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# Data-driven Approaches for Ocean Remote Sensing:

## from the Non-negative Decomposition of Operators to the Reconstruction of Satellite-derived Sea Surface Dynamics

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P. Ailliot, A. Aissa-El-Bey, R. Fablet*

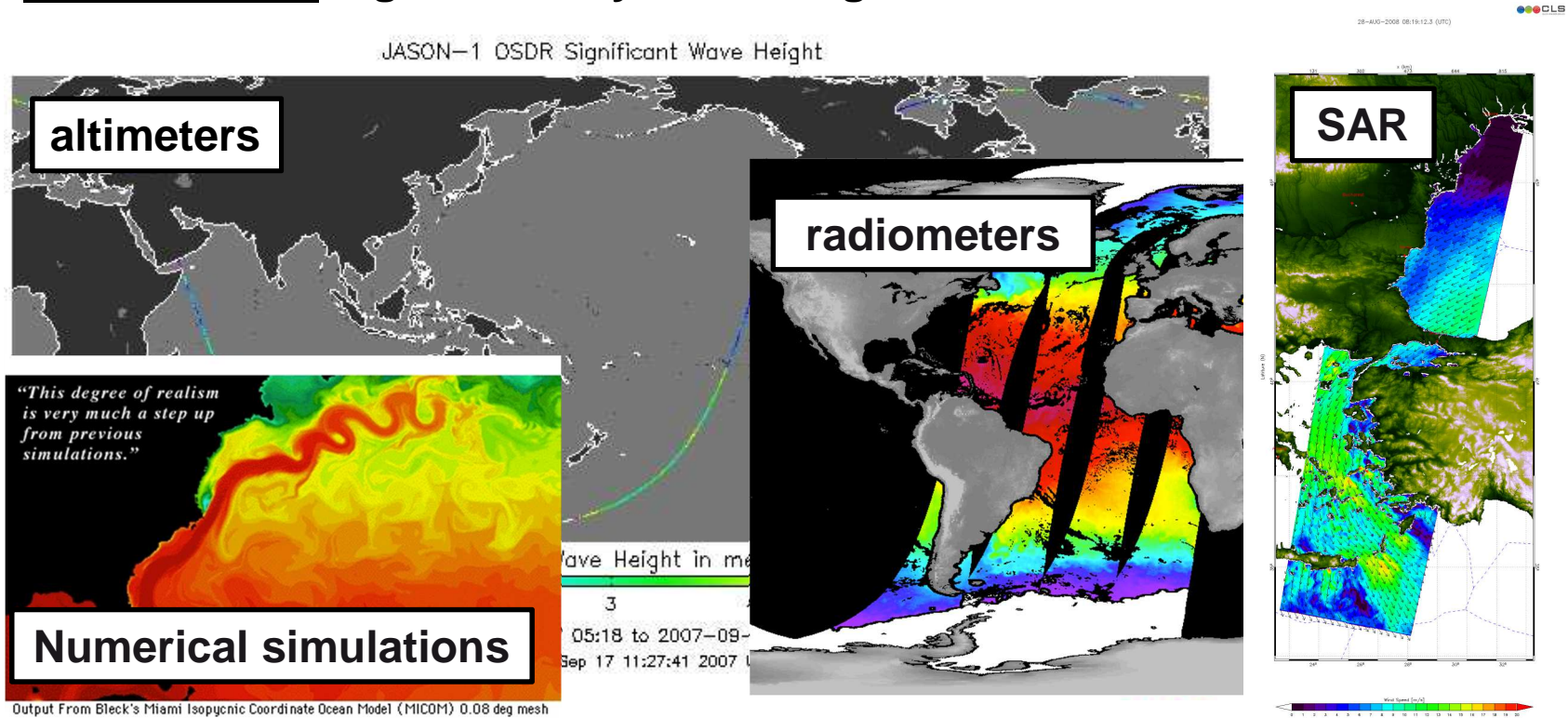
*SpatioTempMeteo Workshop  
28-30 nov. 2018. Rennes, France*

# CONTEXT AND MOTIVATION



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## Data sources: A great variety of heterogeneous sensors and models



**Key issue:** Exploit these data sources to improve our understanding of geophysical processes

## Operational:

Monitoring and forecasting of ocean dynamics

- ▶ High socio-economical impact
- ▶ Management of ocean resources
- ▶ Environmental protection

## Scientific:

Better understanding of ocean processes

- ▶ Model calibration and validation
- ▶ Estimation of geophysical quantities and parameters
- ▶ Improve model prediction/reconstruction

## However:

- ▶ Strong reliance on physical models
- ▶ *Datasets: under-exploited potential?*

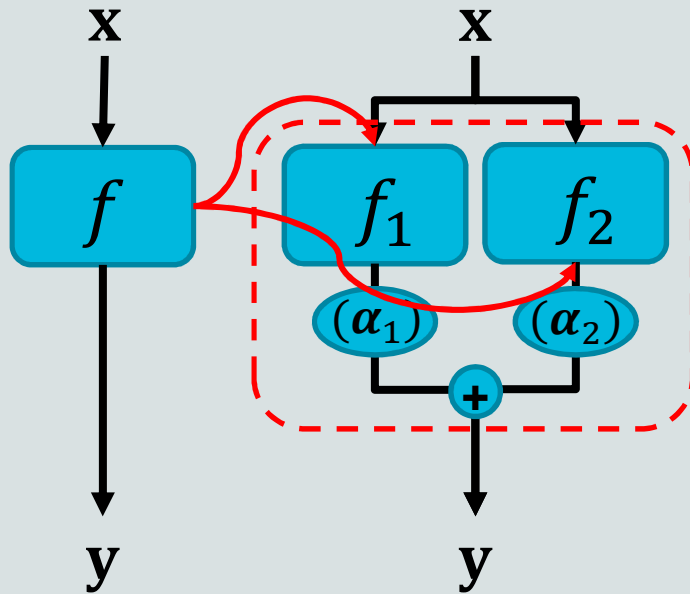


FIGURE 1: Remote sensing satellites

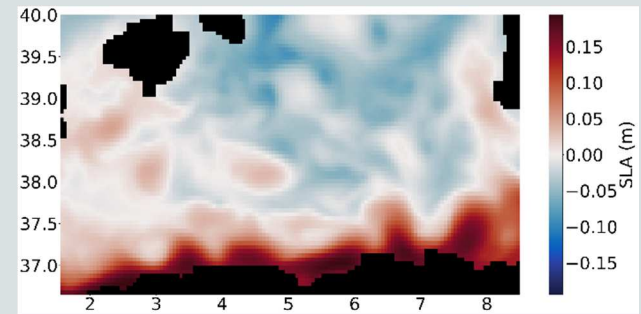
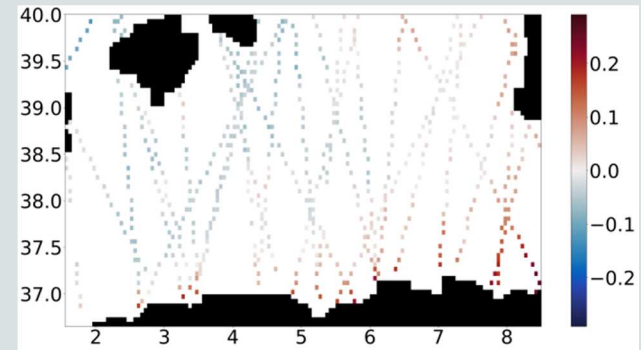
BETTER  
EXPLOIT  
DATA

## Characterization and decomposition operators

$$y_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} f_{\theta_k}(\mathbf{x}_n) + \omega_n$$



## Interpolation of altimetry fields from satellite data



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

## 1. NON-NEGATIVE DECOMPOSITION OF OPERATORS

- ▶ Models and Algorithms
- ▶ Applications
  - Forecasting of Dynamical Systems
  - Segmentation of Sea Surface Dynamics

## 2. INTERPOLATION OF SEA LEVEL ANOMALIES FROM SATELLITE DATA

- ▶ Problem formulation
- ▶ Observation System Simulation Experiment
- ▶ Results

## 3. VALORIZATION

## 4. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

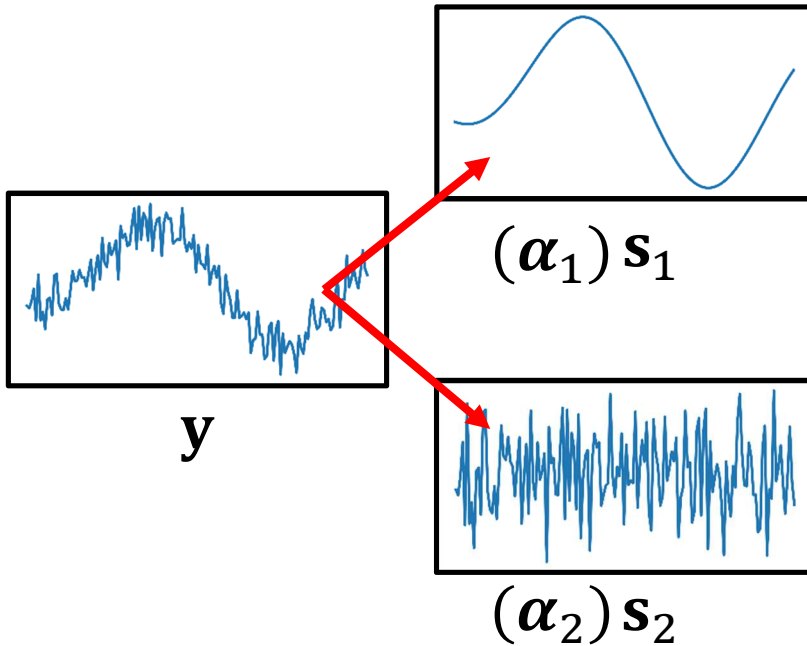


# ***PART 1: NON-NEGATIVE DECOMPOSITION OF OPERATORS***

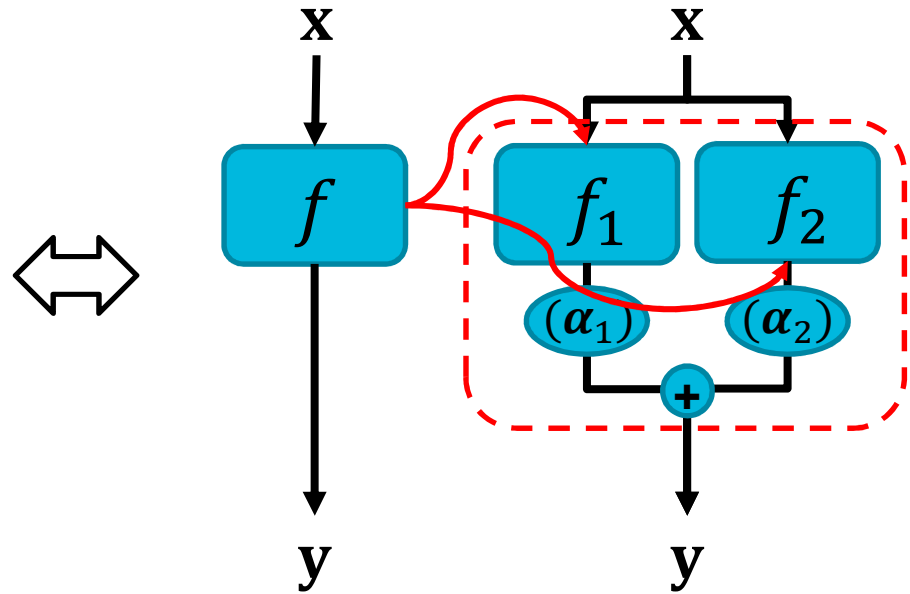


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## Source separation:



