

# Probabilistic short-term solar forecasting in urban areas: an operational proposal under e-shape H2020

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PEARL PV Conference  
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# Programme

- Context
- Satellite-based probabilistic solar forecasting
- Solar forecasting at urban scale in e-shape H2020

The result from a team effort (alphabetical order):

Benoît Gschwind, Lionel Menard, Philippe Blanc, Thomas Carrière (Solais), Raphaël Jolivet, Romain Besseau, Yves-Marie Saint-Drenan, Fuqiang Zhang



Centre Observation, Impacts, Énergie  
Renewables, Life Cycle Assessment, Earth Observation



# Assumptions for today

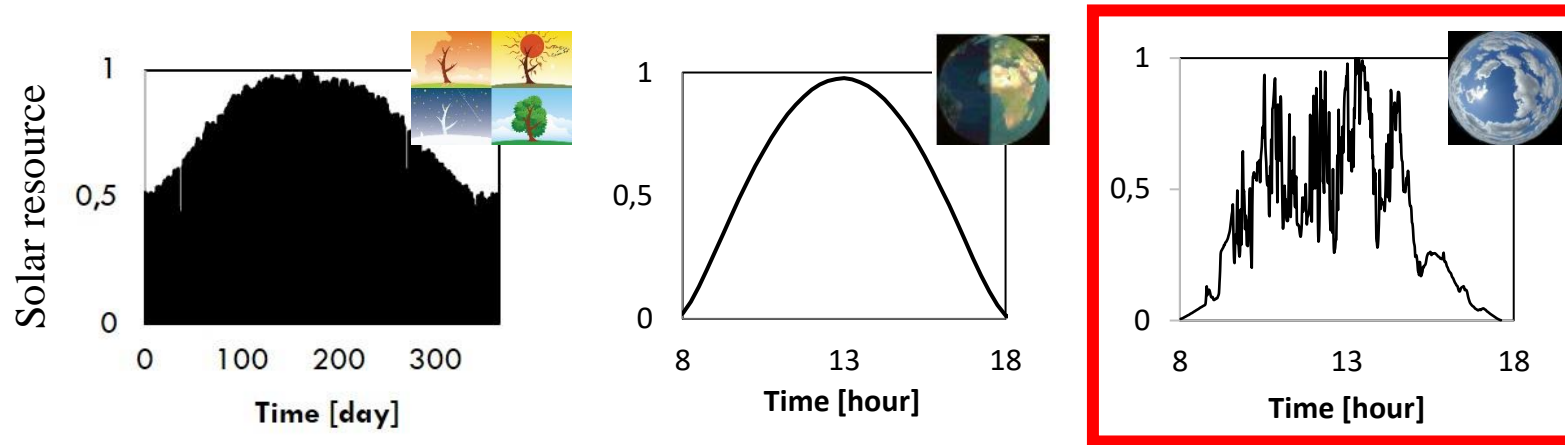
- Solar is good, fossils not so much



# Starting with some context

# Solar variability and uncertainty

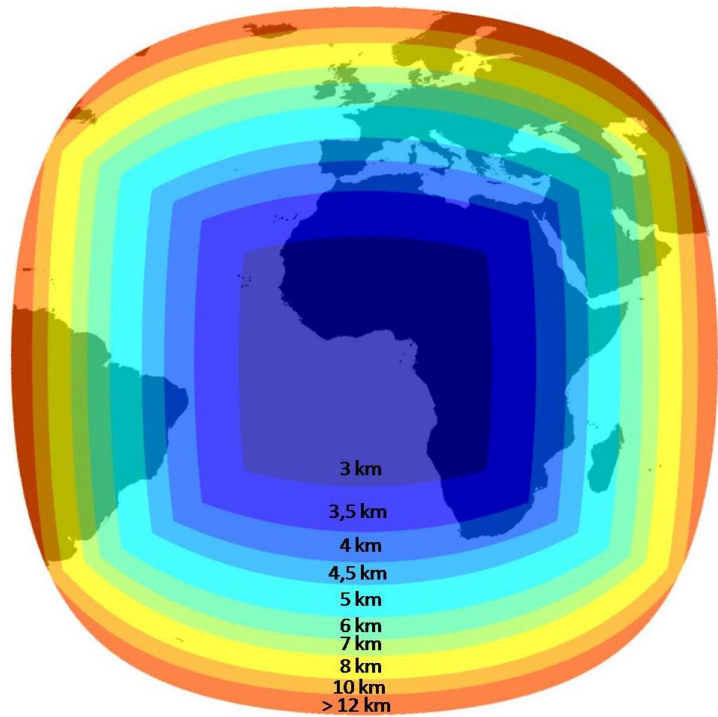
## Solar variability at different time scales



Ela et al. (2013) point out that

- High PV penetration can lead to load-generation mismatch (imbalance)
- 1/3 due to variability, **2/3 caused by uncertainty in solar forecasts**

