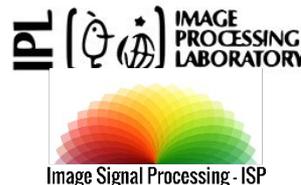


# Learning ordinary differential equations from remote sensing data



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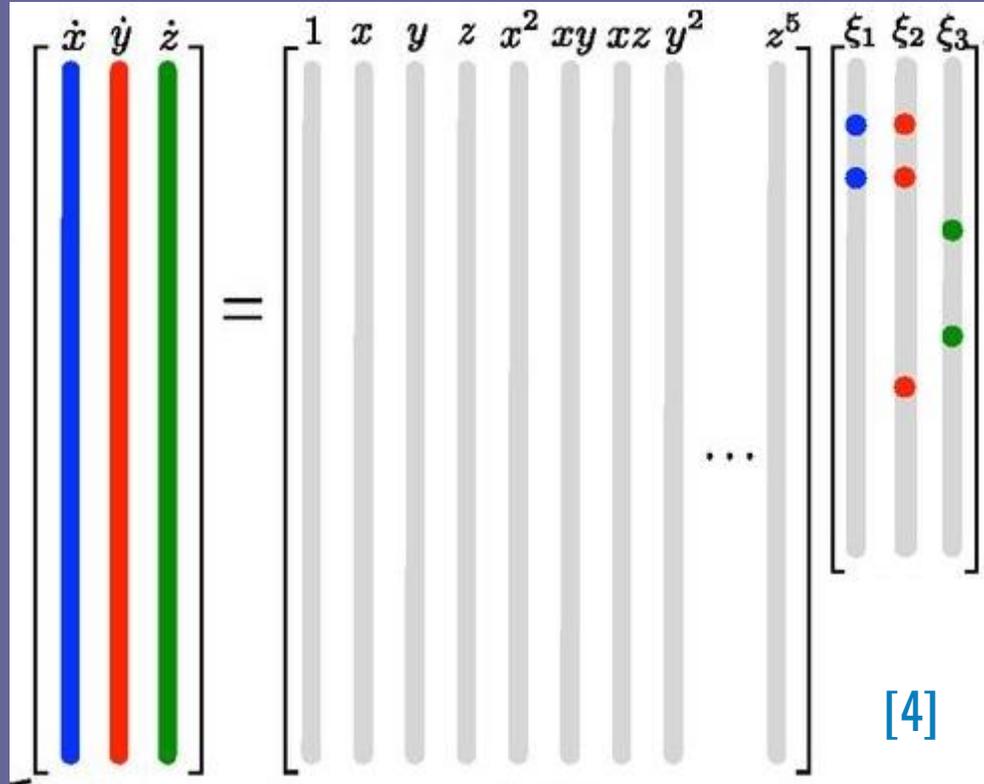


# Introduction

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- ❑ Modeling and understanding the Earth system is a constant and challenging scientific endeavour.
- ❑ Learn from observational data using machine learning can be an alternative, but understanding is more difficult than fitting. [1,2,3]
- ❑ We introduce sparse regression to uncover a set of governing equations in the form of a system of ordinary differential equations (ODEs)... [4]
- ❑ ... and used to explicitly describe a simplest ODEs explaining data to model relevant components of the biosphere. [5]

# Sparse identification of dynamical systems



# Sparse identification of dynamical systems

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 We consider dynamical systems of the form:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t))$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

that can be expanded as:

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_1(t) = f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_2(t) = f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_n(t) = f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

[4] For many systems, the right part of the equations are sparse in the space of possible functions, so a library of candidate functions  $l_i$  is needed:

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_1(t) = \varepsilon_{11} l_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \varepsilon_{12} l_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \dots + \varepsilon_{1m} l_m(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_2(t) = \varepsilon_{21} l_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \varepsilon_{22} l_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \dots + \varepsilon_{2m} l_m(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

