

# **No Free Lunch: How ML can be used (or misused) to uncover dynamical regimes in the ocean and beyond**

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# Overview: Minitutorial in two parts

- **Part 1: The ocean's role within climate and the data revolution**
- **Part 2: Dynamical regime discovery and interpretable/explainable ML**

Practical:

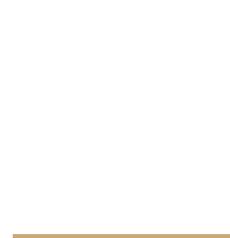
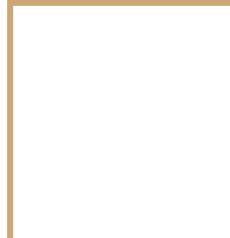
Exploring dynamical regime identification in  
a global oceanographic setting.



<https://github.com/maikejulie/MLINT>



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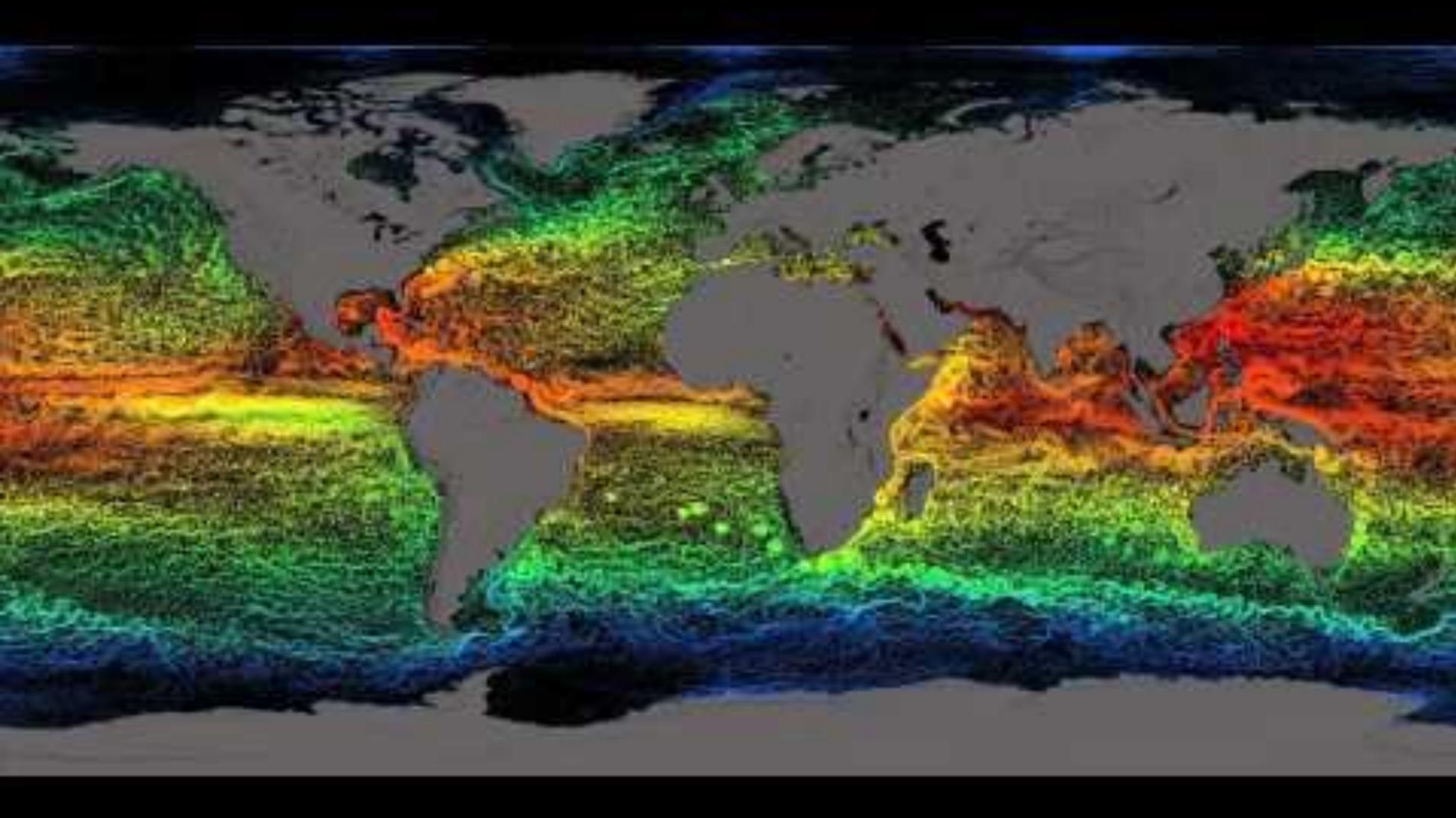


## **Part 1: The ocean's role within climate and the data revolution**

**Review paper: Sonnewald et al. 2021, Bridging observation, theory and numerical simulation of the ocean using Machine Learning**

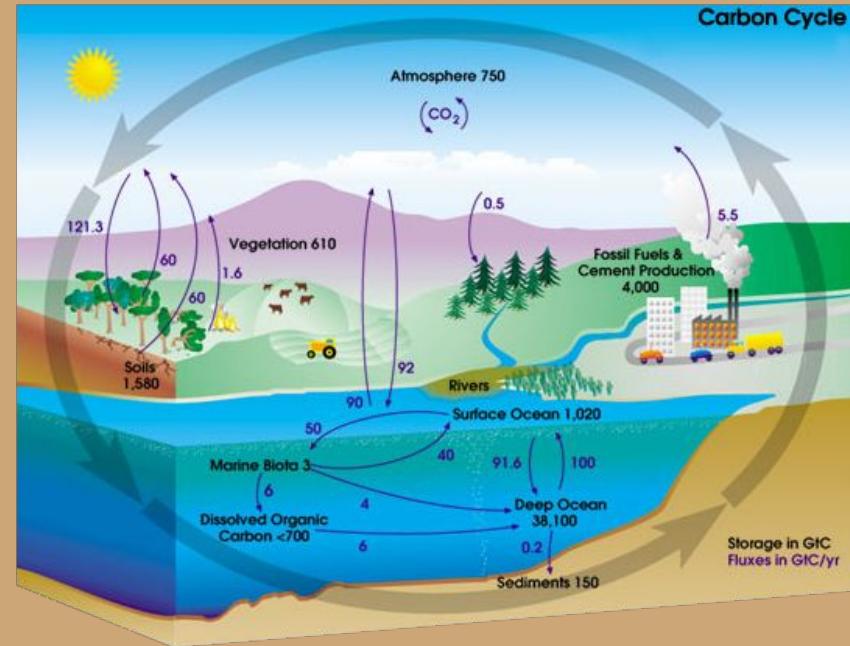


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# The role of the ocean in the climate system

## Carbon and heat storage



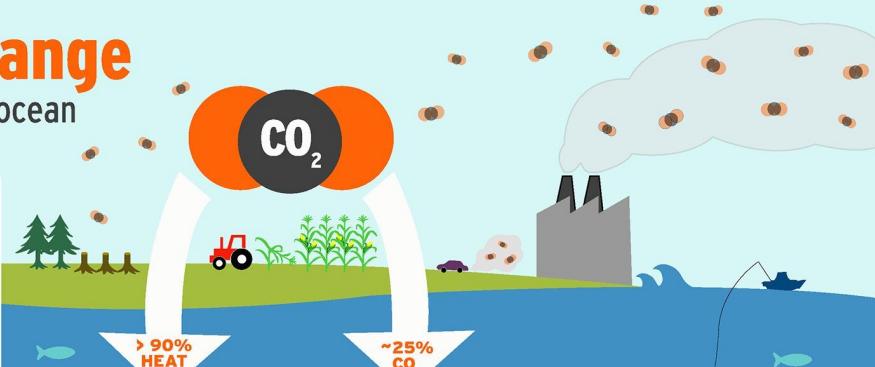
# Climate change impacts society



# Climate Change

A triple threat for the ocean

Burning fossil fuels, deforestation and industrial agriculture release carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and other heat-trapping gases into our atmosphere, causing our planet to warm. The ocean has buffered us from the worst impacts of climate change by absorbing more than 90 percent of this excess heat and about 25 percent of the  $\text{CO}_2$ , but at the cost of causing significant harm to marine ecosystems.



**WARMER**

**LESS OXYGEN**

**MORE ACIDIC**

**SEA LEVEL**  
Sea level rise is accelerating, flooding coastal communities and drowning wetland habitats.

**BLEACHING**  
Warm-water coral reefs (marine biodiversity hotspots) could be lost if the planet warms by  $2^\circ\text{C}$  ( $3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ).

**TOXIC ALGAE**  
Larger and more frequent blooms are making fish, birds, marine mammals and people sick.

**HABITATS**  
Lower oxygen levels are suffocating some marine animals and shrinking their habitats.

**ACIDIFICATION**  
More acidic water harms animals that build shells, such as corals, clams, and oysters.

**FISHERIES**  
Disruptions in fisheries affect the marine food web, local livelihoods, and global food security.

Source: IPCC, 2019: Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)

Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Research Institute

Monterey Bay  
Aquarium

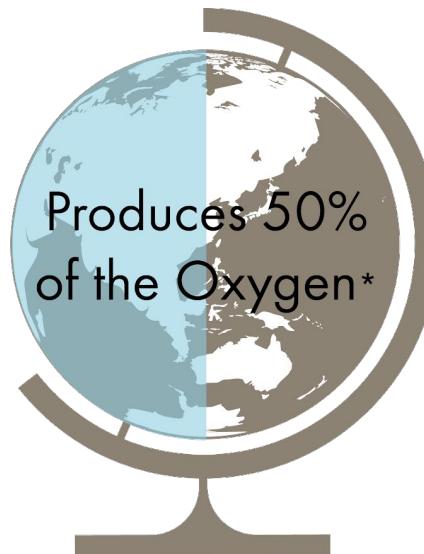
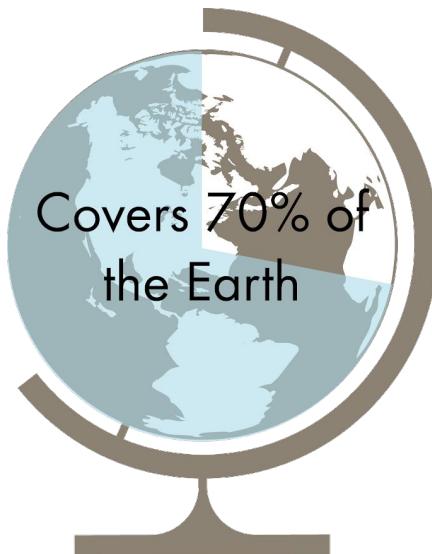


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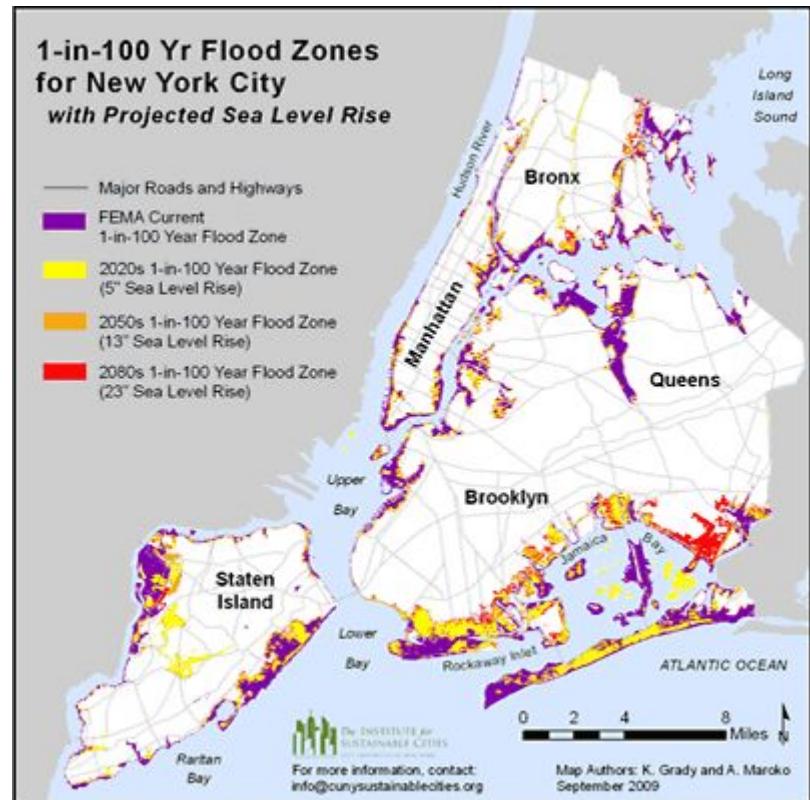
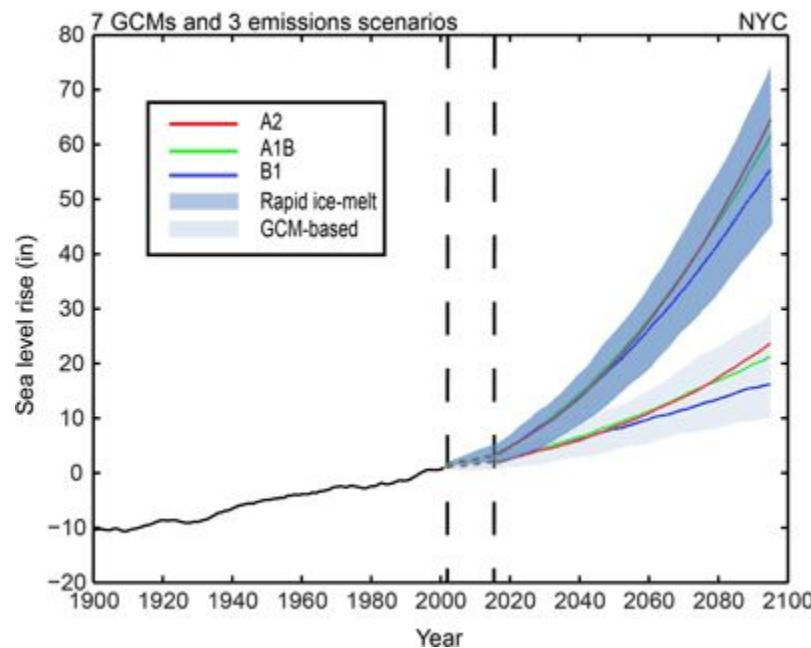
# Services the ocean provides

The ocean, due to its large heat capacity, has absorbed **more than 90%** of the heat gained by the planet between 1971 and 2010.

