

# High Resolution Emission Inventories in Near Real Time for Cities

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# Carbon Monitor : an international initiative

**Mission : Deliver accurate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates with global coverage, low latency and high space / time resolution**



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[Personal webpage](#)

is the Principle Investigator and Associate Professor at Tsinghua University, and Associate at California Institute of Technology and Harvard University.



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**STEVE DAVIS**

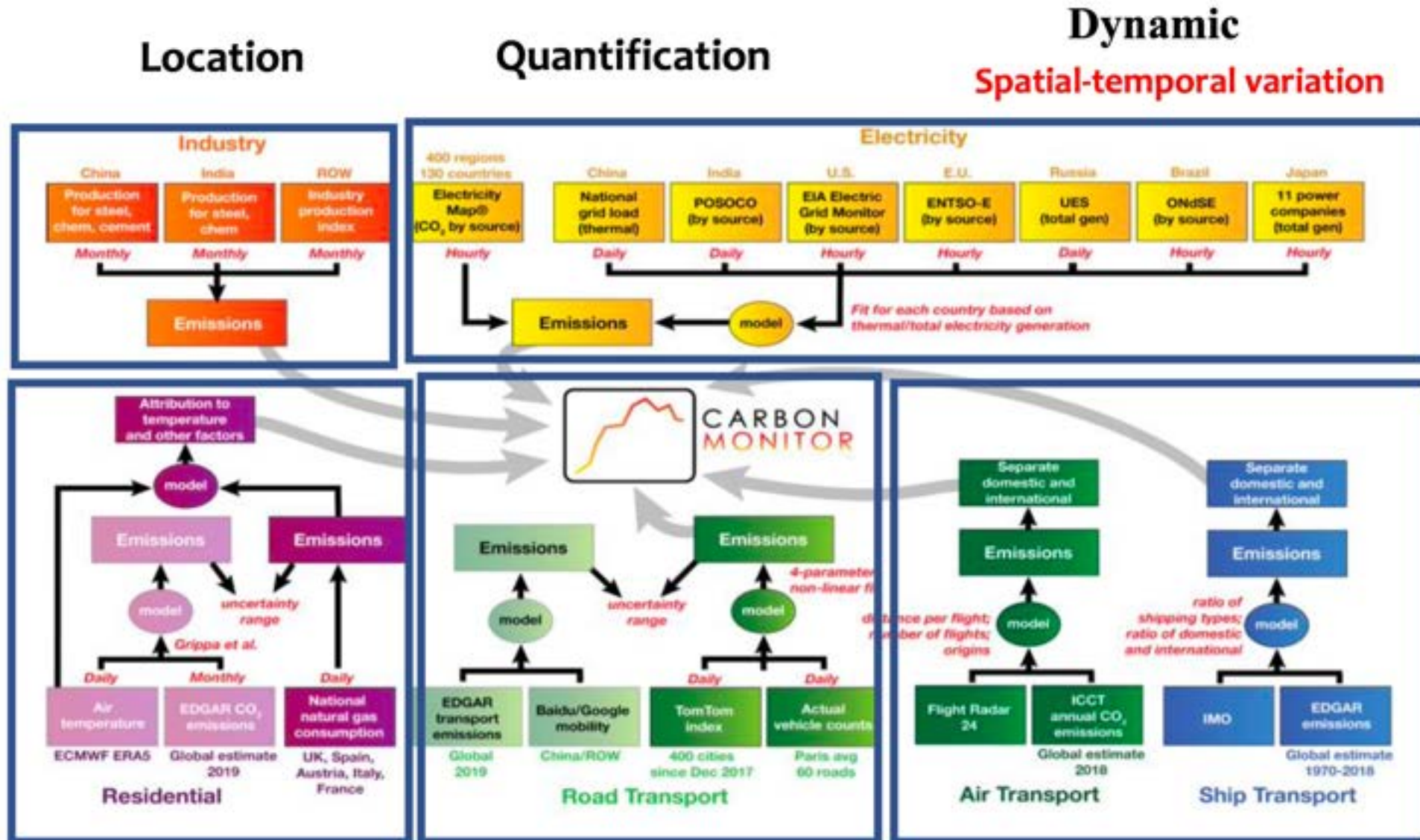
[Personal webpage](#)

is an Associate Professor of Earth System Science and Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Irvine.

More than 20 young researchers



# Our approach : consider emissions as the result of a complex human system





# Collecting daily / hourly activity data related to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in different sectors in each world region

**Aviation**



**Natural gas**



**Transportation**

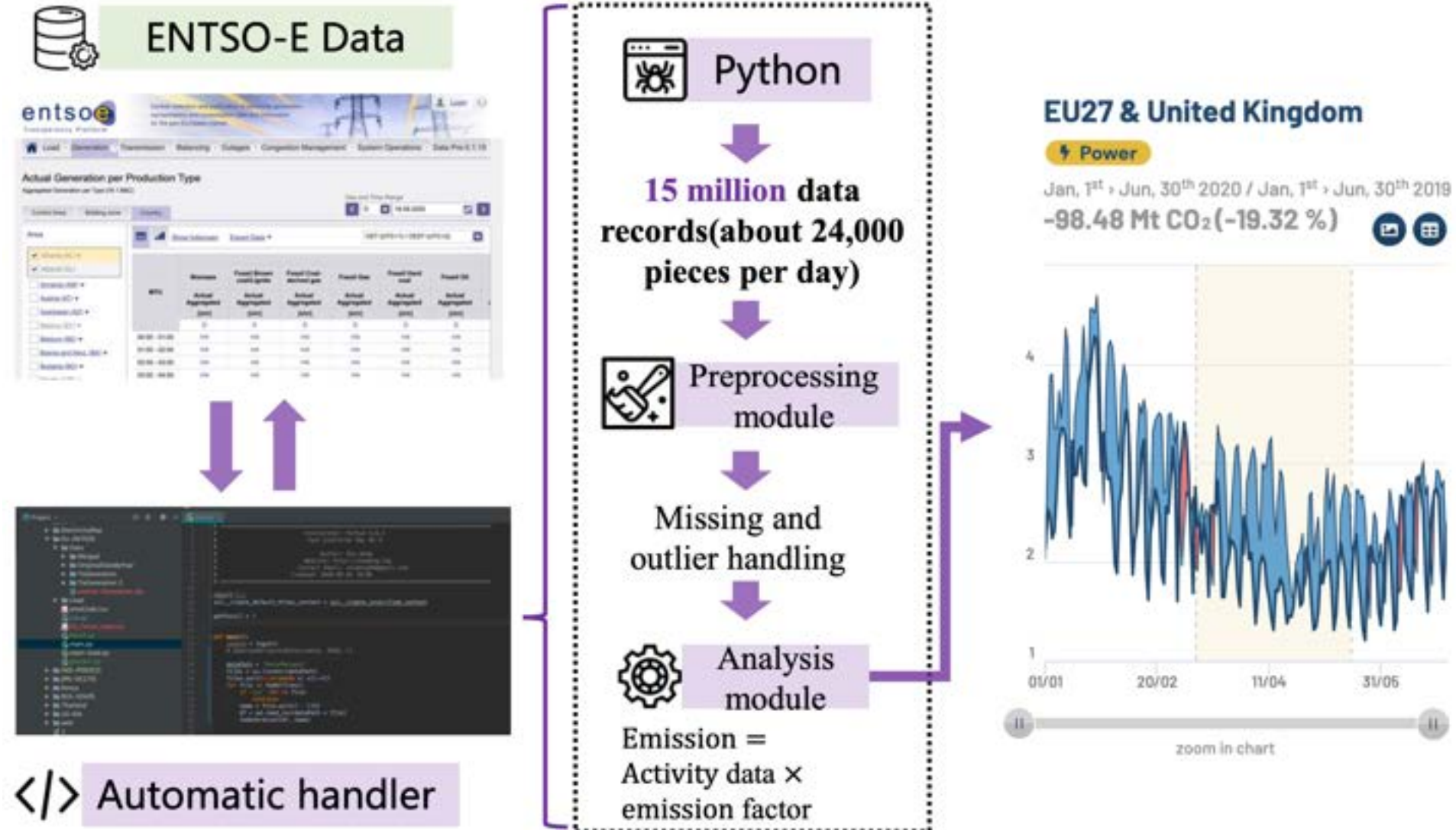


**Shipping**



**Thermal power generation**

# Example : Power generation: hourly/sub-hourly data for 31 countries






# Carbon Monitor data & publications

Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 14 October 2020

## Near-real-time monitoring of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reveals the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

