

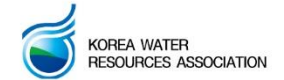


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**WORLD WATER CONGRESS**  
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**Water Level Prediction using LSTM and GRU  
for Data-Scarce Areas**

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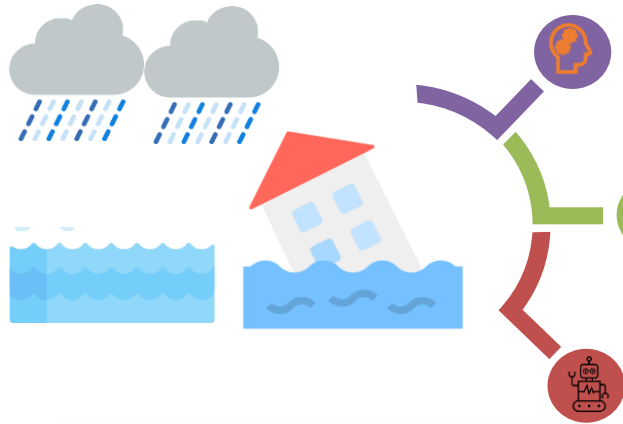
# 1. Introduction





# 1.1 Deep Learning Applications

The goods and services provided by nature that contribute to the well-being of humans.



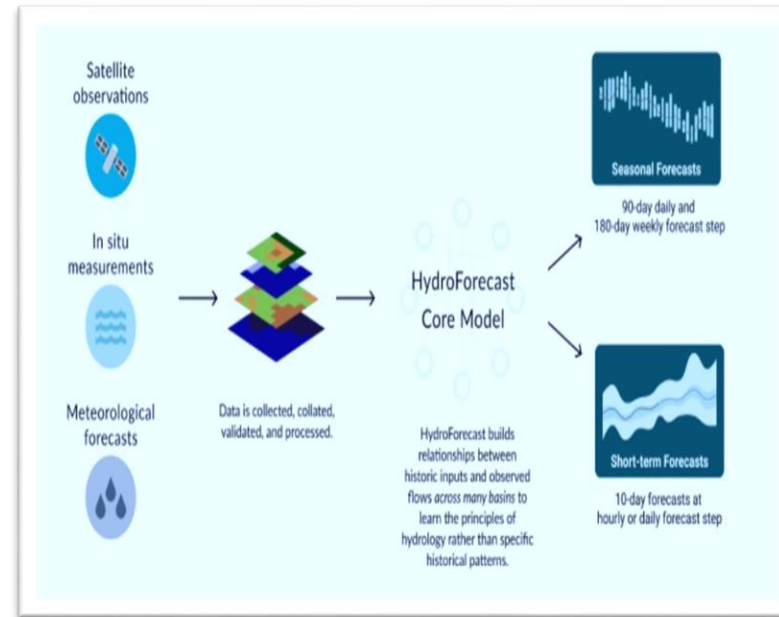
Application of data-driven machine learning models to hydrologic studies by learning temporal dependencies in data is currently gaining momentum globally.

Deep learning models offer more accurate and simpler modeling solutions than traditional physics-based models, as a result of ease of computation.

With applications ranging from:

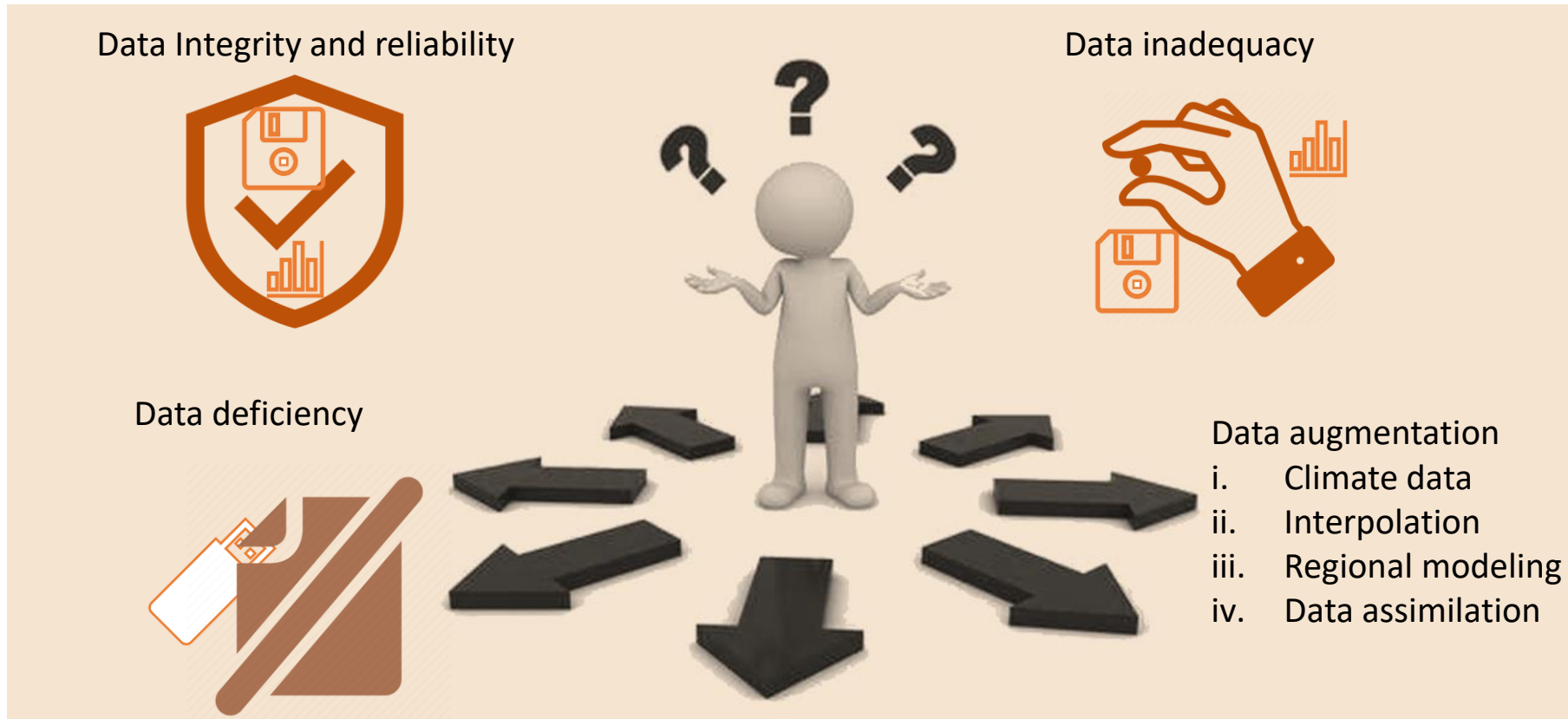


to

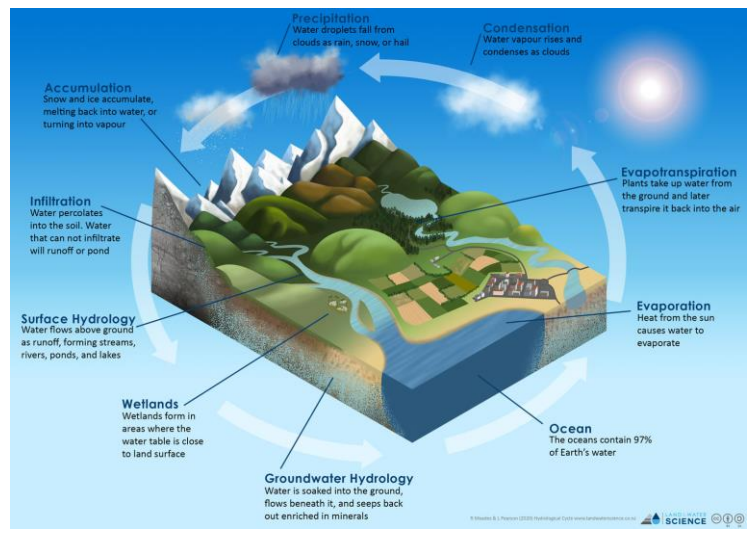


## 1.2 Data Management in Developing Countries

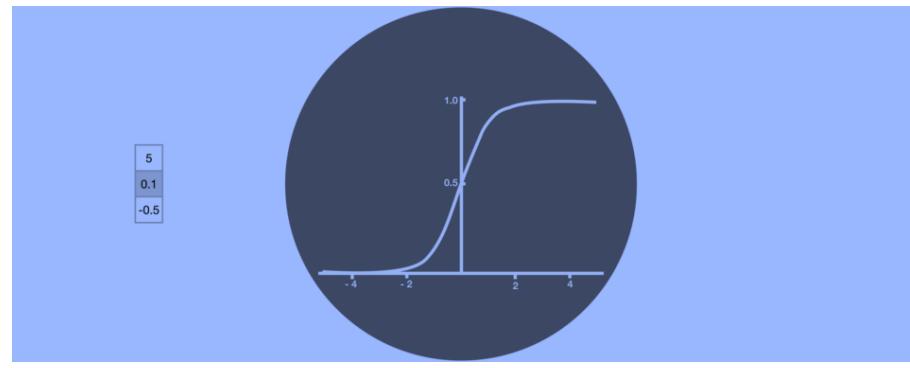
Problems encountered in data-scarce areas typical of developing countries.



# 1.3 Interpreting the “Black Box ” Model accuracy or knowledge-based hydrological modeling?



*“In hydrology, however, hydrologists are not only interested in obtaining good predictions, but also in explaining the physical drivers of streamflow”*  
Gauch & Lin (2020)



Gauch, M., & Lin, J. (2020). A Data Scientist’s Guide to Streamflow Prediction. <http://arxiv.org/abs/2006.12975>



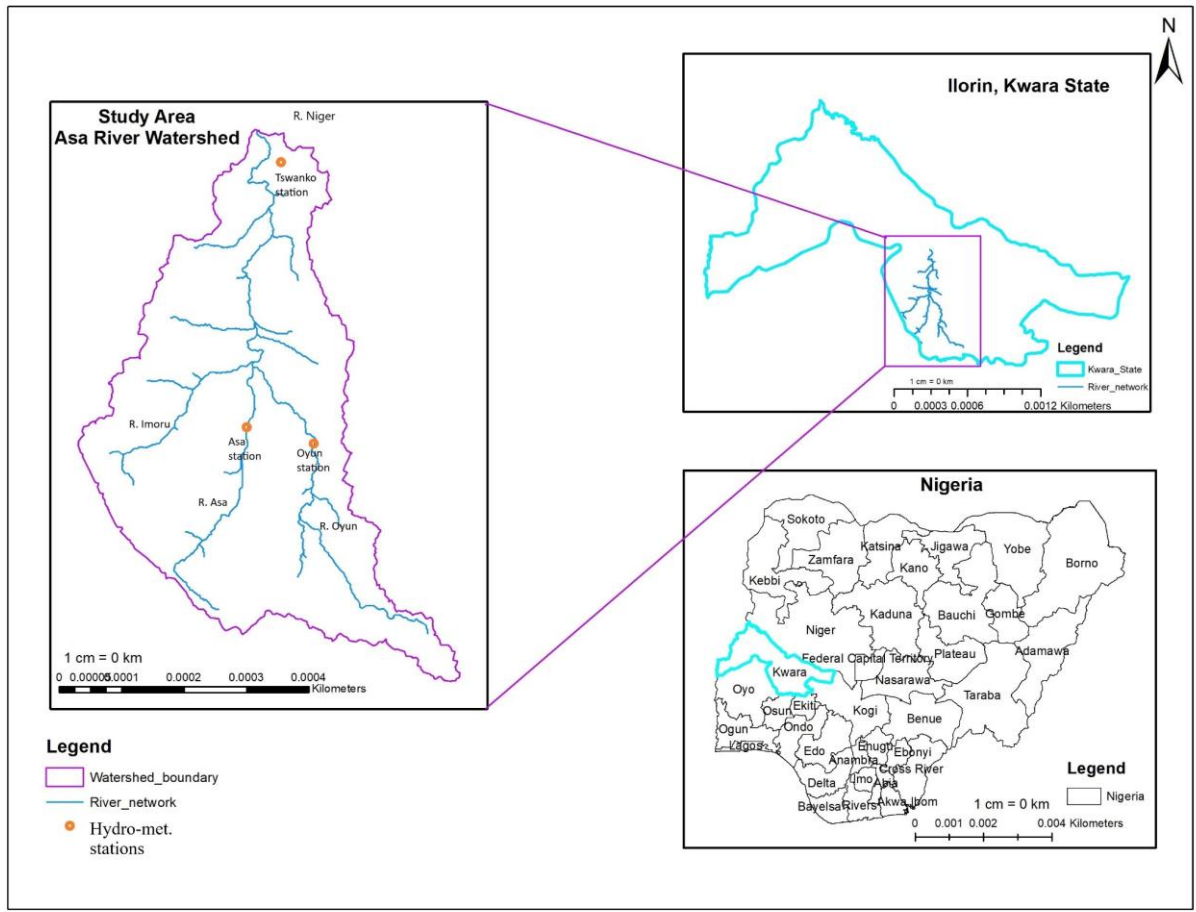


# 2. Methodology





# 2.1 Study Area



## Asa River

- Location:
  - Ilorin West LGA, Kwara State, Nigeria
  - Lat. 8° 28' 40.90 N; Long. 4° 34' 6.60 E
  - 4 km South of Ilorin township
  - Main tributary of River Niger at River Awon estuary
- Total catchment area: 1037 km<sup>2</sup>  
56 km long; maximum width = 100 m  
(Ibrahim *et al.*, 2013)
- Significant source of water for agricultural, environmental and economic purposes to locals
- Tributaries: Rivers Agba, Aluko, Odota, Osere, Montile and Atikeke (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2013).

Fig. 2: Asa River Watershed

Ibrahim, K. O., Okunlola, I. A. and Abdurrahman, A. (2013). Trace metal indices in the characterization of hydrogeochemical condition of surface water along Asa River, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Geology, Earth and Environmental Sciences*. Vol. 3(1):29-35.

## 2.2 The Problem (*when it rains, it pours*)



Fig. 3: Rainfall-induced Asa river flood  
Source: Saharareporters

- Recurrent perennial river flooding
- Dredging needs, as a result of excessive sediment yield from tributaries
- Residential buildings on floodplains
- Poor maintenance of waterbodies

### 2.2.1 Aim

- To predict water level elevations of Asa river using Long Short Term Memory and Gated Recurrent Network models with data augmentation

# 2.3 Methodology

**Datasets (6940)**  
Streamflow, rainfall and water level data from three stations

**Data augmentation through upsampling**

**Data splitting: Train (80%); Validation (20% of train); and Test (20%)**

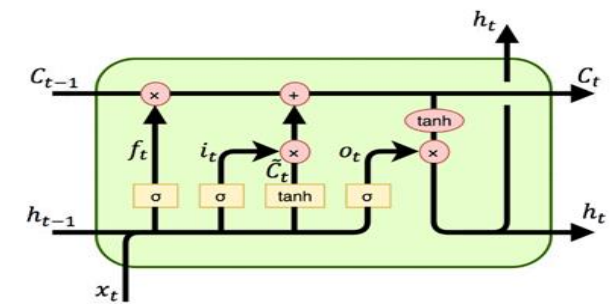
**LSTM and GRU modeling**

- 1 hidden layer (20 neurons), 2 hidden layers (20 neurons)
- 3 hidden layers (20 neurons)
- 4 hidden layers (20 neurons)

