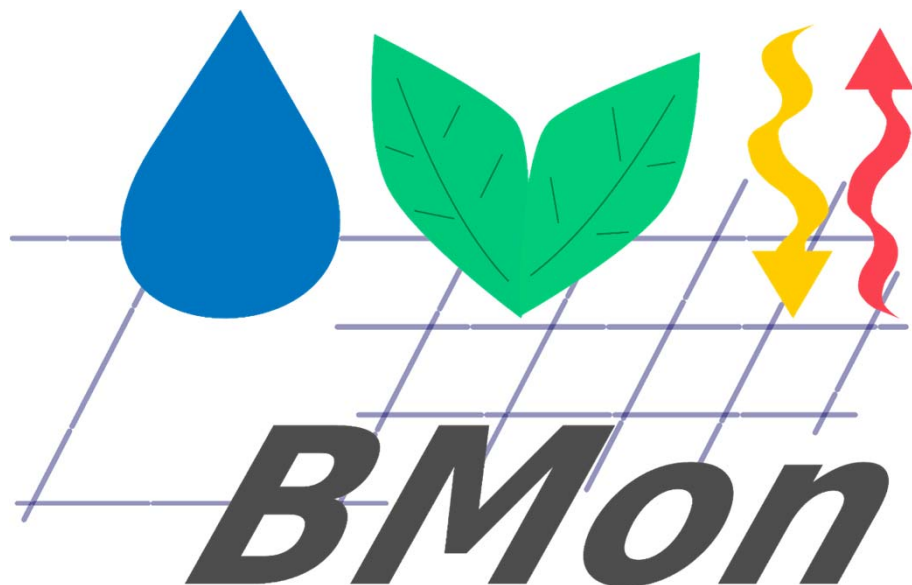




BUNDESMINISTERIUM
FÜR NACHHALTIGKEIT
UND TOURISMUS



A CLOUD-BASED SYSTEM FOR HIGH RESOLUTION SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING OVER AUSTRIA

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Kubu, Lukas Künzer, Lucas Scheiber, Friedrich
Teichmann, Ammar Wahbi

4/4/2018



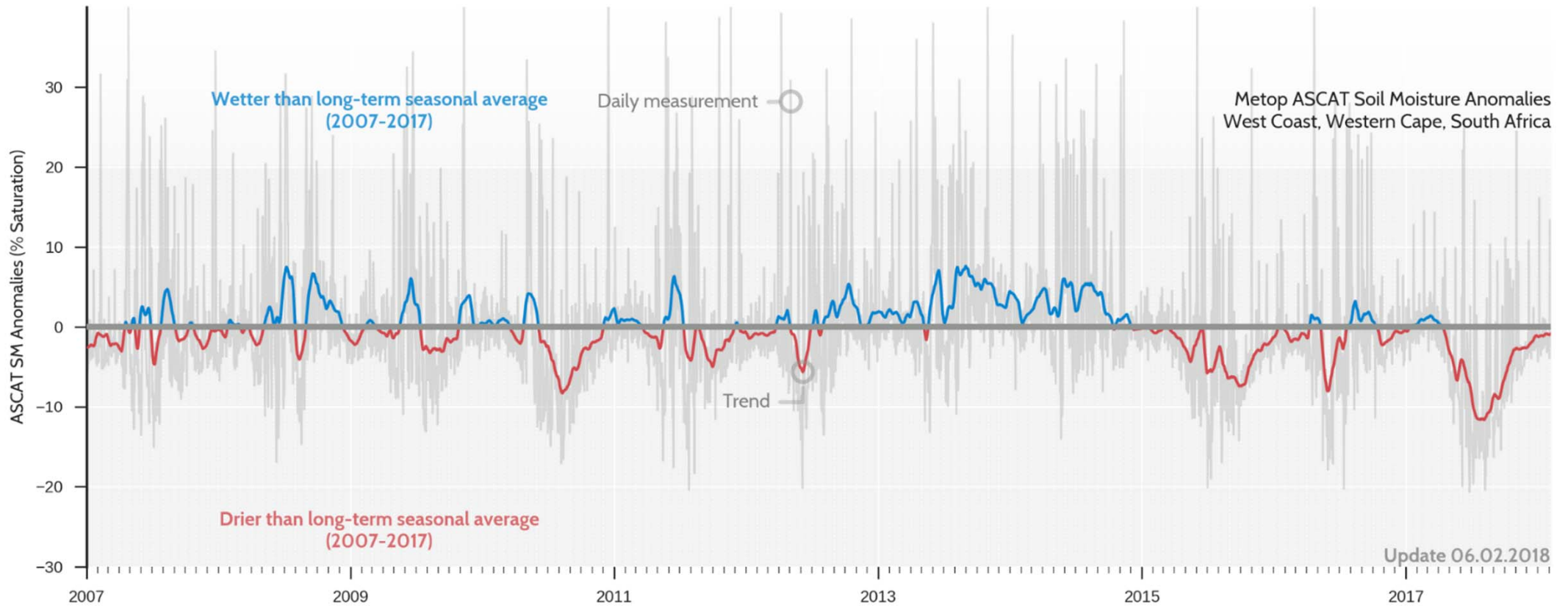
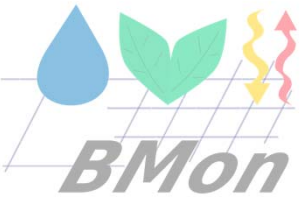
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IMPORTANCE OF SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING

- Forecasting river **runoff** and ground water replenishment
- Improving **weather forecasts**
- Preparedness for **extreme events**
- Anticipate **droughts** and **water demands**
- Plan **irrigation** and field management practices to optimize yields





Time series of soil moisture anomalies over South Africa





IMPORTANCE OF SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING

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- forecasting river **runoff** and ground water replenishment
- improving **weather forecasts**
- preparedness for **extreme events**
- anticipate **droughts** and **water demands**

Develop a **cloud-based system for near-real-time monitoring of soil moisture** conditions over Austria at high spatio-temporal sampling (twice daily at 100 m sampling)





DRIVERS OF SOIL MOISTURE AT DIFFERENT SCALES

At **large scale** soil moisture is driven by:

- Large scale weather patterns
- Climate

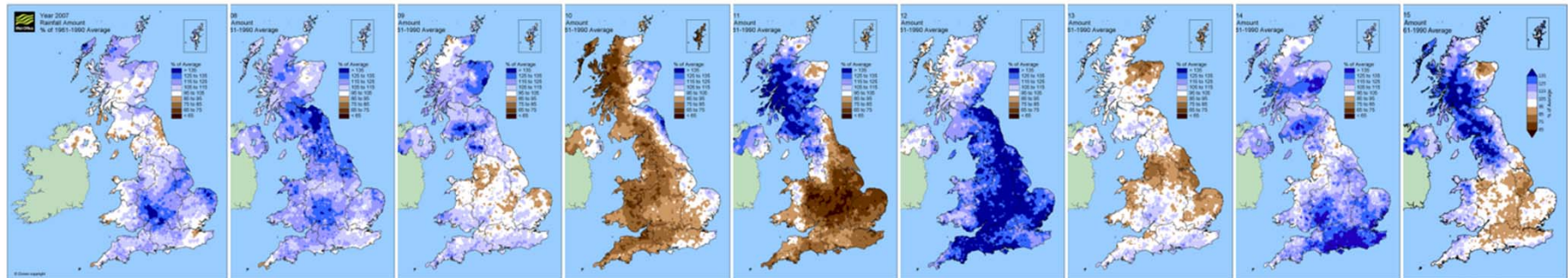
At **local scale** soil moisture is driven by:

- Land cover
- Topography
- Soil characteristics

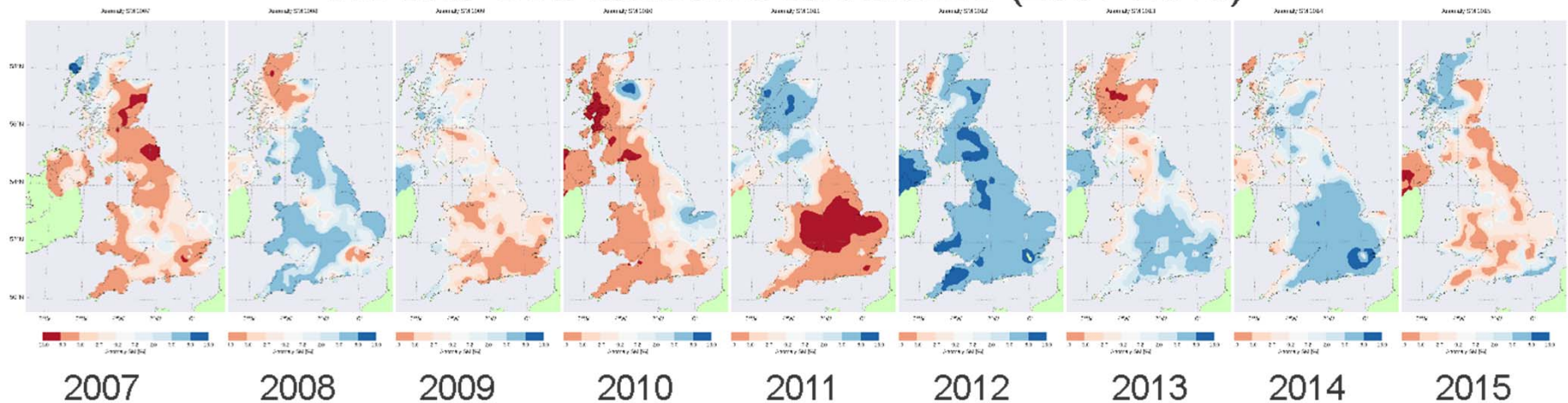


LARGE SCALE SOIL MOISTURE DYNAMICS

MetOffice Precipitation anomalies (1961-1990)

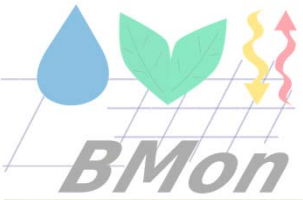


ASCAT Soil Moisture anomalies (2007-2015)

