



# ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK FOR OCEAN SURFACE CURRENT PREDICTION AROUND THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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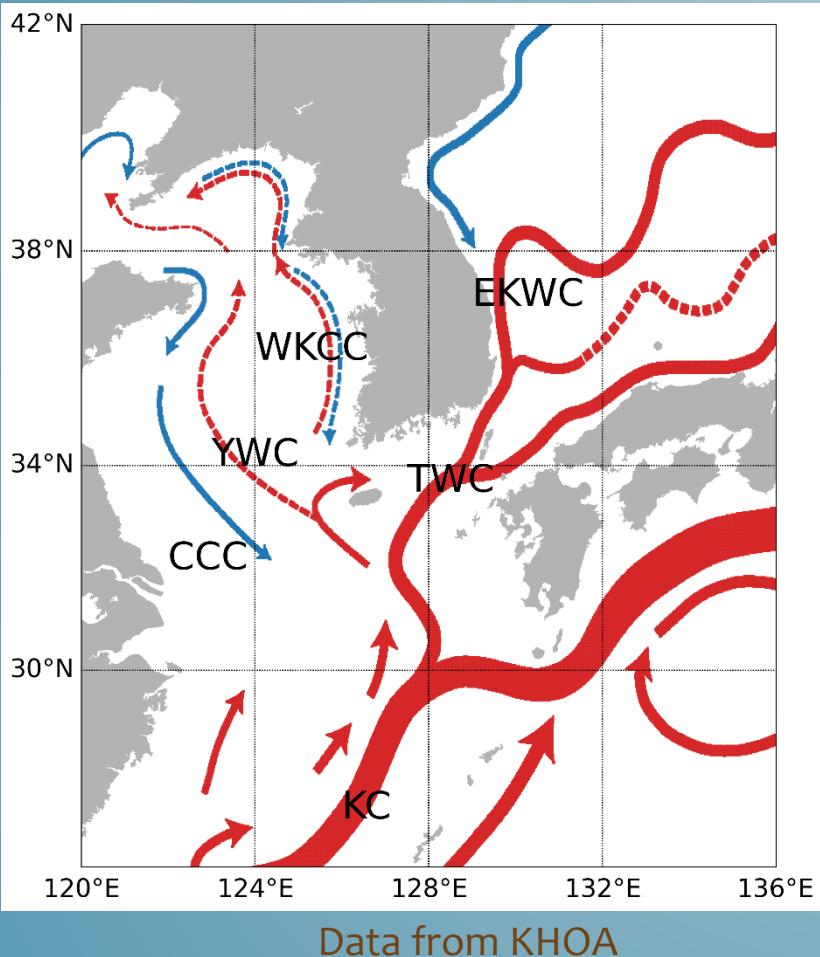


**OPAL**  
Ocean Physical-process  
Analysis Laboratory



Korea Hydrographic  
and Oceanographic Agency

# AI model for surface current prediction?

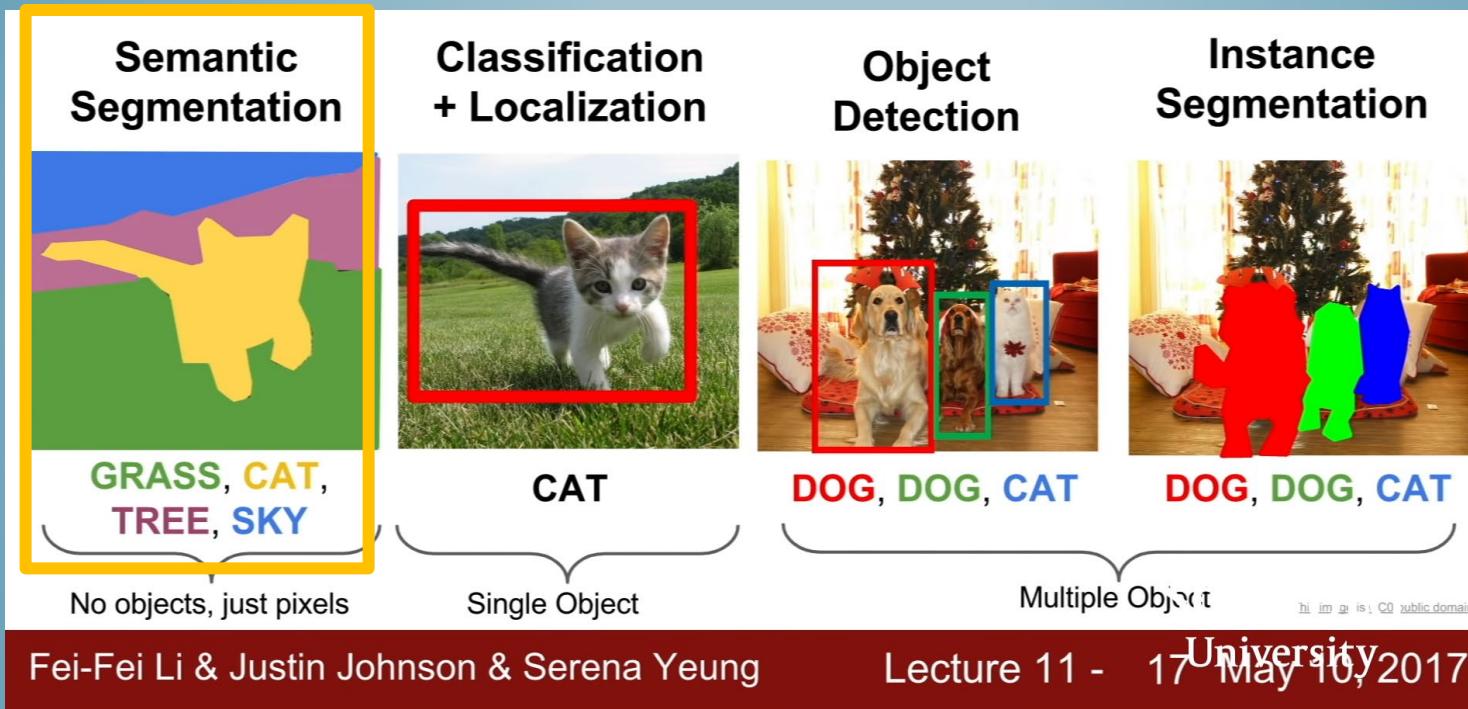


- Ocean surface current prediction is essential for various objectives.
- Seas around Korean peninsula show different characteristics: Yellow Sea = tides dominant East Sea = mesoscale processes
- Numerical model with fine-spatial resolution including is needed for prediction.
- However, it requires high computational power.

- An efficient surface current prediction framework around Korean peninsula using a 3-dimensional convolutional neural network (3-D CNN)

# Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)

## – Semantic Segmentation



CS231n: Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition

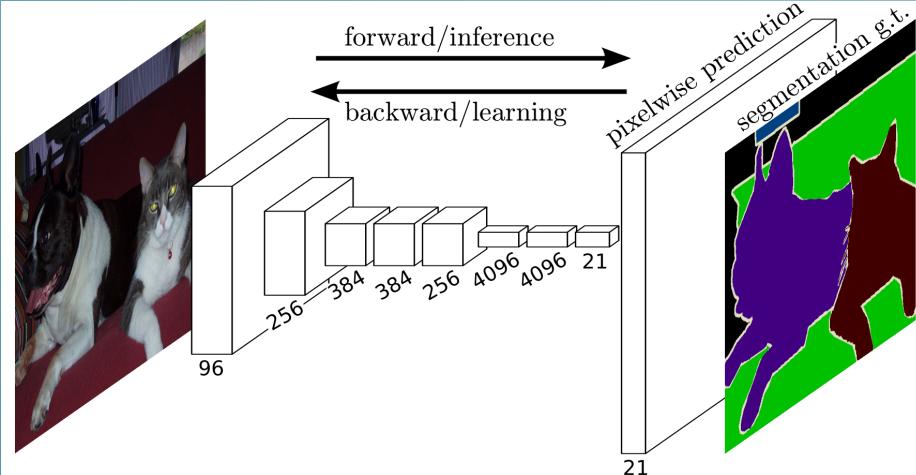
- In Computer Vision (CV) area, there are many different tasks: Image Classification, Semantic Segmentation, Object Localization, Object Detection, Instance Segmentation, etc.

