



ENVIRONMENTAL
INTELLIGENCE|LAB

FRIDA

AN NEW AI-ENHANCED, IMPACT-BASED APPROACH
TO DROUGHT CHARACTERIZATION

Matteo Giuliani



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



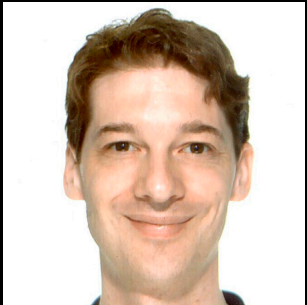
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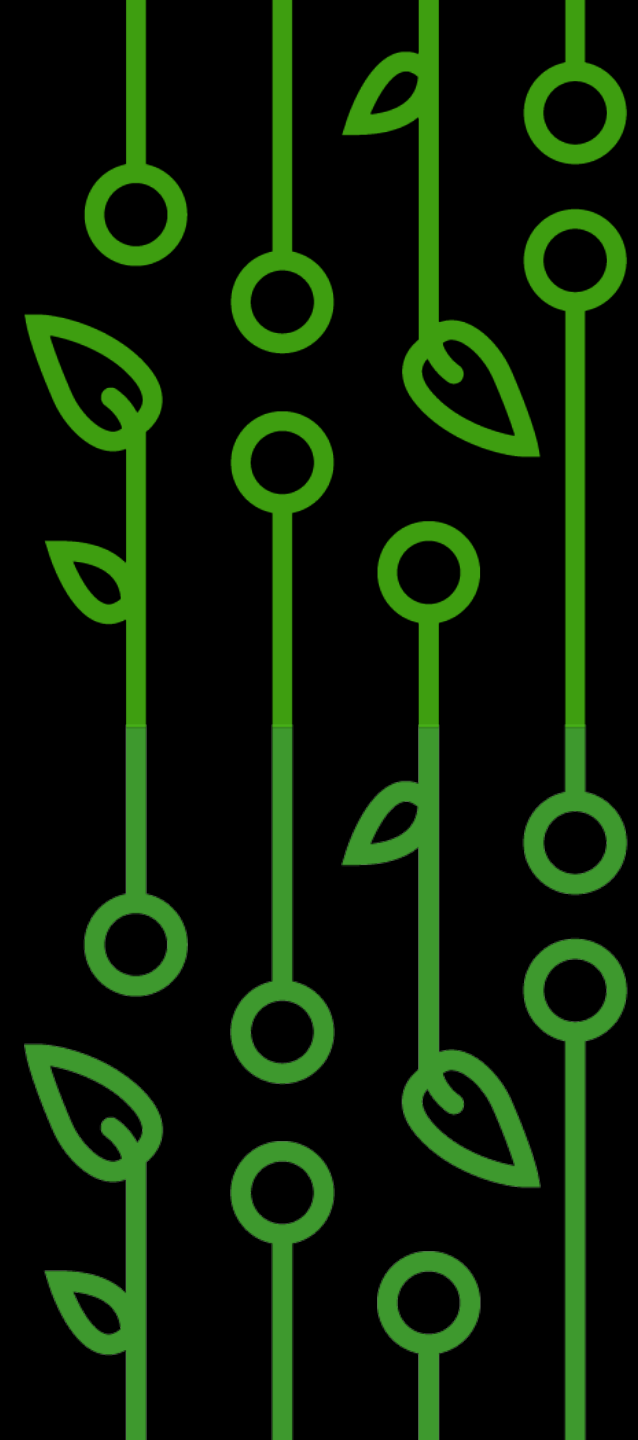


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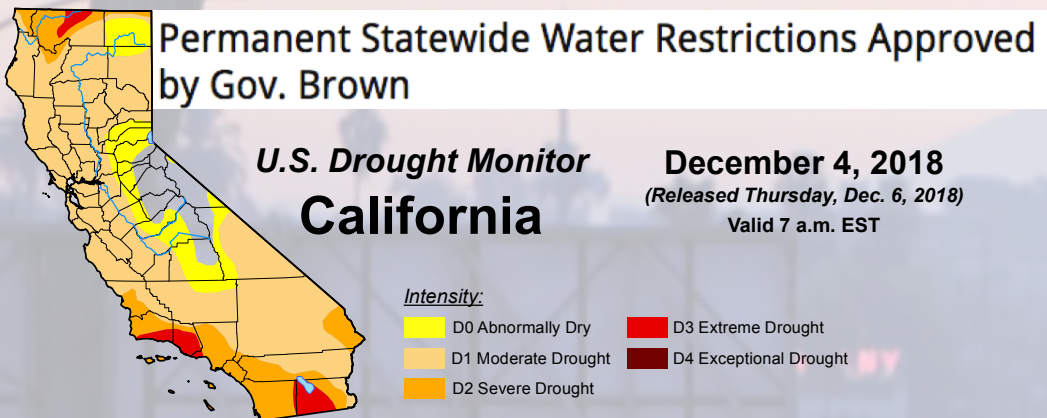


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Research funded by



EMERGING NEED FOR DROUGHT MANAGEMENT





Cape Town Water Crisis

EMERGING NEED FOR DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

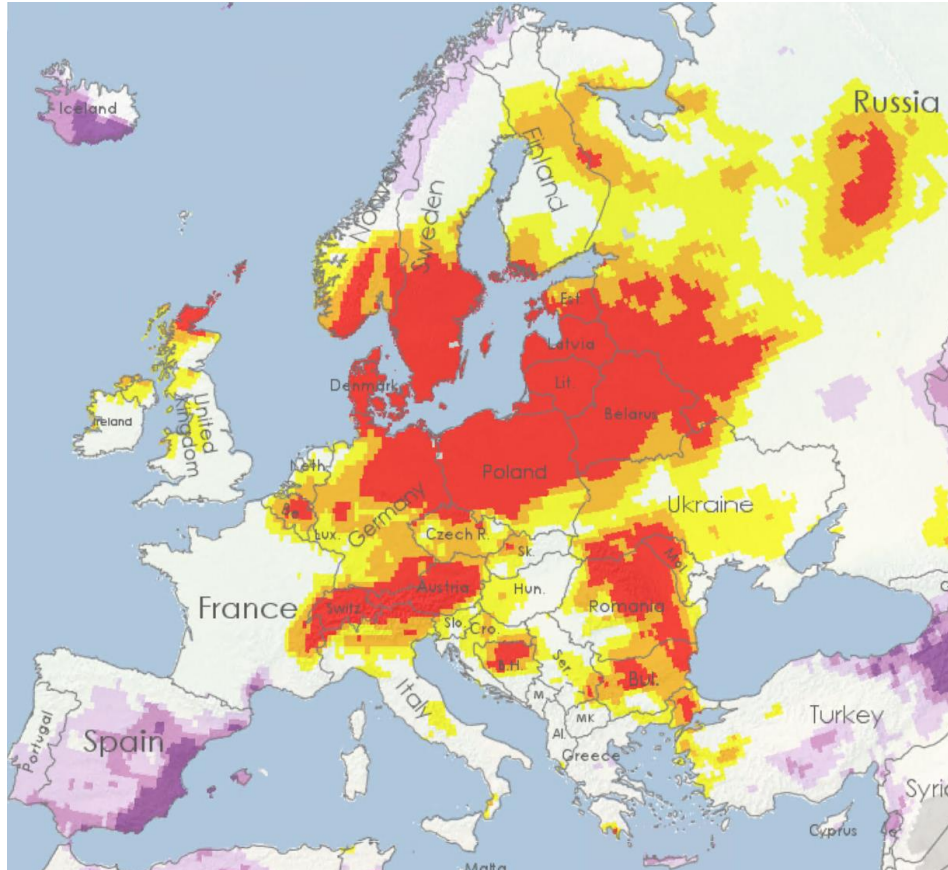
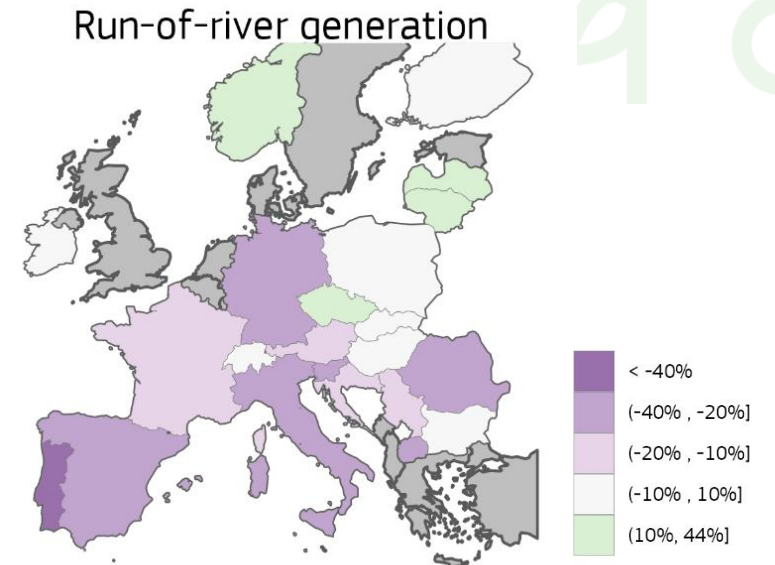
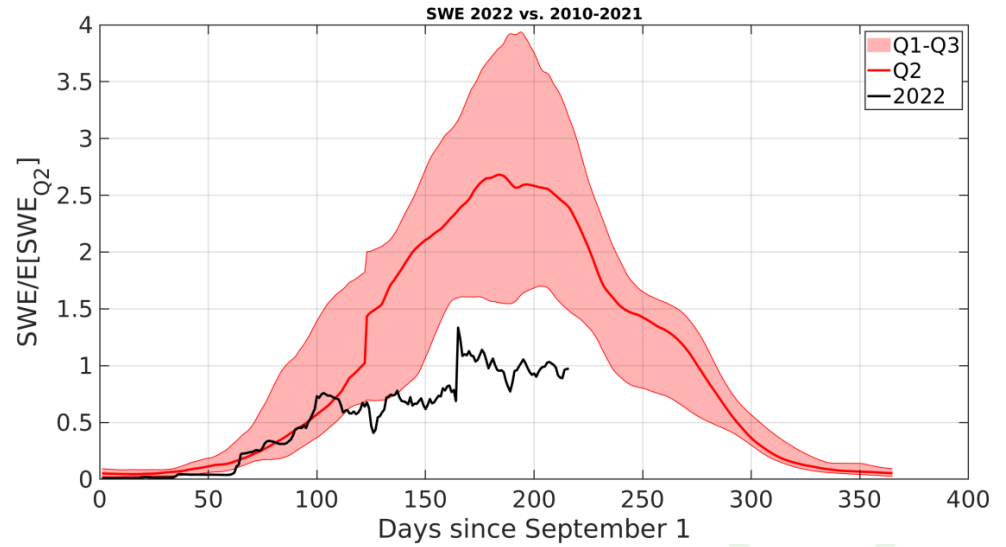
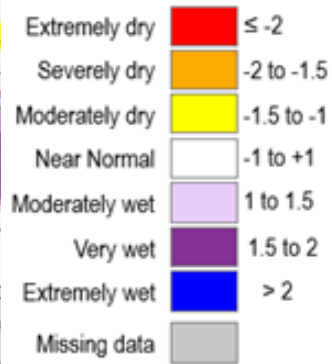


Figure 2: Standardized Precipitation Index SPI-1 in March 2022.



