



# 人工智慧於短延時降雨預測之應用

## AI in Nowcasting

### - Some insights gained from reproducing DGMR

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I Yun-Ting Heh ([hehyunting@caece.net](mailto:hehyunting@caece.net))

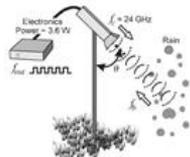
*Computational Hydrometeorological Lab*

*Department of Civil Engineering, National Taiwan University*

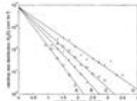
# Novel sensing, algorithms & interfacing

## RS1: Novel sensor and processing algorithms development

24GHz Doppler radar rain sensors



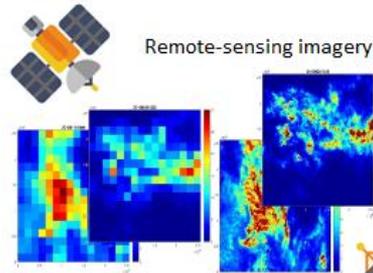
Intervalometer



Rain drop size distribution vs. rain rate



## RS2: Flexible multi-sensor data merging framework



Multi-sensor data merging



Numerical & categorical ground measurements

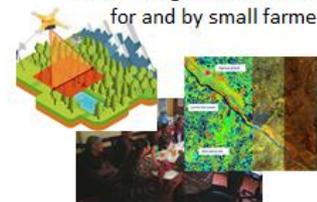


## RS3: Full-scale co-created applications

Pluvial flood forecasting & warning system



Precision agricultural service for and by small farmers



User experience & feedback



# A joint effort from the entire Computational Hydrometeorological Lab

 DeepMind GAN	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 FourierNet	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 MetNet	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 PySteps	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 RainNet	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 Trajectory GRU	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 rainymotion	Create sample.txt	9 months ago
 LICENSE	Initial commit	9 months ago
 README.md	Update README.md	9 months ago

 Readme  
 MIT licens  
 0 stars  
 2 watchin  
 0 forks

## Releases

No releases publ  
[Create a new rele](#)

## Packages

No packages out

It started from an internal team project 2 years ago...

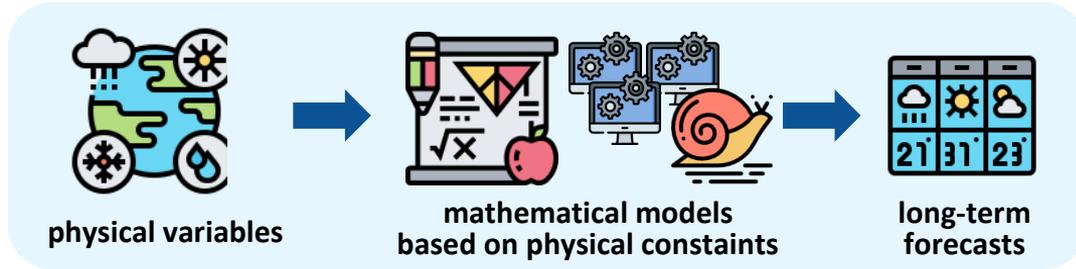


- **Variations in rainfall = Advection + Evolution (in time)**
- **Spatial and temporal features of rainfall are not independent from each other**
- **Scale matters!**

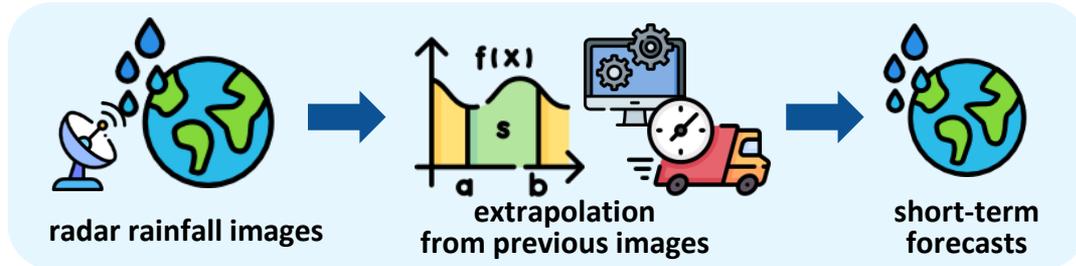


# Radar-based nowcasting is effective and more affordable

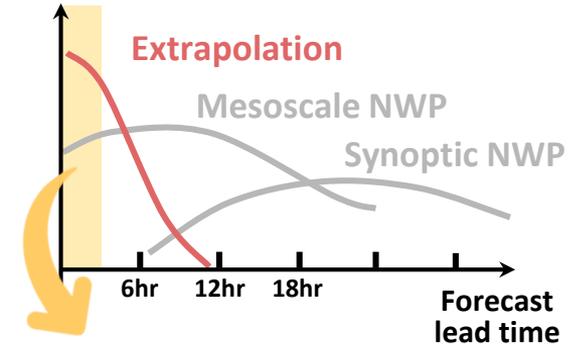
## ❑ Numerical weather prediction system (NWP)



## ❑ Radar-based nowcasting



Forecast quality



*Target lead time of nowcasting*

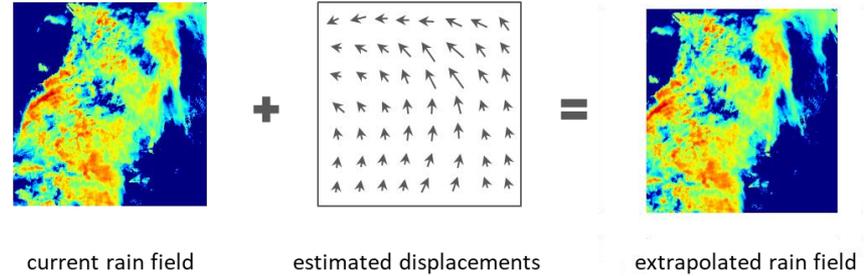
*2~3 hours*

*For nowcasting purpose, **radar-based methods** are more effective than NWP.*

# Field-based nowcasting

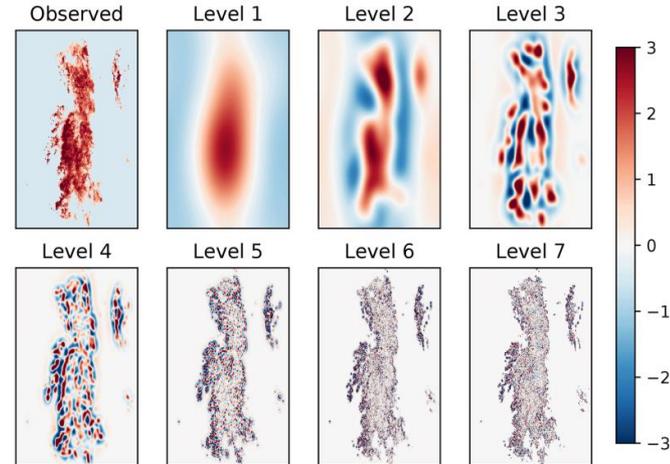
## ❑ Advection nowcasting

- | Extrapolates current radar rainfall fields into future frames using estimated displacements



## ❑ STEPS

- | State-of-the-art nowcasting model
- | **Optical flow** is employed for displacement estimation
- | Probabilistic nowcasting model
- | The spatial-temporal scaling relationship is explicitly modelled.



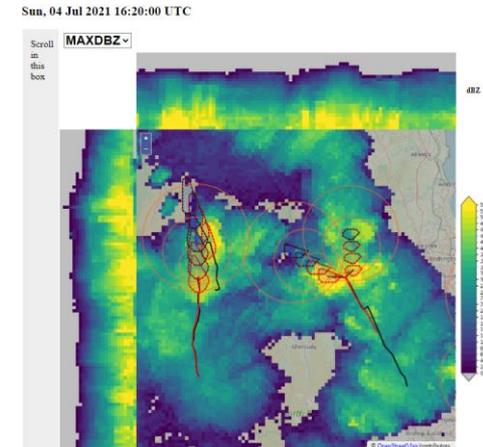
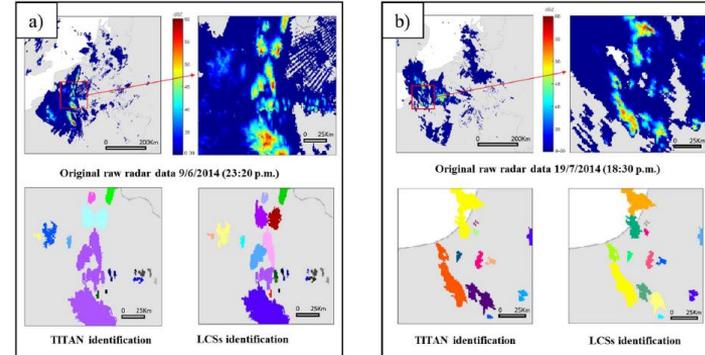
# Object-based nowcasting

## ❑ Object-based nowcasting

- | Extrapolates the movement of identified rainfall cells

## ❑ TITAN

- | Most widely-used basis model
- | Storm identification
- | Temporal association of rainfall objects between successive time steps
- | Widely used for thunderstorm nowcasting





**It is NOT new to apply AI to rainfall nowcasting,  
but paradigm shifts as new technologies emerge.**

# DGMR: Deep Generative Models of Radar proposed by DeepMind



In 2021, DeepMind proposed a deep-learning model, *Deep Generative Models of Radar*, that achieved a great success in the field of **short-term rainfall nowcasting** (Ravuri et al., 2021).

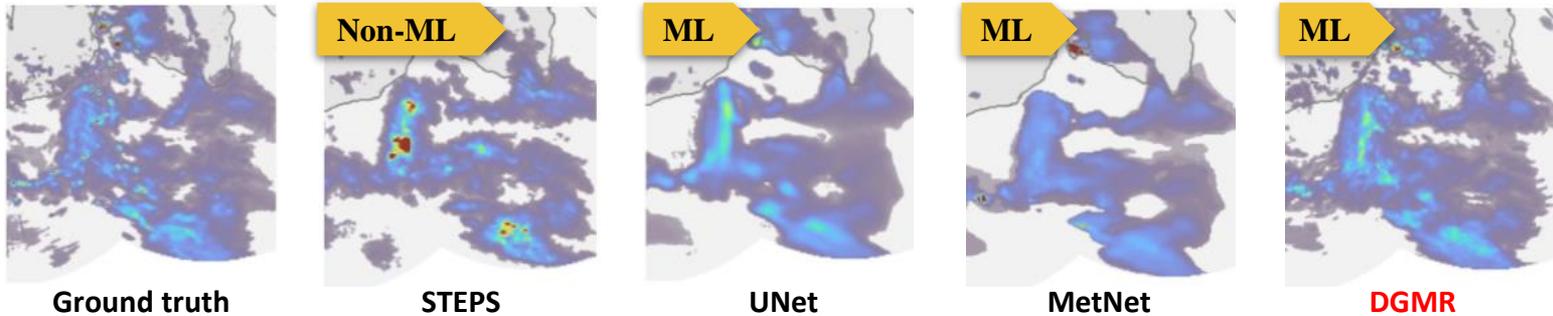


Figure. Case study of performance on a challenging precipitation event starting on = 24 June 2019 at 16:15 UK, showing convective cells over eastern Scotland (Ravuri et al., 2021).



Check out DGMR's article!

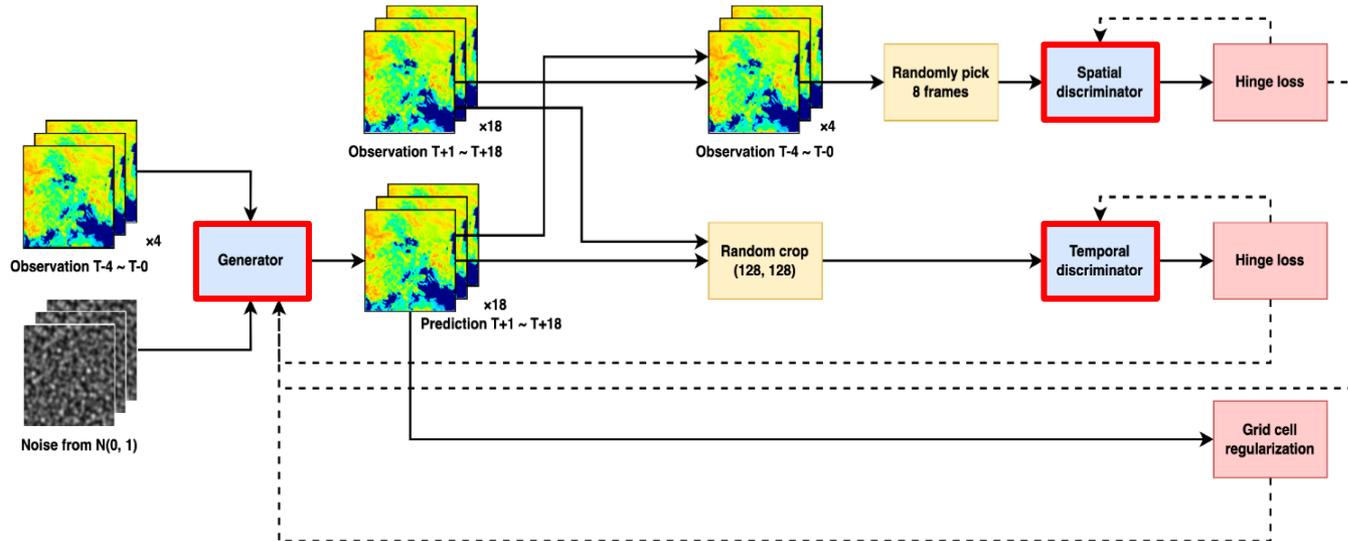


# DGMR: A rainfall nowcasting model trained with the GAN technique

DGMR includes three main models, which are trained simultaneously via an adversarial process.

These models are:

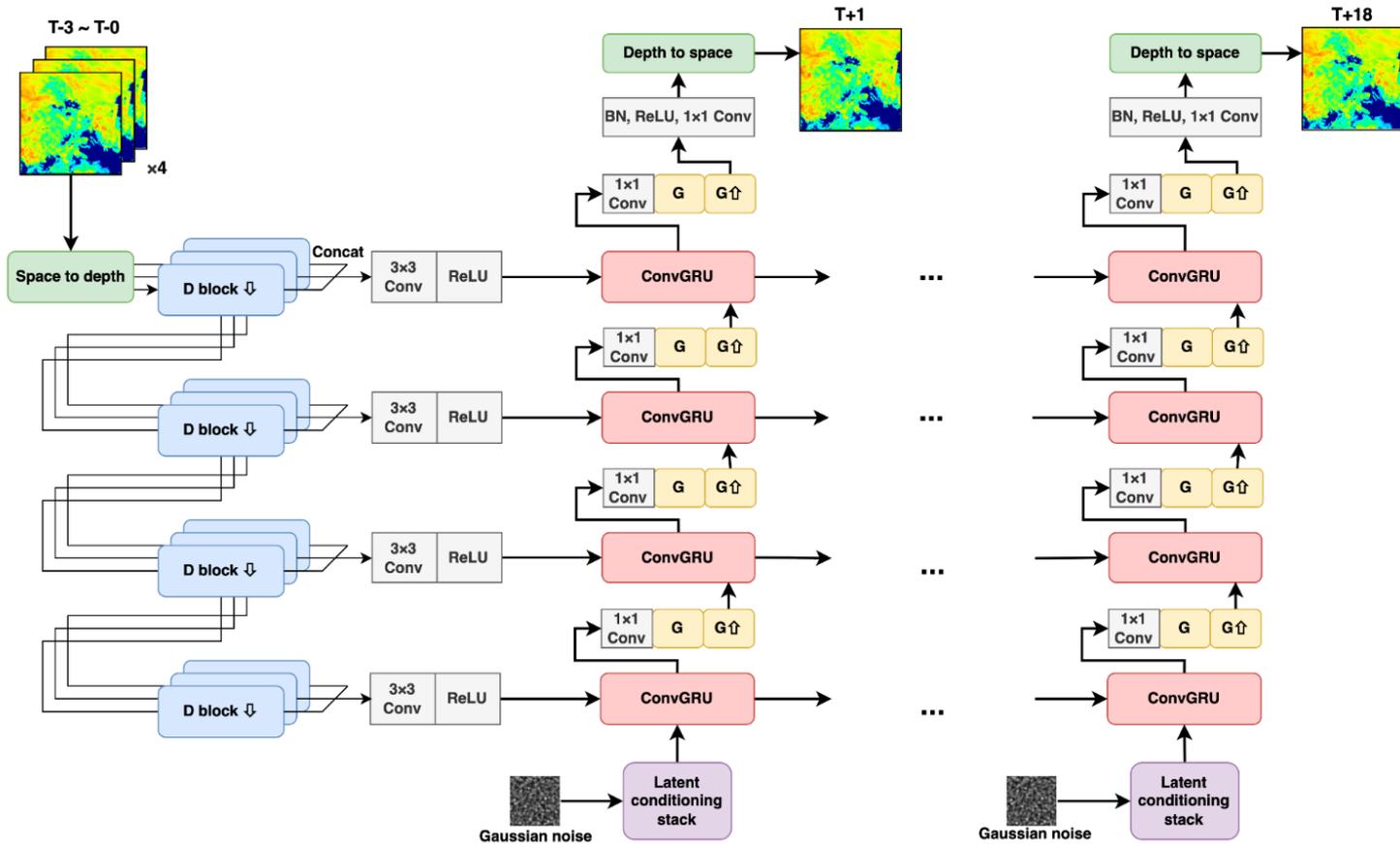
- **A Generator** that produces rainfall nowcasts.
- **Two Discriminators** that discriminate if the generated nowcasts are 'similar enough' to the ground truth in terms of their spatial and temporal features, respectively.



Check out DGMR's article!



# Overview of the DGMR generator



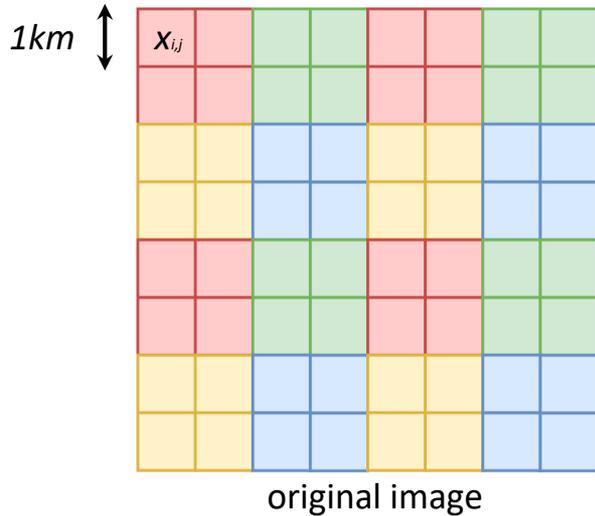


## Tutorial Outline

- **What is Convolution?**
  - How does it work on a 2-dimensional images?
- **What is Space to Depth?**
  - How does it work?
  - Space to Depth + Convolution
  - Hierarchical feature extractor
- **What is GRU (Gated Recurrent Units)?**
  - How does GRU work?
  - The role of ConvGRU in DGMR
- **What is GAN?**
  - GAN framework in a nutshell
  - The benefit of using GAN



## Convolution: How does it work on a 2D image?



Convolution mask

$w_{0,0}$	$w_{0,1}$	$w_{0,2}$
$w_{1,0}$	$w_{1,1}$	$w_{1,2}$
$w_{2,0}$	$w_{2,1}$	$w_{2,2}$

As mentioned before...