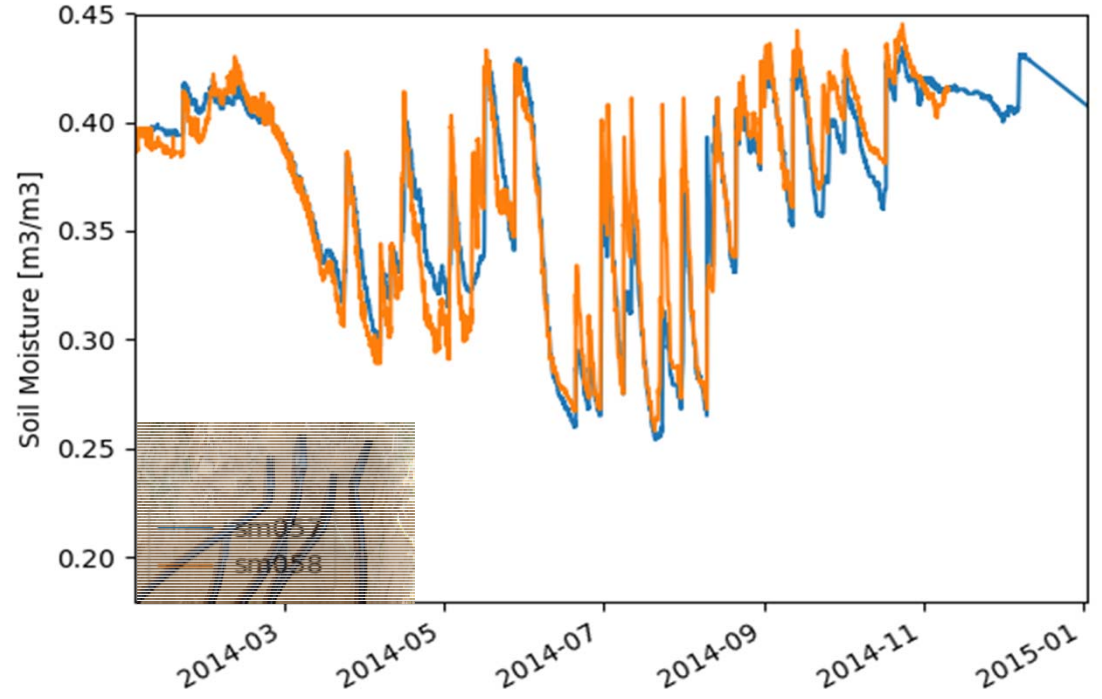
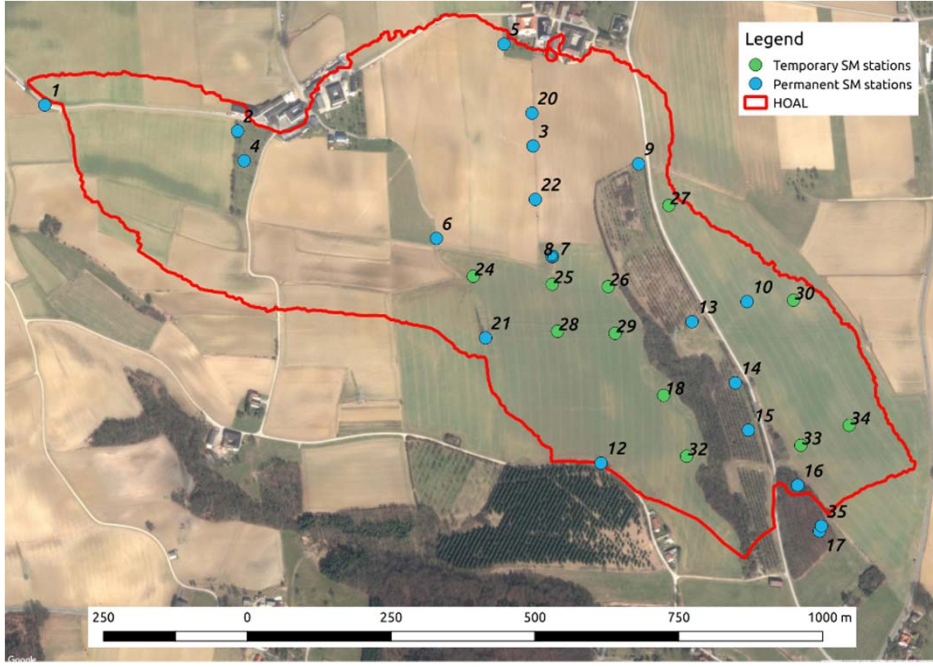


Yearly averages of precipitation and soil moisture anomalies over the UK.