THE CHALLENGE OF DROUGHT DEFINITION



a drought is a sustained, extended deficiency in precipitation



a drought is a period of low flows with lake and groundwater levels below normal

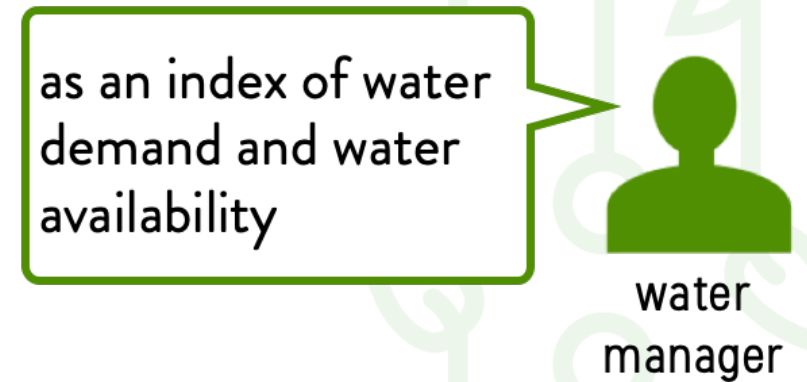
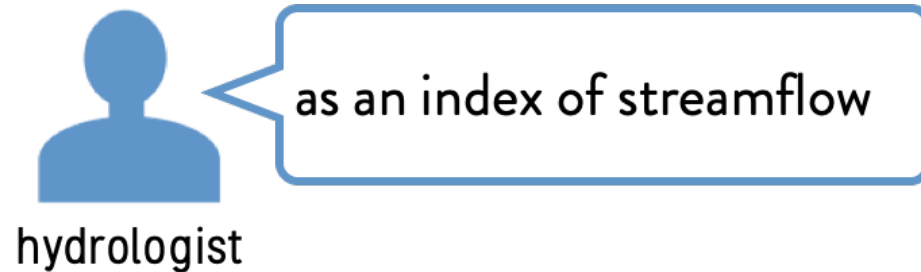
a drought is a lack of soil moisture



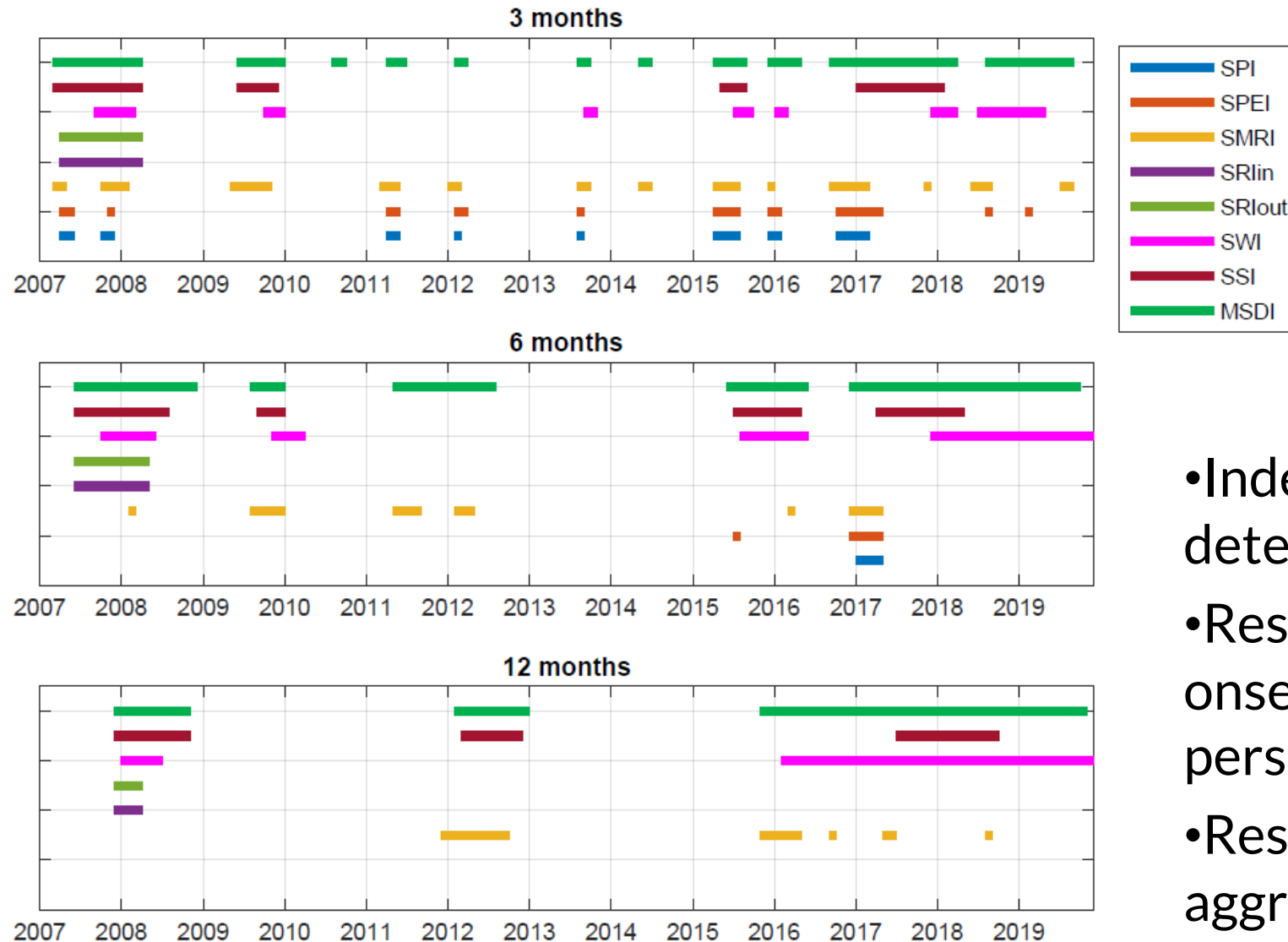
a drought is a period of anomalous water supply failure



THE CHALLENGE OF DROUGHT DEFINITION



EXAMPLE: AGRICULTURAL DROUGHTS IN NORTHERN ITALY

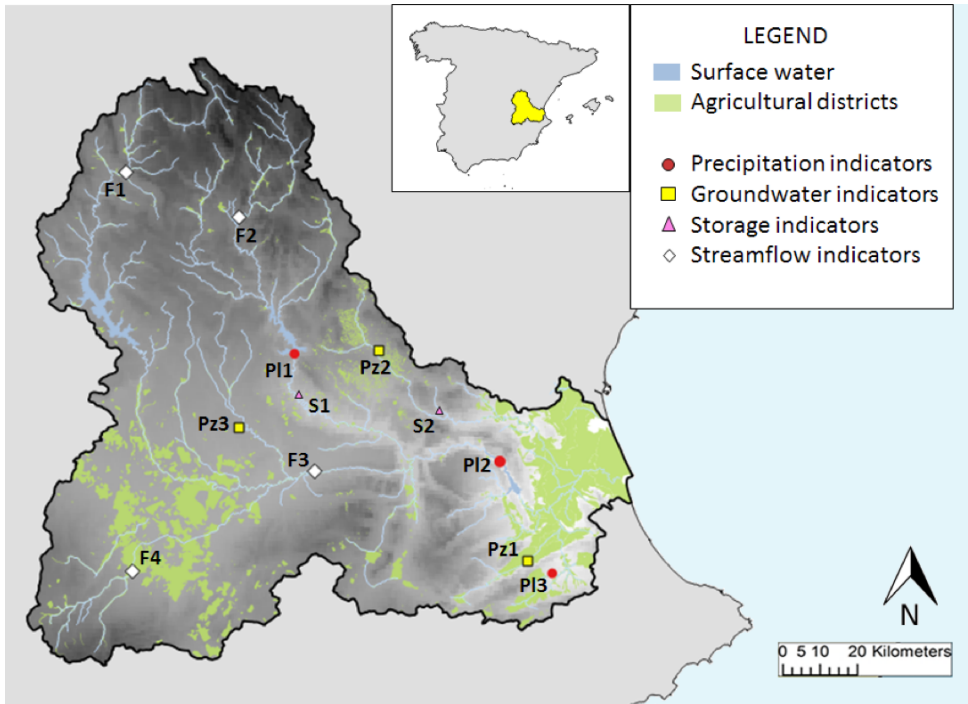


- Indexes generally agree in detecting dry periods
- Results show differences in the onset, termination, and persistence
- Results strongly depend on time aggregation

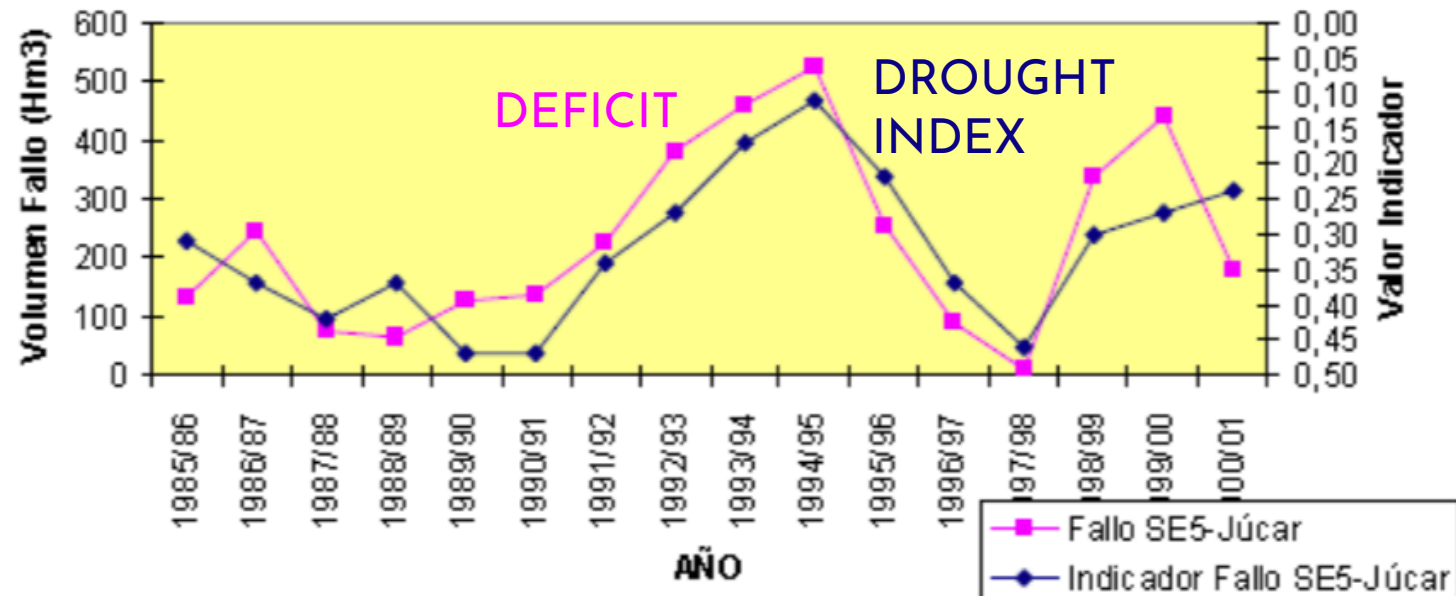
A VIRTUOUS EXAMPLE

Spanish Drought Management Plans rely on basin-specific drought indexes.

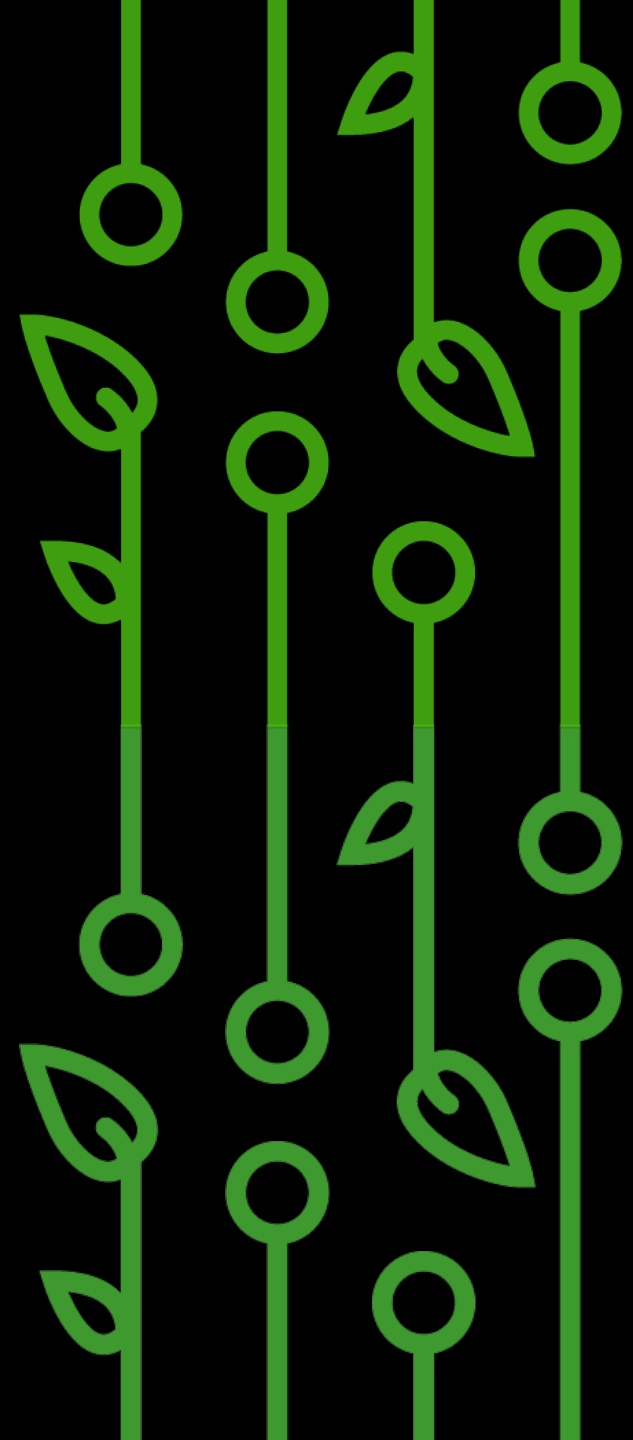
In the Júcar river basin, the index is defined as a linear combination of 12 predictors.



