

# Urban Impervious Surface Change in Central and Eastern Europe Mapped Using Global Land Survey Data

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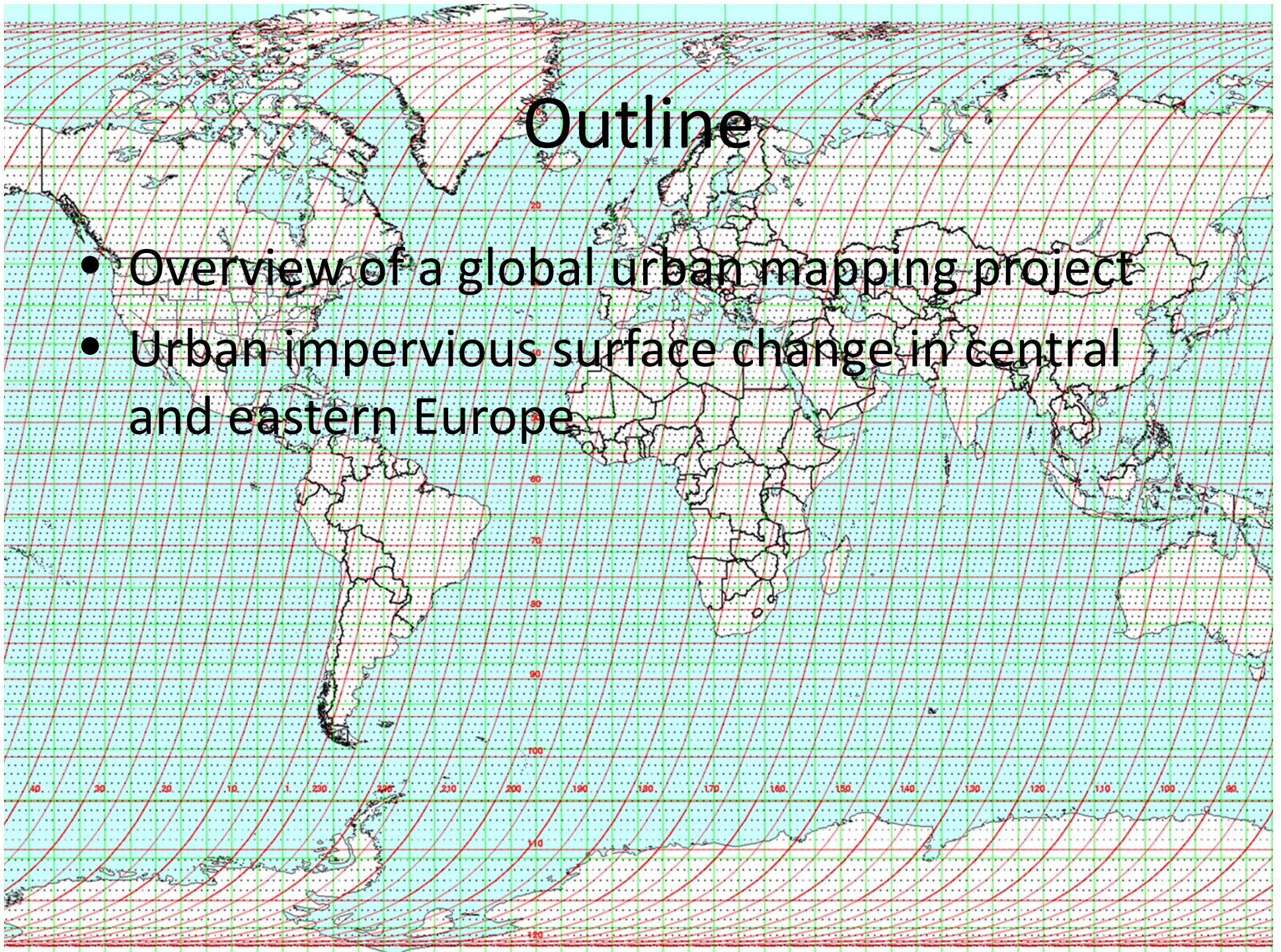
4 Univ. Space Research Assoc., NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

LCLUC Science Team Meeting, Sopron,  
Hungary, October 16-22, 2014



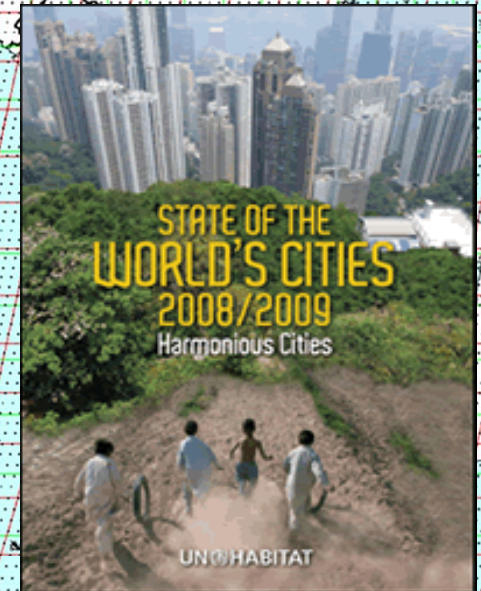
# Outline

- Overview of a global urban mapping project
- Urban impervious surface change in central and eastern Europe



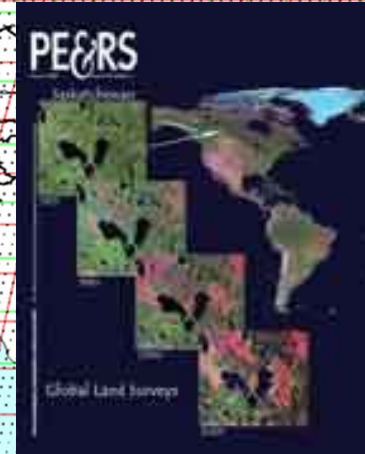
## Need for Global Urban Monitoring

- Though small “footprint”, urban more relevant to human society than other LULC types
  - Home to > 50% of population since 2008
  - Where most economic activities occur
  - Urbanization is a dramatic, mostly irreversible change
  - Urban consumption drives LCLUC globally
- Continental to global studies are lacking
  - Most urban studies are local
  - Existing global datasets too coarse

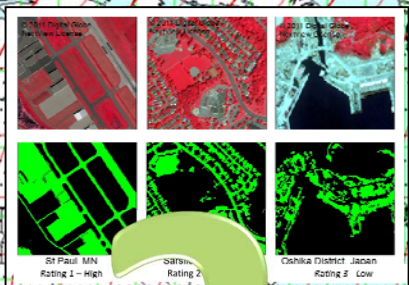


# Using Landsat Global Land Survey Data to Measure and Monitor Worldwide Urbanization – a LCLUC Project

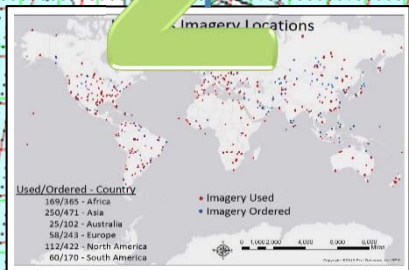
- Possible with newly available global data sets
  - Global Land Survey (GLS) Landsat datasets
    - Circa 1975, 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010
  - Meter resolution datasets from NGA
- Goals are to
  - Use the GLS Landsat data set to develop global, fine resolution % impervious cover maps for circa 2000 and 2010.
  - Detect and map global urbanization ‘hot-spots’ for the 2000-2010 period.



