

# Spatiotemporal computing for enabling scientific research and engineering development: a GIS practice



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# What is GIS?

## A Short Personal Story

# What is Spatial Computing, and Spatiotemporal Computing?



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Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

PNAS

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Current Issue > vol. 108 no. 14 > Chaowei Yang, 5498–5503

# Using spatial principles to optimize distributed computing for enabling the physical science discoveries

Chaowei Yang<sup>1</sup>, Huayi Wu, Qunying Huang, Zhenlong Li, and Jing Li

Author Affiliations

Edited by Michael Goodchild, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, and approved December 14, 2010 (received for review August 15, 2009)

## Abstract

Contemporary physical science studies rely on the effective analyses of geographically dispersed spatial data and simulations of physical phenomena. Single computers and generic high-end computing are not sufficient to process the data for complex physical science analysis and simulations, which can be successfully supported only through distributed computing, best optimized through the application of spatial principles. Spatial computing, the computing aspect of a spatial cyberinfrastructure, refers to a computing paradigm that utilizes spatial principles to optimize distributed computers to catalyze advancements in the physical sciences. Spatial principles govern the interactions between scientific parameters across space and time by providing the spatial connections and constraints to drive the progression of the phenomena. Therefore, spatial computing studies could better position us to leverage spatial principles in simulating physical phenomena and, by extension, advance the physical sciences. Using geospatial science as an example, this paper illustrates through three research examples how spatial computing could (i) enable data intensive science with efficient data/services search, access, and utilization, (ii) facilitate physical science studies with enabling high-performance computing capabilities, and (iii) empower scientists with multidimensional visualization tools to understand observations and simulations. The research examples demonstrate that spatial computing is of

includes about 100TB storage and 10TFlops computing power and the connection to



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Masthead (PDF)  
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PREV ARTICLE NEXT ARTICLE

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5498-5503

### Classifications

- Spatial Cyberinfrastructure
- Special Feature
- Research Articles
- Physical Sciences
- Computer Sciences

