

Introduction to Remote Sensing

Xi Yang

Department of Environmental Sciences
University of Virginia
xiyang@virginia.edu
390 Clark Hall

Zoom Etiquette

- Use the chat to ask questions, report problems, or whenever directed as part of a class activity. Keep chat messages respectful, concise, and relevant.
- Use the ‘reactions’ buttons (clapping, thumbs up) if appropriate!
- Use the ‘raise hand’ button whenever you need to ask a question during lecture. I also encourage you to speak directly if you have questions, just like in a normal classroom.
- In this online environment, I will probably ‘cold call’ students more often than I would in the classroom. It can be hard for me to know who is ready to speak, so I may call on you when you’re not expecting it. If you need to ‘pass’ on a question once or twice, that’s OK.
- In every lecture, I have short surveys for you (also accounts for participation). You will need to write down the most memorable slide/concept in that class, and the concept you have not fully grasped yet (and I can explain during the next class)

Syllabus & 5 min break

What is remote sensing?

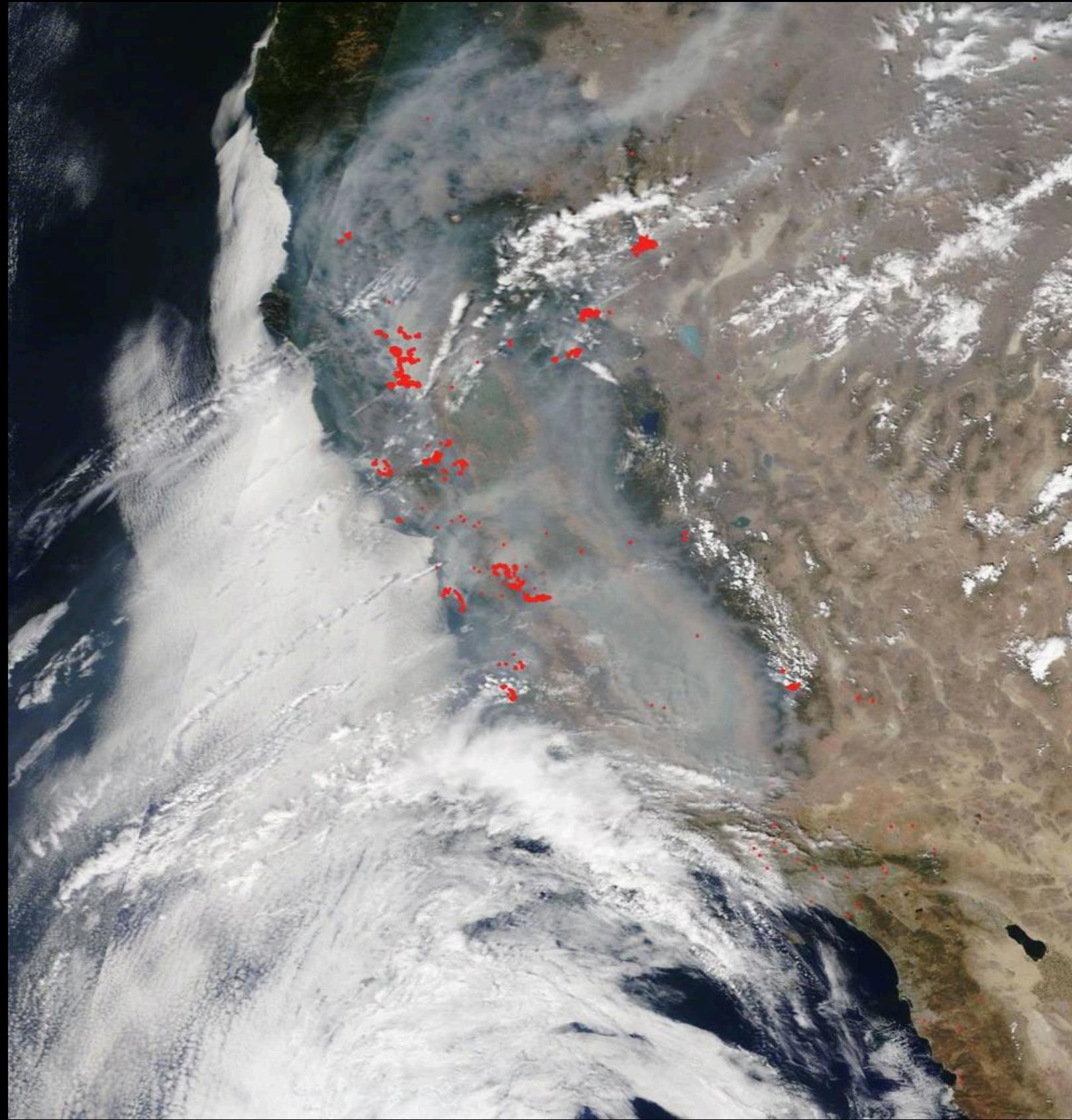
- Remote sensing: the acquisition of information about an object without making physical contact with the objects.



- What is remote sensing to you (your recent experience with remote sensing)?