**Metrics evaluation and forecasting**

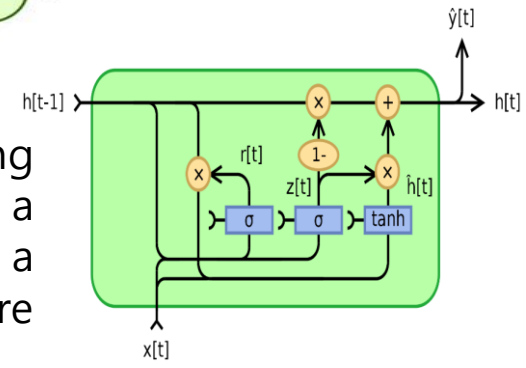
## LSTM:

- A type of Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) which learns long term dependencies from time series data using gates and cell state (Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997)



## GRU:

- RNN that uses a gating mechanism with a forget gate and has a simpler architecture (Cho et al., 2014)



Hochreiter, S., and Schmidhuber, J. (1997). "Long memory". *Neural Computation*. 9(8), 1735-1780

Cho, Kyunghyun; van Merriënboer, Bart; Gulcehre short-term, Caglar; Bahdanau, Dzmitry; Bougares, Fethi; Schwenk, Holger; Bengio, Yoshua (2014). "[Learning Phrase Representations using RNN Encoder-Decoder for Statistical Machine Translation](#)". [arXiv:1406.1078](#)

