

# SAR POLARIMETRY

## Polarimetric Basics

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INSTITUT D'ÉLECTRONIQUE ET DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS DE RENNES





## Objective

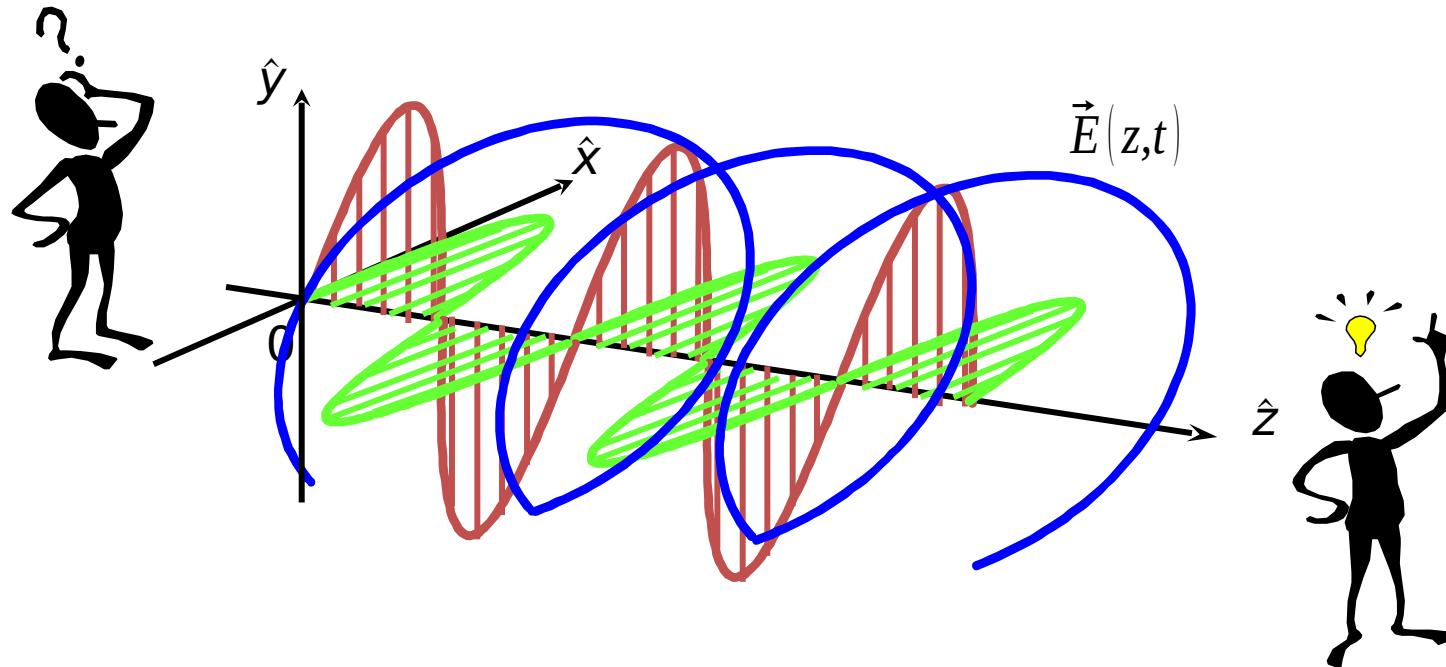
To provide the minimum, but necessary,  
amount of knowledge required  
to understand scientific works on :



**SAR Polarimetry (PolSAR)**

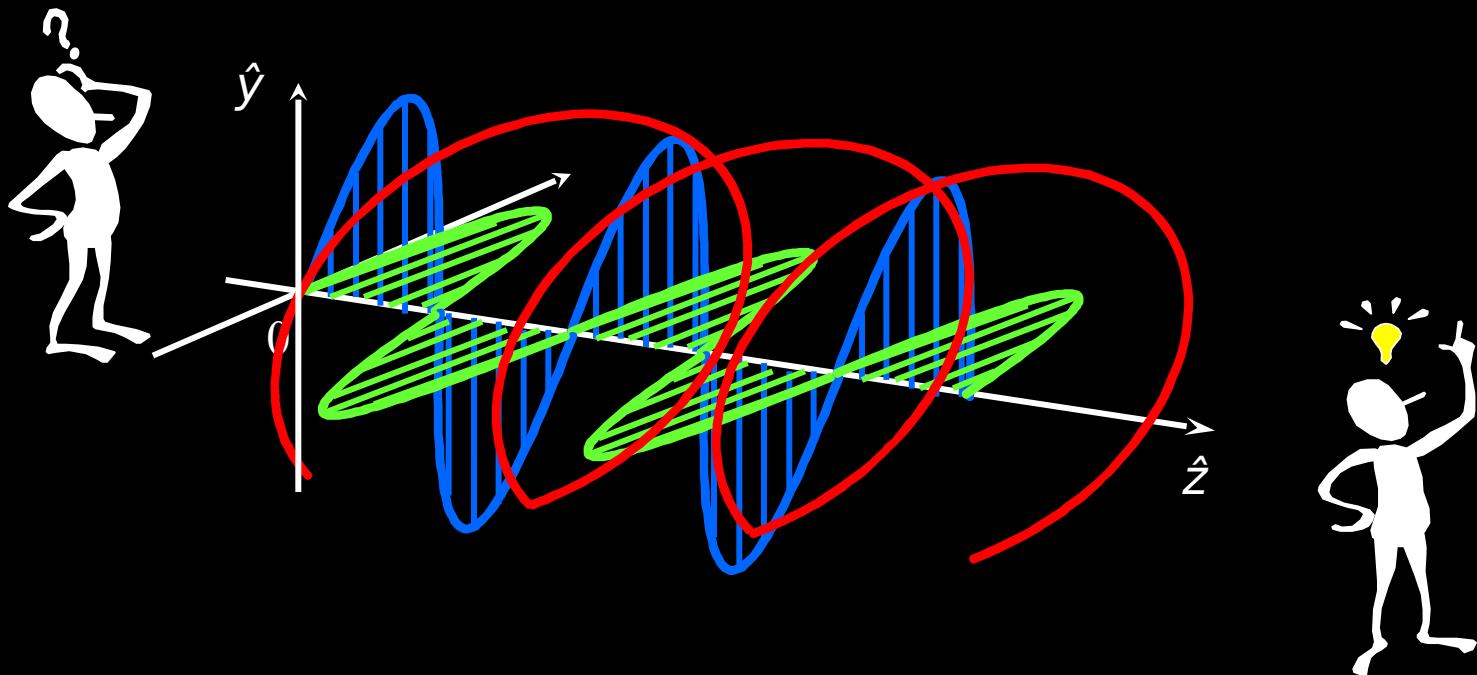
**SAR Polarimetry + Interferometry (Pol-InSAR)**

**SAR Polarimetry + Tomography (Pol-TomSAR)**



# GENERAL INTRODUCTION

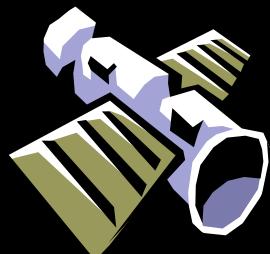
# Radar Polarimetry



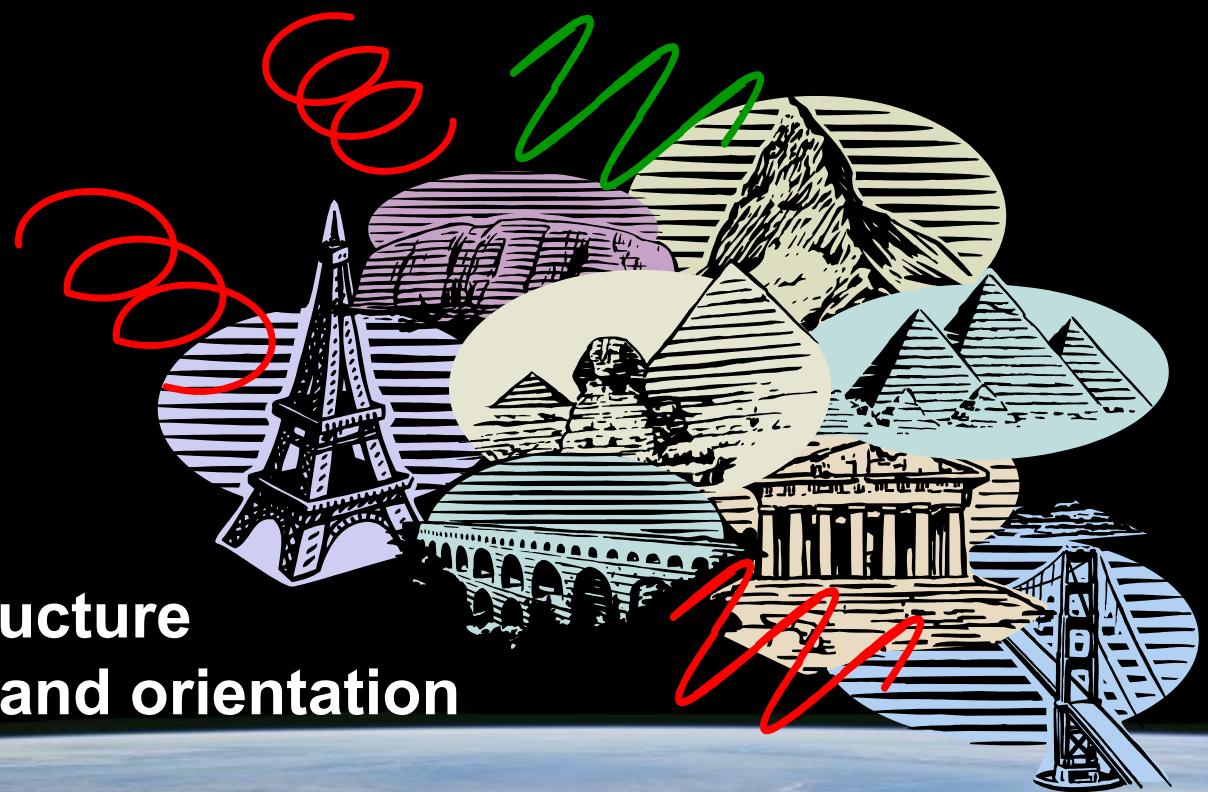
Radar Polarimetry (**Polar** : polarisation **Metry**: measure)  
is the science of acquiring, processing and analysing  
the polarization state of an electromagnetic field

Radar Polarimetry deals with the full vector  
nature of polarized electromagnetic waves

# Radar Polarimetry



The POLARISATION information  
Contained in the waves backscattered  
from a given medium is highly related to:



its geometrical structure  
reflectivity, shape and orientation

its geophysical properties such as humidity, roughness, ...

