

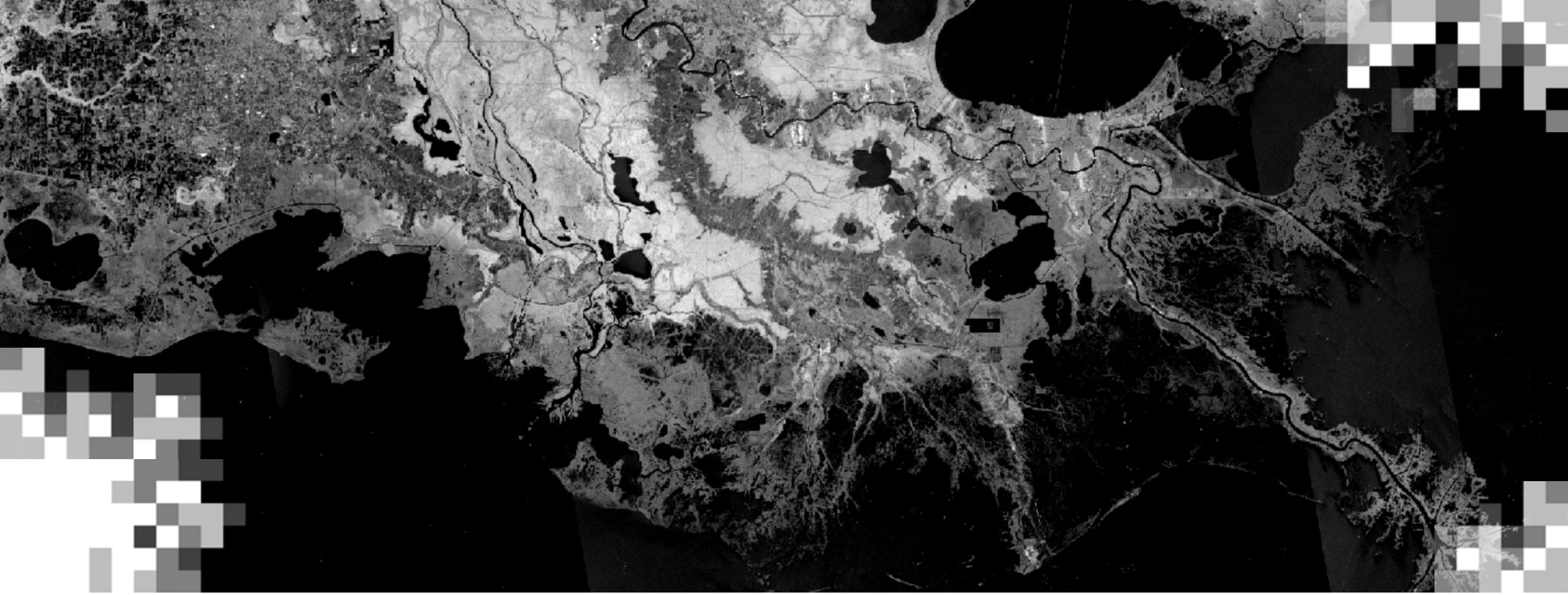
An Introduction to SAR and Its Applications

Part 1: Introduction to Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)

Erika Podest, Ph.D. (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology)

Nov. 6, 2024





About ARSET

About ARSET

- ARSET provides accessible, relevant, and cost-free training on remote sensing satellites, sensors, methods, and tools.
- Trainings include a variety of applications of satellite data and are tailored to audiences with a variety of experience levels.



AGRICULTURE



CLIMATE & RESILIENCE



DISASTERS



ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION



HEALTH & AIR QUALITY



WATER RESOURCES

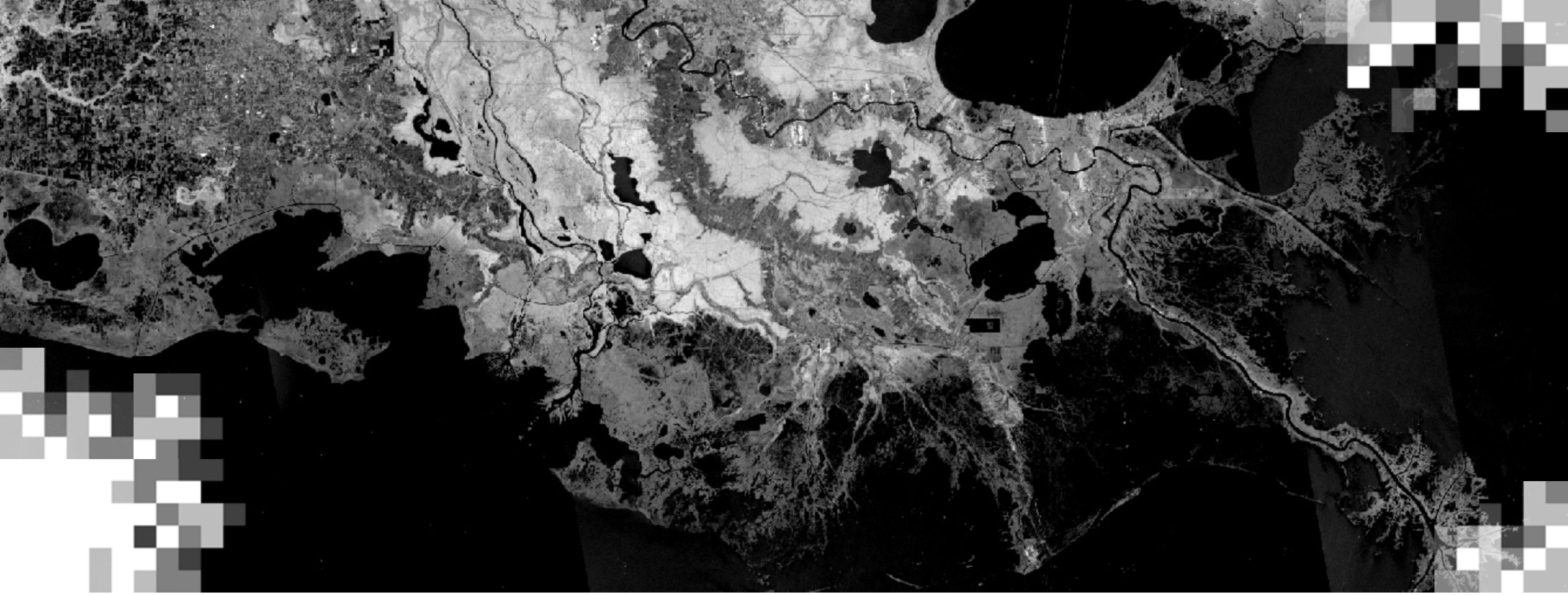


About ARSET Trainings

- Online or in-person
- Live and instructor-led or asynchronous and self-paced
- Cost-free
- Bilingual and multilingual options
- Only use open-source software and data
- Accommodate differing levels of expertise

- Visit the [ARSET website](#) to learn more.





An Introduction to SAR and Its Applications
Overview

Training Outline

Part 1
**Introduction to
Synthetic Aperture
Radar (SAR)**

Nov. 6, 2024
Time

Part 2
**Introduction to
Interferometric SAR
(InSAR)**

Nov. 13, 2024
Time

Part 3
**An Overview of SAR
Data Sources and
Tools**

Nov. 20, 2024
Time

Homework

Opens Nov. 20 – Due Dec. 4 – Posted on the Training Webpage

A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who attend all live sessions and complete the homework assignment by the due date.



Prerequisites

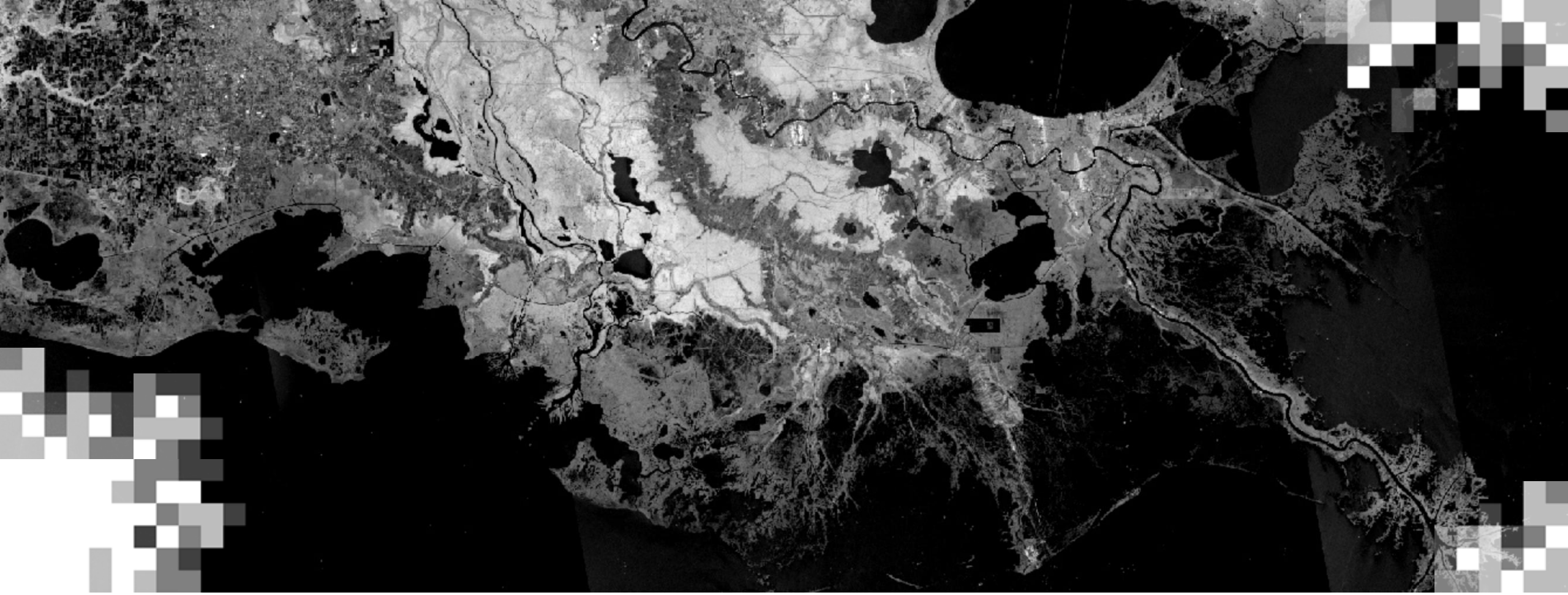
- [Fundamentals of Remote Sensing](#)

Training Learning Objectives

By the end of this training, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize basic features and functionality of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)
2. Evaluate SAR sensor characteristics for addressing different science questions and application areas
3. Interpret the information content in SAR images to distinguish different features (e.g., vegetation, water, inundation) detected by the sensor
4. Evaluate creation of an interferogram through interferometric SAR (InSAR)
5. Interpret an interferogram to measure surface deformation and small movements
6. Compare and contrast the capabilities of historic, current, and upcoming SAR data
7. Access and visualize SAR data for a given location and time





An Introduction to SAR and Its Applications
Part 1: Introduction to Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)

Session 1 – Trainer

Erika Podest, Ph.D.

Scientist

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Session 1 Objectives

By the end of Session 1, participants will be able to:

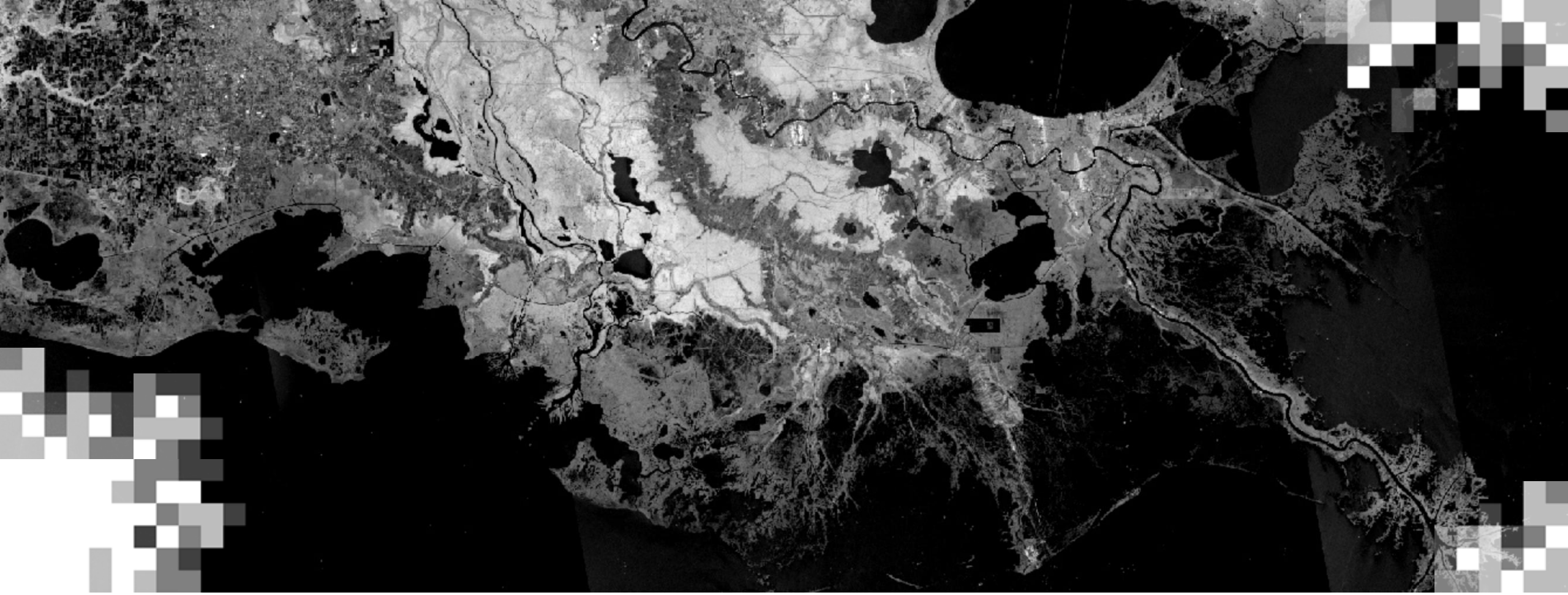
- Identify radar remote sensing signal characteristics
- Recognize how the radar signal interacts with the surface
- Interpret a SAR image to distinguish different features (e.g., vegetation, water, inundation) detected by the sensor
- Identify application areas where different SAR sensors are most applicable



How to Ask Questions

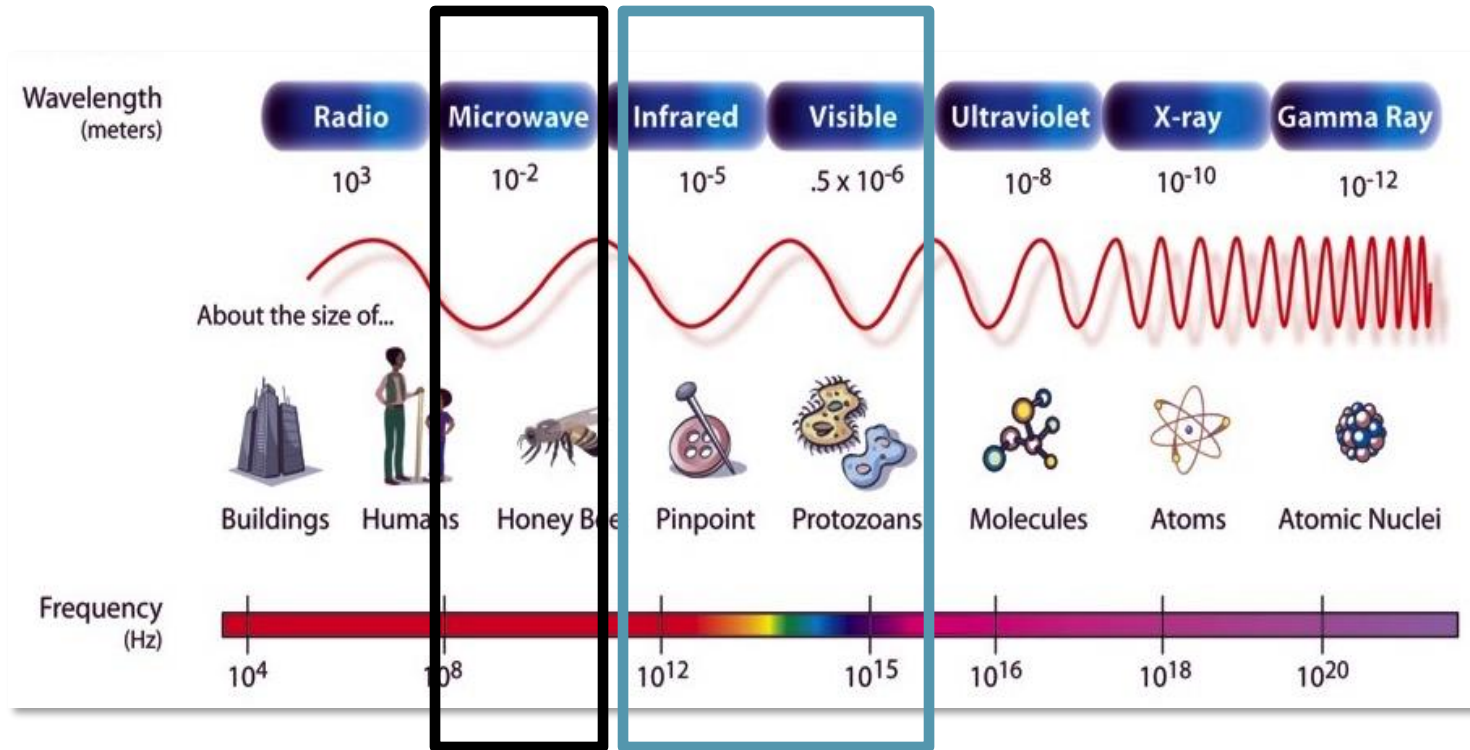
- Please write your questions in the Questions box and we will answer them at the end of the webinar.
- Feel free to enter your questions as we go. We will try to respond all of the questions during the Q&A session after the webinar.
- The remainder of the questions will be answered in the Q&A document, which will be posted to the training website about a week after the training.





Introduction to Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR): Review of Prerequisites

Electromagnetic Radiation for Remote Sensing

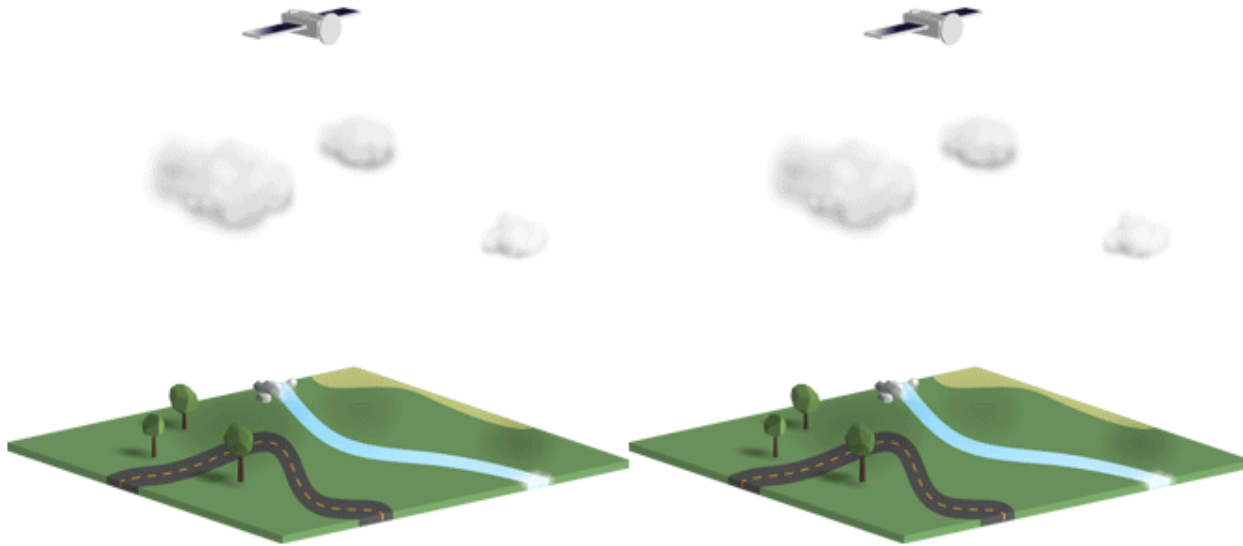


Optical Sensors
use infrared–
visible
regions.

- Optical sensors measure reflected solar light and only function in the daytime.
- The surface of the Earth cannot be imaged with visible or infrared sensors when there are clouds.
- Microwaves can penetrate through clouds and vegetation, and can operate in day or night conditions.



Active and Passive Remote Sensing



Passive: Sensors detect only what is emitted from the landscape or is reflected from another source (e.g., light reflected from the sun).

Active: Instruments emit their own signal and the sensor measures what is reflected back. Sonar and radar are examples of active sensors.

Passive Sensors:

- The source of radiant energy arises from natural sources
- e.g., the Sun, Earth, other “hot” bodies

Active Sensors

- Provide their own artificial radiant energy source for illumination
- e.g., **Radar, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), LiDAR**



Advantages and Disadvantages of Radar Over Optical Remote Sensing

Advantages

- Nearly all weather capability
- Day or night capability
- Penetration through the vegetation canopy
- Penetration through the soil
- Minimal atmospheric effects
- Sensitivity to dielectric properties (liquid vs. frozen water)
- Sensitivity to structure

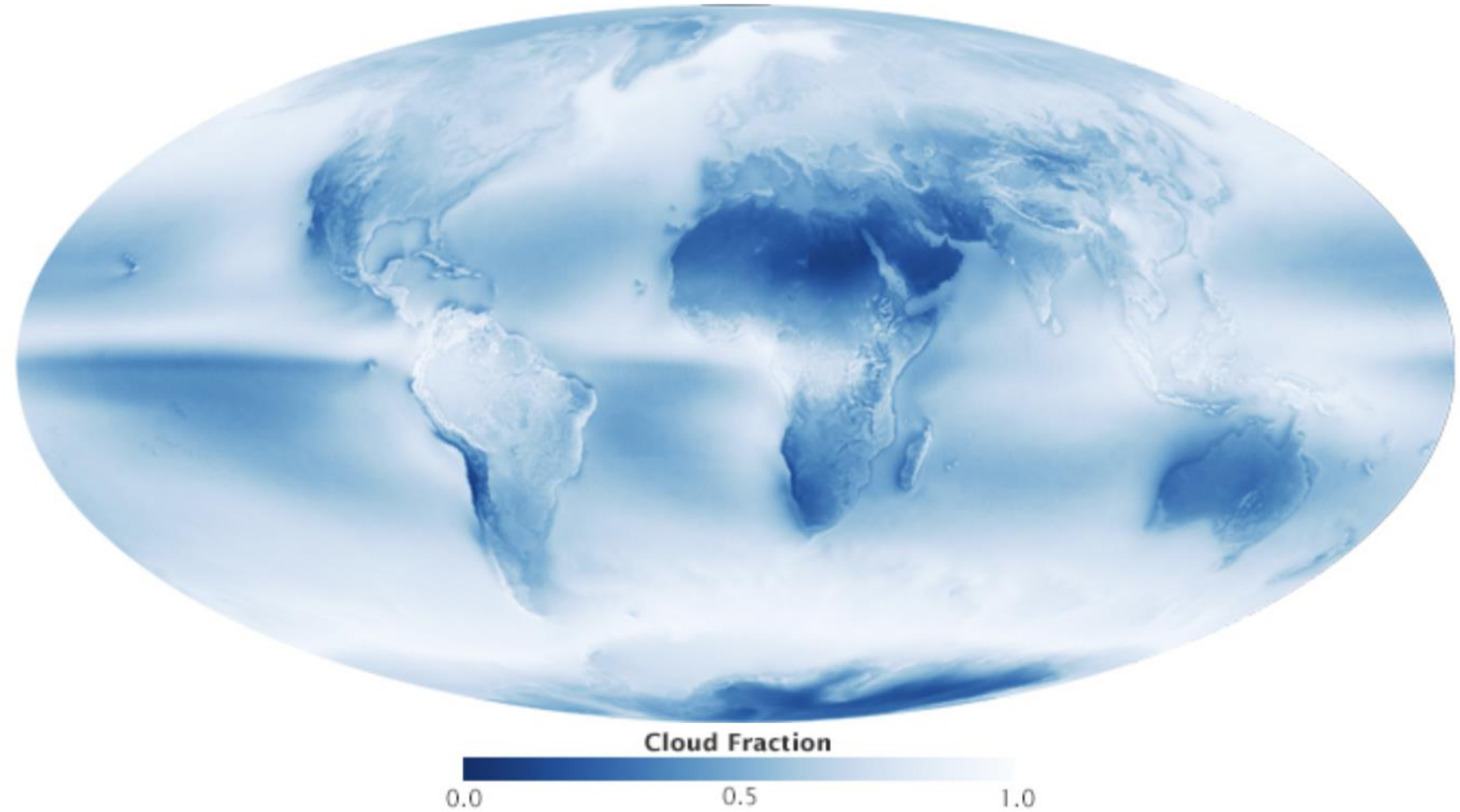
Disadvantages

- Information content is different than optical and sometimes difficult to interpret
- Speckle effects (graininess in the image)
- Effects of topography



Global Cloud Coverage

- Cloud fraction averaged from 2002-2015, compiled using data from MODIS on Aqua.
- Colors range from dark blue (no clouds) to light blue (some clouds) to white (frequent clouds).



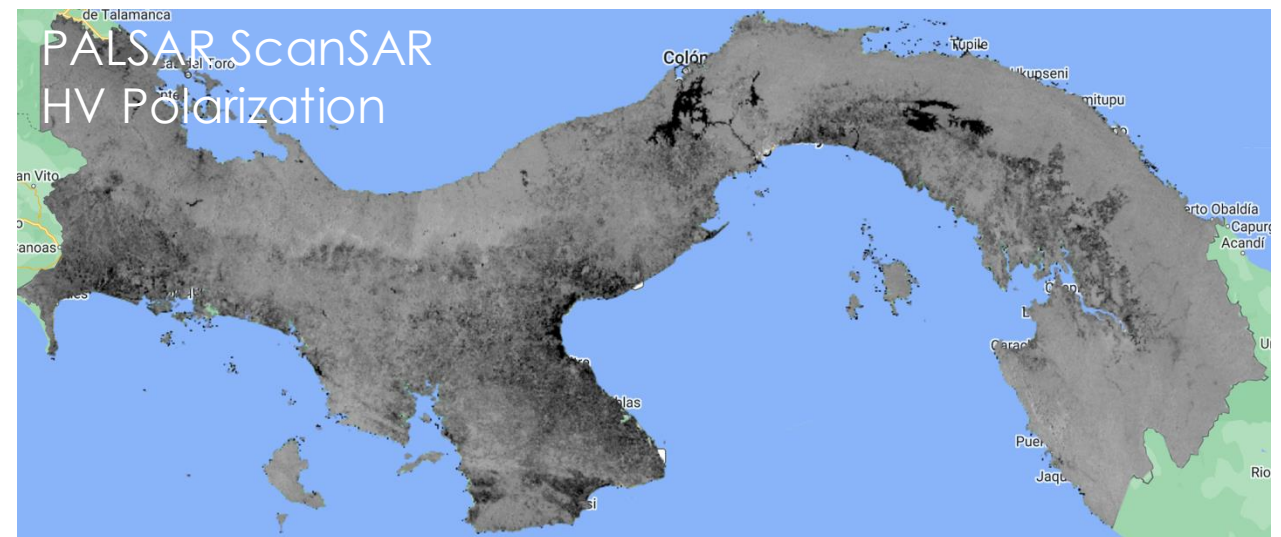
Source: [NASA Earth Observatory](https://www.nasa.gov/earth-observatory)



Optical vs. Radar

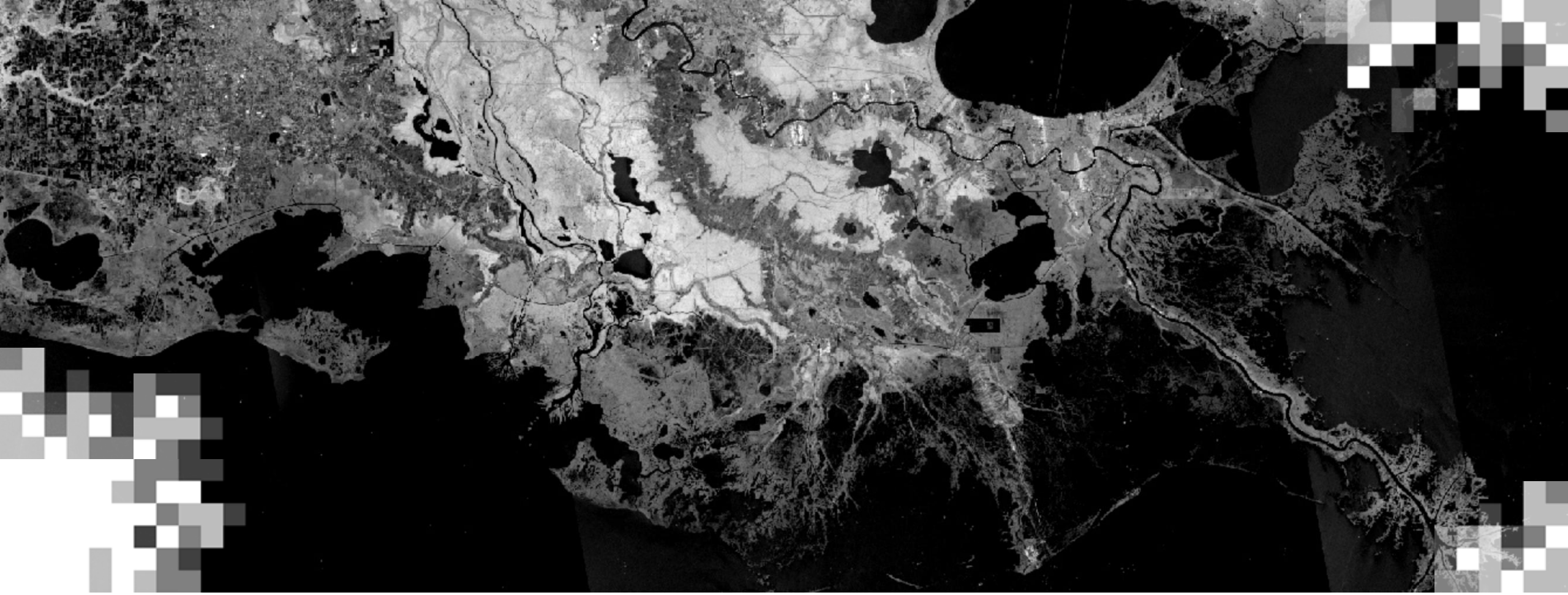
- The country of Panama is situated in the tropics, where clouds are prevalent, particularly during the rainy season.
- In the optical image composite at the top, areas covered by clouds have been masked out.
- The bottom SAR image composite, on the other hand, displays data for the entire country.

