



# Classification of Landcover Using Satellite Image Time Series and Variational Gaussian Process

TRAITEMENT DES DONNÉES MASSIVES ET APPRENTISSAGE: APPLICATIONS EN GEOPHYSIQUE, ÉCOLOGIE ET SHS - GRENOBLE

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Introduction

Latent Representation

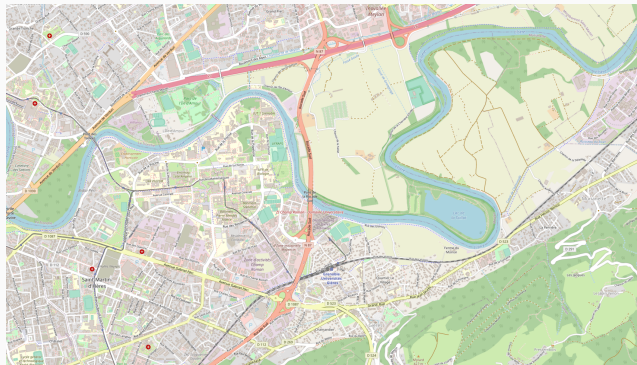
Sparse Variational Gaussian Process

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Conclusions

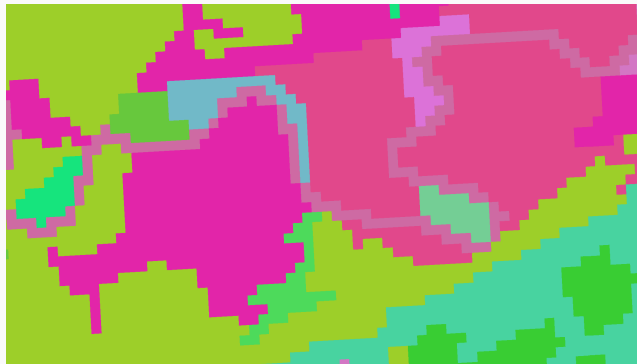
# Introduction

- Categorization of Earth's surface
- State and trend
- Used in many applications
  - ✦ Geography
  - ✦ Ecology
  - ✦ Hydrology
- Remote sensing





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## Sentinel 2

- Global coverage
- High spatial resolution (10m & 20m)
- 13 spectral bands
- Revisit every 5 days
- Free and open source data

Pôle Theia



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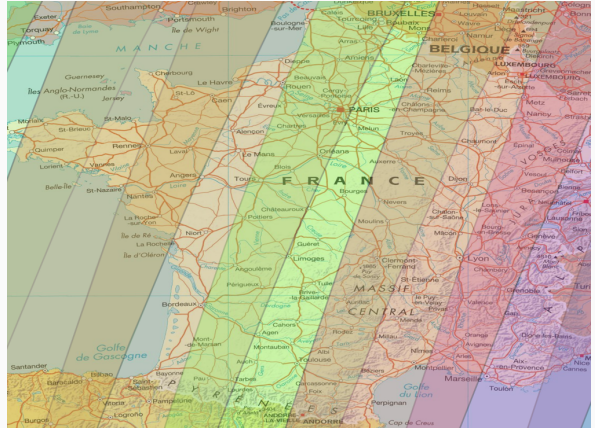


