



# Satellite data is for everyone

Insights into modern remote sensing research  
with open data and Python

Dr.-Ing. Jens Leitloff, Felix M. Riese



**GitHub**

Objective of this talk:

# Python tutorial with Keras

Example case:

Classification of land use & cover



jensleitloff/CNN-Sentinel

# Why

multispectral satellite images?

# How

to apply out-of-the-box CNNs?

# What

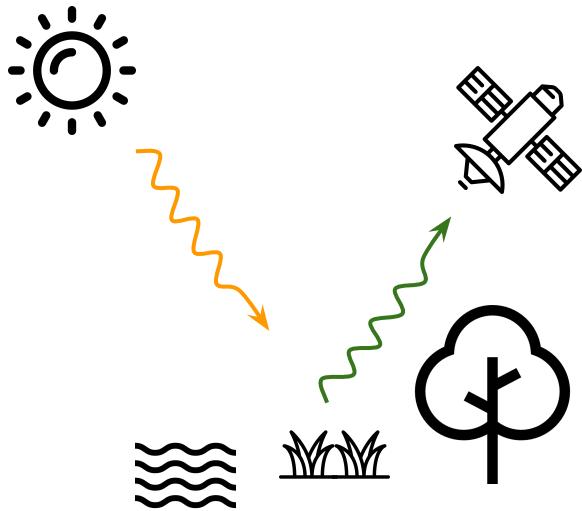
do you need to start?

**Why**  
multispectral satellite images?

**How**  
to apply out-of-the-box CNNs?

**What**  
do you need to start?

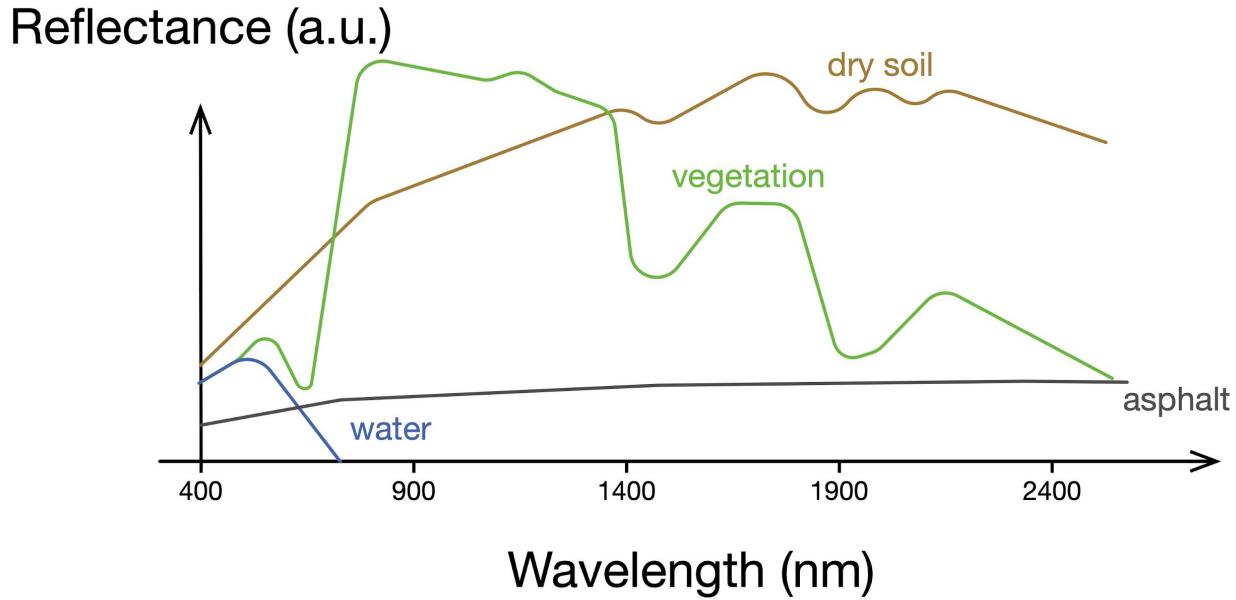
# Remote sensing setup



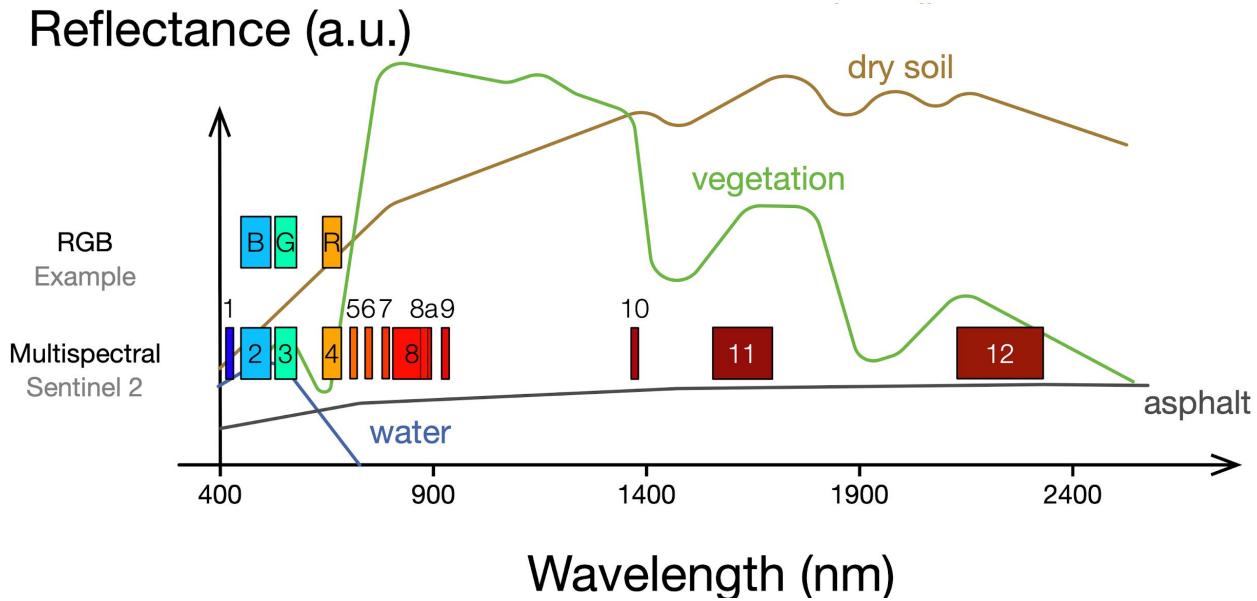
## Channels (= features)

