

The Earth System Data Lab

Idea, examples, and way forward

Miguel Mahecha (1), Gunnar Brandt (2), Fabian Gans (3), Norman Fomferra (2), Alicja Balfanz (2), Guido Kraemer (1), Maximilian Söchting (1), David Montero (1), Markus Reichstein (3), Carsten Brockmann (2), **early adopters & other contributors!**

(1) Remote Sensing Center for Earth System Research, Leipzig University, Germany

(2) Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Germany

(3) Brockmann Consult GmbH, Germany

[@EarthSysDataLab](#)



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR BIOGEOCHEMISTRY

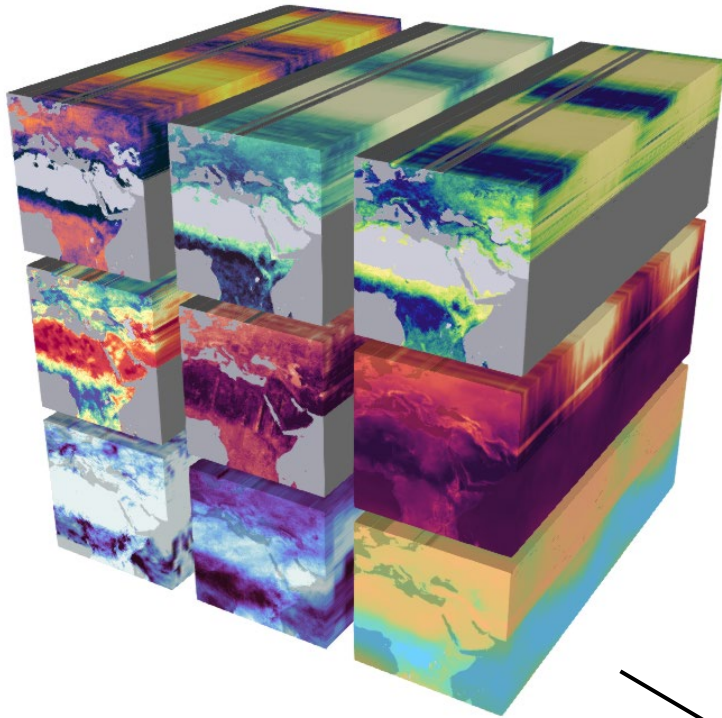


The original Idea

Solve all interoperability issues of downstream data streams

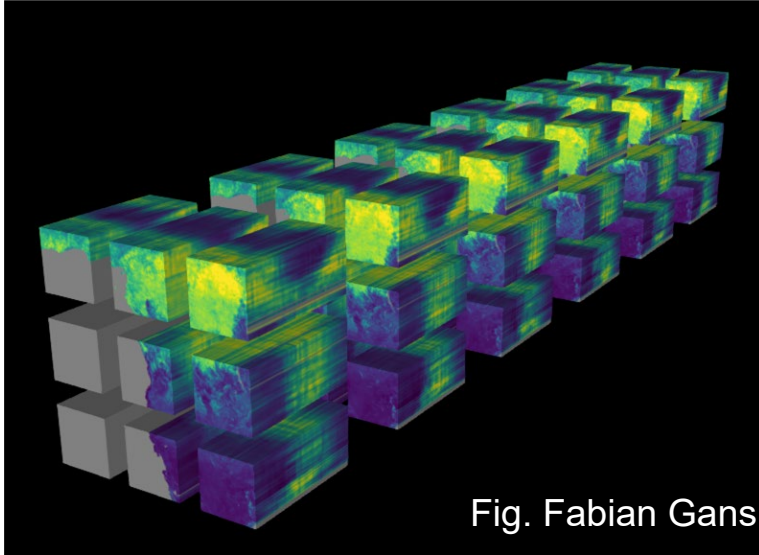
- *Make all downstream Earth data products truly interoperable*
- *Scientists should focus on data exploration only!*
- *Overcome scalability issues etc.*