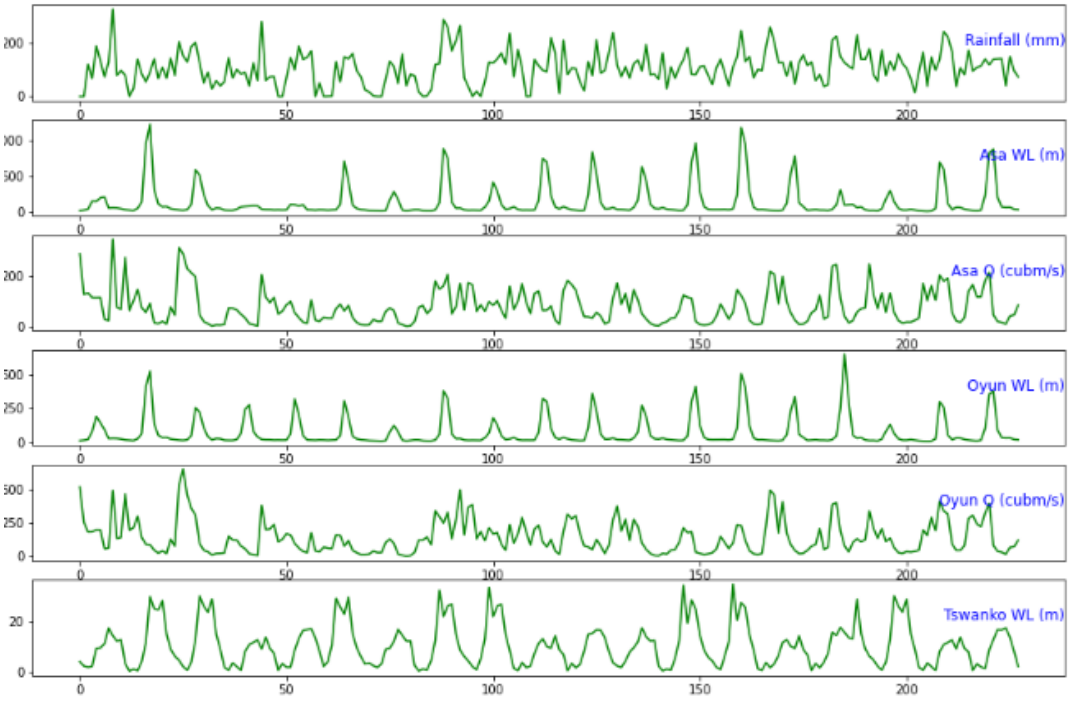


# 3. Results and Discussion

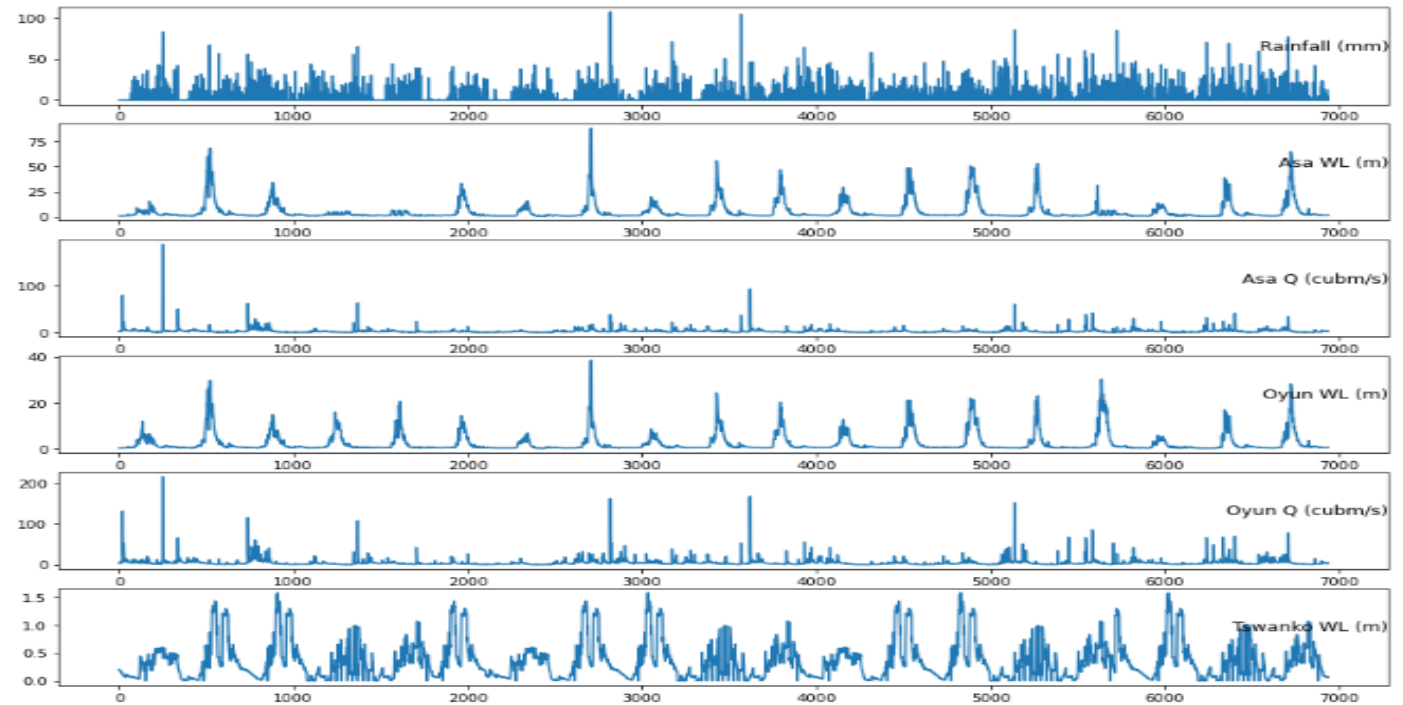


# 3.1 DATA UPSAMPLING RESULTS

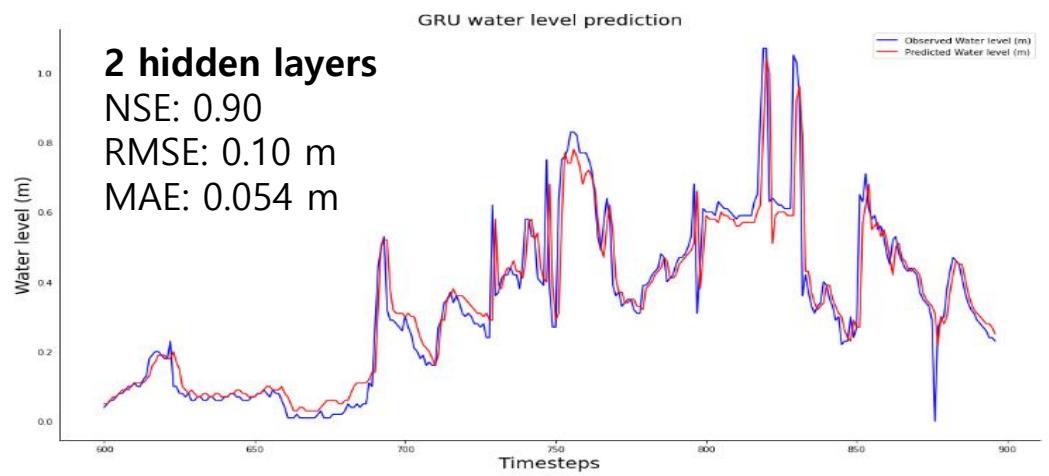
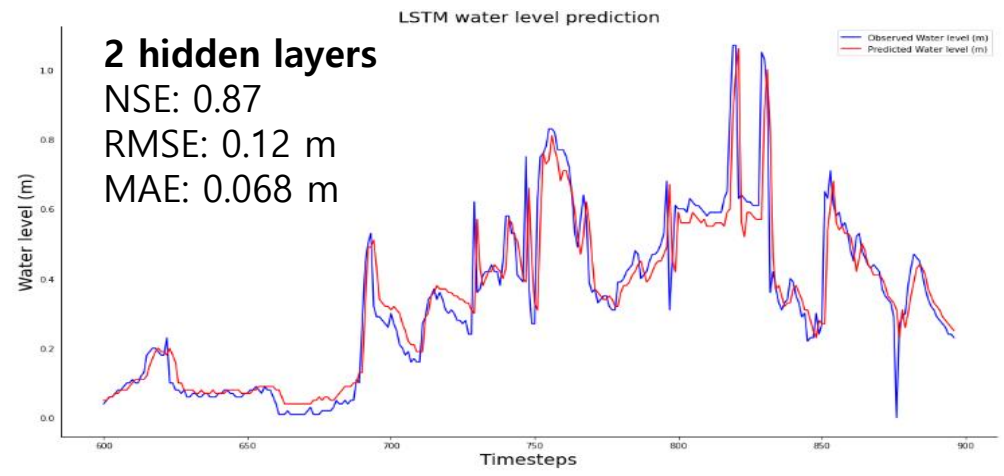
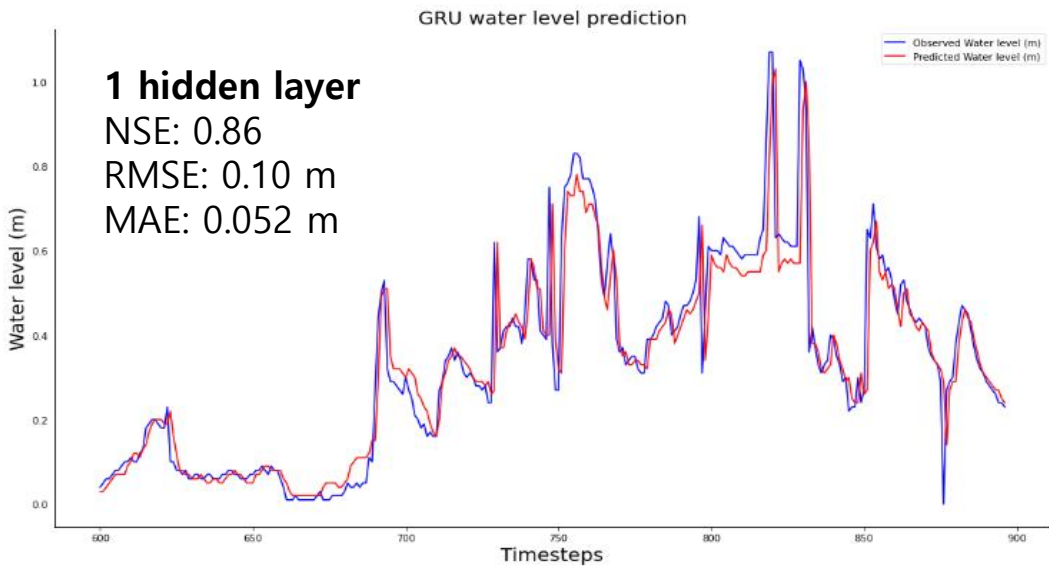
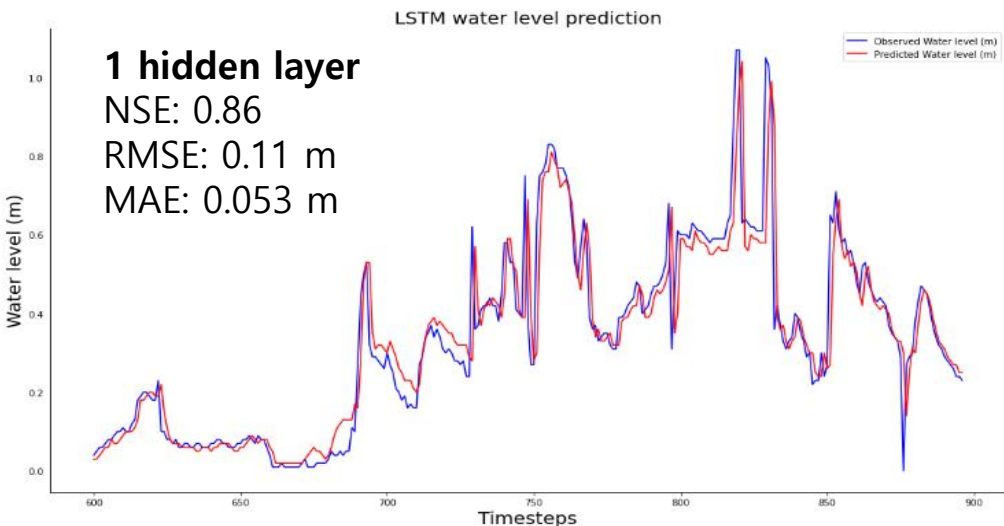
Monthly data