# CNN – Semantic Segmentation

- One of computer vision task
- Fully convolutional network (FCN)
- Encoder-Decoder structure
- Pixel-wise classification

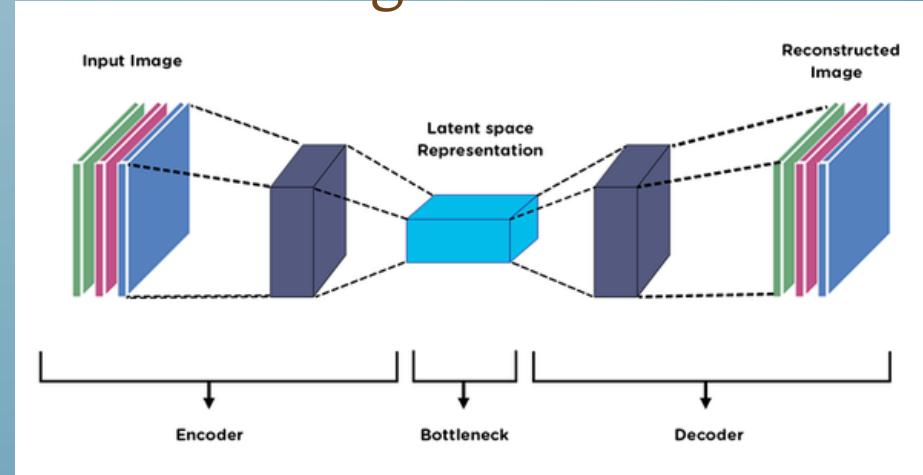


- **Pixel-wise regression**



Fully Convolutional Networks for Semantic segmentation (Long et al., 2015)

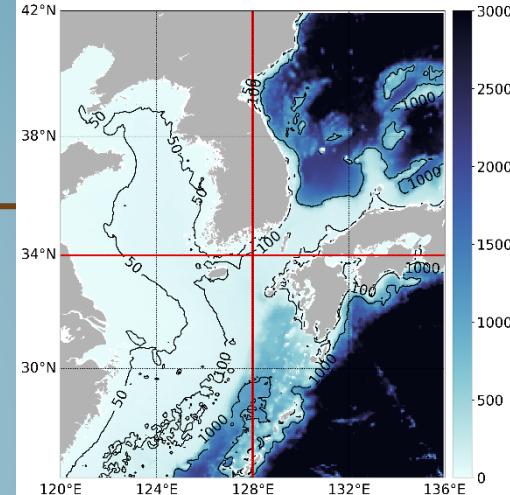
- **Encoder:**  
Encodes or compresses the input data into a latent-space representation
- **Decoder:**  
Decodes or reconstructs the encoded data (latent space representation) back to original dimension



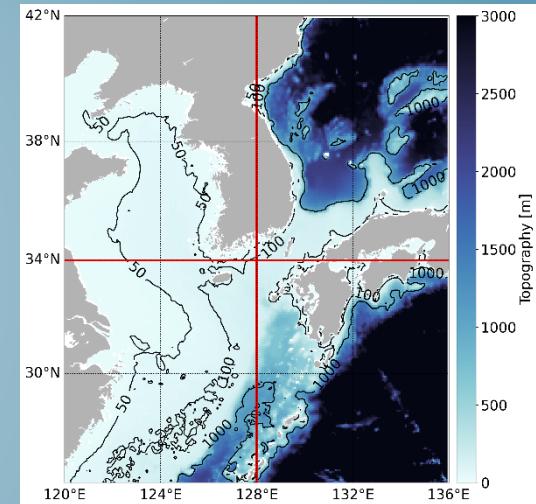
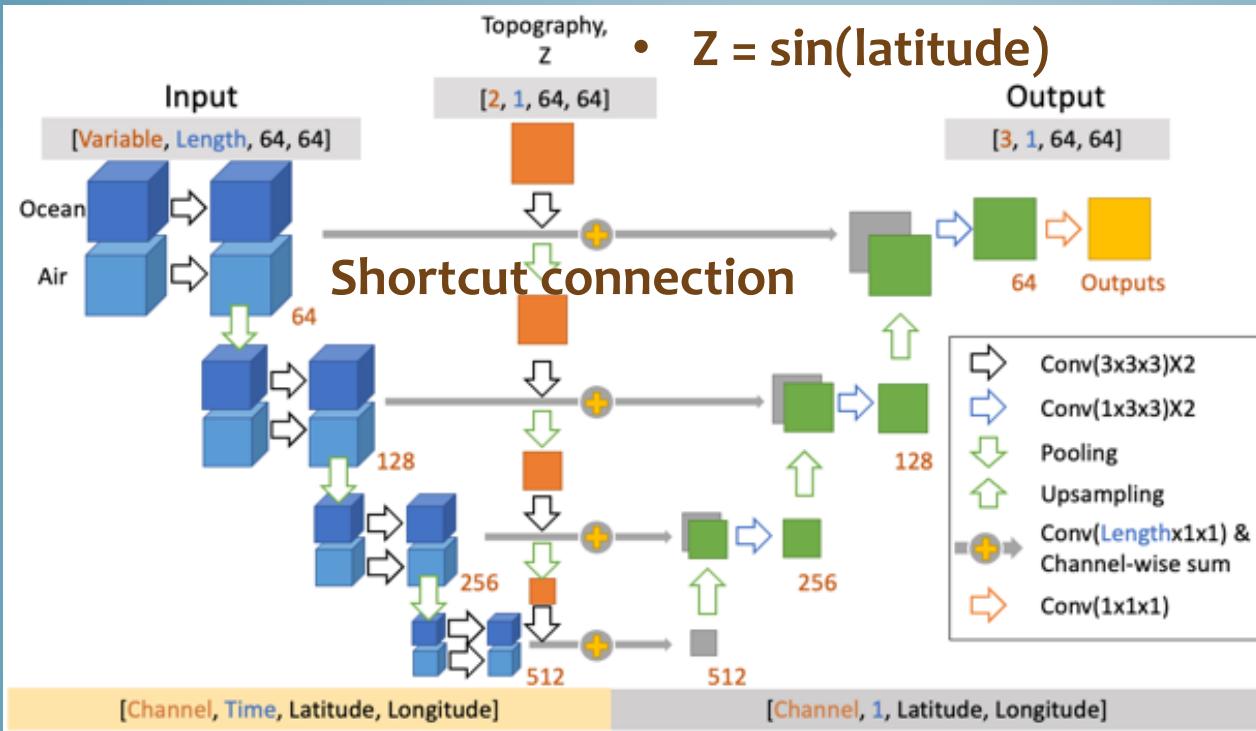
<https://medium.com/@birla.deepak26/>

# Oceanic & Atmospheric Data

- Oceanic inputs – OPEM reanalysis data  
Time resolution: daily  
Spatial resolution:  $1/20^\circ \rightarrow 1/16^\circ$   
Sea surface current (U, V, SSH)
- Atmospheric inputs – ECMWF ERA5 reanalysis data  
Time resolution: hourly  $\rightarrow$  daily  
Spatial resolution:  $1/4^\circ \rightarrow 1/16^\circ$ 
  - Only 10 m above surface wind velocity (U<sub>10</sub>, V<sub>10</sub>)
- Train set: 1993–2012 (20 years)
- Test set: 2013-2014 (2 years)