- S1 Cumulated storage of Alarcón, Contreras, and Tous reservoirs
- S2 Storage at Forata
- F1 Flow measurement in the upper basin
- F2 Flow measurement in the upper basin
- F3 Flow measurement in the middle basin
- F4 Flow at the Jardín tributary
- P11 Pluviometer measurement in the Contreras reservoir
- P12 Pluviometer measurement in the Tous reservoir
- P13 Pluviometer measurement in the Bellús reservoir
- Pz1 Piezometric level in the southeast
- Pz2 Piezometric level in the center
- Pz3 Piezometric level in the west



CAN WE AUTOMATIZE THIS
PROCESS?



THE FRIDA METHOD

1)
Dataset
definition

Candidate
predictors

Definition of target
variable

2)
Feature
extraction

Input Variable
Selection

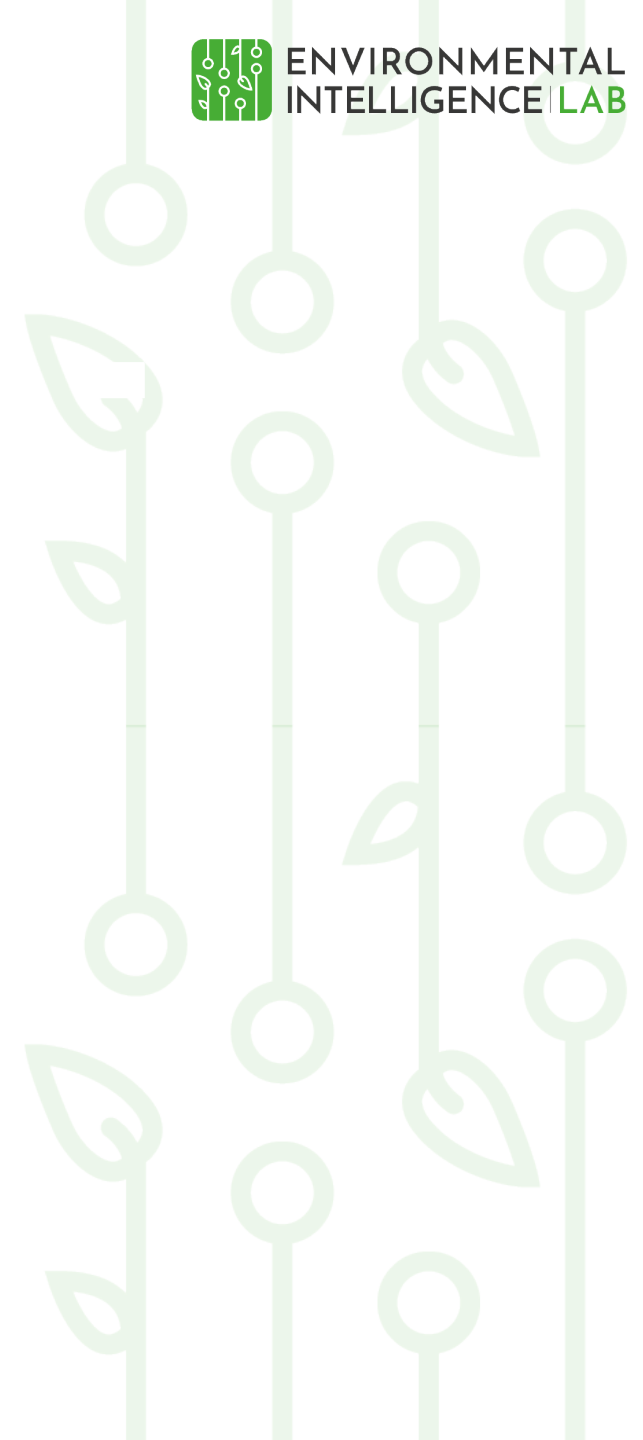
Definition of several
Pareto efficient predictors'
subset

3)
Drought Index
Construction

Choice of the
preferred subset

Calibration of the
selected model class

FRIDA Index



THE FRIDA METHOD

1) Dataset definition

Candidate predictors

Definition of target variable

2) Feature extraction

Input Variable Selection

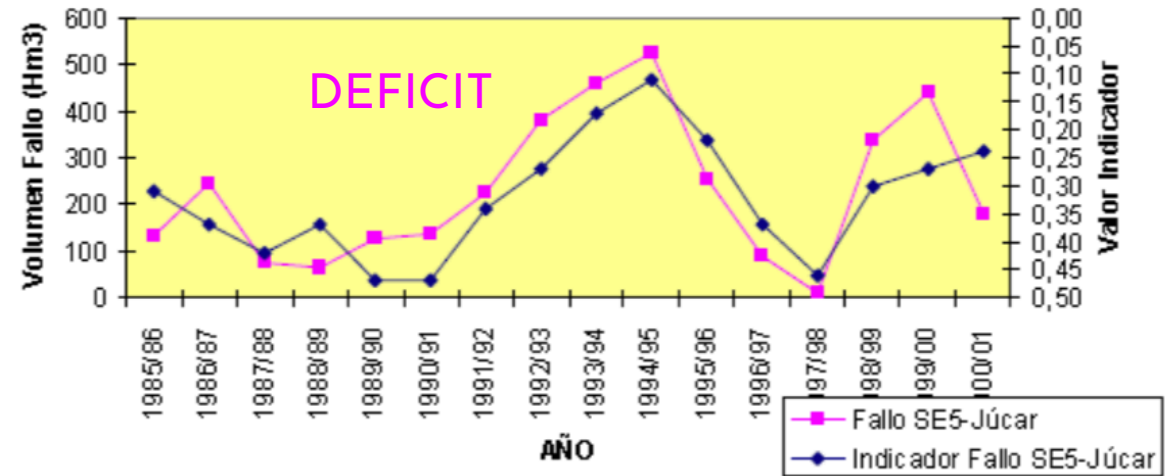
Definition of several Pareto efficient predictors' subset

