

Remote Sensing, Machine Learning & Extreme Weather

Christopher Small

Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University
csmall@columbia.edu

Mining imagery archives to improve weather forecasts

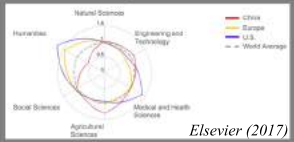
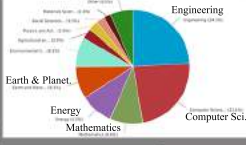
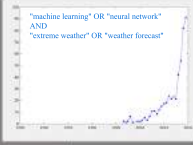
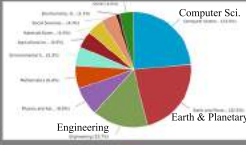
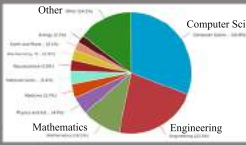
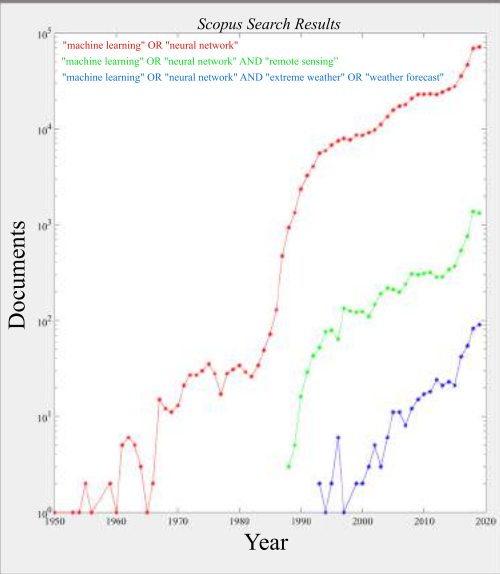
Four decades of machine learning for land cover classification

Mining imagery archives to connect events to impacts

Factor Multiplicity - Cyclone impacts in coastal Bangladesh

New opportunities in the near-term future

Bibliometrics



Application of Deep Convolutional Neural Networks for Detecting Extreme Weather in Climate Datasets

Yunjie Liu¹, Evan Racah¹, Prabhat¹, Joaquin Correa¹, Amir Khosrowshahi²,
David Lavers³, Kenneth Kunkel⁴, Michael Wehner¹, William Collins¹

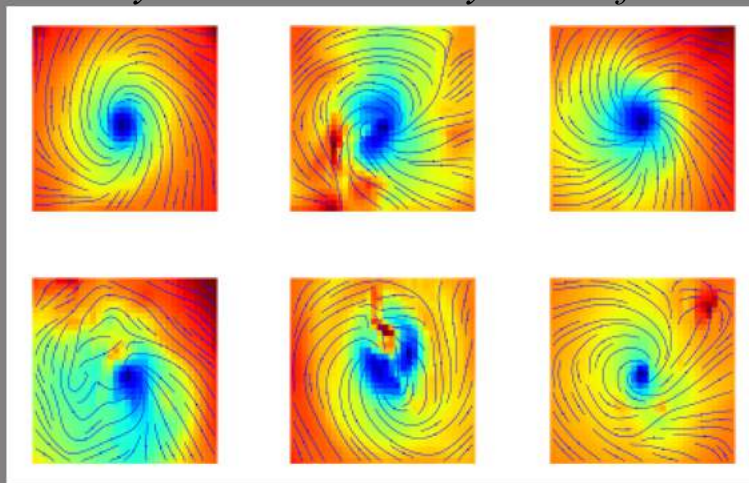
¹Lawrence Berkeley Lab, Berkeley, CA, US

²Nervana Systems, San Diego, CA, US

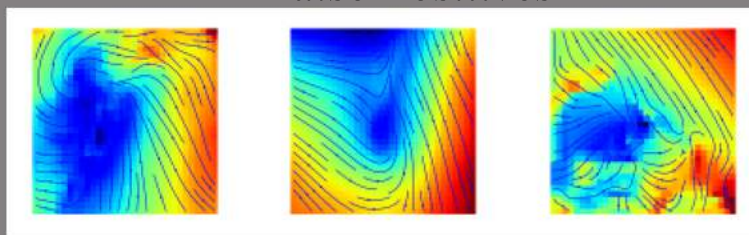
³Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego, CA, US