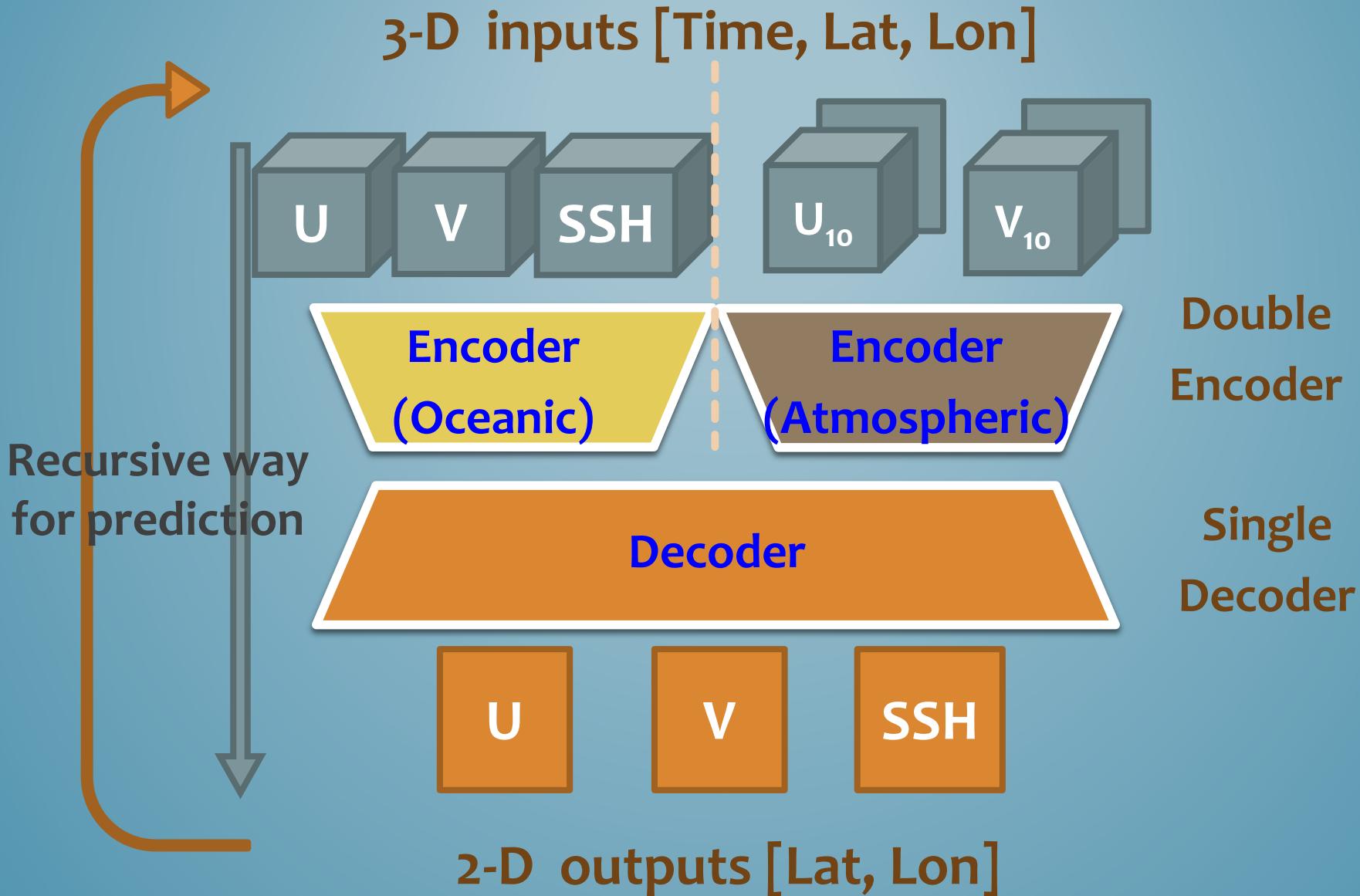


# AI Methods



- The U-shaped network:  
Encoder-decoder structure with shortcut connection
- The full domain ( $256 \times 256$ ) are divided into four patches ( $128 \times 128$ ) and used in the training processes
- Double encoder for each oceanic and atmospheric data
- Topography data is included in the shortcut connection