Daily data

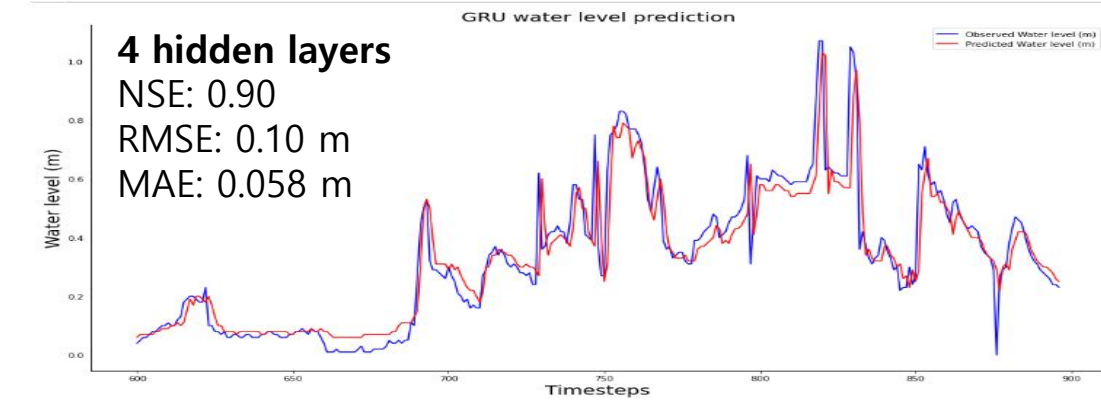
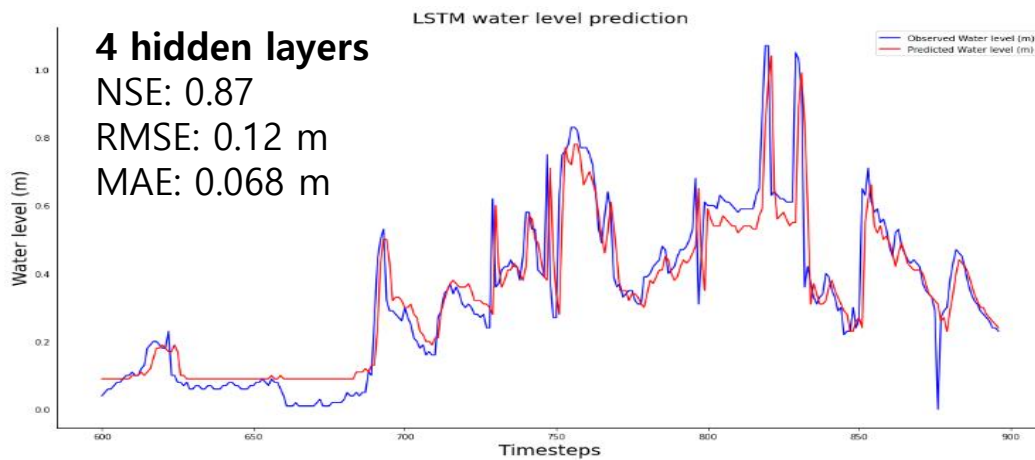
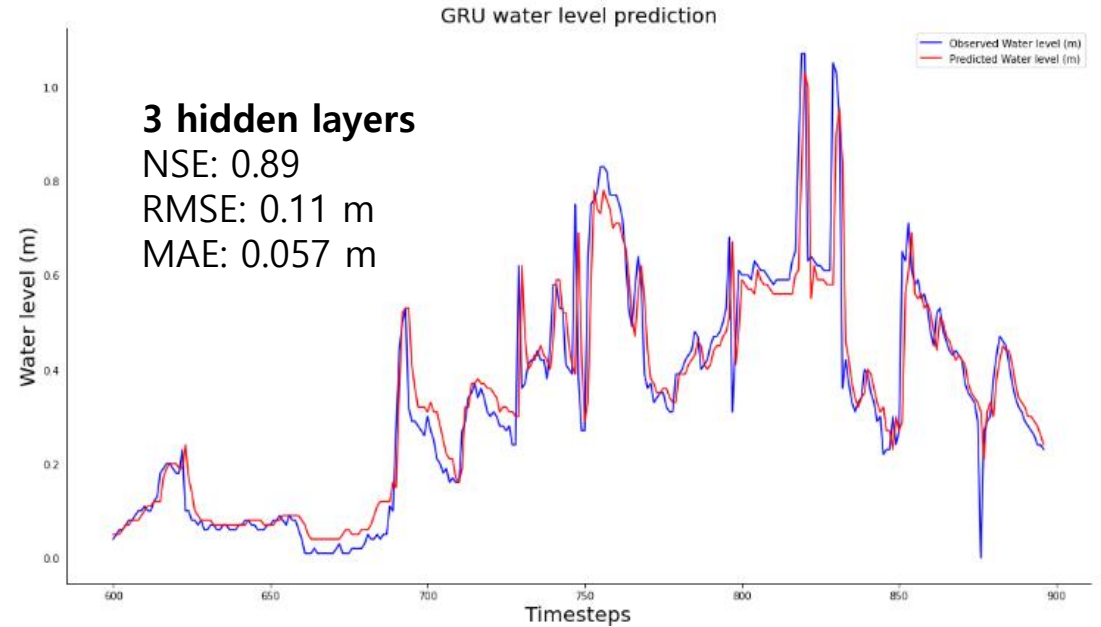
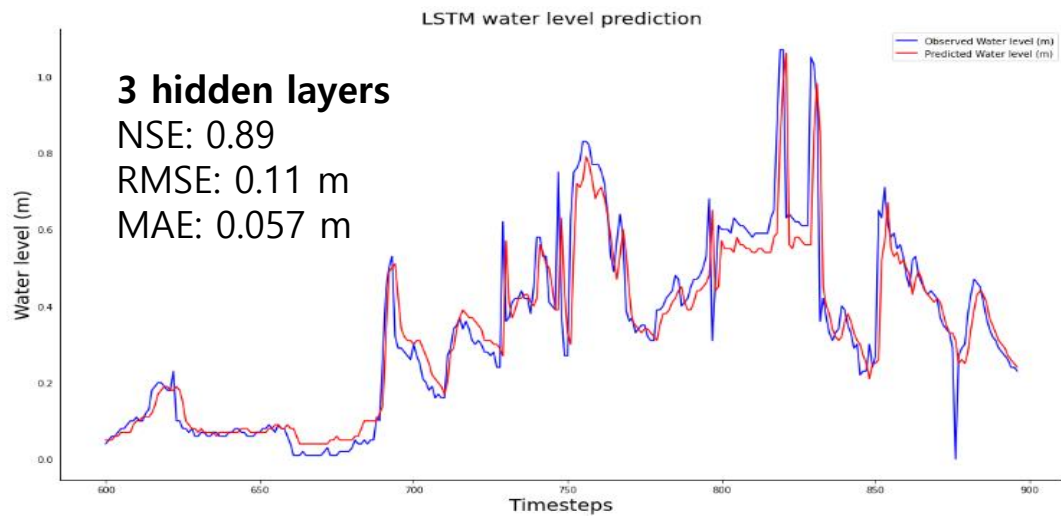


# 3.2 LSTM and GRU Test Prediction





# 3.3 LSTM and GRU Test Prediction

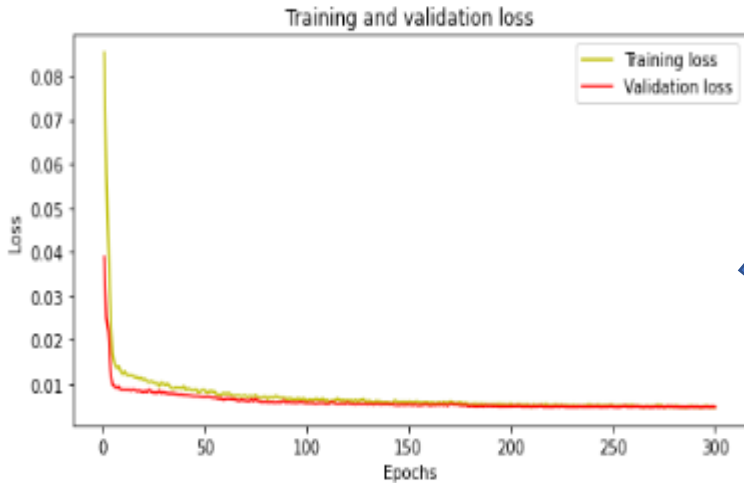
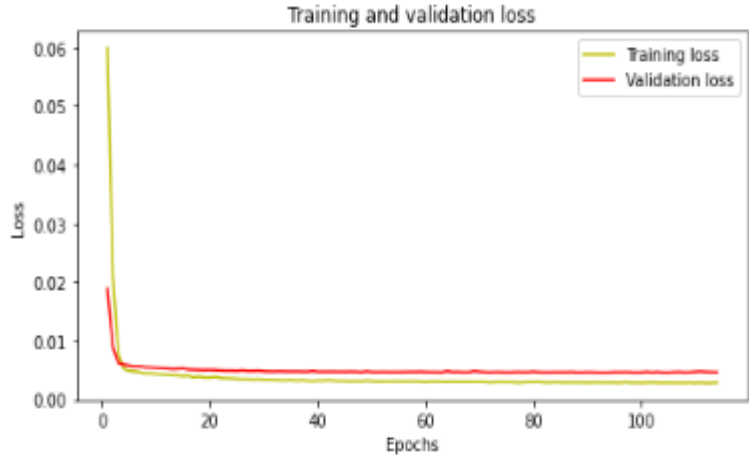


