

# Integrating GIS and Machine Learning for Urban Air Quality Assessment

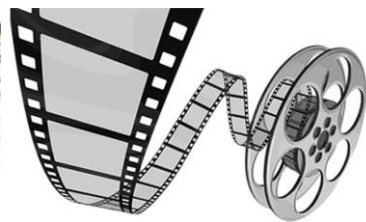
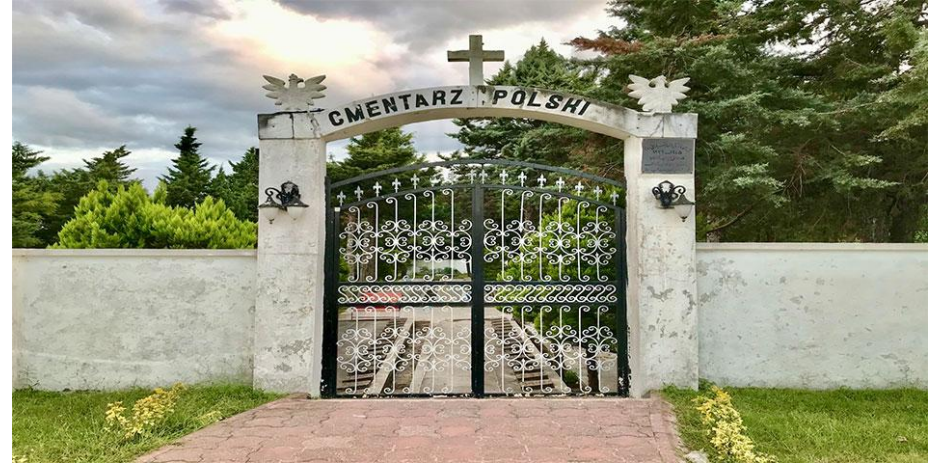
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Warsaw, 10/17/2025







