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**Surface Biology and Geology (SBG)  
Observing Terrestrial Thermal Emission Radiometer  
(OTTER)**

**Level 1 Geometric Calibration Algorithm Theoretical Basis  
Document (ATBD)**

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Michael M. Smyth  
Level 1 Algorithms Team  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology

Veljko Jovanovic  
Level 1 Algorithms Team  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**JPL**  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, California 91109-8099  
California Institute of Technology

## **Signature List**

### **APPROVED BY:**

---

Michael M. Smyth, SBG-TIR Calibration Engineer

---

Date

---

Renaud Goullioud, SBG-TIR Calibration Lead Engineer

---

Date

---

Simon Hook, SBG-TIR Project Scientist

---

Date

## **EPDM Electronic Signatures**

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## **Contacts**

Readers seeking additional information about this study may contact the following:

**Mike M. Smyth**

MS 168-421  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology  
4800 Oak Grove Dr.  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
Email: *mike.m.smyth@jpl.nasa.gov*  
Office: (818) 354-9812

**Veljko M. Jovanovic**

MS 168-420  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology  
4800 Oak Grove Dr.  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
Email: *veljko.m.jovanovic@jpl.nasa.gov*  
Office: (818) 354-4032

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## **Abstract / Background**

In 2021, the NASA Earth System Observatory (ESO) identified the study of Surface Biology and Geology (SBG) as one of five science focus areas based on recommendations from the 2018 Decadal Survey. The concept's implementation has since evolved into two separate spacecraft platform systems: A VSWIR (Visible and Short-Wave Infrared imaging spectrometer) for hyperspectral analysis, and dual VNIR (Visible and Near Infrared) and TIR (Thermal Infrared) instruments for focused thermal mapping science [1]. This document specifically addresses geolocation of the SBG-TIR instrument aboard the second platform.

The SBG-TIR instrument, also known as "OTTER" (Orbiting Terrestrial Thermal Emission Radiometer), was designed and built by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). It is mounted to a free-flyer satellite platform built and managed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI), who also manages the separate (co-boresighted) VNIR camera, also known as "VIREO". The TIR instrument's focus is exploration of the Earth's surface temperature and emissivity, evapotranspiration, vegetative water stress, substrate composition, volcanic plumes, and other high-temperature features and their change over time. The instrument uses a continuously rotating scan mirror in a push-whisk configuration to direct light from the telescope through eight narrowband interference filters to the Focal Plane Array (FPA). The eight bands include two mid-infrared wavelengths ( $3\text{-}5\mu\text{m}$ ) and six thermal wavelengths ( $8\text{-}12\mu\text{m}$ ). (The VNIR camera provides three additional spectral bands managed by ASI.) The platform will have an operational altitude of  $\sim 693\text{km}$  providing an approximate ground sample distance (GSD) of 60m at nadir, and an image granule size of approximately 910x1060km with 3-day repeat visit time.

This algorithm theoretical basis document (ATBD) describes the Level 1 geolocation of the SGB-TIR OTTER imagery. The geolocation strategy depends on the characteristics of the acquired scenes. For standard daytime time, the corrected ephemeris and attitude data from the higher resolution ASI VNIR instrument are used. When VNIR data are not available (e.g., nighttime data) we will perform image matching against an existing ortho-base and use this to correct errors in the ephemeris and attitude. A pointing model is then used with the corrected ephemeris and attitude to calculate surface latitude and longitude for each image pixel, along with related ancillary metadata (view angles, solar angles). Depending on the geolocation strategy used, the geolocation accuracy will be better than 1 SSD (image matching, SSD is Spatial Sampling Distance), or 2 SSD (uncorrected ephemeris and attitude).

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## 1 Introduction

The OTTER (Orbiting Terrestrial Thermal Emission Radiometer) is part of the NASA SBG (Surface Biology and Geology) mission that deploys an advanced imaging spectrometer on a “free-flyer” space platform managed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) to monitor Earth environment temperatures using Thermal Infrared (TIR) wavelengths [1]. The planned science focus includes surface radiance, temperature, emissivity, evapotranspiration, volcanic plumes, water use efficiency, and related temperature manifestations. To measure radiance, the instrument uses a continuously rotating scan mirror in a push-whisk configuration to direct light from the telescope through eight narrowband interference filters to the Focal Plane Array (FPA). The focal plane consists of 8x16x256 arrays of Mercury Cadmium Telluride (MCT) detectors of CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) manufacture. The OTTER FPA design is an update of the “Prototype HyspIRI-TIR (PHyTIR)” instrument originally developed at JPL by Johnson, et al [2], and flown by the NASA ECOSTRESS Mission [3] aboard the ISS (International Space Station). A summary of OTTER spectral imaging parameters is provided as Table 1.

<b>Band Number</b>	<b>Center Wavelength (microns)</b>	<b>Bandwidth (microns)</b>	<b>Pixel GSD (Nadir):</b> 60 x 60m
4	3.98	0.025	
5	4.81	0.1	<b>Earth Coverage Image:</b>
6	8.32	0.3	910 x 1060km
7	8.63	0.3	<b>Dynamic Range:</b>
8	9.07	0.3	14bit Integer
9	10.30	0.3	
10	11.35	0.5	
11	12.05	0.5	

**Table 1: The OTTER Spectral Parameters. Note that Band Numbers 1 to 3 are reserved for use by the three VNIR bands (calibrated separately by ASI).**

Level-1B Geolocation is the process of generating geotagging information for the SBG-TIR OTTER imagery. In addition, related auxiliary information are generated (view angles, solar angles). The DN imagery from L1A processing is converted to physical radiance units, and the data resampled so the 8 bands are coregistered. Finally, orthorectified data is generated as gridded (0.0006 degree latitude/longitude) and tiled (60m UTM, Sentinel tile) products. The tiled product will also include the separate instrument VNIR data, averaged to the same 60 m UTM tile.

Level-1B is part of the overall Level 1 data flow, as shown in Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2.

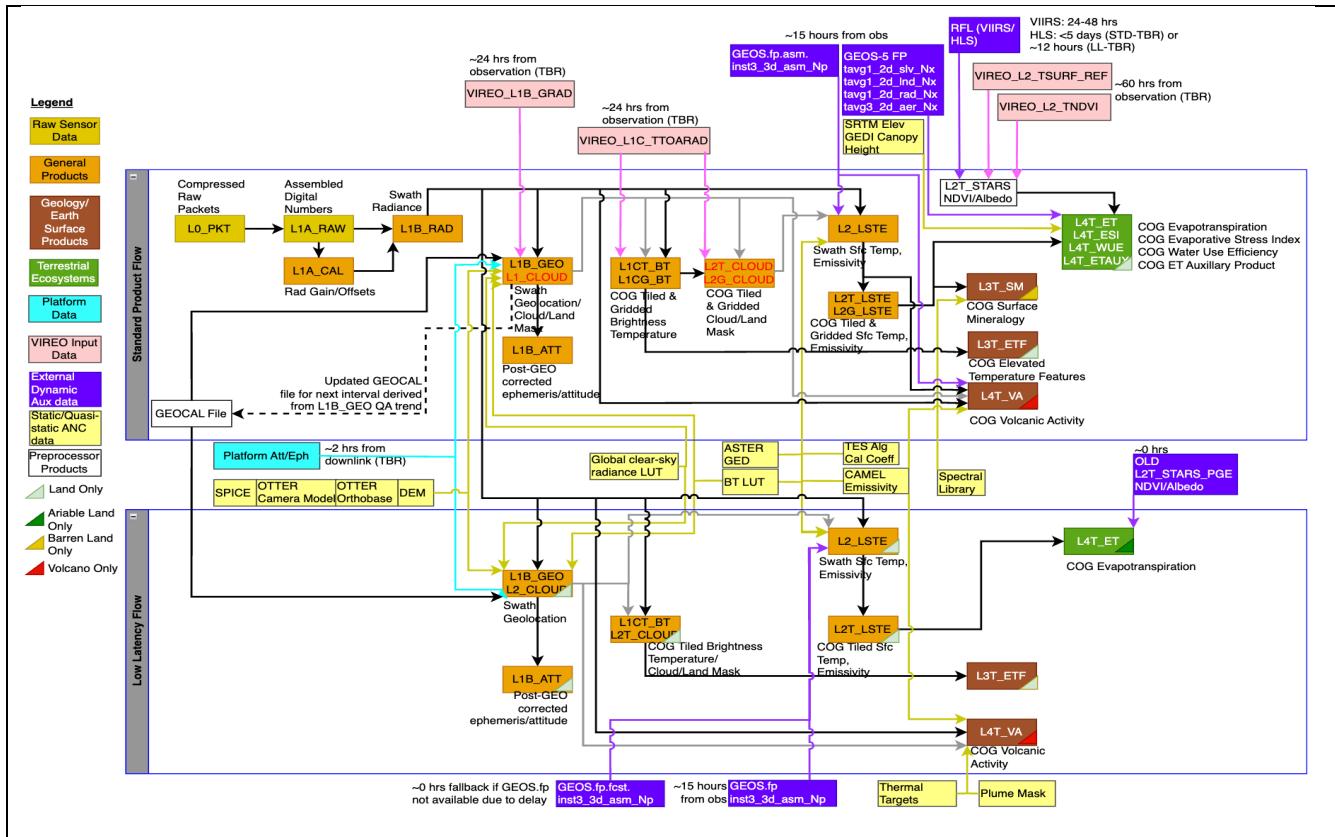
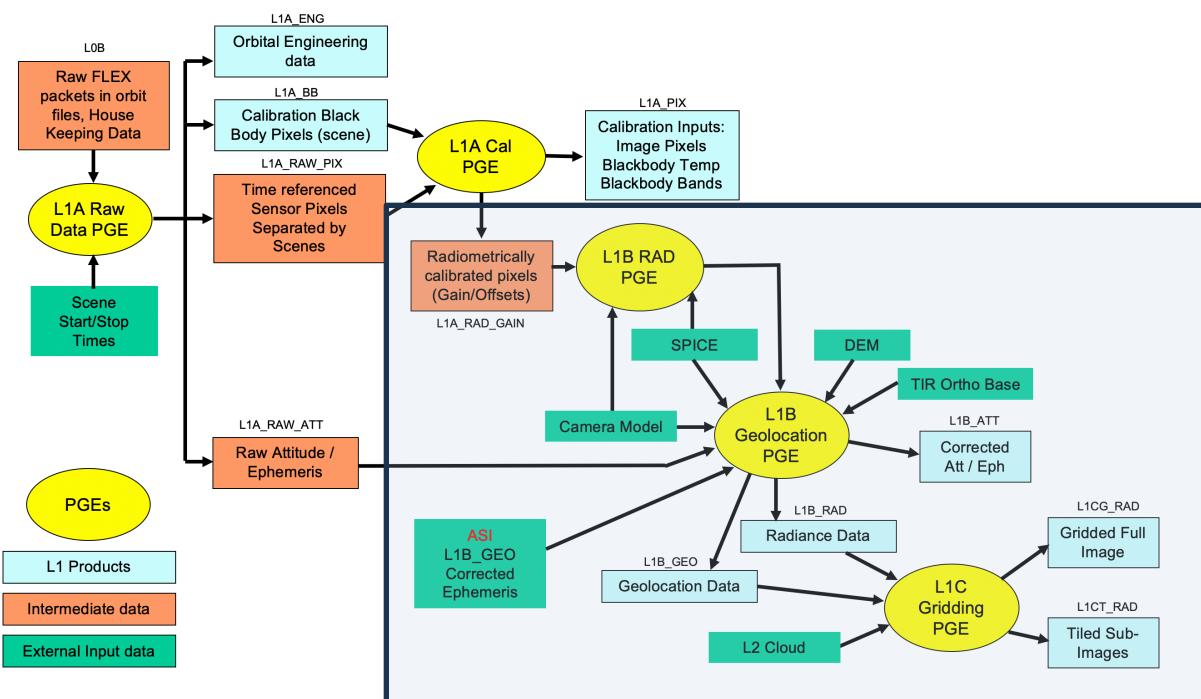


