



# Robots in the Wild — Collaborative Exploration and Mapping

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Gaurav Sukhatme



David Caron



Mathews Paret



Amanda Clarke



Hilairy Hartnett



Reza Ehsani



Ramon Arrowsmith



Kanna Rajan  
(now at NTNU, Norway)



John Ryan





*Psyche mission*



**D**irty **D**ull **D**angerous



# Motivation

Solve grand challenges (food, water, environment) with robotics technology

Is there a toxinogenic algae bloom close to the coast, and will it hit the beach during a busy holiday weekend?

Can a crop disease be detected before it spreads across an agricultural field?





USC Viterbi  
School of Engineering

ROBOTIC  
EMBEDDED  
SYSTEMS  
LABORATORY

M B A R I

Penn  
Engineering  
GRASP LABORATORY  
General Robotics, Automation, Sensing & Perception Lab



## Interests

- Robotics, machine learning, autonomous systems, precision agriculture, environmental monitoring — **extreme environments**
- Closing the loop on information collection
  - Systems and algorithms that efficiently observe properties of interest through *both* in-situ and ex-situ labeling of samples
    - Adaptivity and opportunism in sampling missions
    - Performance guarantees

# The Annotation Game

Hannah Kerner



**In-situ**

**Ex-situ**

**Sampling**

measurement

specimen

**Analysis**

features

big-data

Chelsea Scott, Ramon Arrowsmith



# The Annotation Game

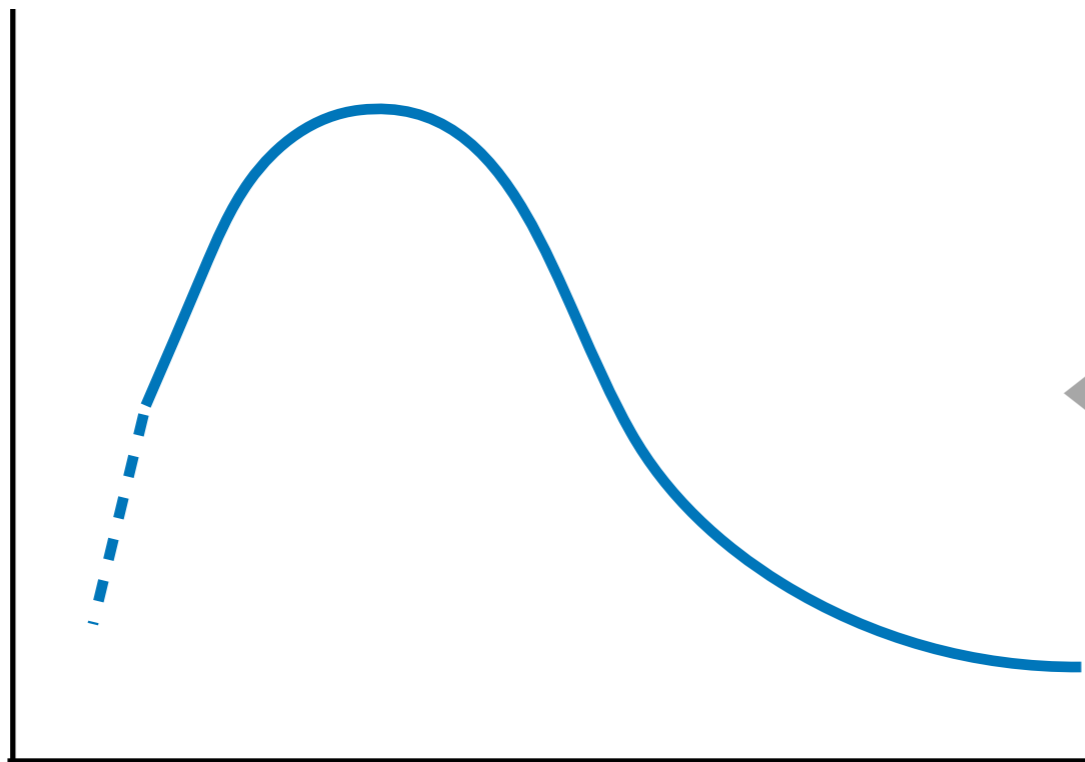
Hannah Kerner



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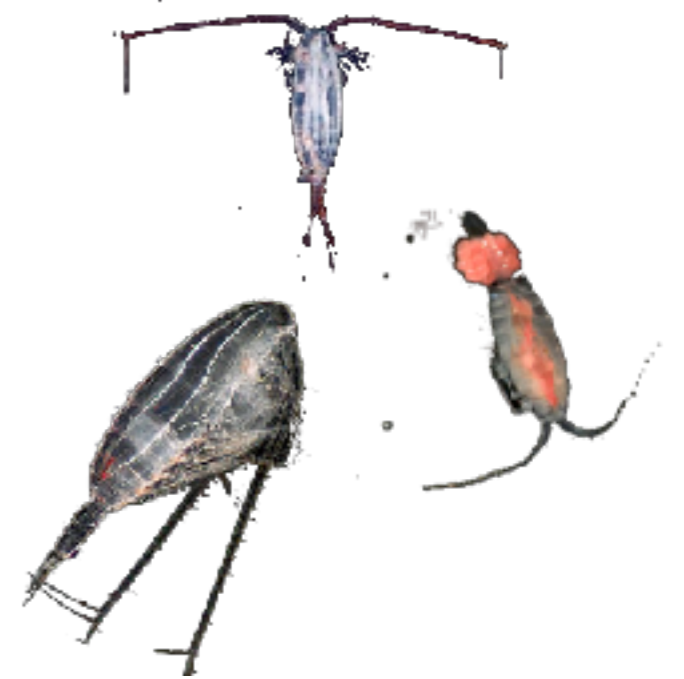
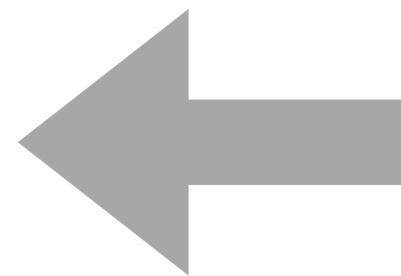
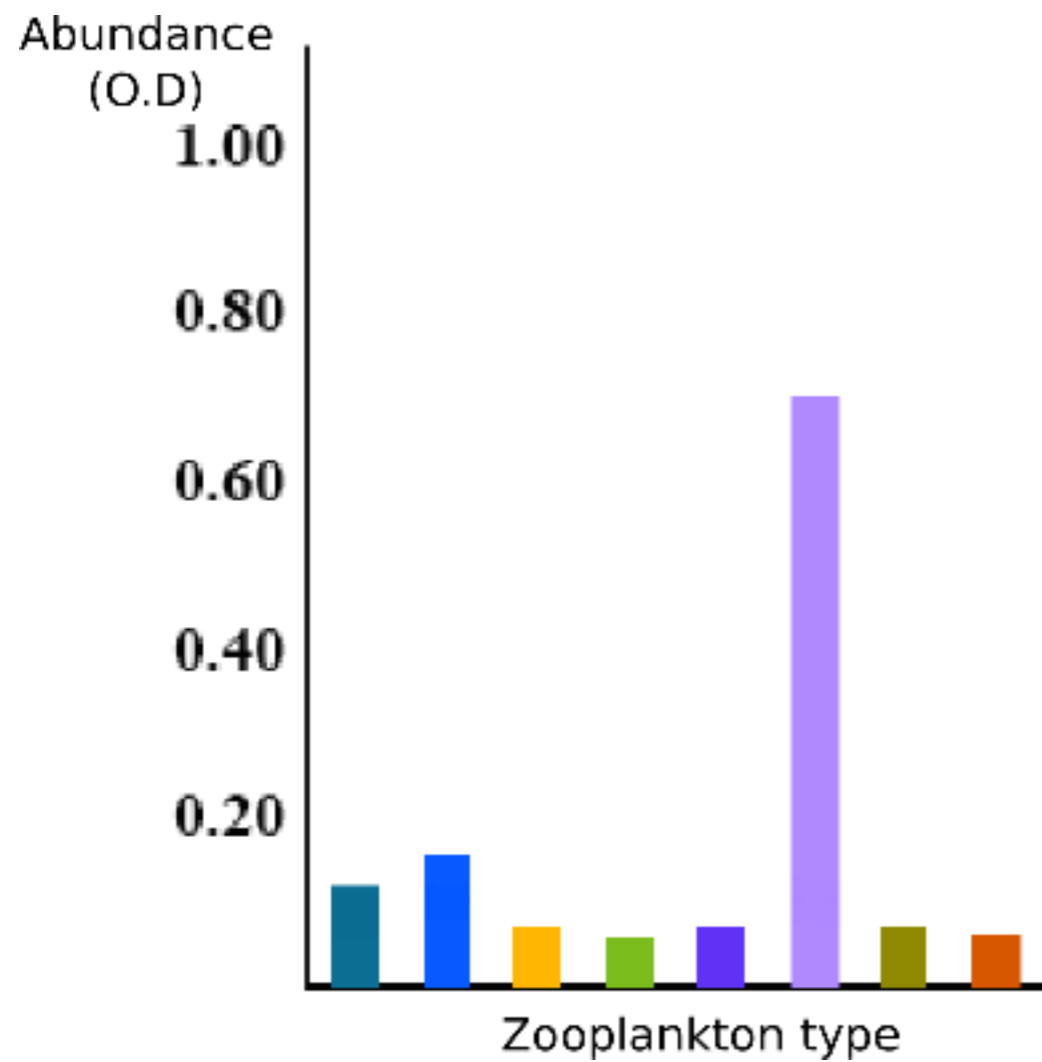


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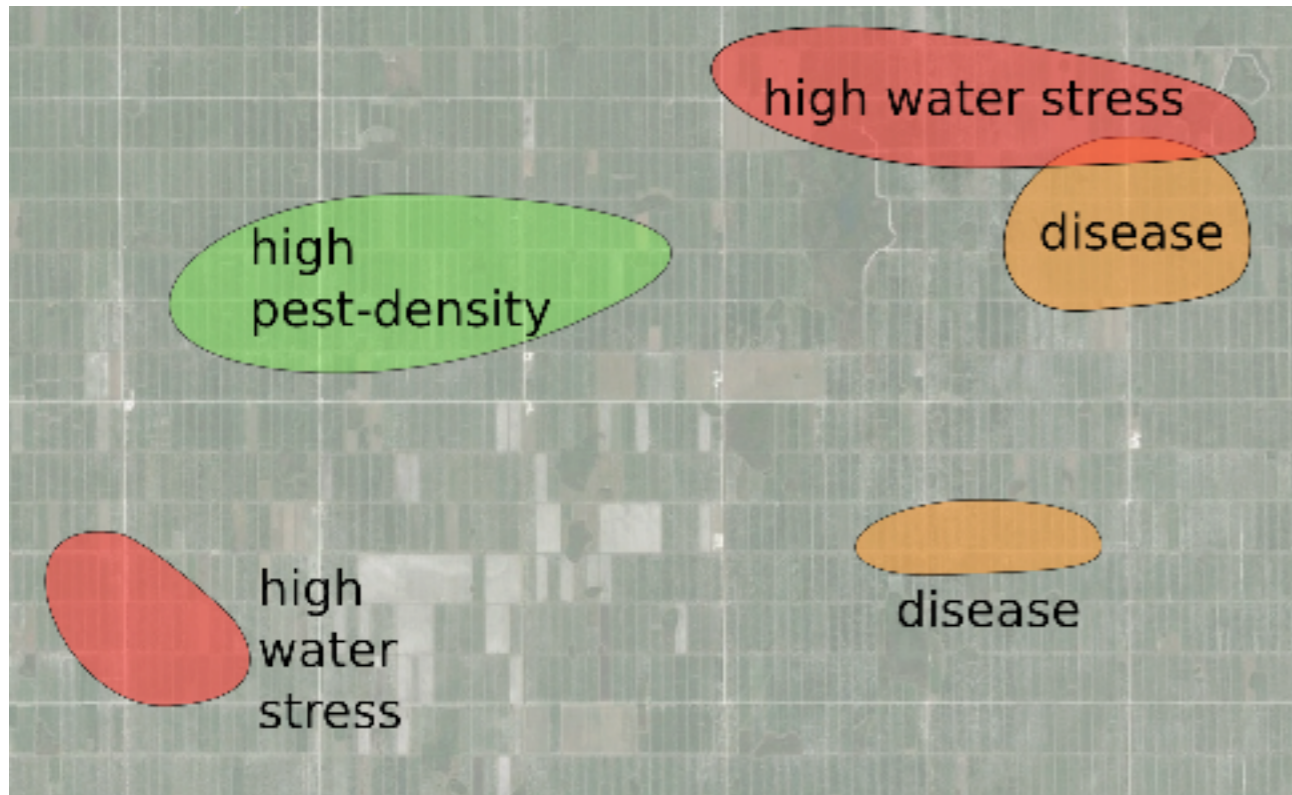
Grain size

# The Annotation Game





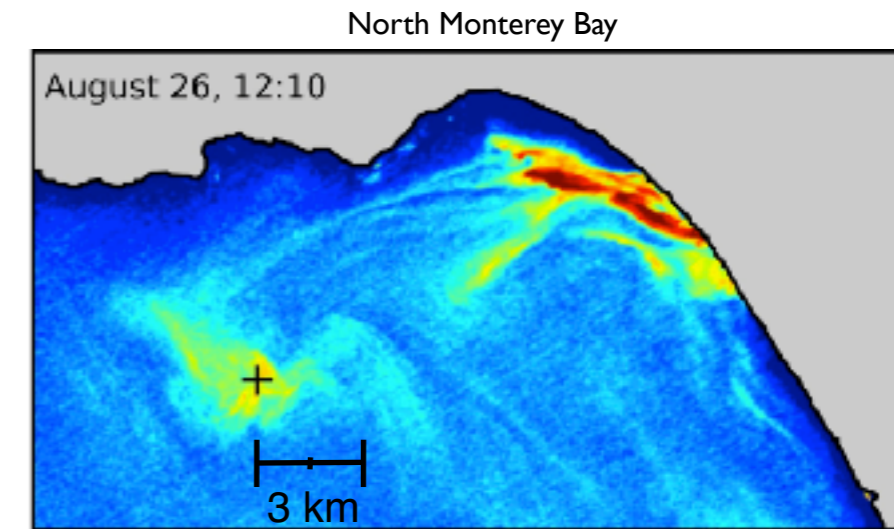
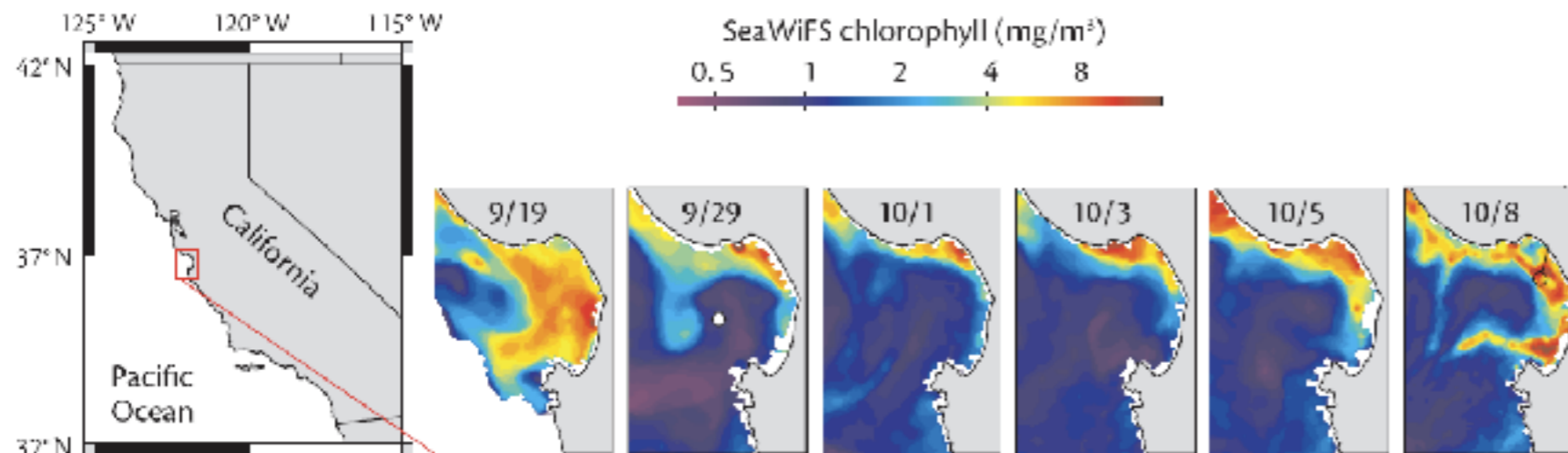
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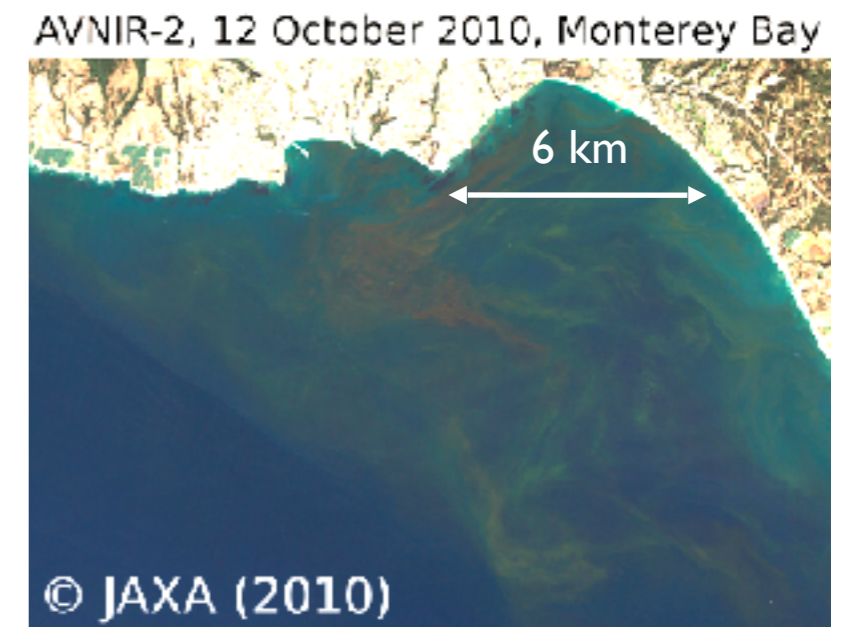
The water planet



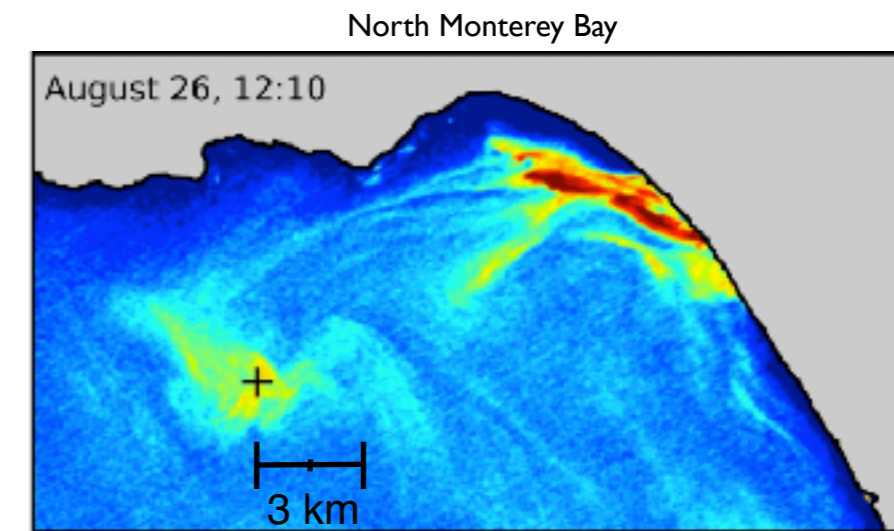
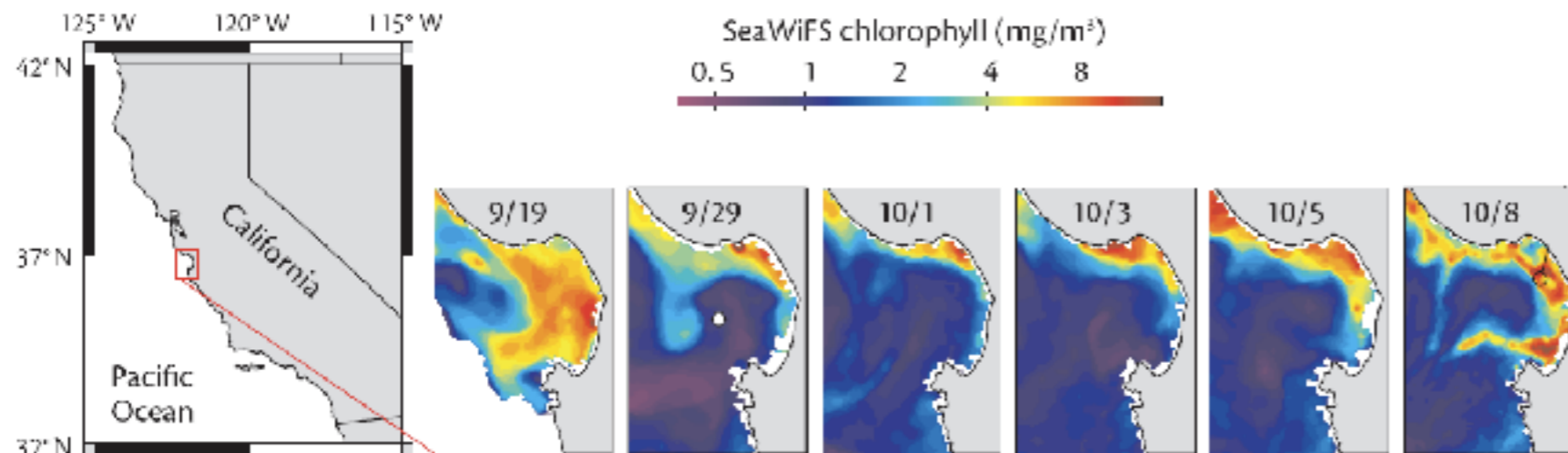
# Ocean life - Heterogeneous and Dynamic



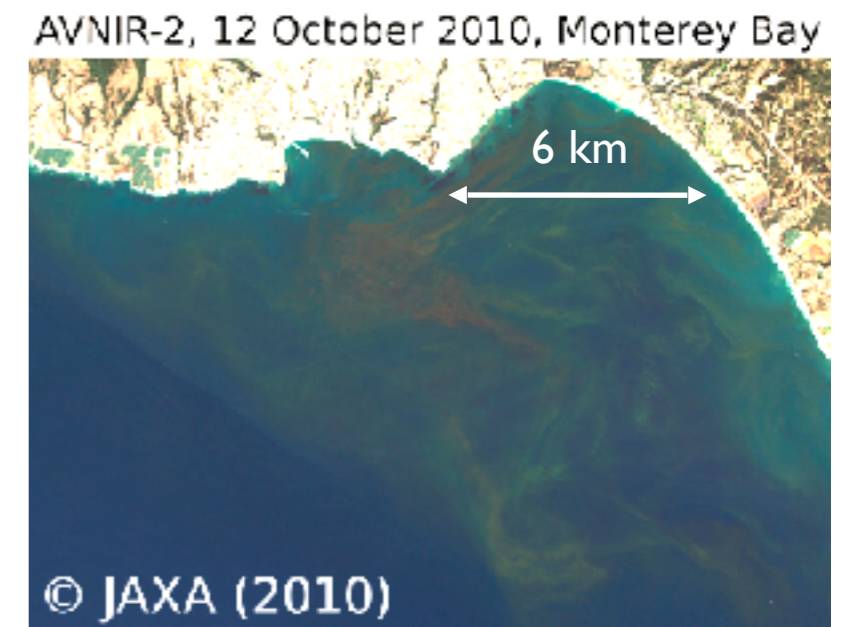
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- Mobile (advection)
- Large spatio-temporal extent (km-days)
- Variable correlation scales
- Multi-dimensional measurements



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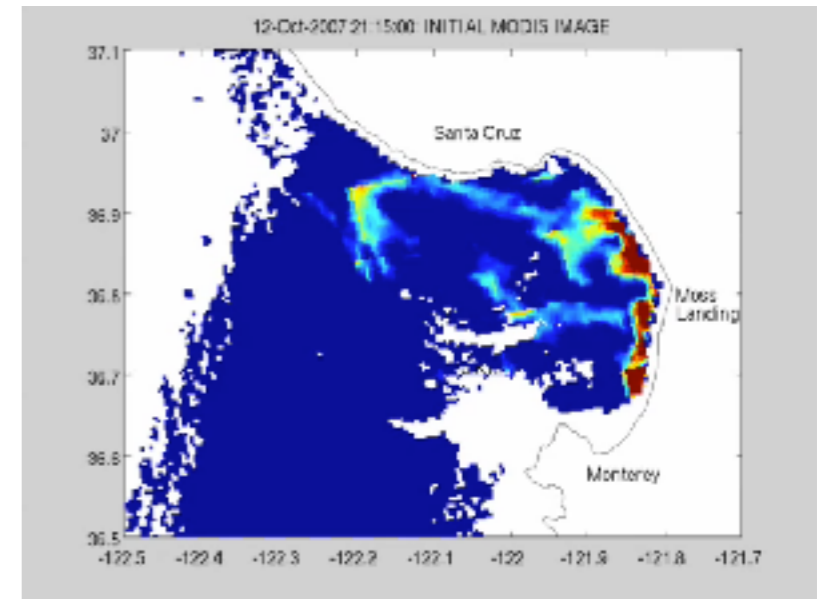


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# Sampling Marine Blooms

|                     | Goal   | Characteristics            | Approach  |                     |
|---------------------|--------|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Deployment planning | Detect | Heterogeneous, Multi-scale | Remote-sensing, land based HF Radar                           | Macro<br>↓<br>Micro |
|                     | Track  | Mobile, coherent           | Lagrangian surveys using GPS tracked drifters - tag and track |                     |
| Autonomous sampling | Sample | Online, adaptive           | Data-driven acquisition of biological samples                 |                     |

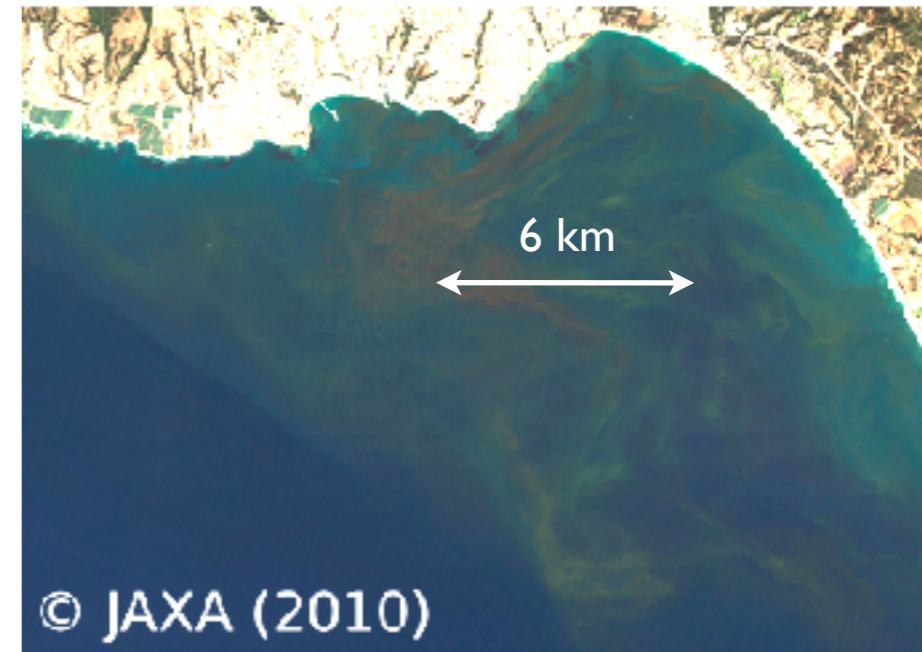


Tools

|  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| Oceanographic Decision Support System (ODSS) | Web-based | Enables marine scientists as end-users, helps guide asset use |
|--|-----------|---|

# Sampling Marine Blooms

AVNIR-2, 12 October 2010, Monterey Bay

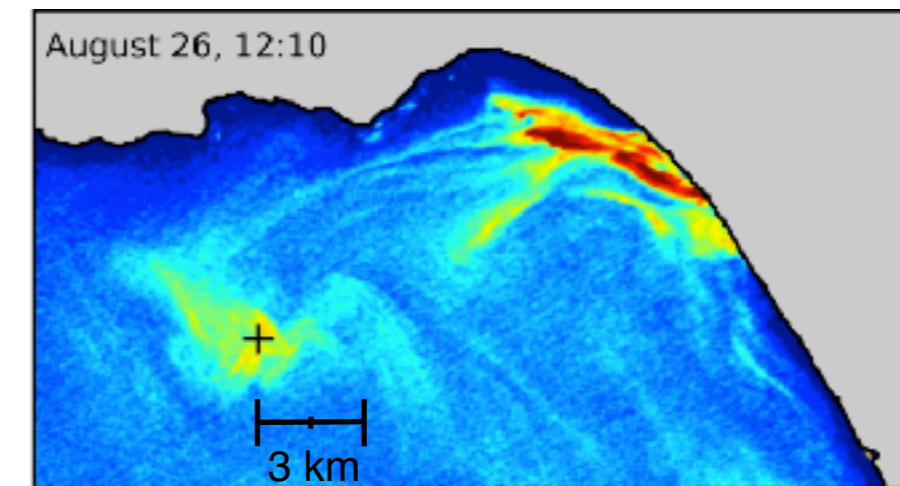


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Macro



Micro



Tools

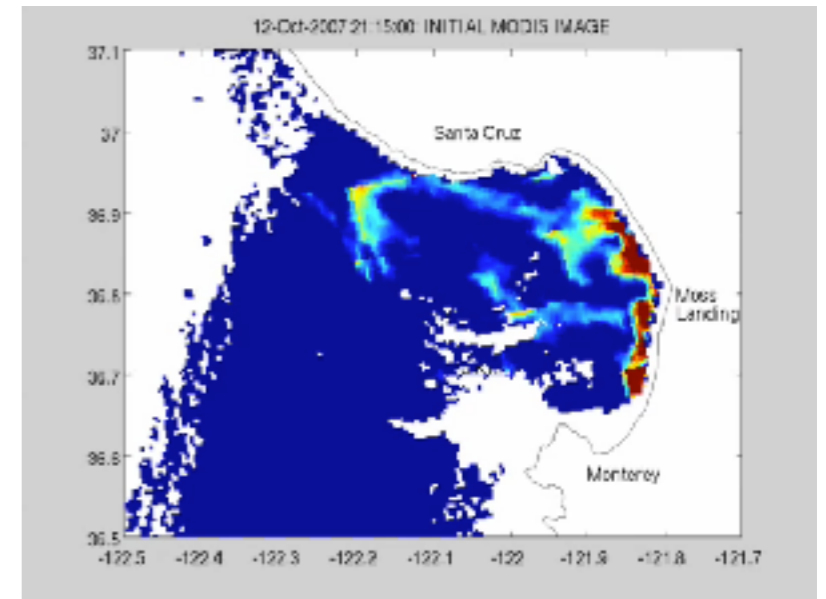
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Algae bloom detection and advection over 2 days using remote sensing and hourly HF radar data

J. Das et. al, "Towards Marine Bloom Trajectory Prediction for AUV Mission Planning", In *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, May 2010.

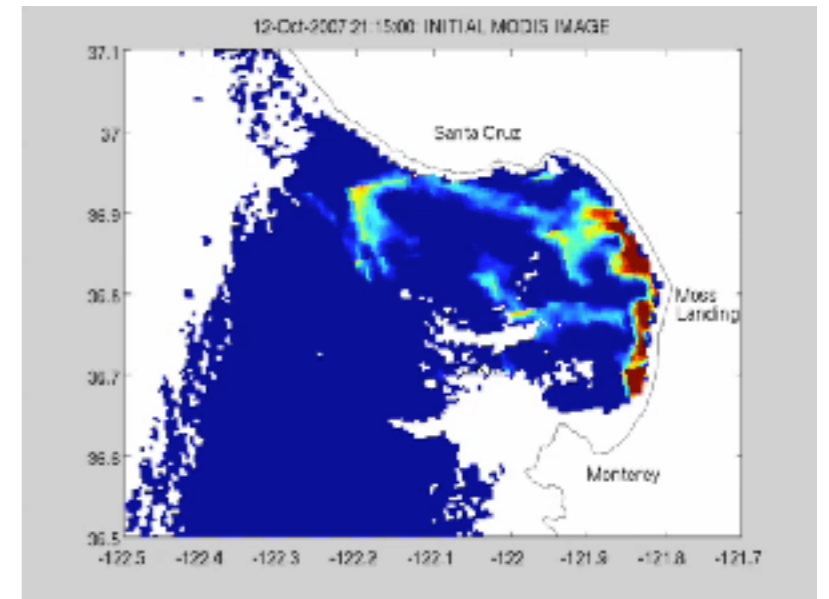
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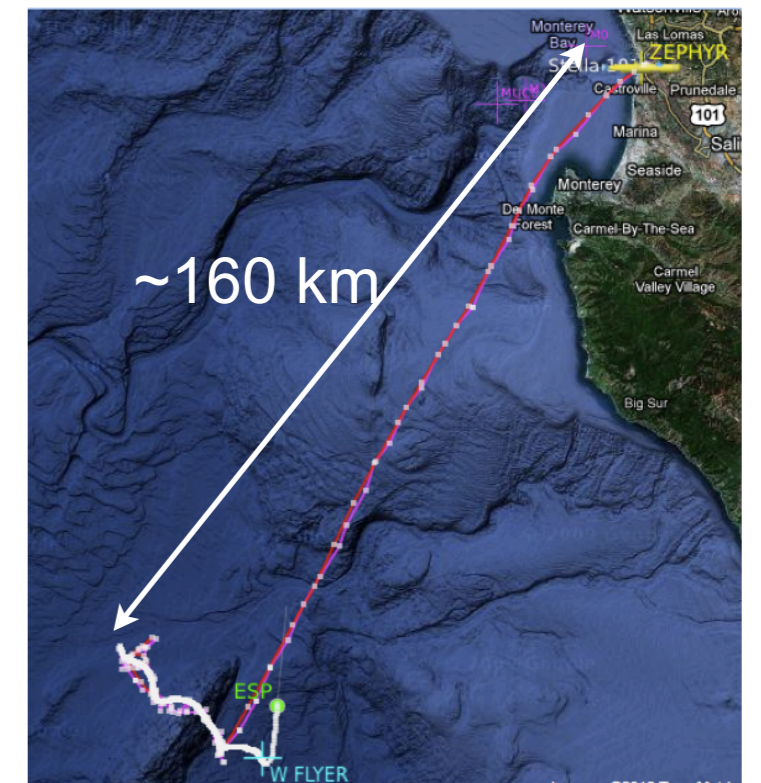
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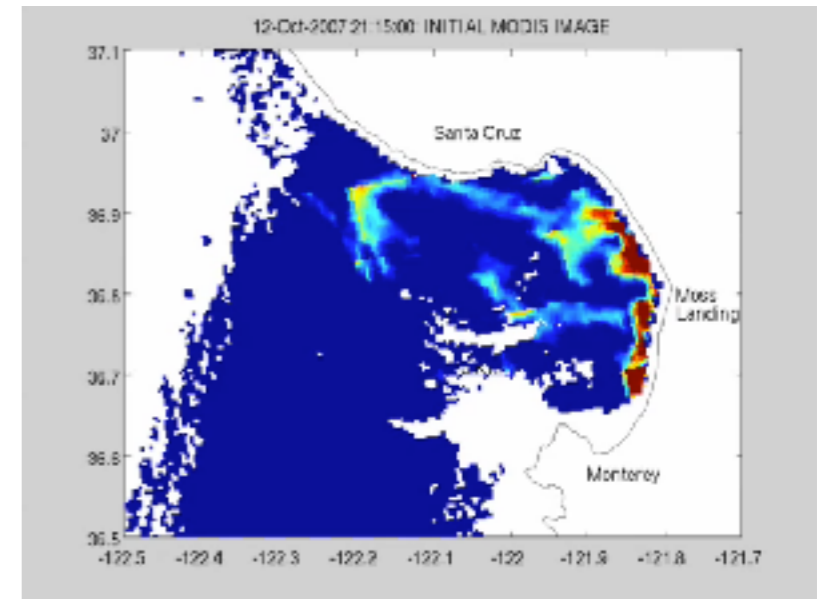


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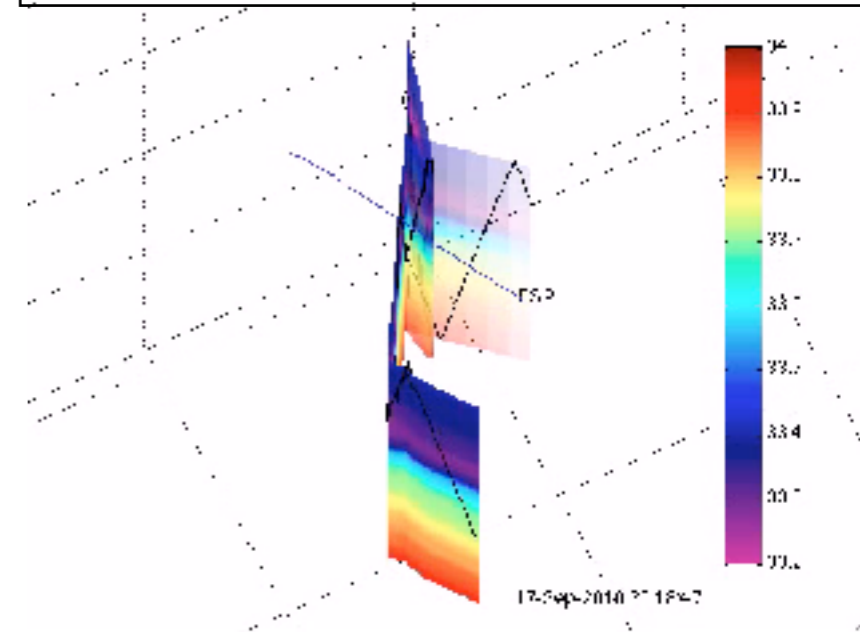
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AUV carrying out Lagrangian surveys in a patch of water tagged with a GPS-tracked drifter,

J. Das et. al, "Coordinated Sampling of Dynamic Oceanographic Features with AUVs and Drifters", in *International Journal of Robotics Research (IJRR)*, 2012.

Tools

Oceanographic Decision Support System (ODSS)

Web-based

Enables marine scientists as end-users, helps guide asset use

# Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)

- Sensor suite to log scientific data, water sample collection system
- Limited communication

Slocum Glider



Dorado AUV



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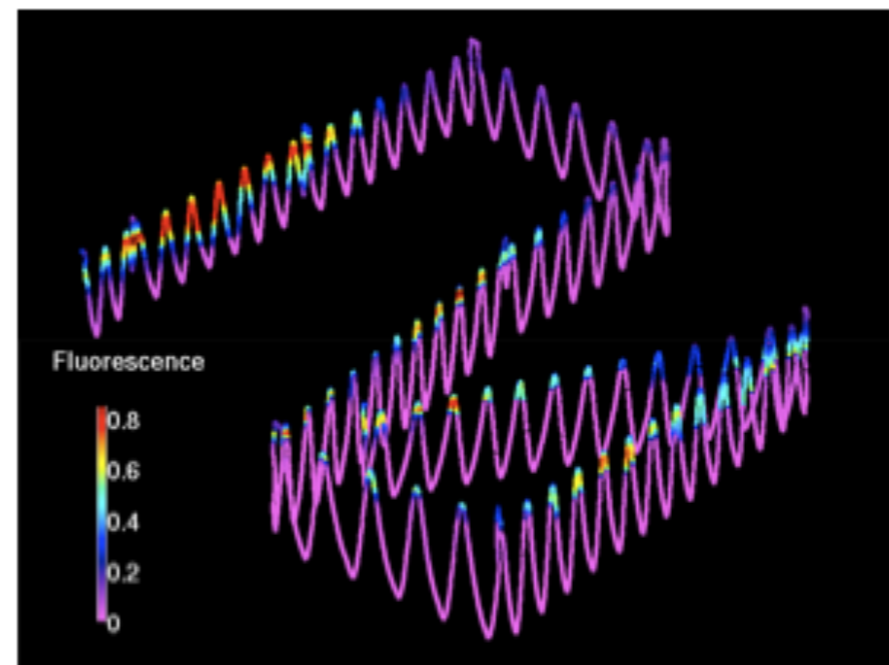
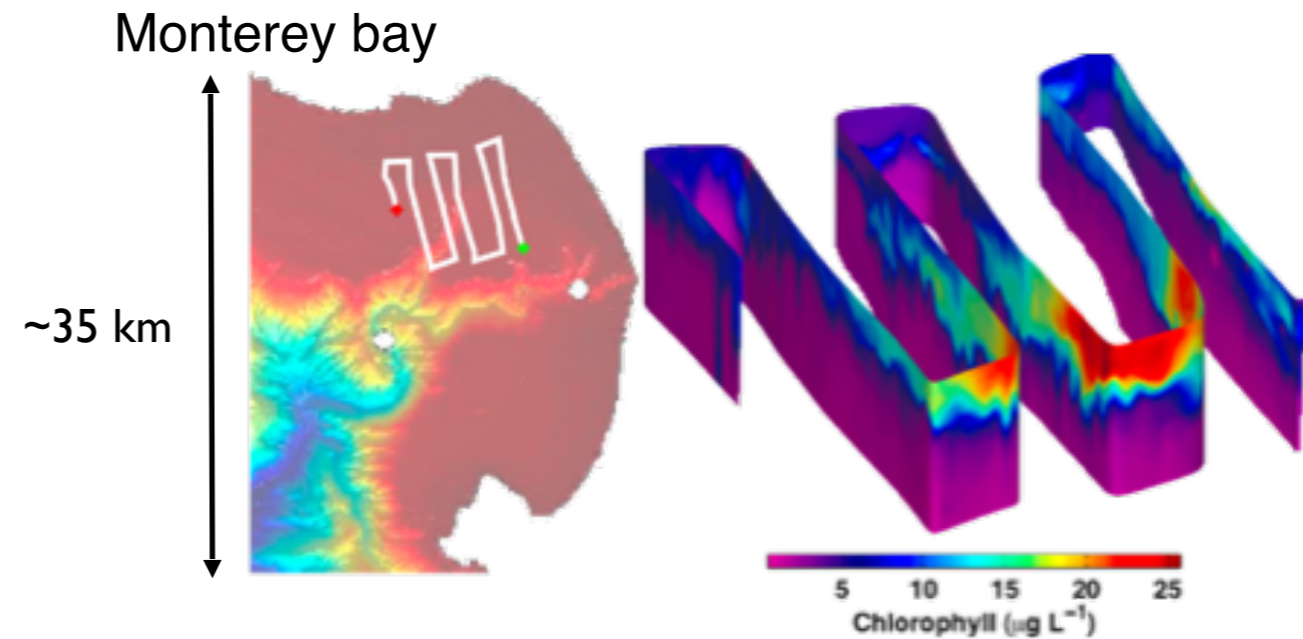


Dorado AUV

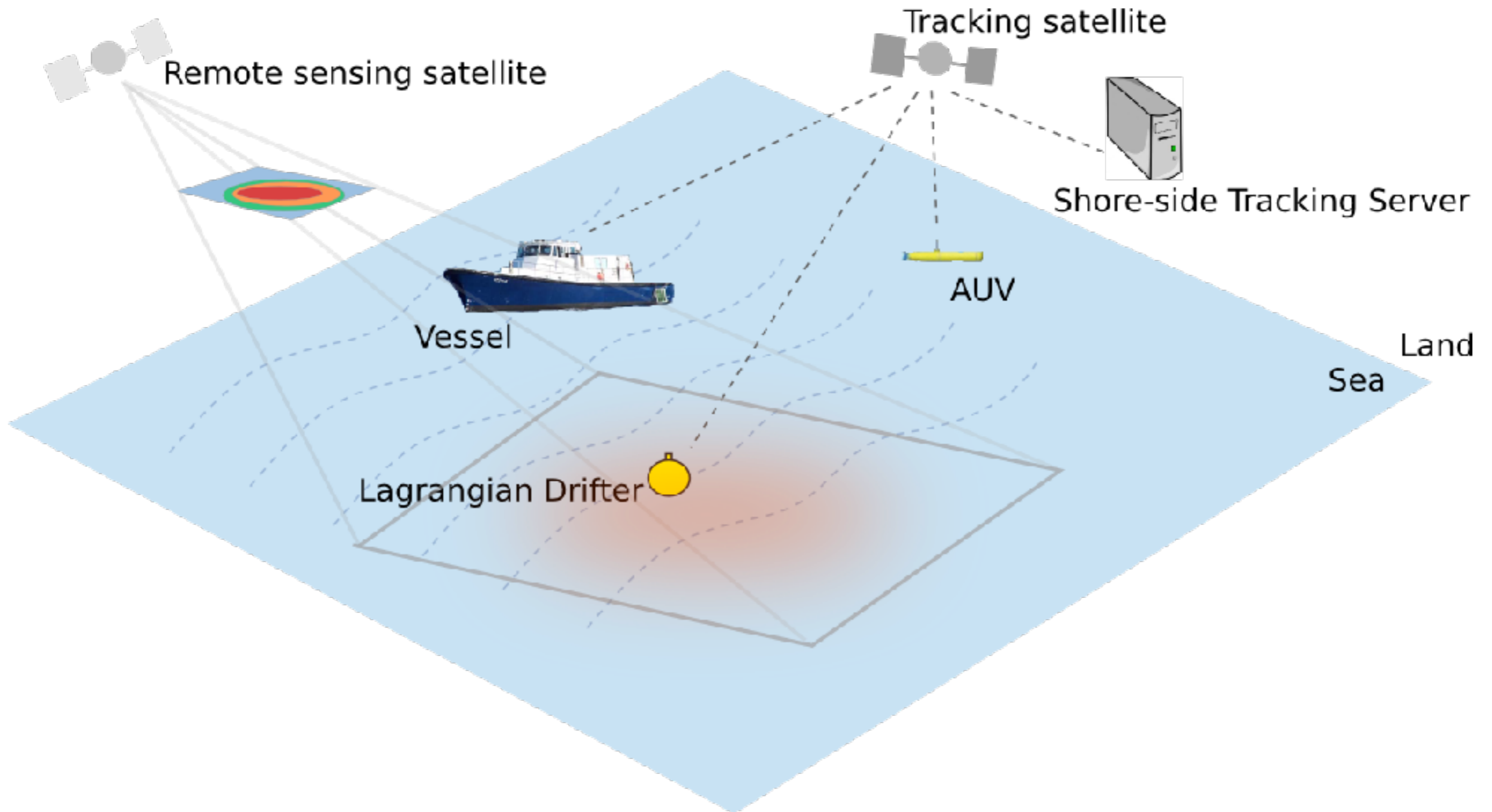


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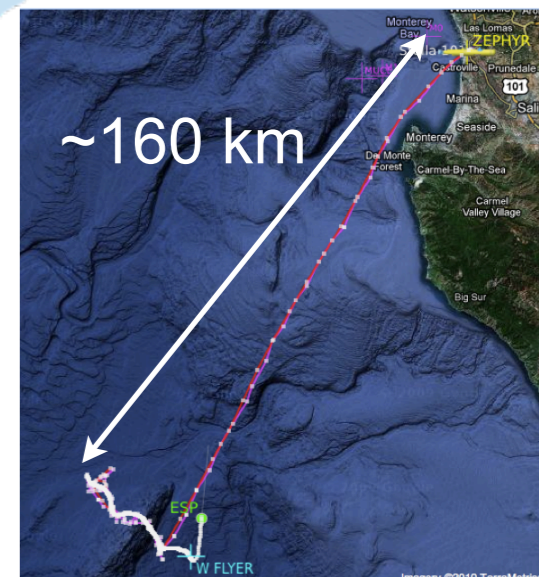
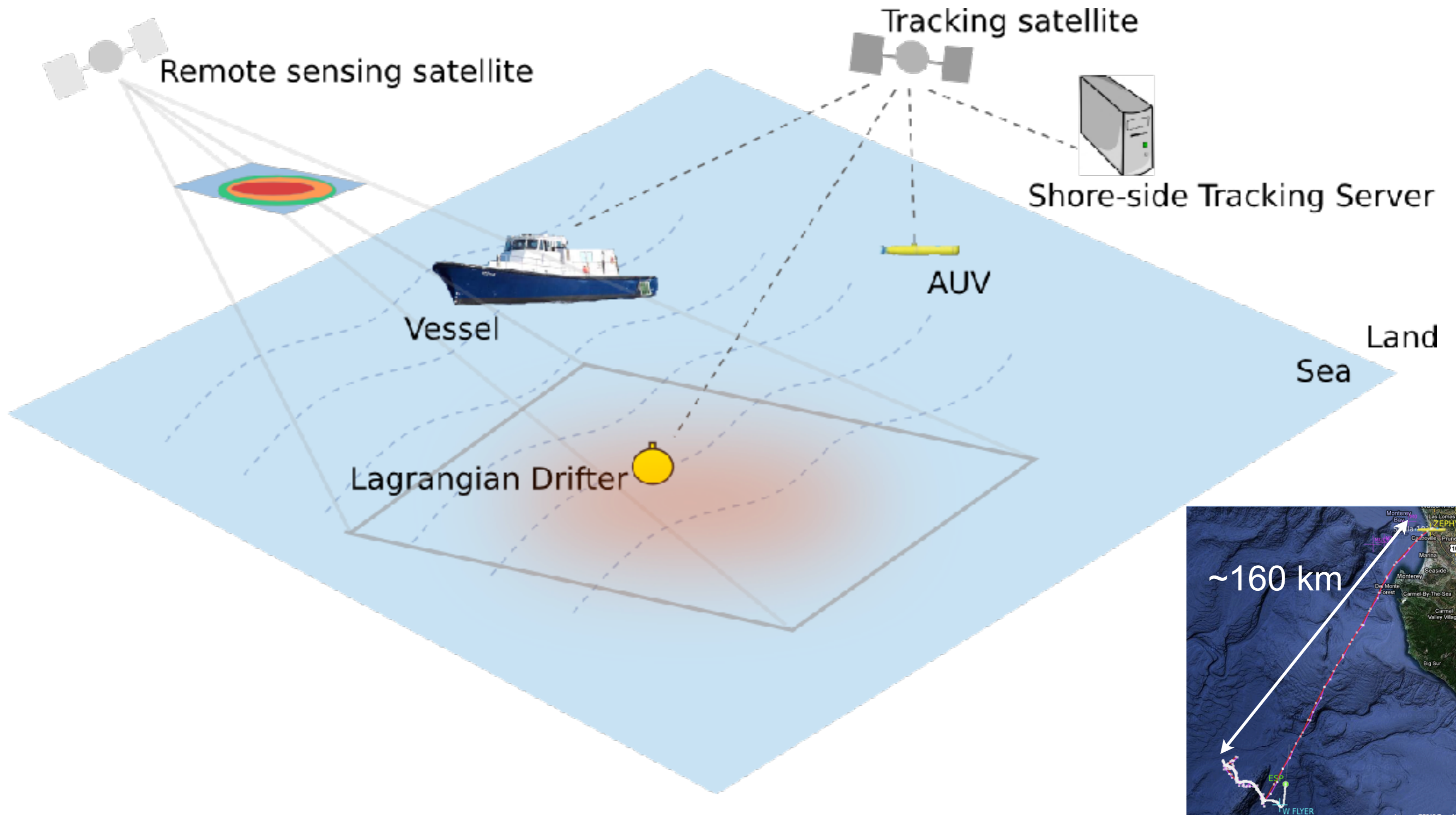
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# Coordinated Sampling of Blooms

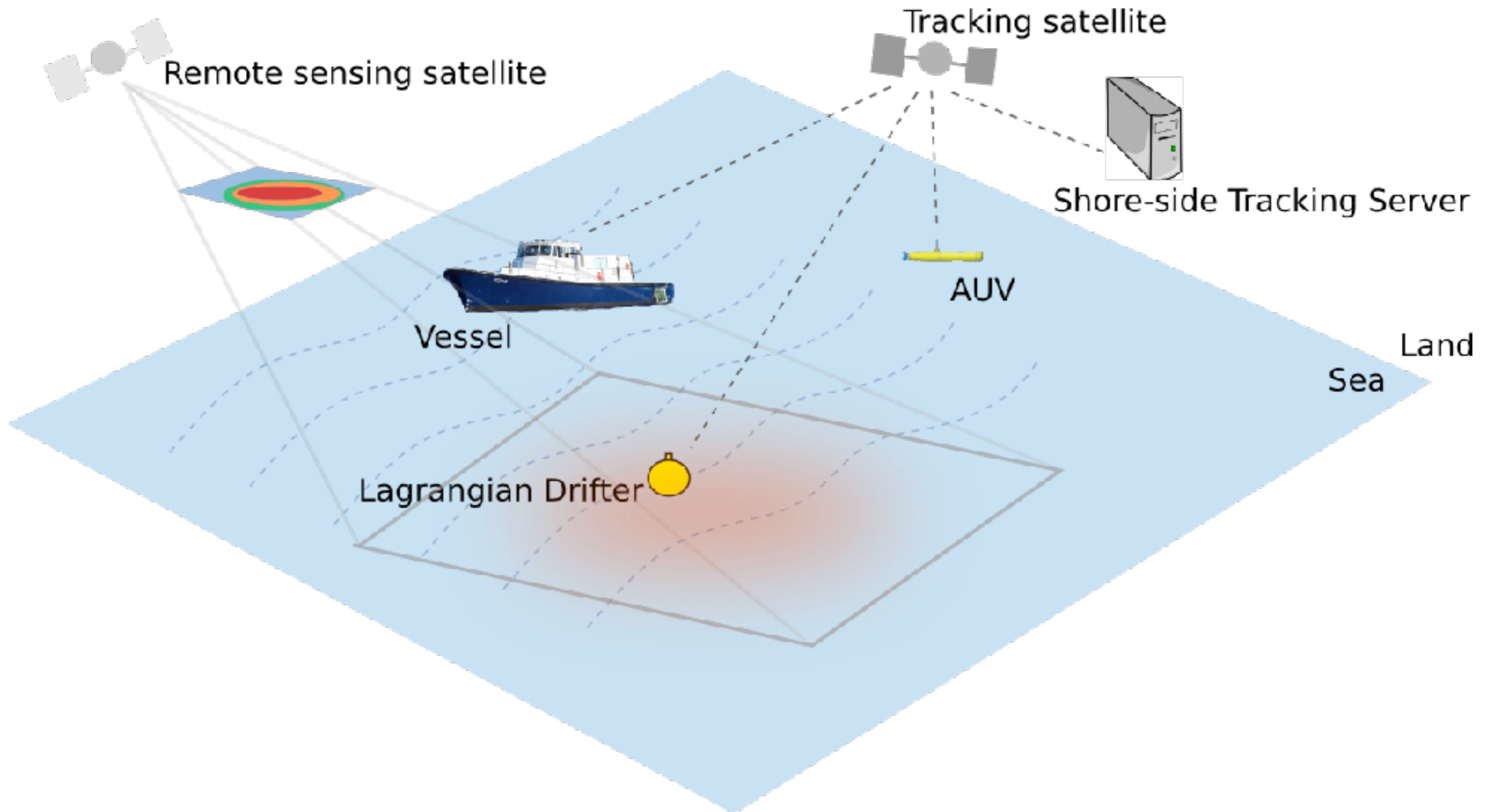


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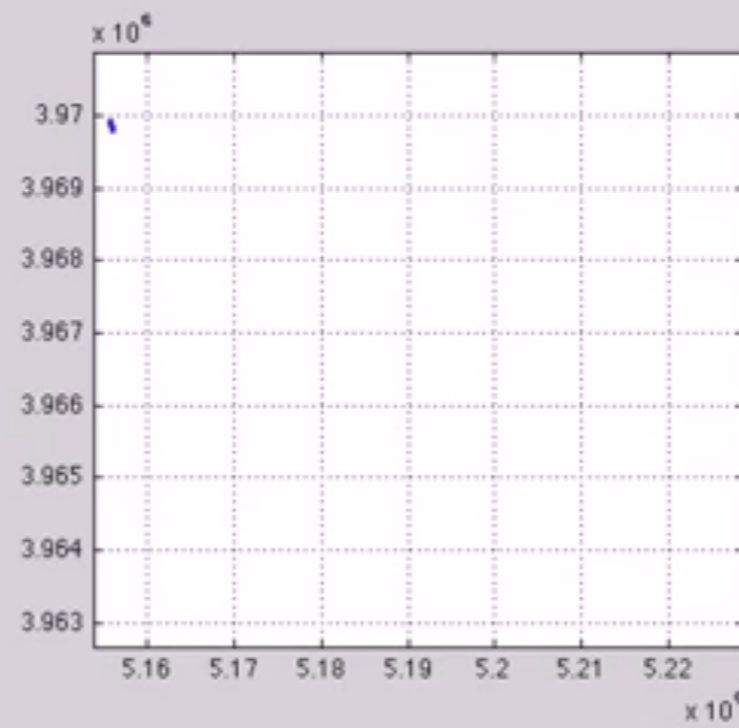
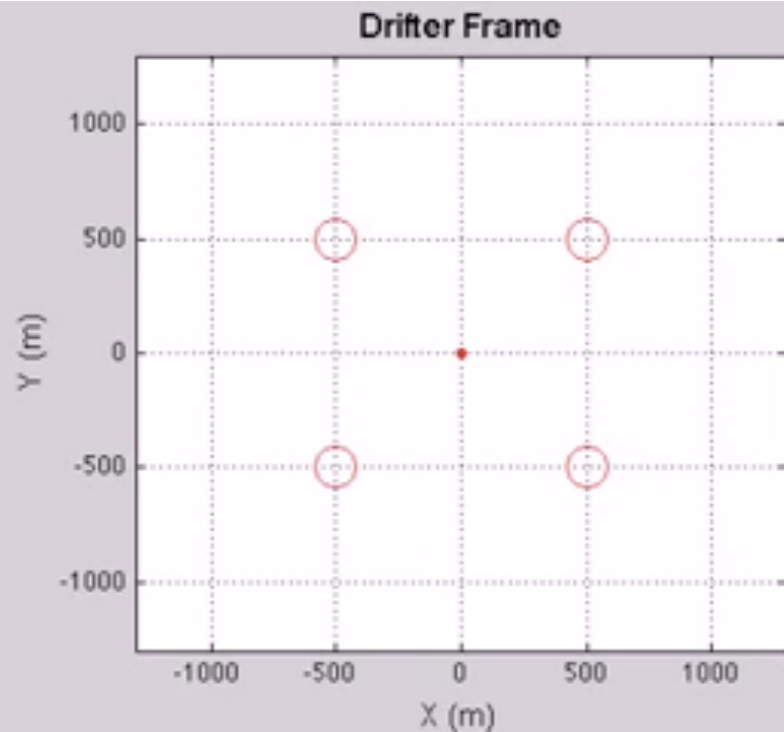
J. Das, T. Maughan, M. McCann, M. Godin, T. O'Reilly, M. Messié, F. Bahr, K. Gomes, F. Py, J. Bellingham, G. Sukhatme, and K. Rajan, "Towards Mixed-initiative, Multi-robot Field Experiments: Design, Deployment, and Lessons Learned", In IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, pp. 3132-3139, 2011.