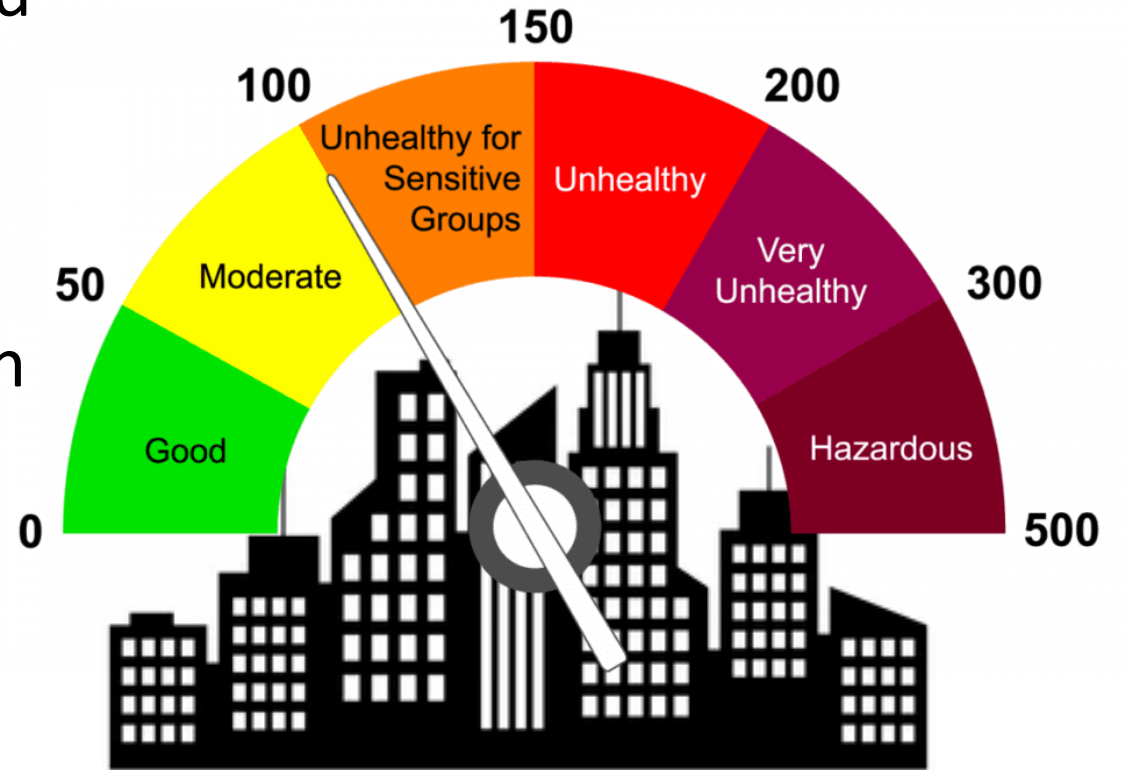
# Introduction

- Urban areas occupy only 3% of the Earth's land but accommodate over 50% of the global population.
- The dense population intensify resource consumption, energy use, and waste production.
- **Urban air quality assessment** is essential to ensure sustainable urban development and protect human health.



# Introduction

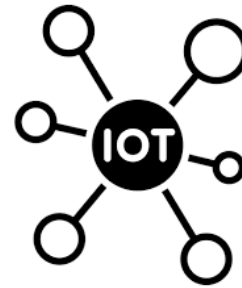
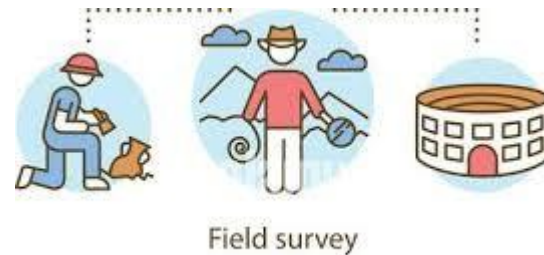
- Urbanization reshapes urban structure, altering land use, population density, and transportation networks.
- These structural changes influence urban air quality and amplify environmental pressures.





# What is GIS?

- 80% of all data has a spatial component
- A system for **capturing, storing, analyzing and visualizing** spatial (location-based) data



## Integrating GIS and ML

- Understanding how urban structure influences air pollution can be enhanced using Geographic Information System (GIS) for spatial analysis and Machine Learning (ML) for uncovering complex patterns