# SAR Polarimetry Applications



**Forest Vegetation**

- Forest Height
- Forest Biomass
- Forest Structure
- Canopy Extinction
- Underlying Topography

- Forest Ecology
- Forest Management
- Ecosystem Change
- Carbon Cycle



**Agriculture**

- Soil Moisture Content
- Soil roughness
- Height of Vegetation Layer
- Extinction of Vegetation Layer
- Moisture of Vegetation Layer

- Farming Management
- Water Cycle
- Desretification



**Snow and Ice**

- Topography
- Penetration Depth / Density
- Snow Ice Layer
- Snow Ice Extinction
- Water Equivalent

- Ecosystem Change
- Water Cycle
- Water Management



**Urban Areas**

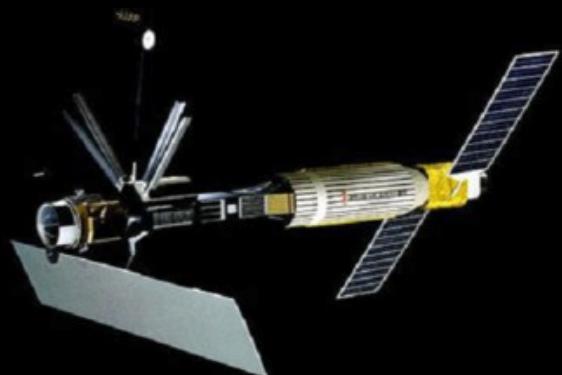
- Geometric Properties
- Dielectric Properties