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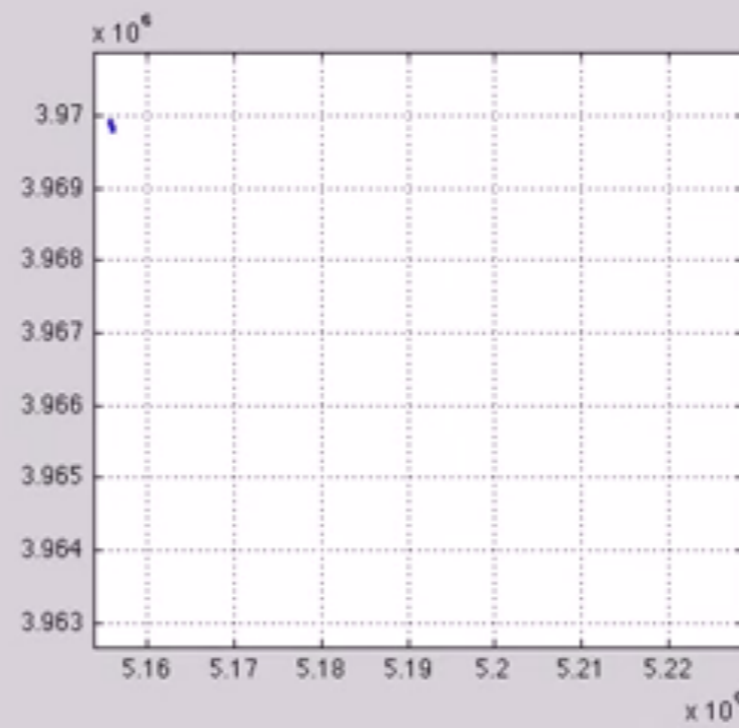
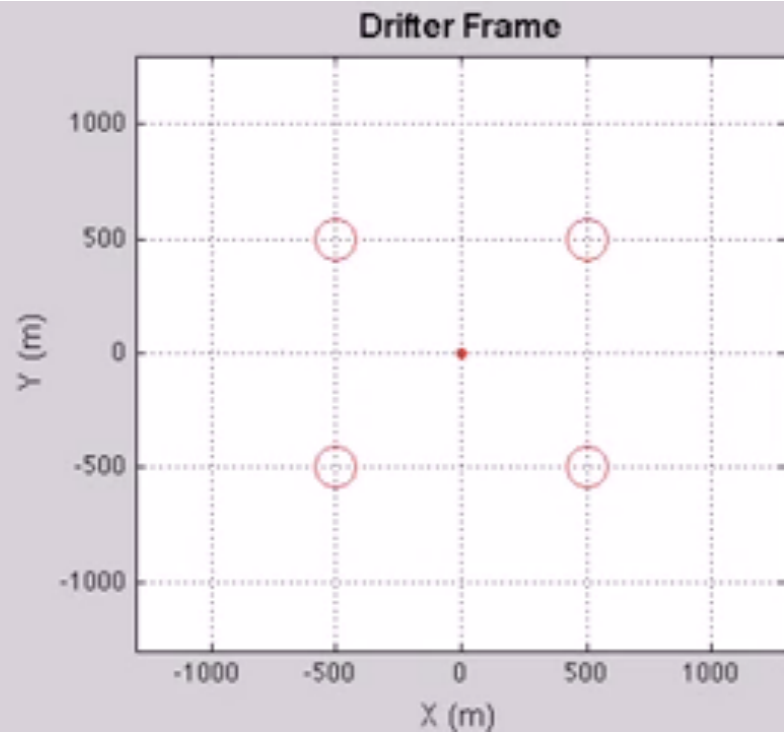




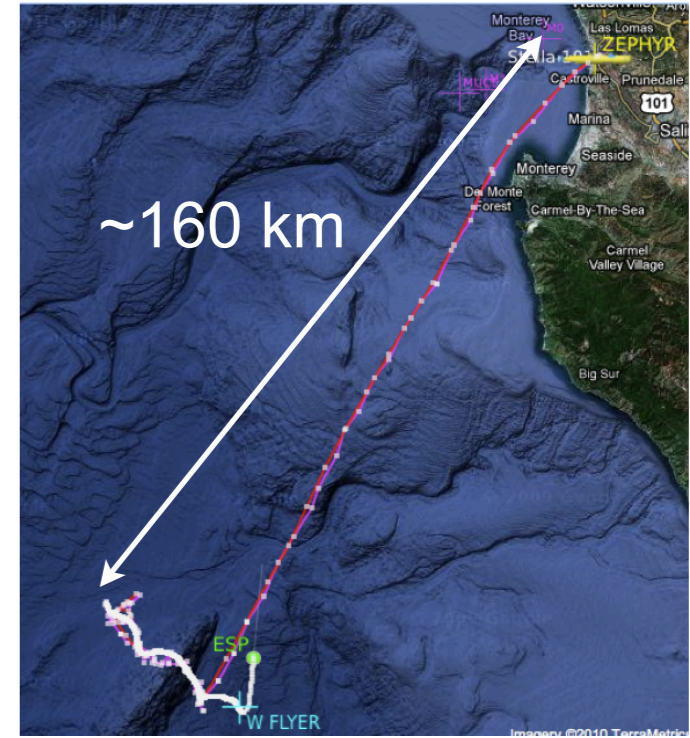
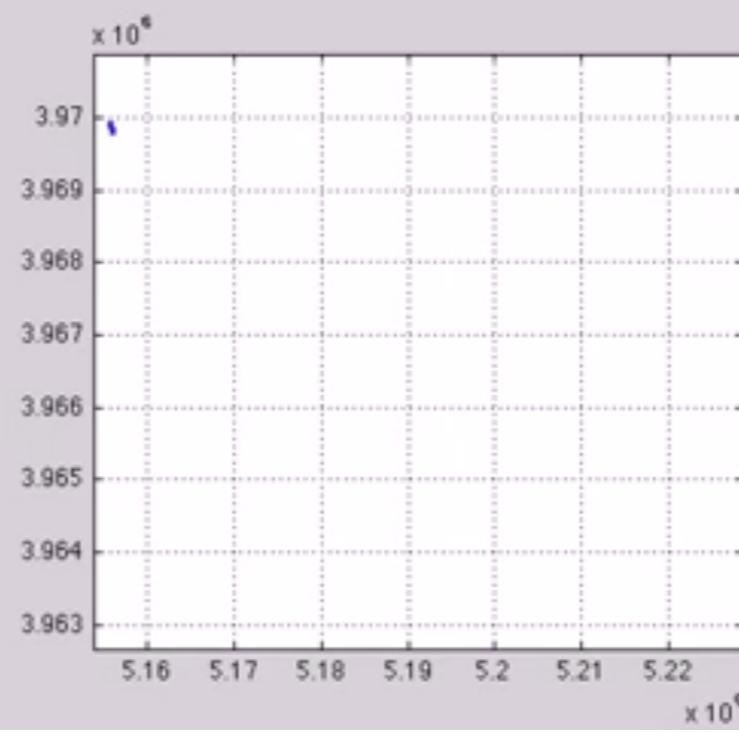
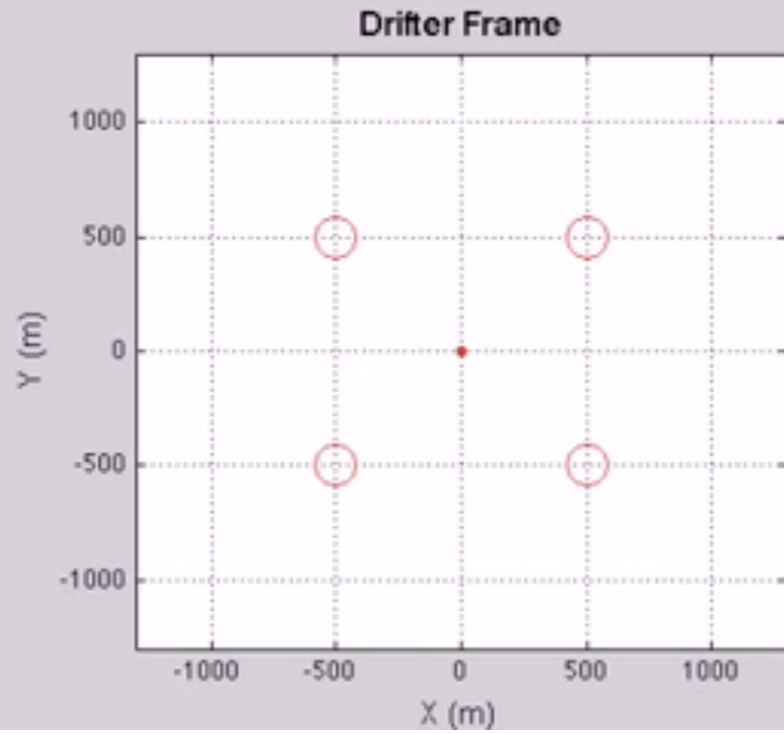
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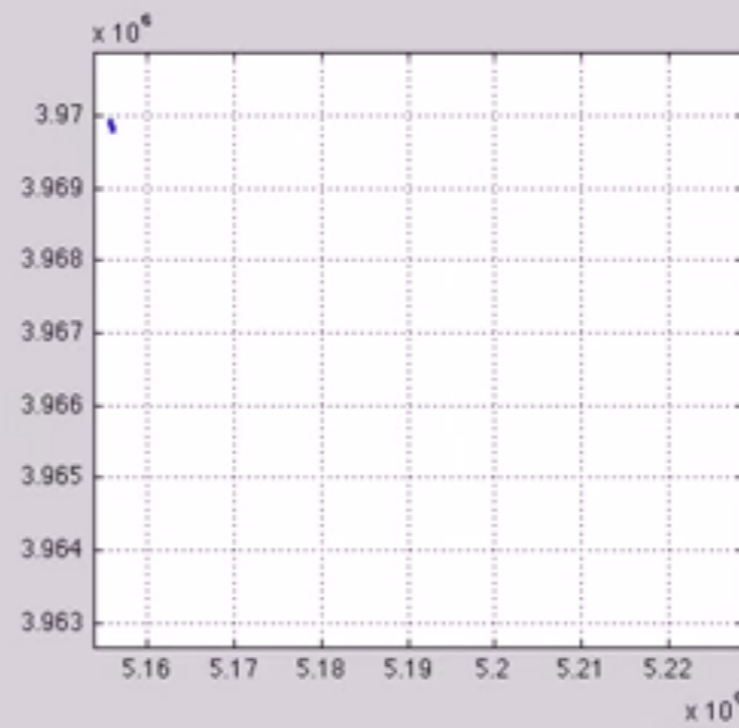
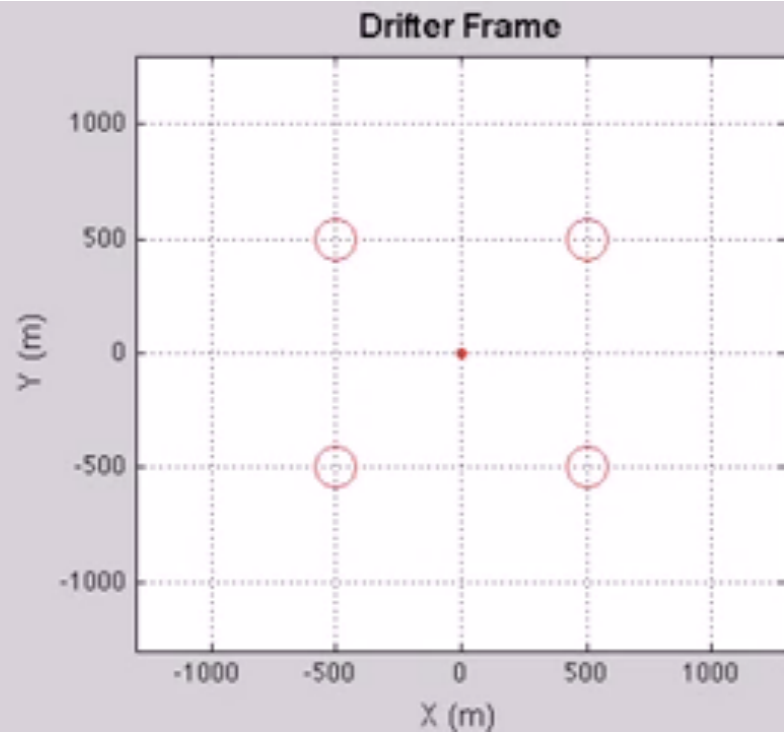
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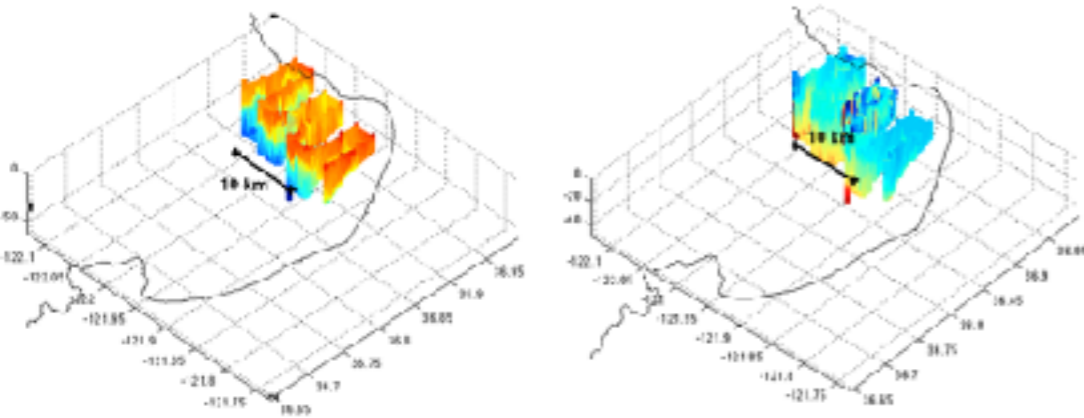


# Limitations of In-situ Sampling

MBARI's Dorado AUV



in-situ



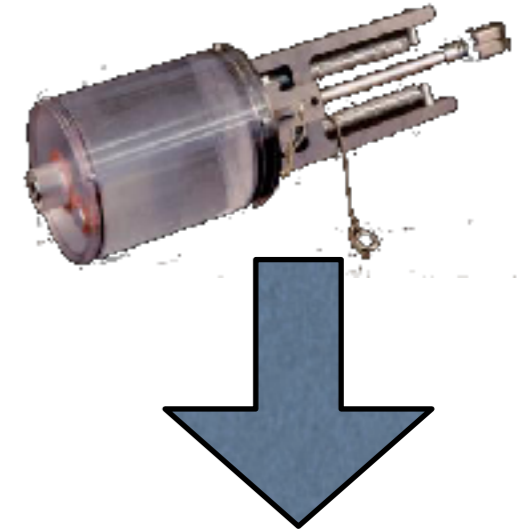
<temperature, salinity,...>

environmental context



lab analysis

Ten 1.8 L gulpers



Abundance (O.D)

1.00

0.80

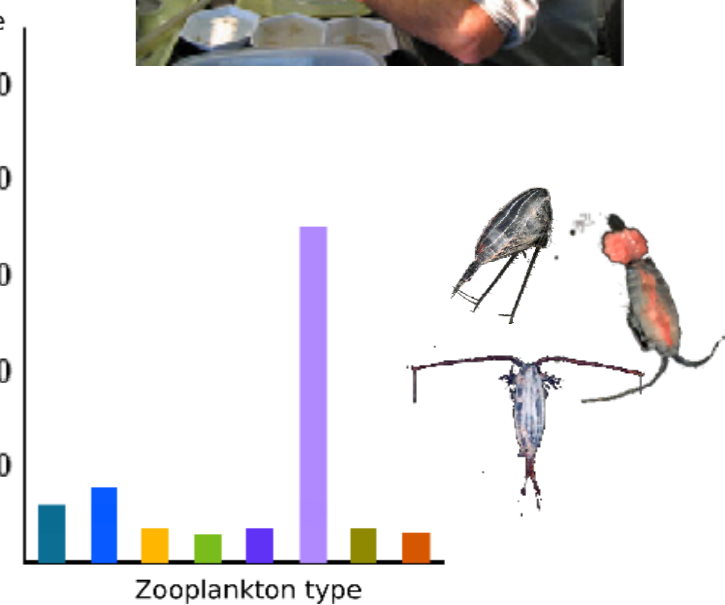
0.60

0.40

0.20

Zooplankton type

organism abundance



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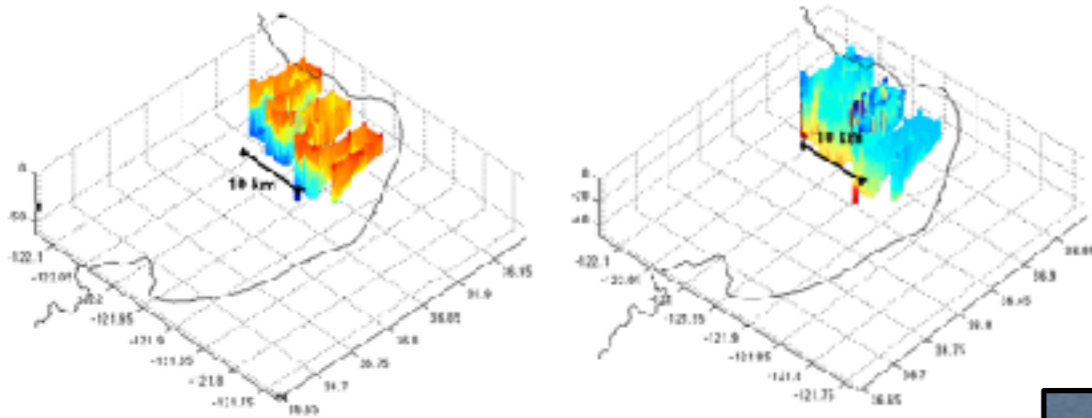
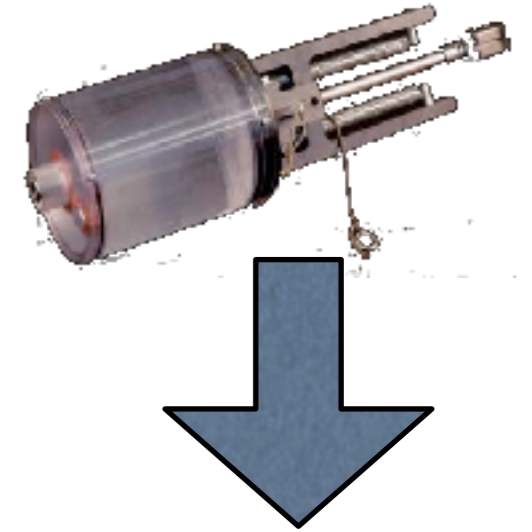


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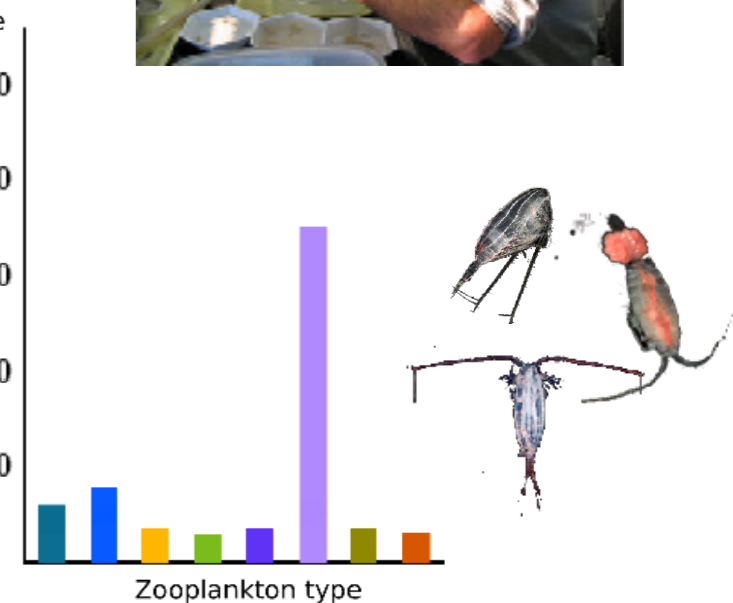
?



Abundance  
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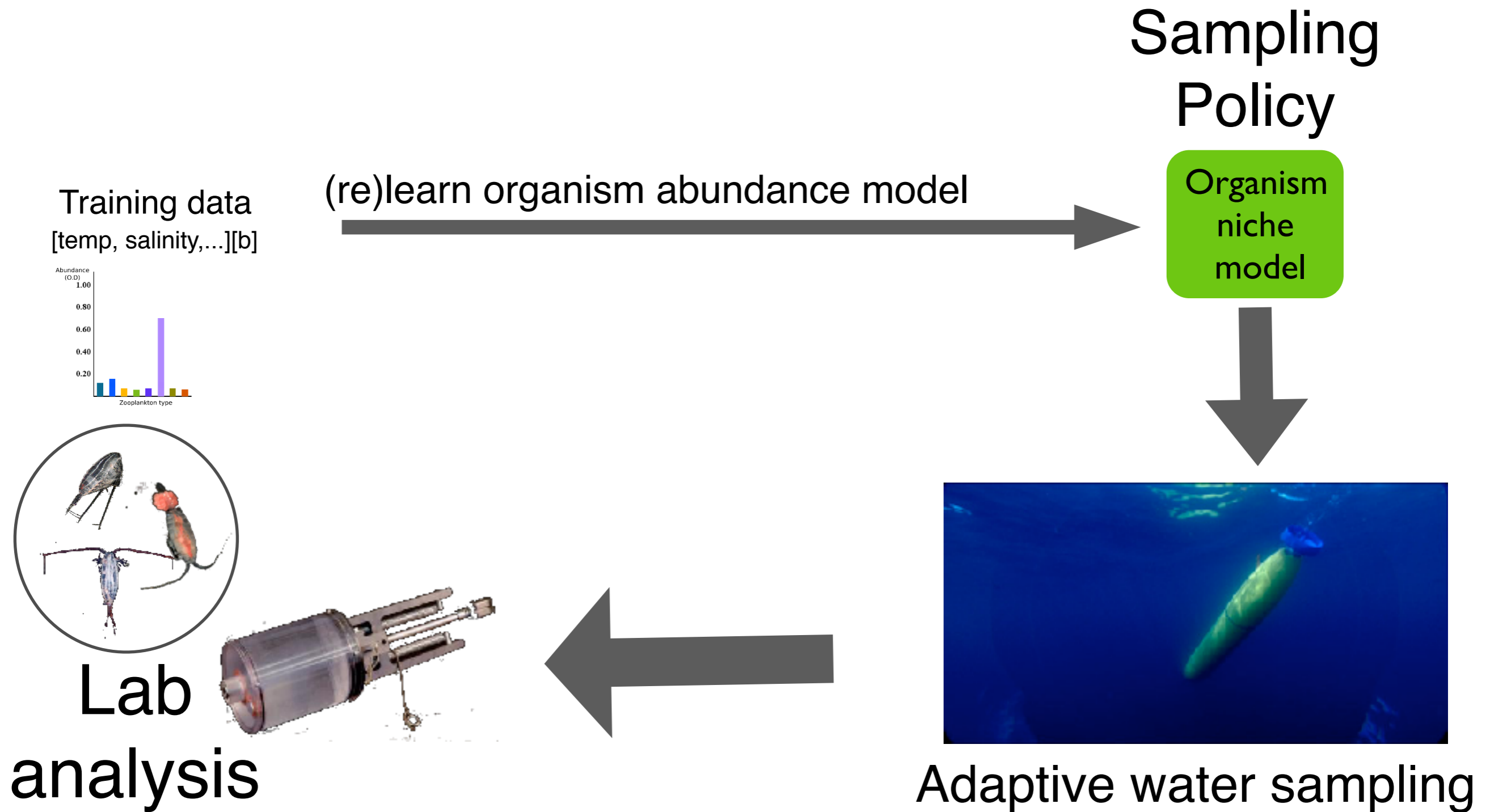
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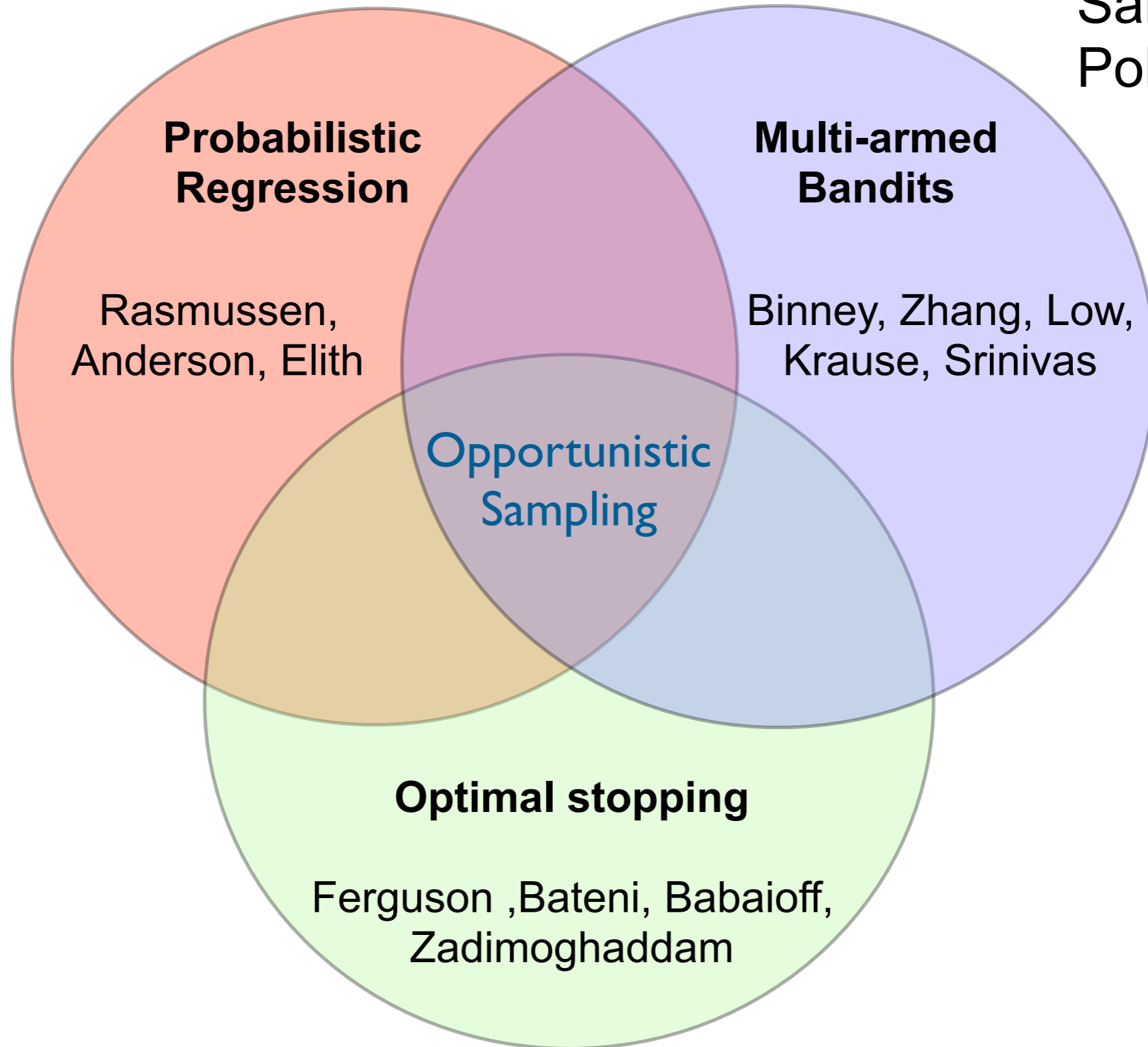
organism abundance

# Acquiring Water Samples Adaptively



Modeling

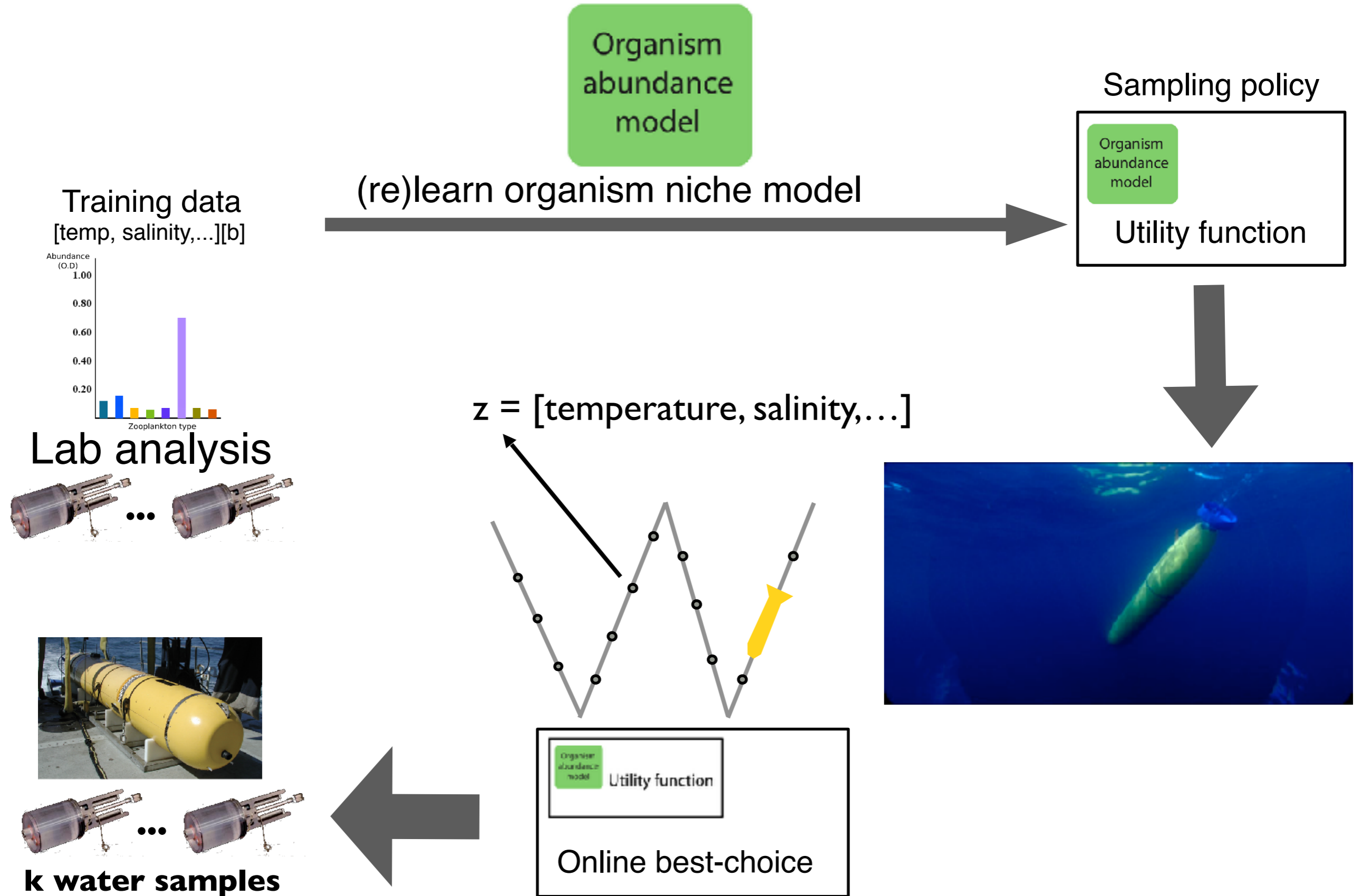
Sampling  
Policy



Online best-choice



# Opportunistic Sampling



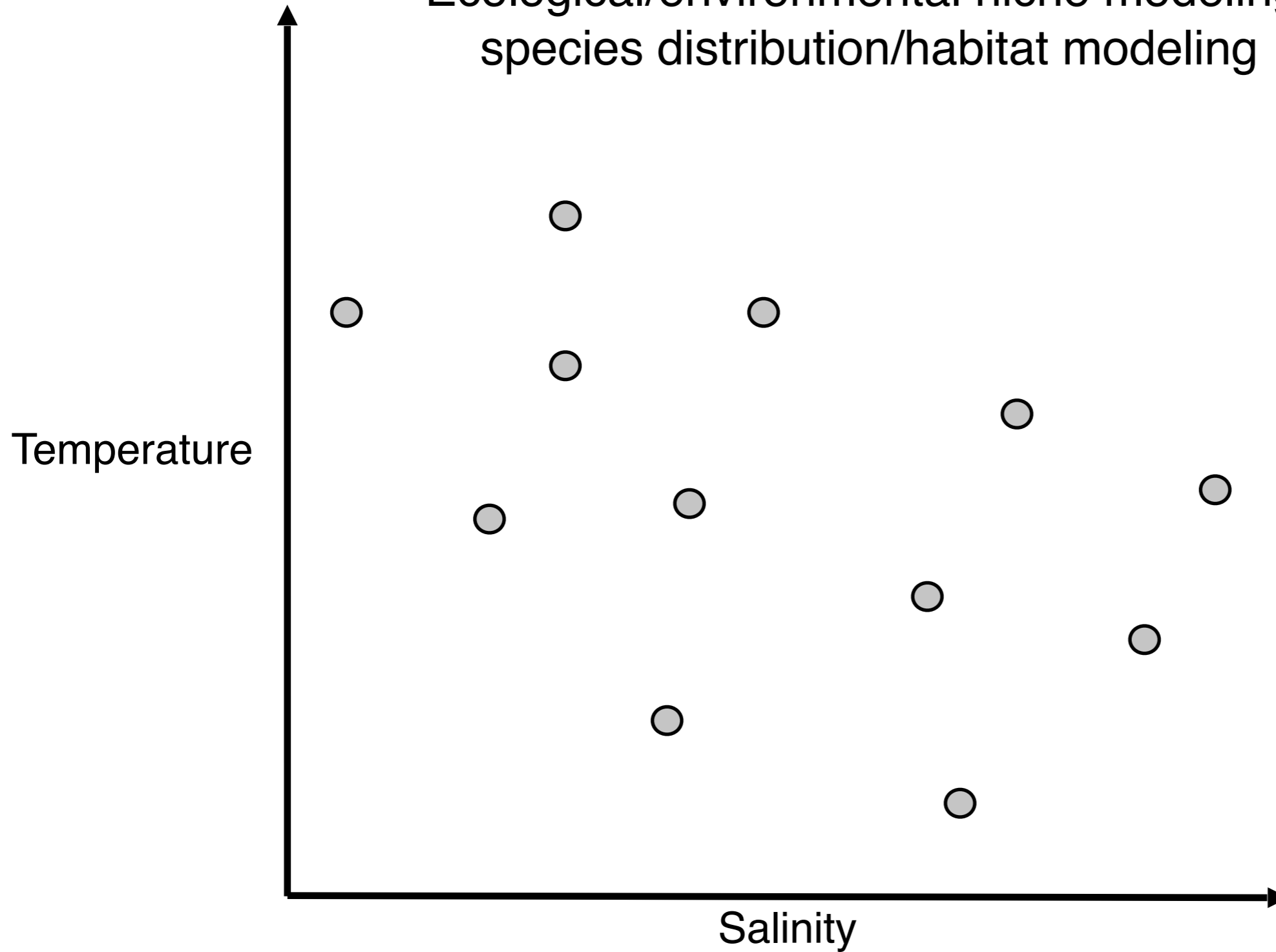
# Problem Formulation

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Environmental feature vector                           | $\mathbf{z} = [\text{temperature, salinity, ...}] \in \mathbb{R}^D$   |
| Training dataset                                       | $\mathbf{T} = \langle \mathbf{z}_1, b_1 \rangle, \langle \mathbf{z}_2, b_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle \mathbf{z}_M, b_M \rangle$ |
| Probabilistic model<br>for organism abundance          | $b = g(\mathbf{z}) + \epsilon, b \in \mathbb{R}$<br>$\mu(\mathbf{z}), \sigma^2(\mathbf{z})$                                   |
| AUV samples $\mathbf{z}$ at geographic<br>locations    | $\mathbf{x} = [\text{latitude, longitude, depth}] \in \mathbb{R}^3$   |
| Bayesian sequential optimization<br>: utility function | $u = h(\mu(\mathbf{z}), \sigma^2(\mathbf{z}))$  |

Goal : Acquire samples that maximize utility, *online*

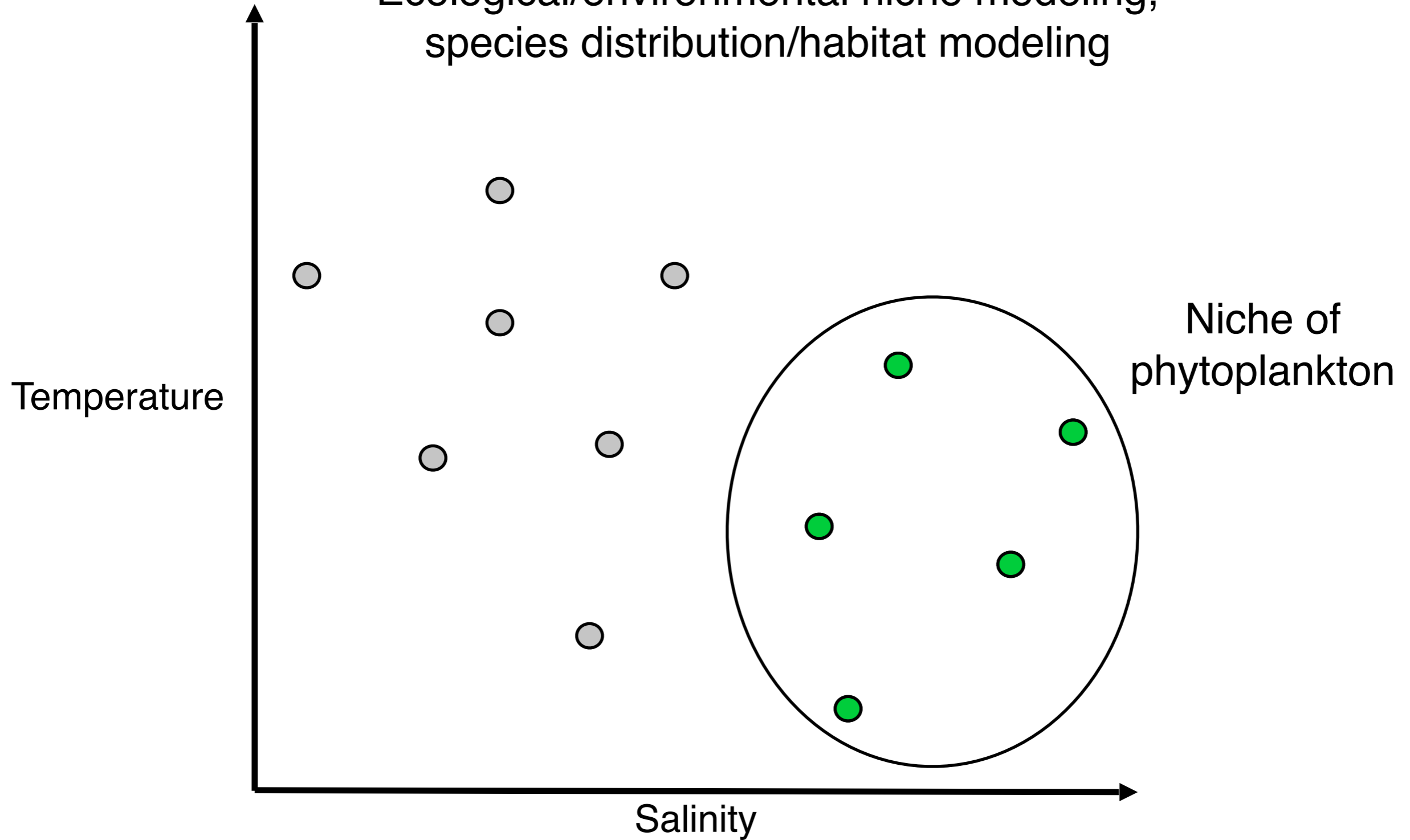
# Organism Abundance Model

Ecological/environmental niche modeling,  
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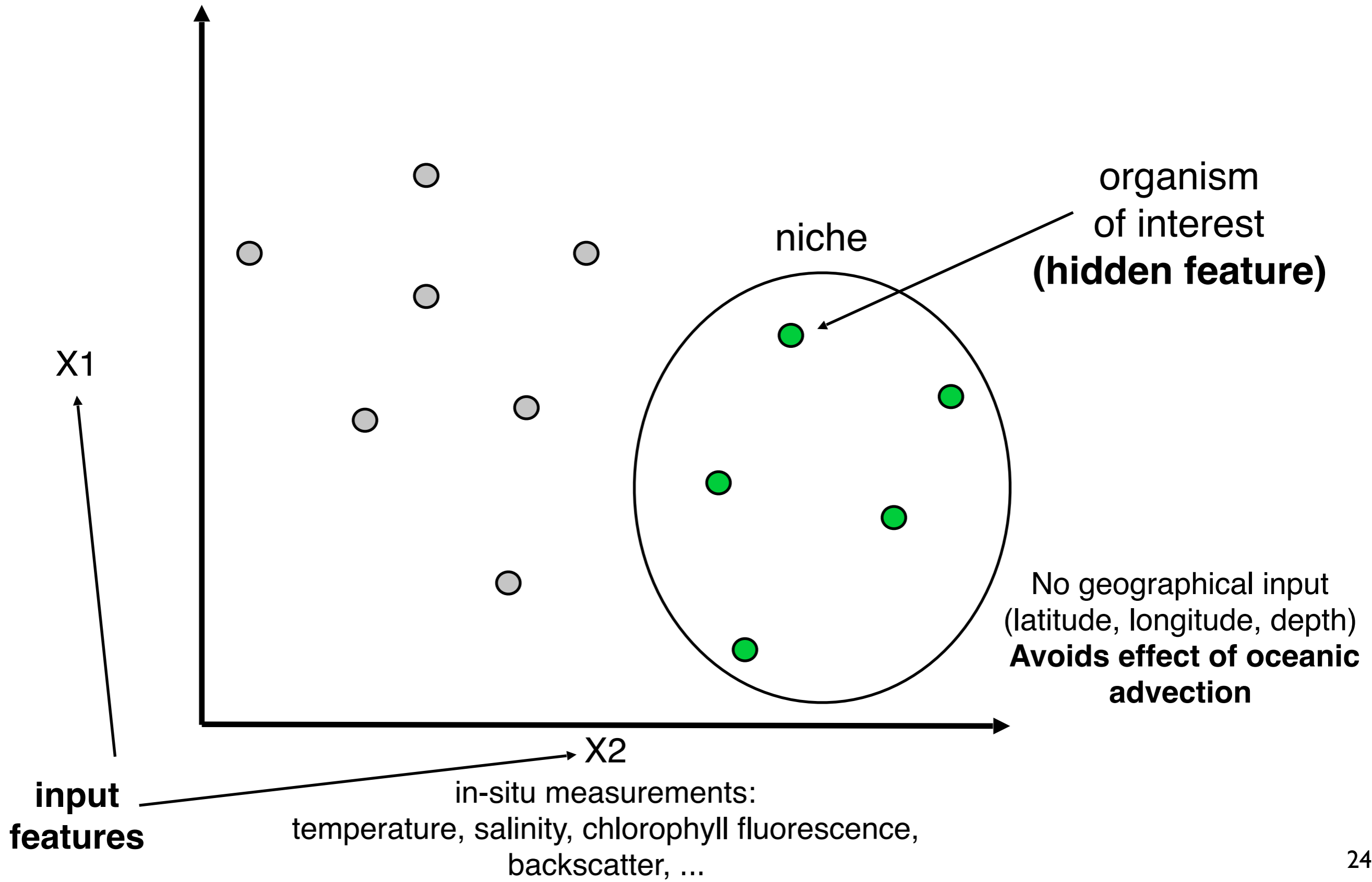


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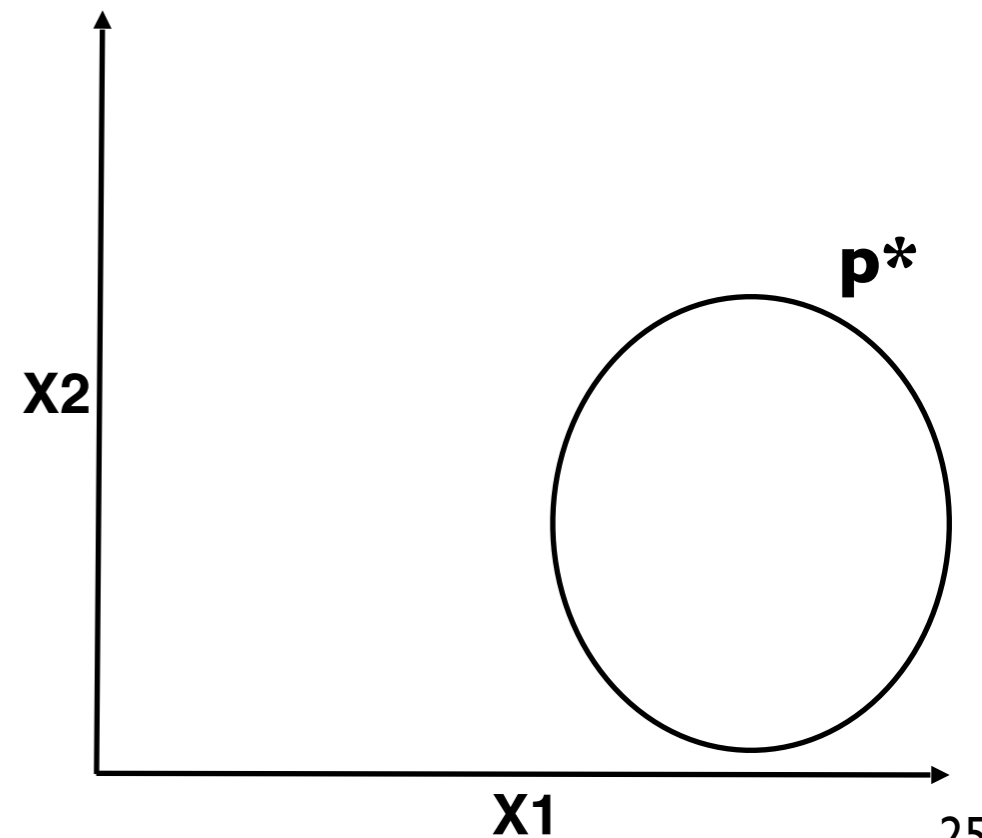


# Organism Abundance Model



# Sequential Sampling

- Organism observed from unknown true niche  $p^*$
- Goal: acquire high abundance samples for ecological studies

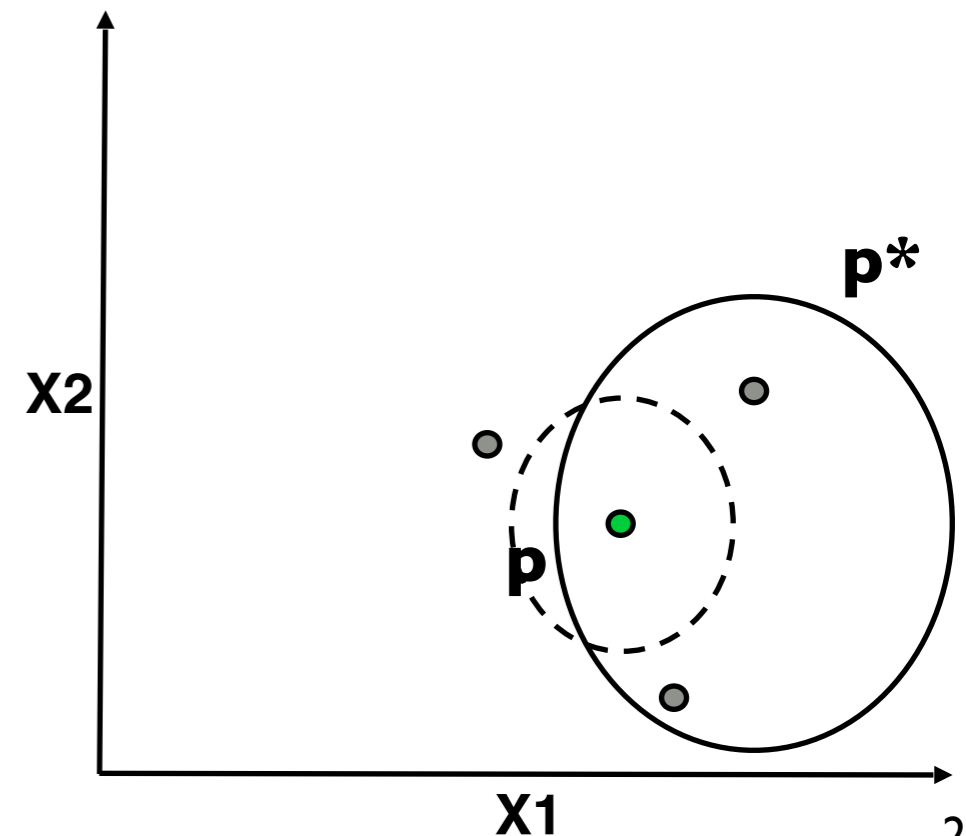


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## steps

1. Robot samples from  $p^*$  randomly
2. Oracle reveals organism abundance of samples
3. Model learns distribution  $p$  (an estimate of  $p^*$ )

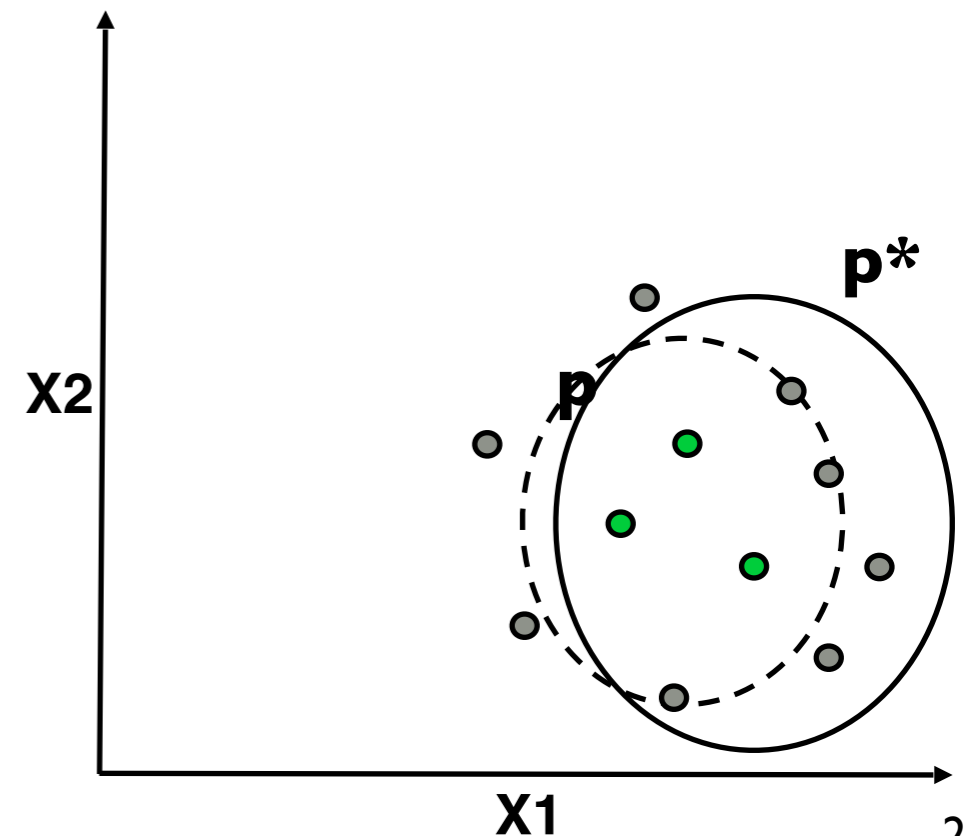


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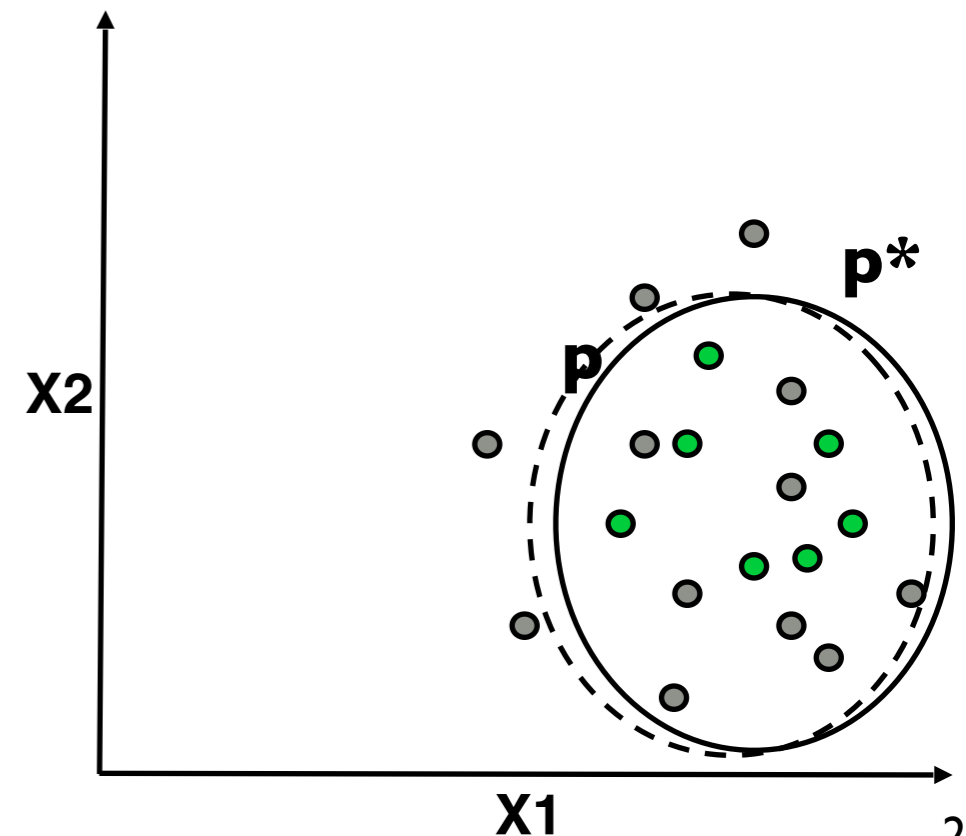


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# Gaussian Processes Regression

- Non-linear (expressive), probabilistic (introspective)

$$\mu(\mathbf{z}^*) = \mathbf{k}(K + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{b}$$

$$\sigma^2(\mathbf{z}^*) = k(\mathbf{z}^*, \mathbf{z}^*) + \mathbf{k}(K + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{k}$$

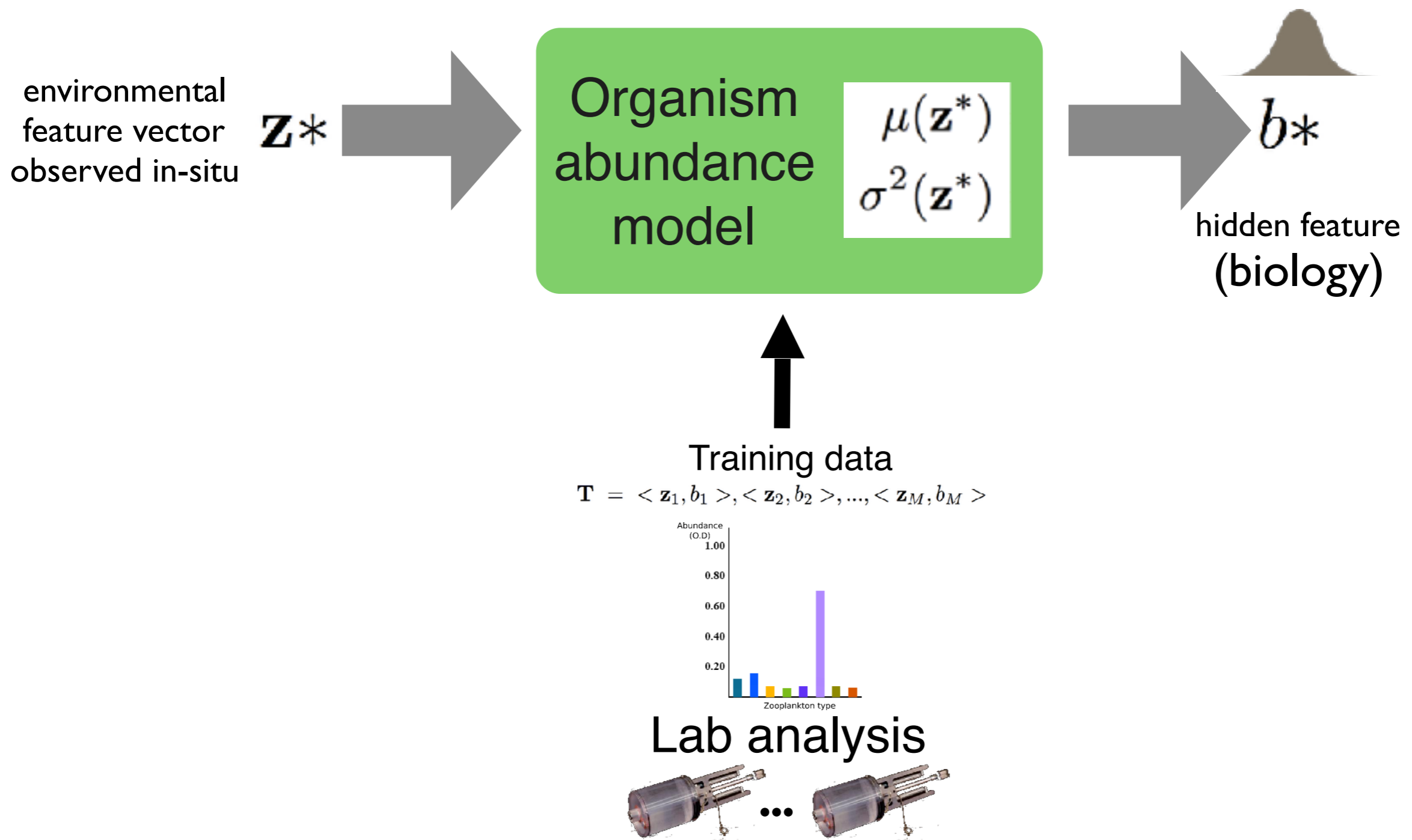
- $K$  is the covariance (or Gram) matrix, generated using a kernel function (squared exponential for this work)

$$k(\mathbf{z}_p, \mathbf{z}_q) = e^{-\frac{1}{2\lambda^2} |\mathbf{z}_p - \mathbf{z}_q|^2}$$

- Train model on shore - make predictions on robot, in real time

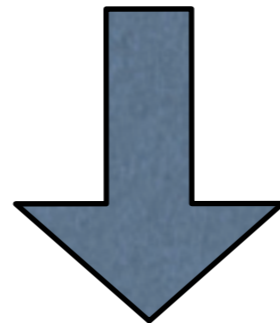
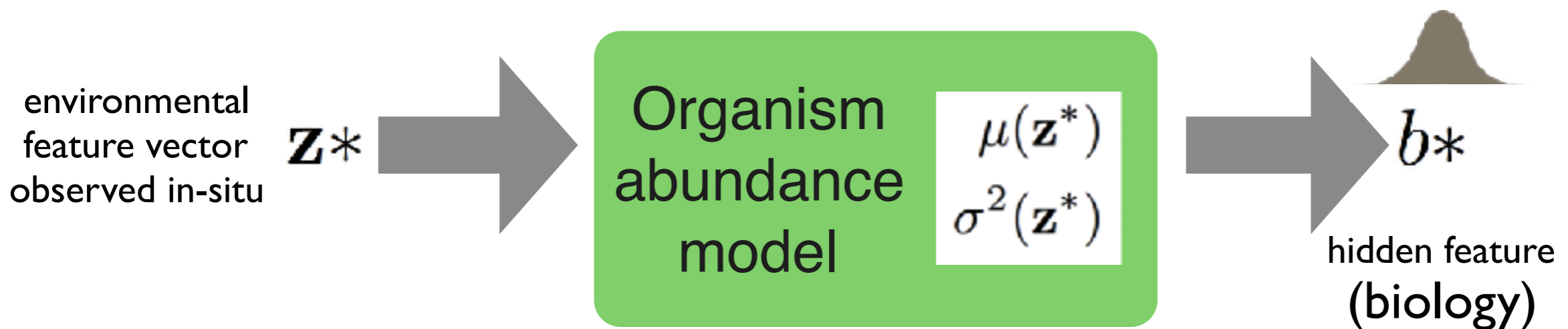
“Gaussian Processes for Machine Learning”, C. Rasmussen and C. Williams., The MIT Press, 2006.

# Probabilistic Model



"Hierarchical Probabilistic Regression for AUV-based Adaptive Sampling of Marine Phenomena", J. Das, J. Harvey, F. Py, H. Vathsangam, R. Graham, K. Rajan and G. S. Sukhatme. In International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), May 2013.

# Probabilistic Model

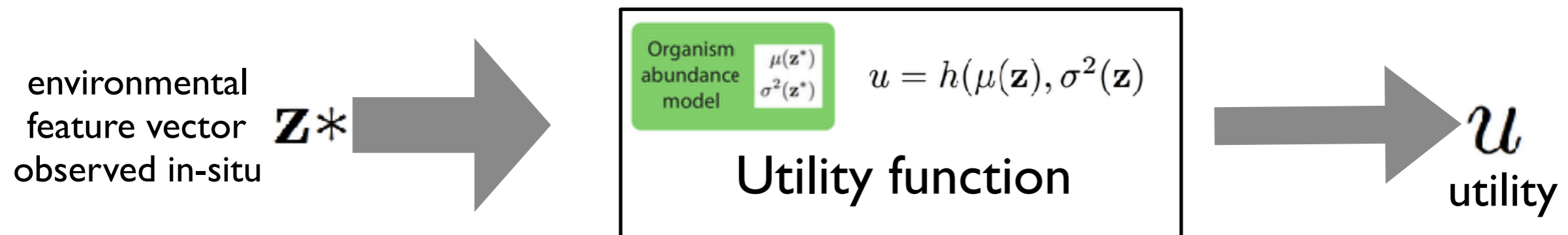


Predict organism abundance, and associated uncertainty in real-time

# Sampling Policy



next best sample to improve model?