## Operator decomposition:



$$y_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} s_k + \omega_n$$

s. t.  $\mathcal{C}(\alpha_{n1}, \dots, \alpha_{nK}, s_1, \dots, s_K)$

$$y_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} f_{\theta_k}(x_n) + \omega_n$$

s. t.  $\mathcal{C}(\alpha_{n1}, \dots, \alpha_{nK}, f_{\theta_1}, \dots, f_{\theta_K})$



## Joint EOFs:

[Hotelling, 1933; Hannachi et al., 2007]

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{Y}_1^T \mathbf{Y}_2 = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{U}^T = \sum_{r=1}^R \lambda_r \mathbf{v}_r \mathbf{u}_r^T$$

- ▶ Widely used in oceanography and atmospheric sciences
- ▶ *Orthogonal* decomposition of cross-correlation
- ▶ Find orthogonal modes that maximize explained variance

## Dynamic Mode Decomposition:

[Schmid, 2010]

- ▶ Linearization+Eigendecomposition
- ▶ *Choice of observation functions*  $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_n)$
- ▶ *Time invariance of operator*  $\mathbf{K}$

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_n) \quad \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_n) = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{n-1})$$

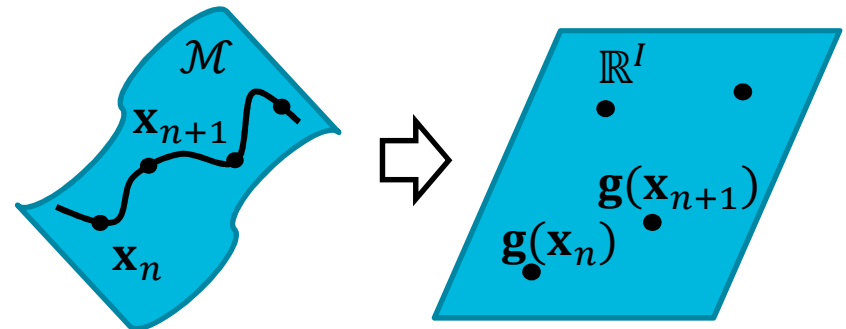


FIGURE 2: DMD

Classically:

- ▶ Orthogonal decompositions (EOF, PCA)
- ▶  $\ell_2$ -norm penalization
- ▶ Strong hypotheses

But, no guarantees in terms of:

- ▶ Relevance
- ▶ Interpretability

## Explore new decompositions

Blind source separation:

- ▶ New formulations
  - Non-negativity
  - Sparsity

$$\mathbf{y}_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} \mathbf{s}_k + \boldsymbol{\omega}_n$$

$$\text{s. t. } \mathcal{C}(\alpha_{n1}, \dots, \alpha_{nK}, \mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_K)$$



$$\mathbf{y}_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} f_{\theta_k}(\mathbf{x}_n) + \boldsymbol{\omega}_n$$

$$\text{s. t. } \mathcal{C}(\alpha_{n1}, \dots, \alpha_{nK}, f_{\theta_1}, \dots, f_{\theta_K})$$

Linear functions:

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}_k$$

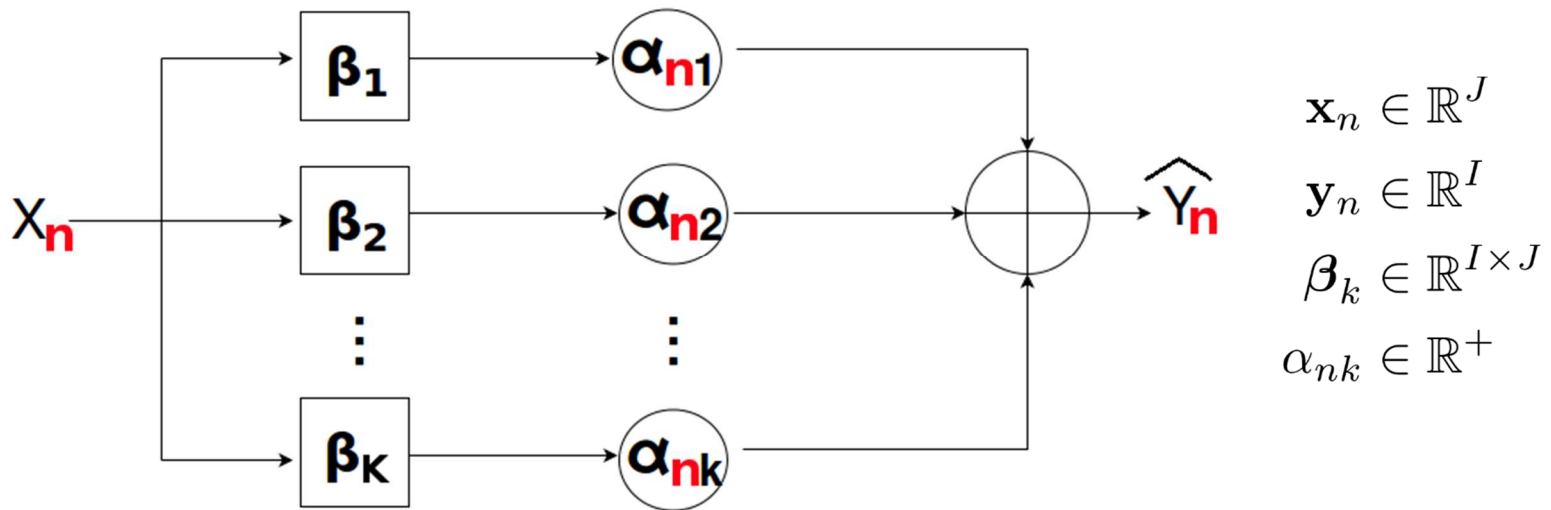
# MODELS AND ALGORITHMS



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Relationship between observable variables  $\mathbf{x}_n$  and  $\mathbf{y}_n$

- Non-negative superposition of linear modes



**FIGURE 3:** General model block diagram

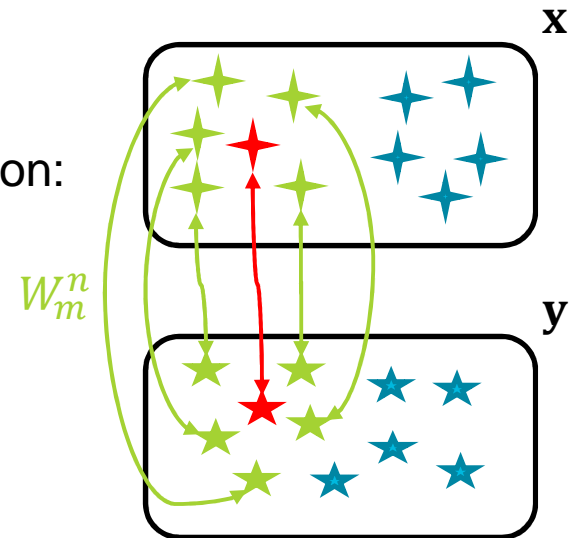
$$\mathbf{y}_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} \beta_k \mathbf{x}_n + \omega_n$$

Subject to 
$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{nk} \geq 0, & \forall k \in [1, K], \forall n \in [1, N] \\ \|\beta_k\|_F = 1, & \forall k \in [1, K] \end{cases}$$

$$\forall n, \begin{cases} \left[ \hat{\alpha}_{nk}, \hat{\beta}_k \right] = \underset{\alpha_{nk}, \beta_k}{\operatorname{argmin}} & \sum_{m=1}^N W_m^n \left( \left\| \mathbf{y}_m - \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} \beta_k \mathbf{x}_m \right\|_F^2 \right) \\ \alpha_{nk} \geq 0, & \forall k \in [1, K] \\ \|\beta_k\|_F = 1, & \forall k \in [1, K] \end{cases}$$

Use multiple observation pairs for parameter estimation:

- ▶ Weights  $W_m^n$  for considered observation pairs
  - Similarity to the current observation
- ▶ **Non-linear**
- ▶ **Non-convex**



**Partial minimization** over one set of parameters: **linear** and **convex**

**Alternating Least Squares (ALS) algorithm:** Alternate partial minimizations until convergence

**$\beta$  update**

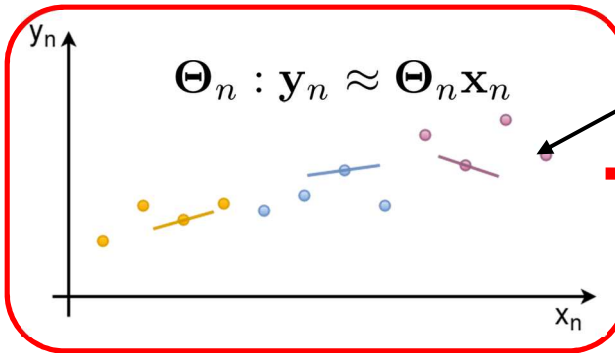
- Estimate  $\beta_k$  with fixed  $\alpha_{nk}$
- Normalization constraint

**$\alpha$  update**

- Estimate  $\alpha_{nk}$  with fixed  $\beta_k$
- Non-negativity constraint

**Local linear operator decomposition:**

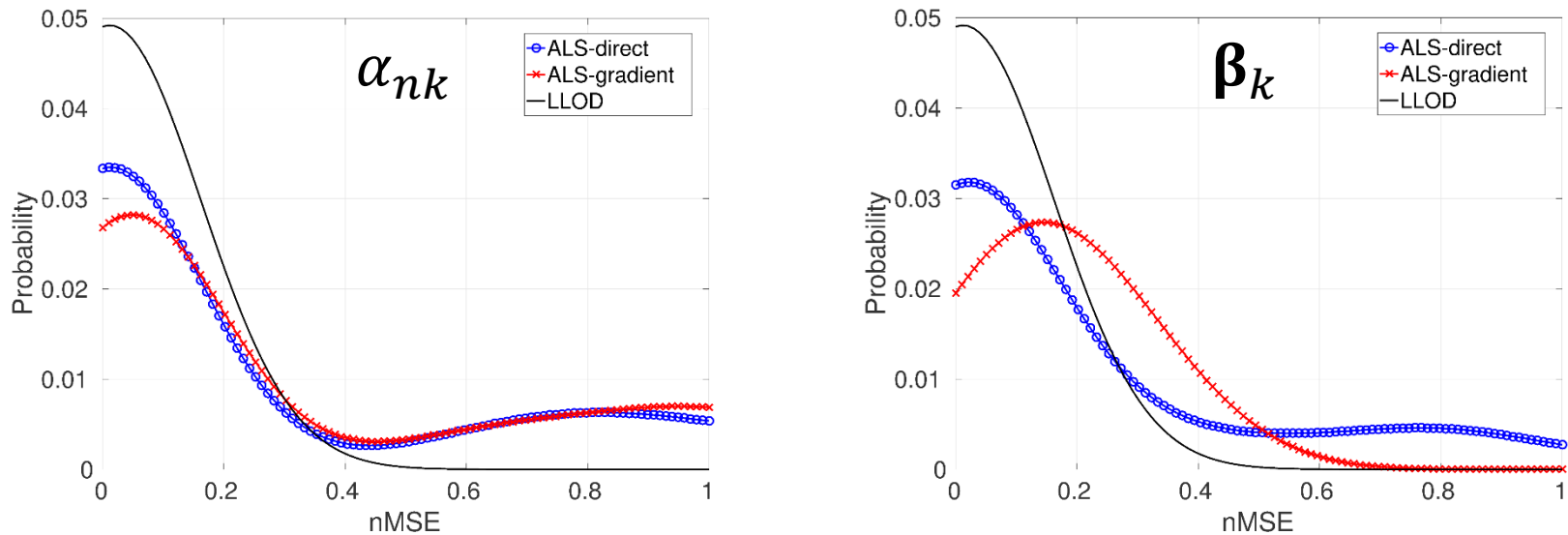
$$\Theta_n = \left( \sum_{m=1}^N W_n^m \mathbf{y}_m \mathbf{x}_m^T \right) \left( \sum_{m=1}^N W_n^m \mathbf{x}_m \mathbf{x}_m^T \right)^{-1}$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Theta_n = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{nk} \beta_k + \omega_n \\ \alpha_{nk} \geq 0, \forall k \in [1, K], \forall n \in [1, N] \\ \|\beta_k\|_F = 1, \forall k \in [1, K] \end{array} \right.$$