- Urban Monitoring

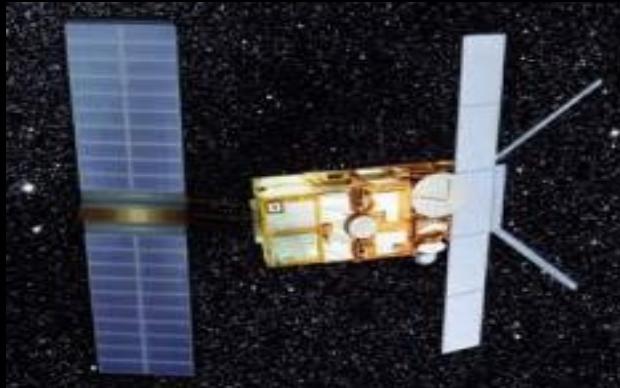


Courtesy of Dr. I. Hajnsek

# Space-borne Sensors



**SEASAT**  
NASA/JPL (USA)  
L-Band, 1978



**ERS-1**  
European Space Agency (ESA)  
C-Band, 1991-2000



**J-ERS-1**  
Japanese Space Agency (NASDA)  
L-Band, 1992-1998



**RadarSAT-1**  
Canadian Space Agency (CSA)  
C-Band, 1995

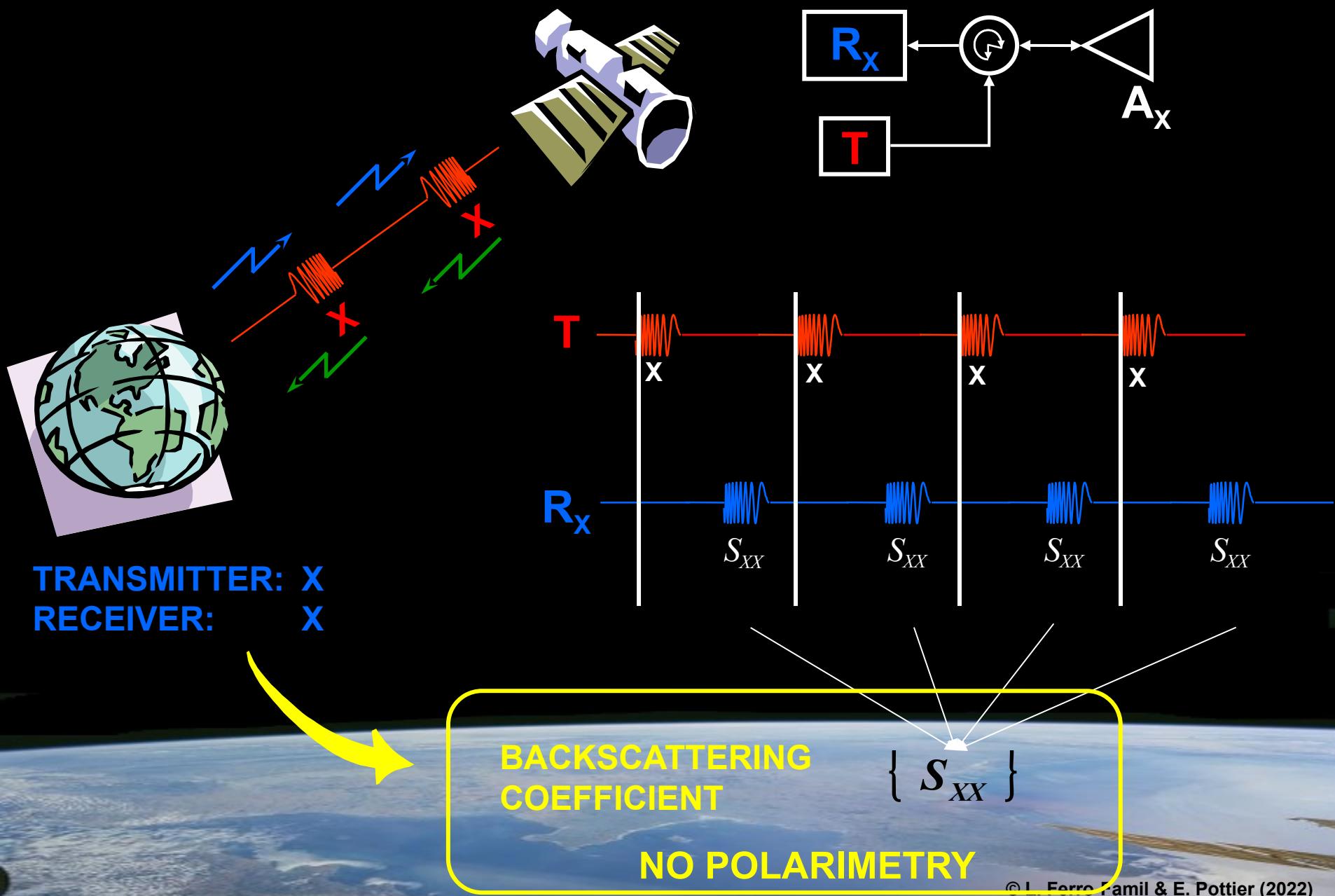


**ERS-2**  
European Space Agency (ESA)  
C-Band, 1995

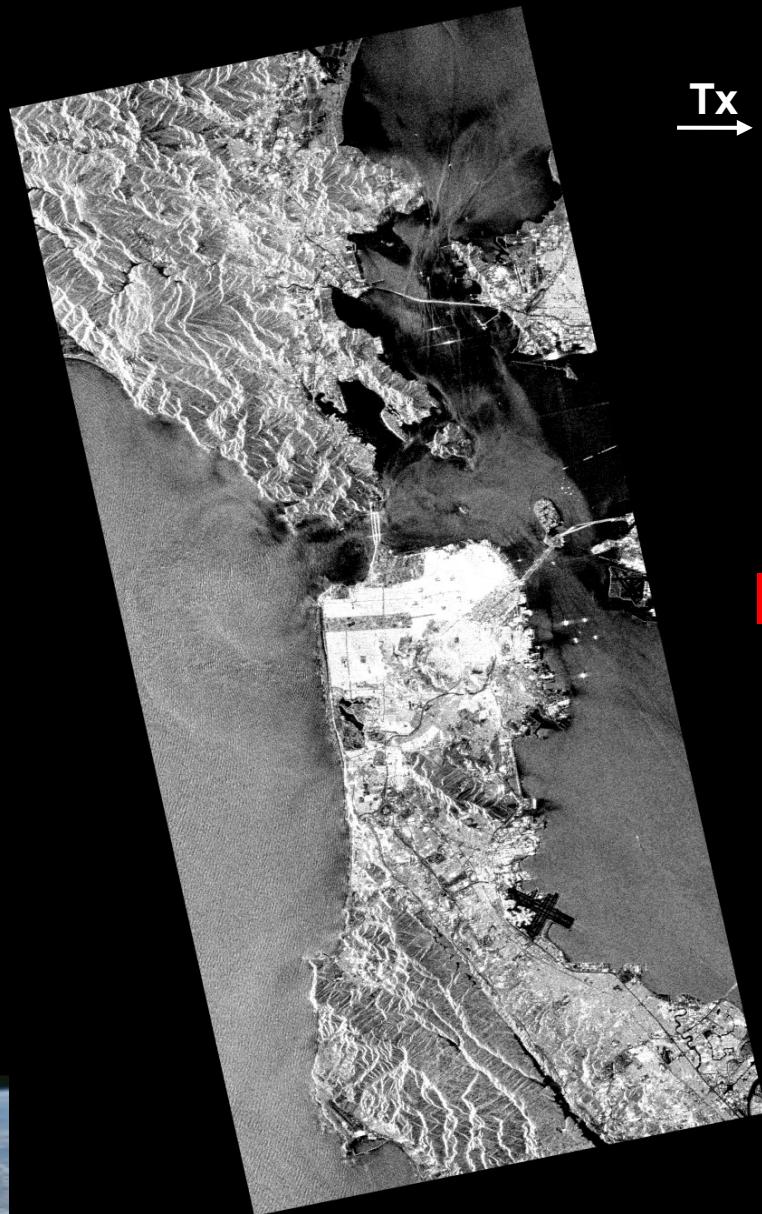


**Shuttle Radar Topography Mission**  
NASA/JPL (C-Band), DLR (X-Band)  
February 2000

# Scattering Coefficient



# Space-borne Sensors



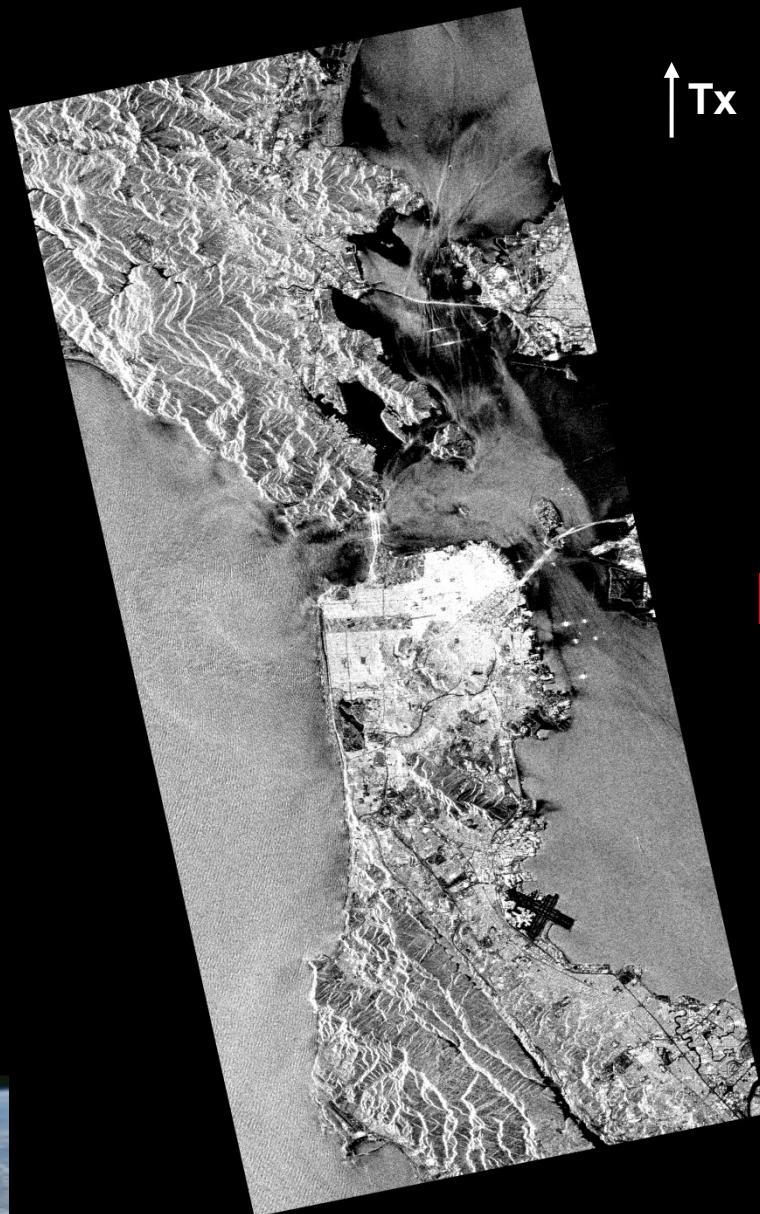
Tx → Rx →

$|HH|_{\text{dB}}$



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors



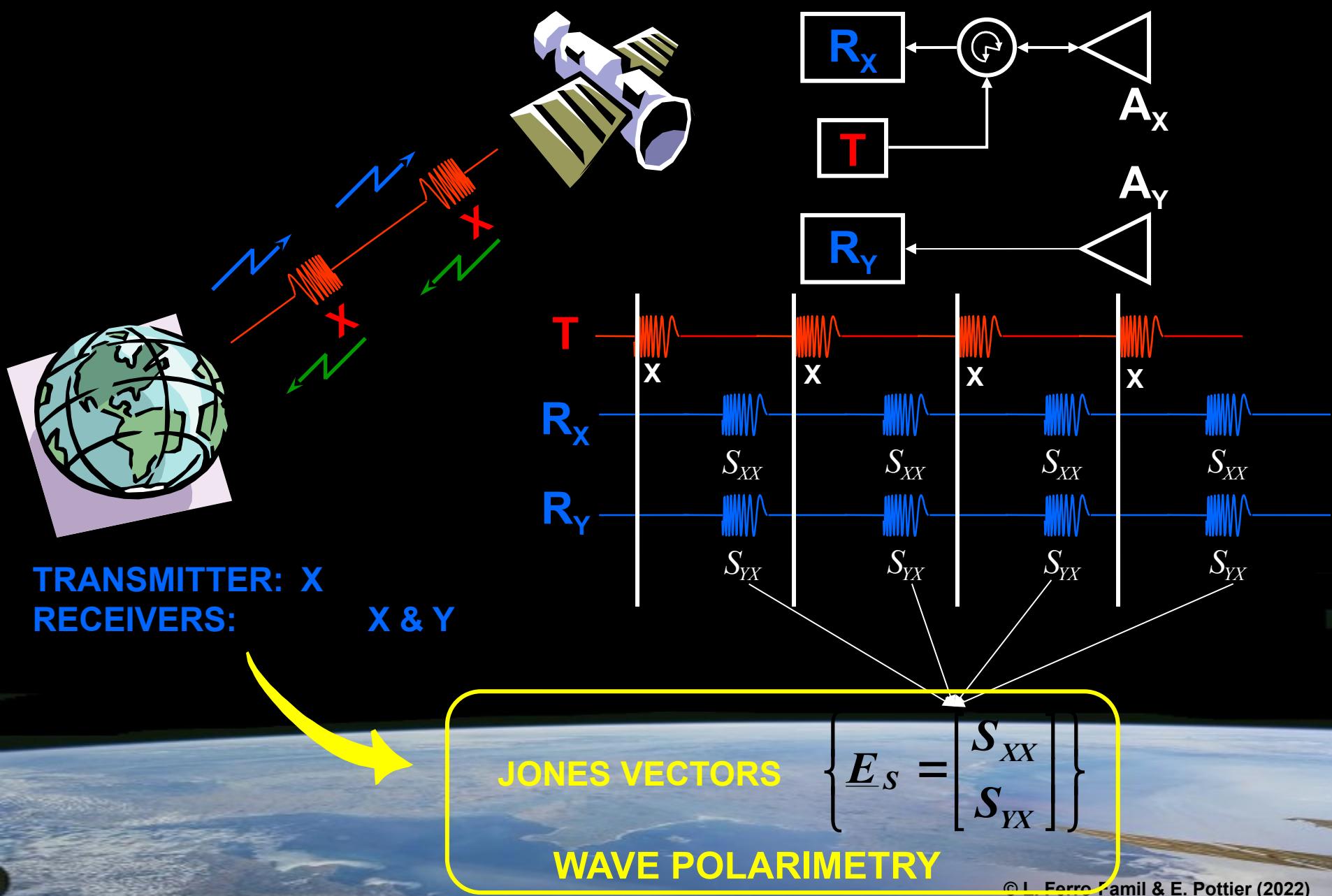
↑ Tx      ↑ Rx

$|VV|_{dB}$

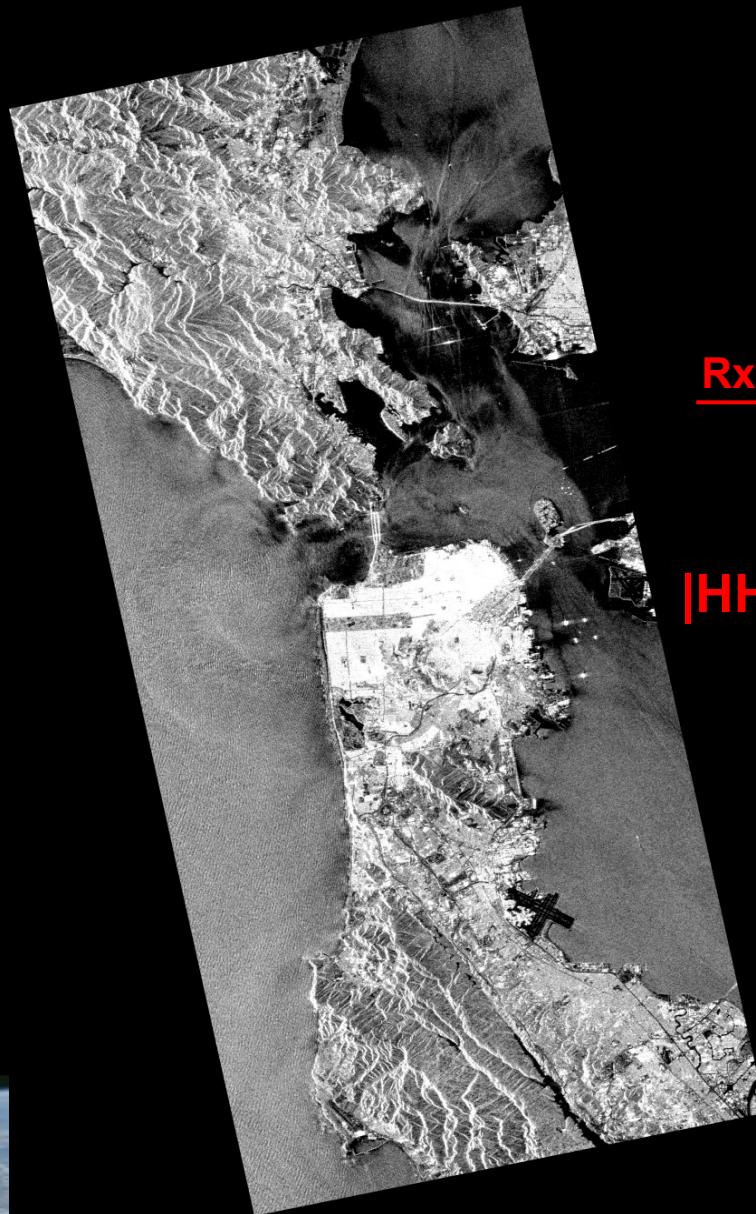


San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Wave Polarimetry



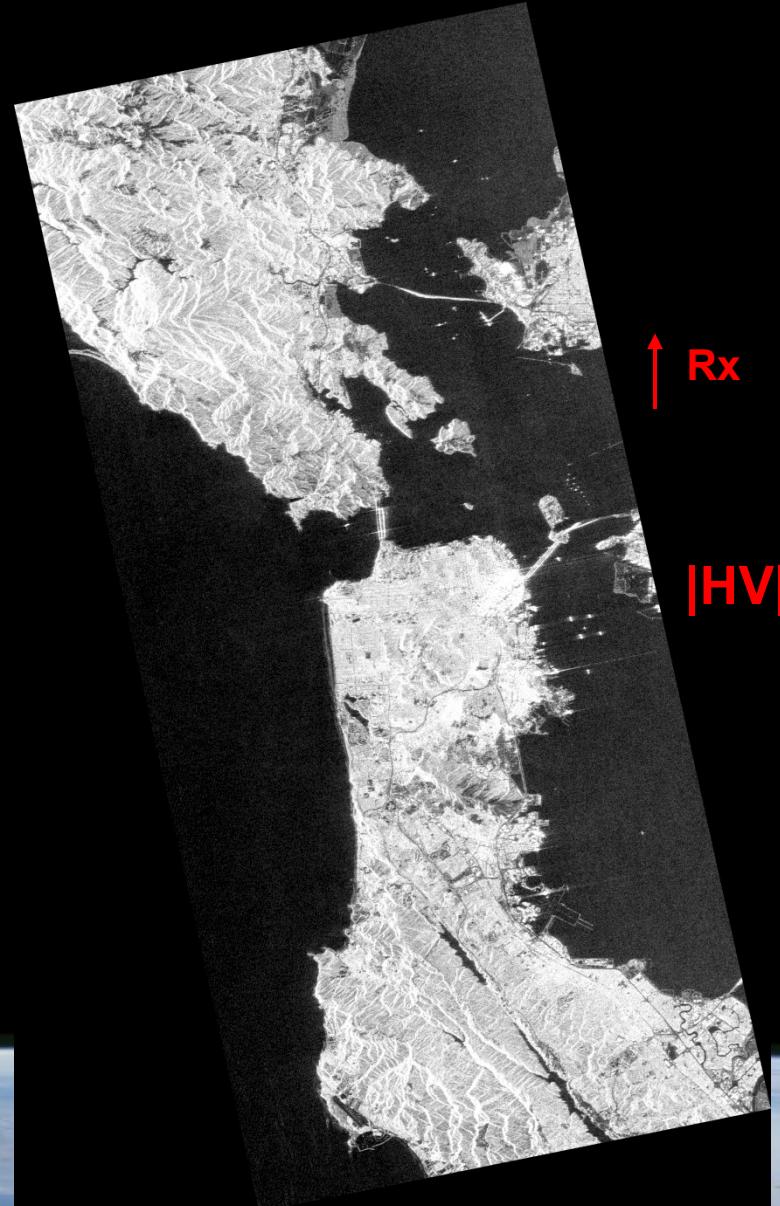
# Space-borne Sensors



Tx