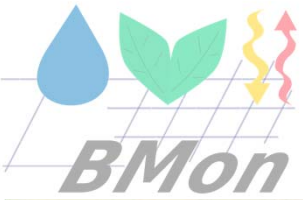
LOCAL SCALE SOIL MOISTURE DYNAMICS



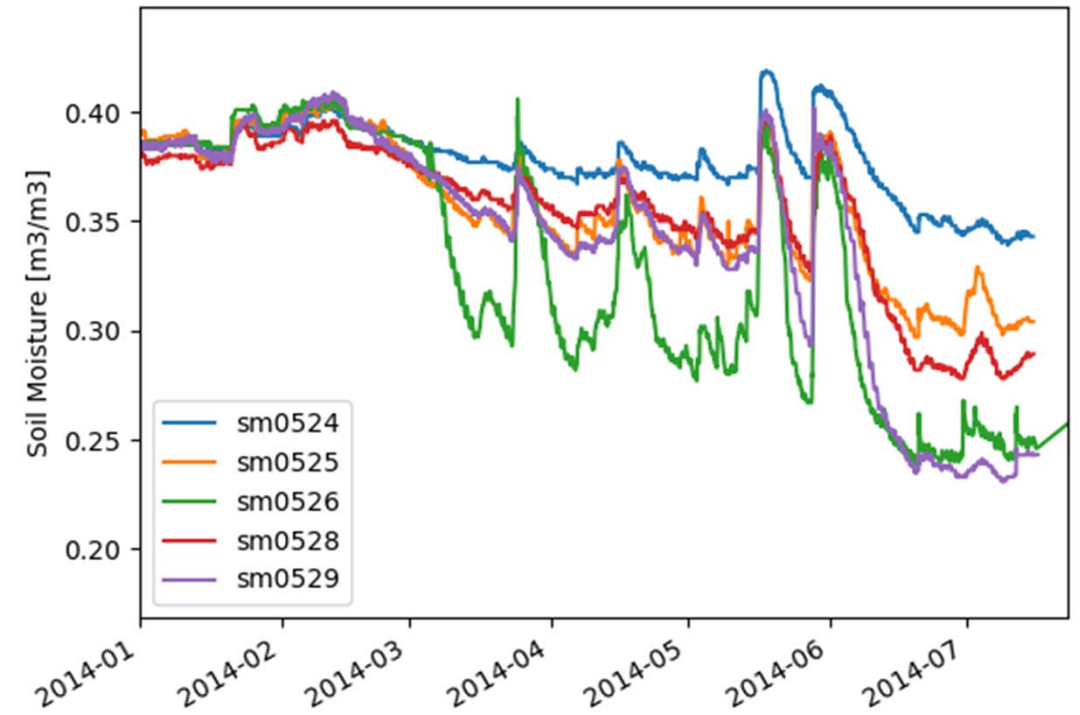
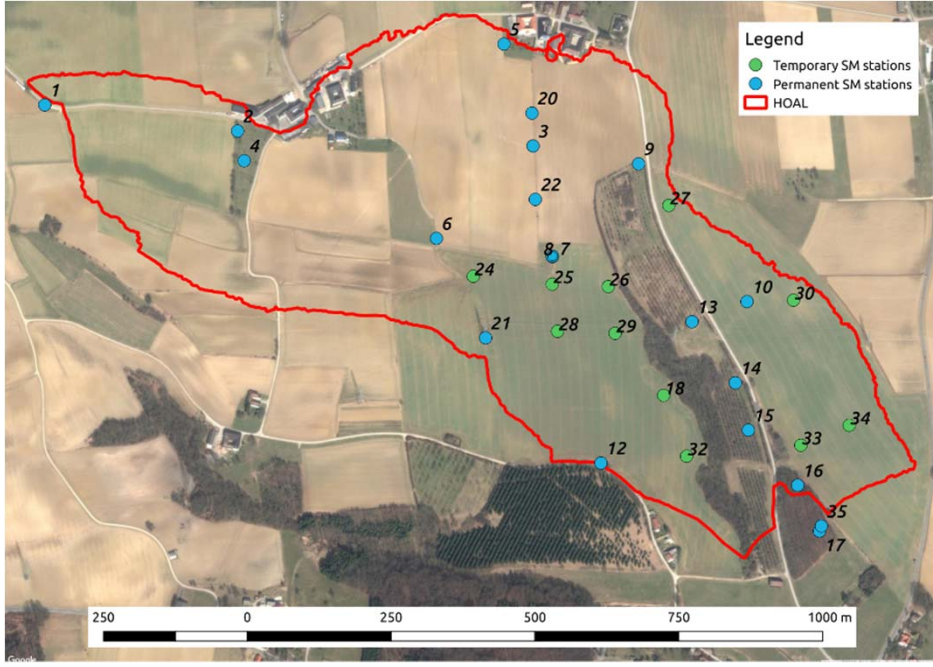
Soil moisture is controlled by land cover, soil properties and topography.

But can vary within 5 cm of each other.

Controls on soil moisture are not straightforward.



LOCAL SCALE SOIL MOISTURE DYNAMICS



Soil moisture is controlled by land cover, soil properties and topography.

But can vary within 5 cm of each other.

Controls on soil moisture are not straightforward.



SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING

Soil moisture is driven by land surface processes acting at different spatial scales.



