

# Global, high-resolution statistical modelling of NO<sub>2</sub>



Meng Lu<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Schmitz<sup>1</sup>, Kees de Hoogh<sup>2,3</sup>, Perry Hystad<sup>4</sup>, Luke Knibbs<sup>5</sup>,  
Derek Karssenberg<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Physical Geography, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

<sup>2</sup> Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

<sup>3</sup> University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

<sup>4</sup> Oregon state University, USA

<sup>5</sup> The University of Queensland, Australia

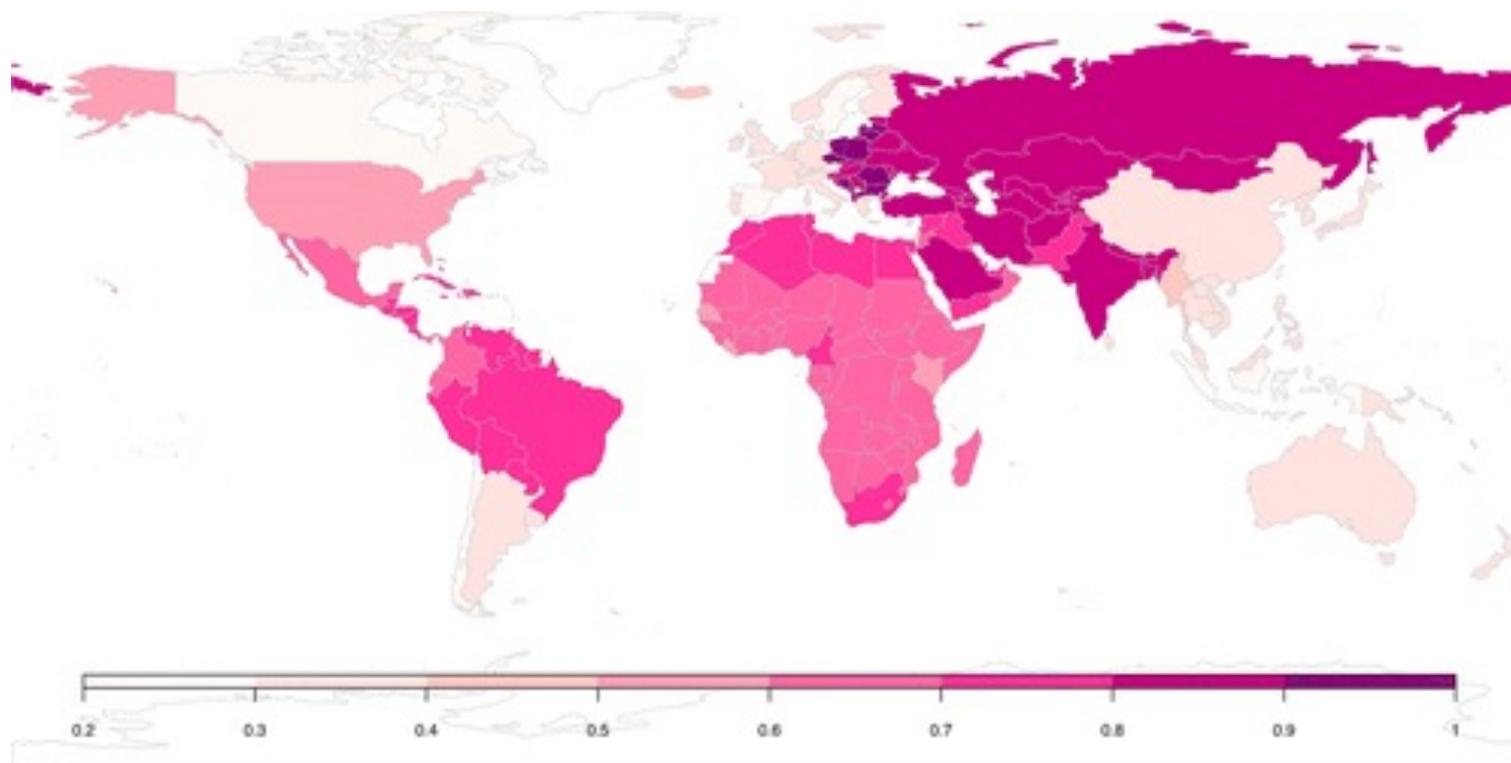
# Goal: Global, high spatiotemporal resolution NO<sub>2</sub> mapping

NO<sub>2</sub>: is part of a group of gaseous air pollutants produced as a result of road traffic and other fossil fuel combustion processes.

