



# **NASA MODIS IMAGERY CLOUD IDENTIFICATION**

**Dongwei Fu**

**DTSA-5506**

**University of Colorado, Boulder**



# Outline

- Problem Statement
- Related work
- Proposed work
- Timeline



# Problem statement

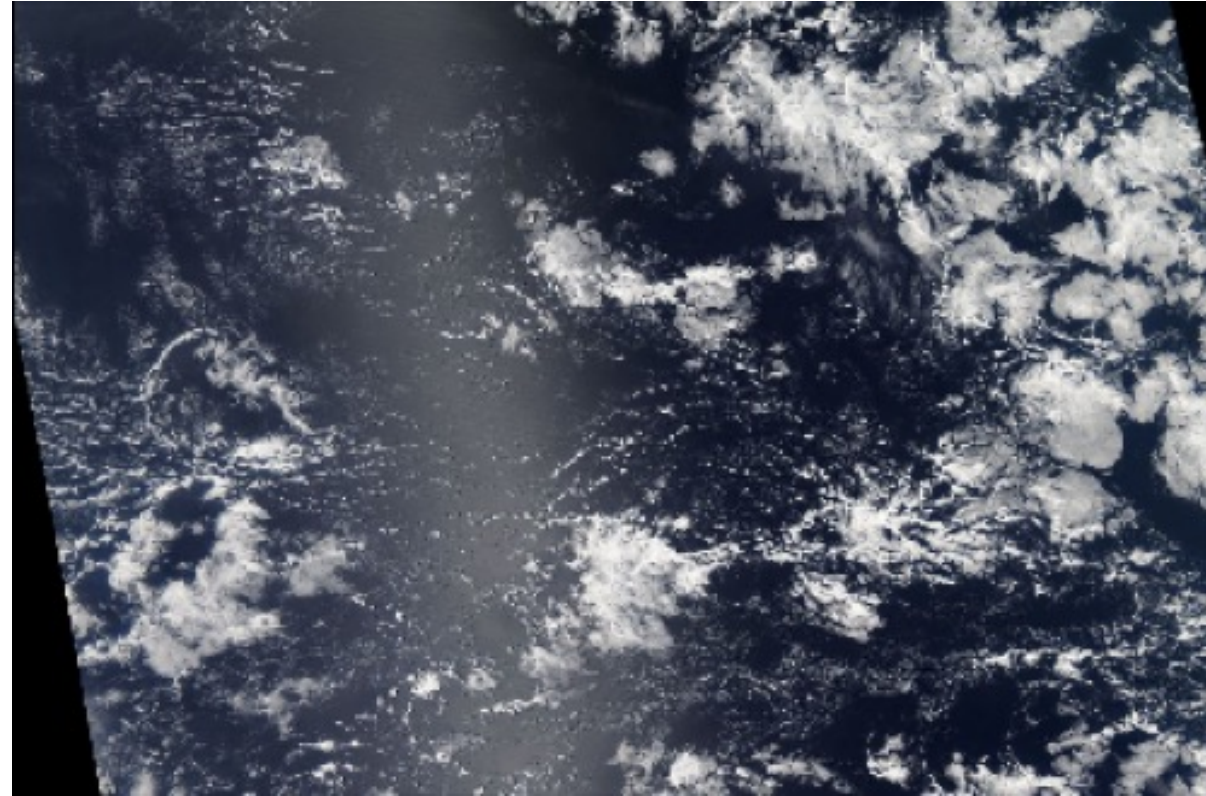
**Clouds** play a critical role in regulating **Earth's climate** by reflecting sunlight and trapping heat.

Small changes in **shallow clouds** properties significantly impact the Earth's climate.

