

E2S EMBED
2SCALE

Earth Observation & Weather Data Federation With AI Embeddings



EUSPA AI week 2026

Thomas Brunswiler
IBM Research Europe



Data Gravity in Earth & Weather Data

10 years

Global flood mapping with Sentinel-1&2.

22PB

Data volume per modality.

**eGres
\$8Mio**

... and 520 days download time at 10Gbit/s.

**Compute
\$280k**

... for TerraMind on A100 requires 3'000 GPU/days.

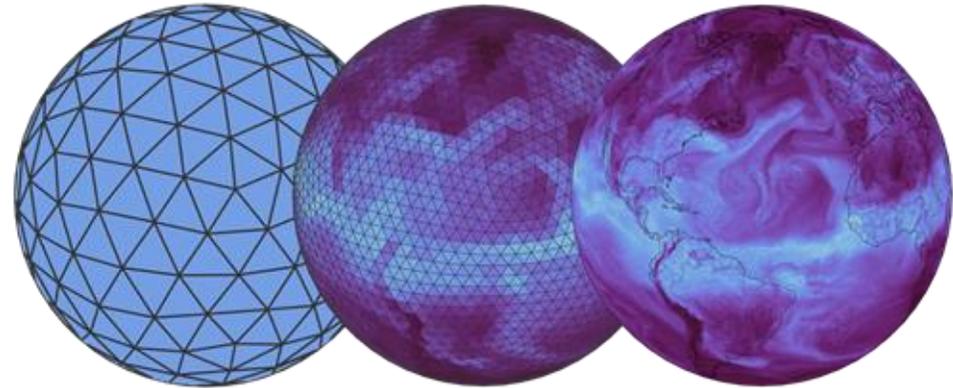


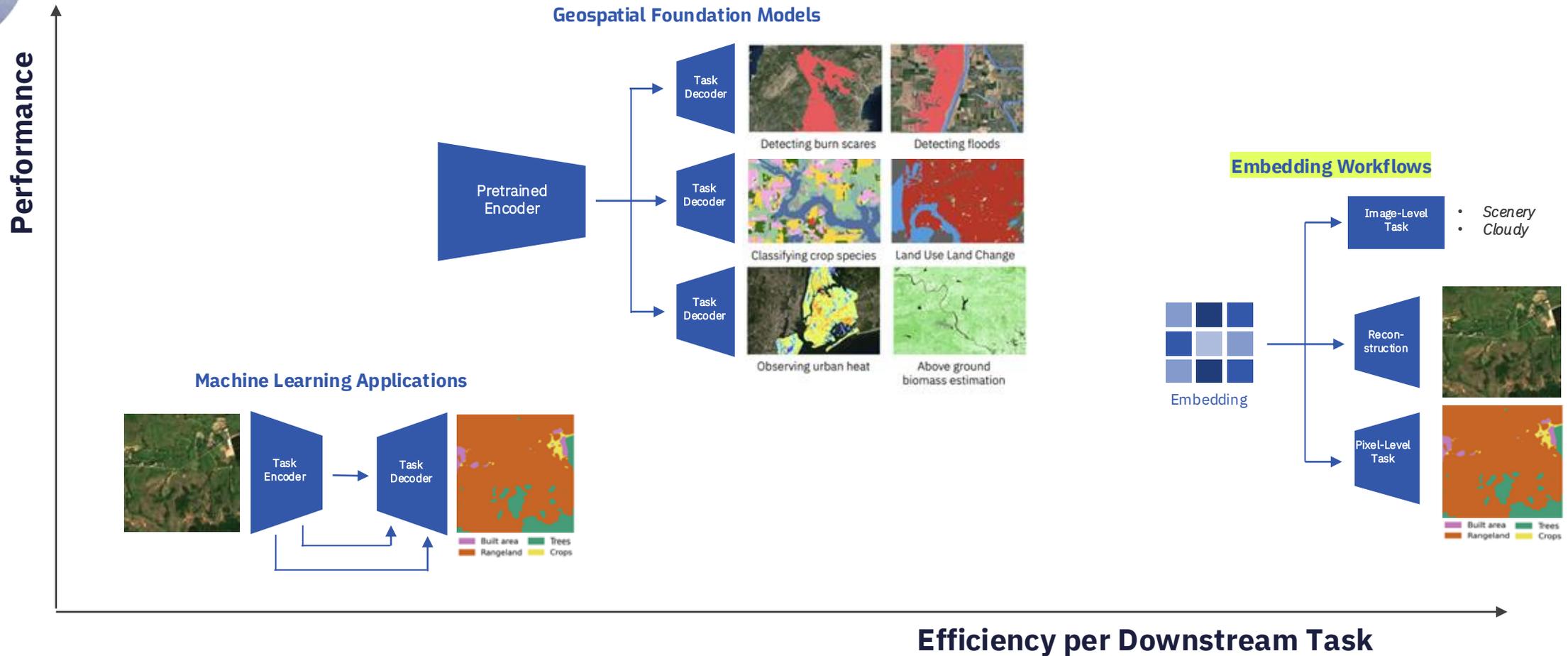
Image source: <https://easy.gems.dkrz.de/>