- RGB → 3 channels
- Multispectral (e.g. 13 channels)
- Hyperspectral (e.g. 200 channels)

# Spectral properties



# Sensing spectral properties



# 5 days

does it take for Sentinel-2 satellites to cover the earth's surface

# free

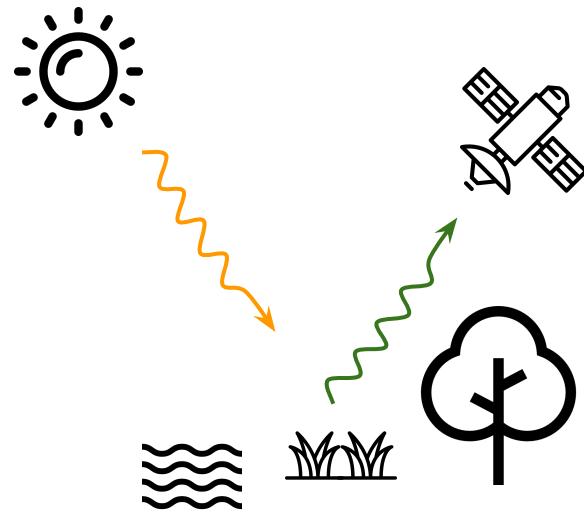
for non-commercial use

Today's objective:

**Implement a land use classifier!**

# 1. Training

→ learn the correlations



## 1. Training → learn the correlations



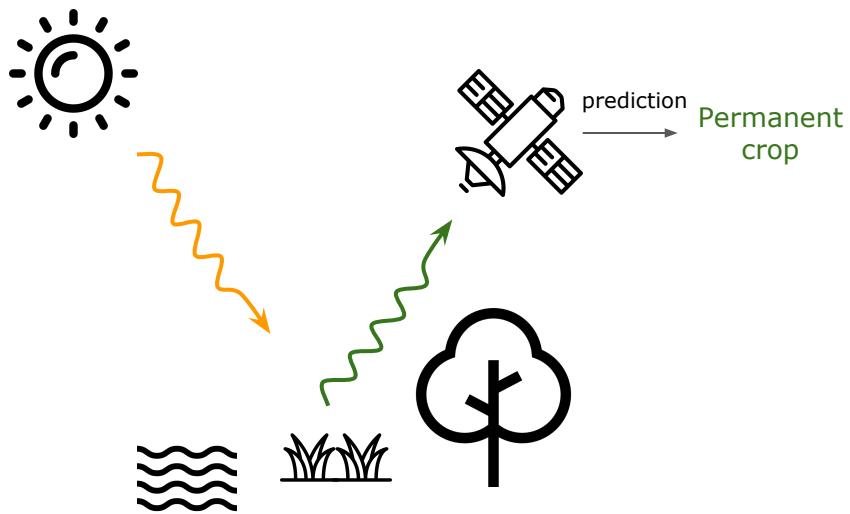
**Ground truth  
(labels)**

River

Permanent  
crop

Forest

## 2. Prediction → apply the learnings



**Why**  
multispectral satellite images?

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do you need to start?

# The EuroSAT dataset

## Links:

- Introduced in [arXiv:1709.00029](https://arxiv.org/abs/1709.00029)
- Download here:  
<http://madm.dfki.de/downloads>

## Properties:

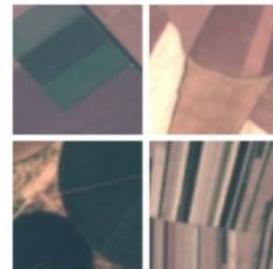
- Sentinel-2 satellite images
  - **Raw dataset:** 13 different spectral bands (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 8a)
  - **RGB dataset:** RGB colors
- 27 000 labeled images
- 10 classes (→ next slide)



(a) Industrial



(b) Residential



(c) Annual crop



(d) Permanent crop



(e) River



(f) Sea & lake



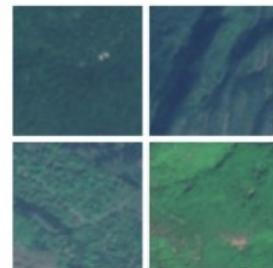
(g) Herbaceous vegetation



(h) Highway



(i) Pasture



(j) Forest

# The classes

Image source: [arXiv:1709.00029](https://arxiv.org/abs/1709.00029)

