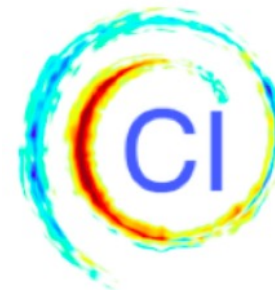
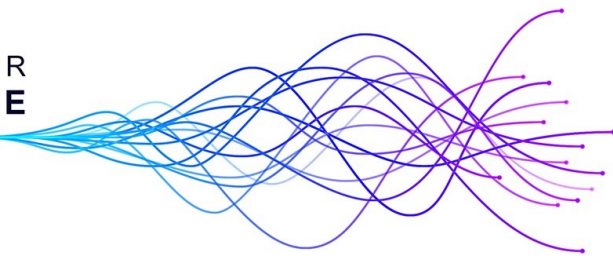


# Accelerating AI Applications in Environmental Sciences

Yuhan “Douglas” Rao, PhD (douglas\_rao@ncsu.edu)  
Cooperative Institute for Satellite Earth System Studies/NOAA NCEI

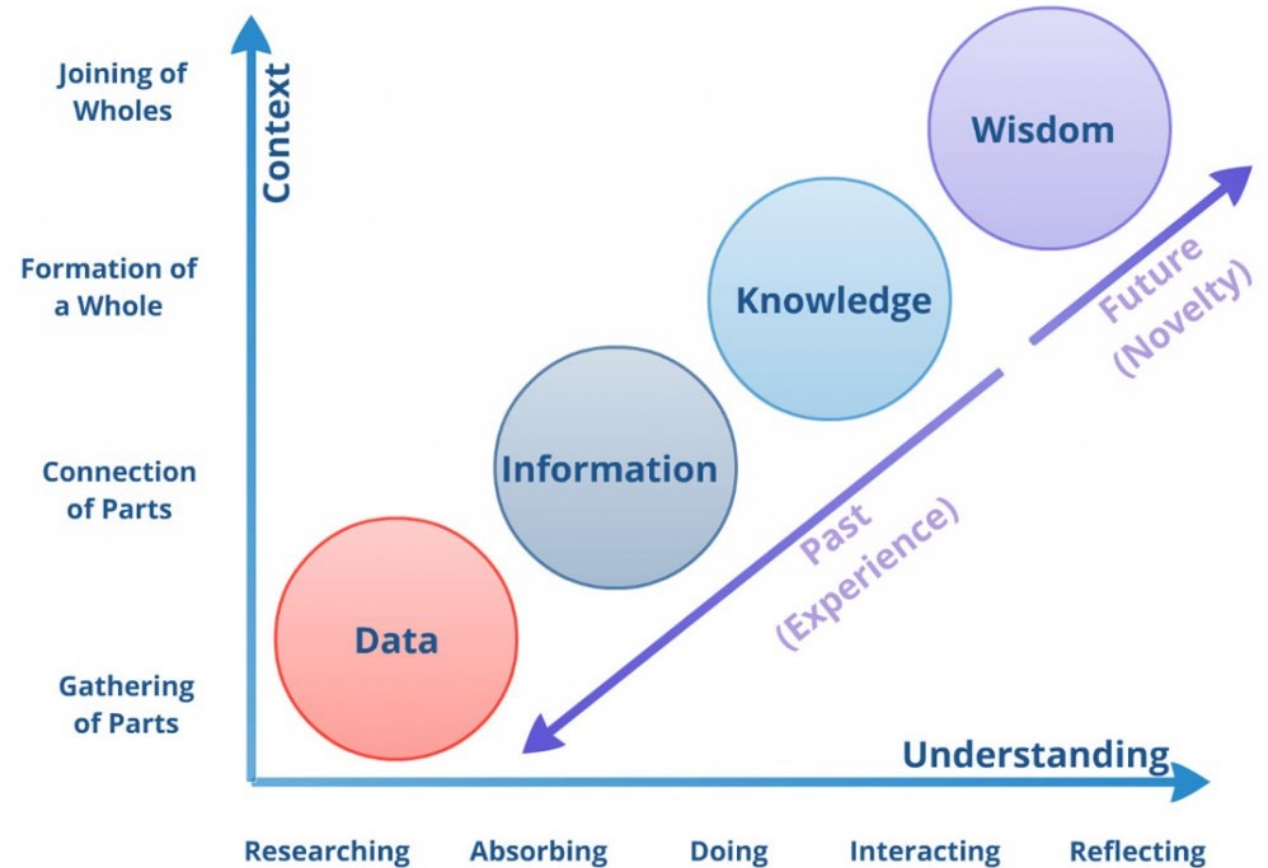