# Advantages of satellite-based solar data



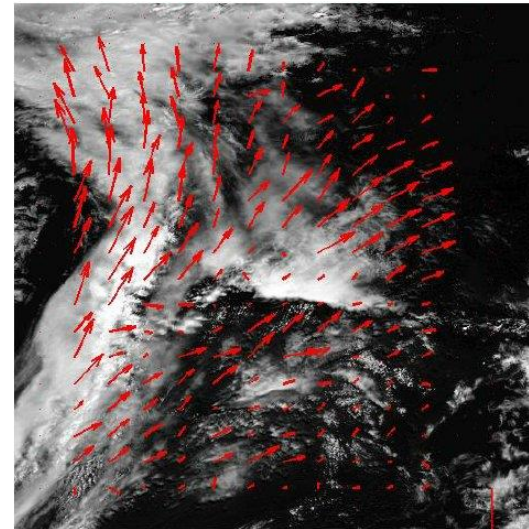
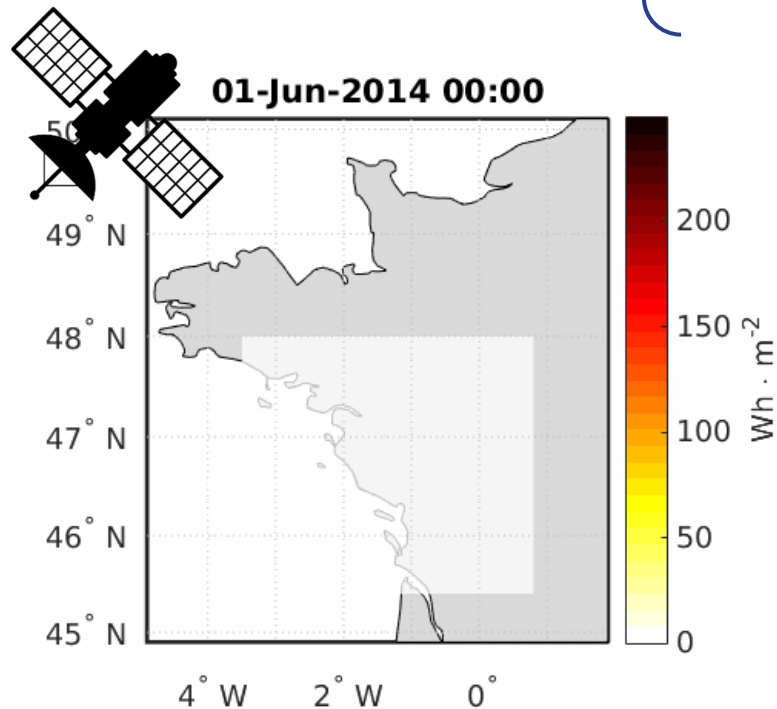
- Good spatial coverage
- Interesting resolution (15+ min, 3+ km)
- Considerable historical records (10+ years)
- Several existing products (e.g. HelioClim-3)
- The physics background is clear

Figure from Solar Radiation Data (SoDa), [www.soda-pro.com](http://www.soda-pro.com)



# Satellite-driven solar forecasting

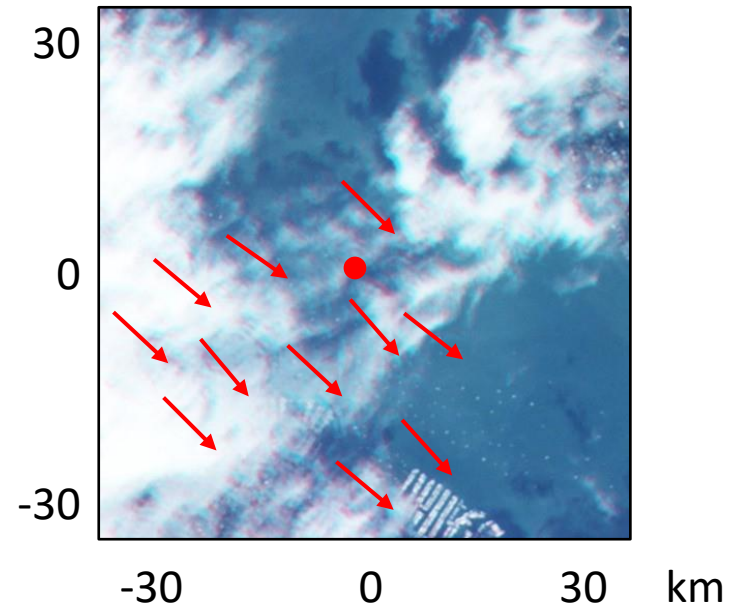
From satellite images, infer: {  
Clear-sky index\* ( $K_c$ )  
Cloud motion vectors (CMV)



\*Proxy of cloud transmissivity

Left figure: courtesy from Prof. Philippe Blanc. Right figure: Sylvain Cros et al. (2014), 4th SIW @ Berlin

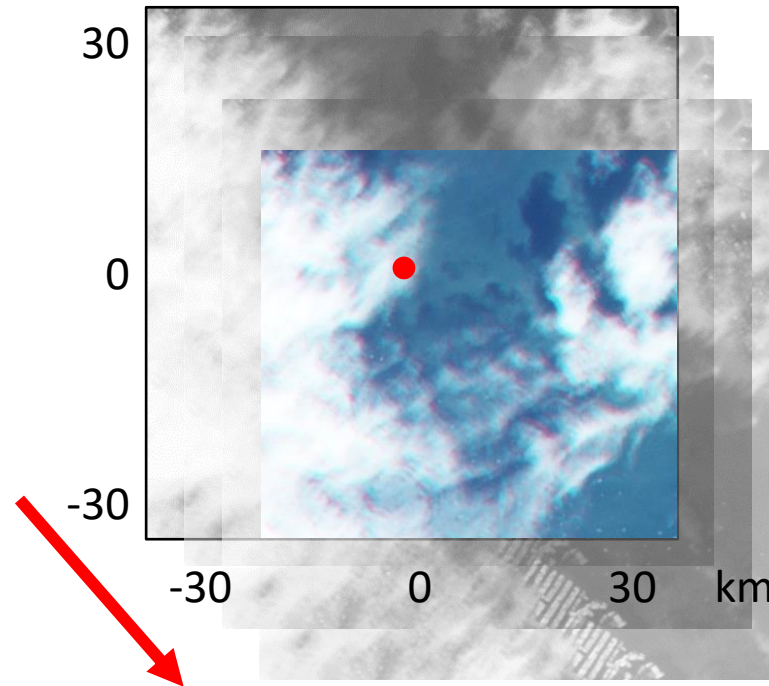
# A simplistic illustration



1. Find dominant advection pattern (↘)



# A simplistic illustration



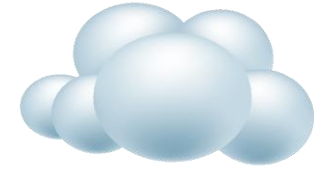
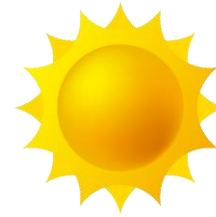
1. Find dominant advection pattern (↘)
2. Move kc matrix accordingly
3. Kc forecast = advected Kc closest to point of interest (•)

But all approaches seem to produce  
deterministic forecasts

# Deterministic vs probabilistic forecasts

How much PV in 1 hour?  
(deterministic version)