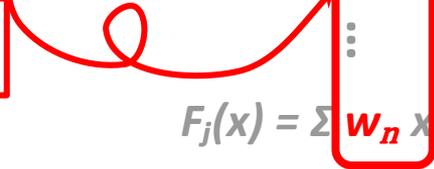
$$F_0(x) = \sum w_n x^n$$

$$F_1(x) = \sum w_n x^n$$

$$F_2(x) = \sum w_n x^n$$

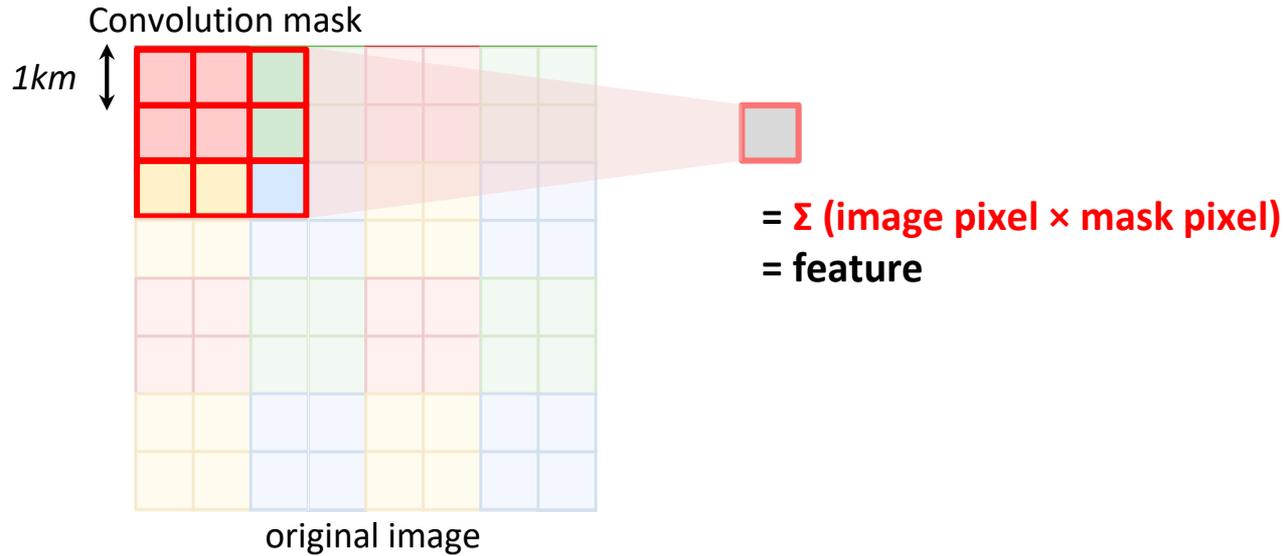
$\vdots$

$$F_j(x) = \sum w_n x^n$$



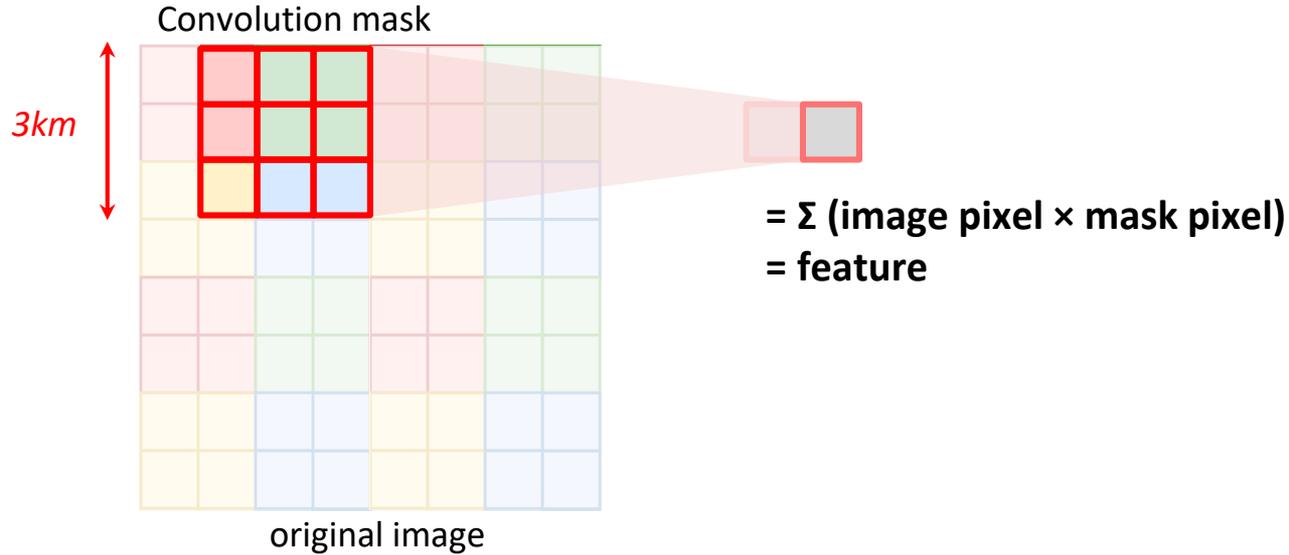


## Convolution: How does it work on a 2D image?



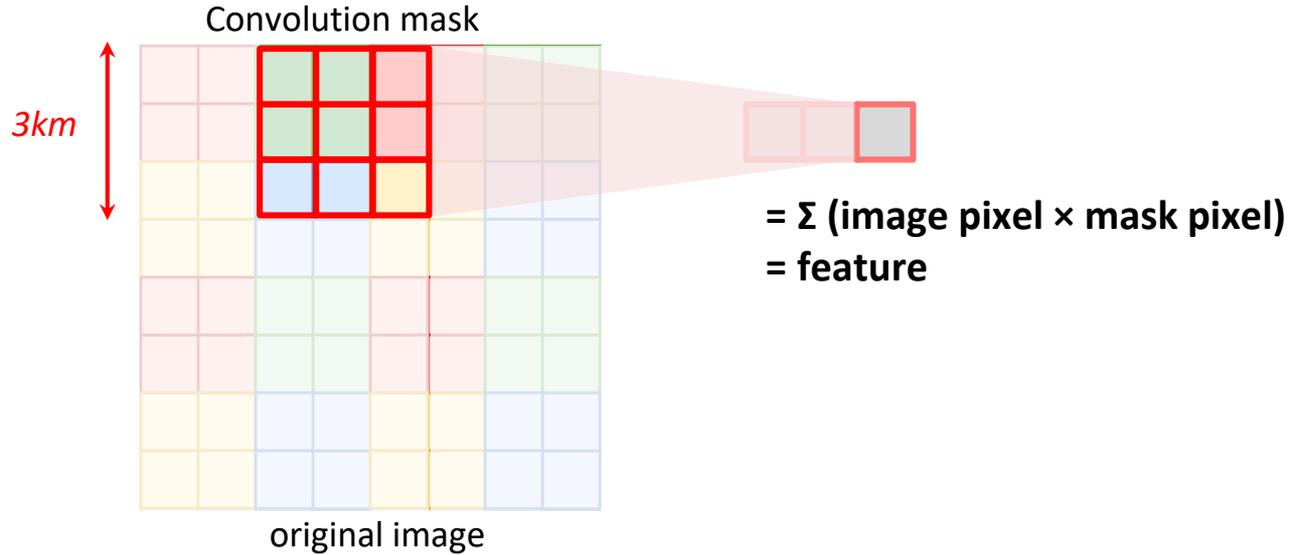


## Convolution: How does it work on a 2D image?



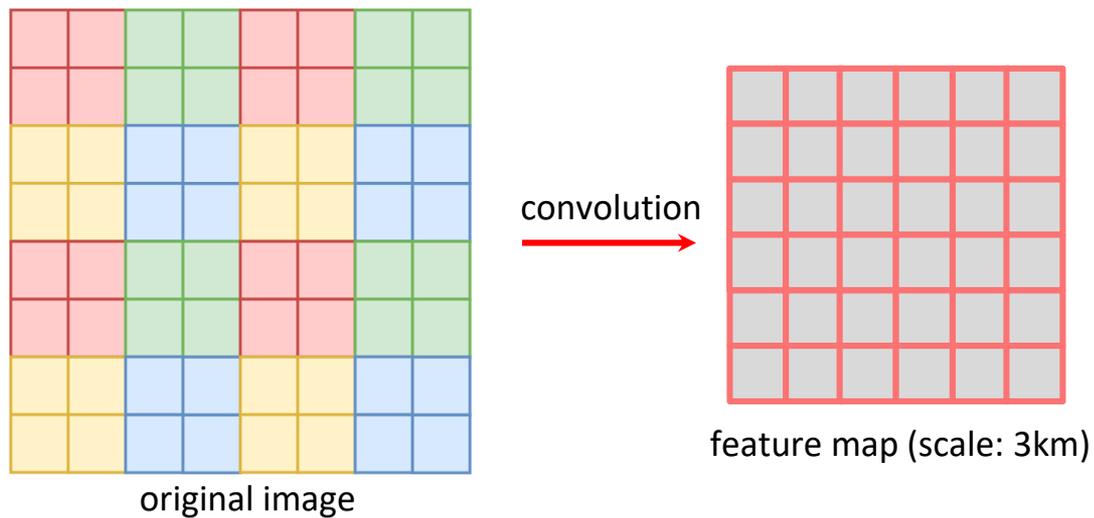


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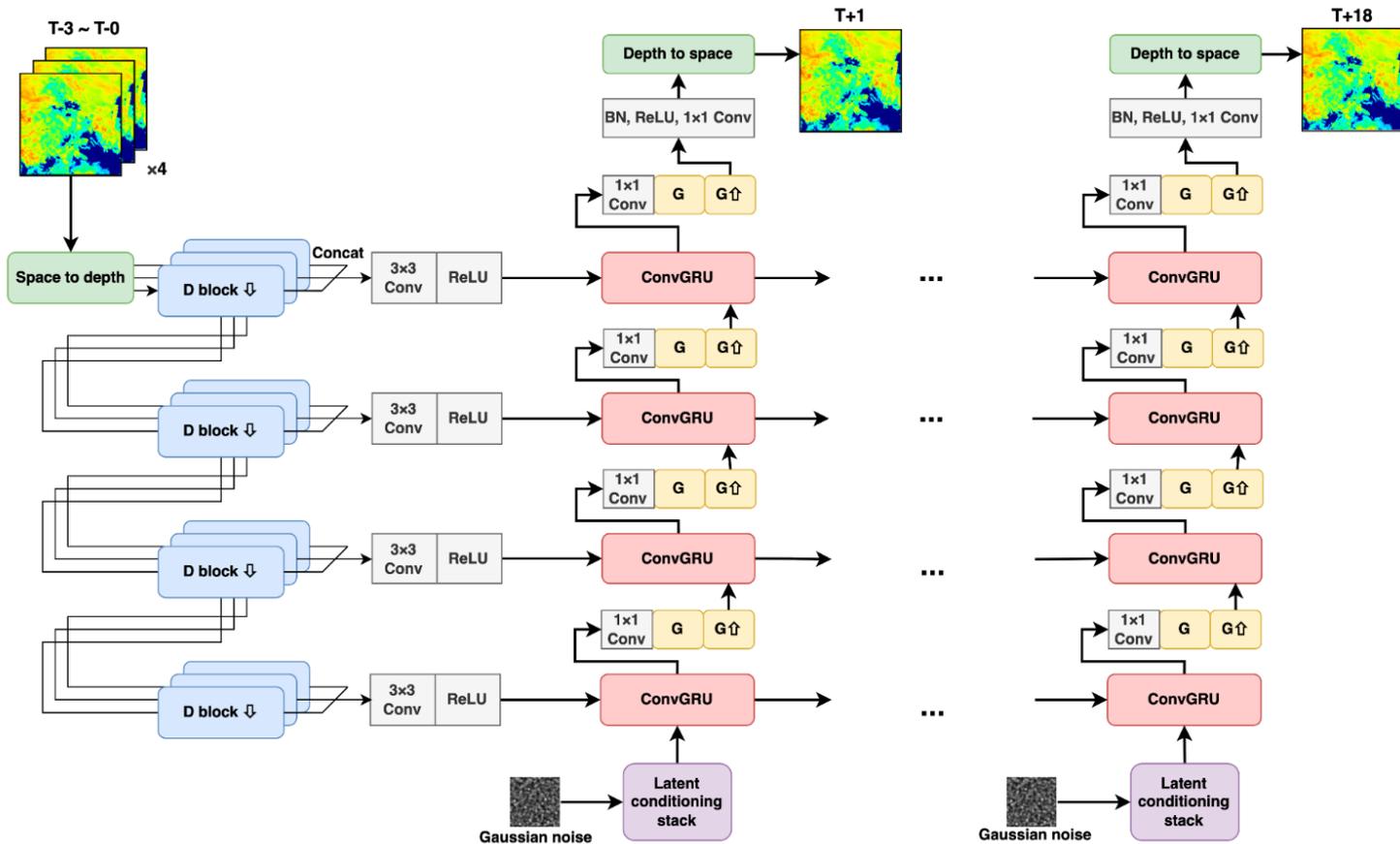


## Convolution: How does it work on a 2D image?



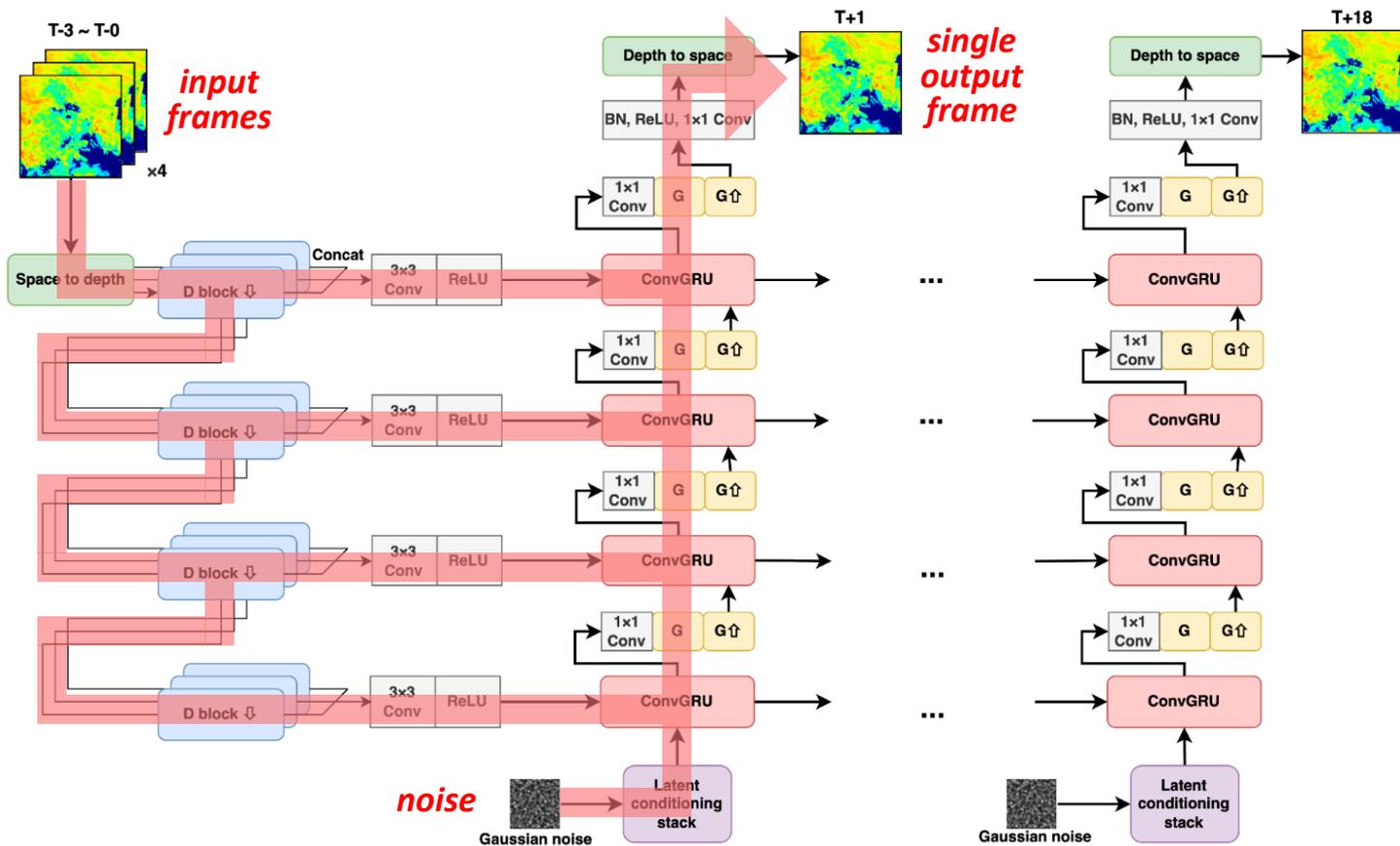


## Deep Generative Models of Radar proposed by DeepMind (DGMR): An Overview



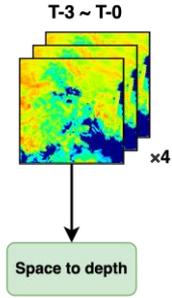


## DGMR: An Overview



# Unraveling the mystery of DeepMind's rainfall nowcasting: a step-by-step tutorial for hydrologists

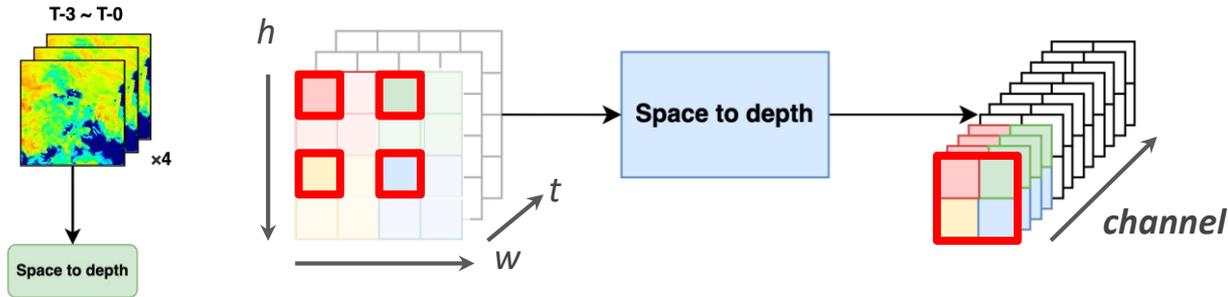
## Space to Depth (S2D): How does it work?



What does *Space to depth* do?

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## Space to Depth (S2D): How does it work?

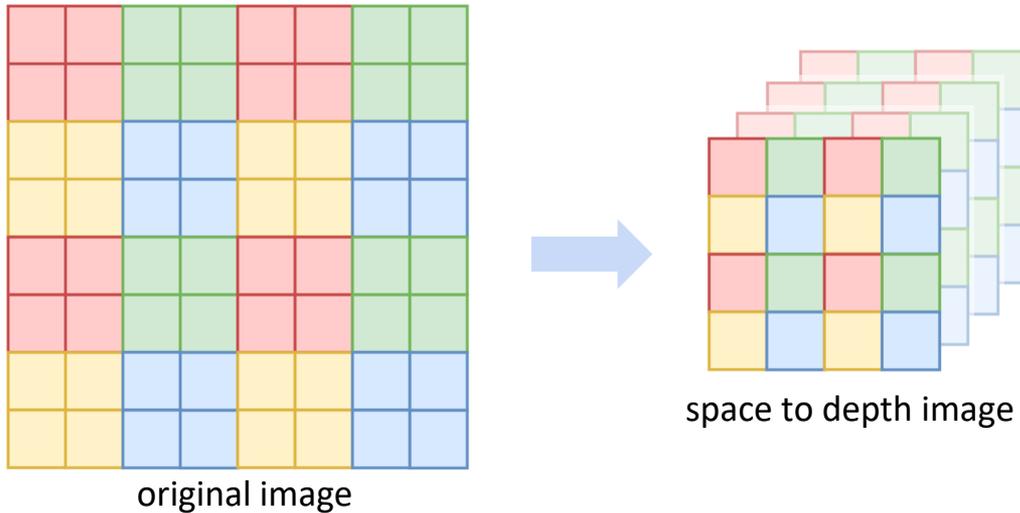
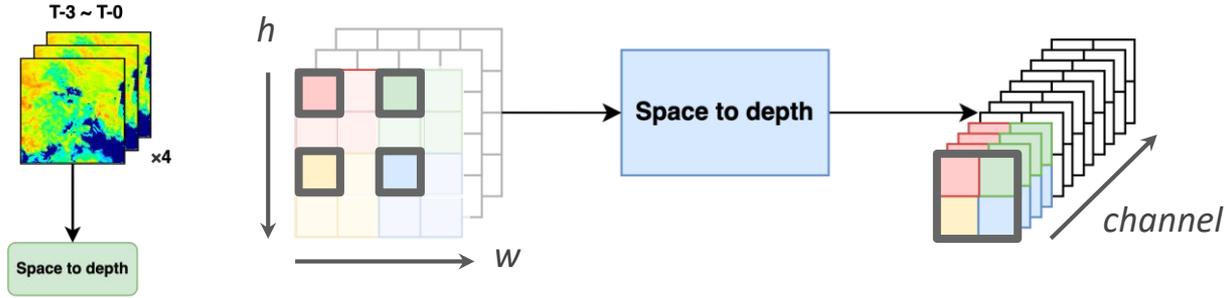


What does *Space to depth* do?

Relocate *height dimension* and *width dimension* data to *time dimension*.