Figure 1-1: SBG-TIR Overall Product Data Flow



**Figure 1-2: SBG-TIR Level 1 PGE Product Data Flow**

## 2 Input datasets

The input datasets to the L1B Geo processing are shown in the following table:

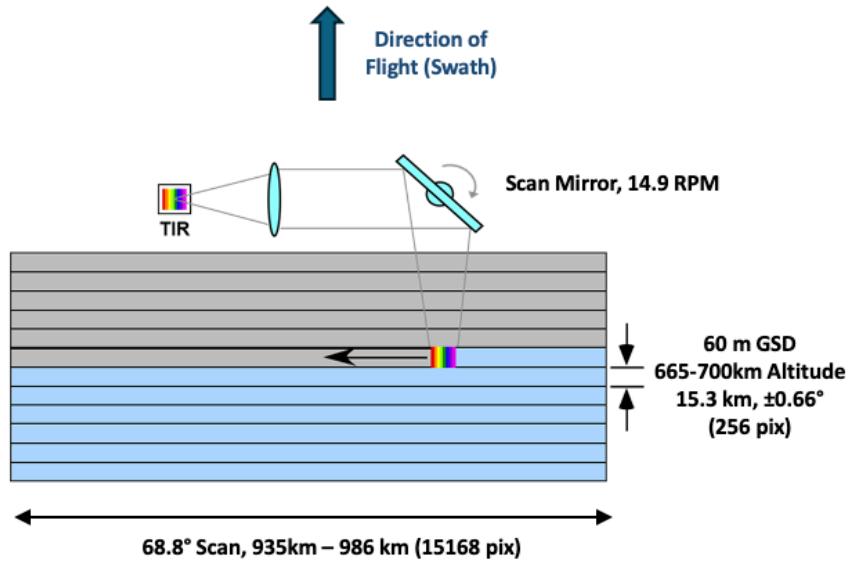
Ephemeris data	Gives position of spacecraft	
Attitude data	Gives pointing of spacecraft	
Corrected ephemeris/attitude from ASI VNIR instrument	Corrected pointing, only available for standard daylight scenes	
Camera model	Describe orientation of sensor with spacecraft and pointing information for each pixel (interior and exterior orientation)	
DEM	Provide height range used in geolocation	
Land/Water Mask	Provide land/water mask used in geolocation	
Orthobase	Provides ground truth for image matching when ASI VNIR corrected ephemeris/attitude not available.	
SPICE Kernels	Leapseconds	Provide information about leap seconds
	Utpole	Provide orientation of earth with inertial base frame (include UT1-UTC, precision, polar motion)
	Solar ephemeris	Location of sun relative to earth

**Table 2: Input data sets**

### 3 Geolocation Based on Image Matching

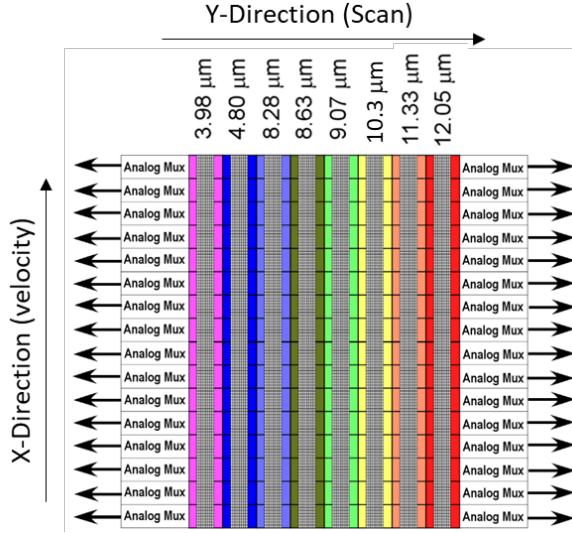
#### 3.1 SBG TIR Instrument Geometry and Optical Distortion

The SBG-TIR instrument operates as a push-whisk scanner, collecting 256 pixels in the cross-whisk direction for each spectral channel, which enables a wide swath and high spatial resolution. As the platform moves forward, the scan mirror sweeps the focal plane ground projection in the cross-track direction. The different spectral bands are swept across a given point on the ground sequentially. From the 665-700 km altitude, the resulting swath is 935-986 km wide. A conceptual layout for the instrument is shown in Figure 3-1. The scan mirror rotates at a constant angular speed. It sweeps the focal plane image 68.8° across nadir.



**Figure 3-1: SBG-TIR scanning scheme.**

Figure 3-2 provides a more detailed view of the focal plane array, with corresponding axis along the scanning and cross-scanning directions. Compared to the ground velocity, the high scanning velocity during the sensor dwell time of  $TBD \mu s$  produces a smearing of the pixels along the scanning direction, resulting in an effective nadir resolution of 60 m along the sensor Y direction (scan direction).



**Figure 3-2: Focal plane axis convention. Y is the scanning direction and X the cross-scan (velocity) direction.**  
OTTER

There is very little optical distortion (see [13]), however the bands are separated on the ground. The data is resampled to produce coregistered data, as described in Section 3.6.

### 3.2 Geolocation requirements

The current geolocation requirements are:

- TIR-L4-611 TIR Geolocation without GCPs is 2 SSD (Spatial Sampling Distance, e.g., pixel on the ground) (CE68)
- TIR-L4-607 TIR Geolocation with GCPs is 1 SSD (CE68)
- TIR-L3-659 Co-registration of bands within SBG-TIR is 0.3 SSD (CE68)
- TIR-L3-1011 Co-registration of SBG-TIR and VNIR without tie-points is 0.75 SSD (CE68)
- TIR-L3-1011 Co-registration of SBG-TIR and VNIR with tie-points is 0.50 SSD (CE68)

### 3.3 SBG Pointing Model

Geolocation is derived by propagating the instrument pointing model from the payload through the different elements, until it is intersected with the ground topography. These next sections formulate this back-propagation of light from the focal plane back to the ground location it originated from.

The rigorous model provides a mapping from image pixel  $(u, v)$  and time  $t$  to a look vector  $\vec{L}_{ECEF}$  in ECEF coordinates.  $\vec{L}_{ECEF}$  is a unit vector that points in the direction the image pixel  $(u, v)$  looks. Given  $\vec{L}_{ECEF}$  along with the position  $\vec{P}_{ECEF}$  of the spacecraft we can then calculate the ground location viewed at a given height.