Zanna 2019



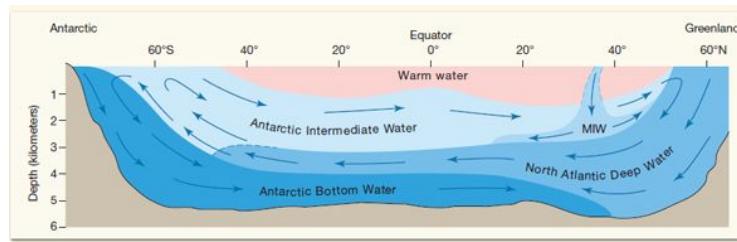
# Ocean in a changing climate



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[https://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/briefs/rosenzweig\\_03/](https://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/briefs/rosenzweig_03/)

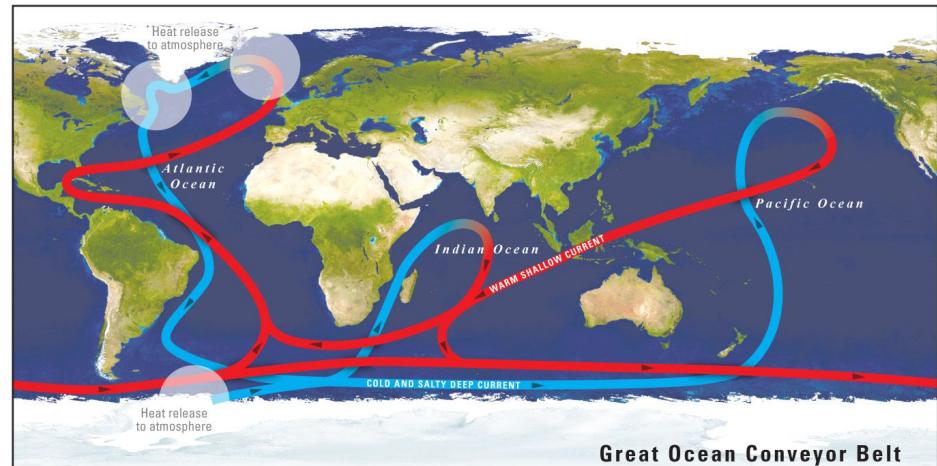
# The ocean in Motion: A global “conveyor”



- Asymmetrical heating/cooling, along with brine rejection from ice formation create the Thermohaline circulation
- Referred to as the 'meridional overturning circulation'

Changes in overturning circulation have **big** climate impact

- The ocean is layered with the heaviest/densest water at the bottom
- Intense cooling and ice formation at the poles create very dense waters



# Governing equations

Mass

$$\rho^{-1} \frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Momentum

1&2 Navier-Stokes

Heat

$$\frac{\rho T c_p}{\theta} \frac{D\theta}{Dt} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T - \mathbf{F}^{\text{rad}}) + Q_H$$

Salt

$$\rho \frac{DS}{Dt} = \nabla \cdot (\rho \kappa_D \nabla S)$$

Variations in T and S have profound influence on circulation

$$\mathbf{u} = u\mathbf{i} + v\mathbf{j} + w\mathbf{k}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt}}_{\text{total accel.}} + \underbrace{2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u}}_{\text{Coriolis accel.}} = \underbrace{-\rho^{-1} \nabla p}_{\text{press grad}} - \mathbf{g} + \underbrace{\nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}}_{\text{molecular dissip.}}$$

$\boldsymbol{\Omega}$  is the rotation vector of the earth

$c_p$  is the specific heat capacity

$\mathbf{F}^{\text{rad}}$  is the vector of radiation

$Q_H$  is heating due to phase changes

$\kappa_D$  is the diffusivity

$$\rho = \rho(p, S, \theta).$$

$\rho$  is density;  $p$  is pressure;  $T$  is temperature;  $S$  is salinity



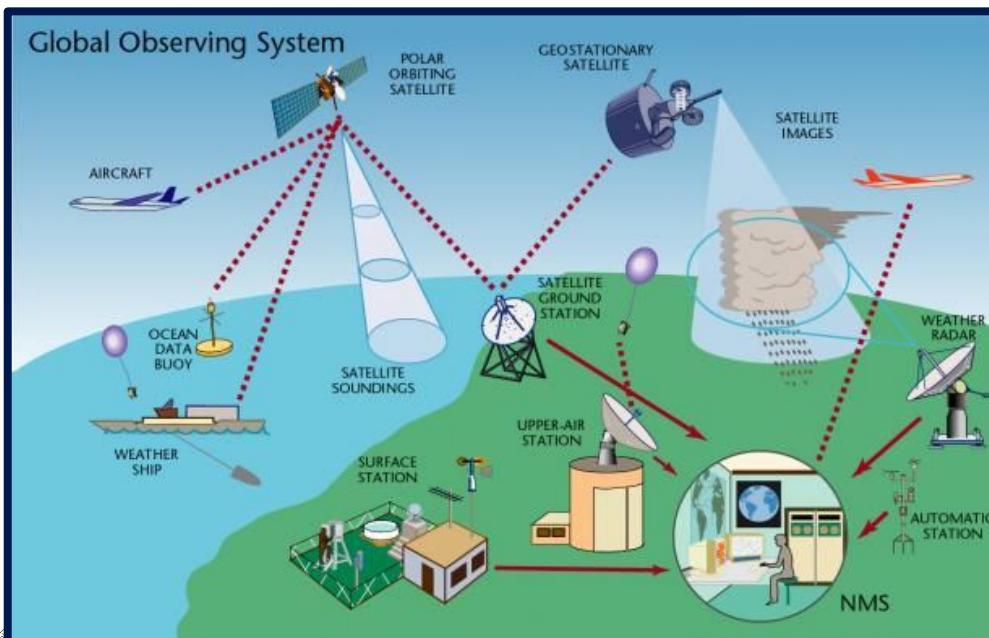
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# A data revolution, or a data problem?

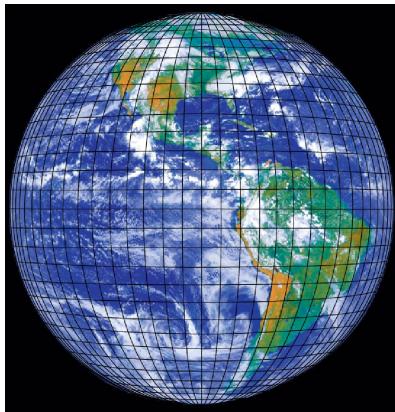
Data rich and insight poor



# Ocean data: Observations

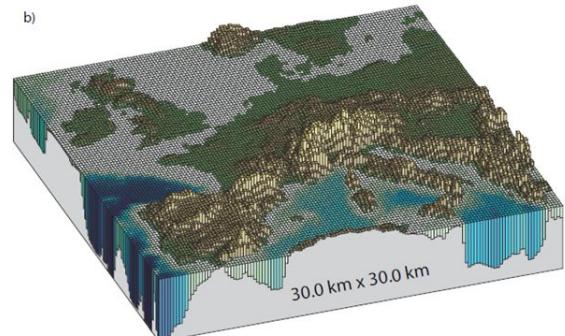
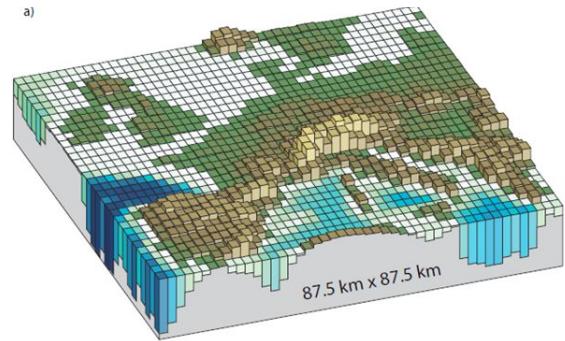
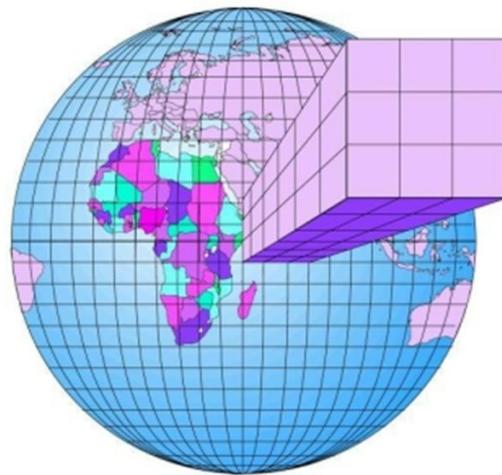


# Ocean data: Numerical models



Grids extend downward into the land surface and oceans.

Just like your television, higher resolution means more realism



# Simulations: Primitive equations

Navier-Stokes + equation of state: Thin rotating fluid on a sphere

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - fv = -\frac{1}{\rho_o} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_m \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) + F_u, \quad \text{Momentum (u component)}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + fu = -\frac{1}{\rho_o} \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_m \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) + F_v, \quad \text{Momentum (v component)}$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\rho g, \quad \text{density}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0, \quad \text{continuity}$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_b \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} \right) + F_\theta, \quad \text{Advection of temperature}$$

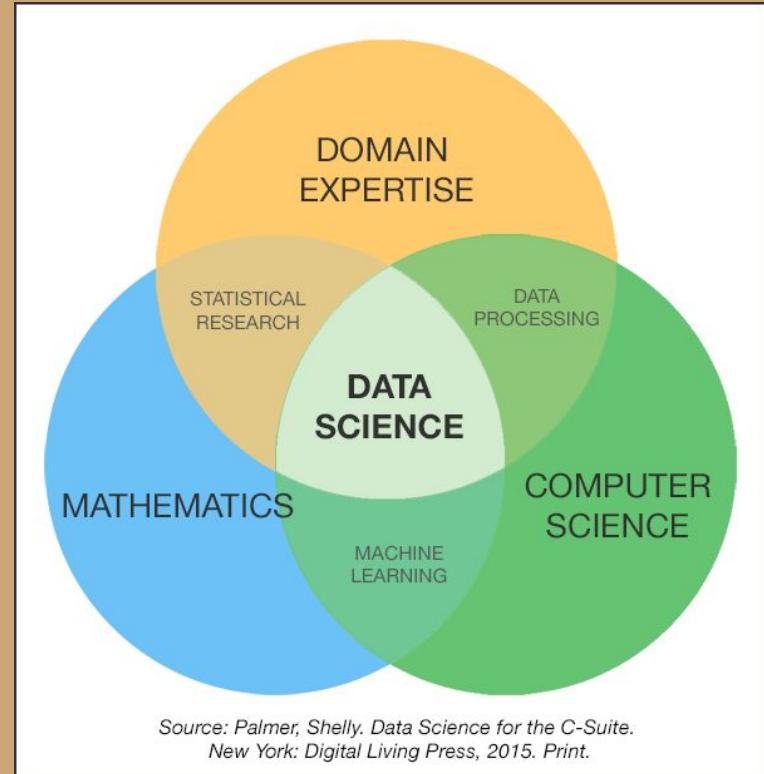
$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial s}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial s}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_b \frac{\partial s}{\partial z} \right) + F_s, \quad \text{Advection of salinity}$$

$$\rho = \rho(\theta, s), \quad \text{Density as a function of S and T}$$



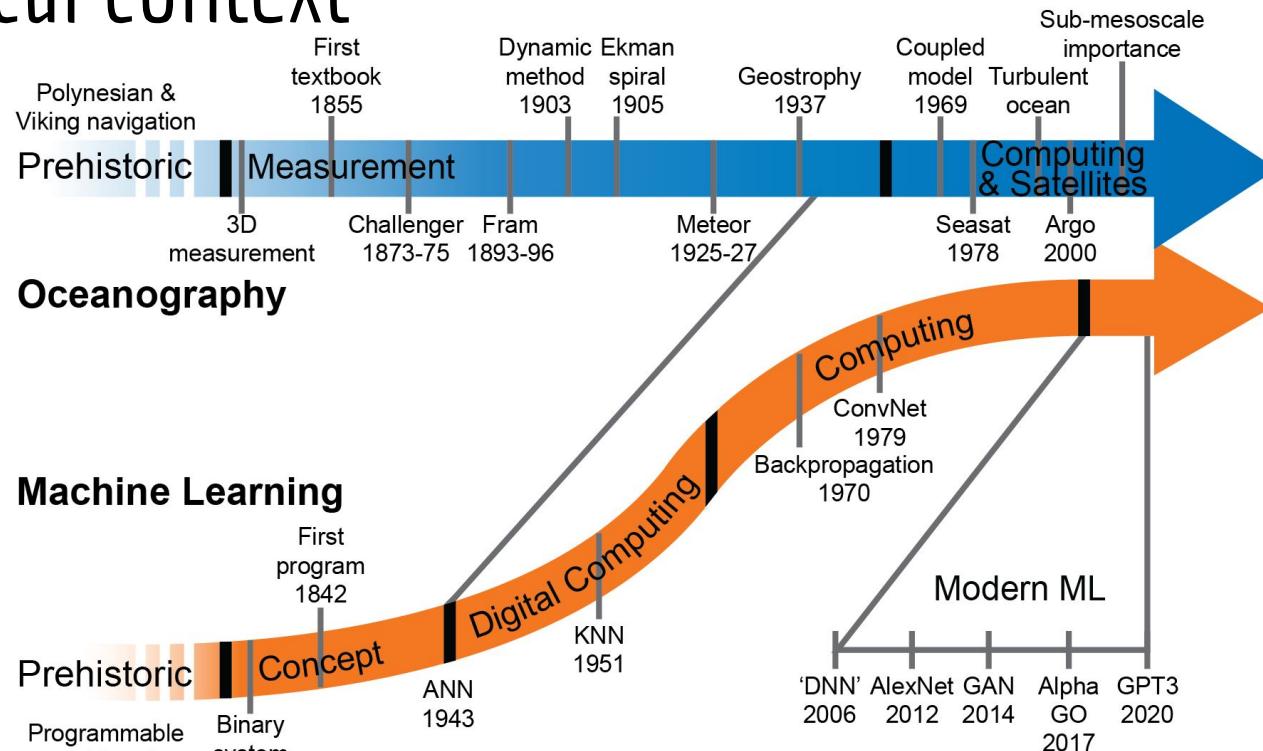
# Machine Learning for oceanography

Part of a bigger picture



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# Historical context



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# ML: The missing piece?