1

**Effects of spatial urban form on PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration**

2

**Multi-pollutant air quality assessment around urban schools using machine learning**

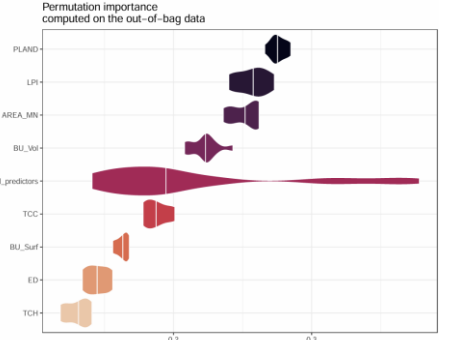
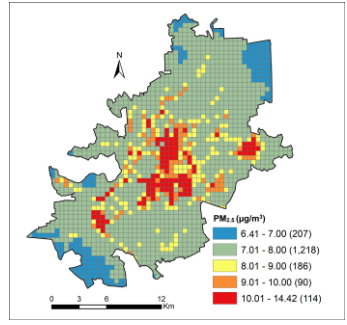
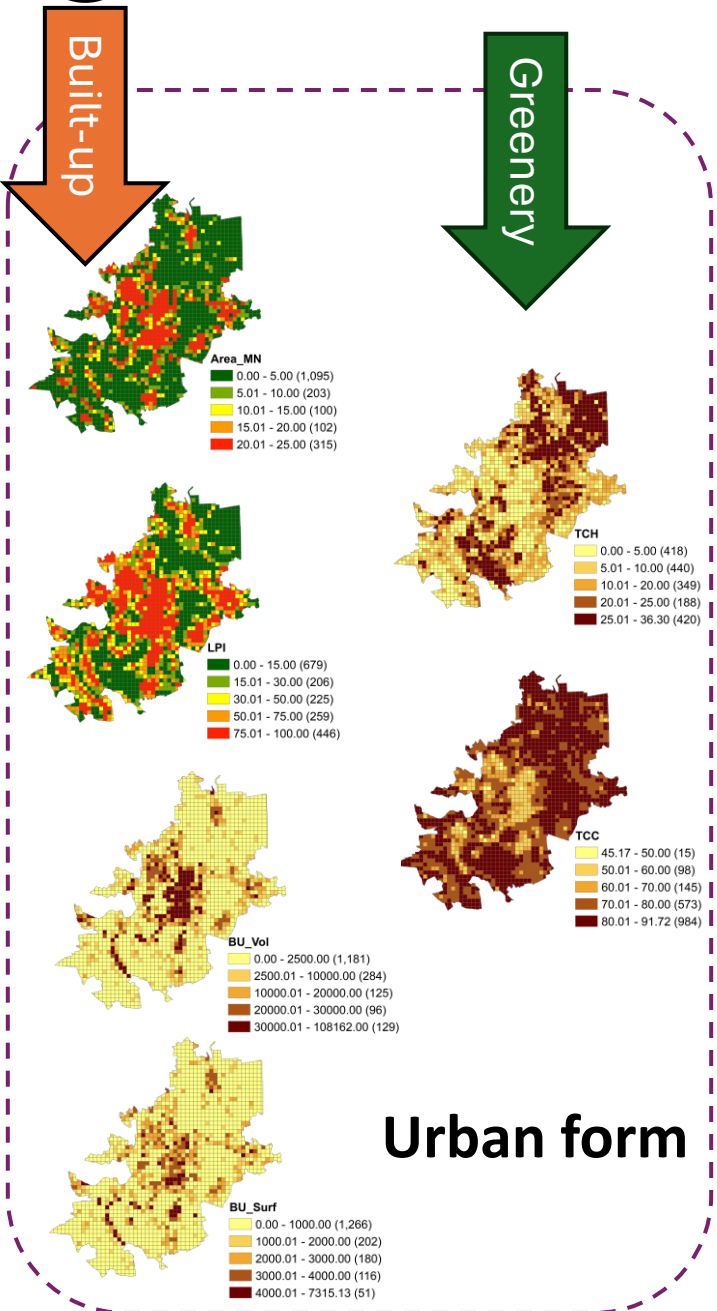
# 1 Effects of spatial urban form on PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration

- Green space alone doesn't guarantee cleaner air. What really makes a difference is green space **configuration**.
- Built-up land aggregation, shape, and proportion significantly influence PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations.

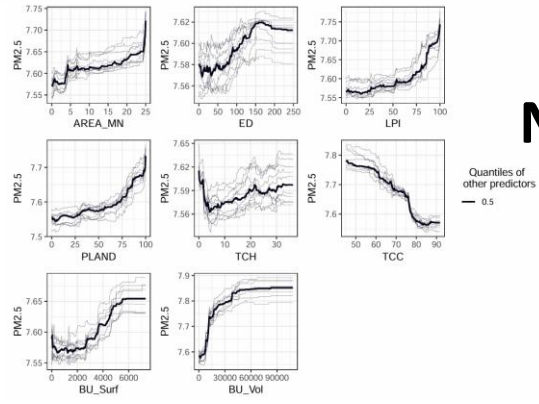




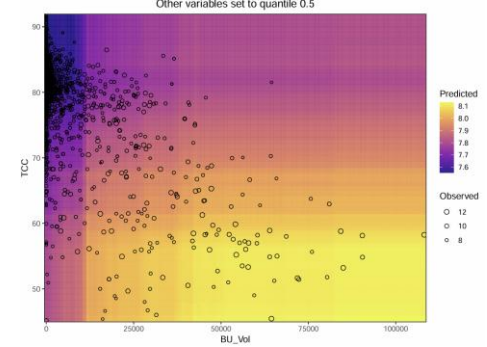
# 1 Effects of spatial urban form on PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration



Ranking of factors



Non-linear relationship



Interaction effects

Urban form



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## Urban Climate

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/uclim](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/uclim)