J. Das, F. Py, J. B. Harvey, J. P. Ryan, A. Gellene, R. Graham, D. A. Caron, K. Rajan, and G. S. Sukhatme, "Data-driven robotic sampling for marine ecosystem monitoring," *The International Journal of Robotics Research*, vol. 34, no. 12, pp. 1435–1452, 2015.

# Exploration-exploitation Tradeoff

$$\mu(\mathbf{z}^*) = \mathbf{k}(K + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{b}$$

$$\sigma^2(\mathbf{z}^*) = k(\mathbf{z}^*, \mathbf{z}^*) + \mathbf{k}(K + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{k}$$

- Maximize sum of organism abundance from acquired samples : **reward**
- Balance **exploitation** of known high valued regions, and **exploration** of unknown parts of input space
- Minimize long term **regret**  $r = b(\hat{\mathbf{z}}) - b(\mathbf{z}_t)$

# Exploration-exploitation Tradeoff

$$\mu(\mathbf{z}^*) = \mathbf{k}(K + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{b}$$

$$\sigma^2(\mathbf{z}^*) = k(\mathbf{z}^*, \mathbf{z}^*) + \mathbf{k}(K + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{k}$$

- Multi-armed bandit - maximize rewards from unknown distributions, i.e. improve model locally (mean driven)
- Experiment design (active learning) - improve model globally (variance driven)

Utility function :  $u = h(\mu(\mathbf{z}), \sigma^2(\mathbf{z}))$

# Exploration-exploitation Tradeoff

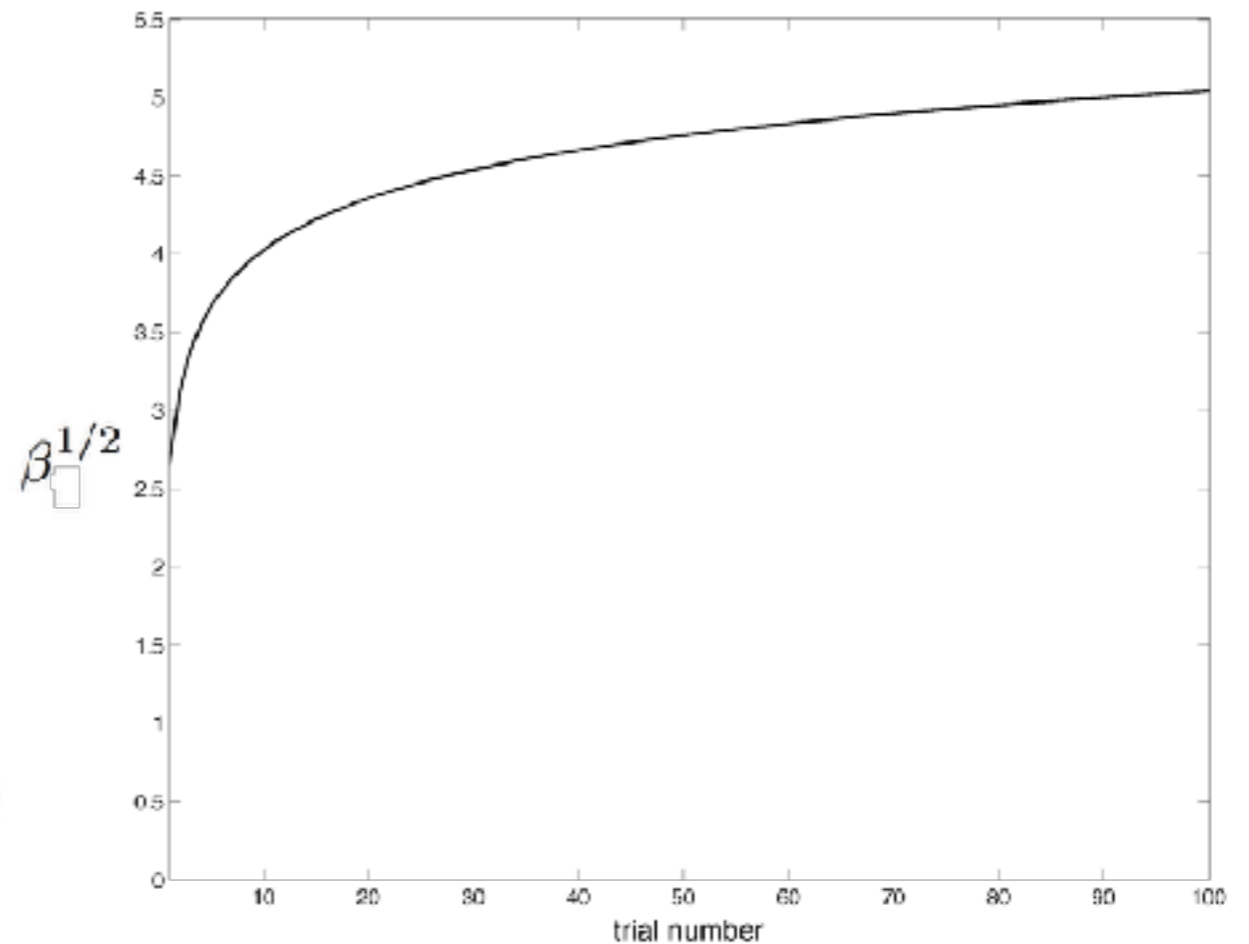
- Upper confidence bound - Auer et. al (JMLR 2002)
- GP upper confidence bound (GP-UCB) - Srinivas et. al (2010)
- Minimize cumulative average regret over  $t$  trials

$$z_t = \arg \max_{z \in D} \mu_{t-1}(z) + \beta_t^{1/2} \sigma_{t-1}(z)$$

$$\beta_t = 2 \log\left(\frac{|D|t^2 \pi^2}{6\delta}\right)$$

$$\Pr \left\{ R_T \leq \sqrt{C_1 T \beta_T \gamma_T} \quad \forall T \geq 1 \right\} \geq 1 - \delta.$$

where  $C_1 = 8 / \log(1 + \sigma^{-2})$ .



Increasing rate of exploration, that eventually stabilizes

“Information-Theoretic Regret Bounds for Gaussian Process Optimization in the Bandit Setting”, N. Srinivas, A. Krause, S. M. Kakade, and M. W. Seeger. IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (2012)



# Batch-update GP-UCB

- Our goal : Acquire top  $k$  peaks of the utility function from a deployment
- Model update happens at the end of the deployment, i.e. in batches of  $k$  samples

---

**Algorithm 1:** Batch-update GP-UCB algorithm

---

**Data:** Input dimension  $D$ , GP Prior  $\mu = 0, \sigma_0, k$

1 **for**  $t \leftarrow 1$  **to**  $T$  **do**

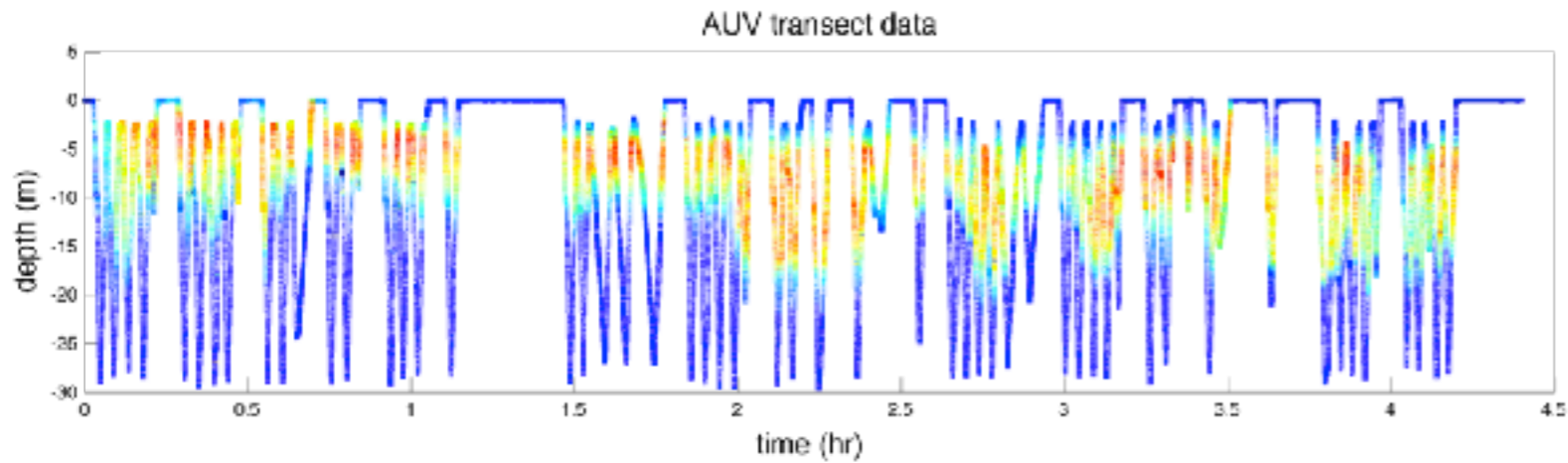
2     Choose top  $k$  arguments  $Z_t = z_1 \dots z_k$  corresponding to top  $k$  peaks of  $\mu_{t-1}(z) + \beta_t^{1/2} \sigma_{t-1}(z)$ ;

3     Sample set  $B_t = g(Z_t) + \epsilon_t$ ;

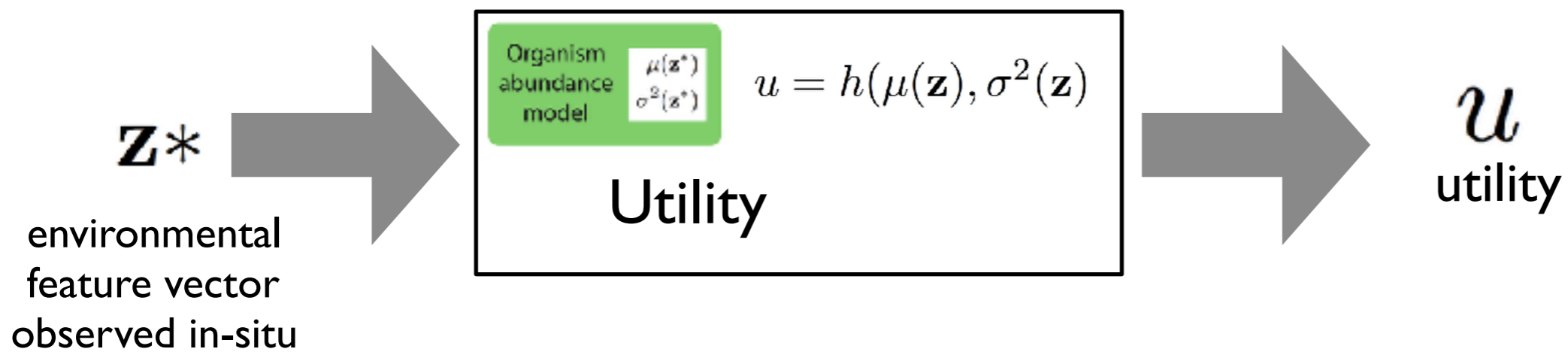
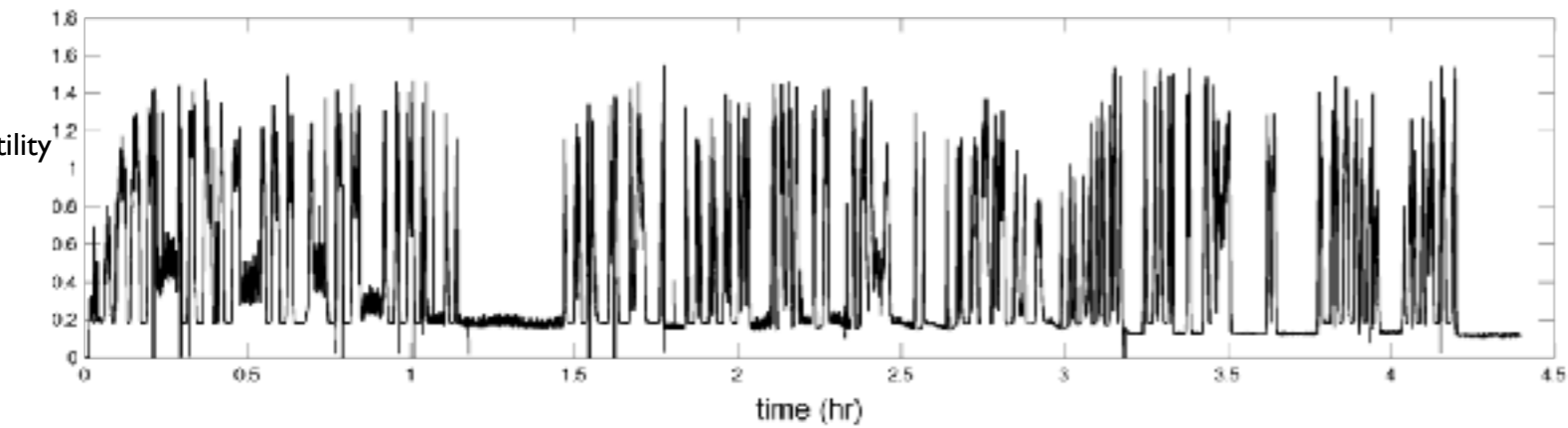
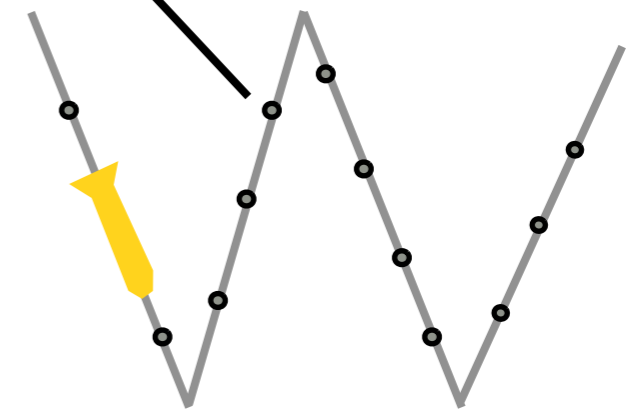
4     Perform Bayesian update to obtain  $\mu_t$  and  $\sigma_t$ ;

5 **end**

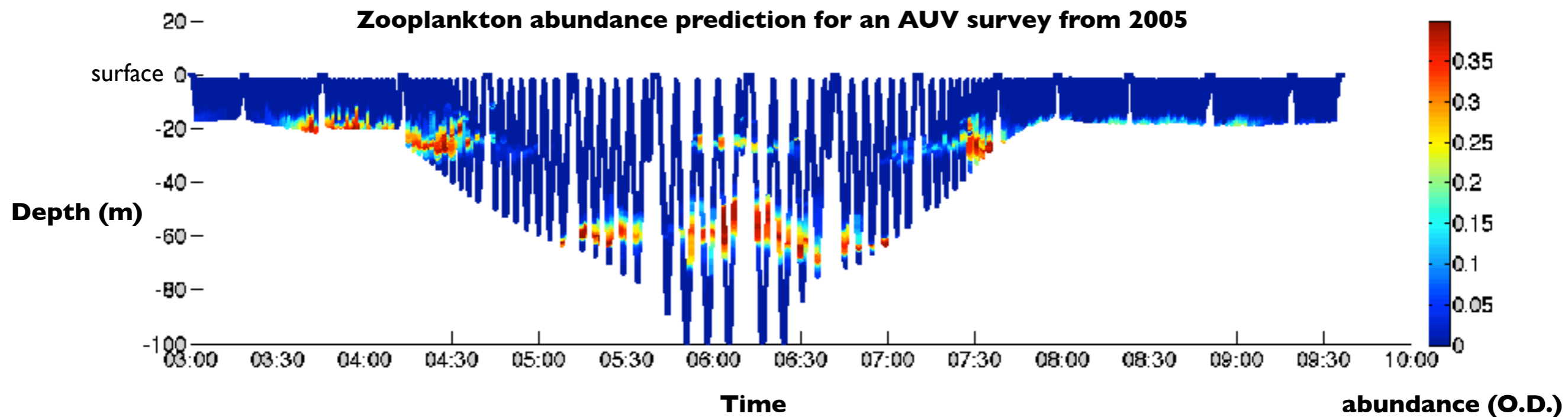
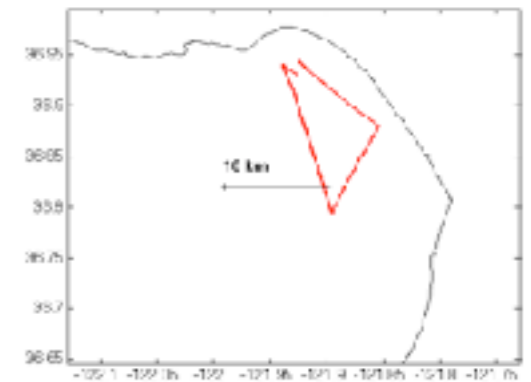
# Online Best-choice Problem



$z^* = [\text{temperature, salinity}]$

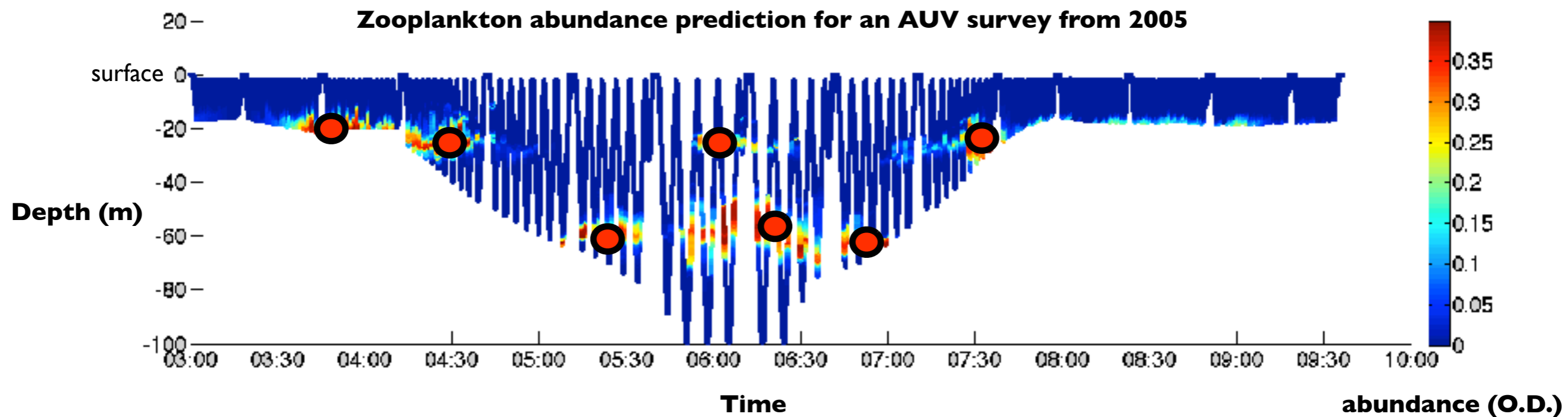
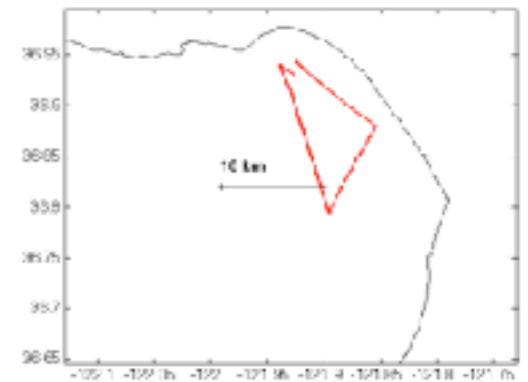


# Online Best-choice Problem



How to choose  $k$  samples to maximize the the sum of utility from all samples?

# Online Best-choice Problem



How to choose  $k$  samples to maximize the the sum of utility from all samples?

# Challenges

- Missing out on potential future hotspots
  - too greedy
- Coming back with few samples
  - too conservative
- Having to set thresholds
  - undesirable

# Optimal Stopping Theory

Problem of choosing a time to  
take a particular action

# Optimal Stopping Theory

## Hiring (or secretary) problem

- $N$  candidates arrive for an interview i.i.d, and ranked
- Goal: choose best candidate, online
- Hiring decision irrevocable

“Who Solved the Secretary Problem?“, T. Ferguson, Statistical Science, Vol. 4 (1989)

# Optimal Stopping Theory

## Hiring (or secretary) problem

- N candidates arrive for an interview i.i.d, and ranked
- Goal: choose best candidate, online
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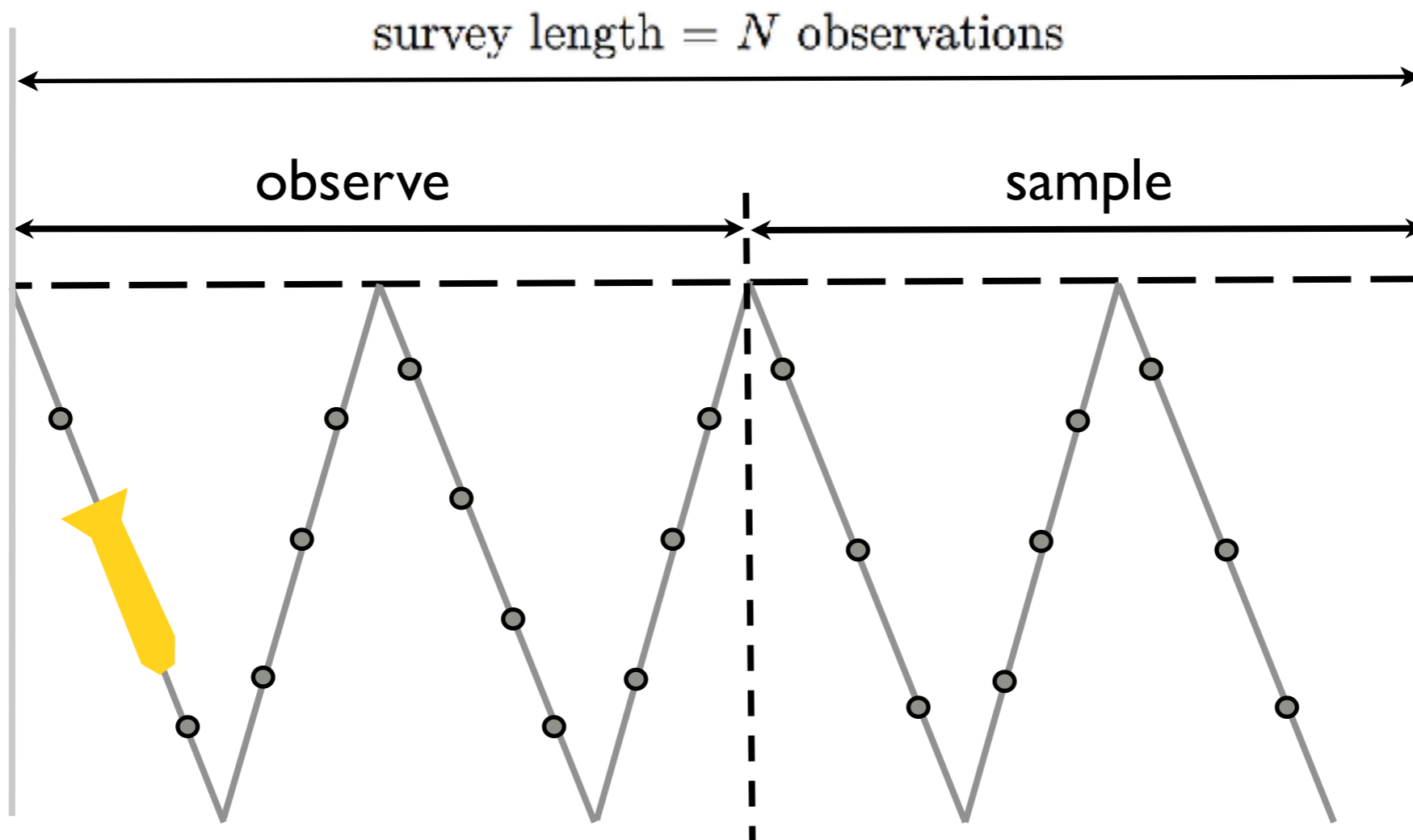
## Solution

- Observe first  $N/e$  (36.7 %) candidates, hire next best
- If no better candidate, hire last person
- Probability of choosing best candidate =  $1/e$  (~36.7 %)

“Who Solved the Secretary Problem?“, T. Ferguson, Statistical Science, Vol. 4 (1989)



# Hiring Problem



$$N_w = \frac{N}{s}$$

$s$  = stopping parameter

# Selecting $k$ Candidates Online

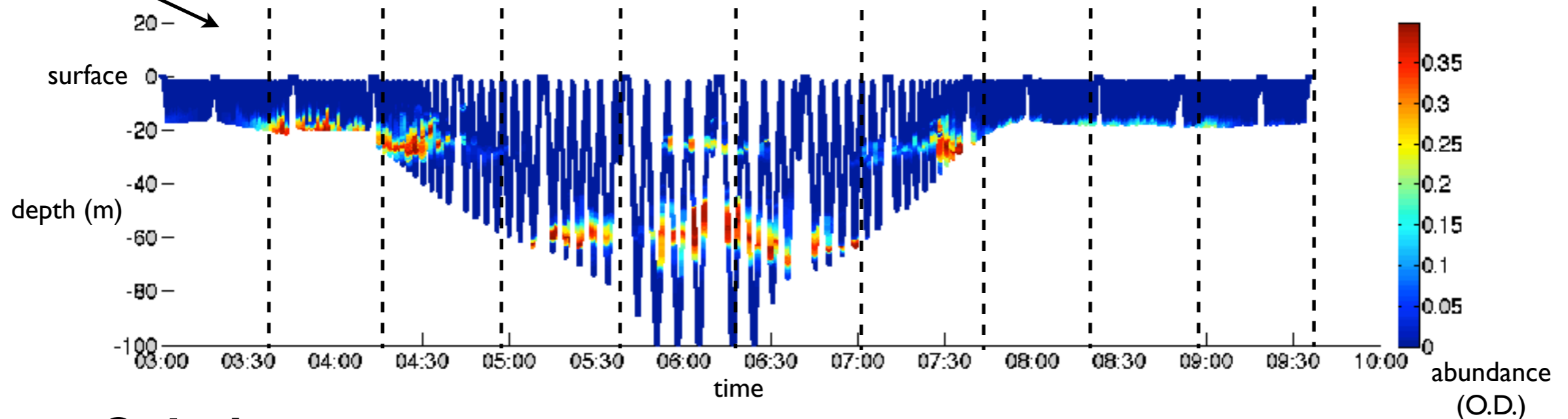
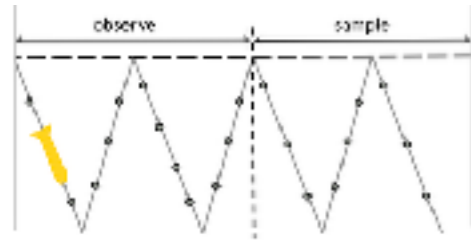
- **Submodular secretary problem**
  - $N$  candidates arrive for an interview, i.i.d, and *rated*
  - Goal: choose *best  $k$*  candidates, online (best sum of rating)
  - Hiring decisions irrevocable

# Selecting $k$ Candidates Online

- **Submodular secretary problem**
  - $N$  candidates arrive for an interview, i.i.d, and *rated*
  - Goal: choose *best  $k$*  candidates, online (best sum of rating)
  - Hiring decisions irrevocable
- **Solution**
  - Split total window into  $k$  segments
  - Apply secretary algorithm in each segment
  - Guaranteed competitive-ratio of at least  $(1 - 1/e)/11$ ,  $\sim 0.05$

“Submodular secretary problem and extensions,” M. Bateni, M. Hajiaghayi, and M. Zadimoghaddam, in APPROX-RANDOM (2010)

# Selecting k Candidates Online

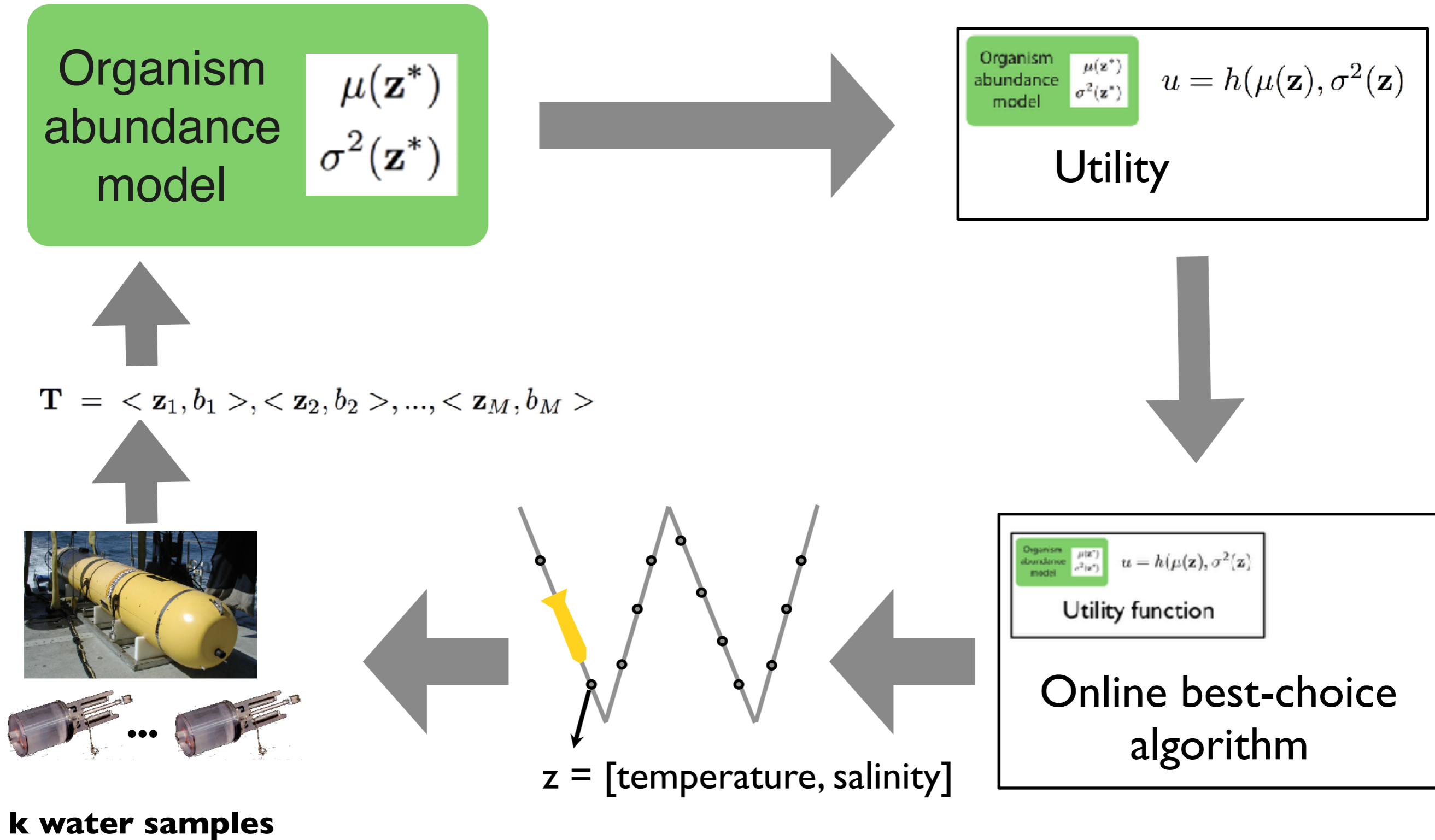


- **Solution**

- Split total window into k segments
- Apply secretary algorithm in each segment
- Guaranteed competitive-ratio of at least  $(1 - 1/e)/11$ ,  $\sim 0.05$

“Submodular secretary problem and extensions,” M. Bateni, M. Hajiaghayi, and M. Zadimoghaddam, in APPROX-RANDOM (2010)

# Workflow

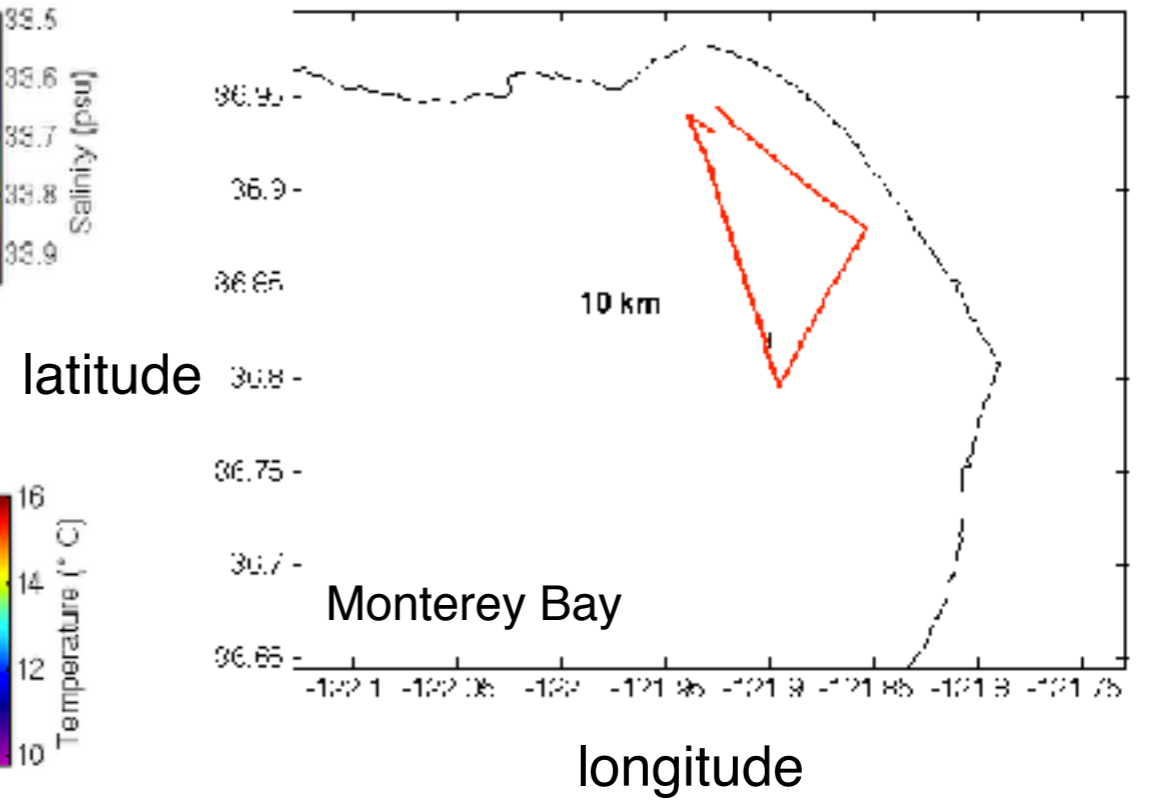
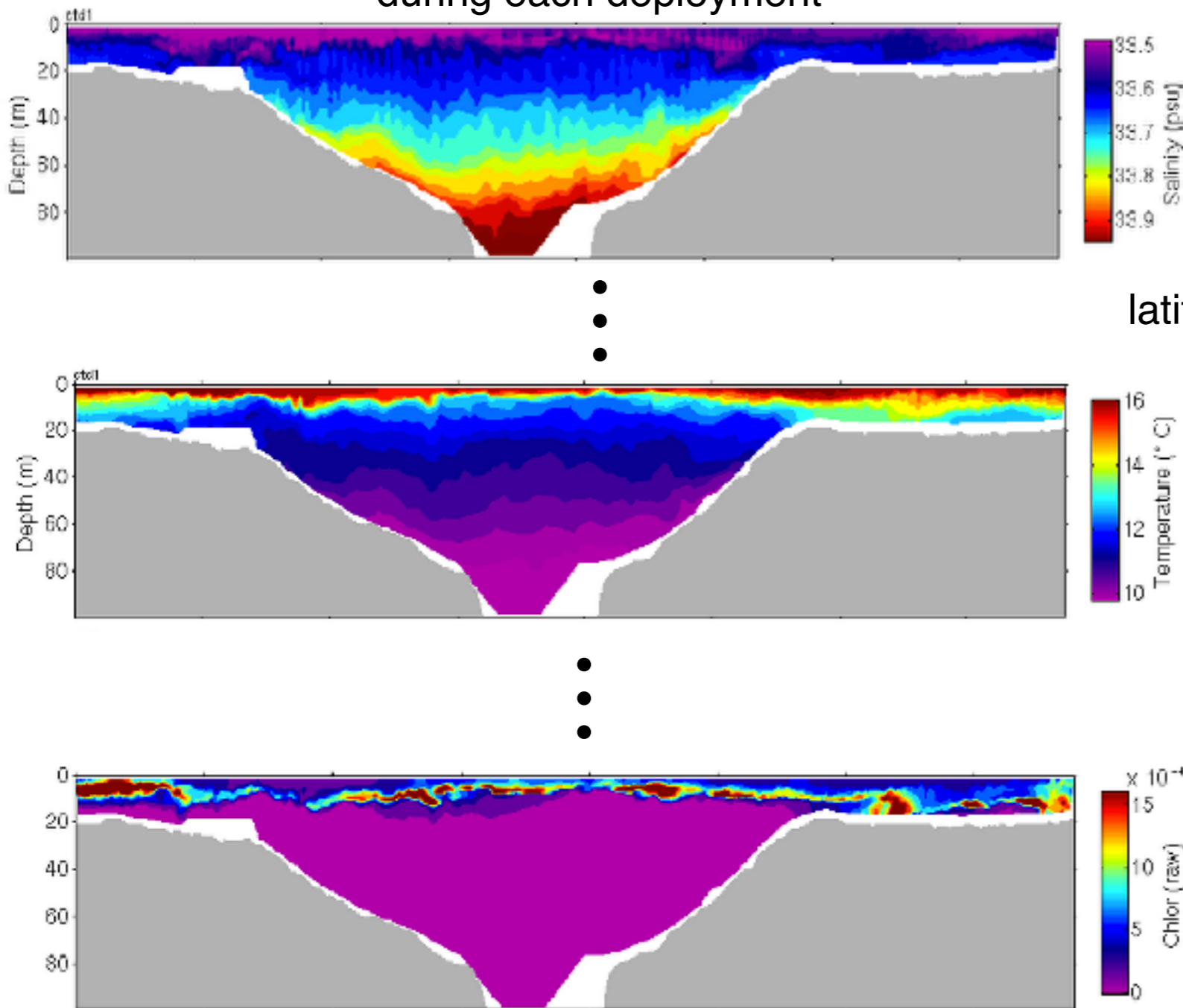


# Evaluation

- Framework to test methodology on real data
  - Campaign : 17 Dorado AUV deployments in Monterey bay over 8 days from August 2005
  - Logged in-situ - temperature, salinity, optical backscatter, chlorophyll fluorescence, nitrate conc., dissolved oxygen
  - Chlorophyll fluorescence - proxy for phytoplankton (algal) biomass, measured by a fluorometer
- Goal: Acquire **simulated gulps** of high abundance phytoplankton samples

# Methodology

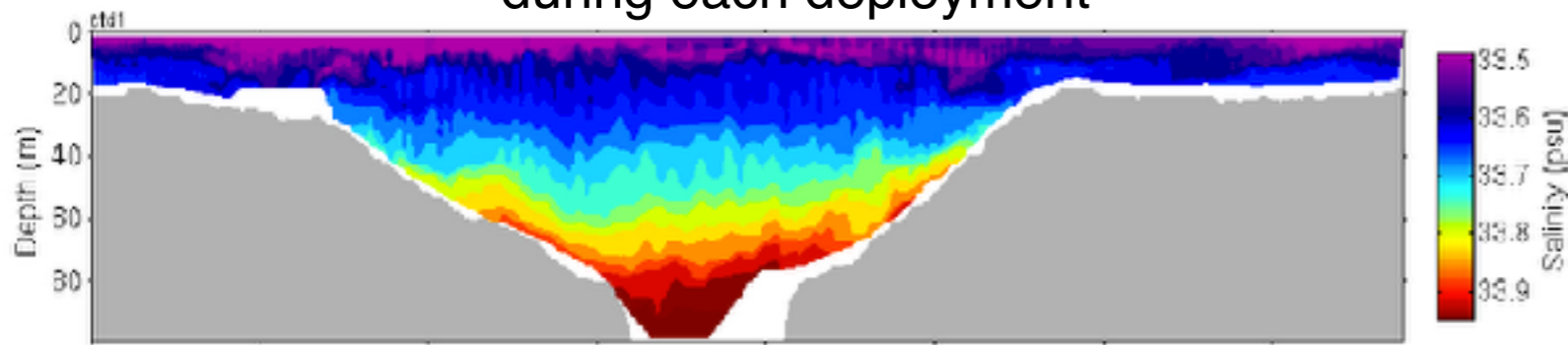
Measured by AUV  
during each deployment



- 17 deployments, ~ 7 hr each
- 8 days (2005)
- ~ 45,000 measurements per deployment
- No gulps

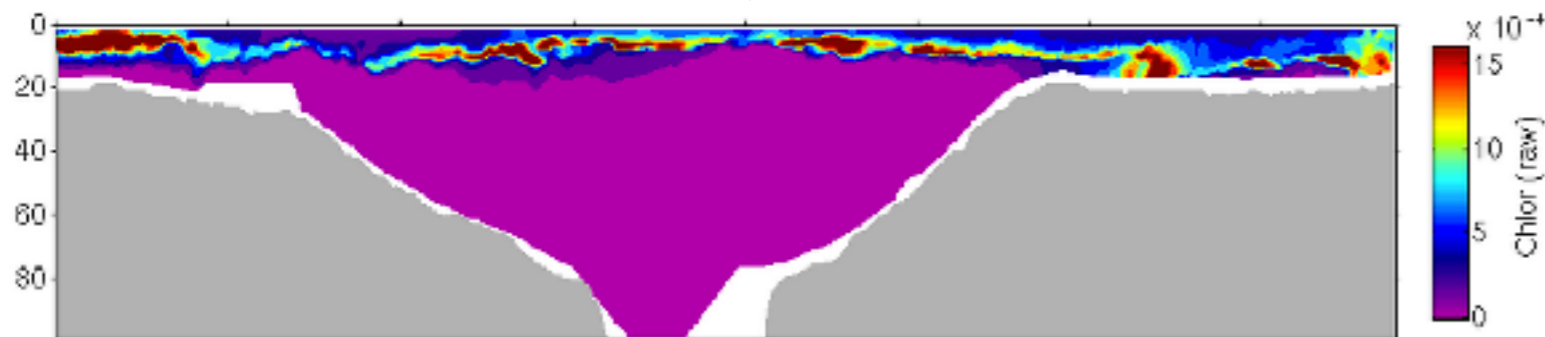
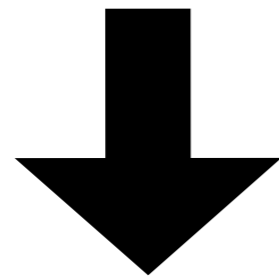
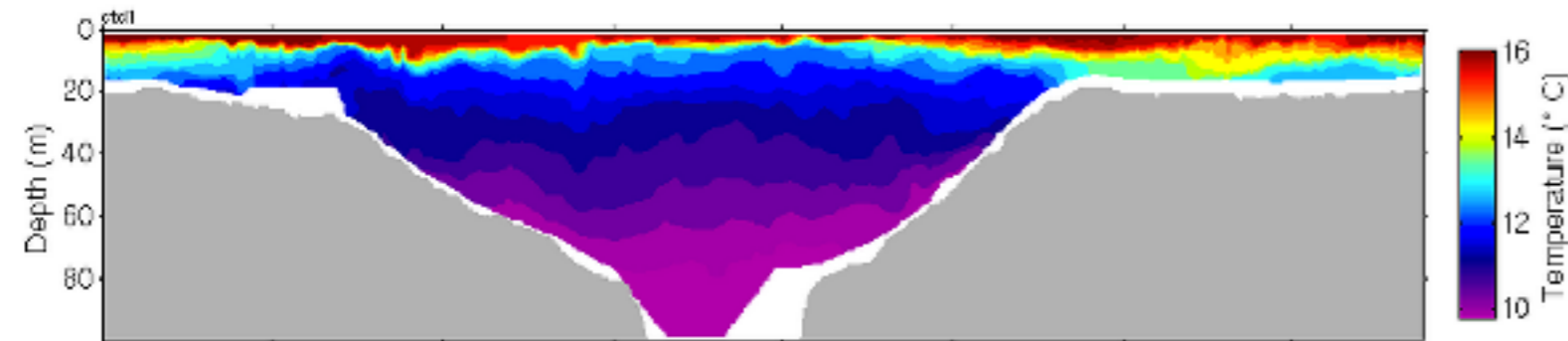
# Methodology

Measured by AUV  
during each deployment



⋮

latitude

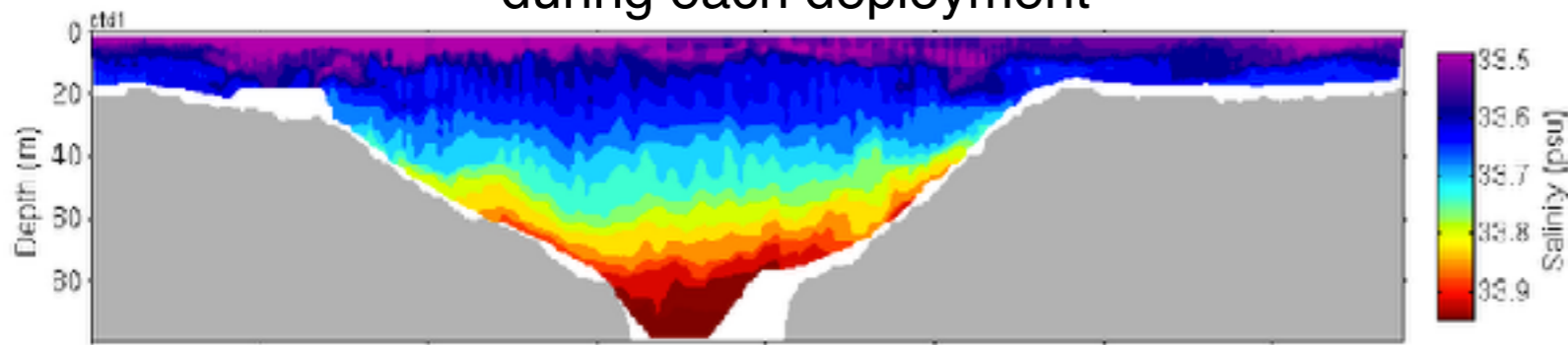


**Hidden** from AUV  
during the mission



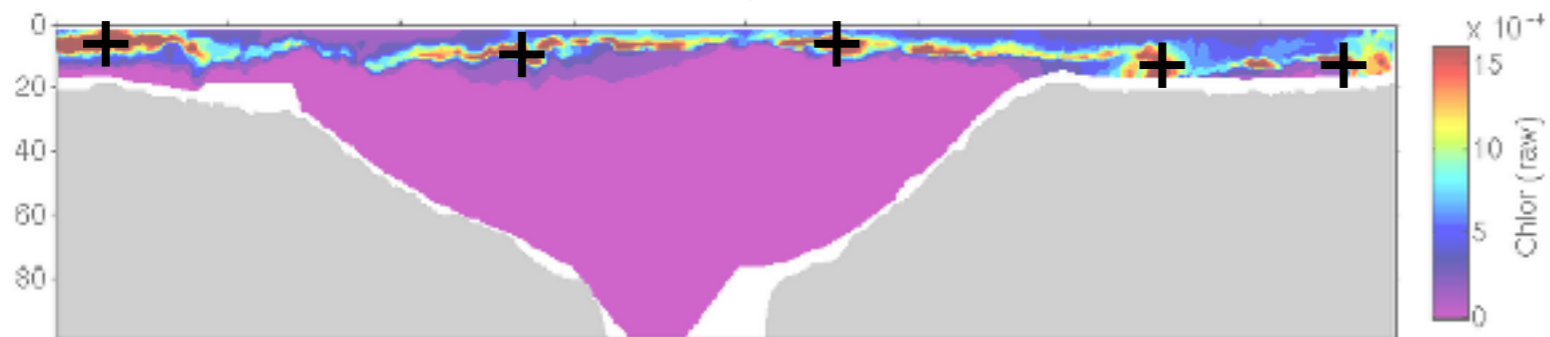
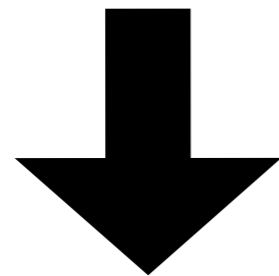
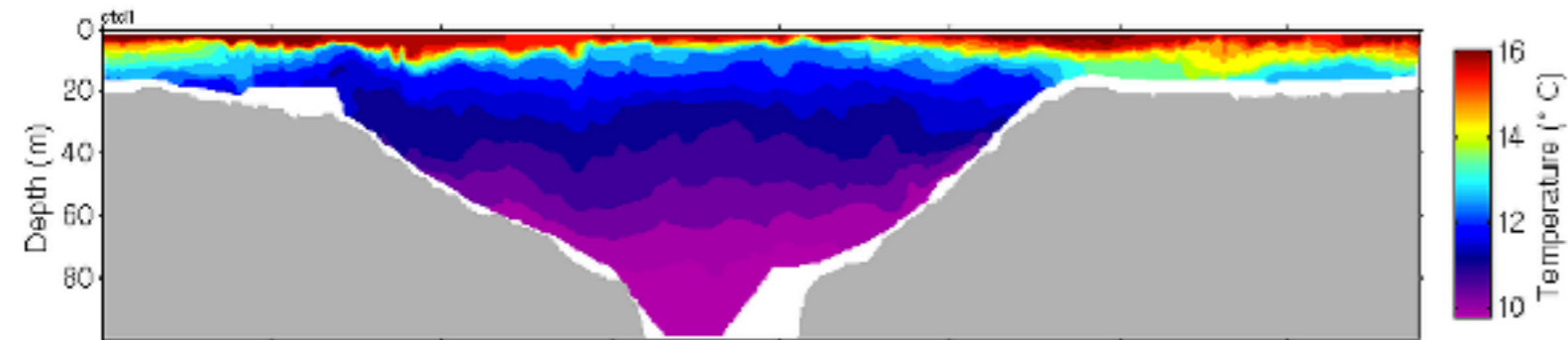
# Methodology

Measured by AUV  
during each deployment



⋮

latitude



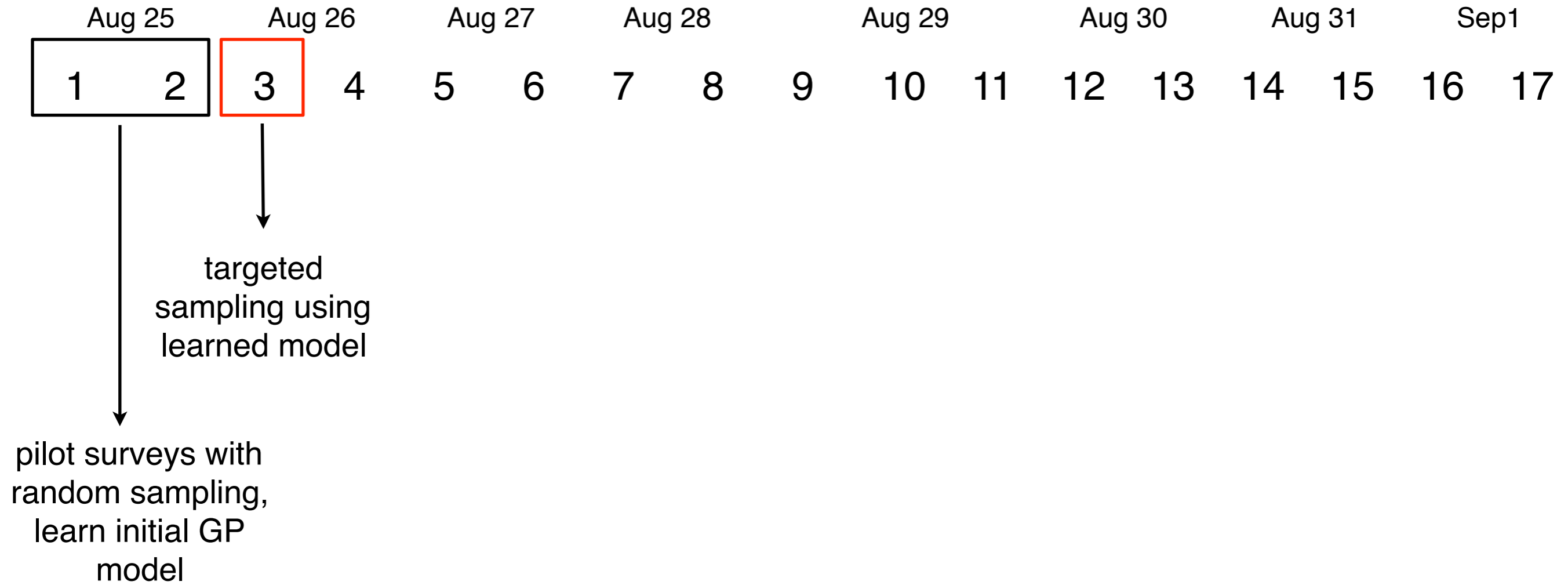
**Hidden** from AUV  
during the mission

# Methodology



pilot surveys with  
random sampling,  
learn initial GP  
model

# Methodology



# Methodology



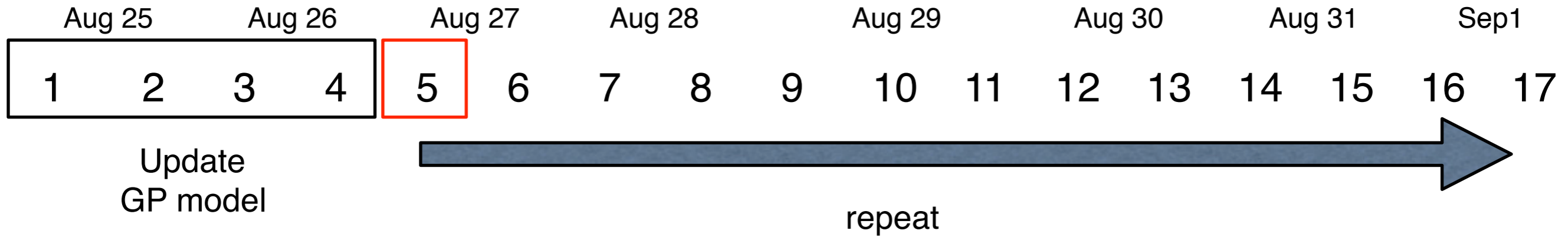
# Methodology



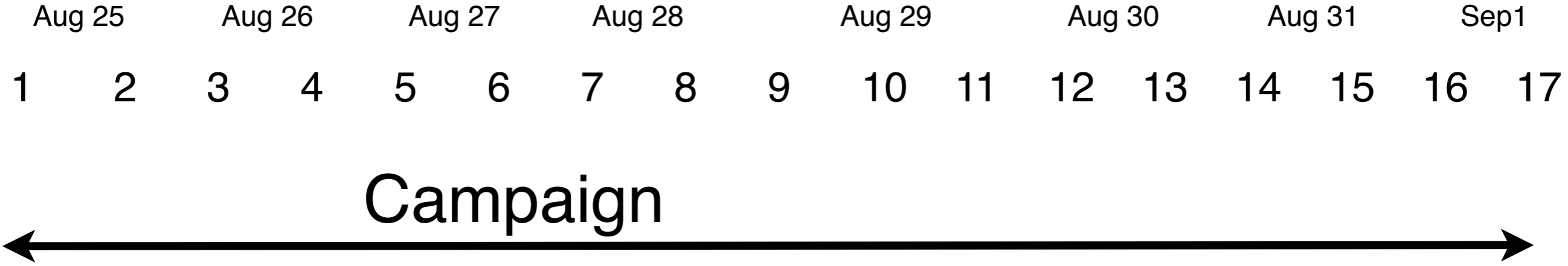
# Methodology



# Methodology



# Methodology





# Methodology



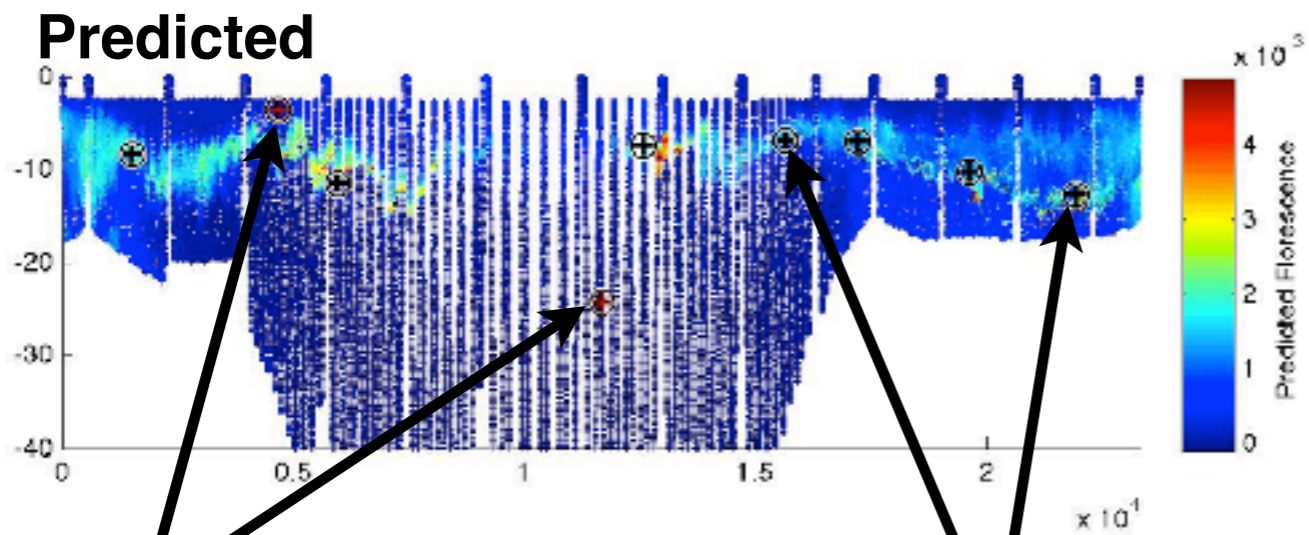
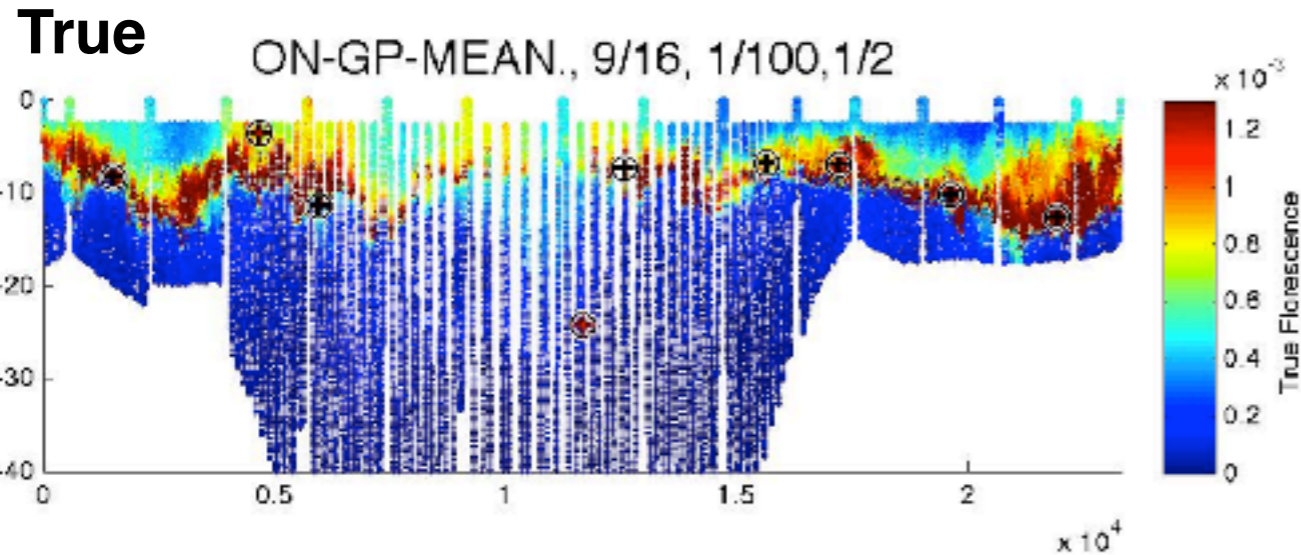
Campaign (repeat 100 times)

random restarts

( $k = 10$  of  $\sim 40,000$  samples, 0.02%)

