



Adventures on the edge: ML in orbit, hybrid observation and digital twinning planet Earth





An open question:

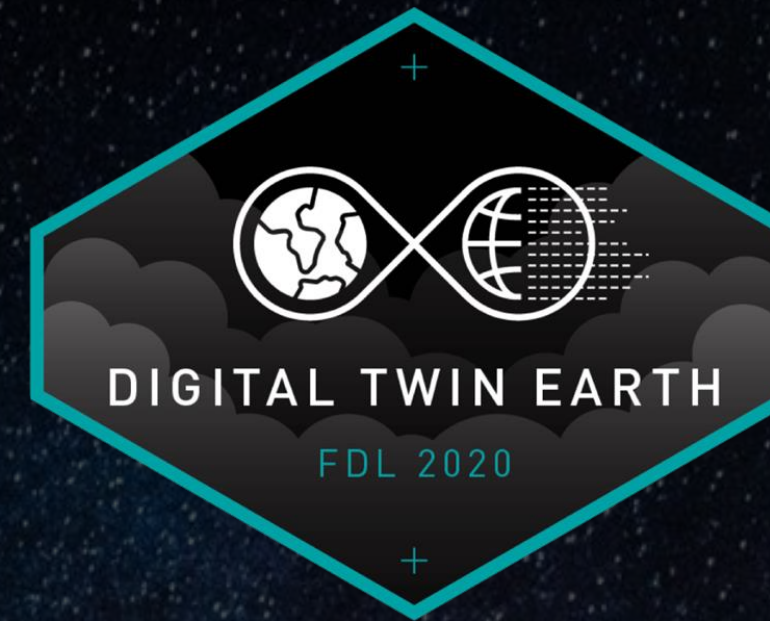
How much will our planet change?

(not scientific)

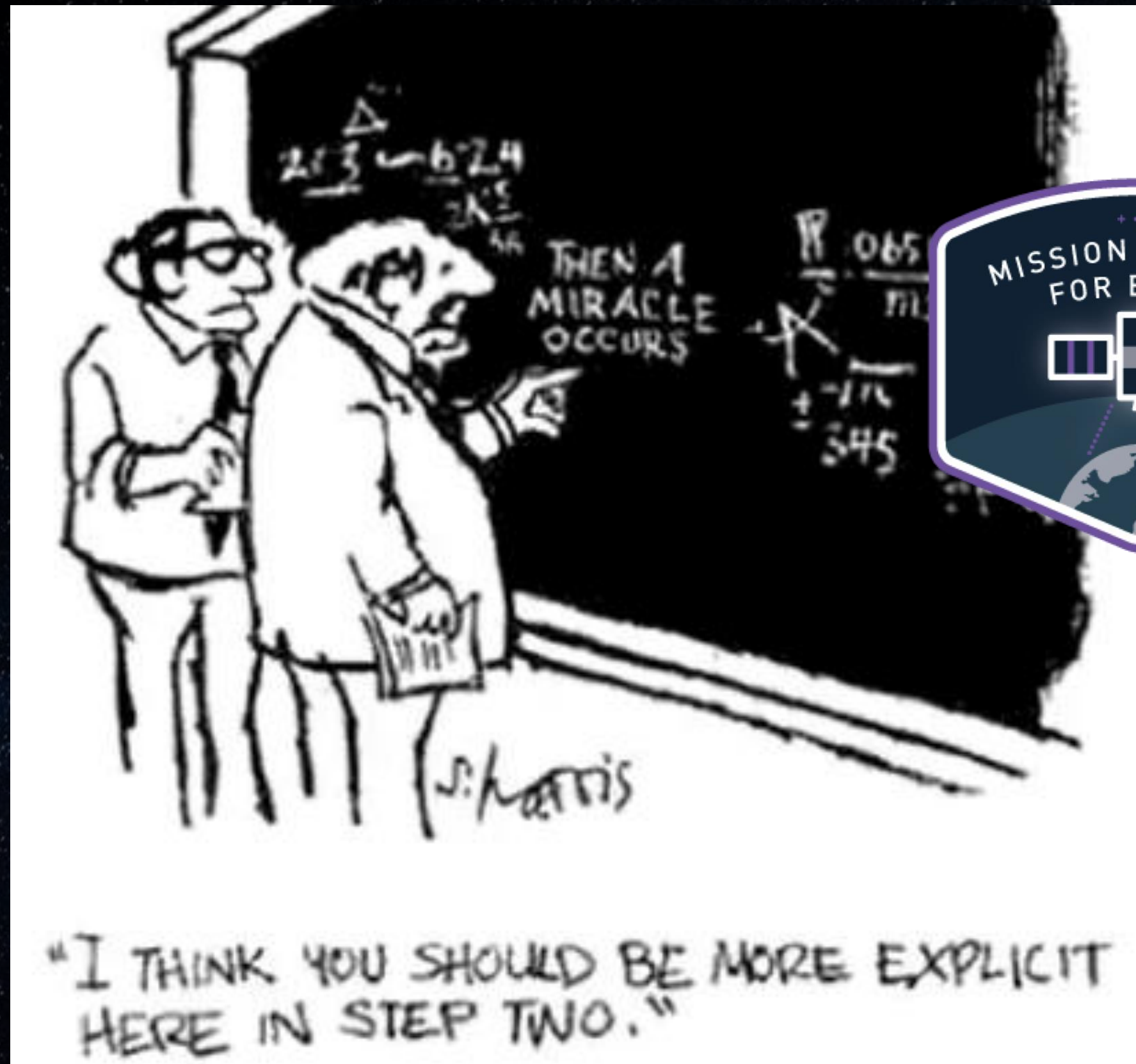


“Earth Operations Centre”

“To successfully manage and coordinate the net-zero efforts on “spaceship Earth”, the time has come to build a sort of distributed operations centre to help manage our “spaceship”.



Easy to say...



Easy to say...

SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES

Computational limits

Data + model Integration

Ameliorating Uncertainty

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

Spatial / Temporal Resolution

Data deluge

Versioning / live data and drift

PROGRAM CHALLENGES

Validation / verification

Use-case definition

Optimization methodologies

Adapted from 'ESA Digital Twin Precursor: Food Systems

Sophisticated meta-learning for monitoring, active learning and optimization. (MLOPs)

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Optimization methodologies

(***Technical debt alert*****)**

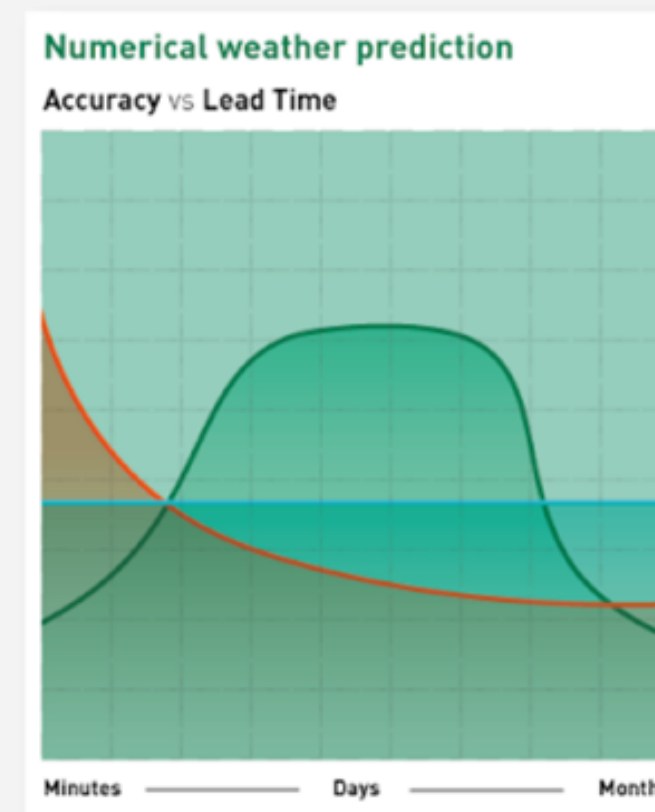
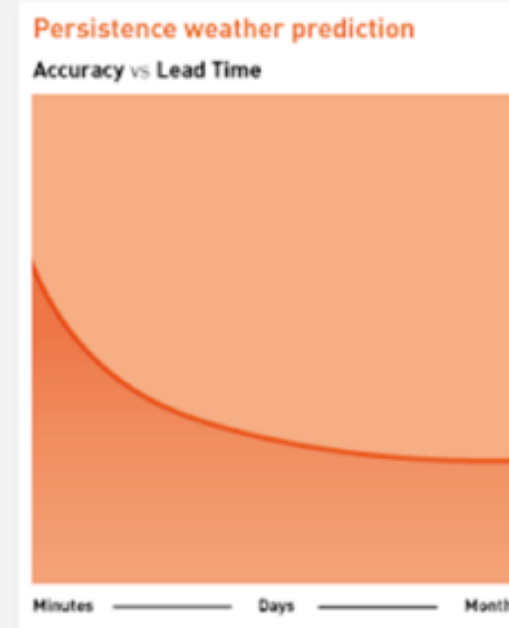
This is probably much harder than we think it's going to be!



Credit: Associated Press

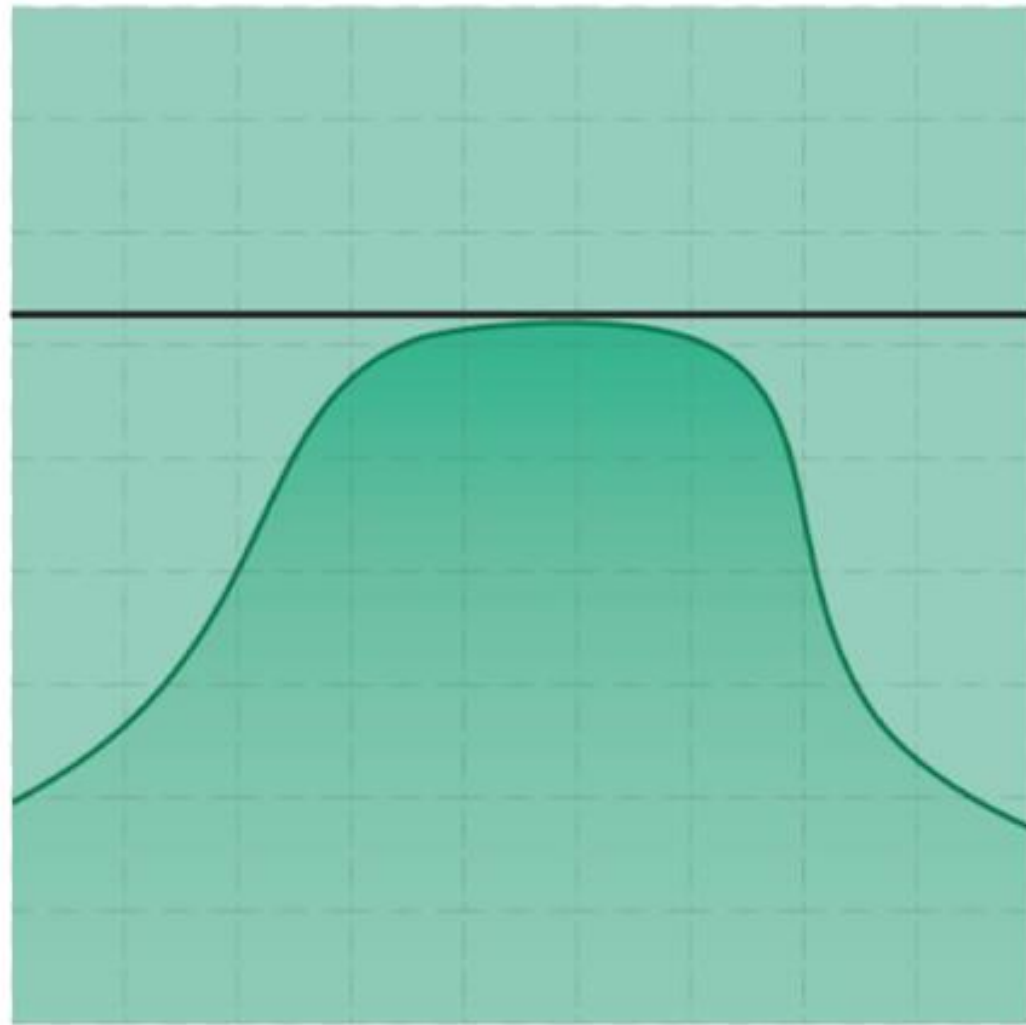


Can we predict precipitation, globally, using Machine Learning?



Numerical weather prediction

Accuracy vs Lead Time



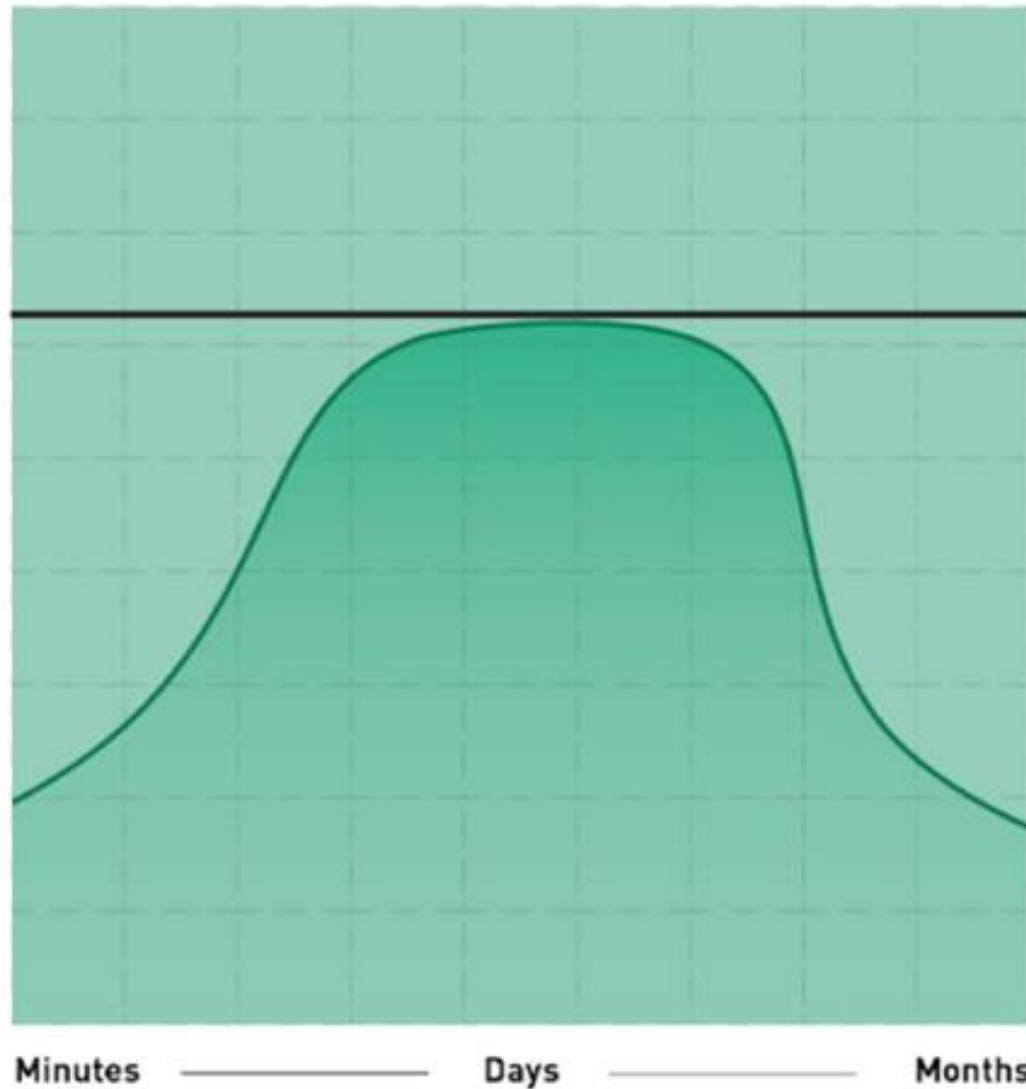
Minutes — Days — Months

Increasing grid resolution for improved forecasting hits a **power limit**.