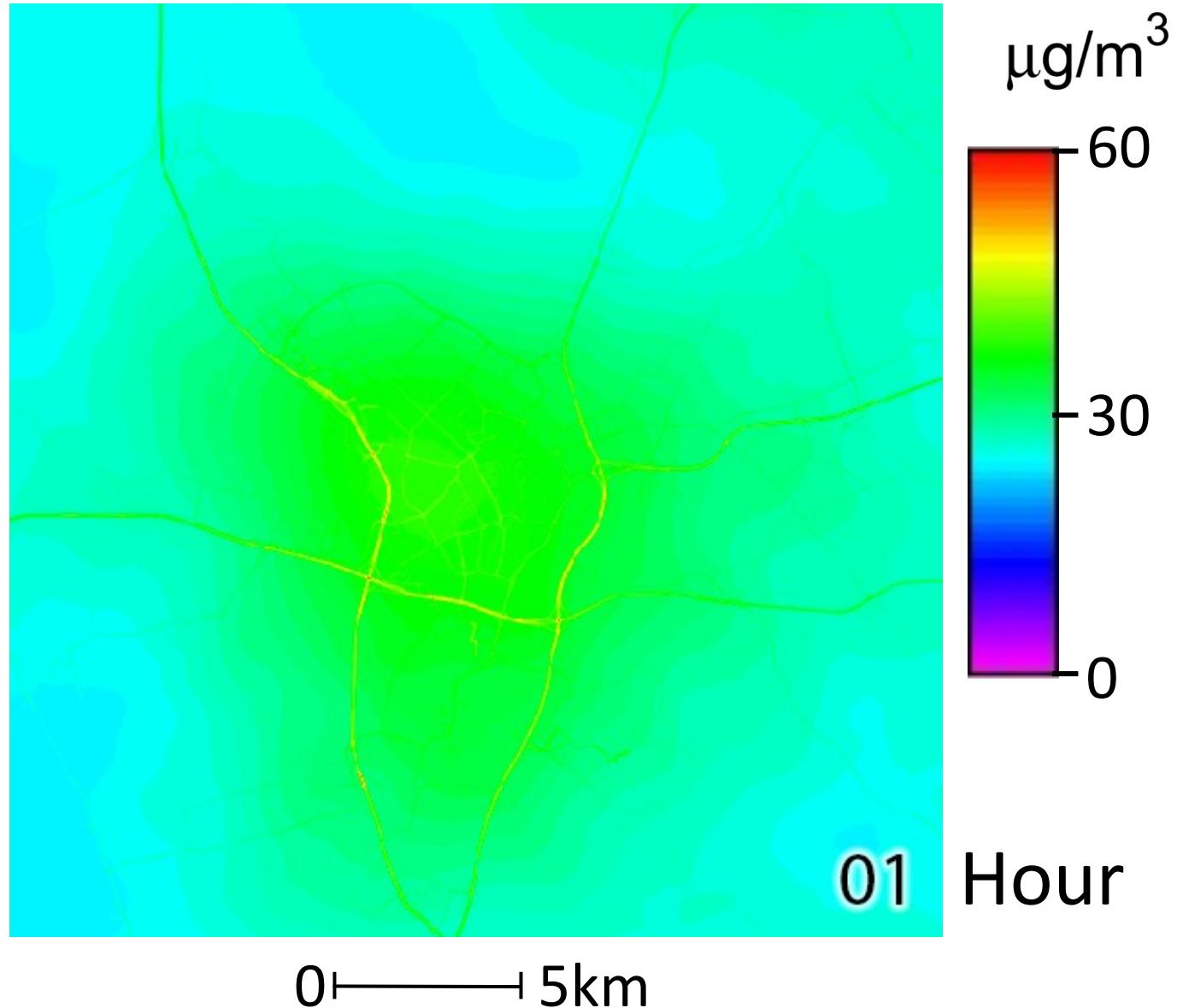
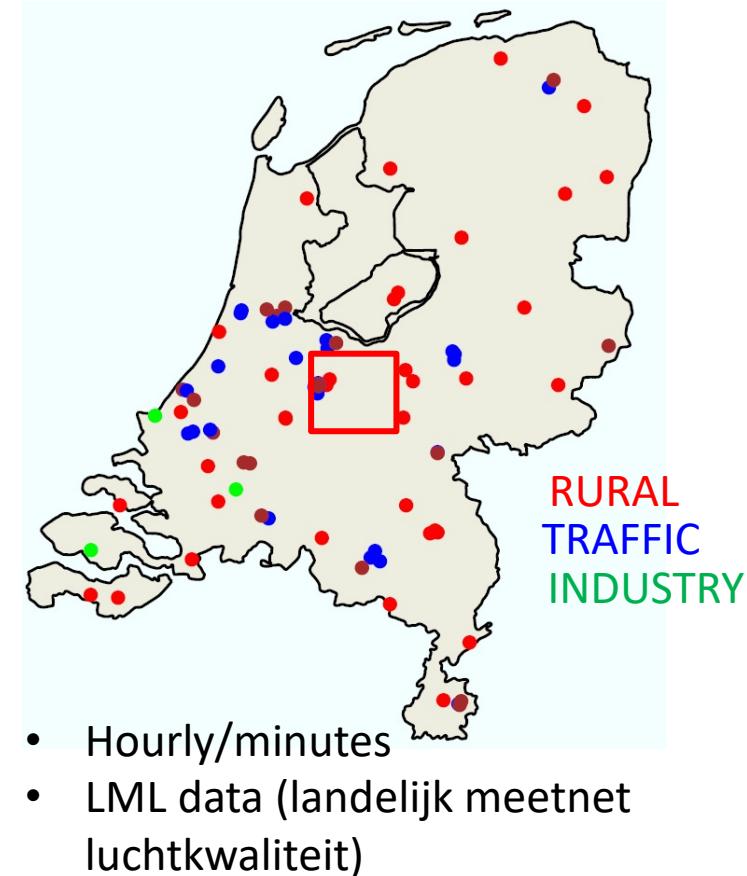


# Why global?

- Lacking of ground monitoring stations in many countries.
- Consistent epidemiological studies world-wide
  - Inequality in health and air pollution monitors in middle and low income countries



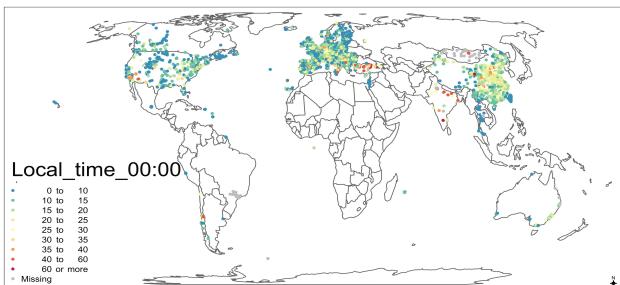
# Why high spatial and temporal resolutions?



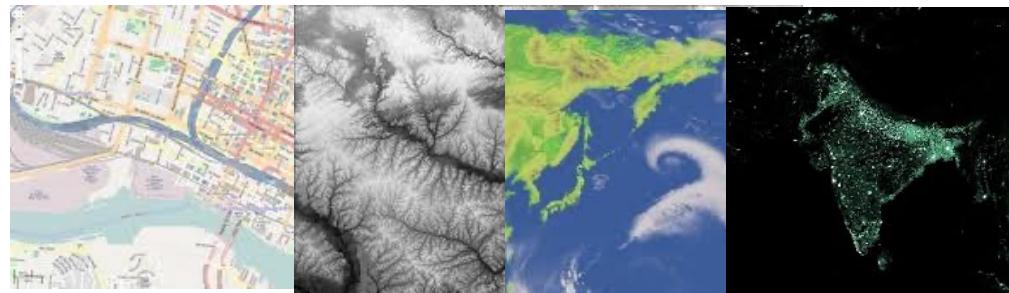
# Statistical modeling

Based on relationships between NO<sub>2</sub> and Geospatial predictors and modeling the spatiotemporal dependence.

- Process-based models:
  - Air dispersion models
  - Chemical transportation models

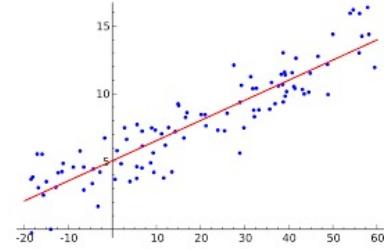
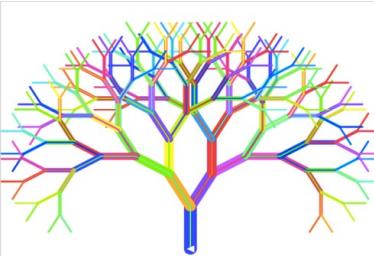


Station measurements



Predictors

# Machine learning vs. Linear regression models



## Ensemble tree

- Random forest
- Gradient boosting
- XGboost

## Linear regression

- Standard linear regression
  - With regularisation
- Lasso  
Ridge  
Elastic-Net

# Global models Vs. National models



# Daytime models Vs. Nighttime models



# What we have done:

**Lu, M.** Schmitz, O., Van de Hoogh, K., Qin, K., & Karssenberg, D. Evaluation of different methods and data sources to optimise modelling of NO<sub>2</sub> at a global scale. Environmental international

