

# A DEEP-LEARNING-BASED METHOD FOR THE RETRIEVAL OF SUN-INDUCED PLANT FLUORESCENCE FROM AIRBORNE AND SPACEBORNE HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGERY

Hanno Scharr, Data Analytics and Machine Learning, Forschungszentrum Jülich

# Helmholtz Association

Mission: Research towards answering major and pressing questions of science, society, and industry

- 18 national labs
- 46,000 employees
- 14,500 international guest researchers
- 6B€/a budget



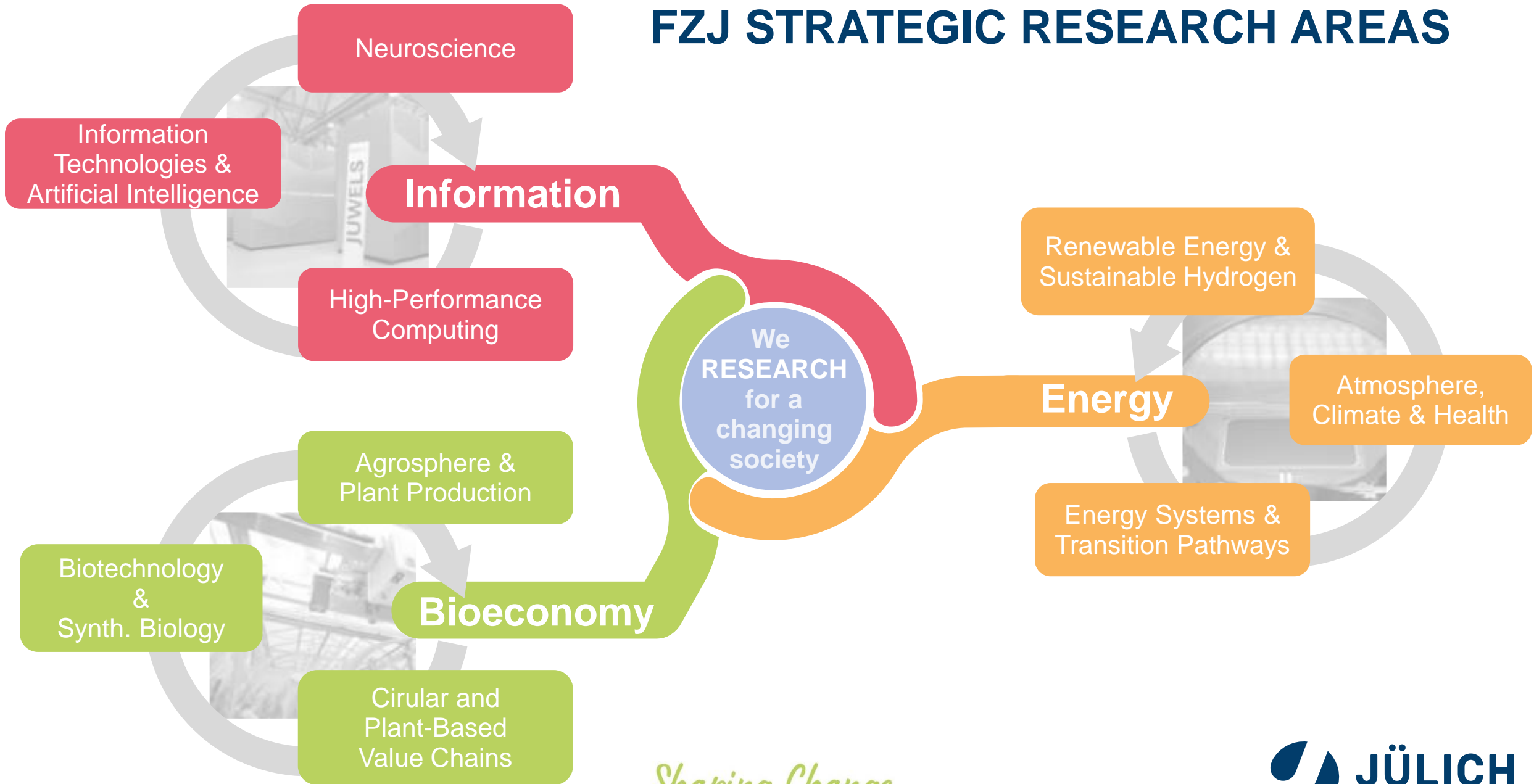


# Forschungszentrum Jülich at a glance

> 7000 staff, 14 Institutes, 1.0B€/a budget, 1.7km<sup>2</sup> campus



# FZJ STRATEGIC RESEARCH AREAS





# Institute of Climate and Energy Systems (ICE)

## Climate Institutes at Jülich



### ICE-3: Troposphere (~110 staff)

- Explores the chemistry of the troposphere
- Performs global observations
- Simulates atmospheric chemistry and transport processes by numerical models

### ICE-4: Stratosphere (~60 staff)

- Chemistry, dynamics, and microphysics of the stratosphere and tropopause
- Role of these layers in the climate system



# Atmospheric Research at Jülich

From Observations to Process Understanding to Earth System Models: Troposphere and Stratosphere





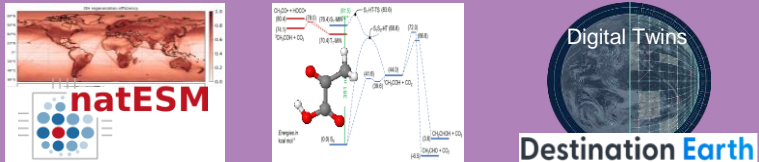
# Atmospheric Research at Jülich

## Atmospheric Observations

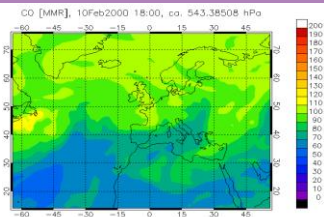


- Field campaigns with strategic partnerships
- Leading roles in EU infrastructures

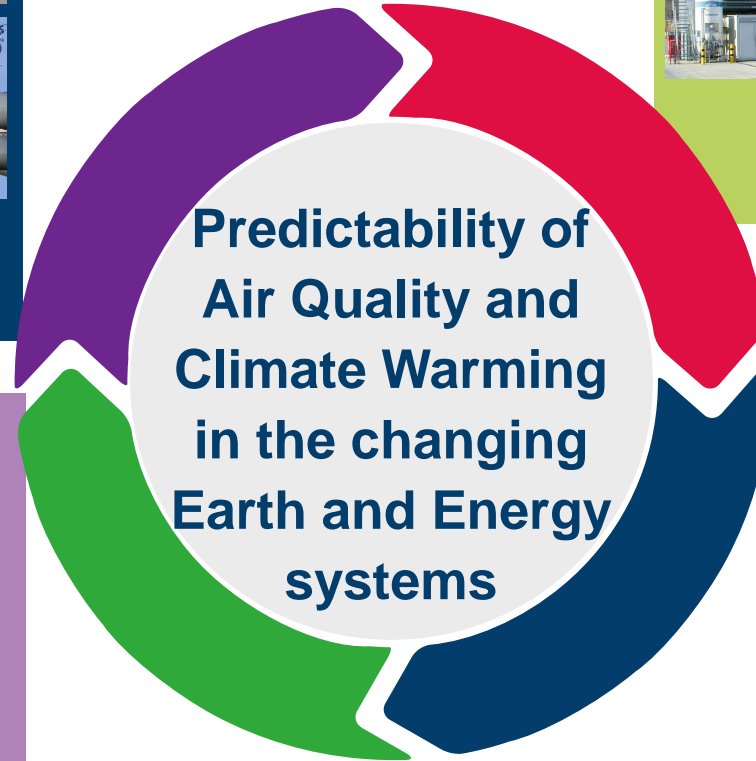
## Theory / Earth System Model Development



- Exascale-ready model development
- Exploring machine learning approaches
- Connecting to energy system modelling



Operational chemical weather forecast  
**Copernicus Atmospheric Service, IPCC**



## Atmospheric Process Understanding



- Holistic understanding by simulation of atmospheric processes at atmospheric conditions

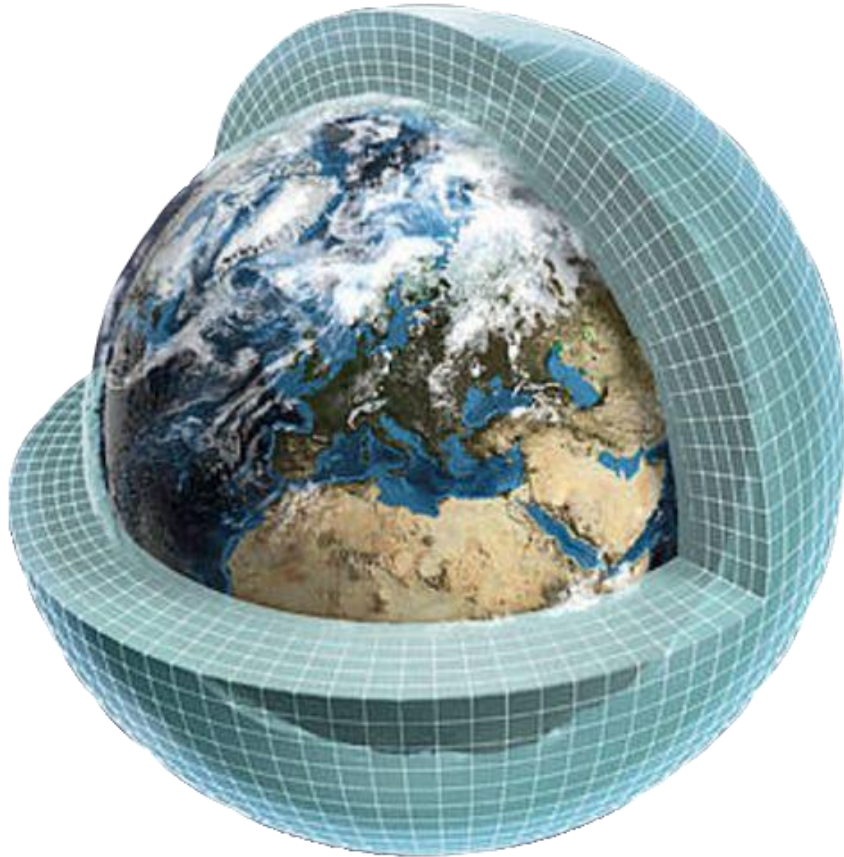
## High Quality Data / Instrument Development



- State-of-the art, high-quality (new) instrumentation
- Provision of quality-controlled FAIR data
- Use of new instruments by (industry) partners

# Traditional Earth System Modelling

## Atmosphere dynamics



[Bildquelle](#)

Variables:  $\{\mathbf{v}, p, T, \rho, q\}$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{v} = -2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{v} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla_3 p + \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{F}$$

Conservation of momentum  
(Navier-Stokes)

$$C_v \frac{d}{dt} (\rho q) + p \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{\rho} \right) = J$$

Conservation of energy  
(1<sup>st</sup> Law of Thermodynamics)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho) = -\nabla_3 \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v})$$

Conservation of air mass

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = -\nabla_3 \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} q) + \rho (E - C)$$

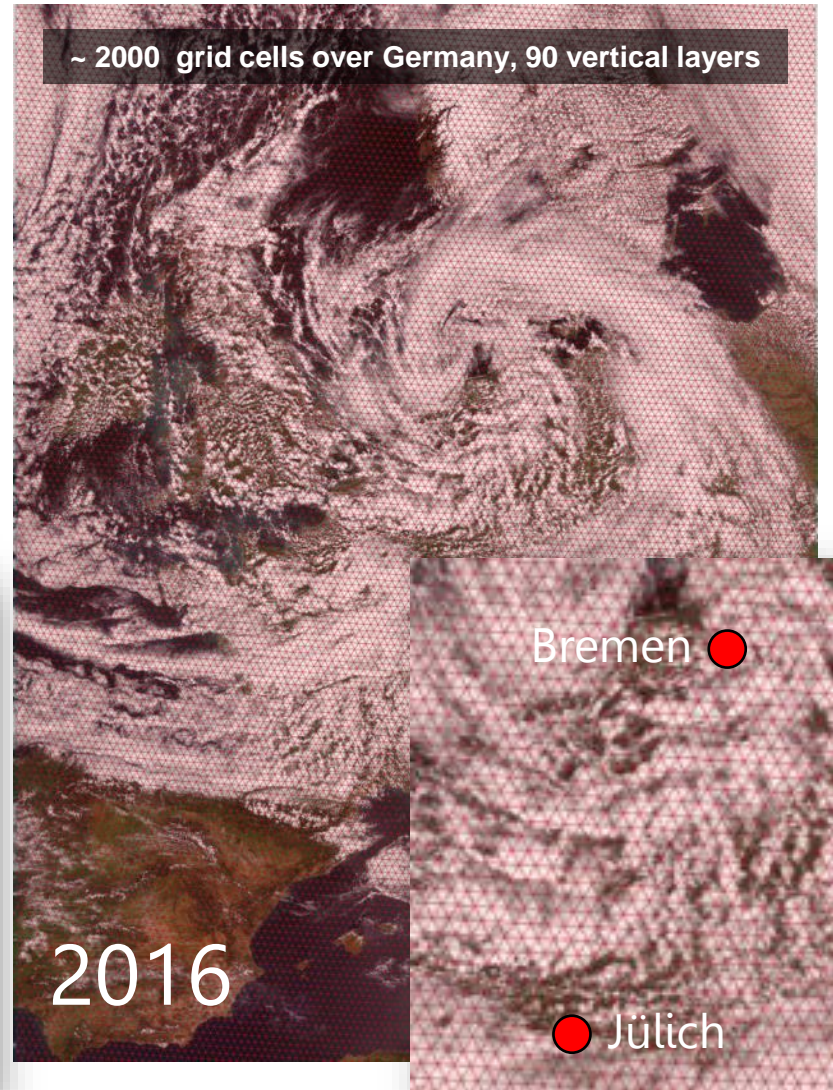
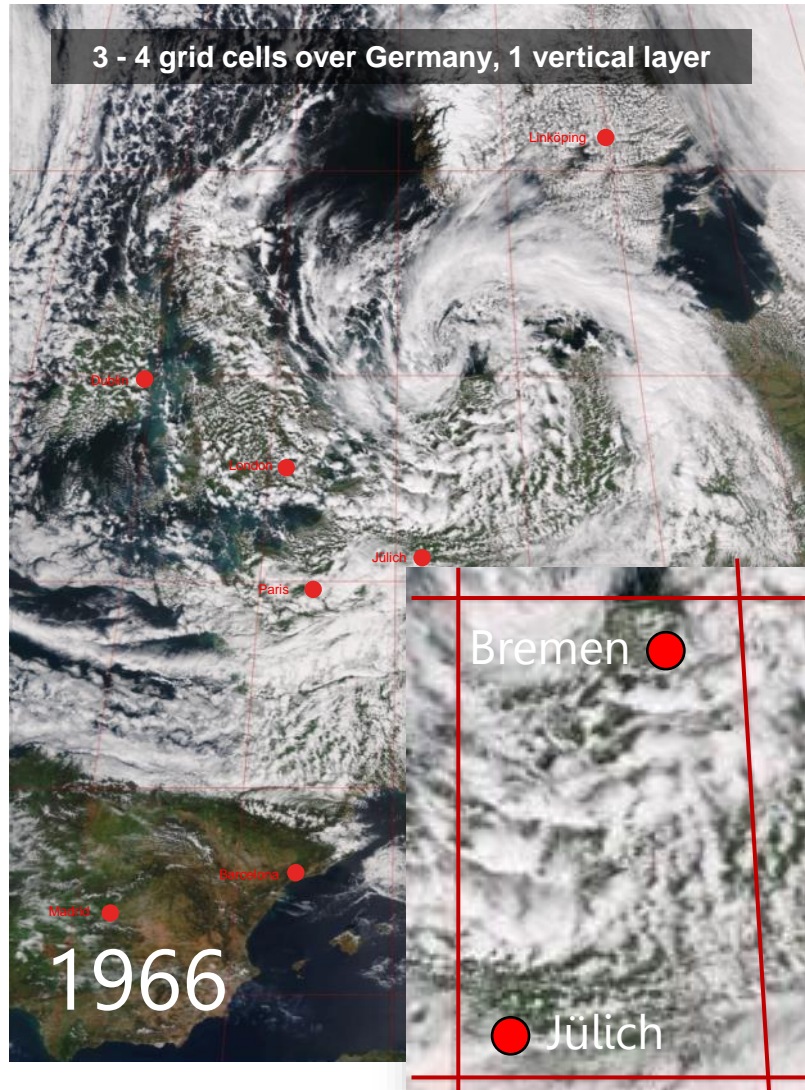
Continuity of water vapor mass

$$p = \rho R T$$

Equation of state  
(Ideal gas law)