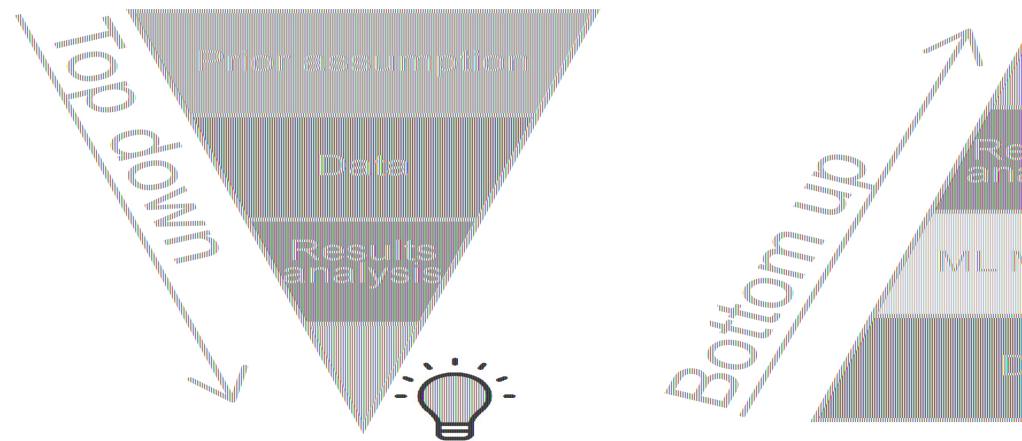
Too simple:

Theoretical descriptions of circulation tend to be oversimplified.

Too hard:

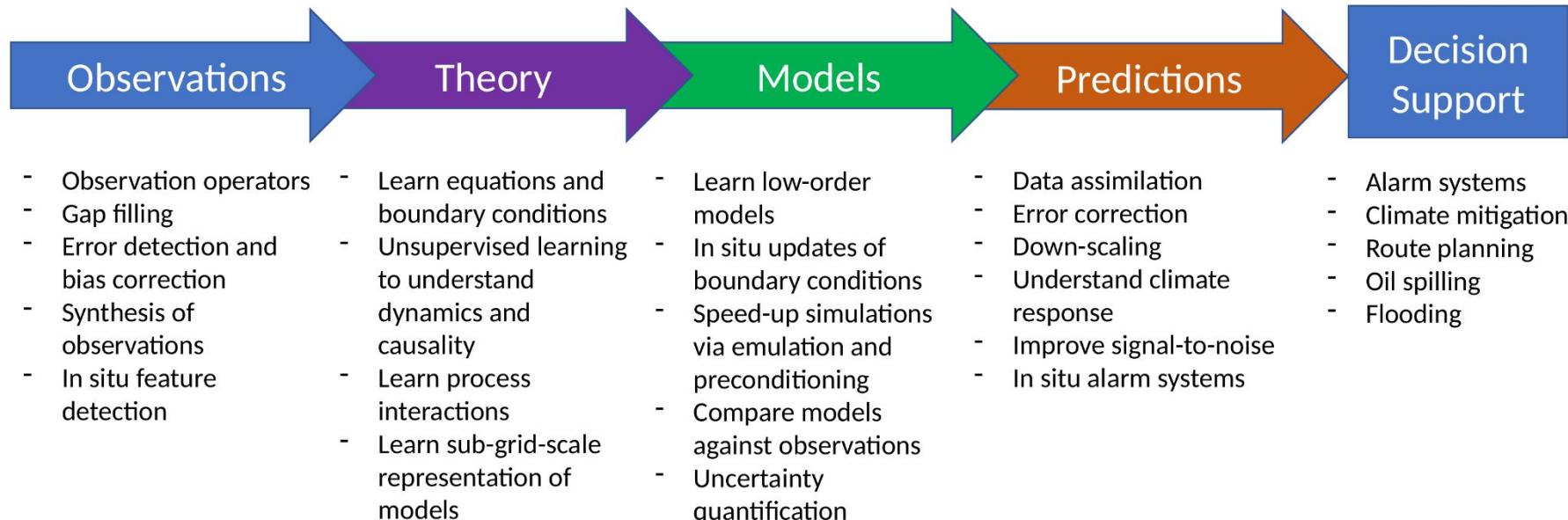
Interpreting basic physics from realistic/accurate models is hard.

Missing piece: ML



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# ML within oceanography



Some are hopes...  
others already implemented



# Hopes for ML

Increases the efficiency of research

Find patterns to accelerate exploration

Emergence of complex interactions

Allow processing of “big” data

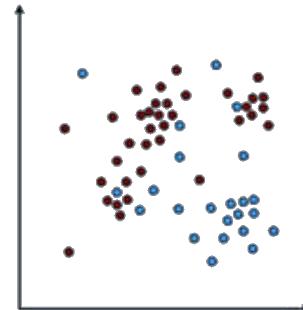


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# ML basics

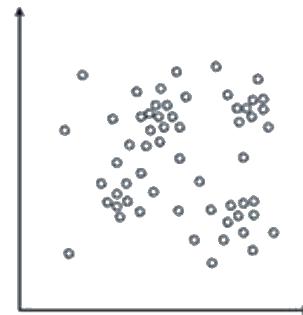
## Supervised

- Labeled data
- Decision boundary

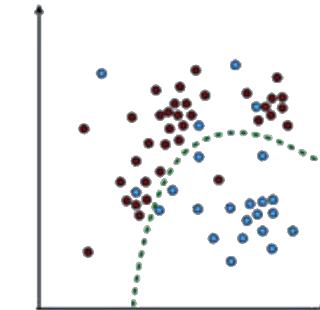


## Unsupervised

- No labels
- Identify structures



Training data



Resulting model

*"If machine learning is a cake, then unsupervised learning is the actual cake, supervised learning is the icing, and RL is the cherry on the top."*

Yann LeCun, DL pioneer at NeurIPS 2016



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# Supervised learning

$$\theta^* = [\theta] \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L} \left( f \left( x^{(i)}; \theta \right), y^{(i)} \right)$$

- Dataset of  $N$  input-output pairs  $\{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}_{i \in 1..N}$
- Loss function  $\mathcal{L}$  for discrepancy of prediction and actual outputs
- Parameters  $\theta$  of the ML model  $f$  are found by optimization

If differentiable use of gradient based solver:

$$\theta_{k+1} = \theta_k - \mu \nabla \mathcal{L} (\theta_k),$$

where  $\mu$  is the rate of descent/“learning rate” and  $\nabla$  the gradient operator.



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# Supervised learning in brief

- Neural Networks (NN):
  - Universal approximators with interconnected nodes
- Random Forests (RF):
  - Composed of Decision Trees (DTs), or tree-like compositions of decision rules
- Support Vector Machine (SVM):
  - Find linear separating hyperplane
  - 'Kernel trick' popular: Not linear? Project onto higher dimensional plane!
- k-Nearest Neighbours:
  - Find closest points wrt a metric in the input data, classify by plurality vote

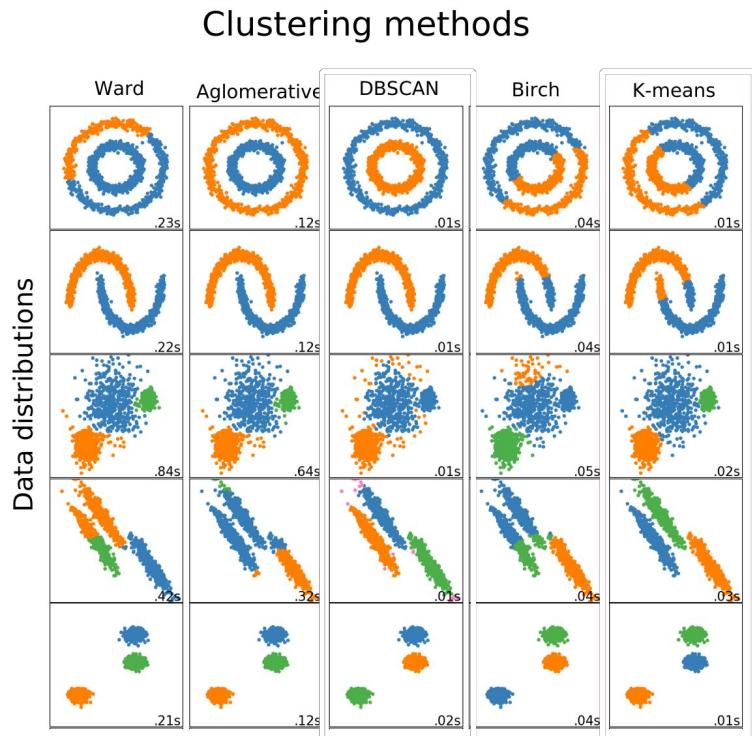


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# Unsupervised learning: Clustering

- Find patterns in data distributions
- Humans are excellent at pattern recognition in 2-3D
  - Machines can do ND

Other unsupervised methods: Anomaly detection



# How Much Information is the Machine Given during Learning?

- ▶ “Pure” Reinforcement Learning (**cherry**)
  - ▶ The machine predicts a scalar reward given once in a while.

- ▶ **A few bits for some samples**

- ▶ Supervised Learning (**icing**)

- ▶ The machine predicts a category or a few numbers for each input
- ▶ Predicting human-supplied data
- ▶ **10→10,000 bits per sample**

- ▶ Self-Supervised Learning (**cake génoise**)

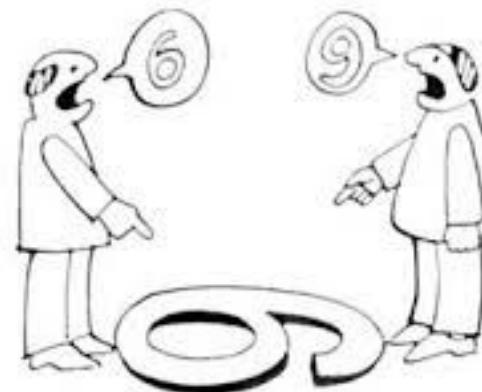
- ▶ The machine predicts any part of its input for any observed part.
- ▶ Predicts future frames in videos
- ▶ **Millions of bits per sample**



1.1: Deep Learning Hardware: Past, Present, & Future

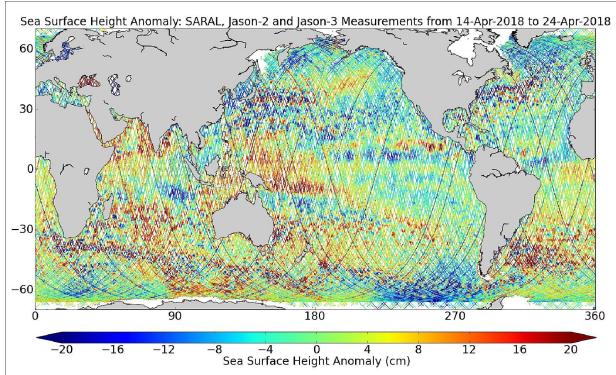
# What ML methods are used where?

