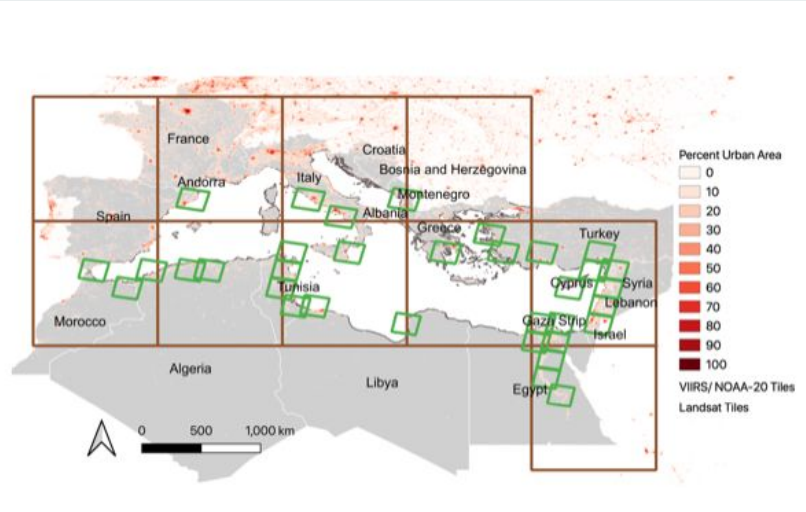


# A multi-dimensional, Mediterranean assessment of urban land change for the evaluation of interconnected climate risks



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Karen Chen (New PI), Yale University  
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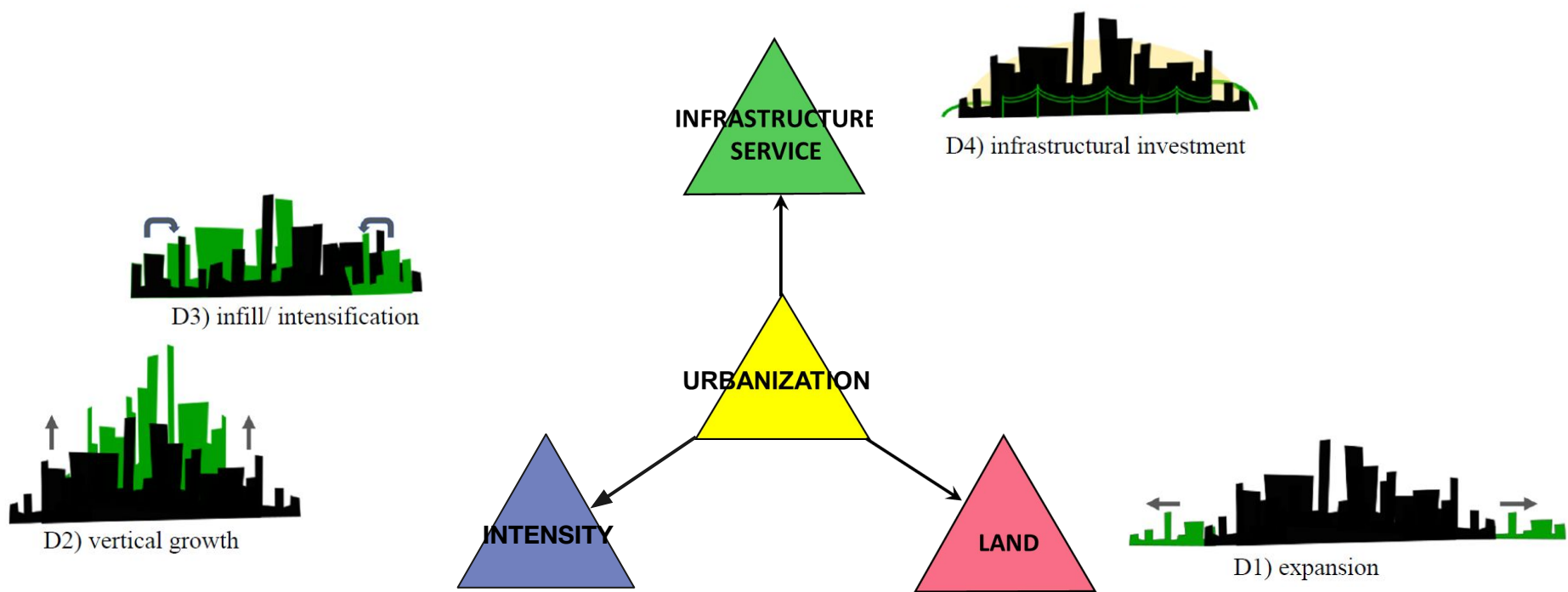


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the Environment



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# Multi-dimensional urbanization