# 3.4 Computational Cost Analysis

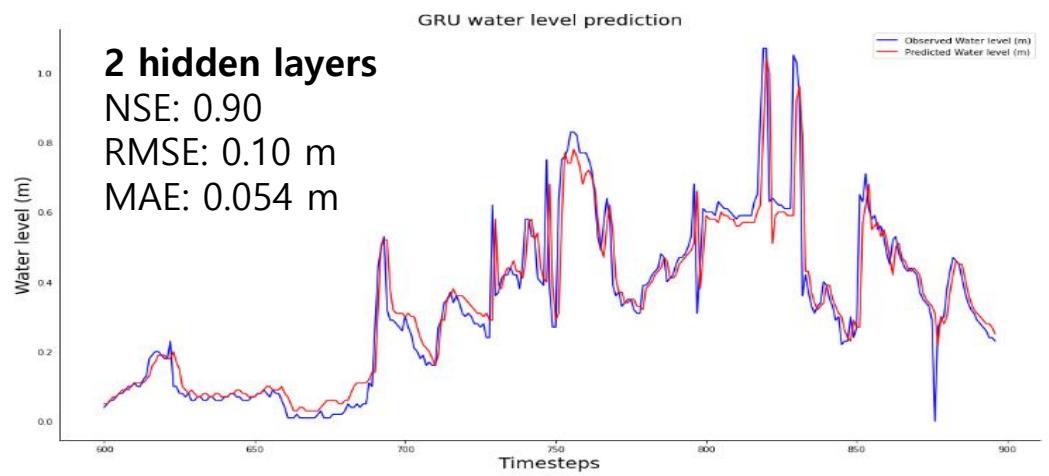
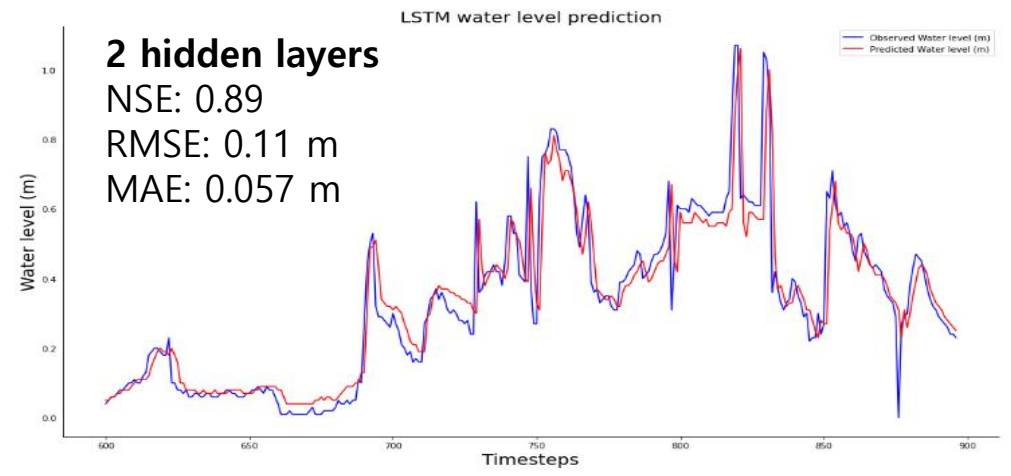
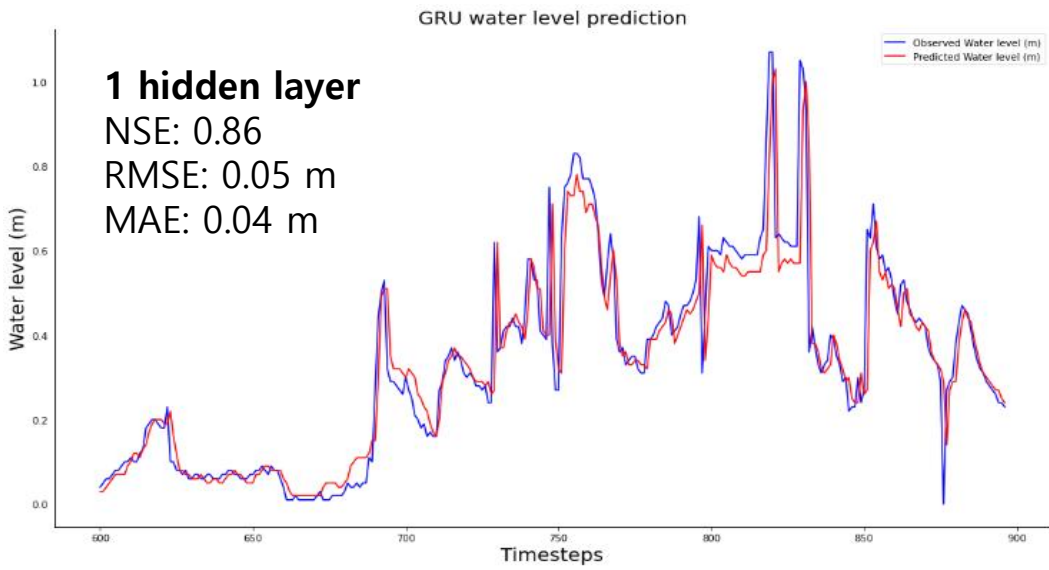
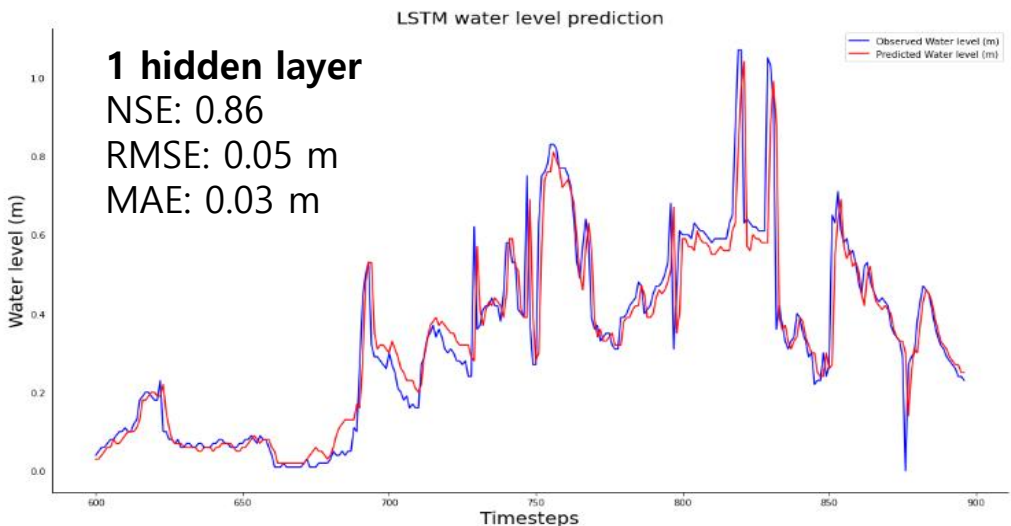
HIDDEN LAYERS	LSTM CC (s)	GRU CC (s)	LSTM Epochs	GRU Epochs
1	25.72	22.58	104	114
2	151.22	115.51	300	162
3	187.55	147.91	300	247
4	196.94	211.30	295	300
<b>Total</b>	561.43 s	497.30	999	823

