

Improving Radar QPE with CMLs

Julius Polz¹, Maximilian Graf² and Christian Chwala¹

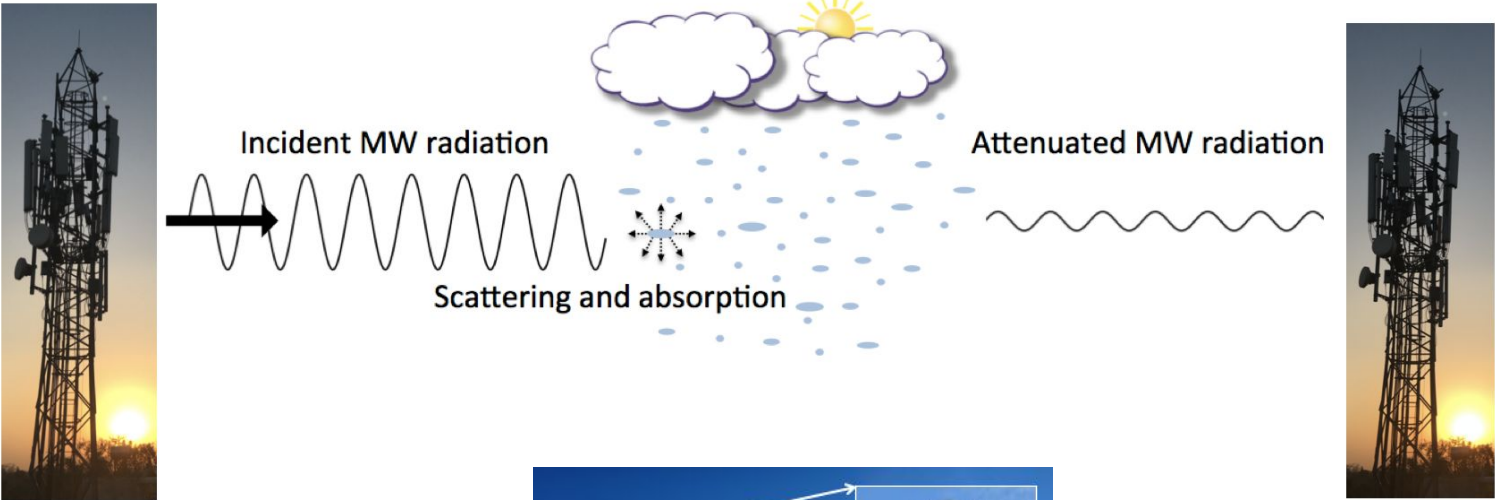
¹ Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Campus Alpin, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

² Institute of Geography, University of Augsburg, Augsburg, Germany

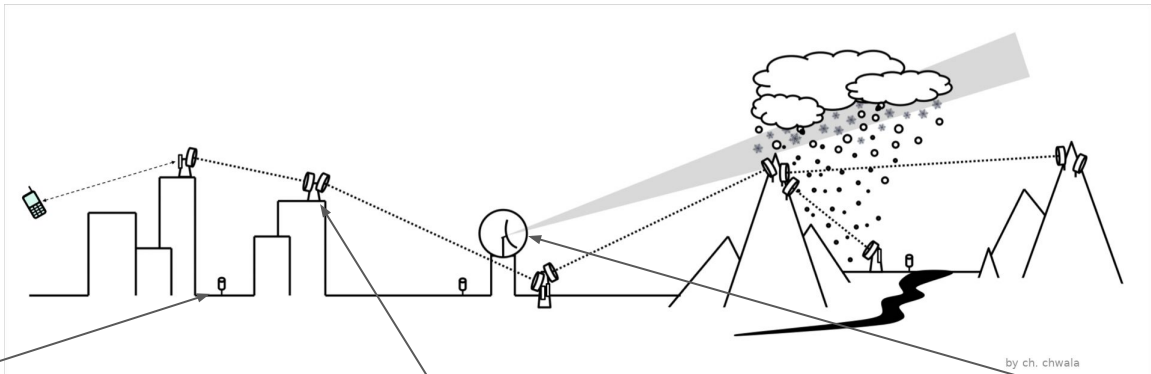


Source: Flickr

Commercial Microwave Links



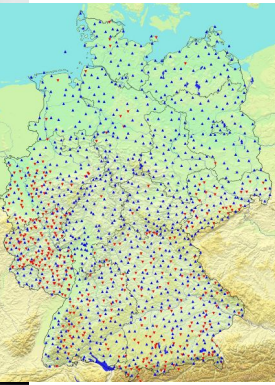
Rainfall estimation in Germany



Rain Gauge

Commercial microwave link (CML)

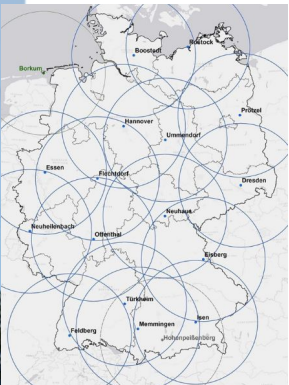
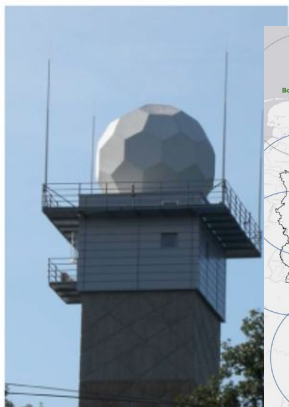
Weather radar



Source: DWD



Source: C. Ruf, KIT



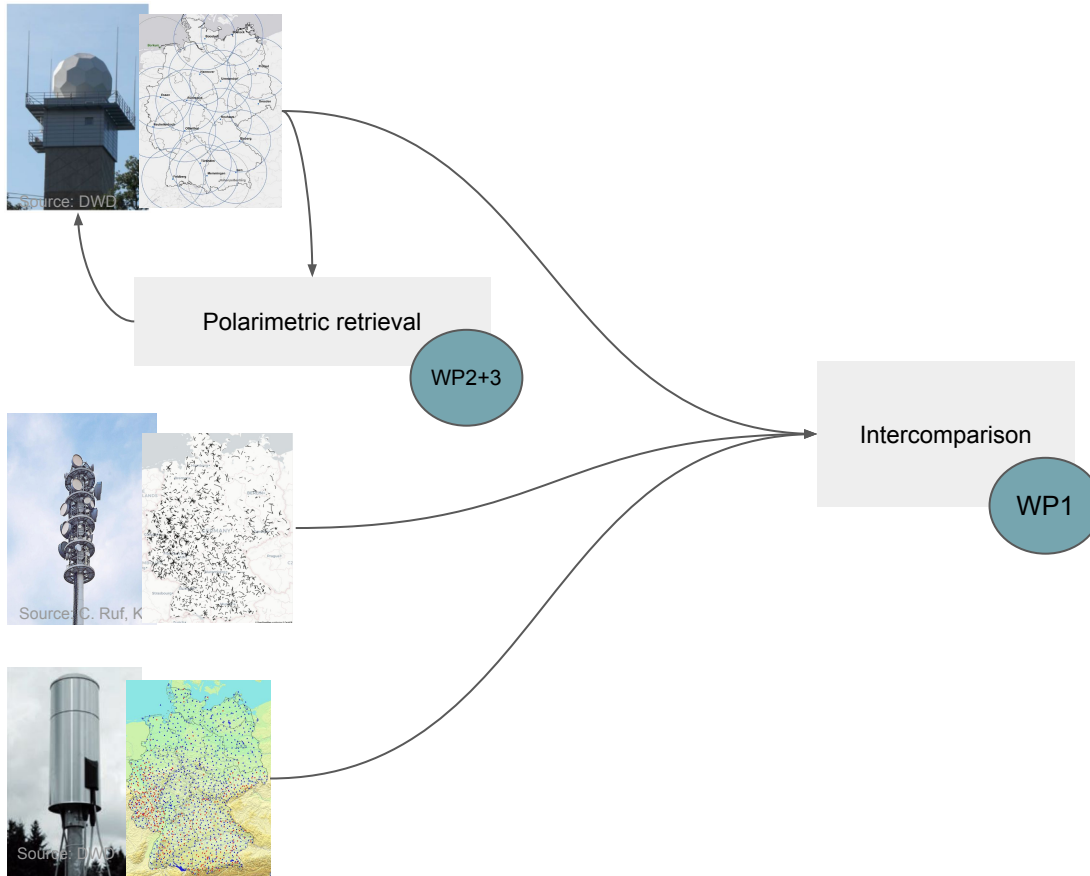
Source: DWD

Topics

- RealPEP P1 Roadmap
- Updates from the CML data acquisition at DWD
- Collection of rainfall data for upcoming studies
- Deep learning based correction of radar QPE
- High resolution rainfall maps for West Africa