The mapping from  $(u, v, t)$  to  $\vec{L}_{ECEF}$  and  $\vec{P}_{ECEF}$  occurs in a number of steps:

$$\vec{L}_{ECEF} = T_{OCS \text{ to } ECEF}^t \circ T_{SC \text{ to } OCS} \circ T_{SM \text{ to } SC} \circ T_{SM \text{ to } SC}(u)(\vec{L}_{ICS}(0, v, b))$$

$$\vec{P}_{ECEF} = T_{ECI \text{ to } ECEF}^t(\vec{P}_{ECI}(t))$$

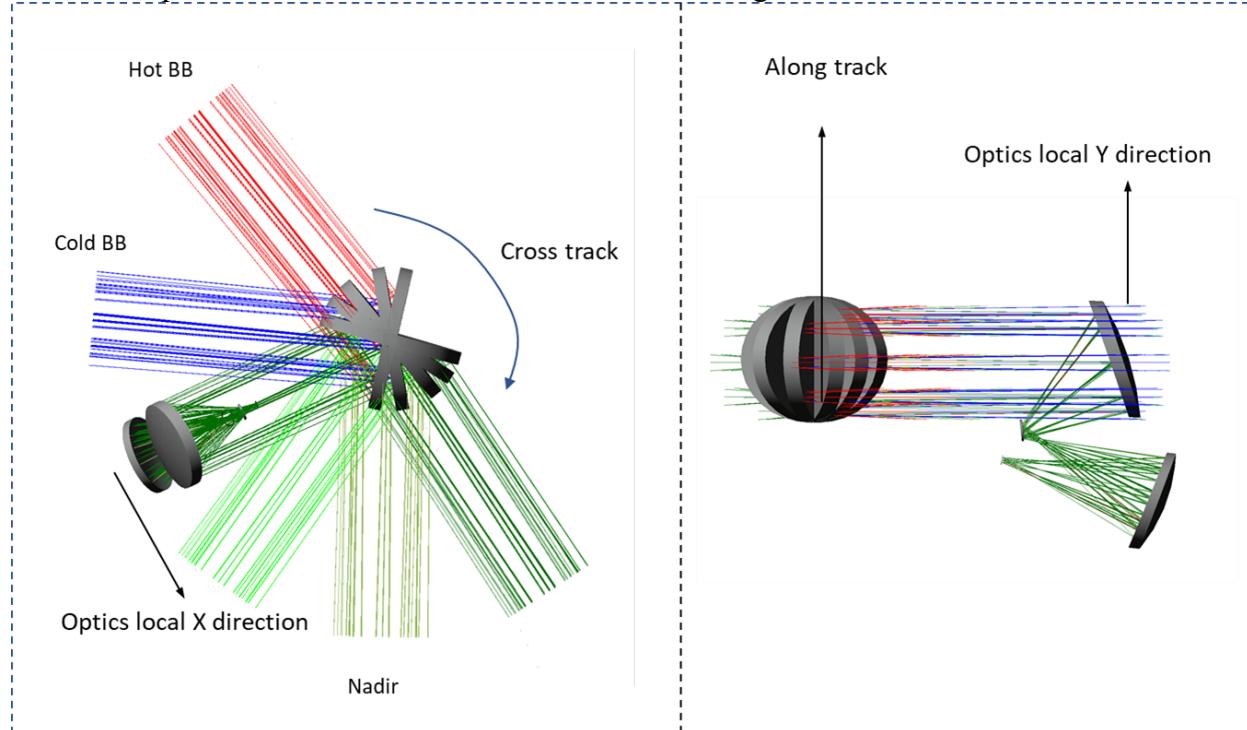
In the next few sections, we will describe each of the transformations, and how we then use the look and position vectors to provide geolocation on an ellipsoid.

### 3.3.1 Instrument Interior Orientation (Image coordinate to Instrument Reference Frame)

#### 3.3.1.1 Interior Orientation

The camera model data is used to generate a look vector  $\vec{L}_{ICS}$  for a given image pixel  $(u, v)$  for band  $b$ . Note that this is the CCD where each band is 1 x 256 (after averaging) so  $u = 0$ .

The SBG Optics Detector Coordinate Frame is show in Figure 3-3



**Figure 3-3: Optics coordinate system – OTTER**

We start in the detector coordinate system (DCS) which lies in the plane of the focal plane with x-axis in the cross-track column or u direction, y-axis in the along track row or v, and z-axis

perpendicular to the focal plane. For a strictly linear camera model we can model this as a pinhole camera, giving us:

$$\vec{L}_{DCS}^{Pinhole}(u, v, b) = \begin{bmatrix} (u - u_{p,b})p_u \\ (v - v_{p,b})p_v \\ -f \end{bmatrix}$$

Here the principal point  $(u_{p,b}, v_{p,b})$ , pitch  $(p_u, p_v)$  and focal length  $f$  come from the camera model. This is for the CCD, so  $u$  is 0.

We modify this simple pinhole model to include camera nonlinearities (TBD, description of using field angle map – very similar to ECOSTRESS).

By convention, we scale this to a unit vector:

$$\vec{L}_{DCS}(u, v, b) = \frac{\vec{L}_{DCS}^{unscaled}(u, v, b)}{\|\vec{L}_{DCS}^{unscaled}(u, v, b)\|}$$

We then rotate this to the instrument coordinate system (ICS), again using information from the camera model,  $T_{DCS \text{ to } ICS}$ :

$$\vec{L}_{ICS}(u, v, b) = T_{DCS \text{ to } ICS}(\vec{L}_{DCS}(u, v, b))$$

### 3.3.1.2 Scan Mirror

For each pixel  $v$ , with  $v$  between 1 and 256, and given a mirror rotation angle  $s(u)$  for sample  $u$  around the X-axis, we define the instrument pointing model  $u$  as follows:

$$\vec{L}_{SM}(u, v, b) = T_{SM \text{ to } SC}(u)(\vec{L}_{ICS}(0, v, b))$$

$$T_{SM \text{ to } SC}(u) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos s(u) & -\sin s(u) \\ 0 & \sin s(u) & \cos s(u) \end{bmatrix}$$

### 3.3.2 Scan Mirror to Spacecraft

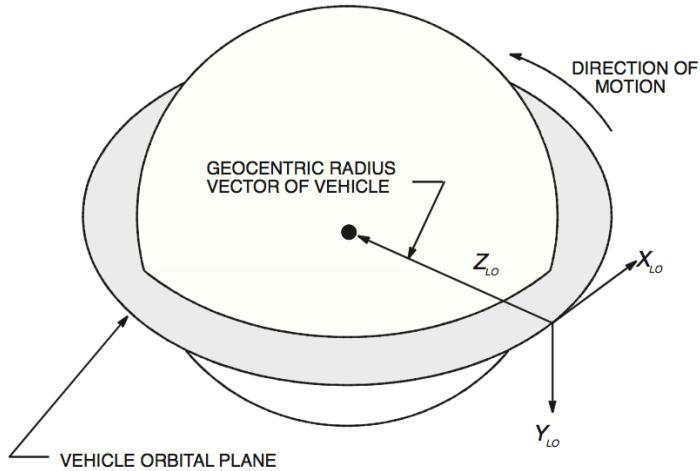
We rotate the scan mirror coordinate system (SM) using the information from the camera model  $T_{SM \text{ to } SC}$ .

$$\vec{L}_{SC}(u, v, b) = T_{SM \text{ to } SC}(\vec{L}_{SM}(u, v, b))$$

### 3.3.3 Spacecraft to Orbital

*This is a place holder; we need to determine the way this will be described for our spacecraft. The ISS was using Euler angles, another very common method is to directly supply a quaternion describing the orientation with the ECI coordinate system.*

Attitude of the spacecraft is given as Euler angles between the spacecraft orbital reference system (also called LVLH for “Local Vertical Local Horizontal”) and is described in Figure 3.2-3.



**Figure 3.2-3: Orbital reference system definition**

Attitude rotation matrices for roll, pitch, and yaw angles are given by:

$$R_{pitch} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(p) & 0 & \sin(p) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(p) & 0 & \cos(p) \end{bmatrix}, R_{roll} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(r) & -\sin(r) \\ 0 & \sin(r) & \cos(r) \end{bmatrix}, R_{yaw} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(y) & -\sin(y) & 0 \\ \sin(y) & \cos(y) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### 3.3.4 Orbital to ECI reference frame

*This is a place holder; we need to determine the way this will be described for our spacecraft. The ISS was using Euler angles, another very common method is to directly supply a quaternion describing the orientation with the ECI coordinate system.*

From Figure 3.2.3, we define the orbital reference frame (LVLH) axis as:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{Z}_{LVLH}(t) = -\frac{\vec{P}(t)}{\|\vec{P}(t)\|} \\ \vec{Y}_{LVLH}(t) = \frac{\vec{Z}(t) \times \vec{V}(t)}{\|\vec{Z}(t) \times \vec{V}(t)\|} \\ \vec{X}_{LVLH}(t) = \vec{Y}(t) \times \vec{Z}(t) \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

Where  $P(t)$  is the ISS position at time  $t$  expressed in Earth-centered inertial (ECI) and  $V(t)$  corresponds to the ISS velocity vector at time  $t$ , expressed in ECI. Then, we can express the change of reference frame from the Orbital to the ECI reference frame with the matrix:

$$M_{Orb2CTRS} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{LVLH}^x & Y_{LVLH}^x & Z_{LVLH}^x & 0 \\ X_{LVLH}^y & Y_{LVLH}^y & Z_{LVLH}^y & 0 \\ X_{LVLH}^z & Y_{LVLH}^z & Z_{LVLH}^z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

### 3.3.5 ECI to ECF

Spacecraft position is given in Earth-centered inertial (ECI) coordinates. This is the same as the J2000 celestial reference frame. Its North pole or Z axis is along the predicted rotation vector of the Earth at midnight, Jan 1, 2000 AD (JD 2451545.0); its X axis is toward the vernal equinox on that date, and its Y axis comprises a right-handed orthonormal triad with the X and Z axes, in the order X,Y,Z. This frame is nearly inertial; its origin has a small acceleration ( $\sim 0.5 \text{ cm/s}^2$ ) because the Earth goes around the sun, but its axes remain aligned with an inertially fixed set of directions.

For geolocation, we need to convert to Earth-Centered Earth-Fixed (ECEF), also known as ECR (“Earth-Centered Rotational”). This gives position in meters. The point (0,0,0) is at the center of the earth, Z-axis goes through true north (which is not the same as the instantaneous earth rotational axis). X-axis intersects the earth at 0 latitude, 0 longitude, and Y-axis completes the right-handed coordinate system.

These conversions are handled by standard toolkit libraries, see [4] and [5]. These account for:

1. Precession of Earth’s axis. This is the motion of north rotation pole about the ecliptic pole (long term change, due to torques of sun and moon on earth)
2. Nutation of Earth’s axis (same source as precession, but shorter term – conventionally the full precession is separate into long and short term components).
3. Axial rotation based on UT1 (Diurnal Earth rotation, including small corrections in the earth rotation rate, unaccounted for can result in as large as 450 meter error)

4. Polar motion. This is small motion of the earth's crust in relation to its rotation as a solid body. This is an about 10 meter correction.

### 3.3.6 Additional corrections

In addition, there are several corrections to consider:

1. Aberration of Light
2. Light travel time
3. Atmospheric refraction

Aberration of light is the change in view direction due to the relative motion of the spacecraft with earth. This is exactly the same as the apparent movement of stars due to stellar aberration, just pointed downward. This effect is proportional to  $v/c$  and is about 5 arcseconds for Low Earth Orbiting spacecraft (LEO). The result on the ground depends on the viewing geometry but can be 40 meters or so. For a unit look vector, this correction is:

$$\vec{u}_{corr} = \vec{u}_{rest\ frame} + \frac{\vec{v}}{c}$$

Light travel time accounts for the difference that light leave the surface at one time  $t_1$ , but the spacecraft has moved when the light arrives at time  $t_2$ . This is a small effect for LEO, on the order of 3 meters or so. Because this is so small, we ignore this effect in our pointing model.

Atmospheric refraction affects the view angle from a spacecraft. This can be important for steep viewing angles, but for moderate viewing angles (e.g., up to 45 degrees zenith) the displacement is on the order of 5 meters (see [4] for a discussion of this). Because this is so small, we ignore this effect in our pointing model.

### 3.3.7 Geolocation on Ellipsoid

We have the expression combining the look vector for image coordinate  $(u, v)$  with the position at time  $t$  for a distance  $\lambda$  along the look vector of:

$$\vec{X}(t, u, v, b) = \vec{P}_{ECEF}(t) + \lambda \vec{L}_{ECEF}(t, u, v, b)$$

To determine the geolocation with the Earth ellipsoid with elevation  $h$ , we determine  $\lambda$  such that  $X$  is at the intersection of this ray with the ellipsoid:

$$\frac{X_x^2 + X_y^2}{A^2} + \frac{X_z^2}{B^2} = 1$$

Using the WGS-84 ellipsoid, we have

$$\begin{cases} A = a + h \\ B = b + h \end{cases} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{cases} a = 6378137m \\ b = 6356752.3142m \end{cases}$$

The equation can be expanded as a second order polynomial and solved. Two solutions will be obtained, the smallest one being the one we are looking for (the other one is the intersection with the other side of the Earth's ellipsoid).

Note that we can easily determine the inverse, given a point on the surface we can determine  $(u, v)$  by using a standard root finder.

### 3.3.8 Geolocation on Surface

Note that as mentioned in the previous section we can easily determine the inverse, given a point on the surface we can determine  $(u, v)$  by using a standard root finder. We can include the height term in the location of the surface, as determined by our DEM.

### 3.4 Error Budget of Geolocation

The detailed error budget for geolocation is maintained in separate documents, see [7] and [10]. The error budget shows that we will meet the requirements described in section 3.2.

### 3.5 Geolocation Corrections

We have different strategies for correcting errors in reported ephemeris/attitude, depending on the type of scene we have, described in the following table.

Strategy	When used	Expected accuracy	Explanation
Use ASI VNIR corrected ephemeris and attitude	Standard Daylight Product	1 SSD	We make use of this data because it is acquired at a higher resolution of 30 meter (dither processing) so is likely more accurate than we can determine from SBG-TIR alone.
Image matching with ortho-base	Nighttime data, low-latency product, ASI VNIR otherwise not available	1 SSD	When ASI data isn't available, we fall back to image matching with our orthobase to correct geolocation errors
Use uncorrected ephemeris/attitude	Orbits that have no GCPs (e.g., all ocean)	2 SSD	When no correction is available, used satellite reported ephemeris/attitude

**Table 3:** Geolocation correction strategy

The next few subsections describe these correction methods in greater detail.

### 3.5.1 Geolocation Corrections for SBG Visible (daytime corrections)

When available, we use corrected ephemeris and attitude generated by the ASI VNIR Level 1 processing.

While the intention is that the ephemeris and attitude generated is for the platform, in practice it is hard to completely separate the VNIR instrument orientation from corrections applied to the ephemeris and attitude. So, we apply a correction:

$$\vec{L}_{TIR}(u, v) = T_{VNIR \rightarrow TIR}(\vec{L}_{VNIR}(u, v))$$

$$T_{VNIR \rightarrow TIR} = R_{pitch} R_{roll} R_{yaw}$$

$$R_{pitch} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(p) & 0 & \sin(p) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(p) & 0 & \cos(p) \end{bmatrix}, R_{roll} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(r) & -\sin(r) \\ 0 & \sin(r) & \cos(r) \end{bmatrix}, R_{yaw} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(y) & -\sin(y) & 0 \\ \sin(y) & \cos(y) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Early in the mission, we calibrate the yaw, pitch and roll angles needed to account for any difference between the VNIR corrected ephemeris/attitude and the SBG-TIR corrected ephemeris/attitude. These values are nominally 0, and expected to be small.

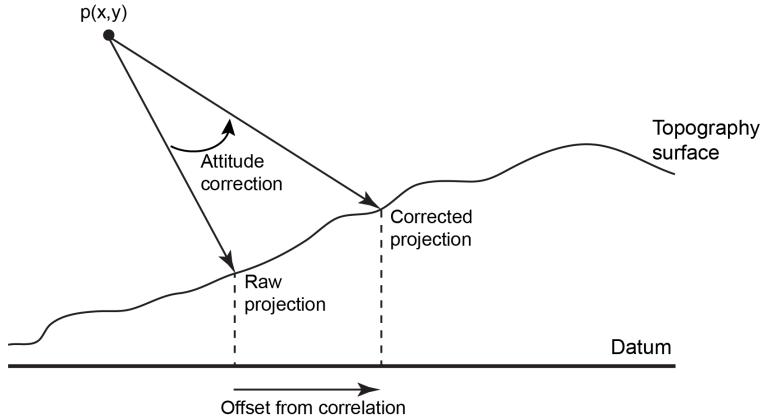
This will then be updated regularly to meet our co-registration (0.5 SSD with tie-points) and geolocation requirement (1 SSD with GCPs) as described in section 3.9. (see [7]).

### **3.5.2 Geolocation Corrections Based on Image Matching (nighttime, low latency product, ASI not available)**

Analysis of the geolocation uncertainties in the previous section concluded that the primary source of error could be attributed to lack of knowledge of absolute ephemeris and attitude angles. However, relative attitude information is known with sufficient accuracy that the corresponding geolocation error should account for less than a fraction of the SBG-TIR pixel size. Therefore, at the time-scale of a given scene, accurate absolute geolocation can be achieved by solving for a constant offset correction on the ephemeris and attitude data. In practice, we usually solve for an affine or a quadratic correction rather than just an offset to account for potential other unknown errors, if the number of ground control points allows such correction to be reliable.

The general principle to correct for the absolute geolocation error is to gather ground control points (GCPs) within each scene in order to solve for the missing absolute attitude information. GCPs information are propagated back to the ray-tracing model and a correction model is updated such that error with the GCPs is minimized. In practice, GCPs are gathered automatically using radiance image matching between an ortho-rectified reference and the given rectified SBG-TIR frame with uncorrected ephemeris/attitude geolocation uncertainty. The general scheme borrows from and is illustrated in Figure 3-4:

1. Generate an ortho-rectified SBG-TIR image based on the SBG-TIR camera model initially located with uncorrected pointing and position information.
2. Generate water and cloud masks. The water mask is determined from a static dataset (e.g., Copernicus Land/Water mask). The cloud mask is determined from a threshold on the brightness temperature (see [11]).
3. Use water/cloud masks to create a mask for selecting water/cloud free GCPs. Note that we just want to avoid selecting lots of water/cloud data – the water/cloud mask can be cloud conservative, and it is alright if it is not fully accurate. We select the masks algorithms to be quick to produce, even if it is lower accuracy (e.g., Level 2 processing will likely produce a better cloud mask, using data that isn't available in the Level 1 processing).
4. Apply radiance image algorithm between the SBG-TIR rectified radiance image and the accurately geolocated reference Landsat imagery, avoiding water and cloud as described in the previous step. Image matching is performed using Fourier phase correlation, as described in (see [8] and [9]).
5. Filter out mismatches and produce GCPs.
6. Use GCPs to update SBG-TIR projection model.
7. Potentially iterate steps 1-6.
8. Deliver corrected geolocation information for all image pixels for the SBG-TIR scene.