# Progress in numerical weather forecasts



## Increased compute power

1967 : 0,7 Mflops

1976 : 130 Mflops (Cray-1)

1990 : 23 Gflops (NEC)

2002 : 36 Tflops (NEC)

2009 : 1 Pflops (JUGENE)

2021\*: 73 Pflops (JUWELS Booster)

2025\*: >90 Eflops (JUPITER)

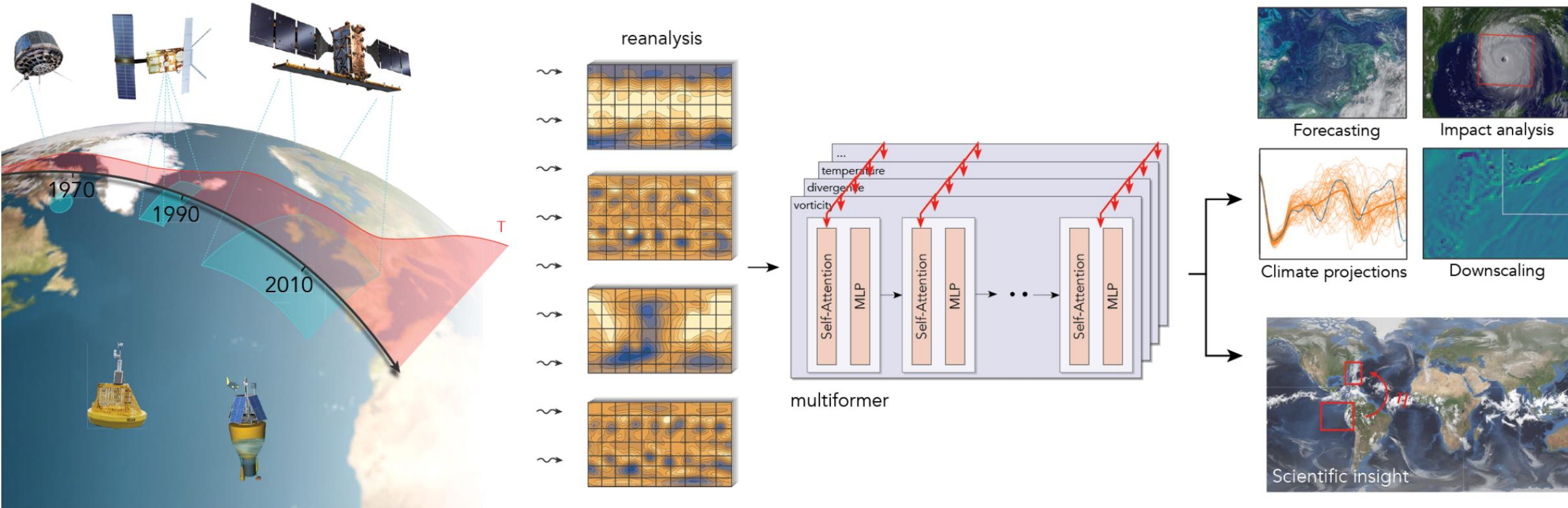
\* Accelerator technology (GPUs)

Current resolution of the DWD weather models: global = 13 km, regional = 2,1 km



# AtmoRep: A stochastic model of atmosphere dynamics

Trained using large scale representation learning (Masked Auto-Encoder)



Lessig et al. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.13280>

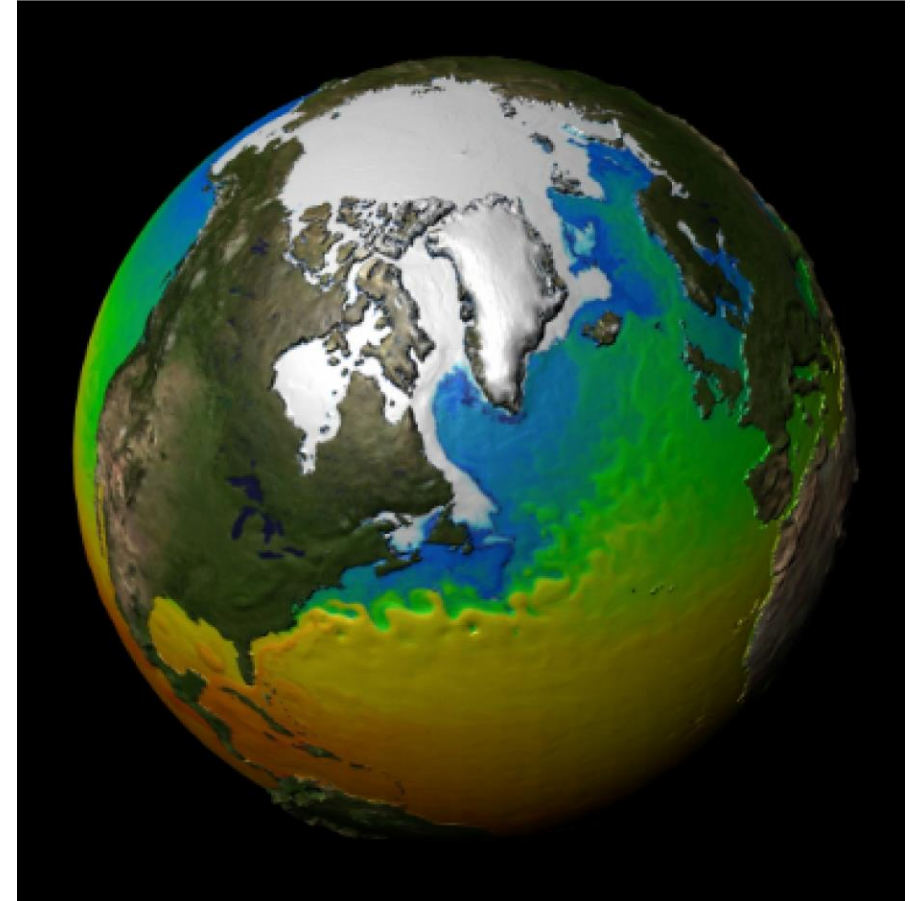
Martin Schultz, Earth System  
Data Exploration Group, JSC



# HClimRep: Helmholtz Foundation Model for Climate Science

Will be the first Earth system foundation model including the troposphere, stratosphere, ocean, sea ice, and hydrology

- **Seasonal-to-decadal AI-based simulations**
- First **climate-capable** foundation model, incorporating
  - multiple grids and resolutions,
  - atmosphere-ocean-sea ice coupling, and a
  - wide range of available data
- **Generalization across tasks**
  - support for prediction, data assimilation,
  - uncertainty quantification, and counterfactual scenarios
- **Downstream applications** demonstrate potential for future climate research and services



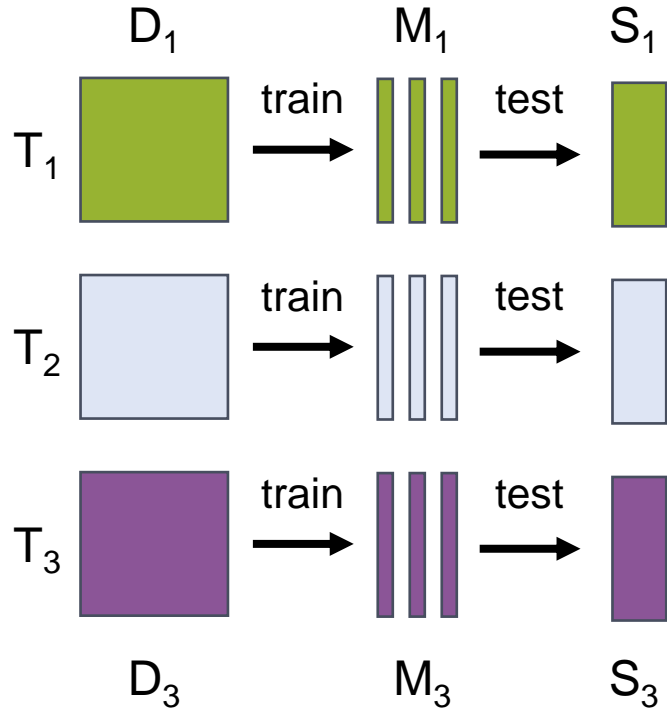
[source](#)

Lead: Jülich, IAS/JSC, Martin Schultz  
Project start 2024, duration 36 months

# FOUNDATION MODELS

## State of the Art: Predictive and Generative AI with large Foundation Models

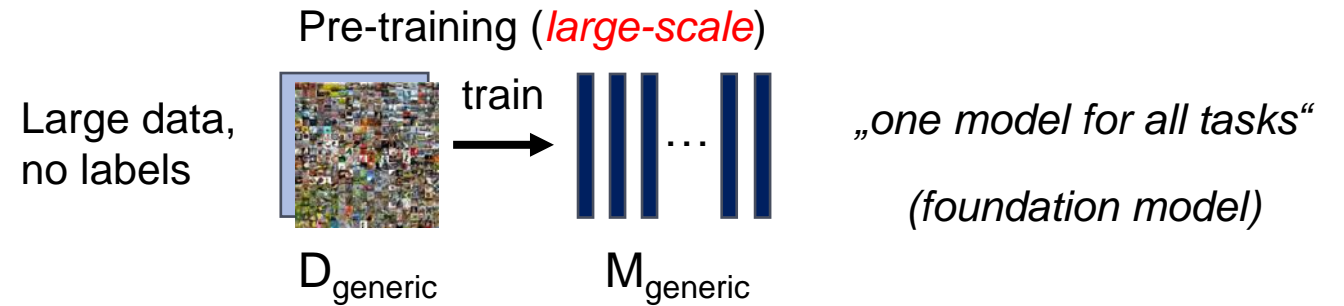
### Classic supervised machine learning



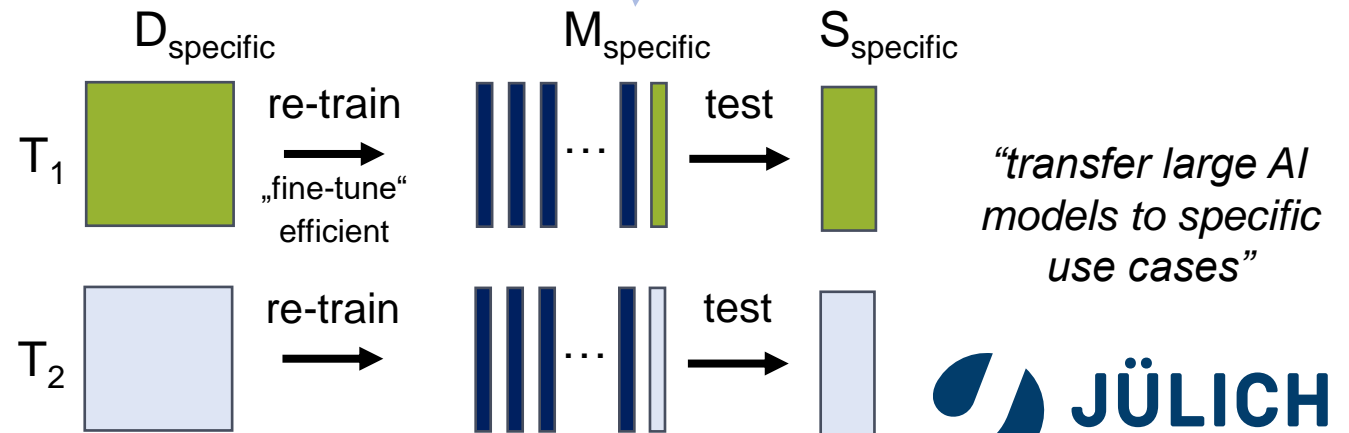
- poor generalization and transfer
- labeled data for each task
- no model re-use

### Foundation models: generic transferable learning

#### 1. Self-supervised pre-training of large-scale models



#### 2. Transfer to specific tasks

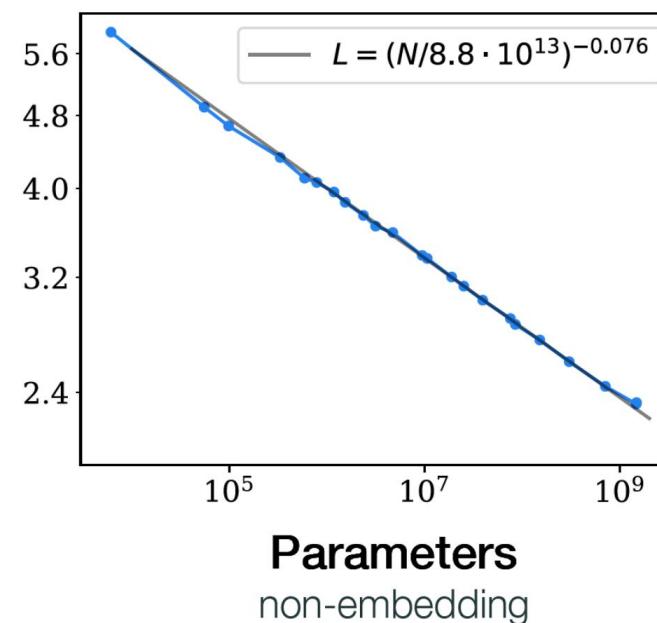
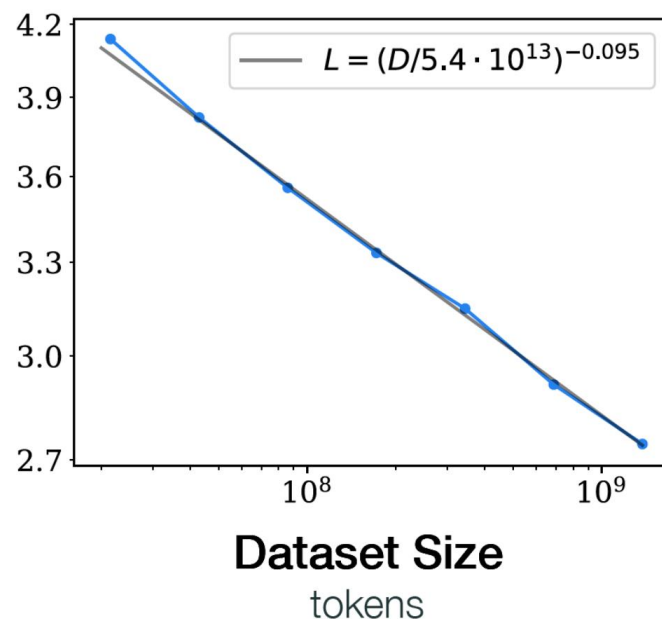
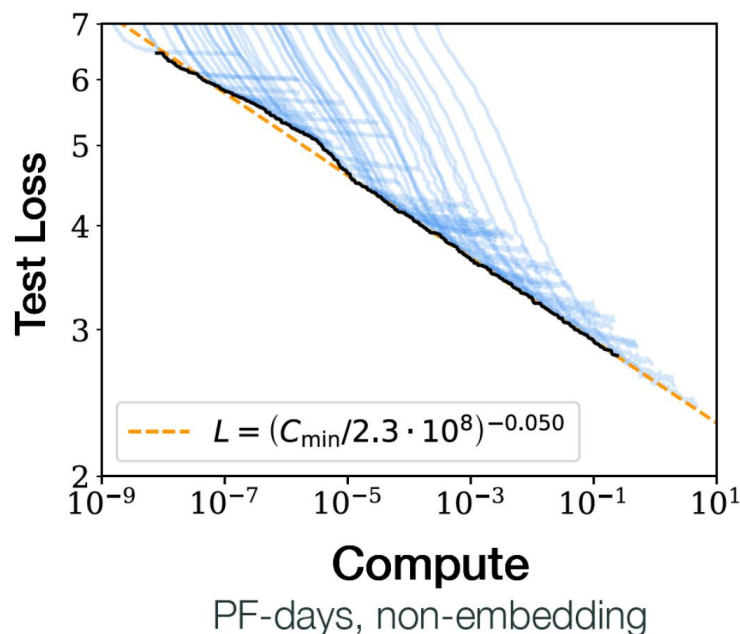