## Learning from scratch

1. Network structure with **randomly initialized** weights
2. Training of **complete** network on training dataset

- **slow** convergence
- **lots of** training data necessary
- easily implemented for **every kind** of input data

## Transfer learning

## Learning from scratch

1. Network structure with **randomly initialized** weights
2. Training of **complete** network on training dataset

- **slow** convergence
- **lots of** training data necessary
- easily implemented for **every kind** of input data

## Transfer learning

1. Network structure with **pretrained** weights
2. Training of **selected** layers on the training dataset (= fine tuning)

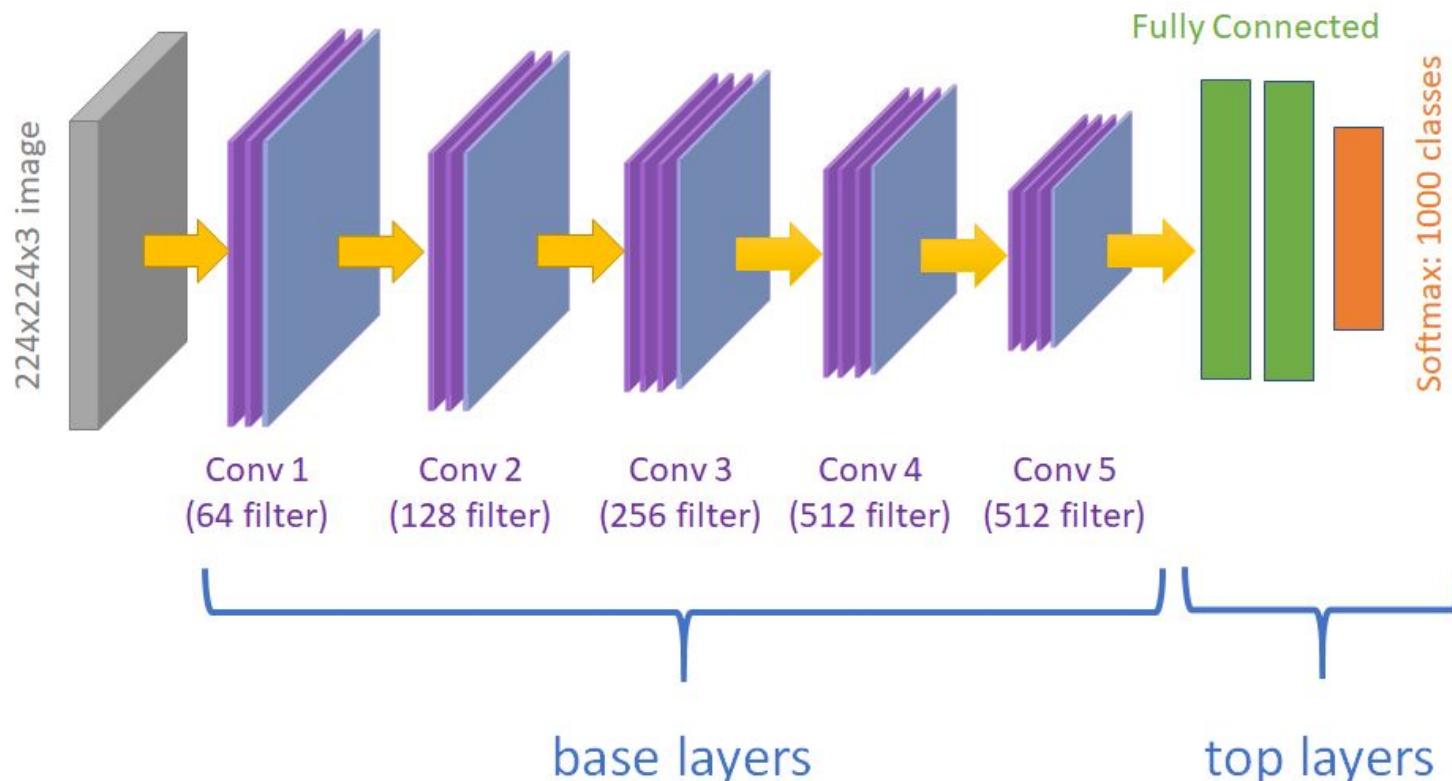
- much **faster** convergence
- **less** training data necessary
- mostly implemented **for RGB**
- modifications for MS necessary