# Multi-pollutant air quality assessment around urban schools using machine learning

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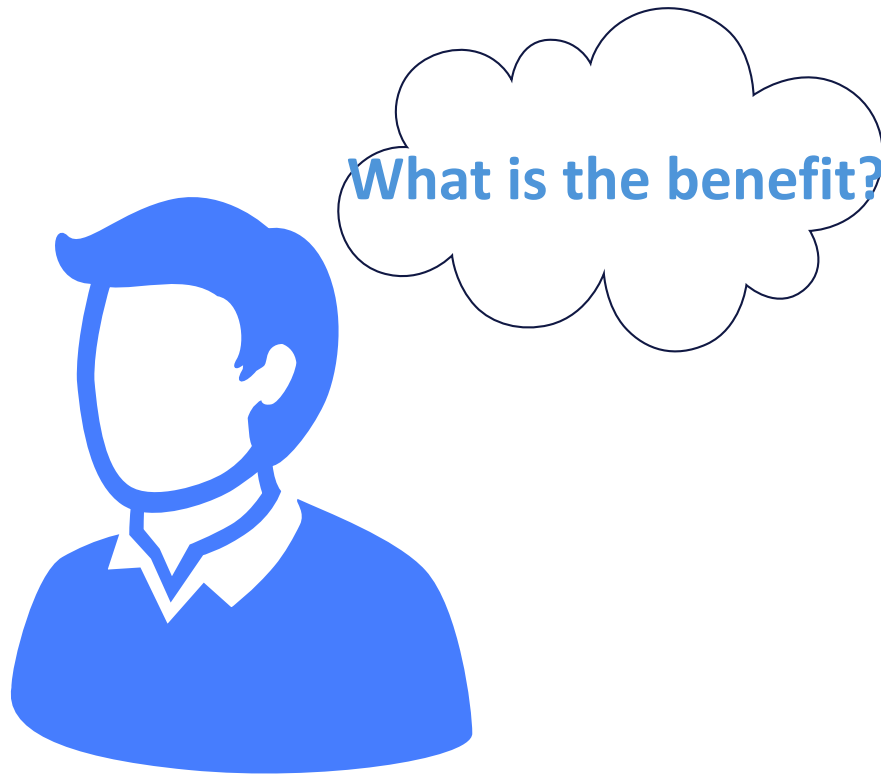


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## 2 The aim

To develop a model that can simultaneously estimate the spatial distribution of multiple pollutants.

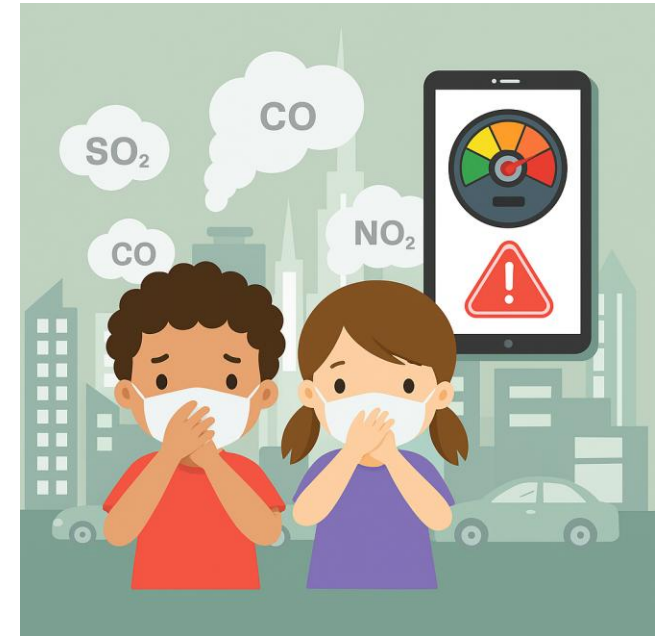


To provide policymakers with a tool to identify areas with elevated pollution in cities with limited monitoring stations.



