

# Advances in Machine Learning for Earth Observation

**Gustau Camps-Valls**  
Image Processing Lab (IPL)  
Universitat de València



<http://isp.uv.es>



[@isp\\_uv\\_es](https://twitter.com/isp_uv_es)



[gustau.camps@uv.es](mailto:gustau.camps@uv.es)

# Earth observation

---

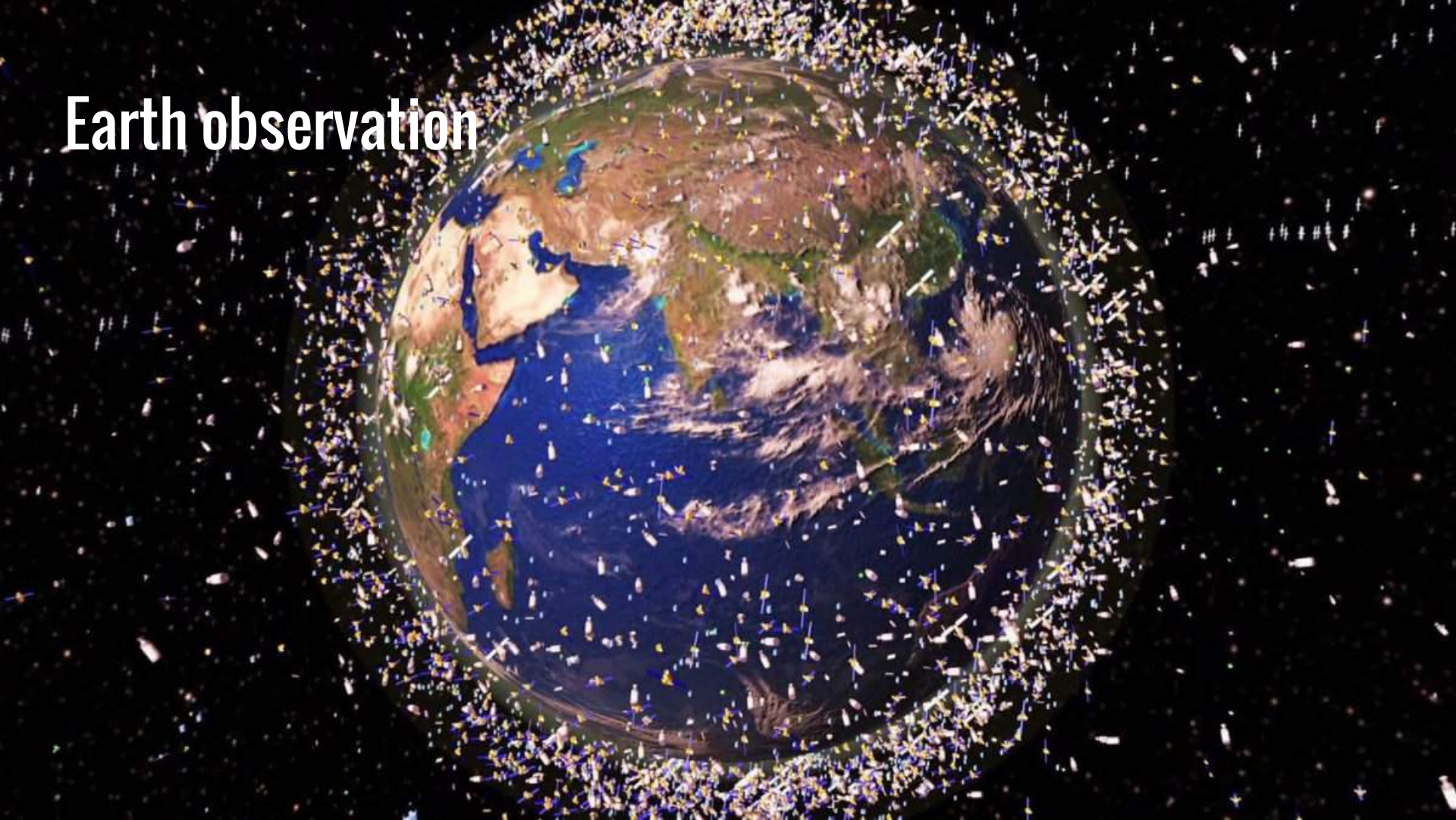


# Earth observation

— — —

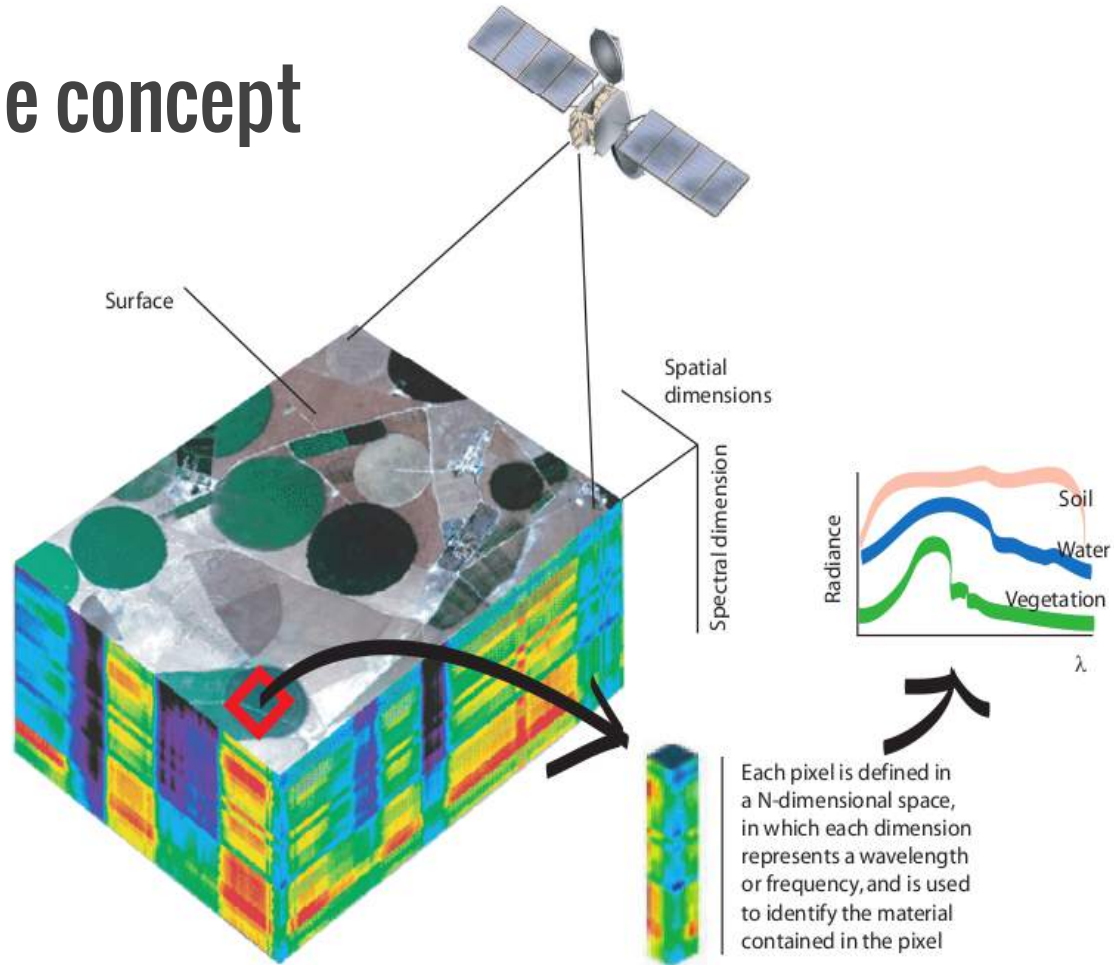
**“Earth observation (EO) is the gathering of information about planet Earth’s physical, chemical and biological systems via remote sensing technologies supplemented by earth surveying techniques, encompassing the collection, analysis and presentation of data”**

# Earth observation



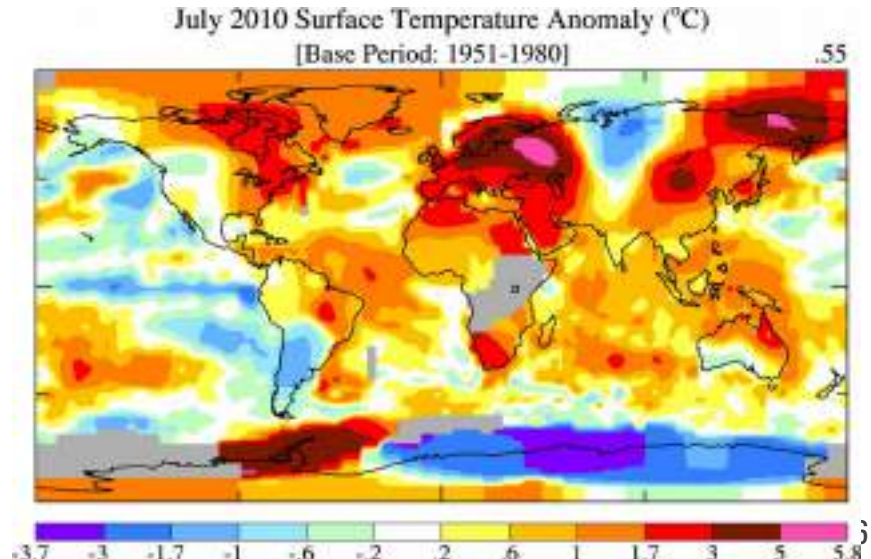
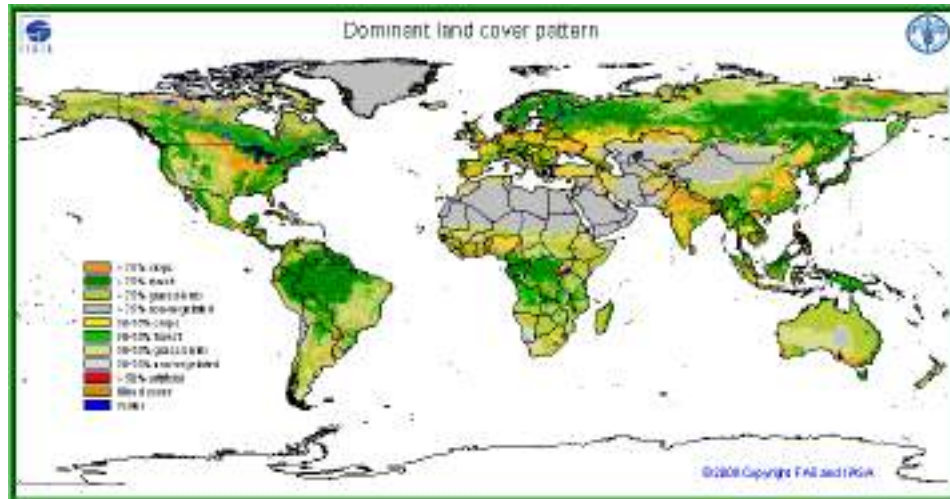


# The hypercube concept



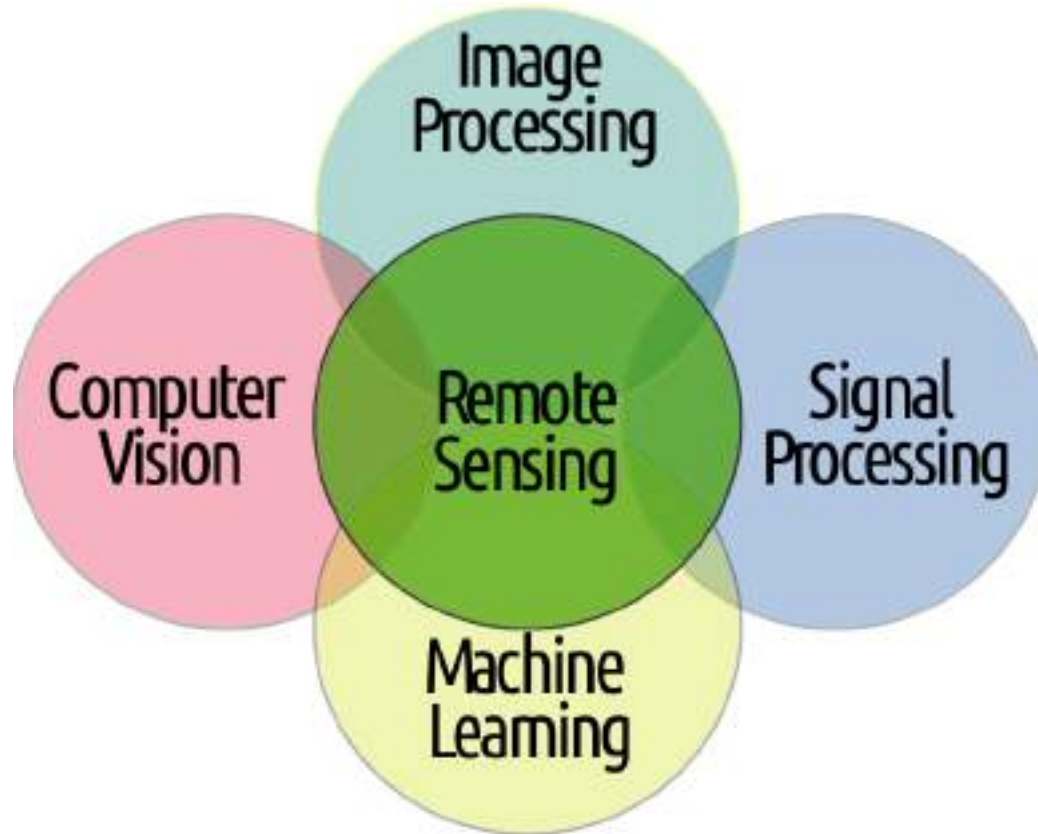
\_\_\_\_\_

- Estimate the content of bio-geo-physical and bio-chemical parameters



# Earth observation and friends

---



# Earth observation meets machine learning

— — —



# Machine learning

— — —

$$F(X) = y$$

- **X: observations, independent covariates**
- **Y: target, dependent variable**
- **F: machine learning model (nonlinear, nonparametric, flexible, learned from data)**



# AI promises to transform scientific discovery ...

— — —



## How AI is transforming science

Researchers are unleashing artificial intelligence (AI) on torrents of big data

*"Unlike earlier attempts ... [AI systems] can see patterns and spot anomalies in data sets far larger and messier than human beings can cope with."*