# FOUNDATION MODELS

## Scaling Laws in AI

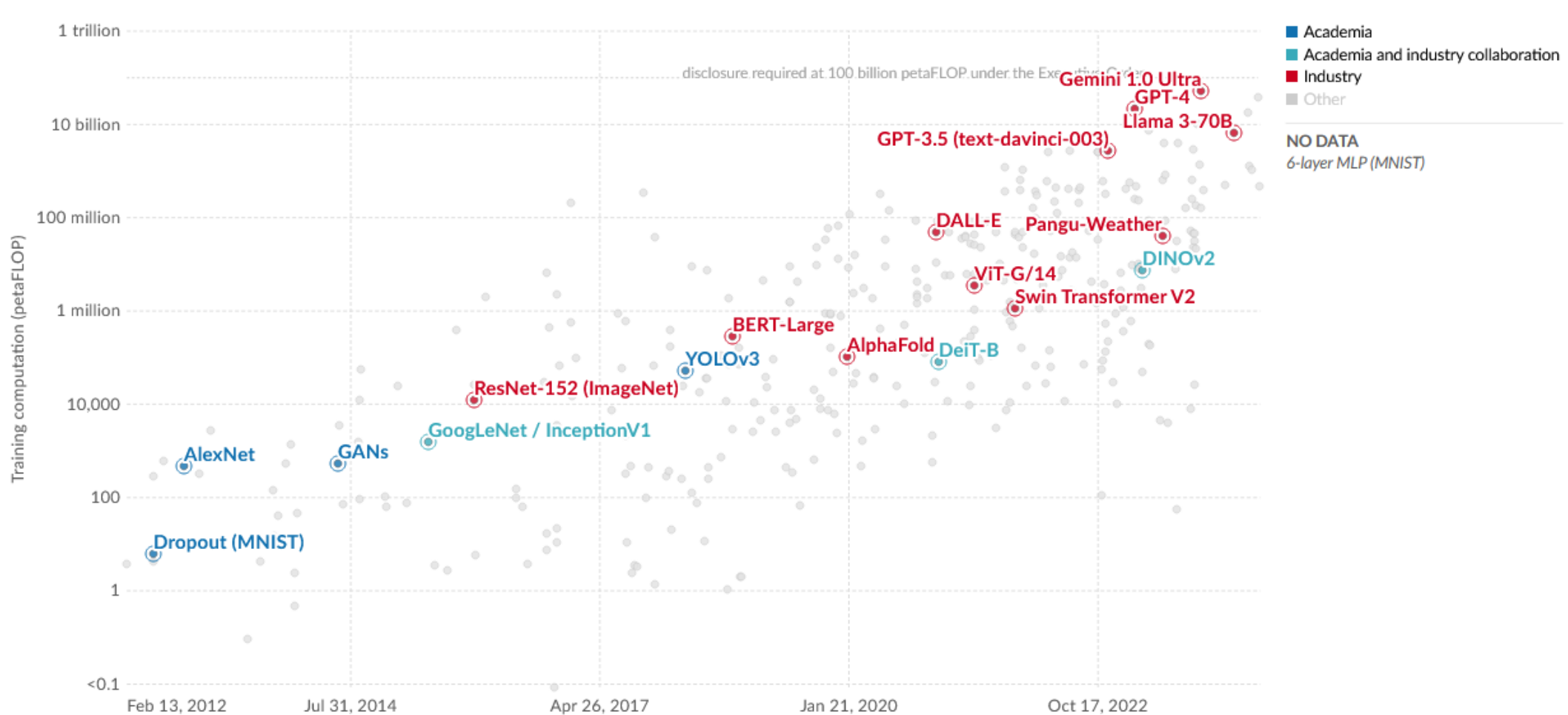
- **Scaling Laws:** larger model, data and compute scale during pretraining lead to **stronger generalization and transferability**
- **No change** in algorithmic procedure. Just scale up and important generic functions – e.g. generalization - get better



Source: Kaplan et al. 2020, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2001.08361>

Mitglied der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

# Trend: larger models, larger data, larger compute



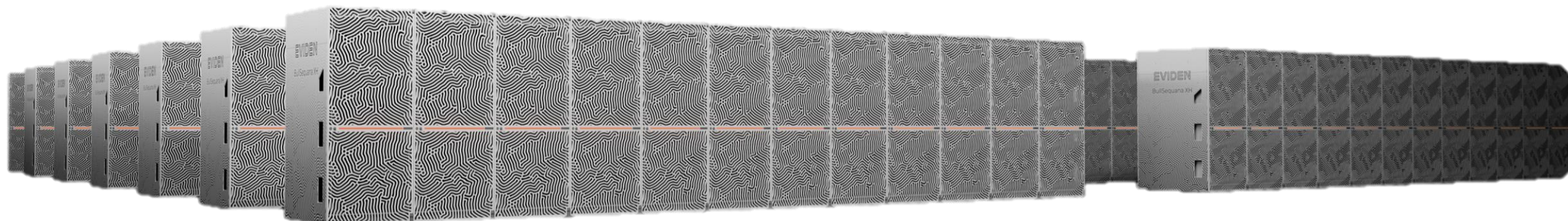
Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/artificial-intelligence-training-computation>  
 Mitglied der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft



# HAPPENING NOW: JUPITER Ascending

## A MODULAR EXASCALE COMPUTER

93 ExaFLOPS of AI | 1.0 ExaFLOPS for HPC | 24,000 GH200



**EuroHPC**  
Joint Undertaking



Ministerium für  
Kultur und Wissenschaft  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



**EVIDEN**  
an atos business



Member of the Helmholtz Association

**JÜLICH**  
Forschungszentrum



EVIDEN  
BullSequana XH

**JEDI**

**JUPITER EXASCALE DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT**



# JEDI

Energy efficiency: rank 1 world-wide

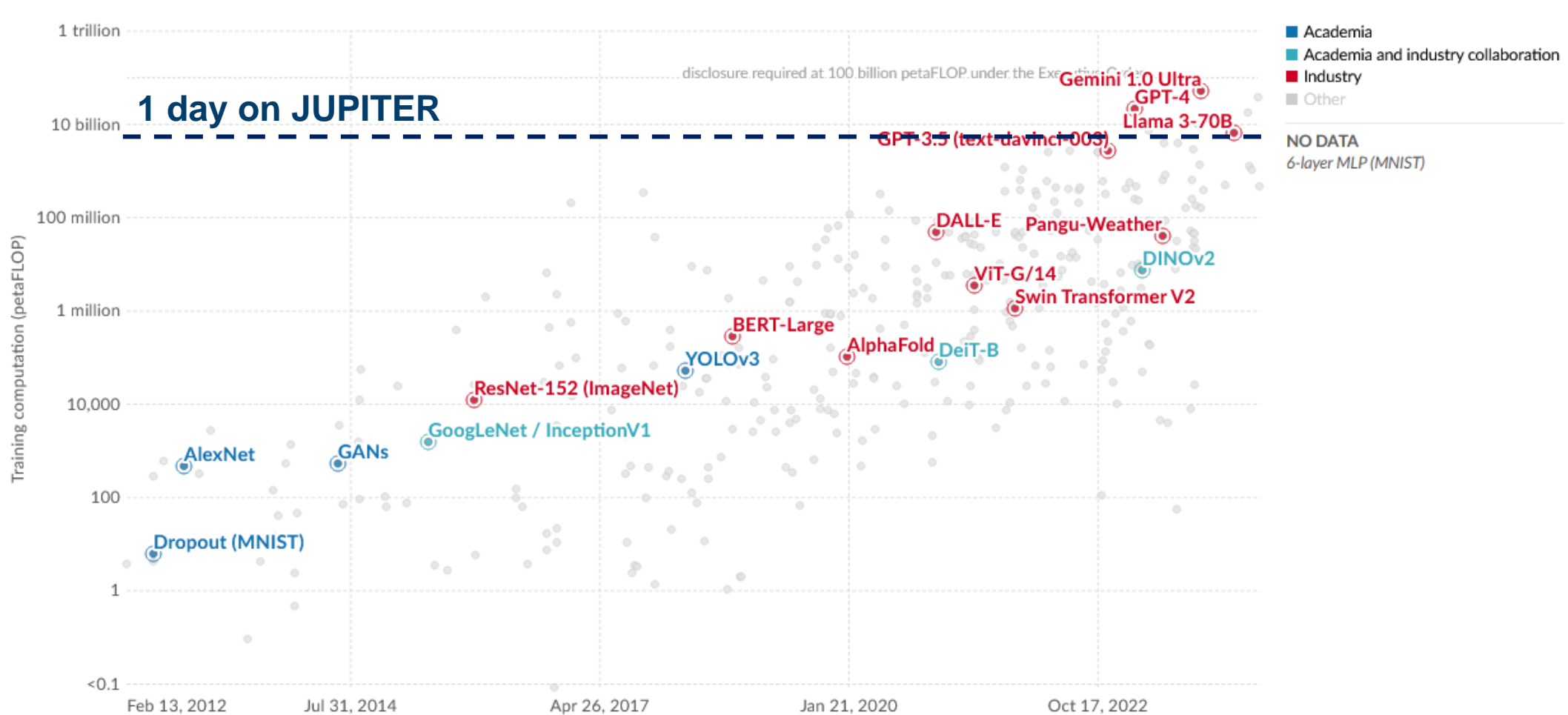
Rank	TOP500 Rank	System	Cores	Rmax (PFlop/s)	Power (kW)	Energy Efficiency (GFlops/watts)
1	189	JEDI - BullSequana XH3000, Grace Hopper Superchip 72C 3GHz, NVIDIA GH200 Superchip, Quad-Rail NVIDIA InfiniBand NDR200, ParTec/EVIDEN EuroHPC/FZJ Germany	19,584	4.50	67	72.733

**JUNE 2024**



# JUPITER AI Performance Estimate: 93 exaflop/s

## State of the Art: Predictive and Generative AI with large foundational models



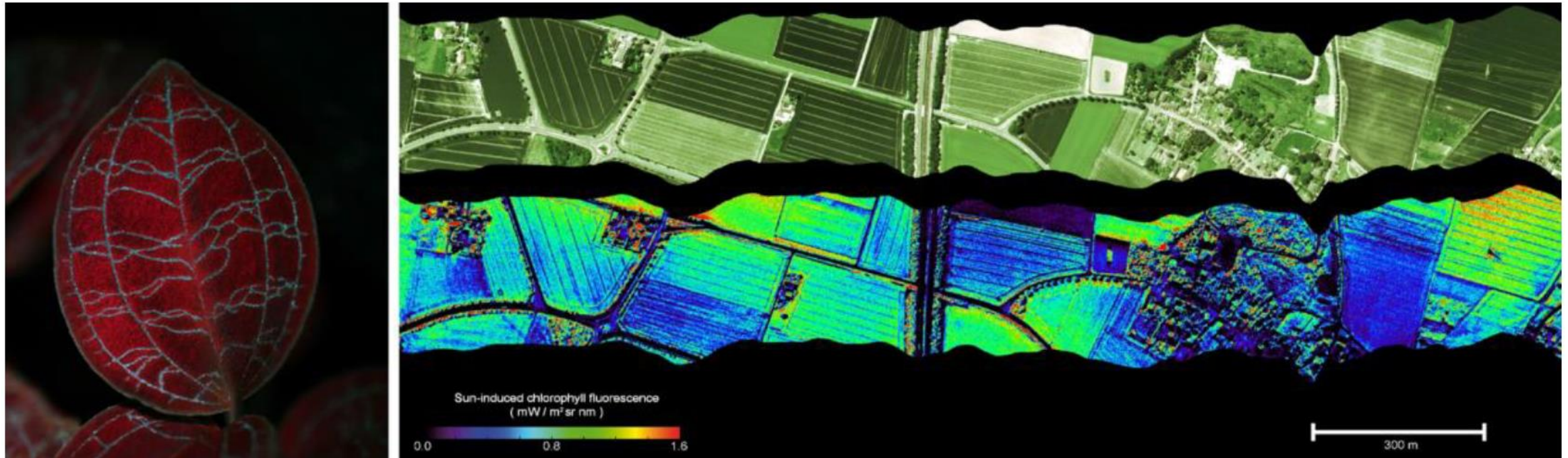


# ML-based Fluorescence Retrieval from Optical Satellite Data

Helmholtz AI project FluoMap with IBG-2: Plant Sciences and German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Infer Plant Fluorescence from Hyperspectral Imaging Data

- Fluorescence contains information on status of plant photosystem, i.e. photosynthetic activity.
- Available on **close range and flat terrain** e.g. using spectral fitting method (SFM), i.e. physical model fitting.