# The morphology of the built environment affects heat intensity

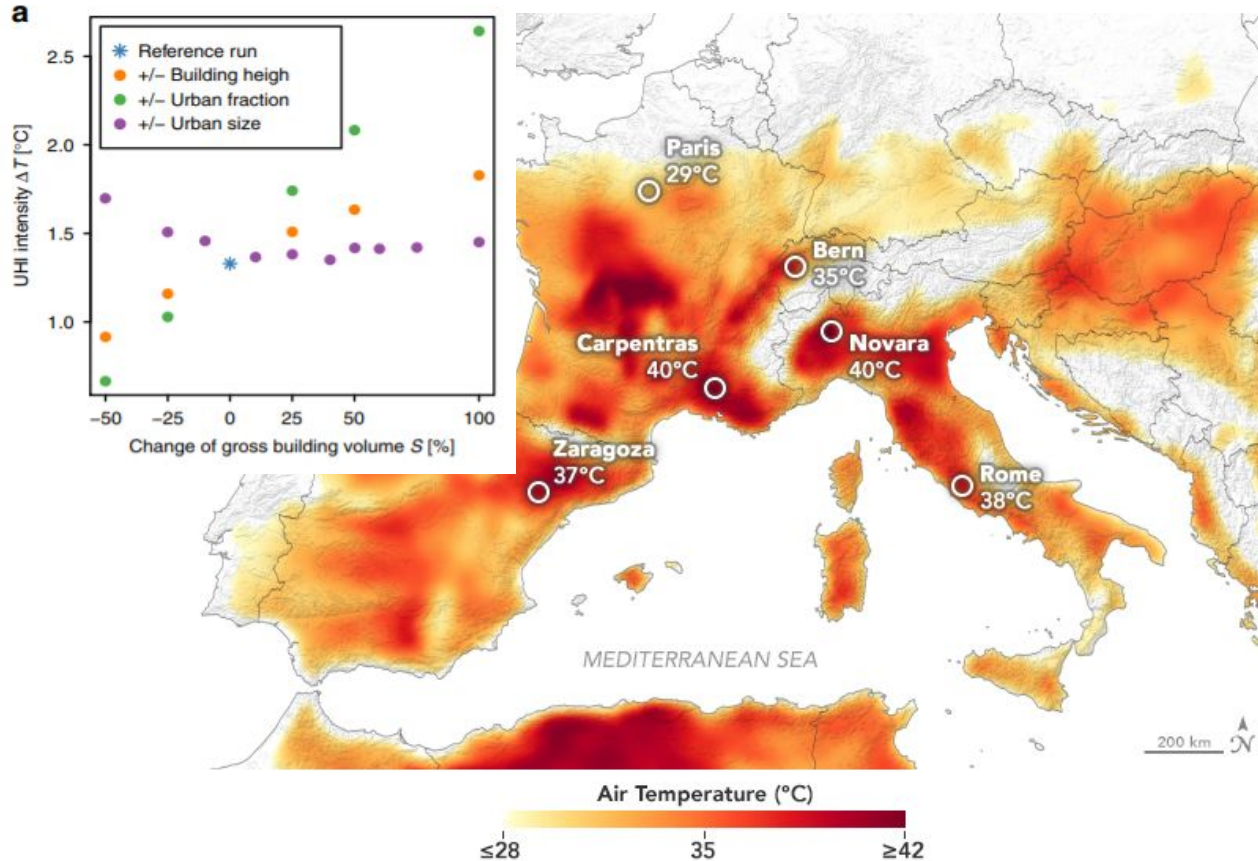
Partners:

Levent Genc, Turkey

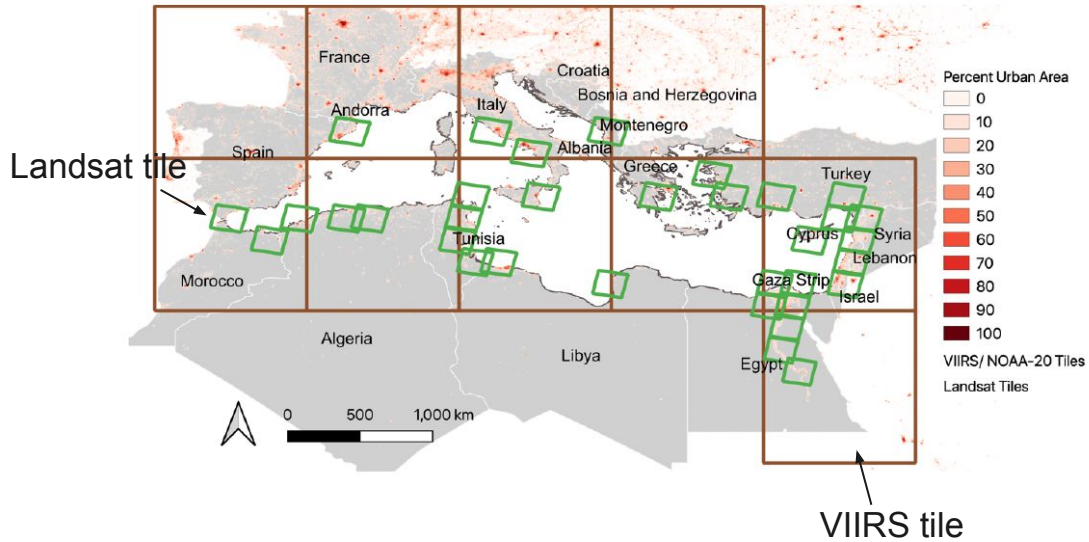
Melis Inalpulat, Turkey

Nektarios Chrysoulakis, Greece

Dimitris Poursanidis, Greece



# The Mediterranean region



Fethiye, Turkey



Alexandria, Egypt



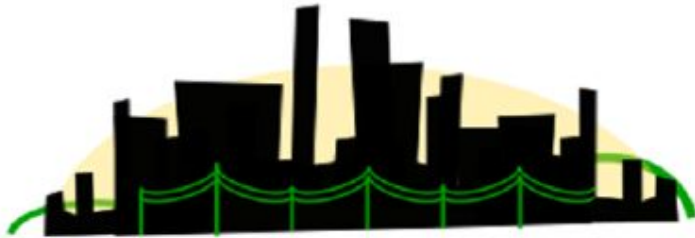
## Project goals

- Develop and apply methods for measuring multi-dimensional urbanization in the Mediterranean region:
  - Urban infrastructure investment
  - Infill / Intensification
  - 3D growth
- Understand interconnected climate risks



## Dimension 1

Analyzing infrastructure investment by integrating night- and day-time urban maps



D4) infrastructural investment

# Method

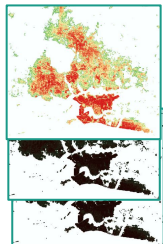
## Data Resources



K-shape  
time series  
Clustering

Monthly Nighttime Lights  
(NTL)  
2012-2022

WSF-2012  
(Evo)



