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OmniSat: Self-Supervised Modality Fusion for Earth Observation

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Abstract

The field of Earth Observations (EO) offers a wealth of data from diverse sensors, presenting a great opportunity for advancing self-supervised multimodal learning. However, current multimodal EO datasets and models focus on a single data type, either mono-date images or time series, which limits their expressivity. We introduce OmniSat, a novel architecture that exploits the spatial alignment between multiple EO modalities to learn expressive multimodal representations without labels. To demonstrate the advantages of combining modalities of different natures, we augment two existing datasets with new modalities. As demonstrated on three downstream tasks— forestry, land cover classification, and crop mapping— OmniSat can learn rich representations in an unsupervised manner, leading to improved performance in the semi- and fully-supervised settings, even when only one modality is available for inference. The code and dataset are available at github.com/gastruc/OmniSat.

1 Introduction

Self-supervised multimodal learning is of significant interest within the computer vision [1, 2, 3] and Earth Observation (EO) [4, 5] communities. EO is particularly well-suited for developing and evaluating such approaches, thanks to the large amount of open-access data captured by sensing technologies with complementary capabilities [6, 7]. Moreover, combining different sources of EO observations is crucial for several high-impact applications, including environmental [8, 9, 10] and climate monitoring [11, 12], as well as improving food security [13]. Learning with few or no labels is essential for developing regions with limited data annotation capabilities [14, 15, 16].

Despite this potential, most multimodal EO datasets and models focus on a single data type, either mono-date images or time series. This limitation prevents them from simultaneously leveraging the spatial resolution of aerial images [17, 18], the temporal and spectral resolutions of optical satellite time series [19], and the resilience of radar to weather effects [20, 21]. Additionally, existing approaches are often specialized for a given set of sensors, resulting in poor generalization and limited applicability to downstream tasks.

To address these challenges, we propose OmniSat, a novel architecture designed for the self-supervised fusion of diverse EO data. Existing multimodal approaches consider multiple unrelated observations from different modalities, and map each one to a pivot modality [2, 3] or a shared latent space [22, 23]. In contrast, OmniSat combines multiple views of the same area from different modalities into a single representation. The resulting multimodal feature merges the specific information captured by each modality into a single vector [24, 25, 26].

In computer vision, obtaining finely aligned multimodal observations generally requires specialized sensors [27, 28, 29] or the computation of complex mappings between each modality [30, 31]. On

Table 1: **Publicly Available Multimodal EO Datasets.** We provide in parenthesis the spatial resolutions of the single-date images and labels, and the temporal resolutions of time series. S1/S2 denotes Sentinel-1 and 2. * : **modalities added in this work.**

Dataset	Modalities		Labels
	images (single date)	time series	
SpaceNet6 [38]	SAR+optical (0.5m-2m)	✗	building footprint (1m)
TreeSatAI [35]	aerial (0.2m) & S1/S2 (10m)	✗	forestry (60m)
BigEarthNet [39]	S1/S2 (10m)	✗	land cover (100m)
DFC20 [40]	S1/S2 (10m)	✗	land cover (500m)
MDAS [41]	S1/S2 + hyperspectral (2.2-10m)	✗	land cover (0.25m)
PASTIS-R [36, 37]	✗	S1/S2 (30-140 / year)	agriculture (10m)
SSL4EO-S12 [42]	✗	S1/S2 (4 / year)	✗
DFC21-DSE [43]	✗	S1/S2 + LS8 (3-9/year)	human activity (500m)
MapInWild [44]	✗	S1/S2 (4 / years)	protected areas (10m)
SEN12MS-CR-TS [45]	✗	S1/S2 (30 / years)	cloud cover (10m)
MultiSenge [46]	✗	S1/S2 (30-140 / years)	land cover (10m)
WildfireSpreadTS [47]	✗	VIIRS + Weather (1 / day)	fire events (375m)
FLAIR [48]	aerial (0.2m)	S2 (20-114 / year)	land cover (0.2m)
Satlas [49]	NAIP (1m)	S2 (8-12 / year)	various
PASTIS-HD	* SPOT 6-7 (1.5m)	S1/S2 (30-140 / year)	agriculture (10m)
TreeSatAI-TS	aerial (0.2m)	* S1/S2 (10-70 / year)	forestry (60m)

the other hand, EO data can be naturally aligned spatially with georeferencing. To leverage this property, we adapt multimodal contrastive learning [32, 33] and cross-modal masked auto-encoding techniques [34] to learn rich multimodal EO representations with a generalist fusion scheme.

To address the scarcity of EO datasets with a diverse range of heterogeneous modalities (see Table 1), we enrich the TreeSatAI [35] and PASTIS-R [36, 37] datasets with new aligned modalities. This allows us to evaluate OmniSat’s ability to handle an arbitrary number of inputs with varying natures and resolutions. Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We introduce OmniSat, a new model that learns to combine varied sources of EO observations in a self-supervised manner, resulting in richer joint representations that capture the unique characteristics of each modality.
- We augment two EO benchmarks to create the first datasets with three modalities of different natures (very high resolution images, optical time series, and SAR time series).
- We demonstrate that utilizing diverse modalities with our flexible model leads to better representations, establishing new states-of-the-art for tree species, crop type, and land cover classification. Furthermore, our self-supervised training with multiple modalities improves performance even when only one modality is available during inference.

2 Related Work

This section provides an overview of the fields of self-supervised and multimodal learning, emphasizing the specificities of their usage for Earth observation. Lastly, we highlight the scarcity of multimodal EO datasets with diverse data types.

Self-Supervised Learning. This technique consists in learning expressive data representations without labels by using a pretext task. This approach has been particularly successful for natural language [50] and image [51] analysis. Initially focused on discriminative tasks [52, 53, 54], recent self-supervised approaches for images can be categorized as contrastive or generative.

Contrastive methods minimize the distance between representations of paired samples, often the same image under different transformations, and maximize the distance with other samples

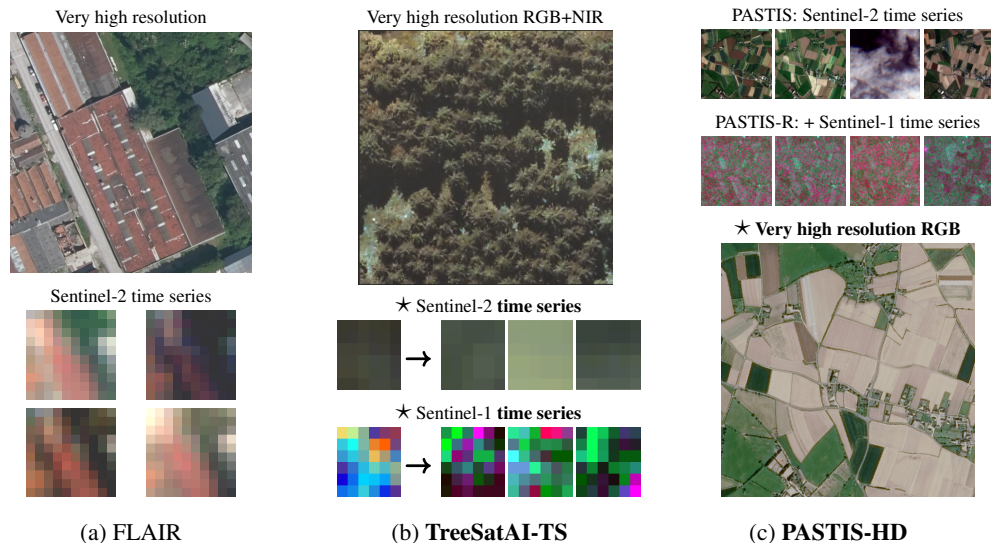


Figure 1: **Datasets.** We represent three tiles from our considered multilabel classification datasets: FLAIR (a), TreeSatAI-TS (b) and PASTIS-HD (c). TreeSatAI-TS is a new dataset built by replacing the single-date Sentinel-1 and 2 images of TreeSatAI [35] by year-long time series. PASTIS-HD (c) is a version of PASTIS-R [37] enriched with VHR satellite images. NIR stands for Near-InfraRed. ***** : **modalities added in this work.**

[55, 56, 57]. More efficient methods only consider positive samples and avoid mode collapse by introducing various asymmetries [58, 59] or normalization [60]. Such approaches have been successfully adapted to EO, for which samples are paired according to their location [61] or time of acquisition [62, 63].

Generative methods reason at the level of individual token—a small portion of the input, typically a patch for images [64]. The objective is to reconstruct the masked tokens of an input image in pixel [65, 66, 67] or feature space [68]. This principle has been successfully adapted to EO analysis [69, 70, 71], and was further extended to handle multiple spatial scales [72], multimodality [4, 5], or hyperspectral observations [73, 74].

Several hybrid approaches combine the discriminative power of contrastive methods and the scalability of generative objectives for natural images [51, 75] and EO data [4]. Our proposed OmniSat also implements both mechanisms. A key difference is that the precise alignment between different sources of EO data allows us to contrastively match small patches of different modalities rather than entire images or time series.

Self-Supervised Multimodal Learning. Multimodal computer vision has received a lot of interest [76], notably due to the success of cross-modal pre-training [32]. Recent models align the embeddings of heterogeneous modalities such as video and sound [33], depth and images [77], text and image [78, 79], or multiple combinations of these modalities [2, 3, 22, 23].

Multimodal learning also has a long history in EO [80, 81, 82] due to the large variety and complementarity of sensors [6, 7]. However, recent transformer-based architectures [83] for EO are often limited to one type of modality, be it a single image [70, 72] or time-series [37, 84]. For example, CROMA [4] and PRESTO [85] are specifically designed for paired optical and radar observations, but cannot handle very high resolution (VHR) data. USat [5] considers images with different resolutions, but only takes a single date within a time series. UT&T [48] can natively take single and multi-date observations of different modalities, but cannot be easily pre-trained in a self-supervised manner since it relies on convolutions and an ad-hoc late fusion scheme.

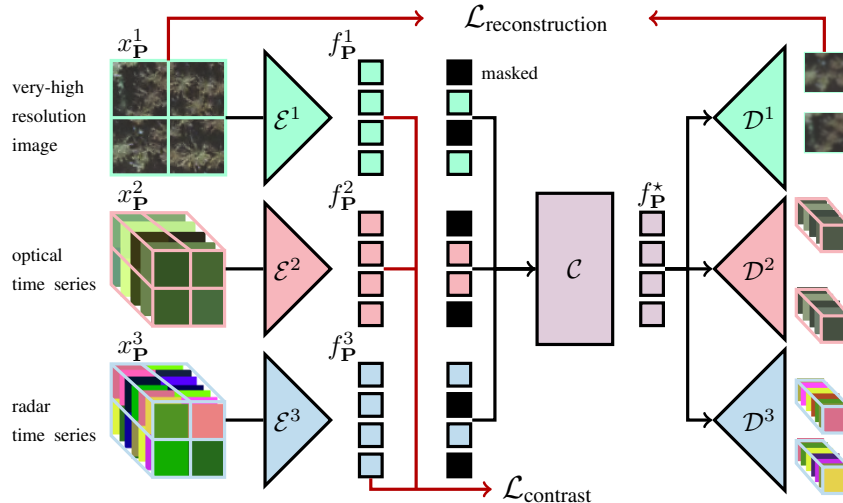


Figure 2: **OmniSat Architecture.** We illustrate OmniSat for $M = 3$ modalities, and a tile split into $P = 4$ patches. The $M \times P$ input tokens $x_{\mathbf{P}}^M$ are encoded by M modality-specific encoders \mathcal{E}^M , yielding the token representations $f_{\mathbf{P}}^M$. The module \mathcal{C} combines them into multimodal patch representations $f_{\mathbf{P}}^*$. The token embeddings $f_{\mathbf{P}}^*$ are supervised by a contrastive cross-modal objective. We also use a reconstruction objective: the masked multimodal representations $f_{\mathbf{P}}^*$ are decoded by modality-specific networks \mathcal{D}^M to reconstruct their corresponding inputs in $x_{\mathbf{P}}^M$.

Multimodal EO Datasets. As reported in Table 1, many multimodal EO datasets use Sentinel-1 [86] and 2 [19] data for applications ranging from land cover to forestry analysis and fire detection. We also note that most multimodal datasets only contain data of one type: mono-date image or time series. Several datasets (BigEarthNet [39], DFC20 [40], MDAS [41]) select a single date from time series. However, single Sentinel-1 and 2 acquisitions can be significantly affected by rain and cloud cover, respectively. Furthermore, capturing the temporal dynamics is crucial to characterize the phenology of vegetation [87],

FLAIR [48] is the first multimodal EO dataset to propose both very high spatial resolution ($\leq 2\text{m}$) and high temporal resolution (> 4 images/year). Satlas [49] combines sentinel-2 time series and for 5% to tiles (continental US), very high definition NAIP images. The functional map of the World [88] integrates observations from various sensors, but most areas are only observed with one sensor. Two other datasets contain time series and single images from multiple sources, but were not available at the time of submission: IARPA-SMART [89] and DOFA [90].

To showcase how OmniSat can consume an arbitrary number of modalities with different spatial, spectral, and temporal resolutions, we selected two commonly used EO benchmarks, TreeSatAI [35] and PASTIS-R [37], whose focus on crop type mapping and forestry differs from the land cover analysis of FLAIR. We added new modalities to these datasets to reach three distinct data types: VHR aerial images, optical time series, and SAR time series. See Figure 1 for an illustration, and Section 4.1 for more details on how we extended these datasets.

3 Method

We consider a multimodal dataset x , defined as a collection of tiles divided into a set \mathbf{P} of P small spatial patches. We denote by \mathbf{M} the set of M available modalities. The patches are defined consistently across modalities: $x_p^{\mathbf{M}} = \{x_p^m\}_{m \in \mathbf{M}}$ corresponds to M distinct views of the same patch p with different sensors or modalities. Each modality m has its unique input space Ω^m such that $x_p^m \in \Omega^m$. We define an input token as a pair (m, p) for a given modality m and a patch p , for a total of $M \times P$ tokens.

Our goal is to learn multimodal representations f_p^* that capture the content of each spatial patch p captured by all modalities \mathbf{M} in a self-supervised fashion. To achieve this, we employ a cross-modal

		T_1						T_2						
		m_1		m_2		m_3		m_1		m_2		m_3		
		p_1	p_2	p_1	p_2	p_1	p_2	q_1	q_2	q_1	q_2	q_1	q_2	
T_1	m_1	p_1	o	o	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		p_2	o	o	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
	m_2	p_1	+	-	o	o	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		p_2	-	+	+	o	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
	m_3	p_1	+	-	+	-	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-
		p_2	-	+	-	+	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-
T_2	m_1	q_1	-	-	-	-	-	o	o	+	-	+	-	
		q_2	-	-	-	-	-	o	o	-	+	-	+	
	m_2	q_1	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	o	o	+	-	
		q_2	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	o	o	-	+	
	m_3	q_1	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	o	o	
		q_2	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	o	o	

Figure 3: **Contrastive Loss.** We represent the token matching matrix for two tiles T_1 and T_2 viewed across 3 modalities m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 . T_1 is composed of the patches p_1 and p_2 , while T_2 comprises q_1 and q_2 . In contrast to classic approaches which ignore the diagonal and assign each sample with a single positive match, our loss defines operates at the patch level, considers multiple positives per token, and excludes tokens in a block-diagonal fashion.