# High Spatial Resolution Satellite Image Time Series

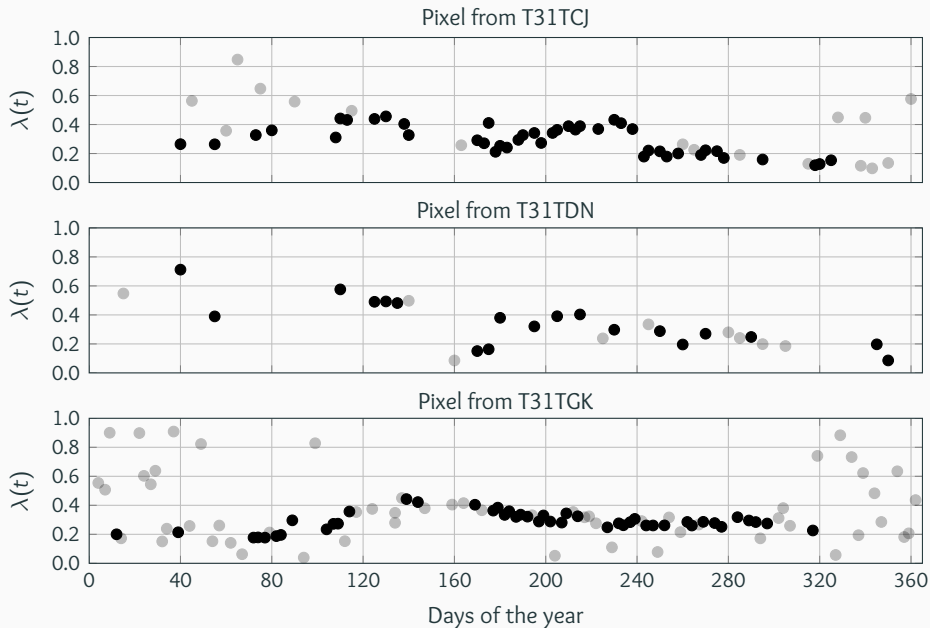
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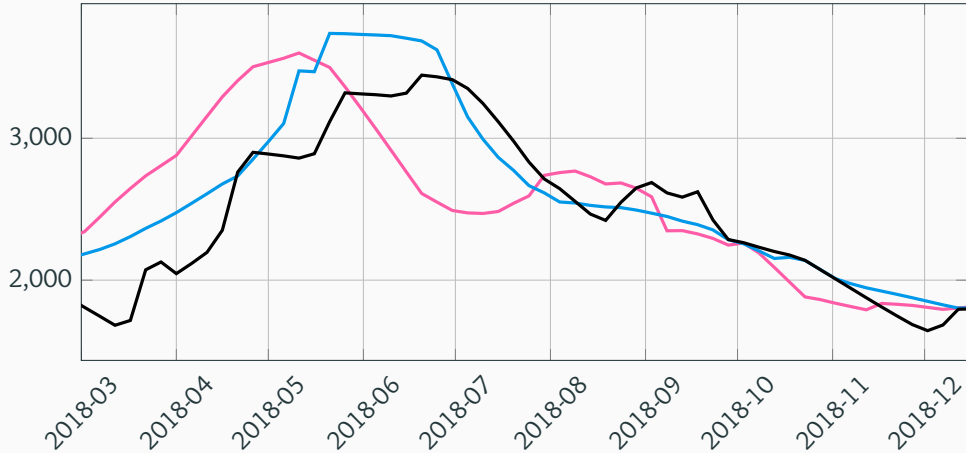
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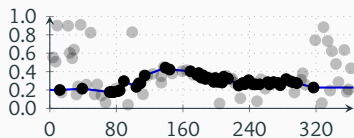
# Irregularly sampled SITS



## Winter cereals mean profile



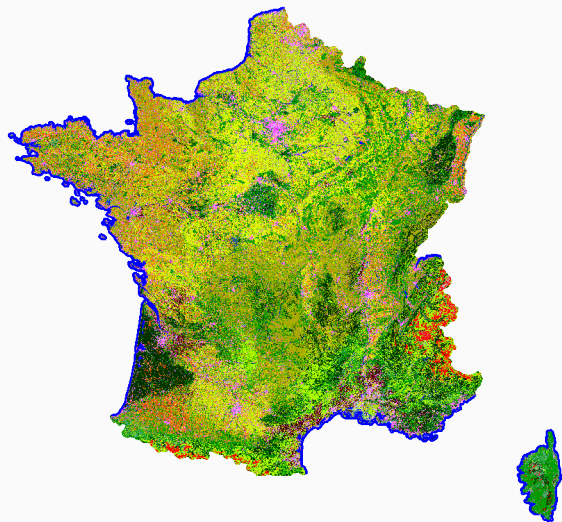
- Temporal resampling



- Input feature

$$\mathbf{x} = [\lambda_1(t_1), \dots, \lambda_1(t_T), \dots, \lambda_{10}(t_T), \\ si_1(t_1), \dots, si_p(t_T) \dots]$$