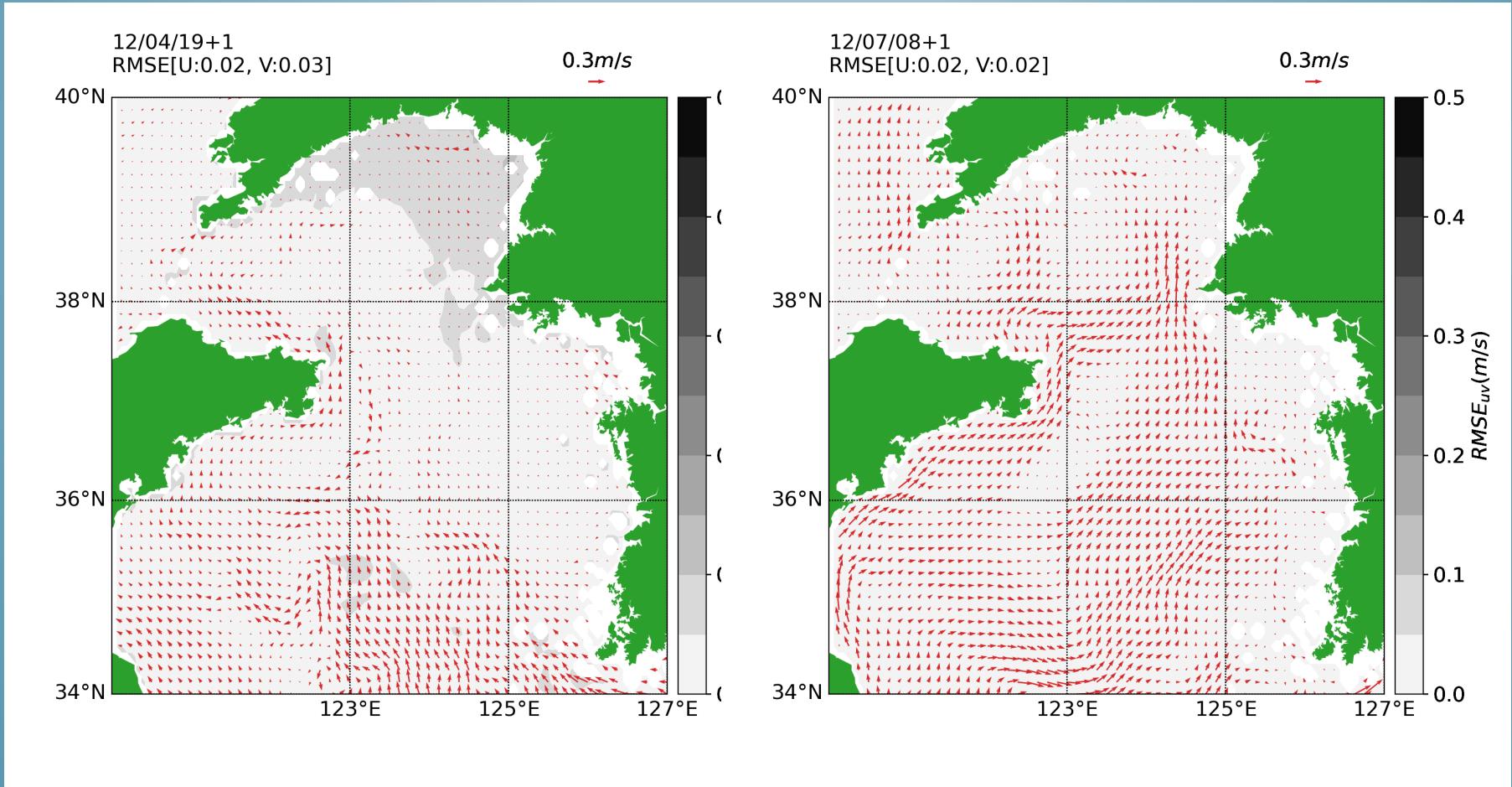
# AI Methods



# AI model prediction of surface current for 5 days: Yellow Sea

Start date: Apr. 19, 2012

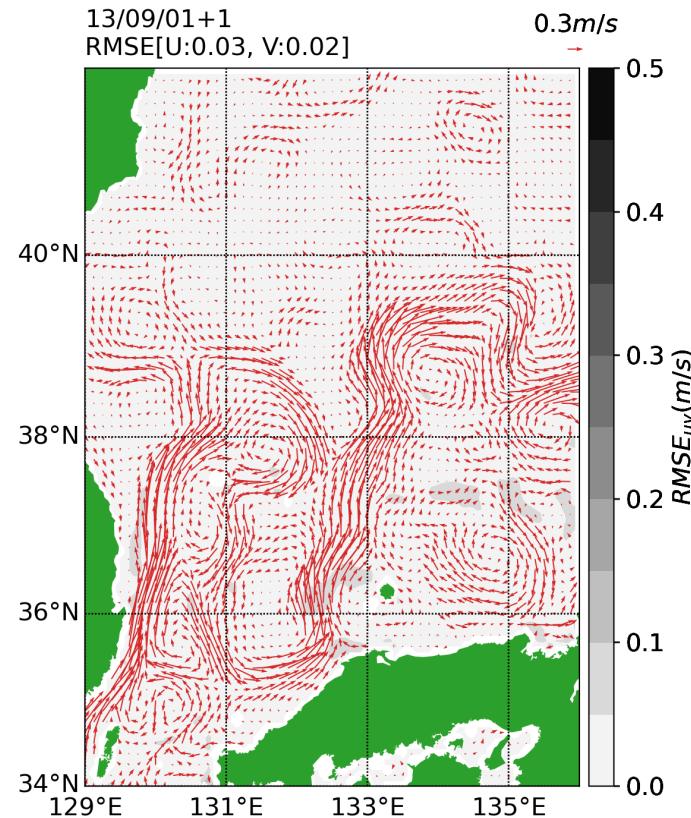
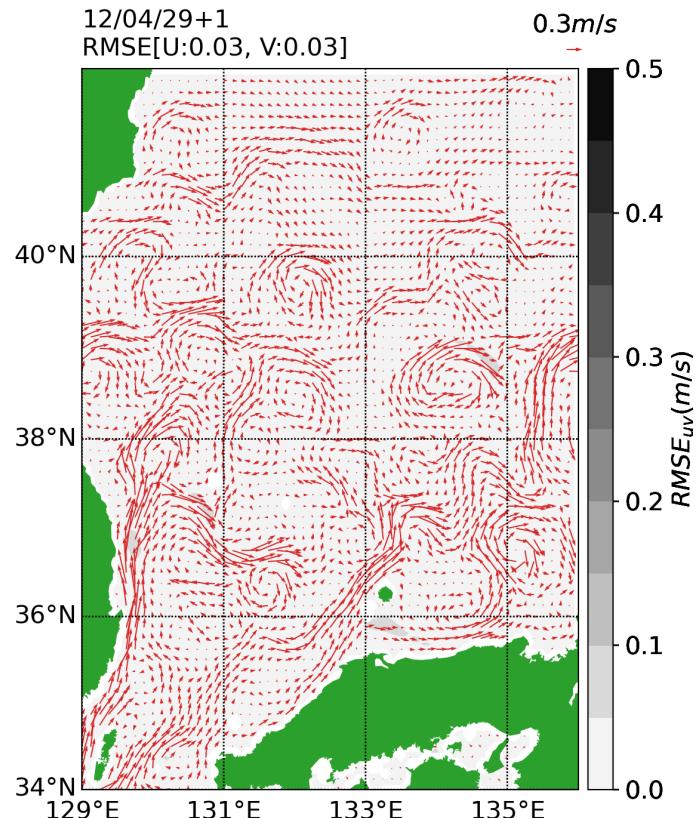
Start date: Jul. 08, 2012