⁴National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Asheville, NC, US

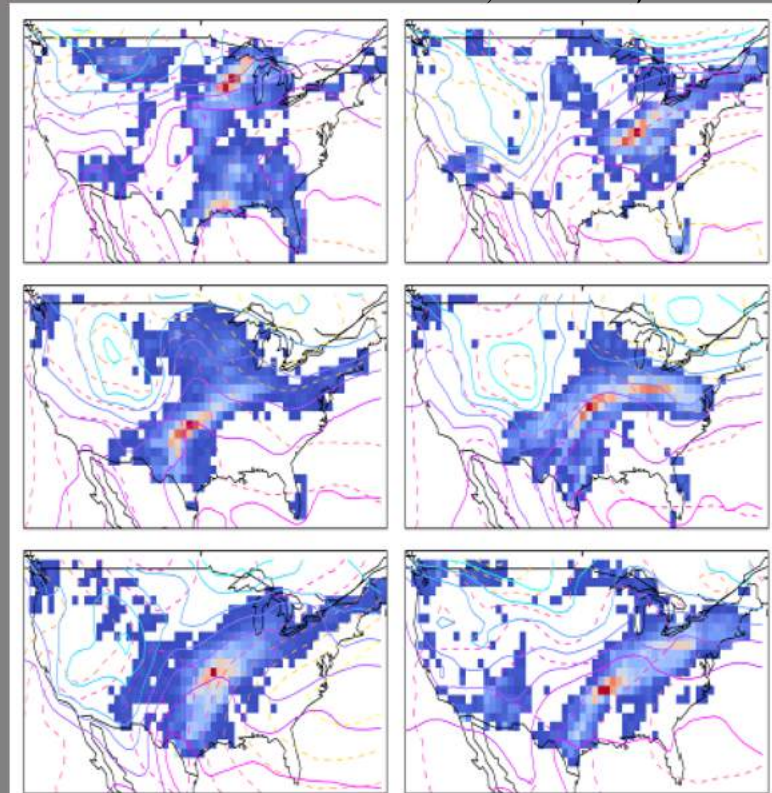
Cyclones- Correctly Classified



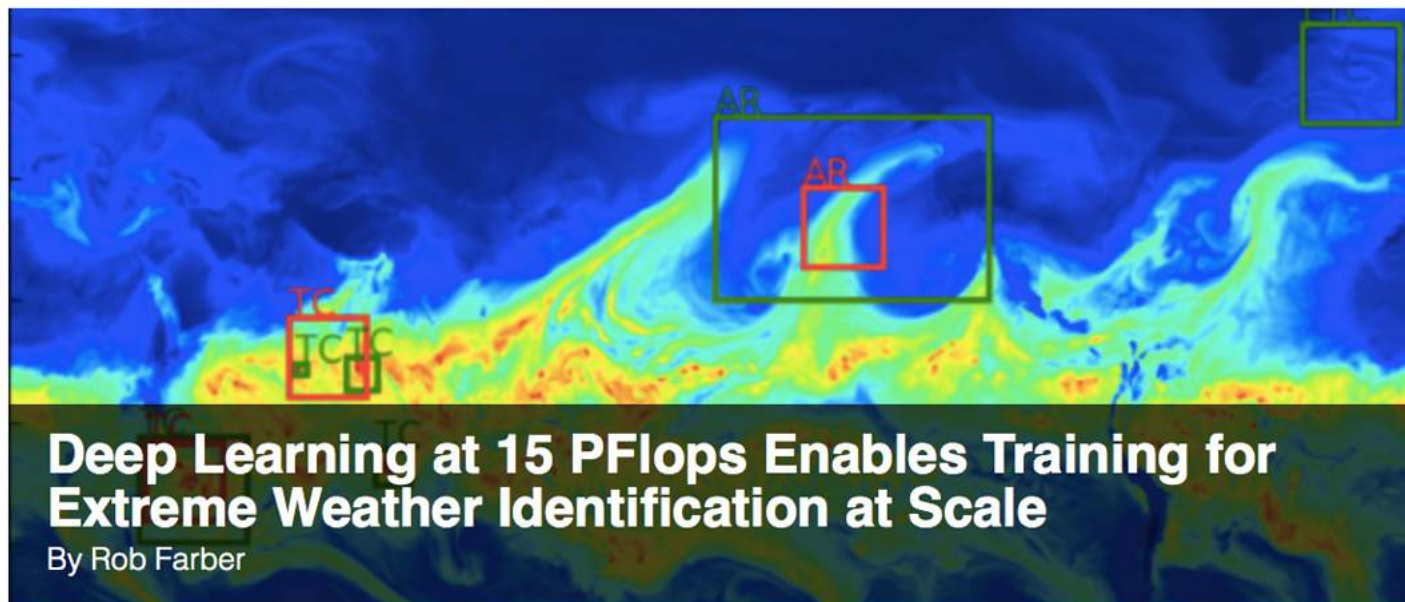
False Positives



Fronts - Correctly Classified



- Home
- Technologies
- Sectors
- AI/ML/DL
- Exascale
- Specials
- Resource Library
- Podcast
- Events
- Job Bank
- About
- Solution Channels



Deep Learning at 15 PFlops Enables Training for Extreme Weather Identification at Scale

