



UbuntuNet- Connect2025

Artificial Intelligence and Data-Driven Innovation

October 30-31, 2025, Harare, Zimbabwe

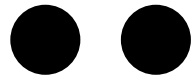
Tropical Cyclone Trajectory Forecasting in Southwest Indian Based on Deep Learning



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0. Presentation Structure

1. Introduction

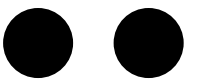
2. Literature Review

3. Materials and Methods

4. Results and Discussion

5. Conclusion

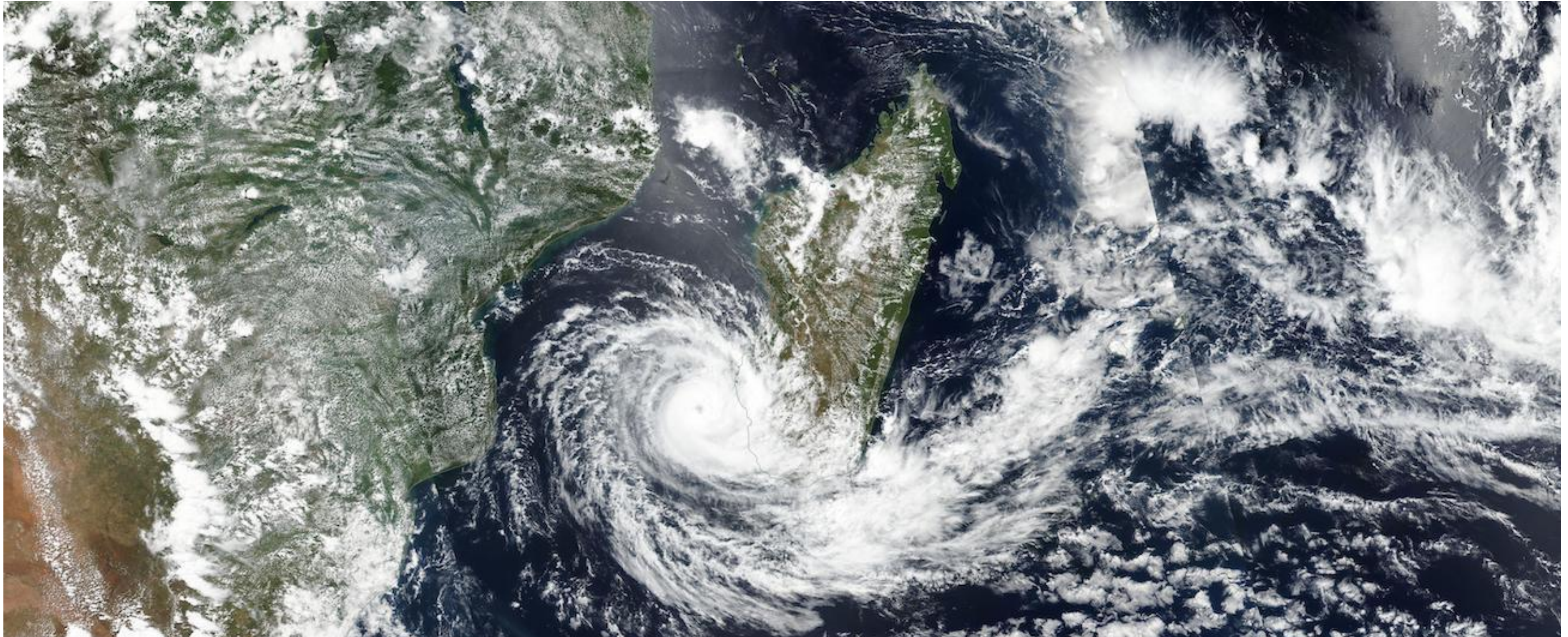
6. References



1. Introduction

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- Tropical cyclones are intense, rotating low-pressure systems that develop over warm tropical oceans, evolving from tropical depressions into tropical storms and eventually mature cyclones (called hurricanes, typhoons, or cyclones depending on the region) once sustained winds exceed 119 km/h (74 mph); in extreme cases, winds can surpass 240 km/h (150 mph) and gusts may exceed 320 km/h (200 mph).



Tropical Cyclone Freddy (March 2023) Over Mozambique Channel

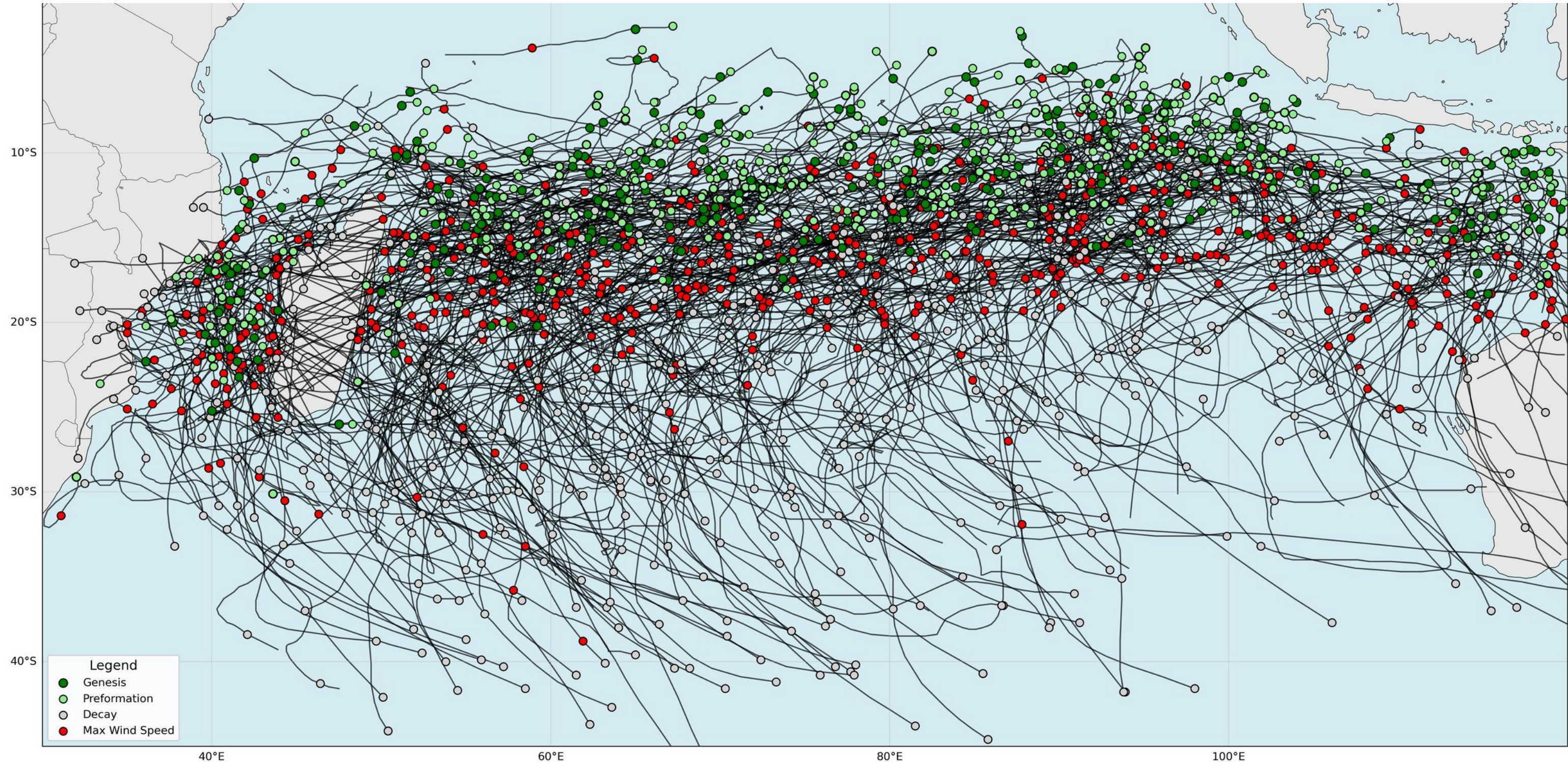
1. Introduction

Tropical cyclones (TCs) are among the most devastating natural events, causing severe socioeconomic damage to coastal areas worldwide. TCs are characterized by strong winds, heavy rains, lightning, floods, and storm surges, and cause widespread damage and fatalities upon landfall



1. Introductio

Annually, about 30% of global TCs form in the Southern Hemisphere, spanning a large area from the western Indian Ocean to the central Pacific and covering three TC basins: the southwest Indian Ocean (West of 90E), the Australian Region (90E-160E) and the South Pacific Ocean (East of 160E)



TCs Trcaks over southwest Indian Ocean from 1993-2023

1. Introduction

We need to accurately forecasting TC tracks

→ Supports early warning, evacuation planning, and disaster risk reduction.

Traditional Methods

→ Dynamical models (numerical simulations)

→ Statistical models (empirical relationships)

Modern Approaches

→ Machine Learning (ML): learns patterns from data

→ Deep Learning (DL): delivers faster, more accurate, and efficient forecasts

→ Few studies exist for the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) – this study fills that gap

1. 1. General Objective

- To develop deep learning-based models for forecasting tropical cyclone (TC) trajectories over the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) with a 6-72-hour prediction horizon.

2. Literature Review

Weather Prediction Methods

Traditional Methods

→ Dynamical models (NWP)

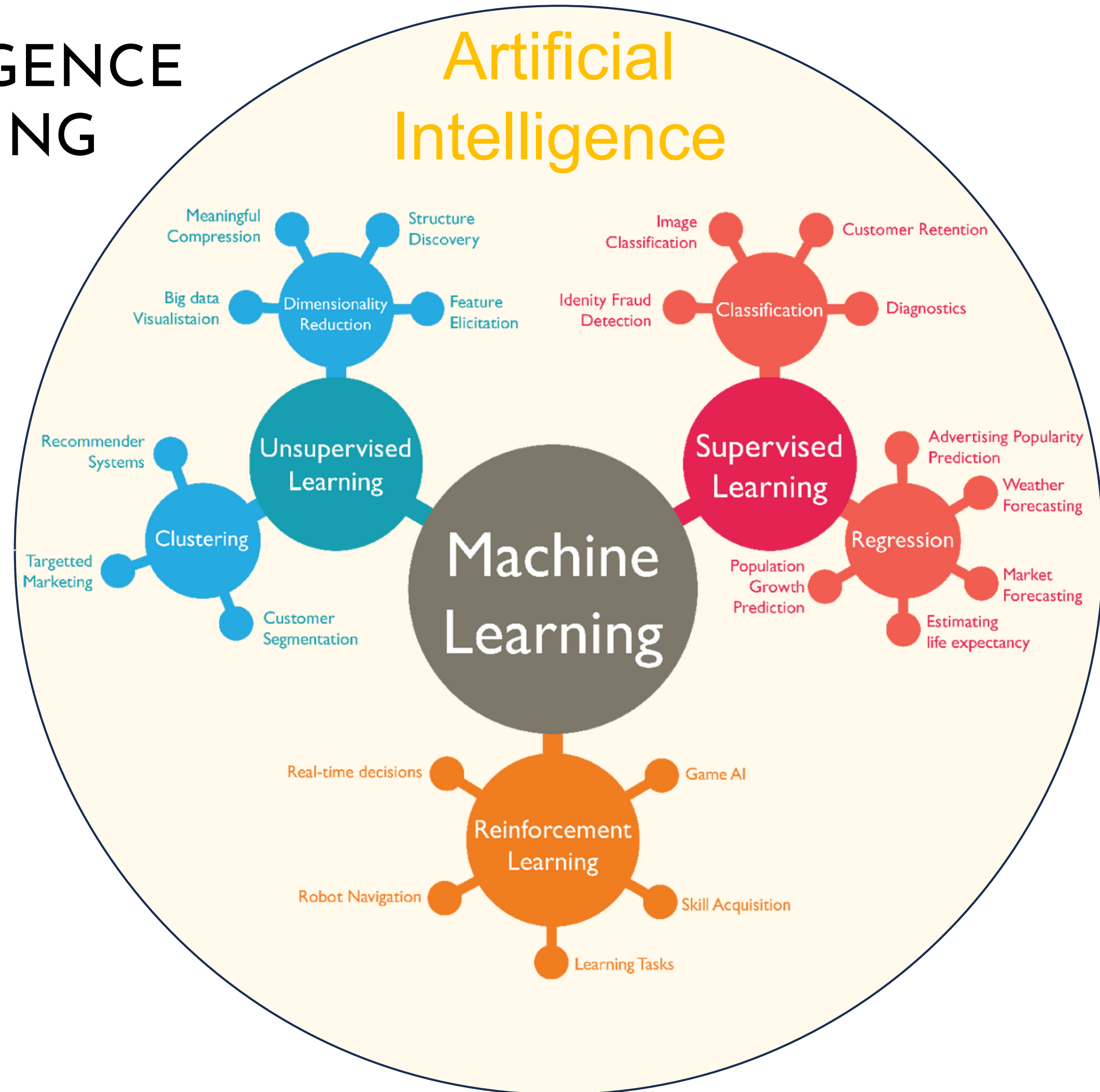
→ Statistical models

Modern Approaches-AI-Based:

→ Machine Learning (ML)

→ Deep Learning (DL)

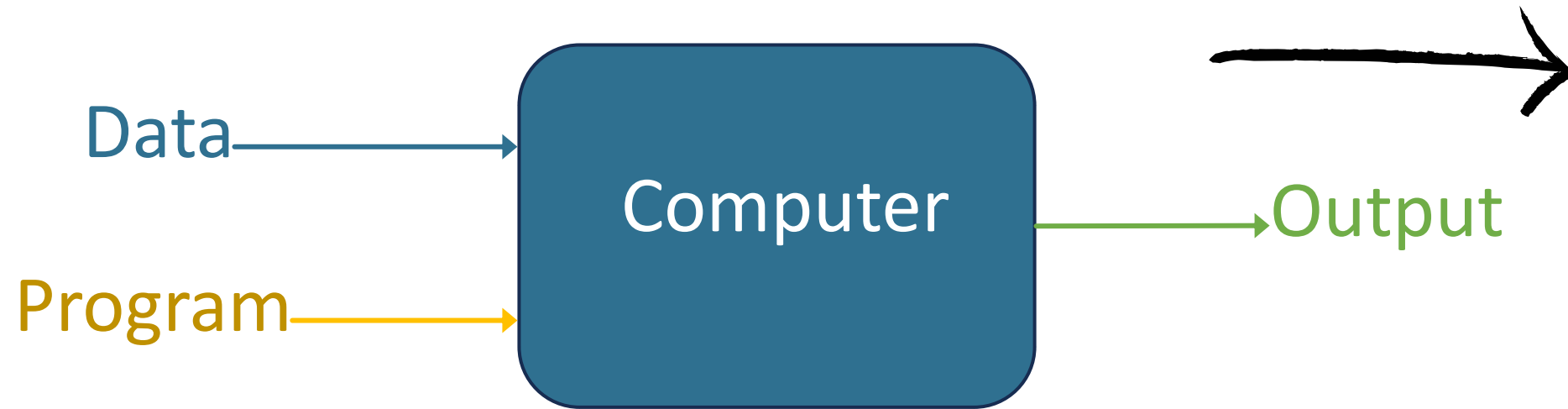
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE or MACHINE LEARNING or DEEP LEARNING?