# Tropomi: Sentinel 5p (TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument)

Launched Oct. 2017,

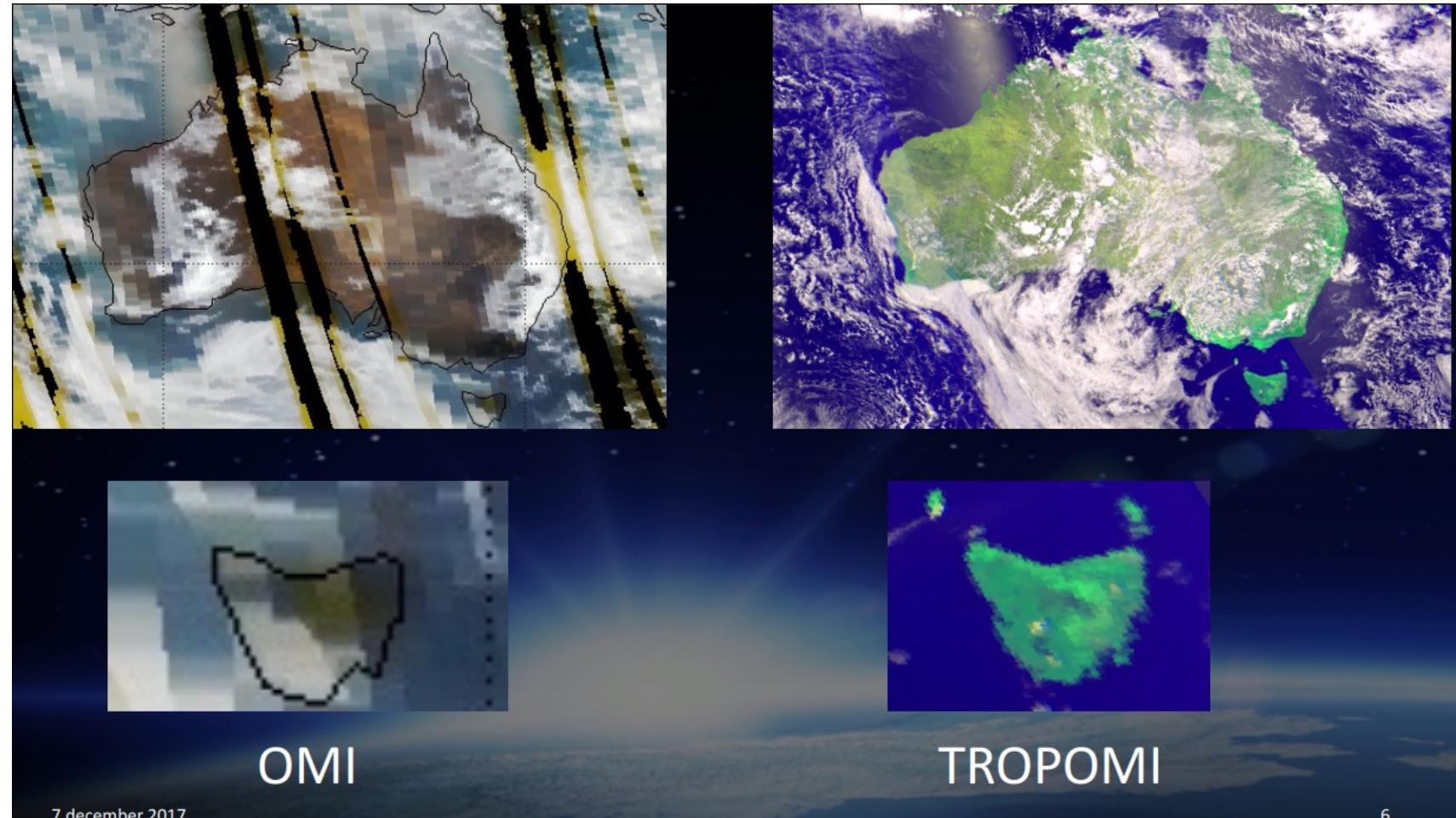
Resolution (NO<sub>2</sub>)

2018-2019: 7 km

Since Oct. 2019: 5.5 km



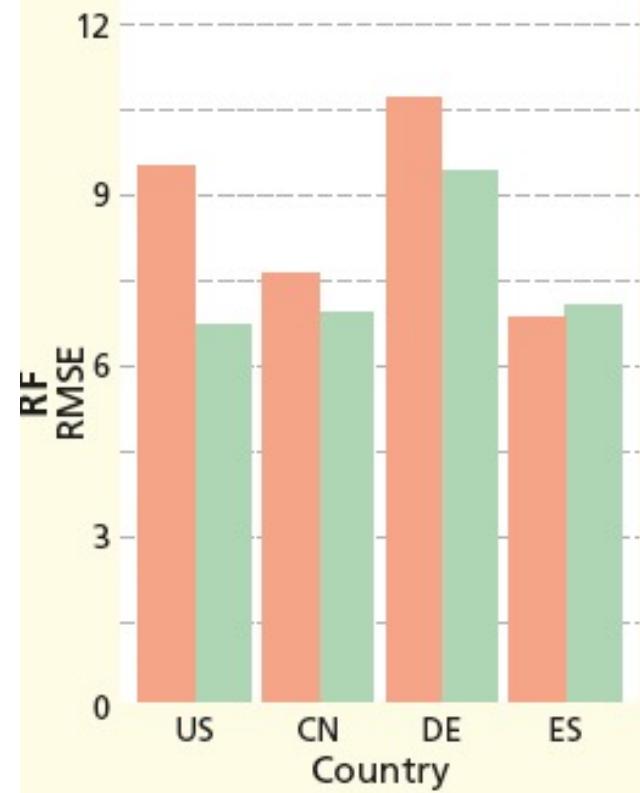
Measurements: NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>  
(7km × 28km), SO<sub>2</sub>,  
methane and CO



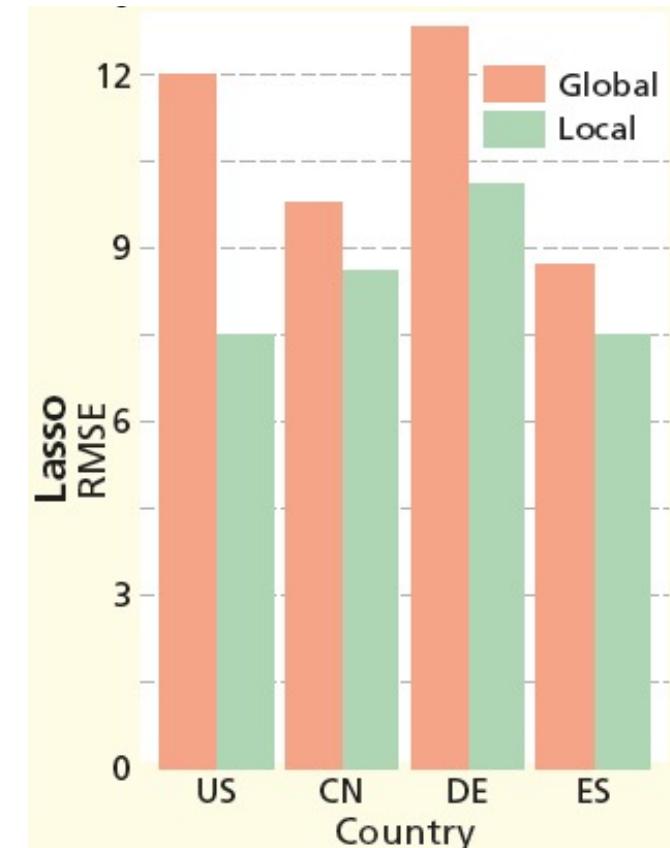
Source [3]

- With the tree-based models, we obtained global modelling results that are comparable to local models