Every dimension is of equal relevance and accessibility



Order $ L $	Set of data cubes $\mathcal{C}(L)$	Description of $\mathcal{C}(L)$
0	$\mathcal{C}(\{\})$	Scalar value where no dimension is defined.
1	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat\})$	Univariate latitudinal profile.
1	$\mathcal{C}(\{lon\})$	Univariate longitudinal profile.
1	$\mathcal{C}(\{time\})$	Univariate time series.
1	$\mathcal{C}(\{var\})$	Single multivariate observation.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, lon\})$	Univariate static geographical map.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, time\})$	Univariate Hovmöller diagram: zonal pattern over time.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, var\})$	Multivariate latitudinal profile.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{lon, time\})$	Univariate Hovmöller diagram: meridional pattern over time.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{lon, var\})$	Multivariate longitudinal profile.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{time, var\})$	Multivariate time series.
2	$\mathcal{C}(\{time, freq\})$	Univariate time frequency plane.
3	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, lon, time\})$	Univariate data cube.
3	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, lon, var\})$	Multivariate map, e.g. a global map of different soil properties.
3	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, time, var\})$	Multivariate latitudinal Hovmöller diagram.
3	$\mathcal{C}(\{lon, time, var\})$	Multivariate longitudinal Hovmöller diagram.
3	$\mathcal{C}(\{time, freq, var\})$	Multivariate spectrally decomposed time series.
4	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, lon, time, var\})$	Multivariate spatiotemporal cube.
4	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, lon, time, freq\})$	Univariate spectrally decomposed data cube.
5	$\mathcal{C}(\{lat, lon, time, var, ens\})$	Multivariate ensemble of model simulations.

Data cubes should live in the cloud



Cloud-optimized data formats:
Zarr - compatible with <https://pangeo.io/>

Accessible for the user via jupyter labs e.g. in Julia via

- DiskArrays.jl (*operations on any array data ...*)
- YAXArrays.jl (*out of core operations on arrays*)
- EarthDataLab.jl (*specific functionality for Earth*)

```
[ ]: function sufficient_dimensions(xin::AbstractArray, expl_var::Float64 = 0.95)
    any(ismissing, xin) && return NaN
    npoint, nvar = size(xin)
    means = mean(xin, dims = 1)
    stds = std(xin, dims = 1)
    xin = broadcast((y,m,s) -> s>0.0 ? (y-m)/s : one(y), xin, means, stds)
    pca = fit(PCA, xin', pratio = 0.999, method = :svd)
    return findfirst(cumsum(principalvars(pca)) / tprincipalvar(pca) .> expl_var)
end
```

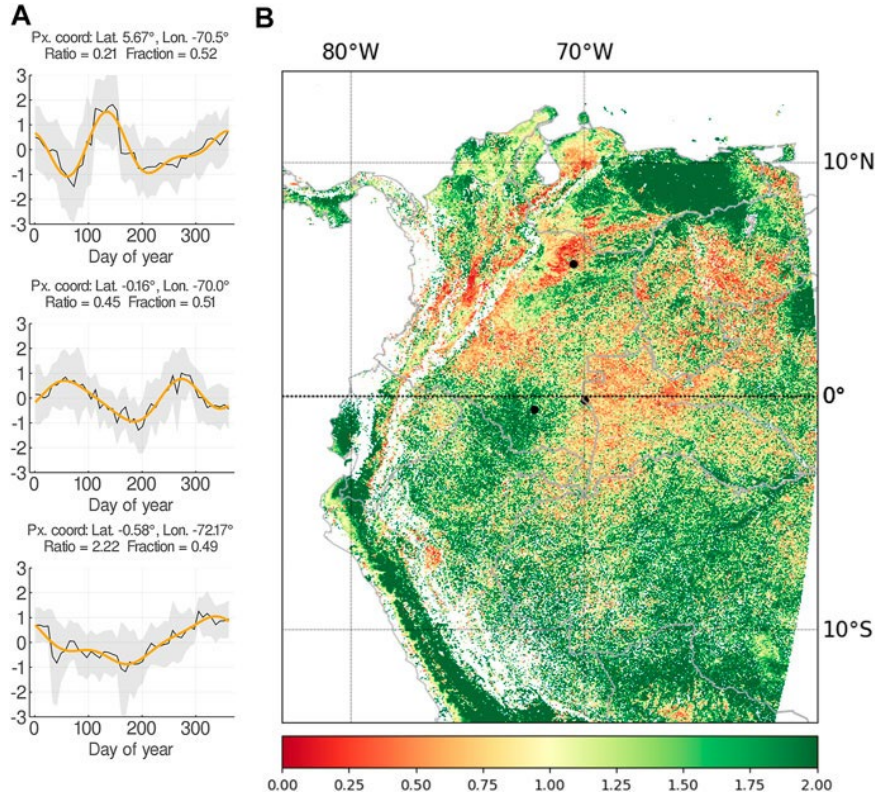
```
[ ]: cube_int_dim = mapslices(sufficient_dimensions, cube_fill, dims = ("Time", "Variable"))
```

```
[36]: plotMAP(cube_int_dim)
```

```
[36]:
```