CC: Computational Cost  
 PC specifications:  
 Intel (R) Core™ i7 dual core 3.80 GHz, 3.79 GHz processor, 64 GB RAM

# Model Loss Evolution

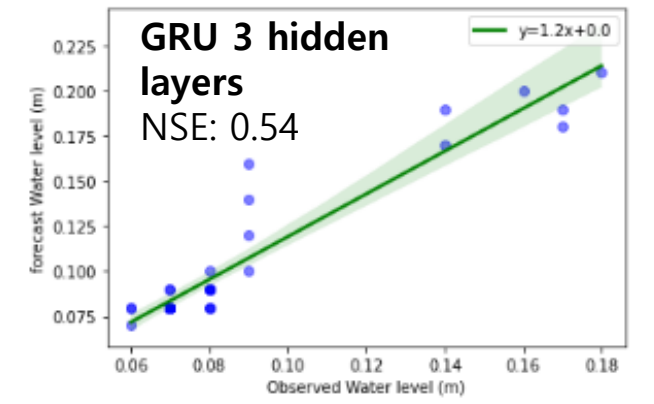
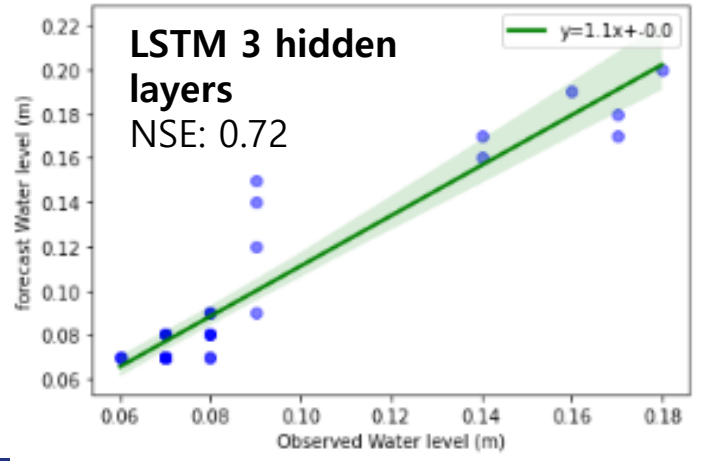
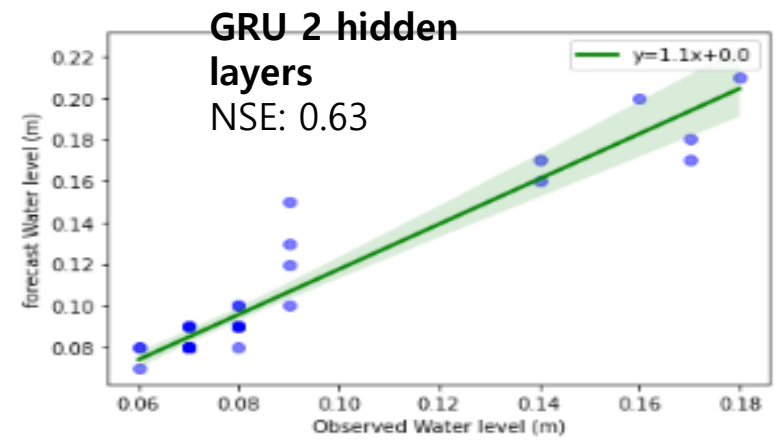
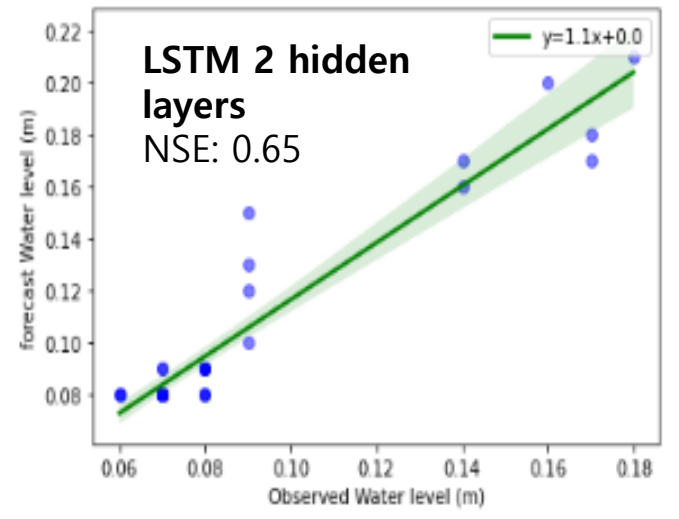
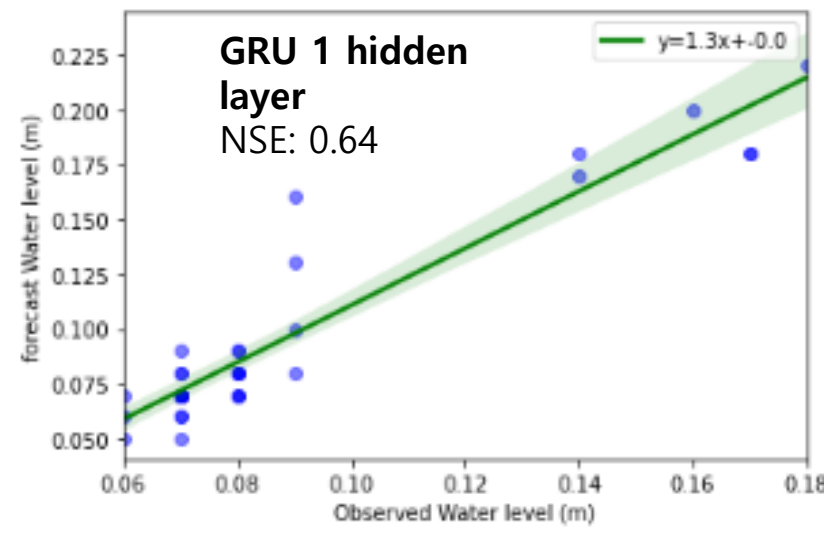
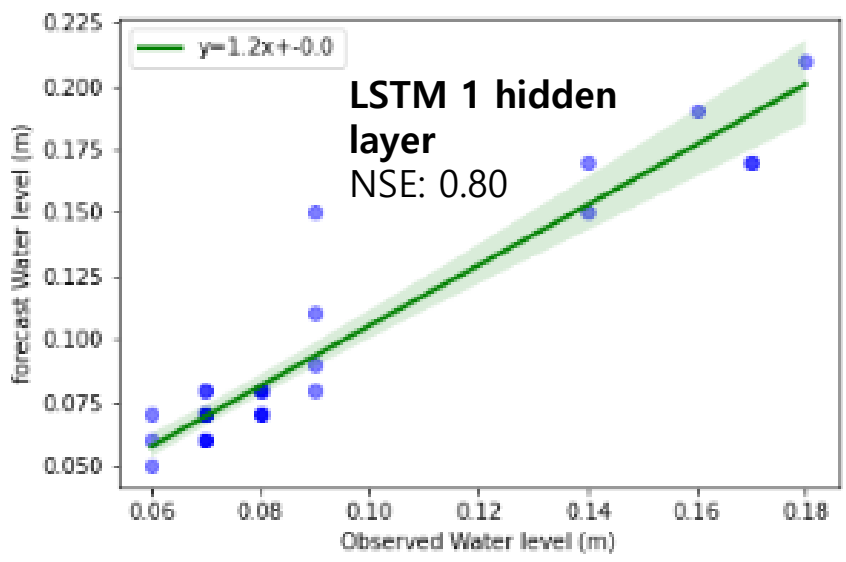