Zhu Liu , Philippe Ciais, Zhu Deng, Ruixue Lei, Steven J. Davis, Sha Feng, Bo Zheng, Duo Cui, Xinyu Dou, Biqing Zhu, Rui Guo, Piyu Ke, Taochun Sun, Chenxi Lu, Pan He, Yuan Wang, Xu Yue, Yilong Wang, Yadong Lei, Hao Zhou, Zhaonan Cai, Yuhui Wu, Runtao Guo, Tingxuan Han, Jinjun Xue, Olivier Boucher, Eulalie Boucher, Frédéric Chevallier, Katsumasa Tanaka, Yimin Wei, Haiwang Zhong, Chongqing Kang, Ning Zhang, Bin Chen, Fengming Xi, Miaomiao Liu, François-Marie Bréon, Yonglong Lu, Qiang Zhang, Dabo Guan, Peng Gong, Daniel M. Kammen, Kebin He & Hans Joachim Schellnhuber -Show fewer



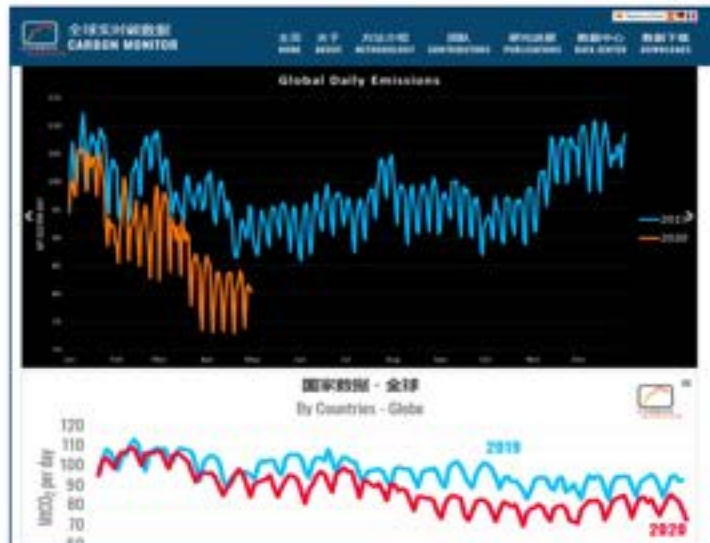
30 peer reviewed publications / pre-prints since June 2020

More than 20 researchers working on different datasets weekly meetings ...

Supported in Europe by Copernicus CAMS CAMS51a

### Products :

- Global 36 countries + RoW
- China Province level
- US State level
- EU Country level
- Power ≠ sectors 130 countries
- **Gridded maps of emissions**
- **Cities 1300 cities**



Daily data, graphics, methods freely available

<https://carbonmonitor.org>

<https://carbonmonitor.org.cn>

Zhu Liu, et al, *Nature Communications* 2020

Zhu Liu, et al, *Scientific Data* 2020



PROGRAMME OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION

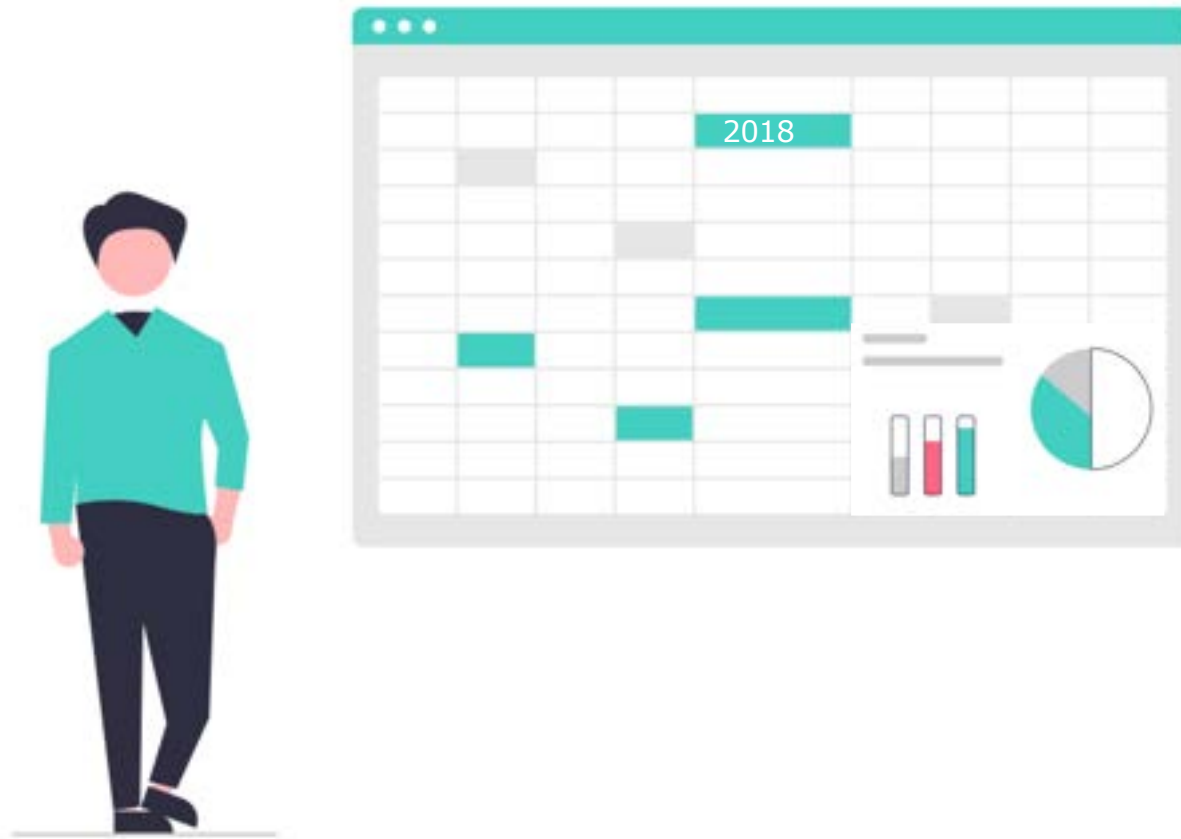


SUPPLEMENTED BY



# Carbon Monitor Cities

Should we face the challenge of the decade with an excel sheet ?