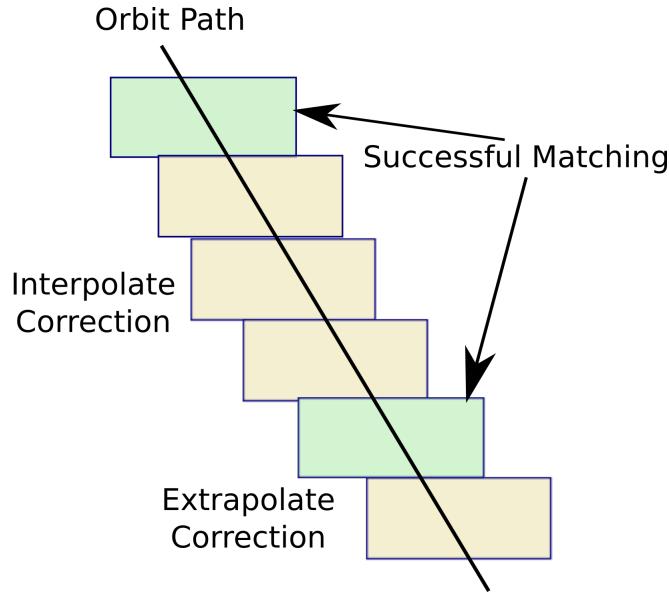
**Figure 3-4: General scheme to update OTTER absolute attitude uncertainty.**

The geolocation accuracy after correction should match the level of accuracy given by the image matching. Fourier phase correlation methods have demonstrated matching accuracy to be better than 1/10 of the pixel size. We generally estimate the image matching accuracy at about 1/3 of a pixel base on extensive experience with real data (e.g., ECOSTRESS, EMIT).

The Landsat reference imaging has excellent absolute geolocation accuracy. SBG-TIR imagery matching will achieve a geolocation accuracy better than 1 SSD (1-sigma) (see [7]).

### 3.5.3 Geolocation Correction Interpolation/Extrapolation

It is frequently the case that for a particular scene image matching with the global ortho-base cannot be performed. This might occur because scenes are over water, or the scenes are cloudy, or we just have scenes without a lot of features to match. To accommodate this, we look at all scenes in the orbit. If we successfully match any of the scenes, then corrections from that scene can be applied to all the scenes in the orbit (see Figure 3-5). This works because the attitude knowledge error is slowly varying.

**Figure 3-5: Interpolating/Extrapolating Corrections**

### 3.5.4 Uncorrected geolocation (orbits with no GCPs, e.g., all ocean)

In some cases, we will not have ASI VNIR corrected ephemeris/attitude available and will not be able to use image matching for correcting the ephemeris and attitude. This might happen for example for an orbit with a large amount of cloud over land, or for an orbit where only ocean data is collected.

In case we cannot correct the data, we use the uncorrected ephemeris and attitude data. Even with uncorrected data, we will achieve geolocation accuracy of 2 SSD (1-sigma) (see [7]).

### 3.6 Band to band co-registration

The 8 bands of the SBG-TIR instrument are offset from each other on the ground. As part of the L1B Calibration, we resample 7 of the bands to co-register with a TBD reference band.

The co-registration is done by first collecting a grid of conjugate points. We determine where image coordinate  $(u_{ref}, v_{ref})$  appears on the ground (using uncorrected ephemeris/attitude) and then determine where that point on the ground is seen in band b, giving  $(u_b, v_b)$ .

Note that any errors in the uncorrected ephemeris/attitude are close to cancelling when we do this round-trip calculation, the  $(u_b, v_b)$  calculated with uncorrected ephemeris/attitude is very close to what we would get with corrected ephemeris/attitude.

We then fit a TBD model to the conjugate points (e.g., a quadratic model). This model is used to resample band b image to the reference band image. We will achieve an accuracy of 0.3 SSD (1-sigma) co-registration (see [7]).

The band to band registration is applied as part of the L1B RAD PGE, which also uses the coefficients from the L1A Cal PGE to convert the L1A DN values to radiance values (Watt/m<sup>2</sup>/sr/um) with coregistered bands. See Figure 3-6.

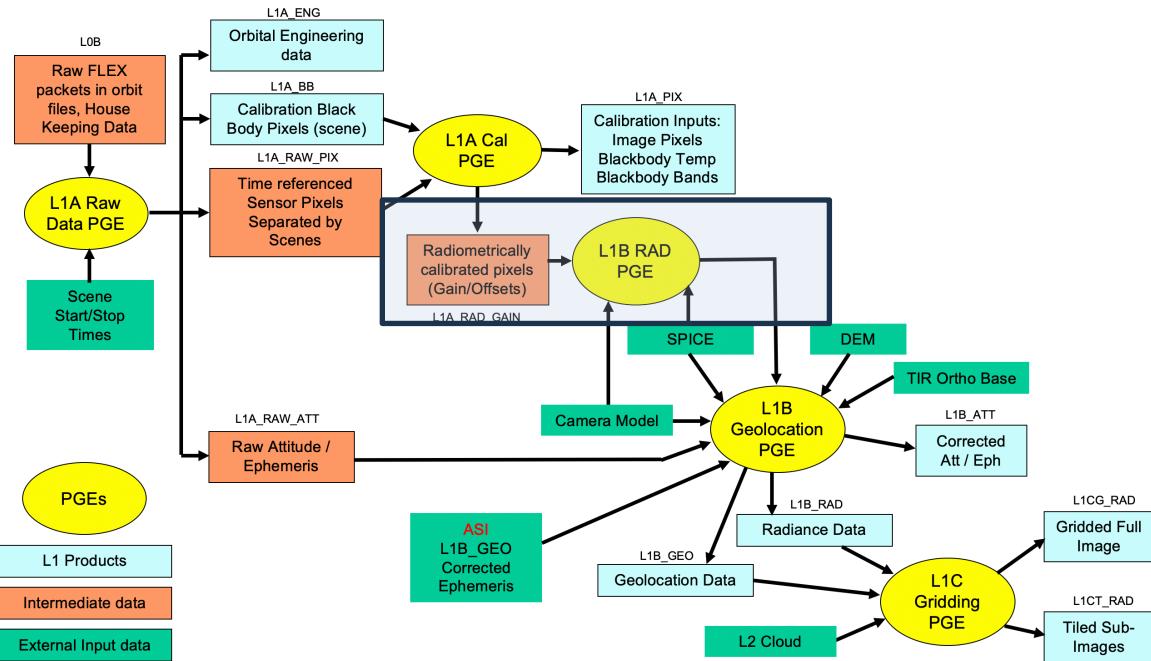


Figure 3-6: SBG-TIR Level 1 PGE Product Data Flow – L1B RAD PGE

### 3.7 Auxiliary metadata

We calculate view angles and solar angles. This is done by converting the view and sun look vectors to a Local North (LN) coordinate system and then giving the zenith and azimuth angles in that coordinate system.

Local North (LN) coordinate system is a local tangent plane at a view location with X in the east direction, Y in the north direction, and Z in the up direction (also called “ENU”). If  $\phi$  and  $\lambda$  are the geodetic latitude and longitude, then the rotation from ECEF to local north is given by (see [4]):

$$R_{LN \text{ to } ECEF} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \lambda & -\cos \lambda \sin \phi & \cos \lambda \cos \phi \\ \cos \lambda & -\sin \lambda \cos \phi & \sin \lambda \cos \phi \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_{ECEF \text{ to } LN} = R_{LN \text{ to } ECEF}^T$$

Given a view vector  $L_{ECEF}$  we calculate  $L_{LN} = R_{ECEF \text{ to } LN} L_{ECEF}$  and then have view zenith and azimuth of

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} L_Z^{LN}$$

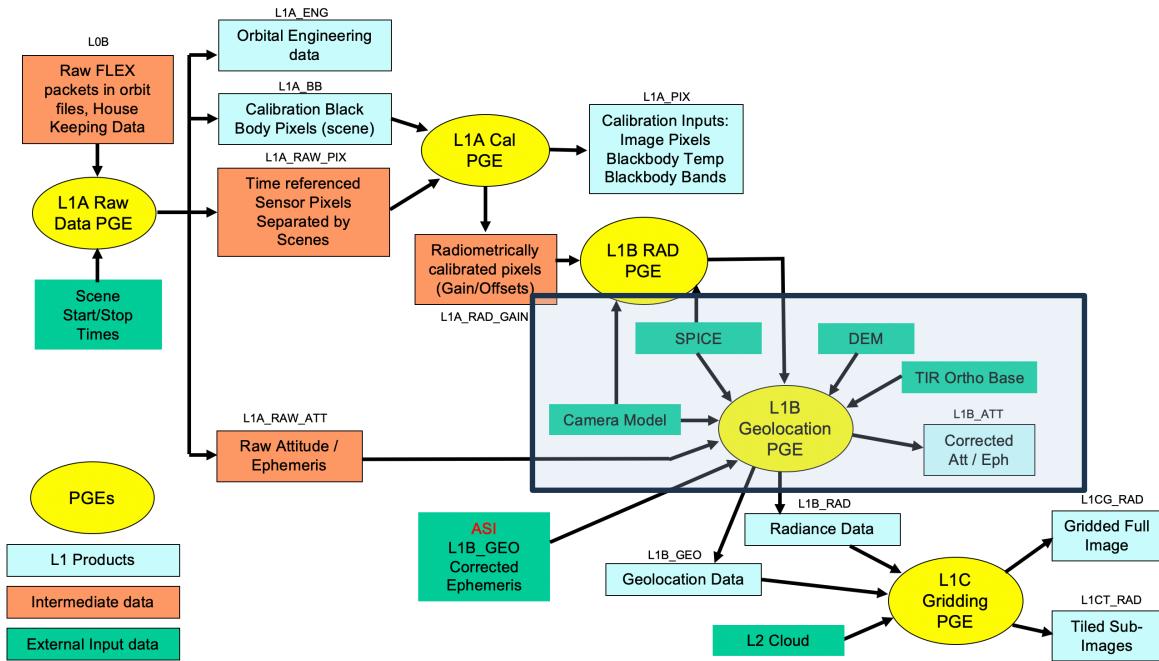
$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{L_x^{LN}}{L_y^{LN}}$$

Likewise, if we have the solar look vector  $S_{ECEF}$  we have solar zenith and azimuth of:

$$\theta_0 = \cos^{-1} S_z^{LN}$$

$$\phi_0 = \tan^{-1} \frac{S_x^{LN}}{S_y^{LN}}$$

The auxiliary metadata, along with geotagging (latitude, longitude, height of each image pixel) is done as the L1B Geolocation PGE, see Figure 3-7



**Figure 3-7: SBG-TIR Level 1 PGE Product Data Flow – L1B Geolocation PGE**

### 3.8 Geolocation QA data

As part the geoprocessing, we will collect QA data and provide as a separate QA product. This is information that can be used for evaluating the geolocation. This will include

1. For each orbit/scene the final QA value (“Best”, “Good”, “Suspect”, “Poor”)
2. For scenes with image matching, the estimate accuracy before and after geolocation. This is the RMSE of the GCP residuals before and after correction.
3. Count of tie-points before and after blunder detection
4. Land fraction and cloud fraction for scene
5. Tie points that were collected as part of the image matching

### 3.9 Frequent recalibration

Based on a detailed error budget (see [7]) we will meet requirements for the with GCP requirements (1 SSD geolocation, 0.5 SSD co-registration with VIREO).