Panama: Nov. 1-30, 2019



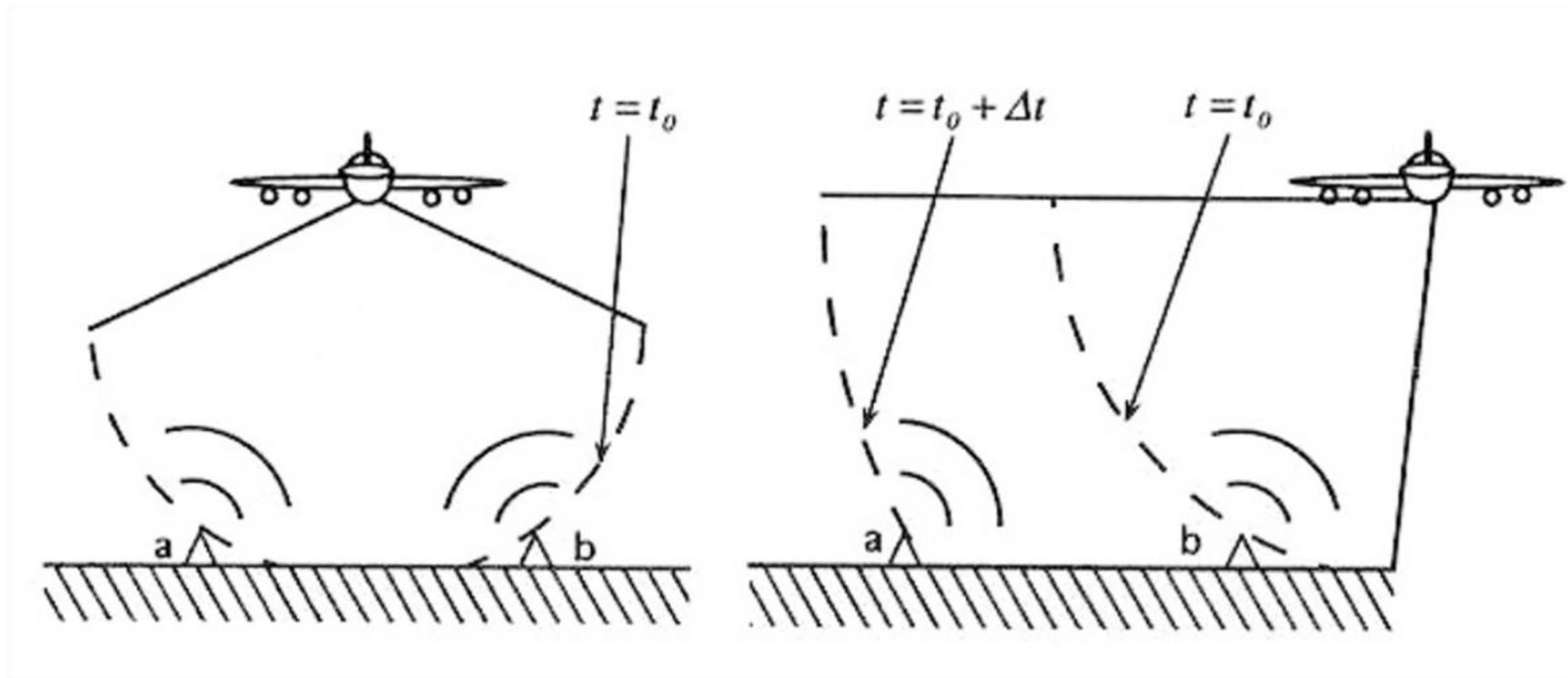
Source: Sentinel-2 and PALSAR ScanSAR from GEE





Radar Image Formation

Down-Looking vs. Side-Looking Radar



Side-Looking Radar

- Each pixel in the radar image represents a complex quantity of the energy that was reflected back to the satellite.
- The magnitude of each pixel represents the intensity of the reflected echo.

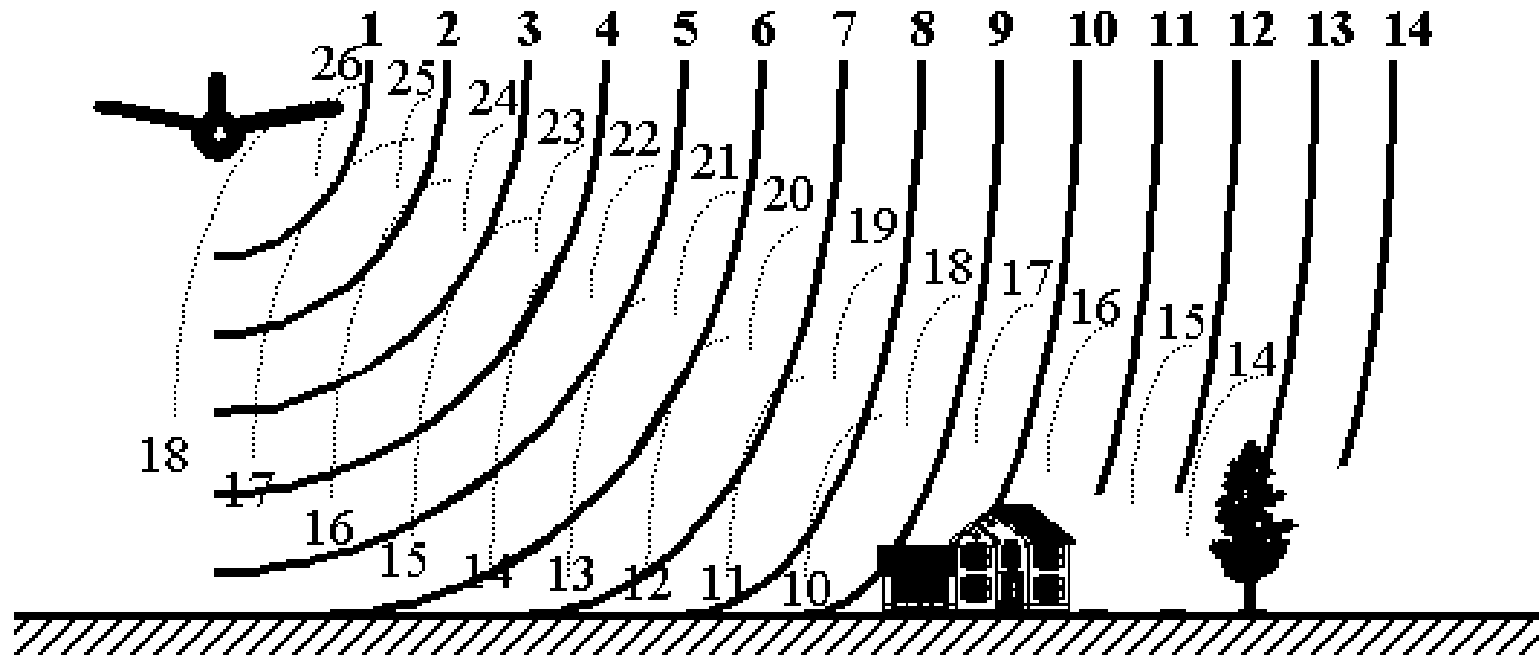


Image Credit: Lillesand and Kiefer, 1994



Radar Geometry

Slant Range Distance

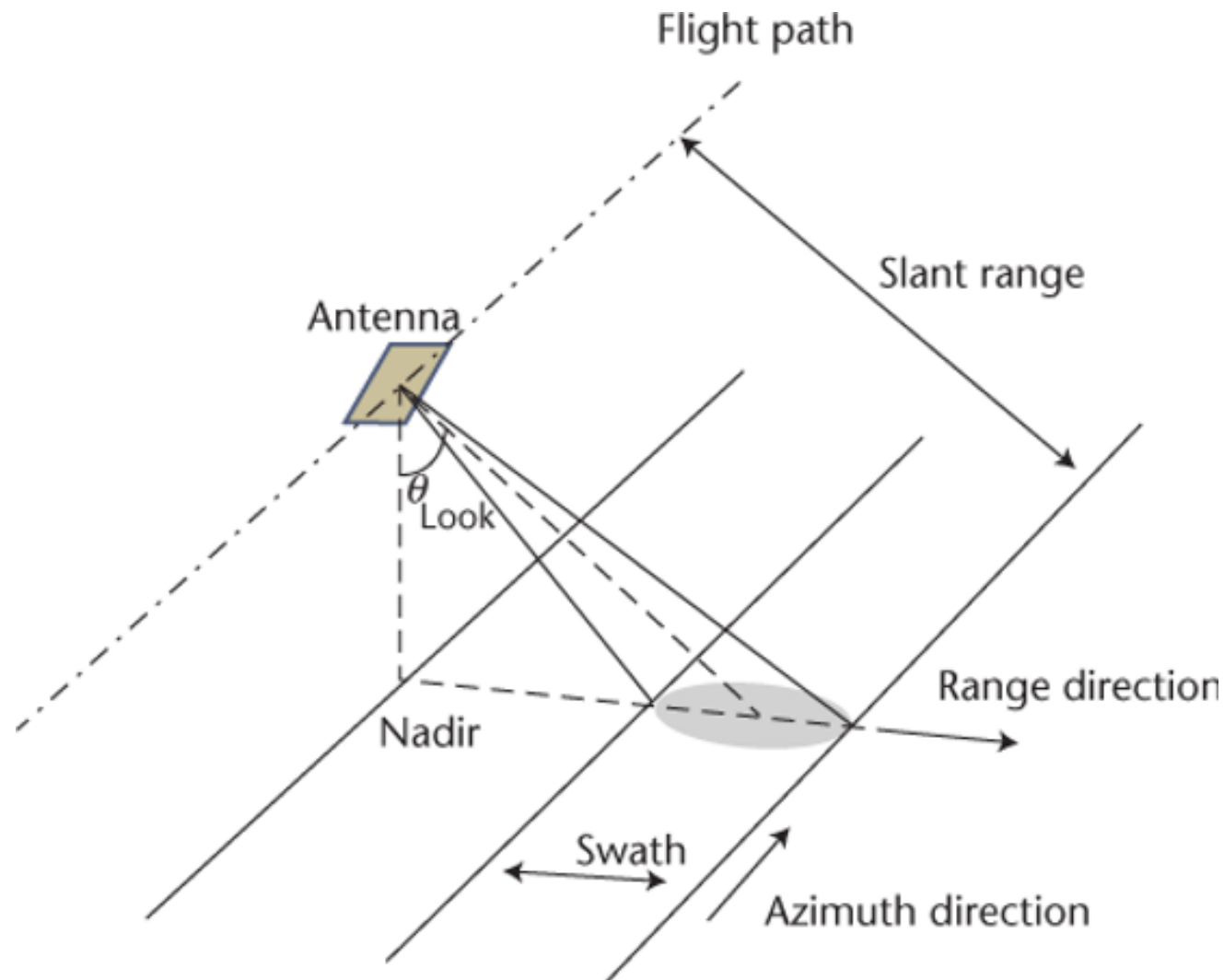
- The direct distance between the sensor and the target

Range Direction (Across Track)

- The direction perpendicular to the motion of the radar sensor

Azimuth Direction (Along Track)

- The direction parallel to the motion of the radar platform as it moves over the target area



Range Resolution

Range Resolution (Across Track)

- **Pulse Length:** The duration of the transmitted pulse.
- **Range resolution** depends on the length of the pulse (shorter pulses results in higher resolutions).
- If pulses are shortened, transmitted amplitude must be increased to maintain same total power in the pulse.
- Use range pulse compression by frequency modulation.

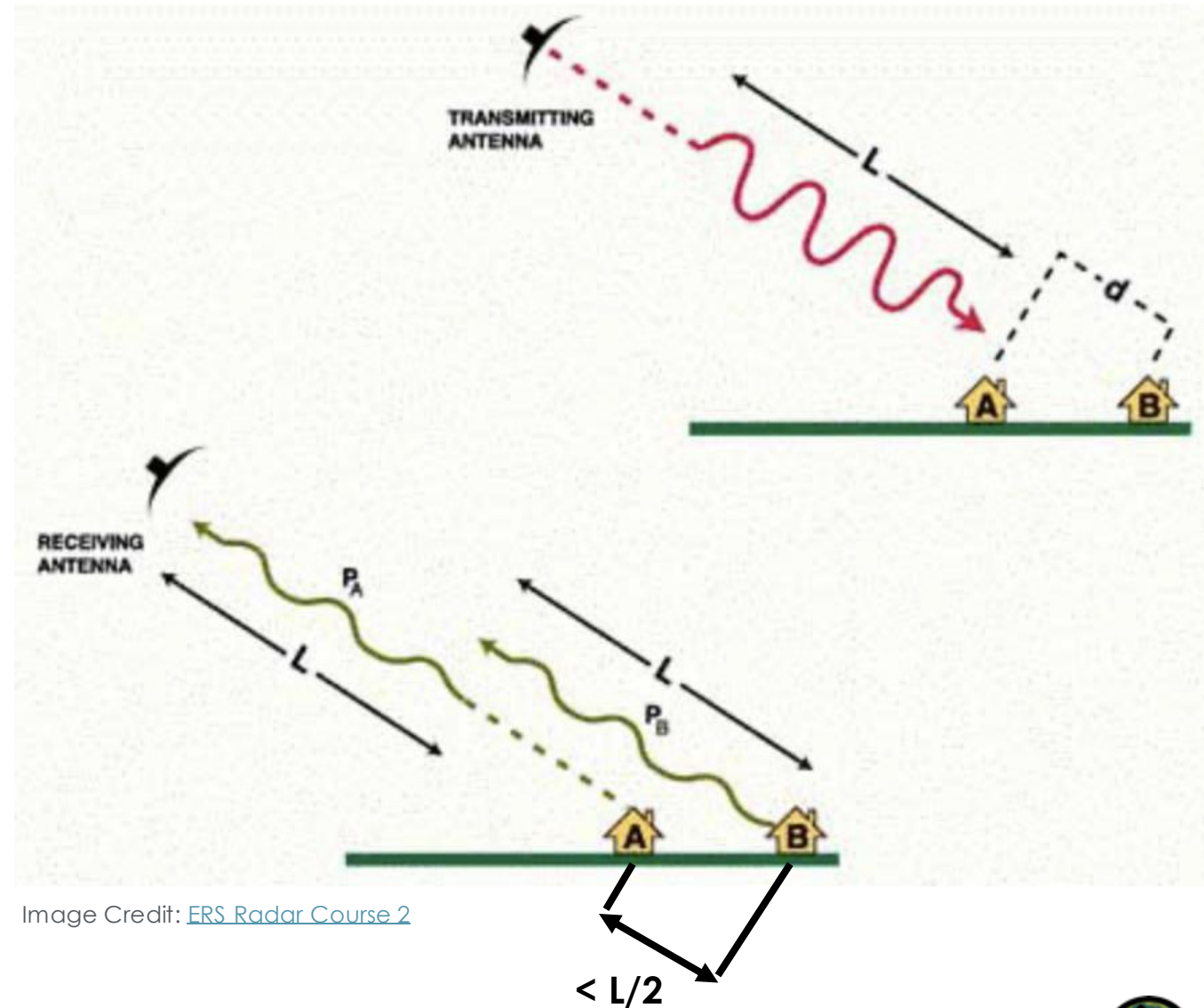


Image Credit: [ERS Radar Course 2](#)



Slant Range Resolution vs. Ground Range Resolution

Ground Range

- Distance between the satellite ground track and the target

Incidence Angle

- Angle between line of sight of the radar and the vertical to the terrain

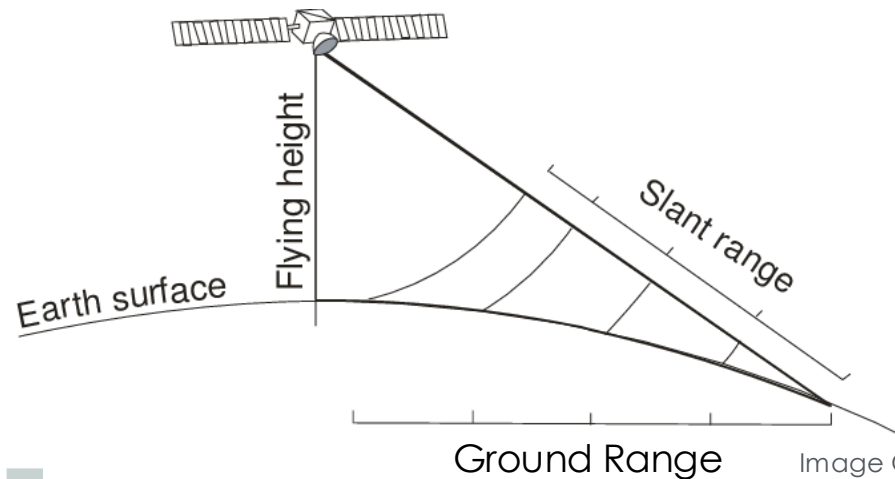
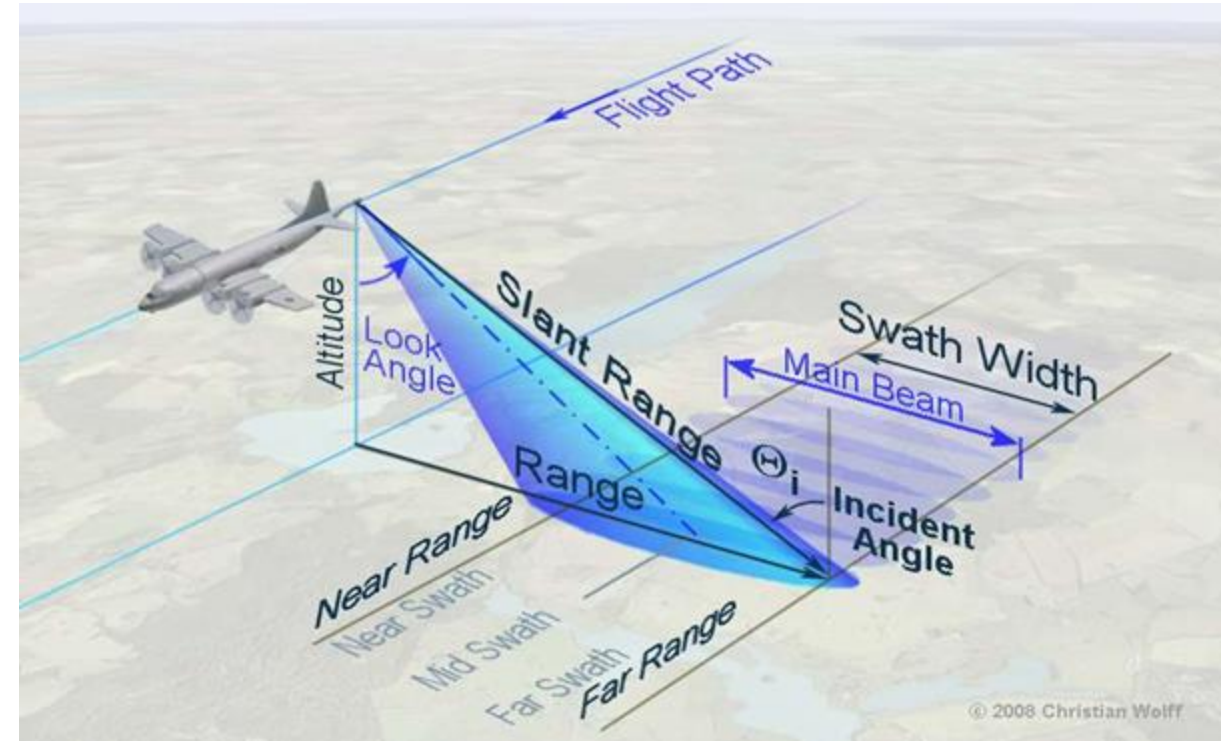


Image Credit: Silva et al., 2006



Azimuth Resolution

Azimuth Resolution (Along Track)

- Resolution of an imaging radar system in the azimuth direction is determined by the angular beamwidth and the slant-range.
- The beamwidth of the antenna is directly proportional to the wavelength of the transmitted pulse and inversely proportional to the length of the antenna (or aperture).

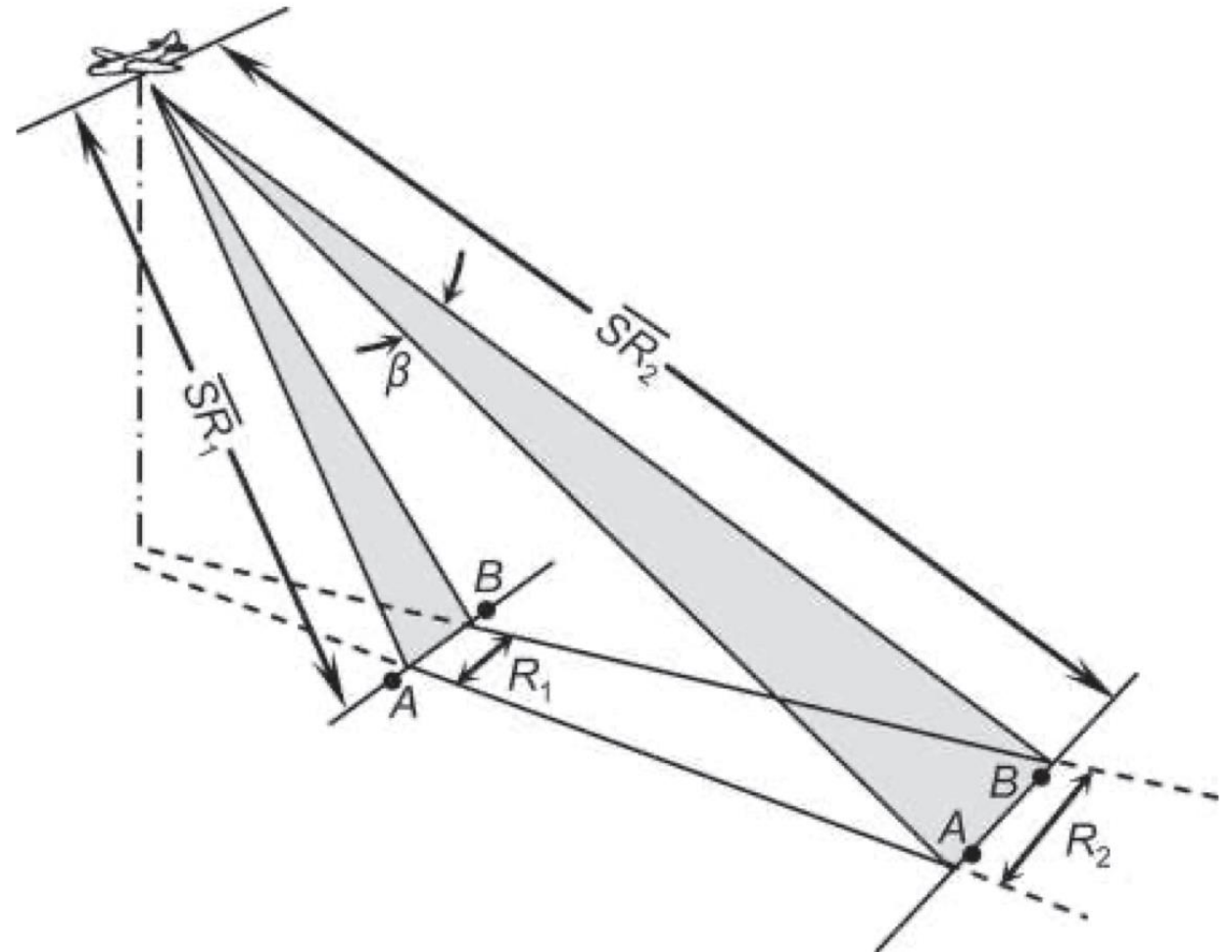


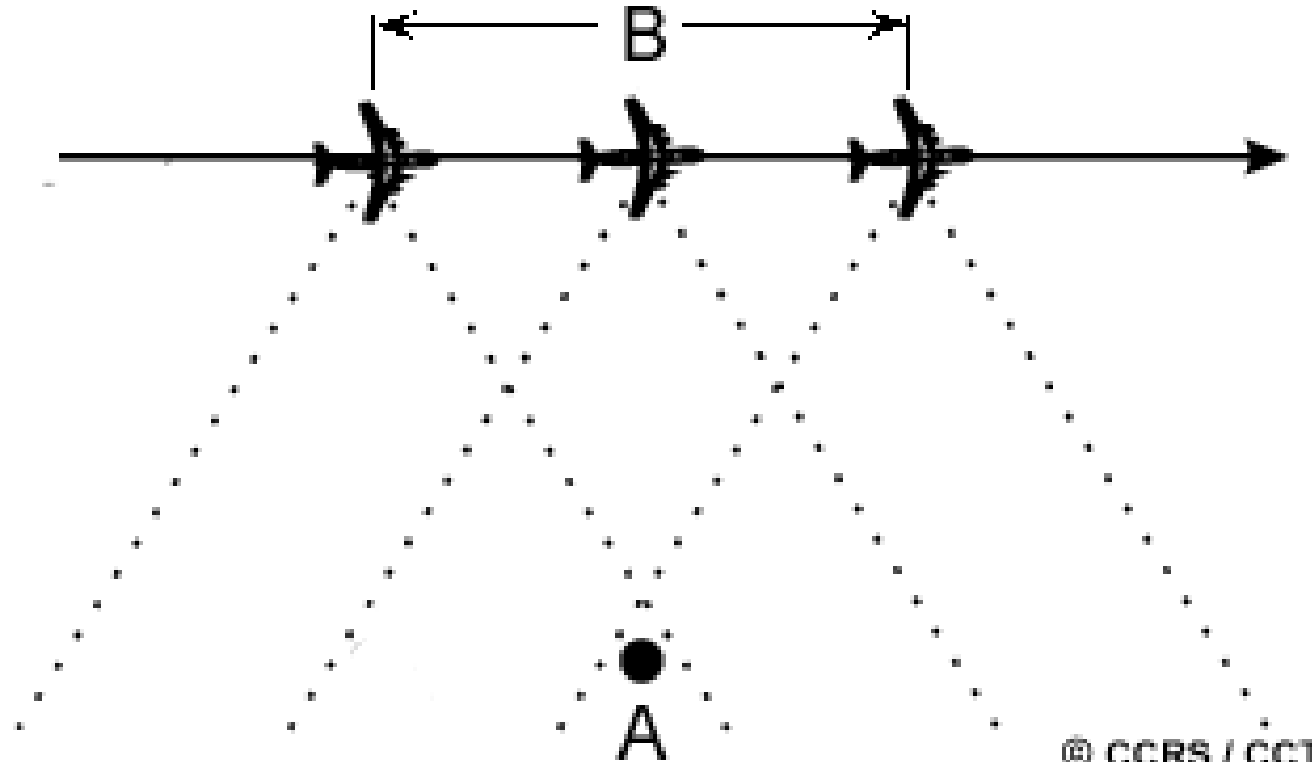
Image Credit: Lillesand and Kiefer, 7th Edition



Synthetic Aperture Radar

Azimuth Resolution (Along Track)

- It is difficult to have long antennas in space, but one can be synthesized by using the movement of the satellite to simulate a very long antenna.



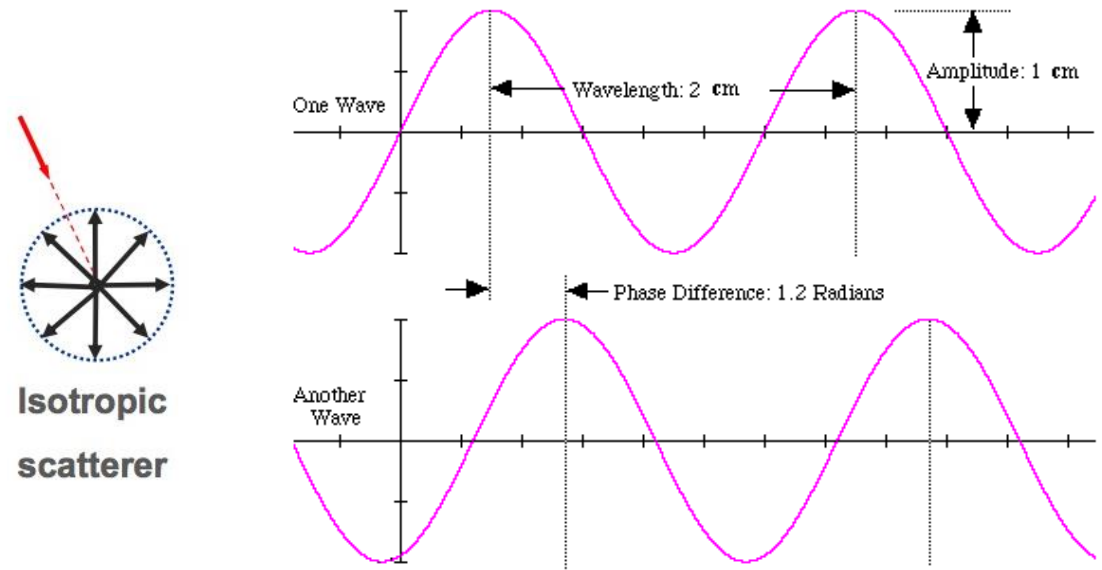
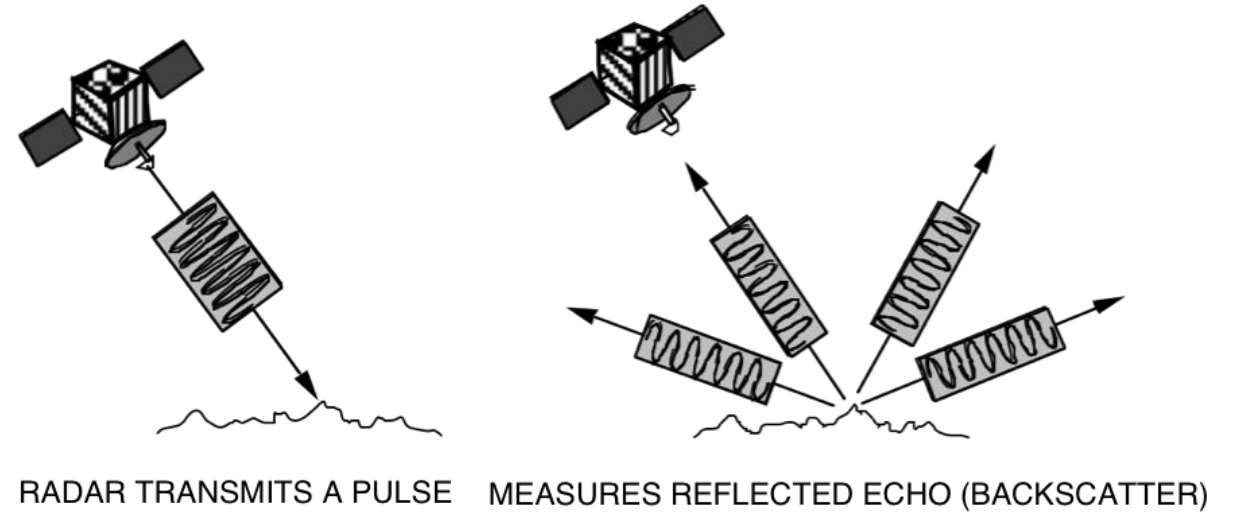
© CCRS / CCT

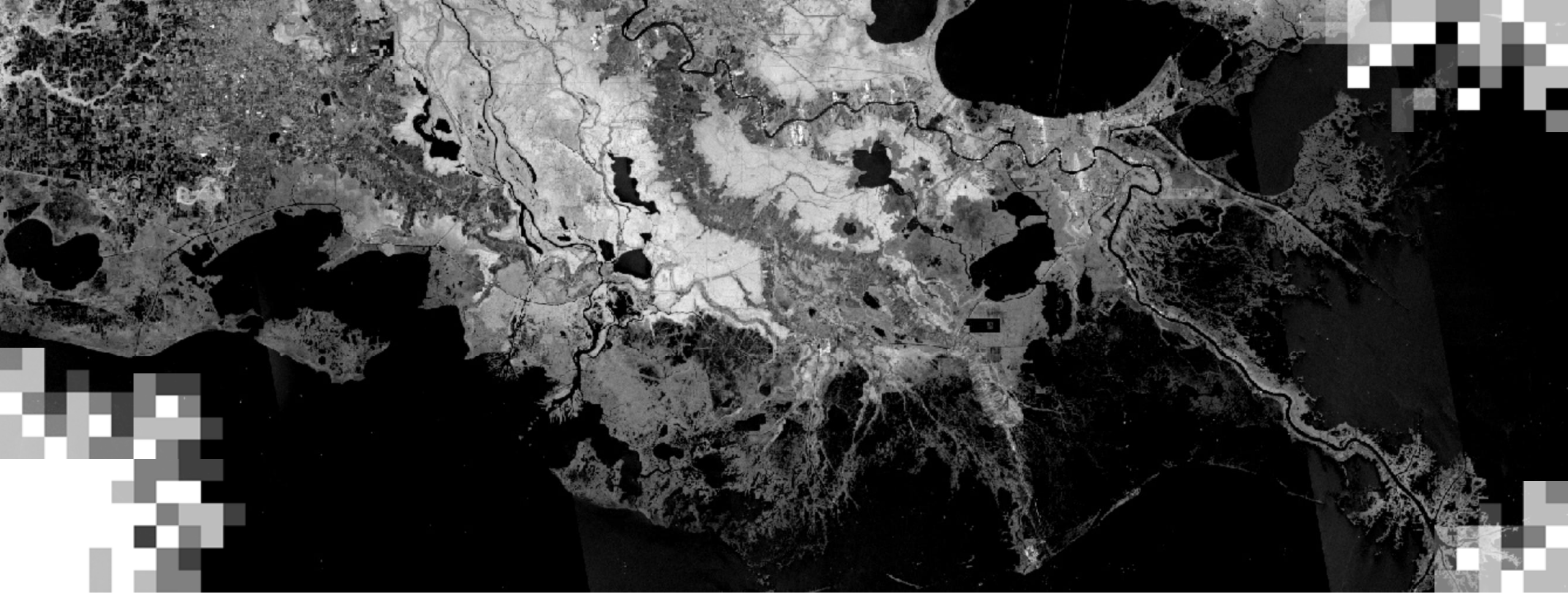
Image Credit: Lillesand and Kiefer, 7th Edition



Review of Radar Image Formation

1. Radar can measure amplitude (the strength of the reflected echo) and phase (the position of a point in time on a waveform cycle).
2. Radar can only measure the part of the echo reflected back towards the antenna (backscatter).
3. Radar pulses travel at the speed of light.
4. The strength of the reflected echo is the backscattering coefficient (sigma naught) and is expressed in decibels (dB).