+ positive match - negative match
o ignored

contrastive objective (Section 3.1) and a multimodal masked encoding task (Section 3.2). We then give further details on the implementation of each module in Section 3.3. The overall architecture is represented in Figure 2.

3.1 Contrastive Objective

We associate each modality m with a dedicated patch encoder $\mathcal{E}^m : \Omega^m \mapsto \mathbf{R}^d$ and denote by $f_p^m = \mathcal{E}^m(x_p^m)$ the d -dimensional embedding of the input token x_p^m . We would like f_p^m to capture robust and expressive features of x_p^m . To do so, we build a matching objective: patches should have consistent embeddings *across modalities*. Indeed, while each modality captures distinct characteristics of p , all encodings f_p^m share the same latent variable: the semantic content of patch p .

In practice, we want f_p^m close to f_p^n for $n \neq m$, but far from f_q^n for other patches $q \neq p$. We adapt the classic InfoNCE loss [91] to our setting with two main differences, illustrated in Figure 3: (i) each token (m, p) has $M - 1$ positive matches: the tokens corresponding to the same patch p but viewed in another modality $n \neq m$; and (ii) as EO observations are generally spatially regular, nearby patches may be visually indistinguishable. Therefore, we exclude from the negative matches of (m, p) all tokens in modality m that are too close to p . To this end, we remove the set $T(m, p)$ of tokens with modality m and whose patches are in the same tile as p . Our loss function $\mathcal{L}_{\text{contrast}}$ is defined as such:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{contrast}} = \frac{1}{MP} \sum_{(m,p) \in \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{P}} \log \left(\frac{\sum_{n \neq m} \exp(\langle f_p^m, f_p^n \rangle / \gamma)}{\sum_{(n,q) \in \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{P} \setminus T(m,p)} \exp(\langle f_p^m, f_q^n \rangle / \gamma)} \right), \quad (1)$$

with γ a temperature parameter, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the scalar product in \mathbf{R}^d . This function, specifically designed for geospatial data, allows us to contrast individual patches across modalities, which is not typically feasible for natural images. However, as the contrastive objective aligns multimodal representations, the patch encoders \mathcal{E}^M may be encouraged to overlook the distinct attributes of their respective modality. Instead, they may focus only on features shared by all modalities, *i.e.* their *common denominator*. To ensure that encoders also capture modality-specific information, we incorporate a reconstruction objective, detailed in Section 3.2.

3.2 Multimodal Reconstruction Objective

This section introduces the modality combiner network \mathcal{C} and its reconstruction objective. We mask a fraction of tokens $\mathbf{K} \subset \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{P}$ and replace their embeddings with a learned vector $f^{\text{mask}} \in \mathbf{R}^d$. Note that the masking can differ across modalities, and some patches may be entirely masked. All tokens are then processed by the modality combining network \mathcal{C} , which outputs P multimodal embeddings $f_{\mathbf{P}}^*$:

$$f_{\mathbf{P}}^* = \mathcal{C} \left(\{f_p^m\}_{(m,p) \notin \mathbf{K}} \cup \{f^{\text{mask}}\}_{(m,p) \in \mathbf{K}} \right). \quad (2)$$

To encourage the patch embeddings $f_{\mathbf{P}}^*$ to capture information from all modalities, we build a multimodal reconstruction objective. We equip each modality m with a dedicated decoder

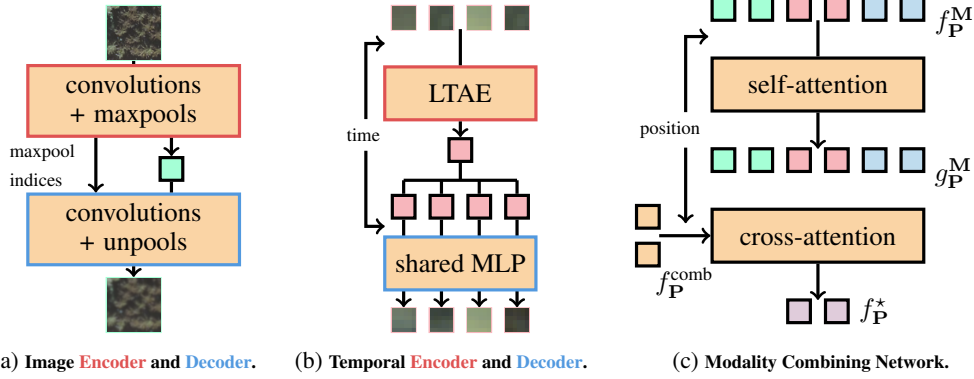


Figure 4: **Module’s Architectures.** (a) represents the encoder and decoder of image patches, and (b) illustrates their architectures for temporal patches with a length of $L = 4$ time stamps. The modality combining module \mathcal{C} is depicted in (c) with $P = 2$ and $M = 3$. Elements colored in orange are learned networks or parameters.

$\mathcal{D}^m : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \Omega^m$ and write the reconstruction loss as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}} = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{K}|} \sum_{(m,p) \in \mathbf{K}} \frac{1}{\dim(\Omega^m)} \|\mathcal{D}^m(f_p^*) - x_p^m\|^2, \quad (3)$$

where $\dim(\Omega^m)$ is the dimension of the input space Ω^m . The total loss is the sum of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{contrast}}$.

3.3 Implementation

This section presents the tokenization process, the structure of the encoder and decoder for each modality, and the architecture of the modality combiner network. In particular, we highlight several design choices that leverage the specific properties of EO data [92].

Multimodal Tokenization. All available modalities are spatially aligned through georeferencing. We split each tile along a regular spatial grid to produce a set of non-overlapping patches \mathbf{P} consistent across all modalities, thus ensuring that x_p^M correspond to the same area for all modalities.

For TreeSat and FLAIR, we use a 10×10 m grid, meaning that the VHR input tokens are small image patches of size 50×50 with 0.2m per pixel. The patches of Sentinel observations with a resolution of 10m are single-pixel temporal sequences of spectral measurements. For PASTIS-HD, we use a 40×40 m grid, meaning that the VHR patches are of size 40×40 with 1.0m per pixel. The patches of Sentinel observations [19] are 4×4 image time series which we spatially flatten before encoding.

Time series from Sentinel satellites may experience registration errors spanning several meters, complicating their precise alignment with high-resolution imagery. However, using temporal sequences of satellite data mitigates these errors as aggregation over time tends to balance out misalignments.

Encoder-Decoder for Images. Image tiles are split into small square patches: $\Omega^{\text{img}} = \mathbb{R}^{C \times I \times I}$ with I the size of the patches and C the number of channels. As shown in Figure 4a, we encode these inputs with a sequence of convolutions and max-pool layers until the spatial dimension is fully collapsed. Decoding involves a symmetric sequence of convolutions and un-pooling layers. Contrary to existing masked auto-encoders, we pass the pooling indices from the encoder’s max-pooling to the decoder’s un-pooling in the manner of SegNet [93]. This dispenses the encoder from learning the intra-token spatial configuration and allows it to focus on the radiometric information, which may be more relevant depending on the application.