3) Drought Index Construction

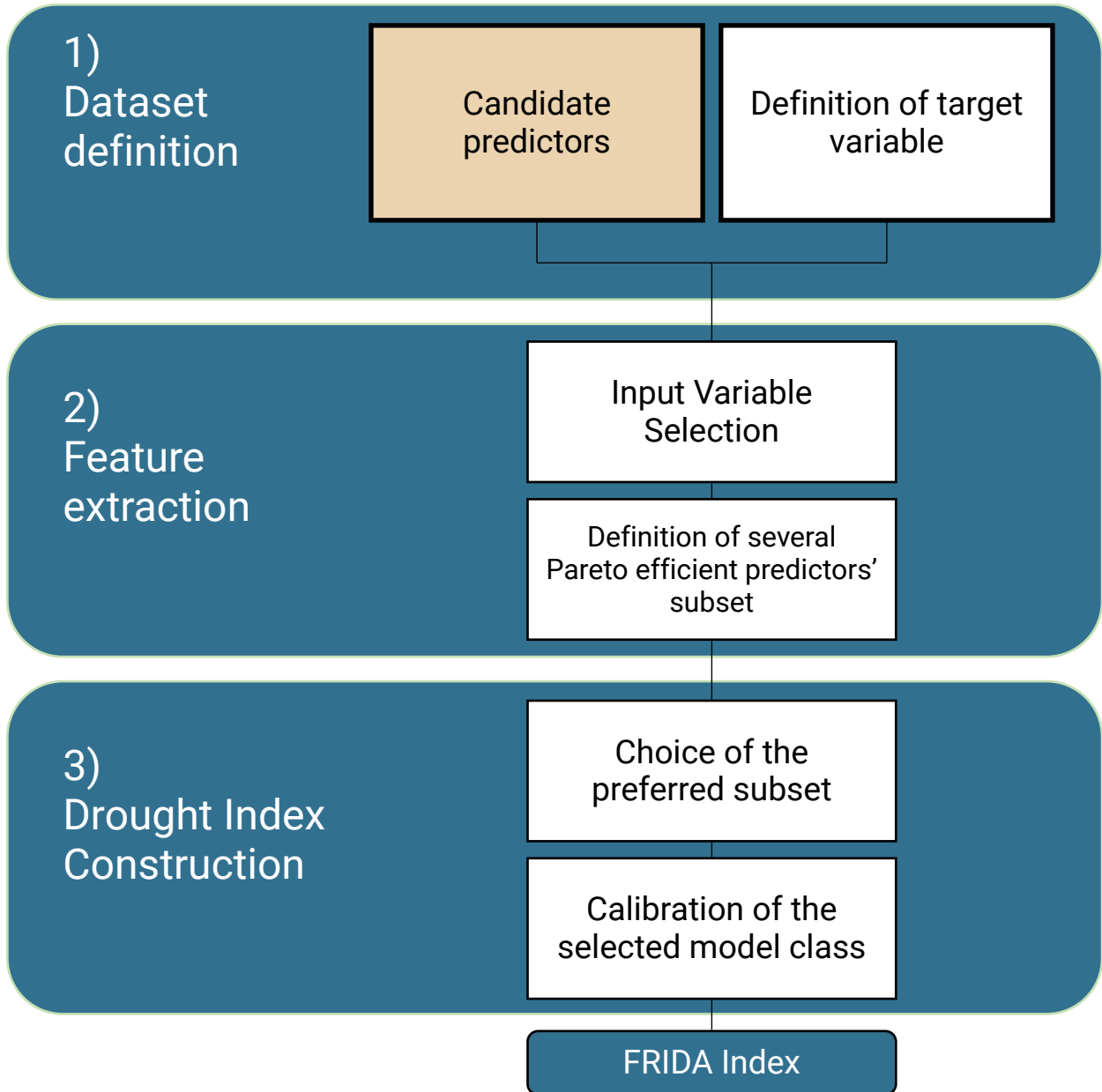
Choice of the preferred subset

Calibration of the selected model class

FRIDA Index



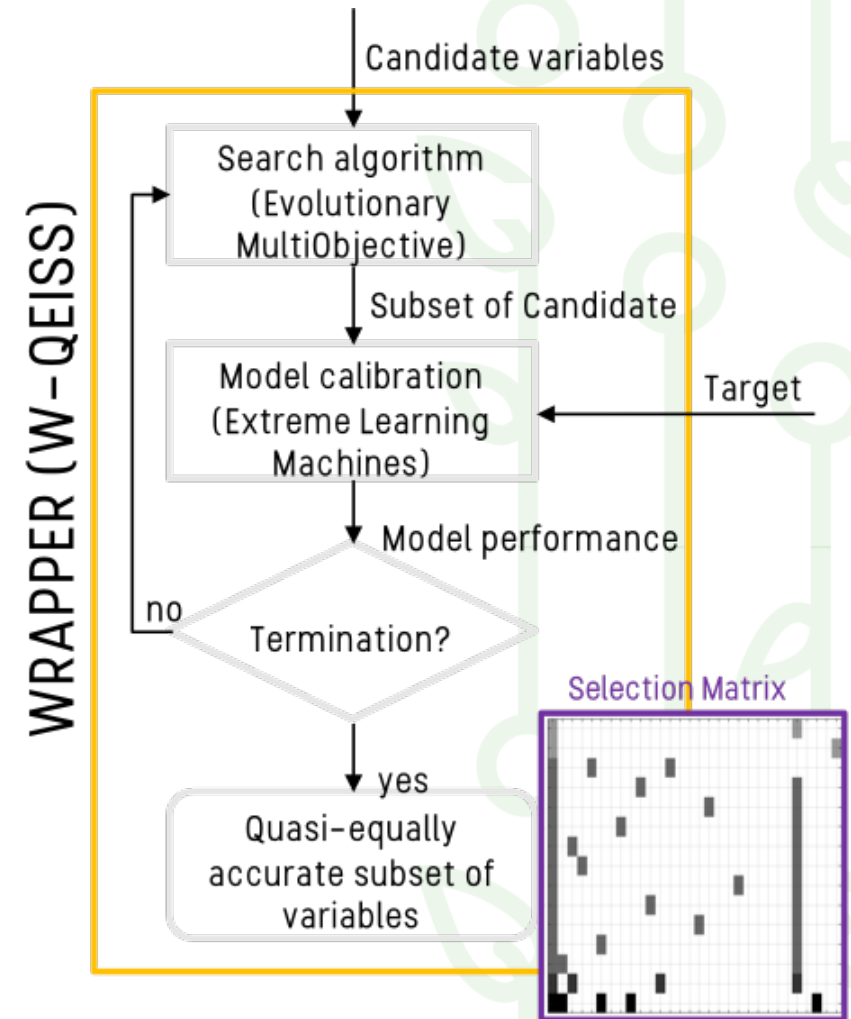
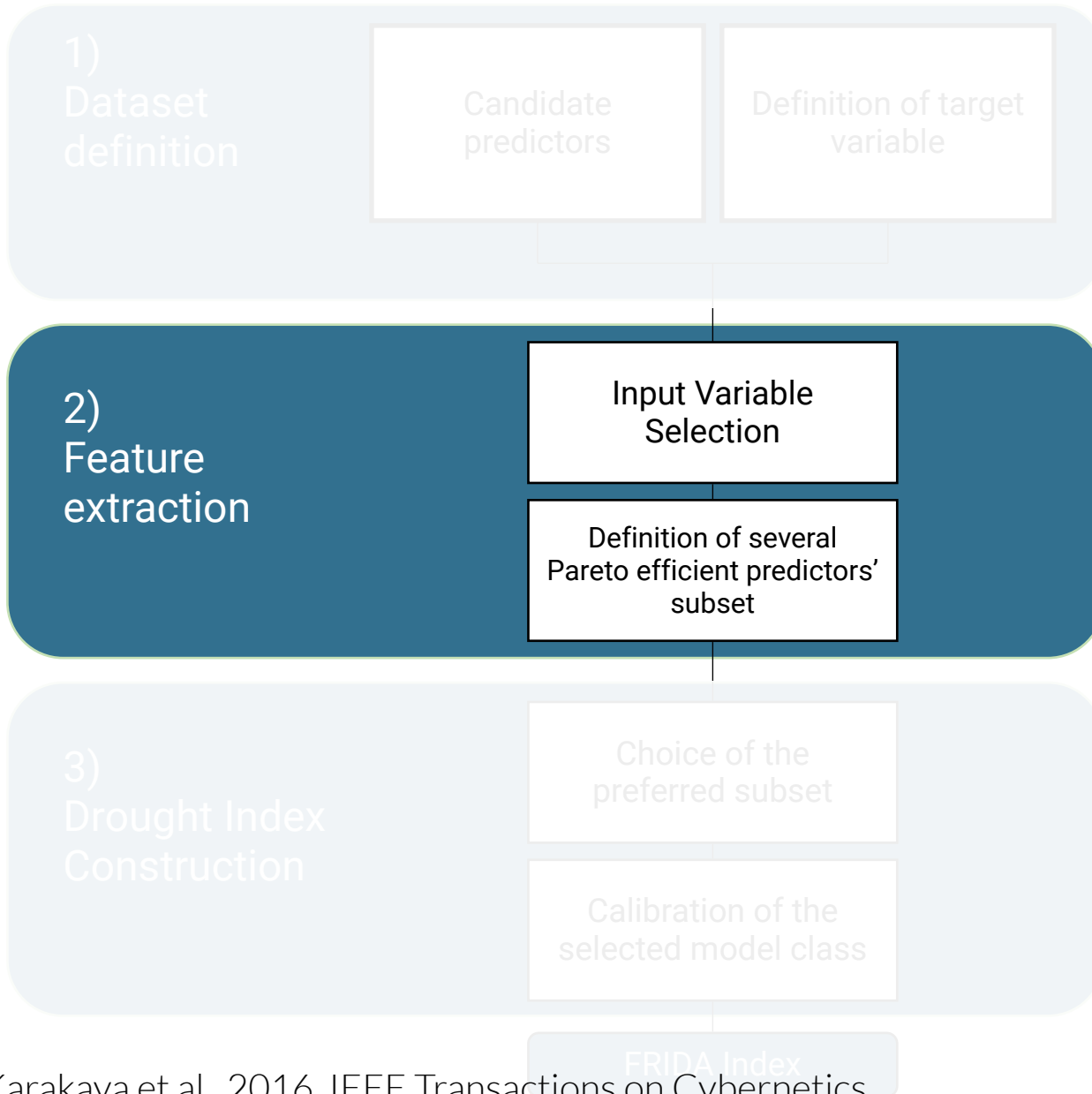
THE FRIDA METHOD



Candidate predictors

Time information	date	Date of the measurement
	Moy	Month of the year
Observed variables	In A	Inflow to Alarcón reservoir
	In C	Inflow to Contreras reservoir
	In T	Inflow to Tous reservoir
	Out A	Outflow from Alarcón reservoir
	Out C	Outflow from Contreras reservoir
	T1	Temperature in the west
Indicators	T2	Temperature in the center
	T3	Temperature in the east
	SPI ₃	SPI at 3 months time aggregation
	SPEI ₃	SPEI at 3 months time aggregation
	SPI ₆	SPI at 6 months time aggregation
	SPEI ₆	SPEI at 6 months time aggregation
SPI ₁₂	SPI at 12 months time aggregation	
SPEI ₁₂	SPEI at 12 months time aggregation	

THE FRIDA METHOD



MODEL PERFORMANCE

- Predictive accuracy: $f_1(S) = SU(y, \hat{y}(S))$

Dataset definition

Candidate predictors

Definition of target variable

- Model complexity: $f_2(S) = |S|$

- Relevance: $f_3(S) = \sum_{x_i \in S} SU(x_i, y)$

Feature extraction

Input Variable Selection

- Redundancy: $f_4(S) = \sum_{x_i, x_j \in S, i < j} SU(x_i, y)$

Definition of several Pareto efficient predictors' subset

3) Symmetric Uncertainty:

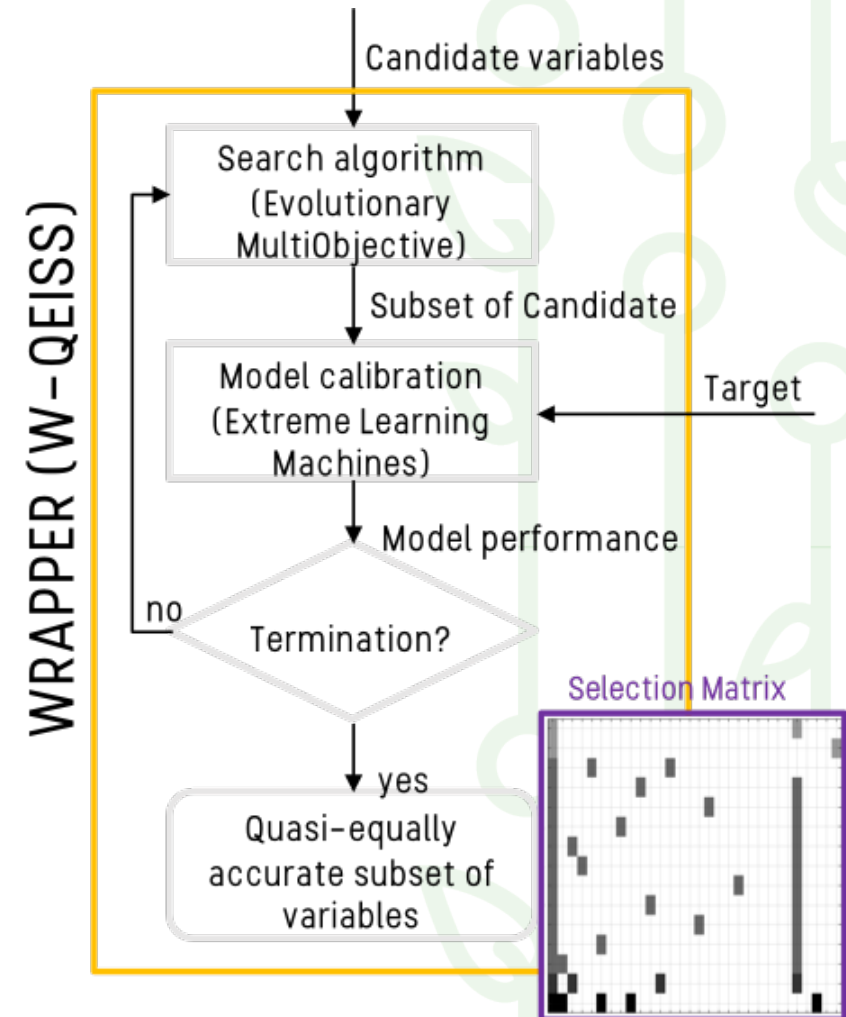
Choice of the preferred subset

$$SU(A, B) = \left[\frac{2 \cdot (H(A) + H(B) - H(A, B))}{H(A) + H(B)} \right]$$

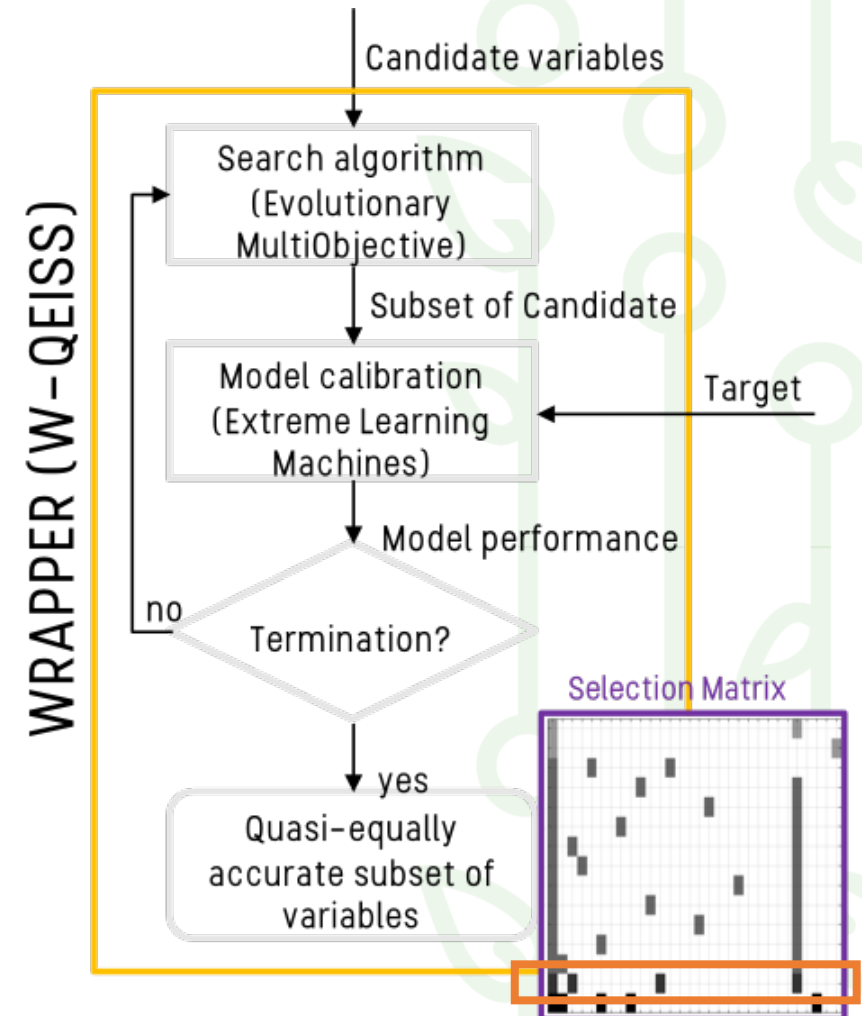
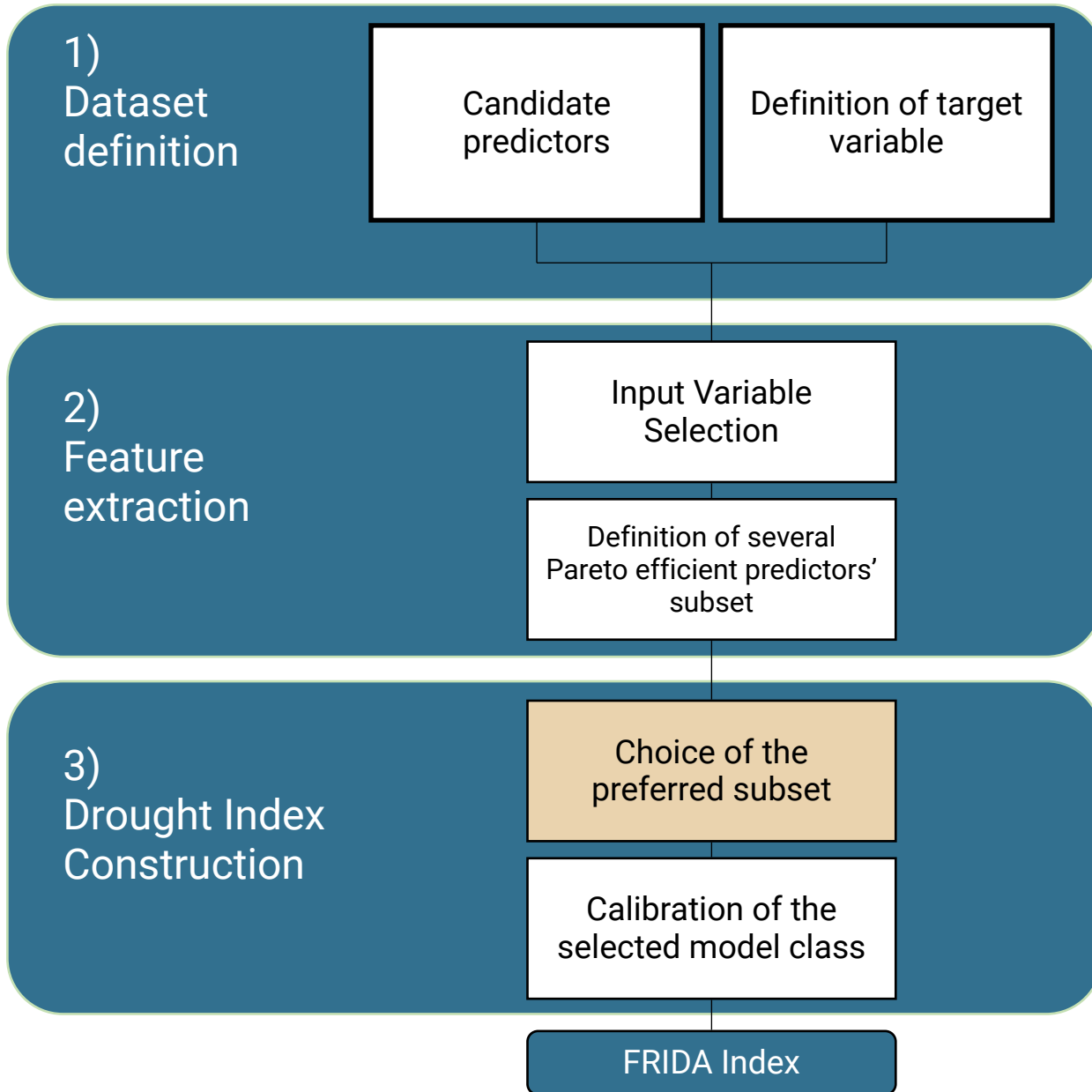
Construction