**0.8 kWh/kWp**



Probabilistic version: **0.8 kWh/kWp, 80% probability**

- Include an uncertainty layer to better manage risk

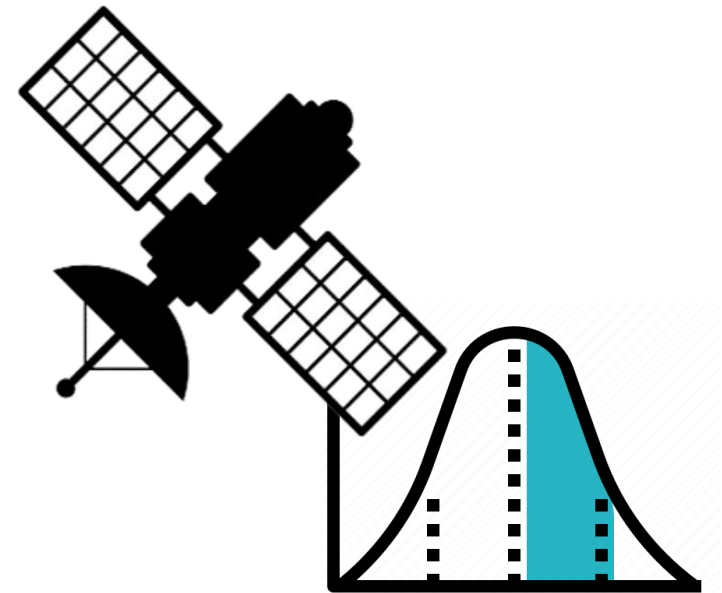
For a nice review on this, check Li et al. (2020) [10.1016/j.solener.2020.07.066](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solener.2020.07.066)

# What we are doing on probabilistic solar forecasting

# Our proposal!

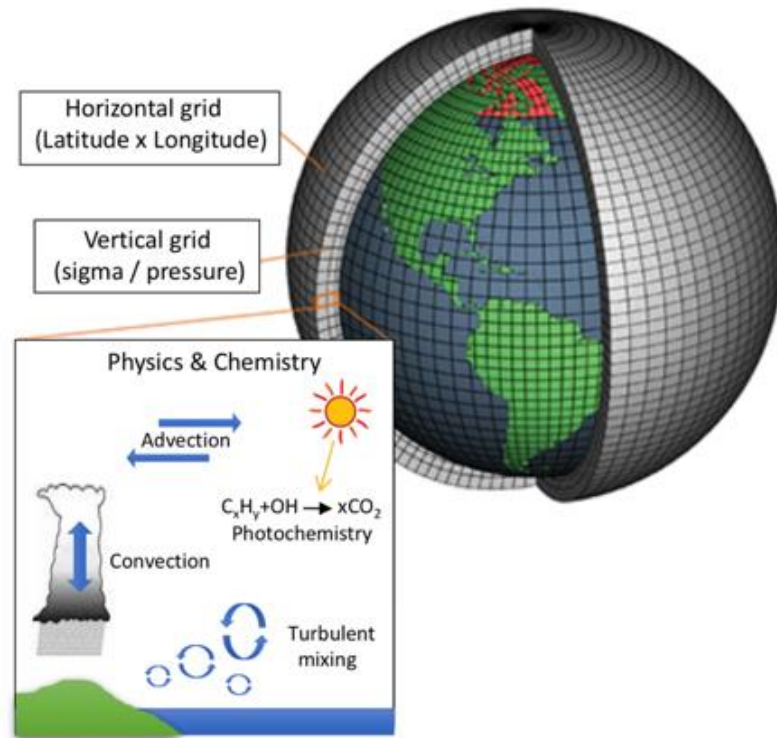
A satellite-based probabilistic approach

- hybrid (physics + statistics)
- compatible with operational applications
- does not require in-situ measurements
  - but can benefit from it (if available)



# Getting inspiration from NWP

Forecasting through modeling of the atmosphere dynamics



$$\rho \frac{\partial \vec{V}}{\partial t} + \rho (\vec{V} \cdot \nabla) \vec{V} = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \vec{V} + \rho \vec{g}$$

Figure: wikipedia page on “Numerical weather prediction”



# Getting inspiration from NWP

Input perturbation as a proxy of uncertainty (input  $\rightarrow$  forecast)