Rx

$|\mathbf{HH}|_{\text{dB}}$



Rx

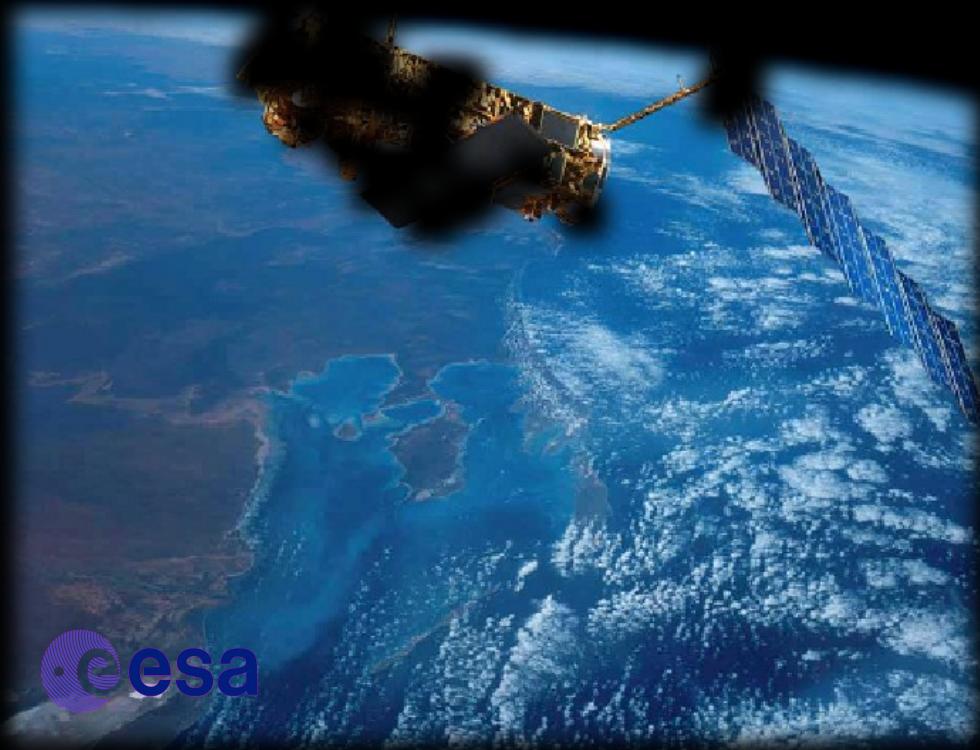
$|\mathbf{HV}|_{\text{dB}}$

San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## ENVISAT - ASAR

October 2001  
C-Band (Sngl / Dual Inc)

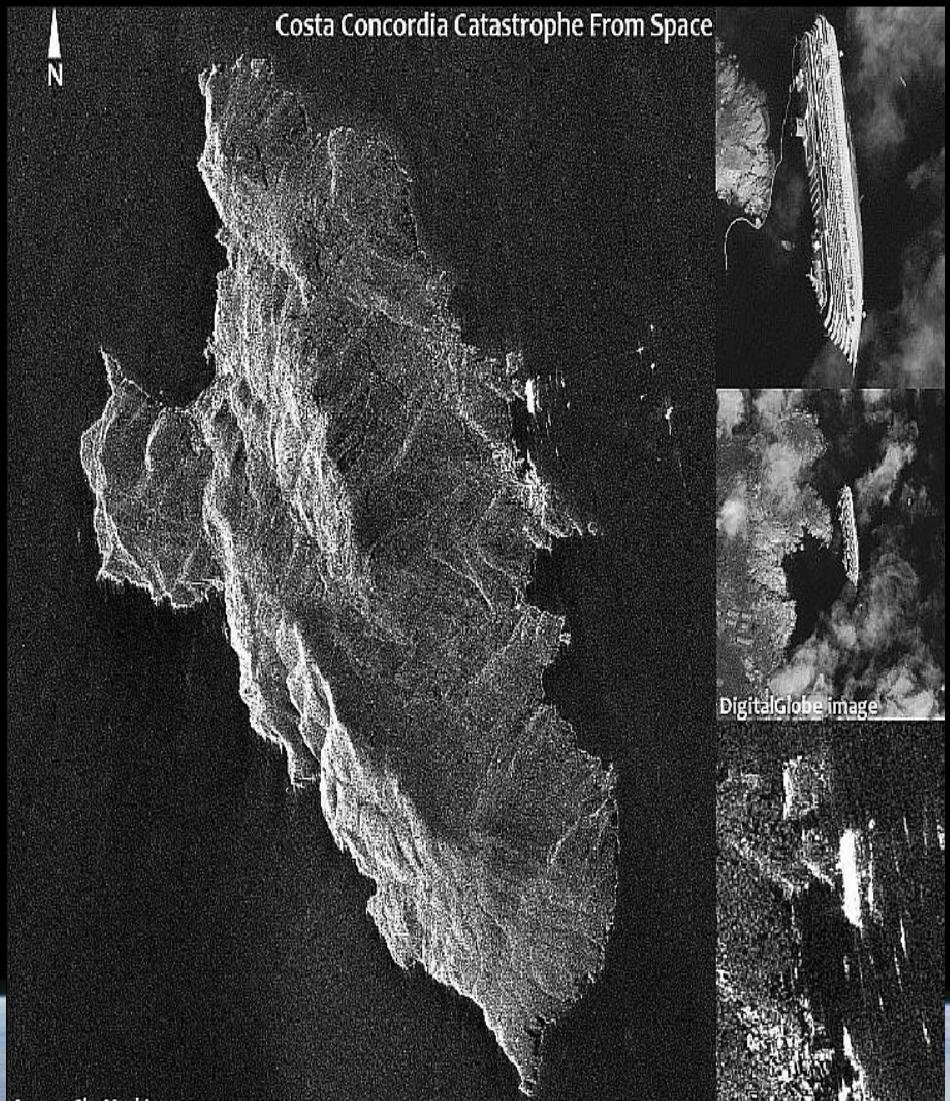


# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## COSMO - SkyMed

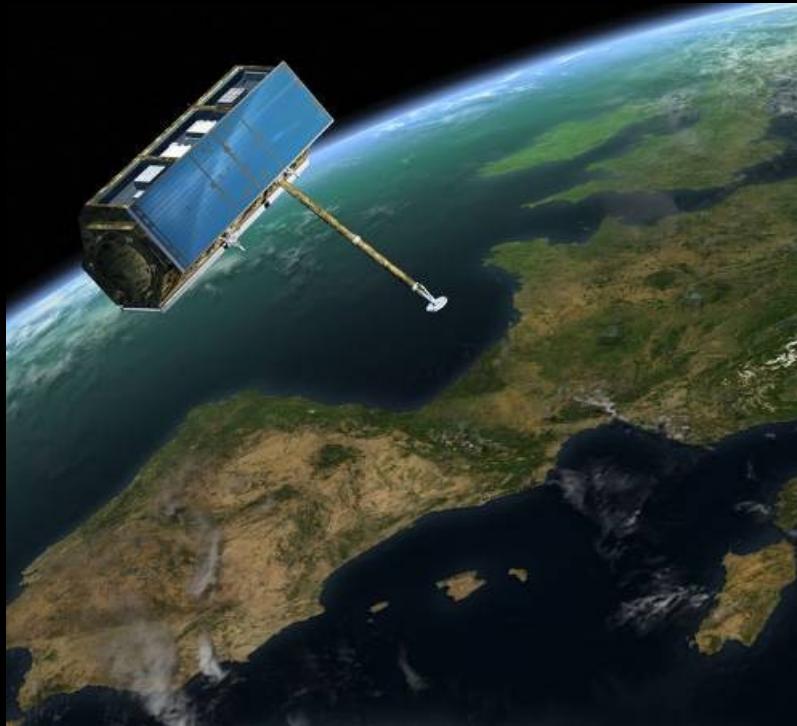


June 2007, Dec. 2007  
Oct. 2008, Nov. 2010  
X-Band (Singl / Dual)  
Revisit : 1 day



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

TerraSAR - X



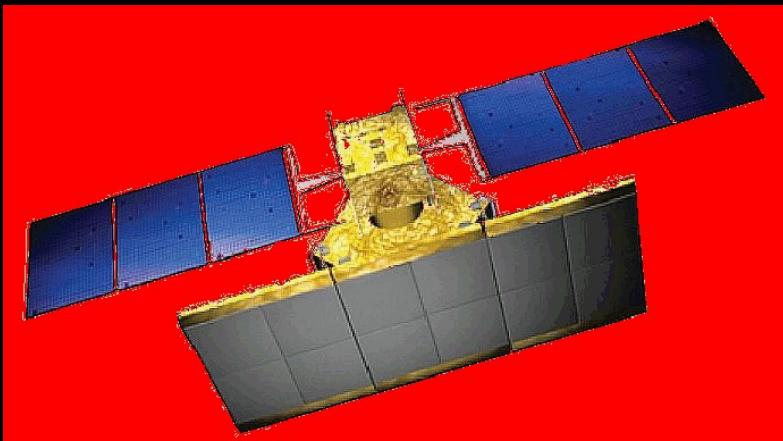
June 2007  
X-Band (Sngl / Twin HH-VV / Quad Exp.)

Rostok (Twin)



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

RISAT-1A



26 April 2012  
C-Band (Sngl, Dual, Hybrid)  
*Operational since 2015*

Rajasthan (Dual)



Sabarmati (Hybrid)



Kolkata (Hybrid)



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## SENTINEL – 1A

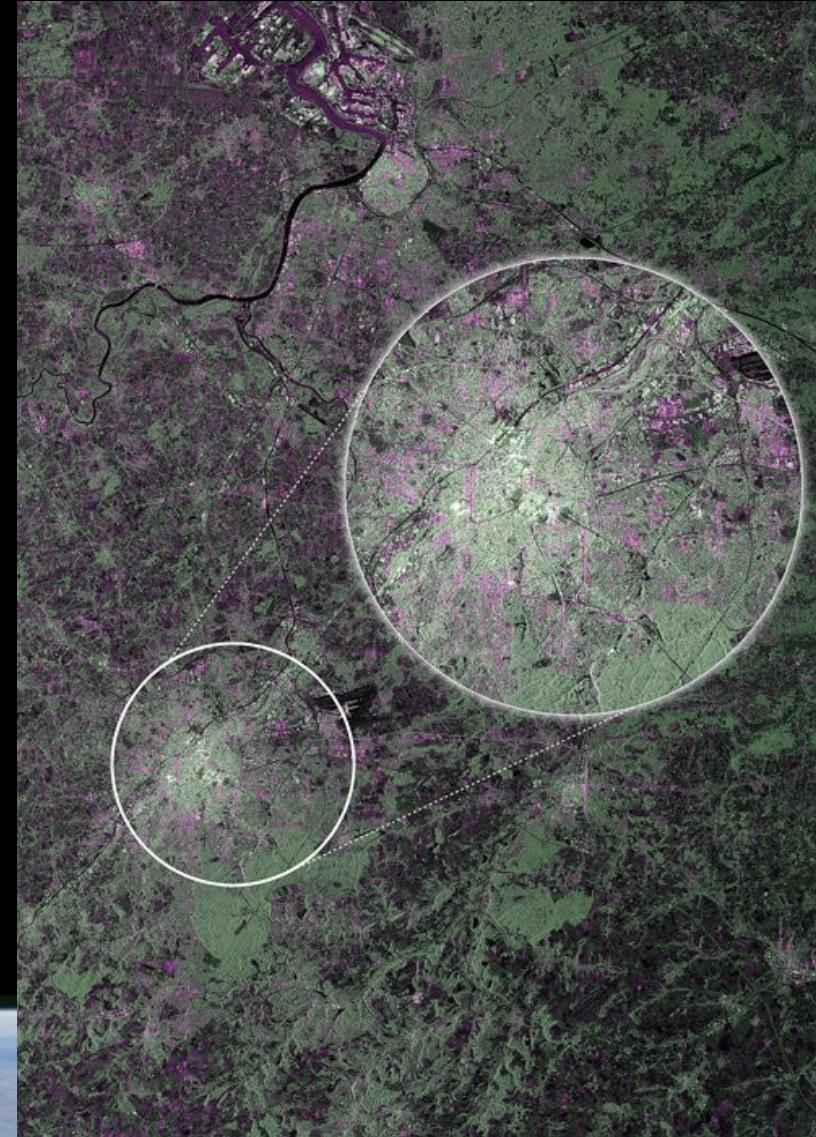


S1A : April 2014

C-Band (Sngl, Dual)