Based on detailed error budget, plus pseudo-STOP modeling the thermomechanical variation of optical bench, the geolocation without GCPs and co-registration without tie-points won't meet requirements without additional calibration. The temperature variation of optical bench through orbit (~2 K with initial design) and through season (due to changes in Beta angle, ~5 K) are large enough that co-registration/geolocation errors without GCPs exceeds requirements.

Initial analysis informed changes to instrument design (addition of a shroud, heaters for optical bench) which partially mitigated the optical bench thermomechanical changes – reducing orbital temperature variations of optical bench (1.1 K).

However, we still will need to perform frequent geometric calibration to meet the OTTER-VIREO co-registration (5.5 K variation by season, calibrated out by more frequent geometric calibration). Analysis shows that a geometric calibration every 3 days will be sufficient to meet both geolocation and co-registration requirements.

The geometric calibration will use tie-points collected during the L1 processing. These tie-points are stored as part of the Geolocation QA data and can then be used to perform calibration on a frequent cadence. This will be 3 days based on modeling but can be adjusted based on real data once we are in orbit (e.g., longer than 3 days proves sufficient). The recalibration data will then be used until the next recalibration (e.g., for 3 days). See Figure 3-8.

Note that we collect the data for the full set of conditions mentioned in Table 3. We don't expect the geometric calibration to be dependent on this (i.e., we don't have different calibration for night vs day), however this a possibility. Early in the mission we will examine this to see if we need to refine the geometric calibration.

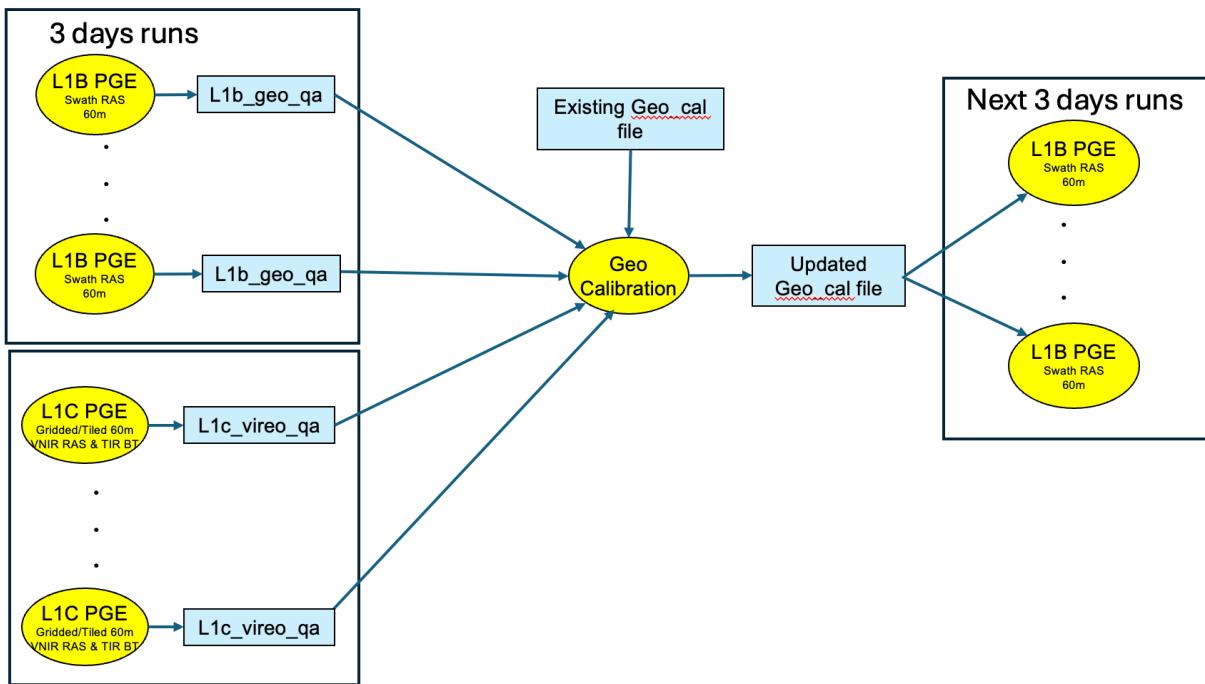


Figure 3-8: 3 day re-calibration

### 3.10 Gridded Products

*This is a place holder, we are still working out the details of the gridded product. Rather than repeat possibly changing (and potentially out of sync) algorithm, we just refer to the PSD. Once this has been ironed out, we can have a section here describing the details. This will be very similar to what we are currently doing with ECOSTRESS data.*

Refer to the SBG Gridded L1-L4 Product Specification Document (PSD) for a discussion of L1C gridded products, tiled products, and file formats. Note that in addition to the SBG-TIR data we include the VNIR radiance data resampled to the same 60 m grid as the SBG-TIR data.

See Figure 3-8.

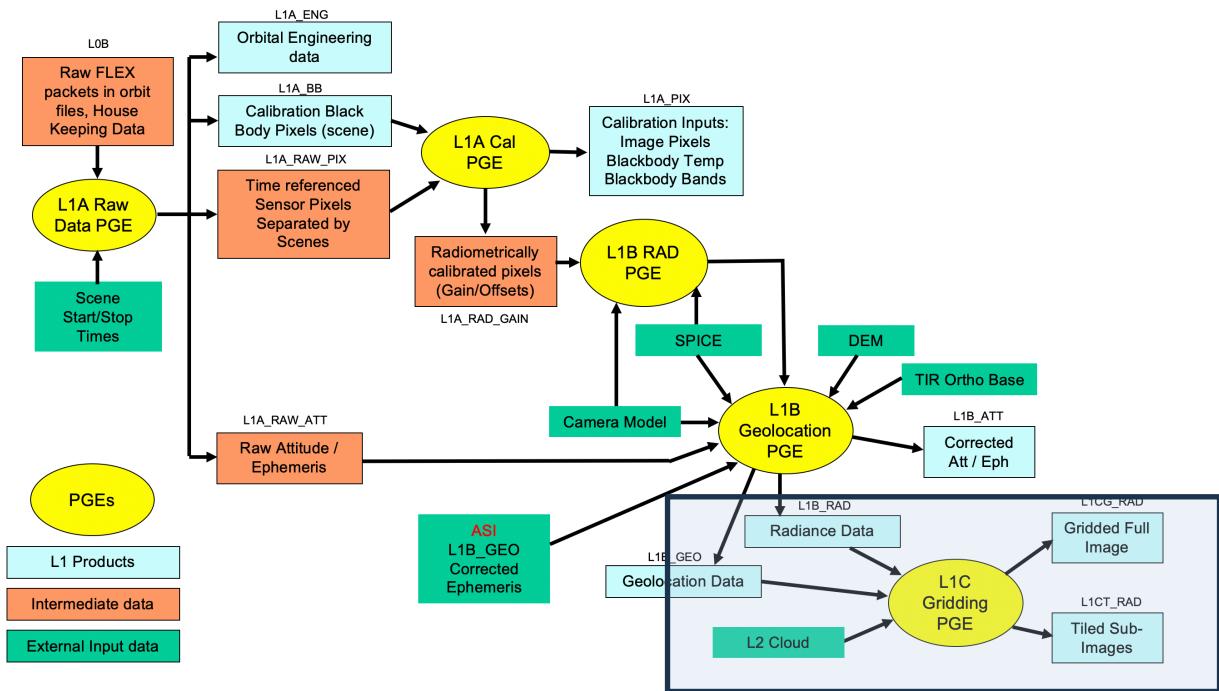


Figure 3-8: SBG-TIR Level 1 PGE Product Data Flow – L1C Gridding PGE

## 4 Output datasets

The output datasets are shown in the following table:

Output Product	Fields
L1B_RAD (netcdf4)	Radiance data, 8 bands, coregistered
L1B_GEO (netcdf4)	Latitude, Longitude, Height for each image coordinate (u,v) View angle zenith, azimuth for each image coordinate (u,v) Solar angle zenith, azimuth for each image coordinate (u,v)
L1G_GEO_QA (netcdf4)	QA information about geoprocessing
Geometric Calibration	Geometric calibration, recalibration frequently (nominally 3 days)
L1B_ATT (netcdf4)	Uncorrected ephemeris and attitude Corrected ephemeris and attitude
L1C_GRID Rad (COG)	Orthorectified radiance data, 8 bands, 0.0006° grid
L1C_TILE Rad (COG)	Orthorectified radiance data, 8 bands, 60 m UTM grid (Sentinel tiles)

Table 4: Output data sets

## 5 External Dependencies and Potential Issues

The Level-1B Geolocation depends on corrected ephemeris and attitude from the ASI VNIR instrument. This is used only when available, for standard daytime data. When not available (e.g., nighttime data, low latency product) Level-1B Geolocation processing can be done without the VNIR data.