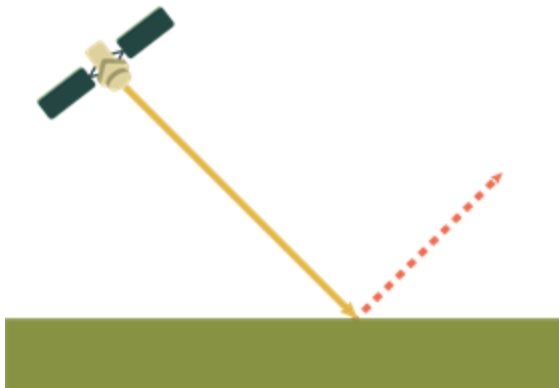




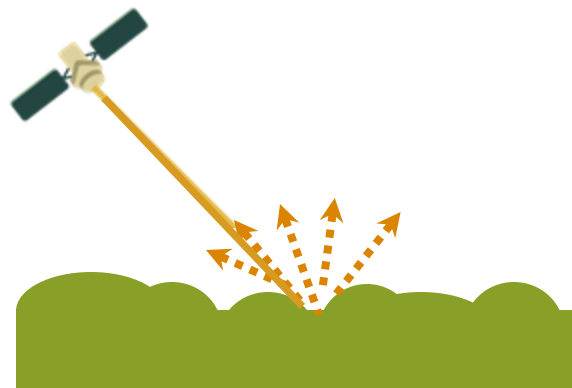
Radar Backscatter Mechanisms

Radar Signal Interaction

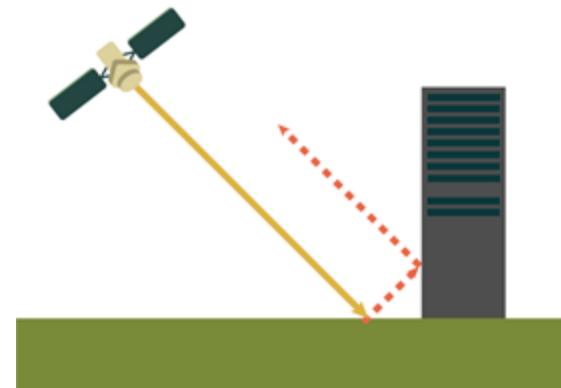
- The scale of the surface relative to the wavelength determines how rough or smooth it appears, as well as how bright or dark it will be in the image.
- Backscattering Mechanisms:



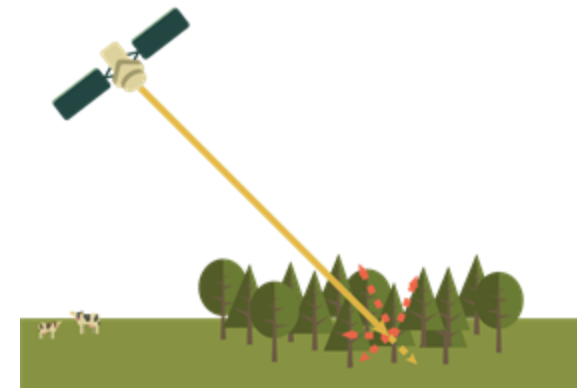
Smooth Surface
(specular Reflector)



Rough Surface



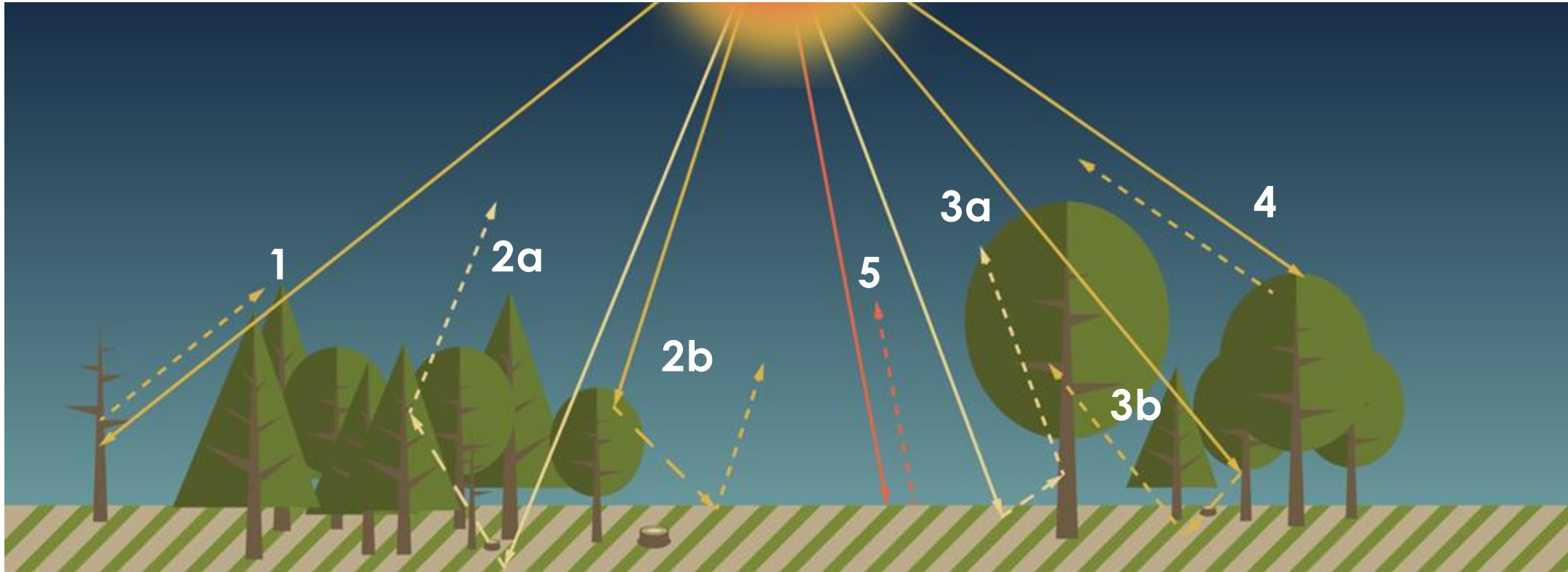
Double Bounce



Volumetric



Volumetric Scattering: Radar Backscatter in Forests



Dominant Backscattering Sources in Forests:

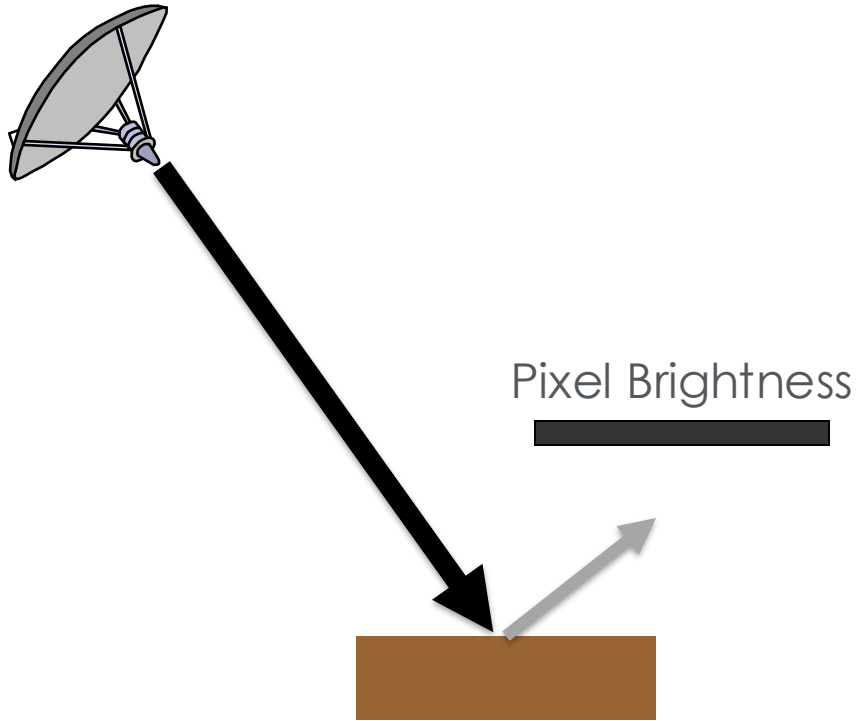
- (1)** Direct Scattering from the Tree Trunks
- (2a)** Ground-Crown Scattering
- (2b)** Crown-Ground Scattering

- (3a)** Ground-Trunk Scattering
- (3b)** Trunk-Ground Scattering
- (4)** Crown Volume Scattering
- (5)** Direct Scattering from the Soil Surface



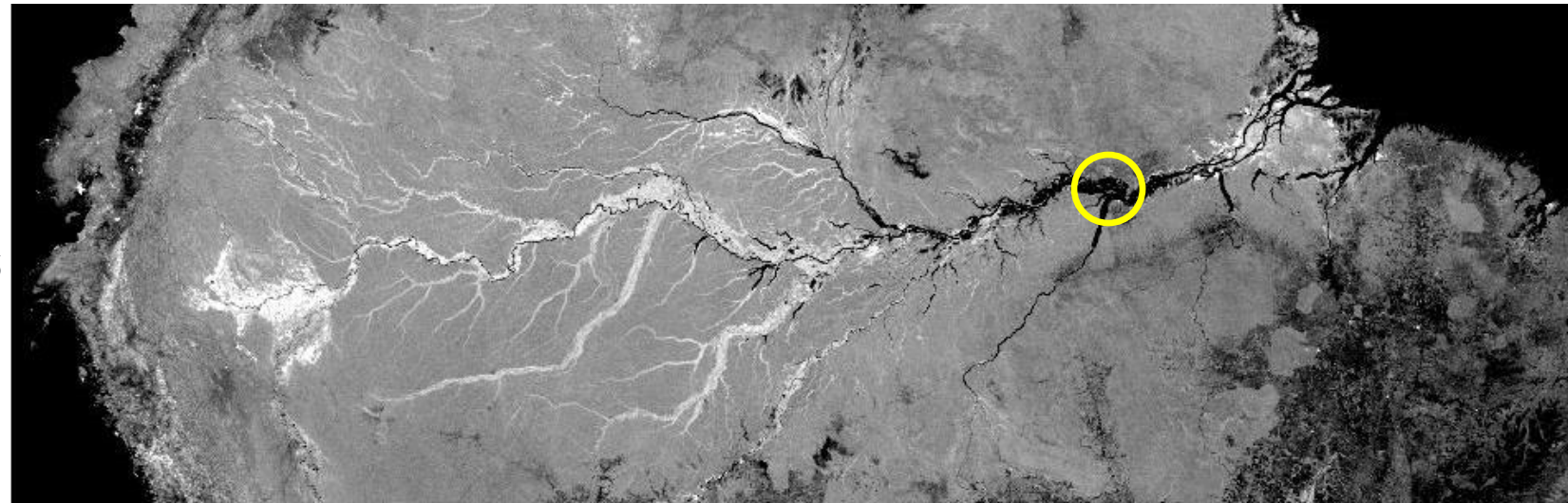
Smooth Surface Reflection

Smooth Surface Reflection (Specular Reflection)

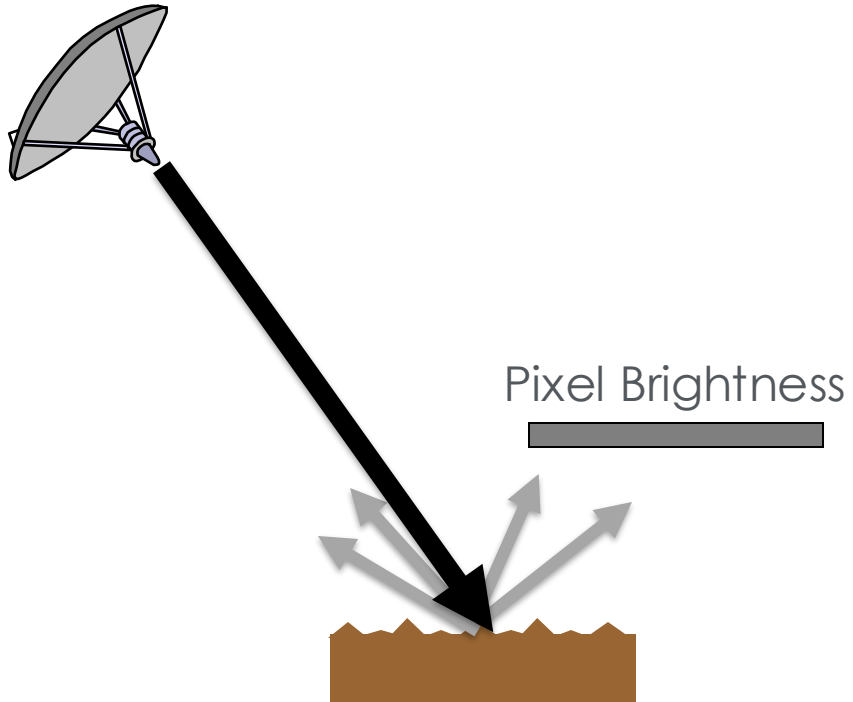


Smooth, Level Surface
(Open Water, Road)

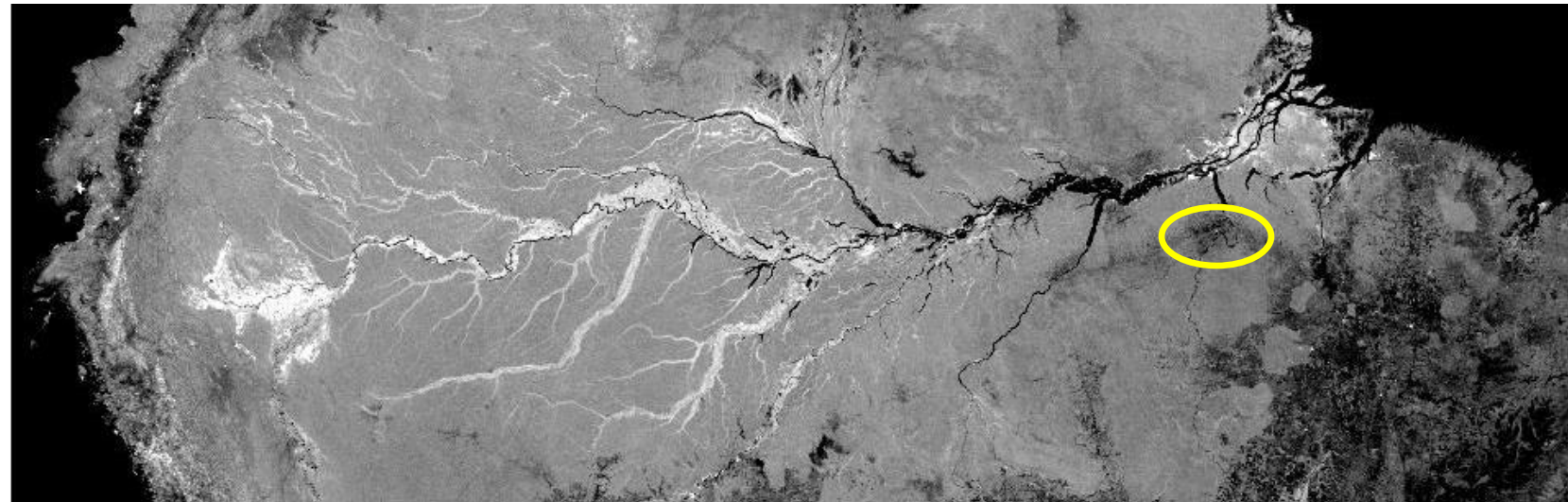
SMAP Radar Mosaic of the Amazon Basin
April 2015 (L-band, HH, 3 km)



Rough Surface Reflection



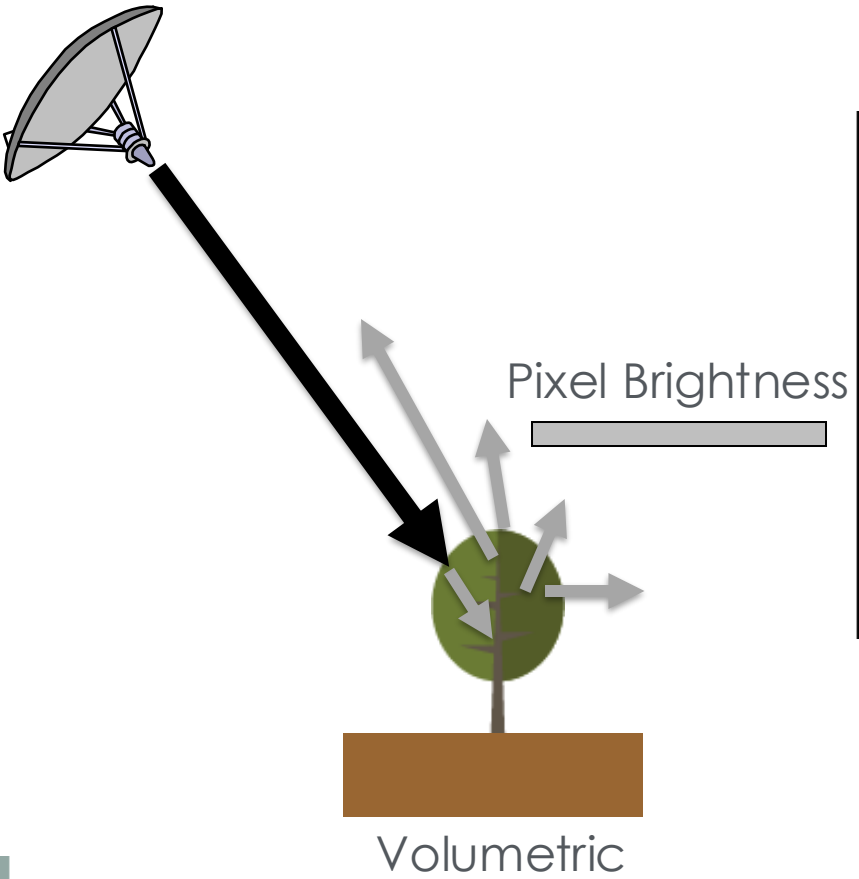
SMAP Radar Mosaic of the Amazon Basin
April 2015 (L-band, HH, 3 km)



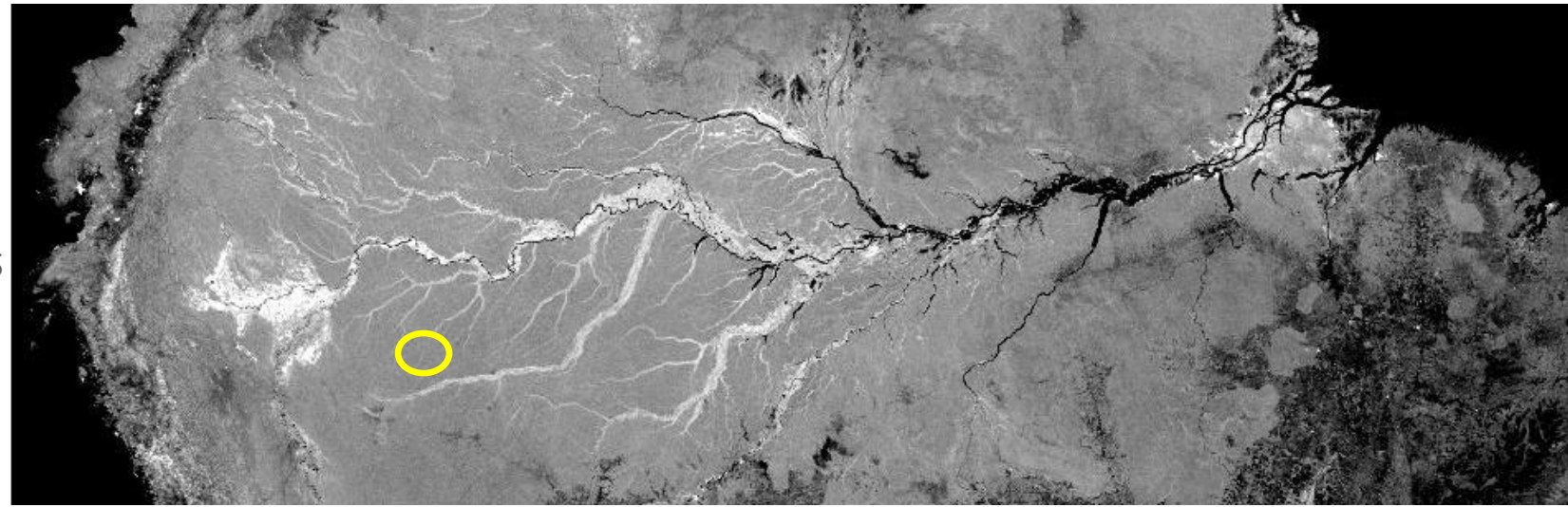
Rough, Bare Surface
(Deforested Areas, Tilled Agricultural Fields)



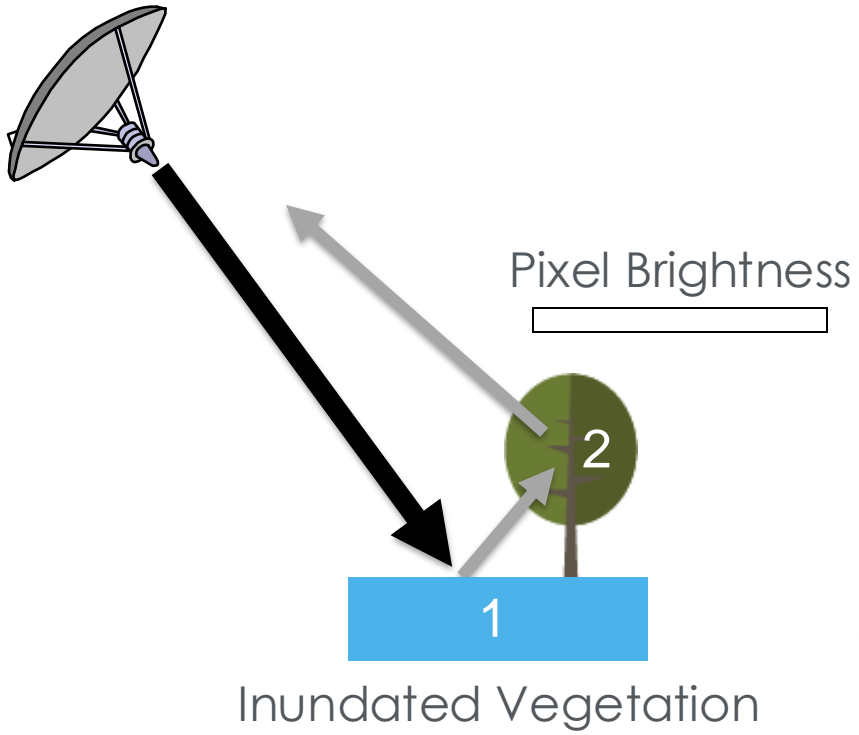
Volume Scattering by Vegetation



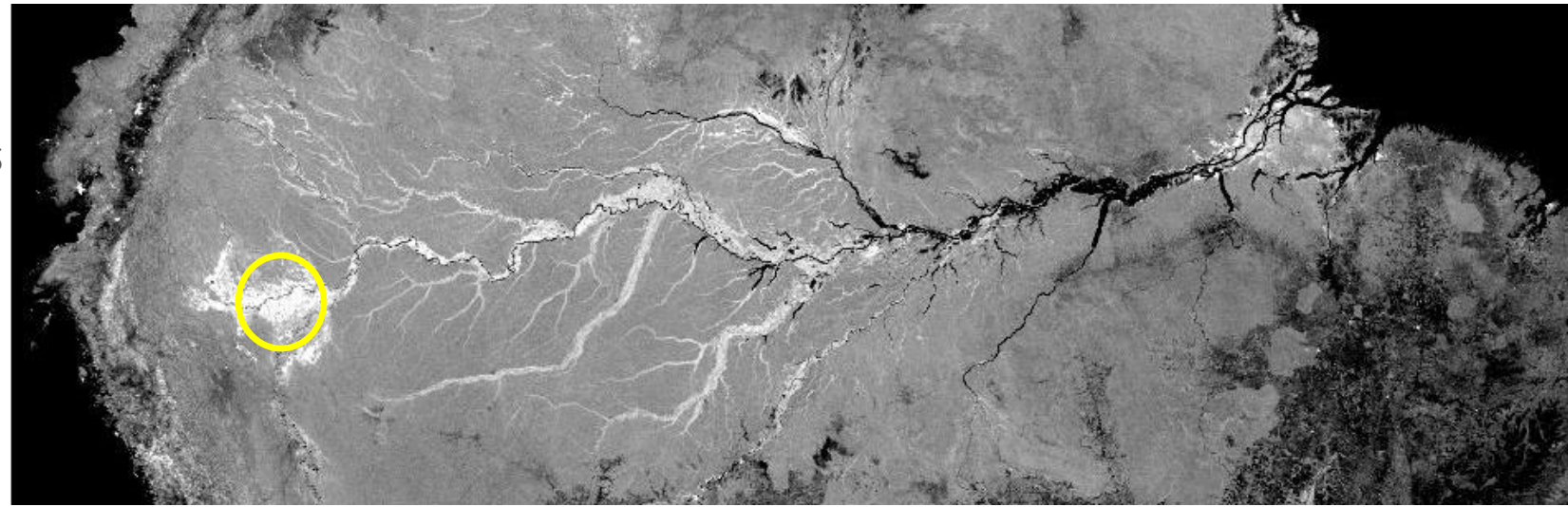
SMAP Radar Mosaic of the Amazon Basin
April 2015 (L-band, HH, 3 km)

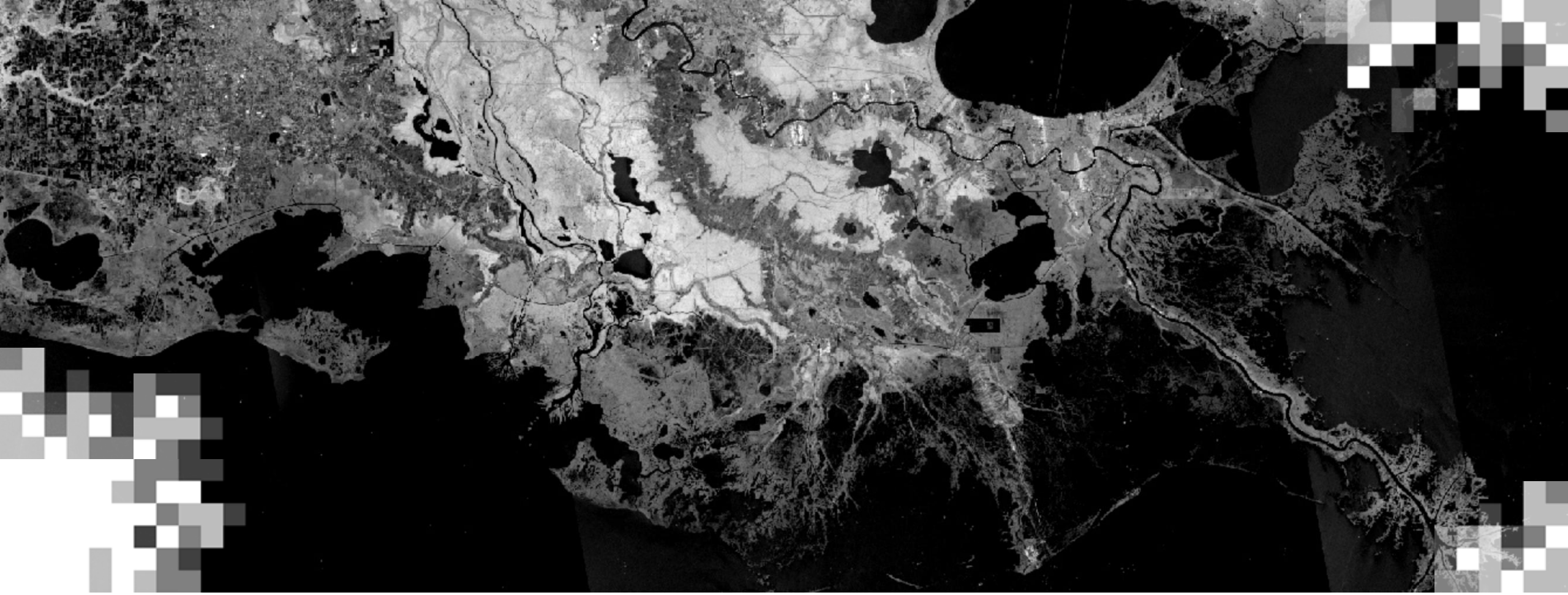


Double Bounce



SMAP Radar Mosaic of the Amazon Basin
April 2015 (L-band, HH, 3 km)





Radar Parameters that Influence the Signal

Radar Parameters to Consider for a Study

- Wavelength
- Polarization
- Incidence Angle



Radar Parameters: Wavelength

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{\nu}$$

c = speed of light (3×10^8 m/s)

λ = wavelength (m)

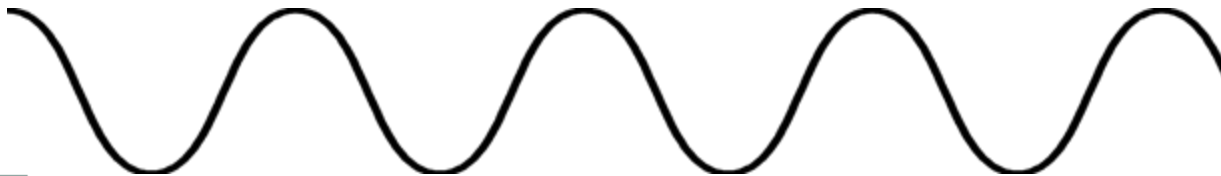
ν = frequency (cycles per second, Hz)

Higher Frequency



Shorter Wavelength

Lower Frequency



Longer Wavelength

Band Designation*	Wavelength (λ), cm	Frequency (ν), GHz (10^9 cycles \cdot sec $^{-1}$)
Ka (0.86 cm)	0.8 – 1.1	40.0 – 26.5
K	1.1 – 1.7	26.5 – 18.0
Ku	1.7 – 2.4	18.0 – 12.5
X (3.0 cm, 3.2 cm)	2.4 – 3.8	12.5 – 8.0
C (6.0)	3.8 – 7.5	8.0 – 4.0
S	7.5 – 15.0	4.0 – 2.0
L (23.5 cm, 25 cm)	15.0 – 30.0	2.0 – 1.0
P (68 cm)	30.0 – 100.0	1.0 – 0.3

* Wavelengths most frequently used in SAR are in parentheses.