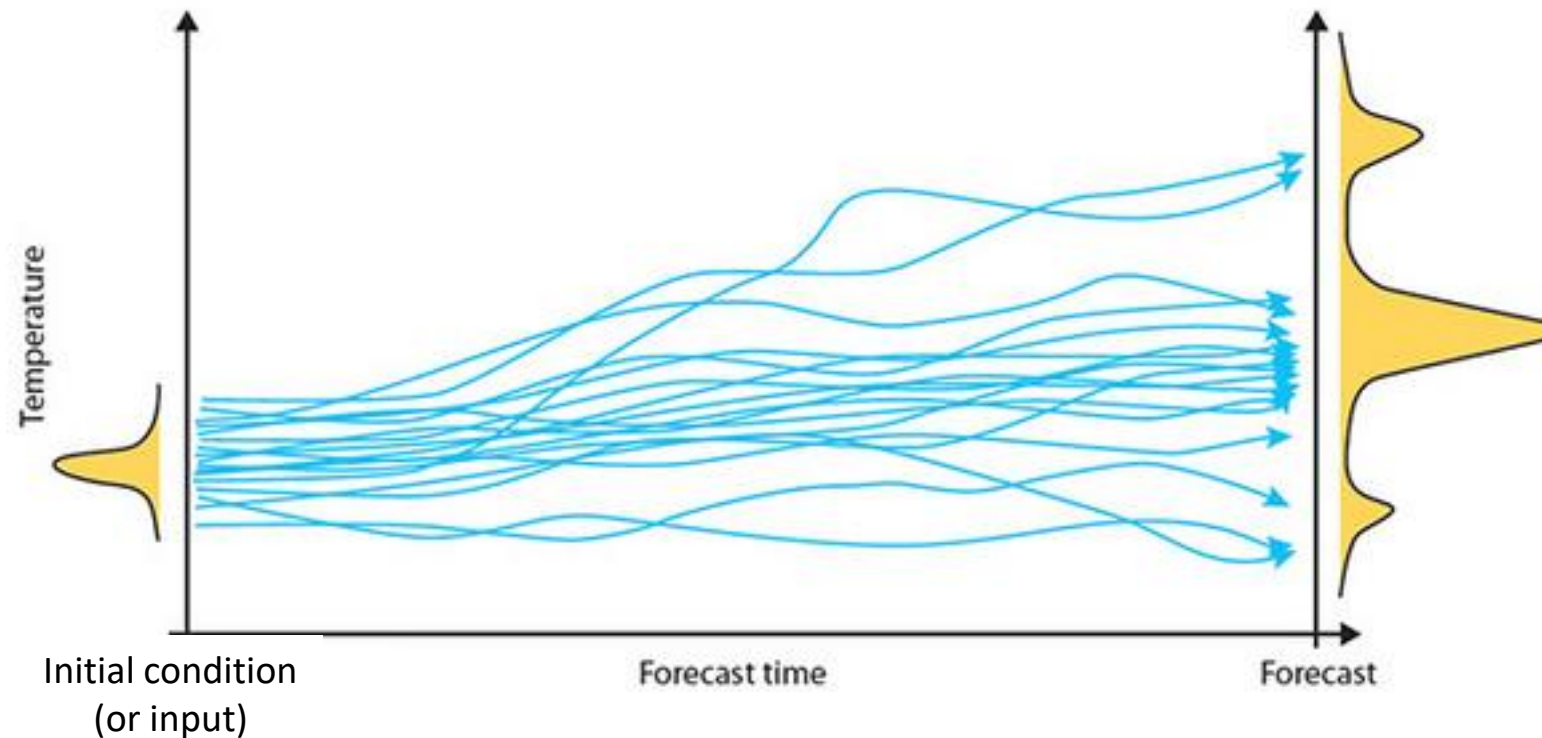
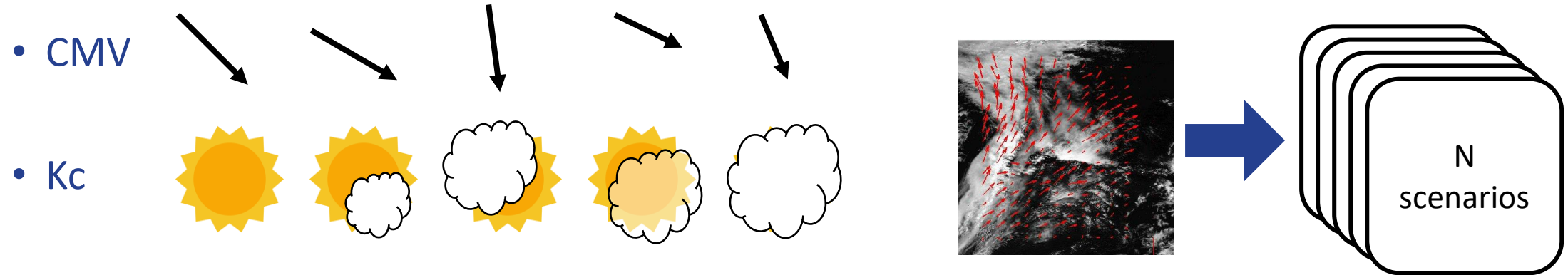


Figure: ECMWF Forecast User Guide, Section 5

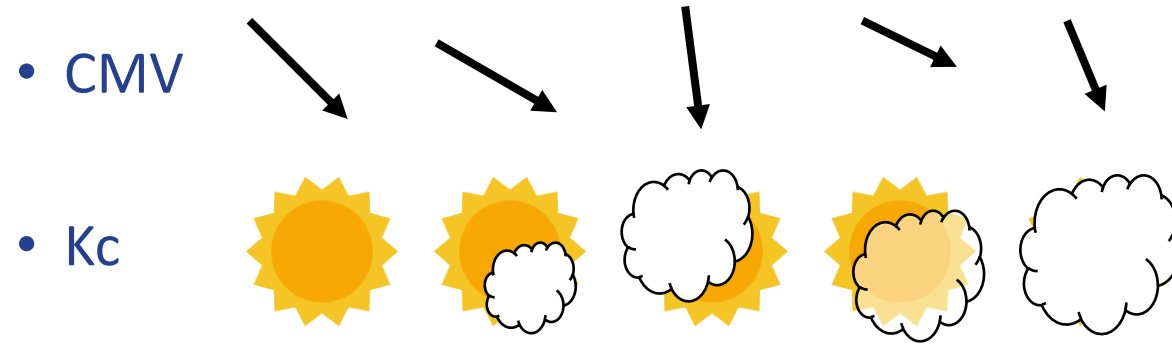
# Why not perturbate satellite methods?

Generate scenarios adding a batch of Gaussian noise to



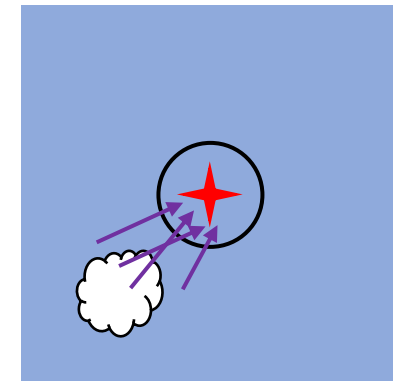
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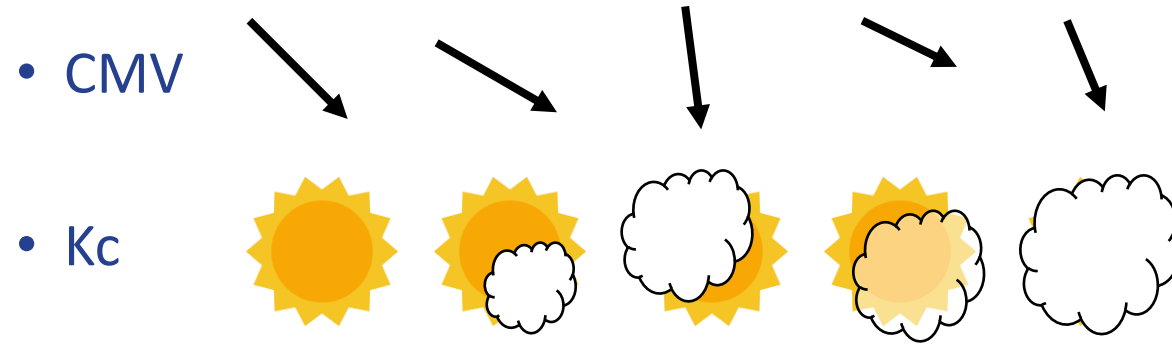
All scenarios consider a tolerance radius

- Possible set of points reaching the inside of the radius



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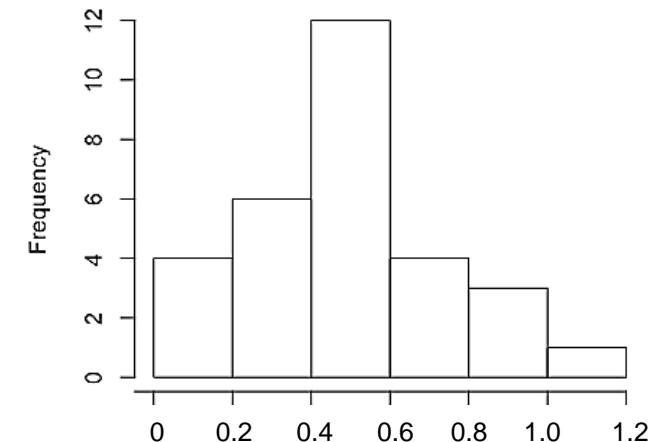


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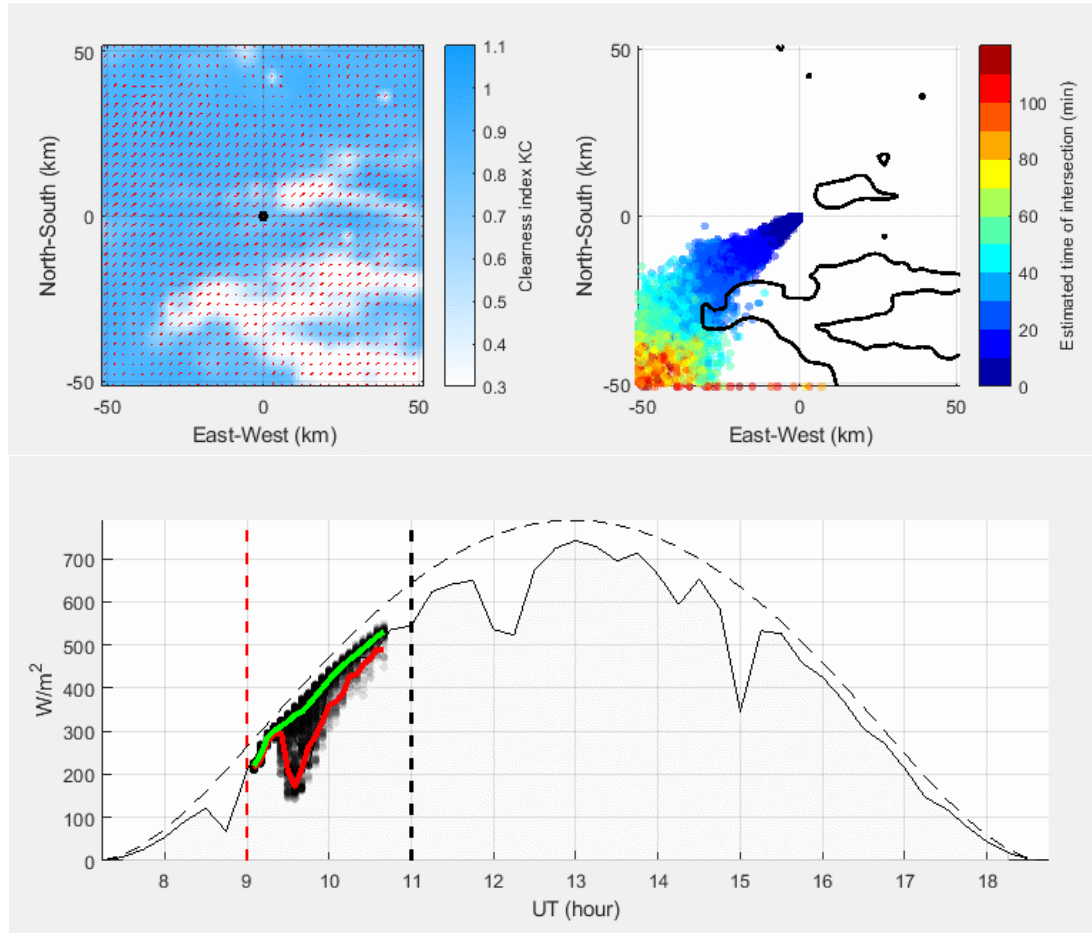
- Possible set of points reaching the inside of the radius

Forecasting distribution

- Kc values from all reaching pixels from all scenarios



# An operational overview



Probabilistics { Statistical trigger  
Physical modeling

## Physical meaning to noise:

- uncertainty tied to the estimation of CMV and Kc estimation

Animation: courtesy from Prof. Philippe Blanc

# Super brief overview on case study & results

- 2 locations in France (Carpentras, Signes)
- 2 years of satellite and in-situ GHI records
- Performs well vs benchmark (CRPS\*, PINAW\*)



Article

## A New Approach for Satellite-Based Probabilistic Solar Forecasting with Cloud Motion Vectors

Thomas Carrière <sup>1</sup>, Rodrigo Amaro e Silva <sup>2</sup>, Fuqiang Zhuang <sup>2,3</sup>, Yves-Marie Saint-Drenan <sup>2</sup>  
and Philippe Blanc <sup>2,\*</sup>



\* If you're curious about probabilistic metrics, check Lauret et al. (2019), [10.1016/j.solener.2019.10.041](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solener.2019.10.041)



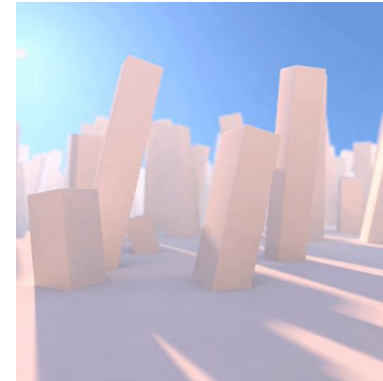
# How we are using this for solar forecasting in urban areas (and why)

