



Urban carbon dioxide Flux
Monitoring using
Eddy Covariance and
Earth Observation

Quantifying biogenic carbon dioxide fluxes in an urban area

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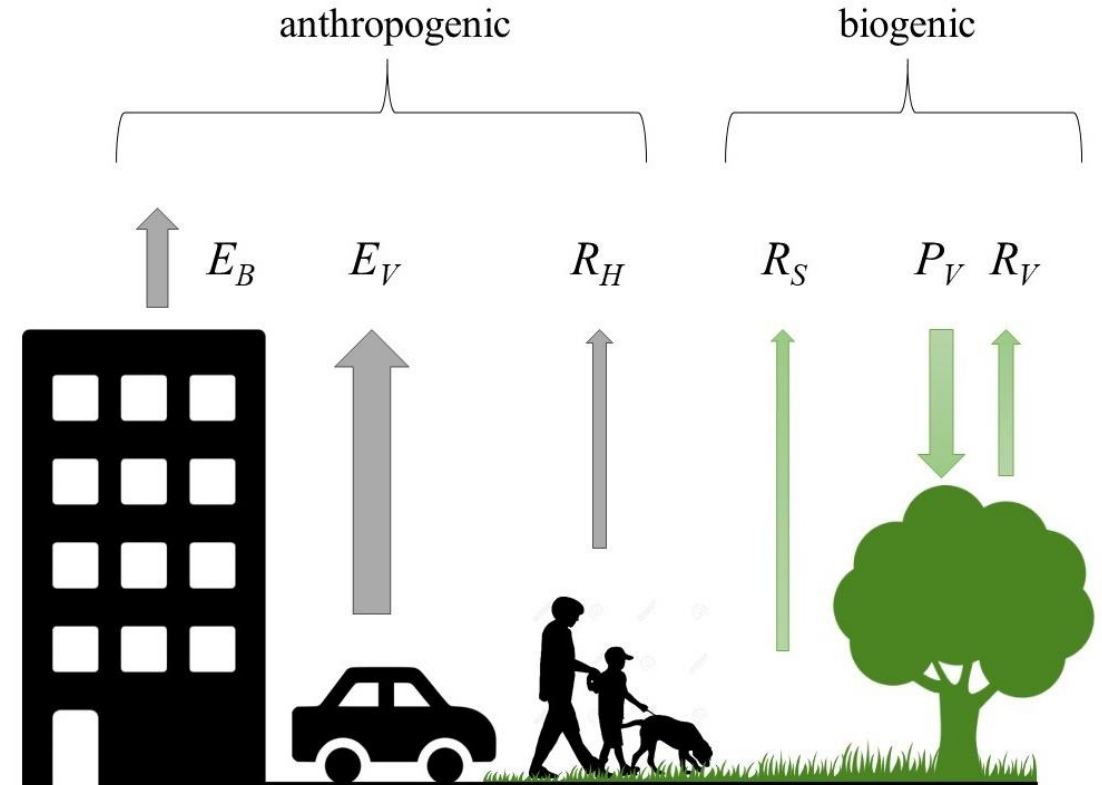
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Introduction

Quantifying urban biogenic fluxes:

- › *Partitioning urban CO₂ flux*
- › *Discriminate the anthropogenic emissions*
- › *Recognise the seasonal and interannual CO₂ emission variability and trends*
- › *Enhance our current understanding on urban metabolism and function*
- › *Improve the urban emission inventories*



$$F_C = E_V + E_B + R_H + R_S + (R_V - P_V)$$

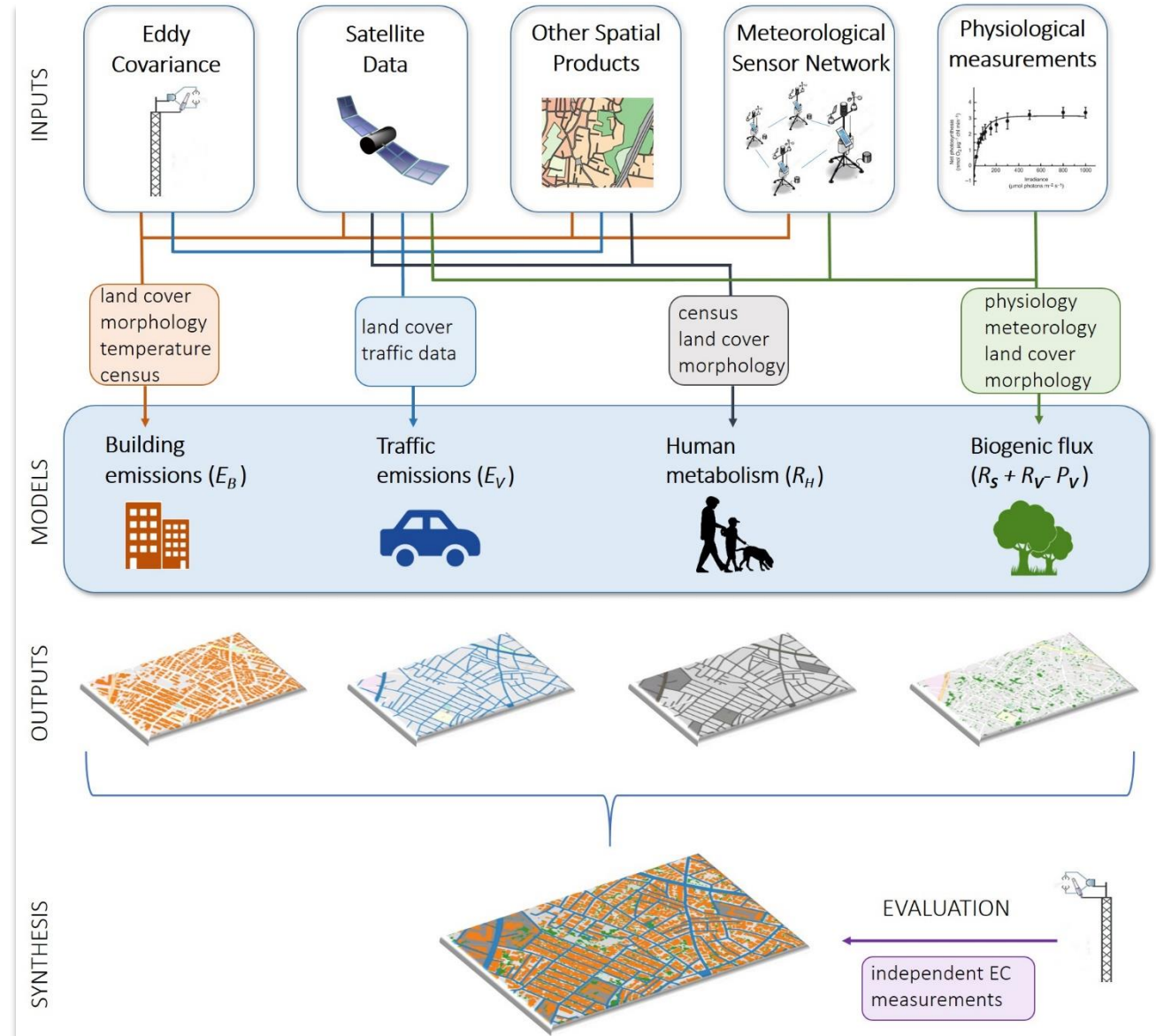
Introduction

Anthropogenic emissions:

- › *Eddy Covariance*
- › *traffic counts*
- › *temperature*
- › *population density*

Biogenic fluxes:

- › *meteorology*
- › *vegetation classification*
- › *canopy 3D structure*
- › *field measurements*