P1 Roadmap

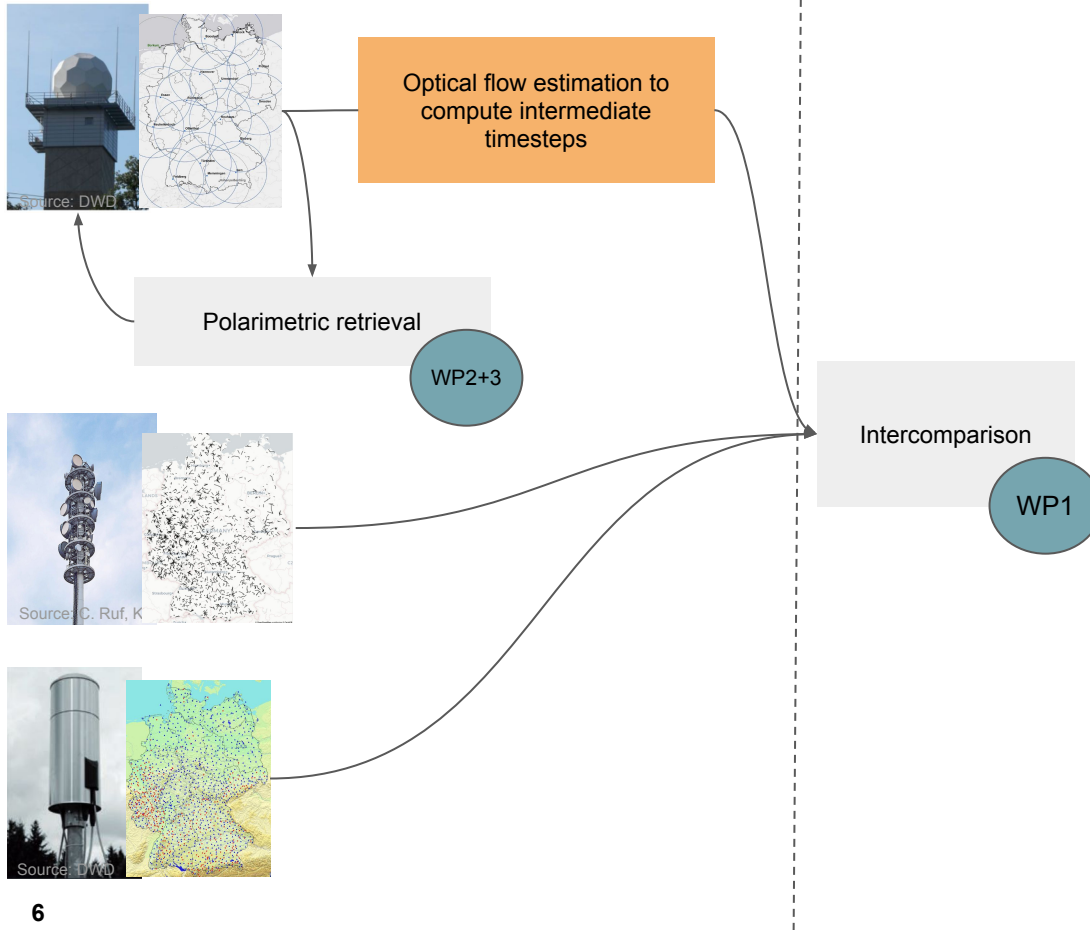
5 minute



P1 Roadmap

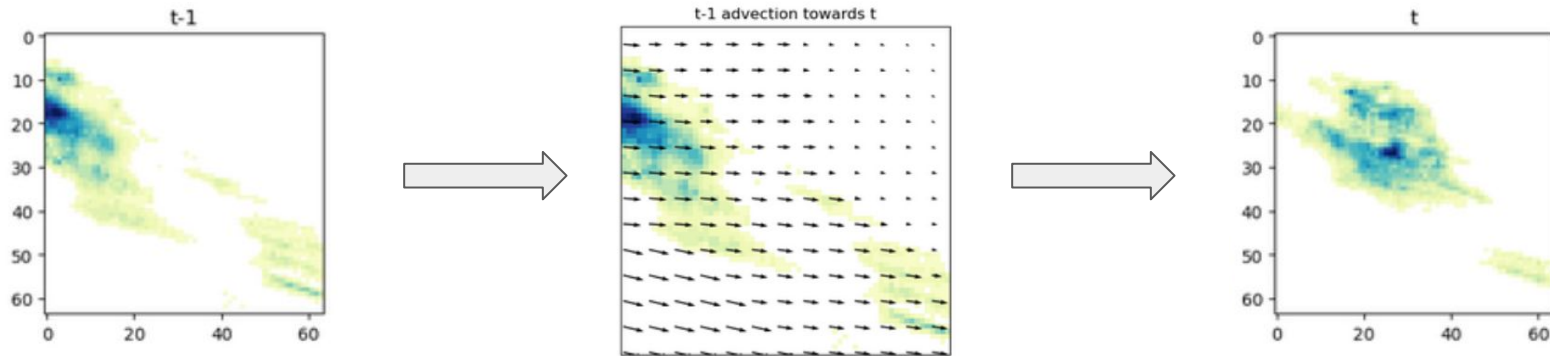
5 minute

1 minute



Advection correction: The concept

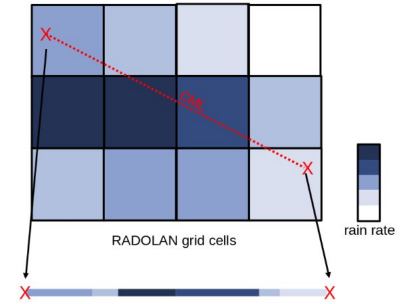
Estimated optical flow by Lucas-Kanade method (from PySTEPS)



Intermediate timesteps by constant flow
(morphed QPE)

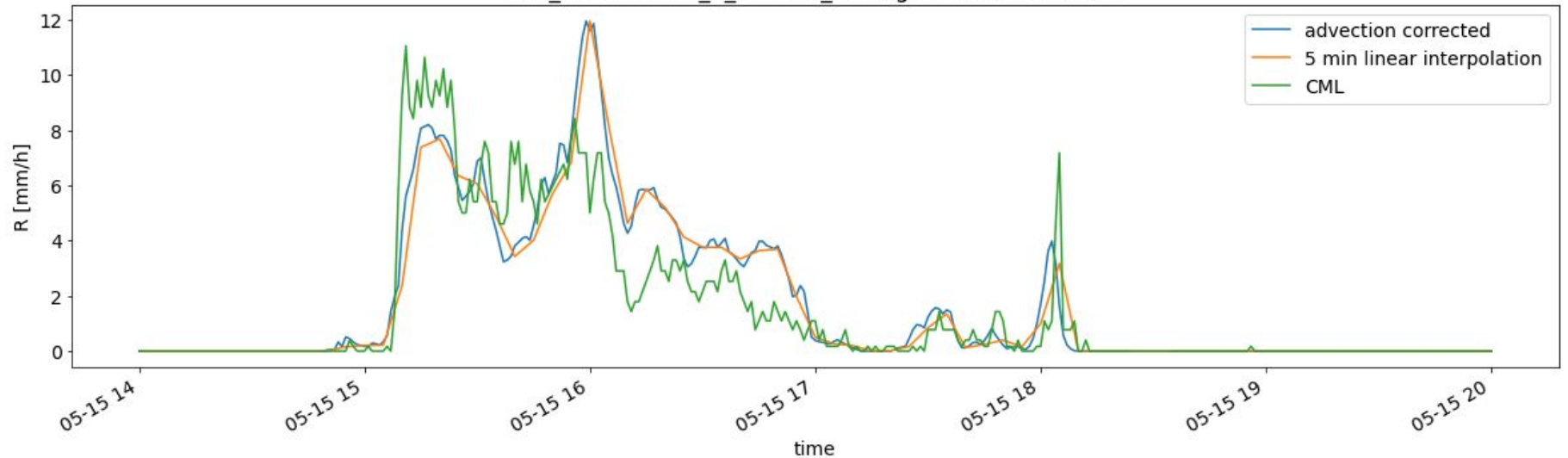
Advection correction by temporal aggregation

