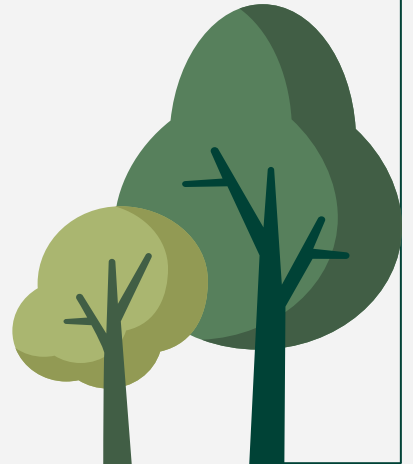
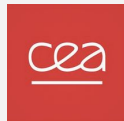




Towards large scale forest inventory

Scaling up precision using 3D data

Alvin Opler - 18/03/2025



Introduction: Why use 3d data in forestry ?

Wide availability of open-data

Cf all european data open-access

Enables tasks previously hard:

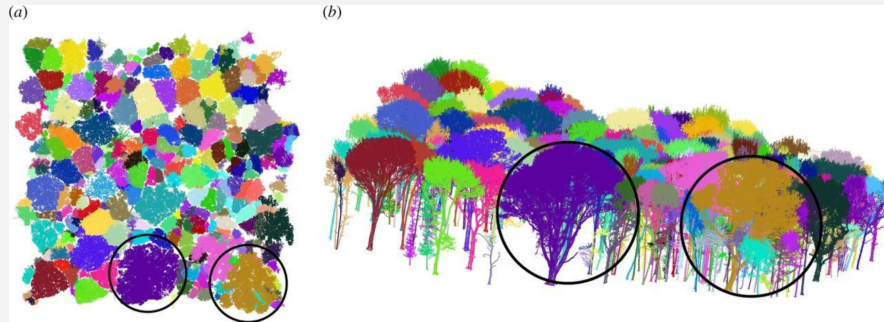
Segmentation

Biomass estimation

Species

Calibration of space-based models

etc.



Calders et al. 2024



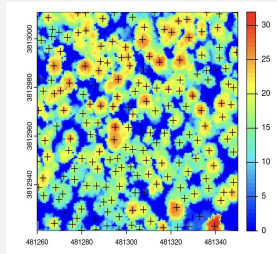
<https://hub.flai.ai/>



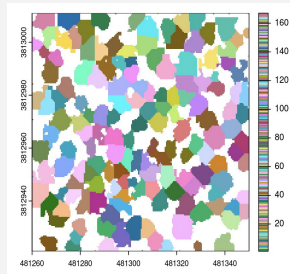
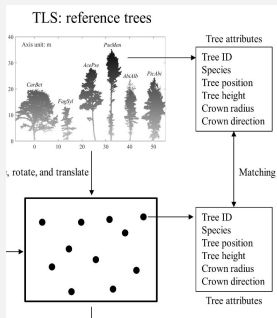
Introduction: Why use 3d data in forestry ?

ALS-like data

Step 1: Top of canopy detection



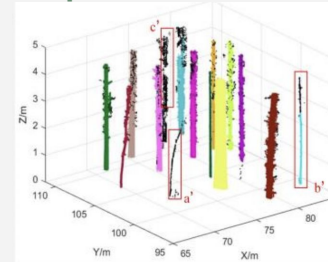
Step 2: Tree extraction



Li et al 2024

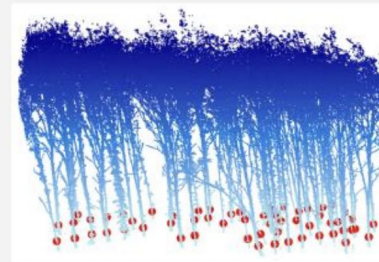
TLS-like data

Step 1: Trunk detection



Initial trunk detection based on DBSCAN

Step 2: Tree extraction



Seed Points

to



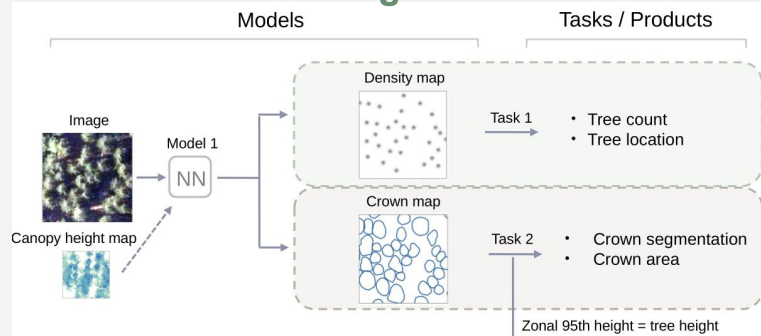
Segmentation results

Chen et al 2024

Introduction: Why use 3d data in forestry ?