Developing regional data labs



Colour values of >1 → Dominant annual cycle in comparison to the semiannual mode.



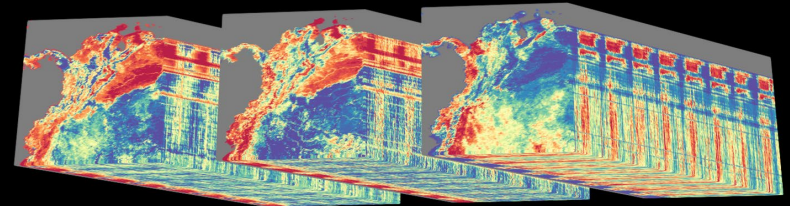
A Regional Earth System Data Lab for Understanding Ecosystem Dynamics: An Example from Tropical South America

Lina M. Estupinan-Suarez^{1,2*}, Fabian Gans¹, Alexander Brenning^{2,3},
Victor H. Gutierrez-Velez⁴, Maria C. Londono⁵, Daniel E. Pabon-Moreno¹, Germán Poveda⁶,
Markus Reichstein^{1,3,7}, Björn Reu⁸, Carlos A. Sierra^{1,9}, Ulrich Weber¹ and
Miguel D. Mahecha^{1,7,10,11}

¹Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany, ²Department of Geography, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Jena, Germany, ³Michael Stifel Center Jena for Data-Driven and Simulation Science, Jena, Germany, ⁴Department of Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, United States, ⁵Alexander Von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia, ⁶Department of Geosciences and Environment, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín, Colombia, ⁷German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany, ⁸School of Biology, Faculty of Science, Universidad Industrial de Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia, ⁹Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden, ¹⁰Remote Sensing Centre for Earth System Research, Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany, ¹¹Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