**Dictionary learning:**

- Wide variety of algorithms exist [Lee & Seung, 1999; Aharon et al, 2007; Hoyer, 2004]
- Constraints can be changed easily



**FIGURE 4:** Distribution of nMSE for the estimation of model parameters

Dictionary-based decomposition of local linear operators

- ▶ Best performance under favorable settings

ALS-direct/ALS-gradient:

- ▶ Less stable
- ▶ May prove useful under non-ideal settings

# APPLICATIONS



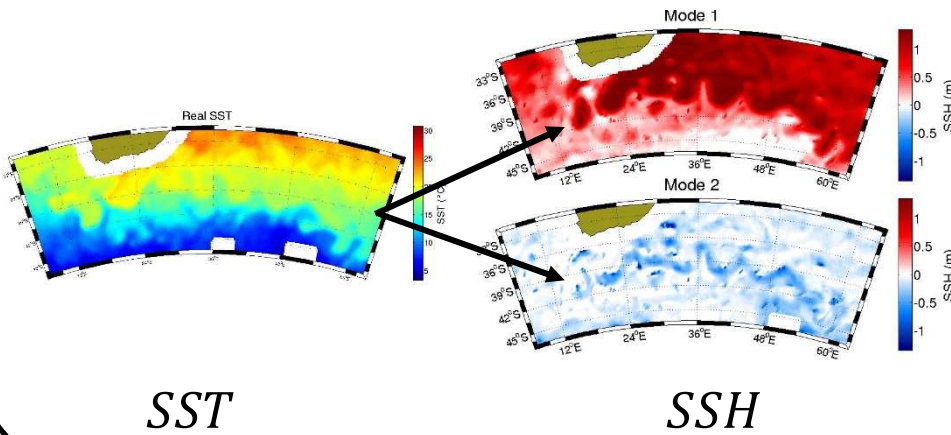
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## Decomposition of upper ocean dynamics

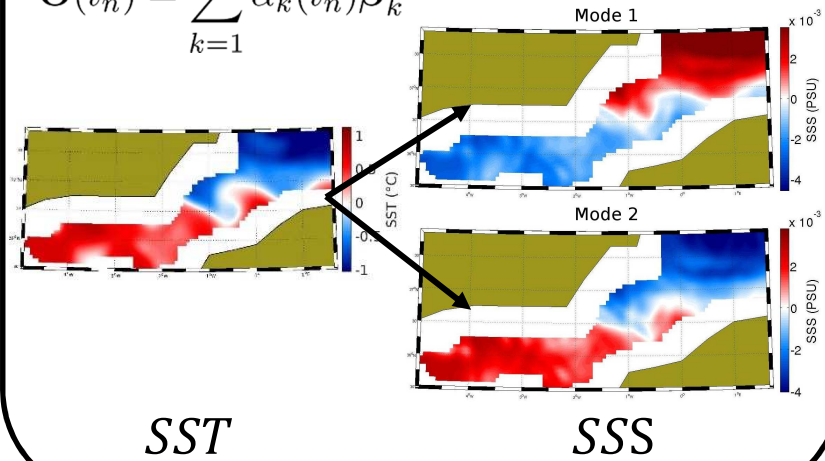
$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathcal{F}_T(\text{SST}) \quad \mathbf{y}(s_i, t_i) = \sum_k \alpha_k(s_i, t_i) \beta_k \mathbf{x}(s_i, t_i)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_n = \mathcal{F}_H(\text{SSH})$$



$$SSS(t_n, p) = \Theta(t_n) \text{vec}(\mathcal{P}_{SST}(t_n, p)), \forall p$$

$$\Theta(t_n) = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k(t_n) \beta_k$$



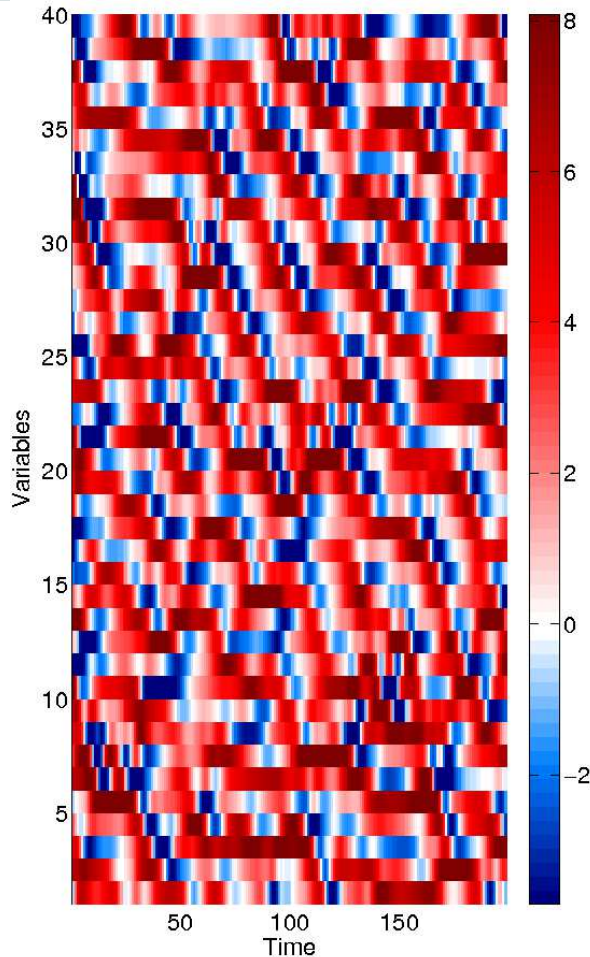
## Decomposition of forecasting operators

$$\mathbf{s}(t + \partial t) = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{s}(t)) \mathbf{s}(t) \longrightarrow \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{s}(t)) = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k(\mathbf{s}(t)) \beta_k$$

# Analog forecasting of Lorenz '96 dynamics



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Case study: Lorenz '96 dynamical system

$$\frac{\partial s_i}{\partial t} = (s_{i+1} - s_{i-2}) s_{i-1} - s_i + F \quad \forall i \in 1, L$$

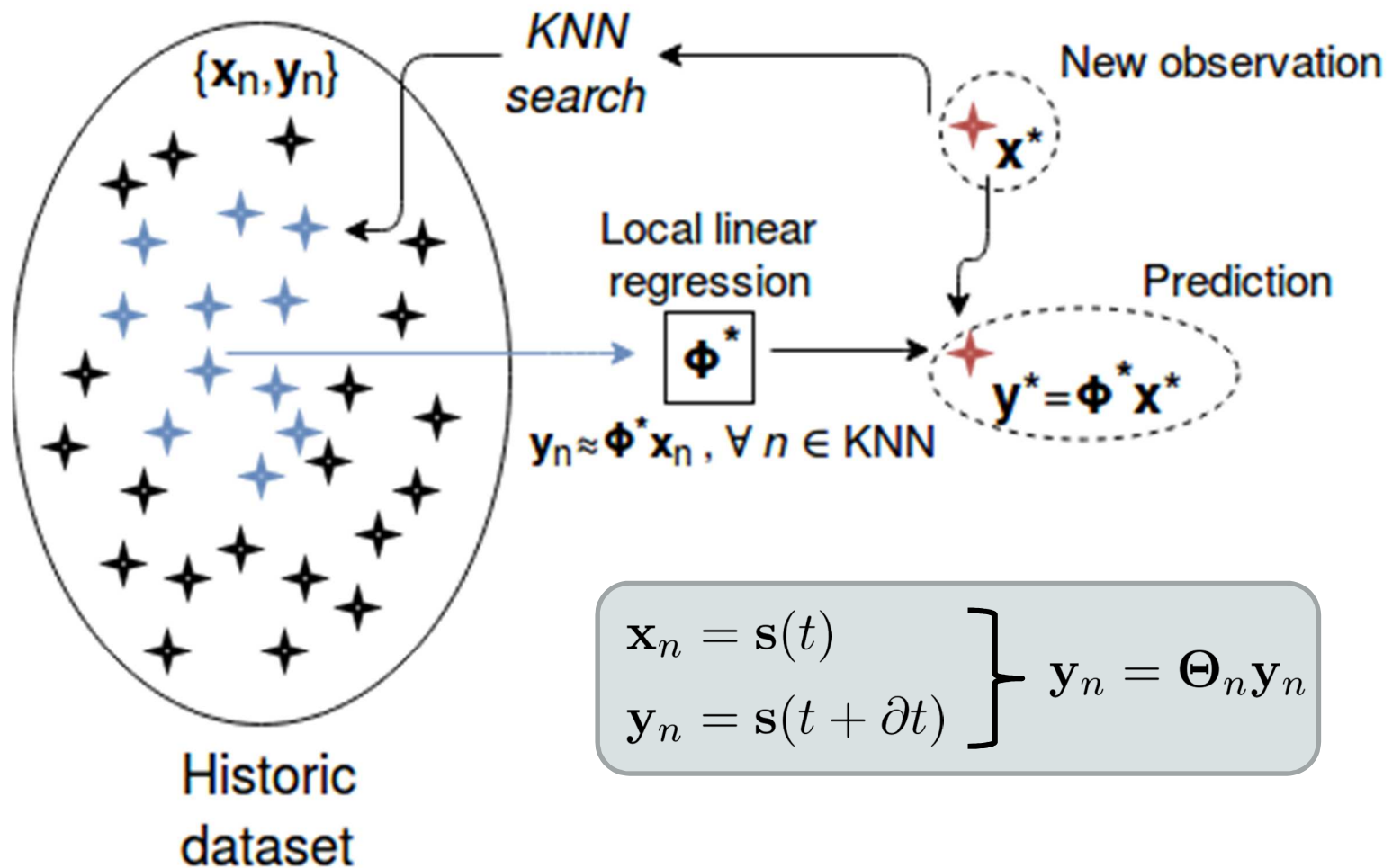
- ▶ Developed to study predictability issues in weather forecasting
- ▶ Representative of chaotic geophysical dynamical systems (e.g. the atmosphere)

Forecasting:

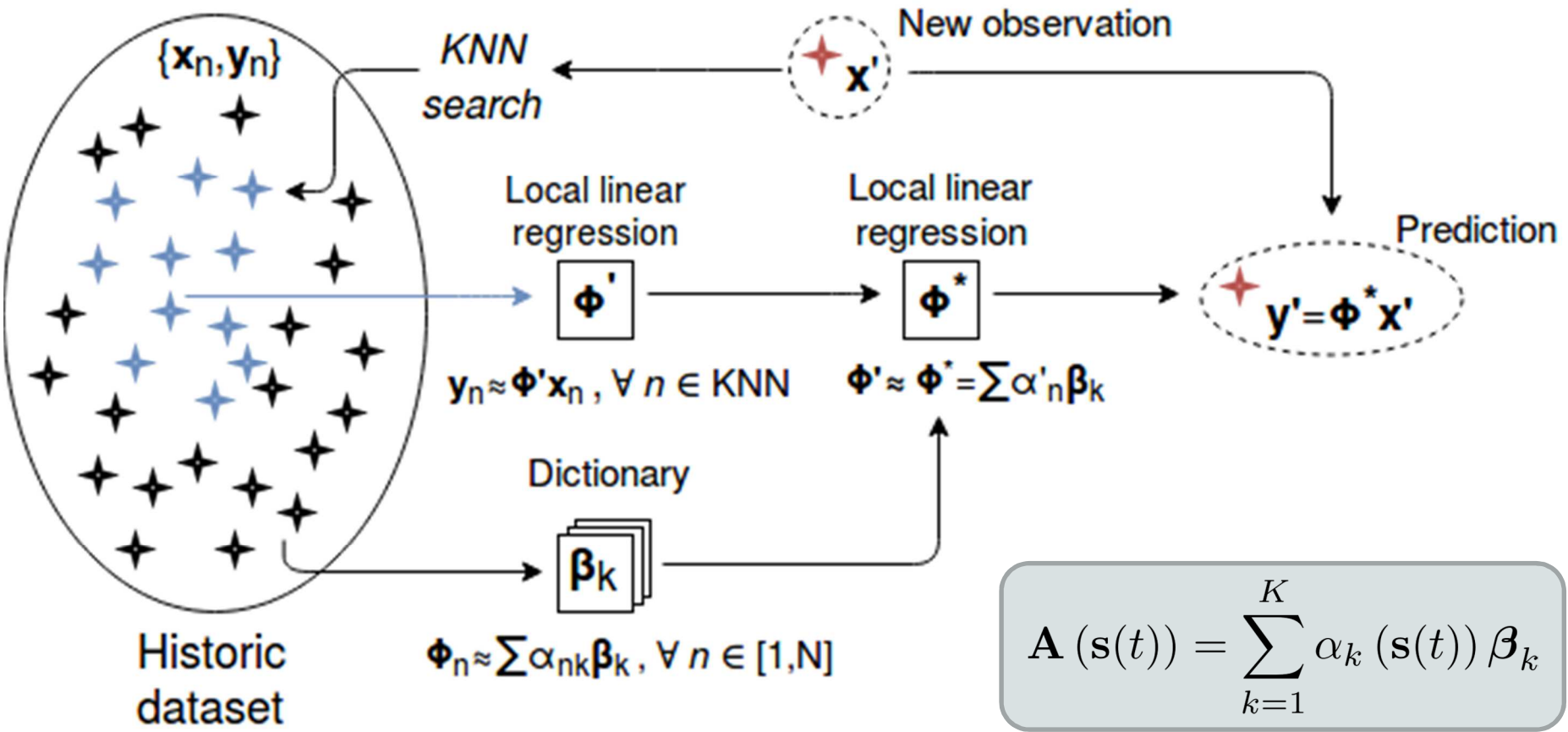
- ▶ For a 40-variable Lorenz '96 time series  $s(t)$

$$s(t + \partial t) = \mathbf{A} (s(t)) s(t)$$

**FIGURE 5:** Lorenz '96 model

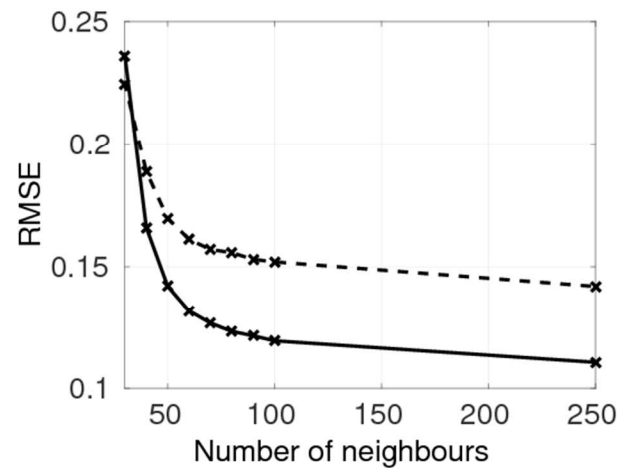


**FIGURE 6:** Analog forecasting

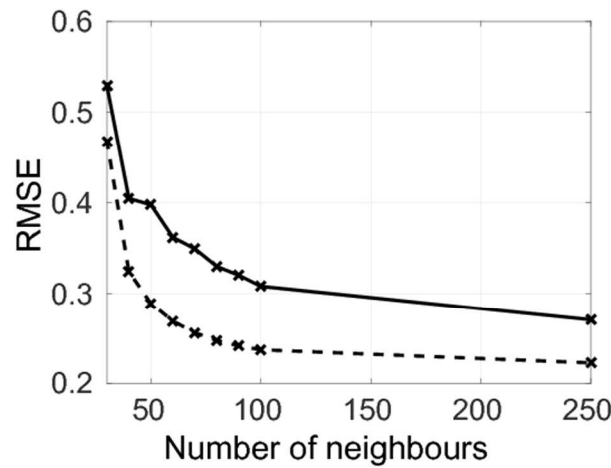


**FIGURE 7:** Non-negative decomposition of analog forecasting operators

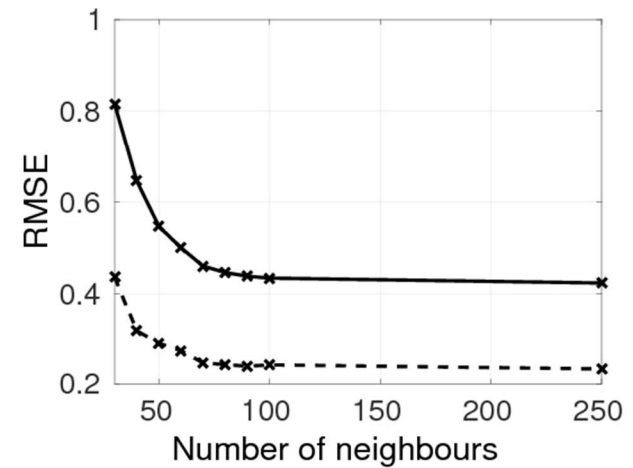
\* Local linear regression  
 \* Non-negative decomposition (K=4)



**(a)  $N = 2 \times 10^5$   
No noise**



**(b)  $N = 2 \times 10^5$   
 $\sigma_{noise}^2 = 0.1$**



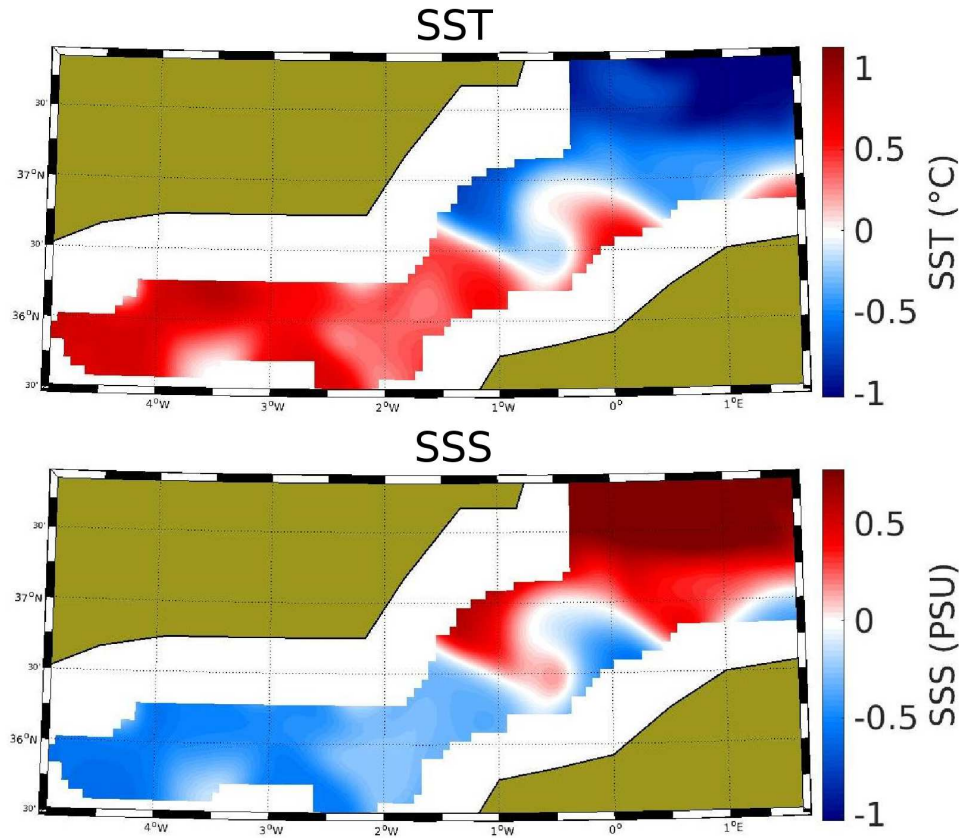
**(a)  $N = 2 \times 10^3$   
No noise**

**FIGURE 8:** RMSE vs number of analogs for classic analog forecasting and non-negative decomposition of the classic analog forecasting operator using **K=4** modes

# Segmentation of SST/SSS Sea Surface Dynamics



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Case study in the Alboran Sea:

- ▶ Daily WMOP synthetic anomaly images (2009-2012)
  - *Sea surface temperature (SST)*
  - *Sea surface salinity (SSS)*
- ▶ Cold water intake from the Atlantic through the Gibraltar Strait
- ▶ Strong seasonal patterns
- ▶ Inversion of SST/SSS correlation

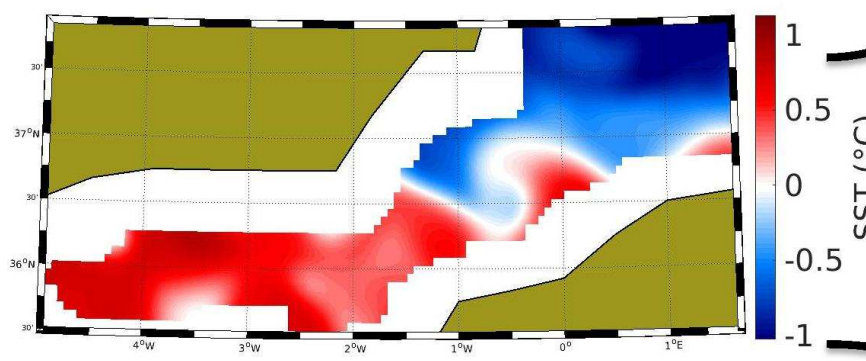
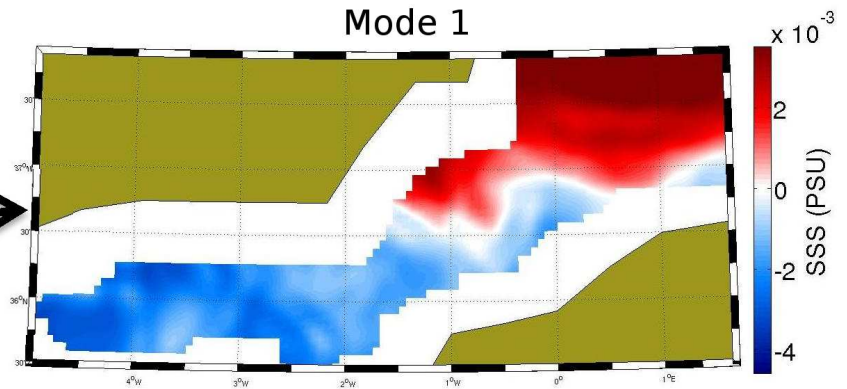
**FIGURE 9:** SST/SSS fields on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011