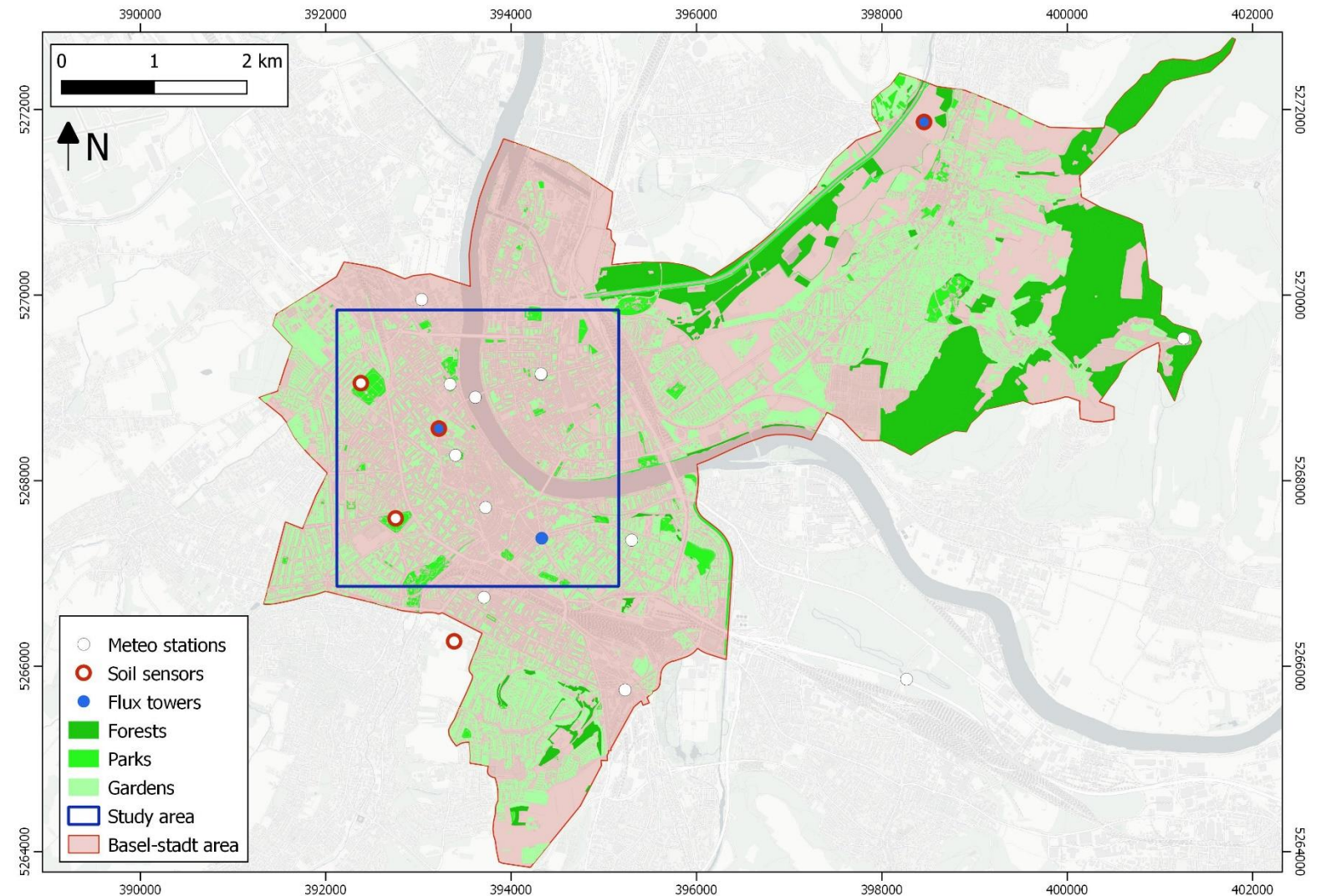
Methods

Methods

Study area

- › *Basel city centre*
- › *2 urban flux tower sites*
- › *1 rural (grassland) flux site*
- › *10 meteorological stations (street and UCL level)*

	LC type	ha	%	Sum
Impervious Surfaces	Buildings	289	32	66
	Roads	115	13	
	Pavements	57	6	
	Other	138	16	
Pervious Surfaces	Trees	110	12	34
	Soil/low vegetation	137	15	
	Gardens			
	Water	59	7	



Methods

Field measurements

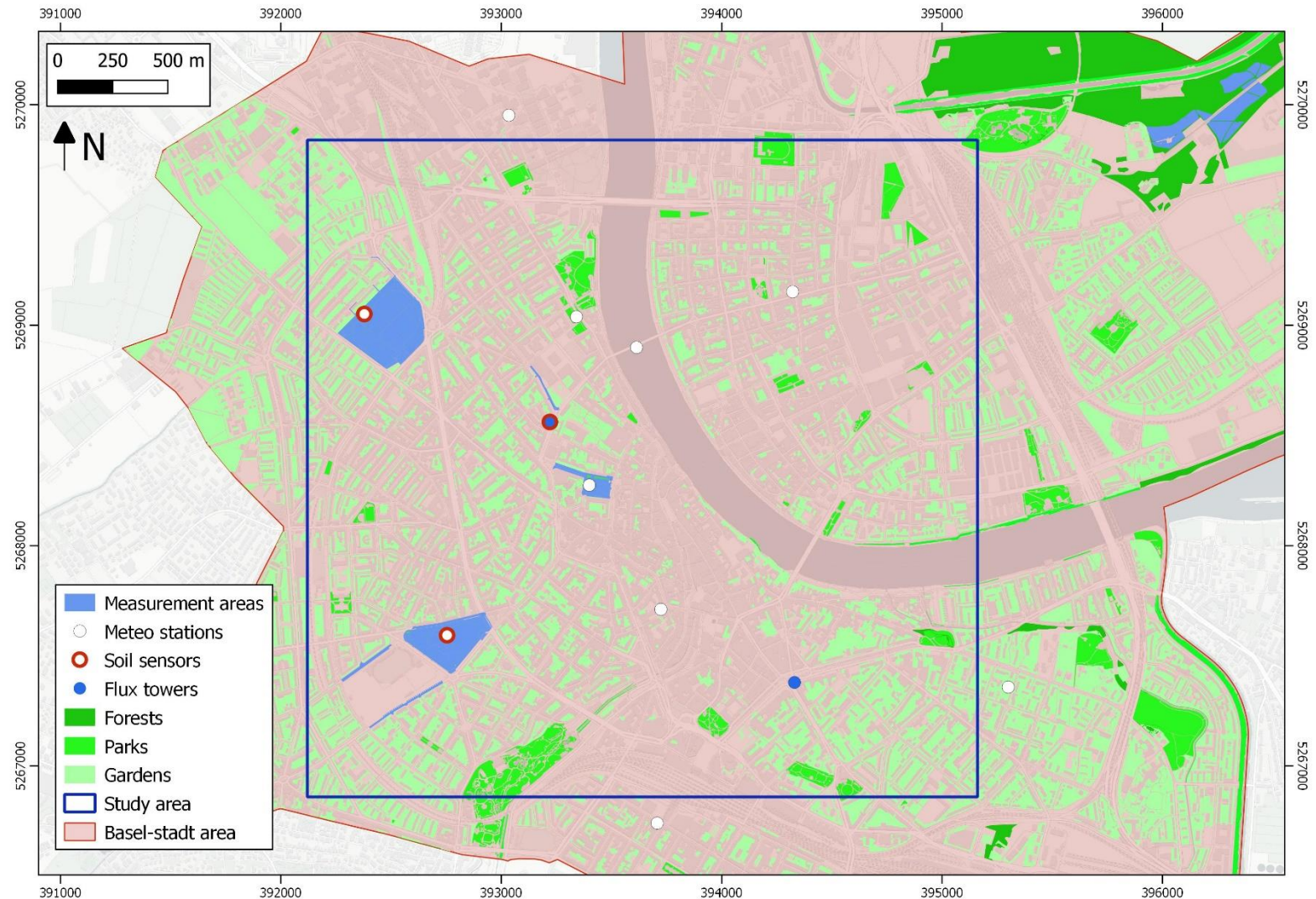
- › *Leaf photosynthesis*
 - A_{max} , $A\text{-PAR}$, $A\text{-}T_{air}$
- › *Leaf respiration*
 - R_{leaf} , $R\text{-}T$
- › *Soil respiration*
 - R_{soil} , ϑ , T_{soil}
- › *Soil Organic Carbon content*
- › *Leaf Area Index (LAI)*