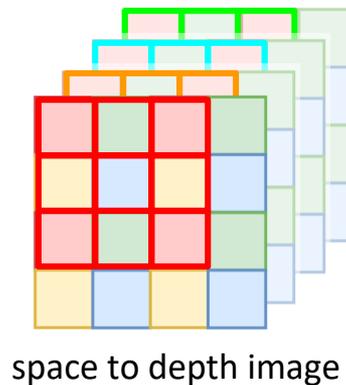
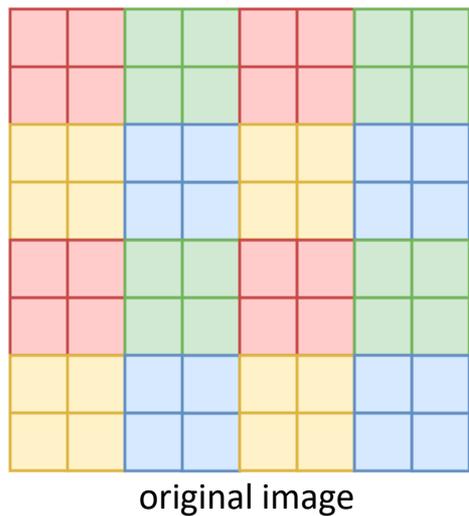
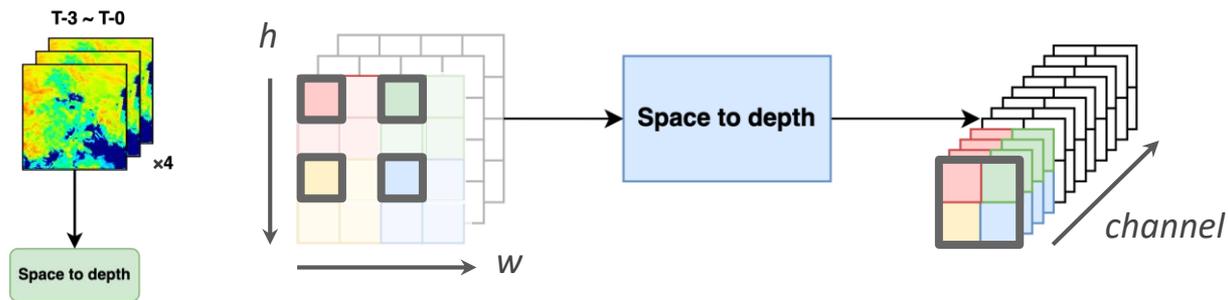


## Space to Depth + Convolution

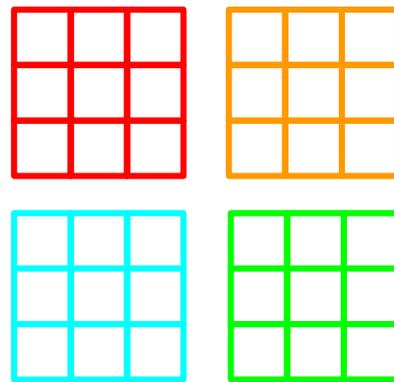




## Space to Depth + Convolution: More learnable weights.

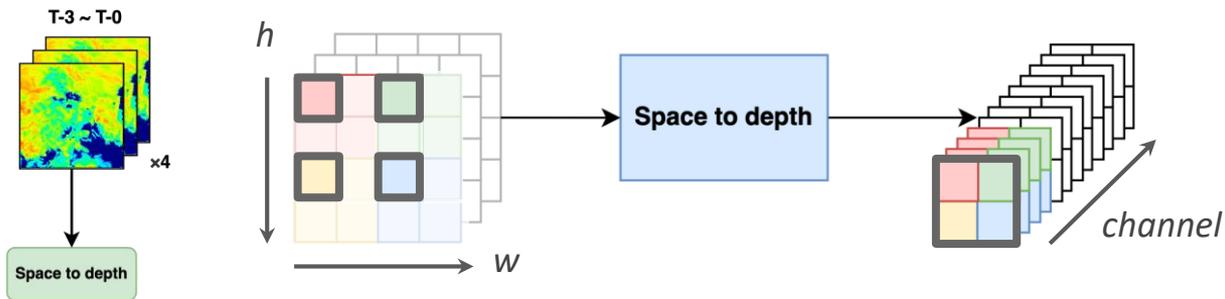


Convolution masks

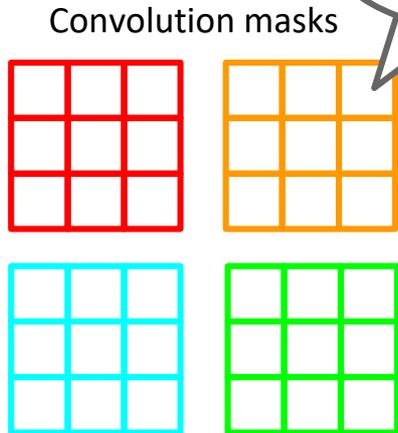
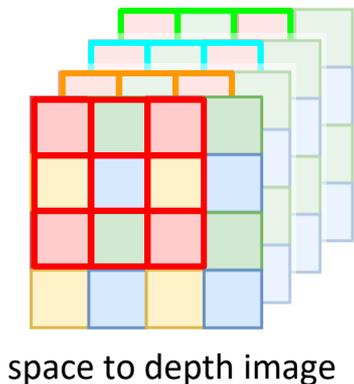
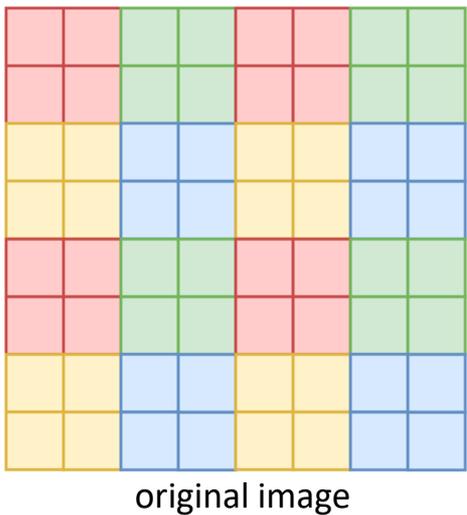




## Space to Depth + Convolution: More learnable weights.



More weights!



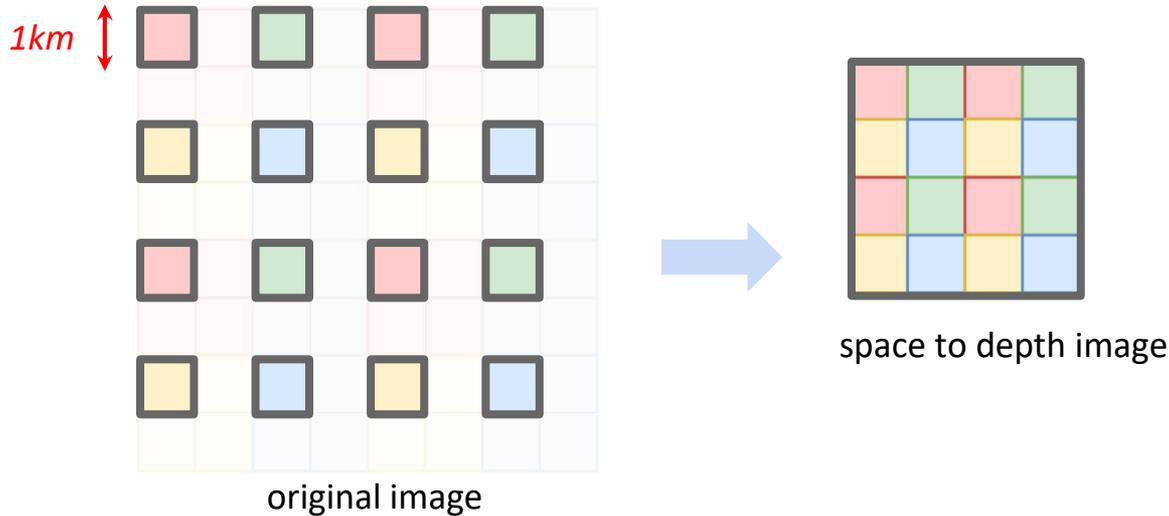
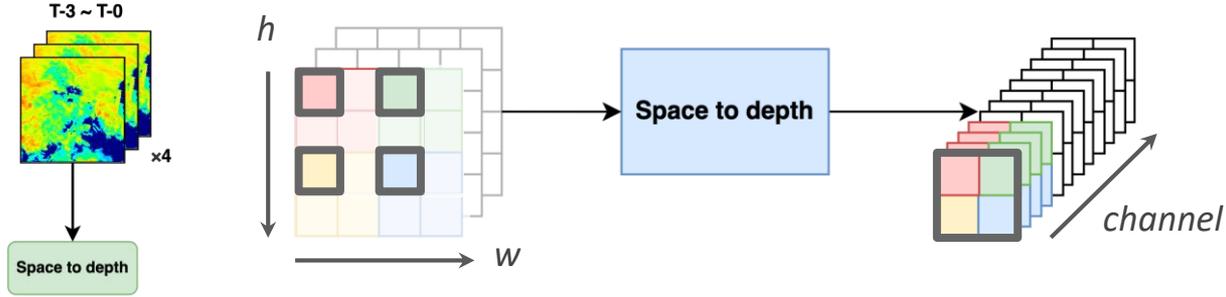
space to depth image

Convolution masks

original image

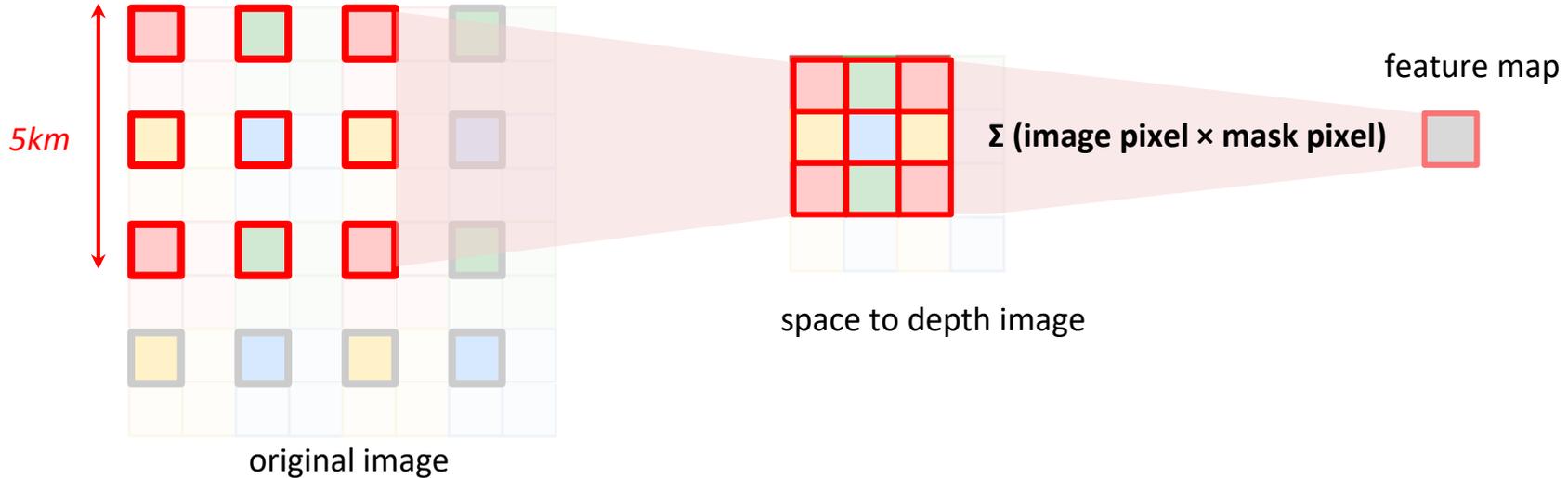
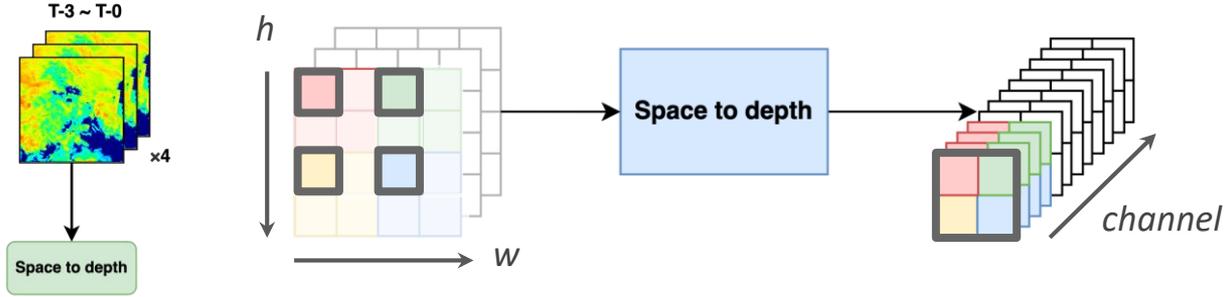


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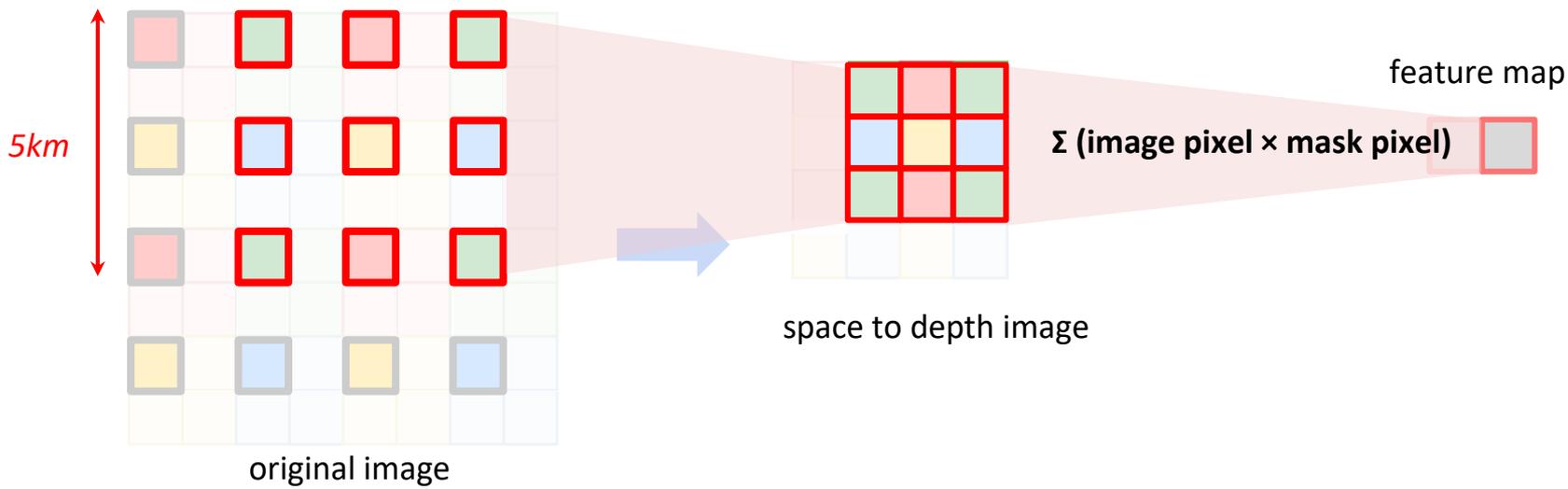
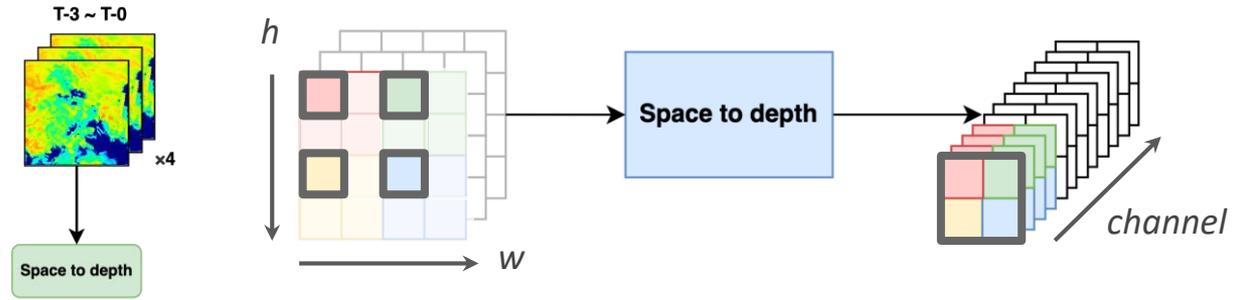
# Unraveling the mystery of DeepMind's rainfall nowcasting: a step-by-step tutorial for hydrologists

## Space to Depth + Convolution: How features are extracted?



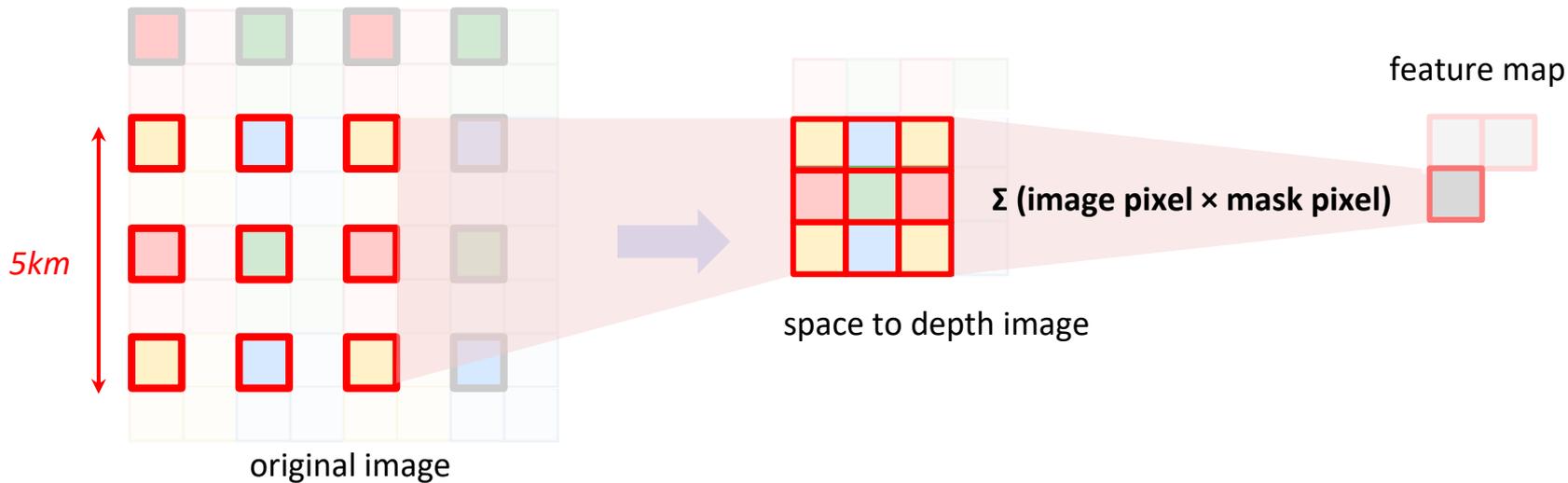
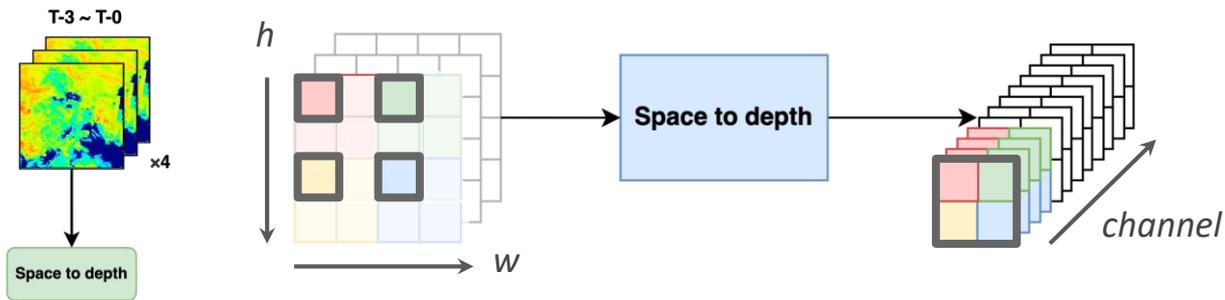
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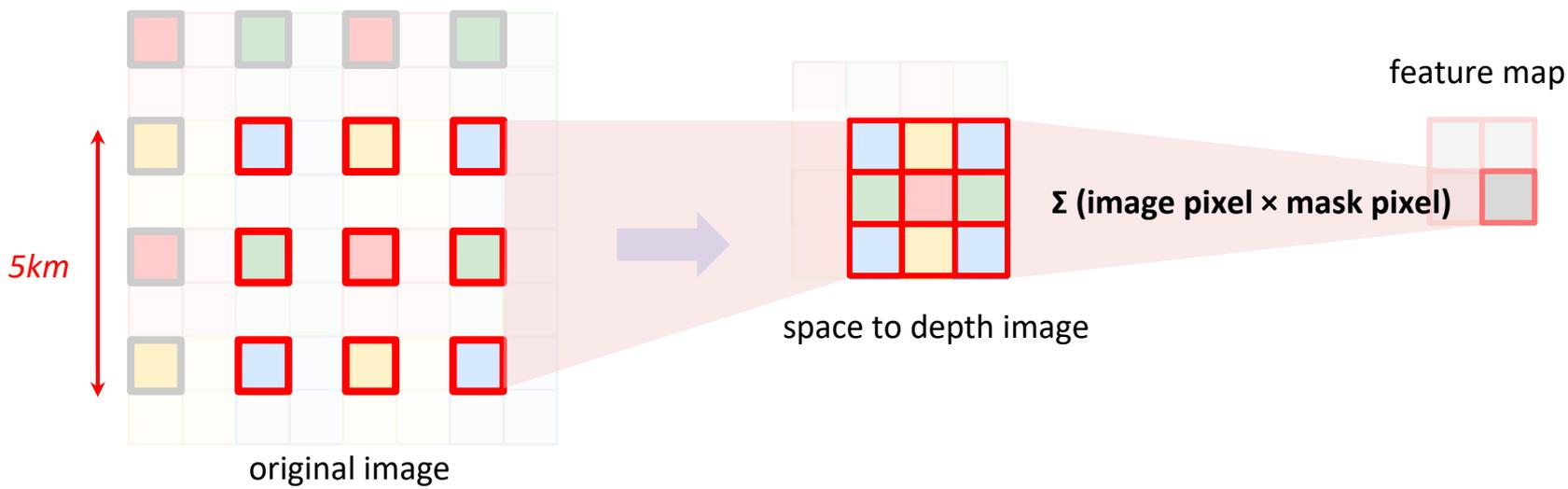
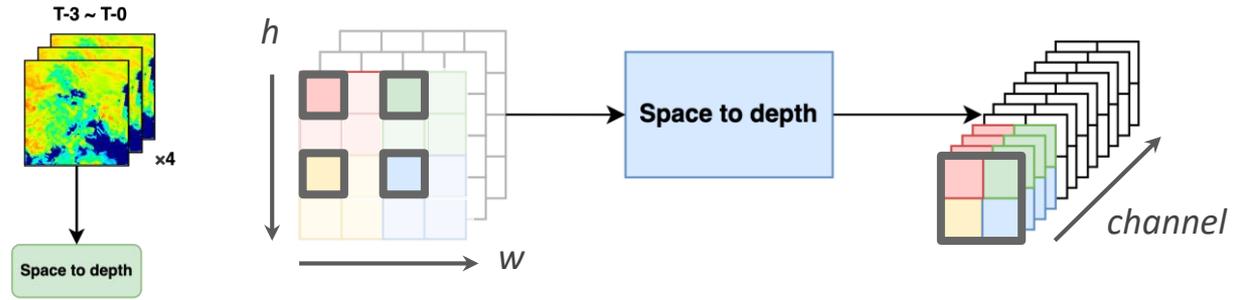