# AI model prediction of surface current for 5 days: East Sea

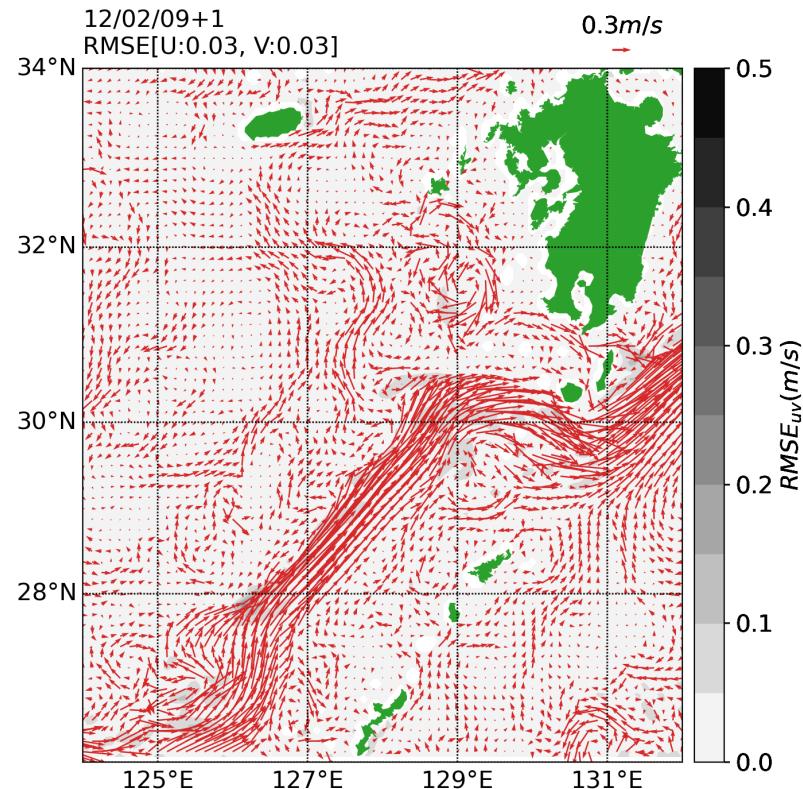
Start date: Apr. 29, 2012

Start date: Sep. 01, 2013

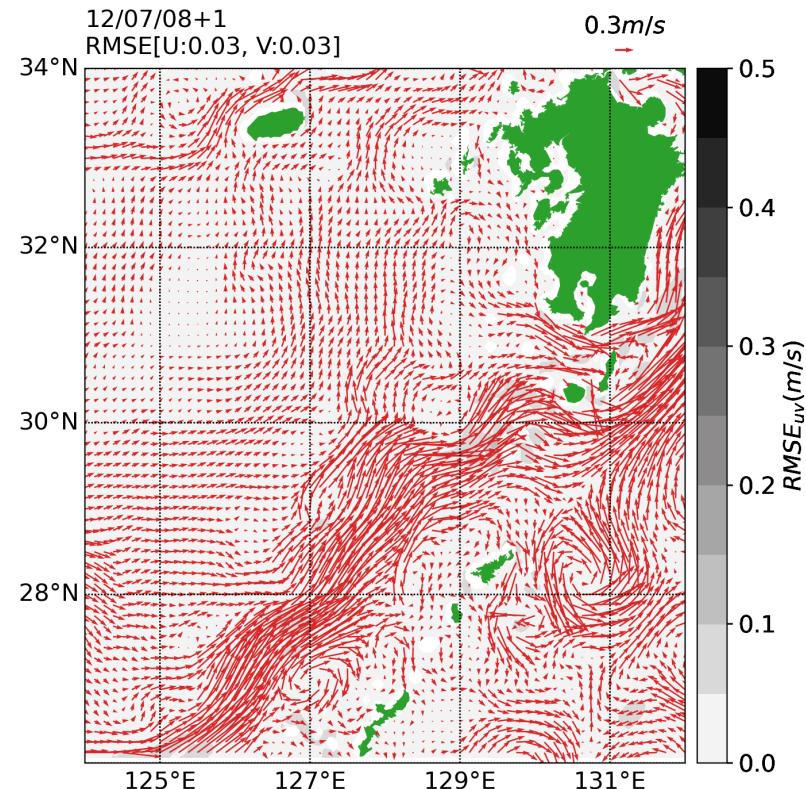


# AI model prediction of surface current for 5 days : East China Sea

Start date: Feb. 09, 2012

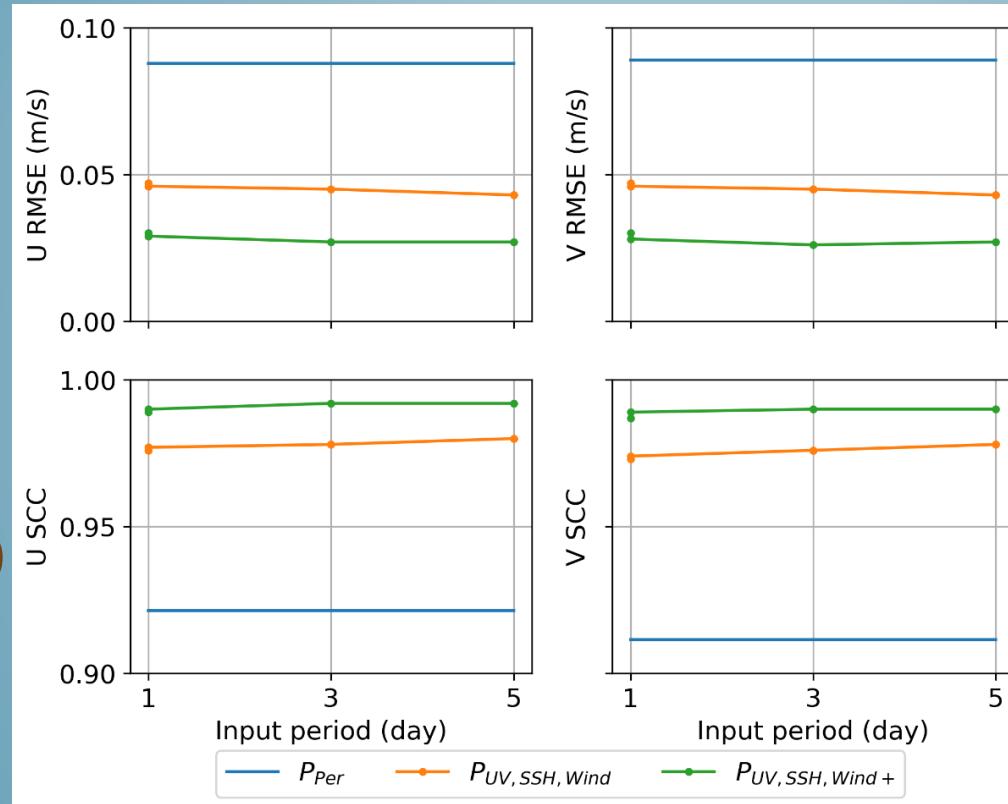


Start date: Jul. 08, 2012



# AI model performance depending on input periods and winds

RMSE of U  
SCC of U  
(spatial correlation coefficient)



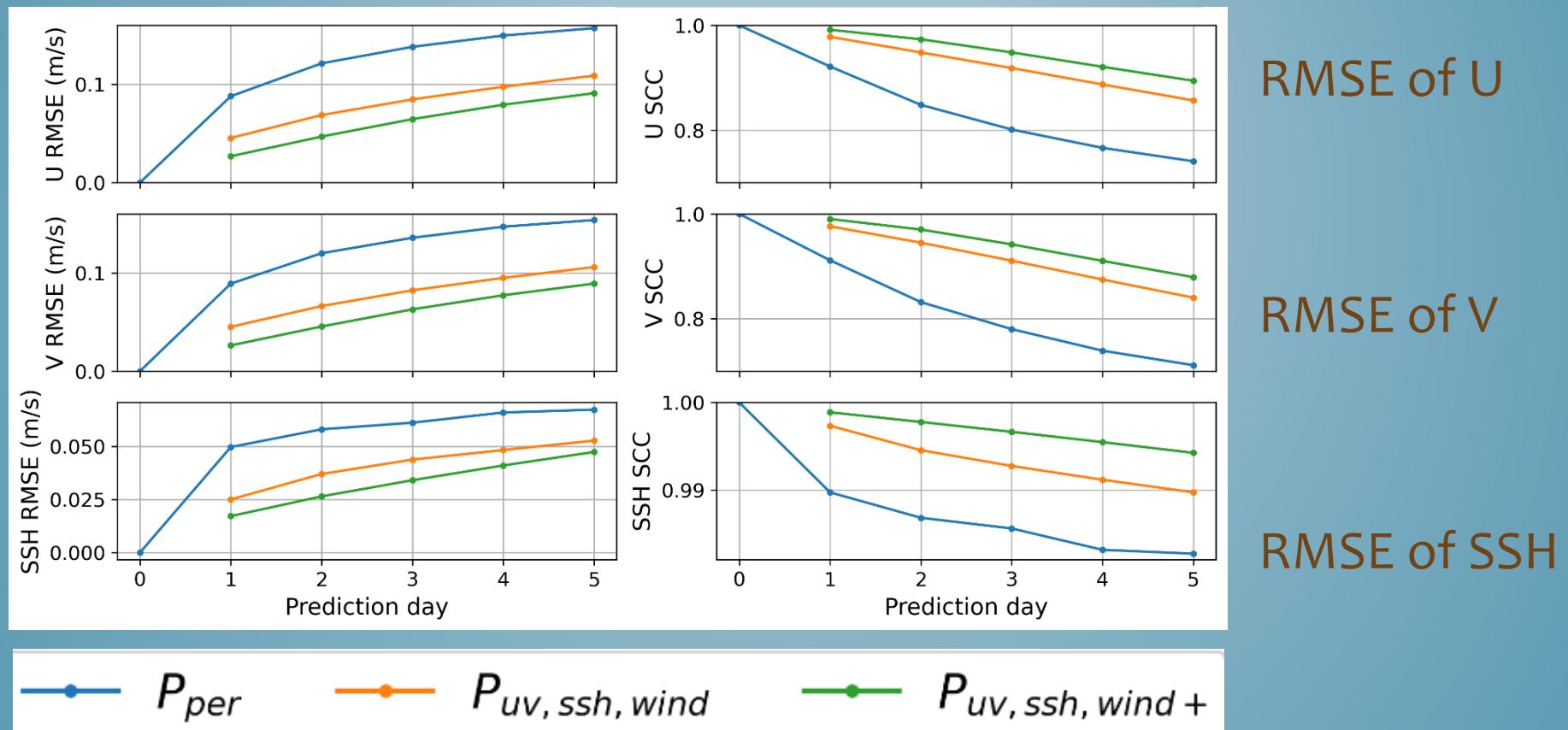
- Optimal input periods are 3 to 5 days.
- The next-day wind input performs the best.