Signal Penetration as a Function of Wavelength

- Signal penetration is the **primary factor** in wavelength selection.
- Generally, the longer the wavelength, the greater the penetration into the target.




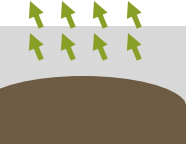
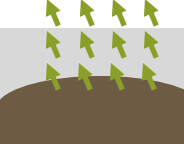
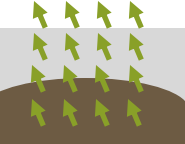
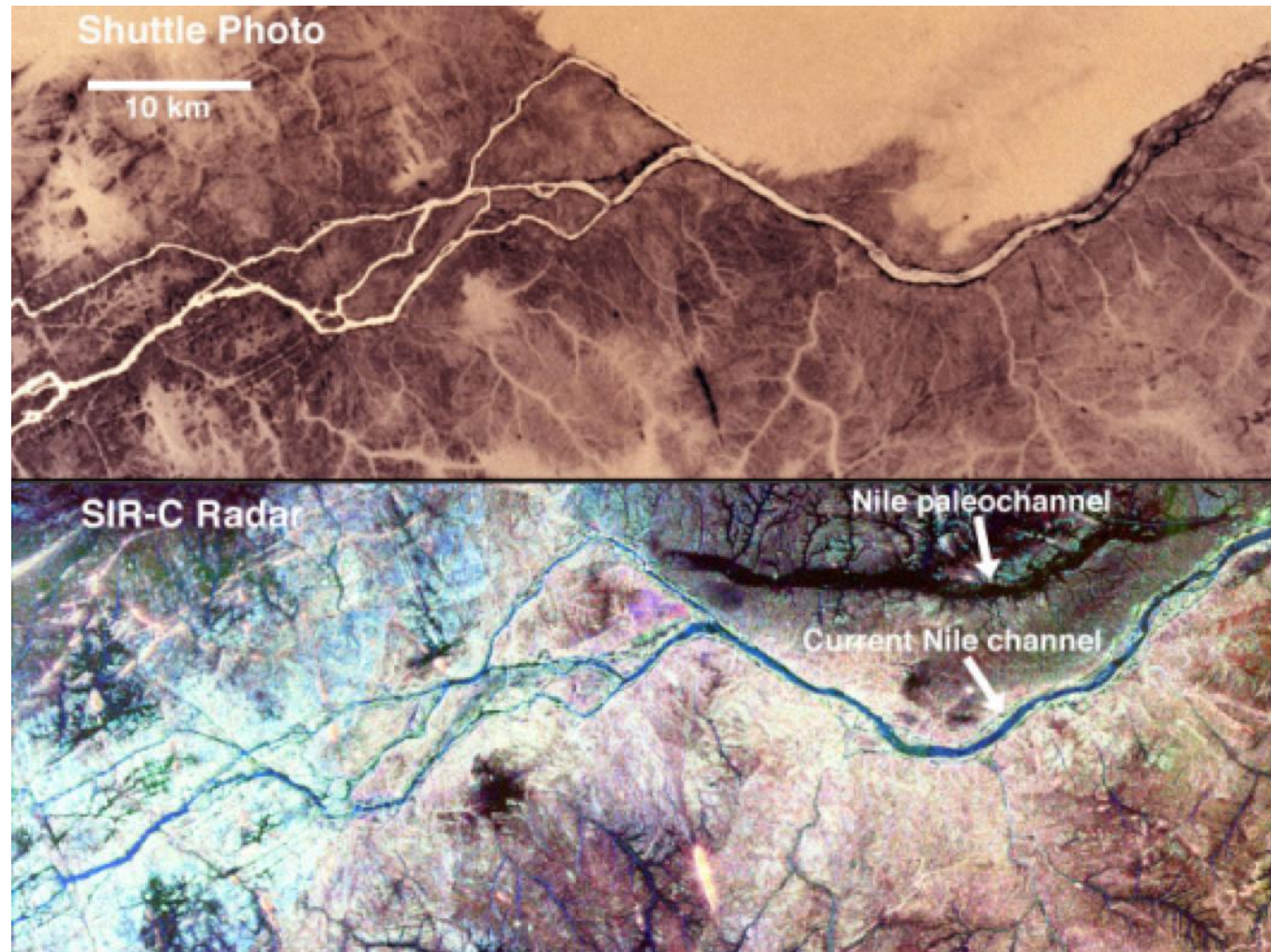
Vegetation			
Dry Alluvium			
	X-band 3 cm	C-band 5 cm	L-band 23 cm

Image Based On ESA [Radar Course 2](#)

Frequency Band	Application Example
VHF	foliage & ground penetration, biomass
Frequency Band	Application Example
VHF	foliage & ground penetration, biomass
P-Band	biomass, soil moisture, penetration
L-Band	agriculture, forestry, soil moisture
C-Band	ocean, agriculture
X-band	agriculture, ocean, high resolution radar
Ku-Band	glaciology (snow cover mapping)
Ka-Band	high resolution radar



Example: Signal Penetration into Dry Soils



Example: Signal Penetration into Vegetation

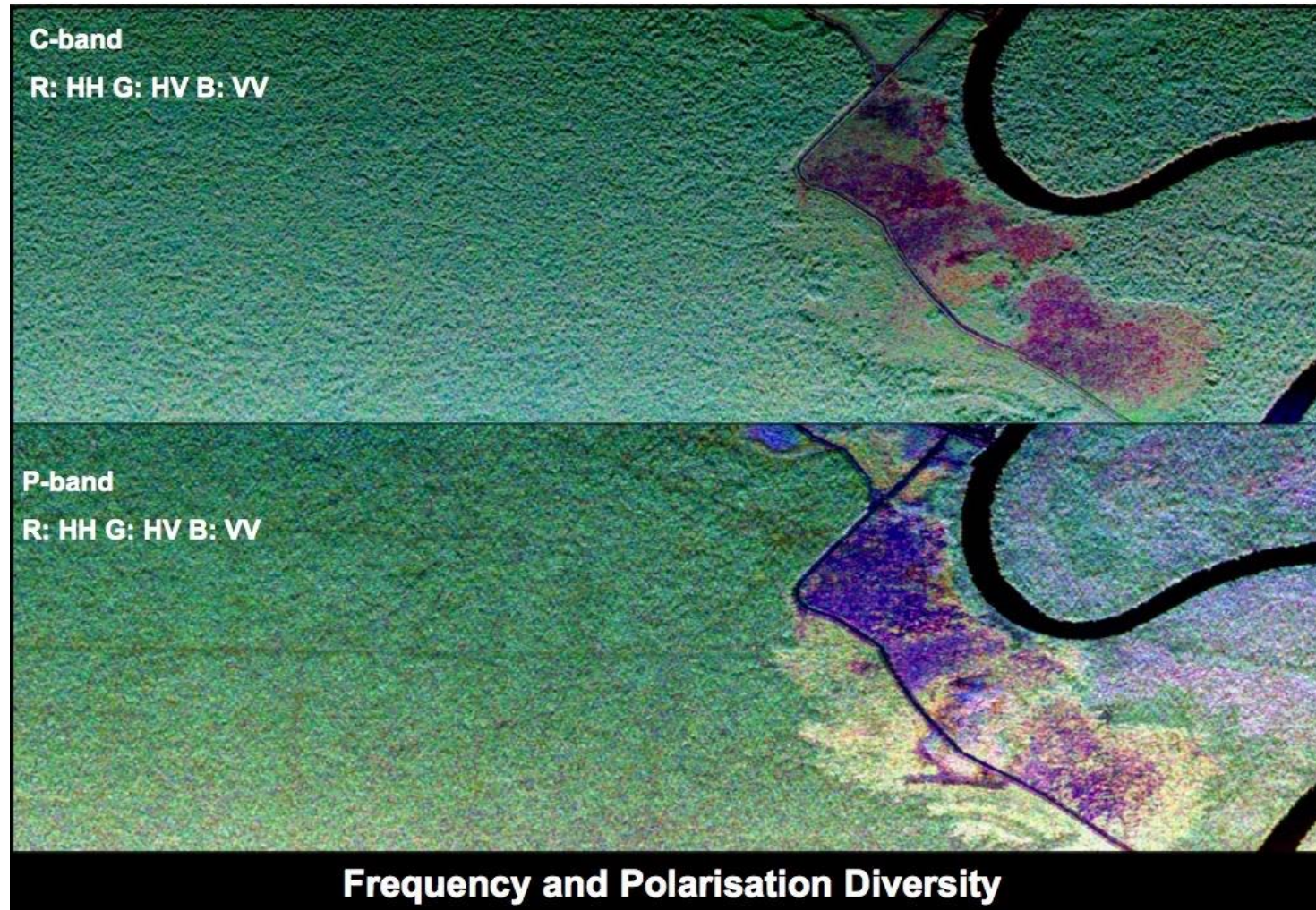


Image Credit: A Moreira (ESA)



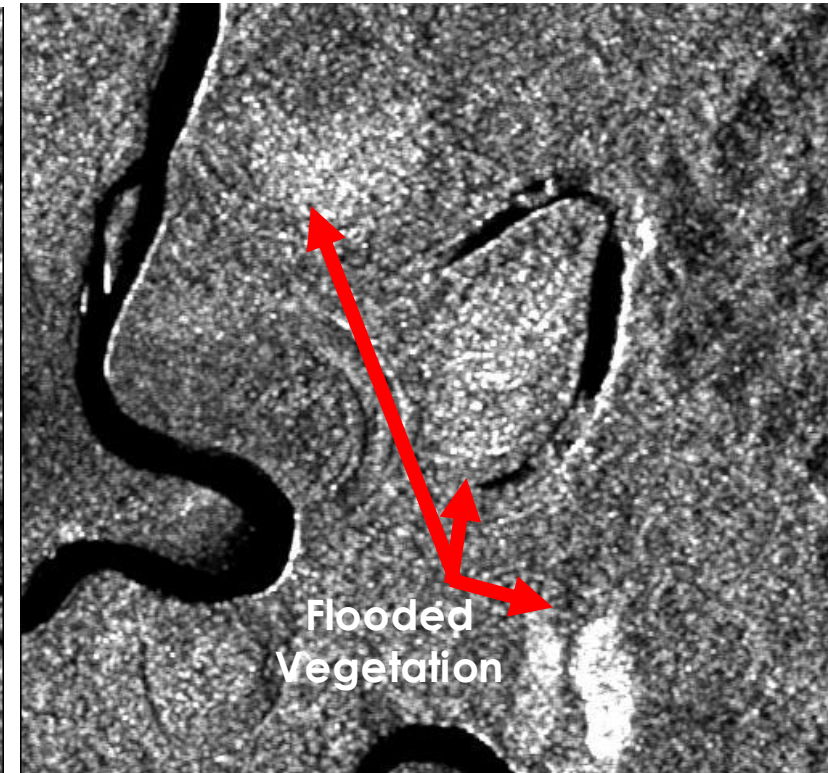
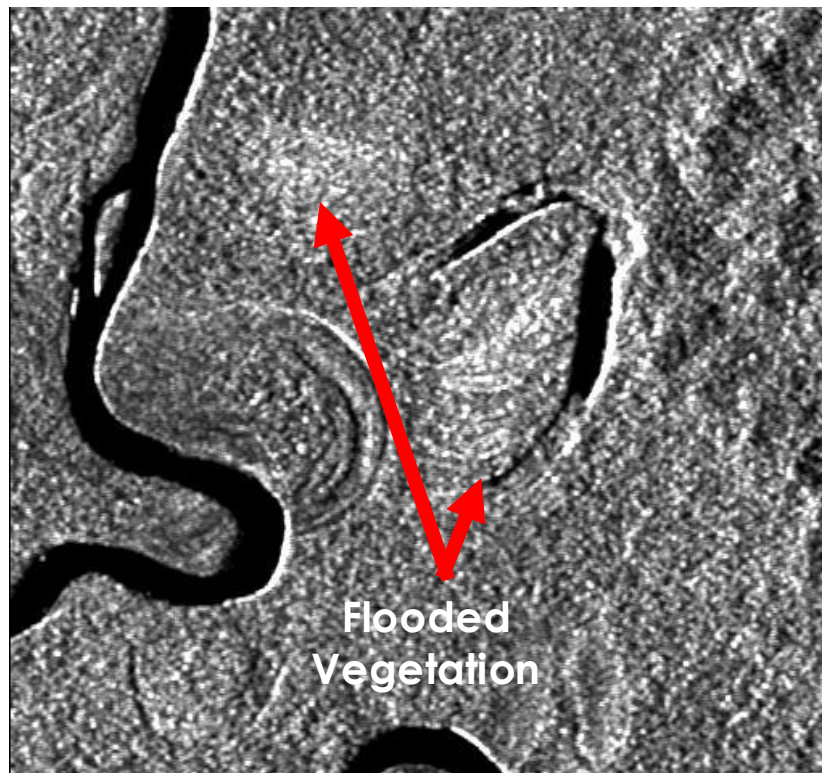
Example: Signal Penetration into Inundated Vegetation

Multi-frequency AIRSAR Data in Manu National Park, Peru

C-Band

L-Band

P-Band



Radar Parameter: Polarization

- **Polarization:** The orientation of the electric field of the electromagnetic wave.
- The polarizations are usually controlled between **H** and **V**:
 - HH: Horizontal Transmit, Horizontal Receive
 - VV: Vertical Transmit, Vertical Receive
 - HV: Horizontal Transmit, Vertical Receive
 - VH: Vertical Transmit, Horizontal Receive
- **Quad-Pol Mode:** When all four polarizations are measured.
- Different polarizations can determine physical properties of the object observed.

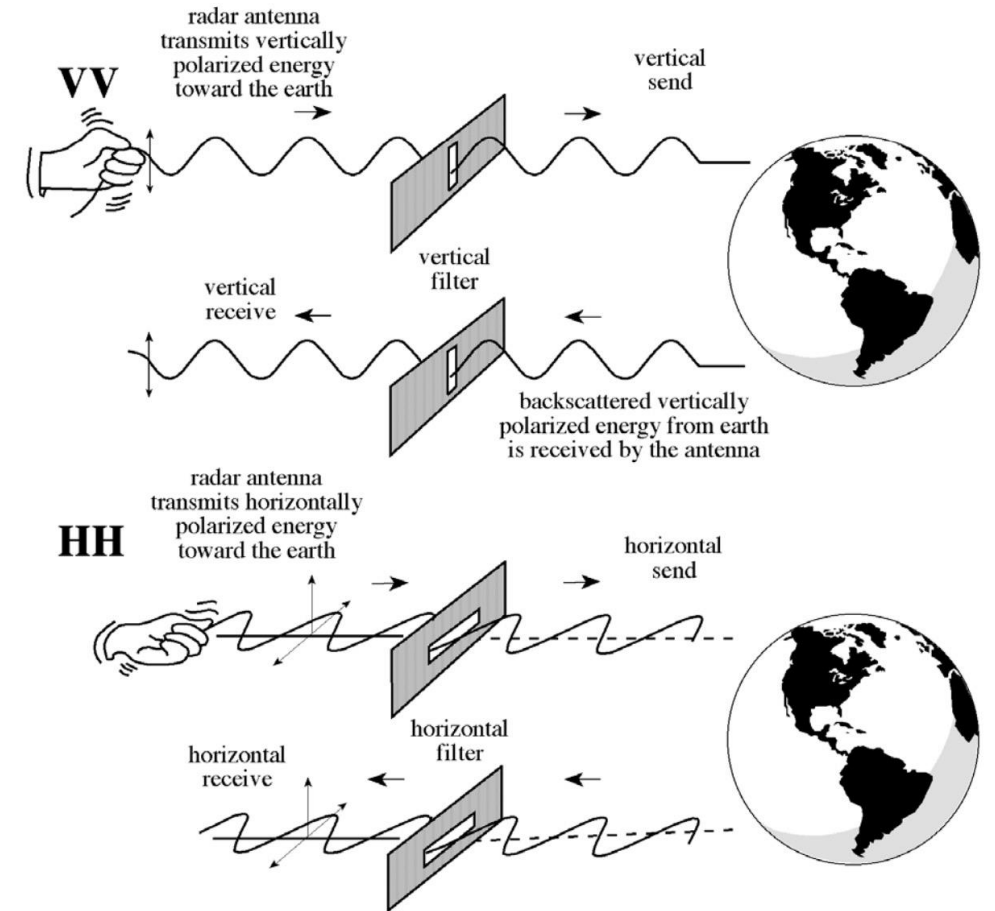


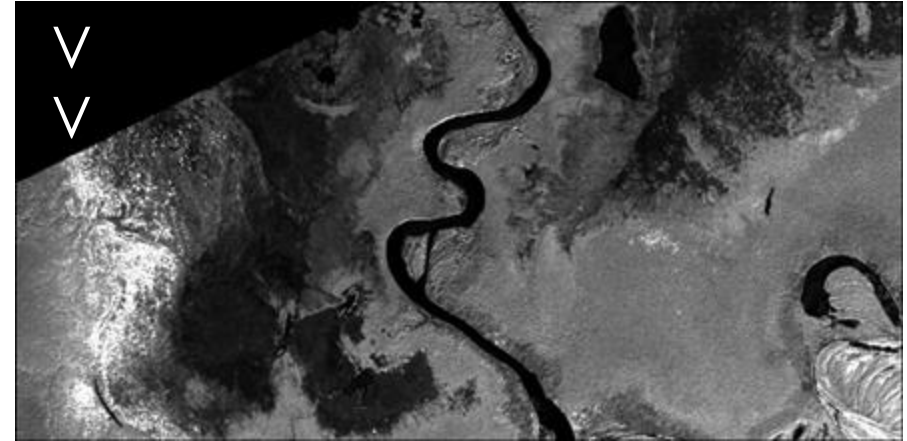
Image Credit: J.R. Jensen, 2000. Remote Sensing of the Environment



Example of Multiple Polarizations for Vegetation Studies

Pacaya-Samiria Forest Reserve in Peru

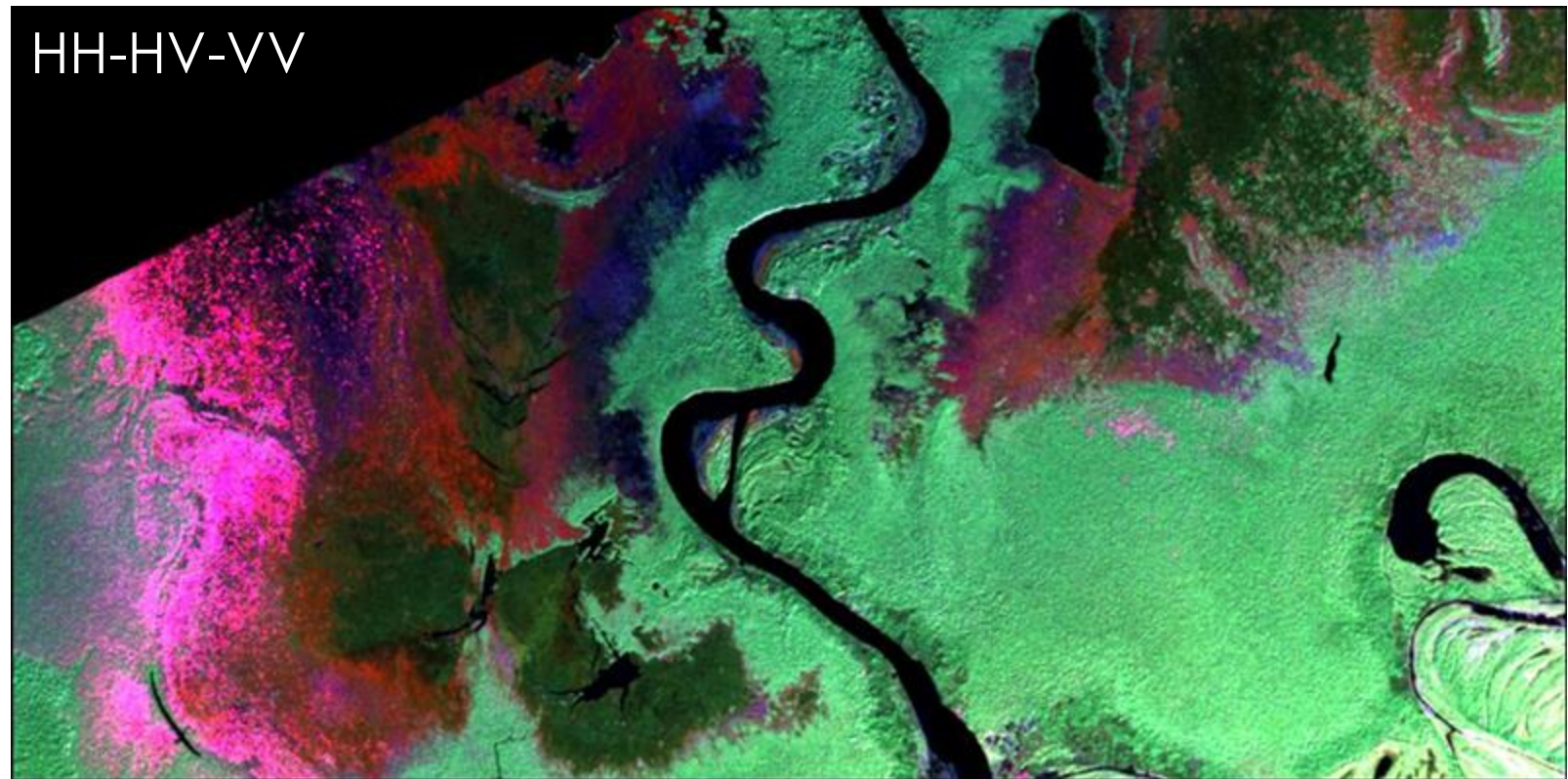
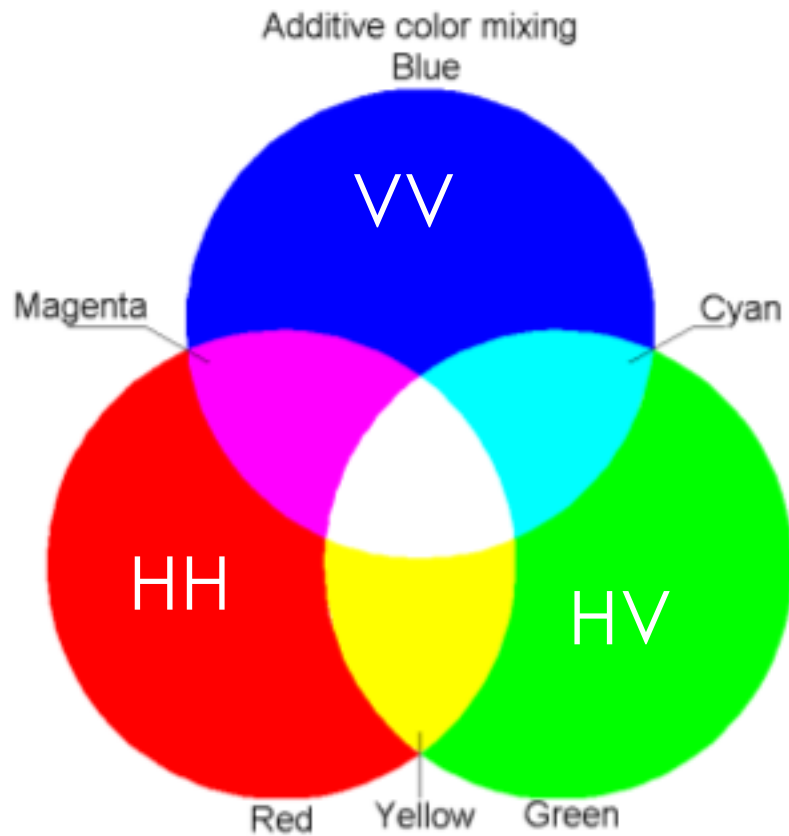
Images from UAVSAR (HH, HV, VV)



Visualization of Multiple Polarizations for Vegetation Studies

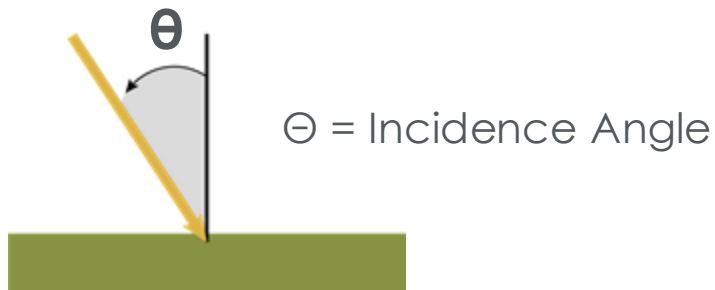
Pacaya-Samiria Forest Reserve in Peru

Images from UAVSAR (HH, HV, VV)



Radar Parameter: Incidence Angle

- The angle between the direction of illumination of the radar and the Earth's surface plane.
- Is dependent on the height of the sensor.
- Influences image brightness.
- This is why the geometry of an image is different from point to point in the range direction.



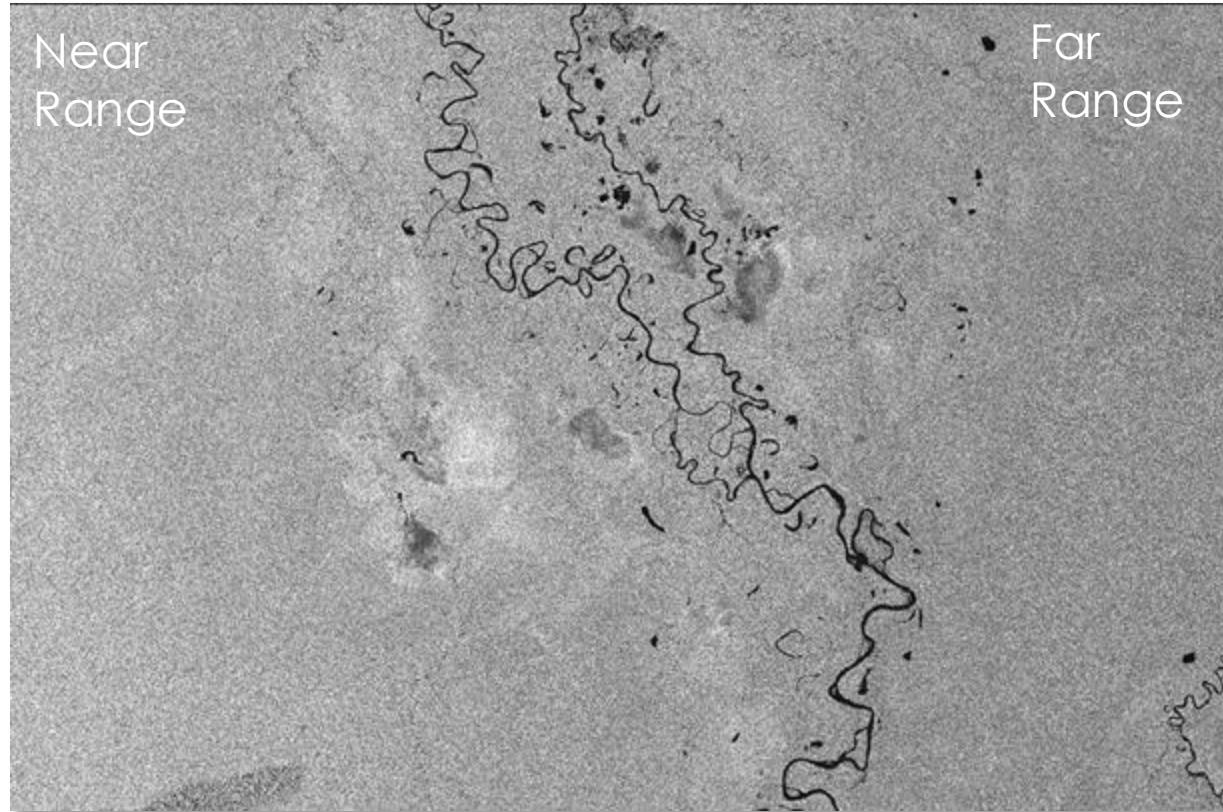
1 cm Wavelength



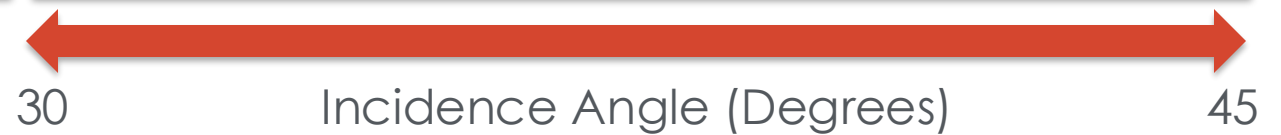
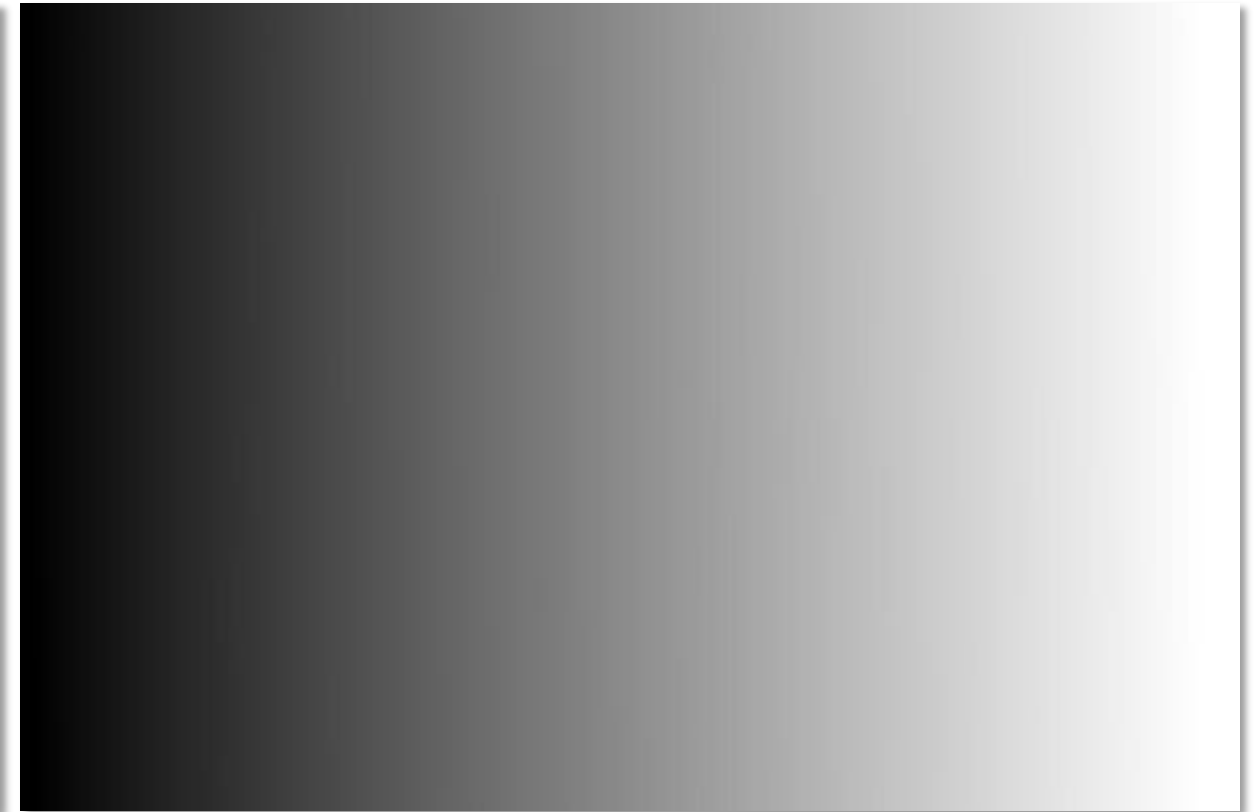
Image Credit: Ulaby et al. (1981a) and ESA

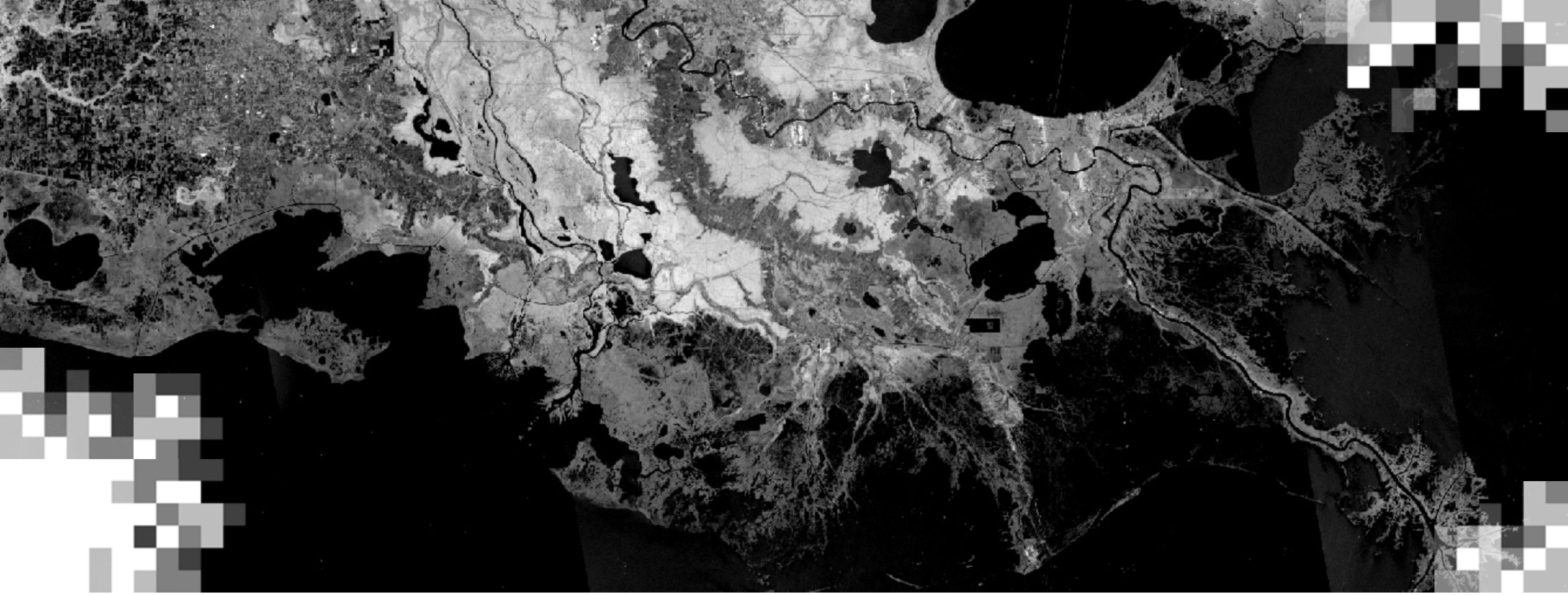


Effect of Incidence Angle Variation



Sentinel-1





Surface Parameters that Influence the Signal

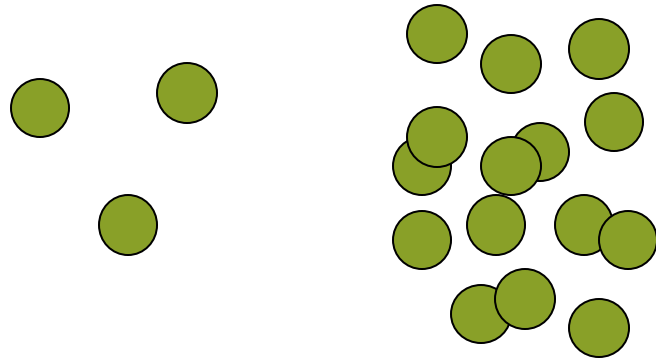
Radar Backscatter

- The radar backscatter contains information about the Earth's surface, which drives the reflection of the radar signal.
- This reflection is driven by:
 - The Frequency or Wavelength: Radar Parameter
 - Polarization: Radar Parameter
 - Incidence Angle: Radar Parameter
 - **Structure (Surface Roughness Relative to the Wavelength):** Surface Parameter
 - **Moisture (Dielectric Constant):** Surface Parameter

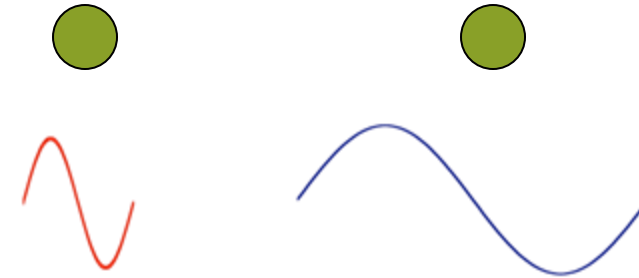


Structure: Density, Size, and Orientation

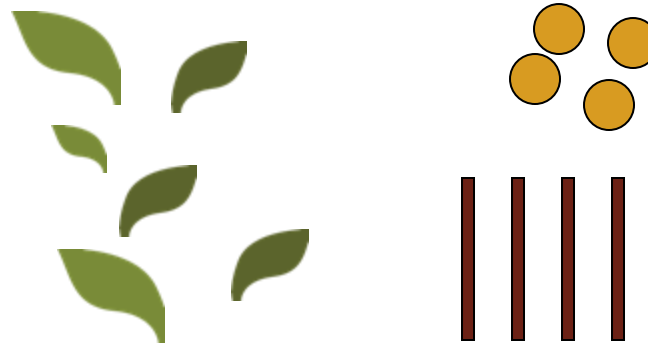
Density



Size Relative to Wavelength



Size & Orientation



Size Relative to Wavelength



Austrian pine



X band
 $\lambda = 3 \text{ cm}$



L band
 $\lambda = 27 \text{ cm}$



P band
 $\lambda = 70 \text{ cm}$

Image Credit: Thuy le Toan

NASA ARSET – An Introduction to SAR and Its Applications



Size and Orientation

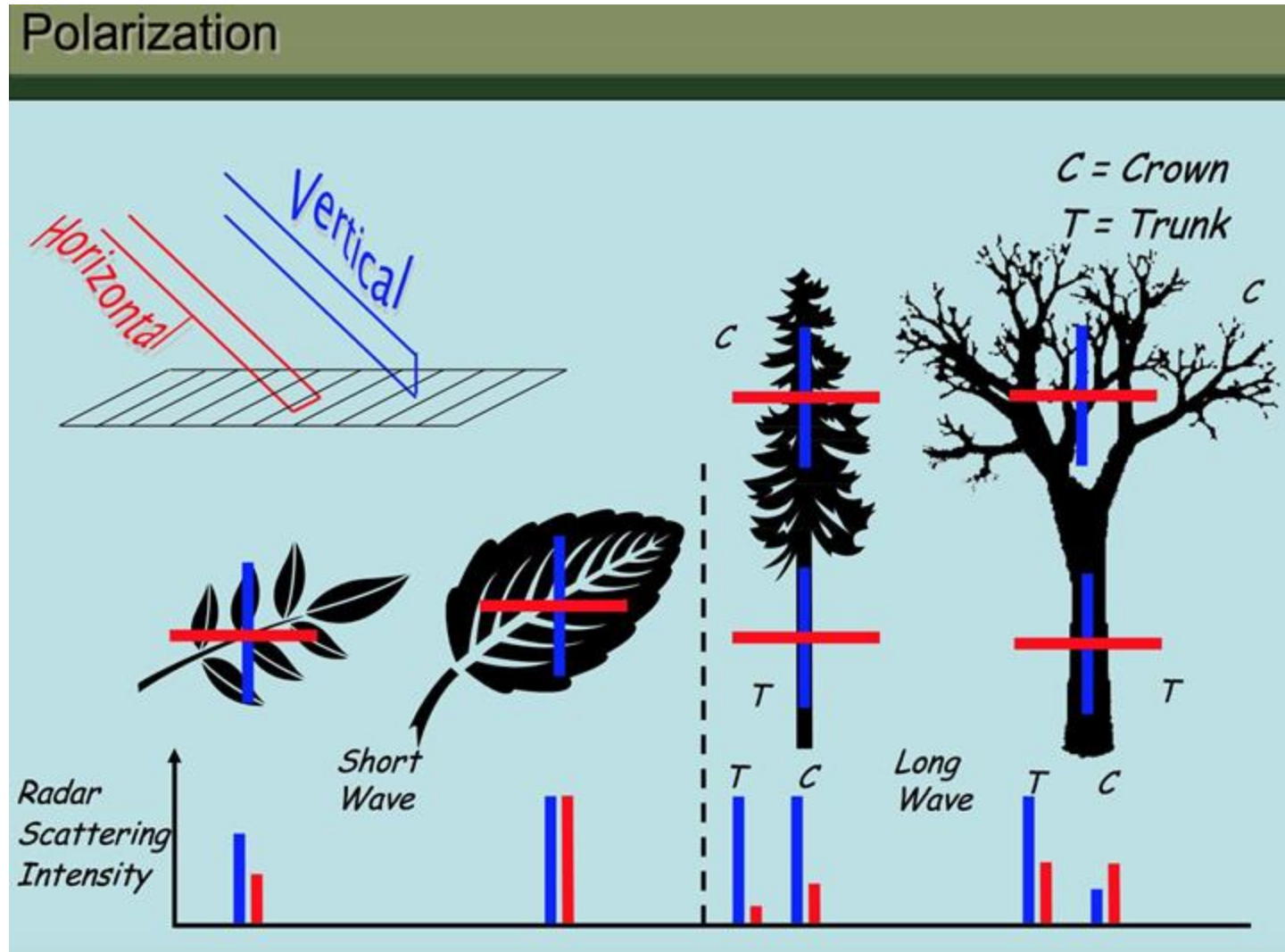


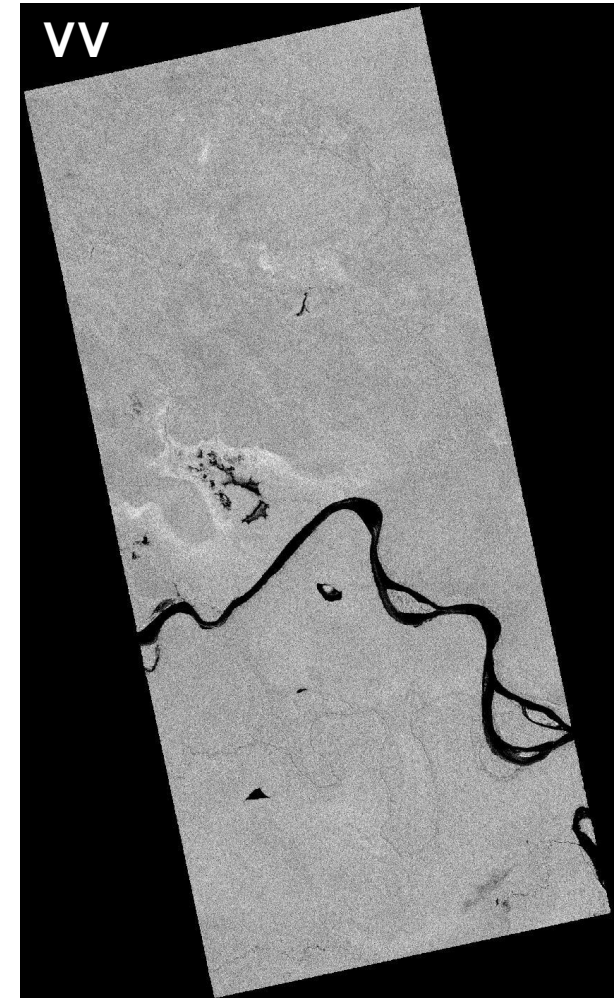
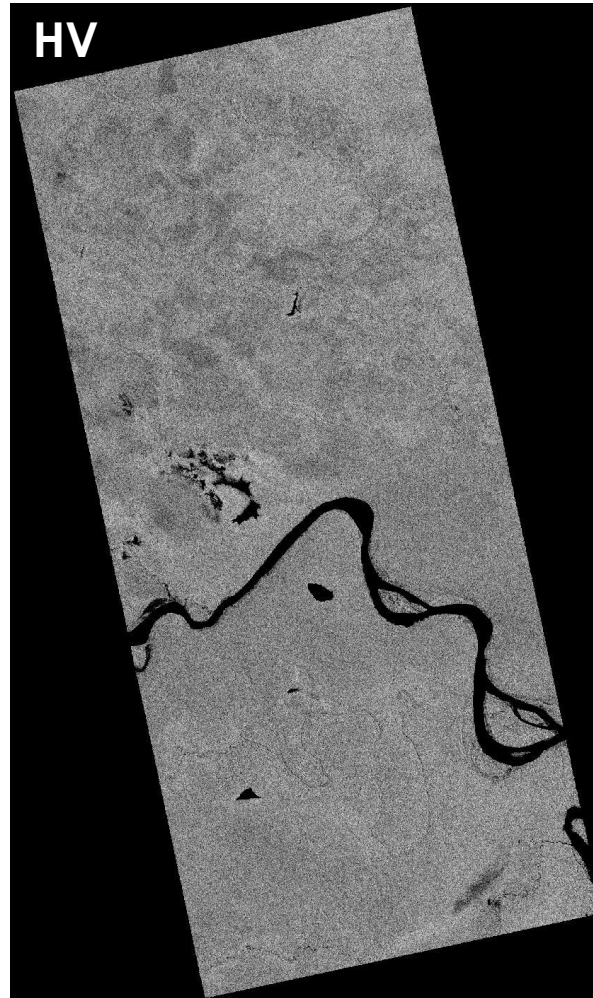
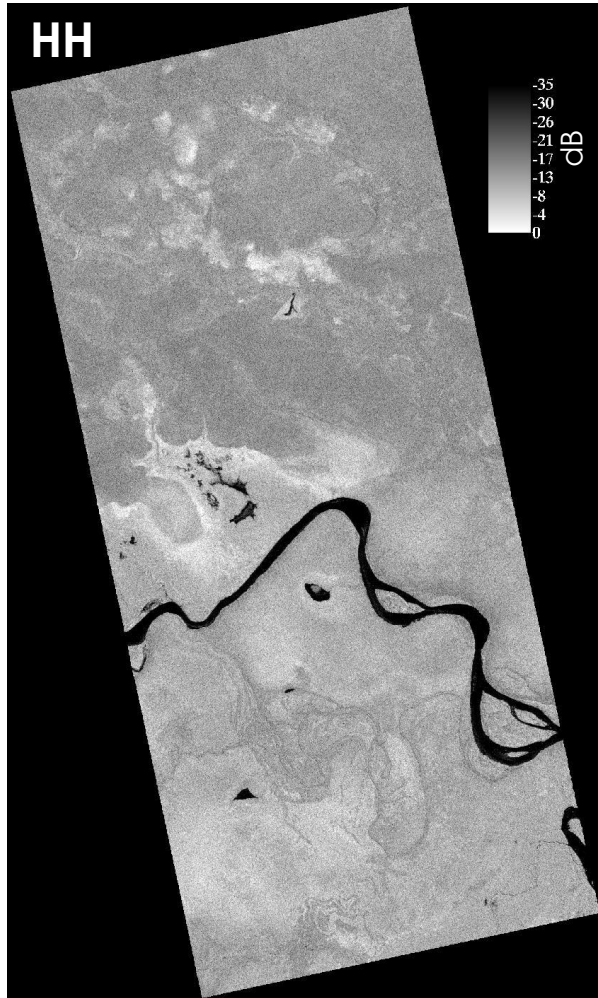
Image Credit: Walker, W. *Introduction to Radar Remote Sensing for Vegetation Mapping and Monitoring*

NASA ARSET – An Introduction to SAR and Its Applications



Orientation and Signal Penetration

Images from Palsar (L-band) over Pacaya-Samiria in Peru



Density

- Saturation Problem
- Data/Instrument
 - NASA/JPL Polarimetric AIRSAR Operating at C-, L-, and P-band
 - Incidence Angle: 40°-50 °
- C-band \approx 20 tons/ha (2 kg/m²)
- L-band \approx 40 tons/ha (4 kg/m²)
- P-band \approx 100 tons/ha (10 kg/m²)

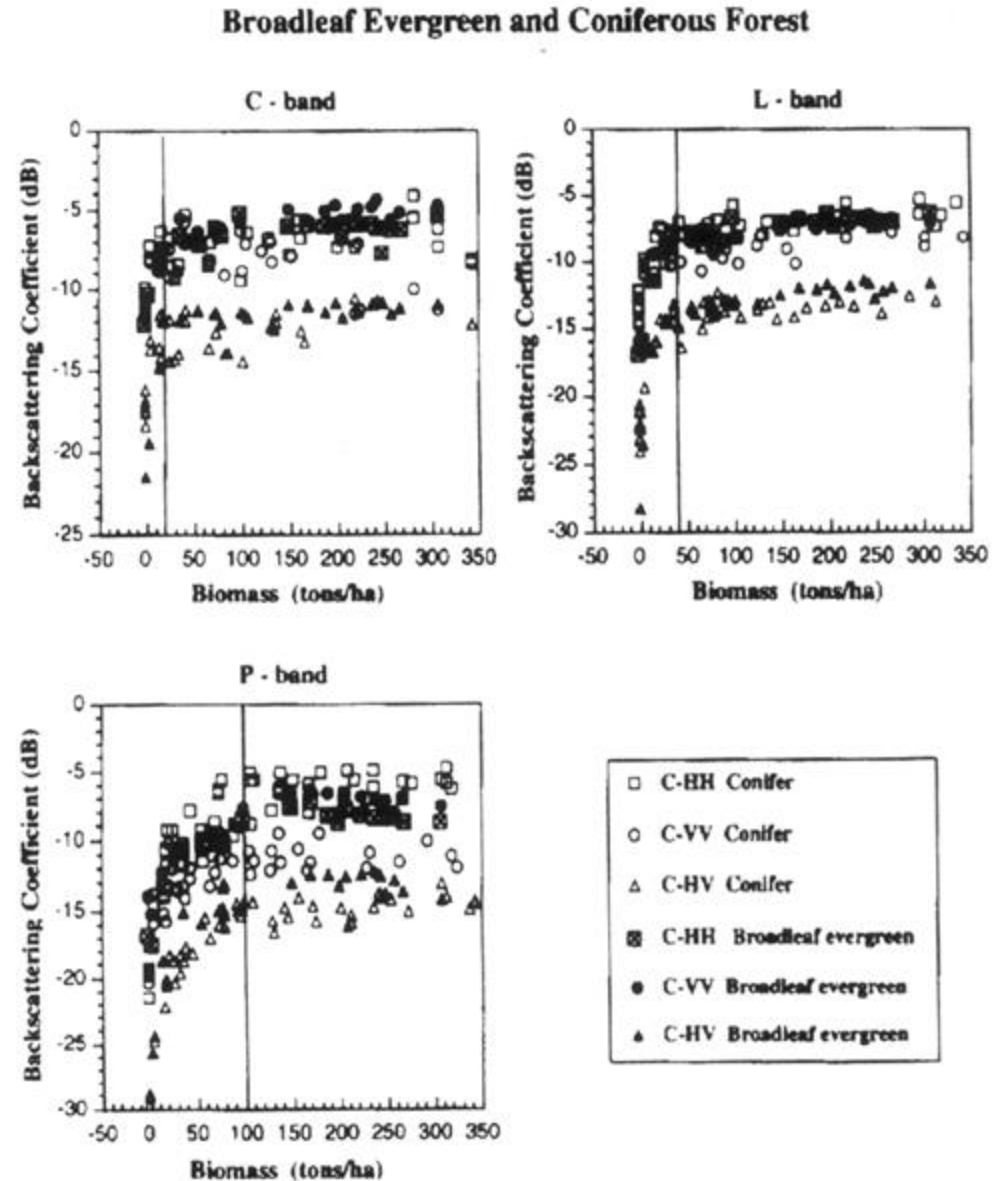
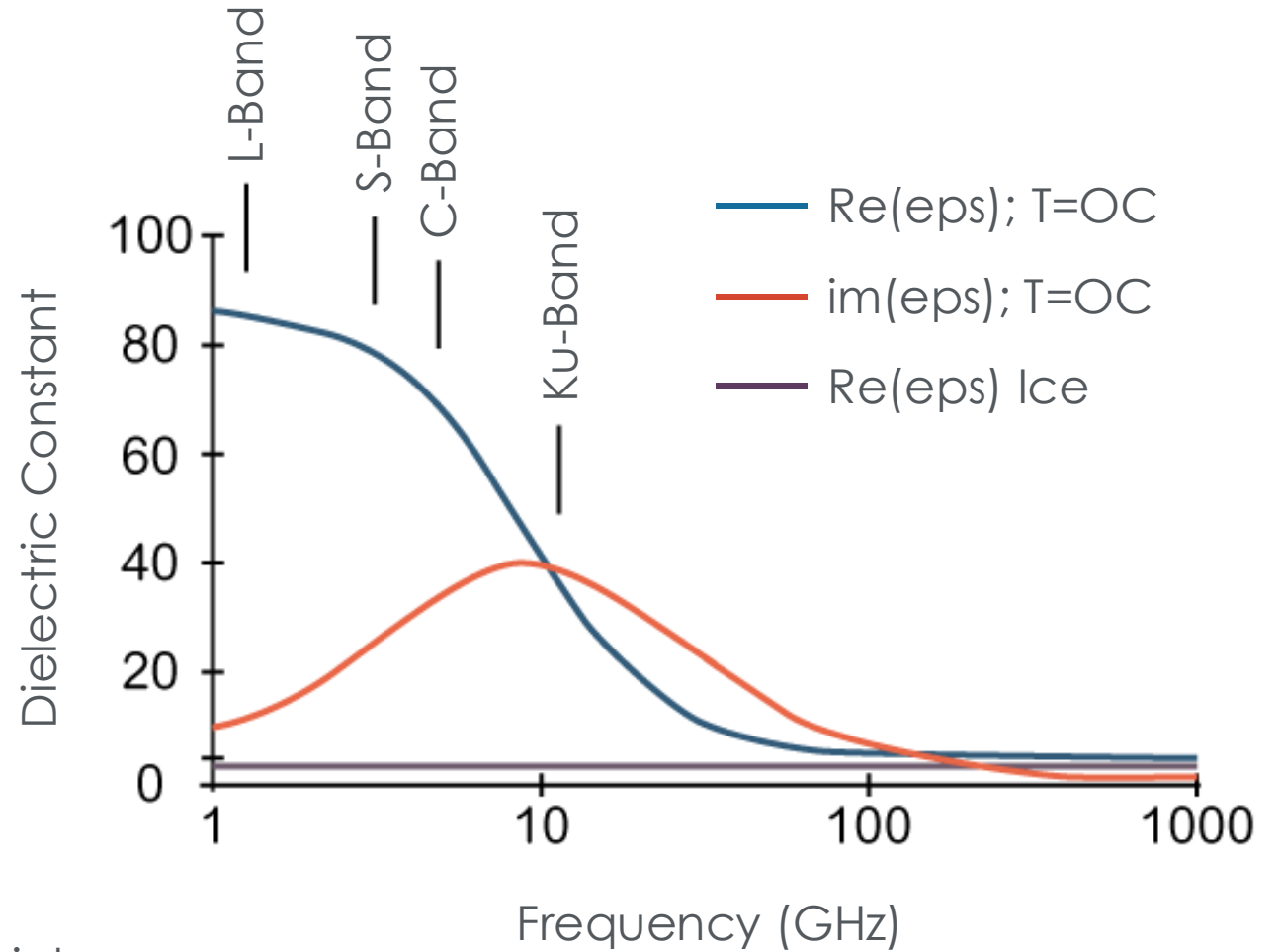
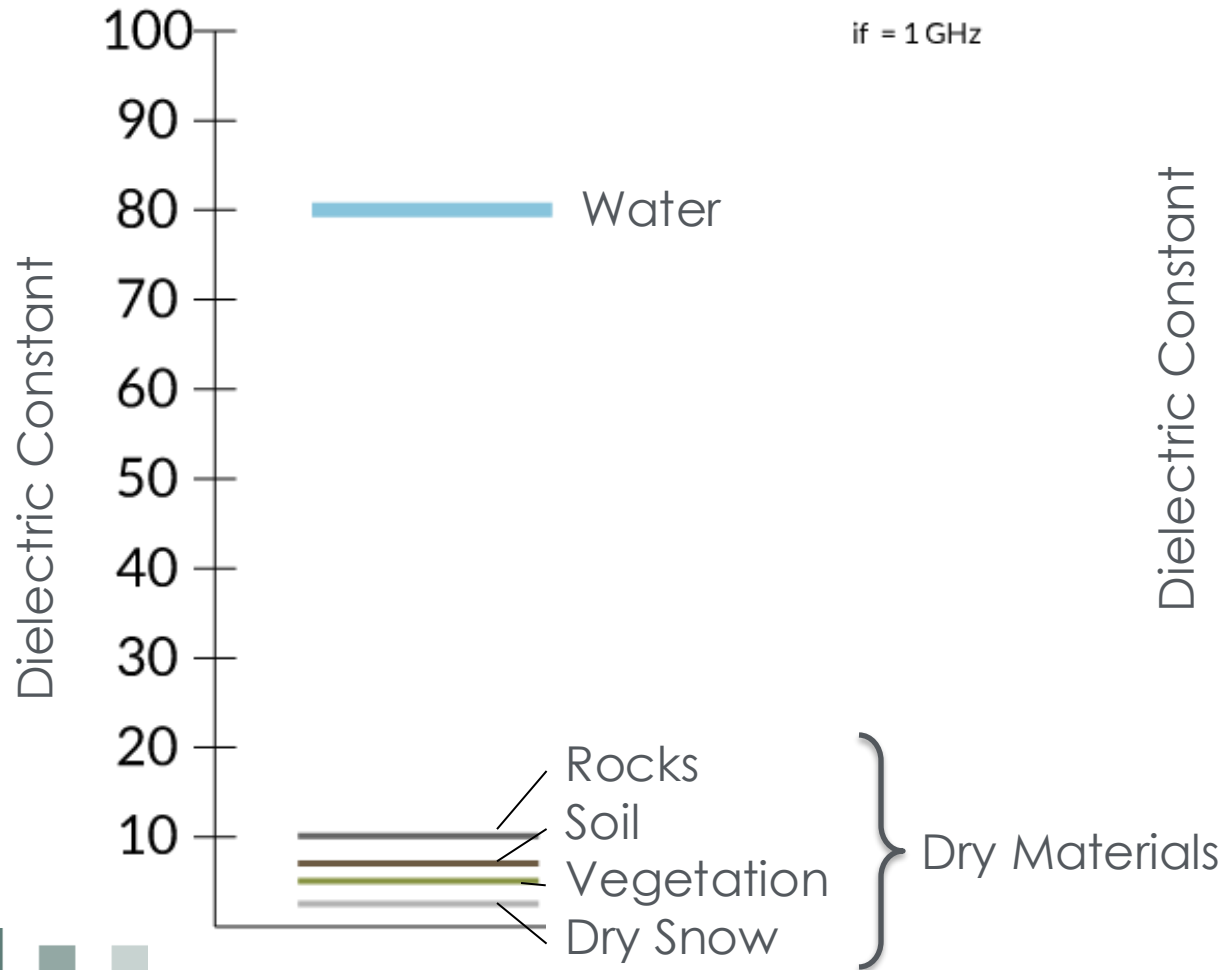