July 7 2017 Issue



# ... yet only when some things happen!

— — —

- Strong spatial and temporal correlations
- Big data accessible
- Cheap computing resources available
- Fast scalable ML models available
- No expert knowledge needed
- High prediction accuracy is enough

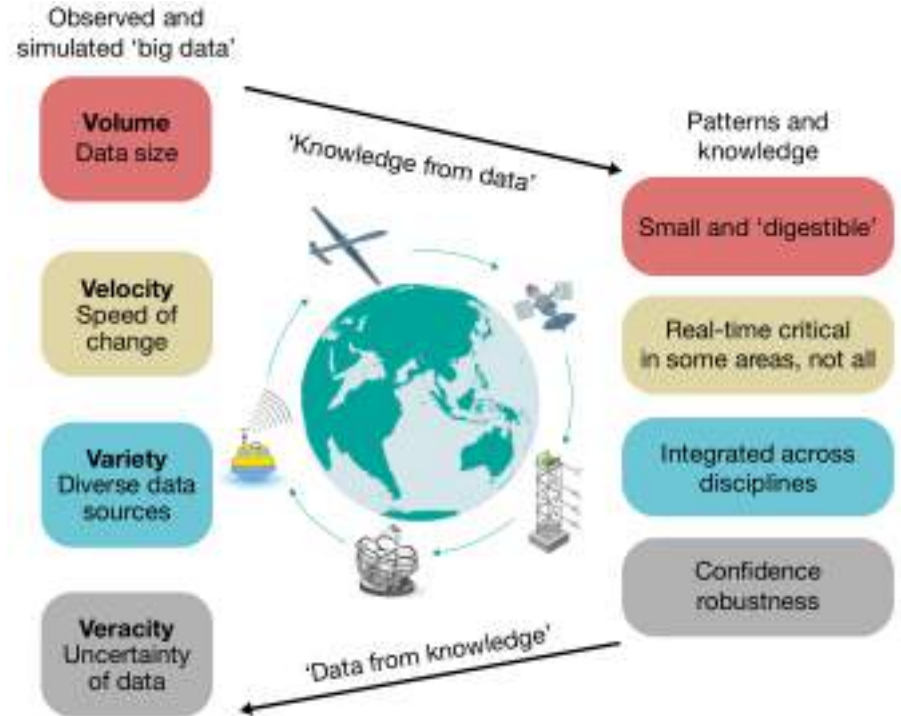
# Challenges in Earth system science

---



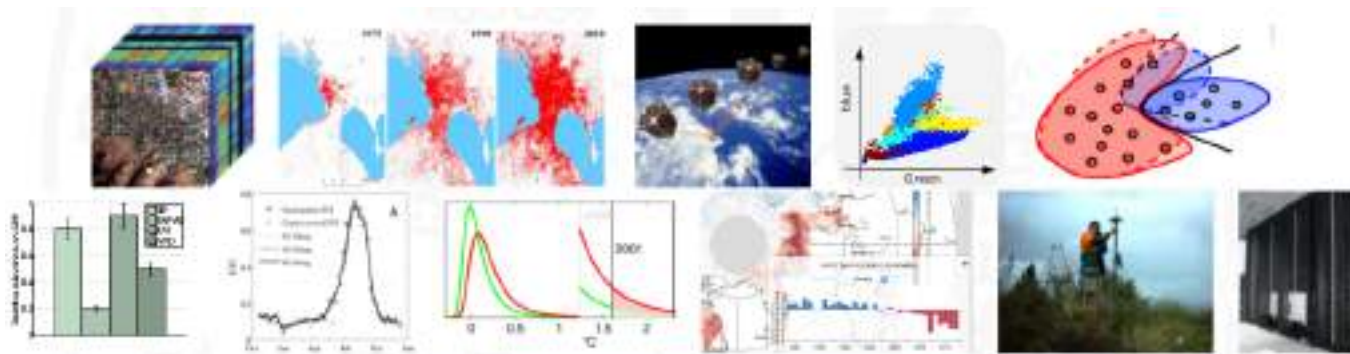
# Big data challenges

1. Data size now exceeds 100 petabytes, and is growing quasi-exponentially
2. The speed of change exceeds 5 petabytes a year, and acquisition frequencies of 10 Hz or more;
3. Reprocessing and versioning are common challenges
4. Data sources can be multi-dimensional, spatially integrated, from the organ level (such as leaves) to the global level
5. Earth has diverse observational systems, from remote sensing to in situ observations
6. The uncertainty of data can stem from observational errors or conceptual inconsistencies



# Statistical challenges

1. High dimensional data: multi-temporal, multi-angular and multi-source
2. Non-linear and non-Gaussian feature relations
3. Data misalignments and distortions
4. Irrelevant features and biased sampling strategies
5. Uneven sampling, skewed distributions and anomalies in the wild
6. Few supervised information is available





# Philosophical challenges

- **Consistency issue:** ML models do not respect Physics
- **Learning issue:** ML are excellent approximators, yet no fundamental laws are learned
- **Interpretability issue:** Big data is good to estimate correlations, what about causations?



The New York Times

Opinion

OP-ED CONTRIBUTORS

## Eight (No, Nine!) Problems With Big Data

By Gary Marcus and Ernest Davis



NATURE | NEWS FEATURE

### Can we open the black box of AI?

Artificial intelligence is everywhere. But before scientists trust it, they first need to understand how machines learn.

Davide Castelvecchi

# Outline

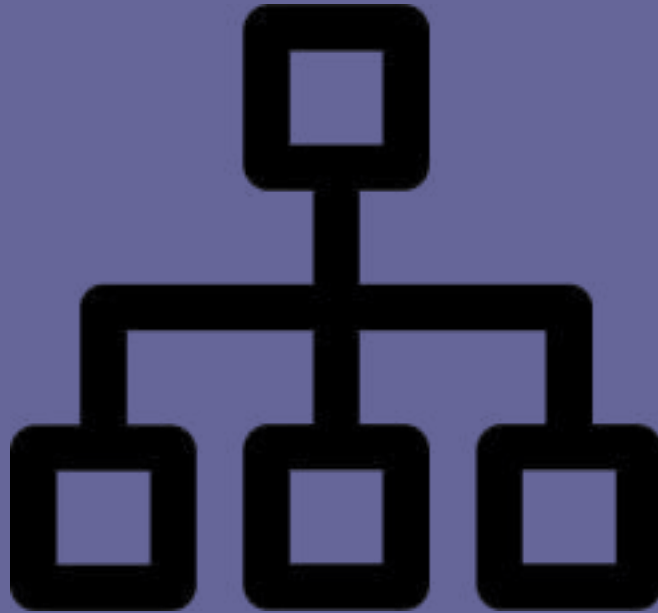
---

1. Advances in spatio-temporal data processing
  - Classification
  - Regression
  - Dimensionality reduction
2. Big data in the Google cloud
3. ML models should be consistent with Physics
4. Understanding is more important than predicting



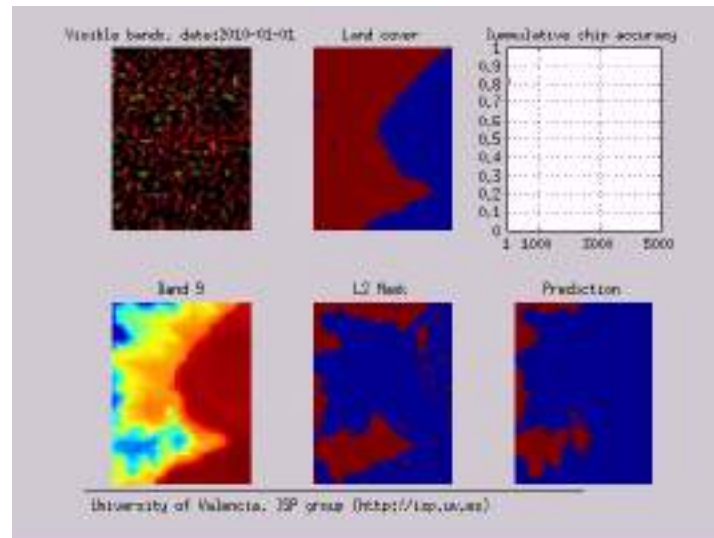
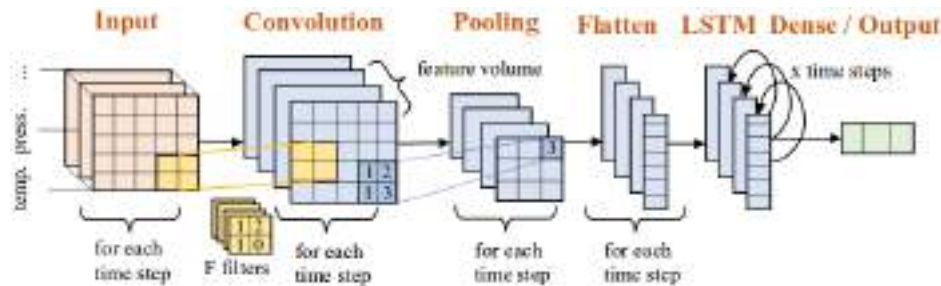
# Spatio-temporal data classification

— — —



# Neural networks for spatio-temporal classification

- Convolutional neural nets (CNN): hierarchical structure exploits spatial relations
- Long short-term memory (LSTM): recurrent network that accounts for memory/dynamics

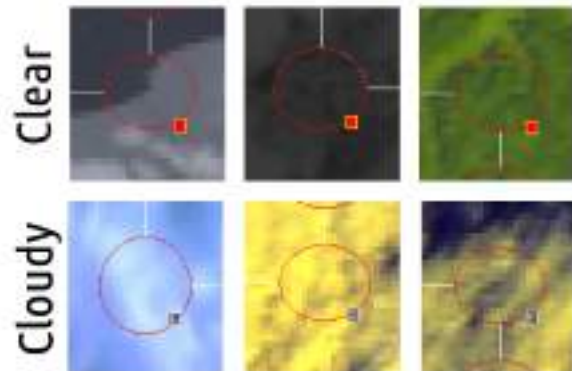
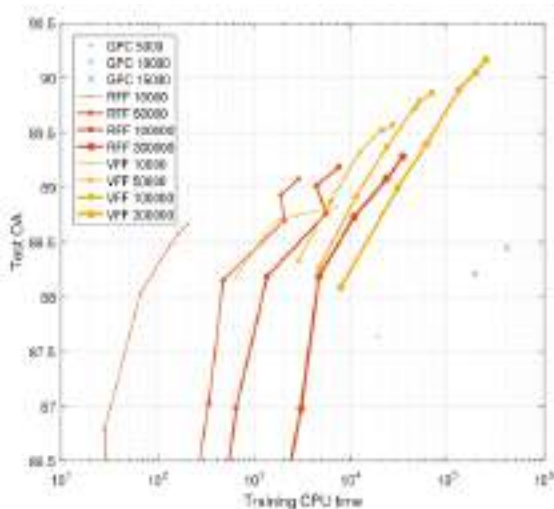


“A Deep Network Approach to Multitemporal Cloud Detection”

Tuia and Camps-Valls, IEEE IGARSS 2018, <http://isp.uv.es/code/landmarks.html>

# Probabilistic and scalable classifiers

- Gaussian processes as an alternative to neural nets
- GPs allow a probabilistic treatment, confidence intervals, feature ranking, deep too!
- Gaussian processes start to be scalable ...

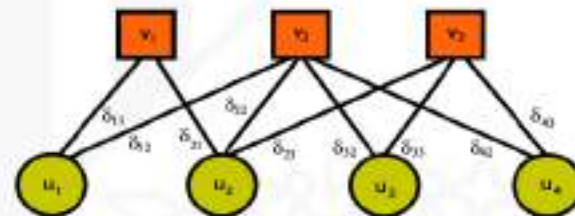


**“Remote Sensing Image Classification With Large-Scale Variational Gaussian Processes,”**  
Morales, Molina and Camps-Valls, IEEE Trans. Geosc. Rem. Sens, 2018



# Multitask learning

- Multiple inter-related outputs? Data from multiple sources?
- Learn to fuse heterogeneous information



**“Multitask Remote Sensing Data Classification”**

Leiva and Camps-Valls, IEEE Trans. Geosc. Rem. Sens 2015

# Anomalous change detection

- Pervasive and anomaly changes in the wild

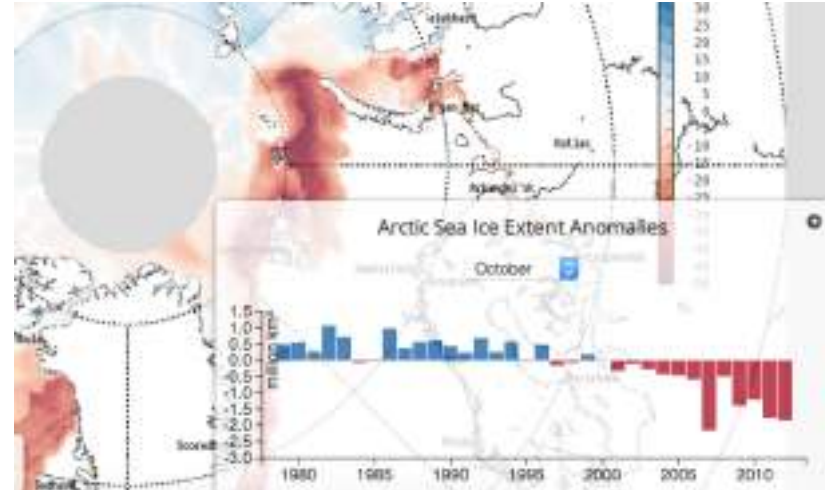
May13, 14.0°



Aug13, 43.6°



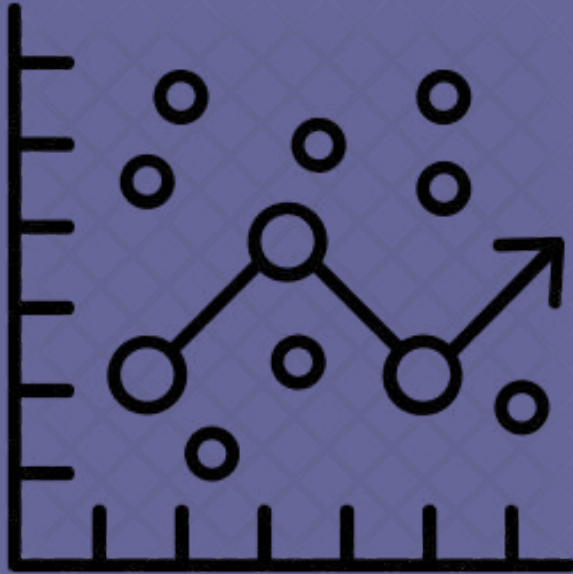
Nov13, 29.3°



“A family of kernel anomaly change detectors” Longbotham and Camps-Valls, IEEE Whispers 2010.