Methods

Field measurements

	Measurement sites	Tree species	Soil collars
Urban Parks	Kannenfeld Park	<i>A. hippocastanum</i>	4 collars
		<i>A. platanoides</i> <i>P. x hispanica</i>	
	Schützenmatt Park	<i>A. hippocastanum</i>	4 collars
		<i>A. platanoides</i> <i>T. euchlora</i>	
Street	General Guisan-Strasse	<i>A. platanoides</i>	-
	Neubadstrasse	<i>T. euchlora</i>	2 collars
	Klingelbergstrasse	<i>A. hippocastanum</i>	2 collars
Forest	Lange Erlen	<i>A. platanoides</i>	4 collars forest 2 collars grassland



Methods

Urban Morphology

- › *Digital Terrain Model*
- › *Digital Surface Model*
 - *Building Height*
 - *Tree Height*
- › *Resolution 1 m*

*LAStools,
Rapidlasso GmbH ©*

aerial LiDAR point cloud

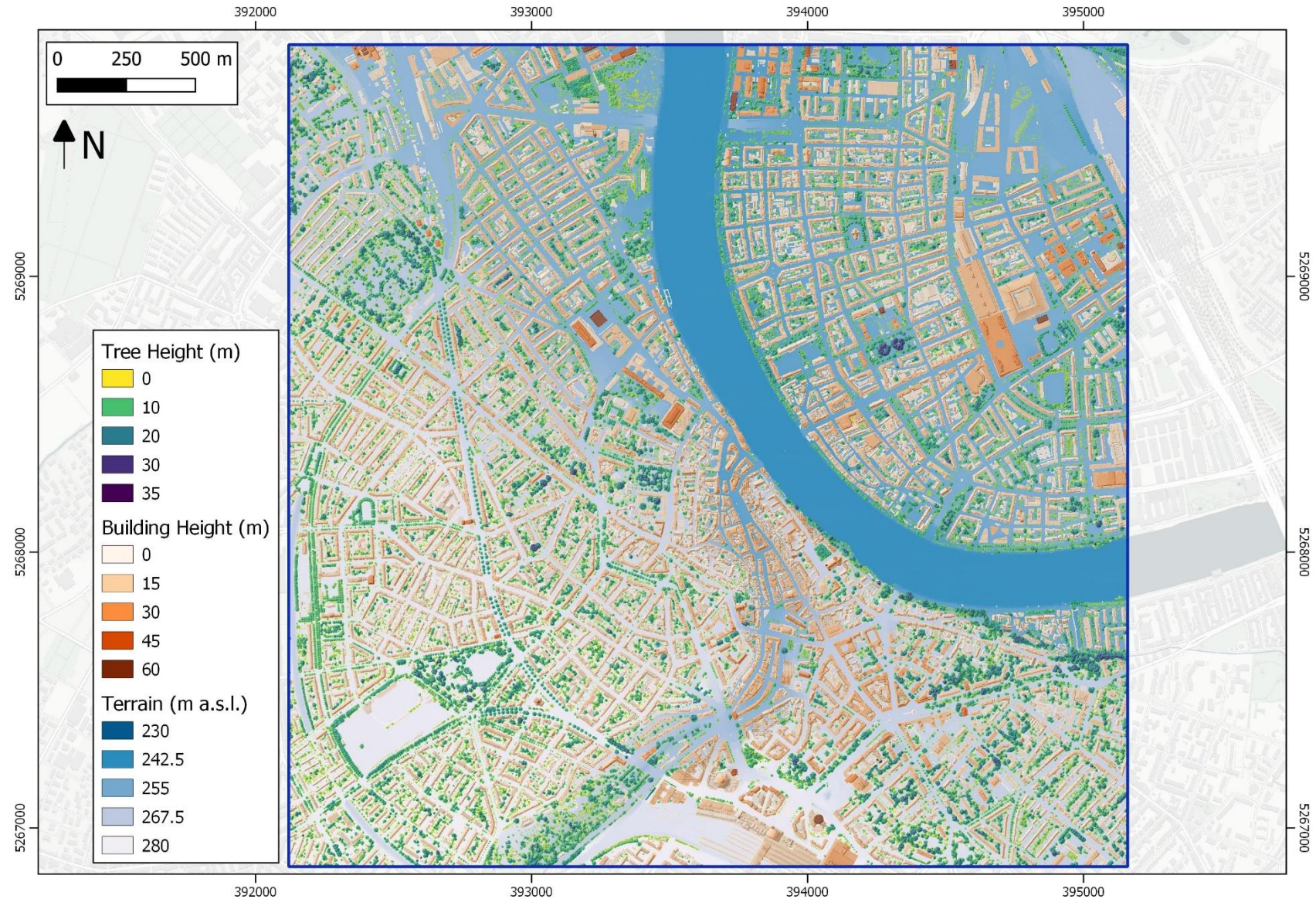


Methods

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Methods

Leaf Area Index (LAI)

- › Beer-Lambert law approach for discrete-return LiDAR (Solberg et al. 2006):