- Unsupervised: Exploring data and theory, decision support
- Supervised: Model development, physics constraints, bias & error correction, data assimilation
- No hard boundaries for methods applications
  - Deep learning used for data interpolation
  - 'Unsupervised' methods used to support supervised
- See much cross-pollination
- Constantly evolving



sonic.io

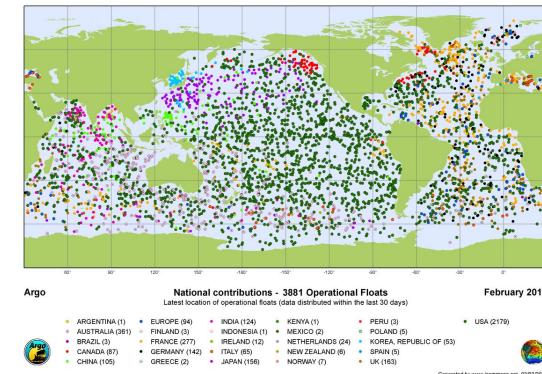
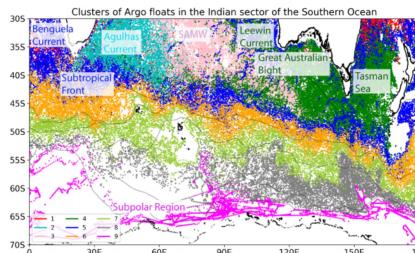
# ML in observations: Satellites



- Satellite data offers unique global perspective
- Some have different orbits, and observe different variables e.g. sea surface temperature, salinity or velocity
- ML is used to fuse satellite products (Guiliambard et al, 2012)
- One can extract geophysical information, e.g. currents at 1000m (Duncan et al. 2019, Castelani 2006)
- **ML can also be used to fuse satellite and in-situ data** (Chapman & Alexandre, 2017, Mustapha et al. 2014, Denvil-Sommer, 2019)

# ML in observations: In-situ sampling

- In-situ sampling refers to data measured from the ocean directly, rather than remotely
- Vast amounts of data exist, but paradoxically there is e.g. almost no data from the deep ocean
- ML often used to extract patterns or 'mine' in-situ data:
  - Objective assessment
- Areas of use:
  - Surface mixed layers (Maze et al. 2017)
  - Southern Ocean structures (Jones et al. 2019, Rosso et al. 2020)
- Detecting global modes:
  - El Niño Southern Oscillation (Hughton & Wilson 2020)



Science mag



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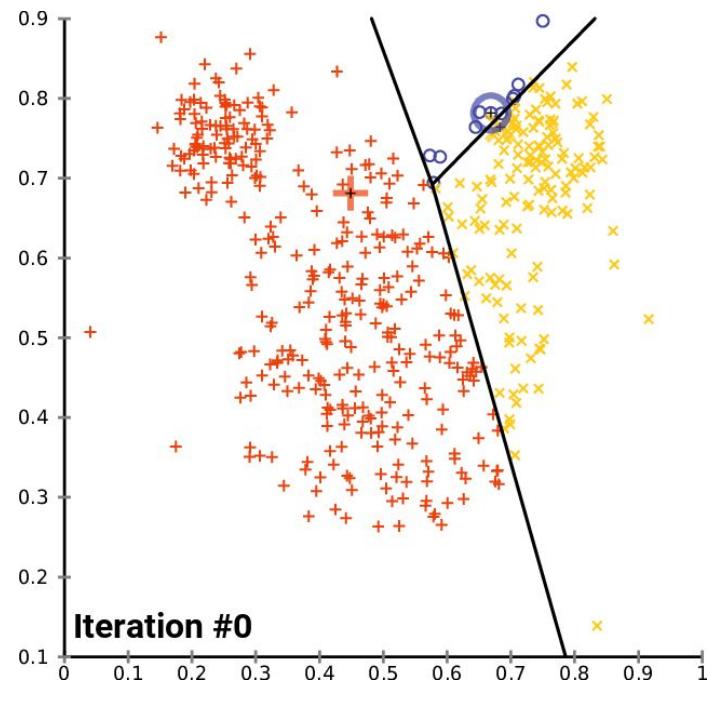
# K-means

$$J = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Distance function} \left( \text{cluster guess } x_i^j, \text{ data point } c_j \right)$$

Minimize objective function

Setting **k** the number of clusters

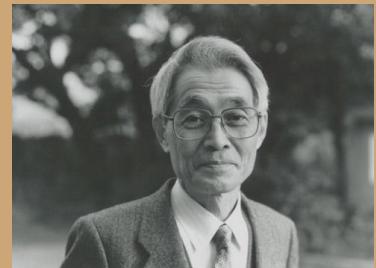
Stochastic first guess



By Chire - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

Finding the appropriate **k** is critical

Hirotugu Akaike  
Gave us 'information criteria'



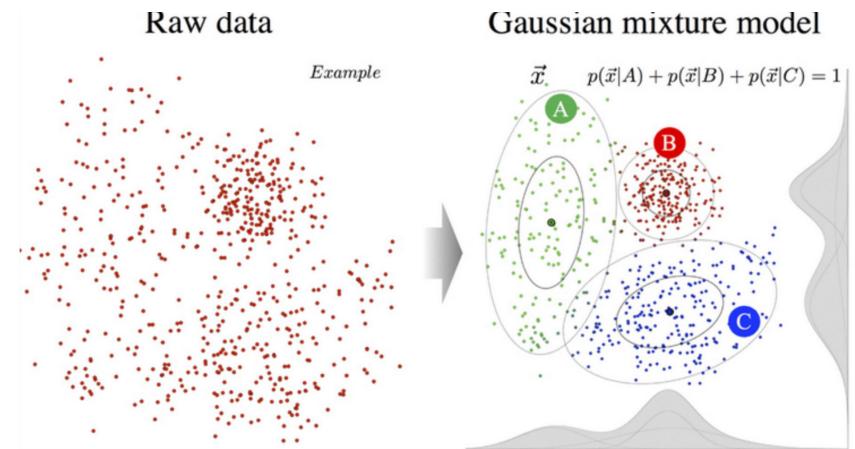
# GMM

- GMM: the weighted sum of a number of Gaussians where the weights are determined by a distribution,  $\pi$

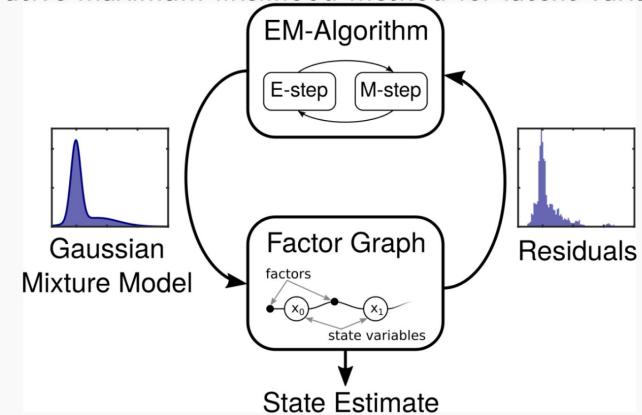
$$p(x) = \pi_0 N(x|\mu_0, \Sigma_0) + \pi_1 N(x|\mu_1, \Sigma_1) + \dots + \pi_k N(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$$

where  $\sum_{i=0}^k \pi_i = 1$

$$p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^k \pi_i N(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$$

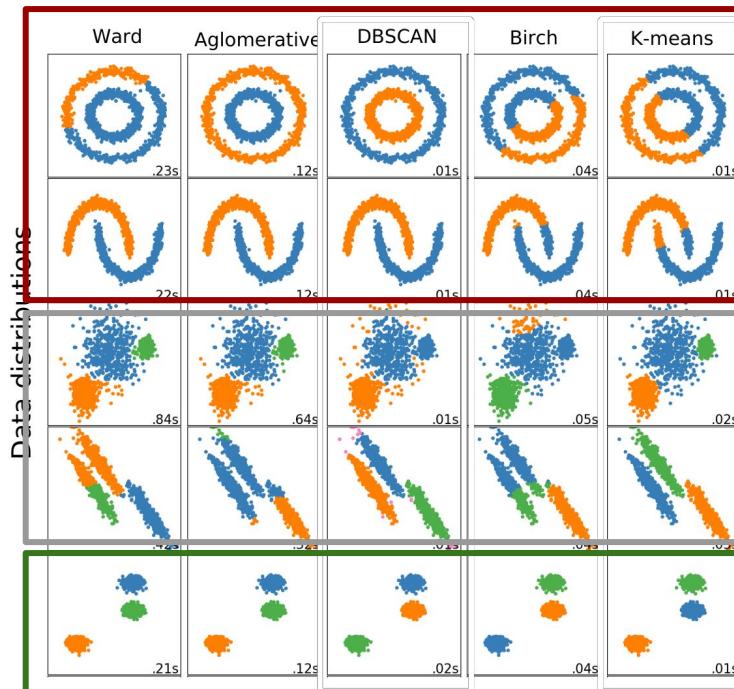


Iterative maximum likelihood method for latent variables



# Ocean data need not have a normal distribution

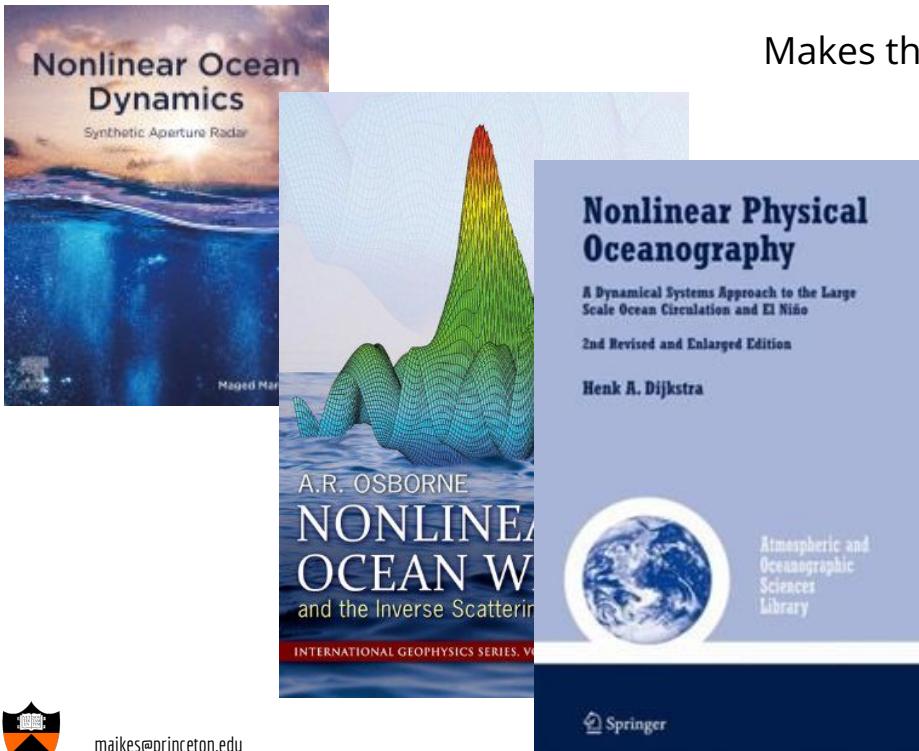
Clustering methods



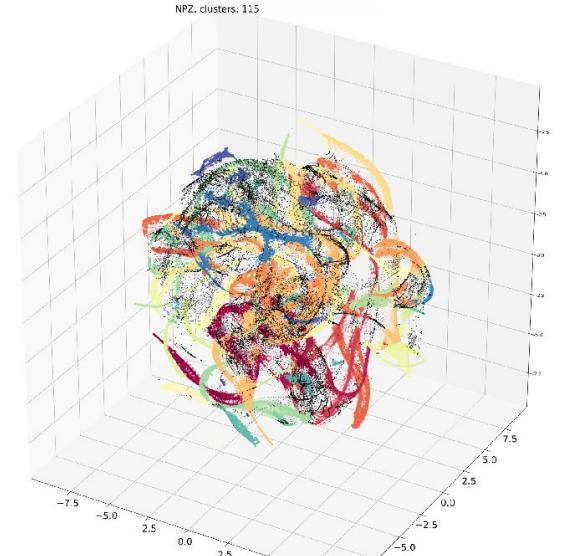
<- Non-Gaussian!

Gaussian ->

# Ocean data need not have a normal distribution



Makes things more difficult, but can be a good thing



Winner: Beautiful math  
for Simon's foundation



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# Useful for non-linear data: t-SNE

We minimize “distance” between lat+lon points in 11D and a low dimensional projection using the Kullbach-Leibner (KL) divergence.

If  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is the i-th object in 11D, and  $\mathbf{y}_j$  is the j-th object low-dim space:

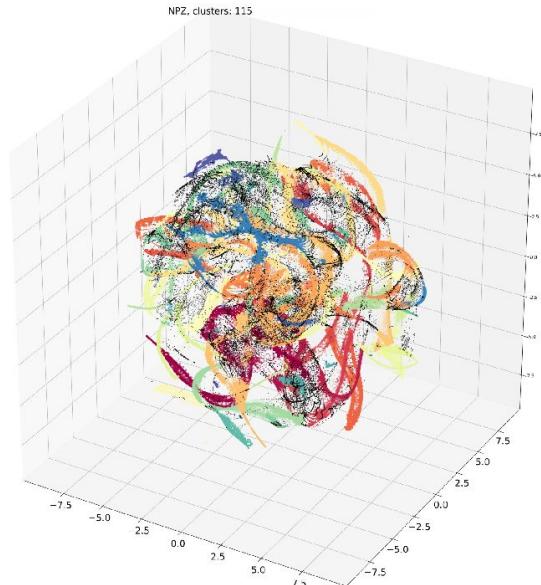
$$p_{j|i} = \frac{\exp(-\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|^2/2\sigma_i^2)}{\sum_{k \neq i} \exp(-\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_k\|^2/2\sigma_i^2)},$$

and the same for a reduced dimensional set:

$$q_{ij} = \frac{(1 + \|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{y}_j\|^2)^{-1}}{\sum_{k \neq l} (1 + \|\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{y}_l\|^2)^{-1}}.$$

This is done as:

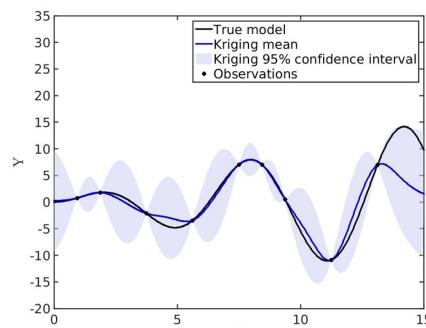
$$KL(P||Q) = \sum_{i \neq j} p_{ij} \log \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}$$



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# ML in observations: Missing data

- Missing data e.g. having no sample is available for a location
- Popular techniques include Kriging (Gaussian process regression) on satellite fields (Traon et al. 1998)
- Efforts to combine EOF analysis with DL emerging (Barth et al. 2020)
  - Use convolutional neural nets (CNN) and historical data to reconstruct sea surface temperature from satellites.