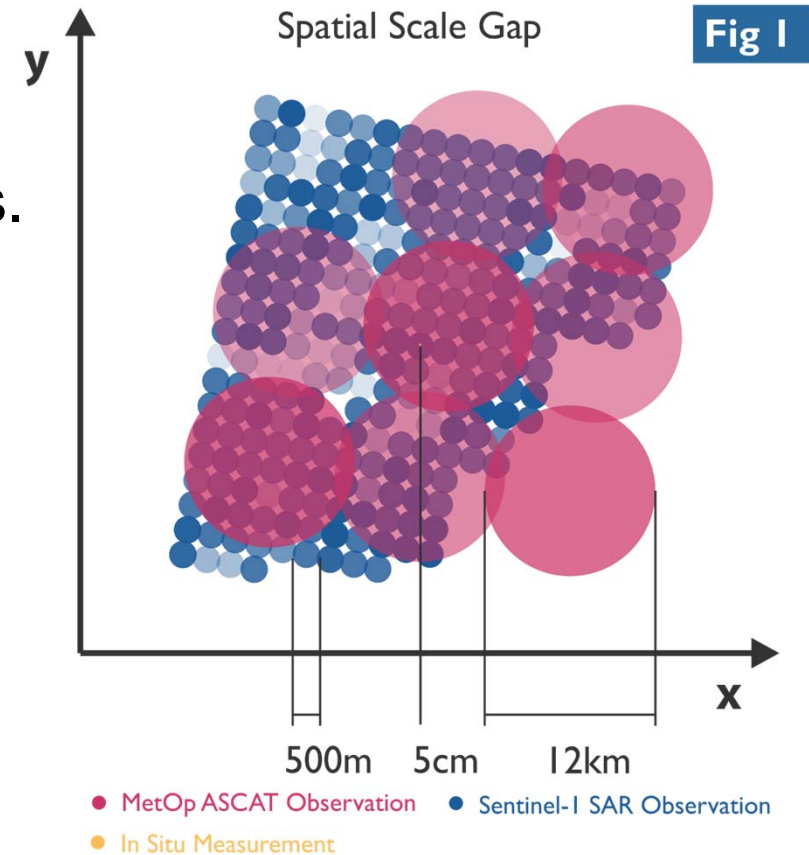
SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING

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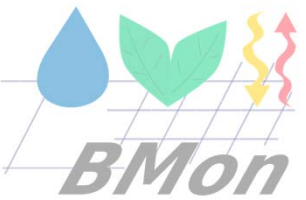
Soil moisture can be estimated:

1. Remote sensing – **average over a footprint**
2. In situ – **point measurement**
3. Modelling – **different scales**

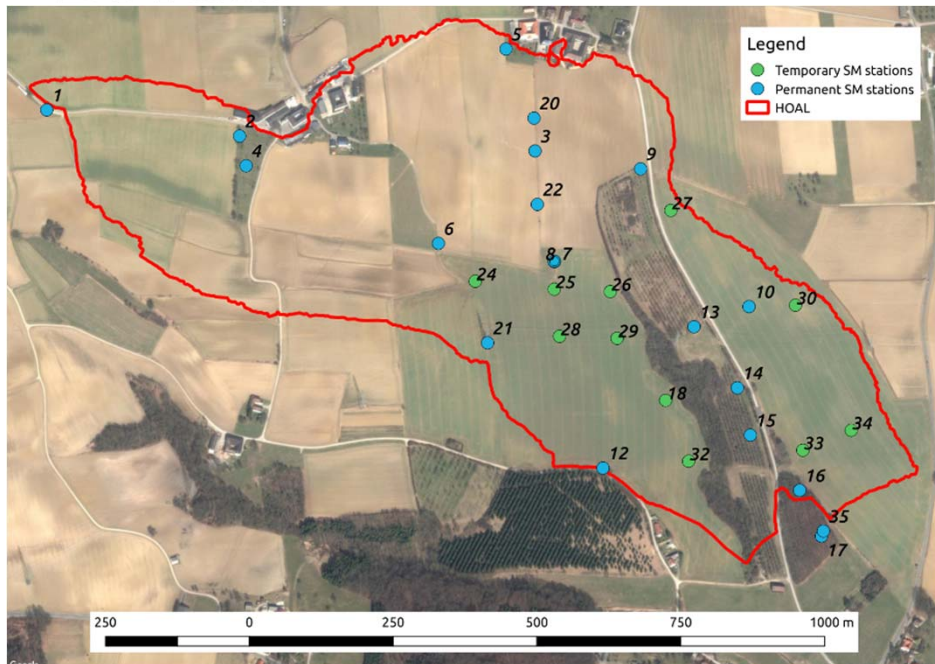
All methods have strengths and weaknesses.