ALS-like data

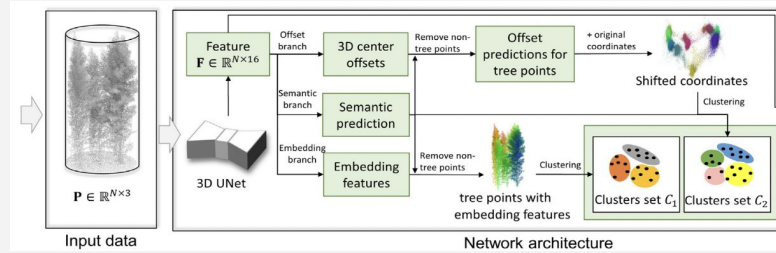
From 3d data to Height model



Li et al 2024.

TLS-like data

Using full 3d data



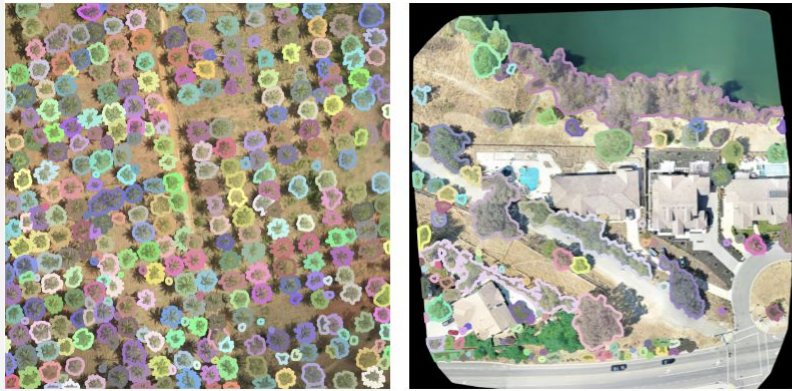
Wang et al 2024.

All supervised learning...



Introduction: Why use 3d data in forestry ?

... but with which dataset ?



Veitch-Michaelis et al. 2024

From the largest dataset of tree crowns (280k):

“Since we do not have ground truth for the data, there is some inherent subjectivity in the labels [...] we advise that they be used for open canopy tree mapping only. [...] We make it quite explicit that our model does not delineate dense groups of trees that are touching (closed canopy). [...] you should not use our models for things like tree counting in closed canopy forest.”



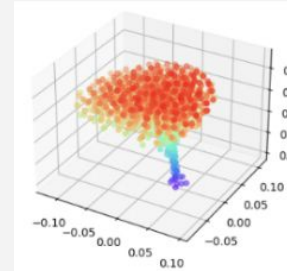
Our work: Overview for a self-supervised individual tree segmentation method

Step 1: Create (a) good 3d tree prototype(s)

Dataset and method

Downstream tasks

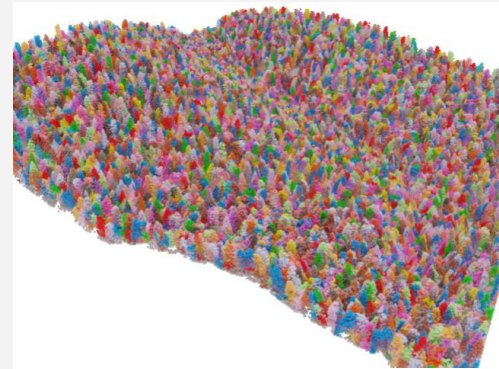
Comparison with other methods



Step 2: Fit the prototype(s) on the Lidar

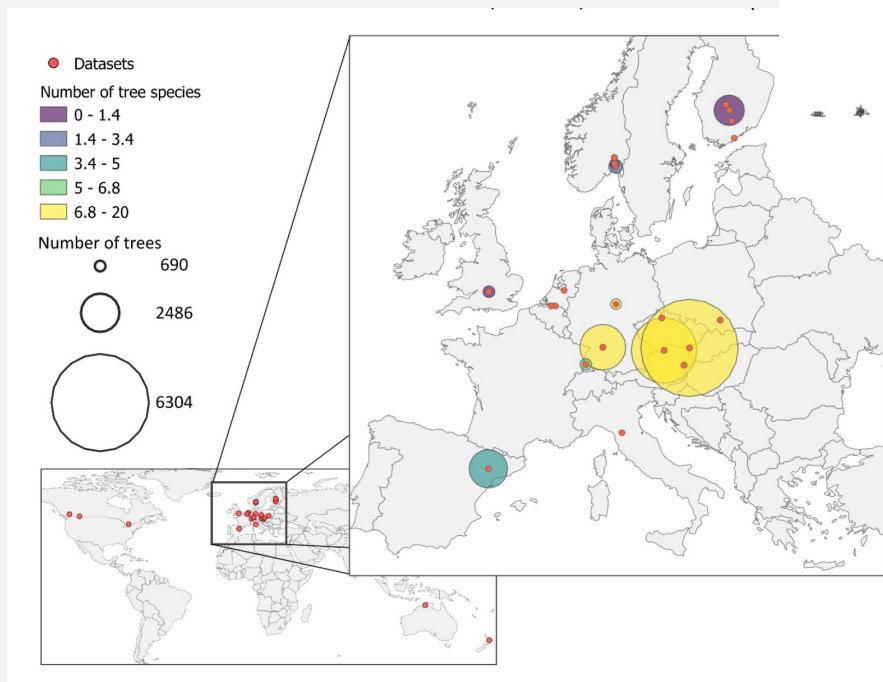
(work in progress)

Method only

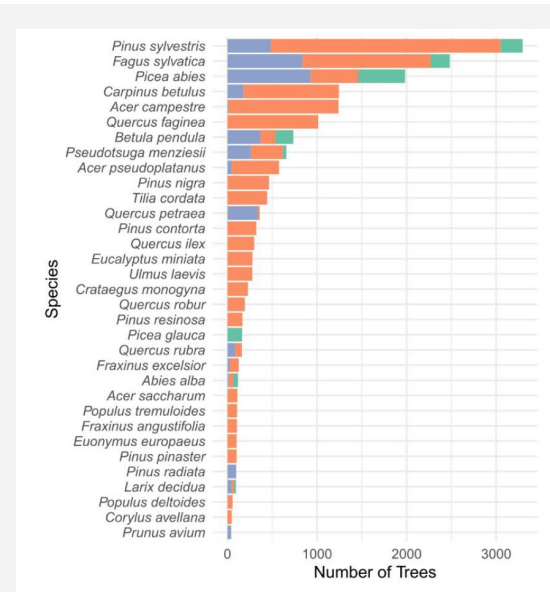


I. The prototypes: Dataset

For-Species 20K

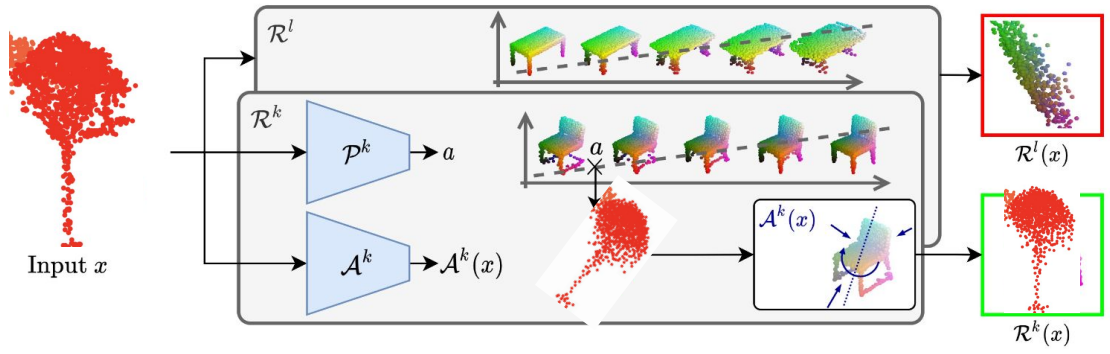


Picea abies



I. The prototypes: Method (Model)

What we do...