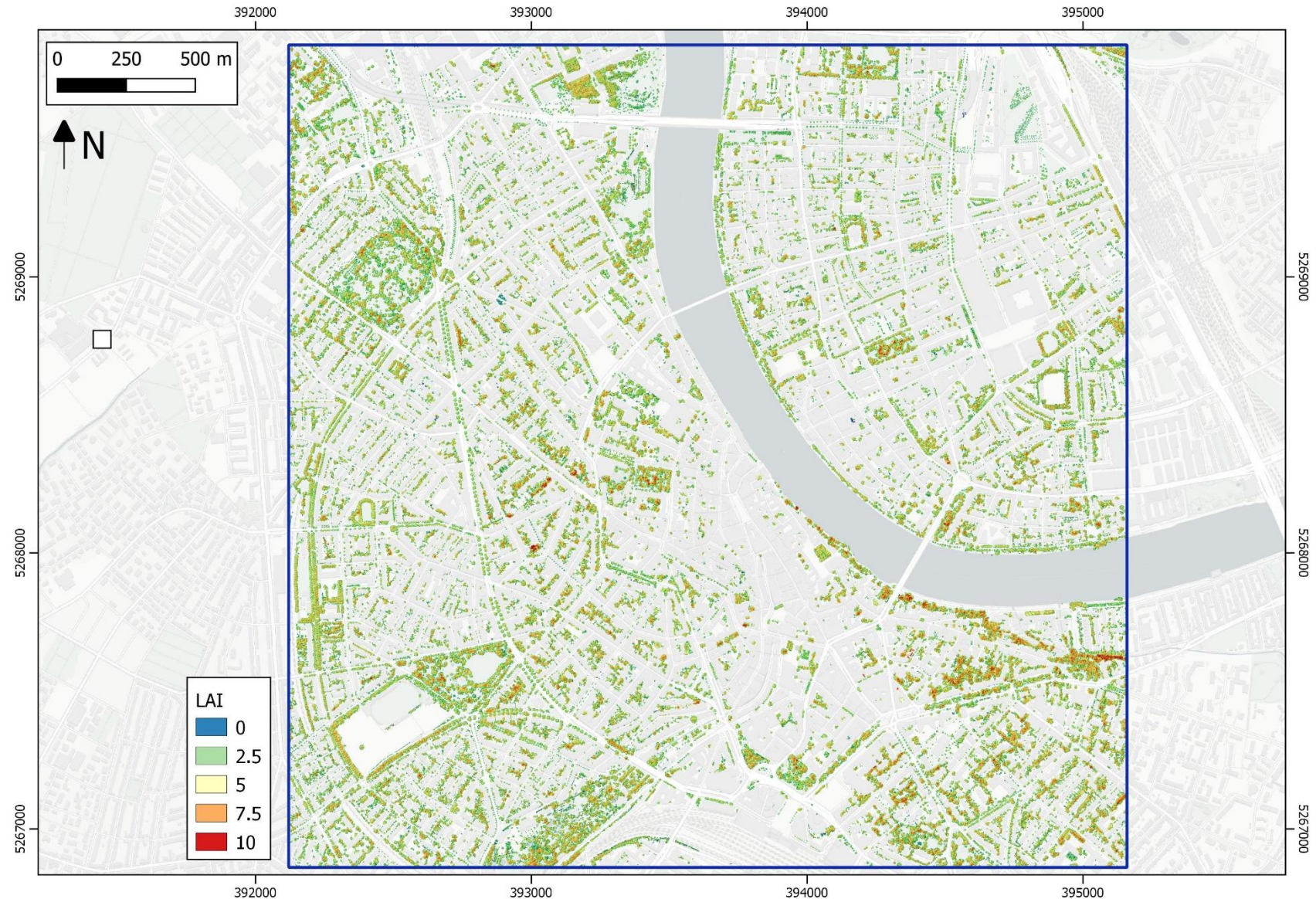
$$L_e = -\beta \ln(R_g/R_t)$$

R_g : ground returns

R_t : total returns

β : constant, set to 2

- › Estimated in 1 m resolution

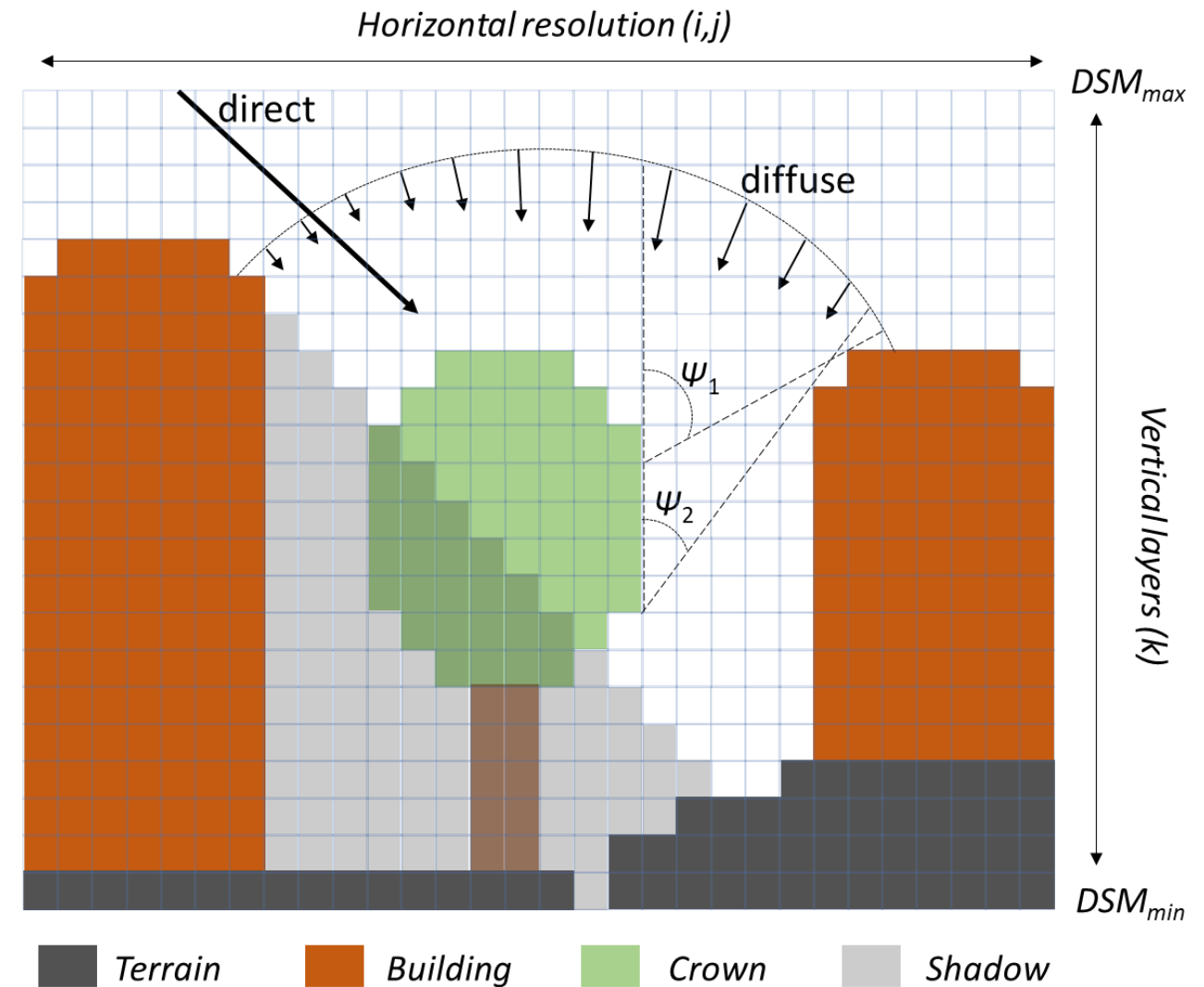


Methods

Urban Canopy Photosynthesis Model

(under development)

- › UCL expressed as 3D voxel grid
- › Direct radiation modelling according to a ray tracing algorithm (Amanatides & Woo, 1987)
- › Diffuse radiation modelling according to Sky View Factors (SVFs) per horizontal level and direction (Lindberg & Grimmond, 2011)
- › 30 min step, 5 m resolution (horizontal & vertical)



Methods

Urban Canopy Photosynthesis Model

(under development)

› Beer-Lambert law for radiation reduction inside the canopy (Campbell and Norman, 1998)

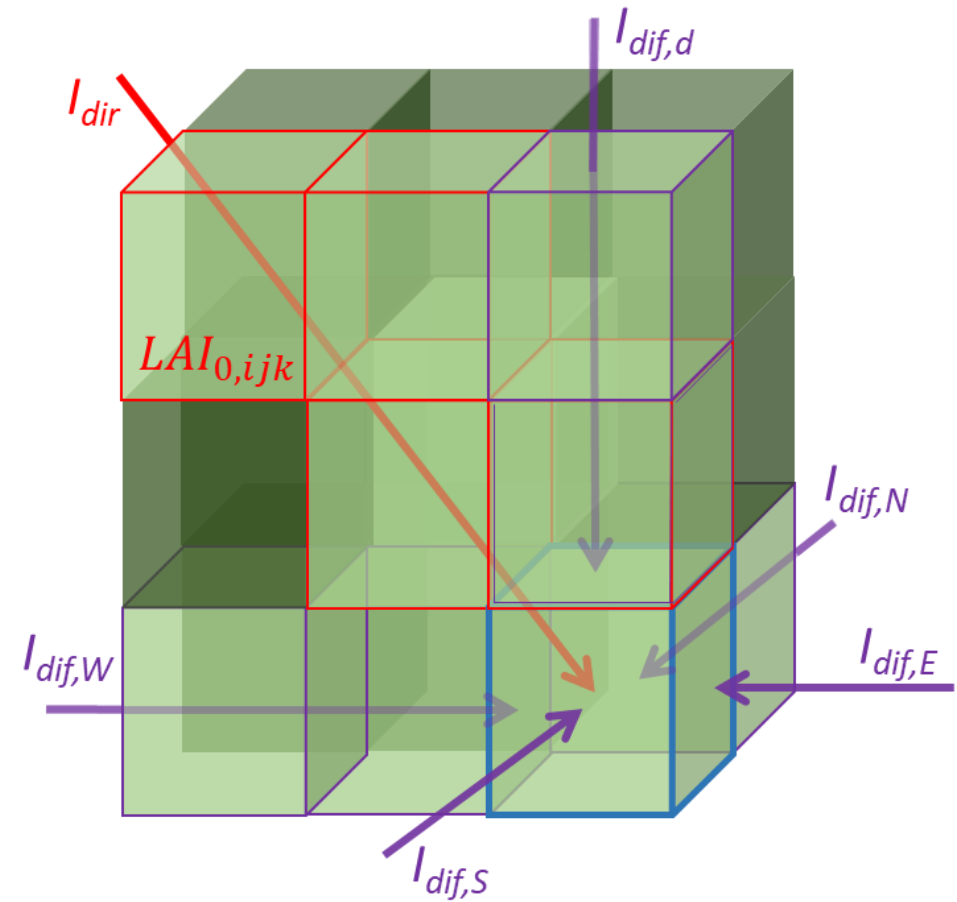
› Fractions of the sunlit and shaded LAI per voxel

