

# Data-Driven Vegetation Modeling and Understanding Representation Shift

with Few-Shot  
Meta-Learning

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Zero Hunger estimating the **crop yield** & predict **food prices**, shortages.

Climate Action by monitoring **vegetation changes** over time (desertification).

Life on Land human life depends on **agriculture**, animal life on biotopes.



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### Crop Type Mapping:

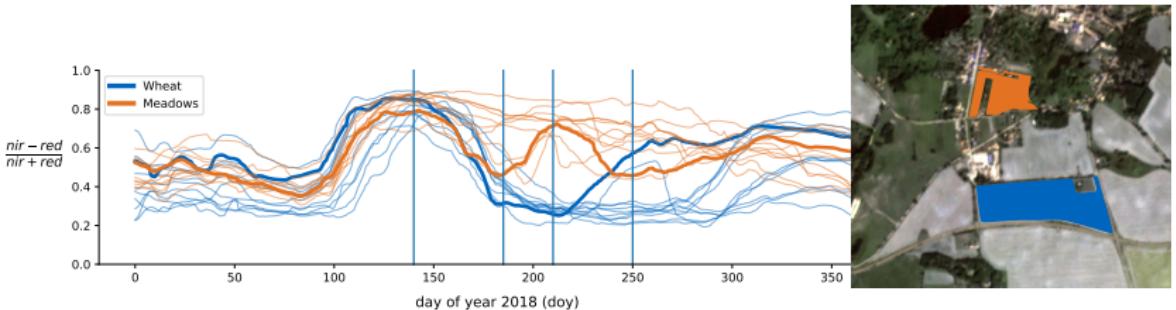
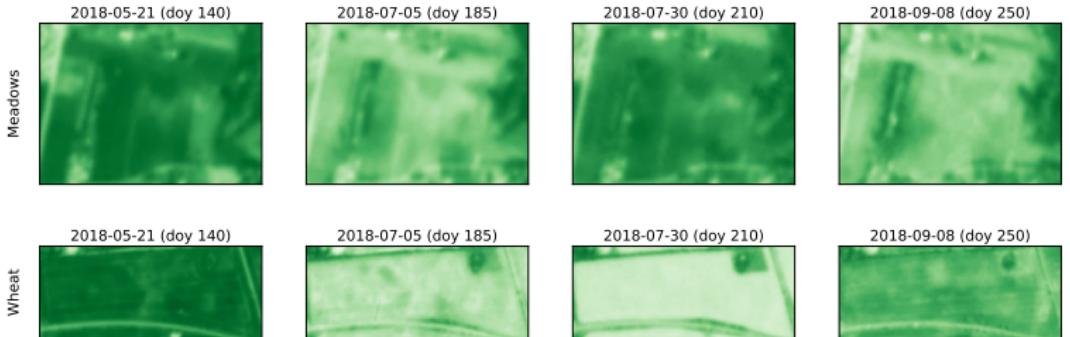
Satellite Time Series Data → Crop Type Label (e.g. corn, meadow)

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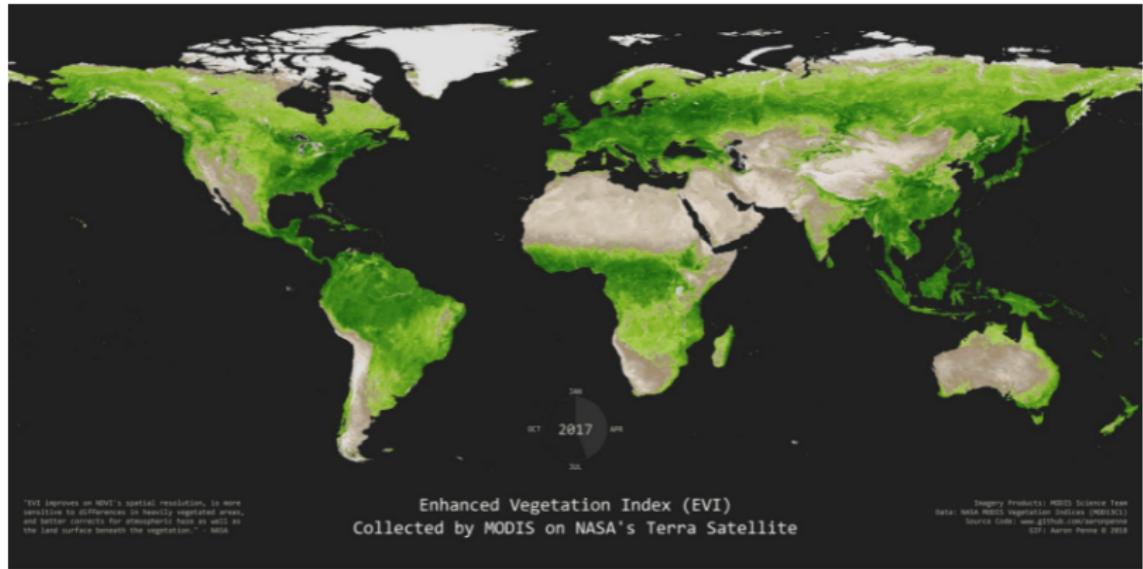


Later: Land Cover Classification

Satellite Image → Land Cover Label (e.g. urban, forest)



Kondmann, et al., "DENETHOR: The DynamicEarthNET dataset for Harmonized, inter-Operable, analysis-Ready, daily crop monitoring from space.". NeurIPS Data Track (2021).



"EVI improves on NDVI's spatial resolution, is more sensitive to differences in heavily vegetated areas, and better corrects for atmospheric haze as well as the land surface beneath the vegetation." - MODIS

Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI)  
Collected by MODIS on NASA's Terra Satellite

Imagery Product: MODIS Science Team  
Data: NASA MODIS Vegetation Indices (MOD13C1)  
Source Code: [www.github.com/rjpenne/modis\\_gdp](http://github.com/rjpenne/modis_gdp)  
GDP: Aaron Penne © 2012

visualization Aaron Penne Github





10 million field labels, in France each year.  
3 GB in labels and 2.7 TB in (Sentinel 2)  
satellite data



Problem Solved?

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Plenty of input data!

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Plenty of input data!

Plenty of labelled data!