Encoder-Decoder for Time Series. Each temporal patch is represented by L sequential observations with C channels: $\Omega^{\text{TS}} = \mathbb{R}^{C \times L}$, each associated with a time stamp. We encode the temporal patches using a Lightweight Temporal Attention Encoder (LTAE) model [94], an efficient network

for geospatial time series processing. We decode each multimodal embedding f_p^* into temporal patches by repeating it L times across the temporal dimension, adding a temporal encoding for each time step, and using an MLP to map the results to size C . See Figure 4b for an illustration.

Optical time series are notoriously affected by clouds [95]. This may affect the validity of the reconstruction task: the decoder cannot know which observations are cloudy, making the reconstruction objective unpredictable. To circumvent this issue, we use the temporal attention maps of the encoder’s LTAE to select dates to reconstruct: cloudless observations are more informative and should have a higher attention score [96]. We only consider in the reconstruction loss $\mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}}$ the top 25% dates in terms of the LTAE’s attention maps.

Modality Combining Network. The modality combining network \mathcal{C} , represented in Figure 4c, takes the $M \times P$ token embeddings $f_{\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{M}}$, some of whom can potentially be masked. We equip each token with a Euclidean relative positional encoding [97] calculated based on their patch’s position $\{r(p, q) \mid (p, q) \in \mathbf{P}^2\}$, and only defined for patches within the same tile. This way, each token can selectively consider its spatial surroundings. As most EO data are captured from above (satellite or aerial), their distribution is invariant by horizontal translation, making this choice of encoding preferable to an absolute position encoding.

The modality combining module \mathcal{C} starts with a series of B residual self-attention blocks connecting all tokens across modality and within the same tile. We then perform cross-attention between the resulting token embeddings $g_{\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{M}} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times M \times P}$ and P copies $f_{\mathbf{P}}^{\text{comb}}$ of a modality combining token $f^{\text{comb}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ learned as a free parameter. Each copy of $f_{\mathbf{P}}^{\text{comb}}$ is spatially located at the patch p for the relative positional encoding r . The mechanism of \mathcal{C} writes:

$$g_{\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{M}} = \text{self-attention}(f_{\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{M}}; r) , \quad (4)$$

$$f_{\mathbf{P}}^* = \text{cross-attention}(f_{\mathbf{P}}^{\text{comb}}, g_{\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{M}}; r) . \quad (5)$$

Hyperparameters. To show the versatility of OmniSat, we use the same configuration throughout all experiments. The embedding size is $d = 256$, resulting in image encoders and decoders with 3.6M and 1.8M parameters, 403K and 96K for optical time series, and 402K and 95K for radar time series. The modality combiner module is composed of $B = 6$ residual self-attention blocks and a single cross-attention block, for a total of 3.6M parameters. We train our model with the ADAM optimizer [98], with a learning rate of 10^{-4} for pretraining and 2×10^{-5} for fine-tuning, and a ReduceLROnPlateau scheduler [99] with a patience of 10 epochs and a decay rate of 0.1. When re-implementing competing methods, we use the hyperparameters of their open-source repository.

4 Experiments

In this section, we evaluate OmniSat’s performance across three multimodal datasets, including two new datasets introduced in this work and presented in Section 4.1. We outline our experimental protocol and our adaptation of competing methods in Section 4.2. We then present in Section 4.3 our quantitative results and analysis, and qualitative results in Figure 5. Lastly, we conduct an ablation study to in Section 4.4.

4.1 Datasets

We evaluate OmniSat on three multimodal datasets: FLAIR [48], and the augmented TreeSatAI-TS [35] and PASTIS-HD [36, 37]. See Figure 1 for an illustration of these two datasets.

TreeSatAI-TS: TreeSatAI [35] is a multimodal dataset for tree species identification, containing 50,381 tiles of $60 \times 60\text{m}$ with multi-label annotations for 20 classes and all taken in Germany. Each tile is associated with a very high resolution RGB and near-infrared (NIR) image (0.2m pixel resolution), a single Sentinel-2 multi-spectral image (10m per pixel resolution, 10 bands), and a single Sentinel-1 radar image (10m per pixel resolution, 3 bands: two polarization channels and their ratio).

Motivated by the fact that fine-grained vegetation discrimination relies heavily on temporal dynamics information [87], we introduce TreeSatAI-TS¹. This extended version uses open-source data to

¹The dataset is available at <https://huggingface.co/datasets/IGNF/TreeSatAI-Time-Series>.

	Inputs	Ground truth	OmniSat	UT&T [48]	Scale-MAE [72]
TreeSatAI-TS		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picea 🌲 - Betula 🍃 - Alnus 🍃 - Quercus 🍃 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picea - Betula - Alnus - X 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picea - Betula - Alnus - X - Pinus 🌲 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picea - X - X - X
FLAIR		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building - pervious surf. - impervious surf. - deciduous - brushwood - herbaceous - agricultural - vineyard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building - pervious surf. - impervious surf. - deciduous - brushwood - herbaceous - agricultural - vineyard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building - pervious surf. - impervious surf. - deciduous - brushwood - herbaceous - agricultural - X 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building - pervious surf. - impervious surf. - deciduous - brushwood - herbaceous - X - X
PASTIS-HD		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meadow - Soft winter wheat - Corn - Winter rapeseed - Beet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meadow - Soft winter wheat - Corn - Winter rapeseed - Beet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meadow - X - X - X - X - Potatoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meadow - X - X - X - X - Sunflower - Grapevine

Figure 5: **Qualitative Results.** We report predictions of OmniSat and two competing models on tiles from our datasets. OmniSat can detect classes with recognizable temporal dynamics such as agricultural lands or mixed forest areas with both coniferous 🌲 and deciduous trees 🍃. Other methods, and in particular ScaleMAE, struggle to detect these classes.

add Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 time series to each tile, spanning the closest available year to the VHR observation for Sentinel-2. Note that due to the weather patterns and position of the area of interest with respect to Sentinel-2’s orbit, the optical time series is particularly irregular and occluded, with up to 50% of acquisitions being non-exploitable. Despite this challenge, we included the raw observations without pre-processing, whereas TreeSatAI’s single-date images have been manually selected.

PASTIS-HD: The PASTIS dataset [36], is designed for semantic and panoptic segmentation of agricultural parcels using Sentinel-2 time series and covers 18 crop types across 2433 image time series with dimensions of 1280×1280 m. Each series contains between 38 and 61 observations with 10 spectral bands. PASTIS-R [37] adds the corresponding Sentinel-1 radar time series. We only used the ascending time series of Sentinel-1 for our training and evaluation, for a total of 169,587 radar images with three bands.

To enhance the spatial resolution and utility of PASTIS, we introduce PASTIS-HD², which integrates contemporaneous VHR satellite images (SPOT 6-7 [100]). We apply orthorectification and pansharpener, resample the resulting images to a 1m resolution, and finally convert them to 8 bits.

We follow the protocol of Irvin *et al.* [5] to use the dense annotations for a multi-label classification task: each patch is associated with the labels of all its pixels. This conversion allows us to evaluate all methods in the same setting and configuration as TreeSatAI.