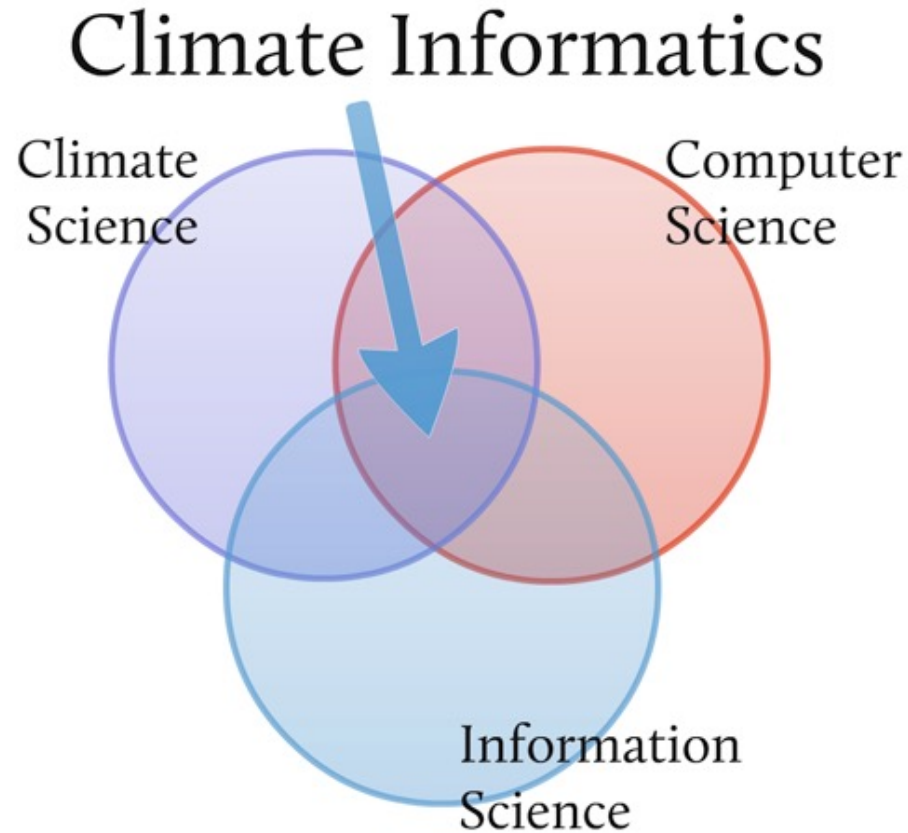
Rob Redmon (NOAA Center for AI), Eric Kihn (NOAA NCEI)

NOAA CENTER FOR  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Climate  
Informatics

# Climate Informatics



# Climate Informatics 2023

Data-driven prediction  
& forecast

Sub-seasonal to  
seasonal (S2S)