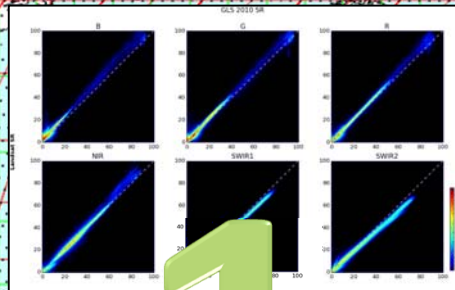
# Overall Approach



Meter resolution  
training data



2



MODIS-1 surface  
reflectance



1



Open Street  
Map



Urban  
mask

4

Regression  
Tree Model



3

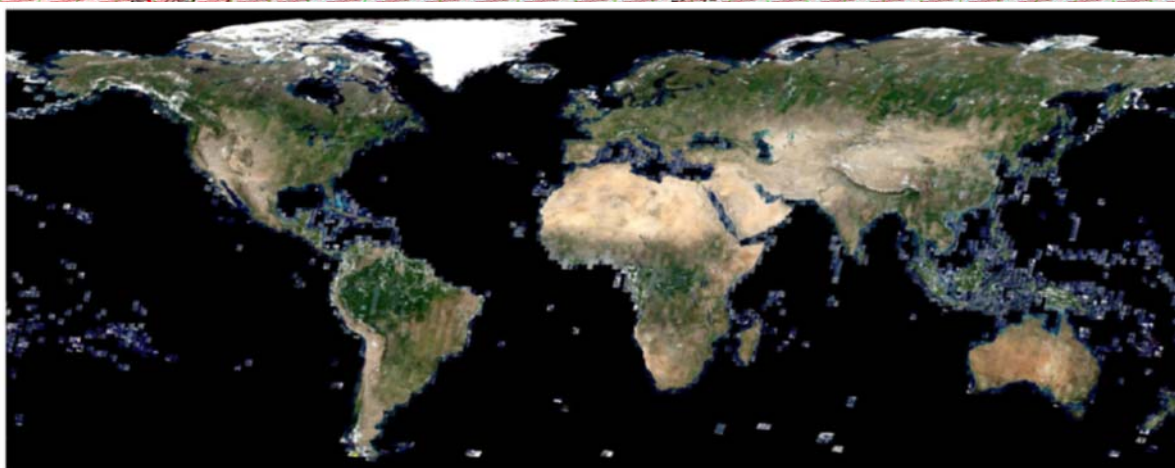


Urban  
change  
hotspots

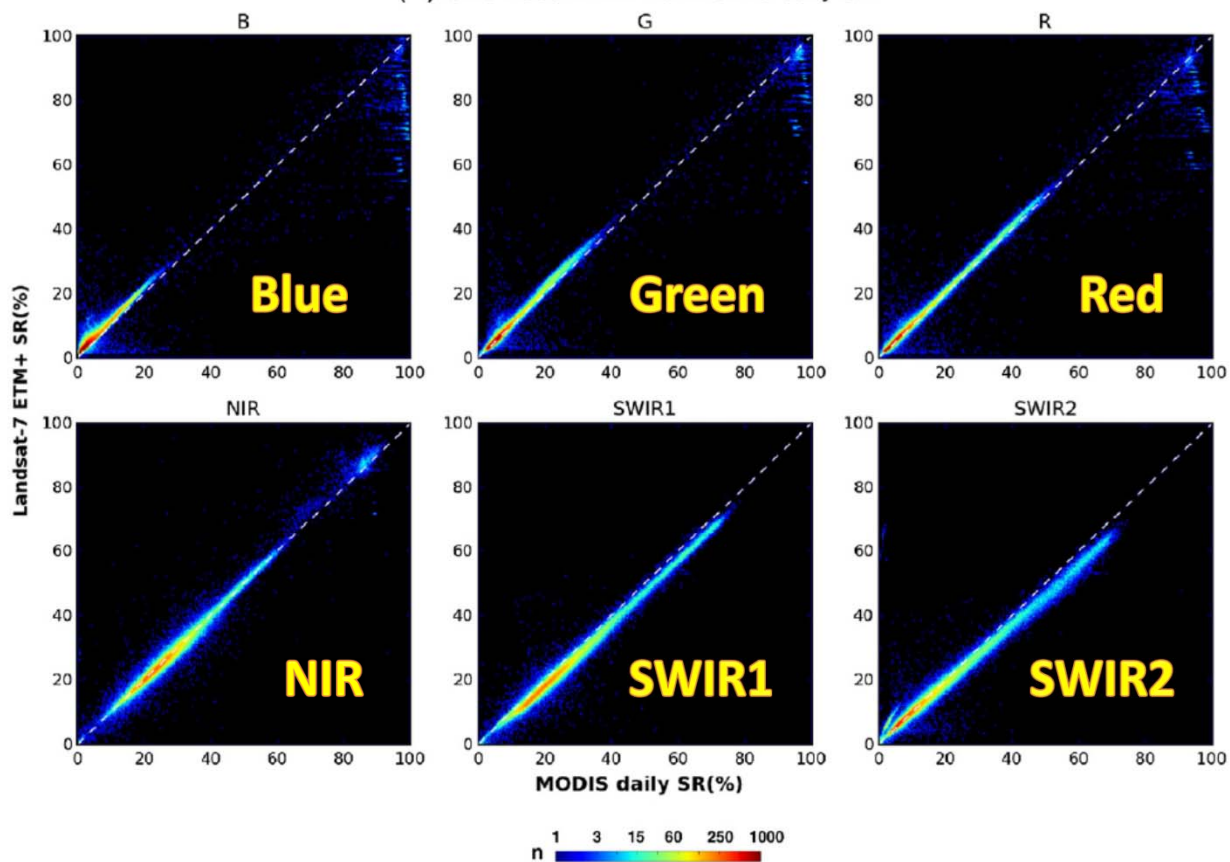
# 1. Global Landsat Surface Reflectance (2000)

- Derived using LEDAPS
- Comparable with MODIS data

(Feng et al, 2013)