### Access

- Abstract
- Full Text (HTML)
- Full Text (PDF)
- Figures Only

GIS Day,

Microsoft



# Dust Storm Hazards



**Illness & Diseases**

**Traffic & Car  
accidences**

**Air Pollution**

**Ecological System**

**Desertification**

**Global/regional  
Climate**

**Phoenix Dust Storm a "100-Year Event", 2011, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

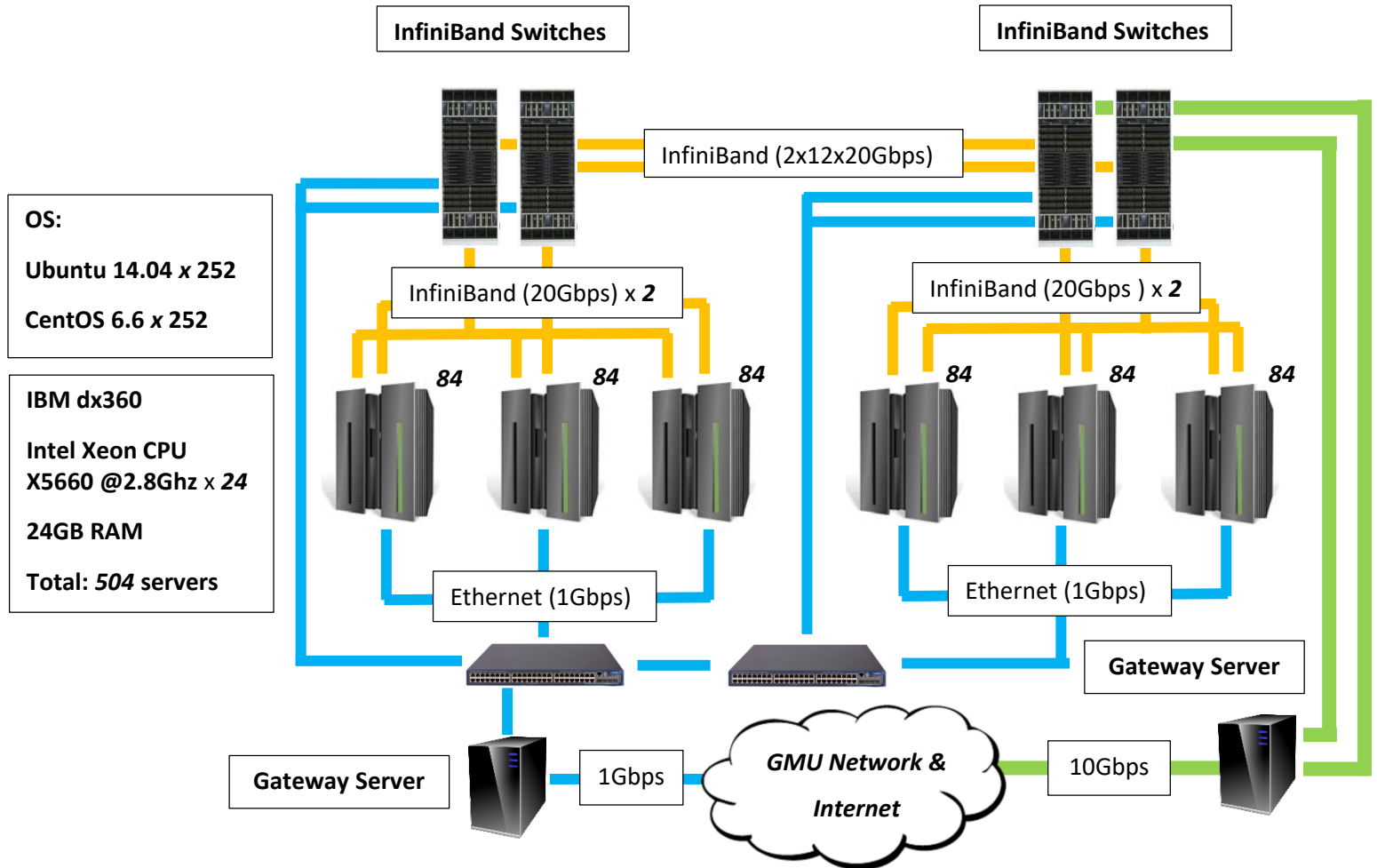


# Dust Storm eScience Infrastructure



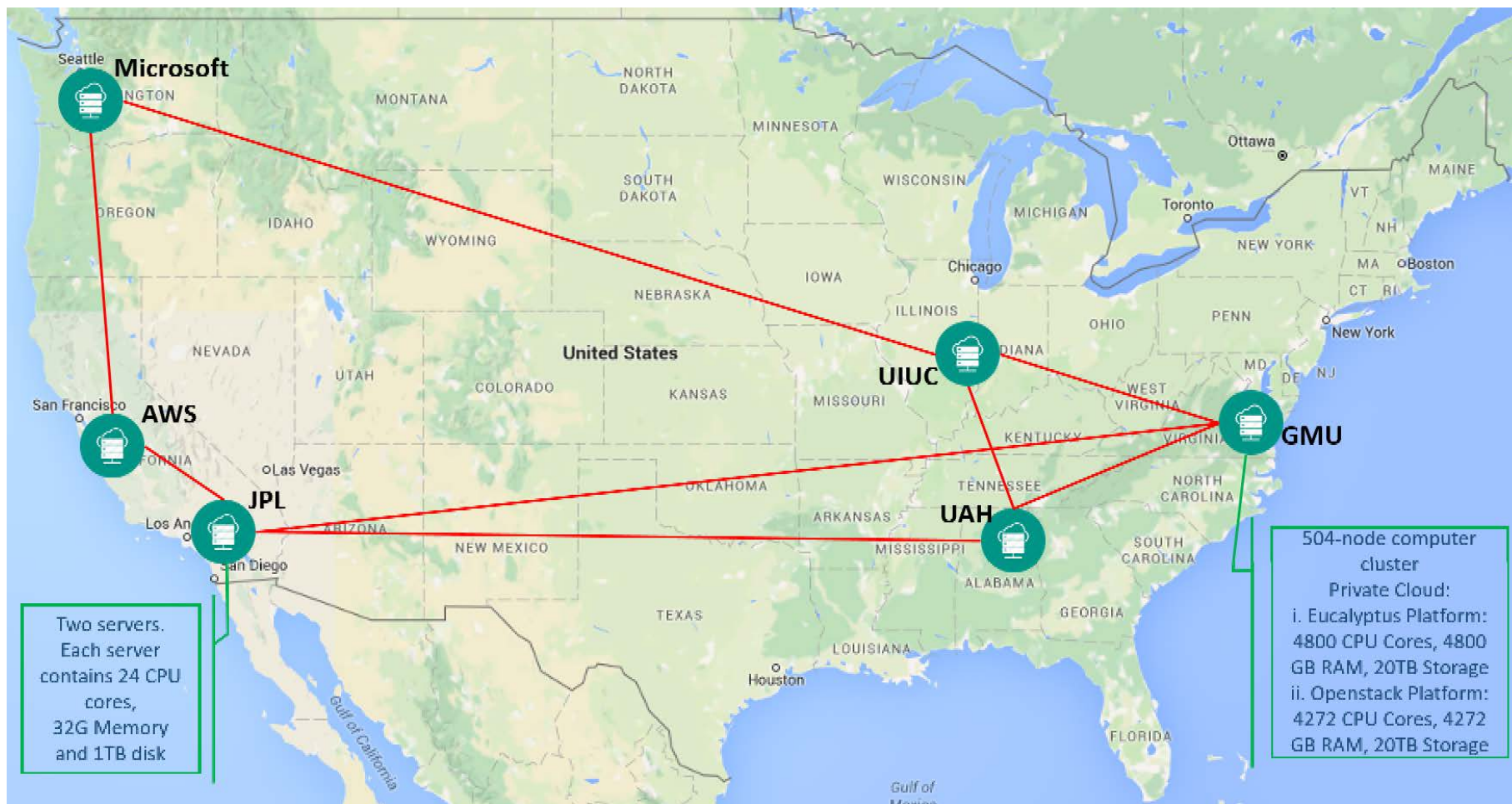
# Put us in the Global Context

# An Academic Geospatial Cloud Environment: Physical Infrastructure and Network Configuration





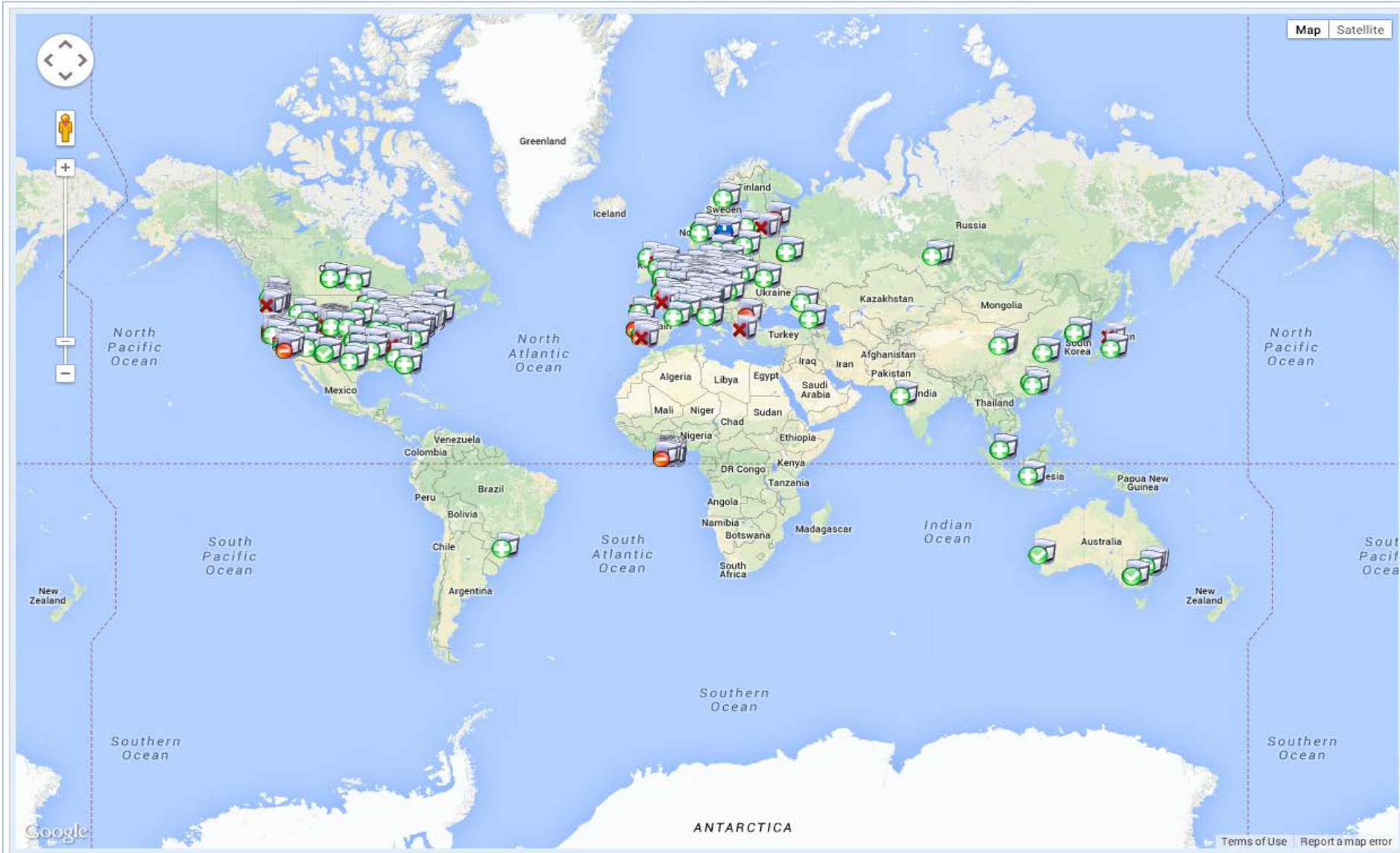
# GeoCloud: A national big data cloud





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# Leveraging Global Computing Resources







地理信息科学系列

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Spatial Cloud  
A Practical Approach