$$LAI_{sun,ijk} = \frac{1}{k_b} * e^{-k_b LAI_{0,ijk}} * (1 - e^{-k_b LAI_{ijk}}) * Sh_{ijk}$$

› Leaf photosynthesis based on PAR (Ögren and Evans 1993) and temperature (June et al. 2004) per voxel

› Canopy photosynthesis: sum of all horizontal layers

$$P_{V,ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n (A_{gross,I_{sun,ijk}} * LAI_{sun,ijk} + A_{gross,I_{shade,ijk}} * LAI_{shade,ijk})$$

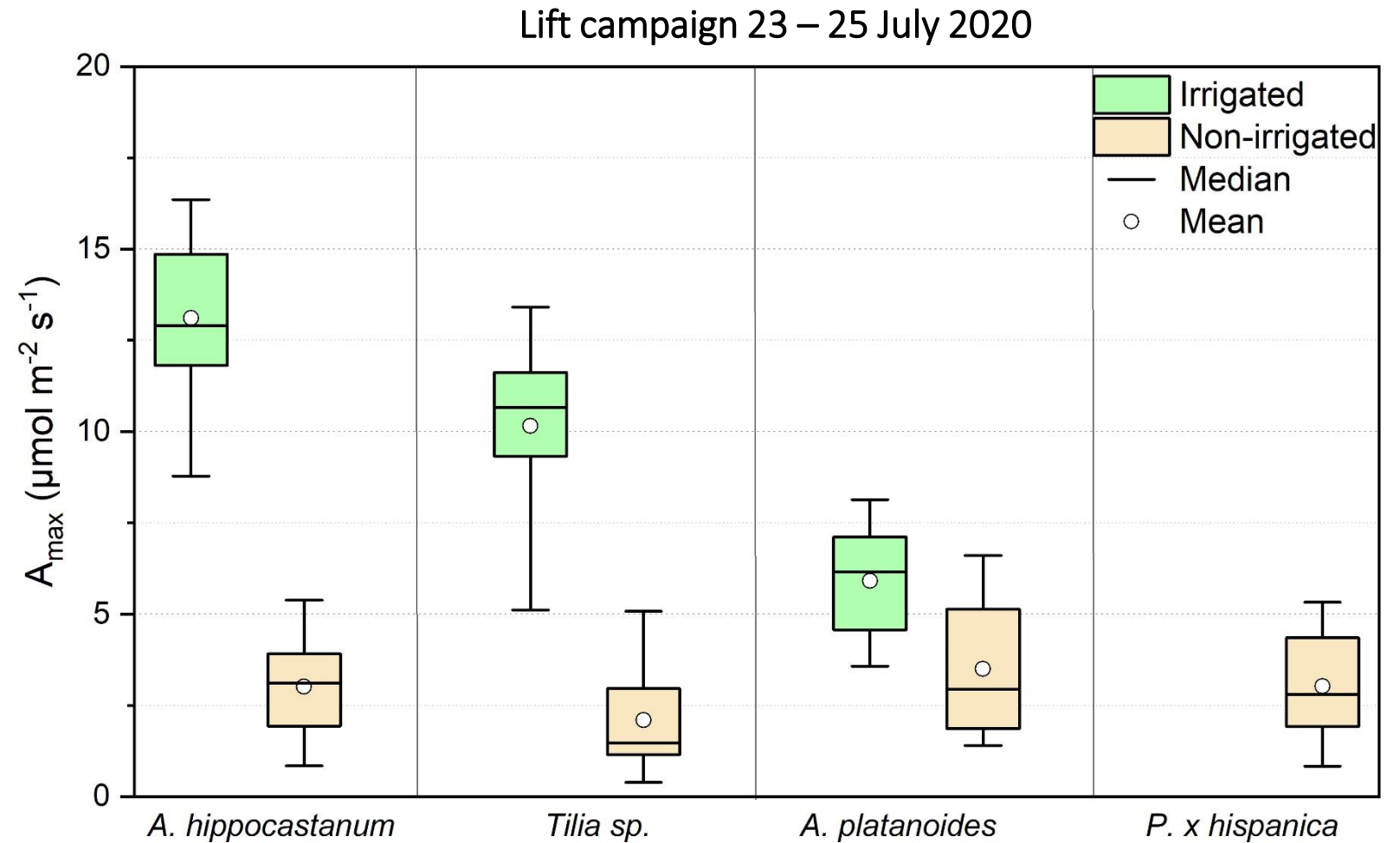


Results

Results

Field measurements

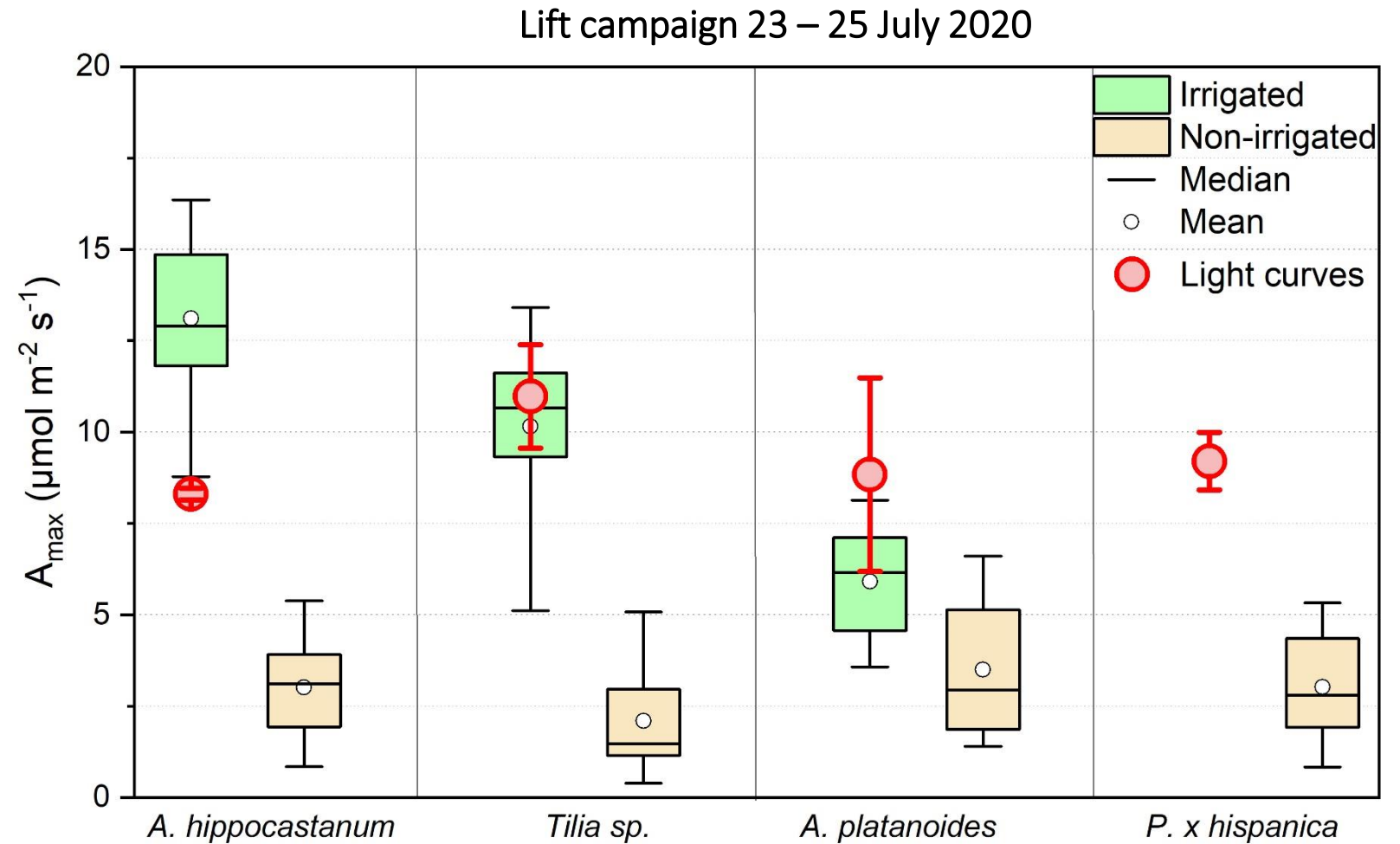
- › Extreme variability in photosynthetic rates between irrigated and non-irrigated areas and across trees - species
- › Higher A_{max} during morning measurements (lower temperature, water saving strategies)
- › Only parks are regularly irrigated, street trees are probably constantly under water limiting conditions