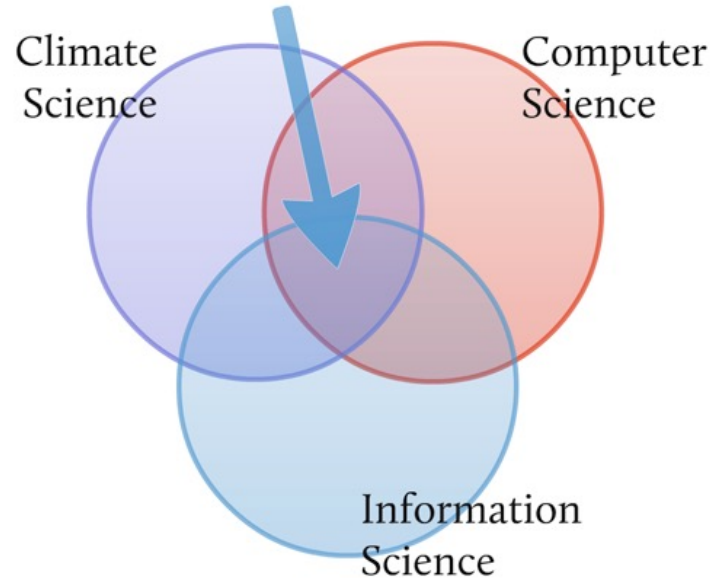
Extreme events

Model downscaling

Calibration & emulation

Trustworthiness & ethics of  
Socio-technical systems

## Climate Informatics



Reproducibility &  
Replicability

Generative model

xAI

Unsupervised model

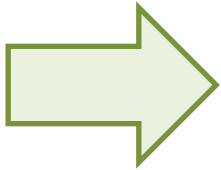
Knowledge discovery

Causal inference

Uncertainty  
quantification

Data & Skills

# Climate Informatics Reproducibility Challenge



Ocean Modelling  
Special Issue Python

Variational data assimilation with deep prior (CIRC23)

Ground truth      Deep prior 4D-Var

Pahari et al. (2023)

license MIT launch binder  
render passing

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.8339299

General Modelling  
Special Issue Python

Deep learning and variational inversion for climate science (CIRC23)

Domazetoski et al. (2023)

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DOI 10.5281/zenodo.8330771

Ocean Modelling  
Special Issue Python

Underlying physics of the ocean's temperature (CIRC23)

Malhotra et al. (2023)

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render passing

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.8314669

From conventional scientific publication to computational notebooks with well documented reproducible workflows.



