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*6th Workshop on Water Resources in Developing Countries:  
Hydroclimate Modeling, Information Tools and Simulation Techniques  
May 20-31, 2024*

Satellite precipitation estimation at CHRS UCI: Algorithm  
Development & Challenges



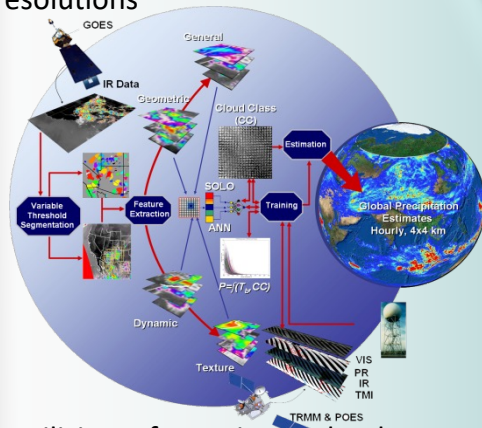
Phu Nguyen, Soroosh Sorooshian, Kuolin Hsu  
Center for Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing  
University of California, Irvine

ICTP – Trieste, Italy

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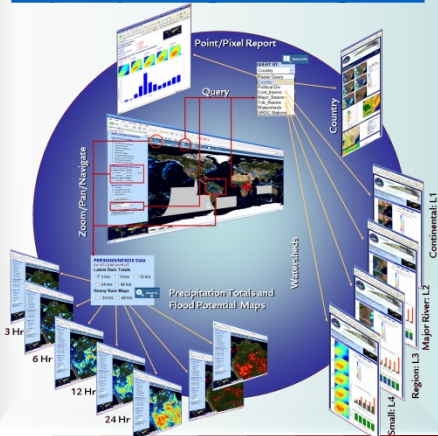
# Center for Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing

Develop state-of-the-art systems to estimate rainfall from satellite observations at global scale and high spatial and temporal resolutions

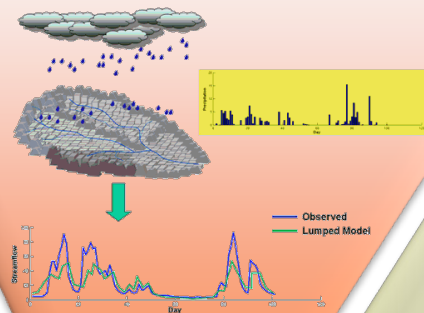


Utilizing Information technology to provide world-wide access to real-time global precipitation products:

<http://hydis.eng.uci.edu/gwadi/>



Improve the performance and reliability of hydrologic, flood, and water supply forecasting models, particularly those used by the National Weather Service and other operational agencies.



Hydrologic Predictions



Prepare the next generation of hydrologists and water resources engineers

Improve California's water supply management through:

- Forecast system (CaliForecast)
- Improved decision optimization



Nearly 70% of our supply is in Northern half

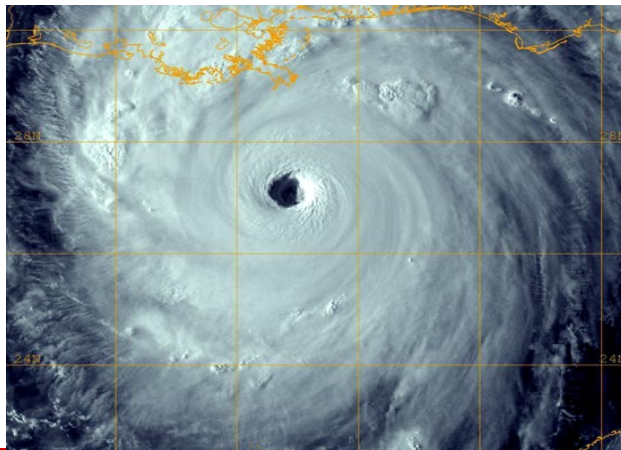
Almost 75% of our demand is in the Southern half





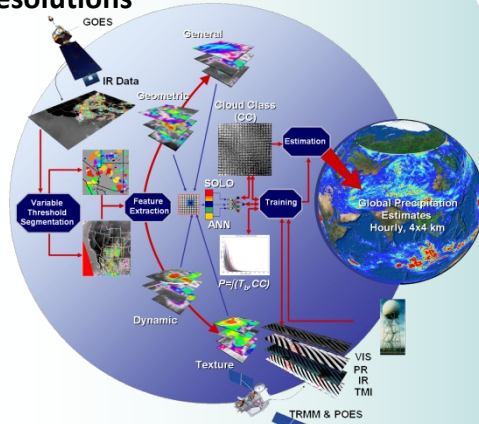
*Floods caused by extreme precipitation are the most widespread nature disasters*

*High spatial and temporal resolution of precipitation measurement is needed for operational hydrology*

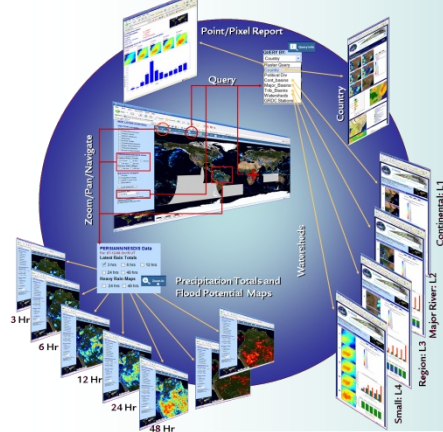


# Remote Sensing Precipitation

Develop state-of-the-art systems to estimate rainfall from satellite observations at global scale and high spatial and temporal resolutions



Information Technology to provide world-wide access to real-time global precipitation products:  
<http://hydis.eng.uci.edu/gwadi/>



## Goal:

High spatial and temporal resolution of precipitation measurements at global scale for hydrological applications:

- Short-term operational applications
  - Flood forecasting
  - Data assimilation in numerical weather models
- Long-term climate extreme event analysis
- Hydro-climate studies
- Validation of GCM models





# Precipitation Observation

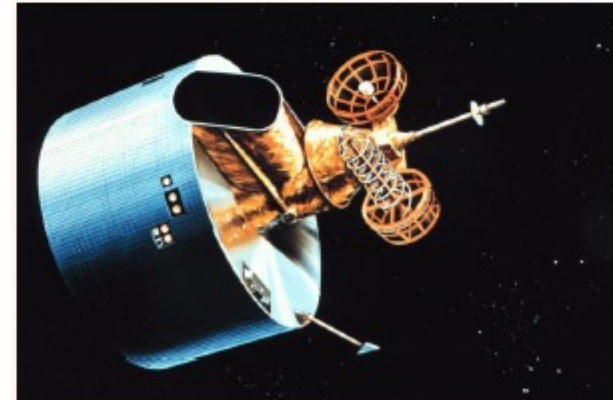
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**Rain Gauges**



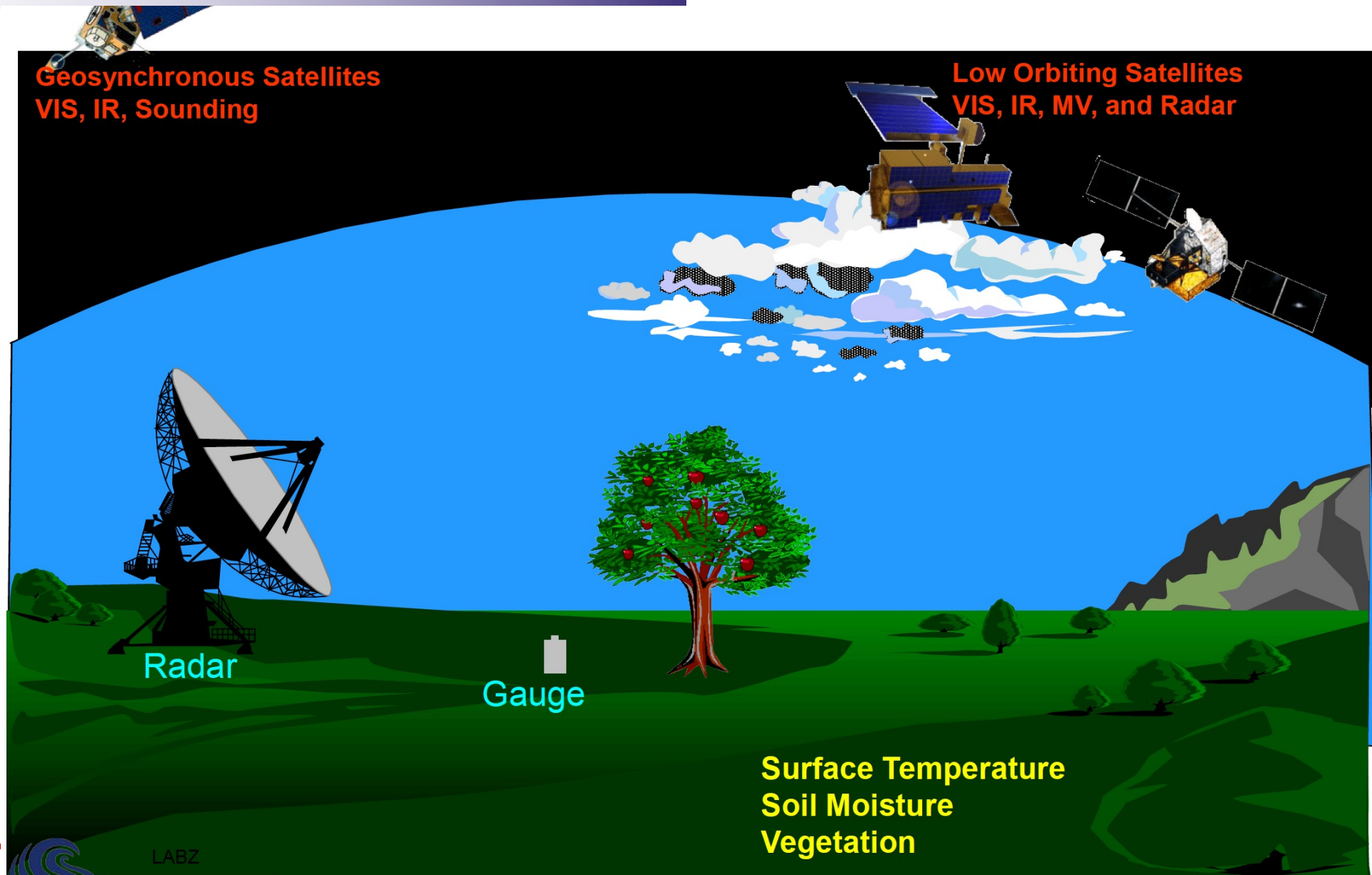
**WSR-88D Radar**



**Satellite**

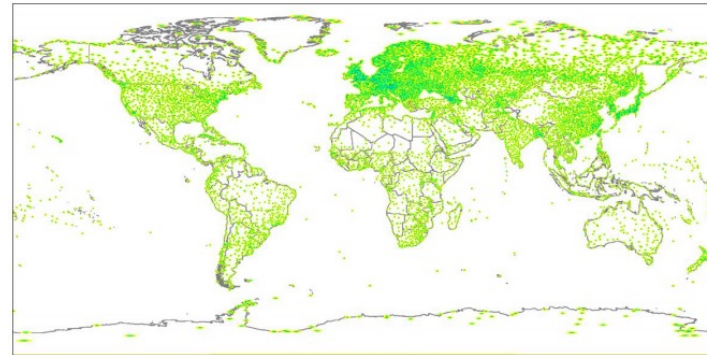
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# Multiple Sources for Rainfall Estimation



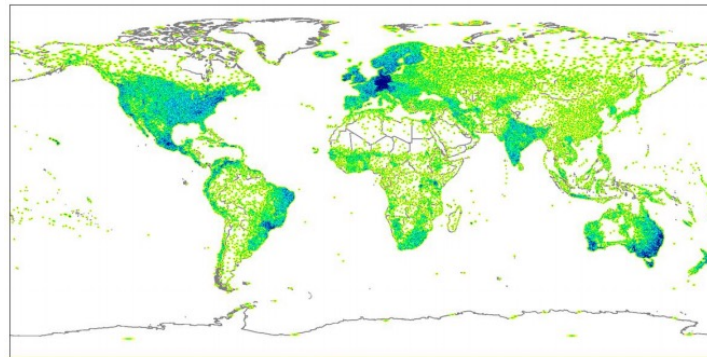


# Precipitation Observation



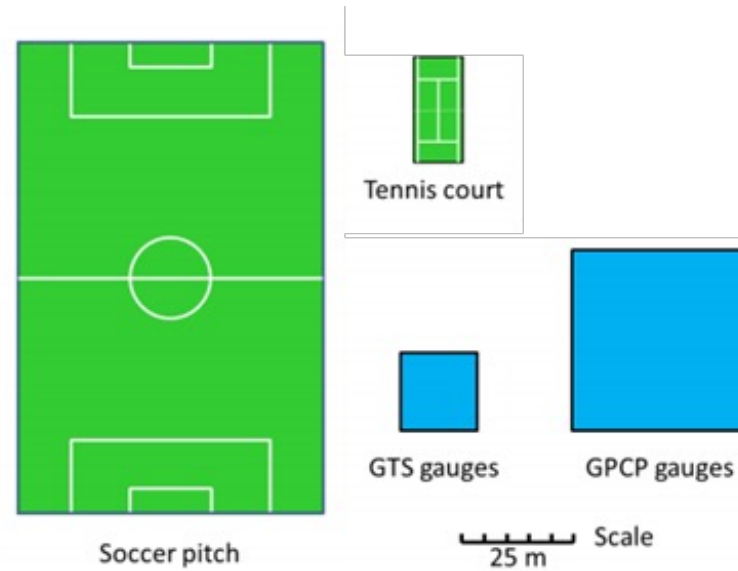
GTS gauges

0 10 25 50 100 km  
Distance from nearest gauge



GPCP gauges

0 10 25 50 100 km  
Distance from nearest gauge



Tennis court

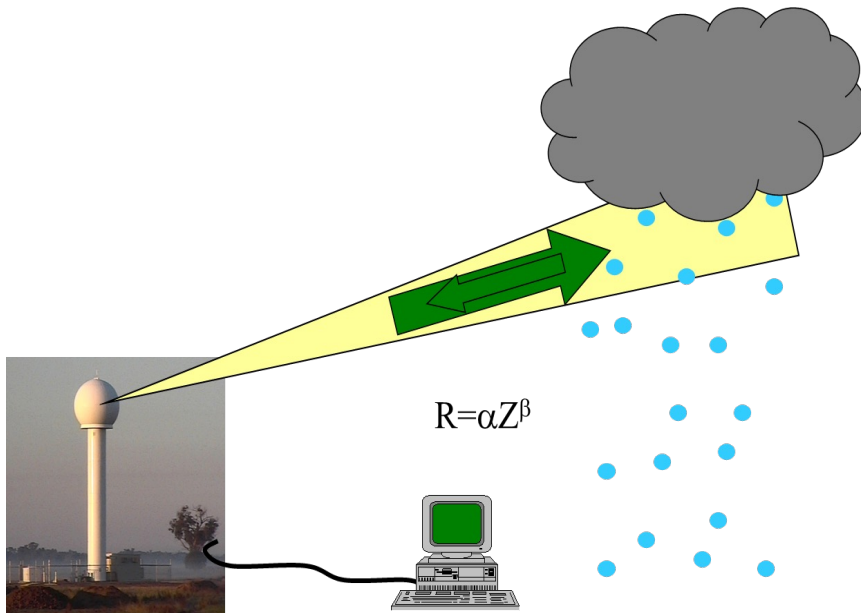
Soccer pitch

GTS gauges

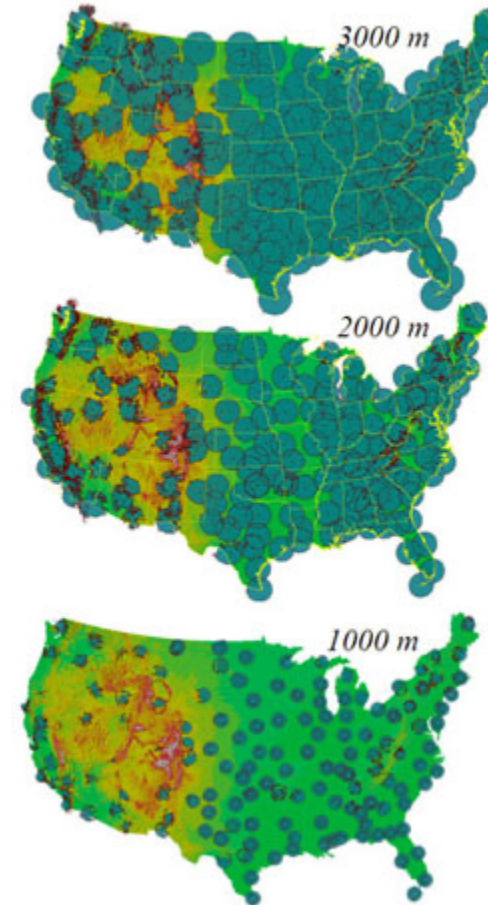
GPCP gauges

Scale  
25 m

# Precipitation Observation



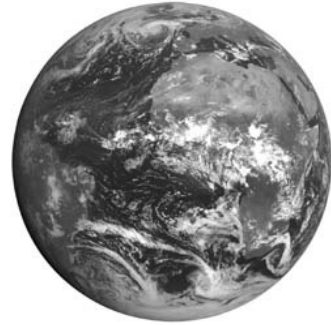
Source: Walker and Western



NEXRAD Radar coverage

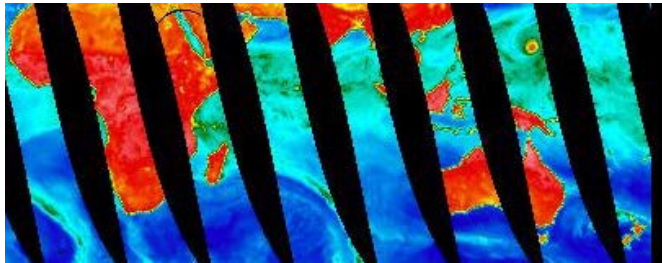


# Satellite Precipitation Monitoring



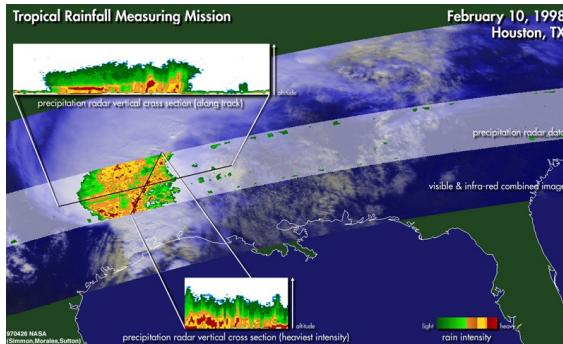
Meteosat 7 (EUMETSAT)

Geostationary IR  
Cloud top heights only  
15-30 minute data



SSM/I 85GHz (DMSP)

Passive Microwave (SSM/I) Some  
characterization of rainfall ~2 overpasses  
per day per spacecraft, moving to 3-hour  
return time (GPM)

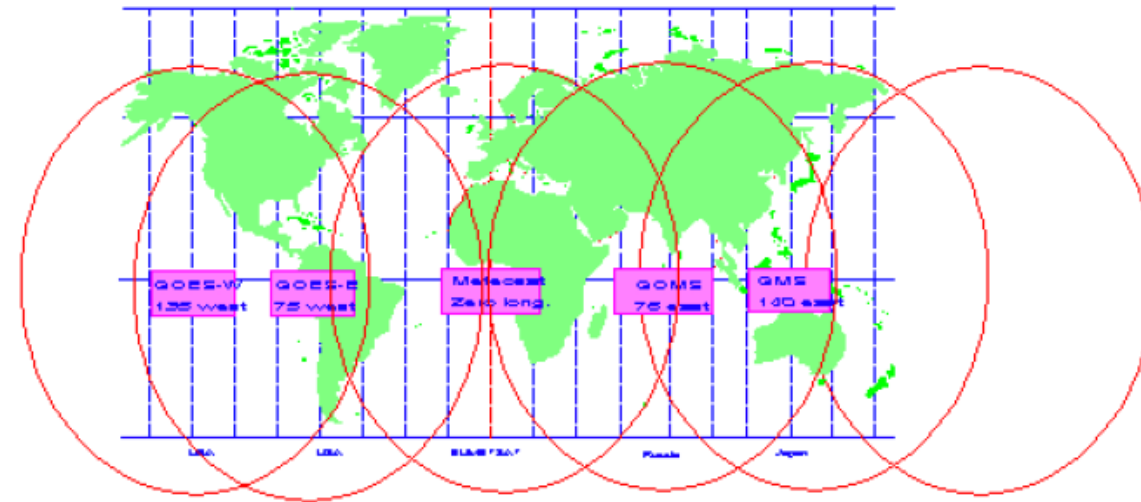


TRMM precipitation RADAR  
3D imaging of rainfall  
1-2 days between overpasses  
(35°N-35°S only)

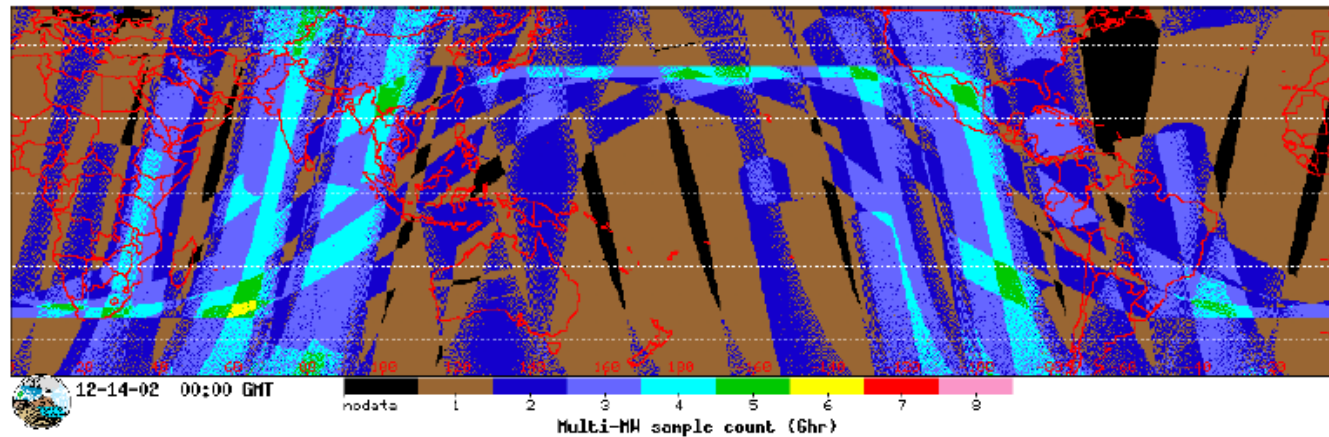
TRMM)

# Observations from Satellites

GOES GMS METEOSAT (30-minute Coverage)



TRMM, NOAA-15, -16, -17, DMSP F-13, F-14, F-15 (Six-Hour Sample Counts)

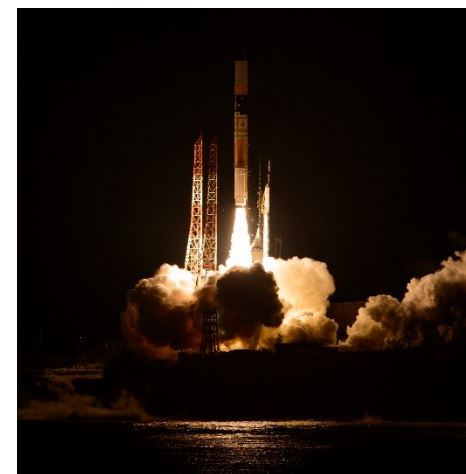




# Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)