Numerical forecasting is best for the timescale of a couple of days.

Numerical weather prediction

Accuracy vs Lead Time



Increasing grid resolution for improved forecasting hits a **power limit**.

Learning to Simulate Complex Physics with Graph Networks

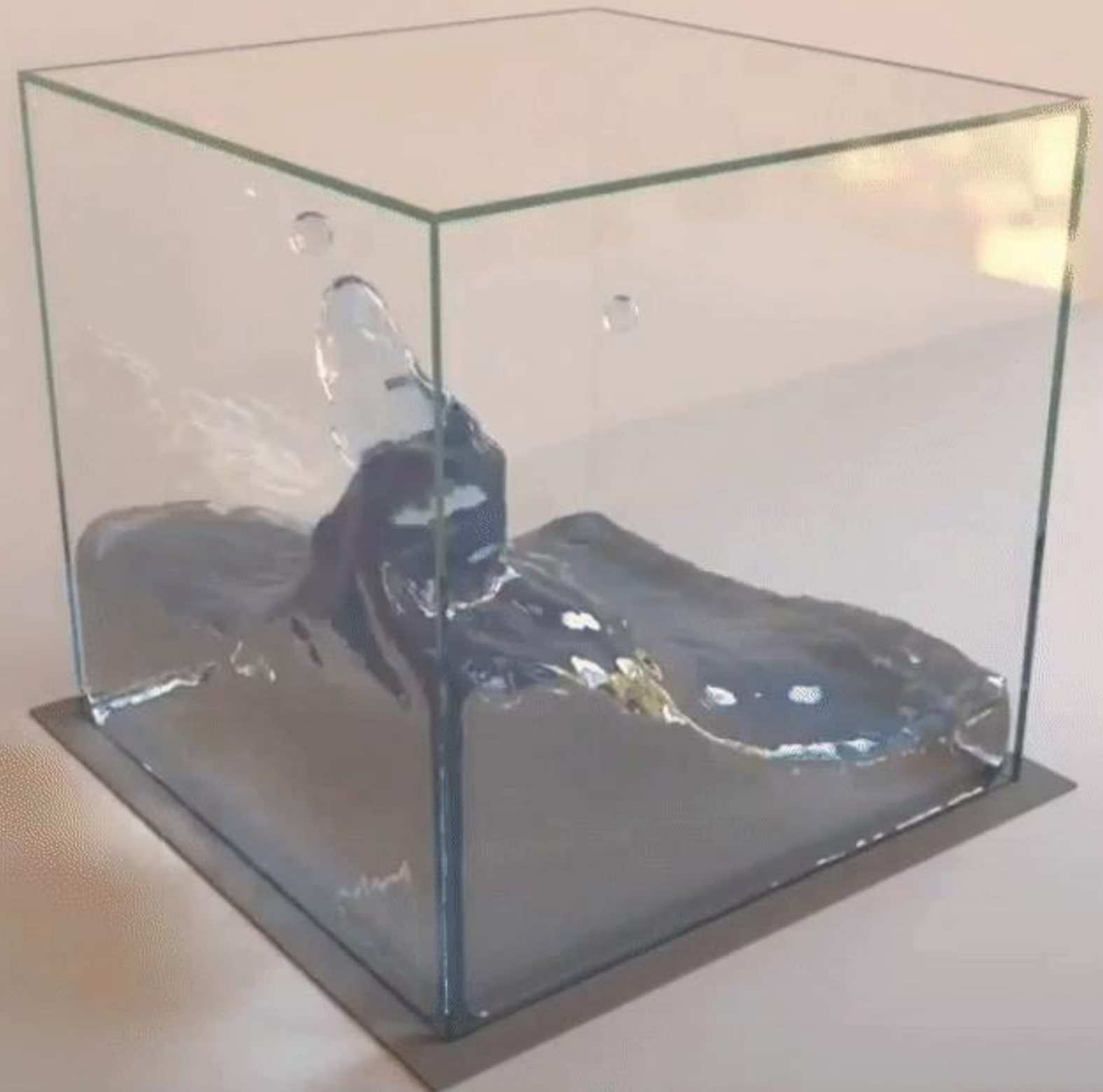
Alvaro Sanchez-Gonzalez^{*1} Jonathan Godwin^{*1} Tobias Pfaff^{*1} Rex Ying^{*2} Jure Leskovec²
Peter W. Battaglia¹

Numerical forecasting is best for the timescale of a couple of days.

Ground truth



Prediction



Credit: Sanchez-Gonzalez et al



PROJECT

DIGITAL TWIN EARTH

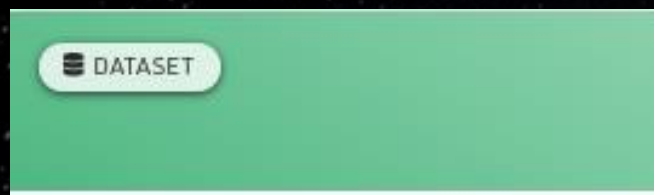
Can we lower the cost of accurate global precipitation forec...

CHALLENGE AREA

EARTH SCIENCE

PROGRAM

FDL EUROPE

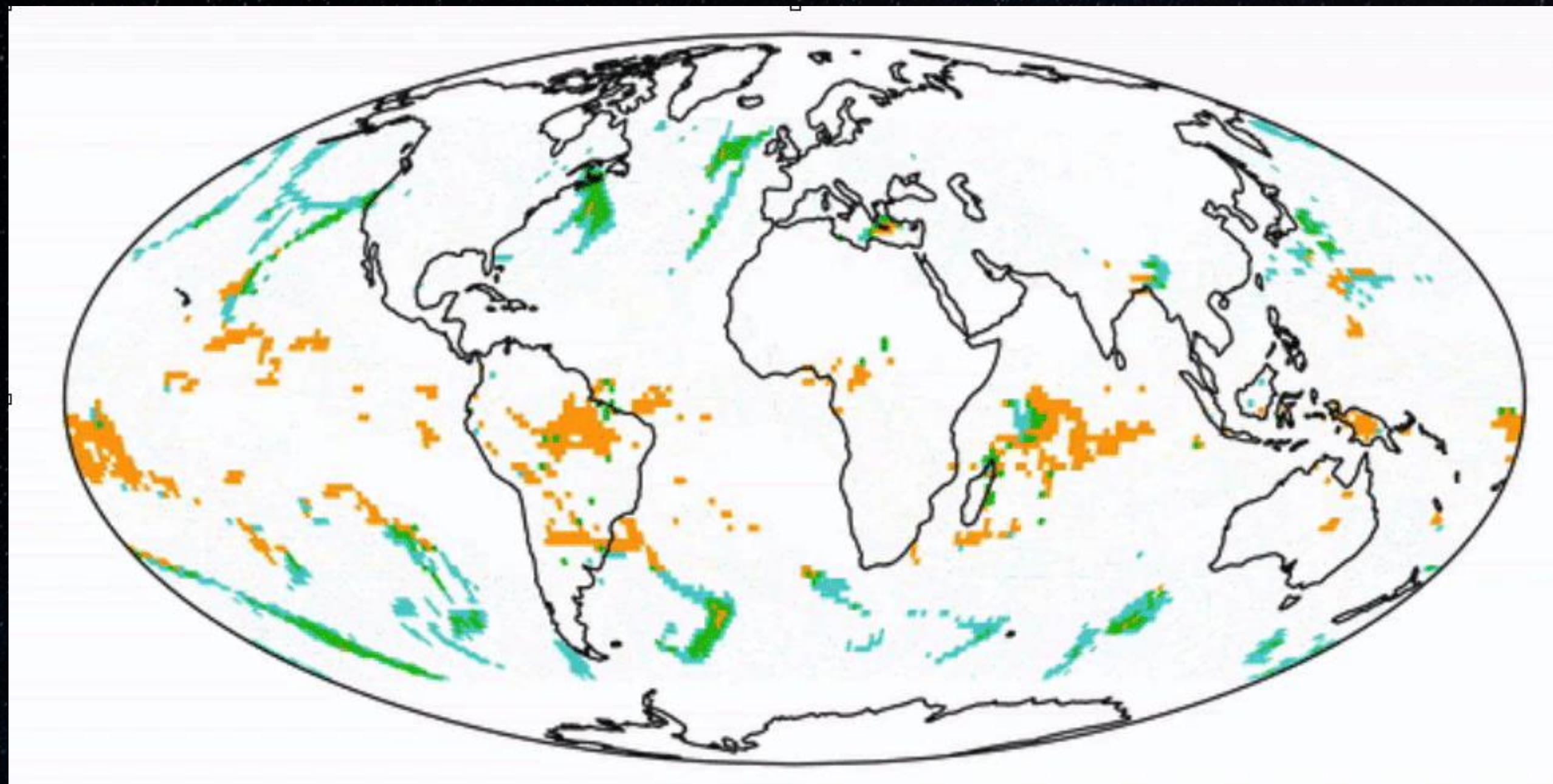


DATASET

RAINBENCH

Rainbench offers re-gridded data in memmap format sourced from the ERA5, SimSat and IMERG databases.

800GB - 1Tb



Global Precipitation: 72 hours in advance



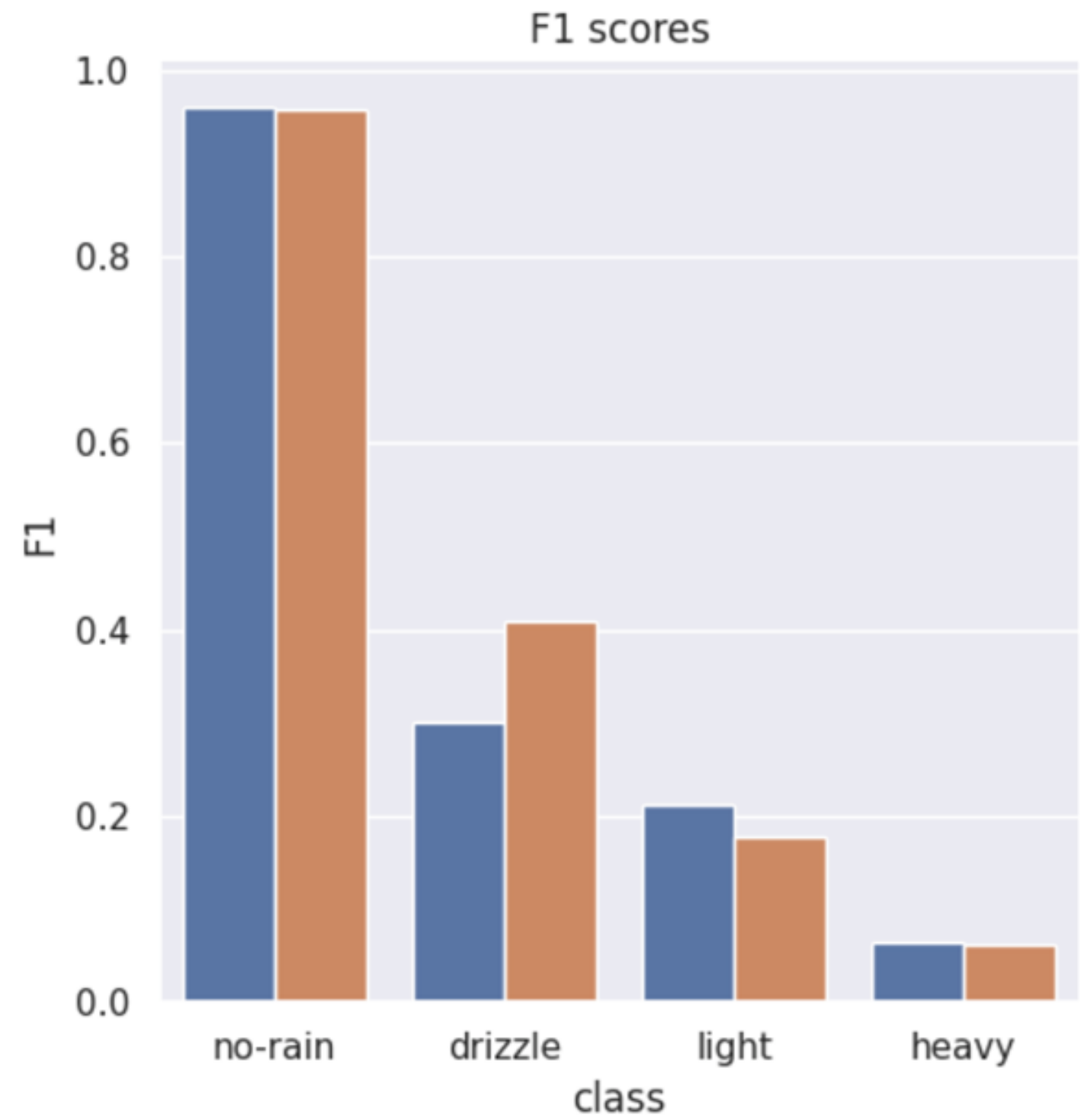
Convolutional Recurrent Neural Network



Stochastic Generative Adversarial Network



Pixel-wise fully connected network



Digital Twin
ERA5



<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/datasets/reanalysis-datasets/era5>

What about something at much higher resolution?