Image Credit: Imhoff et al., 1995



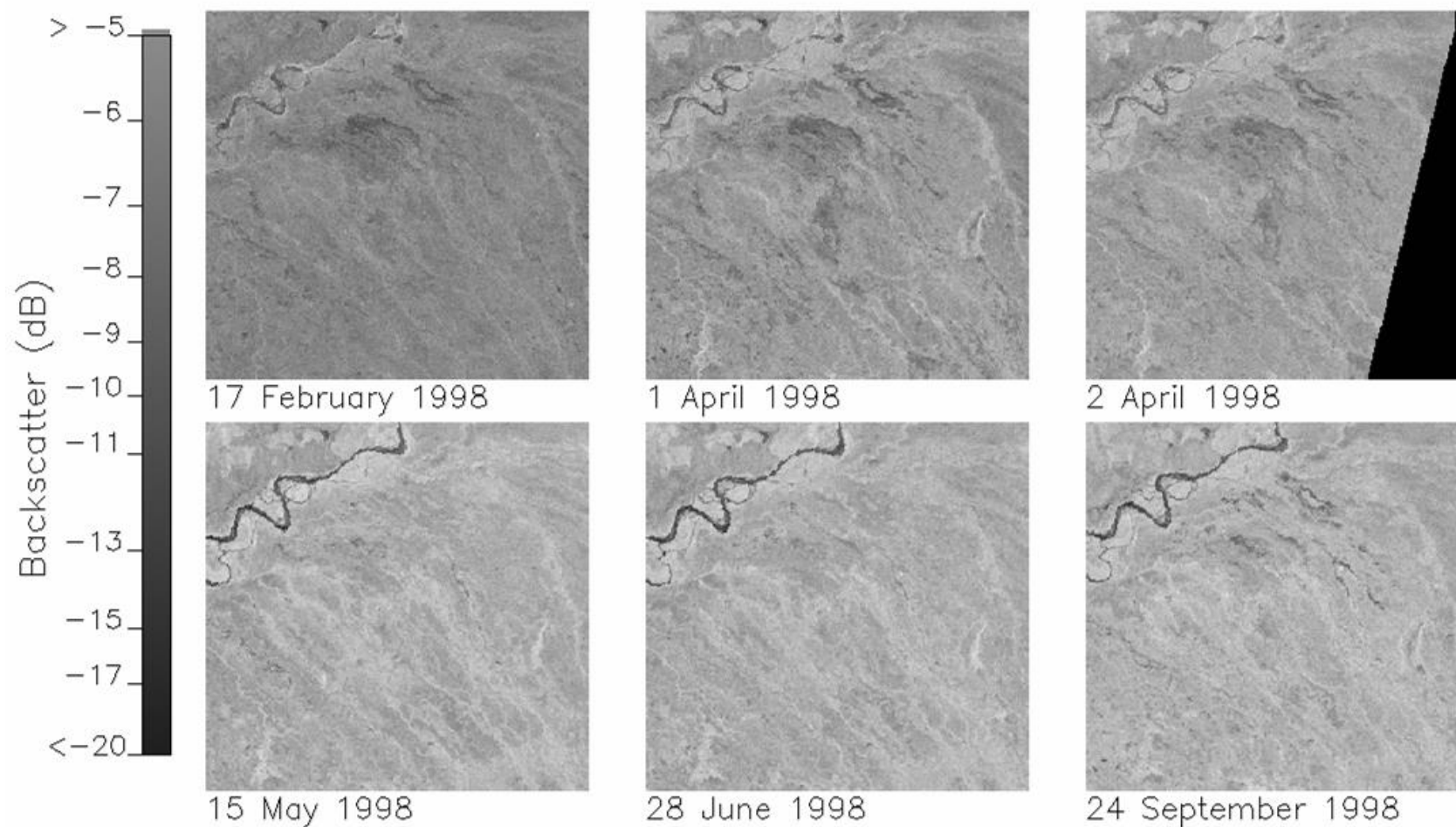
Surface Parameter: Dielectric Constant

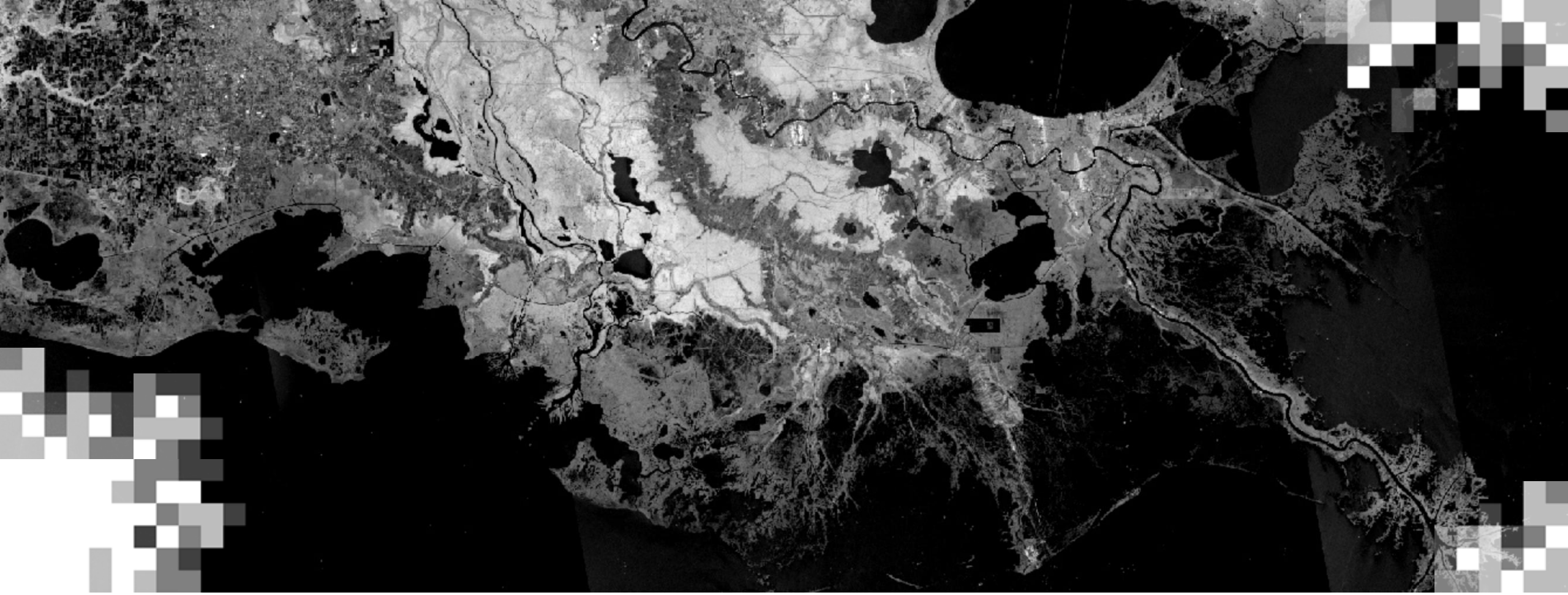
Dielectric Properties of Materials



Dielectric Properties of the Surface and its Frozen or Thawed State

- During the land surface freeze/thaw transition there is a change in dielectric properties of the surface.
- This causes a notable increase in backscatter.





Radiometric and Geometric Distortions

Slant Range Distortion

Slant Range



Ground Range



Source: Natural Resources Canada



Geometric Distortion: Layover and Foreshortening

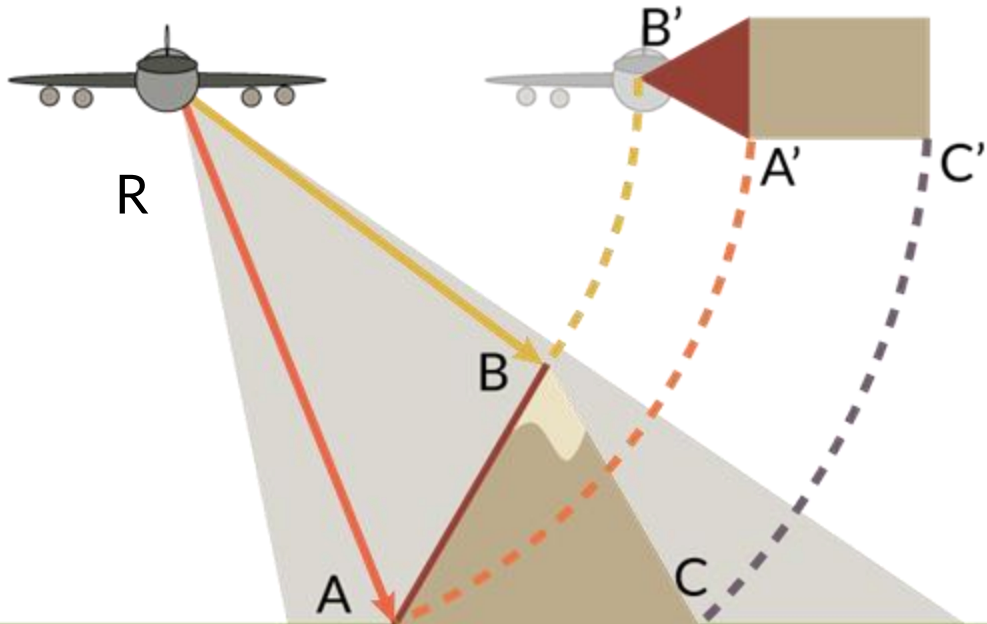
Layover

$$AB = BC$$

$$A'B' < B'C'$$

$$RA > RB$$

$$RA' > RB'$$

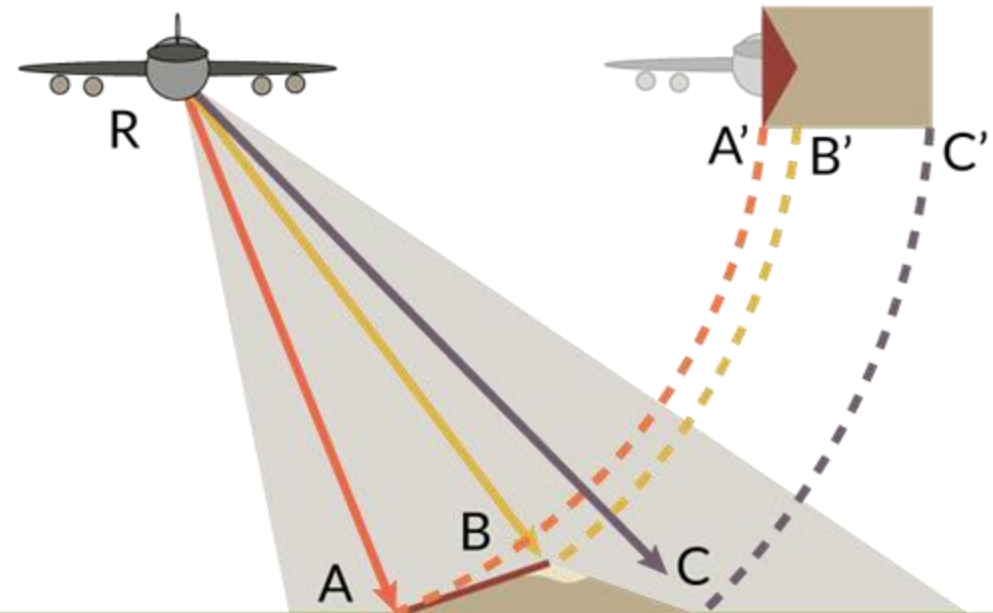


Foreshortening

$$RA < RB < RC$$

$$AB = BC$$

$$A'B' < B'C'$$

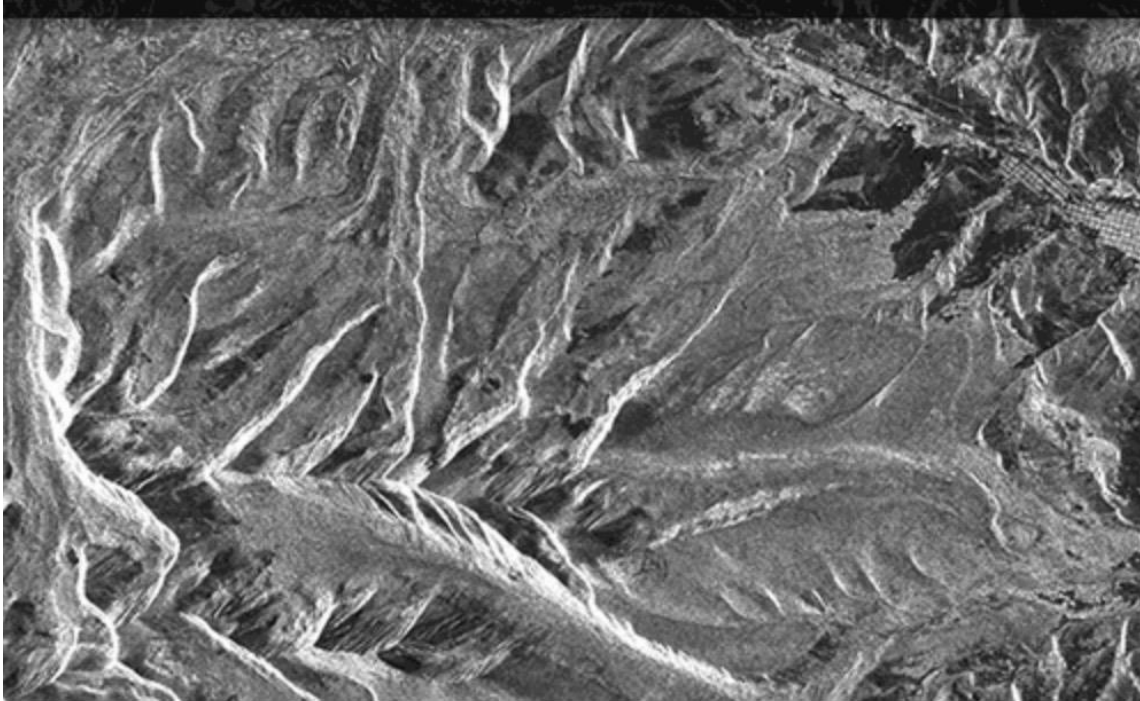


Source: Natural Resources Canada

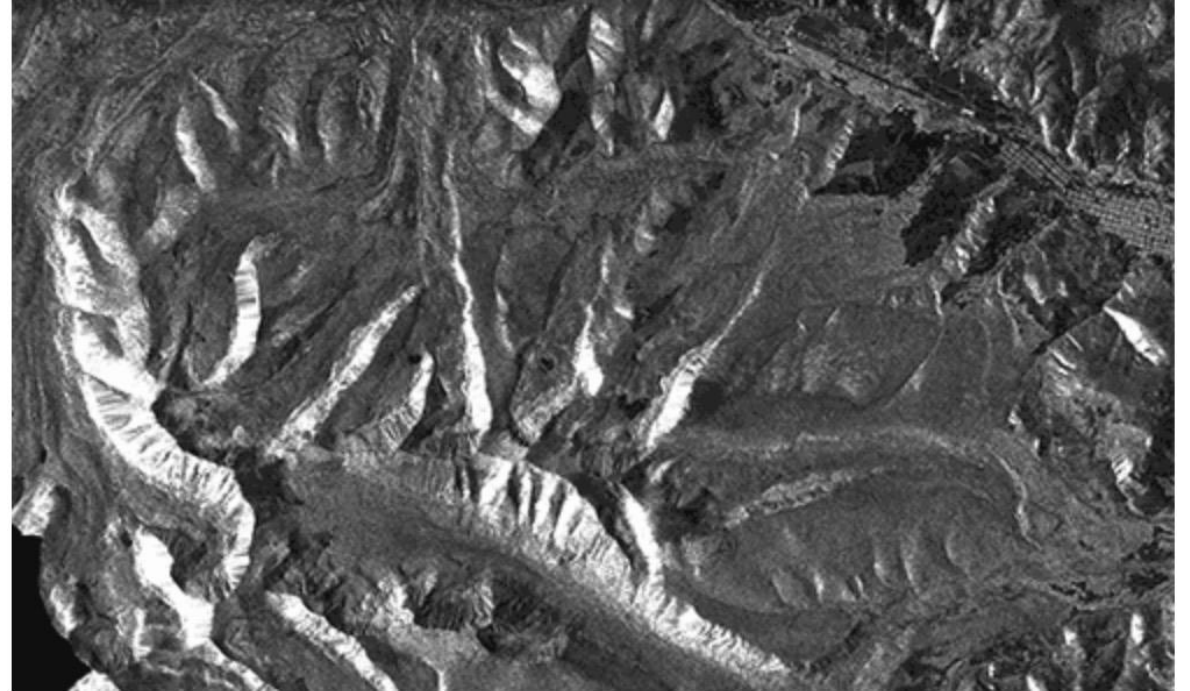


Foreshortening

Before Correction



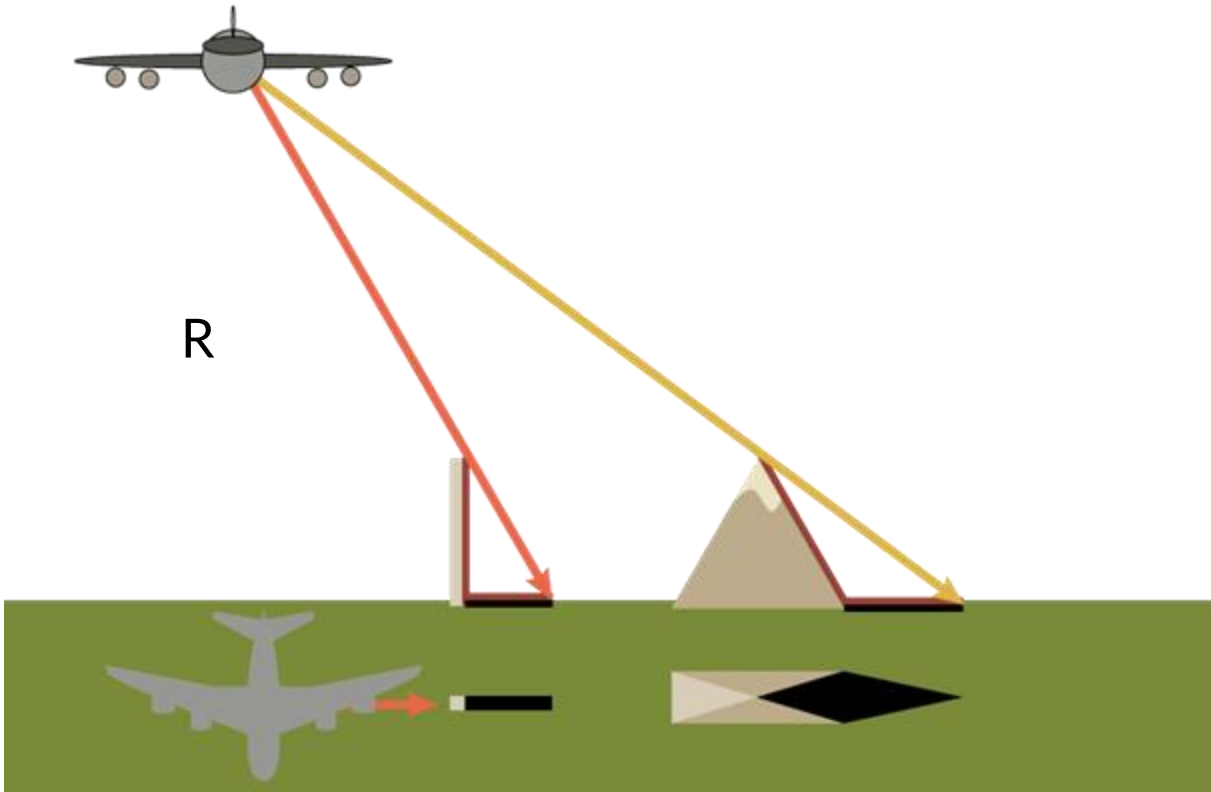
After Correction



Source: ASF



Shadow



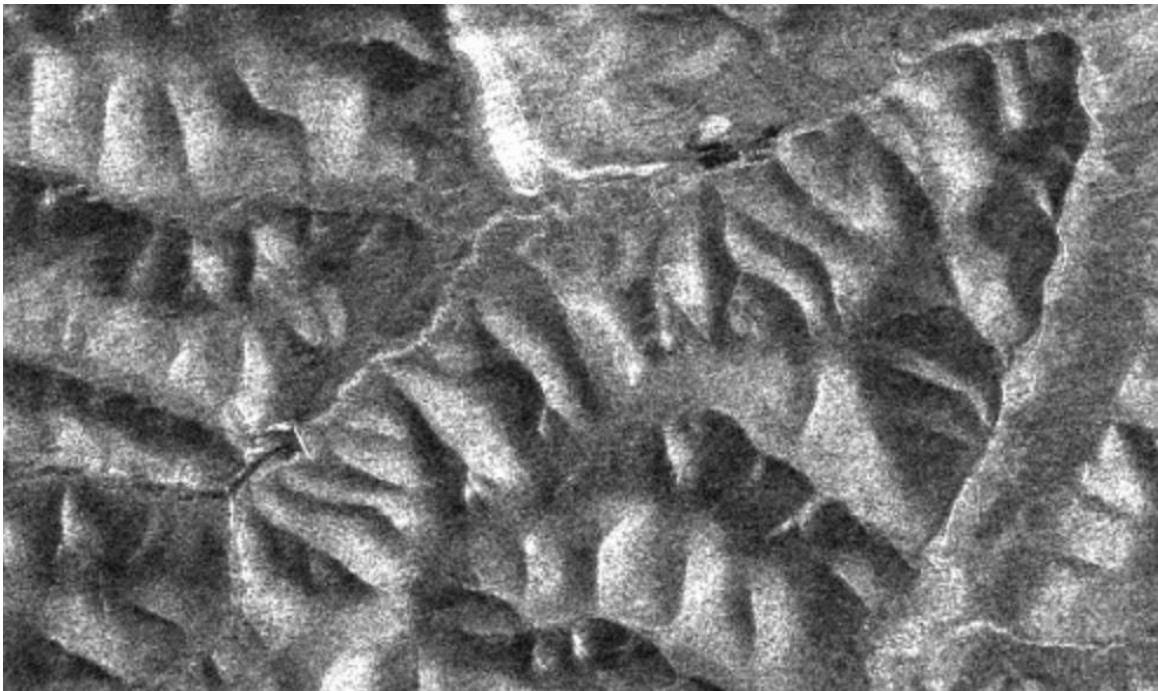
Source: Natural Resources Canada



Radiometric Distortions

- The influence of topography on backscatter should be corrected.
- This correction eliminates high values in areas of complex topography.

Before Correction



After Correction

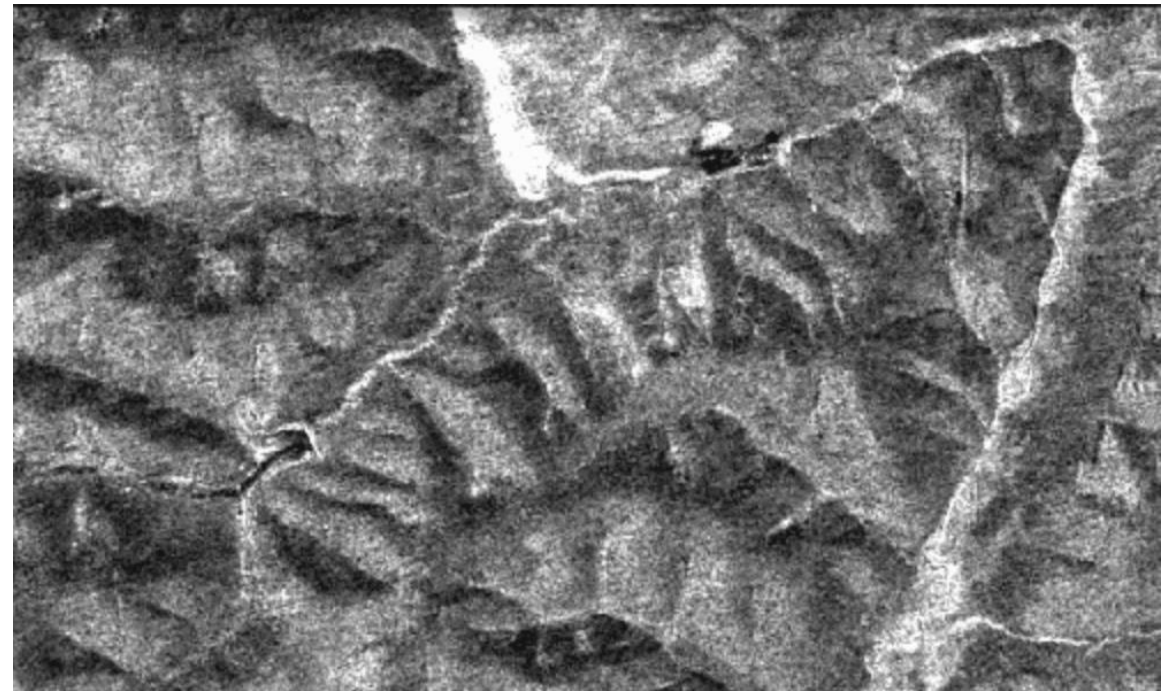
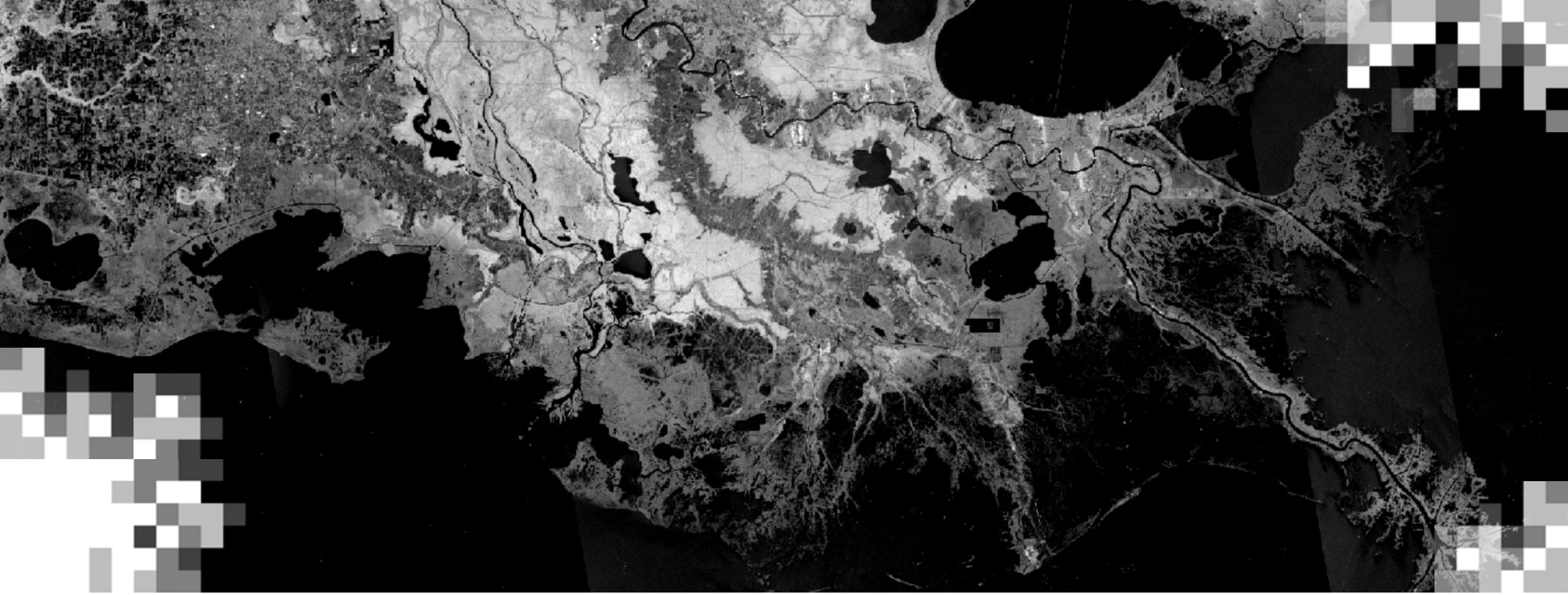


Image Credit: ASF





Speckle

Speckle

- **Speckle** is a granular 'noise' that inherently exists in and degrades the quality of SAR images.

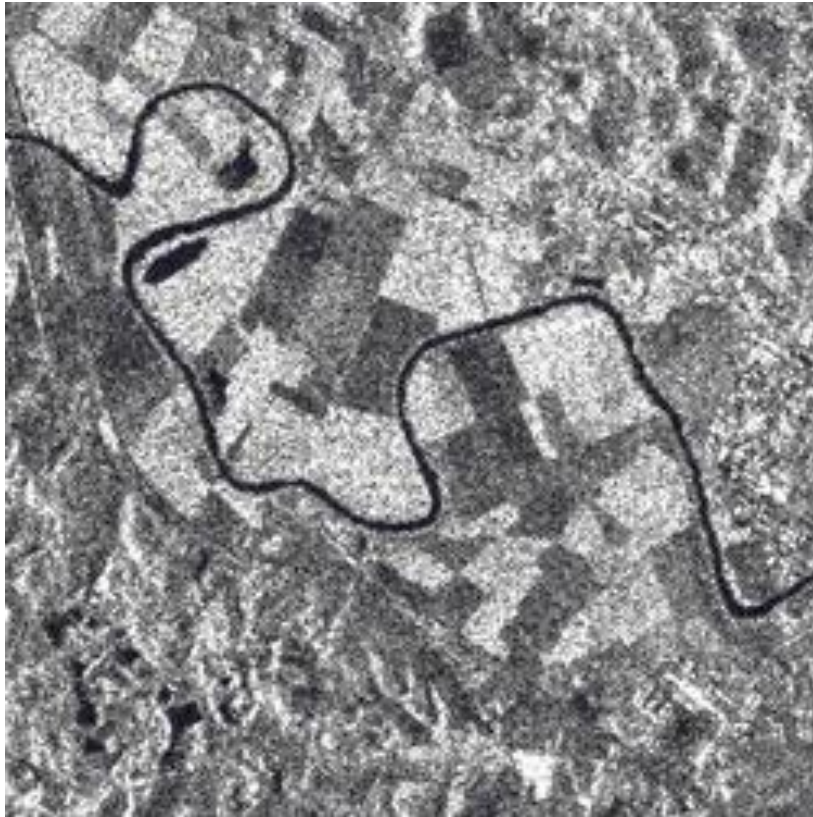
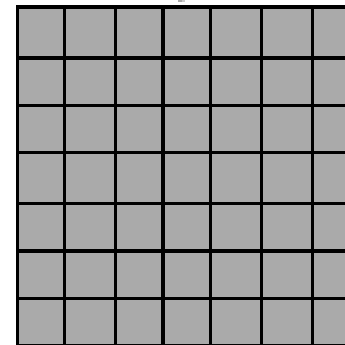
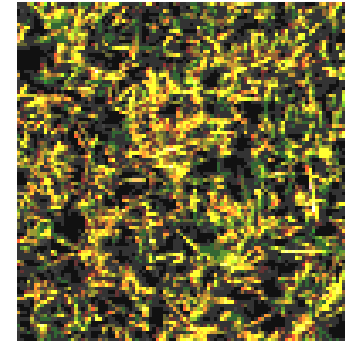
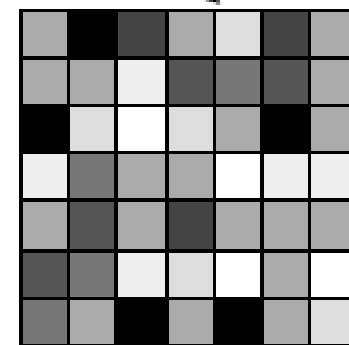


Image Credit: ESA



A



B

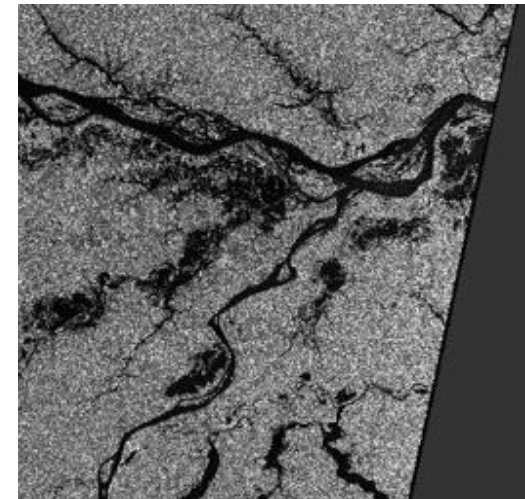
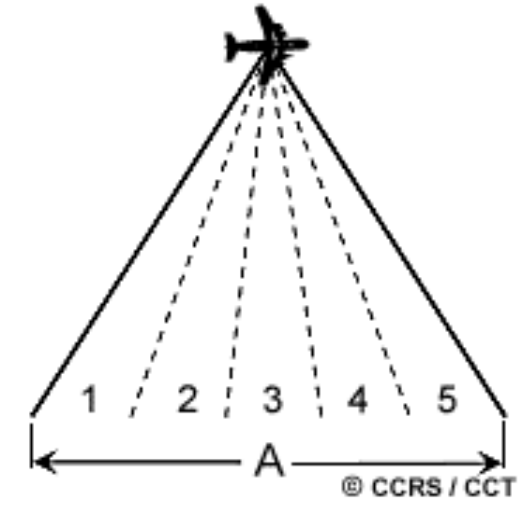
© CCRS / CCT

Image Credit: Natural Resources Canada



Speckle Reduction: Multi-Look Processing

- Divides radar beam into several, narrower sub-beams
 - E.g., 5 beams on the right
- Each sub-beam is a “look” at the scene.
- These “looks” are subject to speckle.
- By averaging the different “looks” together, the amount of speckle will be reduced in the final output image.
- Spatial resolution is also reduced.