Revisit : 6 days

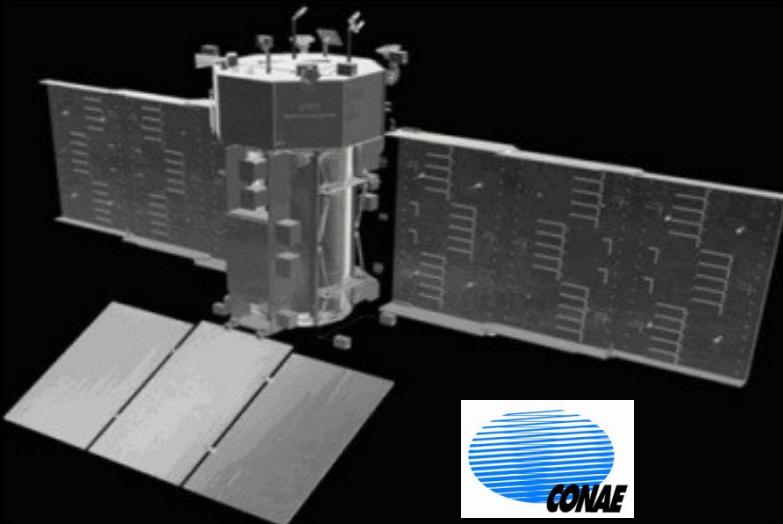
S1B : April 2016



Brussels – 12 April 2014

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## SAOCOM – SAR-L



1A : 2017    1B : 2018

2A : 2019    2B : 2020

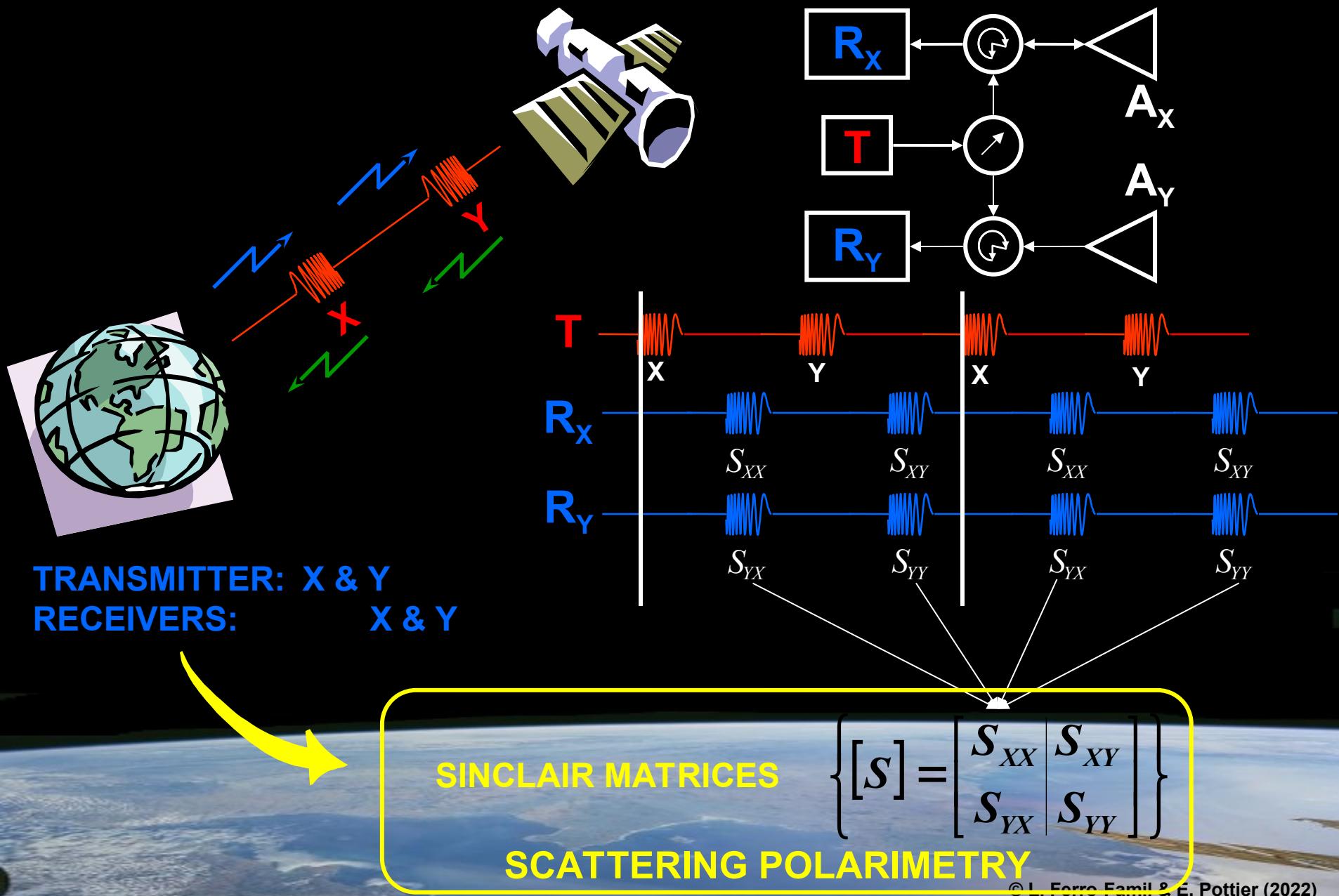
L-Band (Sngl, Dual, Twin HH-VV)  
Revisit : 4 days

## RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM)

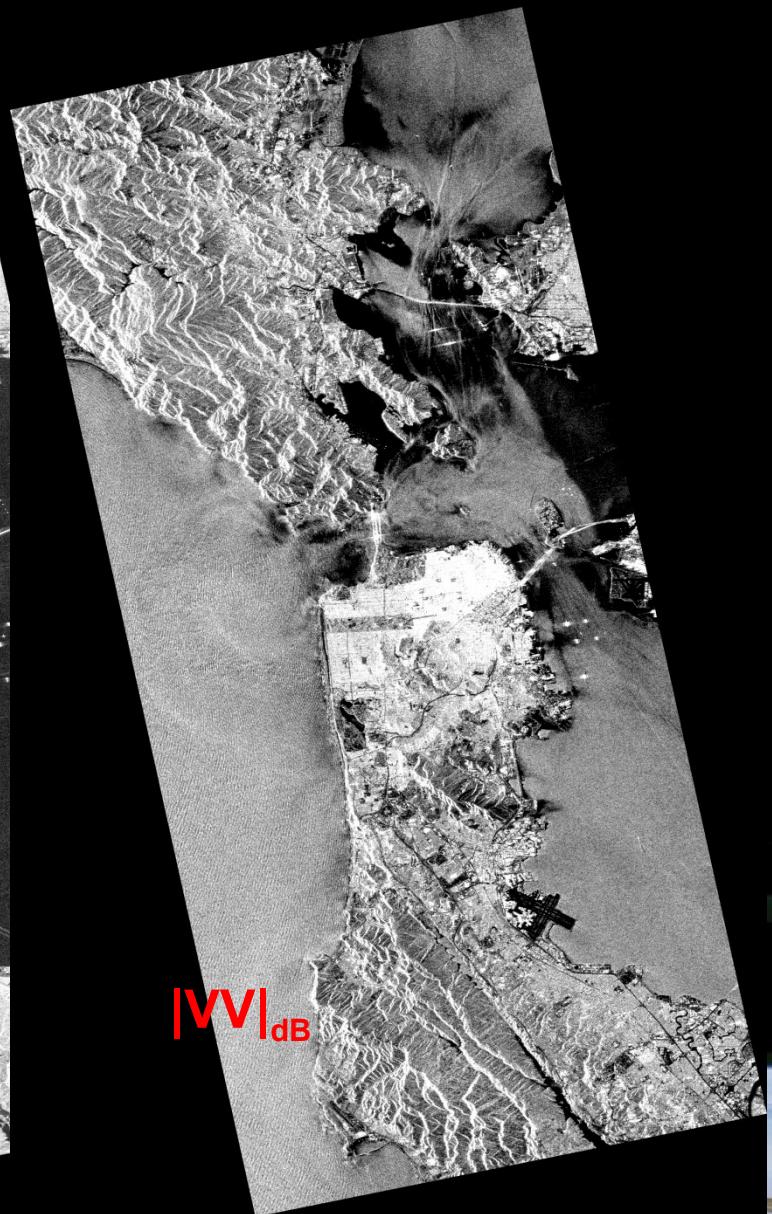
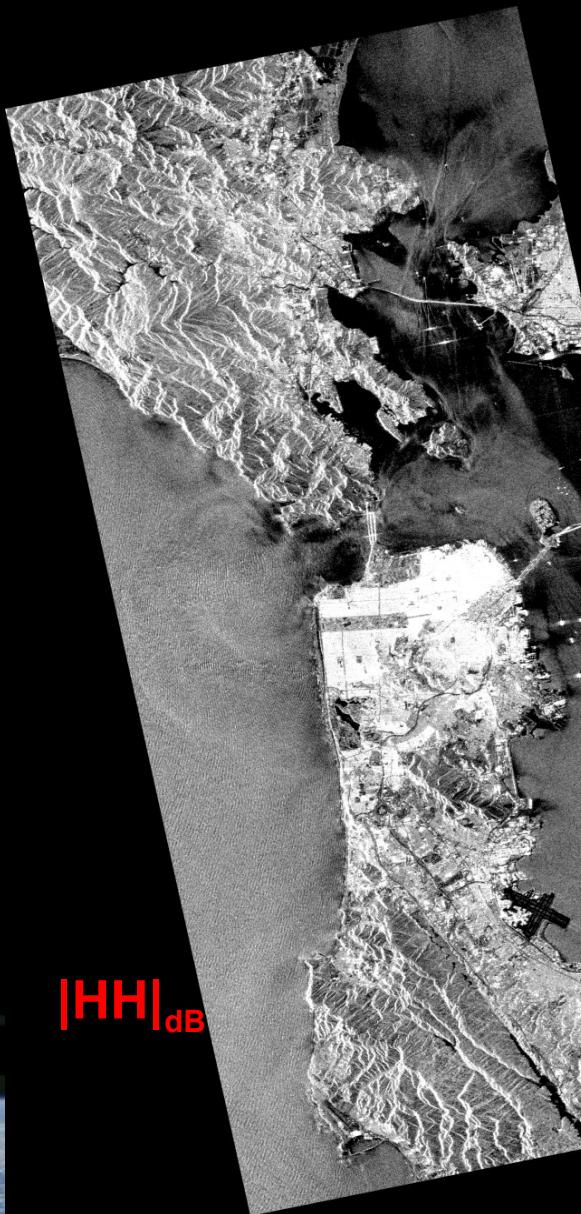


1A : 2017    1B / 1C : 2018  
C-Band (Sngl, Dual, Hybrid)  
Revisit : 4 days

# Scattering Polarimetry



# Space-borne Sensors



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors



$|\mathbf{HH}|_{\text{dB}}$

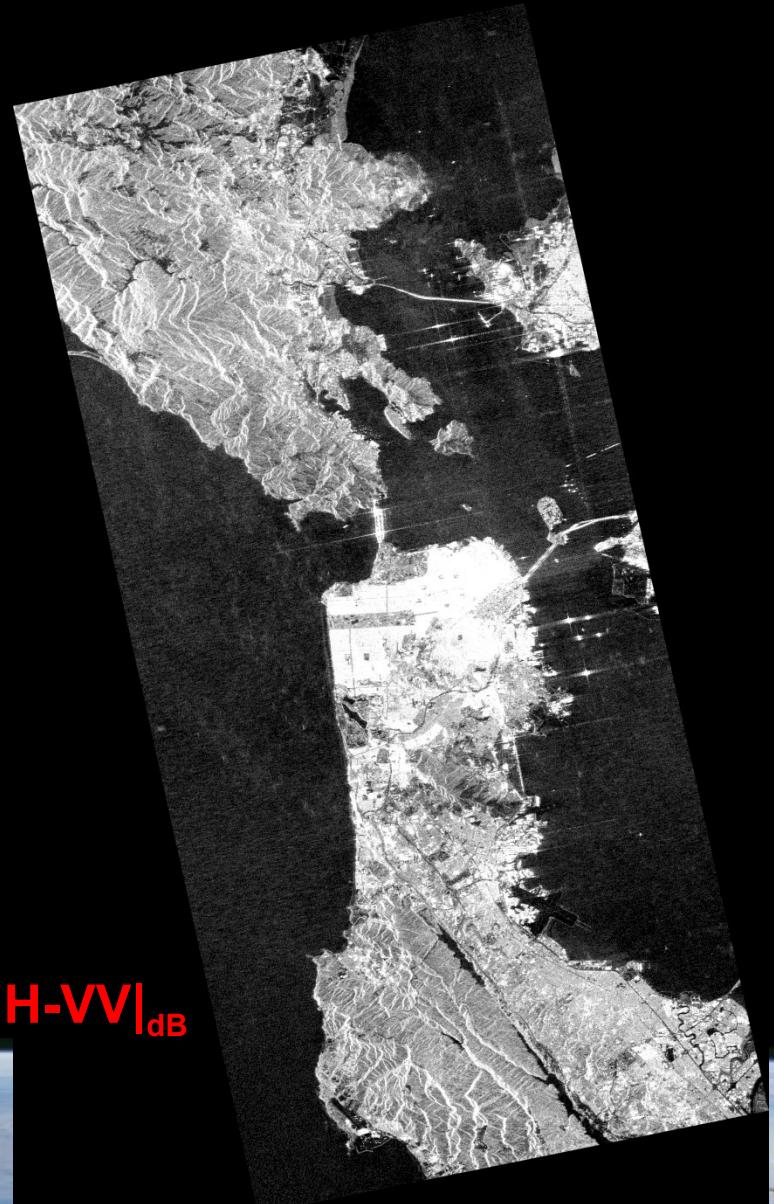
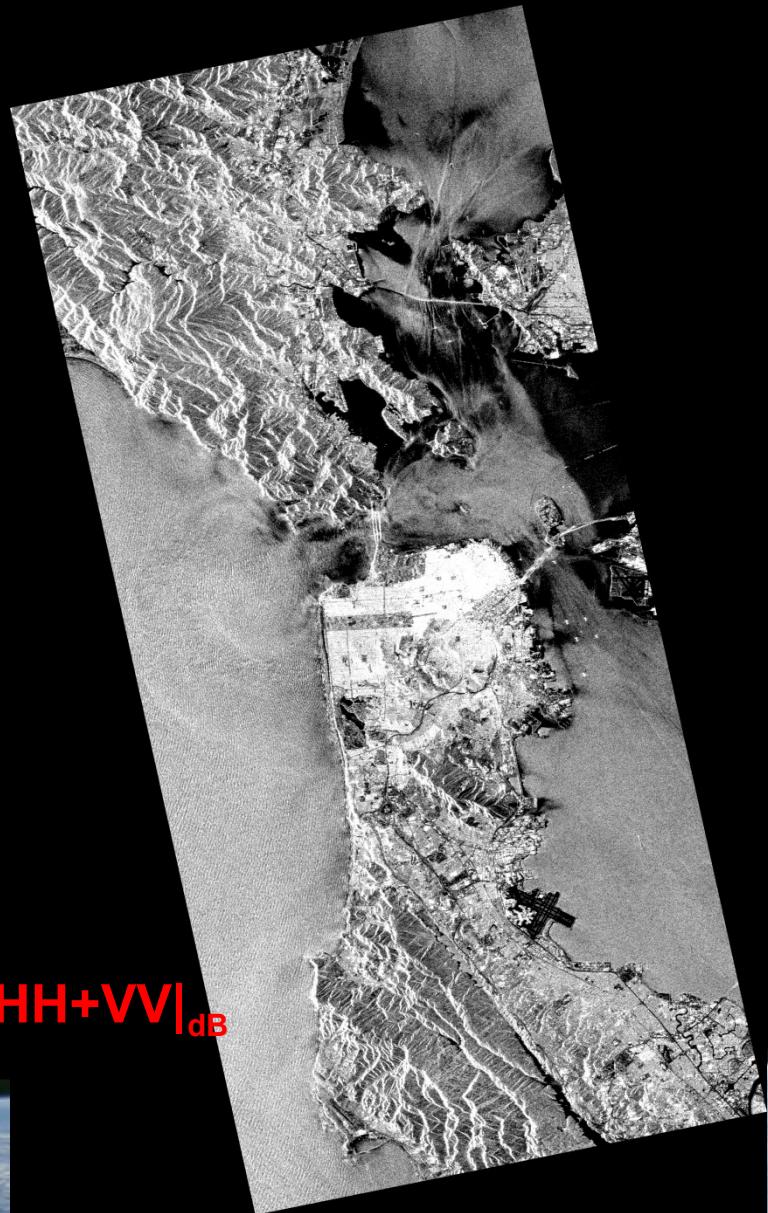
$|\mathbf{HV}|_{\text{dB}}$

