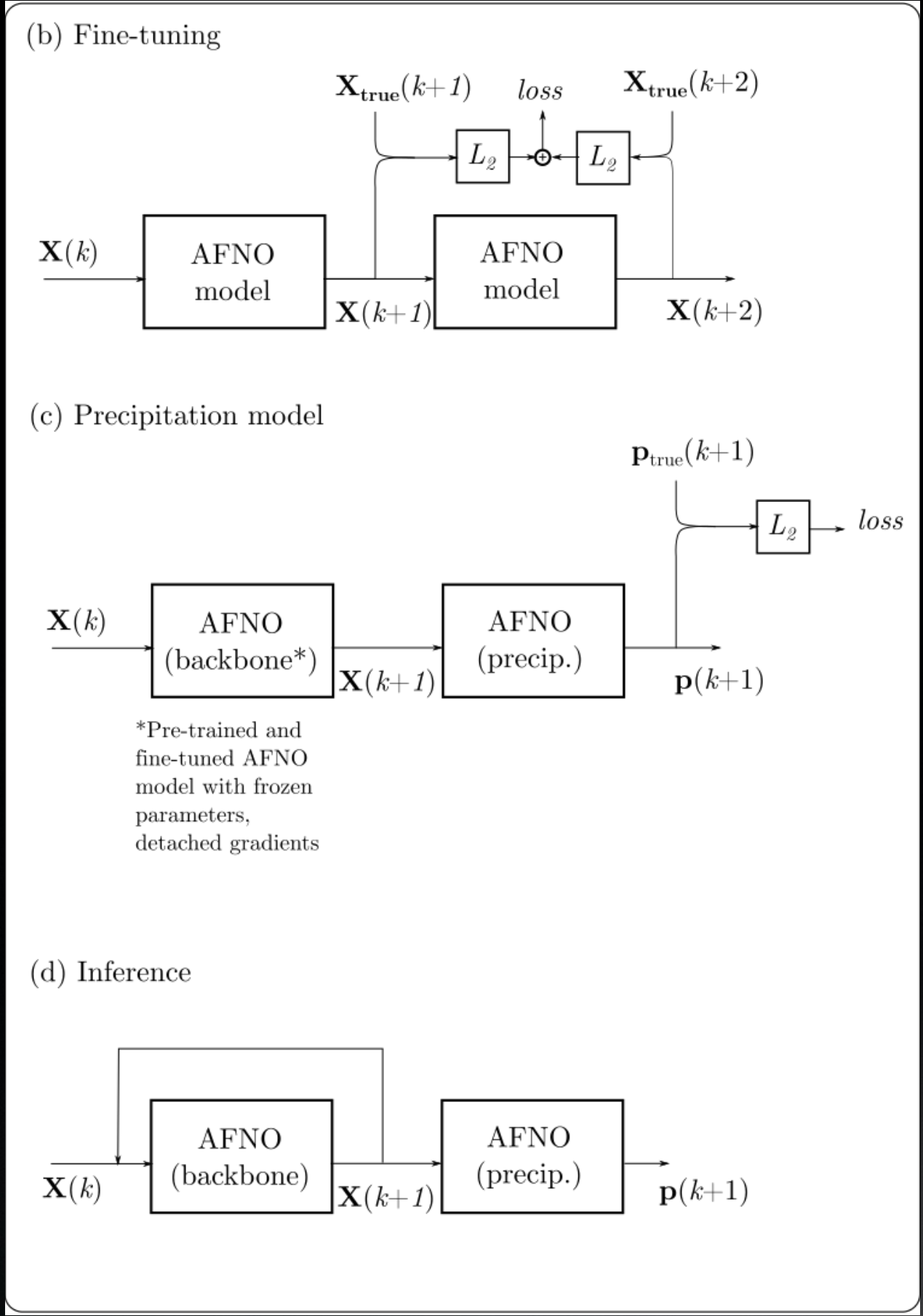
- Purely data-driven ML surrogate weather model
- Trained on ERA5 reanalysis data at the native resolution of 0.25 degrees

Vertical Level	Variables
Surface	$U_{10}, V_{10}, T_{2m}, sp, mslp$
1000hPa	$U, V, Z$
850hPa	$T, U, V, Z, RH$
500hPa	$T, U, V, Z, RH$
50hPa	$Z$
Integrated	$TCWV$

Extending to include radiation processes, vapor transport, clouds

Training set: 1979 to 2015  
 Validation set: 2016, 2017  
 Held out: 2018 onwards

# FOURCASTNET (FOURIER FORECASTING NETWORK)



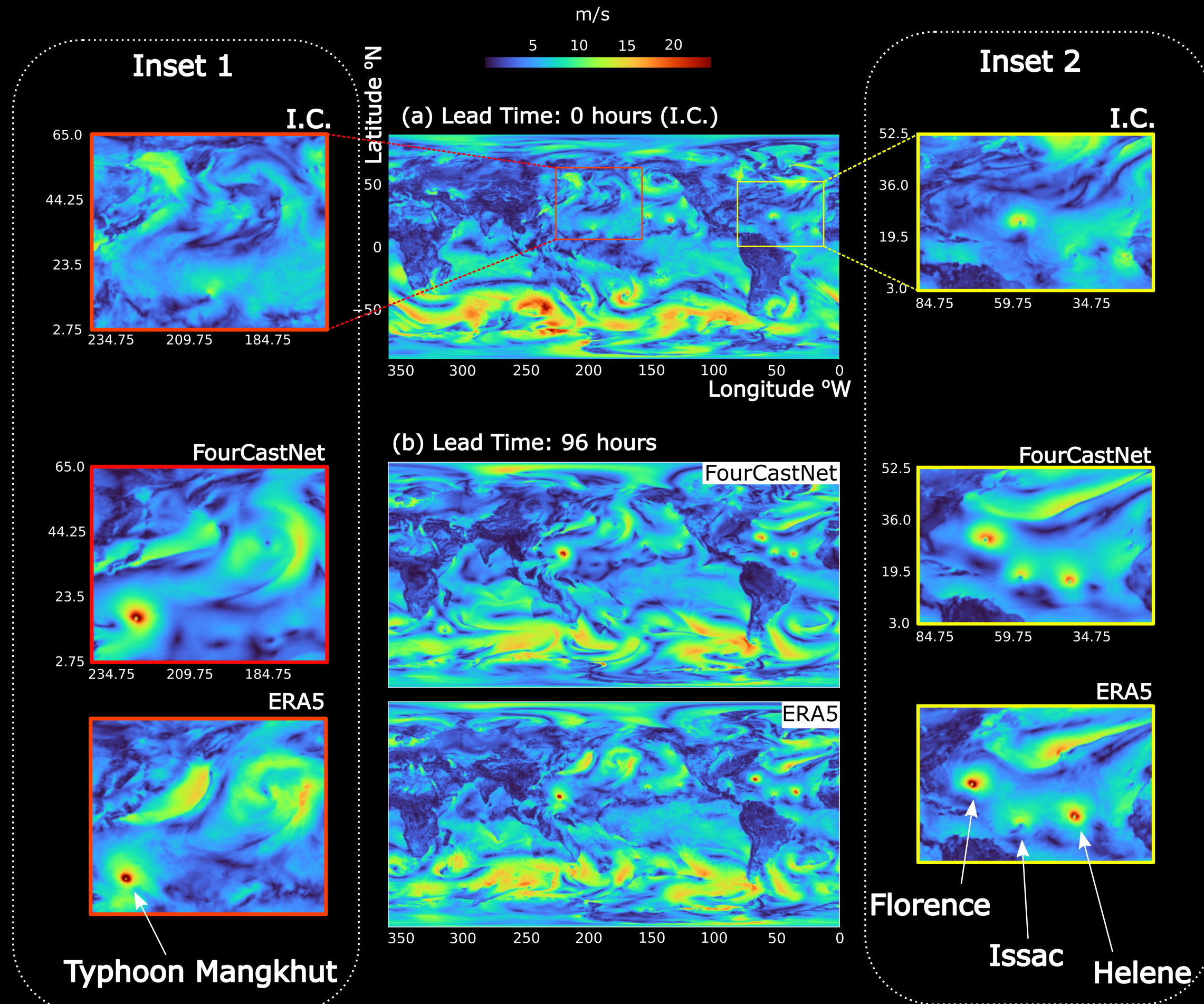
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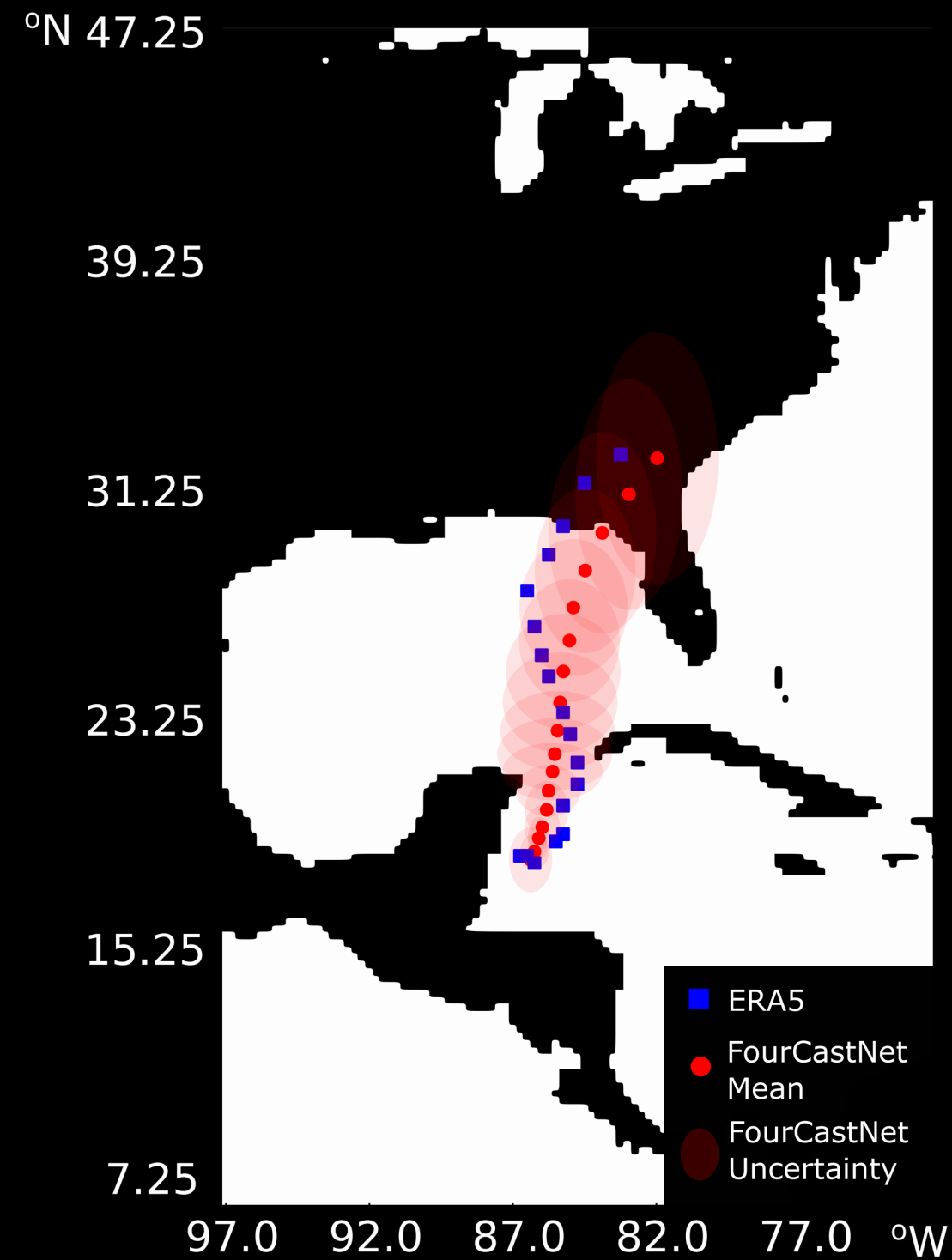
Training set: 1979 to 2015  
 Validation set: 2016, 2017  
 Held out: 2018 onwards

