

# Satellite-Based PM<sub>2.5</sub> Datasets

Melanie Follette-Cook, Pawan Gupta, Carl Malings, Sarah Strode

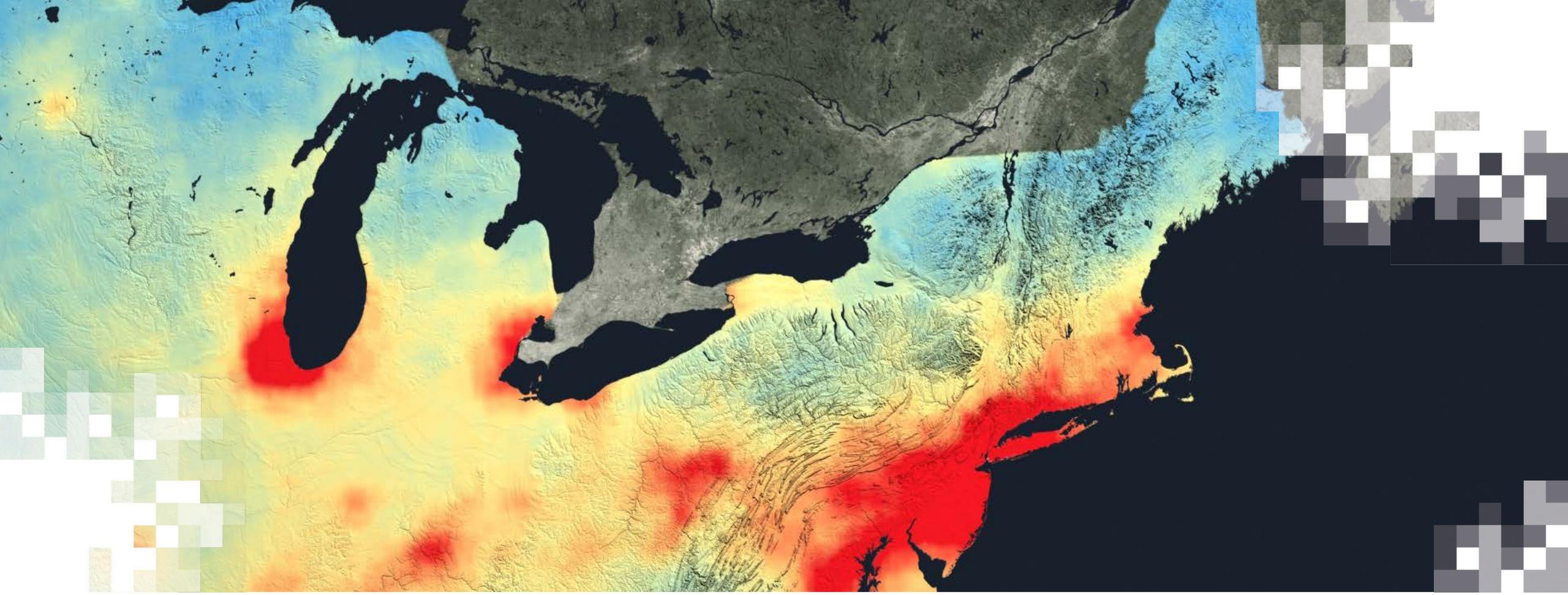
NASA Air Quality Remote Sensing Training for EPA, March 21-23, 2023

# Learning Objectives

By the end of this presentation, you will be able to:

- Give examples of applications for surface PM<sub>2.5</sub> estimates
- List several ways satellite observations can be used to estimate surface PM2.5
- Locate relevant PM2.5 estimates