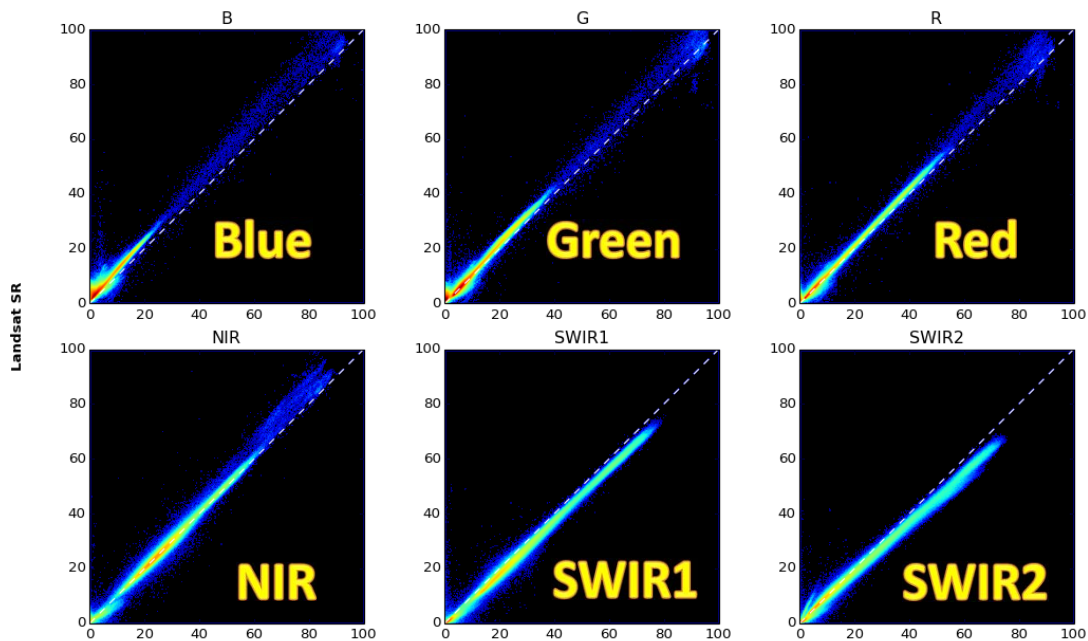


(A) GLS 2000 ETM+ vs. MODIS daily SR

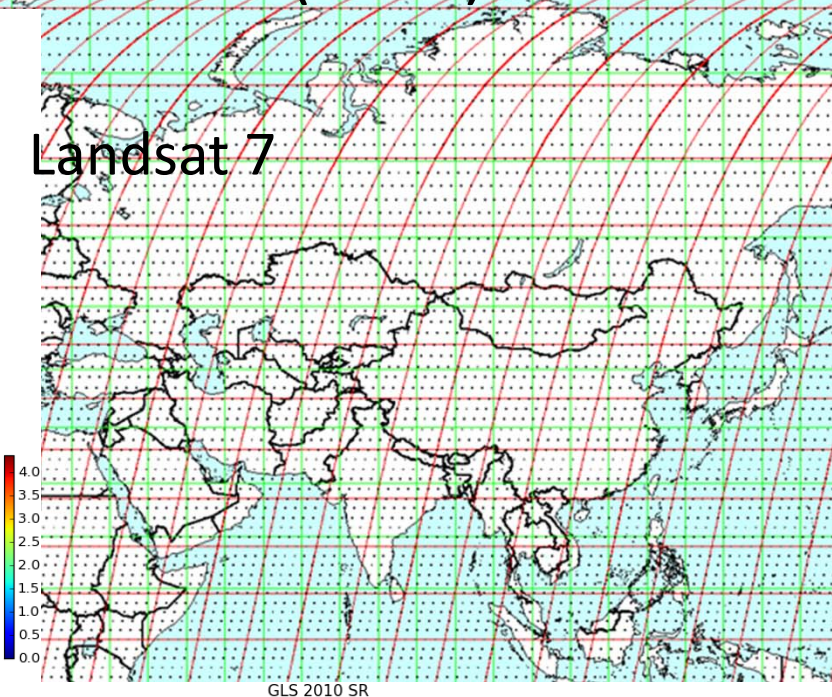


# MODIS-Like Surface Reflectance (2010)

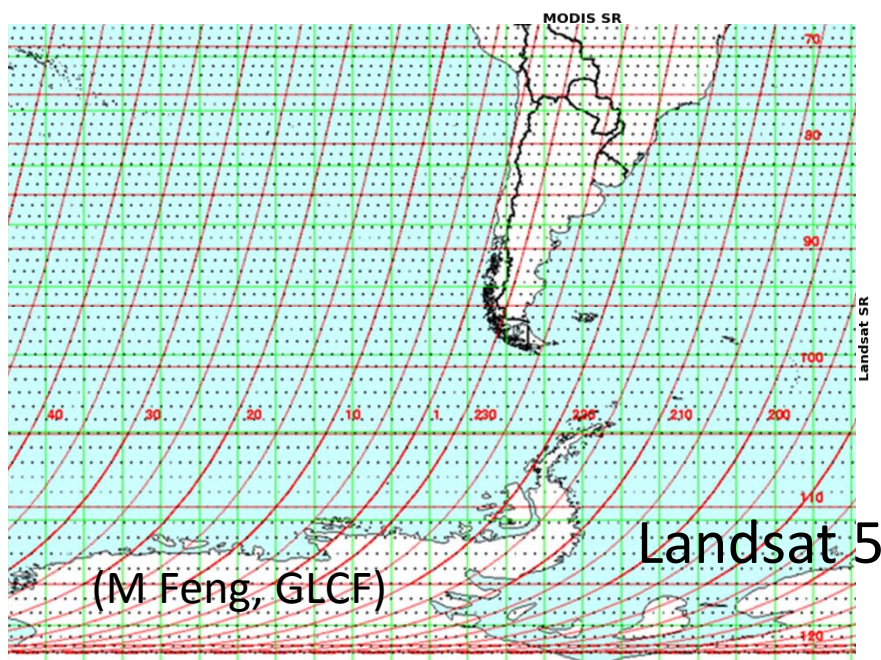
GLS 2010 SR



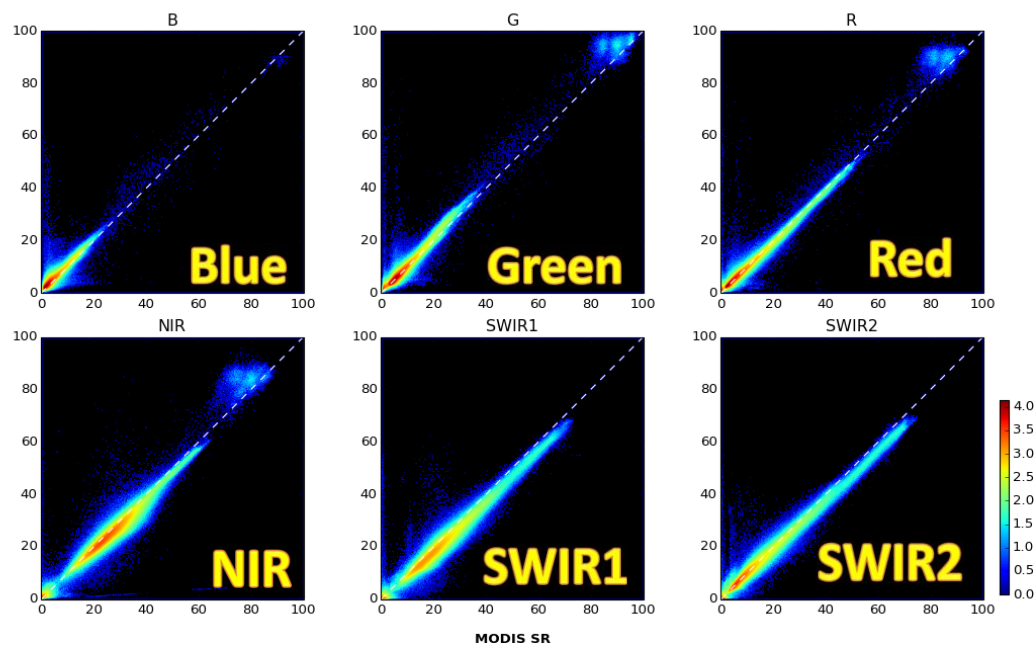
Landsat 7



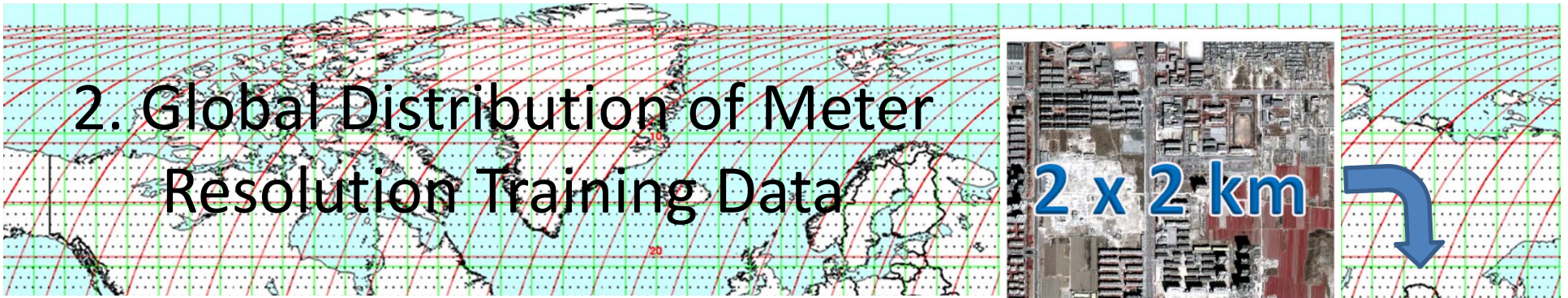
GLS 2010 SR



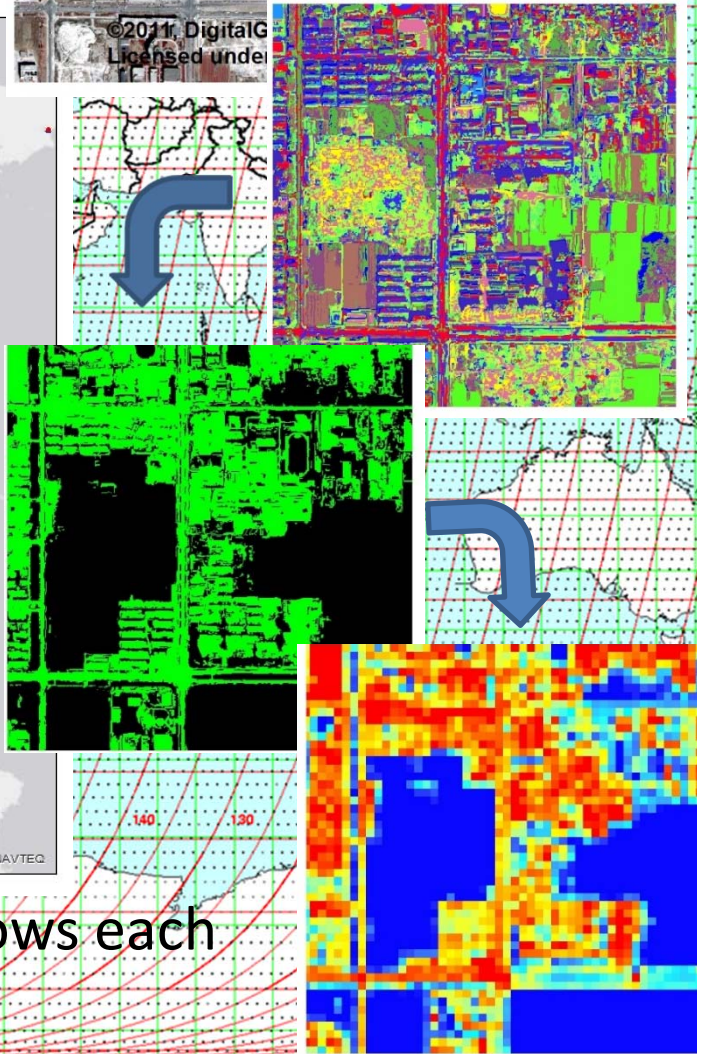
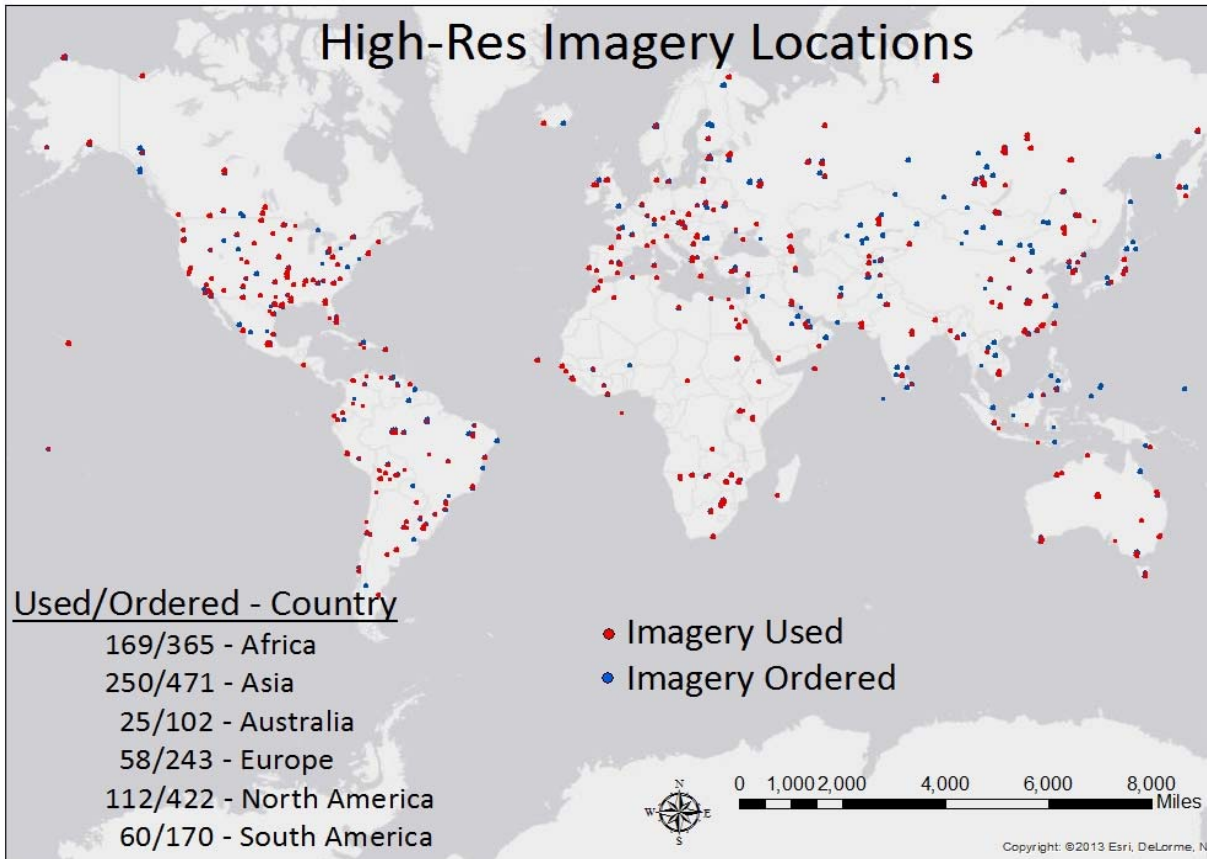
Landsat 5



## 2. Global Distribution of Meter Resolution Training Data



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Training sites distributed in 674 cities, 3 windows each site for low, medium, high density urban



