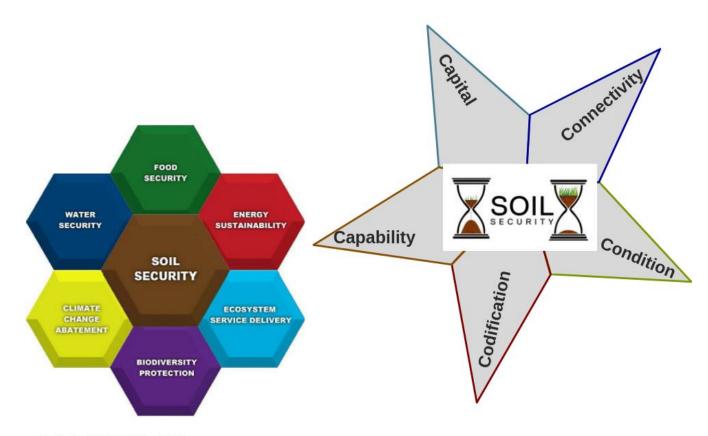


Modelling and mapping global soil information

Laura Poggio, Luis Moreira de Sousa, Gerard Heuvelink, Bas Kempen, Zhanguo Bai, Ulan Turdukulov, Maria Ruiperez-Gonzalez, Eloi Ribeiro, Niels Batjes, Rik van den Bosch



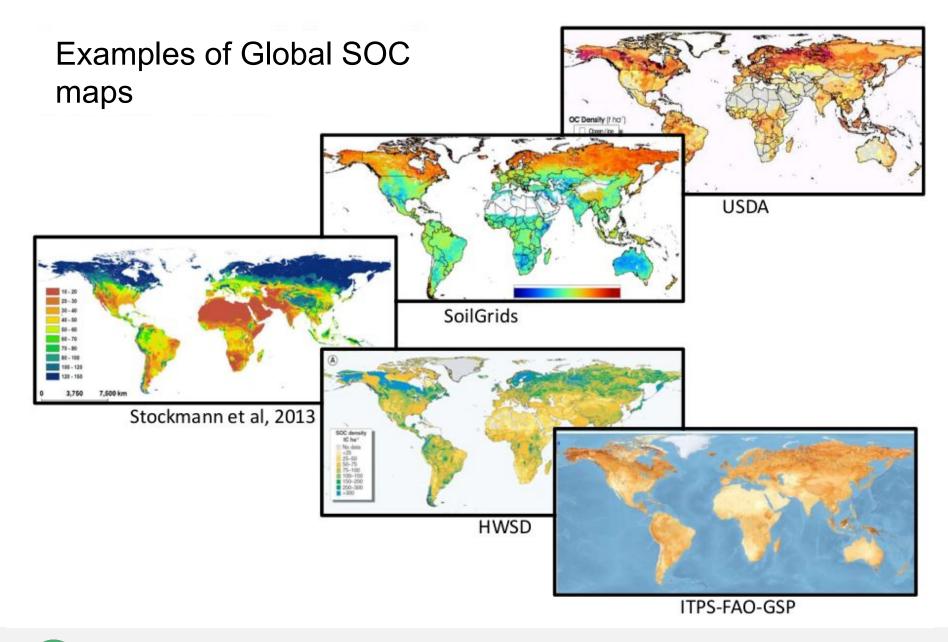
Why modelling at global scale?