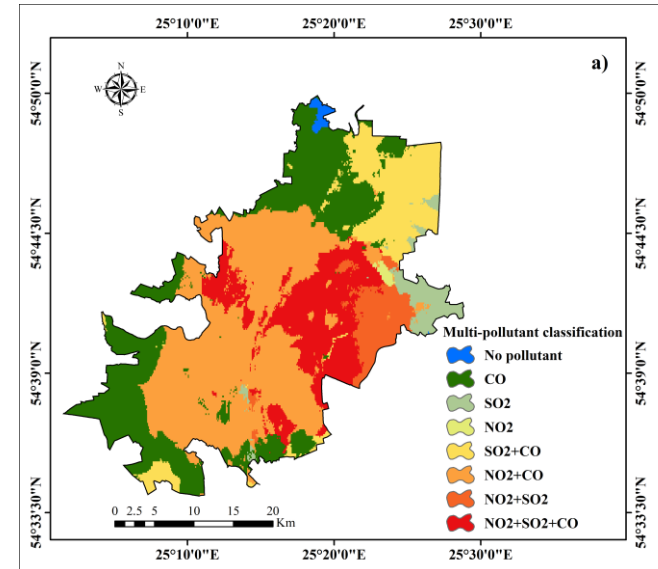
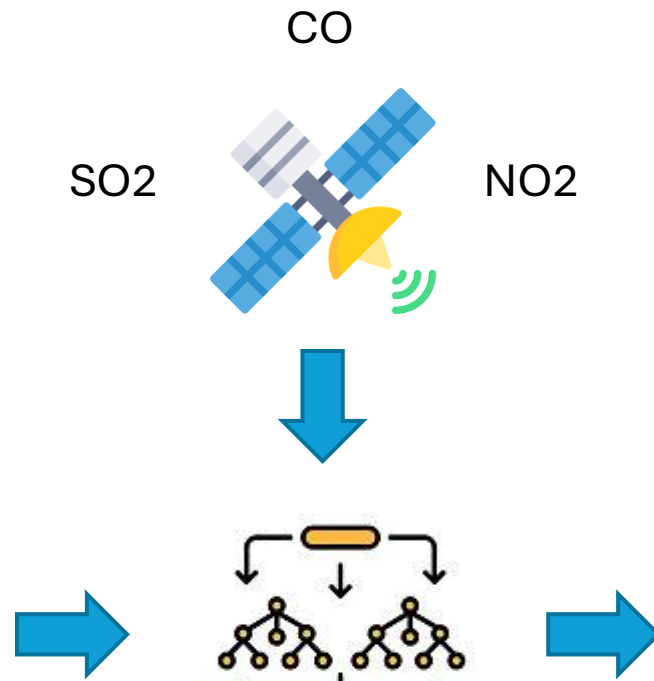
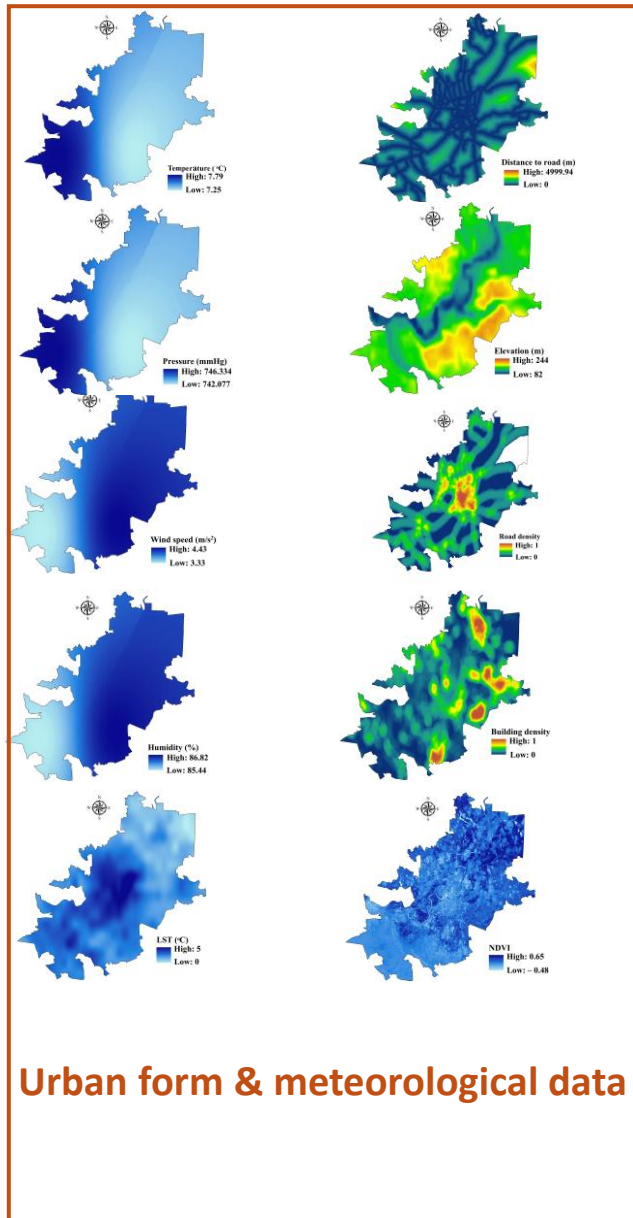
## 2 The problem

