

Intrinsic Dimensionality and Spectral Diversity



Kerry Cawse-Nicholson¹, Luciana Alves², Evan Davis¹, David Thompson¹, Nicoletta Stork¹, Zoe Pierrat¹

Moses Cho⁴, Abel Ramoelo⁵, Philemon Tsele⁶, Nobuhle Majozi⁴, Cecilia Masemola⁴

Simon Ferrier⁷

¹ Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, USA

² University of California, Los Angeles, USA

⁴ Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa

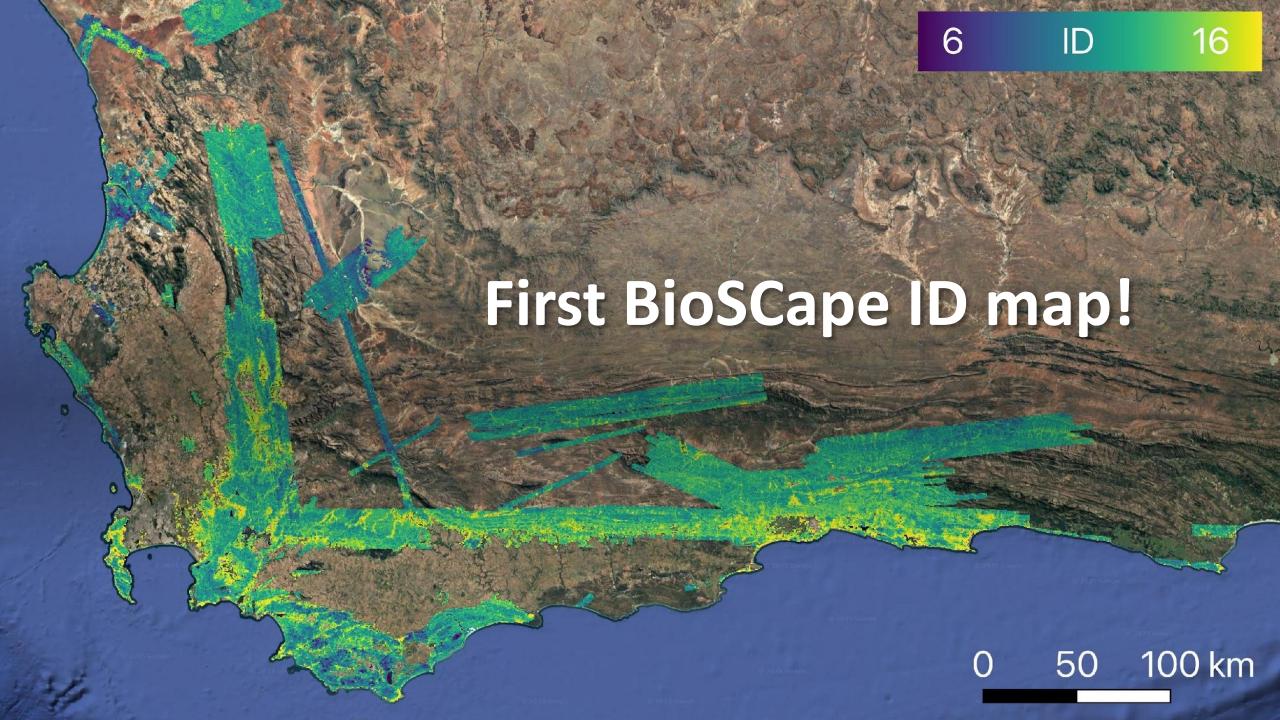
⁵ South African National Space Agency (SANSA), South Africa

⁶ University of Pretoria, South Africa

⁷ CSIRO, Australia

Spectral variability hypothesis: ID

The mathematical concept of <u>intrinsic</u> <u>dimensionality</u> provides a metric for spectral diversity that <u>does not</u> <u>inherently require training</u> data, making its development and validation important for the future of global biodiversity mapping.