Advection correction: 1 minute radar along CML



Path averaged rain rate by weighted length of intersects

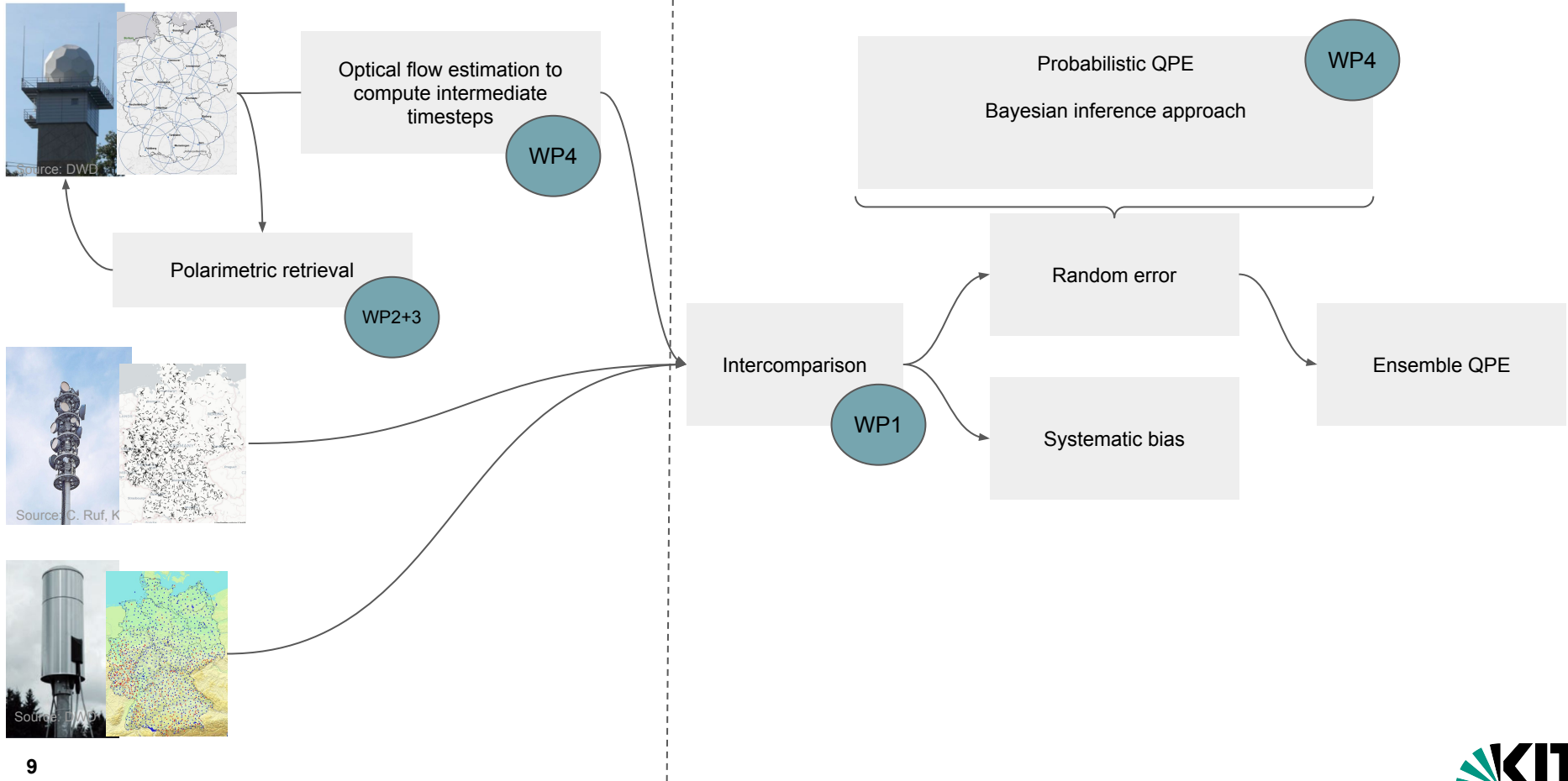
cml_id = BY0217_2_BY2103_2, length = 4.97839709...



P1 Roadmap

5 minute

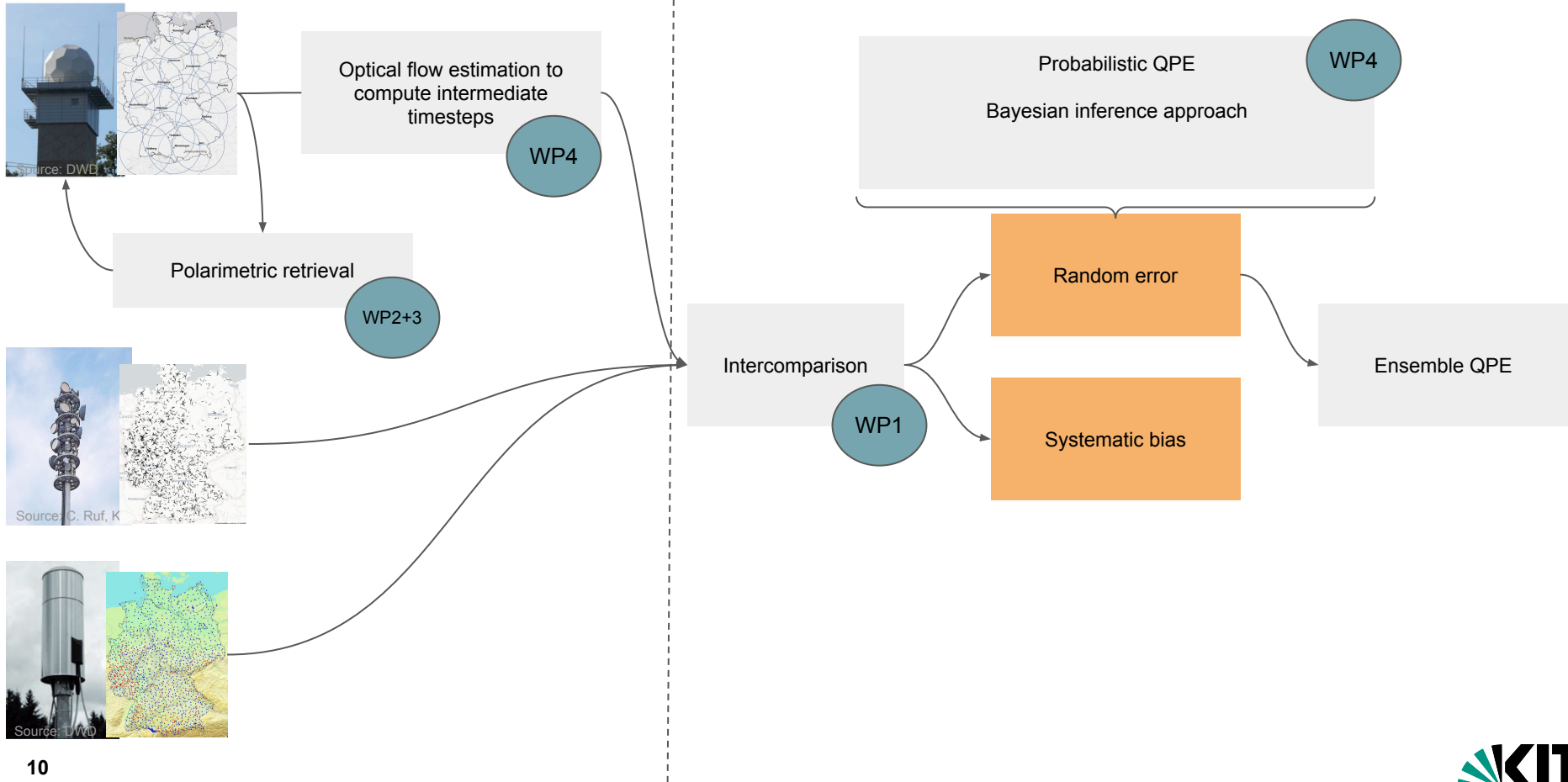
1 minute



P1 Roadmap

5 minute

1 minute



Error sources of radar QPE (according to Villarini and Krajewski 2010)