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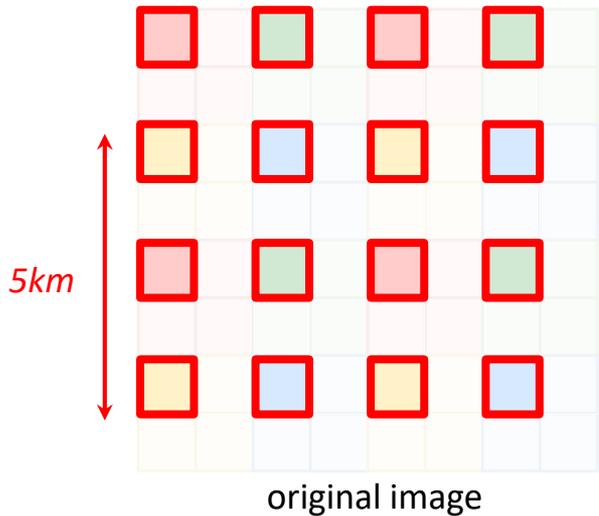
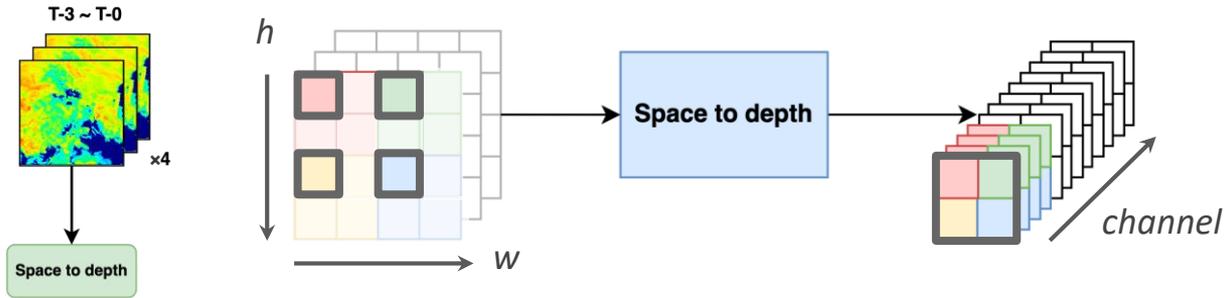


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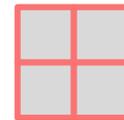


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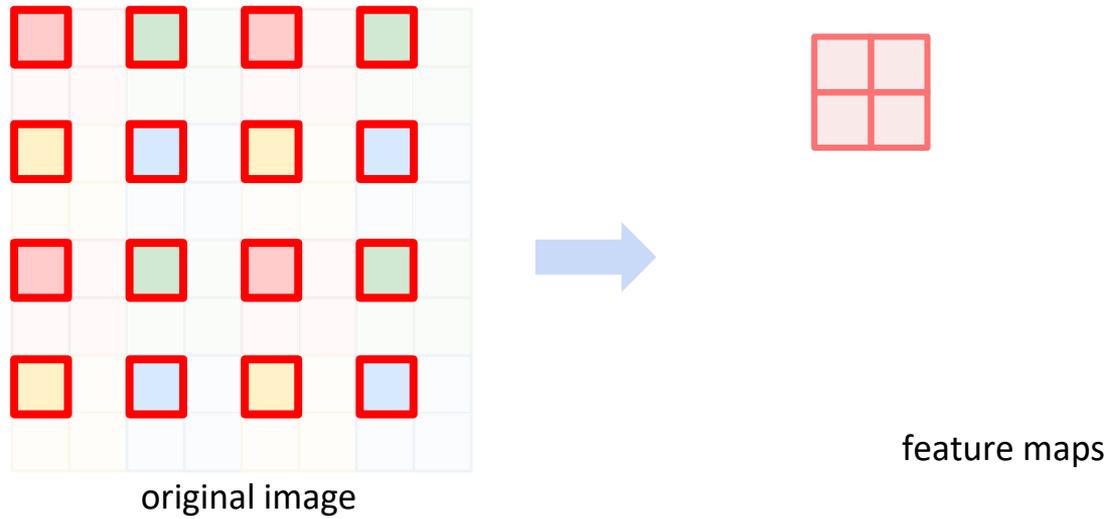
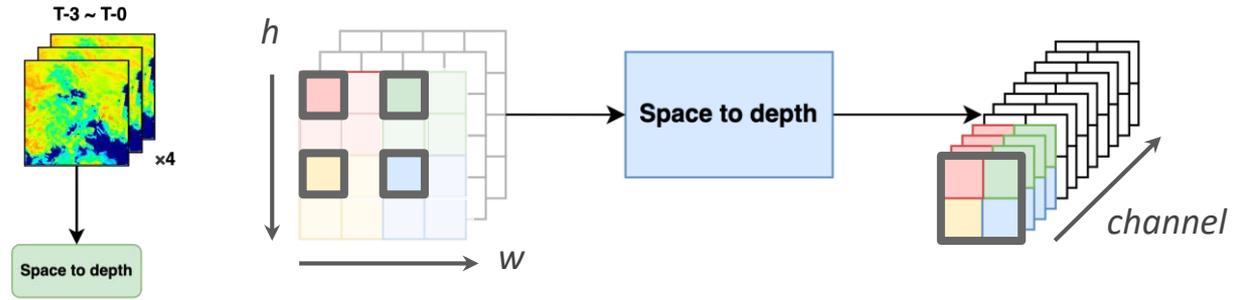
spatial features with 1-5 km scale ←

feature map



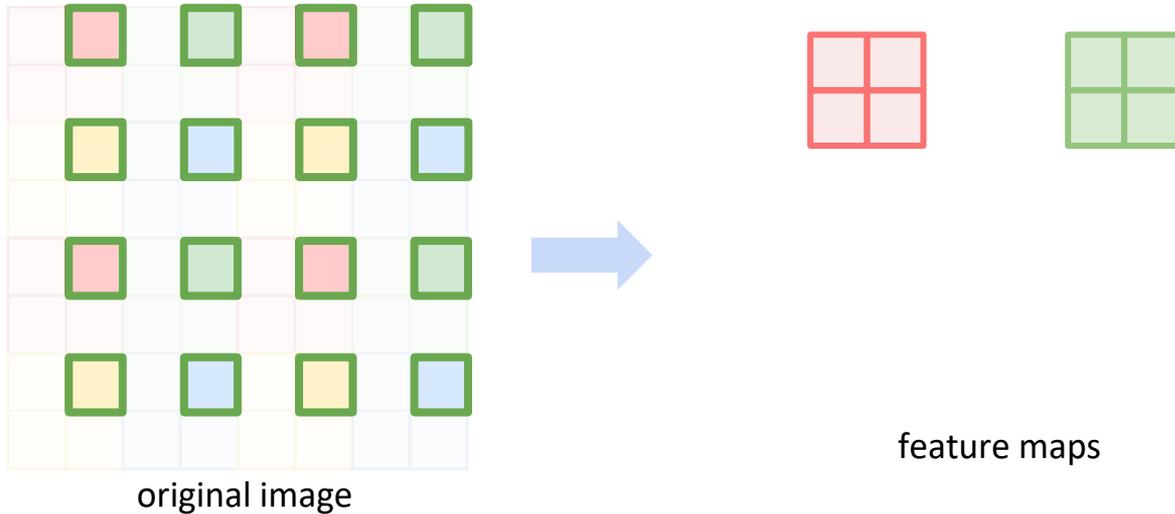
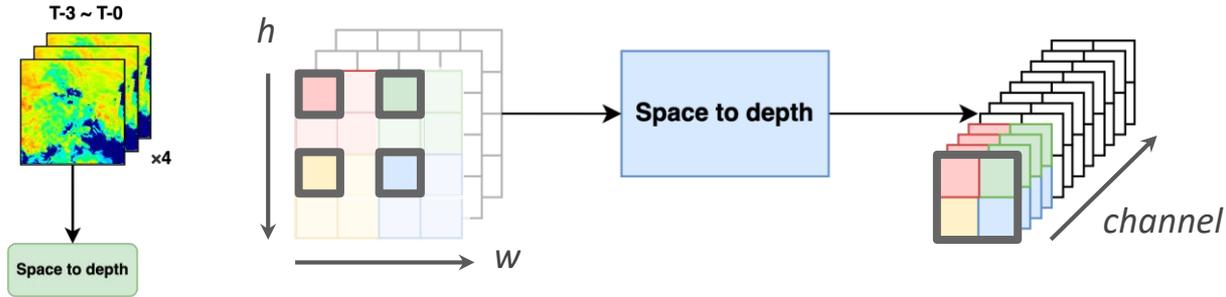
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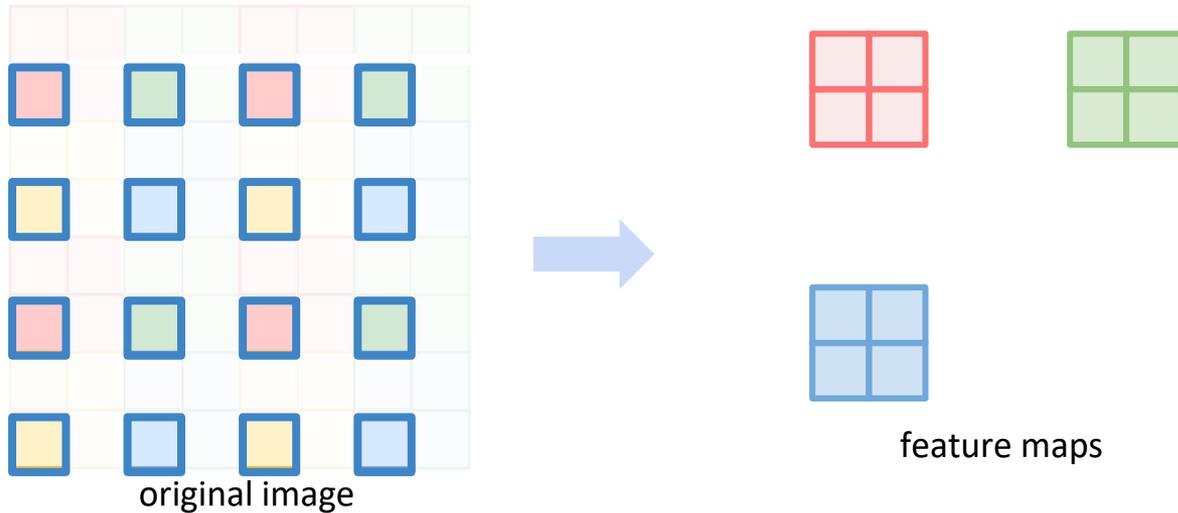
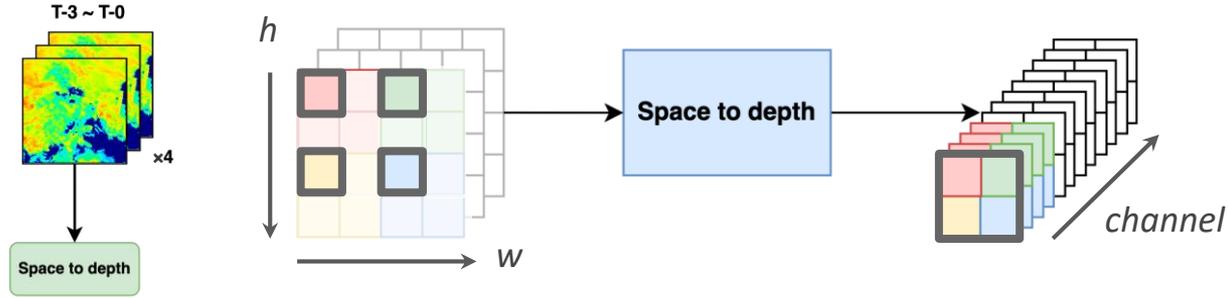


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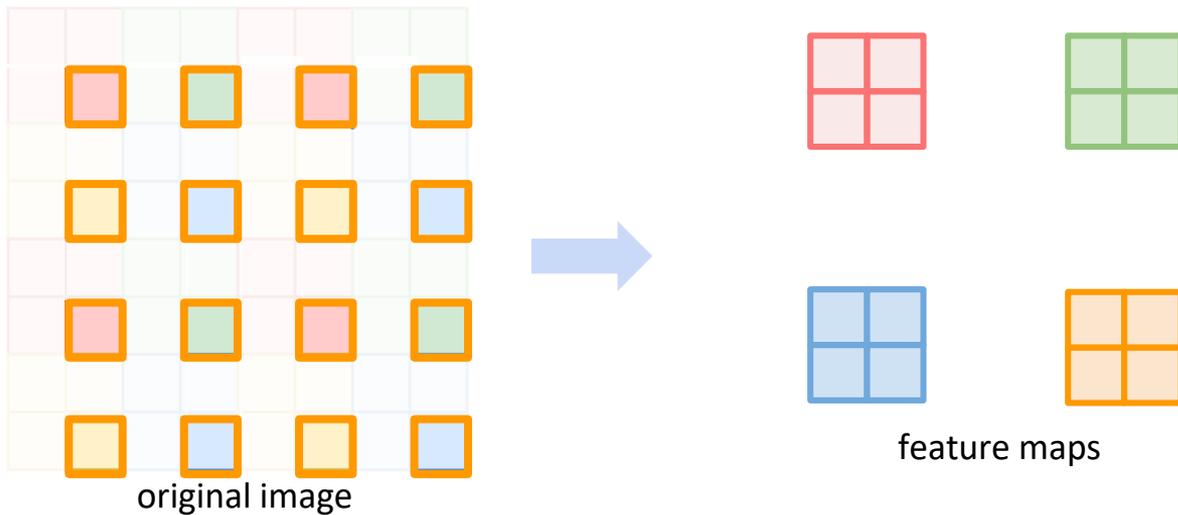
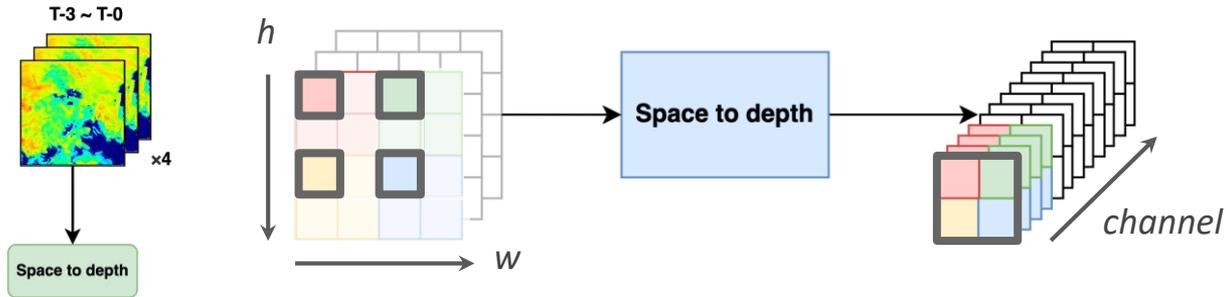


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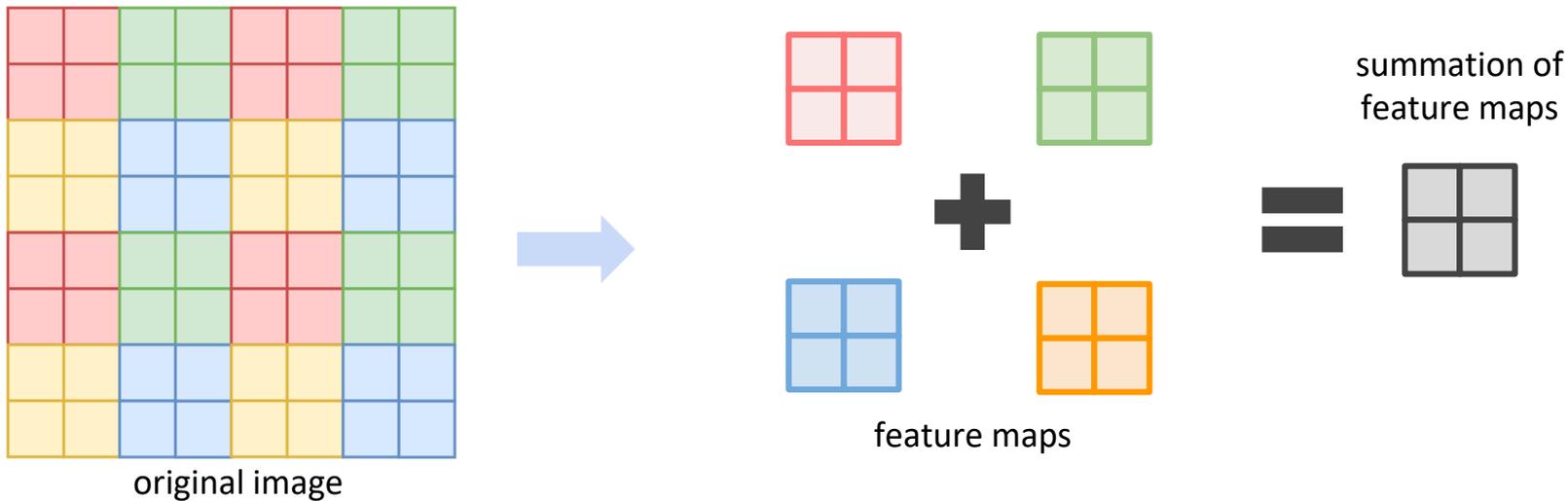
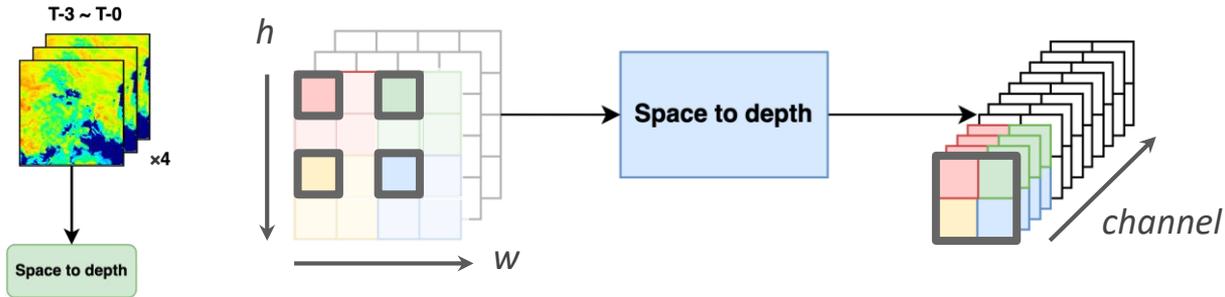
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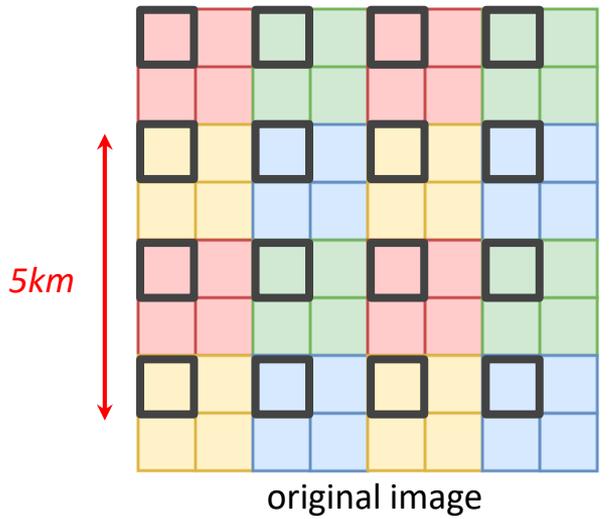
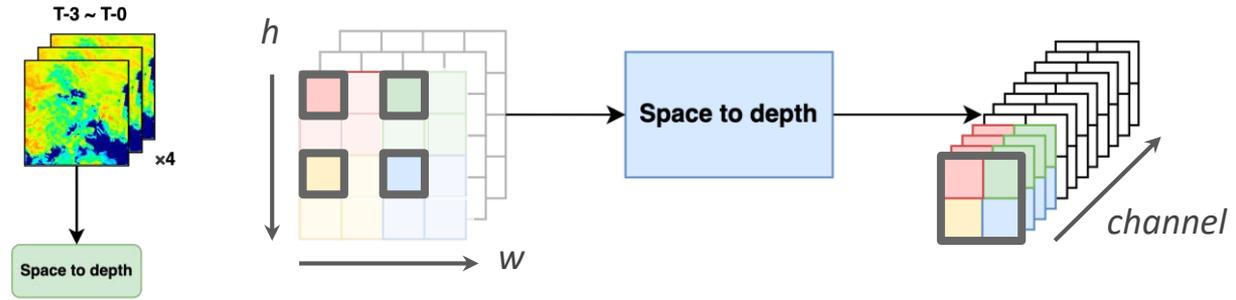


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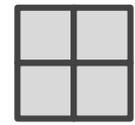
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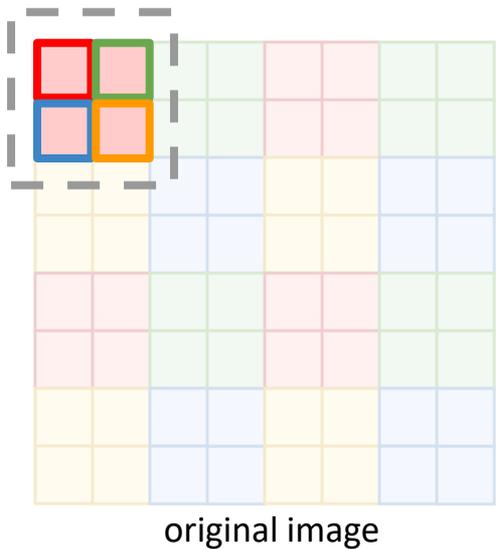
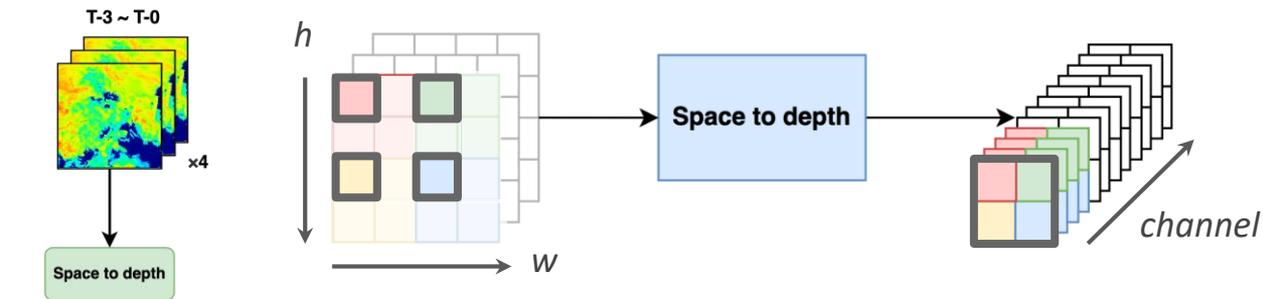
The final feature map contains:  
(1) spatial features across 1-5-km scale,

summation of feature maps





## Space to Depth + Convolution: How features are extracted?



The final feature map contains:

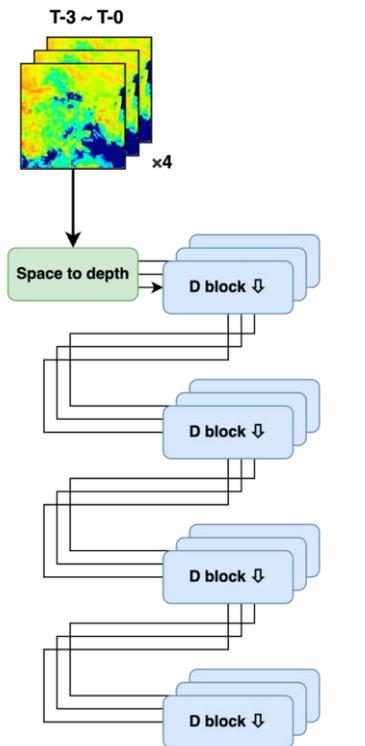
- (1) spatial features across 1-5-km scale,
- (2) spatial features of neighbouring pixels.

summation of feature maps



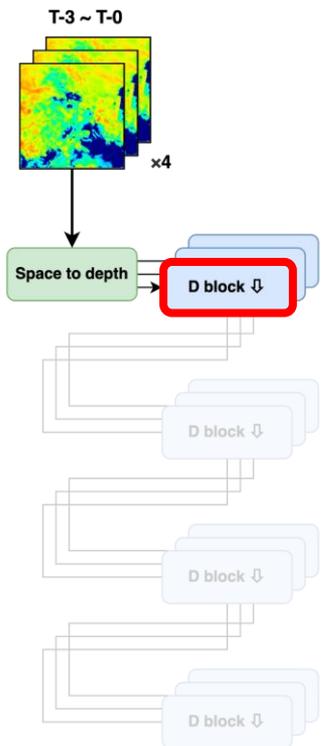


## Hierarchical feature extractor: D Blocks





## Hierarchical feature extractor: How do D Blocks work?

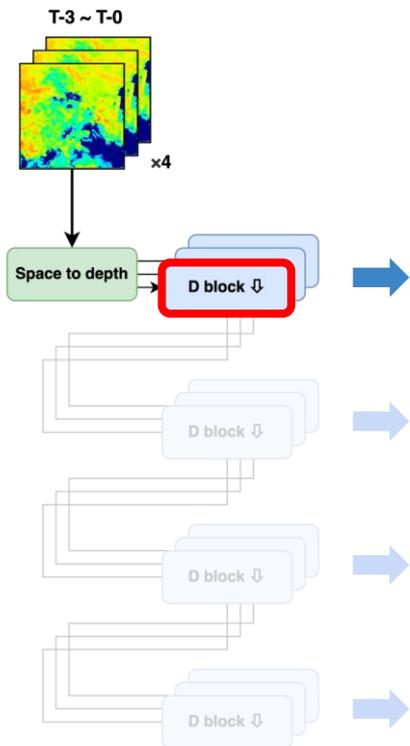


A single D block does operations mentioned below.

- (1)  $1 \times 1$  convolution
  - (2)  $3 \times 3$  convolution +  $3 \times 3$  convolution
  - (3)  $2 \times 2$  average pooling
- } operates in parallel



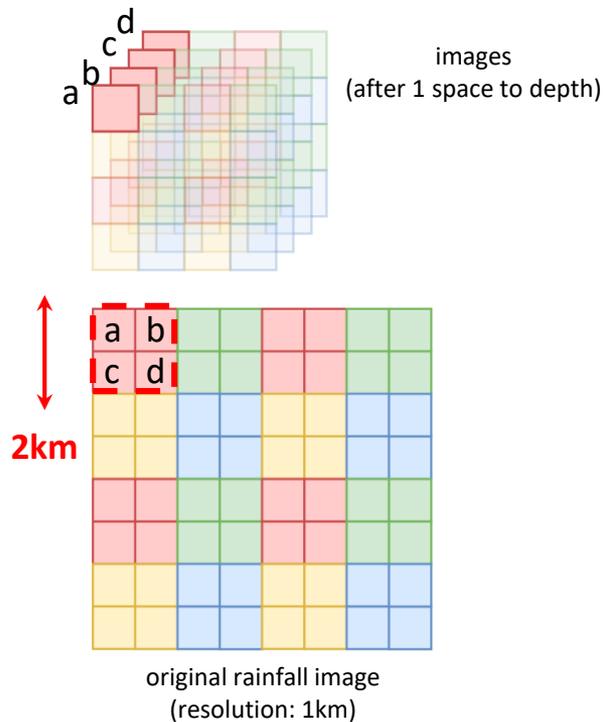
## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



**Extracted features' spatial extent**  
original image size =  $256\text{km} \times 256\text{km}$ , resolution =  $1\text{km} \times 1\text{km}$

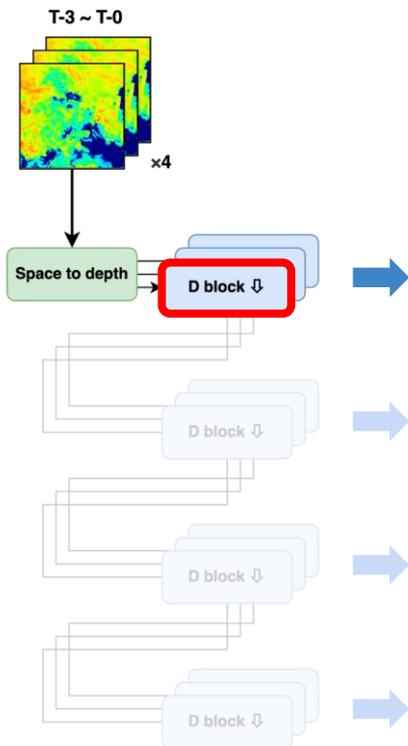
**1st**  
 **$1 \times 1$  convolution**       **$3 \times 3$  convolution**

$\cong 2\text{km} \times 2\text{km}$





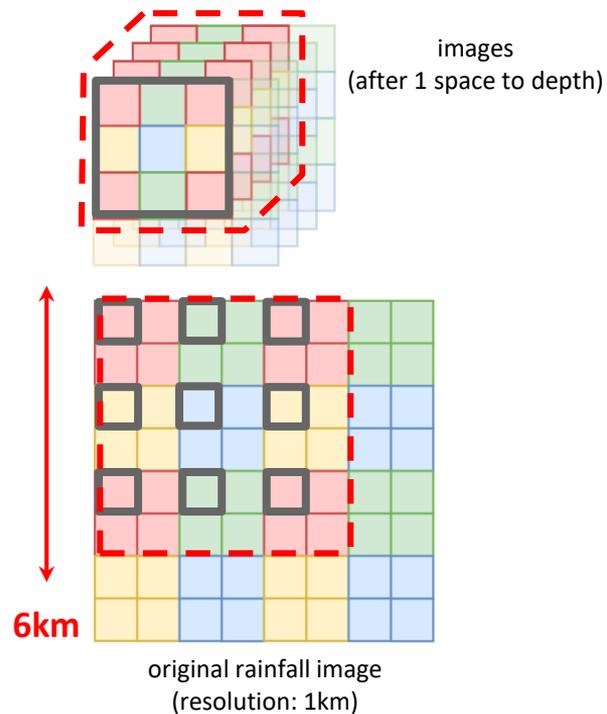
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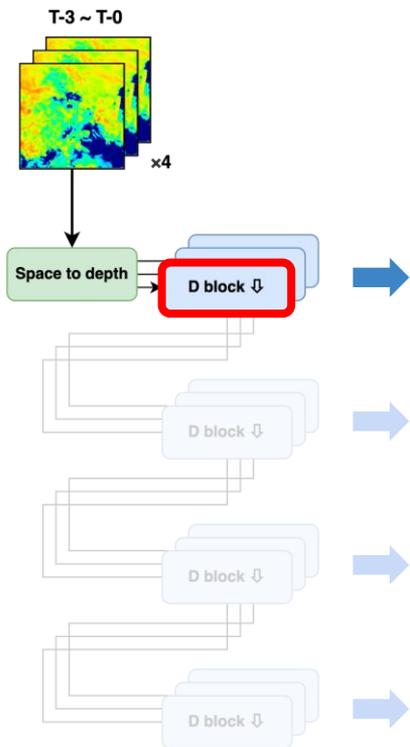
**1x1 convolution**  
 $\cong 2\text{km} \times 2\text{km}$

**1st 3x3 convolution**  
 $\cong 6\text{km} \times 6\text{km}$



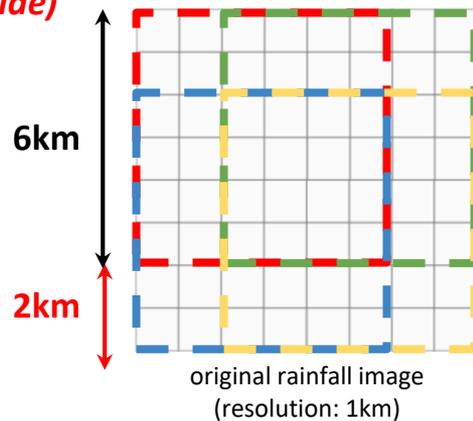
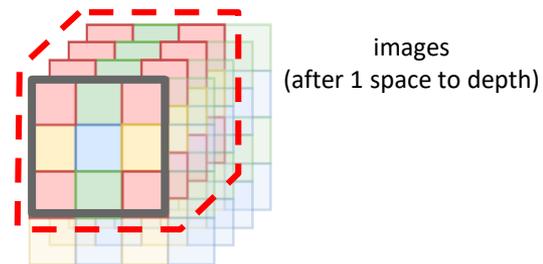


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



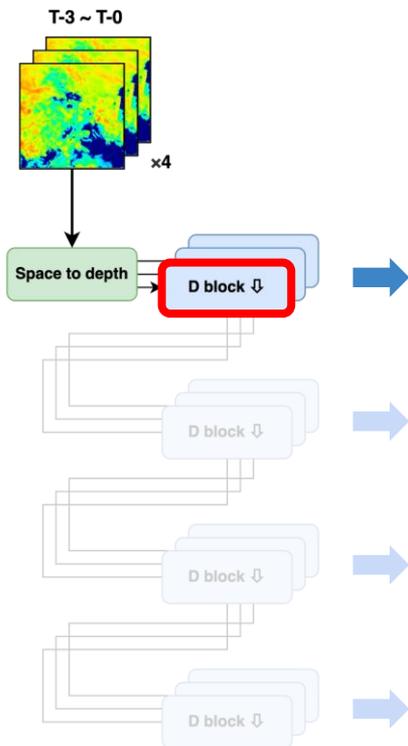
**Extracted features' spatial extent**  
original image size =  $256\text{km} \times 256\text{km}$ , resolution =  $1\text{km} \times 1\text{km}$

**1st**                      **2nd**  
 **$3 \times 3$  convolution**     **$3 \times 3$  convolution**  
 $\cong 6\text{km} \times 6\text{km}$      $6 + 2(\text{stride}) + 2(\text{stride})$





## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



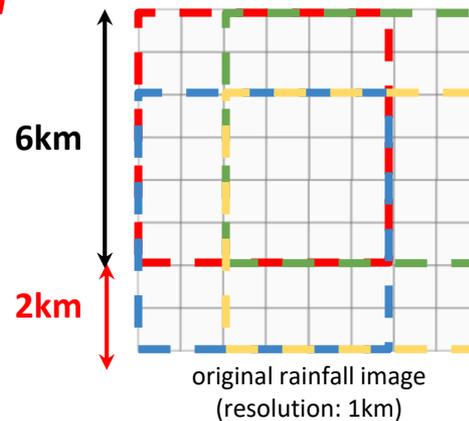
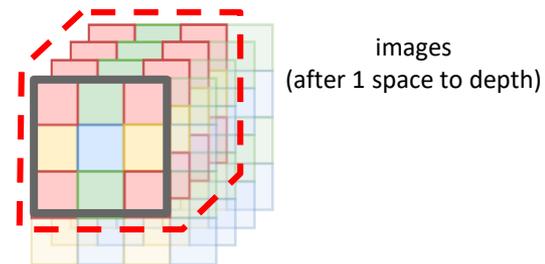
**Extracted features' spatial extent**  
original image size =  $256km \times 256km$ , resolution =  $1km \times 1km$

**1st**  
**3x3 convolution**

$\cong 6km \times 6km$

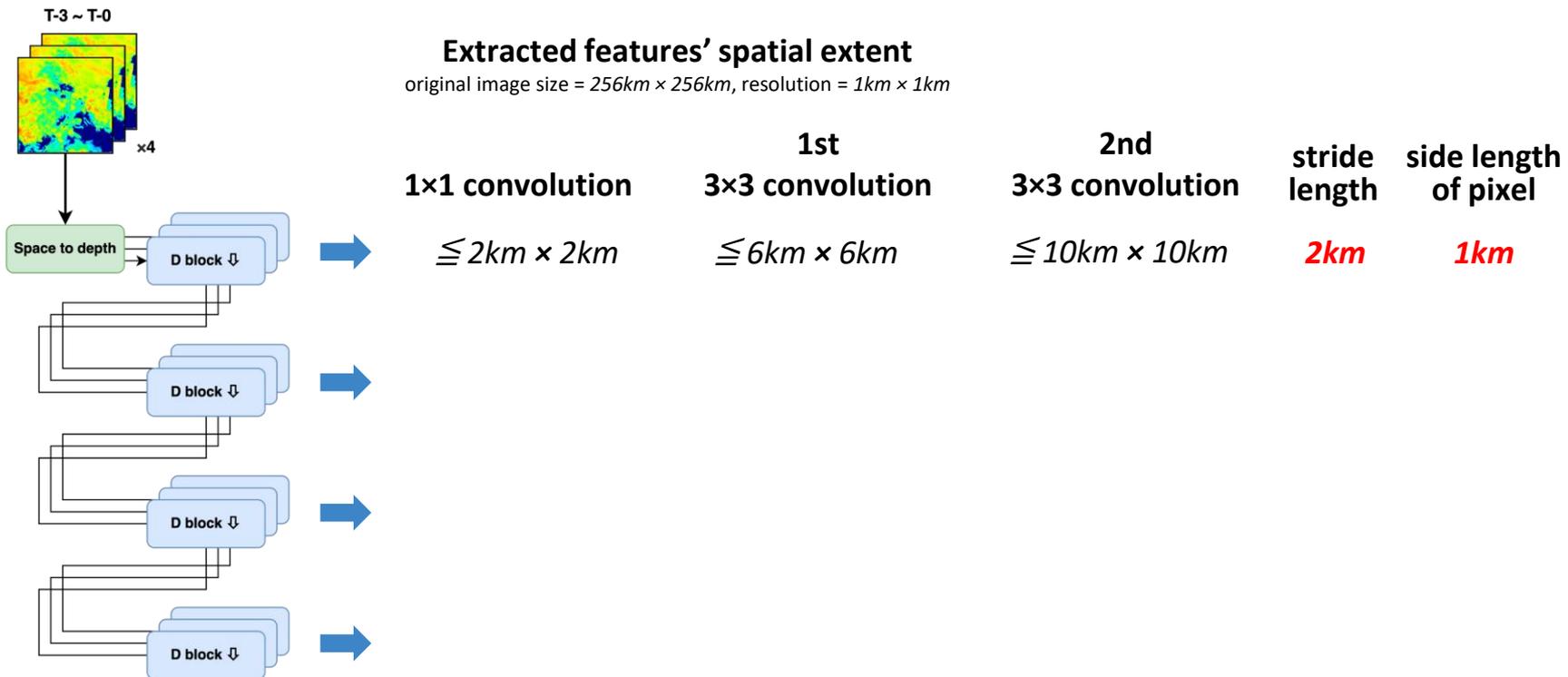
**2nd**  
**3x3 convolution**

$\cong 10km \times 10km$



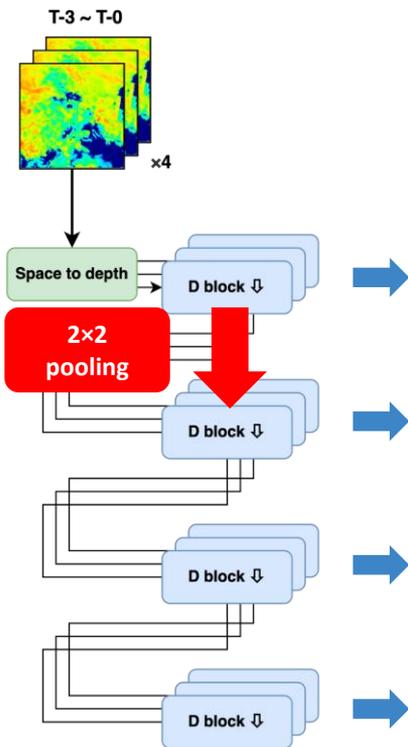


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent





## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



### Extracted features' spatial extent

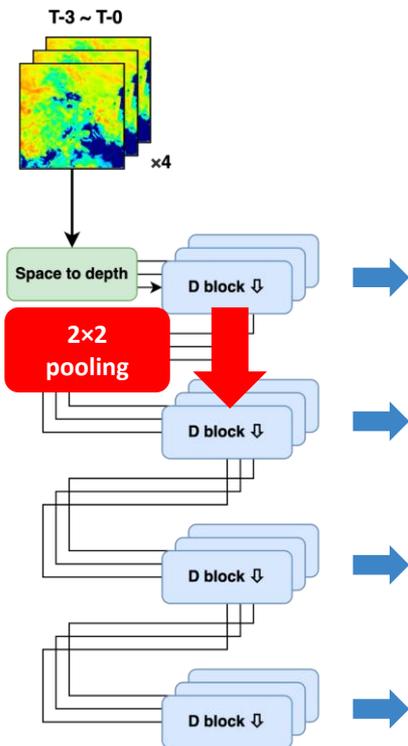
original image size =  $256\text{km} \times 256\text{km}$ , resolution =  $1\text{km} \times 1\text{km}$

	1st	2nd	stride length	side length of pixel
$1 \times 1$ convolution	$3 \times 3$ convolution	$3 \times 3$ convolution		
$\cong 2\text{km} \times 2\text{km}$	$\cong 6\text{km} \times 6\text{km}$	$\cong 10\text{km} \times 10\text{km}$	$2\text{km}$	$1\text{km}$

**$2 \times 2$  pooling**  
*> aggregate cohesive  $2 \times 2$  pixels into one*



## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



### Extracted features' spatial extent

original image size = 256km × 256km, resolution = 1km × 1km

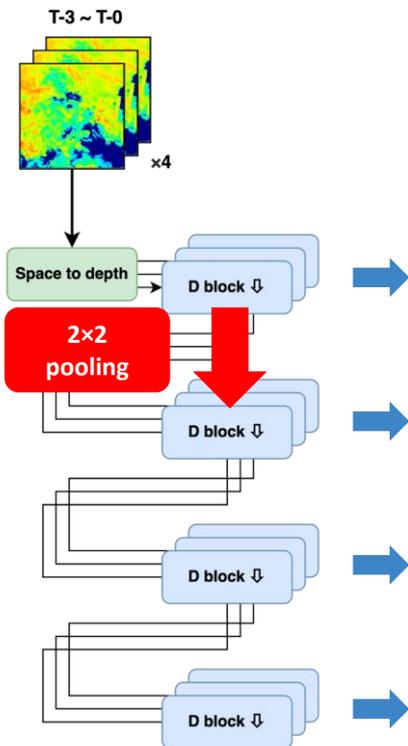
	1st	2nd	stride length	side length of pixel
1×1 convolution	3×3 convolution	3×3 convolution	2km	1km
$\cong 2\text{km} \times 2\text{km}$	$\cong 6\text{km} \times 6\text{km}$	$\cong 10\text{km} \times 10\text{km}$		

### 2×2 pooling

- > aggregate cohesive 2×2 pixels into one
- > stride length between 2 pixels = 2



## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



### Extracted features' spatial extent

original image size =  $256\text{km} \times 256\text{km}$ , resolution =  $1\text{km} \times 1\text{km}$

	1st	2nd	stride length	side length of pixel
1x1 convolution	3x3 convolution	3x3 convolution		
$\leq 2\text{km} \times 2\text{km}$	$\leq 6\text{km} \times 6\text{km}$	$\leq 10\text{km} \times 10\text{km}$	2km	1km