By Rob Farber

March 19, 2018

Petaflop per second deep learning training performance on the NERSC (National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center) Cori supercomputer has given climate scientists the ability to use machine learning to identify extreme weather events in huge climate simulation datasets. Predictive accuracies ranging from 89.4% to as high as 99.1% show that trained deep learning neural networks (DNNs) can identify weather fronts, tropical cyclones, and long narrow air flows that transport water vapor from the tropics called [atmospheric rivers](#). As with image recognition, Michael Wehner (senior staff scientist, LBNL) noted they found the machine learning output outperforms humans. [i]



Neural Networks for Postprocessing Ensemble Weather Forecasts

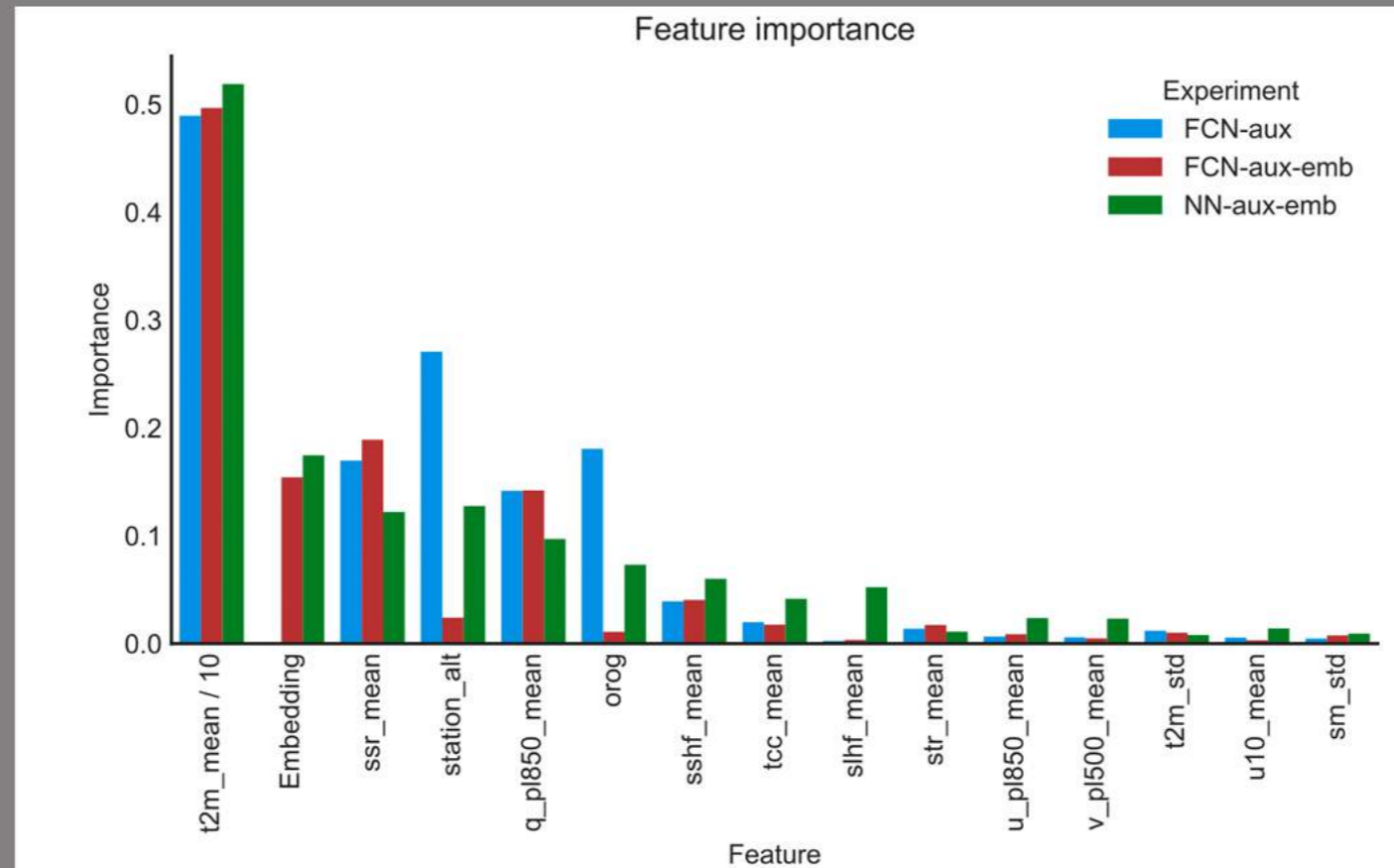
STEPHAN RASP

Meteorological Institute, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany

SEBASTIAN LERCH

Institute for Stochastics, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies, Karlsruhe, Germany