Calibration of the subset model

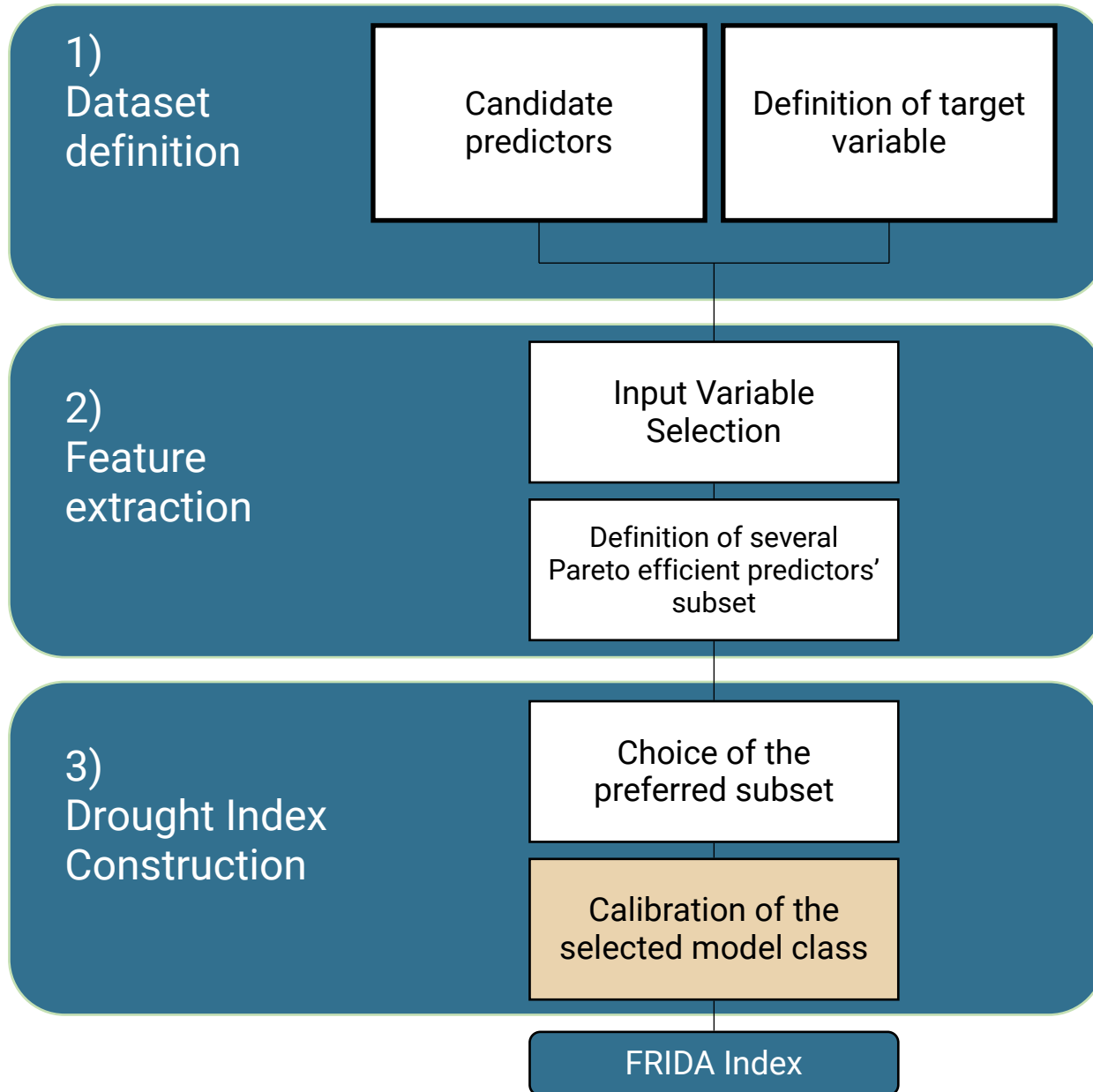
Drop Index



THE FRIDA METHOD



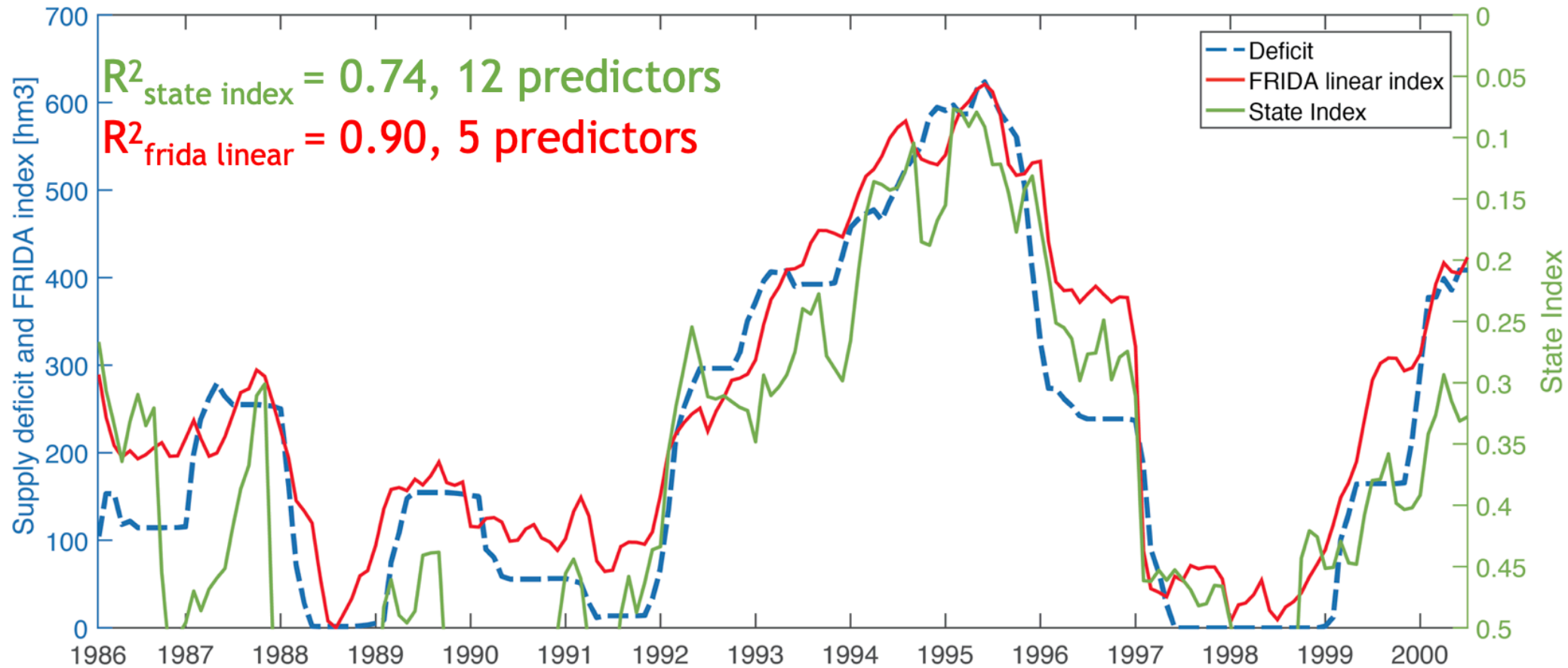
THE FRIDA METHOD



- Extreme Learning Machine
- Artificial Neural Network
- Linear Model



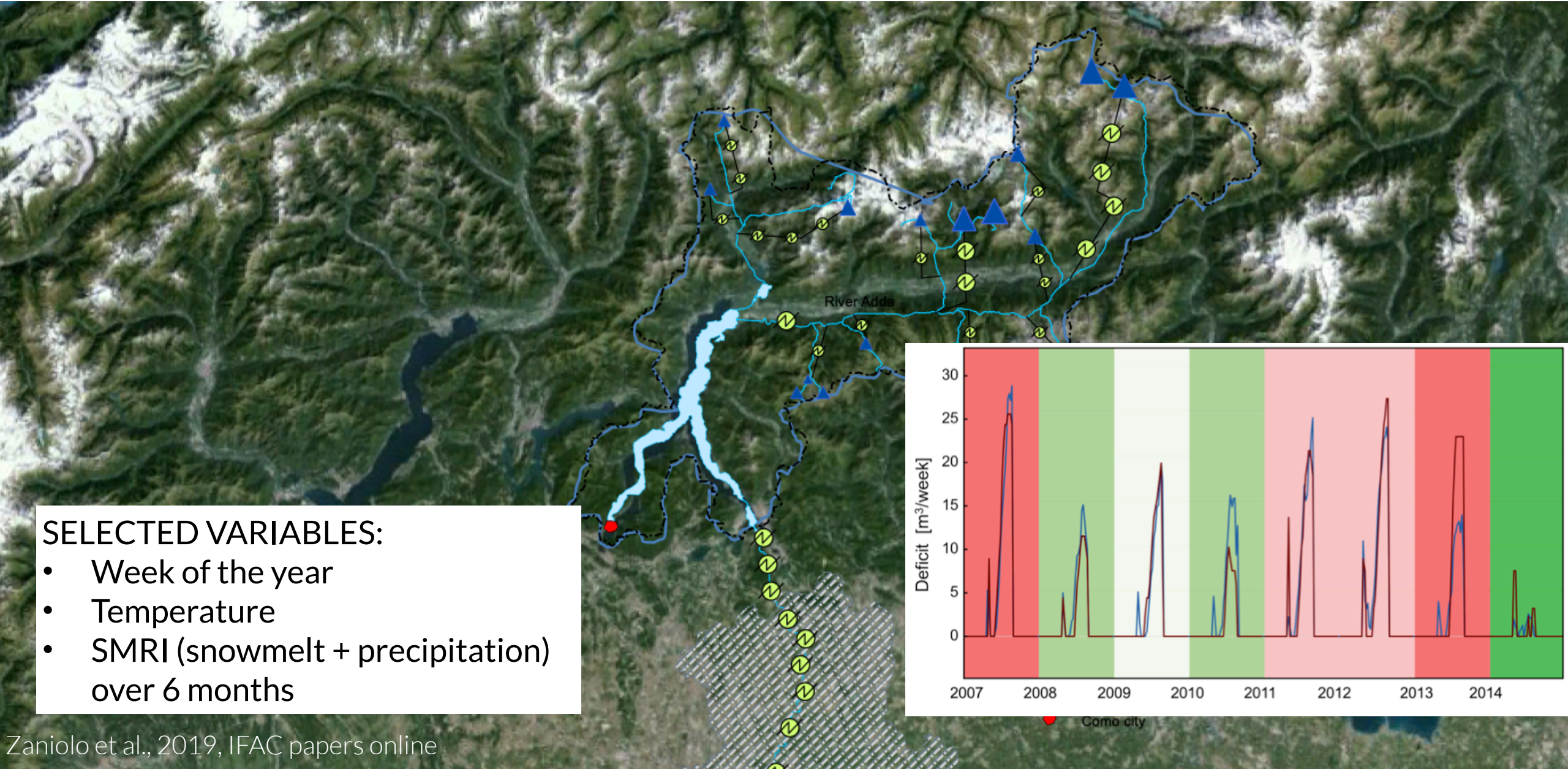
FRIDA APPLICATION IN THE JUCAR RIVER BASIN