# Our forecasting work in e-shape H2020 project



## **Pilot 3.2 - High PV penetration in urban areas** (developing GIS-like PV integration tools at urban scale)

### **Coupling solar forecasting model & dynamic solar cadaster**



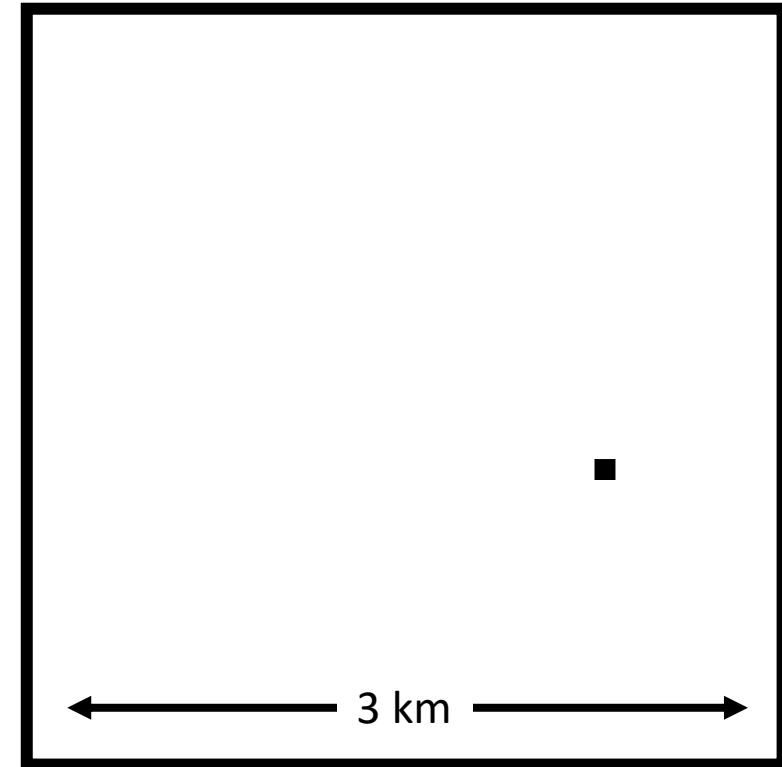
If you want to know more about the e-shape project and our work, check [10.13140/RG.2.2.13278.51522](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.13278.51522)