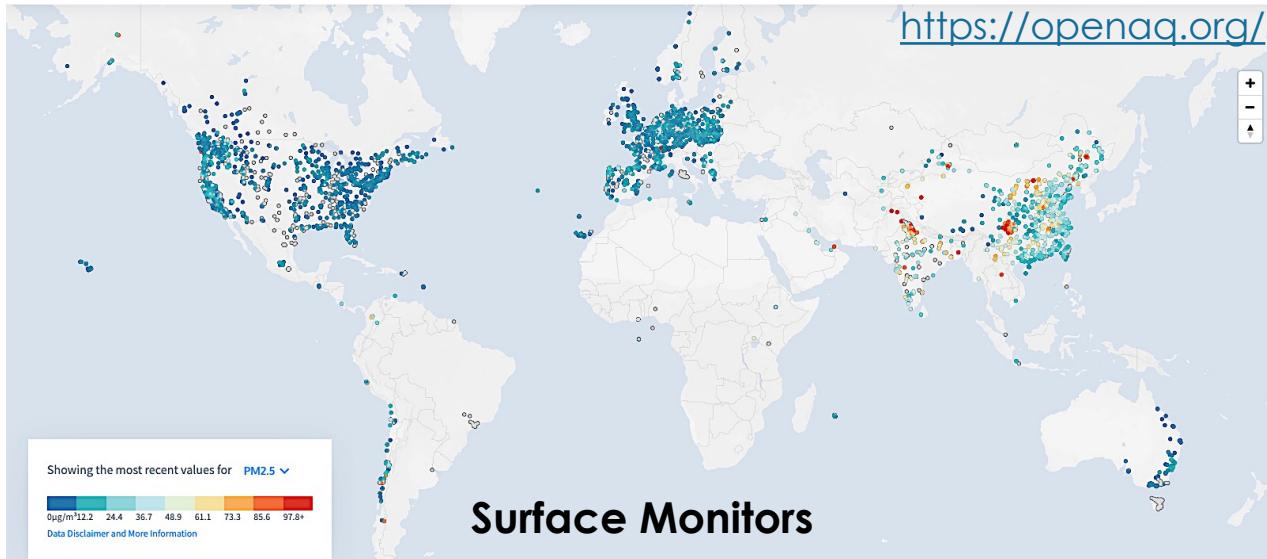




## Examples of Applications Using Surface PM<sub>2.5</sub> Estimates

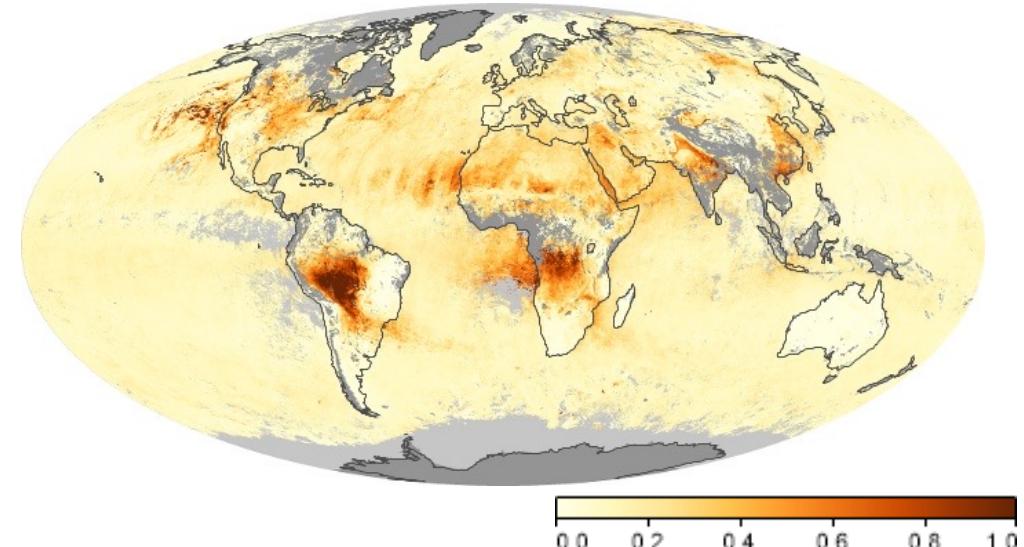
# Satellites Provide a “God’s Eye” View of the Earth

Spatial coverage is the primary advantage of satellite data.

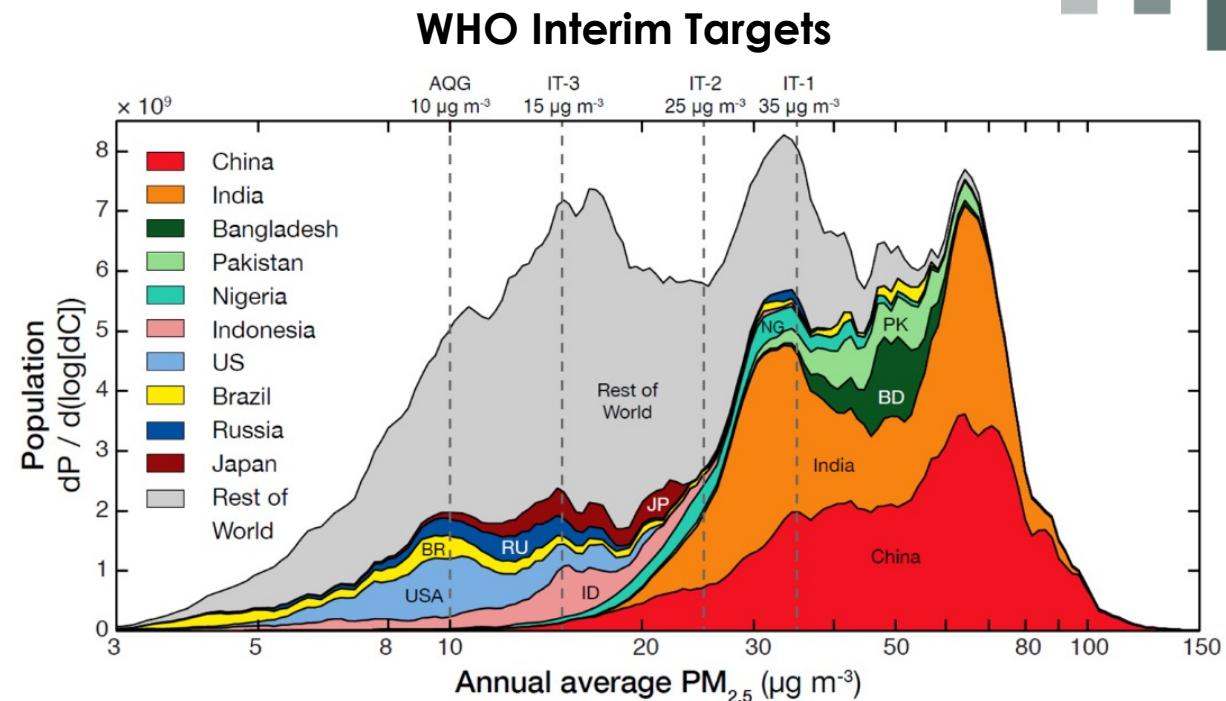
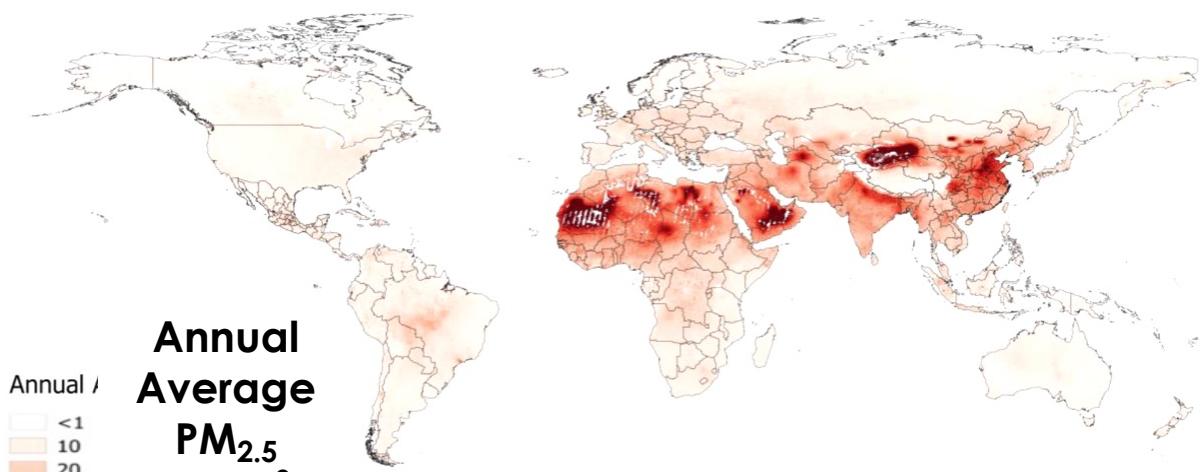