# Regression, fitting, parameter retrieval

---



# Some machine learning applications

— — —

## One soil map

<https://map.onesoil.ai>



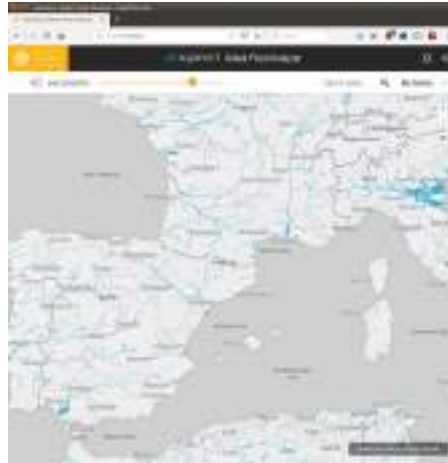
## Global wealth map

<http://penny.digitalglobe.com>



## Flood analyzer

<http://floods.wri.org>



## Disease mapping

<https://www.healthmap.org>



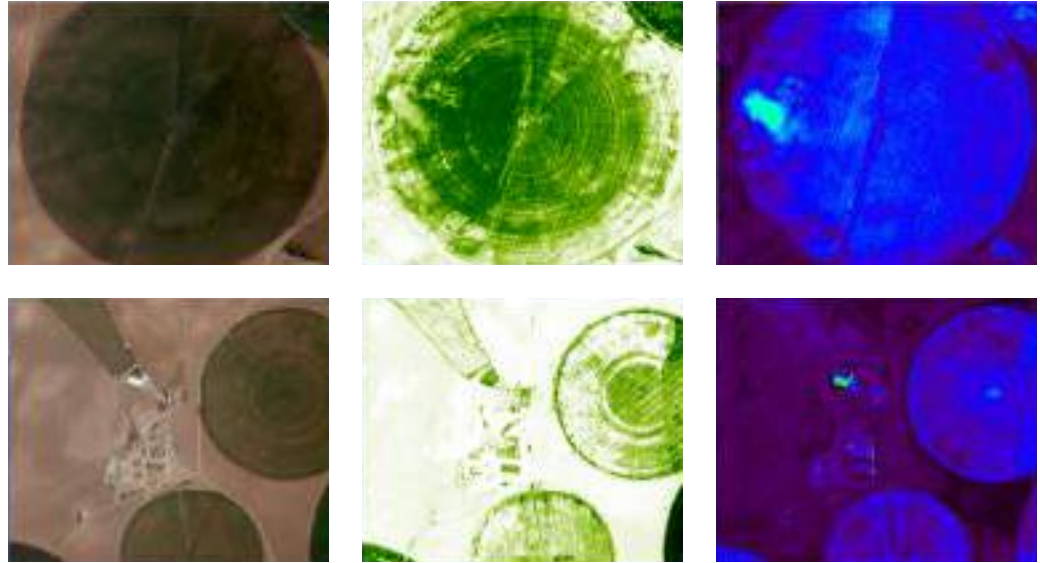
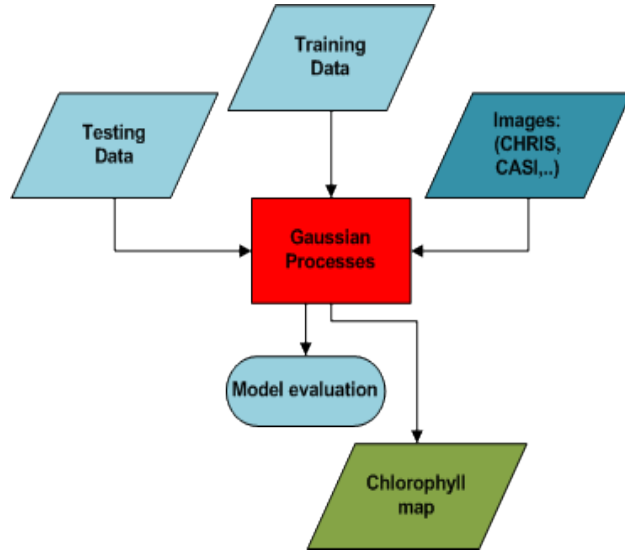






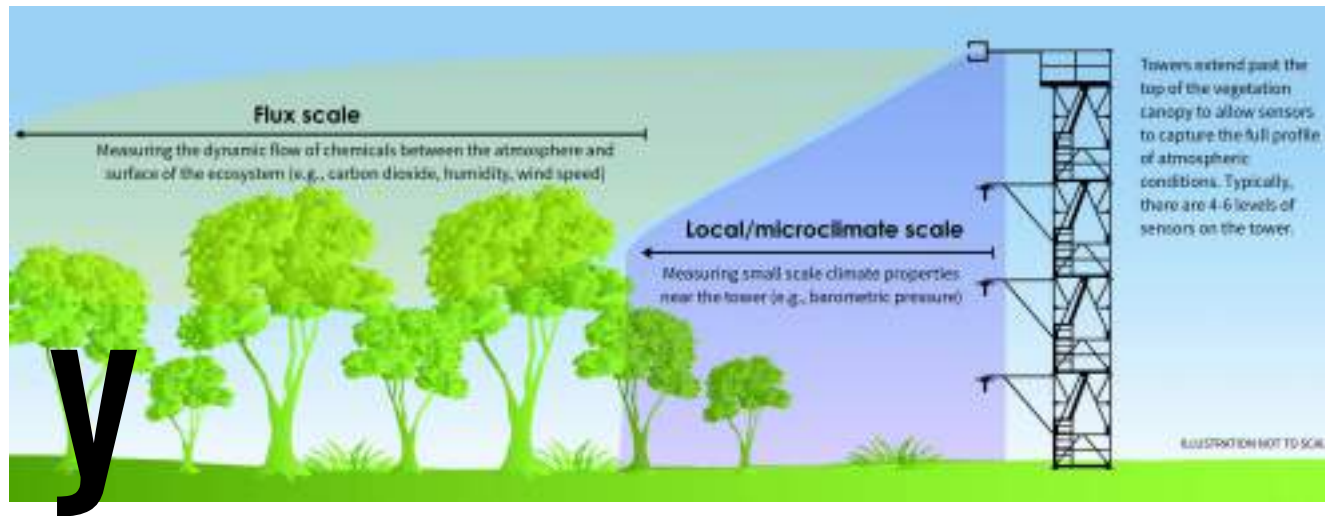
# Spatializing vegetation parameters from space

- Vegetation parameters from remote sensing data: chlorophyll content, LAI, vegetation cover



# Upscaling flux data from space

- Sensors allow estimating turbulent exchange of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), latent and sensible heat, CO<sub>2</sub> storage, net ecosystem exchange, energy balance, ...



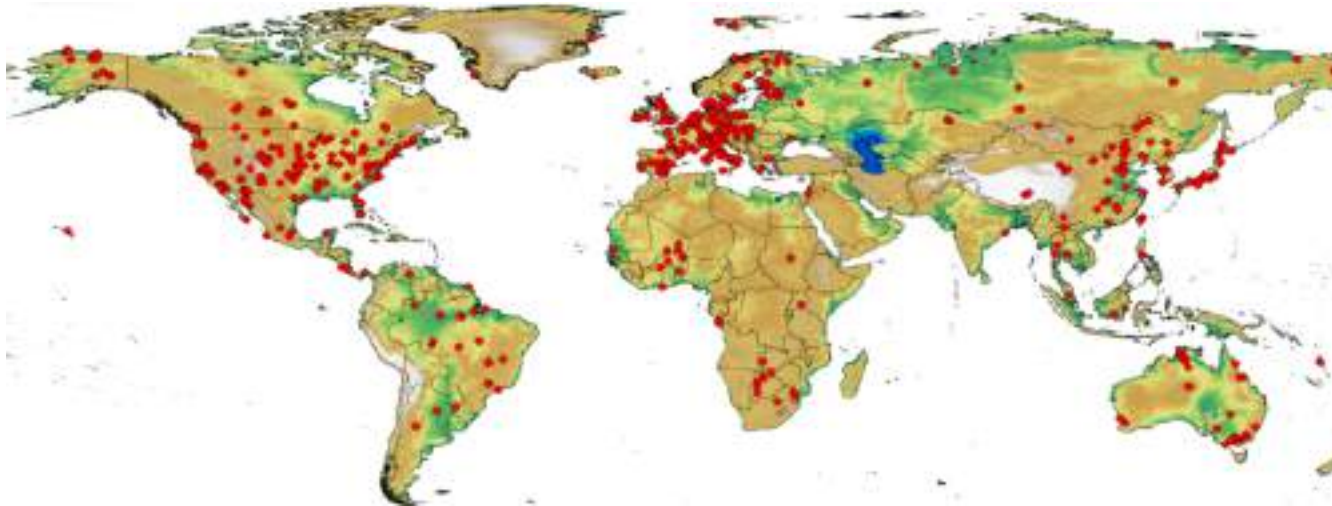
- Gross primary productivity
- Terrestrial ecosystem respiration
- Net ecosystem exchange

“Compensatory water effects link yearly global land CO<sub>2</sub> sink changes to temperature”

Jung, Reichstein, Schwalm, Camps-Valls, et al. Nature 541 (7638) :516-520, 2017

# Upscaling flux data from space

- FLUXNET: a sensor network of eddy covariances
- Upscaling CO<sub>2</sub>, energy and heat fluxes



**“Compensatory water effects link yearly global land CO<sub>2</sub> sink changes to temperature”**

Jung, Reichstein, Schwalm, Camps-Valls, et al. Nature 541 (7638) :516-520, 2017

# Upscaling flux data from space

- Upscaling CO<sub>2</sub>, energy and heat fluxes from eddy covariances



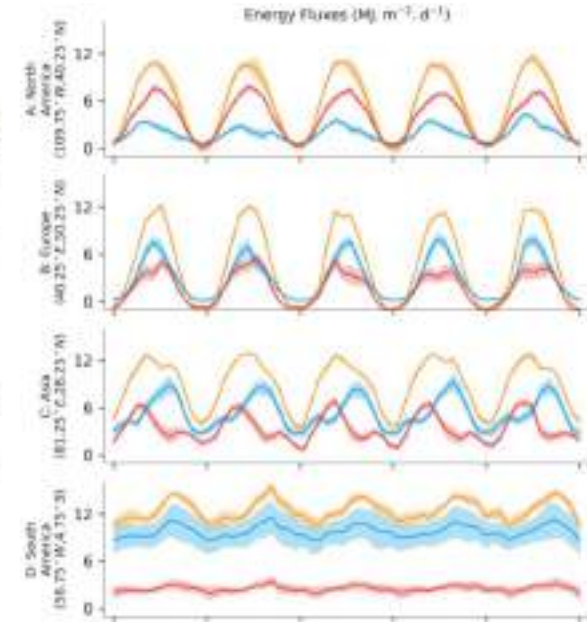
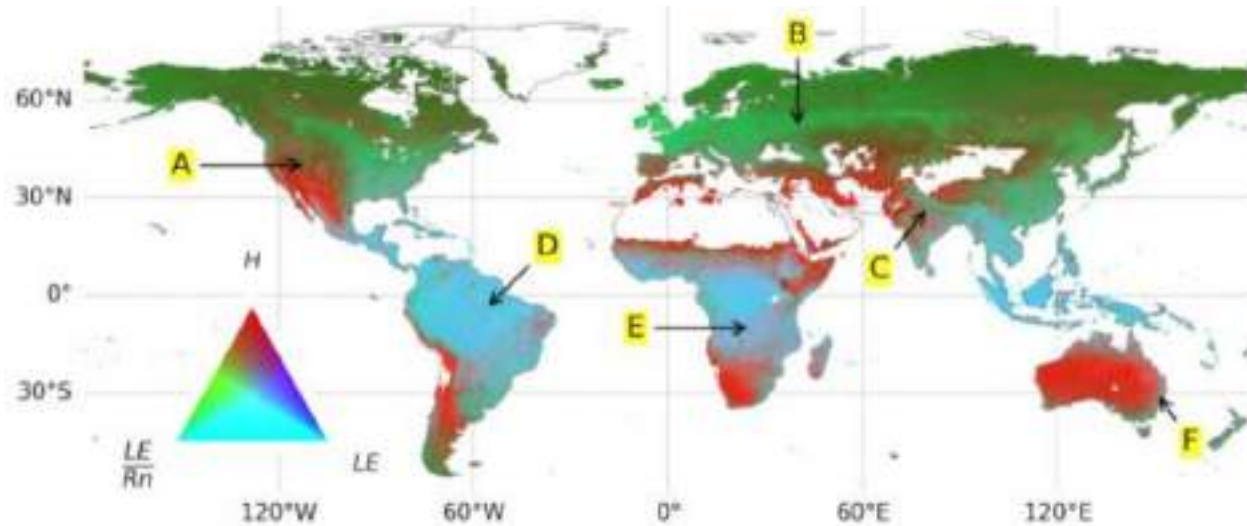
- LAI
- EVI
- NDVI
- LST-Night
- MSC-Day
- LST-Day
- NDWI