# AI in Environmental Sciences



## Applying Artificial Intelligence to NOAA's Mission



Providing more accurate weather forecasts by improving models



Operating uncrewed systems for bathymetric mapping and geographic surveys



Predicting space weather by identifying solar events in real time



Reviewing aerial and underwater surveys to assess fish populations



Studying protected species with images and acoustic recordings

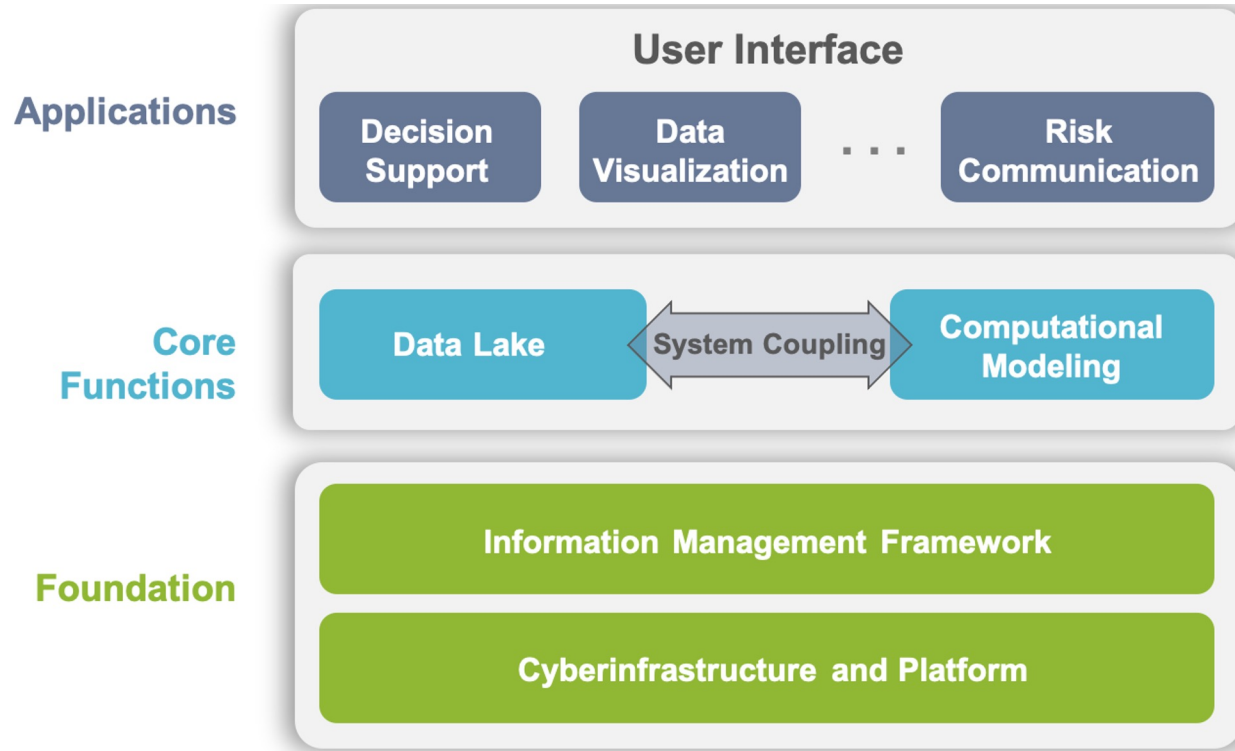


NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

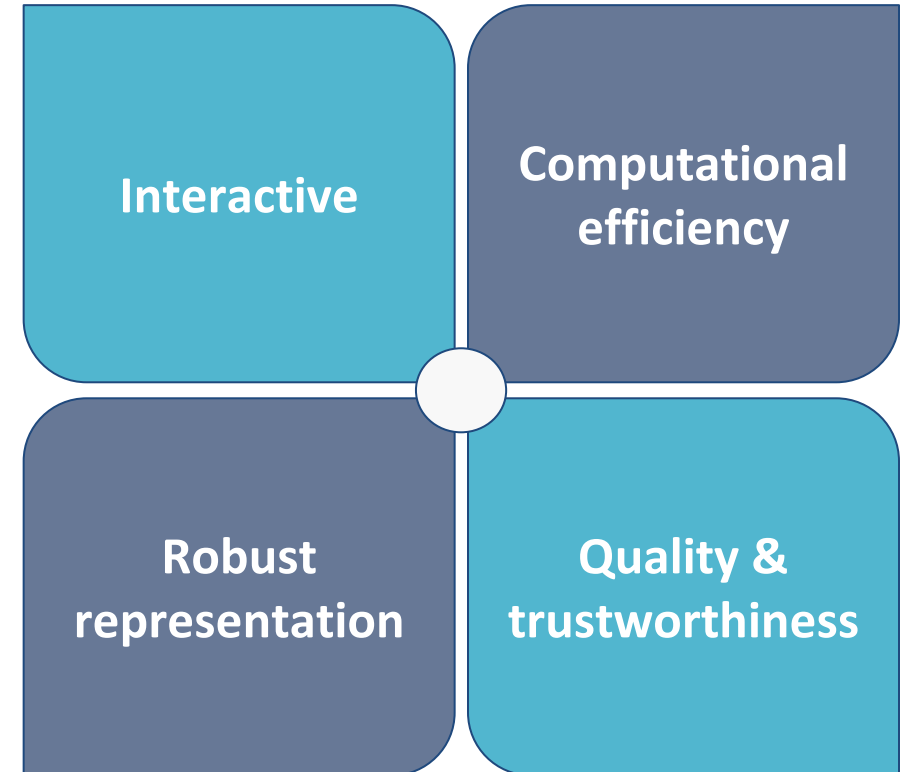
*NOAA Center for AI strives to benefit NOAA's mission by proliferating the use of responsible AI through coordinated development, engagement, and partnership.*