**Time & accuracy gap due to costly and difficult data collection** (1 to 4 years time lag).



**No mapping, targeting and GIS integration with city planning tool chain.**

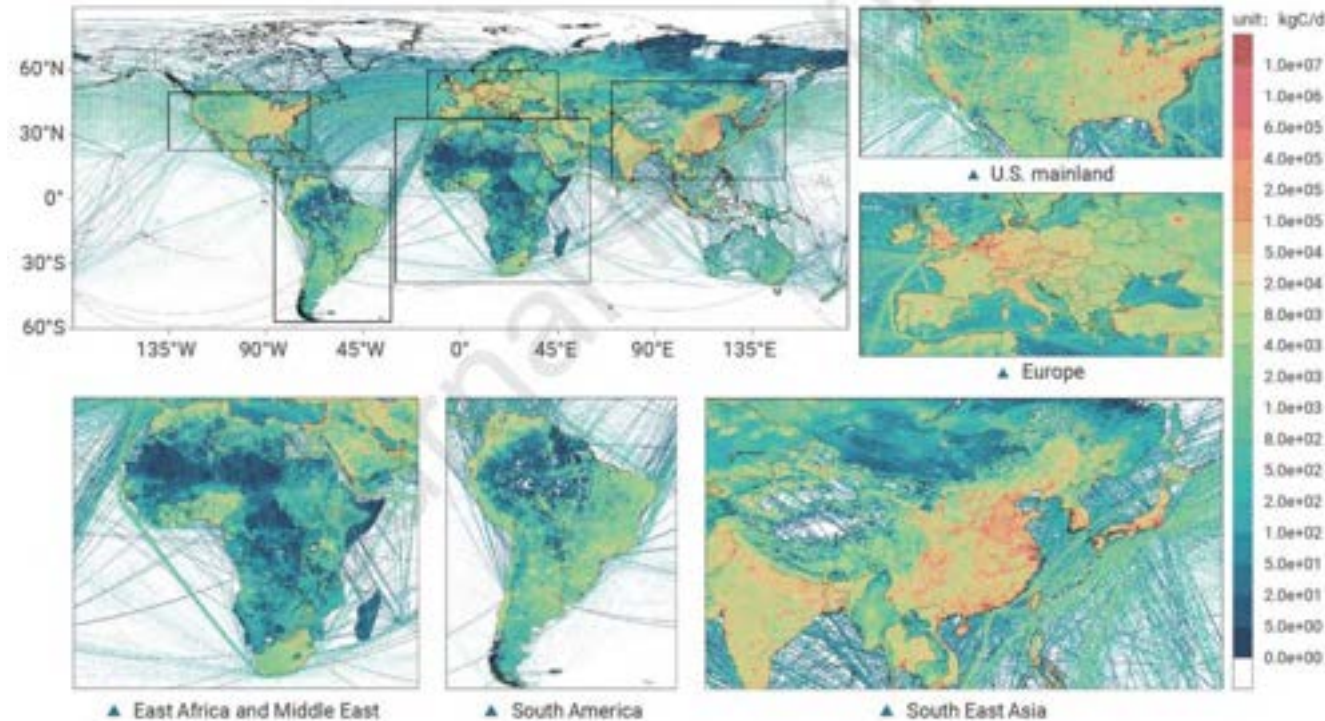


**Not matching with MRV requirements for carbon credits and impact finance.**

Imagine such a situation for health, mobility or waste management policies.

# Carbon Monitor global gridded 10 km daily maps of emissions

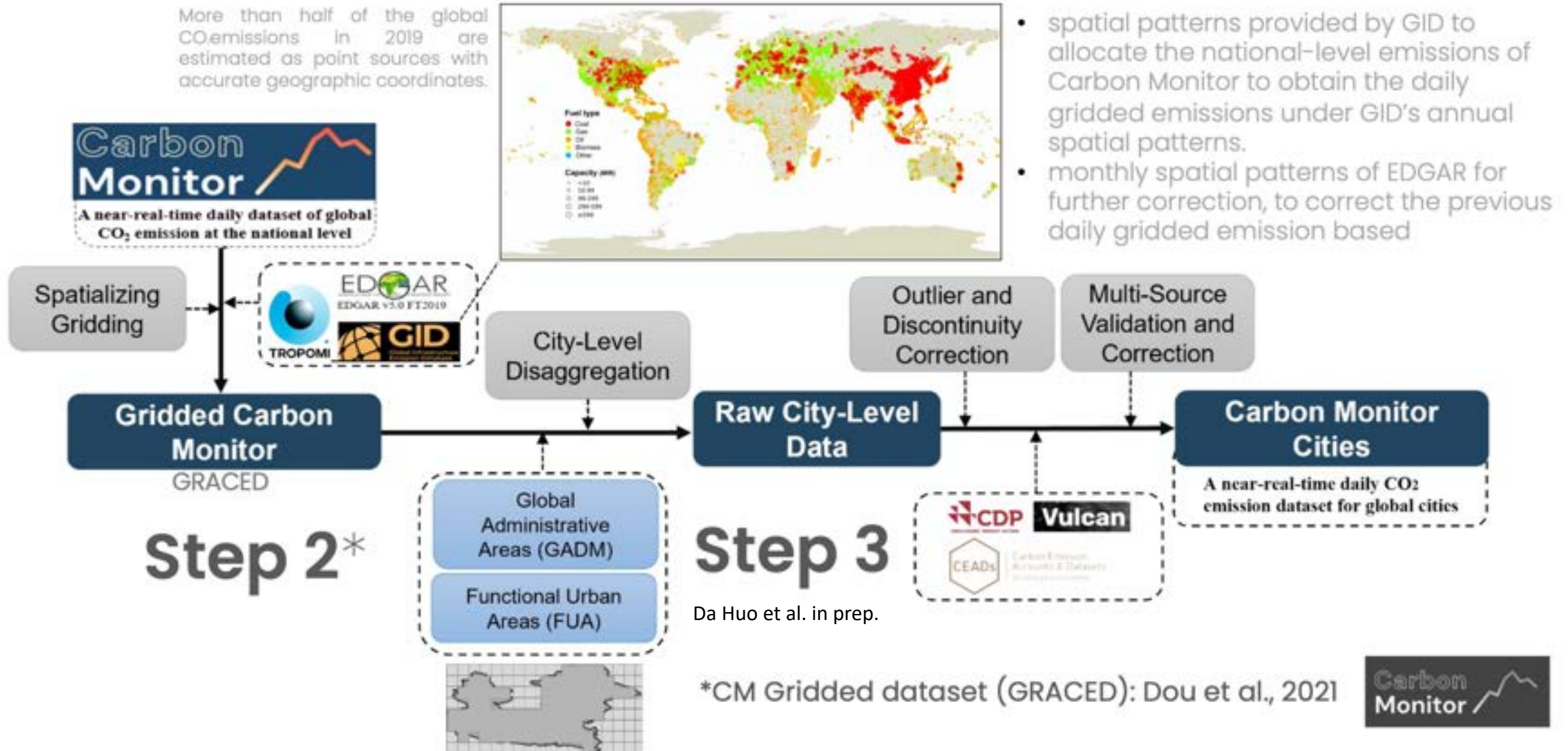
GRACED is the fusion of daily national Carbon Monitor emissions, the GID large database of point sources, JRC EDGAR spatial activity patterns, TROPOPI NO<sub>2</sub> satellite data for changes of activity spatial patterns



**Figure 2.** The fossil fuel and cement CO<sub>2</sub> emissions distributions of GRACED in 2020. The value is given in the unit of kg of carbon per day per cell.

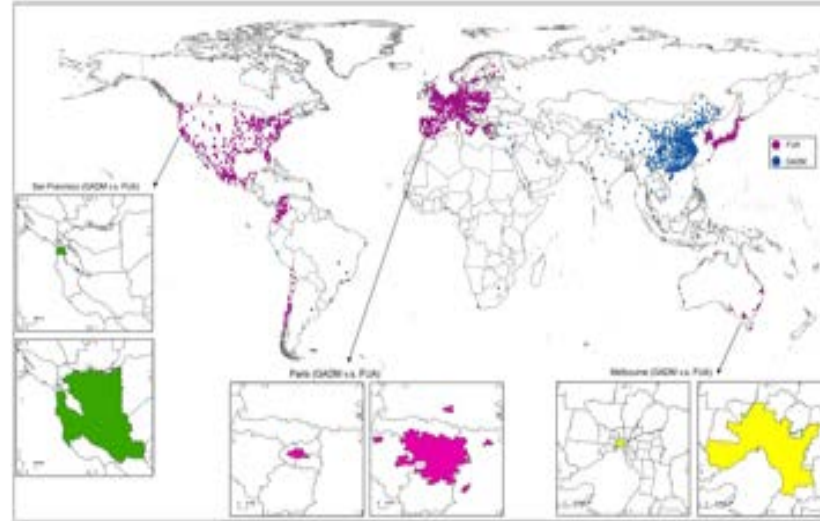


# Carbon Monitor Cities 1.0 - Workflow



# Carbon Monitor Cities 1.0 - Coverage of 1300 cities

- Locations: Cities with available and accessible recent GHG emission inventories
- Coverage : **1500 cities**
- Yet very few in Africa, Middle East and South Asia
- Update each 3 months
- Latency of 3 months
- Estimates on GADM & FUA areas



FUA: Functional Urban Area  
GADM: Administrative Area

scientific **data**

**OPEN**

DATA DESCRIPTOR

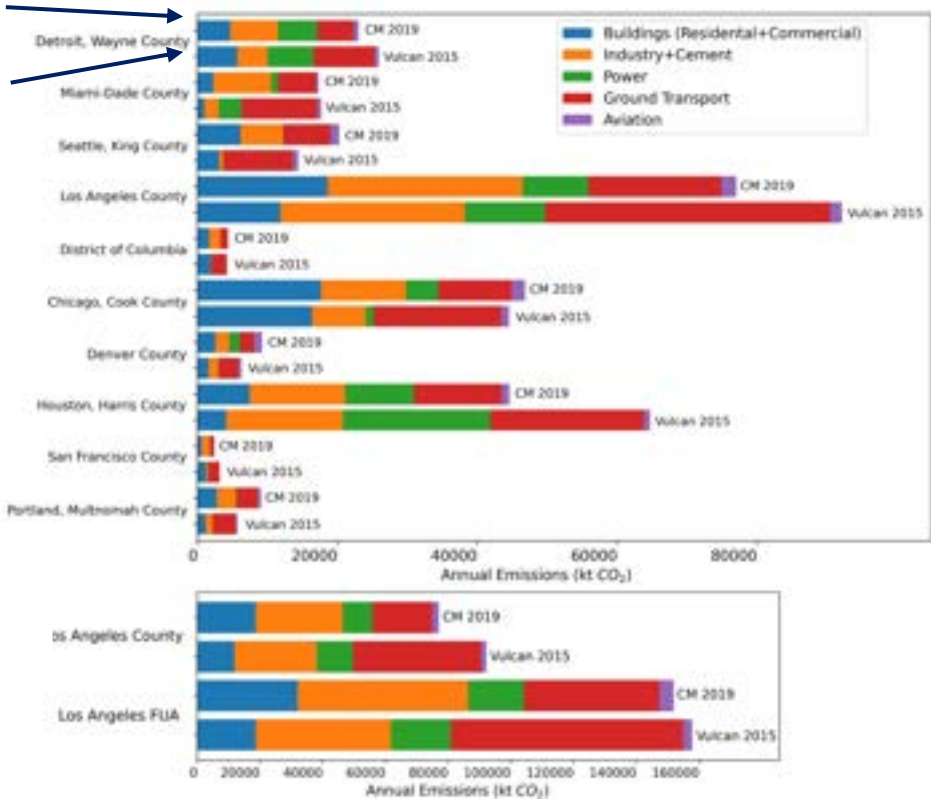
Carbon Monitor Cities near-real-time daily estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 1500 cities worldwide

Da Huo<sup>1,10</sup>, Xiaoting Huang<sup>1</sup>, Xinyu Dou<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Clais<sup>2</sup>, Yun Li<sup>3</sup>, Zhu Deng<sup>1</sup>, Yilong Wang<sup>1</sup>, Duo Cui<sup>1</sup>, Fouzi Benkhelifa<sup>4</sup>, Taochun Sun<sup>1</sup>, Biqing Zhu<sup>1,3</sup>, Geoffrey Roest<sup>1</sup>, Kevin R. Gurney<sup>5</sup>, Piyu Ke<sup>1</sup>, Rui Guo<sup>1</sup>, Chenxi Lu<sup>1</sup>, Xiaojuan Lin<sup>1</sup>, Arminel Lovell<sup>6</sup>, Kyra Appleby<sup>4</sup>, Philip L. DeCola<sup>7</sup>, Steven J. Davis<sup>8</sup> & Zhu Liu<sup>1,10</sup>

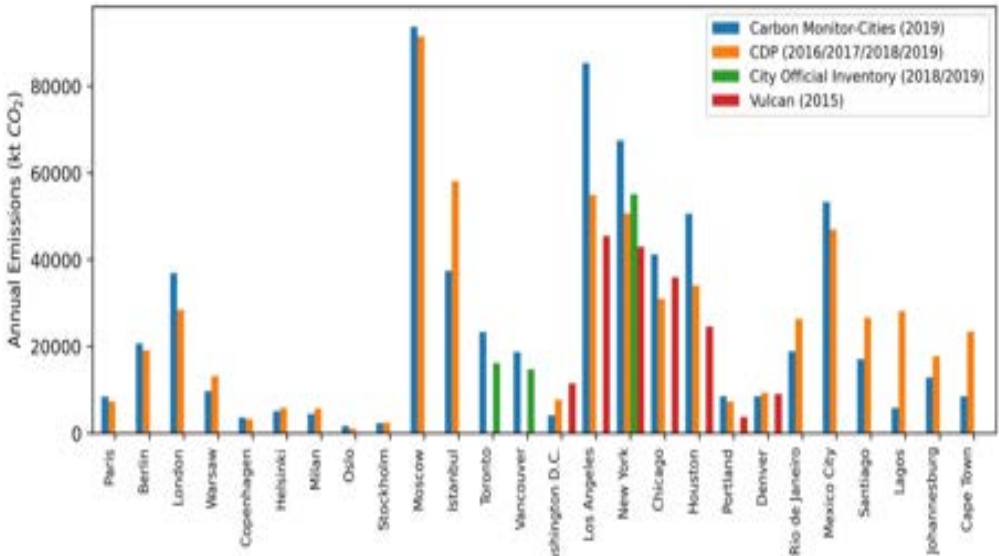
# Evaluation against independent urban inventories