## 6 Validation

We will validate our geolocation and co-registration accuracy by manually comparing ortho-rectified SBG-TIR image against our reference ortho-base and the VNIR VIERO imagery. A detailed plan is described in [12].

## 7 ANNEX A: OTTER and VIREO: Expected Image Matching Accuracy

### 7.1 Introduction

Geospatial quality of the Level 1 product is in large part governed with a set of geolocation and co-registration accuracy requirements. One of those requirements is focused on the co-registration accuracy between OTTER and VIREO Level 1 image data products. In a case of available tie-point, expected co-registration shall be better than 0.5 SSD (CE68).

A major part of the co-registration algorithm is the point-to-point image matching between OTTER and VIREO. Given the error budget analyses (see [7]), that includes multiple errors contributing to the co-registration performance, required tie-point image matching accuracy is better than 1/3 of pixel at (CE68).

Performance of the image matching between airborne or satellite-based image pairs have been evaluated since the early beginning of the digital image processing (see [14]). Throughout this period majority of application involved imagery acquired in the same radiometric bands. In those cases, image matching methods based on the similarity measures in the spatial domain were well suited in support of application such as digital mapping and localization and Digital Surface Model (DSM) creation. The methods have been evaluated over many years of practical experience, as well as through focused studies (see [15]). It has been established, often cited as a rule of thumb, that expected matching accuracy for images acquired in the same radiometric band, using methods such as cross-correlation and Least Squares Matching, typically falls between 0.1 and 0.3 pixels.

However, our application involves images acquired in two widely different radiometric domains. The OTTER instrument collects data in two mid-infrared wavelengths (3–5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and six thermal wavelengths (8–12  $\mu\text{m}$ ), while VIREO acquires two bands in the visible spectrum (0.4–0.75  $\mu\text{m}$ )

and one band in the near-infrared (NIR) spectrum ( $0.75\text{--}1.3\ \mu\text{m}$ ). Until now, there has been little need or effort to perform image matching between such disparate spectral domains.

Due to their fundamentally different radiometric characteristics, traditional image matching methods based on spatial-domain similarity measures are not effective. Therefore, we are evaluating the potential of using a **phase correlation** approach, which operates in the frequency domain using the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) to identify translational shifts between image pairs.

## 7.2 Phase Correlation Method

The phase correlation method is based on the principle that information about the displacement between two image segments resides in the phase of their cross-power spectrum. The algorithm estimates the peak of the **phase-only correlation (POC)** function, which is defined as the inverse Fourier transform of the normalized cross-power spectrum between the two images. The coordinates of this peak correspond to the translational offset between the images. Our implementation follows the foundational approach described by Kuglin and Hines (see [16]).

It should be noted that the current implementation includes subpixel displacement estimation. This is based on the fact that the correlation surface peak is generally a continuous function of image displacement. Given a sufficiently high signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), it is possible to estimate non-integer displacements using interpolation techniques. Computer simulations have demonstrated that highly accurate displacement estimates can be achieved by interpolating over just a few data points surrounding the peak of the correlation surface.

## 7.3 Input Data Selection

In selecting data for this study, three criteria were applied:

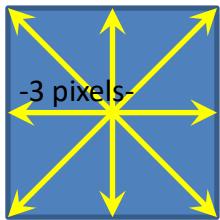
1. close radiometric similarity to the OTTER and VIREO bands to be used as input for image matching,
2. highly accurate geolocation information in the input images to serve as a reference, and
3. broad global coverage to encompass diverse surface conditions that may affect image matching performance.

An obvious source of suitable dataset pairs is the Landsat 8–9 OLI/TIRS collection.

Accordingly, we selected Landsat band 5 ( $0.85\text{--}0.88\ \mu\text{m}$ ) to represent the VIREO NIR band ( $0.835\ \mu\text{m}$ ), and Landsat band 10 ( $10.6\text{--}11.19\ \mu\text{m}$ ) to represent OTTER TIR band 4 ( $10.3\ \mu\text{m}$ ). As a baseline, the Landsat 30 m Terrain Precision (TP) product was used. This product specifies that the co-registration accuracy between bands 4 and 10 is better than 7 m (CE90). To simulate the spatial resolution of OTTER/VIREO, the 30 m image data were resampled to a 60 m grid prior to image matching.

## 7.4 Image Matching Test Overview

A Landsat image covering specific surface conditions is selected to provide a pair of image layers that serve as proxies for the OTTER and VIREO images, as described above. This image pair is used as input to a Python script, referred to here as **test\_matching**. The tool establishes a grid of candidate matching points, spaced  $250 \times 250$  pixels apart in both row and column directions. Given the size of a typical Landsat image, this results in approximately 150 candidate points.



At each candidate location, artificial offsets of  $\pm 3$  pixels are introduced in eight directions to simulate potential registration errors. For each of these displaced positions, the script attempts to perform image matching, resulting in a large number of individual matching attempts. The results are then statistically analyzed to estimate the matching error for the given Landsat scene, and thus for the associated surface conditions.

A total of seven scenes were analyzed, encompassing a variety of surface types, including clear land, clouds, ocean, desert, and densely vegetated regions. In all cases, the phase correlation method was used with a window size of  $512 \times 512$  pixels.

## 7.5 Test Results

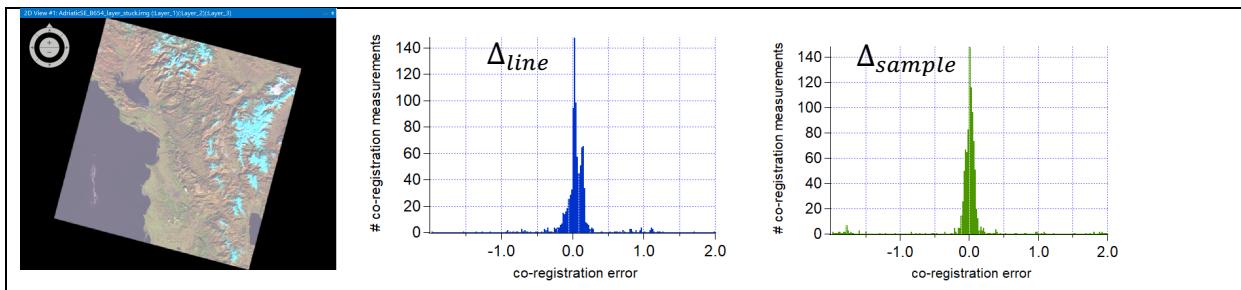
A perfect match would result in zero offset in both the line and sample directions. Therefore, we collect statistics from all matches and estimate the deviation from zero. Prior to summarizing the statistics, two types of filtering are applied:

**The first filtering step** is based on the expected input accuracy for OTTER/VIREO co-registration *before* the use of tie-points. That requirement states that co-registration without tie-points should be better than two pixels. For this analysis, we relaxed that threshold to three pixels and removed any matching results that fall outside a  $\pm 6$  pixel region around zero offset.

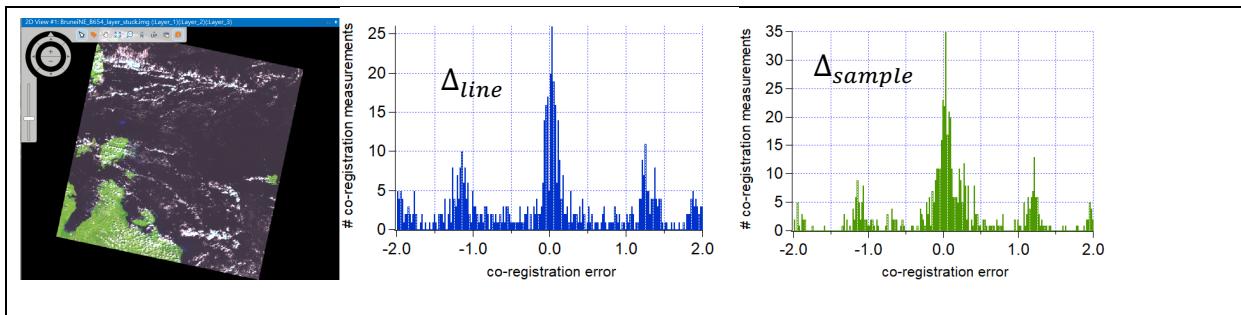
**The second filtering step** involves outlier removal based on the z-score method. In this approach, any match with an offset exceeding two standard deviations from the mean is discarded.

The remaining valid matches are then used to compute histograms, mean and standard deviation values in both the line and sample directions, as well as the radial standard deviation for each image pair.

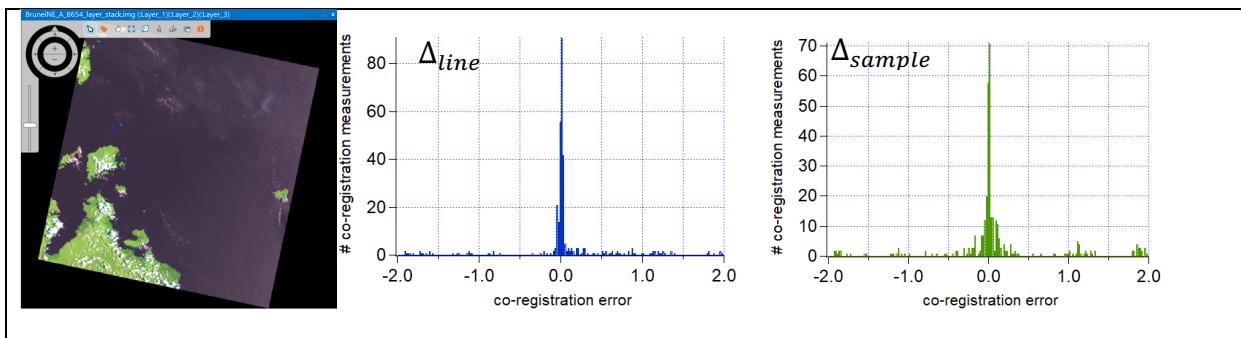
The following figures present image thumbnails alongside associated histograms of the matching results, specifically, the discrepancies (*deltas*) from zero in both the line and sample directions.