### 2x2 pooling

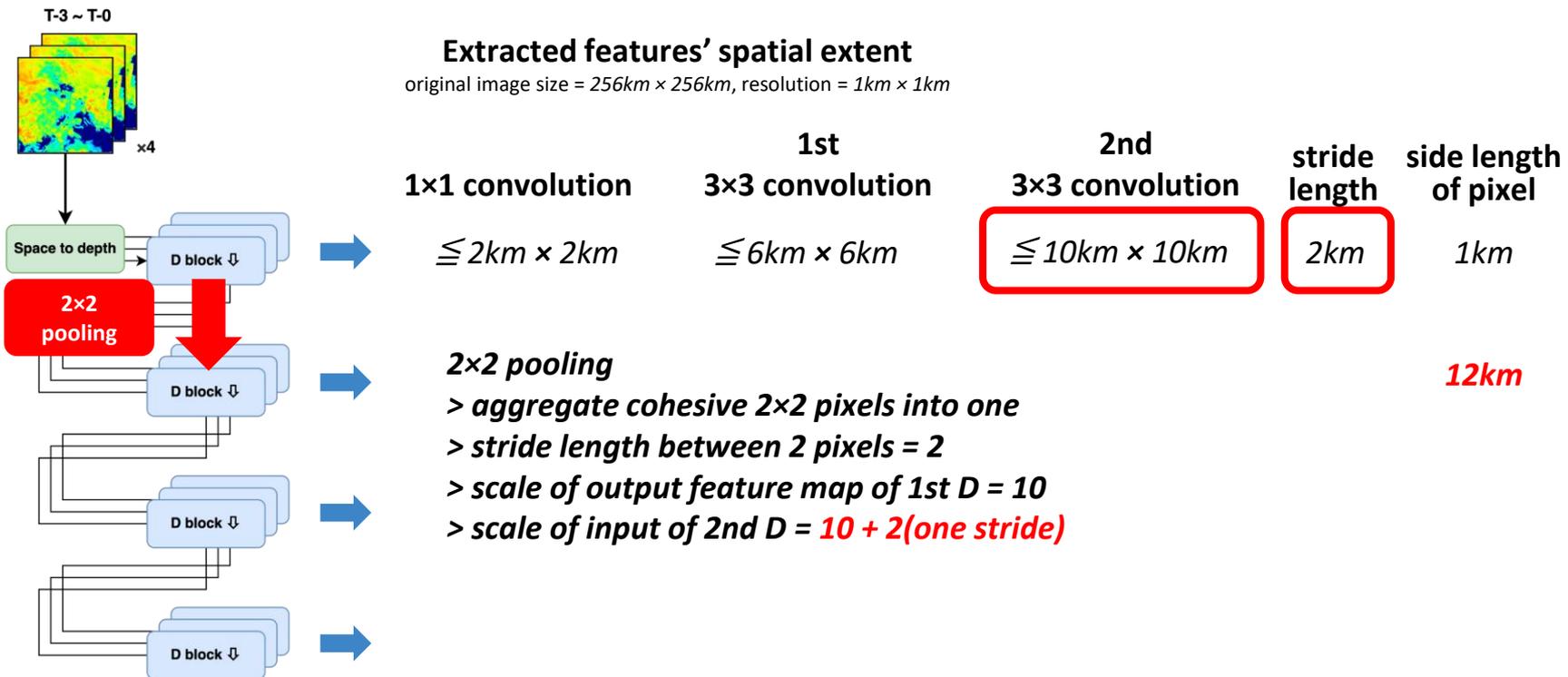
> aggregate cohesive 2x2 pixels into one