Carbon Monitor  
Cities 1.0  
VULCAN

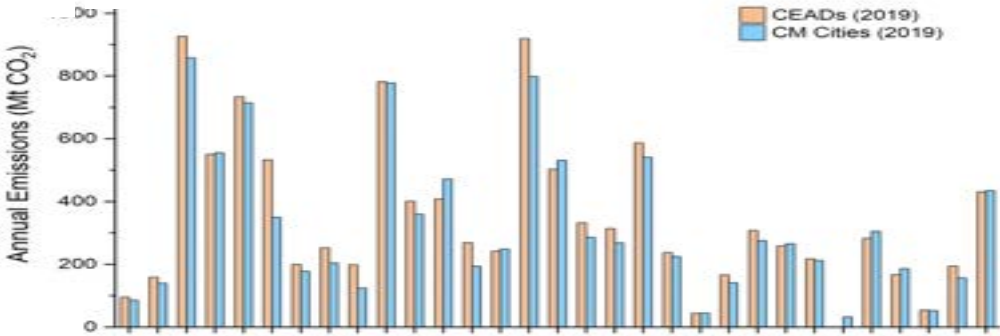
VULCAN (US, year 2015)



CDP and Cities reports ( Globe )



CEADS ( China )





# What's next ?

## Carbon Monitor 2.0

### High resolution near real time daily emissions for all cities

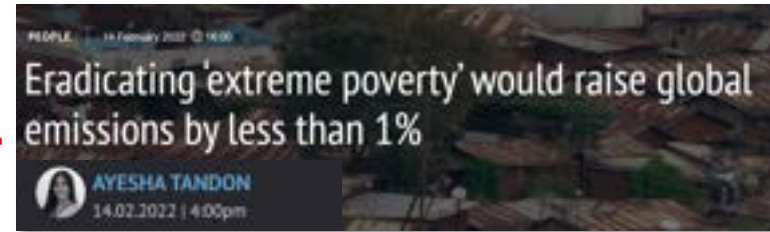
- Develop a global and universal NRT dataset of GHG emissions at high resolution ( down to building / block / street level ) with a nested approach:
  - **Inter-comparable methodology : Globe -> Country - > Region -> City -> Block**
  - **5 sectors (buildings, power, industry, ground transport, aviation)**
  - **Daily time series**
  - **Automated update with a 10 days latency**
- Focus on Global South Cities where data is scarce
  - **Downscaling with high resolution proxy data : building features / street traffic**
  - **New methods for cities with no data**
  - **Could be extended to combustion pollutants**
  - **Emission scenarios systems for urban planning and clean air policies**



Mumbai  
<https://www.mediapolisjournal.com/2019/11/the-mumbai-slum/>

They are in the same country  
 and the same city,

BUT WHO EMITS **MORE CO<sub>2</sub>** ?



Johannesburg  
<https://unequalscenes.com/kya-sandsbloubosrand>

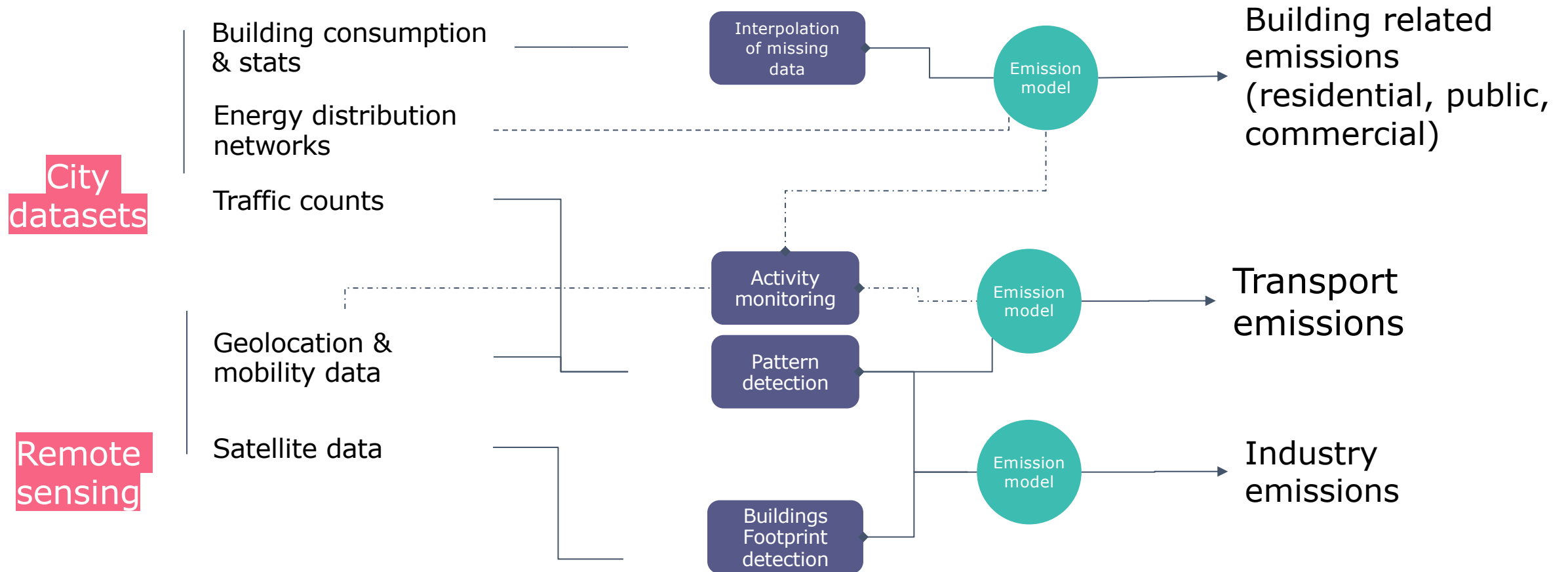
City block emission patterns provide:

- Detailed spatial distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- urban morphology vs. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- New data to support mitigation strategy and policy.
- Scenarios for impact of urban planning on emissions

# Carbon Monitor Cities 2.0

## From City to building/street level

Going the last mile using AI





# Challenges to derive NRT high-res CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emission

$$= \Sigma \text{ Activity} \times \text{Emission Factor}$$

=  $\Sigma$  Population

×

Activity Intensity

×

Emission Factor

challenge 1:  
How to map city  
block-level population  
accurately?

Machine  
Learning



Predict building  
morphology  
(height and type)

challenge 2:  
How to estimate activity  
in near-real-time ?

Satellite  
Images



Use night-time light,  
temperature,  
pollutants imagery, ...

challenge 3:  
How to estimate  
emission factors for city  
blocks?