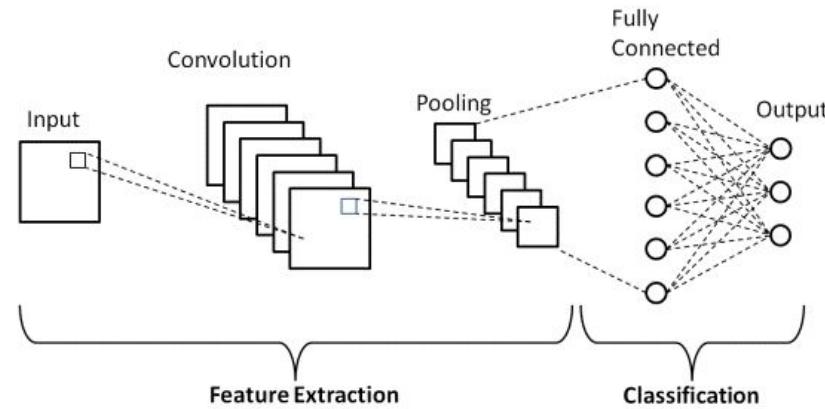


Interpolation based on Gaussian process governed by prior covariances

# Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)

CNN benefit:

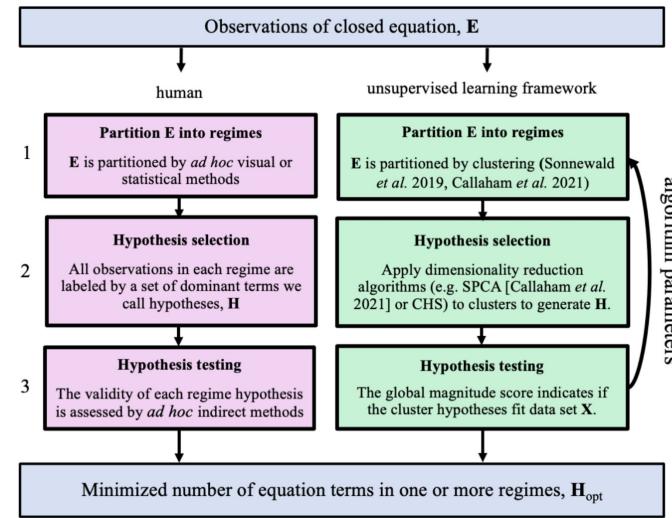
- Takes local data into account: Can learn lines
- Not fully connected, just aware of sub-area spanned by previous layer
- After 'flattening' it goes to a NN



# ML and theory

- Theoretical progress is often driven by intuition, and *ad hoc* definition of dynamical regimes
- A dynamical regime constitute local dominant balances between terms, and the boundaries of the solution space in which they are a justifiable truncation of the full dynamics
- ML has been used to remove the ad hoc component offering an unbiased definition of regimes
- 'Regime problem' formally defined in Kaiser et al. 2021
- Regimes identified in global circulation (Sonnewald et al. 2019), and in Gulf of Mexico region (Callaham et al. 2020)

## Topic of tutorial today



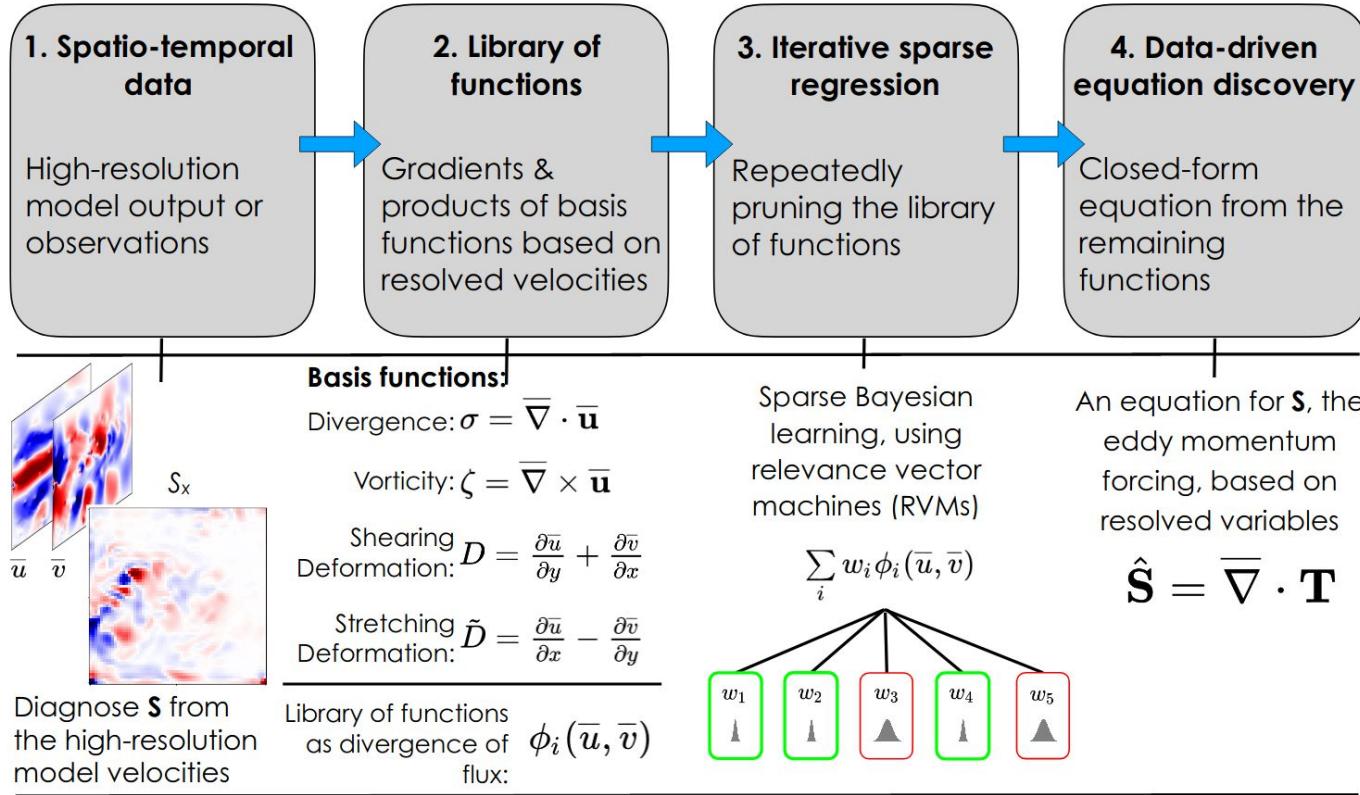
# ML and ocean models: Discretization

- Largely typical fluid following Navier-Stokes
- Discretization necessary, but filamentation results in scale interaction
  - Parameterization of sub-gridscale physics necessary
- Physics-based parameterisations to date do not describe missing physics
- ML is being used to create parameterisation:
  - Direct learning using NN (Bolton and Zanna, 2019)
  - Learning on underlying equation terms with an RVM (Zanna and Bolton, 2020)



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## A Relevance Vector Machine Schematic



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Zanna and Bolton, 2020

# ML and ocean models: Computational challenges

- Improve computational challenges
- ML is a trillion dollar industry based on high performance computing
- Customized hardware (e.g GPUs) is heterogeneous
  - Processing and movement can happen simultaneously
- Move to lower precision (Tinto Prims et al., 2019)
  - Issues with rounding errors due to long timescales in the ocean
- Data centric workflow
  - Remove need for intense input/output with more targeted extraction of data of interest



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# ML and predictions: Model bias and error

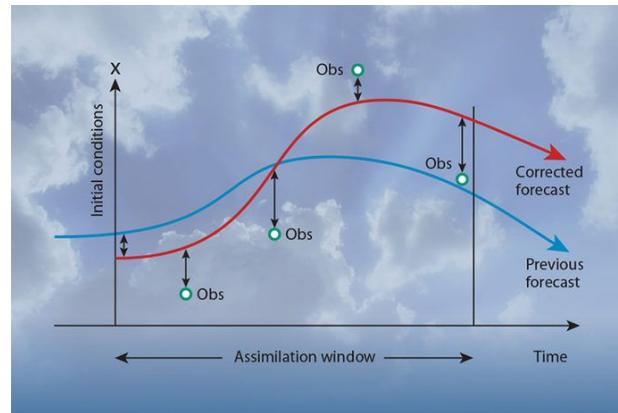
- Predictions of the ocean (and Earth) system are important to improve
  - Form basis of decision making
- Models can be tested against 'truth' benchmark from in-situ or target model data
- Testing and post-processing can also be done 'down-scaling', currently largely used within weather prediction
- Bias identification is recently also being done with Layerwise Relevance Propagation (discussed in part 2)



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# ML and predictions: Data Assimilation

- Tackles initial value problem
- Main forms:
  - Ensemble Kalman filter (EnFK)
  - Four dimensional variational assimilation (4DVar)
- 4DVar has direct ML connection
  - Gradient based cost function minimization
  - Adjoint seen as gradient backpropagation process(Hsieh and Tang, 1998, Kovachki and Stuart, 2019)
- Emulation could be done directly with ML (Brajard et al., 2019, 2020, 2021)
- ML used to pre-process data for assimilation



# ML and decision support

- The case for transparent ML for ocean and climate applications
  - Interpretable AI (IAI) , where model is designed for interpretability (e.g. Rudin, 2019)
  - Explainable AI (XAI), where skill is retrospectively inferred (next lecture)
- 'Physics informed' ML: Incorporate theoretical knowledge
  - Embed NN in quasi-geostrophic model (Lguensat et al. 2019)
- ML to provide accurate and actionable information
  - Quantification of uncertainty can be assisted with ML (Schuhem et al., 2012)
- Inform where information is representative
  - Data for Marine Protected areas (Kavanaugh et al., 2016, Sonnewald et al., 2020)



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# Summary part 1

- The ocean is an important part of the climate system acting on long timescales
- Recently, large amounts of data have been available, but remaining issues of sparsity
- ML already plays a large role in oceanographic work, within observations, theory, modeling and prediction
- The role of ML will likely increase, with increased emphasis on interpretable and explainable applications

Feel free to start exploring tutorial:

[https://github.com/maikejulie/SIAM\\_ML4Ocean](https://github.com/maikejulie/SIAM_ML4Ocean)



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# Popular supervised methods

Linear univariate (or multivariate) regression(LR), where the output is a linear combinationof some explanatory input variables. LR is one ofthe first ML algorithms to be studied extensivelyand used for its ease of optimization and its simplestatistical properties [182].

- k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), where we consider aninput vector, find itskclosest points with regardto a specified metric, then classify it by a pluralityvote of thesekpoints. For regression, we usuallytake the average of the values of thekneighbors.KNN is also known as “analog methods” in thenumerical weather prediction community [164].
- Support Vector Machines (SVM)[62], where theclassification is done by finding a linear separatinghyperplane with the maximal margin between twoclasses (the term “margin” here denotes the spacebetween the hyperplane and the nearest pointsin either class.) In case of data which cannotbe separated linearly, the use of thekernel trickprojects the data into a higher dimension wherethe linear separation can be done.Support VectorRegression (SVR)are an adaption of SVMs forregression problems.
- Random Forests (RF)t hat are a composition of a multitude of Decision Trees (DT). DTs are constructed as a tree-like composition of simple decision rules [29].
- Gaussian Process Regression (GPR)[266], alsocalled kriging, is a general form of the optimalinterpolation algorithm, which has been used inthe oceanographic community for a number ofyears
- Neural Networks (NN), a powerful class of uni-versal approximators that are based on compositions of interconnected nodes applying geometrictransformations (called affine transformations) toinputs and a nonlinearity function called an “ac-tivation function” [67]: **emulating problems thanks to their built-in uncertainty quantification.**



# Popular supervised ‘deep learning’ methods

- Multilayer Perceptrons (MLP): when used with-out qualification, this term refers to fully con-nected feed forward multilayered neural networks. They are composed of an input layer that takes the input data, multiple hidden layers that convey the information in a “feed forward” way (i.e. from in-put to output with no exchange backwards), and finally an output layer that yields the predictions. Any neuron in a MLP is connected to all the neurons in the previous and to those of next layer, thus the use of the term “fully connected”. MLPs are mostly used for tabular data.
- Convolutional Neural Networks (ConvNet): contrarily to MLPs, ConvNets are designed to take into account the local structure of particular type of data such as text in 1D, images in 2D, volumetric images in 3D, and also hyperspectral data such as that used in remote sensing. Inspired by the animal visual cortex, neurons in ConvNets are not fully connected, instead they receive information from a subarea spanned by the previous layer called the “receptive field”. In general, a ConvNet is a feed forward architecture composed of a series of convolutional layers and pooling layers and might also be combined with MLPs. A convolution is the application of a filter to an input that results in an activation. One convolutional layer consists of a group of “filters” that perform mathematical discrete convolution operations, the result of these convolutions are called “feature maps”. The filters along with biases are the parameters of the ConvNet that are learned through backpropagation and stochastic gradient descent. Pooling layers serve to reduce the resolution of featuremaps which lead to compressing the information and speeding up the training of the ConvNet, they also help the ConvNet become invariant to small shifts in input images [156]. ConvNets benefited much from the advancements in GPU computing and showed great success in the computer vision community.
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN): with aim to model sequential data such as temporal signals or text data, RNNs were developed with a hidden state that stores information about the history of the sequences presented to its inputs. While theoretically attractive, RNNs were practically found to be hard to train due to the exploding/vanishing gradient problems, i.e. backpropagated gradients tend to either increase too much or shrink too much at each timestep [128]. Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) architecture provided a solution to this problem through the use of special hidden units [221]. LSTMs are to date the most popular RNN architectures and are used in several applications such as translation, text generation, time series forecasting, etc. Note that a variant for spatiotemporal data was developed to integrate the use of convolutional layers, this is called ConvLSTM [226].

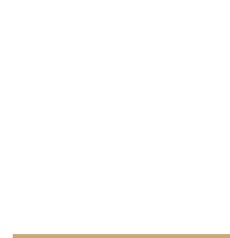


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# Unsupervised learning

Methods largely in use are for clustering, based on probabilistic methods.