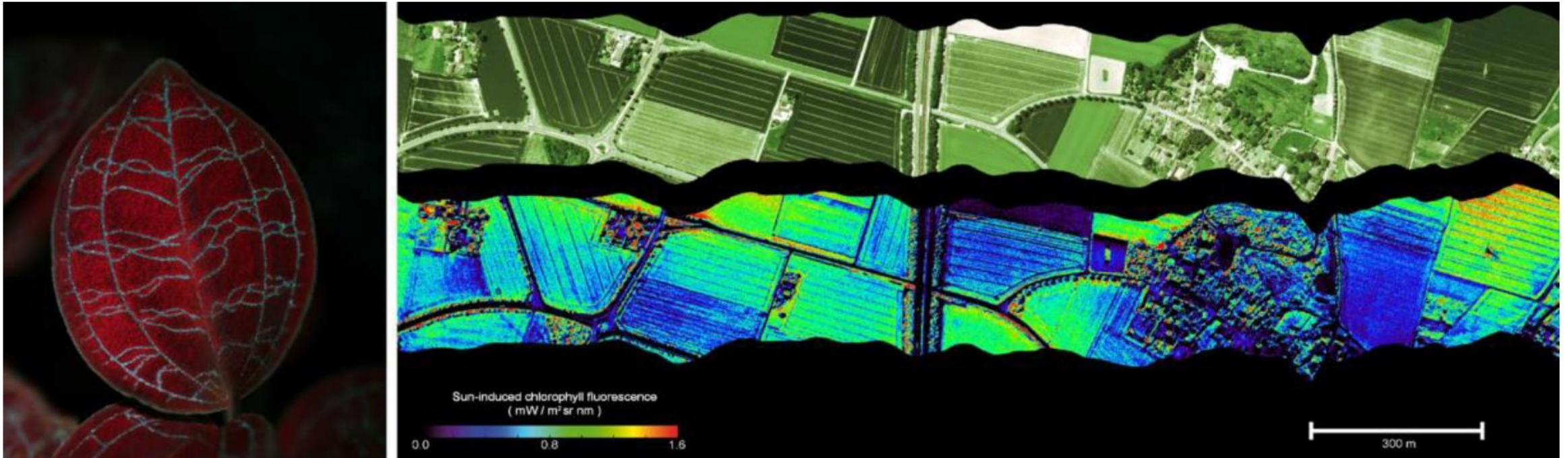


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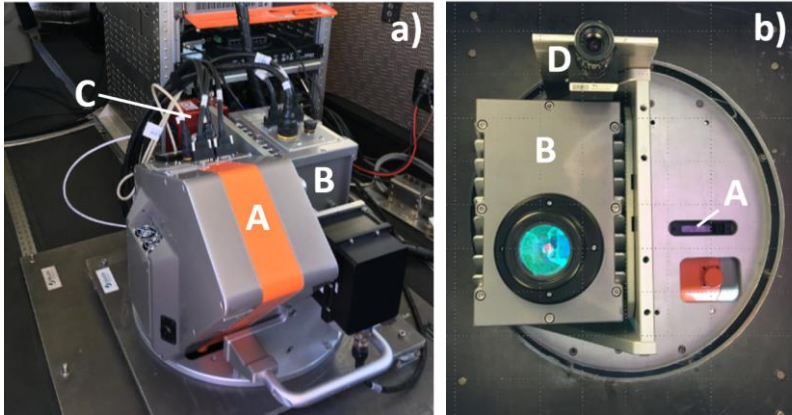
## Project goal

- Devise method allowing to use satellite data for SIF retrieval – consider elevation and atmosphere
- High risk: Use spectrally low resolved DESIS data



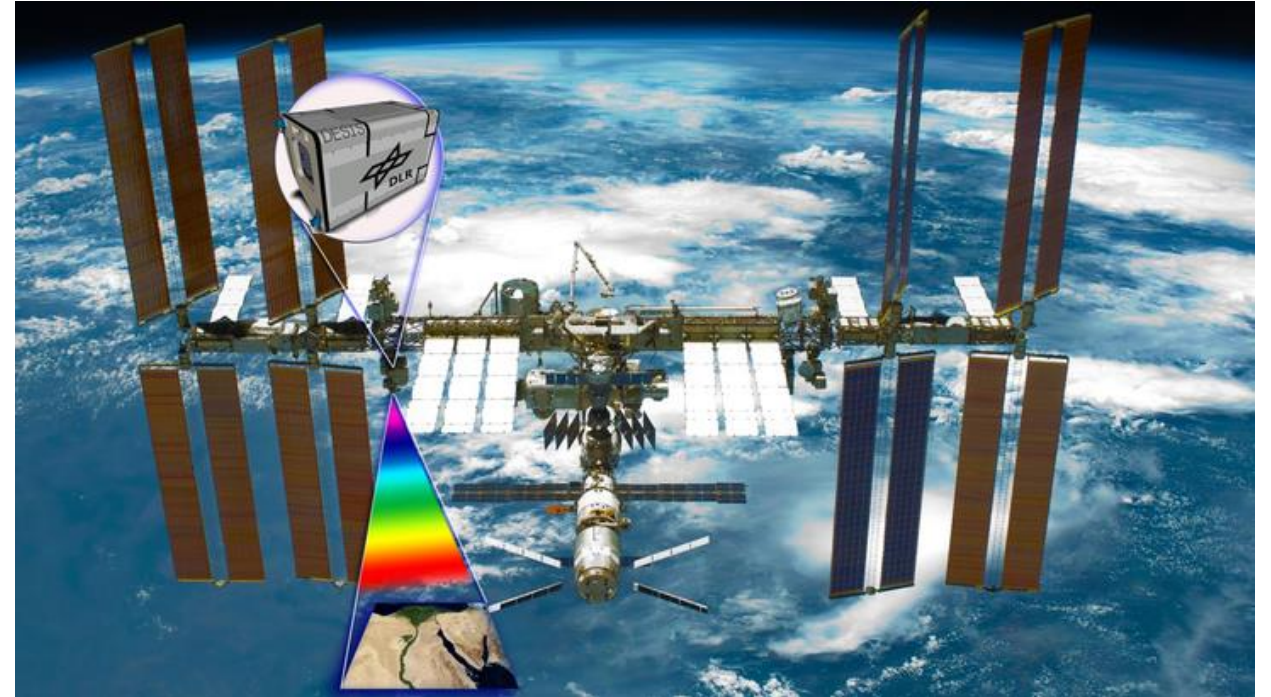


# Hyperspectral imaging sensors: DESIS on ISS and HyPlant for FLEX



HyPlant airborne hyperspectral imaging sensor. Precursor for FLEX  
Operated by FZJ, IBG-2

Mitglied der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft



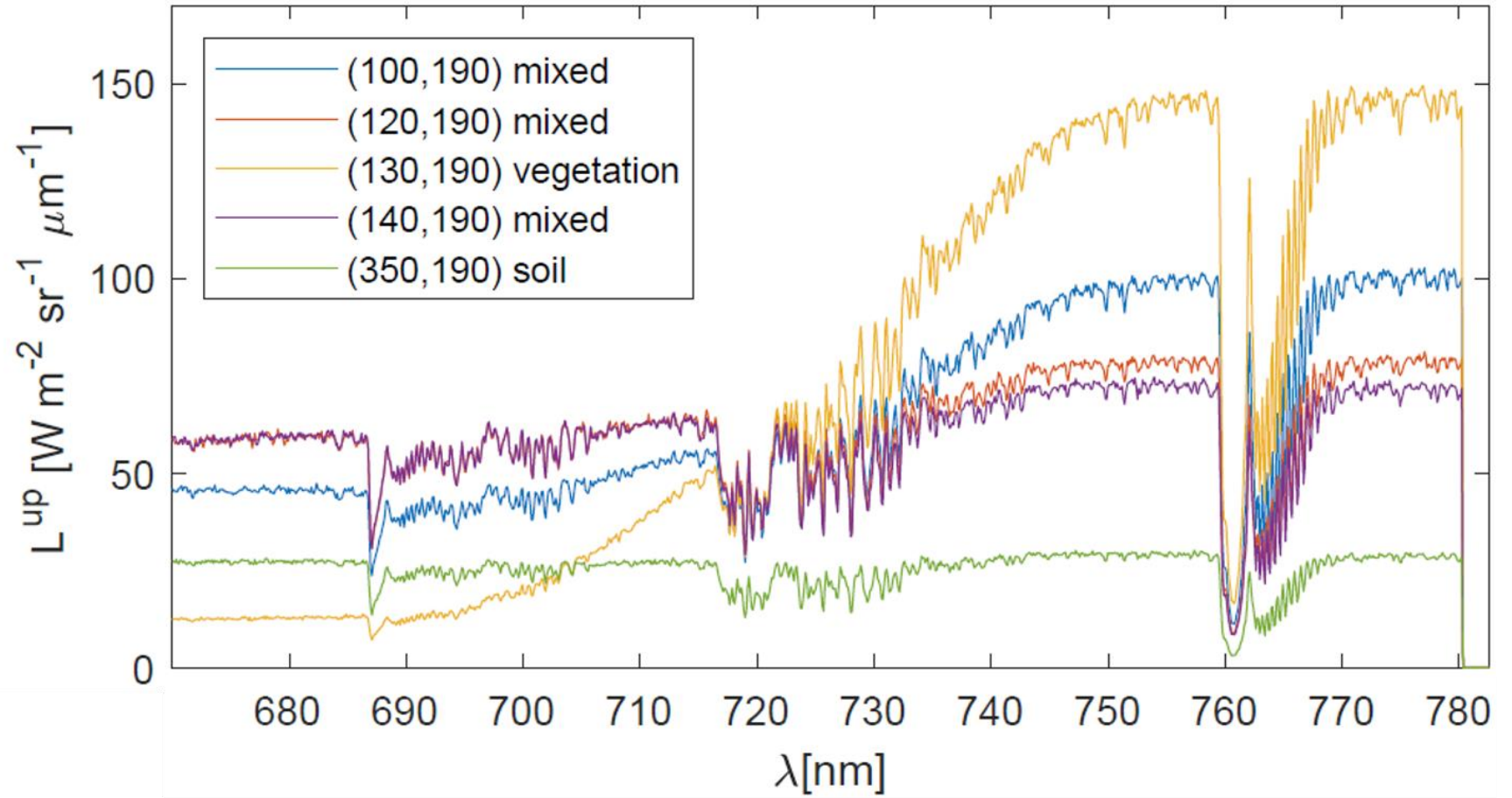
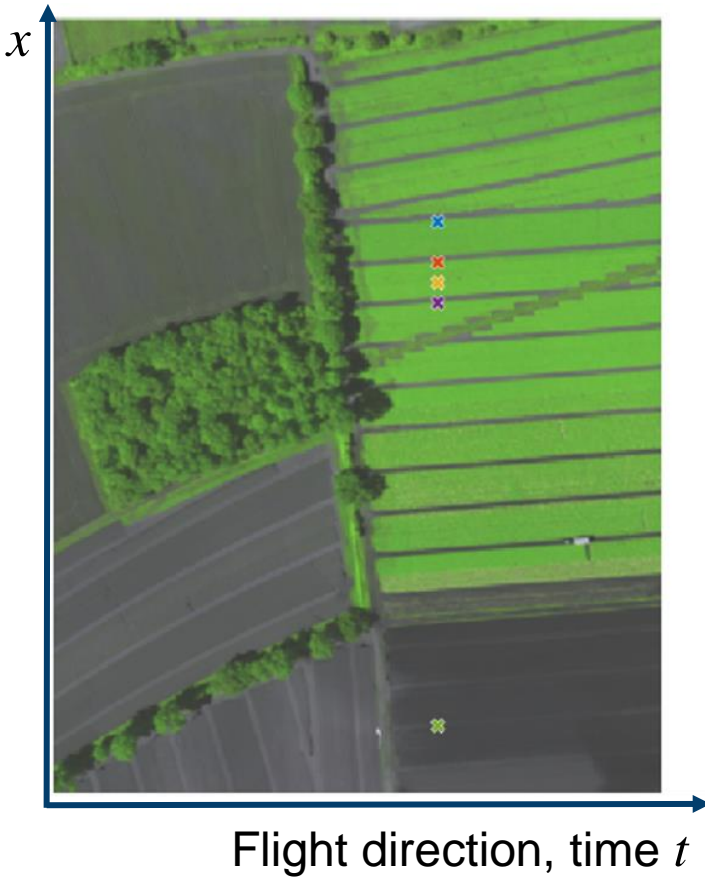
DESI (DLR Earth Sensing Imaging Spectrometer) on ISS

- Good coverage of earth – high impact in environmental sciences
- Lower spatial and spectral resolution than HyPlant data



# Spatio-spectral Images from HyPlant

Line sensor operated in push broom fashion

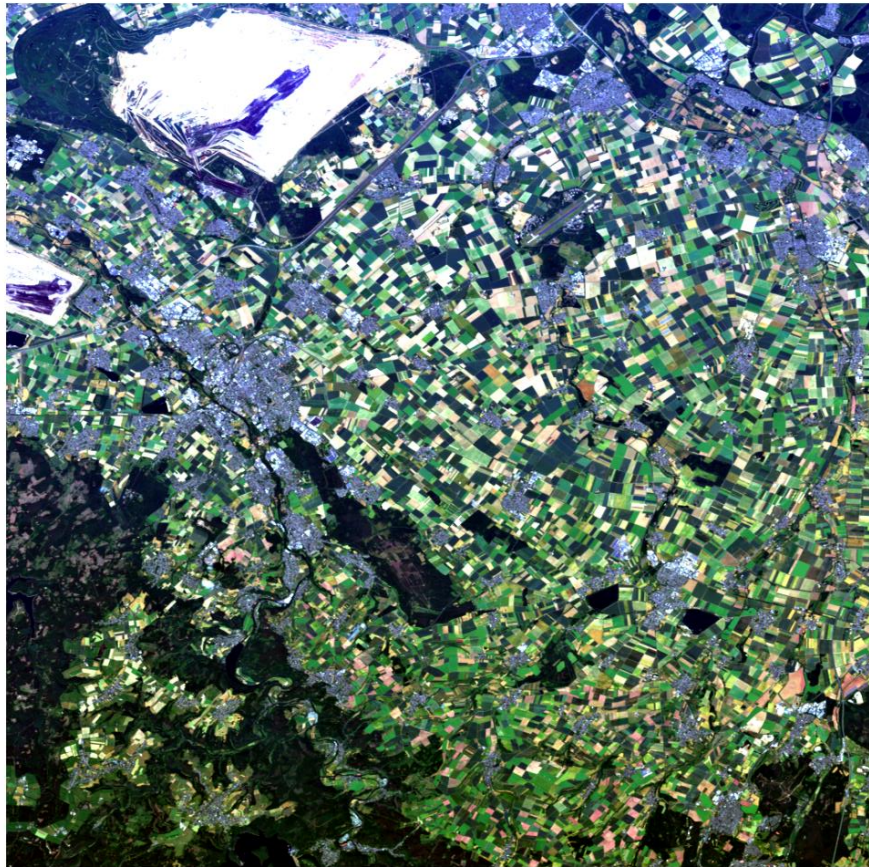


# DESIS data as compared to HyPlant imagery

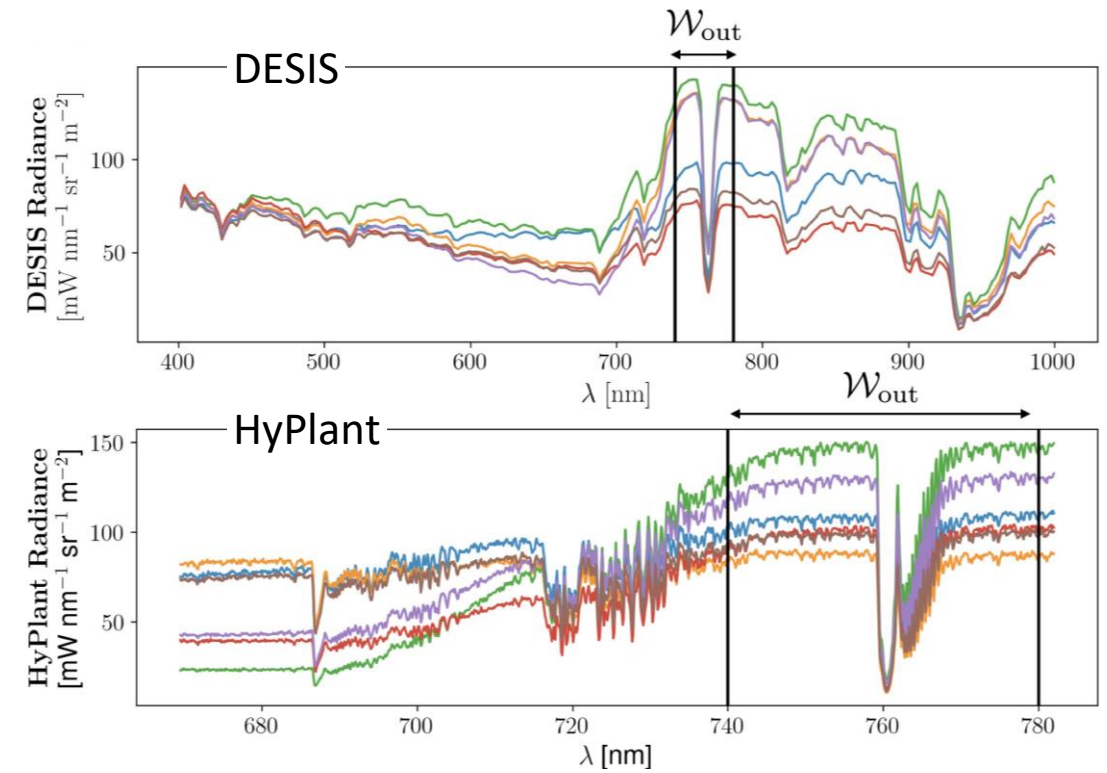
HyPlant FLUO  
(0.5 - 2 m)