- **Limited Ground Stations:** Many cities have sparse monitoring stations, so air quality cannot be assessed across the **entire city**.
- **Sensitive Locations:** The lack of coverage is particularly concerning near sensitive locations, such as schools
- **Satellite Solutions:** Satellite data can cover the whole city and help solve scale issues, but most studies focus on **one pollutant** or build **separate models** for multi-pollutants.



2

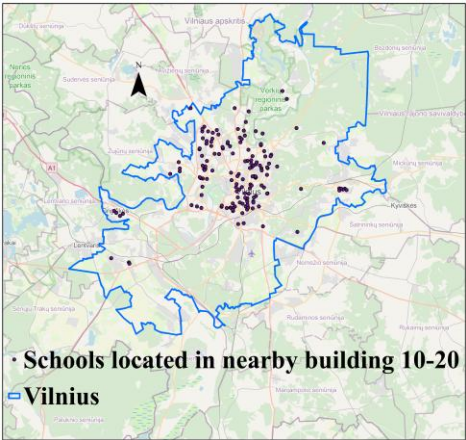
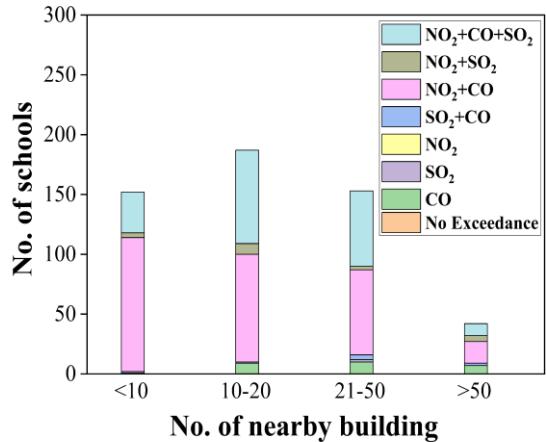
# Our model



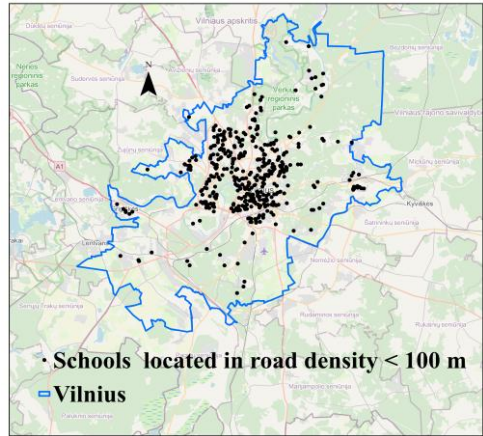
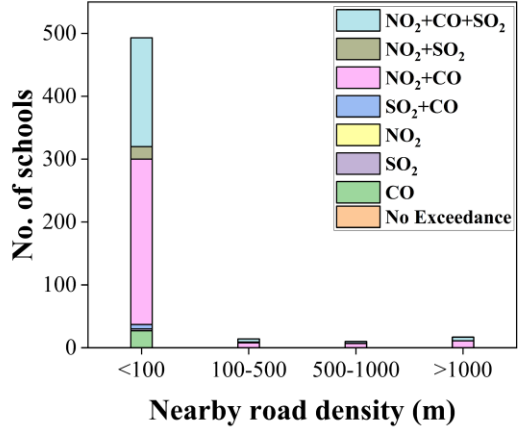
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# Spatial relationship between air quality around urban schools and urban form