# 空间云计算——应用与实践

Spatial Cloud Computing  
A Practical Approach

Chaowei Yang Qunying Huang 著  
李锐 黄蔚 金宝轩 译



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Qunying Huang

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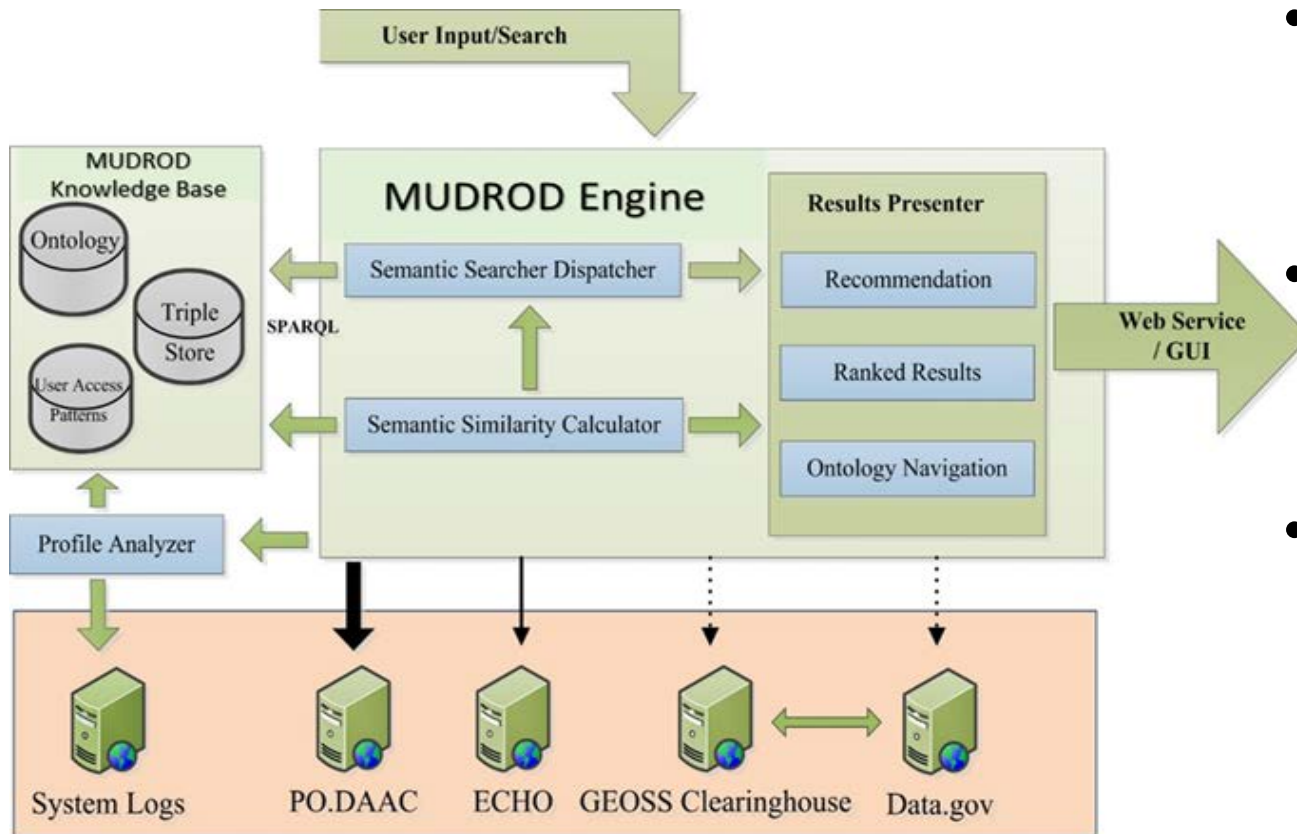
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# Building and Utilizing Spatiotemporal Knowledge Base?

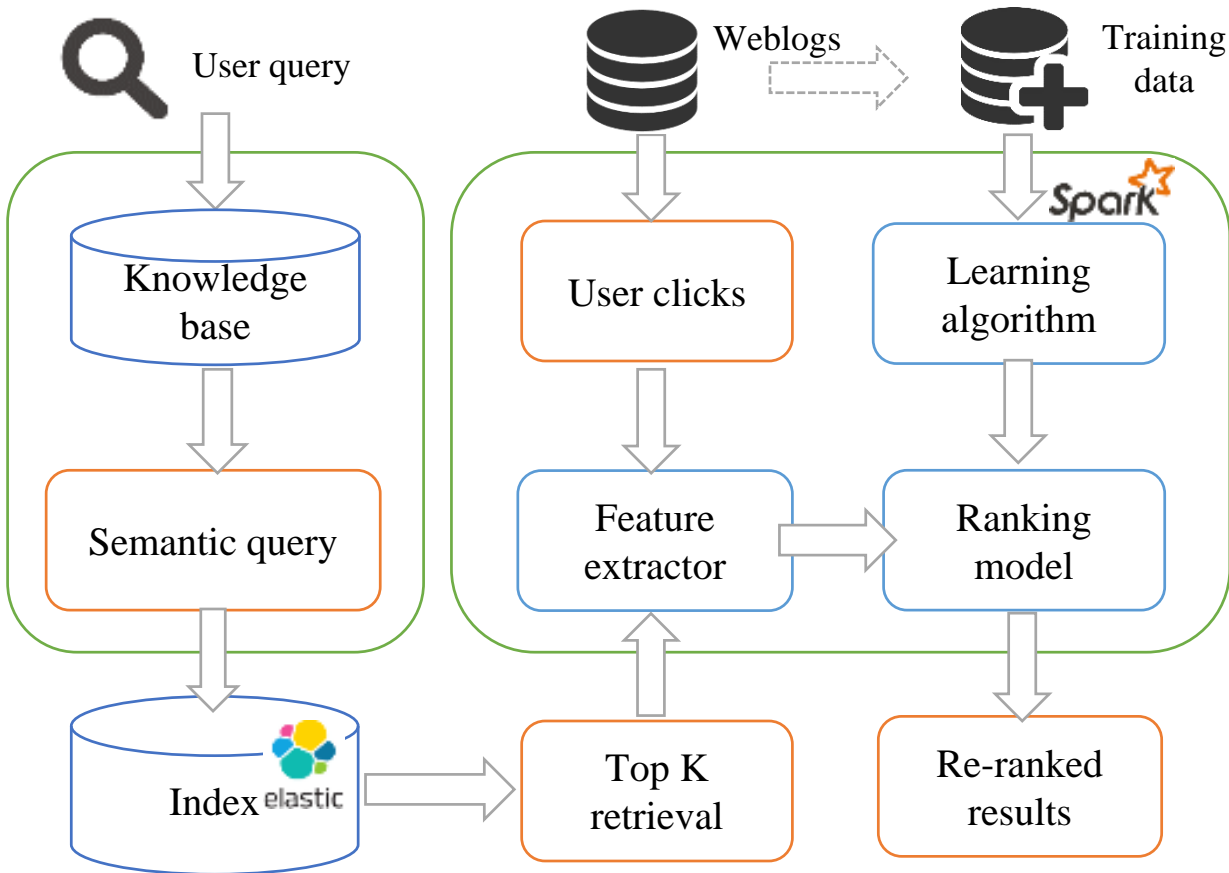
## Smart Data Discovery

# Architecture



- All of these (except for training) can be finished within 2 seconds
- None of the open source mainstream ML library provide any ranking algorithm
- Implemented it by ourselves with the aid of Spark MLlib