Miscalibration

Ground clutter / Anomalous
Propagation

Range degradation



classical
correction
schemes

Error sources of radar QPE (according to Villarini and Krajewski 2010)



Miscalibration

Ground clutter / Anomalous Propagation

Range degradation



classical
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schemes

(Partial) beam blockage

Attenuation

Choice of Z-R /
DSD variability



Polarimetry

Error sources of radar QPE (according to Villarini and Krajewski 2010)



Miscalibration

Ground clutter / Anomalous Propagation

Range degradation



classical
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schemes

(Partial) beam blockage

Attenuation

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DSD variability



Polarimetry

“Spatio-temporal mismatch”

Vertical variability

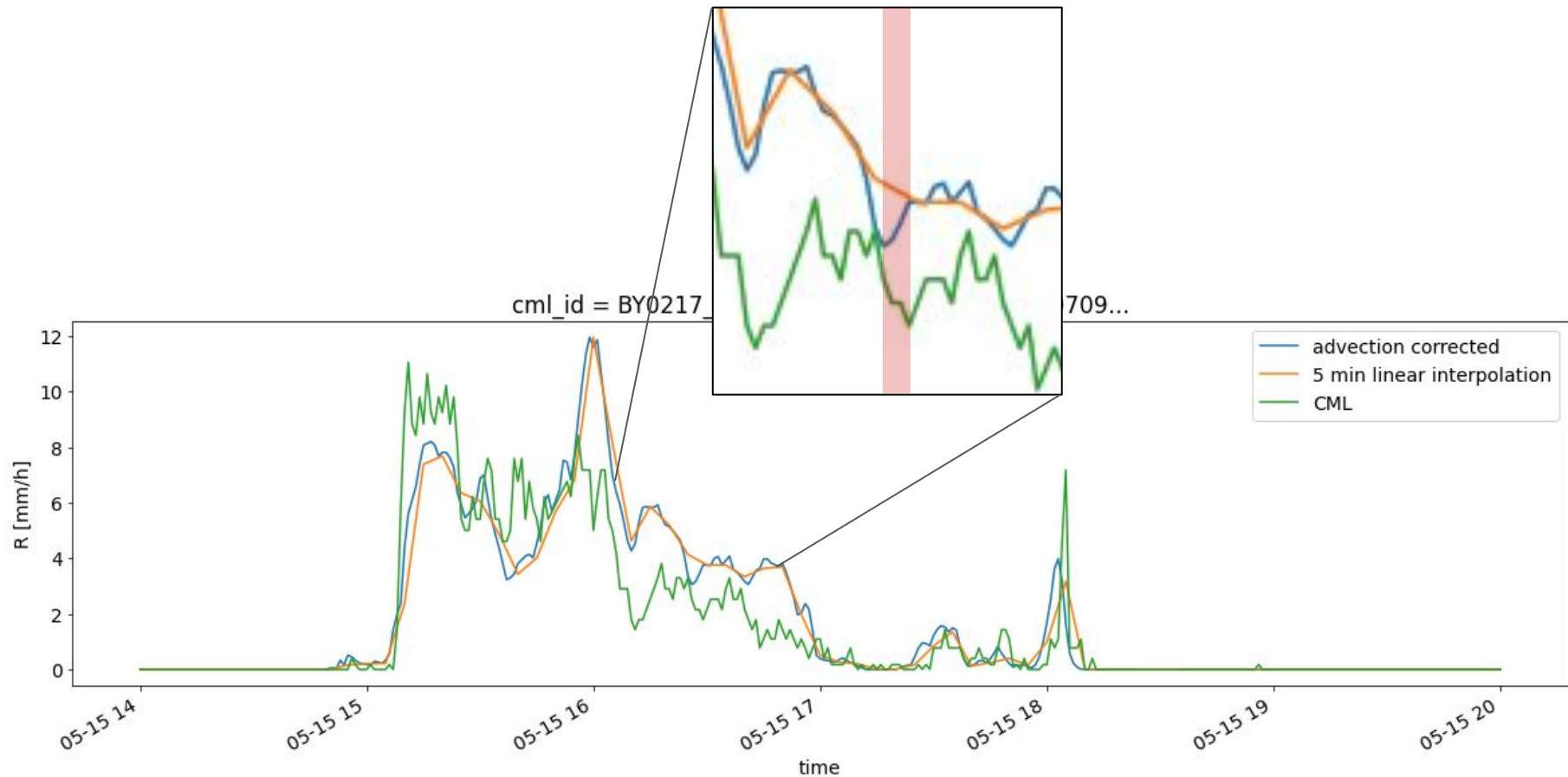
Air motion / Drift

Temporal sampling error



Merging
with ground
sensors

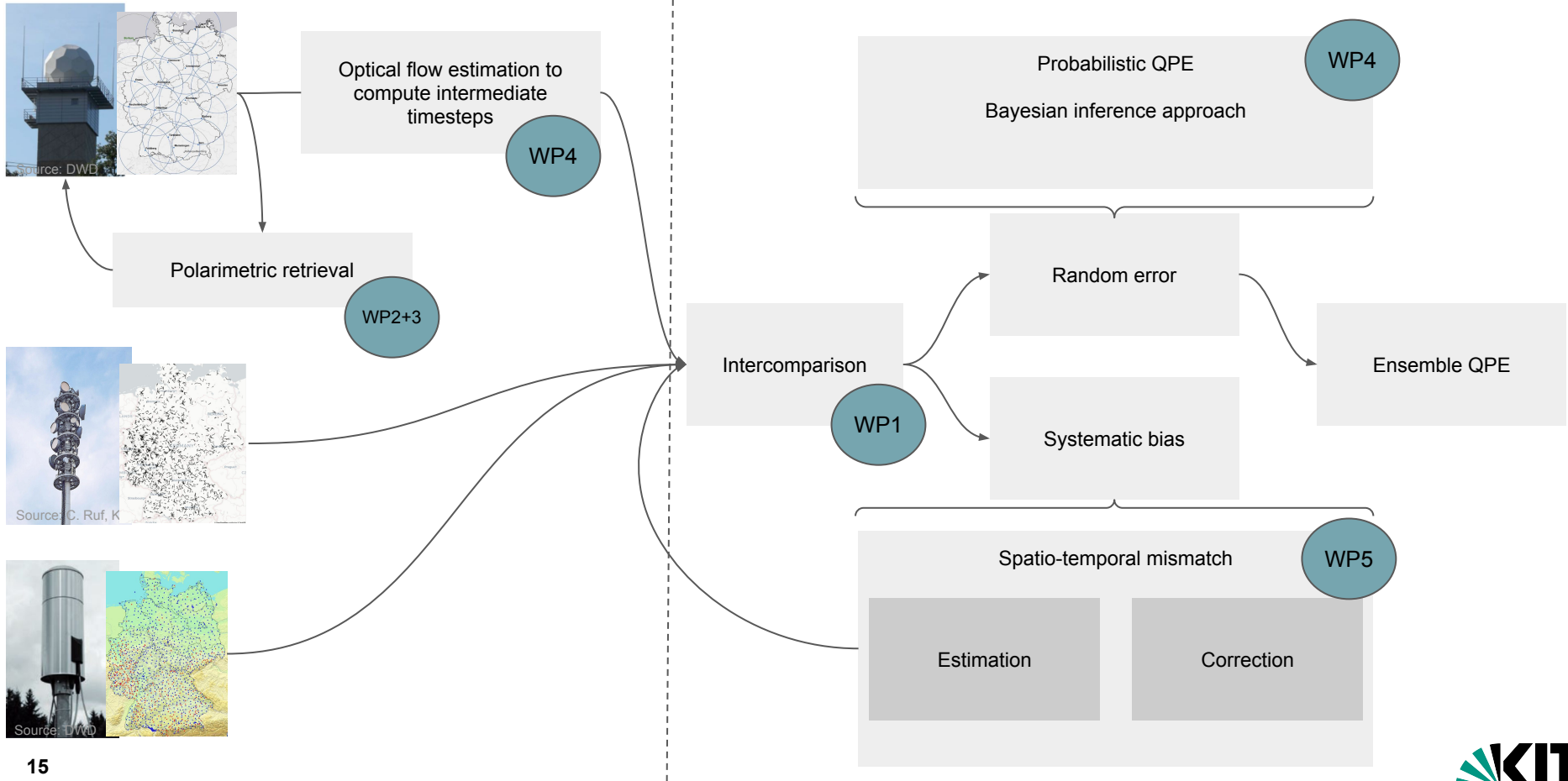
Advection correction: 1 minute radar along CML