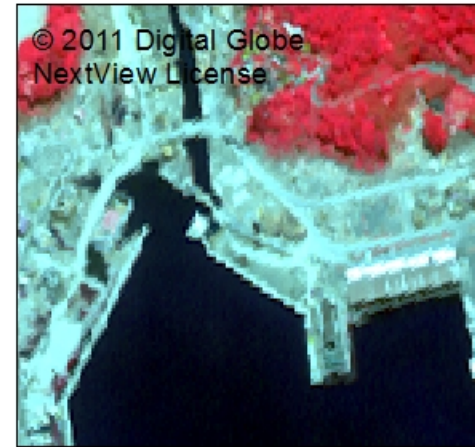
# Quality Checking of Training Data



St Paul, MN  
Rating 1 – High



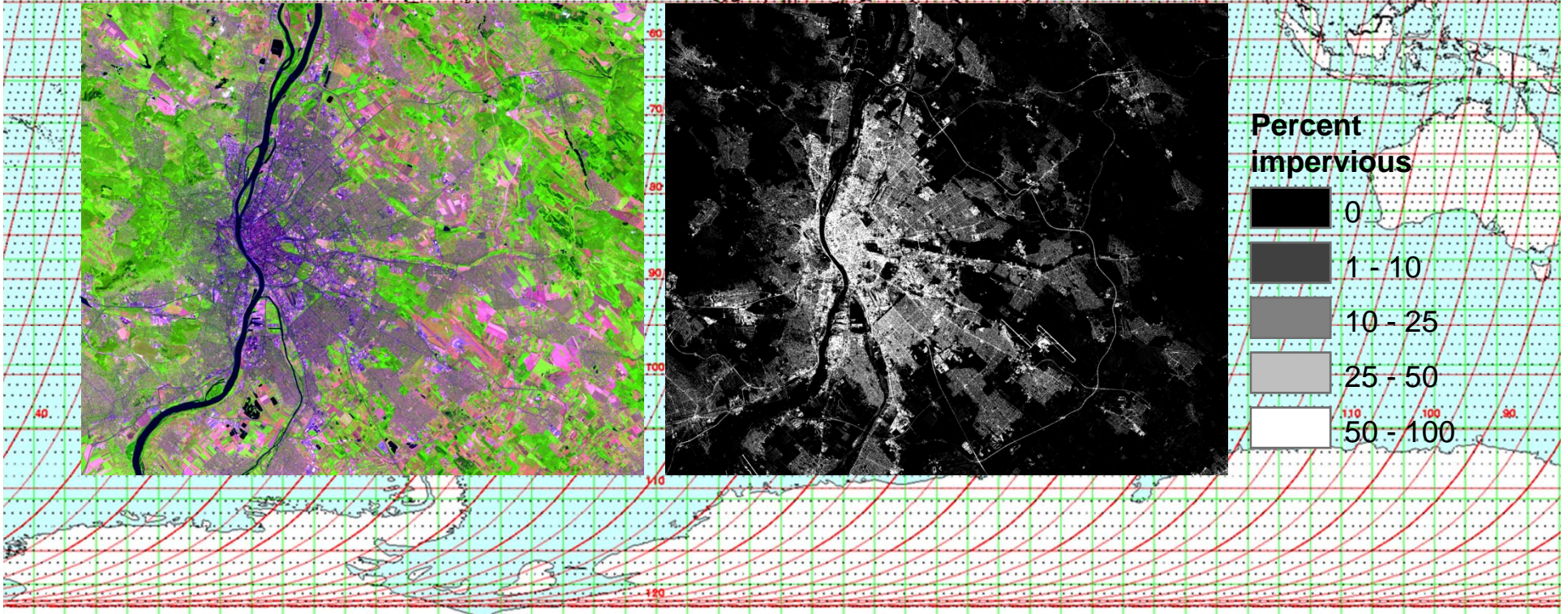
Sarsfield, Canada  
Rating 2 – Moderate



Oshika District, Japan  
Rating 3 - Low

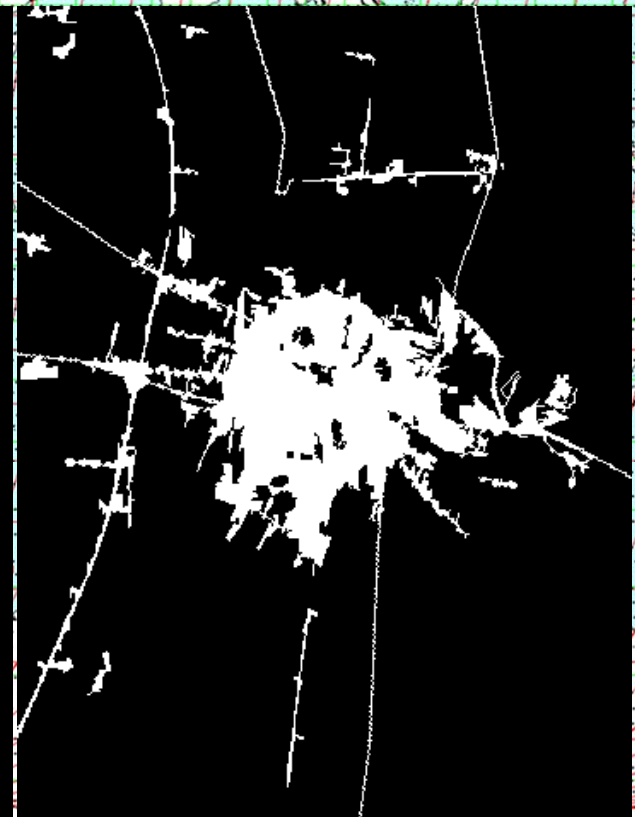
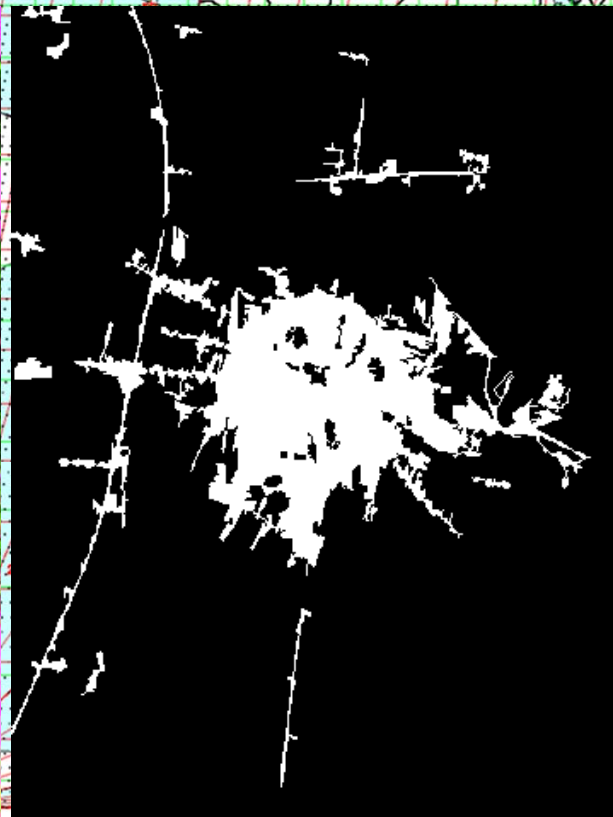
# 3. Percent Impervious Surface Modeling

- Using regression tree
  - Can model complex, nonlinear relationships
  - **Cubist**, Random Forest



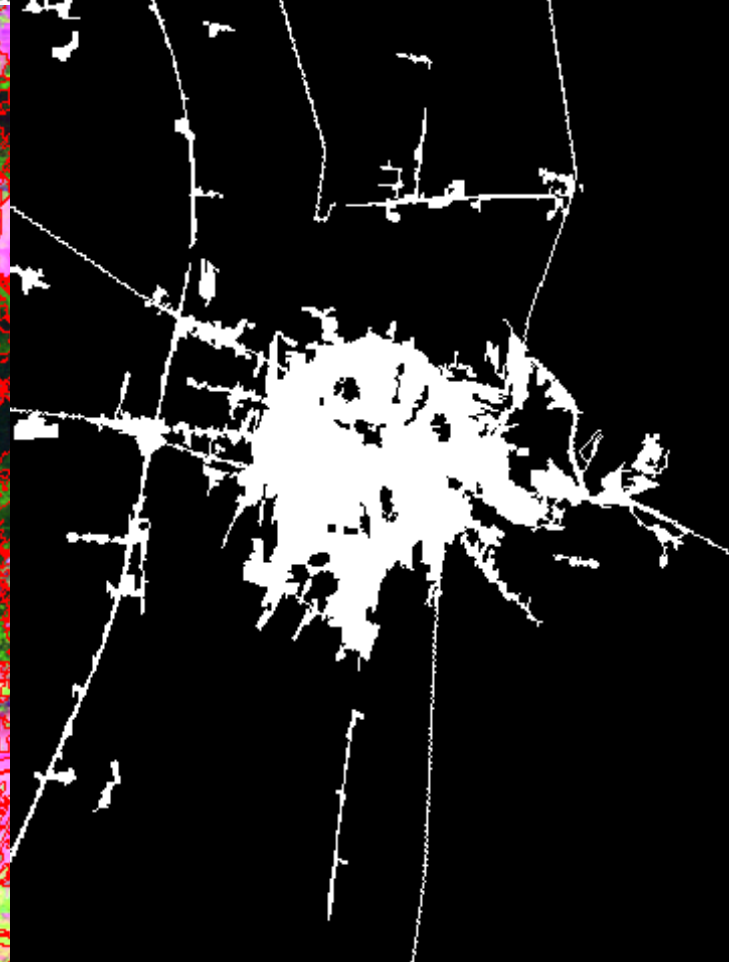
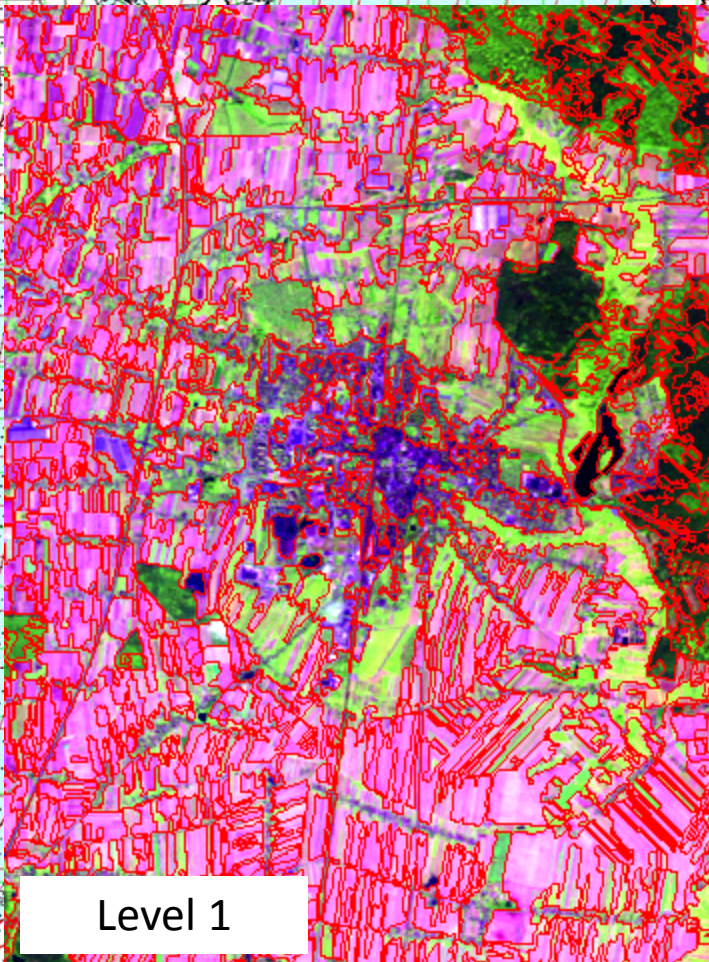
## 4. Urban Area Mask

- Many nonurban surfaces spectrally similar to urban
- Need to mask out, only model within urban mask
- Created using multiple sources
  - Segmentation-texture based classification
  - Open street map to get roads
  - Nightlight (too coarse)



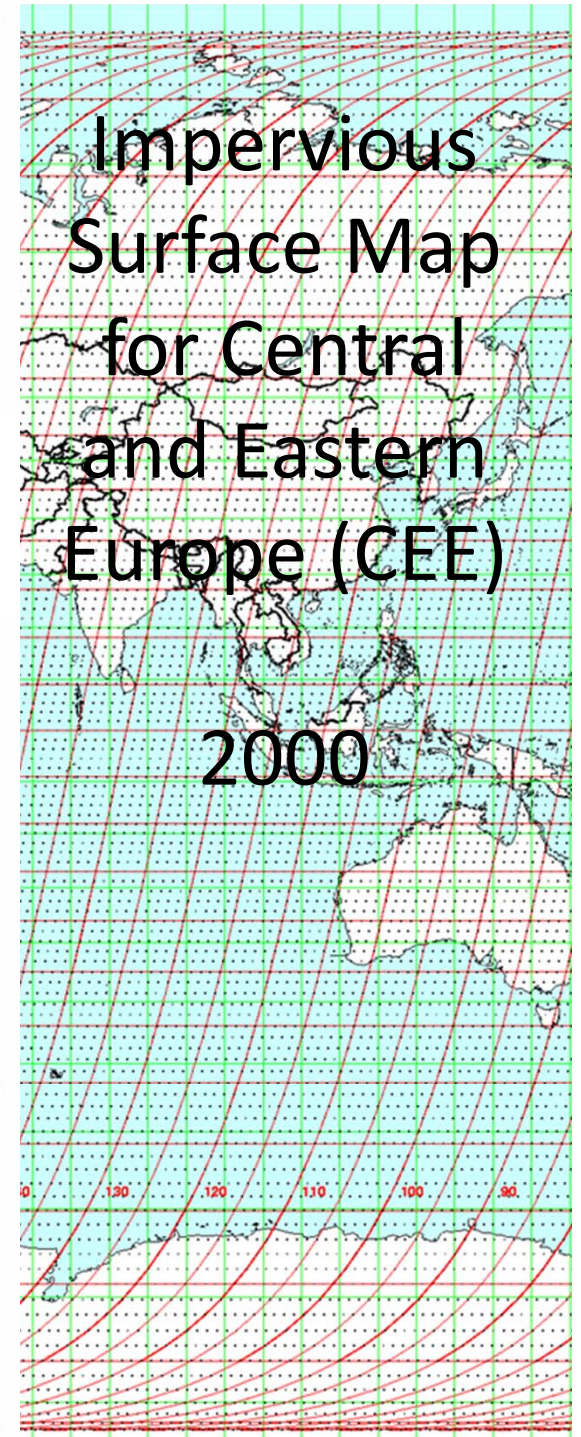
# Hierarchical Segmentation (Hseg)