→ Implement for RGB & multispectral

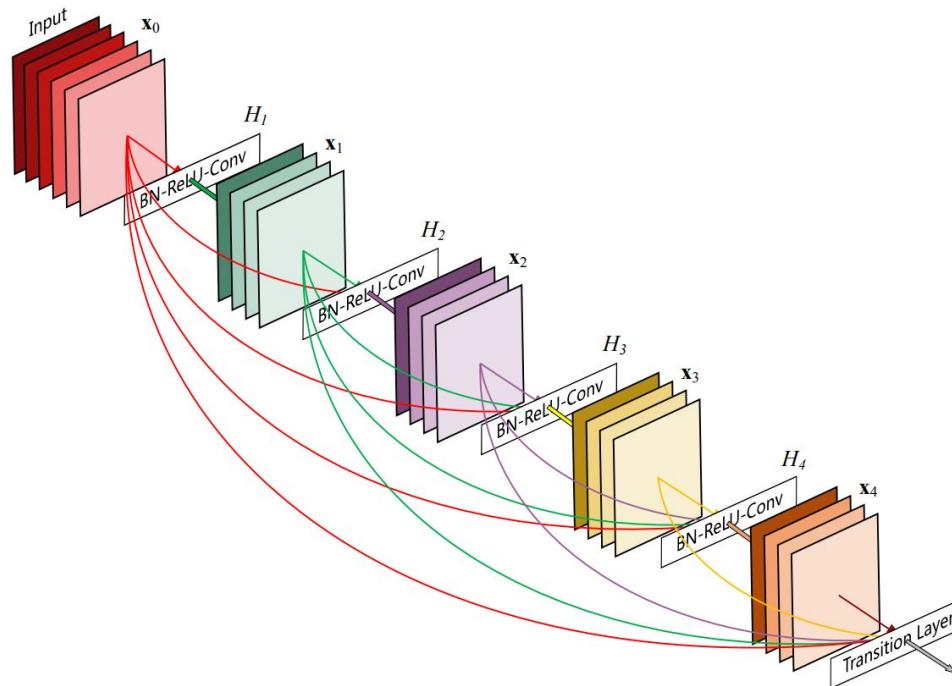
Implement two models:

**VGG16** and **DenseNet201**

# VGG16 architecture



# DenseNet architecture



# Detailed look

\*switch to Jupyter notebooks\*

**GitHub**



jensleitloff/CNN-Sentinel

# Steps to do

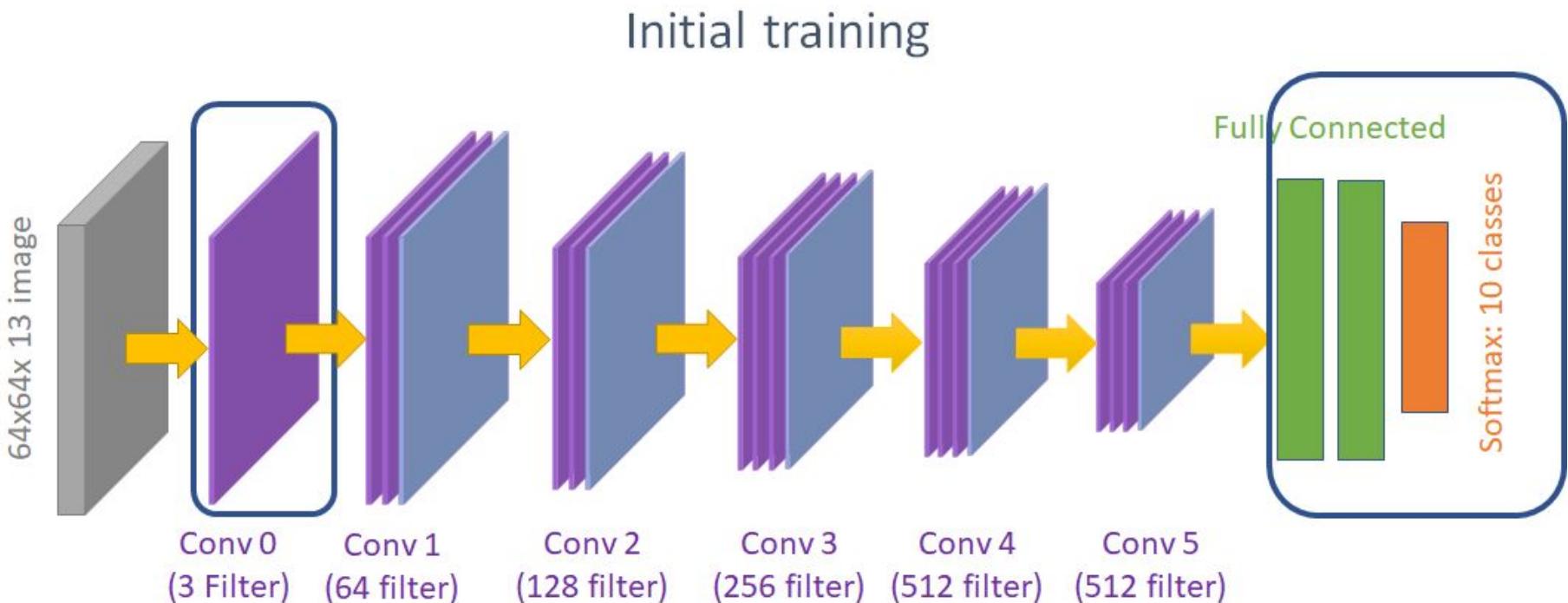
## Training from scratch

1. Initialize network model without top layers
2. define new top layers
3. define data augmentation
4. define callbacks
5. -
6. -
7. -
8. fit model

## Transfer-learning

1. Pretrained network model without top layers
2. define new top layers
3. define data augmentation
4. define callbacks
5. set base layers non trainable
6. fit model (train new top layers)
7. set (some) base layers trainable
8. fit model (fine-tune base and top layers)