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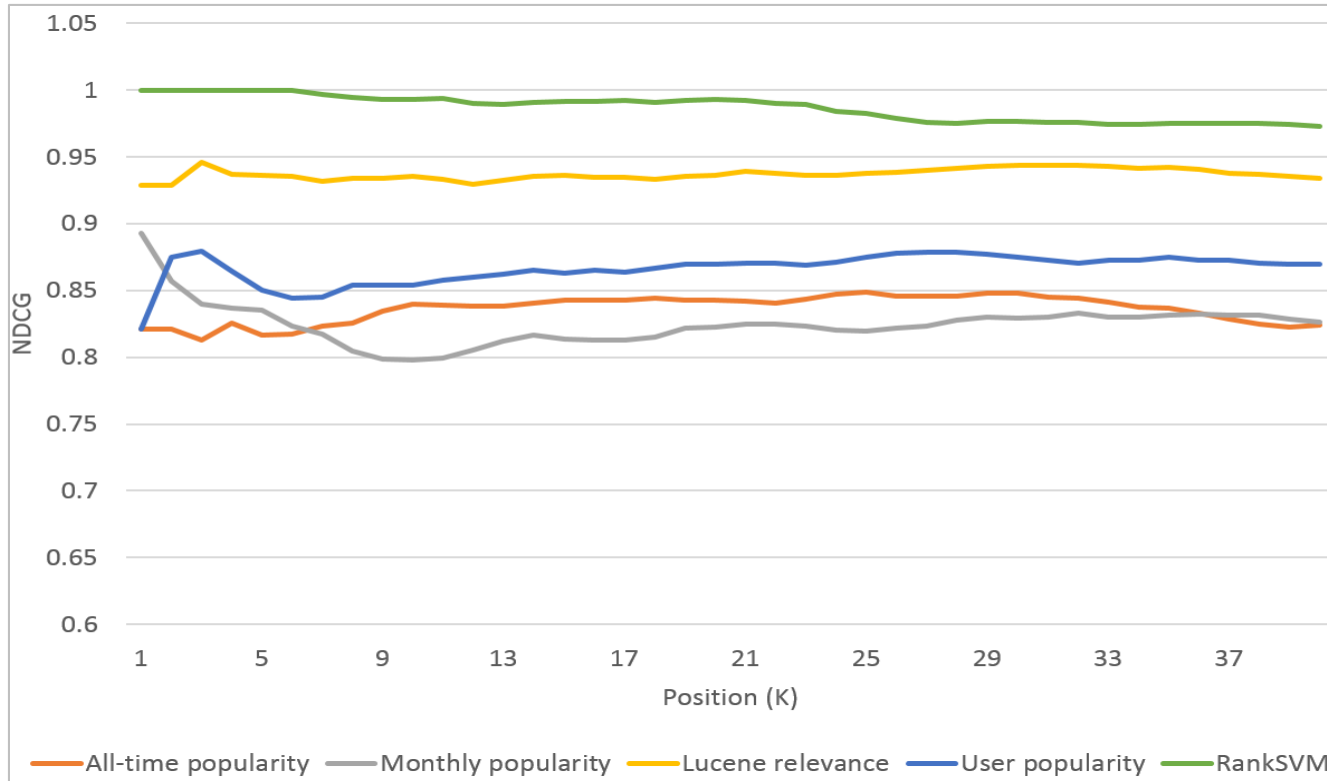


# Smart Discovery of Big Geospatial Data Ranking & Recommendation

<http://mudrod.jpl.nasa.gov/>

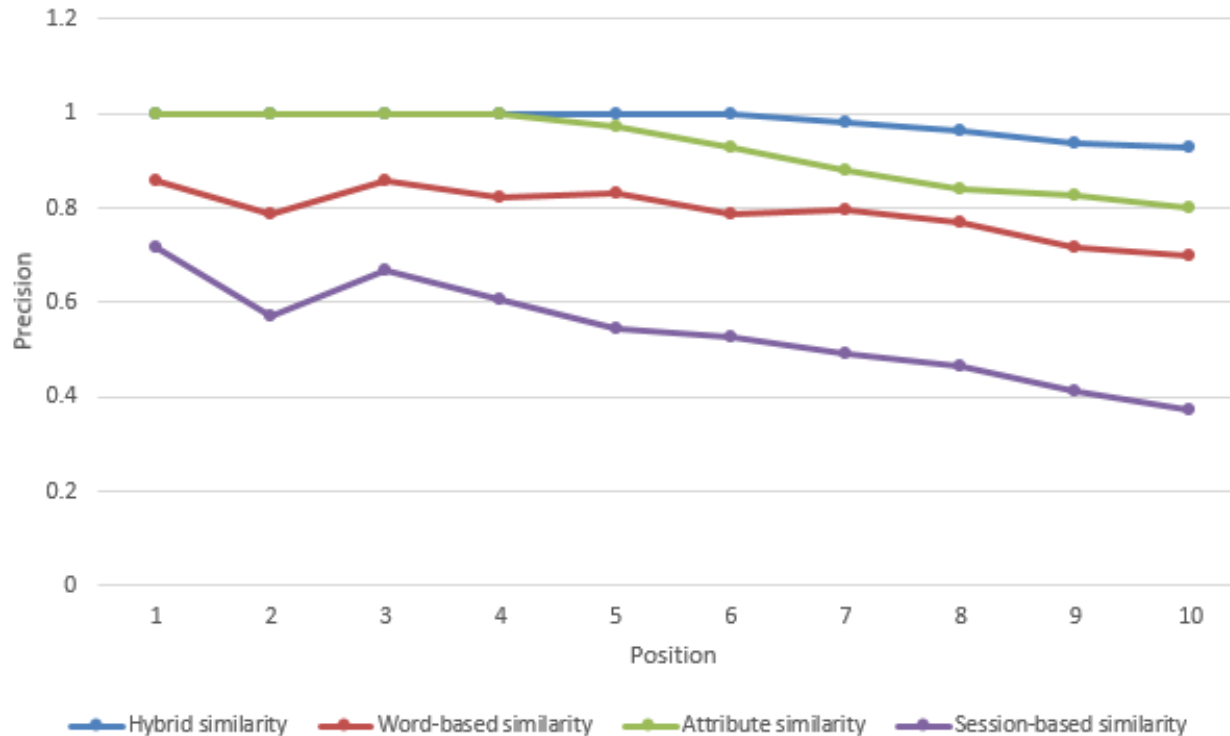


# NDCG (K) for five different ranking methods at varying K (1-40)



Jiang, Y., Y. Li, C. Yang, K. Liu, E. M. Armstrong, T. Huang, D. Moroni & L. J. McGibbney (2017) Towards intelligent geospatial discovery: a machine learning ranking framework. International Journal of Digital Earth (in press)

# Quantitative Evaluation for Recommending Content

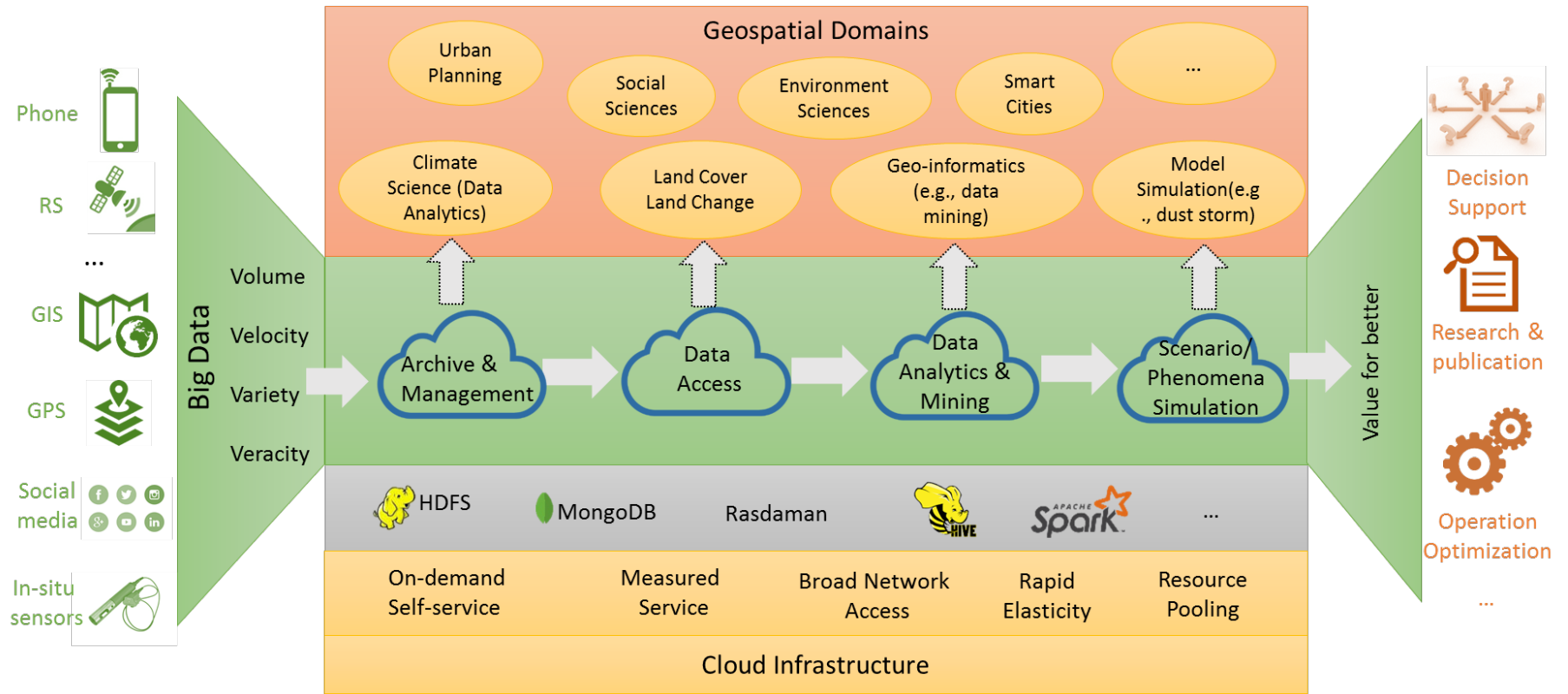


Hybrid similarity outperform other similarities since it integrates metadata attributes and user preference.

Y. Li, Jiang, Y., C. Yang, K. Liu, E. M. Armstrong, T. Huang, D. Moroni & L. J. McGibbney (2017) A Geospatial Data Recommender System based on Metadata and User Behaviour (in review with IJGIS)

Is it a hot research topic?

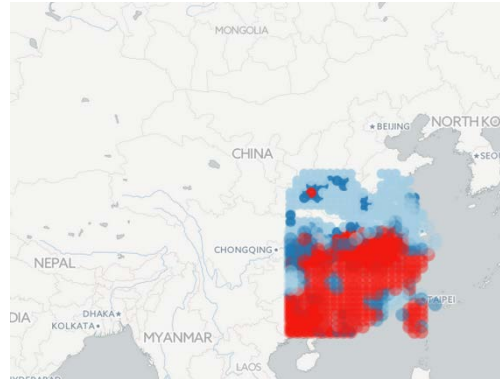
# A Big Data Platform Prototype



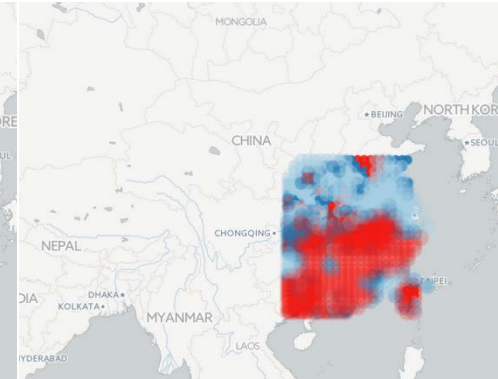
Yang, C., Yu, M., Hu, F., Jiang, Y. and Li, Y., 2017. Utilizing Cloud Computing to address big geospatial data challenges. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, 61, pp.120-128.

# Detecting Anomaly Events from Big Climate Data

Time	P-value
1998/06/01	0.997109533
2008/06/01	0.992131279
2005/06/01	0.989325372
1980/08/01	0.987258529
2000/06/01	0.984524833
2011/06/01	0.98370185
2001/06/01	0.982886365
2010/06/01	0.981098687
2002/06/01	0.979622053
2008/07/01	0.978877457
2006/07/01	0.978502723