# EXCELLENT SKILL ON FORECASTING SURFACE WINDS

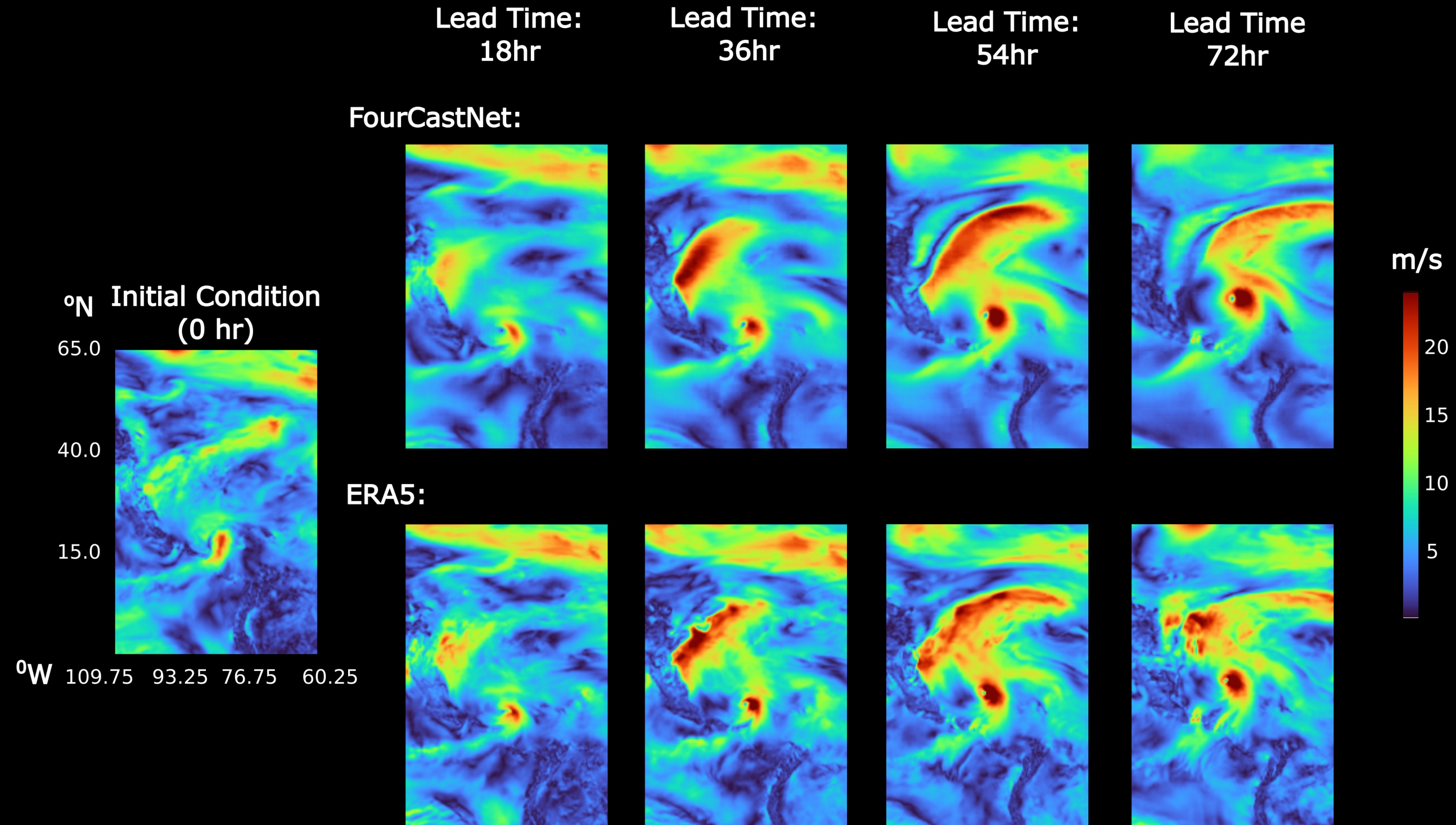


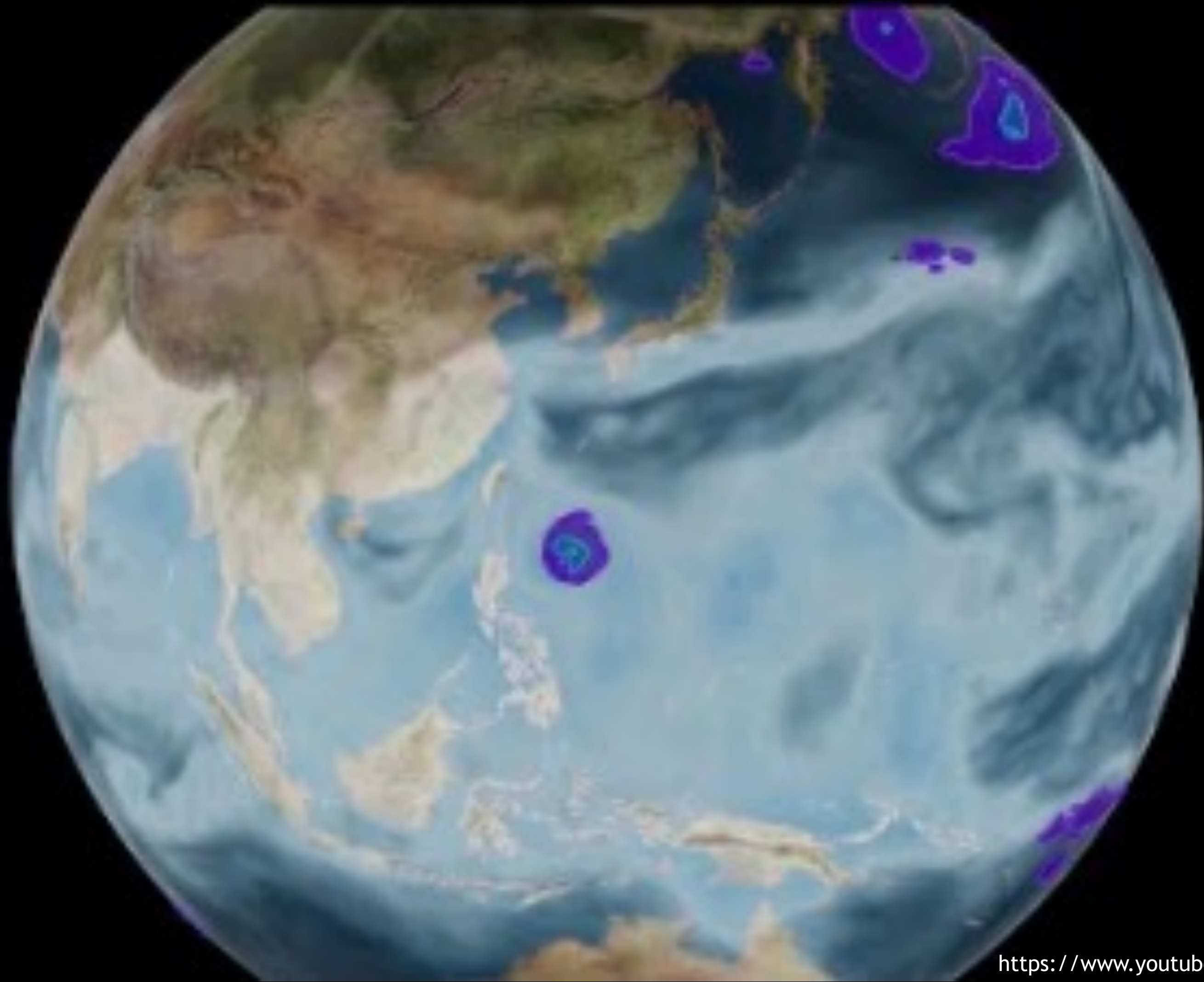
# FOURCASTNET PREDICTS HURRICANE PATHS AND INTENSITIES