P1 Roadmap

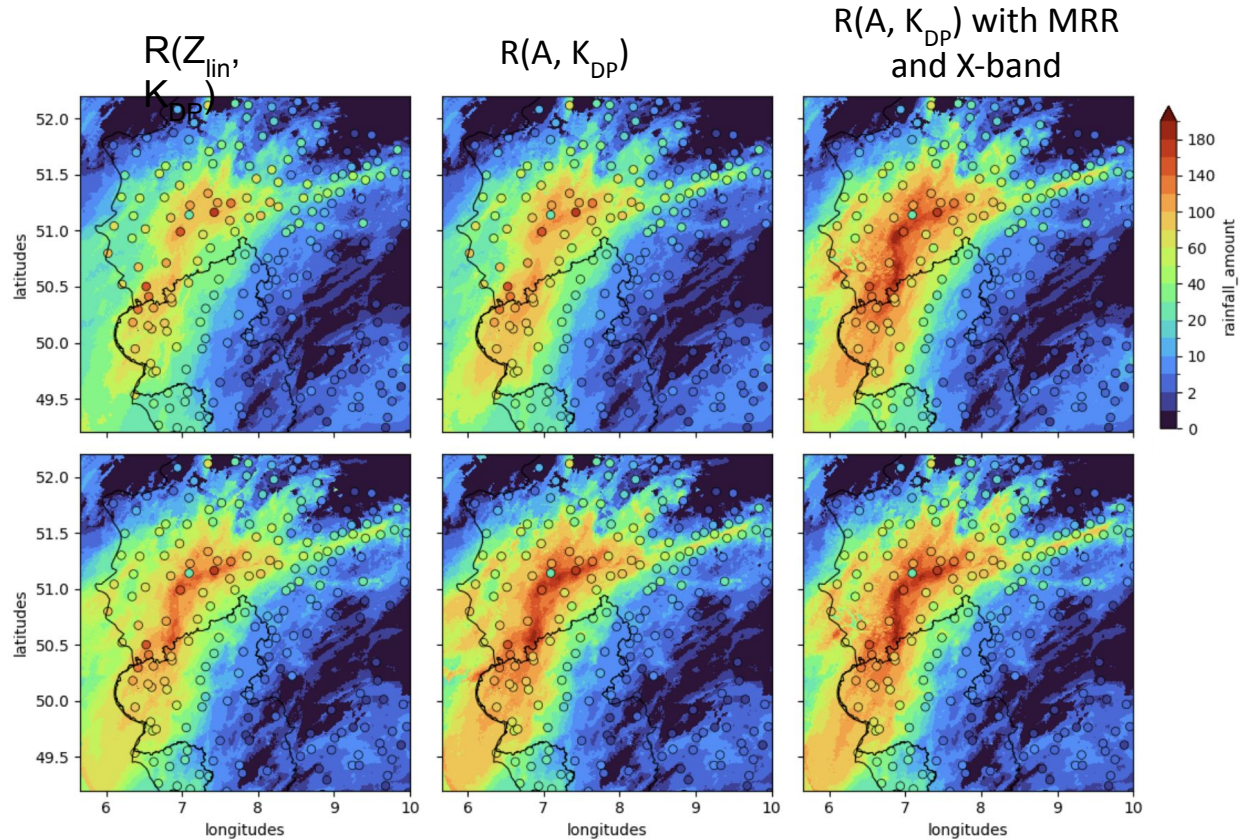
5 minute

1 minute



Merging Radar and CML

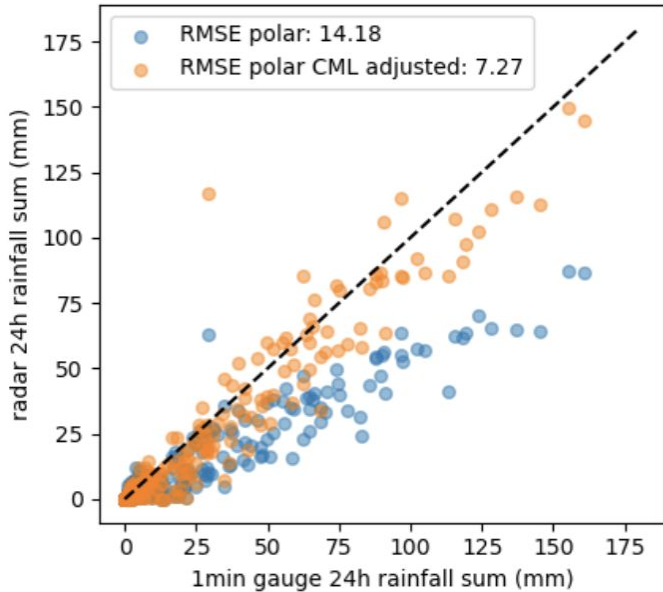
not adjusted



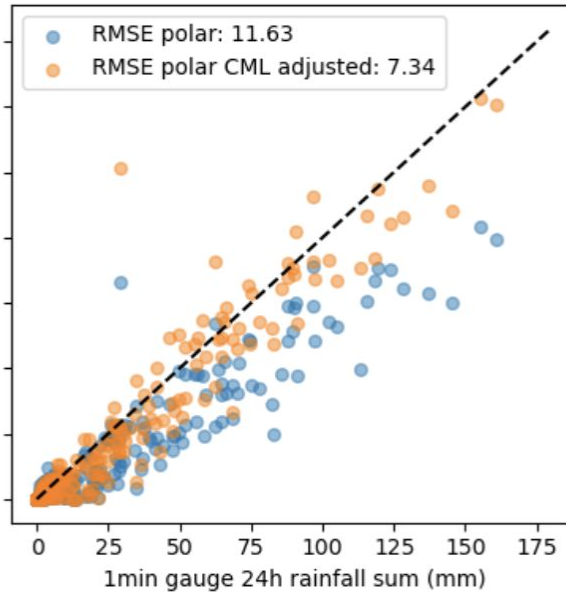
CML adjusted

Merging Radar and CML

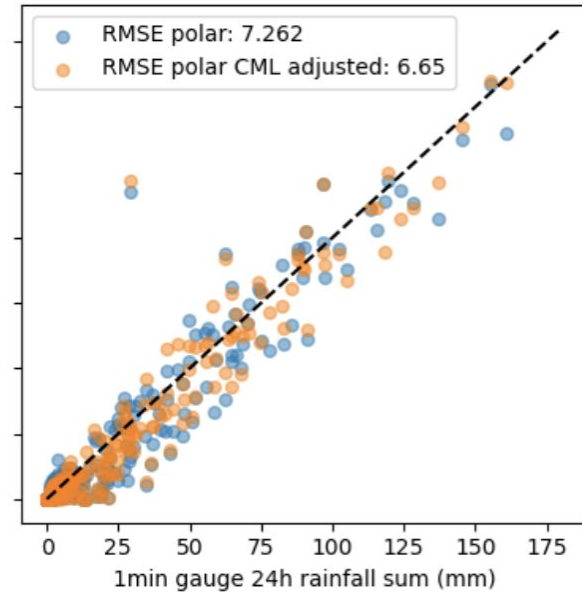
$R(Z_{lin}, K_{DP})$



$R(A, K_{DP})$



$R(A, K_{DP})$ with MRR and X-band



Current

Simple merging of
pol. Radar and CML

Correction of sampling
error for 5 min radar data

+1 Step

+2 Step

Current

Simple merging of
pol. Radar and CML

Correction of sampling
error for 5 min radar data

+1 Step

Probabilistic Radar QPE
using error with respect to
CML and Gauge

Large scale comparison of
1 min data
→years for $R(Z)$
→months for $R(A, K_{DP})$

+2 Step

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Probabilistic merging of
pol. Radar, CML and
Gauges

Quantification and
correction of spatio
temporal mismatch

Current

Simple merging of
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Correction of sampling
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+1 Step

Probabilistic Radar QPE
using error with respect to
CML and Gauge

Large scale comparison of
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→years for $R(Z)$
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+2 Step

Probabilistic merging of
pol. Radar, CML and
Gauges

Quantification and
correction of spatio
temporal mismatch