- Each sample is associated with class membership  $Z \in \{1, \dots, C\}$
- Classification algorithms + spatial stratification [Ing+17]



OSO products

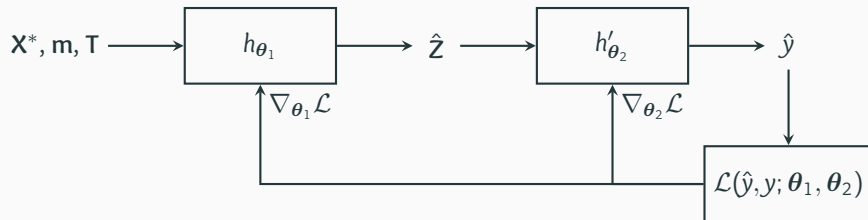
## Limitations of (some) current approaches

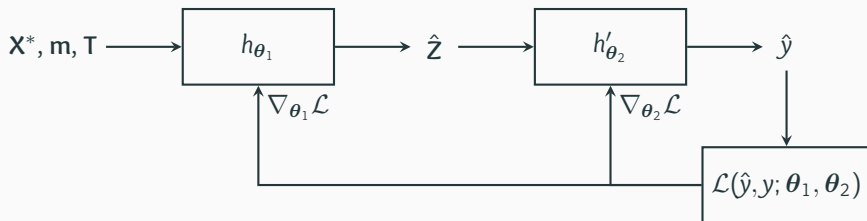
- Two-step approaches might not be optimal w.r.t. final objective:  
Reconstruction error VS classification error
- Do not scale
- Do not exploit spectro-spatio-temporal structure of SITS

## Contributions

- Classification of irregular and unaligned SITS
  - ★ Learn *latent smoother*
- Evaluation of Sparse Variational Gaussian process
  - ★ Covariance operator
  - ★ Large scale processing (variability & volume)







- $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbf{x}^i, \mathbf{y}^i, \mathbf{T}^i\}_{i=1}^N, \mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^C$
- $\mathbf{x}^i(t) \in \mathbb{R}^D$ , observed at  $T^i$  times  $\{t_1^i, \dots, t_{T_j}^i\} = \mathbf{T}^i$
- $\mathbf{T} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathbf{T}^i = \{t_1, \dots, t_T\}$
- Mask time series  $\mathbf{m}^i \in \{0, 1\}^T$ , such as  $\mathbf{m}_j^i = 1$  if  $t_j \in \mathbf{T}^i$  else 0,  $\forall t_j \in \mathbf{T}$
- Augmented pixel time series  $\mathbf{x}^{*i}$ , such as  $\mathbf{x}^{*i}(t_j) = \mathbf{x}^i(t_j)$  if  $\mathbf{m}_j^i = 1$  else 0,  $\forall t_j \in \mathbf{T}$
- Sample matrix

$$\mathbf{X}^{*i} = \left[ \mathbf{x}^{*i}(t_1) \mid \dots \mid \mathbf{x}^{*i}(t_T) \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times T}$$

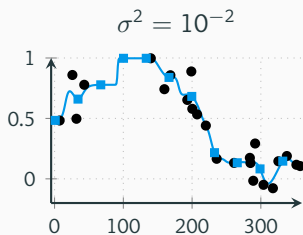
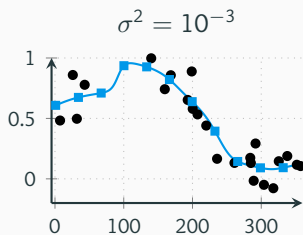
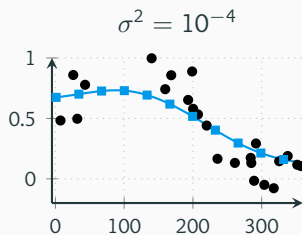
# Latent Representation

This section is based on

V. Bellet, M. Fauvel, J. Inglada and J. Michel. End-to-end Learning for Land Cover Classification using Irregular and Unaligned SITS by Combining Attention-Based Interpolation with Sparse Variational Gaussian Processes. 2023. [hal-04112115](#) [Bel+23]