WSF-2019

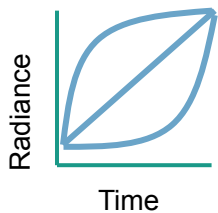
World Settlement Footprint  
(WSF)

Aggregation

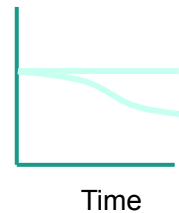
## Pre-Processing

### Archetypes

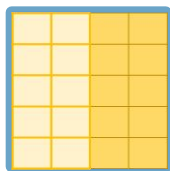
NTL-urbaniza  
tion



NTL-non-urbaniz  
ation



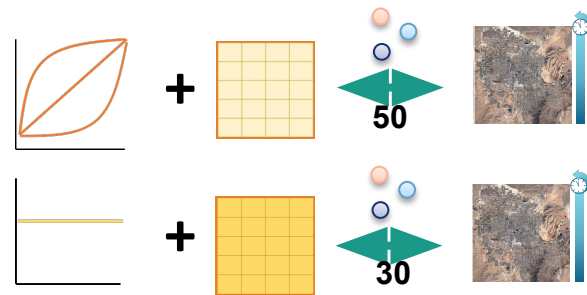
### Urbanization Percentage



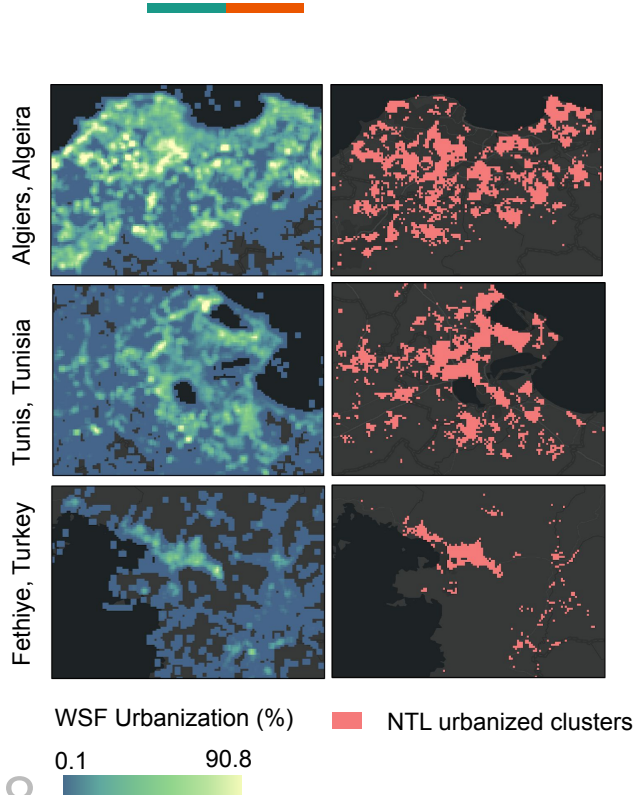
- WSF-Urbanizat  
ion
- WSF-Non-urbanizat  
ion
- NTL-urbanization  
percentage: 50%

## Night- and day-products disparity assessment

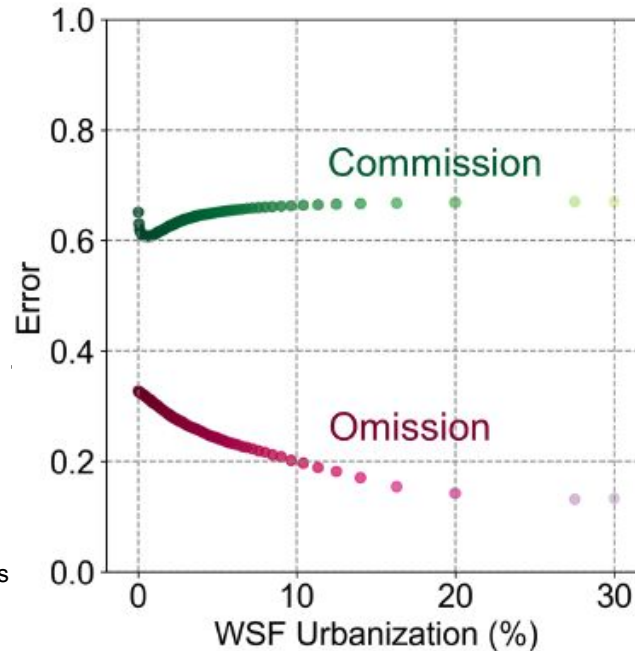
### Comparison



# Comparing NTL and WSF urbanization



	NTL: non-urbanization	NTL: Urbanization
WSF: Non- Urbanization	TN	FP
WSF: Urbanization	FN	TP