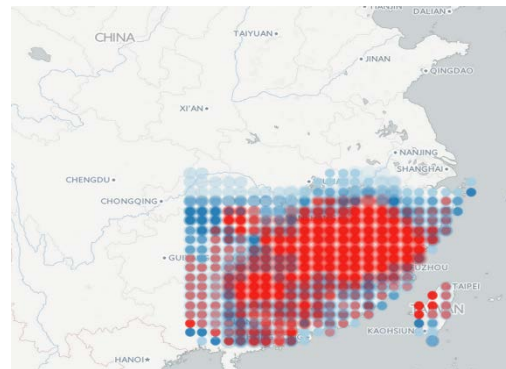
1998 June



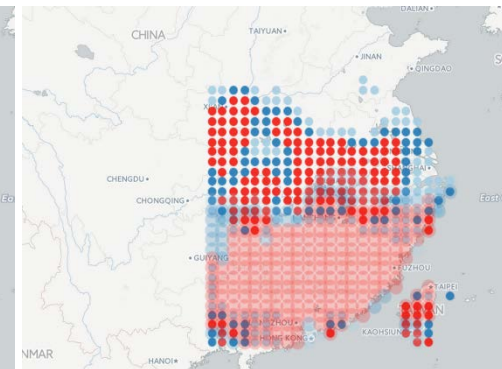
1998 July

## 1998 Yangtze River floods

The floods resulted in 3,704 dead, 15 million homeless



2010 May



2010 June

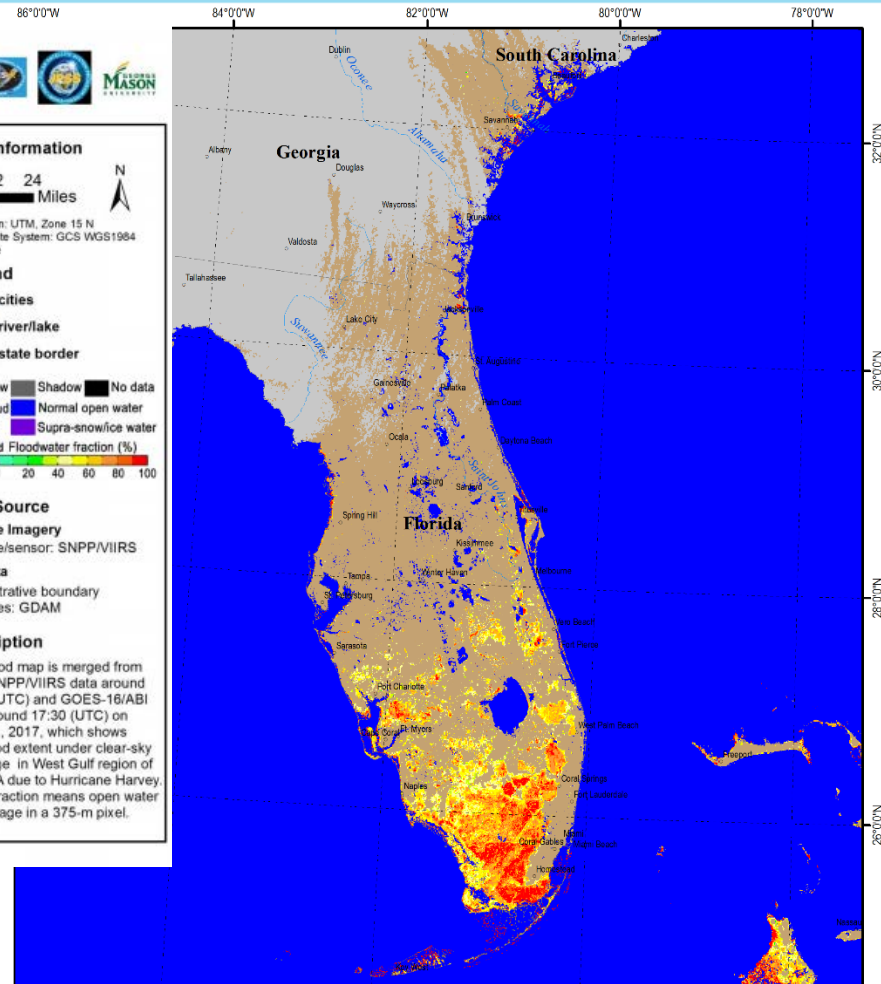
## 2010 China floods

The total damages from the floods were roughly 55 billion dollars

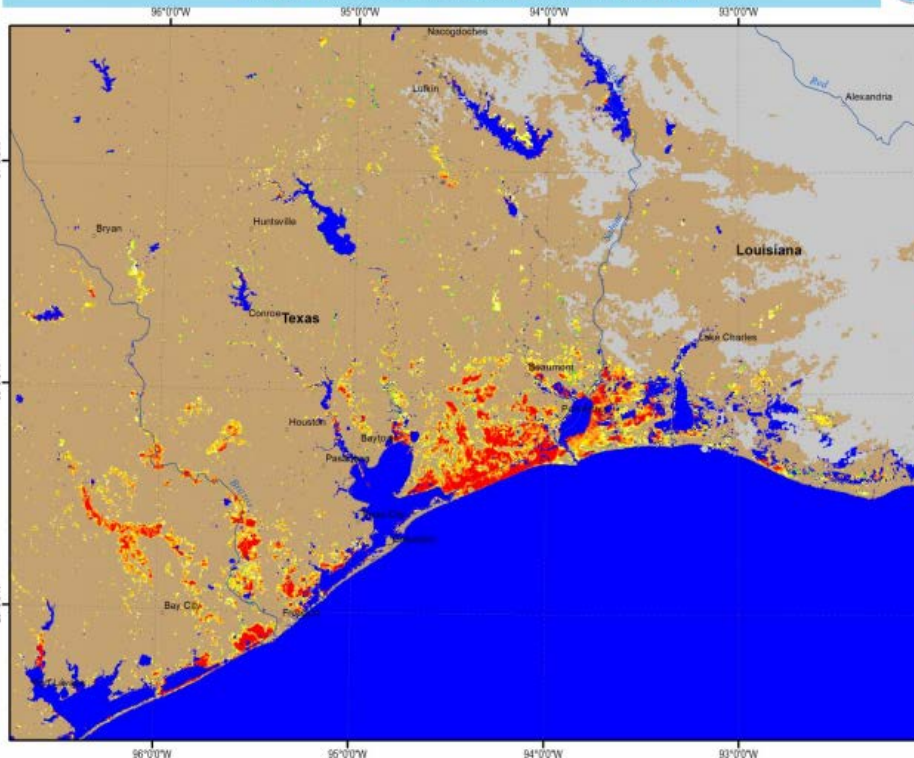


# Mining flooding information continuously to save lives

**GOES-16/ABI and Suomi-NPP/VIIRS Merged Flood Map in Florida, USA**  
Merged Flood Extent from ABI and VIIRS on Sep.11, 2017



**GOES-16/ABI and Suomi-NPP/VIIRS Merged Flood Map in West Gulf Region, USA**  
Merged Flood Extent from ABI and VIIRS on Aug.31, 2017