Now, really and if necessary using $R(Z)$ products first

CML DAQ @ DWD

Fact:

- “operational” real-time data acquisition with a 2 min latency
- >5000 unique paths
- 10s temporal resolution → reduction of uncertainty due to instantaneous sampling
- Hourly R(CML) and R(Z)+R(CML) product using RADOLAN adjustment at 5 min latency

Fiction:

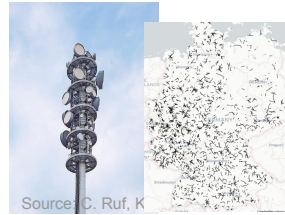
- Potential water vapor estimation at E-band (maybe no E-band, maybe incorrect metadata)

Current data collection at KIT

Current data collection at KIT



- RADOLAN-RY
 - 2001 until today
 - R(Z)
 - 5 min resolution
- RADOLAN-RW
 - 2001 until today
 - R(Z) gauge adjusted
 - 1H resolution
- RADKLIM-YW
 - 2006 until today
 - R(Z) gauge and clim adjusted
 - 5 min resolution



- CML 2017 until today
 - 3900 sensors
 - 1 min resolution
- CML 2023 until today
 - >5000 sensors
 - 10 s resolution



- Automatic
 - from 2007
 - ~1000 rain gauges
 - 1 min resolution
- Manual
 - from 1900 to today
 - ~1000 (year >2010)
 - daily resolution

Deep learning based correction of radar QPE

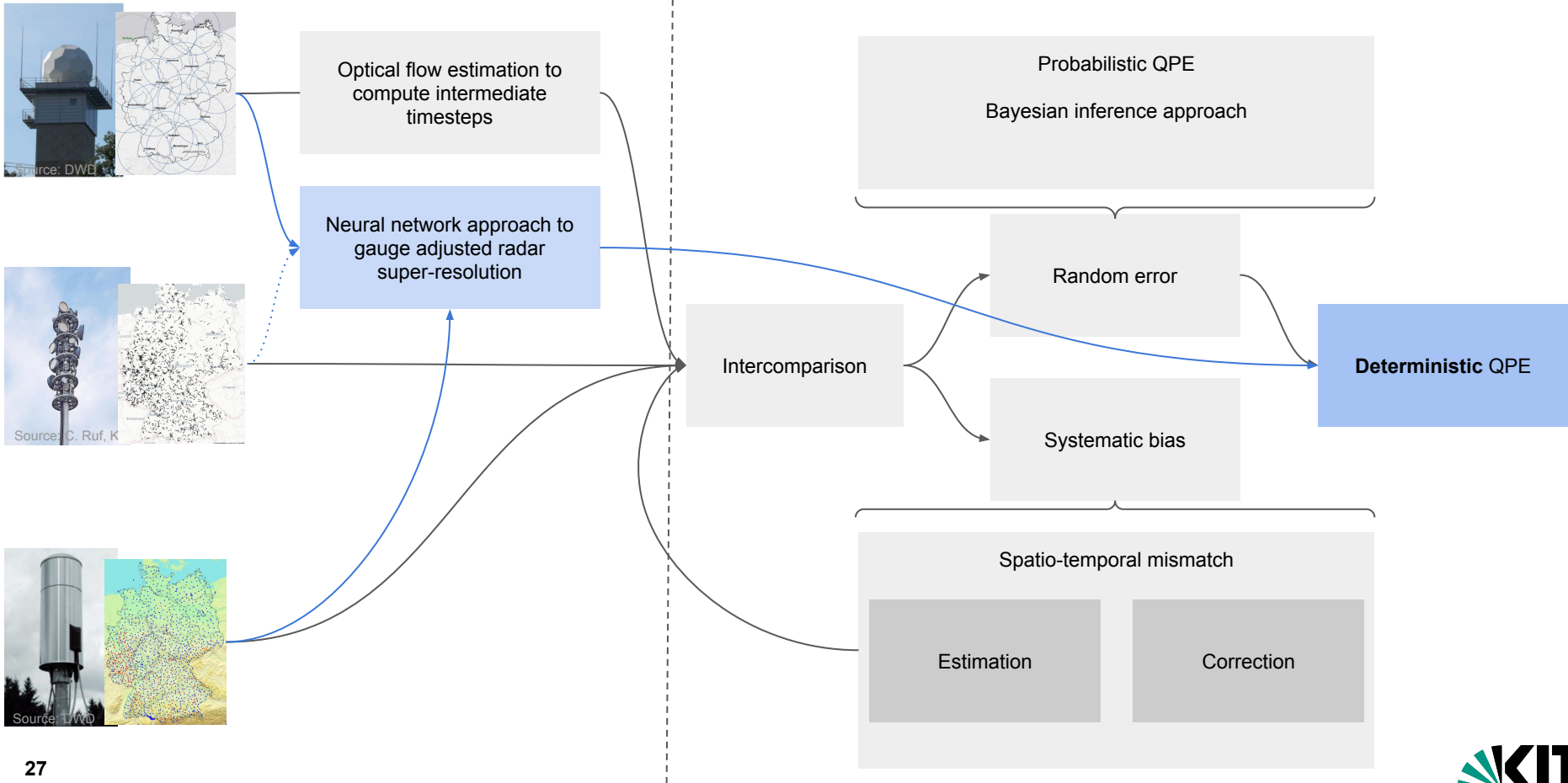
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING

Temporal Super-Resolution, Ground Adjustment and Advection Correction of Radar Rainfall using 3D-Convolutional Neural Networks

Julius Polz, Luca Glawion, Hiob Gebisso, Lukas Altenstrasser, Maximilian Graf,
Harald Kunstmann, Stefanie Vogl, and Christian Chwala