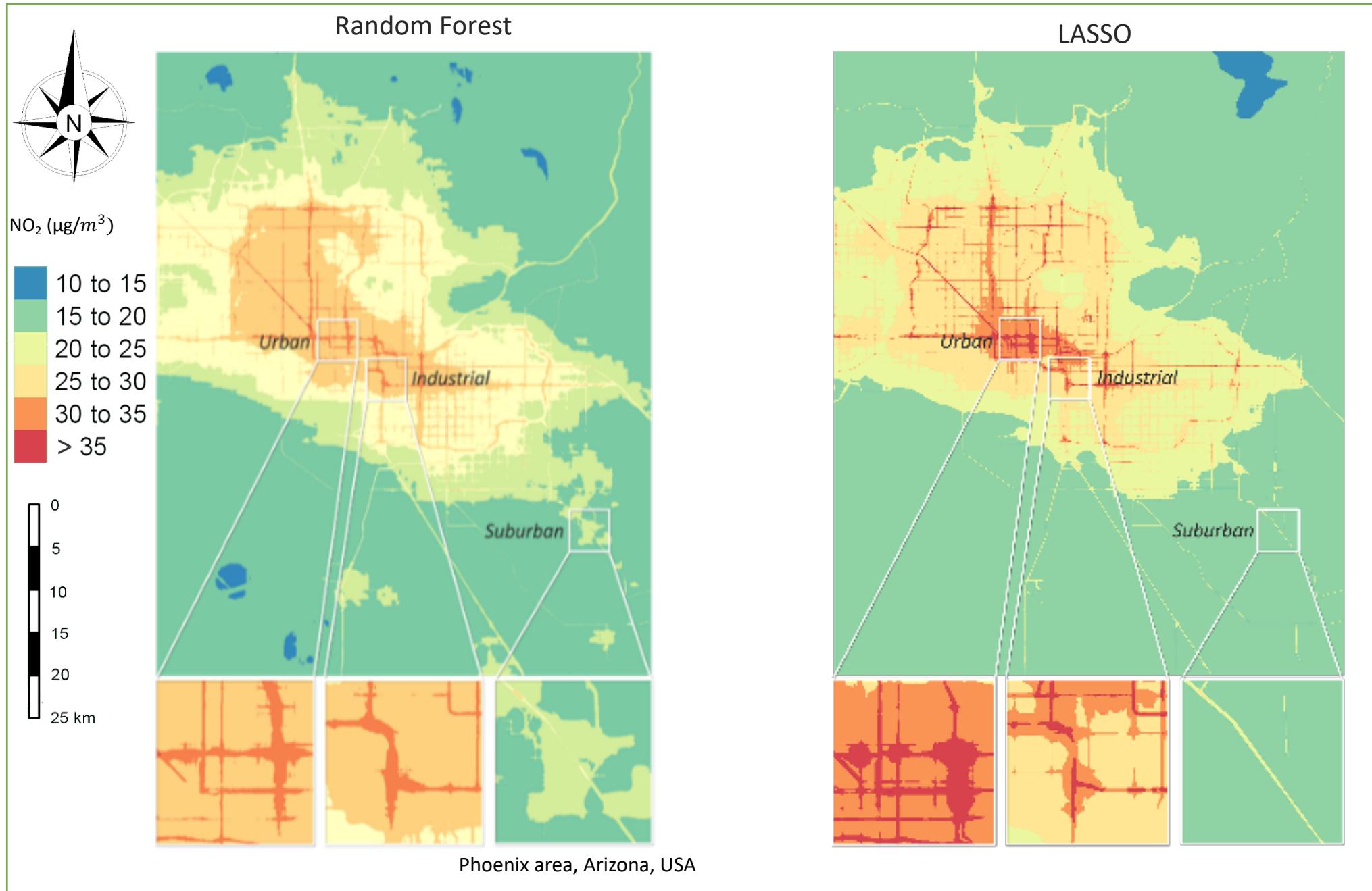
Random Forest

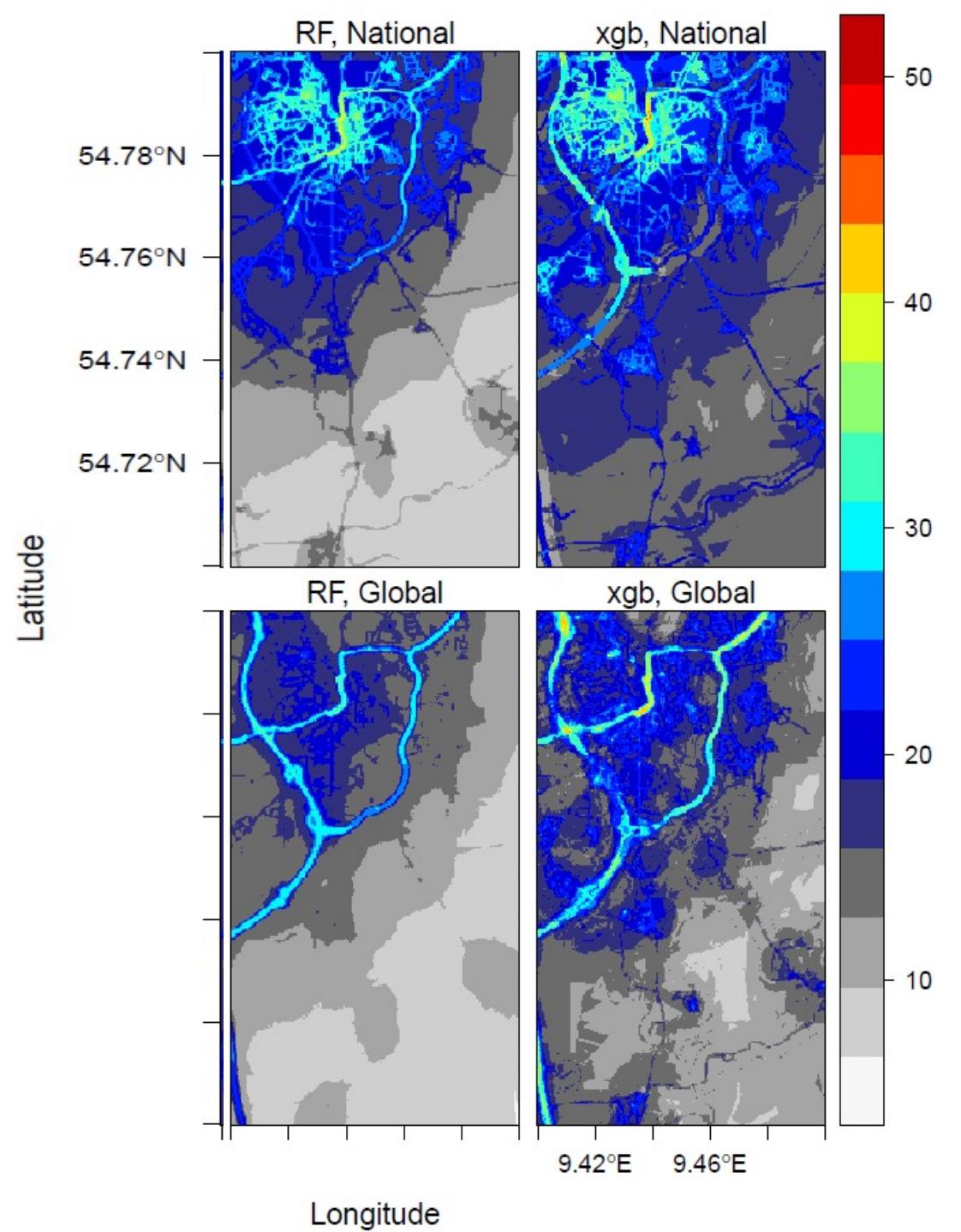


Lasso



RF: random forest  
 CN: China  
 DE: Germany  
 ES: Spain