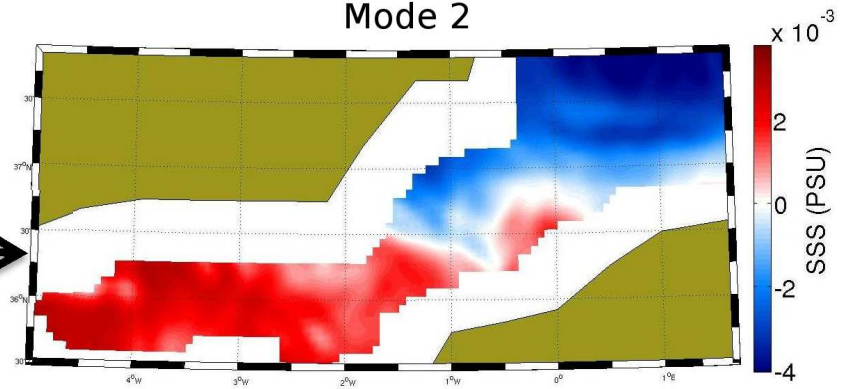
$$SSS(t_n, p) = \Theta(t_n) \text{vec}(\mathcal{P}_{SST}(t_n, p)), \forall p$$

$$\Theta(t_n) = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k(t_n) \beta_k$$