FLAIR. The FLAIR dataset [48] combines VHR aerial images with time series data. It comprises 77,762 aerial tiles (512×512 pixels, 0.2m resolution) with five channels (RGB, near-infrared, and a normalized digital surface model) taken in France, alongside corresponding Sentinel-2 time series (10m resolution, 10 spectral bands, 20 to 114 observations per year). We apply the same processing as PASTIS to use the dense annotation for a multi-label classification task.

4.2 Experimental Setting

This section details our experimental protocol and our adaption of competing algorithms.

²This companion dataset can be found at <https://zenodo.org/records/10908628>.

Table 2: **Performance on TreeSatAI-TS.** We report the weighted F1 for multi-label tree species classification on TreeSatAI (TSAI) and our extended TreeSatAI-TS (TSAI-TS) dataset when fine-tuning with 10% and 100% of training labels. The first line of the table is the modality used for evaluation. We distinguish methods that are **best for one modality** within a dataset, **best in a dataset** across all modalities, and the **best overall** performance. *: late feature fusion with a ResNet. †: model evaluated on this dataset for the first time.

Model	pre-training	All		Sentinel-1		Sentinel-2		VHR Image	
		10%	100%	10%	100%	10%	100%	10%	100%
Evaluated on TreeSatAI: single date for Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2									
MLP [35]	ImageNet	42.6*	71.5*	3.4	10.1	22.1	52.0	-	-
ResNet [35]	ImageNet	-	-	-	-	-	-	58.8	70.1
LightGBM [35]	ImageNet	-	54.3*	-	11.9	-	48.2	-	44.0
† PSE [101]	None	47.2*	68.1*	11.5	14.6	48.5	58.3	-	-
† ViT [64]	None	42.7	57.1	8.7	17.5	39.8	57.3	36.7	51.7
PRESTO [85]	PRESTO	-	-	-	19.8	-	46.3	-	-
MOSAIKS [102, 103]	TSAI	-	-	-	-	-	56.0	-	-
† CROMA [4]	TSAI	49.6	61.0	10.1	12.7	47.8	55.7	-	-
† SatMAE [70]	TSAI	46.1	61.5	-	-	40.3	49.7	44.1	61.4
† ScaleMAE [72]	TSAI	47.6	62.5	-	-	46.7	55.2	46.9	63.6
OmniSAT (ours)	TSAI	56.2	70.4	5.3	6.4	48.4	57.1	52.8	68.9
Evaluated on TreeSatAI-TS: Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 time series spanning one year									
† UT&T [48]	ImageNet	43.8	56.7	42.3	55.2	41.5	57.0	44.3	55.9
† Scale-MAE [72]	TSAI-TS	44.1	60.4	-	-	11.0	31.5	46.9	63.6
† PSE+LTAE [101]	None	59.4*	71.2*	42.6	52.4	44.0	57.2	-	-
OmniSAT (ours)	None	52.2	73.3	31.6	55.9	33.9	49.7	51.4	71.0
OmniSAT (ours)	TSAI-TS	61.1	74.2	48.2	56.7	51.4	62.9	58.3	70.5

Evaluation Protocol. All experiments follow a similar setting:

- **Pre-training (optional).** Methods that support self-supervised pre-training (OmniSat, SatMAE [70], ScaleMAE [72], CROMA [4]) are pre-trained for up to 250 epochs on the entire training set without access to labels.
- **Fine-Tuning.** We propose two settings for fine-tuning:
 - **Fully Supervised Fine-Tuning.** We train the resulting models using all the labels in the training set.
 - **Semi-Supervised Fine-Tuning.** We use a portion of 10% or 20% of the training set, stratified by the distribution of classes, to fine-tune the models. For models without pre-training, this corresponds to supervision in the low-data regime.
- **Monomodal and Multimodal Evaluation.** We evaluate all methods using each available modality independently and combining all supported modalities.

Adapting Competing Approaches. We report the performance of several methods taken from the literature on our considered datasets: LightGBM [35], PRESTO [85], and MOSAIKS [103]. However, few existing methods can operate on single- and multi-date data at the same time. To ensure a fair evaluation of competing approaches, we modify various state-of-the-art models to handle a broader combination of modalities. We performed multiple tests for each approach and kept the configurations leading to their highest performance.

- **Multimodality.** We train methods that are not natively multimodal (PSE [101], ViT [64], SatMAE, ScaleMAE) using a late-fusion scheme [104] by concatenating the embeddings learned in each modality, as suggested by Ahlswede *et al.* [35]. For UT&T [48], initially designed for VHR images and Sentinel-2 time series, we add a branch for Sentinel-1 integration, which is identical to the Sentinel-2 branch except for the first layer.
- **Handling Temporal Data.** To evaluate image models (SatMAE, ScaleMAE, CROMA) on time series, we convert image sequences to single images by concatenating for each pixel

Table 3: **Performance on PASTIS-HD.** We report the macro-averaged F1-score for crop-type multi-class classification on the PASTIS-HD dataset. We distinguish methods that are **best for one modality**, **best in a dataset** across all modalities. *: late feature fusion with a ResNet. †: model evaluated on this dataset for the first time.

Model	pre-trained	All		Sentinel-1		Sentinel-2		VHR image	
		20%	100%	20%	100%	20%	100%	20%	100%
† ResNet50 [106]	ImageNet	-	-	-	-	-	-	57.6	59.3
† Scale-MAE [72]	PASTIS-HD	42.0	42.2	-	-	41.2	46.1	48.8	51.9
† UTAE [36, 37]	No	36.8*	46.9*	20.1	40.7	32.7	37.6	-	-
† UT&T [48]	ImageNet	54.2	53.5	58.8	62.8	54.9	61.3	51.1	49.8
† CROMA [4]	PASTIS-HD	57.5	60.1	55.3	56.1	53.0	56.7	-	-
OmniSAT (ours)	No	42.0	59.1	58.2	60.2	51.7	60.1	47.3	52.8
OmniSAT (ours)	PASTIS-HD	62.6	69.9	60.8	69.0	61.8	70.8	54.6	59.3

Table 4: **Performance on FLAIR.** We report the macro-averaged F1-score for land cover multi-class classification on the FLAIR dataset. We distinguish methods that are **best for one modality** and **best in a dataset**. †: model evaluated on this dataset for the first time.

Model	pre-trained	All		Sentinel-2		VHR Image	
		10%	100%	10%	100%	10%	100%
† UT&T [48]	ImageNet	44.2	48.8	57.4	62.0	58.9	65.5
† ScaleMAE[72]	FLAIR	63.1	70.0	52.5	61.0	61.2	67.3
OmniSAT (ours)	No	62.5	70.0	56.1	65.4	64.7	71.5
OmniSAT (ours)	FLAIR	60.6	73.4	56.8	65.4	65.2	71.6

and channel channel-wise the median observation for the four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter [105].

- **Handling VHR Data.** To evaluate methods designed for low-resolution images (PSE, LTAE [94]) in a multimodal setting that includes VHR images, we concatenate the representations obtained with a ResNet network to their final embedding.
- **Scaling Models.** Our considered datasets are smaller than the ones used to train large ViT-based models, making them prone to overfitting. We address this issue by selecting a ViT-Small [64] backbone instead of a ViT-Large for SatMAE, ScaleMAE and CROMA.
- **Multi-Class Prediction.** To evaluate ViT-based models on classification experiments, we insert a linear layer that maps the embedding of the class token <CLS> to a vector of class scores. For the UT&T model, we compute a spatial average of the last feature map, followed by a similar linear projection.

4.3 Numerical Experiments and Analysis

In this section, we report our model’s performance and efficiency compared to other approaches across the considered datasets and propose our analysis.

TreeSatAI-TS. Table 2 presents the performance of different models on TreeSatAI and TreeSatAI-TS. We report several key observations:

- **Benefit of Time Series.** For the original TreeSatAI dataset with single-date Sentinel-1/2 observations, none of the pre-training schemes significantly improve performance beyond simple baselines such as ResNet, PSE, or MLP, even in a semi-supervised setting. In particular, single-date S1 observations yield low performance for all methods (below 20 F1-score), emphasizing the need to use the entire time series.

OmniSat exhibits significantly improved results on TreeSatAI-TS, with or without pre-training. In contrast, Scale-MAE struggles to extract meaningful dynamic features from the highly occluded time series, and CROMA would not converge. These models perform

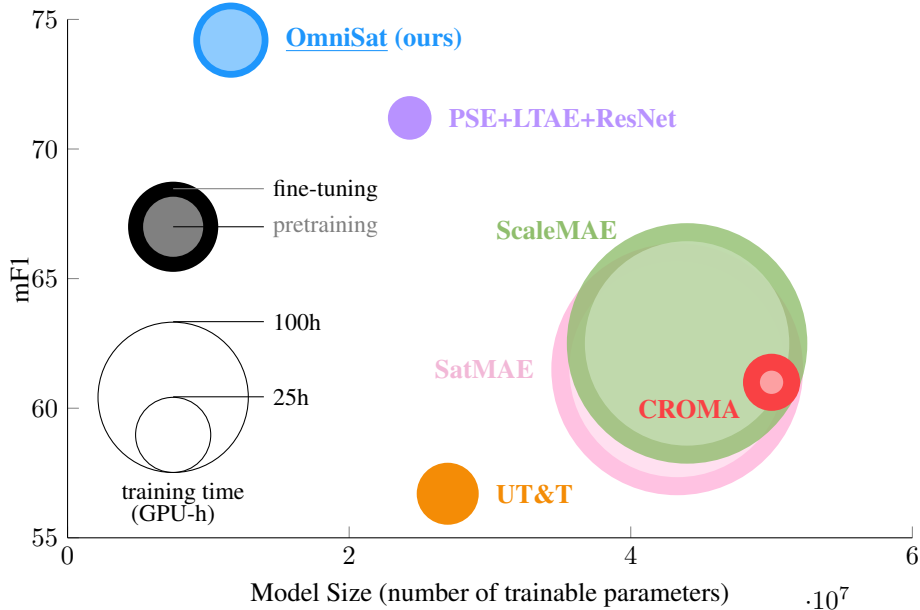


Figure 6: **Efficiency.** We report the best performance of different models between TreeSatAI and TreeSatAI-TS, with pre-training and fine-tuning using 100% of labels. The area of the markers is proportional to the training time, broken down in pre-training and fine-tuning when applicable.

better with the manually chosen single-date images of TreeSatAI than with temporally aggregated temporal observations, whereas OmniSat can leverage dynamic features.

- **Benefits of Multimodality.** When using all modalities, OmniSat outperforms all competing methods by a margin of 3% F1-score. The multimodal performance of OmniSat and CROMA, which learn to combine data sources, is strictly superior to the F1-score of their best modality by 3.7% and 5.3% points, respectively. Conversely, the performance of methods that rely on late-fusion (SatMAE, ScaleMAE, ViT) is comparable to their best modality. This demonstrates the value of learning to combine information from different sources end-to-end.
- **Benefits of Cross-Modal Pre-Training.** With access to all modalities, our self-supervised pre-training improves by 0.9% point the F1-score of the model fine-tuned on 100% of labels, compared to not pre-training, and 8.9% when using only 10% of labels. This shows that our pre-training leads to more expressive multimodal features. Interestingly, when performing inference with Sentinel-2 time series alone, the performance increase linked to the pre-training becomes 13.2% with 100% labels and 17.5% with 10%. This illustrates that our pre-training scheme also improves the features learned by each encoder despite only relying on spatial matching.

Experiments on PASTIS-HD. The analysis of the performance of various models on PASTIS-HD is reported in Table 3, and is consistent with the ones of TreeSatAI-TS. First, by learning to combine all modalities despite their different resolutions, OmniSat achieves state-of-the-art results on this benchmark. Second, our cross-modal pre-training significantly improves OmniSat’s performance in the multimodal (+10.8 pF1-score with 100% of training label) and all single-modality settings (8.8 points for Sentinel-1, 10.7 for Sentinel-2, and 6.5 for the VHR images).

Experiments on FLAIR. We report in Table 4 the results on the bimodal FLAIR dataset for multi-label classification. OmniSat outperforms the much larger ScaleMAE [72] and UT&T [48] models with 100% of labels and both modalities by 3.4%. Our pre-training scheme had a smaller impact than for the TreeSatAI-TS experiment, which may be attributed to the fact that only two modalities are available, which decreases the supervisory power of our cross-modal contrastive objective and our multimodal reconstruction loss. This highlights a limitation of OmniSat: the model needs

Table 5: **Ablation Study.** We present the impact of several design choices on the TreeSatAI-TS dataset, measured in terms of macro-averaged F1-score.

Experiment	10%	100%	Experiment	10%	100%
OmniSat	61.1	74.2	b) no contrastive loss	55.6	73.4
a) no index bypass	57.5	73.5	b) naive contrastive loss	57.8	72.2
a) no date filtering	58.2	71.6	b) no reconstruction loss	59.0	72.2

to be pretrained on a modality-rich dataset to achieve its best performance. We also note the poor performance of UT&T, which we attribute to its semantic segmentation-driven design.

Efficiency Evaluation. We plot in Figure 6 the best performance between TreeSatAI and TreeSatAI-TS for different models according to their size and training time. OmniSat is more compact, faster to train, and performs better than all evaluated models. The highly-specialized combination of PSE, LTAE, and ResNet is a strong contender, outperforming significantly more complex models with generic encoding-decoding schemes.

4.4 Ablation Study

In this section, we report the results of several experiments evaluating the impact and validity of our main design choices, see Table 5.

a) Encoder/Decoder Architecture. We propose several improvements to the standard image encoder-decoder scheme used in computer vision to accommodate the specificities of EO data. In particular, passing the max-pool indices from the image patch encoder to its decoder allows the learned representation to focus on characterizing the spectral signature instead of fine-grained spatial information, and leads to a performance increase of 0.7% in the full supervision setting.

As clouds frequently obstruct optical time series, we use an unsupervised date-filtering scheme to reconstruct only meaningful acquisitions. This approach leads to a significant improvement of 3.6%, showcasing the benefit of developing modality-aware approaches for EO.

b) Role of Loss Functions. When training without contrastive loss, we observe a small decrease in performance of 0.8% in the fully supervised regime and a more pronounced drop of 5.5% in the semi-supervised regime. This demonstrates how harmonizing the encoding across encoders facilitates their subsequent fusion. Interestingly, when implementing a naive contrastive loss that considers negative examples within the same tile and modality, the decrease is greater than simply removing this loss (2% in full supervision). This strategy may introduce indistinguishable negative examples and perturb the learning process.

We also remove the reconstruction loss, meaning that only the encoders are learned contrastively during pre-training. This results in a drop of 2% F1-score point, illustrating the importance of pre-training the transformer \mathcal{C} alongside its encoders.

