

# City Scanner Workshop

---



senseable  
city lab.

# Workshop Agenda + Goals

---

## Agenda

- CityScanner Recap
- Historical + environmental use case context on The Bronx
- Analysis + Coding activities

## Goals

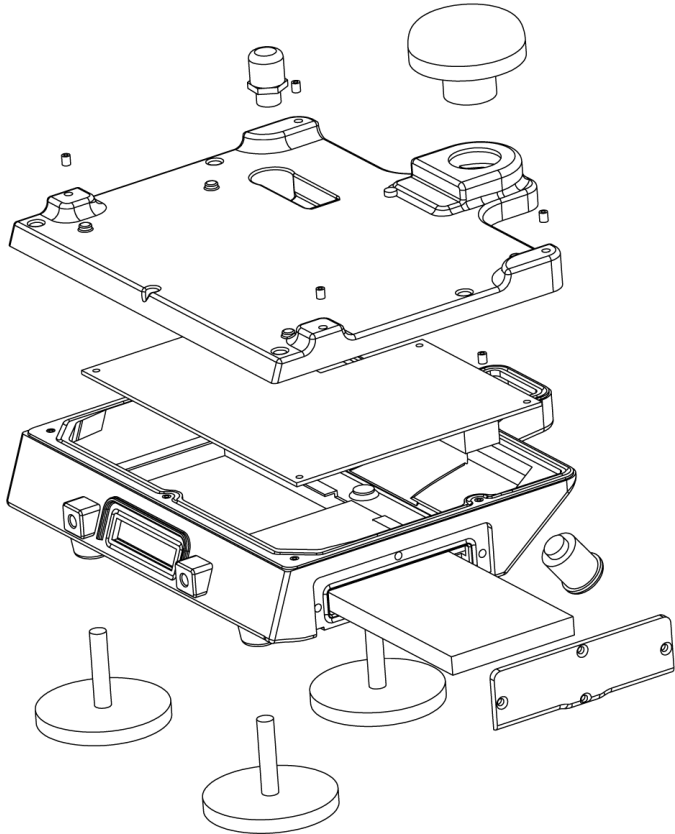
- Understanding hyperlocal air quality sensing
- Perform time series + hotspot analysis
- Make maps with data



Can we turn urban vehicles into sensing platforms?

# City Scanner

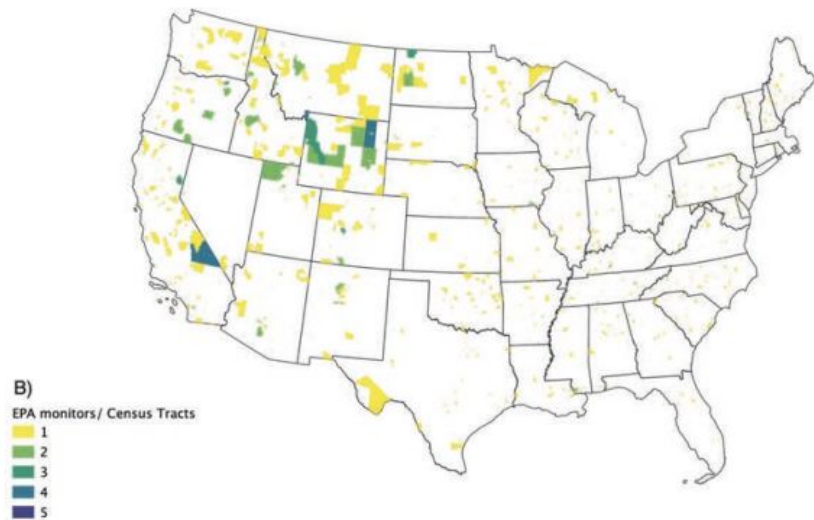
---



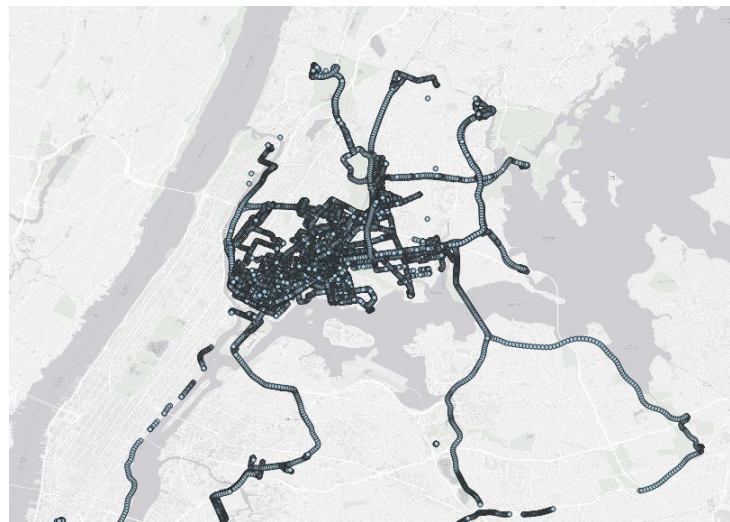
- Location
- Air quality (PM, CO, NOx)
- Temperature & Humidity
- Noise

# Stationary vs. Mobile Sensors

---



EPA Monitors that report PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 2015 to Feb 22 2020 per census tract in the US ([deSouza and Kinney 2021](#))



Space coverage achieved with five city scanner sensors deployed in the Bronx for 3 months



**Sparwood**  
2019

**New York City**  
2020

**Cambridge**  
2017

**Stockholm**  
2020

**Beirut**  
2021

**Oskemen**  
2021

# Environmental Sensing



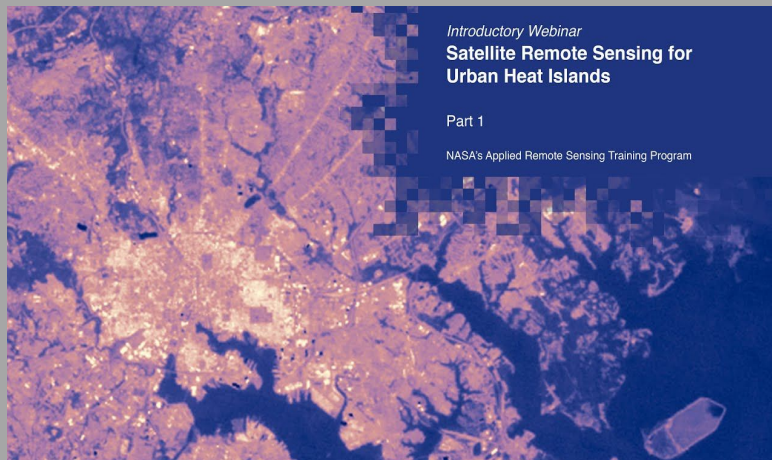
Context + Background

# ENVIRONMENTAL SENSING 101

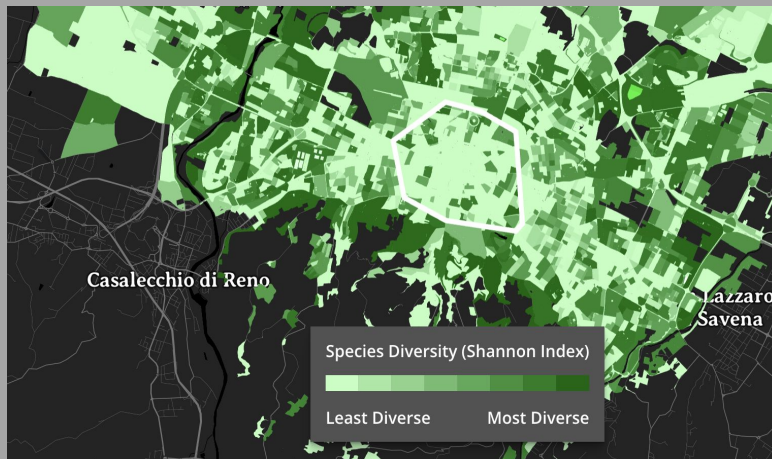
---

What information can we gather about our environment with different sensors?

Heat, noise, air quality, temperature humidity, soil health, water pollutants, tree health, biodiversity, and more!