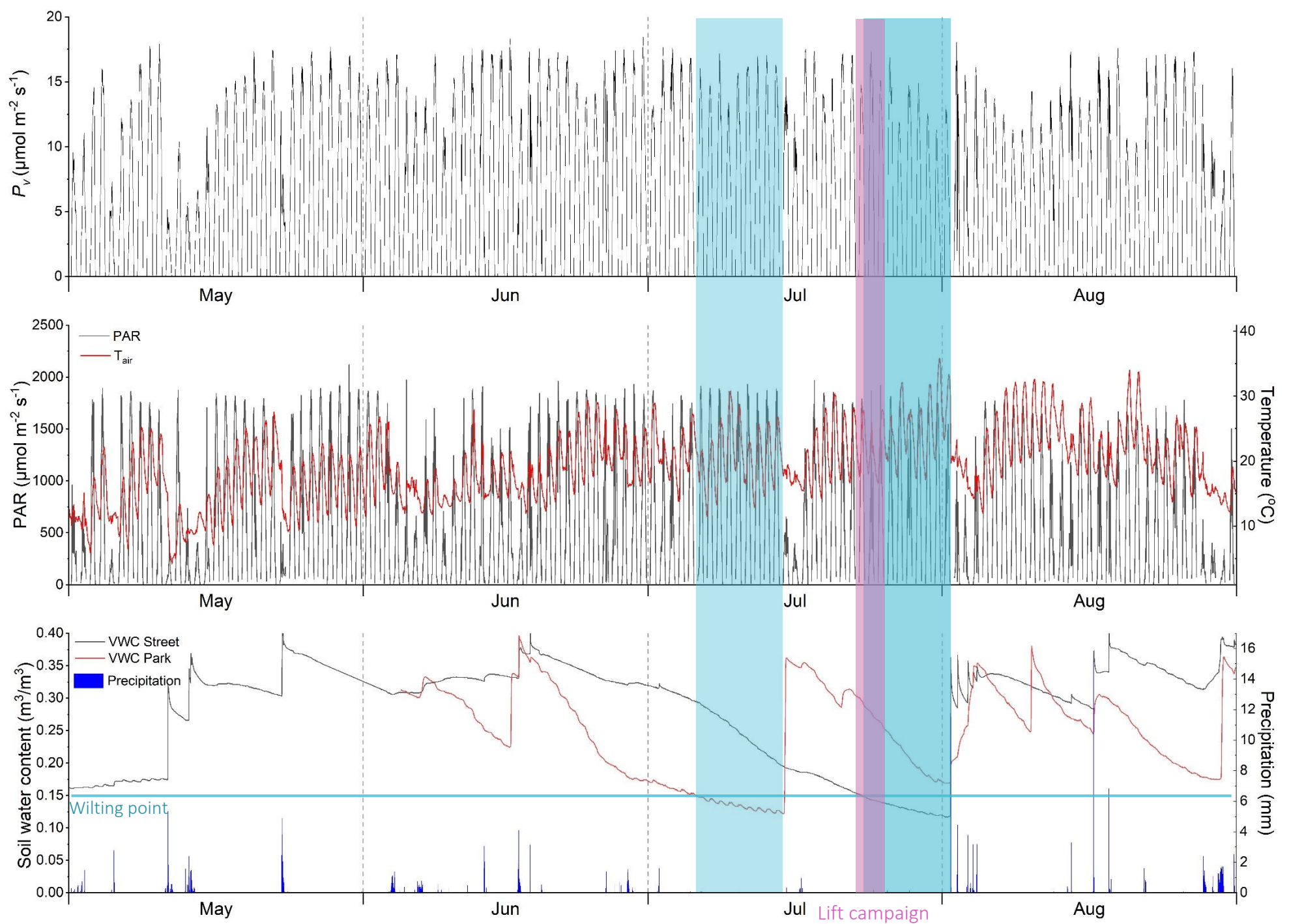
Results

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Canopy Photosynthesis model

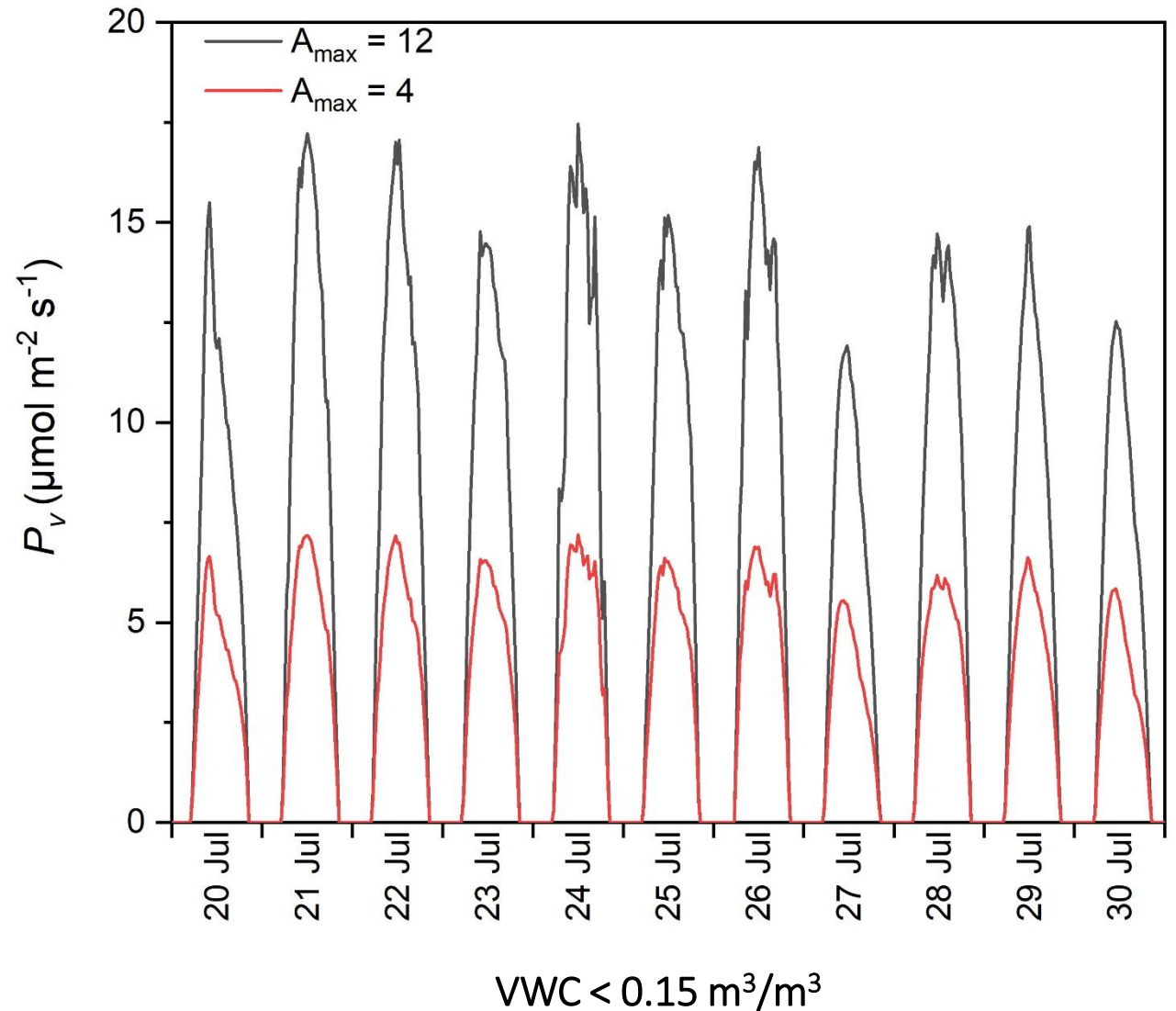


Results

Canopy Photosynthesis model

Replacing A_{max} with measured values for non-irrigated trees during the extreme drought