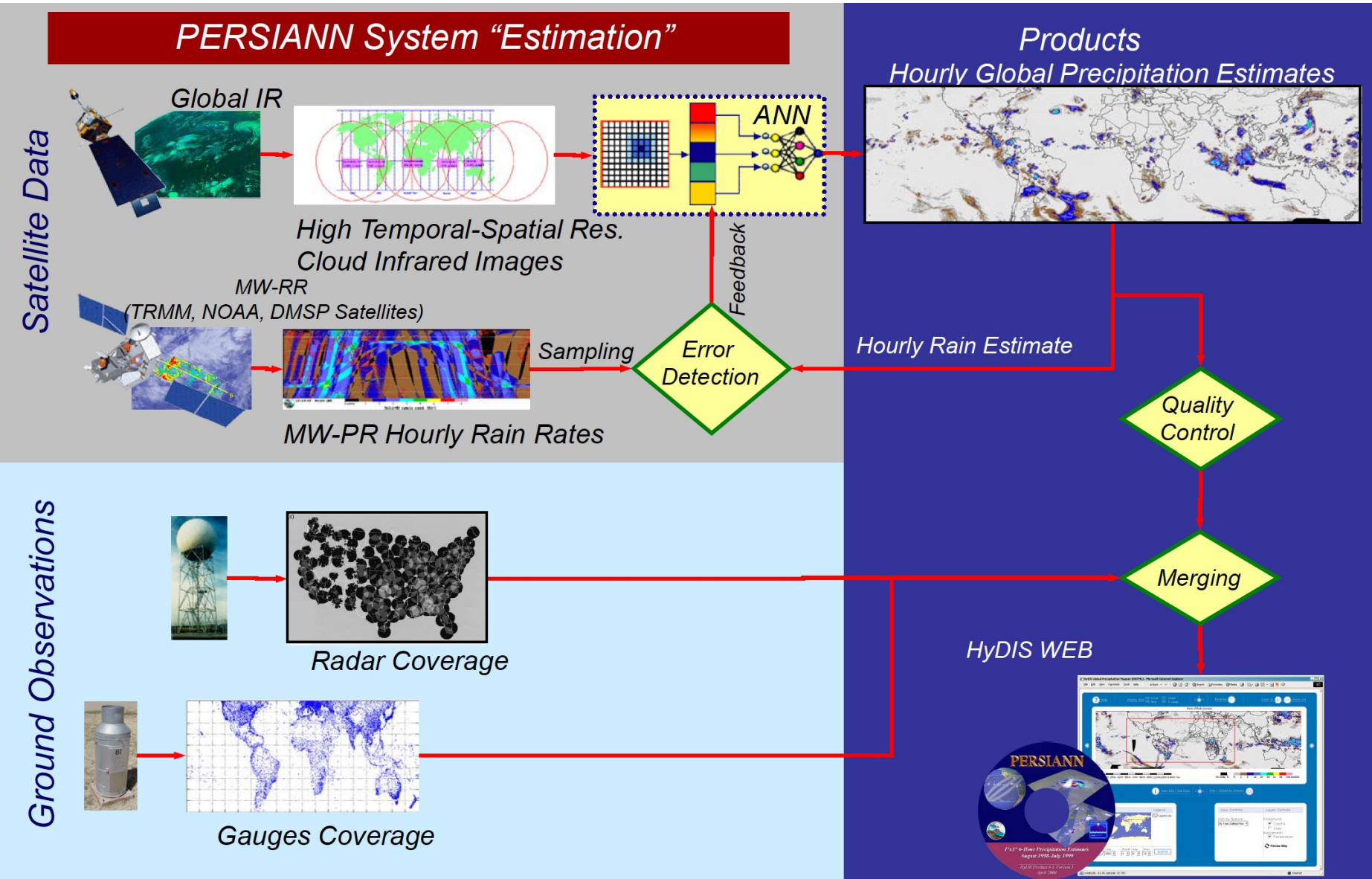
The GPM spacecraft collects information that unifies data from an international network of existing and future satellites to map global rainfall and snowfall every three hours.



Tanegashima Space Center, Japan

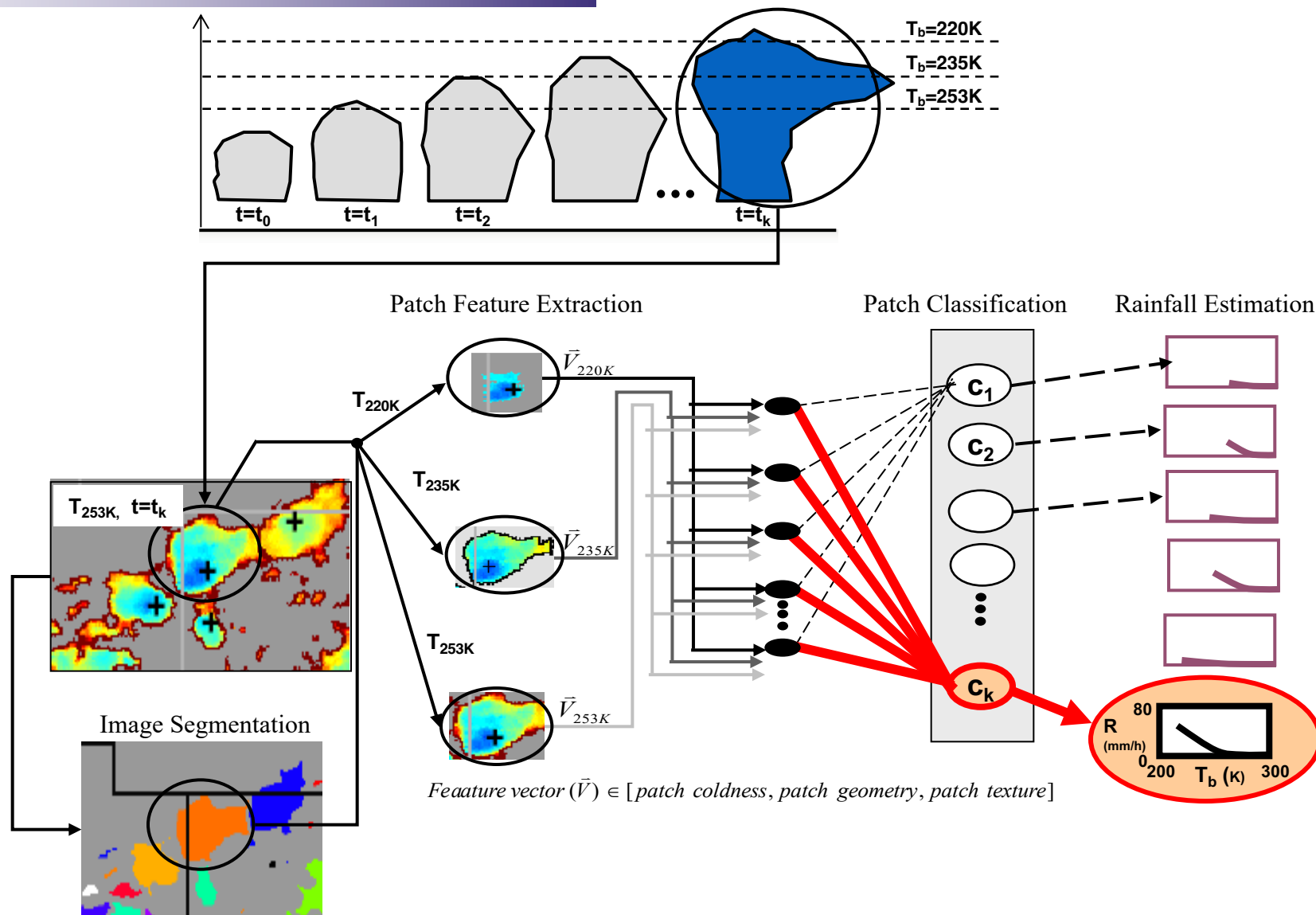
Friday, Feb. 28, 2014

# Precipitation Estimation from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural Networks (PERSIANN)

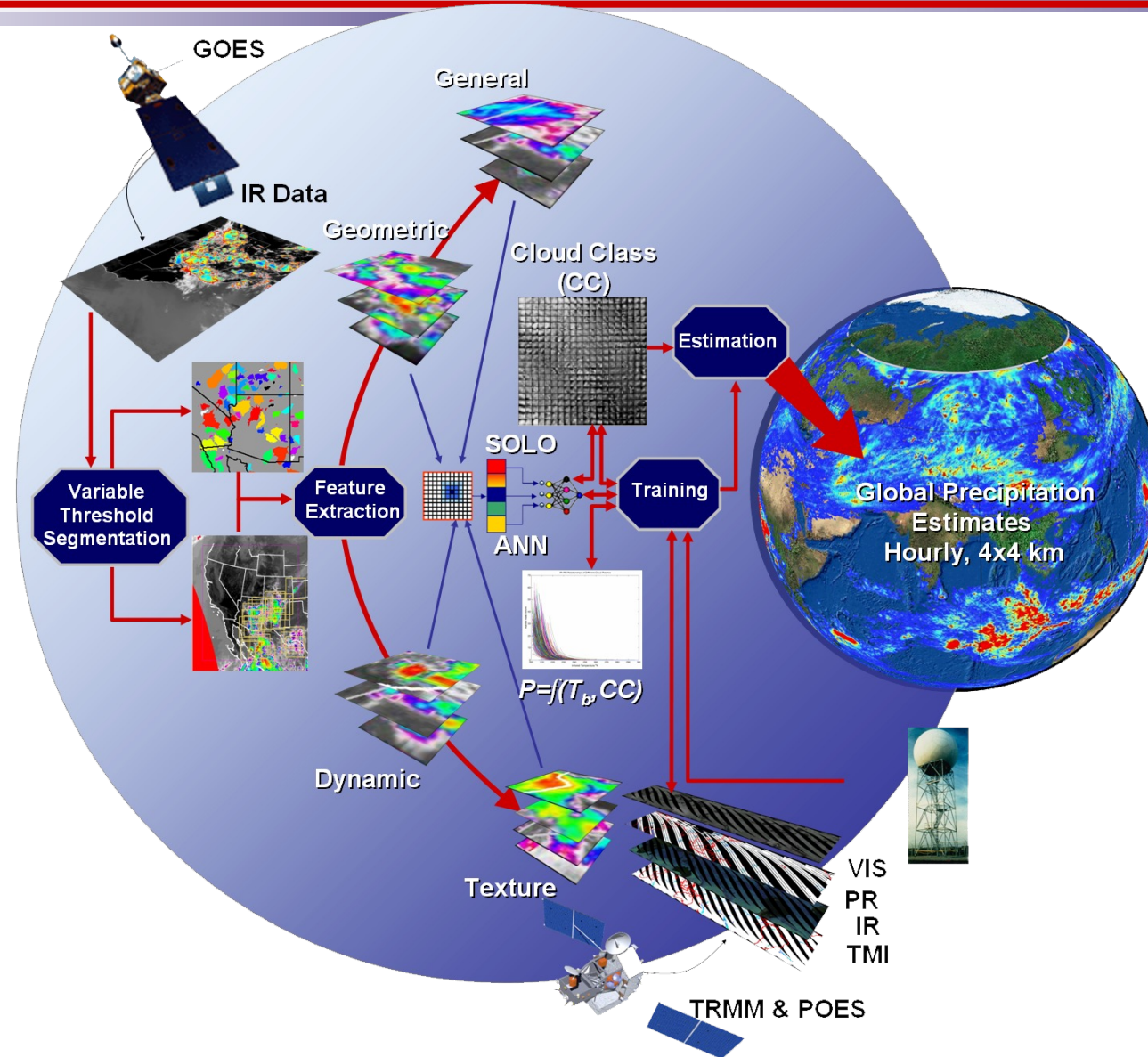




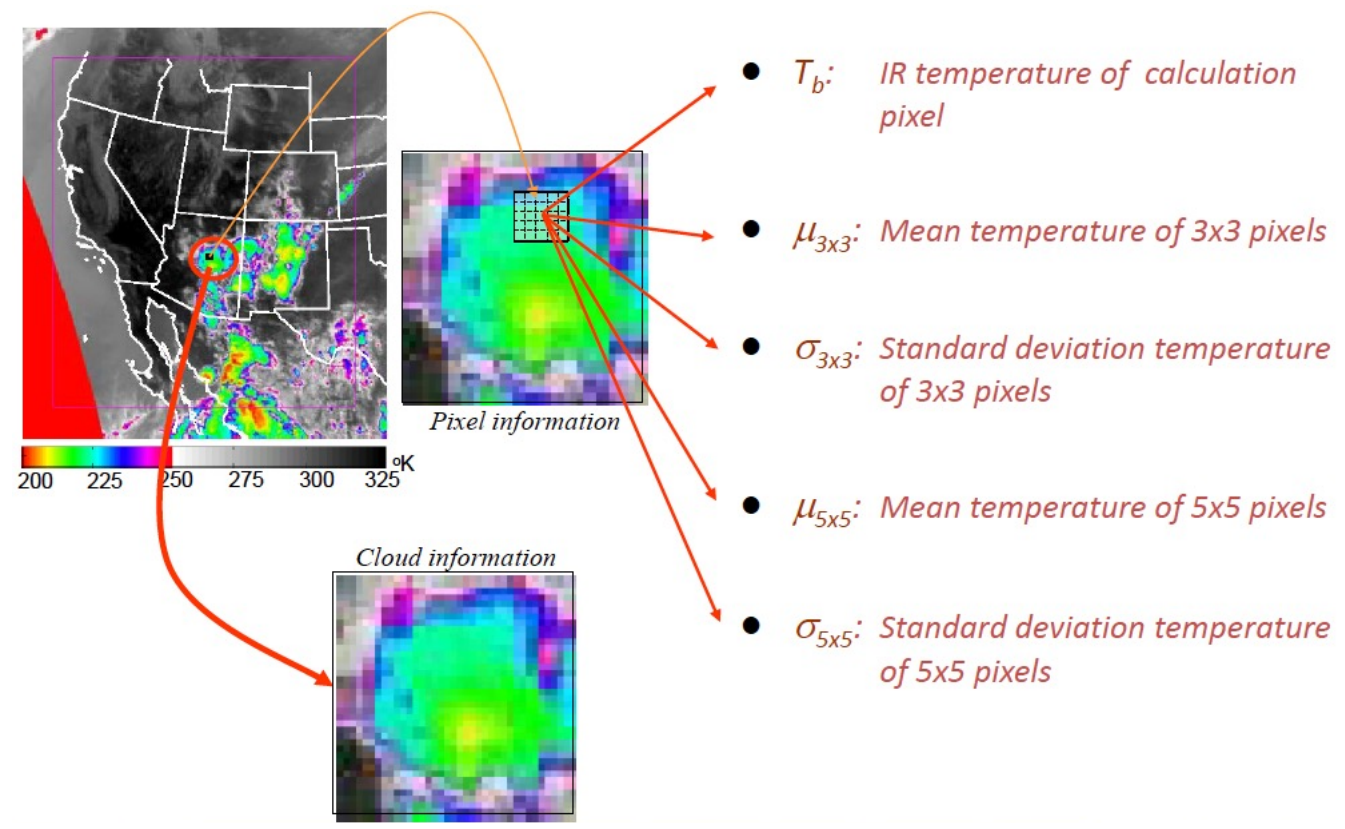
# Precipitation Estimation from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural Networks-Cloud Classification System (PERSIANN-CCS)



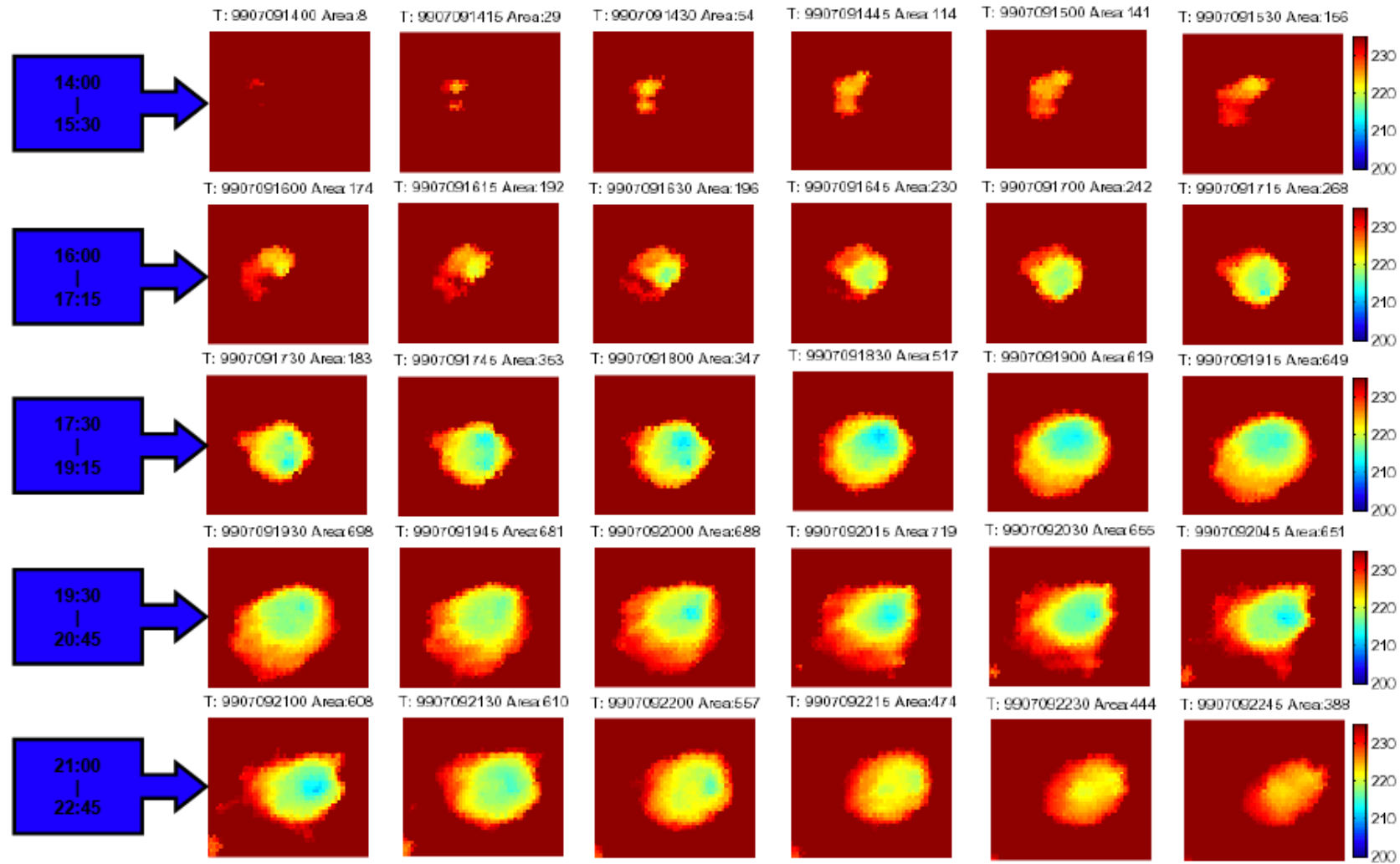
# PERSIANN-CCS (Real-time 4 km)

