



Earth vision 2020 workshop  
CVPR conference, Seattle, June 14-19, 2000  
Devis Tuia, Jan Wegner, Ronny Hänsch



MichaelStifelCenterJena  
for Data-Driven and Simulation Science

# Linking machine learning and physical-biological dynamic system modelling

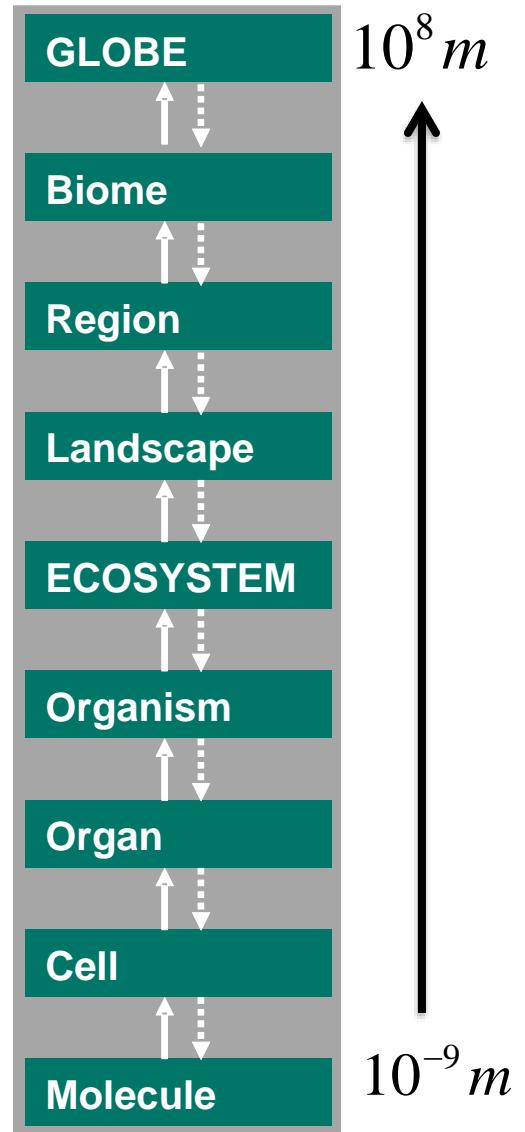
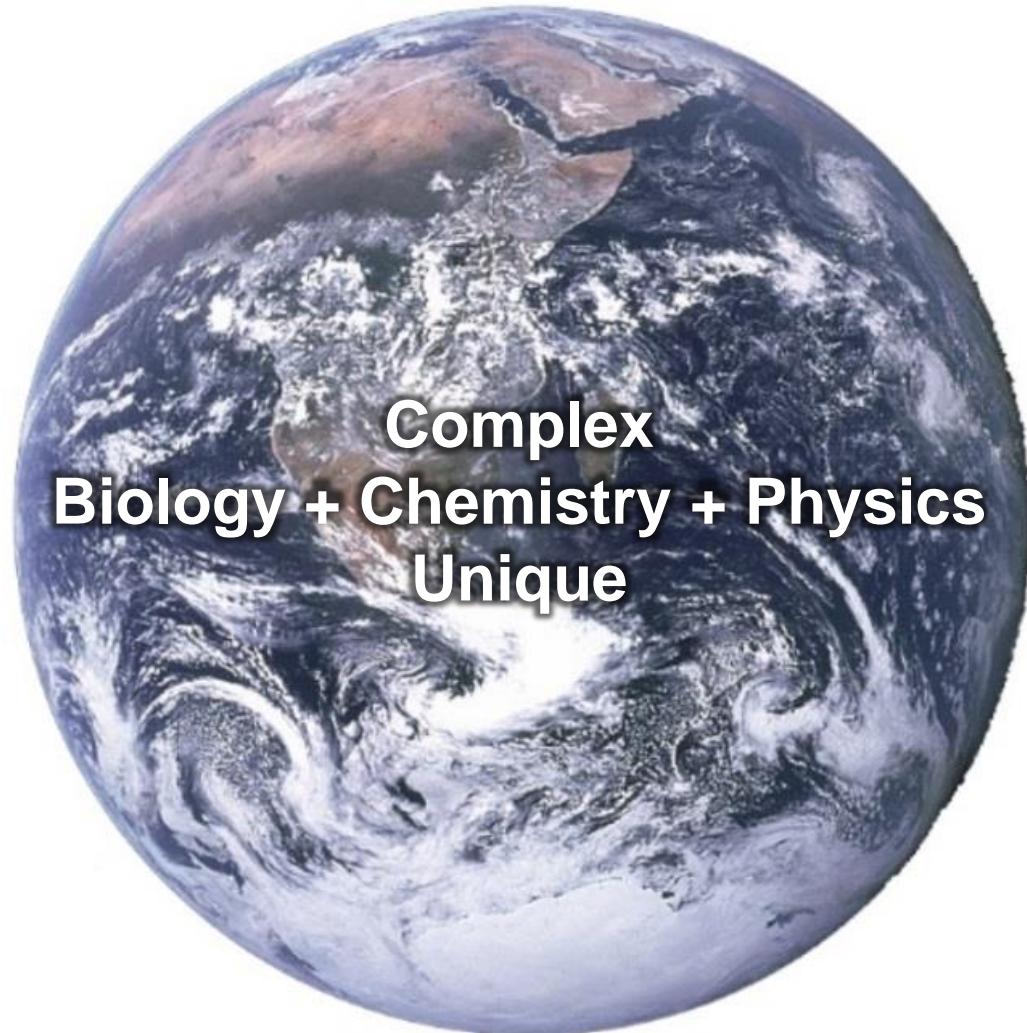
**Markus Reichstein\*, Fabian Gans, Basil Kraft, Nuno Carvalhais, Martin Jung**

*Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena*

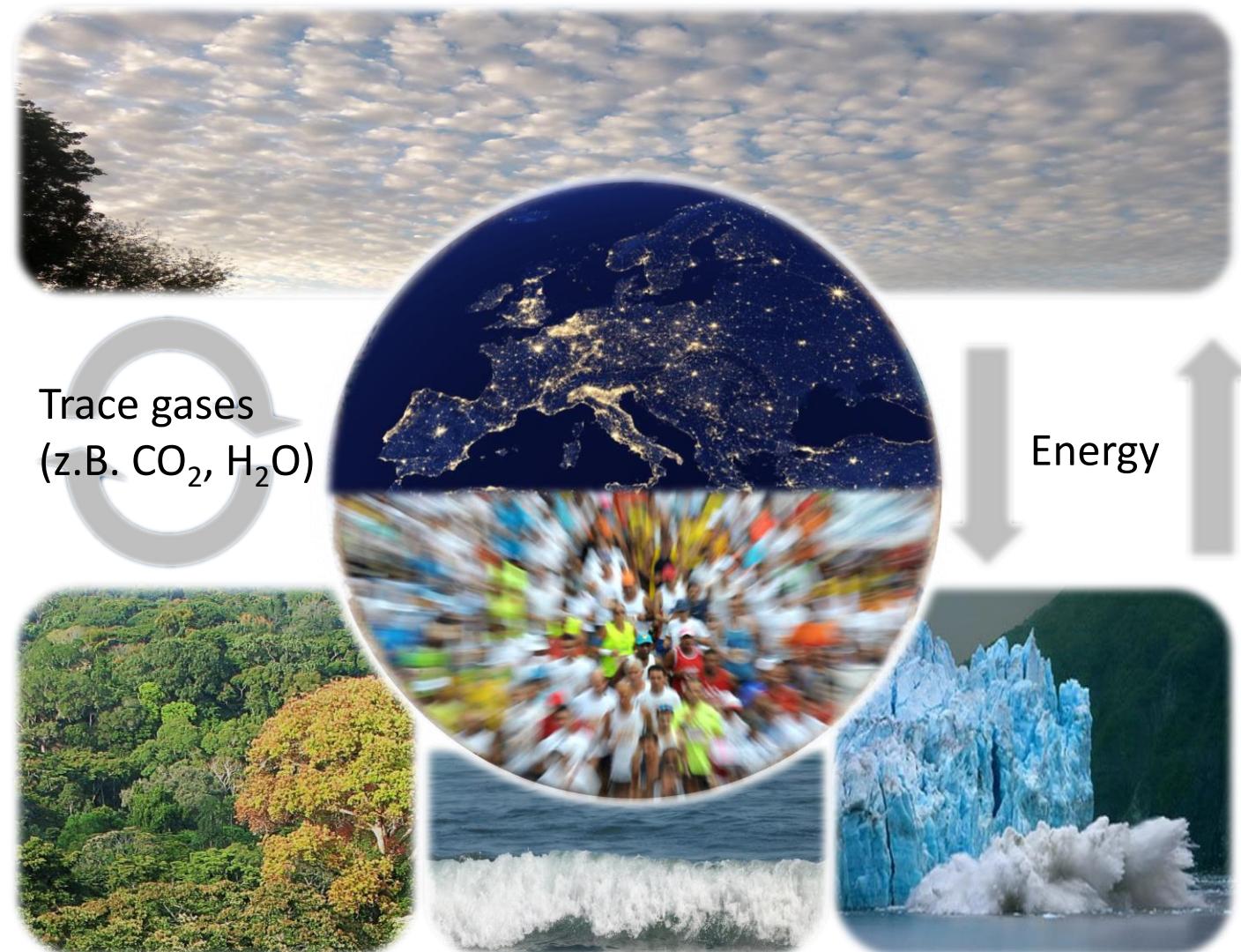
*Michael-Stifel-Center Jena for Data-driven and Simulation Science*

*\*mreichstein@bgc-jena.mpg.de, @Reichstein\_BGC*

# The Earth System

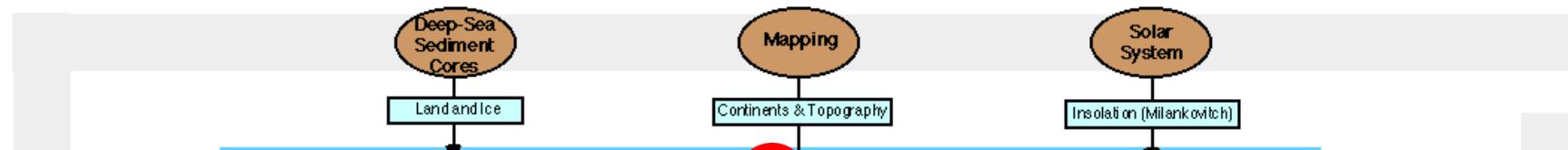


# “Spheres” in the Earth System



Earth System Science established in the Max-Planck-Society

CONCEPTUAL MODEL of Earth System process operating on timescales of decades to centuries