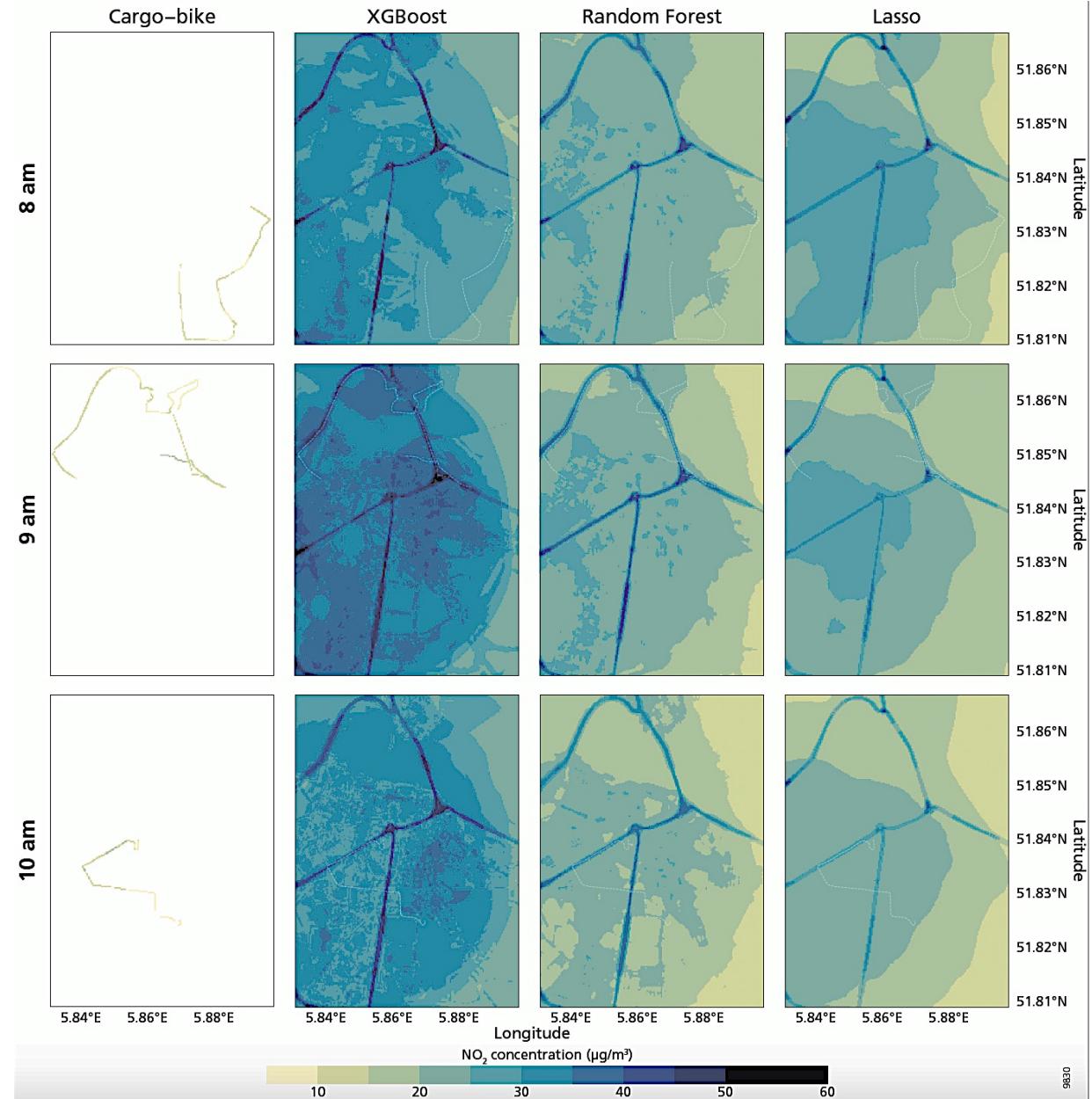
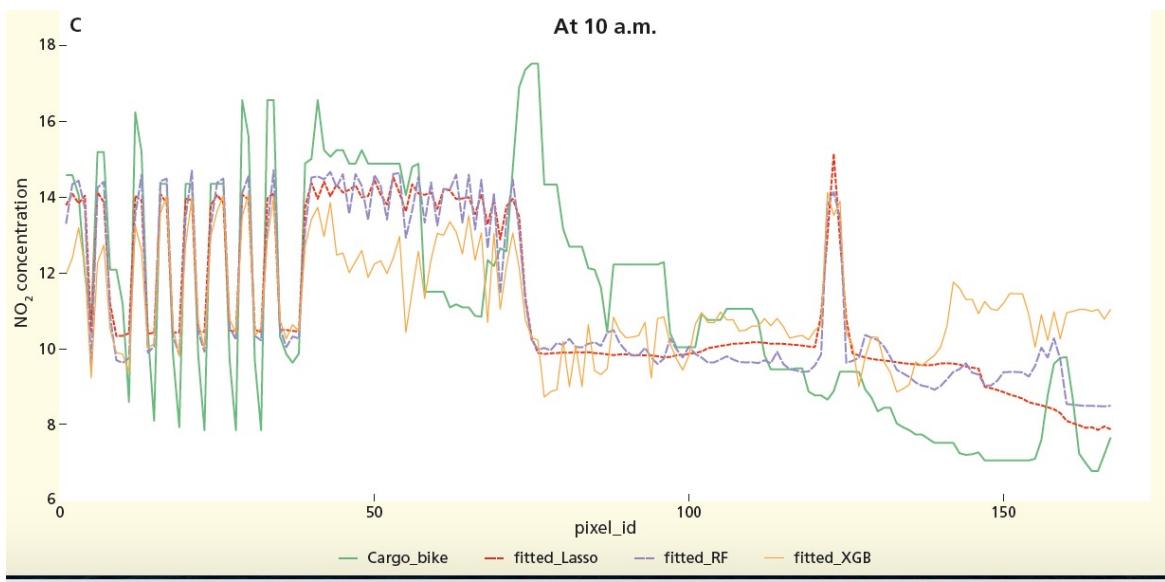


- Distinct prediction patterns despite the similar cross-validation accuracy between models.

highway      primary



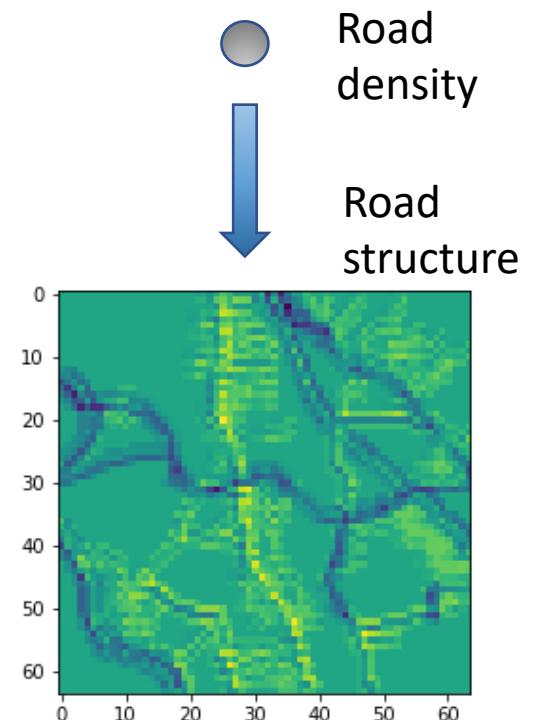
# Further validation: cargo-bike measurements



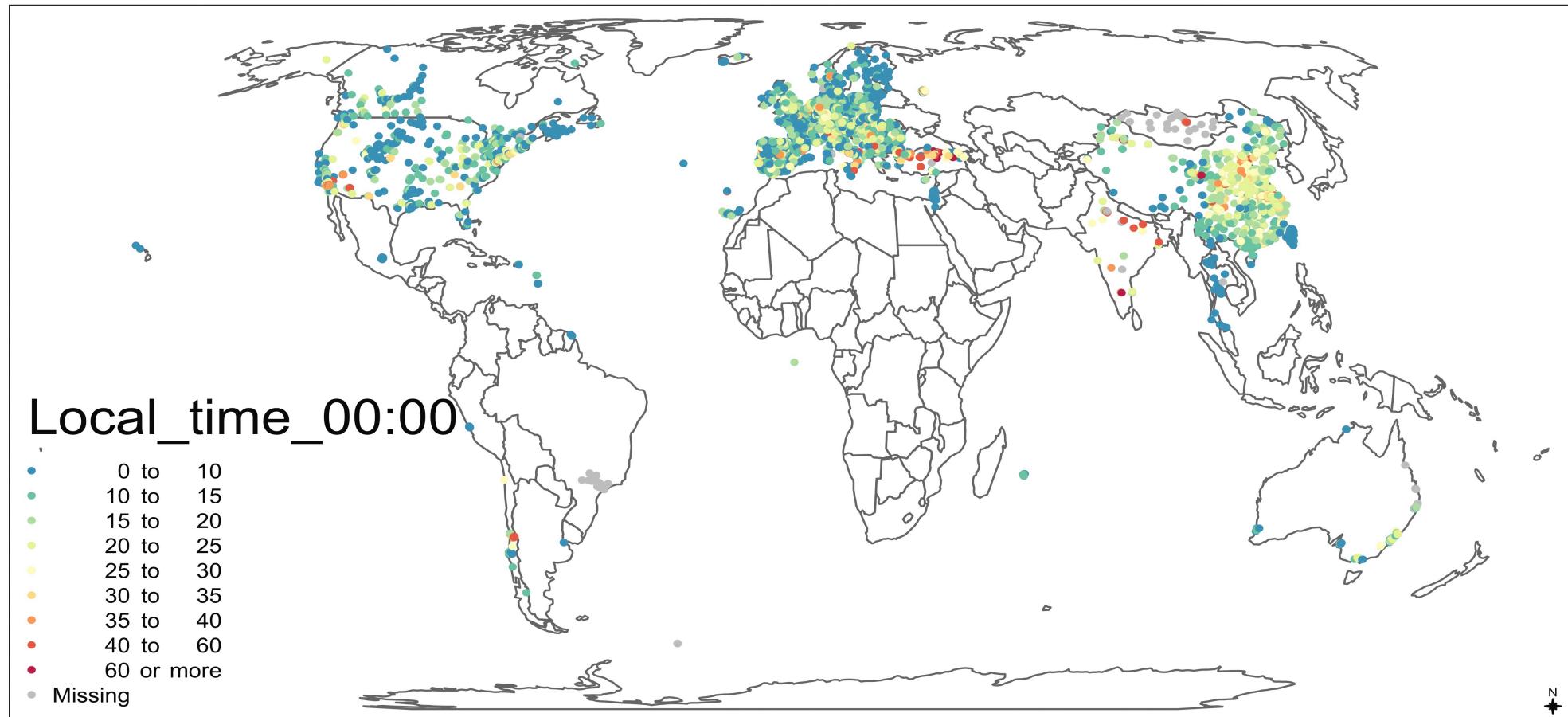
# Challenges in statistical modeling and

*Challenges:*

- Spatiotemporal variability
- Spatially heterogeneous predictor-response relationships
- Integrate more spatial information



# A new collection of ground monitor measurements:



OpenAQ: an open science air quality community  
Through collaboration: China, Australia, Canada, US, EU

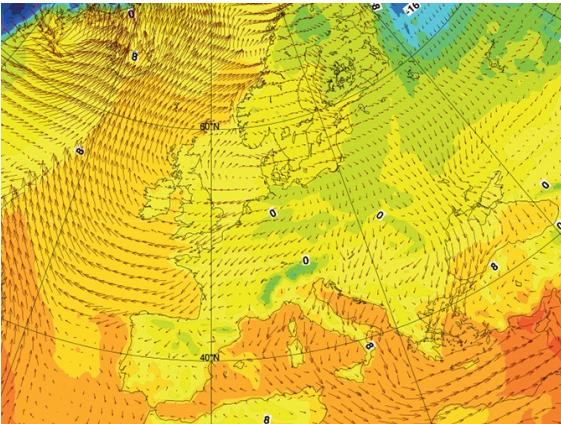
# Updated Geospatial predictors and Tropomi measurements



Road and industrial area from  
OpenStreetMap (April 2020)



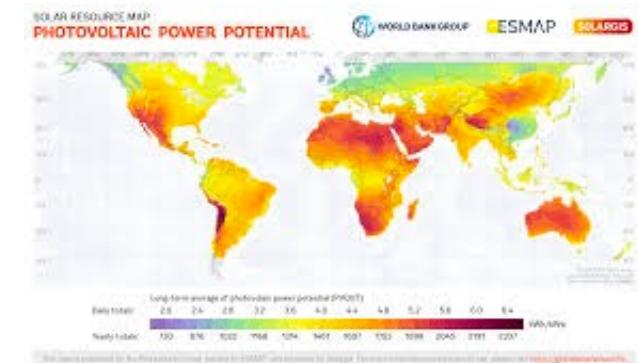
Earth nightlight: VIIRS (500 m)



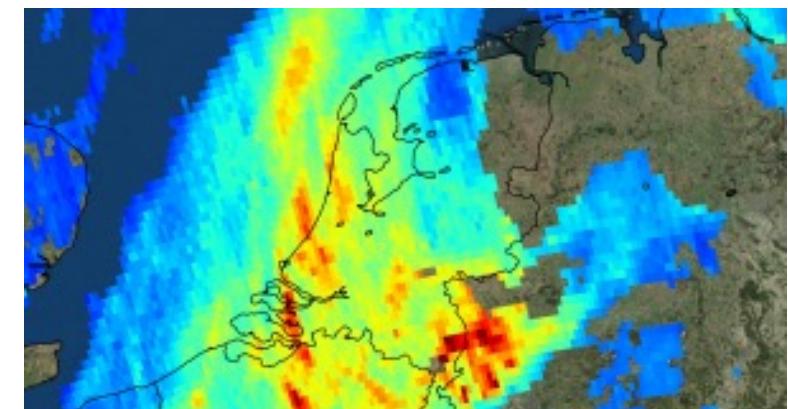
Wind speed and temperature:  
ECMWF climate reanalysis,  
ERA5-land ( 9km)