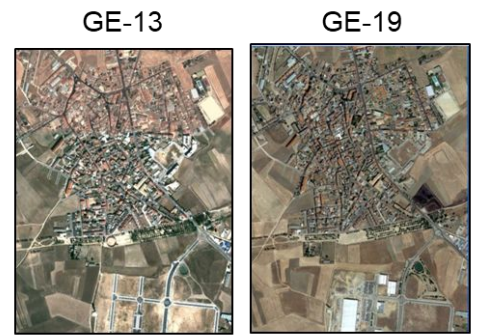
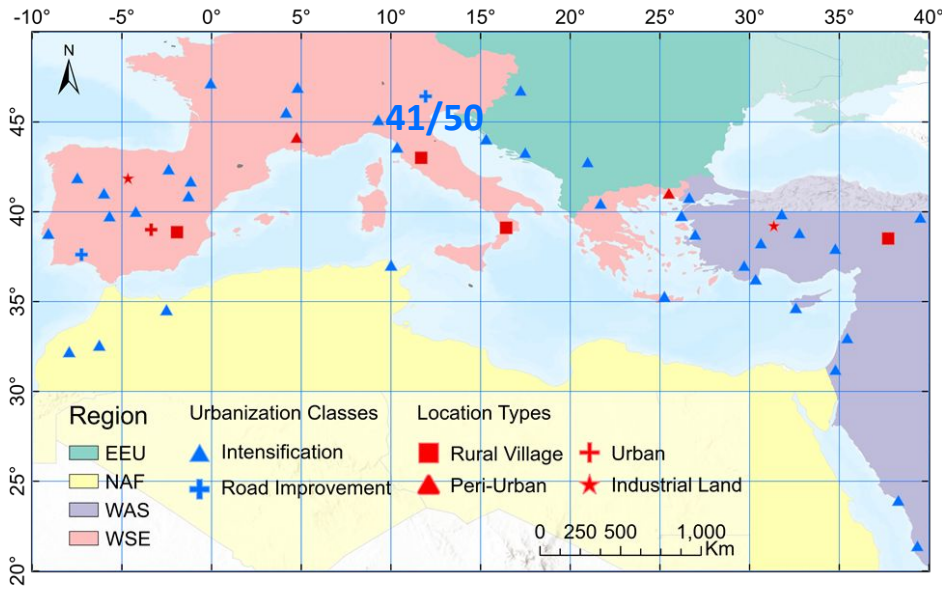
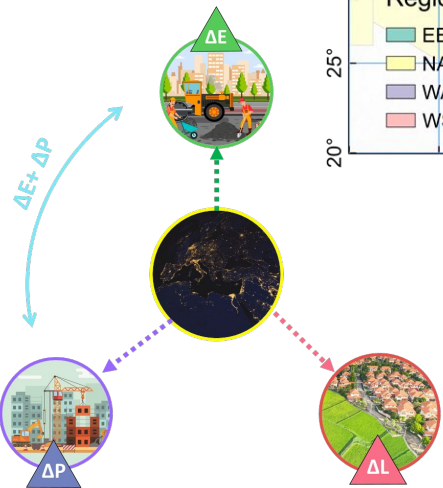


Commission error:  
Percentage of  
WSF-non-urbanization being  
identified as urbanization in the  
NTL profile

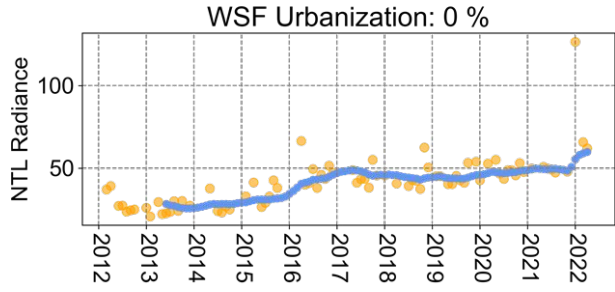
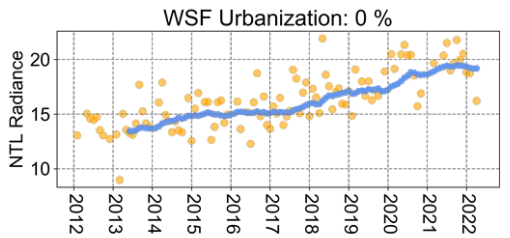
Omission error:  
Percentage of  
WSF-urbanization not being  
identified in the NTL profile



# Disparity of urbanization



b1. Intensification

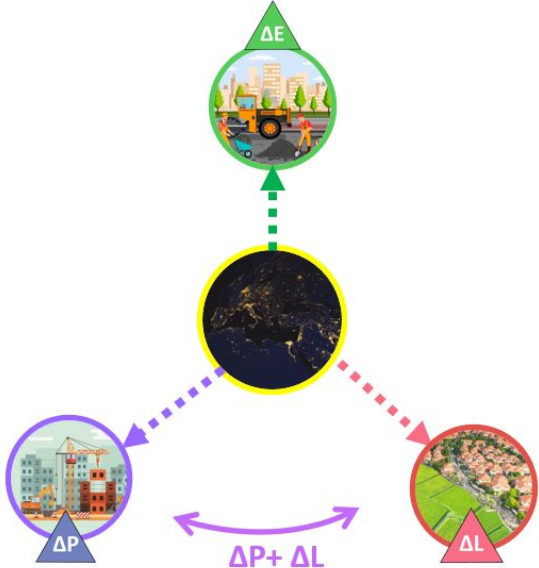


b2. Road Improvement

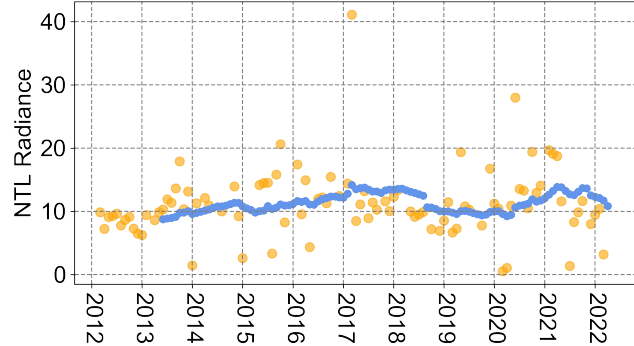
# Disparity of non-urbanization

## Dark Growth

Absent public lighting infrastructure (informal settlements)



WSF Urbanization: 30.5 %





## Dimension 2

**Subpixel estimate of urban land cover intensity  
and the identification of infill processes**



D3) infill/ intensification

Landsat satellite image



Resolution: 30m  
Revisiting: 16 days  
1972 – to date

Commercial satellite image from  
Google Earth

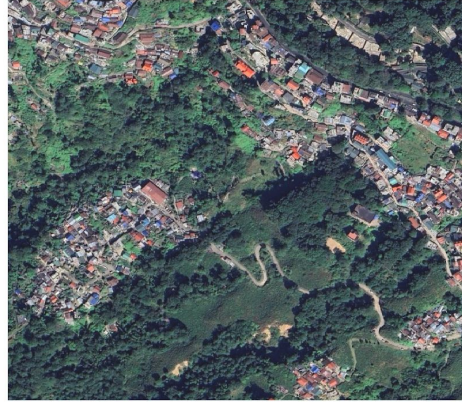


Resolution: 1m  
Revisiting: months to years  
Only updated images are freely available