<https://www.purpleair.com/>

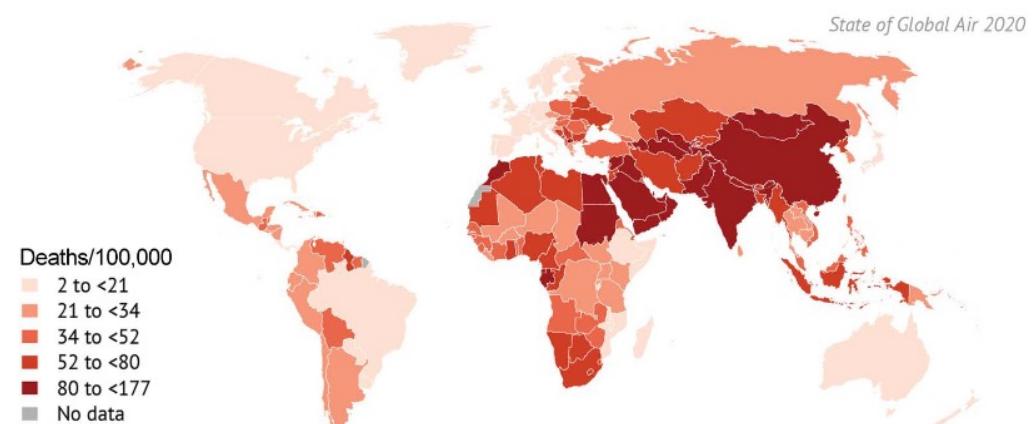
MODIS Terra AOD Sep 2020



# Health Studies of Exposure



Age-standardized rates of death attributable to PM<sub>2.5</sub> in 2019



<https://www.stateofglobalair.org/>



# UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



## Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### Goal 3 – Good Health and Well Being

- Target 3.9; Indicator 3.9.1
- Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (annual mean levels of air pollution [PM<sub>2.5</sub>])

### Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Target 11.6; Indicator 11.6.2
- Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) in cities (population weighted)

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Text adapted from "[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)"



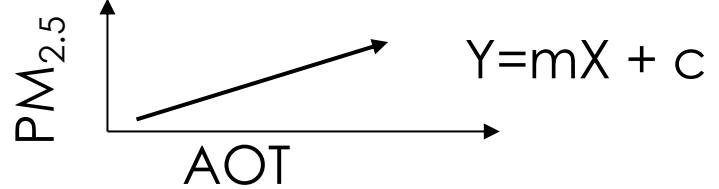
# PM<sub>2.5</sub> Estimation: Popular Methods



Difficulty Level



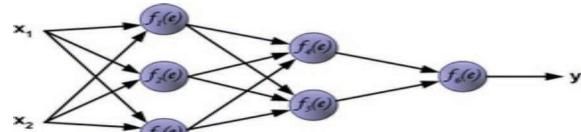
Two-Variable  
Method



Multivariable  
Method

$$PM_{2.5} = \beta_0 + \alpha \times \tau + \sum_{n=1}^m (\beta_n \times M_n)$$

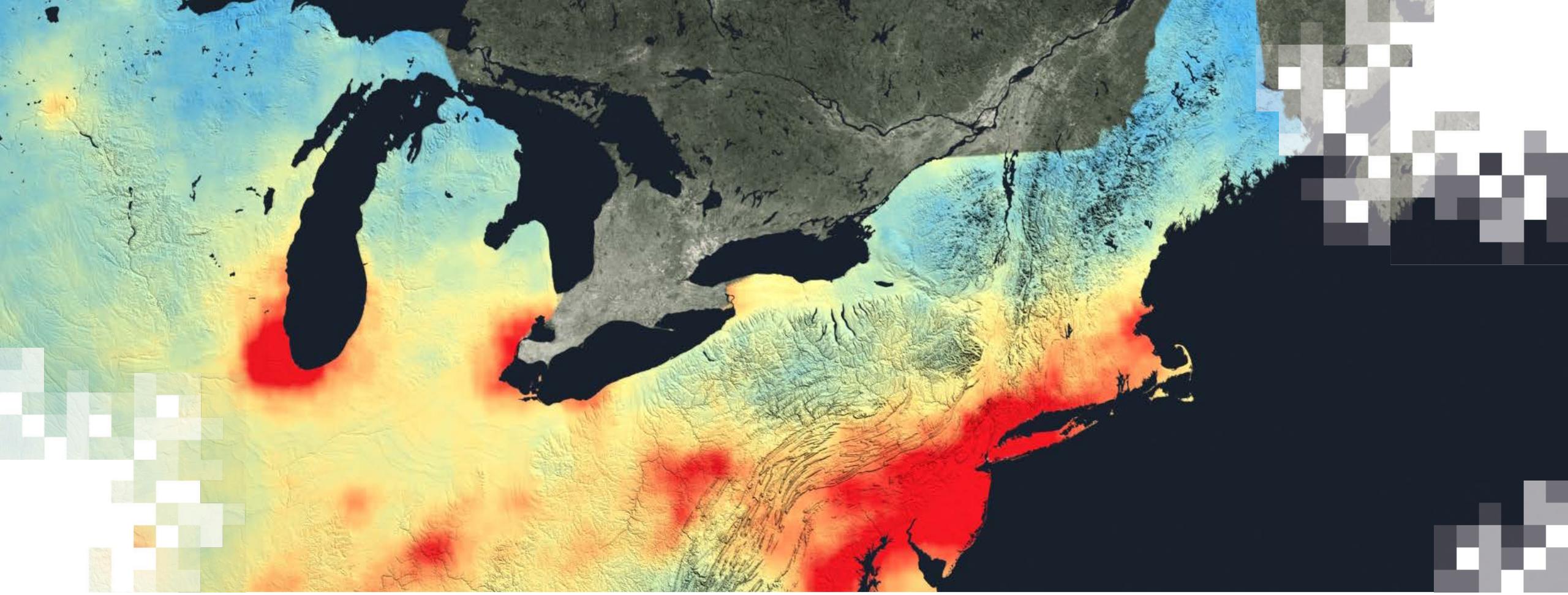
Artificial  
Intelligence



MSC

$$\text{Estimated } PM_{2.5} = \frac{\text{Model Surface Area Concentration}}{\text{Model AOD}} \times \text{Satellite AOD}$$