Elevation: MERIT DEM (90 m)



Solar radiation  
Numerical model (Solargis)

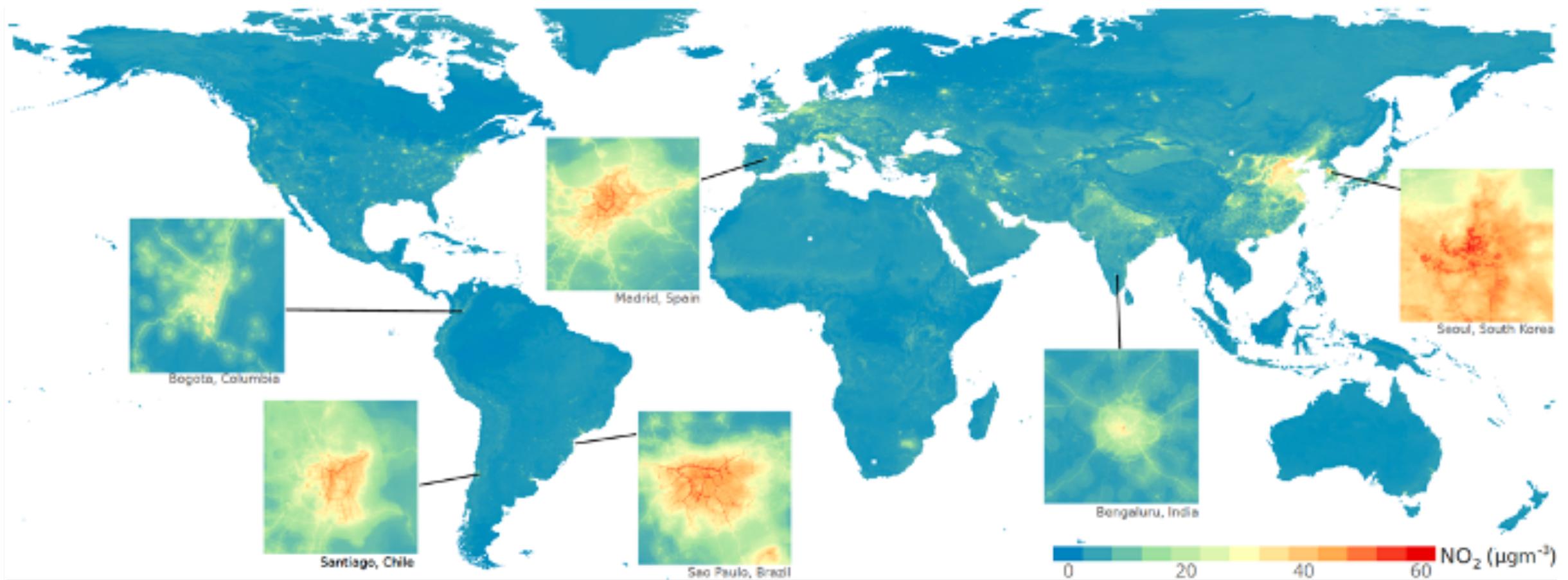


Tropomi in 2019 (5.5 km resolution)

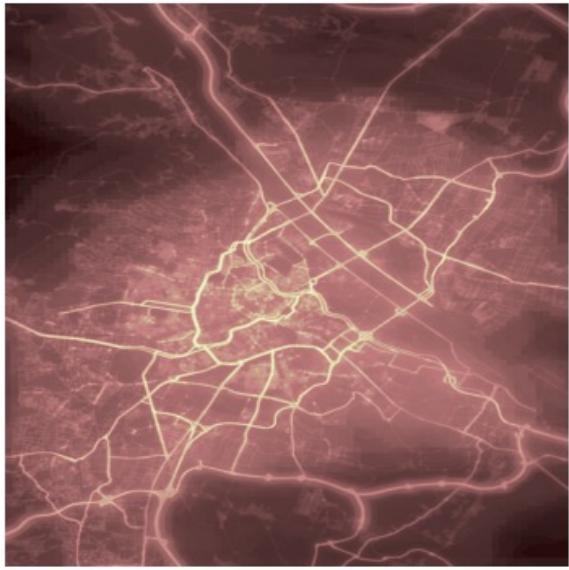
# On-going work

- Global map product separating between weekdays and weekends additional to day and night, using the XGBoost model.
- Hourly spatiotemporal model. (challenge 1)
- Advanced hierarchical modelling:
  1. Mixed-effect modeling. (challenge 2)
  2. Deep convolutional neural networks over spatial and spectral-spatial domain. (challenge 3)