Wikipedia

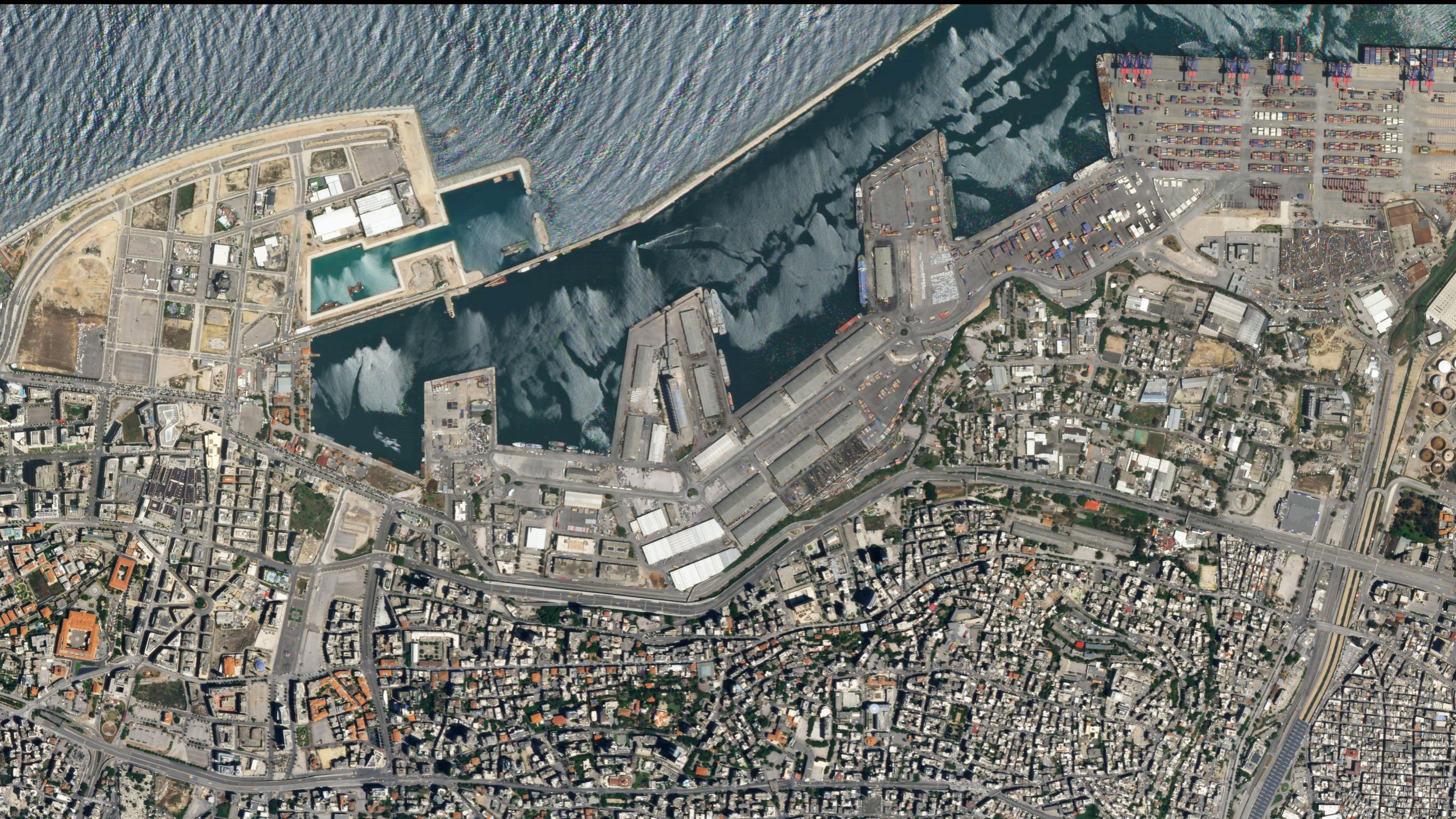
California Fire



Link

Beirut explosion

May 31, 2020



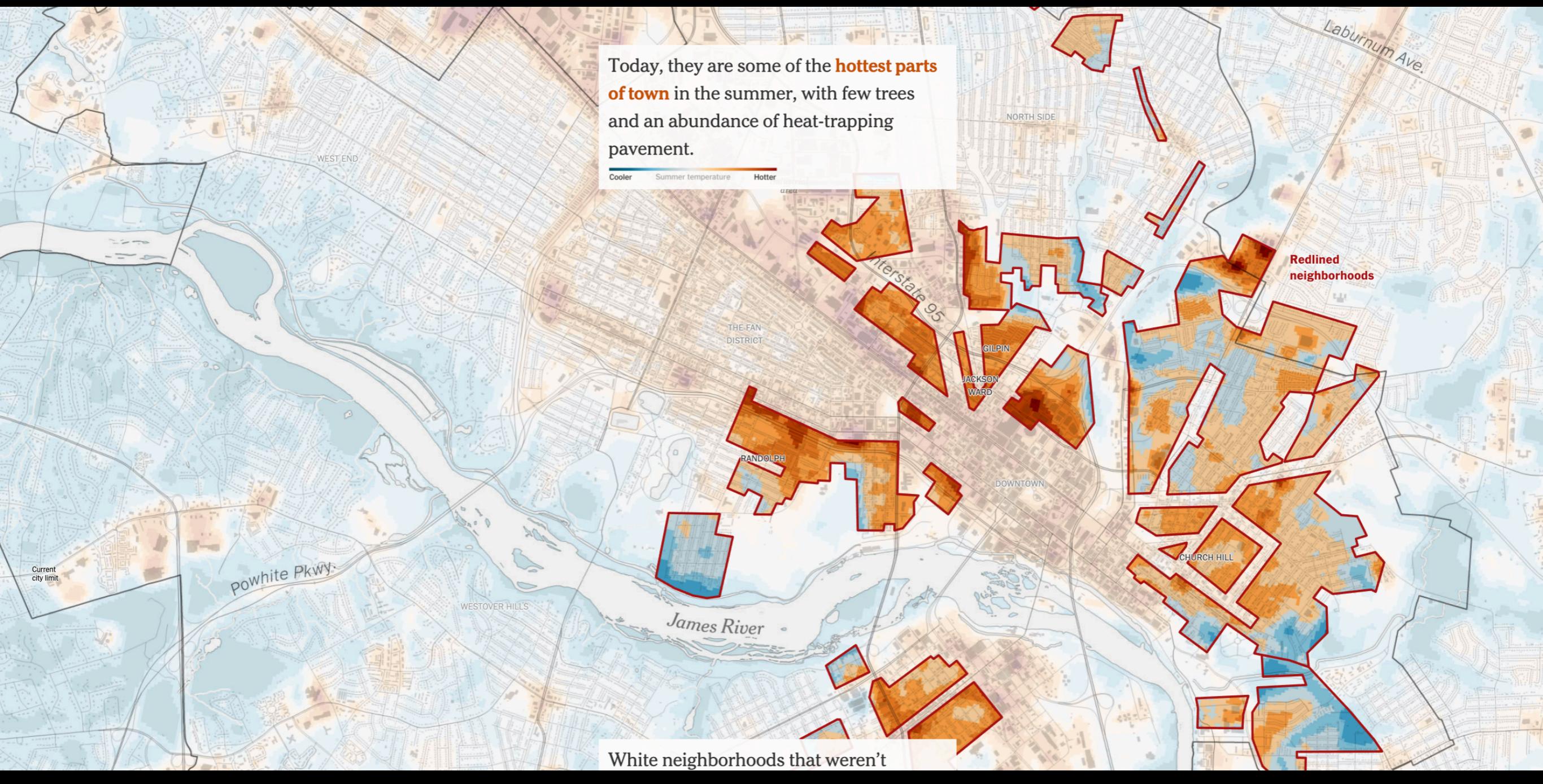
Beirut explosion

Aug 5, 2020

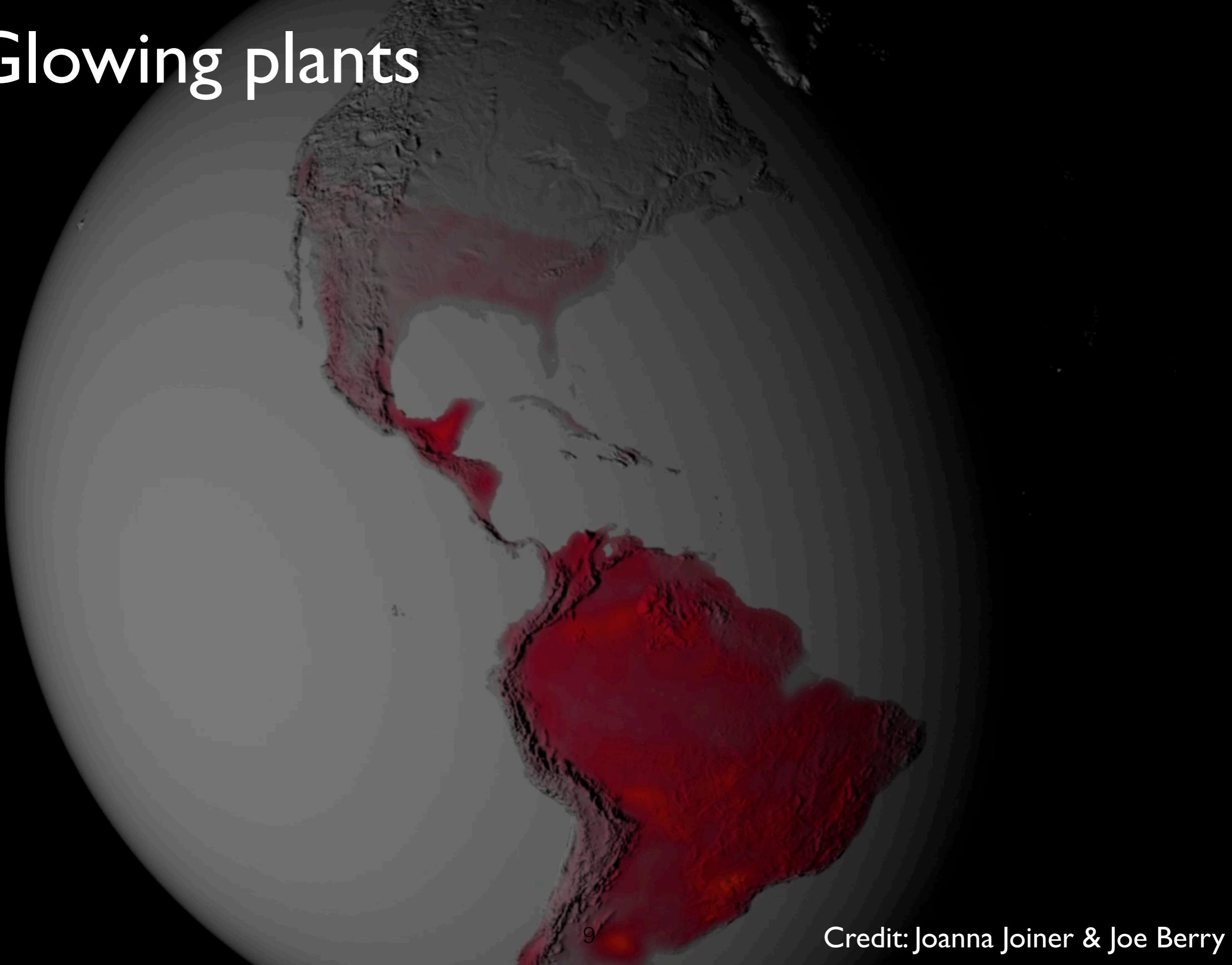


Environmental Justice

New York Times



Glowing plants

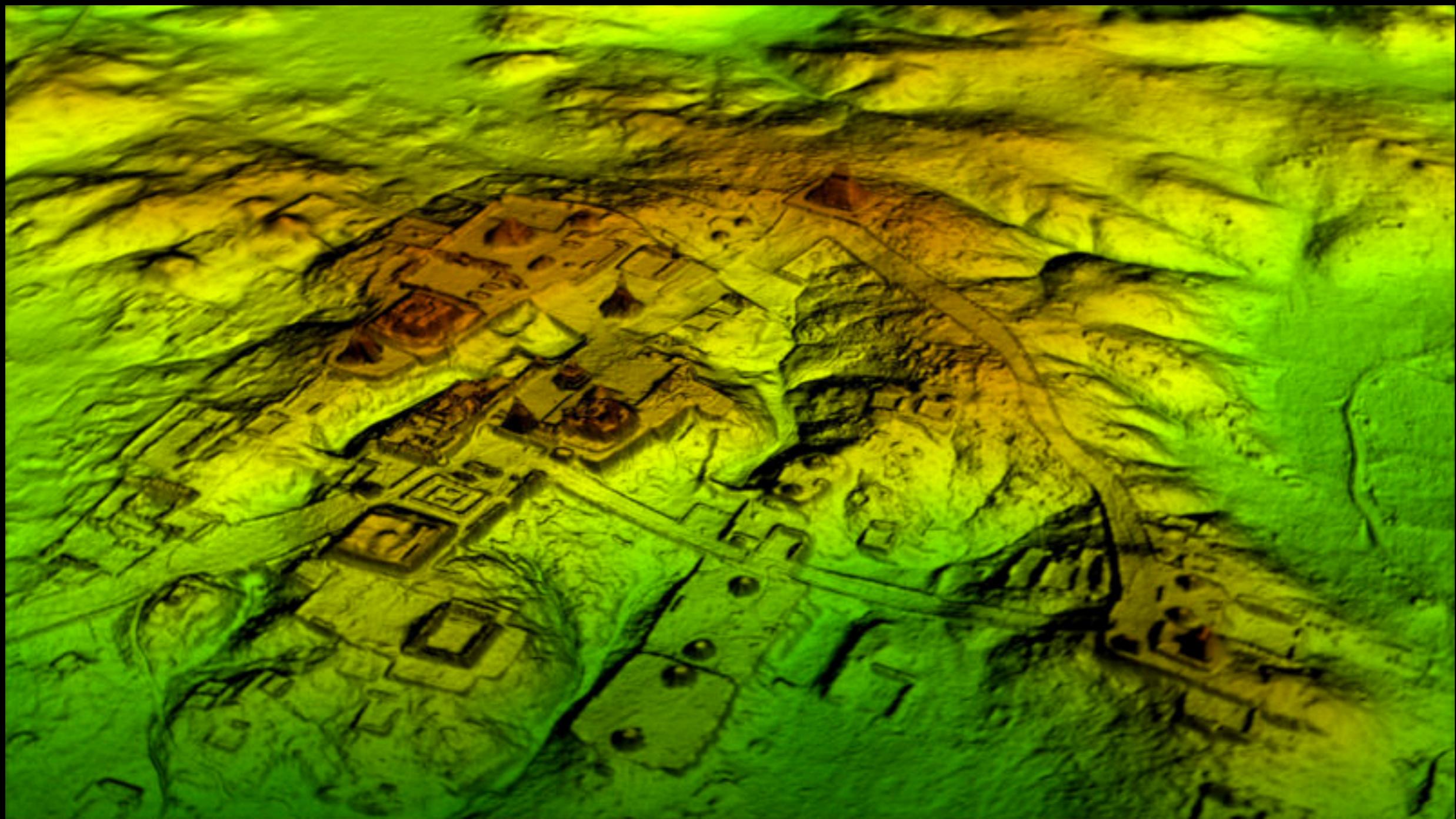


3D reconstruction



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRTFY3q2d3o>

Archeological Remote Sensing



Drones