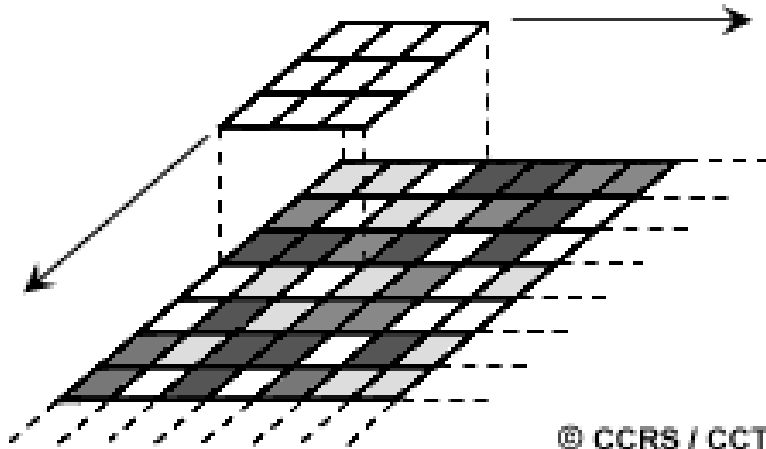


Source: Natural Resources Canada

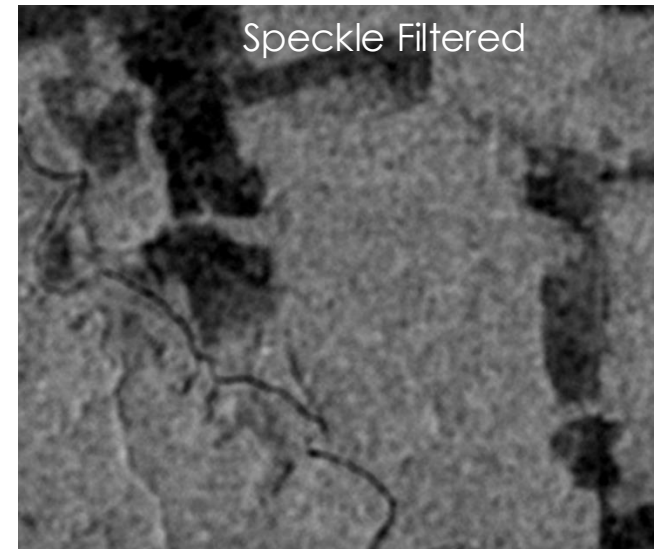
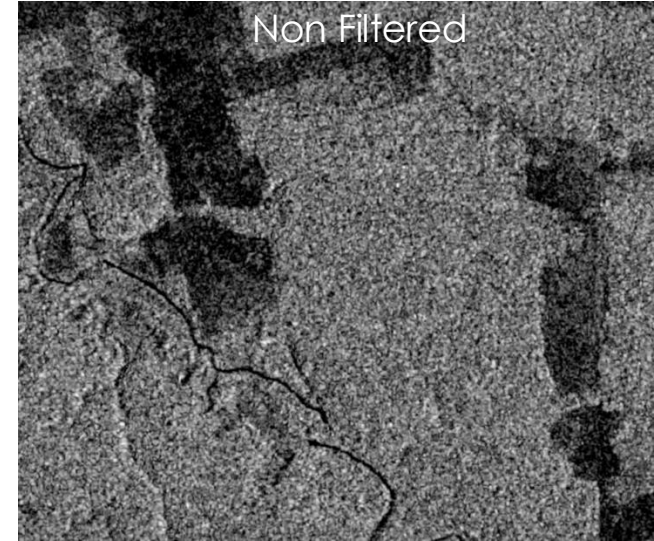


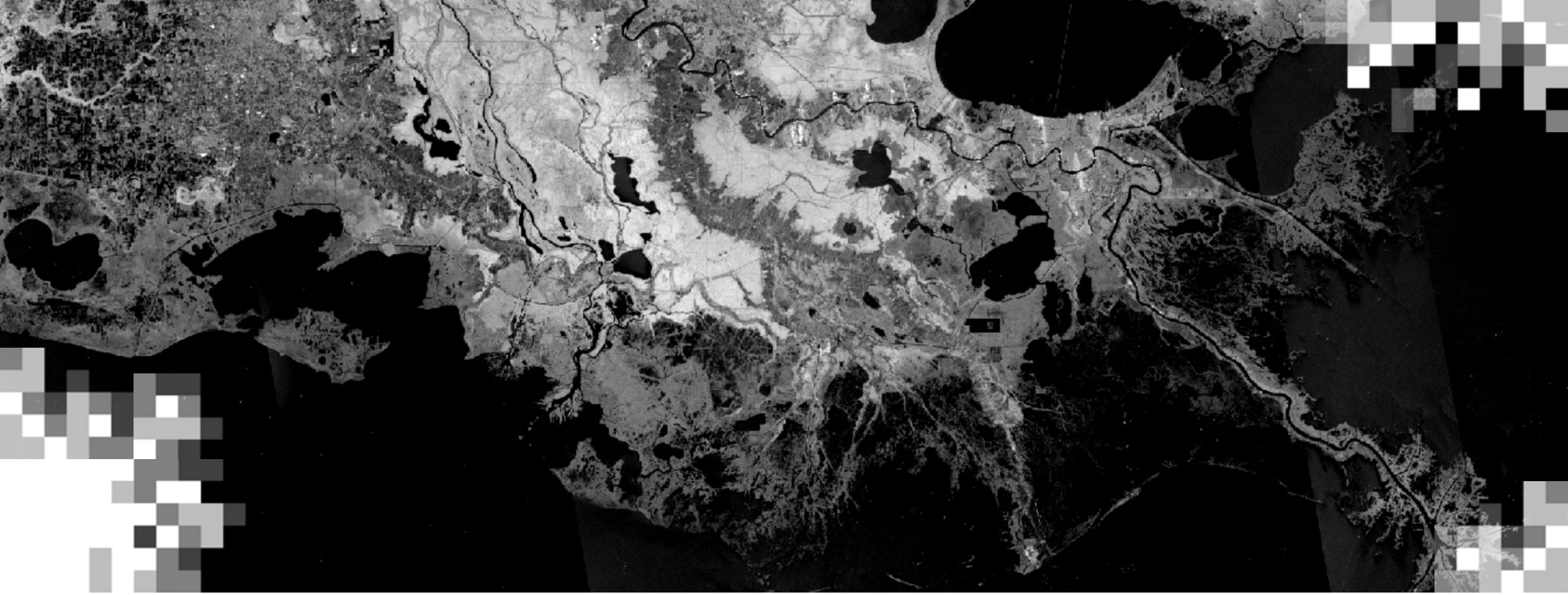
Speckle Reduction: Spatial Filtering

- Moving window over each pixel in the image
- Applies a mathematical calculation on the pixel values within the window
- The central pixel is replaced with the new value
- The window is moved along the x and y dimensions one pixel at a time
- Reduces visual appearance of speckle and applies a smoothing effect



Source: Natural Resources Canada



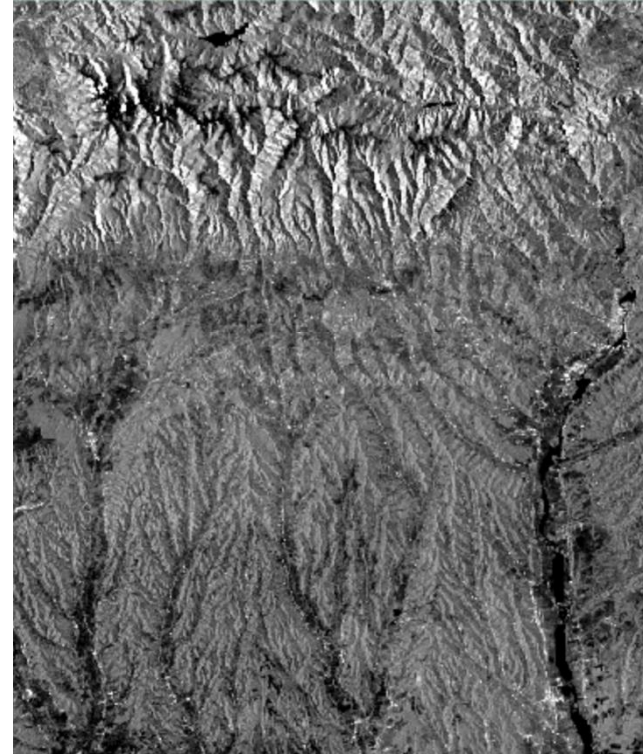


Additional Considerations

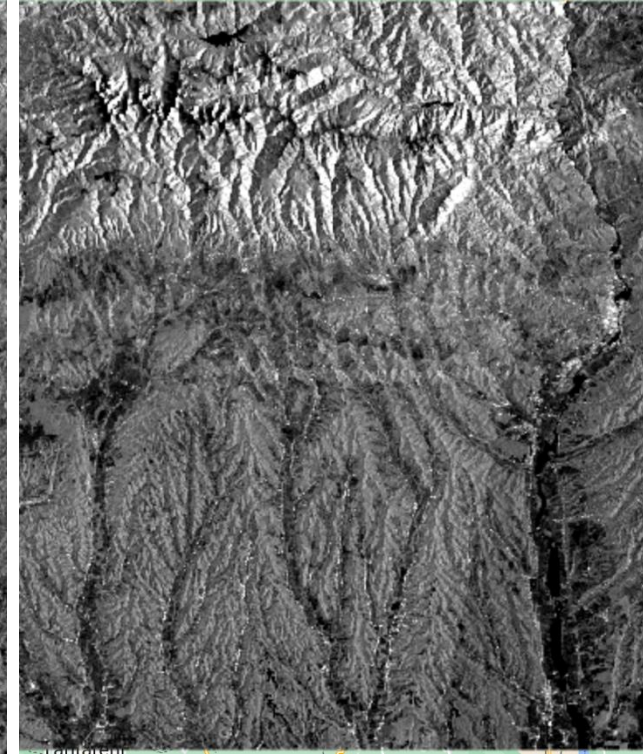
Look Direction

- The look direction of a SAR refers to the direction the radar antenna is pointed when emitting and receiving the radar beam.
- The illumination of an area by a radar beam changes with image acquisitions during ascending and descending overpasses.
- The viewing geometry is different between ascending and descending passes.
- For time series analysis it is advisable to not combine data from ascending and descending passes.

Ascending



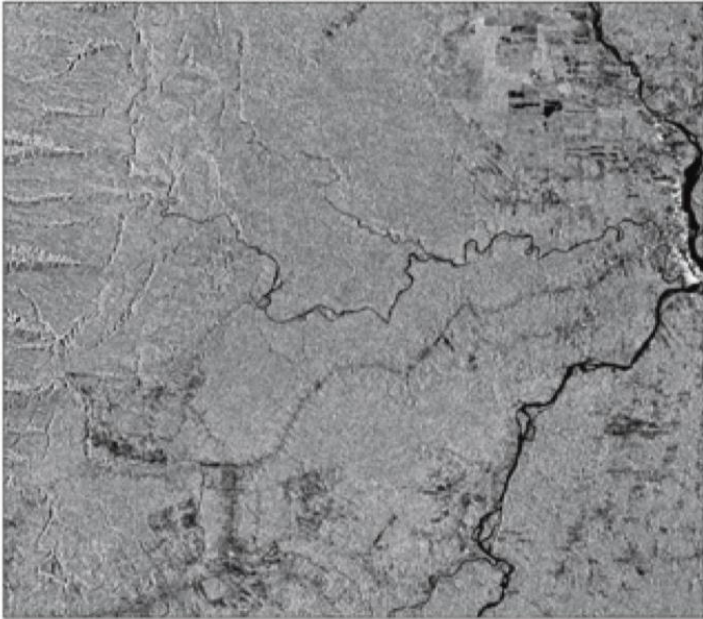
Descending



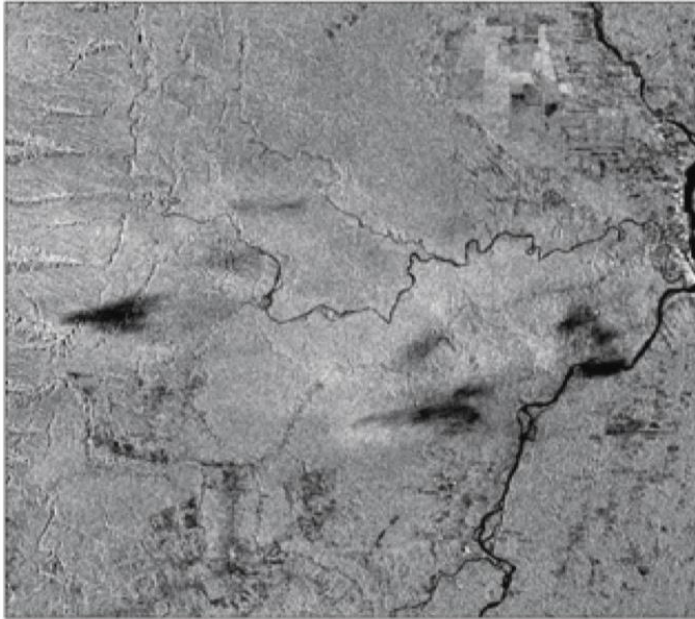
Weather Events

Sentinel1 C-Band Data over Ecuador

Band 3: 2016-02-17



Band 35: 2017-02-17

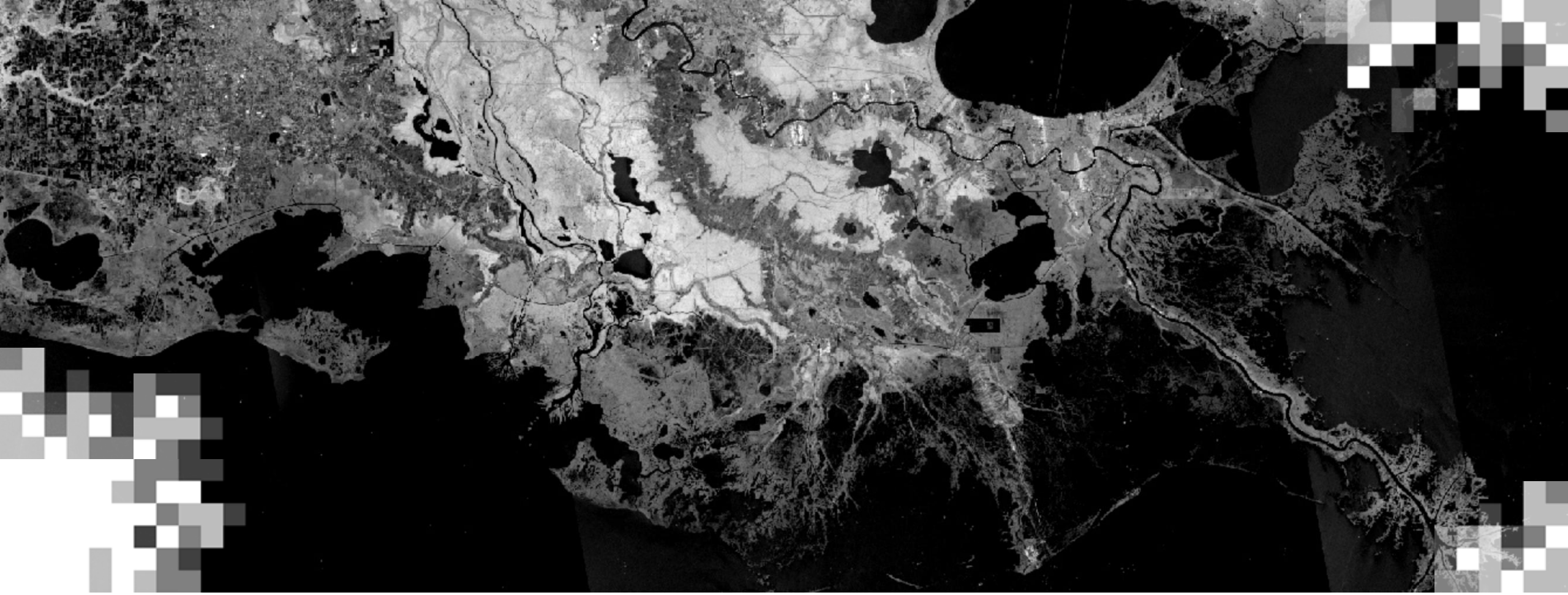


Band 59: 2018-02-12



Image Credit: SAR Handbook, Chapter 2 by Josef Kellndorfer

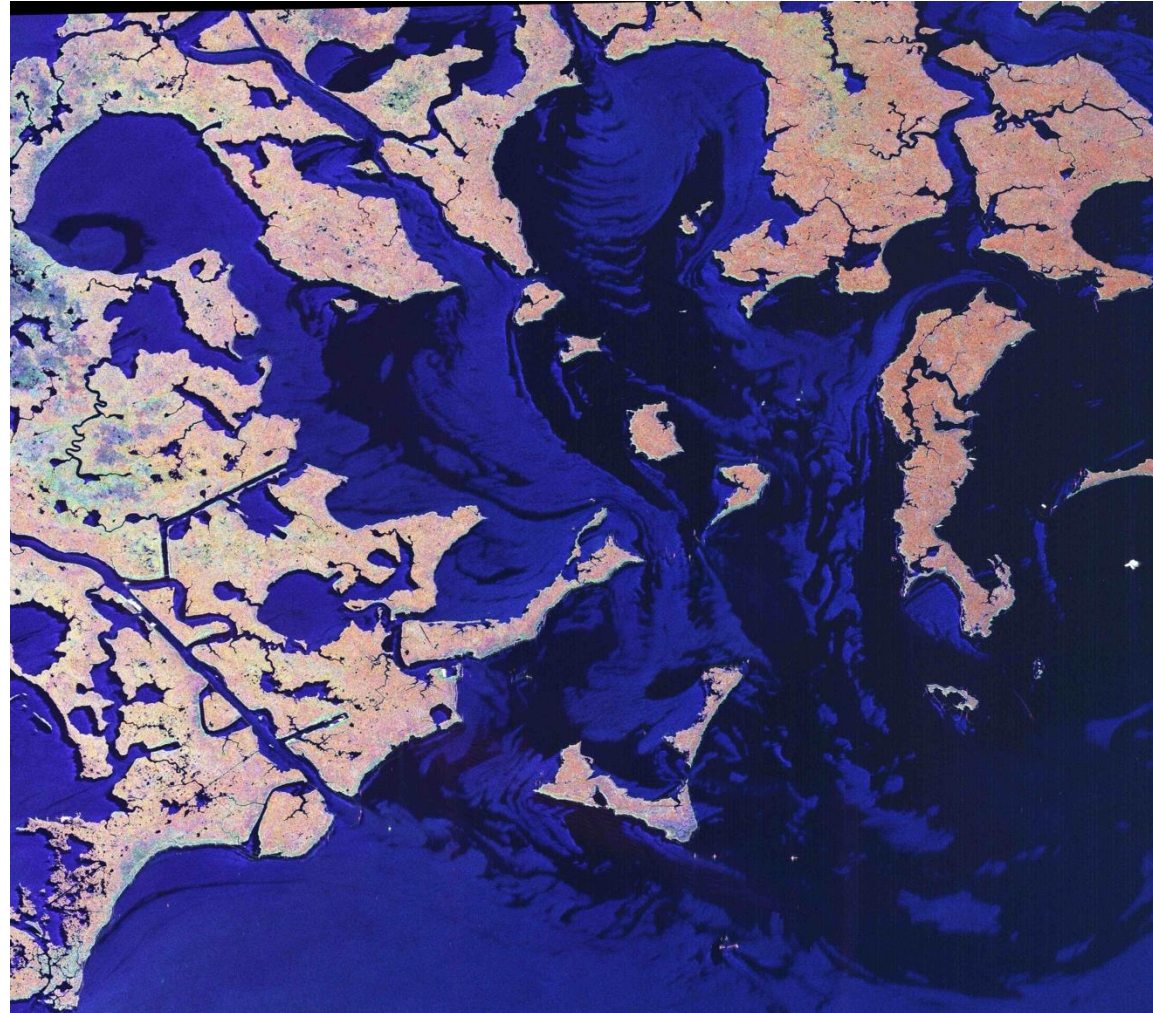




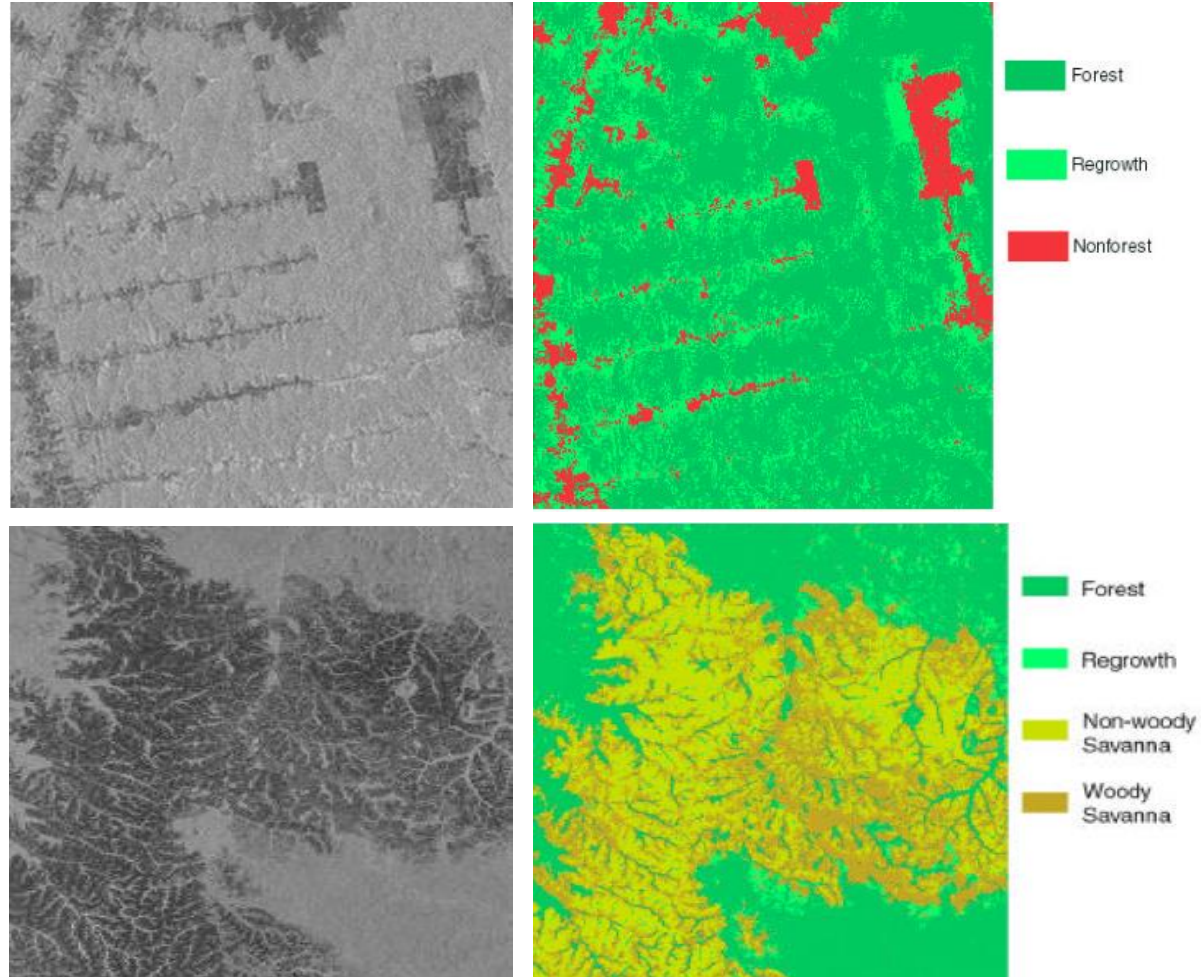
Applications of SAR Data

Detection of Oil Spills on Water

UAVSAR (2 meters):
HH, HV, VV



Landcover Classification



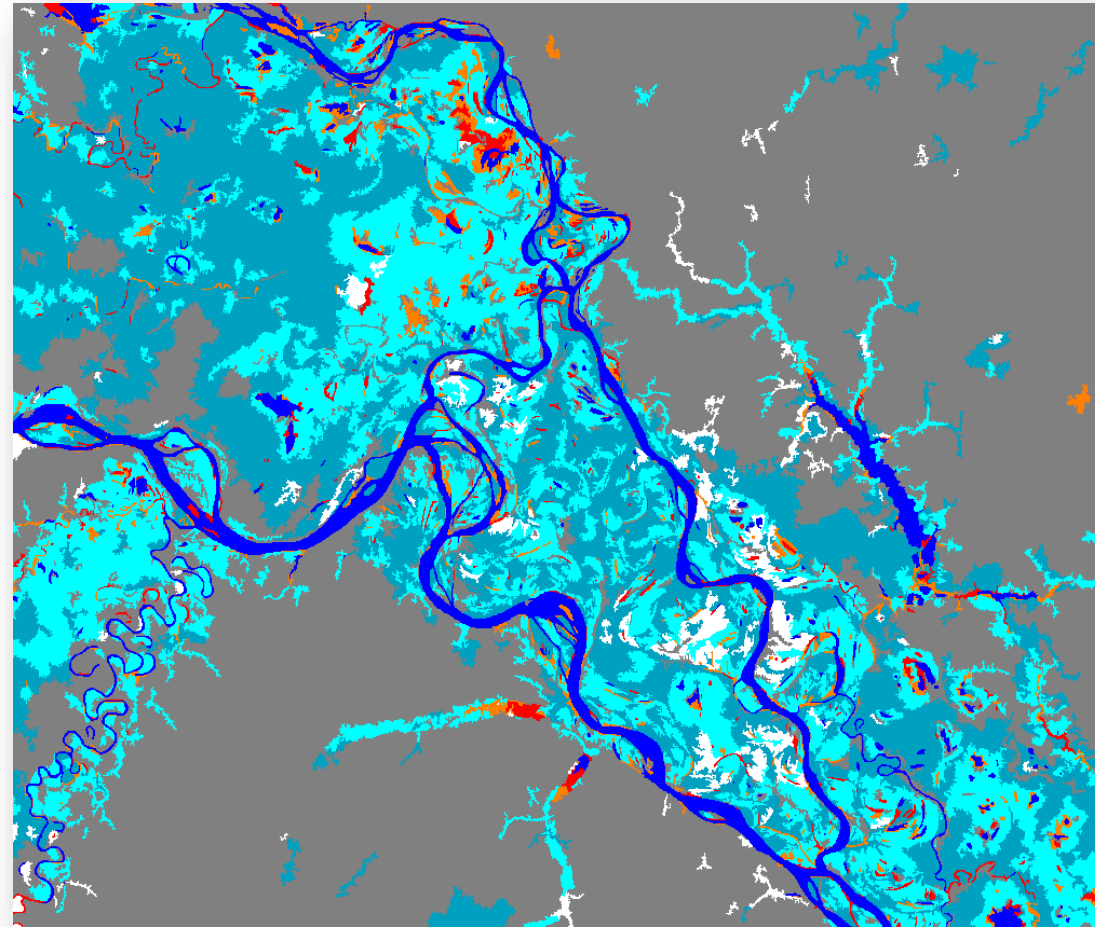
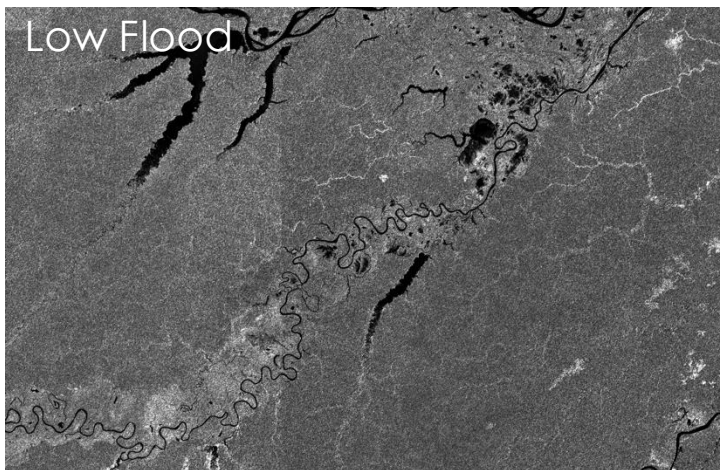
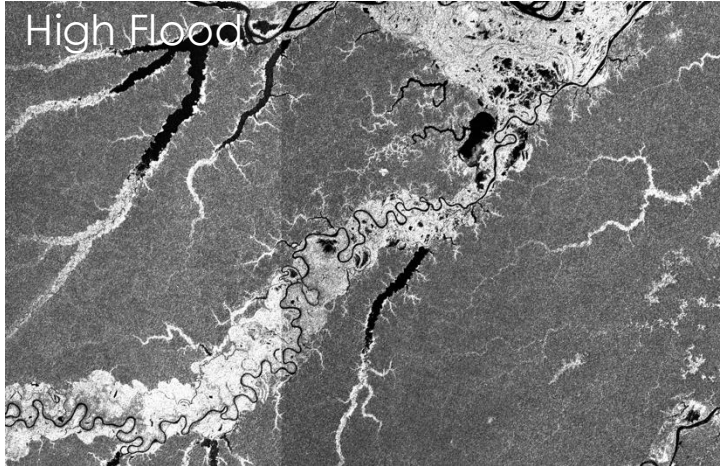
Brazil
JERS-1 L-band
100 meter resolution

Image Credit: E. Podest

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Wetland Inundation



- Forest, flooded 1-2 m/year
- Forest, flooded 3-6 m/year
- Forest, flooded > 6 m/year
- Open water
- Macrophyte & woodland
- Shrub
- Non-wetland

Wetland vegetation and inundation period product derived from changes in flooding state using multi-date PALSAR ScanSAR