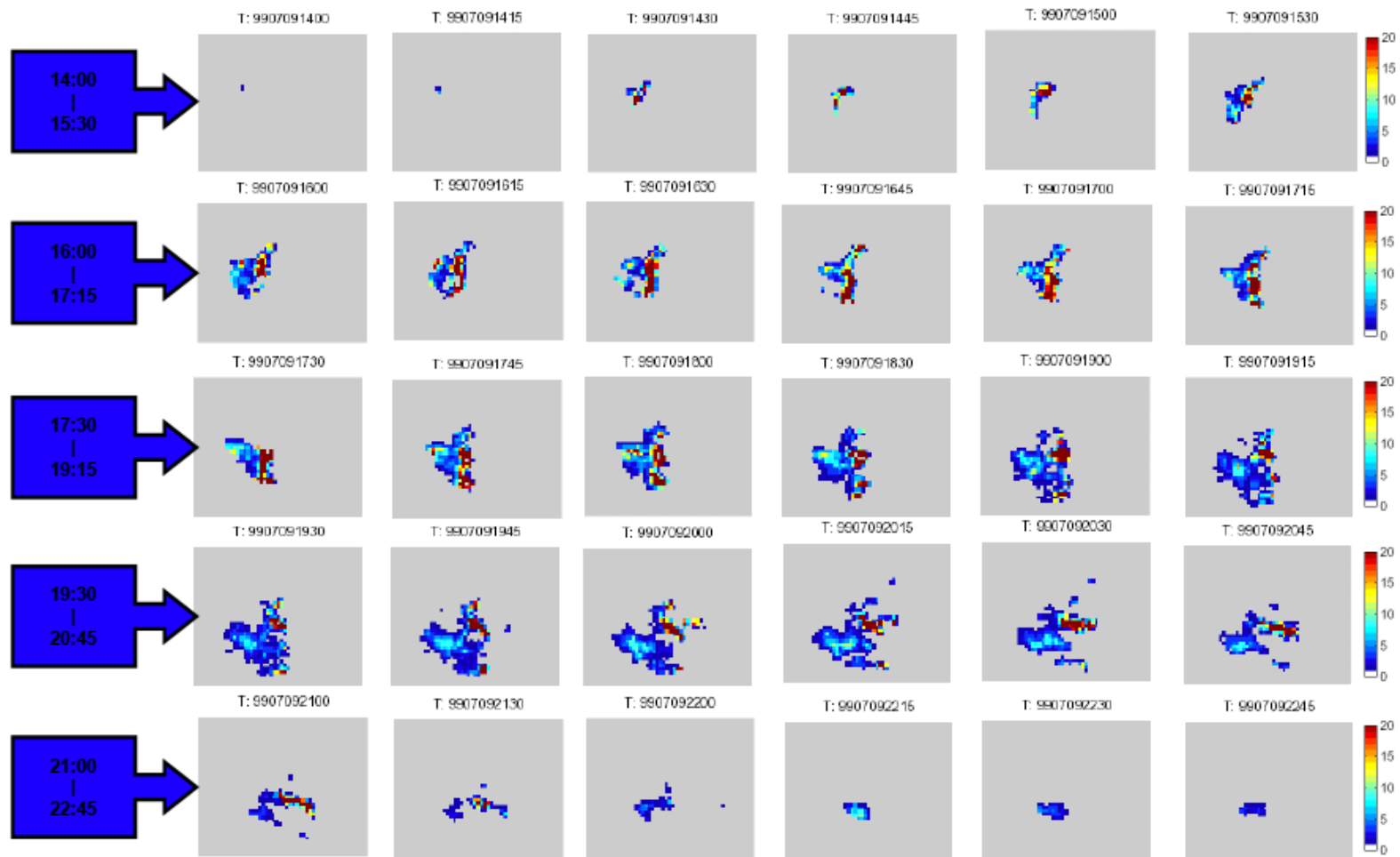


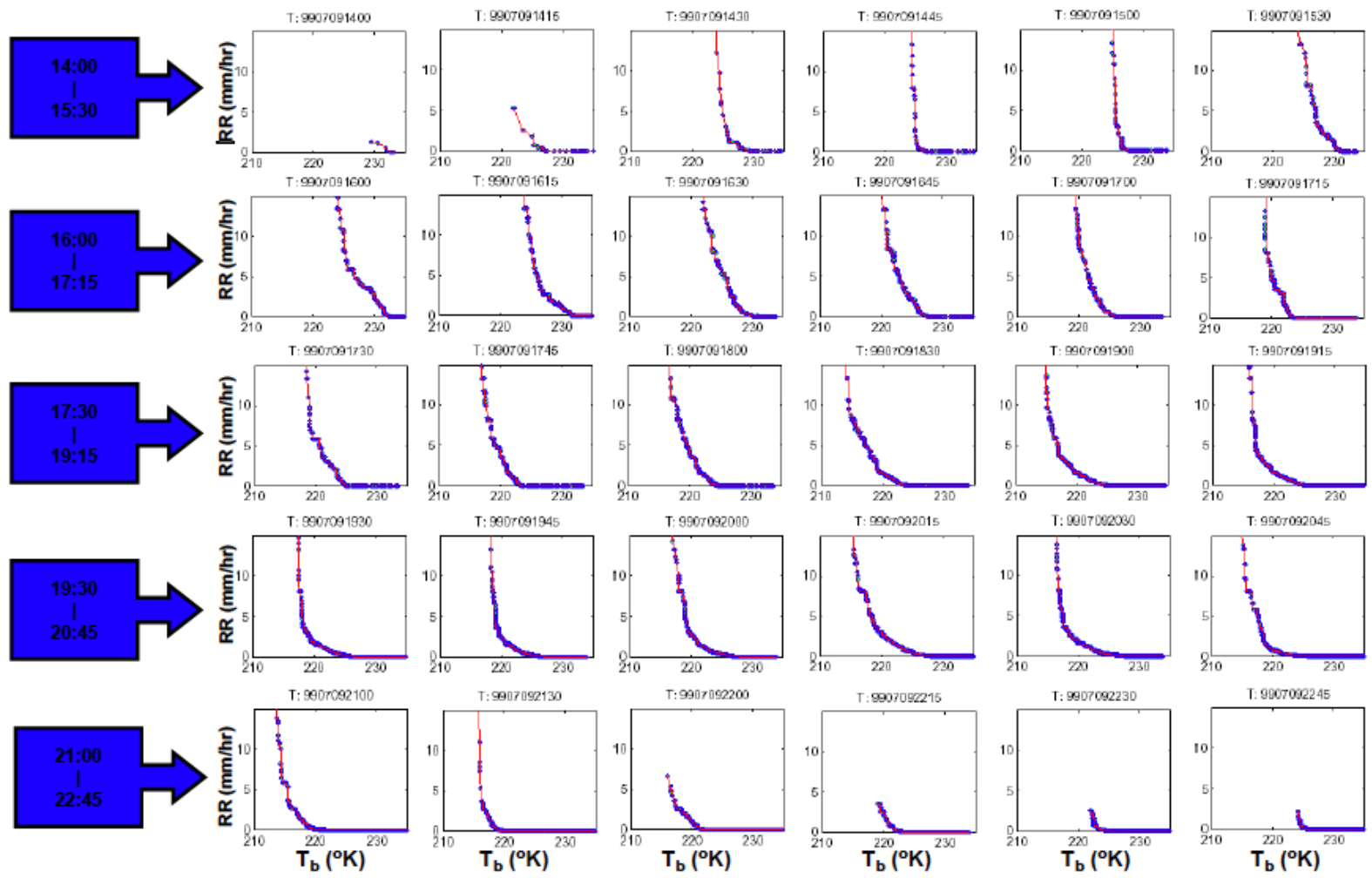
# Cloud Feature Extraction





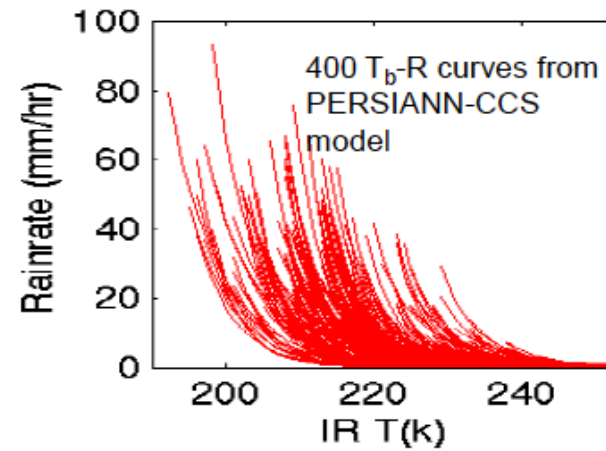
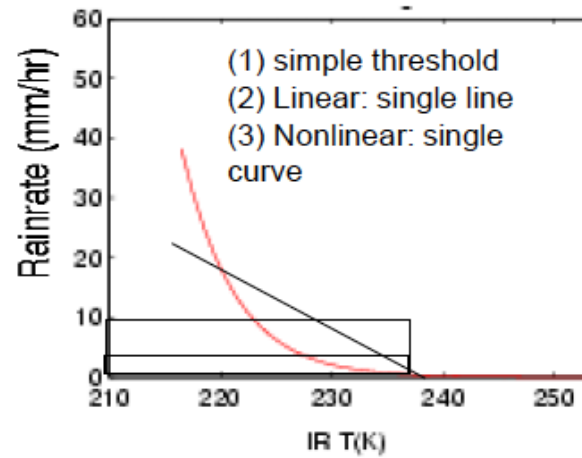
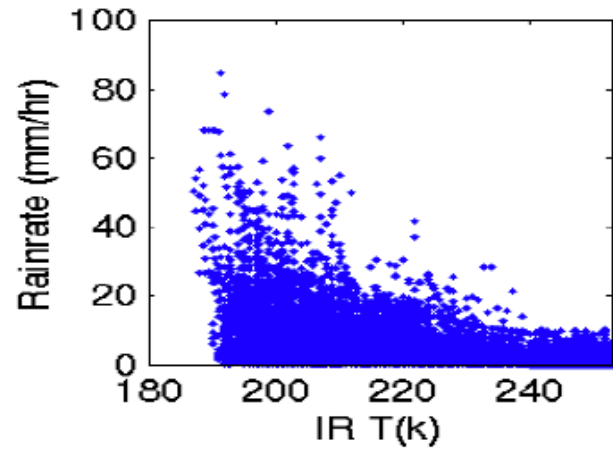


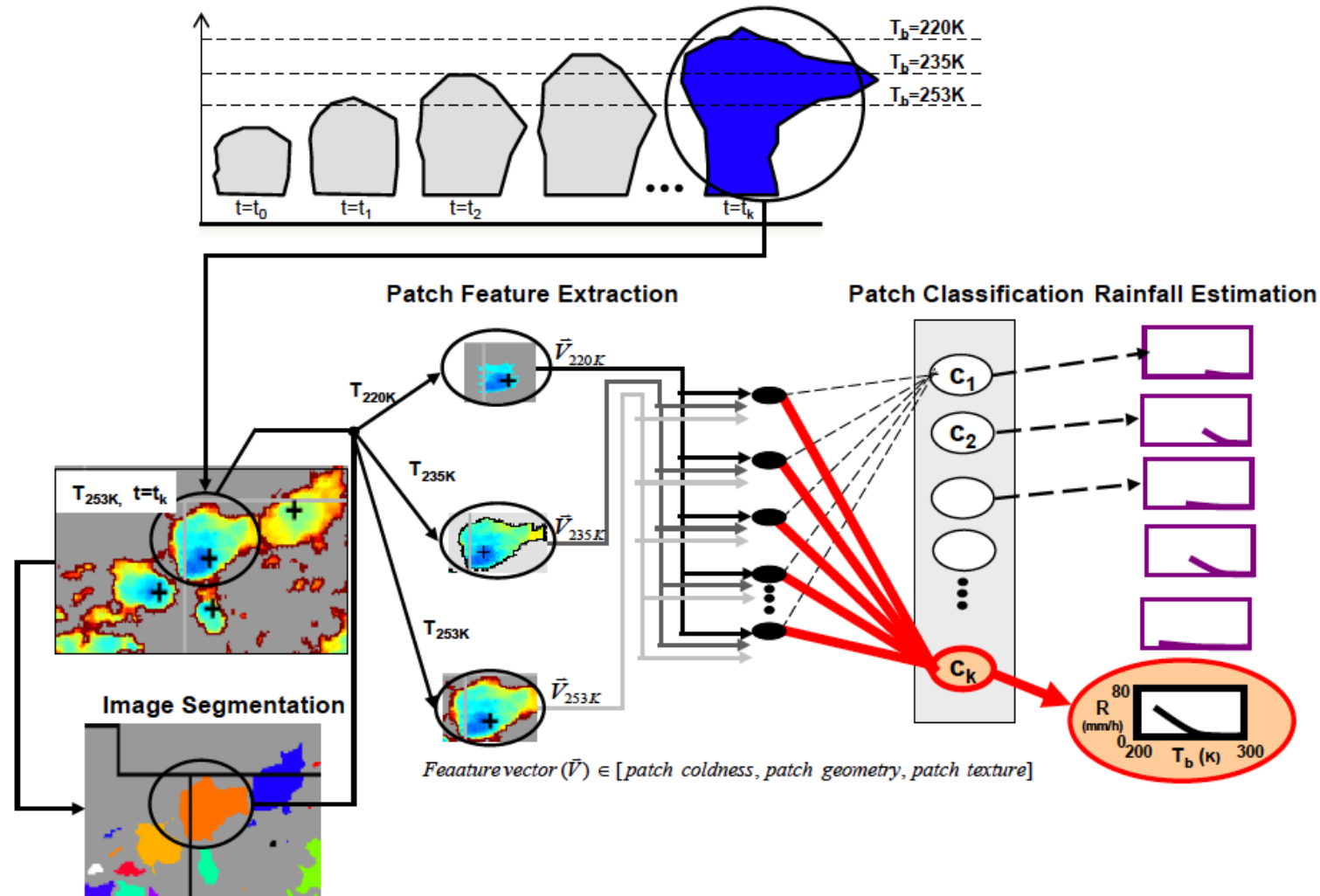






# Multiple vs. Single Curve Fitting Models





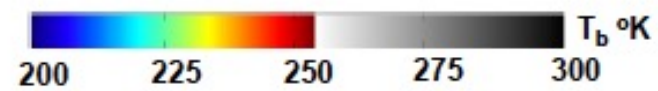
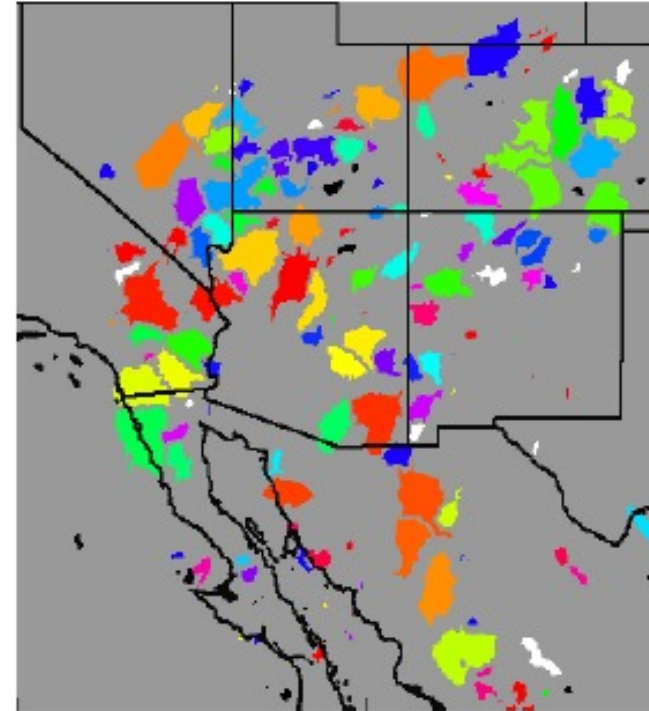
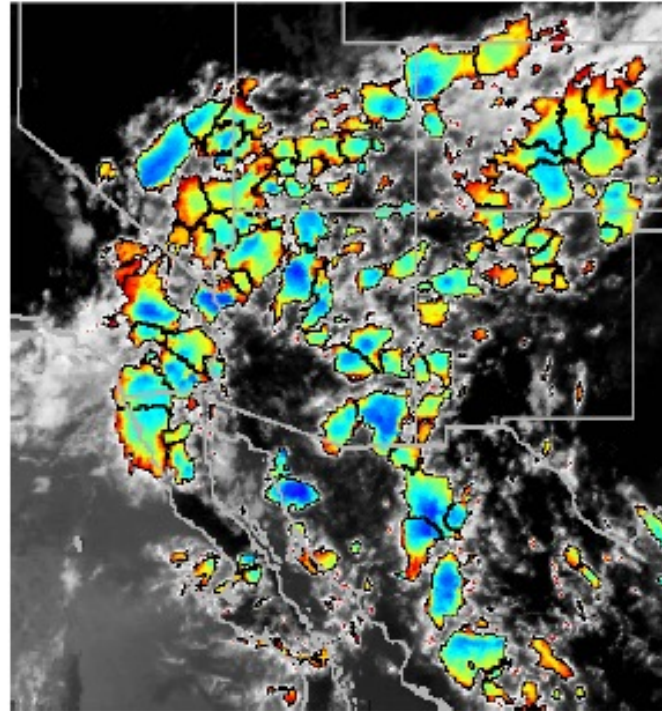
# *Image Classification and Rainfall Estimation*

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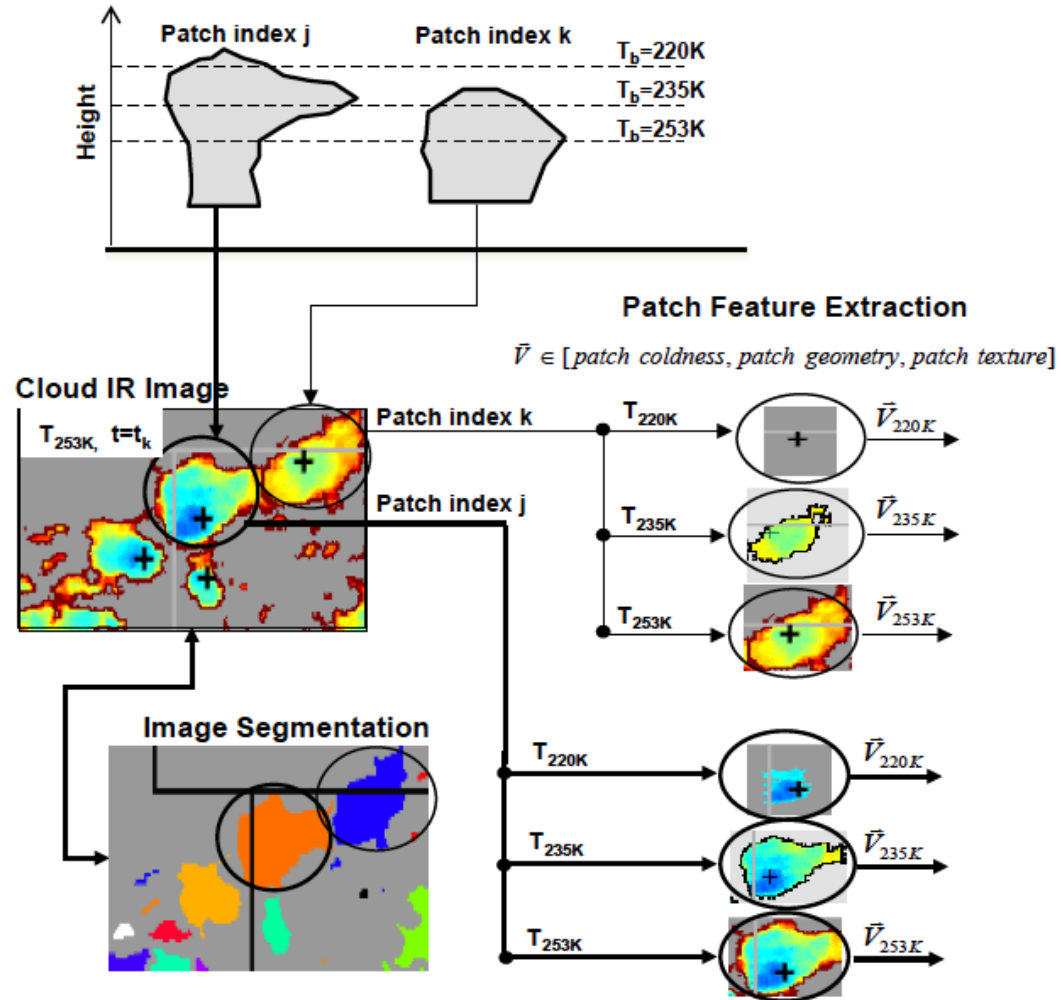
- *Cloud Segmentation (Cloud Patch vs. Pixel Window)*
  - *Cloud Feature Extraction*
  - *Cloud Patch Classification*
  - *Cloud Coverage and Rainfall Distribution*
-



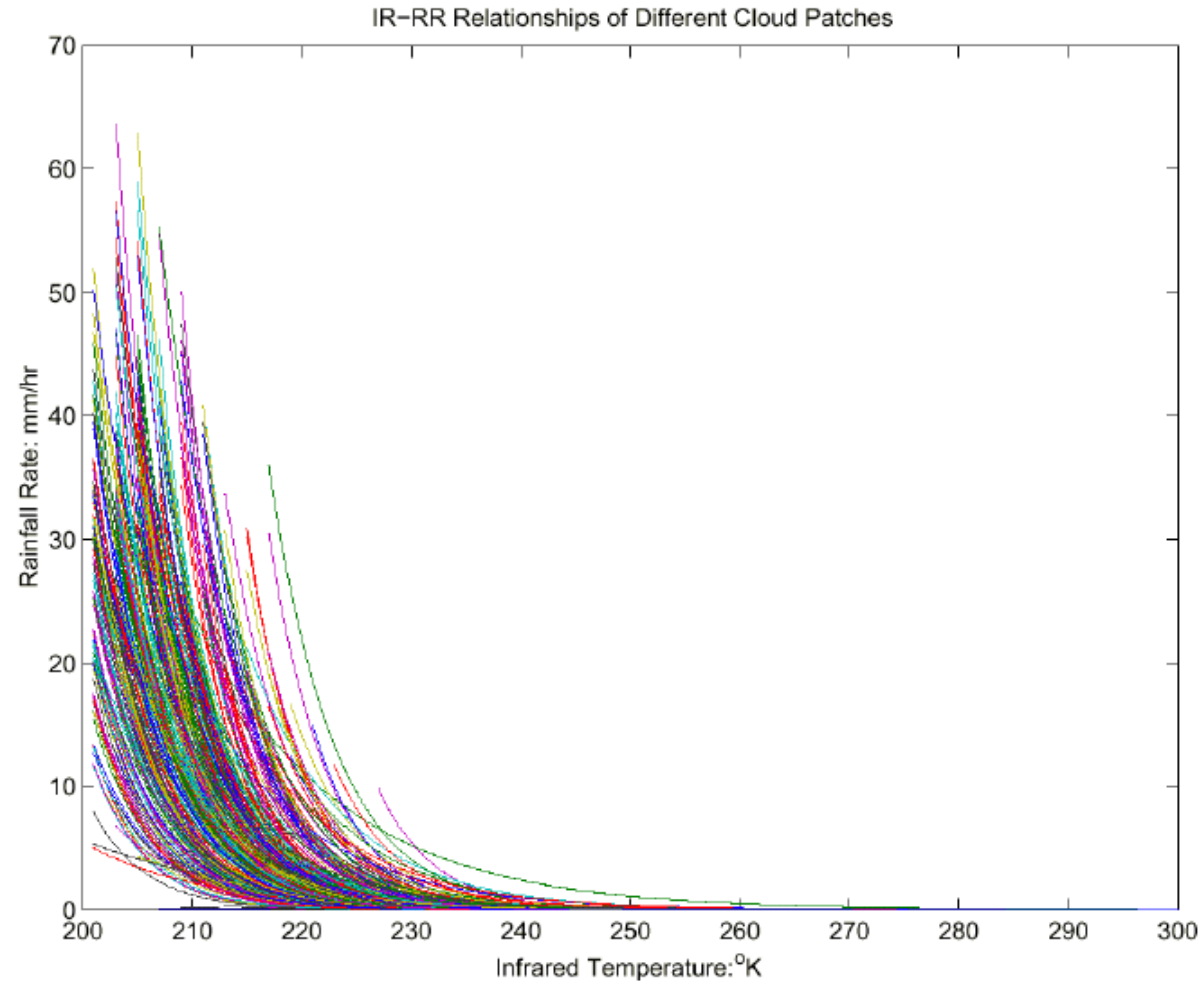
# Cloud Segmentation Algorithm



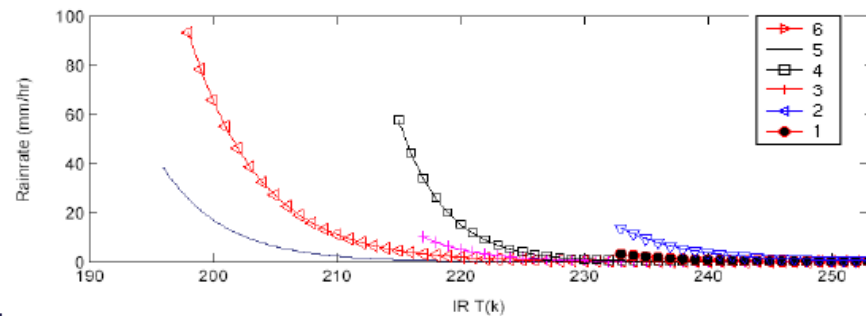
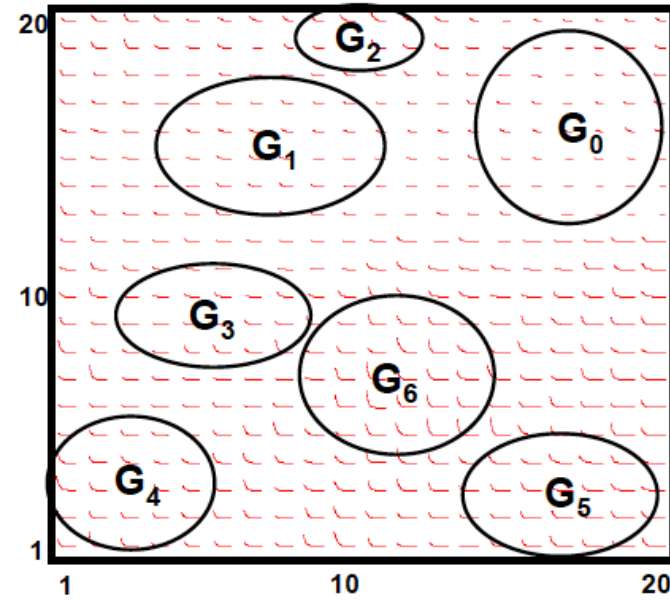
# Features Extraction