Global challenges and the role of remote sensing

- Energy and the Environment
- Global Health
- Water Resources
- Agriculture and Food Security
- International Security
- Population
- Human Rights

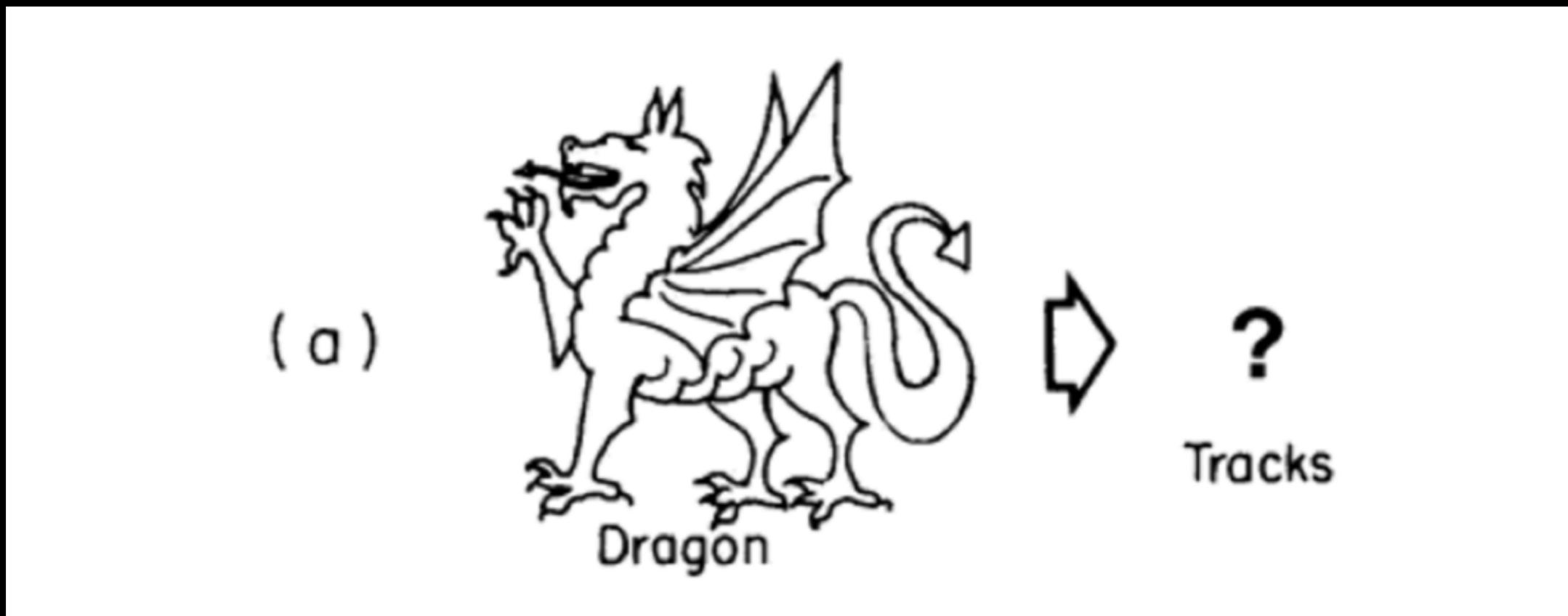
Remote Sensing is an important and cool tool

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

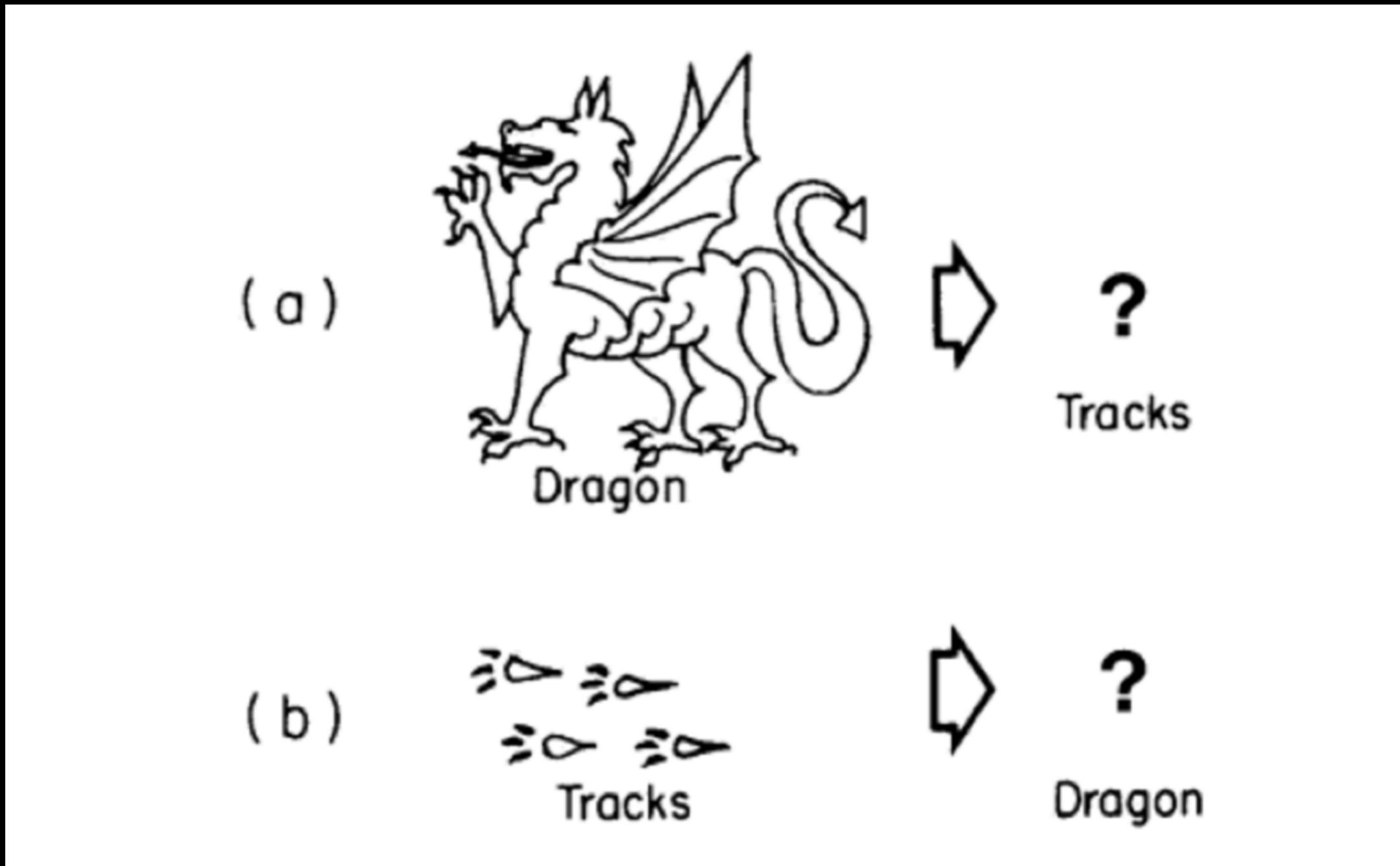
<https://earth.nullschool.net>

Survey Time (~10 min)
[link](#)