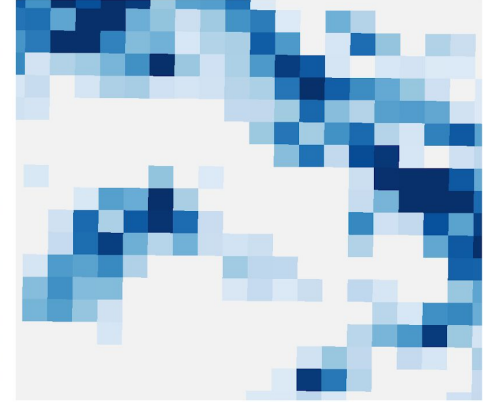
# Fractional urban land cover

- Impervious surface
- 30 m x 30 m grids using Landsat
- 40 cities and towns, stratified by population, elevation, and country and natural land cover

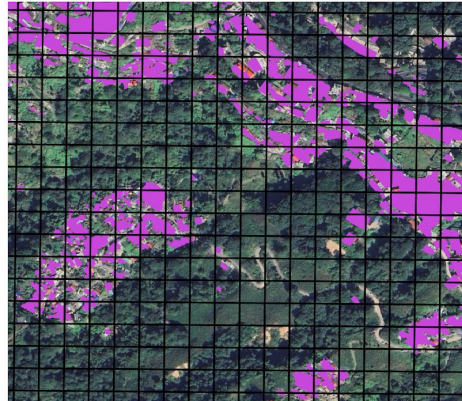
(a) Google Earth image



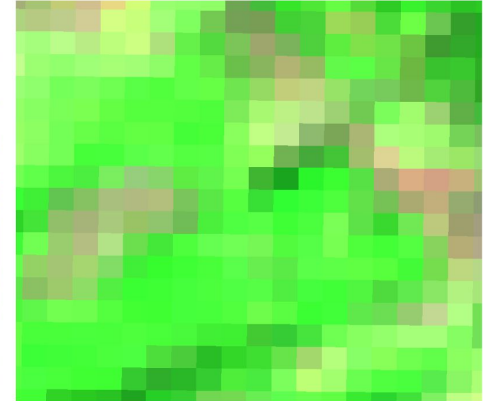
(c) Fractional data



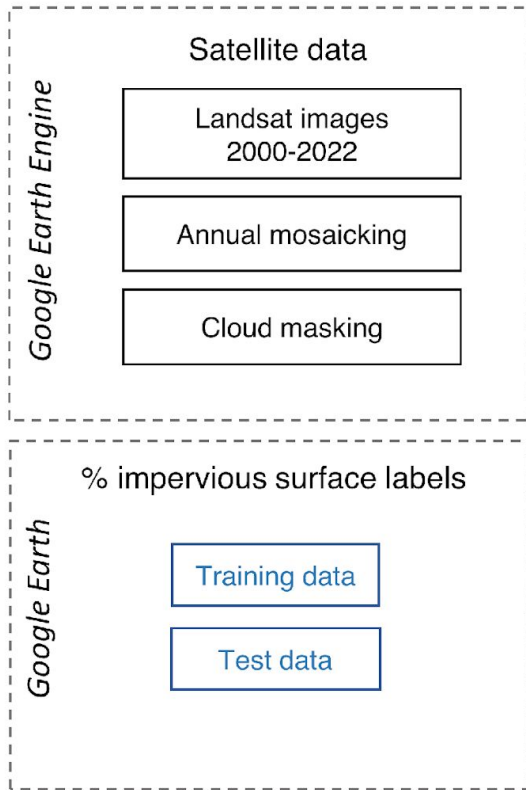
(b) Building footprint



(d) Landsat (SWIR-2, NIR, G)



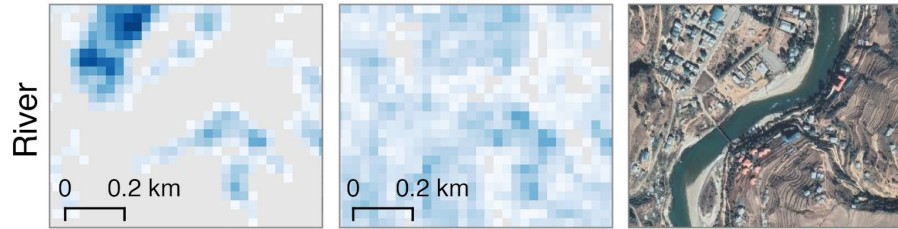
# Datasets



U-Net

Random Forest

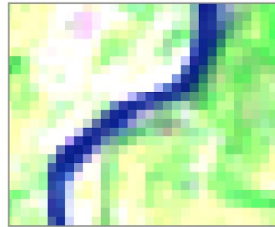
Google image



% impervious surface

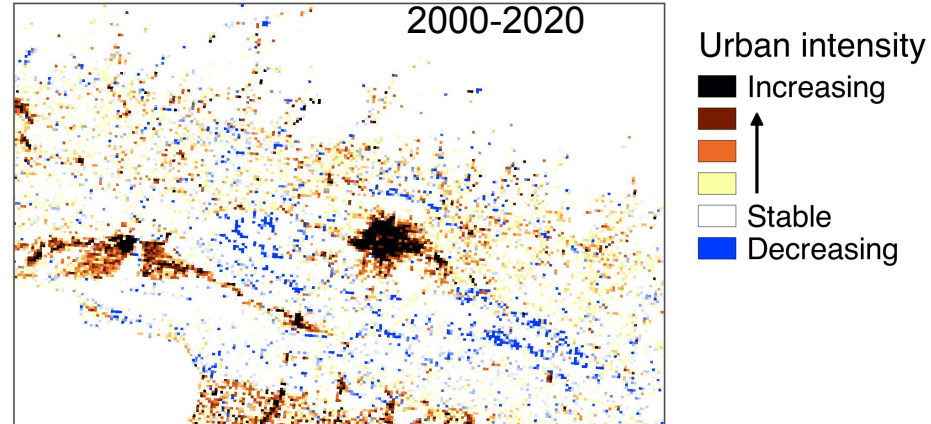
low high

Landsat image



## Results – urban fraction

- Reduce false positives from spectrally similar land cover
- The U-Net + MS led to doubled accuracy for **small** settlements