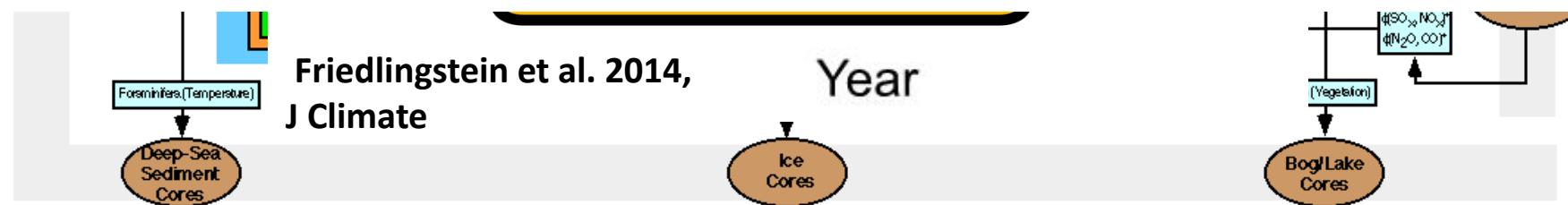


# PERSPECTIVE

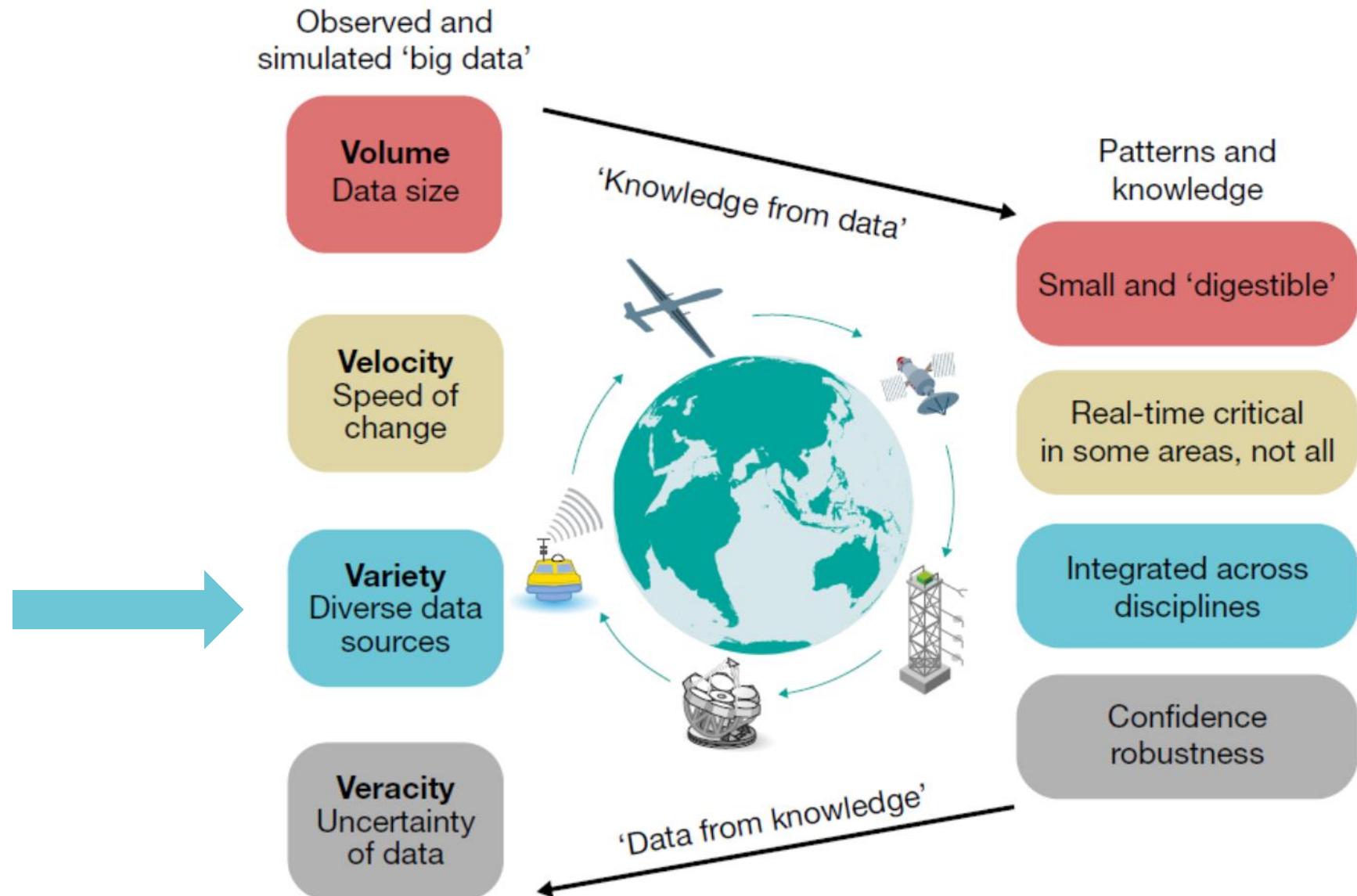
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-0912-1>

## Deep learning and process understanding for data-driven Earth system science

Markus Reichstein<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Gustau Camps-Valls<sup>3</sup>, Bjorn Stevens<sup>4</sup>, Martin Jung<sup>1</sup>, Joachim Denzler<sup>2,5</sup>, Nuno Carvalhais<sup>1,6</sup> & Prabhat<sup>7</sup>

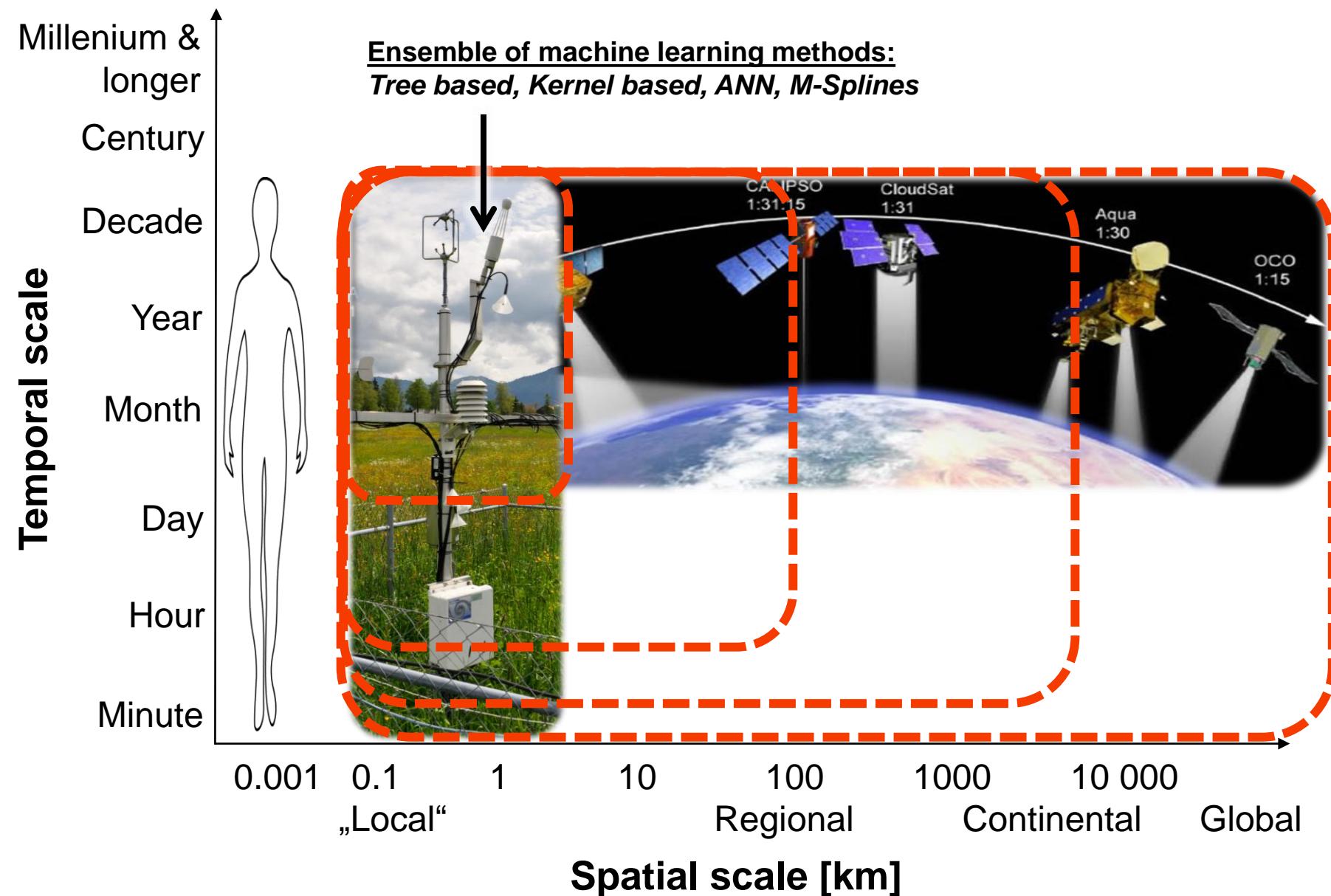


\* = on timescale of hours to days \* = on timescale of months to seasons  $\phi$  = flux n = concentration



Reichstein et al. 2019, Nature

# Integrating the variety: “up-scaling” example



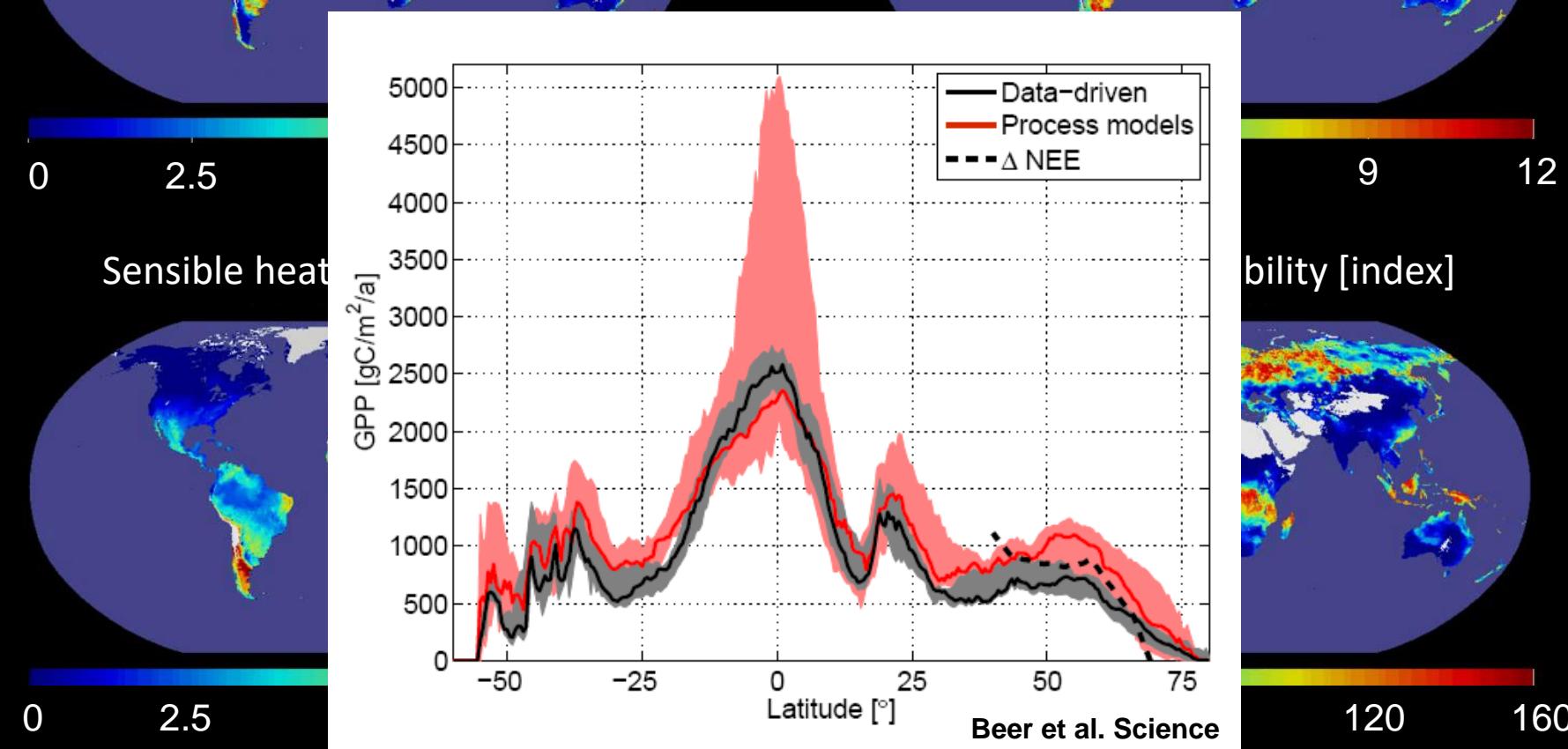
# Data-driven view on dynamic Biosphere-Atmosphere Exchange

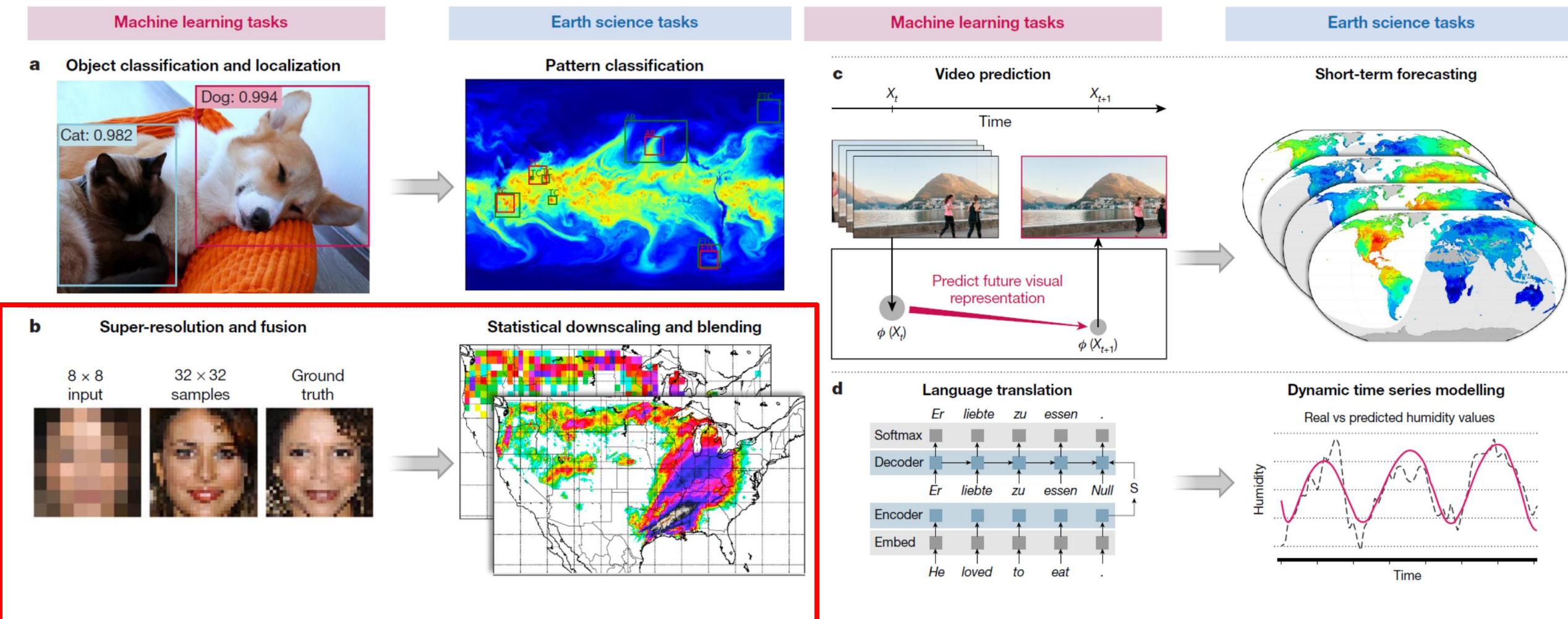
Primary production (GPP) [ $\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ]

Evapotranspiration [ $\text{MJ m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ]

**Dynamic effects only considered with some hand-designed features**

**Spatial context not considered: – pixel by pixel prediction**

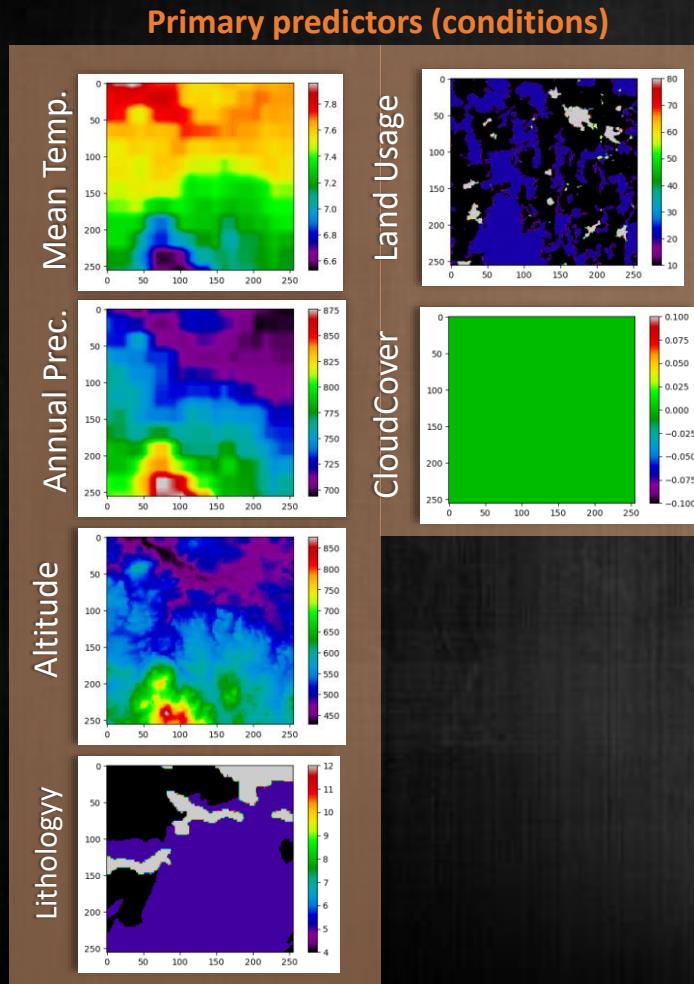




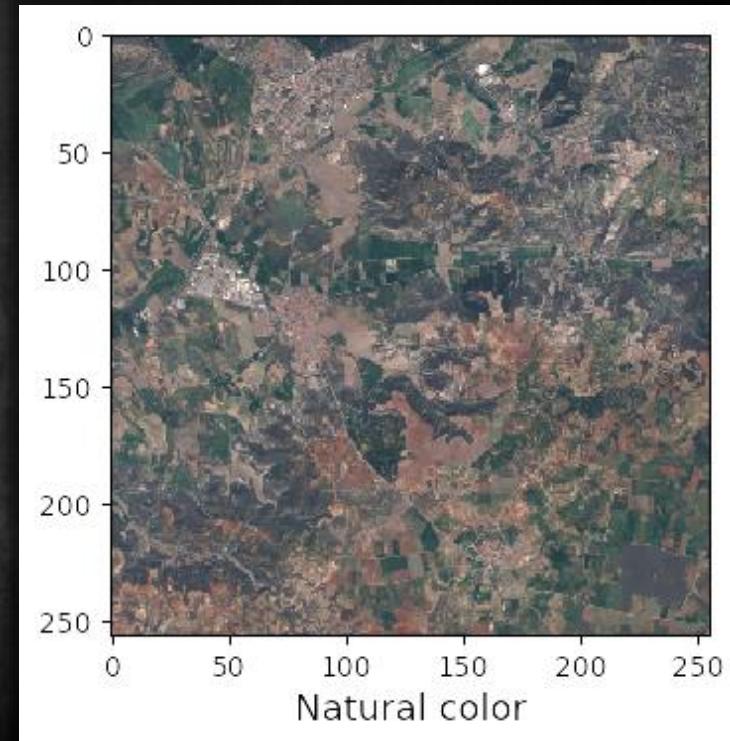
Reichstein et al. (2019)