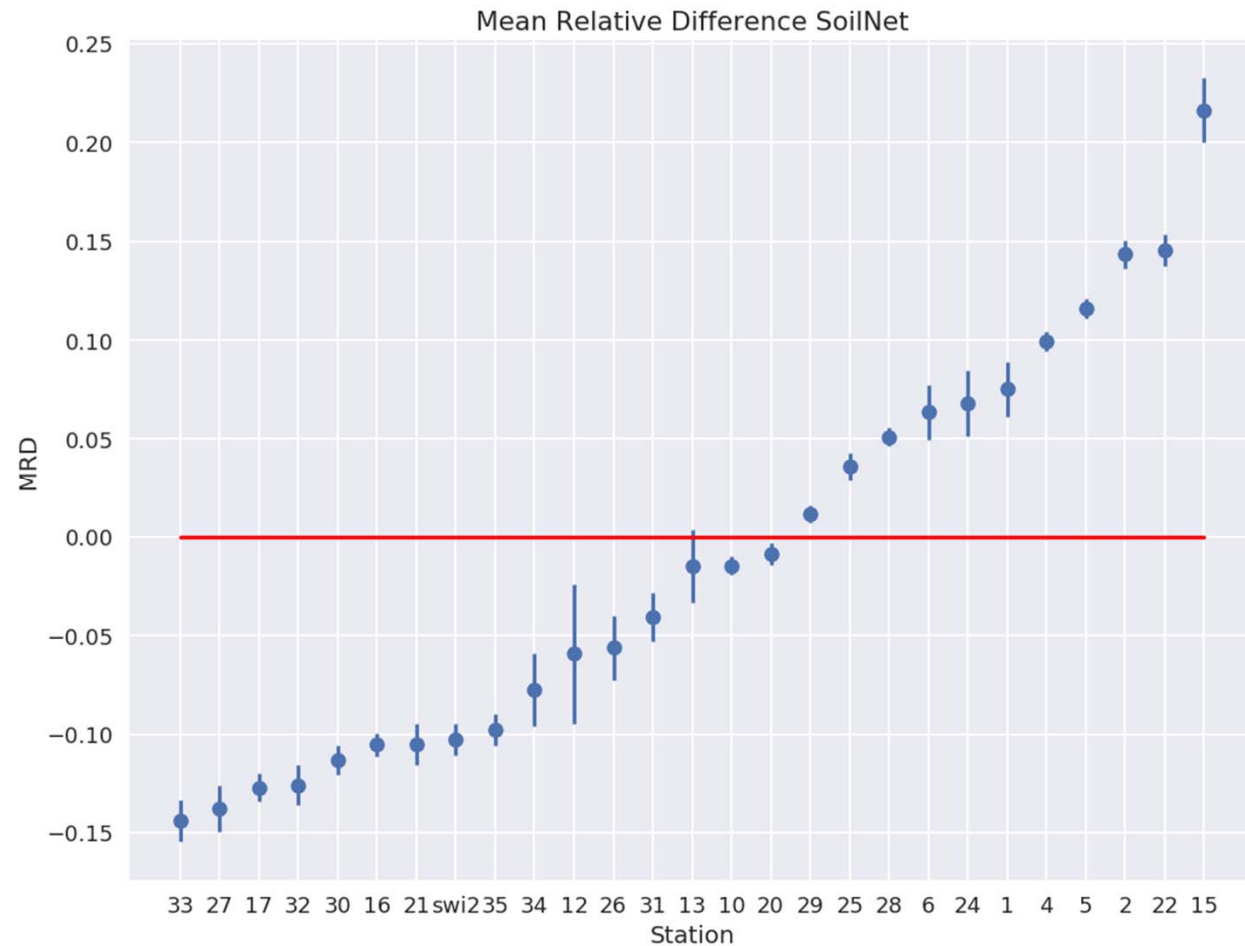
*Figure courtesy of Bernhard Bauer-Marschallinger et al. (2015).



IN SITU MEASUREMENTS



Variability in soil moisture between sensors that are located close together even though soil and land cover is the same.

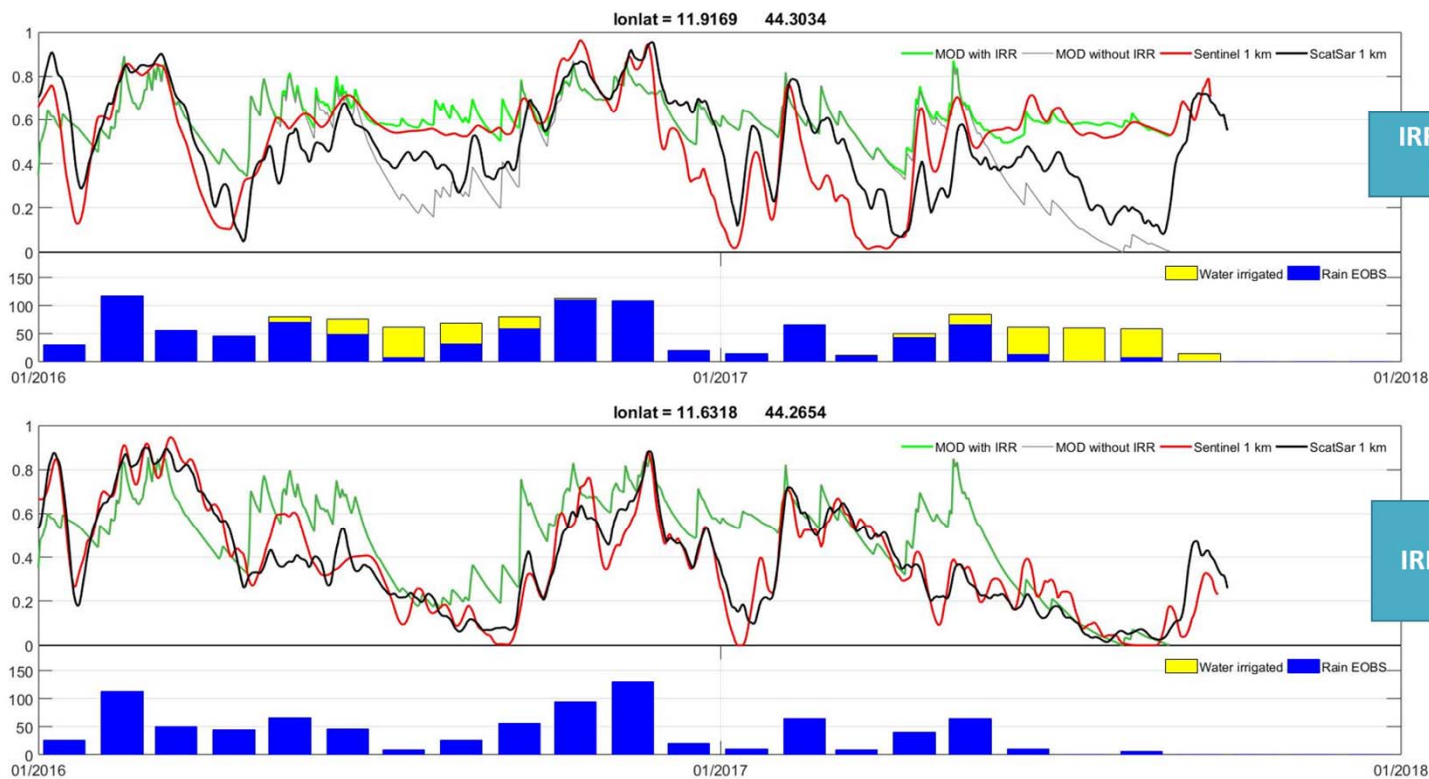




MODELS

ROMAGNA (ITALY)