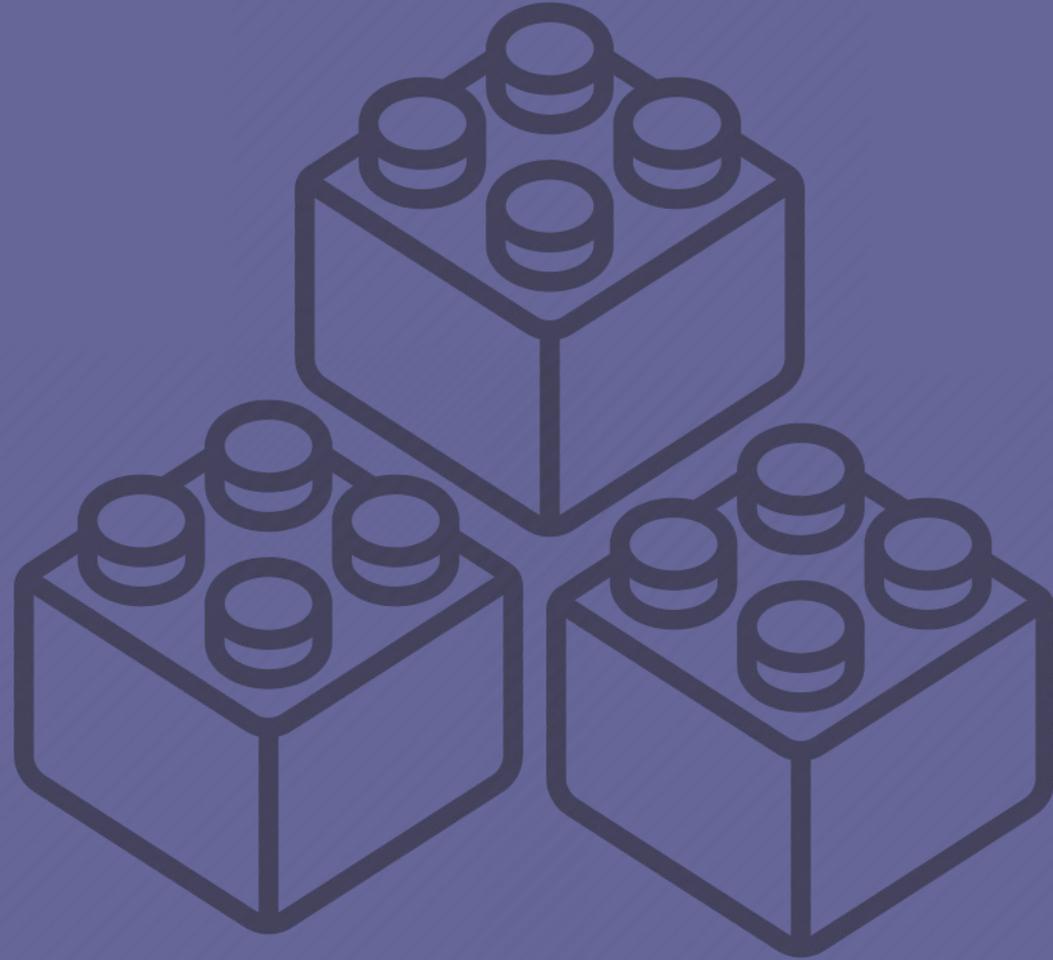
$$\vdots$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_n(t) = \varepsilon_{n1} l_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \varepsilon_{n2} l_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \dots + \varepsilon_{nm} l_m(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

- ❑  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_m$  is a predefined finite library of candidate functions.
- ❑ express  $x_i$  as a linear combinations of them with coefficients.
- ❑ learn scalar coefficients  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  using ridge regression (RLR), LASSO (maximizes the number of zeros) or Elastic Net (ENet) (convex combination of the above)
- ❑ we need computing derivatives of the data: finite differences or by kernel regression aka Gaussian processes. [3, 6]

# Results

- Lotka-Volterra
- Biosphere indicators
- Exploring other data



# Toy problem: Lotka-Volterra system

$$\frac{d \text{Rabbit}}{dt} = \alpha \text{Rabbit} - \beta \text{Rabbit} \text{Wolf}$$

Exponential growth
Gets eaten by wolves

$$\frac{d \text{Wolf}}{dt} = \delta \text{Rabbit} \text{Wolf} - \gamma \text{Wolf}$$

Increases with more food
Decreases with competition

- Prey-predator model in ecology:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x &= \alpha x - \beta xy \\ \frac{d}{dt}y &= -\gamma y + \delta xy \end{aligned}$$

- We set  $\alpha = 3/2, \beta = 1, \gamma = 3, \delta = 1/2$ .
- Synthetic data + two levels of AWGN: 40dB, 5dB.
- ridge regression, finite differences.
- train/test in 75%-25% samples.