# Simulation Snapshot

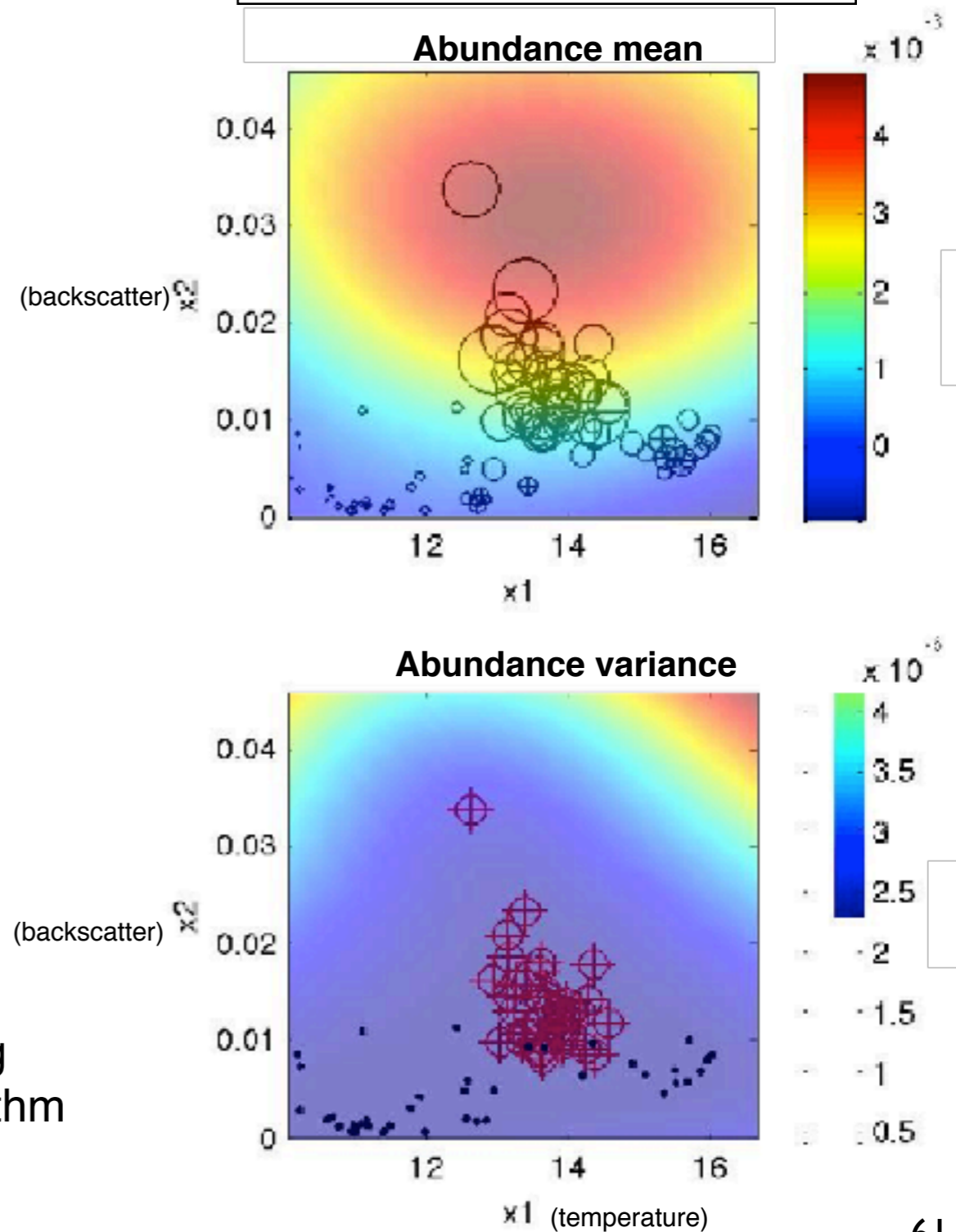
## AUV transect and simulated gulps



Gulps at segment-end for lack of better candidates

Gulps within segments using submodular secretary algorithm

## Learned probabilistic Organism Model



# Evaluation



- Data size
  - First two, previous two, and all deployments
- Sampling policy
  - Mean, variance, GP-UCB
- Offline vs online

# Evaluation

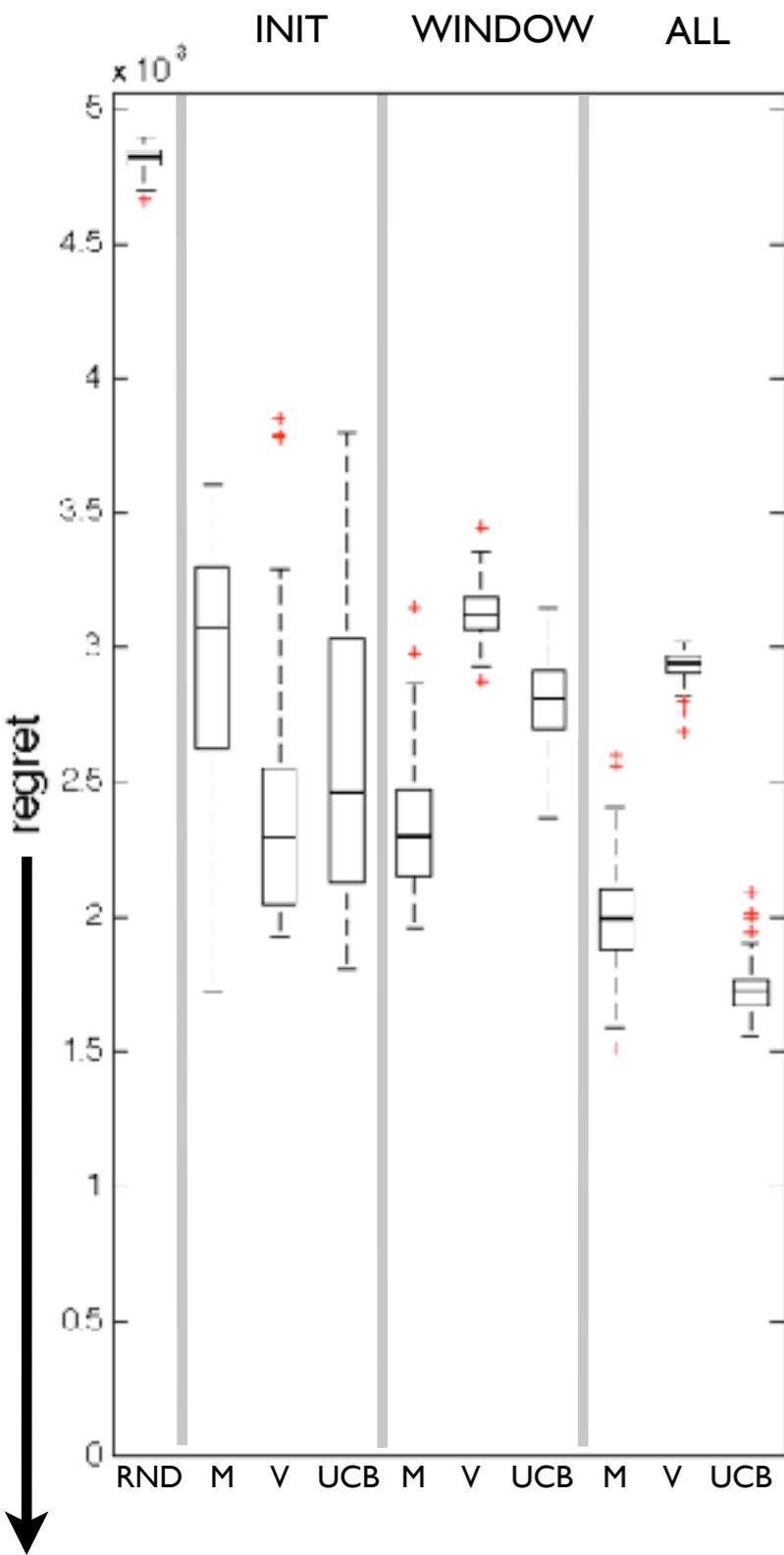
## Methods

- Data size
  - First two, previous two, and all deployments
- Sampling policy
  - Mean, variance, GP-UCB
- Offline vs online

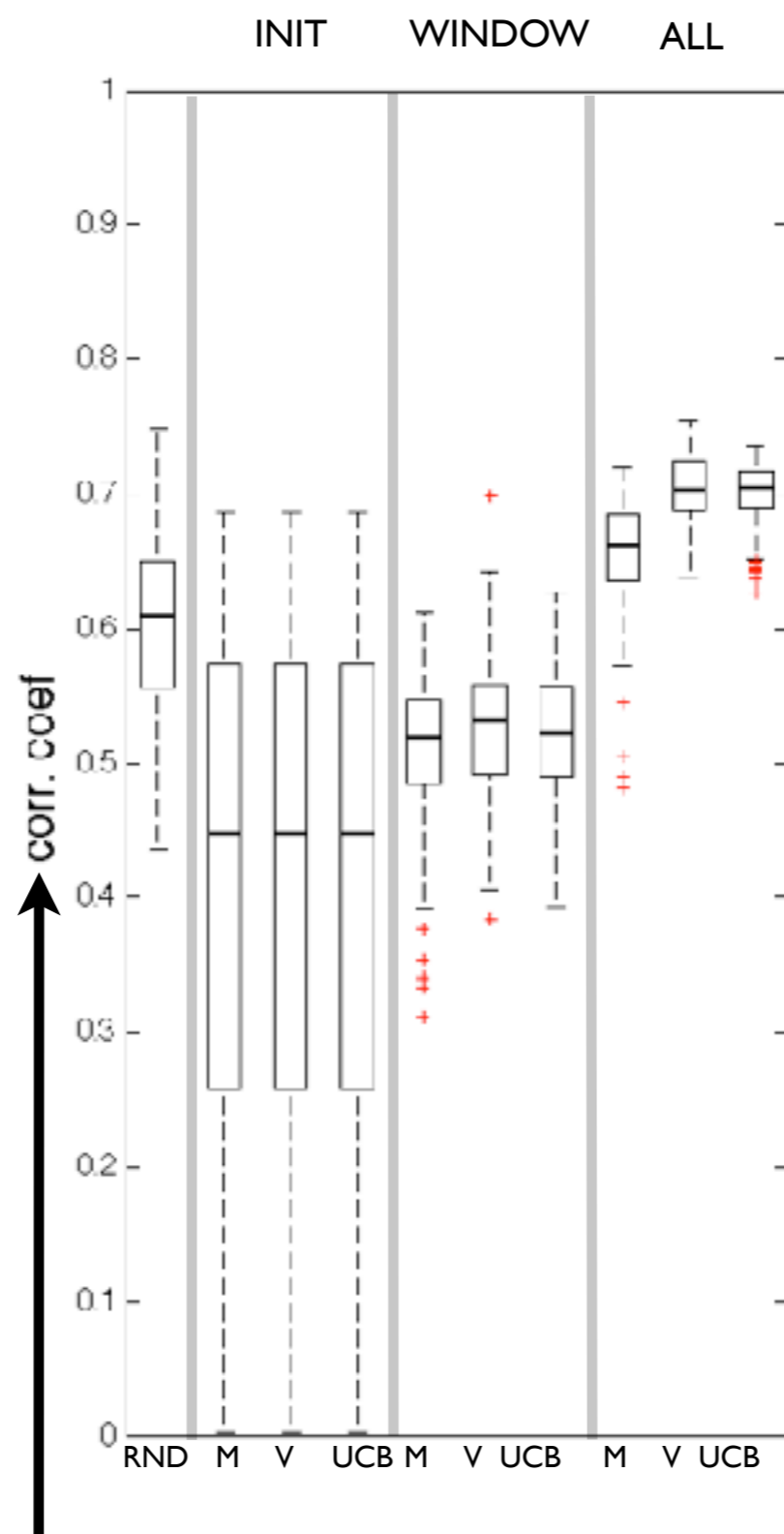
## Metrics

- Regret
- Correlation coefficient

# Results (offline policy)



Regret : LOWER is better



Corr. coeff. : HIGHER is better

## Data

INIT: initial 2 surveys

WINDOW : previous 2 surveys

ALL : all surveys

Regret - lowest median and variance for GP-UCB, with all data

Corr. coefficient - GP-UCB competitive with variance sampling, with all data

## Sampling

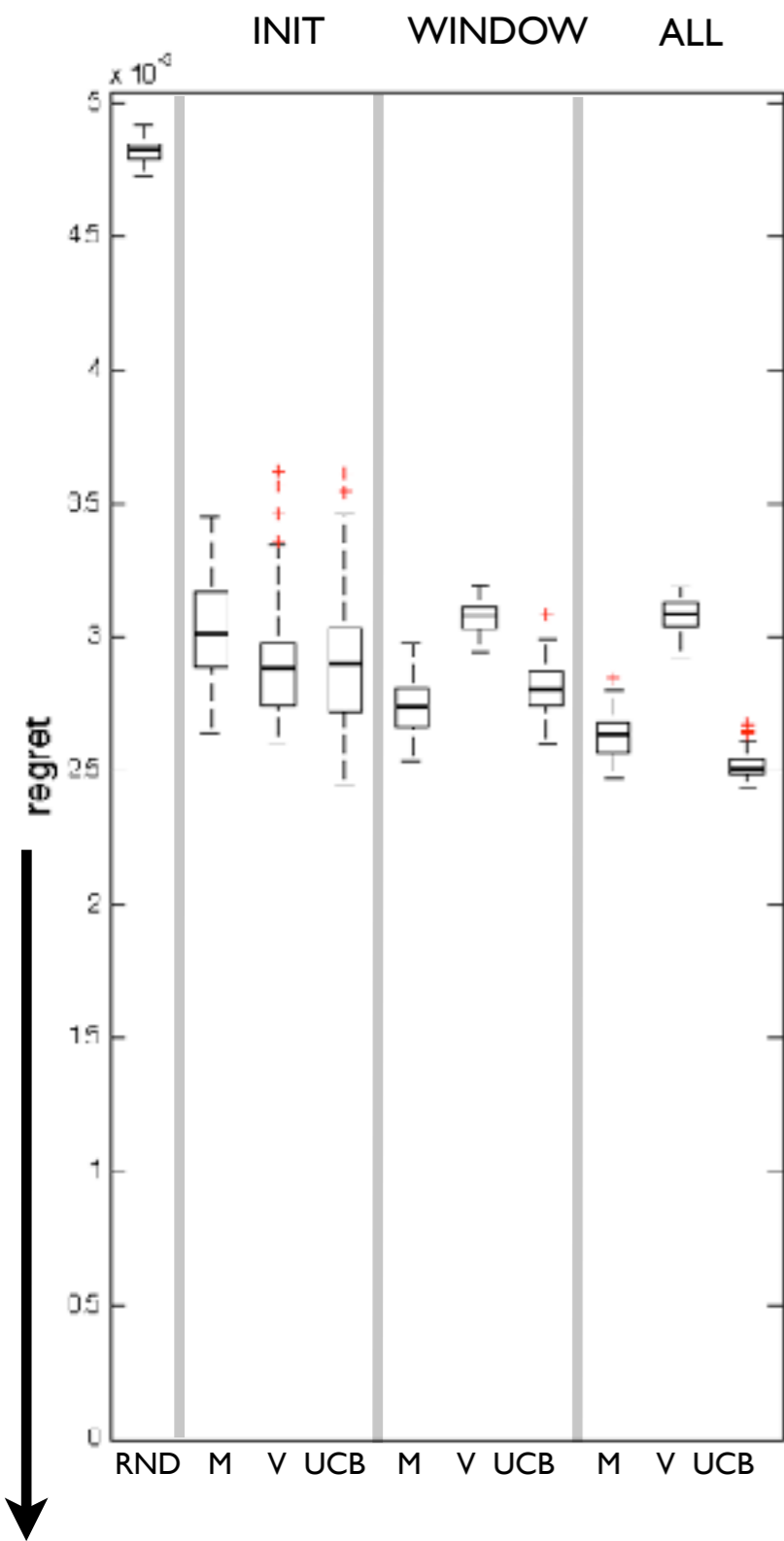
RND : random

M : mean driven

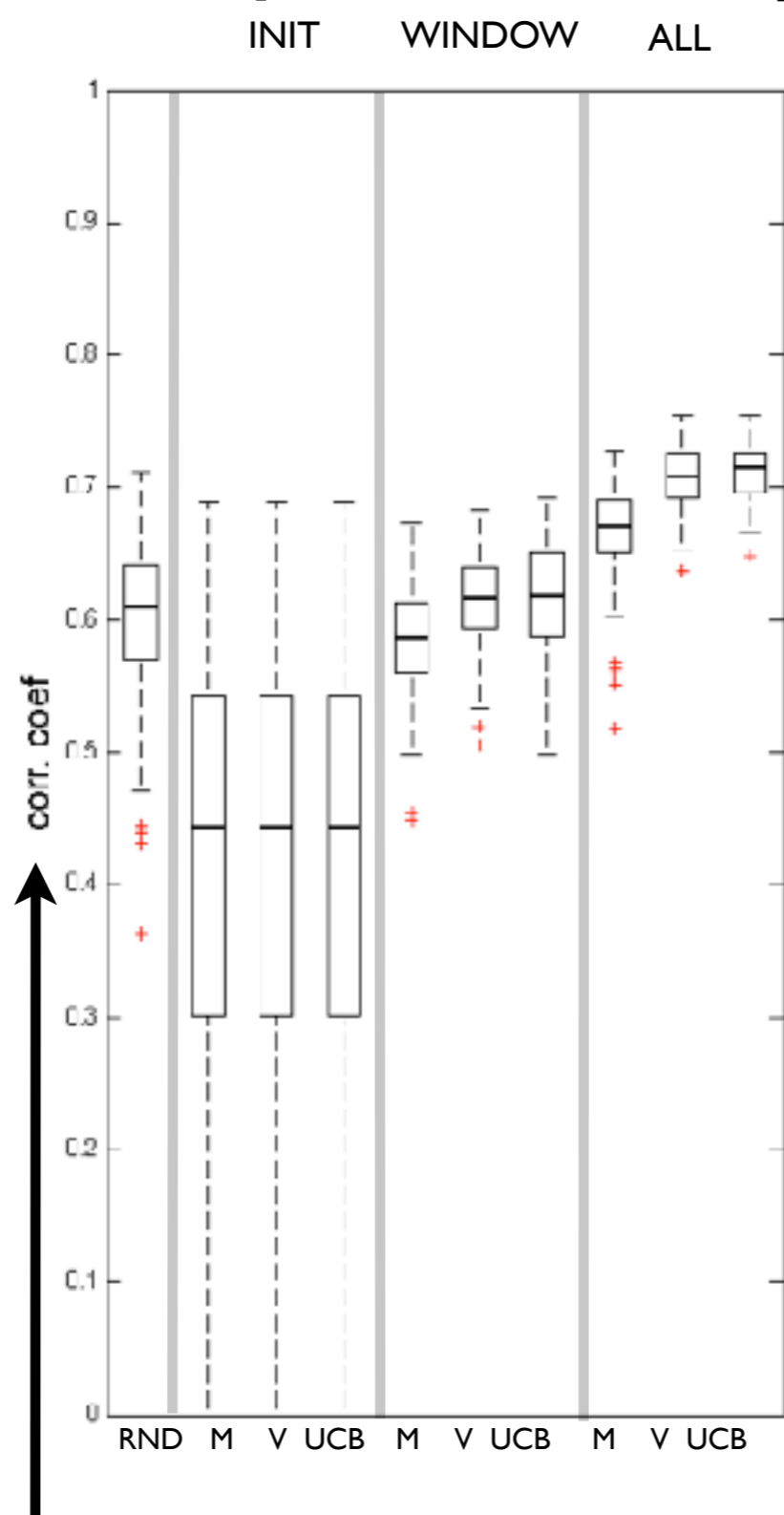
V : variance driven

UCB : GP-UCB

# Results (online policy)



Regret : LOWER is better



Corr. coeff. : HIGHER is better

## Data

INIT: initial 2 surveys  
 WINDOW : previous 2 surveys  
 ALL : all surveys

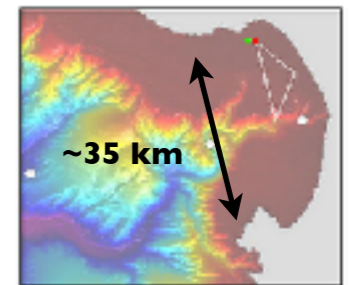
Regret - lowest median and variance for GP-UCB, with all data

Corr. coefficient - GP-UCB competitive with variance sampling, with all data

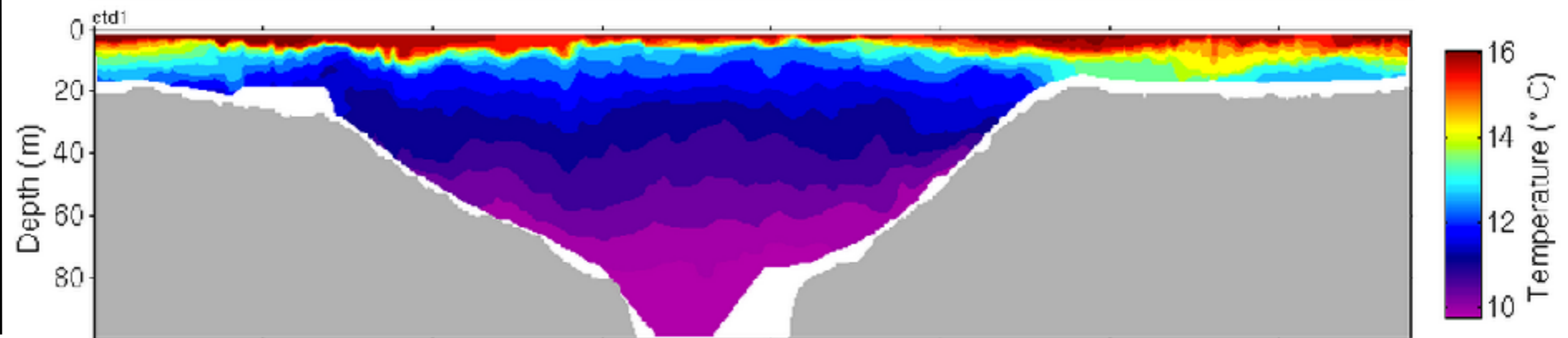
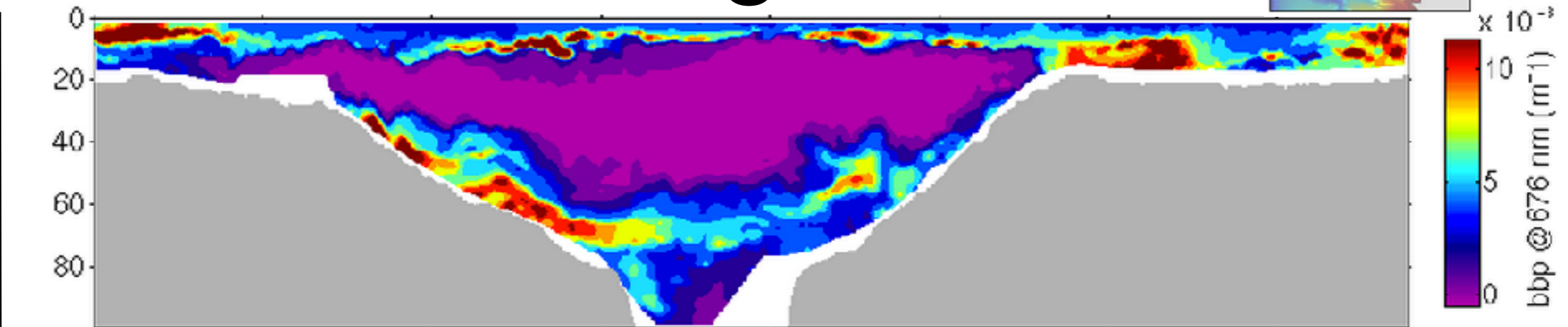
## Sampling

RND : random  
 M : mean driven  
 V : variance driven  
 UCB : GP-UCB

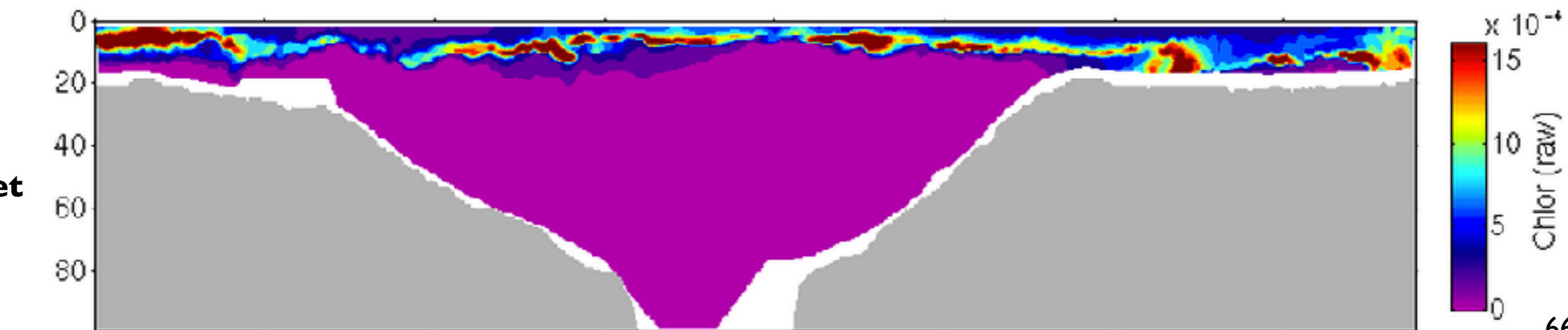
# Insights



Input



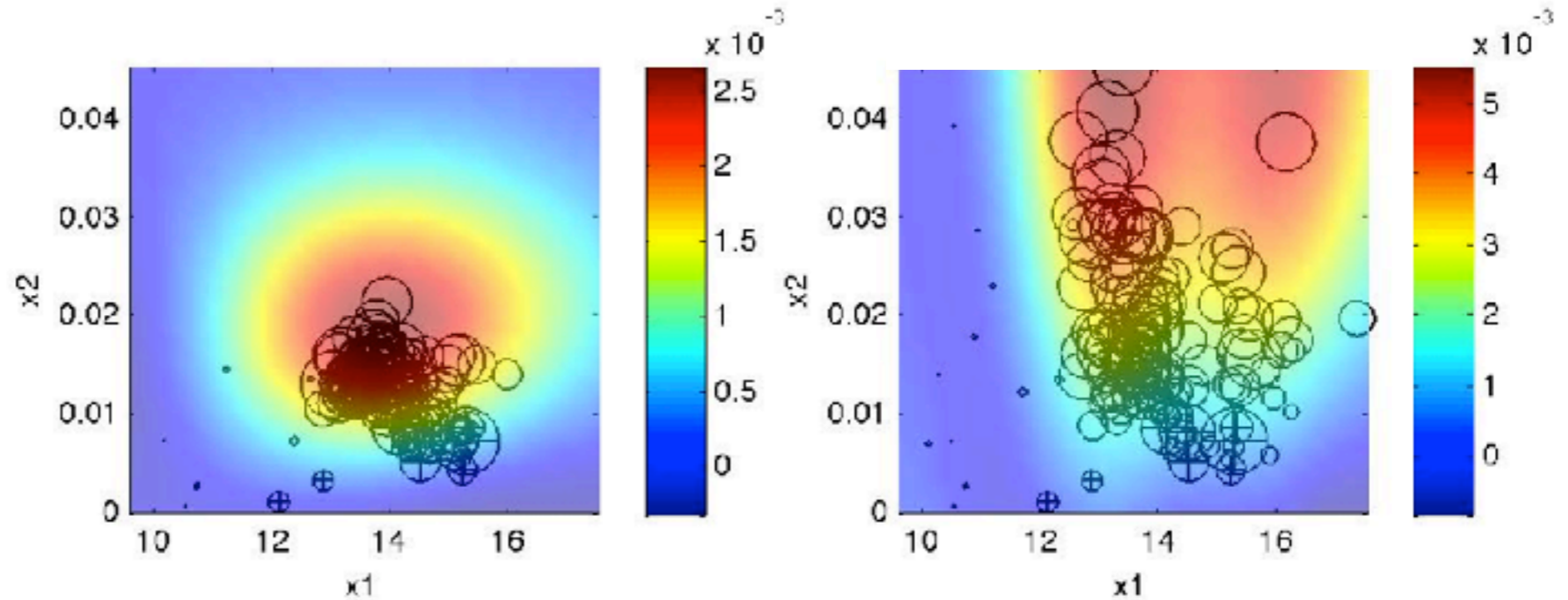
Target



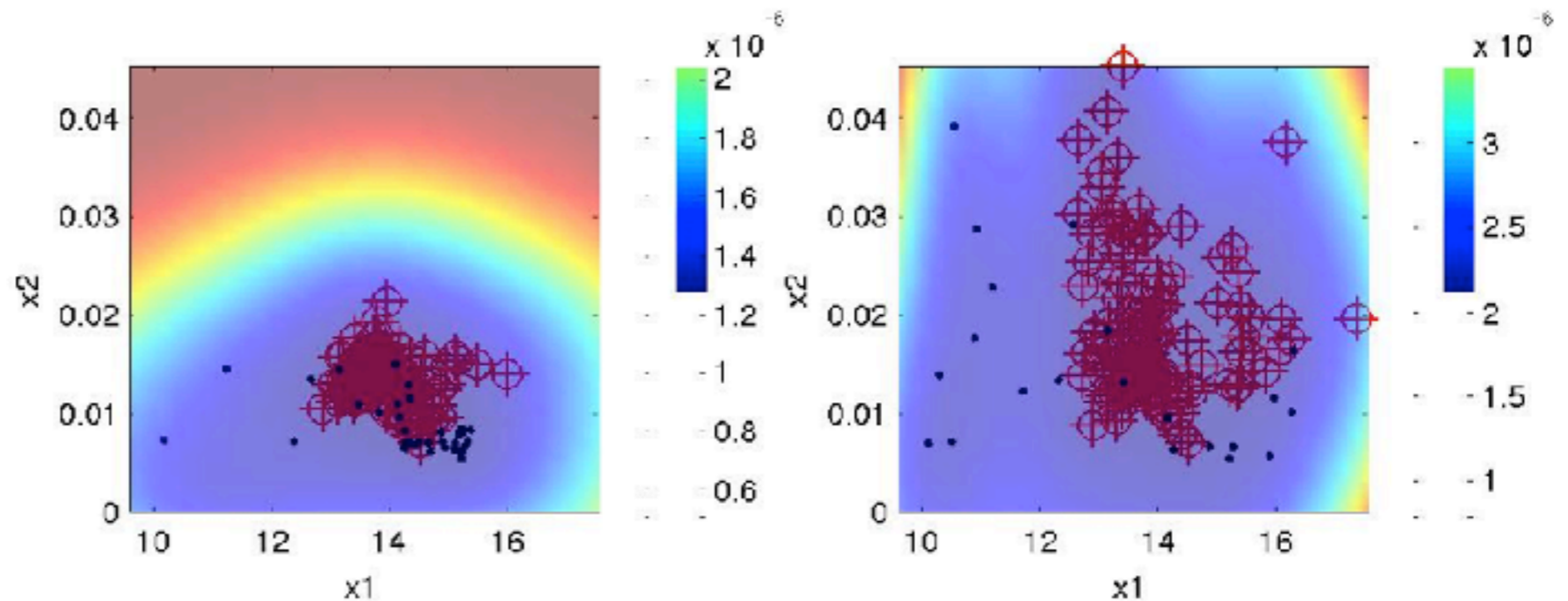
# Learned Algae Model

Deployment 16/17 - (temperature, backscatter)

Mean  
(abundance)



Variance  
(uncertainty)



**Higher backscatter  
(particle size)**

**Higher temperature  
(near the surface)**

Mean-driven  
(exploiter)

GP-UCB  
(explorer-exploiter)



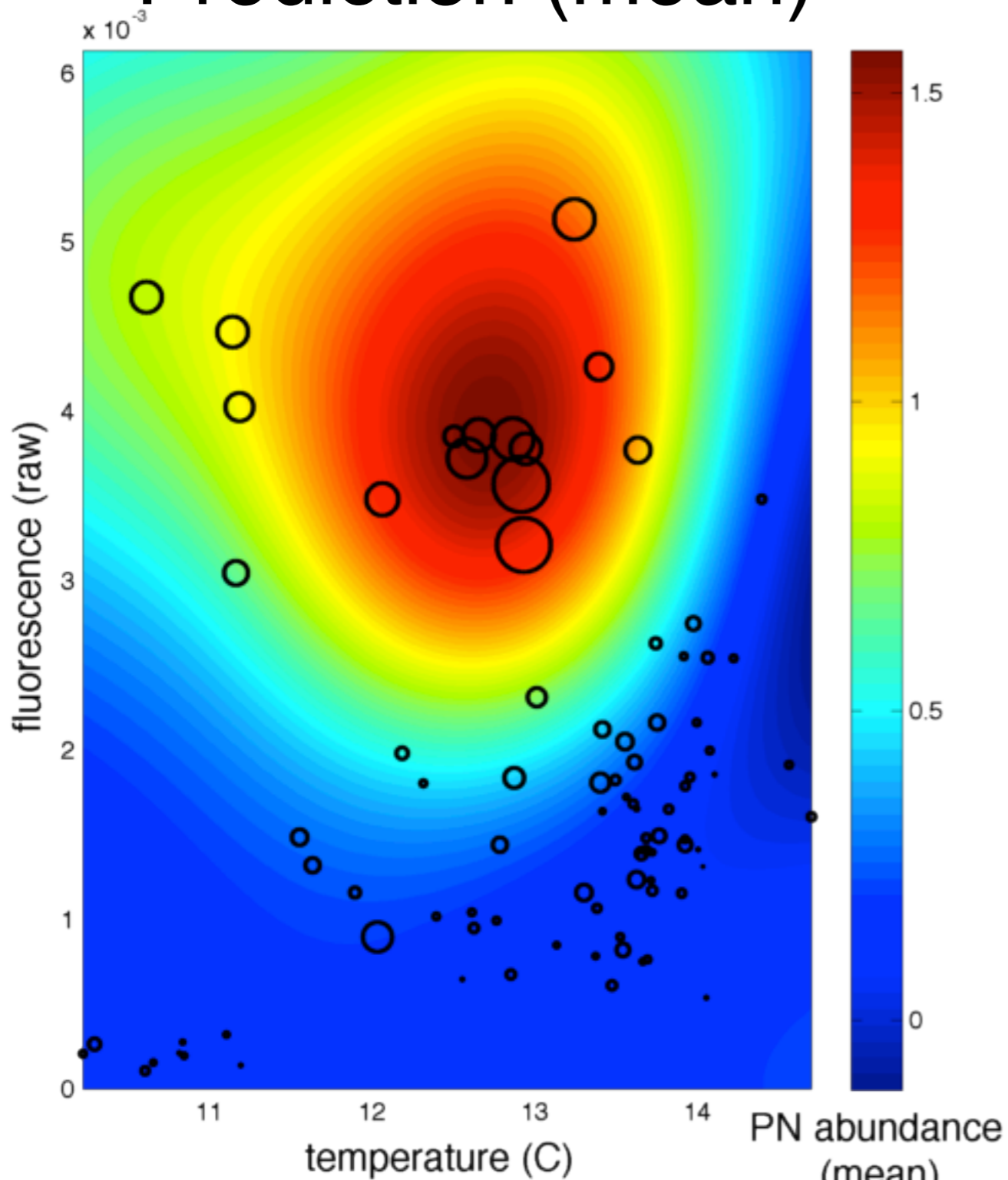
# Field Trial

- **Goal : Acquire high abundance samples of pseudo-nitzschia (PN), a potentially toxinogenic algae**
- 87 analyzed samples from October 2010 CANON experiment used to learn niche model for pseudo-nitzschia
- Cross-validation to pick input variables and kernel parameter
- Mission in north Monterey bay to acquire 9 samples (1 gulper non-functional)

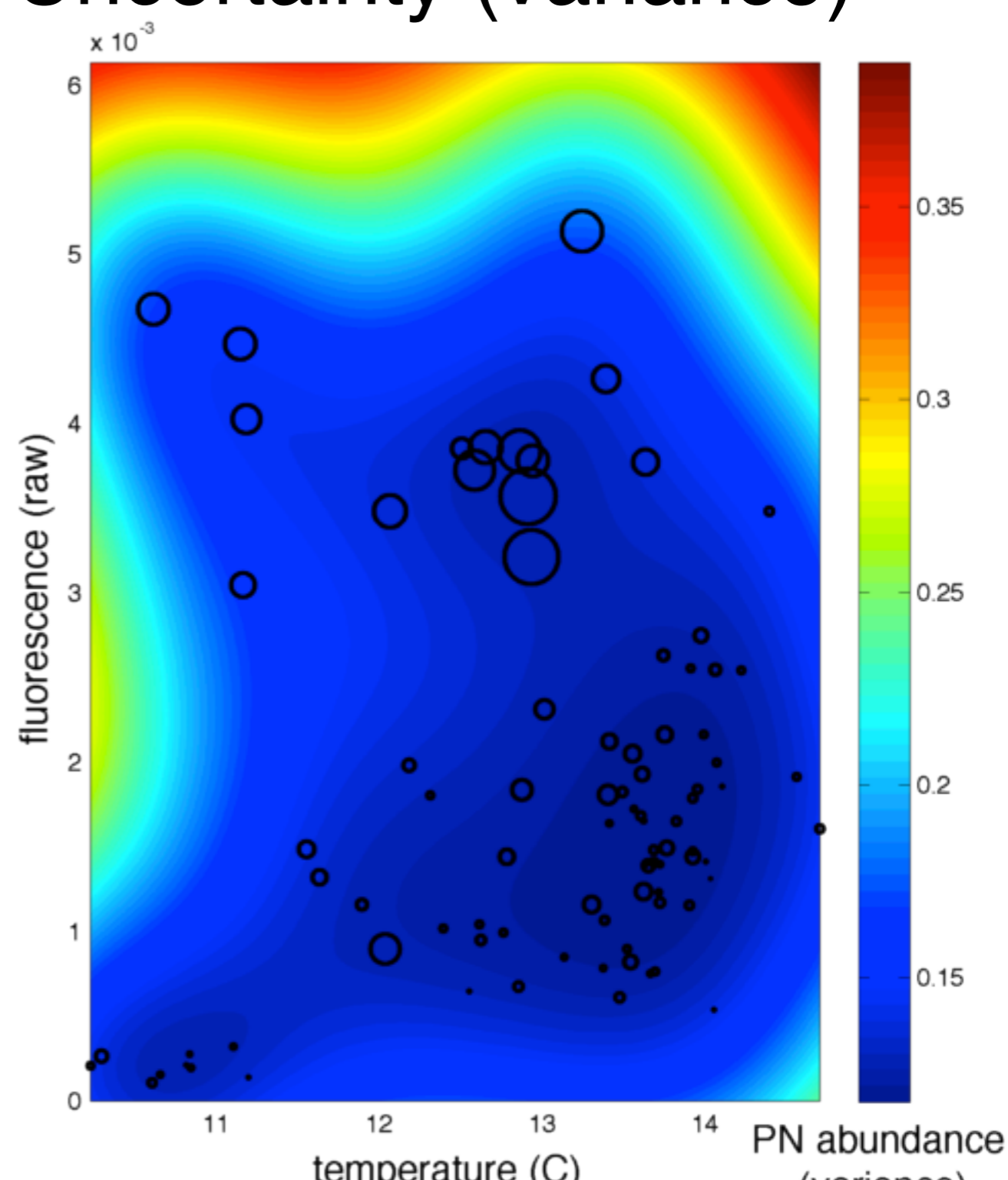


# Trained PN Model

## Prediction (mean)



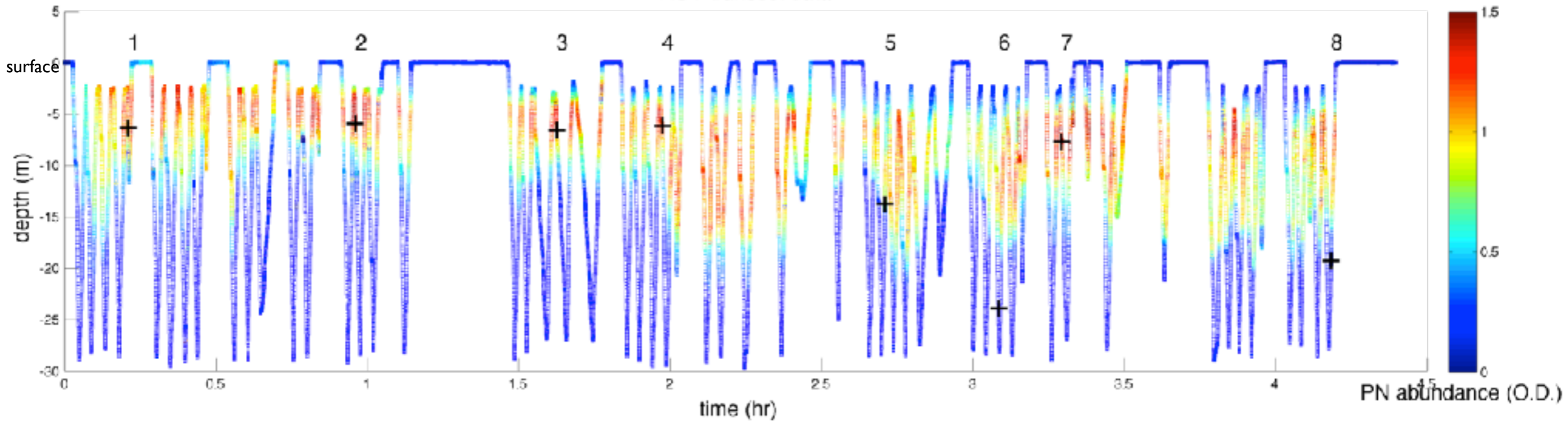
## Uncertainty (variance)



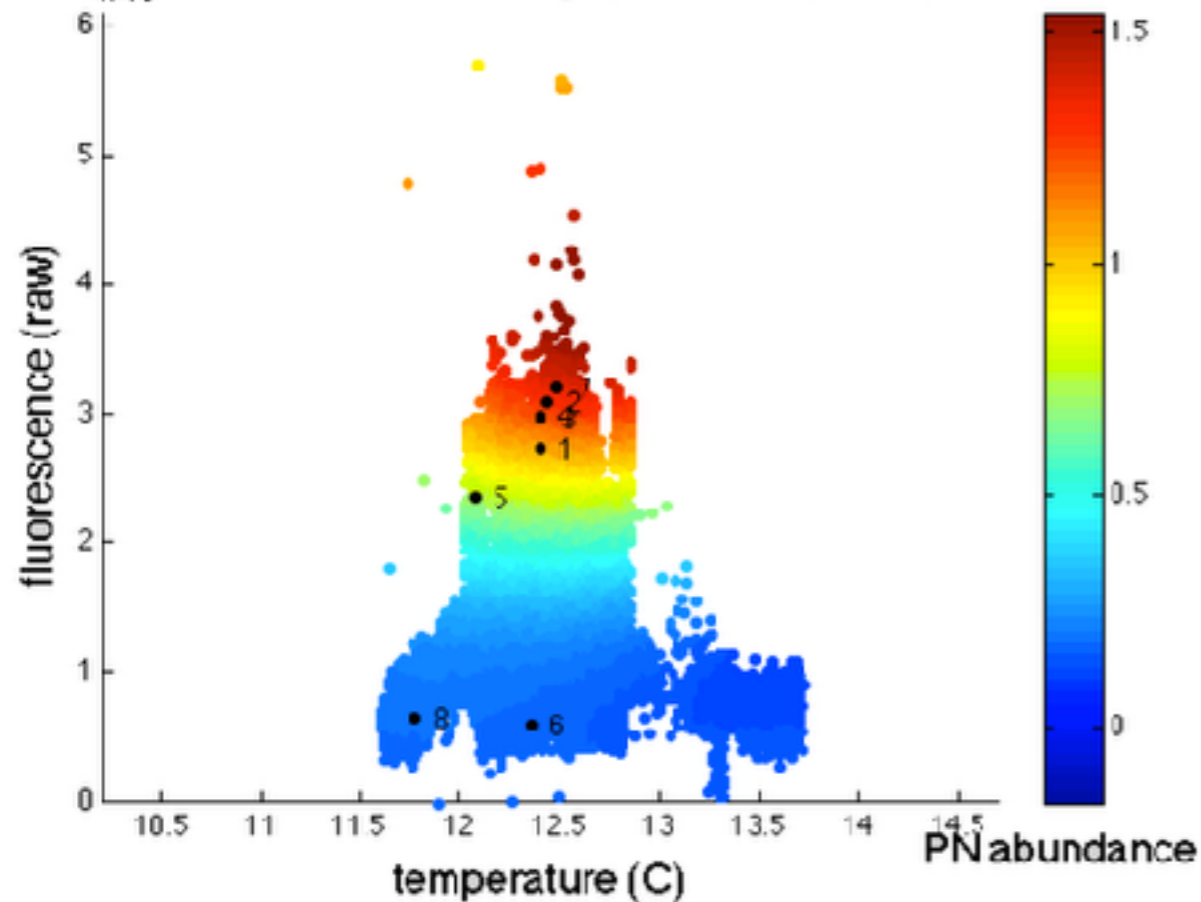
circle size proportional to measured abundance

# Samples Acquired

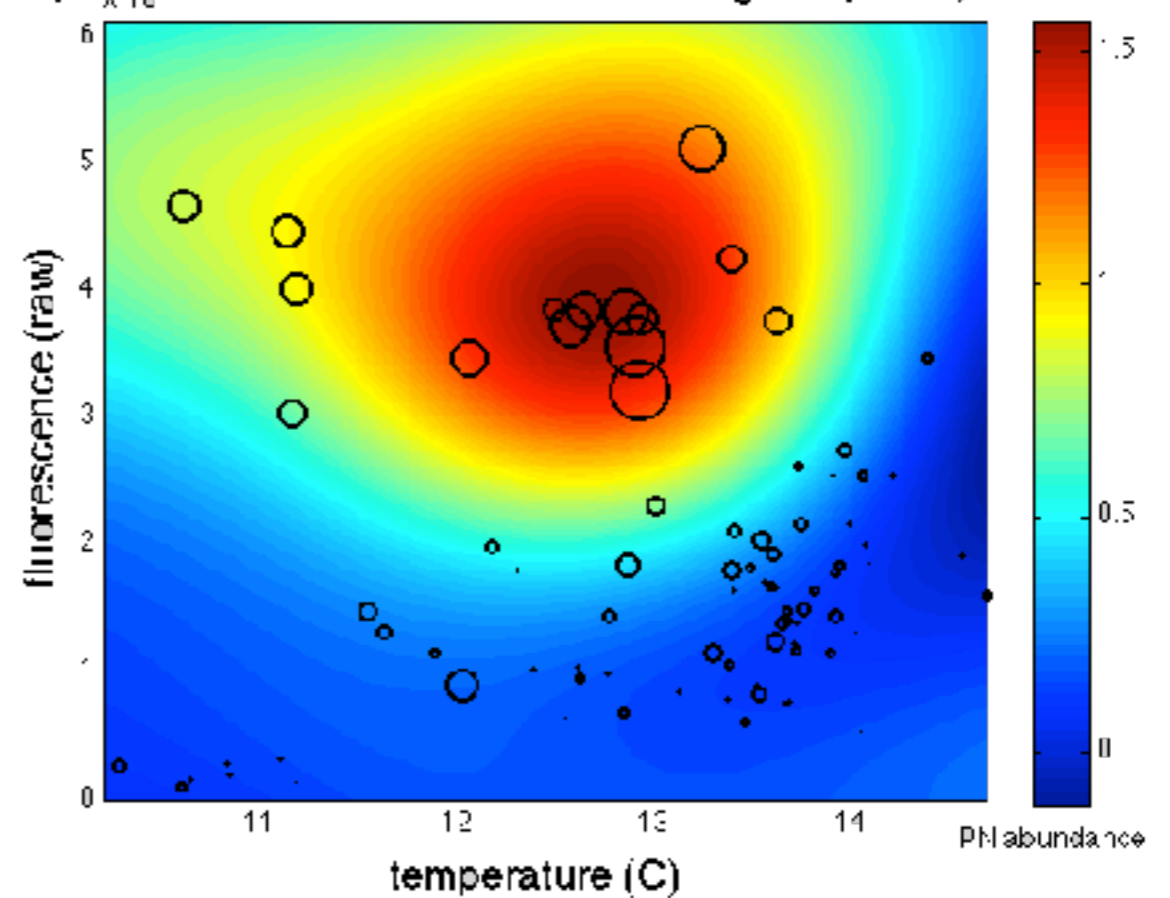
AUV transect data



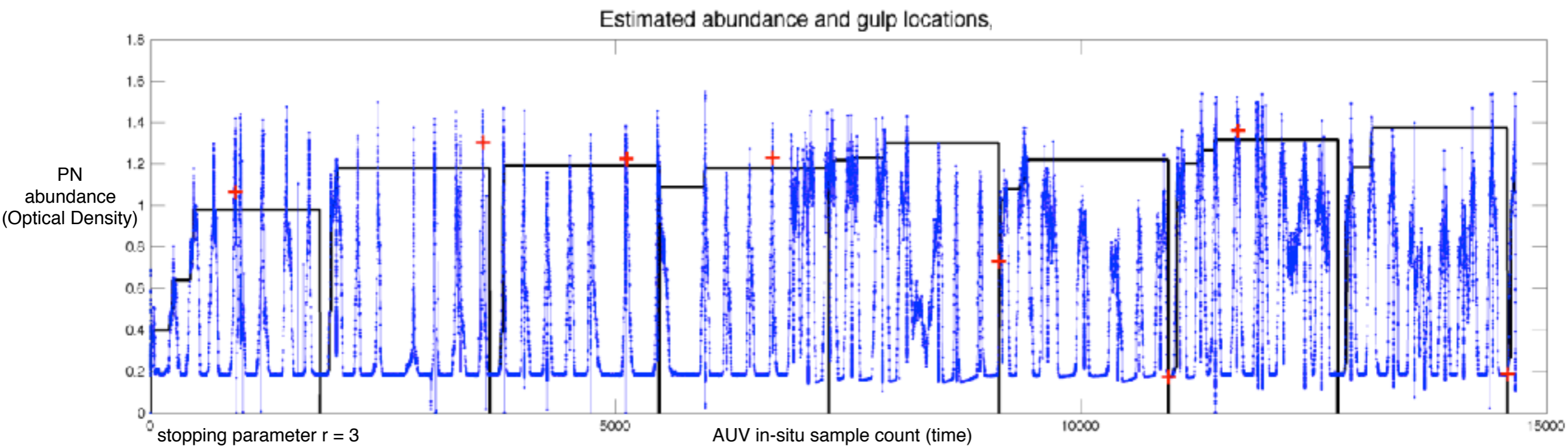
Estimated abundance and gulp locations, T-FI space



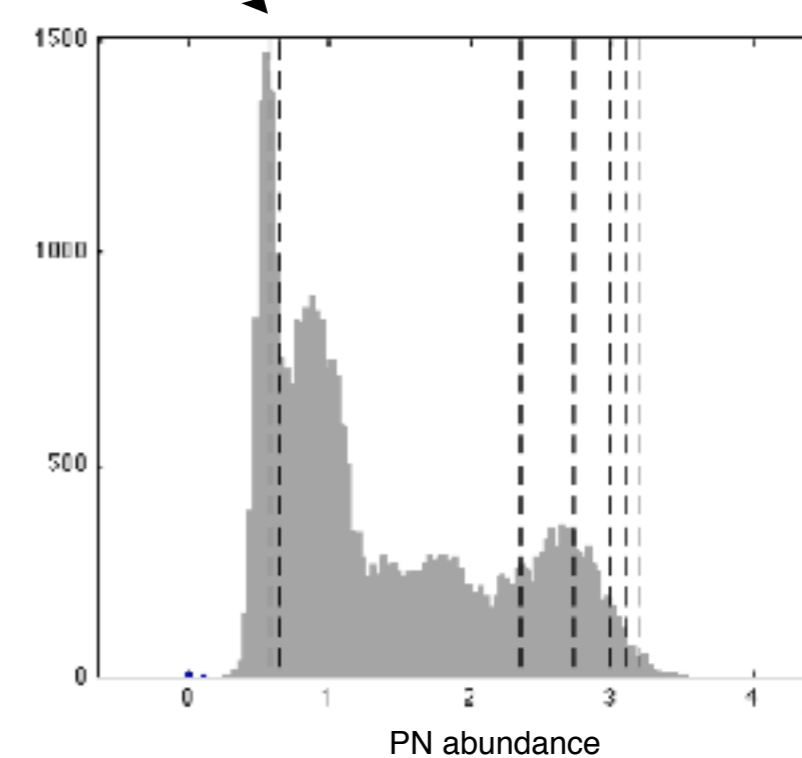
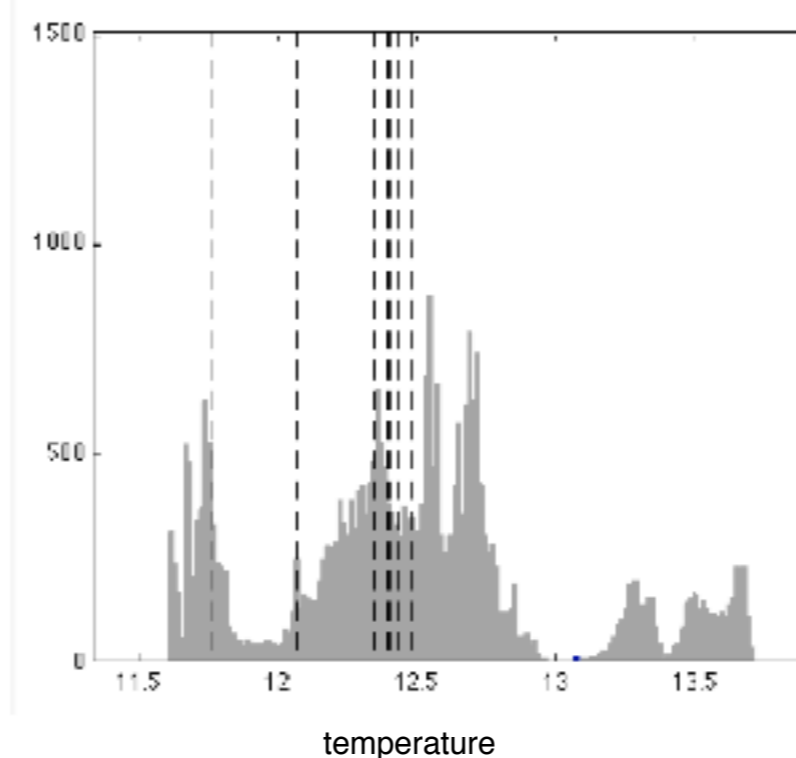
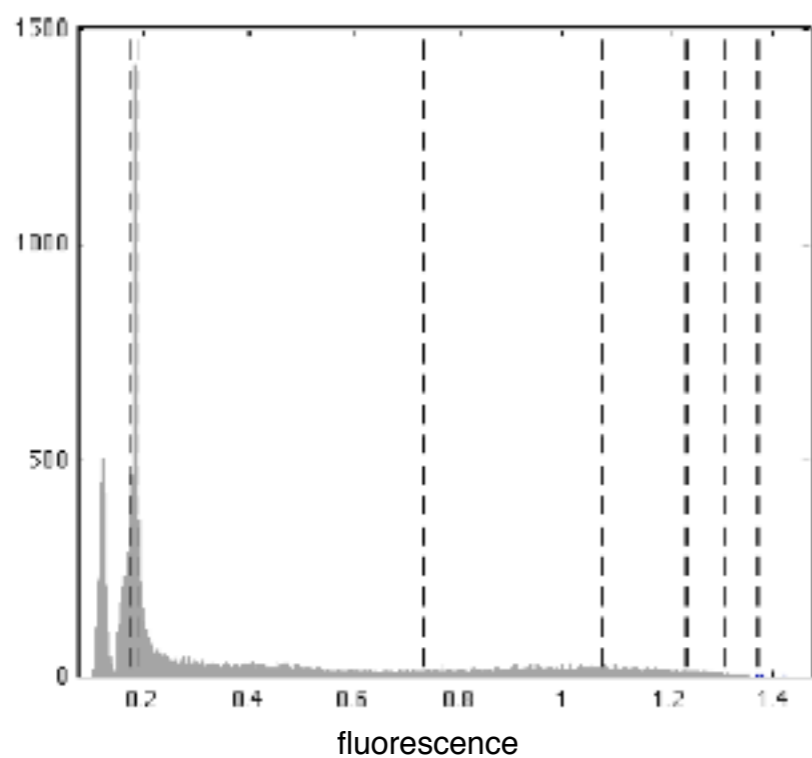
PN prediction model. Circles show training datapoints, N=87