**“Compensatory water effects link yearly global land CO<sub>2</sub> sink changes to temperature”**

Jung, Reichstein, Schwalm, Camps-Valls, et al. Nature 541 (7638) :516-520, 2017

# Upscaling flux data from space

- Upscaling CO<sub>2</sub>, energy and heat fluxes from eddy covariances



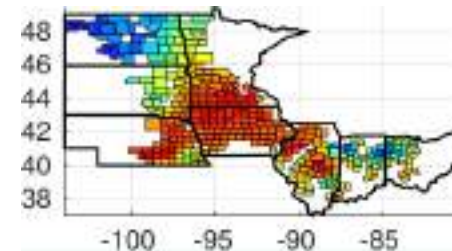
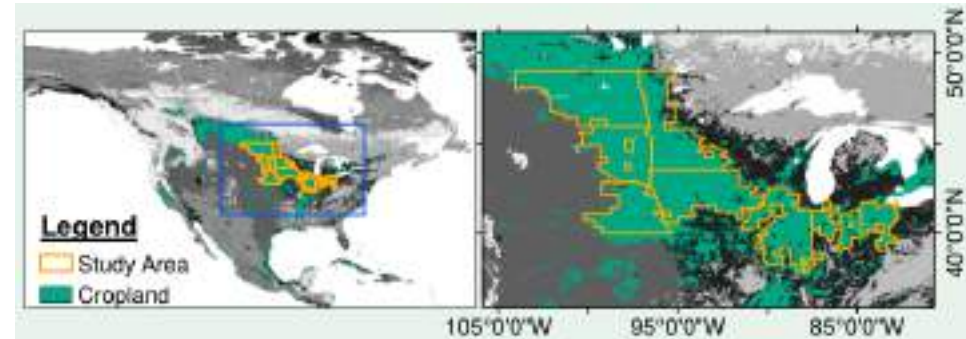
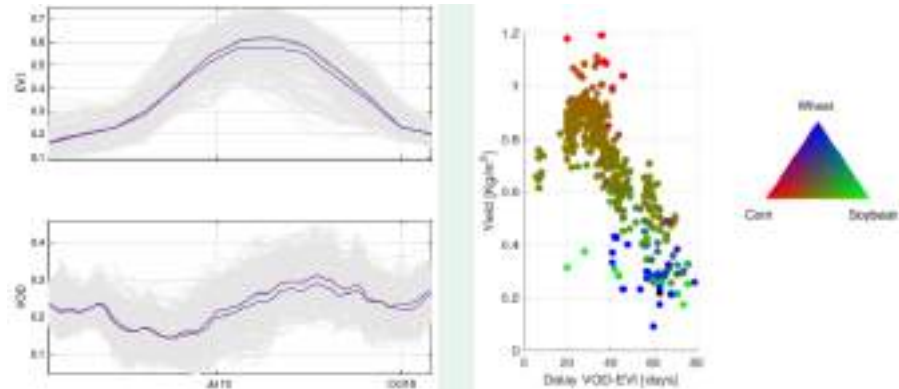
**“Compensatory water effects link yearly global land CO<sub>2</sub> sink changes to temperature”**

Jung, Reichstein, Schwalm, Camps-Valls, et al. Nature 541 (7638) :516-520, 2017



# Crop yield prediction from space

## ● Crop yield (corn, soybean, wheat) & crop production

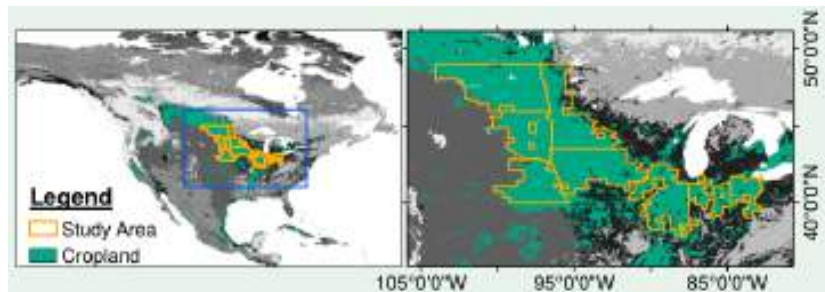


**"Nonlinear Distribution Regression for Remote Sensing Applications"**  
Aduara, Perez, Muñoz, Mateo, Piles, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS 2019

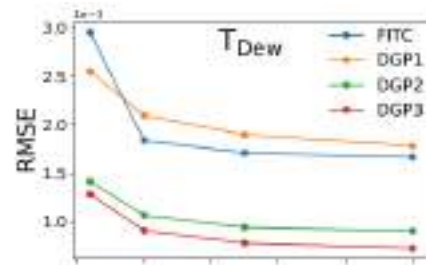
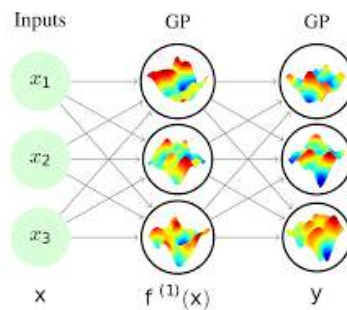
# Spatio-temporal variable prediction

- STA is common place in climate informatics, neuroscience, video processing, NLP, ...
- Current approaches: CNN + LSTM, space-time Gaussian processes
- Novel approaches: distribution regression and variational deep GPs

$$\mathcal{P} \mapsto \mu_k(\mathcal{P}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P} \mapsto [\mathbb{E}\phi_1(X), \dots, \mathbb{E}\phi_s(X)] \in \mathbb{R}^s$$
$$\langle \mu_k(\mathcal{P}), \mu_k(\mathcal{Q}) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_k} = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim \mathcal{P}, Y \sim \mathcal{Q}} k(X, Y)$$



“Nonlinear Distribution Regression for Remote Sensing Applications”  
Adsuara, Perez, Muñoz, Mateo, Piles, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS 2019



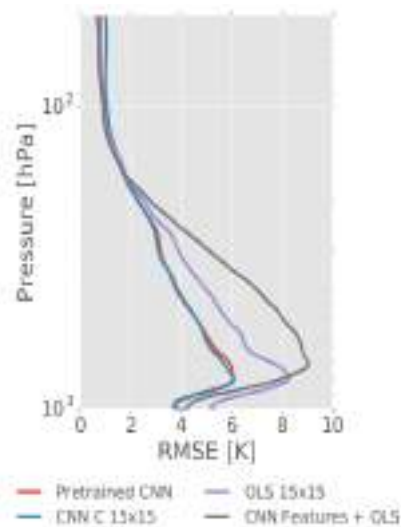
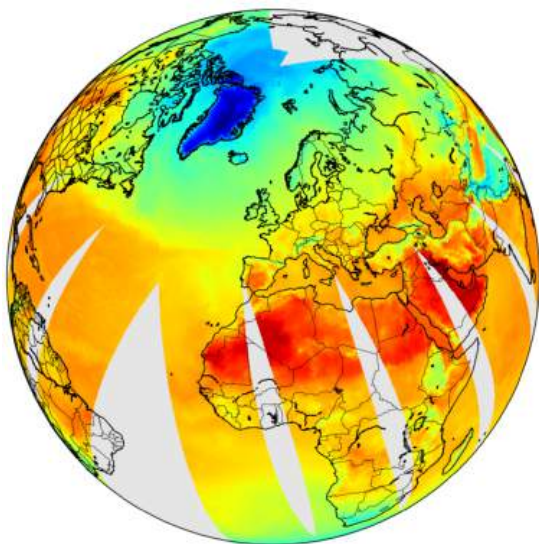
“A Survey on Gaussian Processes for Earth Observation Data Analysis”  
Camps-Valls et al. IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine 2016

“Deep Gaussian Processes for Retrieval of bio-geo-physical parameters”,  
Svendsen, Ruescas and Camps-Valls, IEEE Trans. Geosc. Rem. Sens, 2019

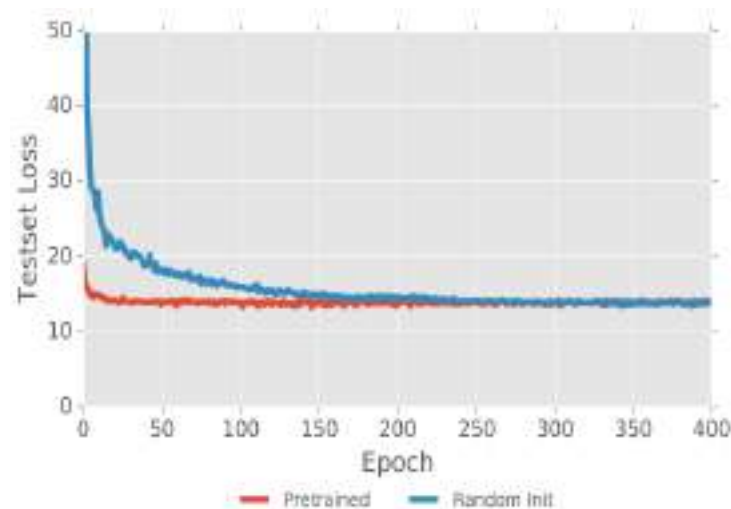


# Multitask and transfer learning

- Multitask regression: compactness & speed



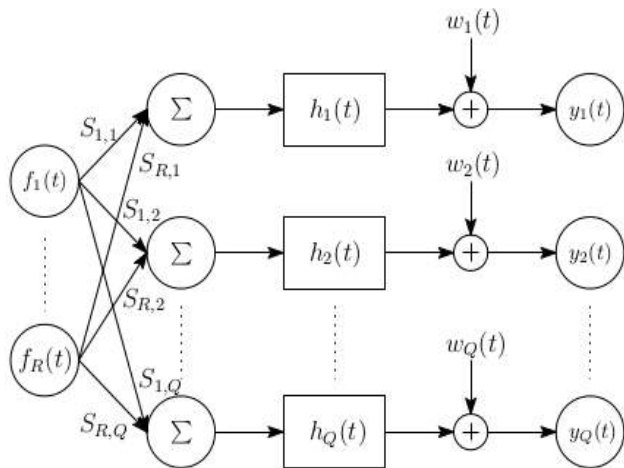
- Transfer learning



“Statistical Retrieval of Atmospheric Profiles with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks”,  
Malmgren-Hansen, Laparra and Camps-Valls et al, IEEE Trans Geosc. Rem. Sens.. 2019.

# Multioutput regression and gap filling

- Transfer learning across time, sensors and space



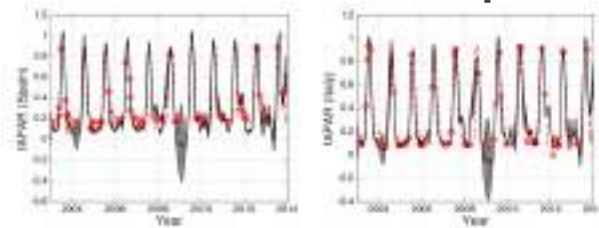
“Gap filling of biophysical parameters with multi-output GPs”

Mateo, Camps-Valls et al, IEEE IGARSS. 2018.

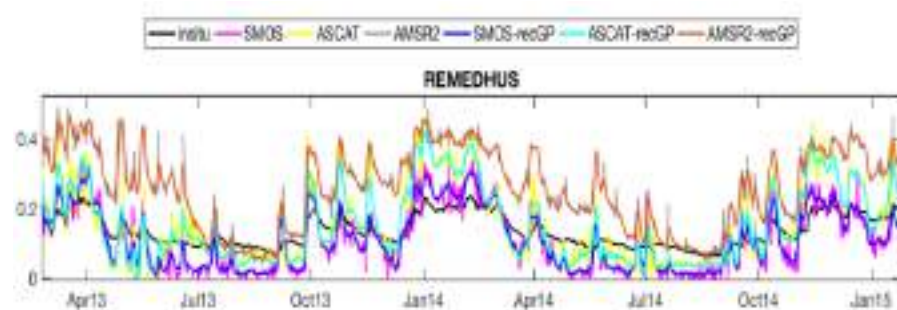
“Latent force GP models for EO time series prediction”

Luengo, Muñoz, Piles, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS, 2019

- LAI and FAPAR across time and space

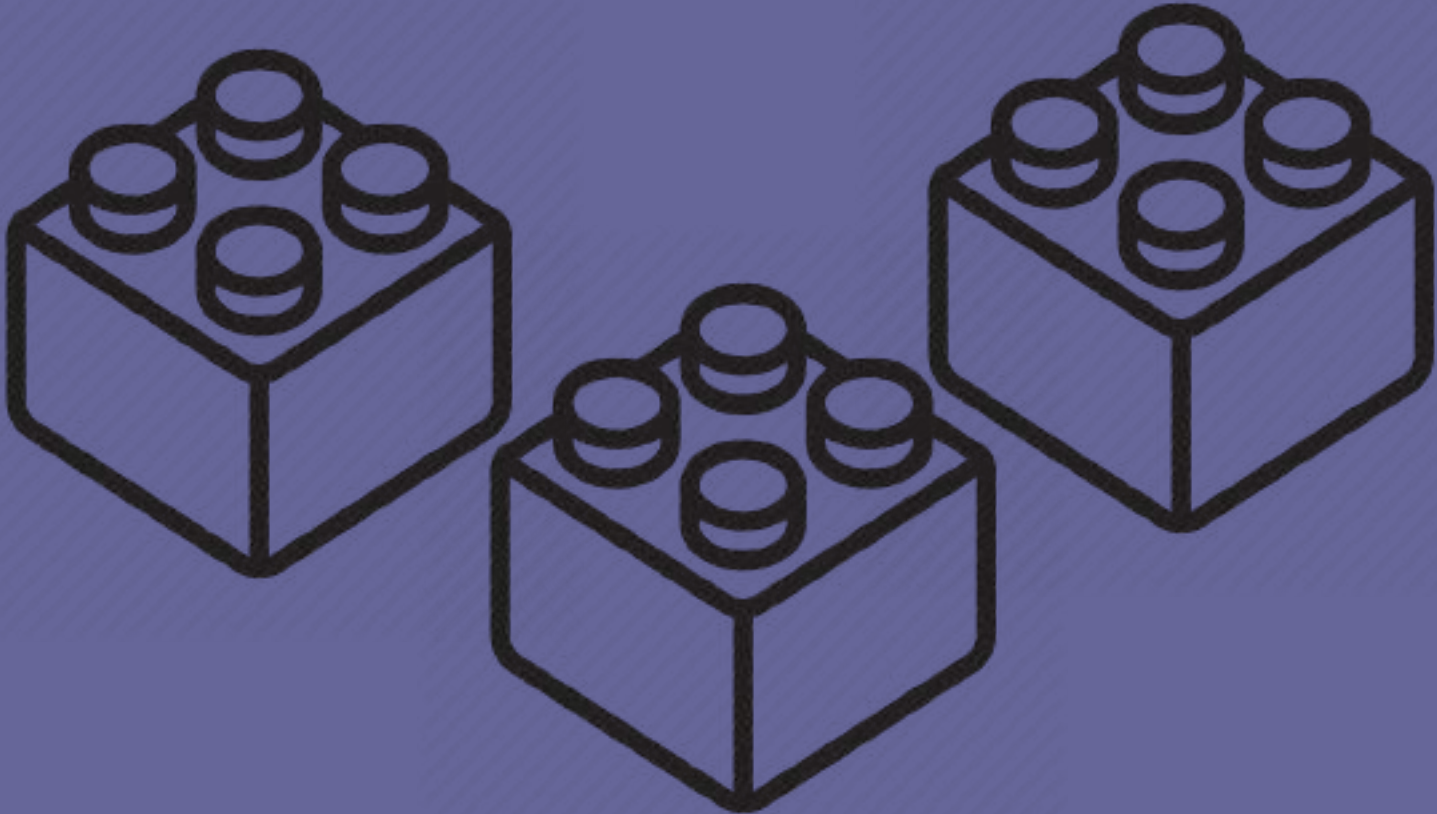


- Soil moisture and sensor fusion



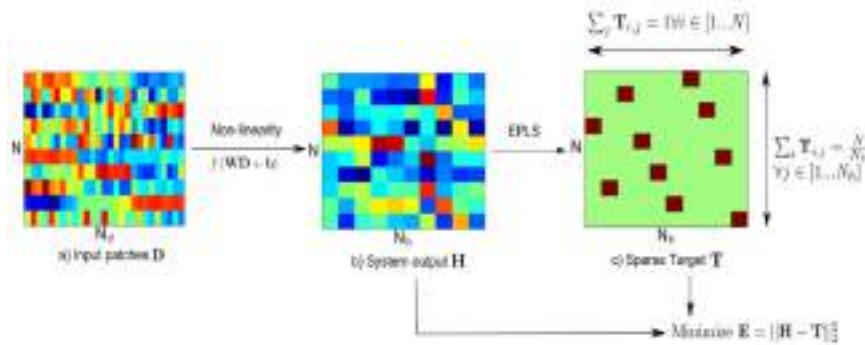
# Dimensionality reduction and modes of variability