# “Predicting” whole landscapes as seen from space

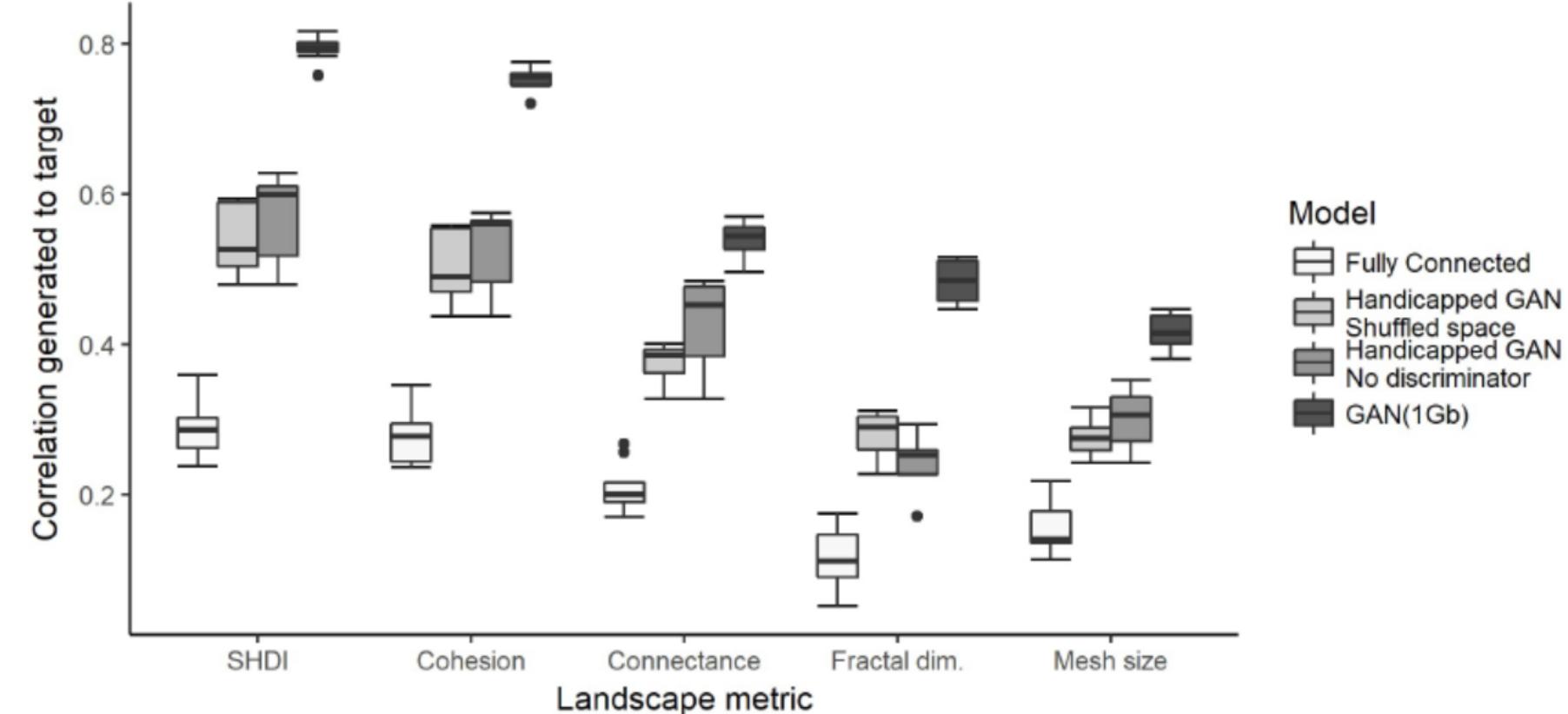
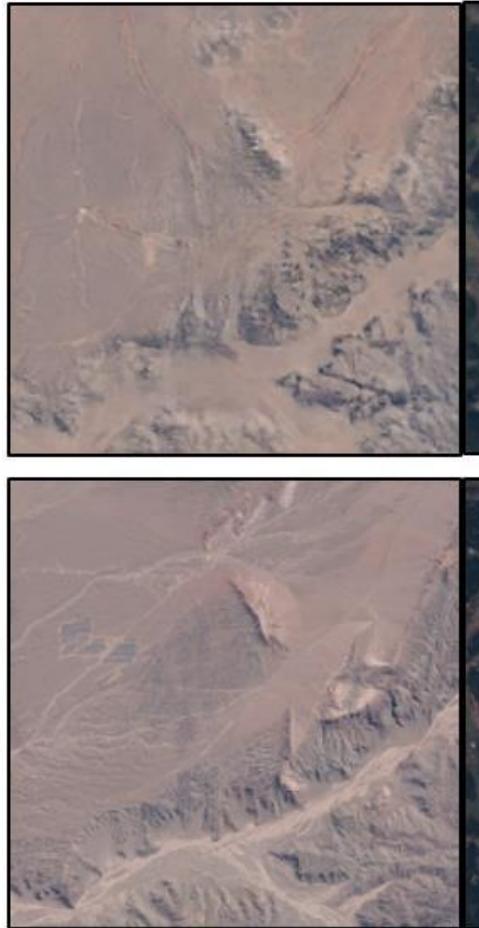
Example data sample : Tile 33UVQ86 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017)



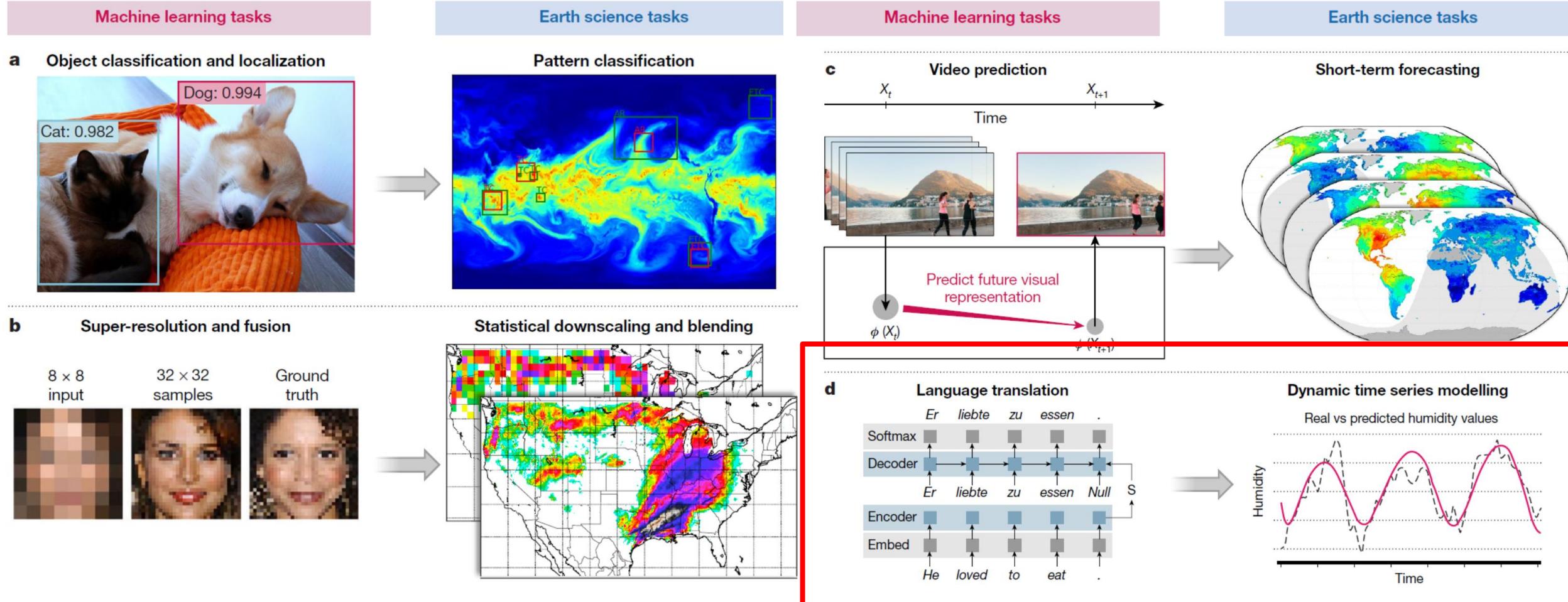
cGAN



“Predicted”