Hurricane Michael Forecast Track

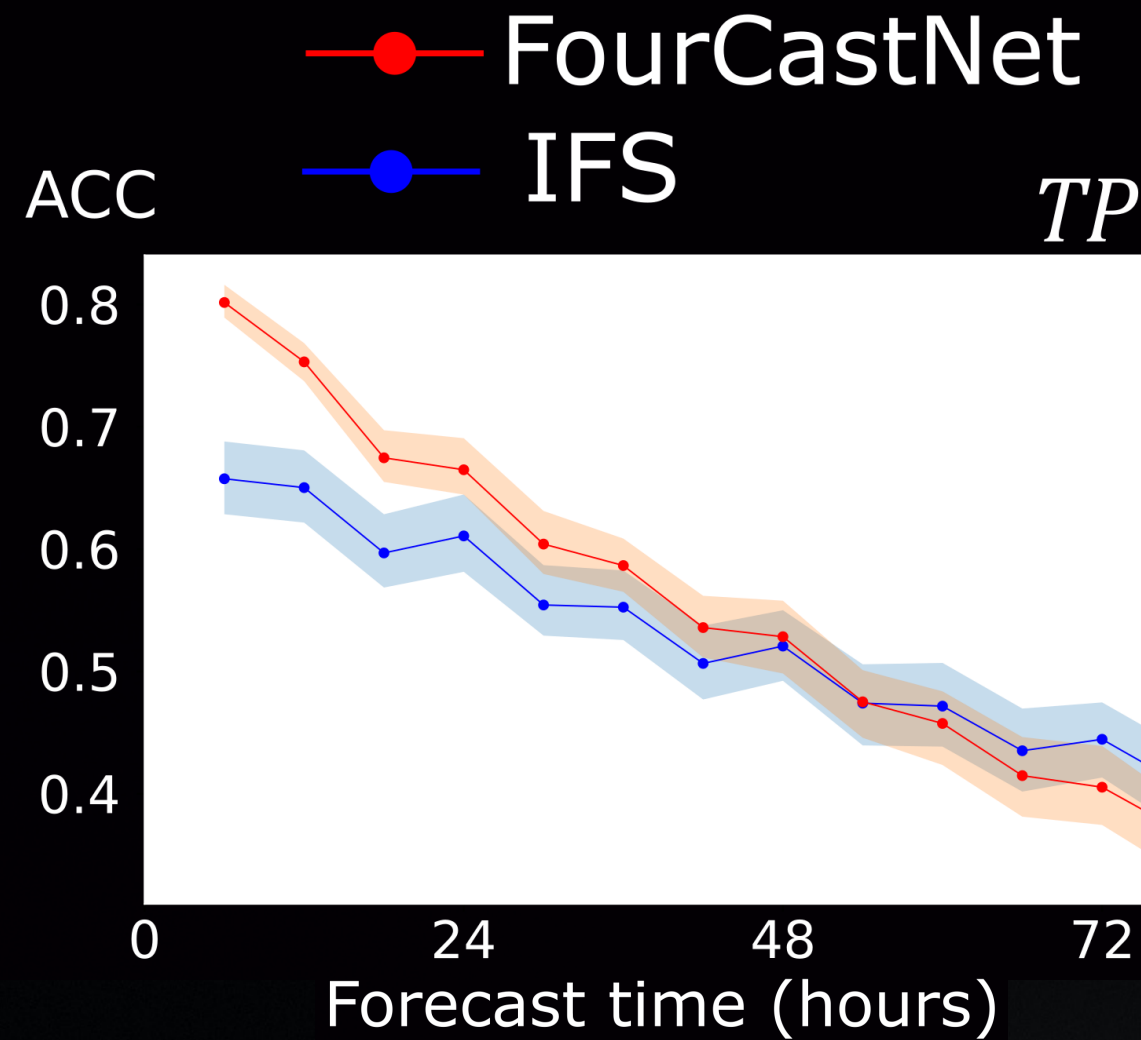


850hPa Wind Speed

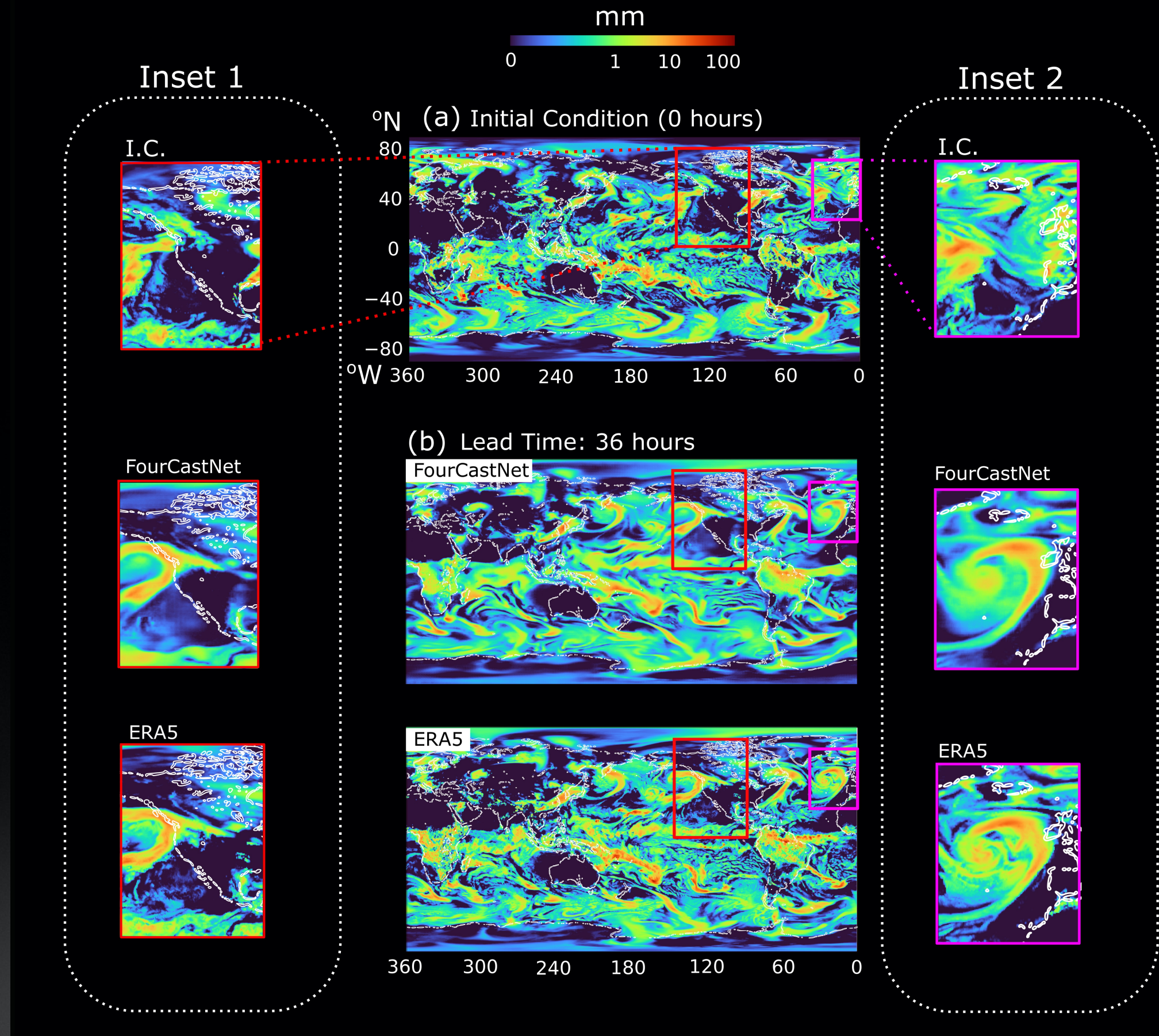




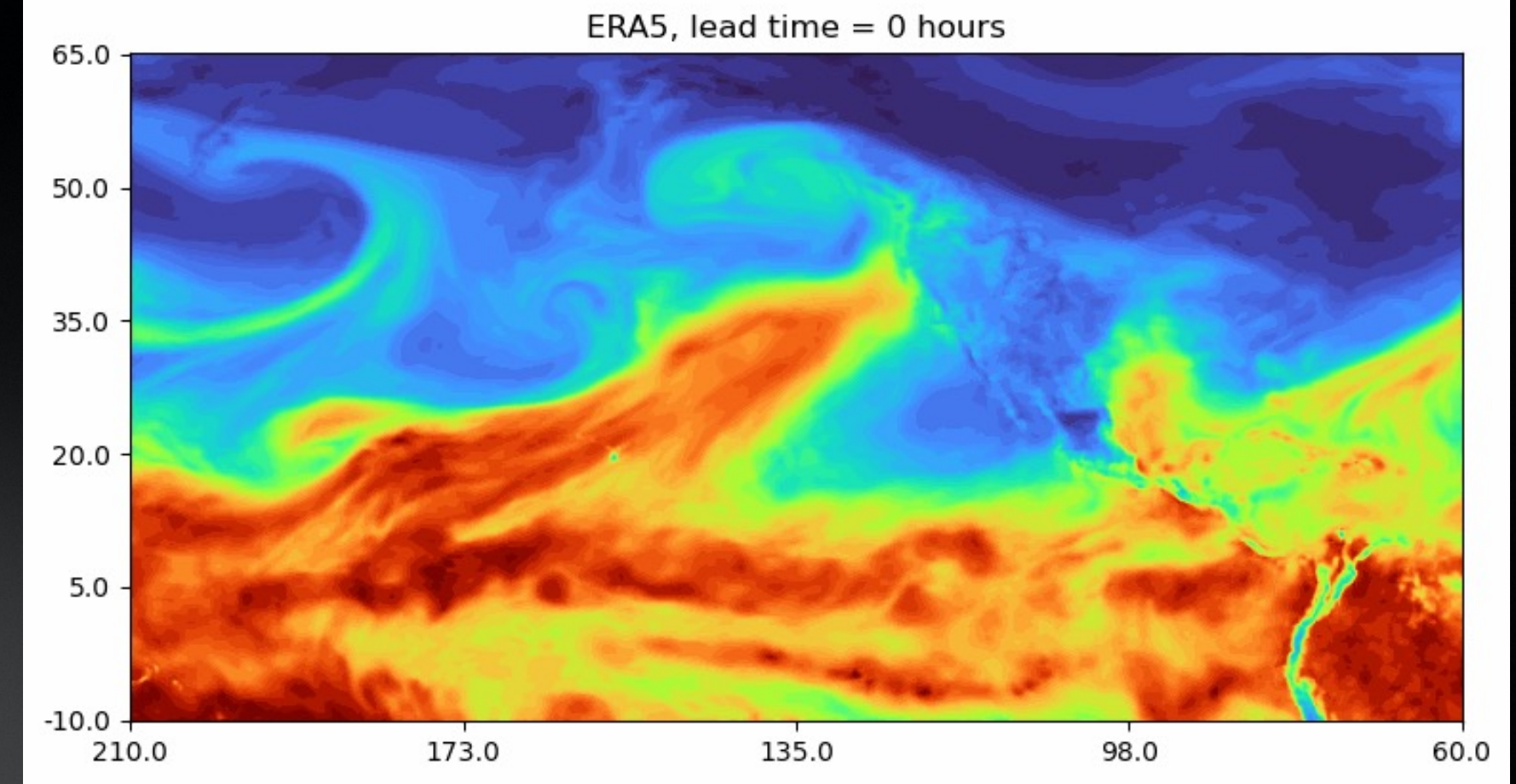
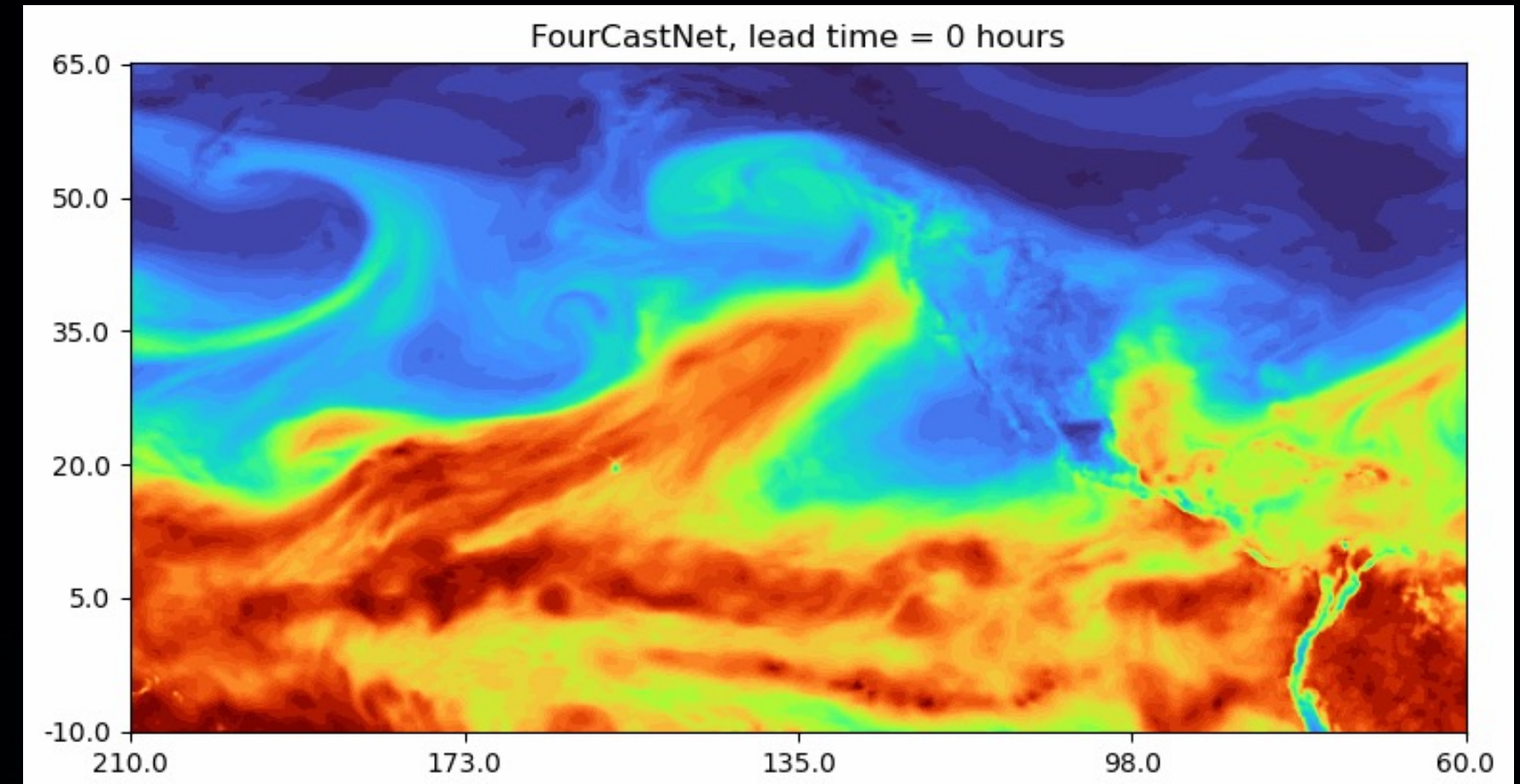
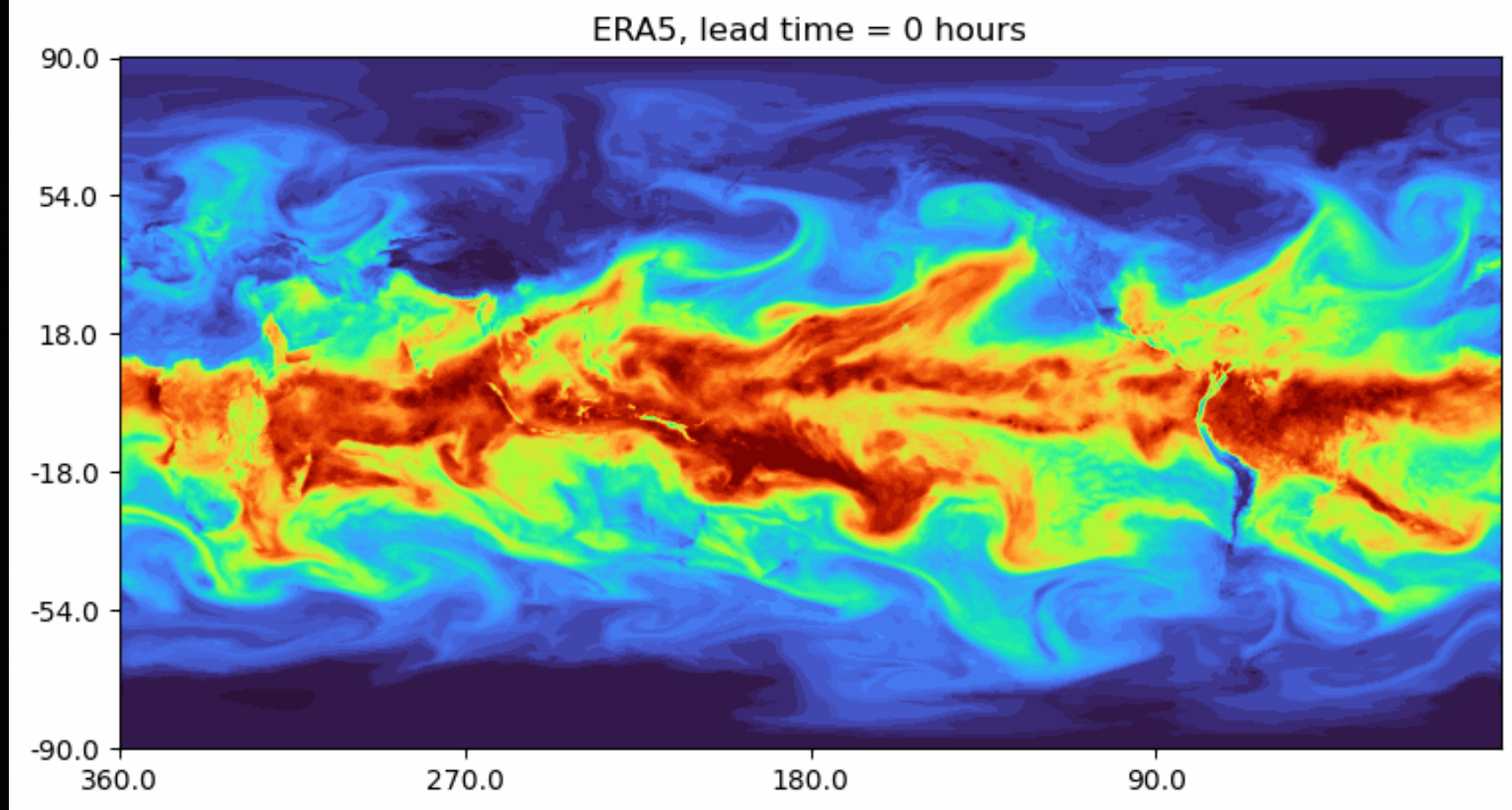
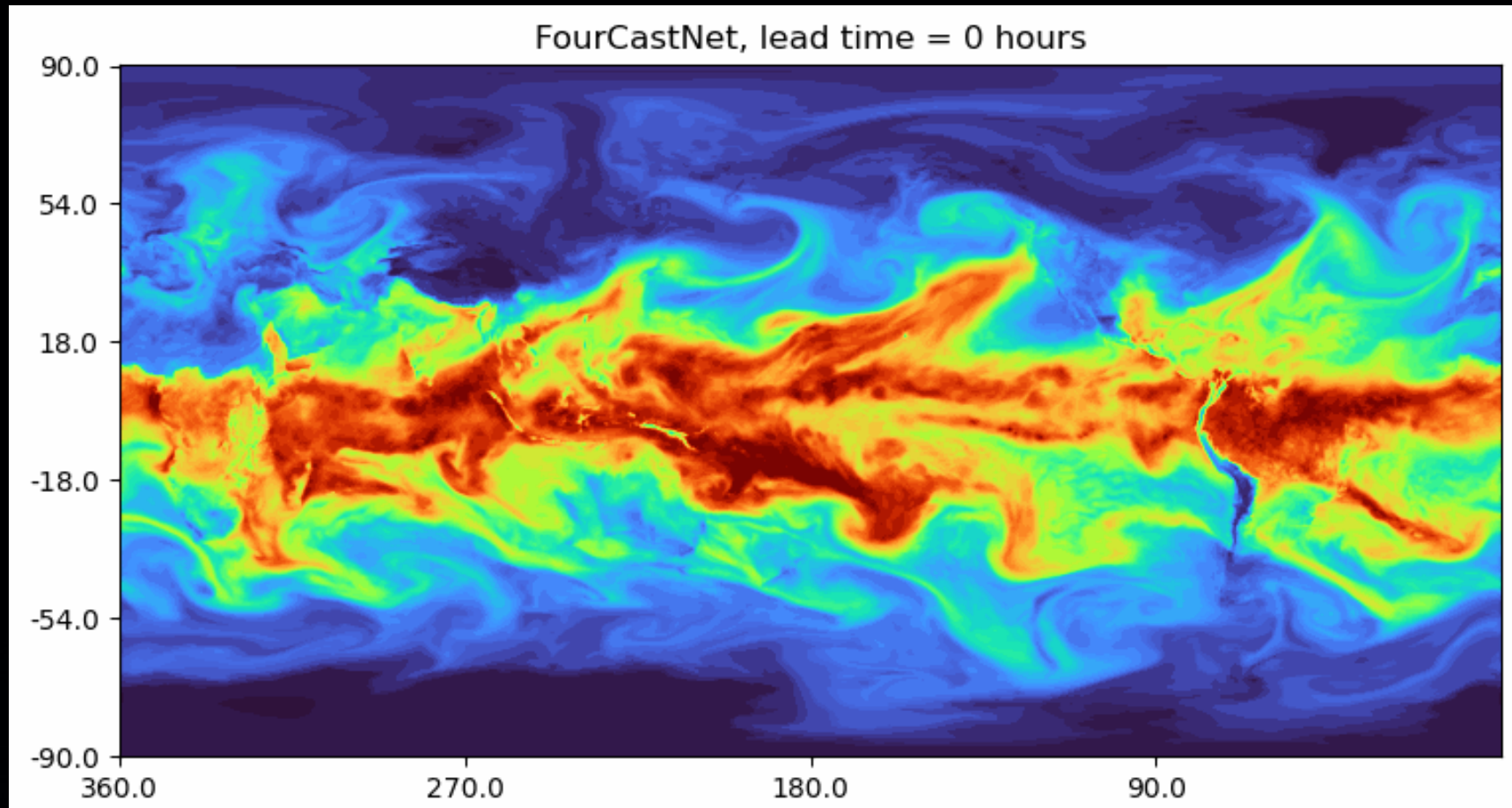
# UNPRECEDENTED SKILL ON PRECIPITATION FORECASTS