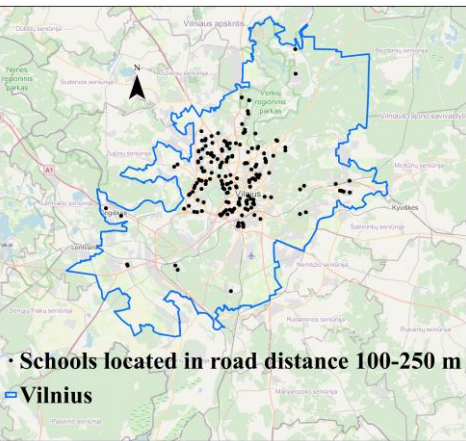
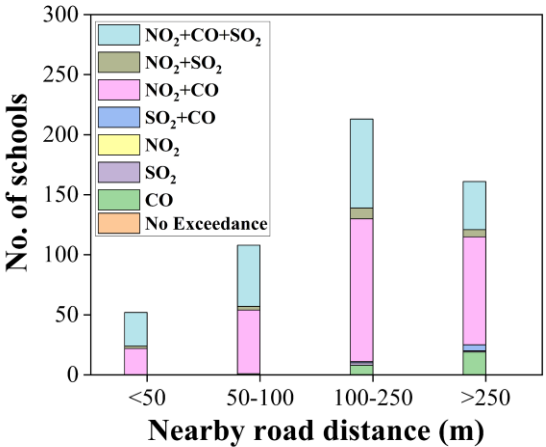
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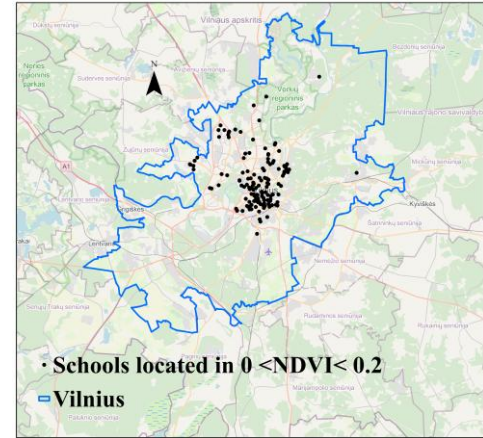
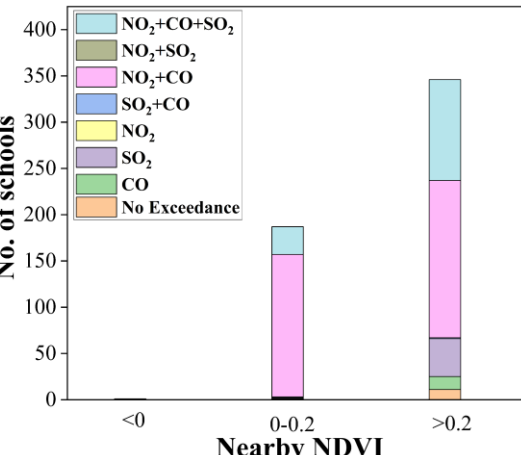
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## To summarize:

- 1 GIS provides spatial data integration and visualization, while ML enhances prediction accuracy and factor ranking. **Spatial Random Forest** models non-linear relationships, interaction effects, ranks influential predictors, and accounts for spatial dependences.  
  
This study demonstrates the effectiveness of machine learning–based approaches for assessing air quality around urban schools in Vilnius with **limited ground monitoring stations**. By integrating satellite-derived pollutant data with urban form and meteorological variables, the Random Forest model shows superior performance in classifying **multi-pollutant** distributions.
- 2

# Acknowledgements



**Dr. Steigvilė Byčenkienė**



**Thank you!**