- k-means, a popular and simple space-partitioning clustering algorithm that finds classes in a dataset by minimizing within-cluster variances[232]. Gaussian Mixture Models (GMMs) can be seen as a generalization of the k-means algorithm that assumes the data can be represented by a mixture (i.e. linear combination) of a number of multi-dimensional Gaussian distributions [177].
- Kohonen maps [also called Self Organizing Maps (SOM)] is a NN based clustering algorithm that leverages topology of the data; nearby locations in a learned map are placed in the same class [148]. K-means can be seen as a special case of SOM with no information about the neighborhood of clusters.
- t-SNE and UMAP are two other clustering algorithms which are often used for not only finding clusters but also because of their data visualization properties which enables a two or three dimensional graphical rendition of the data [252, 176]. These methods are useful for representing the structure of a high-dimensional dataset in a small number of dimensions that can be plotted. For the projection, they use a measure of the “distance” or “metric” between points, which is a sub-field of mathematics where methods are increasingly implemented for t-SNE or UMAP.
- Principal Component Analysis (PCA) [192], the simplest and most popular dimensionality reduction algorithm. Another term for PCA is Empirical Orthogonal Function analysis (EOF), which has been used by physical oceanographers for many years, also called Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) in computational fluids literature.
- Autoencoders (AE) are NN-based dimensionality reduction algorithms, consisting of a bottleneck-like architecture that learns to reconstruct the input by minimizing the error between the output and the input (i.e. ideally the data given as input and output of the autoencoder should be interchangeable). A central layer with a lower dimension than the original inputs' dimension is called a “code” and represents a compressed representation of the input [150].
- Generative modeling: a powerful paradigm that learns the latent features and distributions of a dataset and then proceeds to generate new samples that are plausible enough to belong to the initial dataset. Variational Auto-encoders (VAEs) and Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) are two popular techniques of generative modeling that benefited much from the DL revolution [145, 112].



## **Part 2: Dynamical regime discovery and interpretable/explainable ML**



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# The dynamical regime problem

- Understanding complex system dynamics advances enabled by finding locally dominant system behaviour: **Dynamical regimes**
  - Examples: ocean, climate, tumors, turbulent flows, epilepsy, general relativity...
- Many dynamical systems like the ocean have uncomputably large numbers of degrees of freedom
- Within the governing equations, some dynamics of mean variables can be approximately reducible
  - Locally describable by a dominant balance of terms within the governing equations (Callaham et al., 2021)
- A ‘dynamical regime’ are the balances and their boundaries within solution space where they are a reasonable truncation
- Most practical applications have non-asymptotic balances: no parameter permits formal expansion



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# Finding dynamical regimes

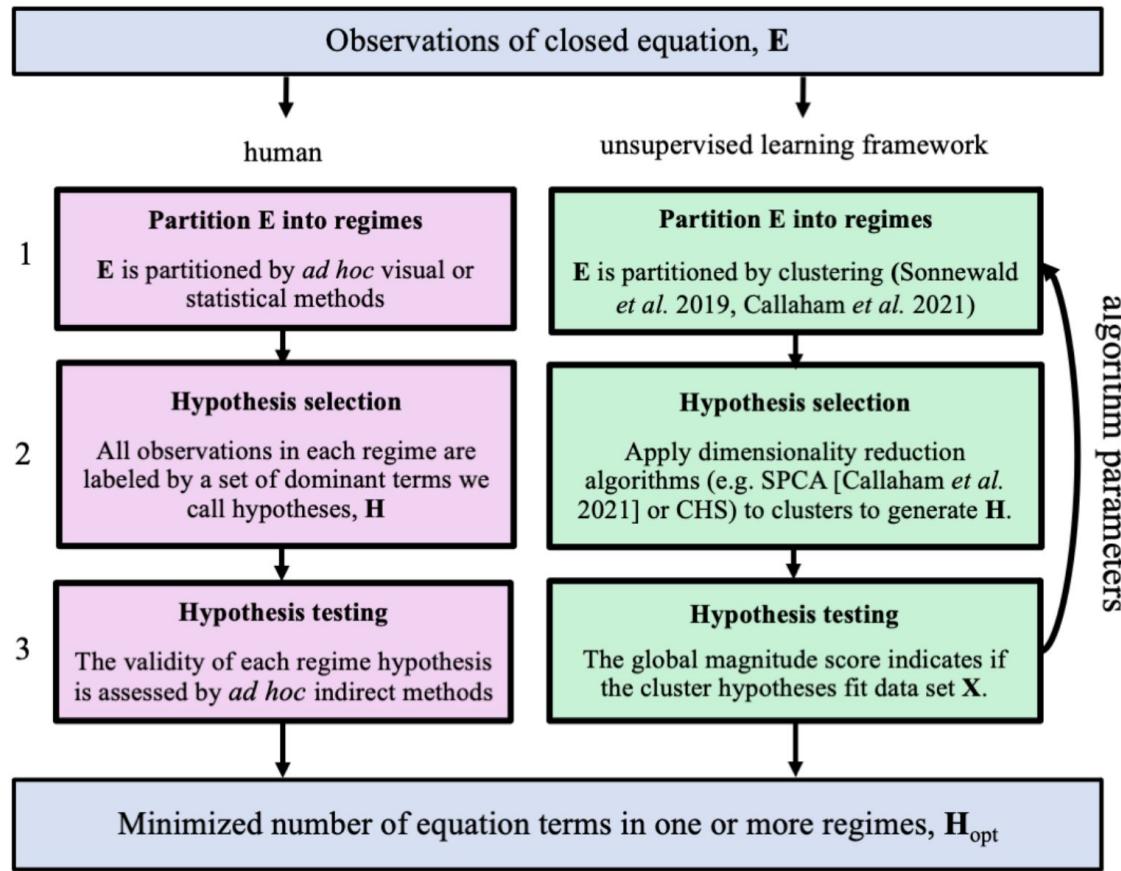
- Conventional:
  - Forming hypotheses has relied on ad-hoc research or expert intuition
  - Not objective: Subject to human bias
- ML assisted:
  - Offers less biased approach, able to handle large amounts of data
- Formally defined as an optimization problem in Kaiser et al. 2021: '*Objective discovery of dominant dynamical processes with machine learning*'

## Examples of Interpretable AI (IAI)

(Rudin 2019, Irrgang et al. 2021, Sonnewald et al. 2021ab)



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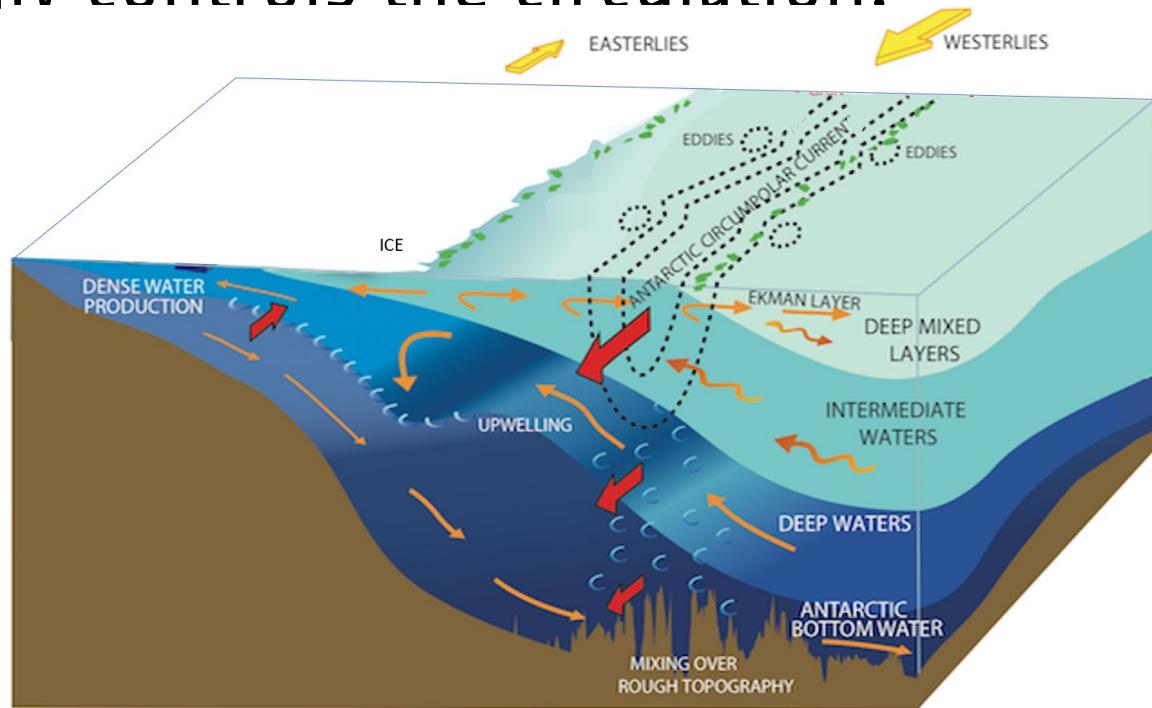
# Dynamical regimes in the ocean: What fundamentally controls the circulation?

Are there coherent regions?

Regimes of forcings on the ocean?

Can be used to:

- Predict changes
- Develop better models
- Fundamental understanding



# Equation space transformation

Momentum eqs.

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + f \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla_h p + \frac{1}{\rho_0} \partial_z \tau + \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}, \quad \partial_z p = -g\rho$$

$$\nabla_h \cdot \mathbf{u} + \partial_z w = 0,$$

Depth integrate, take curl

$$\underbrace{\nabla \cdot (f \mathbf{U})}_{\text{advection of planetary vorticity}} = \underbrace{\frac{\nabla p_b \times \nabla H}{\rho}}_{\text{bottom pressure torque}} + \underbrace{\frac{\nabla \times \boldsymbol{\tau}}{\rho}}_{\text{wind \& bottom stress curl}} + \underbrace{\nabla \times \mathbf{A}}_{\text{nonlinear torque}} + \underbrace{\nabla \times \mathbf{B}}_{\text{diffusive torque}}.$$

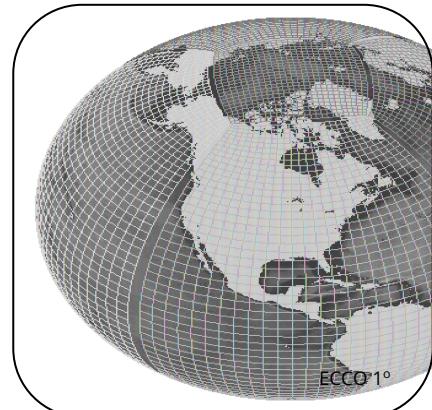


# Equation space transformation

## Primitive equations

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - fv &= -\frac{1}{\rho_s} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) + F_u, \quad \text{Momentum (u component)} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + fu &= -\frac{1}{\rho_s} \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) + F_v, \quad \text{Momentum (v component)} \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} &= -\rho g, \quad \text{density} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} &= 0, \quad \text{continuity} \\ \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_t \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} \right) + F_\theta, \quad \text{Advection of temperature} \\ \frac{\partial s}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial s}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial s}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_s \frac{\partial s}{\partial z} \right) + F_s, \quad \text{Advection of salinity} \\ p &= \rho(\theta, s), \quad \text{Density as a function of S and T}\end{aligned}$$

Use theory to reduce dimensions and enhance interpretability

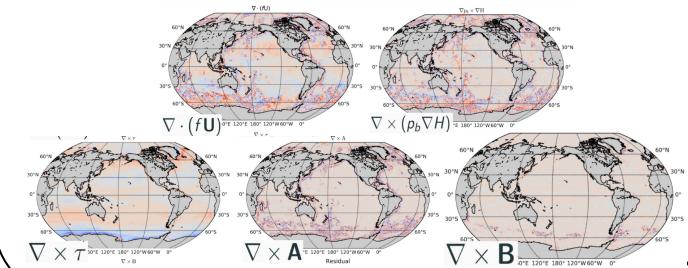


Ocean model that follows laws of physics



Huge number of 3D fields

$$0 = \underbrace{\nabla \cdot (f\mathbf{U})}_{\text{Advection}} - \underbrace{\nabla \times (p_b \nabla H)}_{\text{Bottom Pressure Torque}} + \underbrace{\nabla \times \tau}_{\text{Wind and Bottom stress}} - \underbrace{\nabla \times \mathbf{A}}_{\text{Lat. Visc.}} + \underbrace{\nabla \times \mathbf{B}}_{\text{Non-linear Torque}}$$



Arrive at five 2D fields:  
- Each term in the equation

Ask: Are there patterns?