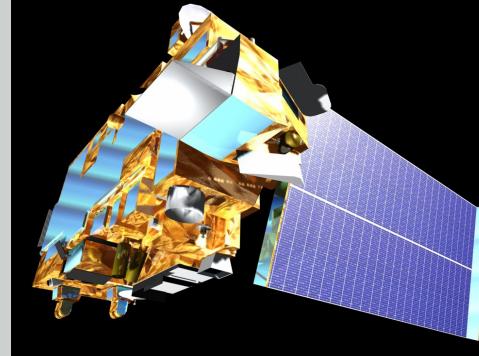
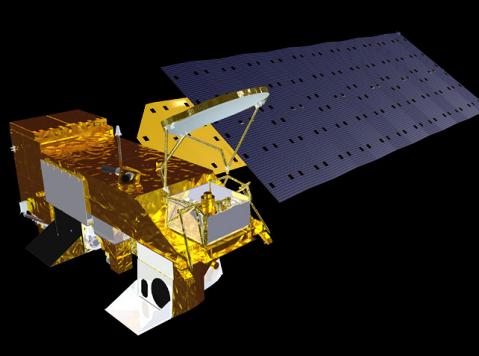
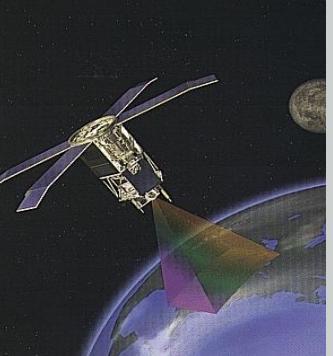


Satellite-Based Estimates of Surface PM<sub>2.5</sub> and  
Chemical Composition - Van Donkelaar et al.  
(2021)



# Van Donkelaar et al. (2021)

Eight retrievals of AOD from four different instruments

Instrument	MODIS: Terra/Aqua		MISR	SeaWiFS	
	 				
Retrieval Algorithm	Deep Blue	Dark Target	MAIAC	MISR	Deep Blue
Horizontal Resolution	10 km	10 km	1 km	17.6 km	13.5 km

Van Donkelaar et al., 2021, <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.est.1c05309>



# Van Donkelaar et al. (2021)

$AOD \Leftrightarrow PM_{2.5}$

AOD  
(8 retrievals) &

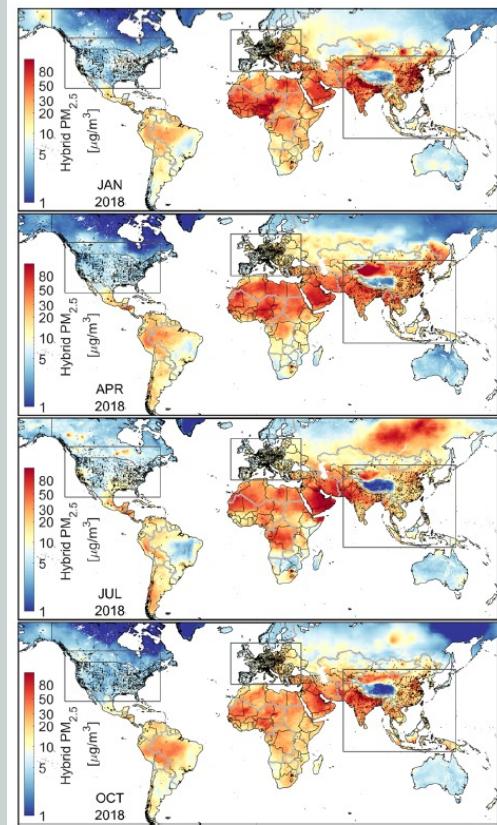
AOD from  
Model  
Simulations

Calibrate all using surface observations  
of AOD from the AERONET network



Calculate  $PM_{2.5}$   
from AOD using  
model AOD-to- $PM_{2.5}$   
relationship

Calculate Monthly Mean



## Geographic Weighted Regression (GWR)

GWR corrects the satellite estimate using the relationship between PM<sub>2.5</sub> from ground monitors and variables such as model aerosol composition, elevation data, and land use indicators.

## PM2.5 Uncertainty Estimates

Uncertainty is estimated by using 1) the range of AOD values going into the best estimate and simulated PM2.5/AOD relationships, and 2) the predictor coefficients of the GWR.



# Washington Univ of St. Louis - Atmospheric Composition Analysis Group

<https://sites.wustl.edu/acag/datasets/surface-pm2-5/>

- **Global and Regional PM2.5 (V5.GL.03) (1998-2021)**
  - Annual and Monthly Means at  $0.01^\circ \times 0.01^\circ$
  - Annual and Monthly Means at  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$
  - Annual and Monthly Mean Uncertainty at  $0.01^\circ \times 0.01^\circ$
- **North American Regional Estimates (with composition) (V4.NA.03)(2000-2016)**
  - Annual and Monthly Means at  $0.01^\circ \times 0.01^\circ$

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Atmospheric Composition Analysis Group at Washington University in St. Louis. The header features the university's logo and the group's name. Below the header, a navigation bar includes links for RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS, GEOS-CHEM, SATELLITES, DATASETS, SPARTAN, and GROUP INFO, along with a search icon. The main content area is titled "Surface PM2.5" and contains sections for "Contents" (listing V5.GL.03 and V4.NA.03), "Previous versions" (listing V4.NA.02.MAPLE), and "Global/Regional Estimates (V5.GL.03)". A sidebar on the right lists various datasets: Surface PM2.5 (selected), GBD-MAPS - Global, Surface NO2, Historical PM2.5 across North America, Inverse Visibility, OM/OC Dataset, Surface Area, and NOy Deposition.



# North American Regional Estimates (V4.NA.03)

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.est.8b06392>

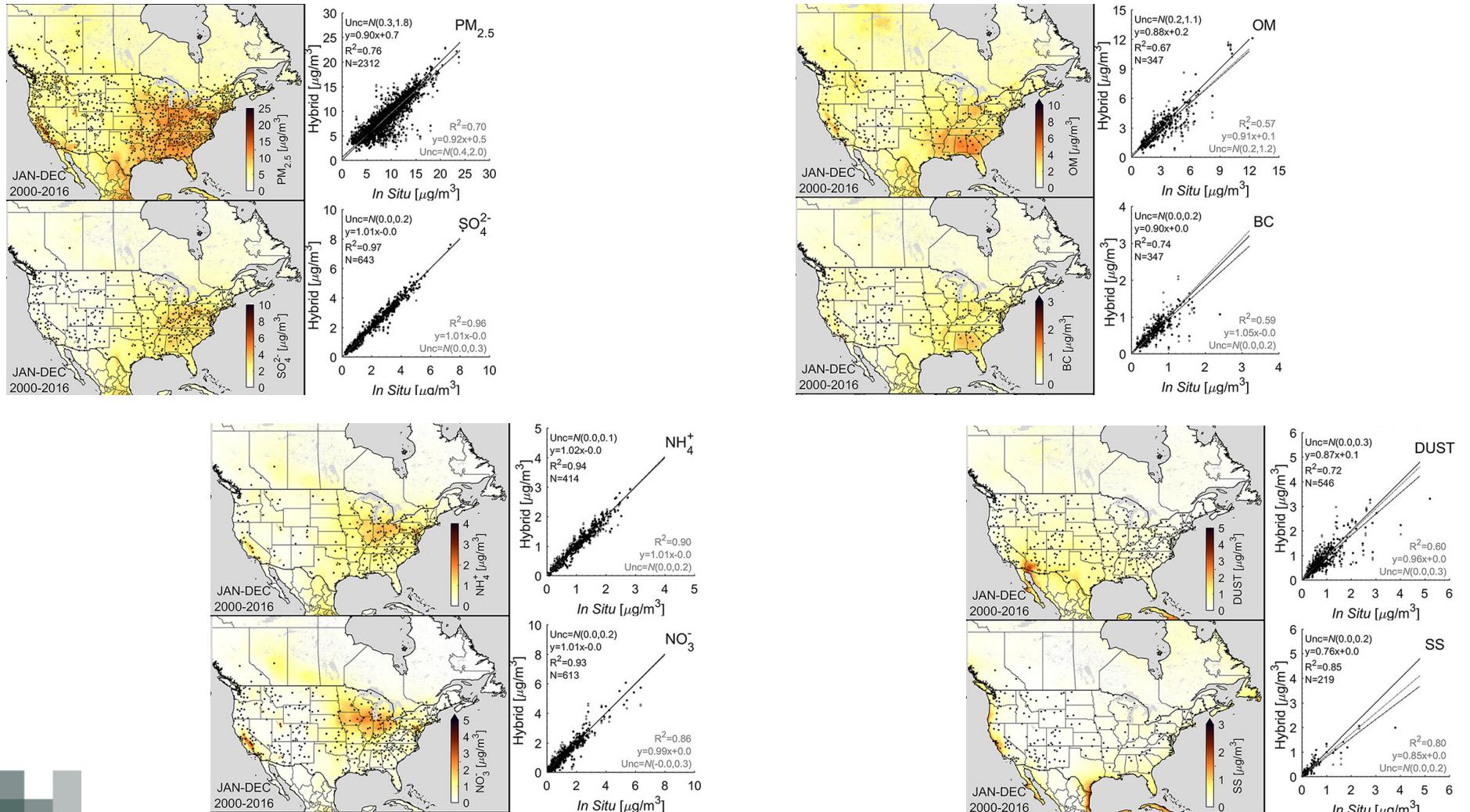
"We estimate ground-level fine particulate matter ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) total and compositional mass concentrations over North America by combining Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) retrievals from the NASA MODIS, MISR, and SeaWiFS instruments with the GEOS-Chem chemical transport model, and subsequently calibrated to regional ground-based observations of both total and compositional mass using Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) as detailed in the below reference."

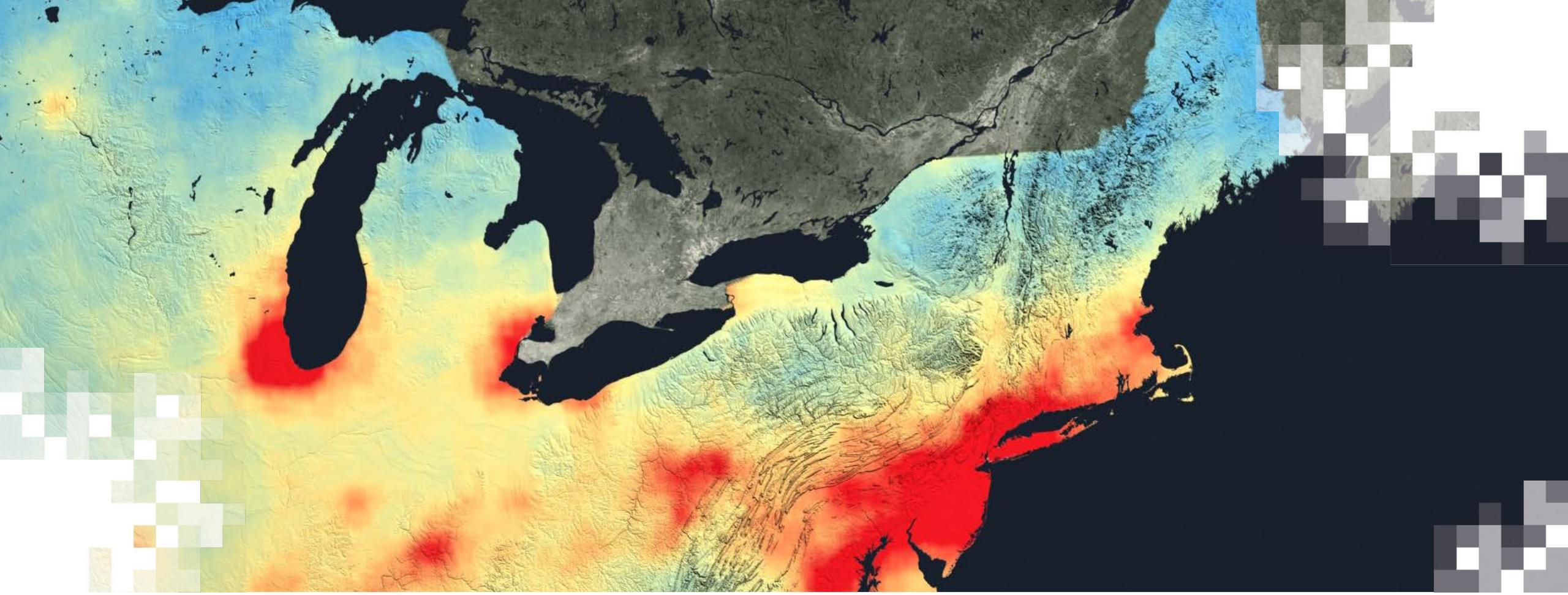
- <https://sites.wustl.edu/acag/datasets/surface-pm2-5/#V4.NA.03>
- 2000-2017,  $0.01^\circ \times 0.01^\circ$