Data  
Fusion



Develop a building level  
emission intensity index -  
-> poverty/development

# Regional features of buildings

## Level 0: Data Fusion

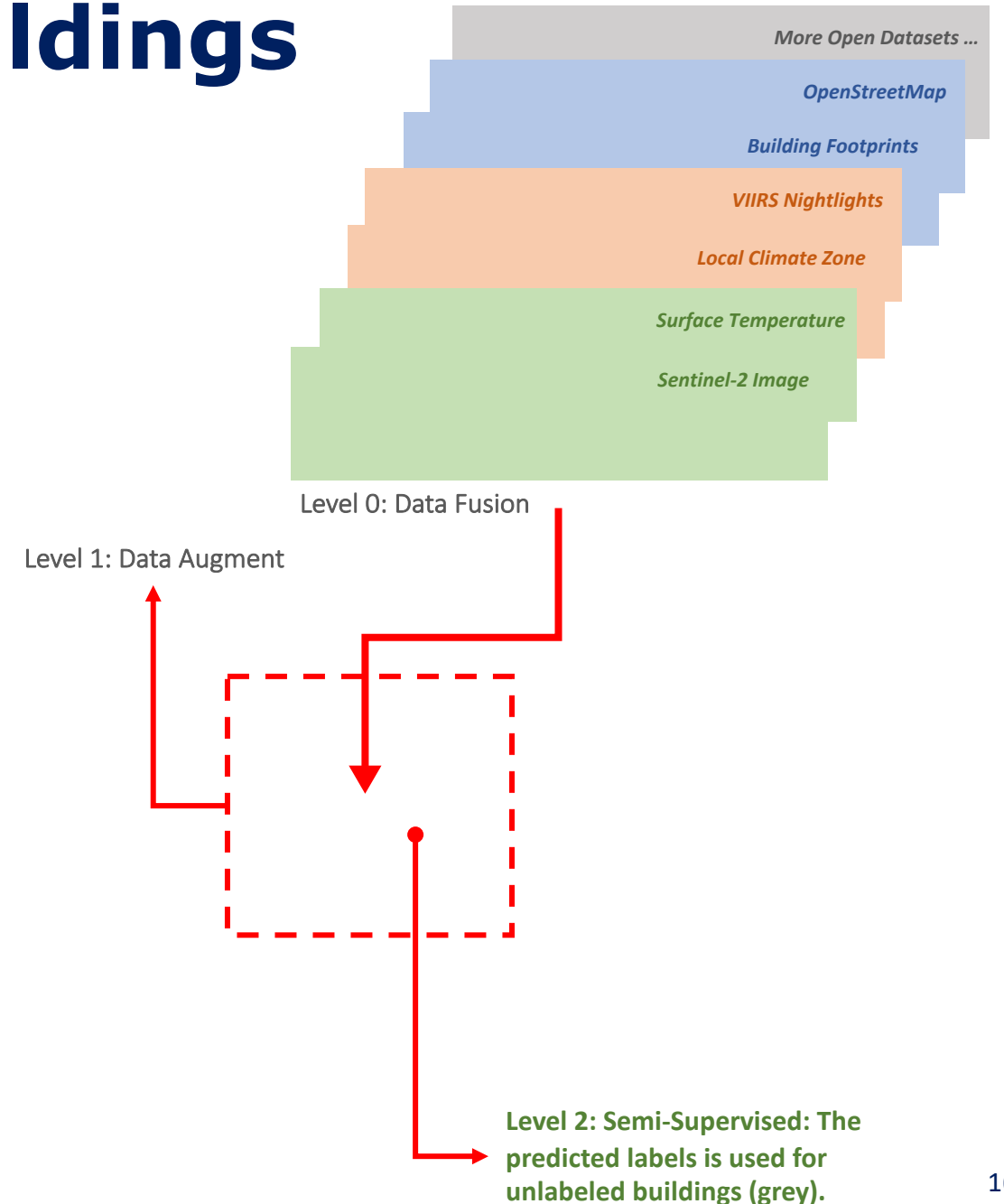
- 1) Merge polygons
- 2) Create a training set by collecting building features from various datasets

## Level 1: Data Augmentation

- 1) Create regional level features
- 2) Extract extra information from regional properties (such as roads)
- 3) Reduce the data noise for building level features

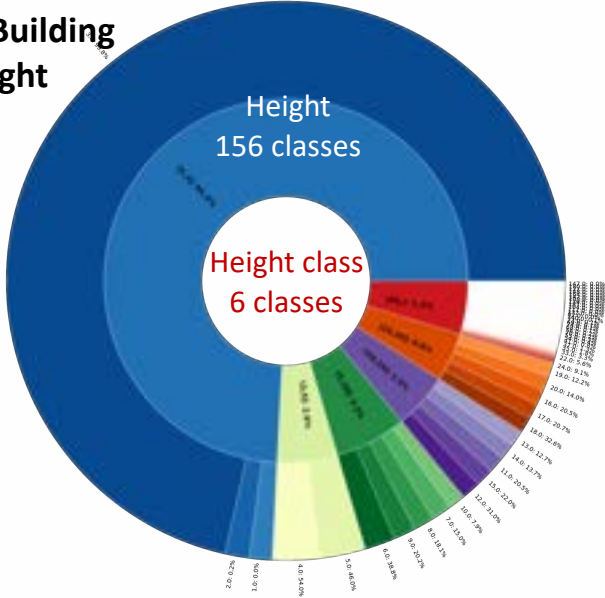
## Level 2: Semi-Supervised Learning

- 1) After model is trained, we can estimate the values for unlabeled buildings, then update regional features
- 2) With semi-supervised learning, the model gets more precise regional features



# Buildings classification

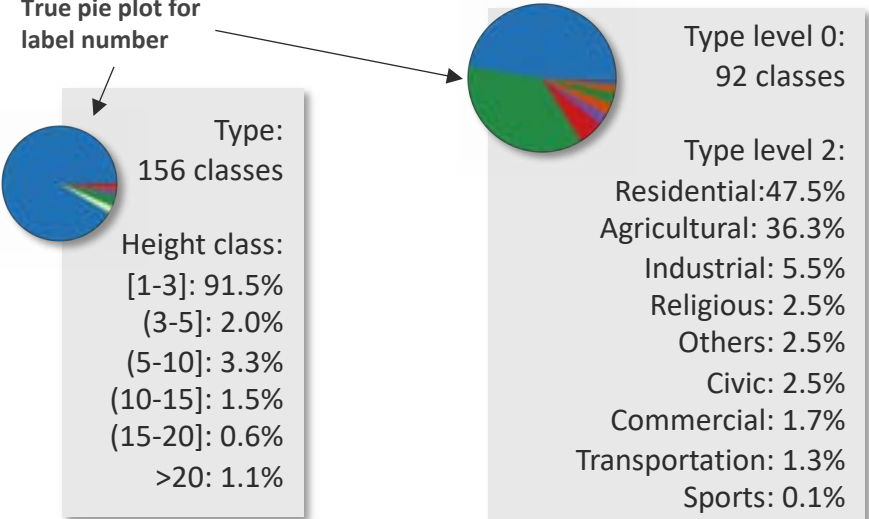
a) Building height



b) Building Type



True pie plot for label number



Highly imbalanced and multiple-classes classification is difficult.