**Understanding shallow clouds is essential** for **improving climate model predictions** of future climate.

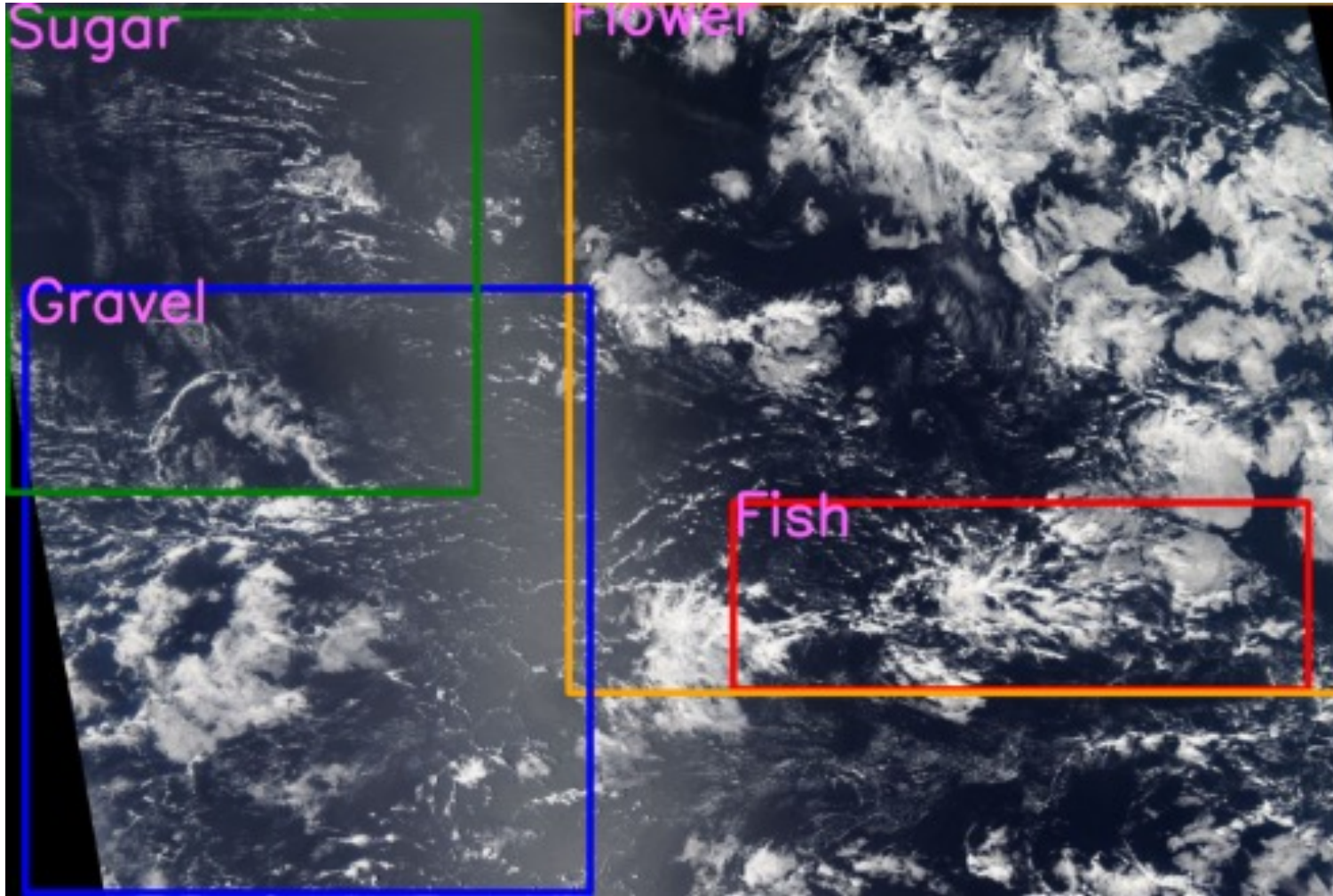
**Satellite Imagery** provides **extensive spatial** and **temporal coverage** of **clouds**, especially in remote regions.

**Goal:** Develop a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) to identify various satellite cloud structures.



**NASA Aqua MODIS 250m RGB image, from NASA WorldView.**

# Related Work: Satellite image dataset



Training dataset image '015aa06.jpg'

Kaggle competition dataset (Rasp et al. 2019)  
Human labeled MODIS RGB image from  
NASA worldview web-interface.  
(<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov>)

Consists of four cloud classes:

**Sugar:** dusting of fine clouds with little self-organization

**Flower:** large-scale stratiform clouds in bouquets with separations from each other.

**Fish:** large-scale skeletal networks that are separated from other cloud formations.

**Gravel:** arcs of randomly interacting cells with granularity.

(Rasp et al. 2020)

# Related Work: Exploratory Data Analysis

Training dataset: 5546 RGB images

Test dataset: 3698 RGB images.

4 cloud classes:

Sugar, Flower, Fish, Gravel.

```
1 train_df.info()
```

✓ 0.0s

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
```

```
RangeIndex: 5546 entries, 0 to 5545
```

```
Data columns (total 7 columns):
```

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	Image_Id	5546 non-null	object
1	Label_EncodedPixels	5546 non-null	object
2	Fish	5546 non-null	int64
3	Flower	5546 non-null	int64
4	Gravel	5546 non-null	int64

```
1 test_df.info()
```

✓ 0.0s

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
```

```
RangeIndex: 3698 entries, 0 to 3697
```

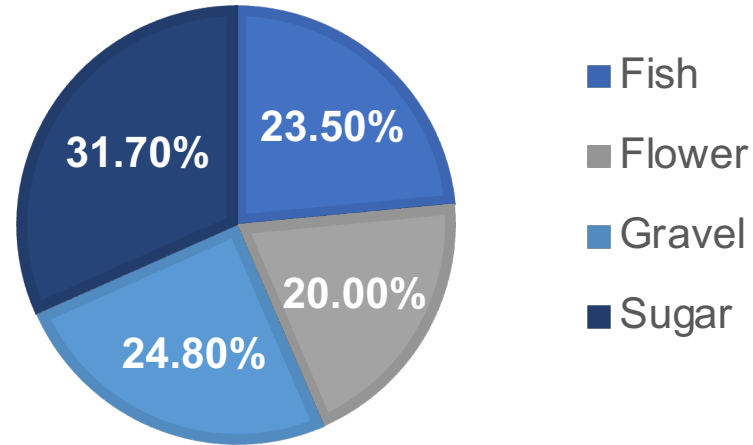
```
Data columns (total 2 columns):
```

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	Image_Id	3698 non-null	object
1	Label_EncodedPixels	3698 non-null	object