DESIS (30 m)



Spectral resolution is different  
(0.25 vs. 3.5 nm)





# Sun Induced Fluorescence

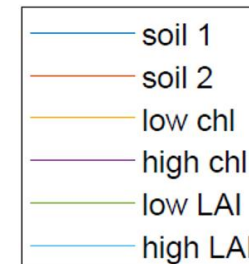
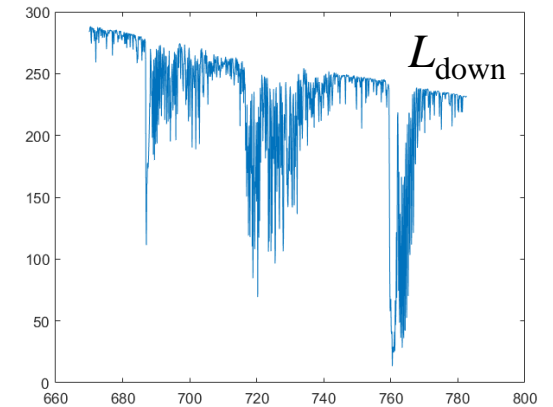
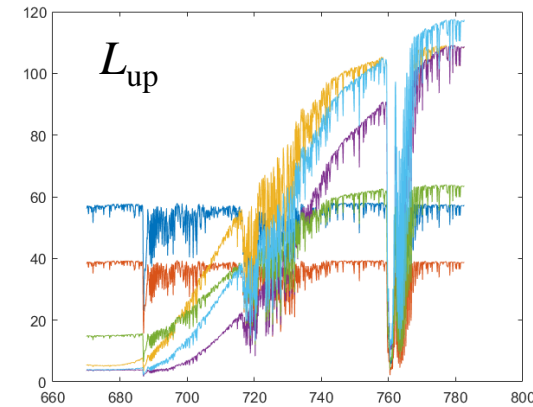
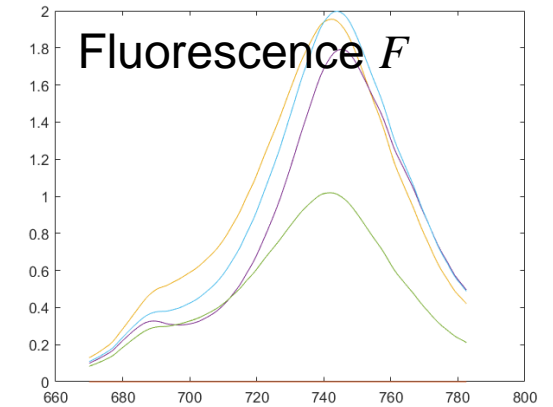
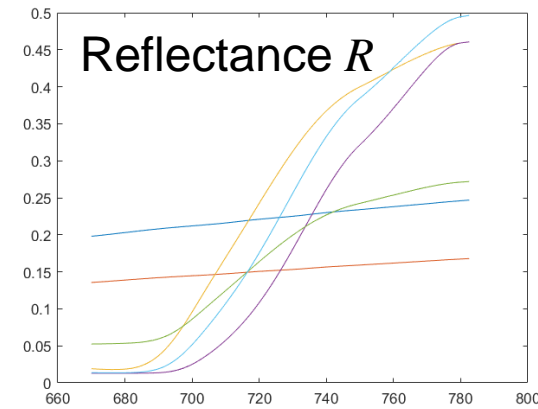
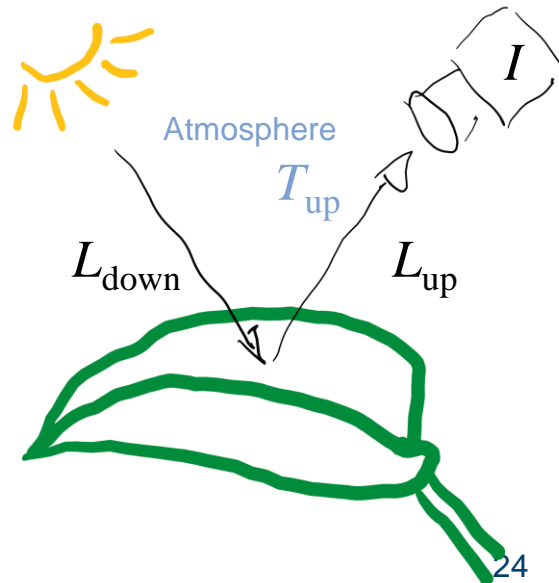
## Image formation

- Incoming light  $L_{up}$  goes through optics and is detected by digital sensor

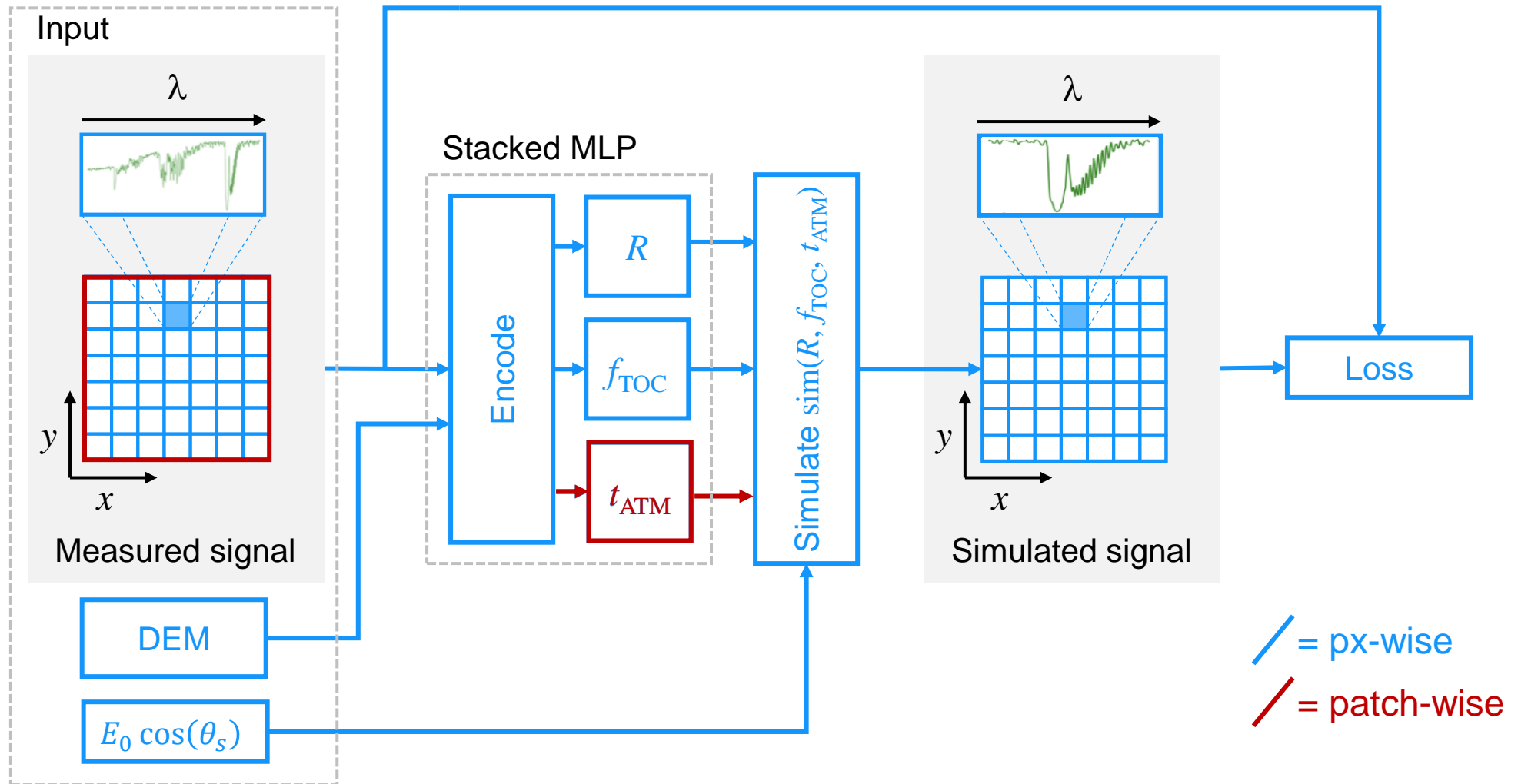
$$I(\lambda, x, t) = \phi(\lambda, x) * L_{up}(\lambda, x, t) + n$$

$$L_{up}(\lambda, x, t) = T_{up}(\lambda, x, t)(R(\lambda, x, t) L_{down}(\lambda, x, t) + F(\lambda, x, t))$$

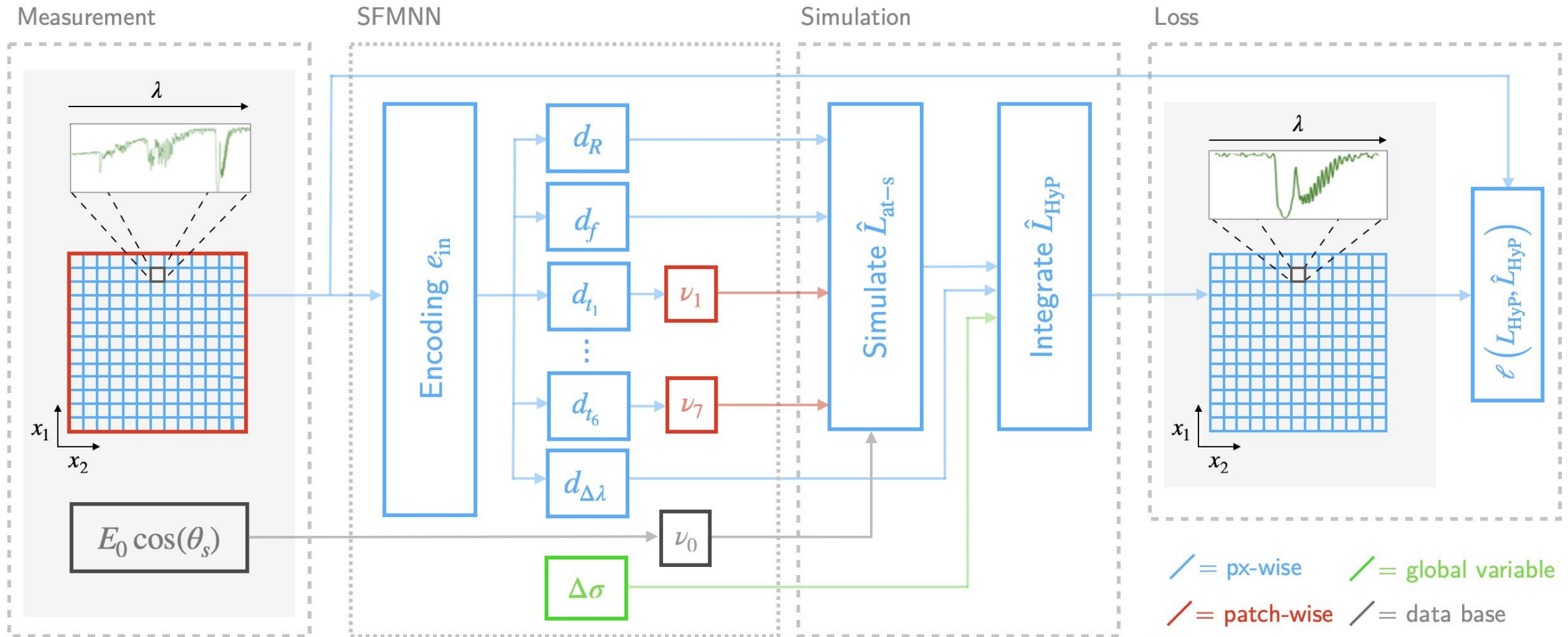
- Measured intensity  $I$
- $\phi$  sensor optics, sampling
- Photon 'shot' noise  $n$
- Reflectance  $R$
- Fluorescence  $F$



# Self-supervised spectral fitting



# Self-supervised spectral fitting of a high-resolution simulation model to HyPlant data

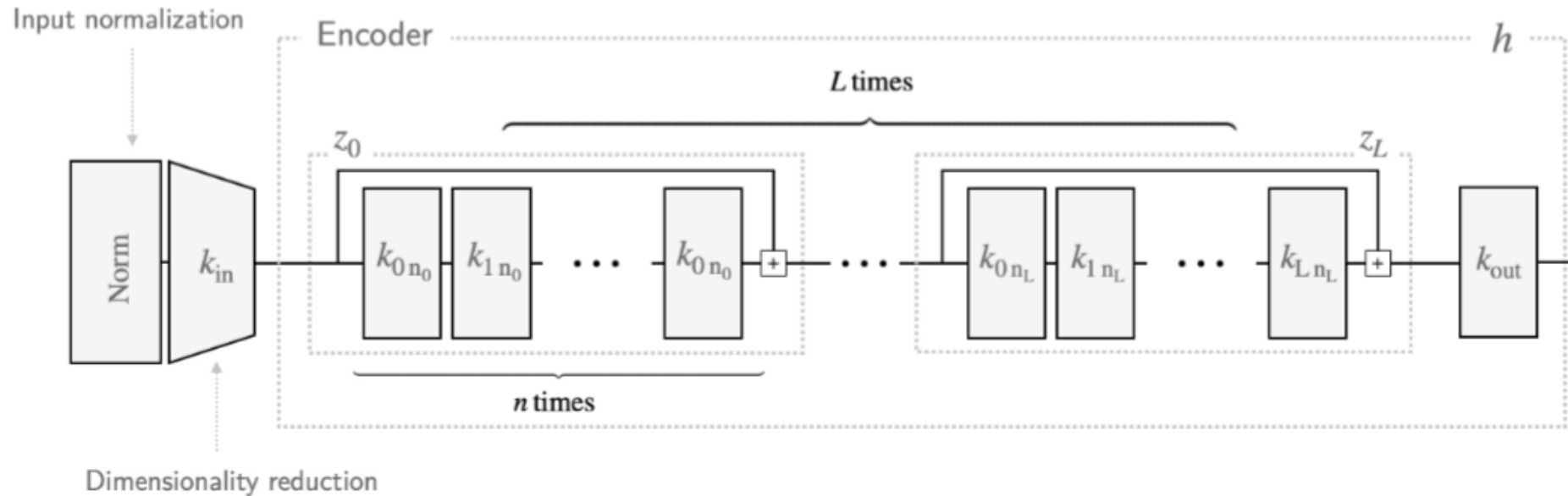


Colors indicate: **Atmosphere**, **surface material**, **sensor**, additional measurements (sun zenith angle etc.)