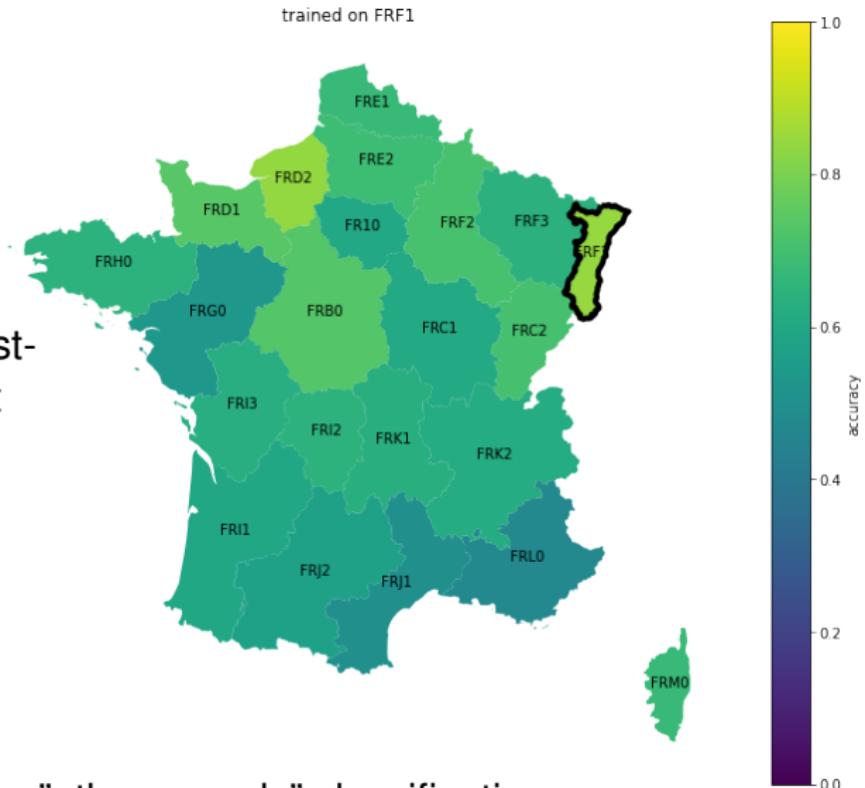
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**Let's train a Deep Learning Model!**

training and testing on different regions

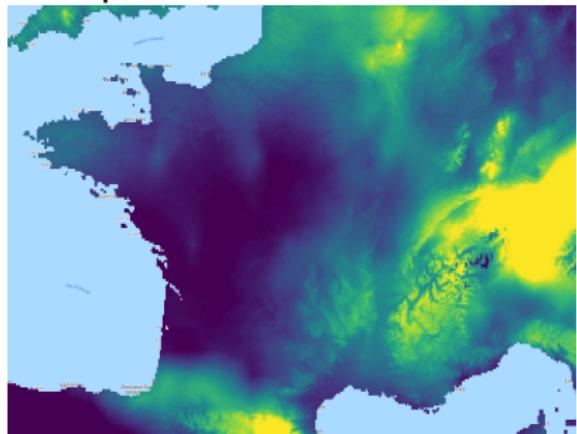


binary "wheat" vs "other cereals" classification

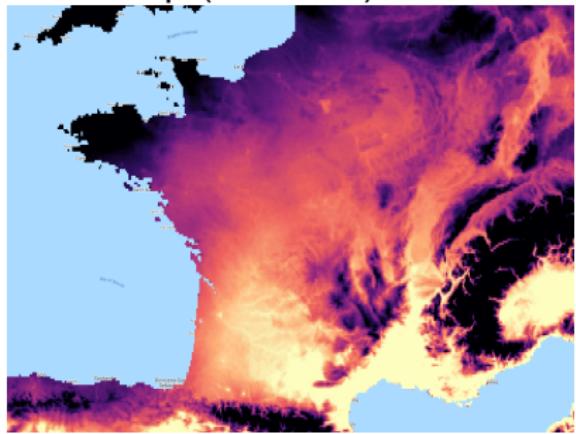
crop type time series classification with a simple 1D-CNN and 200 samples per class in each NUTS-2 region

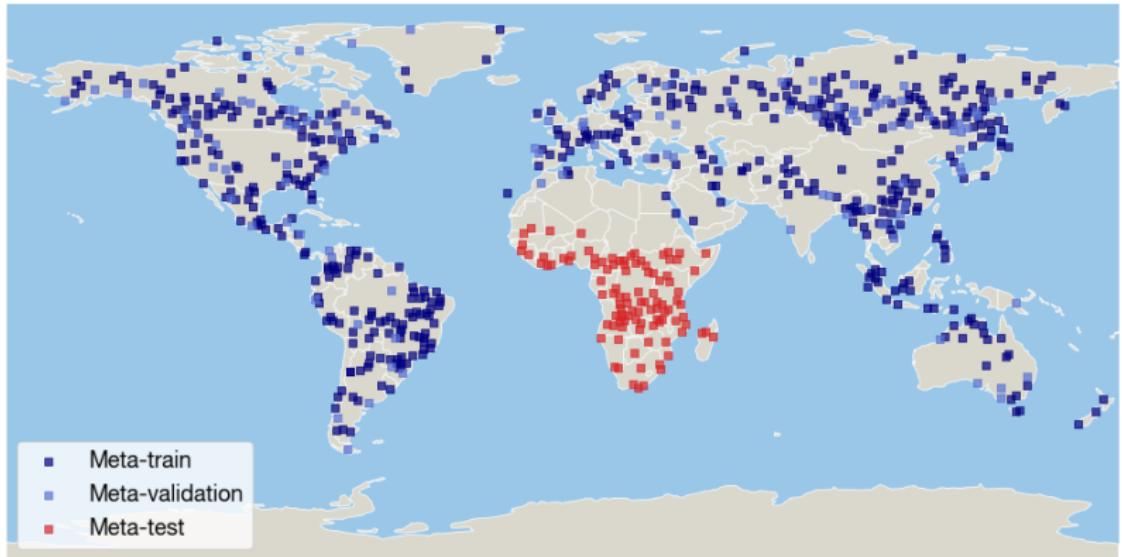
Photosynthesis is a function of the environment.

Precipitation 2018-08



Max temp (23-30 °C) 2018-08





How do we generate data?

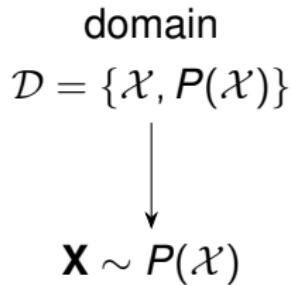
domain

$$\mathcal{D} = \{\mathcal{X}, P(\mathcal{X})\}$$

Pan, S. J., & Yang, Q. (2009). A survey on transfer learning. *IEEE Transactions on knowledge and data engineering*, 22(10), 1345-1359.