## Dimension 3

# Identifying vertical growth using Landsat data



D2) vertical growth





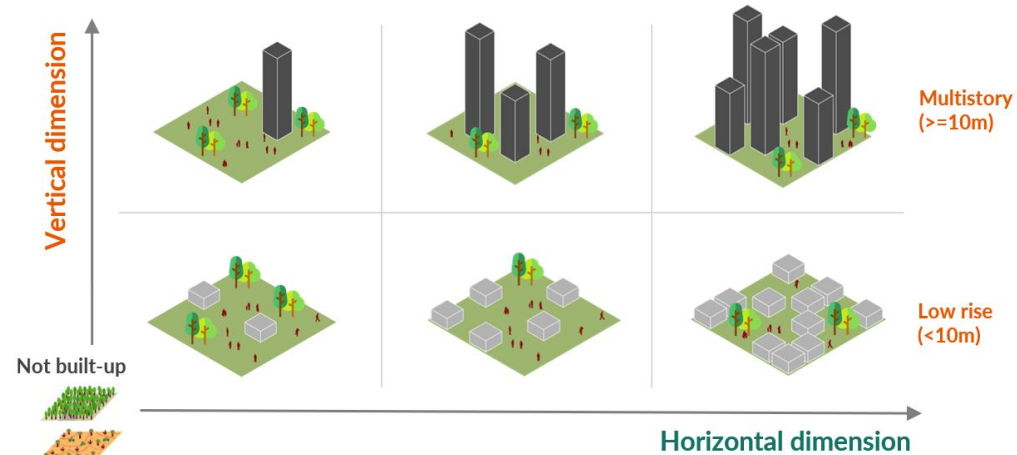
Mapping horizontal and vertical urban densification in Denmark with Landsat time-series from 1985 to 2018: A semantic segmentation solution



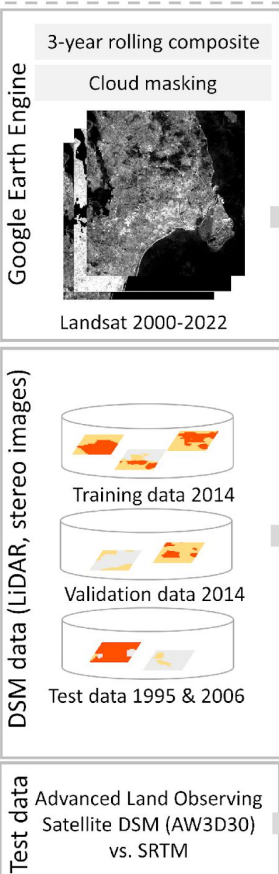
Tzu-Hsin Karen Chen<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Chungping Qiu<sup>d</sup>, Michael Schmitt<sup>d,e</sup>, Xiao Xiang Zhu<sup>d,e</sup>, Clive E. Sabel<sup>a,b</sup>, Alexander V. Prishchepov<sup>c</sup>

# Vertical growth detection

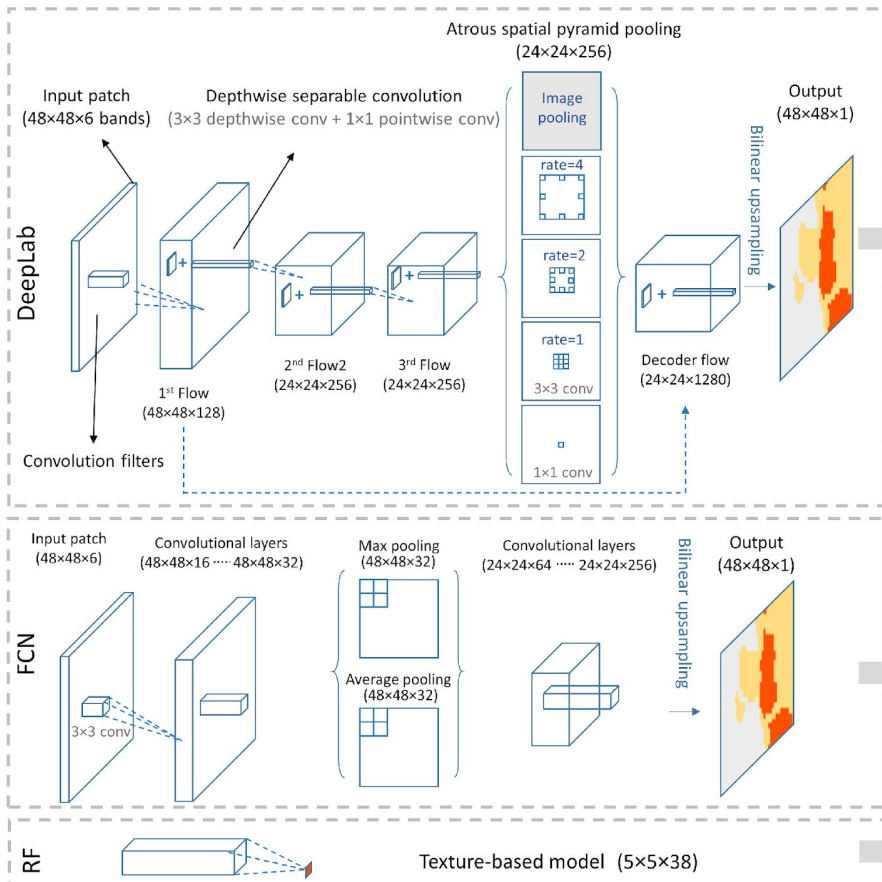
- Common approaches:
  - Regression: Indicator using Sentinel-1 Ground Range Detected data
  - Classification: Local climate zones
- Research gap: time series height analysis
- Goal: validate and understand vertical growth in the Mediterranean region