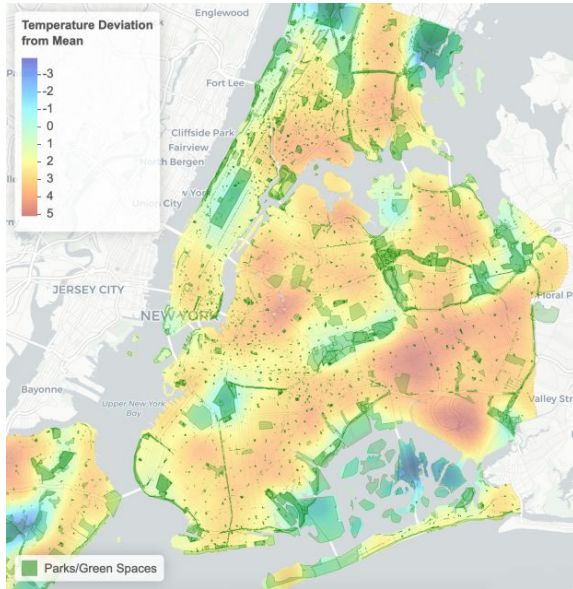
NASA ARSET



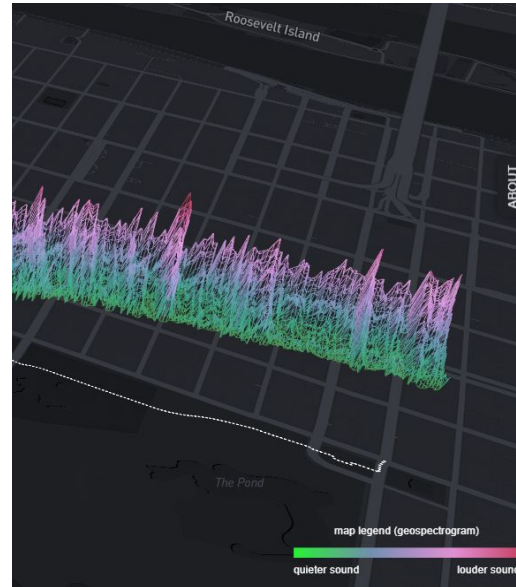
DiversiTree



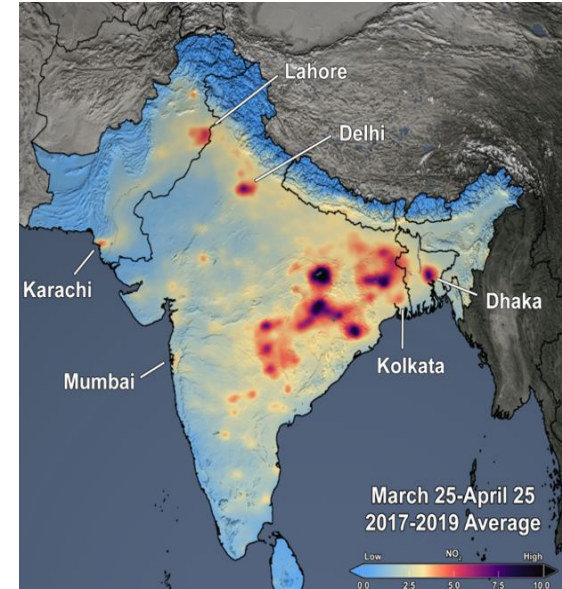
# Environmental Sensing: Heat, Noise, Air Quality



<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/08/26/study-maps-urban-heat-islands-with-focus-on-environmental-justice/>



<https://senseable.mit.edu/sonic-cities/>



<https://aura.gsfc.nasa.gov/airquality.html>

# Air Quality Sensing: Why?

---



The Great Smog 1952  
(<https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Smog-of-London>)



Los Angeles Smog  
(<https://www.britannica.com/science/smog#ref16459>)

# Air Quality Sensing: Why?

---

4.2 million per year vs. 6.2 million

**91%** of world population lives in places exceeding WHO AQ Standards

RESEARCH ARTICLE | SOCIAL SCIENCES | FULL ACCESS



## Half of US population exposed to adverse lead levels in early childhood

Michael J. McFarland  , Matt E. Hauer , and Aaron Reuben [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

March 7, 2022 | 119 (11) e2118631119 | <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2118631119>

**PNAS**

Vol. 119 | No. 11

THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN UPDATED

# Air Quality Index: Pollutants

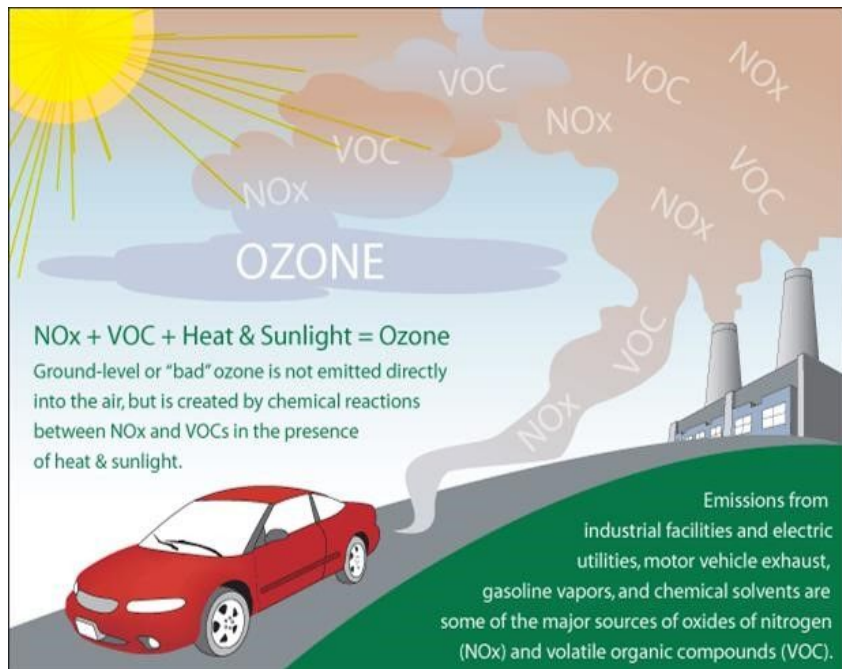
---



## Six criteria pollutants regulated by EPA

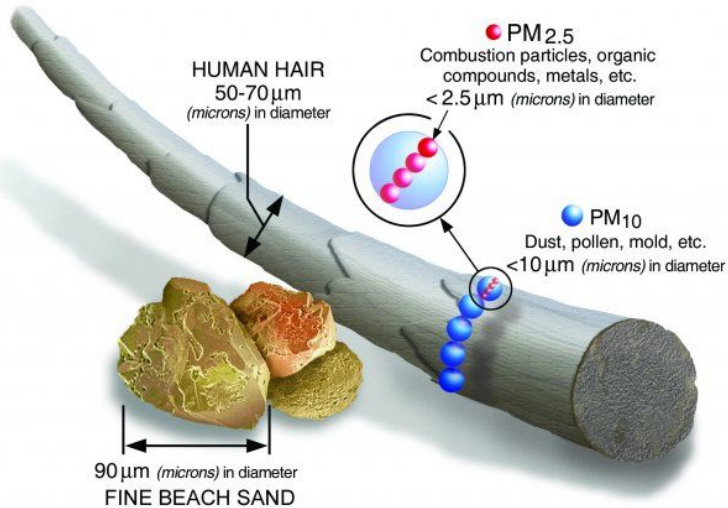
- Ground-level ozone
- Particulate matter
- Carbon monoxide
- Lead
- Sulfur dioxide
- Nitrogen dioxide

# Air Quality Index: Pollutants



<https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ground-level-ozone-basics#formation>