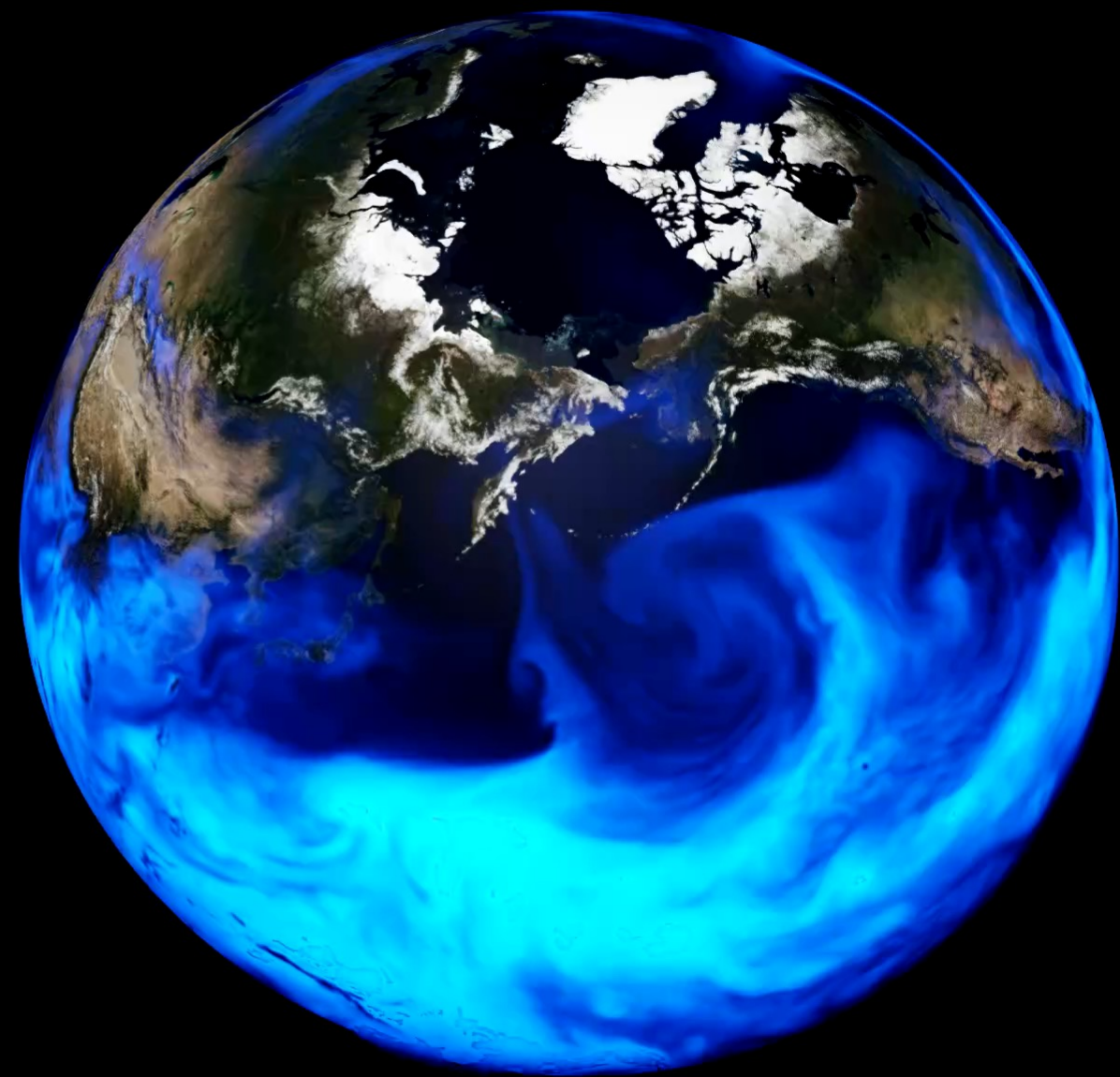
Note: Ground truth is ERA5, NOT observations



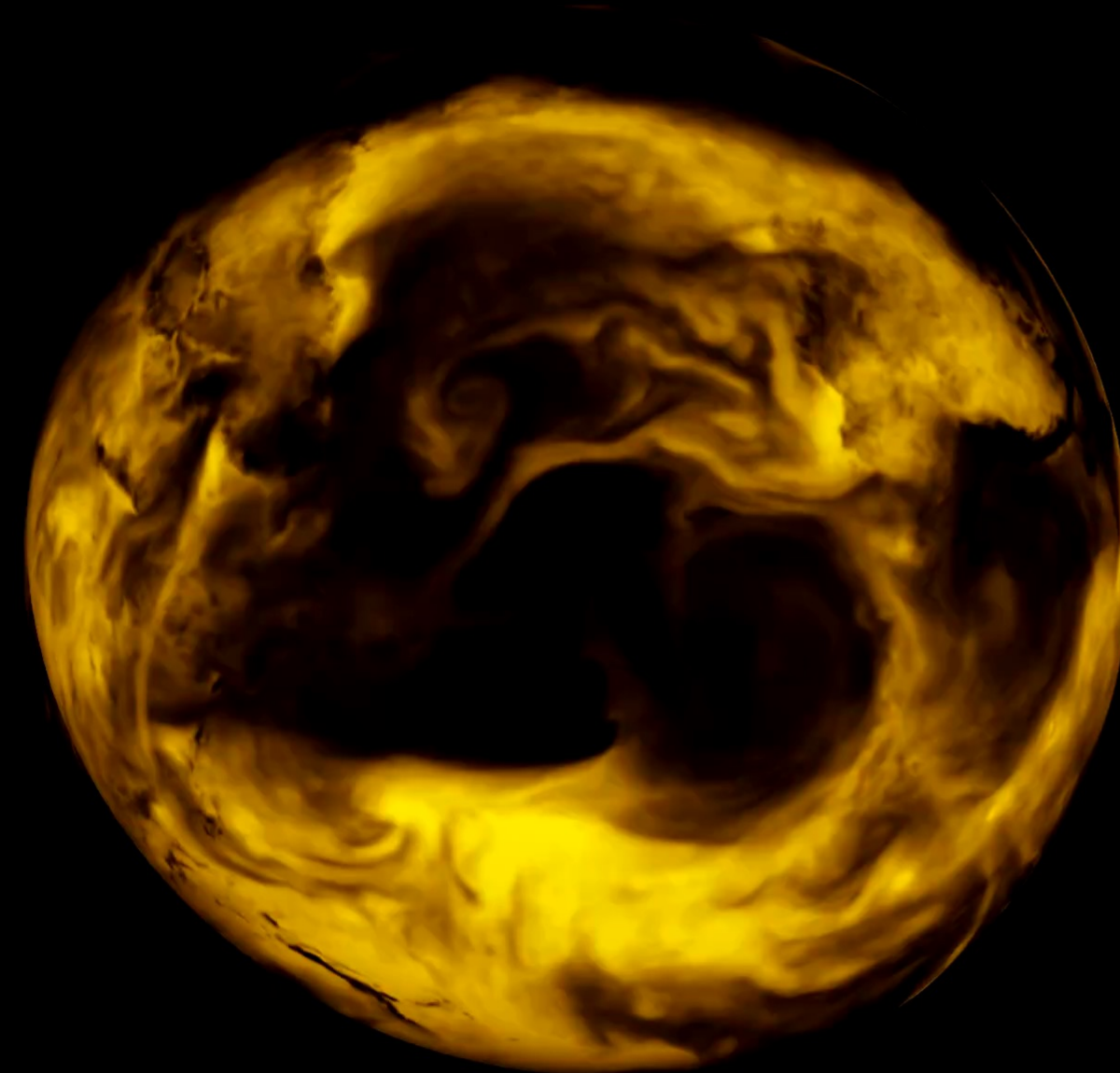
# ACCURATE TOTAL COLUMN WATER VAPOR DYNAMICS



Ground Truth



FourCastNet



# FOURCASTNET PREDICTS NEAR-SURFACE WIND FIELDS ACCURATELY: IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR WIND ENERGY PLANNING