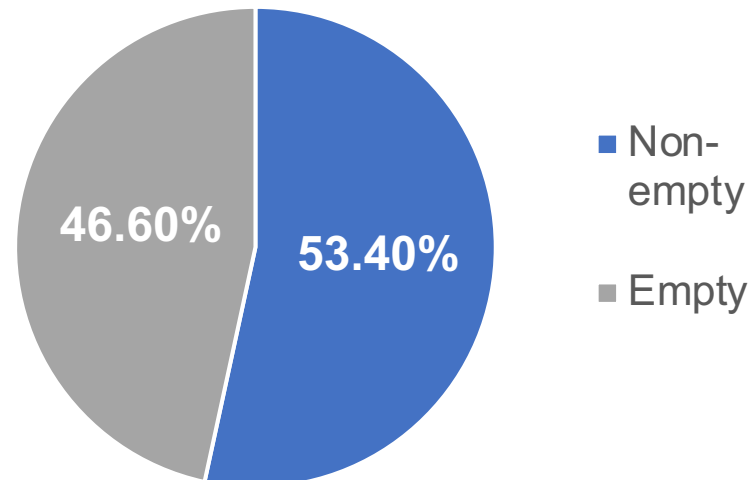
```
dtypes: object(2)
```

```
memory usage: 57.9+ KB
```

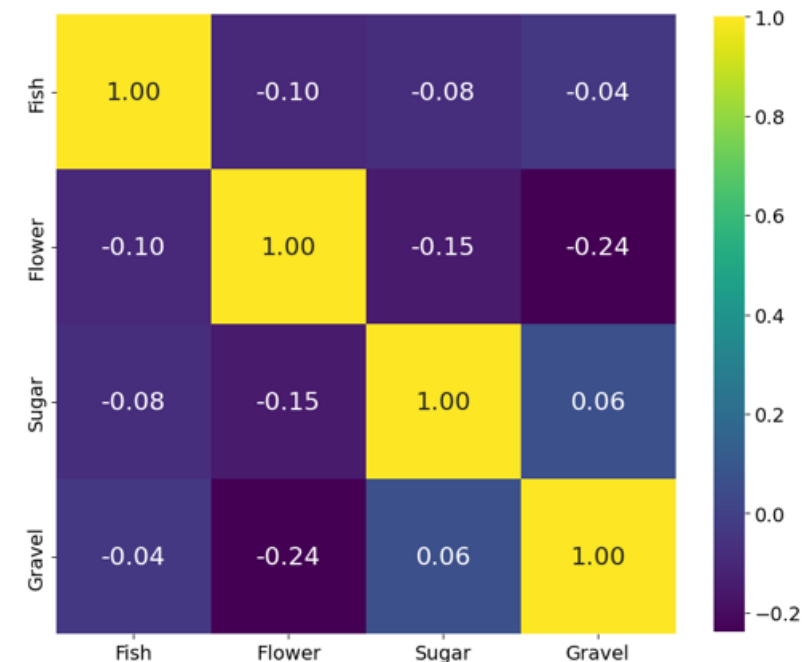
Training label relative frequency



Training label valid mask frequency



Cloud Label Correlation Heatmap





# Related Work: Data preprocessing

- **Data augmentation:** Images at 1400 x 2100 pixels resolution can be computational for heavy model training. To improve training efficiency, data augmentation such as split data into batches, perform image resizing, image flipping and random rotation.
- **Run-length encoding (RLE):** To reduce submission file sizes, pixel run-length encoding was implemented to record start position and run length of the masked image pixels.

# Related Work: Evaluation Metrics

Dice Coefficient:  $\frac{2 * |X \cap Y|}{|X| + |Y|}$

- Dice coefficient is used to compare the **pixel-wise agreement** between a predicted segmentation and its corresponding ground truth.

Loss:  $Loss = - (Loss_{BCE}(yt, yp) + Loss_{dice}(yt, yp))$

- Loss is defined as the combination of binary cross entropy loss and dice coefficient loss.

# Proposed work

1. Identify the problem and gather information on project feasibility.
2. Download data and perform EDA analysis
3. Preprocess data for segmentation model training. **\*Current**
4. Build initial baseline model and assess model performance.
5. Fine-tune model / hyperparameter tuning.
6. Finalize best model.
7. Analyze final results.
8. Reach final evaluation/conclusions.



# Proposed project timeline

Timeline	9/1 to 9/15	9/16 to 9/30	10/1 to 10/10	10/10 to 10/15
Action items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify problem and choose dataset.</li><li>2. EDA analysis, data</li></ol>	<p>Data preprocessing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Data augmentation.</li><li>2.Data RLE encoding.</li><li>3. Data visualization.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Select model architecture and build baseline model.</li><li>2. Select alternative model and compare model performance.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hyperparameter tuning to improve model performance.</li><li>2. Finalize analysis.</li><li>3. Write project report and presentation.</li></ol>