---



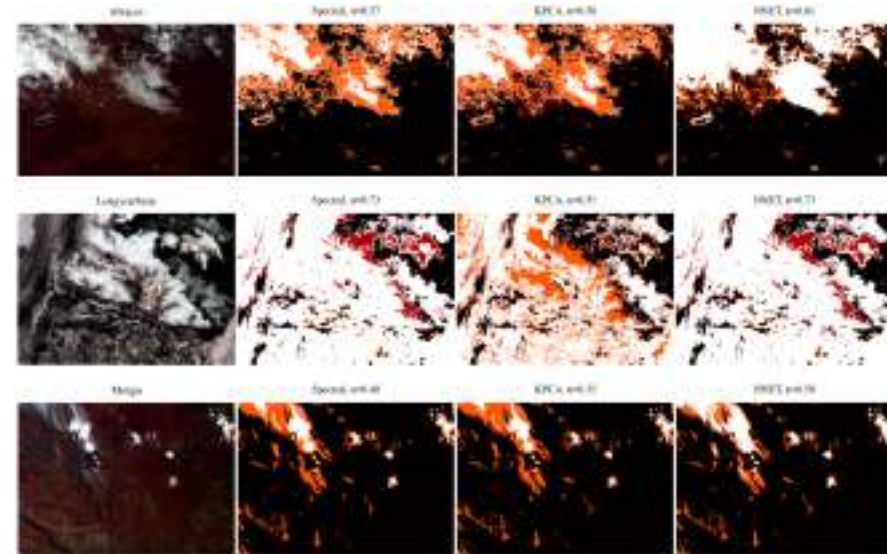
# Sparse coding in unsupervised deep nets

- CNN trained to extract sparse features → features+linear classifier suffice!



**PS:** for each sample only one output must be active

**LS:** even distribution of outputs, no dead outputs

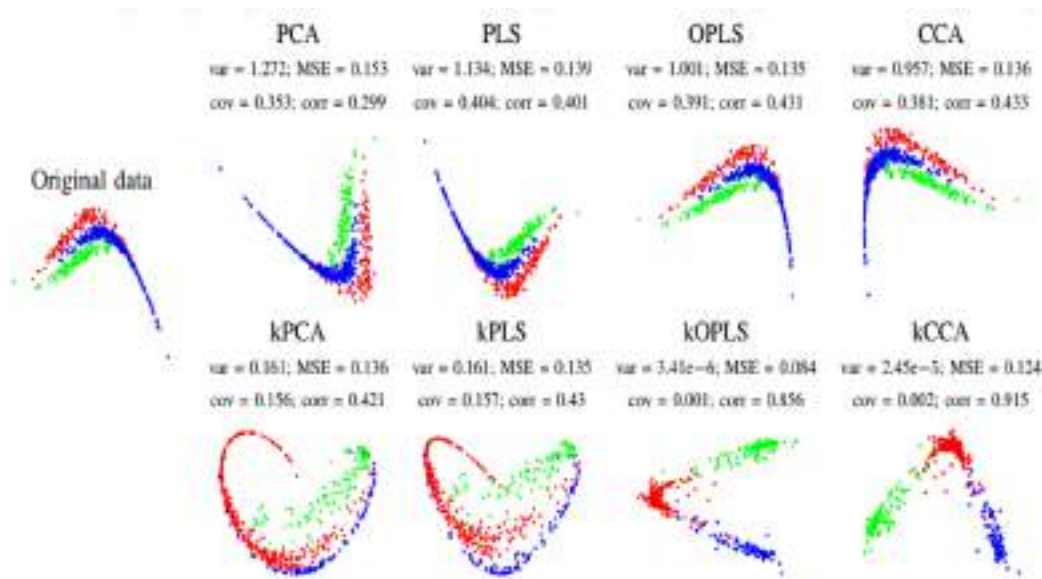


**"Unsupervised Deep Feature Extraction for Remote Sensing Image Classification"**

Romero, A. and Gatta, C. and Camps-Valls, IEEE Trans. Geosc. Rem. Sens, 2016

# Kernel multivariate data analysis

## ● Transform data to max var/corr/covar



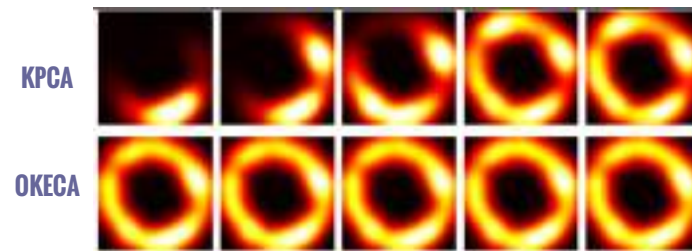
“Kernel multivariate analysis framework for supervised subspace learning: A tutorial on linear and kernel multivariate methods”, Arenas and Camps-Valls et al, IEEE Signal Proc. Mag. 2013.

## ● Transform data to max SNR



“Signal-to-Noise Ratio in reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces”  
Gomez, Santos and Camps-Valls et al, Patt. Recog. Lett.. 2018.

## ● Transform data to max information



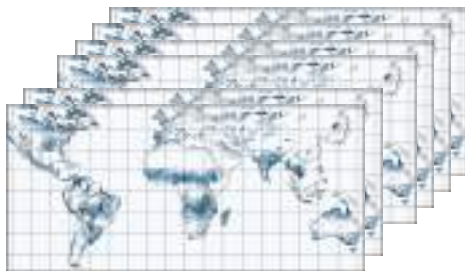
“Optimized Kernel Entropy Components”

Izquierdo, Jenssen and Camps-Valls et al, IEEE Trans. Neur. Nets. 2014

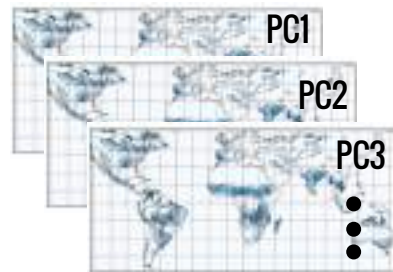


# Spatio-temporal analysis of the Earth cubes

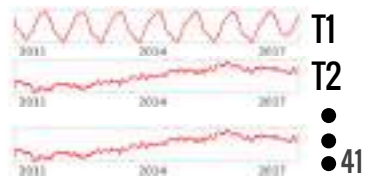
- PCA/EOF is popular, yet cannot cope with nonlinear spatio-temporal relations
- ROCK PCA
  - copes with nonlinearities
  - extracts spatial and temporal components
  - very fast



Spatial components



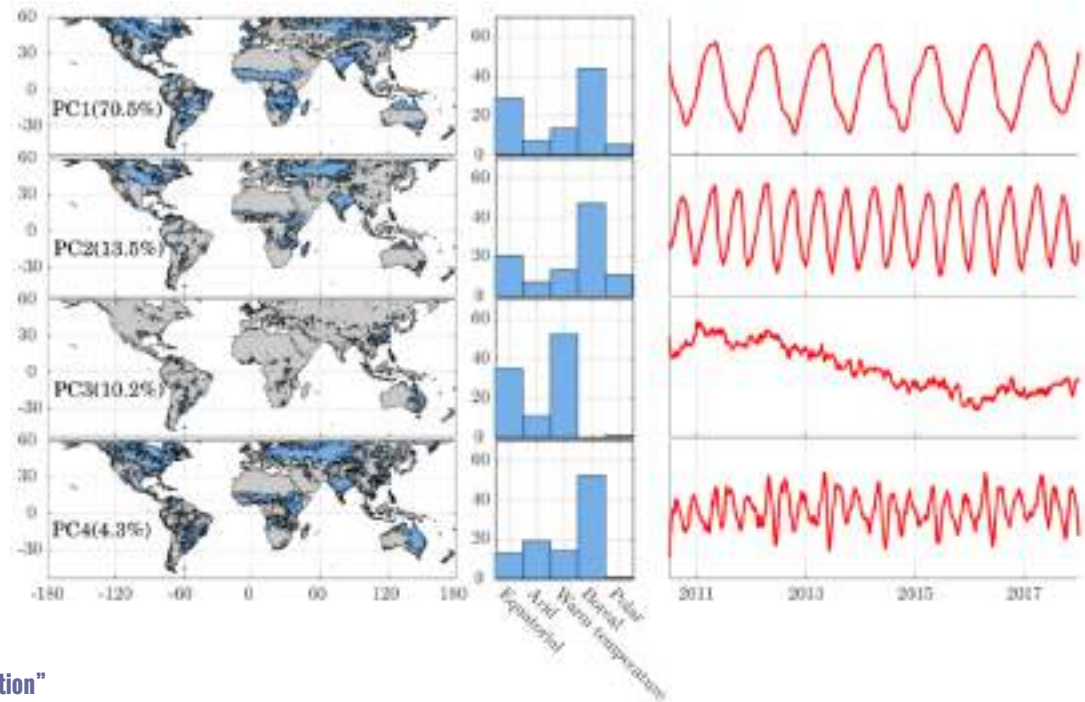
Temporal modes



“Rotated Complex Kernel PCA for spatio-temporal data decomposition”  
Bueso, Piles, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS, 2018

# Spatio-temporal analysis of the Earth cubes

- SM decomposition
  - Meaningful compression
  - Climate-specific modes of variability
  - Boreal and Equatorial modes of SM variability dominate
  - Seasonal and ENSO related temporal modes



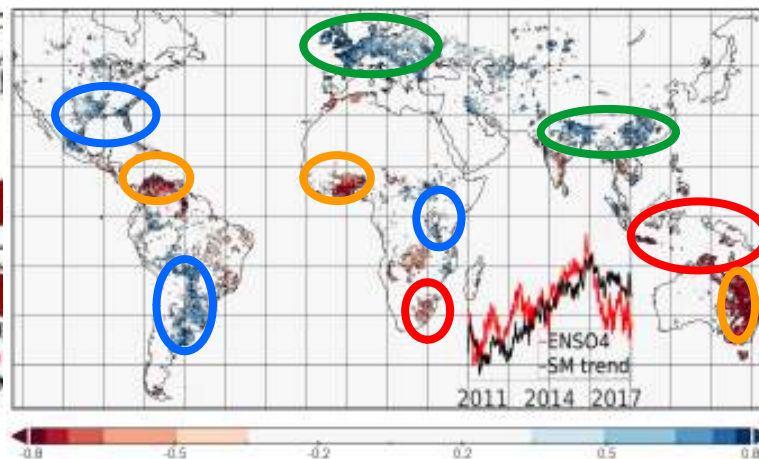
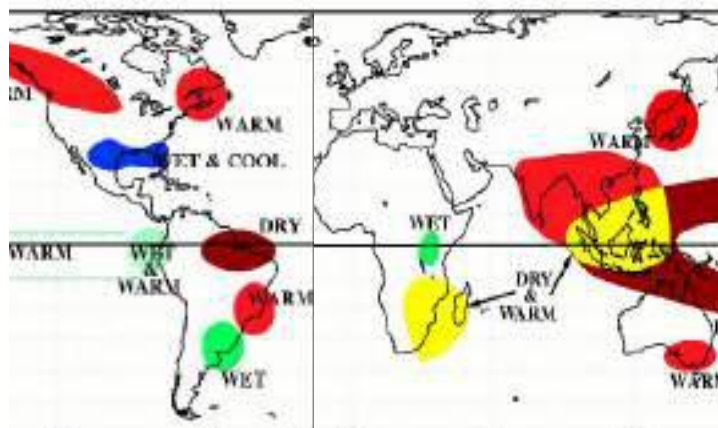
“Rotated Complex Kernel PCA for spatio-temporal data decomposition”

Bueso, Piles, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS, 2018



# Spatio-temporal analysis of the Earth cubes

- PC3 highly correlates with ENSO + new spatial patterns uncovered



- Dry pattern
- Wet pattern
- New wet pattern
- New dry pattern

- Nonlinear cross-correlation uncovers unreported SM-ENSO lags

“Rotated Complex Kernel PCA for spatio-temporal data decomposition”  
Bueso, Piles, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS, 2018

	ENSO 1.2	ENSO 3	ENSO 3.4	ENSO 4
Lag [days]	60	30	25	5
Max Corr	0.56	0.68	0.66	0.8

# Efficiency

---

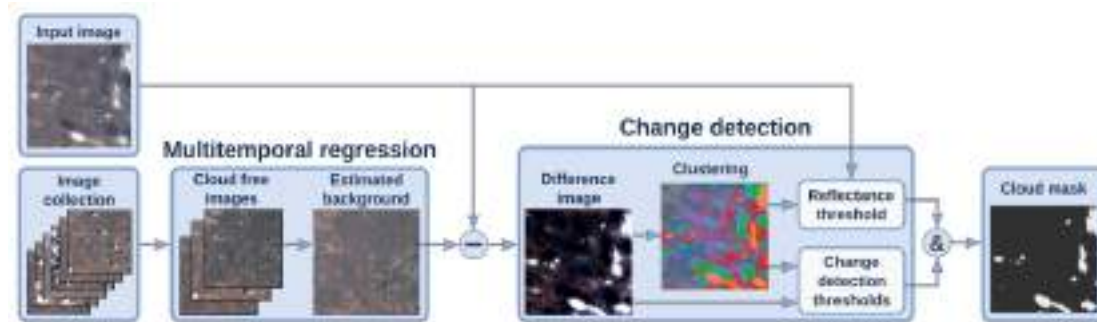


\_\_\_\_\_



# Google Earth Engine: cloud detection in the cloud

- Exploit temporal information and change detection

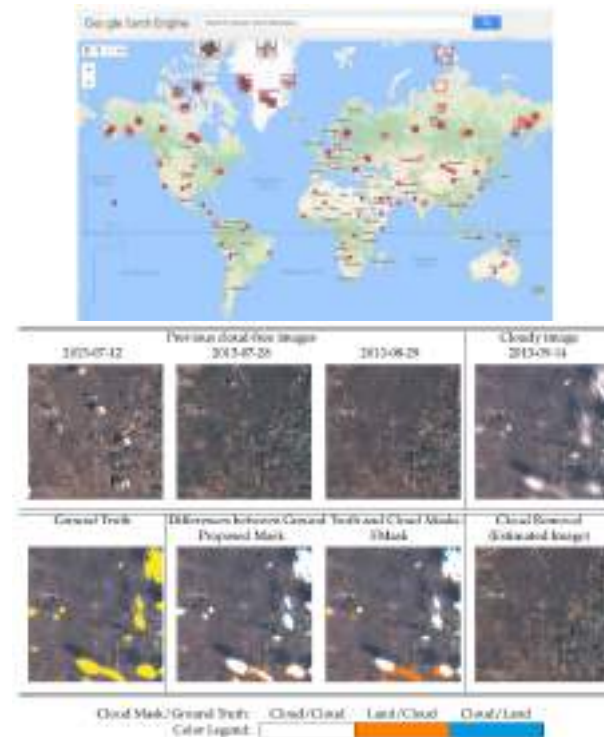


“Multitemporal Cloud Masking in the Google Earth Engine”

Mateo, Gómez, Amorós, Muñoz. and Camps-Valls. Remote Sensing 7 (10) :1079, 2018

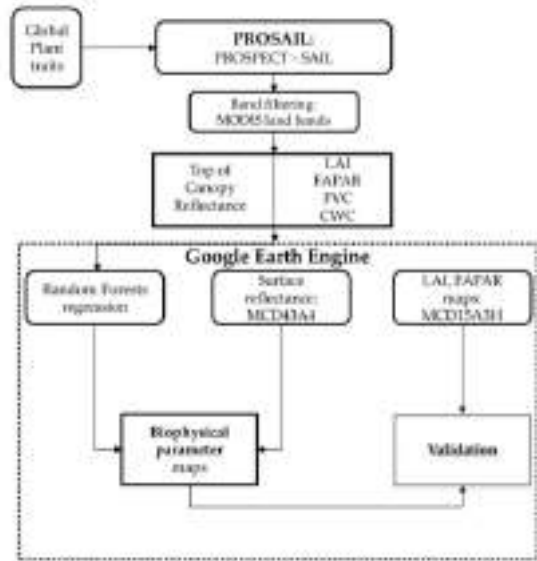
“Cloud masking and removal in remote sensing image time series”

Gómez, Amorós, Mateo, Muñoz-Marí and Camps-Valls. Journal of Applied Remote Sensing 11 (1) :015005, 2017

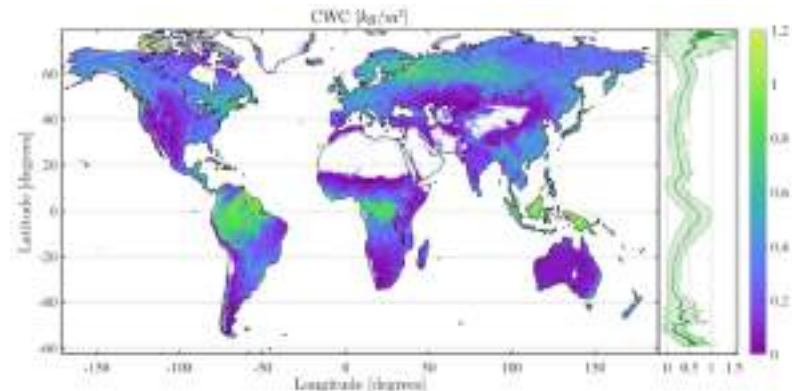


# Google Earth Engine: biophysical parameter retrieval

- Global maps of LAI, FAPAR, FVC, canopy water content by inverting PROSAIL with ML ...



Parameter	Min	Max	Mode	Std	Type
$k_l$	1.2	2.2	1.6	0.3	Gaussian
$C_{ab}$ ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ )	-	-	-	-	KDE <sup>a</sup>
$C_m$ ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ )	0.8	16	5	7	Gaussian
$C_{wv}$ ( $\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ )	-	-	-	-	KDE <sup>a</sup>
$C_{sc}$	-	-	-	-	KDE <sup>a</sup>
$C_{sp}$	8	8	8	0	-
LAI ( $\text{m}^2/\text{m}^2$ )	8	8	1.5	4	Gaussian
ALA ( $^\circ$ )	35	80	68	12	Gaussian
Skotop	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	Gaussian
$\gamma_{Cover}$	0.3	1	0.99	0.2	Truncated Gaussian
Soil $\beta_1$	0.1	1	0.8	0.6	Gaussian

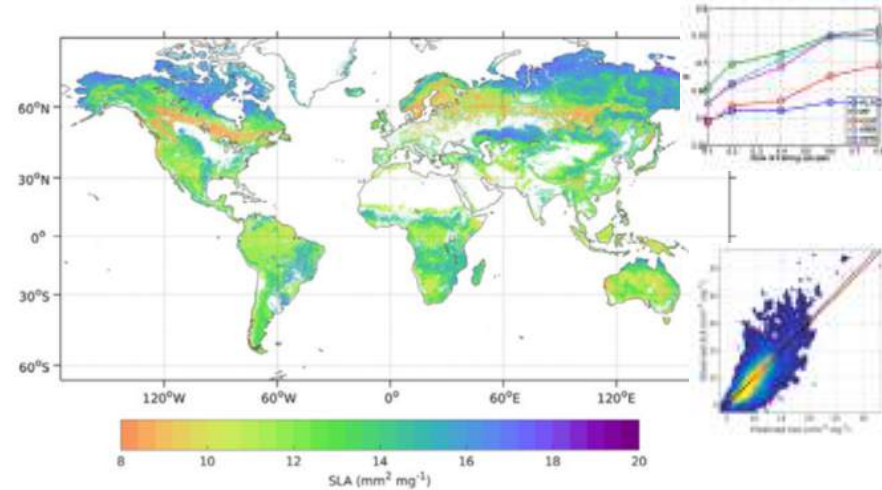
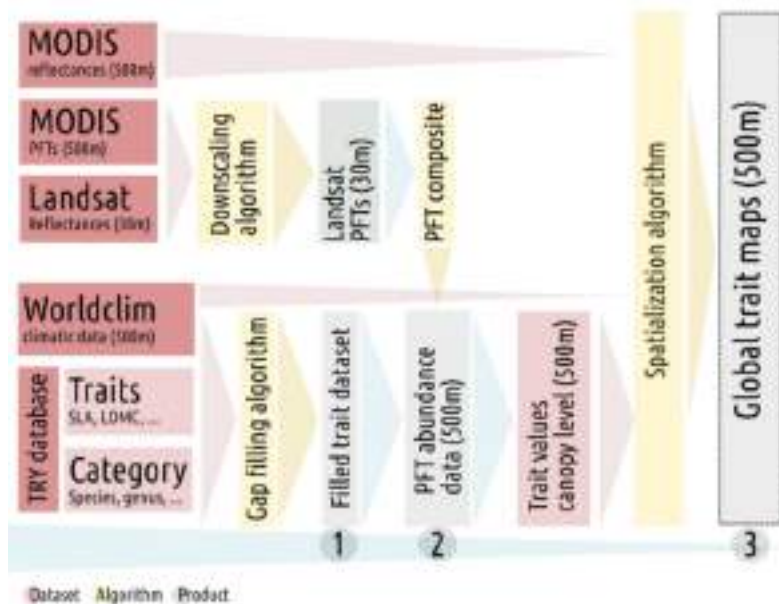


“Global estimation of biophysical variables from Google Earth Engine platform”

Campos, Moreno, Garcia, Camps-Valls, G. et al, Remote Sensing (10) :1167, 2018

# Google Earth Engine: spatialization of plant traits

- Global maps at 500 m resolution of specific leaf area, leaf dry matter content, leaf nitrogen and phosphorus content per dry mass, and leaf nitrogen/phosphorus ratio.



**"A methodology to derive global maps of leaf traits using remote sensing and climate data"**  
Moreno, Camps-Valls, Kattge, Robinson, Reichstein, ... and Running.  
Remote Sensing of Environment 218 (12) :69-88, 2018

# Physics-aware machine learning

---

$$F(X, H(t)|\psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle) = y$$



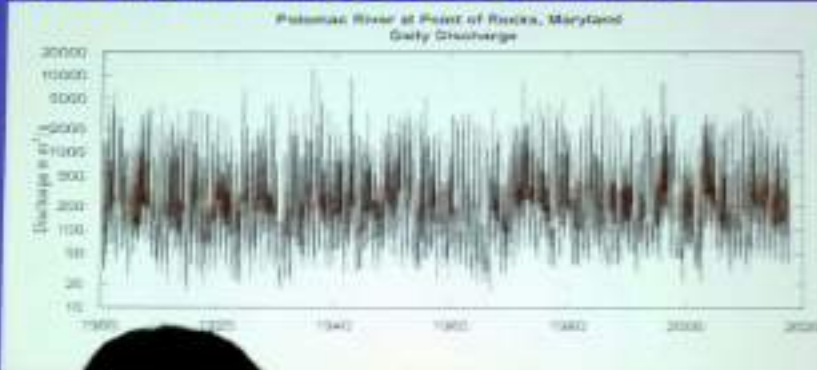
# The truth is that...

---

**“Models without data are fantasy.  
Data without models are chaos.”**

Patrick Cull,  
Stockholm  
University, quoted in  
*Science*, 2014, in:  
“Methane on the rise  
again”, vol 343, pp.  
483-485

 **USGS**



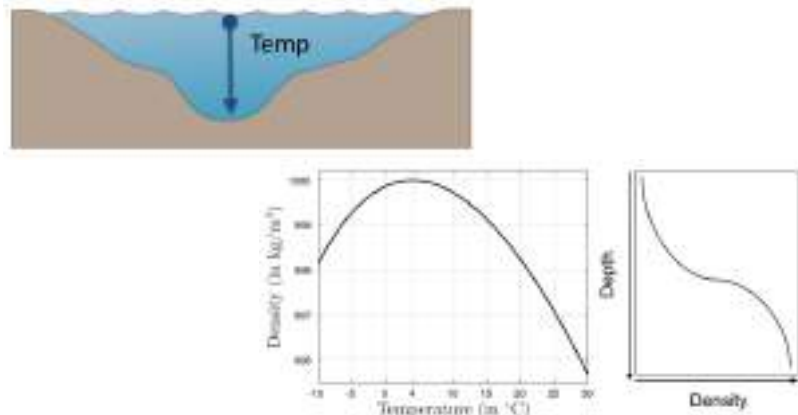
At AGU 2017, New Orleans, USA

# Physics-driven ML: constrained optimization

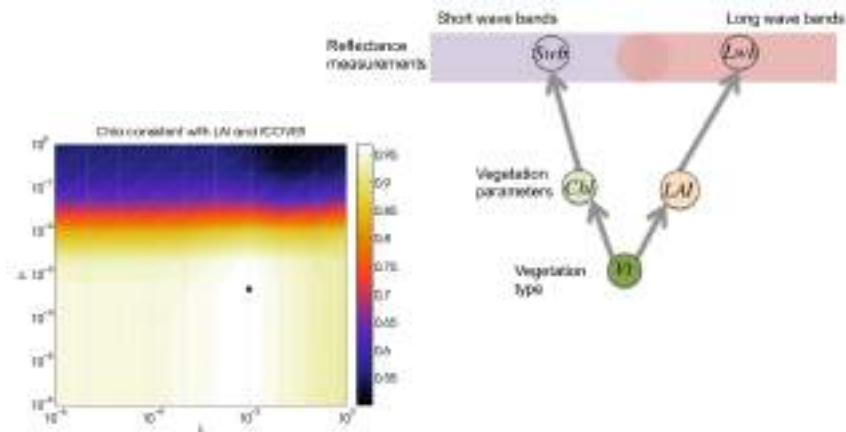
- ML that minimizes model violations and predictions are dependent of physical laws

$$\text{PhysLoss} = \text{Cost}(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda_1 \|w\|_2^2 + \gamma \Omega(\hat{y}, \Phi)$$

$\Omega(\hat{y}, \Phi)$  = sum of physical violations of  $\hat{y}$



$$\text{FairLoss} = \text{Cost}(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda_1 \|w\|_2^2 + \gamma I(\hat{y}, s)$$



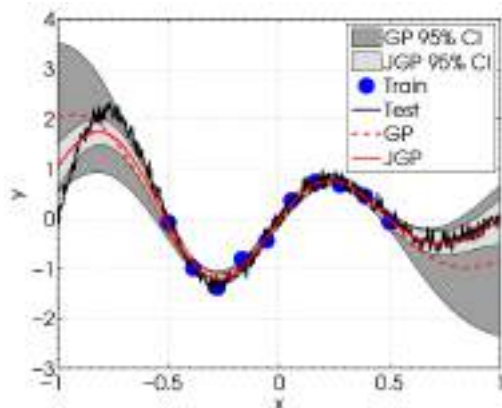
“Fair Kernel Learning” Perez, Laparra, Gomez, Camps-Valls, G. ECML, 2017.  
“Consistent Regression of Biophysical Parameters with Kernel Methods”  
Díaz, Pérez-Suay, Laparra, Camps-Valls, IGARSS 2018

# Physics-driven ML: joint model-data ML

## ● Let ML talk to physical models

$$\text{JointLoss} = \text{Cost}(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda_1 \|w\|_2^2 + \gamma \Omega(\hat{y}, \Phi)$$

$$\Omega(\hat{y}, \Phi) = \text{Cost}_a(y_a, \hat{y}_a)$$



“Joint Gaussian Processes for Biophysical Parameter Retrieval”

Svendsen, Martino, Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS 2018

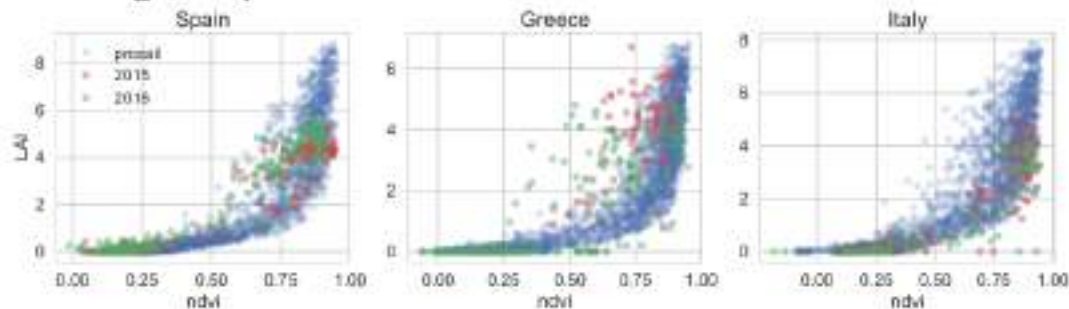
“Physics-aware Gaussian processes in remote sensing”

Camps-Valls, G. et al. Applied Soft Computing, 2018.