Wind

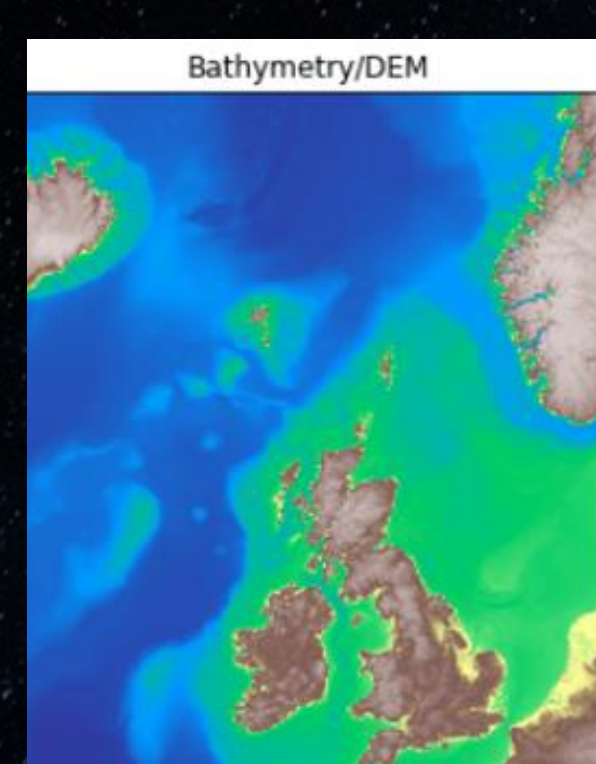
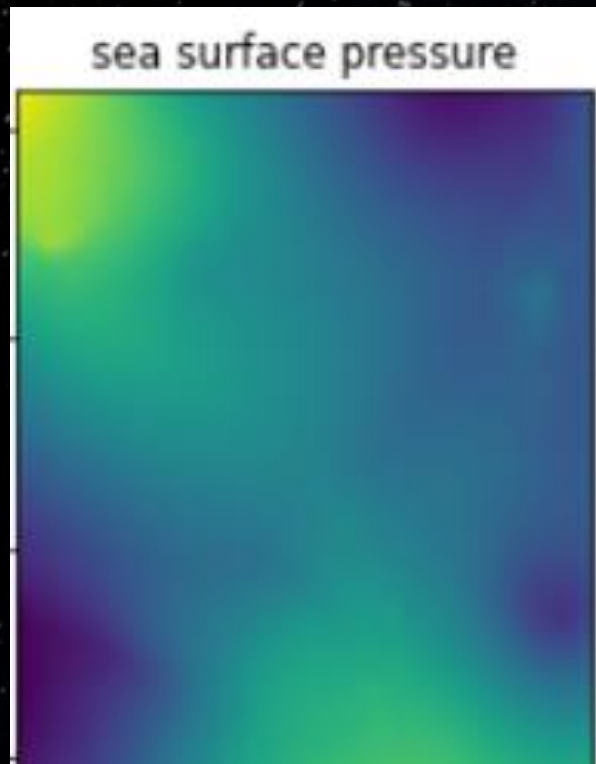
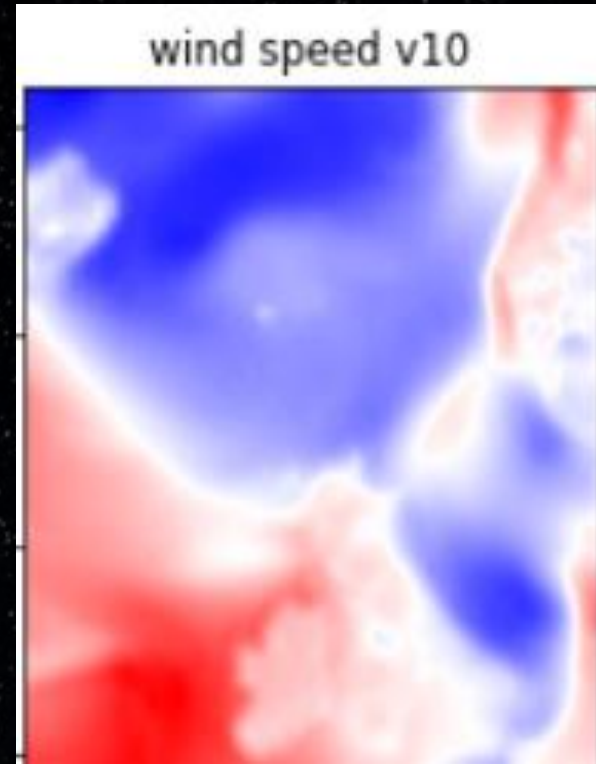
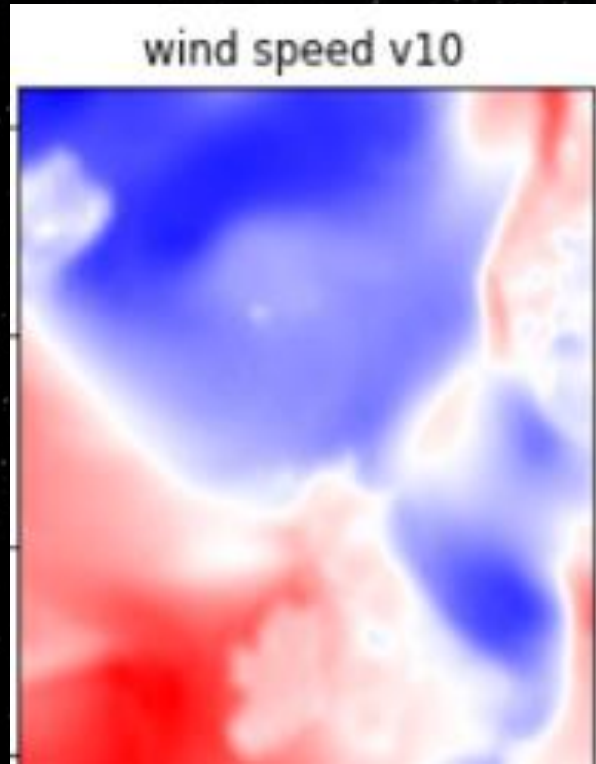
Waves

Land

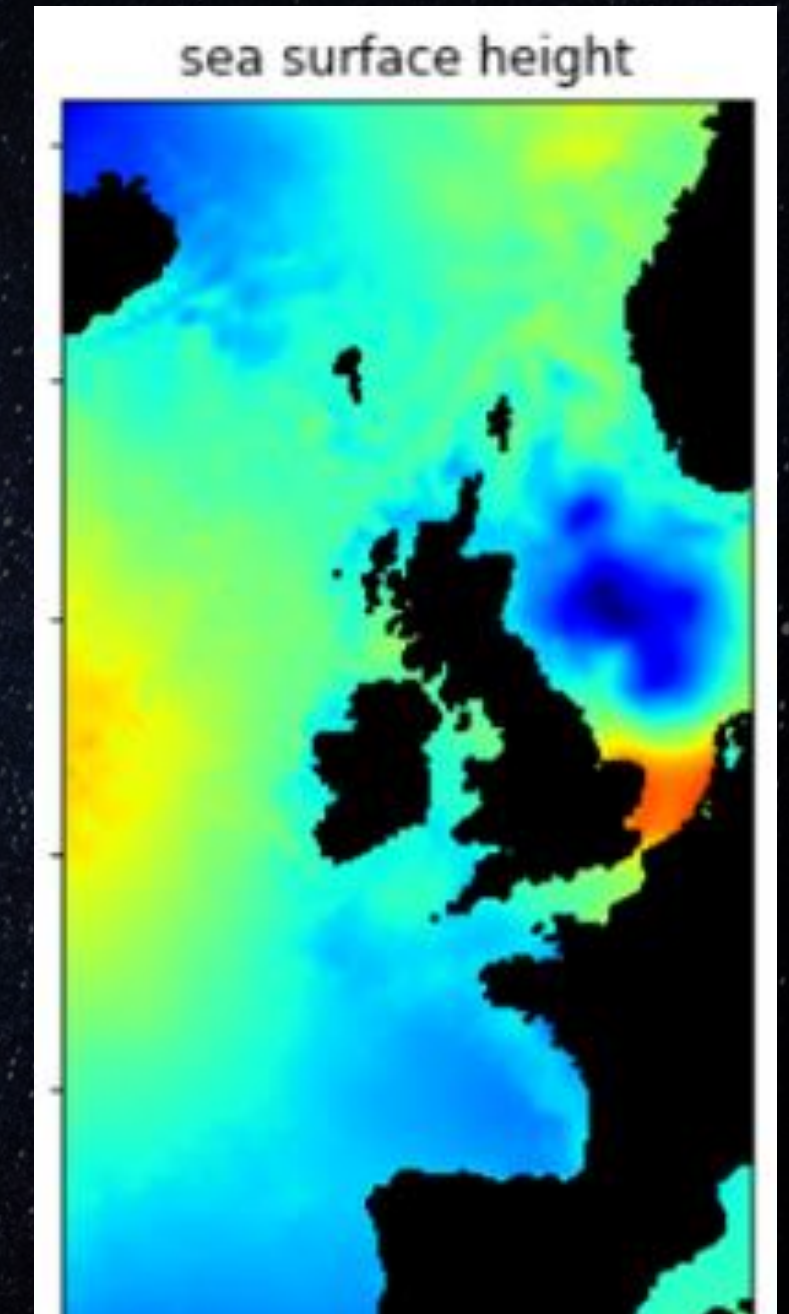




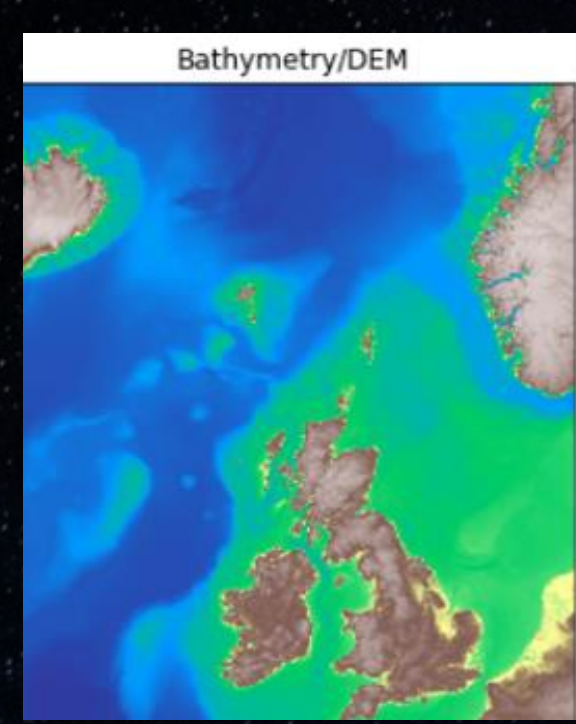
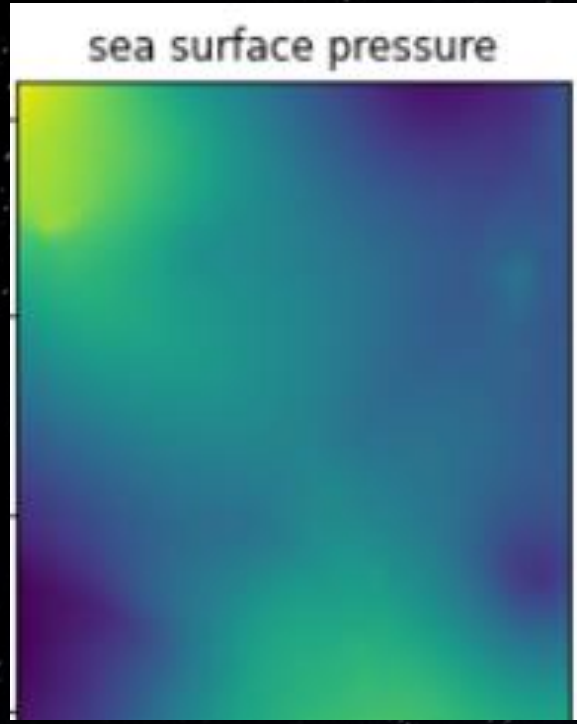
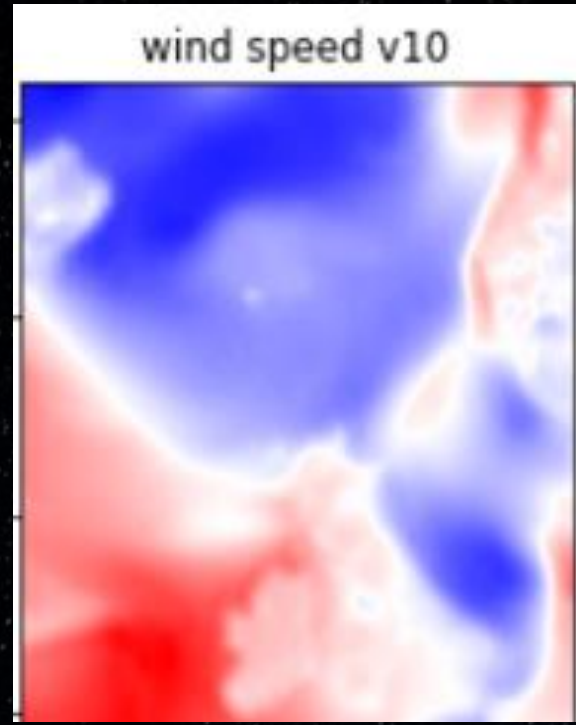
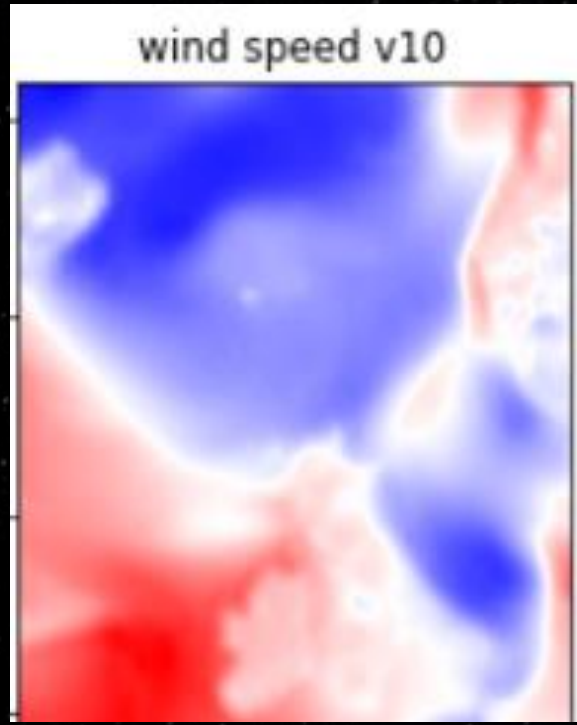
Coastal Digital Twin