# North American Regional Estimates (V4.NA.03)

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.est.8b06392>





Reanalysis-Based Estimates of Surface PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
and Chemical Composition – MERRA-2

# Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications, Version 2 (MERRA-2)

<https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/>

- NASA's Global Model and Assimilation Office (GMAO) produces estimates of surface PM<sub>2.5</sub> over the period of 1980 to the present day.
- The model system assimilates meteorological data as well as some atmospheric constituents (e.g., ozone, AOD).
- Spatial Resolution: 0.5x0.625 deg.





# MERRA-2 Aerosol Observations

- Aerosol assimilation is described in detail in [Randles et al. 2017](#) and <https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/pubs/docs/Randles887.pdf>.
- In MERRA-2, AOD at 550 nm is assimilated.
- Some Notes:
  - No information on vertical structure or composition
  - Daylight observations only
  - Subject to meteorological conditions (e.g., clouds) and viewing geometry (e.g., sun glint)
  - When there are no observations, MERRA-2 draws towards the GEOS/GOCART simulation.

Sensor	Temporal coverage	Description
AVHRR NNR	1980–August 2002	PATMOS-x radiances over ocean only (PM orbit)
AERONET	Station dependent (1999–October 2014)	AOD from land station network
MISR	February 2000–June 2014	AOD over bright land surfaces only (albedo > 0.15)
MODIS <i>Terra</i> NNR	March 2000 onward (NRT)	Collection 5 “Dark Target” land and ocean radiances (AM orbit)
MODIS <i>Aqua</i> NNR	August 2002 onward (NRT)	Collection 5 “Dark Target” land and ocean radiances (PM orbit)

Table 2 from [Randles et al. 2017](#)



# MERRA-2 Aerosol Observations



- When using MERRA-2 products, one must take care to consider the changing observing system over time.

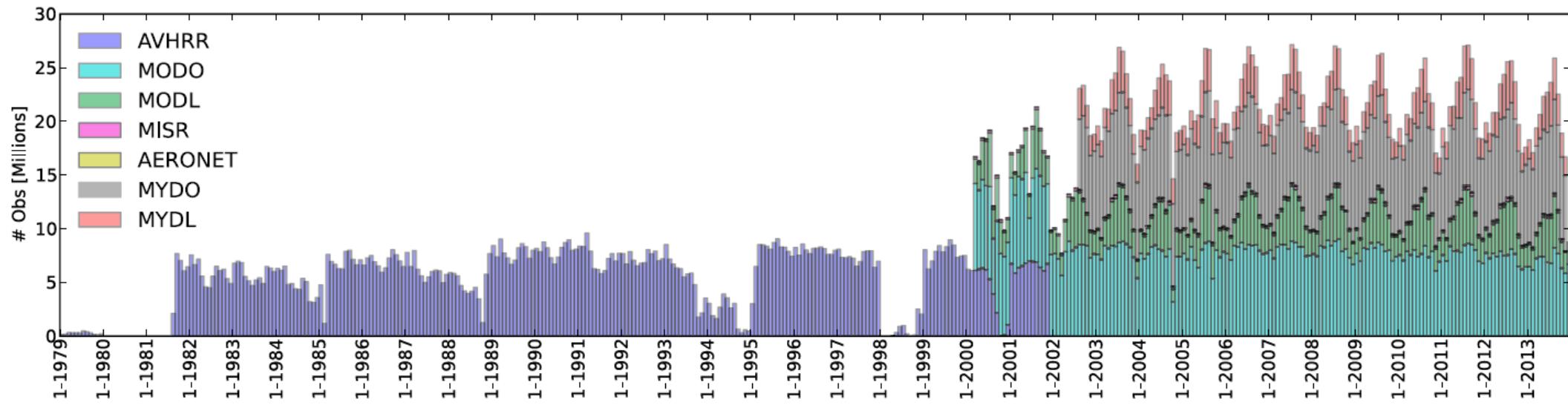
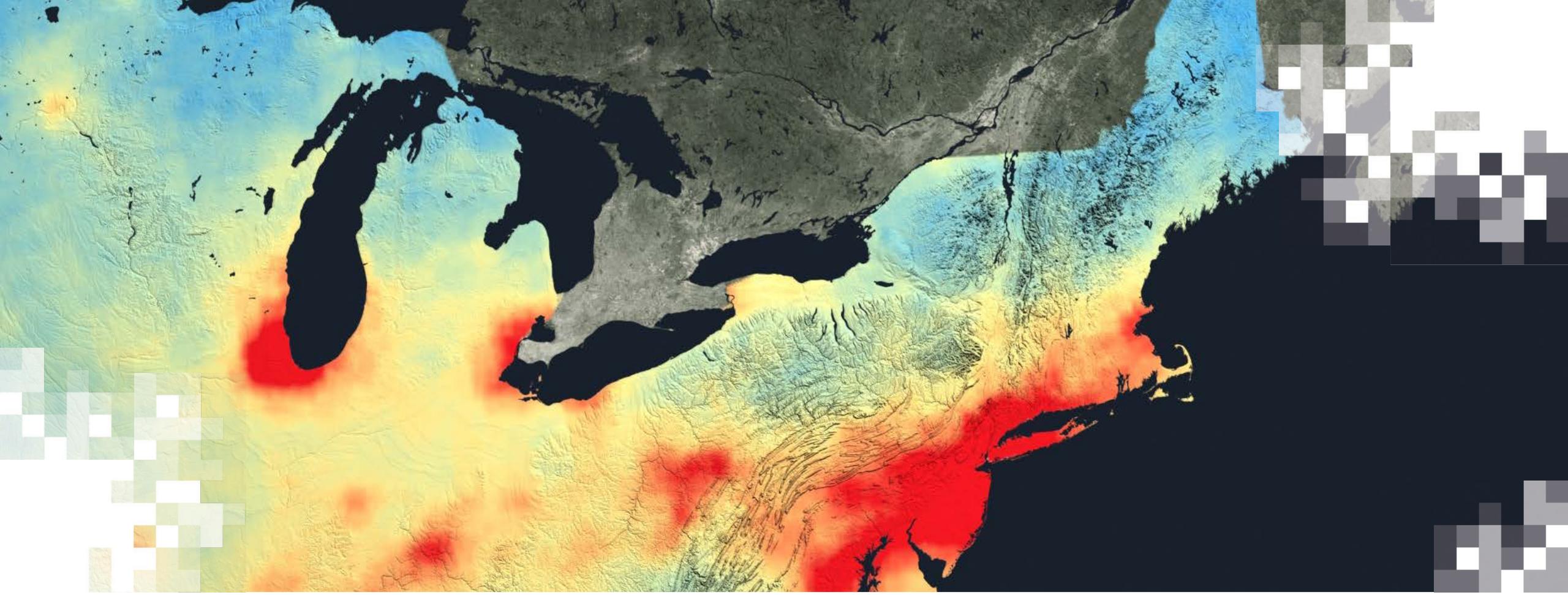