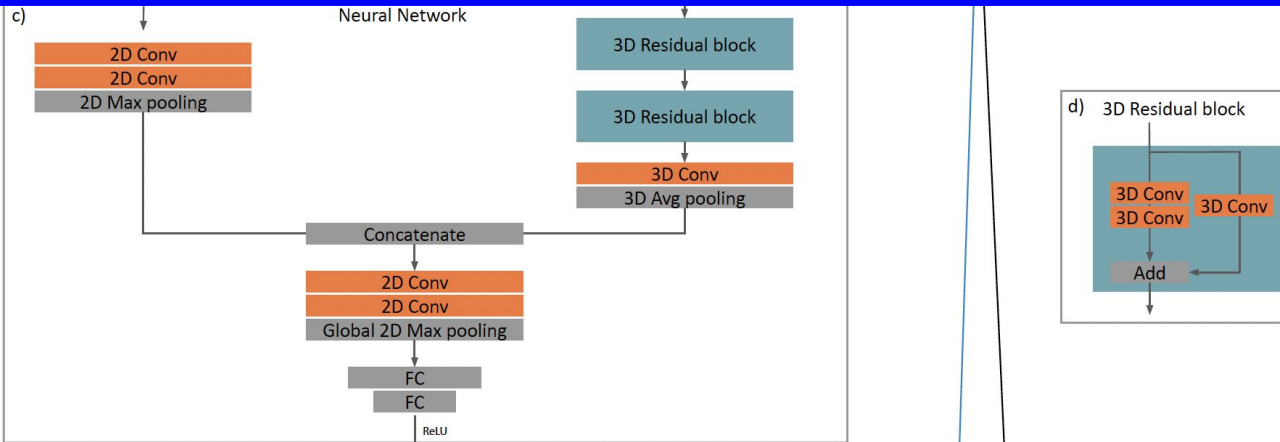
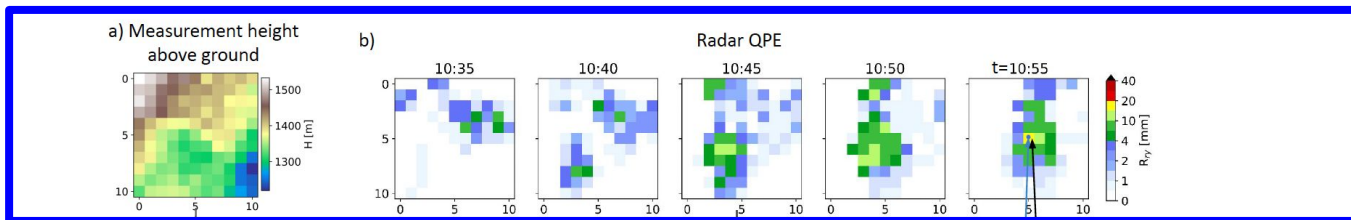
5 minute