# Air Quality Index: PM and NO2



<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics#PM>



<https://phys.org/news/2018-03-german-deaths-nitrogen-dioxide.html>

# World Health Organization Guidelines



## 2005 V.S. 2021 WHO air quality guidelines (AQGs)

Preventable PM2.5 deaths avoided if new AQGs met globally: ~80% Source: WHO

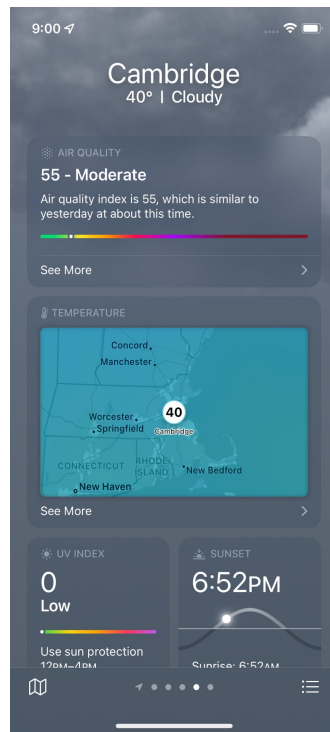
Pollutant	Averaging Time	2005 AQGs	2021 AQGs
PM2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual 24-hour	10 25	5 15
PM10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual 24-hour	20 50	15 45
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Peak Season*+ 8-hour**	- 100	60 100
Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual 24-hour*	40 -	10 25
Sulfur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	24-hour	20	40
Carbon monoxide (CO) $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$	24-hour*	-	4

\*New averaging time for 2021. | + Peak season - average of daily maximum 8-hour mean ozone concentration during the six consecutive months with the highest six-month running-average of ozone concentration. NO<sub>2</sub>, 1-hour average, SO<sub>2</sub>, 15-minute average, and CO, 8-hour, 1-hour, and 15-minute averages unchanged from previous recommendations. Source: World Health Organization.

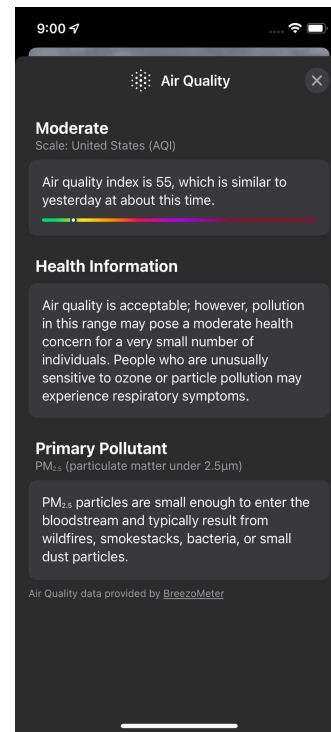
# Air Quality Index

Air Quality Index		
AQI Category and Color	Index Value	Description of Air Quality
Good Green	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate Yellow	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Orange	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Unhealthy Red	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy Purple	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Hazardous Maroon	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Air quality index ([United States Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-index))



Air quality index shown in iPhone weather app





# The Bronx

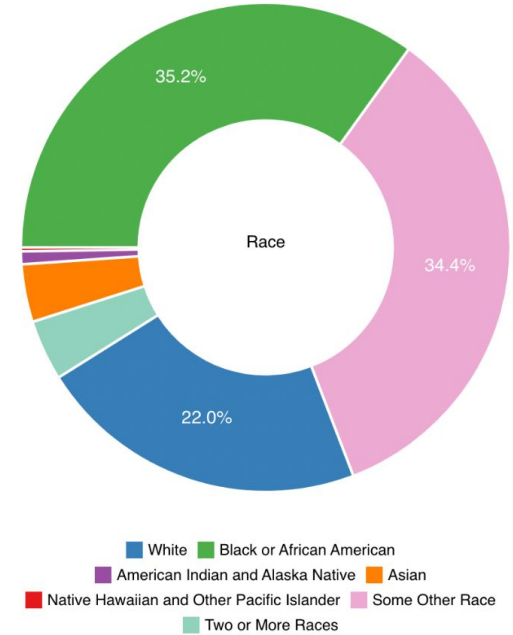


Historical + Environmental Context

# The Bronx: Overview + Demographics



US Census 2019 ACS 5-Year Survey (Table B03002)



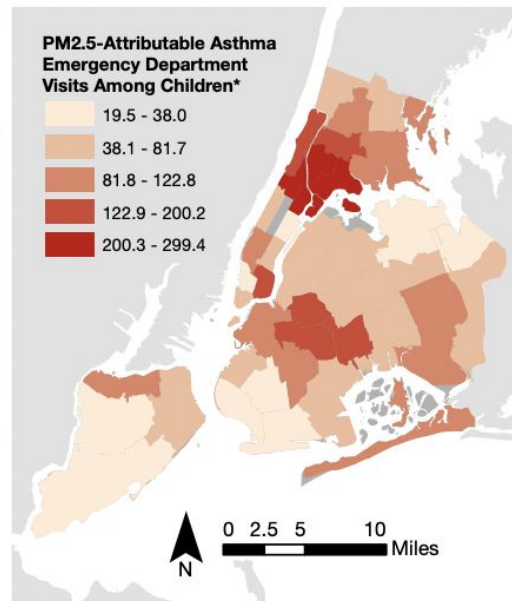
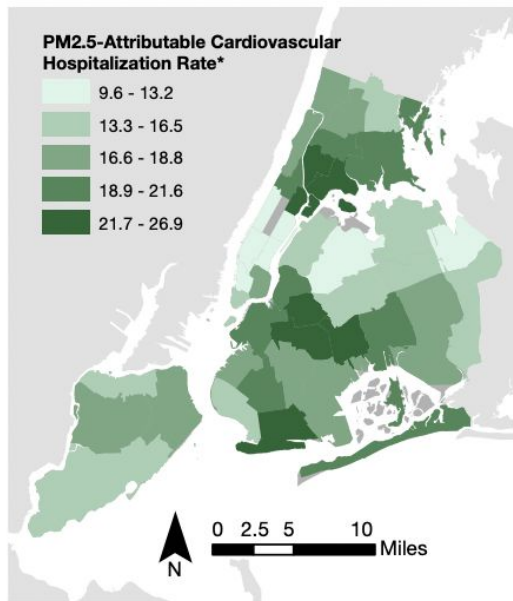
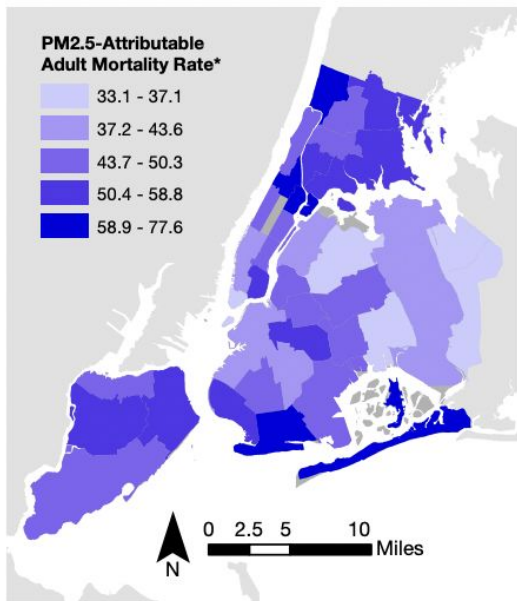
# The Bronx: Context

---



# The Bronx: Environmental Issues

## Mortality and morbidity from selected conditions due to PM2.5 in New York City



\* 2009-2011 Annual Average, Rate per 100,000 persons

# The Bronx: Environmental Issues

---

## Resources

- [NYCCAS Data](#)
- [South Bronx Environmental Health and Policy Study](#)
- [NYC Environmental and Health Portal](#)
- [New York Disadvantaged Communities Criteria](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- [NYC Environmental Justice Alliance](#)
- [NYC Community Health Profiles](#)
- [Potential Environmental Justice Areas in The Bronx](#)