Qiang Yang; Yu Zhang, Wenyuan Dai; Sinno Jialin Pan (Editors) (2020). Transfer learning. Cambridge University Press. DOI 9781139061773

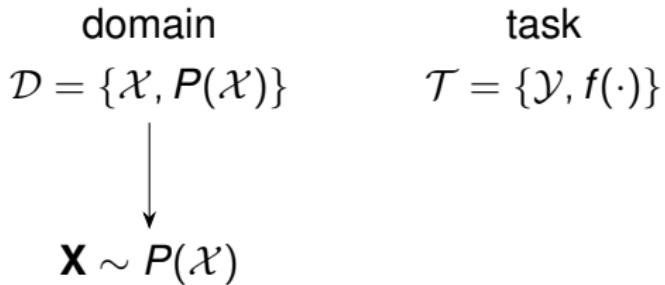
Shai Ben-David and Shai Shalev-Shwartz (2014). Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms



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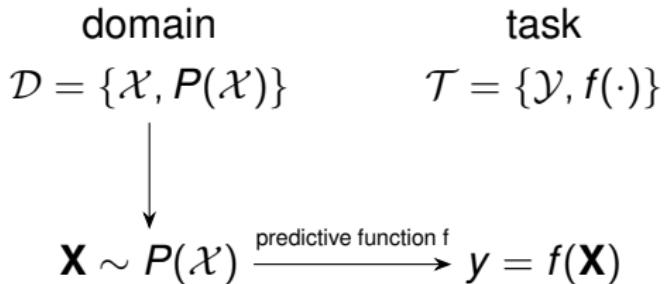
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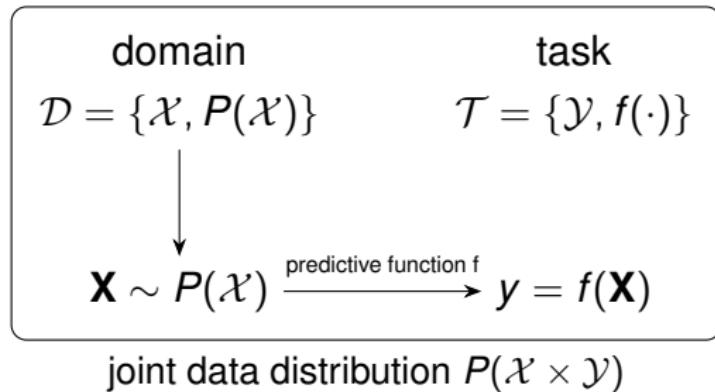
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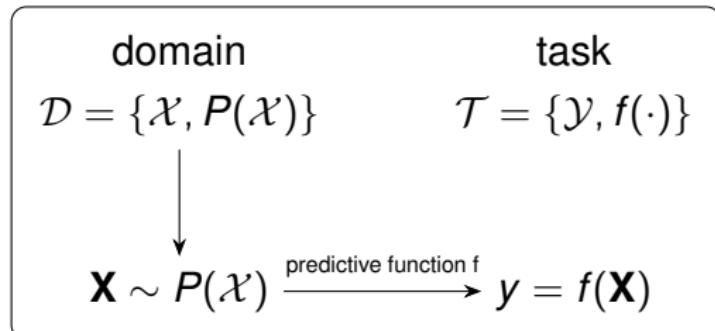
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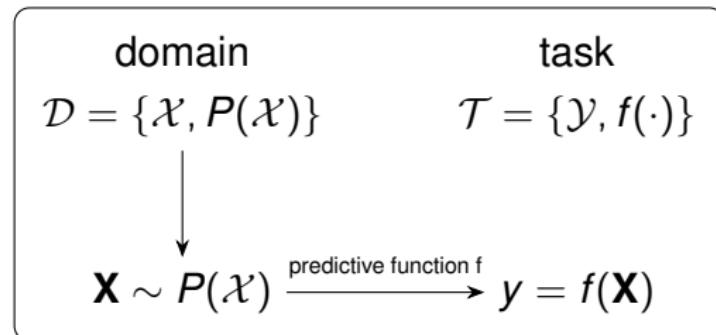


Dataset:  $\{(\mathbf{X}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N \stackrel{\text{i.i.d}}{\sim} P(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$

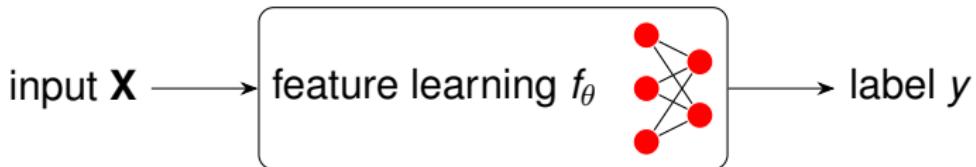
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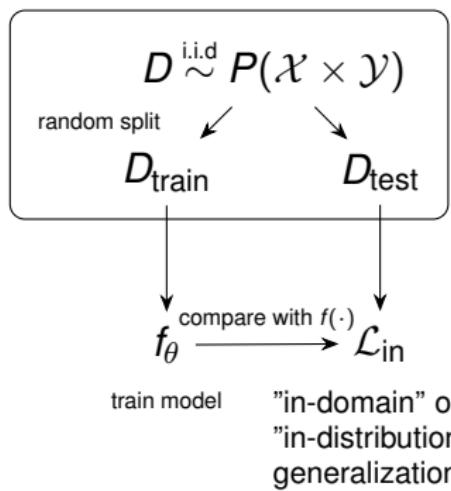
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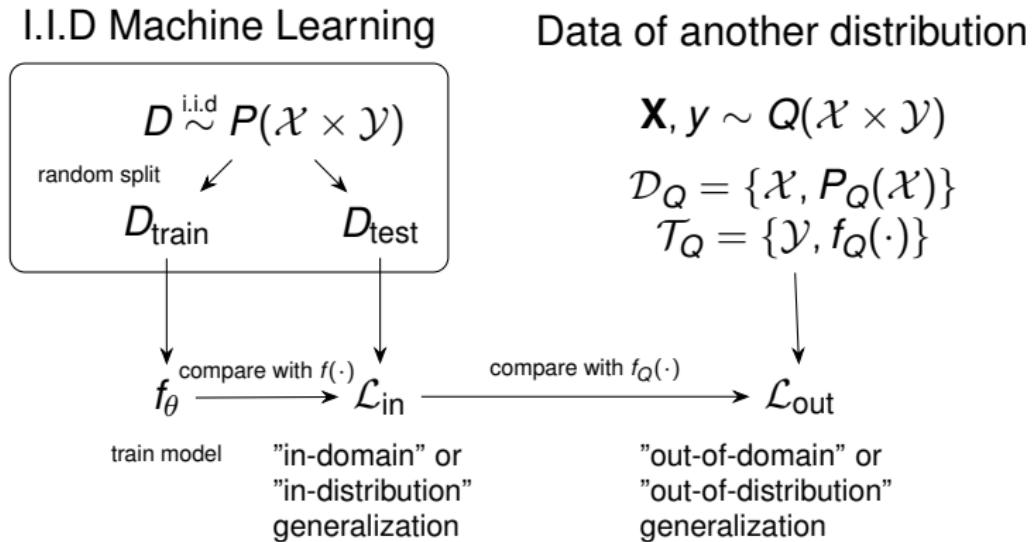
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The I.I.D assumption is usually enforced via random splitting a single dataset  $D$  into training and testing partitions

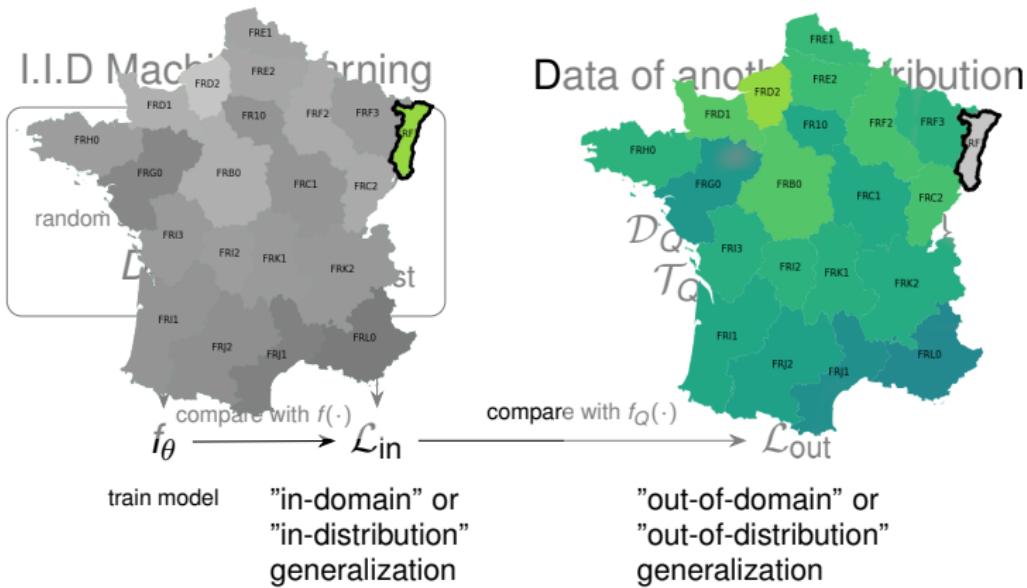
### I.I.D Machine Learning



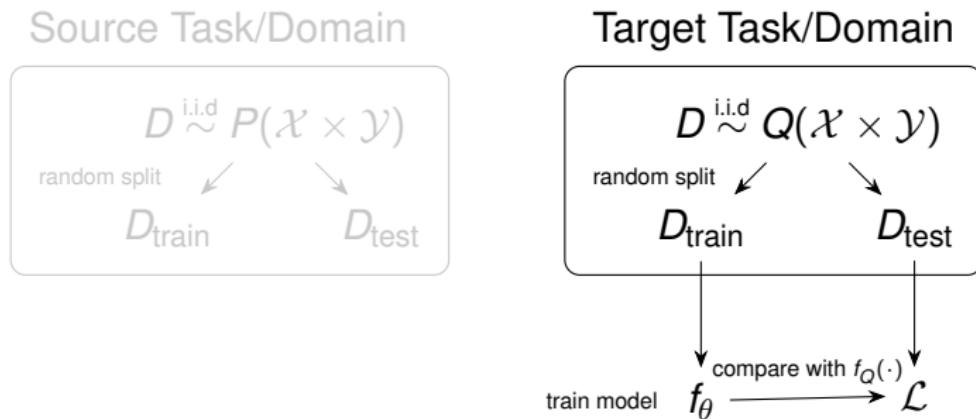
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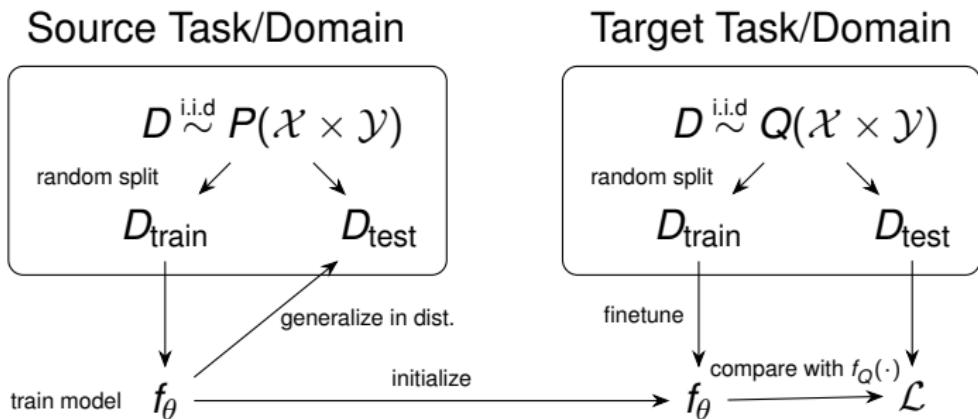
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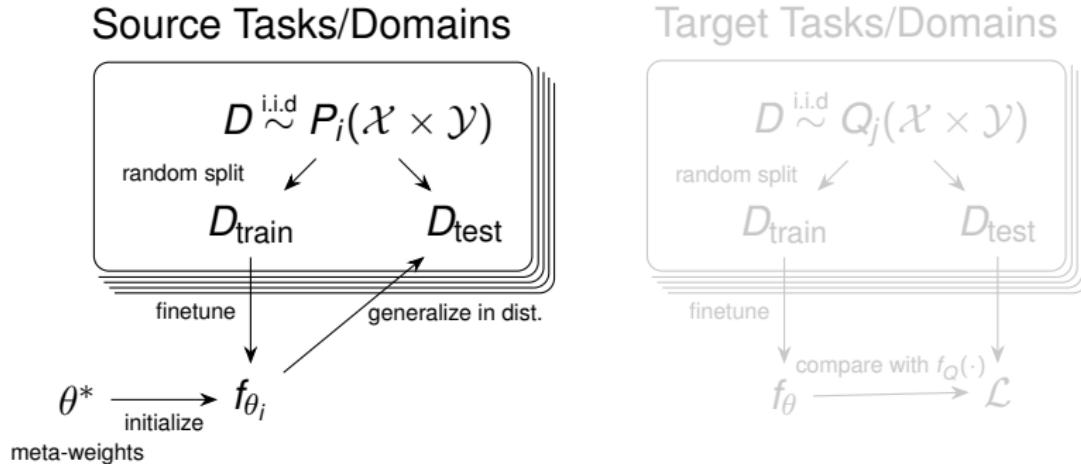
Option 1) Just train on target data (we will call "random initialization")



## Option 2) "Pretrain" on Source finetune on Target

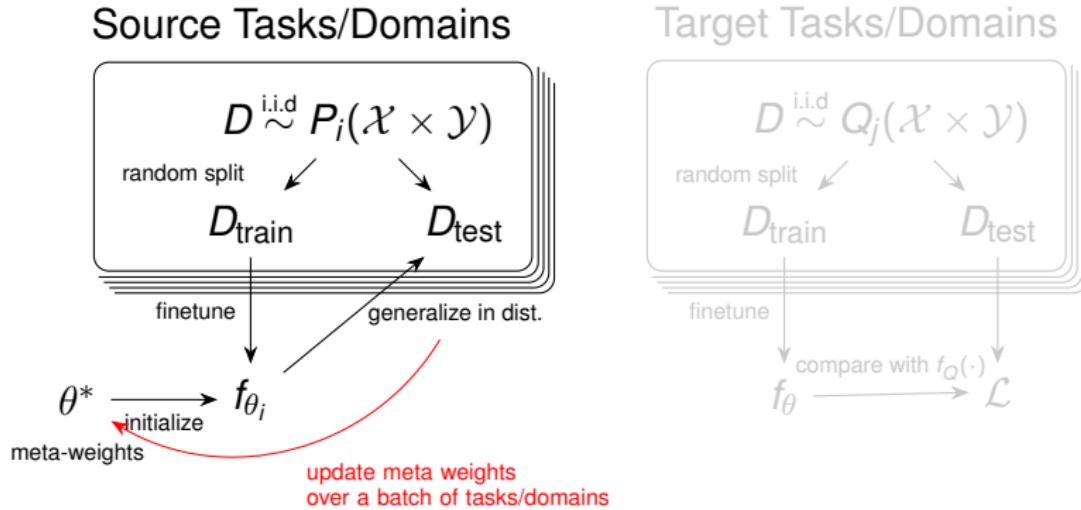


Option 3) ML framework that allows not ident. joint dists and in particular Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning (Finn et al., 2017).



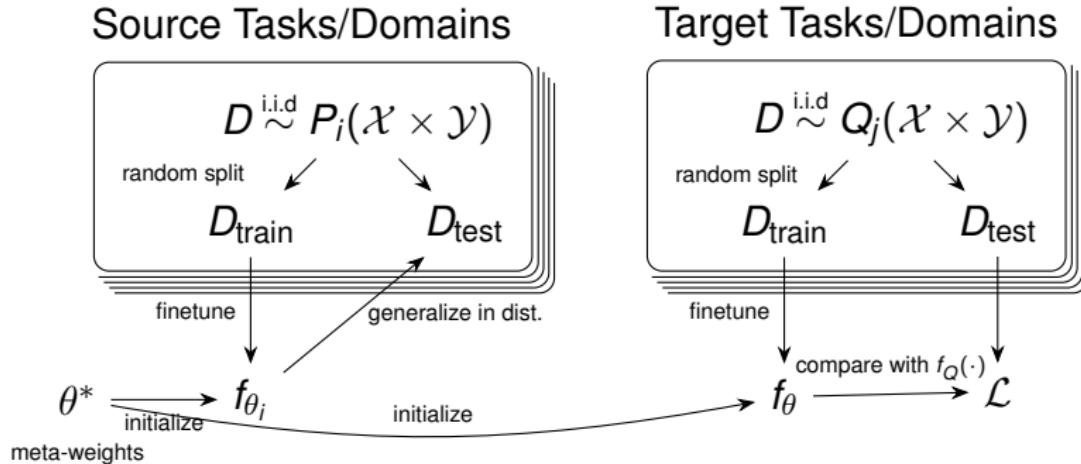
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**Algorithm 1:** Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning

## Meta-Learned Initialization

```
 $p(\mathcal{T})$ : distribution over tasks;  
 $\alpha, \beta$  step size hyperparameters;  
randomly initialize  $\theta$ ;  
while not done do  
    sample batch of tasks  $\tau \sim p(\mathcal{T})$ ;  
    foreach  $\tau^{(i)} \in \tau$  do  
        initialize  $\phi_i$  with  $\theta$ ;  
        evaluate training loss  $\mathbf{g} = \nabla_{\phi_i} \mathcal{L}_{\tau^{(i)}}(f_{\phi_i}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{support}}^{(i)})$ ;  
        adapt parameters  $\phi_i \leftarrow \phi_i - \alpha \mathbf{g}$ ;  
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 $f_{P_1}$  $f_{P_2}$  $f_{P_3}$

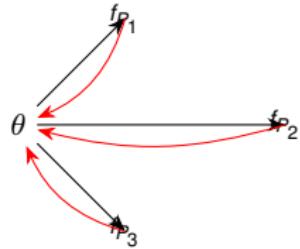
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## Meta-Learned Initialization



# EPFL A Visual Comparison

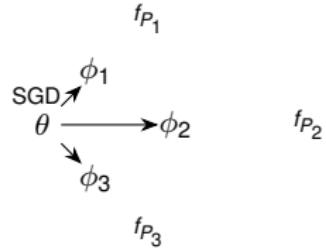
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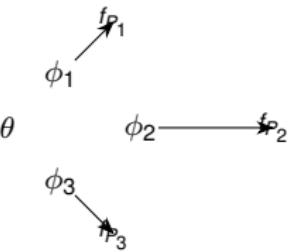
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---

**Meta-Learned Initialization**


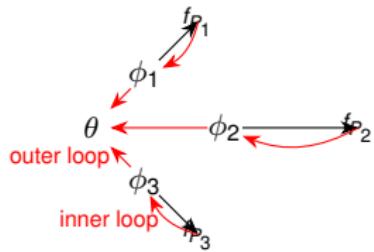
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---

## Meta-Learned Initialization

$$f_{P_1}$$

$$\theta \longrightarrow \theta \quad f_{P_2}$$

$$f_{P_3}$$

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## Meta-Learned Initialization

 $f_{P_1}$  $f_{P_3}$ 

Optimized **to adapt** well to source distributions

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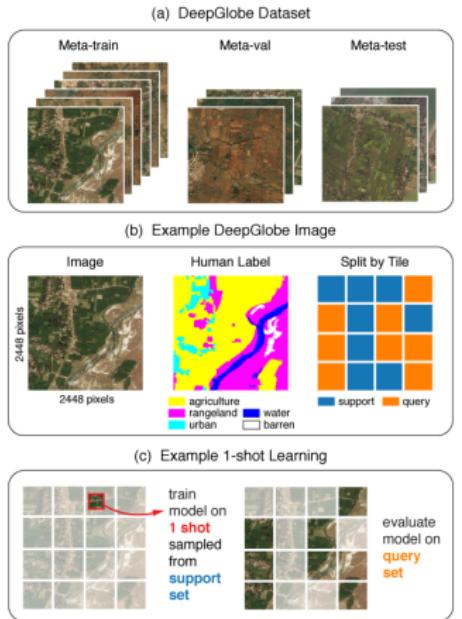
## Meta-Learned Initialization

 $f_{P_1}$ 

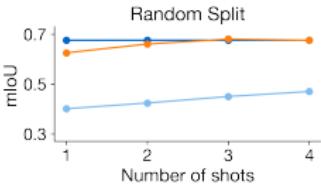
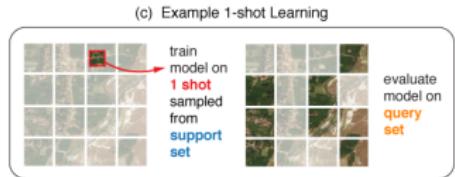
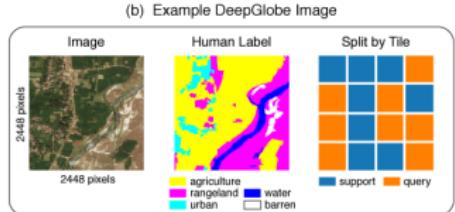
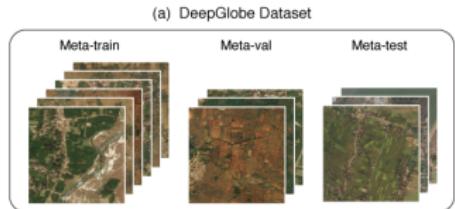
Optimized **to adapt** well to source distributions

while regular **pretraining** is optimized **to perform** well on source distributions.

# Experiments

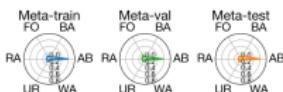
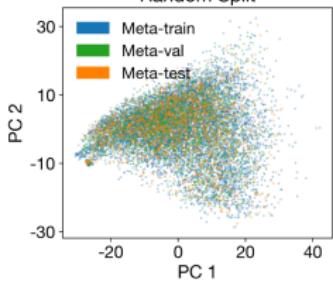
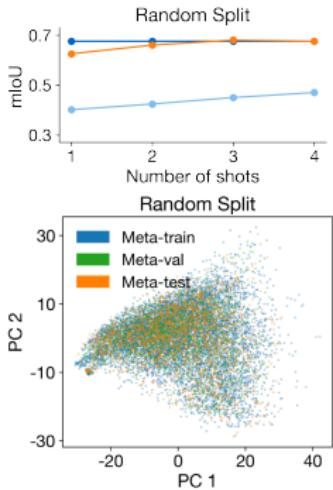
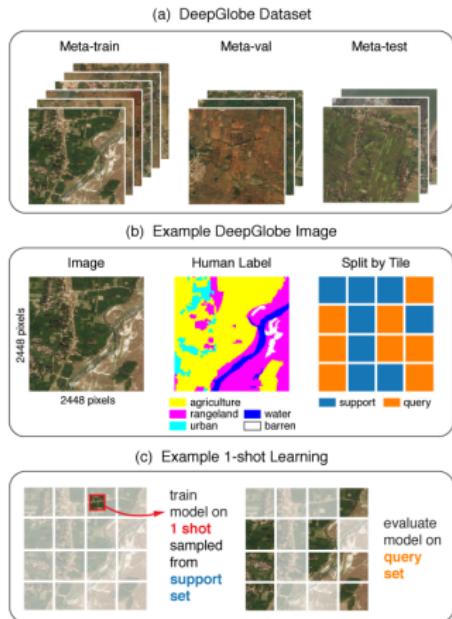


Rußwurm, M., Wang, S., Körner, M., & Lobell, D. (2020). Meta-learning for few-shot land cover classification. In Proceedings of the ieee/cvf conference on computer vision and pattern recognition workshops (pp. 200-201).

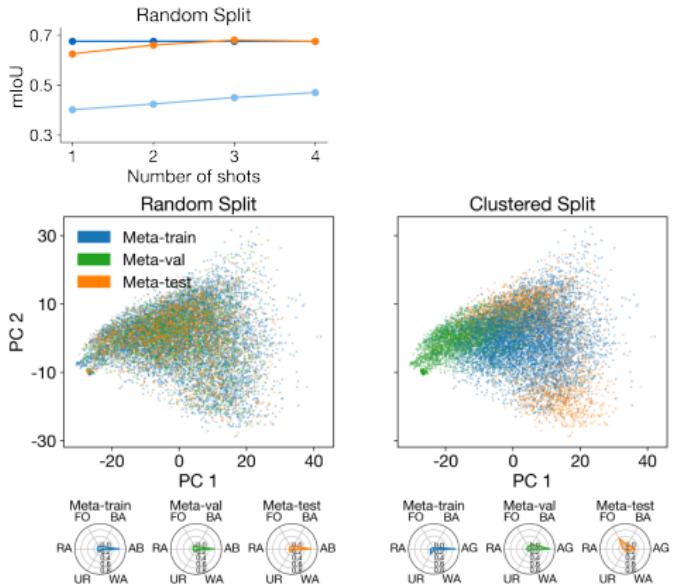
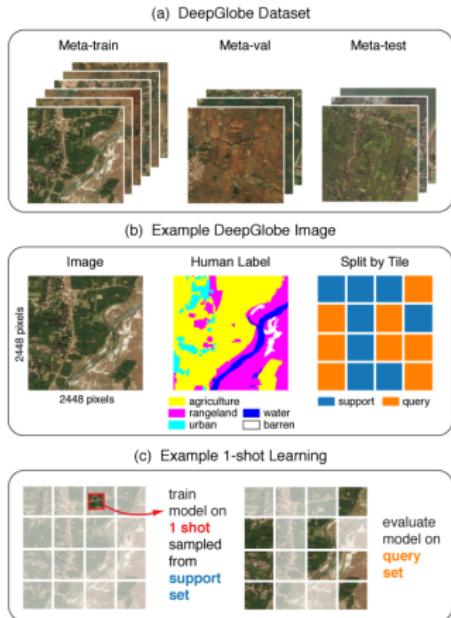


random    pretrained    MAML

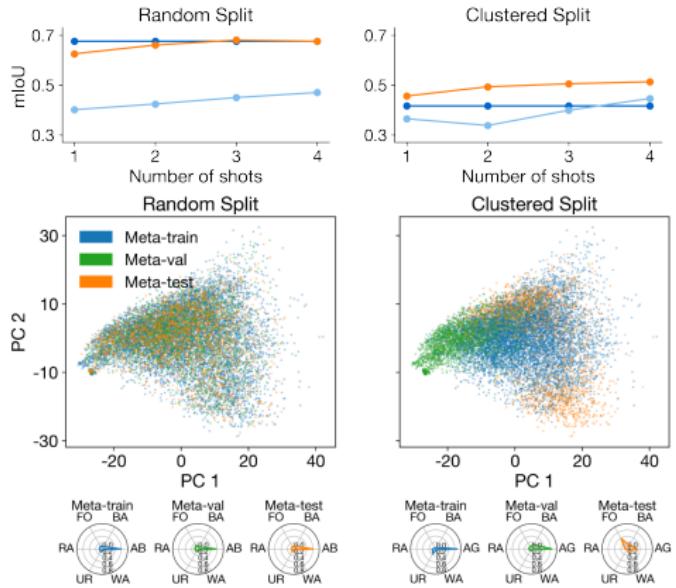
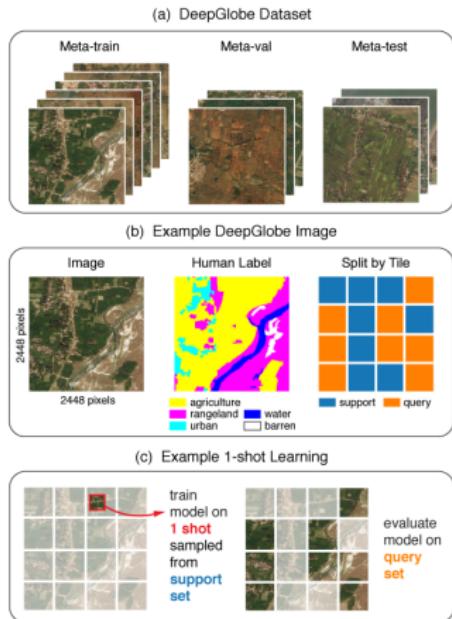
Rußwurm, M., Wang, S., Körner, M., & Lobell, D. (2020). Meta-learning for few-shot land cover classification. In Proceedings of the ieee/cvf conference on computer vision and pattern recognition workshops (pp. 200-201).



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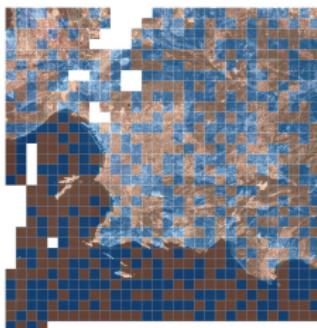


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all Sen12MS regions



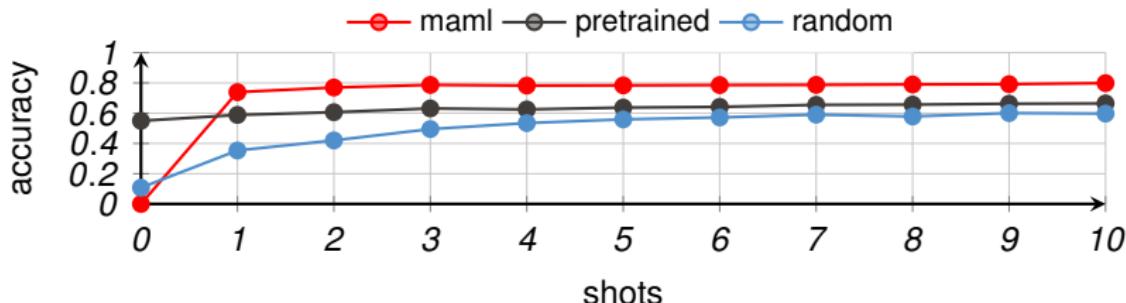
one region split in train/test



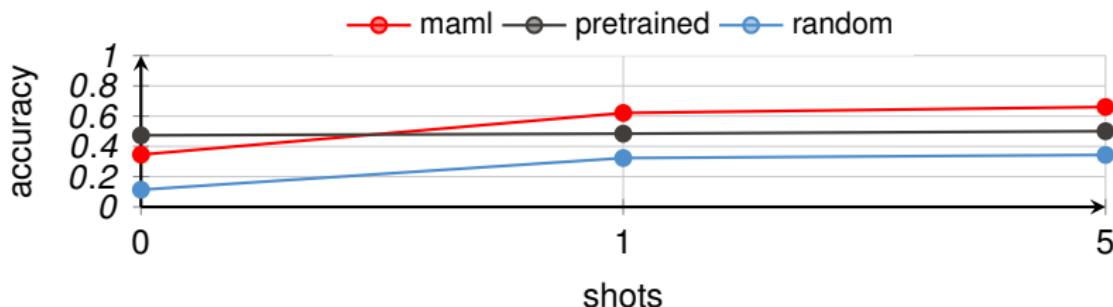
Schmitt, M., Hughes, L. H., Qiu, C., & Zhu, X. X. (2019). SEN12MS—A Curated Dataset of Georeferenced Multi-Spectral Sentinel-1/2 Imagery for Deep Learning and Data Fusion. arXiv preprint arXiv:1906.07789.

Model: 7 stacked CNN layers  $64 \times 3 \times 3$  kernels + BN + ReLU + max-pooling

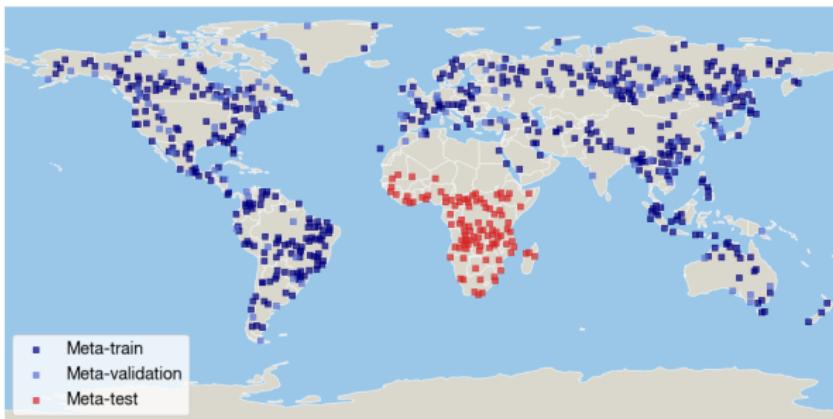
## Classification



## Segmentation

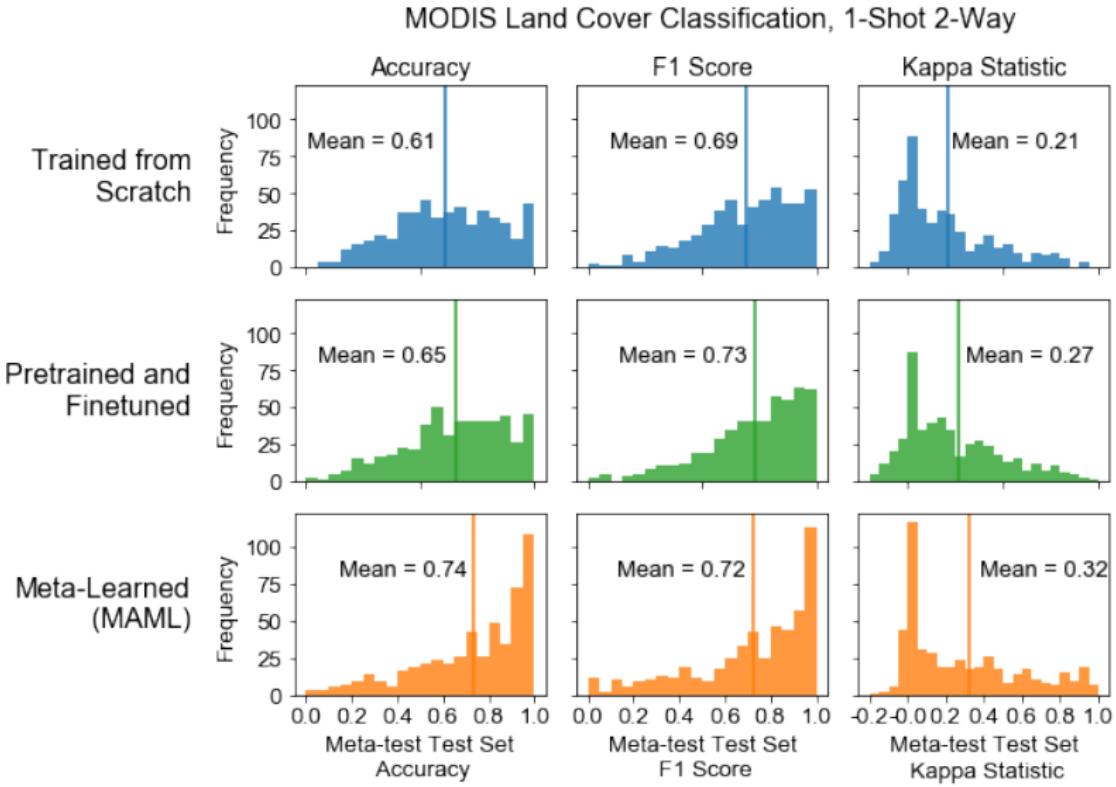


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1-shot 2-way, 515 meta-test tasks from Africa

Wang, S., Rußwurm, M., Körner, M., & Lobell, D. B. Meta-Learning For Few-Shot Time Series Classification. In IGARSS 2020-2020 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (pp. 7041-7044). IEEE.



"When to transfer?" of Yang et al., (2020).

- If distributions are too similar, transfer learning is not necessary. (e.g. DeepGlobe, unclustered)