SELECTED PREDICTORS:

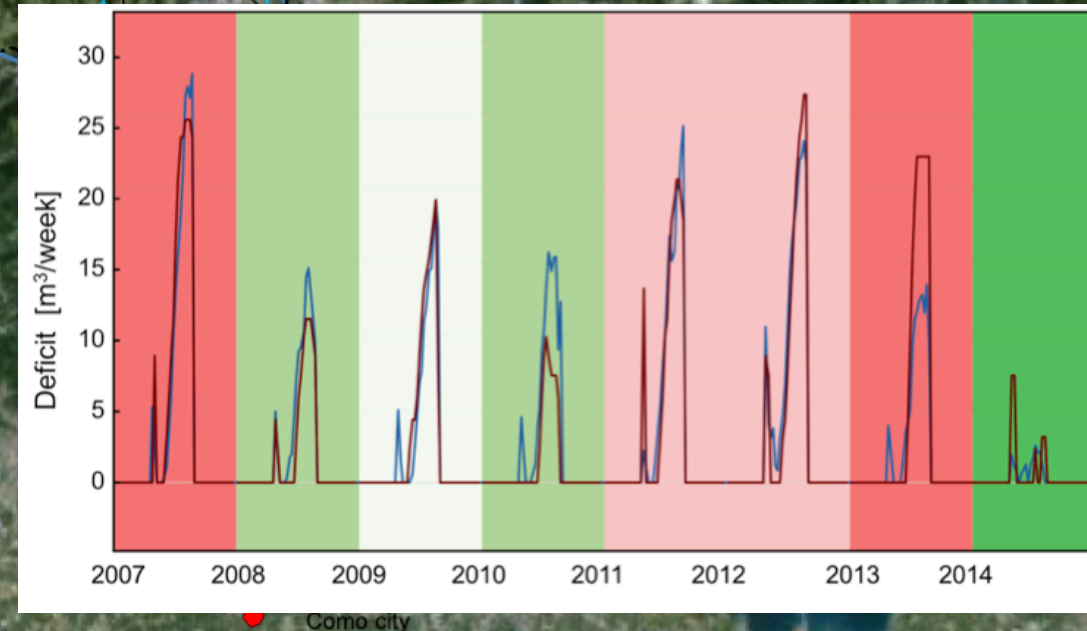
1. Month of the year
2. Storage of Alarcon, Contreras, and Tous
3. Streamflow in middle basin
4. Piezometer in the center
5. SPEI over 6 months

FRIDA APPLICATION IN THE LAKE COMO BASIN



SELECTED VARIABLES:

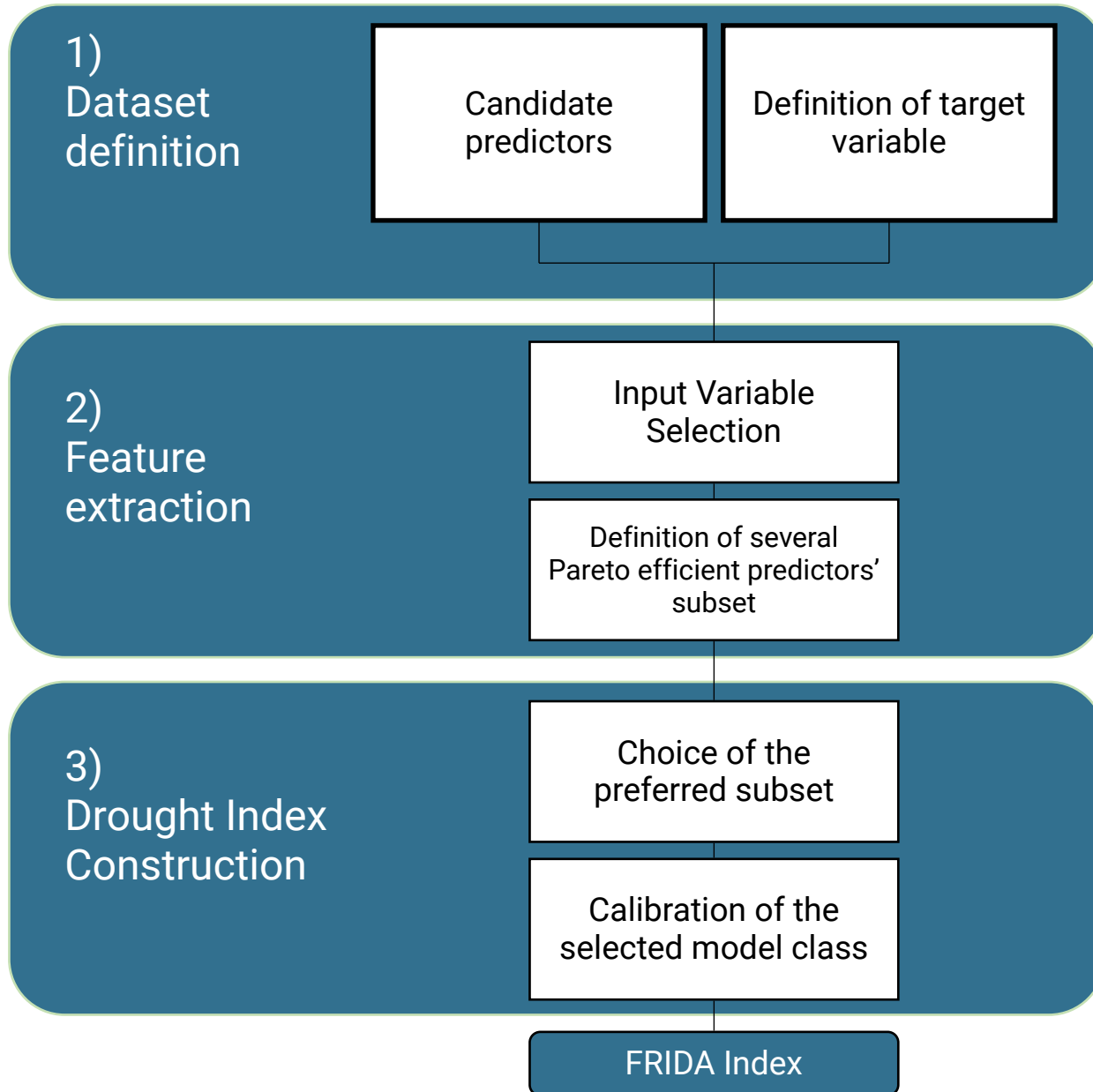
- Week of the year
- Temperature
- SMRI (snowmelt + precipitation) over 6 months



CAN WE UPSCALE FRIDA FOR
REGIONAL/CONTINENTAL
STUDIES?



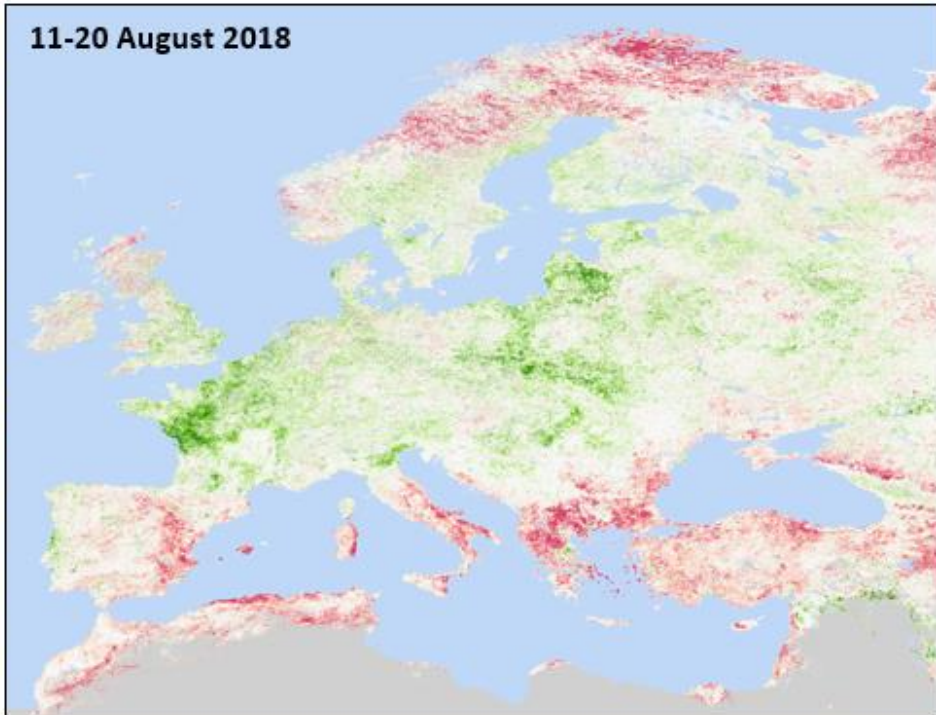
UPSCALING CHALLENGES



- Lack of local data on water deficits
- Spatially correlated drivers
- Drought heterogeneity over space
- Computational complexity

UPSCALING CHALLENGES

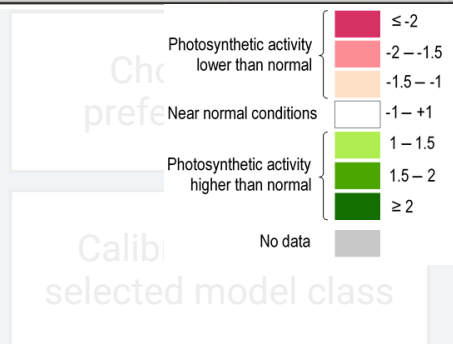
1) Drought



2) Forecast

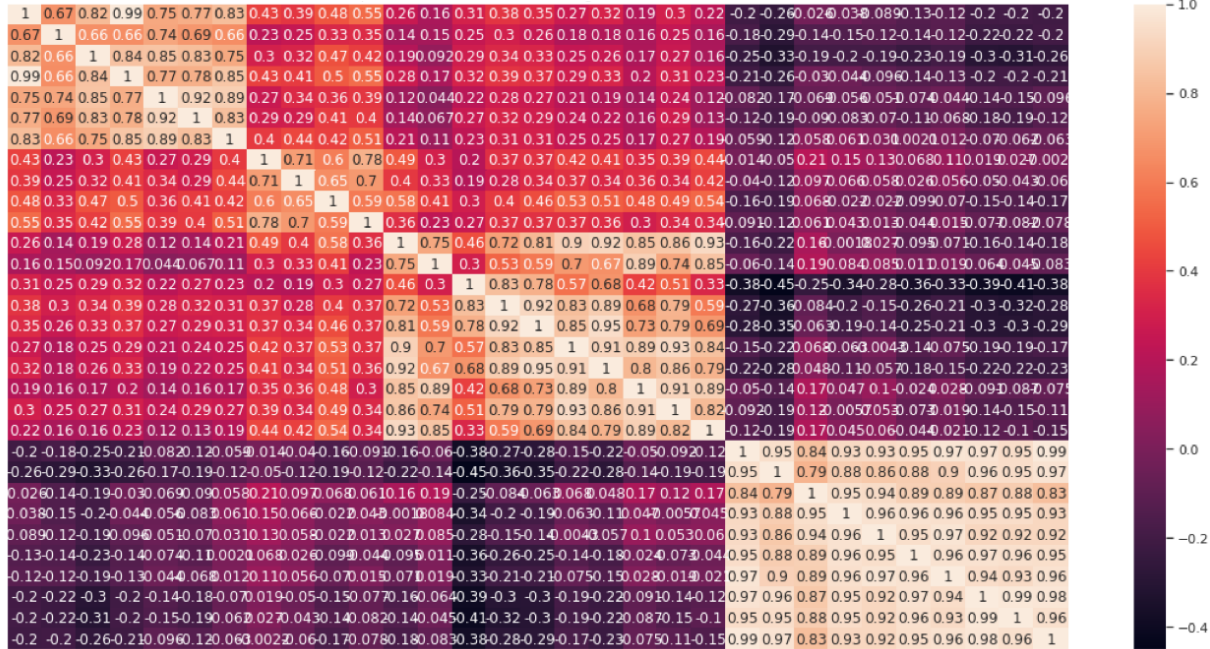
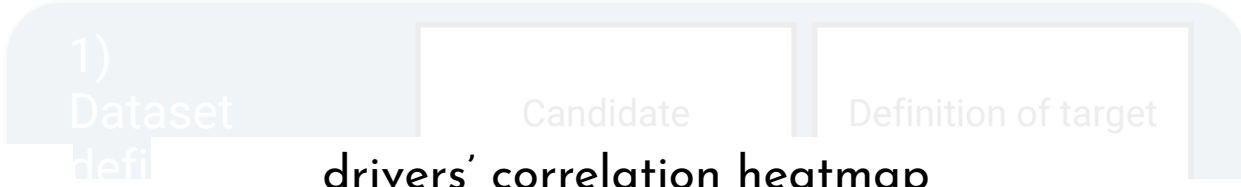
3) Drought Index Construction