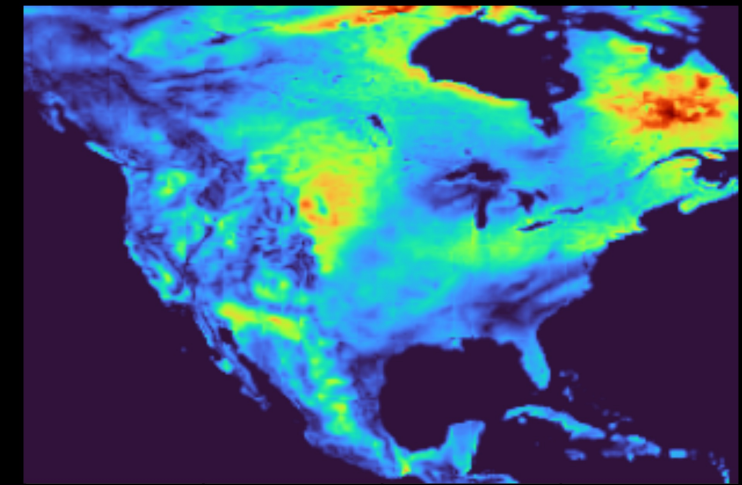
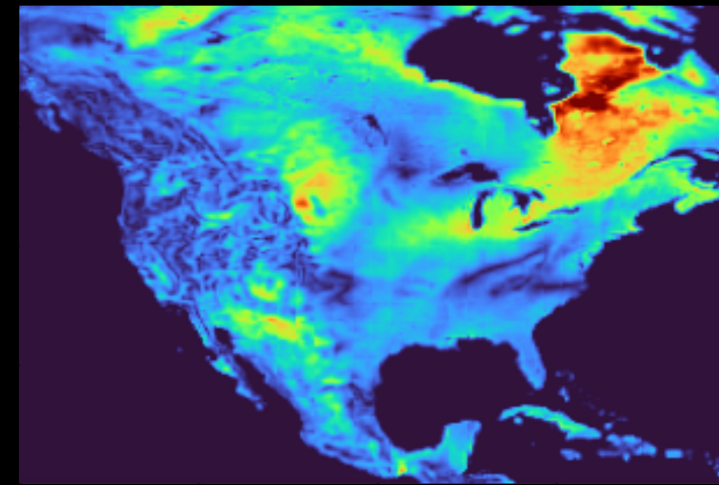
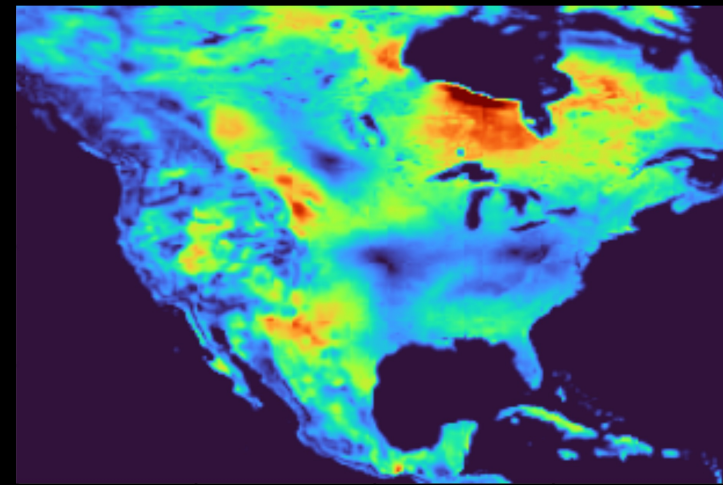
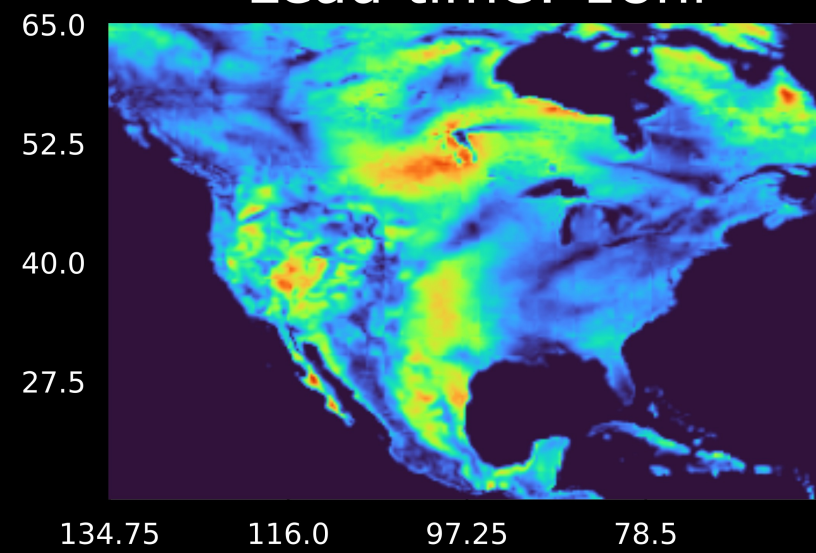
FourCastNet:

Lead time: 18hr

Lead time: 36hr

Lead time: 54hr

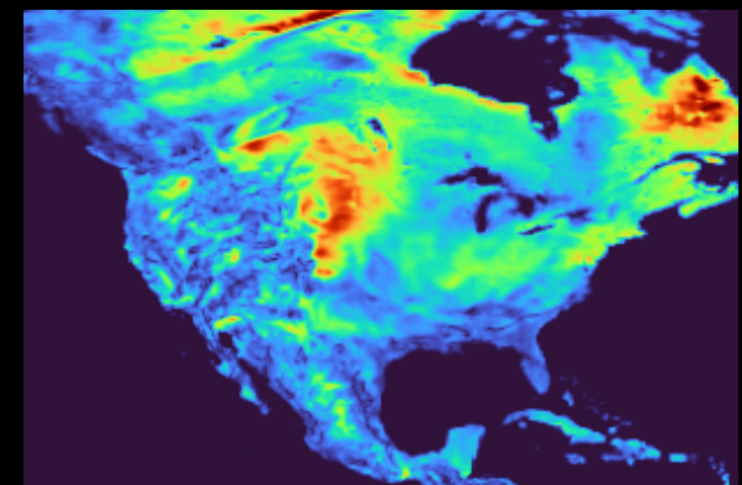
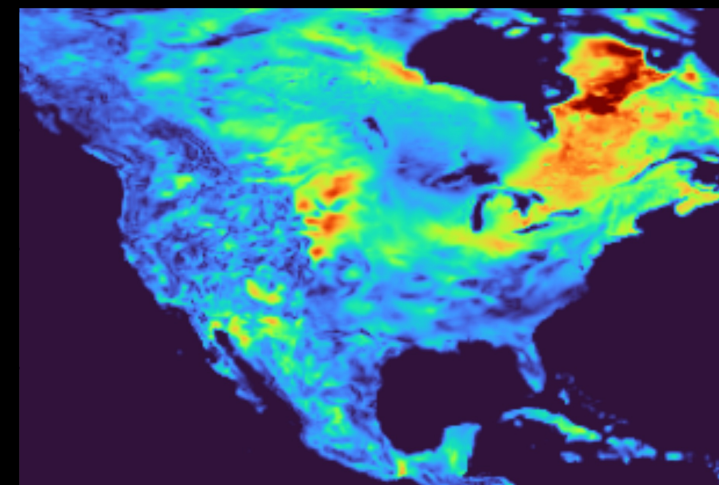
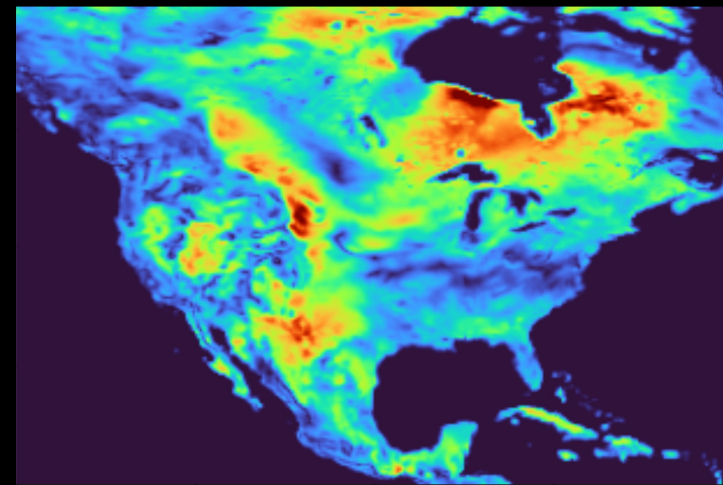
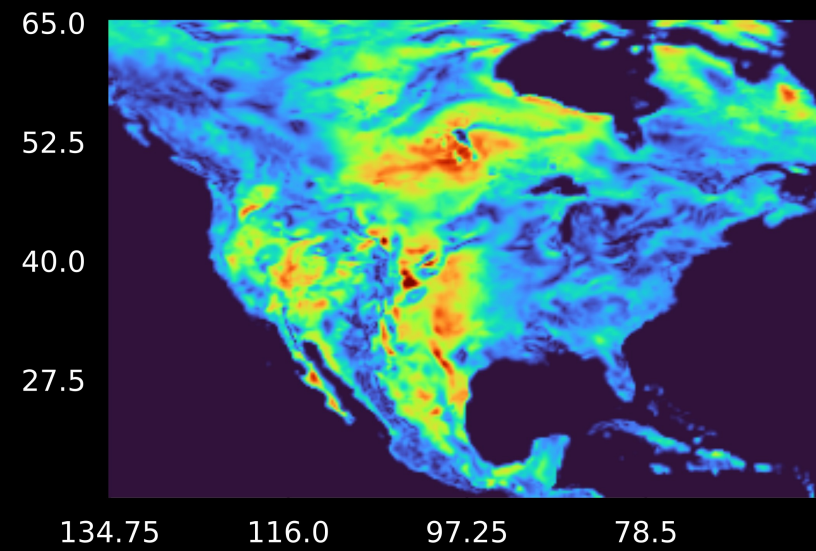
Lead time: 72hr



m/s

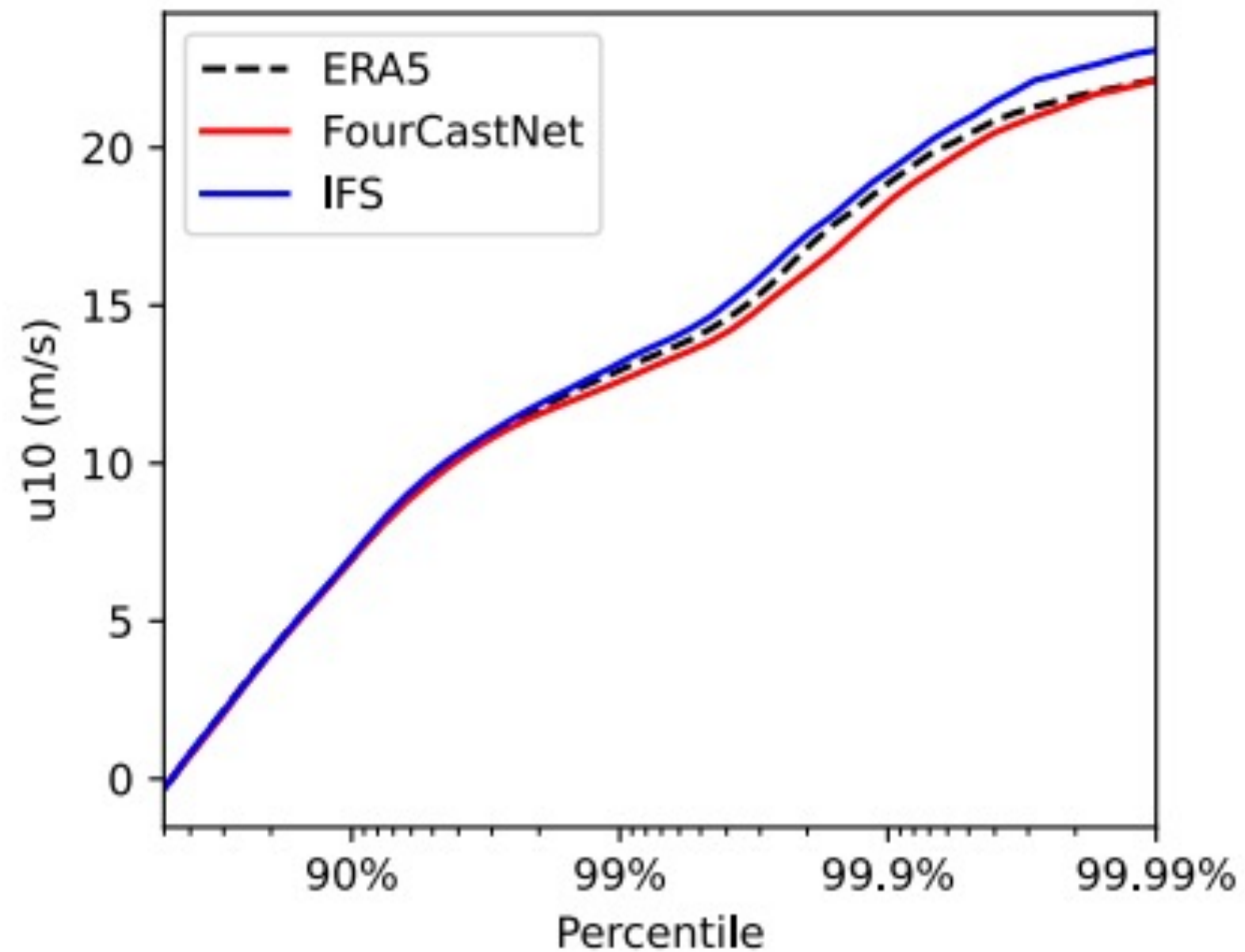
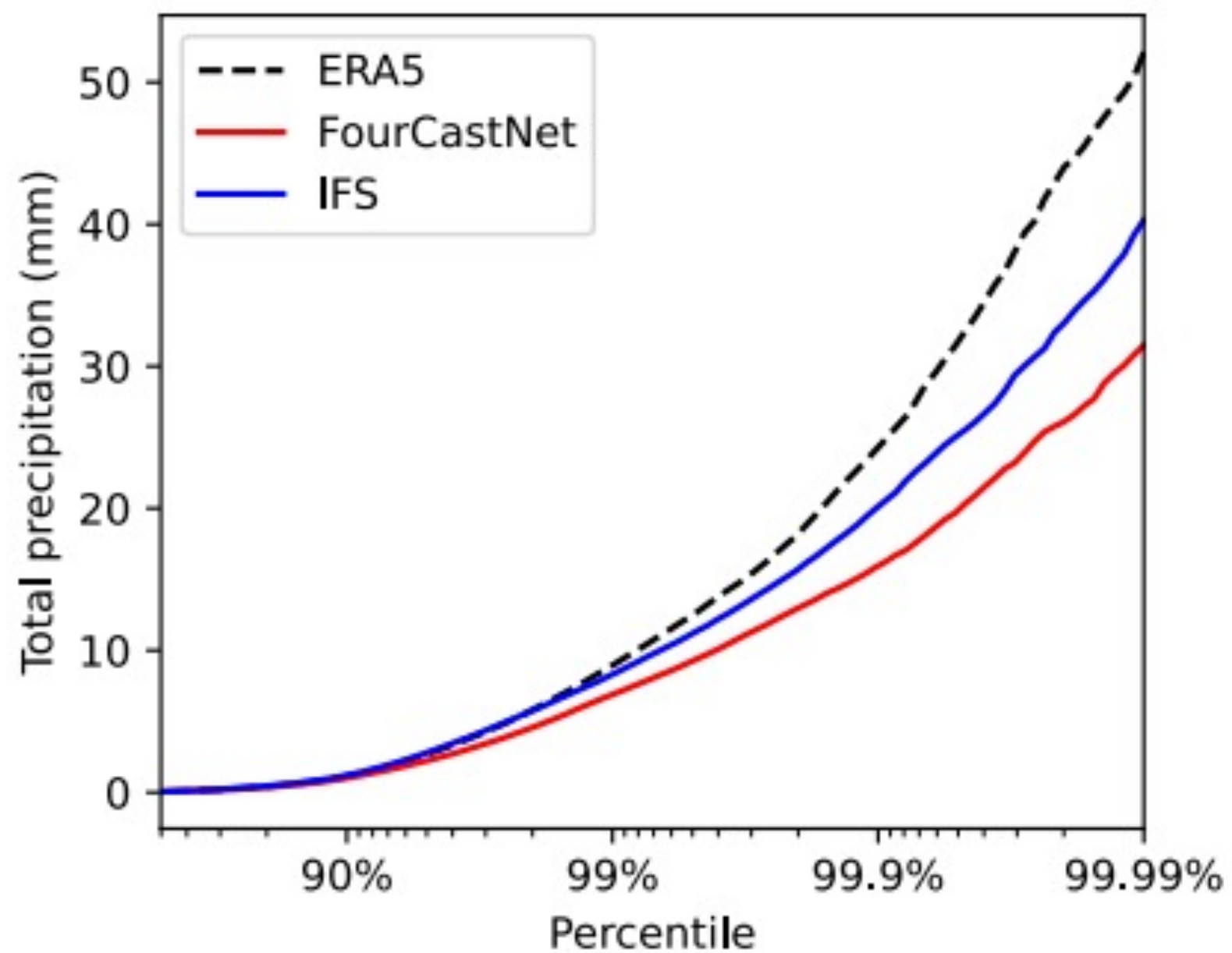
9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