Sentinel-1 (1 km)



IRRIGATED
PIXEL

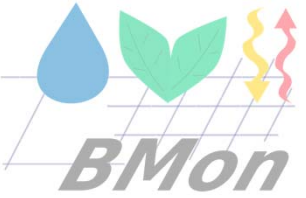
NON-
IRRIGATED
PIXEL

Models are driven by different variables and do not always capture irrigation events.



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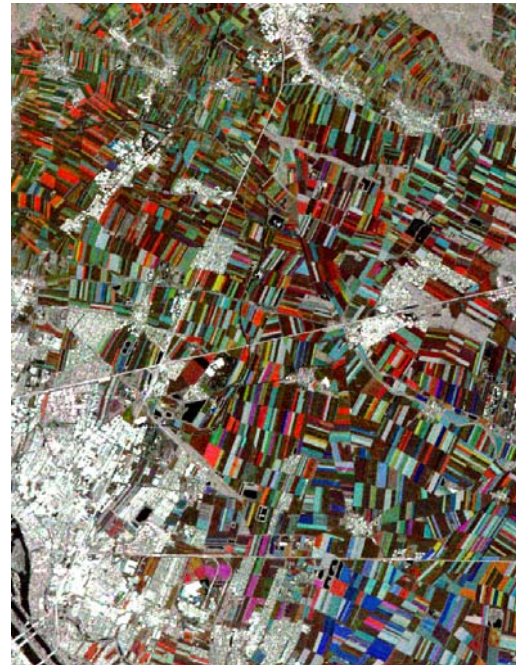
REMOTE SENSING



False colour composite of Sentinel-1 VH images acquired in 2015 over Vienna and surrounding areas



Red – June
Green – July
Blue – August



Effect of vegetation on backscatter signal of S-1.



BMON – MODEL-DATA INTEGRATION

Combining the skills of EO data and three models from hydrology, agronomy and meteorology through **model-data integration** to obtain high resolution soil moisture estimates