# *IR-RR Relationship of Various Cloud Patches*



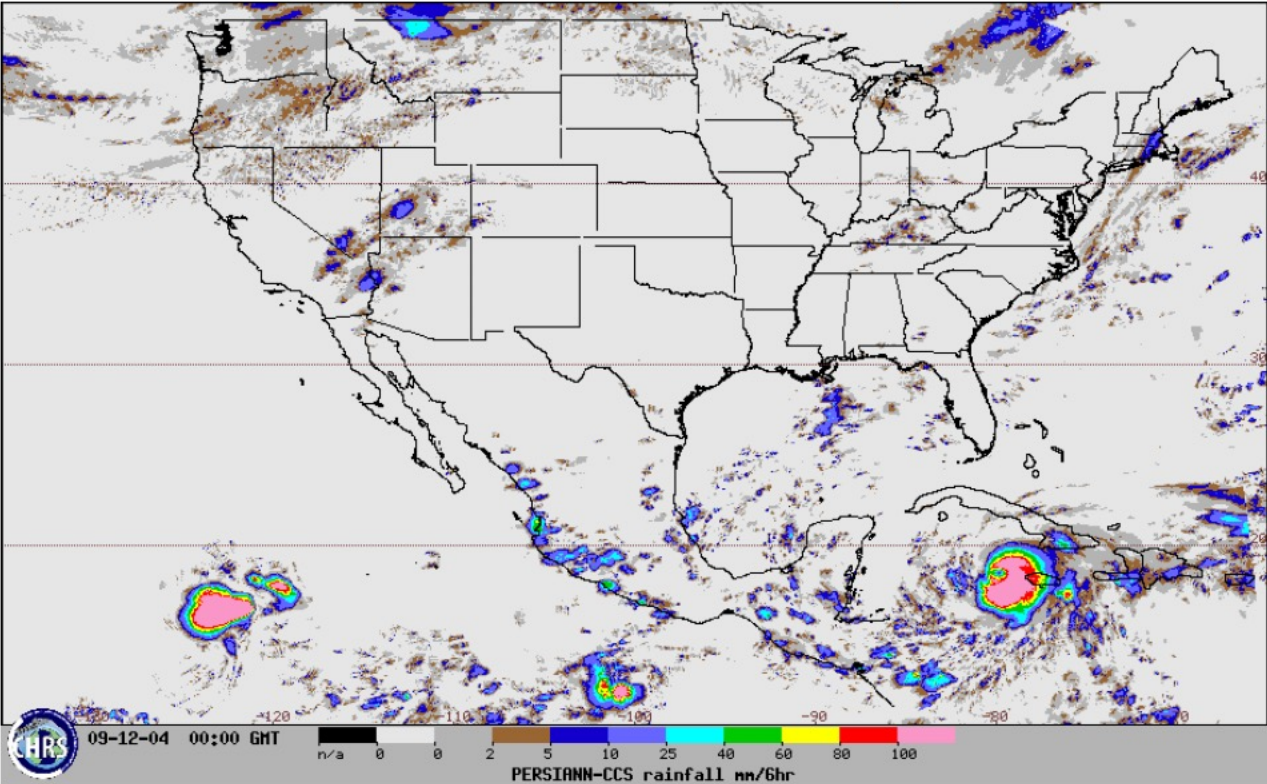
# IR-RR Relationship of Various Cloud Patches



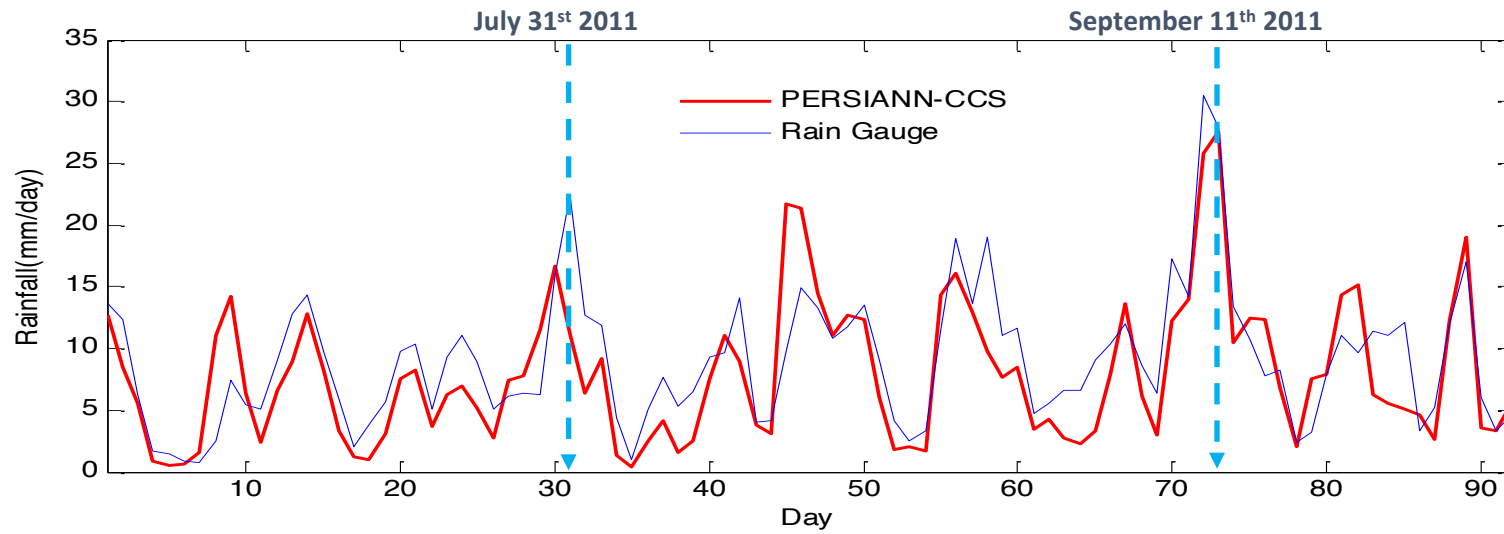
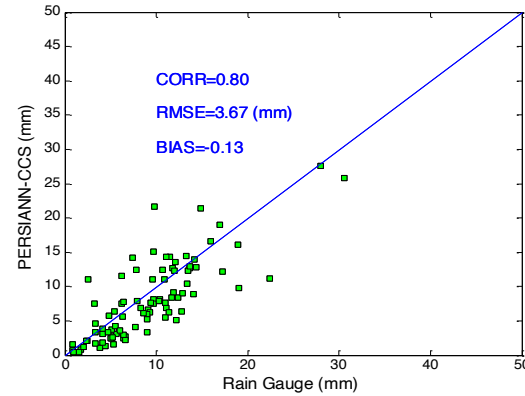
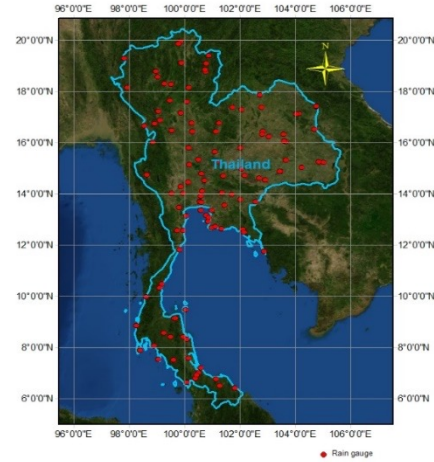


# Six-Hour Accumulated Rainfall: Hurricane Ivan September 2004

hydis8.eng.uci.edu/CCS



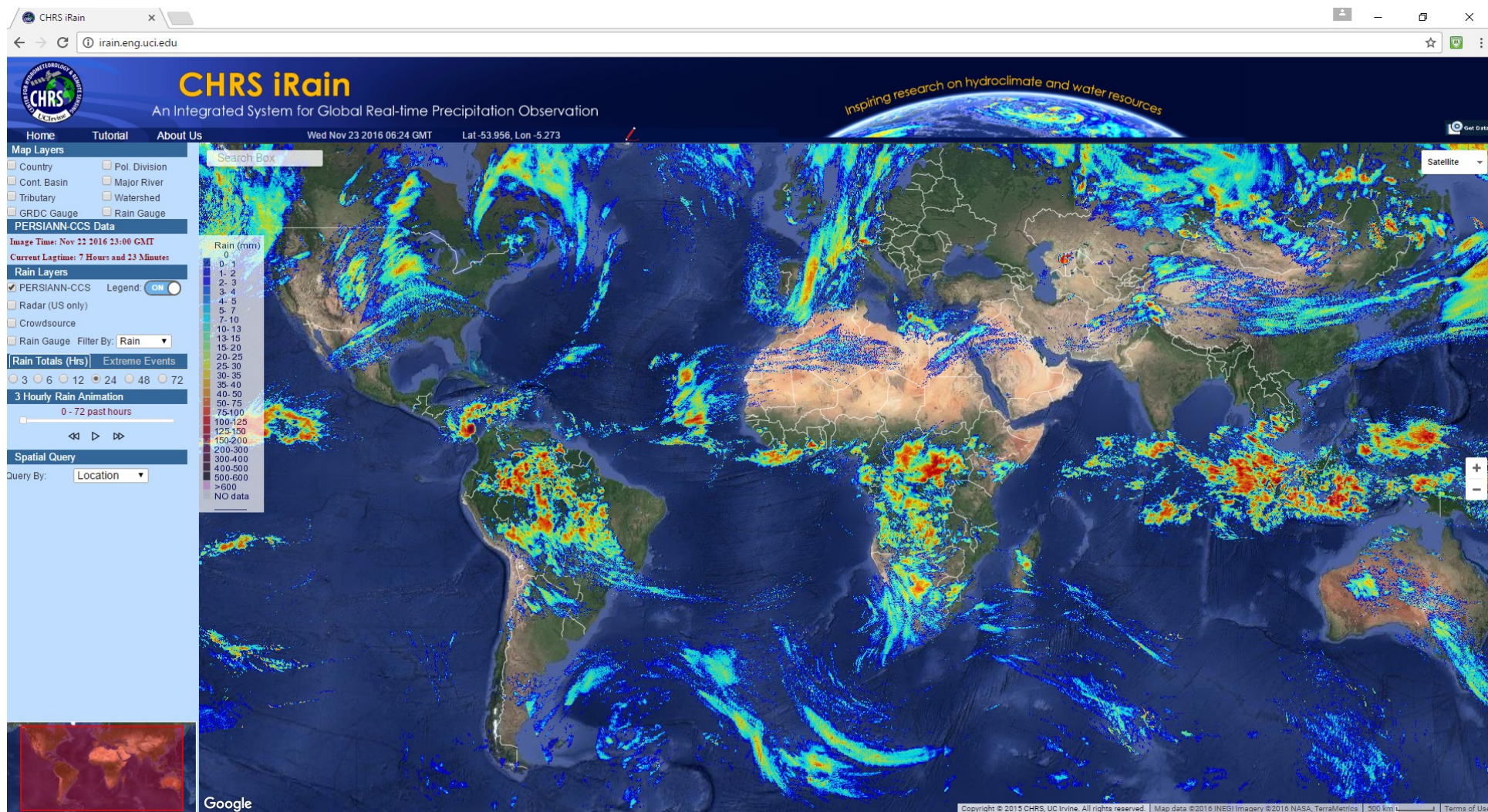
# Thailand Flood 2011



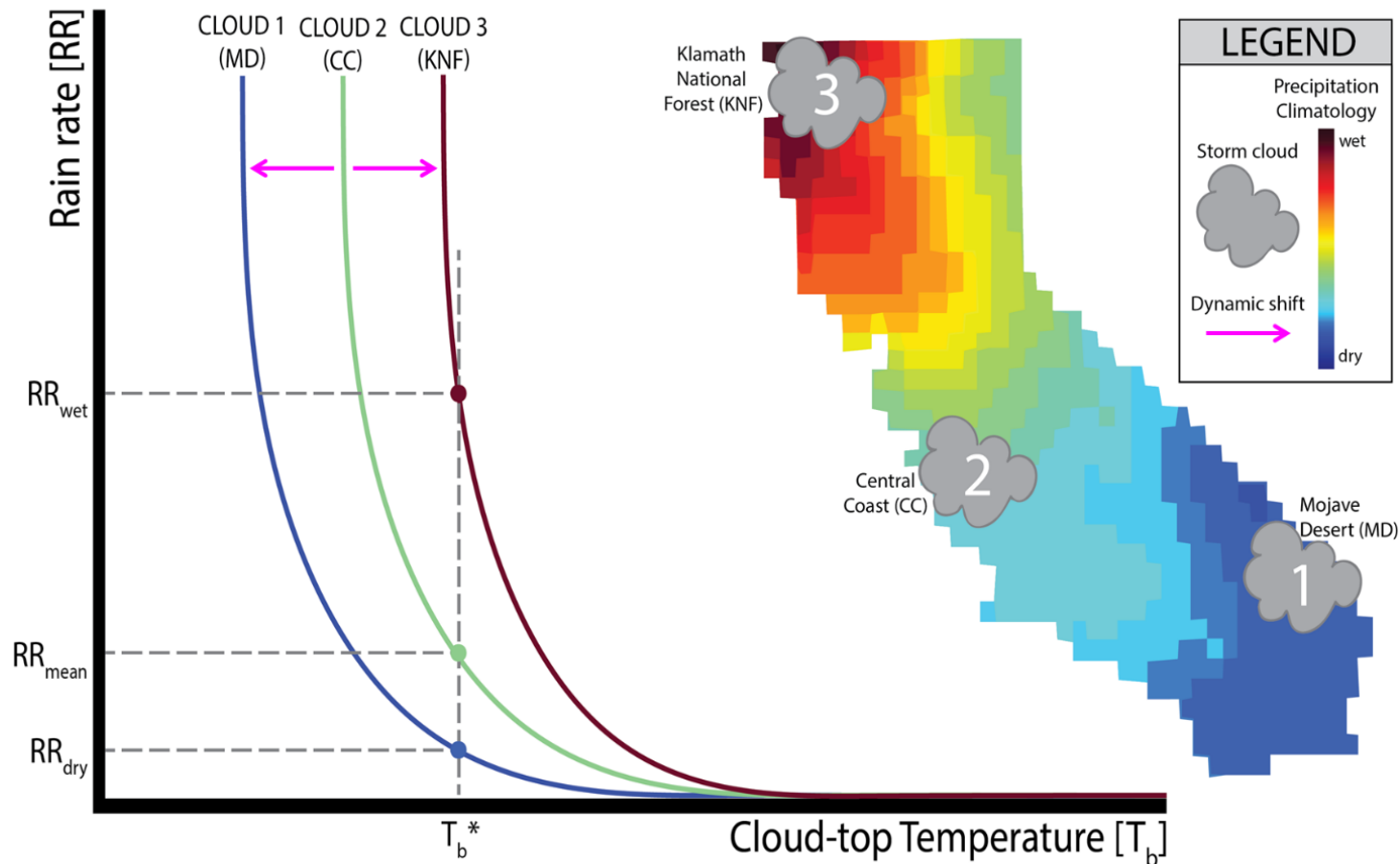
*Hsu, Sellars and Nguyen et al. 2013*



# iRain: <http://irain.eng.uci.edu/>



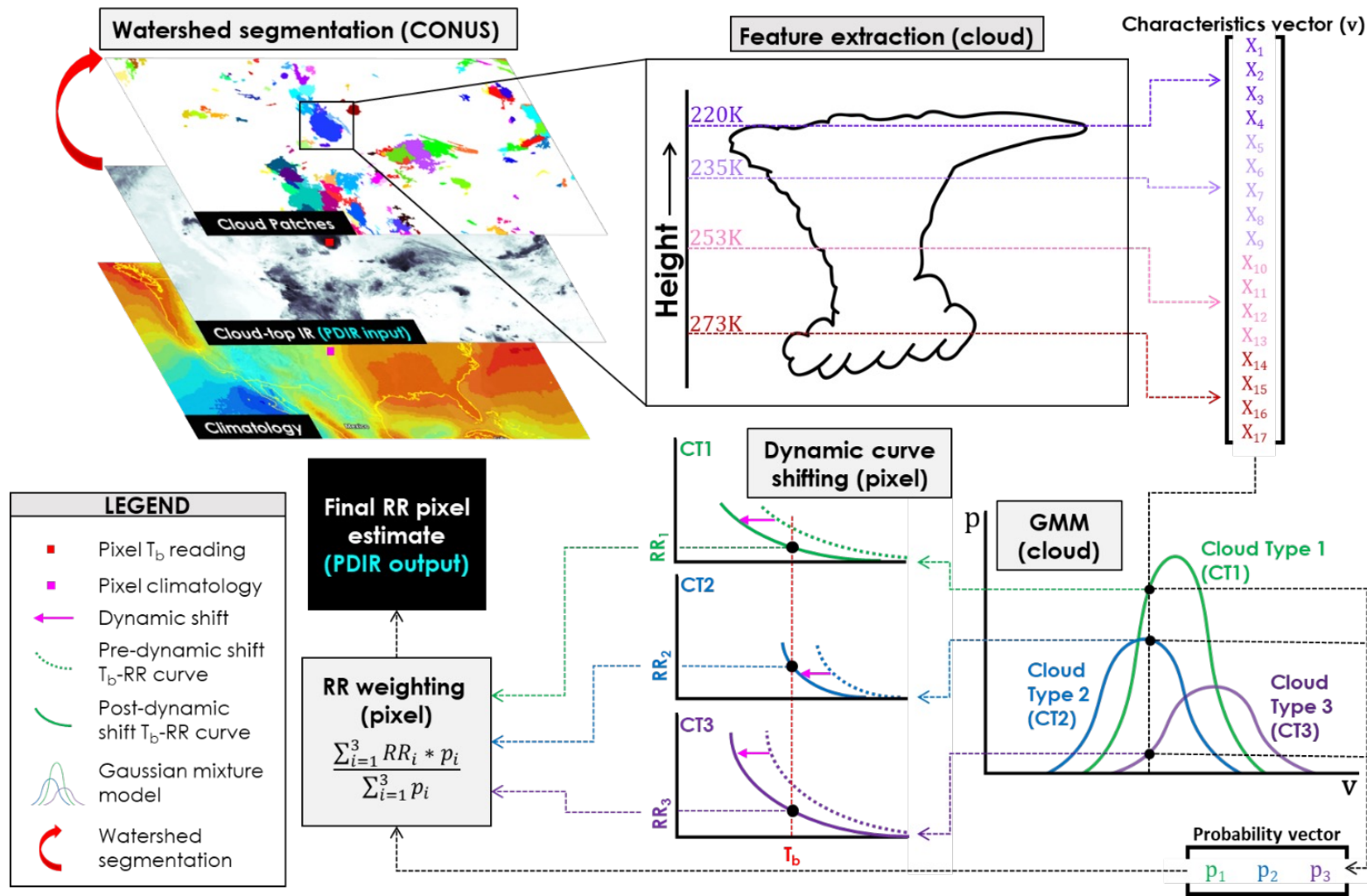
# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



The dynamic cloud-top brightness temperature ( $T_b$ )-rain rate (RR) model

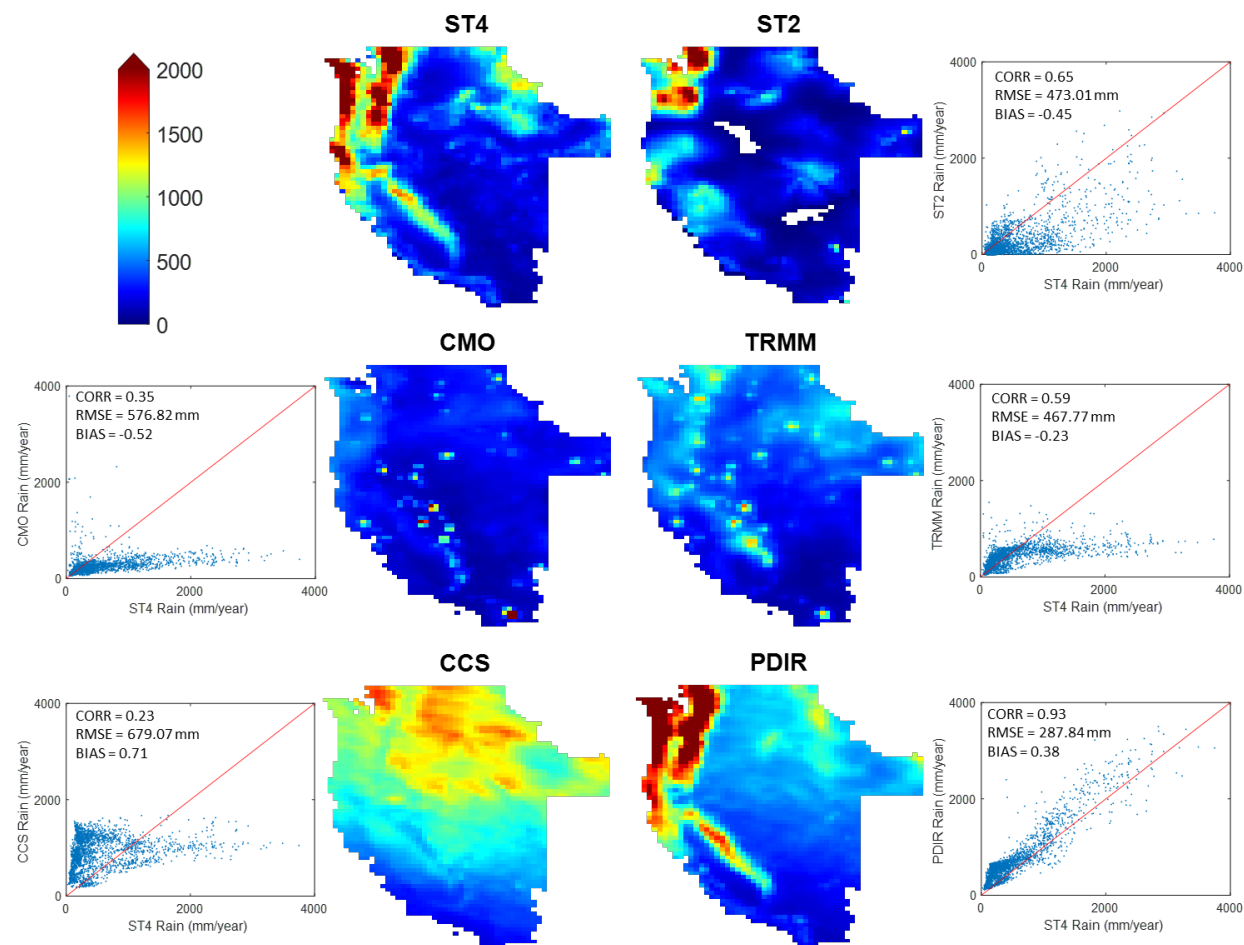


# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



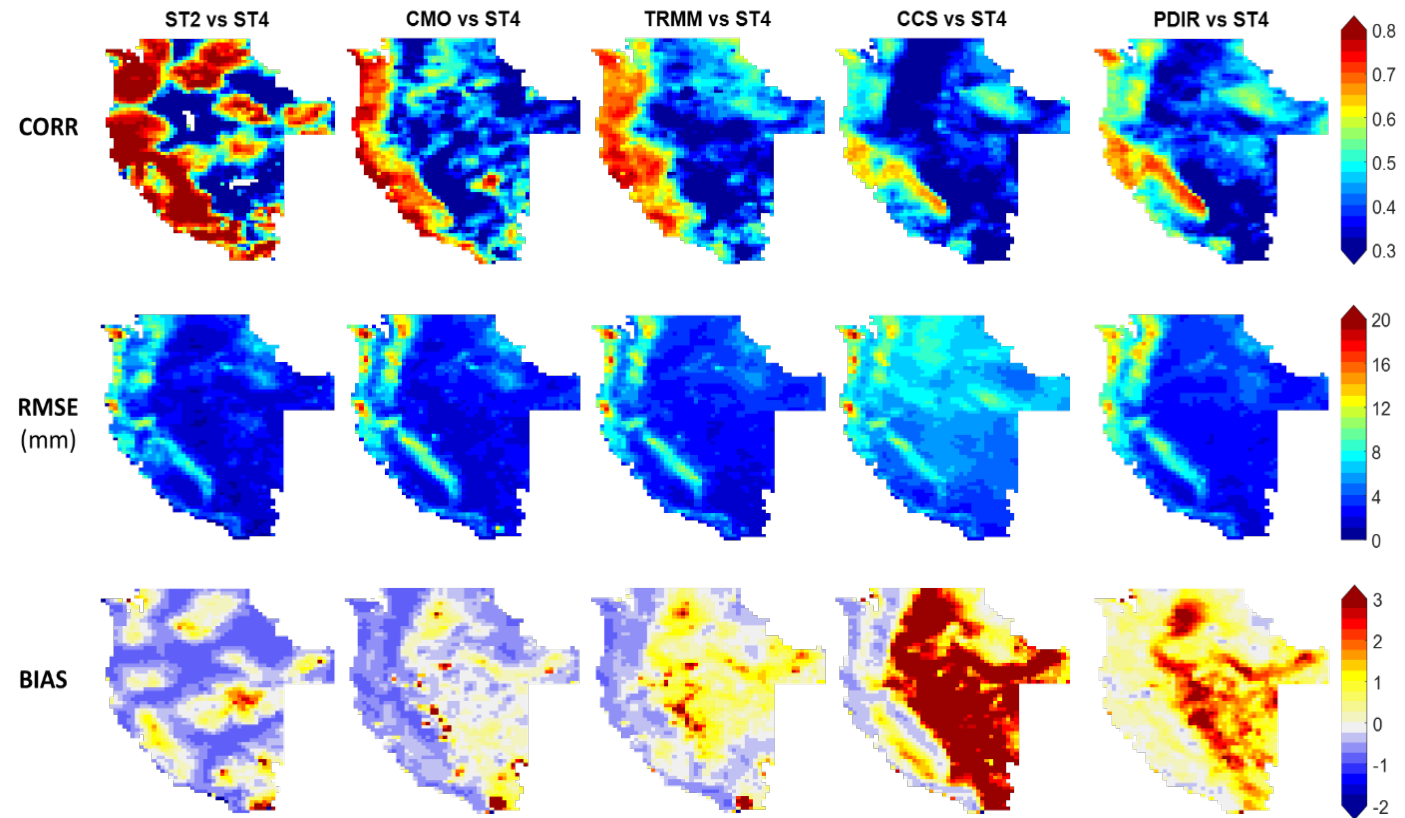
The workflow of PDIR from input to output

# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



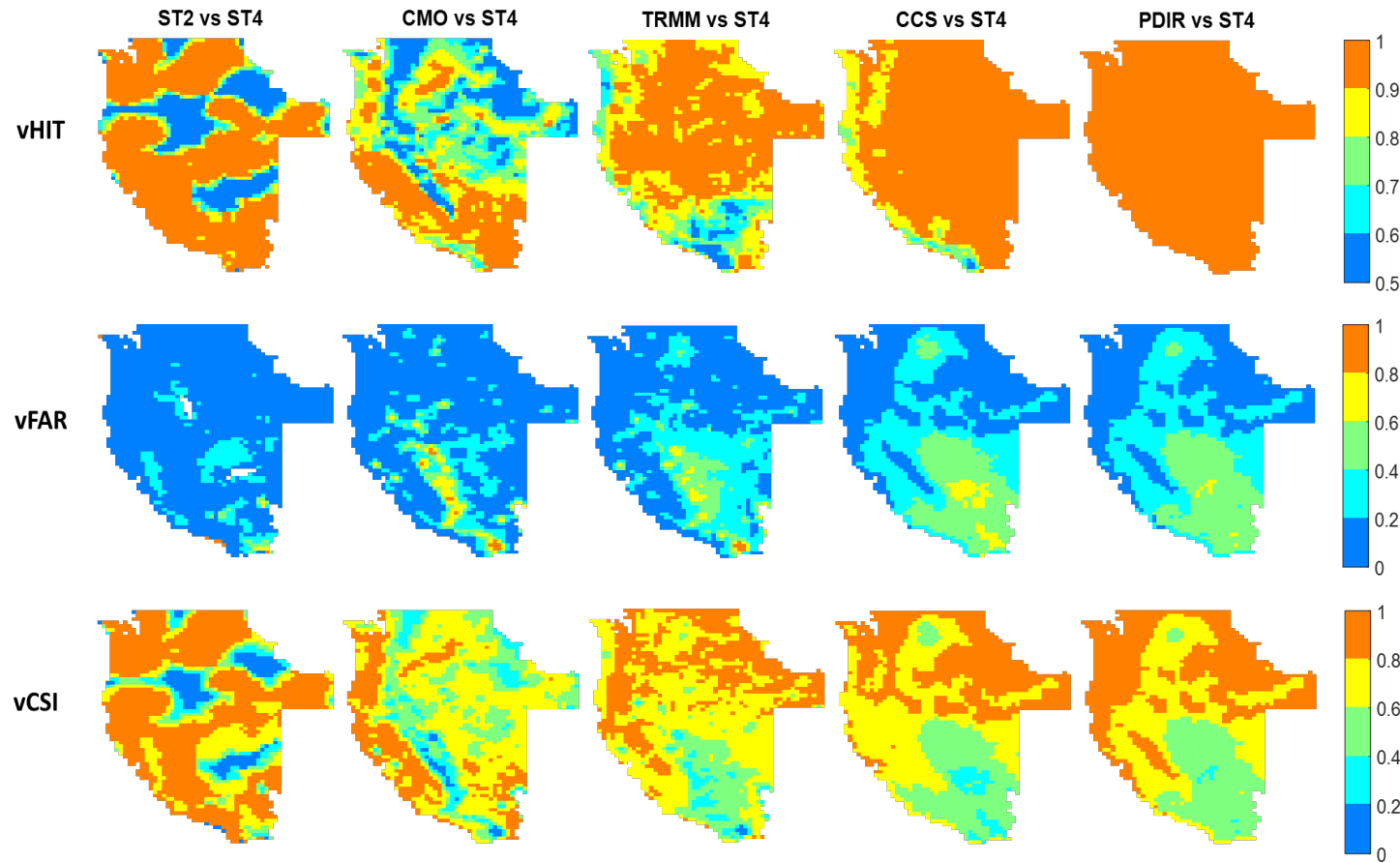
Average annual rainfall in mm/year for the validation period (2008-2013) for the baseline product Stage IV (ST4), the near real-time Stage II (ST2), the three satellite-based precipitation products (CMORPH (CMO), TRMM, and PERSIANN-CCS (CCS)) and the new product, PDIR.

# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



Continuous comparison metrics for daily rainfall

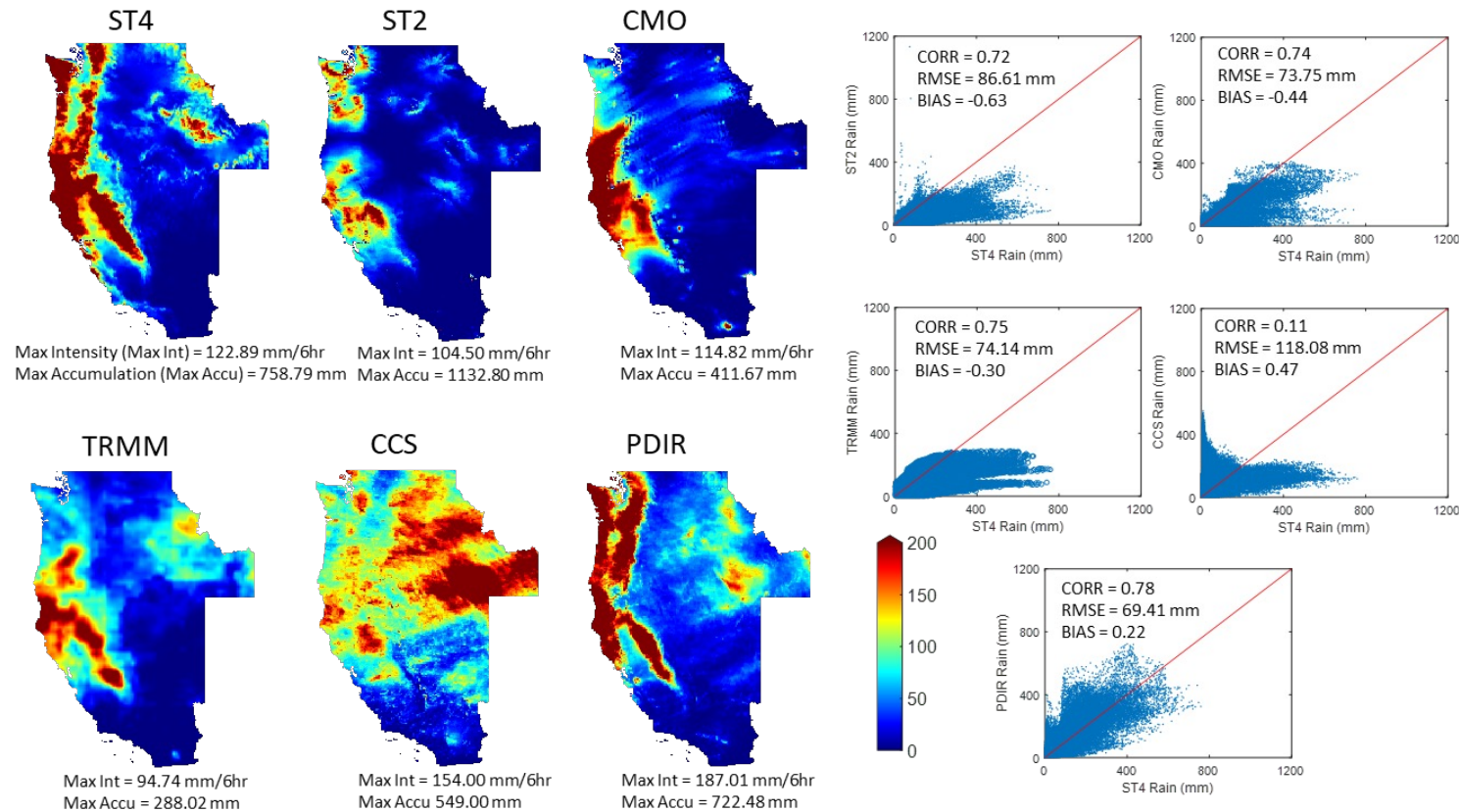
# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



Volumetric categorical indices for daily rainfall

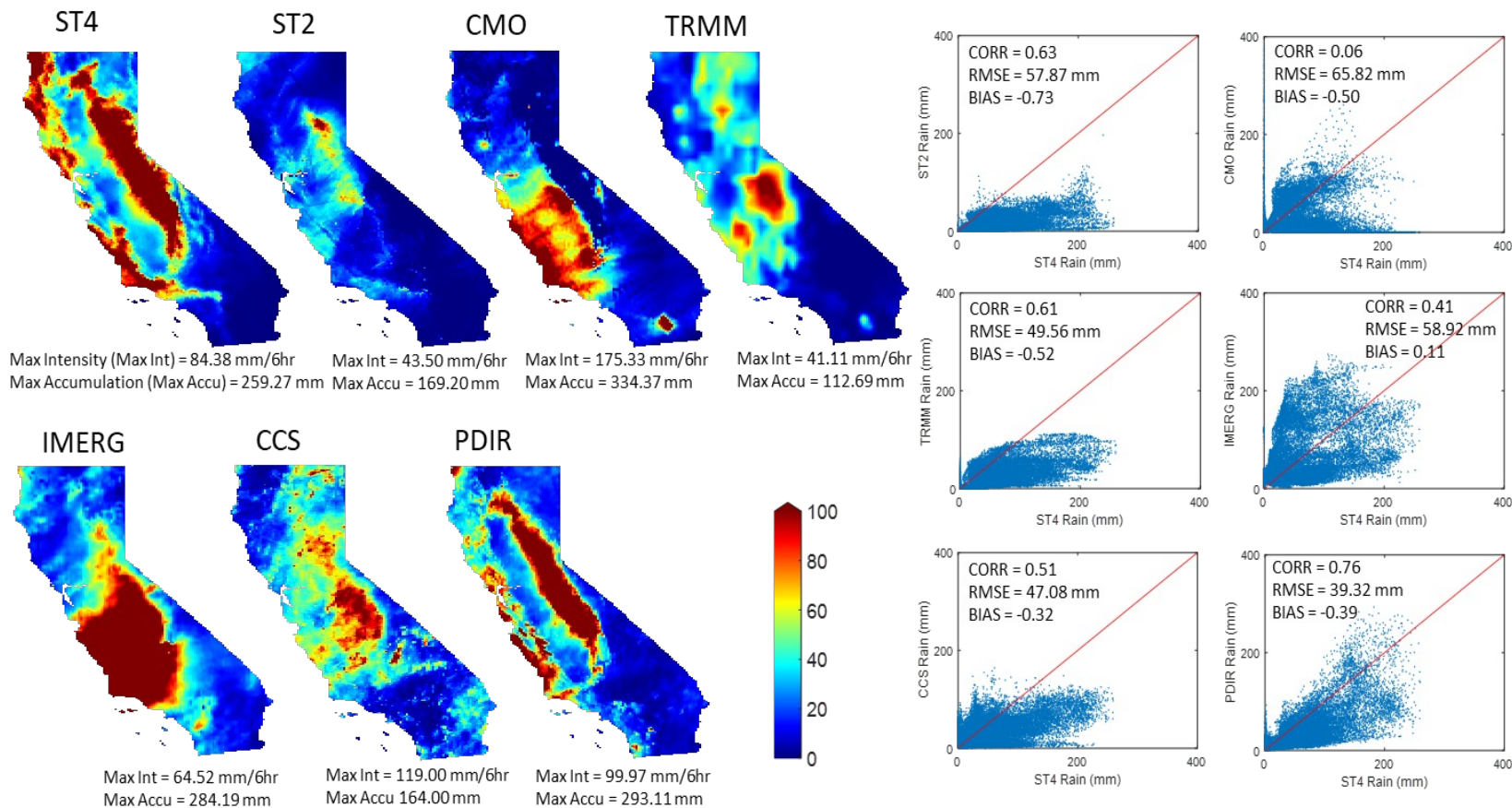


# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



Rainfall during the period November 28th, 2012 to December 7th, 2012 associated with an extreme AR event over California

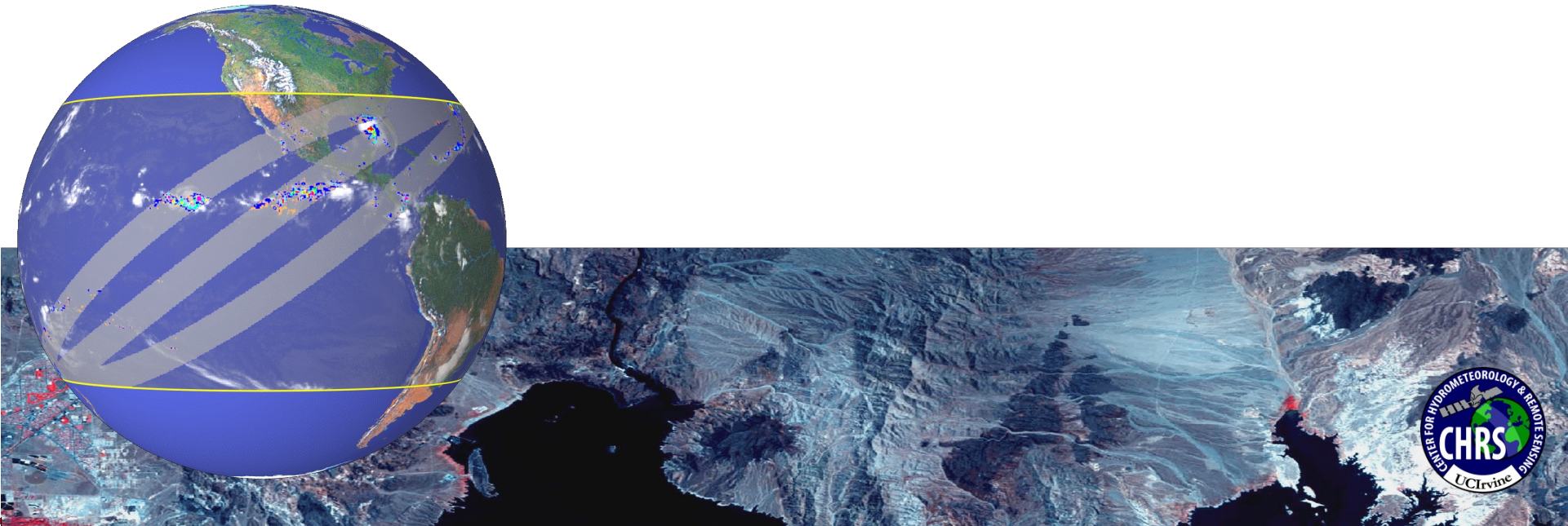
# PERSIANN Dynamic-Infrared Rain rate model (PDIR)



Rainfall during the period March 20, 2018 to March 25, 2018 associated with an extreme AR event over California

# PERSIANN Precipitation Climate Data Record

Reconstruction of 30-year+ Daily Precipitation Data





# PERSIANN Precipitation Climate Data Record

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdr/operationalcdrs.html>

NOAA'S NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER

## NOAA's Climate Data Record (CDR) Program

PRECIPITATION ESTIMATION FROM REMOTE SENSING INFORMATION USING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK

# PERSIANN



**PERSIANN CLIMATE DATA RECORD SPECIFICATIONS**

- 0.25-deg \* 0.25-deg (60°S–60°N latitude and 0°–360° longitude)
- Daily Product
- 1980–present
- Updated Monthly

**INPUTS TO THE PERSIANN CLIMATE DATA RECORD**

- GridSat-B1 CDR (IRWIN)
- GPCP 2.5-deg Monthly Data

**SOME USES OF THE PERSIANN CLIMATE DATA RECORD**

- Climatologists can perform long-term climate studies at a finer resolution than previously possible.
- Hydrologists can use PERSIANN-CDR for rainfall-runoff modeling in regional and global scale, particularly in remote regions.
- Performing extreme Event Analysis (intensity, frequencies, and duration of floods and droughts).
- Water Resources Systems Planning and Management

**PERSIANN CLIMATE DATA RECORD**  
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdr/operationalcdrs.html>

**CLIMATE DATA RECORD PROGRAM INFORMATION**  
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdr/index.html>

 [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov)  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov)

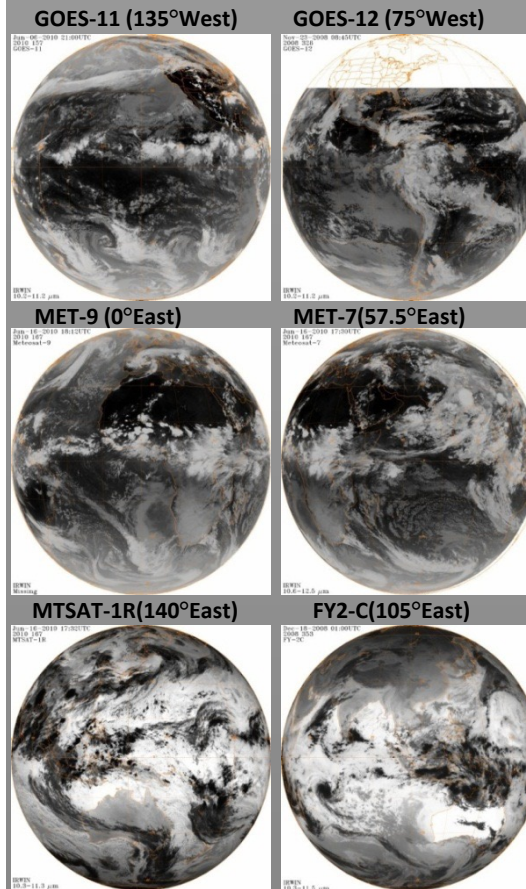
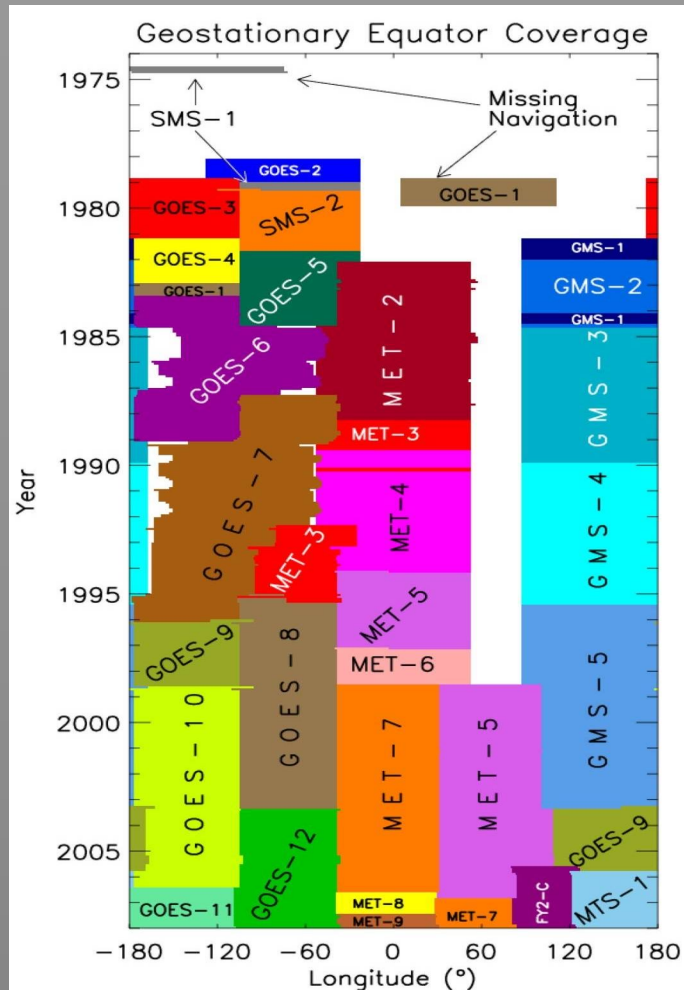
*Protecting the past... Revealing the future*  
September 2013

- **Daily Precipitation Data**
- **Data Period: 1983~2023**
- **Coverage: 60°S ~ 60°N**
- **Spatial Resolution: 0.25°x0.25°**



# Historical GEO Satellite Data

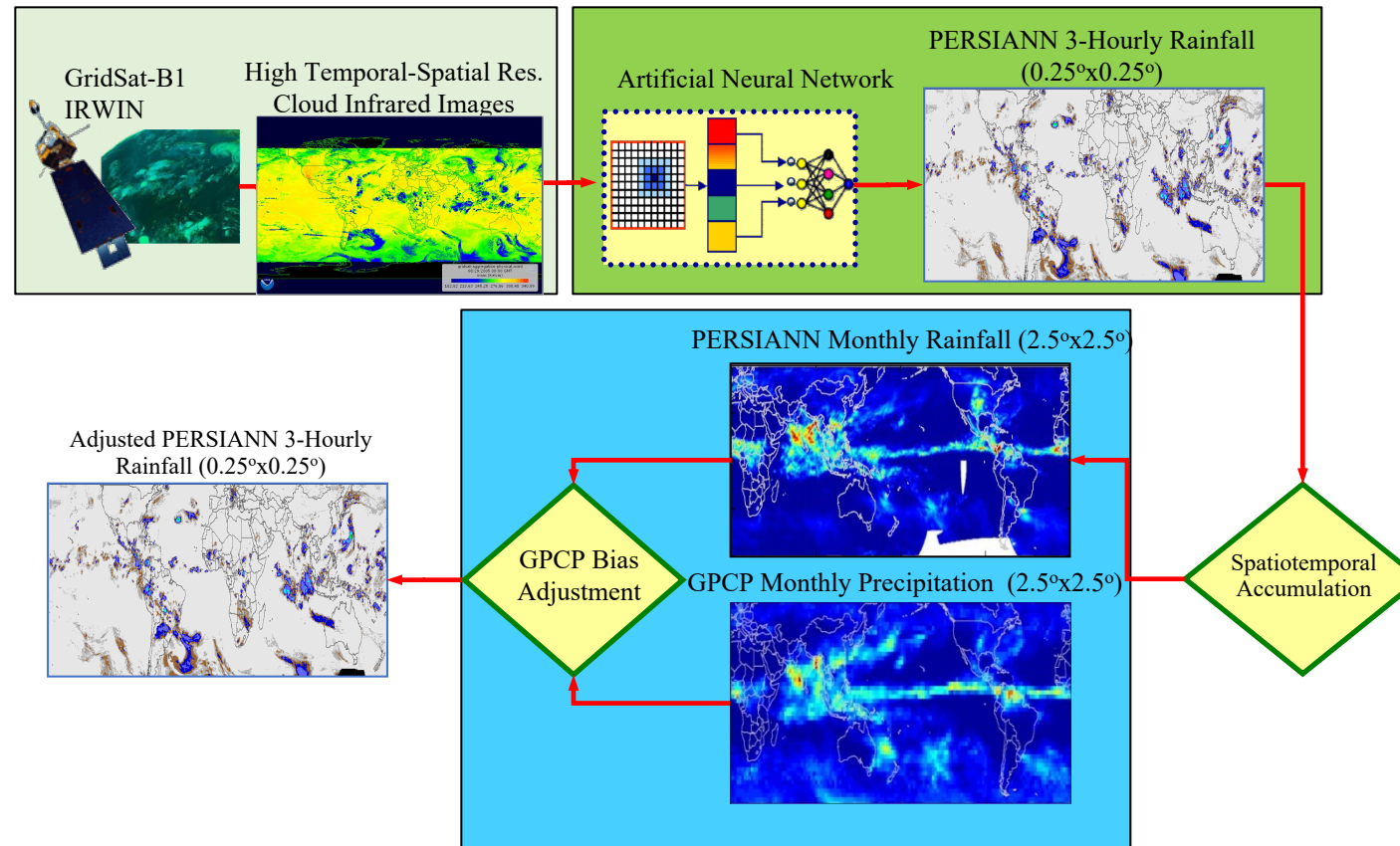
- International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP)
  - 1979 to present
  - 10-km and 3-hour intervals