Koch et al, 2013, Global Policy; McBratney et al, 2014, Geoderma





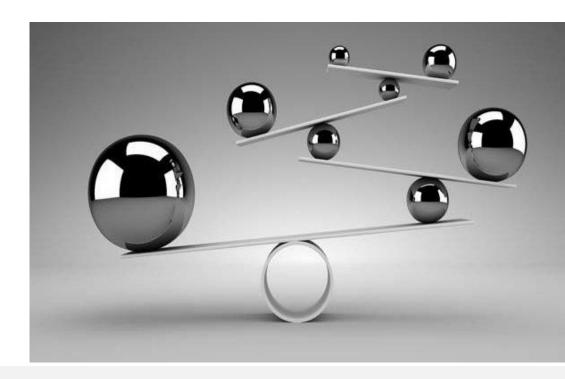






Challenges

- Data
- Covariates
- Modelling

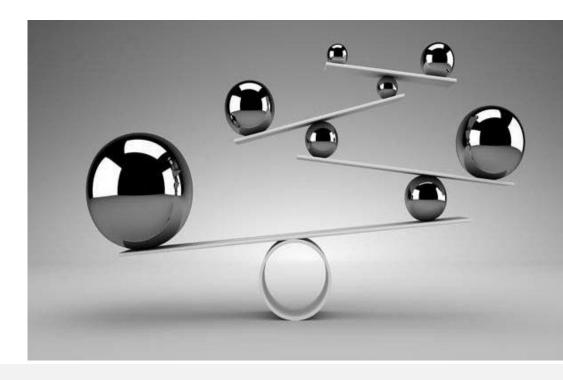






Challenges

- Quality control
- Computational resources

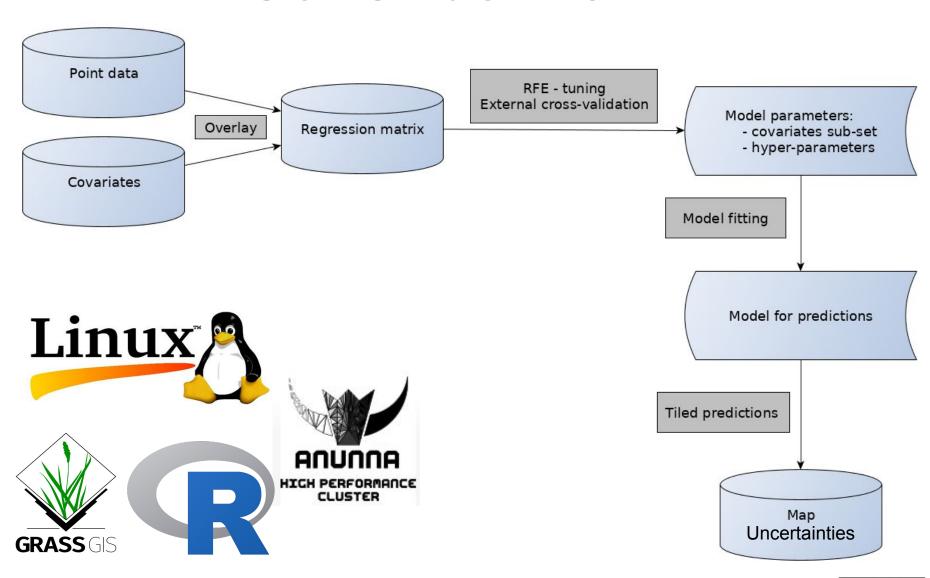






SoilGrids 2.0

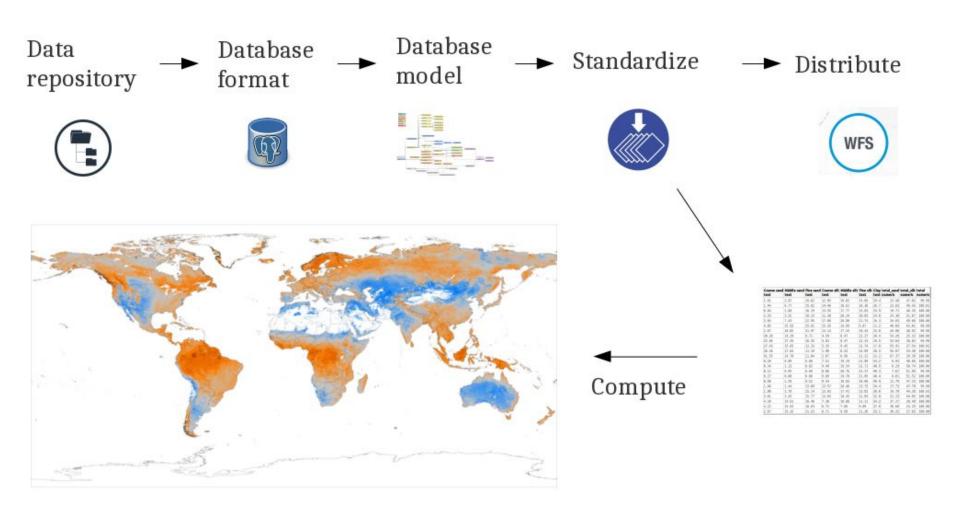








Data





Model tuning for global modelling

- Spatially balanced 10 fold cross-validation
- Covariates selection for parsimonious model
- Model tuning: performances and uncertainty





Covariates











Tuning: parsimonious model



Covariates selection:

- De-correlation
- Successive removal by performances maximisation
- Covariates grouping