- $K=1$ (one prototype)
- $D=5$ (5 types of deformations)
- Train one model for all species (for now)
- Additional transfo: Anisotropy, rot Euler 2d
- $N_{\text{proto}} = 2000$

What we minimise...

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{R}) = \sum_{x \in x_1, \dots, x_N} \min_{k=1}^K d(x, \mathcal{R}^k(x))$$

How we do...

$$\mathcal{R}^k(x) = c^k + \sum_{i=1}^D a_i v_i^k$$

Loiseau et al. 2021



I. The prototypes: Reconstruction

Input

D=1

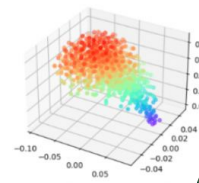
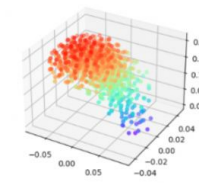
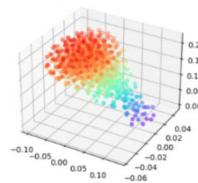
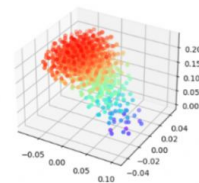
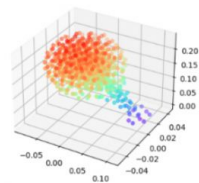
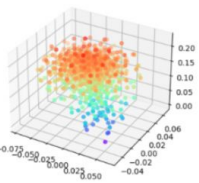
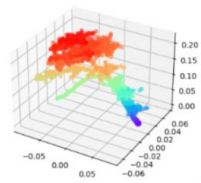
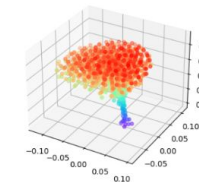
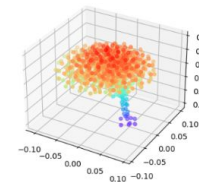
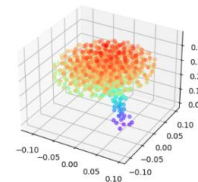
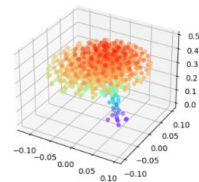
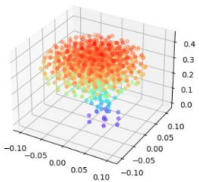
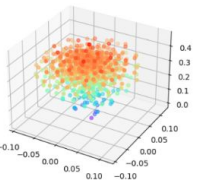
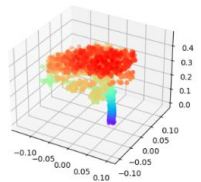
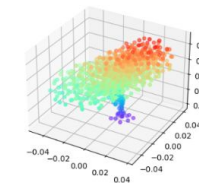
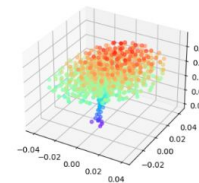
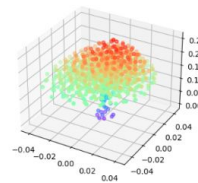
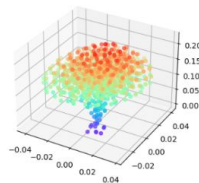
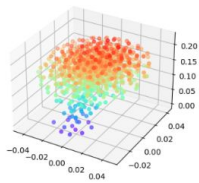
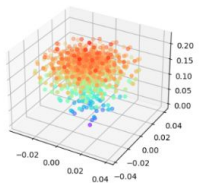
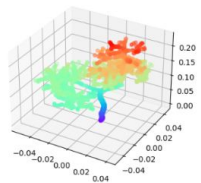
D=2

D=3

D=4

D=5

D=20



I. a) Downstream task: Volume estimation

The contenders of our method

Tree QSM



Pros: Very good precision
Cons: Slow (2 m 30s per cloud),
need consequent storage

Allometric equations

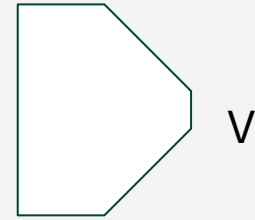
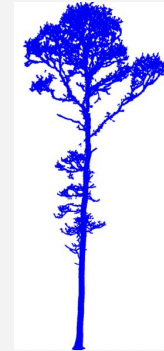
Model 1 ($m1$): $V = A_0 D^{a_1}$

Model 2 ($m2$): $V = B_0 D^{b_1} H^{b_2}$

Model 3 ($m3$): $V = C_0 D^{c_1} H^{c_2} CA^{c_3}$.

