



## Deep Learning for Rapid Landslide Detection using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Datacubes



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*\*Equal Contribution*



NeurIPS 2022 Workshop  
Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning



# Climate Change AI

Image credit: CapellaSpace

Google Cloud



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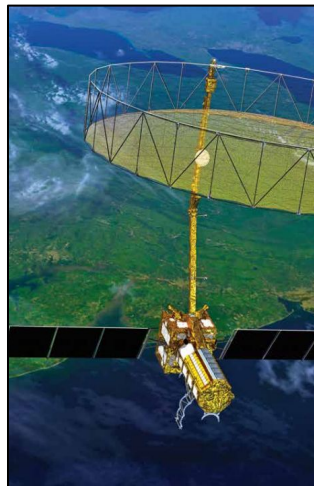
# INTRODUCTION

## Landslide change detection using SAR images with Deep Learning

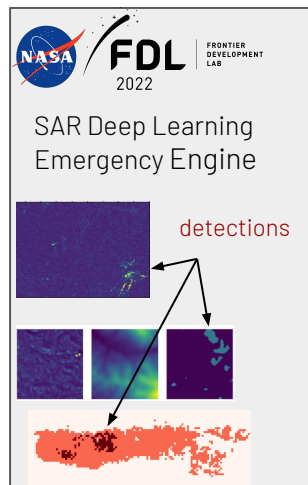
### LANDSLIDE



NEXT REVISIT  
SENTINEL-1/ NISAR  
day or night any weather any clouds



### LANDSLIDE MAPPING

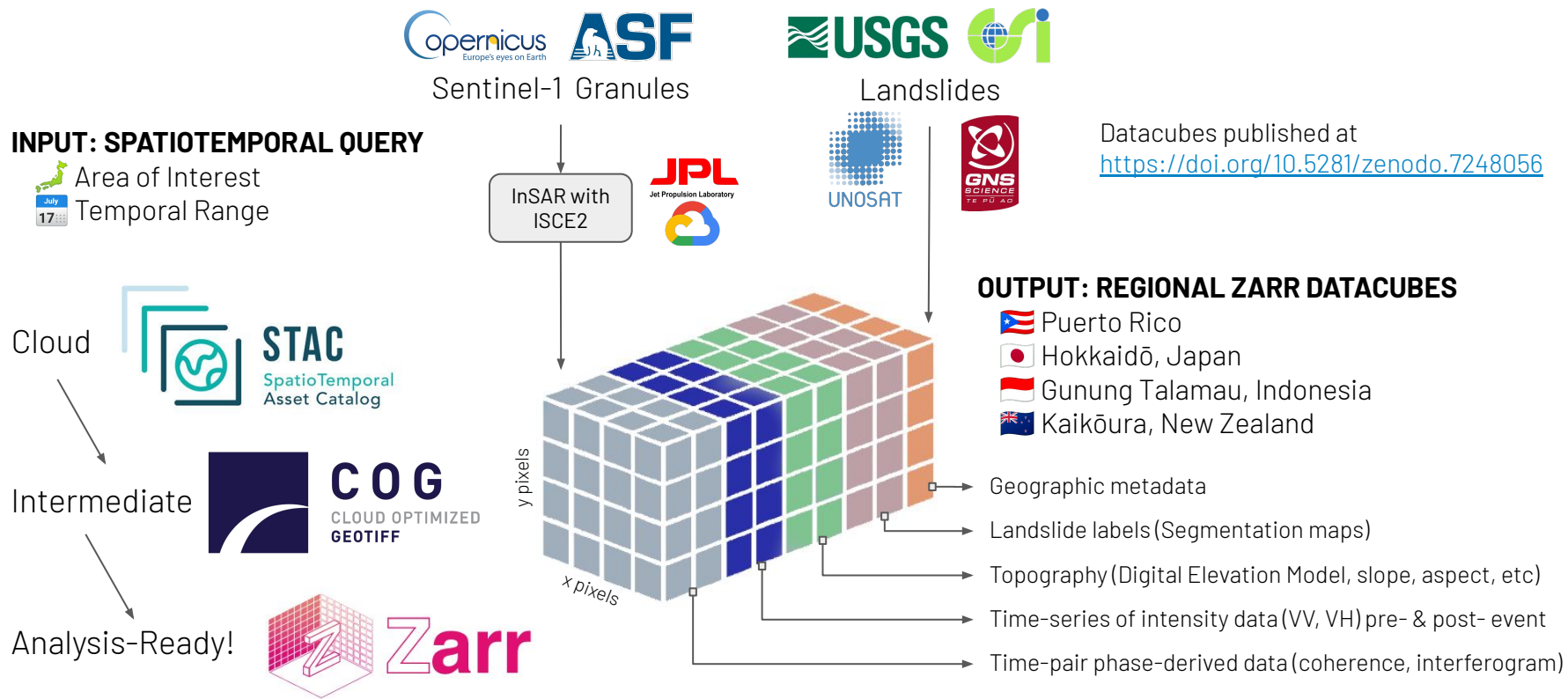


### EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS



Rapid Assessment of Disaster from Space

# Analysis ready SAR Datacubes





# Experiments

## Hokkaidō dataset

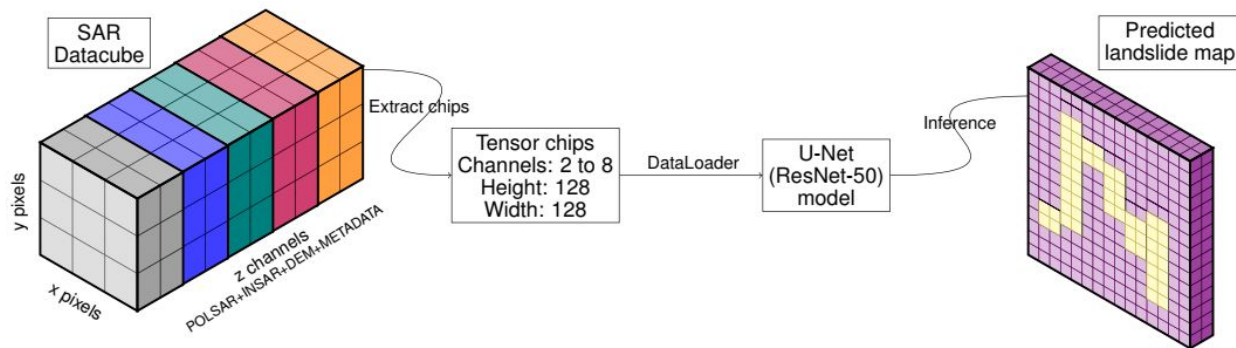
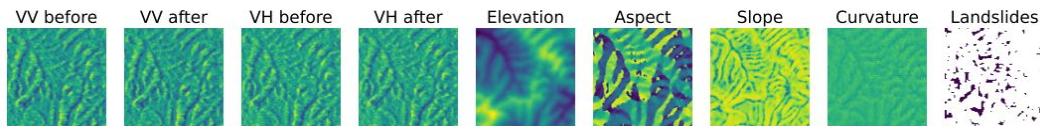
aerial photograph



overlaid labels



Predicted Landslide 0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 KM



Training (216 chips), Test (61 chips), U-NET++, Cross-Entropy Loss