## Setup

- ERMES project: 3 rice sites, 85% European production
- Landsat 8 + in situ measurements + PROSAIL simulations
- In situ LAI measurements:  $r = 70-300$  (3 countries, 2 years)
- Simulations:  $s = 2000$  (Landsat 8 spectra and LAI)

## Filling the space ...



# Physics-driven ML: hybrid modeling framework

— — —

## PERSPECTIVE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-0912-1>

### Deep learning and process understanding for data-driven Earth system science

Markus Reichstein<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Gustau Camps-Valls<sup>3</sup>, Bjorn Stevens<sup>4</sup>, Martin Jung<sup>1</sup>, Joachim Denzler<sup>2,5</sup>, Nuno Carvalhais<sup>1,6</sup> & Prabhat<sup>7</sup>

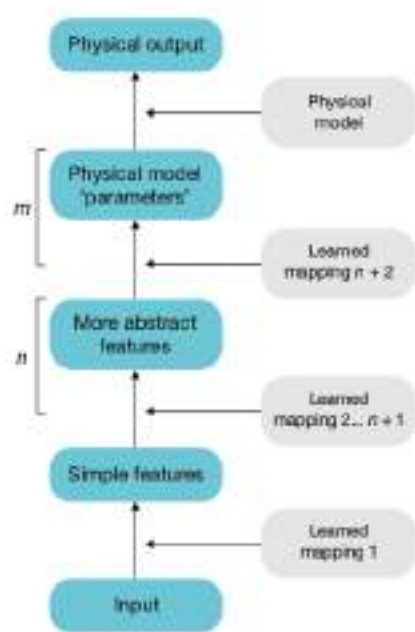
Machine learning approaches are increasingly used to extract patterns and insights from the ever-increasing stream of geospatial data, but current approaches may not be optimal when system behaviour is dominated by spatial or temporal context. Here, rather than amending classical machine learning, we argue that these contextual cues should be used as part of deep learning (an approach that is able to extract spatio-temporal features automatically) to gain further process understanding of Earth system science problems, improving the predictive ability of seasonal forecasting and modelling of long-range spatial connections across multiple timescales, for example. The next step will be a hybrid modelling approach, coupling physical process models with the versatility of data-driven machine learning.

“Deep learning and process understanding for data-driven Earth System Science”, Reichstein, Camps-Valls et al. Nature, 2019.

# Physics-driven ML: hybrid modeling framework

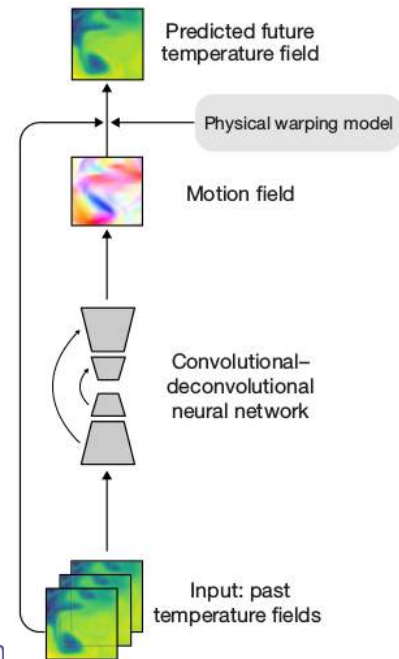
- ML that learns laws of physics (e.g. consistency model-data, convection, advection, mass and energy conservation)

**A:** “Physisizing” a deep learning architecture by adding one or several physical layers after the multilayer neural network



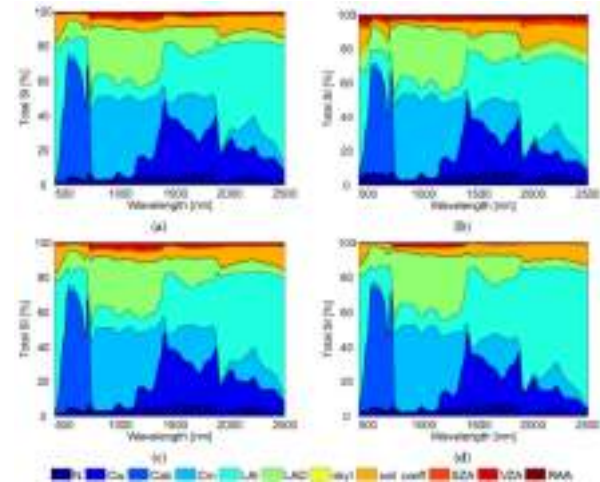
“Deep learning and process understanding for data-driven Earth System Science”  
Reichstein, Camps-Valls et al. Nature, 2019.

**B:** A motion field is learned with a convolutional-deconvolutional net, and the motion field is further processed with a physical model



“Deep Learning for Physical Processes: Incorporating Prior Scientific Knowledge”.  
de Bezenac, Pajot, & Gallinari, arXiv:1711.07970 (2017)

● GP Emulation = Mathematical tractability + Global sensitivity analysis + Speed



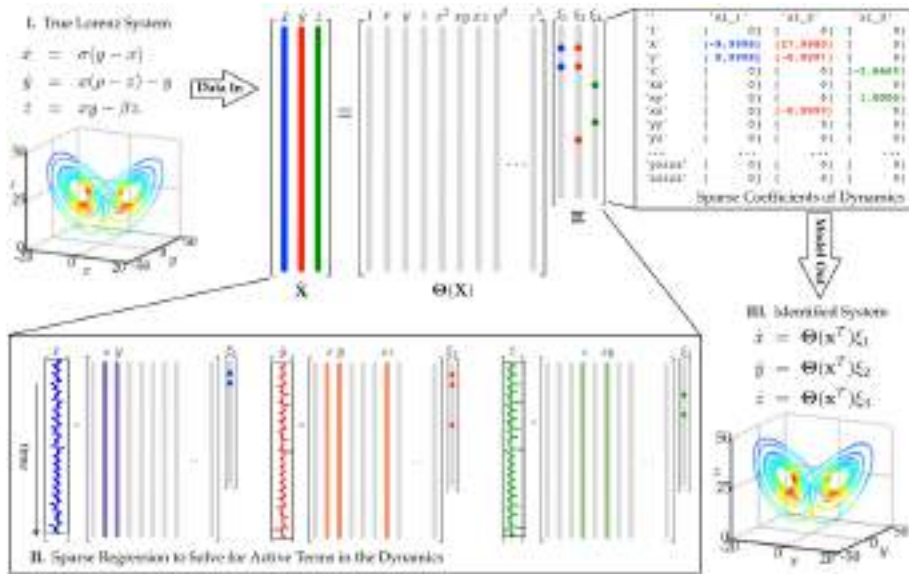
**“Emulation as an accurate alternative to interpolation in sampling radiative transfer codes”,**  
Vicent and Camps-Valls, IEEE Journal Sel. Topics Rem. Sens. Apps. 2018





# Physics-driven ML: encoding and learning ODE/PDEs

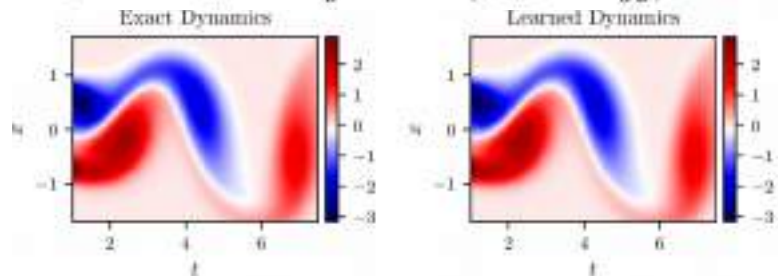
## Who needs Lorenz?



“Discovering governing equations from data by sparse identification of nonlinear dynamical systems” Brunton, Proctor, Kutz, PNAS 2016

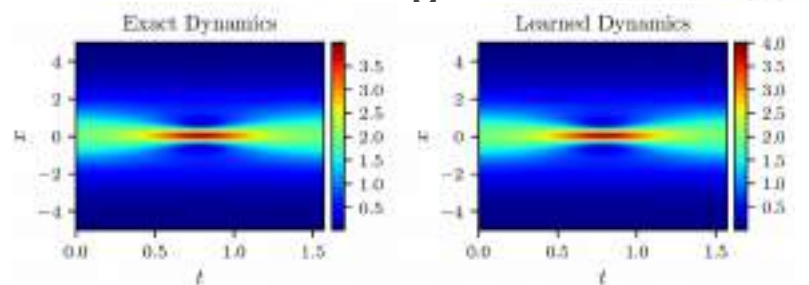
## Who needs Navier Stokes?

$$w_t = -uw_x - vw_y + 0.01(w_{xx} + w_{yy})$$



## Who needs Schrödinger?


$$\psi_t = 0.5i\psi_{xx} + i|\psi|^2\psi$$



“Deep Hidden Physics Models: Deep Learning of Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations” Raissi, JMLR 2018

# Understanding is more important than fitting

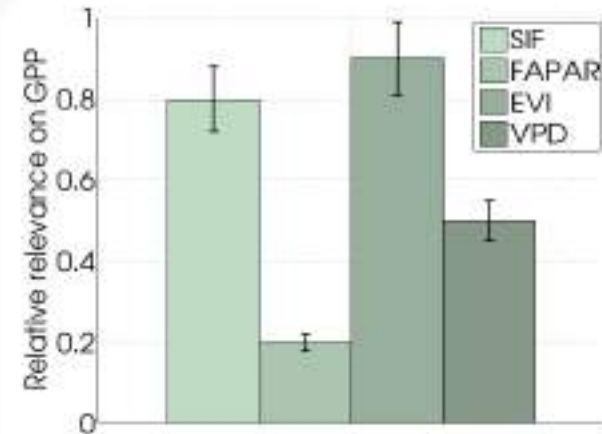
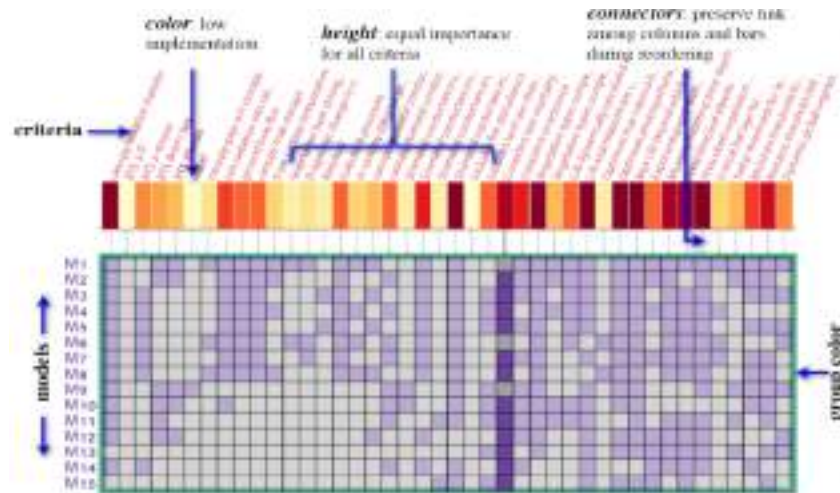
— — —

$$F(X,Y) =$$


A diagram consisting of a central circle. Three lines extend from the left side of the central circle to three smaller circles. The top and bottom circles on the left are filled black, while the middle circle is hollow. Two lines extend from the right side of the central circle to two smaller circles. The top circle on the right is hollow, and the bottom circle is filled black.

# Feature selection & ranking

## ● Filters & wrappers

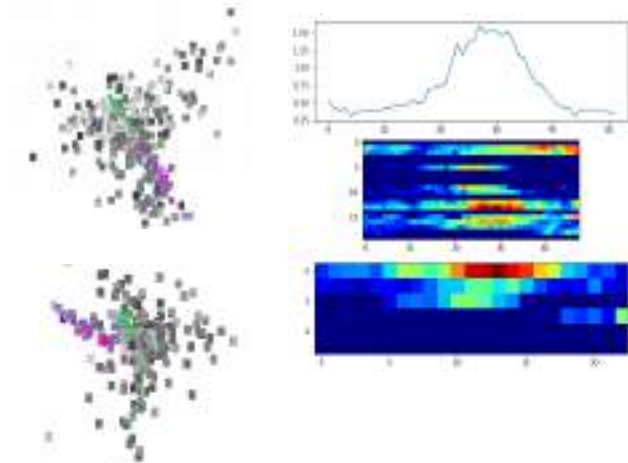


“Remote Sensing Feature Selection by Kernel Dependence Estimation”, Camps-Valls, G. Mooij, JM. Schölkopf, IEEE-GRSL, 2010.

“A guided hybrid genetic algorithm for feature selection with expensive cost functions”, M. Jung, J. Zscheischler, Procedia, 2013.

# Neuron and bases visualization

- What did the network learn?
- How do bases change in time, with real/simulations/together, under extremes?