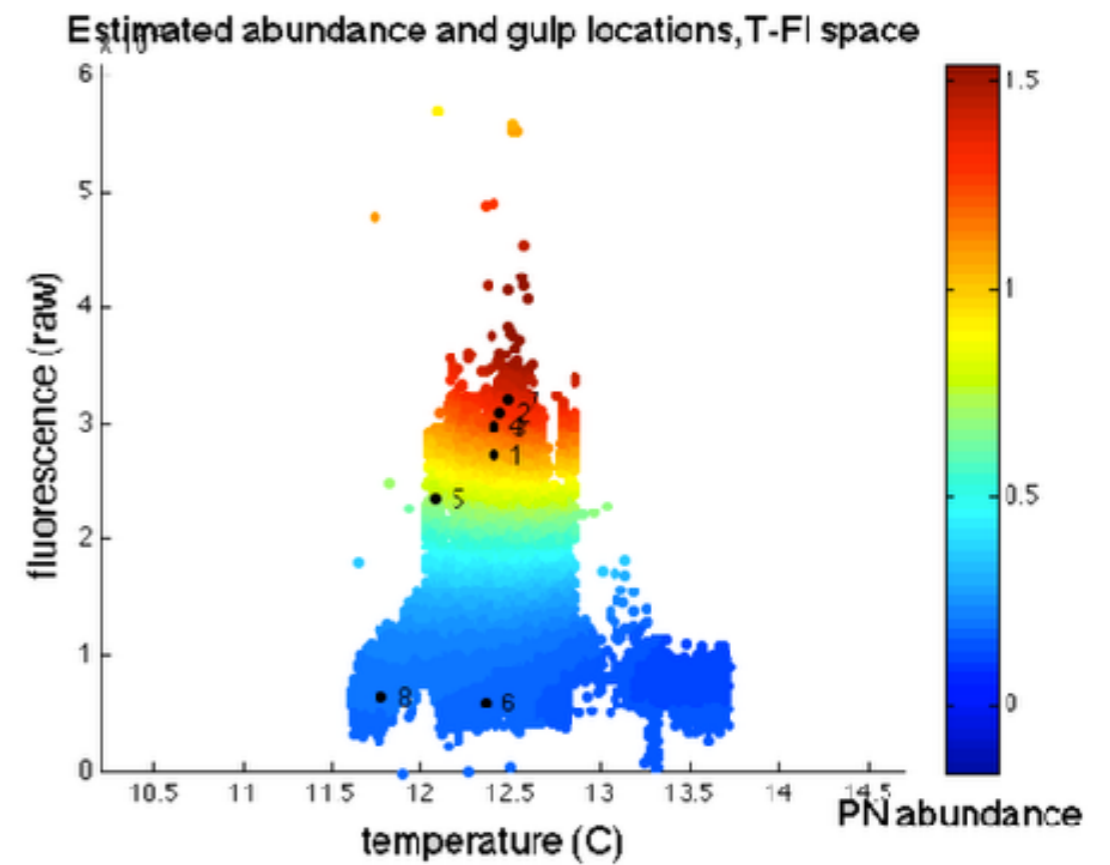
# Samples Acquired



Control samples due to (random) triggering at segment end

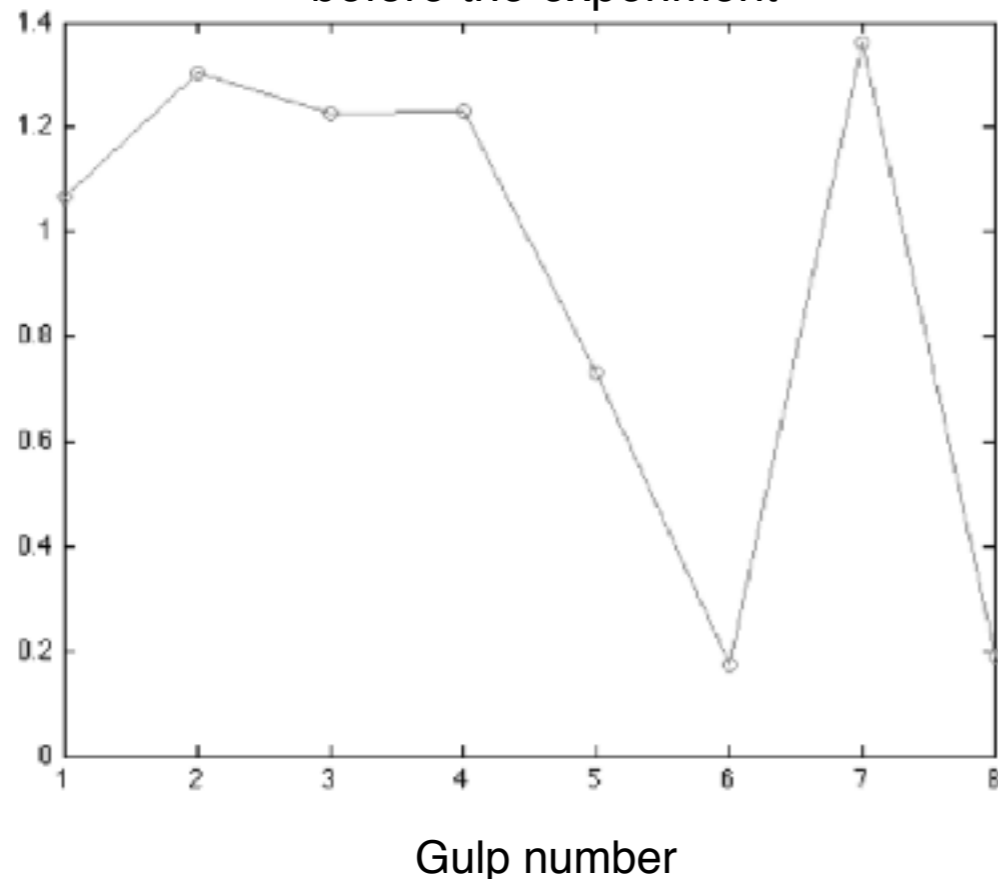


# Ex-situ Sample Analysis



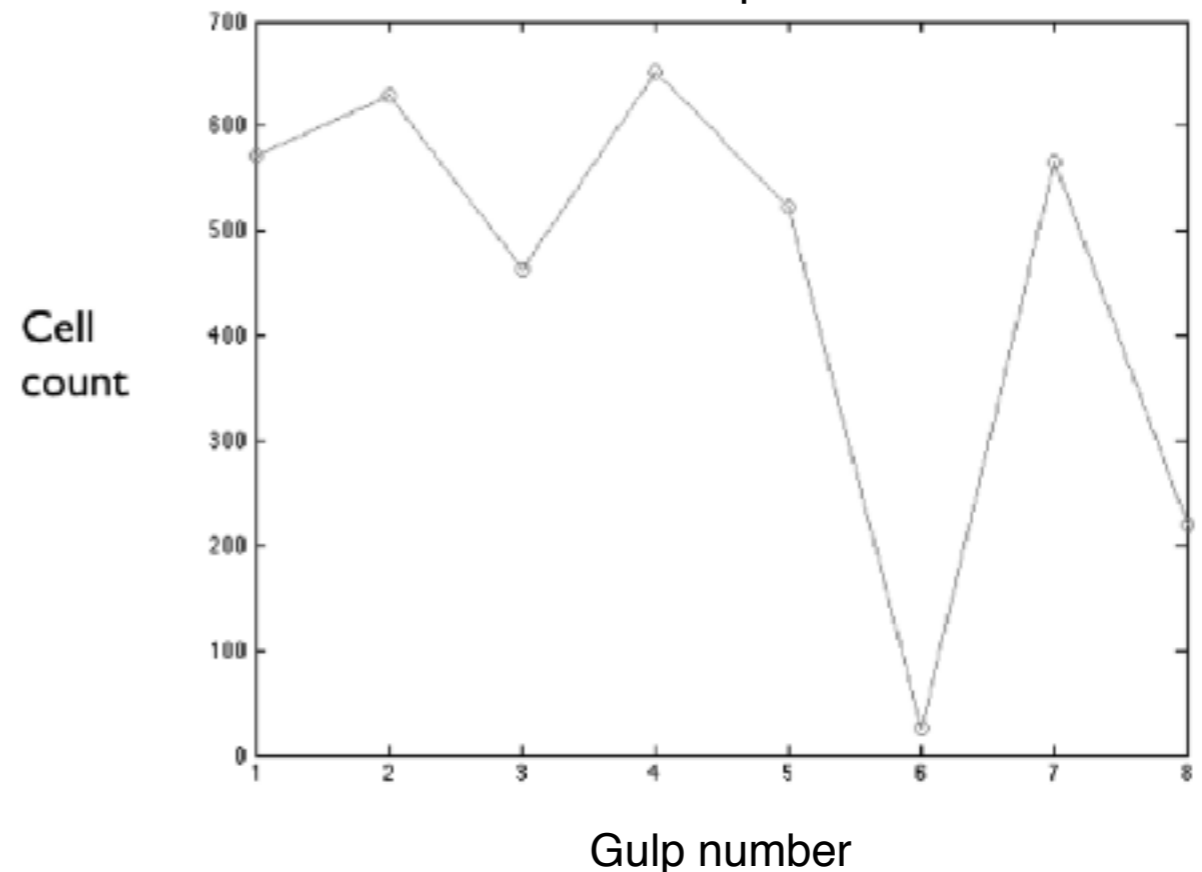
## predicted PN seriata

from model trained on molecular analysis data  
before the experiment

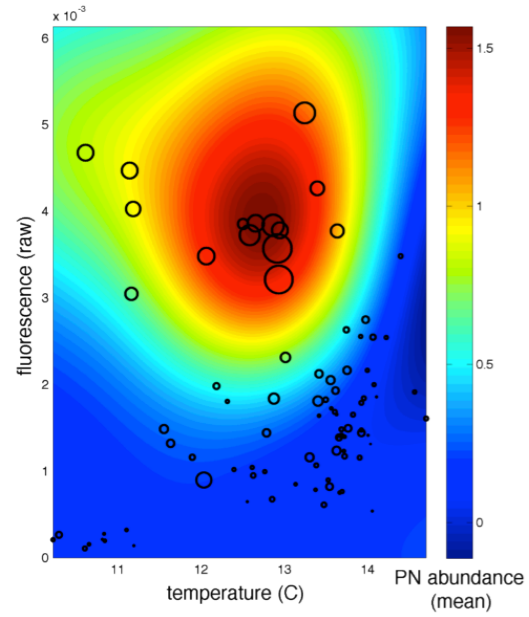


## measured PN seriata

from morphological analysis  
after the experiment

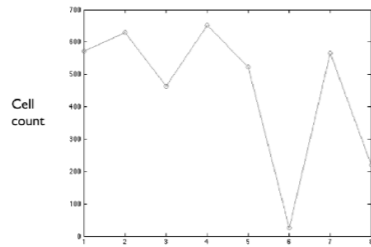
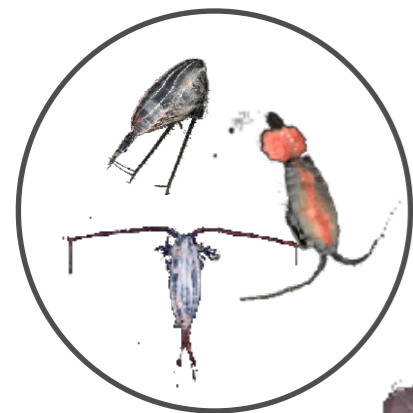


# Summary

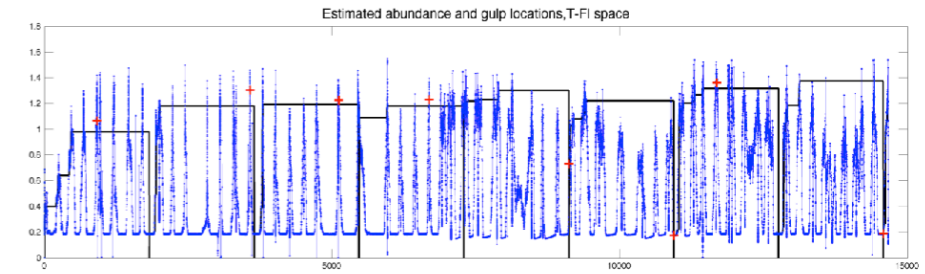


Training data  
[z1, z2, ... ] [b]

relearn organism abundance model



Lab  
analysis



Sampling  
Policy

Organism  
niche  
model



Adaptive water sampling

# Precision Agriculture

Accurate estimation of fruit count and sizes

## Yield

*Labor and storage planning, harvest timing, pricing*

Dense 3-D reconstruction of canopy

## Morphology

*Leaf area, canopy height, pruning management*

Detection and monitoring of crop stress and disease

## Health

*Water, fertilizer, and herbicide management*

**Crops** Citrus, watermelon, apples, grapes

**Platforms** Versatile, self-contained, lightweight sensor suite



Harnessed camera stabilizer



All-terrain vehicle (ATV)

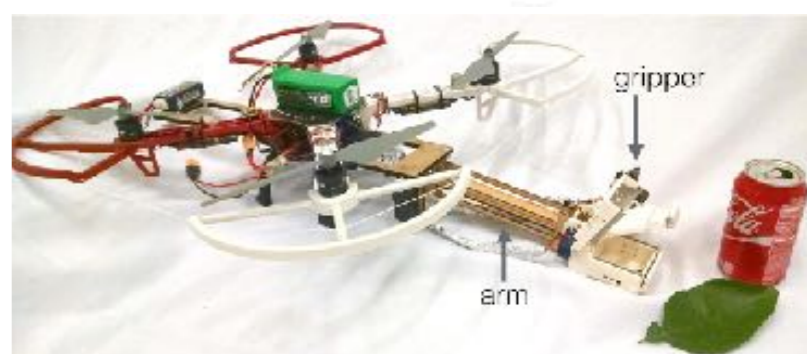
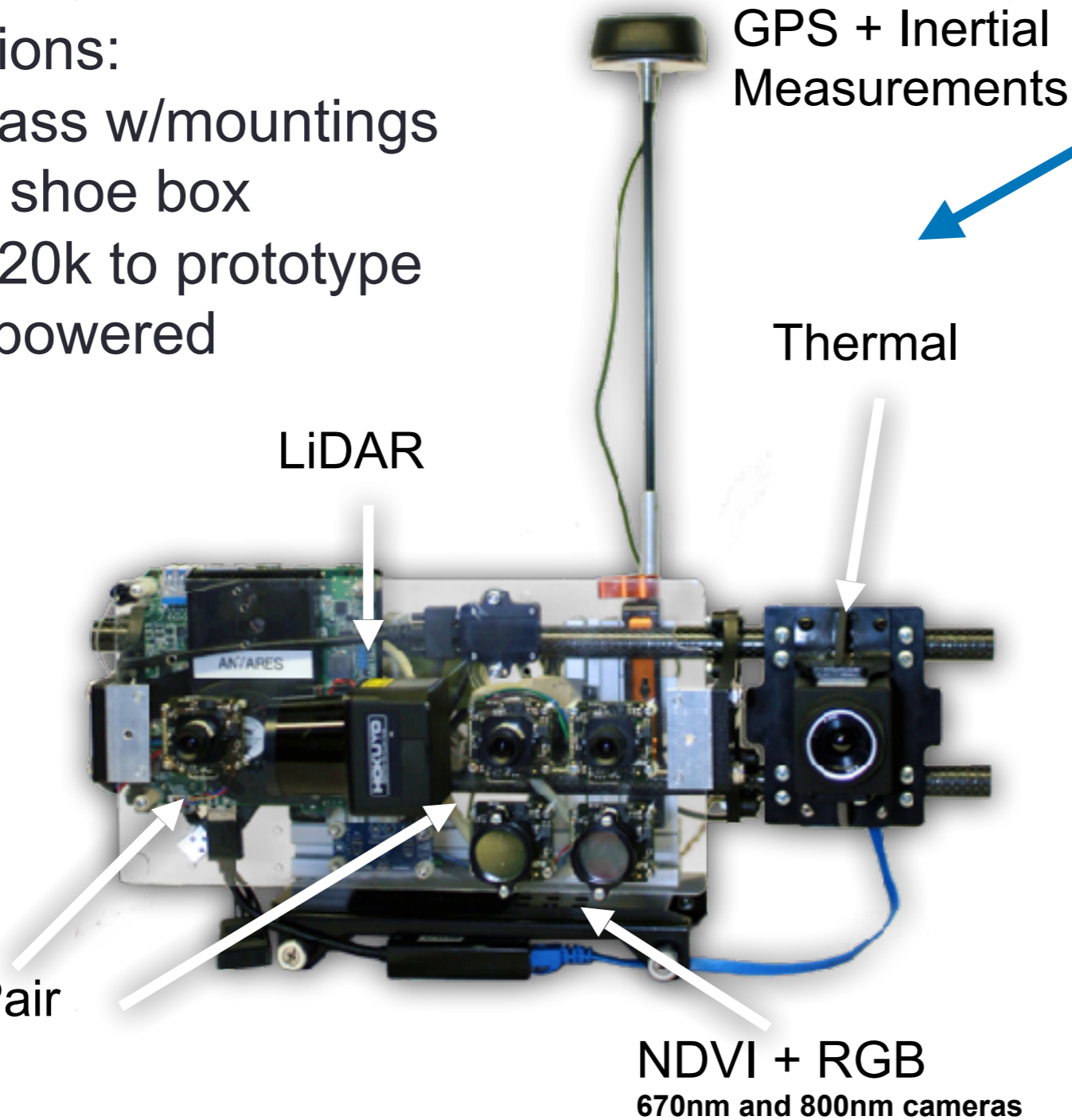


UAV

# Precision Agriculture

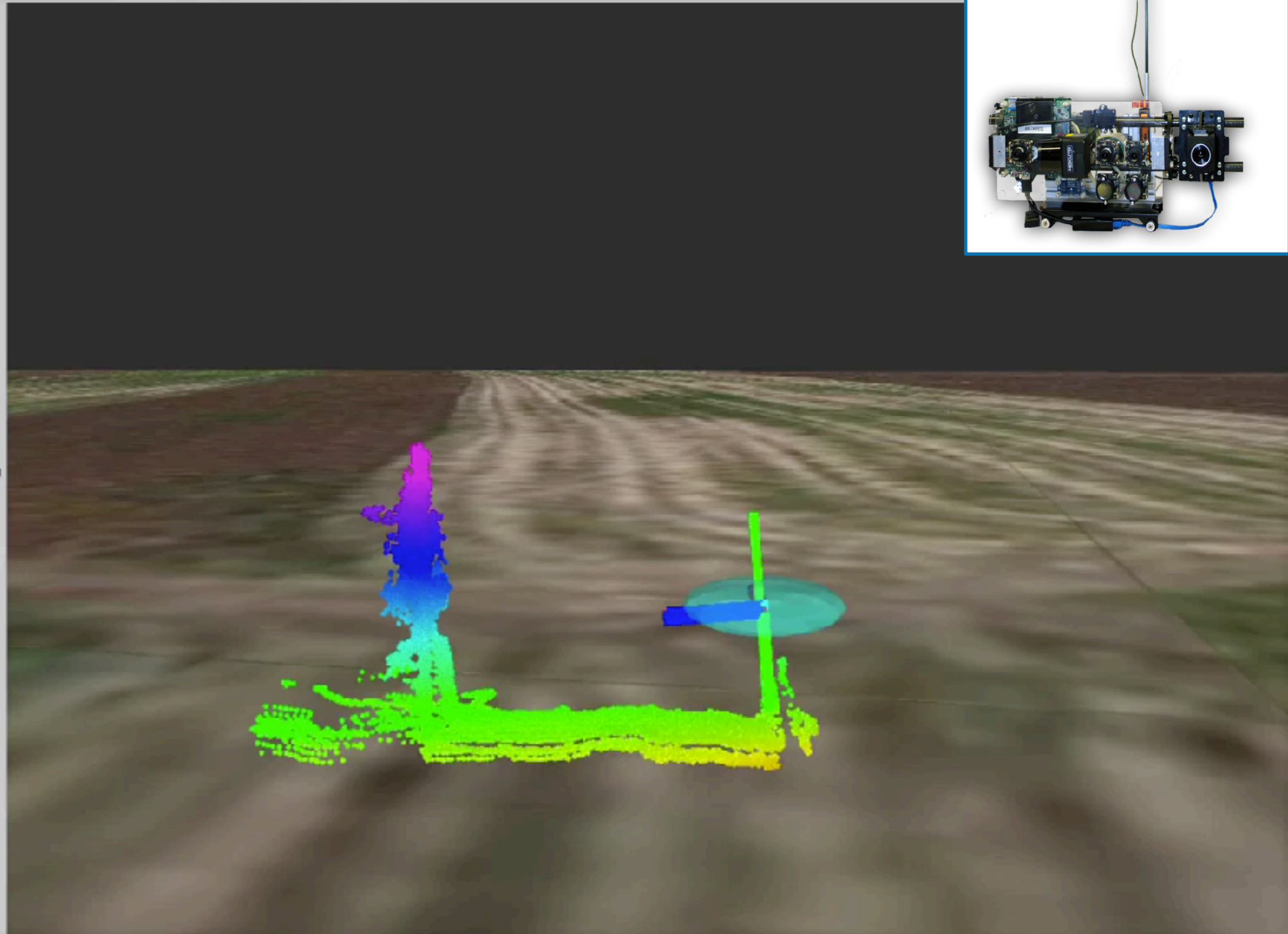
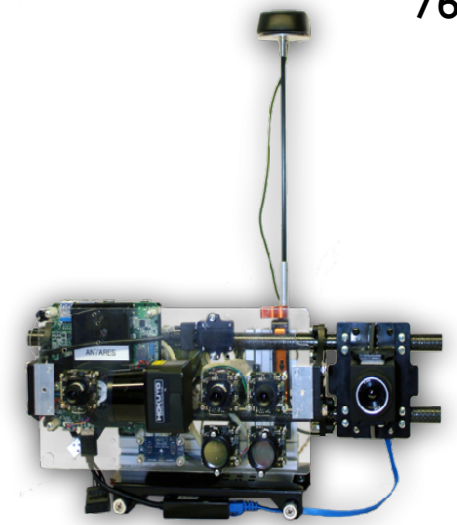
## Specifications:

- 1.5kg mass w/mountings
- Fits in a shoe box
- Under \$20k to prototype
- Battery powered





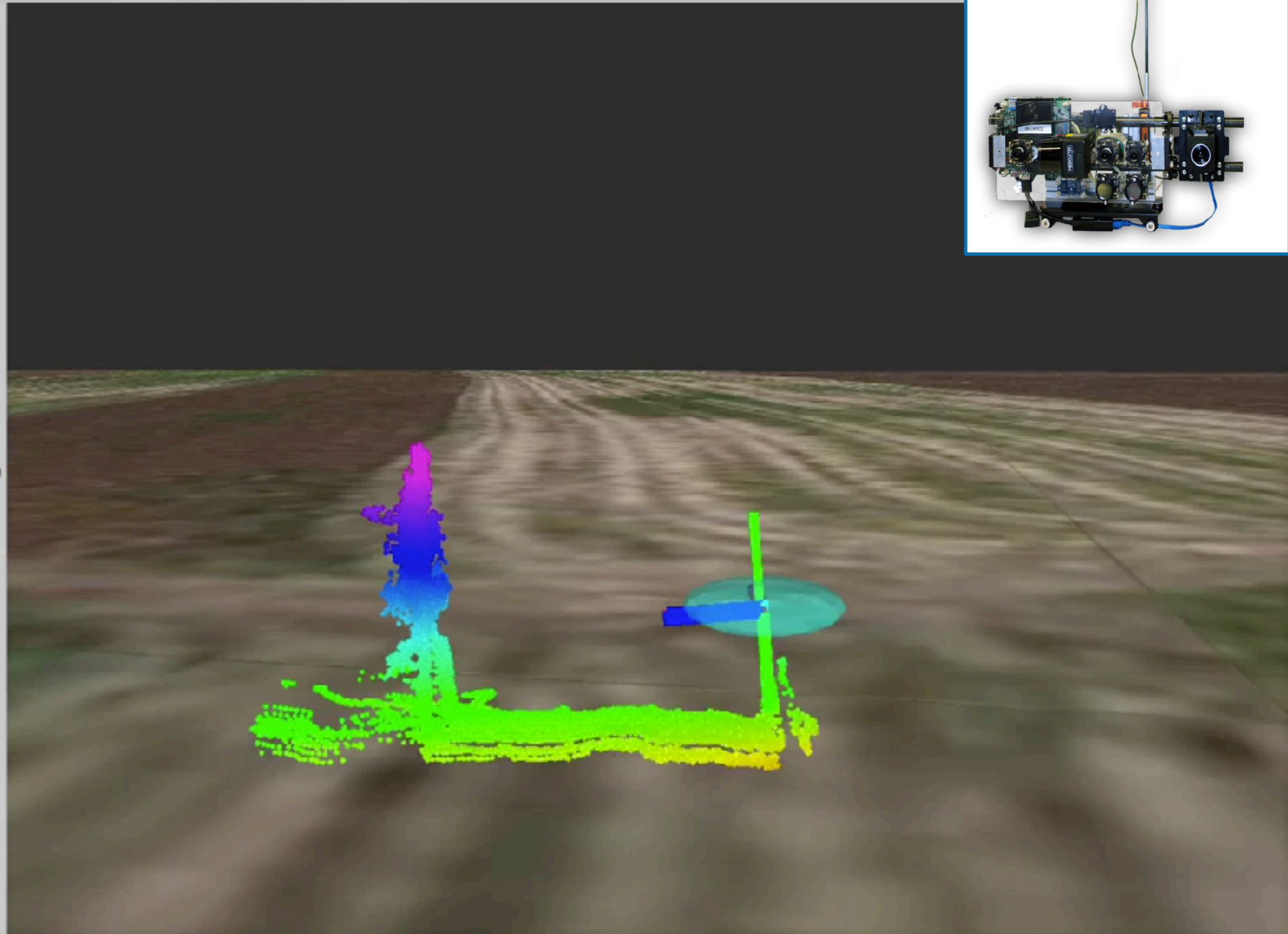
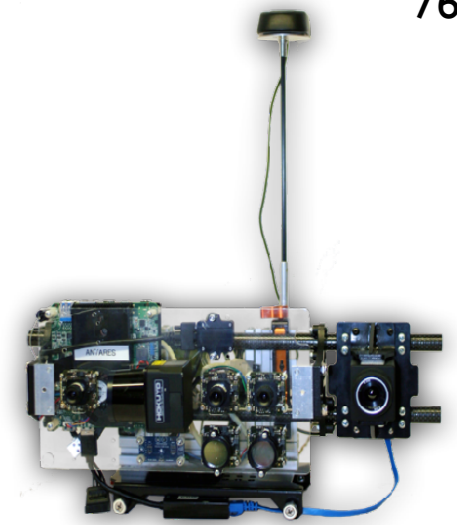
# 3-D Reconstruction



J. Das, G. Cross, C. Qu, A. Makineni, P. Tokekar, Y. Mulgaonkar, and V. Kumar, "Devices, systems, and methods for automated monitoring enabling precision agriculture," in 2015 IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE). IEEE, Aug 2015, pp. 462–469.



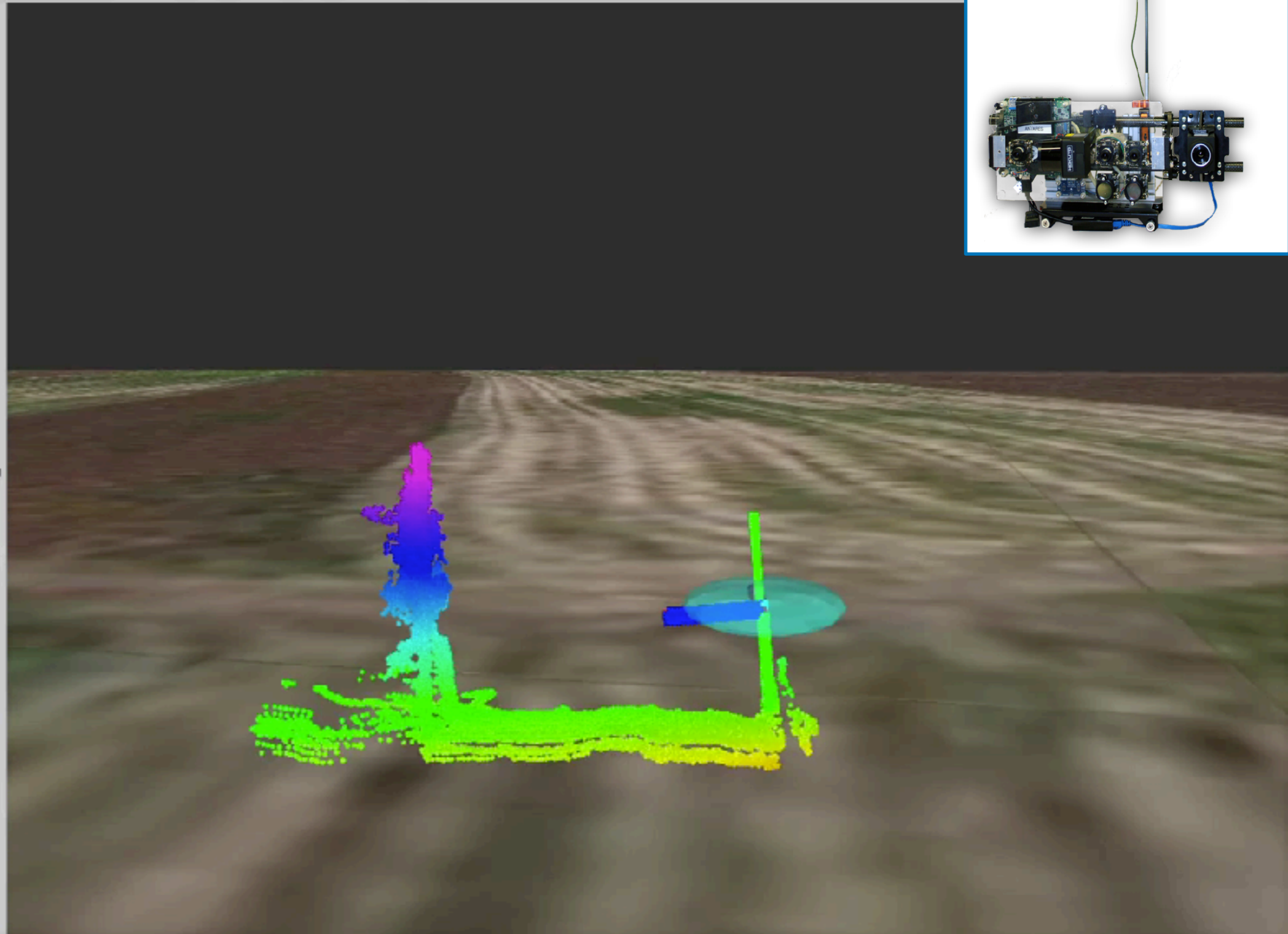
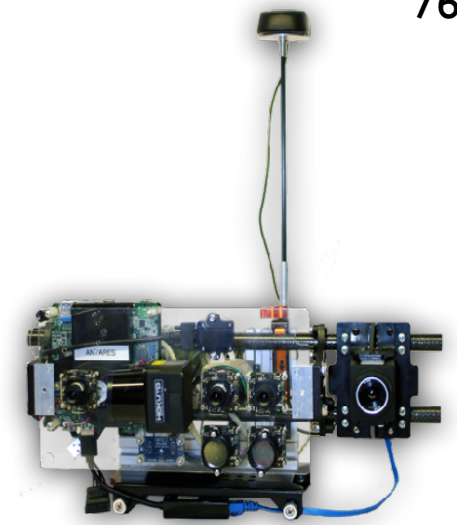
# 3-D Reconstruction



J. Das, G. Cross, C. Qu, A. Makineni, P. Tokekar, Y. Mulgaonkar, and V. Kumar, "Devices, systems, and methods for automated monitoring enabling precision agriculture," in 2015 IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE). IEEE, Aug 2015, pp. 462–469.



# 3-D Reconstruction

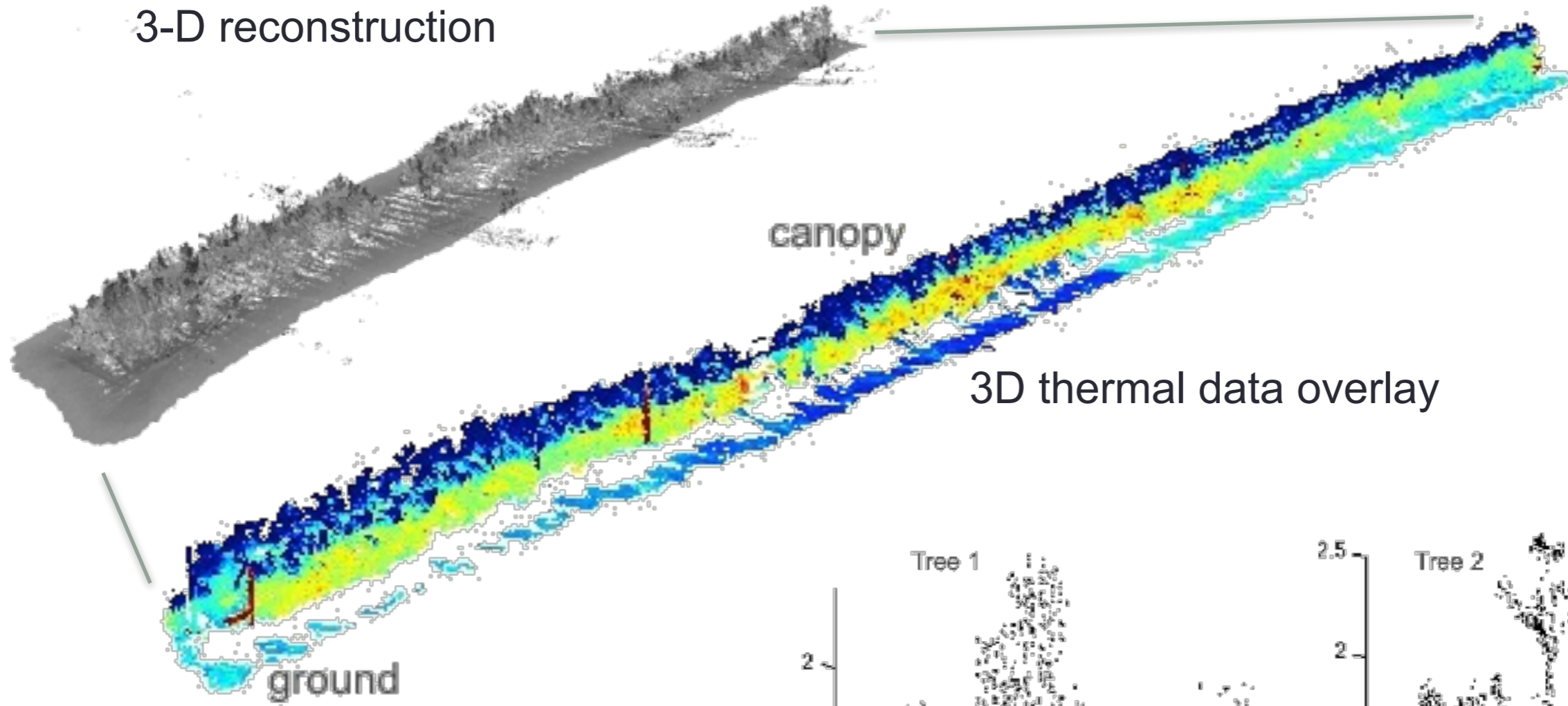


J. Das, G. Cross, C. Qu, A. Makineni, P. Tokekar, Y. Mulgaonkar, and V. Kumar, "Devices, systems, and methods for automated monitoring enabling precision agriculture," in 2015 IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE). IEEE, Aug 2015, pp. 462–469.



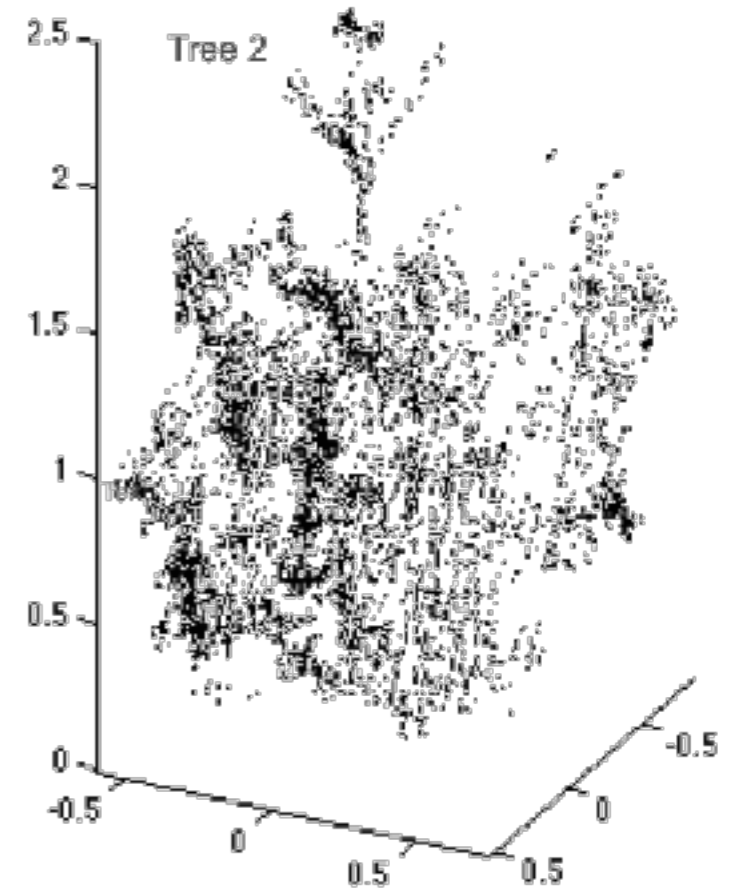
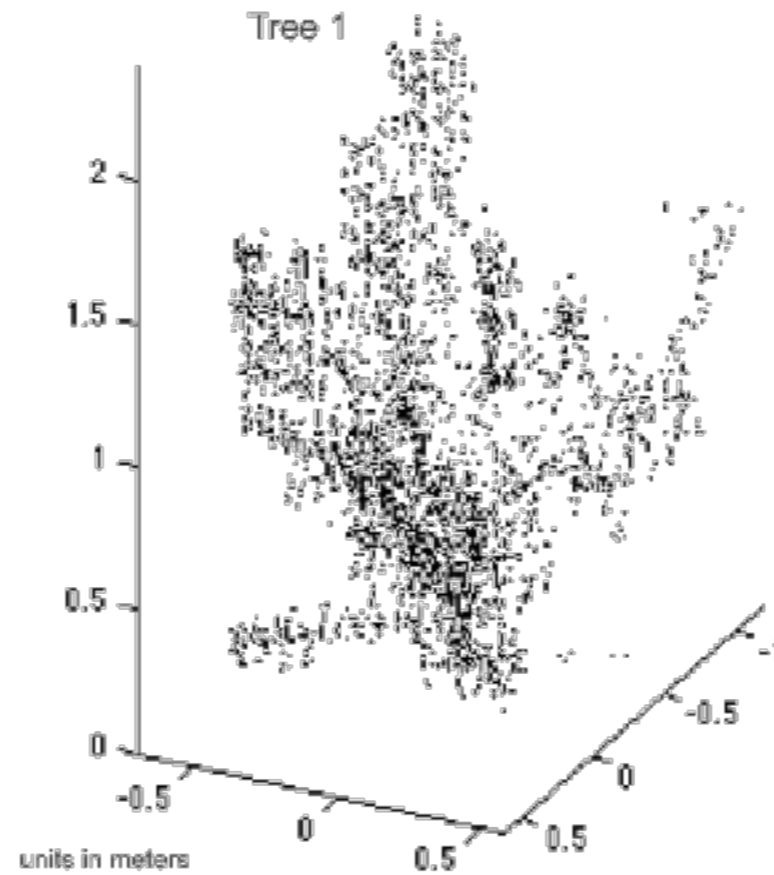
# 3-D Reconstruction

3-D reconstruction

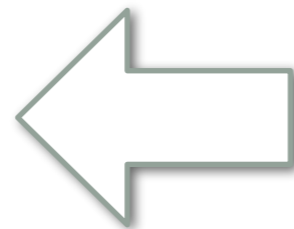
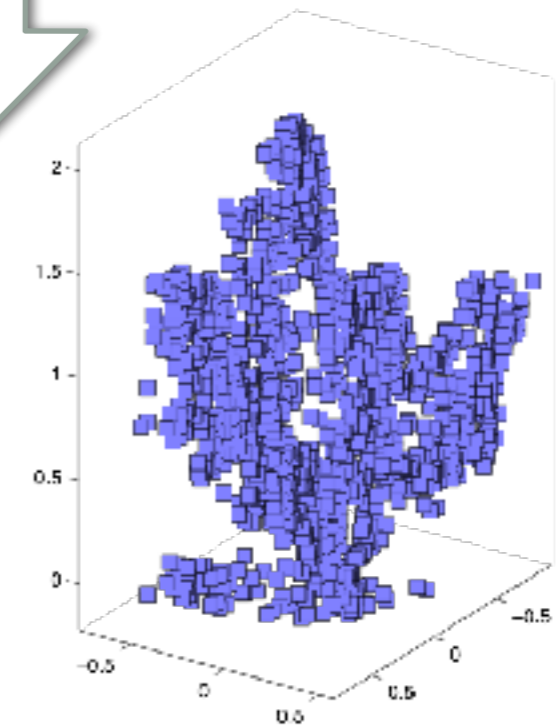
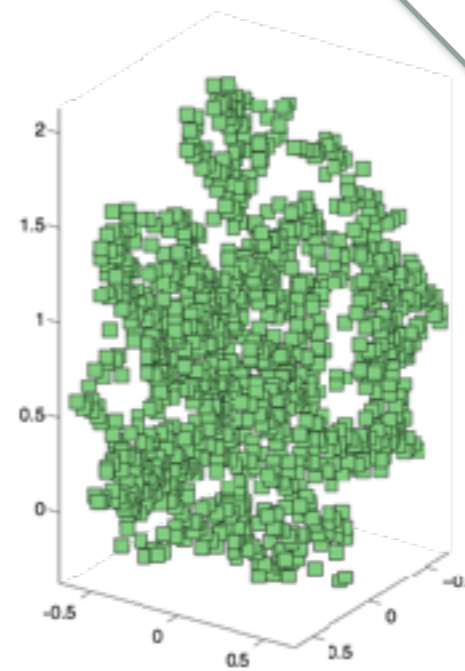
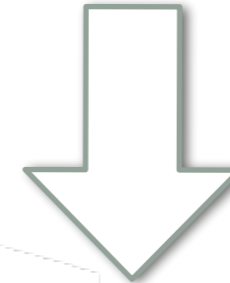
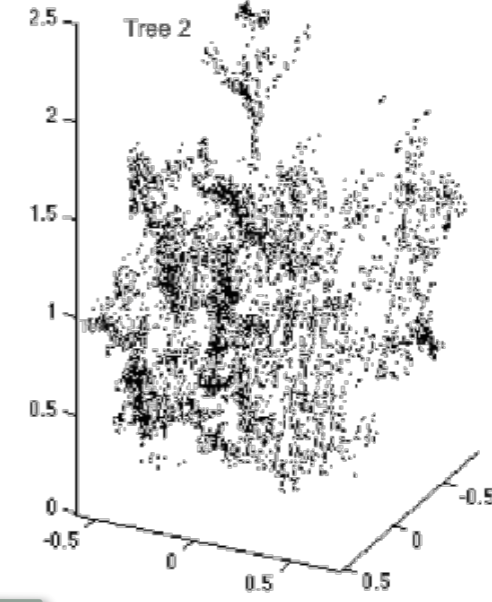
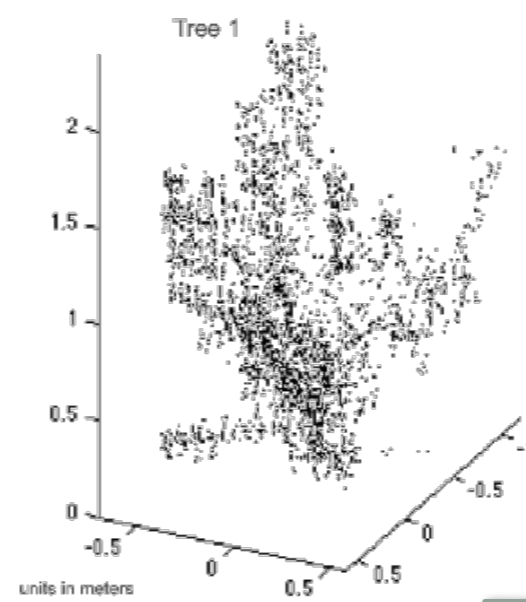
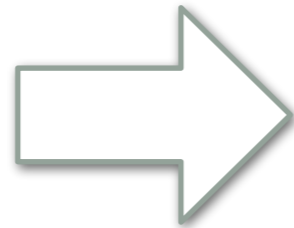


3D thermal data overlay

Individual tree reconstruction

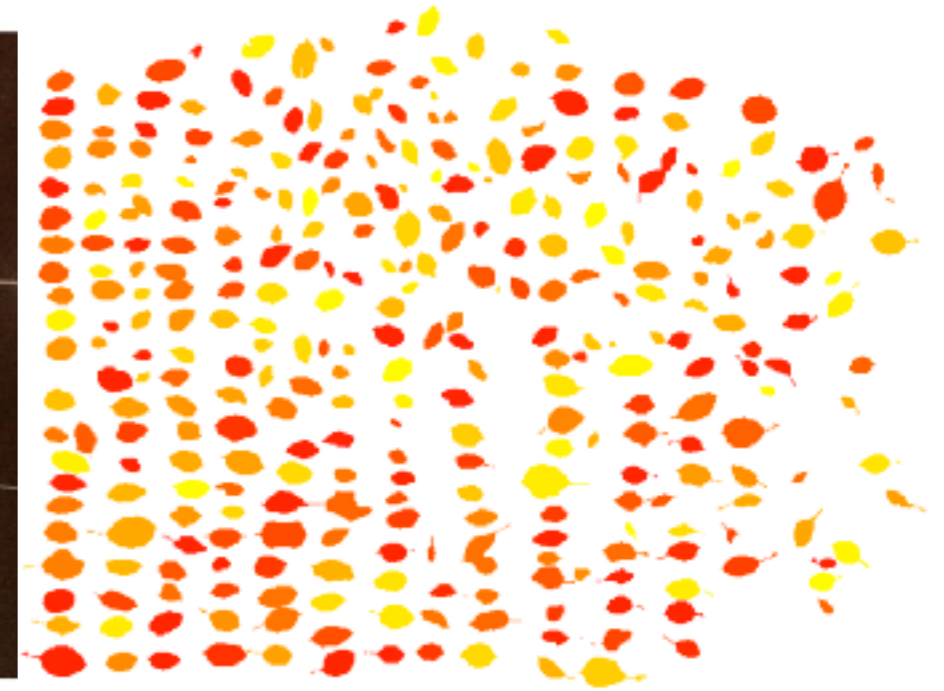
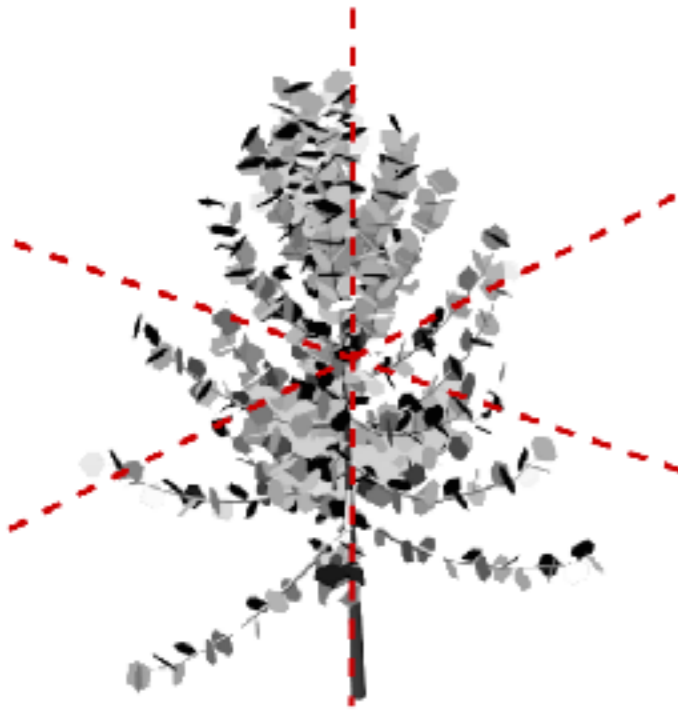


# Automatic Extraction of Leaf Area

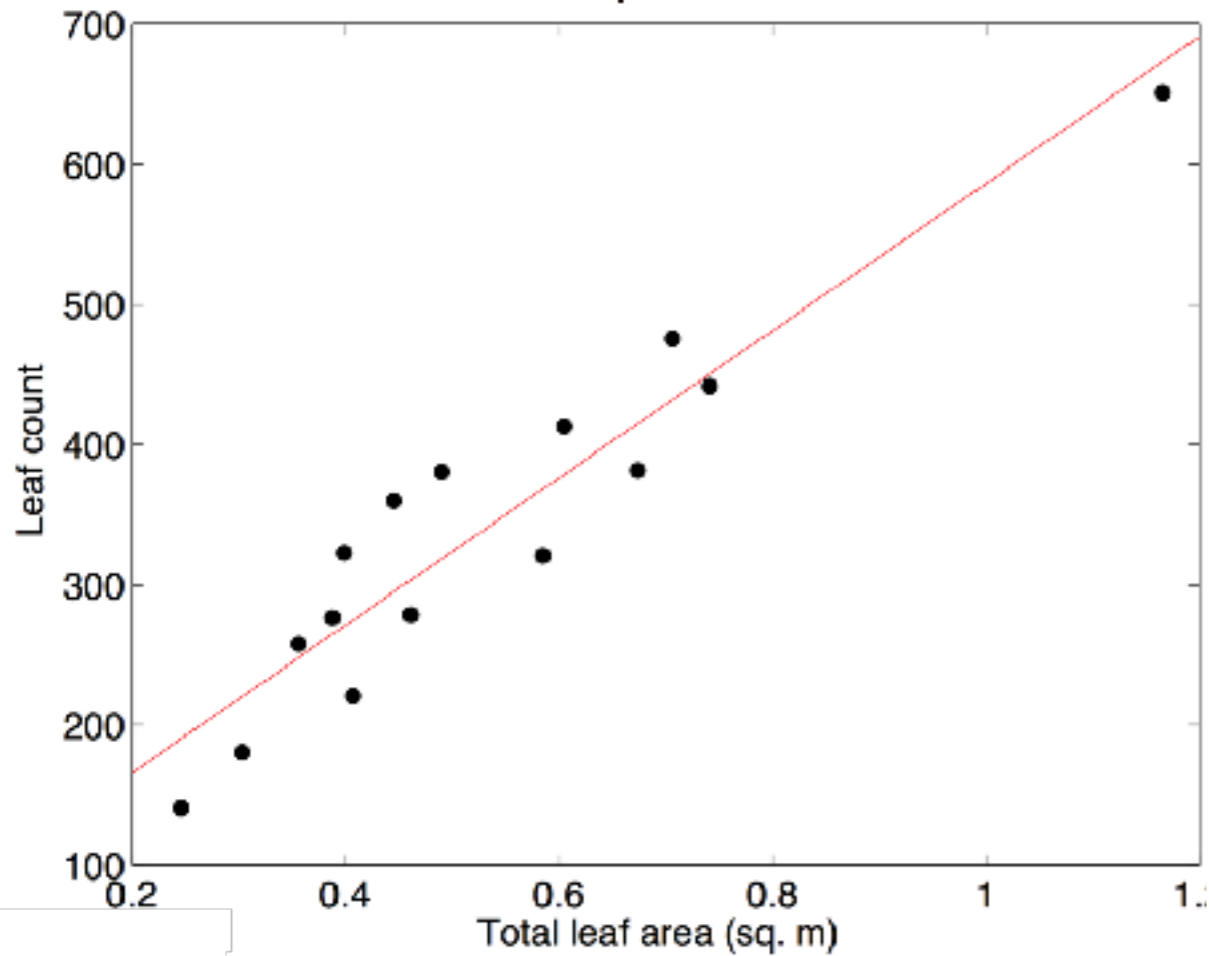


**Leaf Area Index**

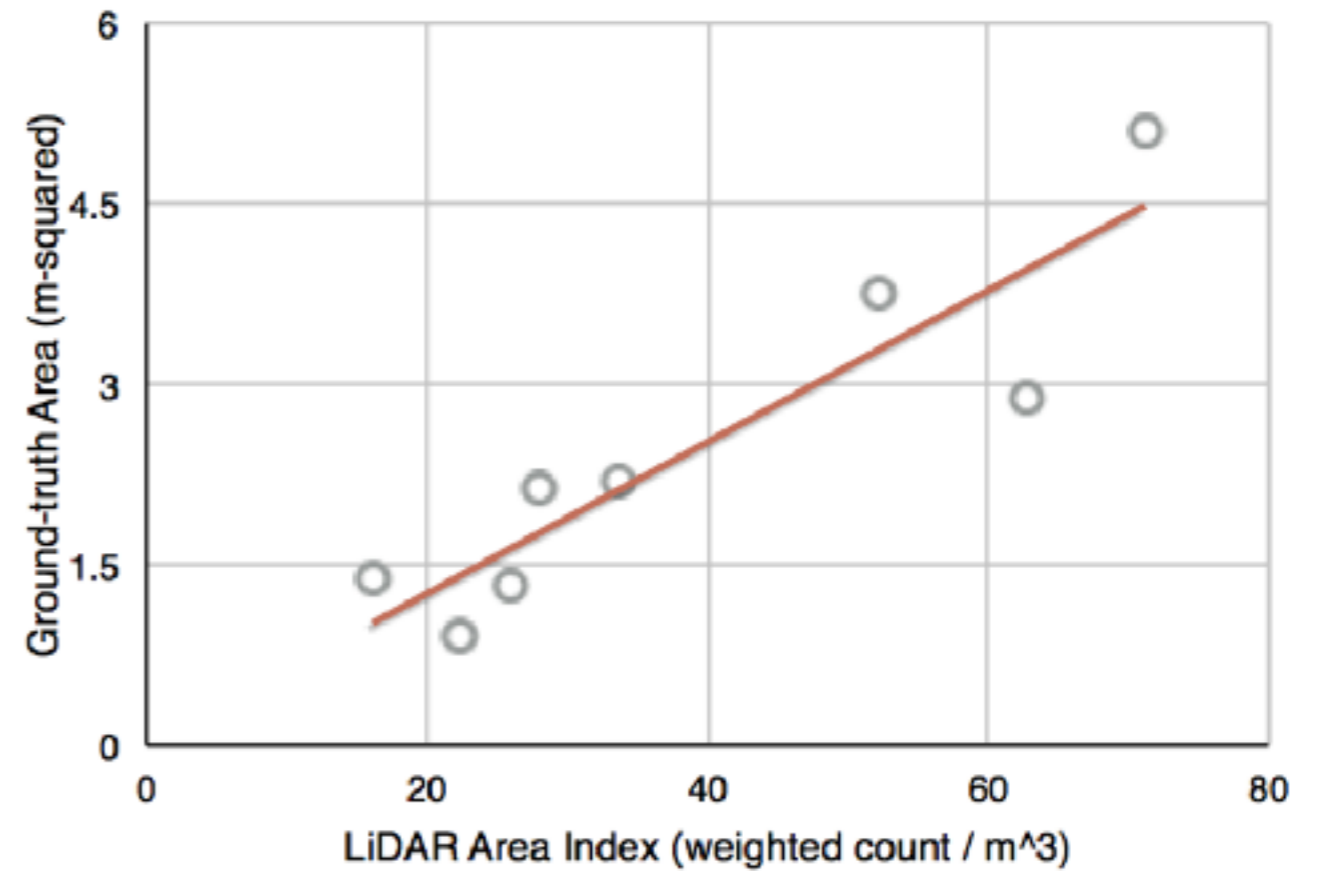
# Leaf Area Analysis



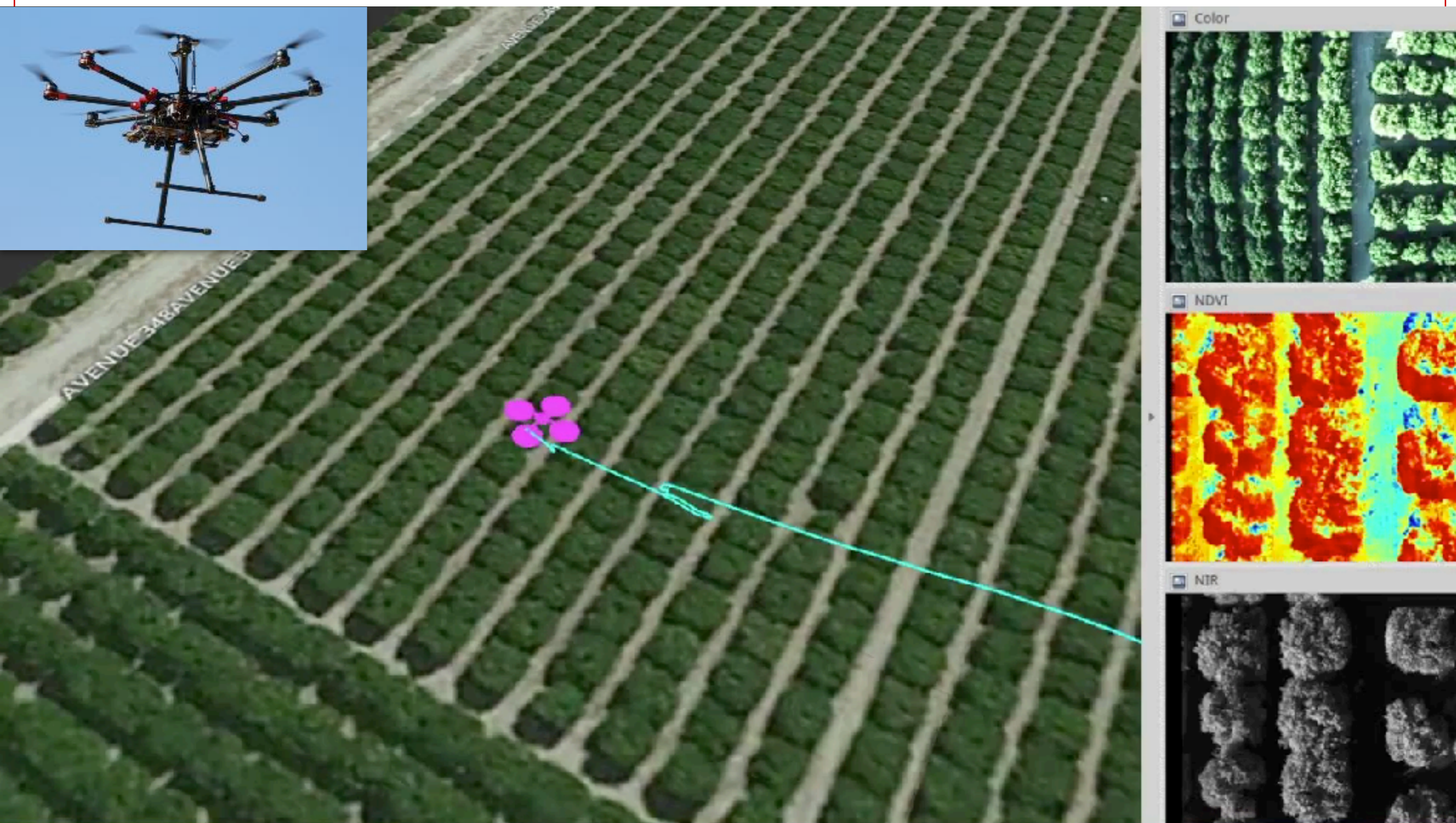
R-square=0.88



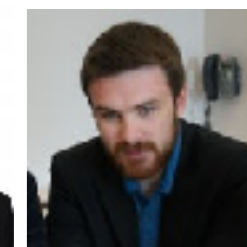
R-square=0.82



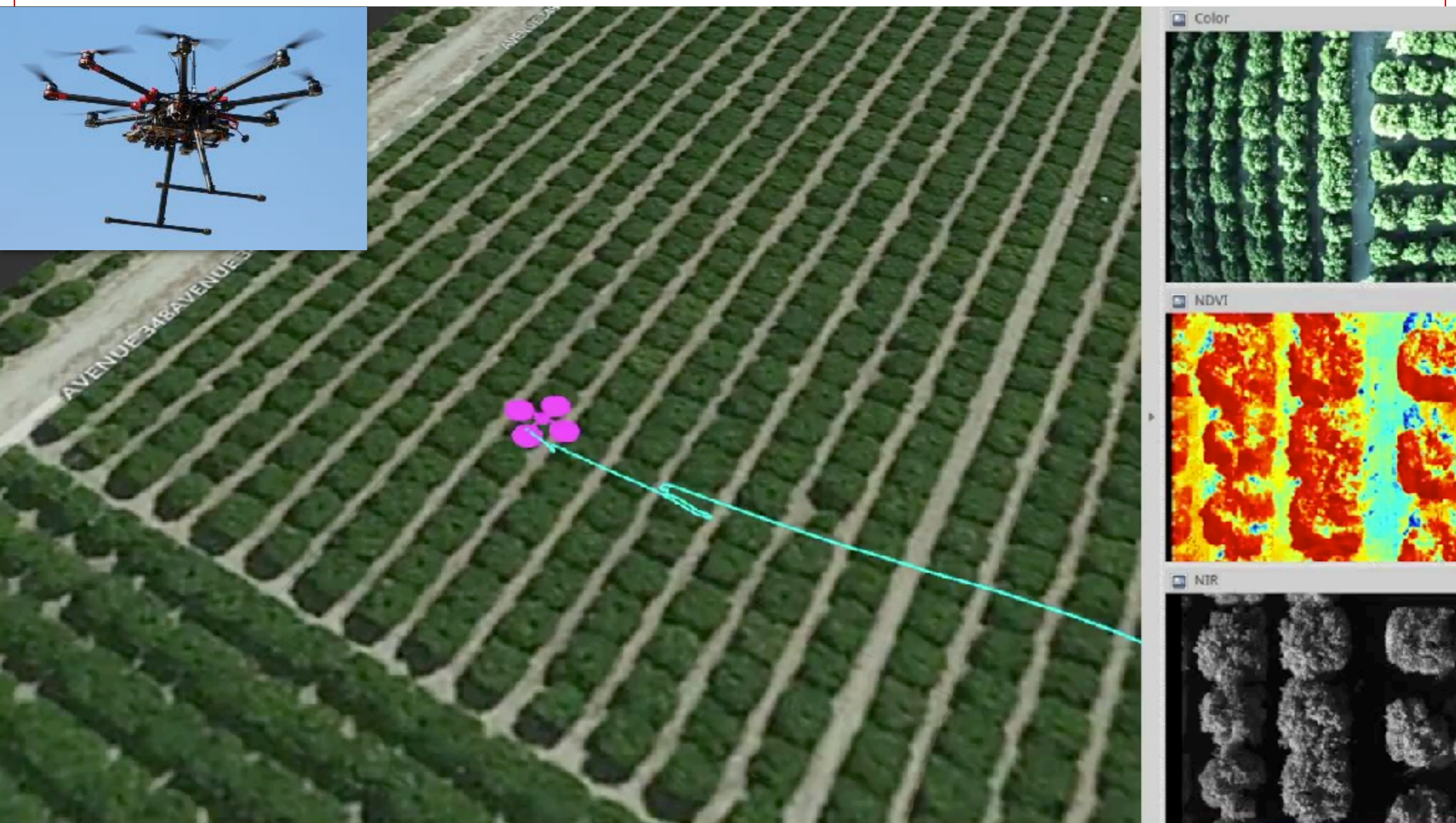
# Crop Stress



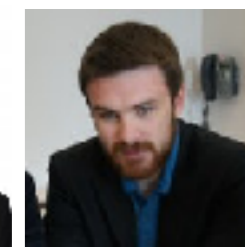
J. Das, G. Cross, C. Qu, A. Makineni, P. Tokekar, Y. Mulgaonkar, and V. Kumar, "Devices, systems, and methods for automated monitoring enabling precision agriculture," in 2015 IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE). IEEE, Aug 2015, pp. 462–469.