*Incorporates nonlinear relationships between arbitrary predictor variables and forecast distribution parameters
Outperforms traditional parametric methods - and provides information on nonlinear relationships among variables.*

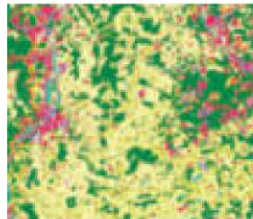


Land information extraction from satellite images

Map of categorical variables

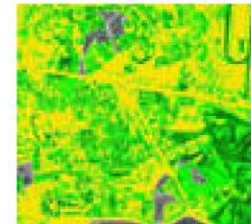


Map of thematic classes



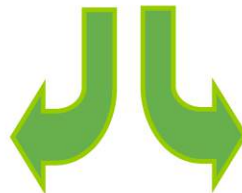
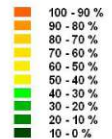
Land cover maps
Burned area maps
Flooded maps
Agriculture maps
Forest maps

Thematic remote sensing
Image classification



Leaf area index
Biomass
Tree volume

Map of continuous variables



Quantitative remote sensing
Modelling

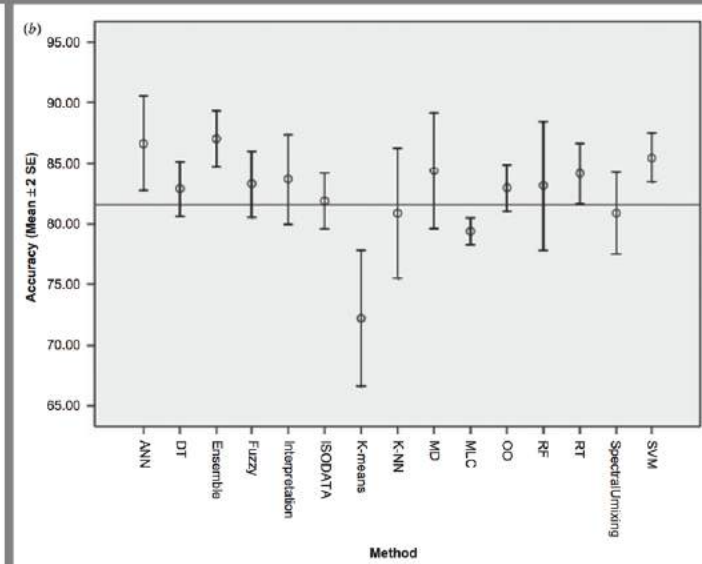
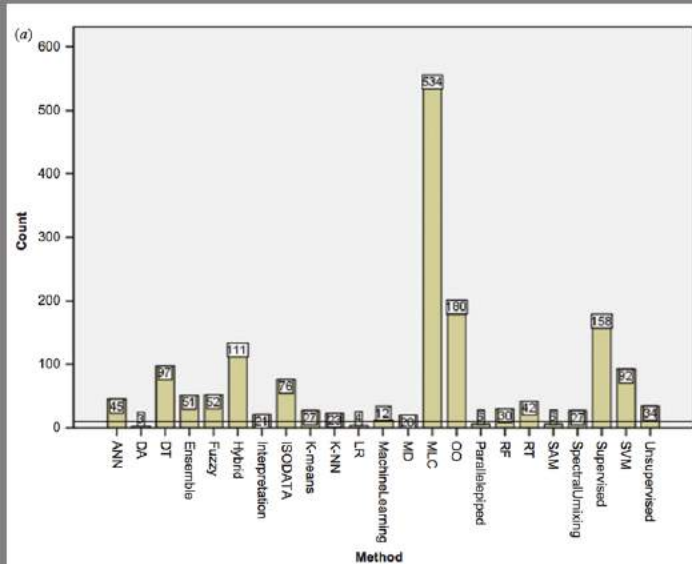
Classification Methods & Accuracy

Meta-analysis of 6771 publications (1976-2012) of land cover classification

Almost all classification methods could be considered some form of machine learning

Variability of accuracy for most methods is greater than differences among methods

Self-reported accuracy often based on subjective visual interpretation of imagery



What Influences Classification Accuracy?