Donglian Sun





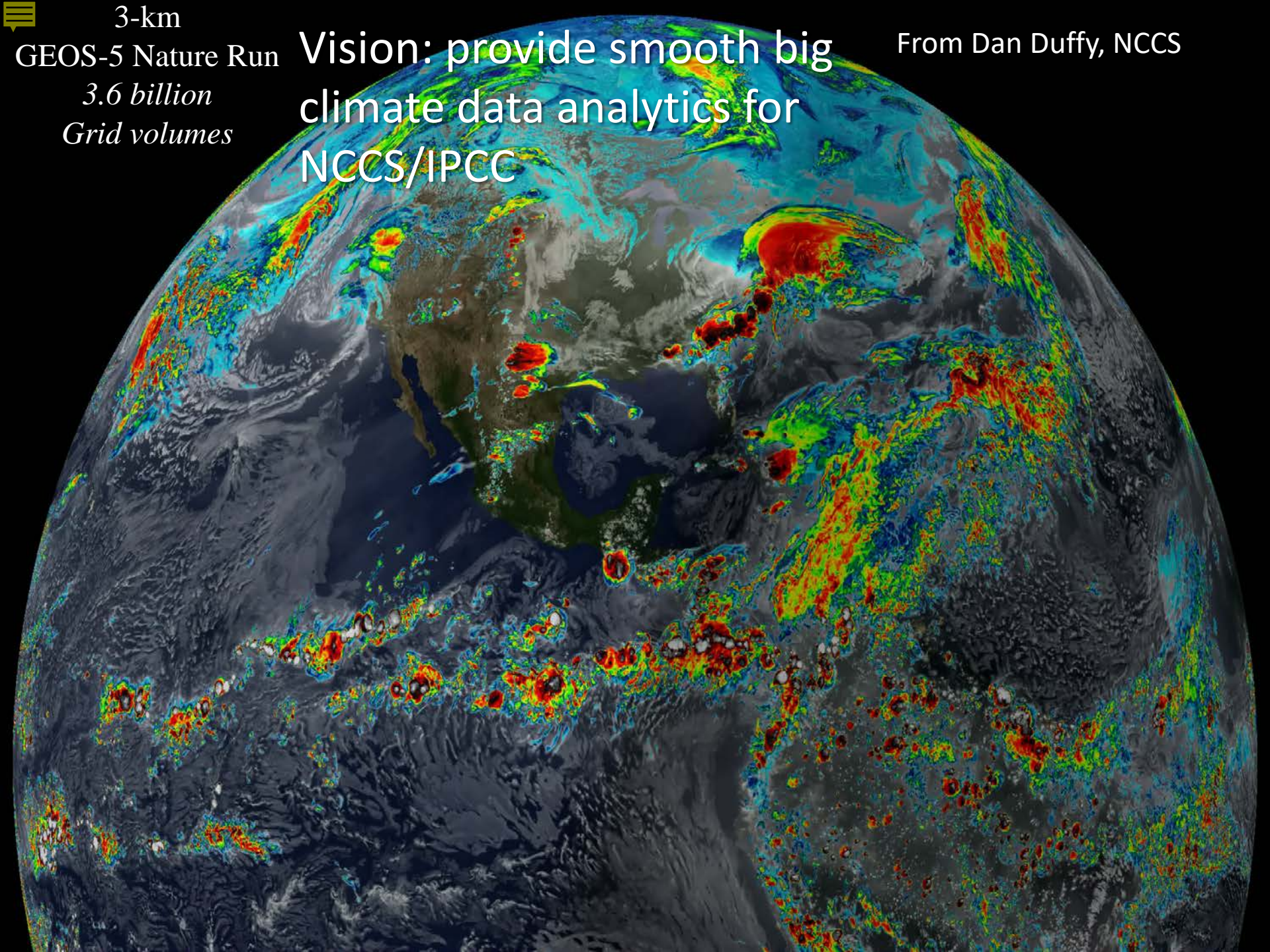
3-km

GEOS-5 Nature Run

*3.6 billion  
Grid volumes*

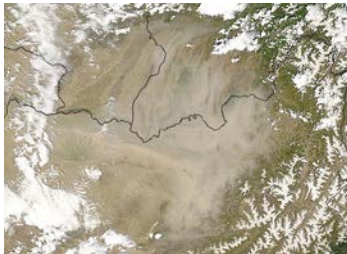
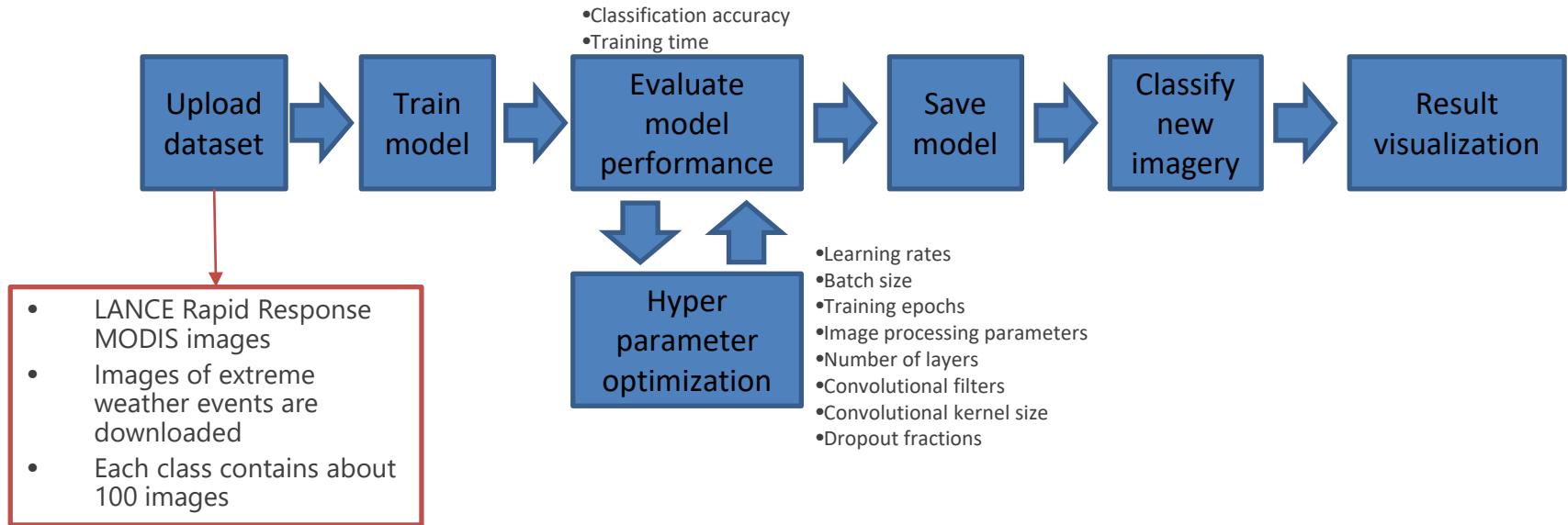
Vision: provide smooth big  
climate data analytics for  
NCCS/IPCC

From Dan Duffy, NCCS





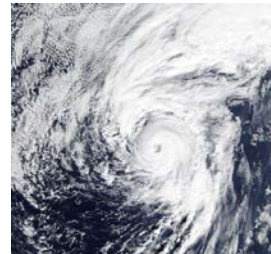
# Automatically learn and detect disaster events from observations



Dust



Fire



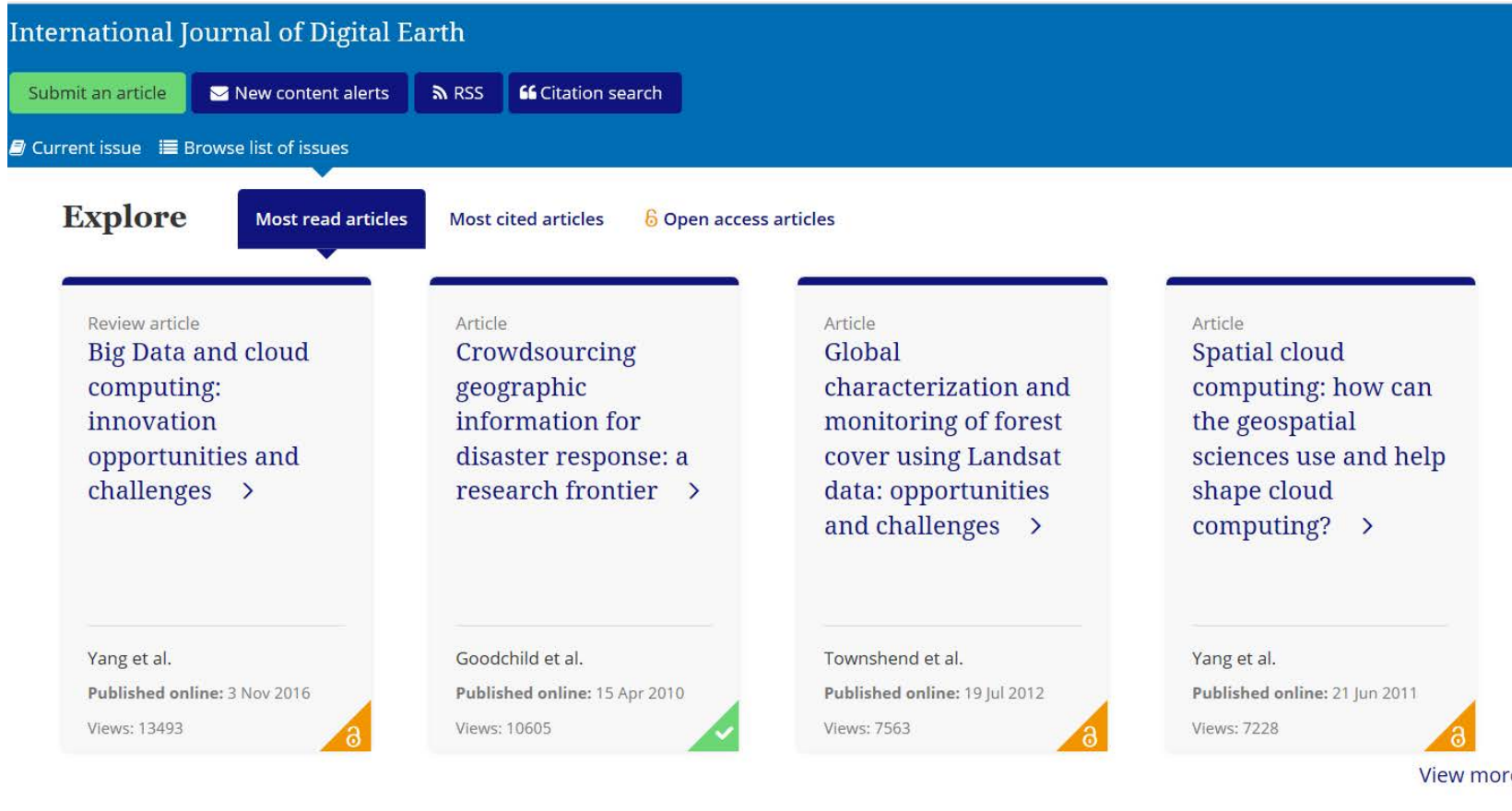
Hurricane



Plume

# Big Data and Cloud Computing: Innovation Opportunities and Challenges

Yang, C., Huang, Q., Li, Z., Liu, K. and Hu, F., 2017. Big Data and cloud computing: innovation opportunities and challenges. International Journal of Digital Earth, 10(1), pp.13-53.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Journal of Digital Earth. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the journal title and several buttons: 'Submit an article', 'New content alerts', 'RSS', and 'Citation search'. Below this, there are links for 'Current issue' and 'Browse list of issues'. The main content area is titled 'Explore' and features a 'Most read articles' tab. Four article cards are displayed, each with a title, author, publication date, and view count. The first card is the article being cited in the text.