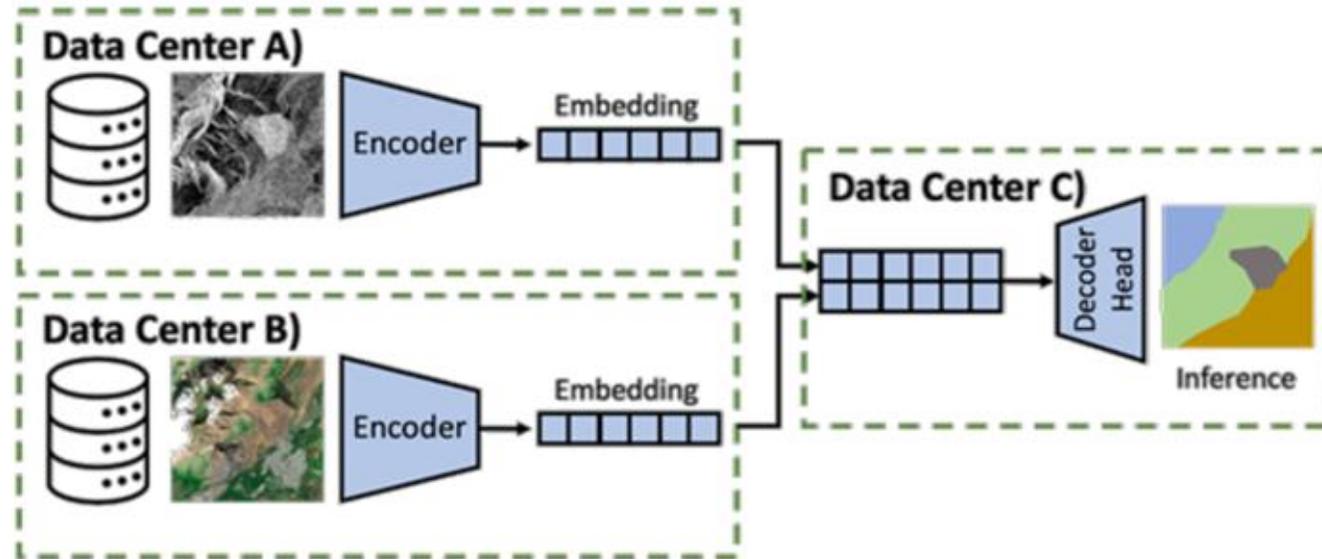
Data archive reaches one exabyte

ECMWF Annual Report 2024

Evolution of AI in Earth Observation



Embedding Federation



Embed2Store

Computer once,
request many times

Embed2Infer

Light-weight decoders
and reduced compute

Embed2Transfer

Decentralised
applications

Embed2Find

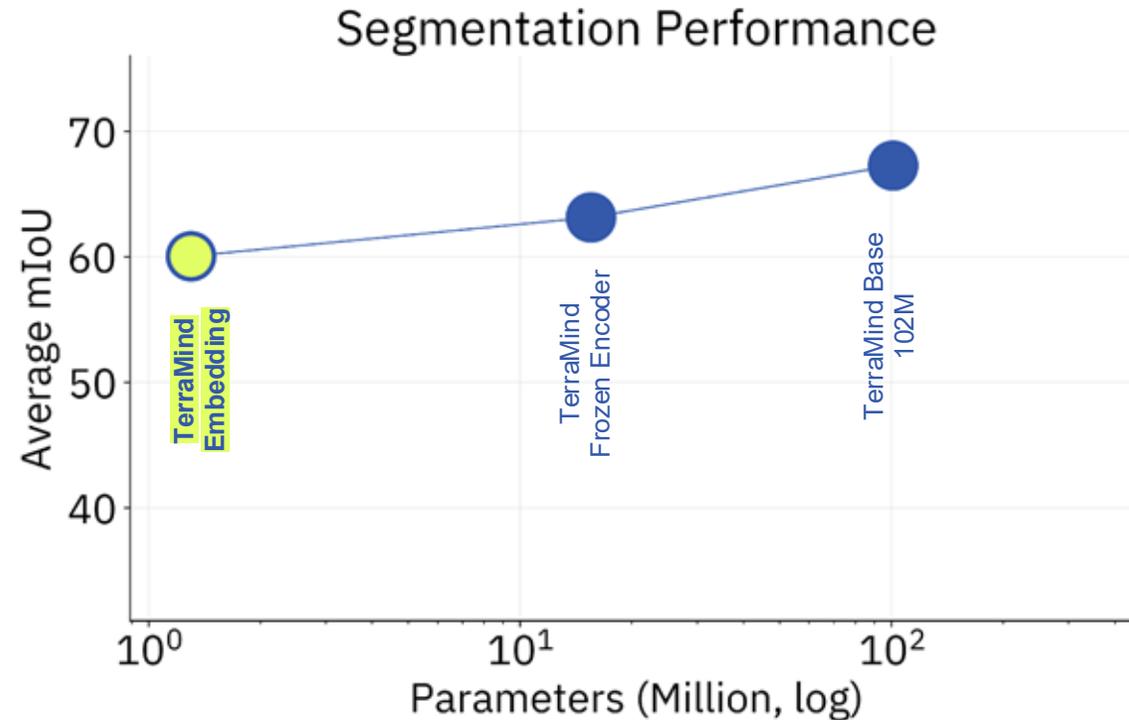
Image retrieval from
petabyte scale data