**Mode 1 : inversion of correlation between SST/SSS fields**

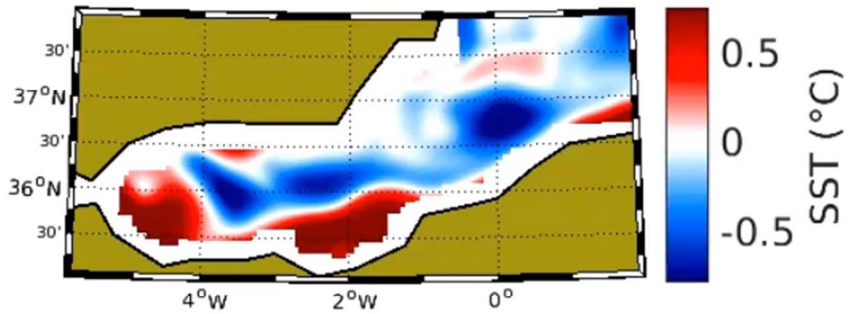


**Mode 2 : coherent SST/SSS relationship**

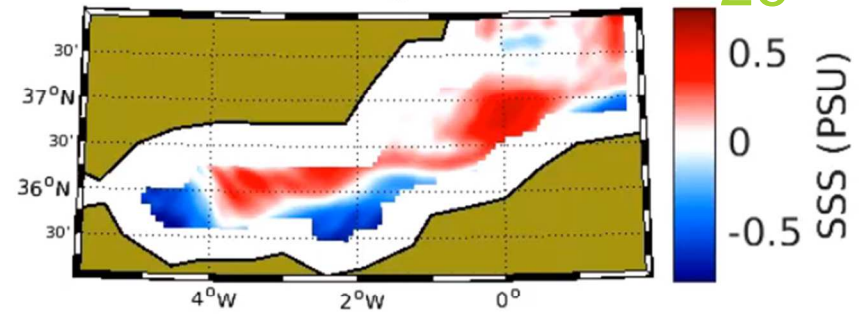


**FIGURE 10:** Modal SSS field predictions from the SST field on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

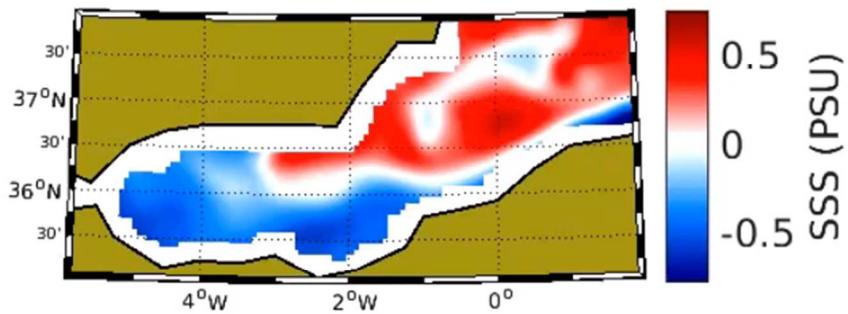
### SST



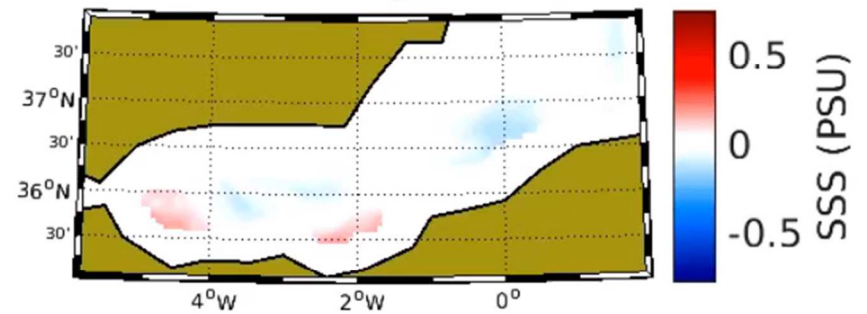
### Mode 1 SSS prediction



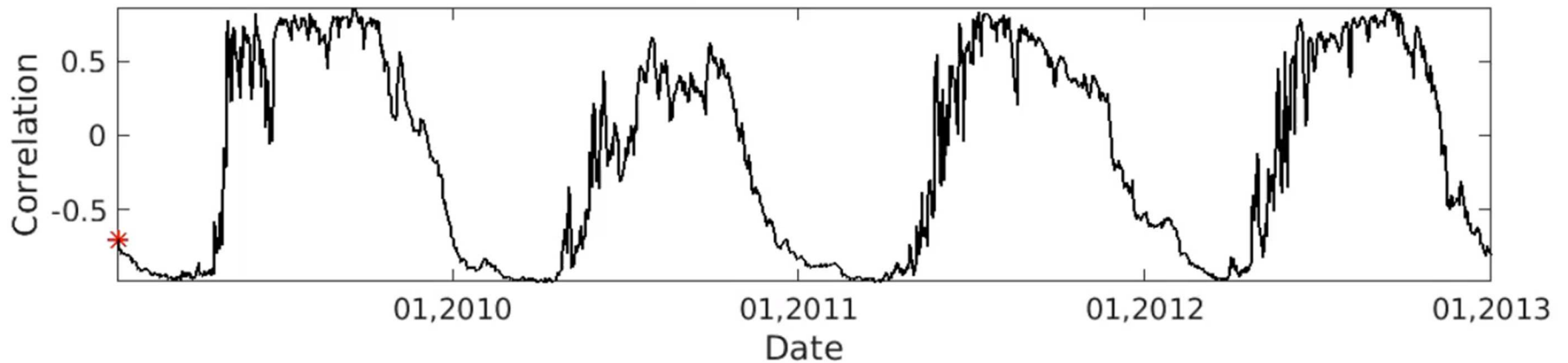
### SSS

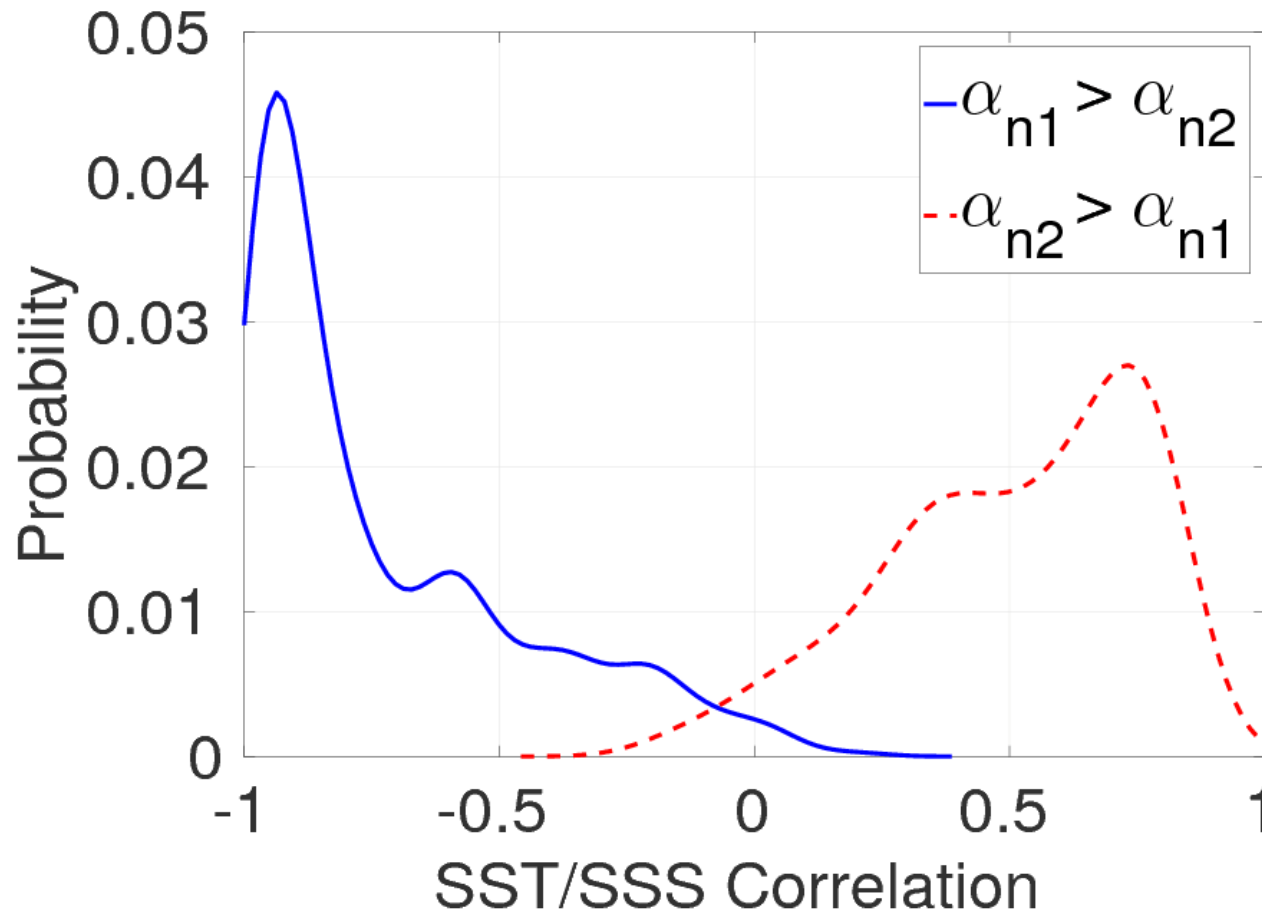


### Mode 2 SSS prediction



### SST-SSS Correlation



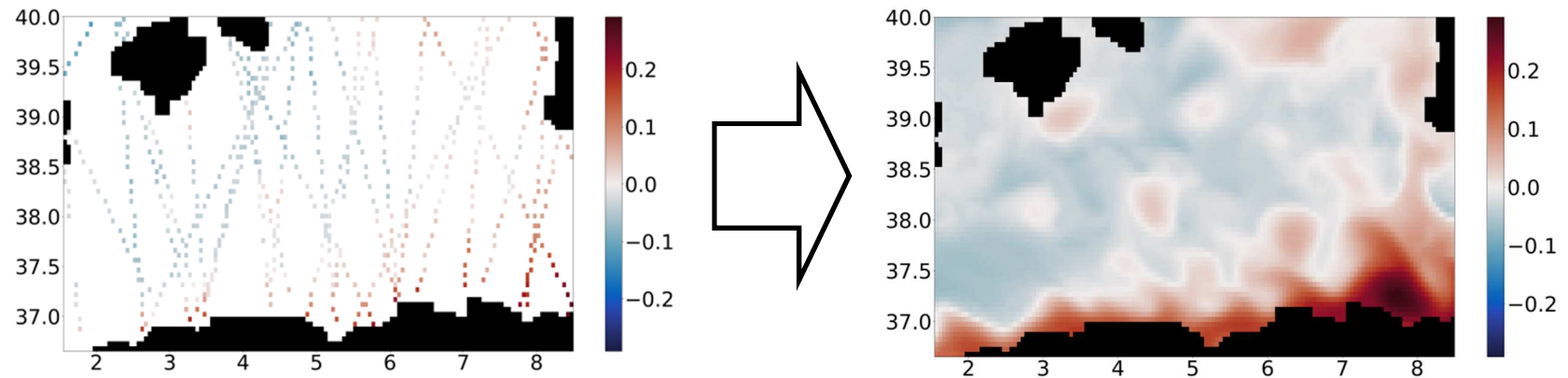


**FIGURE 11:** Distribution of SST/SSS correlation coefficients

# ***PART 2: INTERPOLATION OF SEA LEVEL ANOMALY FIELDS FROM SATELLITE-DERIVED REMOTE SENSING DATA***



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**FIGURE 12:** Interpolation of satellite data

Key issue in oceanography

**Main difficulty:** Irregular and partial sampling of the ocean surface

- ▶ Multiple data sources
  - Different spatio-temporal sampling strategies
- ▶ Missing data: up to **90%**

**Current limitation:** Scales <100 km not accurately reconstructed

## Model-based approaches:

State-of-the-art: Optimal Interpolation [Bretherton et al., 1976]

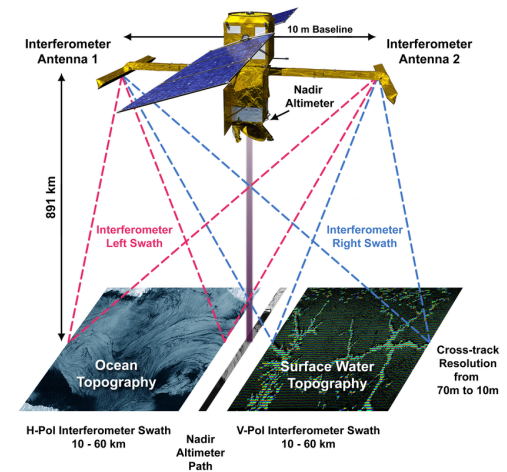
- ▶ Gaussianity
- ▶ Mean spatio-temporal covariance structures

New approaches: Additional physically-motivated constraints

- ▶ OI+Bathymetry [Escudier et al., 2013]
- ▶ Dynamic interpolation [Ubelmann et al., 2014]

## New developments in instrumentation:

SWOT  
[Fu & Ferrari, 2008]



SKIM  
[Ardhuin et al., 2018]



**We focus on exploring data-driven alternatives**

# Problem Formulation



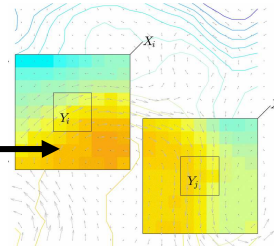
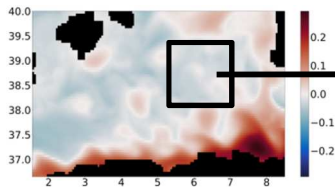
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## State-space formulation

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(t) &= \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x}(t - \delta t)) + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(t) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) &= \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}(t), \Omega(t)) + \boldsymbol{\eta}(t) \end{cases}$$

*Dynamical model*  
*Observation model*

## Patch-based representation

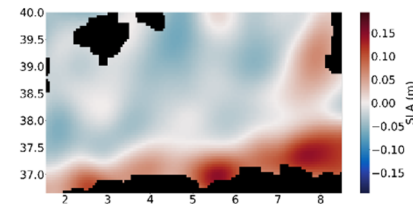


*Interpolate each patch independently*

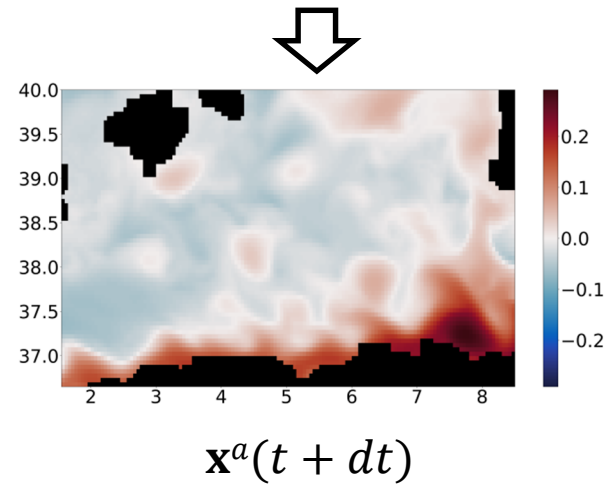
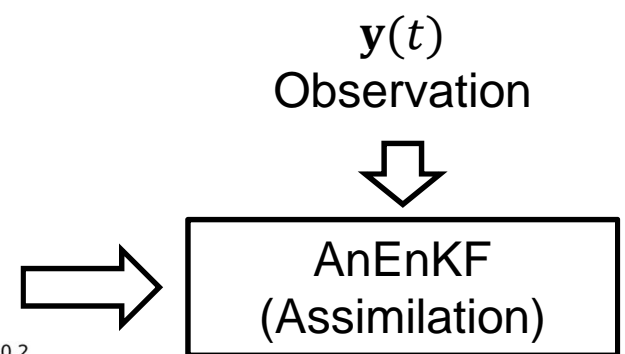
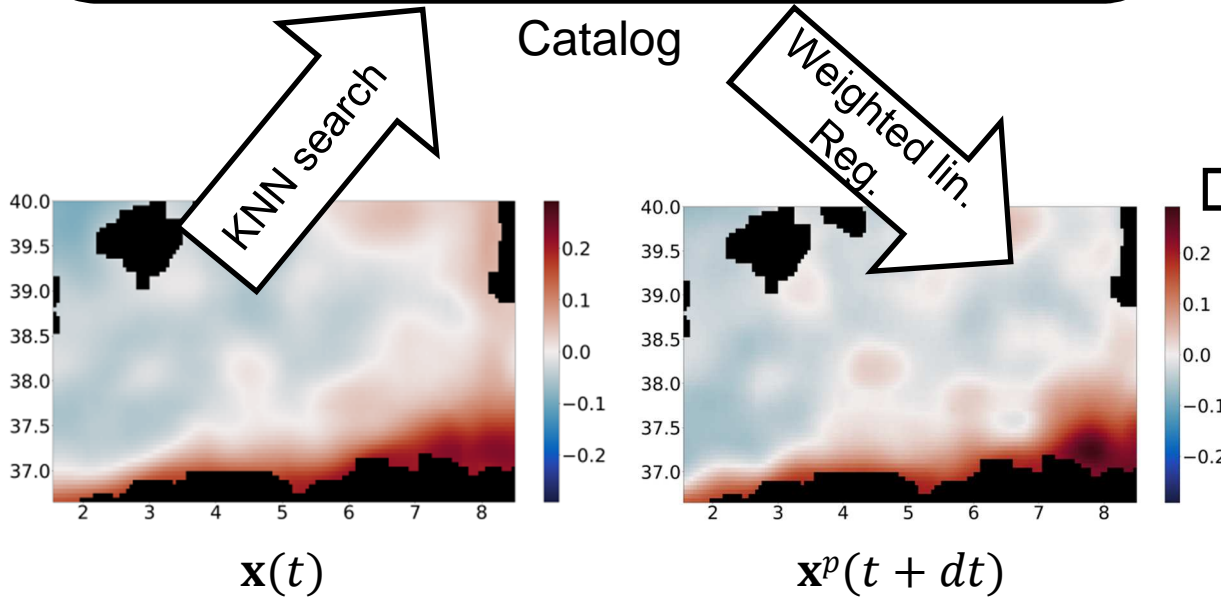
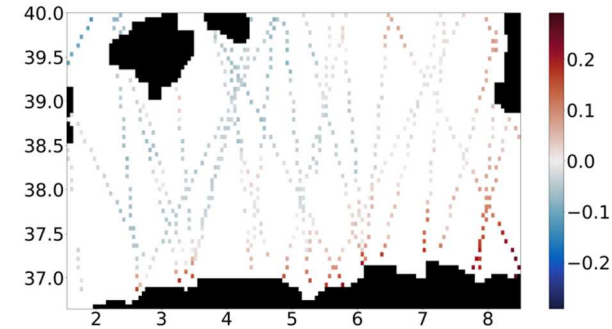
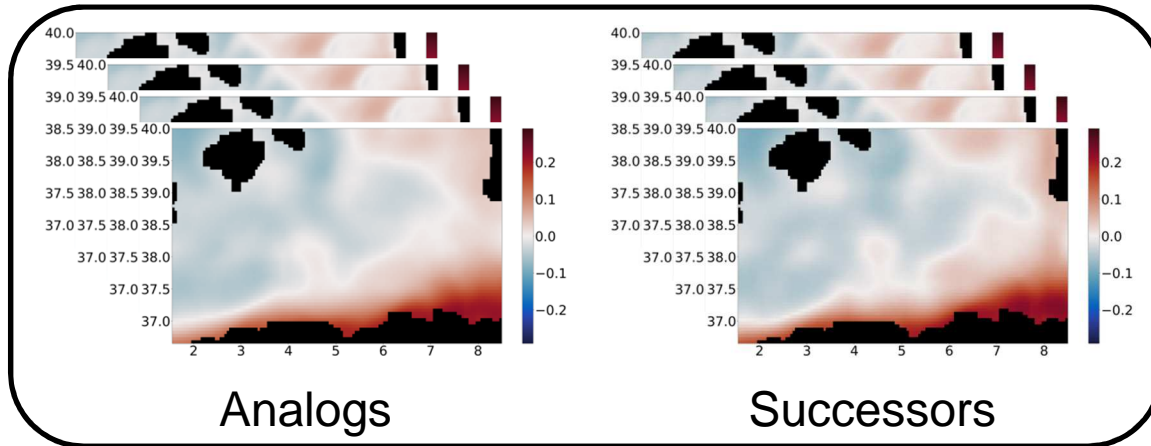
## Multi-scale approach

$$\mathbf{x} = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + d\mathbf{x} + \zeta$$