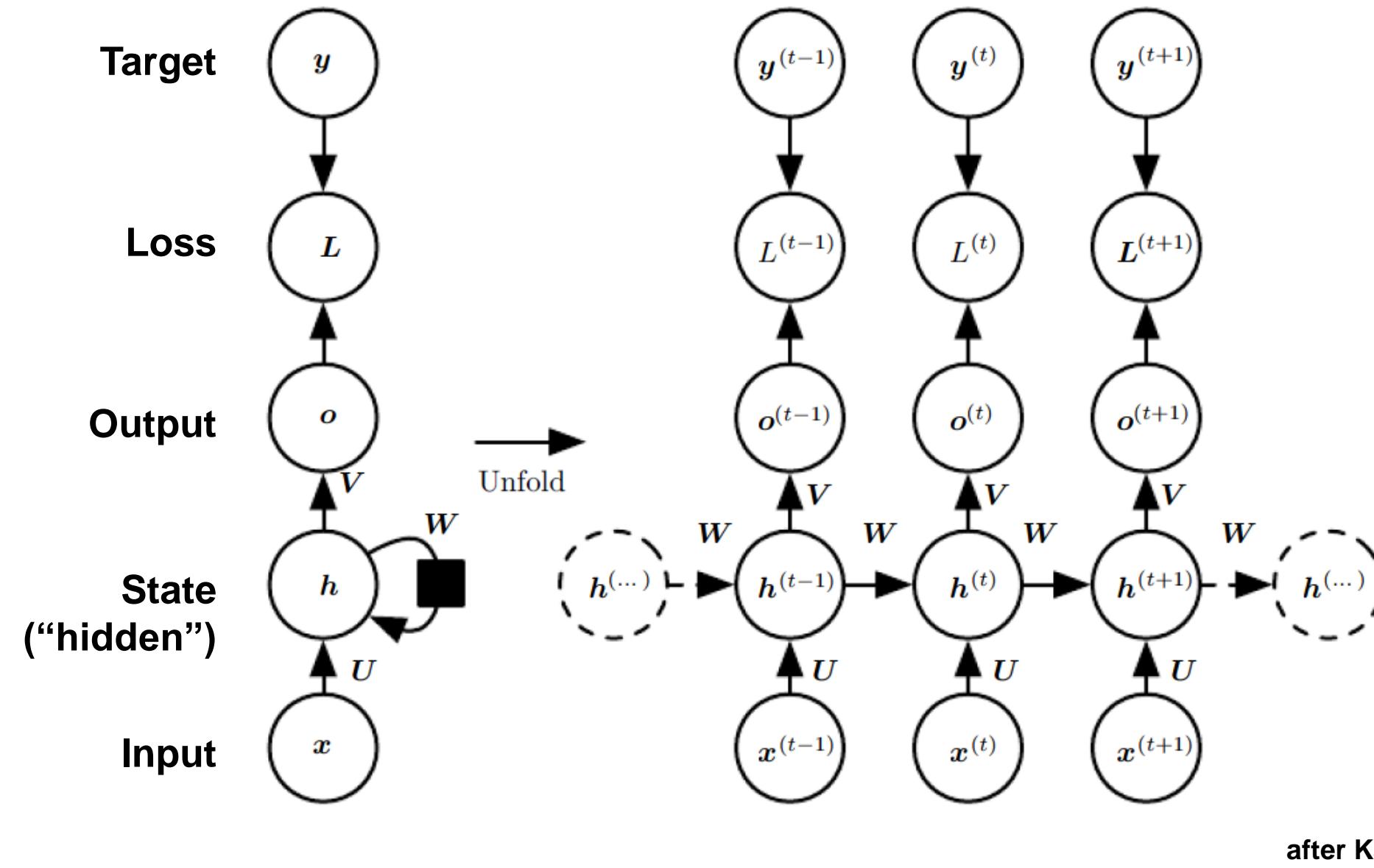
**But: Understanding and physical consistency???**

Requena et al. 2019, GCPR

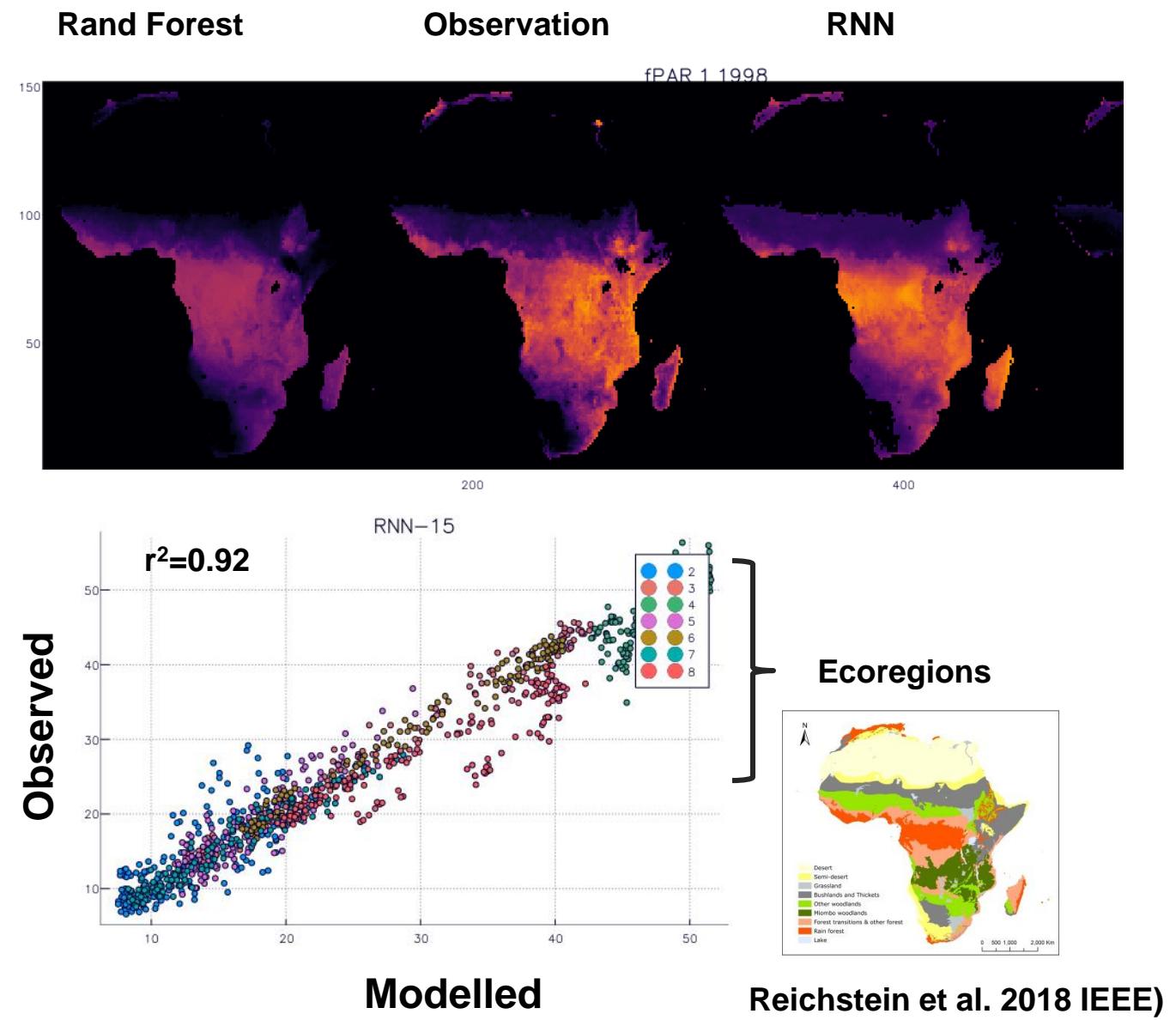


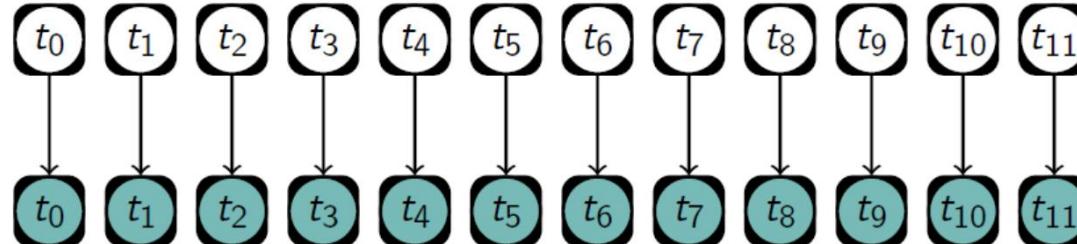
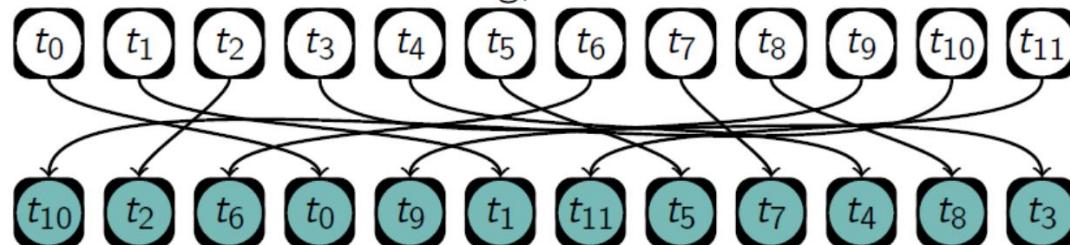
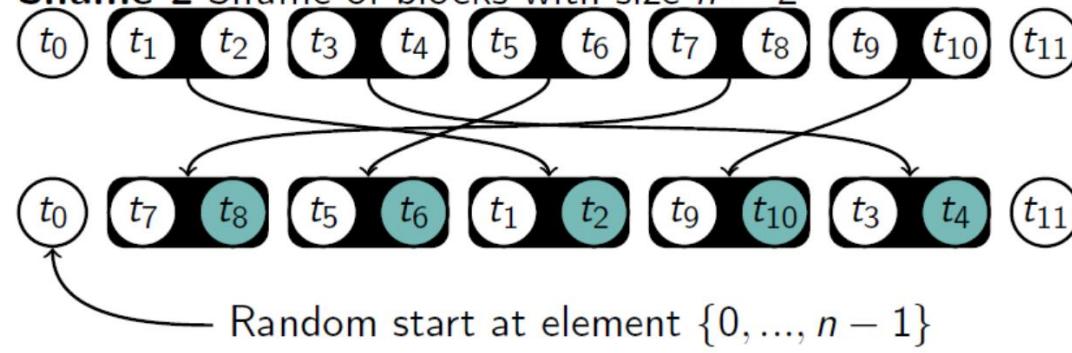
Reichstein et al. (2019)

- Time-varying properties which depend on past (possibly latent) variables
- Typically described with differential or time-discrete analogue equations
- Examples:
  - Vegetation development depends on cumulative temperature over winter-spring (“temperature sums”)
  - Simple water balance:  $SM(t) = \int_{t_0}^t [Q(t) - ET(t) - D(t)]dt$
  - Depletion of carbohydrate reserves in a drought and carry-over effects



- Target: GIMMS fPAR variability over Africa, 0.5° lat/lon, monthly, 1982-2014
- Two approaches:
  1. Random Forest with standard meteorological predictors **plus lagged and cumulative water variables** (e.g. relative humidity, soil moisture previous months) ← from Feature selection algorithm [Jung et al.]
  2. Recurrent neural network with **only** standard meteorological drivers and vegetation type etc. (trained on 4% of the pixels only)