# Encoder and Decoder

## Multi-Layer Perceptron with Skip Connections



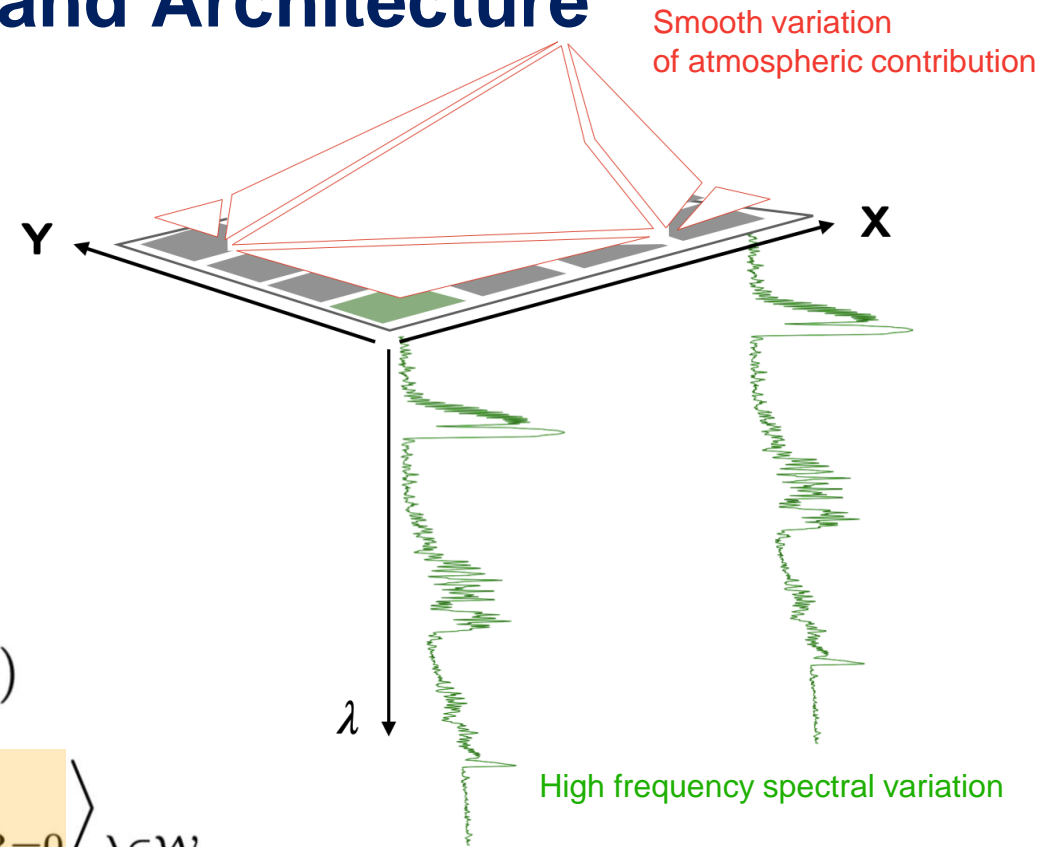
	Dims.	Rep.	$D_p$
Encoder $e_{in}$	(100, 100, 50)	(3, 3, 3)	(0.1, 0, 0)
Decoders $d_v$	(100, 50, 50, 50)	(3, 1, 1, 1)	(0, 0, 0)

# Regularization strategies in the Loss and Architecture

- Inversion under incomplete knowledge of physical process is **ill-posed**.
- Architectural **constraint** formulation: difference in spatial variation of terms contributing to radiance signal

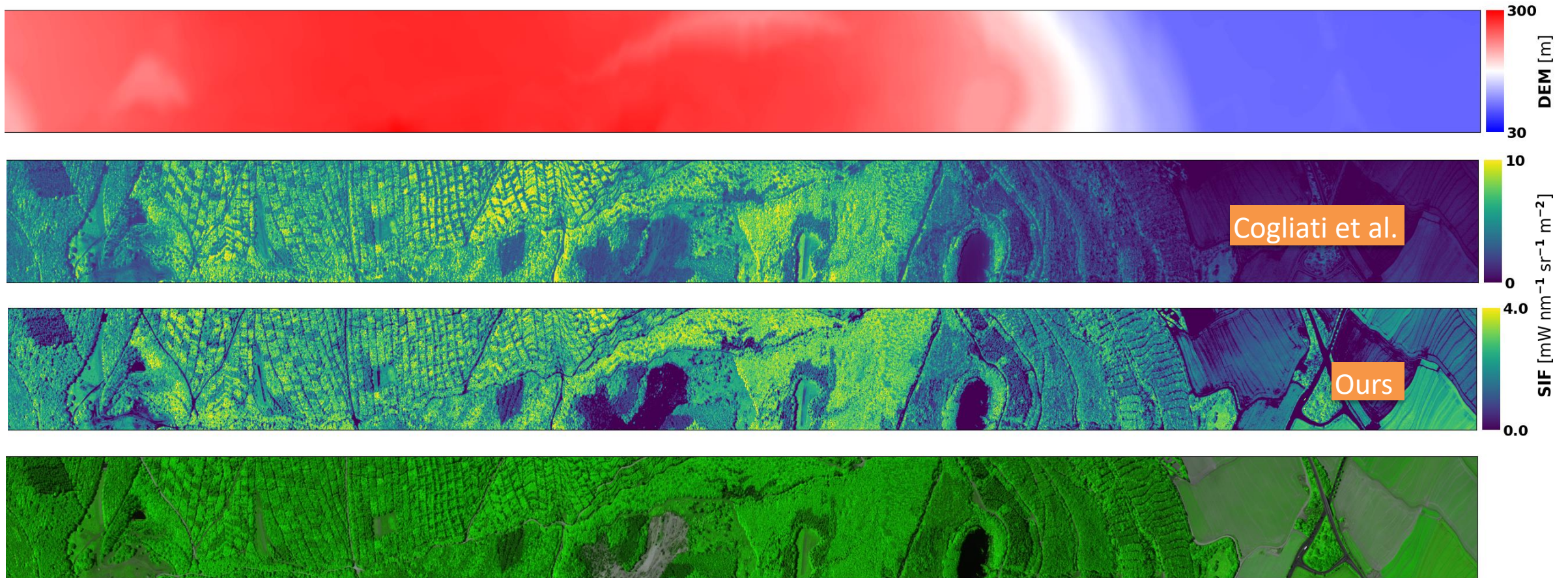
$$\begin{aligned}
 \ell(y, \hat{y}) &= (\ell_{R,f} + \gamma_f \ell_f + \gamma_N \ell_{\text{NDVI}} + \gamma_a \ell_{\text{atm}})(y, \hat{y}) \\
 &= \left\langle (y(\lambda) - \hat{y}(\lambda))^2 + \gamma_f \left( w_\lambda (y(\lambda) - \hat{y}(\lambda))^2 \right)_{\delta R=0} \right\rangle_{\lambda \in \mathcal{W}} \\
 &\quad + \gamma_N \hat{f} \delta(\text{NDVI}_y \leq t) + \gamma_a \text{ReLU}(\hat{t}_{\text{tot}} - 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Overall residual
  SNR weighting
  Physiological constraint
  Physical constraint



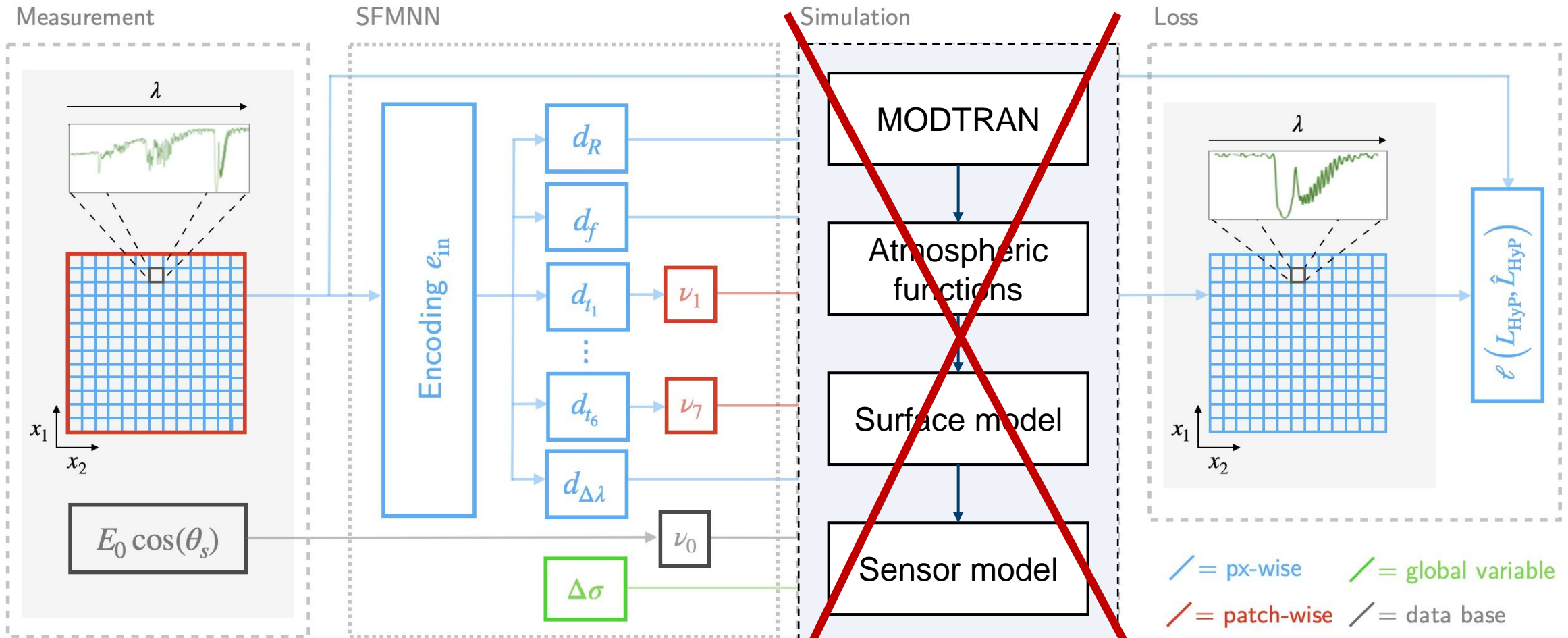


# Local Atmospheric Fitting



SFM: Spectral Fitting Method (Cogliati, 2019)

# Self-supervised spectral fitting of a high-resolution simulation model to HyPlant data

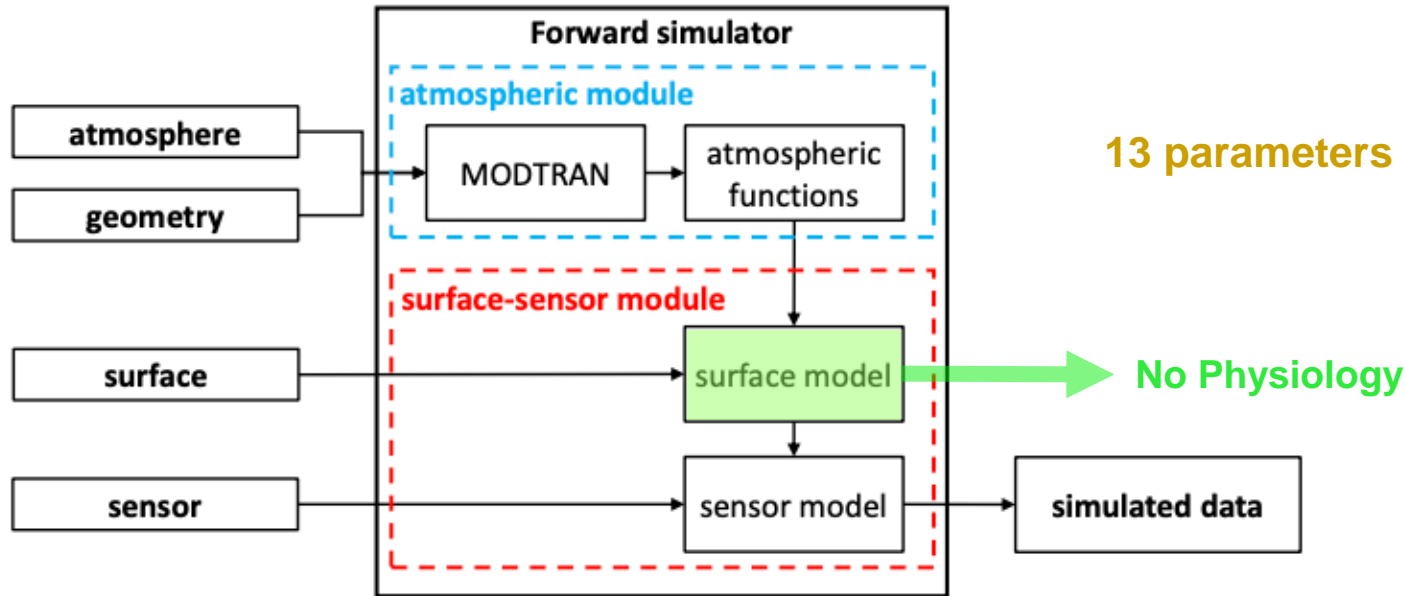


Colors indicate: **Atmosphere**, **surface material**, **sensor**, additional measurements (sun zenith angle etc.)