Remote sensing solves an inverse problem



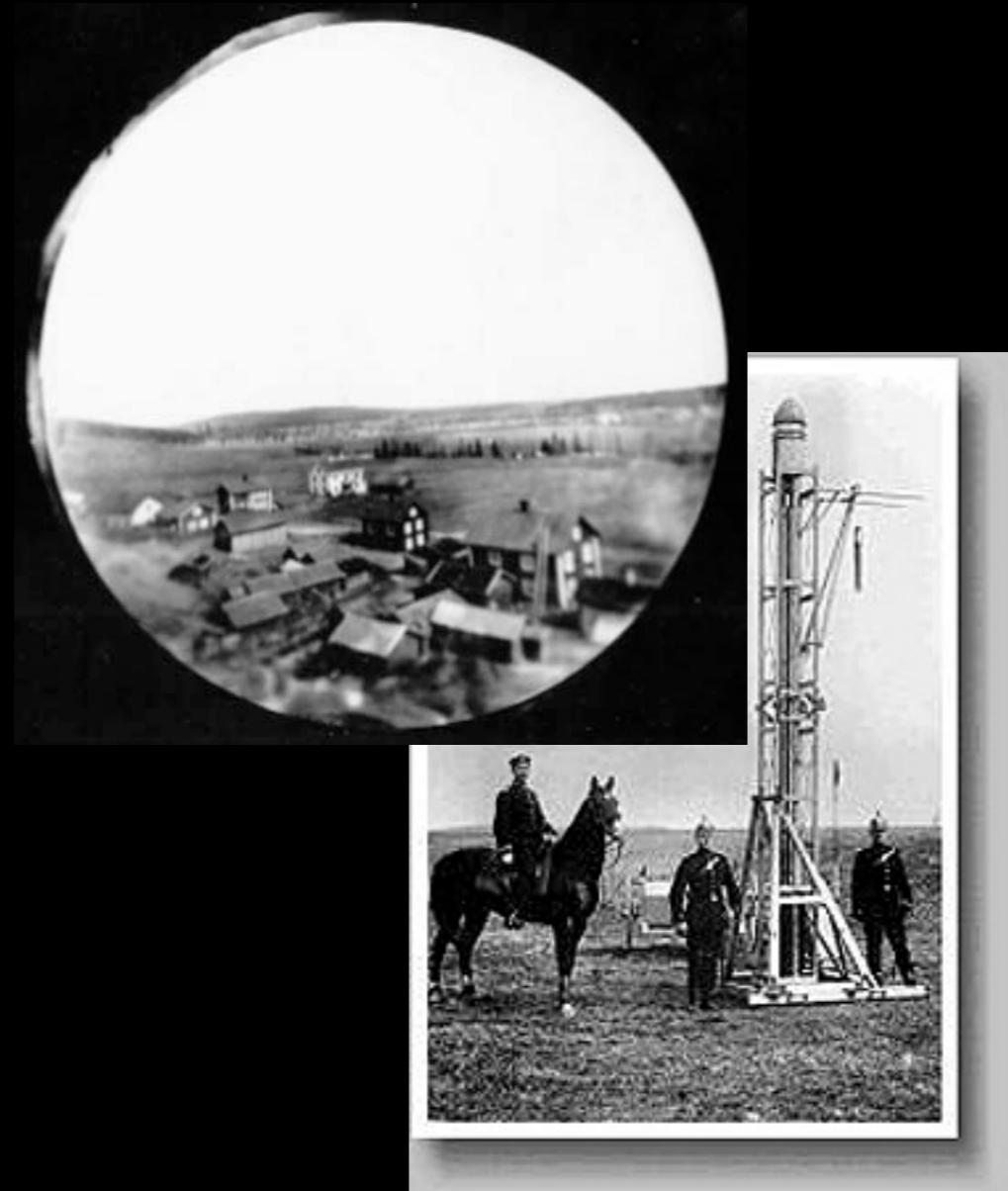
Remote sensing solves an inverse problem



A brief history of remote sensing (I)



Balloon (Nadar)



Nobel's Rocket

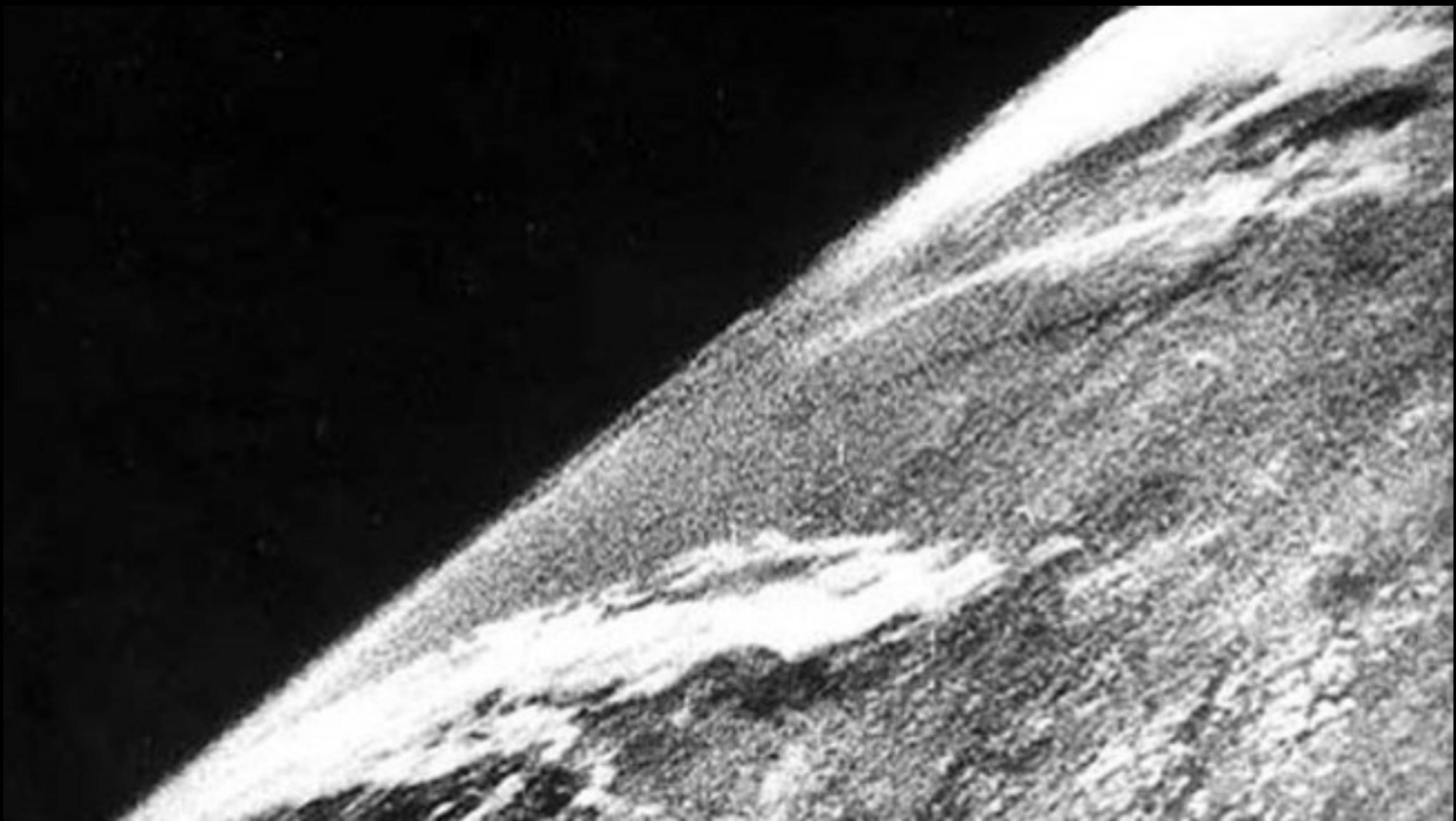


Recon Pigeon

A brief history of remote sensing (II)