# City Scanner



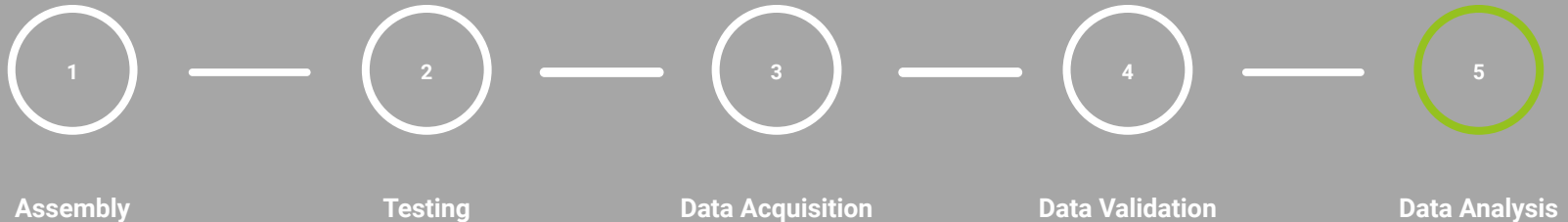
Data Collection Pipeline Tour

# CITYSCANNER DATA COLLECTION PIPELINE TOUR

---

## What does an environmental data collection pipeline look like in practice?

City Scanner: Data pipeline from hardware assembly to dynamic maps



# Part 1: Assembly

---

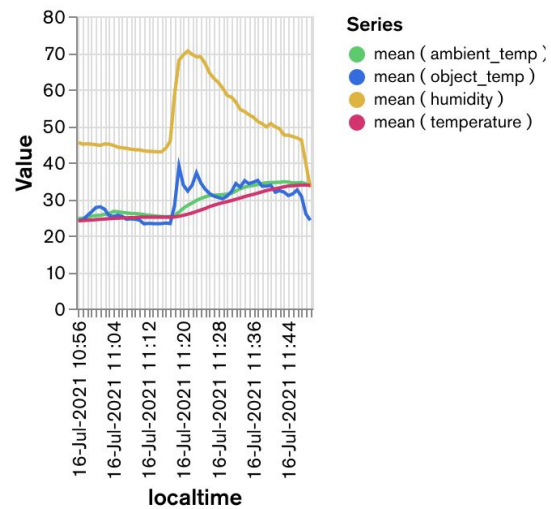




## Part 2: Testing



KTH 01 Temp + Humidity



## Part 3: Data Acquisition

---



## Part 4: Data Validation

```
print("Total invalid timestamps for the collecti

# of invalid timestamps for KTH01: 0
# of invalid timestamps for KTH02: 0
# of invalid timestamps for KTH03: 1
# of invalid timestamps for KTH04: 0
# of invalid timestamps for KTH05: 74
Total invalid timestamps for the collection: 75
```

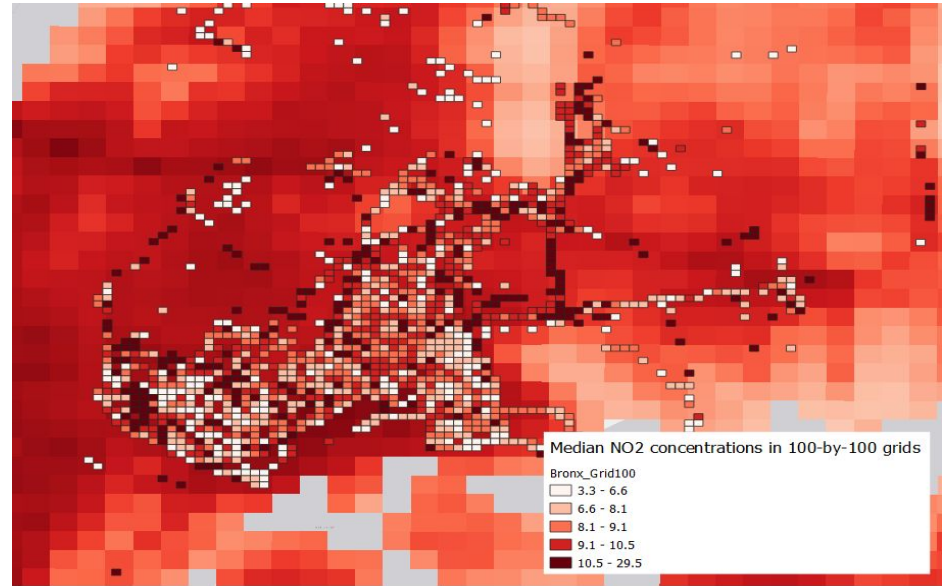
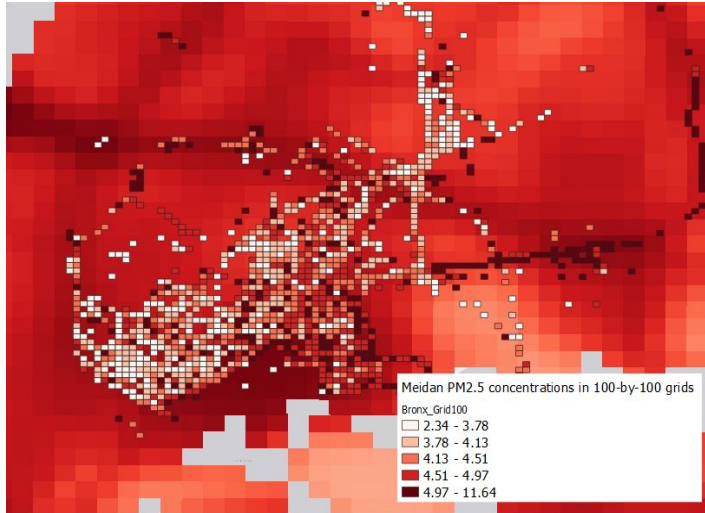
```
#find NAN/zero lat/lon values before filtering
##NOTE - this block must be run before data fil
```

```
zerolon1=(device1['longitude']==0).sum()
zerolat1=(device1['latitude']==0).sum()
print("Number of lat = 0 for KTH1:", zerolat1),
```

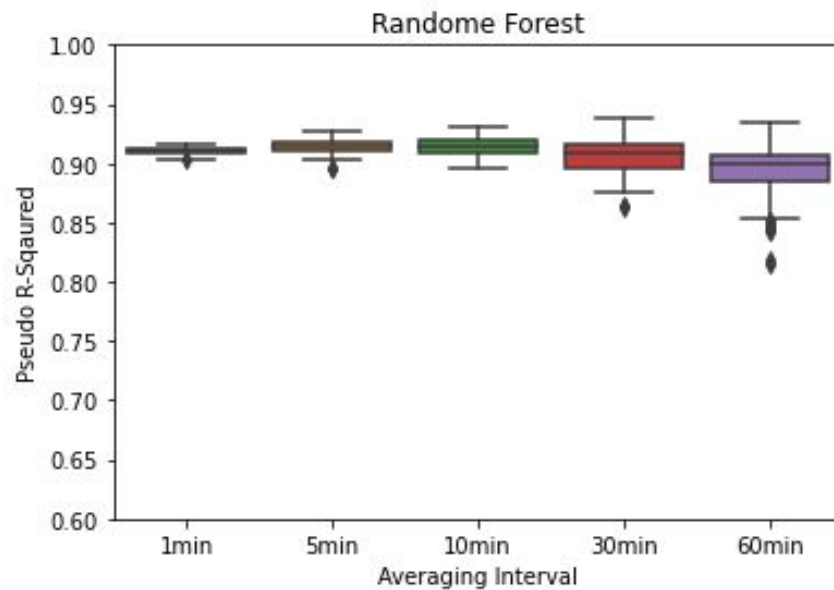
	ambientIR	gas_op1_r	gas_op1_w	gas_op2_r	gas_op2_w
<hr/>					
localtime					
2021-07-26 00:00:00+00:00	27.894032	278.498540	285.698994	252.880636	420.083036
2021-07-27 00:00:00+00:00	29.039576	279.636421	286.367491	243.619637	396.145507
2021-07-28 00:00:00+00:00	24.004650	384.980391	388.208495	350.313130	528.279259
2021-07-29 00:00:00+00:00	23.968180	341.854801	346.847965	322.335673	425.801422
2021-07-30 00:00:00+00:00	21.251523	346.355689	352.861879	326.958869	473.290794
2021-07-31 00:00:00+00:00	21.646791	352.544802	352.500273	308.294471	776.294315