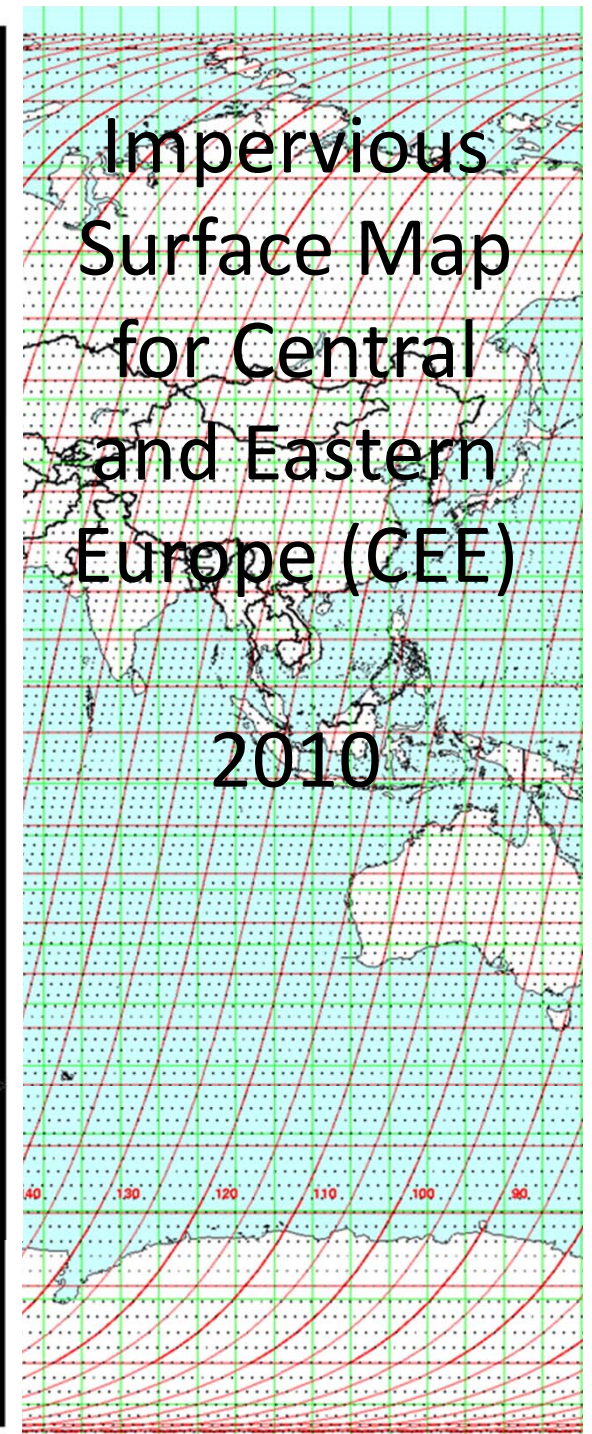
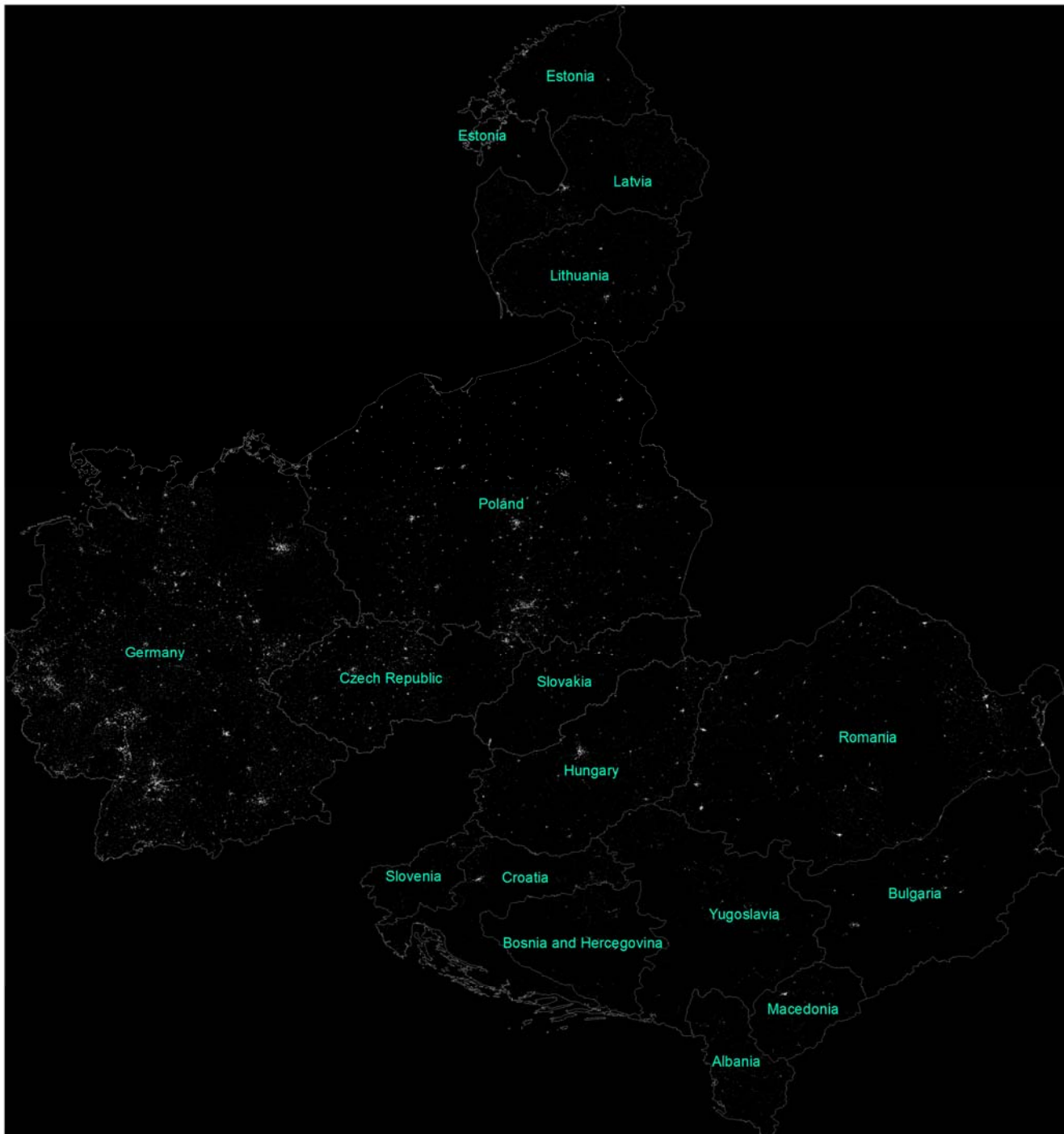
- Developed by Jim Tilton of NASA/GSFC
- Lots of improvements during this project

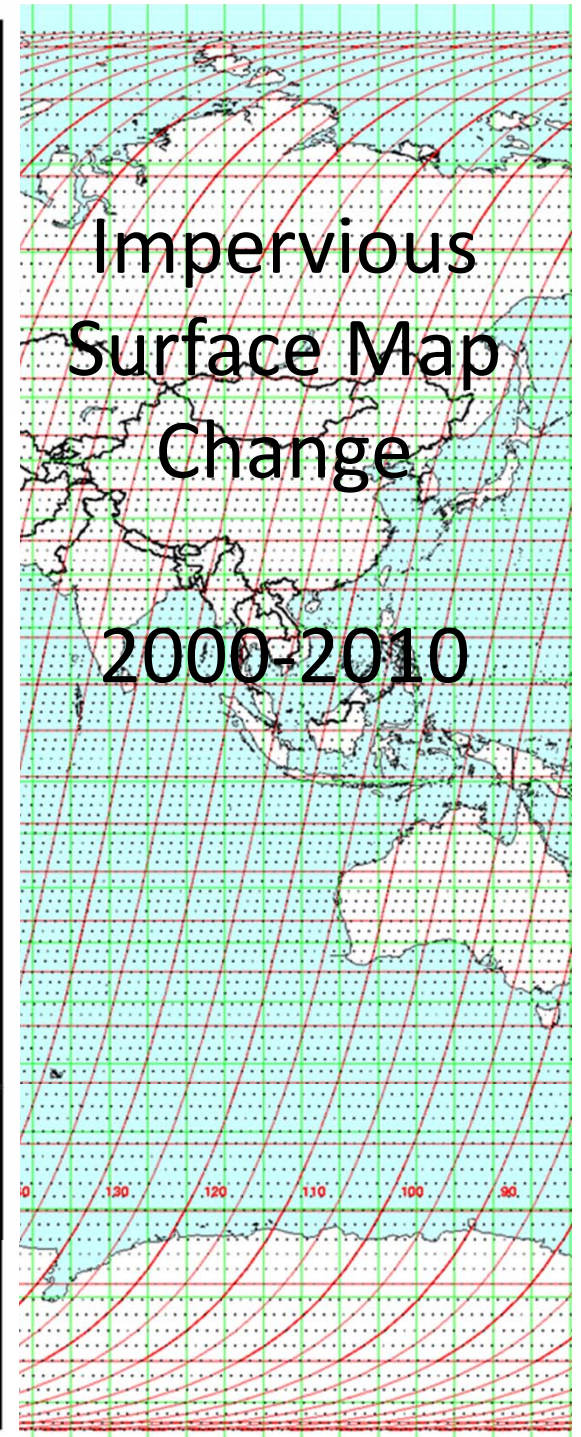


# Use of Cloud Computing Critical

- Large data volume
  - ~20000 Landsat images -> ~20 TB inputs
- Hseg CPU intensive
  - Segmentating 1 image takes ~1 hour on a 64-CPU cluster
- Use NASA DISCOVER supercomputer system
  - 439,600 CPU hours used so far