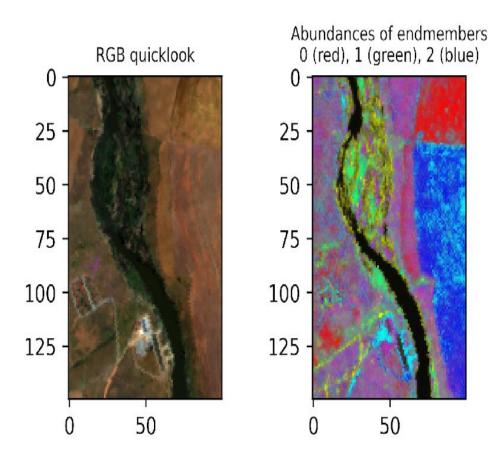
First attempt matched well with landcover

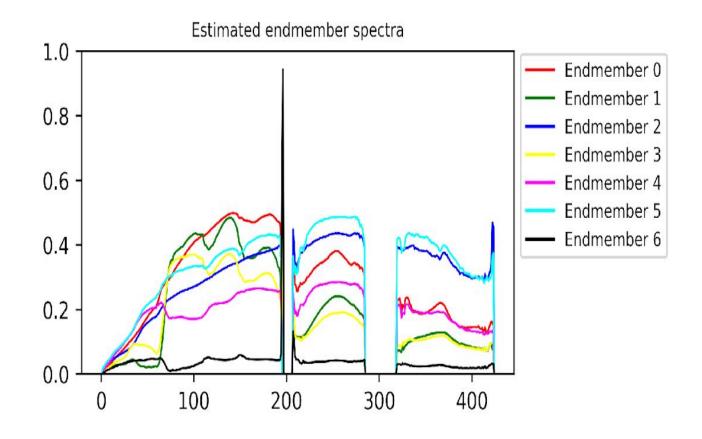


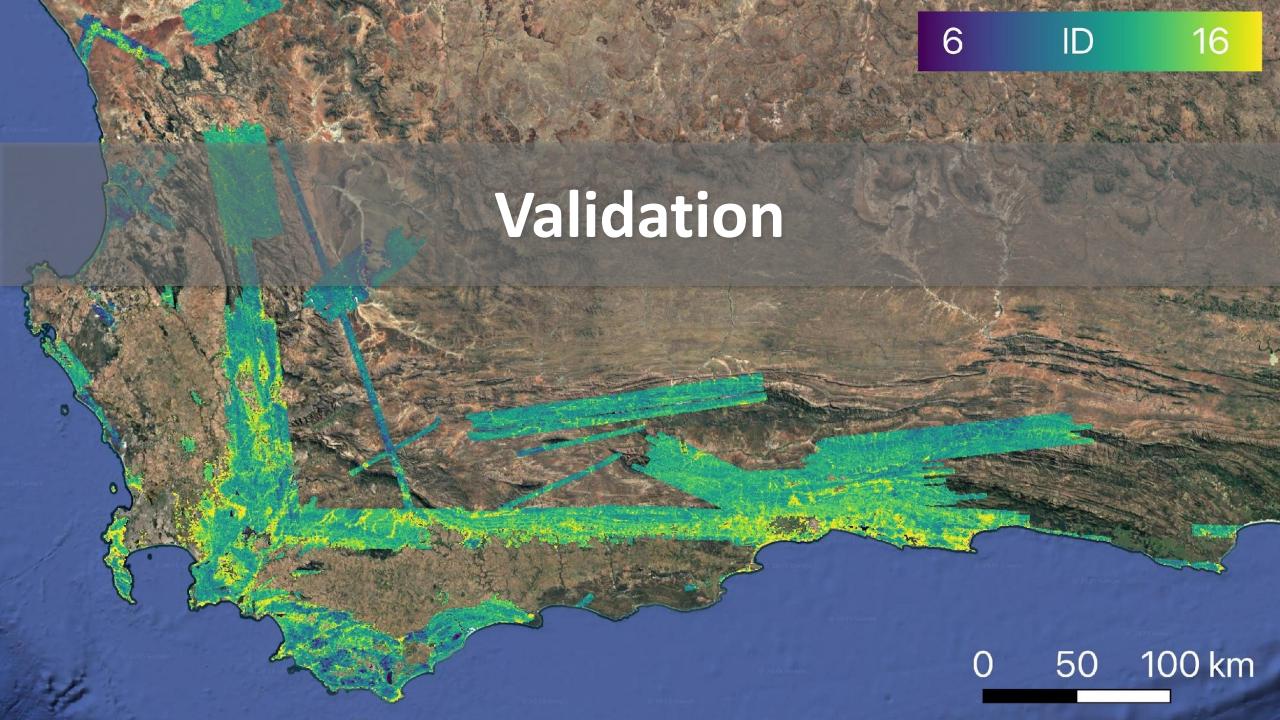
Both veg and soil/rock contributing to ID

ID is very good at picking up

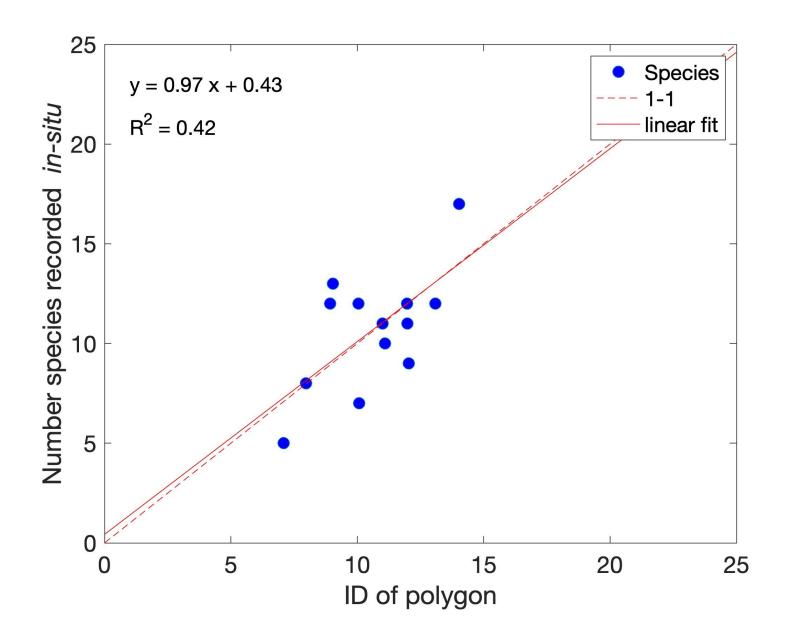
residuals...