Numerical Models



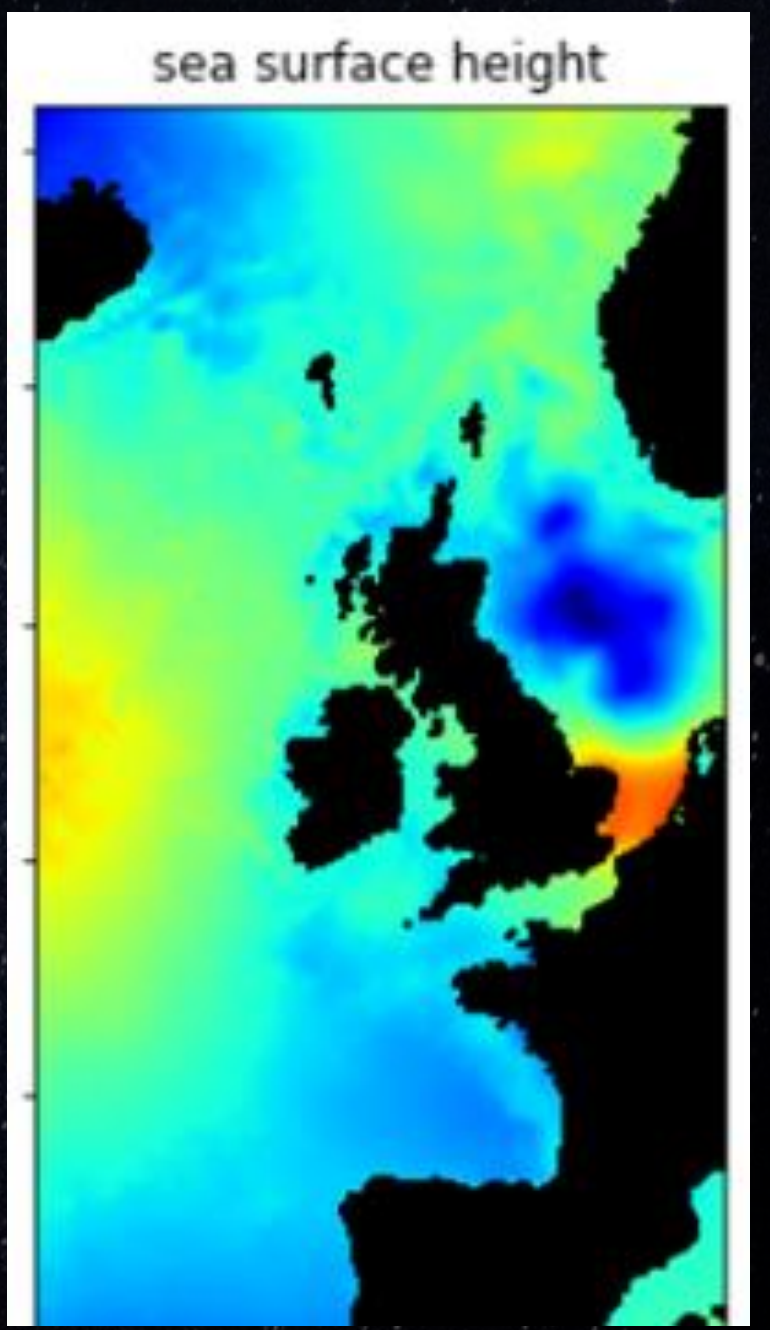
Physics-based sims are computationally expensive...
No real-time prediction (1.5 Hours)
No uncertainty quantification.

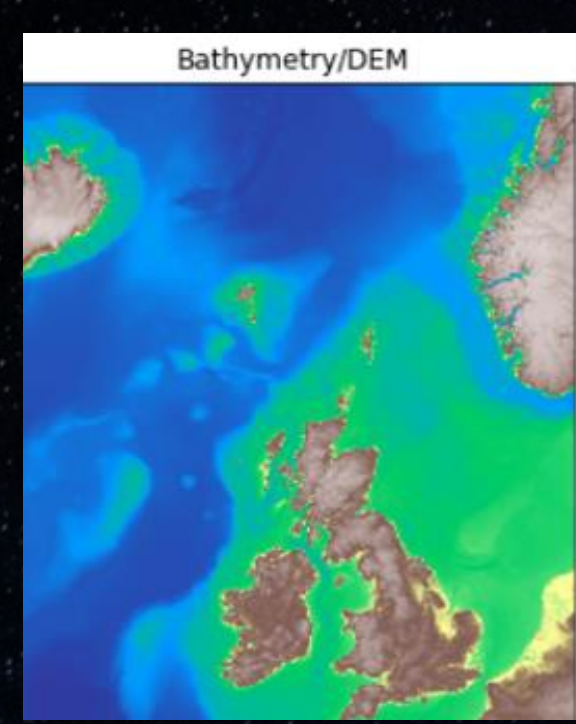
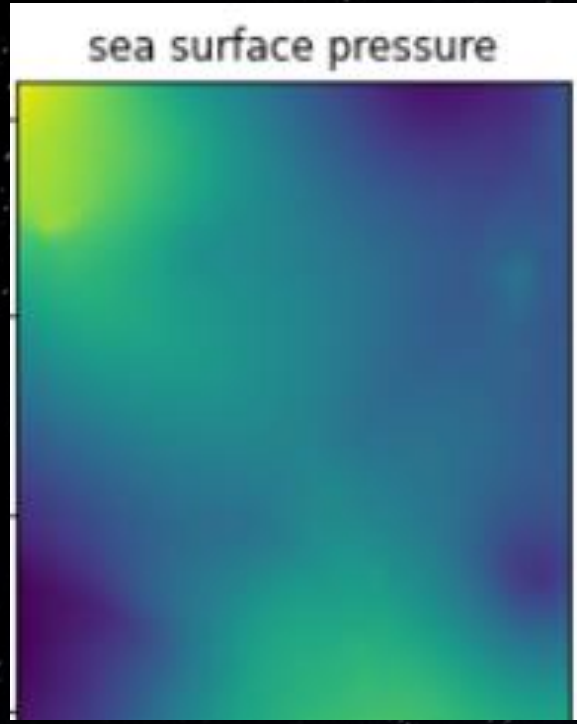
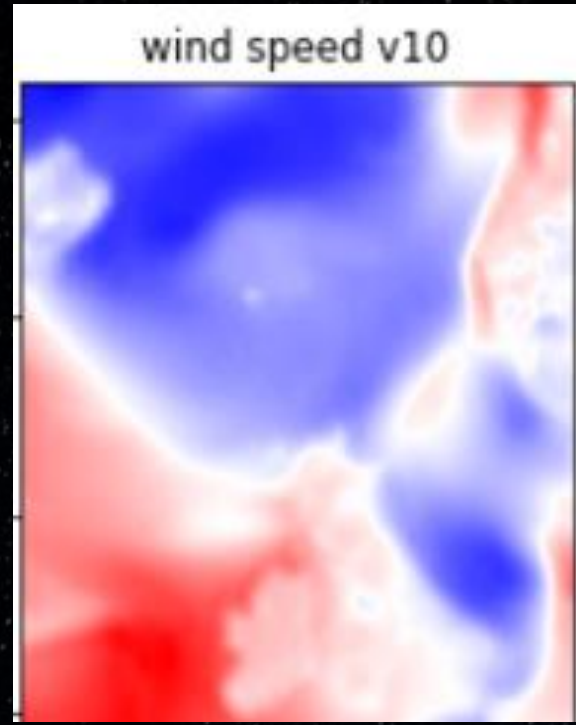
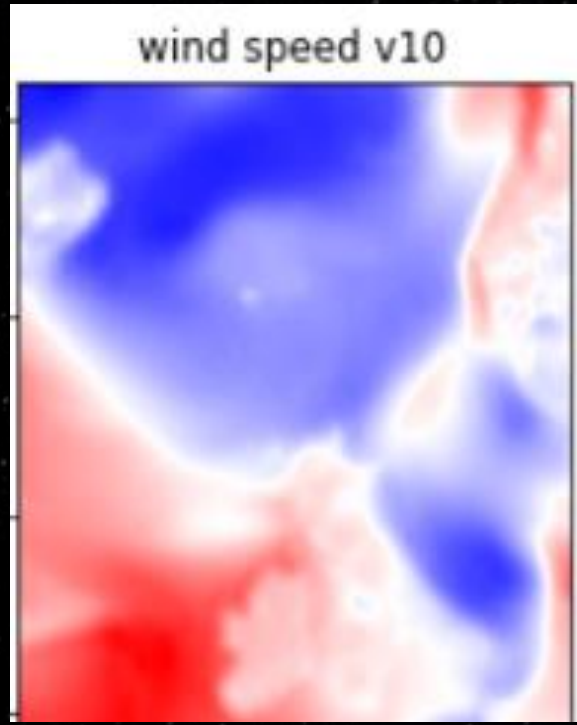