- **Problem:** find  $Z$ , regular and aligned on  $R$  times  $\{r_1, \dots, r_R\}$
- Nadaraya-Watson kernel smoother [HTF01, Chapter 6]:

$$\hat{x}_\ell(r) = \sum_{j=1}^T \frac{K(r, t_j) m_j}{\sum_{j'=1}^T K(r, t_{j'}) m_{j'}} x_\ell^*(t_j) \text{ with } K(r, t_j) = \exp\{-d(r, t_j)\} \text{ and } d(r, t_j) = \sigma^{-2}(r - t_j)^2$$



## (Multi) Time Attention (mTAN)

- Use attention mechanism and temporal embedding [SM21]

$$d(r, t) = \frac{\phi(r)^\top \mathbf{W}_q^\top \mathbf{W}_k \phi(t)}{\sqrt{E}} \text{ with } \phi(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 t + \alpha_1 \\ \sin(\omega_2 t + \alpha_2) \\ \vdots \\ \sin(\omega_E t + \alpha_E) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Time attention smoother

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}_\ell(r) &= \sum_{j=1}^T \frac{\exp\left(\frac{\phi(r)^\top \mathbf{w}_q^\top \mathbf{w}_k \phi(t_j)}{\sqrt{E}}\right) m_j}{\sum_{j'=1}^T \exp\left(\frac{\phi(r)^\top \mathbf{w}_q^\top \mathbf{w}_k \phi(t_{j'})}{\sqrt{E}}\right) m_{j'}} x_\ell^*(t_j) \\ &= \text{softmax} \left\{ \frac{(\Phi(T)^\top \mathbf{W}_k^\top \mathbf{W}_q \phi(r)) \odot \mathbf{m}}{\sqrt{E}} \right\}^\top \mathbf{x}_\ell^* \\ &= \gamma_r^\top \mathbf{x}_\ell^* \end{aligned}$$

- Spatial positional encoding [SL20]

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi : \mathbb{R}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{D \times T} \\ (\psi_1, \psi_2) &\mapsto \text{MLP}\left(\sin(\psi_1 \nu_1), \cos(\psi_1 \nu_1), \dots, \cos(\psi_2 \nu_{F/4})\right) \\ &= \mathbf{P}\end{aligned}$$

- Latent representation

$$\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{B} \left[ \mathbf{X}^* + \mathbf{P} \right] \mathbf{\Gamma}$$

where  $\mathbf{Z} = [\mathbf{z}(r_1), \dots, \mathbf{z}(r_R)] \in \mathbb{R}^{D' \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{D' \times D}$  and  $\mathbf{\Gamma} = [\gamma_{r_1}, \dots, \gamma_{r_R}] \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times R}$ .

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- $\|\mathbf{Z}^i - \mathbf{Z}^j\|_F^2 = \|\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{X}^{i*} \mathbf{\Gamma}^i - \mathbf{X}^{j*} \mathbf{\Gamma}^j)\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{P}^i \mathbf{\Gamma}^i - \mathbf{P}^j \mathbf{\Gamma}^j)\|_F^2 + 2 \left\langle \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{X}^{i*} \mathbf{\Gamma}^i - \mathbf{X}^{j*} \mathbf{\Gamma}^j), \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{P}^i \mathbf{\Gamma}^i - \mathbf{P}^j \mathbf{\Gamma}^j) \right\rangle_F$



# Sparse Variational Gaussian Process

This section is based on

V. Bellet, M. Fauvel and J. Inglada, “Land Cover Classification With Gaussian Processes Using Spatio-Spectro-Temporal Features,” in IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing, 2023,  
[BF123]

- A GP  $f$  is defined by  $m$  and  $k$ :  $f \sim \mathcal{GP}(m, k)$
- Any finite size observation  $[f(\mathbf{Z}^1), \dots, f(\mathbf{Z}^N)]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}_N(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{K})$
- $\psi$  link function between the GP and the target
- Univariate regression
  - ★  $y = \psi(f(\mathbf{Z})) = f(\mathbf{Z}) + \epsilon$  with  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}_1(0, \sigma^2)$
  - ★ Model fitting

$$\log p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n)^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) - \frac{1}{2} \log (|\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n|) - \frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi)$$

- ★ Prediction

$$\hat{y}|\tilde{\mathbf{Z}} \sim \mathcal{N}_1\left(m(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}) + \mathbf{k}_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}^\top (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n)^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}), k(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, \tilde{\mathbf{Z}}) - \mathbf{k}_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}^\top (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n)^{-1} \mathbf{k}_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}} + \sigma^2\right)$$

- Several applications in remote sensing: see [Cam+16]

- Multi-output / Multivariate Gaussian Process:  $\mathbf{f} = [f_1, \dots, f_C]$ ,  $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{R}^C$  and  $\mathcal{K} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times C}$

$$\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{Z}) = \begin{bmatrix} m_1(\mathbf{Z}) & \dots & m_C(\mathbf{Z}) \end{bmatrix}^\top,$$
$$\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}) = \begin{bmatrix} k_{11}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}) & \dots & k_{1C}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}) \\ \vdots & k_{pp'}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}) & \vdots \\ k_{C1}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}) & \dots & k_C(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}) \end{bmatrix},$$

- Any finite size observation  $[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}^1), \dots, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}^N)]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}_{NC}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{K})$
- Link function:  $\mathbf{y} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}))$

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- Any finite size observation  $[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}^1), \dots, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}^N)]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}_{NC}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{K})$
- Link function:  $\mathbf{y} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{Z}))$
- **Issues in large scale classification**
  - ★ Computational complexity in  $\mathcal{O}((CN)^3)$ , memory footprint in  $\mathcal{O}((CN)^2)$ ,
  - ★  $\psi = \text{softmax} \rightarrow$  no-analytic solution for *likelihood* and *posterior*

## Linear Model of Co-Regionalization

- Linear combination of independent univariate GPs:  $g_c \sim \mathcal{GP}(m_c, k_l)$  [GG97]

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{A}g$$

- Computational complexity reduce to  $\mathcal{O}(CN^3)$
- $\mathbf{A}$  is learned as parameter of the model

## Sparse Approximation

- Introduce latent variables / inducing points:  $\mathbf{Z}_u$  with  $u \in \{1, \dots, M\}$

$$\mathbf{K}_{NN} \approx \mathbf{K}_{NM} \mathbf{K}_{MM}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{MN}$$

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- Computational complexity reduce to  $\mathcal{O}(CNM^3)$
- How to choose/find the inducing points ?

Learn them as parameters but size grow as  $CMD'R$

## Variational Inference

- Optimize a lower bound of the log-likelihood (ELBO) [BKM17]
- For univariate SGP [HMG15]:

$$\mathcal{E}(q) = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q'(g(\mathbf{Z}^i)|\boldsymbol{\theta}^v, \boldsymbol{\theta})} \left[ \log p(y^i | g(\mathbf{Z}^i)) \right] - \text{KL} \left[ q(g(\mathbf{Z}_u) | \boldsymbol{\theta}^v) \parallel p(g(\mathbf{Z}_u) | \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right],$$

with

$$q(g(\mathbf{Z}_u) | \boldsymbol{\theta}^v) \sim \mathcal{N}_M(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{S})$$
$$q'(g(\mathbf{Z}^i) | \boldsymbol{\theta}^v, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \sim \mathcal{N}_1 \left( g(\mathbf{Z}^i) \mid \mathbf{k}_{Mi}^\top \mathbf{K}_{MM}^{-1} \mathbf{m}, k(\mathbf{Z}^i, \mathbf{Z}^i) - \mathbf{k}_{Mi}^\top \mathbf{K}_{MM}^{-1} (\mathbf{K}_{MM} - \mathbf{S}) \mathbf{K}_{MM}^{-1} \mathbf{k}_{Mi} \right)$$

- Expectation approximate with MC sampling and reparametrisation trick



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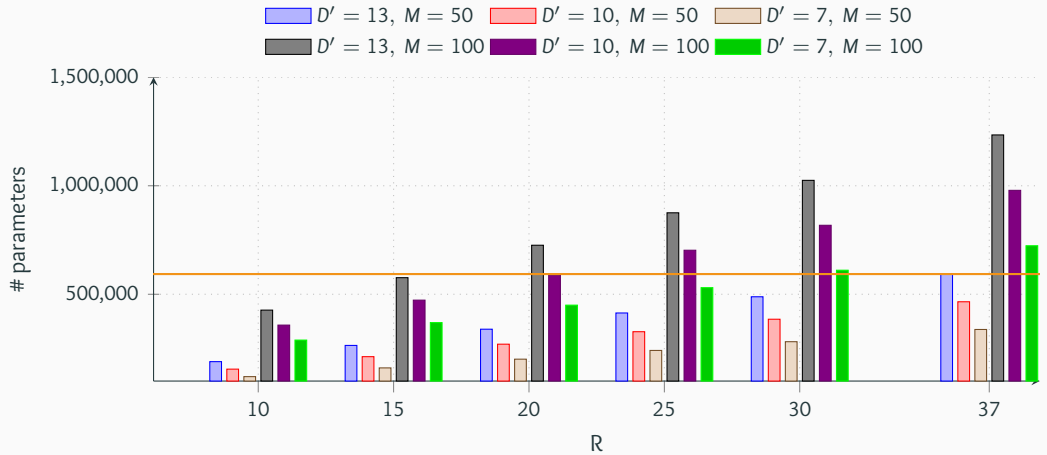
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- Expectation approximate with MC sampling and reparametrisation trick
- Extension to LMC straightforward ...

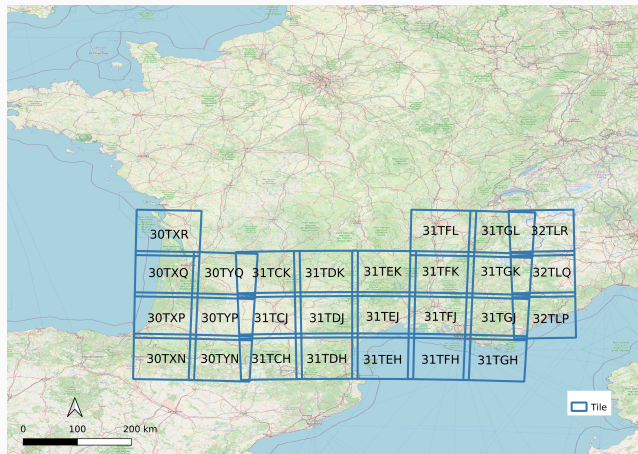
# Model Complexity



# Experiments









- All S2 acquisitions between [01-2018, 12-2018]
- 10 bands + 3 spectral indices
- $T = 303$  &  $D = 13$
- 23 land cover classes
  - ✦ Training: 4000 pixels/class
  - ✦ Validation: 1000 pixels/class
  - ✦ Test: 10,000 pixels/class
  - ✦ 9 random (train, val, test) sets

<i>Training</i>	<i>Validation</i>	<i>Test</i>
92 000	23 000	230 000



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- 10 bands + 3 spectral indices
- $T = 303$  &  $D = 13$
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<i>Training</i>	<i>Validation</i>	<i>Test</i>
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Color	Code	Name
	CUF	Continuous urban fabric
	DUF	Discontinuous urban fabric
	ICU	Industrial and commercial units
	RSF	Road surfaces
	RAP	Rapeseed
	STC	Straw cereals
	PRO	Protein crops
	SOY	Soy
	SUN	Sunflower
	COR	Corn
	RIC	Rice
	TUB	Tubers / roots
	GRA	Grasslands
	ORC	Orchards and fruit growing
	VIN	Vineyards
	BLF	Broad-leaved forest
	COF	Coniferous forest
	NGL	Natural grasslands
	WOM	Woody moorlands
	NMS	Natural mineral surfaces
	BDS	Beaches, dunes and sand plains
	GPS	Glaciers and perpetual snows
	WAT	Water bodies