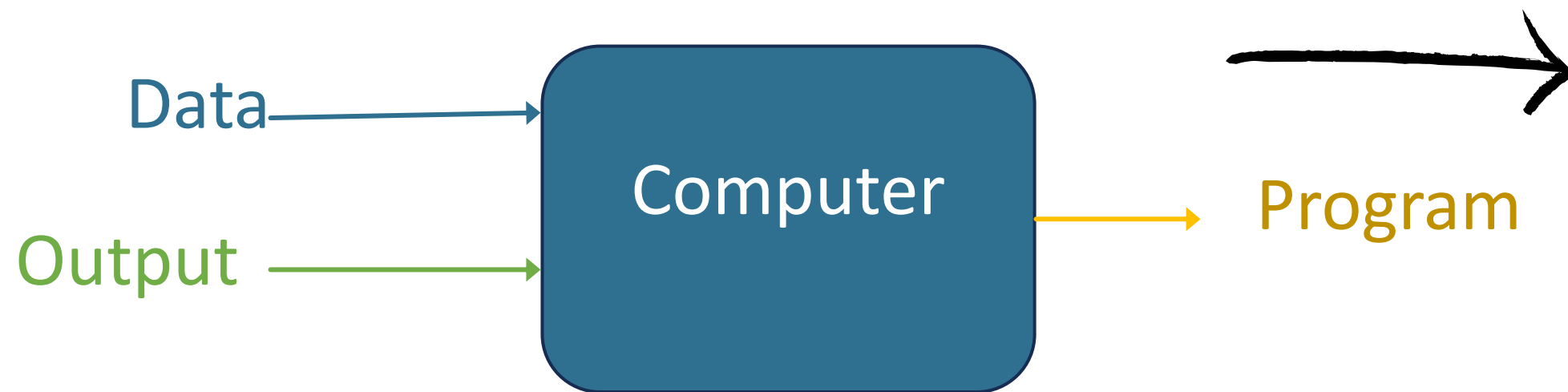
TRADITIONAL PROGRAMMING vs MACHINE LEARNING

Computer program for weather

Traditional Programming

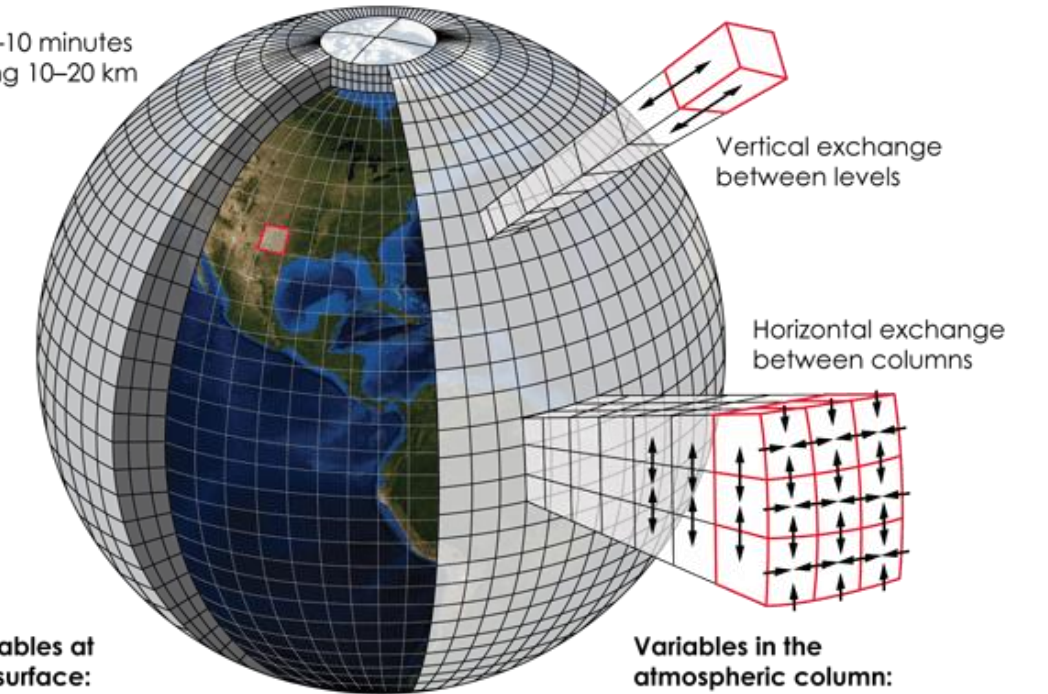


Machine Learning



Weather forecast modeling

Timestep 5–10 minutes
Grid spacing 10–20 km



Variables at the surface:

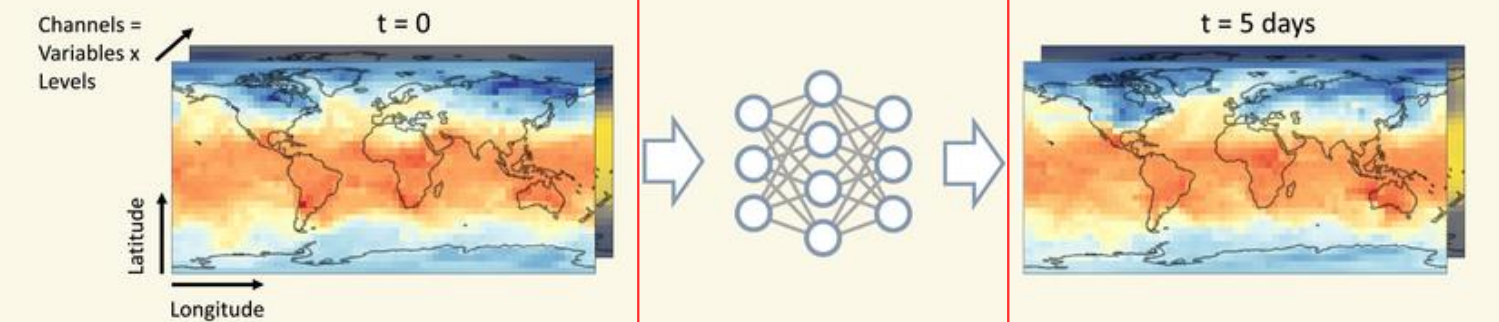
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Pressure
- Moisture fluxes
- Heat fluxes
- Radiation fluxes

Variables in the atmospheric column:

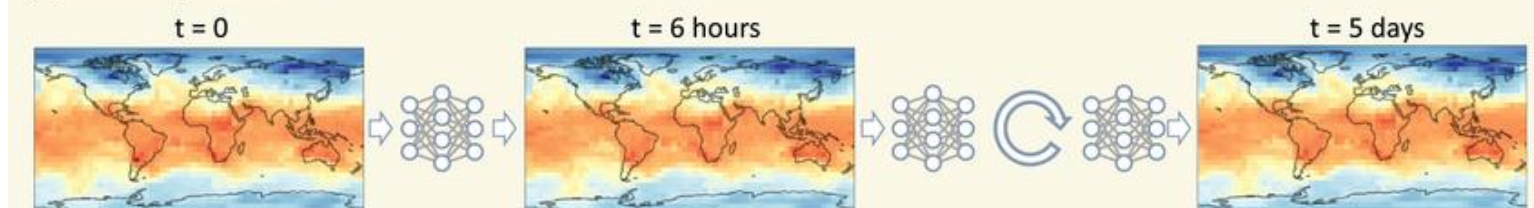
- Wind vectors
- Humidity
- Clouds
- Temperature
- Height
- Precipitation
- Aerosols

Supervised ML

(a) Direct prediction

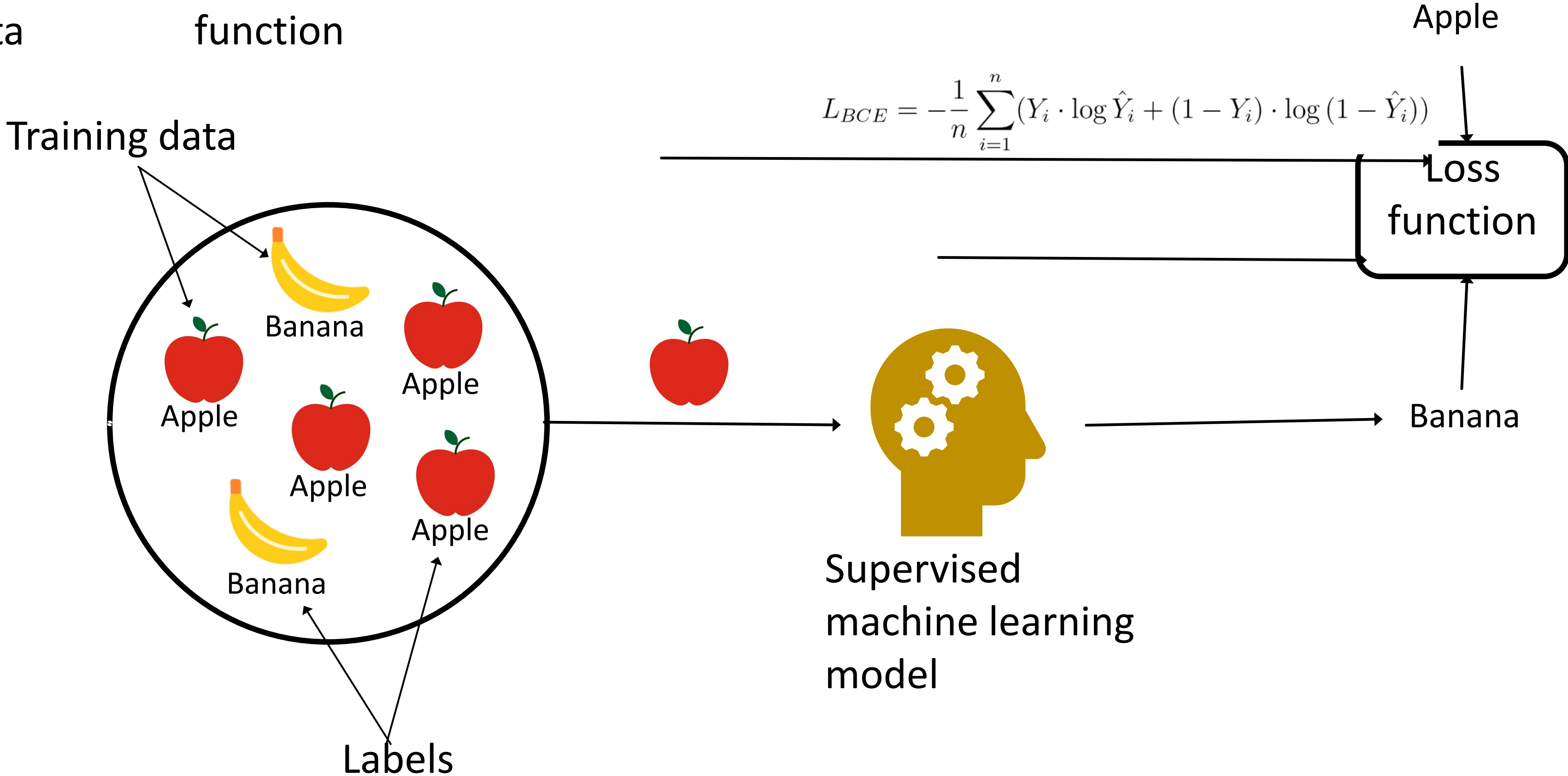


(b) Iterative prediction

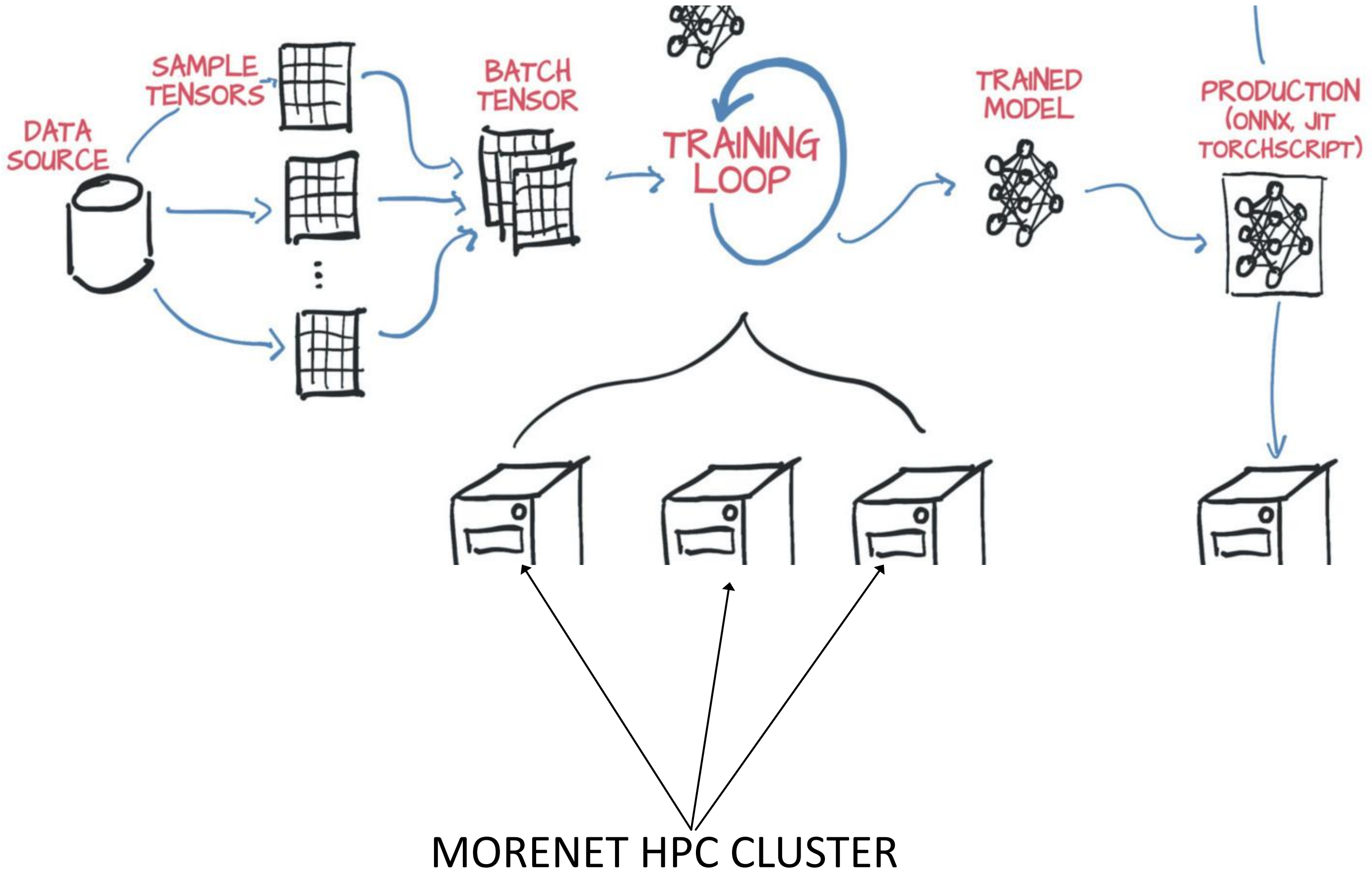


KEY INGREDIENTS FOR SUPERVISED LEARNING

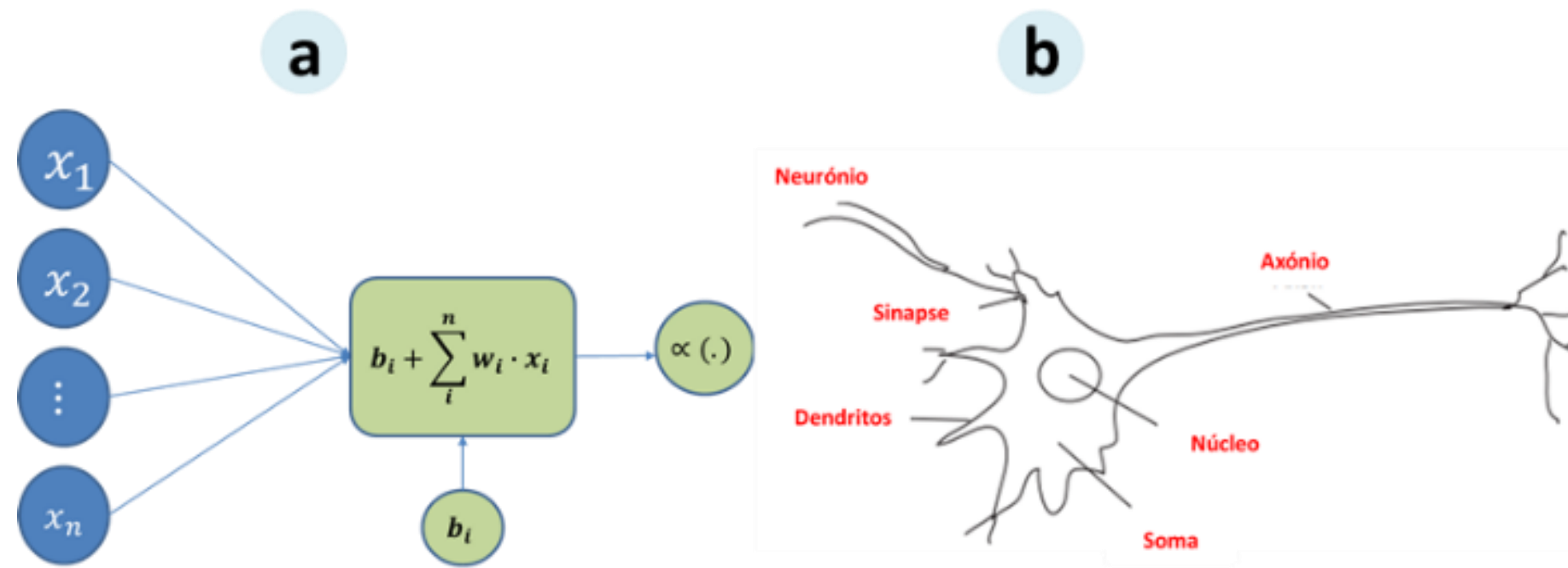
- Labelled data
- Loss function
- Optimizer
- Model



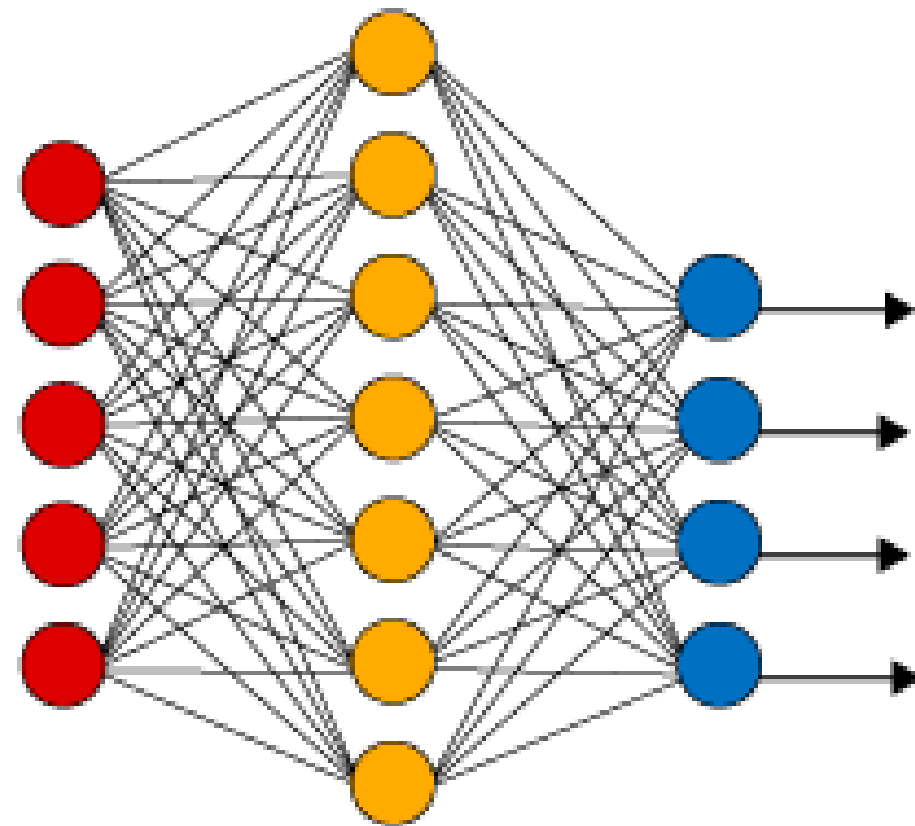
HPC PLATFORMS IN THE TRAINING LOOPS OF ML MODELS



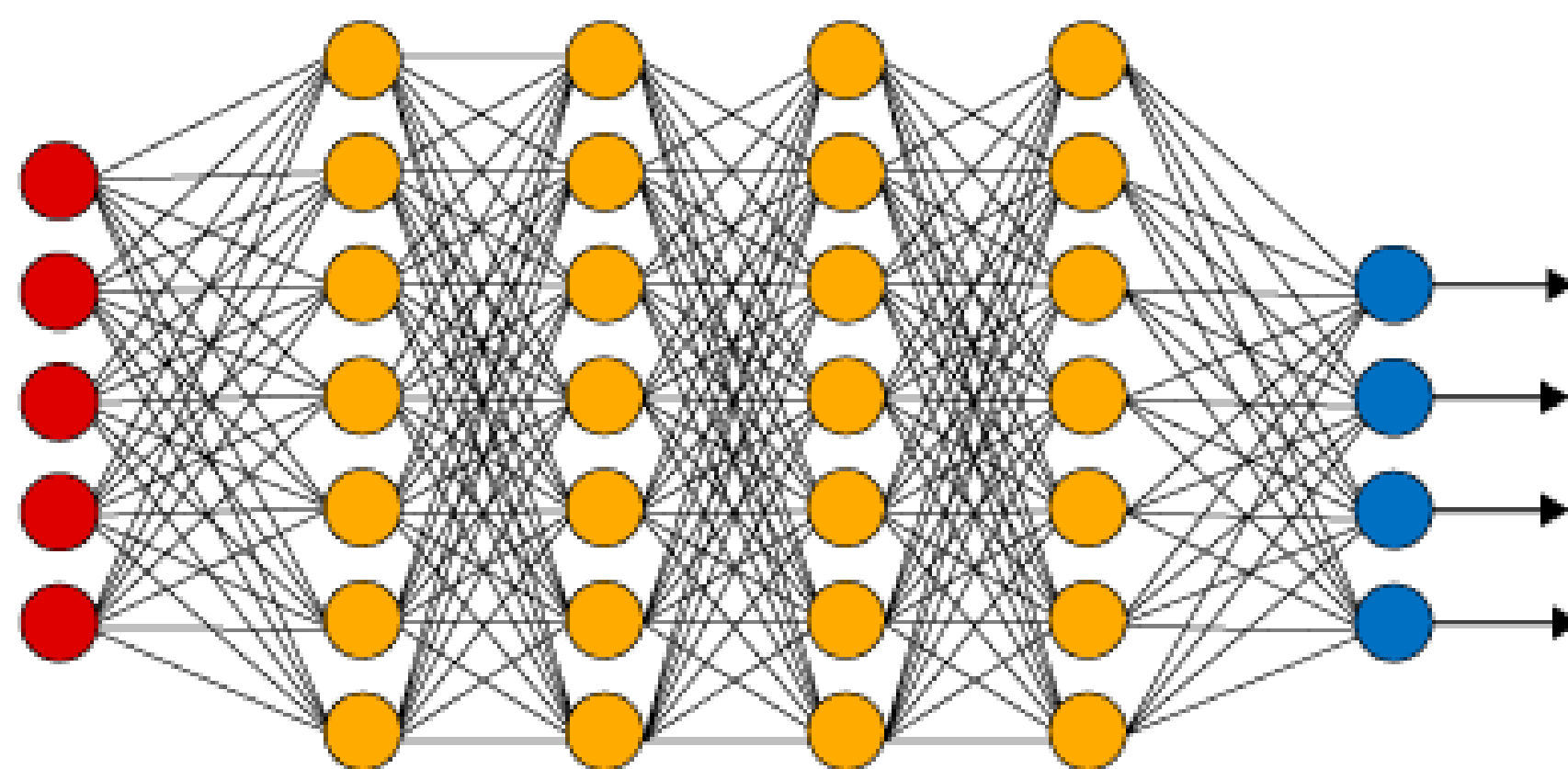
DEEP LEARNING?