Coastal Digital Twin



60 Minutes in advance



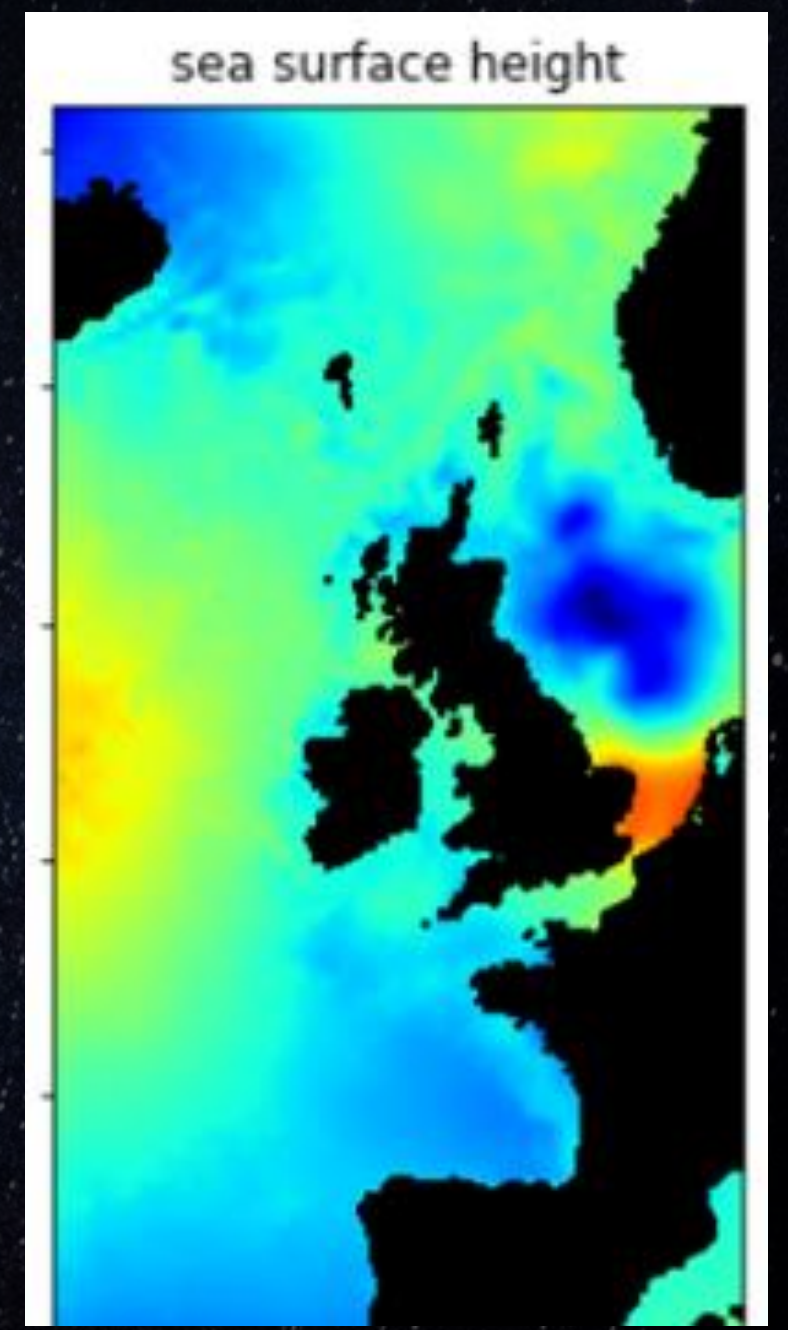


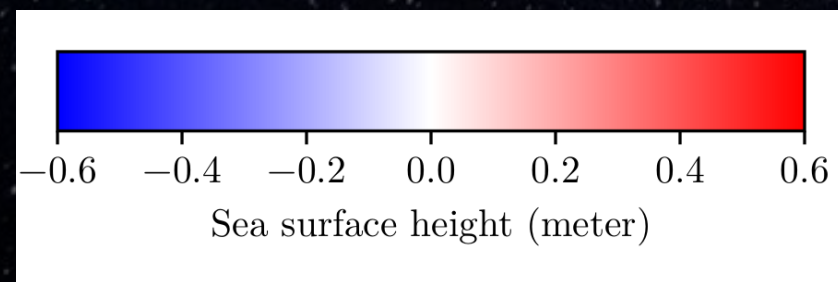
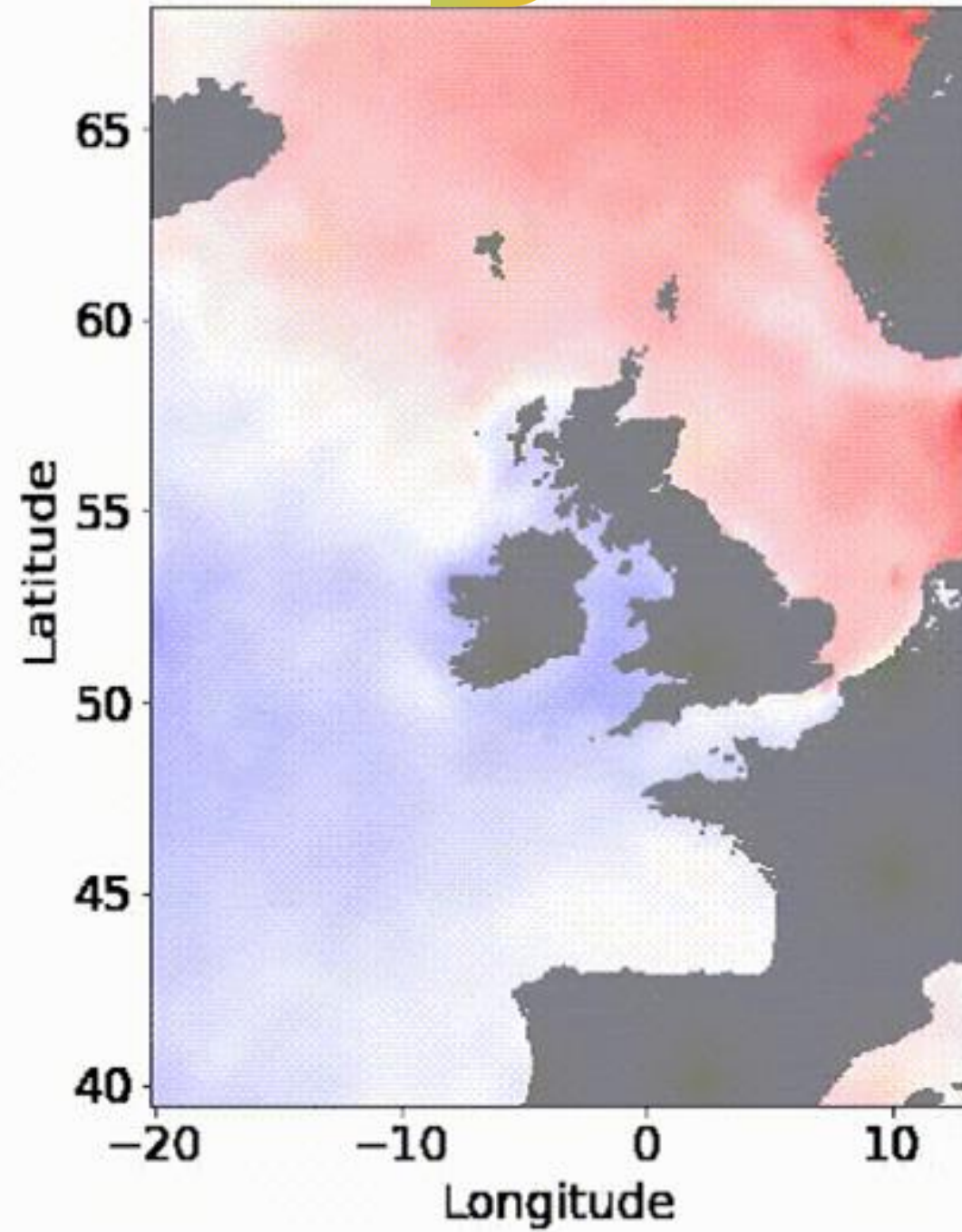
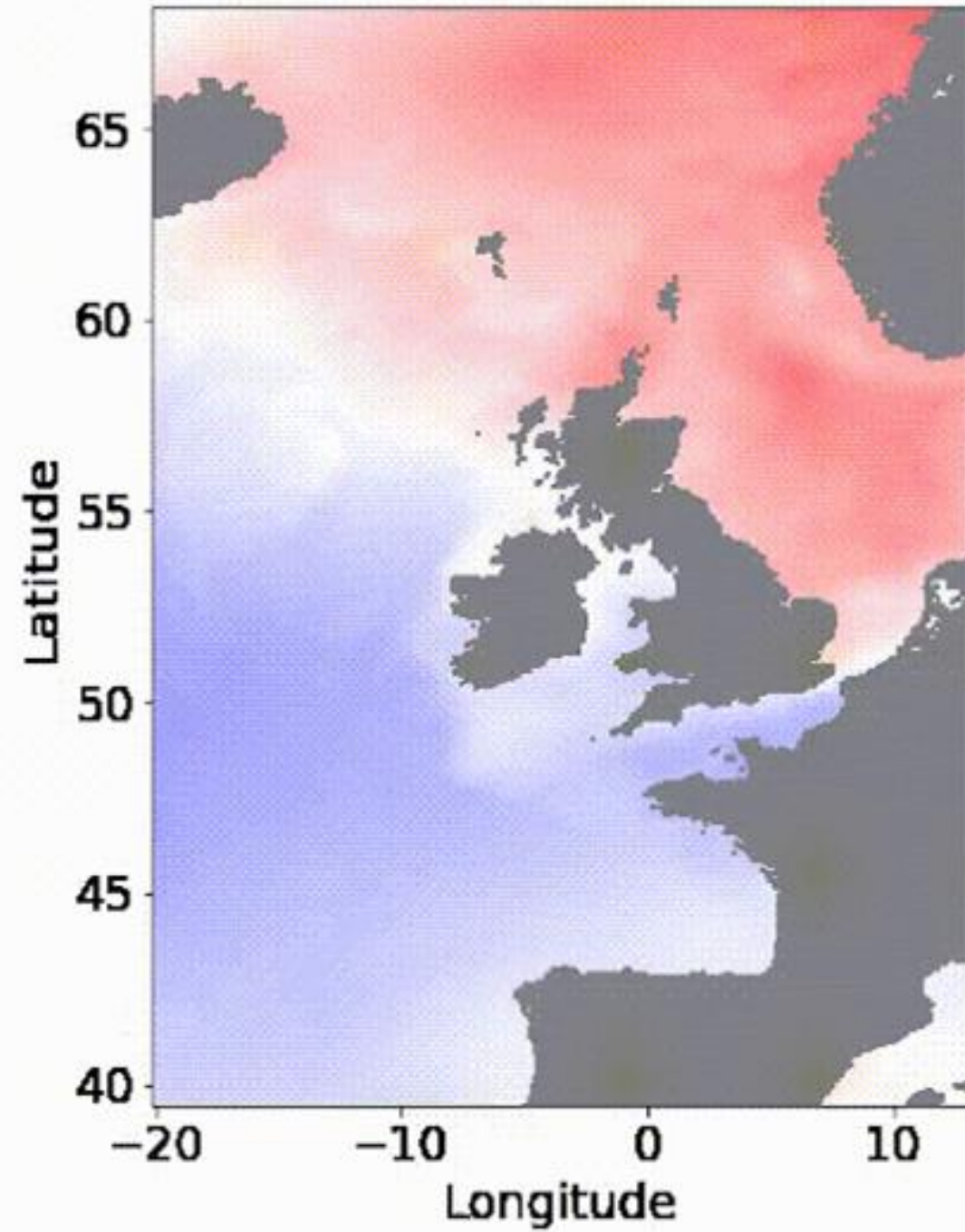
Coastal Digital Twin

(1000 times faster)



60 Minutes in advance





60 Minutes in advance

Coastal Twin emulation:

- ✓ Magnitudes faster
- ✓ Uncertainty-aware
- ✓ High-res simulation

**Physics-Informed
Neural Net: Fourier
Neural Operator (FNO)**

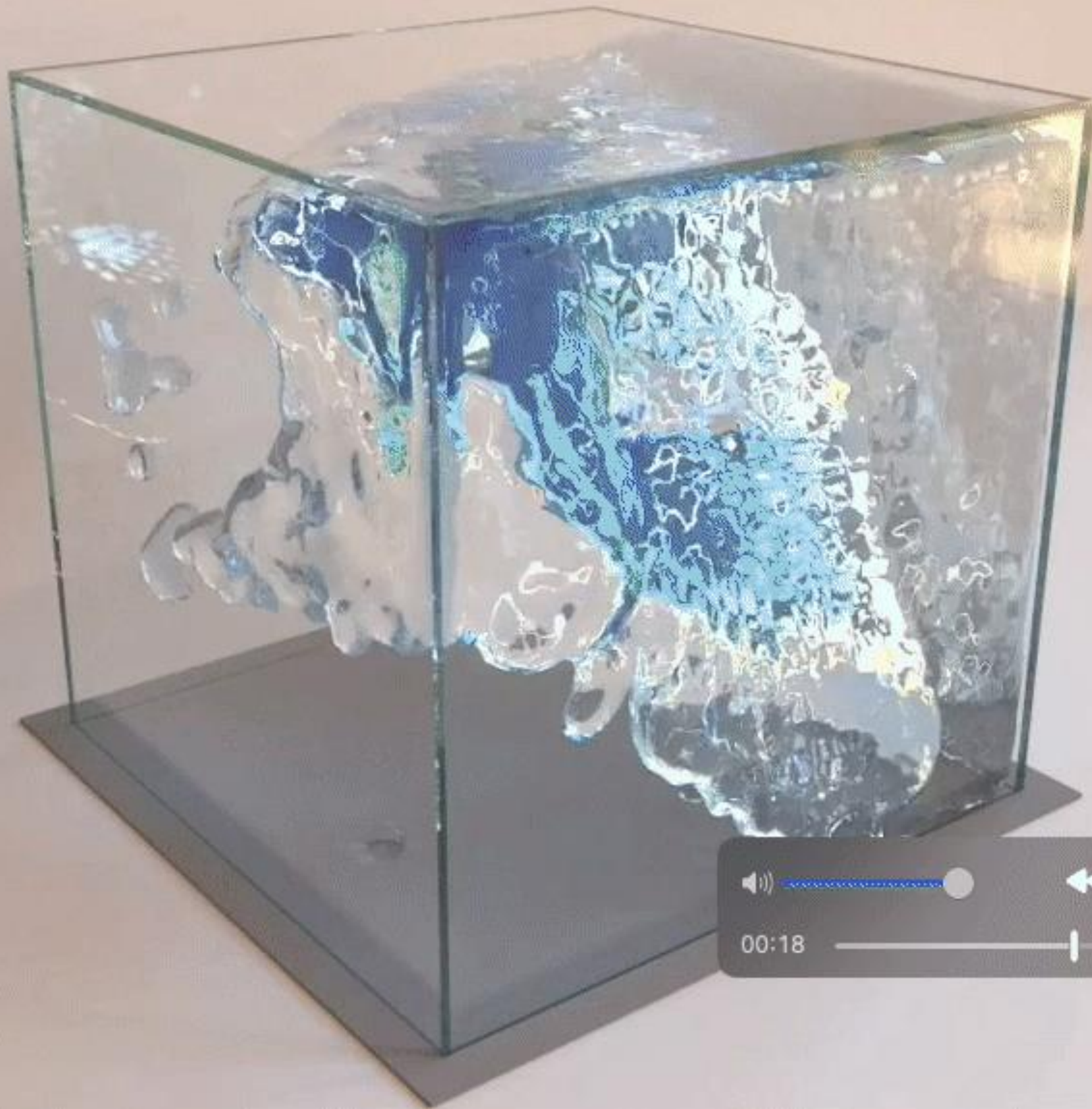
<http://trillium.tech/eie/>



Original

ted

Slow motion





Can we inform the model with live data?

Ayutthaya Province, 2011 (NASA EO-1)