Article Title	Author	Published online	Views
Review article: Big Data and cloud computing: innovation opportunities and challenges	Yang et al.	3 Nov 2016	13493
Article: Crowdsourcing geographic information for disaster response: a research frontier	Goodchild et al.	15 Apr 2010	10605
Article: Global characterization and monitoring of forest cover using Landsat data: opportunities and challenges	Townshend et al.	19 Jul 2012	7563
Article: Spatial cloud computing: how can the geospatial sciences use and help shape cloud computing?	Yang et al.	21 Jun 2011	7228

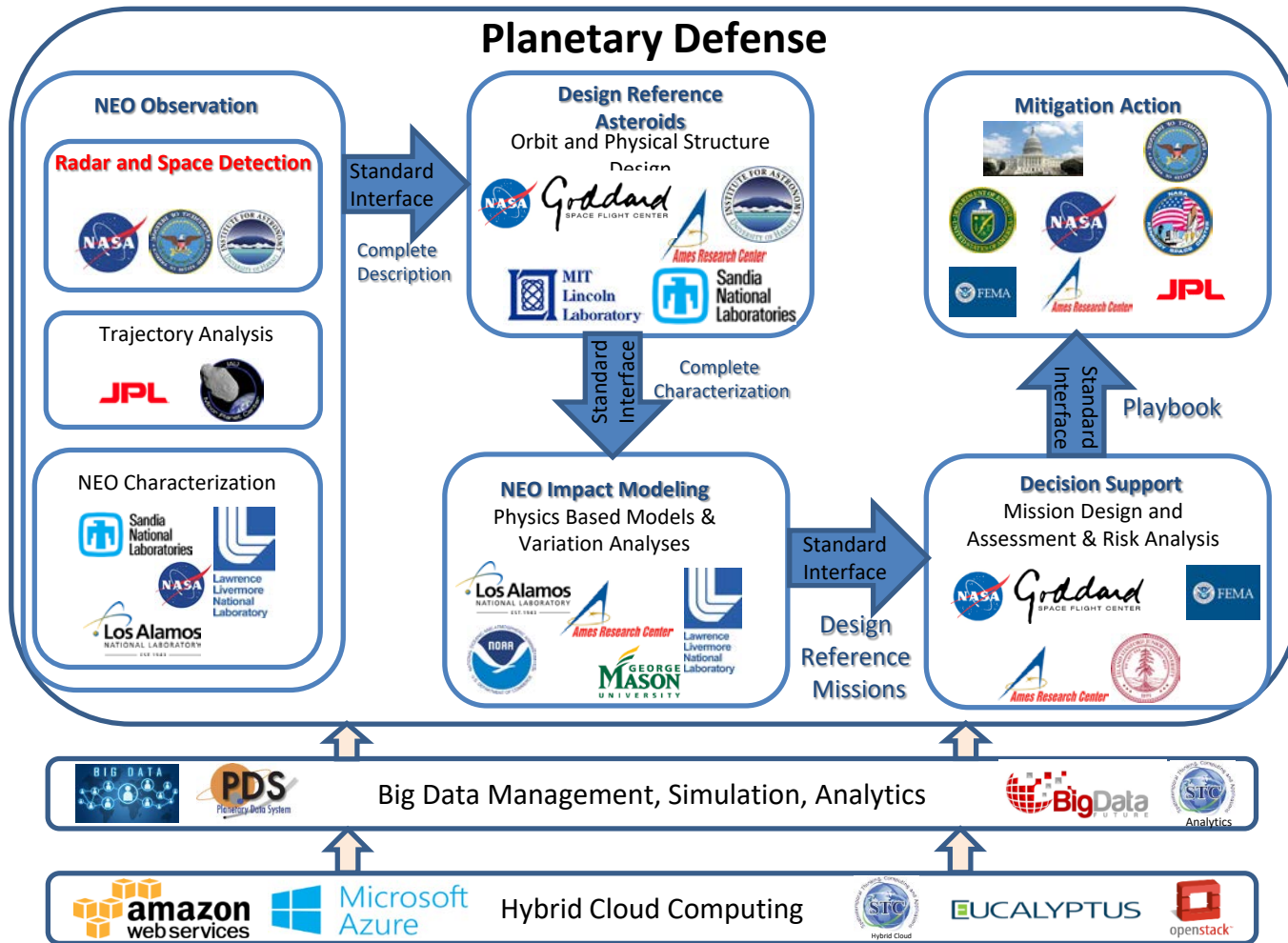
# Is it cool to do research in GIS?



Discovery Channel - Large Asteroid Impact Simulation



# Architectural Framework



Could I find a job?



**Kai Liu**

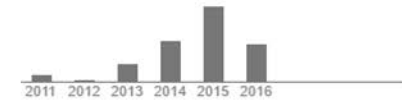
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PhD Student of Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences, George Mason University  
 Web GIS, Volunteer Computing, Cloud Computing  
 Verified email at masonlive.gmu.edu

Title	1-20	Cited by	Year
Cloud computing for geosciences: deployment of GEOSS clearinghouse on Amazon's EC2	Q Huang, C Yang, D Nebert, K Liu, H Wu Proceedings of the ACM SIGSPATIAL international workshop on high performance ...	27	2010
Evaluating open-source cloud computing solutions for geosciences	Q Huang, C Yang, K Liu, J Xia, C Xu, J Li, Z Gui, M Sun, Z Li Computers & Geosciences 59, 41-52	21	2013
Spatial cloud computing: a practical approach	C Yang, Q Huang, Z Li, X Chen, K Liu CRC Press	19	2013
A performance, semantic and service quality-enhanced distributed search engine for improving geospatial resource discovery	Z Gui, C Yang, J Xia, K Liu, C Xu, J Li, P Lostritto International Journal of Geographical Information Science 27 (6), 1109-1132	17	2013
The GEOSS clearinghouse high performance search engine	K Liu, C Yang, W Li, Z Li, H Wu, A Rezgui, J Xia Geoinformatics, 2011 19th International Conference on, 1-4	13	2011
Contemporary computing technologies for processing big spatiotemporal data	C Yang, M Sun, K Liu, Q Huang, Z Li, Z Gui, Y Jiang, J Xia, M Yu, C Xu, ... Space-Time Integration in Geography and GIScience, 327-351	9	2015
Building Model as a Service to support geosciences	Z Li, C Yang, Q Huang, K Liu, M Sun, J Xia Computers, Environment and Urban Systems	6	2014
Optimizing an index with spatiotemporal patterns to support GEOSS Clearinghouse	J Xia, C Yang, Z Gui, K Liu, Z Li International Journal of Geographical Information Science 28 (7), 1459-1481	6	2014

Google Scholar

Citation indices	All	Since 2011
Citations	163	162
h-index	6	6
i10-index	5	5



Co-authors View all...

- Zhenlong Li
- Jing Li

SIGN IN



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rocessing

# How to connect with the communities?

# Training

- Research Experience for Undergraduate (4-6 each year)
- Series of Training Program on State Geographic Monitoring Technology:  
Objective: provide training to Chinese executives and engineers from NASG and provisional bureaus on state geographic monitoring technology and the trend of geospatial studies in the U.S.
  - Total over 200 executives were trained in the program





# Outreach Activities

- Symposia on Spatiotemporal Thinking, Computing and Applications
  - Five years in AAG CA
  - 20 paper and panel sessions organized on average each year
  - ~800 audience in the room each year
  - Total ~ 4000 person times



# Outreach Activities

- International symposium on spatiotemporal computing
  - 74 paper submissions and 34 was accepted
  - IJGIS accepted 6 papers
  - Conference proceedings:
  - 81 attendees, 5 keynotes, 53 oral presentations, and 2 panels.
  - Videos of the keynotes and panels are now available at [http://stcenter.net/issc/photos\\_videos](http://stcenter.net/issc/photos_videos)





What do we want to achieve?

# I/UCRC for Spatiotemporal Thinking, Computing, and Application is Formed by

- **UCSB** Center for Spatial Studies (as a continuation of NCGIA) leads GIScience innovation

-> **Spatiotemporal Thinking**

- **GMU** Center for Intelligent Spatial Computing leads computational research for geospatial issues

-> **Spatiotemporal Computing**

- **Harvard** Center for Geographic Analyses supports applications of world significance

-> **Spatiotemporal Applications**



# Goal & Objectives

## Advance

- Spatiotemporal thinking -> Human intelligence
- Spatiotemporal computing -> Computer software and tools
- Spatiotemporal applications -> Human capability of responding to deep scientific questions and grand engineering challenges

**Collaboratively**, make a difference by building the spatiotemporal infrastructure.

- Innovative Research–Academia
- Products and Services–Industry
- Operations–Agencies



How could we achieve these objectives?



In GIS

# Thank you!

## Any Question?



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