ERA5:

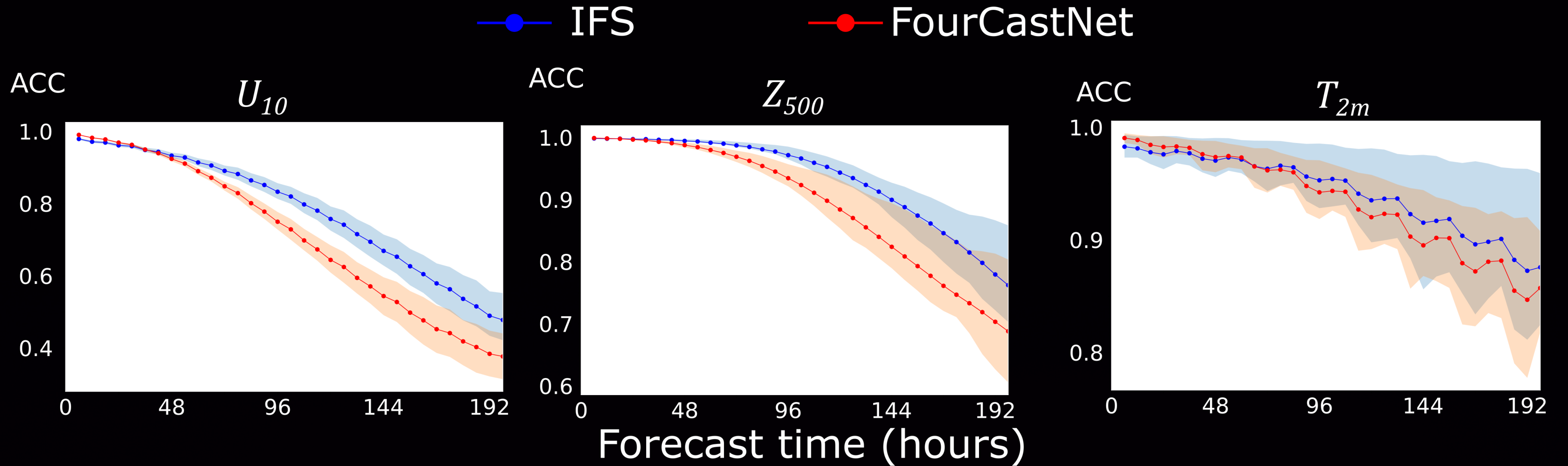


134.75 116.0 97.25 78.5

# PERFORMANCE ON EXTREME PRECIPITATION AND WIND EVENTS



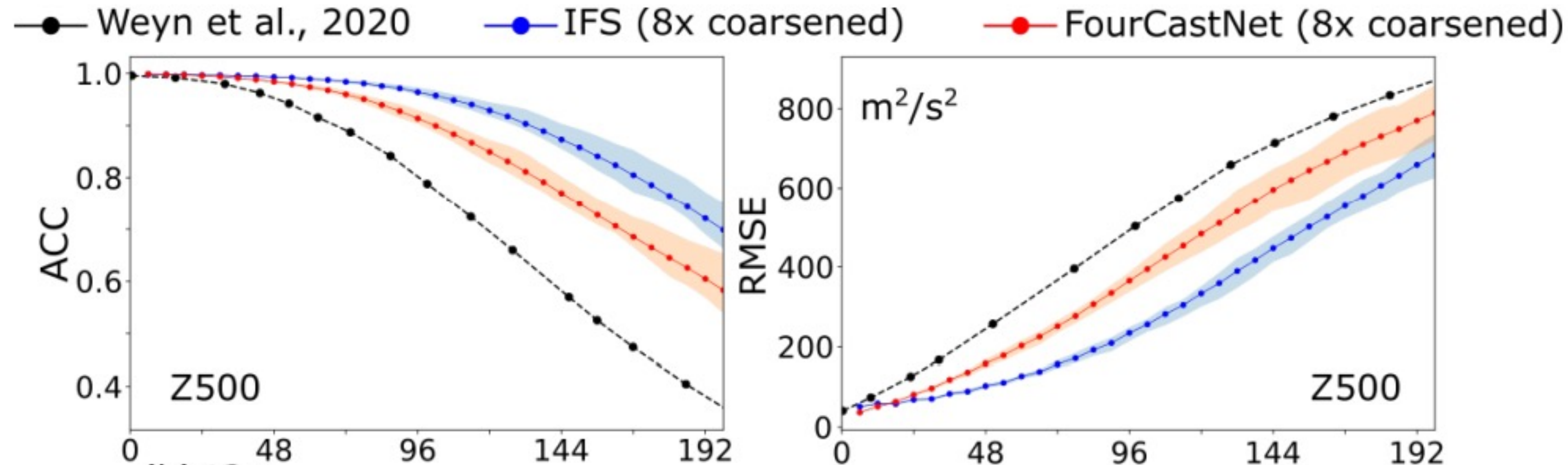
# SHORT-TERM FORECAST SKILL APPROACHING IFS



Note: Ground truth is ERA5, NOT observations

# COMPARISON AGAINST STATE-OF-ART (DLWP, WEYN ET AL.)

8X higher resolution, significantly higher skill at weather timescales



Note: DLWP can predict reliably at S2S timescales

# COMPUTATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Latency and Energy consumption for a 24-hour 100-member ensemble forecast				
	IFS	FCN - 30km (actual)	FCN - 18km (extrapolated)	IFS / FCN(18km) Ratio
Nodes required	3060	1	2	<b>1530</b>
Latency (Node-seconds)	984000	7	22	<b>44727</b>
Energy Consumed (kJ)	271000	7	22	<b>12318</b>

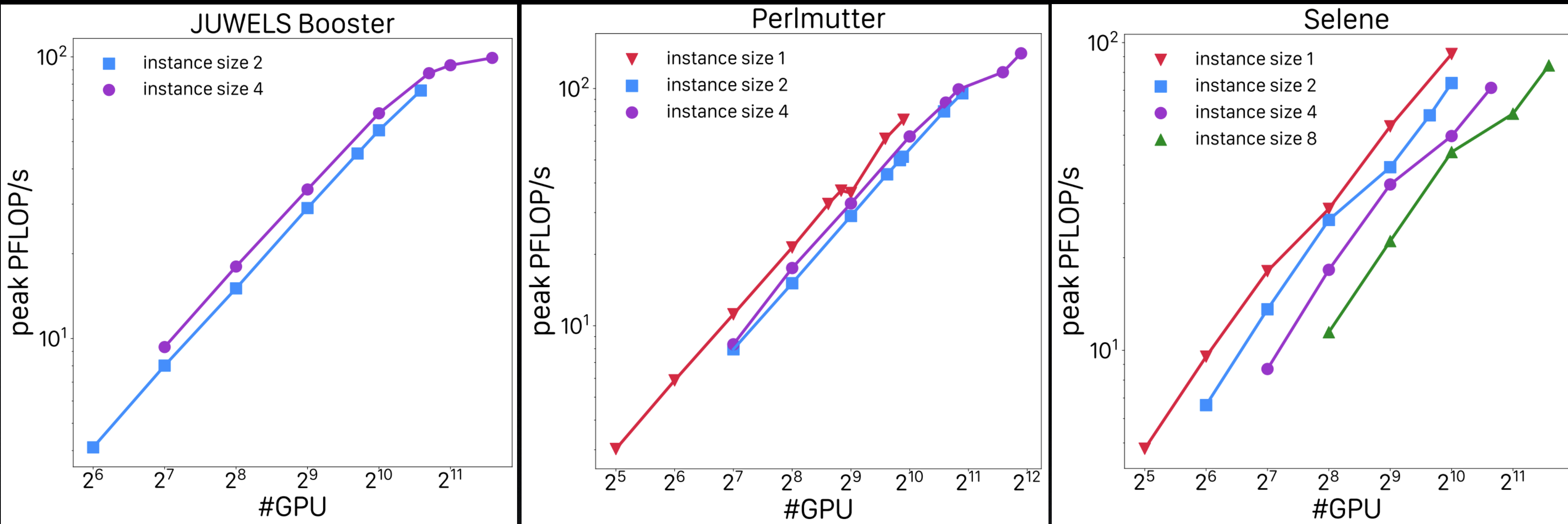
- 100-member ensemble forecast in 7 seconds
- 100-member ensemble forecast consumes 7 kJ
- 4 to 5 orders-of-magnitude speedup over NWP
- 4 orders-of-magnitude smaller energy footprint

## Caveats

- FourCastNet is *not* physics constrained
- Orders-of-magnitude *fewer* variables and levels