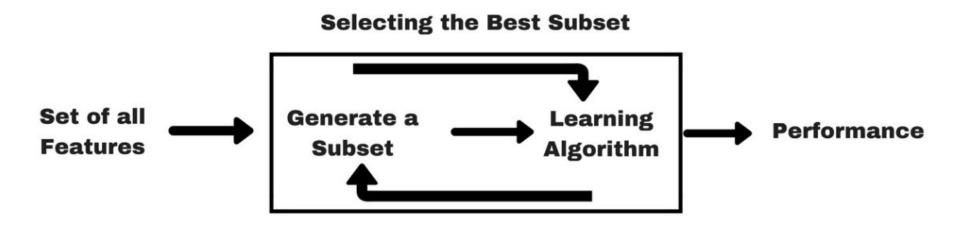




Covariates RFE

Recursive feature elimination:

- RandomForest (machine learning) broad equivalent of backward stepwise regression
- Optimised for large sets of covariates

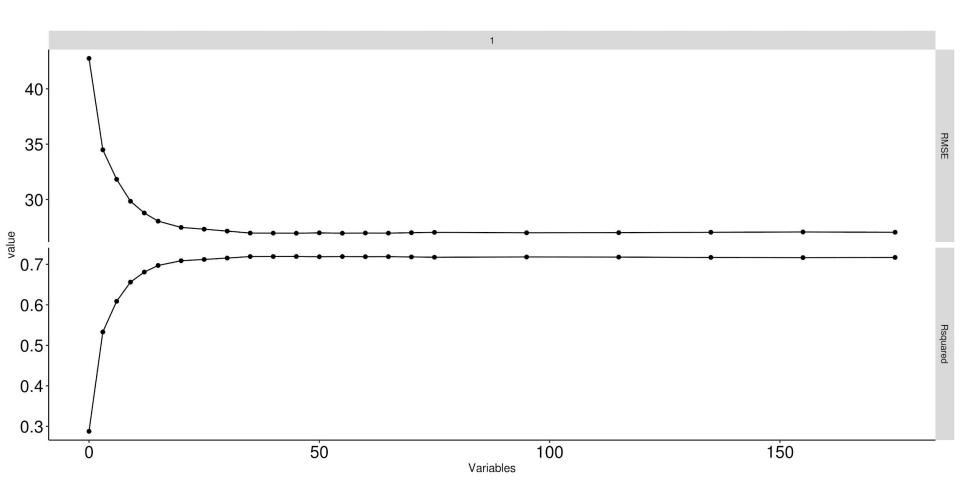






Covariates RFE



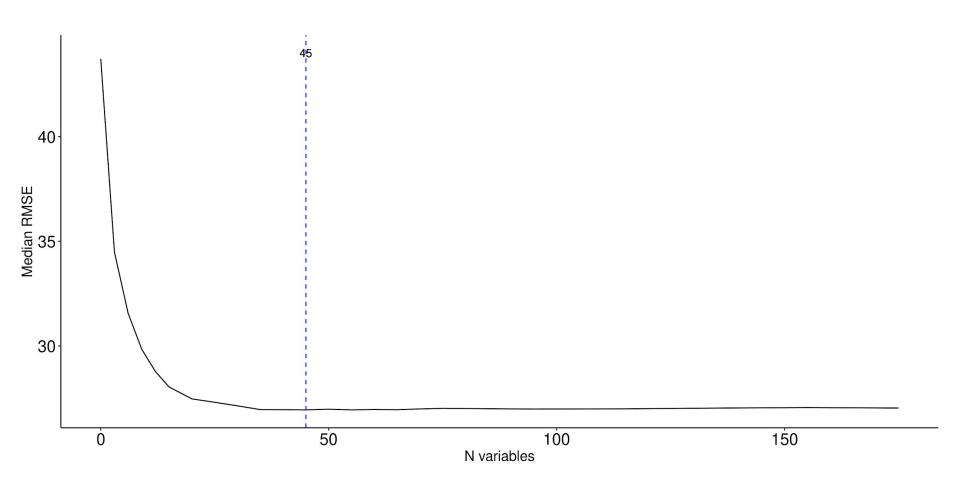






Covariates RFE



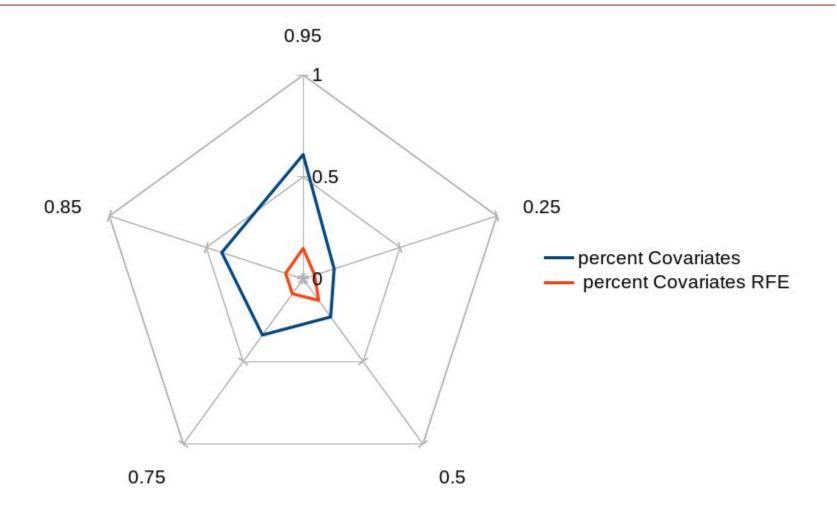






Covariates reduction



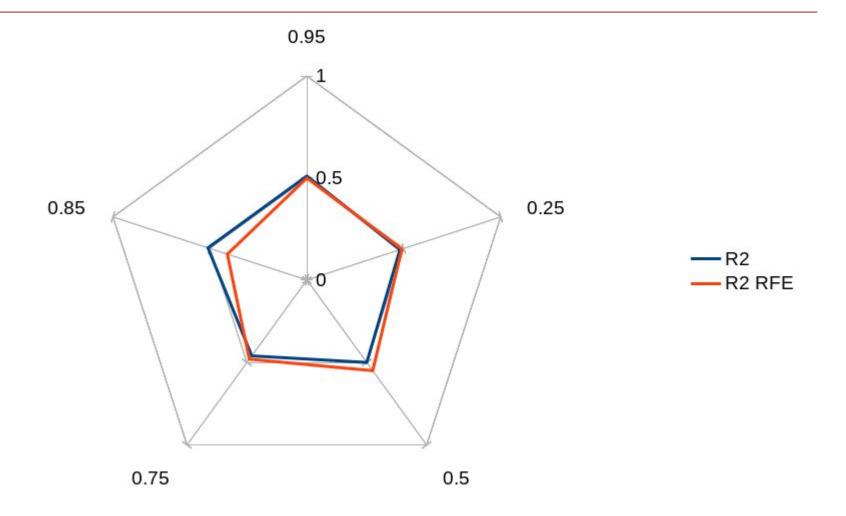






Covariates reduction



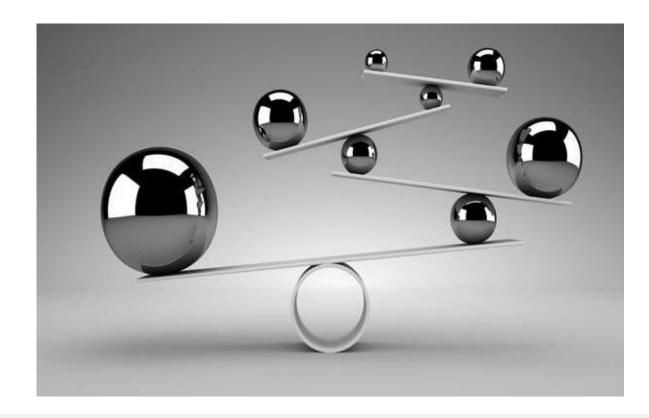






Parsimonious model