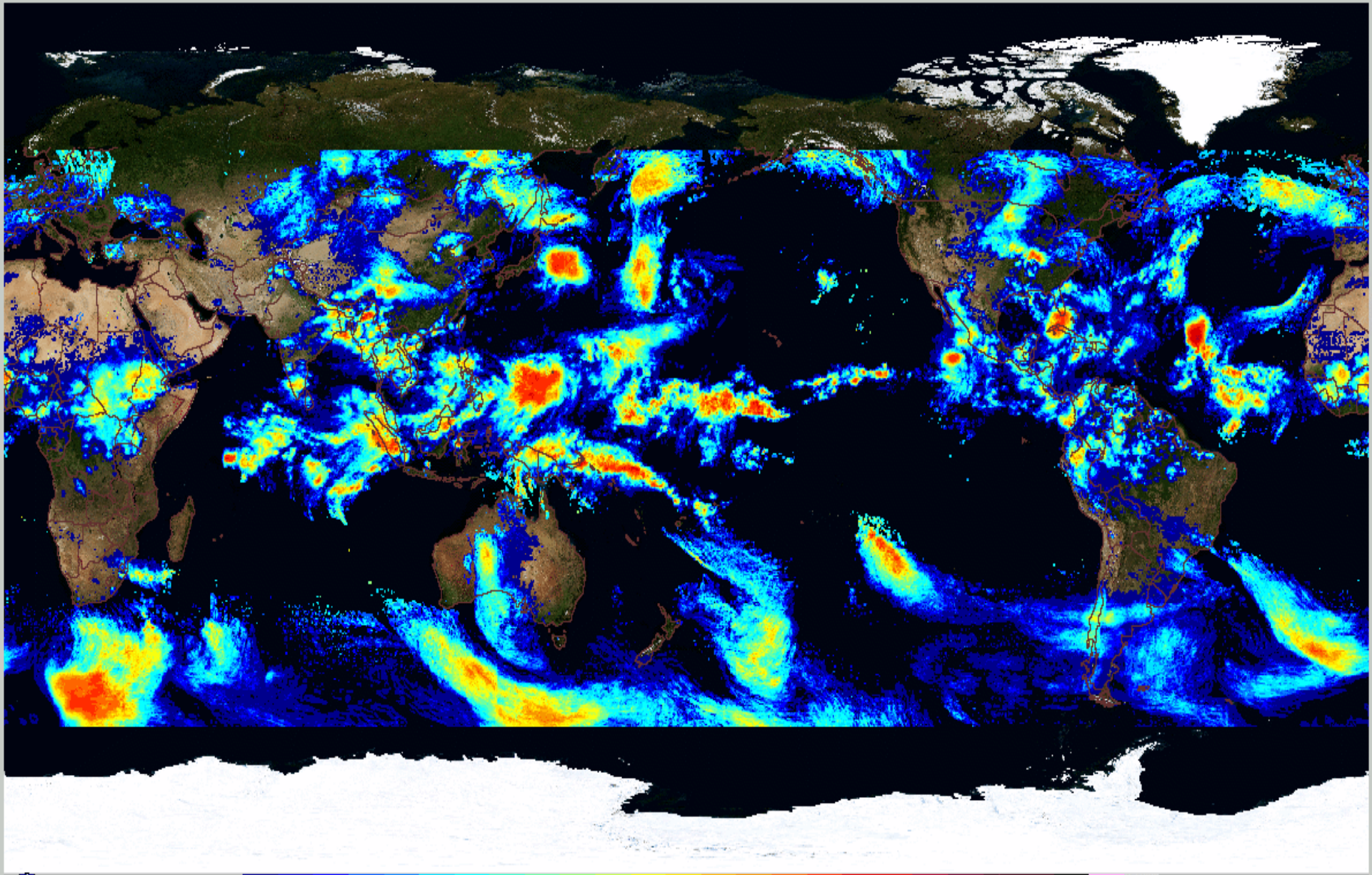
1. U.S. Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (**GOES**)
2. European Meteorological satellite (**Meteosat**) series
3. Japanese Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (**GMS**)
4. The Chinese Fen-yung 2C (**FY2**) series.

# PERSIANN-CDR

- PERSIANN estimation at  $0.25^\circ$  every 3-hr from GridSat B1 IRWIN
- Monthly accumulation and bias adjusted using GPCP monthly estimation at  $2.5^\circ$
- Bias adjustment of short-term 3-hr estimation

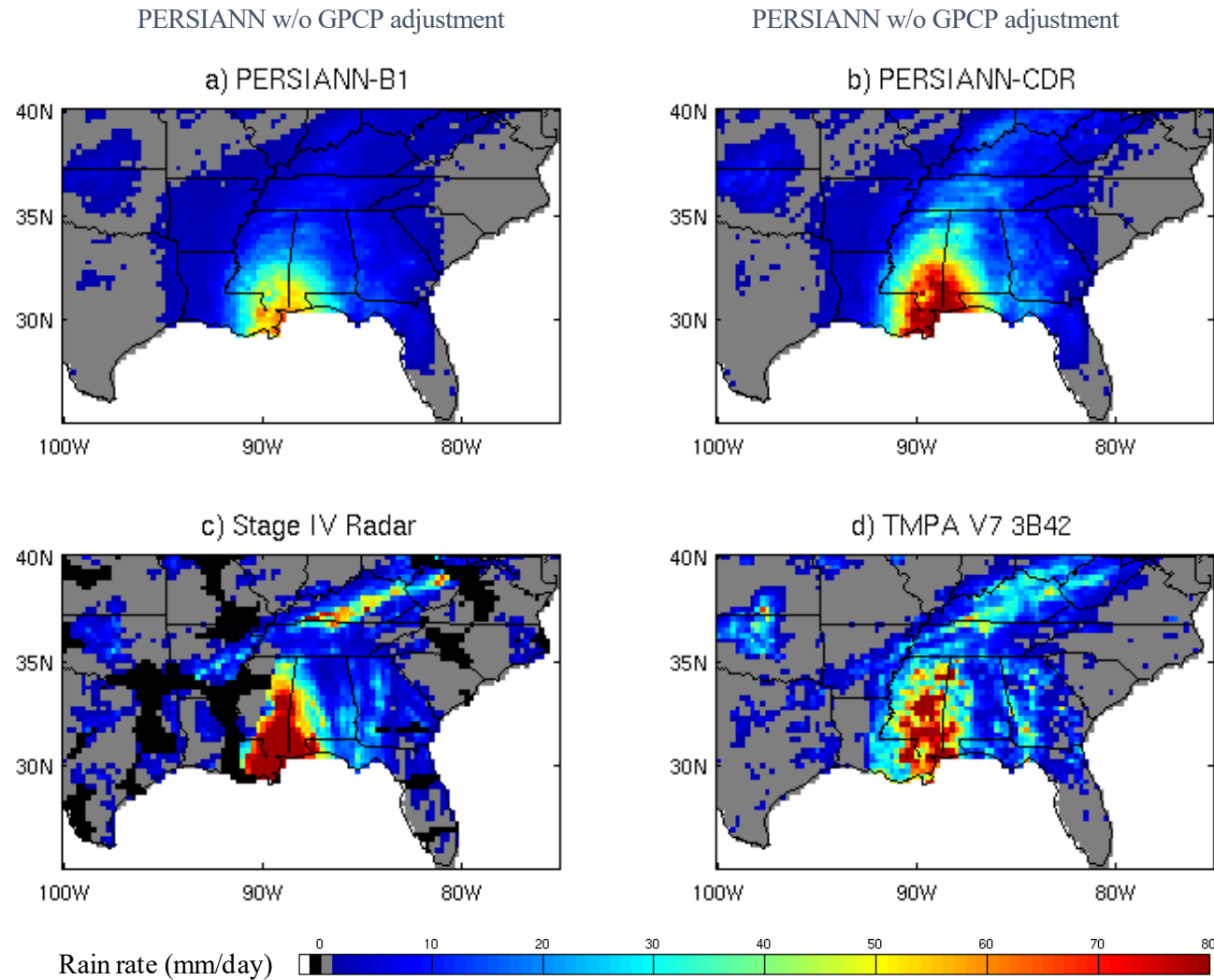






PERSIANN-CDR 08-26-05 (mm/day)

# Daily Precipitation: Hurricane Katrina, 2005

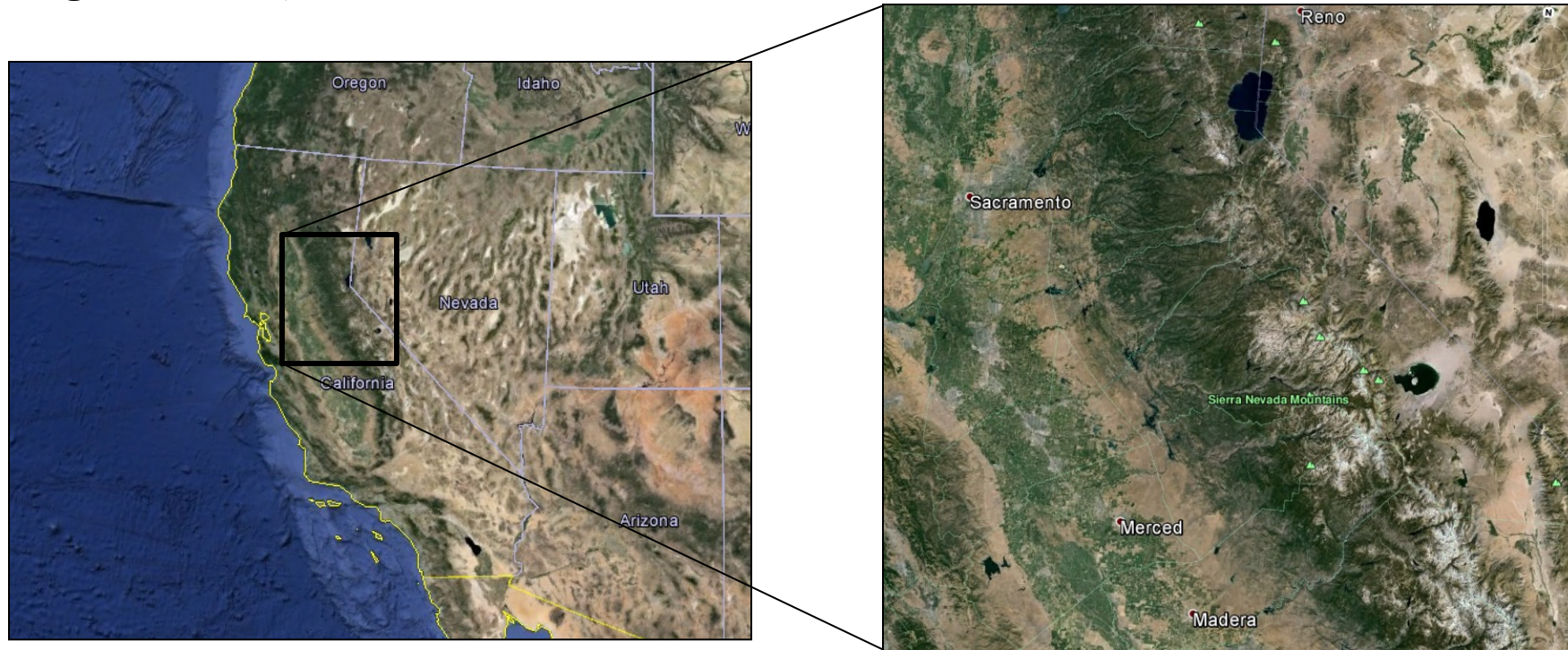




# Sierra-Nevada Mountain Region

Area: 63,100 square kilometers (24,370 sq mi)

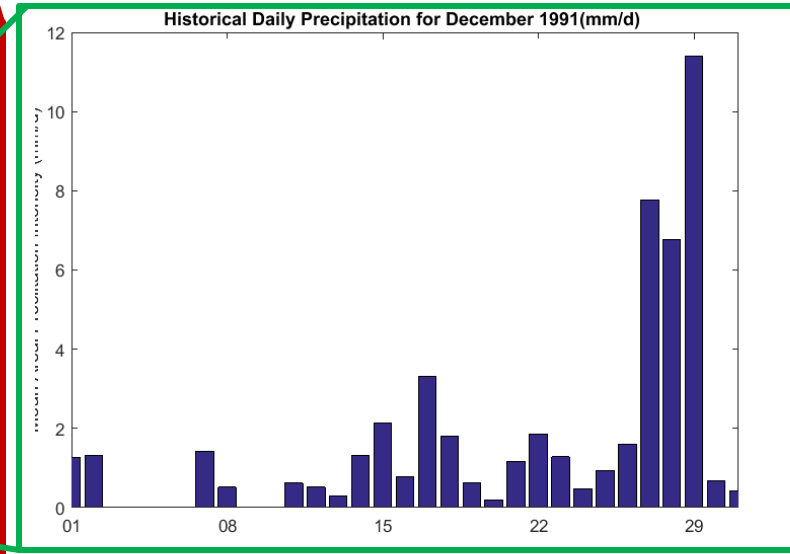
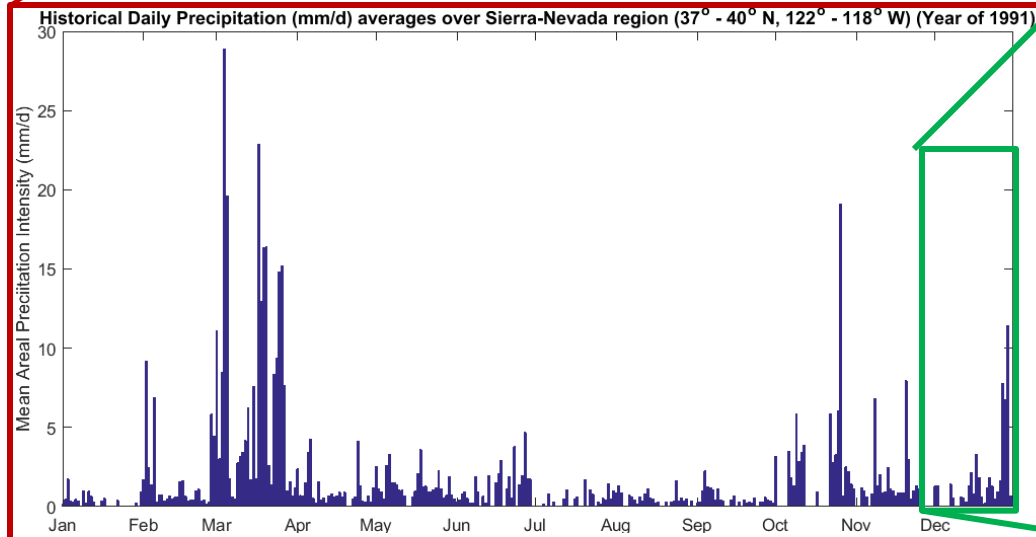
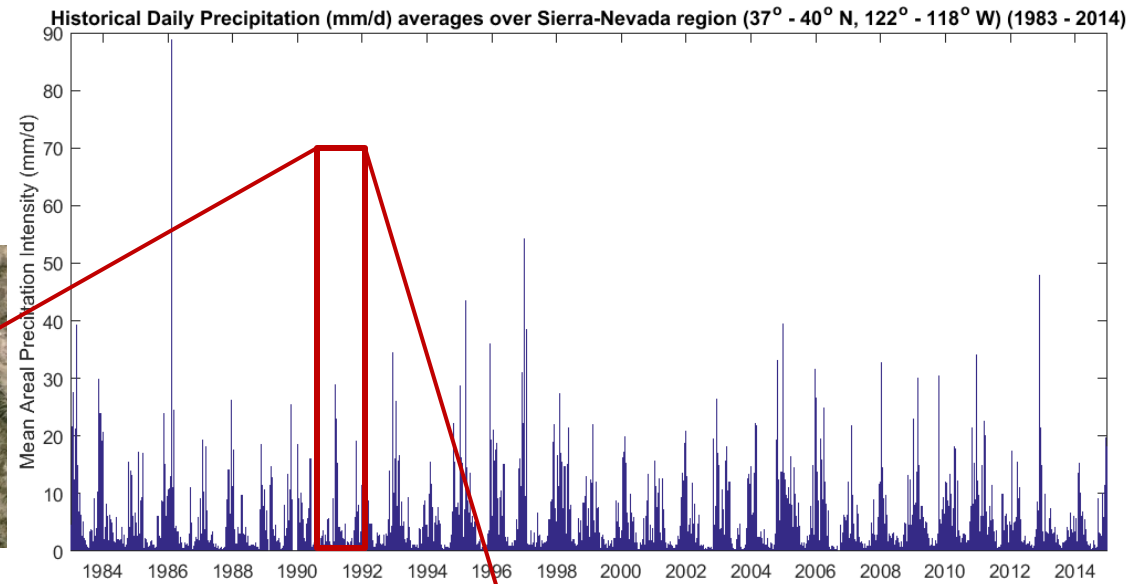
Length: 400 mile, Width: 64 mile.



Source: Google Earth



# Sierra-Nevada Mountain (California and Nevada)



# Applications

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## HiResFlood-UCI model and near real-time PERSIANN-CCS for flood forecasting

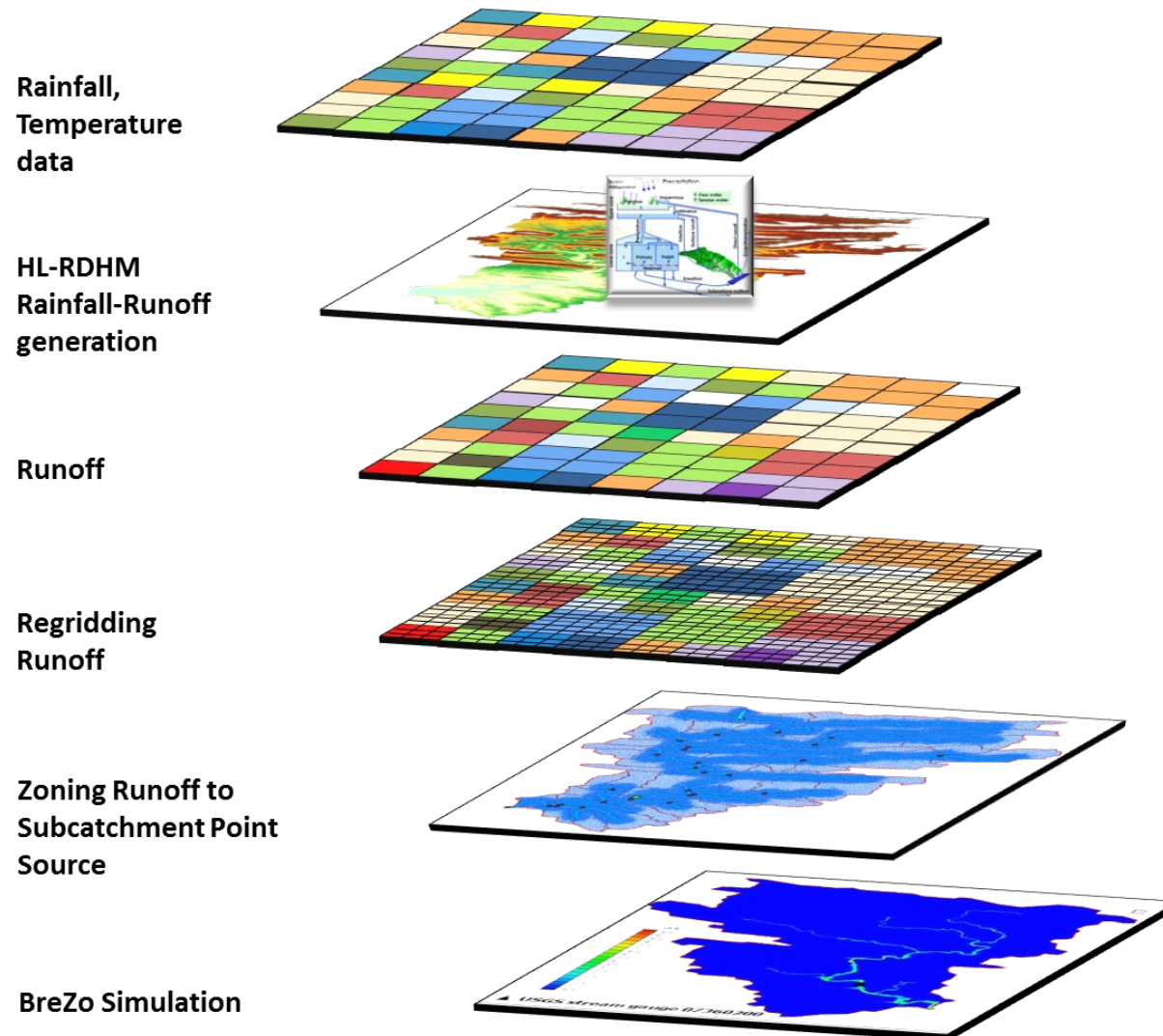
Nguyen, P., A. Thorstensen, S. Sorooshian, K. Hsu, A. AghaKouchak, B. Sanders, V. Koren, Z. Cui, and Michael Smith, 2015. A high resolution coupled hydrologic-hydraulic model (HiResFlood-UCI) for flash flood modeling. *Journal of Hydrology*. 2015. [DOI:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2015.10.047](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2015.10.047).

Nguyen, P., A. Thorstensen, S. Sorooshian, K. Hsu, and A. AghaKouchak, 2015: Flood Forecasting and Inundation Mapping Using HiResFlood-UCI and Near-Real-Time Satellite Precipitation Data: The 2008 Iowa Flood. *J. Hydrometeorol*, 16, 1171–1183. DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JHM-D-14-0212.1>.

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# HiResFlood-UCI model

## Coupling HL-RDHM with BreZo



Nguyen, P., A. Thorstensen, S. Sorooshian, K. Hsu, A. AghaKouchak, B. Sanders, V. Koren, Z. Cui, and Michael Smith, 2015. A high resolution coupled hydrologic-hydraulic model (HiResFlood-UCI) for flash flood modeling. *Journal of Hydrology*. 2015. [DOI:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2015.10.047](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2015.10.047).