> stride length between 2 pixels = 2

> scale of output feature map of 1st D = 10

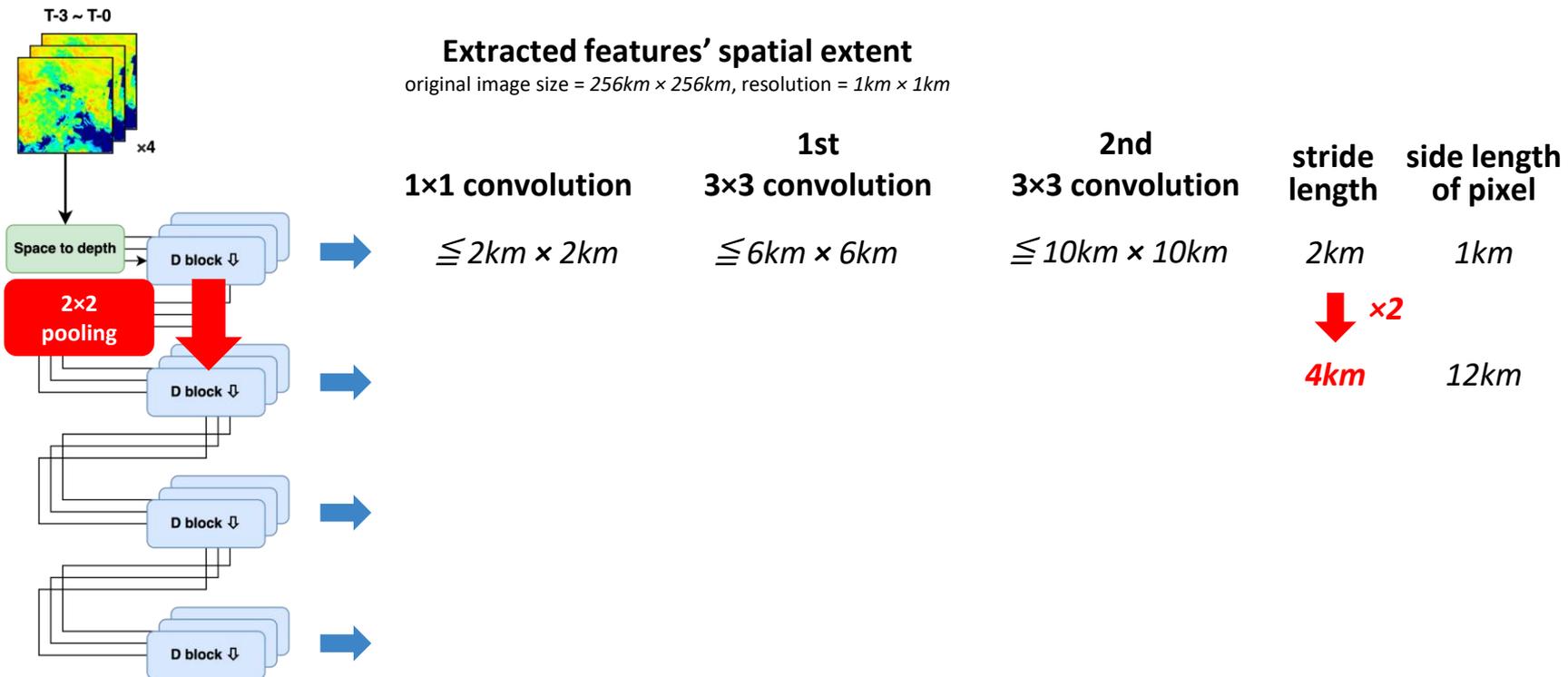


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



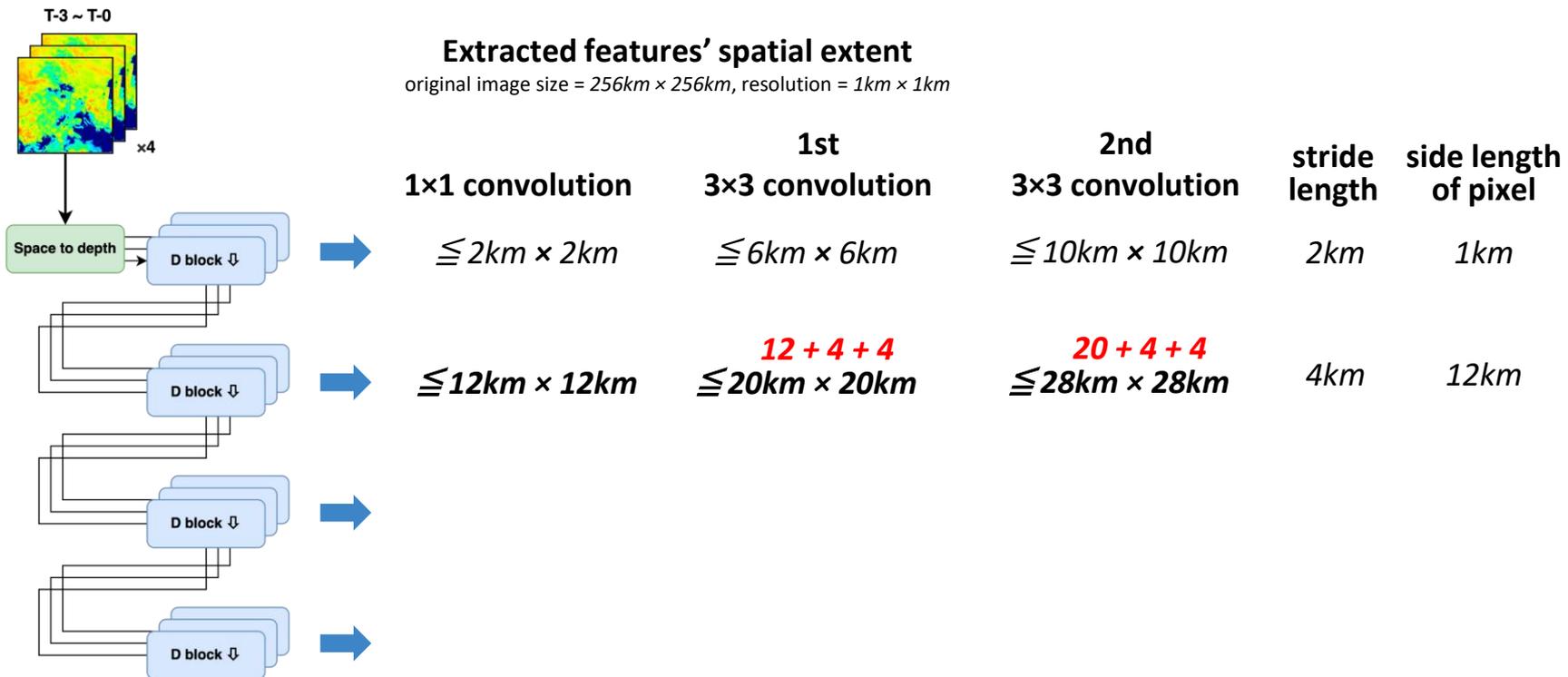


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



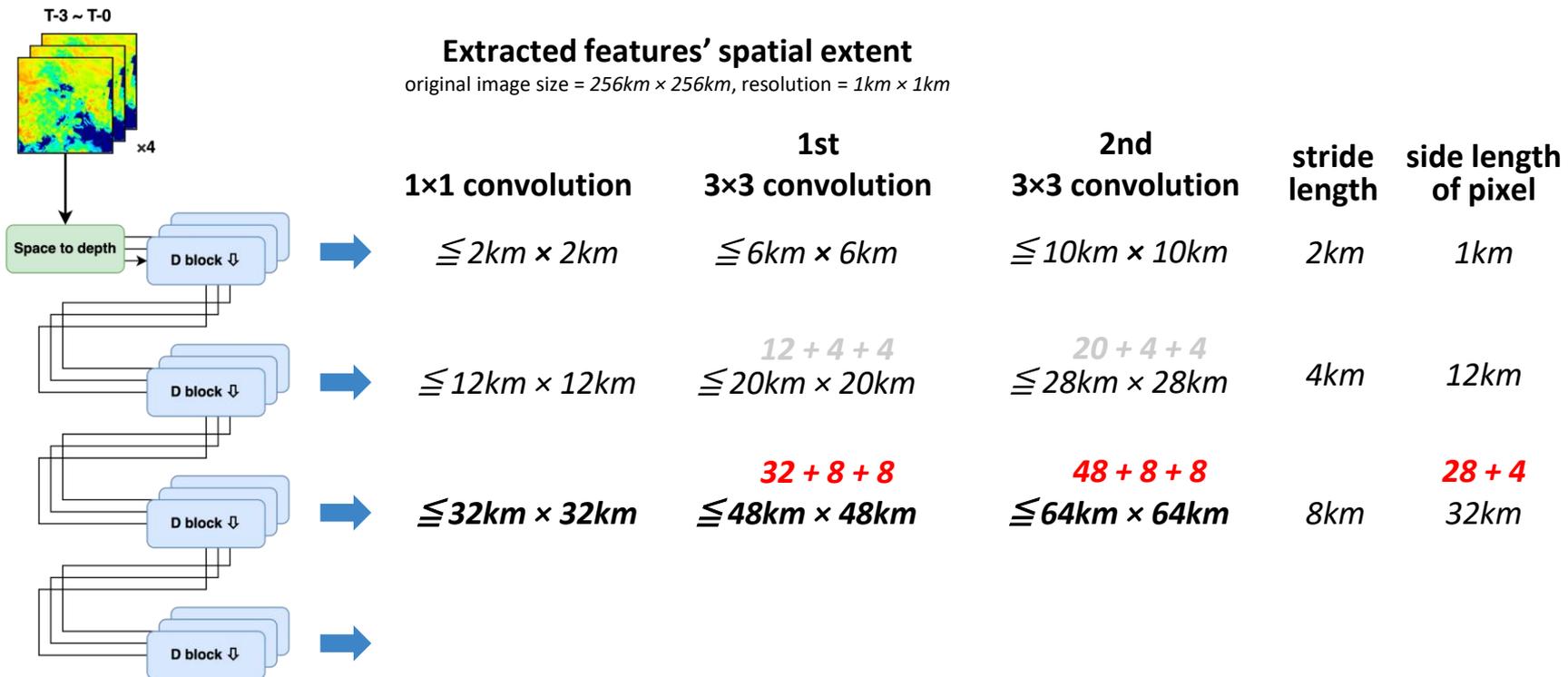


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



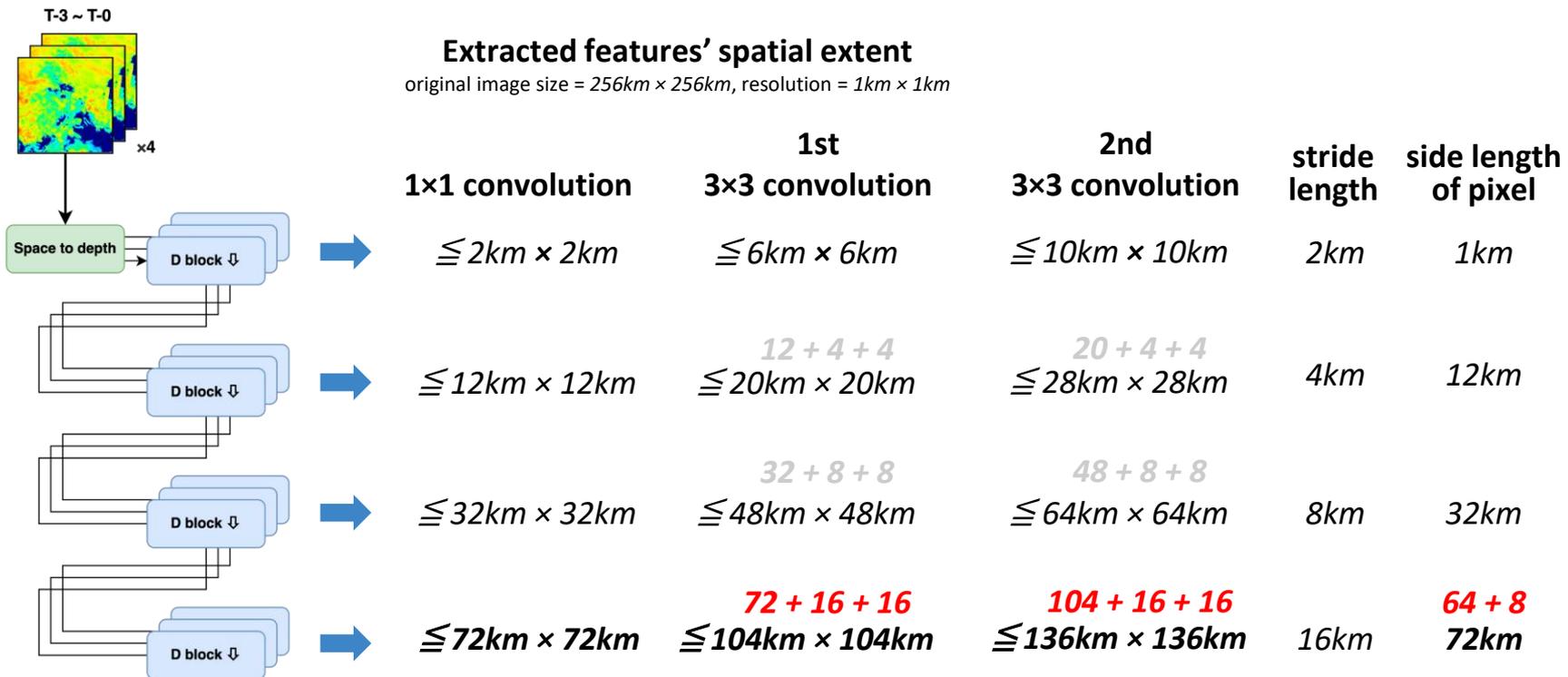


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



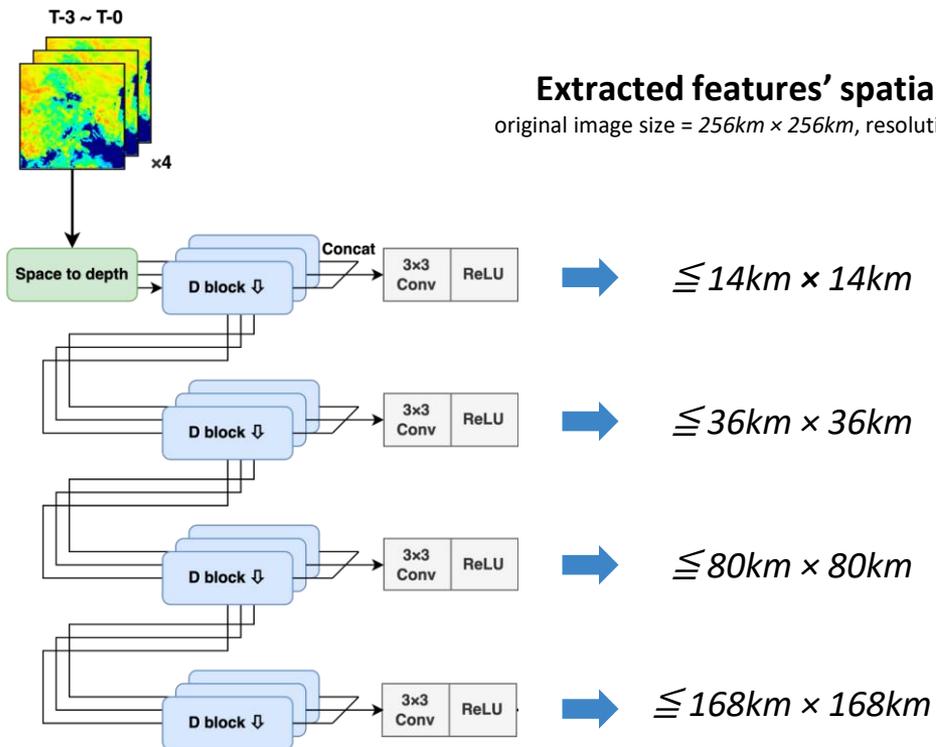


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



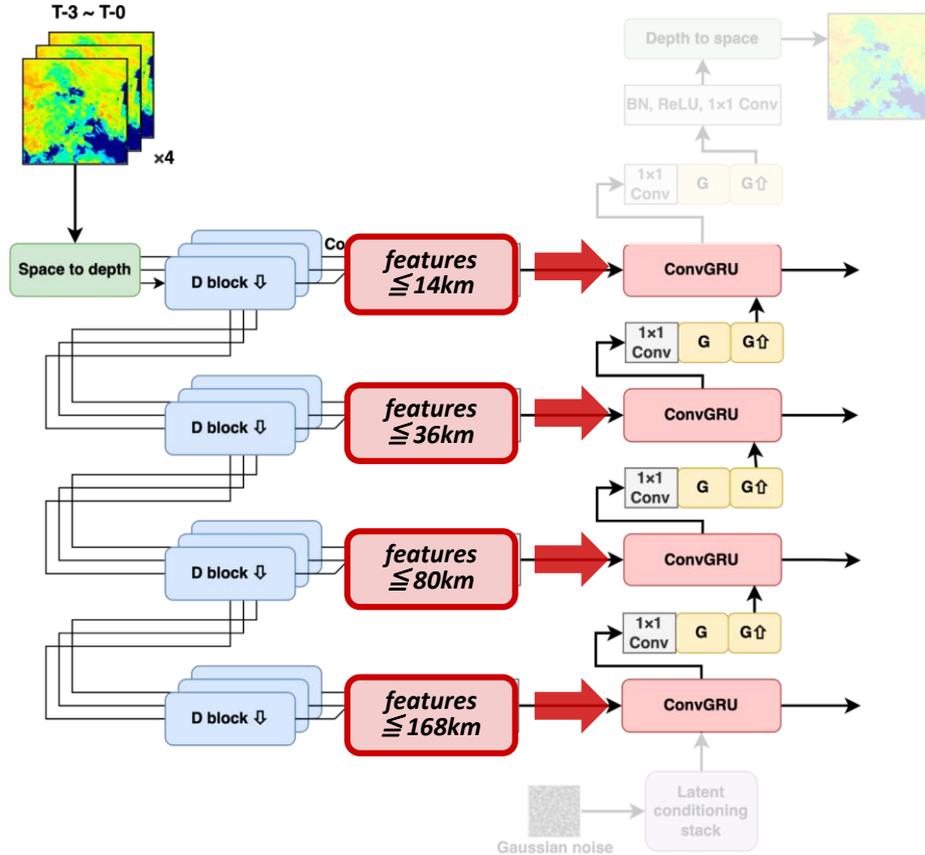


## Hierarchical feature extractor: Extract features in different levels of spatial extent



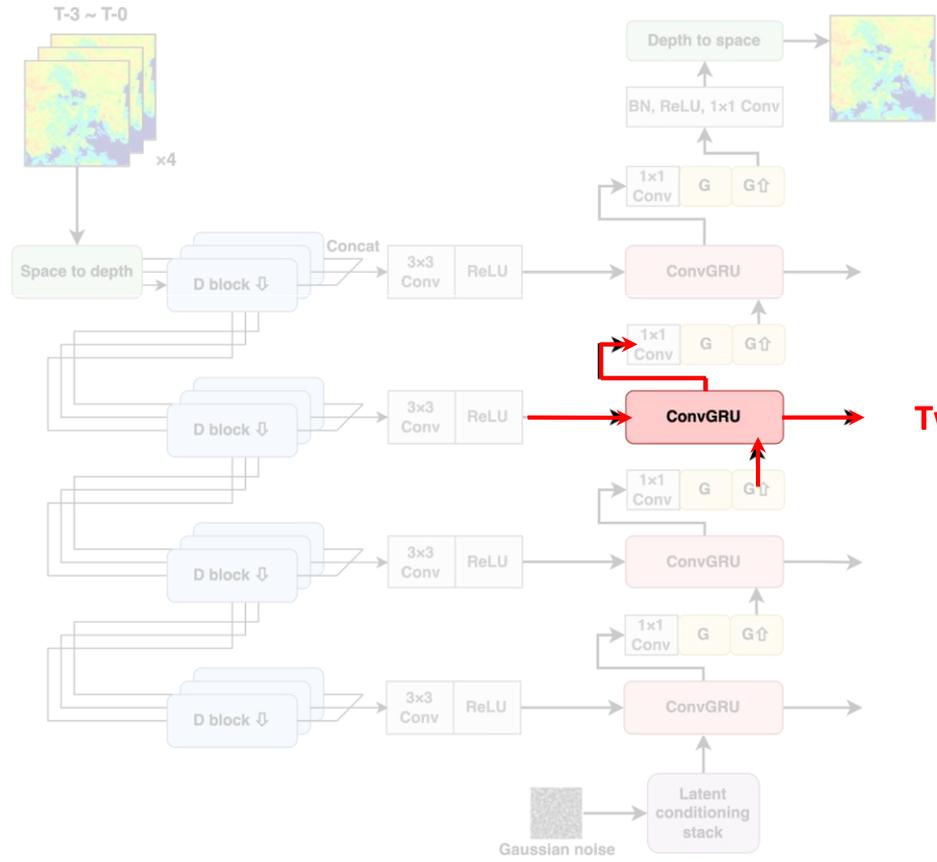


## ConvGRU





## ConvGRU

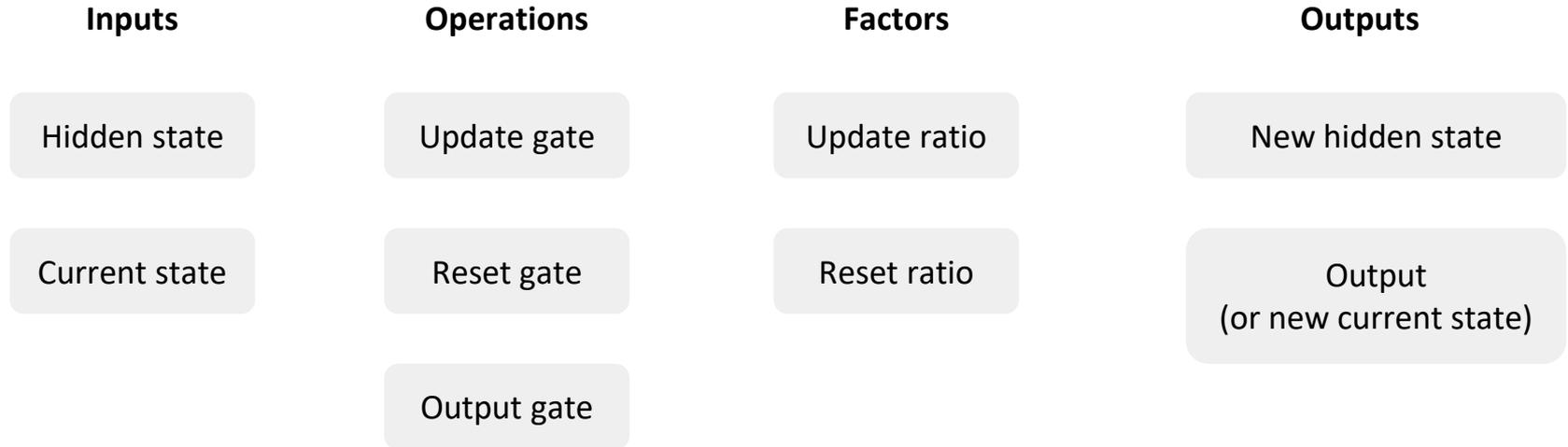


**Two inputs and two outputs.**



## ConvGRU: How does it work?

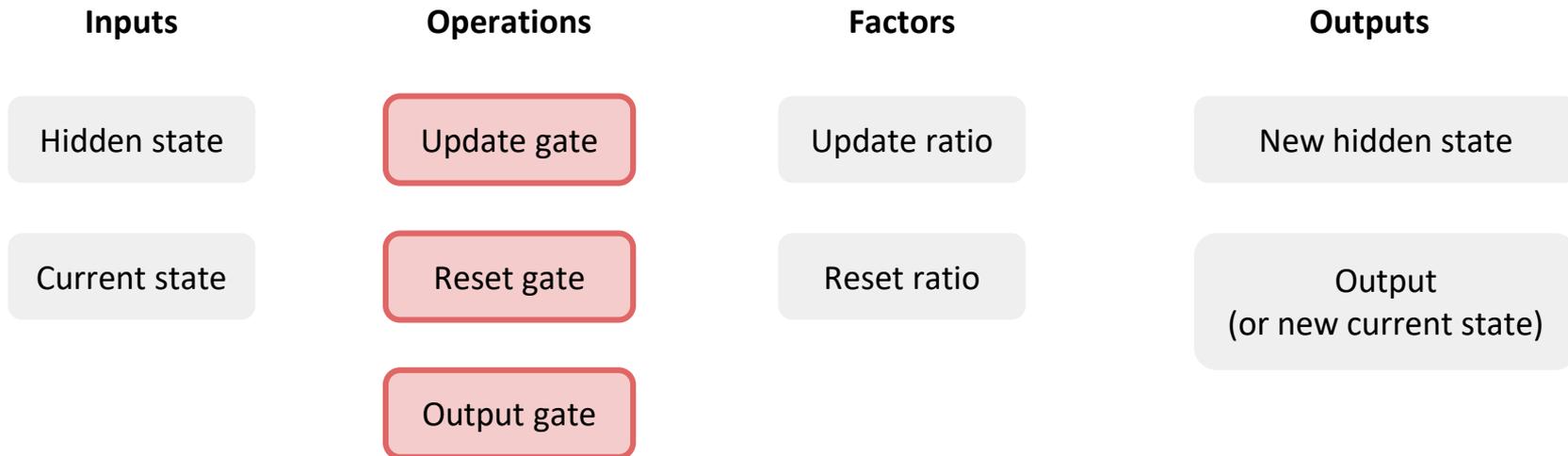
### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)





## ConvGRU: How does it work?

### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

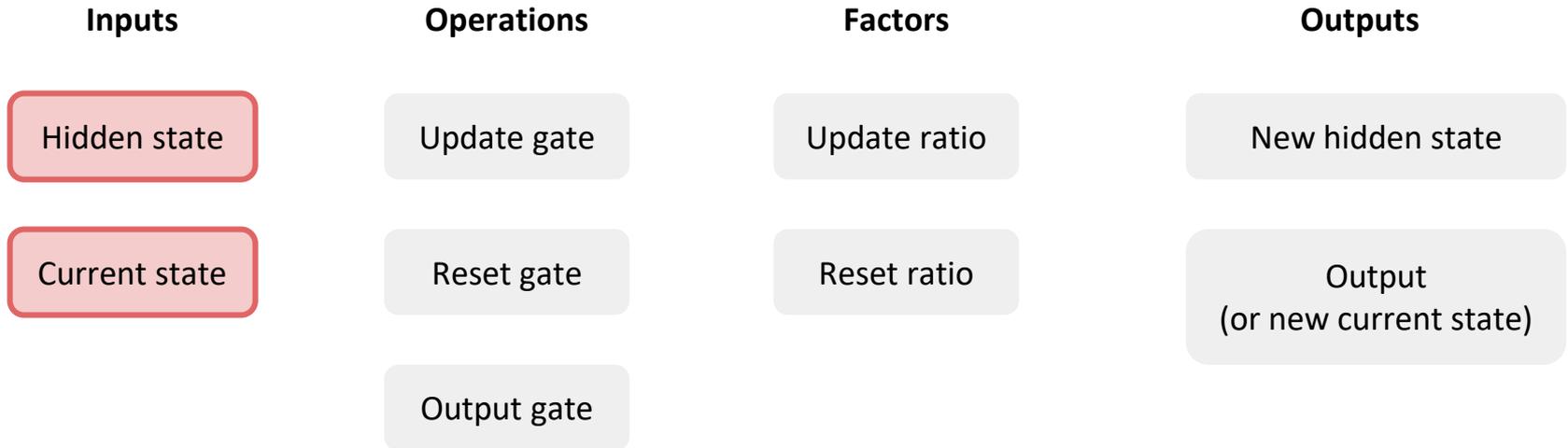


Each gate contains a convolution.



## ConvGRU: How does it work?

### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

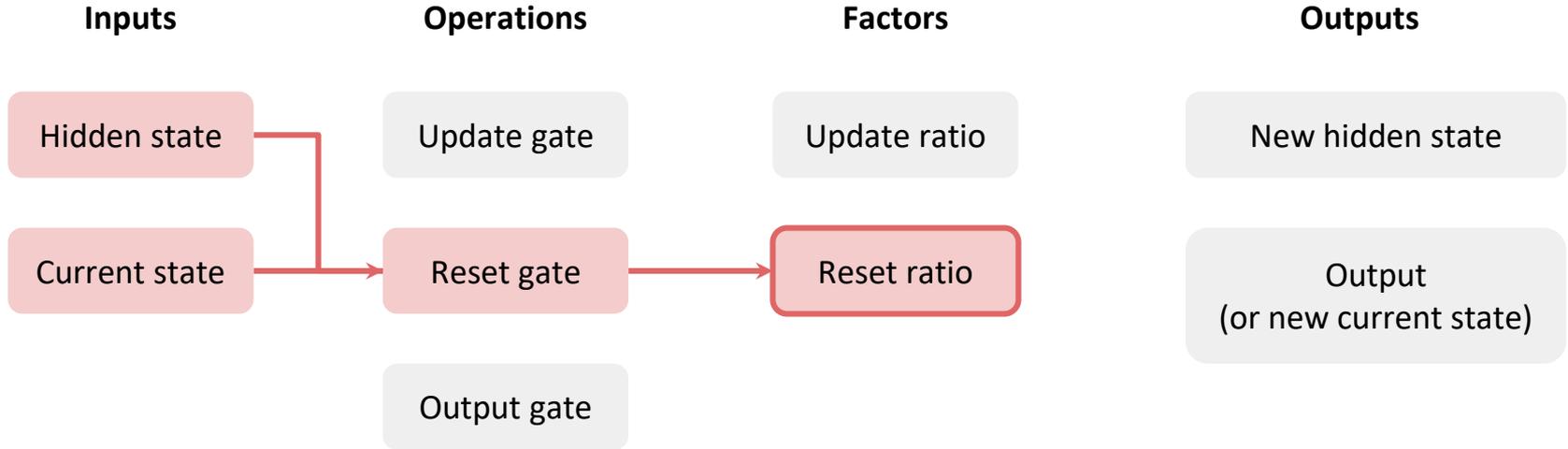


- I **Hidden state** contains features **accumulated from first input frame to input frame before the target time step**. → **long-term impact**
- I **Current state** contains features from **input frame before the target time step only**. → **immediate impact**



## ConvGRU: How does it work?

### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)



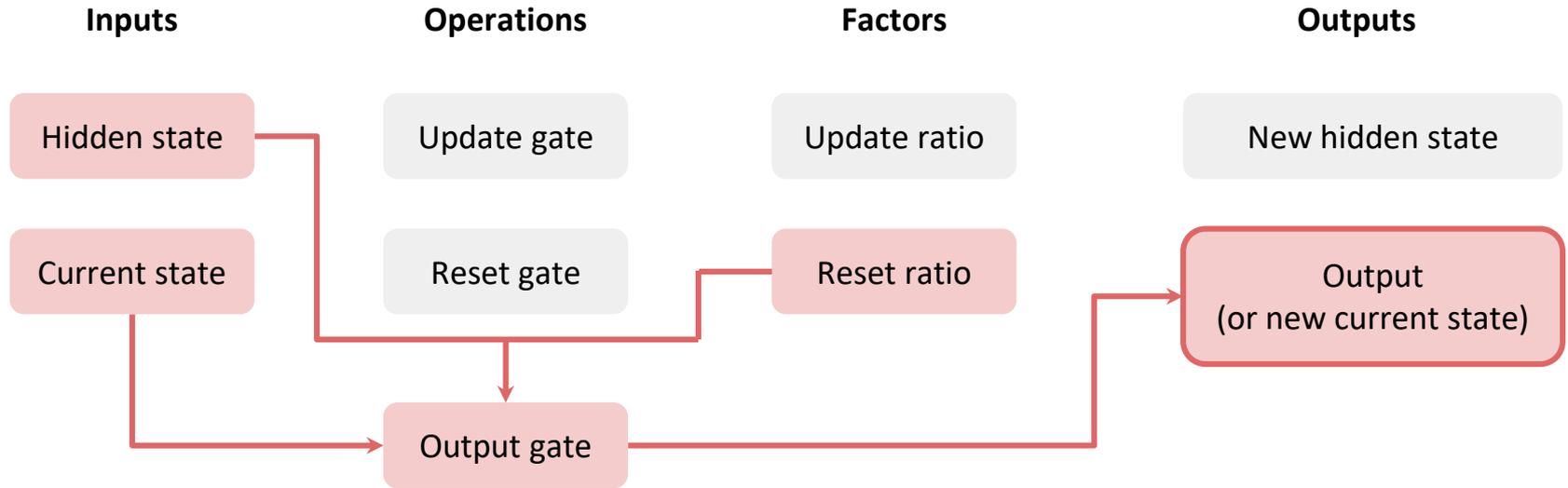
**Reset ratio** is determined by hidden state, current state, and weights of reset gate.

# Unraveling the mystery of DeepMind's rainfall nowcasting: a step-by-step tutorial for hydrologists

## ConvGRU: How does it work?



### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

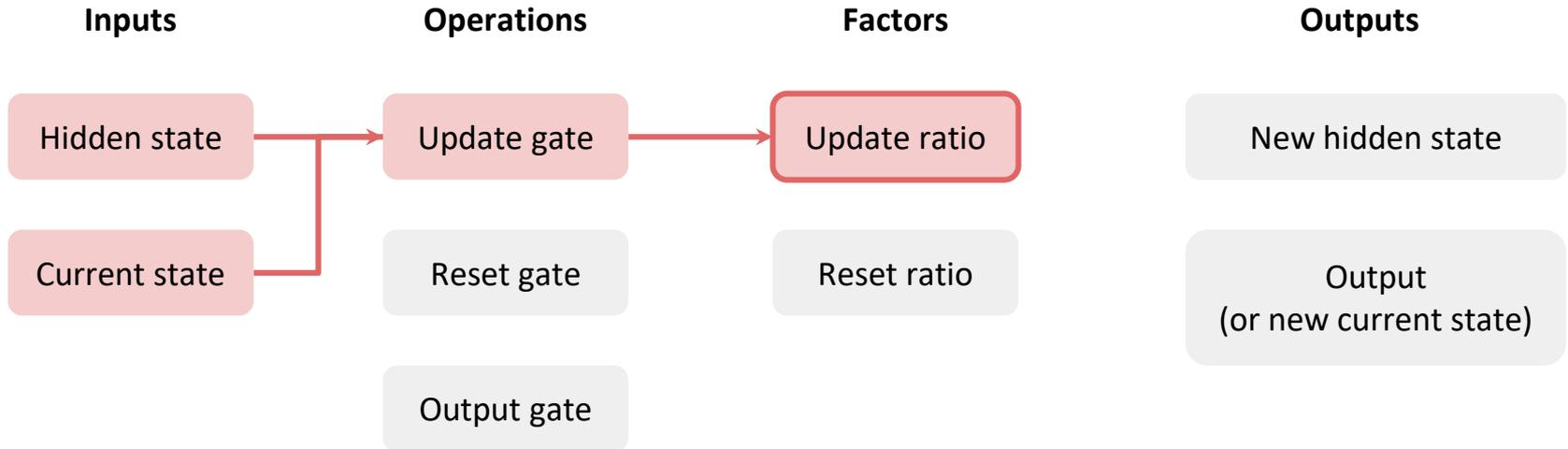


**Output** is determined by hidden state  $\times$  reset ratio, current state, and weights of output gate.



## ConvGRU: How does it work?

### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

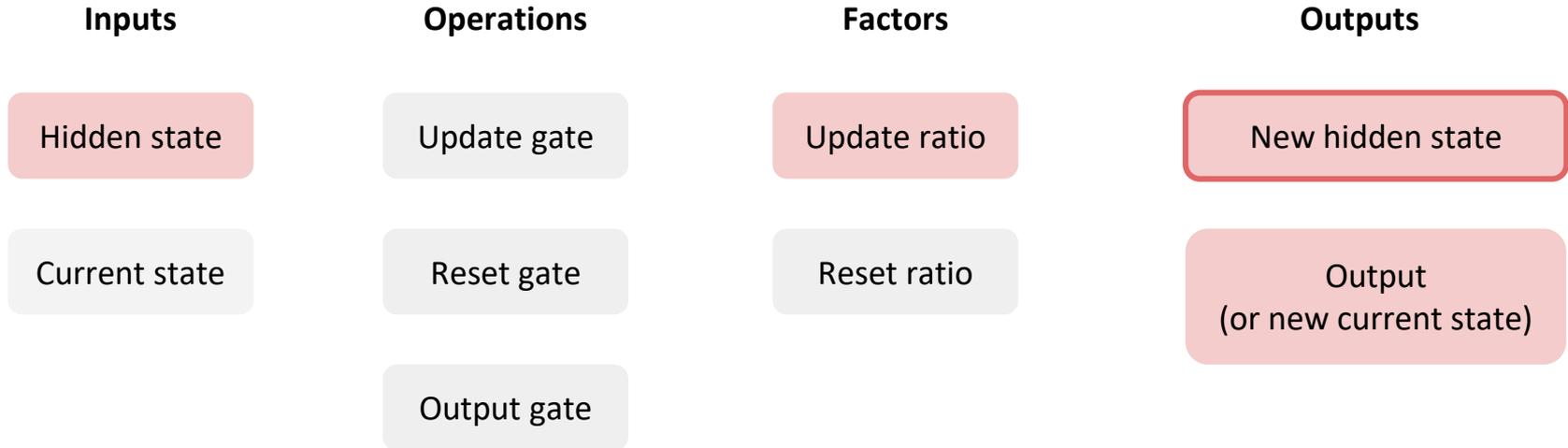


**Update ratio** is determined by hidden state, current state, and weights of update gate.



## ConvGRU: How does it work?

### Components of Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

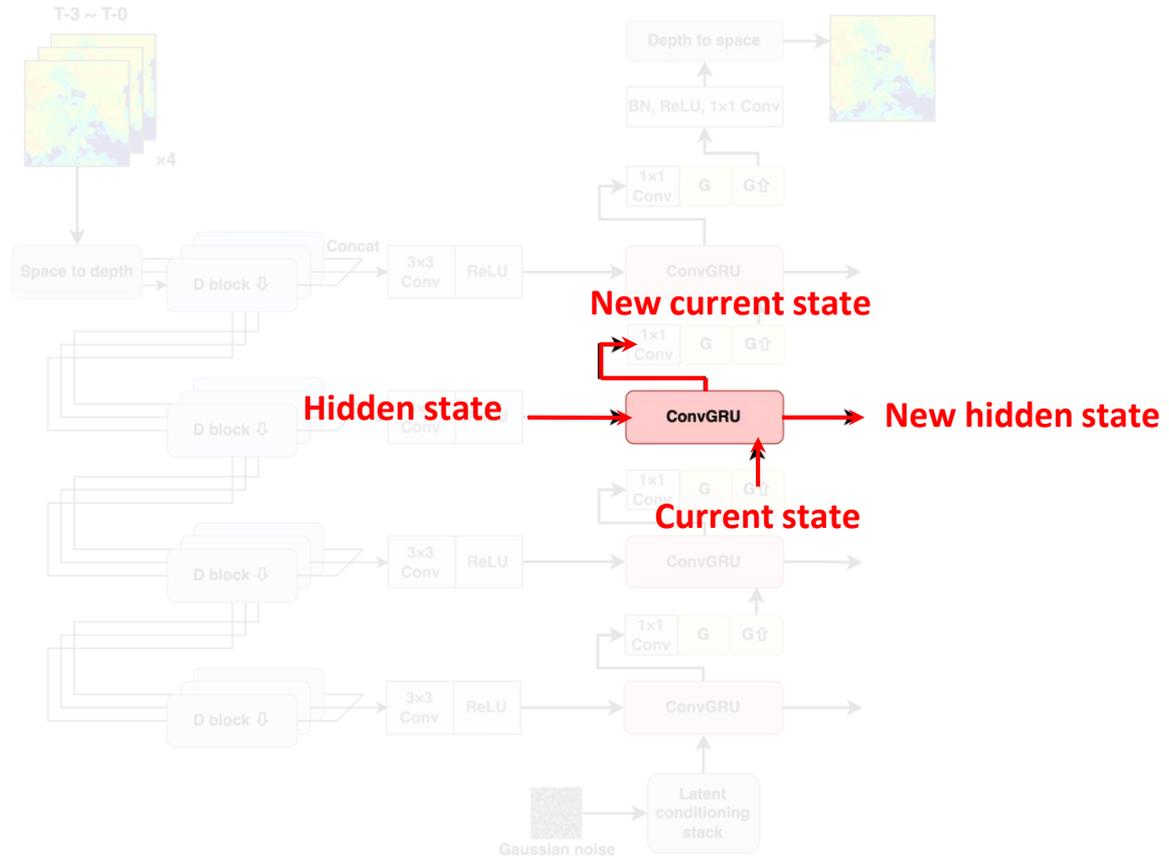


***New hidden state*** is calculated by hidden state, update ratio, and output.

( $\text{New hidden state} = \text{hidden state} \times (1 - \text{update ratio}) + \text{output} \times \text{update ratio}$ )