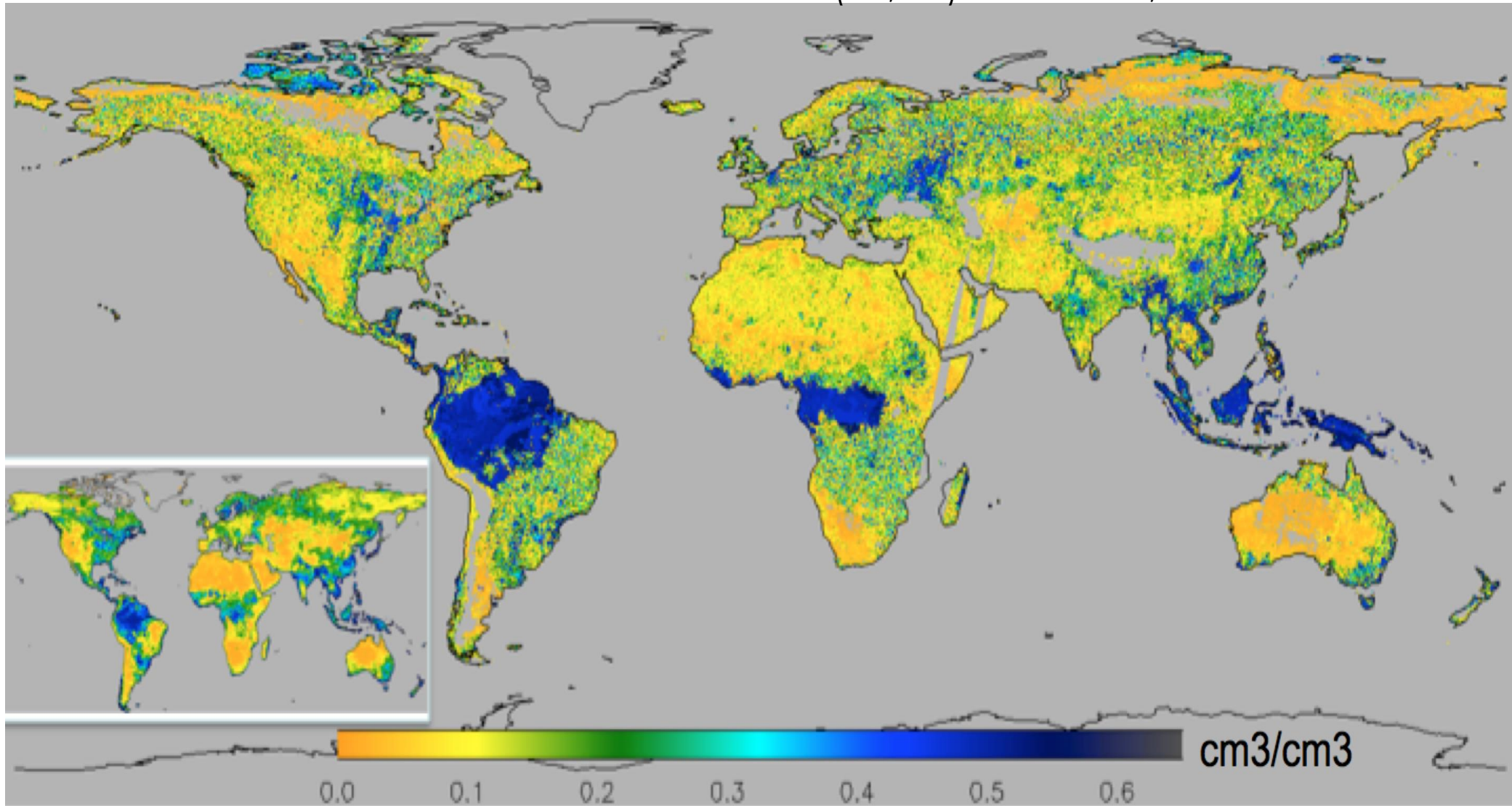
Image Credit: L. Hess, B. Chapman, and K. McDonald

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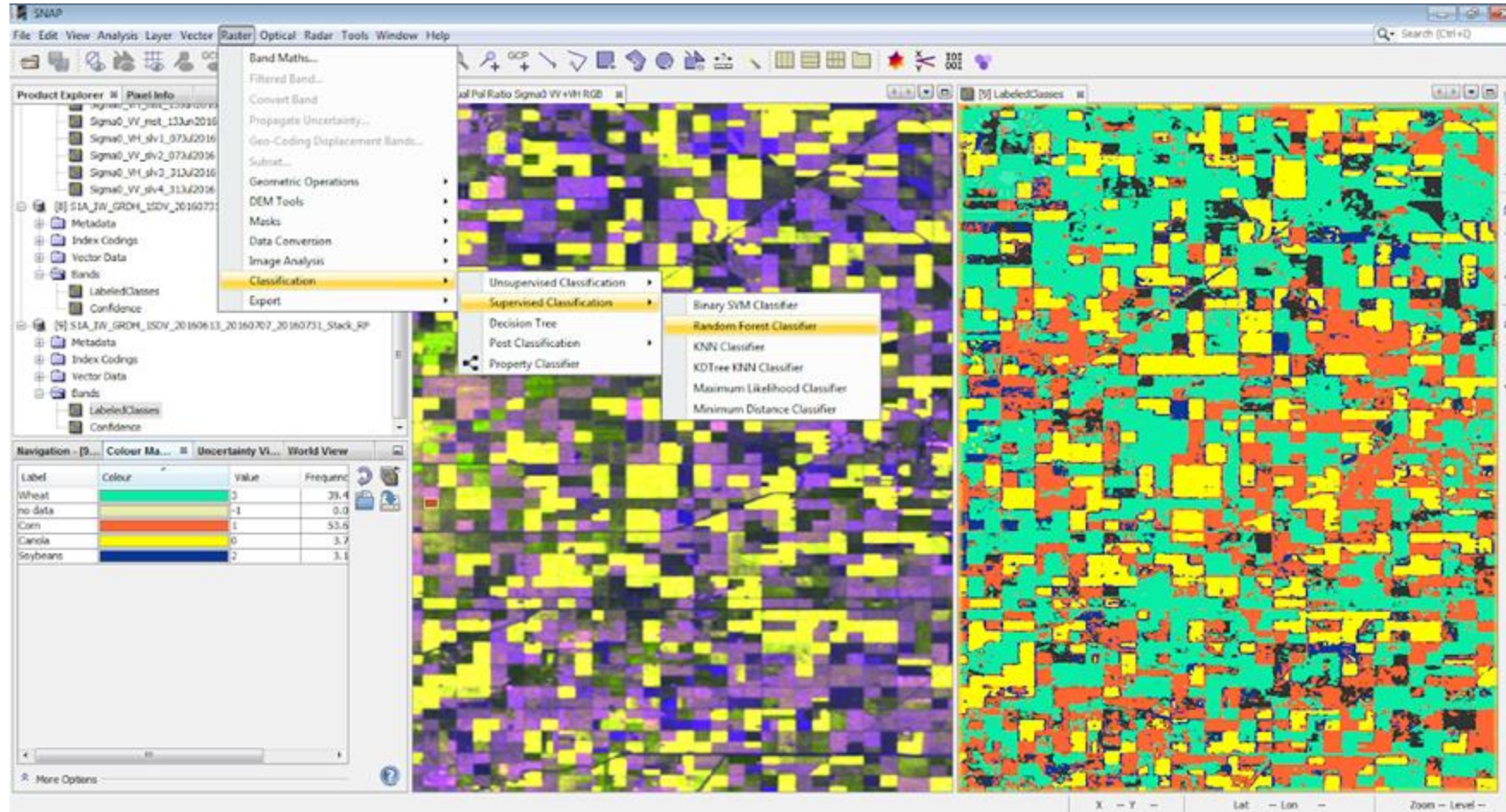


Soil Moisture Monitoring

Soil Moisture from the SMAP Radar (HH, HV) - June 19-26, 2015



Crop Classification



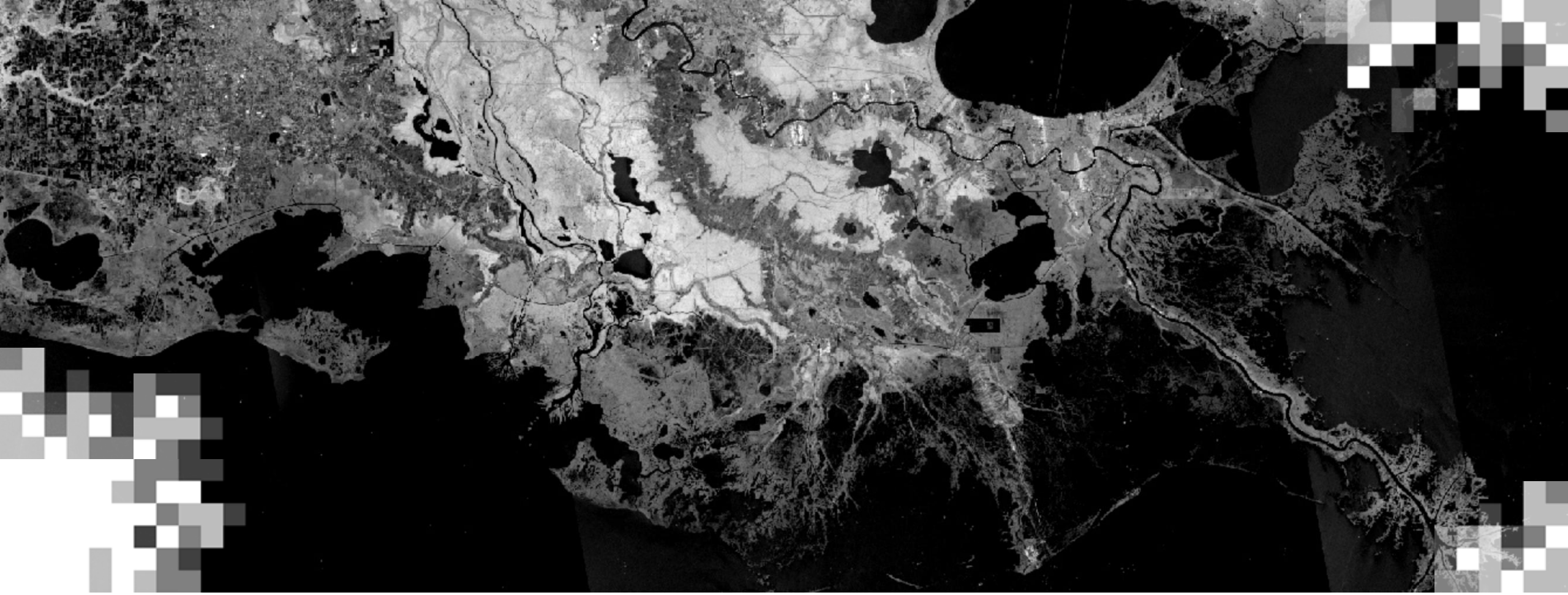
crop type
classification map

Label	Colour
no data	
Wheat	
Corn	
Canola	
Soybeans	

Image Credit: H. McNair, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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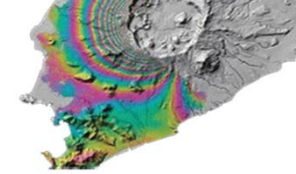
SAR Data

Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF)

Synthetic Aperture Radar Data

OPEN SAR DATA

These SAR datasets are Open Data and available to download at **no cost**.



<https://asf.alaska.edu>



ALOS PALSAR

A JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) L-band satellite sensor active 2006-2011. Data coverage includes all of the Americas and many areas worldwide, with a 46-day repeat cycle.



ERS-2

An ESA C-band satellite active 1995-2011. Data coverage is primarily within the ASF and McMurdo ground station masks, with a 35-day repeat cycle.



UAVSAR

A NASA L-band airborne sensor active 2008-present. Data coverage over North, Central, and South America, Greenland, and Iceland.



SMAP

A NASA L-band satellite sensor active April-August 2015. Data coverage is worldwide, with a 3-day repeat cycle.



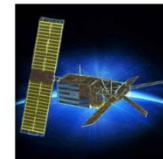
RADARSAT-1

A CSA (Canadian Space Agency) C-band satellite active 1995-2013. Data from ASF are available through 2009. Data coverage is worldwide, with a



Sentinel-1

An ESA (European Space Agency) C-band satellite constellation active in 2014-present. Data coverage is worldwide, with a 6-12 day repeat cycle.



ERS-1

An ESA C-band satellite active 1991-2000. Data coverage is primarily within the ASF and McMurdo ground station masks, with a 35-day repeat cycle.



AIRSAR

A NASA C-band, L-band, and P-band airborne sensor active 1988-2004. Data coverage is primarily over the United States.



Seasat

A NASA L-band satellite was active in 1978. Seasat was one of the first earth-observing orbital sensors. Coverage is primarily over northern oceans, with a 17-day repeat cycle.



Copernicus Hub

The screenshot displays the Copernicus Hub web browser interface. The top navigation bar includes the Copernicus logo, language selection (EN), a login button, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are controls for date selection (YYYY-MM-DD), a search button, and a dropdown menu for data collections. The main map area shows a satellite view of Europe with a yellow warning box that says "Please zoom in or search for a location of interest". The left sidebar lists various data collections, including Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, Sentinel-3, Sentinel-5P, Copernicus DEM, Copernicus Snow & Ice, Copernicus Vegetation, and Global Land Cover. The Sentinel-1 collection is expanded, showing options like Sentinel-1 Mosaics, Sentinel-2, Sentinel-2 Mosaics, Sentinel-3, Sentinel-5P, Copernicus DEM, Copernicus Snow & Ice, Copernicus Vegetation, and Global Land Cover. The Sentinel-3 option is selected, showing a resolution of 10m x 10m. The bottom of the interface features logos for the European Union, Copernicus, and ESA, along with links for About and Support. The map footer includes the Leaflet logo, a disclaimer, and the Copernicus Hub logo. The map coordinates are Lat: 46.68, Lng: -0.75, and the scale is 300 km.

<https://browser.dataspace.copernicus.eu>



JAXA EORC ALOS
ALOS Advanced Land Observing Satellite
 ALOS Research and Application Project

FAQ [Search] JP | EN

ALOS-4 ALOS-3 ALOS-2 ALOS JERS-1 Dataset Image Library RA & Meetings

Home > ALOS open and free data

ALOS series Open and

1. Updates

- Oct. 18, 2024** [Alternative provision of ALOS-2 Open and Free data \(PALSAR-2 ScanSAR L1.1/L2.2 products for the following period: July 2023\)](#)
- Oct. 4, 2024** [Announcement of PALSAR-2 ScanSAR L2.2 Product software](#)
- Jul. 24, 2024** [Added to about the L1.1/L2.2 processing and product release observation data for "ALOS-2 / PALSAR-2 Product"](#)
- Sep. 15, 2023** [PALSAR-2 ScanSAR L1.1/L2.2 products for the following period: July 2023](#)
- Aug. 07, 2023** [PALSAR-2 ScanSAR L1.1/L2.2 products for the following period: March 2023 - June 2023](#)
- Apr. 11, 2023** [PALSAR-2 ScanSAR L1.1/L2.2 products for the following period: August 2014 - February 2023](#)
- Mar. 01, 2023** [ALOS-2/PALSAR-2 ScanSAR data for the Turkey earthquake](#)
- Nov. 07, 2022** [PALSAR-2 ScanSAR Level 2.2 \(L2.2\) products are now available to the public](#)

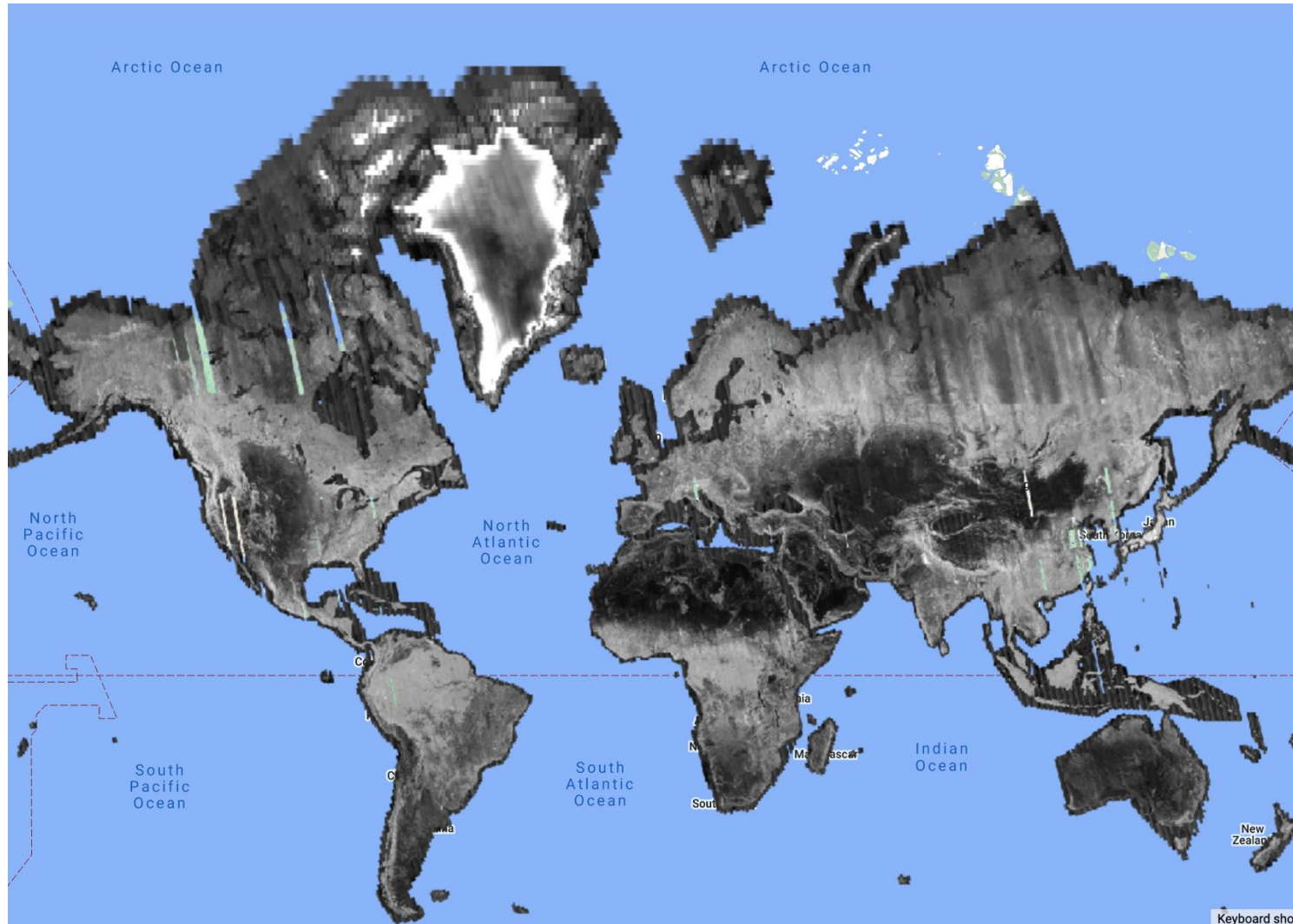
Dataset

- Global PALSAR-2/PALSAR/JERS-1 Mosaic and Forest/Non-Forest map
- K&C Mosaic
- Precise Global Digital 3D Map
- High Resolution Land-Use and Land-Cover Map
- Global Mangrove Watch **Portal outage NEW**
- JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST)
- ALOS Ortho Rectified Image Product **Portal**
- IPY Dataset
- Glacial Lake Inventory of Bhutan **Portal**
- [ALOS series Open and Free Data](#) **Portal**
- High-Resolution map of forest above-ground carbon storage Products

https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/ALOS/en/index_e.htm



Google Earth Engine



<https://code.earthengine.google.com/>

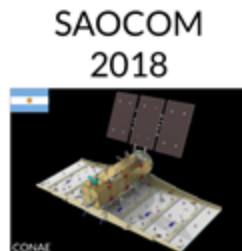
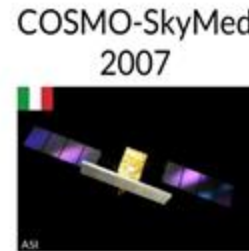
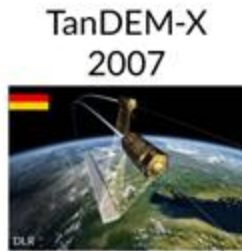


Radar Data Available

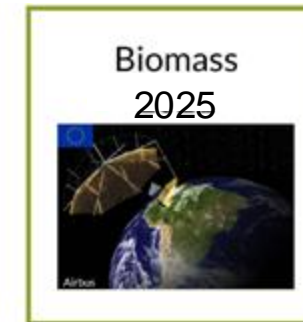
Legacy:



Current:



Future:



 freely accessible

Image Credit: Franz Meyer, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

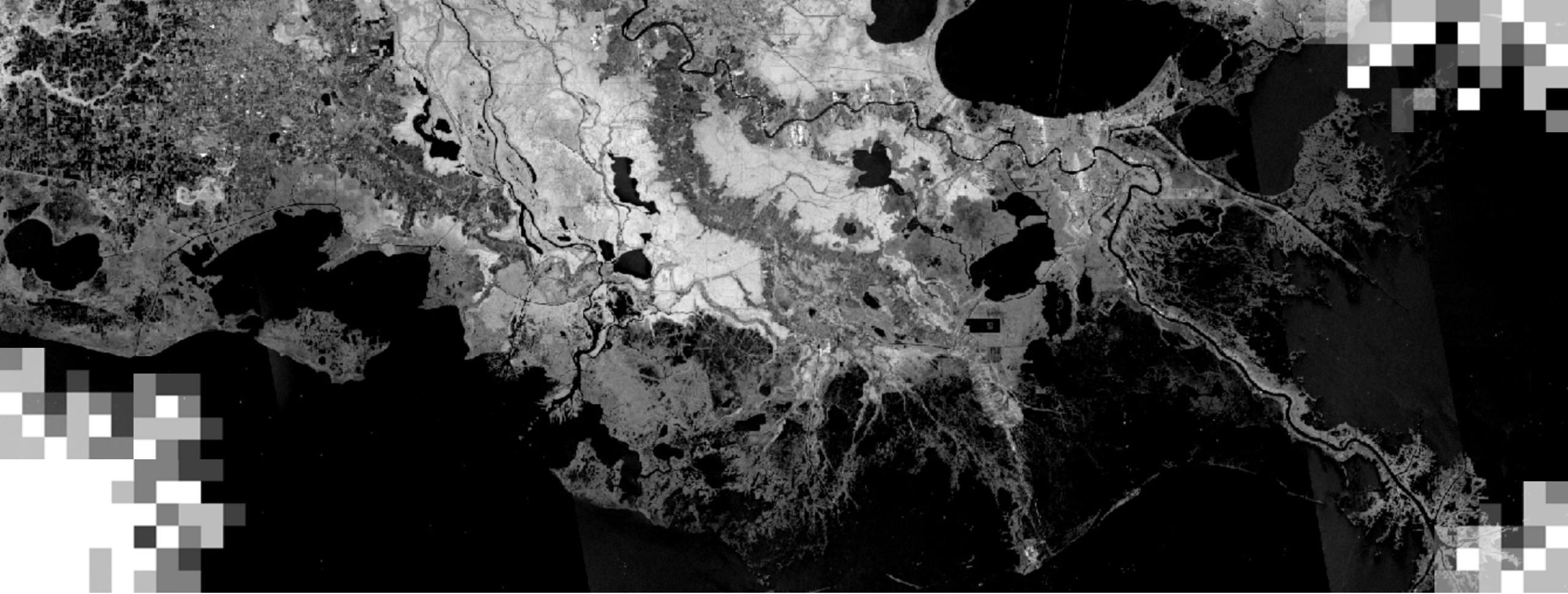


NISAR

NISAR Characteristic:	Would Enable:
L-band (24 cm wavelength)	Low temporal decorrelation and foliage penetration
S-band (12 cm wavelength)	Sensitivity to light vegetation
SweepSAR technique with Imaging Swath >240 km	Global data collection
Polarimetry (Single/Dual/Quad)	Surface characterization and biomass estimation
12-day exact repeat	Rapid Sampling
3-10 meters mode-dependent SAR resolution	Small-scale observations
3 years since operations (5 years consumables)	Time-series analysis
Pointing control < 273 arcseconds	Deformation interferometry
Orbit control < 500 meters	Deformation interferometry
>30% observation duty cycle	Complete land/ice coverage
Left/Right pointing capability	Polar coverage, North and South
Noise Equivalent Sigma Zero \leq -23 db	Surface characterization of smooth surfaces

- Major partnership between US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- Launch date: 2025
- Dual frequency L- and S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)
 - L-band SAR from NASA and S-band SAR from ISRO
- 3 years science operations (5+ years consumables)
- All science data (L- and S-band) will be made available free and open





Part 1:
Summary

Summary

- In SAR the azimuth (along track) resolution is different from the range (across track) resolution
- The three radar parameters are wavelength, polarization and incidence angle
- The longer the wavelength the greater the penetration depth
- The length of the wave will determine the interaction with the surface objects
- Polarization provides information related to the structural characteristics of the objects on the surface
- Incidence angle will influence the signal penetration into the target
- The two surface parameters that influence the radar signal are structure and moisture
- The main backscatter mechanisms are specular scattering, rough surface scattering, volume scattering and double bounce
- Radar images have geometric distortions in areas of complex topography
- Speckle is the graininess inherent in SAR images. It can be reduced through multi-looking or with a spatial or temporal filter
- Radar can be used for different ecosystem studies such as mapping landcover, crops, wetland inundation, and soil moisture



Session 2

Session 2 will cover:

1. Identify the basic concepts of Interferometric SAR
2. Identify the steps to generate a SAR interferogram
3. Interpret an interferogram to measure surface deformation
4. Identify the applications that InSAR can address



Homework and Certificates

- **Homework:**
 - One homework assignment
 - Opens on 11/20/2024
 - Access from the [training webpage](#)
 - Answers must be submitted via Google Forms
 - **Due by 12/04/2024**
- **Certificate of Completion:**
 - Attend all three live webinars (attendance is recorded automatically)
 - Complete the homework assignment by the deadline
 - You will receive a certificate via email approximately two months after completion of the course.



Contact Information

Erika Podest: erika.podest@jpl.nasa.gov

- [ARSET Website](#)
- Follow us on Twitter!
 - [@NASAARSET](#)
- [ARSET YouTube](#)

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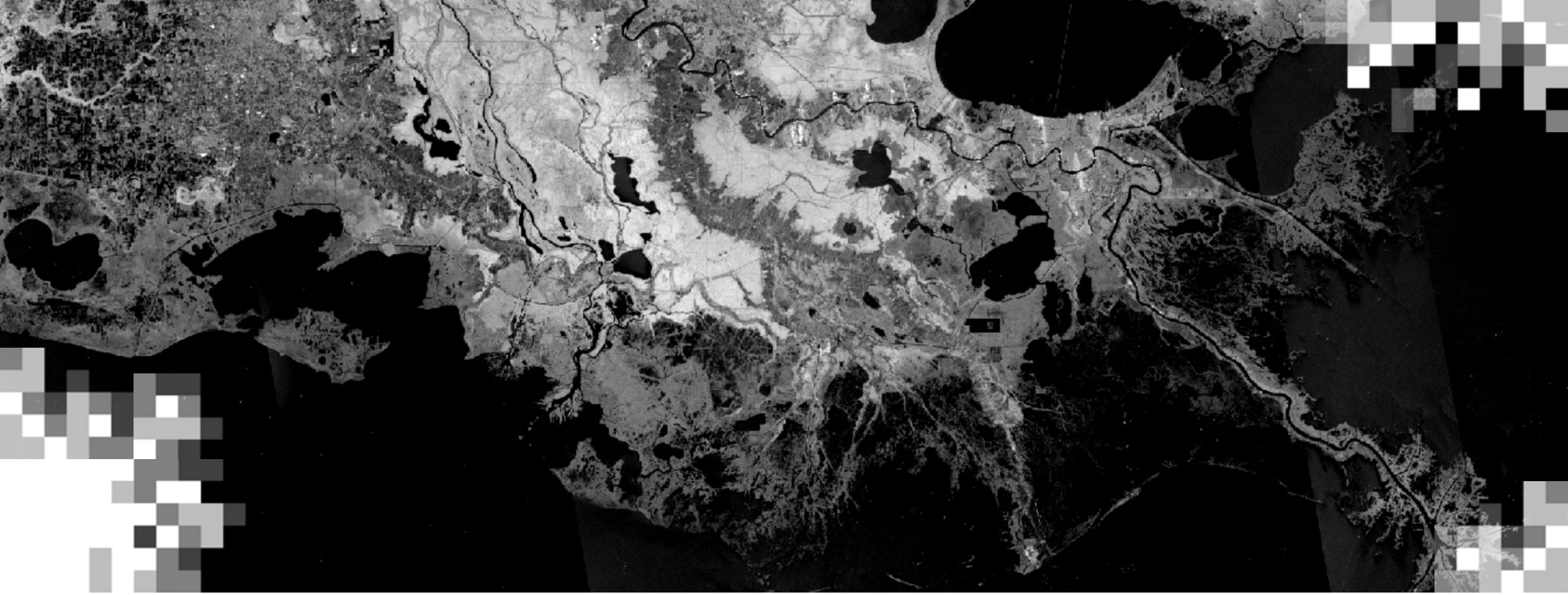
[SERVIR](#)





Thank You!





Appendix: SAR Tutorial References

ARSET SAR Tutorials

Radar Remote Sensing for Land, Water, & Disaster Applications Webinar Series:

Session 1: SAR for Mapping Land Cover

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDxBgK1VY_4

Session 2: SAR for Flood Mapping

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKrG5jYZe10>

Session 3: SAR for Mapping Soils and Crops

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoEu2P1i5xE>

Session 4: InSAR for Earthquake Studies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8lQ7pjkRlw>



ARSET SAR Tutorials

SAR for Landcover Applications:

Session 1: SAR for Flood Mapping Using Google Earth Engine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5RPibJ8my4>

Session 2: Exploiting SAR to Monitor Agriculture
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS7r50EbFQY>

SAR for Disasters and Hydrological Applications:

Session 1: SAR for Flood Mapping Using Google Earth Engine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Y2giuRPCuc>

Session 2: In SAR for Landslide Observations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bigoDH9VsiA>

Session 3: Generating a DEM
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PbFbHqRufQ>



ARSET SAR Tutorials

Forest Mapping and Monitoring with SAR Data:

Session 1: Time Series Analysis of Forest Change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KitbOq7ARNQ>

Session 2: Land Cover Classification with Radar and Optical Data

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raXA3gnb94Q>

Session 3: Mangrove Mapping

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaBEHALn-js>

Session 4: Forest Stand Height

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RROJ_4Ud78g



SAR Tutorial References

The SERVIR SAR Handbook: <https://servirglobal.net/resources/sar-handbook>

A Laymans Guide to Interpreting L and C-band SAR:

http://ceos.org/document_management/SEO/DataCube/Laymans_SAR_Interpretation_Guide_2.0.pdf

SAR Tutorials (written):

-A tutorial on SAR by ESA

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/6504845/?reload=true>

http://www2.geog.ucl.ac.uk/~mdisney/teaching/PPRS/PPRS_7/esa_sar_tutorial.pdf

https://earth.esa.int/documents/10174/2700124/sar_land_apps_1_theory.pdf

<https://earth.esa.int/handbooks/asar/toc.html>

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<http://www.radartutorial.eu/20.airborne/ab07.en.html>



SAR Tutorial References

Microwave Remote Sensing tutorials and data recipes by ASF:

<https://radar.community.uaf.edu/module-1/>

<https://asf.alaska.edu/how-to/data-recipes/data-recipe-tutorials/>

CRISP Center:

<https://crisp.nus.edu.sg/~research/tutorial/mw.htm>

Lincoln Lab:

http://www.egr.msu.edu/classes/ece480/capstone/spring12/group05/docs/presentations/TechLecture_Team5.pdf

INSAR by ESA:

<http://www.esa.int/esapub/tm/tm19/TM-19>



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Fundamentals of Remote Sensing by Natural Resources Canada:

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/satellite-imagery-air-photos/satellite-imagery-products/educational-resources/9371>

SAR Tutorial (video)

-Echoes in Space – Radar Remote Sensing by ESA

<https://eo-college.org/courses/echoes-in-space/>

Sentinel-1 Tutorials:

<http://step.esa.int/main/doc/tutorials/sentinel-1-toolbox-tutorials/>

Sisters of SAR Resources

<https://sistersofsar.wixsite.com/sistersofsar/sar-resources>