# SCALING RESULTS (1 OF 2)

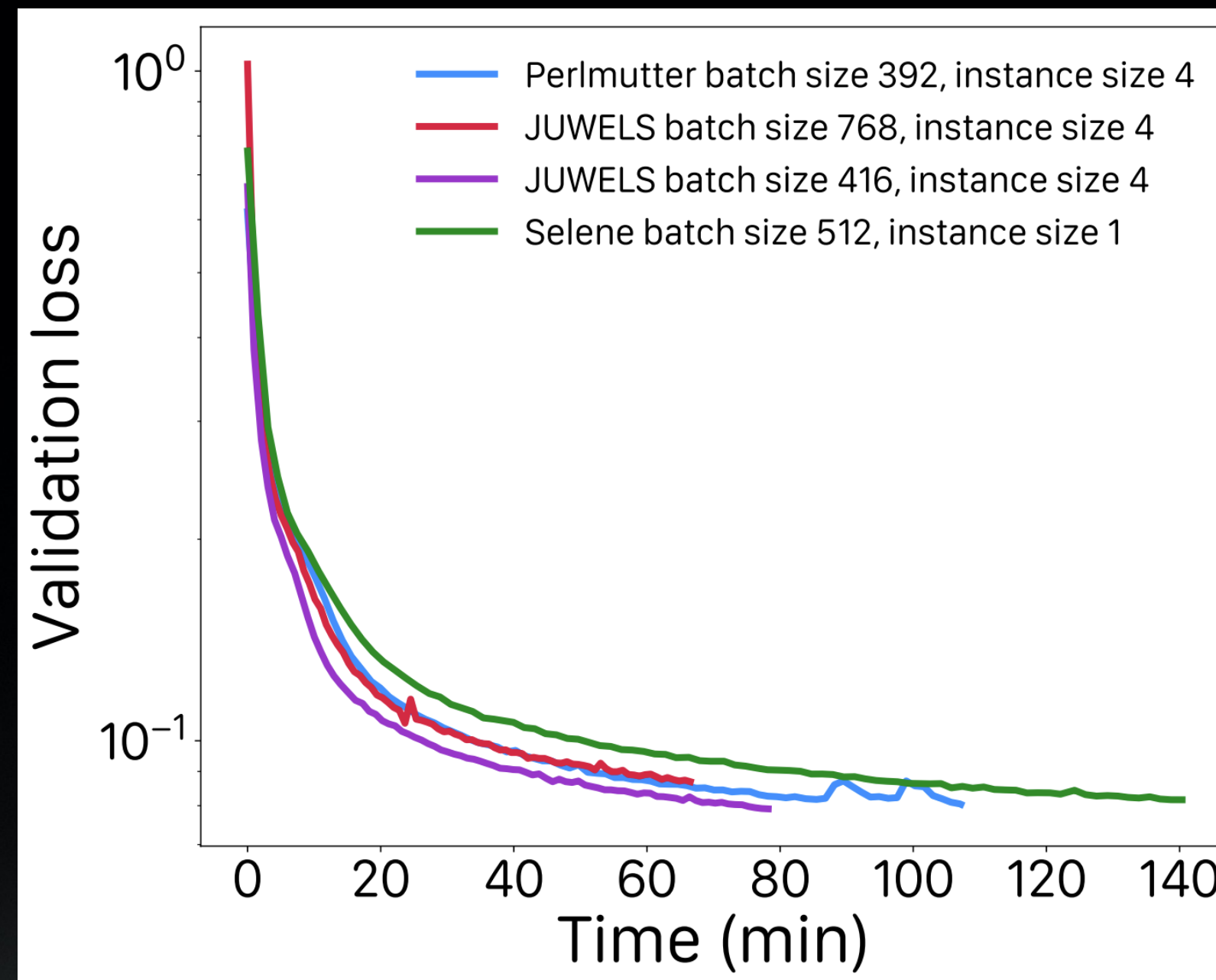
FourCastNet scaled efficiently upto ~ 4000 GPUs on three supercomputing systems:  
JUWELS Booster, Perlmutter, and Selene



Peak performance is 140.8 petaFLOPS in mixed precision (averaged over a full epoch)

# SCALING RESULTS (2 OF 2)

Model and data parallelism reduces training time from ~ 24 hours to 67.4 minutes



# SCALING CHALLENGES

Model	Complexity (FLOPs)	Parameter Count	Interpretation
FNO	$Nd^2 + Nd \log N$	$Nd^2$	Global Conv.
AFNO	$Nd^2/k + Nd \log N$	$(1 + 4/k)d^2 + 4d$	Adaptive Global Conv.

$p$  = patch size,  
 $N$  = sequence size =  $dim_x * dim_y / p^2$ ;  
 $d$  = embedding dimension,  $k$  = block count

	Current (25-km)	Intermediate (5-km)	Large (1-km)
N ( $p = 1$ )	1M	25M	625M
FFTs	720 x 1440 ( $d$ of them)	3600 x 7200 ( $d$ of them)	18k x 36k ( $d$ of them)
Matrix Multiplies	$[4d \times d] * [d]$ ( $N$ of them)	$[4d \times d] * [d]$ ( $N$ of them)	$[4d \times d] * [d]$ ( $N$ of them)

# EARTH DIGITAL TWIN FOR WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXTREMES

MONITOR | FUSE DATA | ASSIMILATE DATA

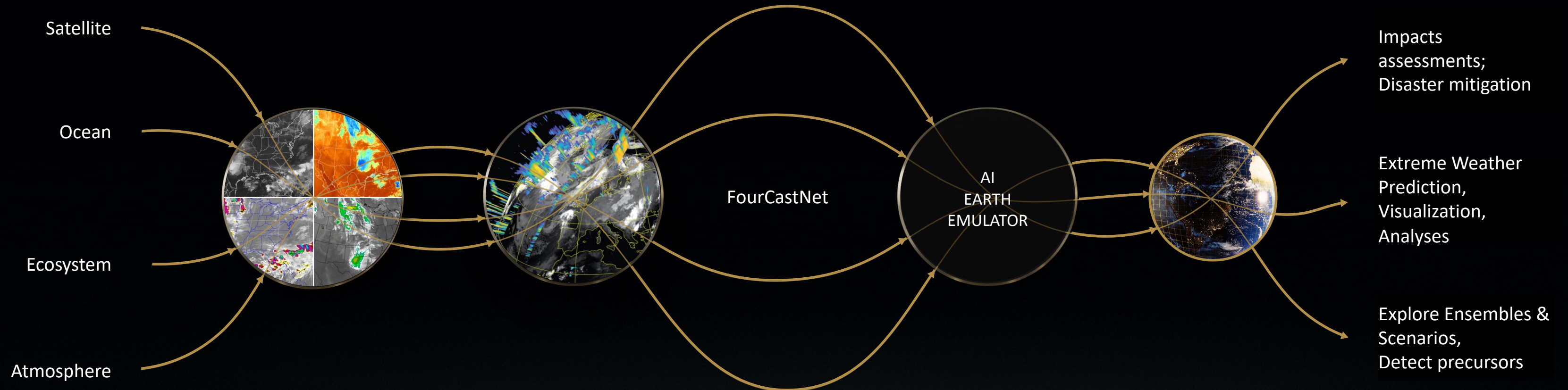
PHYSICS-ML EMULATION

PREDICT | ANALYZE | VISUALIZE

ERA5 Reanalysis Data (ECMWF) / Hi-res simulations

Modulus Model Training and Inference

Omniverse



## Current Data Input:

Atmospheric winds and geopotential heights ~ 20 channels  
10 TB, 30-km spatial resolution, 5 vertical pressure levels

## Future Data Input:

Atmosphere, Ocean, Land, Ecosystems, Ice  
10 PB, 5-km resolution, 20 vertical levels, 300 variables

## Current Training and Inference:

16 hours on 128 GPUs, 0.25 seconds for 7-day forecast

## Future Training and inference:

200 hours on 16384 GPUs, 4 seconds for 7-day forecast  
(projected estimates - W.I.P)

1. Predict, visualize, detect and track extremes
2. Compare skill to traditional NWP models
3. Checkpoint / restart ensembles around events
4. Assess extreme weather impacts, mitigate disasters
5. Interactively investigate impact of changing climate scenarios on behavior of extremes
6. Detect precursors of extremes

# TODAY

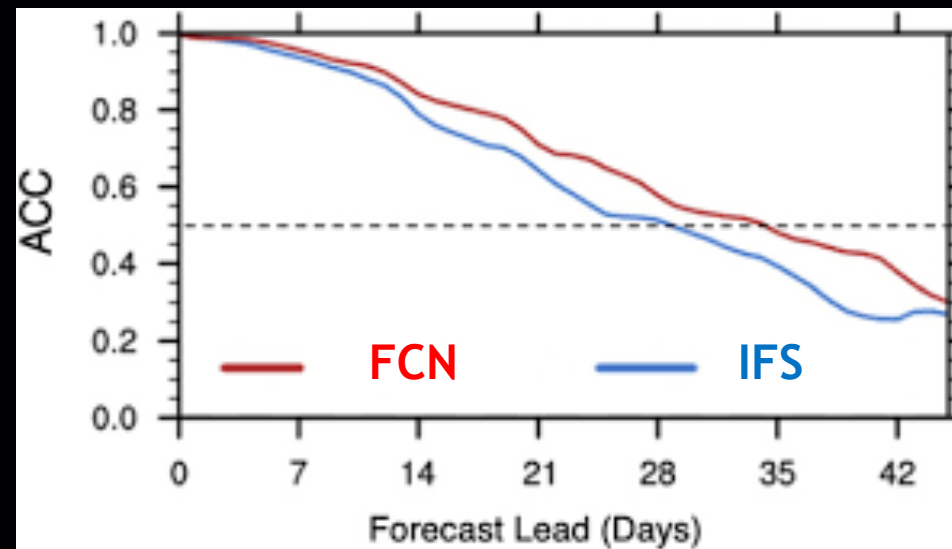
- Unprecedented skill
- 1000-member ensemble in seconds
- 4 to 5 orders-of-magnitude speedup over NWP
- 4 orders-of-magnitude smaller energy footprint

# FCN-Real-time: Next-gen Weather Forecasting

The FourCast Channel

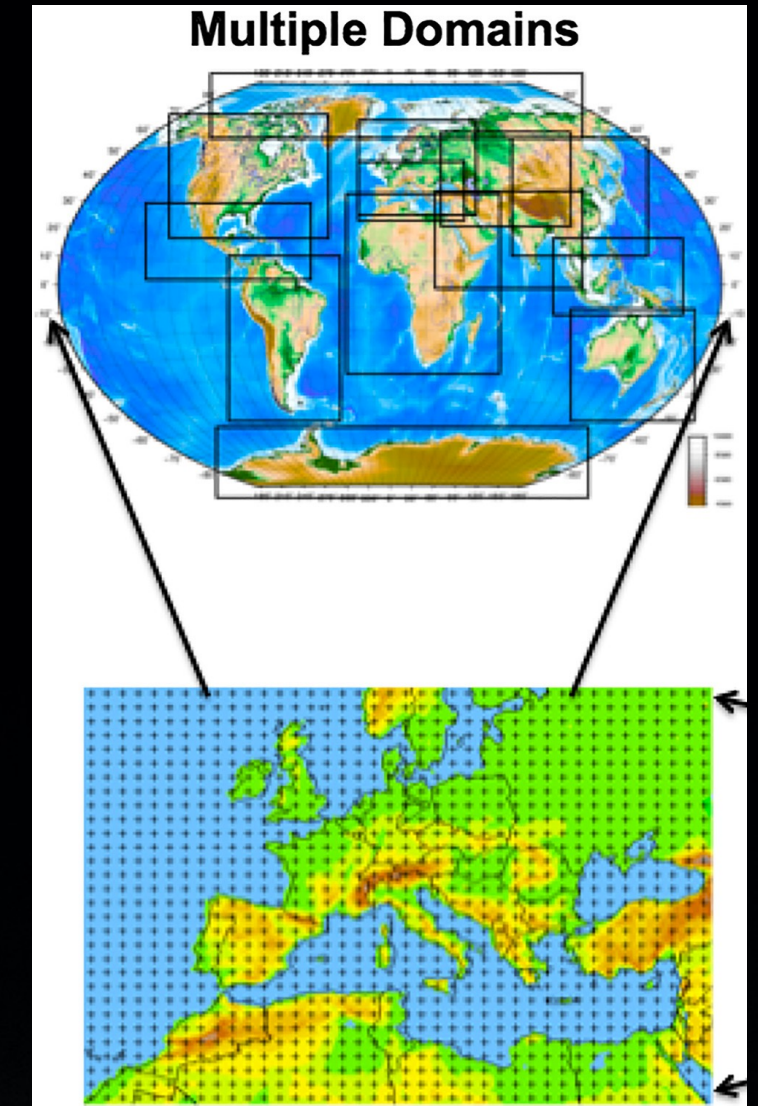


# FCN-Big: Scale-up and scale-out to beat IFS (Gold Standard - ECMWF)



SAMPLE ONLY!  
NOT REAL DATA!