Figure 3 from [Randles et al. 2017](#)





Machine Learning-Based Estimates  
of Surface PM<sub>2.5</sub>

# Machine Learning Ensemble-based PM2.5 over CONUS (2000-2016)

<https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/aqdh-pm2-5-concentrations-contiguous-us-1-km-2000-2016>

- Daily and Annual, 1 km<sup>2</sup>
- Available in RDS and GeoTIFF
- Also Available at Zip Code Level
  - <https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/aqdh-pm2-5-o3-no2-concentrations-zipcode-contiguous-us-2000-2016>

The screenshot shows the SEDAC homepage with a banner for "Air Quality Data for Health-Related Applications". On the left, there's a sidebar for "Collection Overview" featuring a thumbnail for "Daily and Annual PM2.5 Concentrations for the Contiguous United States, 1-km Grids, v1 (2000–2016)". The main content area displays details about this dataset, including its purpose (providing daily and annual PM2.5 concentrations for the contiguous US), download options (Set Overview, Data Download, Documentation, Metadata), and a note about R code for matching coordinates. A "feedback and support" button is visible in the bottom right corner.

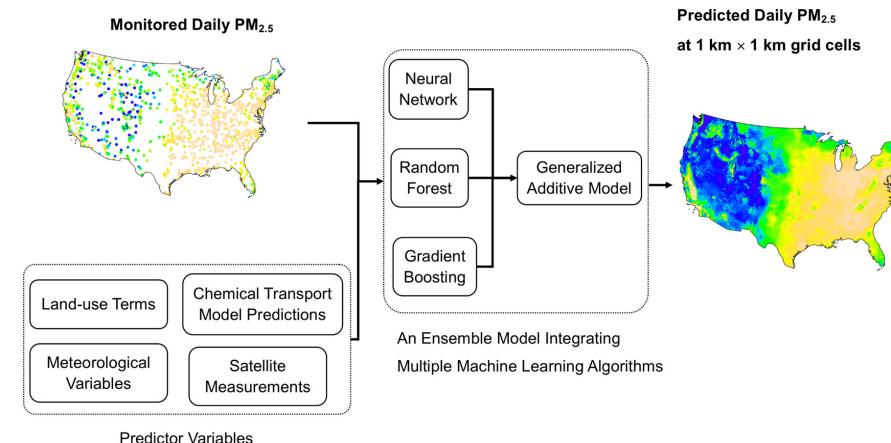


# Machine Learning Ensemble-Based PM<sub>2.5</sub> over CONUS (2000-2016)

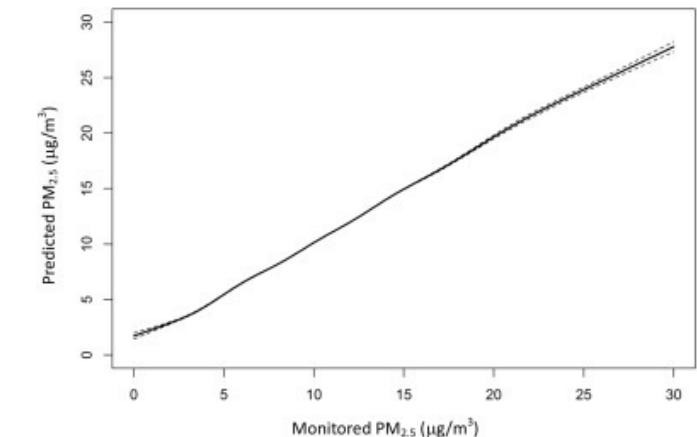
Di et al., 2019, Environmental International

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412019300650>

- Meteorology:
  - NARR (North American Regional Reanalysis)
- Satellite Observations:
  - MODIS MAIAC
  - MERRA-2 Speciation
- CTM:
  - GEOS-Chem, CMAQ
- Land-Use Terms:
  - Coverage Type, Road Density, Restaurant Density, Elevation, NDVI



Relationship Between Monitored and Predicted PM<sub>2.5</sub> at Annual Level



- Additional downscaling to 100 m
- Includes uncertainty estimates





# Global Deep Ensemble Machine Learning (2000-2019)

Yu et al., 2023, Lancet, <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2823%2900008-6>

- Deep Ensemble Machine Learning (DEML)
- Inputs:
  - Station PM2.5 (Daily Mean)
  - GEOS-Chem
  - ERA5 Reanalysis
  - MODIS Land Cover
  - Population Data
- Daily, Global, PM2.5 Estimates
- $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$
- Data not available yet