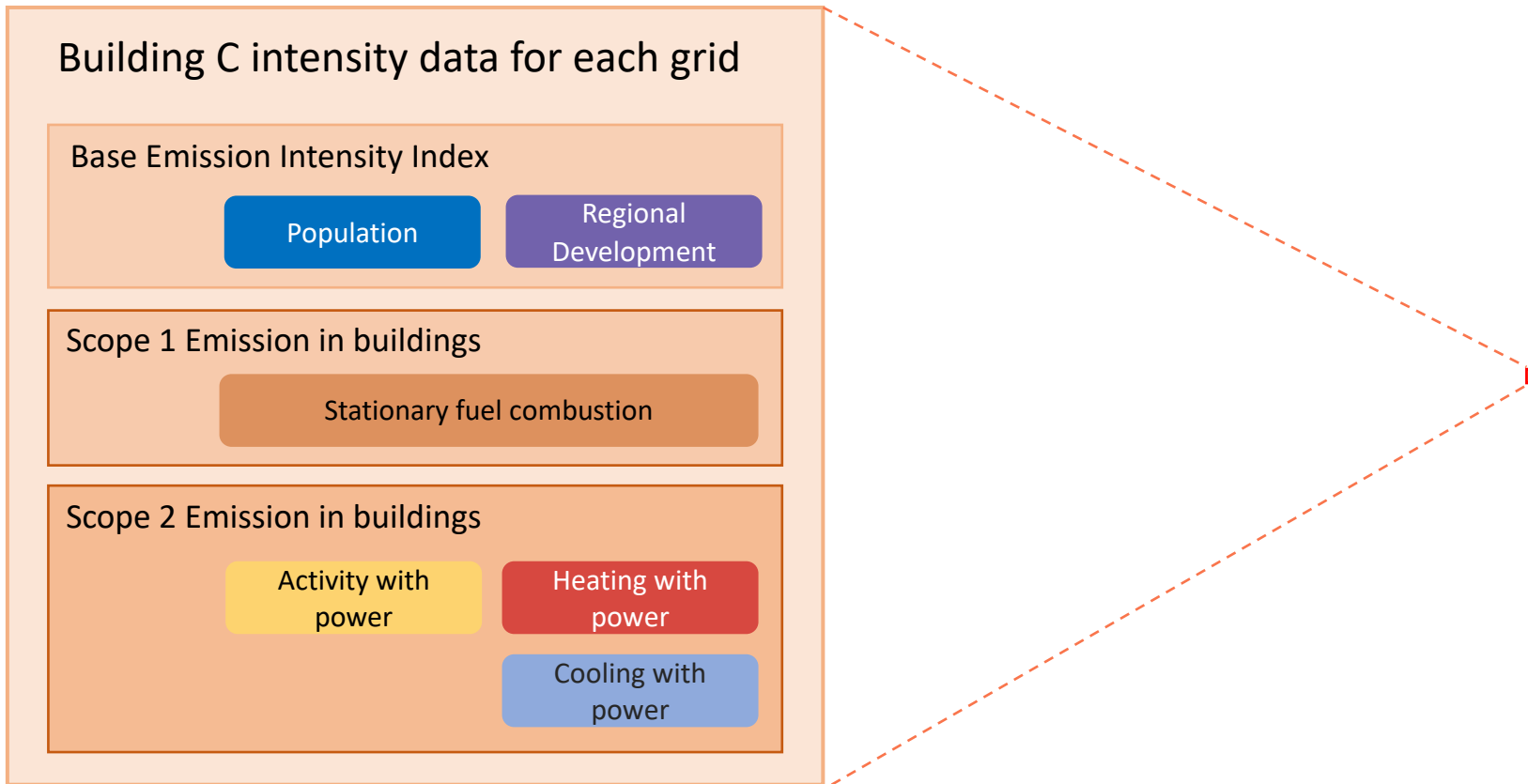


# Results : first high resolution NRT Emission maps

## + Buildings Carbon Intensity Index

Evaluates the potential CO<sub>2</sub> emission intensity for a particular building / timestamp

### Example for Greater Cairo, Egypt



Prototype for 500 m spatial resolution: <https://bigcarbon-viz.w3spaces.com/>

# Regions and Pilot cities

Plans to expand it to 100+ cities in India & 100+ cities in China in 2024  
Extend to CO, NOx, BC

Labeled (OpenStreetMap, OSM building)



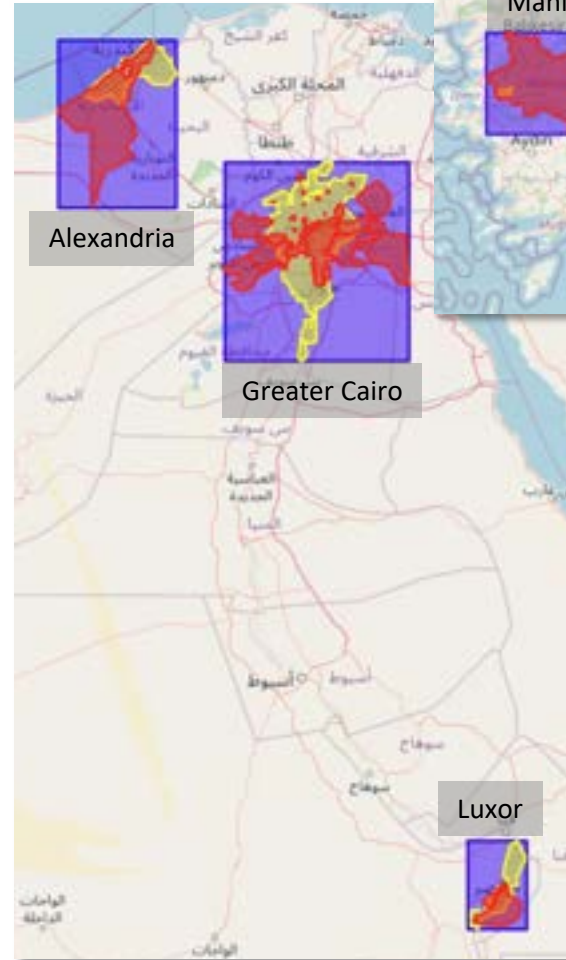
0.99 M data

Unlabeled (Microsoft Building Footprints )