Promising correlation for highly veg sites



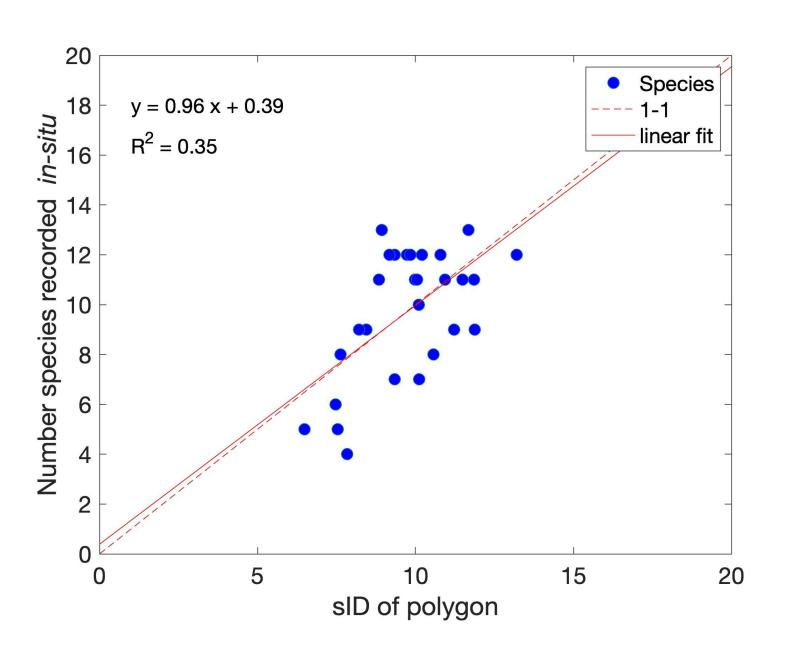
Solution = scaling by fractional cover

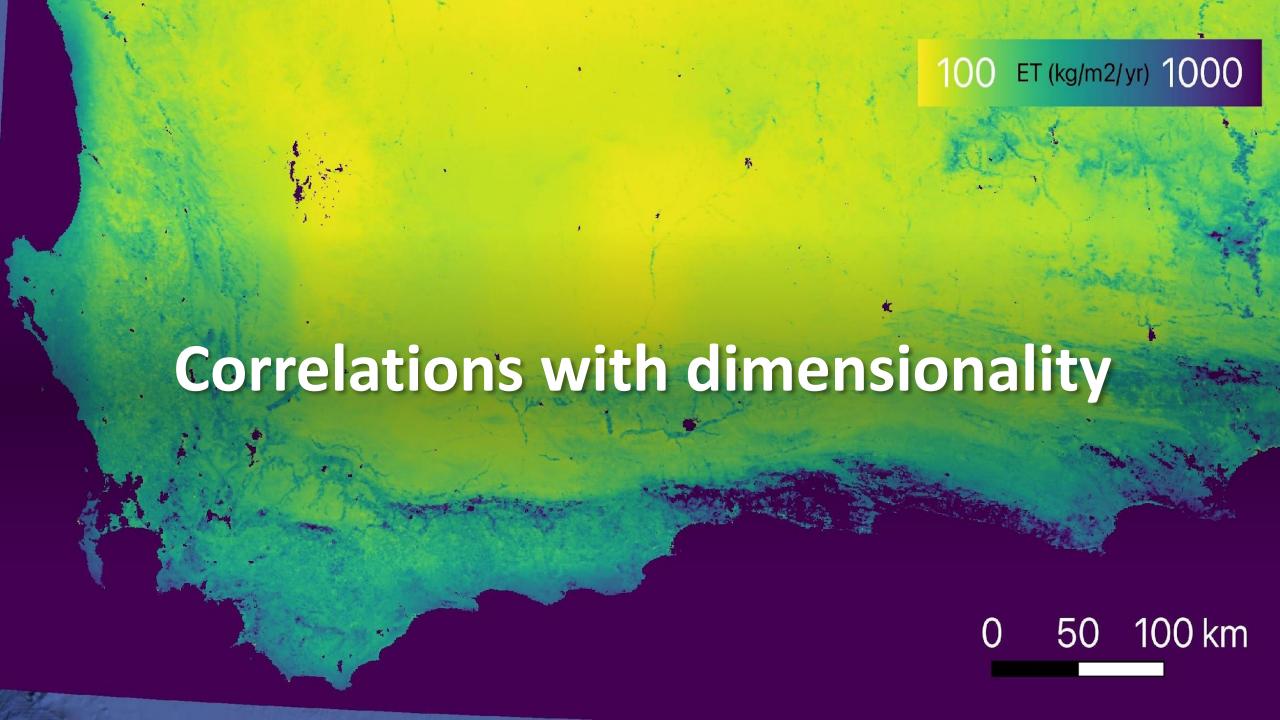


Scaling => promising correlation with all sites!