ML4FLOODS

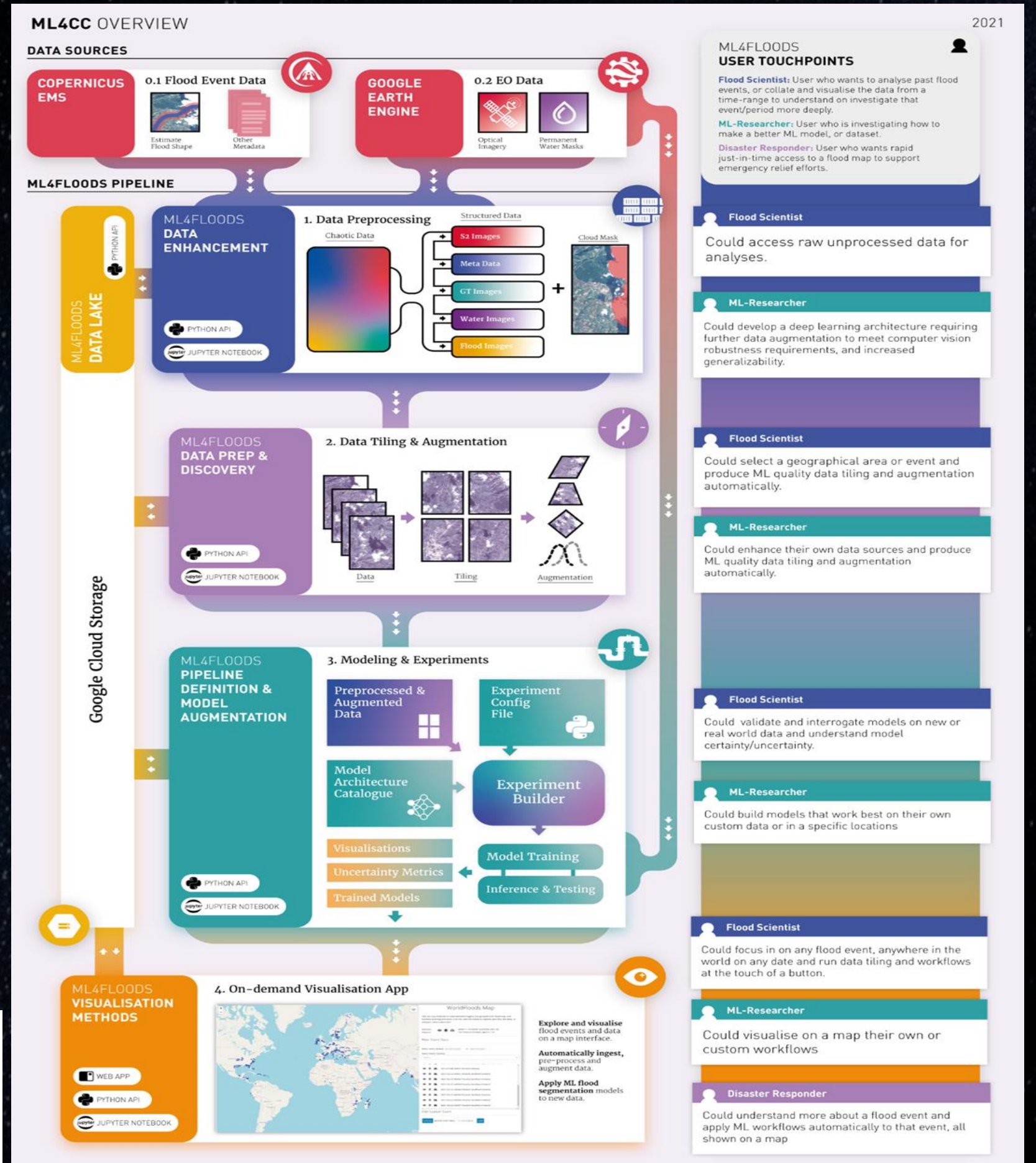
ML4CC · SPACEML

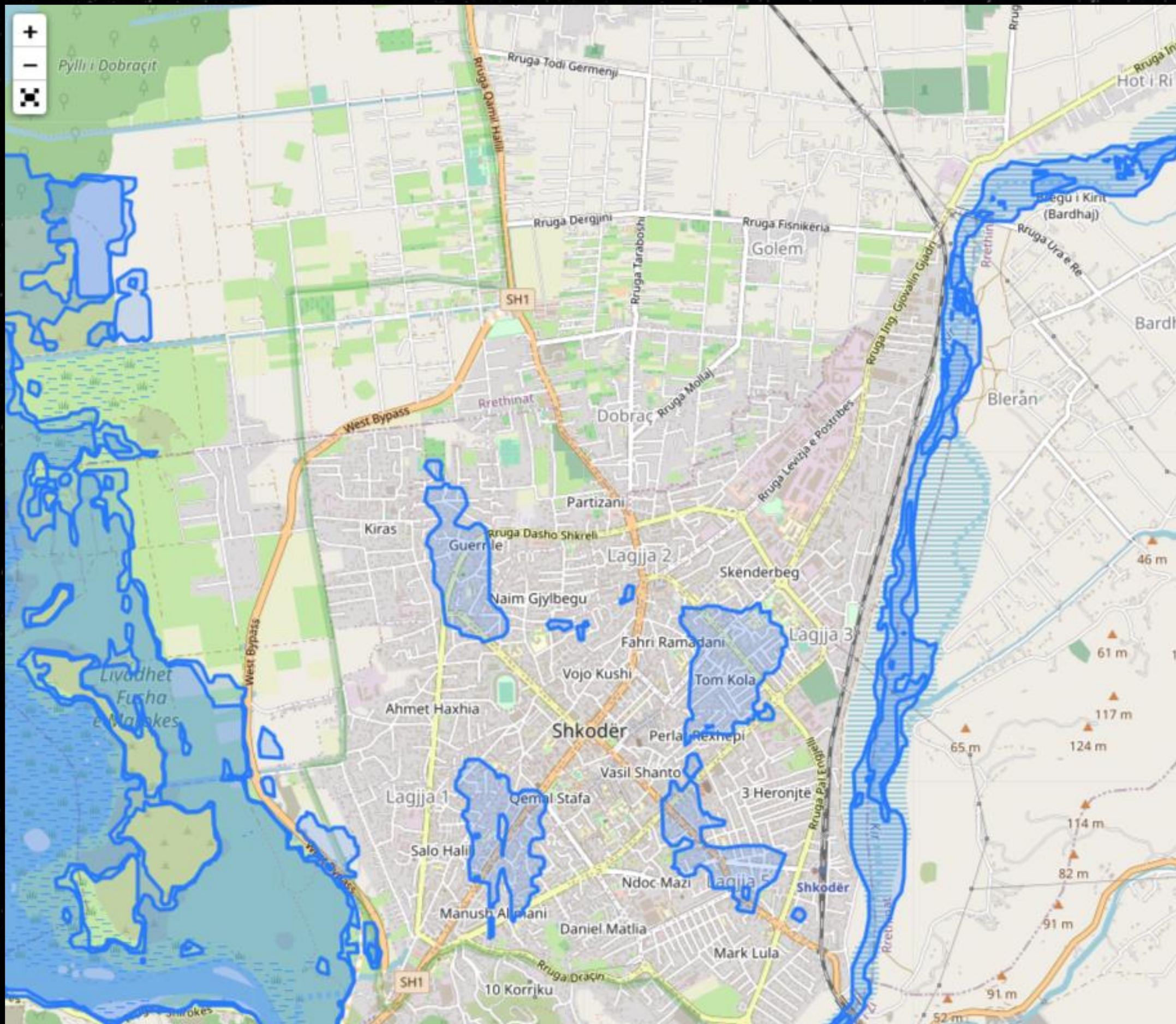
End-to-end open source package for flood extent segmentation

- Data acquisition from different sources
- Preprocessing
- Training of DL models
- Inference on new images
- Metrics
- Dashboards

EUMETSAT MOOC | Future Learn

github.com/spaceml/ml4floods





Time to data (hours)

48 HOURS

Map Production

25.0%

12

Data Verification

4.2%

2

Request Handling

4.2%

2

Satellite Tasking

66.7%

32

Time for supply of data can be hours, on average 2 days: International "Space and Major Disasters" Charter

What if we could do this in LEO and just send down the vector map?



Towards next-generation intelligent constellations

3 Questions:

1. Can a **ML Payload** routinely **analyse large data** in orbit, returning **compressed data products**?

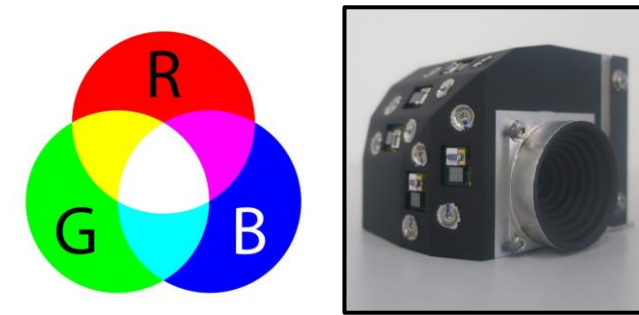
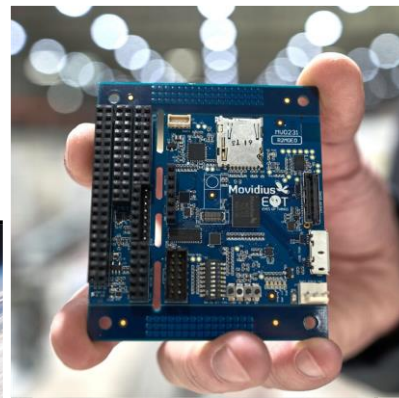
1. Can the same ML Payload be **re-trained** to analyse data from a **very different instrument**?

1. Can we demonstrate the **re-trained ML Payload** **successfully operating in orbit**?

The *Worldfloods* **In-Orbit** Experiment:



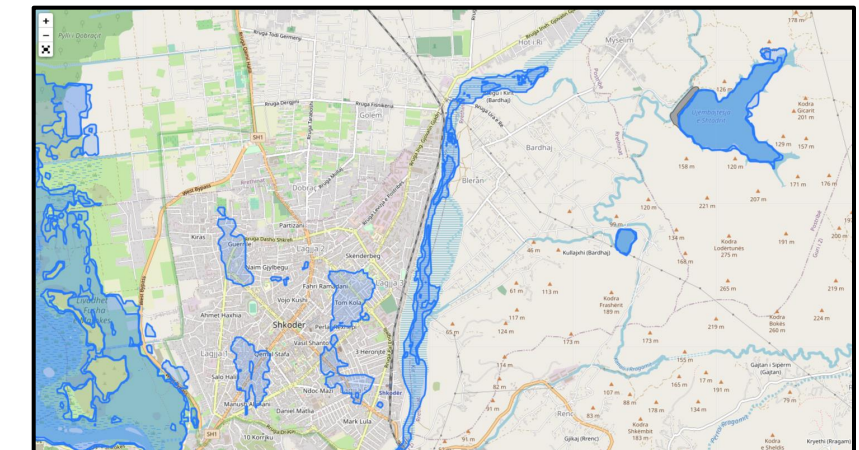
Unibap Accelerated Compute Platform



D-Sense Camera

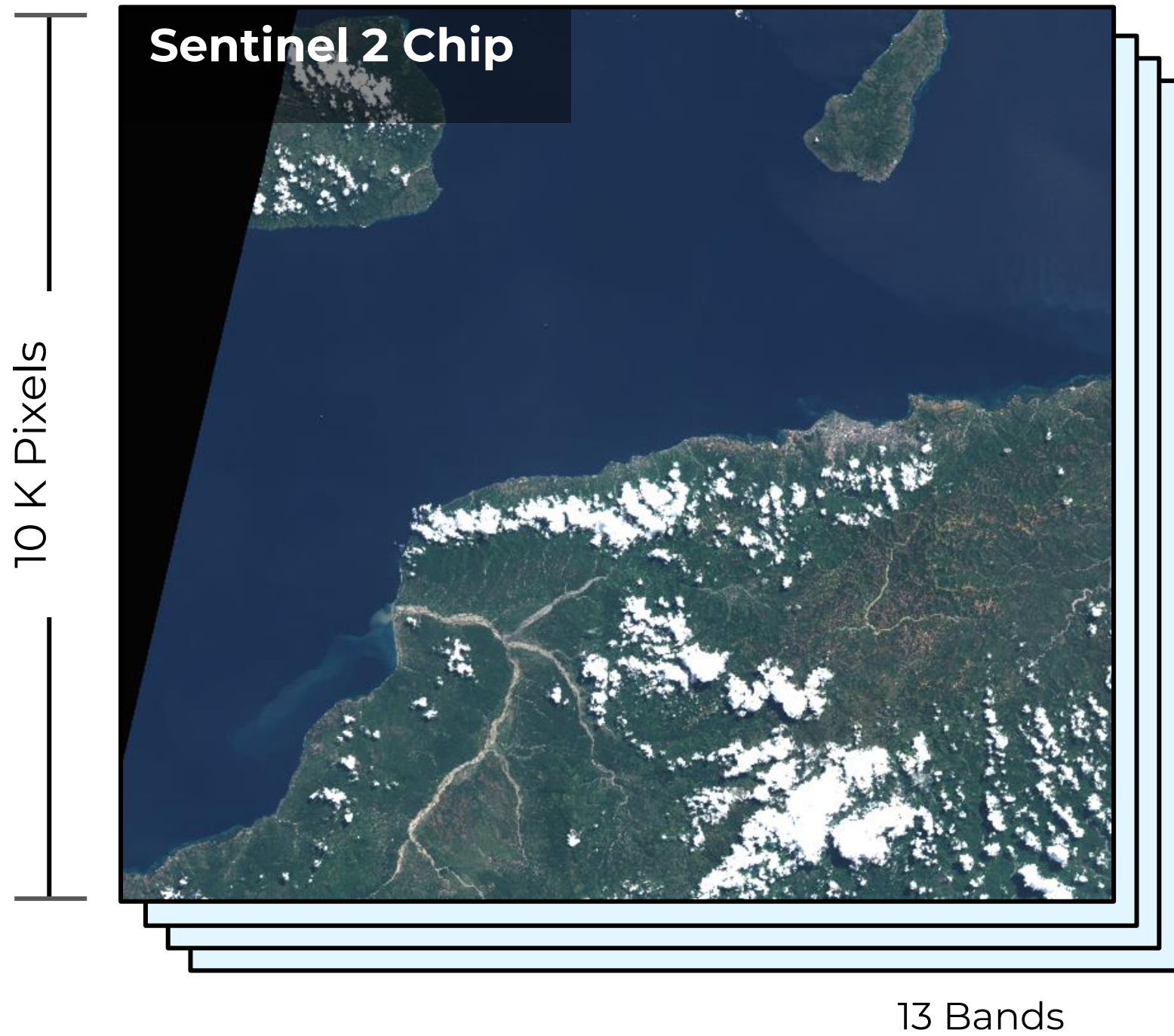


Mateo-Garcia
Nature 2020



Worldfloods: Rapid flood-extent maps for first responders

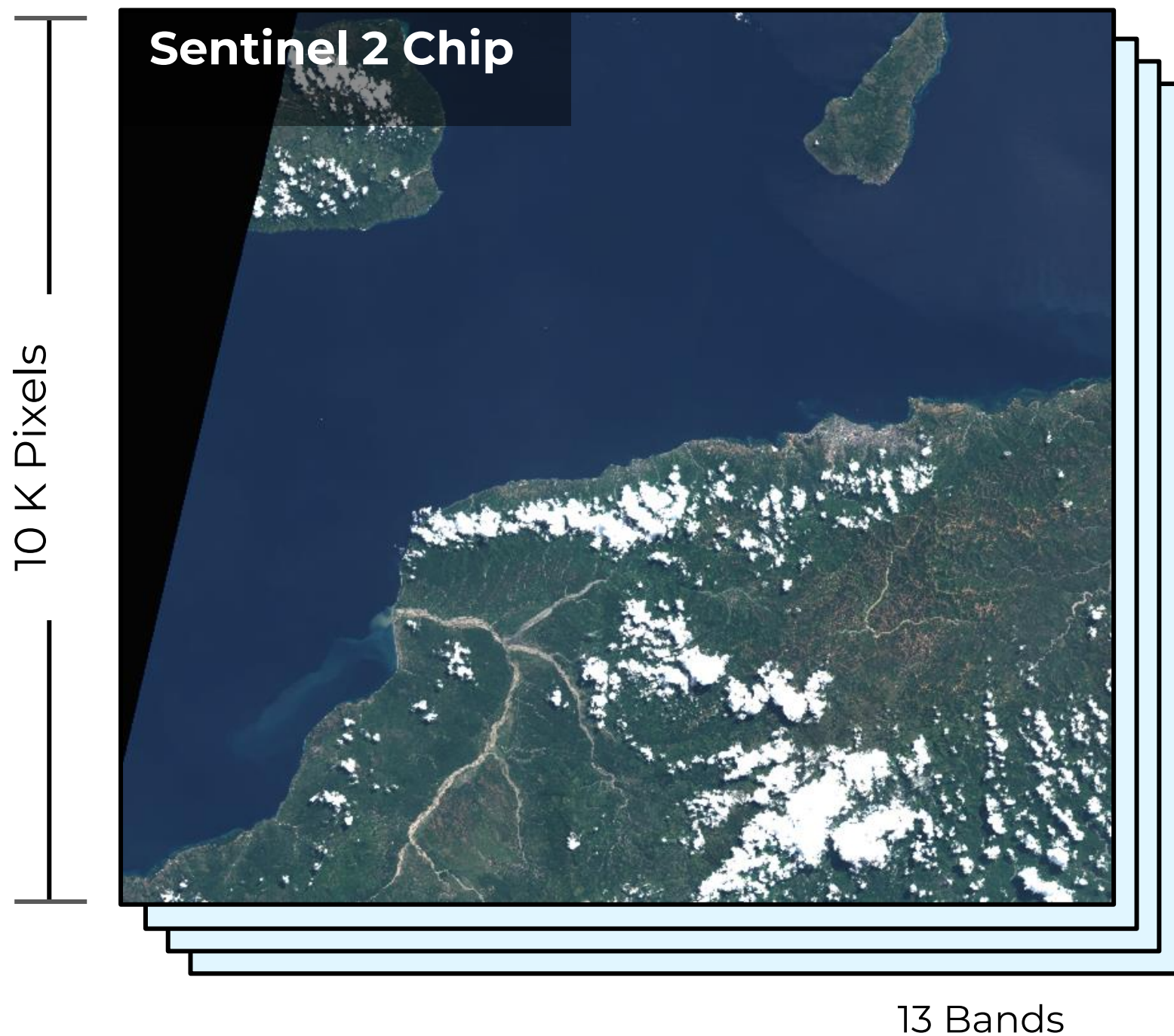
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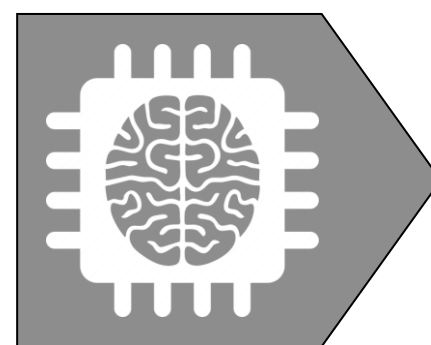
1. Can a **ML Payload** routinely **analyse large data** in orbit, returning **compressed data products**?