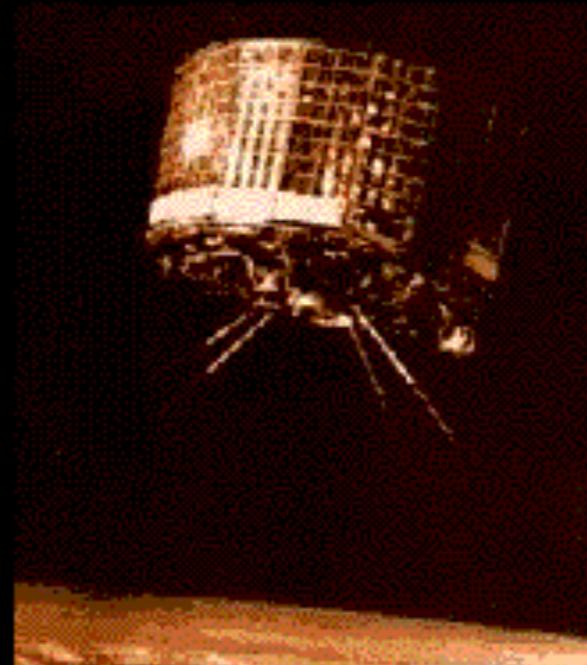
First photo of Earth from space



View of Earth from a camera on a V-2 missile. 1946

Remote sensing in the satellite era

- TIROS-I: Television InfraRed Observation System I



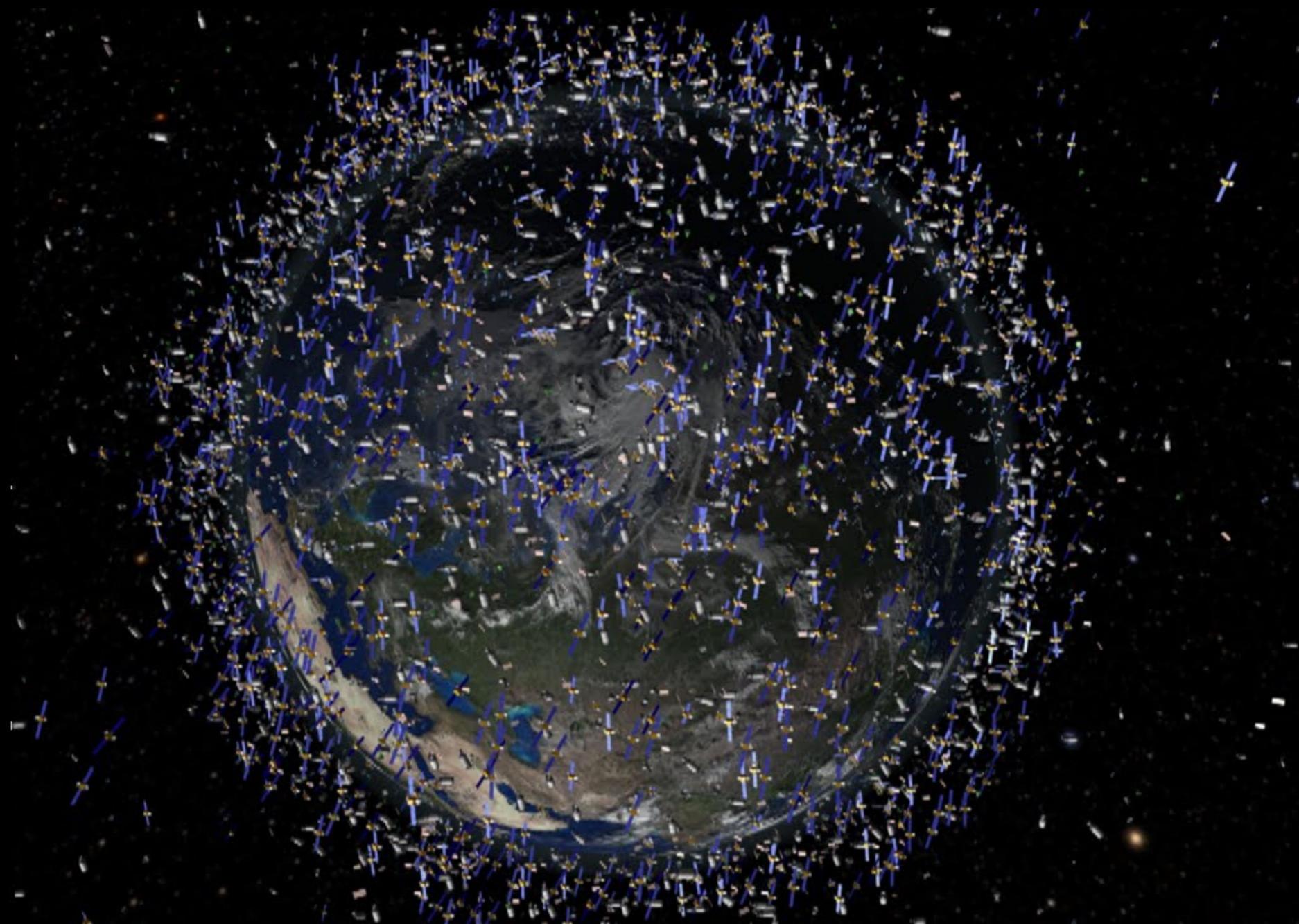
- TIROS-N/NOAA satellites since 1978



Spaceborne Remote Sensing



Remote sensing in the satellite era



Quiz: how many manmade satellite are currently in orbit?

Why Remote Sensing???

Pros

- Spatial coverage
- Temporal frequency
- Cheap and efficient
- Remote

Cons

- Spatial resolution can sometimes be too coarse
- Clouds

Class Structure

- Lecture + Lab; Lab assignments + Readings (and discussions);

Discussion lead sign-up: [https://docs.google.com/
spreadsheets/d/
IjSJkrAmHEKxTsWEM7NILEa4rO3tse3xjnmfrU-
MBUIM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/IjSJkrAmHEKxTsWEM7NILEa4rO3tse3xjnmfrUMBUIM/edit?usp=sharing)

- Evaluation: Final Project + Lab + Mid-term + Class Participation.

Detecting algal blooms with
satellite remote sensing

Cal Buelo
EVSC 7010
4/26/2017

A Sticky Situation

Remotely Sensing the 2013 Honolulu
Harbor Molasses Spill

Zane Havens
Spring, 2018

Qualitative Changes in Urban Land Cover in Vail
and Denver, Colorado and a brief exploration of
Classification Accuracy Between Software

EVSC 4010: Introduction to Remote Sensing
Filip Kawka

Characterizing changes in vegetation from 1990 to 2010 in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines

Dom Ong



Lecture and discussion topics

Week 1: Introduction to Remote Sensing

Week 2: Basic Physical Principles of Remote Sensing

Week 3: Remote Sensing Systems

Week 4: Radiative Transfer Theory

Week 5: Reflectance Spectroscopy of Materials

Week 6: Image Interpretation and Data Analysis (I)

Week 7: Image Interpretation and Data Analysis (II)

Week 8: Mid-term

Week 9: Thermal Remote Sensing

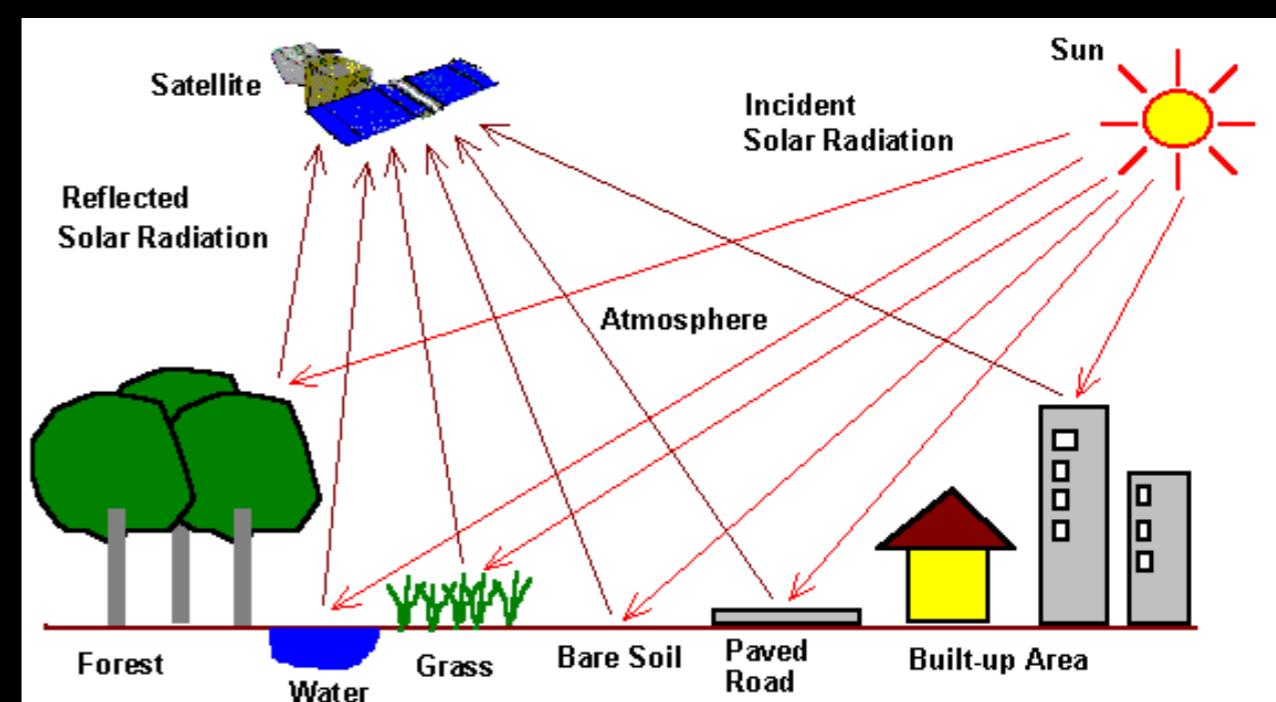
Week 10: Hyperspectral Remote Sensing

Week 11: Microwave Remote Sensing

Week 12: Ground and Airborne Remote Sensing

Week 13: Advanced Remote Sensing Topics (I)

Week 14: Advanced Remote Sensing Topics (II)



Labs

Lab 1: Introduction to Digital Images and Course Software (ENVI)