1 minute

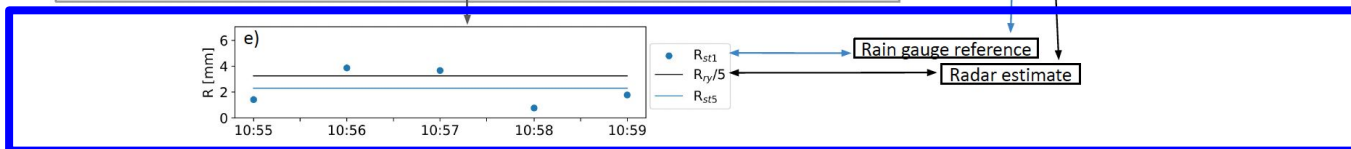


ResRadNet

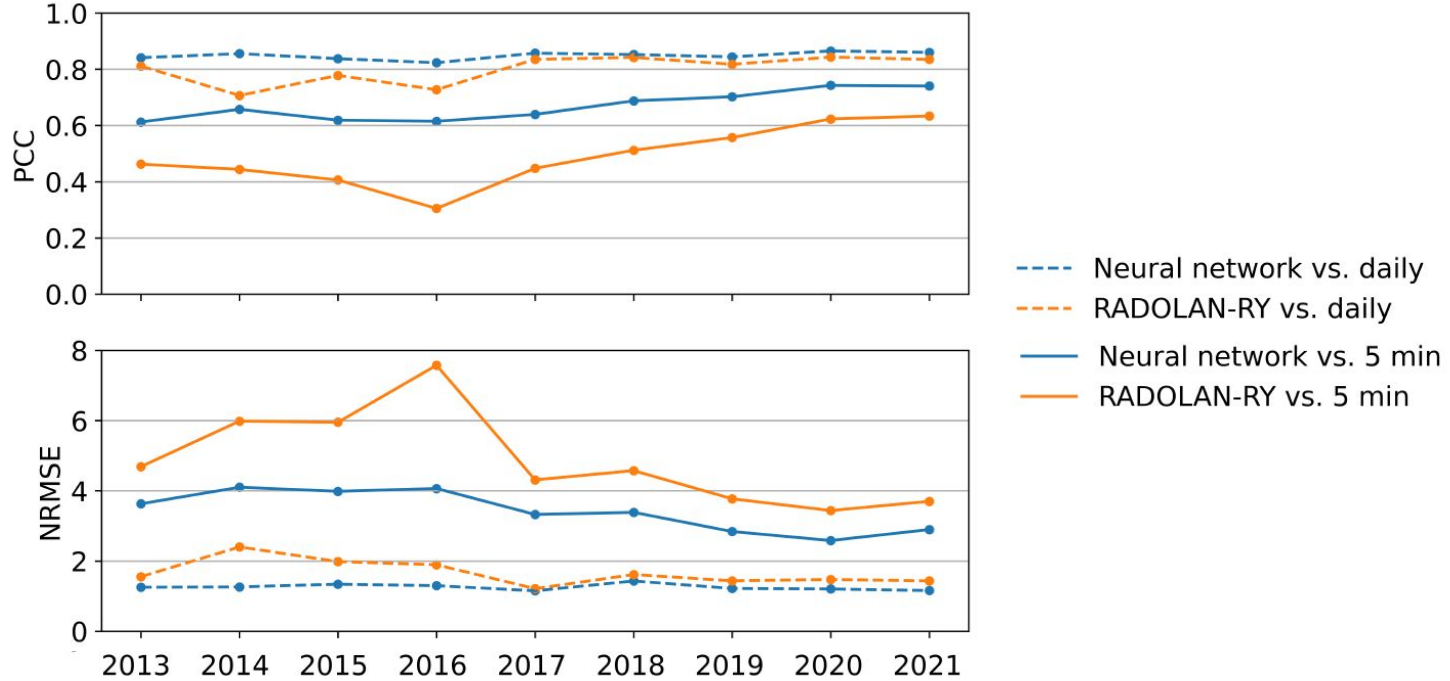
Input



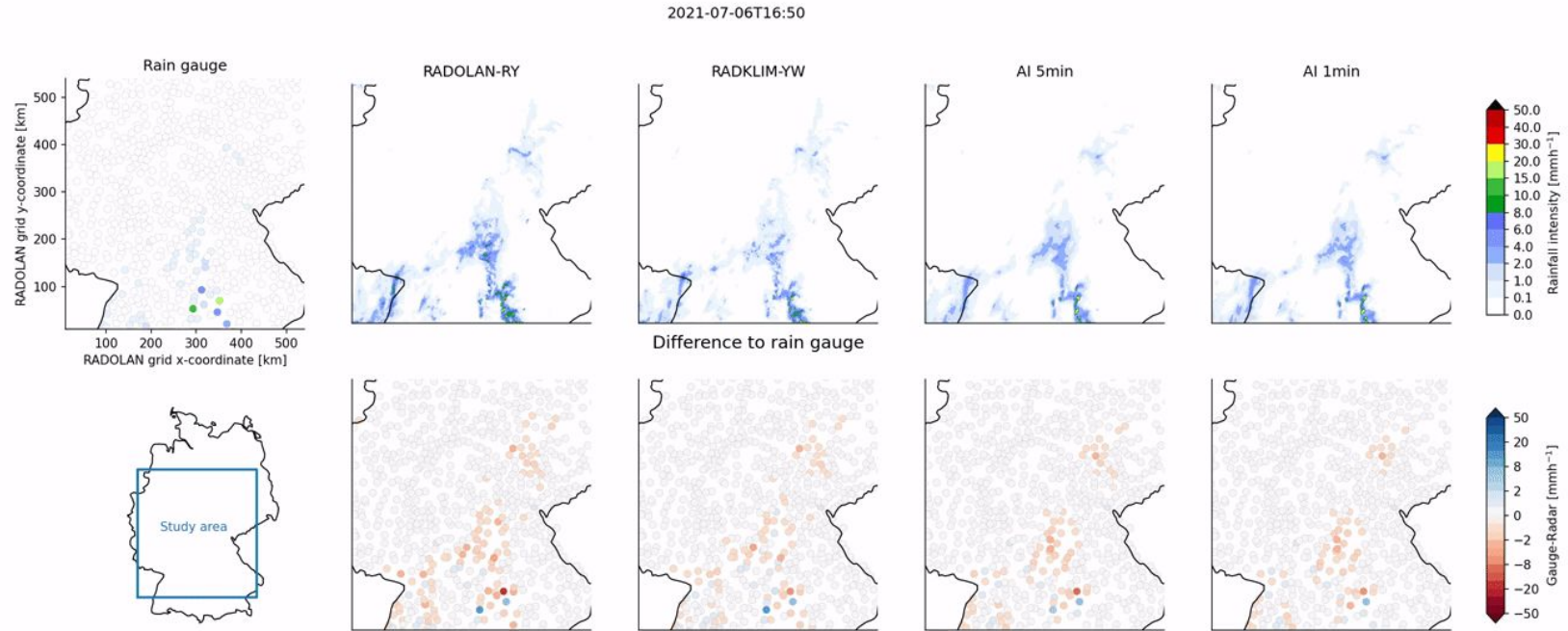
Output



ResRadNet



ResRadNet



Proof: High potential to reduce overall error including sampling error

Low hanging fruit: Test deep learning based polarimetric retrieval

1 year of training data enough

→ Test with 3 months used in RealPEP

→ Repeat using polarimetric QPE (post-processing)

→ Repeat using polarimetric observables (full retrieval)

Why? → The full processing pipeline exists and only the input changes. Very low effort!

Why not? →

High resolution rainfall maps for West Africa

Journal of Hydrometeorology



Article Type: Research Article

High-resolution rainfall maps from commercial microwave links for a data-scarce region in West Africa

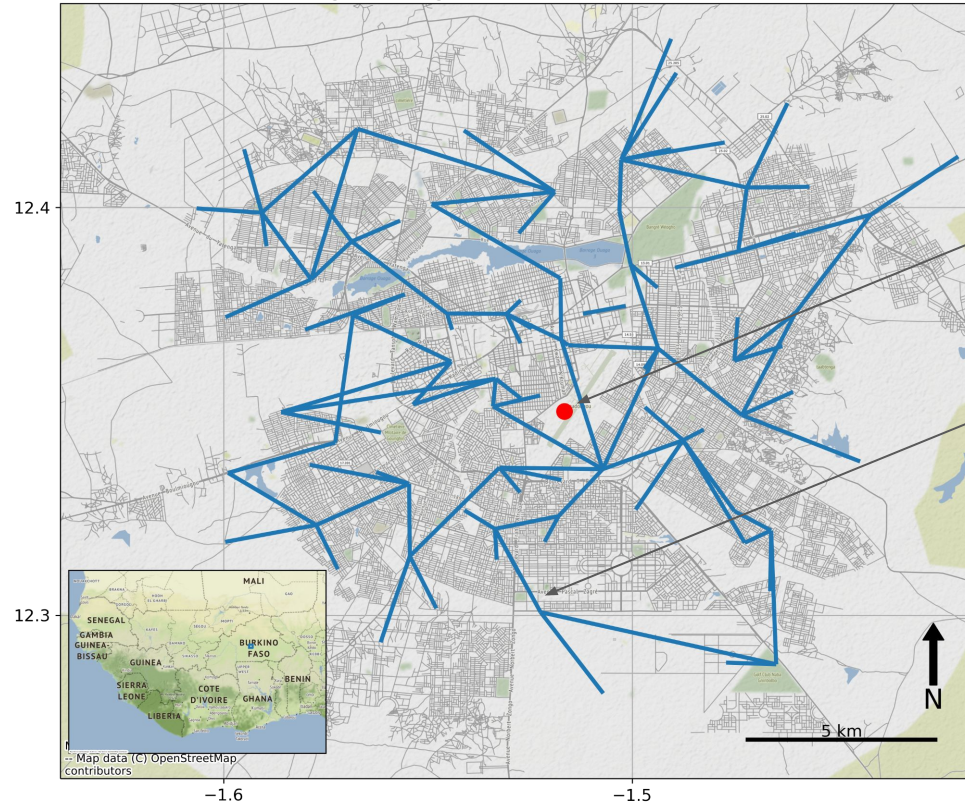
Moumouni Djibo, Christian Chwala, Maximilian Graf, Julius Polz, Harald Kunstmann, and François Zougmore

Online Publication: 09 Aug 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1175/JHM-D-23-0015.1>

High resolution rainfall maps for West Africa

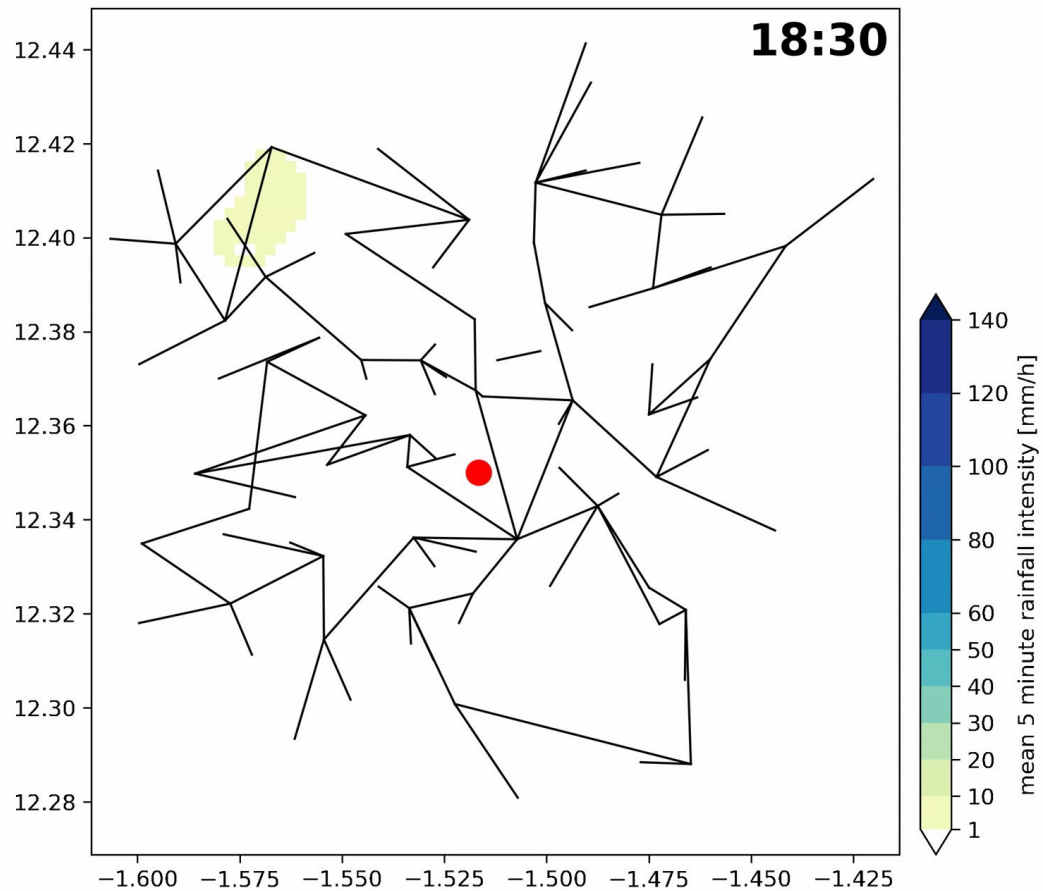
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



Only one available
rain gauge with
daily resolution

Dense CML
network

High resolution rainfall maps for West Africa



Thank you!

Questions?