 **Yes**

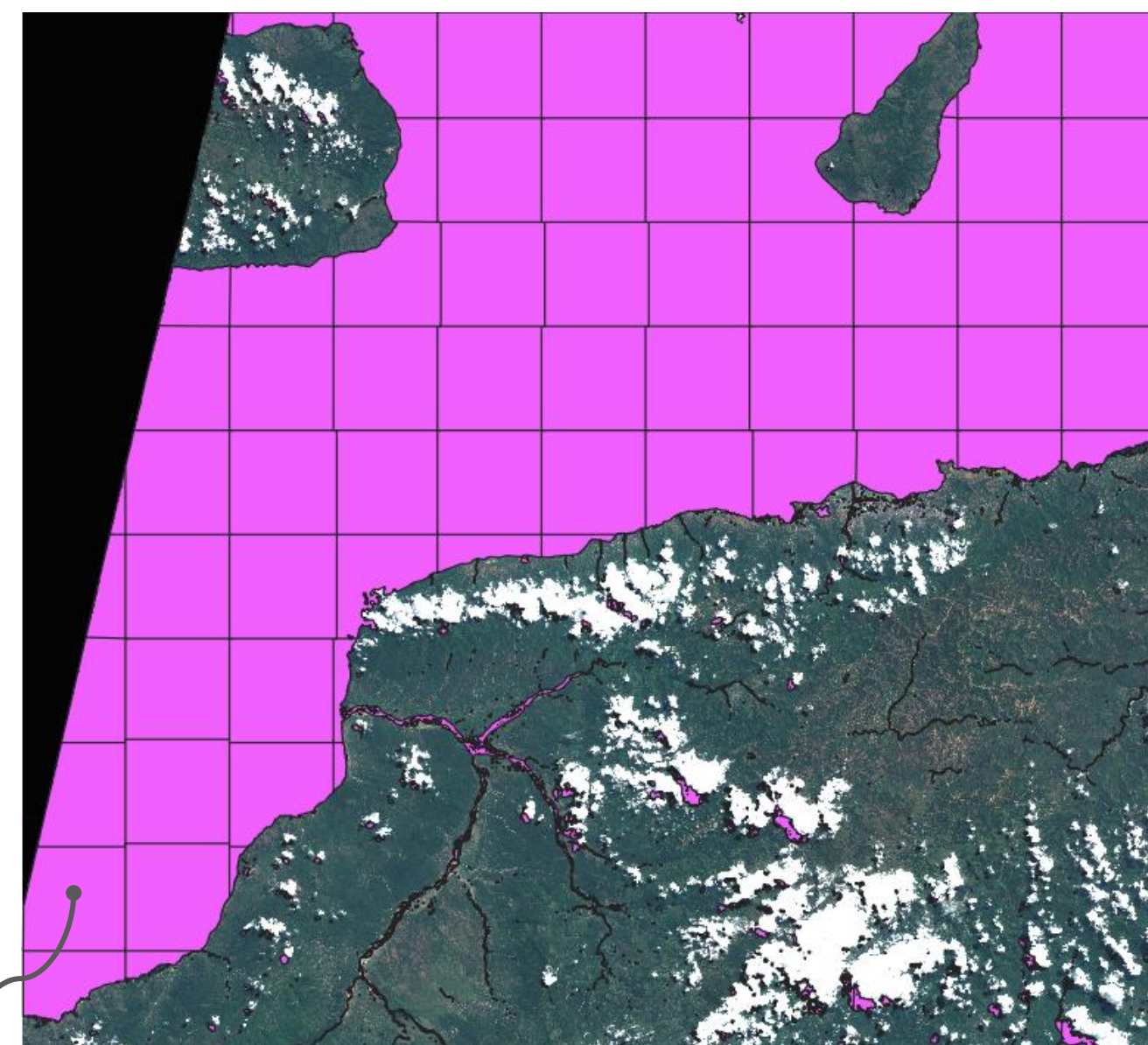
Using the Myriad X processor, the ML Payload can process a full 2.5 GB Sentinel-2 chip in 14 min.



ML Payload



Linear (FC)
Neural Network
Model



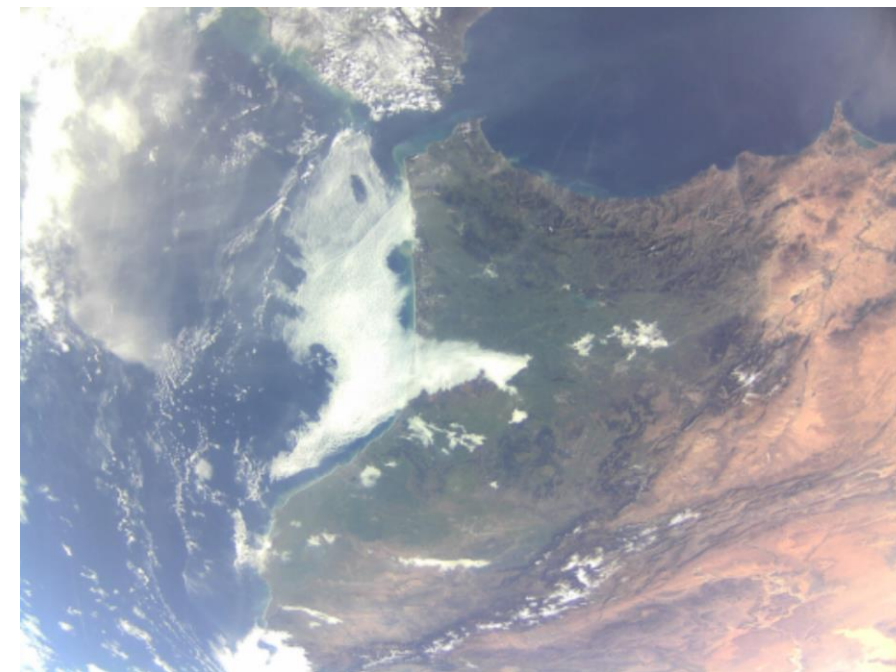
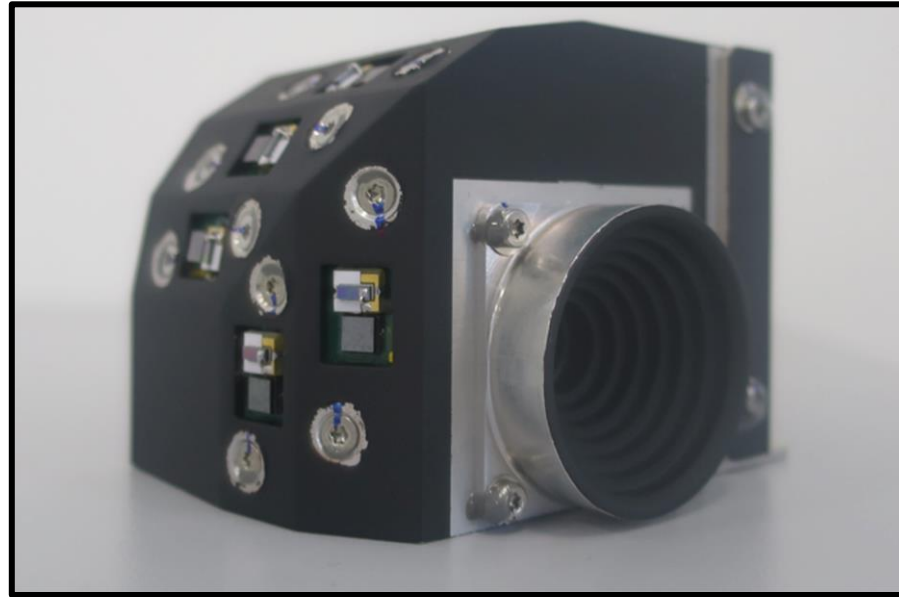
Processing
Tiles

 Vector Water Mask (276 KB)

This result demonstrates how ML in orbit can act as a processing node for other EO assets.

2. Can the same ML Payload be **re-trained** to analyse orbital data from a **very different instrument**?

D-Sense RGB Camera



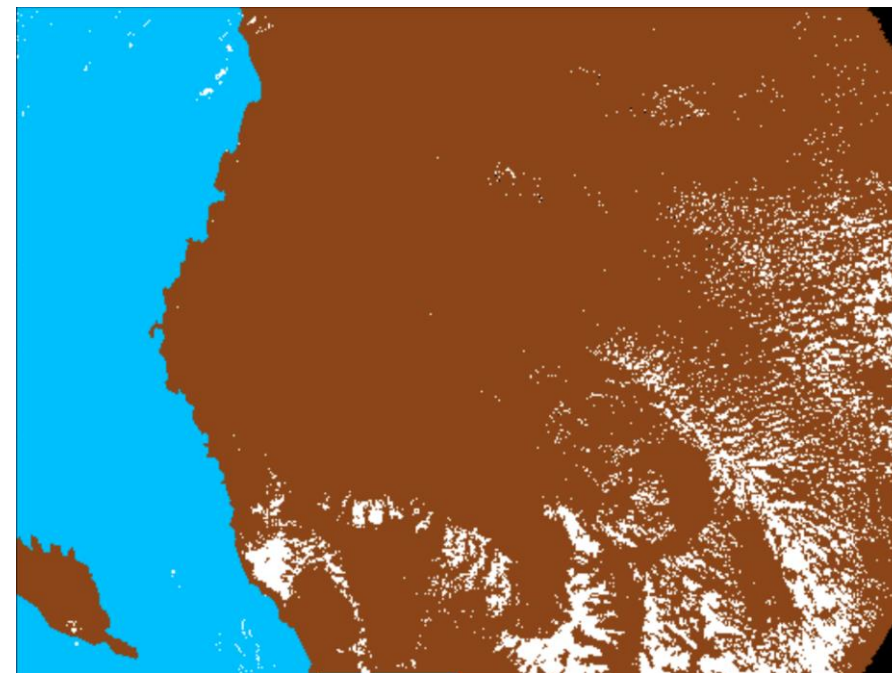
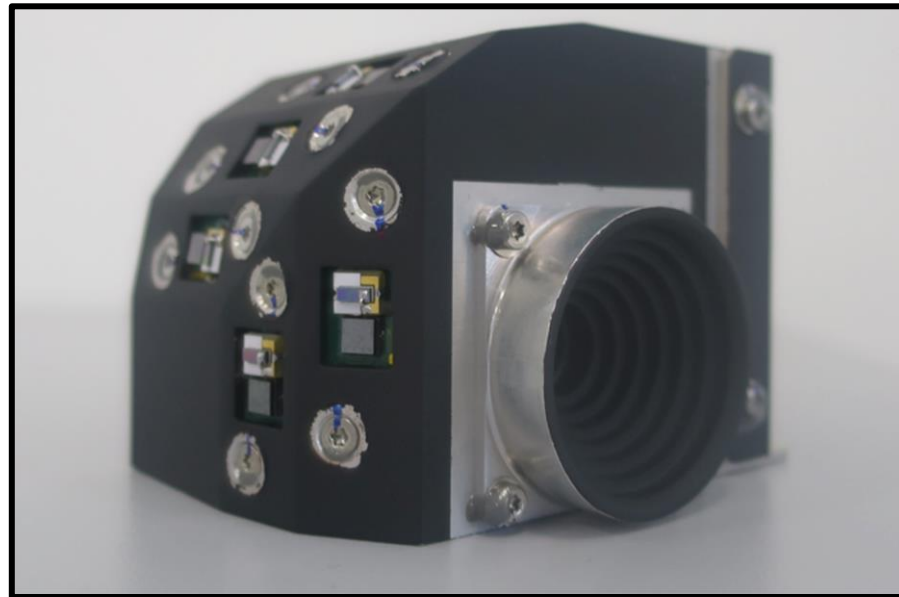
Note: The D-Sense Camera is a **general purpose sensor**, used for star-tracking, attitude control and verifying payload deployment.

2. Can the same ML Payload be **re-trained** to analyse orbital data from a **very different instrument**?

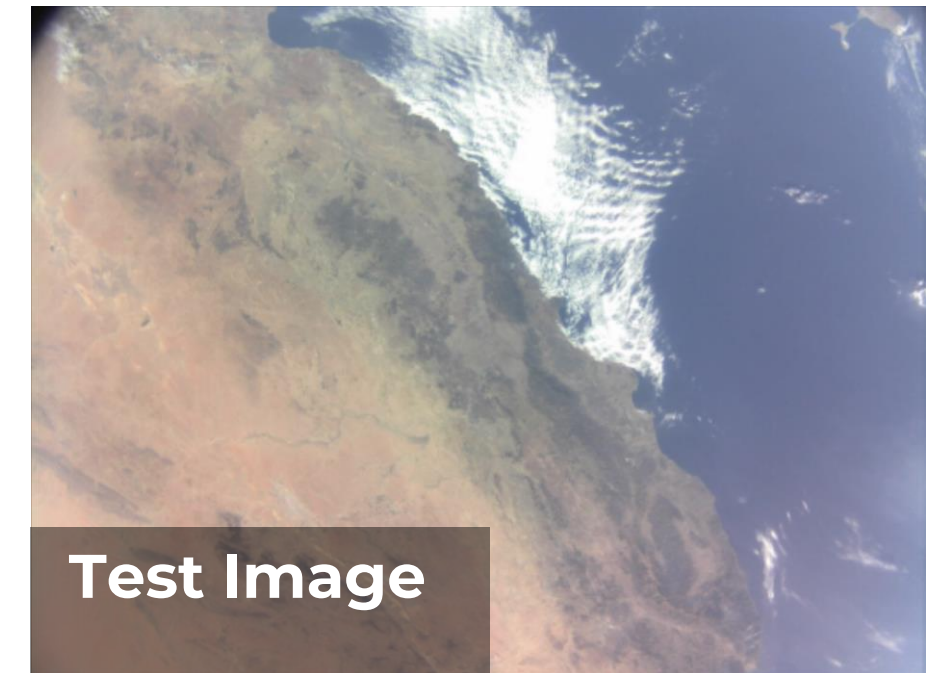
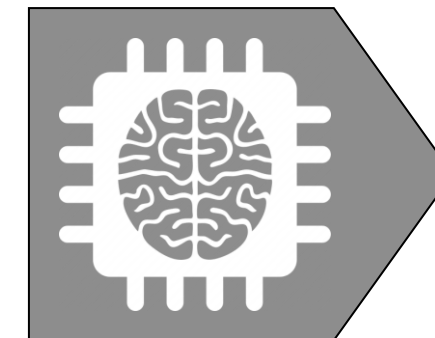
✓ **Yes**

Training on just a few re-labeled examples, we can use already in-orbit ML to get a reasonable result ($t_{\text{processing}} = 36 \text{ seconds}$)