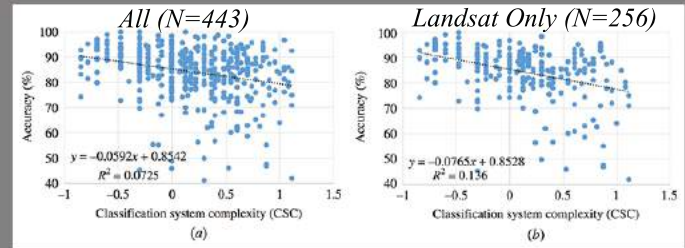
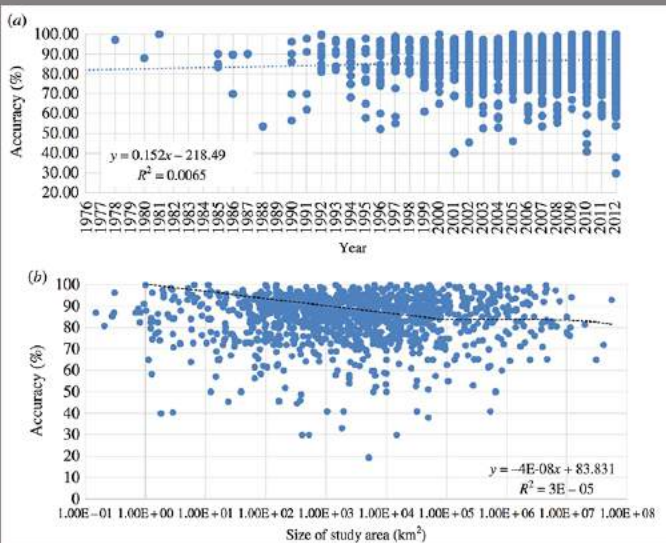
Self-reported accuracy shows no significant increase since 1976

Self-reported accuracy shows no significant scale-dependence

Lower tail of accuracy distribution sensitive to classification complexity - and N.

Upper tail of accuracy distribution sensitive to analyst confirmation bias

Accuracy distribution may say more about analysts than methods



Observations of Cyclone-Induced Storm Surge in Coastal Bangladesh

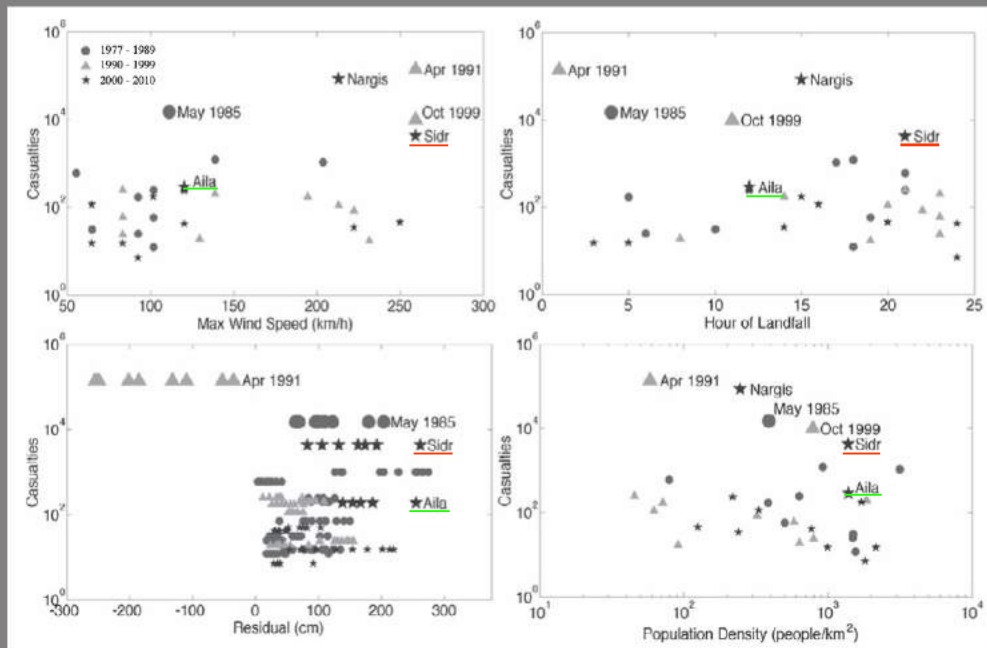
Soyee Chiu* and Christopher Small

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964, U.S.A.



www.cerf-jcr.org

Multiplicity: No single factor consistently explains cyclone casualties



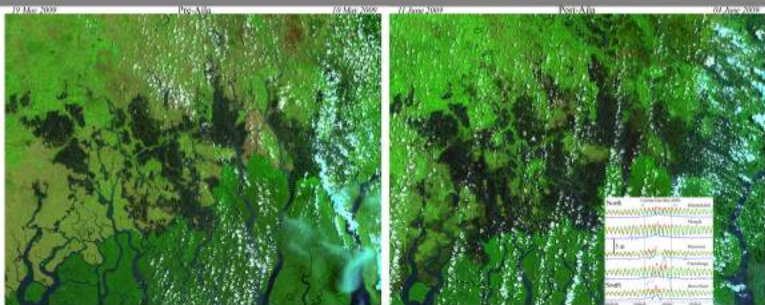
Agriculture-aquaculture transitions on the lower Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, 1972-2017