Meet the **E2S** EMBED 2SCALE Consortium



The logo for DLR (German Aerospace Establishment) consists of a stylized black geometric shape resembling a four-pointed star or a satellite antenna, with the letters "DLR" in black below it.	The logo for IBM, featuring the letters "IBM" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with horizontal stripes through the letters.	The logo for SATCEN (European Union Satellite Centre) features a blue square with a white star and the text "SATCEN" in blue, with "EUROPEAN UNION SATELLITE CENTRE" in smaller blue text below.	The logo for JÜLICH Forschungszentrum features a blue circular emblem with a white swoosh, followed by the text "JÜLICH" in blue and "Forschungszentrum" in smaller blue text below.	The logo for SINERGISE features a stylized yellow and green circular emblem with a white swoosh, followed by the text "SINERGISE" in yellow.
The logo for hisdeSAT features a blue circular emblem with a white satellite dish-like shape, followed by the text "hisdeSAT" in blue.	The logo for MARTEL innovate features a stylized green mountain range above the text "MARTEL" in green and "innovate" in smaller green text below.	The logo for Universität Zürich features a circular seal with a building and the text "Universität Zürich" in black, with "UZH" in smaller black text below.	The logo for ifgi (Institute for Geoinformatics) features a green and black geometric emblem, followed by the text "ifgi" in black and "Institute for Geoinformatics University of Münster" in smaller black text below.	The logo for the University of Oxford features a dark blue square with a white circular seal containing a building and the text "UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD" in white below.

Performance of Embedding Workflows



Embeddings need

- **200x fewer** modelling parameters
- **4x smaller** data size

Average over 3 Segmentation Task: HLS Burnscars, Sentinel-2 Scene Classification Layer, FLAIR2

Inference Speed-Up of Embedding Workflows

Embedding Workflow

```
1/2401 [00:02<1:59:02, 0.34it/s]
Predicting DataLoader 0: 0%|
Set-up dataloader
Benchmarking predict tile [1]
```

1 Tile Inference in 22s

Foundation Model Workflow

```
Set-up dataloader
Benchmarking predict tile [1]
INFO:terratorch:Predict dataset: 2401
LOCAL_RANK: 0 - CUDA_VISIBLE_DEVICES: [0]
Predicting DataLoader 0: 0%| 1/2401 [00:02<1:59:02, 0.34it/s]
```

1 Tile Inference in 6min

On a A100 GPU, embeddings and raw images are both read in as single file tiffs

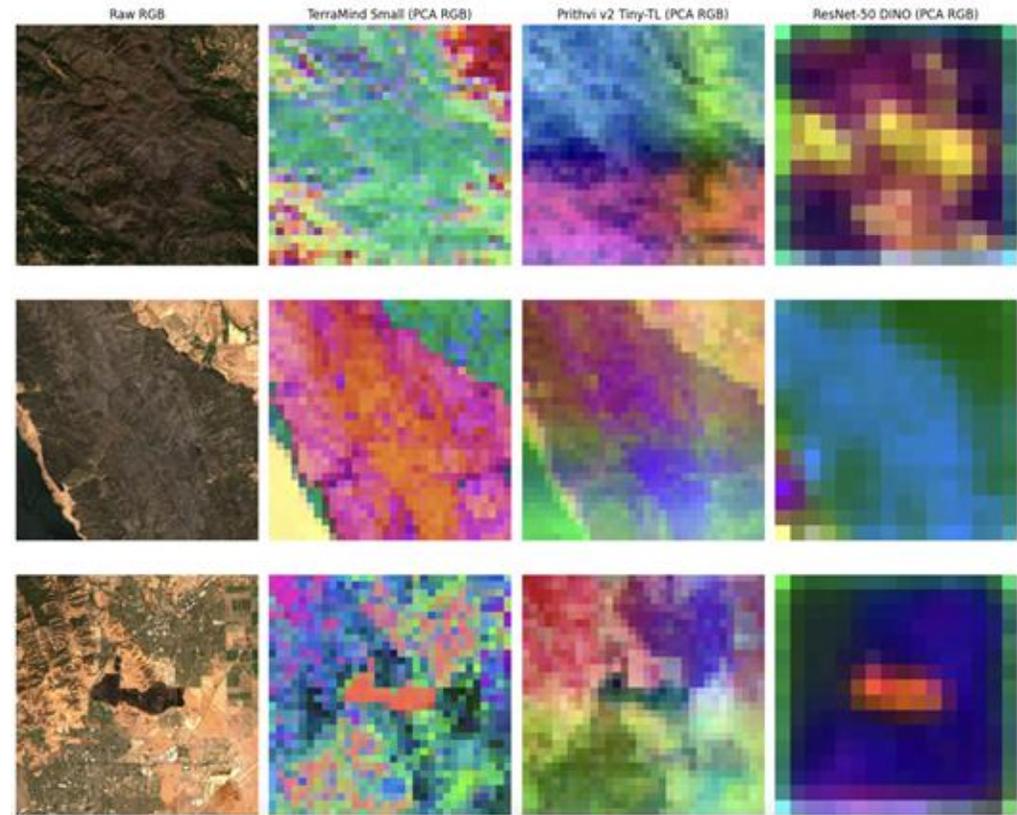
TerraTorch Extension for Embedding Workflows