—  $P_{Per}$  —●  $P_{UV,SSH,Wind}$  —●  $P_{UV,SSH,Wind+}$

- $P_{per}$ : Persistence prediction (RMSE between today and tomorrow)
- $P_{UV,SSH,Wind}$ : Prediction with surface current, SSH, and 10-m wind
- $P_{UV,SSH,Wind+}$ :  $P_{UV,SSH,Wind}$  with the next-day wind

# AI model errors depending on predicting days

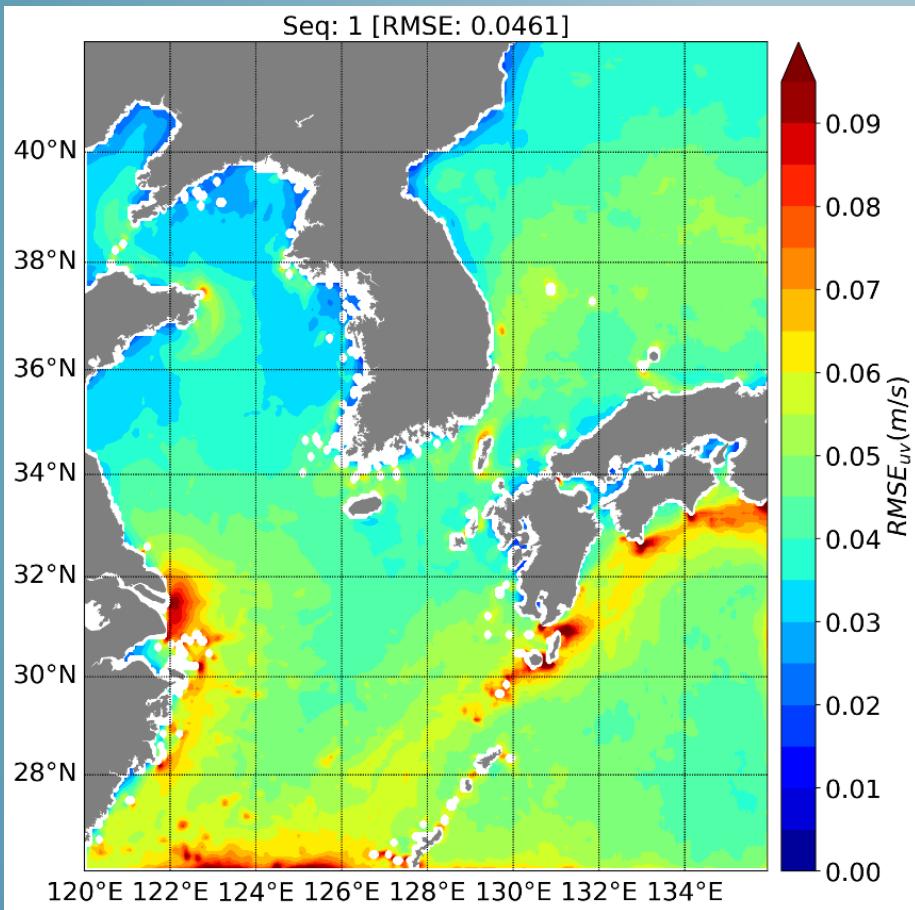
=> RMSE= $\sim 0.07$  m/s for the prediction on day 3



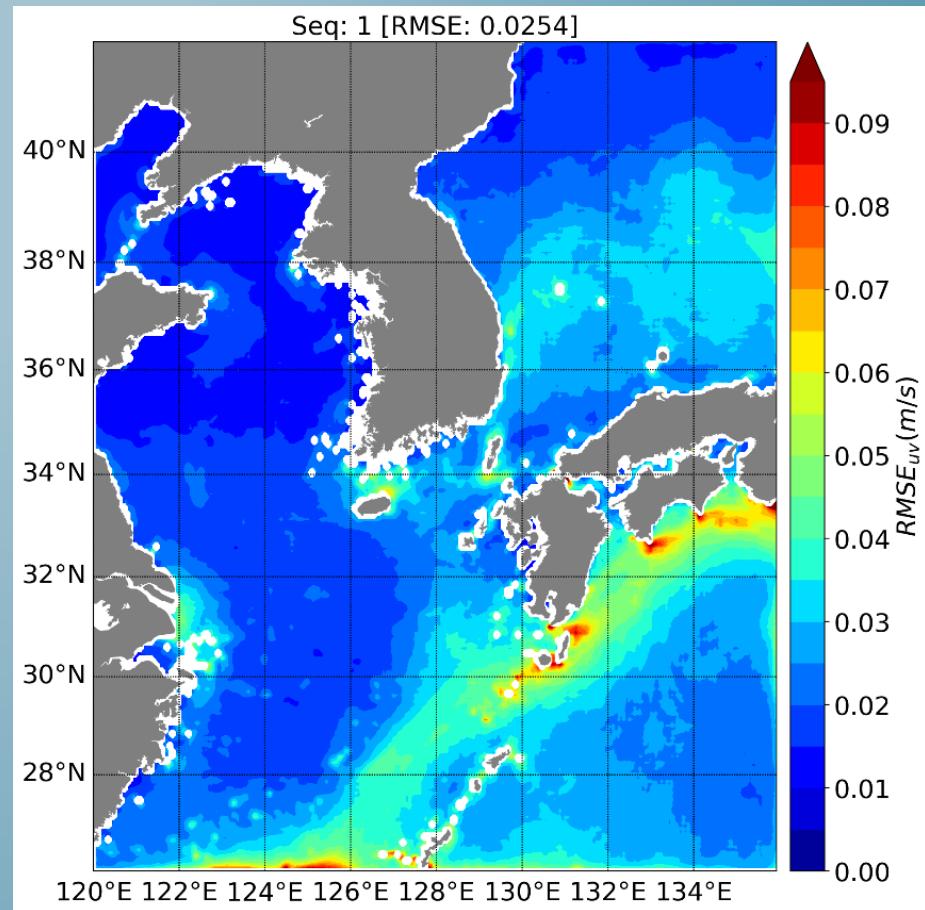
- $P_{per}$ : Persistence prediction (RMSE between today and tomorrow)
- $P_{UV,SSH,Wind}$ : Prediction with surface current, SSH, and 10-m wind
- $P_{UV,SSH,Wind+}$ :  $P_{UV,SSH,Wind}$  with the next day's wind