**SAR (VV):** Only VV band before and after the earthquake - 2 channels

**SAR (VH):** Only VH band before and after the earthquake - 2 channels

**SAR (VV,VH):** Only SAR bands (VV and VH) are used before and after the earthquake - 4 channels

**SAR+DEM:** SAR bands (VV and VH) before and after the earthquake, plus DEM-derived data (elevation, slope, aspect, curvature) - 8 channels

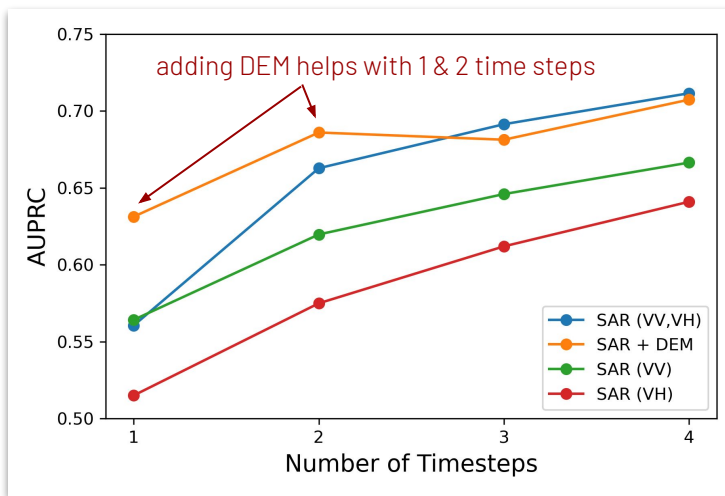
For each input configuration, we train using 1, 2, 3 or 4 time steps (average pixel-wise into 1 channel) before and after the event.

# Results

Performance measured with the Area Under the Precision-Recall Curve (AUPRC)

- More timesteps improve landslide detection
- Complementarity of the bands  
 $\text{SAR (VH)} < \text{SAR (VV)} < \text{SAR (VV,VH)}$
- Adding DEM helps early detection

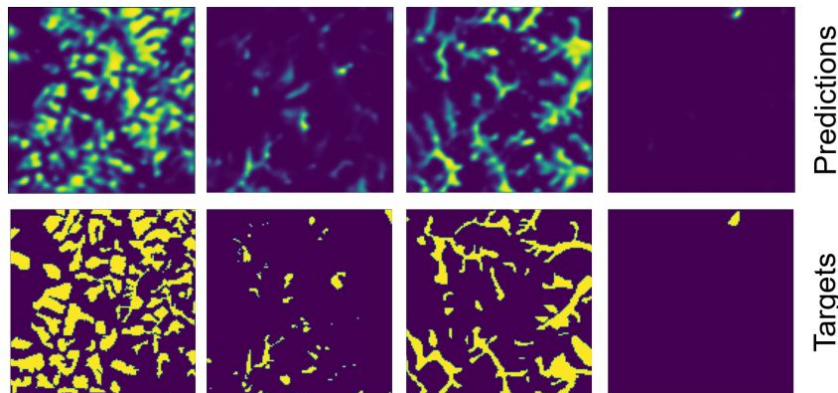
Predictions of the best model on the test set match very well the target label



Random model  
AUPRC=0.09

Only DEM features  
AUPRC=0.17

more time steps improve results



# Conclusion

1. Deep Learning models on SAR data perform skillful Landslide Detection.
2. Elevation data enhance rapid detection capabilities, when having access to few satellite passes.
3. We release our datasets and code.

Datacubes in four regions for Landslide Detection - <https://zenodo.org/record/7248056>

Code - <https://github.com/iprapas/landslide-sar-unet>



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