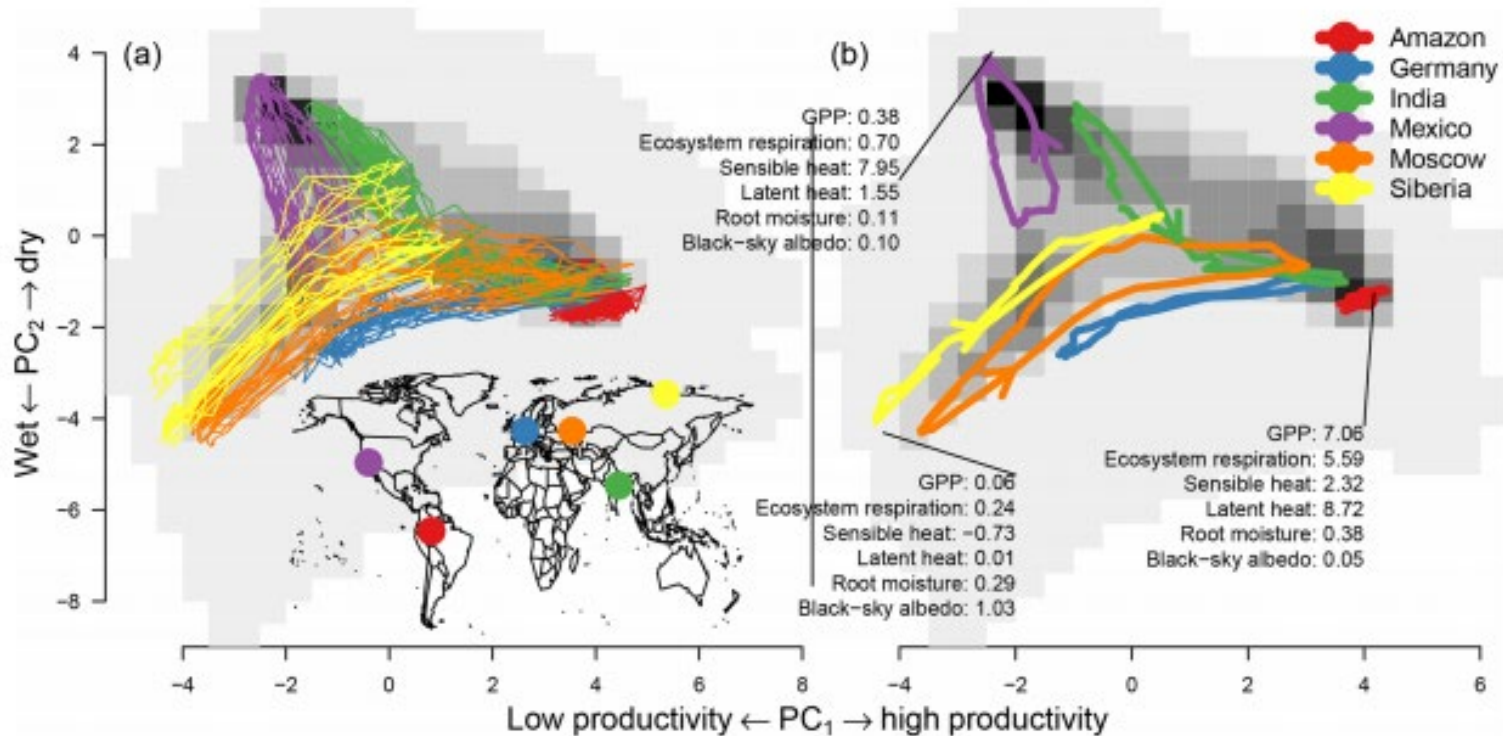
OPEN ACCESS

Edited by:
Alexander Kokhanovsky,
Telespazio Germany GmbH, Germany



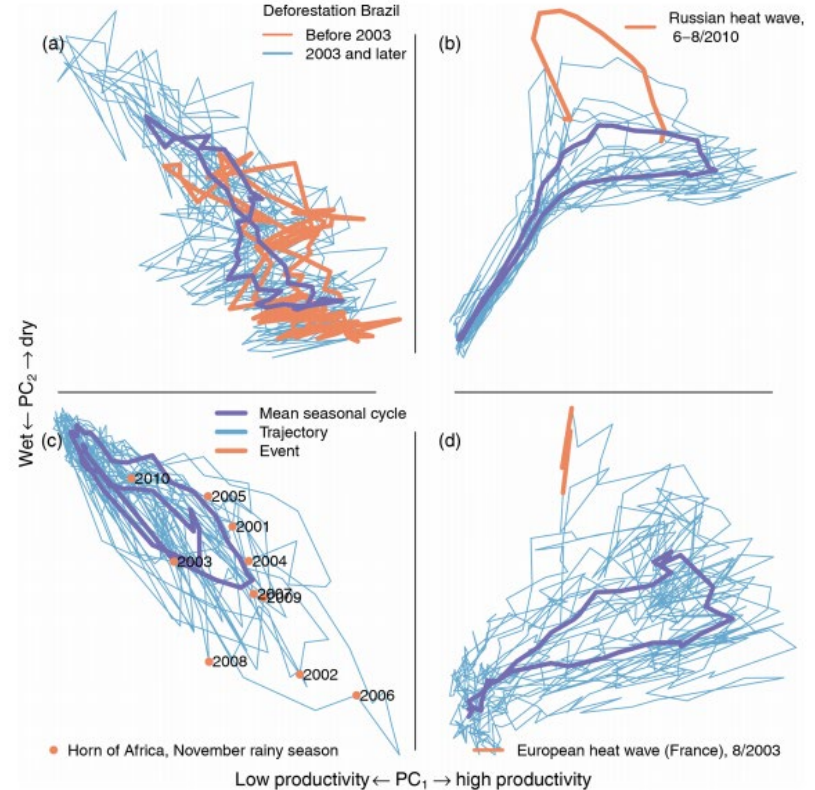
Scientific examples

Low-dimensional trajectories in the land-surface