No-/Low-Code Embedding Generation

```
model = terratorch.tasks.EmbeddingGenerationTask(  
    model='prithvi_eo_v2_300',  
    model_args={...},  
  
    output_format='tiff',  
    output_dir=dataset_path / 'embeddings/',  
  
    layers=[-1],  
    embedding_pooling=None,  
    has_cls=True  
)  
trainer = pl.Trainer(  
    accelerator="auto",  
    strategy="auto",  
    max_epochs=0  
)  
  
# Generate Embeddings  
trainer.predict(model, datamodule=datamodule)
```

[26]

PCA Embeddings of Different Backbones



<https://github.com/terrastackai/terratorch/tree/main/examples>

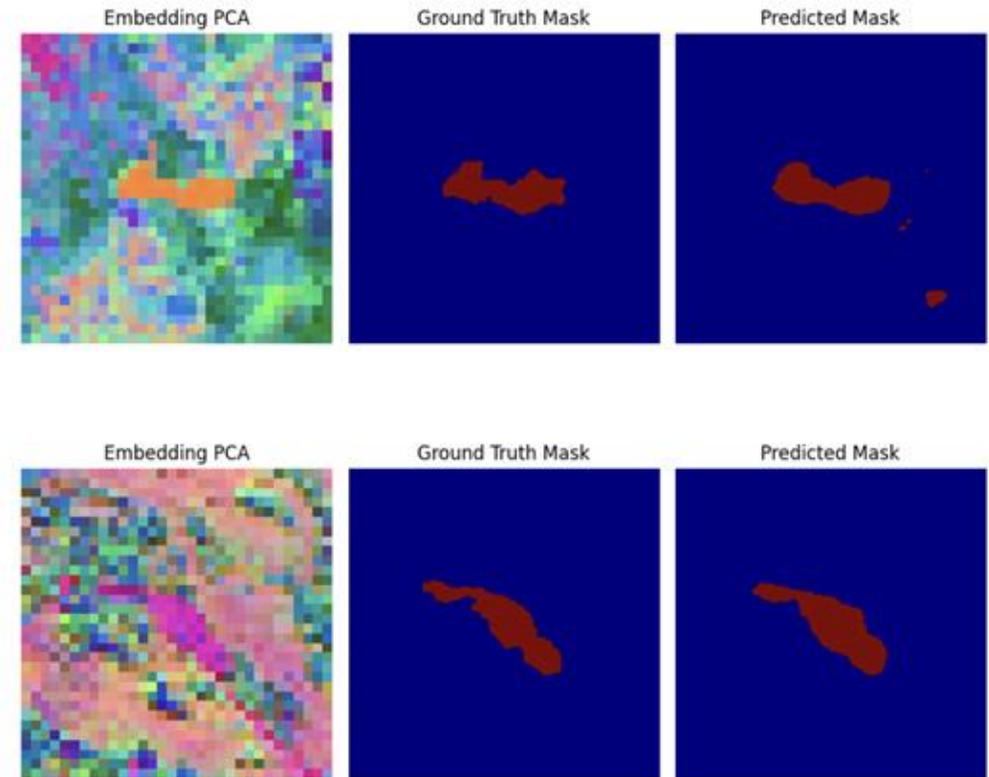
TerraTorch Extension for Embedding Workflows