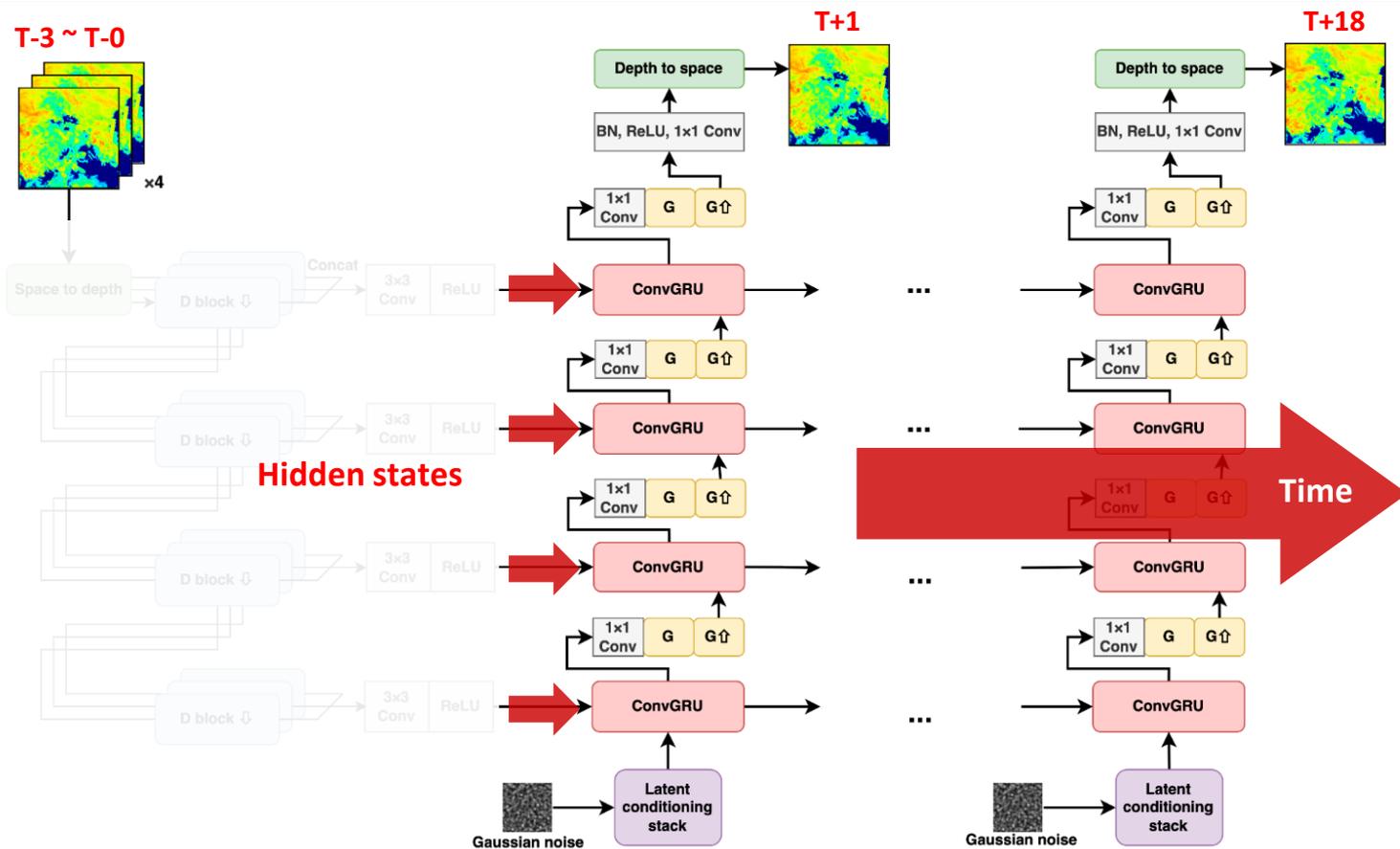


## ConvGRU: The role in DGMR



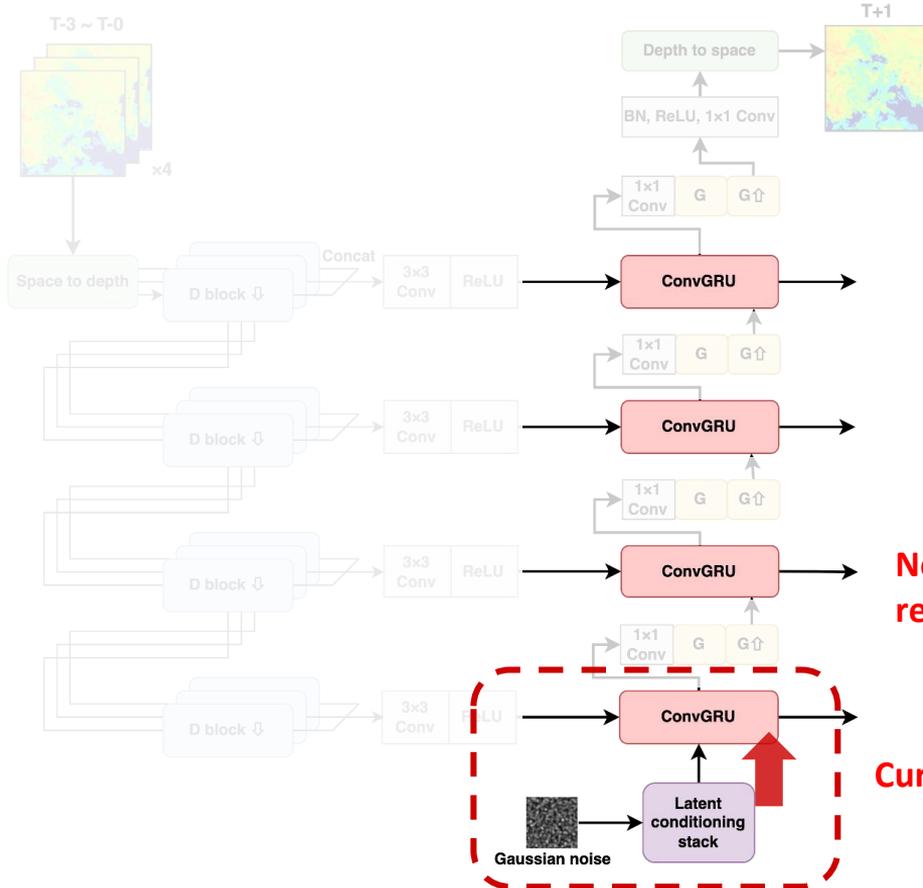


## ConvGRU: Temporal feature extractor





## ConvGRU: Spatio-temporal feature extractor

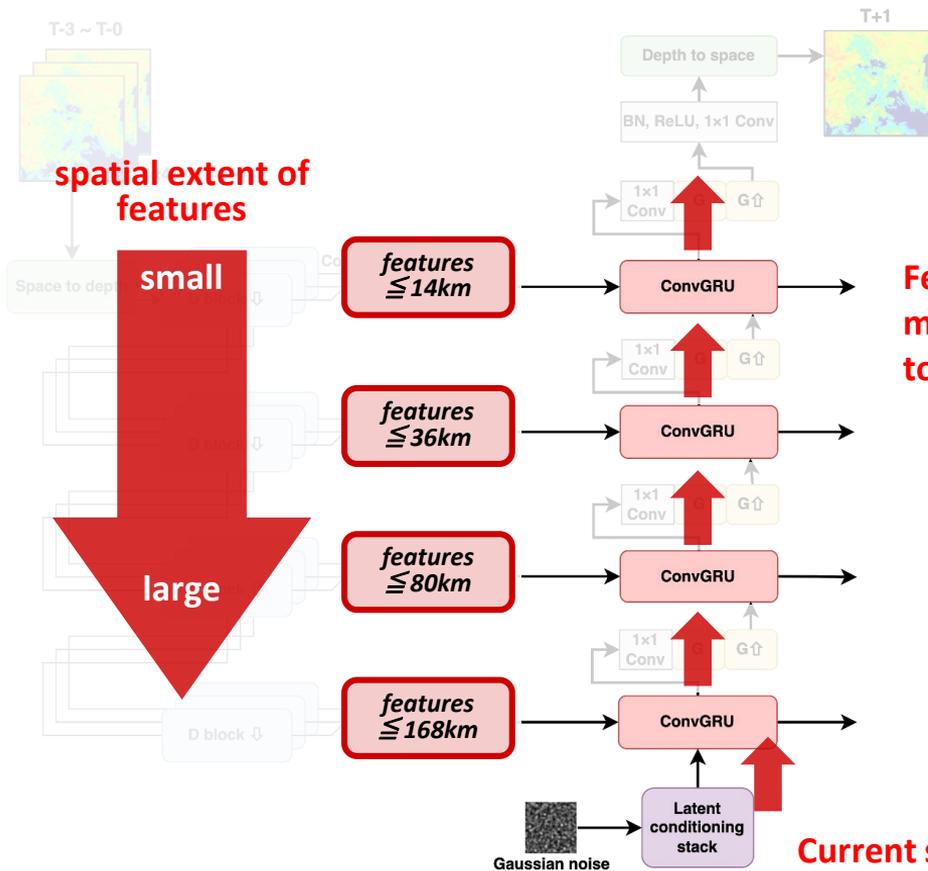


**Noise is considered as current state, representing immediate impact on the output.**

**Current state**



## ConvGRU: Spatio-temporal feature extractor



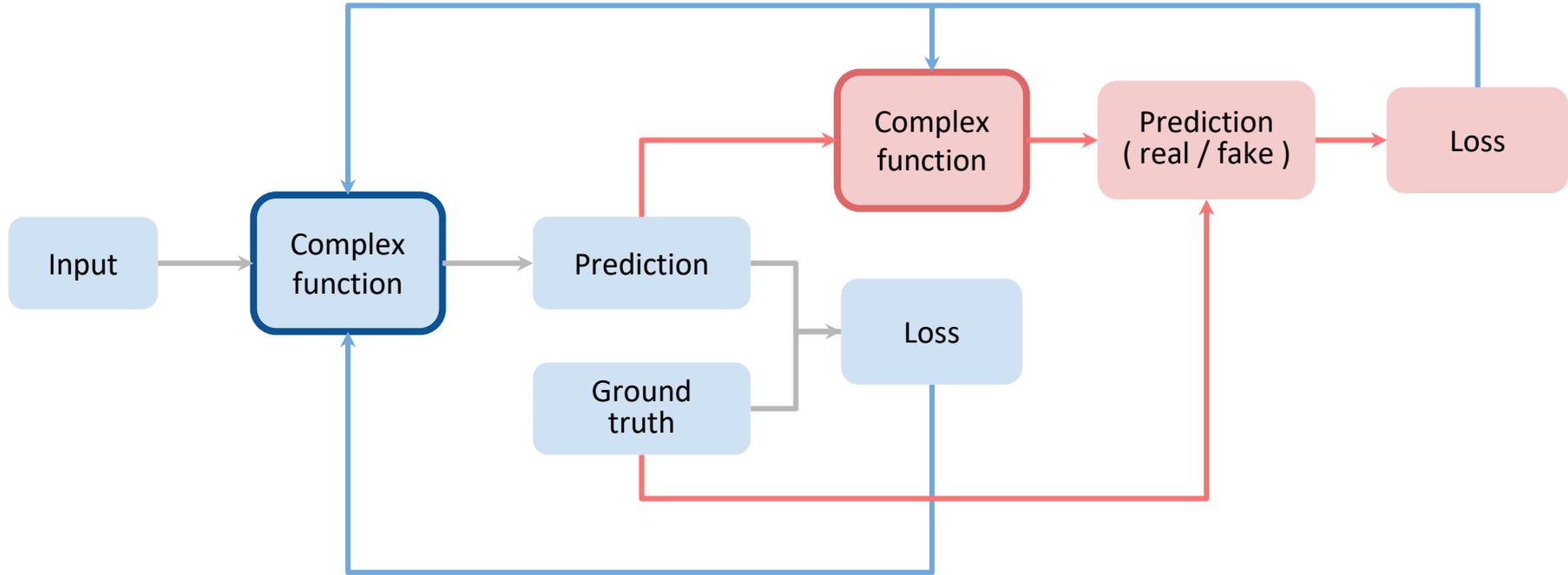
Features at larger spatial extent pass through more ConvGRUs, enabling large spatial features to affect small spatial features.

Current state



## GAN: Generative Adversarial Network

GAN uses another complex function to describe the distance between prediction and ground truth.



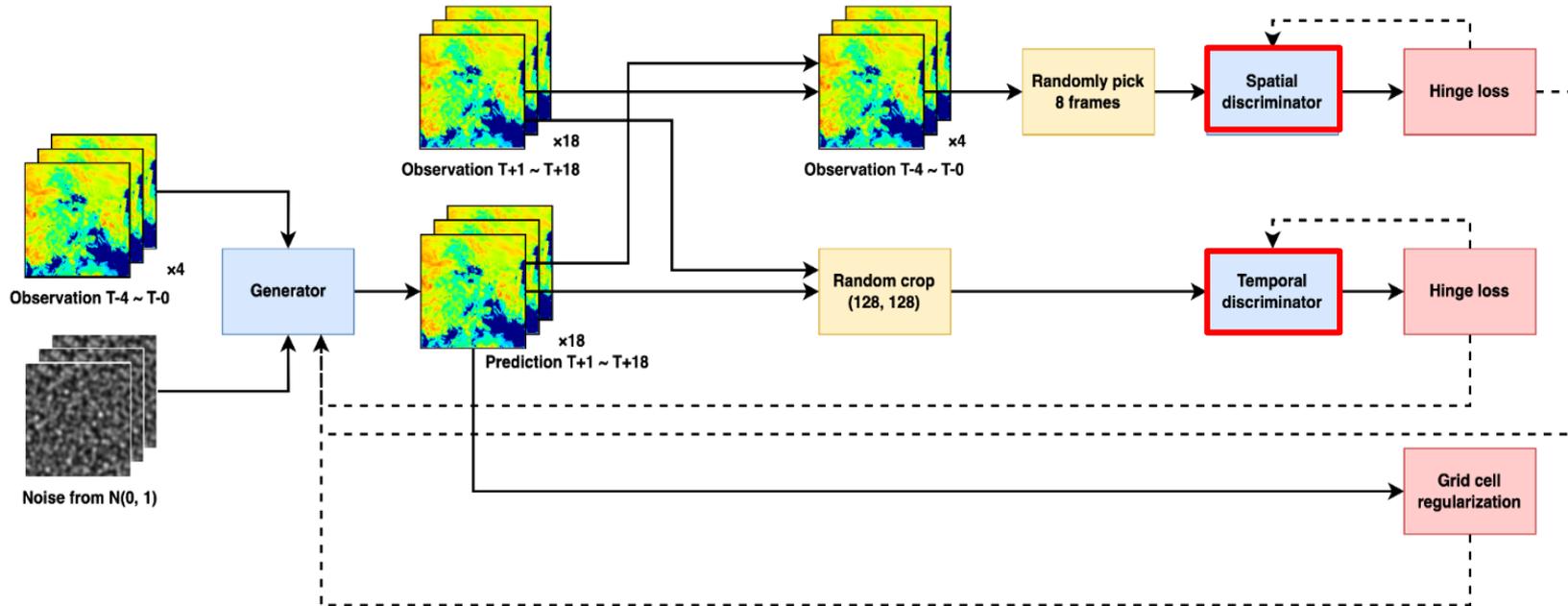
Backward (including calculate gradients and adjust weights)





## GAN: Framework of DGMR

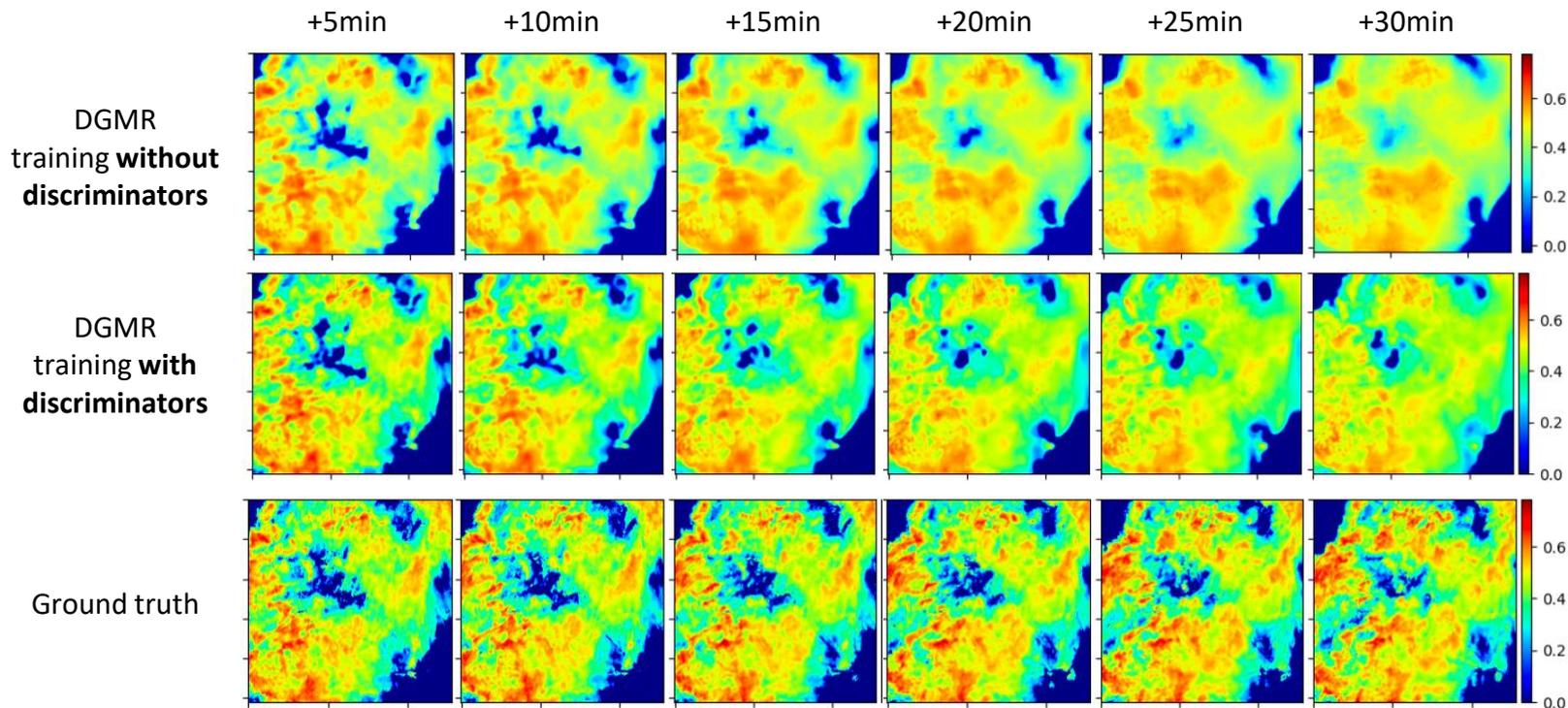
DGMR uses two discriminators to train their generator.





## GAN: The benefit of using GAN

More details can be preserved in the predicted fields when GAN is used.



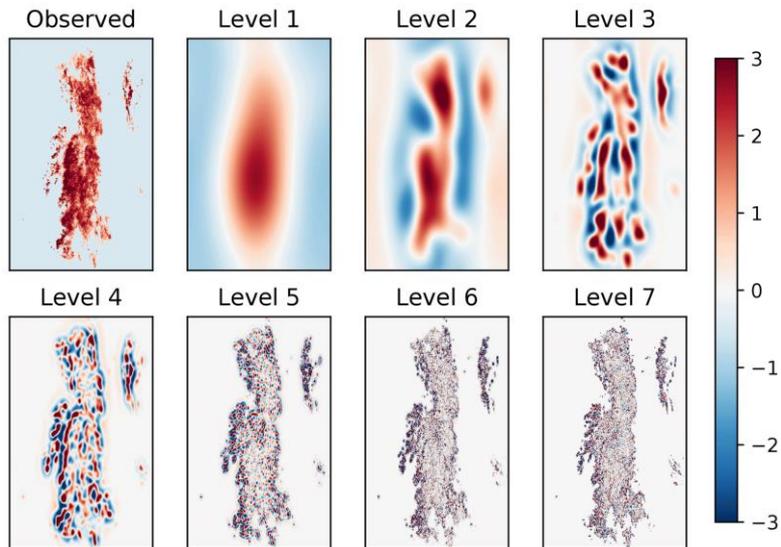


## Some insights gained from reproducing DGMR

- **Variations in rainfall = Advection + Evolution (in time)**
- **Spatial and temporal features of rainfall are not independent from each other**
- **Scale matters!**
  - Levels of D blocks, associating with stacks of ConvGRU models
  - Space-to-depth (S2D)
  - Adversarial framework (GAN)



Is there a more efficient way to learn spatial and temporal features across scales?



Our DGMR replica on Github!

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Li-Pen Wang ([lpwang@ntu.edu.tw](mailto:lpwang@ntu.edu.tw))