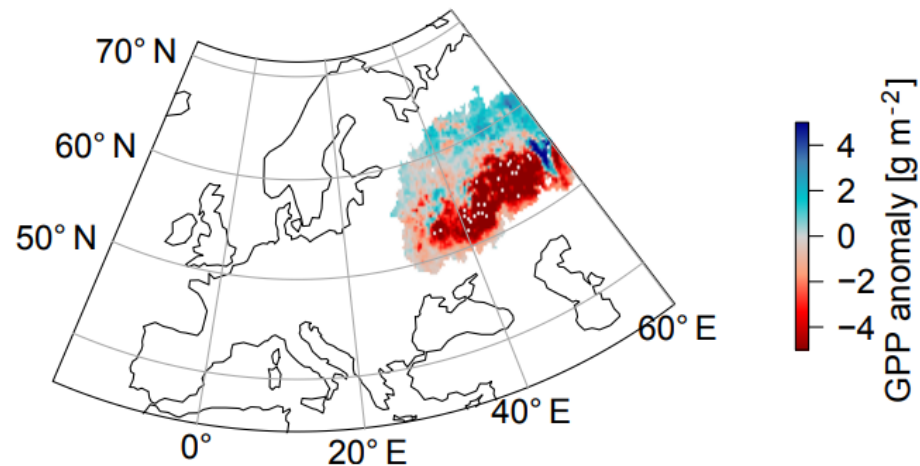


Low-dimensional trajectories in the land-surface

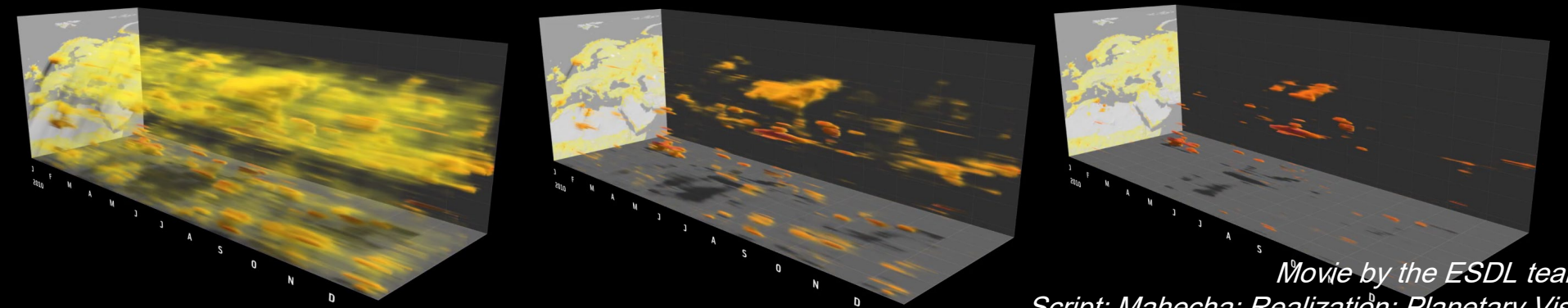
- Reflect deforestation
- Extreme events
- Long-term trends
- Modulations in amplitudes