- accurated correlation coefficient (R)...
- ... so, ODE coefficients recovered accurately.
- critical points recovered without a qualitative change in their type (a saddle point & a center of cycles). 6

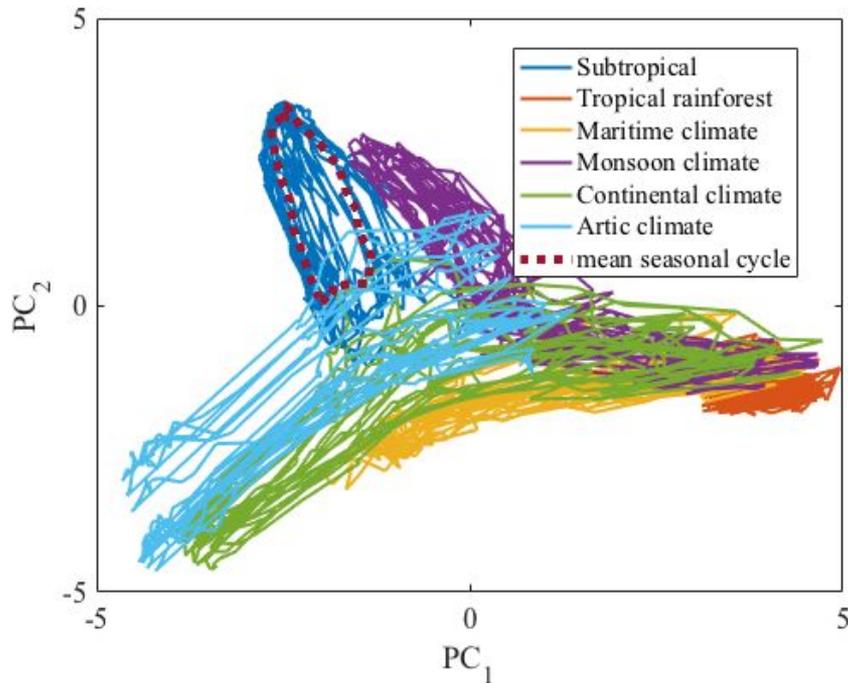
Library functions	Coefficients			
	40 dB		5 dB	
	$\frac{d}{dt}x$	$\frac{d}{dt}y$	$\frac{d}{dt}x$	$\frac{d}{dt}y$
$x$	1.3822	0	1.1404	0
$y$	0	-2.9123	0	-2.7946
$x^2$	0	0	0	0
$xy$	-0.9797	0.4849	-0.9520	0.4710
$y^2$	0	0	0	0
$x^3$	0	0	0	0
$y^3$	0	0	0	-0.0001
1	0	0	0	0
<b>R</b>	0.9999		0.8674	

# Biospheric indicators: data

- ❑ We use the biosphere indices proposed in [5] for summarizing the state of an ecosystem.
- ❑ [Earth System Data Lab \(ESDL\)](#)
  - ❑ 12 variables (common spatiotemporal grid: 0.25° in space, 8 days in time)
  - ❑ PCA incorporating information about latitude
- ❑ First two principal components explained 73% of variance → two biosphere indicators:
  - ❑ PC<sub>1</sub> summary of vegetation productivity
  - ❑ PC<sub>2</sub> summary of water availability



EARTH  
SYSTEM  
DATA  
LAB



Trajectories in the phase space of this first two PCs for the most paradigmatic ecosystems along 11 years.

# Biospheric indicators: learned dynamical model

- ❑ We start by focusing on the particular subtropical ecosystem.
- ❑ Work with the mean seasonal cycle trajectory, which summarizes the state of the ecosystem throughout the year.

