

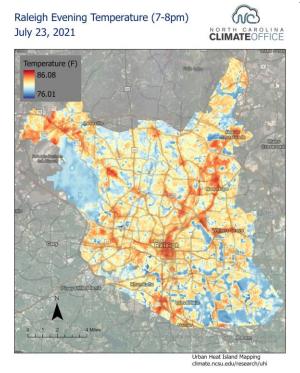
# Measuring Urban Heat Islands and Their Causes

Data 🕀
Climate 🏵

Chenhao Ge, Claudia Rodriguez, Zach Calhoun, David Carlson, Michael Bergin

## Background

The urban heat island effect occurs when modern infrastructure absorbs and re-emits heat to a greater extent than natural elements, leading to elevated temperatures.



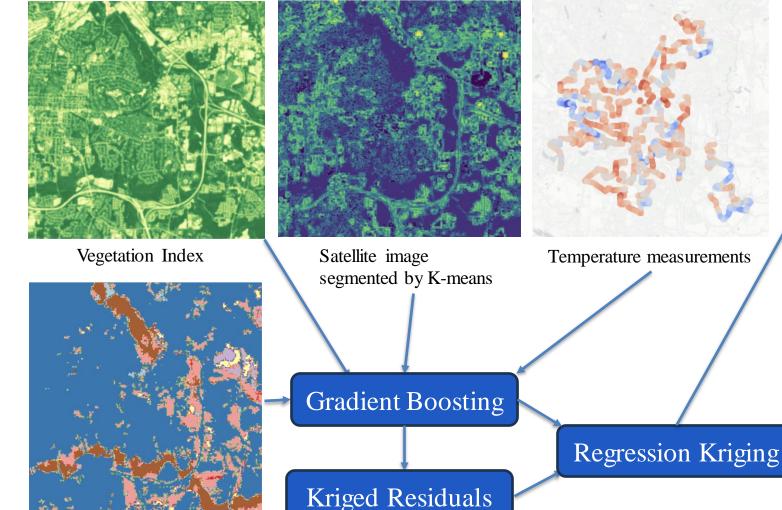
Maximum temperature difference of 10.07°F between urban and non-urban areas

## **Objectives**

- Develop an interpretable model that understands the impacts of landscape modifications on local temperatures
- Analyze potential interventions as a starting point for greater policy change

#### Methods

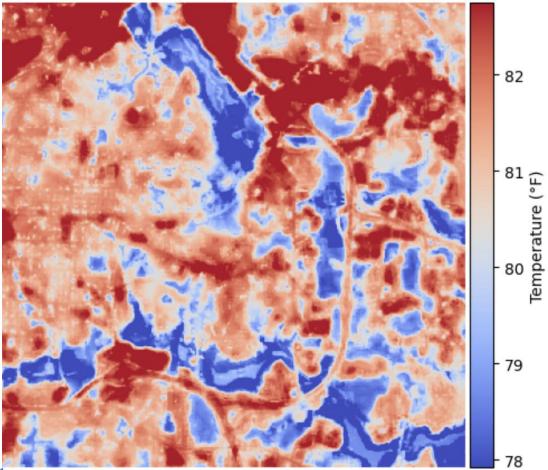
Land Cover



#### Results



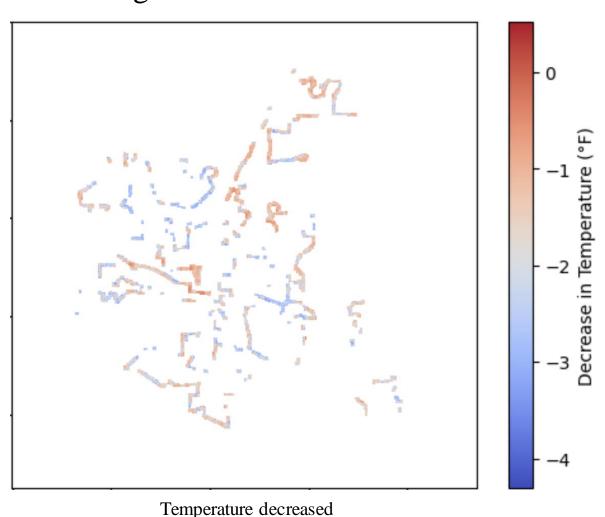
Satellite image of part of Raleigh



Temperature prediction

	Gradient	Kriged	Regression
	Boosting	Residuals	Kriging
$\mathbb{R}^2$	~0.50	~0.87	~0.95

• An example of one intervention strategy: increase vegetation for areas that are among the hottest but have low vegetation coverage, and their surroundings, simulating buffer zones.



**Future Work** 

- Investigate the non-linear relationship between interventions and temperature
- Explore applying this framework to more cities
- Link changes to urban heat islands with changes to energy consumption and health outcomes

#### References

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- 3. Reich, B. J., Yang, S., Guan, Y., Giffin, A. B., Miller, M. J., and Rappold, A. (2021) A Review of Spatial Causal Inference Methods for Environmental and Epidemiological Applications. *International Statistical Review*, 89: 605–634.
- 4. United States Energy Protection Agency. Learn More about Heat Islands. https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands.