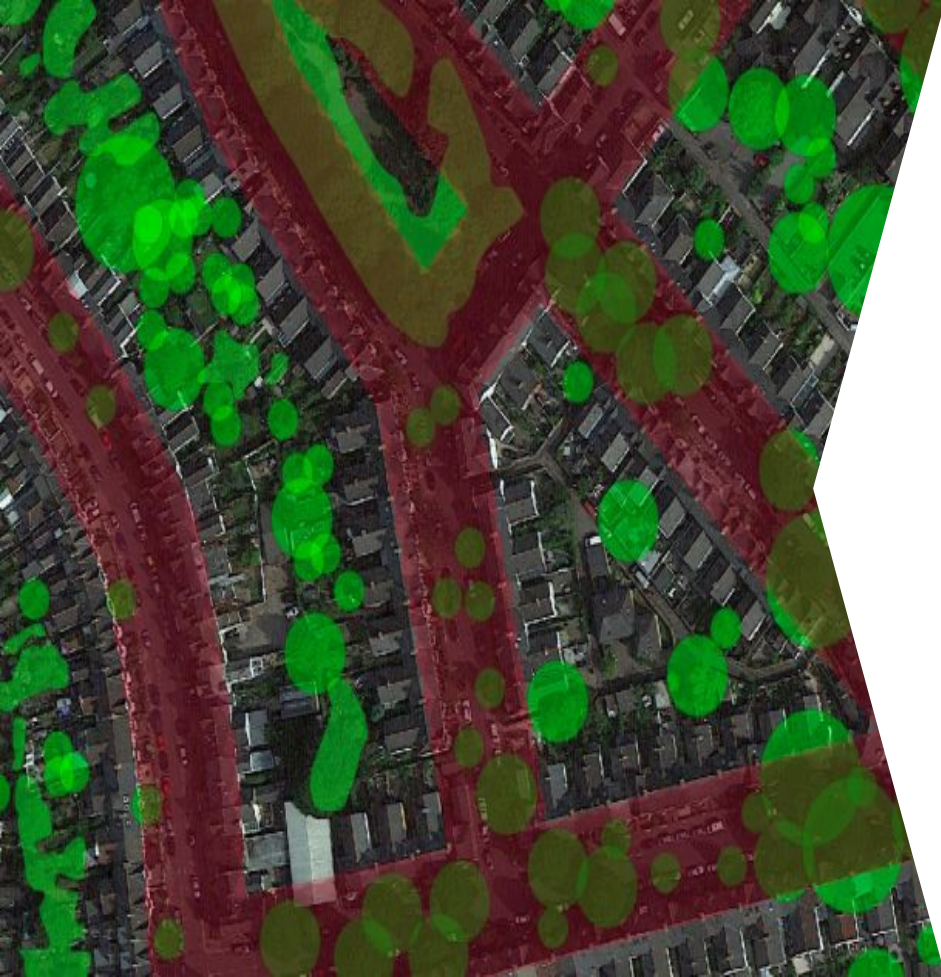# ONS-UNECE ML 2021 Group

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Why?

"Any industry with very large amounts of data — so much that humans can't possibly analyz[s]e or understand it on their own — can utilize AI"

Gartner 2017

© Satellite imagery copyright Google

Objectives

Platform to facilitate

- Research to modernise official statistics
- Building capacity in machine learning
- Sharing knowledge (data, methods, etc.)

Community driven

- Projects and activities are led by members
- Supported by Group membership
- Decision informed by consensus (i.e. polls)

Public Good

- Open to all official statistical bodies
- Accessible to various levels of expertise.
- Resources available to the wider community.

February 2021

Important now more than ever

- Automation of ingrained labour intensive and time-consuming processes

- The pandemic has changed what 'fit-for-purpose' means for official statistics

- "... producing historic data, but not relevant data..."

Beyond the method

- There are no ML 'quick wins' in official statistics...
  Other considerations come into play:
  - Getting past proof of concept
  - Measuring and maintaining quality
  - Explainability and interoperability
  - Considering other governance issues
  - Technology and infrastructure

- Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and developing global capacity

- Cannot forget the wider ML community beyond official statistics- where do public-private partnerships fit in?

Resources

UNECE Wiki spaces - <u>Public</u> and <u>Members Only</u>

ML Group within the UN Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians: <u>yammer.com/unstats/</u>

Coordination team reachable at <u>ML2021@ons.gov.uk</u>

Thank you!

UNECE HLG-MOS
Machine Learning for Official Statistics