Lab 2: Atmospheric Correction and Radiometric Correction

Lab 3: Reflectance, Band Ratio, and Vegetation Indices

Lab 4: Hyperspectral Images

Lab 5: Image Interpretation

Lab 6: Thermal Imageries: Estimating Fire Extent

Lab 7: Land Use Classification

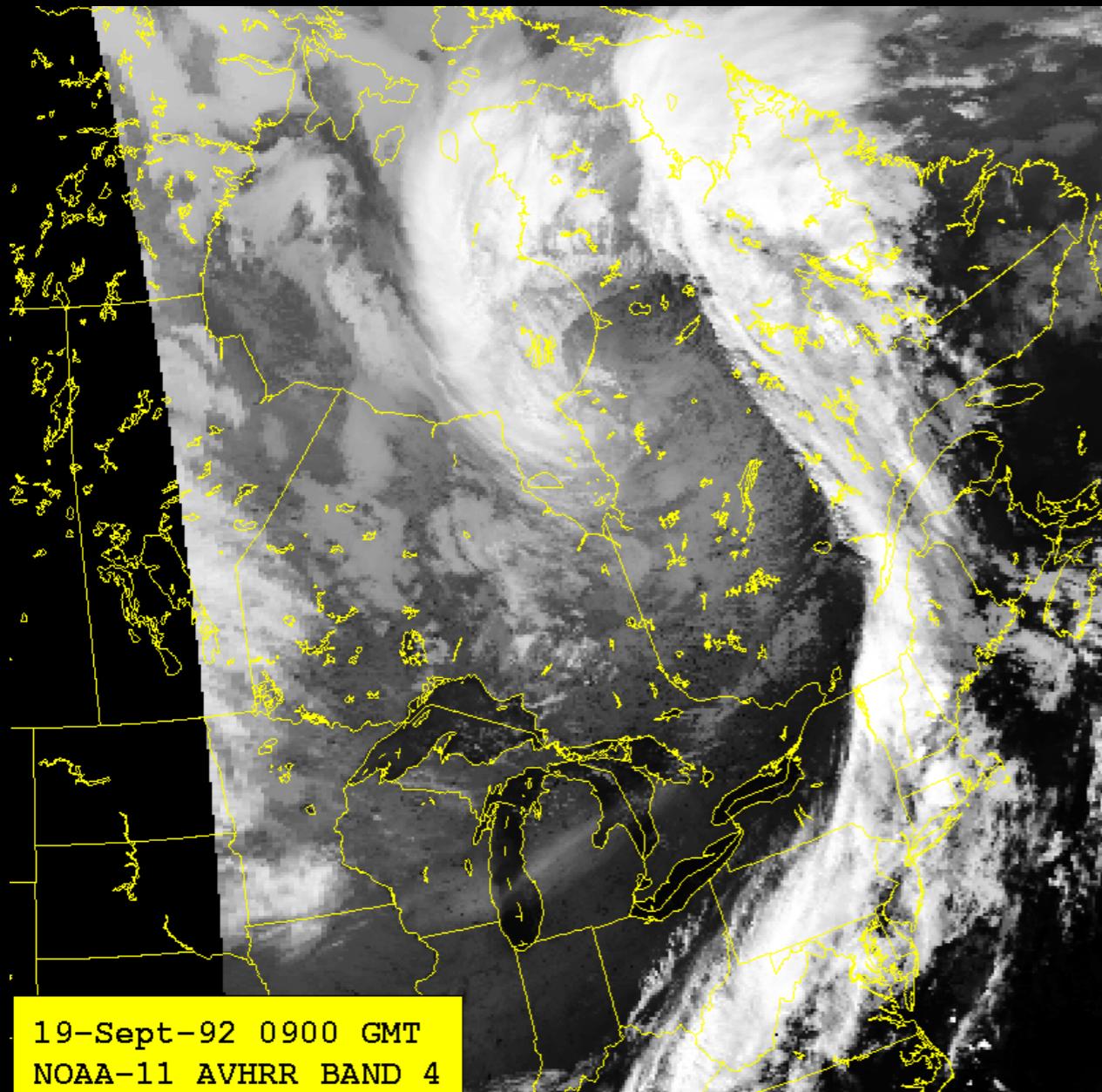
Expected outcomes

- Explain basic concepts in remote sensing;
- Explain how remote sensing instruments works;
- Know how to find remote sensing datasets for your projects;
- Know how to use one or two software that processes remote sensing data;
- Discuss advantages and caveats of remote sensing;
- Explain how remote sensing can solve real-world problems;
- Use remote sensing to solve real-world problems.

Case studies

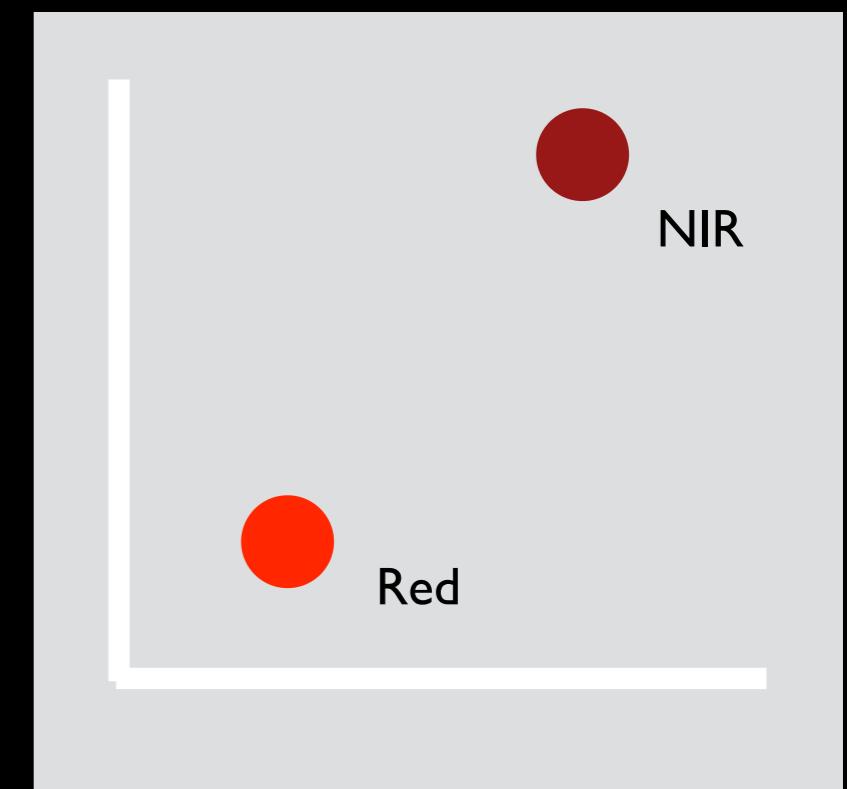
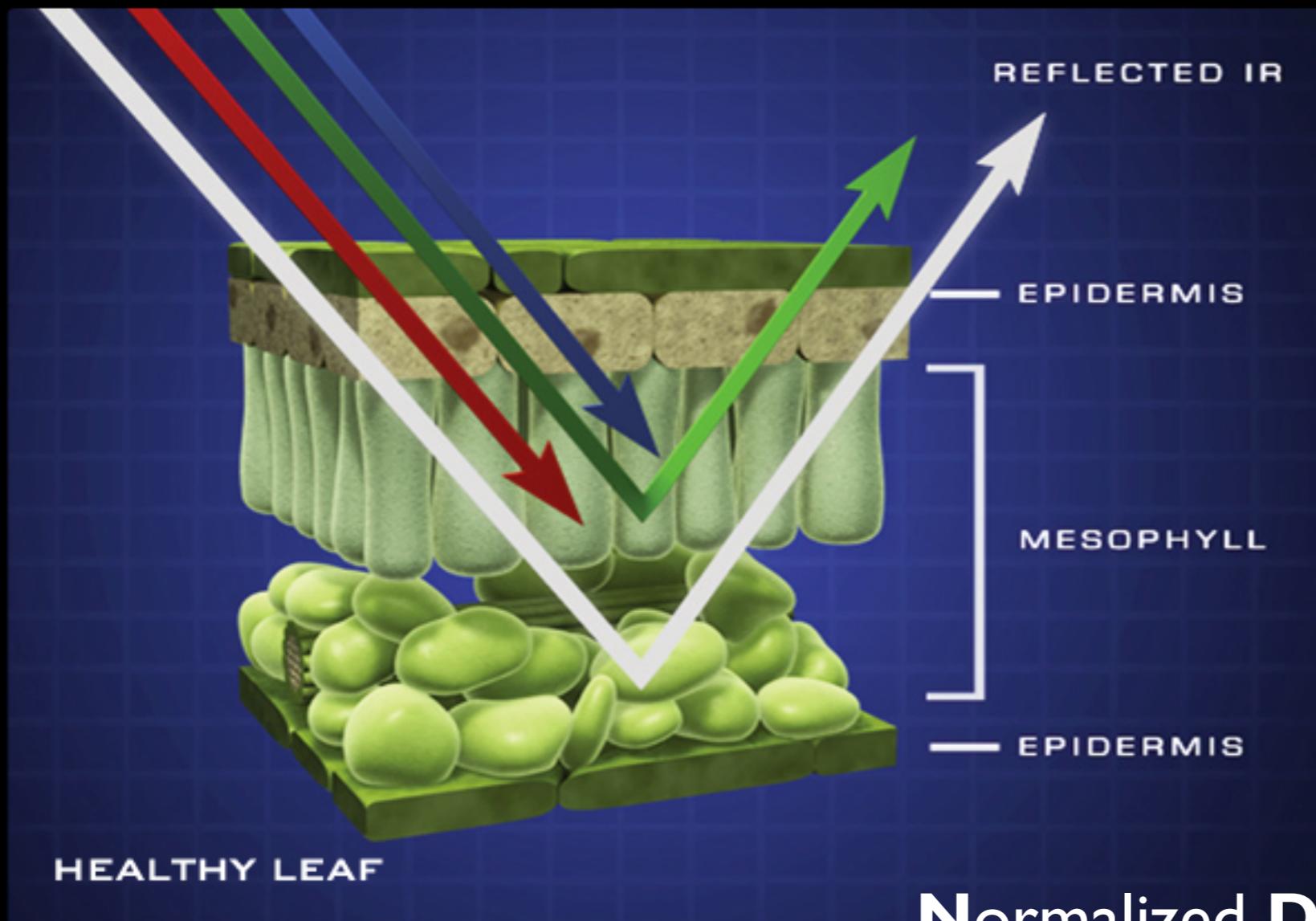
- Vegetation Remote Sensing — an area of happy accidents
- Urban Remote Sensing