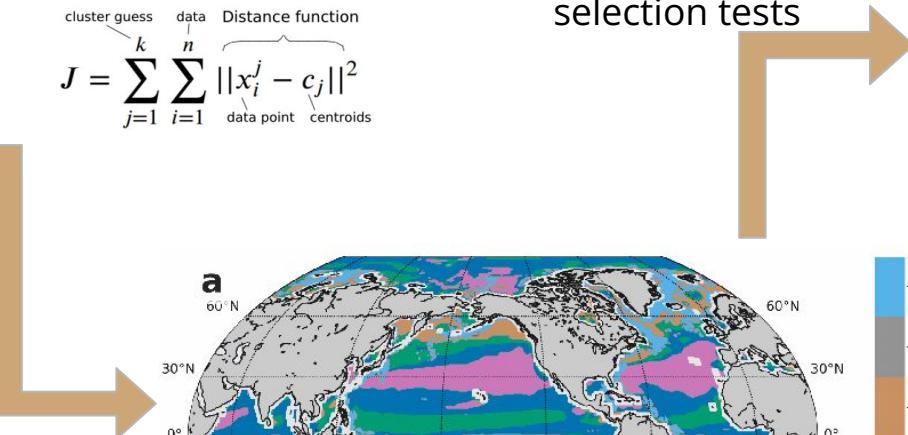
Example from Sonnewald et al. 2019

# Dynamical regimes in the ocean

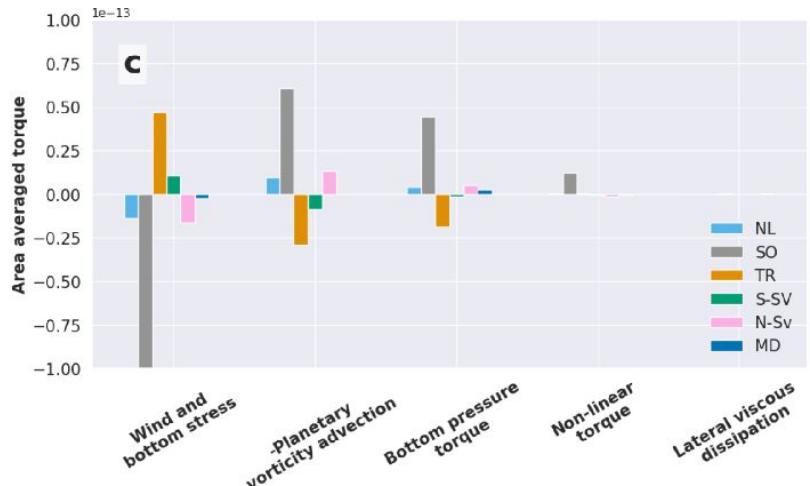
Apply clustering

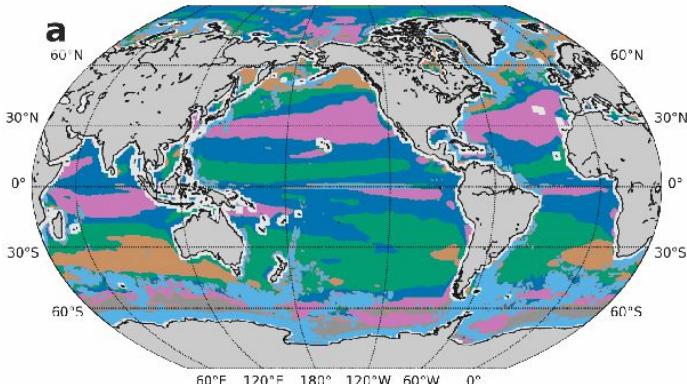
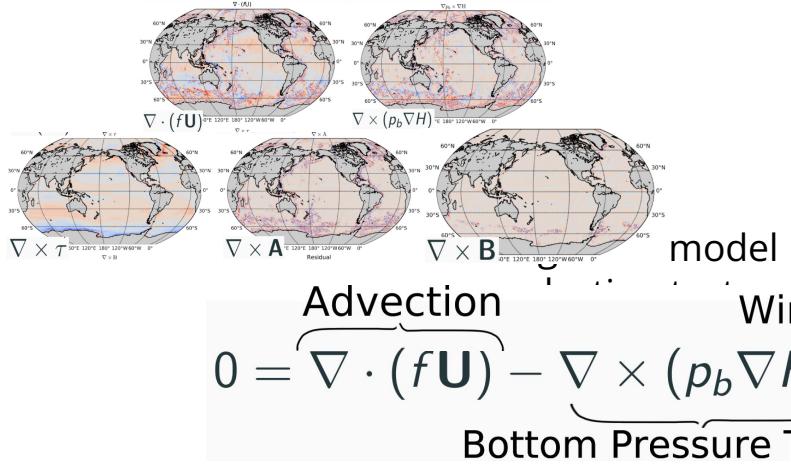
$$J = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{||x_i^j - c_j||^2}_{\text{data point}} \underbrace{\text{Distance function}}_{\text{centroids}}$$

Rigorous model selection tests



Clustering generates a set of hypotheses regarding the groupings of the data:



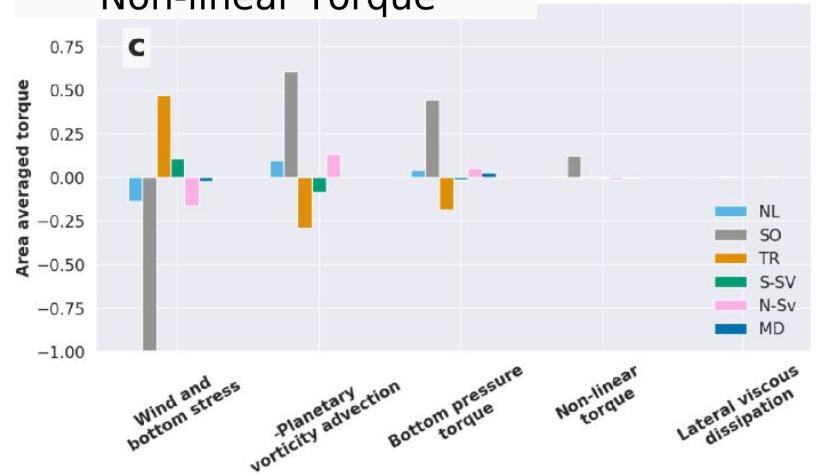


Clustering generates a set of

Wind and Bottom stress

Lat. Visc.

Non-linear Torque



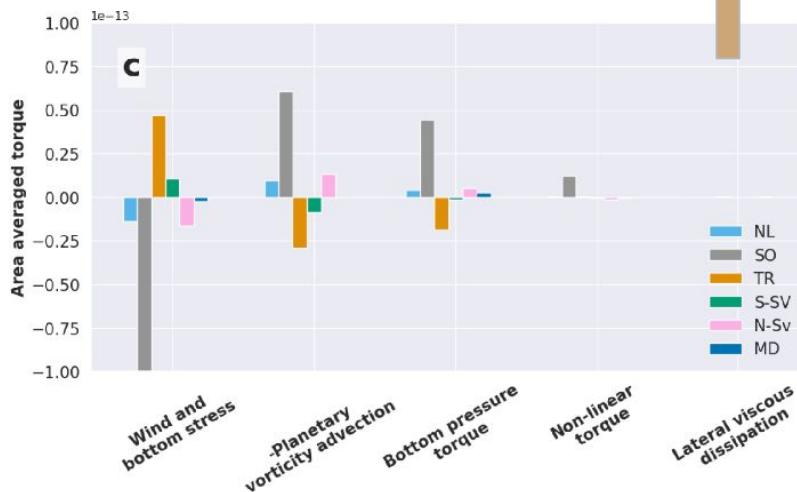
# Practical: Arriving at hypotheses with ML

<https://github.com/AOS551/MLINT>

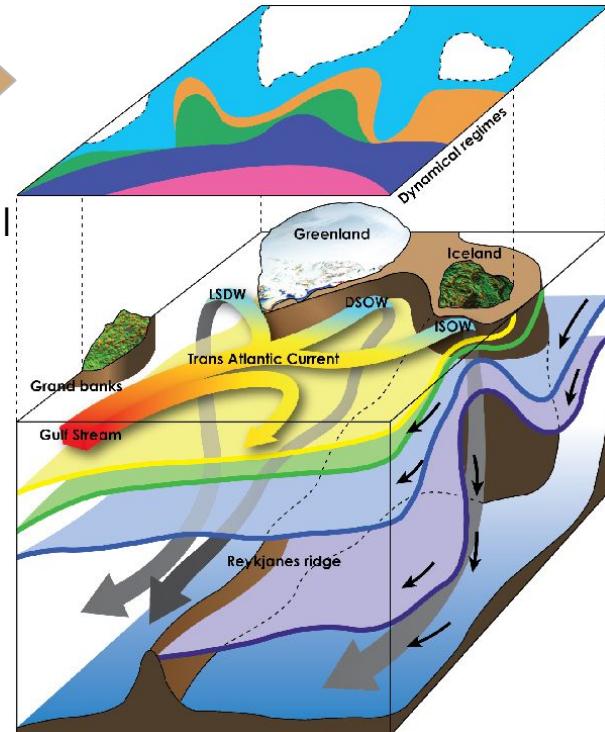


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# Practical: Arriving at hypotheses with ML

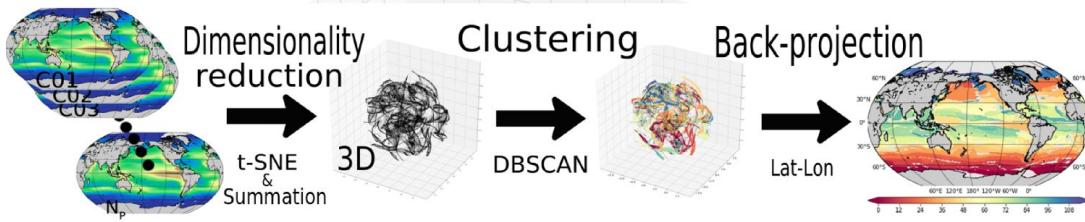


Map neatly onto circulation crucial to climate

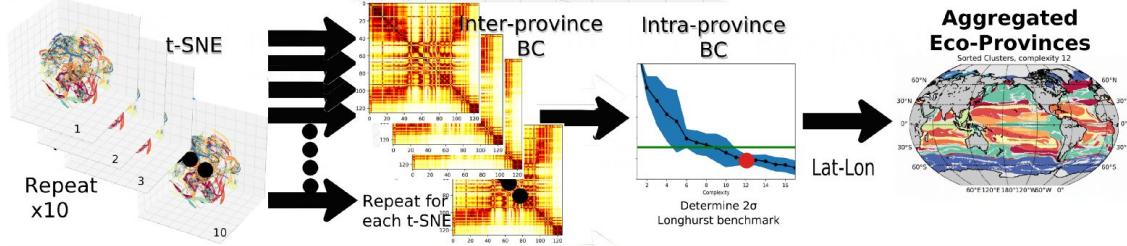


# More complex optimization problems

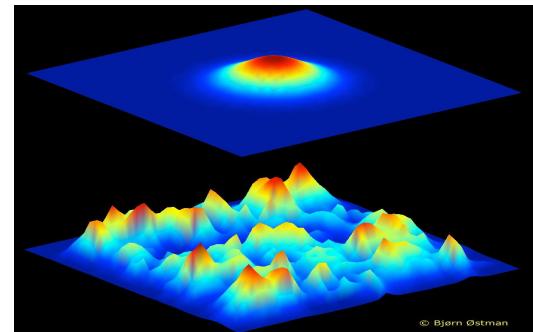
a)



b)



- Highly non-gaussian
- Resort to more stochastic methods
- Visualization to guide clustering
- Complicated optimization space
- Combination of domain knowledge and graphs to arrive at robust results



Systematic AGgregated Ecoprovince (SAGE) method  
Ocean ecology example (Sonnewald et al. 2020):



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# Useful projection methods: t-SNE

We minimize “distance” between lat+lon points in 11D and a low dimensional projection using the Kullbach-Leibner (KL) divergence.

If  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is the i-th object in 11D, and  $\mathbf{y}_j$  is the j-th object low-dim space:

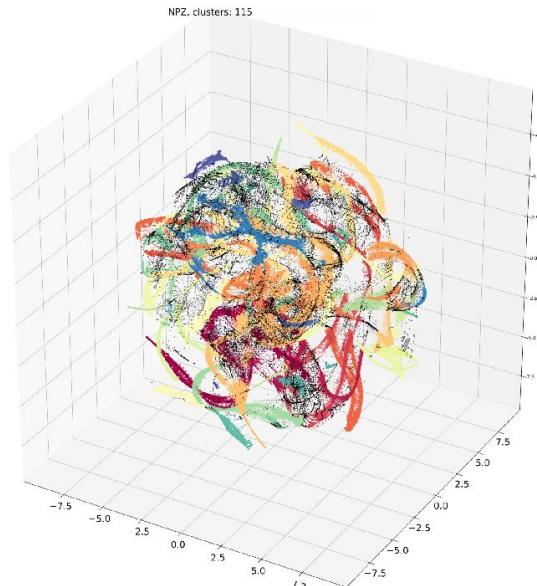
$$p_{j|i} = \frac{\exp(-\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|^2/2\sigma_i^2)}{\sum_{k \neq i} \exp(-\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_k\|^2/2\sigma_i^2)},$$

and the same for a reduced dimensional set:

$$q_{ij} = \frac{(1 + \|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{y}_j\|^2)^{-1}}{\sum_{k \neq l} (1 + \|\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{y}_l\|^2)^{-1}}.$$

This is done as:

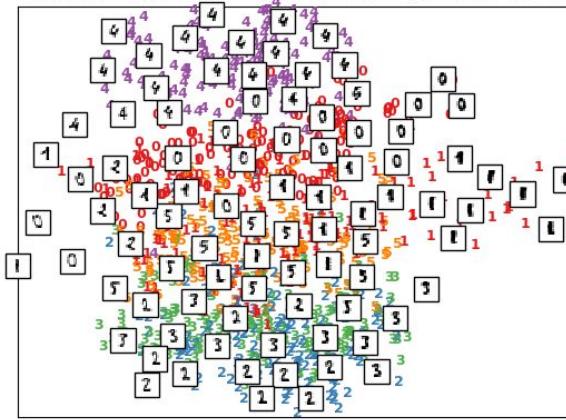
$$KL(P||Q) = \sum_{i \neq j} p_{ij} \log \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}$$



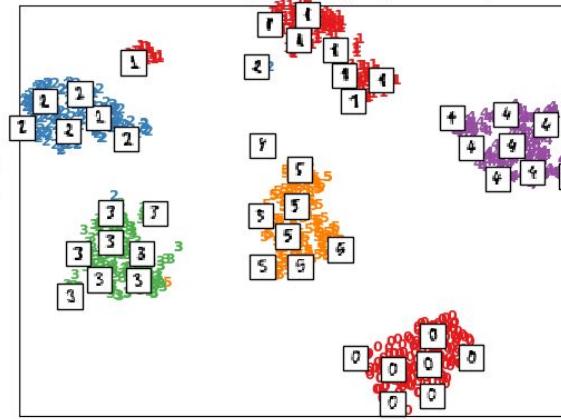
# Principal Component Analysis vs. t-SNE

A selection from the 64-dimensional digits dataset

Principal Components projection of the digits (time 0.00s)



t-SNE embedding of the digits (time 5.87s)



# Explainable AI (XAI): Learning how the NN achieves predictive skill

- Set of popular 'Additive Feature Attribution' methods:
  - Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations (LIME)
  - Layer-wise Relevance Propagation (LRP)
  - Shapley Additive Explanation (SHAP)
- Other methods based on saliency
- Class of highly sought after methods

The image shows two tweets from the user @zacharylipton. The first tweet, posted on June 17, features a profile picture of a person playing a saxophone. The text reads: "It's hard to underestimate just how strange the state of "explainable AI" is today. For nearly all "local explanation" techniques, the only people who understand them would never use them, and the only people who use them do not understand them." Below the tweet are engagement metrics: 22 replies, 113 retweets, 602 likes, and a share icon. The second tweet, also from June 17, shows the same profile picture and reads: "Perhaps scariest, there's a negative feedback loop whereby people who understand the state of the field tend not participate in it (nominally), and thus confusion compounds." It has 1 reply, 1 retweet, 64 likes, and a share icon.