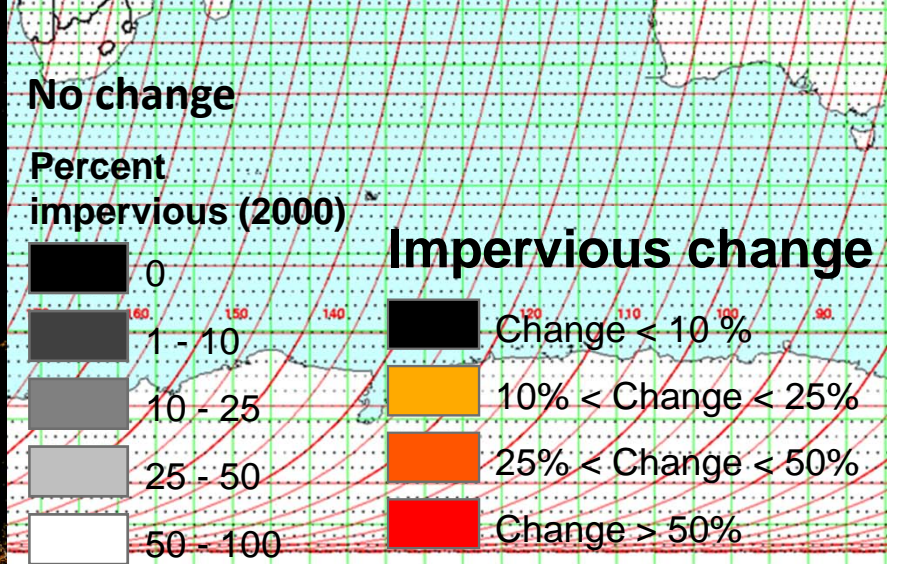
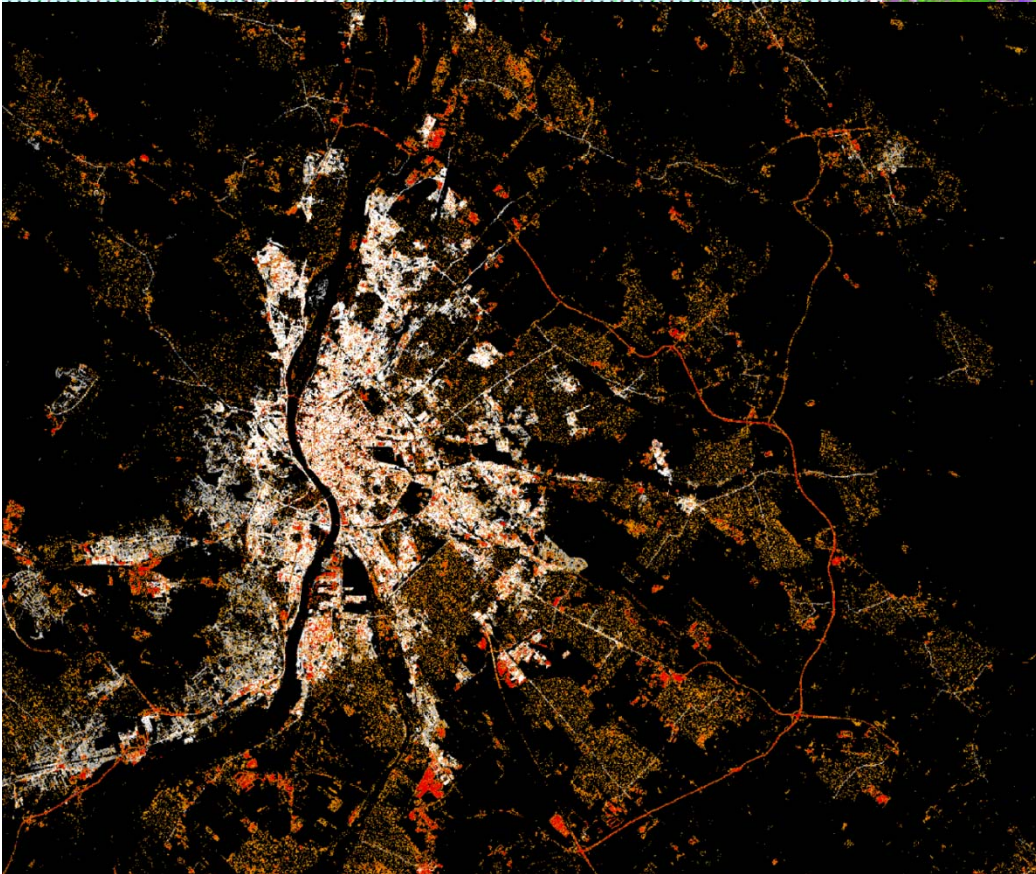
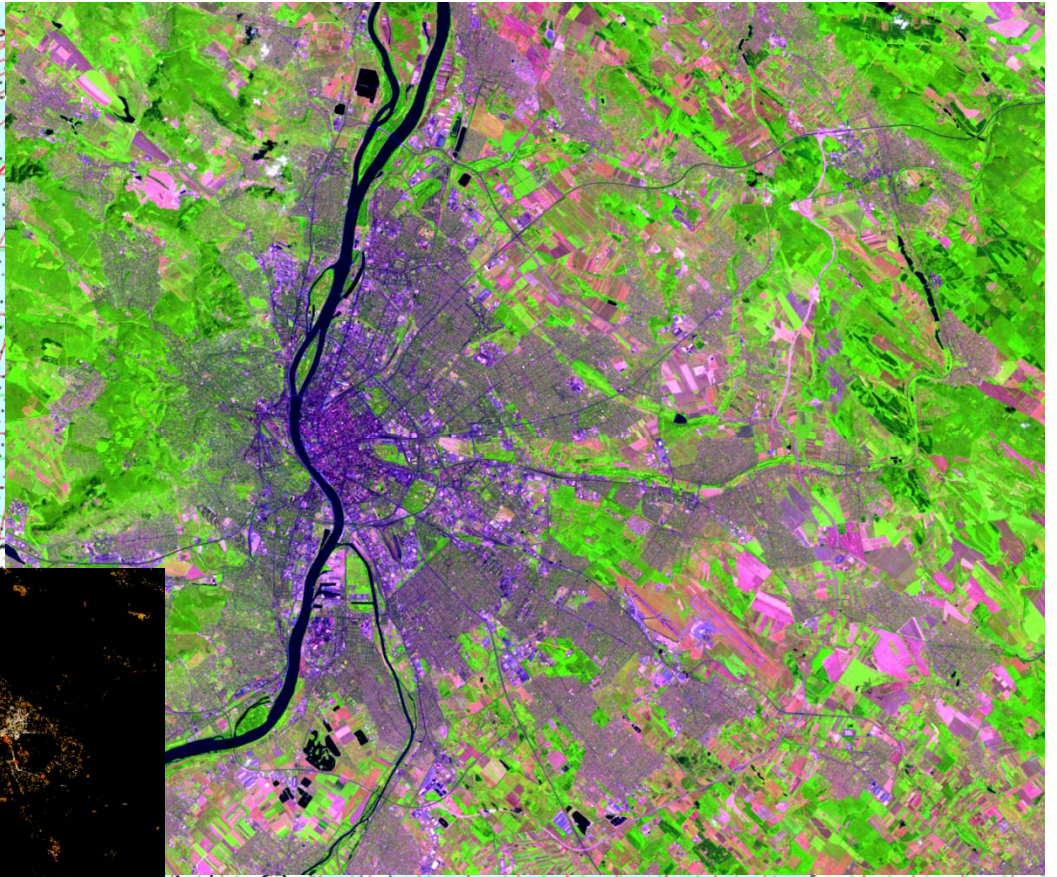
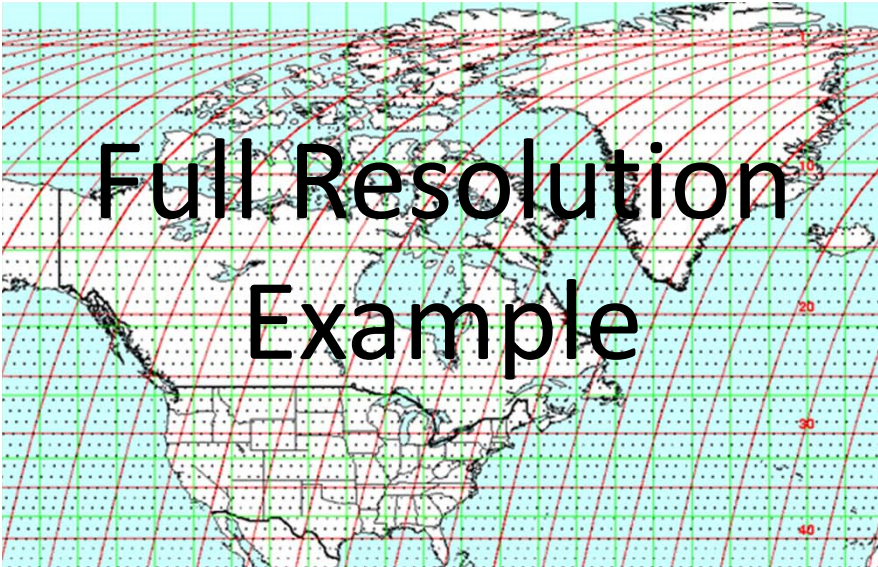








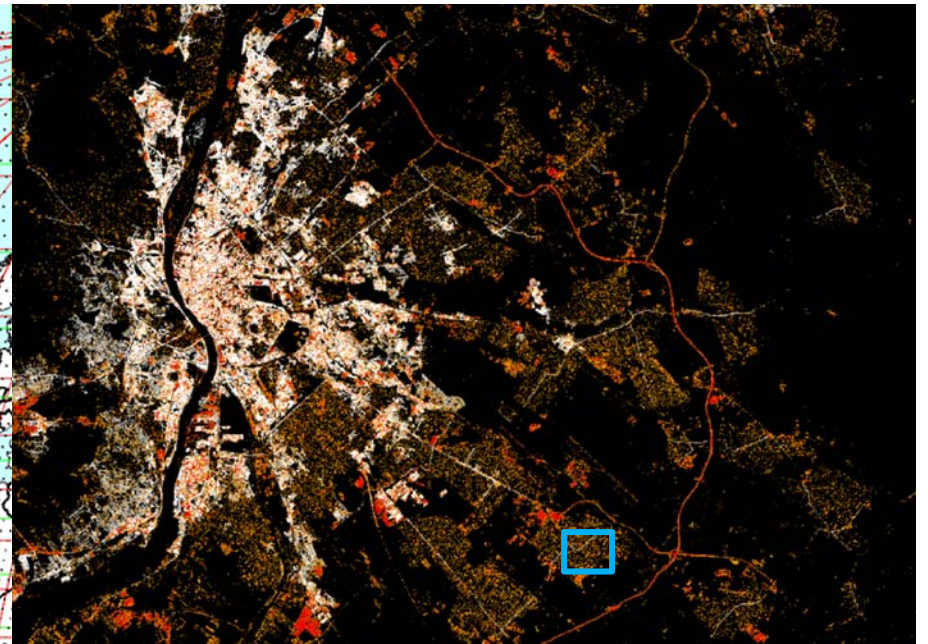
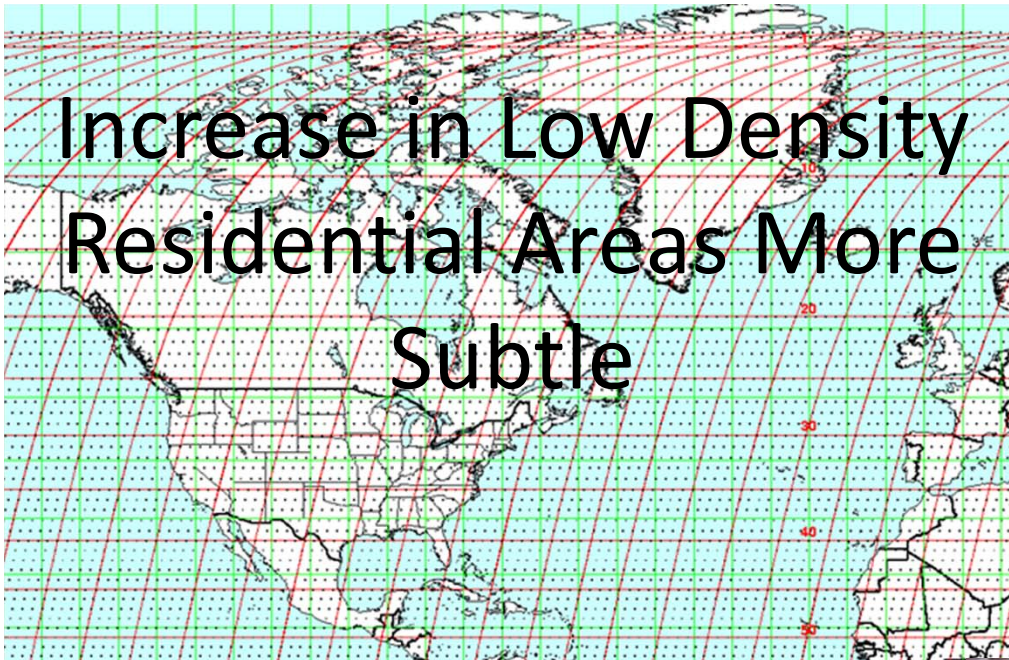
# Full Resolution Example