Embedding Downstream Tasks

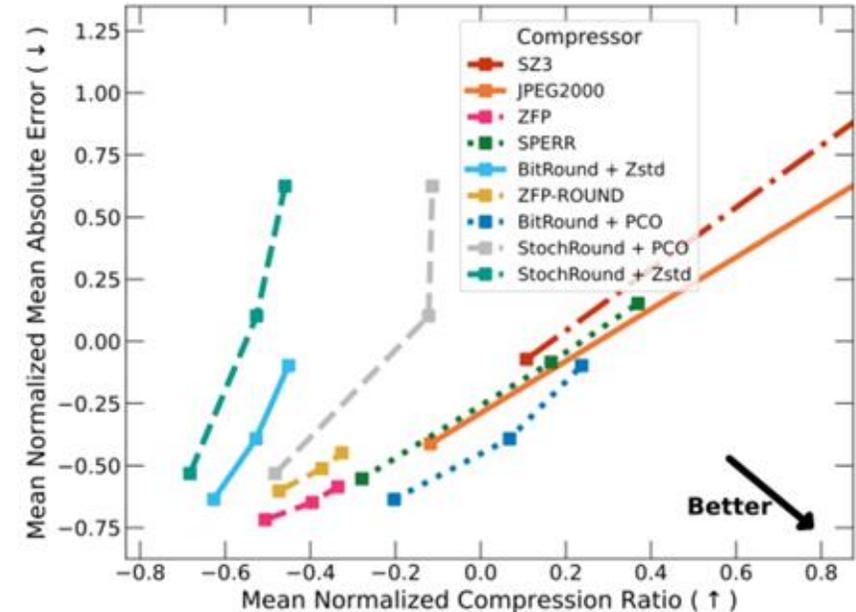
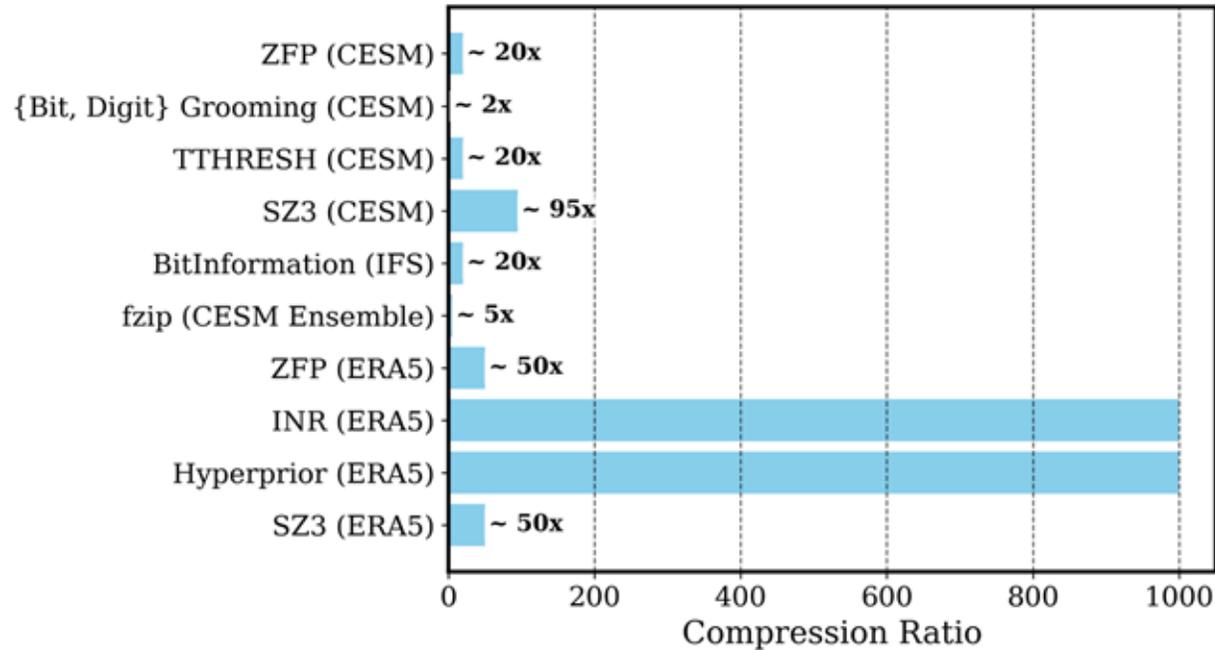
```
model = terratorch.tasks.SemanticSegmentationTask(  
    model_factory="EncoderDecoderFactory",  
    model_args={  
        "backbone": "IdentityBackbone",  
        "backbone_out_channels": [768],  
        "necks": [  
            {...}  
        ],  
        "decoder": "FCNDecoder",  
        "decoder_channels": 128,  
        "head_dropout": 0.1,  
        "head_channel_list": [128],  
        "num_classes": 2,  
    },  
  
    loss="ce",  
    optimizer="AdamW",  
    lr=1e-4,  
    freeze_decoder=False,  
    class_names=['no burned', 'burned'])
```

[119]

Prediction Performance after Two Epoch Training



ClimateBenchPress for Weather and Climate Models



Compression ratios, variables, error thresholds
and data **varies** in published literature