# Classification Accuracy - Specto-Temporal Information Only

- Comparison with *prior* linear interpolation

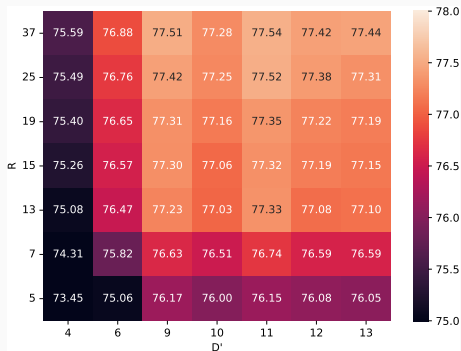
	mTAN-SVGP	linInter-SVGP	linInter-RF
OA (%)	77.4 (0.2)	67.3 (0.4)	65.4 (0.4)
Time (s)	1317.4	336.6	54.6

# Classification Accuracy - Spectro-Temporal Information Only

- Comparison with *prior* linear interpolation

	mTAN-SVGP	linInter-SVGP	linInter-RF
OA (%)	77.4 (0.2)	67.3 (0.4)	65.4 (0.4)
Time (s)	1317.4	336.6	54.6

- Influence of  $R$  and  $D'$



OA (%)



Training Time (s)

- $R = 13$  &  $D' = 9$  and spatial positional encoding

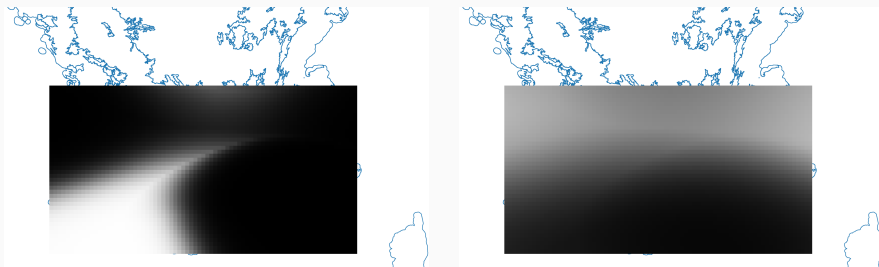
	With	Without
OA (%)	78.6 (0.2)	77.2 (0.2)
Time (s)	834	871



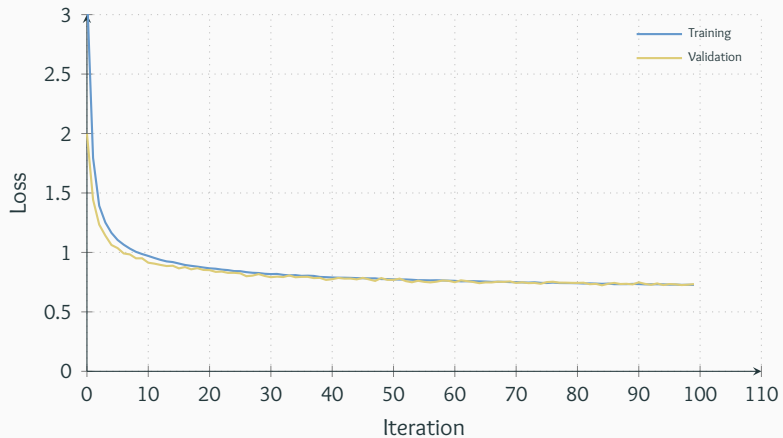
# Classification Accuracy - Spatio-(Reduced)-Spectro-Temporal Information

- $R = 13$  &  $D' = 9$  and spatial positional encoding

	With	Without
OA (%)	78.6 (0.2)	77.2 (0.2)
Time (s)	834	871

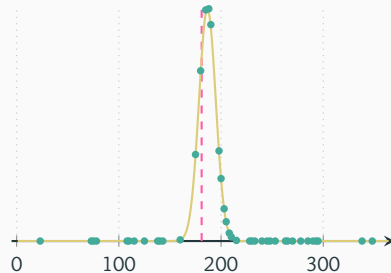
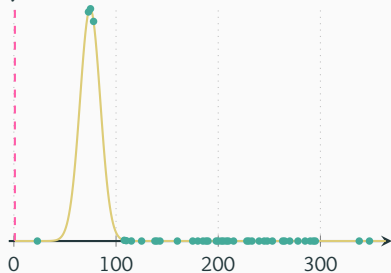