# Effects of wind+ on the current prediction

Prediction using U, V, SSH, wind



using U, V, SSH, wind+

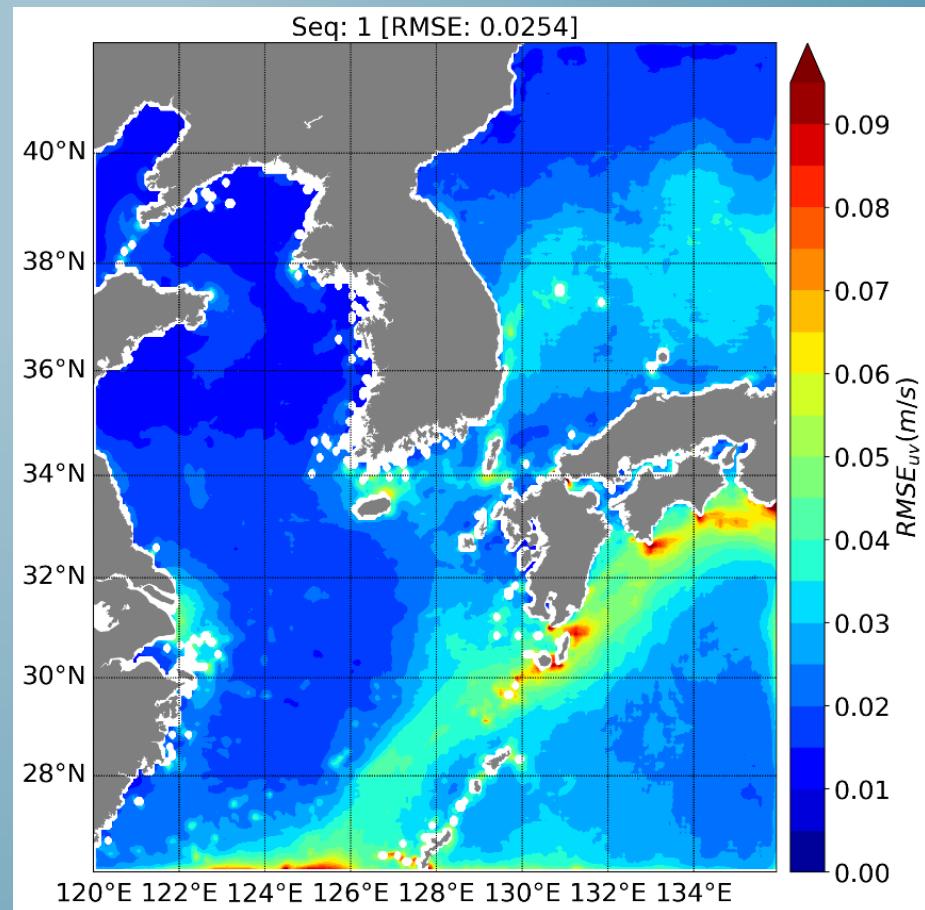


Error distribution of uv-component averaged RMSE ( $RMSE_{uv}$ ) for the 1<sup>st</sup> prediction day (Input days = 3)

# Effects of wind+ on the current prediction

- The input of the next-day wind (wind+) results in a significant improvement in the Yellow Sea as expected. In addition, open sea areas also show some improvement.
- Yangtze River discharge prediction is also improved with wind+
- The effects of wind+ on the strong geostrophic currents such as the Kuroshio and the East Korea Warm Current are rarely seen.

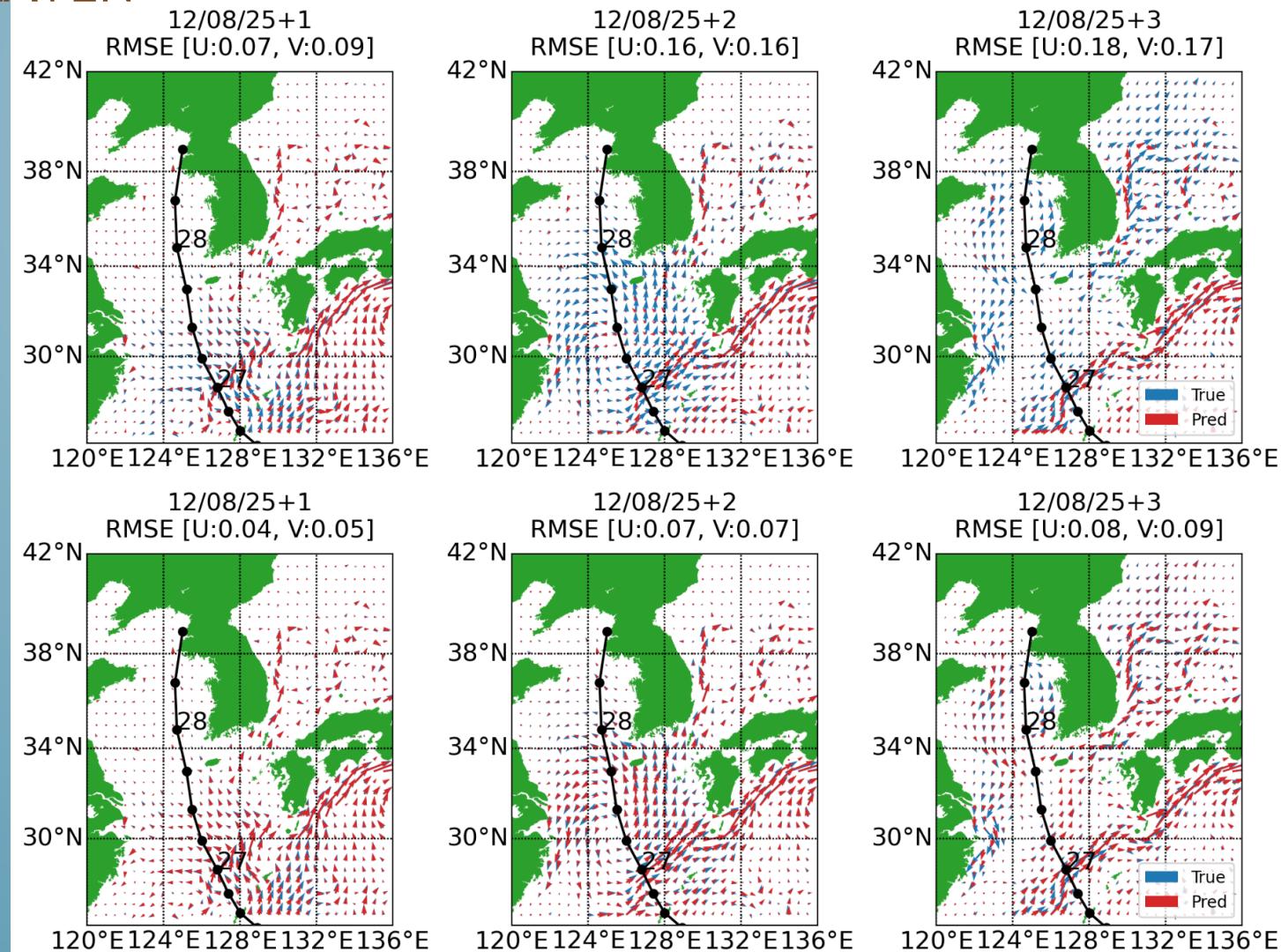
using U, V, SSH, wind+



# Prediction of typhoon-induced currents improves when the next-day winds (wind+) are used

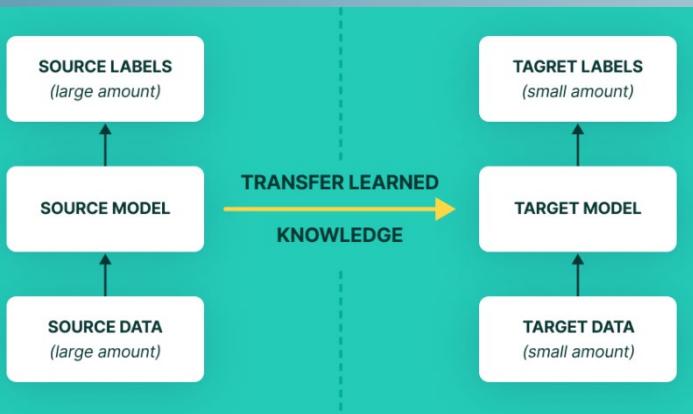
Typhoon: BOLAVEN

$P_{uv,SSH,Wind}$



# Transfer learning

Source  
data



<https://www.v7labs.com/blog/transfer-learning-guide>

Target  
data

Oceanic input – OPEM reanalysis data

Atmospheric input – ECMWF ERA5 data

- Train set: 1993–2012 (20 years)
- Test set: 2013-2014 (2 years)

$P_{uv,SSH,Wind+}$

Transfer learning



Oceanic input – OPEM analysis data

Atmospheric input – KMA GDAPS data

- Train set: 2017–2020 (4 years)
- Test set: 2021 (1 year)