A weather satellite for vegetation studies



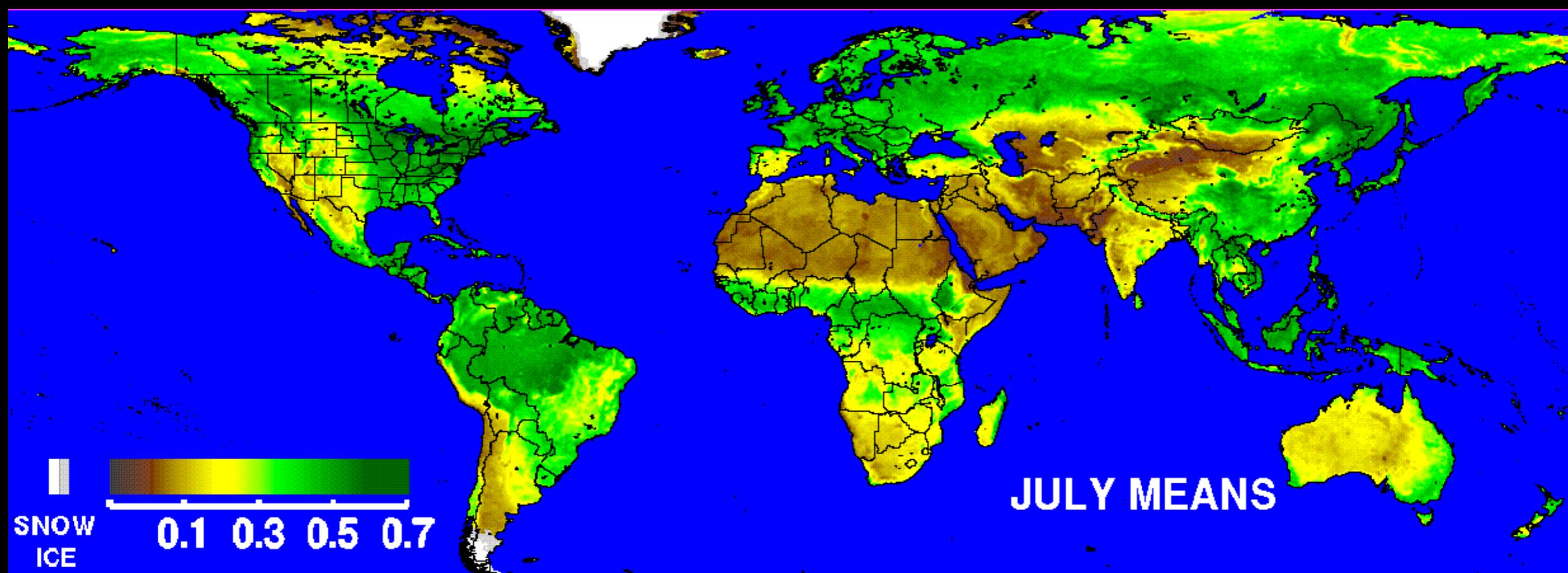
- TIROS-N

Vegetation index

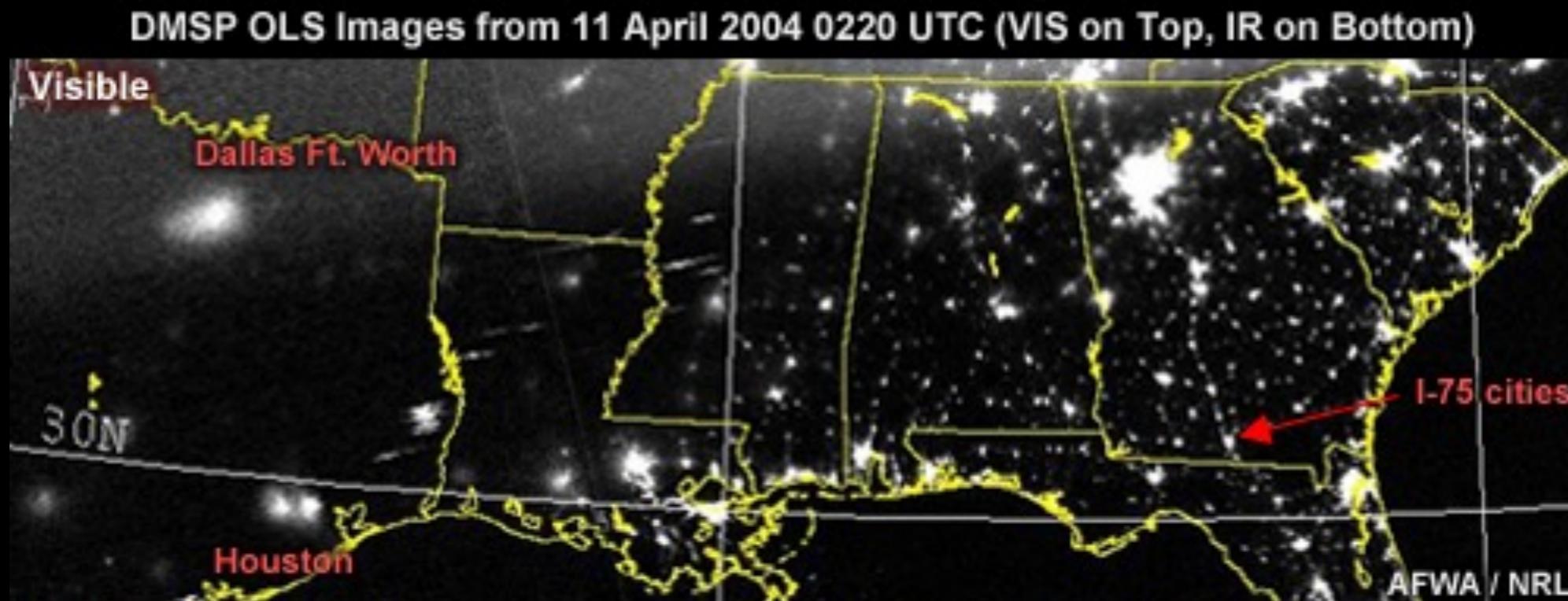


Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
 $= (\text{NIR}-\text{R})/(\text{NIR}+\text{R})$