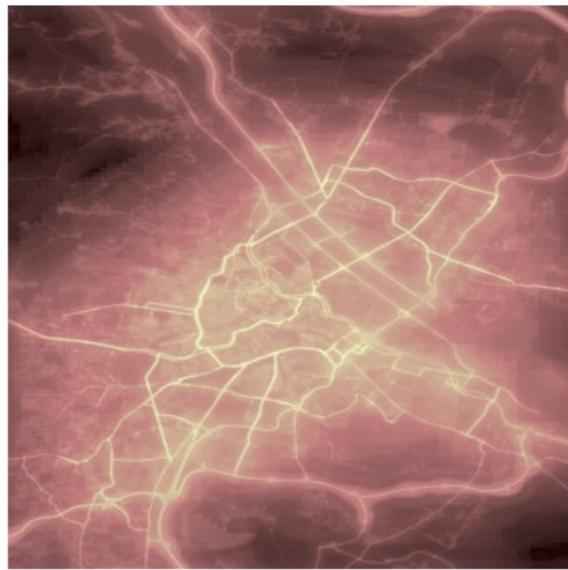
# Global map



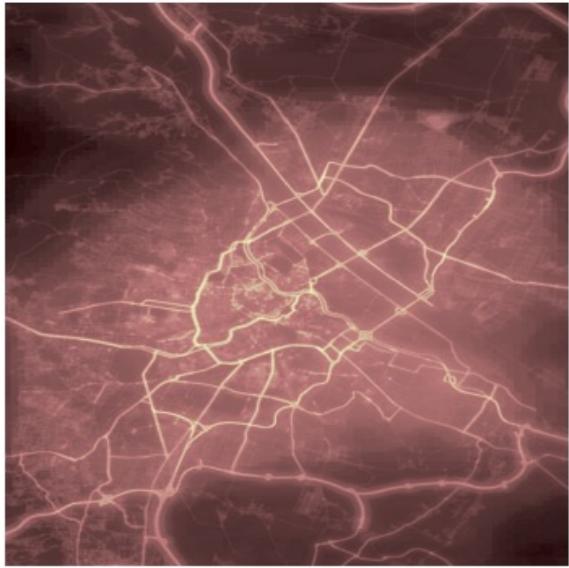
weekday day



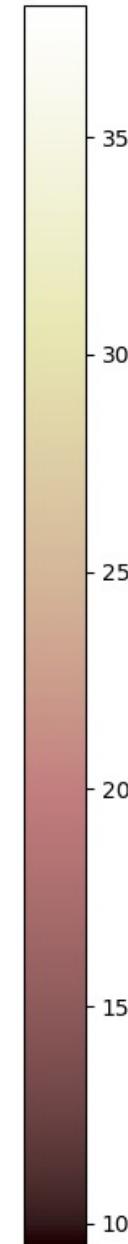
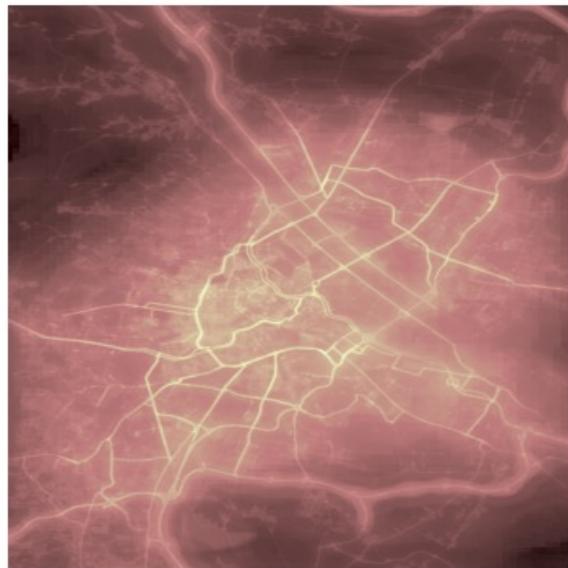
weekday night



weekend day



weekend night



Example maps of  
Vienna, Austria

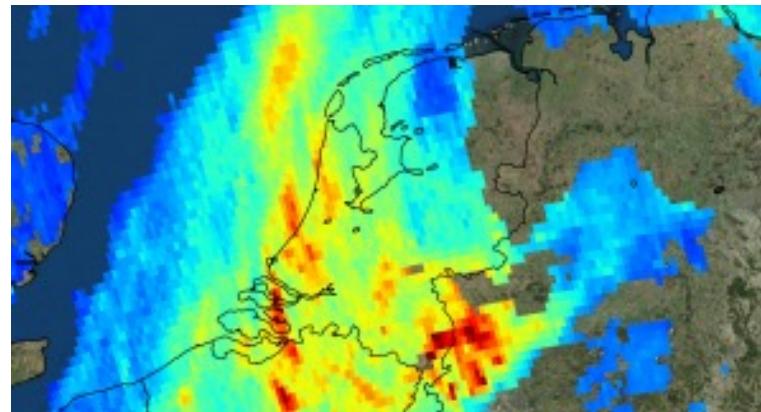
separating between  
day, night, weekday,  
weekends

# Thank you

<https://github.com/mengluchu/OpenGeoHub2020>



# Tropomi



$\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$  (7km × 28km),  $\text{SO}_2$ , methane and CO

Electromagnetic field:

**ultraviolet and visible (270–500 nm)**, near-infrared (675–775 nm), shortwave infrared (2305–2385 nm).

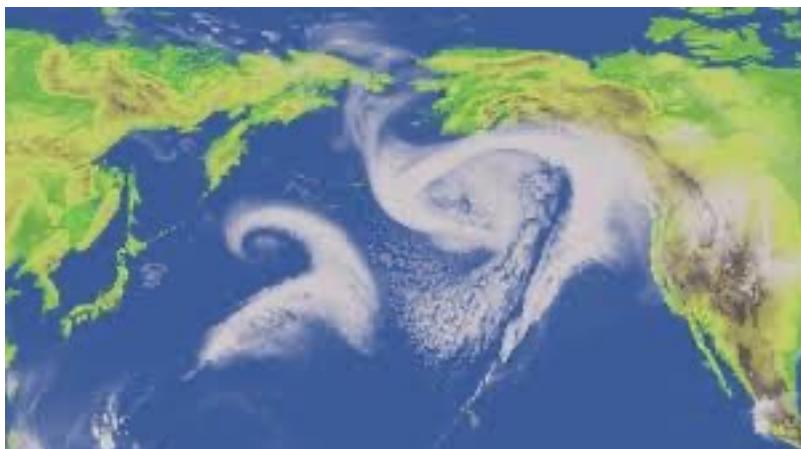
zoom in mode: 7 km × 3.5 km

5.5 km × 3.5 km since 2019

# Geospatial predictors of the 2020 paper



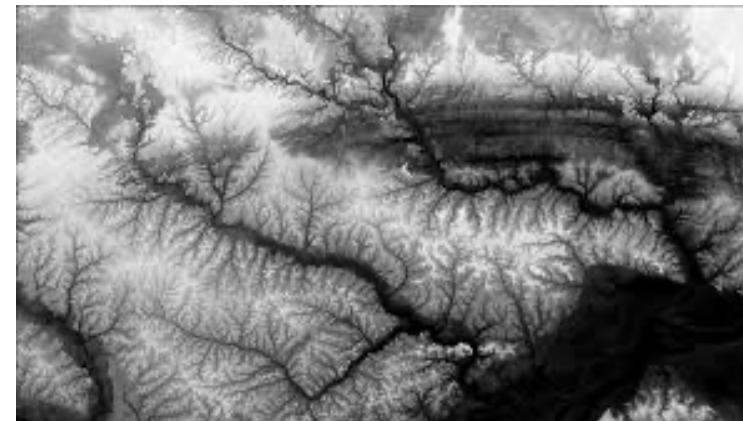
Road and industrial area from  
OpenStreetMap (vector)



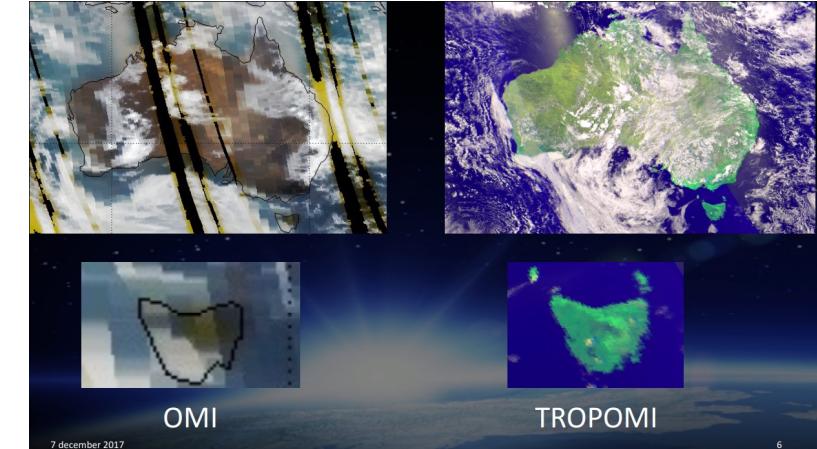
Wind speed and temperature



Population: GHS-POP R2019A(250 m)



Elevation: SRTM (90 m)



Sentinel 5p (2018)  
OMI (2017)  
GEOS-CHEM (2012)