**Not differentiable**



# MODTRAN6 based simulation tool to extensively sample the at-sensor radiance domain of HyPlant and DESIS



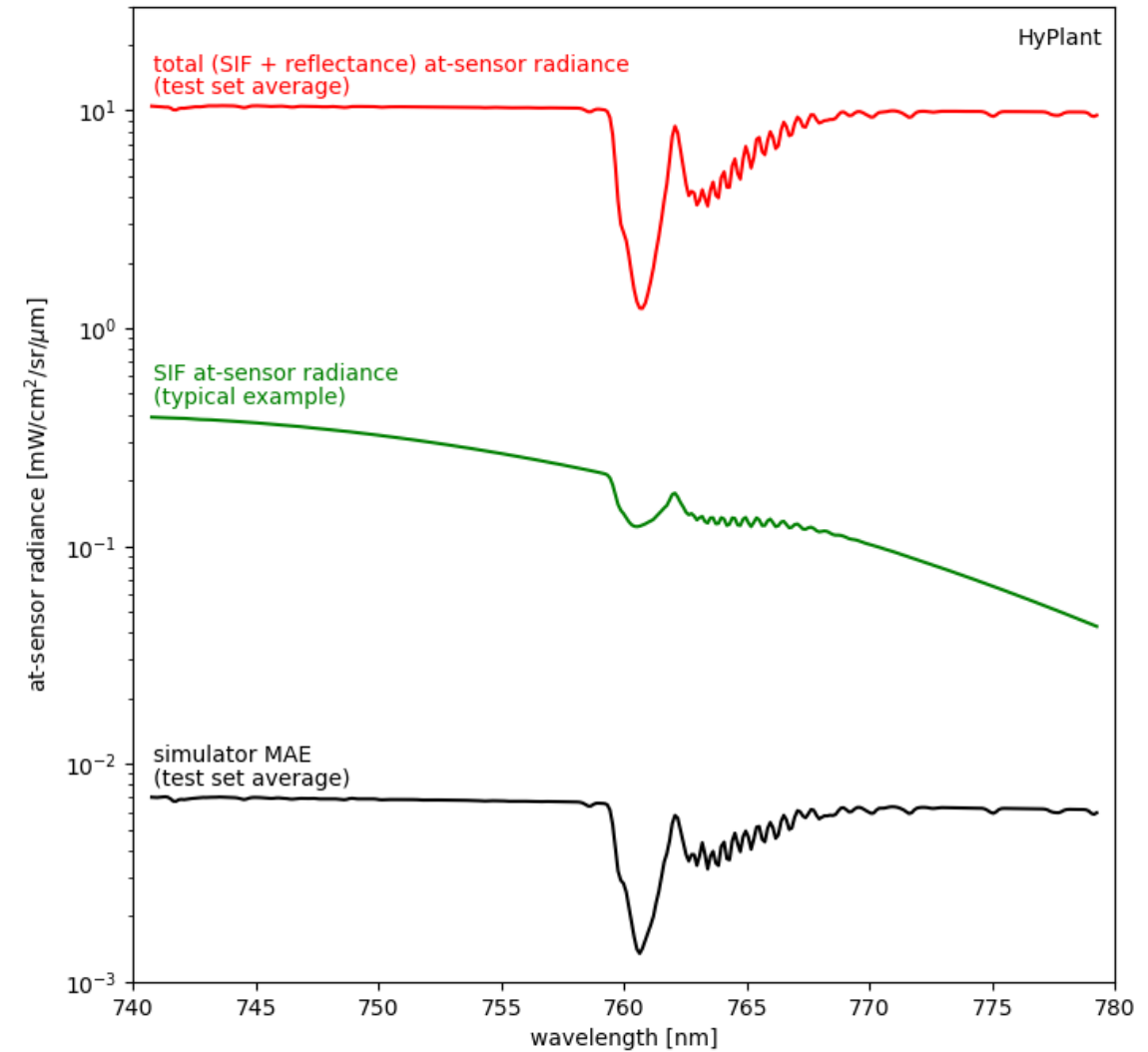
Specification	Databases	
	DESIS	HyPlant
Input dimensions	11	13
Output dimensions	13	349
Number of samples	$1.2 \times 10^7$	$1.5 \times 10^7$
Data size [GB]	5.6	64.7

~1-4 min/sample  
 ~0.5M core-h overall  
 Halton sampling

Parameter		HyPlant DB
Atmosphere	model	mid-latitude summer
	H <sub>2</sub> O [cm]	0.3–3.0
	O <sub>3</sub> [DU]	332
	AOT <sub>550</sub> []	0.05–0.40
	aerosol model	rural
	<i>g</i> []	[-1, +1]
	Geometry	TA [°]
SZA [°]		20–55
RAA [°]		0–180
<i>h</i> <sub>gnd</sub> [m]		0–300
<i>h</i> <sub>sen</sub> [km]		0.659–0.691 agl 1.543–1.598 agl
Surface	$\rho_{740}$ []	0.05–0.60
	$d\rho/d\lambda$ [nm <sup>-1</sup> ]	0–0.008
	$F_{737}/F_0$	0–8
Sensor	$\delta_\lambda$ [nm]	[-0.080, +0.023]
	$\delta_{FWHM}$ [nm]	[-0.040, +0.040]

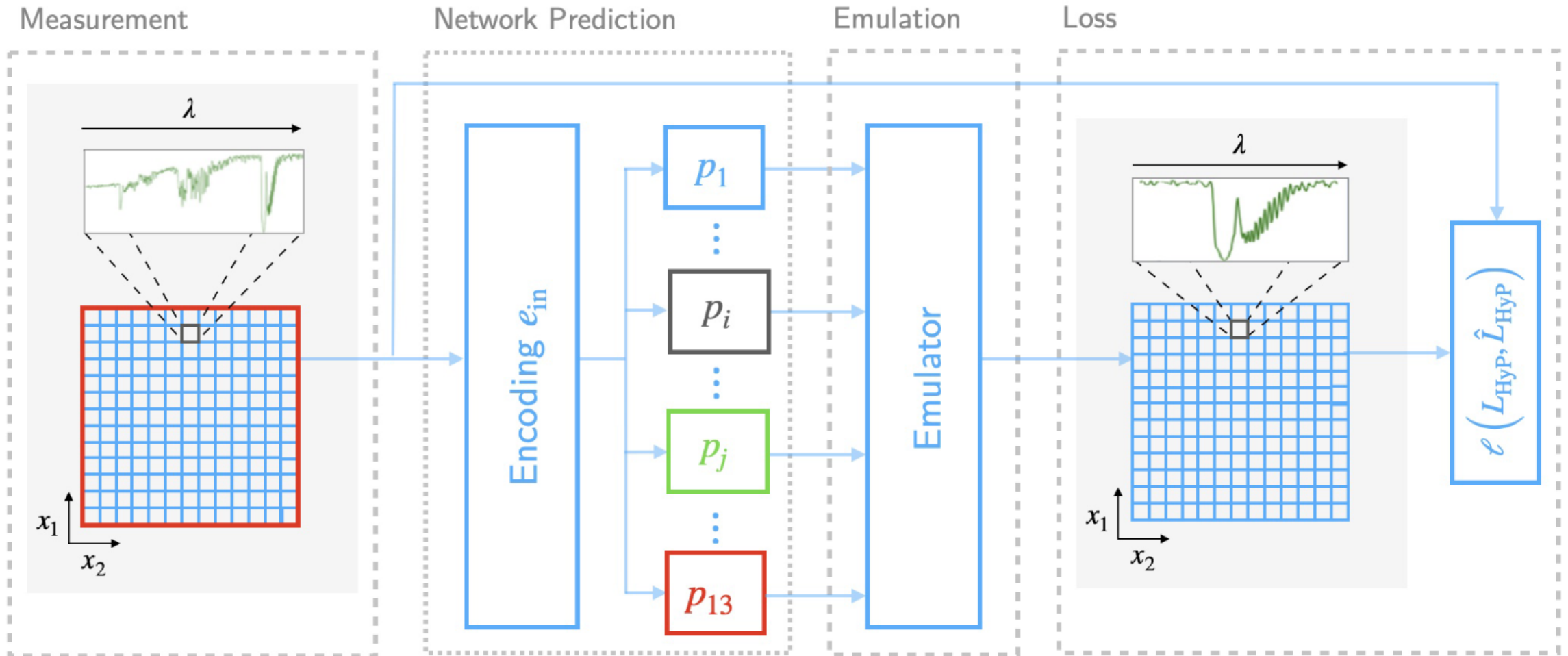
# Emulator representing the simulated HyPlant and DESIS data

- Trained ML simulators of at-sensor radiances to approximate the generated databases
- Tested different models, incl. relatively shallow NNs, all trained with L2 loss,
- Best: simple fourth-degree polynomials



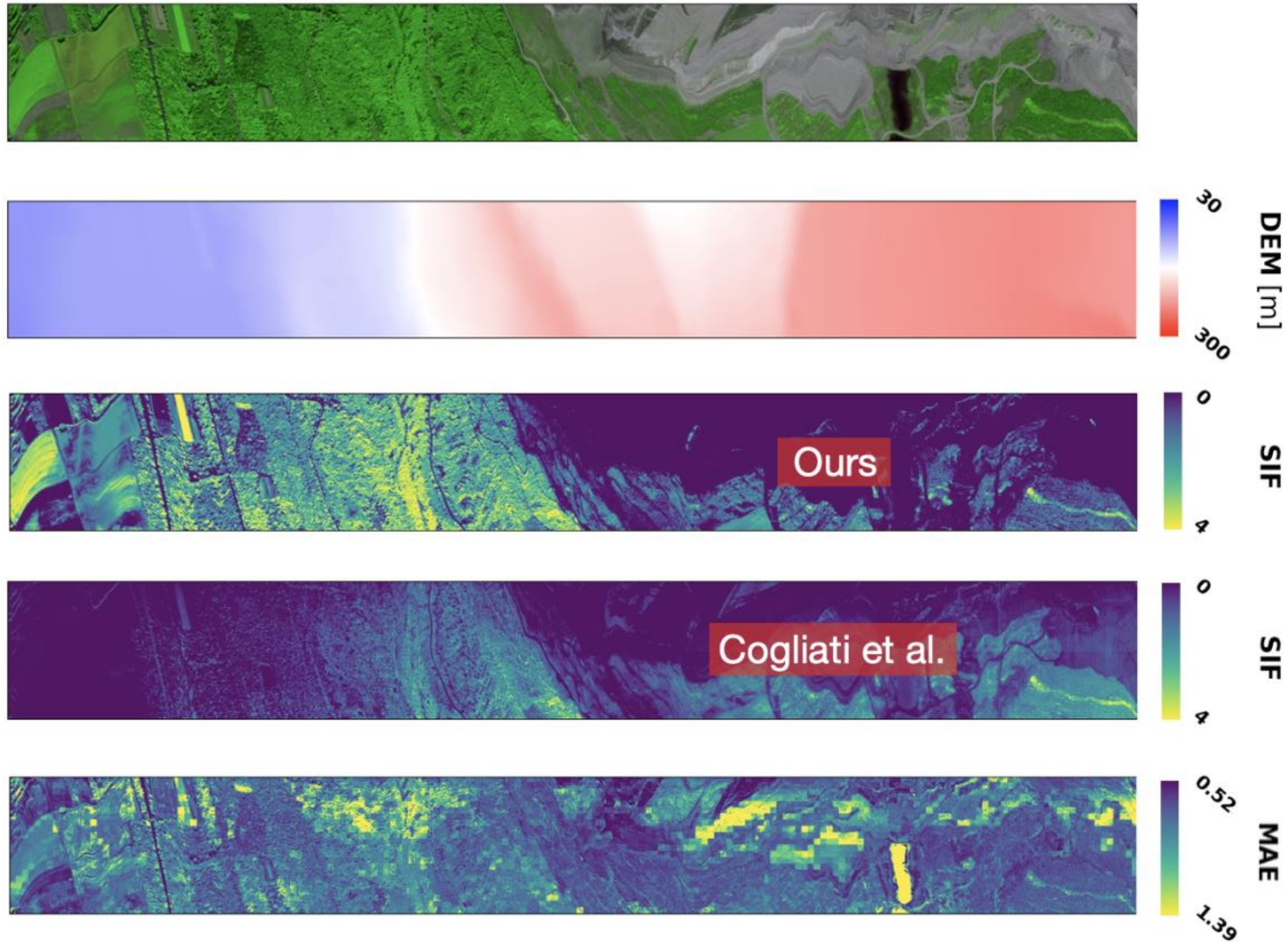


# Emulator instead of Simulation in SFMNN



$\diagup$  = px-wise     $\diagup$  = across-track

$\diagdown$  = patch-wise     $\diagdown$  = along-track



SFM: Spectral Fitting Method (Cogliati, 2019)