Limitations. All datasets used in our experiments are based in Europe, primarily due to the availability of open-access annotations. This regional focus prevents us from evaluating our model’s performance in tropical and developing countries, which present unique challenges in terms of label provision, heterogeneity, and complex classes.

A limitation of our pre-training scheme is its dependence on a sufficient number of aligned modalities, as illustrated by its moderate impact on the bimodal FLAIR dataset.

5 Conclusion

We introduced OmniSat, a new architecture for the self-supervised modality fusion of Earth Observation (EO) data from various sources. To facilitate its evaluation, we augmented two existing benchmarks to form the first open-access datasets with three distinct modalities of different natures and resolutions. We experimentally showed that leveraging diverse modalities with a flexible

model improves the model’s performance in both fully and semi-supervised settings. Moreover, our training scheme can exploit the spatial alignment of multiple modalities to improve our model’s monomodal performance. Finally, we proposed several improvements to leverage the unique structure of EO data in the architecture of our model, such as automatic date filtering for reconstructing time series and index bypass in image patch decoders. We hope that our promising results and new datasets will encourage the computer vision community to consider EO data as a playing field for evaluating and developing novel self-supervised multimodal algorithms.

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Appendix

In this appendix, we present an extended ablation study in Section 1, detailed classwise performance in Section 2, and analysis of failure cases on challenging examples in Figure 2.

1 Supplementary Ablations

We propose two supplementary ablation cases for a more in-depth analysis and comprehensive assessment of OmniSat:

Relative vs. Absolute Positional Encoding. We evaluate the impact of replacing the relative positional encoding of tokens, based on the patch position, with an absolute position encoding, based on the position of the patches in their tile—similar to what is classically done for image processing.

With an absolute positional encoding, OmniSat reaches an F1-score of 58.4 and 73.0 when fine-tuned with 10% and 100% of the training set of TreeSatAI-TS, respectively. This is 2.7 and 1.2% below a model trained with relative positional encodings. We conclude that relative positional encodings are better suited for analyzing EO images. While the upper patches of natural images are bound to correspond to the sky, and the lower patches contain ground, no such analogy can be made for EO data, whose distribution is equivariant through small horizontal translation.

Impact of Pretraining on Monomodal Performance. We aim to determine how our multimodal pretraining scheme improves the monomodal performance (*e.g.*, +13.2% for Sentinel-2 in full supervision). We consider two mechanisms that may lead to more discriminative features: (i) multimodality allows us to train the modality combiner network \mathcal{C} with more data, or (ii) our cross-modal and token-wise alignment-based losses provide a strong supervisory signal. We propose an experiment to verify which mechanism is the leading reason of our scheme’s strong performance.

We pre-train OmniSat on TreeSatAI-TS in mono- and multimodal settings *with a constant amount of tokens*. More precisely, we pre-train OmniSat using *all* input tokens from the S2 modality *only*, and using *all 3* modalities but only 33% of patches. This means that each experiment considering the same number P of input tokens. We then train a single linear layer to map these representations to class scores (linear probing) using 10 and 100% of the annotated S2 data. Finally, we evaluate the quality of these linear mappings on the test set using only the S2 modality.

The model trained with a multimodal pretext task reaches a F1-score of 44.7 for 10% and 46.3 for 100% of the training data. The model trained only with S2 performs significantly worse: 26.9 for 10% and 29.8 for 100% of data. This result suggests that the key to the efficacy of our pretraining scheme is the supervisory signal of per-patch contrastive and reconstruction objectives, rather than just increasing the number of tokens viewed by the transformer backbone.

2 Supplementary Results

We report the performance of different approaches for each class for the two datasets graphically in Figure 1 and as a table in Table 1.

Failure Case. We report in Figure 2 hard examples from our three datasets and compare the prediction of OmniSat and other models. For the TreeSatAI-TS example, the Sentinel-2 optical time-series is highly occluded: over 80% of acquisitions are covered by clouds. Furthermore, the forest tile contains a large variety of tree species organized in densely connected canopy, making its classification particularly hard. Indeed, the texture of the images in closed forests does not bring additional discriminative information.

The example from FLAIR is a scrap yard, which is almost entirely covered by broken vehicles. Since FLAIR’s annotations focus on the ground rather than transient or stationary objects, identifying the actual land cover in such scenarios is very challenging.

The image taken from PASTIS contains a mix of several different crop types, including the class *mixed cereal* which can already correspond to a parcel with various cereal types. This leads to a hard classification problem for all methods.

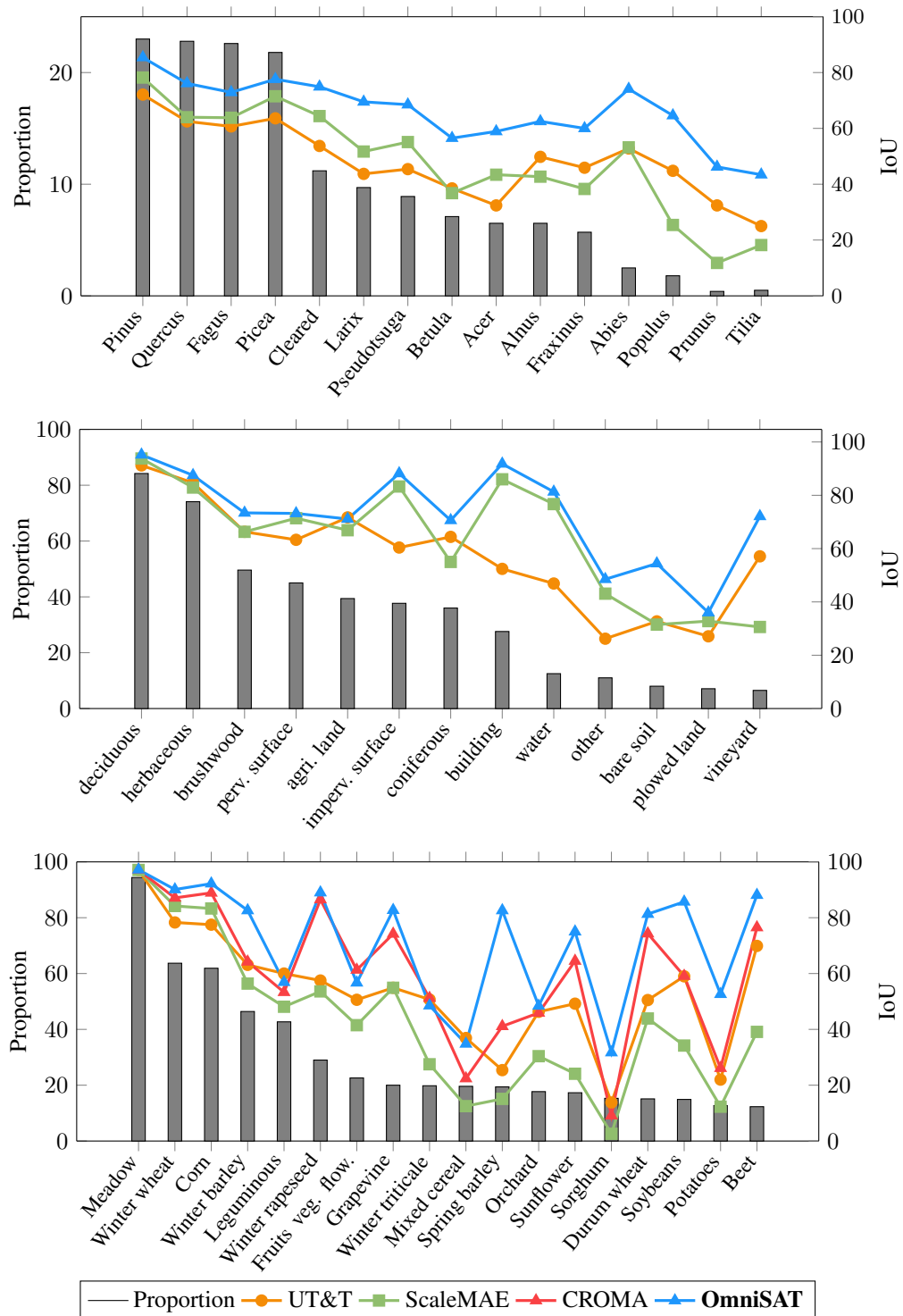
















Figure 1: **Class-Wise Performance.** We plot the performance of different models for each class, sorted by decreasing frequency. OmniSat improves the performance across the board, and for rare classes in particular.