# Crop Stress

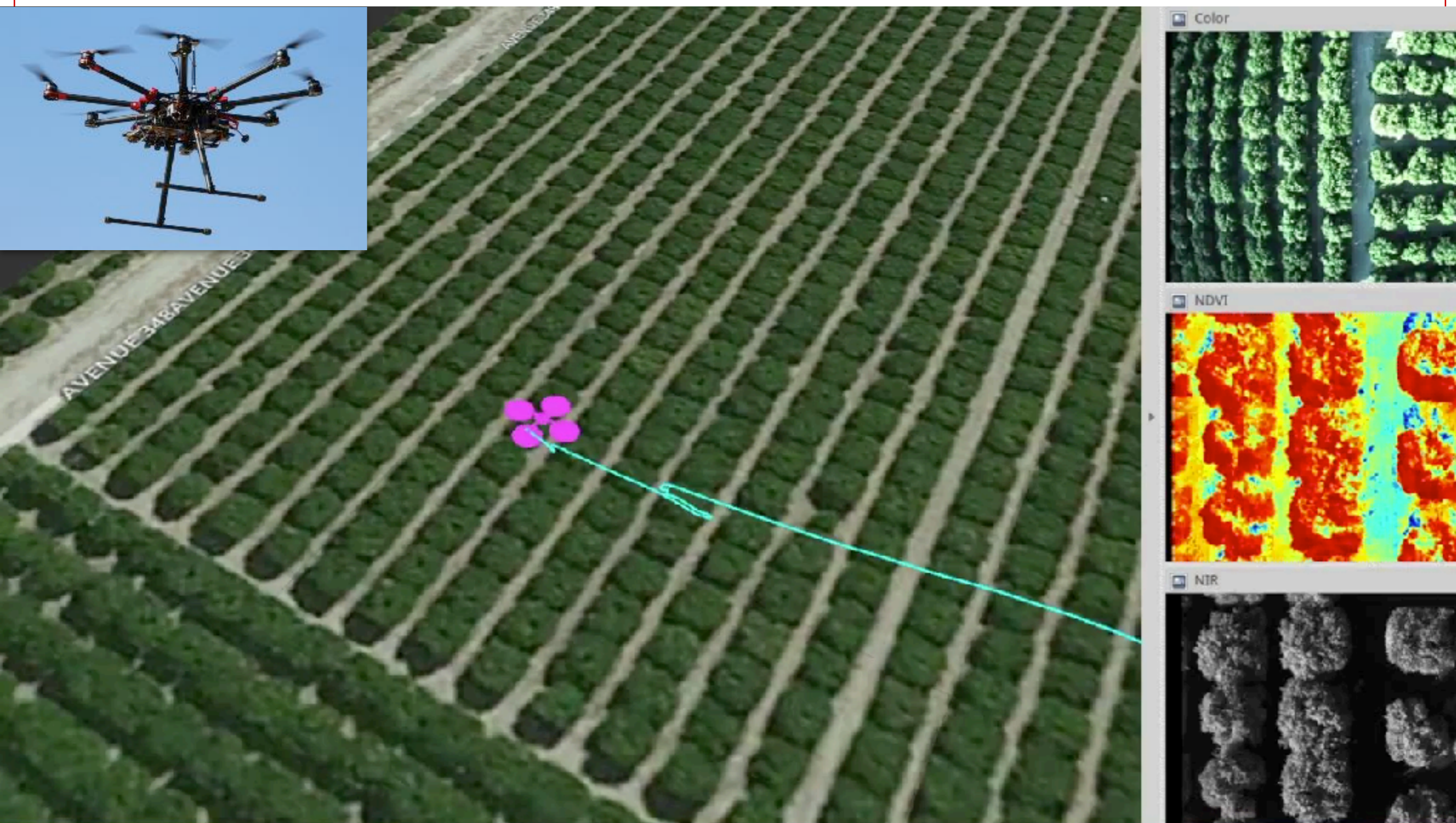


J. Das, G. Cross, C. Qu, A. Makineni, P. Tokekar, Y. Mulgaonkar, and V. Kumar, "Devices, systems, and methods for automated monitoring enabling precision agriculture," in 2015 IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE). IEEE, Aug 2015, pp. 462–469.

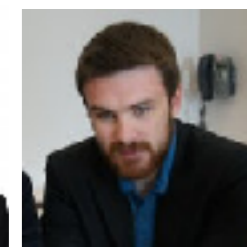




# Crop Stress

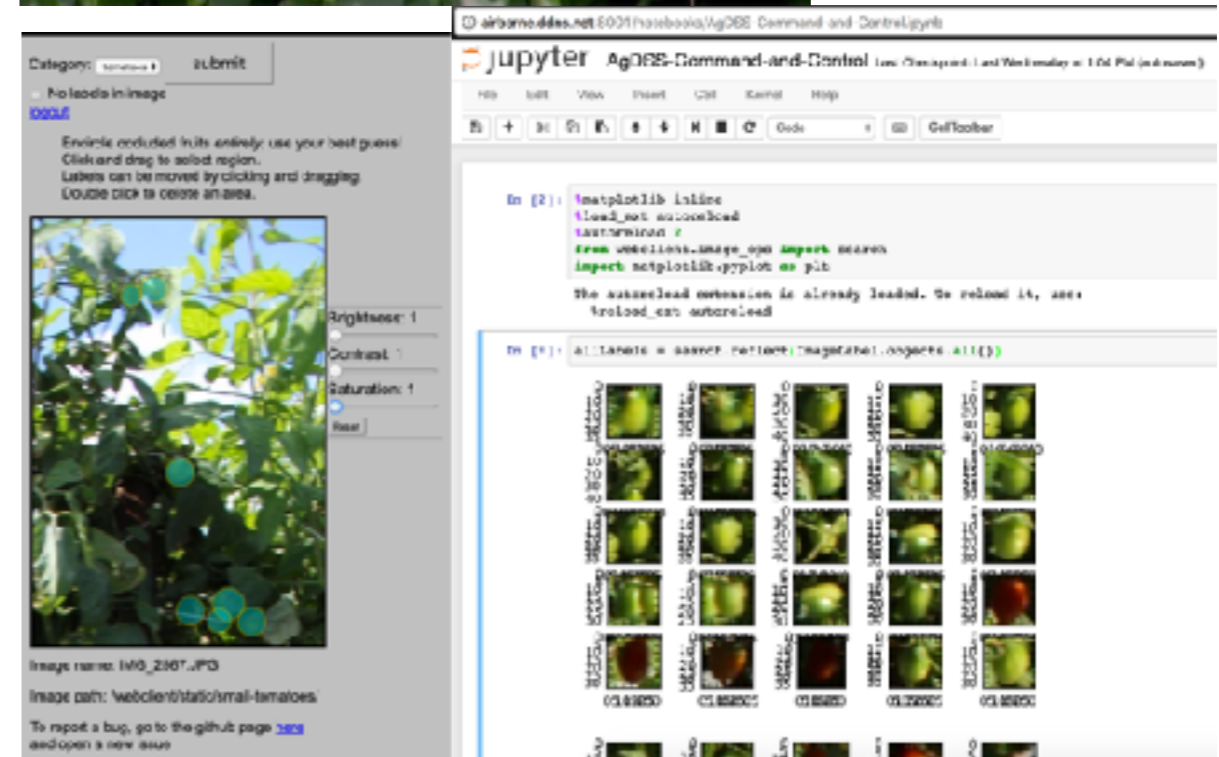
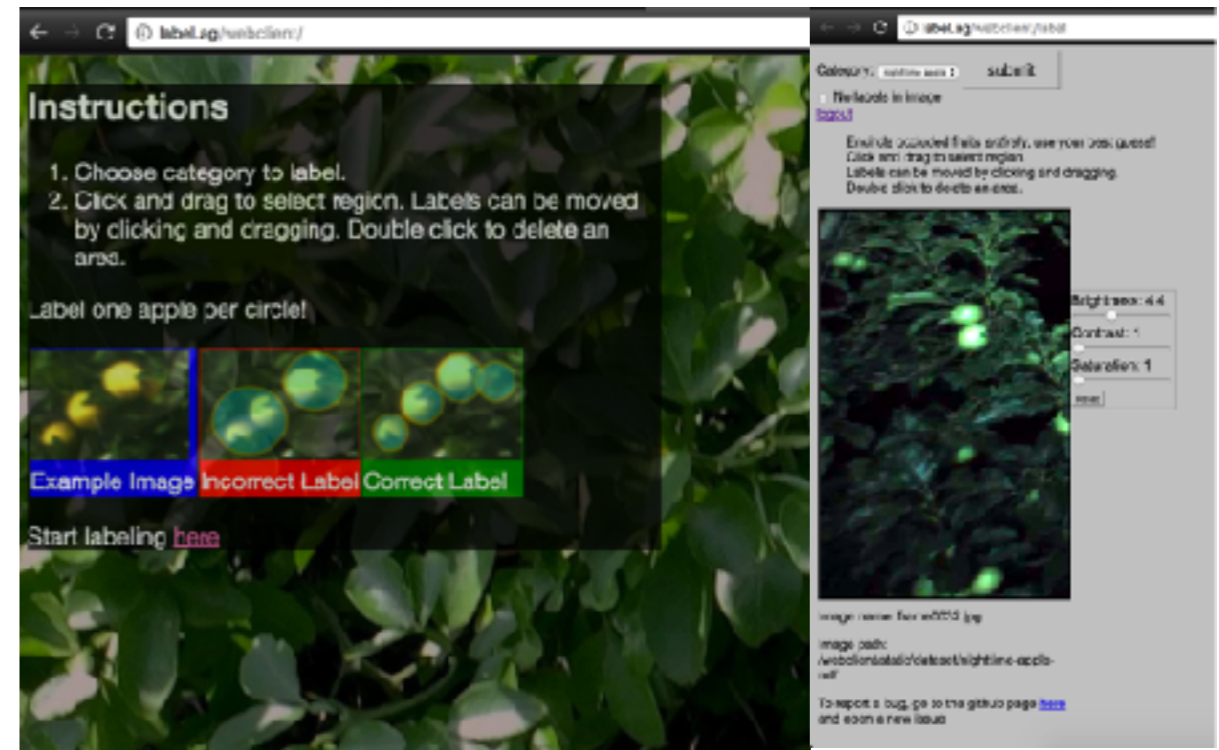


J. Das, G. Cross, C. Qu, A. Makineni, P. Tokekar, Y. Mulgaonkar, and V. Kumar, "Devices, systems, and methods for automated monitoring enabling precision agriculture," in 2015 IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE). IEEE, Aug 2015, pp. 462–469.



# Fruit Counting

- Automatic fruit counting using low SWaP technologies and deep learning
- <https://annotate.label.ag> - open-source annotation tool
  - 22 labelers, 5000+ labeled images in two weeks
  - dataset released! <https://label.ag>
- Allows growers to quickly annotate data, train models, and deploy on their own

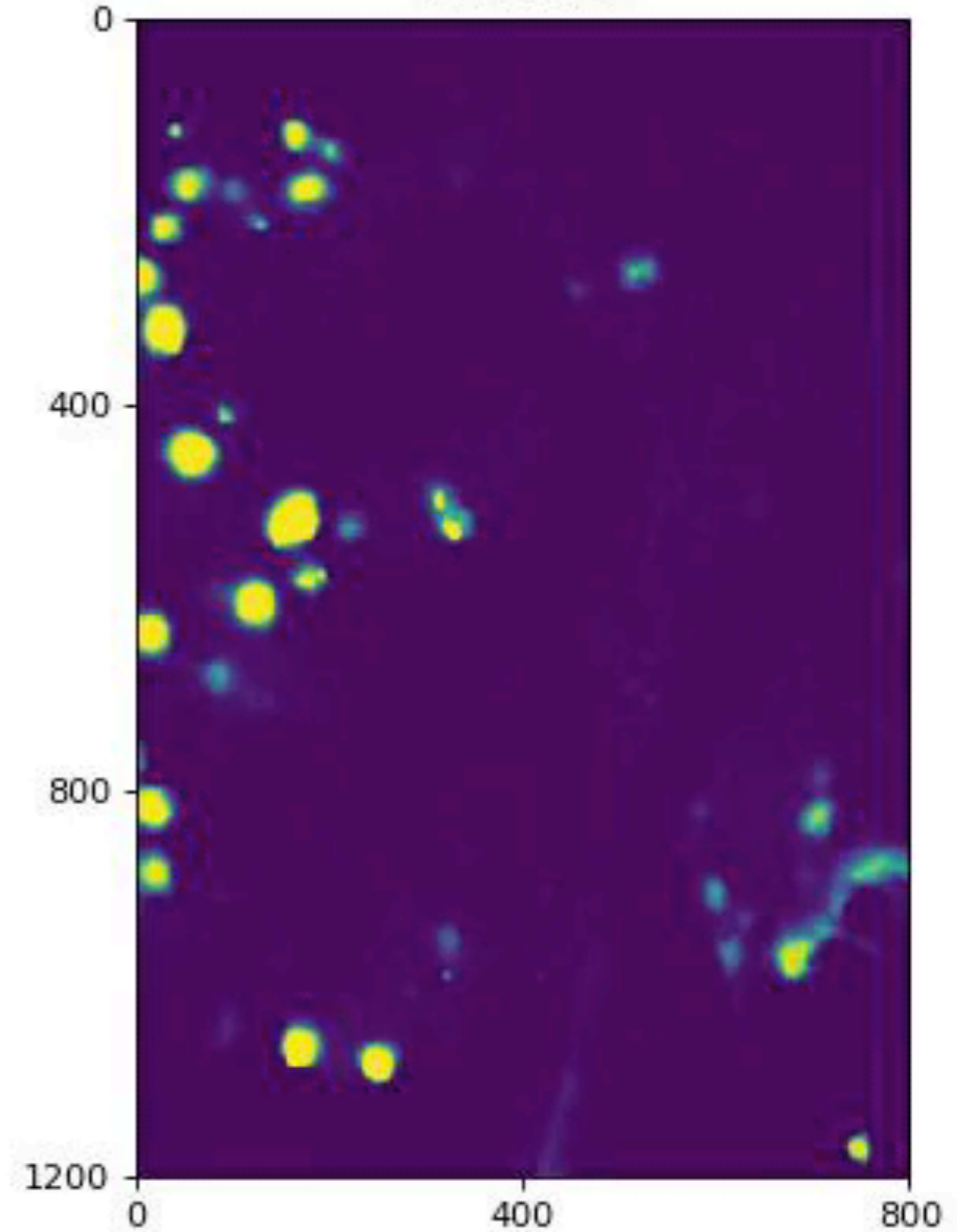


# Fruit Detection

Original

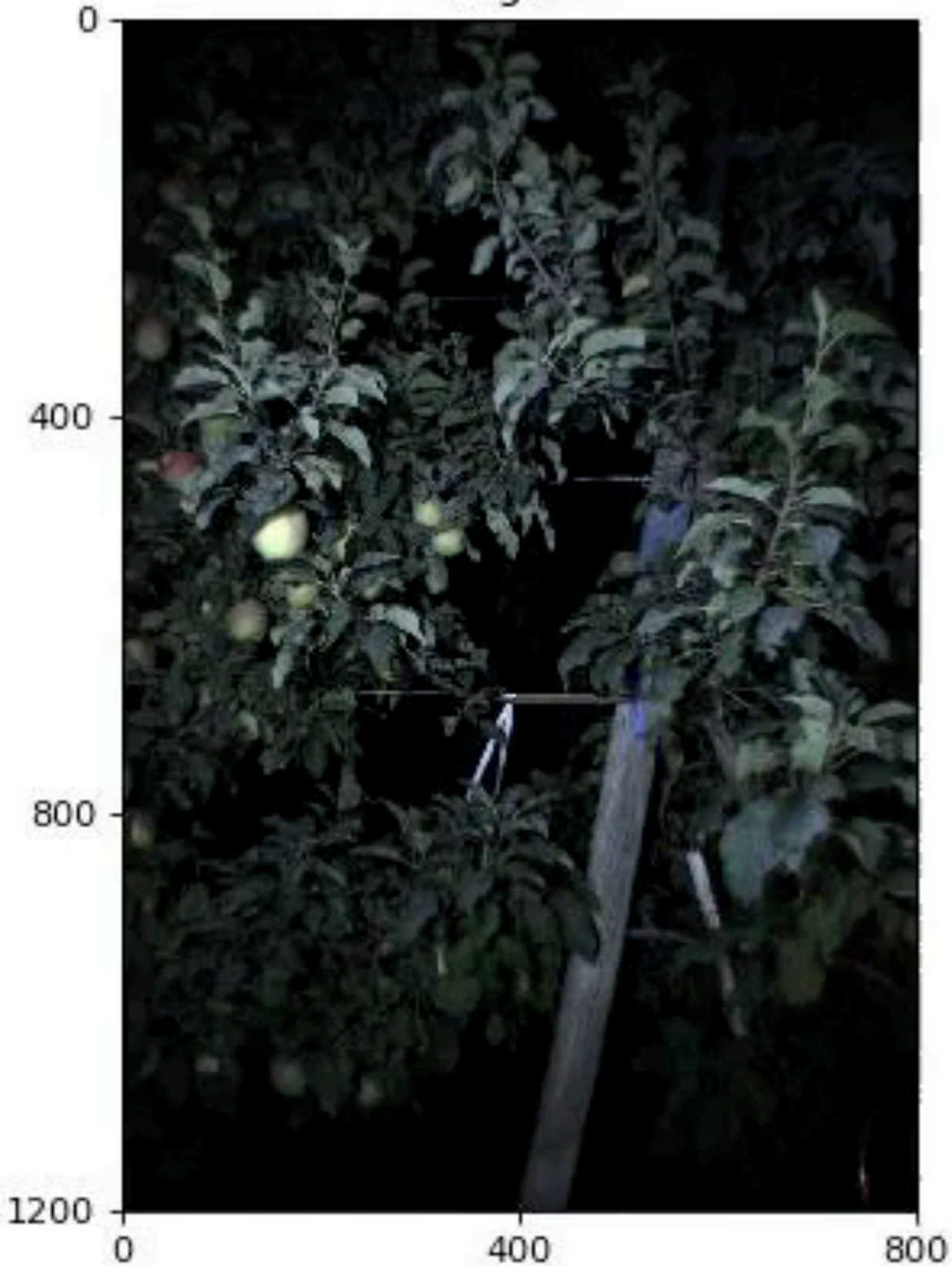


Predicted

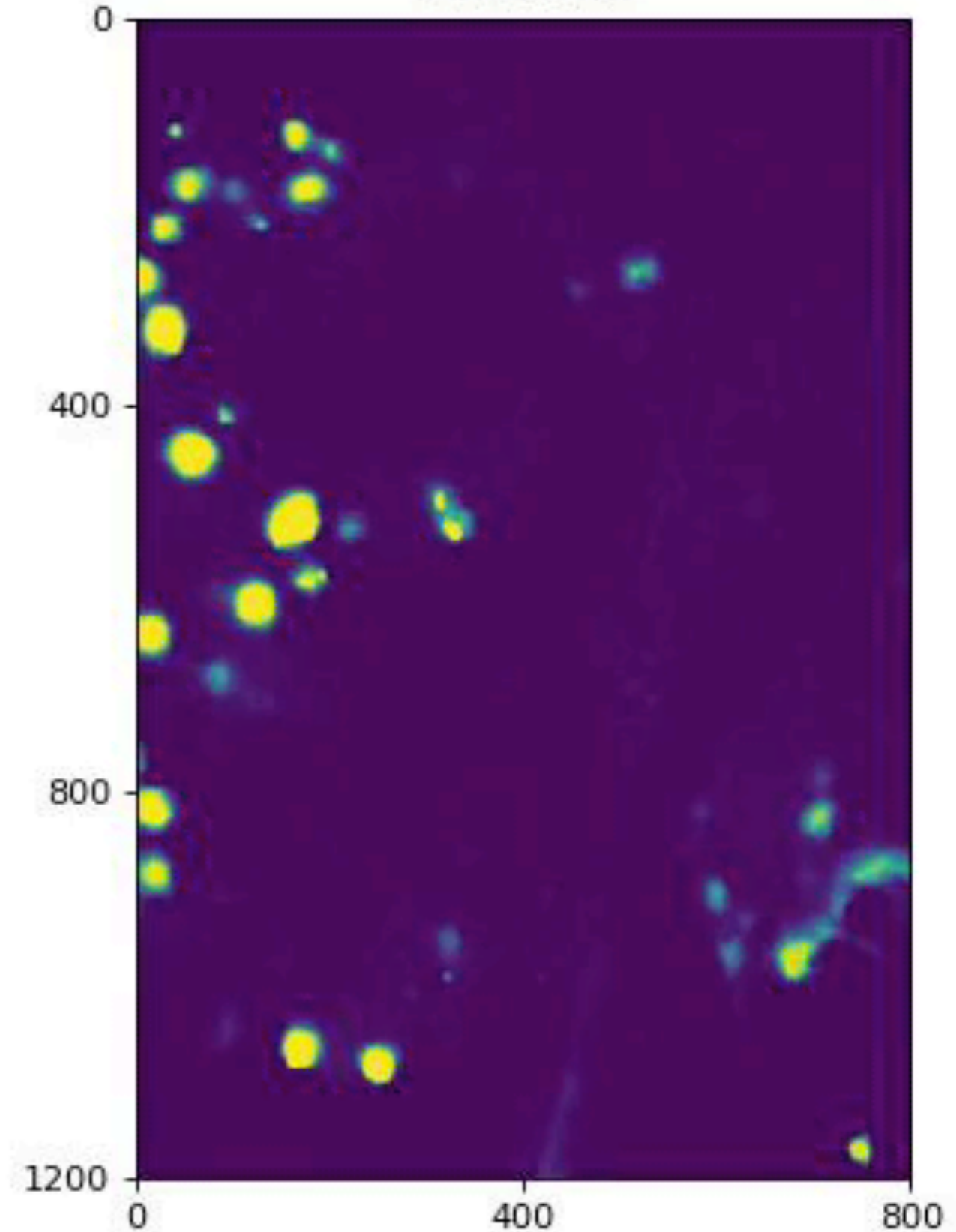


# Fruit Detection

Original

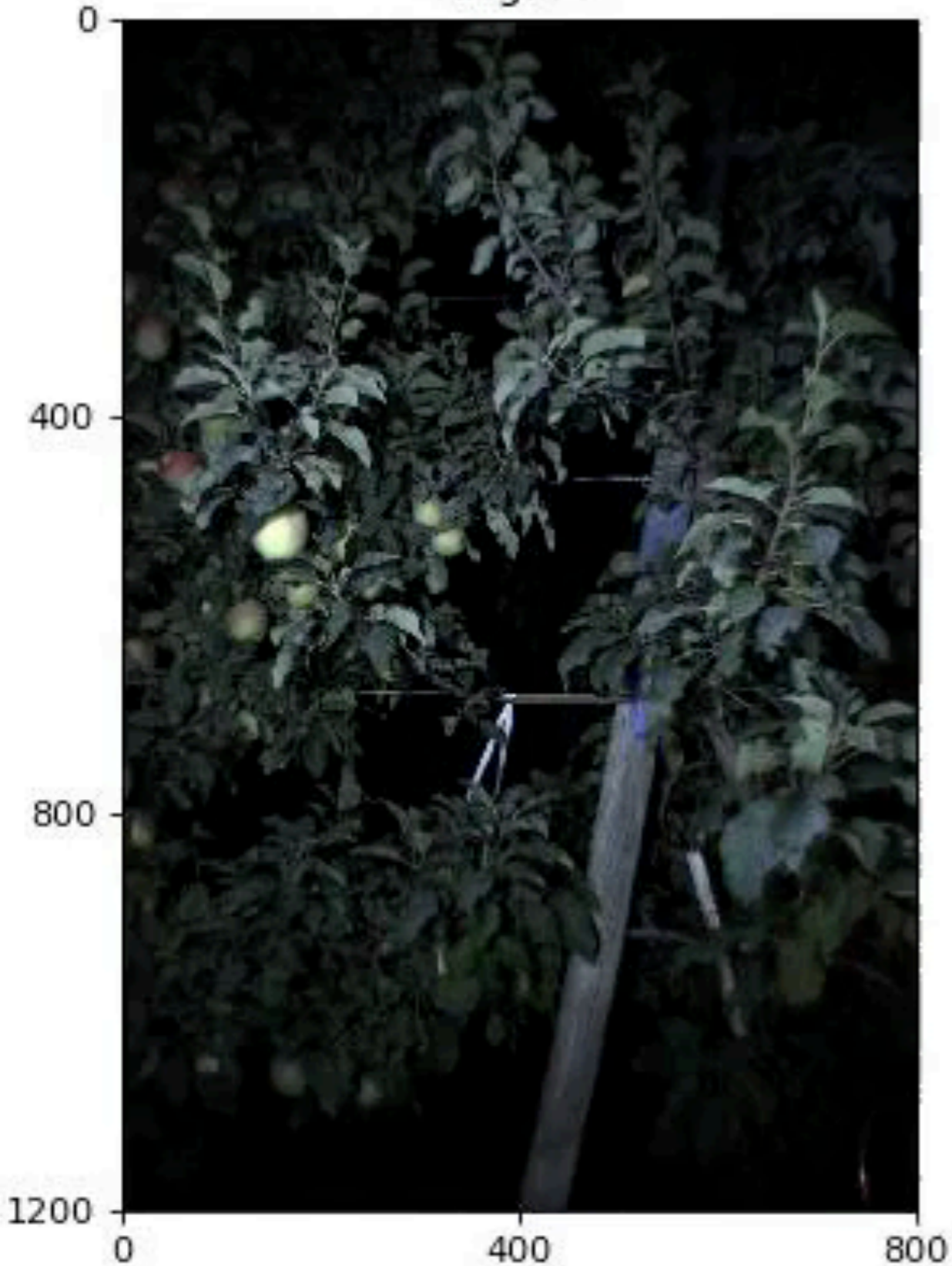


Predicted

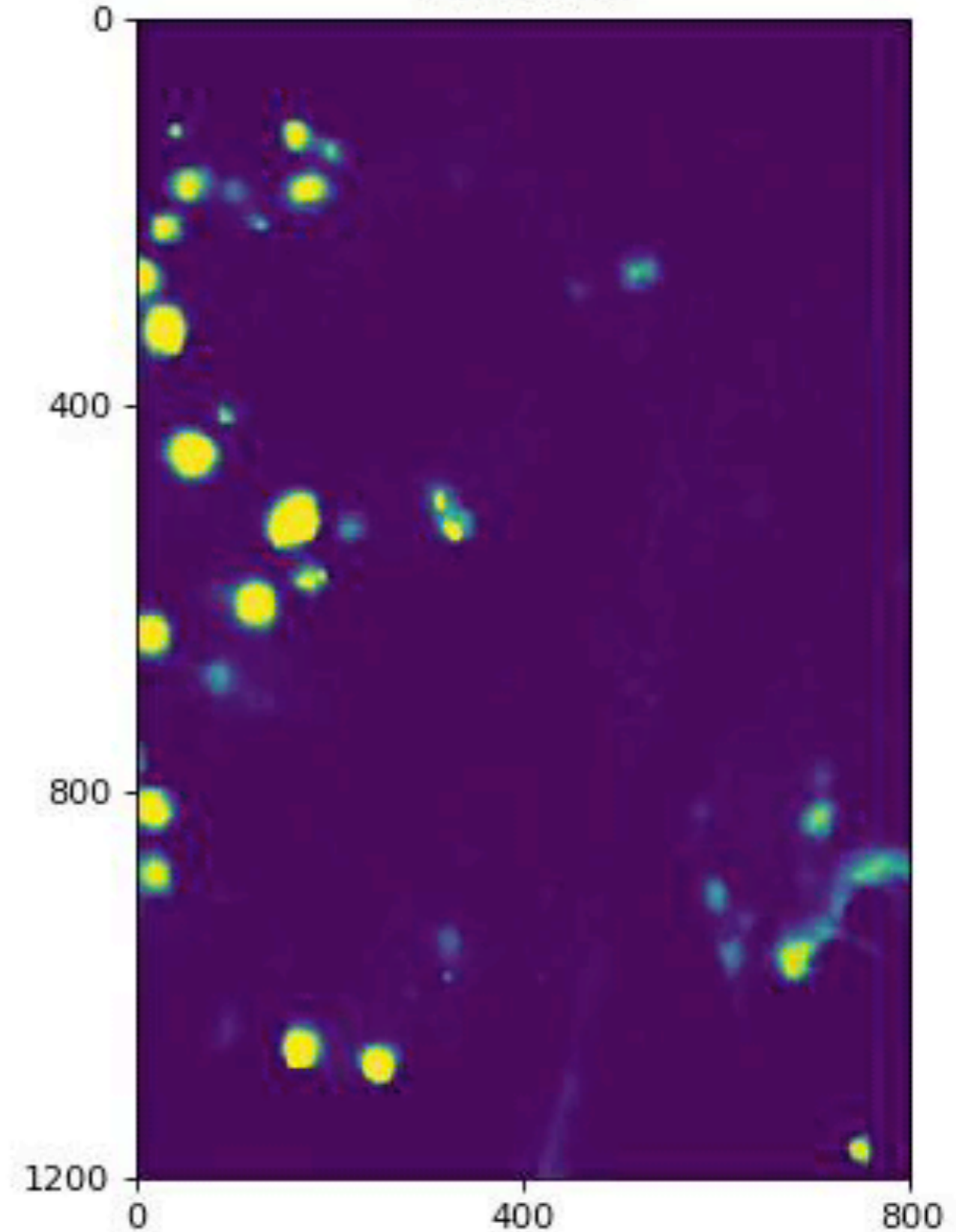


# Fruit Detection

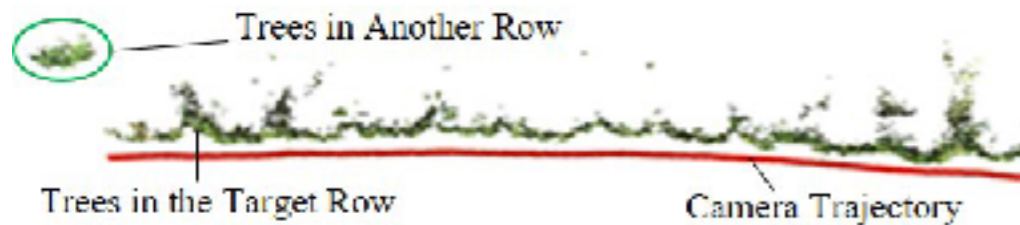
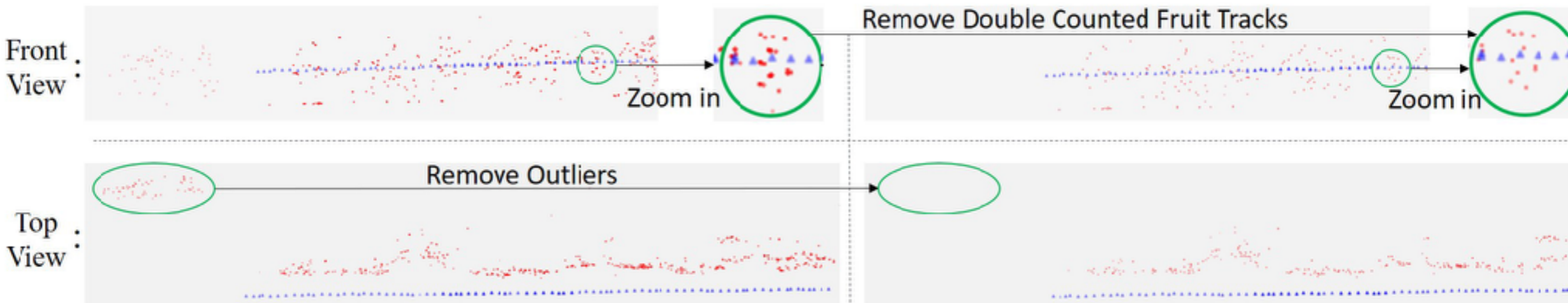
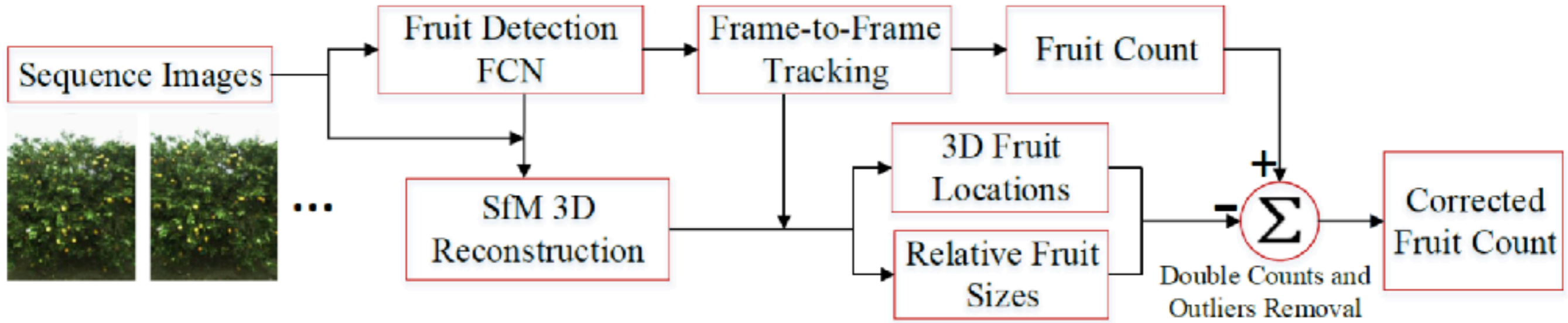
Original



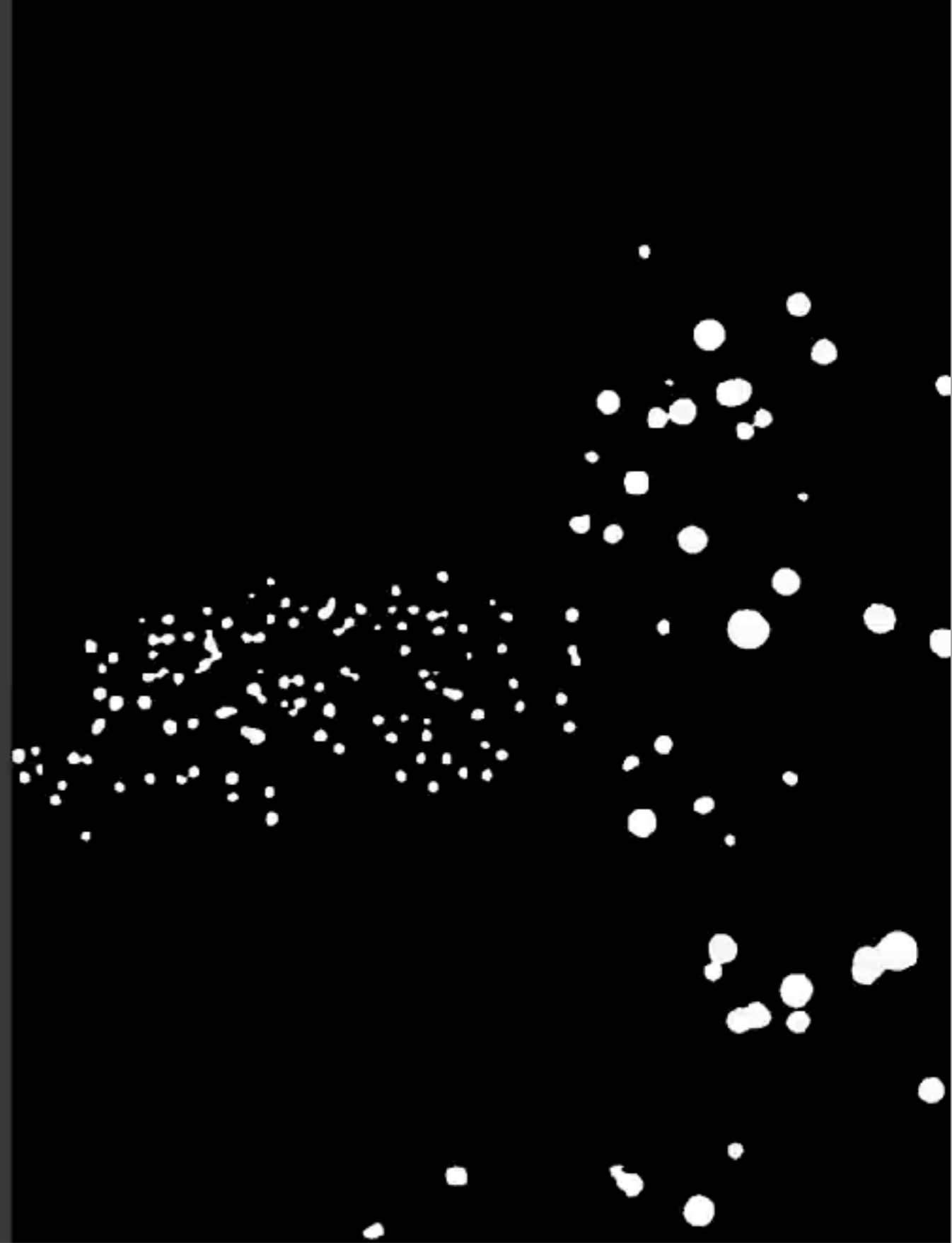
Predicted



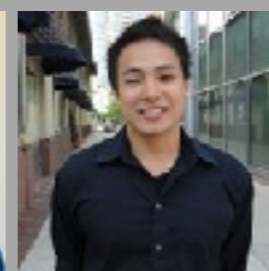
# Fruit Mapping

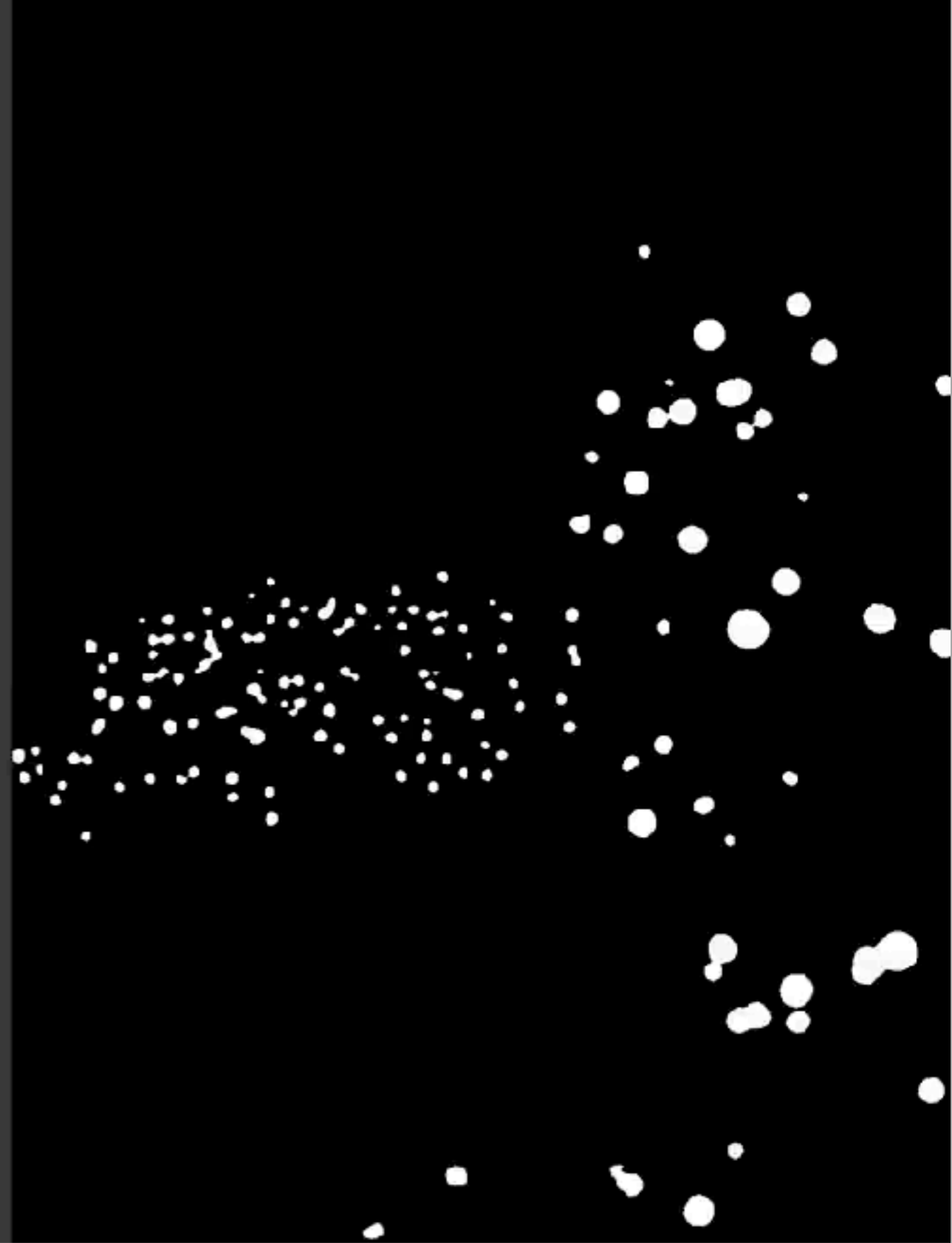


Xu Liu, Steven W. Chen, Shreyas Aditya, Nivedha Sivakumar, Sandeep Dcunha, Chao Qu, Camillo J. Taylor, Jnaneshwar Das, and Vijay Kumar, "Robust Fruit Counting: Combining Deep Learning, Tracking, and Structure from Motion", in International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2018

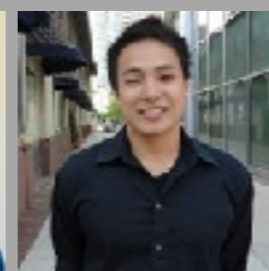


Xu Liu, Steven W. Chen, Shreyas Aditya, Nivedha Sivakumar, Sandeep Dcunha, Chao Qu, Camillo J. Taylor, Jnaneshwar Das, and Vijay Kumar, "Robust Fruit Counting: Combining Deep Learning, Tracking, and Structure from Motion", in International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2018

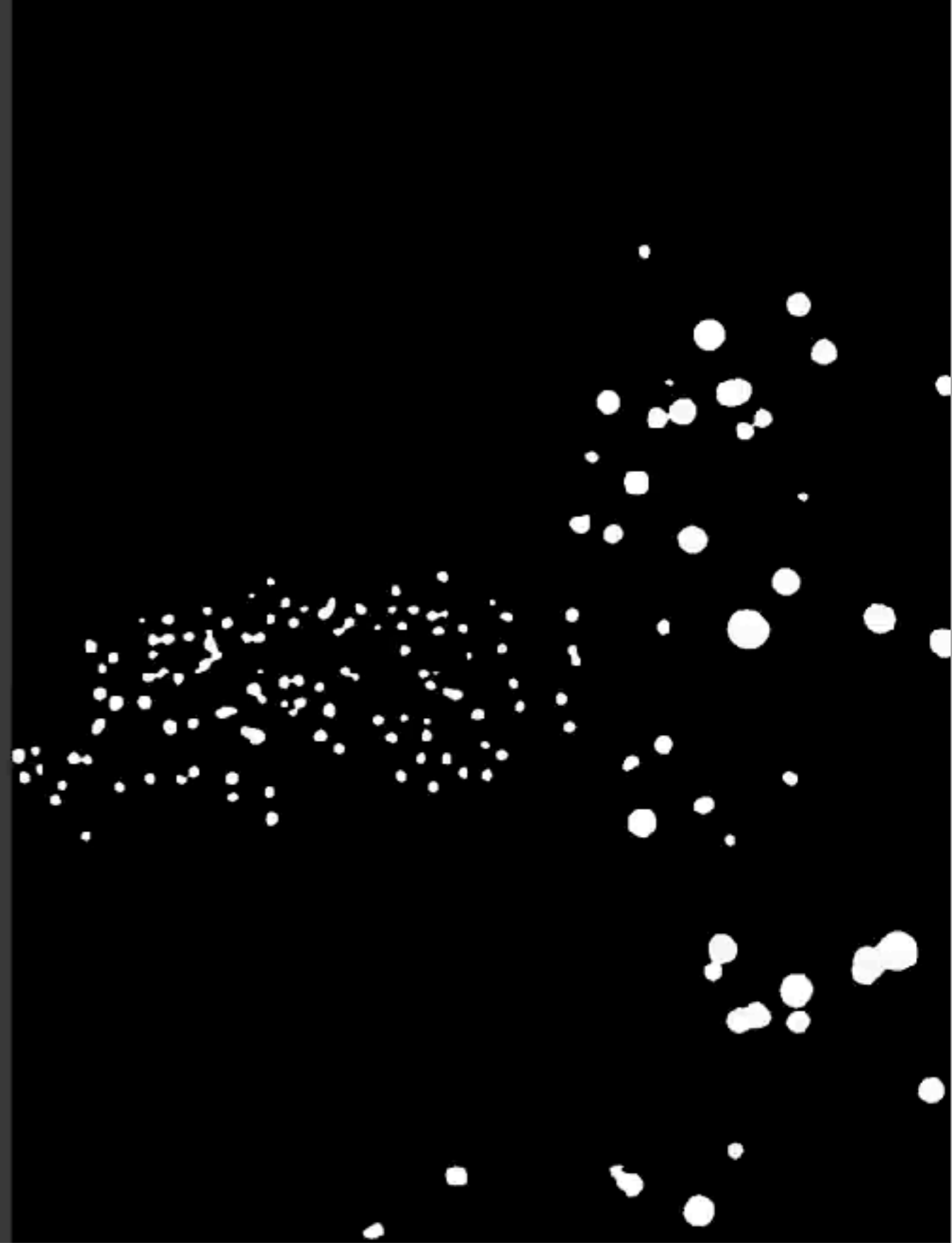




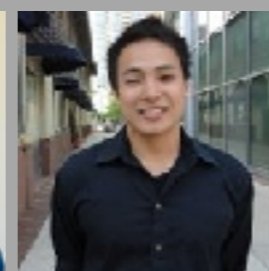
Xu Liu, Steven W. Chen, Shreyas Aditya, Nivedha Sivakumar, Sandeep Dcunha, Chao Qu, Camillo J. Taylor, Jnaneshwar Das, and Vijay Kumar, "Robust Fruit Counting: Combining Deep Learning, Tracking, and Structure from Motion", in International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2018



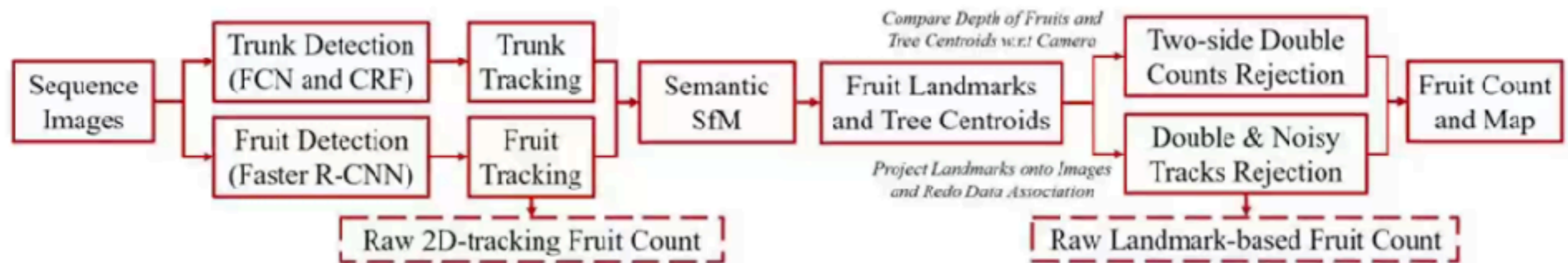




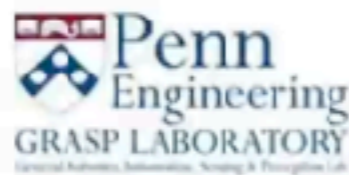
Xu Liu, Steven W. Chen, Shreyas Aditya, Nivedha Sivakumar, Sandeep Dcunha, Chao Qu, Camillo J. Taylor, Jnaneshwar Das, and Vijay Kumar, "Robust Fruit Counting: Combining Deep Learning, Tracking, and Structure from Motion", in International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2018



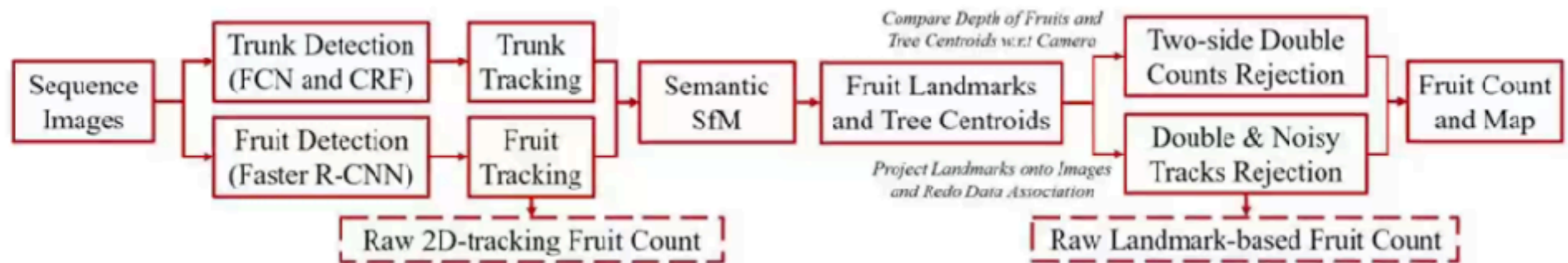
# Monocular Camera Based Fruit Counting and Mapping with Semantic Data Association



Xu Liu, Steven W. Chen, Chenhao Liu, Shreyas S. Shivakumar, Jnaneshwar Das, Camillo J. Taylor, James Underwood, Vijay Kumar



# Monocular Camera Based Fruit Counting and Mapping with Semantic Data Association



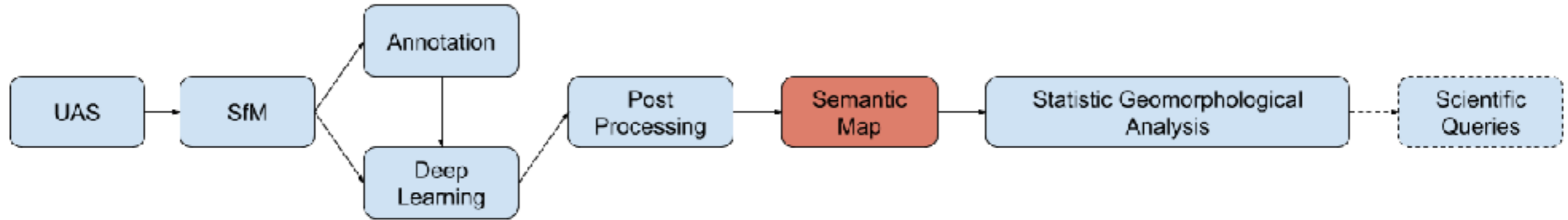
Xu Liu, Steven W. Chen, Chenhao Liu, Shreyas S. Shivakumar, Jnaneshwar Das, Camillo J. Taylor, James Underwood, Vijay Kumar



# Rock trait mapping



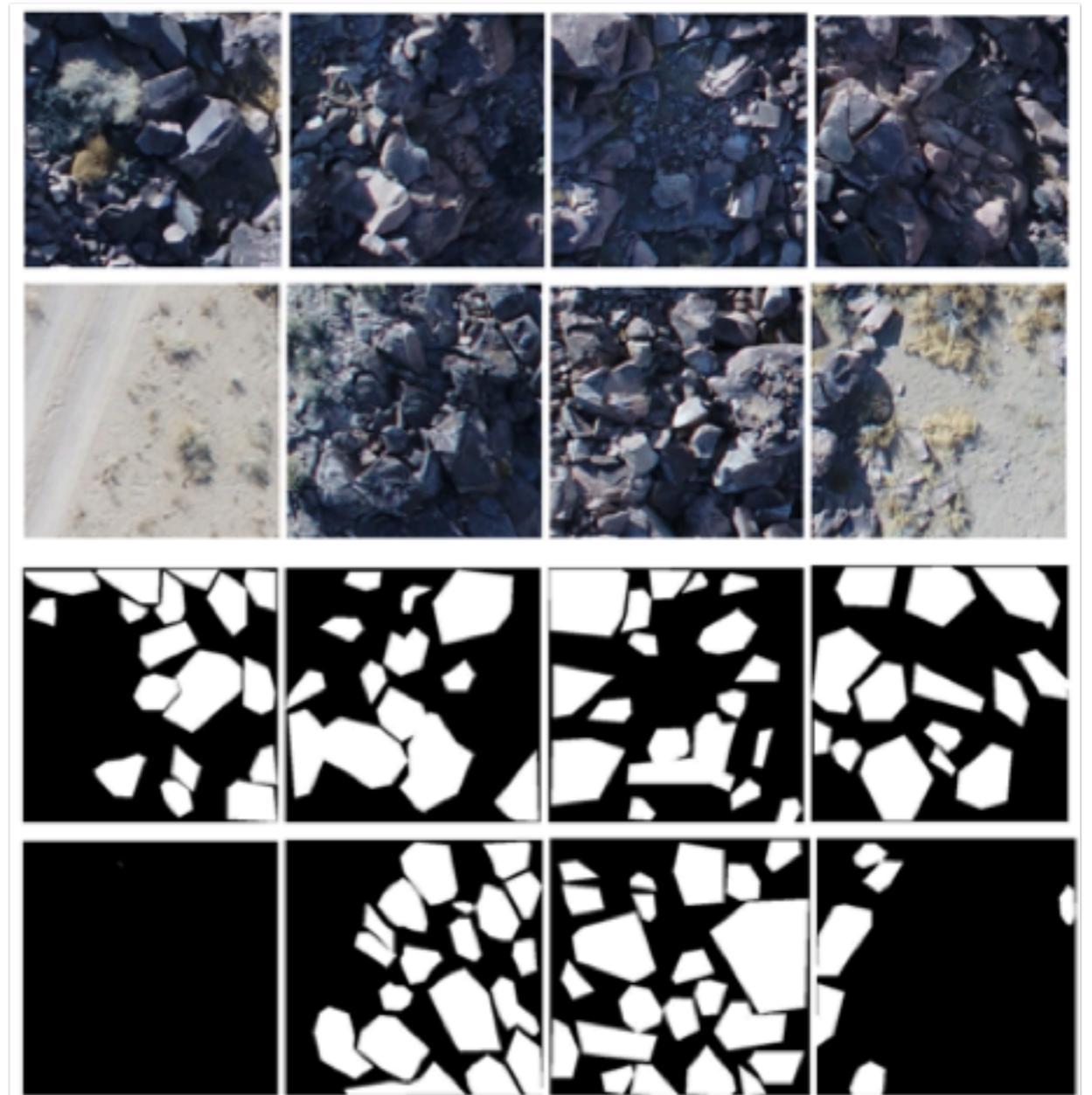
# Rock trait mapping



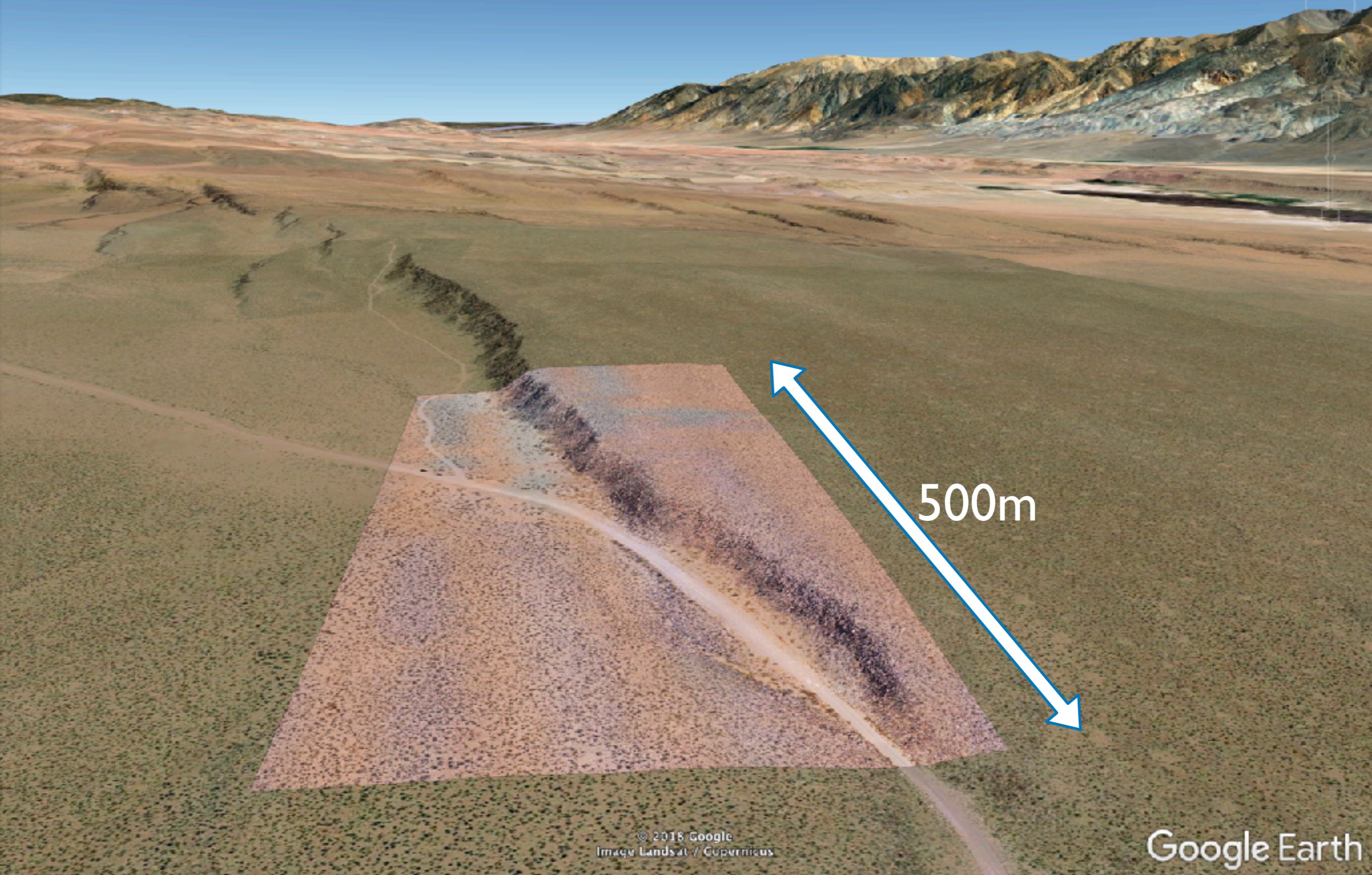
training set

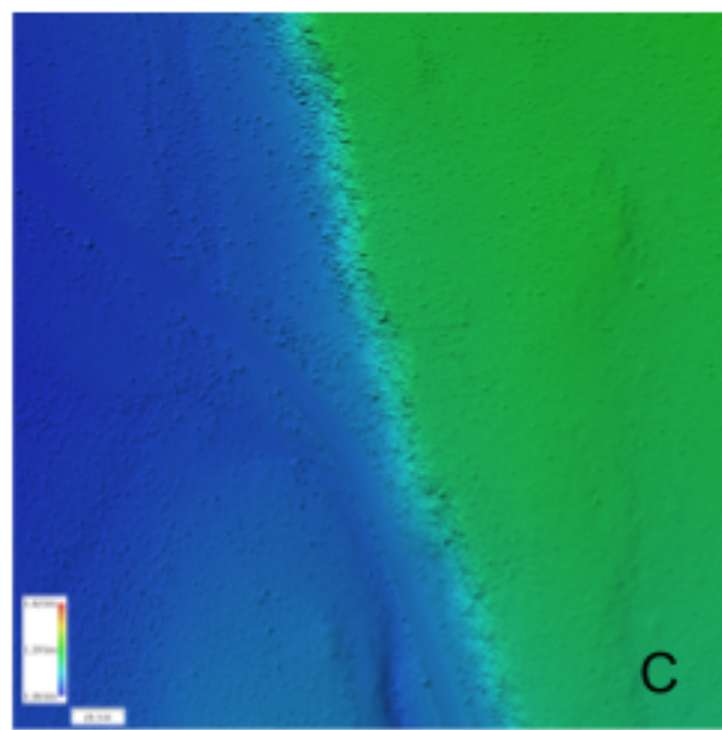
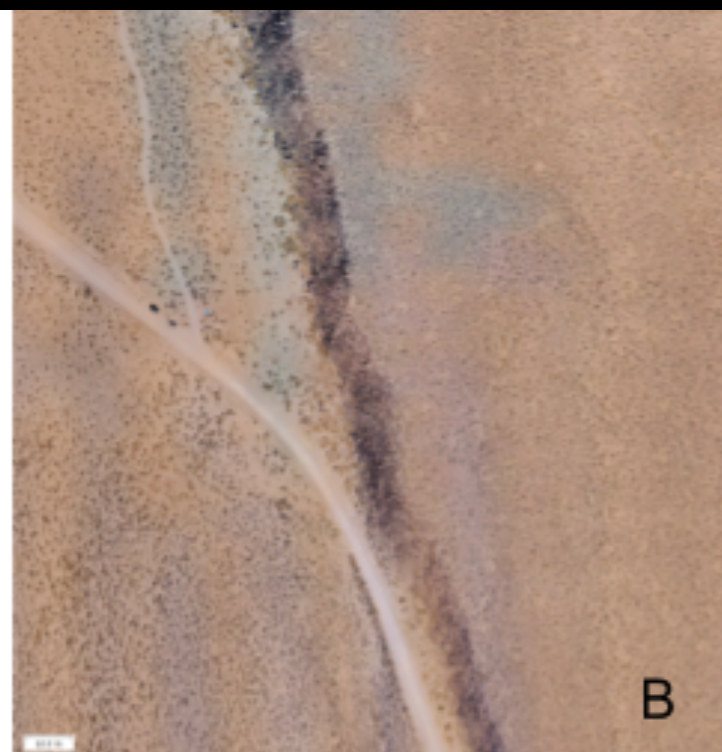
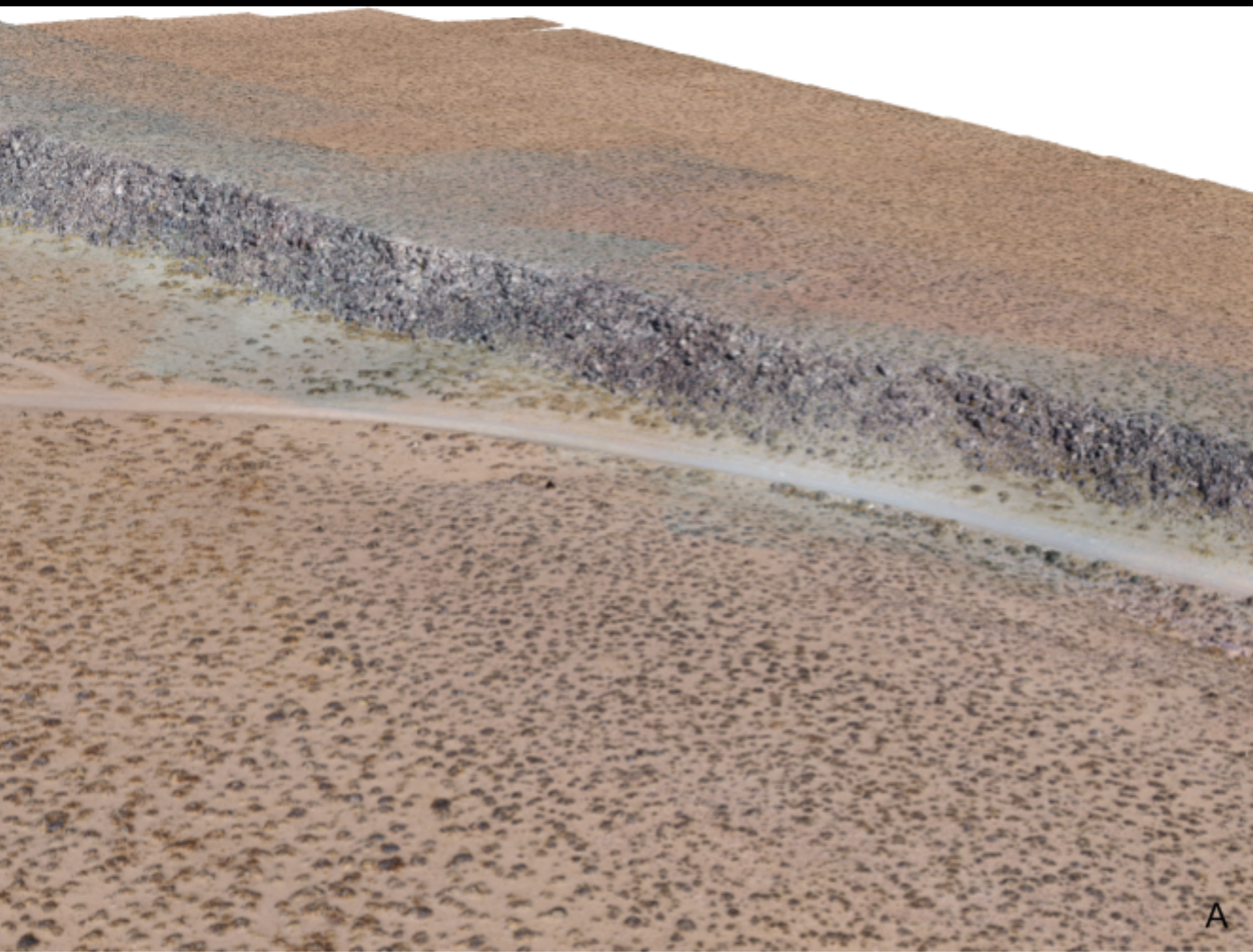


human annotation

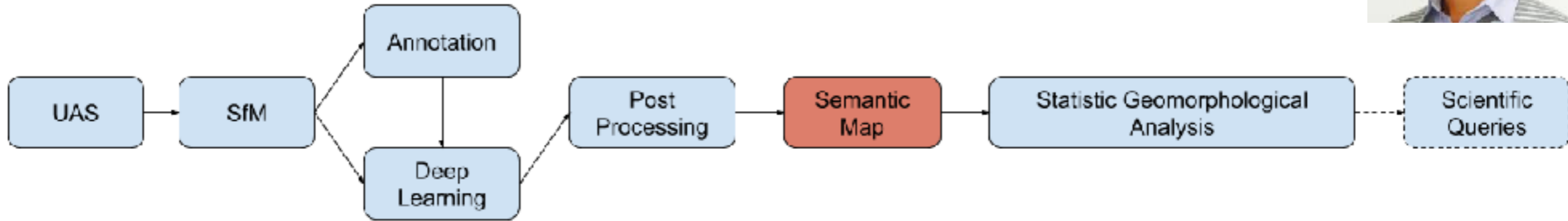
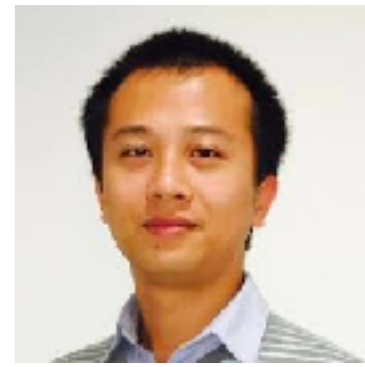