<https://github.com/climatebenchpress>

NeuCo-Bench: Benchmarking Earth Observation Embeddings



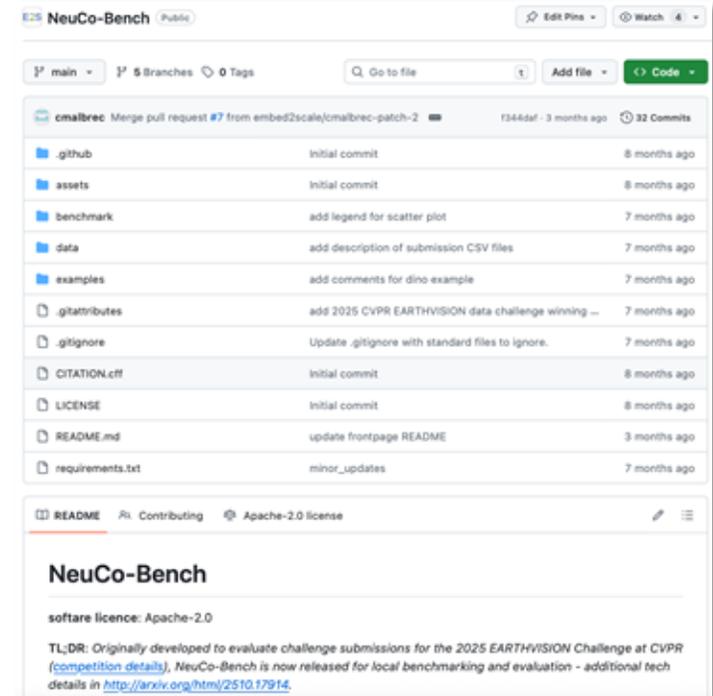
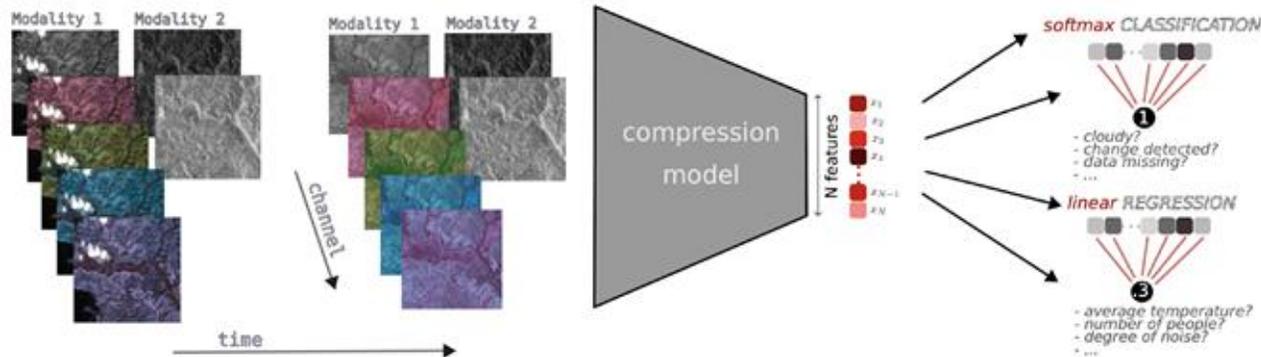
Participant Teams