AUTHOR
 Subhojit Ghosh, Elizabeth Srinivasan

SUBMITTED ON: 14th 09th 2019
 VERSION: v2, 24th 09

Cyclone Aila 2009

Westward landfall drove onshore winds, higher storm surge & flooding



Article

Spatiotemporal Characterization of Mangrove Phenology and Disturbance Response: The Bangladesh Sundarban

Christopher Small * and Daniel Sousa

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, Palisades, NY 10964, USA

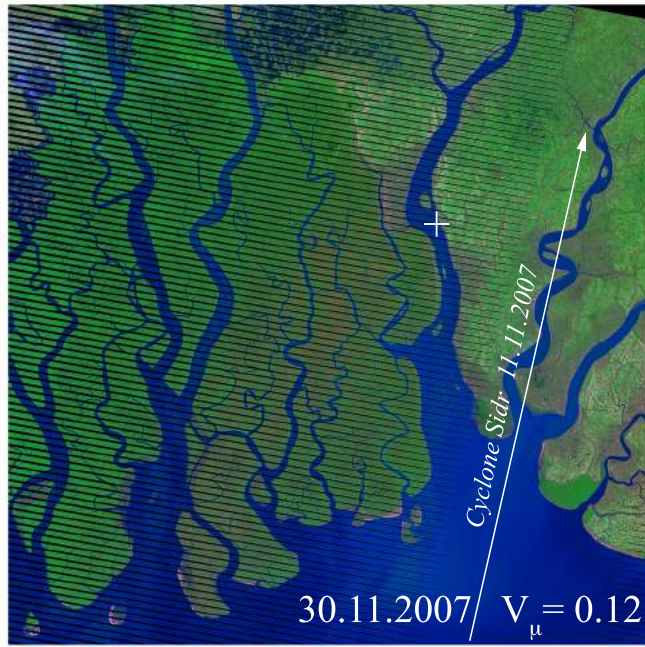
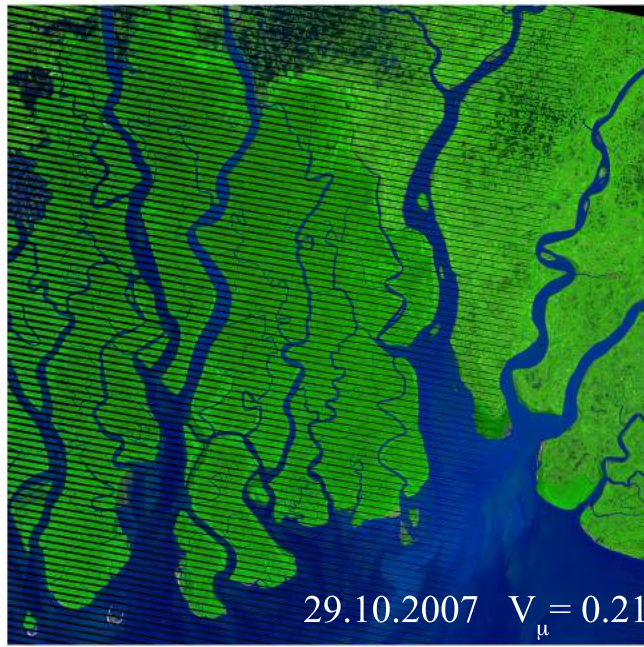
* Correspondence: csall@columbia.edu

Received: 17 July 2019; Accepted: 26 August 2019; Published: 2 September 2019



Cyclone Sidr 2007

Unusually high wind speed causes identifiable mangrove defoliation and crop damage