## Part 5: Data Analysis

---

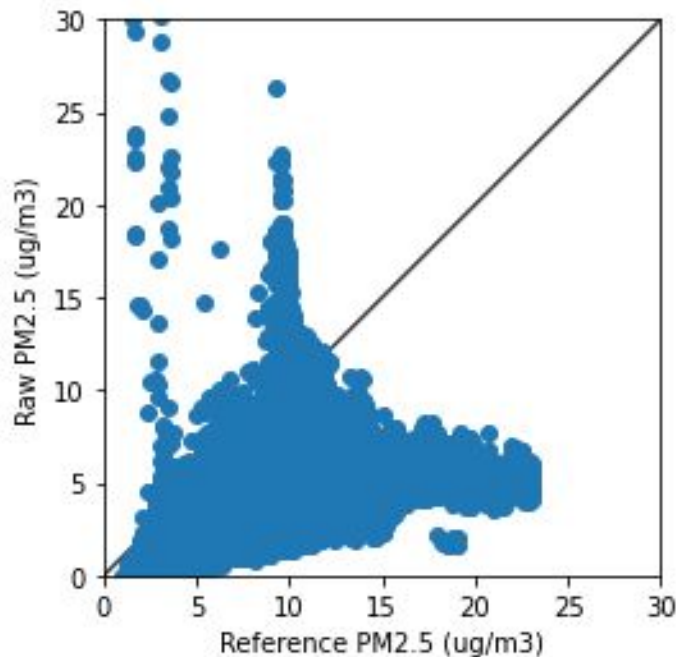


## Analysis Method: Colocation + Calibration

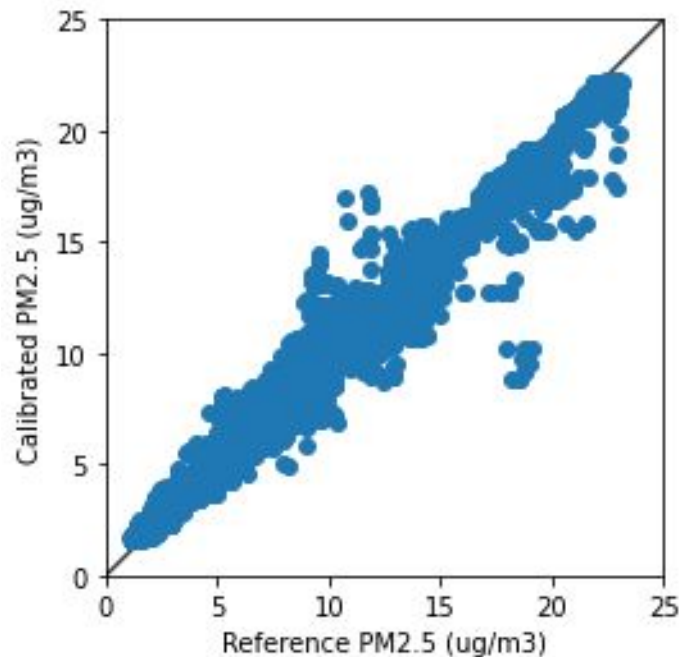


## Analysis Method: Colocation + Calibration

---



Before Calibration



After Calibration

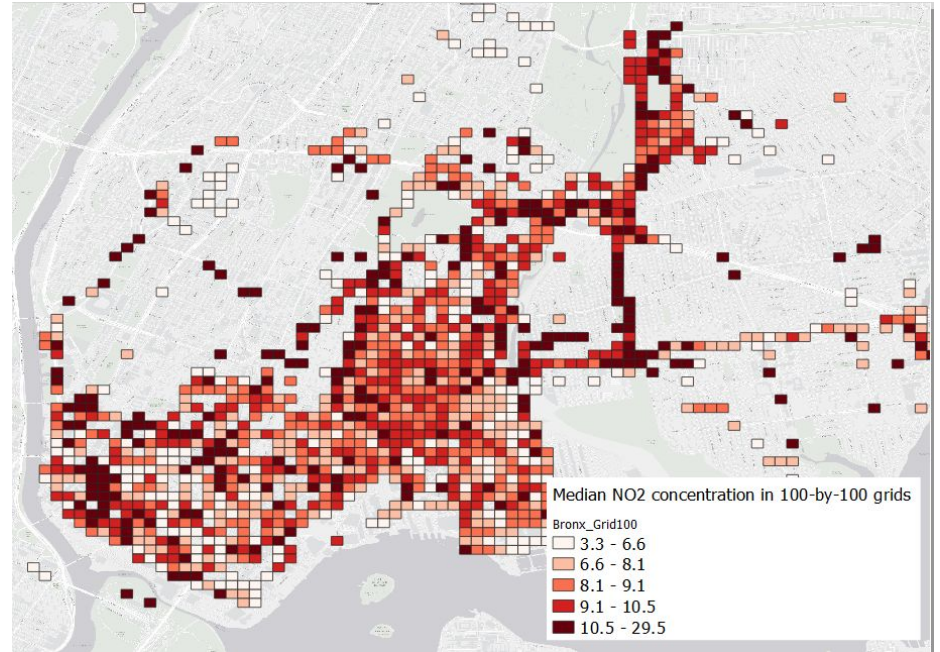
# Validation Method: Background Correction

## Background correction

- (Hourly) Multiplicative factor
- (Hourly) Lowest 10th percentile
- (Time series) Spline of minimums
- Background time-of-day correction
  
- Additive background correction factor

$$PM_{2.5, \text{norm } i} = PM_{2.5, \text{OPC } i} - PM_{2.5, \text{bkg}, i} + PM_{2.5, \text{bkg}, \text{median}}$$

$$PM_{2.5, \text{norm } i} = PM_{2.5, \text{OPC}, i} \times PM_{2.5, \text{bkg}, \text{median}} / PM_{2.5, \text{bkg}, i}$$