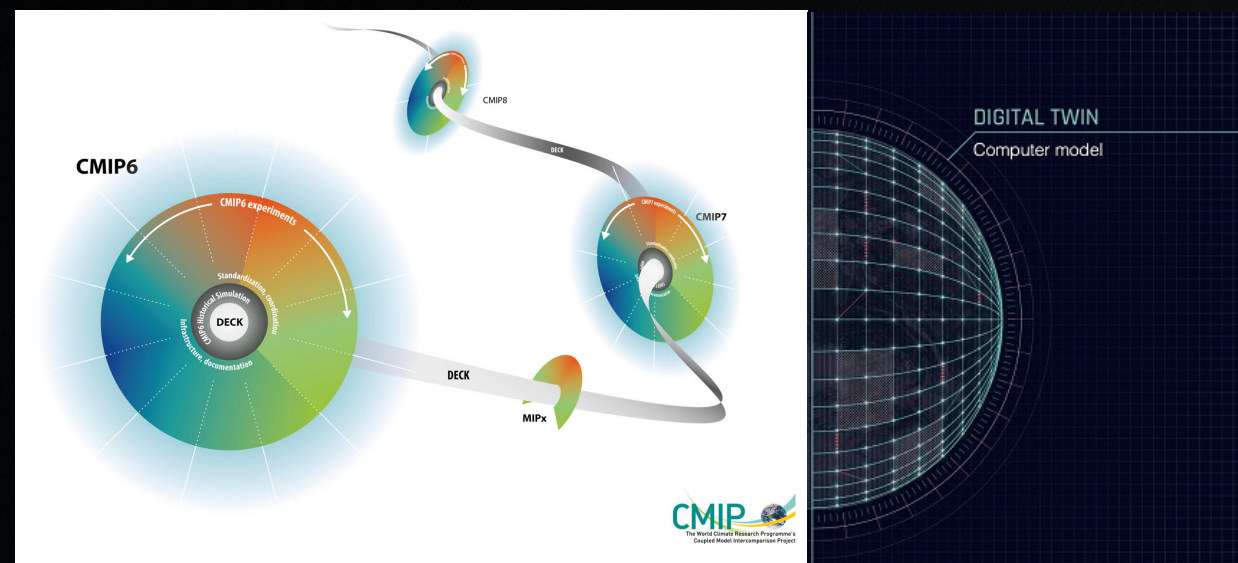
# FCN-Regional: Nested global-local FCN to democratize regional weather forecasting



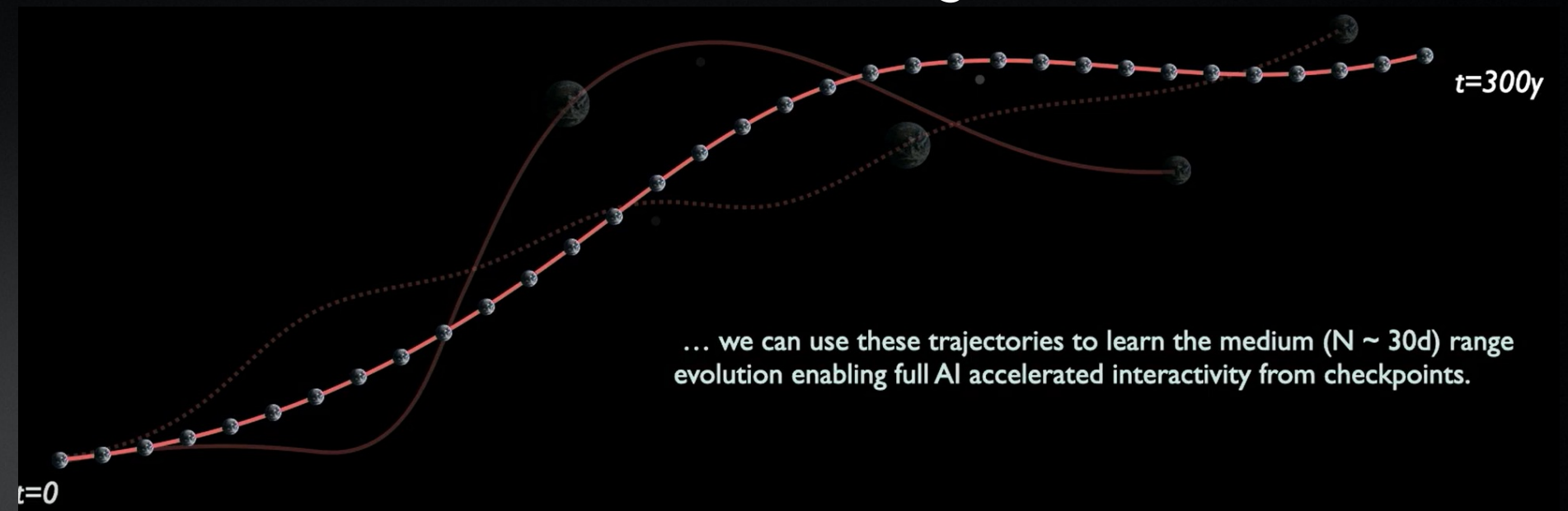
# FCN-Probabilistic: Calibrated Ensembles



# FCN-Climate: CMIP6-initialized extremes in 2030-2050

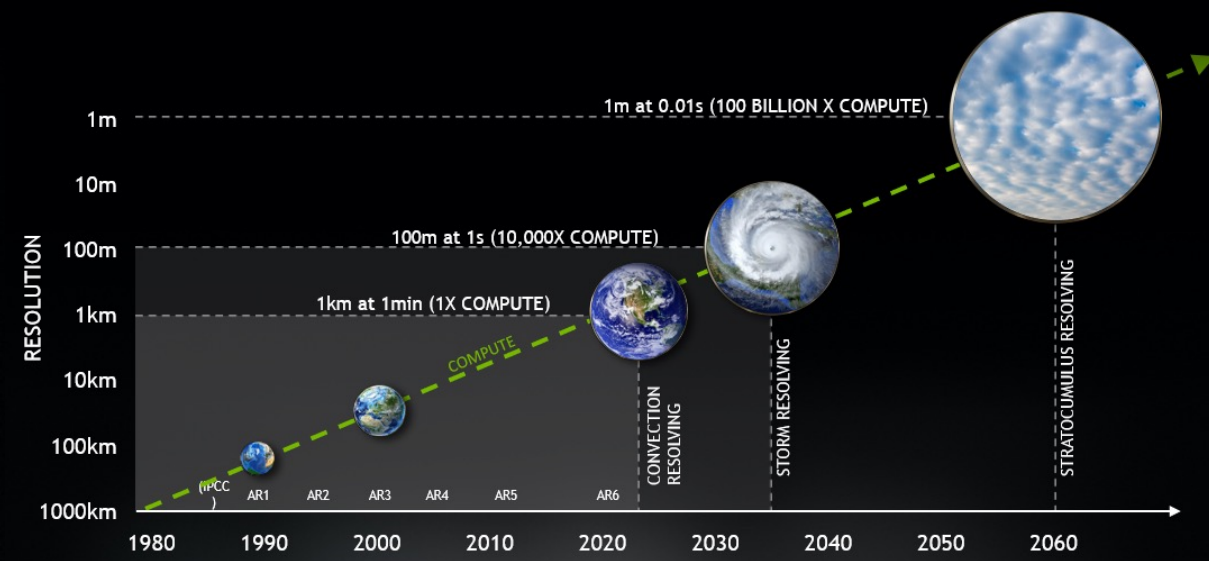


# FCN-Climate+: Climate tethering at 1-10 km scale



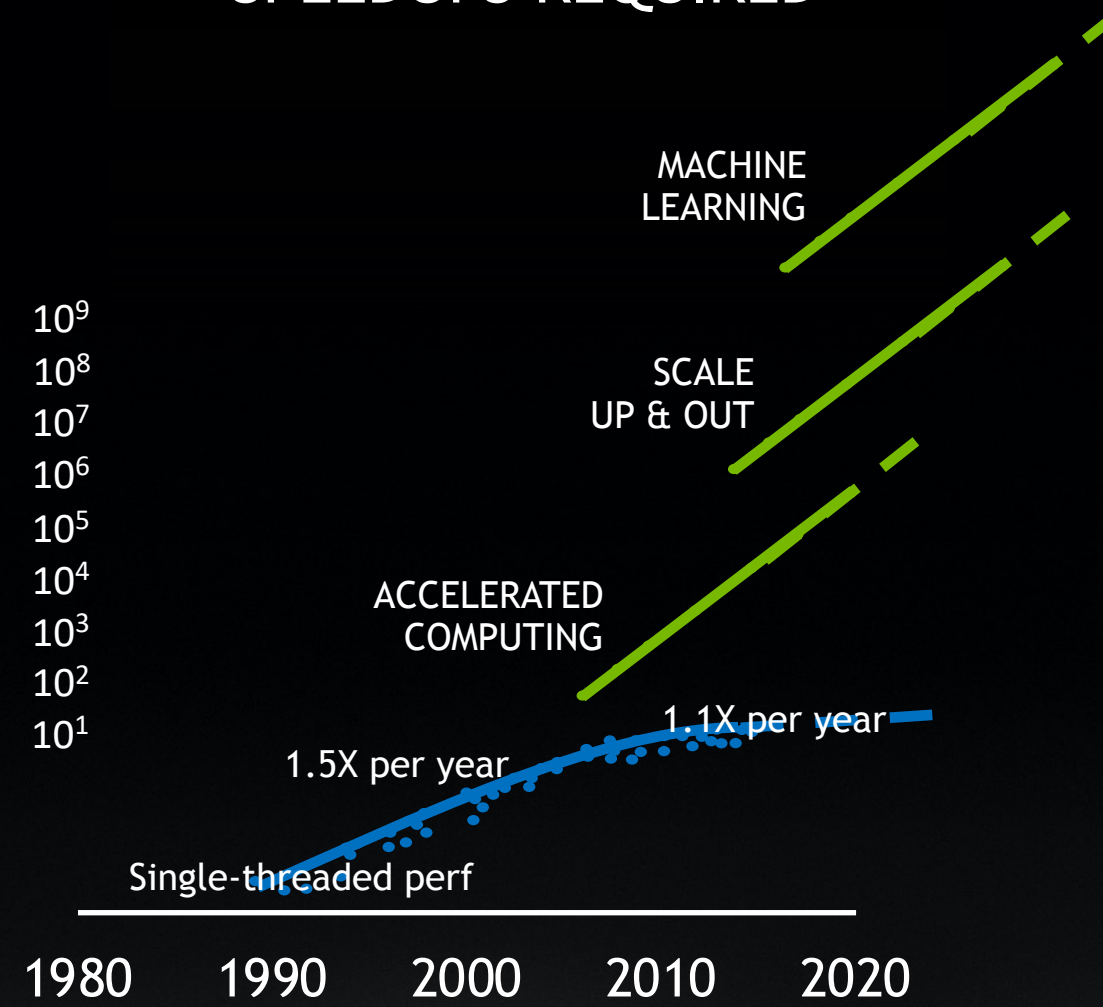
# SYNTHESIS

## CLIMATE MODELING DEMANDS EXTREME COMPUTE



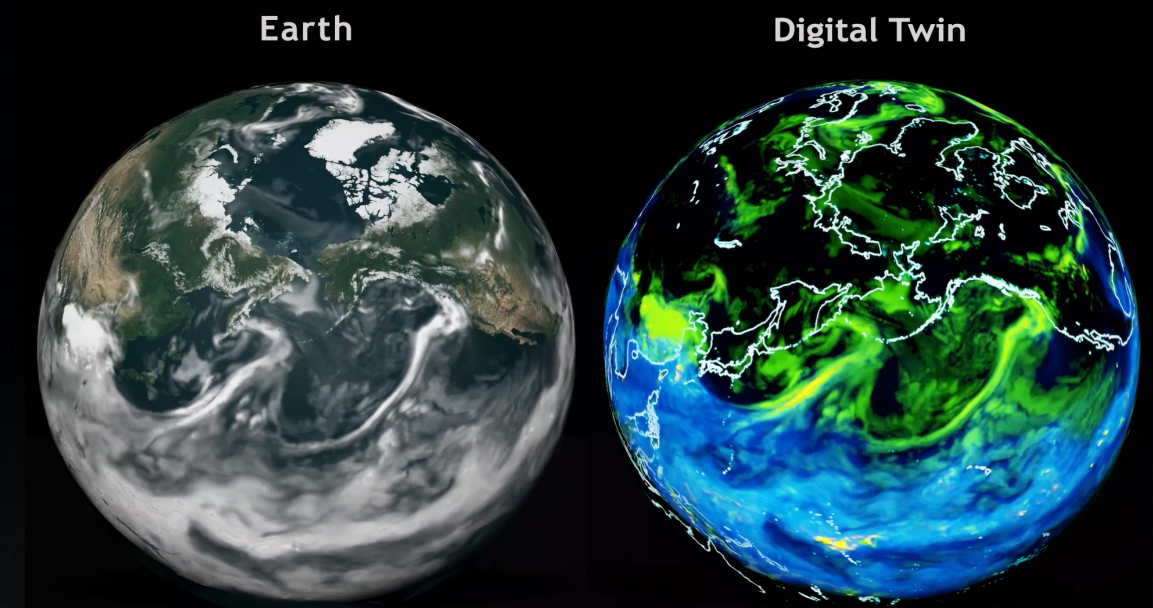
Resolution, Ensembles, Scenarios

## MILLION X SPEEDUPS REQUIRED



Computing, Physics-ML

## AI-POWERED DIGITAL TWINS PROMISE ACTIONABLE RESULTS IN ACTIONABLE TIME



Earth-2

THANK YOU!