Scales > 100 km  
Resolved by OI



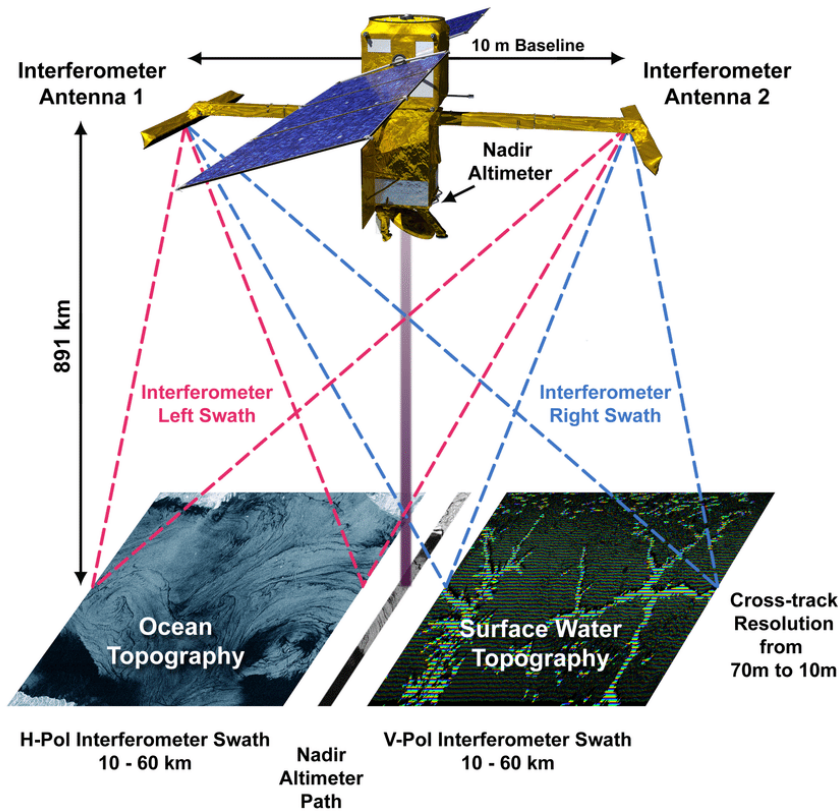




# Observing system simulation experiment

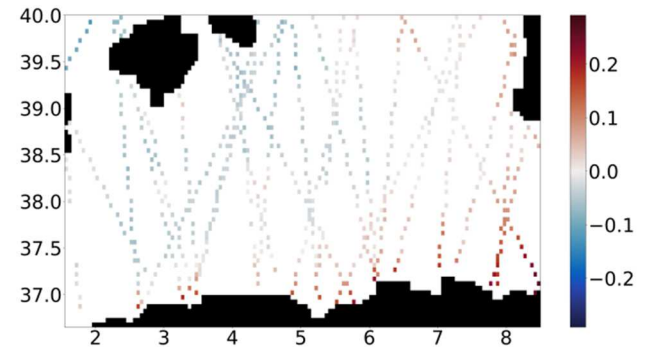


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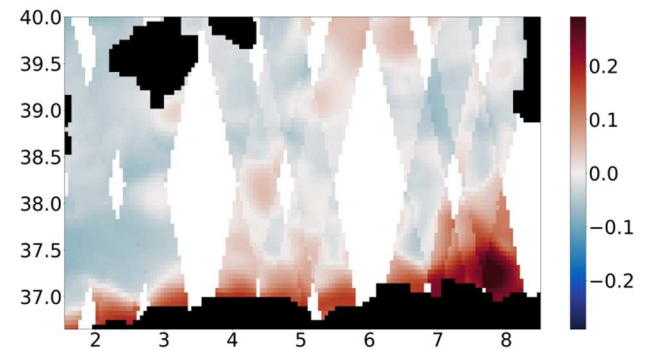


**FIGURE 13:** SWOT satellite

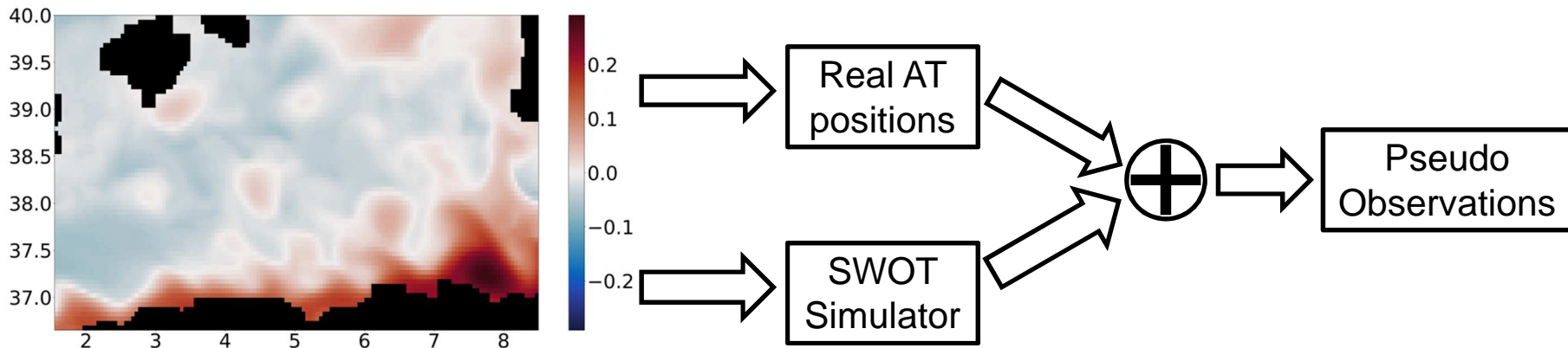
**Nadir along-track data**



**SWOT data**



**FIGURE 14:** Difference between AT and SWOT altimetry observations



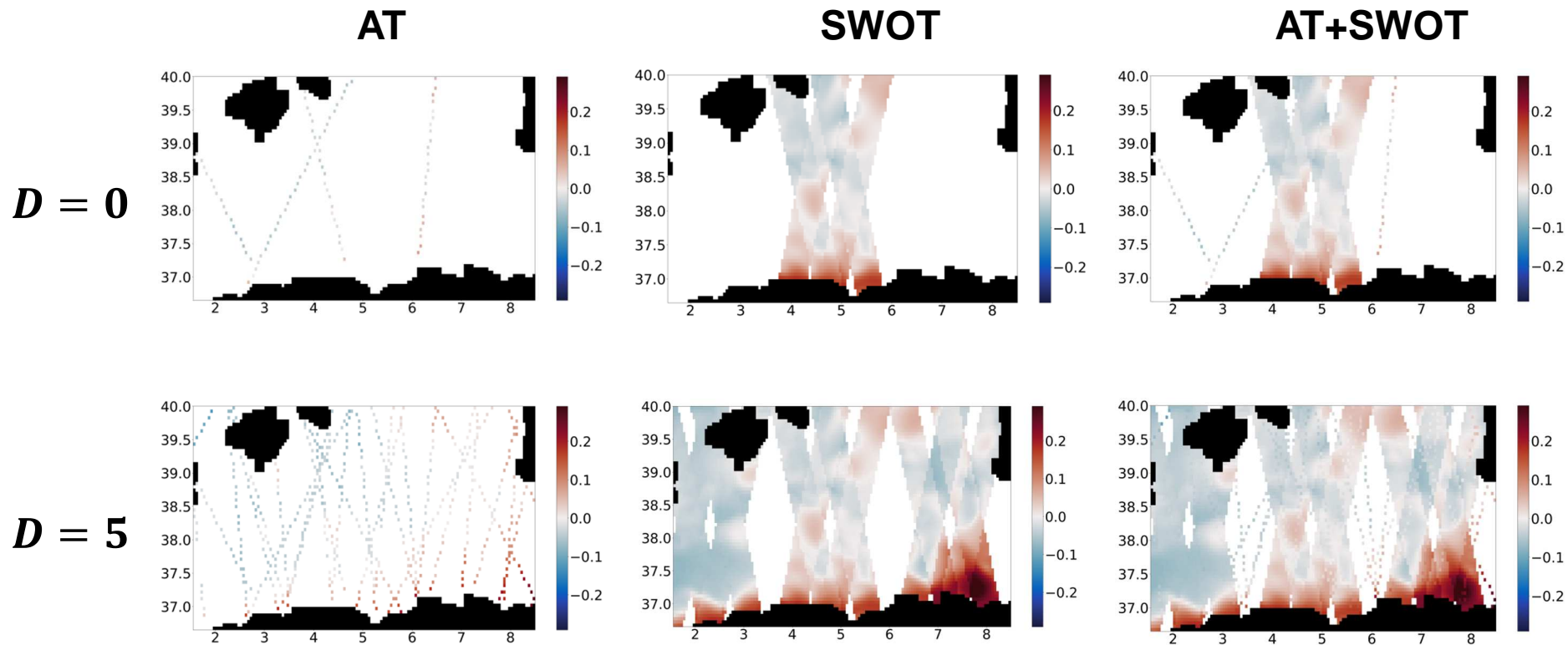
**FIGURE 15:** Observing System Simulation Experiment

Case study in the Western Mediterranean Sea, from 2010 to 2014

- ▶ Synthetic SLA (Sea Level Anomaly) fields simulated with the WMOP model
- ▶ Along-track observations : real satellite tracks (4 altimeters in 2014)
- ▶ Pseudo-SWOT observations: SWOT simulator (JPL-NASA)

Tested methods: Optimal Interpolation, DINEOF, Non-negative decomposition of linear interpolation operators, **Analog data assimilation**

**Pseudo-observations:** Observations accumulated on a  $t_0 \pm D$  time window



**FIGURE 16:** Pseudo-observations obtained from along-track (AT) and SWOT data

# Results



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**TABLE 1:** Root mean squared error (Correlation) for AnDA SLA and SLA gradient (rSLA) reconstruction from nadir along-track observations ( $AT_D$ ) and wide-swath SWOT observations ( $SWOT_D$ ). For each type of observations, both daily observations ( $D=0$ ) and observations accumulated on a time window  $t_0 \pm D$  with  $D=5$  days are considered. Best result in **bold**.