# New Development Easy to Validate using Google Earth



# Increase in Low Density Residential Areas More Subtle



Imagery D2001 5/31/2002 47°31'56.55" N 19°24'28.91" E elev 634 ft eye alt 1212 ft

Imagery D2001 8/22/2011 47°31'56.55" N 19°24'28.91" E elev 634 ft eye alt 1212 ft

# Urban Growth by Country

Urban Growth (sq km)

50  
40  
30  
20  
10  
0

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Germany

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Hungary

Romania

Bulgaria

Slovenia

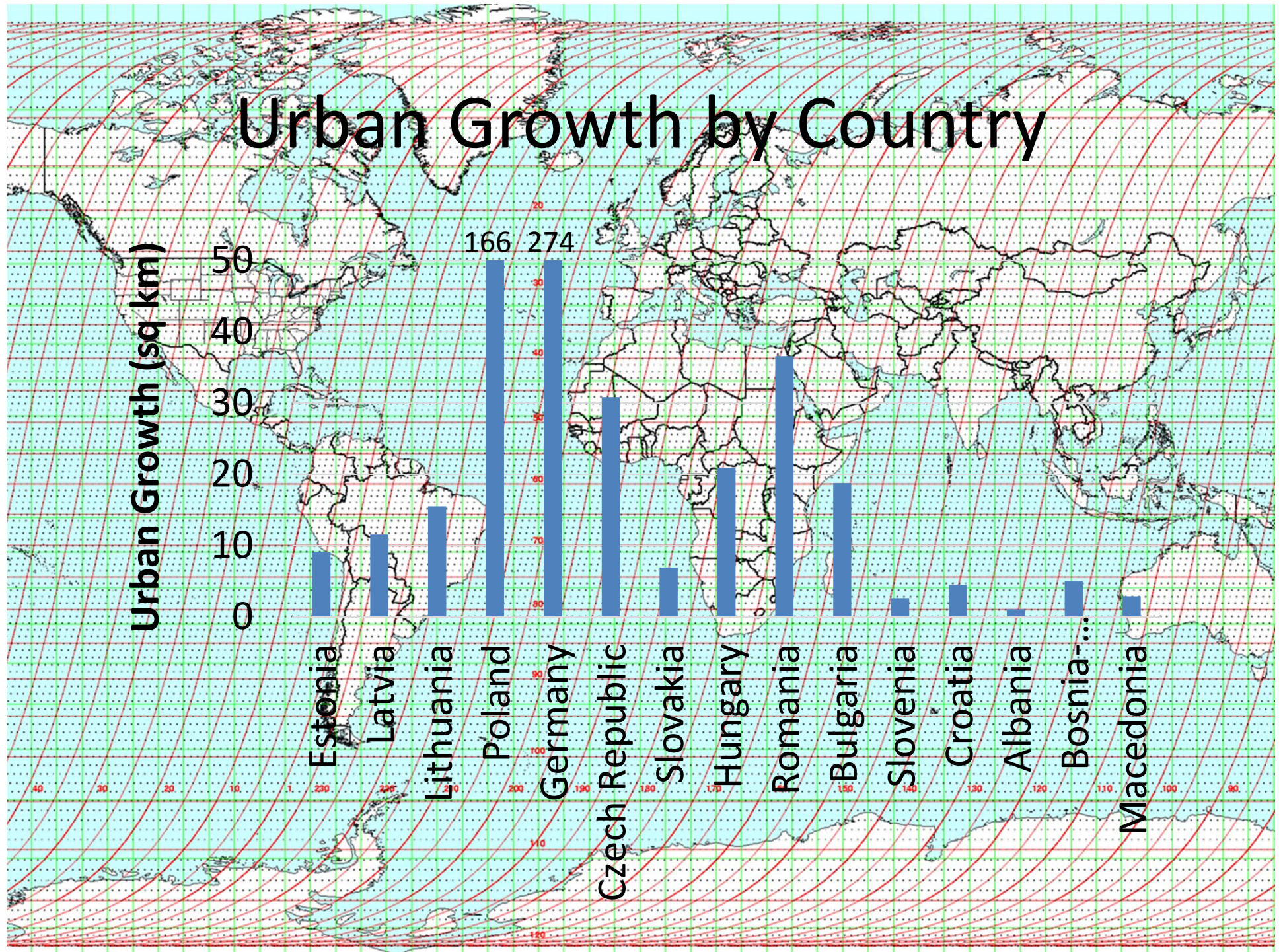
Croatia

Albania

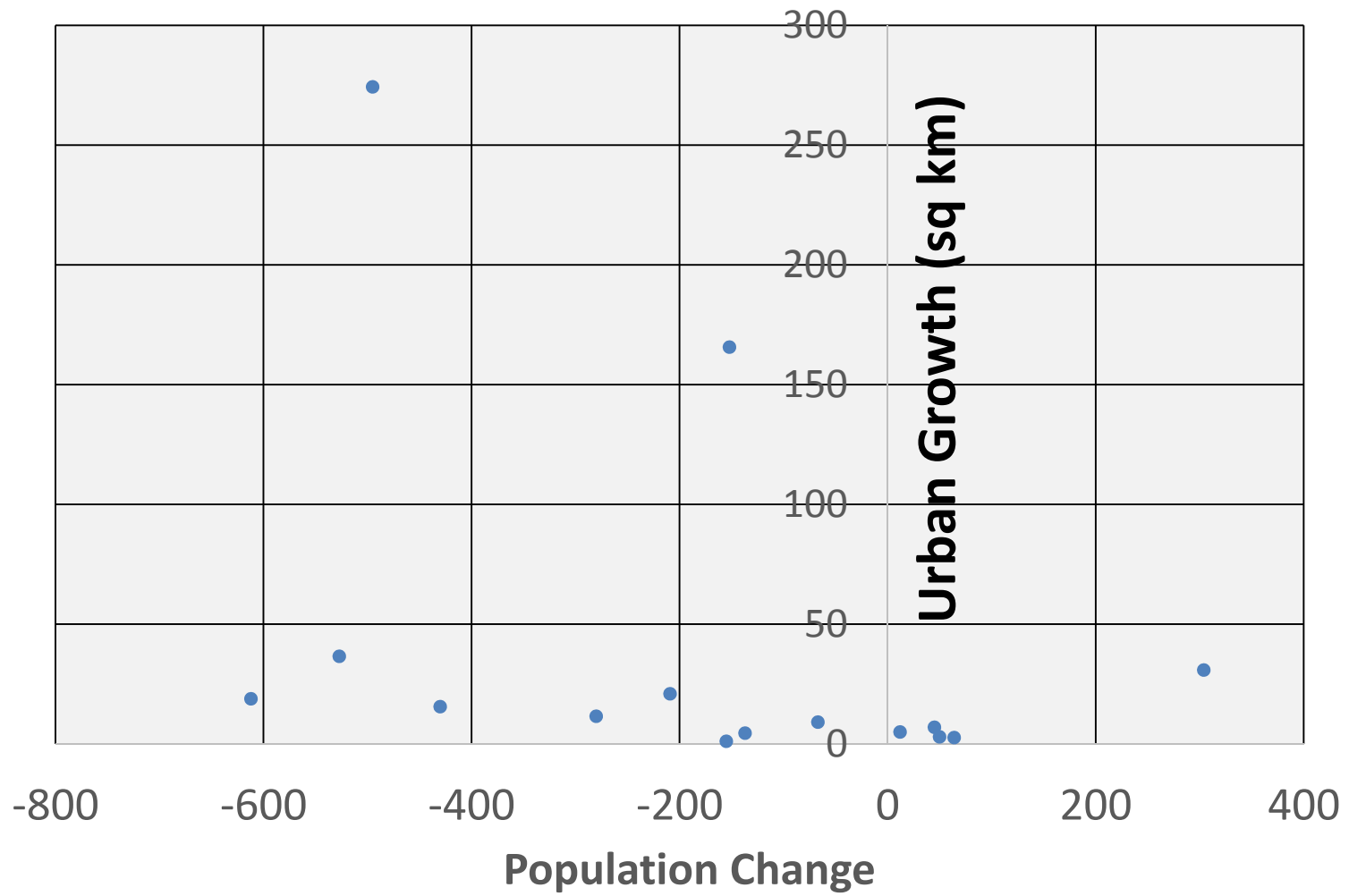
Bosnia-...