# Convergence

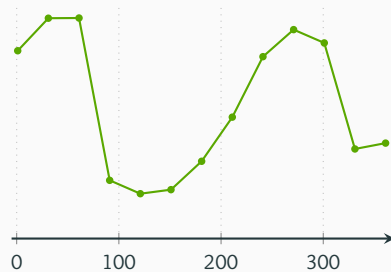
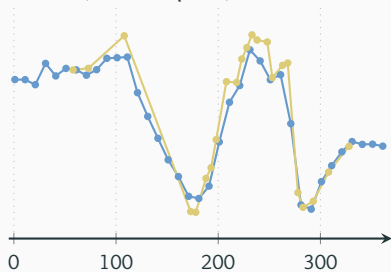


# Parameters Analysis

- Similarity kernel - normalized attention



- Latent feature (for corn pixel)



## Competitive Methods

- mTAN + MLP
- mTAN + LTAE [SL20]
- (raw + mask) + LTAE

	mTAN-SVGP	mTAN-MLP	mTAN-LTAE	raw-LTAE
OA (%)	78.6	71.5	74.6	81.5
Time (s)	834	1207	840	1279

## Temporal shift

- One tile for test: change  $t$  to  $t + \delta$

	0	1	2	3	5
mTAN-SVGP	77.4 (0.6)	77.4 (0.8)	77.4 (0.8)	77.4 (0.8)	77.0 (0.6)
raw-LTAE	80.0 (0.6)	76.0 (2.0)	66.5 (4.4)	56.6 (9.2)	52.3 (8.2)

# Classification Maps

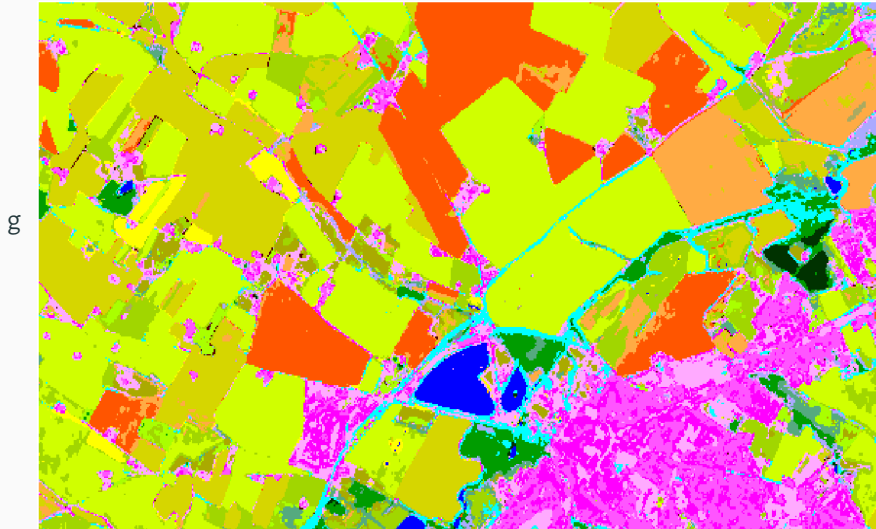


# Classification Maps



CUF	DUF
ICU	RSF
RAP	STC
PRO	SOY
SUN	COR
RIC	TUB
GRA	ORC
VIN	BLF
COF	NGL
WOM	NMS
BDS	GPS
WAT	

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## Conclusions



## Conclusions

- Classification of irregular and unaligned SITS
- Scale to large data set
- Versatility

## Perspectives

- Regression
- Process multi-year data
- Spatio-temporal attention
- Extend smoother

## References

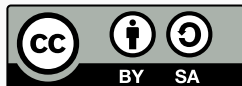
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**Thank you for your attention**

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<https://gitlab.cesbio.omp.eu/fauvelm/tdma2023>