Simple Neural Network



Deep Learning Neural Network

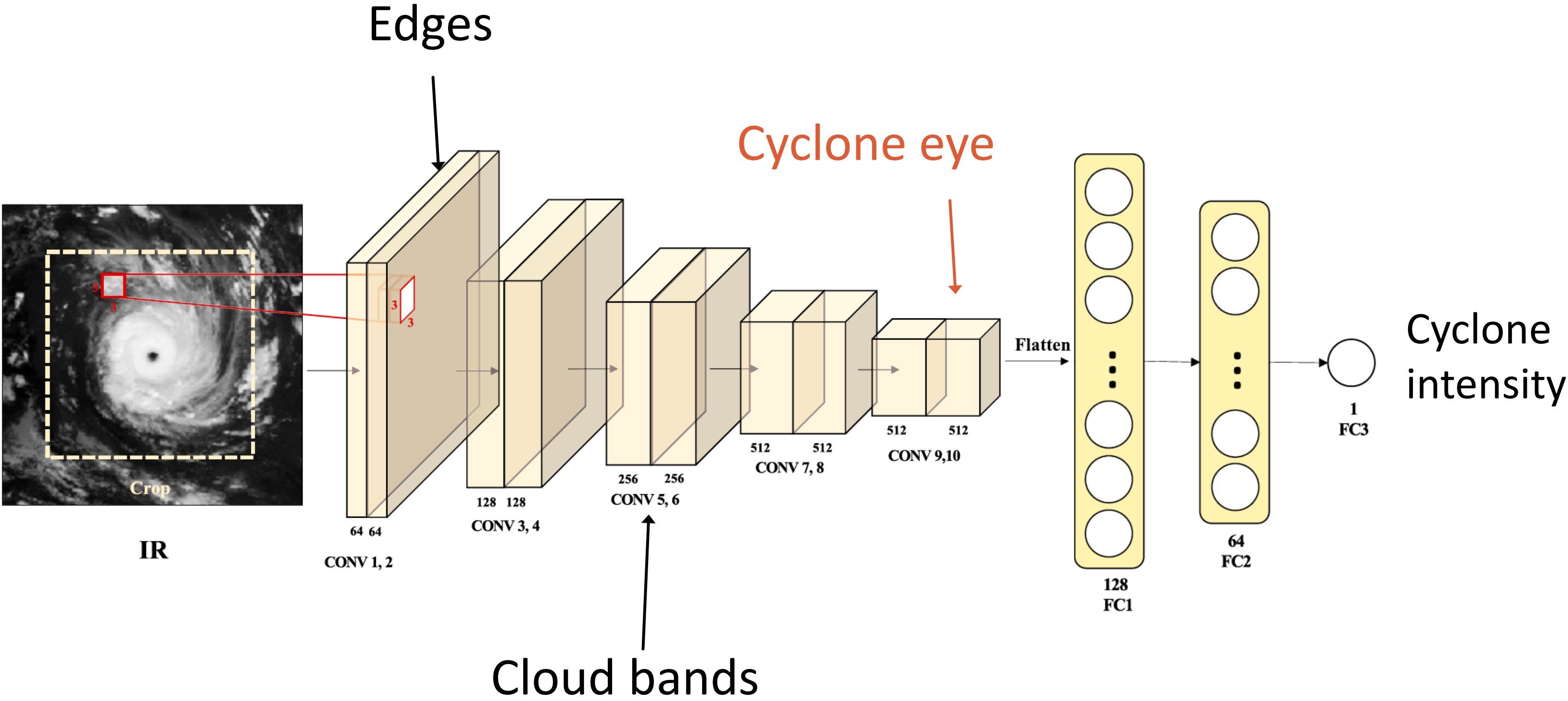


● Input Layer

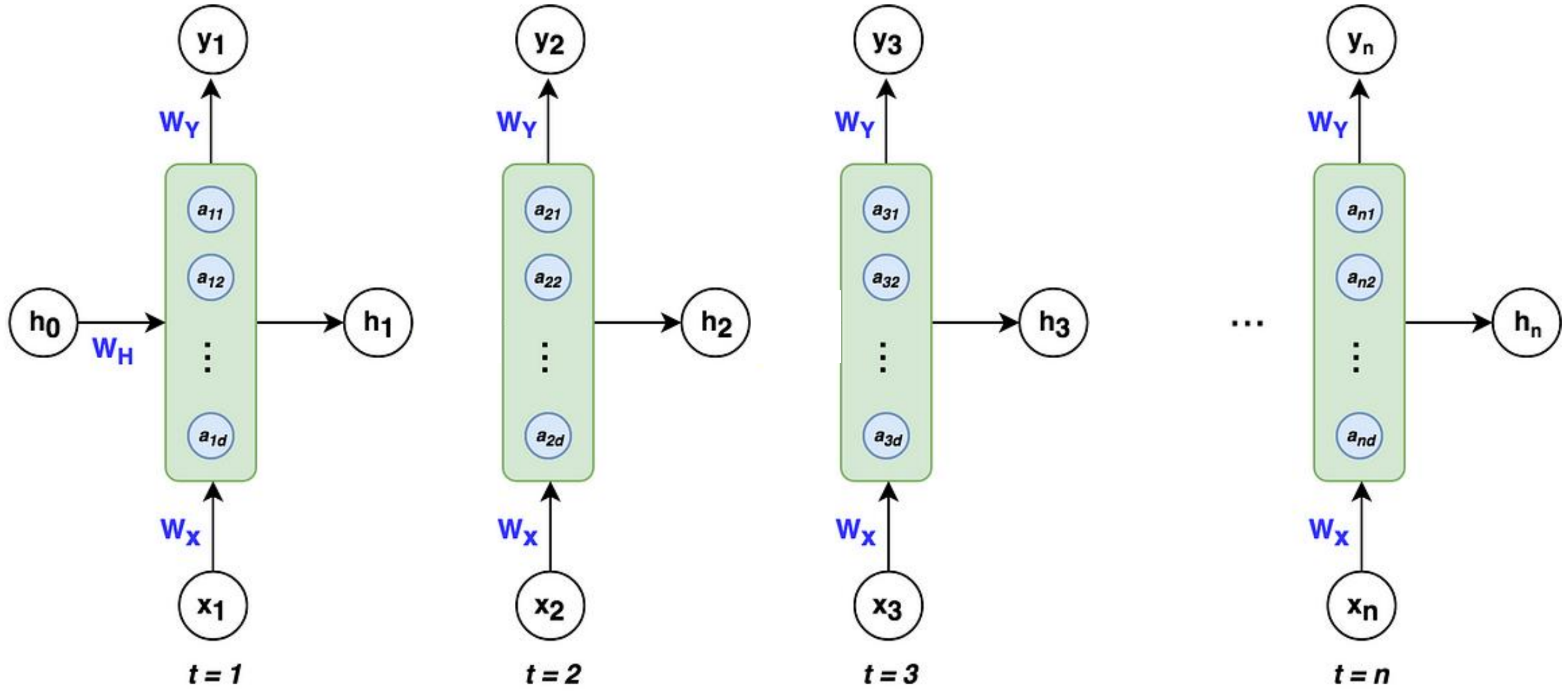
● Hidden Layer

● Output Layer

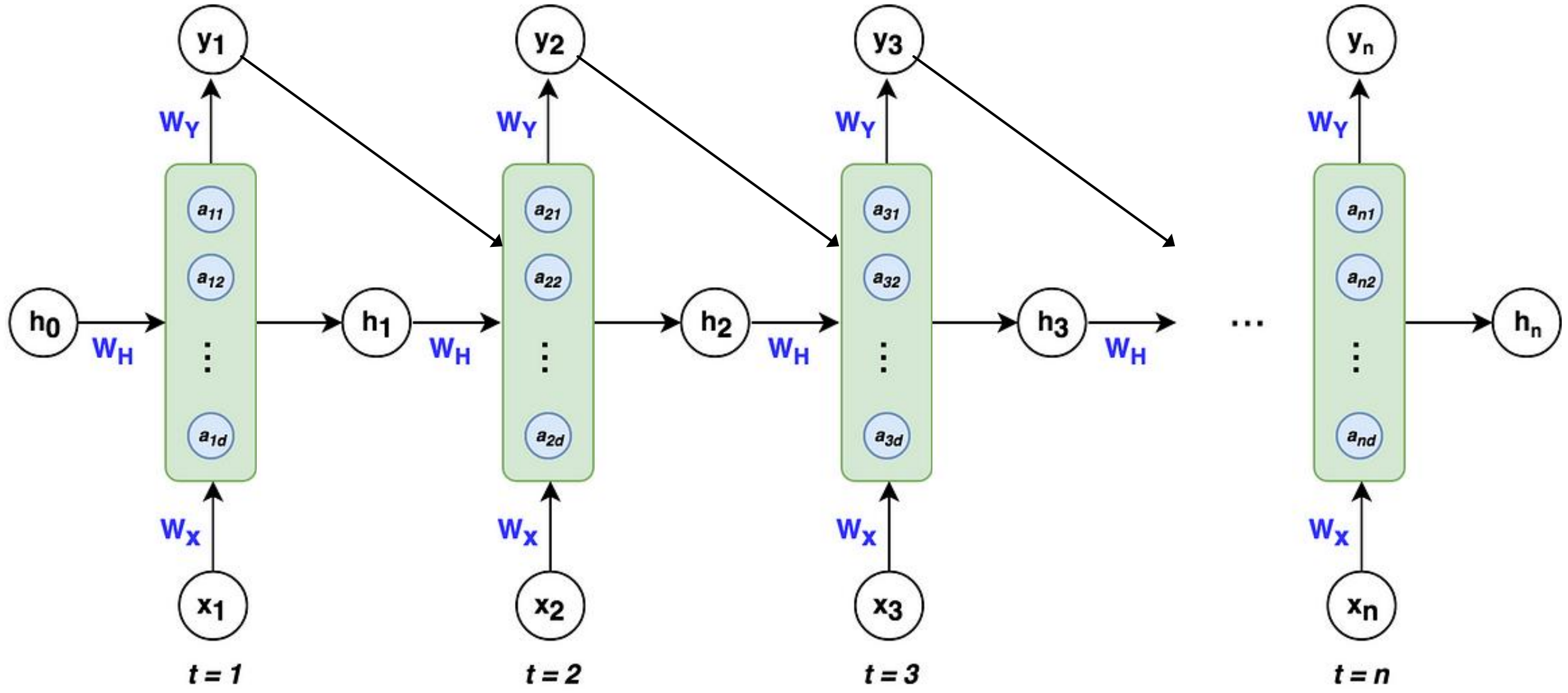
CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS (CNNs)



RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORKS (RNNs)

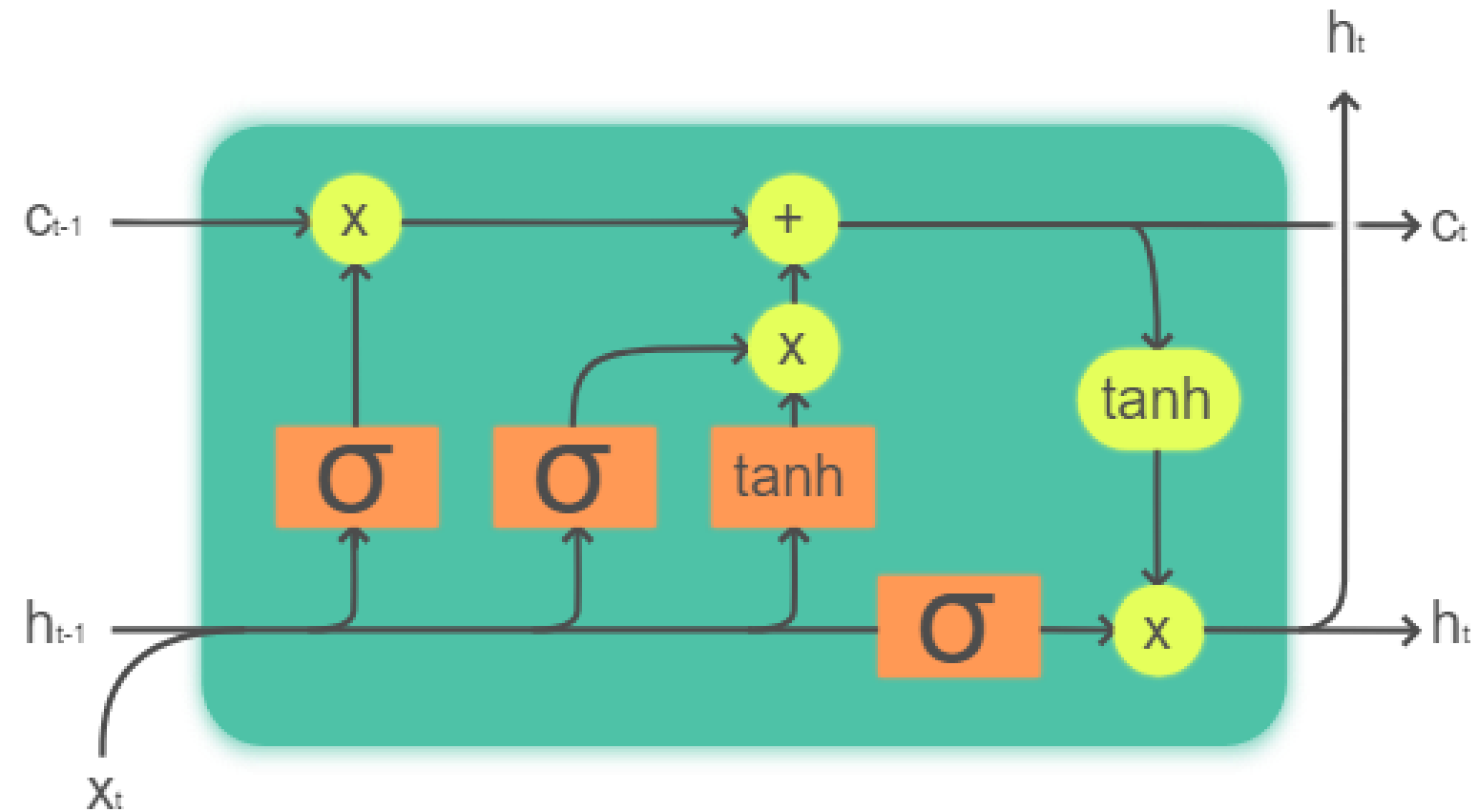


RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORKS (RNNs)



LONG SHORT-TERM MEMORY NETWORKS (LSTMs)

A special kind of recurrent neural network



Legend:

Layer

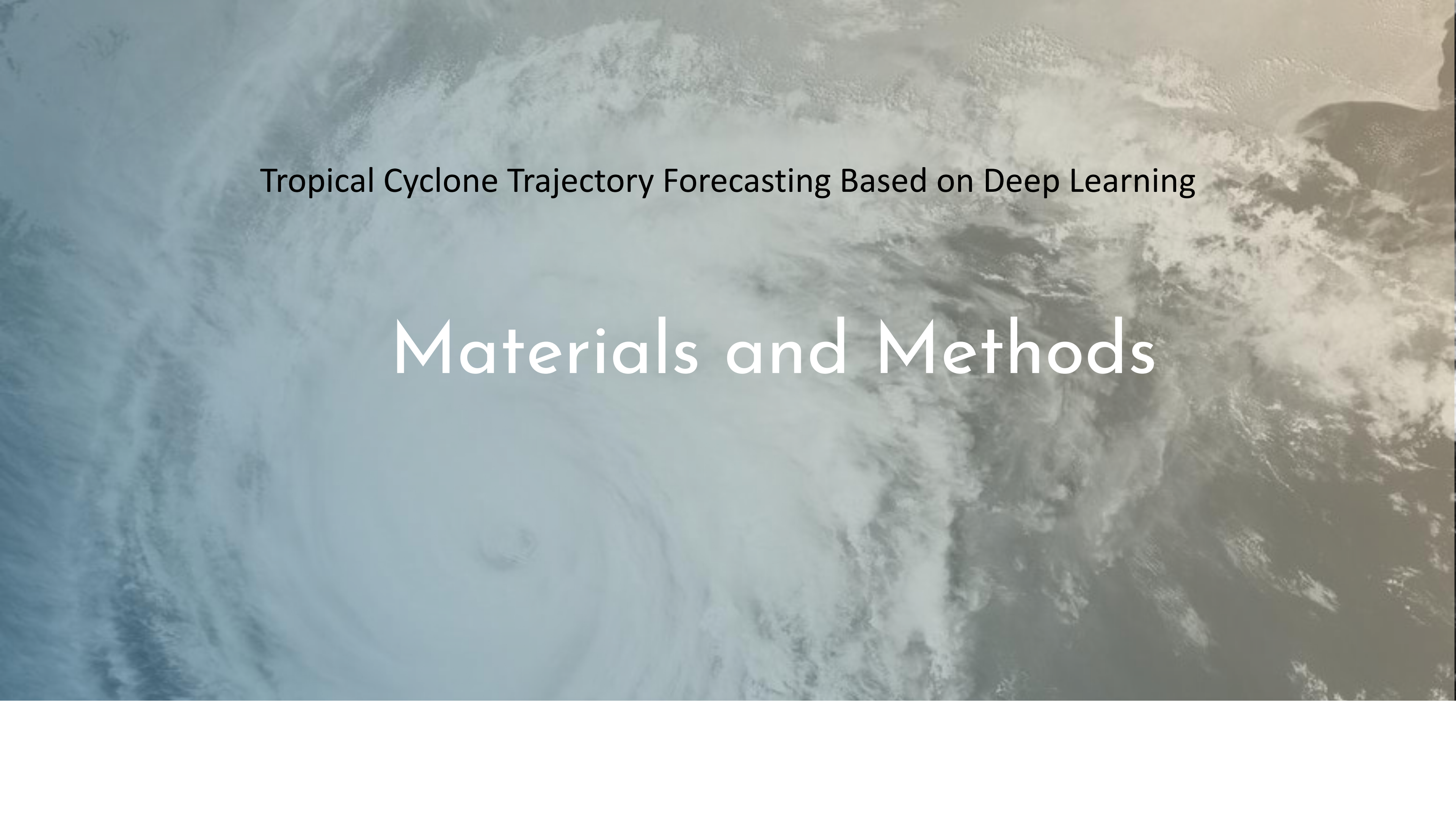


Pointwise op



Copy



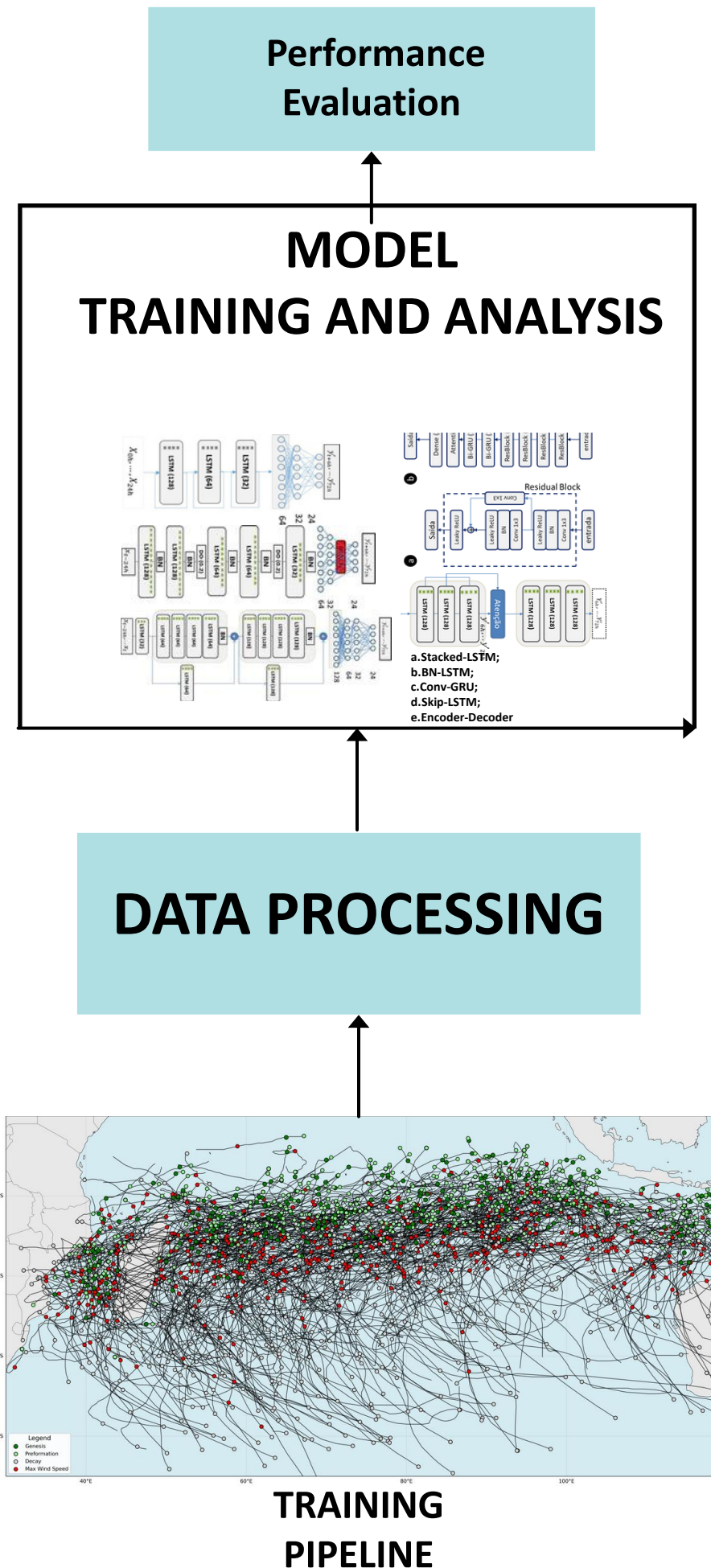
An aerial photograph of a tropical cyclone, showing a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over a dark blue ocean. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