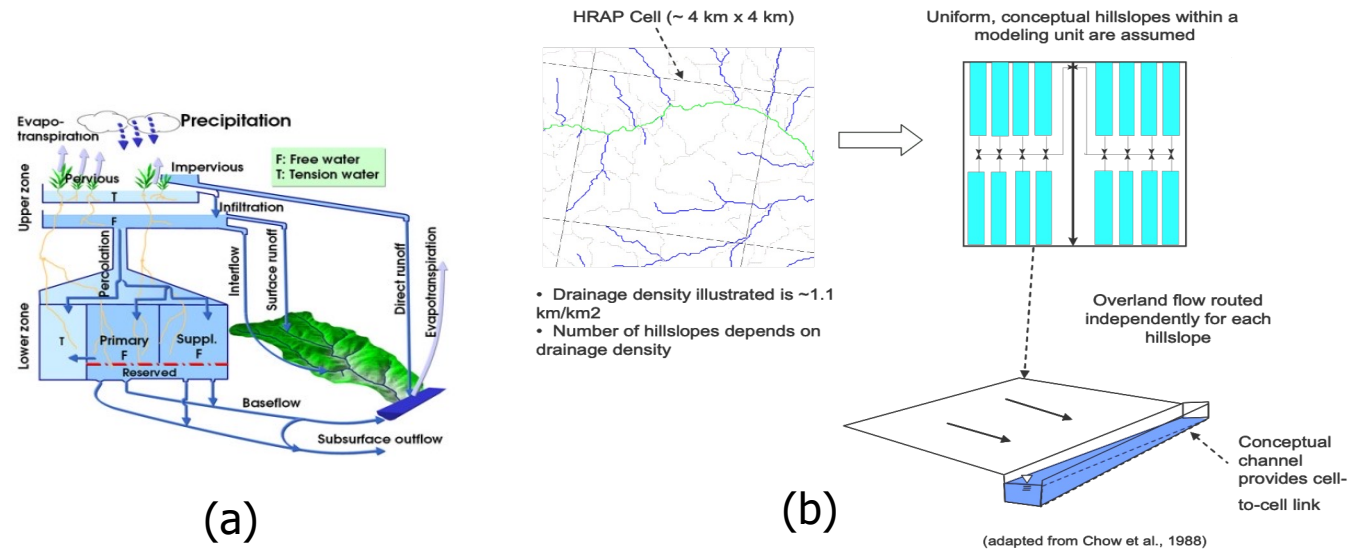
# Development of HiResFlood-UCI

## Model Heritage

### HL-RDHM

HL-RDHM involves four main components: snow-17, SAC-SMA, Continuous API and Overland and Channel Routings (Rutpix7, Rutpix9).

HL-RDHM was designed and implemented for the entire CONUS at two spatial resolutions of 1 HRAP (~4km) and 1/2 HRAP (~2km).



**HL-RDHM model: (a) SAC component, (b) Routing scheme**

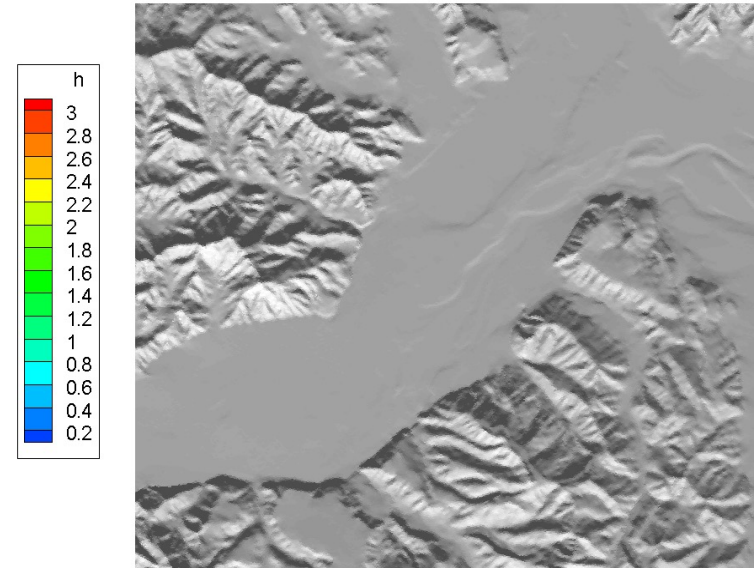


# Development of HiResFlood-UCI

## Model Heritage

### **BreZo** (Sanders & Begnudelli)

Hydraulic model solving the shallow-water equations using a Godunov-type finite volume algorithm that has been optimized for wetting and drying applications involving natural topography and runs on an unstructured grid of triangular cells.



**Demo of BreZo simulation**

# Iowa Flood 2008

Cedar River 2008  
Flood

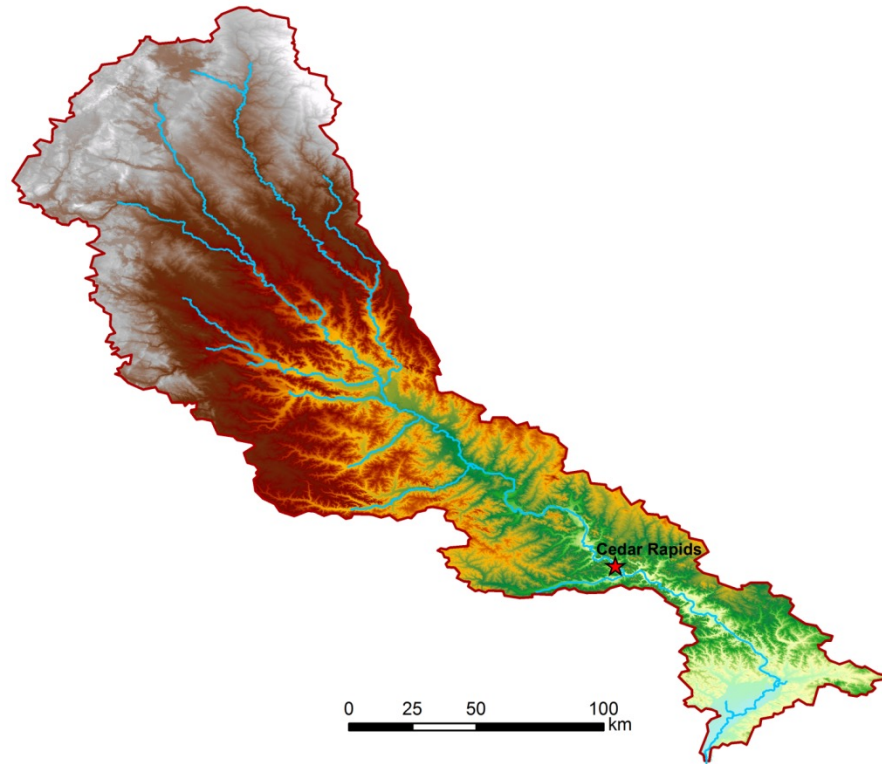
- Some areas flooded beyond 500-year flood level
- 20,000 evacuated
- 3,900 homes under water



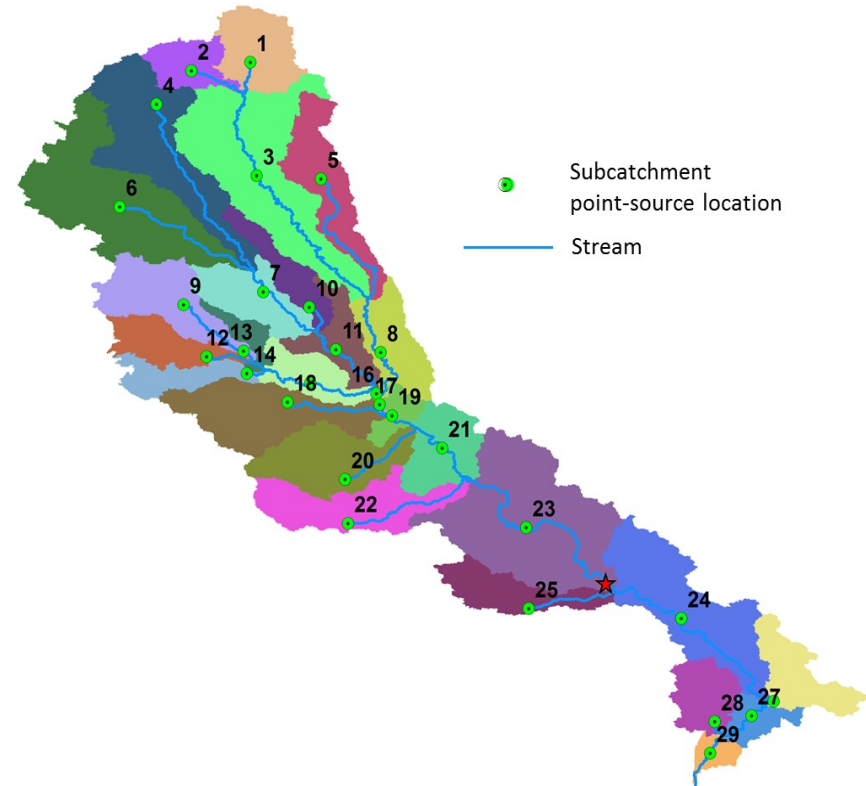
Credit: Ron Mayland/Reuters

# Application of HiResFlood-UCI for flood forecasting

## Model implementation



30m DEM

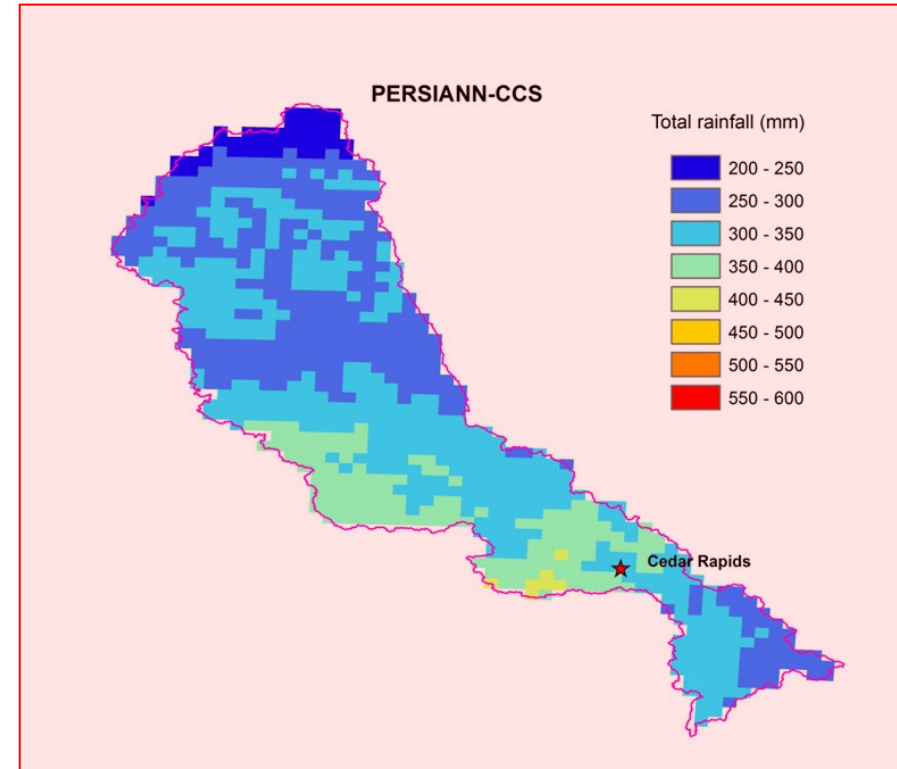
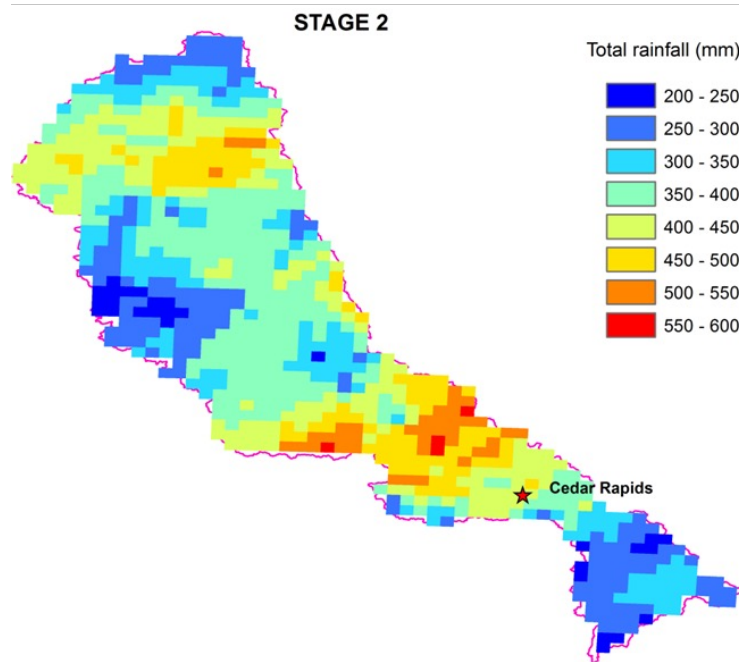


Watershed delineation results



# Application of HiResFlood-UCI for flood forecasting

Near real-time precipitation data

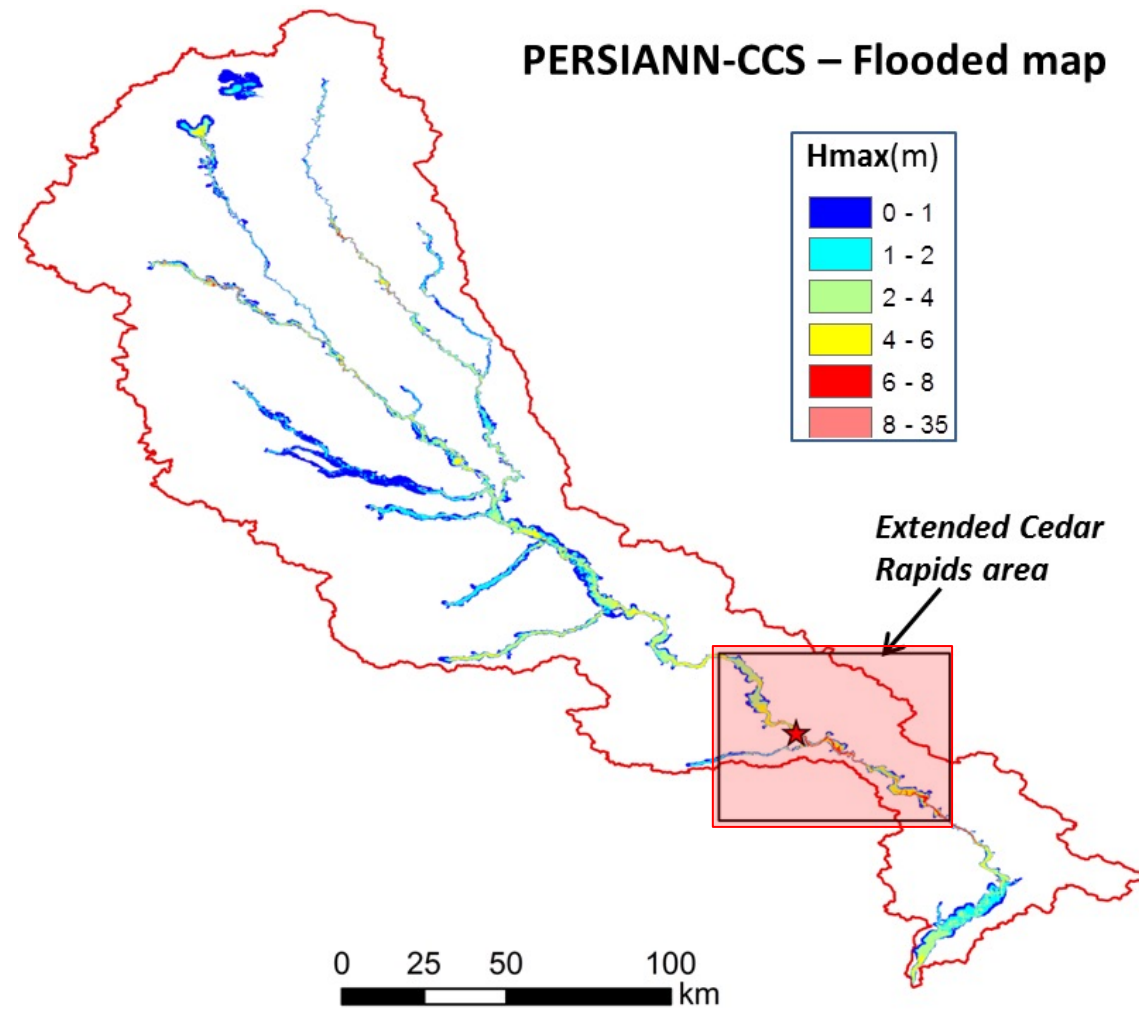


Total precipitation during the event from 29 May 00:00 to 25 June 23:00 2008



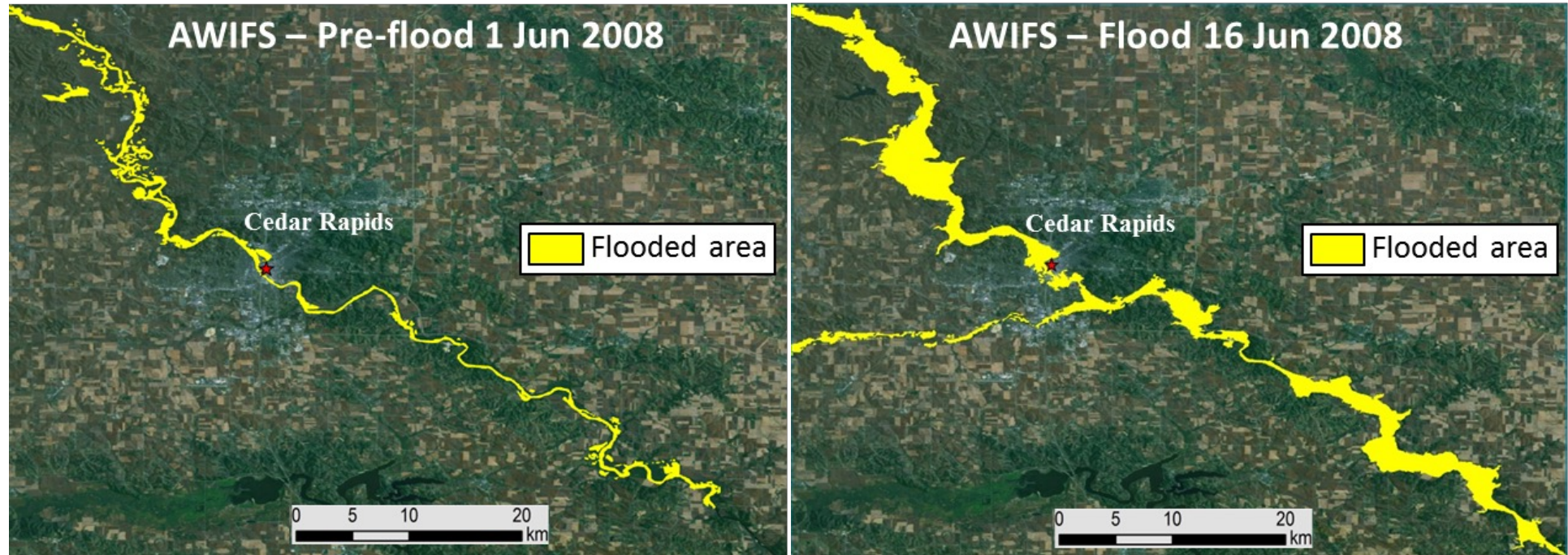
# Application of HiResFlood-UCI for flood forecasting

Flooded map



# Application of HiResFlood-UCI for flood forecasting

Flooded map

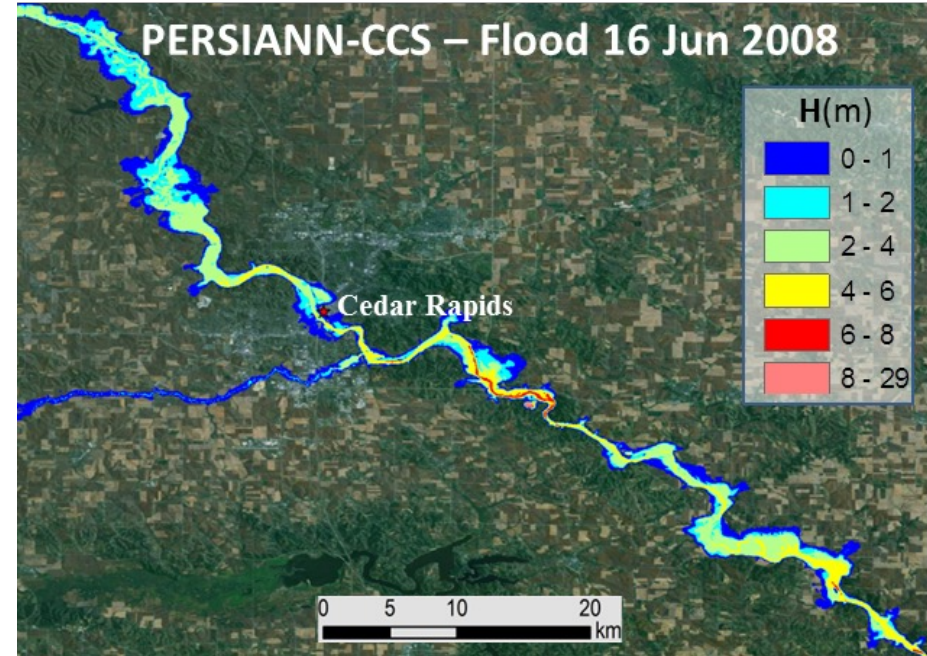
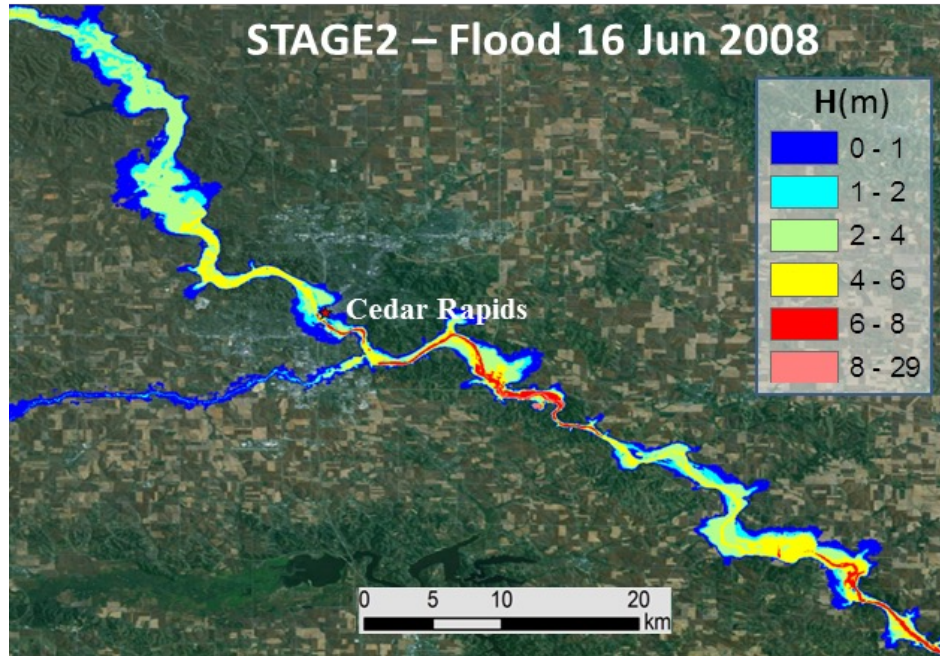