Macedonia

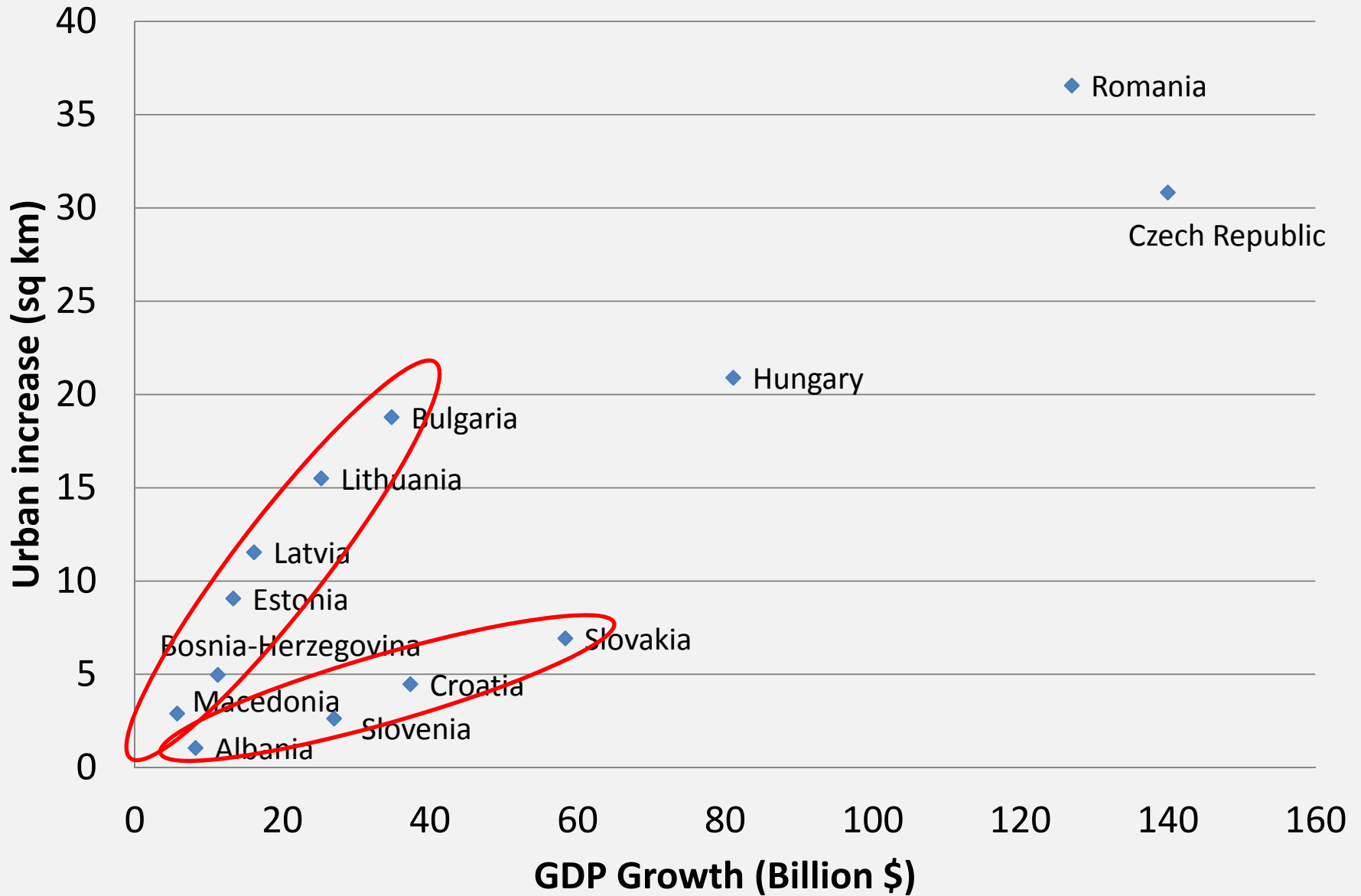
166 274



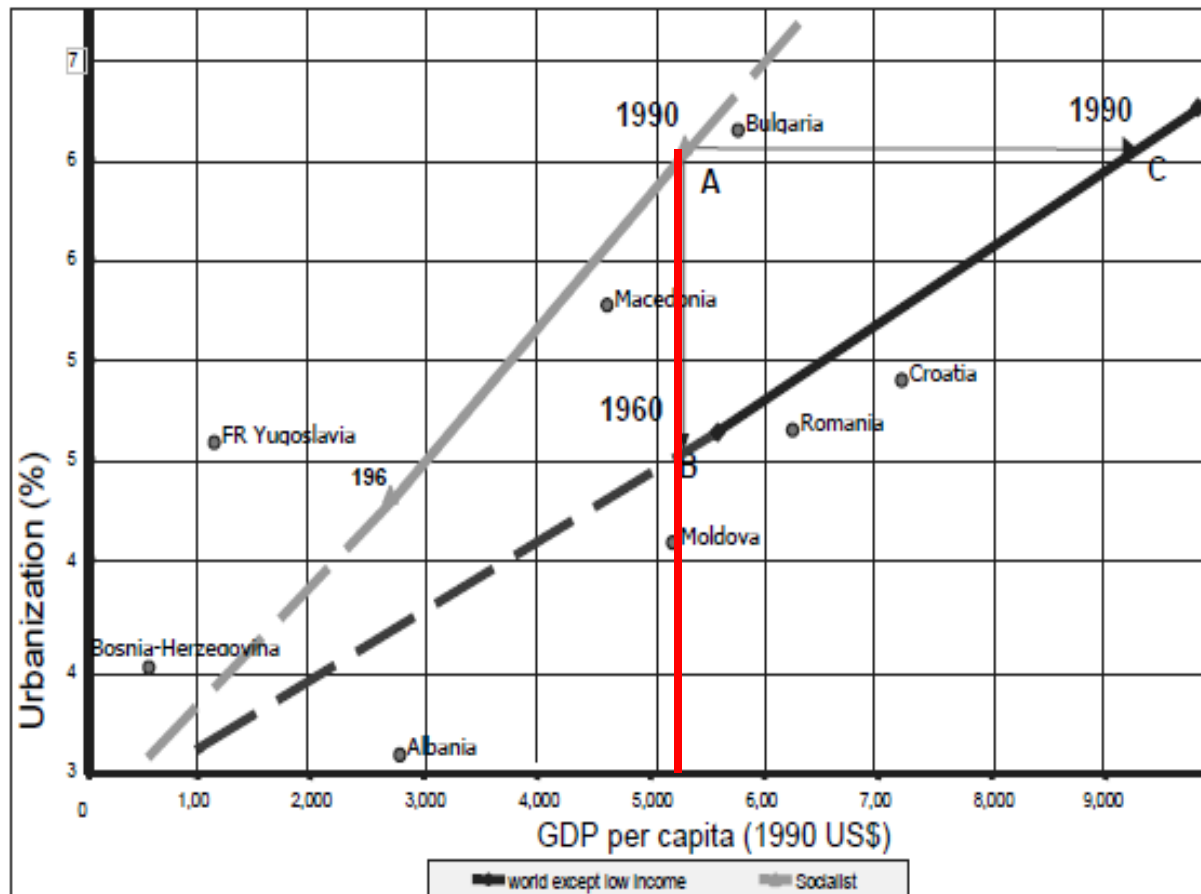
# Is Urban Growth Related to Population Growth?



# Is Urban Growth Related to Economic Development?

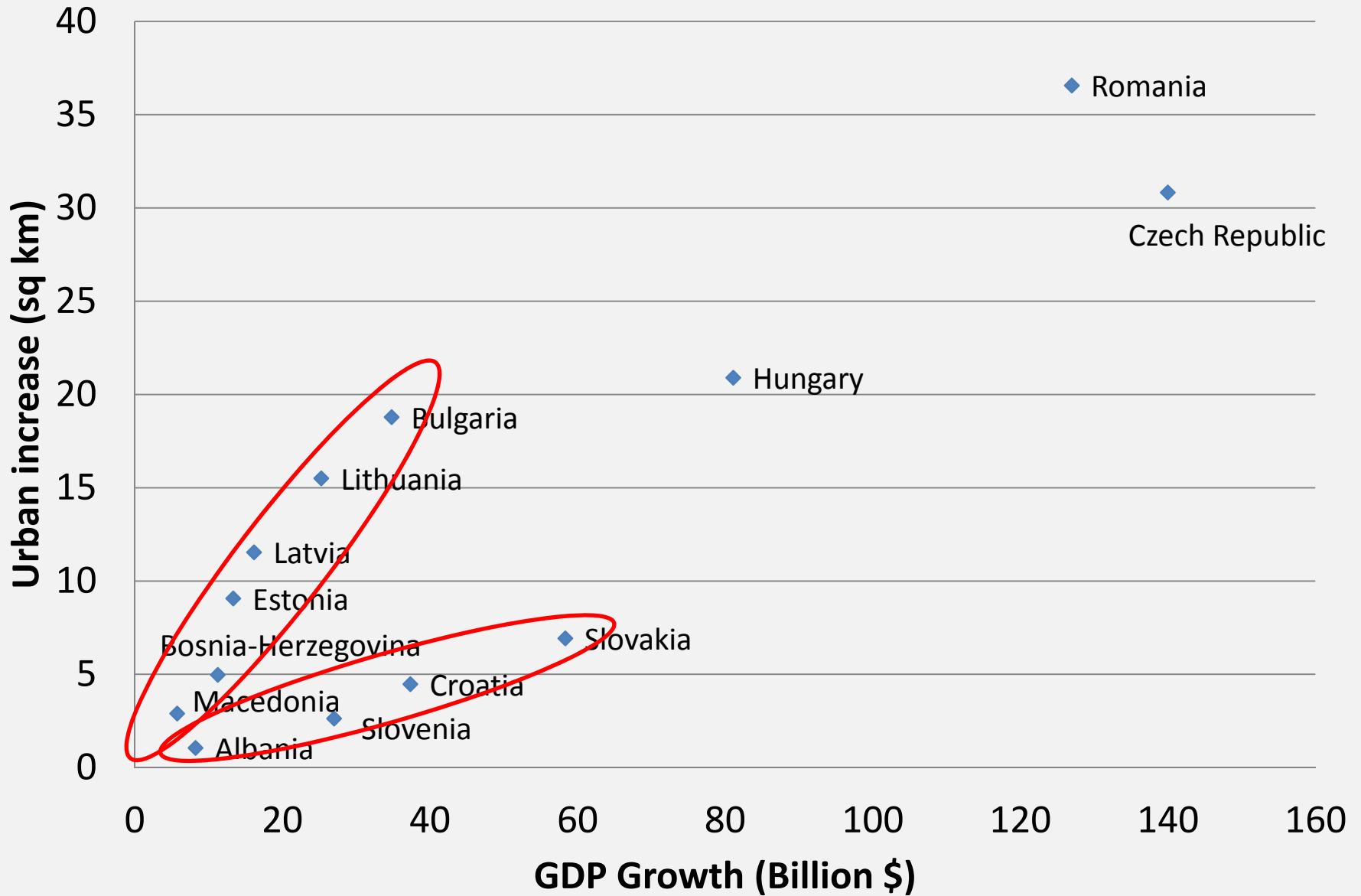


# Urbanization-GDP Relationships Affected by Pre-1990 Urbanization History



“The emphasis on industrialization and urbanization during socialism has caused the dual imbalance of ‘overindustrialization’ and ‘over-urbanization’ that affects much of the region today.” (Tzenkova, 2006)

# Is Urban Growth Related to Economic Development?





# Summary

- Global urban change mapping
  - Subpixel impervious estimation at 30m necessary
  - Need to address many challenges in global assessment
    - Globally distributed, meter-resolution training data
    - Complex, nonlinear relationships modeled using regression tree
    - Hierarchical segmentation and texture for nonurban masking
    - Supercomputing/cloud computing essential
- CEE urban change
  - Highly variable among CEE countries
  - Correlated with GDP increase, but not population change
    - Relationships affected by pre-2000 urbanization/development