# 3.5 LSTM and GRU Test Prediction

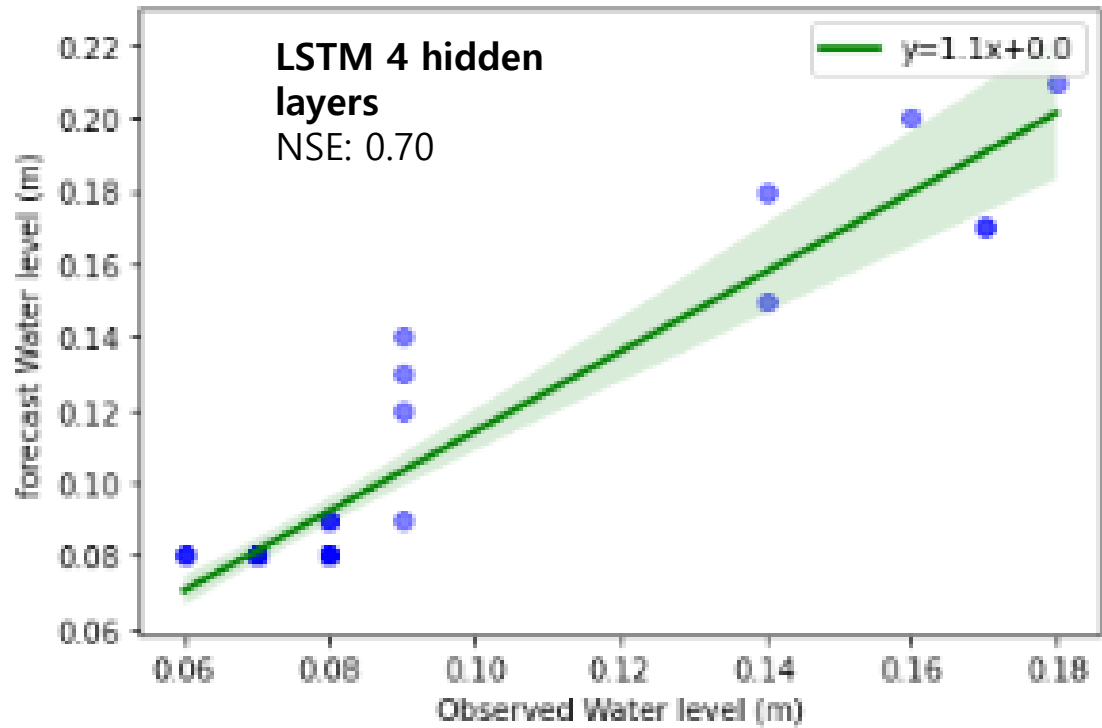
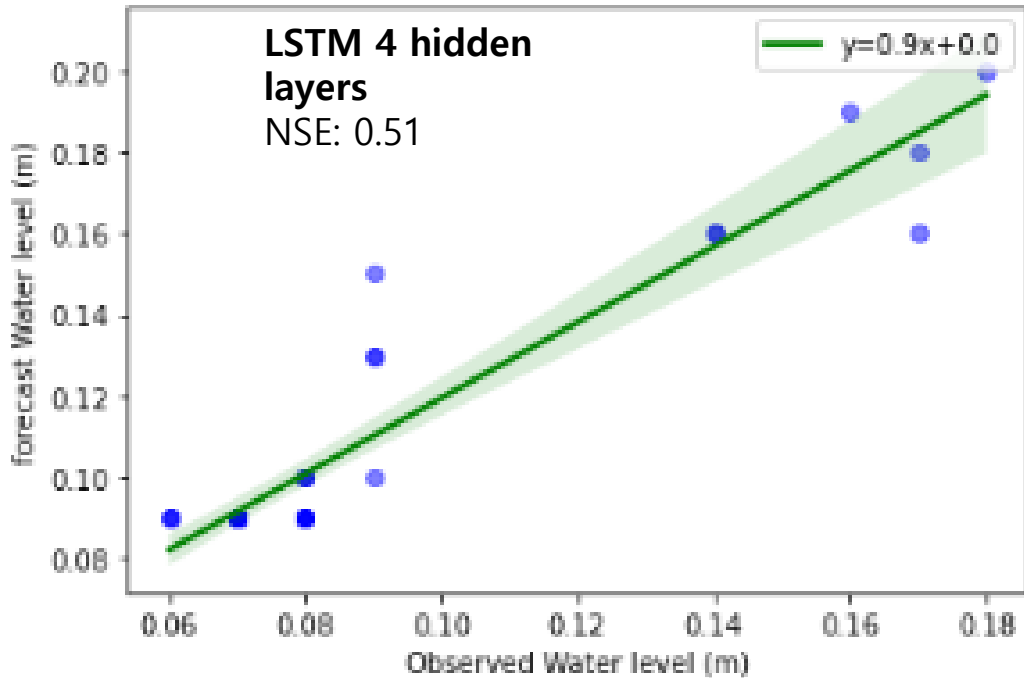




# 3.6 LSTM and GRU Water Level Forecast for the Next 30 Days



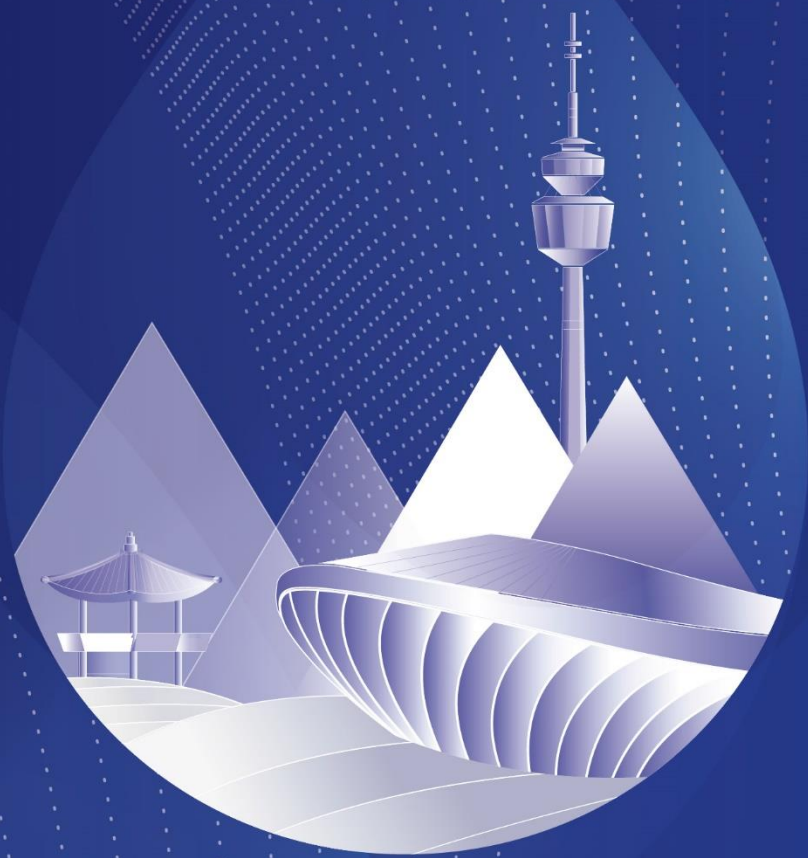
# 3.6 LSTM and GRU Water Level Forecast for the Next 30 Days



## 4 Conclusion

- LSTM and GRU models predicted water level optimally using a hidden layer with 20 neurons.
- Results of model forecast show that LSTM model with a single hidden layer and an NSE of 0.80 forecasts water level of Asa river optimally than other deep models.
- Model accuracy reduced with processing time but is still sufficient to quantify water level elevation adequately
- If the goal is to reduce computational cost, GRU models with one hidden neuron may be adopted for the study area.
- If the goal is to achieve better accuracy metrics, LSTM models may be selected
- Developing countries experiencing inadequate data can augment data and employ domain knowledge to implement artificial intelligence.
- Data assimilation and model regionalization can be used in ungauged watersheds rampant in developing countries.





**Thank you for  
listening**