Zachary Lipton @zacharylipton · Jun 17

It's hard to underestimate just how strange the state of "explainable AI" is today. For nearly all "local explanation" techniques, the only people who understand them would never use them, and the only people who use them do not understand them.

22 113 602

Zachary Lipton @zacharylipton · Jun 17

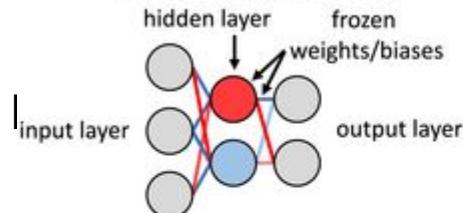
Perhaps scariest, there's a negative feedback loop whereby people who understand the state of the field tend not participate in it (nominally), and thus confusion compounds.

1 1 64



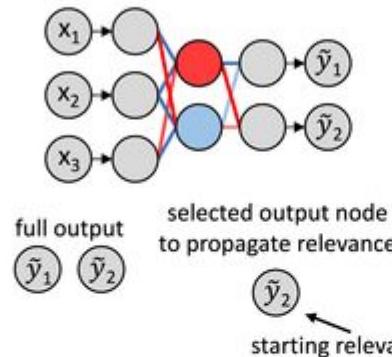
# Illustration of Layerwise Relevance Propagation

- 1) Train network & freeze weights/biases

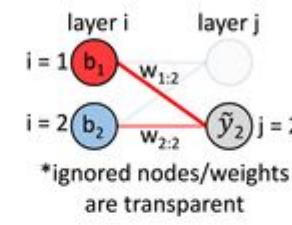


*Information learned during training:*  
positive weights/biases  
negative weights/biases

- 2) Input sample into frozen network and retain output



- 3) Propagate relevance from output node to previous layer



$$propagation\ rule$$

$$R_i = \sum_j \frac{a_i w_{ij}^+ + \max(0, b_j)}{\sum_i a_i w_{ij}^+ + \max(0, b_j)} R_j$$

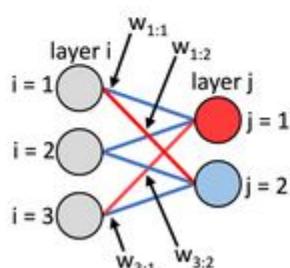
*example relevance calculations*

$$R_{i=1} = \left( \frac{a_1 w_{1:2}}{a_1 w_{1:2} + a_2 w_{2:2}} \right) \tilde{y}_2$$

$$R_{i=2} = \left( \frac{a_2 w_{2:1}}{a_1 w_{1:2} + a_2 w_{2:2}} \right) \tilde{y}_2$$

\* $a_i$  is the output from node  $i$  during the forward pass

- 4) Propagate relevance from hidden layer to input layer



*propagation rule*

$$R_i = \sum_j \left( \frac{w_{ij}^2}{\sum_i w_{ij}^2} \right) R_j$$

\*all biases are ignored for this rule

**relevance at input layer**



*example relevance calculation*

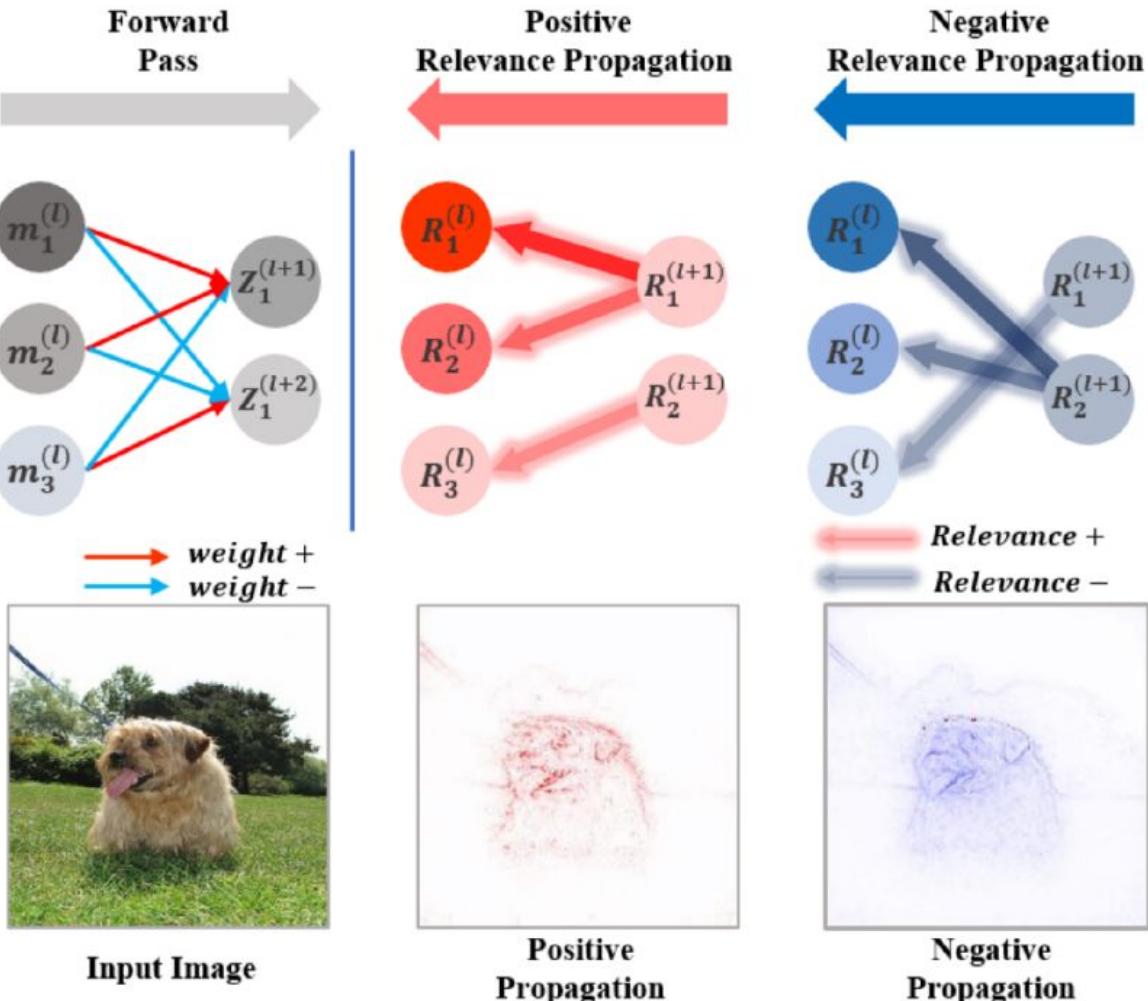
$$R_{i=1} = \left( \frac{w_{1:1}^2}{w_{1:1}^2 + w_{2:1}^2 + w_{3:1}^2} \right) R_{j=1} + \left( \frac{w_{1:2}^2}{w_{1:2}^2 + w_{2:2}^2 + w_{3:2}^2} \right) R_{j=2}$$

\*relevance calculations are similar for other input nodes

- 5) Repeat for each sample of interest...

Toms et al., 2020

# LRP example



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# Implications for XAI for oceanography: Case study

- Dynamical recognition/sanity check
- For high-stakes decisions, stepping out of `black box' is key
- Can help with generalization problem
- Can help avoid underspcification



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# Deep Neural Network trained to predict regimes

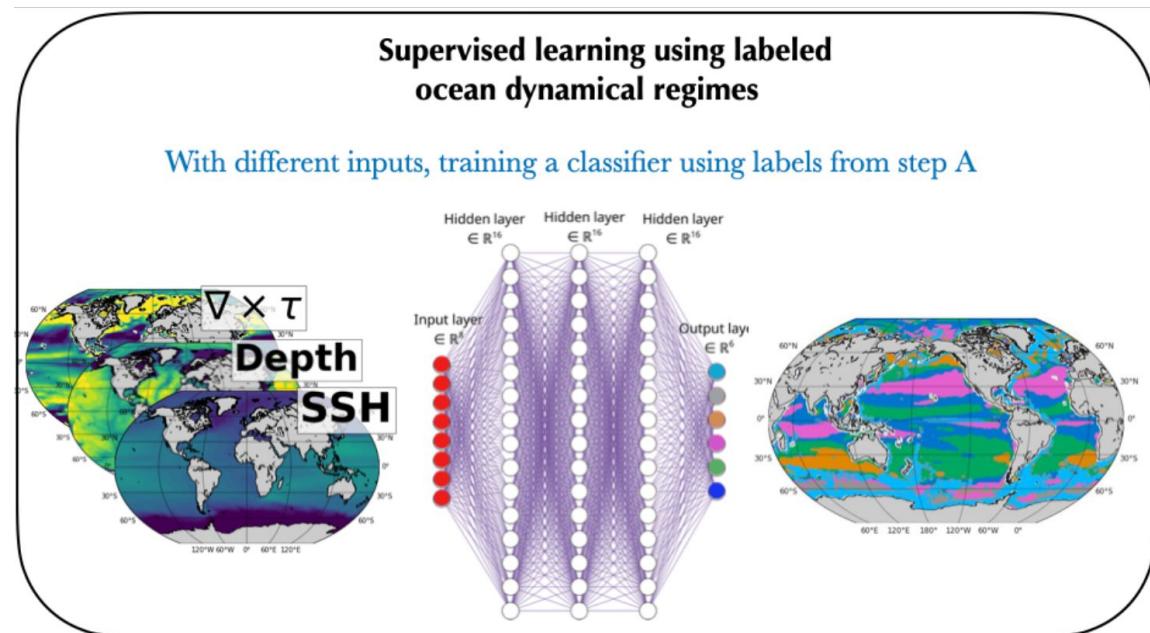
Train Multilayer perceptron using inputs:

- Wind stress
- Sea surface height
- Depth

Predict:

- Dynamical regimes

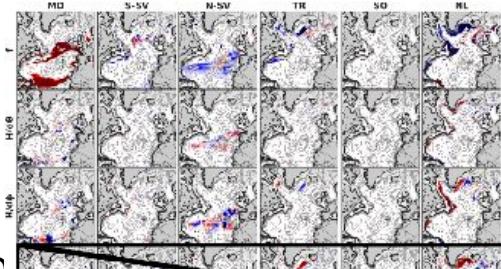
Developed network can be applied to models where the input variables are available



From Sonnewald and Lguensat, 2021



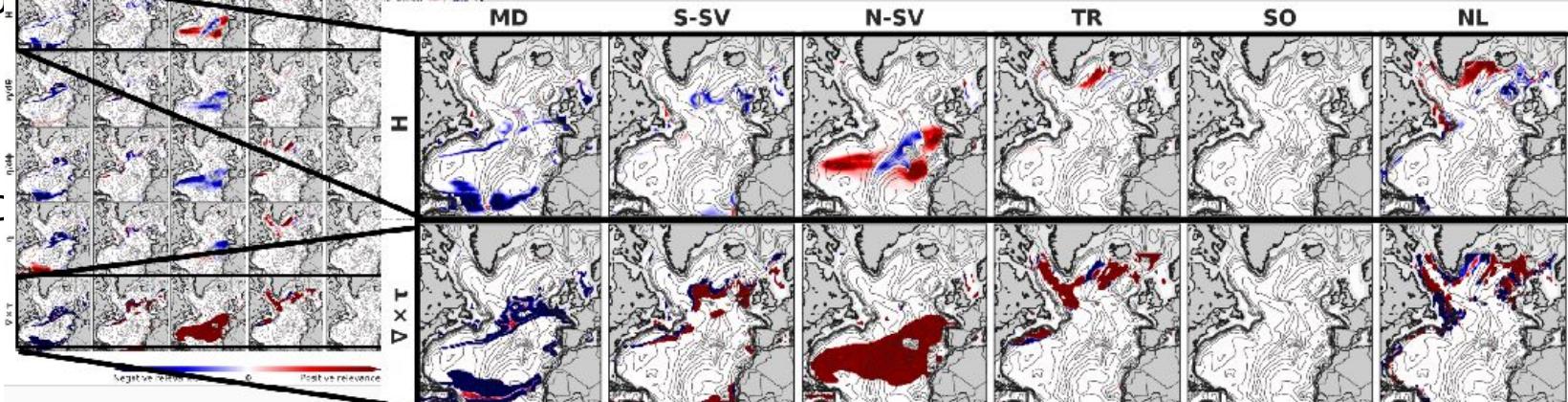
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**Relevance maps**  
Dynamical regime (horizontal) by input feature (vertical)

Add co

Point co



Negative relevance 0 Positive relevance

$$0 = \nabla \cdot (f \mathbf{U}) - \nabla \times (\rho_b \nabla H) + \nabla \times \tau + \cancel{\nabla \times \mathbf{A}} + \cancel{\nabla \times \mathbf{B}}$$



ma

# Using Additive Feature Attribution?

- While not perfect, LRP are useful in predicting ocean dynamical regimes
  - Somewhat circular logic as LRP and MLP are tested simultaneously
- Other methods have drawbacks:
  - LIME assumes sparse linear model can represent relationship to all features
  - SHAP uses possible brittle game theoretic component
- Overall improving AFA methods to better be able to explore the local feature space would be powerful within oceanography and beyond

Example of dynamical regimes with LRP:

<https://github.com/maikejulie/DNN4Cli>



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# Summary part 2

- Dynamical regimes within dynamical systems
- Global ocean dynamical regimes
- Demonstrated how statistical and domain specific criteria are used
- Looked at more complex optimization problems
- Explainable AI: Challenges and opportunities

Review: M. Sonnewald, R. Lguensat, D. Jones, P. Deuben, J. Brajard, V. Balaji: 'Bridging observation, theory and numerical simulation of the ocean using ML', Environmental Research Letters. 2021.



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Thanks to: K. Rosenfeld, A. Reinartz, R. Lguensat