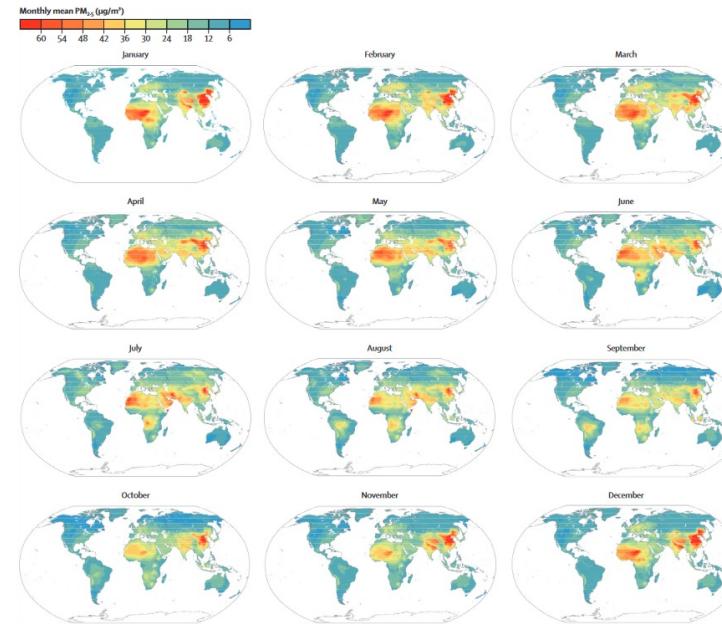


Figure 6, Yu et al., 2023

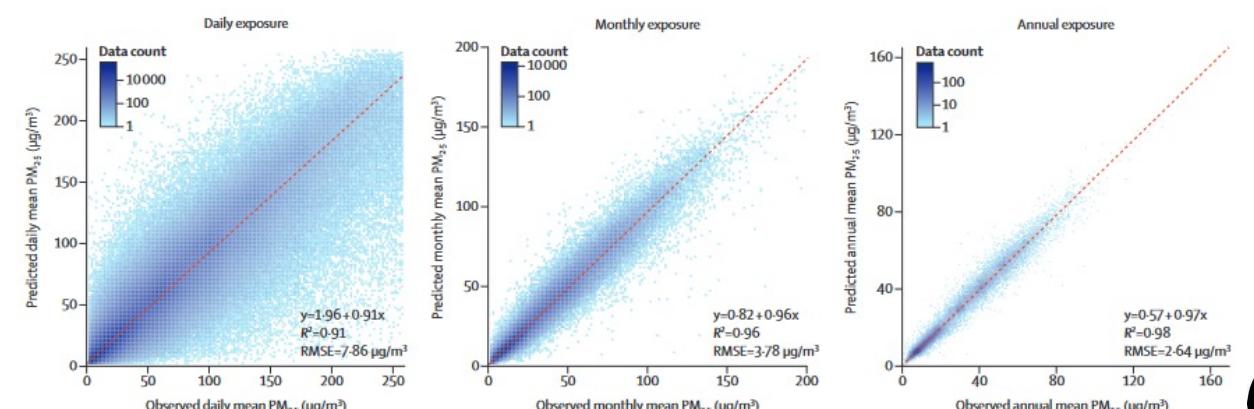
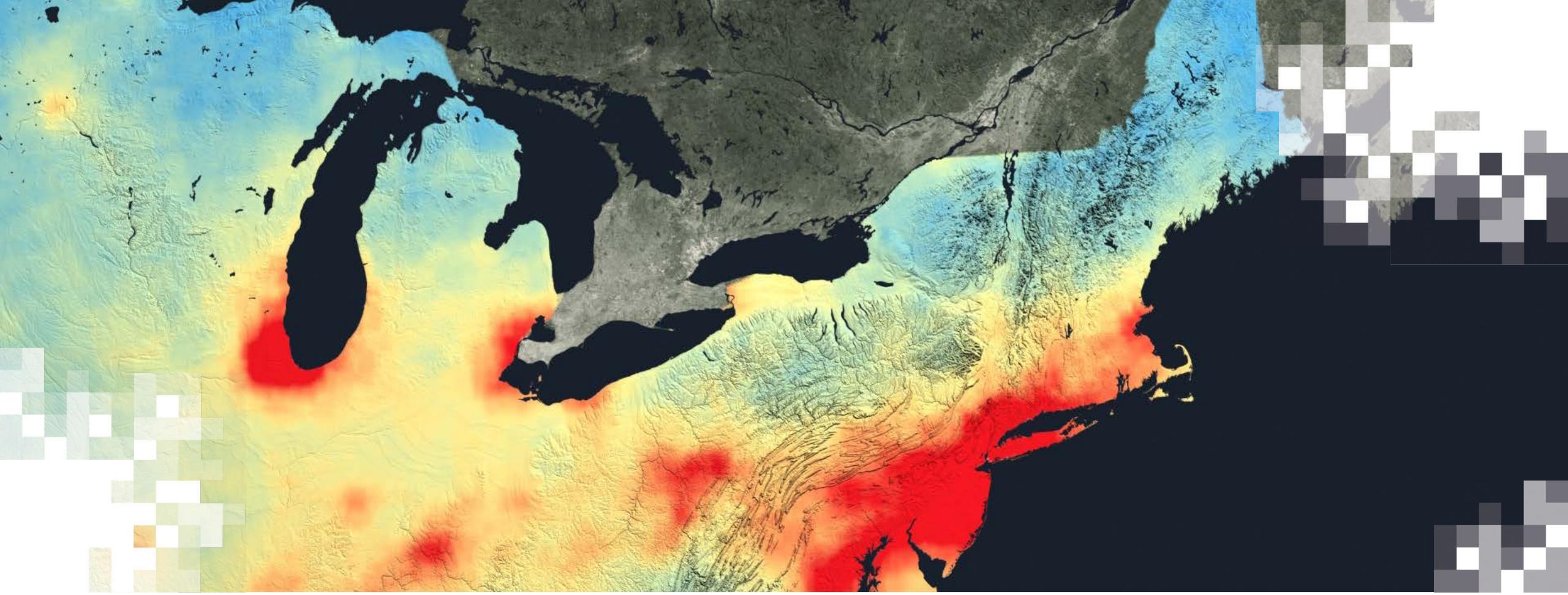


Figure 2, Yu et al., 2023





Questions?