Less covariates similar performances

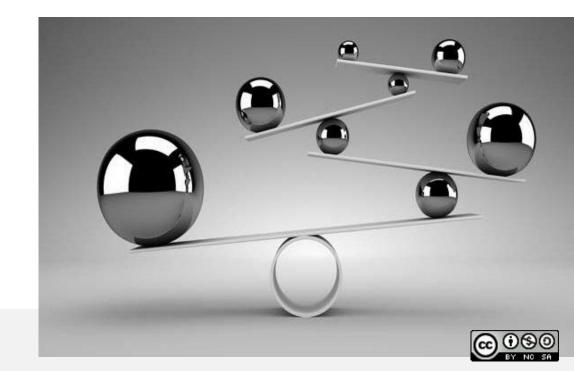






Tuning: hyperparameters

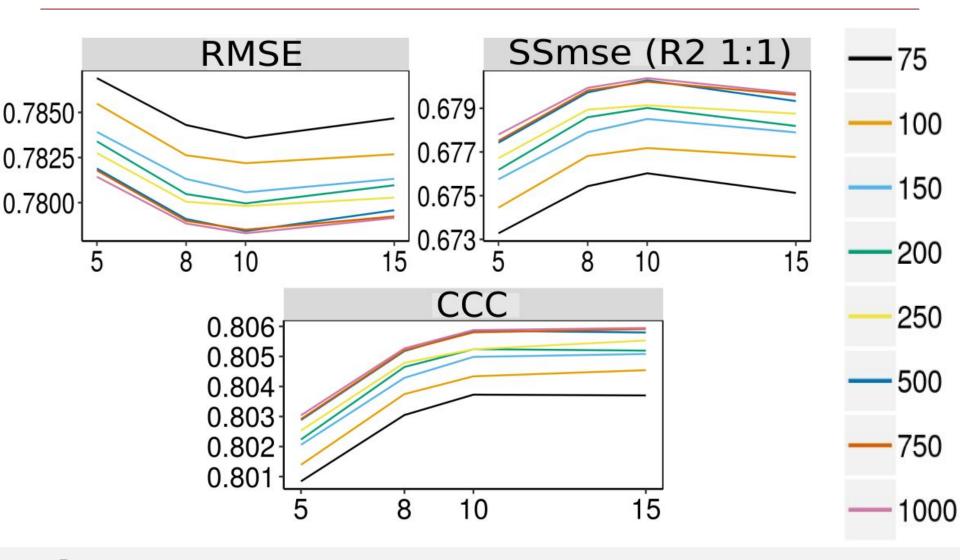
- 1. Covariates sub-set
- Model depending ---> QuantilesRandomForest (in this example)







Tuning - hyperparameters

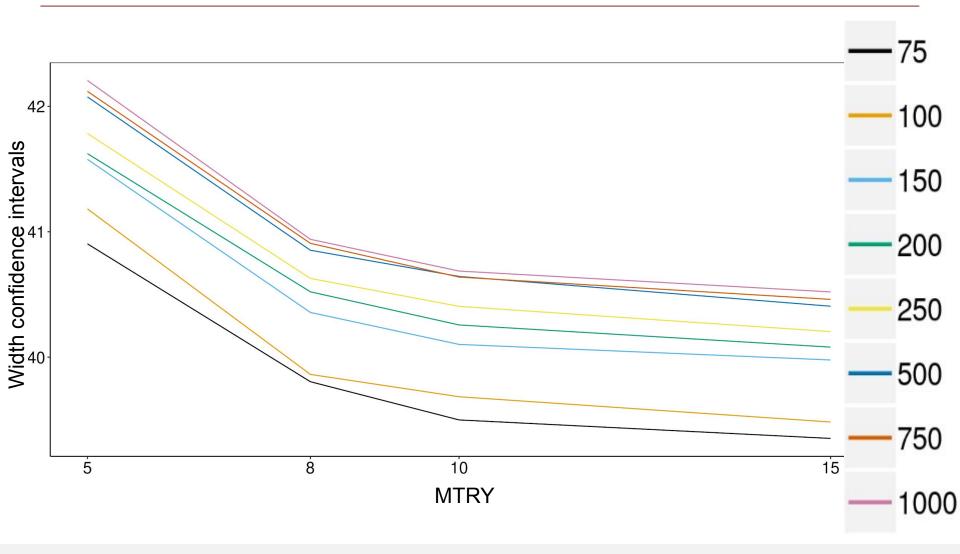






Tuning - Uncertainty and intervals









Tuning - Uncertainty and intervals

| | Validation points included in 90% intervals |
|------------------------------|---|
| Correlation | 0.928 |
| Correlation + RFE | 0.927 |
| Correlation + RFE + Grouping | 0.923 |





Open issues

- Depth:
 - 2D,2.5D,3D approach?
 - Spline?
 - Depth as covariate?
 - Something else?





Open issues

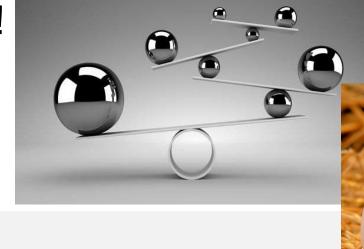
- Model:
 - Is ML (especially RandomForest) the best approach?
 - Are the predictions intervals created realistic?
 - Integration with national/regional models/results?





Concluding remarks

- Quality controlled and standardised input data
- Spatially aware cross-validation
- Parsimonious models
- Uncertainty assessment
- Open questions!







Thank you for listening

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