- if distributions are related, transfer learning is effective (e.g. Sen12MS)
- If they are too different, there is no common knowledge to be learned. (e.g. Africa-testset: in Modis Time Series)

Pan, S. J., & Yang, Q. (2009). A survey on transfer learning. *IEEE Transactions on knowledge and data engineering*, 22(10), 1345-1359.

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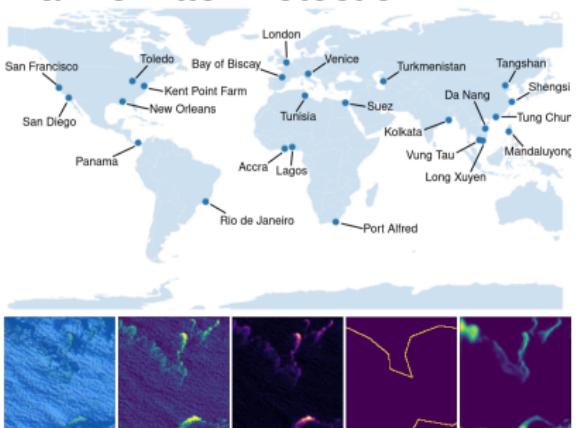
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- Few-shot meta-learning well-suited for some cases (i.e., many uniformly distributed datasets around the globe).
- We may need to decide on the learning-framework on a case by case basis

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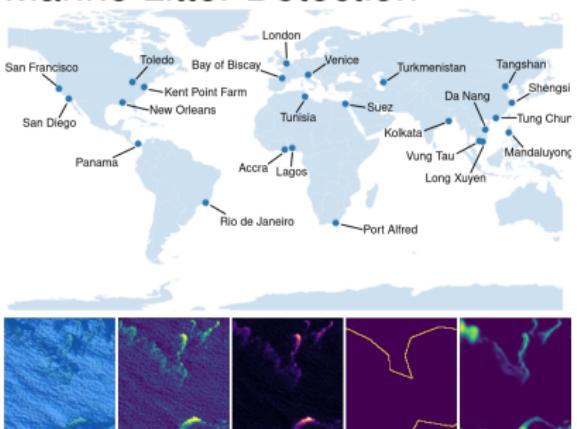
## Marine Litter Detection



Midal, J., Longépé, N., and Rußwurm, M. (2021)  
Towards detecting floating objects on a global scale with learned spatial features using Sentinel 2, ISPRS Ann.  
Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci., V-3-2021,  
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what features? → what DL models? → what learning algorithms?



# Thank you!

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[marc.russwurm@epfl.ch](mailto:marc.russwurm@epfl.ch)

EPFL-ECEO [epfl.ch/labs/eceo](http://epfl.ch/labs/eceo)

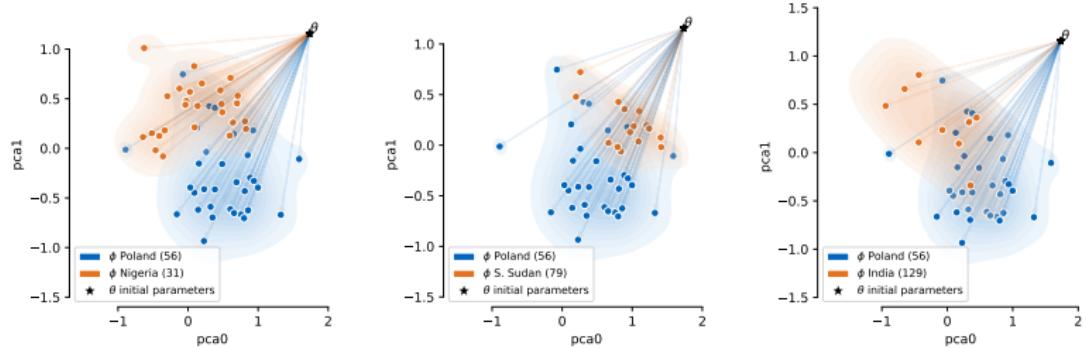
## ISPRS Thematic Session on Time Series ST\_STIS

with C. Pelletier, Z. Zhou

Rußwurm, M., Wang, S., Körner, M., & Lobell, D. (2020). Meta-learning for few-shot land cover classification. In Proceedings of the ieee/cvf conference on computer vision and pattern recognition workshops (pp. 200-201).

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PCA-representations of the neural network weights before ( $\theta$ ) and after adaptation ( $\phi$ ).



Traversing the loss landscape from  $\theta$  to  $\phi$ .