$$sID = \frac{ID}{2(1 - 0.55v)}$$

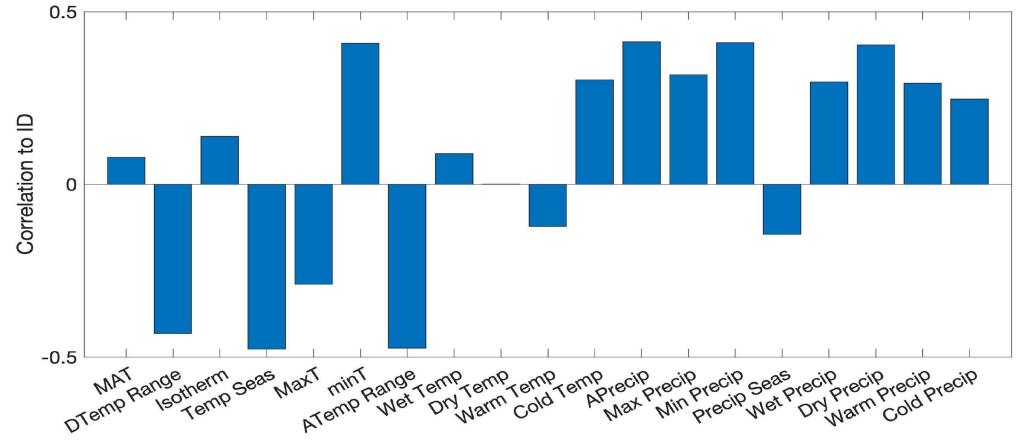
Where *v* is veg fractional cover





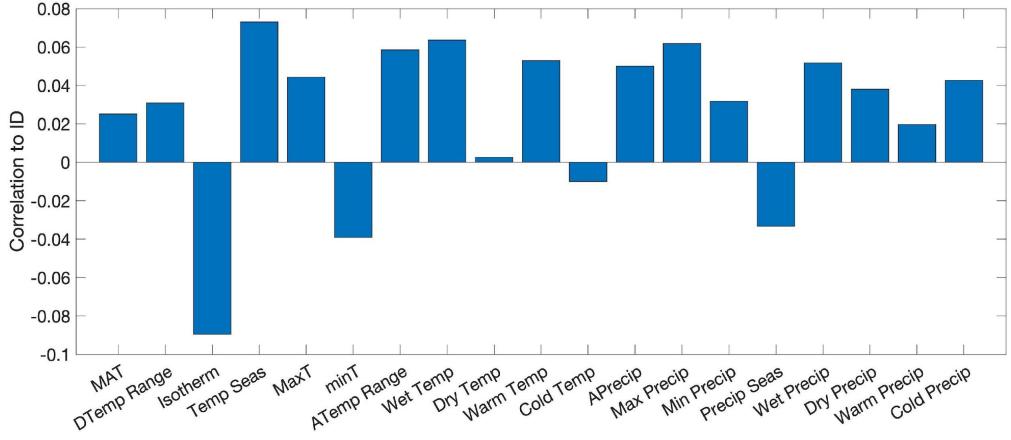
sID Correlations

 Most significant predictors are the mean annual temperature and the temperature of the wettest quarter



ID Correlations

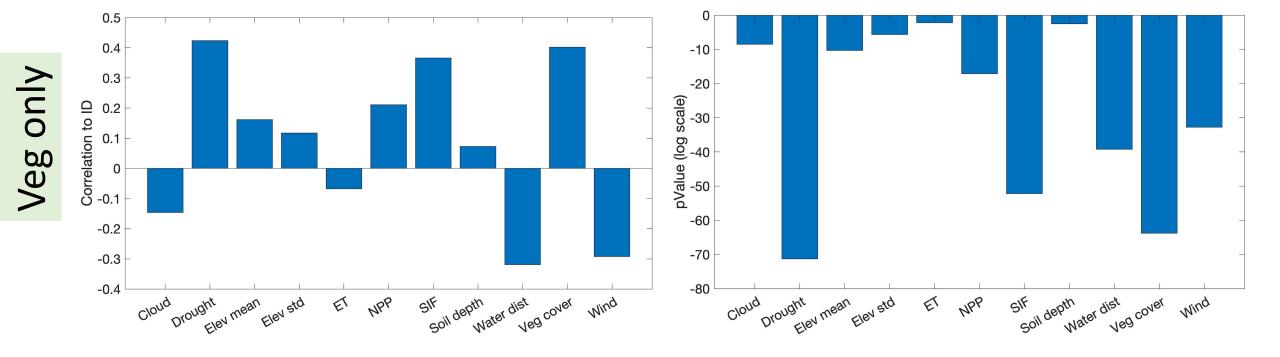
- All BioClim variables high significant except the average temperature of the driest quarter and coldest quarter
- MAT, temperature and precipitation during the wettest quarter have significant (but small) impacts



Site Selection + MODIS

sID Correlations

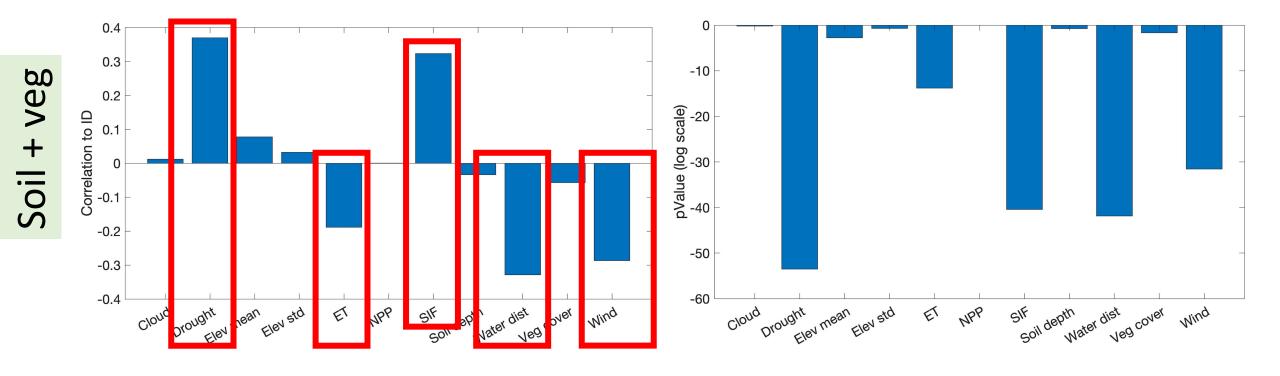
- Drought, veg cover and SIF are most significant
- Areas with higher drought index have higher ID
- Areas with higher veg cover have higher ID (by design)
- Areas with high SIF (small sample) have higher ID
- If we filter to pixels with >50% veg, distance to water becomes second most significant



Site Selection + MODIS

ID Correlations

- Drought, veg cover and SIF are most significant
- Areas with more droughts have higher ID
- Areas with high SIF (small sample) have higher ID
- Areas further from water, windy areas, and high ET areas have lower ID



Drought = the number of droughts since 2000, quantified as the number SPEI values less than -1

ipl.nasa.gov

Correlations with dimensionality

More droughts => higher ID

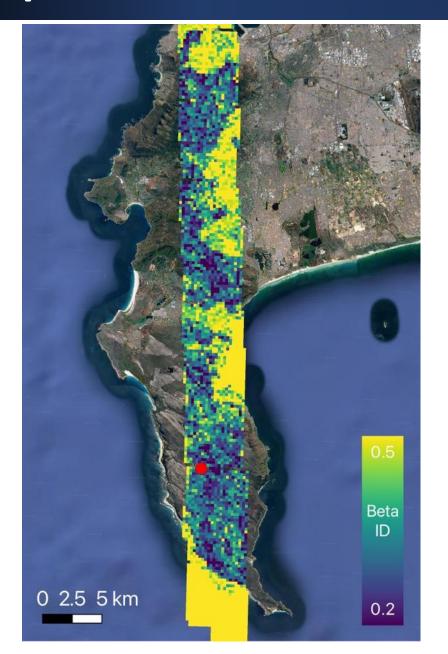
Higher SIF correlated with higher ID (small sample)

Further from water => lower ID

Windy => lower ID

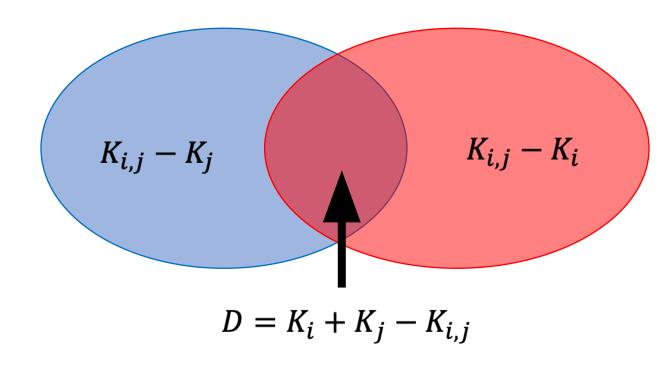
Higher ET => lower ID

Sneak peak: first beta diversity results over Cape Peninsula



ID-dissimilarity

$$d_{i,j} = 1 - \frac{2D}{K_i + K_j}$$
$$D = K_i + K_j - K_{i,j}$$



Next steps







STUDY DRIVERS OF DIVERSITY

BETA VALIDATION
AGAINST FIELD PLOTS

SCALABILITY



jpl.nasa.gov

© 2025. All rights reserved.