TreeSatAI-TS																
Method	Macro F1	Abies 	Acer 	Alnus 	Betula 	Cleared	Fagus 	Fraxinus 	Larix 	Picea 	Pinus 	Populus 	Prunus 	Pseudotsuga 	Quercus 	Tilia 
Proportion in %		2.5	6.5	6.5	7.1	11.2	22.6	5.7	9.7	21.8	23.0	1.8	0.8	8.9	22.8	0.5
UT&T	48.8	52.8	43.4	49.8	36.8	53.7	60.7	45.9	43.7	63.6	72.1	44.8	32.4	45.4	62.5	25.0
Scale-MAE	47.3	53.2	32.4	42.7	38.5	64.4	63.8	38.3	51.7	71.5	78.2	25.4	11.8	55.1	64.0	18.2
OmniSat	73.4	74.1	58.9	62.5	56.5	74.9	72.9	60.0	69.5	77.6	85.4	64.6	46.2	68.5	76.1	43.4

FLAIR														
Method	Macro F1	building	perv. surface	imperv. surface	bare soil	water	coniferous	deciduous	brushwood	vineyard	herbaceous	agri. land	plowed land	other
Proportion in %		27.6	45.0	37.7	8.0	12.5	36.0	84.2	49.6	6.5	74.1	39.4	7.1	11.0
UT&T	57.3	52.4	63.3	60.4	32.7	46.9	64.4	91.2	66.3	57.1	84.7	71.7	27.1	26.2
Scale-MAE	70.0	90.1	72.0	87.1	47.1	81.3	65.1	95.2	72.3	53.7	88.8	70.2	39.7	45.7
OmniSat	75.8	91.8	73.2	88.2	54.4	81.3	70.6	95.2	73.4	72.1	87.5	71.1	36.0	48.5

PASTIS-HD																			
Method	Macro F1	Meadow	Soft winter wheat	Corn	Winter barley	Winter rapeseed	Spring barley	Sunflower	Grapevine	Beet	Winter triticale	Winter durum wheat	Fruits, vegetables, flowers	Potatoes	Leguminous fodder	Soybeans	Orchard	Mixed cereal	Sorghum
Proportion in %		94.4	63.7	61.9	46.4	29.0	19.4	17.3	20.0	12.3	19.8	15.1	22.6	12.7	42.7	14.9	17.7	19.6	15.3
UT&T	53.5	97.1	78.3	77.5	63.1	57.5	25.4	49.2	54.9	69.9	50.7	50.5	50.6	22.0	60.0	59.0	46.3	36.9	13.8
CROMA	60.1	97.1	87.1	88.9	64.2	86.5	41.1	64.5	74.2	76.5	51.2	74.3	61.3	26.1	53.3	59.1	45.9	22.4	9.1
Scale-MAE	42.2	97.1	84.2	83.3	56.4	53.6	15.1	24.1	54.9	39.1	27.5	43.9	41.5	12.3	48.1	34.2	30.4	12.5	2.6
OmniSat	69.9	97.2	90.1	92.2	82.6	89.0	64.7	75.0	82.7	88.1	48.5	81.3	56.7	52.6	56.9	85.7	48.4	34.8	31.7

Table 1: **Class-Wise Performance.** We report the F1-score for each class for TreeSatAI-TS, FLAIR, and PASTIS-HD for multilabel classification. We also report the unweighted class-averaged F1-score (Macro-F1). We can observe that OmniSat outperforms UT&T [48] and Scale-MAE [72] on nearly all classes for both datasets. In particular, we observe the most significant gains for classes with discriminative temporal dynamics, such as broadleaf tree species and the vineyards class.

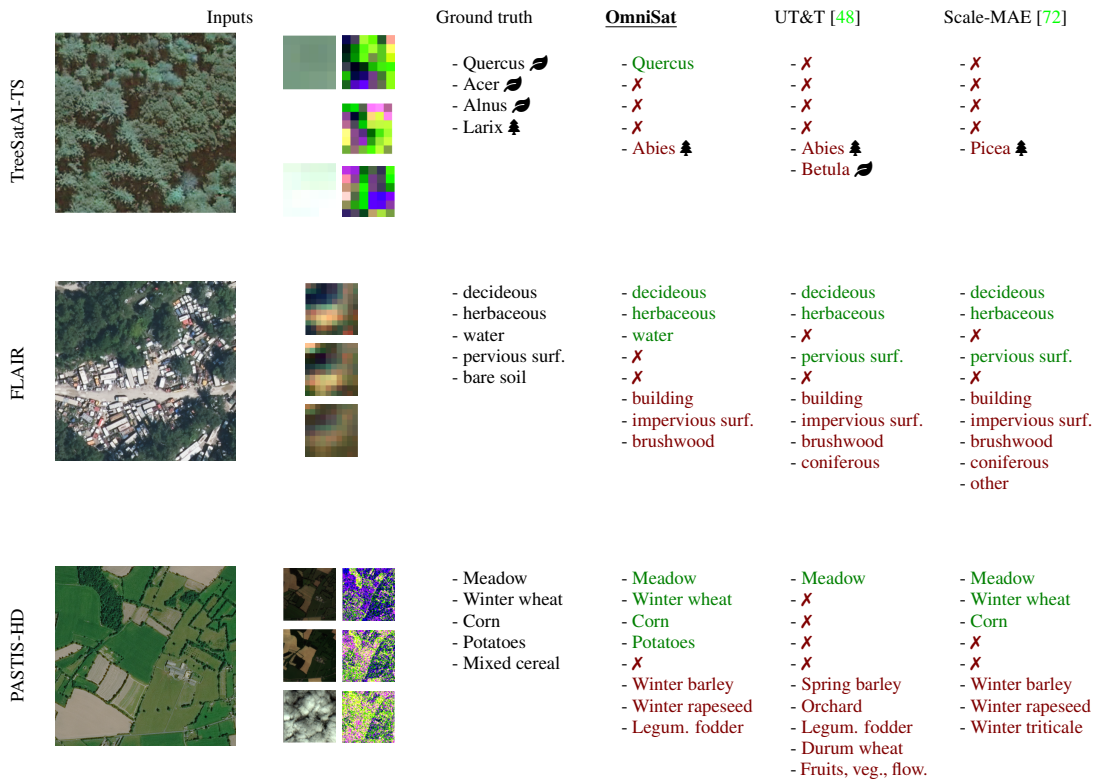


Figure 2: **Failure Cases.** We provide hard instances for the TreeSatAI-TS, FLAIR, and PASTIS-HD datasets, and report the multiclass prediction for OmniSat as well as two competing methods.