23

Total Submissions

465

~7000x
compression



<https://github.com/embed2scale/NeuCo-Bench>

Earth2Vec Community



Earth2Vec



IBM Research Europe



eurac research

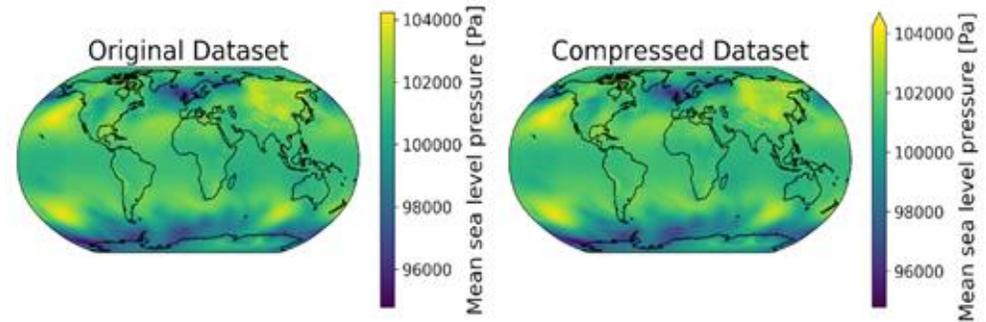


Outlook Embedding Use Cases



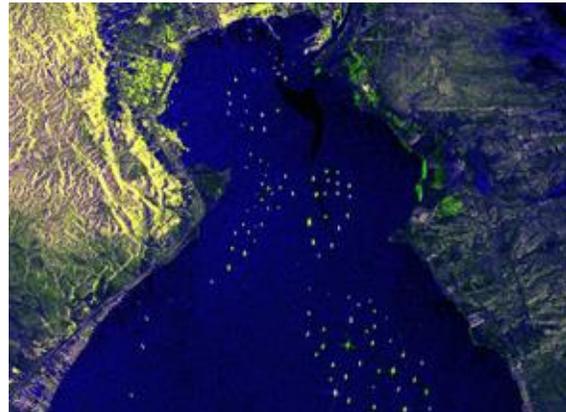
Above Ground Biomass

Embedding Upsampling for Dense Predictions



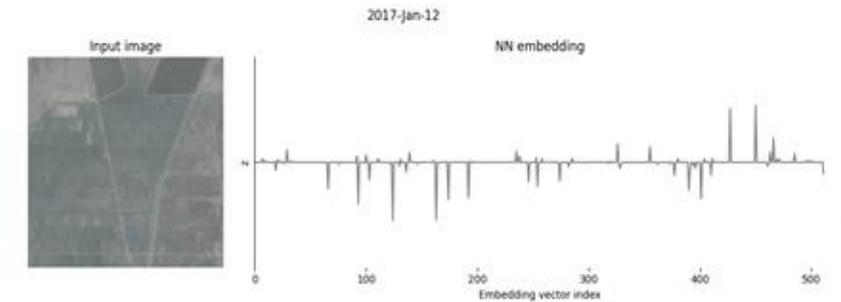
Climate and Air Pollution Prediction

Next-Gen Climate Model Evaluations in Embedding Spaces



Maritime Awareness

Compressed SAR Data Vessel Detection

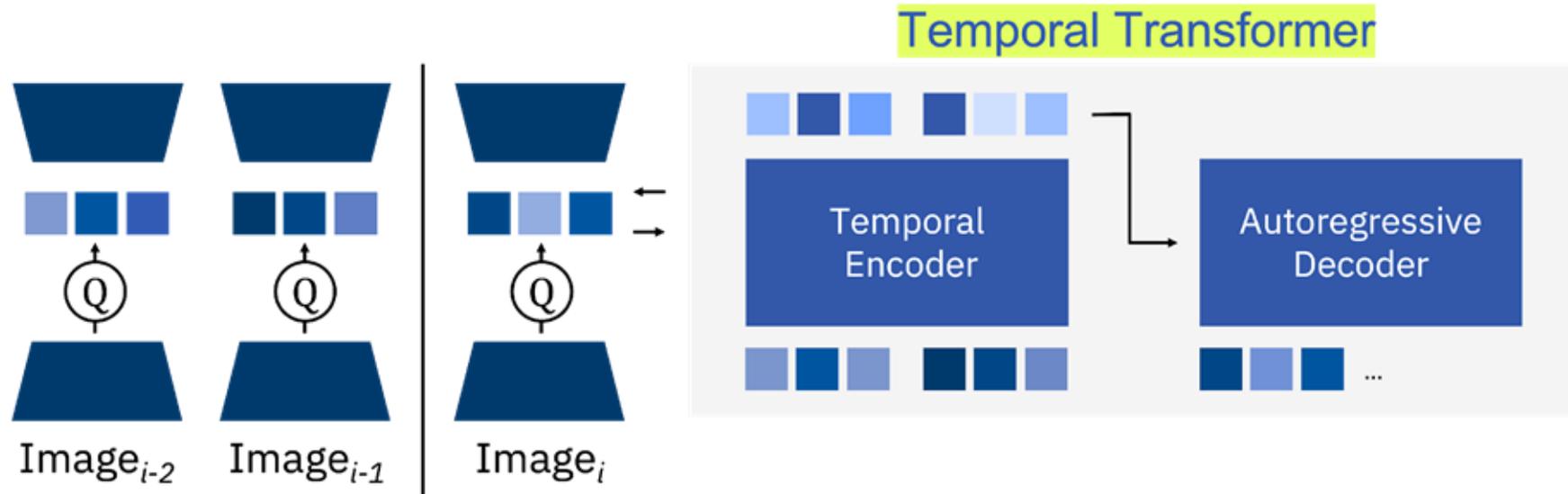


Credit: <https://element84.com/machine-learning/exploring-unsupervised-change-detection-with-sentinel-2-vector-embeddings/>

Crop Stress and Yield Prediction

TerraMind Embeddings for CDSE

Outlook Learned Temporal Compression for EO



TerraCodec Release:

First public neural codecs pretrained **on multi-spectral & multi-temporal** Sentinel-2 data.

#EUSpace



Linking space to user needs

Get in touch with us

www.euspa.europa.eu



EUSPA AI WEEK 2026

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Lossy Neural Compression for Geospatial Analytics

A review

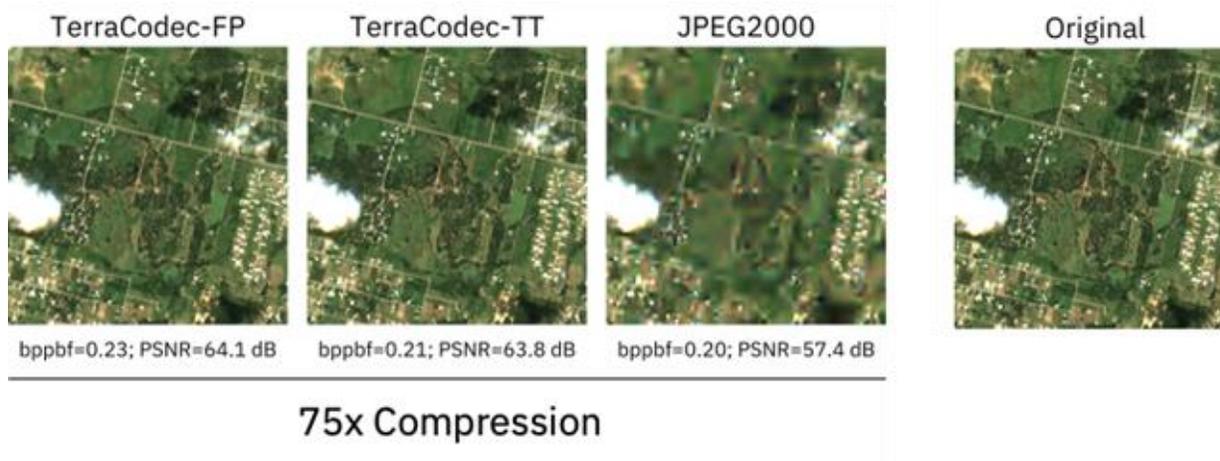
CARLOS GOMES[Ⓞ], ISABELLE WITTMANN[Ⓞ], DAMIEN ROBERT[Ⓞ], JOHANNES JAKUBIK[Ⓞ],
TIM REICHEL[Ⓞ], STEFANO MAUROGIOVANNI[Ⓞ], RIKARD VINGE[Ⓞ], JONAS HURST[Ⓞ],
ERIK SCHEURER[Ⓞ], ROCCO SEDONA[Ⓞ], THOMAS BRUNSCHWILER[Ⓞ], STEFAN KESSELHEIM[Ⓞ],
MATEJ BATIC[Ⓞ], PHILIP STIER[Ⓞ], JAN DIRK WEGNER[Ⓞ], GABRIELE CAVALLARO[Ⓞ], EDZER PEBESMA[Ⓞ],
MICHAEL MARZALEK[Ⓞ], MIGUEL A. BELENGUER-PLOMER[Ⓞ], KENNEDY ADRIKO[Ⓞ],
PAOLO FRACCARO[Ⓞ], ROMEO KIENZLER[Ⓞ], RANIA BRIQ[Ⓞ], SABRINA BENASSOU[Ⓞ],
MICHELE LAZZARINI[Ⓞ], AND CONRAD M. ALBRECHT[Ⓞ]