Setting	SLA	$\nabla$ SLA
$AT_0$	0.02395 (0.9186)	0.005507 (0.6989)
$AT_5$	0.01978 (0.9457)	0.004699 (0.7660)
<b><math>SWOT_0</math></b>	<b>0.01810 (0.9543)</b>	<b>0.004436 (0.7857)</b>
$SWOT_5$	0.01920 (0.9502)	0.004345 (0.7913)
OI	0.02927 (0.8451)	0.006655 (0.6052)

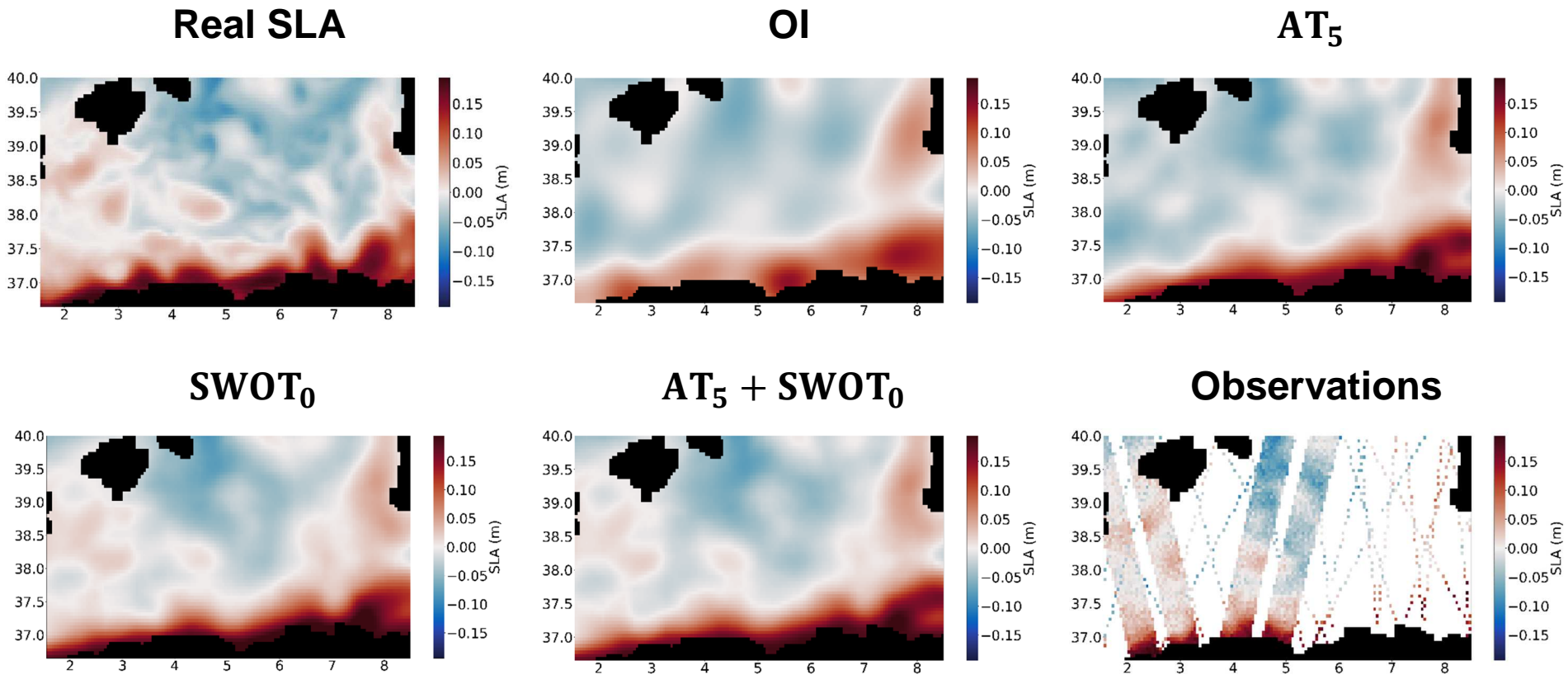
**TABLE 2:** Root mean squared error (Correlation) for AnDA SLA and SLA gradient (rSLA) reconstruction from the fusion of nadir along-track observations ( $AT_D$ ) and wide-swath SWOT observations ( $SWOT_D$ ). For each type of observations, both daily observations ( $D=0$ ) and observations accumulated on a time window  $t_0 \pm D$  with  $D=5$  days are considered. Best result in **bold**.

Setting	SLA	$\nabla$ SLA
$AT_0 + SWOT_0$	0.01742 (0.9576)	0.004375 (0.7934)
$AT_5 + SWOT_5$	0.01876 (0.9523)	0.004318 (0.7952)
<b><math>AT_5 + SWOT_0</math></b>	<b>0.01687 (0.9607)</b>	<b>0.004286 (0.8051)</b>
OI	0.02927 (0.8451)	0.006655 (0.6052)

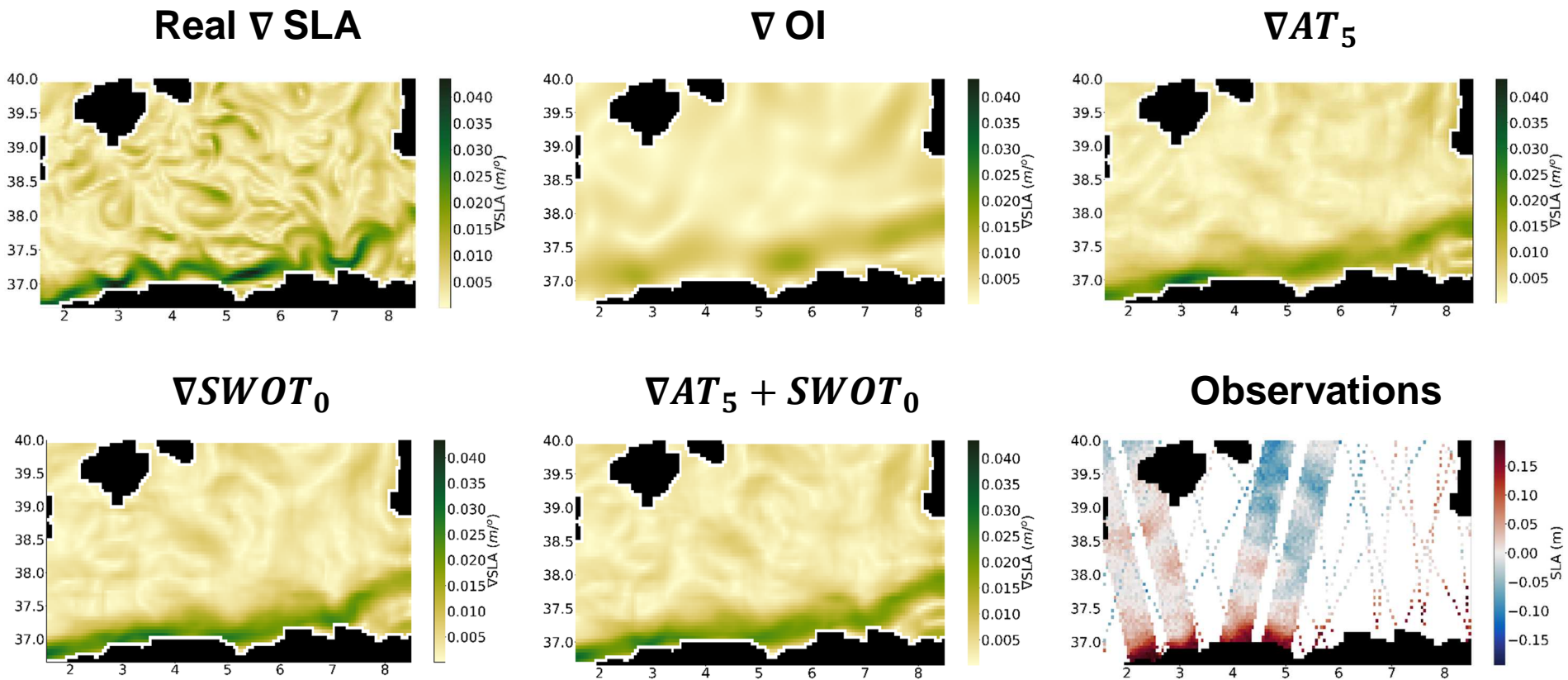
With respect to OI:

- ▶ **42% (14%) improvement** in terms of **RMSE (correlation)** for **SLA**
- ▶ **35% (33%) improvement** in terms of **RMSE (correlation)** for  **$\nabla$ SLA**





**FIGURE 17:** SLA fields interpolation results for Optimal Interpolation and for the AnDA assimilation of  $AT_5$ ,  $SWOT_0$  and  $SWOT_0 + AT_5$  data. Ground-truth fields and observations included as reference.



**FIGURE 18:**  $\nabla$ SLA fields interpolation results for Optimal Interpolation and for the AnDA assimilation of  $AT_5$ ,  $SWOT_0$  and  $SWOT_0 + AT_5$  data. Ground-truth fields and observations included as reference.

# VALORIZATION



**IMT Atlantique**  
Bretagne-Pays de la Loire  
École Mines-Télécom

## 5 International Conference papers

- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, A. Aissa-El-Bey, P. Ailliot, R. Fablet, and P. Tandeo. Non-negative decomposition of linear relationships: application to multi-source ocean remote sensing data. In *ICASSP 2016 : 41st IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing*, pages 4179–4183, 2016
- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, A. Aissa-El-Bey, P. Ailliot, and R. Fablet. Non-negative decomposition of geophysical dynamics. In *ESANN 2017 proceedings, European Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks, Computational Intelligence and Machine Learning*, Bruges, Belgium, April 2017
- ▶ R. Fablet, M. Lopez-Radcenco, J. Verron, B. Mourre, B. Chapron, and A. Pascual. Learning multi-tracer convolutional models for the reconstruction of high-resolution SSH fields. In *IGARSS 2017: 2017 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium*, Fort Worth, Texas, USA, July 2017
- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, R. Fablet, A. Aissa-El-Bey, and P. Ailliot. Locally-adapted convolution-based super-resolution of irregularly-sampled ocean remote sensing data. In *ICIP 2017 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing*, Beijing, China, September 2017
- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, A. Pascual, L. Gomez-Navarro, A. Aissa-El-Bey, and R. Fablet. Analog data assimilation for along-track nadir and SWOT altimetry data in the Western Mediterranean Sea. In *IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)*, Valencia, Spain, July 2018

## 2 National Conference papers

- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, A. Aissa-El-Bey, P Tandeo, and R. Fablet. Décomposition Nonnégative de Dynamiques Géophysiques. In *GRETSI 2017: XXVIème colloque du GRETSI*, Juan-Les-Pins, France, September 2017
- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, A. Pascual, L. Gomez-Navarro, A. Aissa-El-Bey, and R. Fablet. Assimilation par Analogues de Données Altimétriques Nadir et SWOT dans la Mer Méditerranée Occidentale. In *Conférence Française de Photogrammétrie et de Télédétection (CFPT)*, Marne-la-Vallée, France, June 2018

## 2 Journal papers

- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, R. Fablet, and A. Aissa-El-Bey. Non-negative observation-based decomposition of operators. *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*, Submitted
- ▶ M. Lopez-Radcenco, A Pascual, L. Gomez-Navarro, A. Aissa-El-Bey, and R. Fablet. Can SWOT Data Improve the Reconstruction of Sea Level Anomaly Fields? Insights for Datadriven Approaches in the Western Mediterranean Sea. *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing*, Submitted

# CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES



**IMT Atlantique**  
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Explore data-driven approaches for ocean remote sensing

### **Non-negative decomposition of operators:**

- ▶ Relevant models
- ▶ Efficient and mathematically-sound algorithms
- ▶ Relevant applications in various scientific contexts
  - Segmentation of upper ocean dynamics from satellite data
  - Analog forecasting of dynamical systems

### **Interpolation of SLA fields from satellite data:**

- ▶ Different sampling patterns: SWOT mission
- ▶ Data-driven fusion of AT and SWOT observations:
  - Clear performance gain from the fusion of AT and SWOT observations



## **Non-negative decomposition of operators:**

- ▶ Further improve robustness of models
- ▶ Explore alternative constraints (sparsity)
- ▶ Explore non-linear model extensions
- ▶ Further study geophysical interpretation of model parameters
- ▶ Explore new applications (or extend previous ones)

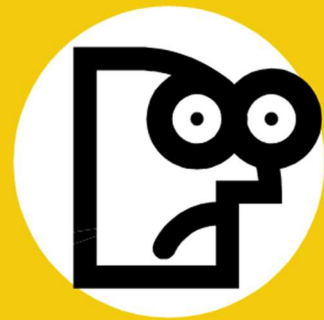
## **Interpolation of SLA fields from satellite data:**

- ▶ Filtering SWOT noise: key issue
  - Combine AnDA with current efforts to pre-process SWOT noise
- ▶ Complementary sources of altimetry data or alternative dynamical tracers (SST, SSS, etc.)
- ▶ Efficient exploitation of 2D information in SWOT:
  - Observation gradients
  - Finite size Lyapunov exponents

**Thank you for your attention**

*That's all Folks!*





**It's QUESTION TIME !!**