$|\mathbf{VV}|_{\text{dB}}$

San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

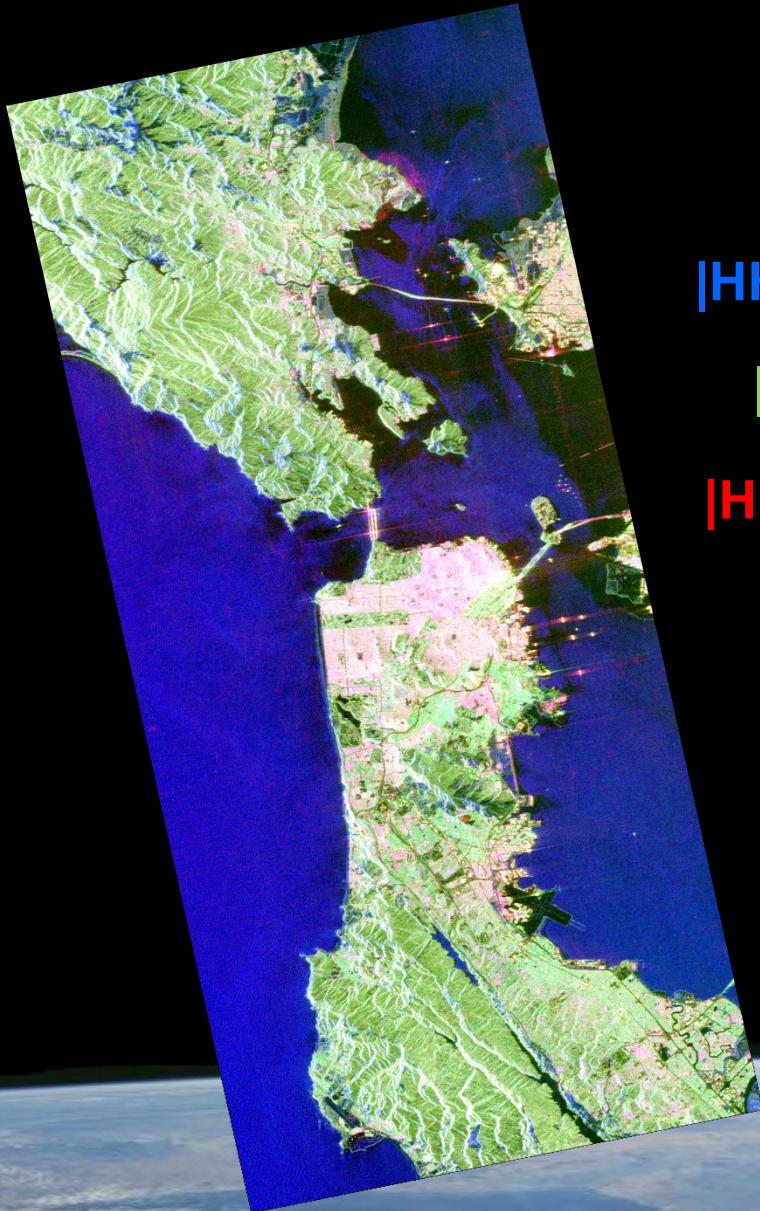


# Space-borne Sensors



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors



$|HH+VV|_{dB}$

$|HV|_{dB}$

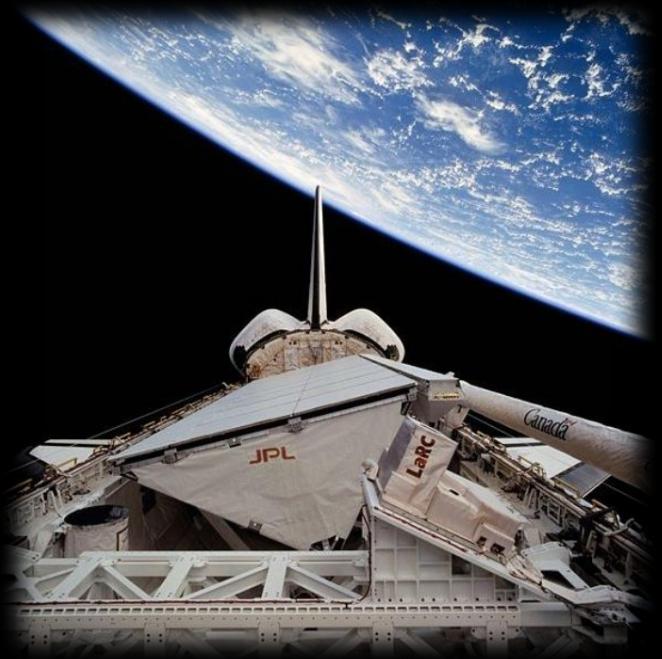
$|HH-VV|_{dB}$



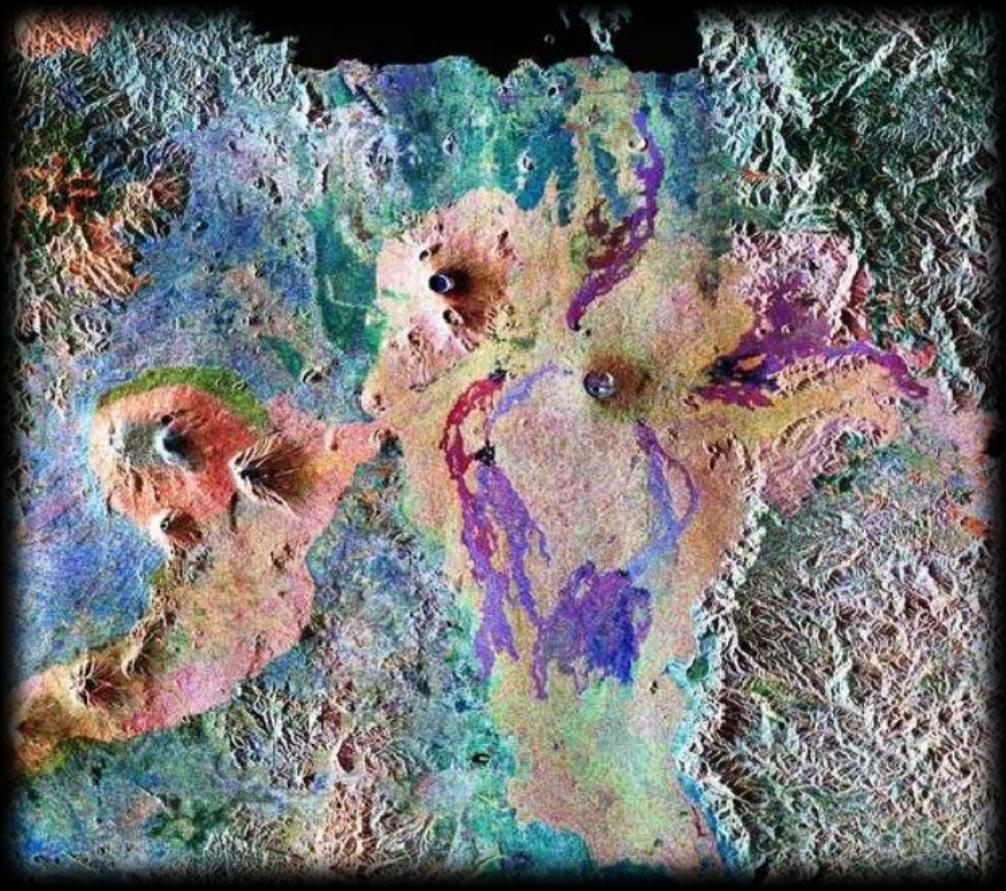
San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## SIR-C / X-SAR



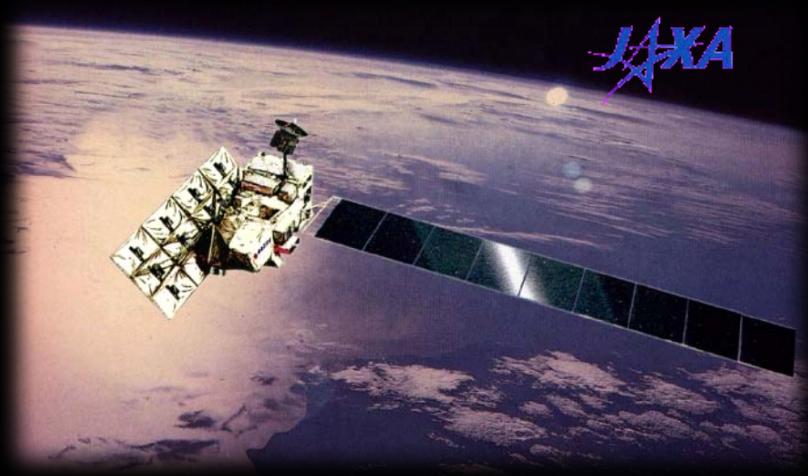
April 1994  
L- and C-Band (Quad)  
X-Band (Sngl)



Rwanda, Zaire, Uganda

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## ALOS - PALSAR



January 2006  
L-Band (Sngl / Twin / Quad)



ALOS : Advanced Land Observing Satellite  
PALSAR : Phase Array L-Band SAR

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

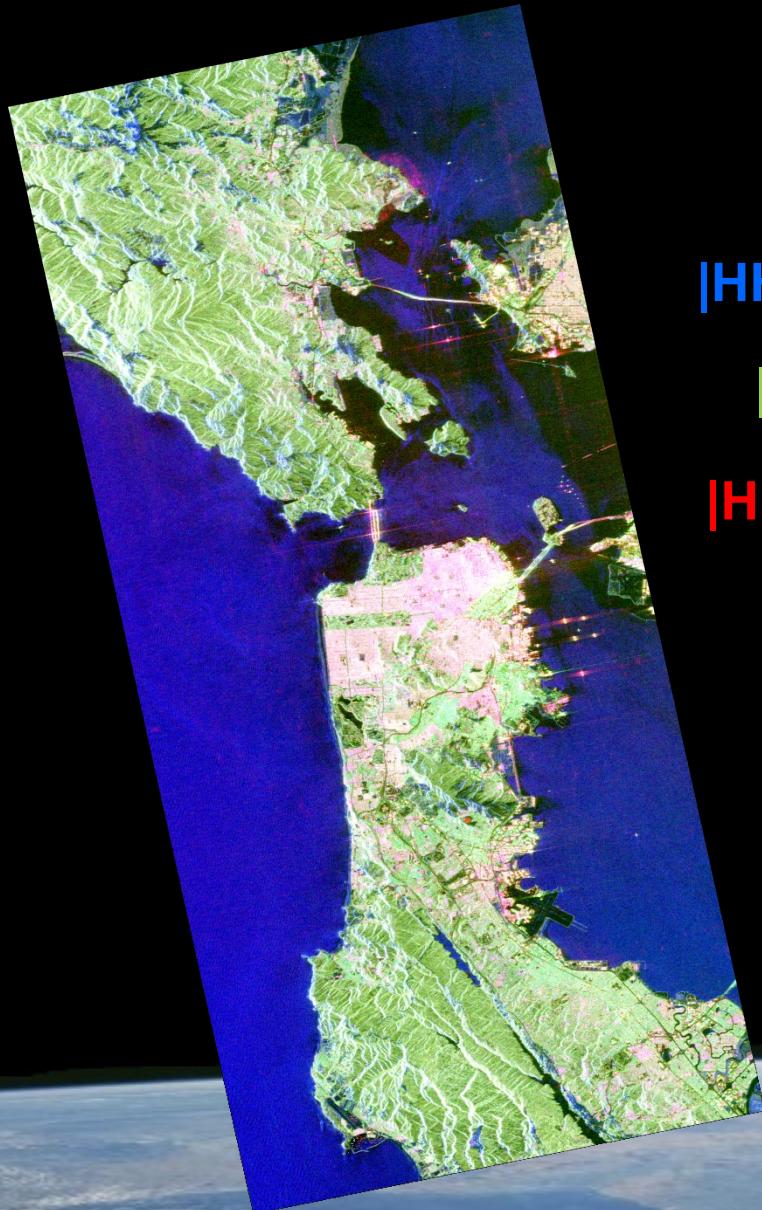
## RADARSAT - 2



December 2007  
C-Band (Quad)



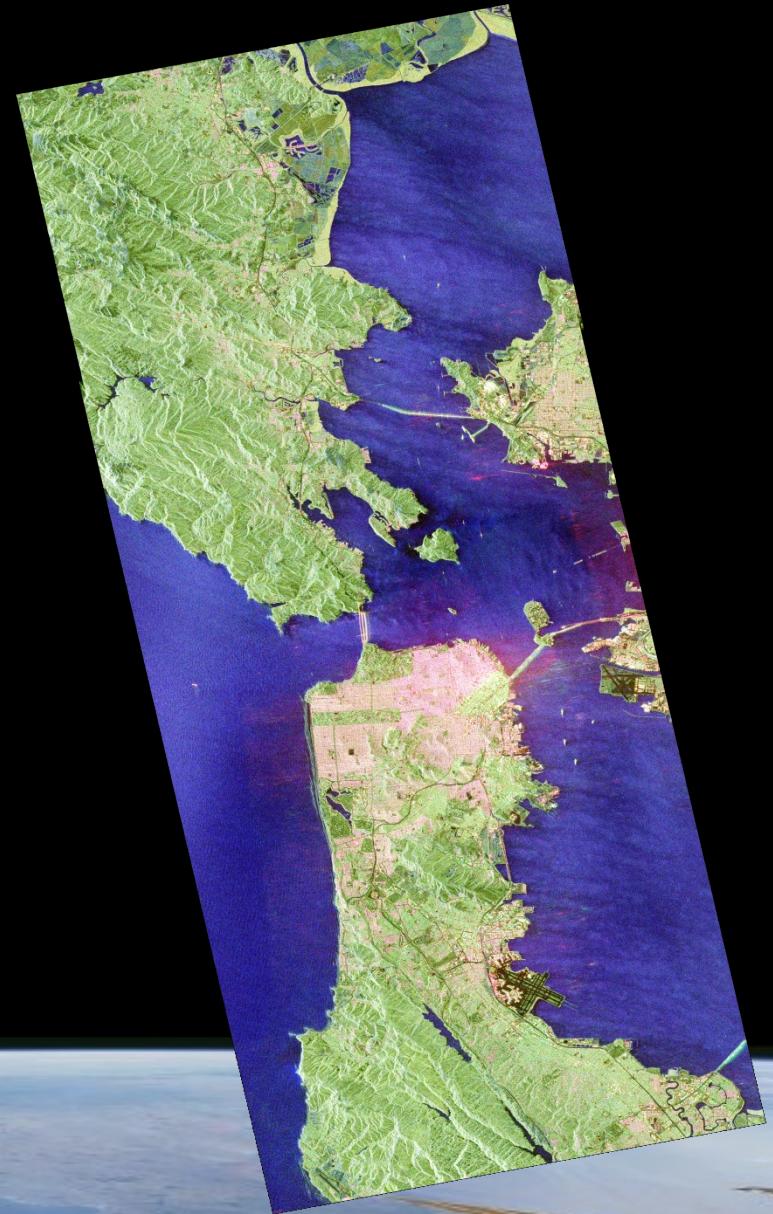
# Space-borne Sensors



$|HH+VV|_{dB}$

$|HV|_{dB}$

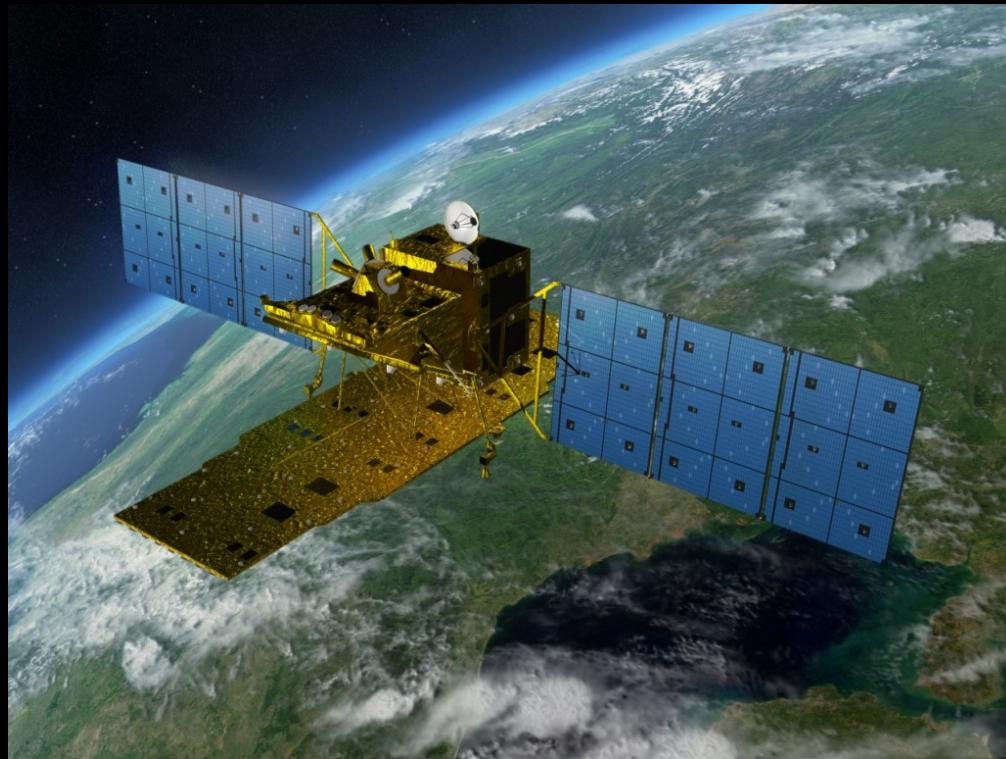
$|HH-VV|_{dB}$



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band and C-Band)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