**Figure 7-1:** South East Adriatic (AdriaticSE) coast target. Cloud-free scene with a slightly larger portion of land compared to ocean.



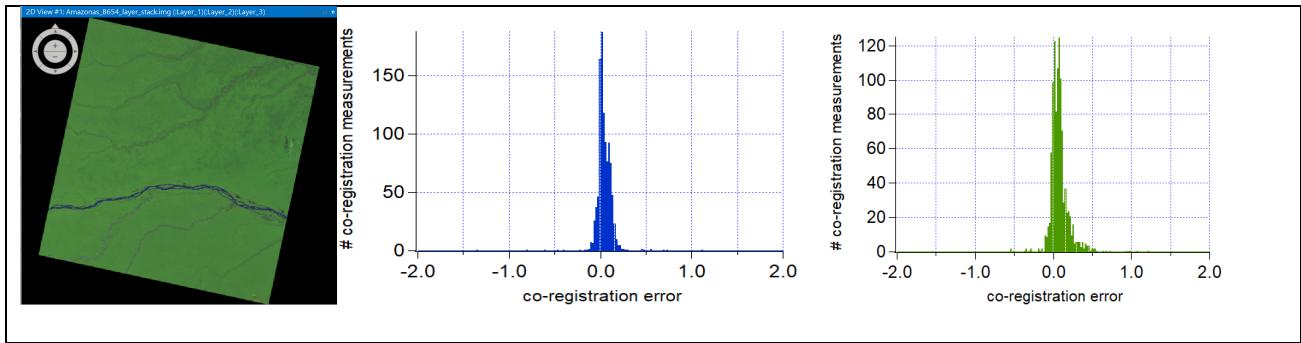
**Figure 7-2:** Brunei North East (BruneiNE) target. Scene contains a large portion of ocean with some coastline visible, and a significant presence of clouds.



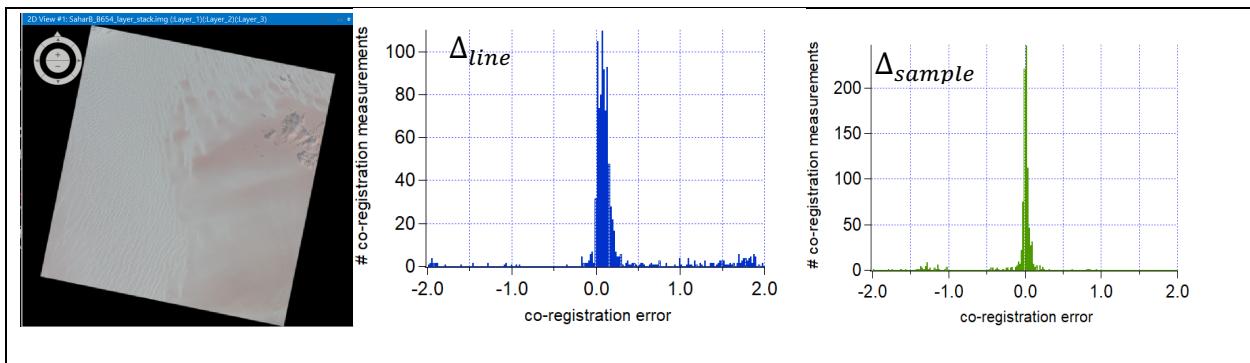
**Figure 7-3:** Brunei North East (BruneiNE -A) target. Scene contains a large portion of ocean with some coastline visible, and an insignificant presence of clouds.

$\Delta_{line}$

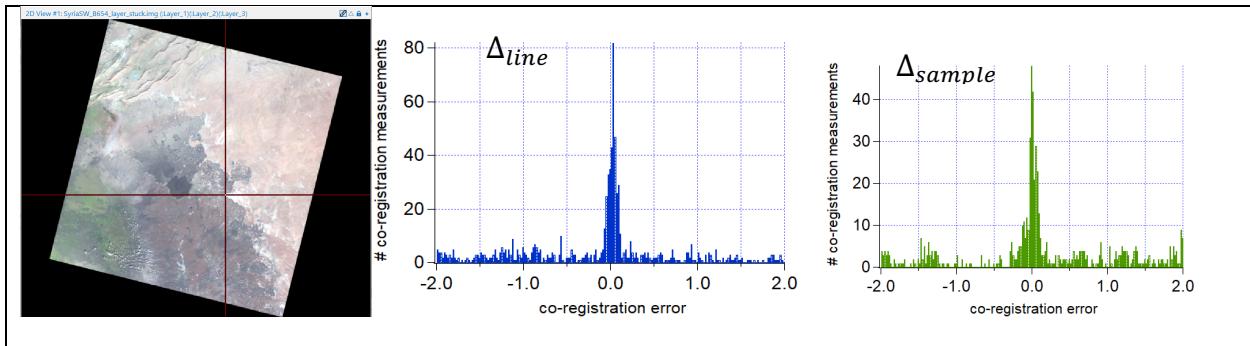
$\Delta_{sample}$



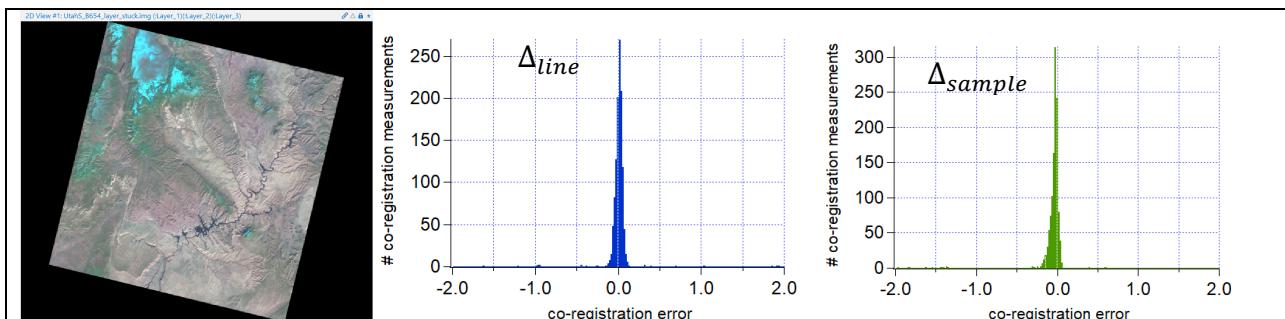
**Figure 7-4:** State of Amazonas (Amazonas) target. Cloud free dense vegetation.



**Figure 7-5:** Central Sahara (Sahara) target. Desert sand dunes wit. Near identical surface structure for proxy VIREO and OTTER images acquired simultaneously.



**Figure 7-6:** South West Syria (SyriaSW) target. Scene includes partial desert and the Harrat Ash Shamah volcanic field. Proxy VIREO and OTTER image layers show notable differences.





**Figure 7-7:** South Utah (UtahS) target: Cloud free land region. Obvious correspondance between proxy VIREO and OTTER image layers.

## 7.6 Summary Statistics

Seven regions covered by individual **Landsat scenes** were selected for this assessment. These areas represent a variety of surface types and compositions, including land, ocean, coastlines, dense vegetation, desert sand dunes, and volcanic fields. Some scenes also include partial cloud cover.

Among the seven scenes, only **two presented challenges** for the phase-correlation matcher to achieve the desired accuracy of **one-third of a pixel**. One of these challenging cases was the **Brunei region**, characterized by **extensive ocean coverage**, some coastlines, and **significant cloud presence**. However, when the same area was revisited under **minimal cloud cover**, the results improved substantially. This observation supports our strategy to **incorporate cloud masks** during operational image matching in the mission.

The second difficult case involved a **volcanic region** exhibiting **distinct structural differences** between the proxy **VIREO** and **OTTER** image layers. It is important to note that while the Landsat scenes used in this evaluation measure **185 × 185 km**, the actual **OTTER and VIREO imagery** will cover much larger areas, approximately **950 × 950 km**. Therefore, in the context of the full mission scenes, such structurally complex regions will constitute a **smaller portion of the overall image**, potentially reducing their impact on global image registration performance.

A summary of the **image-matching error at CE68** for each of the seven scenes is provided in Table 5.

CE68	Target	Notes
0.07	AdriaticSE	About 60/40 % lands and see. Cloud free.
3.21	BruneiNE	Large portion is ocean. Some coastline. Sig. portion of clouds.
0.37	BruneiNE-A	Large portion is ocean. Some coastline. Reduced cloud coverage.
0.06	Amazonas	Dense vegetation. Cloud free.
0.05	Sahara	Desert sand dunes. Identical structures on both image layers.
1.25	SyriaSW	Partial desert, partial Harrat Ash Shamah volcanic field. Quite different on the two layers.
0.04	UtahS	In land region. Obvious correspondence between two layers.

**Table 5:** Summary of the image-matching error at CE68 (Circular Error at 68% confidence) for each of the seven evaluated scenes.

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