Construction



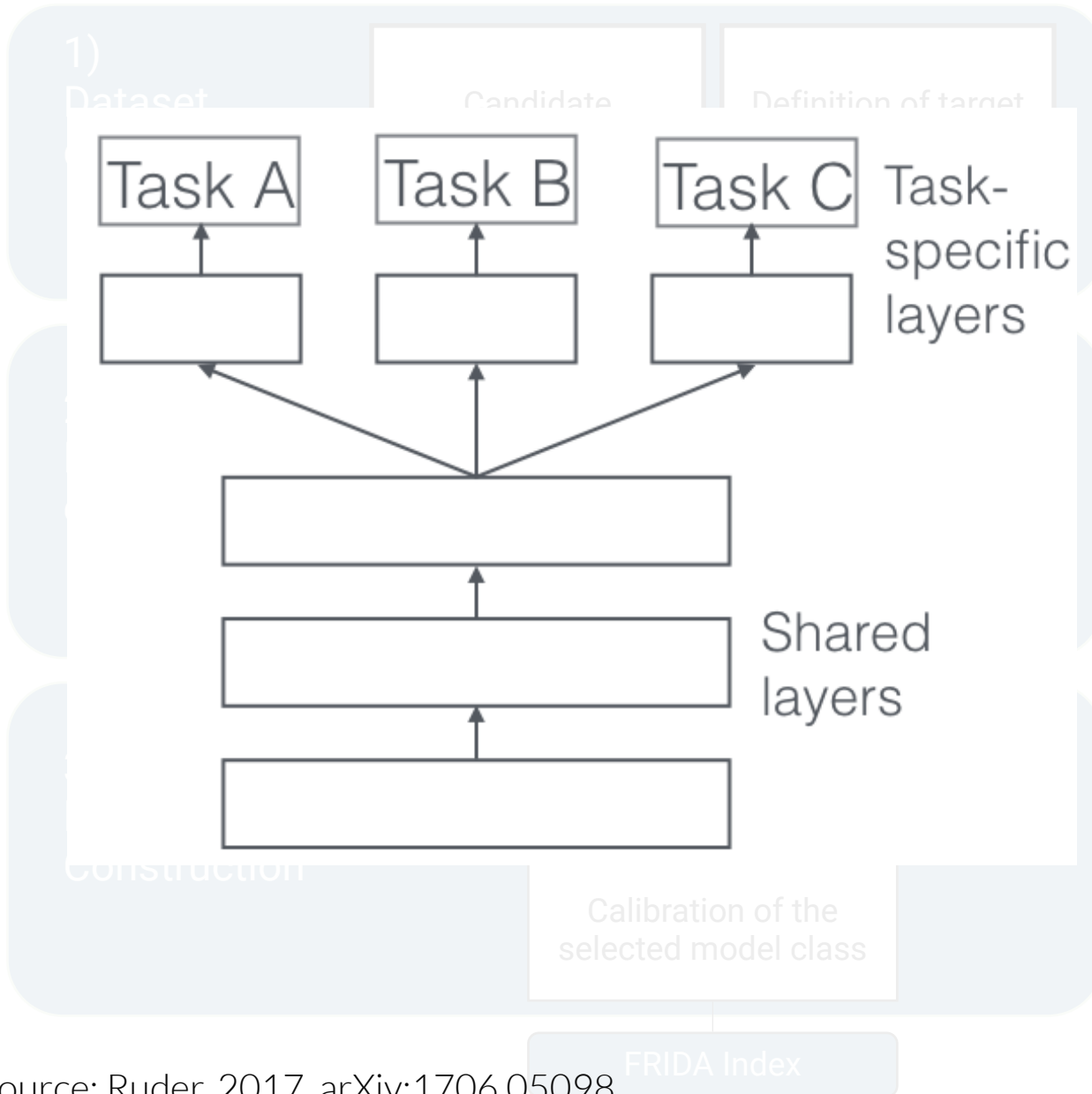
FRIDA Index

- Lack of local data on water deficits
Satellite-derived information on crop status (e.g., FAPAR, NDVI)
- Spatially correlated drivers
- Drought heterogeneity over space
- Computational complexity



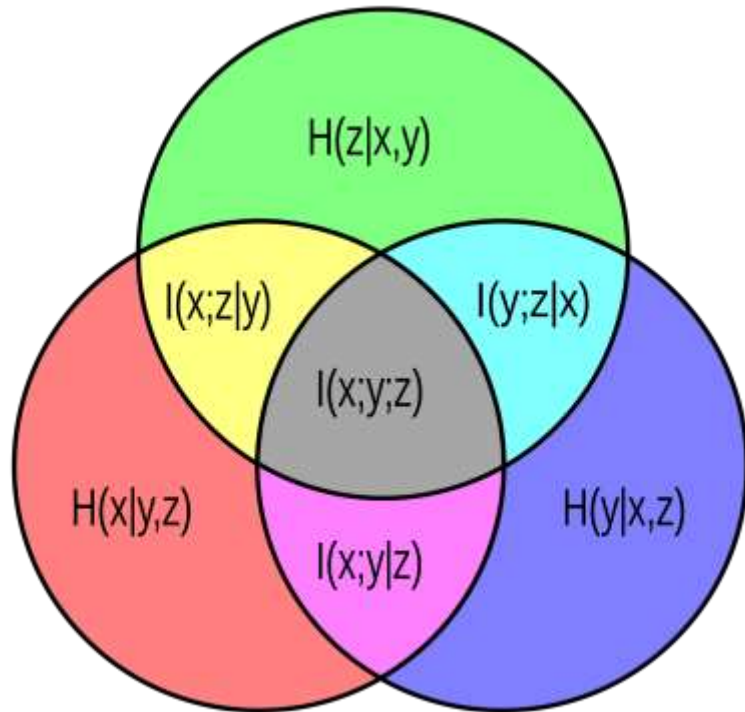
- Lack of local data on water deficits
 Satellite-derived information on crop status (e.g., FAPAR, NDVI)
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 Dimensionality reduction via PCA
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UPSCALING CHALLENGES



- Lack of local data on water deficits
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Dimensionality reduction via PCA
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Multi-task Learning algorithms
- Computational complexity

$$I(X, Y|Z) = I(X, Y) - I(X; Y, Z)$$



- Lack of local data on water deficits

Satellite-derived information on crop status (e.g., FAPAR, NDVI)

- Spatially correlated drivers

Dimensionality reduction via PCA

- Drought heterogeneity over space

Multi-task Learning algorithms

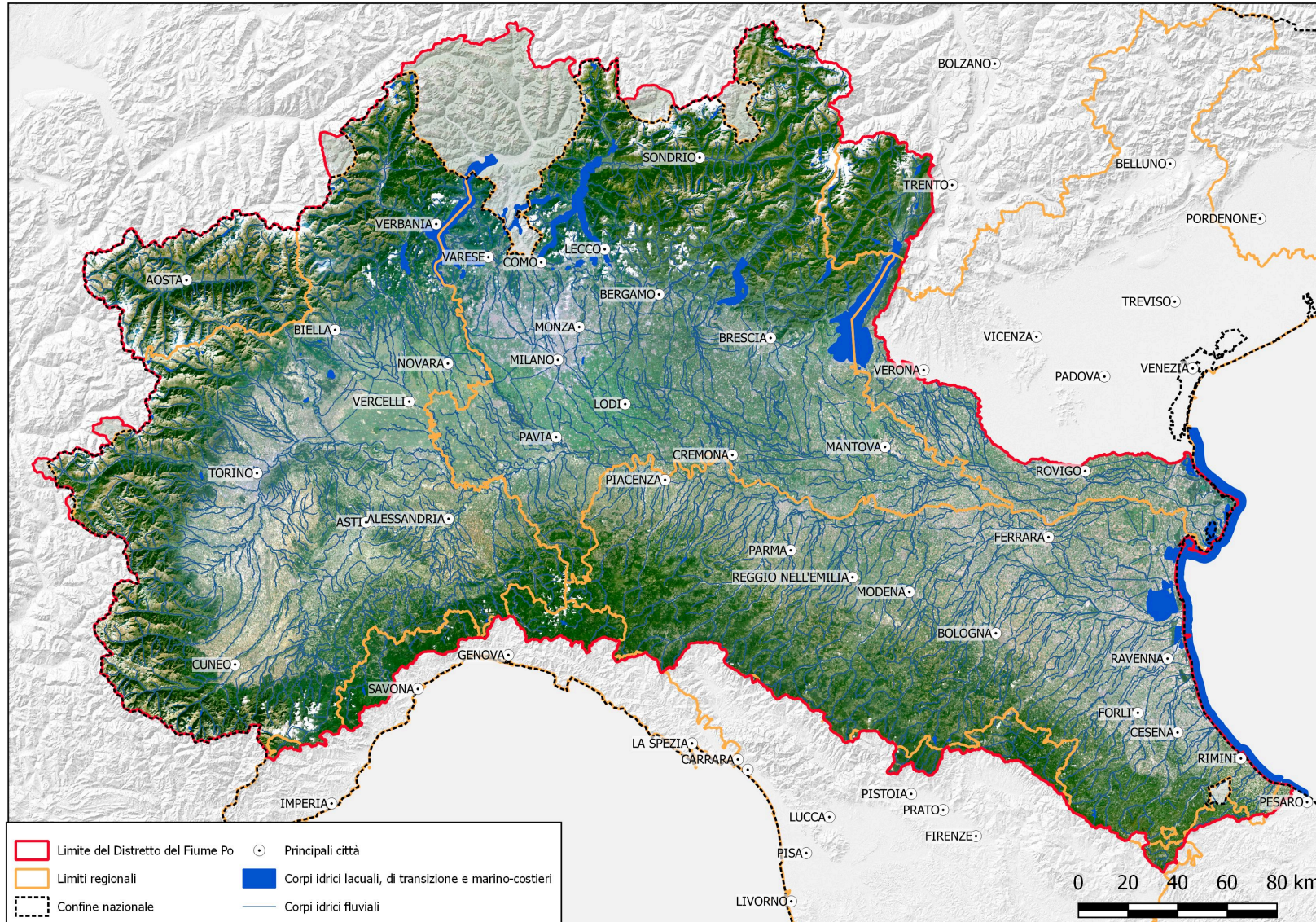
- Computational complexity

Feature extraction via Conditional Mutual Information

Calibration of the selected model class

FRIDA Index

AN APPLICATION TO THE PO RIVER BASIN



200 candidate predictors:

- Precipitation(b,t)
- Temperature(b,t)
- Snow Depth(b,t)
- Lake levels(b,t)

$b \in [B1, \dots, B10]$

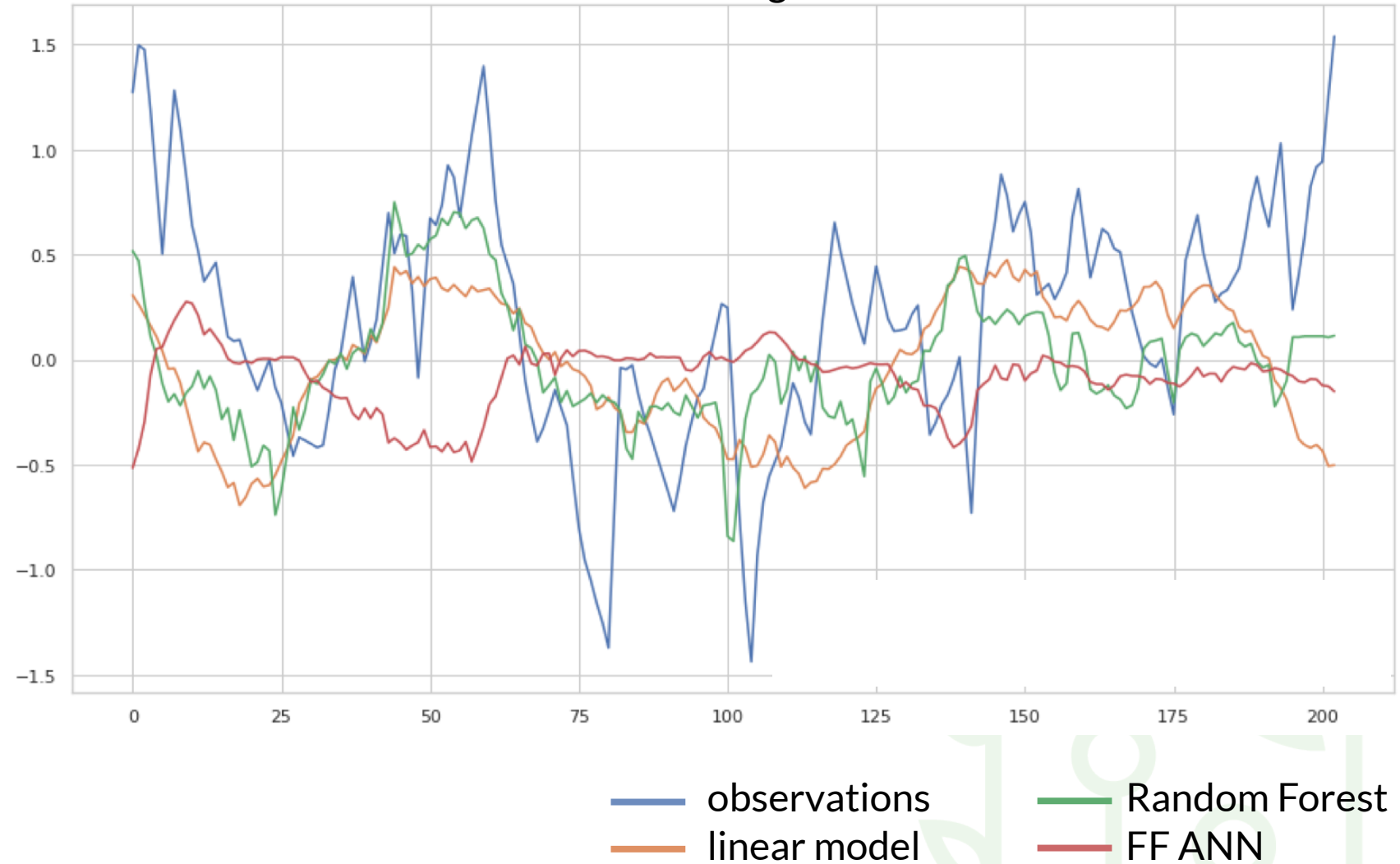
$t \in [4, 8, 12, 16, 24]$ weeks

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

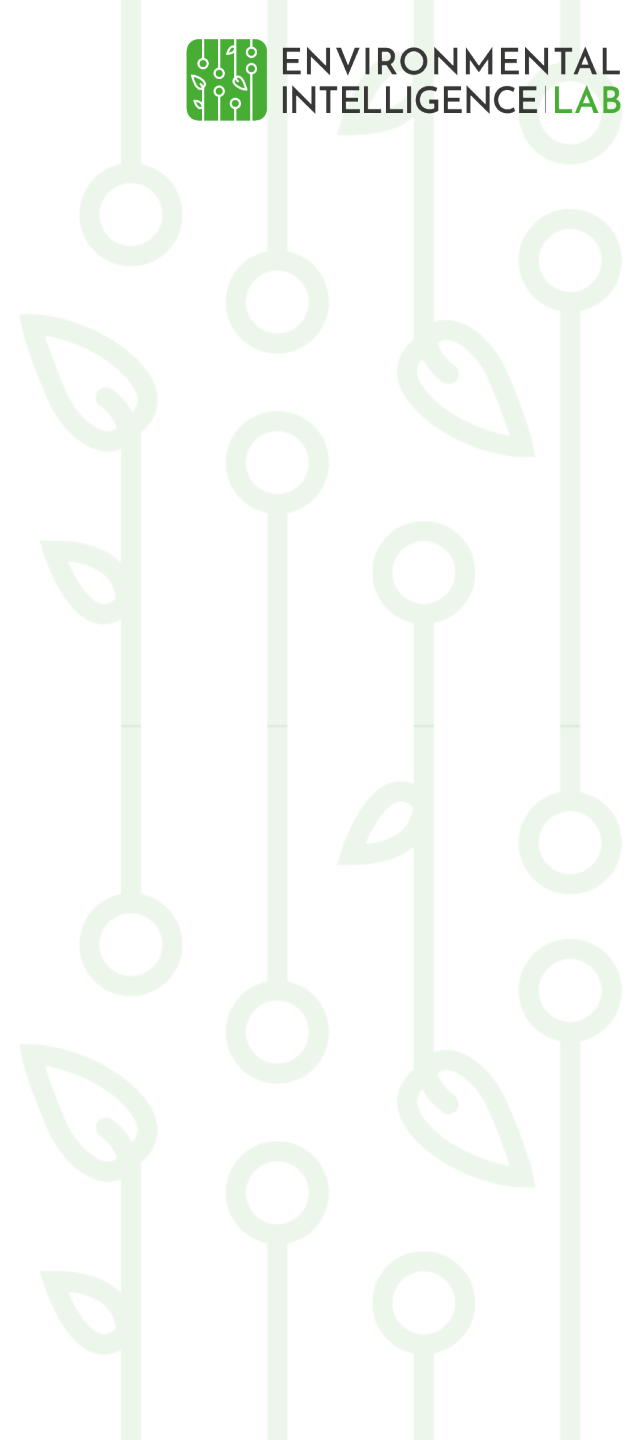
SELECTED PREDICTORS:

- Snow 4w
- Lake levels 8w, 12w
- Precipitation 4w, 8w, 12w, 16w
- Temperature 4w, 8w

test results for single district

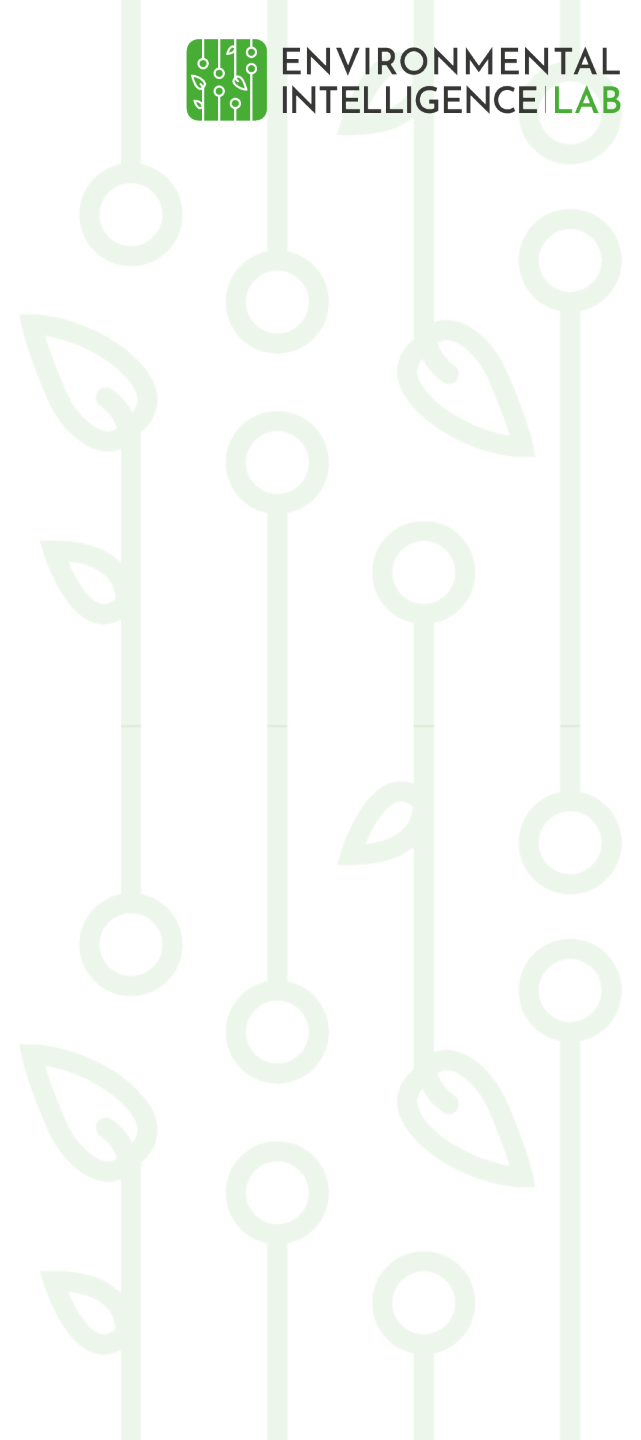


TAKEAWAYS



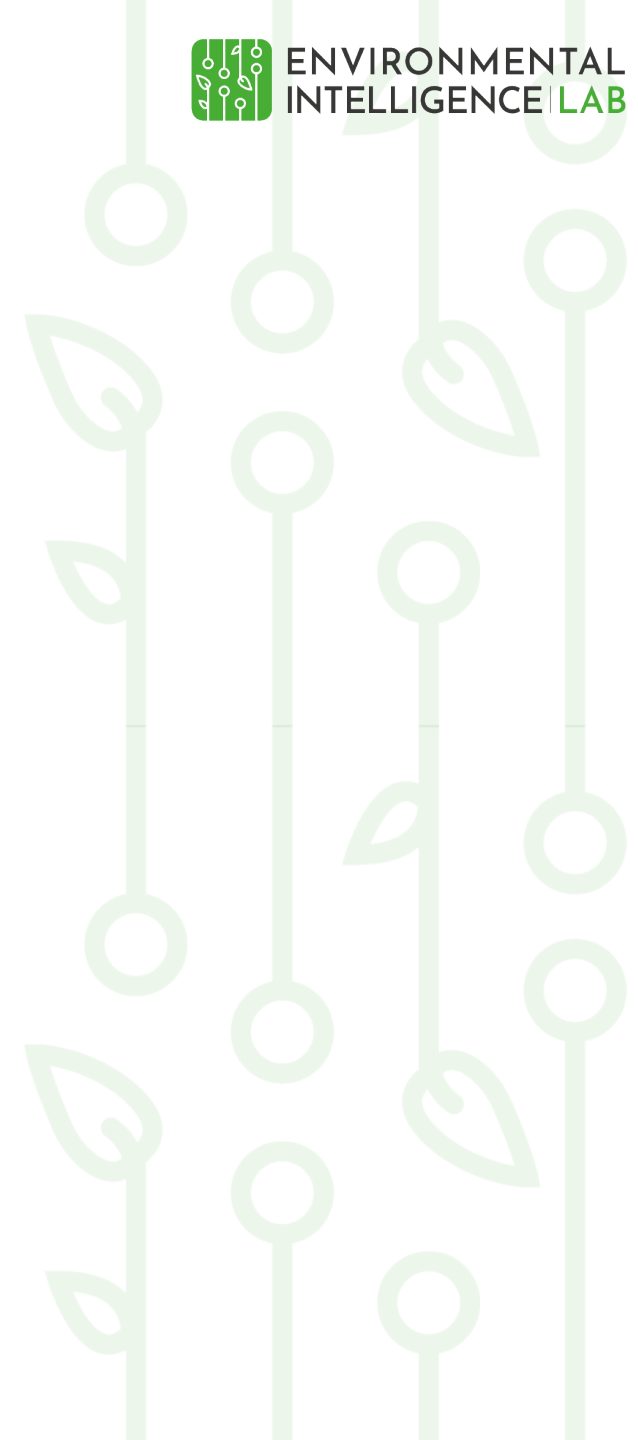
TAKEAWAYS

- ML can enhance the definition of drought indexes



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- Extreme drought detection is a challenging ML problem



TAKEAWAYS

- ML can enhance the definition of drought indexes
- Extreme drought detection is a challenging ML problem
- Drought management can benefit from predictions/projections of ML-enhanced indexes

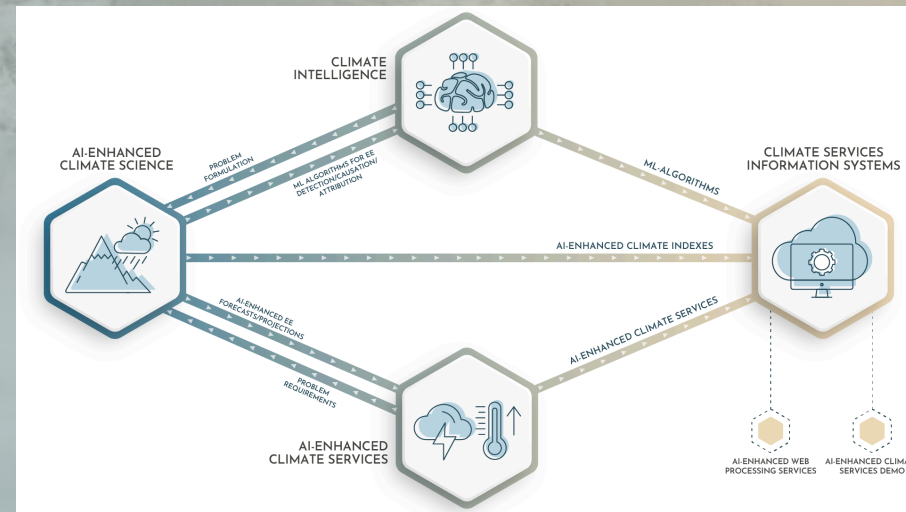


TAKEAWAYS

- ML can enhance the definition of drought indexes
- Extreme drought detection is a challenging ML problem
- Drought management can benefit from predictions/projections of ML-enhanced indexes



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STAY TUNED...



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