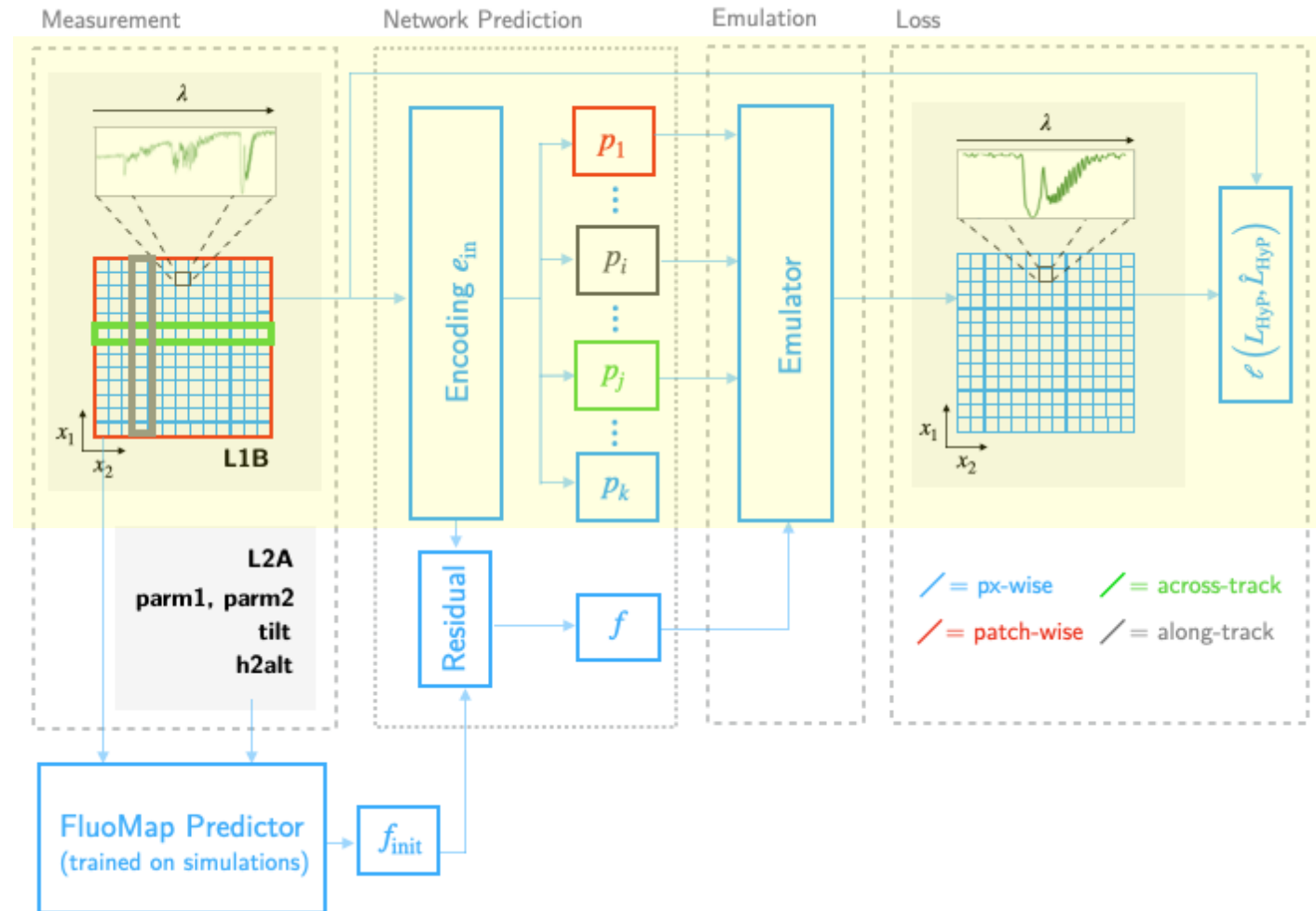


# Integrating self-supervised and supervised approaches for DESIS SIF prediction

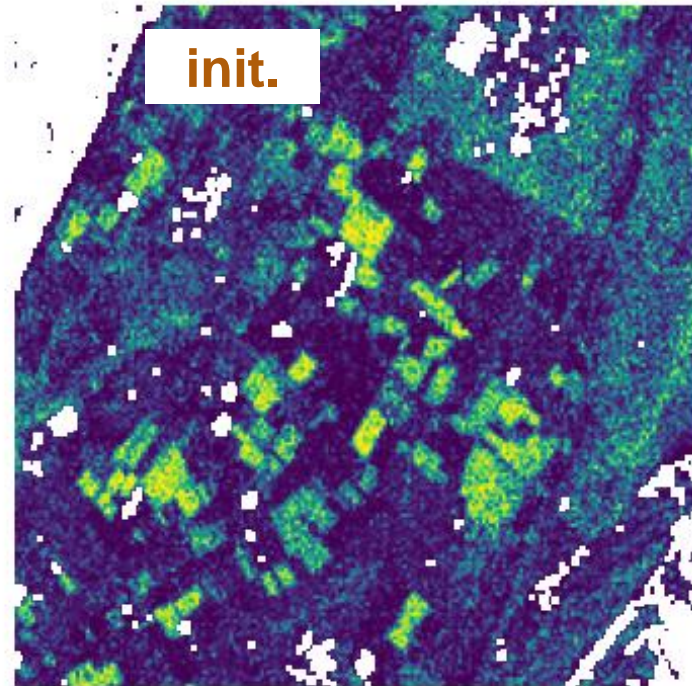
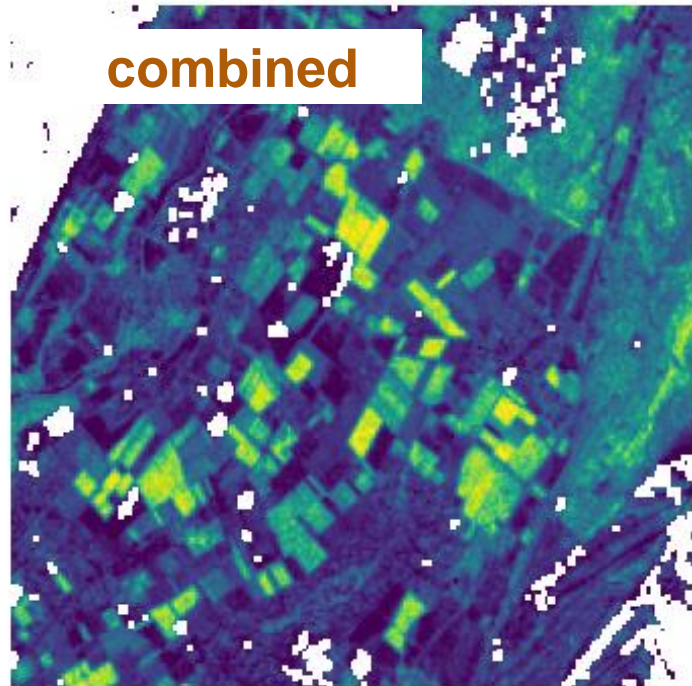
- **Integrate** constraint and label-based training
- **Use supervised** SIF predictor for an initial guess
- Train an **emulator-based SFMNN**
- **Estimate residual**: SIF residual w.r.t. the initial guess

$$f = f_{\text{init}} + n_{\text{res}}(x), \text{ with } n_{\text{res}}(x) \in [\Delta f_{\text{min}}, \Delta f_{\text{max}}]$$

... + fast emulator with improved correction term for bandwise  $\Delta\lambda$



# SIF Prediction — Initial guess and combined approach



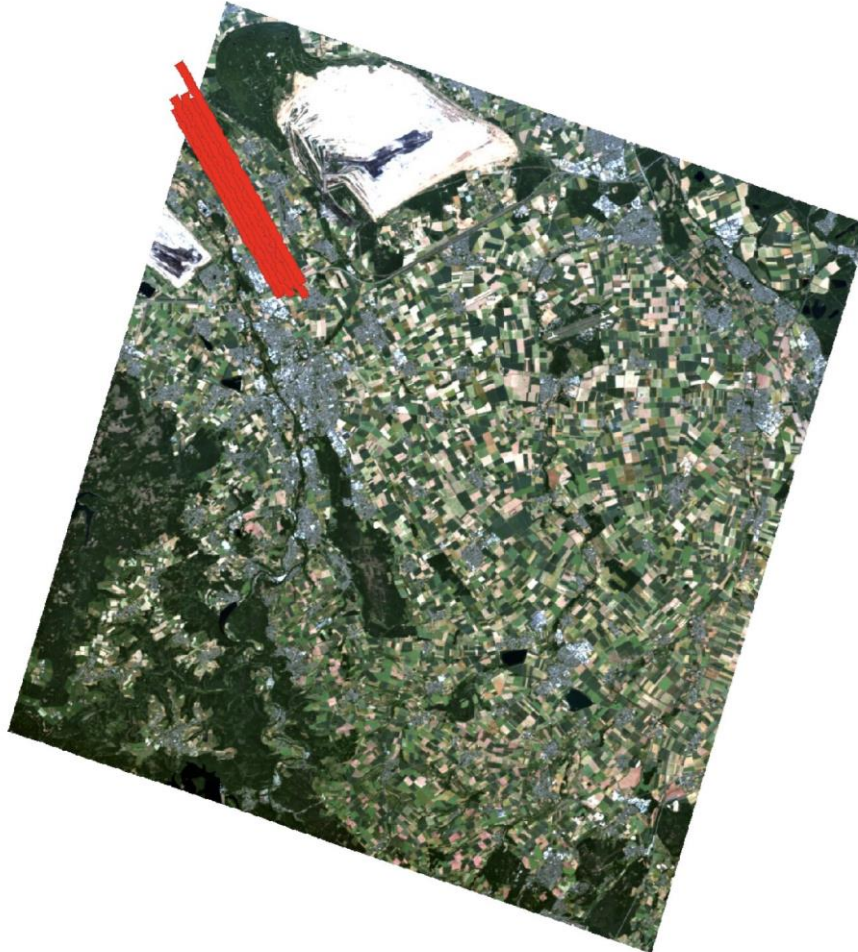


# Data set of 6 DESIS acquisitions quasi-simultaneous with HyPlant campaigns

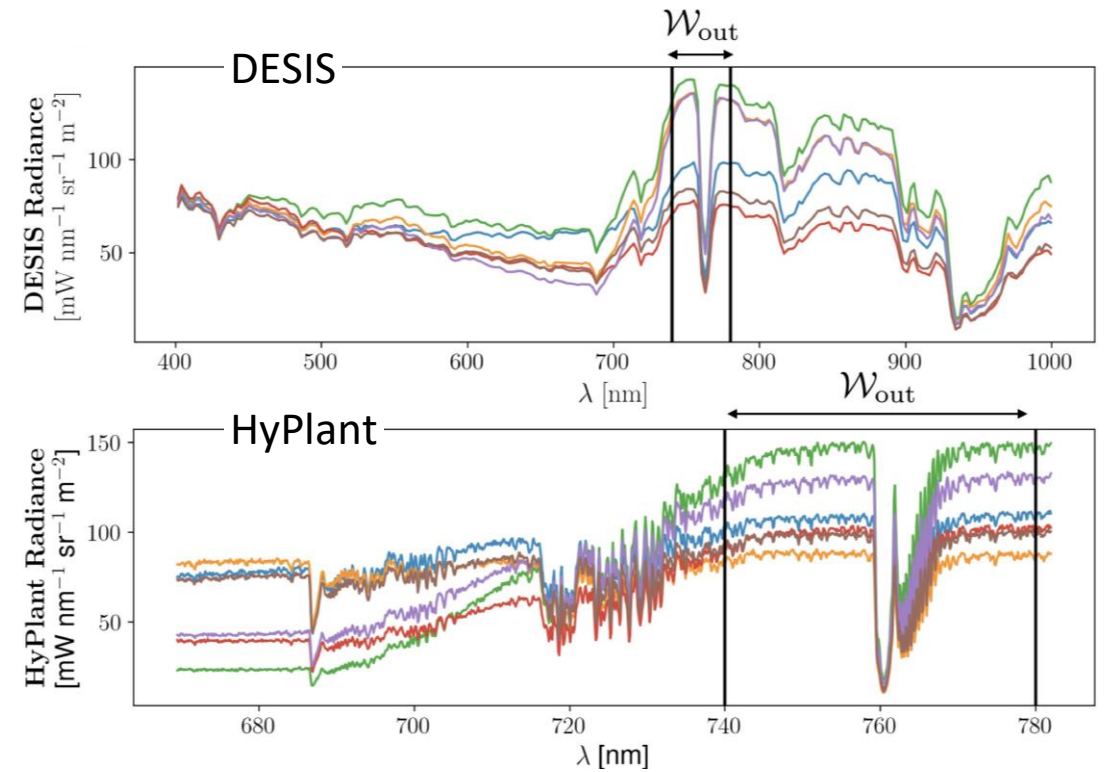
HyPlant FLUO  
(0.5 - 2 m)



DESI (30 m)

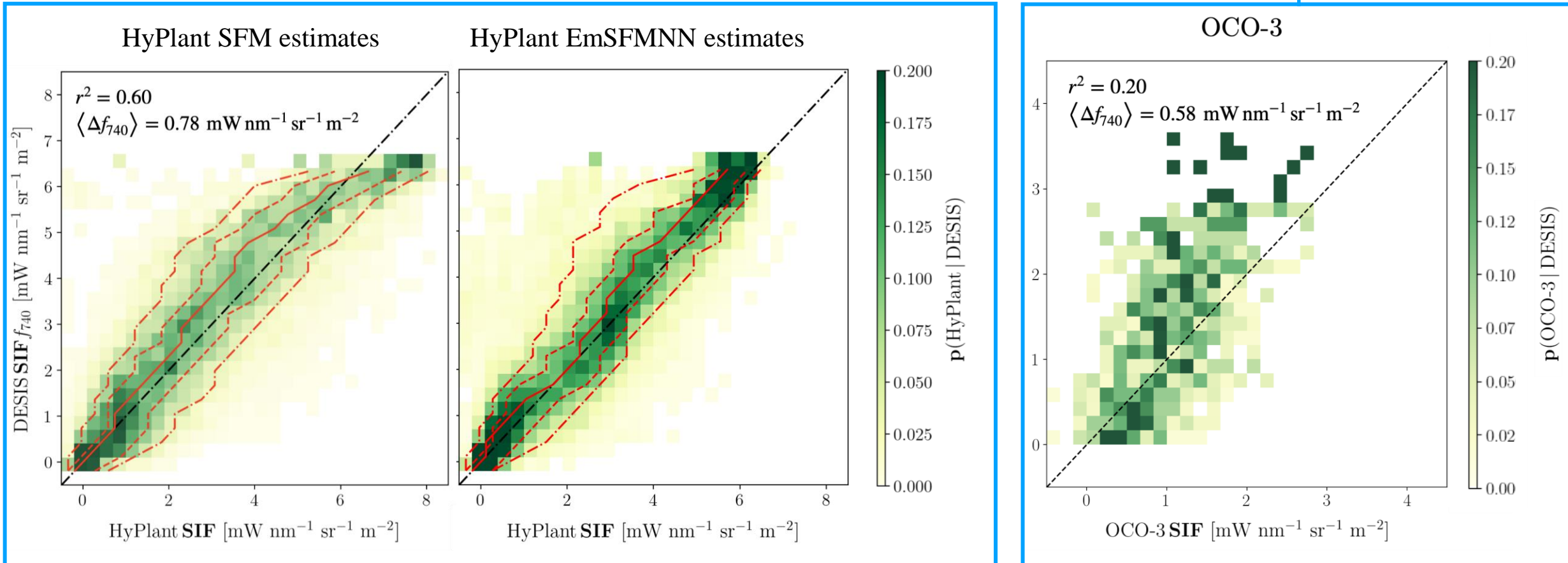


Spectral resolution is different  
(0.25 vs. 3.5 nm)

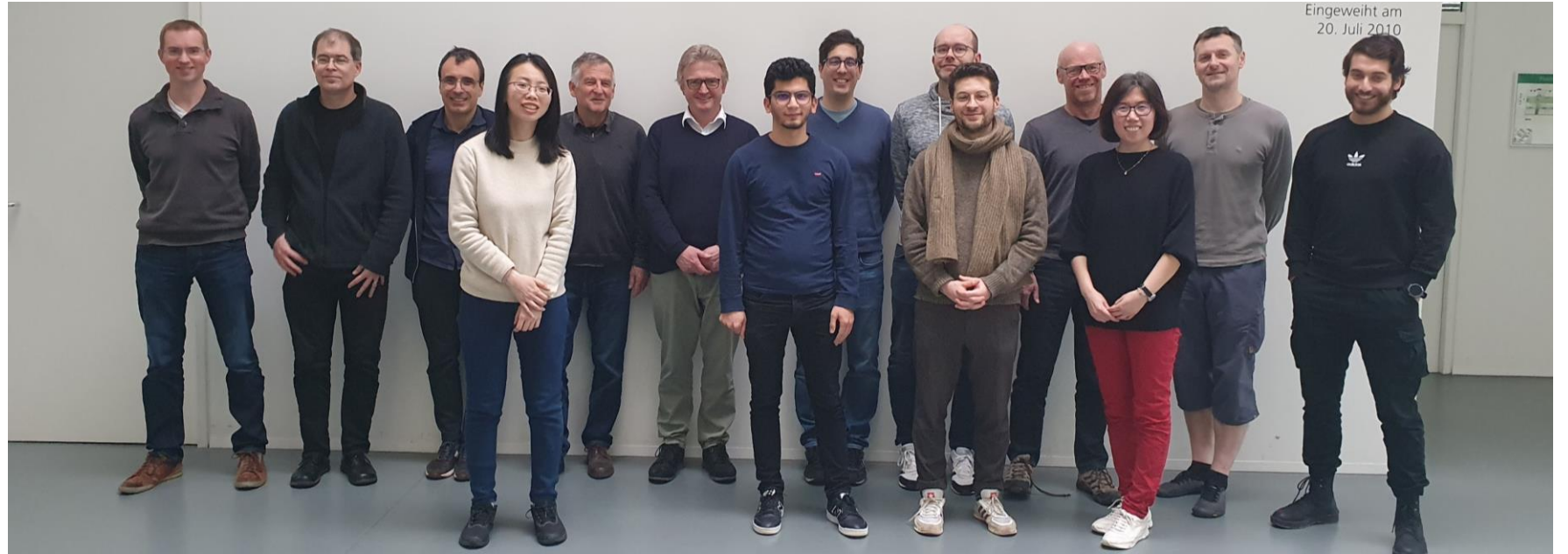
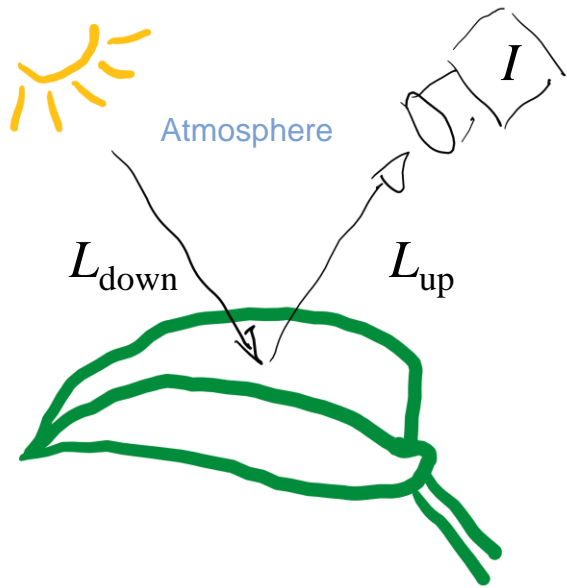


# Comparison of DESIS with quasi-simultaneous HyPlant data

Point matches with OCO-3 data (global)



Coincident data set of DESIS and HyPlant



# A DEEP-LEARNING-BASED METHOD FOR THE RETRIEVAL OF SUN-INDUCED PLANT FLUORESCENCE FROM AIRBORNE AND SPACEBORNE HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGERY

Hanno Scharr, Data Analytics and Machine Learning, Forschungszentrum Jülich