

Clifford Neural Operators on Atmospheric Data Influenced Partial Differential Equations



Sujit Roy*, Wei Ji Leong, Rajat Shinde, Ankur Kumar, Christopher E Phillips, Manil Maskey, Rahul Ramachandran

sujit.roy@nasa.gov

MERRA-2 climate reanalysis dataset

Implementation

Trained on the Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications, Version 2 (MERRA-2) dataset at an hourly temporal resolution with the following data variables:

- **SLP** (sea-level pressure)
- **U10M** (zonal 10m wind)
- **V10M** (meridional 10m wind)

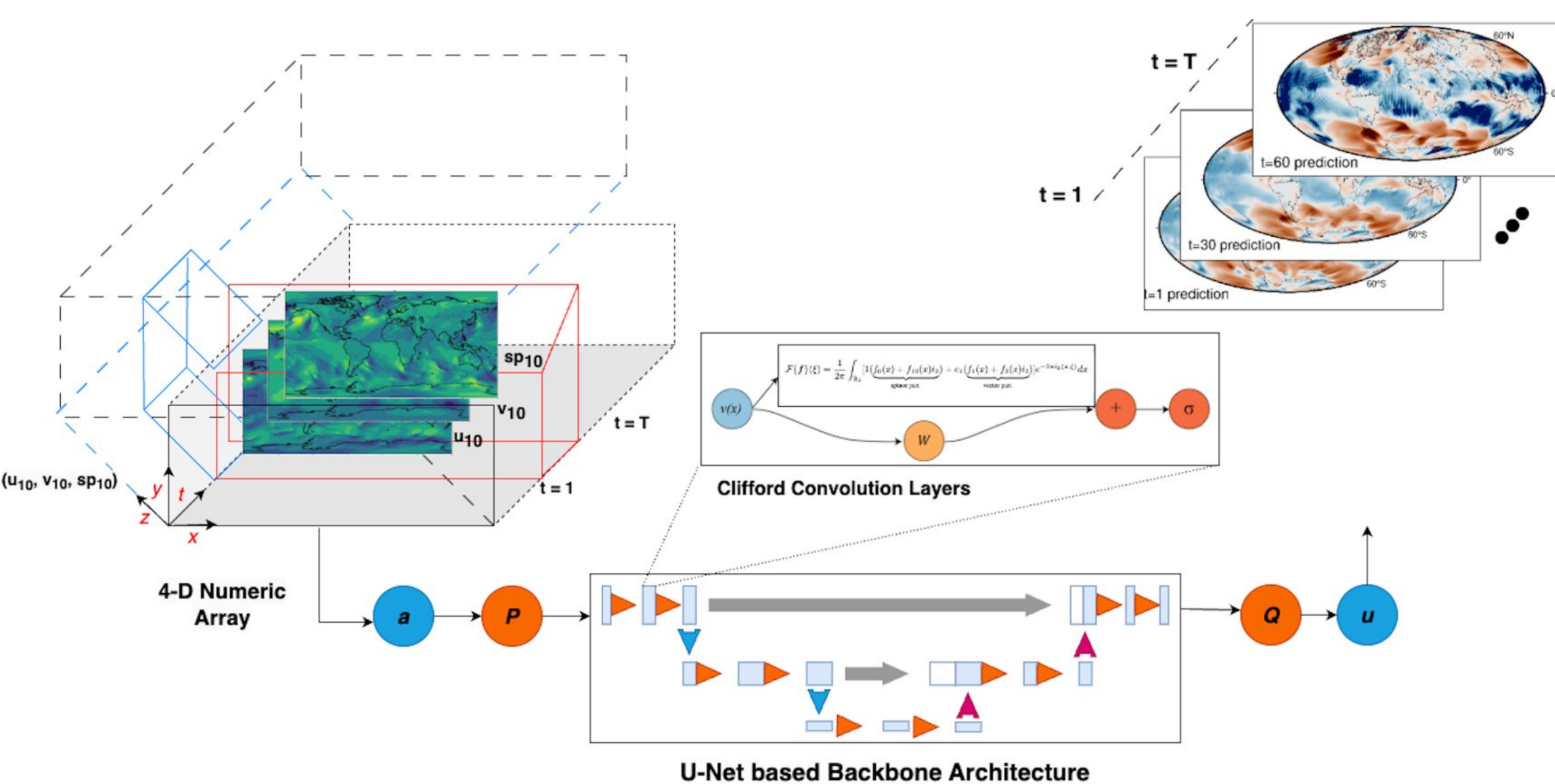
1. Defining 2 basis vector e_1, e_2 and 1 multi-vector e_1e_2
2. Take input multivector and create a dual function given by:

$$a = a_0 + a_1e_1 + a_2e_2 + a_{12}e_1e_2$$

$$(a_0 + a_{12}j_2) + e_1(a_1 + a_2j_2)$$

3. Perform Clifford Fourier transform on each part and revert back and concatenate both

Architecture Details

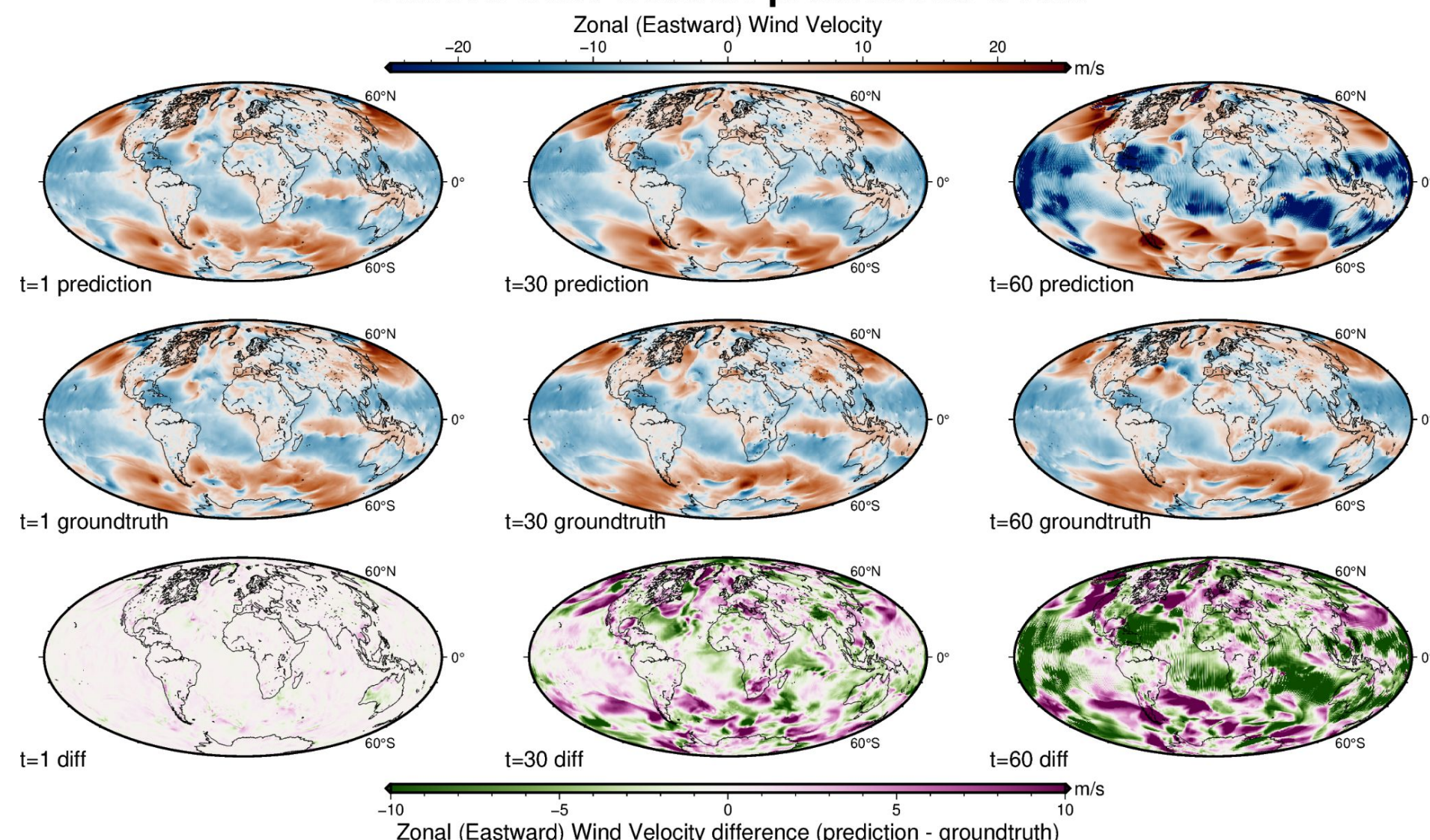


Instead of treating SLP/U10M/V10M as three different 'channels', we use **Clifford convolutions** and **Clifford Fourier transform layers** as neural partial differential equation (PDE) surrogates to capture the geometric relationship between scalar fields (SLP) and vector fields (U10M, V10M).