Tropical Cyclone Trajectory Forecasting Based on Deep Learning

Materials and Methods

1. Architecture and experiment pipeline of TC Tracks Time Series.

Left: Unified training and evaluation process. Right: Overall Architecture.



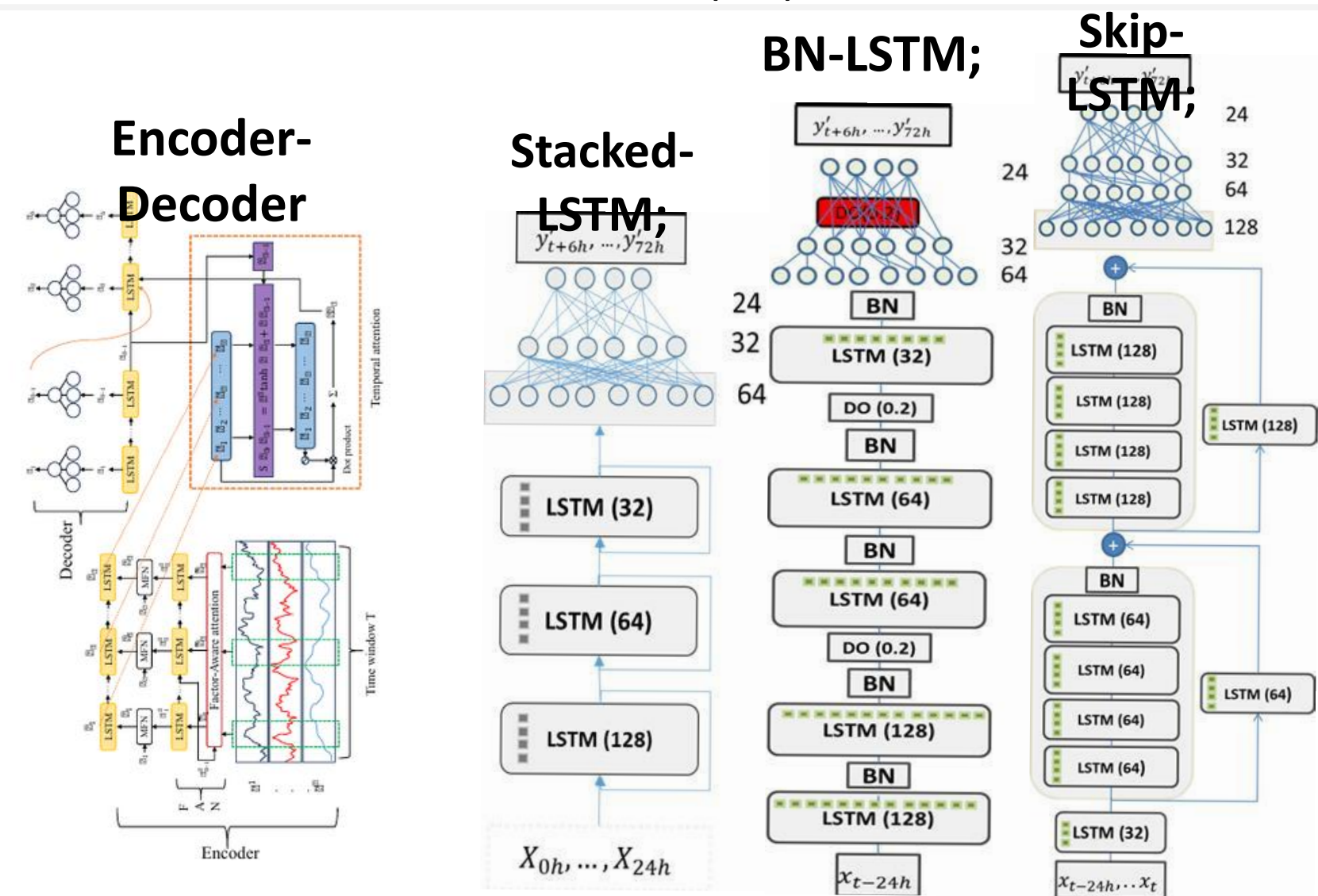
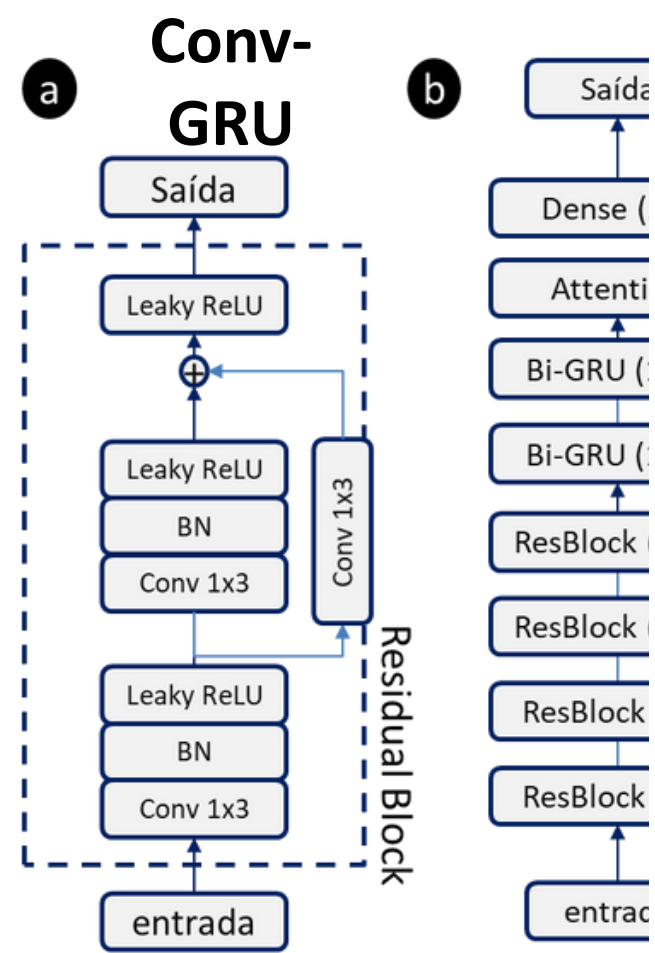
3.1. Pre-Processing

- **Data Collection:** IBTrACS dataset
- **Definition of X and Y (Sliding Window):** Inputs (X): 24-hour segments of TC track
- **Outputs/Targets (Y):** 72-hour TC trajectory
- **Feature Selection:** Using Decision Trees

3.2. Training

- **Model:** TC trajectory prediction using RNN-based models
- **Performance Metrics:** MAE, RMSE, Euclidean Distance (ED)

Models



An aerial photograph of a tropical cyclone, showing a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over a dark blue ocean. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

Tropical Cyclone Trajectory Forecasting Based on Deep Learning

Results and discussion

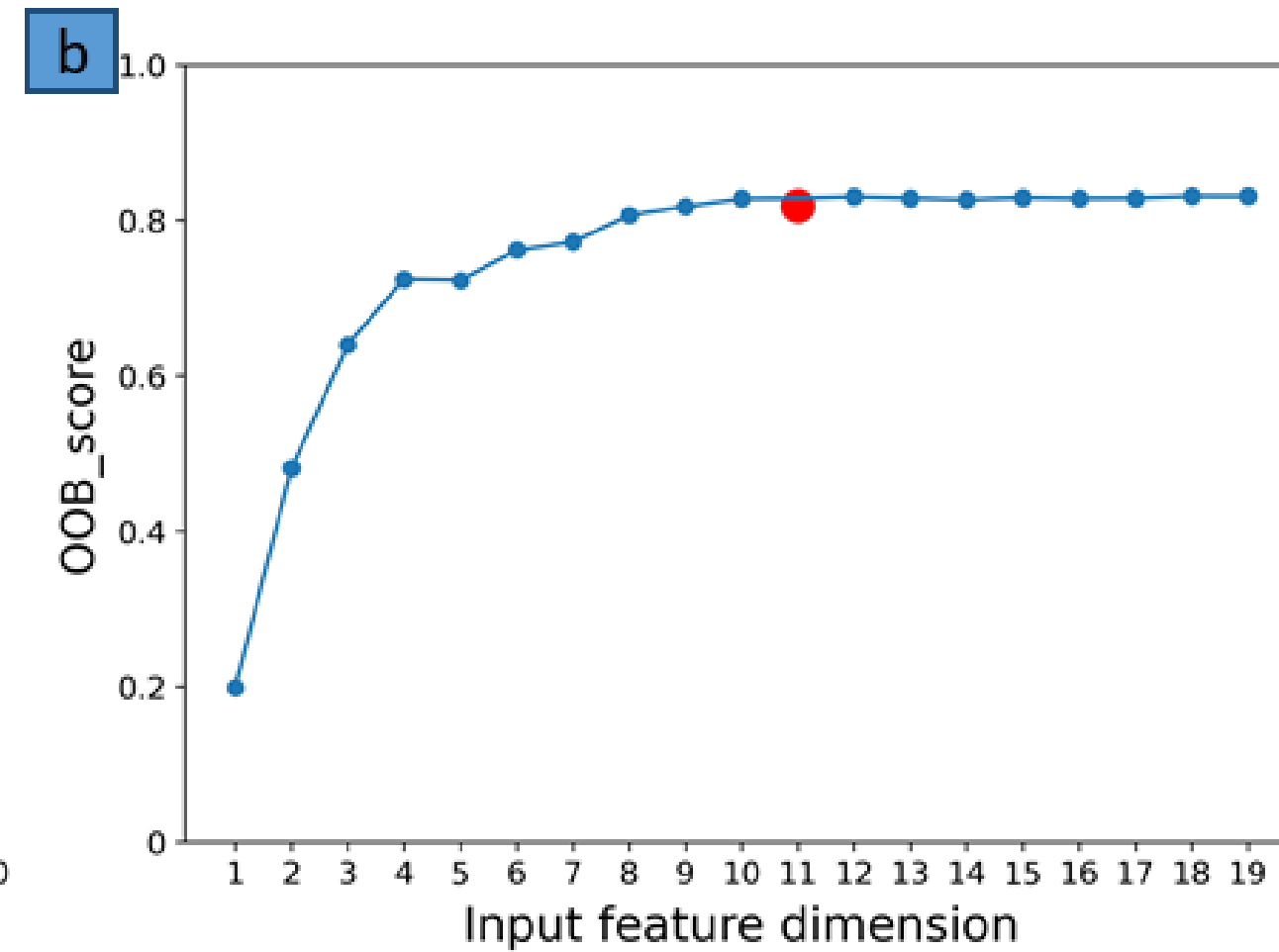
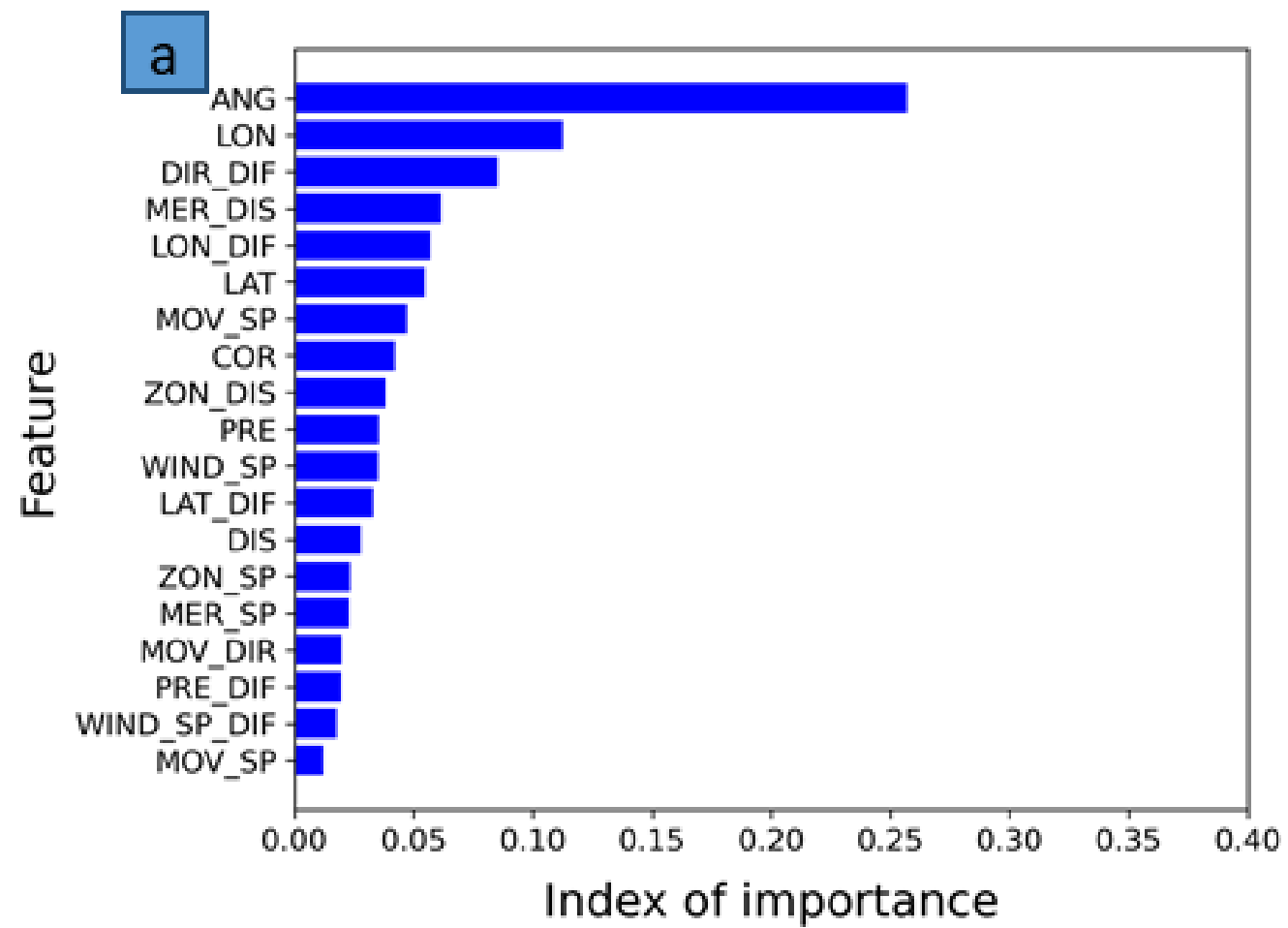
4. Results and discussions

4.1. Variables Selection

#	Full Name (Description)	Abbreviation
1	Angle formed between past and current moments	ANG
2	Longitude of past moments	LON
3	Difference in direction between past and current moments	DIR_DIF
4	Meridional distance between past and current moments	MER_DIS
5	Difference in longitude between past and current moments	LON_DIF
6	Latitude of past moments	LAT
7	Difference in movement speed between past and current moments	MOV_SP
8	Coriolis parameters of past moments	COR
9	Zonal distance between past and current moments	ZON_DIS
10	Central atmospheric pressure of past moments	PRE
11	Maximum wind speed of past moments	WIND_SP
12	Difference in latitude between past and current moments	LAT_DIF
13	Displacement distance between past and current moments	DIS
14	Zonal movement speed of the past moment	ZON_SP
15	Meridional movement speed of the past moment	MER_SP
16	Movement direction of past moments	MOV_DIR
17	Difference in atmospheric pressure between past and current moments	PRE_DIF
18	Difference in maximum wind speed between past and current moments	WIND_SP_DIF
19	Movement speed of past moments	MOV_SP

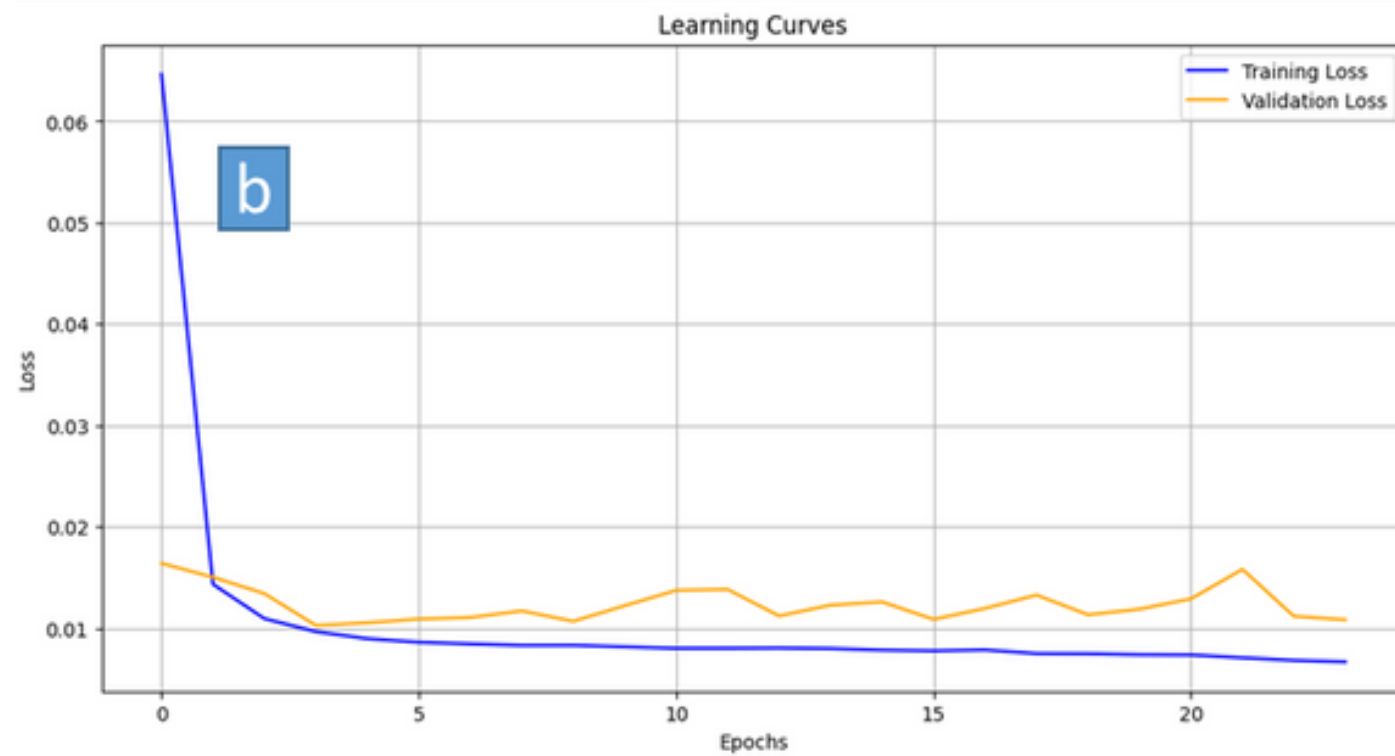
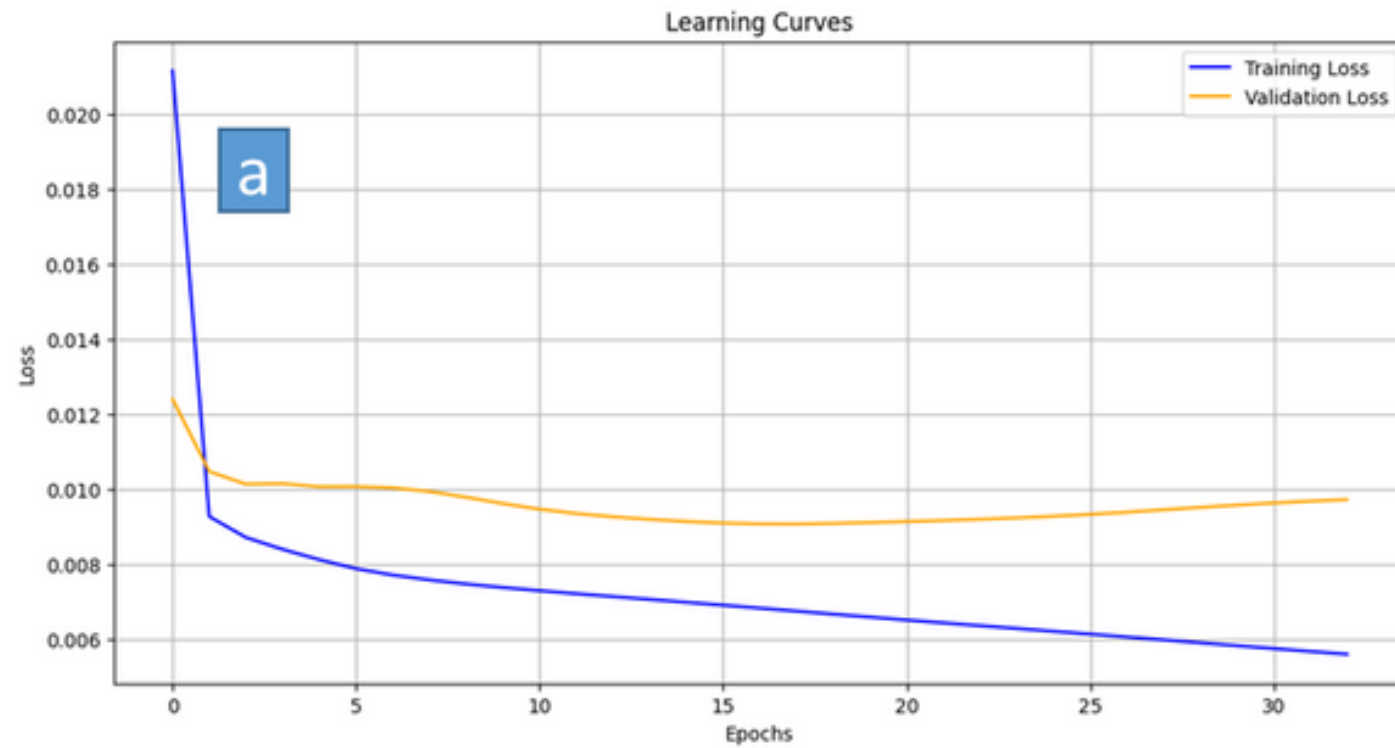
4. Results and discussions

4.1. Variables Selection

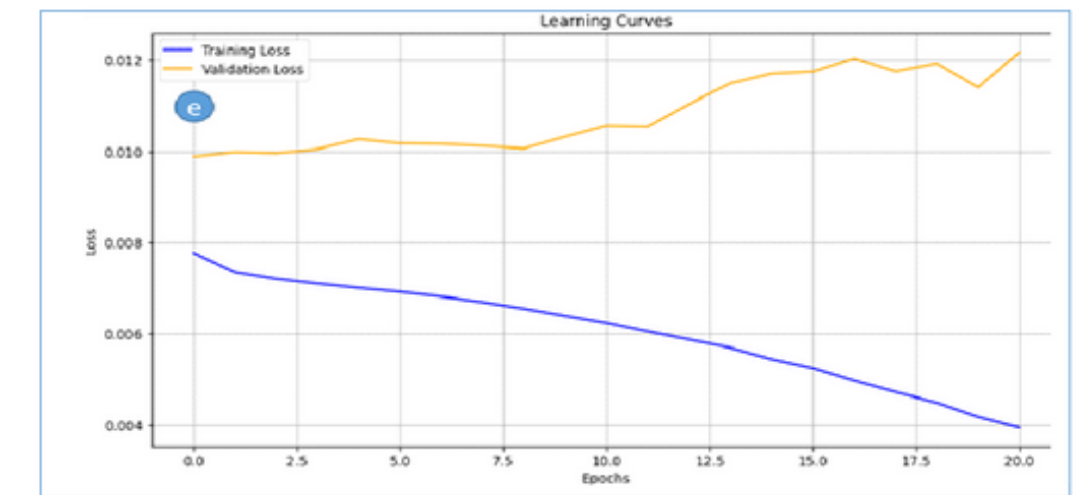
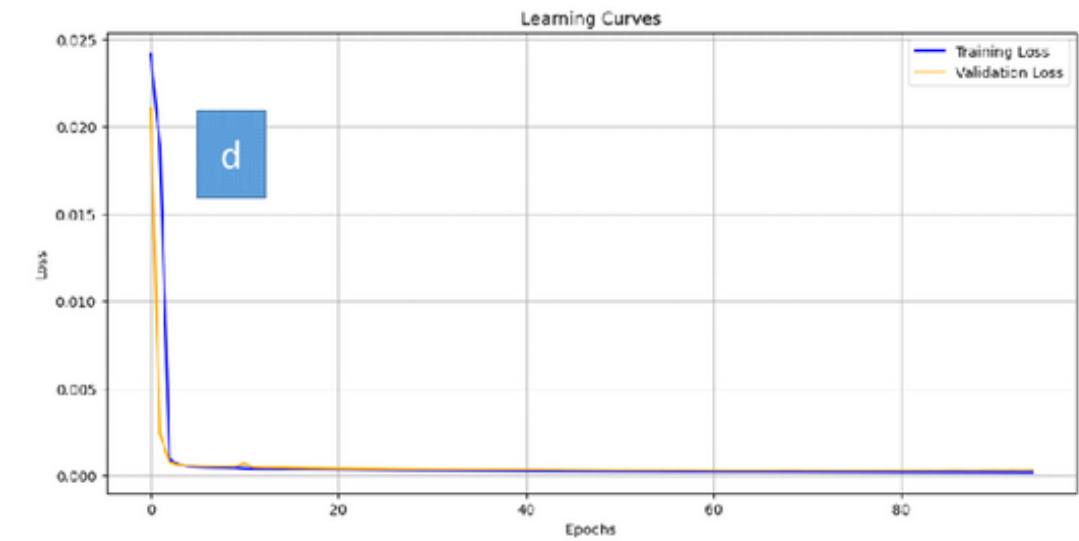
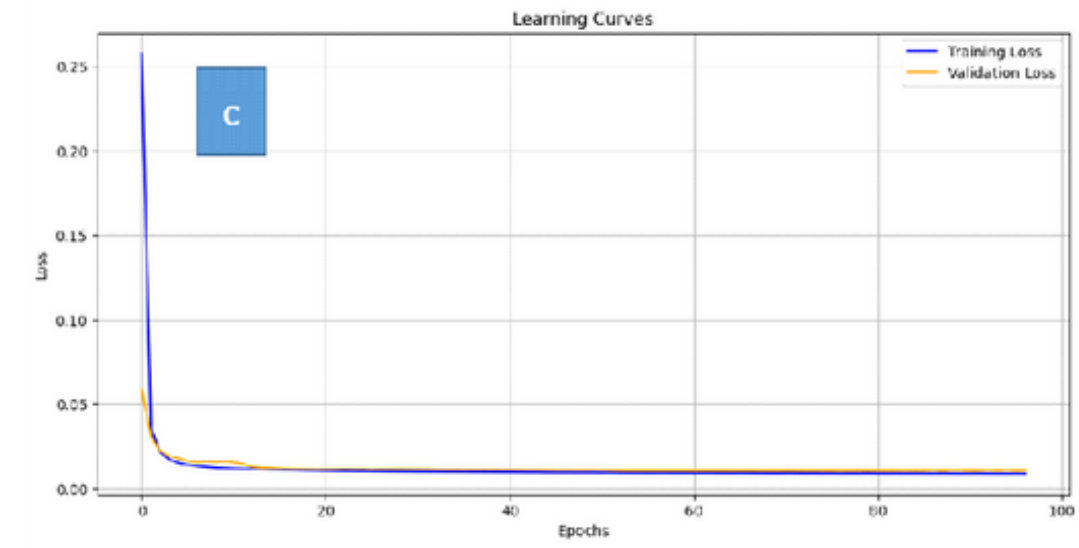