Extreme events in the ESDL

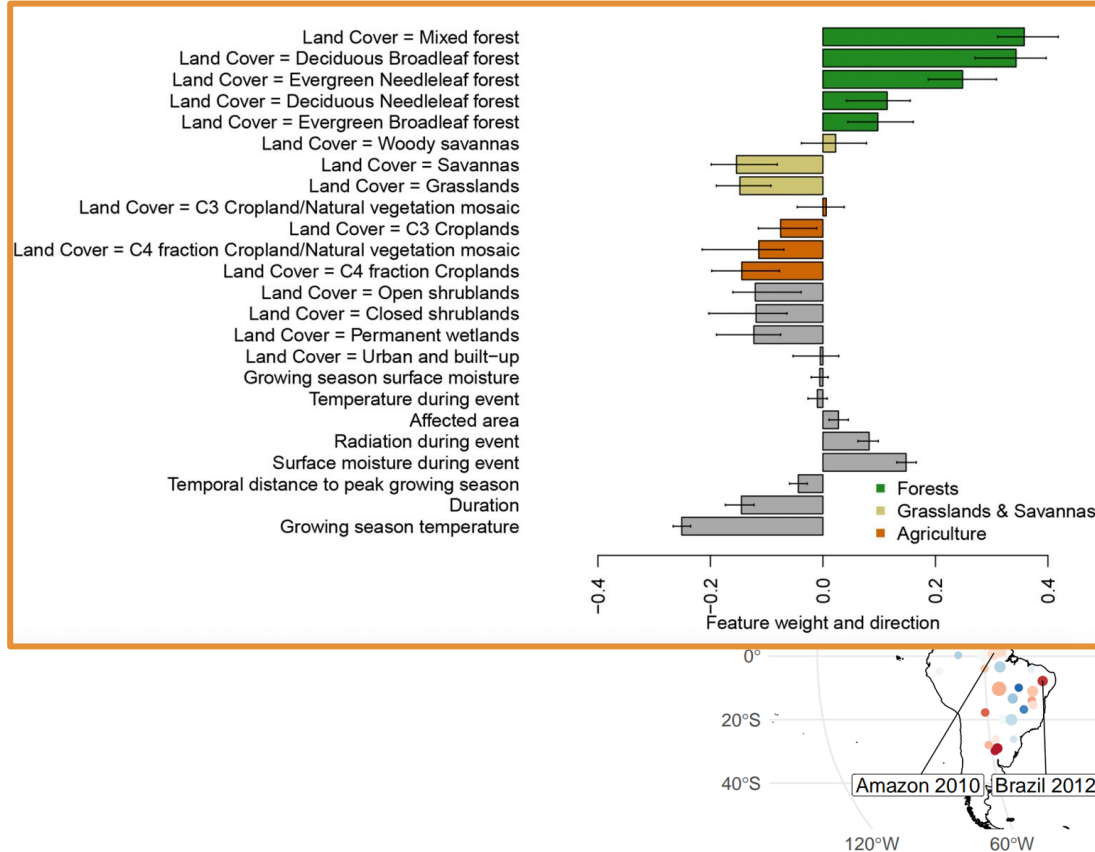


Flach et al. (2018) Biogeosciences, 15, 6067-6085



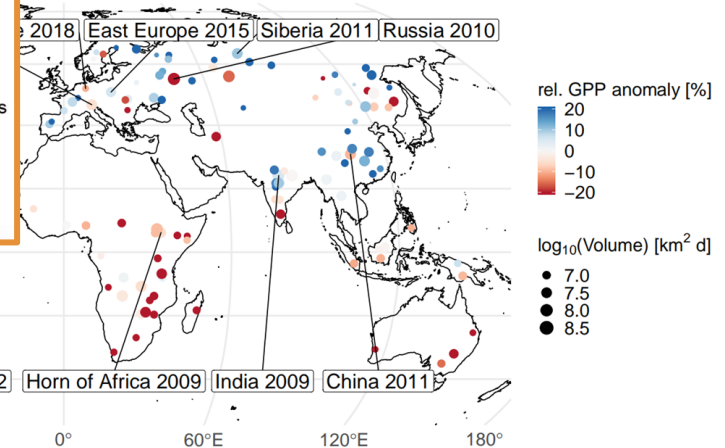
*Movie by the ESDL team
Script: Mahecha; Realization: Planetary Vis*

Extreme events in the ESDL - Global study



*Explaining with ML
 what determines the
 direction of impacts*

*Flachet et al. (2021) Biogeosciences
<https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2020-80>,*



Emerging wishlist

A very very long wish list emerged ...