# Rock trait mapping

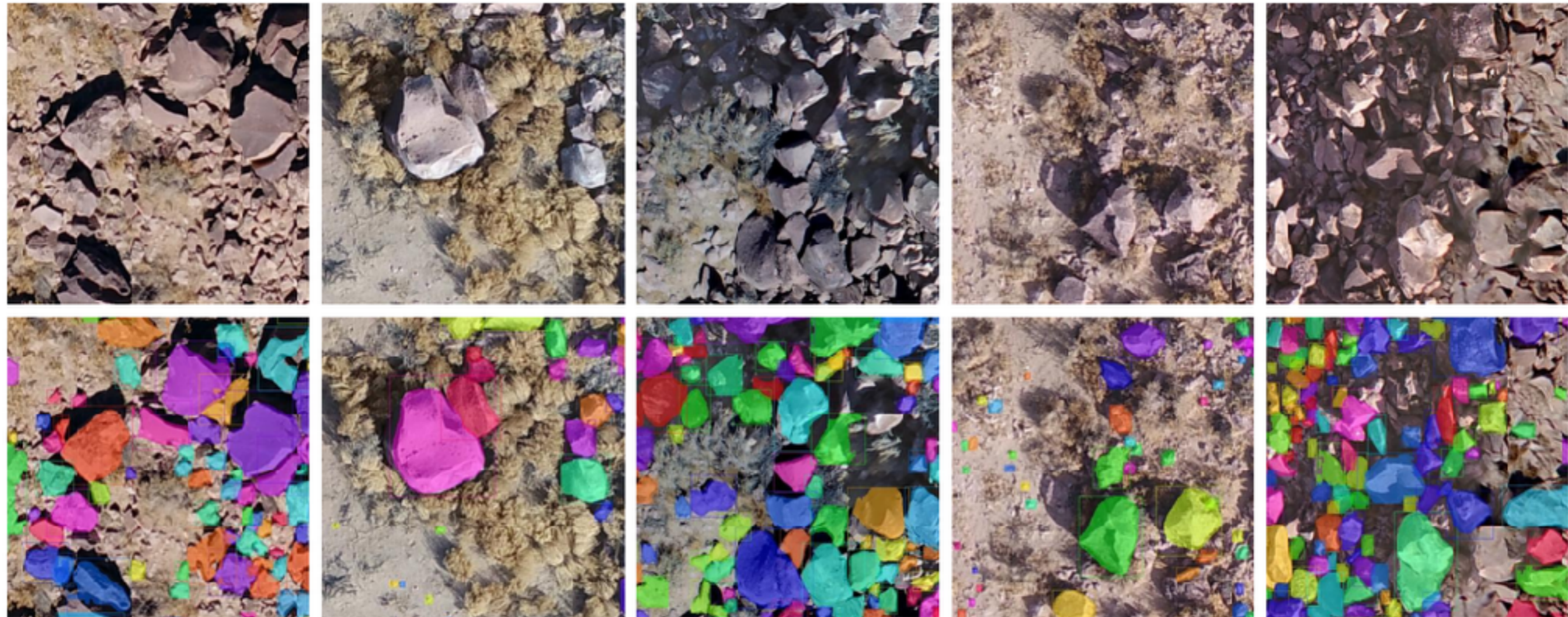




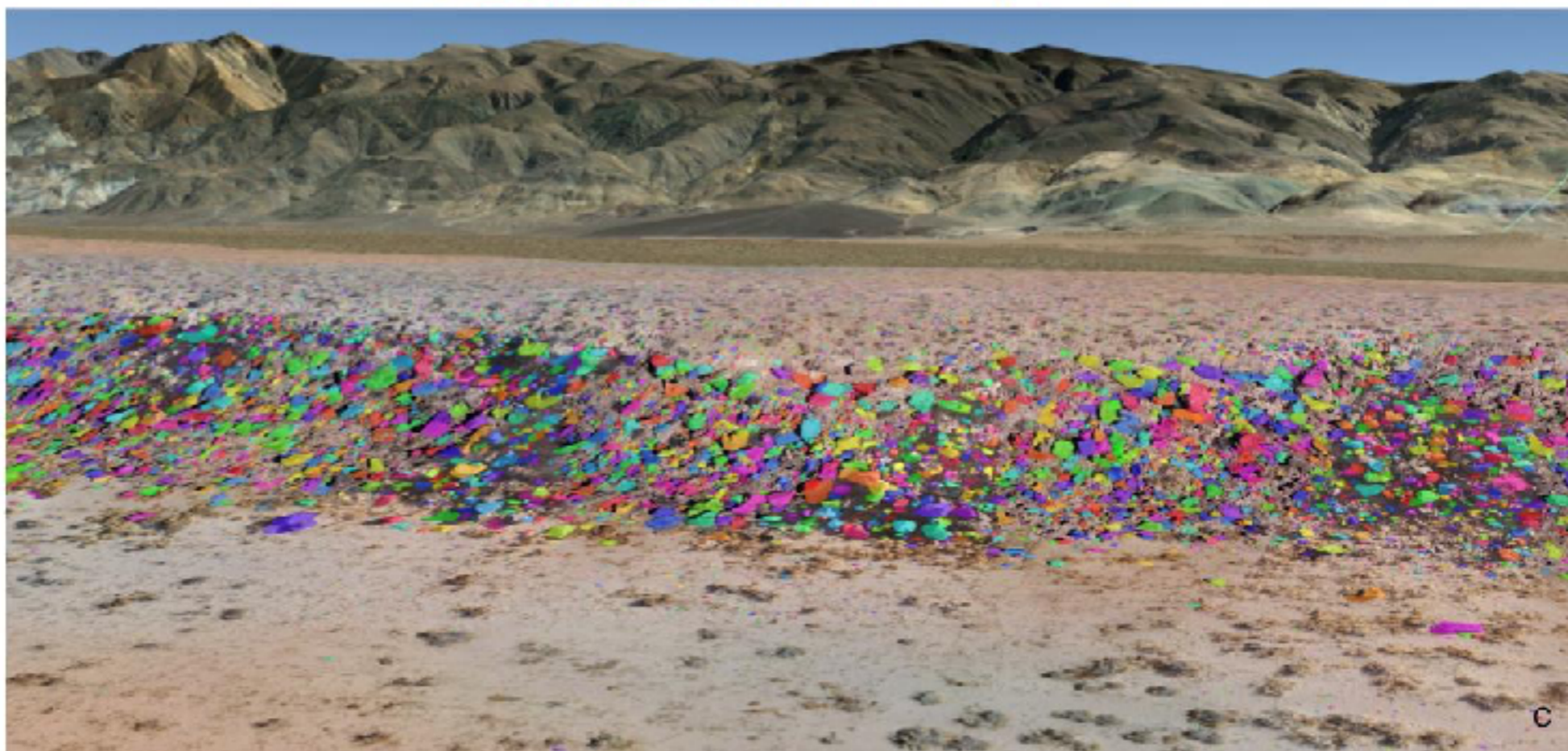
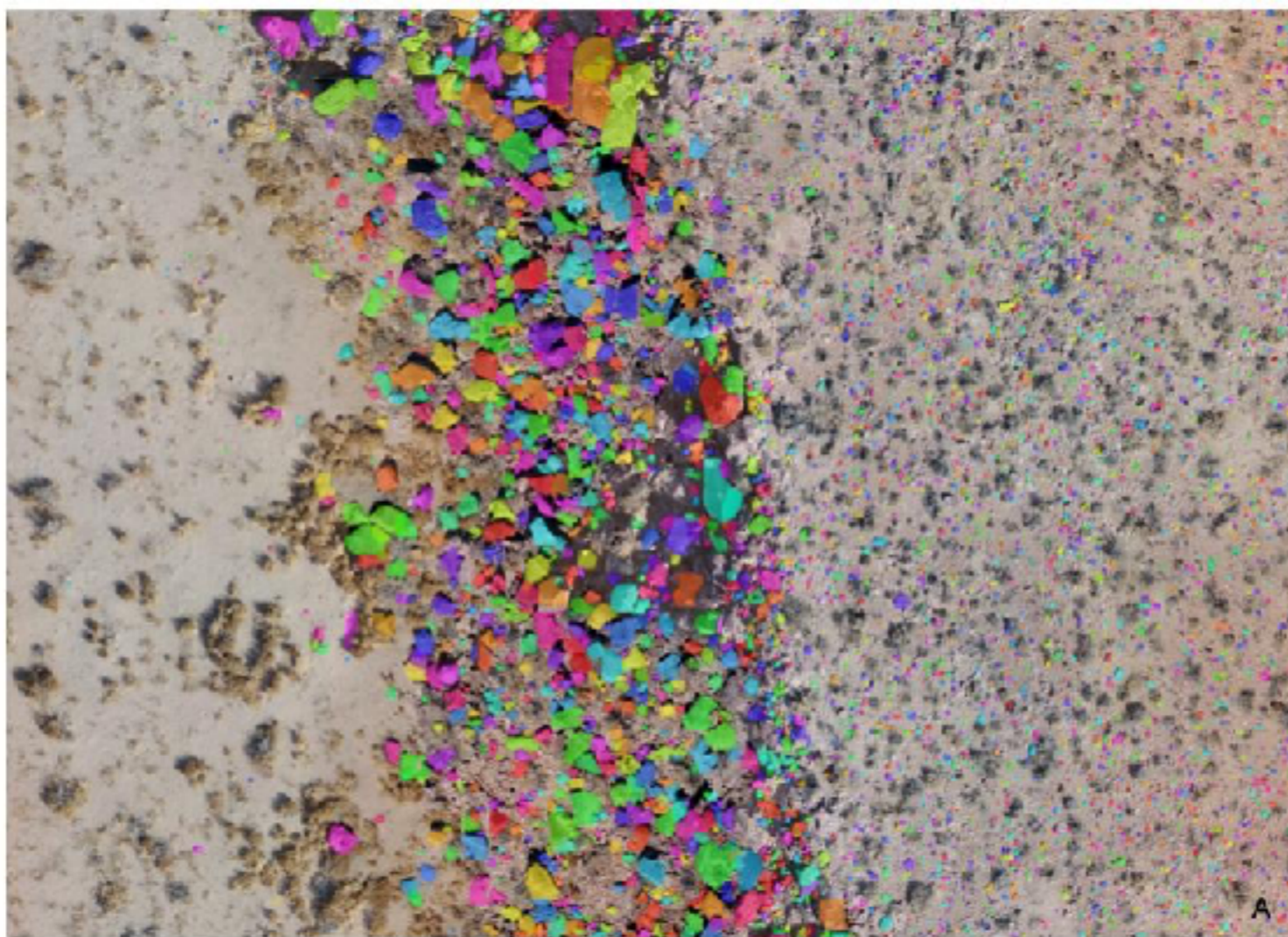
# Rock trait mapping



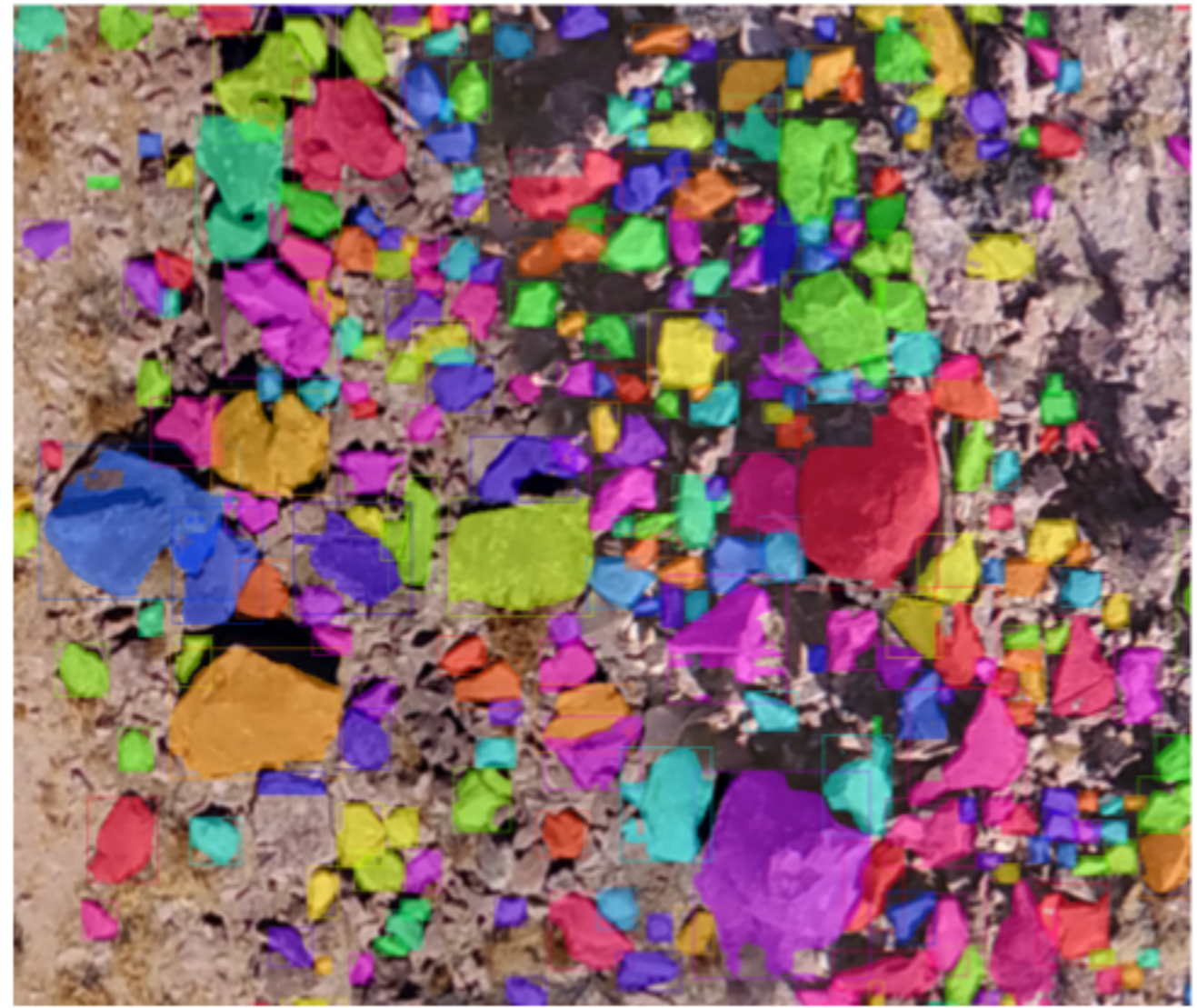
## Mask RCNN results



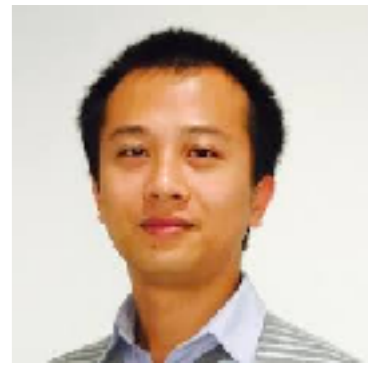




# Removing tile boundaries

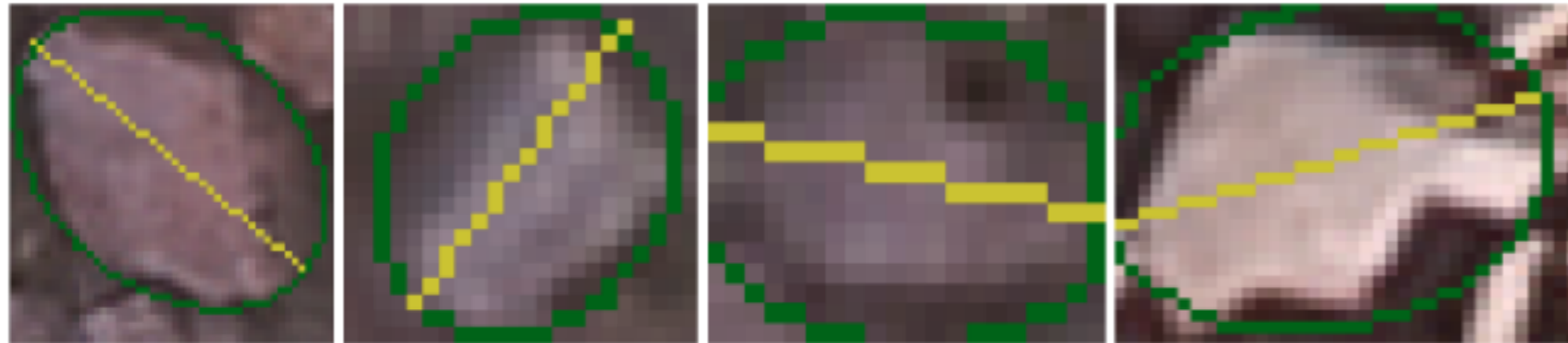


# Rock trait mapping

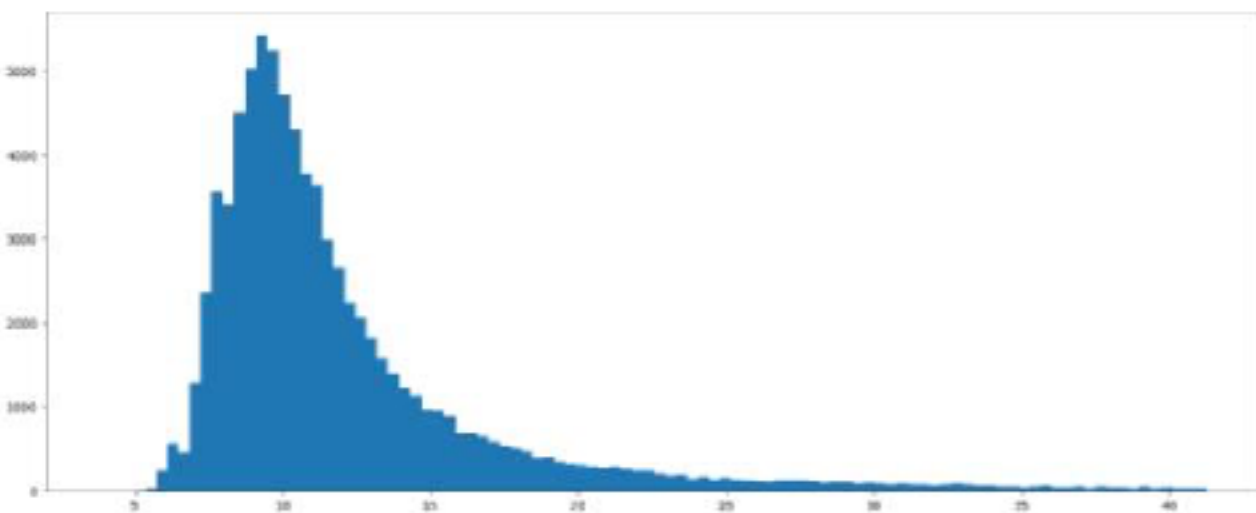
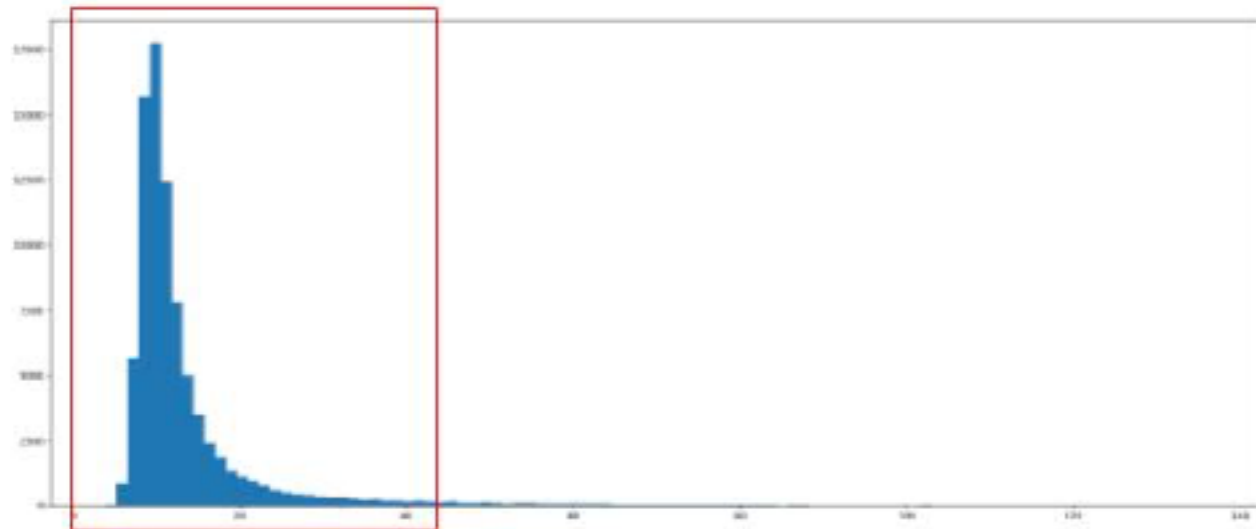


Filtering

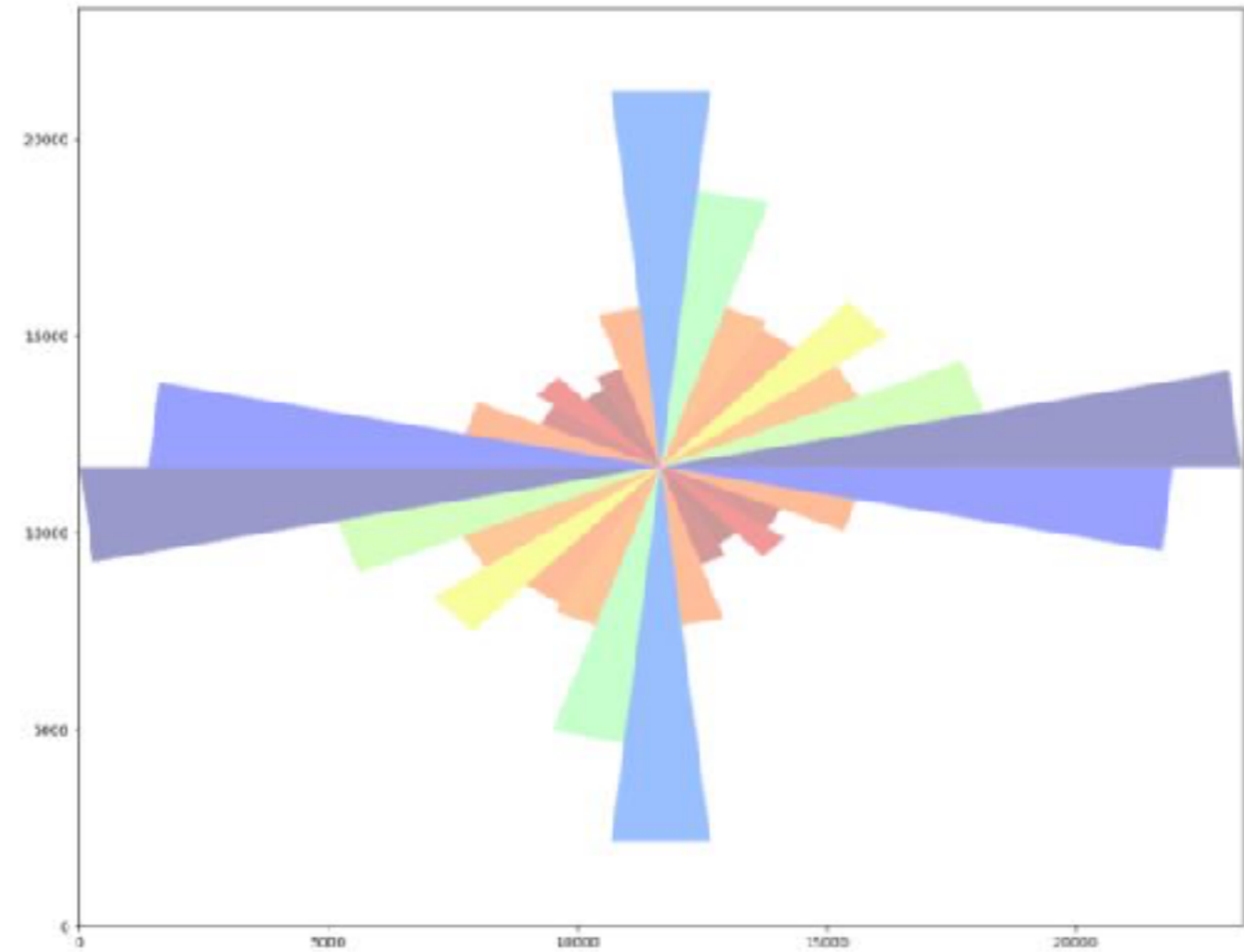
# Rock trait mapping



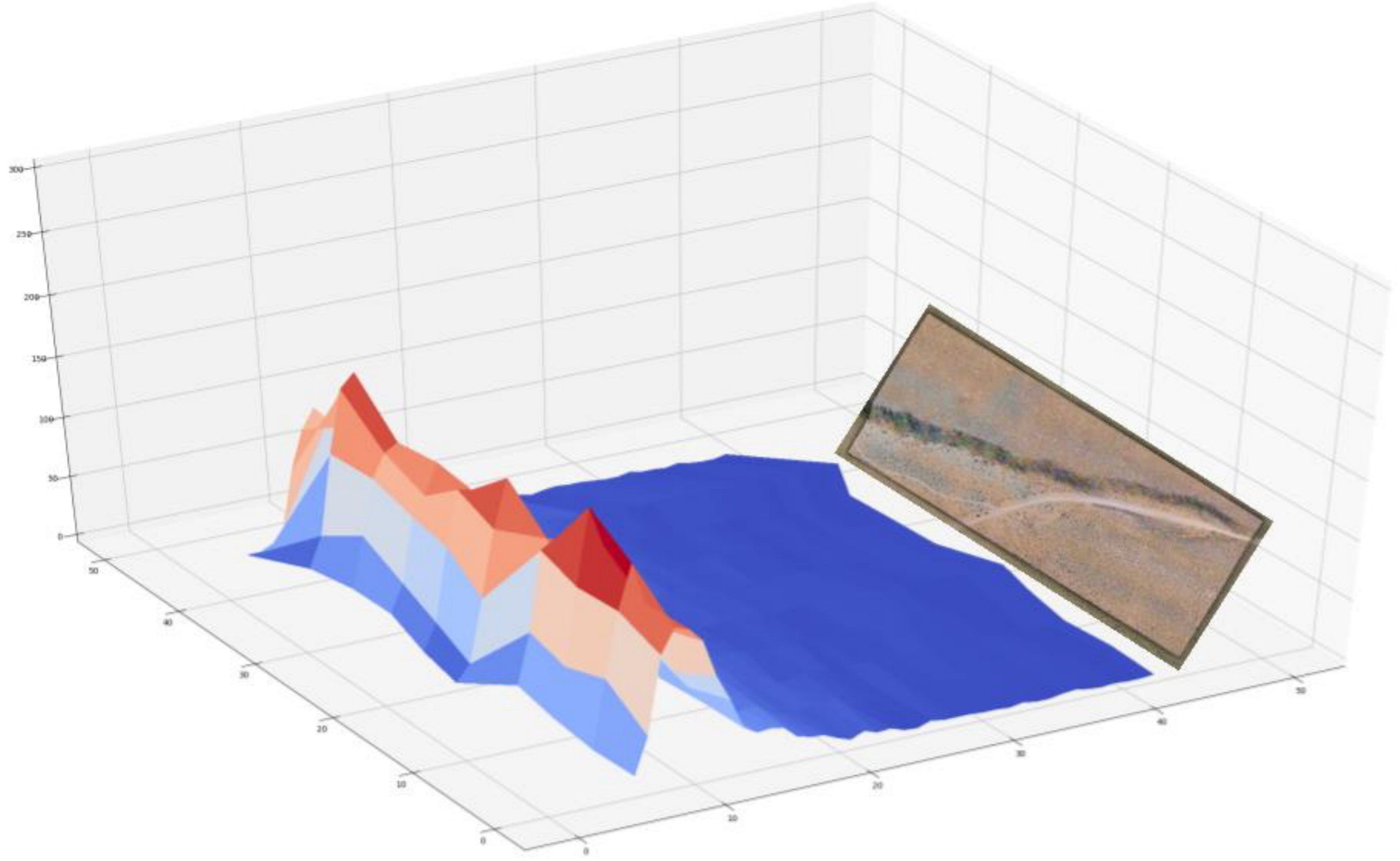
ellipse fitting

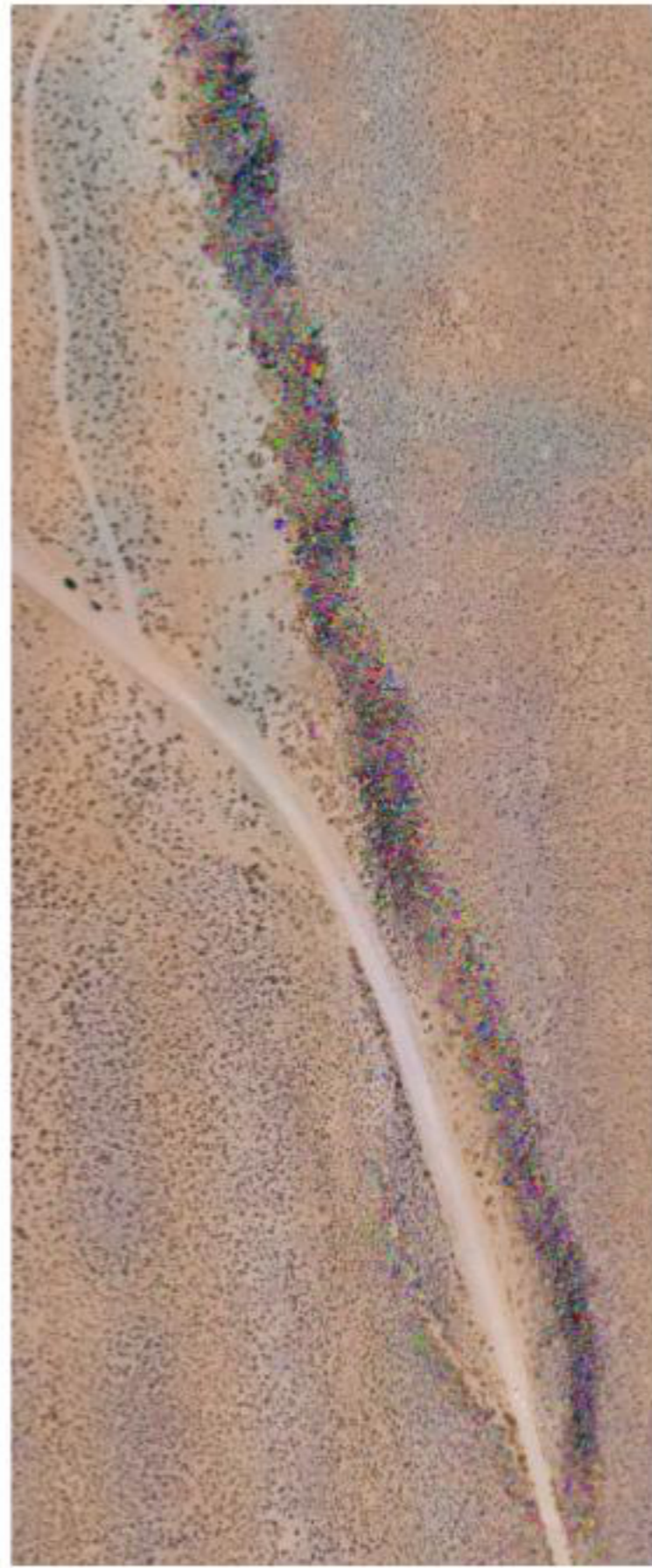
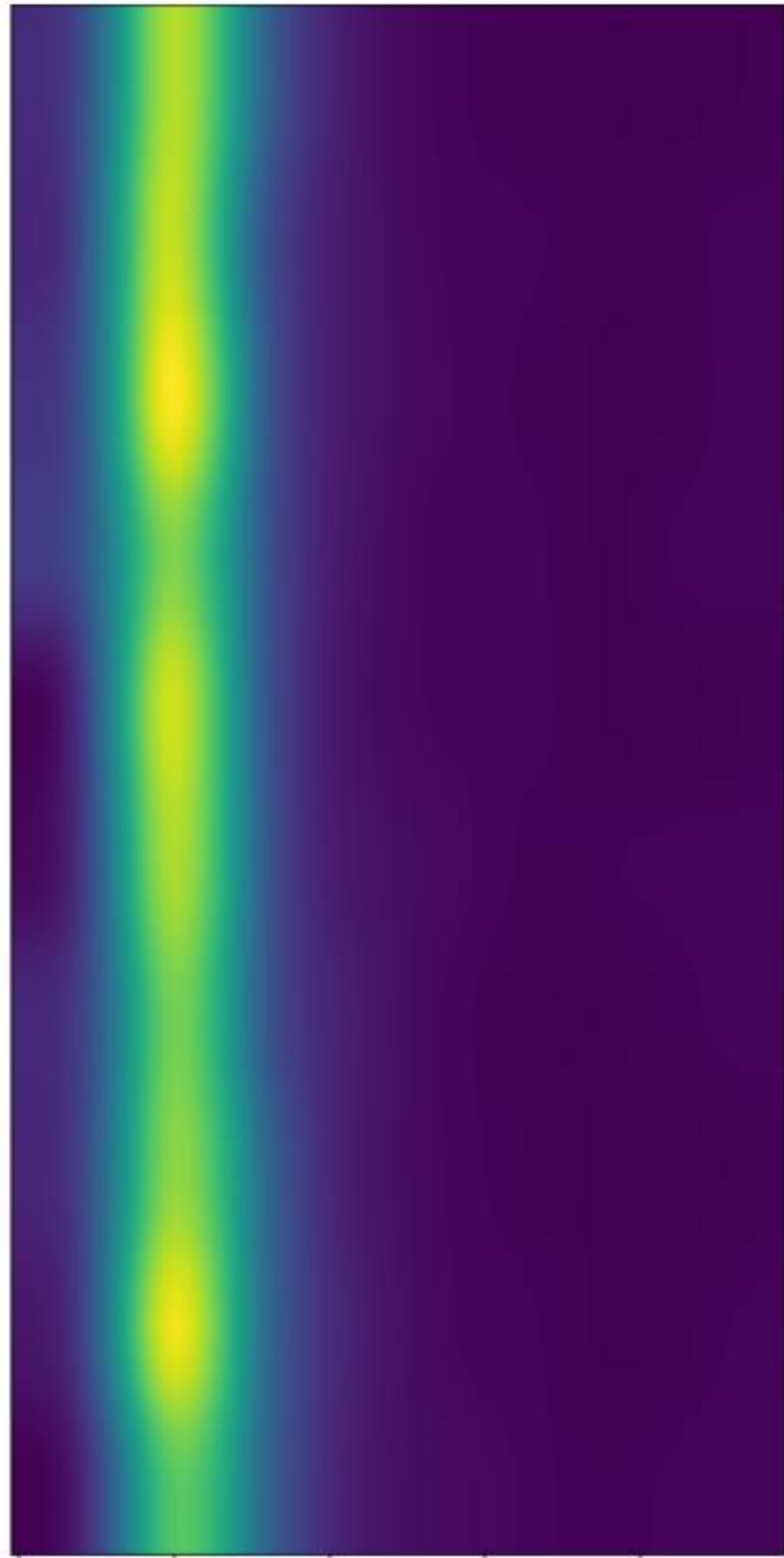


Major-axis length



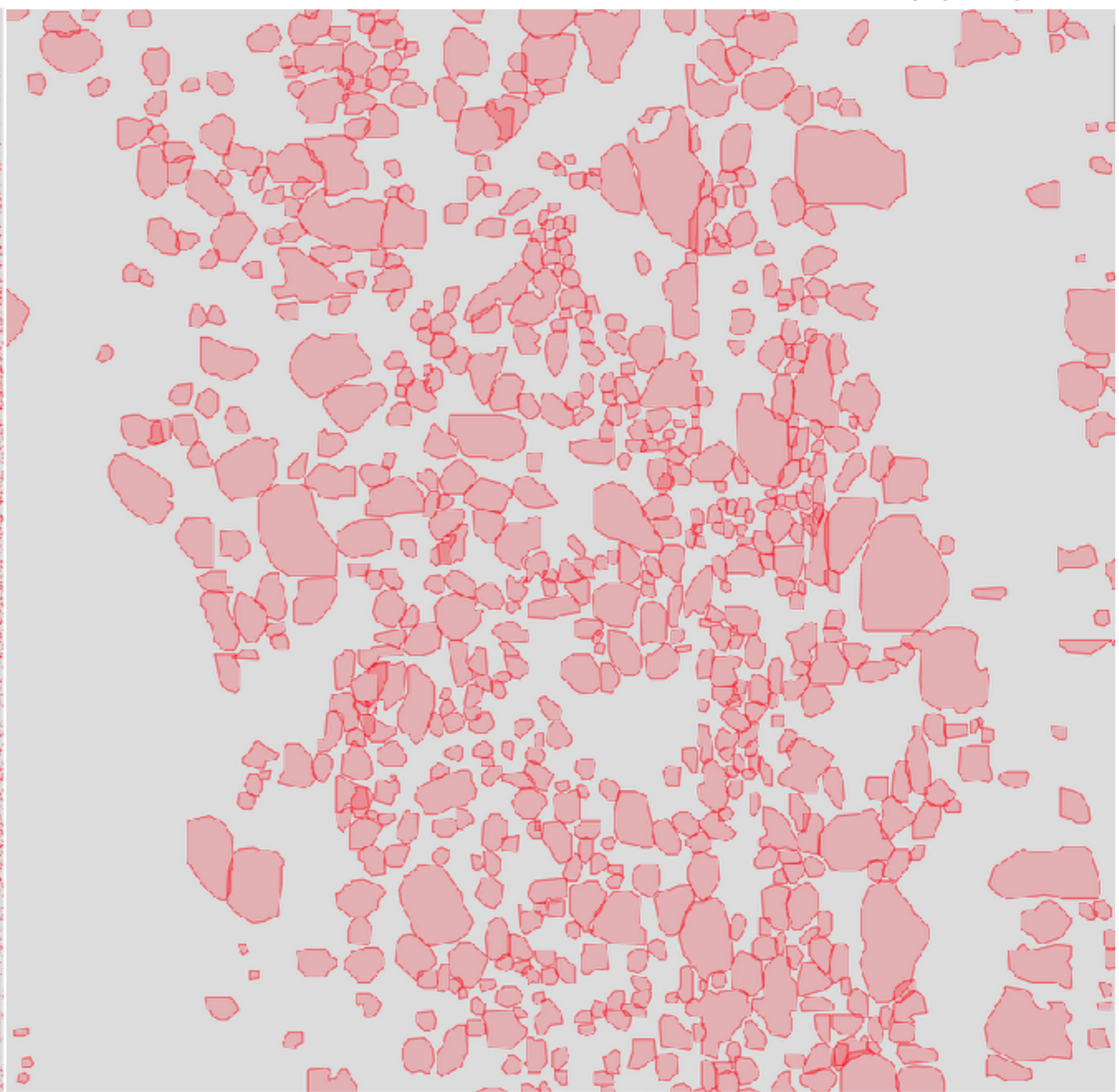
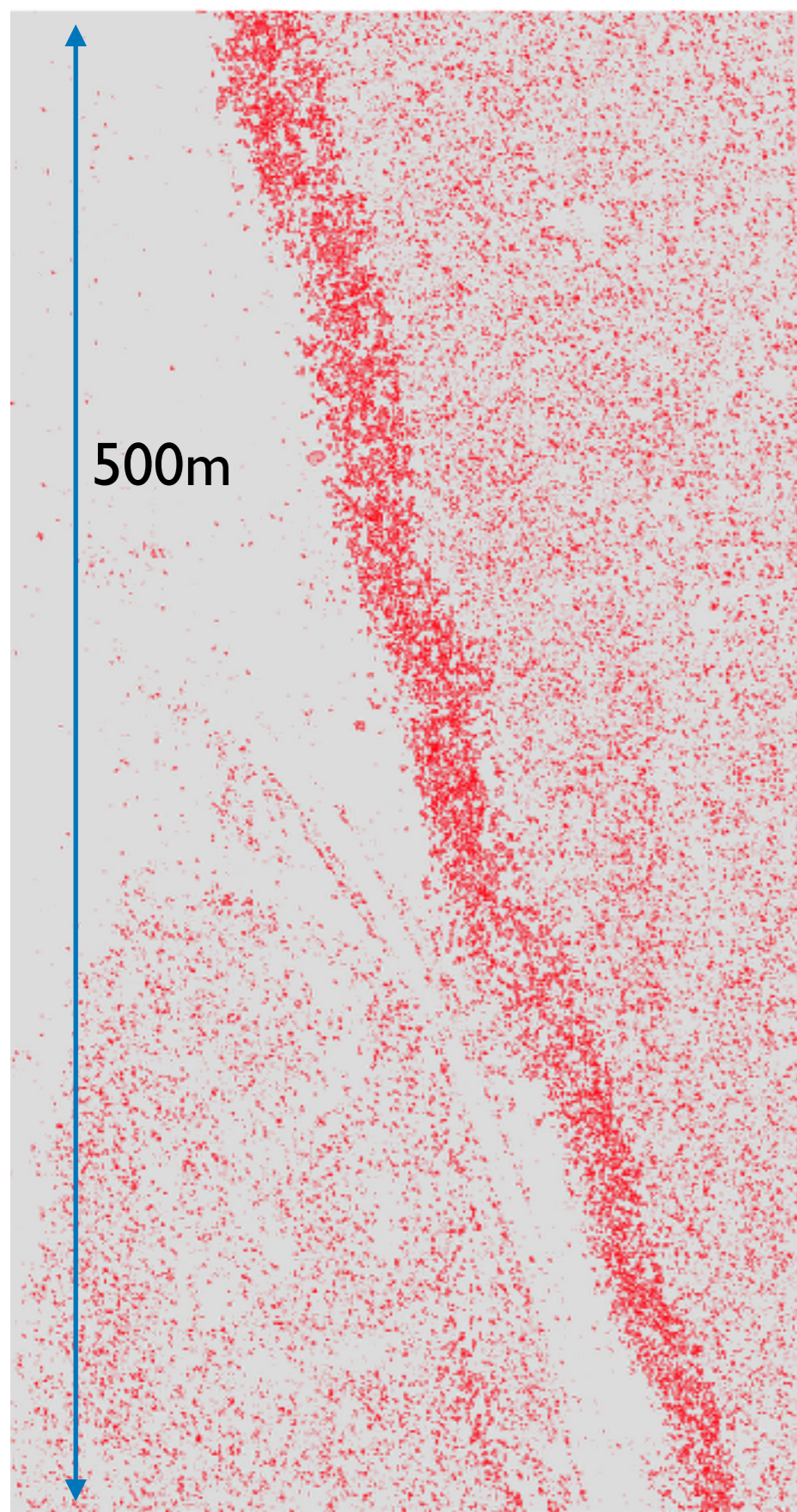
Major-axis orientation





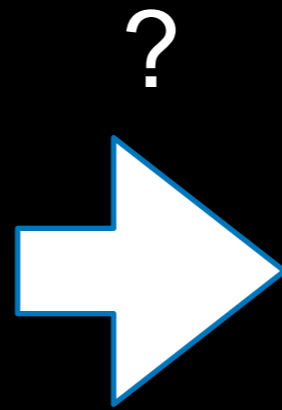
# ~80,000 rocks Rock trait mapping

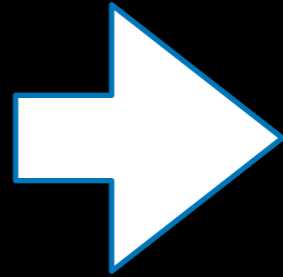
zoomed in











# Physical Sample Collection

## Phytobiopsy

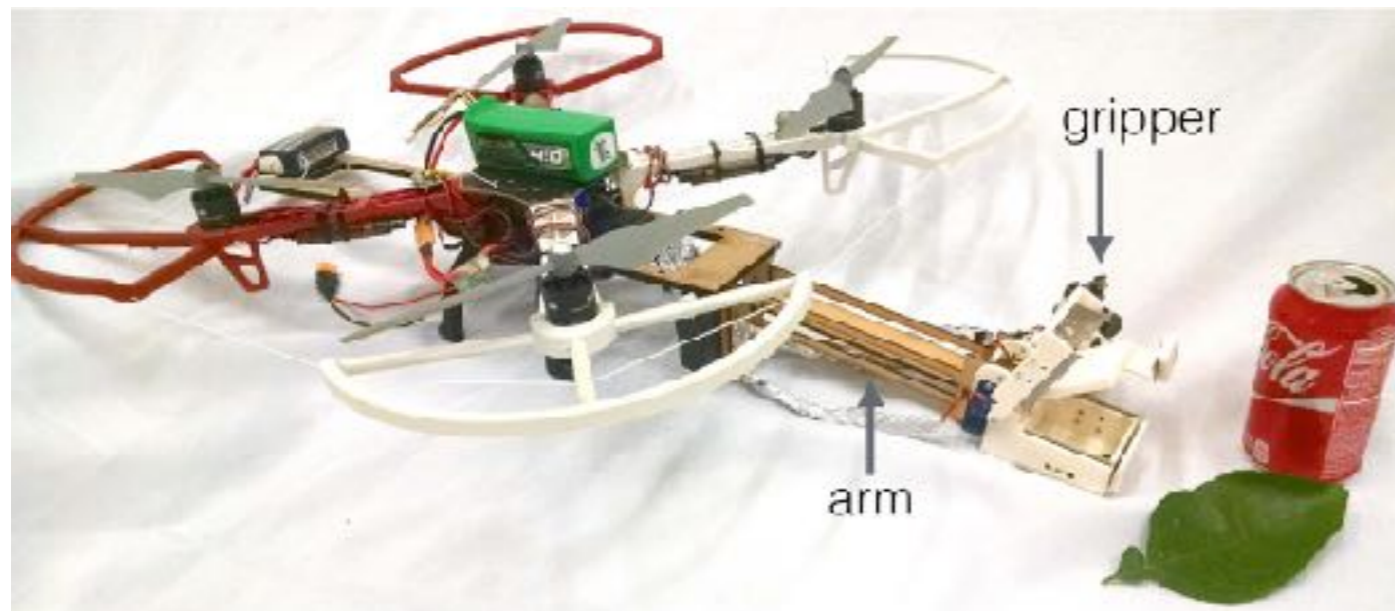
Leaf samples for ex-situ analysis

Low dwell-time (seconds)

## Environmental probe

Air, soil, pest sample collection

High dwell-time (hours to days)



# Crop Disease Detection

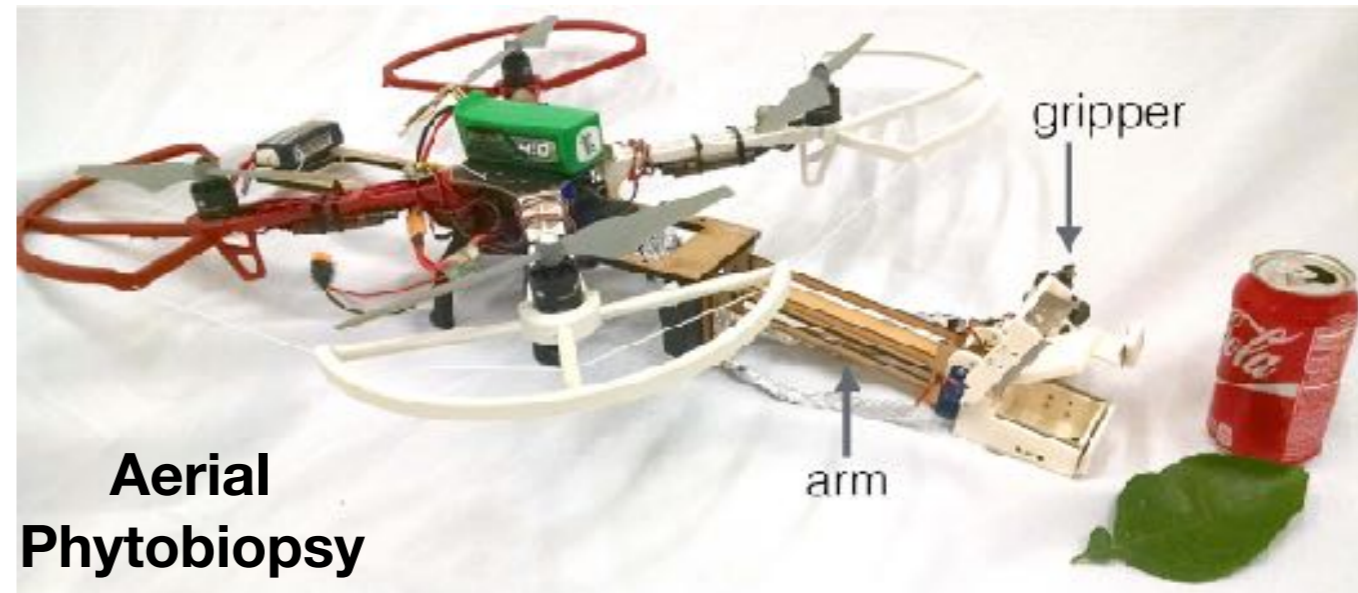
## In-situ analysis



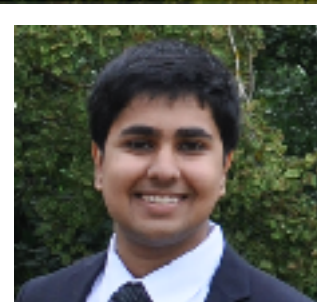
**Aerial  
Phytopathology**



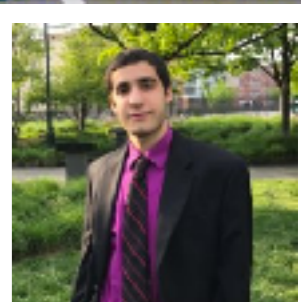
## Ex-situ analysis



**Aerial  
Phytobiopsy**



- S. K. Sarkar, J. Das, R. Ehsani and V. Kumar, "Towards autonomous phytopathology: Outcomes and challenges of citrus greening disease detection through close-range remote sensing," 2016 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Stockholm, 2016, pp. 5143-5148.
- D. Orol, J. Das, L. Vacek, I. Orr, M. Paret, C.J. Taylor, V. Kumar, "An aerial phyto- biopsy system: Design, evaluation, and lessons learned," 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), Miami, FL, USA, 2017, pp. 188-195.



# Crop Disease Detection

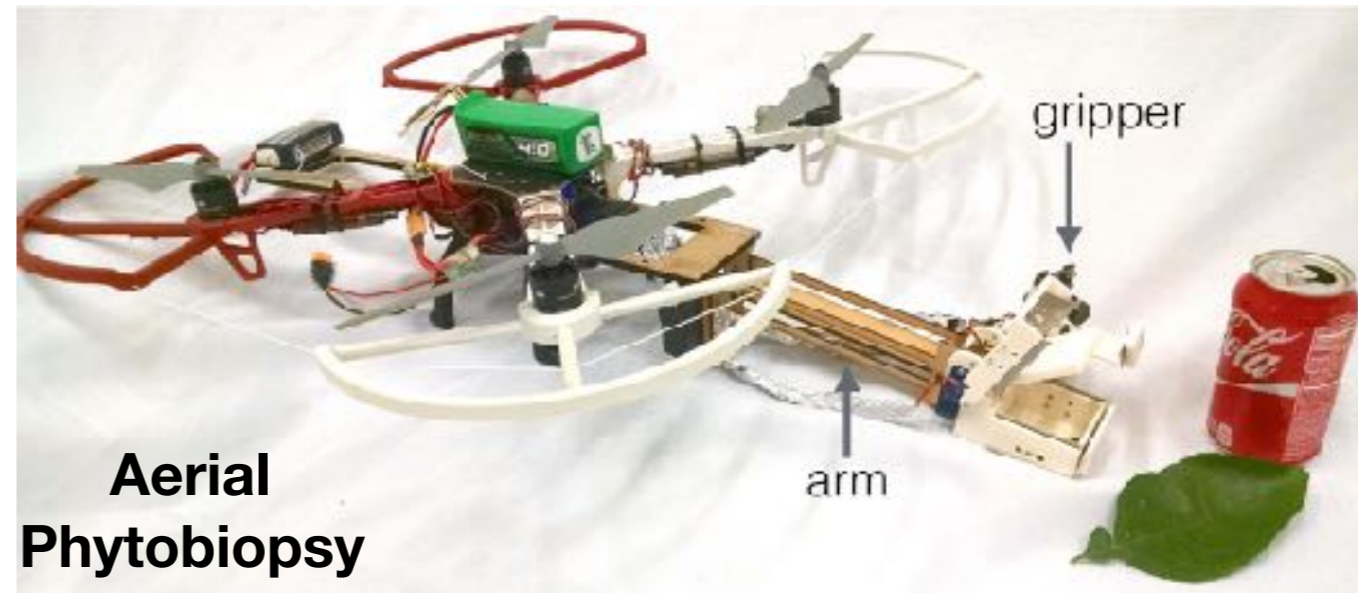
## In-situ analysis



**Aerial  
Phytopathology**



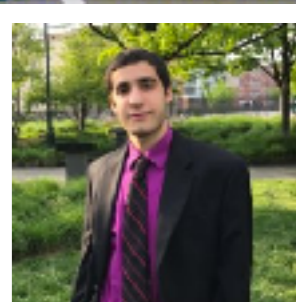
## Ex-situ analysis



**Aerial  
Phyto-biopsy**



- S. K. Sarkar, J. Das, R. Ehsani and V. Kumar, "Towards autonomous phytopathology: Outcomes and challenges of citrus greening disease detection through close-range remote sensing," 2016 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Stockholm, 2016, pp. 5143-5148.
- D. Orol, J. Das, L. Vacek, I. Orr, M. Paret, C.J. Taylor, V. Kumar, "An aerial phyto- biopsy system: Design, evaluation, and lessons learned," 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), Miami, FL, USA, 2017, pp. 188-195.