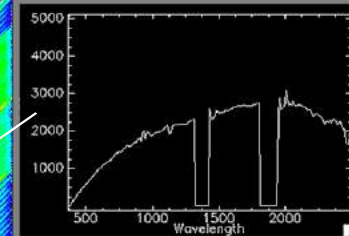
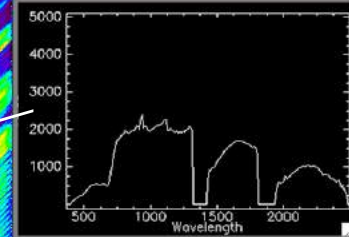
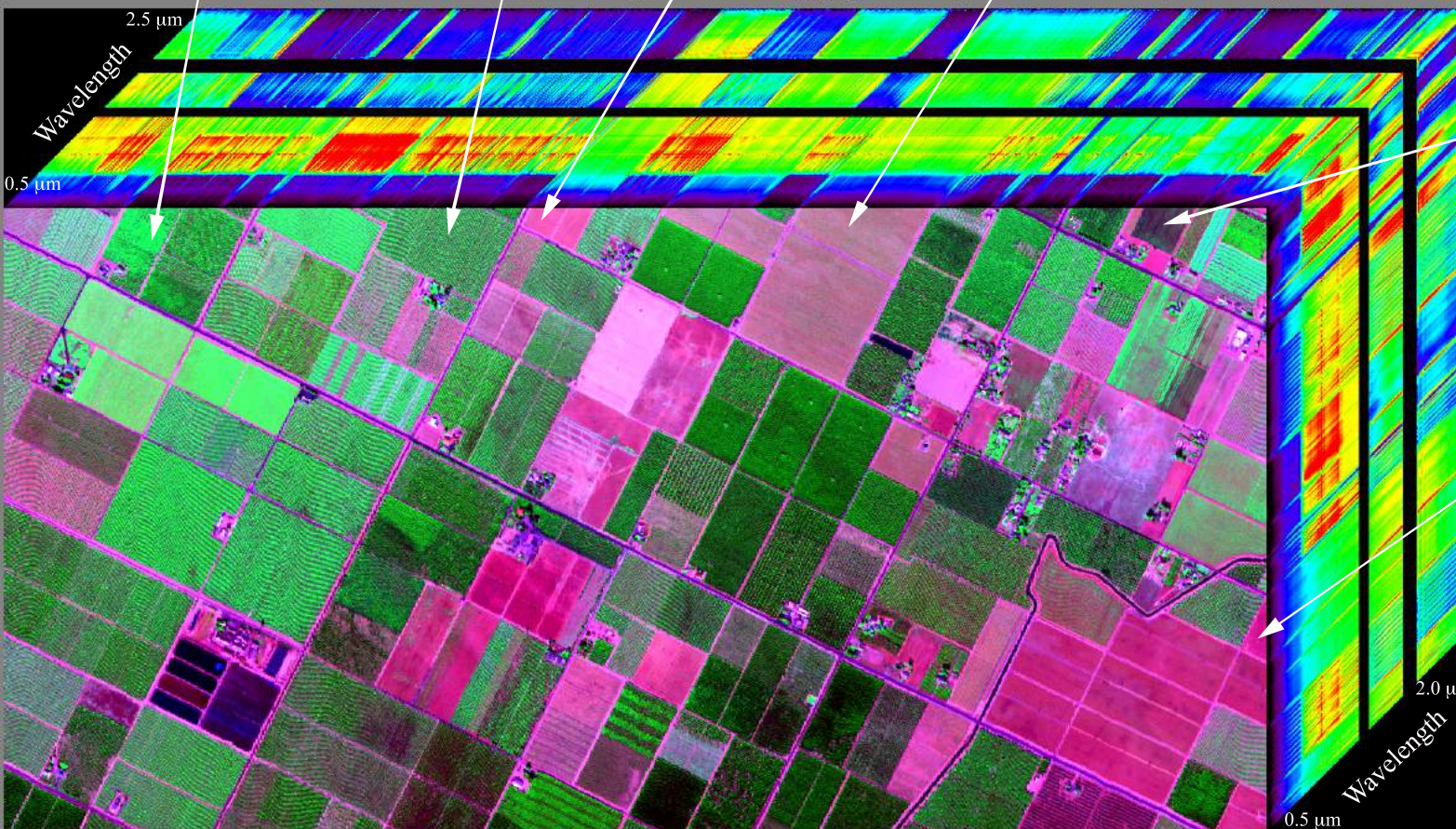
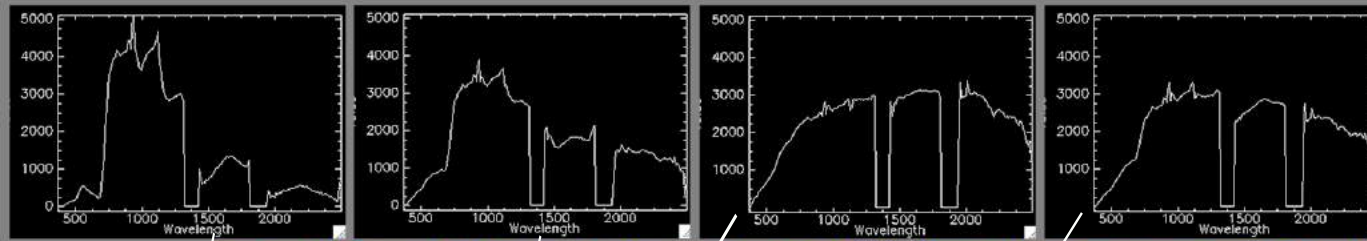
Hyperspectral Imaging

Visible to Shortwave Infrared reflectance spectra resolve distinct molecular absorption features

Allows for mapping of soil composition & moisture, vegetation health, leaf water content & moisture stress, N content...