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Outlook TerraCodec Results

3-10x lower bitrate at equal image quality

Up to 380× compression with <1pp drop in task performance

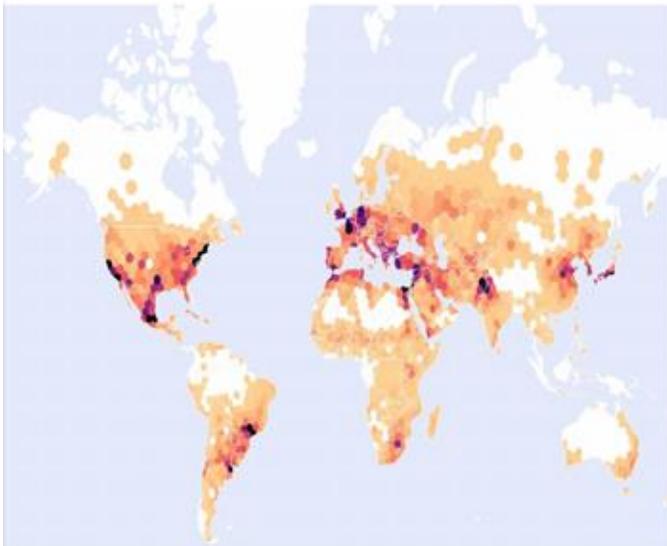


Compression	Sen1Floods11	
	mIoU	IoU _{Flood}
Original data	87.77	78.75
170×	87.31 (-0.46)	78.02 (-0.73)
380×	87.27 (-0.50)	77.97 (-0.78)
940×	86.76 (-1.01)	77.06 (-1.69)

Embed2Scale Datasets

SSL4EO-S12 v1.1

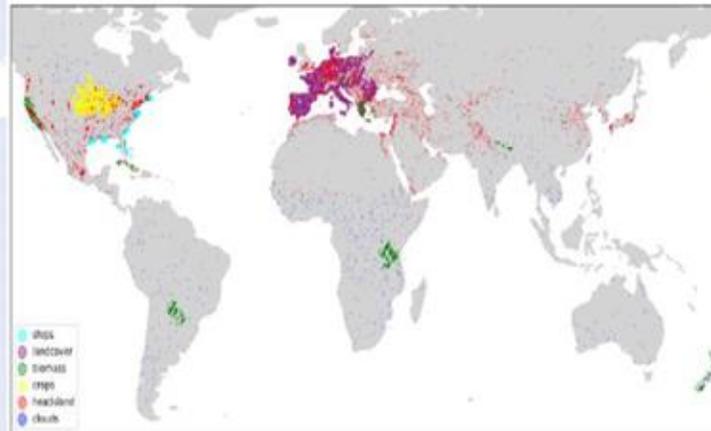
an update with bugs fixed, served in >2GB of cloud-computing-ready ZARR format with integration into *TerraTorch*



<https://github.com/DLR-MF-DAS/SSL4EO-S12-v1.1>

SSL4EO-S12-downstream

200GB of SSL4EO-S12 data labeled for a diverse set of classification and regression tasks relevant to WP4



<https://huggingface.co/datasets/embed2scale/SSL4EO-S12-downstream>

SSL4Eco

200GB of SSL4EO-S12 data labeled for a diverse set of classification and regression tasks relevant to WP4



<https://github.com/PlekhanovaElena/ssl4eco>

Open-Source Model Zoo

- **GeoFE** (CVPR data challenge winner) <https://github.com/torchgeo/torchgeo/pull/2868>
- **FMFuse** (CVPR data challenge runner-up) <https://github.com/KerekesDavid/embed2scale-solution>
- **Temp-MOSAIKS** (CVPR data challenge) <https://github.com/isaaccorley/temporal-mosaiks>

- **SeCo-Eco** (SSL4Eco top model) <https://github.com/PlekhanovaElena/ssl4eco>
- **GSR4B** (biomass super-resolution) <https://github.com/kaankaramanofficial/GSR4B>

- **GSQ4EO** (in-house ViT tokenizer) <https://github.com/embed2scale/GSQ4EO>
- **S2-JEPA** (in-house, I-JEPA for Sentinel-2) *to be open-sourced*

- **TerraCodec** (in-house timeseries compression) *to be open-sourced*

Crop Stress and Yield Prediction

- Use county-level mean embeddings for the yield prediction (regression task).
- Baseline model used multimodality, so unfair comparison with Clay and Prithvi.
- However, we see comparable performance with AlphaEarth embeddings.