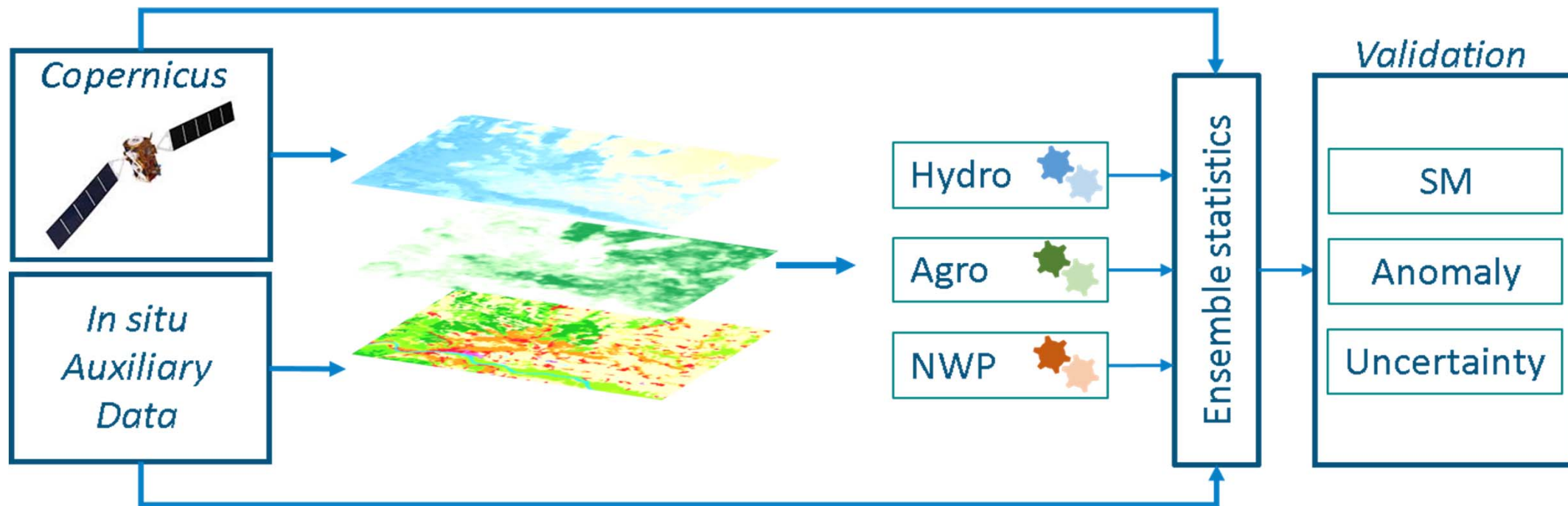
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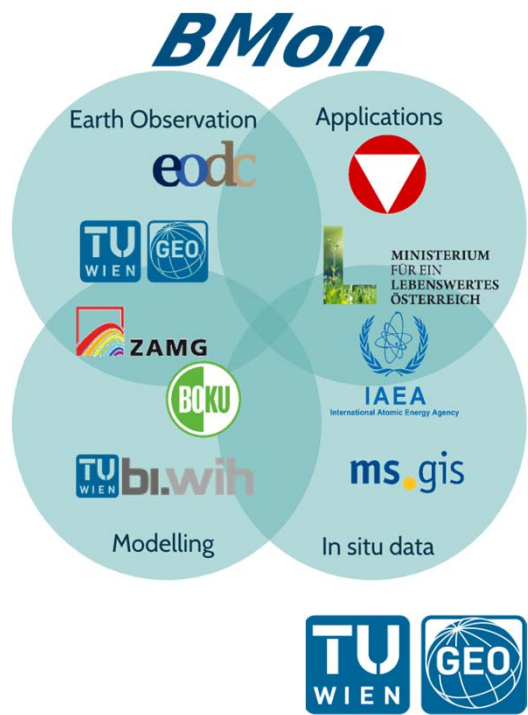
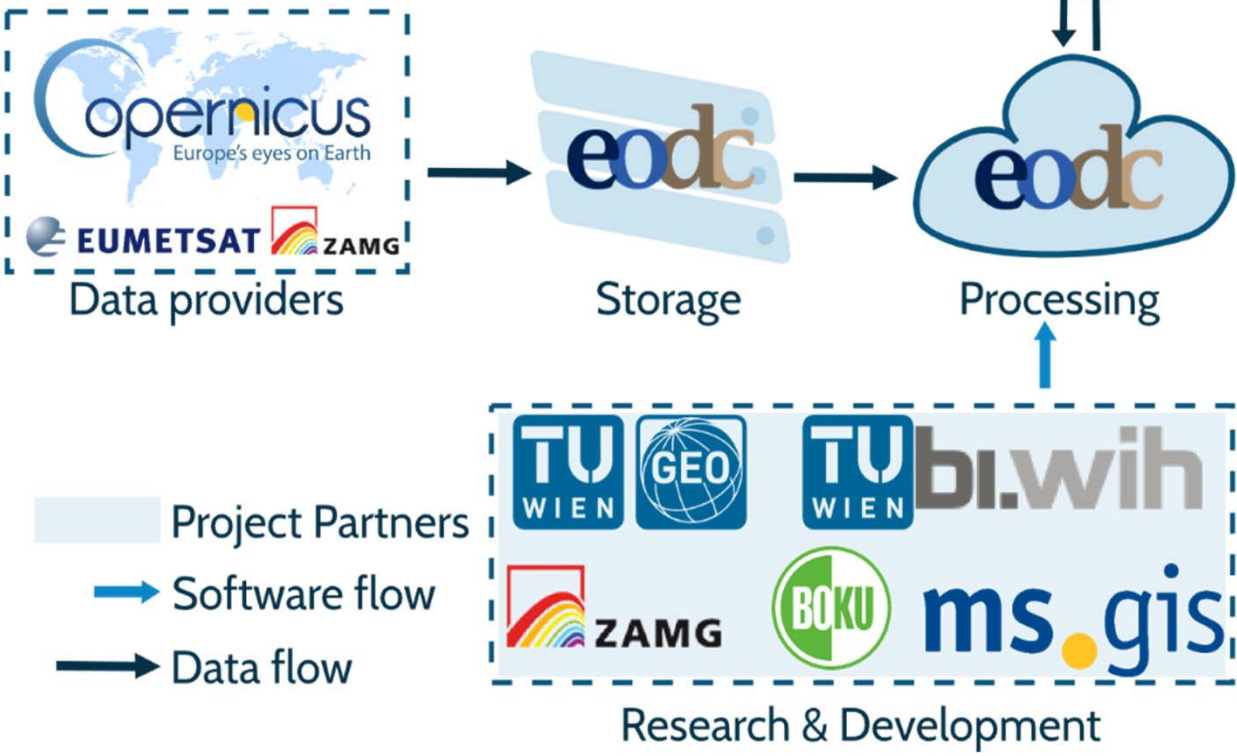
- 1. Satellite data with high spatio-temporal sampling** have become operationally available
- 2. Merging multiple satellite- and ground-based observations** in advanced **modelling frameworks**.
- 3. Bring together data and models** on high-performance **cloud computing platforms**.



BMON – MODEL-DATA INTEGRATION



Scientific workflow of the BMon project.





GOALS OF BMON

User-driven cloud-based system for real-time high-resolution soil moisture monitoring:

- The **soil moisture estimates are consistent with closely related variables** (rainfall, runoff, yield)
- The **spatio-temporal resolution of the soil moisture output is improved** compared to only-satellite based approaches
- The implementation of the system on a **cloud platform** reduces operational costs by **simplifying the exchange of data and information** between the different system components.



USER BENEFITS AND INTEGRATION

- Close integration of users and project partners/developers through **user requirement inquiry** in two phases and **user workshop**.
- Providing a **modular prototype**, easily extendable for further projects/applications.
- Demonstrating platform capabilities through **test cases** (Austria and Mali) and a user workshop.