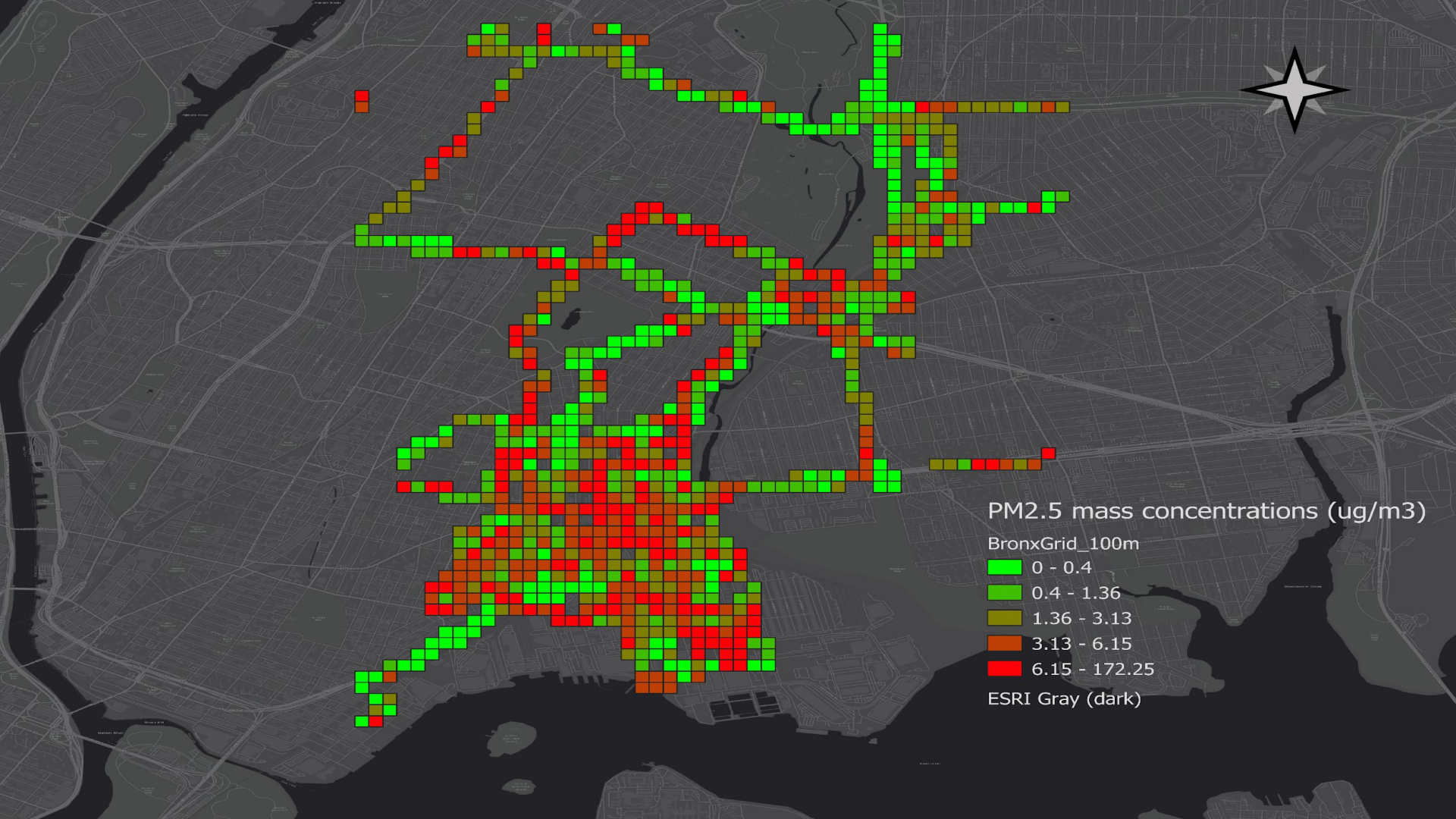
# CityScanner 2021 Data

---

Bronx 2021 Deployment







## Data Description -- Common

**deviceID:** "1f004a000d504e5354303420"

**time:** 1631239374

**latitude:** 40.84767

**longitude:** -73.8693

deviceID:

- Unique identifier for each City Scanner Device

Time:

- Epoch time
- # of seconds that have elapsed since January 1 1970 (midnight UTC/GMT) not counting leap seconds

Latitude/Longitude:

- Unit: Degrees

# Data Description -- raw data

```
bin0:5945      PM1:1.63
bin1:418       PM25:3.81
bin2:101       PM10:21.58
...
bin23:0        gas_op2_w:654
               temperature:23.5
               humidity:71.9
               noise:32
```

## 24 Bins:

- Separate particle count by size
- Unit: # (count)

## PM1:

- Particulate matter ~1 micron in diameter
- Units: ug/m3

## PM2.5

- Particulate matter ~2.5 microns in diameter
- Units: ug/m3

## PM10:

- Particulate matter ~10 microns in diameter
- Units: ug/m3

## Gas\_op2\_w

- Electric signal for NO2
- Units: mv

## temperature

- Ambient temperature
- Units: Degrees celsius

## humidity

- Ambient humidity
- Units: % Relative humidity out of 100%

## noise:

- Units: Voltage level in mV

# Data Description -- Calibrated NO2

tmpf: 20

dwpf: 12.78

relh: 63.12

drct: 310

sknt: 7.20

mslp: 101.1

vsby: 16.1

feel: 20

Calib\_logNO2: 2.43

Calib\_NO2: 11.32

Spline\_10min: 11.22

Spline\_dmean: 4.75

Bckadj\_NO2: 4.85

tmpf:

- Temperature at nearest weather station
- Units: Degrees celsius

dwpf:

- Dewpoint at nearest weather station
- Units: Degrees celsius

relh:

- Relative humidity at nearest weather station
- Units: %

drct:

- Wind direction with reference to the true north as 0
- Units: Degrees

sknt:

- Wind speed at nearest weather station
- Units: m/s

mslp:

- Air pressure at nearest weather station
- Units: kpa

vsby:

- Visibility at nearest weather station
- Units: km

feel:

- Feel like temperature at nearest weather station
- Units: Degrees celsius

Calib\_logNO2:

- Calibrated NO2 in log form
- Units: log ppb

Calib\_NO2

- Calibrated NO2
- Units: ppb

Spline\_10min

- Spline regressed NO2 using 10 min minimum values
- Units: ppb

Spline\_dmean

- Daily median NO2
- Units: ppb

Bckadj\_NO2

- Background adjusted NO2 after calibration
- Units: ppb

# Data Description -- Calibrated PM2.5

tmpf: 20

dwpf: 12.78

relh: 63.12

drct: 310

sknt: 7.20

mslp: 101.1

vsby: 16.1

feel: 20

Calib\_logPM: 1.34

Calib\_PM: 3.82

Spline\_10min: 4.37

Spline\_dmean: 4.02

Bckadj\_PM: 3.47

tmpf:

- Temperature at nearest weather station
- Units: Degrees celsius

dwpf:

- Dewpoint at nearest weather station
- Units: Degrees celsius

relh:

- Relative humidity at nearest weather station
- Units: %

drct:

- Wind direction with reference to the true north as 0
- Units: Degrees

sknt:

- Wind speed at nearest weather station
- Units: m/s

mslp:

- Air pressure at nearest weather station
- Units: kpa

vsby:

- Visibility at nearest weather station
- Units: km

feel:

- Feel like temperature at nearest weather station
- Units: Degrees celsius

Calib\_logPM:

- Calibrated PM in log form
- Units: log ug/m3

Calib\_PM

- Calibrated PM
- Units: ug/m3

Spline\_10min

- Spline regressed PM using 10 min minimum values
- Units: ug/m3

Spline\_dmean

- Daily median PM
- Units: ug/m3

Bckadj\_PM

- Background adjusted PM after calibration
- Units: ug/m3

# Activity: Methodology

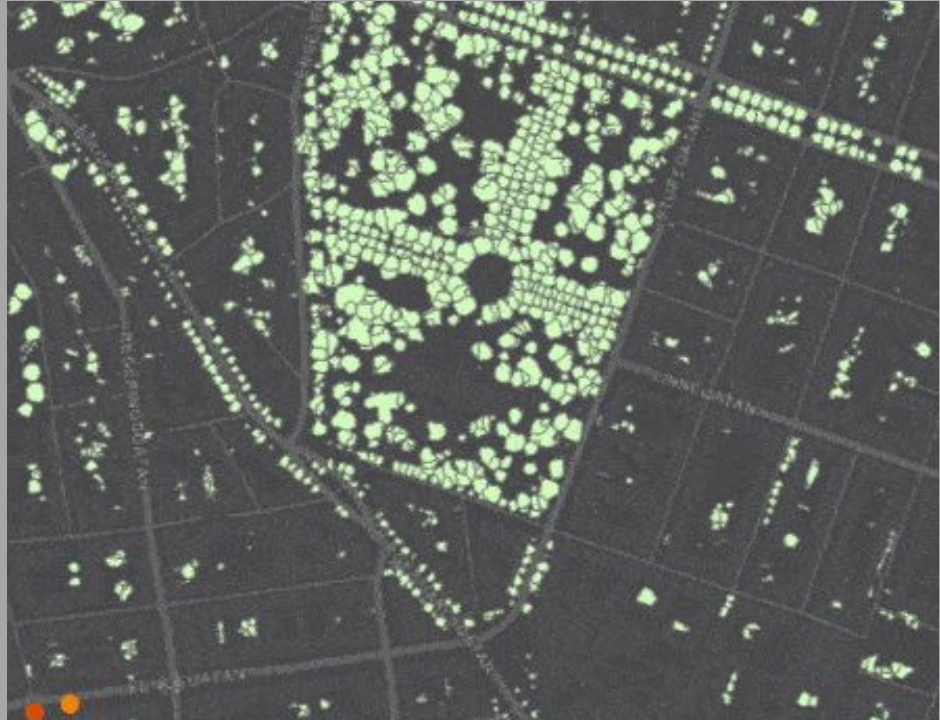


Understanding Spatial Environmental Patterns

## DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

**How do we understand the insights this data can provide?**

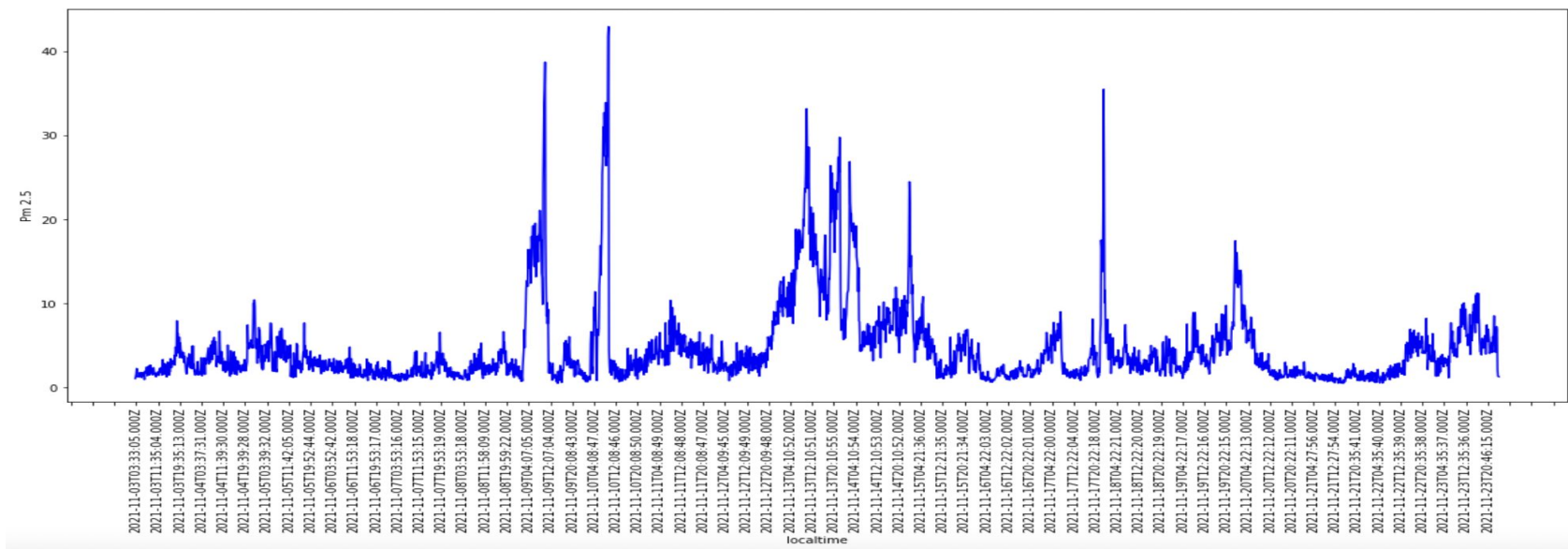
Overview of key CityScanner analysis practices





# Analysis Method: Time Series

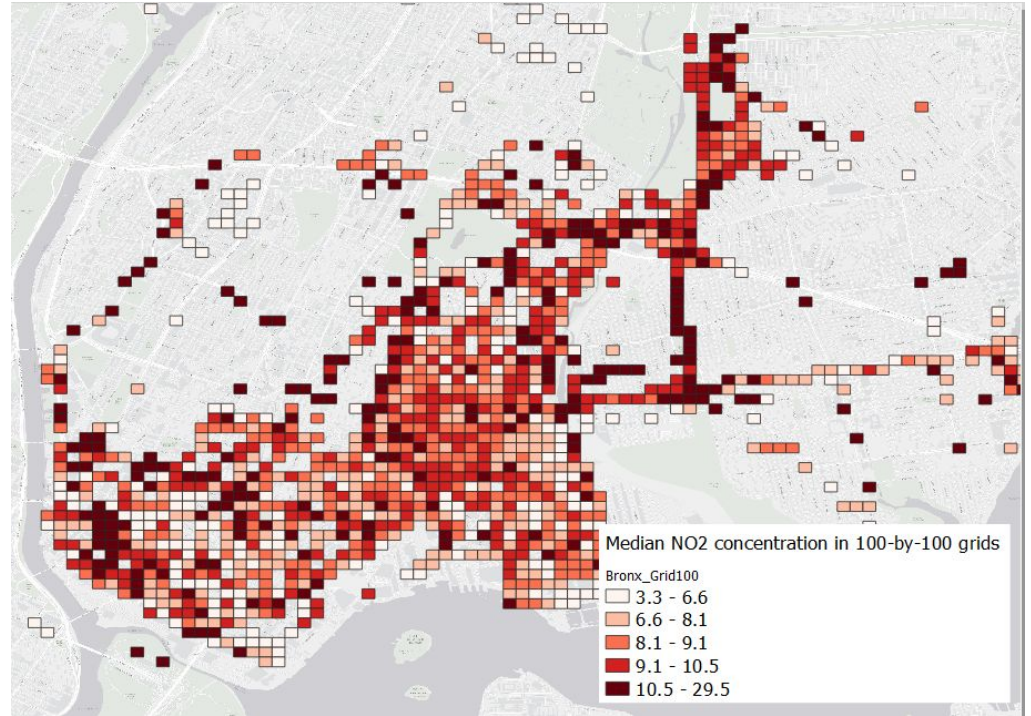
- Parameter as a function of time



# Analysis Method: Mapping

---

- What can maps tell us?
- What info do you need to make a map?
- What tools can you use for mapping?



## Analysis Method: Hotspot Detection

---

"A hot-spot analysis is defined in 40 CFR 93.101 as an estimation of likely future localized pollutant concentrations and a comparison of those concentrations to the relevant NAAQS." - United States EPA

# Analysis Method: Hotspot Detection

---

## Clustering

- DBSCAN (from scikit learn)
  - Density-Based Spatial Clustering of Applications with Noise
  - Finds core samples of high density and expands clusters from them
  - Good for data which contains clusters of similar density.

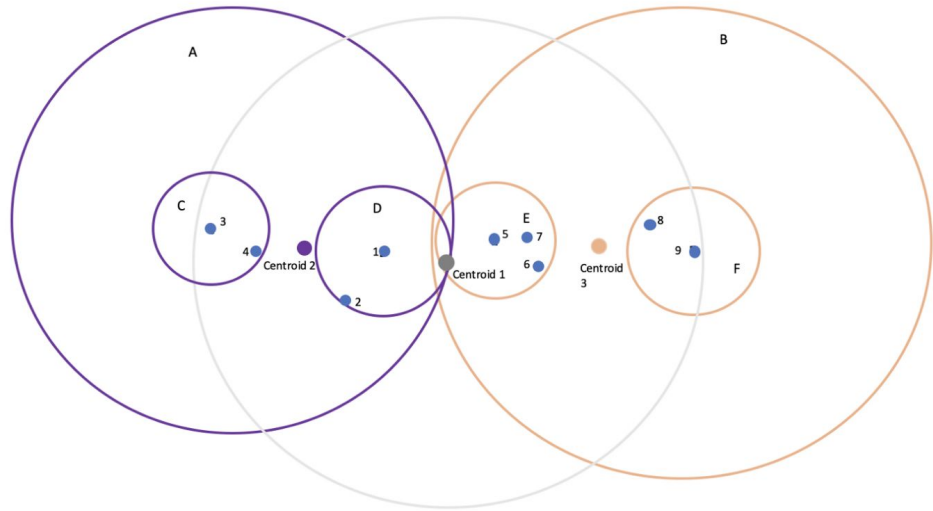


# Analysis Method: Hotspot Detection

---

## Clustering

- DBSCAN → Ball\_tree algorithm
- Divides groups of points into clusters until desired size is reached