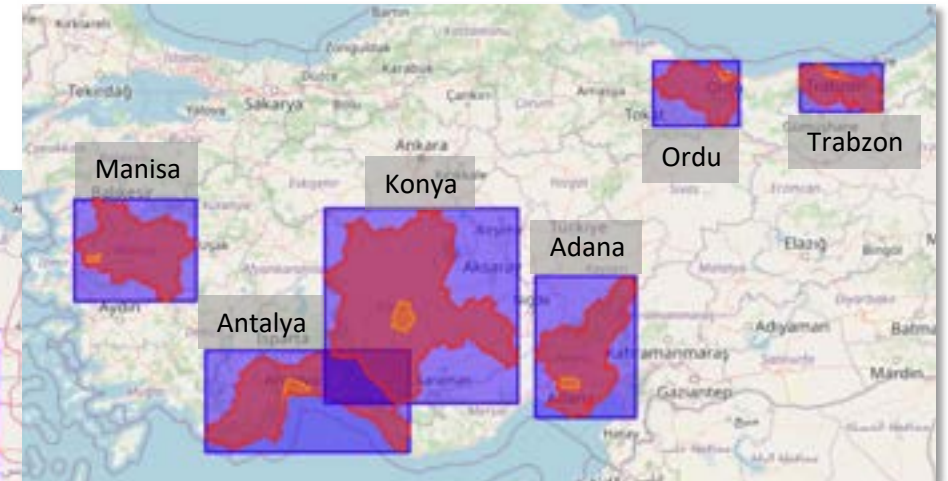


9.2 M data

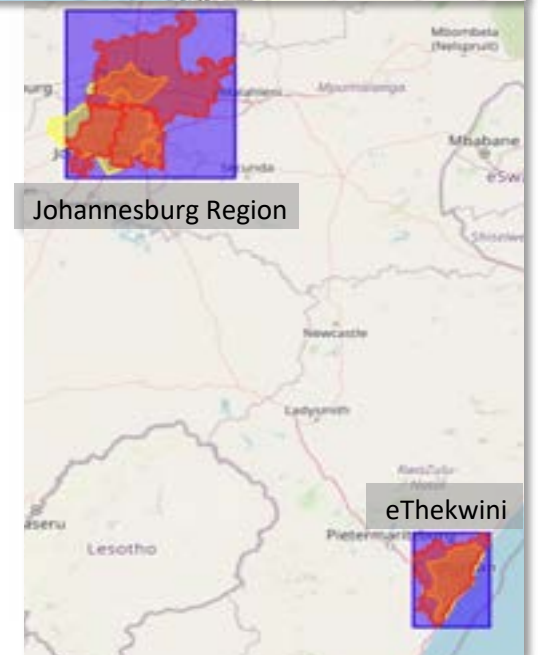
Polygons recognized by ML



Egypt



Turkey

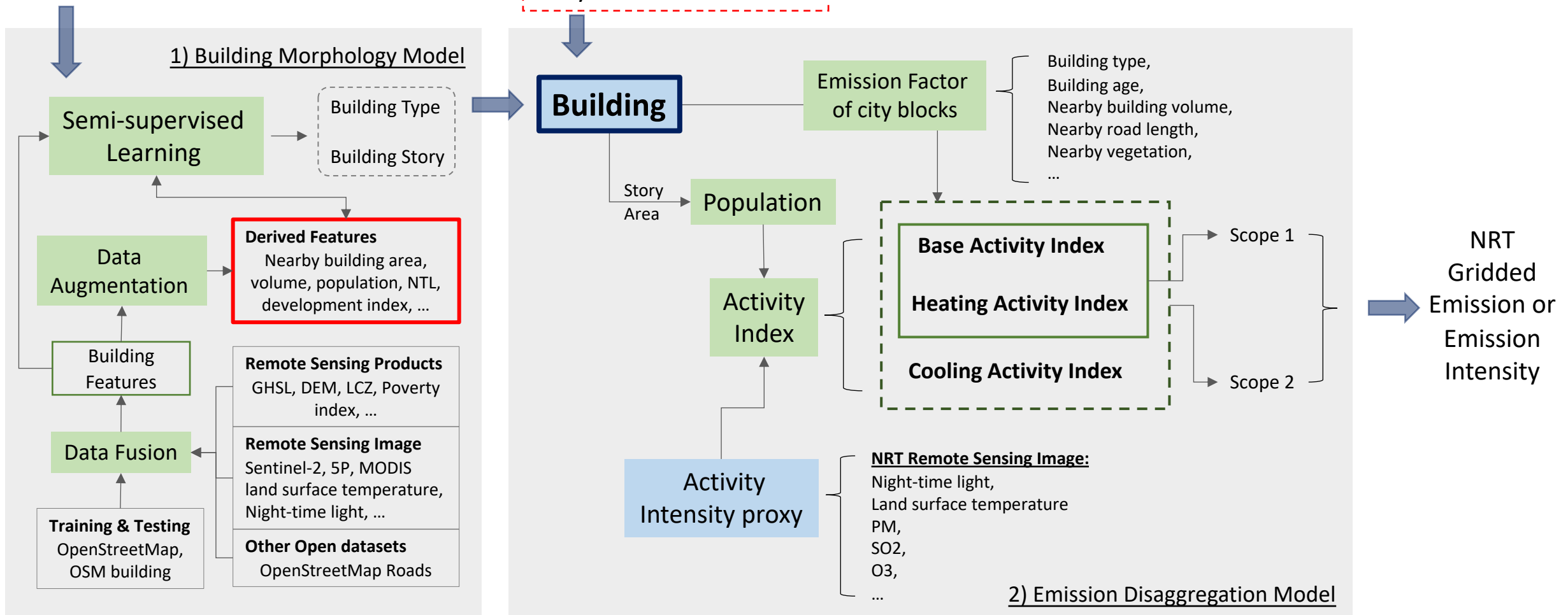


South Africa

# Framework

{ Building Integral Gridded Carbon  
Emission Disaggregation Model }

Microsoft Building Footprints  
(Prediction set)

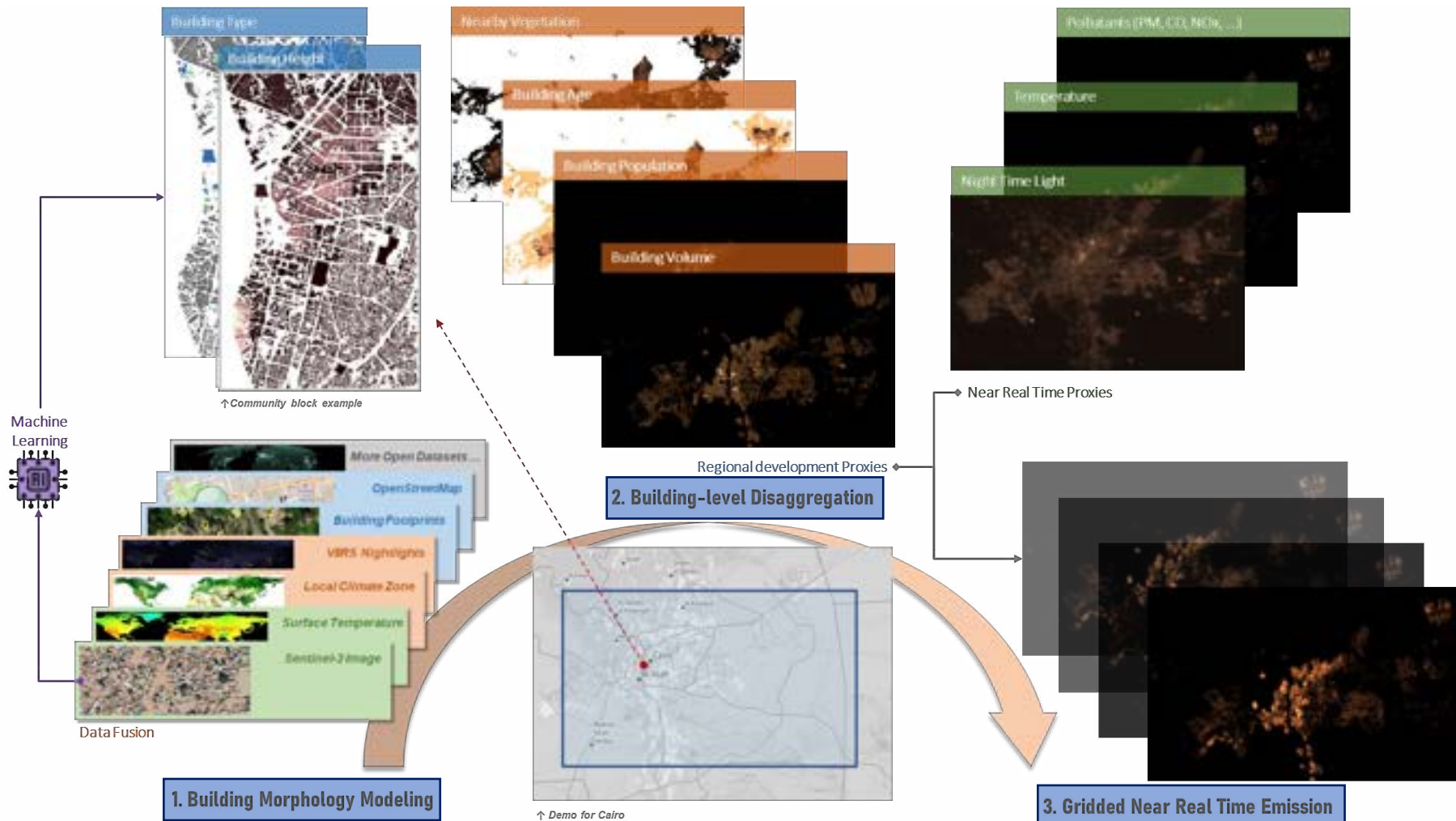




# Carbon Monitor Cities 2.0

{ From Building Features, Satellite Image, Machine Learning  
To Fine Gridded CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Map in Near-real Time }

## Building Integral Gridded Carbon Emission Disaggregation Model



### Terminology

#### City block

A fixed size of grid, e.g., 500 m × 500 m

#### Building Morphology

Building story number and type