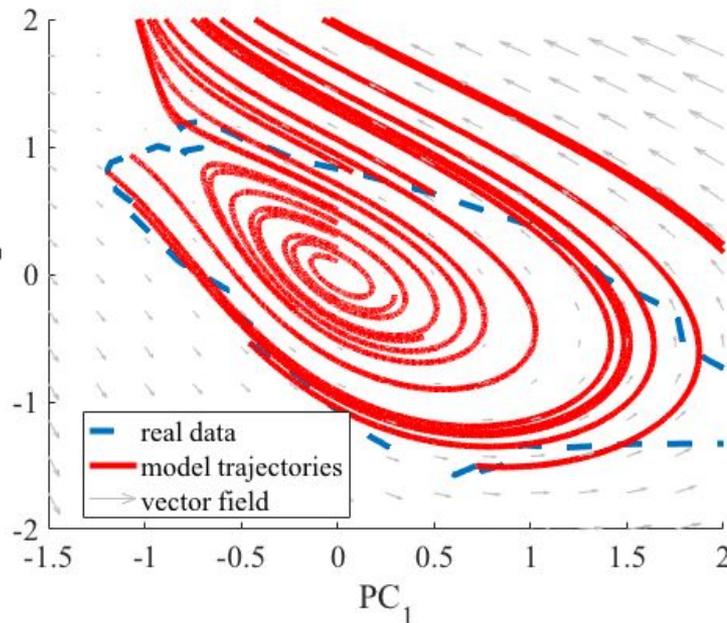
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}PC_1 &= \varepsilon_{11}l_1(PC_1, PC_2) + \dots + \varepsilon_{1m}l_m(PC_1, PC_2) \\ \frac{d}{dt}PC_2 &= \varepsilon_{21}l_1(PC_1, PC_2) + \dots + \varepsilon_{2m}l_m(PC_1, PC_2).\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}PC_1 &= -37.5PC_1 - 55.6PC_2 - 31.9PC_1PC_2 \\ \frac{d}{dt}PC_2 &= 67.2PC_1 + 44.8PC_2 - 74.0PC_1PC_2\end{aligned}$$

(x 10<sup>-4</sup>)

- ❑ System analysis: attractor at 0.000365 ± 0.00451995j
- ❑ (removing real part and recover the new system?)

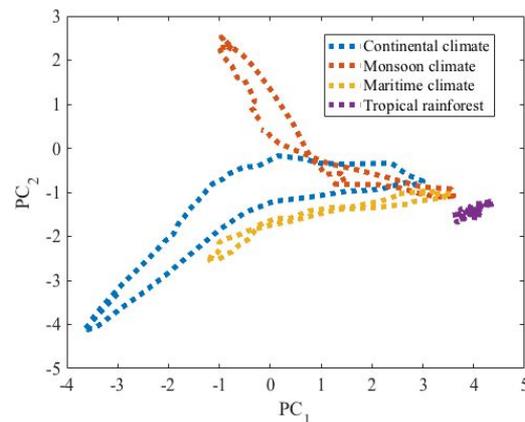
R2 = 0.73 (Coefficient of determination)



# Biospheric indicators: learned dynamical model (II)

- ❑ We complete the study for the rest of the paradigmatic ecosystems.
- ❑ We learn the models not only using the first two PCs, but also for the first three PCs.
- ❑ Monomials with max. deg. from 2 up to 12. (bid.:  $\{x^2, xy, y^2\}$ ,  $\{x^3, x^2y, xy^2, y^3\}$ , ...,  $\{x^{12}, x^{11}y, \dots, y^{12}\}$ ; trid.:  $\{x^i y^j z^k: i+j+k=12\}$ )
- ❑ We repeat each experiment 10 times with 10 different train/test partitions (in 75%-25%)