Fig. 2 (above) Illustration of the Clifford-based Neural Operator model with U-Net3 backbone. Inputs (left) are passed in as a 4D tensor of shape [time(t), latitude(y), longitude(x), blades(z)], where blades are surface pressure (sp10), zonal wind (u10) and meridional wind (v10). The model is trained to make weather predictions one timestep ahead, i.e. passing input at t=0 will produce an output at t=1. Example zonal wind outputs are shown on the top right for auto-regressive predictions t=1 hr, t=30 hr and t=60 hr (2.5 days).

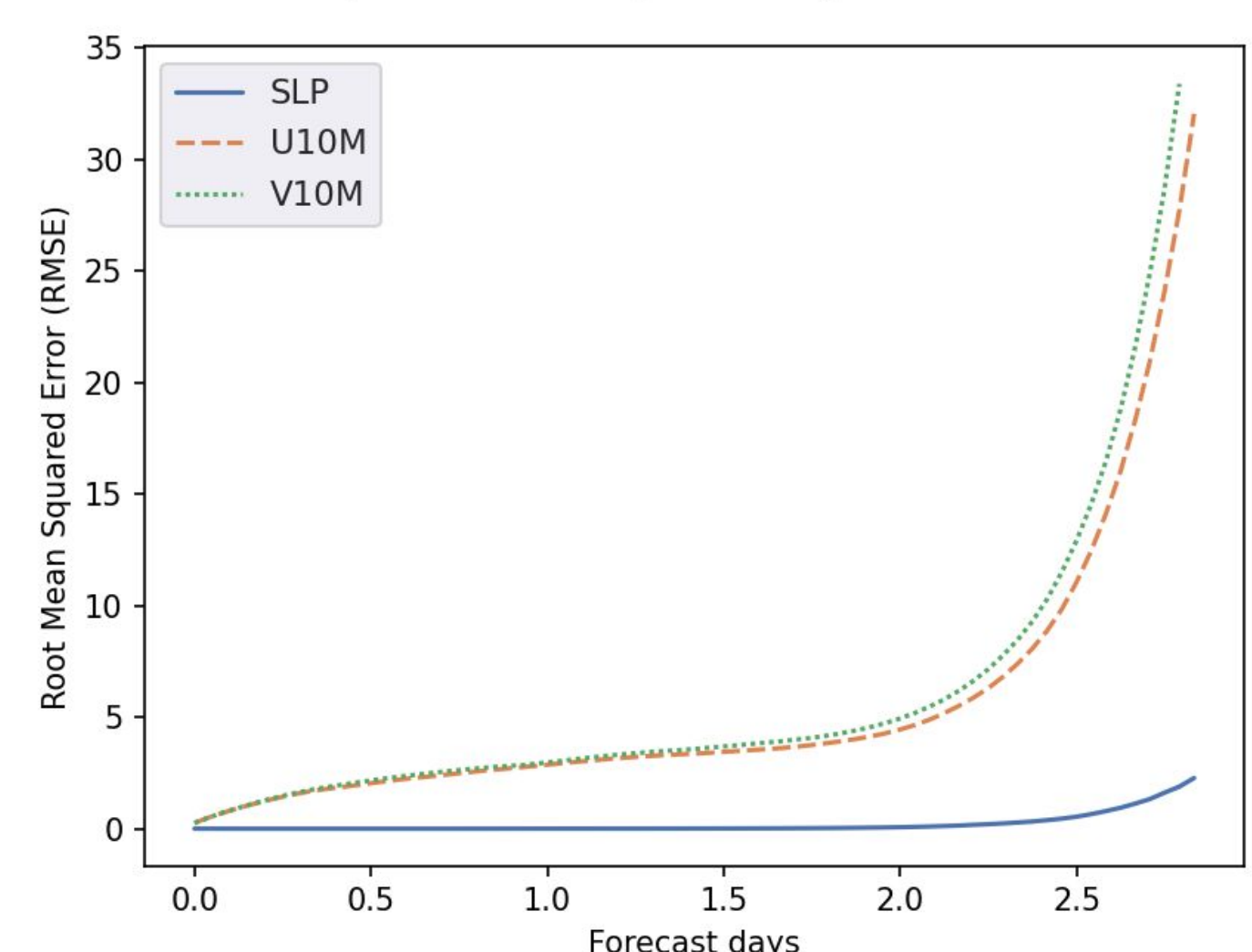
Results

Clifford Unet weather predictions U10M



U10 prediction from the initial condition at t = 0 to 60 timesteps based on Clifford Fourier convolutions using U-Net as backbone

Clifford model (Unet backbone) forecast prediction RMSE over time



RMSE of U10M, V10M and SLP prediction from the initial condition at t=0 to 2.5 days based on Clifford Fourier convolutions with U-Net as backbone