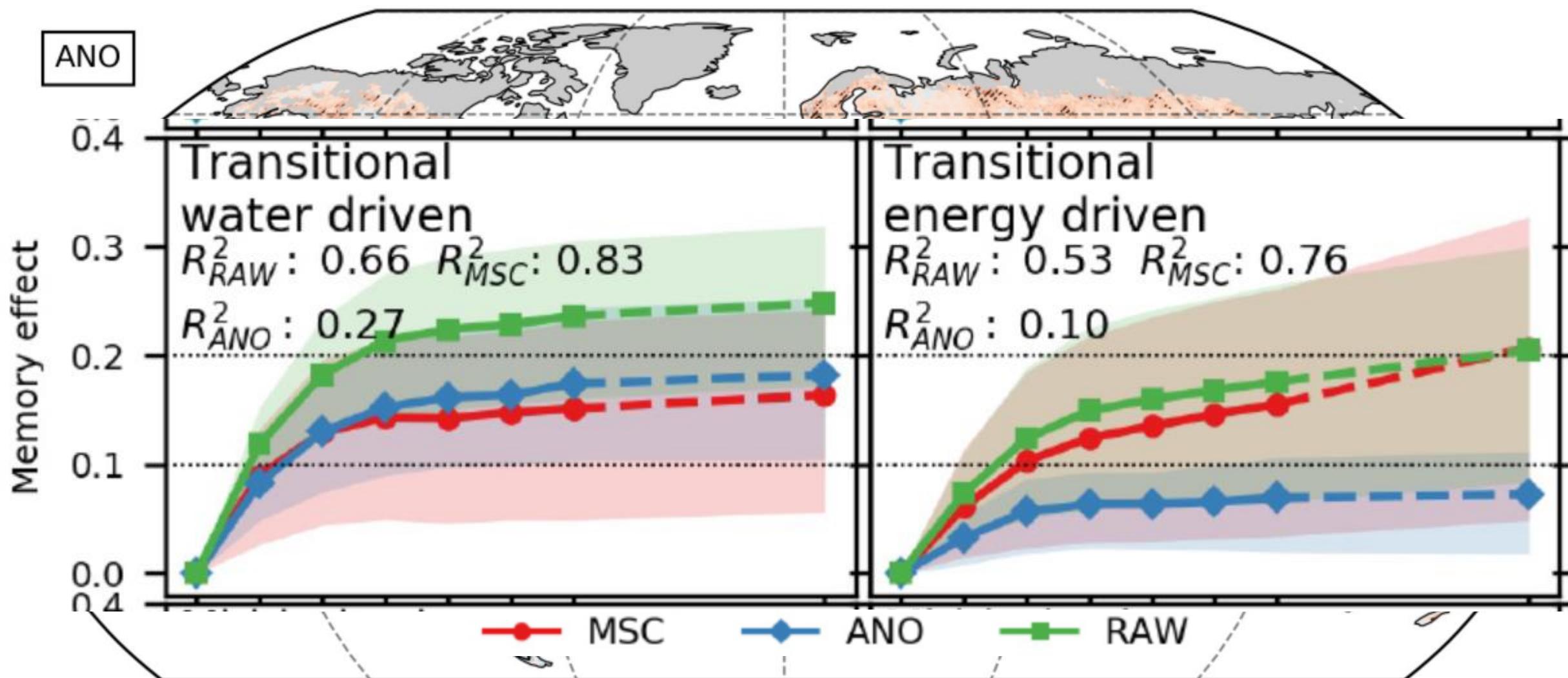


**Shuffle 0** No shuffling**Shuffle 1** Random shuffling,  $n = 1$ **Shuffle 2** Shuffle of blocks with size  $n = 2$ **Memory effect**

:=

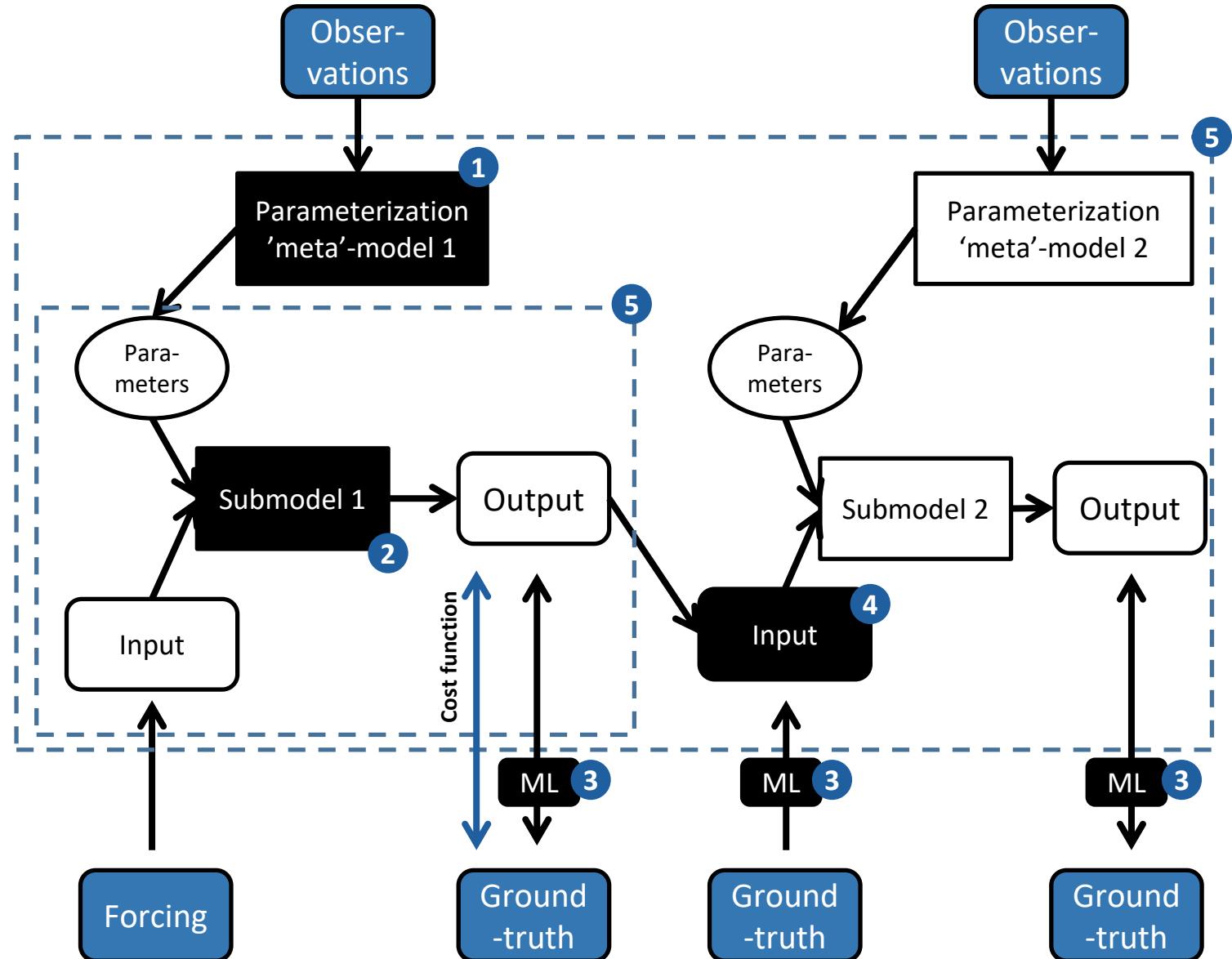
**Error with permutation**  
**minus**  
**Error without permutation**

$$\text{Mem} := \text{RMSE}_{\text{perm}} - \text{RMSE}_{\text{nonPerm}}$$



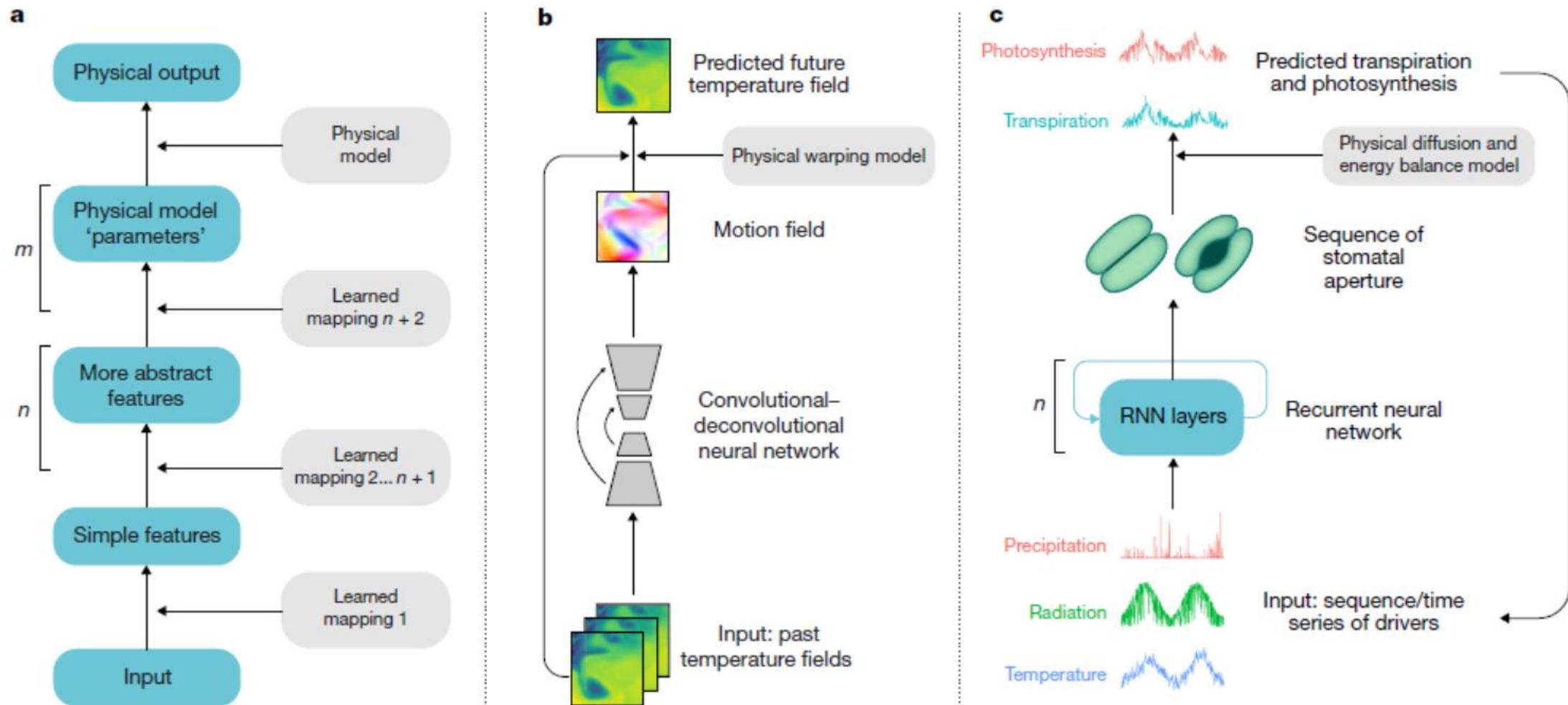
To do: Attribution to specific drivers and (latent) states