- On-demand data cubes for any application
- High-res global data cubes
- ML adjusted data cube
- On-the fly visualization ...
- *And many many more*

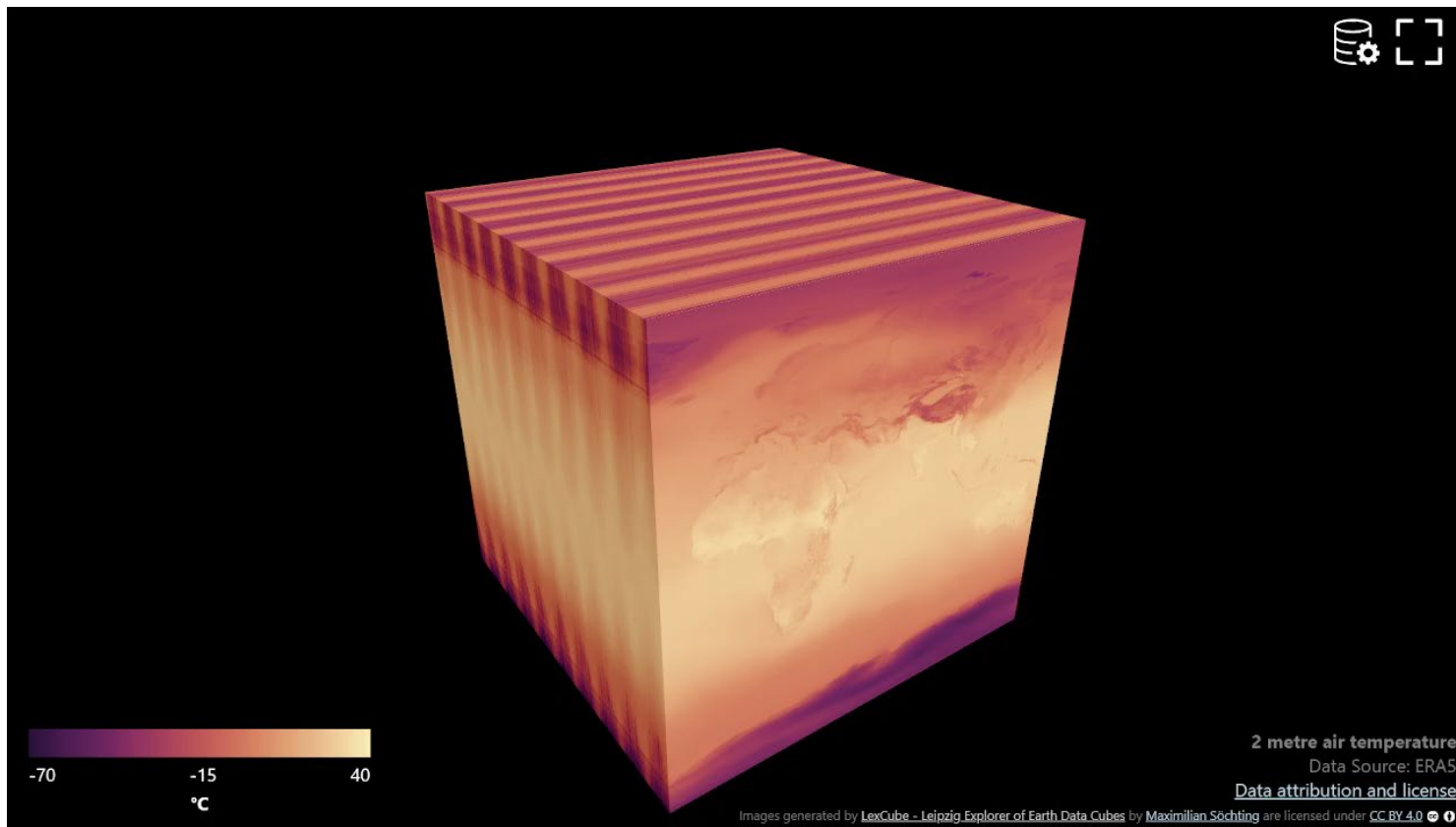
Interactive visualization, see: *lexcube.org*