4. Results and discussions

4.2. Models Training Analysis

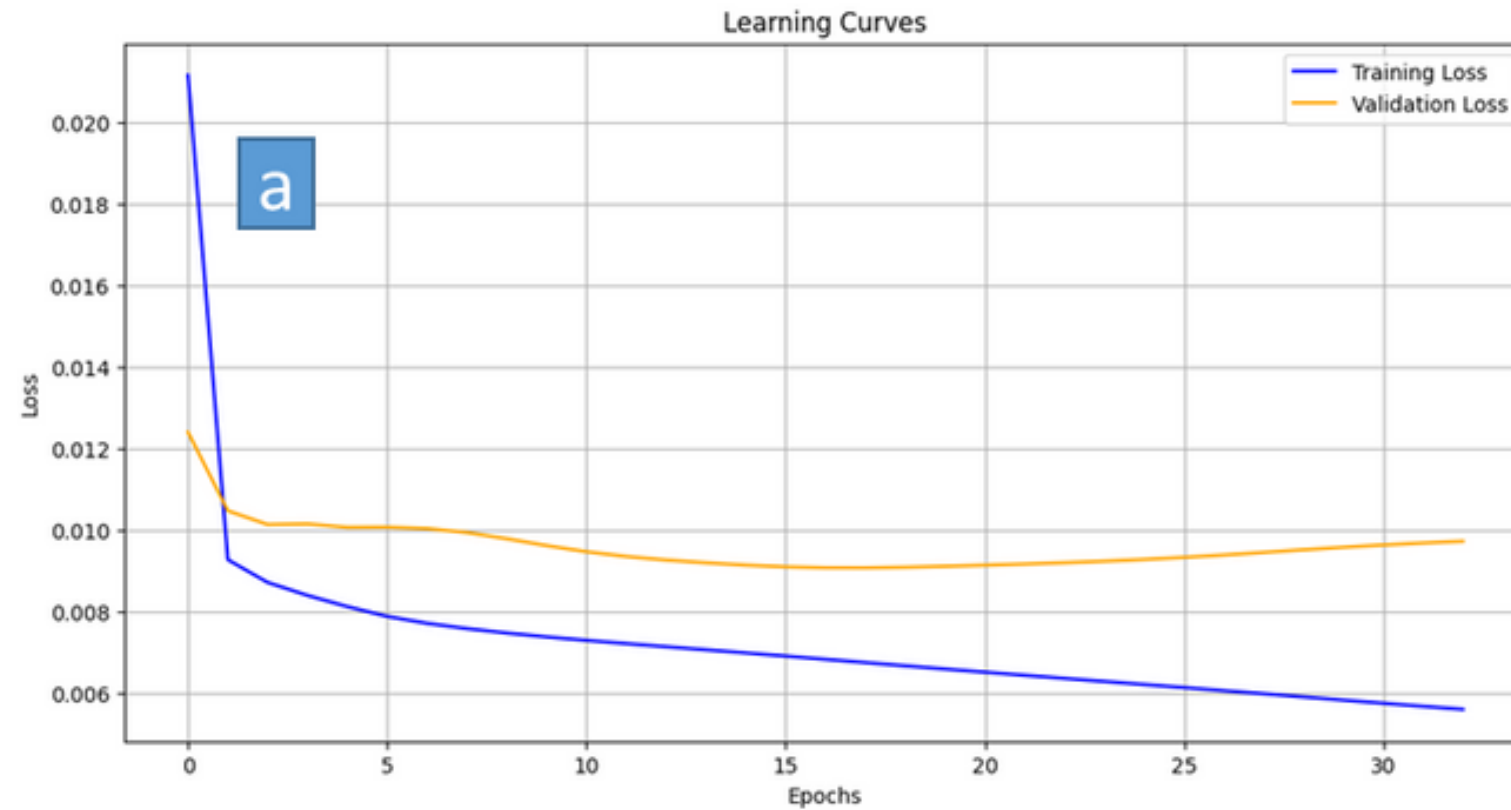


Learning Curves: a- Stacked-LSTM, b- BN-LSTM

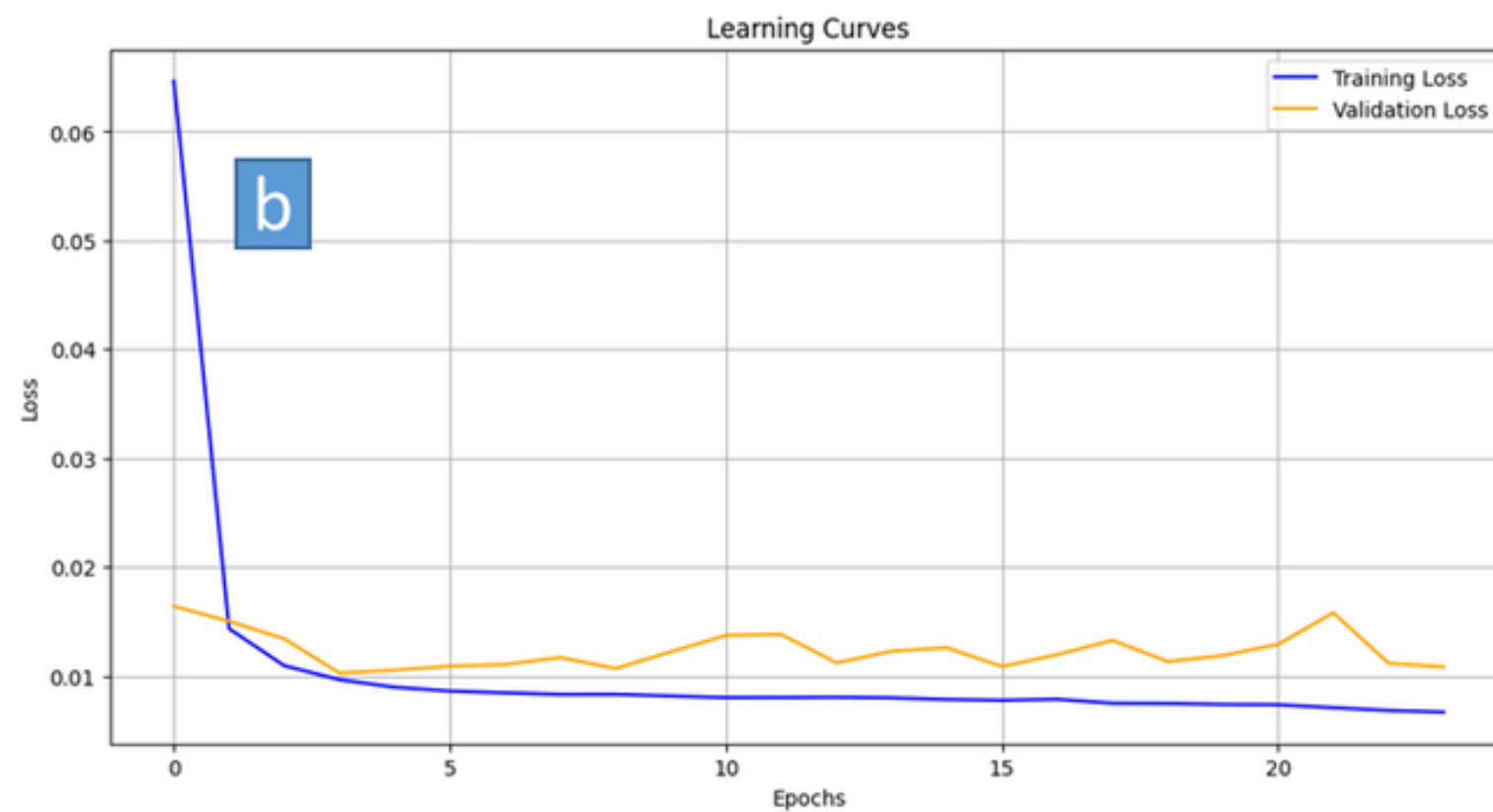


Learning curves: c- Conv-GRU, d- ENCODER-DECOR, e- SKIP-LSTM

4.2. Análise dos treinamentos

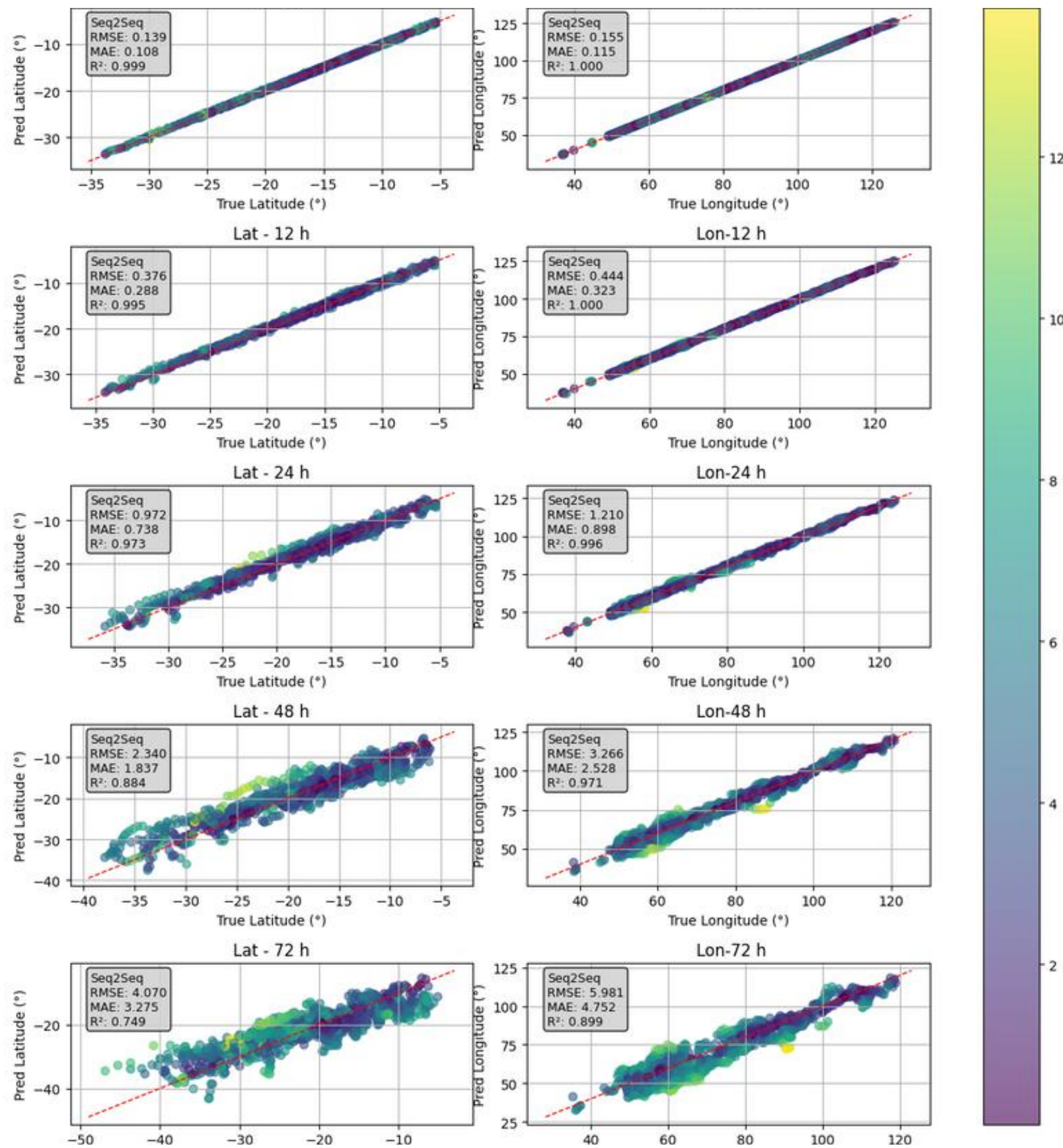


a - Stacked-LSTM,
b - BN-LSTM



4. Results and discussions

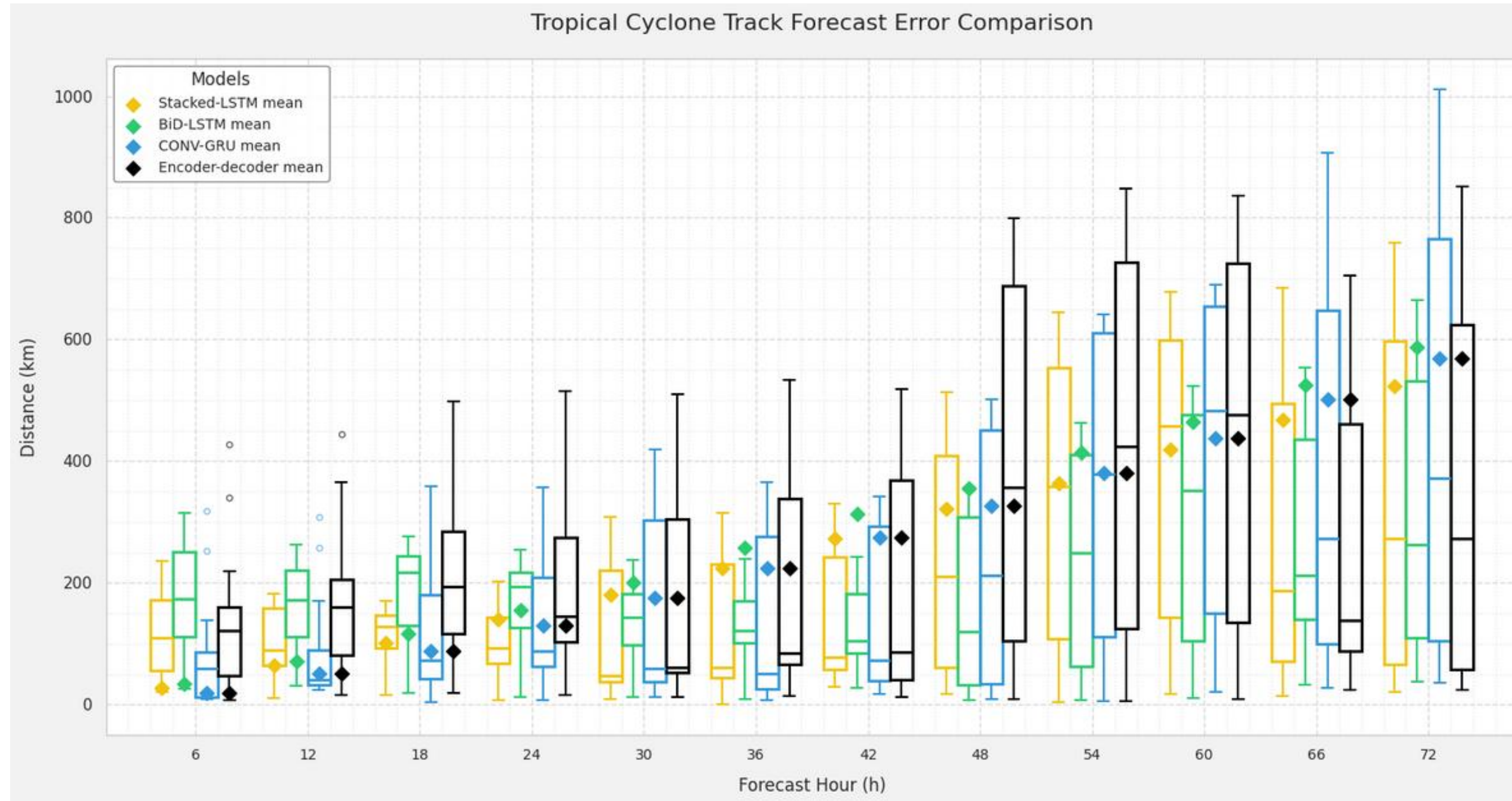
4.3. Models Testining Analysis



Scatter plot distributions of latitude and longitudes predictions for the Encoder-Decoder model. The color bar represents the RMSE, including the longitude and latitude forecasts at 6, 12, 24, 48, and 72 h