D-Sense RGB Camera

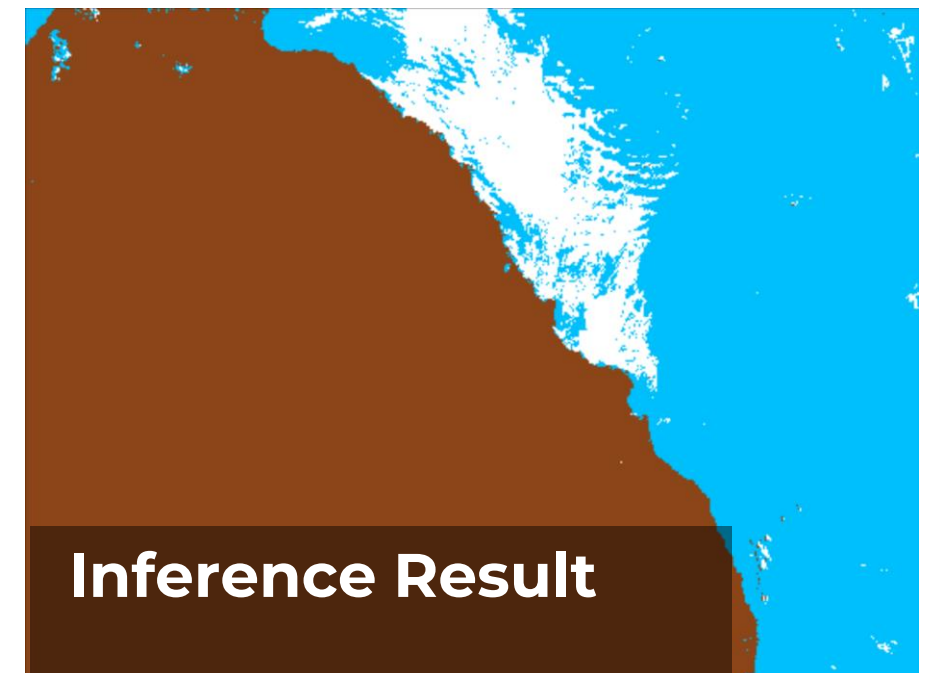
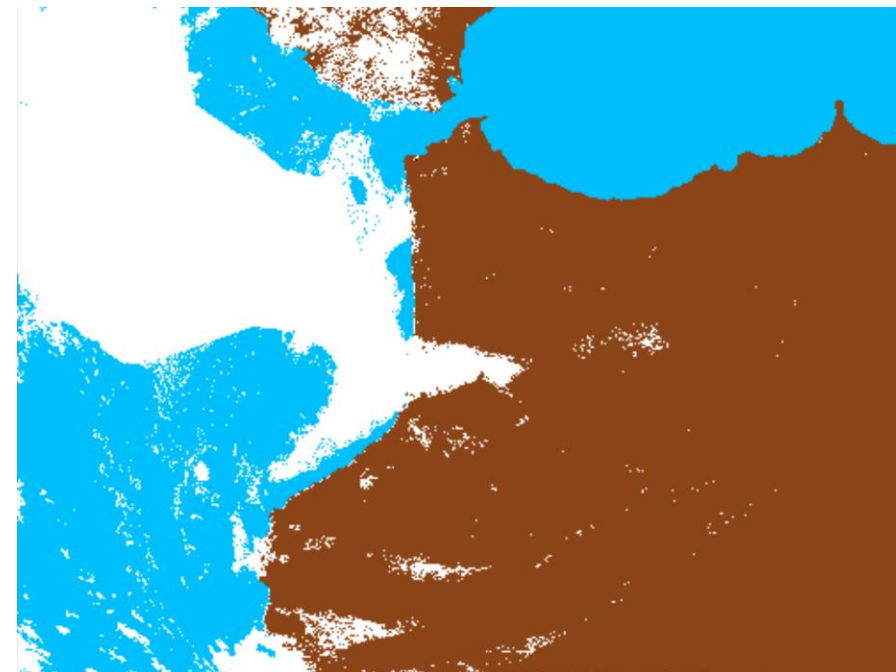
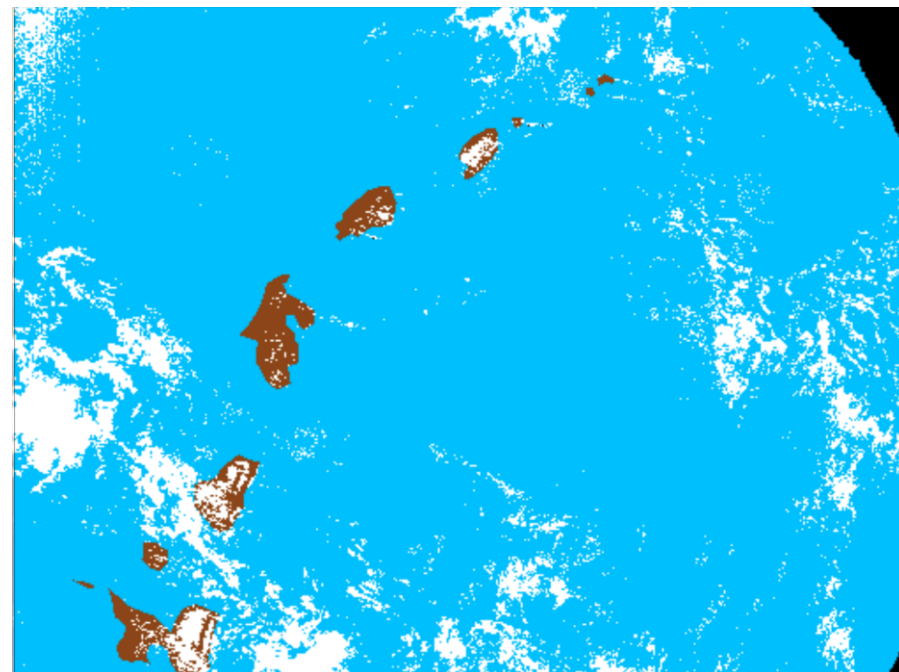


ML Payload



Test Image

Linear (FC) Neural Network Model



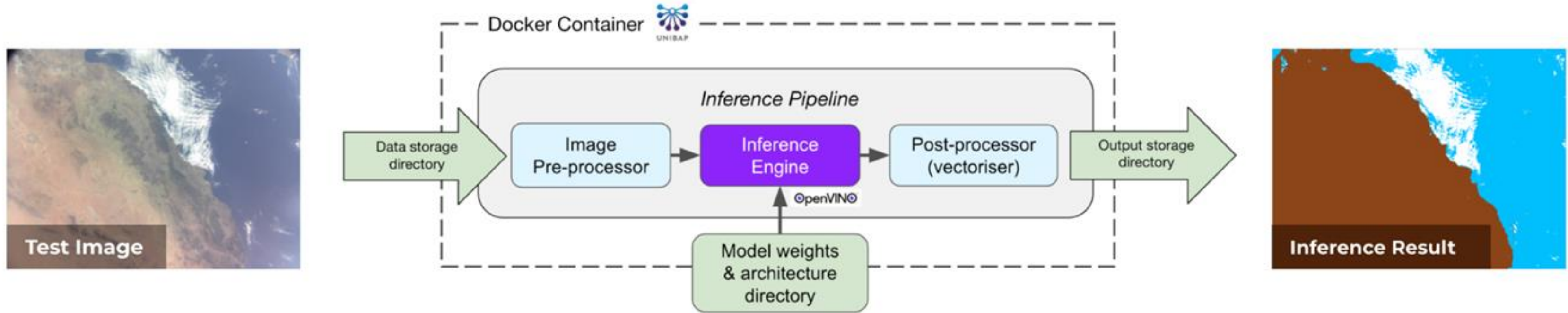
Inference Result

This result demonstrates how ML payloads can be adapted for different instruments on multiple spacecraft.

3. Can we demonstrate the **re-trained** ML Payload **successfully operating in orbit**?

✓ **Yes**

The in-orbit ML Payload was triggered on December 6th 2021 and the result was downloaded to the ground the next day.

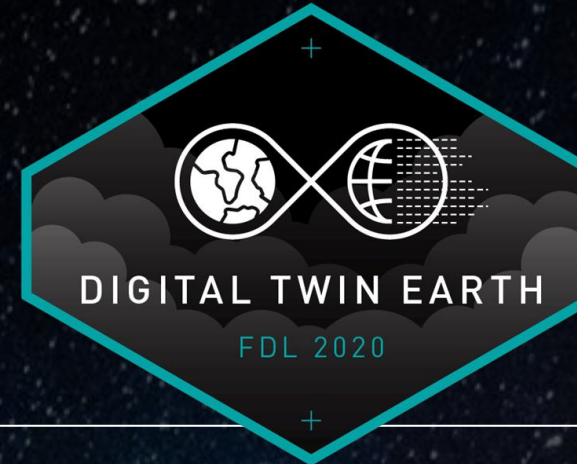


New model weights uploaded to spacecraft in orbit



- Only the files defining the weights and, optionally, the model architecture, need be uploaded to the spacecraft.
- The flight-qualified ML Payload software and containerised execution environment can remain untouched.

This result demonstrates how ML payloads in orbit can be retrained and redeployed back to the spacecraft.



Predictions 60 mins in advance.

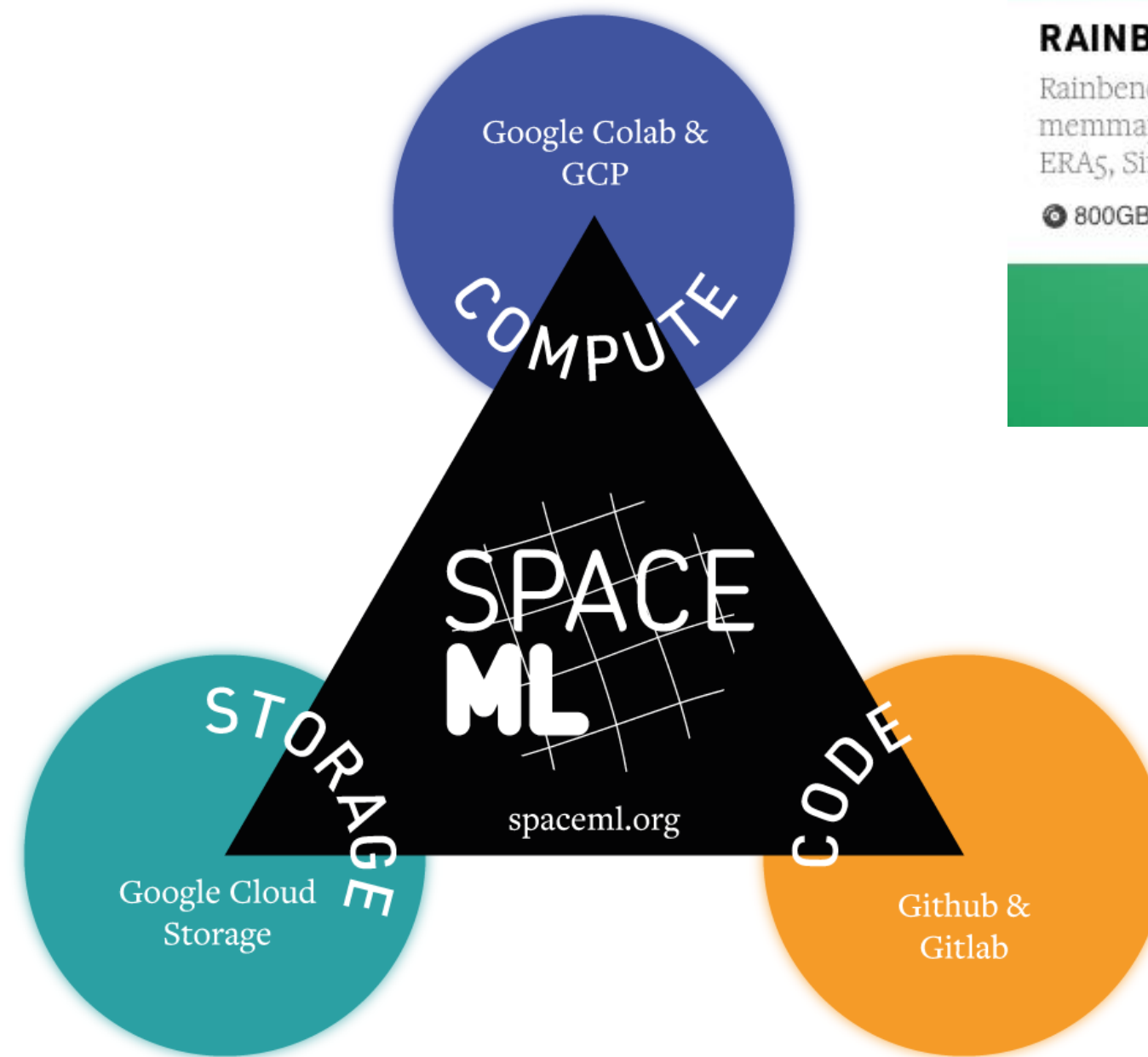
- ✓ High-res simulation
- ✓ Magnitudes faster
- ✓ Uncertainty-aware

Insight from orbit 100,000x smaller

- ✓ Multi-instrument
- ✓ Re-trainable (maintainable)
- ✓ 15 minutes to results



Components of Open Science



As SpaceML continues to grow, it will help bridge the gap between **data storage**, **code sharing** and **server-side (cloud) analysis**.

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RAINBENCH

Rainbench offers re-gridded data in memmap format sourced from the ERA5, SimSat and IMERG databases.

800GB - 1Tb



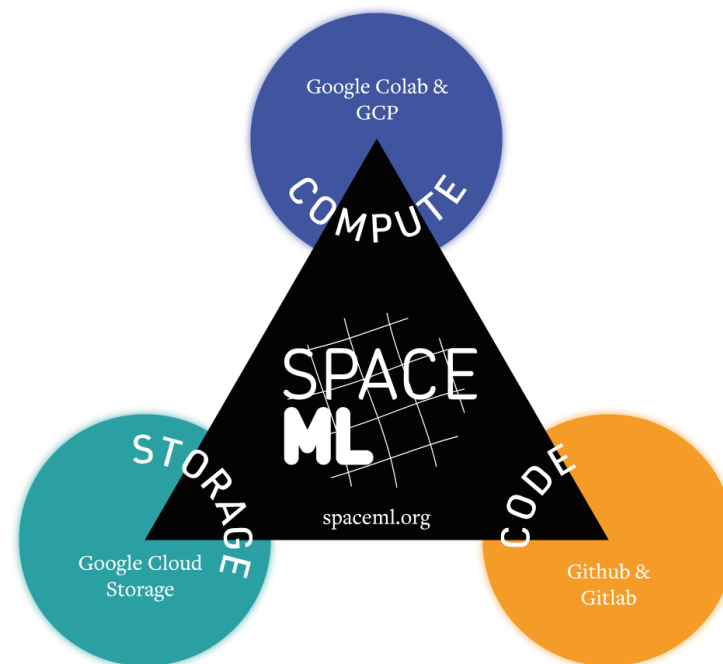
Google Cloud



SCAN^S



FRONTIER
DEVELOPMENT
LAB



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Φ -Lab Partners

Acknowledgements:

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Dietmar Backes
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Cormac Purcell

Partners / Advisors

Trillium Technologies
ML4CC team
D-Orbit
Unibap
Intel
Google Cloud

ESA Stakeholders

Pierre Philippe Mathieu
Nicolas Longepe



WORLDFLOODS Dataset

150 floods

618 flood maps

235,000 patches
(256x256 px)

303 GB



■ Unosat (127) ■ GloFIMR (37) ■ Copernicus EMS (454)