Pros: Easy, can have a biomass
value from CA and H only
Cons: Underestimation of big
trees, not so reliable...

Deep regressor

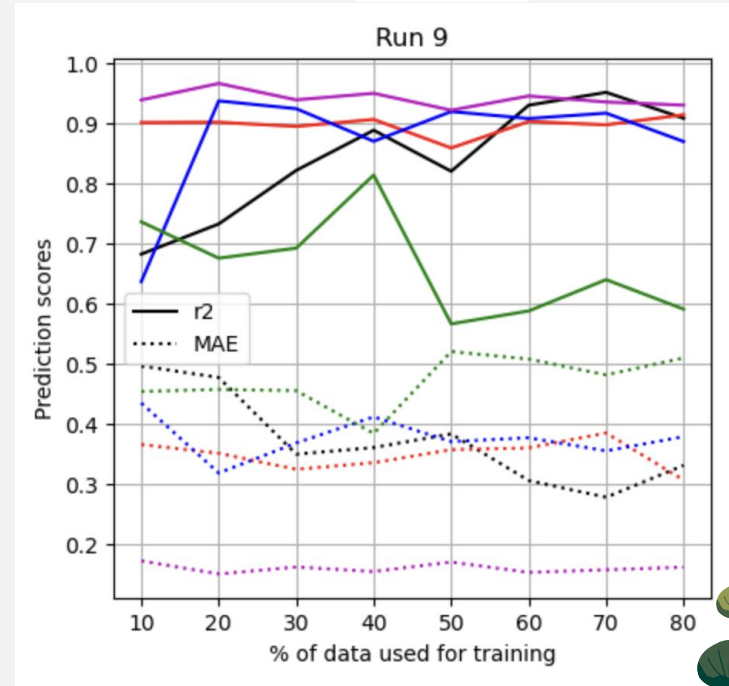


Pros: Good precision
Cons: In the next slide...



I. a) Downstream task: Volume estimation Comparison

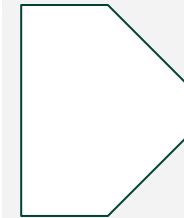
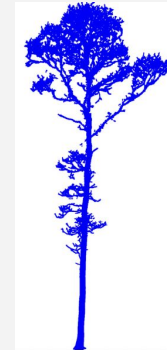
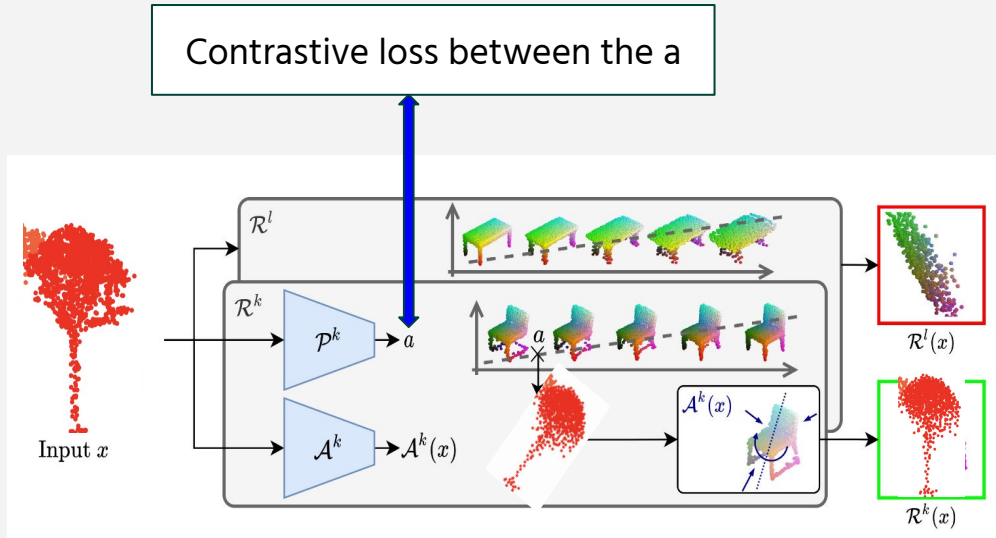
Exp name	ForSpecies20k	Volume data (Calders)
Ours (transfer)	100%	x%
Ours (no transfer)	NA	x%
Deep regressor	NA	x%
Allometries (H,D,CA)	NA	x%
Allometries (H,CA)	NA	x%