# Relevance of dynamic solar cadaster

It's all a matter of spatial scale

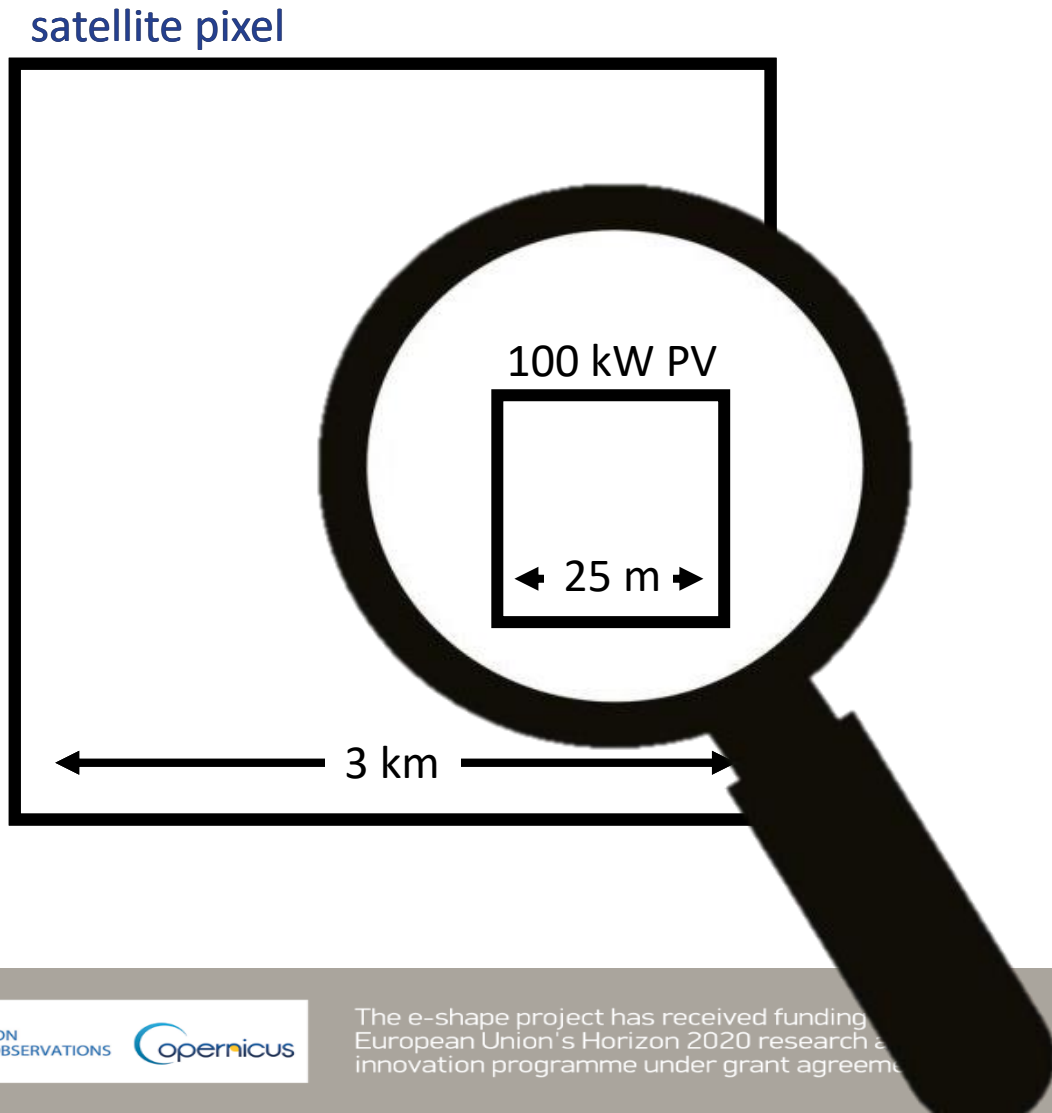


satellite pixel



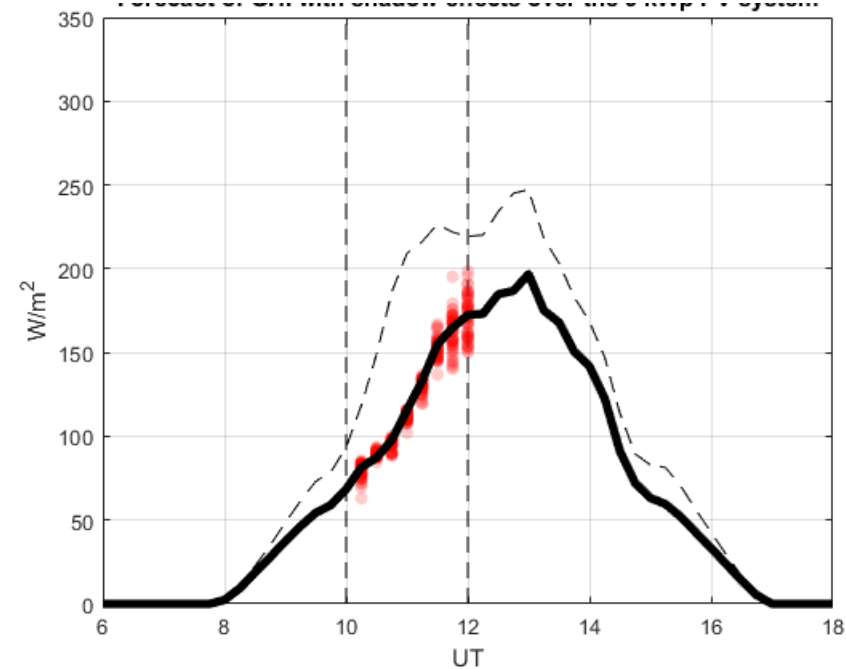
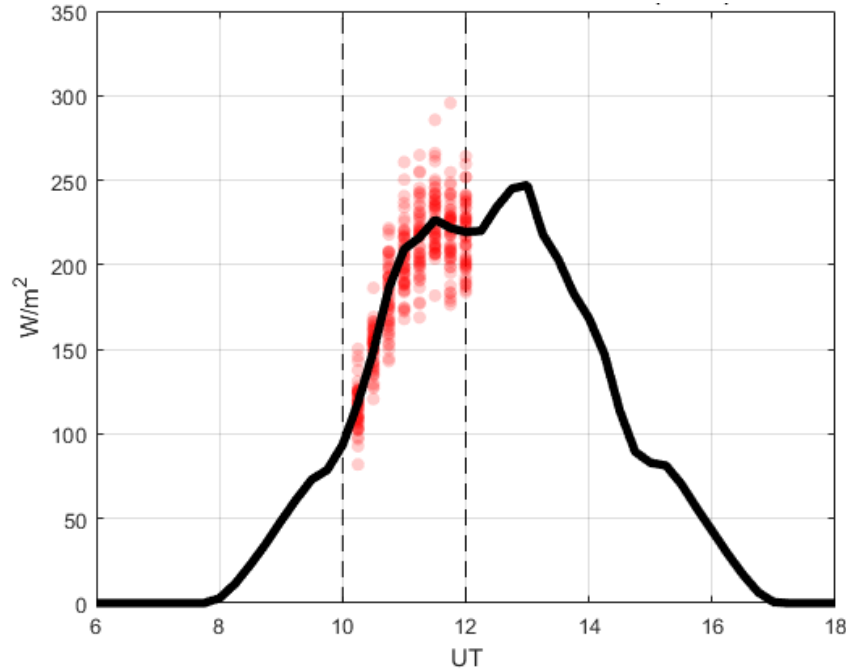
# Relevance of dynamic solar cadaster

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# Relevance of dynamic solar cadaster