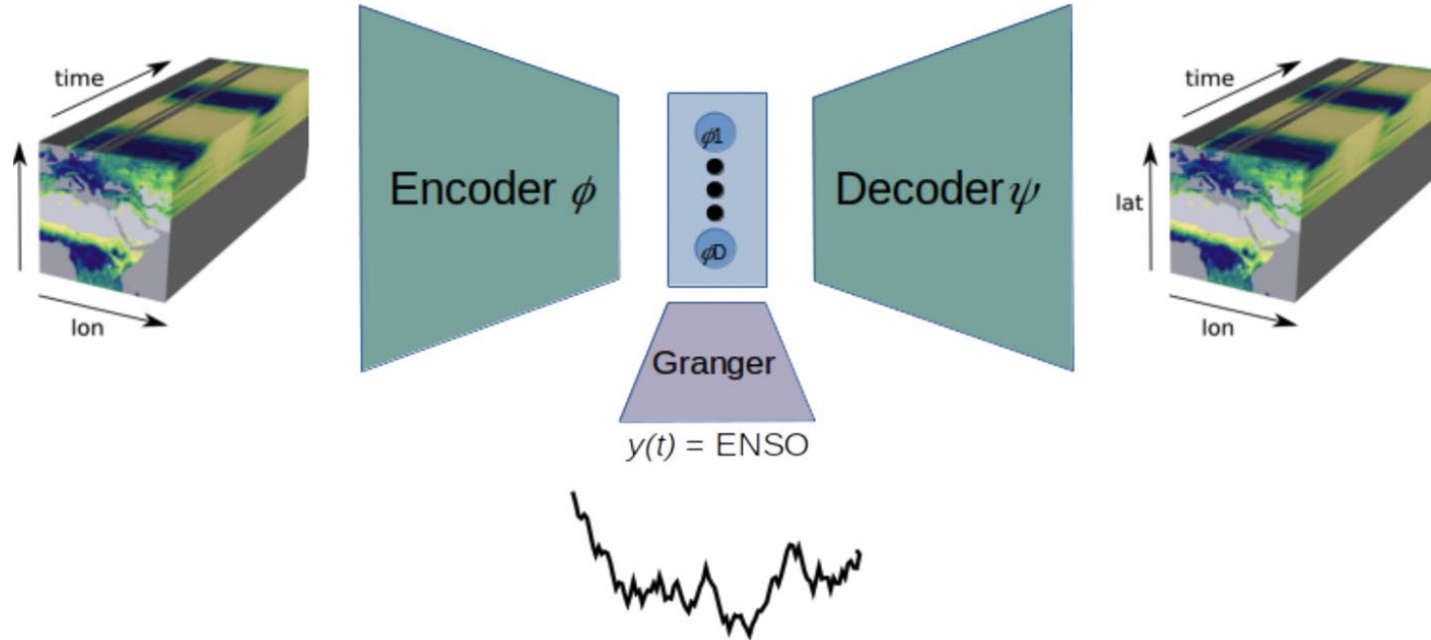
NFDI4Earth



A PhD project by Maximilian Söchting – and supported by the German Science Foundation via the NFDI4Earth



Machine learning readiness



Varando, G., Fernández-Torres, M. A., & Camps-Valls, G. (2021) <https://www.climatechange.ai/papers/icml2021/34>

Future

Aim of the follow-up project: **DeepESDL**

- ESDL to become an **integrator of scientific data products** from different activities in a single infrastructure.
- A **platform for collaborative research** allowing different scientists and teams to work together in a collective scientific effort sharing data, tools and expertise.
- Support for the **execution of individual projects** from ESA, particularly from the Science Clusters or from the scientific community worldwide.
- Enable implementation of **AI workflows on ESA data suite** for understanding Earth System Dynamics.

... and study in Leipzig! 😊



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

M. Sc. Earth System Data Science and Remote Sensing

International Master Program
Starting Oct 2022

Remote sensing

- Multispectral
- Hyperspectral
- Spectroscopy
- Radar & Lidar
- Ground truthing

Data science

- Big data
- Machine learning
- Timeseries analysis
- Geostatistics
- Data management

Earth system data science

Specialization

- Earth sciences
- Physical geography
- Biodiversity science
- Climatology
- ...

2 years
120 ECTS
Teaching in English

*'Facing environmental
problems with the tools
of our time'*

A study program of the Remote Sensing Centre for Earth System Research
More information: <http://rsc4earth.de/>