Kraft et al. 2019, Frontiers in Big Data



1. Model parameterization
2. Hybrid modelling
3. Pattern-oriented model evaluation and calibration
4. Driving a model with machine learning output
5. Model Emulation

Reichstein et al. (2019)

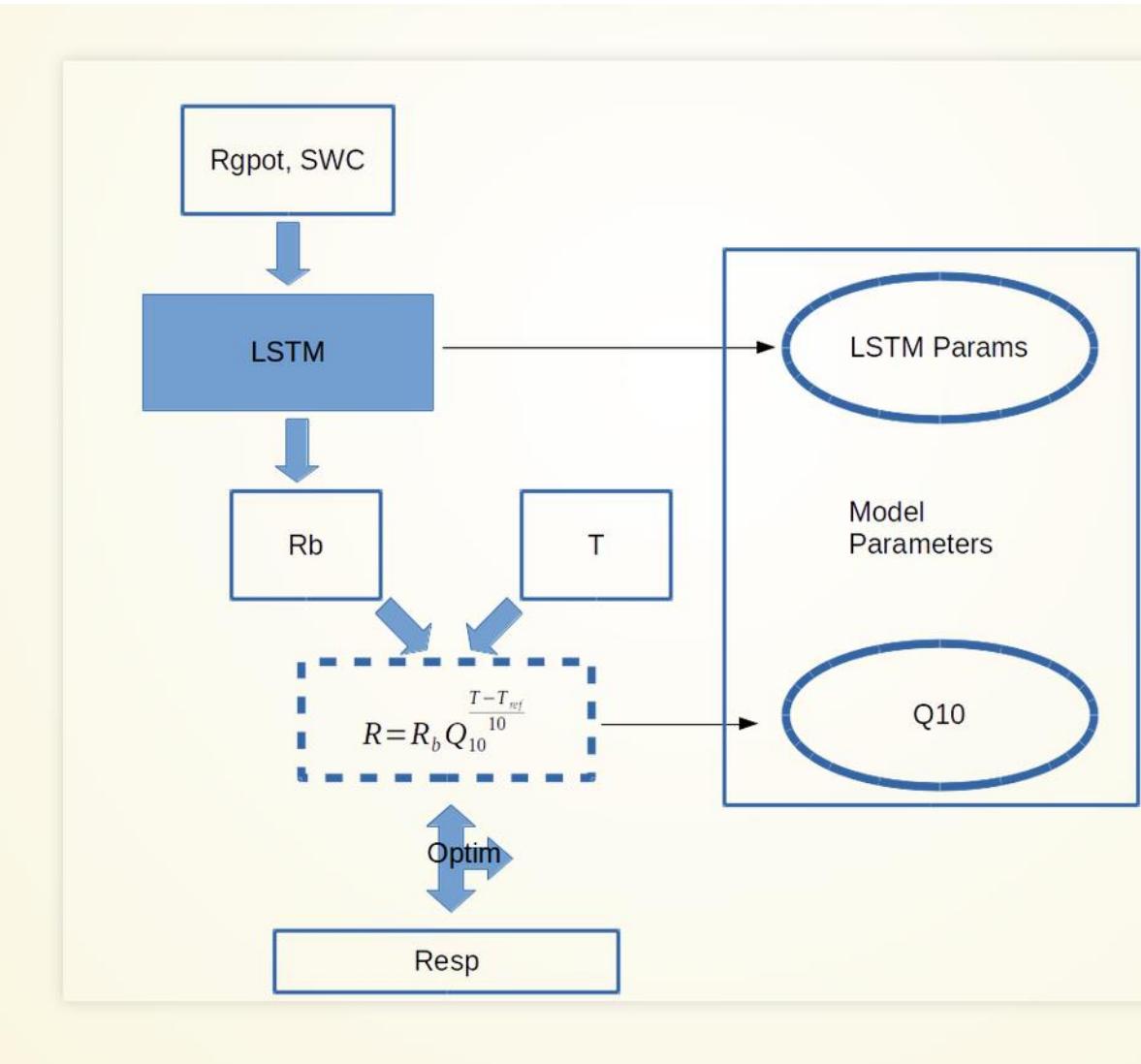


Only one perspective: complementary approach is theory-guided ML  
 (e.g. Karpatne et al.)

Reichstein et al. (2019)

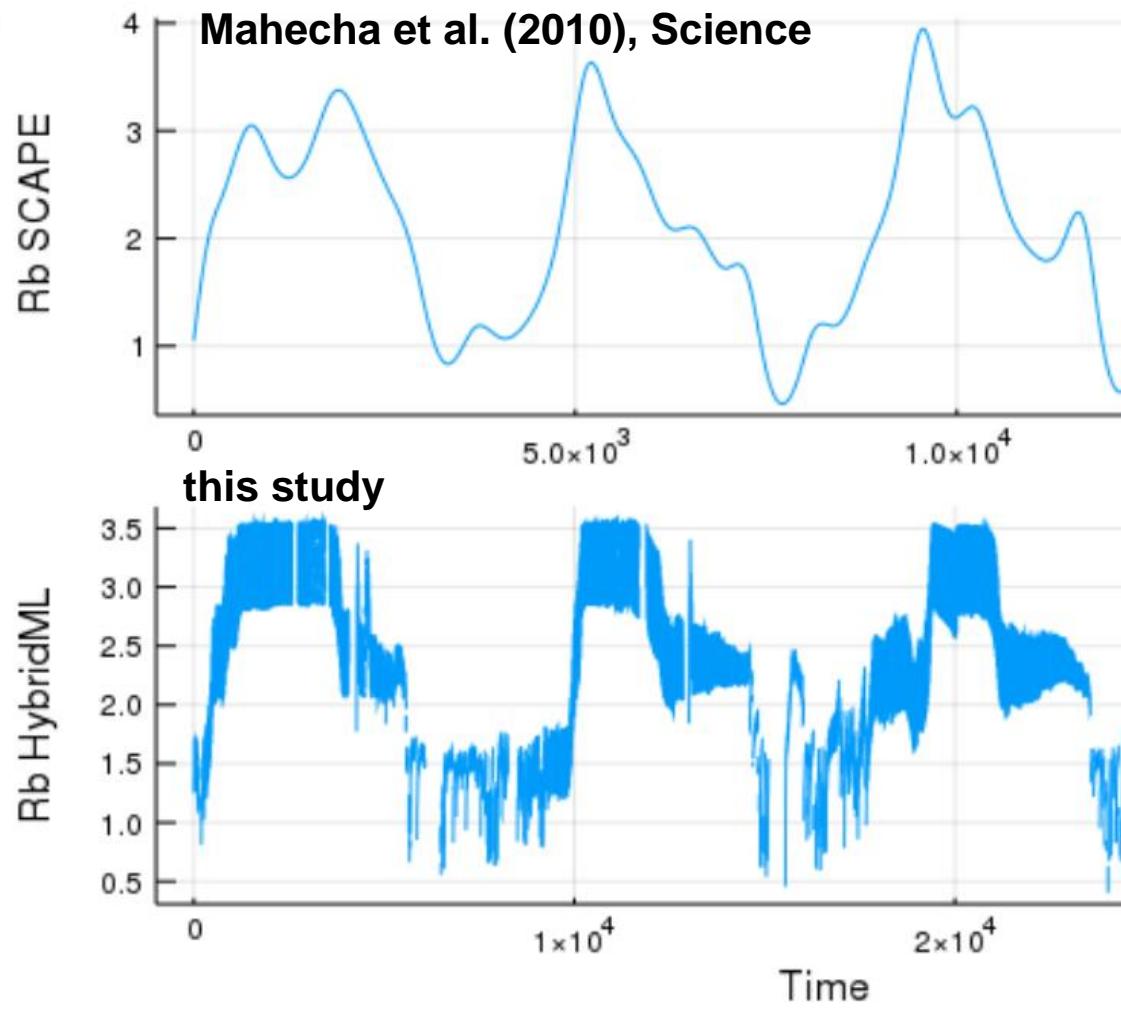
$$Resp(t) = R_b(t) * Q_{10}^{\frac{T(t)-T_{ref}}{10}}$$

{ Biological "base" activity = f(potential factors) }      { Physico-chemical temperature dependence }