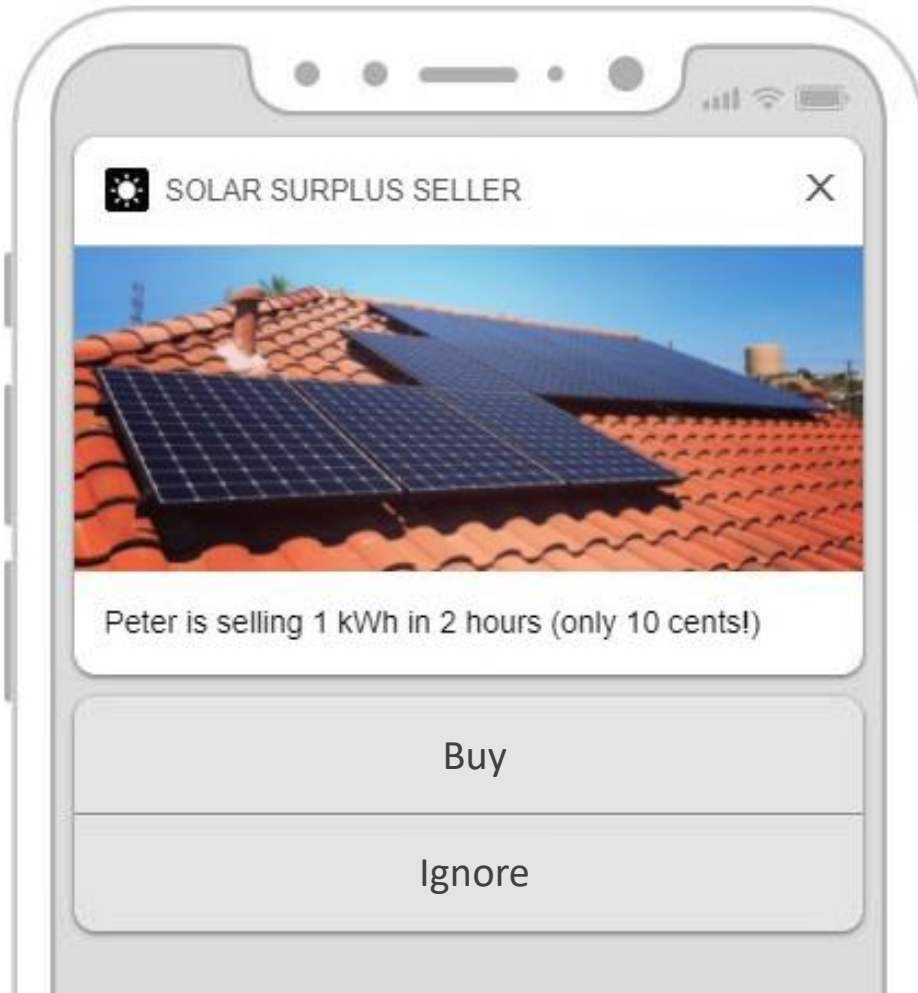
With a great impact on our forecast



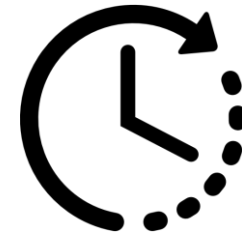
We could overestimate it by 10-100% !

Figures: courtesy from Prof. Philippe Blanc

# Our use-case for this topic: PV energy trading



Quantity  
(1 kWh)



Horizon  
(in 2 hours)

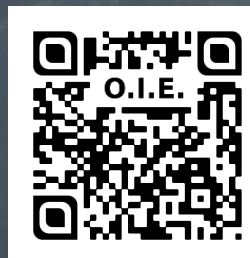
**Forecasting = business enabler**



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[www.mines-paristech.fr](http://www.mines-paristech.fr)  
[www.oie.mines-paristech.fr](http://www.oie.mines-paristech.fr)

# A brief overview on e-shape H2020 project



<https://e-shape.eu/>

4 years grant (2019-2023)

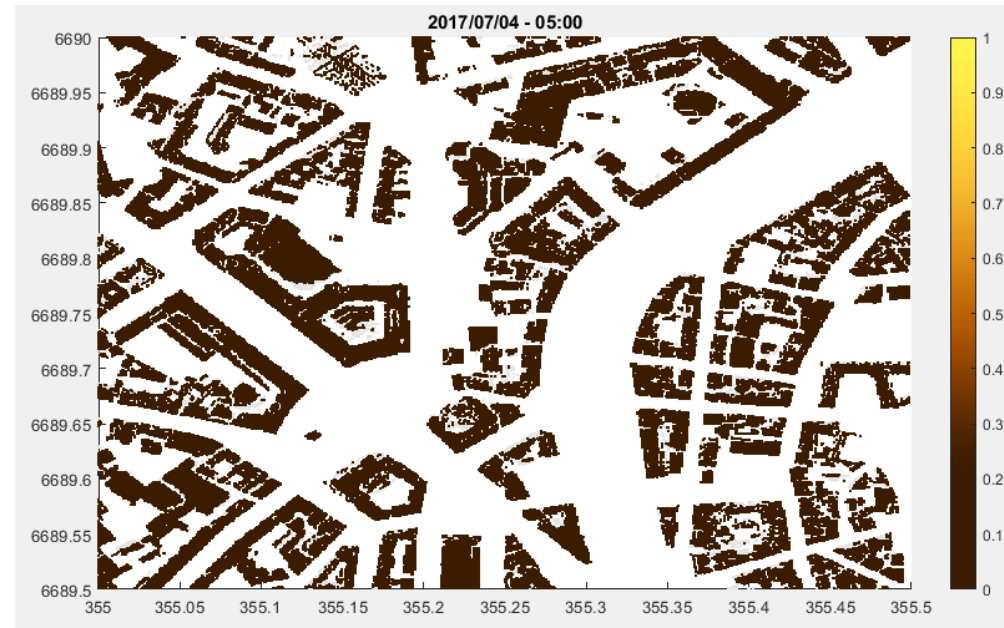
60 partners, 7 showcases



## Pilot 3.2 - High PV penetration in urban areas

(developing GIS-like PV integration tools at urban scale)

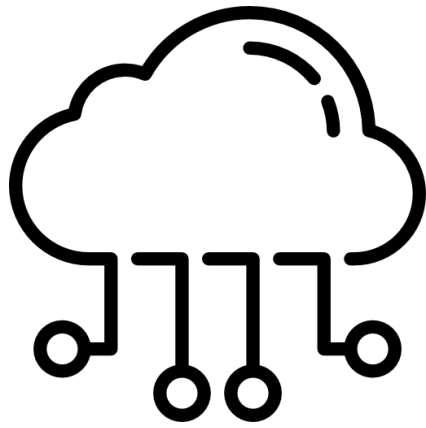
Use cases leveraged by dynamic solar cadaster + Earth Observation data



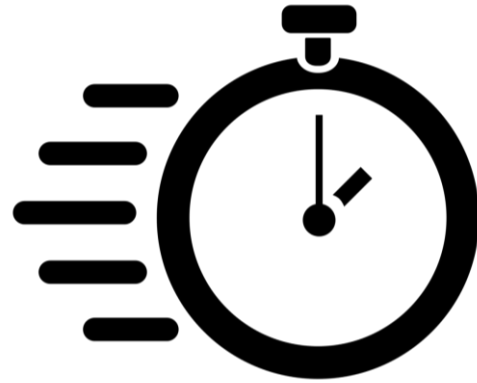
Animation: courtesy from Prof. Philippe Blanc

# Key aspects of dynamic solar cadaster

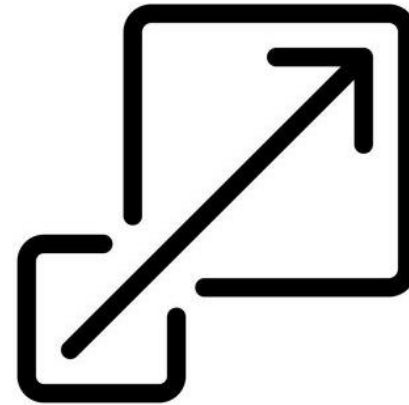
Solar calculations in urban environments based on Earth Observation data



Cloud-based



ON-demand  
the-fly



Scalable



Input agnostic

# Leveraged use cases

#1 PV sizing for self-consumption



#2 PV injection at distribution grid level



#3 Forecasting for PV trading



#4 Shadowing impacts of new buildings