# Crop Disease Detection

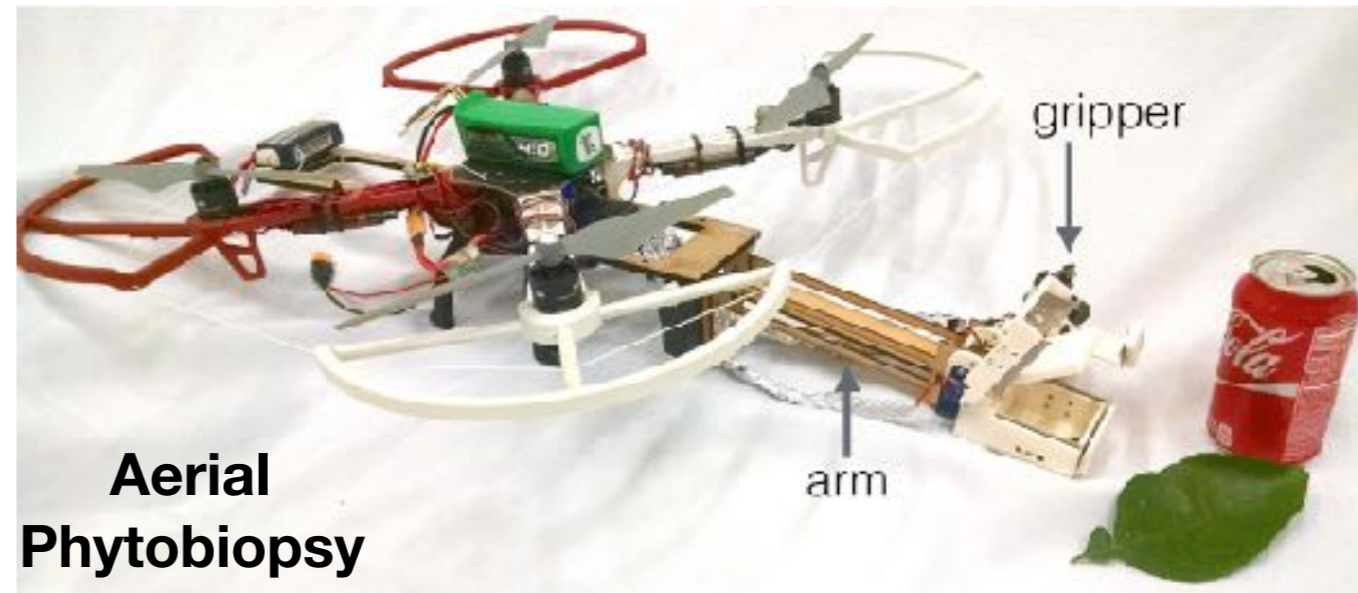
## In-situ analysis



**Aerial  
Phytopathology**



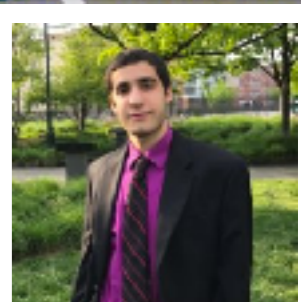
## Ex-situ analysis



**Aerial  
Phytobiopsy**



- S. K. Sarkar, J. Das, R. Ehsani and V. Kumar, "Towards autonomous phytopathology: Outcomes and challenges of citrus greening disease detection through close-range remote sensing," 2016 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Stockholm, 2016, pp. 5143-5148.
- D. Orol, J. Das, L. Vacek, I. Orr, M. Paret, C.J. Taylor, V. Kumar, "An aerial phyto- biopsy system: Design, evaluation, and lessons learned," 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), Miami, FL, USA, 2017, pp. 188-195.

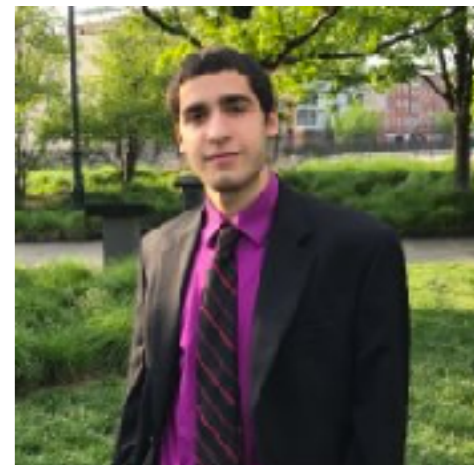


# Aerial Phytobiopsy

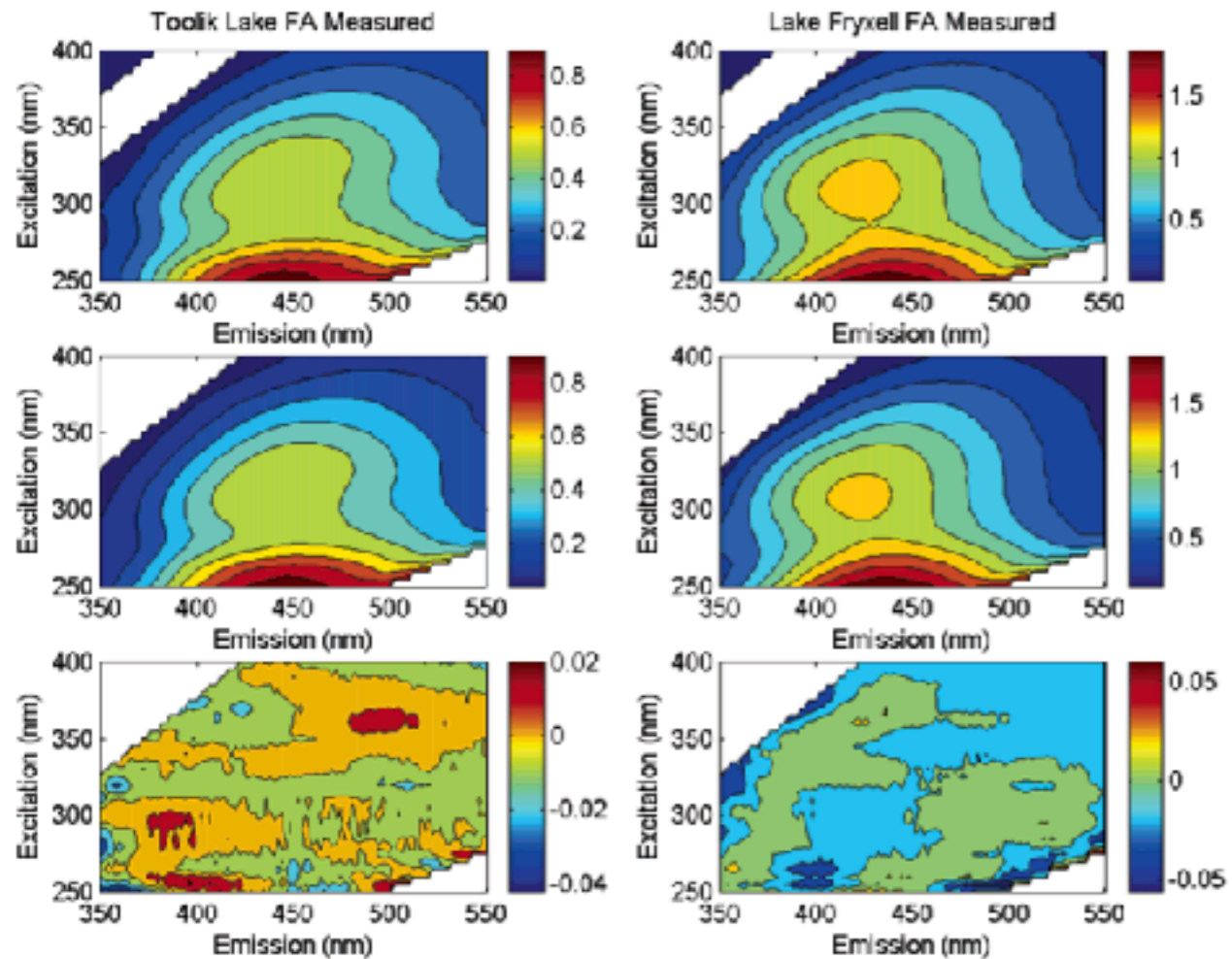


Samples retrieved during experiments

D. Orol, J. Das, L. Vacek, I. Orr, M. Paret, C. J. Taylor, and V. Kumar, "An aerial phytobiopsy system: Design, evaluation, and lessons learned," in 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), June 2017, pp. 188–195.



# UV Fluorescence Spectroscopy for Biogeochemical Mapping



Cory & McKnight (2005)  
*Fluorescence Spectroscopy Reveals Ubiquitous Presence of Oxidized and Reduced Quinones in Dissolved Organic Matter*

USD 14,000



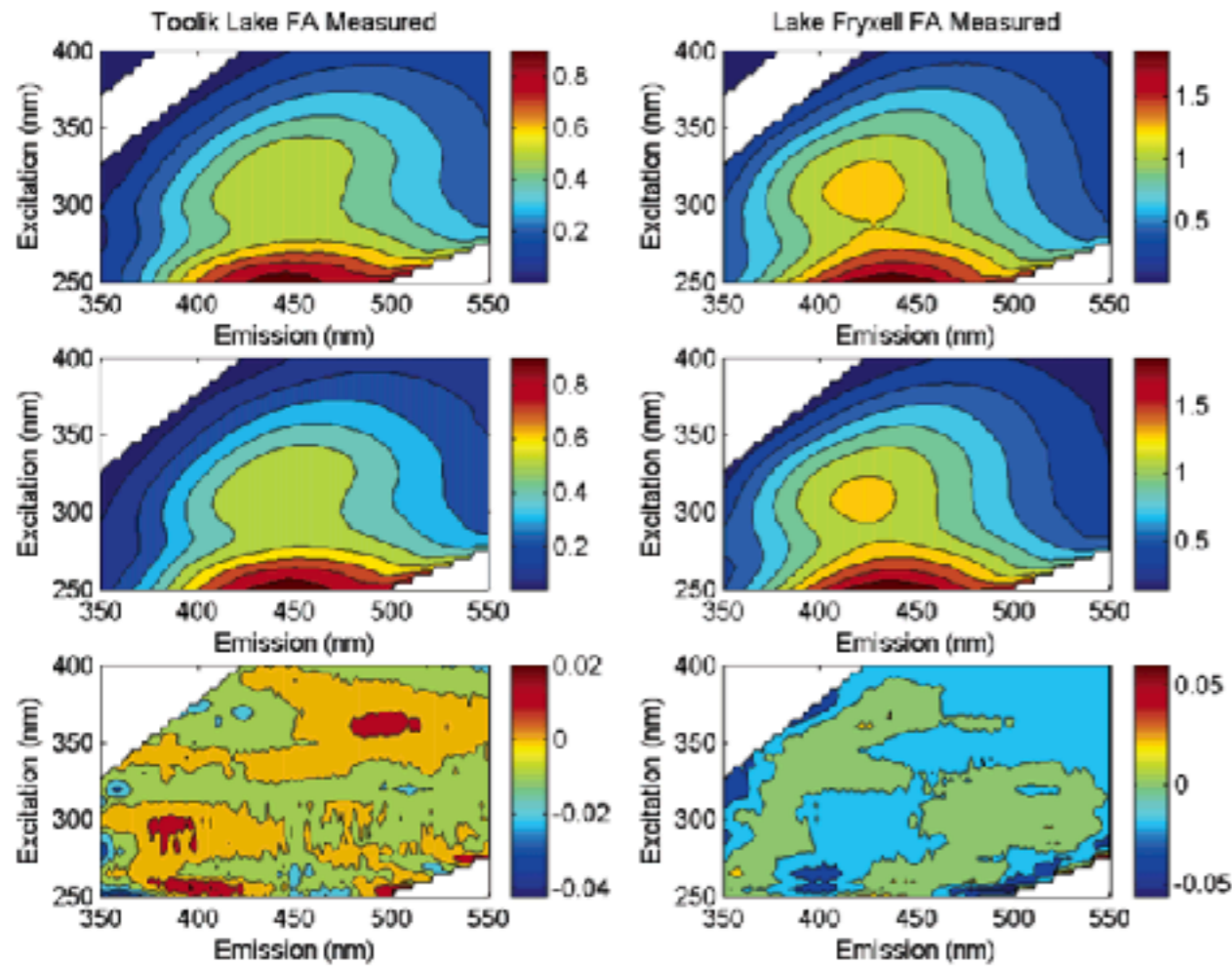
FIGURE 3. Comparison of the measured (top), modeled (middle), and residual (bottom) EEMs for two samples: Toolik Lake fulvic acid and Lake Fryxell fulvic acid. Intensities are in Raman units and are a function of the concentration of the prepared fulvic acid solution. Each contour plot was generated in Matlab using 10 contour lines.

Excitation-emission matrix (EEM)  
quinone, amino acid





# UV Fluorescence Spectroscopy for Biogeochemical Mapping



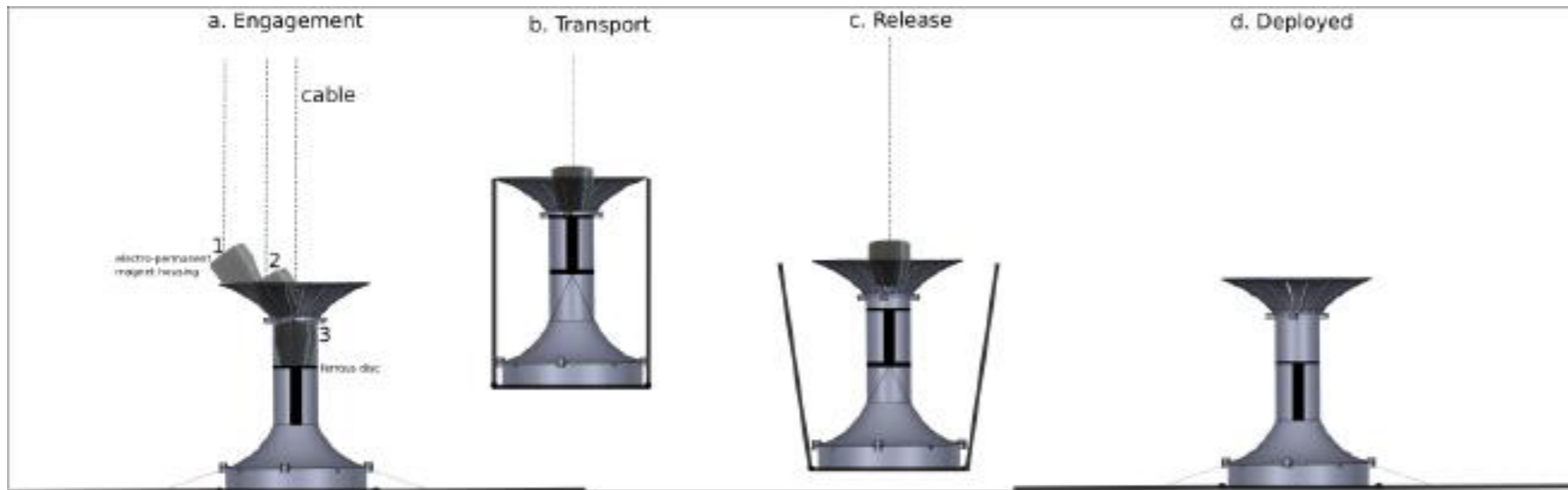
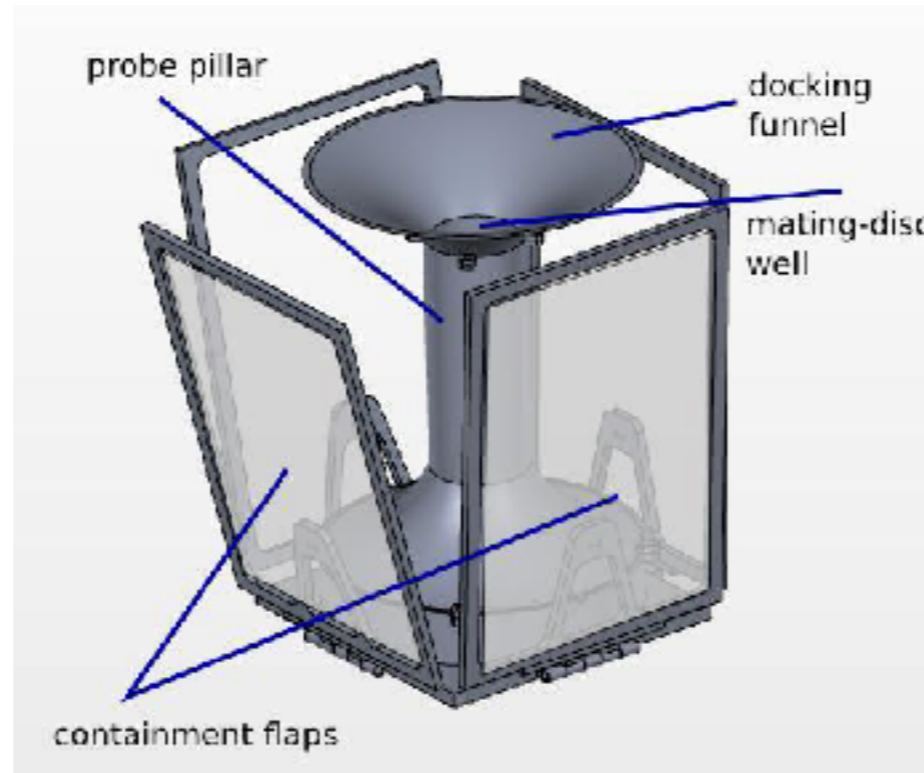
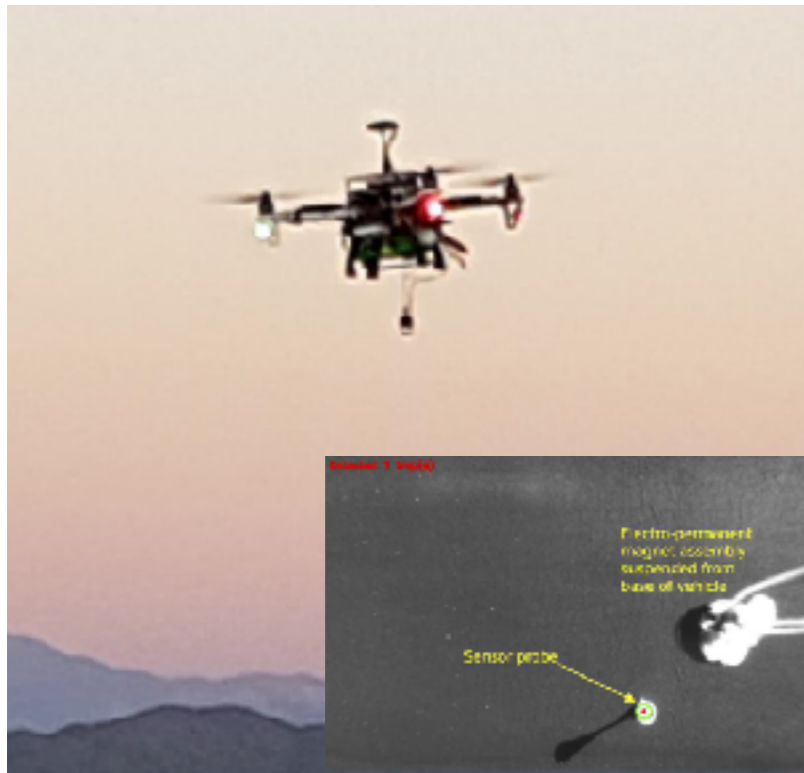
USD 4,000



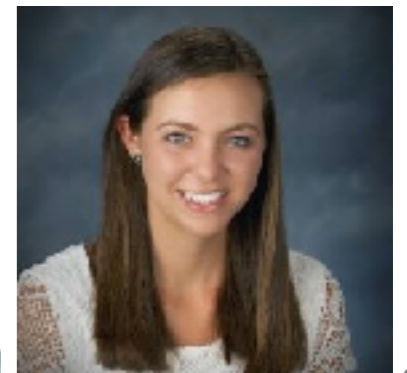
FIGURE 3. Comparison of the measured (top), modeled (middle), and residual (bottom) EEMs for two samples: Toolik Lake fulvic acid and Lake Fryxell fulvic acid. Intensities are in Raman units and are a function of the concentration of the prepared fulvic acid solution. Each contour plot was generated in Matlab using 10 contour lines.

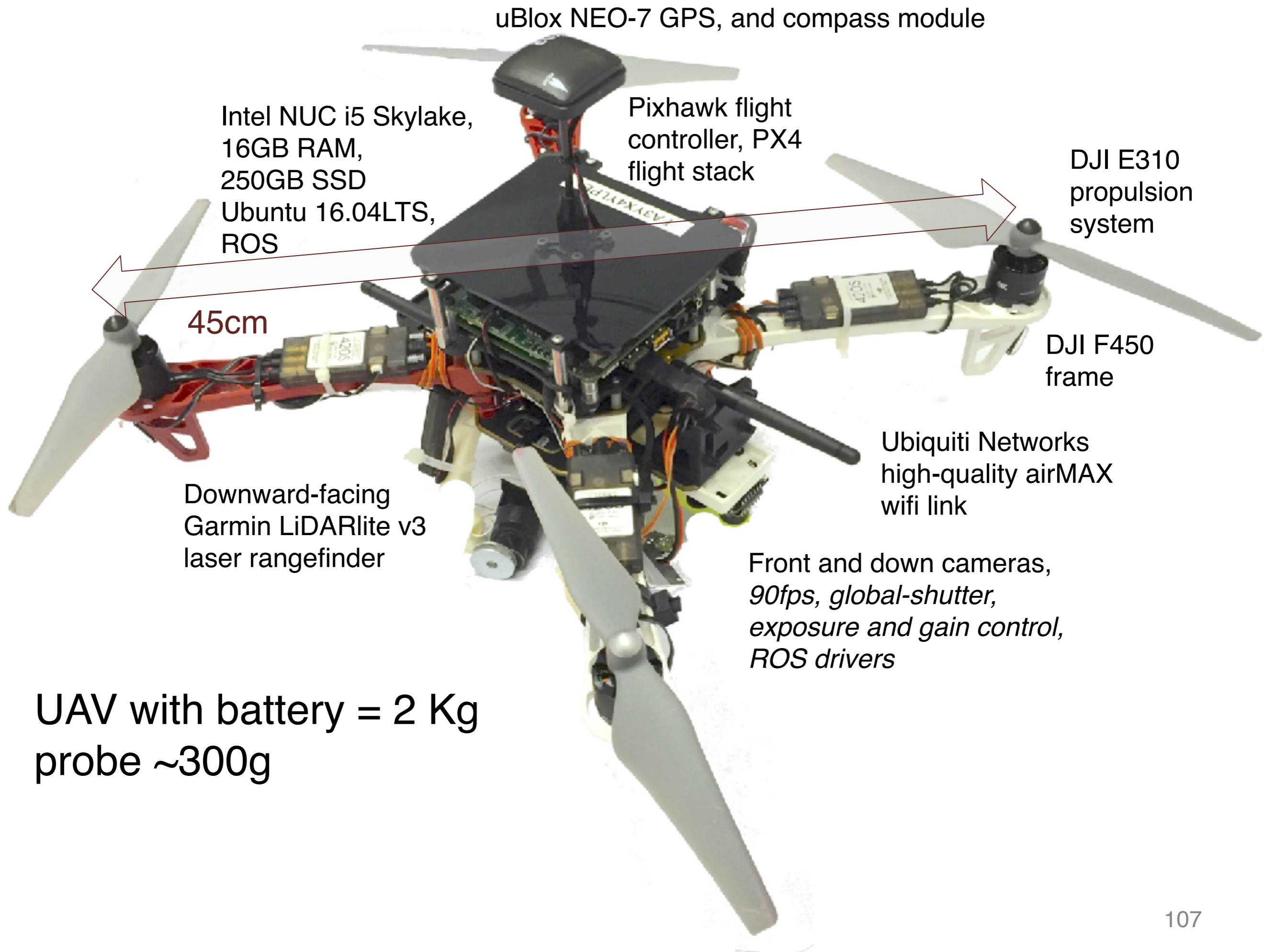


# Probe Deployment and Recovery



L. Vacek, E. Atter, P. Rizo, B. Nam, R. Kortvelesy, D. Kaufman, J. Das, and V. Kumar, "sUAS for deployment and recovery of an environmental sensor probe," in 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), June 2017, pp. 1022–1029.





uBlox NEO-7 GPS, and compass module

Intel NUC i5 Skylake,  
16GB RAM,  
250GB SSD  
Ubuntu 16.04LTS,  
ROS

Pixhawk flight  
controller, PX4  
flight stack

DJI E310  
propulsion  
system

45cm

DJI F450  
frame

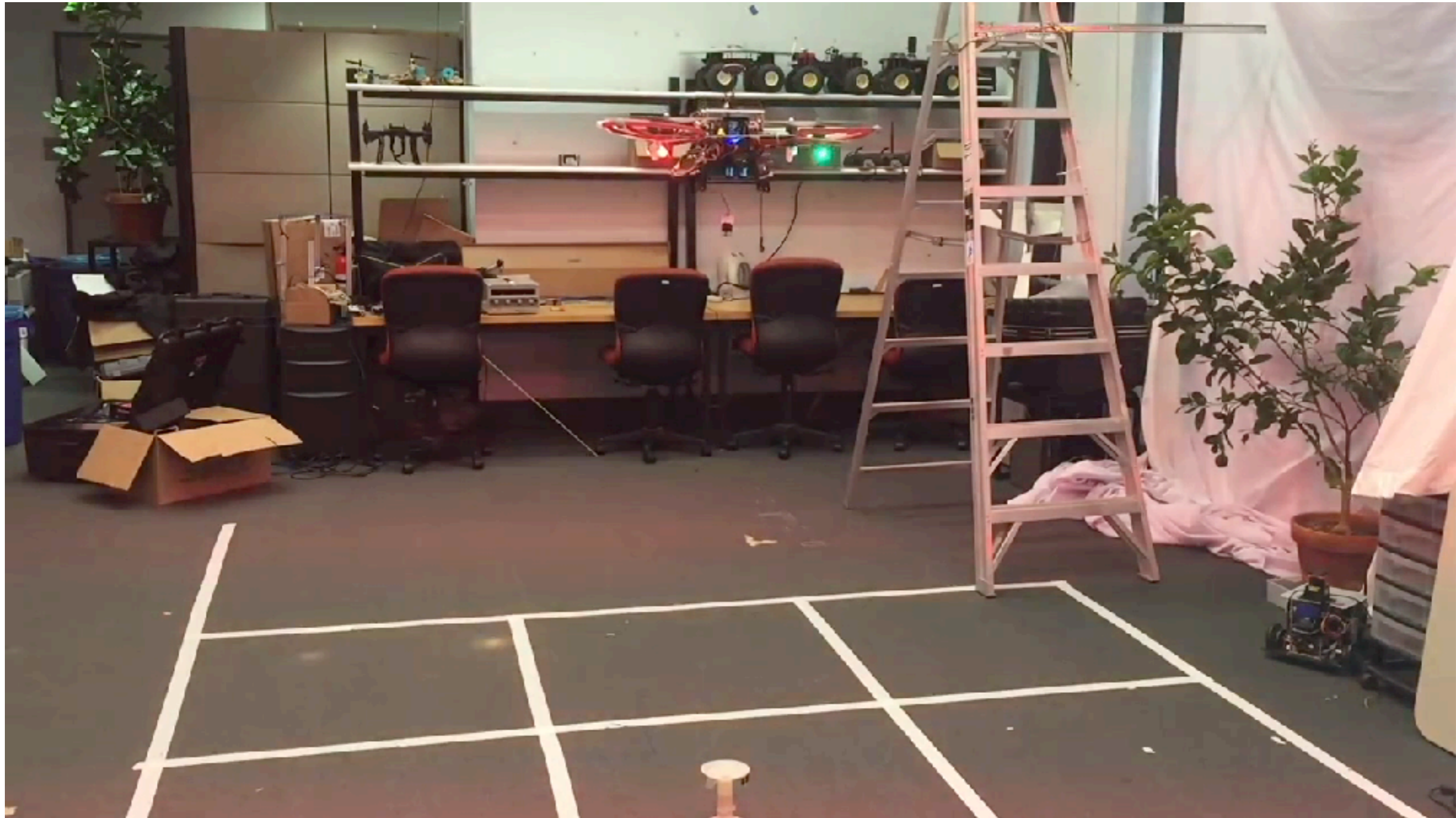
Downward-facing  
Garmin LiDARlite v3  
laser rangefinder

Ubiquiti Networks  
high-quality airMAX  
wifi link

Front and down cameras,  
*90fps, global-shutter,  
exposure and gain control,  
ROS drivers*

UAV with battery = 2 Kg  
probe ~300g

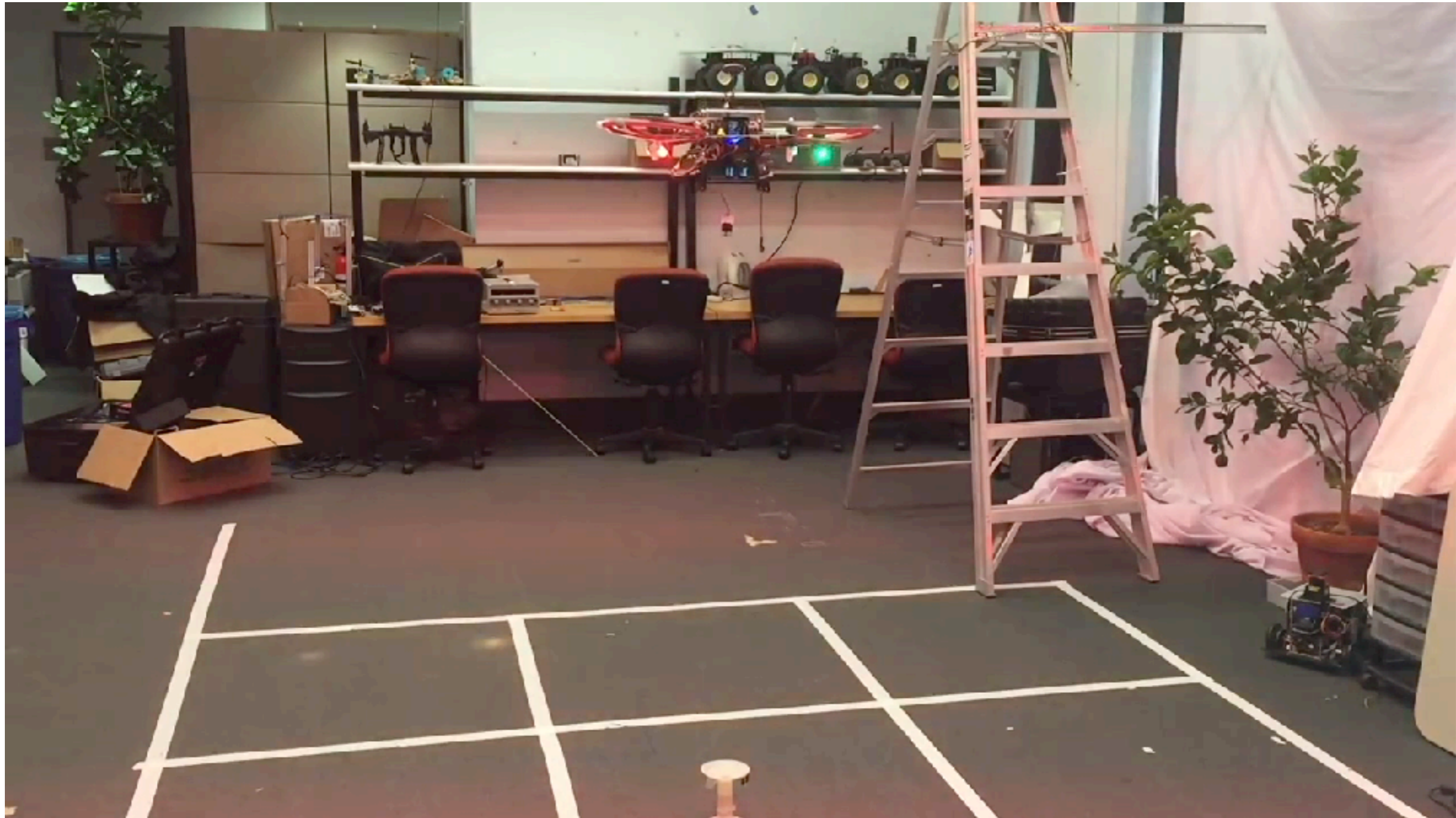
# Probe Deployment and Recovery



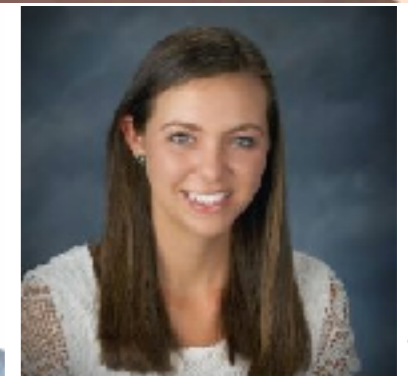
L. Vacek, E. Atter, P. Rizo, B. Nam, R. Kortvelesy, D. Kaufman, J. Das, and V. Kumar, "sUAS for deployment and recovery of an environmental sensor probe," in 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), June 2017, pp. 1022–1029.



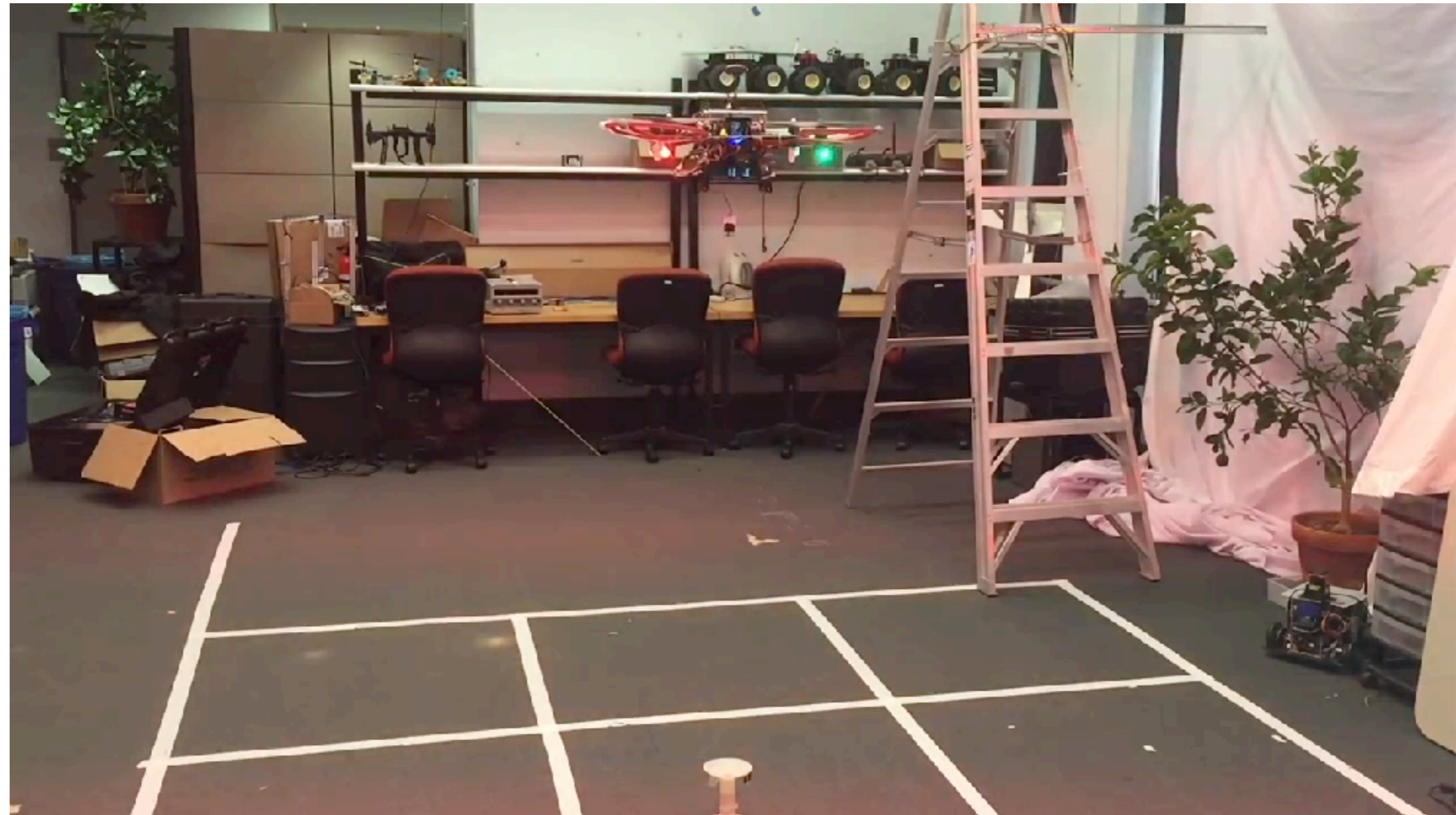
# Probe Deployment and Recovery



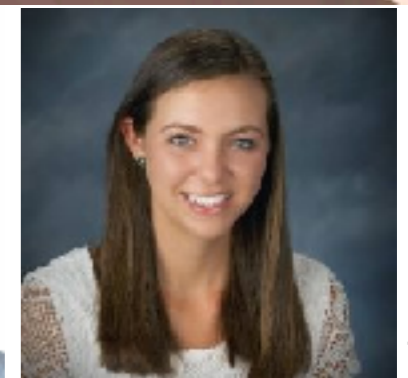
L. Vacek, E. Atter, P. Rizo, B. Nam, R. Kortvelesy, D. Kaufman, J. Das, and V. Kumar, "sUAS for deployment and recovery of an environmental sensor probe," in 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), June 2017, pp. 1022–1029.



# Probe Deployment and Recovery



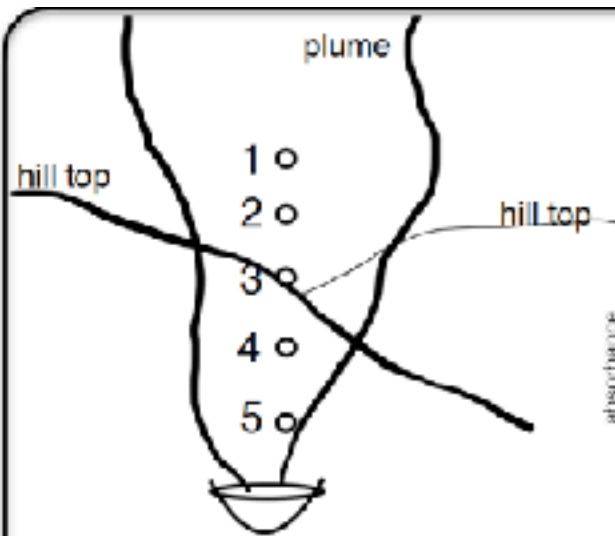
L. Vacek, E. Atter, P. Rizo, B. Nam, R. Kortvelesy, D. Kaufman, J. Das, and V. Kumar, "sUAS for deployment and recovery of an environmental sensor probe," in 2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS), June 2017, pp. 1022–1029.



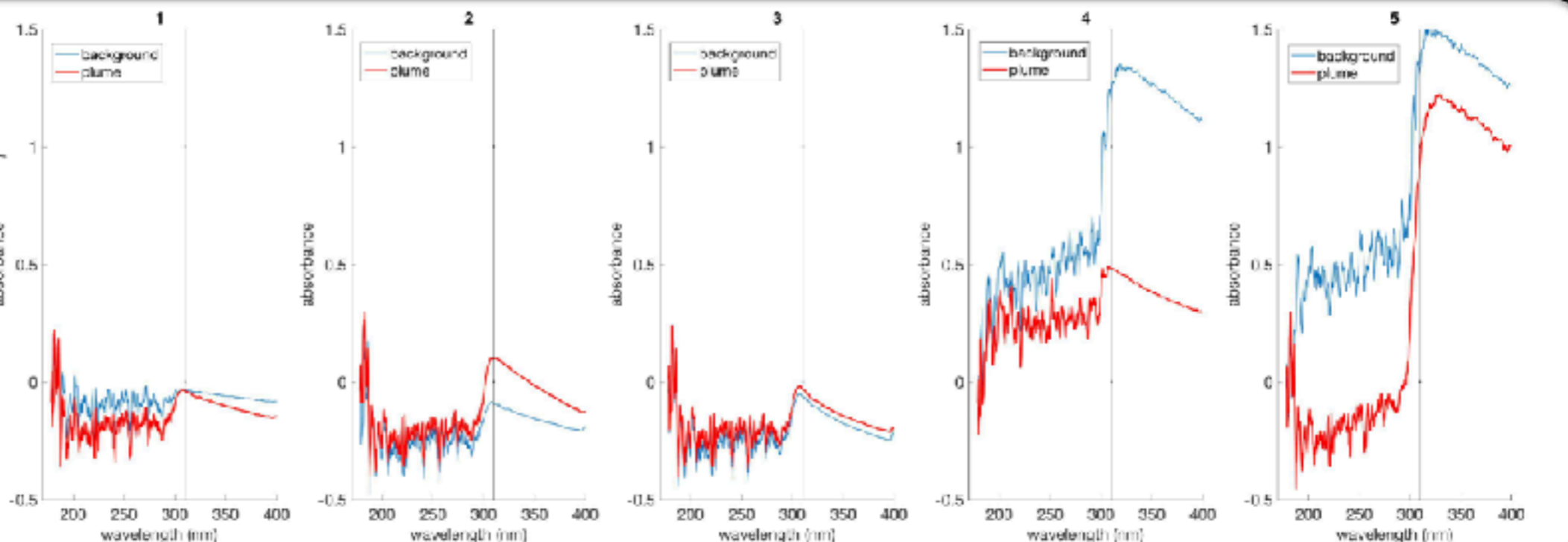
# Small-scale Volcanology Tests



3-D reconstruction of plume at 1 Hz with stereo cameras



Absorbance for background points corresponding to sky and hills were acquired before starting the smoke plume.



# Small-scale Volcanology Tests

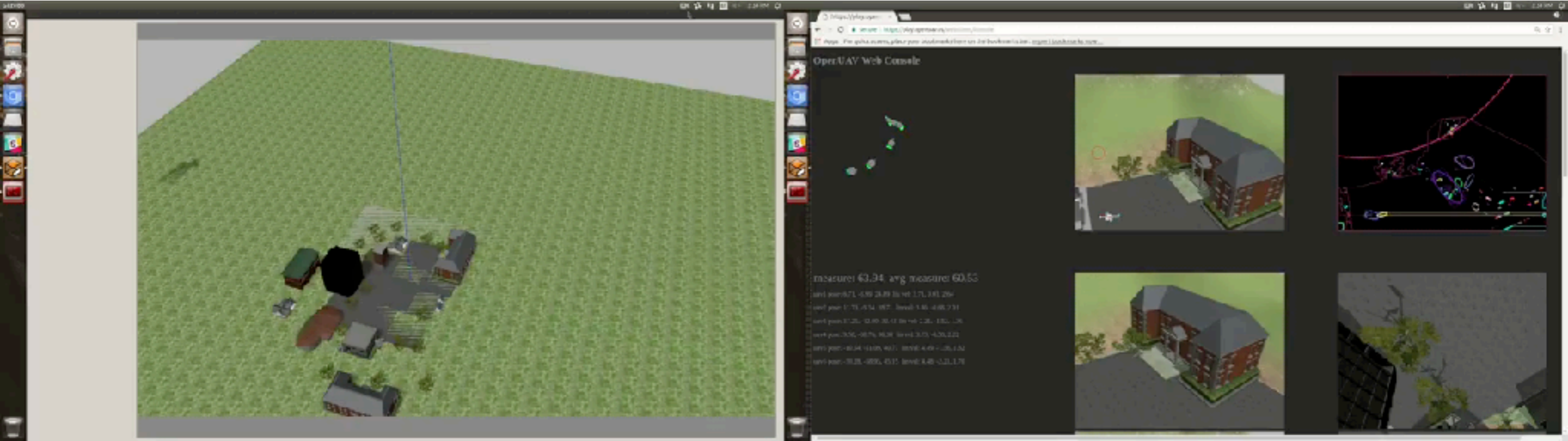




# Small-scale Volcanology Tests



# Simulations = gentle failures

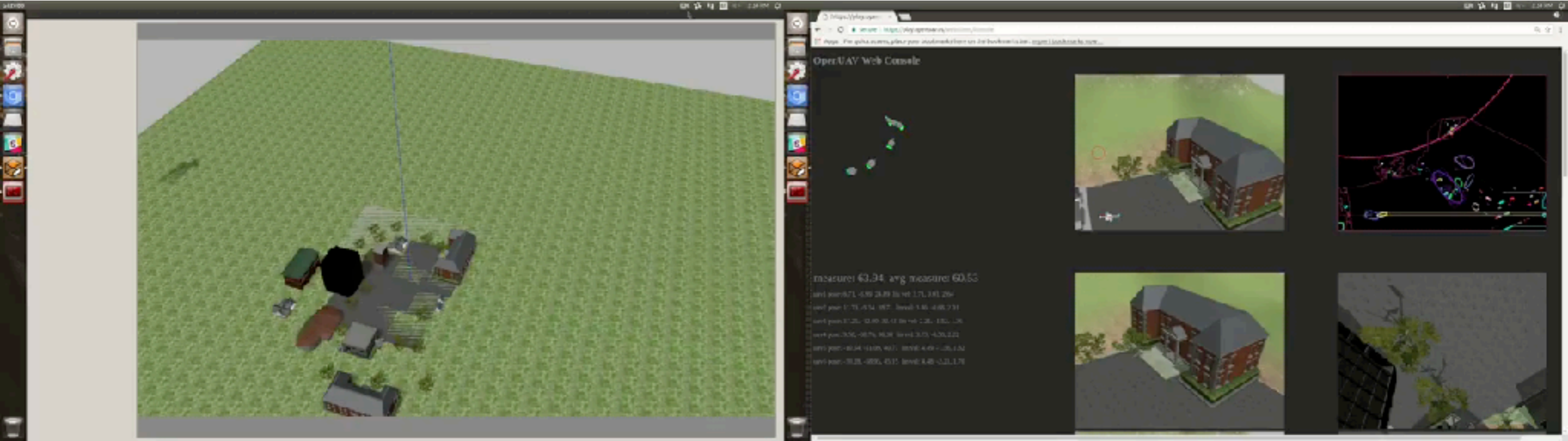


# Simulations = gentle failures

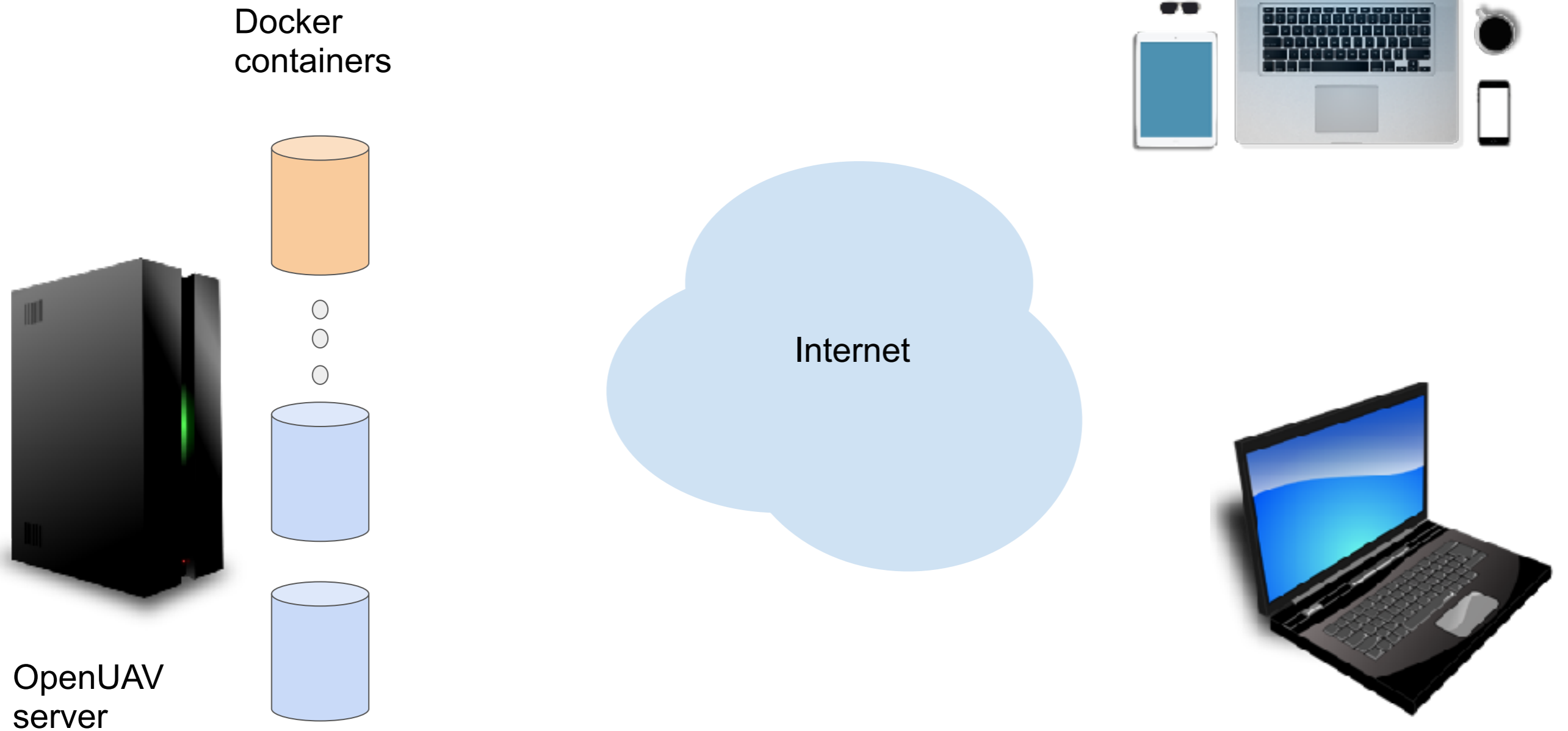


measure: 63.34, avg measure: 60.55  
[0] pos: 71.434, 957, level: 4.48 -0.8, 2.91  
[1] pos: 0.25, -0.05, 0.17, level: 4.28, -1.52, 1.26  
[2] pos: 3.76, -0.74, 0.38, level: 3.75, -4.26, 2.23  
[3] pos: -0.04, -0.05, 0.17, level: 4.48 -0.8, 2.91  
[4] pos: -0.28, -0.05, 0.17, level: 4.48 -0.8, 2.91

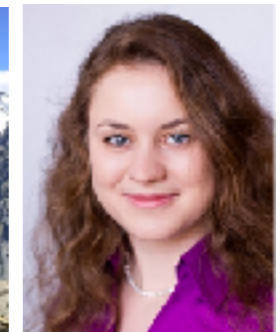
# Simulations = gentle failures



# Swarm Testbed



M. Schmittle, A. Lukina, L. Vacek, J. Das, C. P. Buskirk, S. Rees, J. Sztipanovits, R. Grosu, and V. Kumar, "OpenUAV: A UAV Testbed for the CPS and Robotics Community," in 2018 International Conference on Cyber-Physical systems (ICCPS)



# The Annotation Game

Hannah Kerner



**In-situ**

**Ex-situ**

**Sampling**

measurement

specimen

**Analysis**

features

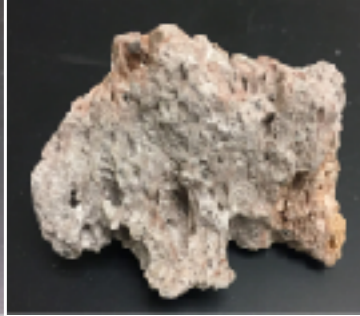
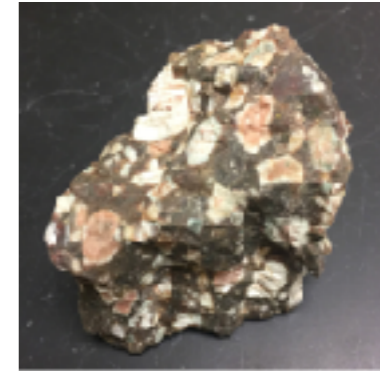
big-data

Chelsea Scott, Ramon Arrowsmith



# The Annotation Game

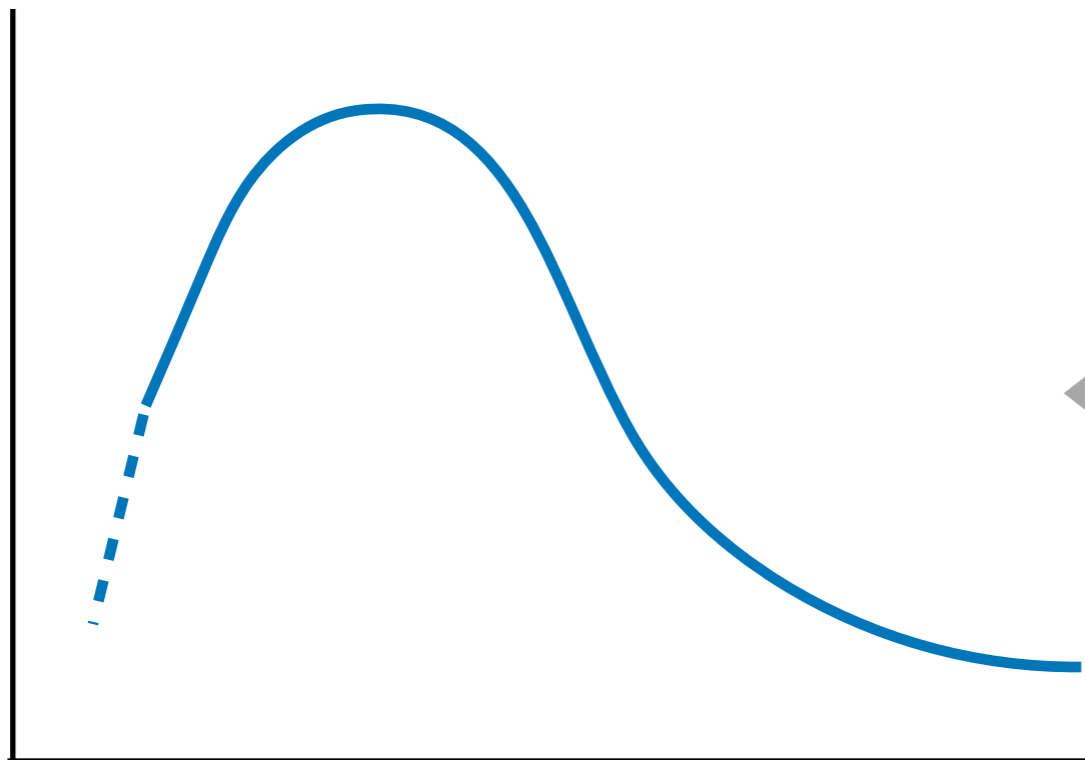
Hannah Kerner



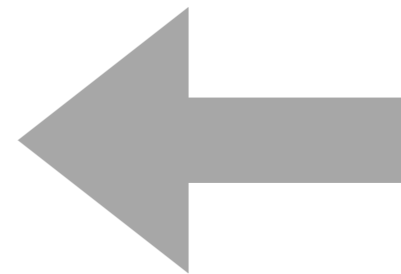
Chelsea Scott, Ramon Arrowsmith



Count



Grain size



Where might AI help?  
What are the challenges?

Precision agriculture  
Geology, volcanology  
Planetary sciences  
Disaster response  
Damage assessment

|          | In-situ     | Ex-situ  |                              |
|----------|-------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Sampling | measurement | specimen |                              |
| Analysis | features    | big-data | Novelty<br>Anomaly<br>Change |



# 2019 NSF CPS Challenge, May 14-16, TIMPA Airfield, TUCSON

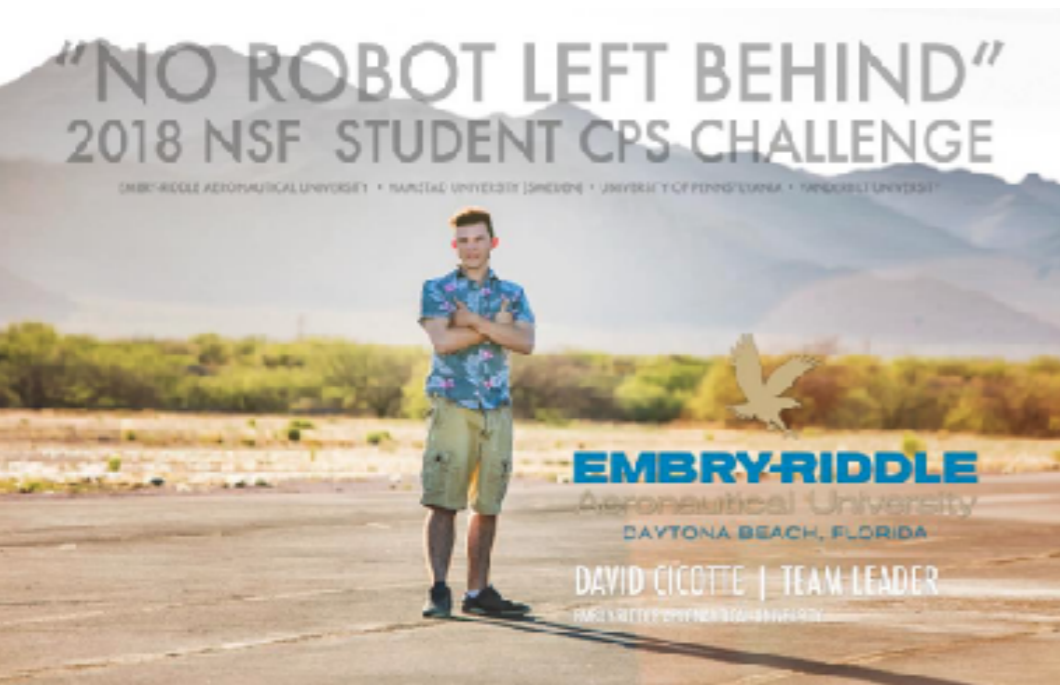
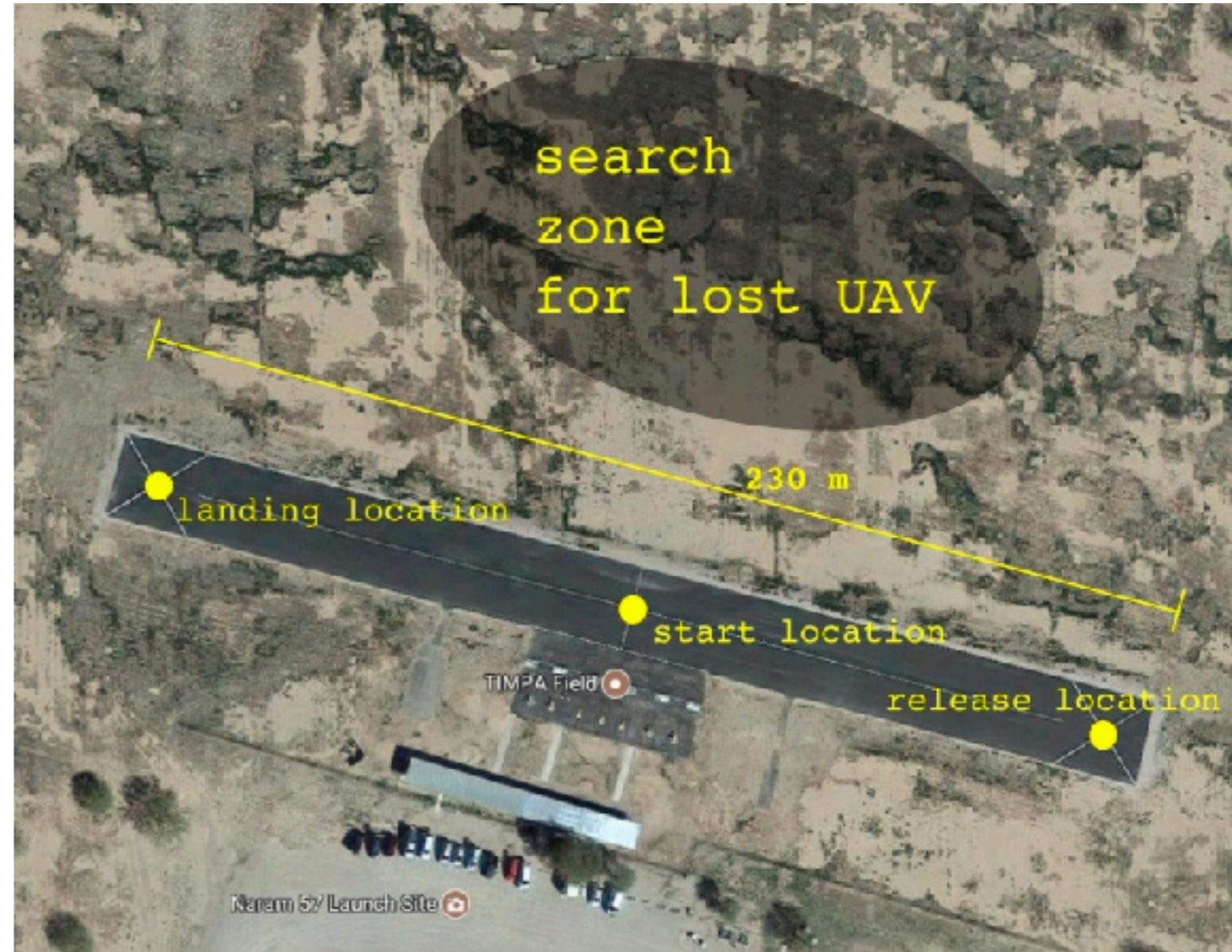
## IMAGINE

Your friend's quadrotor went down in a large field, and a storm is coming in.

Looking for this lost drone needs a solution that could be repurposed to solve many other problems, like looking for a place to deploy an environmental sensor probe.

## GOAL

The goal of this challenge is to use a quadrotor aircraft with downward facing camera, and possibly other sensors, to scan an area for a lost aircraft, and recover it safely back to base.



<https://web.asu.edu/jdas>  
[jdass5@asu.edu](mailto:jdass5@asu.edu)



<https://cps-vo.org/group/CPSchallenge>

<https://web.asu.edu/jdas>  
[jdass5@asu.edu](mailto:jdass5@asu.edu)



<https://cps-vo.org/group/CPSchallenge>