bidimensional: PC <sub>1</sub> , PC <sub>2</sub>			tridimensional: PC <sub>1</sub> , PC <sub>2</sub> , PC <sub>3</sub>		
Ecosystem	max. deg. (method)	R2	Ecosystem	max. deg. (method)	R2
Continental	3 (LASSO)	<u>0.87 ± 0.06</u>	Continental	3 (LASSO)	0.79 ± 0.23
Monsoon	4 (RLR)	0.25 ± 0.23	Monsoon	3 (LASSO)	<u>0.60 ± 0.29</u>
Maritime	3 (RLR)	0.38 ± 0.25	Maritime	2 (RLR)	0.35 ± 0.16
Tropical	2 (RLR)	0.20 ± 0.12	Tropical	2 (RLR)	0.40 ± 0.17



deg: best maximum degree  
R2: coefficient of determination

# Exploring other data: NDVI/GPP models, GPP/VOD models, ...

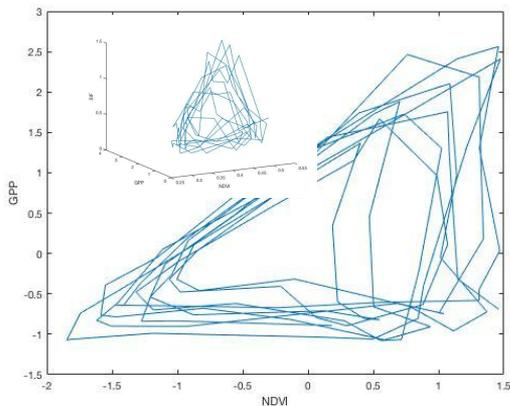
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## □ NDVI/GPP

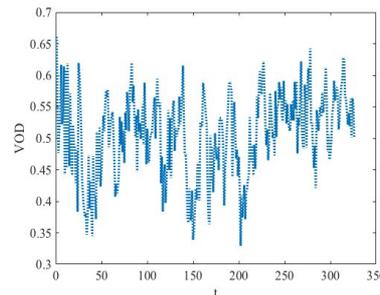
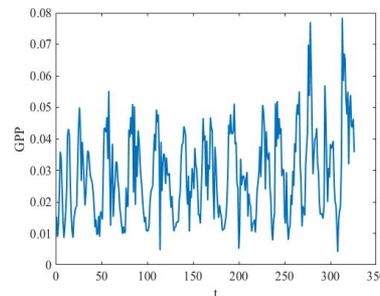
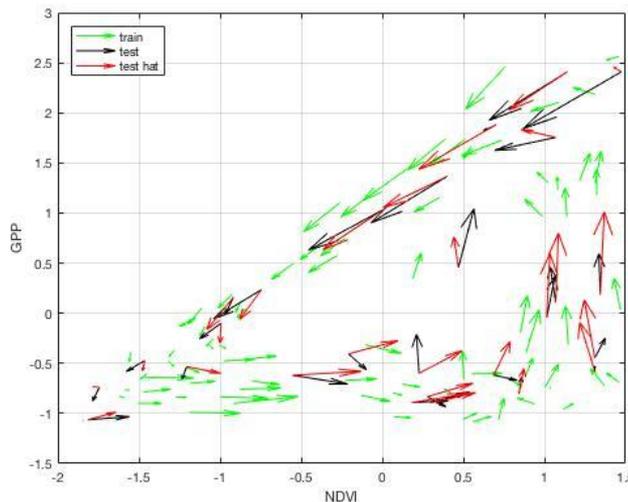
- looking for “good” pixels.
- 9 years of data.
- One measure per month.

## □ GPP/VOD

- GPP tower: lat = -35.6557, lon = 148.1521



$R^2=0.75$



$R^2=0.81$

# Conclusions and future work

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# Conclusions and future work

- ❑ Presented a methodology for obtaining an analytic model with ODEs from data using sparse identification.
- ❑ Applied to both a toy model and a set of biosphere indices obtained from EO.
- ❑ Learned model captures the dynamics of the system: water availability and vegetation productivity strongly coupled with exponential grow/decays.
- ❑ Study other (less aggressive) sparse-promoting strategies.
- ❑ Study other types of (more physically-inspired or large) orthonormal basis of functions.
- ❑ Interventional studies like distortions in the eigenvalues and its effects on the phase space.
- ❑ More careful study of the models with new data.

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# Thanks!



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