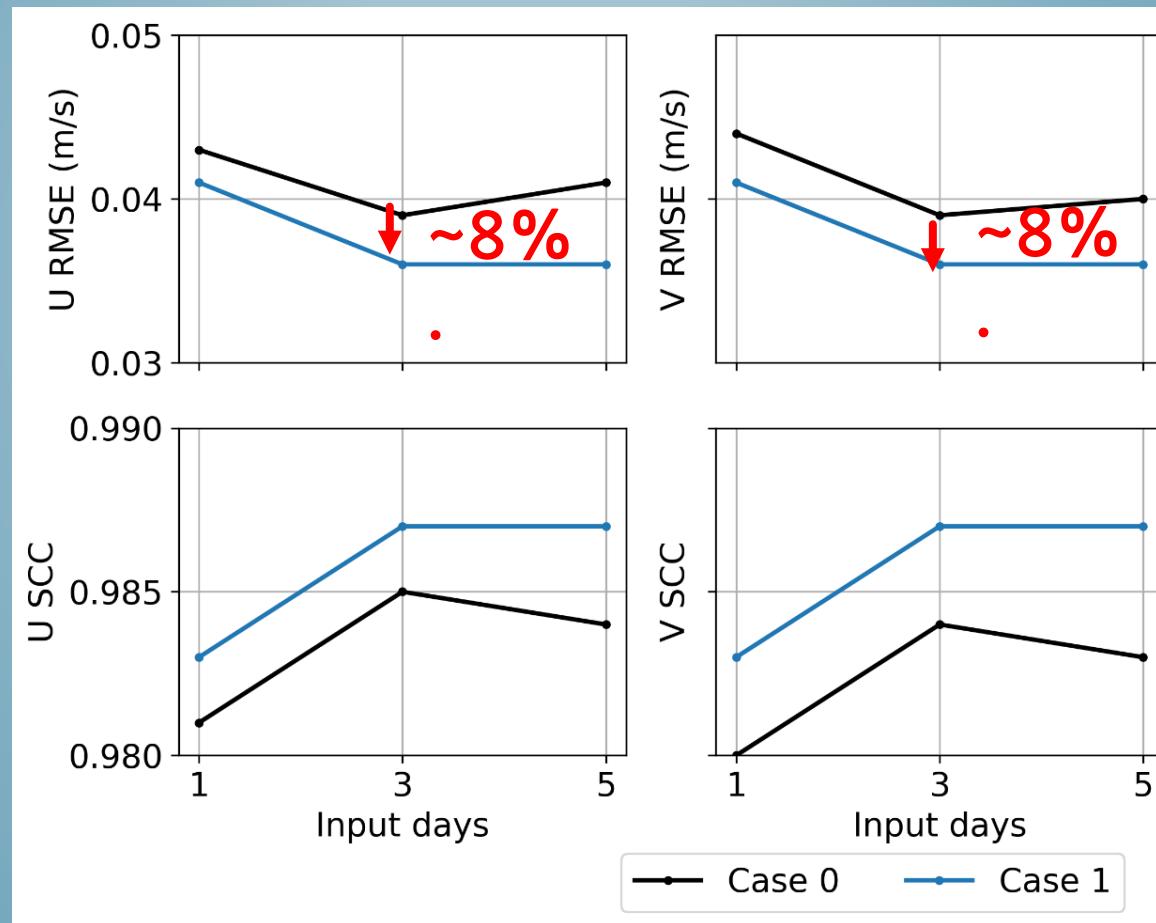
# Improvement of current prediction using transfer learning

RMSE:

$P_{per} \approx 0.1$

SCC:

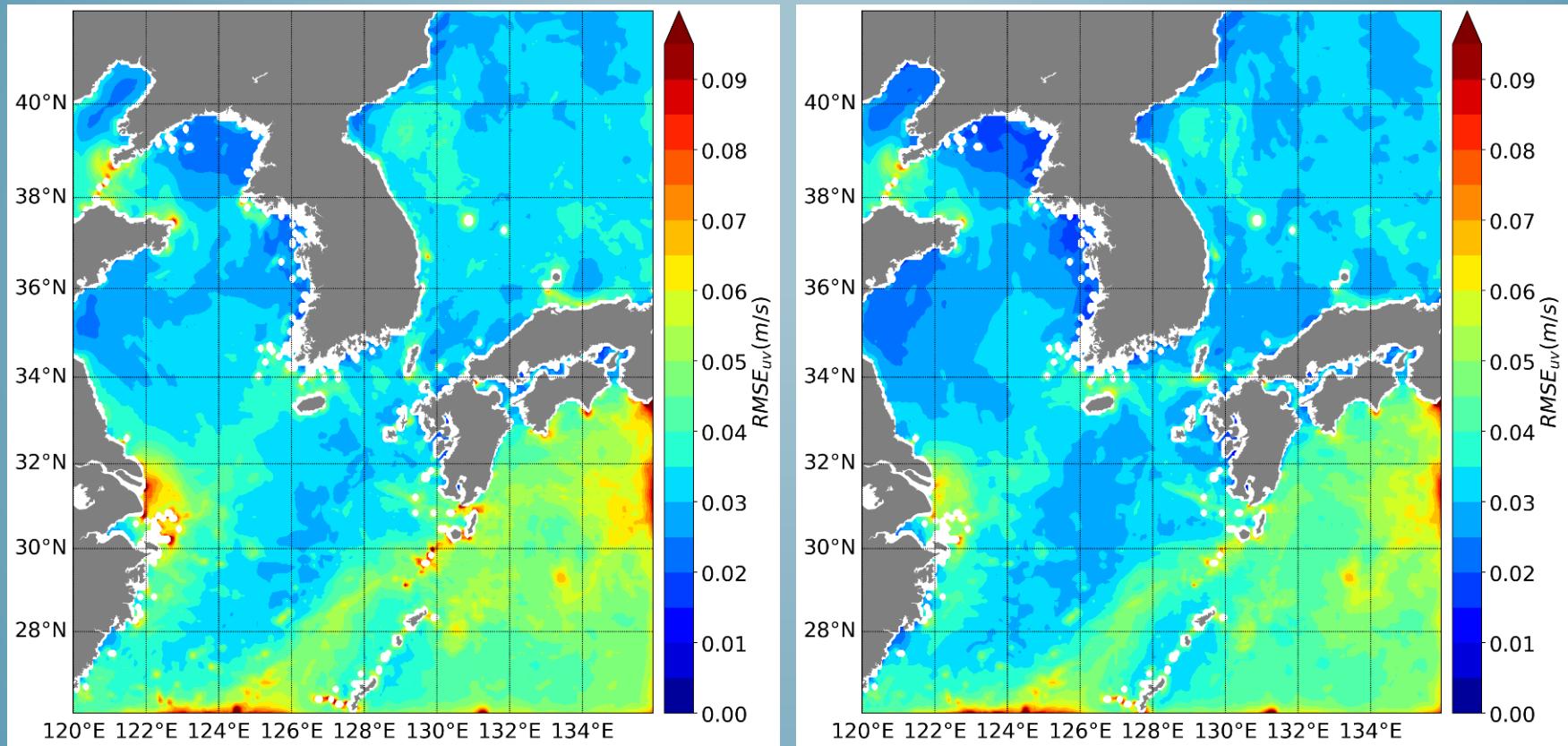
$P_{per} \approx 0.89$



Case0: No transfer learning case

Case1: Transfer learned case  
(from 20 years of reanalysis data)

# Improvement of current prediction using transfer learning



Caseo (No transfer learning)

Case1 (transfer learning)

Error distribution of uv-component averaged RMSE ( $RMSE_{uv}$ ) for the 1<sup>st</sup> prediction day (Input days = 3)

# Conclusions

- The U-shaped 3-D CNN model is applied to predict the sea surface current around Korean peninsula.
- The AI model including the next-day wind data shows the better performance than the other models. In addition, it could successfully simulate extreme events caused by the typhoon passage.
- Transfer learning can improve the performance of the sea surface current prediction.
- High resolution ocean prediction system using CNNs can be a practical and efficient way with a lightweight computing power.