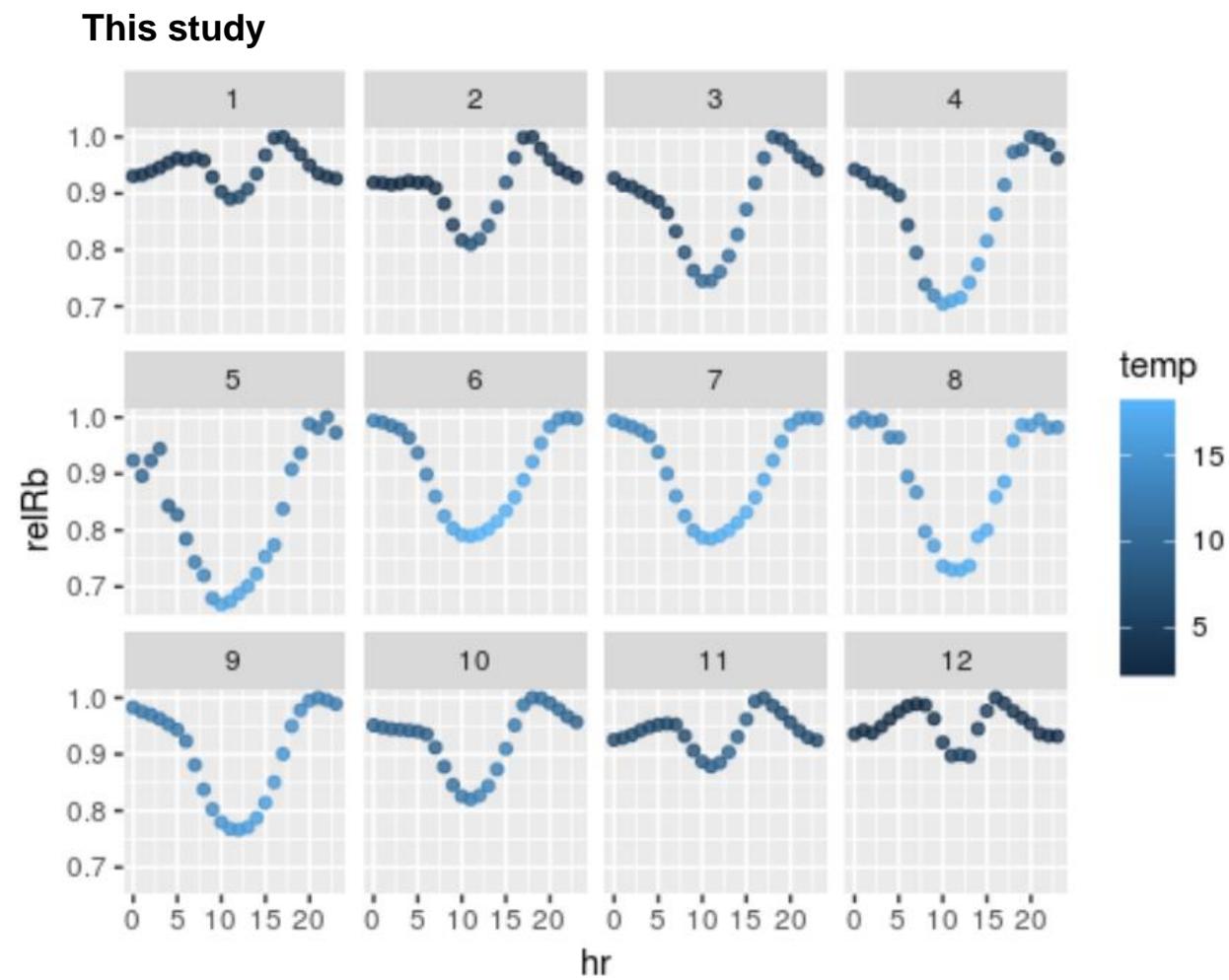


Gans, et al. in prep.

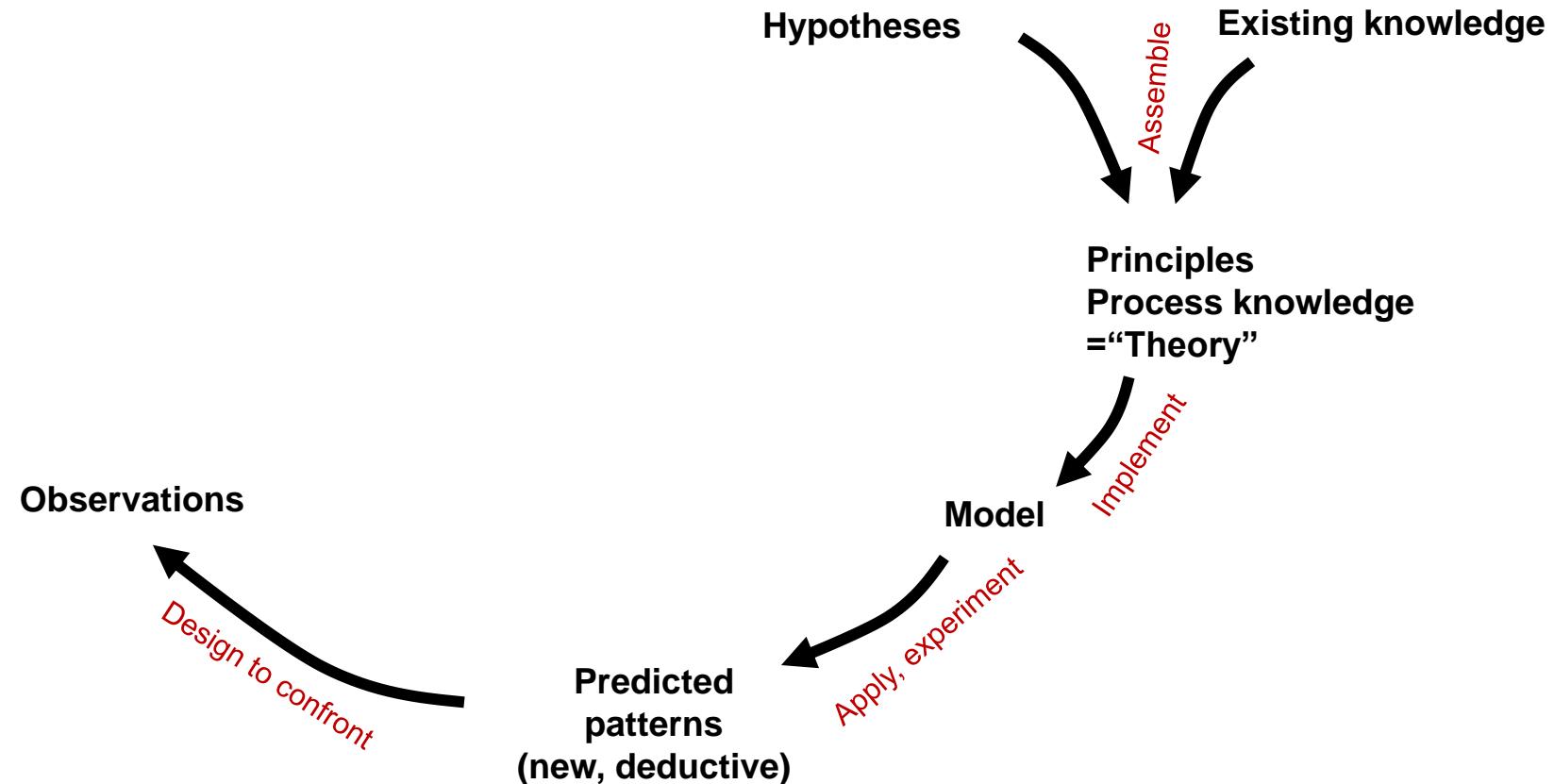
## Seasonal scale



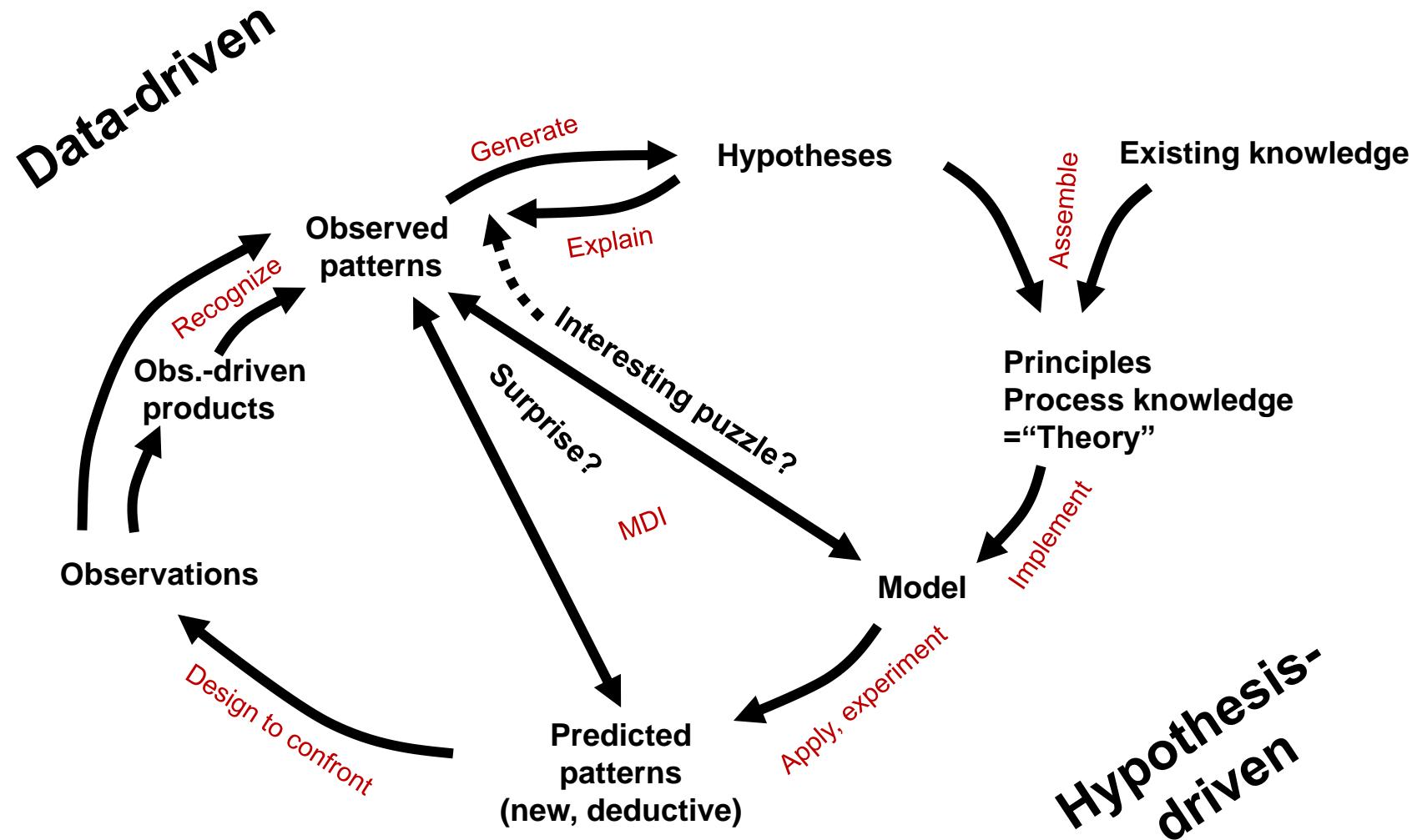
## Diurnal scale



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Markus Reichstein [mreichstein@bgc-jena.mpg.de](mailto:mreichstein@bgc-jena.mpg.de)  
for info on this topic



Reichstein et al. (2019)



# Shameless advertisement...



**USMILE ERC Synergy Grant** @USMILE\_ERC · Oct 14

We are excited to announce the USMILE @ERC\_Research #Synergy grant "Understanding and modeling the #Earth System with #MachineLearning". Hybrid #physics-ML modeling and #causality on our Planet! @USMILE\_ERC



1

4

19



**Through this and other developments:**

**PhD, PostDoc, group leader opportunities at the interface of machine learning and Earth system science in an int'l environment!**



Max Planck Institute  
for Biogeochemistry



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