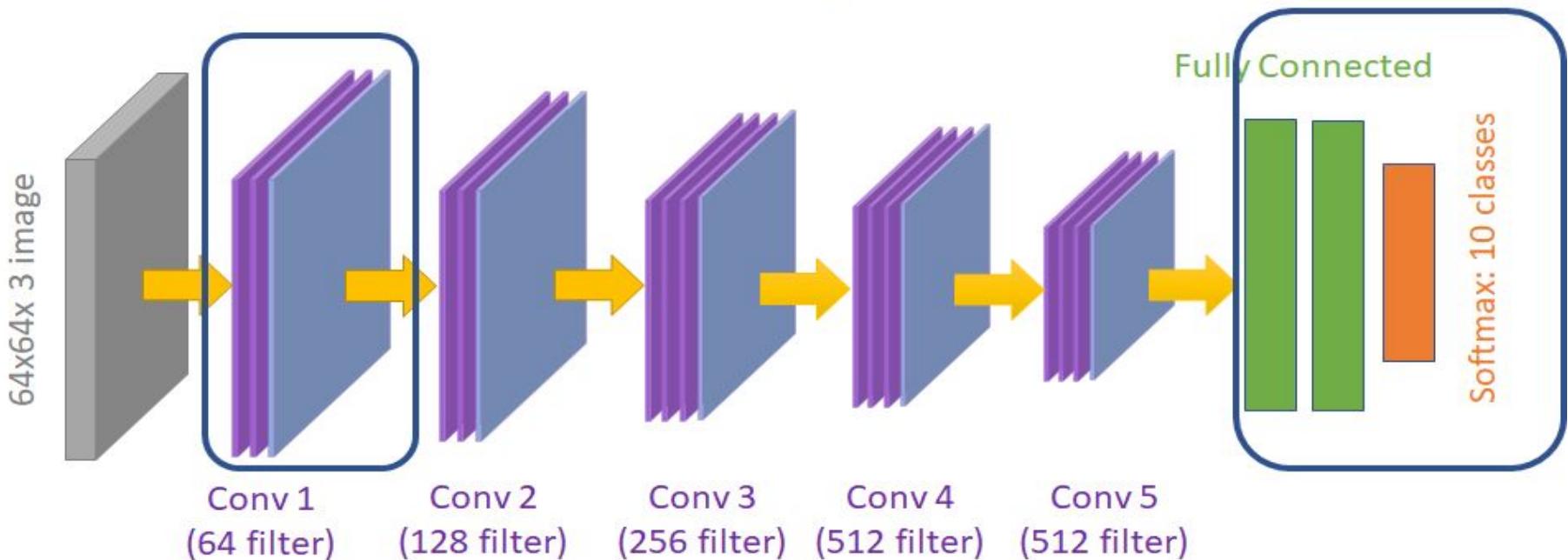
# Adapt transfer learning for MS data



see script **04\_train\_ms\_finetuning.py** in the GitHub repository

# Alternative adaption

Initial training



see script **05\_train\_ms\_finetuning\_alternative.py** in the GitHub repository