I. b) Downstream task: Species prediction methods

Ours (modified)

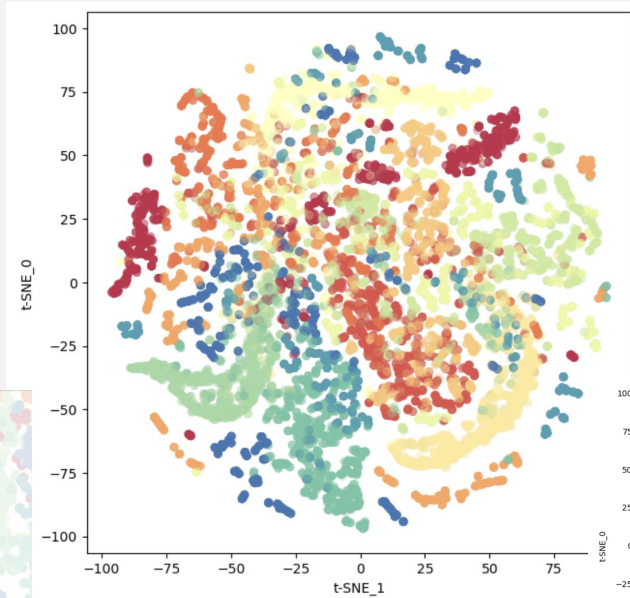
Classifier



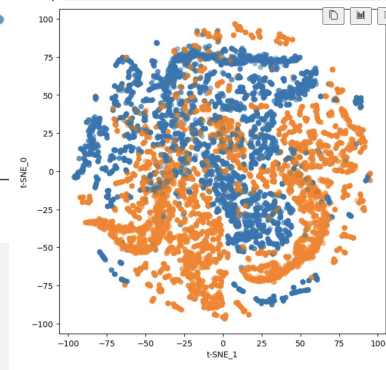
Class



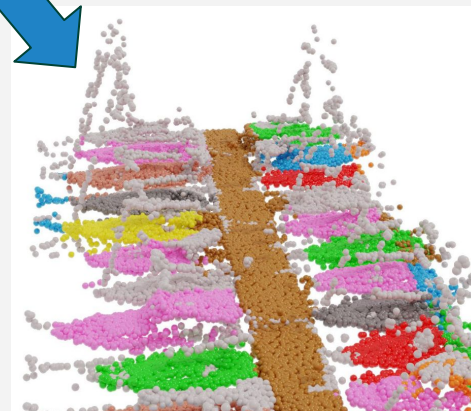
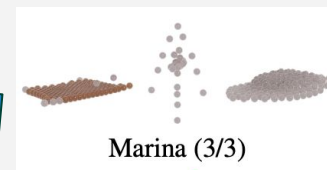
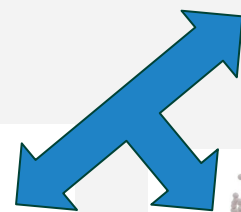
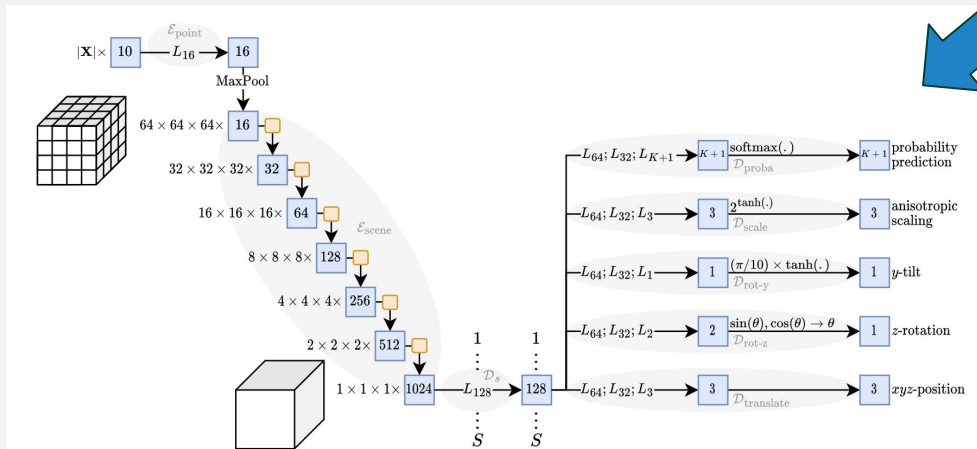
I. b) Downstream task: Species prediction Comparison