period ($VWC < 0.15 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$) results to a **decrease of $\sim 55\%$** in P_v

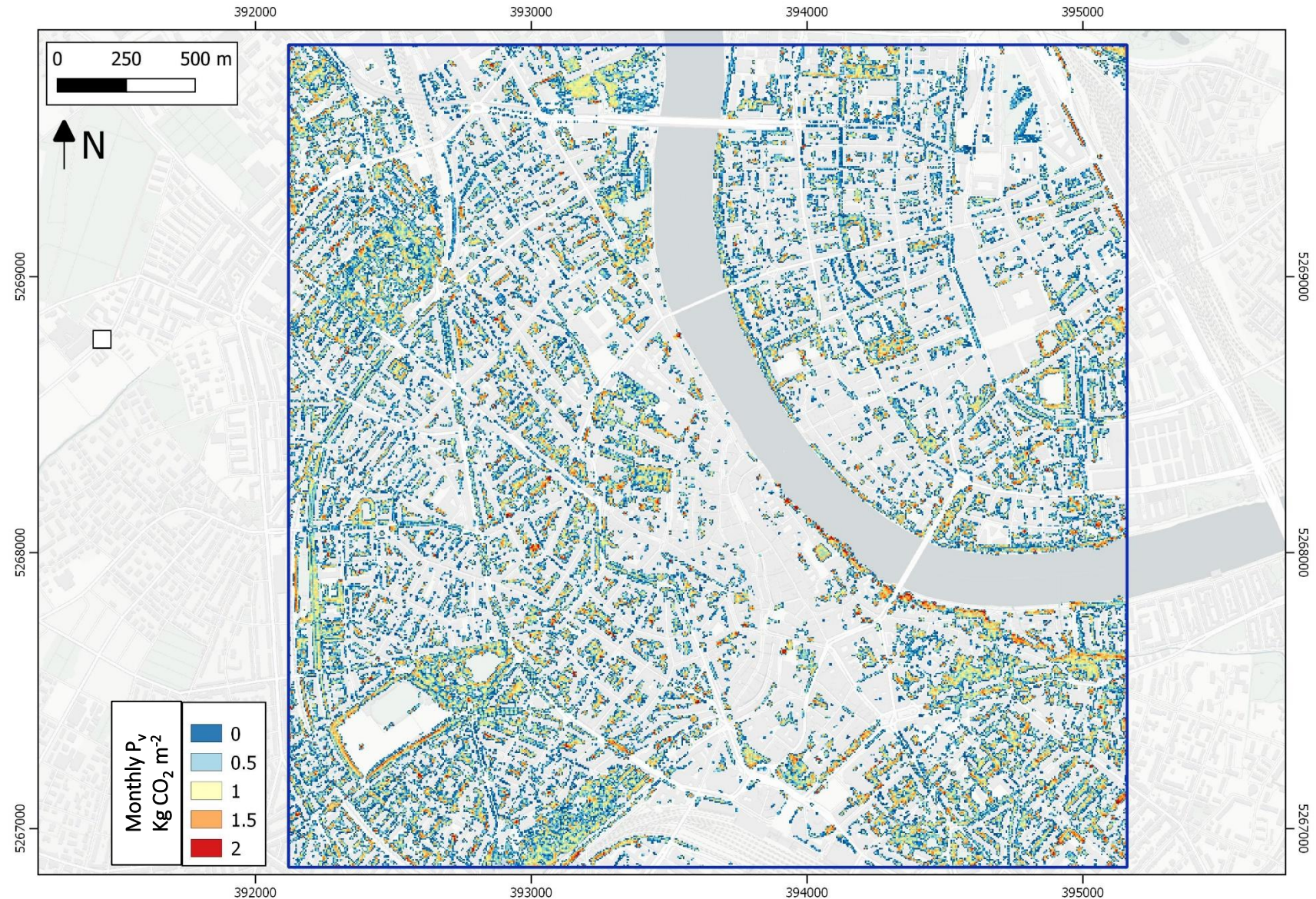
A_{max} is a critical parameter for Canopy Photosynthesis modelling, which is hard to assess in the highly heterogenous urban environment