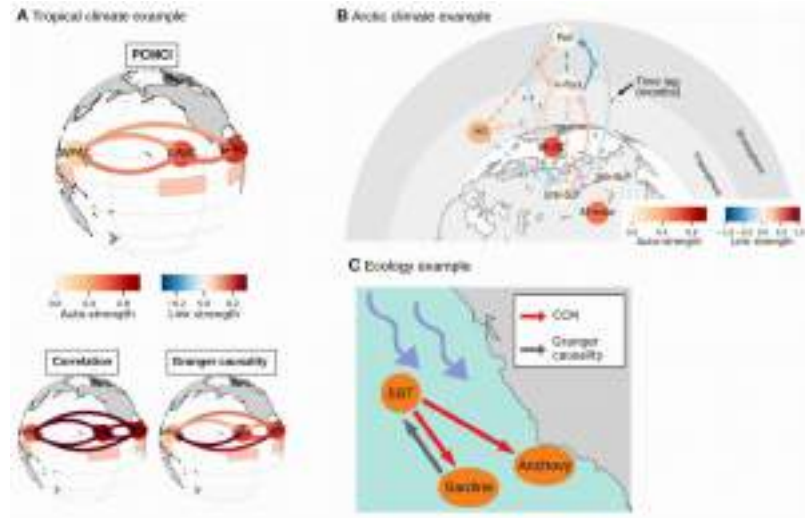
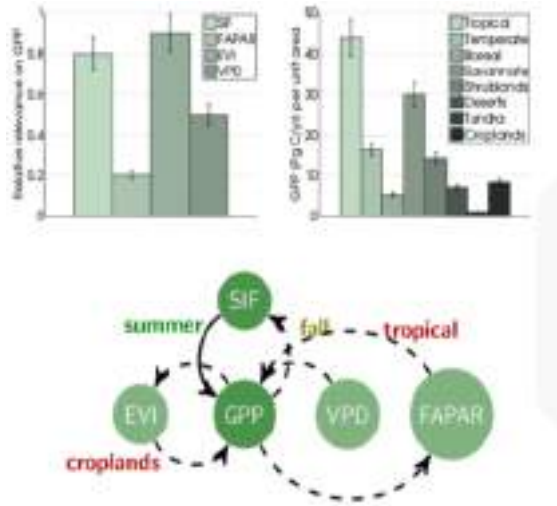
“Visualizing and Understanding Convolutional Networks”, Zeriler, et al 2013

“Processing of Extremely high resolution LiDAR and optical data”, Campos-Taberner, Camps-Valls et al, 2016

“What did your network learn under anomalies and adaptation? ,” Camps-Valls et al, in preparation (2018)

# Graphical models and causal discovery

- **Causality discovery** learns cause and effects relations from data
- **What for?** Hypothesis testing, model-data comparison, causes of extreme impacts



“Inferring causation from time series with perspectives in Earth system sciences”, Runge, Bathiany, Bollt, Camps-Valls, et al. Nat Comm (submitted), 2018.

“Causal Inference in Geoscience and Remote Sensing from Observational Data,” Pérez-Suay and Camps-Valls, IEEE Trans. Geosc. Rem. Sens, 2018

“CauseMe: An online system for benchmarking causal inference methods,” Muñoz-Marí, Mateo, Runge, Camps-Valls. In preparation (2019). CauseMe: <http://causeme.uv.es>

# Nonlinear Granger causal inference

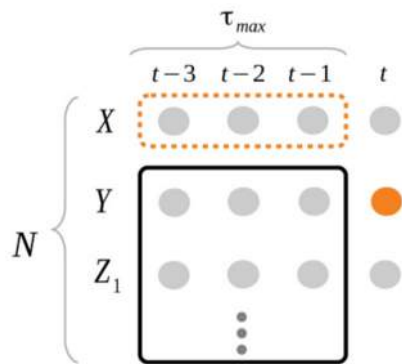
- ENSO4 index and the inter-annual component extracted from VOD and SM
- High correlations, yet ... correlation does not imply causation





# Nonlinear Granger causal inference

- Causal inference goes beyond correlation analysis
- Granger causality tests whether the past of X is useful to predict the future of Y



$$Y_{t+1} = a^\top X_t + \varepsilon_t^Y$$

$$Y_{t+1} = b_1^\top Y_t + b_2^\top X_t + \varepsilon_t^{Y|X}$$

$$X \rightarrow Y \Leftrightarrow \mathbb{V}[\varepsilon_t^Y] \ll \mathbb{V}[\varepsilon_t^{Y|X}]$$

“Causal inference from Observational Data in Remote Sensing and Geosciences”

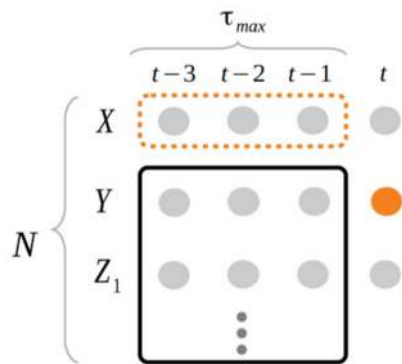
Perez-Suay and Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS 2019

“Inferring causation from time series with perspectives in Earth system sciences”

Runge, J. Bollt, E. Camps-Valls, G. Peters, J. Reichstein, M., Schölkopf, B. et al. Nature Communications, 2019

# Nonlinear Granger causal inference

- Causal inference goes beyond correlation analysis
- Granger causality tests whether the past of X is useful to predict the future of Y
- We introduce a kernel Granger method to account for nonlinear Granger-causal relations



$$a_H = (K(X_t, X'_t) + \varepsilon_t^Y)^{-1} Y_{t+1}$$

$$b_H = (L([Y_t, X_t], [Y'_t, X'_t]) + \varepsilon_t^{Y|X})^{-1} Y_{t+1}$$

$$X \rightarrow Y \leftrightarrow \mathbb{V}_H[\varepsilon_t^Y] \ll \mathbb{V}_H[\varepsilon_t^{Y|X}]$$

“Causal inference from Observational Data in Remote Sensing and Geosciences”

Perez-Suay and Camps-Valls, IEEE TGARS 2019

“Inferring causation from time series with perspectives in Earth system sciences”

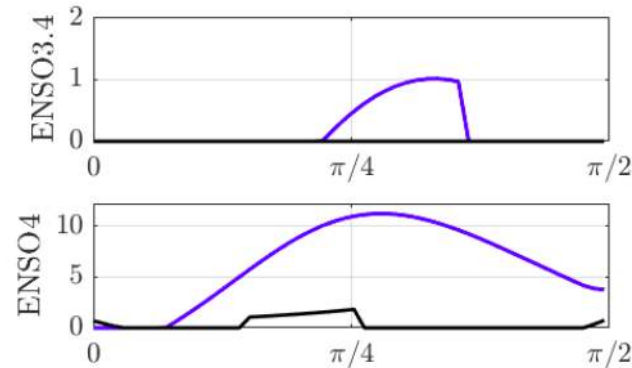
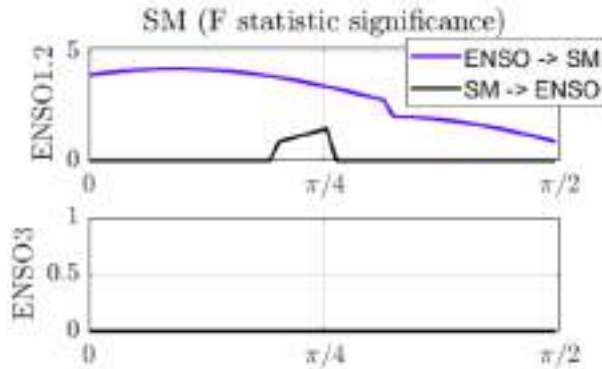
Runge, J. Bollt, E. Camps-Valls, G. Peters, J. Reichstein, M., Schölkopf, B. et al. Nature Communications, 2019

# Nonlinear Granger causal inference

- An ANOVA F-statistic summarizes kernel Granger causality

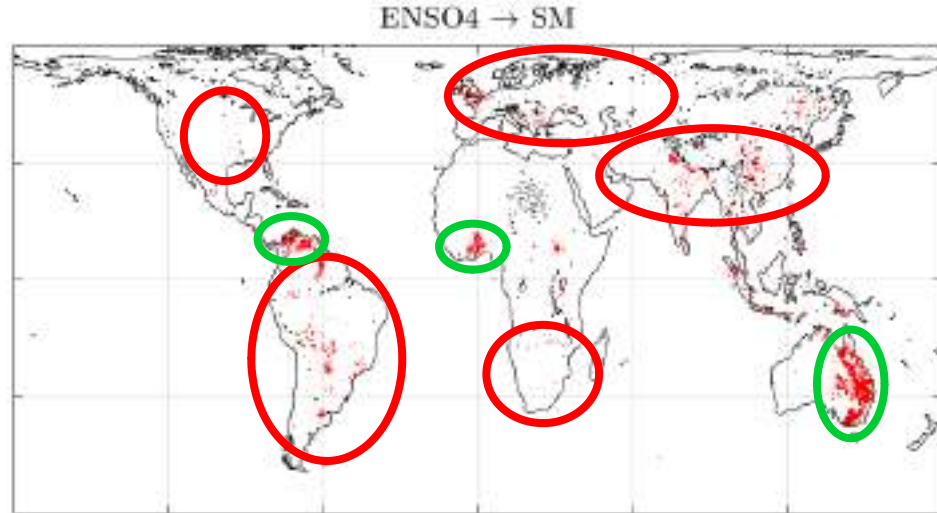
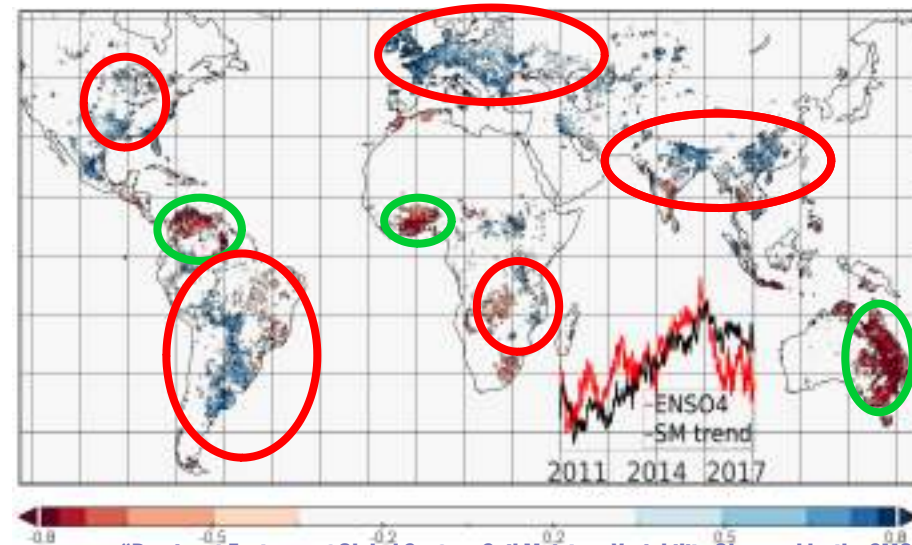
$$F = \frac{\text{explained variance}}{\text{unexplained variance}} \propto \frac{\mathbb{V}_H[\varepsilon_t^Y]}{\mathbb{V}_H[\varepsilon_t^{Y|X}]} - 1 \geq \theta$$

- ENSO1.2 and ENSO4 are the most “kernel Granger causal” indices



# Nonlinear Granger causal inference

- Causality is sharper than mere correlation! Some impacts confirmed, others not!
- ENSO4 “causes” SM in very dry (Sahel) and very wet (tropical rain forests)



# A platform for causal discovery

— — —

- **CauseMe:** <http://causeme.uv.es>
  - Download time series with ground truth
  - Run your causal discovery algorithm offline
  - Upload your causal graph
  - Get your results!

**“Inferring causation from time series with perspectives in Earth system sciences”**

Runge, Bathiany, Bollt, Camps-Valls, et al. Nat Comm (submitted), 2018.

**“Causal Inference in Geoscience and Remote Sensing from Observational Data,”**

Pérez-Suay and Camps-Valls, IEEE Trans. Geosc. Rem. Sens, 2018



# Conclusions

---

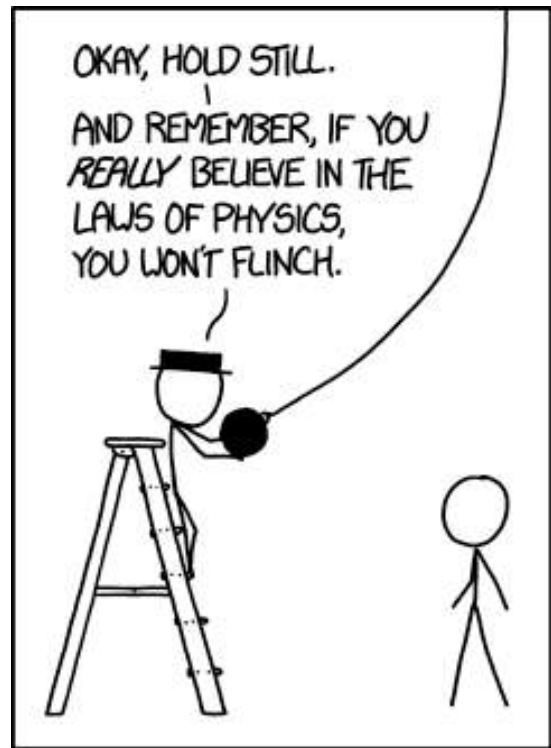




# Conclusions

— — —

- **Machine learning in EO and climate**
  - Many techniques ready to use
  - Huge community, exciting tools
- **Solid mathematical framework to deal with**
  - Multivariate data
  - Multisource data
  - Structured spatio-temporal relations
  - Nonlinear feature relations
  - Fitting and classification
- **Risks & remedies**
  - Understanding is more complex
  - Physics consistency a must
  - Physics-driven ML & Explainable AI



# Thanks!

— — —



<http://isp.uv.es>



@isp\_uv\_es



[gustau.camps@uv.es](mailto:gustau.camps@uv.es)



# Propaganda



**ERC Consolidator Grant 2015-2020**

**Statistical Learning for Earth Observation Data Analysis**

Gustau Camps-Valls, Universitat de València, Spain

✉ [gustau.camps@uv.es](mailto:gustau.camps@uv.es) | 🌐 <http://isp.uv.es>



**1 PhD + 1 PostDoc positions!**

- Remote sensing and geosciences
- Machine learning
  - Regression, time series analysis
  - Graphical models
  - Causal inference

**E-mail me:** [gustau.camps@uv.es](mailto:gustau.camps@uv.es)