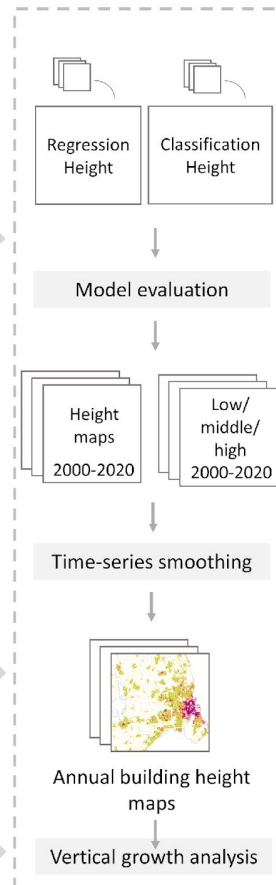
## Datasets



## Models



## Results



# Next?

## Hotspots of urbanization-climate compound risks

- Heat waves
- Flooding risks
- Human health
- Biodiversity



**JURSE 2023**  
Heraklion - Crete

Postdoc and PhD opportunities





**Thank you** 😊

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Melis Inalpulat  
Nektarios Chrysoulakis  
Dimitris Poursanidis

**Supports:**

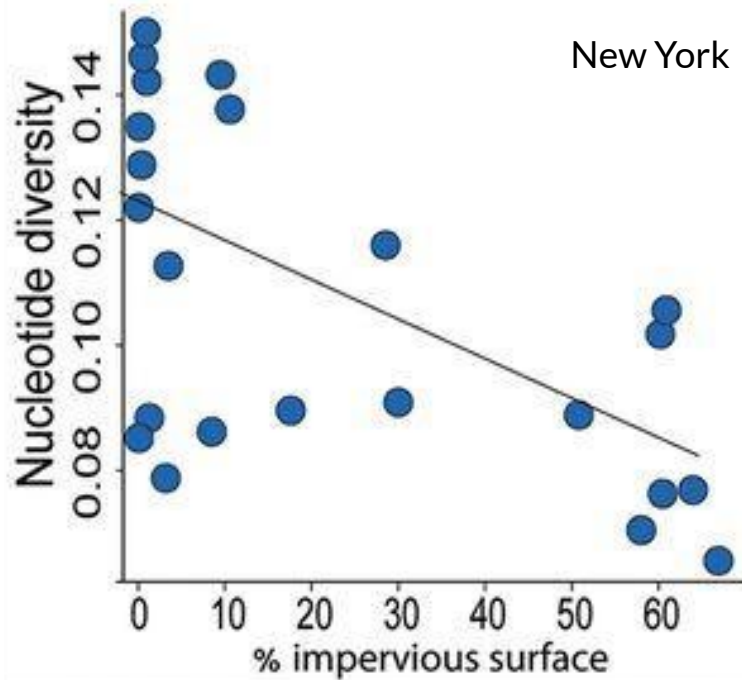


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# Backup slides for Q&A

# Biodiversity

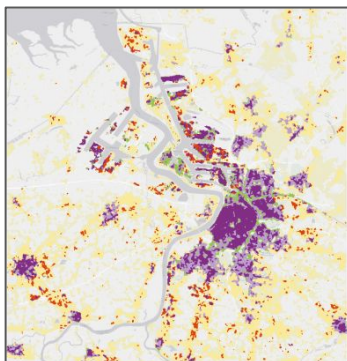


Climate Change

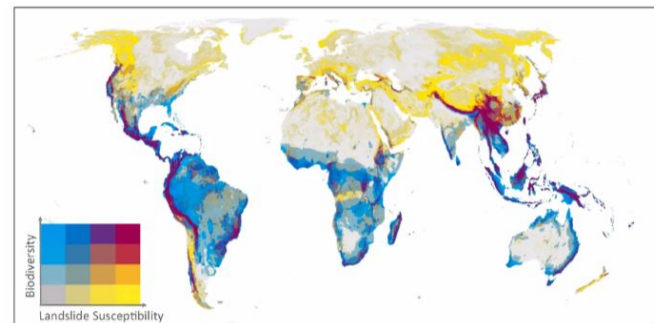
Biodiversity



Kibera, Nairobi © Johnny Miller/Thomson Reuters Foundation



- Compact high
- Compact low
- Open high
- Open low
- Sparse high
- Sparse low



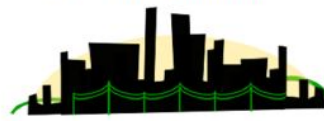