Cleaned flooded maps of pre-flood and flood over the extended Cedar Rapids area



# Application of HiResFlood-UCI for flood forecasting

## Flooded map

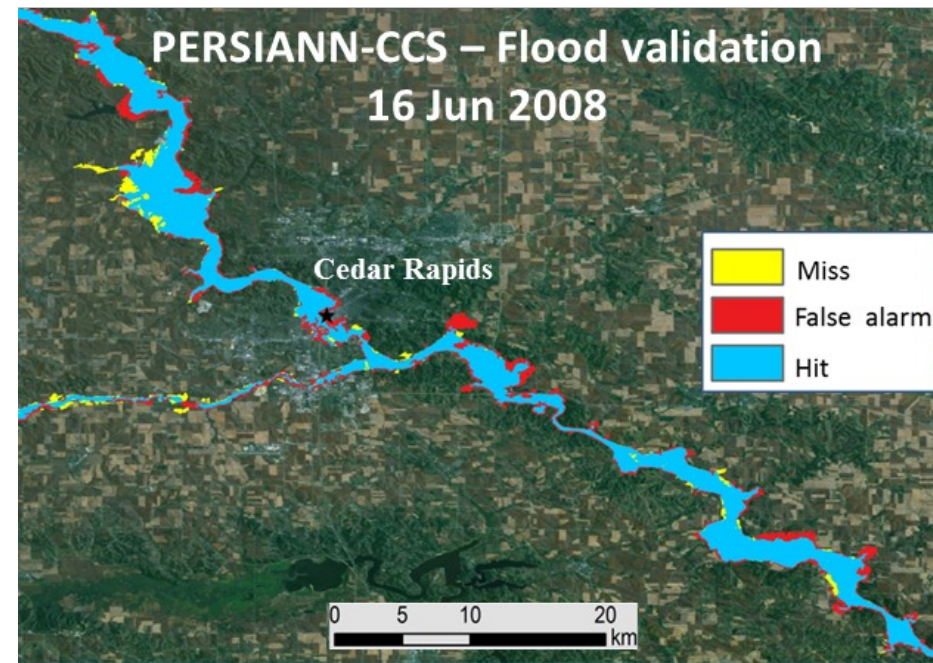
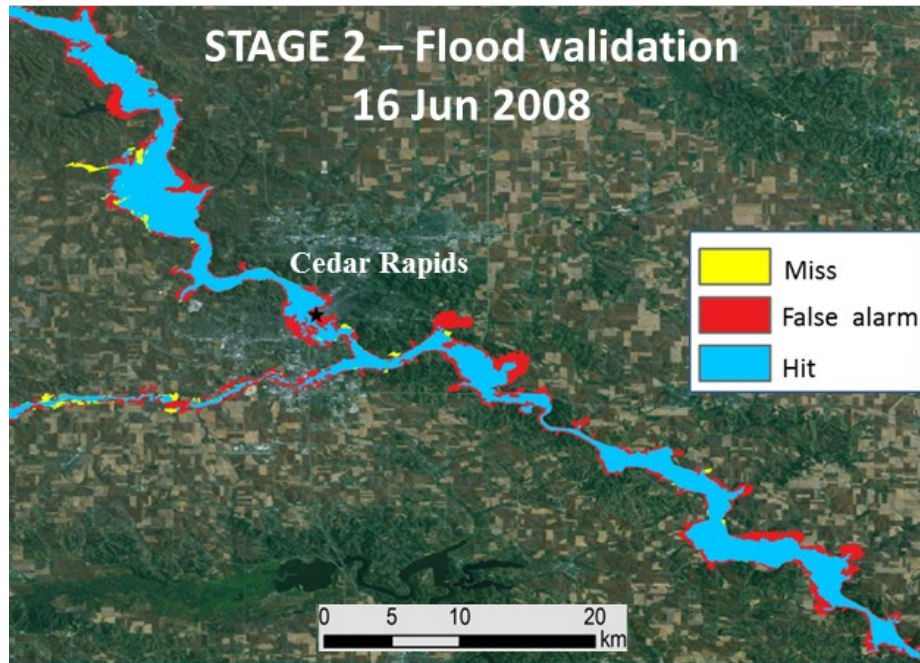


Modeled flood depth maps with Stage 2 and PERSIANN-CCS precipitation data

# Application of HiResFlood-UCI for flood forecasting

Flooded map

Precip. input	CSI	POD	FAR
STAGE 2	0.672	0.965	0.311
PERSIANN-CCS	0.727	0.925	0.227



Validations of flooded maps from the model (with STAGE2 and PERSIANN-CCS precipitation) using AWiFS areal imagery

Nguyen, P., A. Thorstensen, S. Sorooshian, K. Hsu, and A. AghaKouchak, 2015: Flood Forecasting and Inundation Mapping Using HiResFlood-UCI and Near-Real-Time Satellite Precipitation Data: The 2008 Iowa Flood. *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 16, 1171–1183.  
DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JHM-D-14-0212.1>.



# Global Rainfall Trend Analysis

Nguyen, P., A. Thorstensen, S. Sorooshian, H. Ashouri, H. Tran, K. Hsu and A. AghaKouchak.  
Global precipitation trends across spatial scales. 2016. Under preparation.

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# Rainfall Trend Analysis

## Mann-Kendall Test

We test the null hypothesis  $H_0$  that there is no significant trend in the data at significance level  $\alpha=0.05$  (or 95% confidence level)

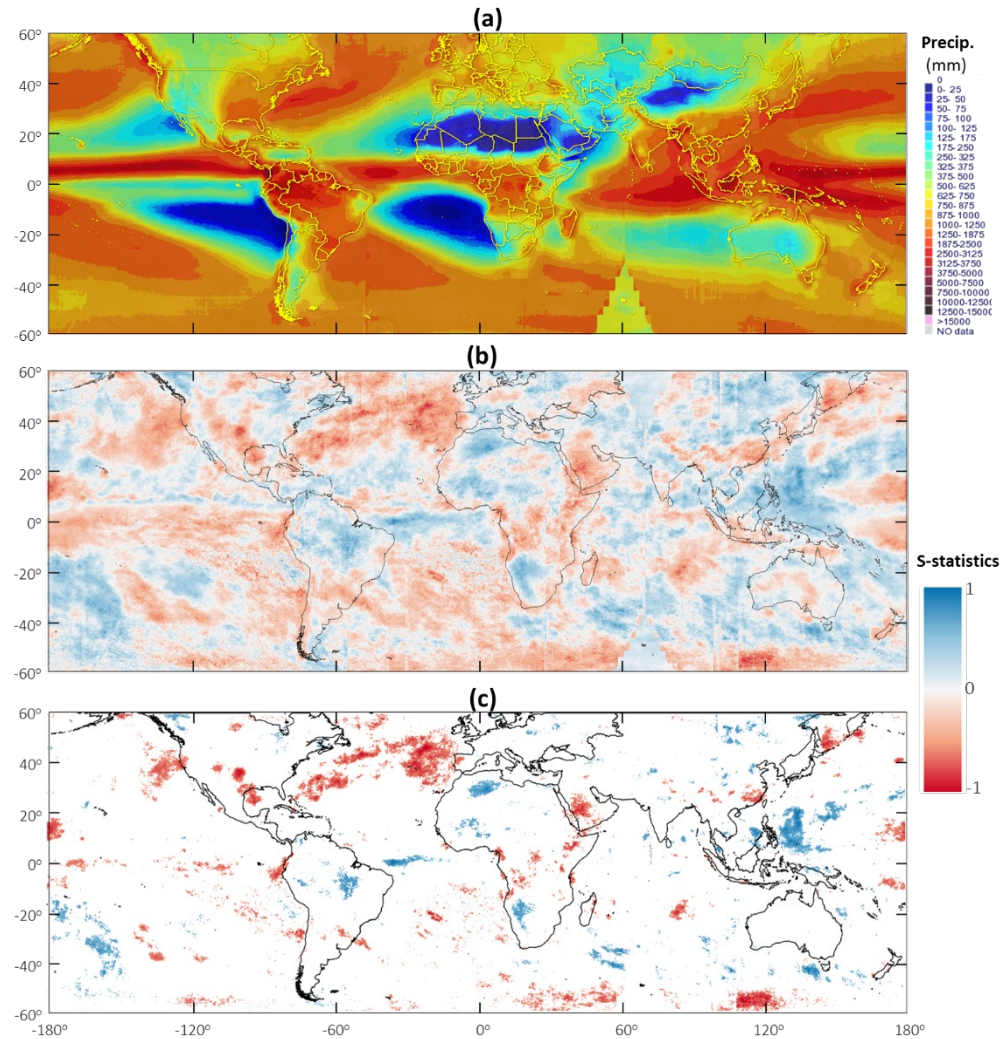
$$S = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=k+1}^n \text{sgn}(x_j - x_k)$$

$$\text{sgn}(x_j - x_k) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } (x_j - x_k) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } (x_j - x_k) = 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } (x_j - x_k) < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$z = \begin{cases} \frac{S - 1}{\sqrt{\frac{n(n-1)(2n+5)}{18}}} & \text{if } S > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } S = 0 \\ \frac{S + 1}{\sqrt{\frac{n(n-1)(2n+5)}{18}}} & \text{if } S < 0 \end{cases}$$

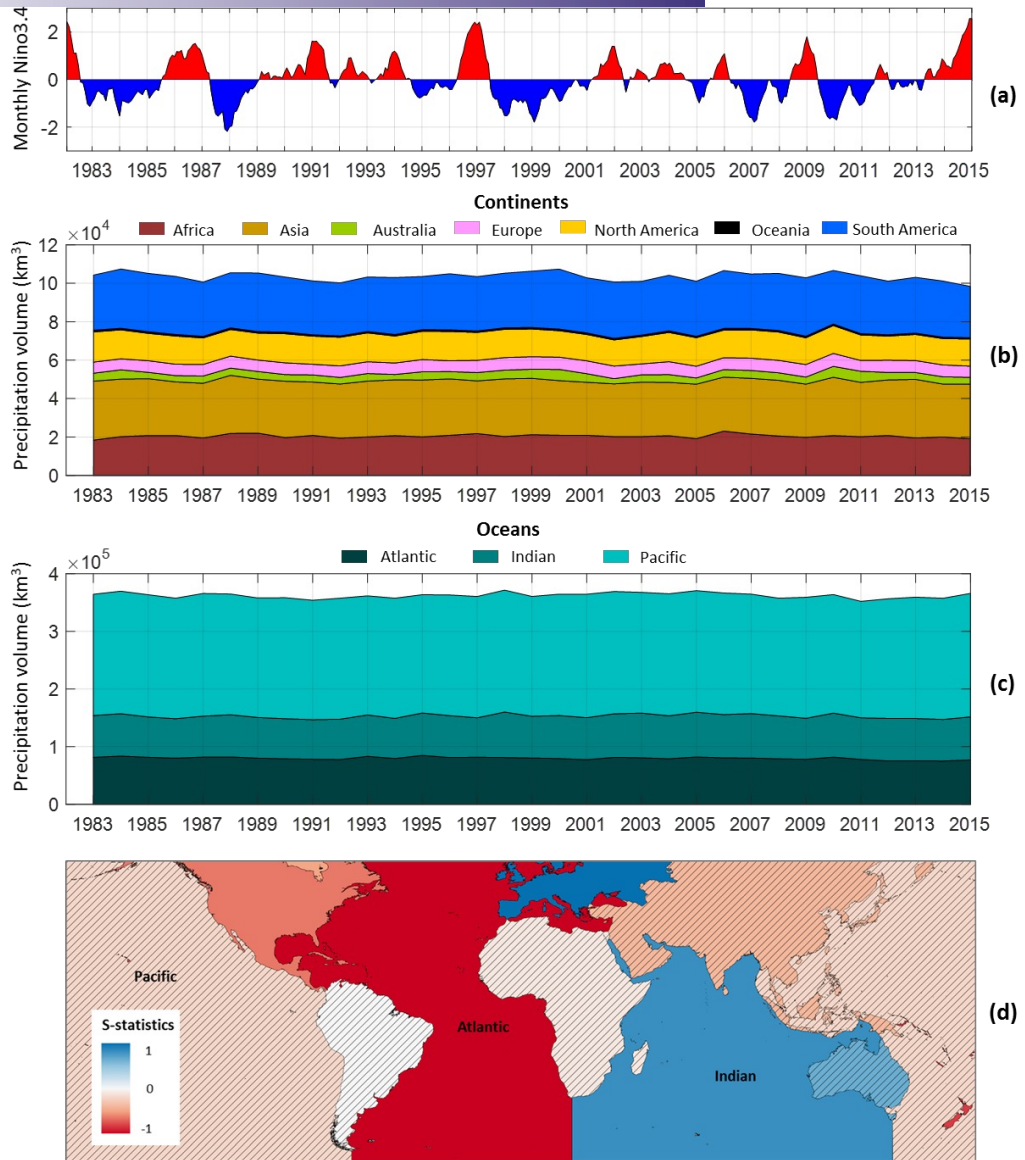
$$p = 0.5 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{|z|} e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

# Rainfall Trend Analysis



Annual mean  
precipitation in mm  
(a) and pixel-based  
precipitation trends  
(b, c) from 1983 to  
2015 from  
PERSIANN-CDR

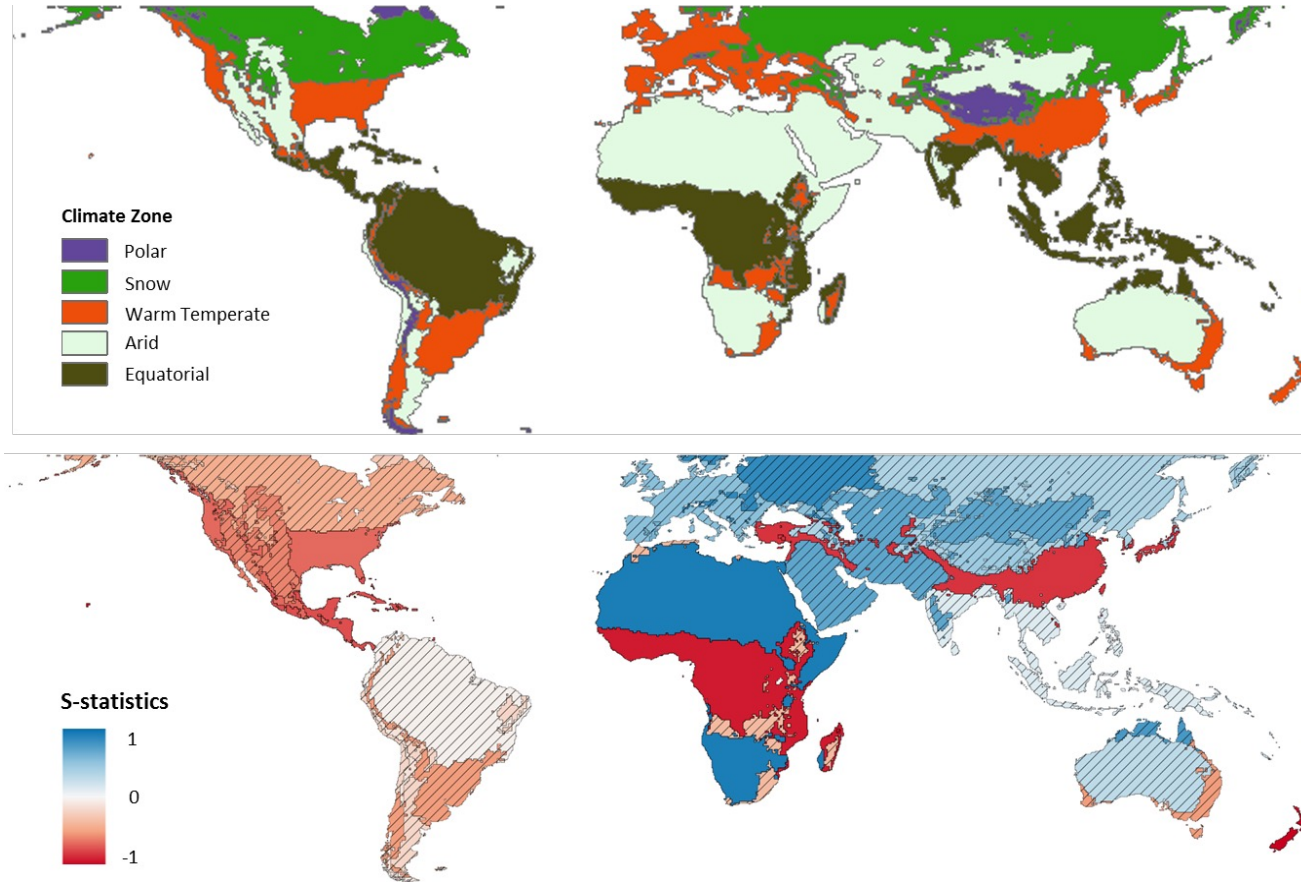
# Rainfall Trend Analysis



Monthly Niño3.4 (a)  
Changes in precipitation volume (b, c) and precipitation volume trends (d) over continents and oceans.

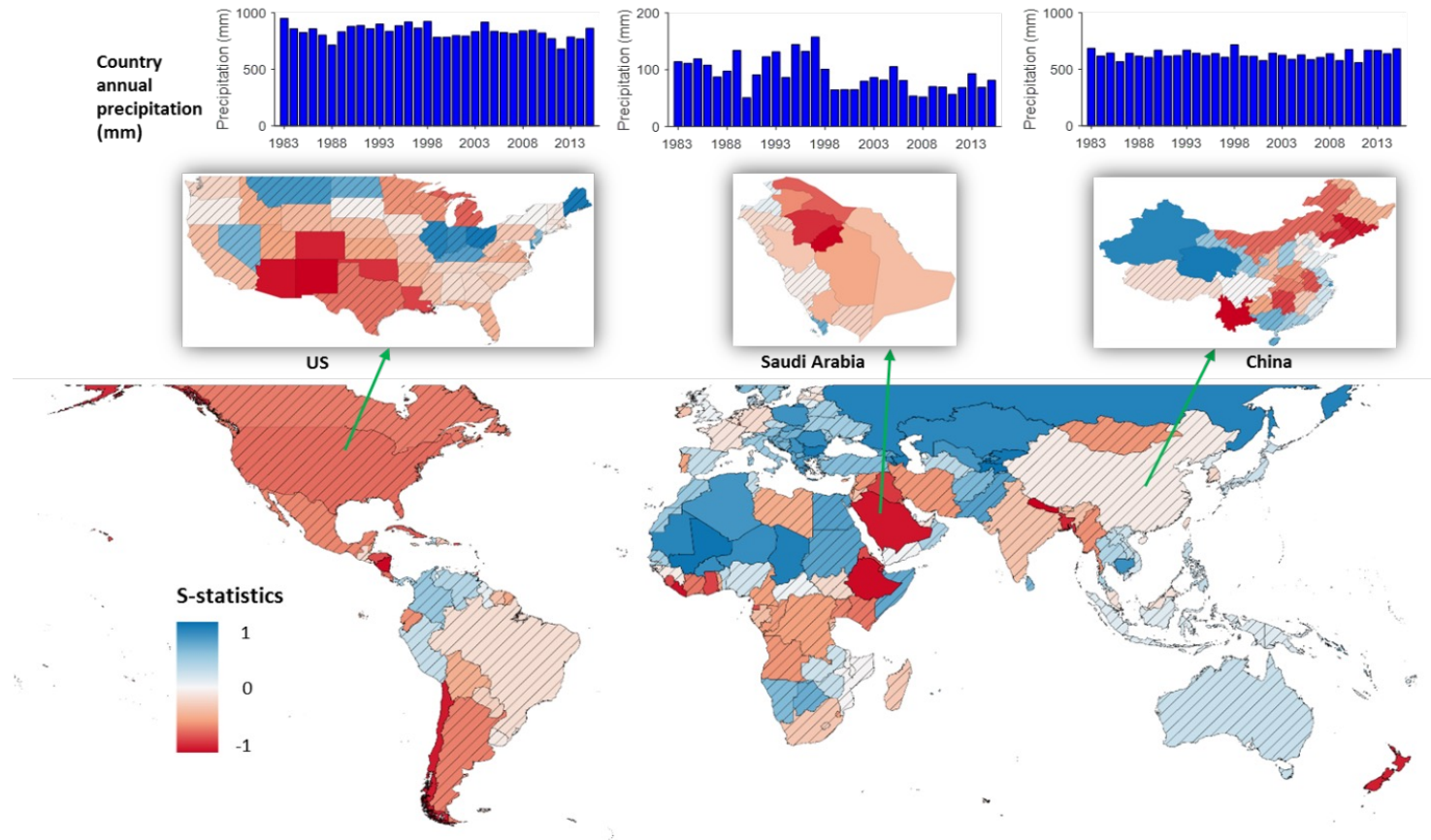


# Rainfall Trend Analysis



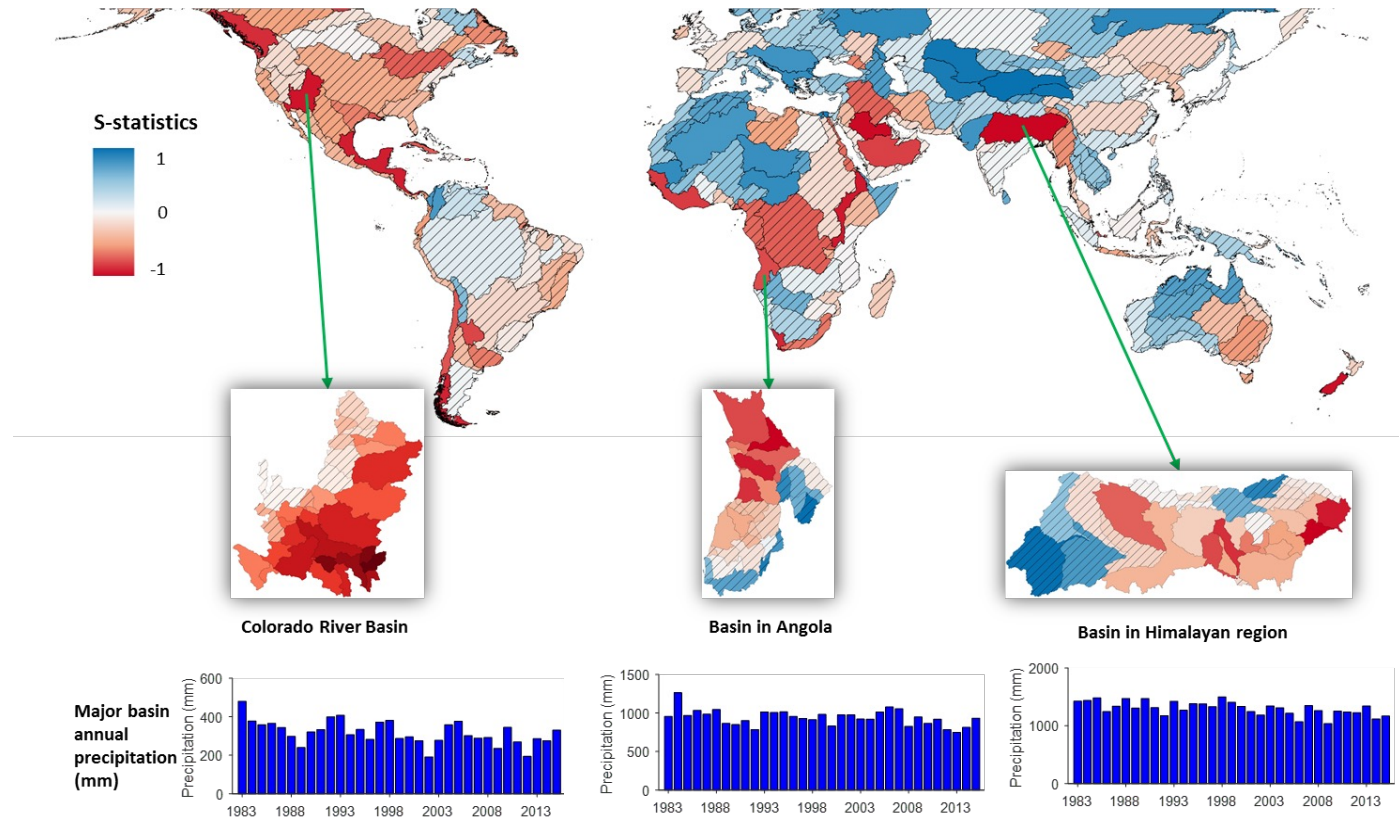
Precipitation trends from 1983 to 2015 over climate zones (60°N - 60°S)

# Rainfall Trend Analysis



Precipitation trends from 1983 to 2015 over 201 countries (60°N - 60°S) and state/province political divisions of US, Saudi Arabia and China

# Rainfall Trend Analysis



Precipitation trends from 1983 to 2015 over 237 global major basins

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Questions?**

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