Results

Canopy Photosynthesis model

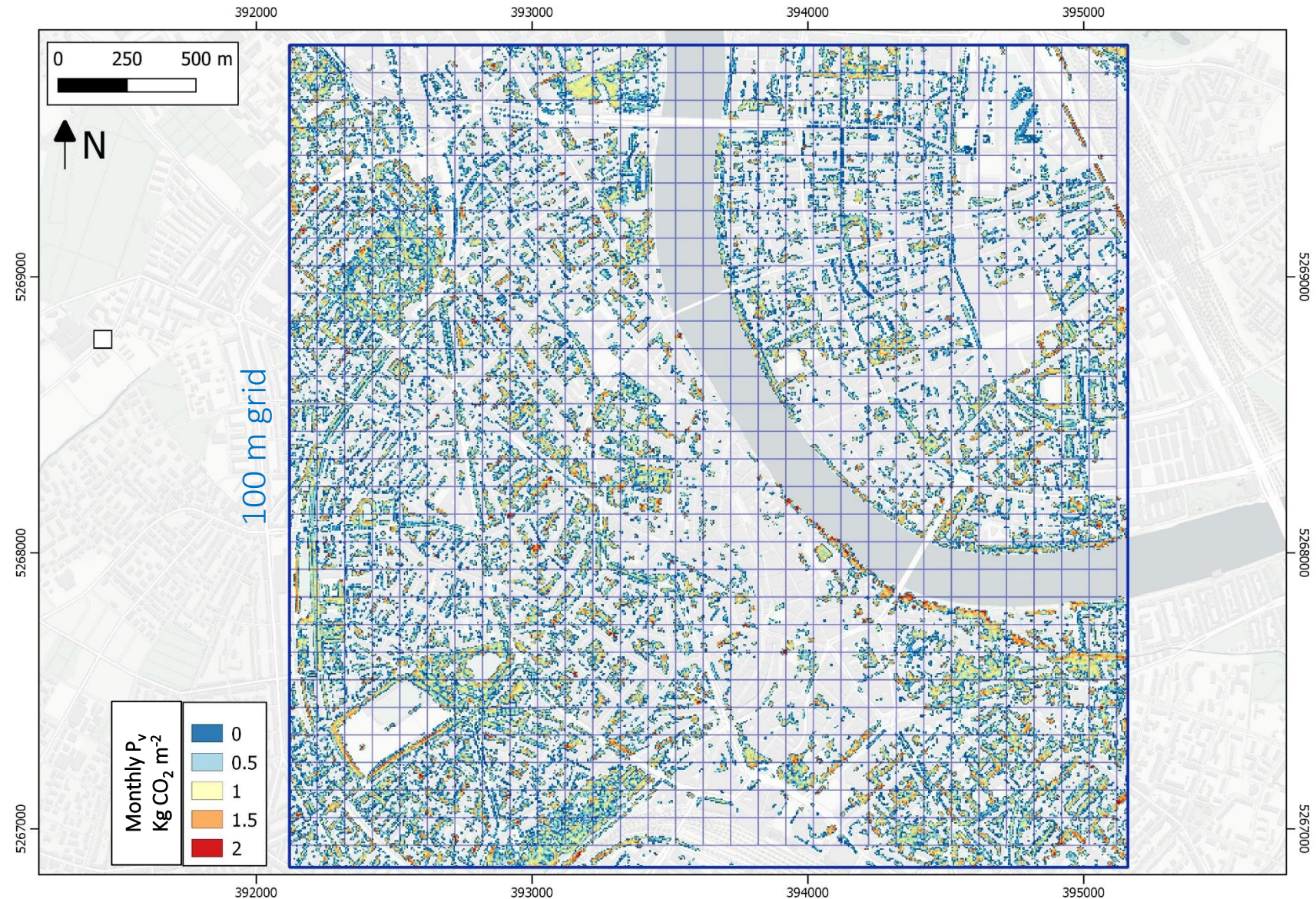
- › Open areas seem more productive
- › Mean monthly gross sequestration:
 $- 0.55 \text{ kg CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2}$
- › Balance in BKLI:
 $1.28 \text{ kg CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2}$



Results

Canopy Photosynthesis model

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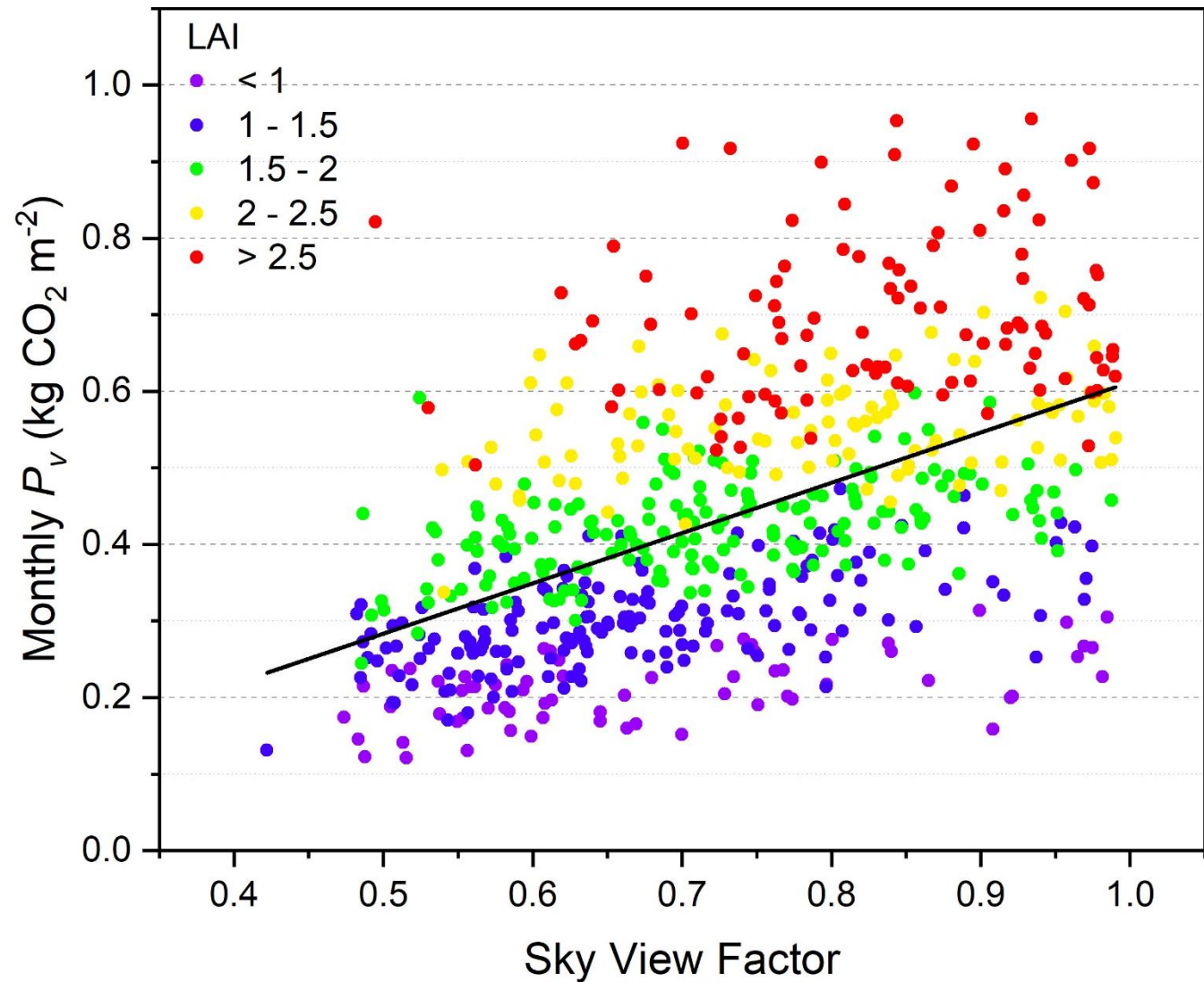


Results

100 m grid spatial analysis

Keeping A_{max} constant, P_v spatial variability is related to LAI and Sky View Factor

Urban morphology suppresses carbon sequestration by reducing light availability to plant canopies



Conclusions

- › Urban canopy photosynthesis modeling using detailed morphological and meteorological datasets is a significant tool for the spatiotemporal investigation of urban biogenic fluxes
- › Modeling urban vegetation physiological responses to climate variables (especially water availability) is challenging
- › Photosynthetic rates (A_{\max}) are extremely variable according to irrigation management
- › Carbon sequestration during drought conditions can be significantly reduced
- › Photosynthesis can potentially offset urban emissions up to 30 % during summer months
- › Sky view factor is an important urban attribute affecting canopy photosynthesis

Model updates and evaluation

- › Tree species classification using hyperspectral aerial imagery – Species-specific A_{\max}
- › LAI temporal variability according to Sentinel-2 imagery
- › Include understorey vegetation and grasses
- › A_{\max} reduction according to soil water content and VPD measurements
- › Stress detection using remote sensing indices (Sentinel-2)
- › Evaluation with Eddy Covariance (temporary installation) in an urban green area (summer 2021)

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