D1) expansion



D2) vertical growth



D3) infill/ intensification

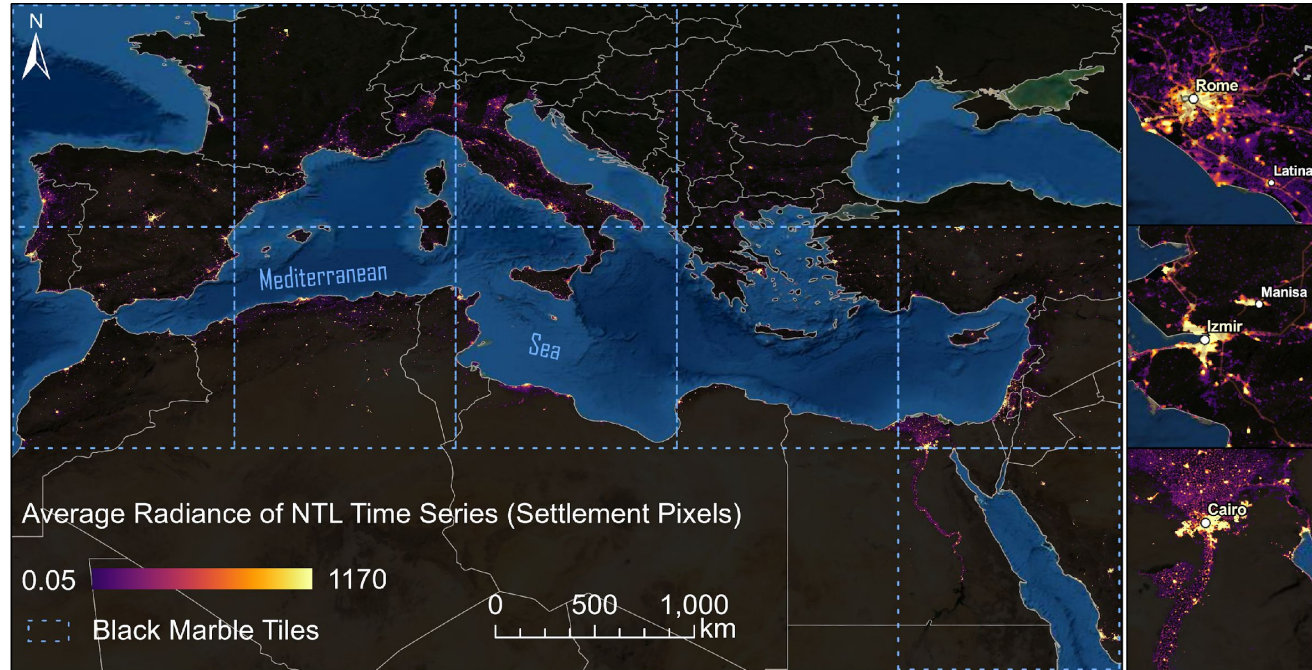
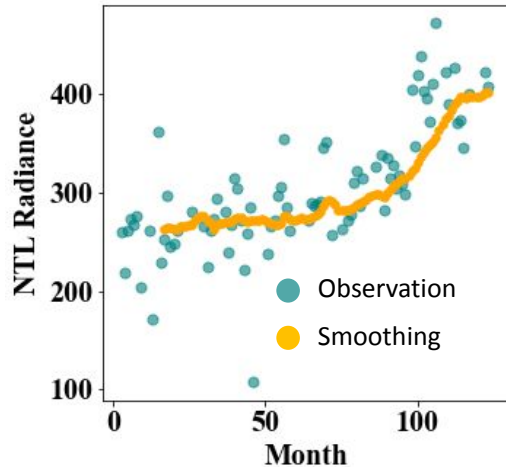


D4) infrastructural investment



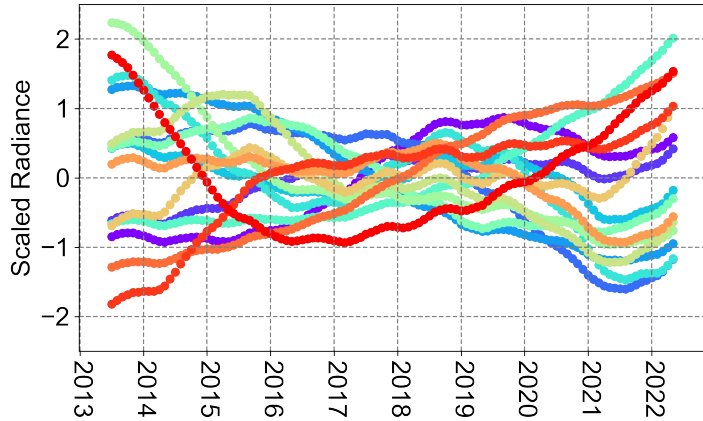
# Materials and Study Area

- Monthly **Black Marble NTL** dataset (2012-2022 April, 124 months) at Near-Nadir Angle
- Reliable urban NTL time-series (3 layers of quality control)
- Urban areas with  $E > 0.59$ ,  $\epsilon > 0.93$
- 18-month smooth

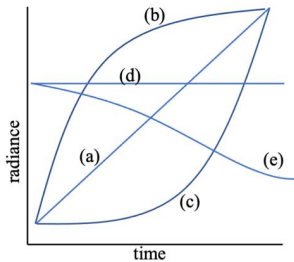
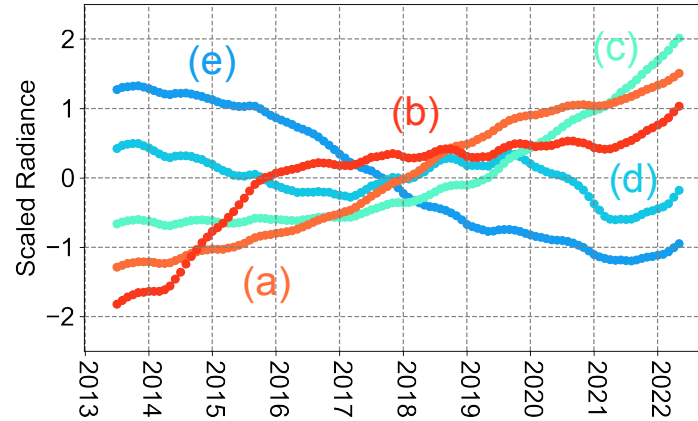


# Clustering & Classification

15 clusters: mean values



Archetypes of infrastructure development



(a) constant infrastructure development (b) slowing infrastructure development (c) accelerating infrastructure development (d) no new development (e) deurbanization/declining infrastructure intensity and use.