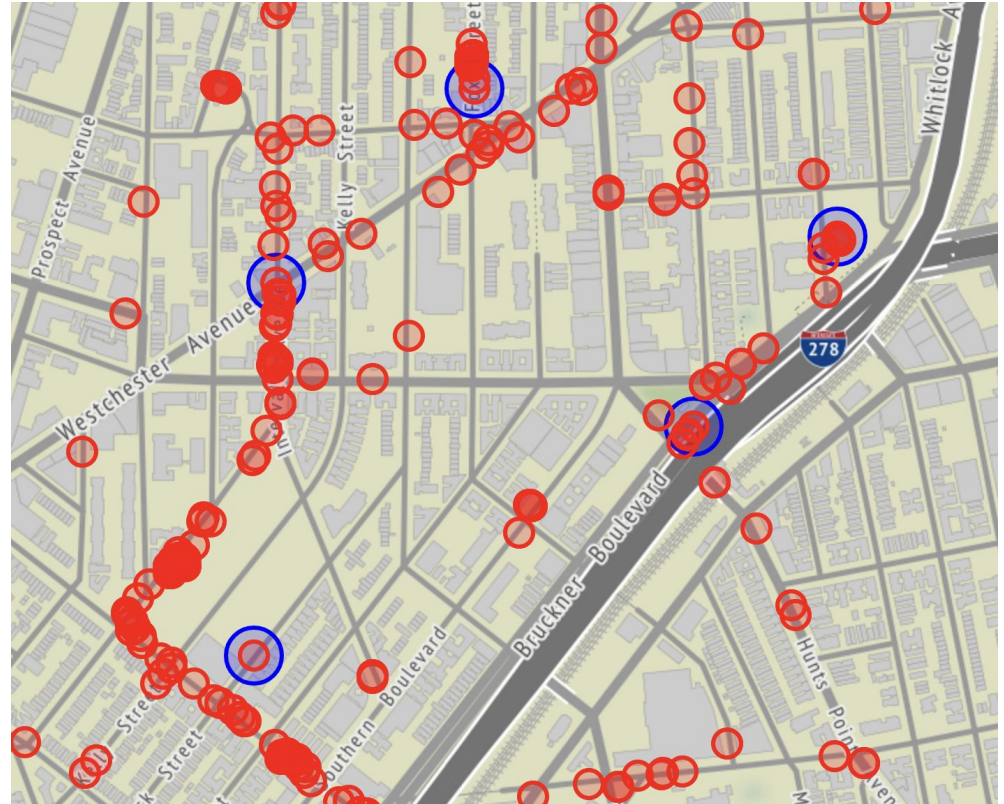


# Analysis Method: Hotspot Detection

---

## Hotspot Detection

- Bottom-up hierarchical clustering “agglomerative”
- Merge clusters of data into smaller clusters



# Air Quality API Exercise

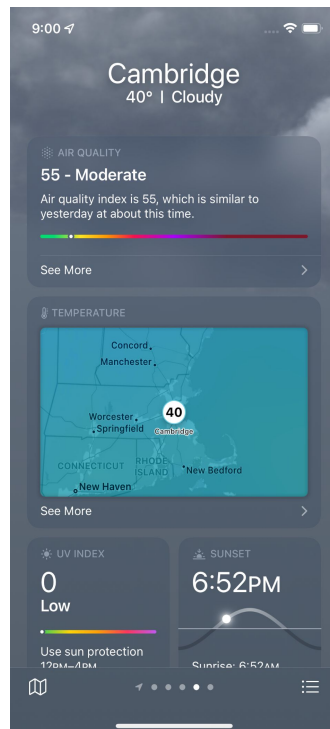
---

World Air Quality Index API

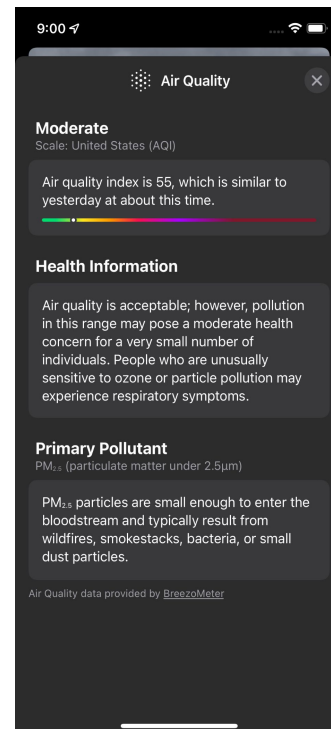
# Air Quality Index

Air Quality Index		
AQI Category and Color	Index Value	Description of Air Quality
Good Green	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate Yellow	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Orange	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Unhealthy Red	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy Purple	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Hazardous Maroon	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Air quality index ([United States Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-index))

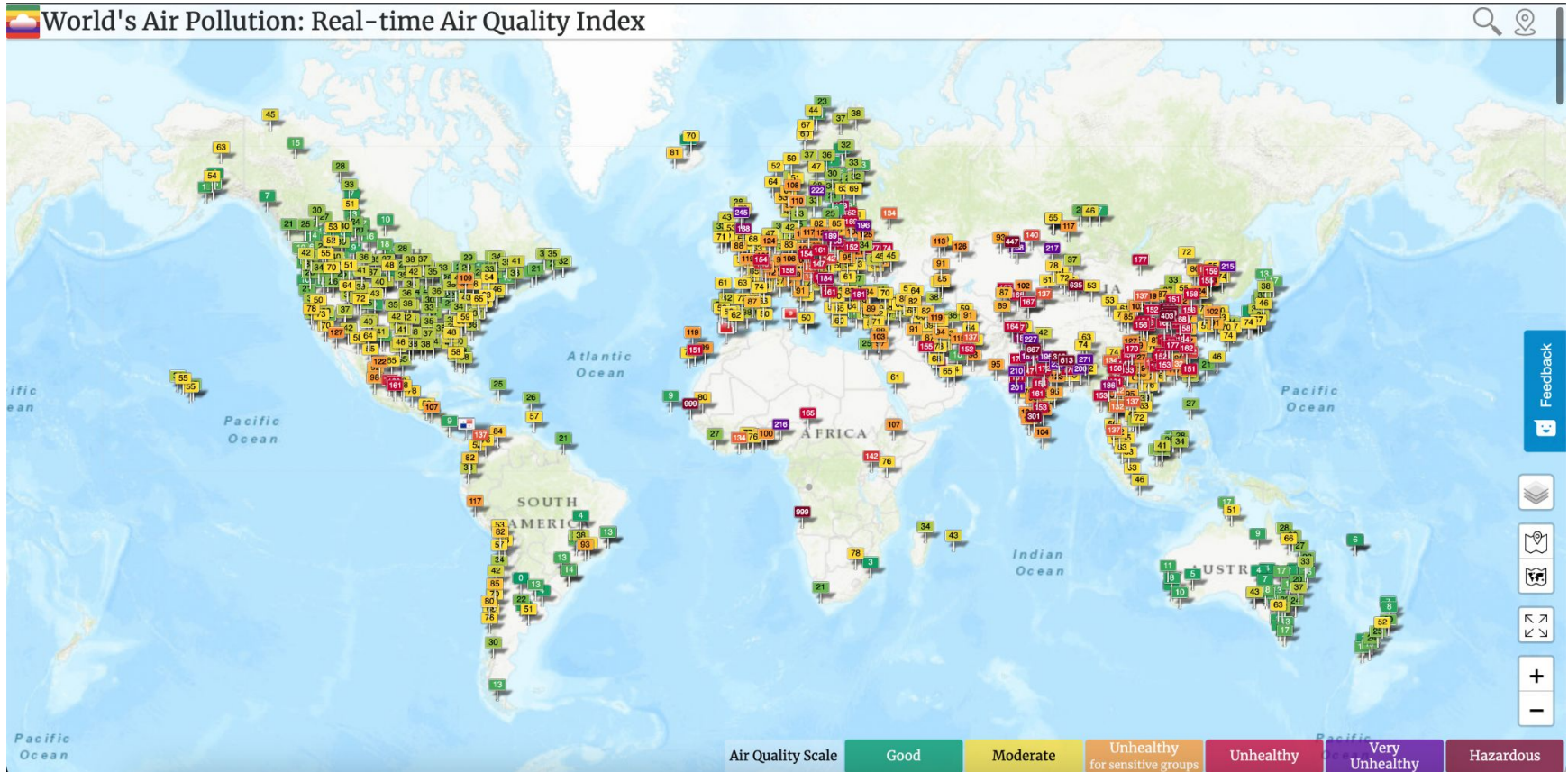


Air quality index shown in iPhone weather app





# Accessing (Global) EPA Data



## Accessing (Global) EPA Data

---

### WAQI

- Site Link: <https://waqi.info/>
- API Link: <https://aqicn.org/data-platform/token/>

### Get API Token:

- <https://aqicn.org/data-platform/token/>

### Notebook Setup:

- Python libraries

### Authentication

- Input custom token into notebook

### Getting the Data

- Run sample code
- Modify + experiment!

# Discussion



Understanding Spatial Environmental  
Patterns