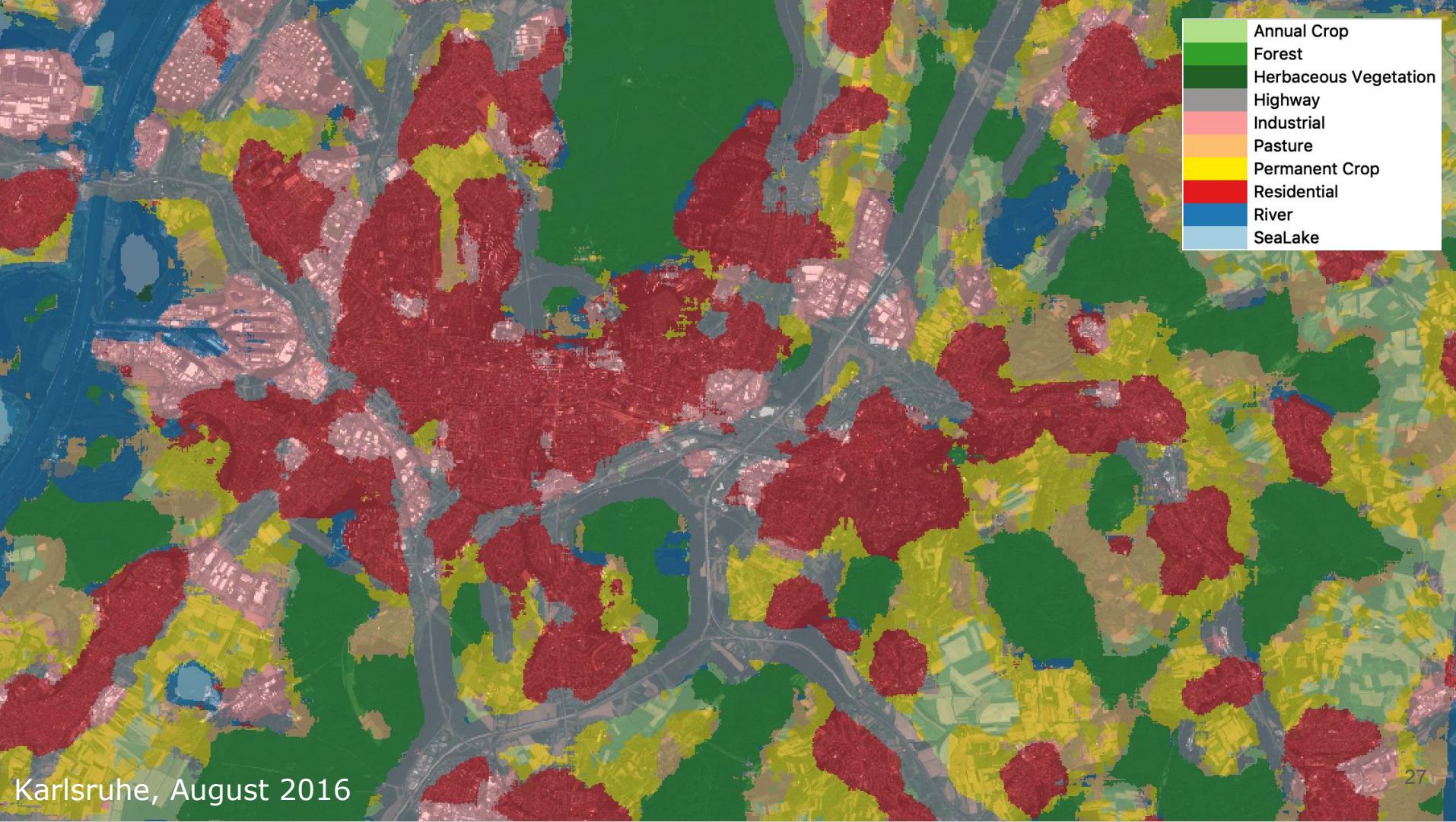
# Learning with RGB data

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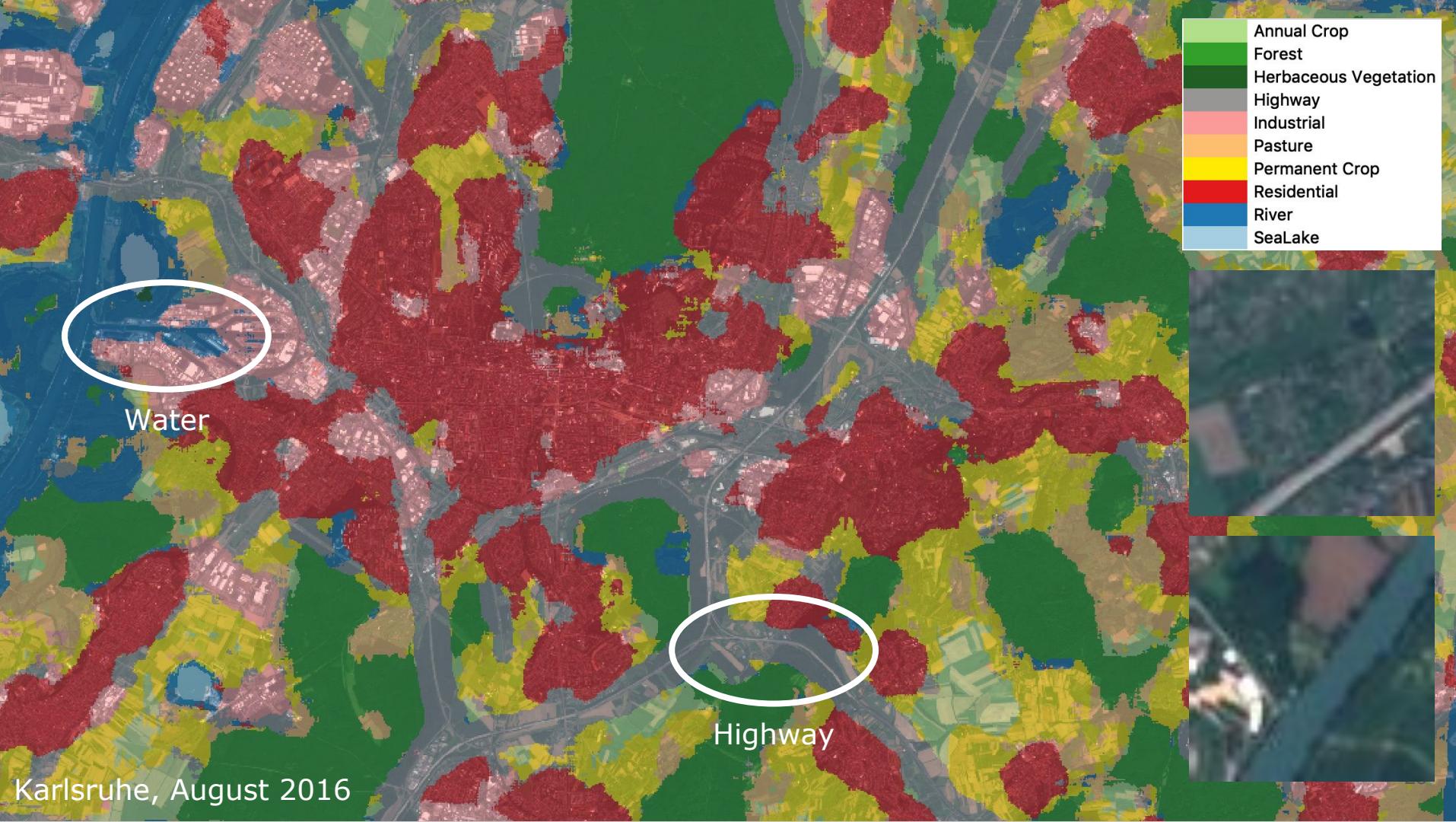
	Accuracy in % (number of epochs)		
	Training Top Layer	Fine-tune	From-scratch
<b>VGG 16</b>	94.2 (19)	97.7 (206)	97.2 (120)
<b>DenseNet 201</b>	82.9 (29)	97.2 (159)	97.5 (77)