*NASA AVIRIS
Airborne Visible Infrared
Imaging Spectrometer*

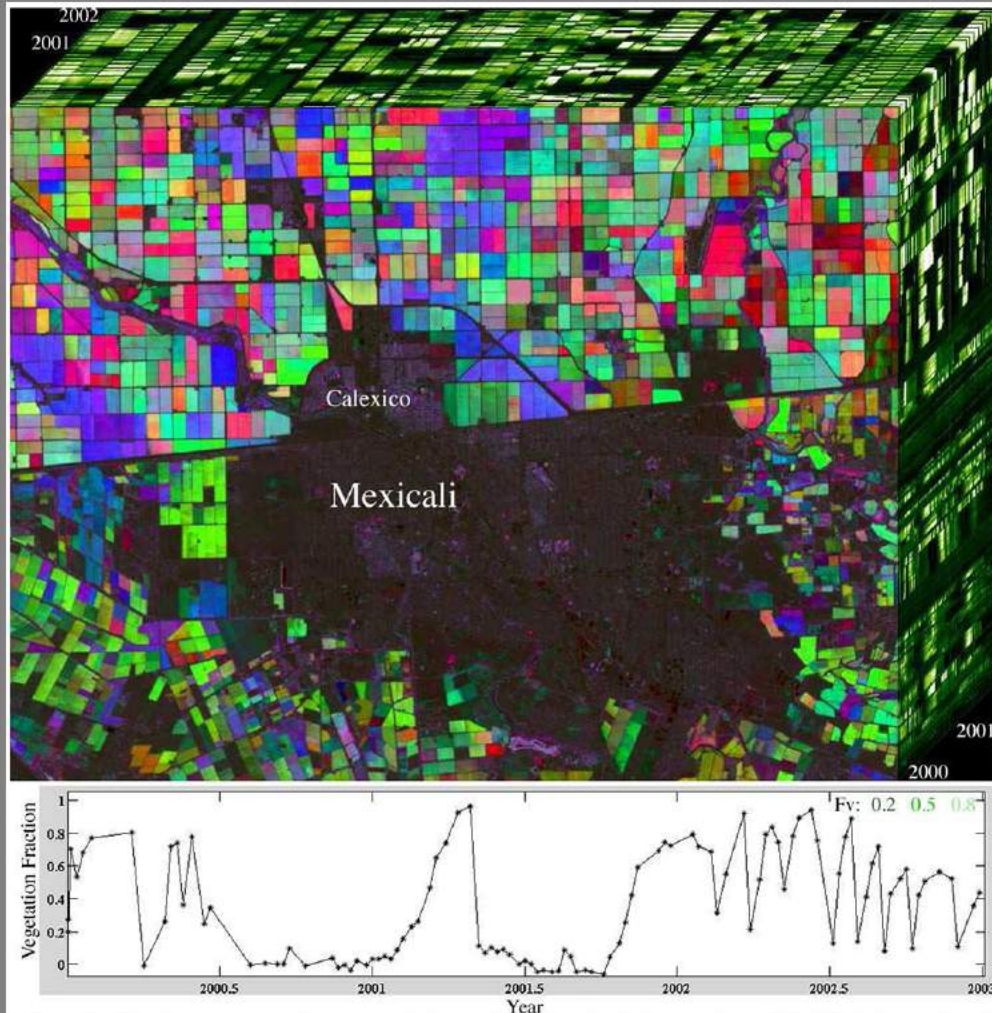
224 channels x 10 nm



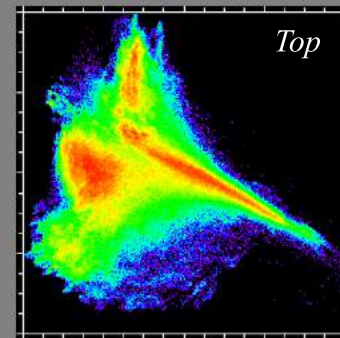
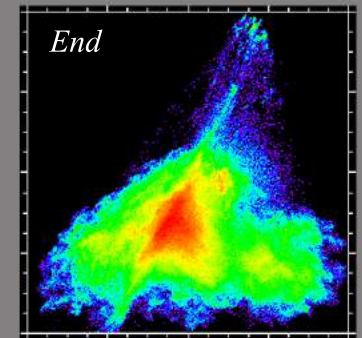
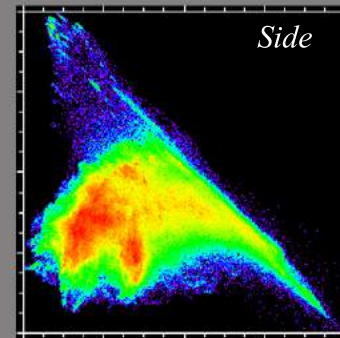
High Frequency Revist Satellite Constellations

Temporal evolution of visible+infrared spectral characteristics allow process mapping

SpectroTemporal feature spaces are higher dimensional, more complex and more strongly clustered than spectral feature spaces. High dimensional characterization of change patterns



Landsat + Sentinel
SpectroTemporal Feature Space



Point Density
Lower Higher