A weather satellite for vegetation studies

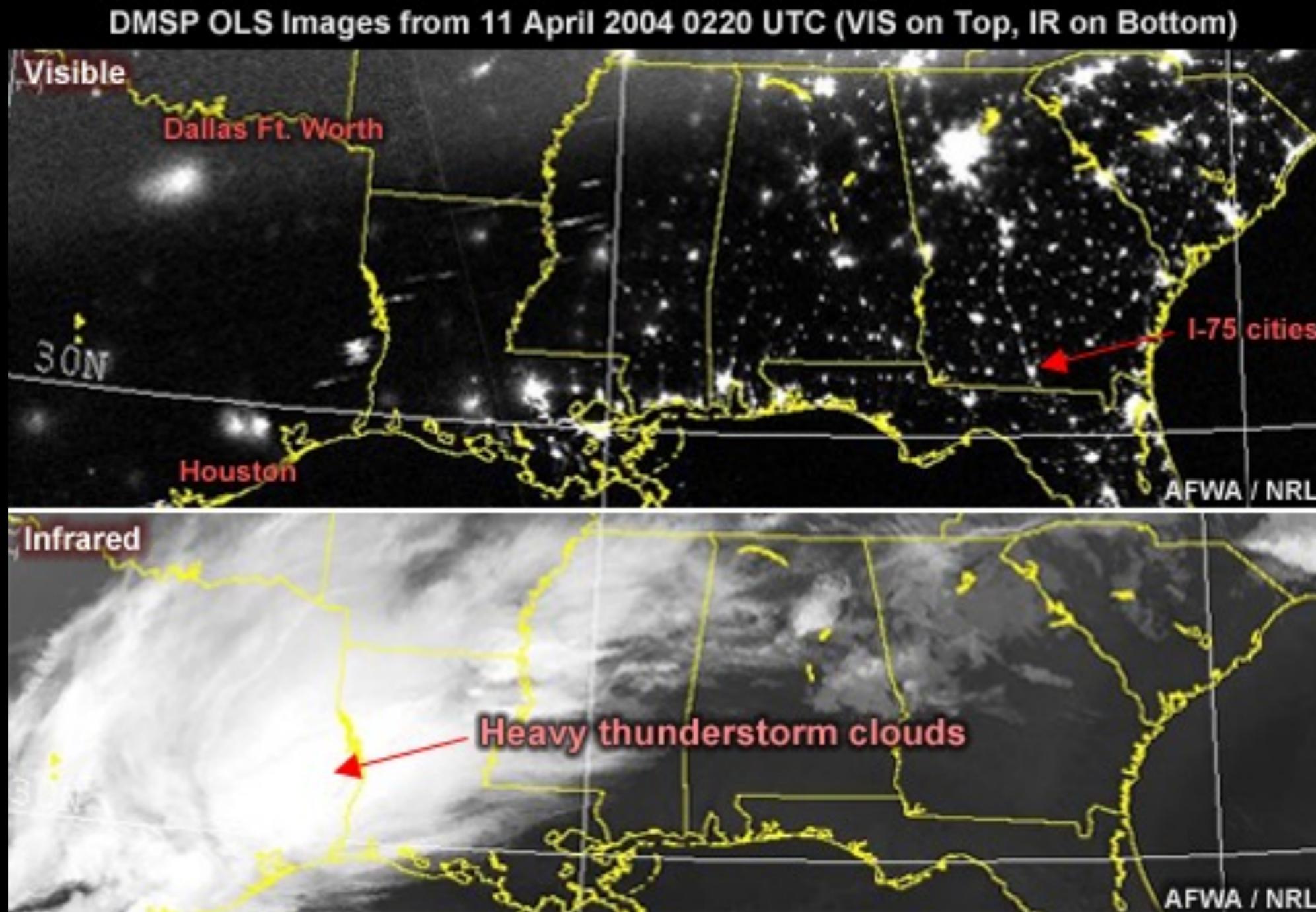


A weather satellite for urban studies



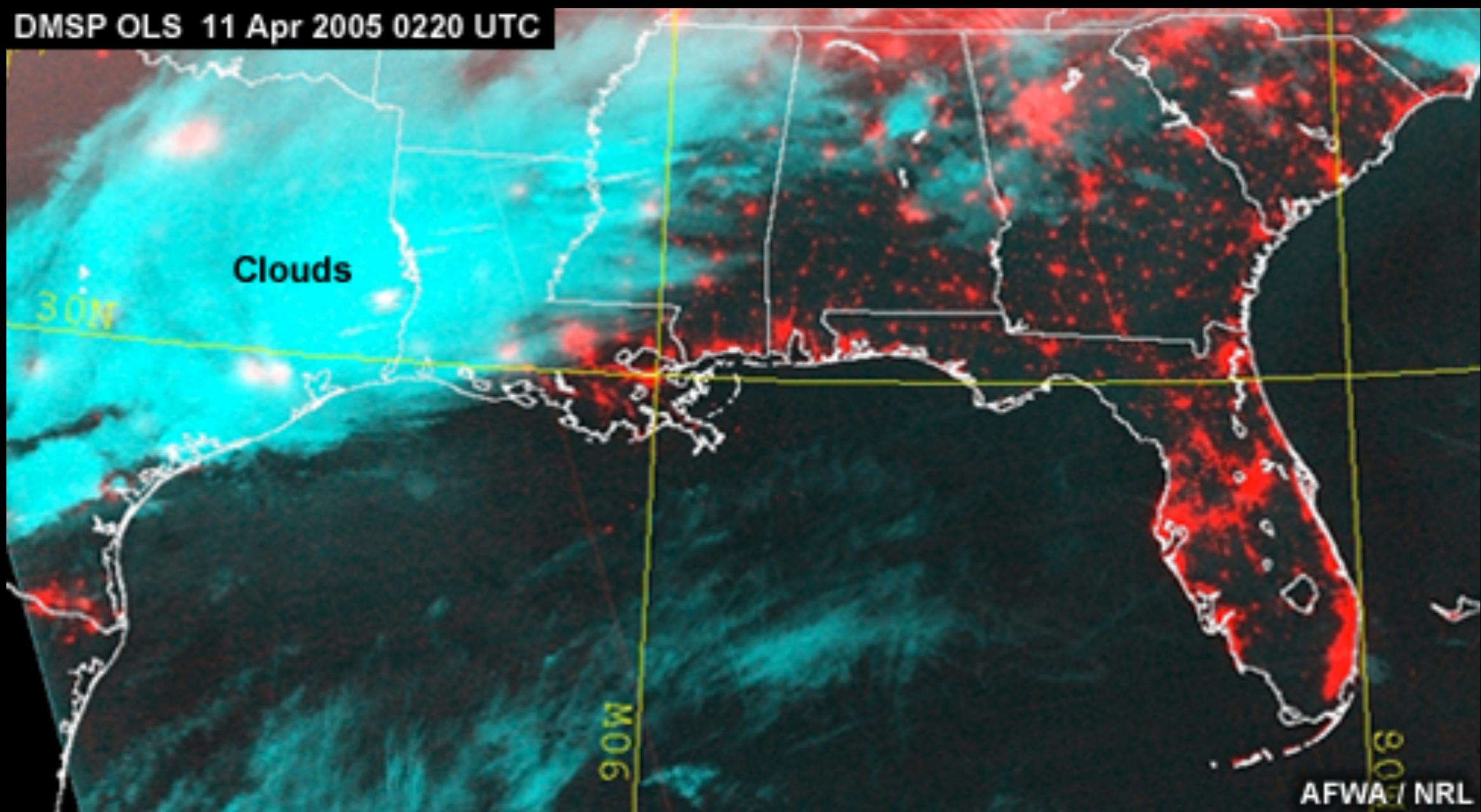
DMSP OLS: Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, Operational Linescan System

A weather satellite for urban studies

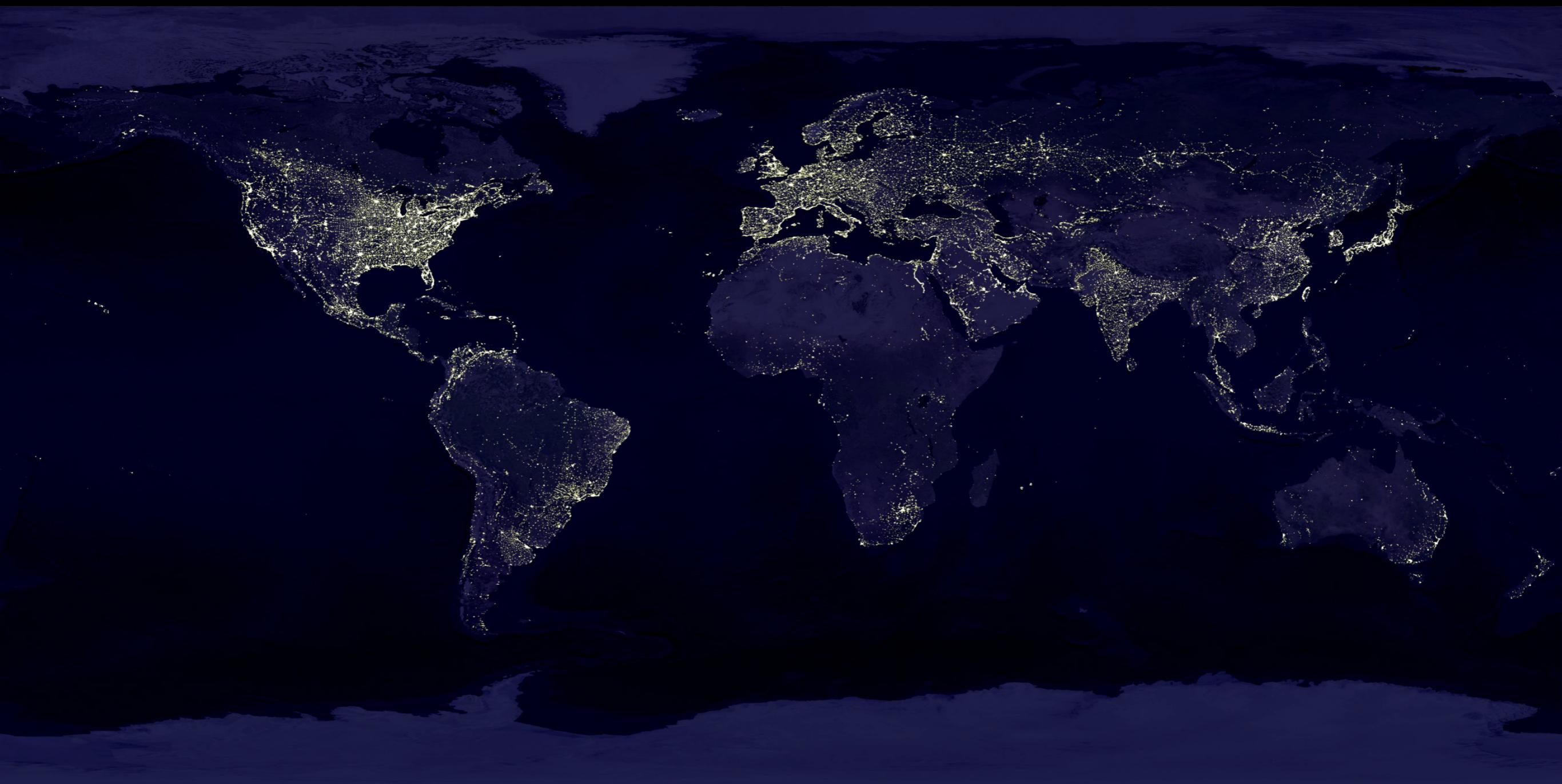


DMSP OLS: Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, Operational Linescan System

DMSP OLS 11 Apr 2005 0220 UTC



A weather satellite for urban studies



DMSP OLS