4. Results and discussions

4.4. Models Testing Analysis

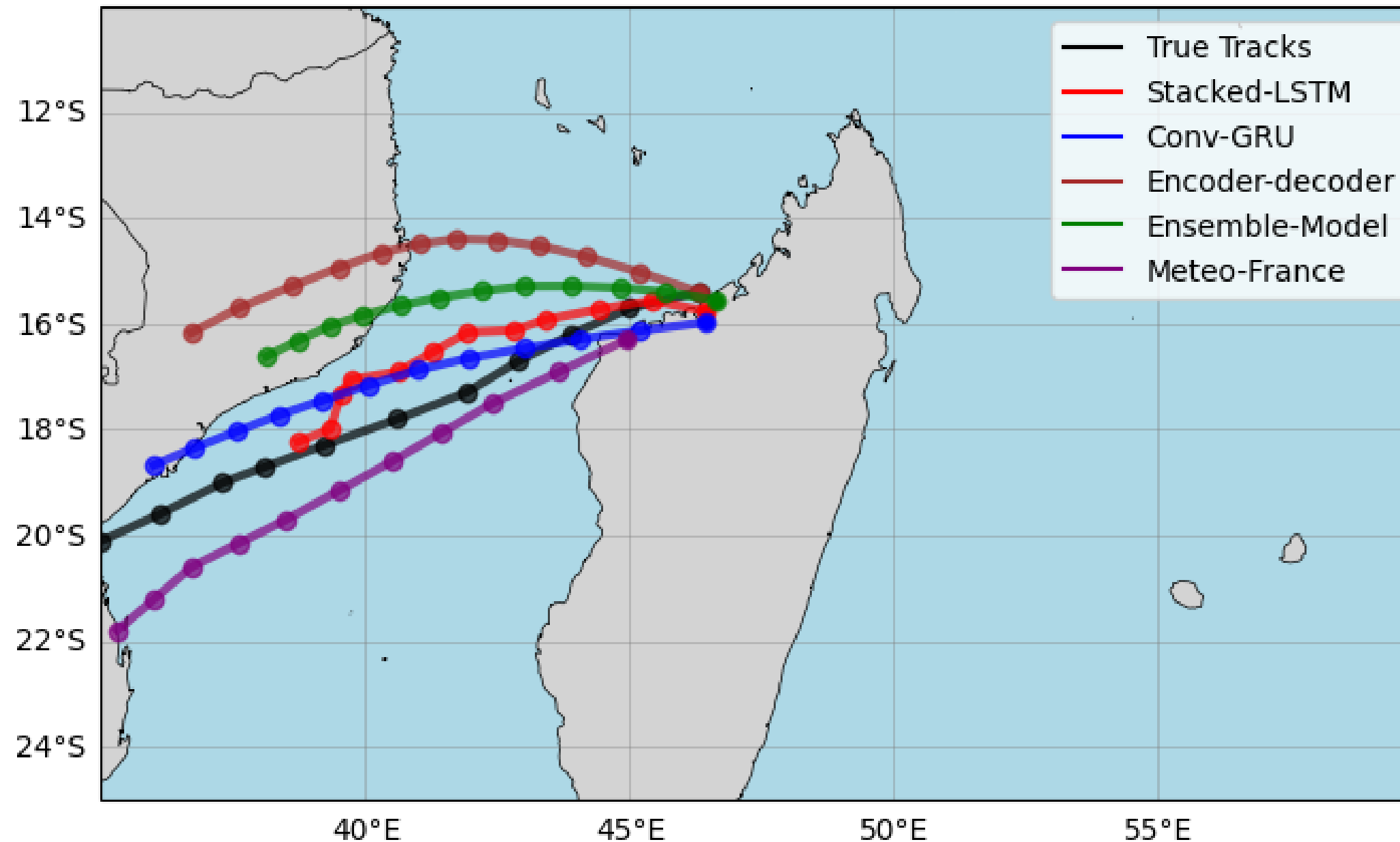


The boxplot of the Encoder-Decoder (black), Stacked-LSTM (yellow), and Conv-GRU (blue) model that creates 6–72 h forecasts (intervals of 6 h)

4. Results and discussions

4.5. Forecasting Tracks

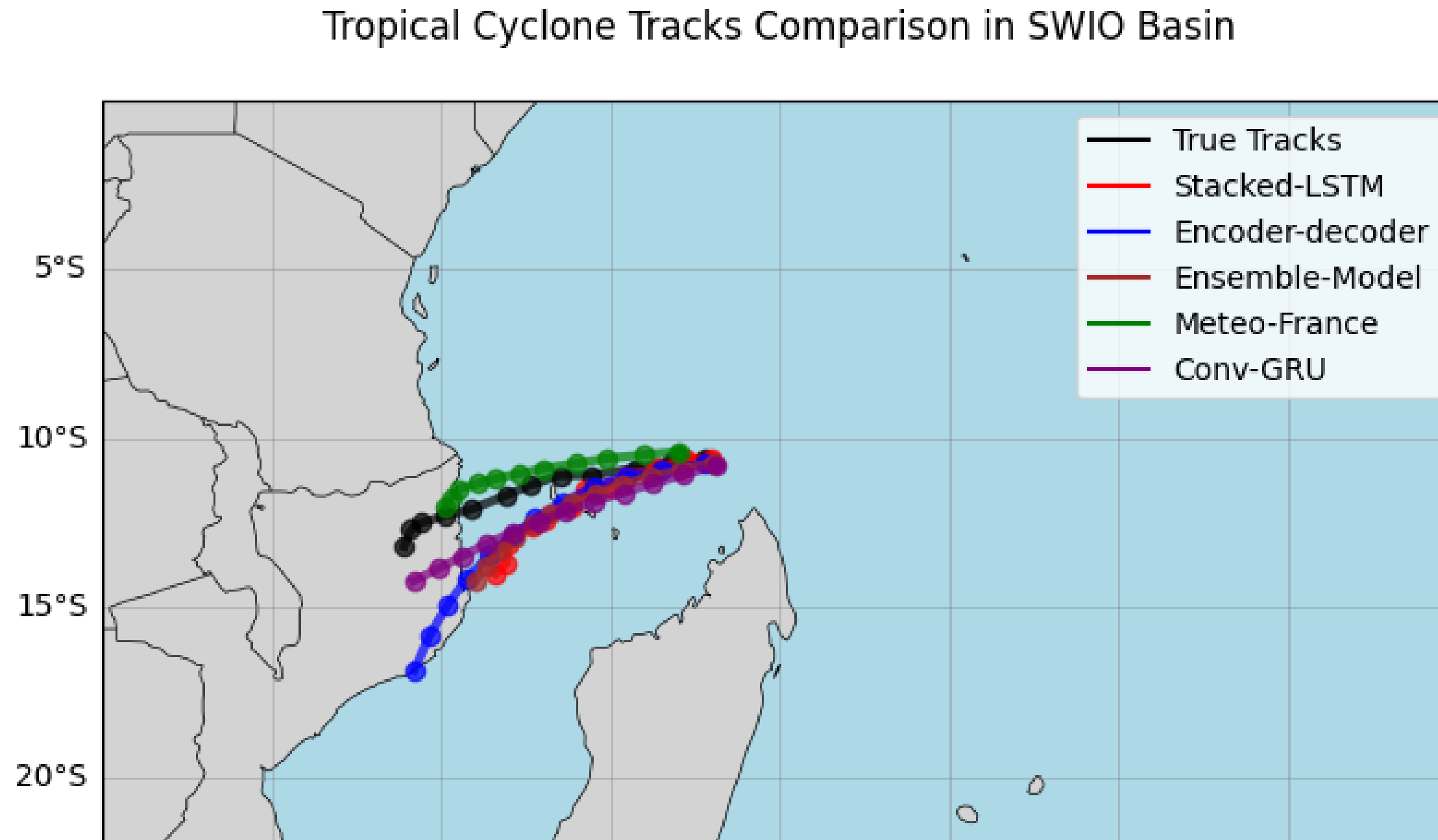
Tropical Cyclone Tracks Comparison in SWIO Basin



72h Forecast tracks of tropical cyclone Eloise (2021-2022 season). The lines represent the predicted tracks: True (Black), Stacked-LSTM (Red), Conv-GRU (Blue), Encoder-Decoder (Brown), Ensemble (Green), Météo-France Model (Purple)

4. Results and discussions

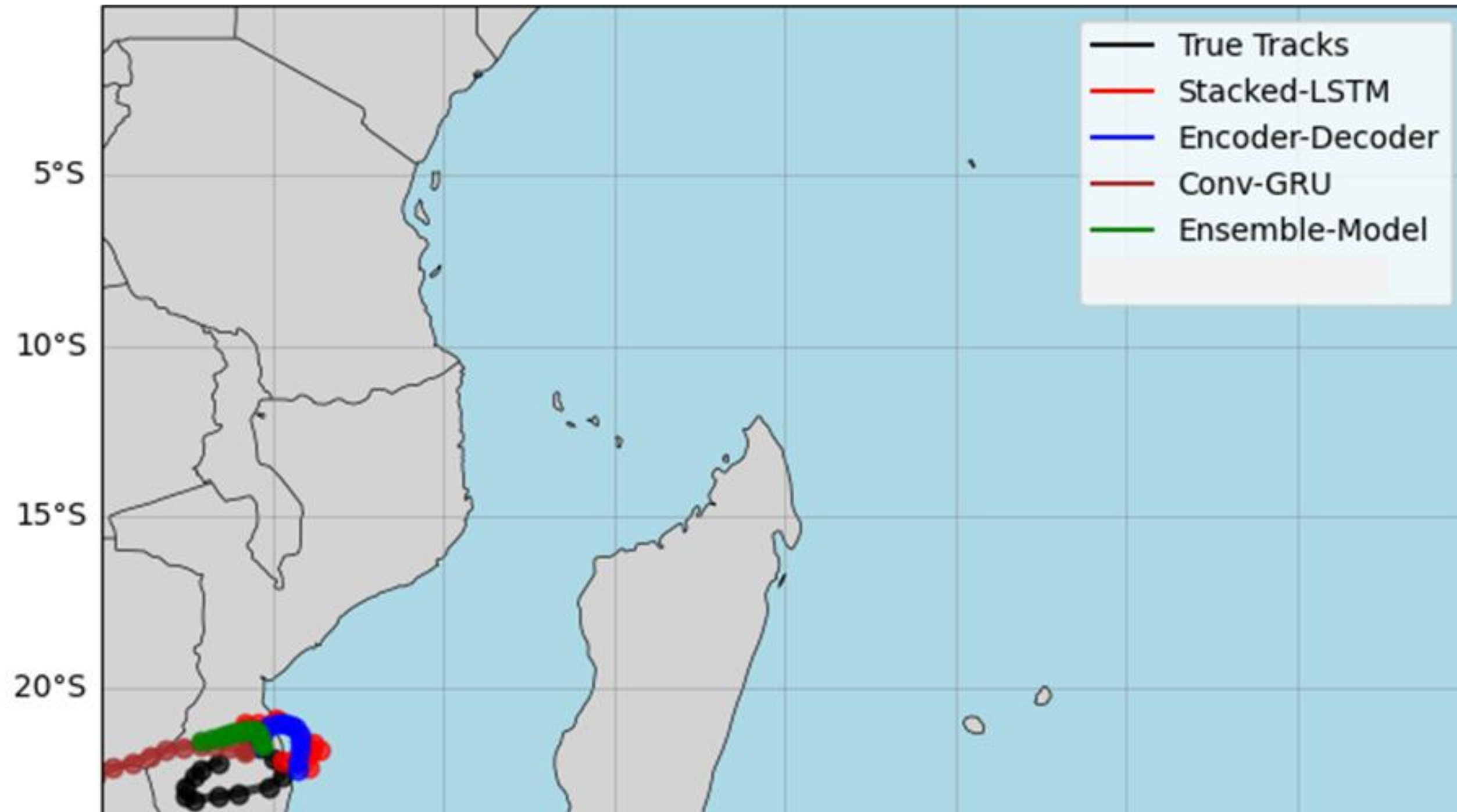
4.5. Forecasting Tracks



72h Forecast tracks of tropical cyclone Kenneth (2019-2020 season). The lines represent the predicted tracks: True (Black), Stacked-LSTM (Red), Conv-GRU (purple), Encoder-Decoder (Blue), Ensemble (Brown), Météo-France Model (green).

4. Results and discussions

4.5. Forecasting Tracks



72h Forecast tracks of tropical cyclone Guambe (2022-2023 season). The lines represent the predicted tracks: True (Black), Stacked-LSTM (Red), Encoder-Decoder (Blue), Conv-GRU (Brown), Ensemble (Green).



Tropical Cyclone Trajectory Forecasting Based on Deep Learning

Conclusion

5. Conclusion

- **Models & inputs:** Developed five RNN-based models (Stacked-LSTM, BN-LSTM, Skip-LSTM, Conv-GRU, Encoder-Decoder) trained on the past 24 h of meteorological and track data; a Random Forest selector identified 11 key variables driving next-6–72 h $\delta\text{lat}/\delta\text{lon}$.
- **Top performers & horizon skill:** Conv-GRU, Stacked-LSTM, and Encoder-Decoder performed best—Encoder-Decoder excelled at short lead times (≤ 42 h), Stacked-LSTM at medium ranges (42–72 h), and Conv-GRU provided the most stable performance across all horizons.
- **Error characteristics:** Prediction errors grow with lead time; models systematically underestimate latitude and longitude for southwestward/recurving cyclones (more pronounced at 48–72 h and at higher southern latitudes), though high R^2 indicates strong overall correlation between predicted and observed tracks.
- **Operational recommendation:** Favor Encoder-Decoder, Stacked-LSTM, and Conv-GRU for operational use and consider an ensemble (to exploit complementary strengths); models are relatively lightweight and computationally efficient—suitable for near-real-time deployment in the SWIO.
- **Next steps:** Improve accuracy by incorporating additional environmental predictors and implementing ensemble/uncertainty quantification methods to reduce bias and increase robustness.



THANK
YOU

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