# Learning with MS data

Accuracy in % (number of epochs)				
	Training Top Layer	Fine-tune	Fine-tune alternative	From-scratch
<b>VGG 16</b>	95.1 (14)	98.0 (28)	98.5 (27)	97.6 (76)
<b>DenseNet 201</b>	75.8 (17)	89.5 (15)	36.0 (88)	98.6 (112)



Karlsruhe, August 2016



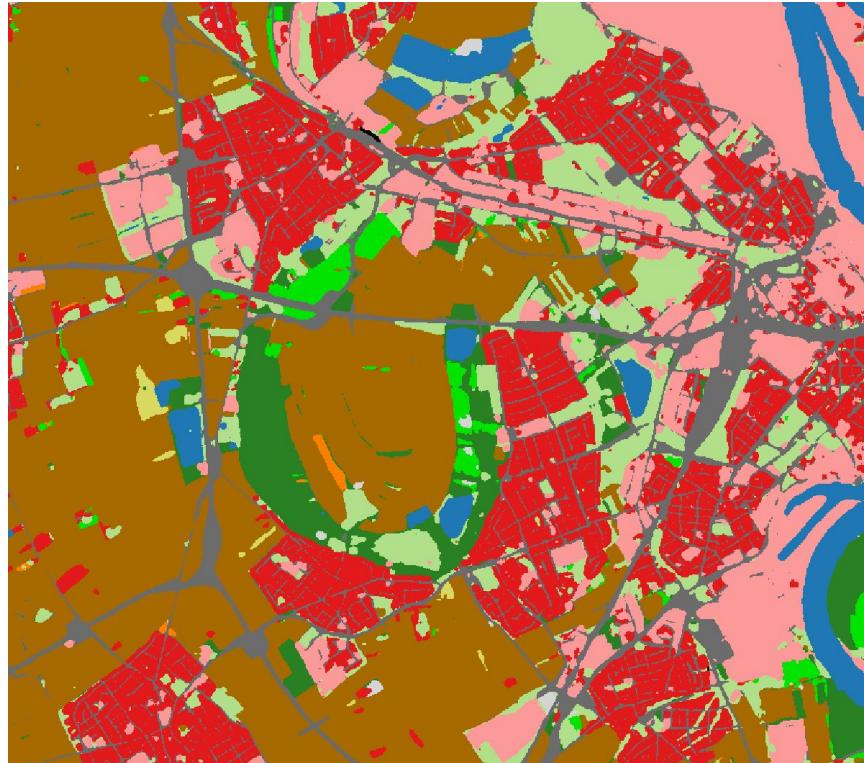


Karlsruhe, August 2018

# Results with image segmentation



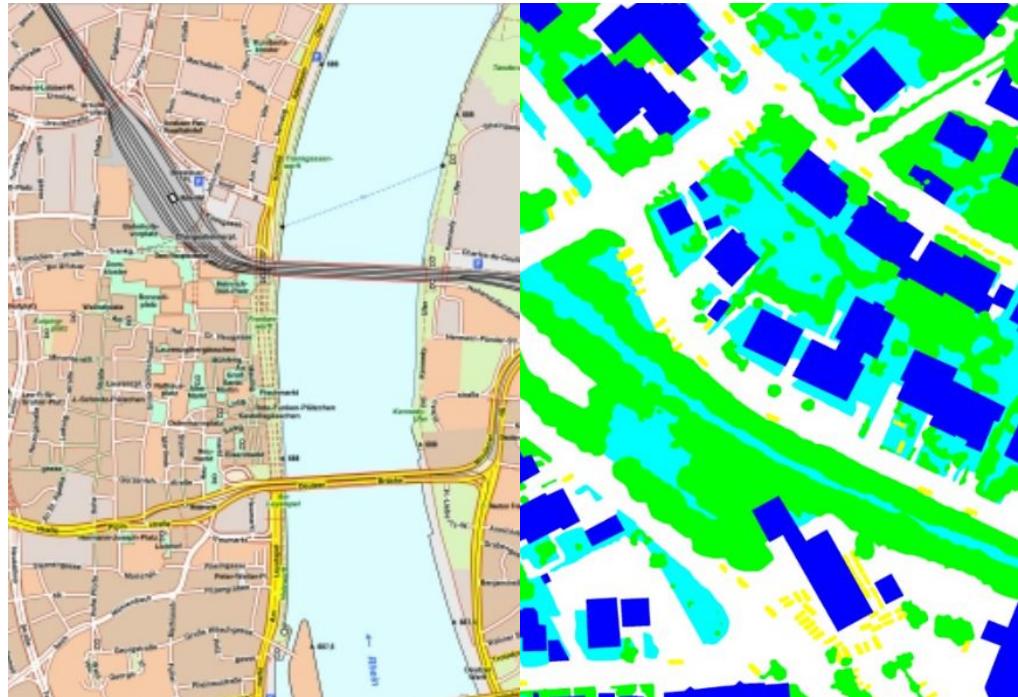
Ludwigshafen, August 2015



Results from project with LVerMGeo Rheinland-Pfalz

# Image Segmentation

- fully convolutional neural networks (e.g. DenseFCN from keras-contrib)
- corresponding data necessary:
  - <https://github.com/mrgloom/awesome-semantic-segmentation>
  - <http://www2.isprs.org/commissions/comm3/wg4/semantic-labeling.html>
  - [https://www.bezreg-koeln.nrw.de/brk\\_internet/geobasis/landschaftsmodelle/basis\\_dlm/index.html](https://www.bezreg-koeln.nrw.de/brk_internet/geobasis/landschaftsmodelle/basis_dlm/index.html)



# Things not covered

- imbalanced data
  - data augmentation
  - “class\_weights” in fit functions of Keras
- over-/underfitting during training
  - data augmentation
  - more data
  - network architecture (for better generalization or with reduced complexity)
  - regularization (e.g. dropout)

# Take-aways

Using ...

- MS data is better than RGB data
- Transfer-Learning is better than from scratch
- Transfer-Learning converged faster than from scratch
- Learning from scratch may more often not converge (without significant modifications)
- generators for data augmentation speeds up training

**Use pre-trainend (parts of) networks**

# Other deep-learning approaches

## Convolution approaches:

- No convolution
- 1D convolution over spectral dimension
- 2D convolution over spatial dimension → this talk
- 3D convolution over spectral & spatial dimension

Making use of **multi-temporal data** → e.g. annual crop

- Recurrent neural networks → Rußwurm, Körner ([arXiv:1802.02080](https://arxiv.org/abs/1802.02080))

Review paper: [arXiv:1710.03959](https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.03959)

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do you need to start?

# What do you need to start? → GitHub repo

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jensleitloff/CNN-Sentinel

- **Requirements** (Versions ...)
- **Environment** setup (Conda ...)
- **Code** for
  - setting up the data
  - CNN transfer learning RGB & MS
  - CNN learning-from-scratch RGB & MS
- How to download Sentinel-2 **data**
- **Links** to more datasets



**Jens Leitloff**

✉ jens.leitloff@kit.edu  
jensleitloff/CNN-Sentinel



**Felix M. Riese**

✉ felix.riese@kit.edu

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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# Resources

## Literature:

- Deep learning in remote sensing: a review (arXiv:1710.03959)
- EuroSAT: A Novel Dataset and Deep Learning Benchmark for Land Use and Land Cover Classification (arXiv: 1709.00029)

# Backup

# Setup environment

Append conda-forge to your Anaconda channels:

- `conda config --append channels conda-forge`

Create new environment:

- `conda create -n pycon scikit-image gdal tqdm`
- `conda activate pycon`
- `pip install tensorflow-gpu`
- `pip install keras` (or use tensorflow version, i.e. **from tensorflow import keras**)

# Other open datasets → Ground truth

## Platforms for datasets:

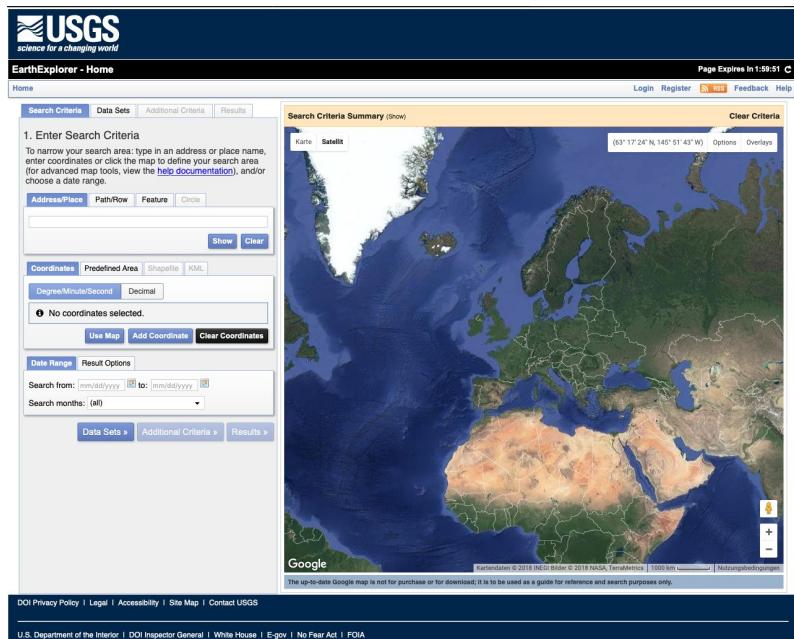
- HyperLabelMe: a Web Platform for Benchmarking Remote Sensing Image Classifiers ([Link](#))
- GRSS Data and Algorithm Standard Evaluation (DASE) website ([Link](#))

## Datasets:

- UC Merced Land Use Dataset ([Link](#))
- AID: A Benchmark Dataset for Performance Evaluation of Aerial Scene Classification ([Link](#))
- NWPU-RESISC45 (RGB, [Link](#))
- Zurich Summer Dataset (RGB, [Link](#))

# How to get Sentinel-2 data

1. Register at [Copernicus Open Access Hub](#) or [EarthExplorer](#)
2. Find your region
3. Choose tile(s) ( $\rightarrow$  area) and date
  - Less tiles makes things easier
  - Less clouds in the image are better
  - Consider multiple dates for classes like "annual crop"
4. Download L1C data
5. Decide of you want to apply L2A atmospheric corrections
  - Your CNN might be able to do this by itself
  - If you want to correct, use [Sen2Cor](#)
6. Have fun with the data
  - For quick visualization, [QGIS](#) is an option



Screenshot of <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>, date: October 23, 2018