Method	Ours (D=5)	Classifier
OA	0.67	0.7
Best class F1	0.86	0.79



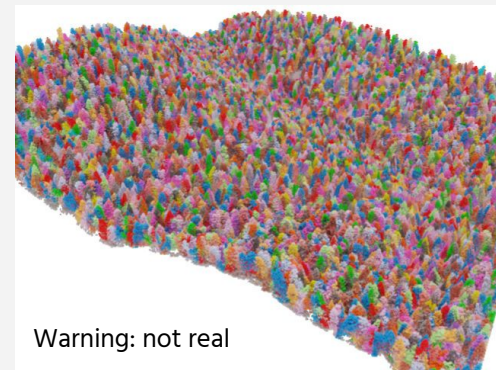
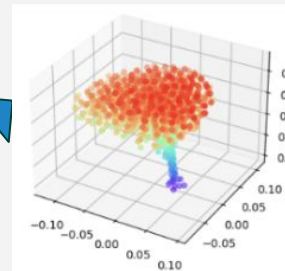
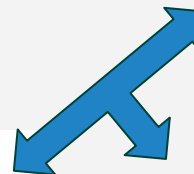
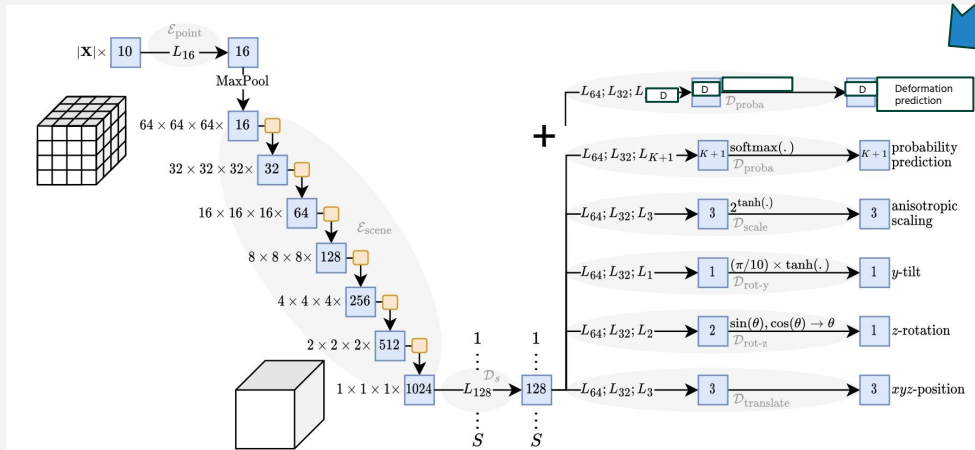
II. Fitting of the prototypes Learnable Earth Parser



Loiseau et al 2024

II. Fitting of the prototypes (Work in progress)

Learnable TREE Parser



Conclusion

We developed an new **alternative to QSMs**

Can be applied on large scale (low storage, low latency)

Keep gross **structure of tree**

Can be used to extract a estimation of the tree specie

We are developing a large scale use of these prototypes

So we can extract single tree from point cloud **in an unsupervised way**

While keeping essential individual tree info

LAI, Specie, Biomass, etc.

Thank you !!