# 4<sup>th</sup> NOAA AI Workshop – Digital Twin Whitepaper

## Core components



## Core features



# 5<sup>th</sup> NOAA AI Workshop

## AI Benchmarking Frameworks

### Order 1 requirements

R1: Data available online without access restrictions

R2: Clear problem statement for meaningful task in atmospheric science

R3: Data input into high level open data science language provided

R4: Evaluation metrics defined analytically and in code

### Order 2 requirements

R5: Simple example machine learning solution provided in code

R6: Visualisation and diagnostics provided in code

R7: Tests for physical consistency and explainability provided

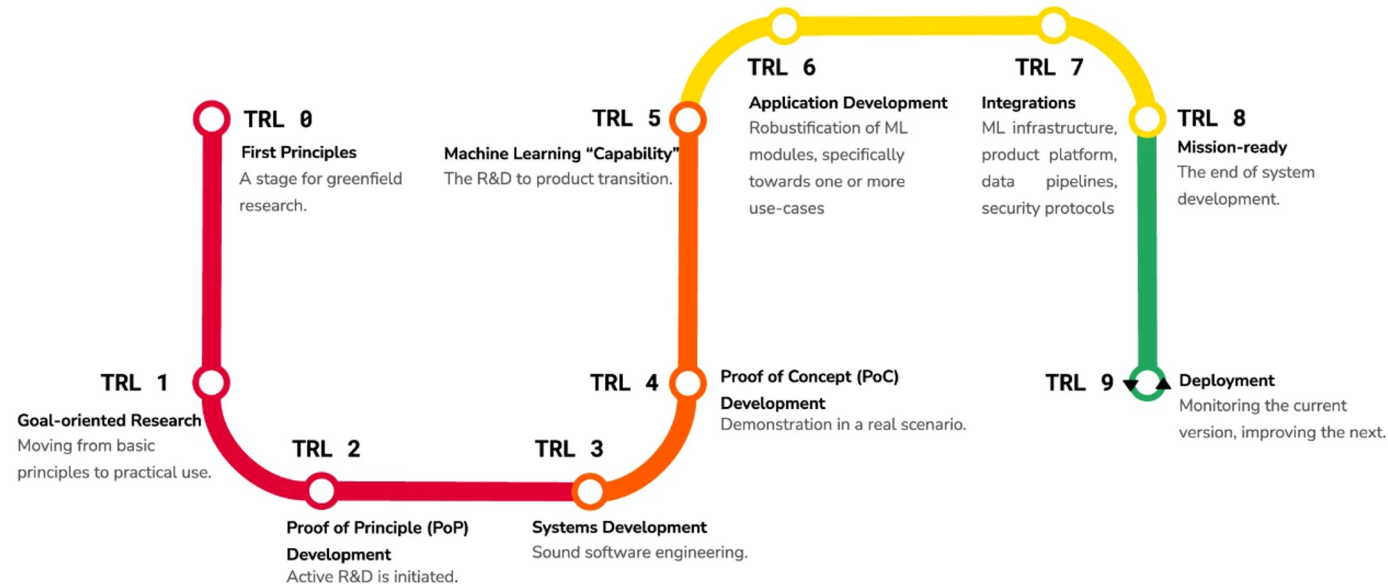
R8: Benchmarks for the computational performance provided

Dueben et al. (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1175/AIES-D-21-0002.1>

## Facilitating R2X transitions for AI Research

**Fig. 1: MLTRL spans research (red) through prototyping (orange), productization (yellow), and deployment (green).**

From: [Technology readiness levels for machine learning systems](#)



Lavin et al. (2022): <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-33128-9>

# Preliminary Take-aways

**Identifying core use cases:** community-driven core use cases for AI benchmarking framework development including data, tools, use case specific metrics (beyond RMSE).

**Socio- and Cyber-infrastructure:** efforts are needed to address the segmented infrastructures for AI R&D and social mechanisms to support community uptake of the benchmarking.

**Addressing the need of AI-ready data:** accessibility, quality, and documentation are critical for enabling benchmarking and R2X transitions.

**Workforce and capacity development:** critical needs to scale up education efforts for both current and future workforces with the emphasis on diverse AI workforce.

**Evaluation & governance:** critical needs to develop use case aware metrics to objectively measure and monitor AI benchmarking frameworks.

**Ethics and risk management:** need to adopting a common framework to evaluate, measure, and address risks associated with AI applications.