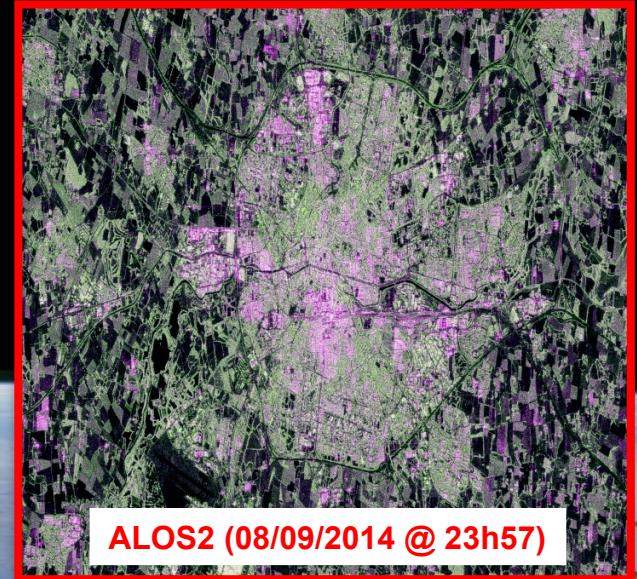
ALOS - 2



May 2014  
L-Band (Quad)



ALOS1 (30/04/2008 @ 22h34)

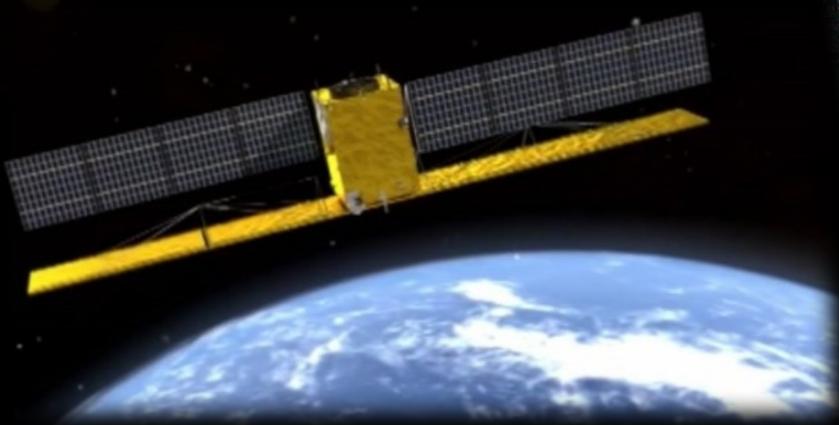


ALOS2 (08/09/2014 @ 23h57)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

Chang Zheng-4C - GaoFen-3 (GF-3)

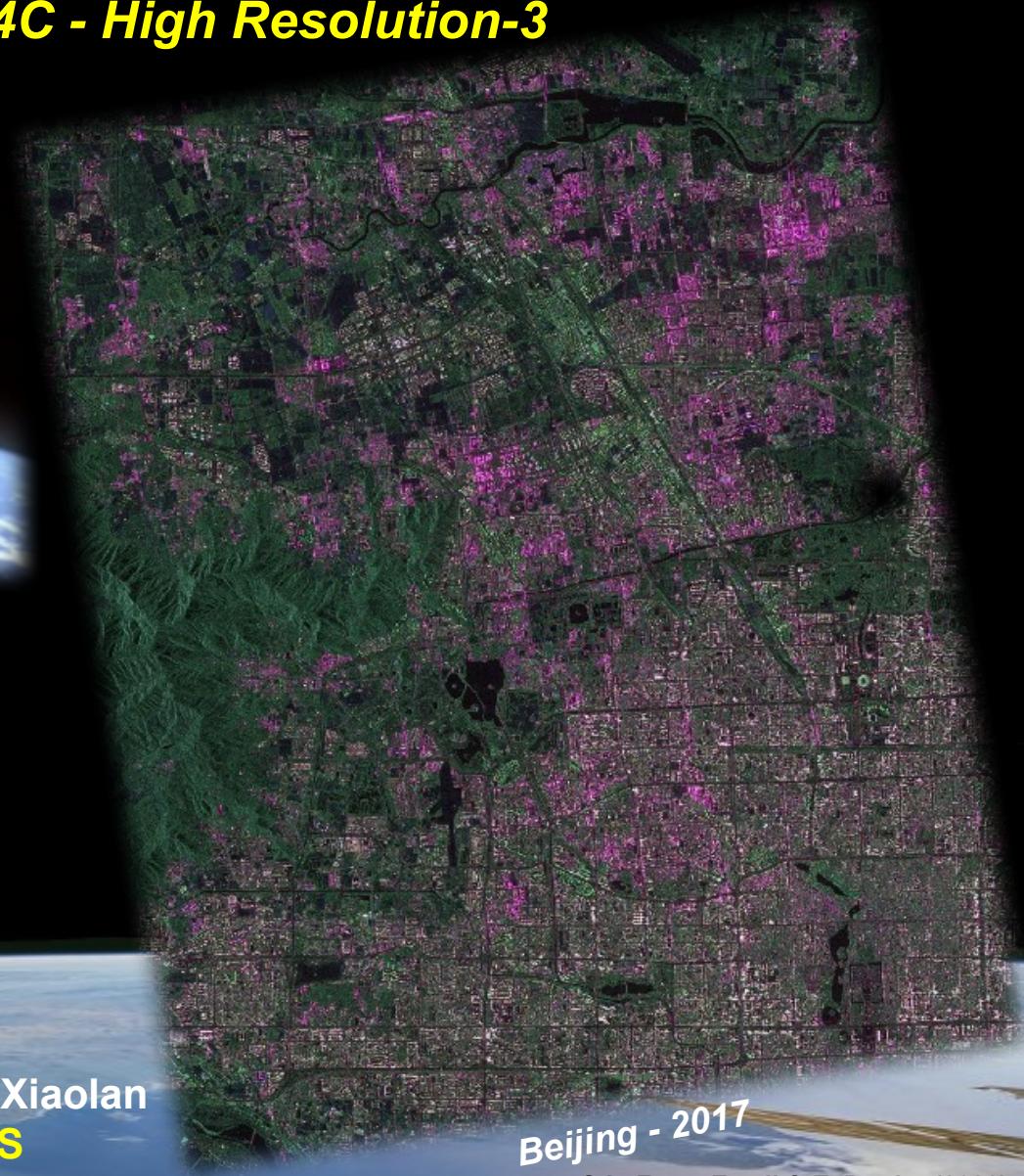
*Long March-4C - High Resolution-3*



August 2016  
C-Band (Quad)



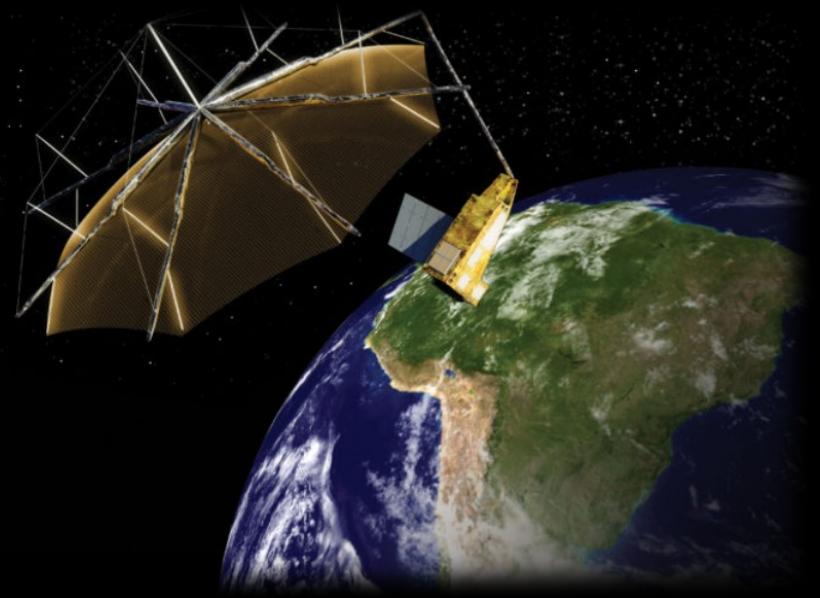
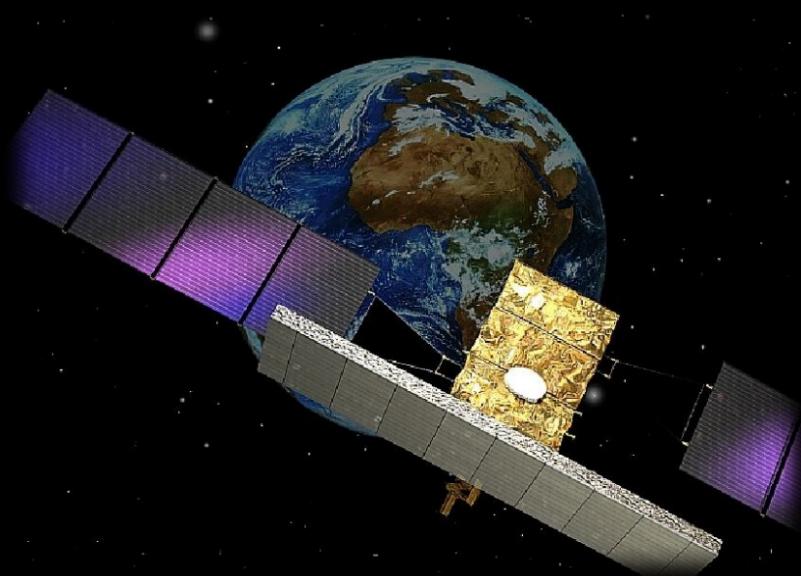
Courtesy of Dr. Qiu Xiaolan  
IECAS / GIPAS



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

COSMO - SkyMed - CSG

Earth Explorer - BIOMASS



2A : 2018    2B : 2019

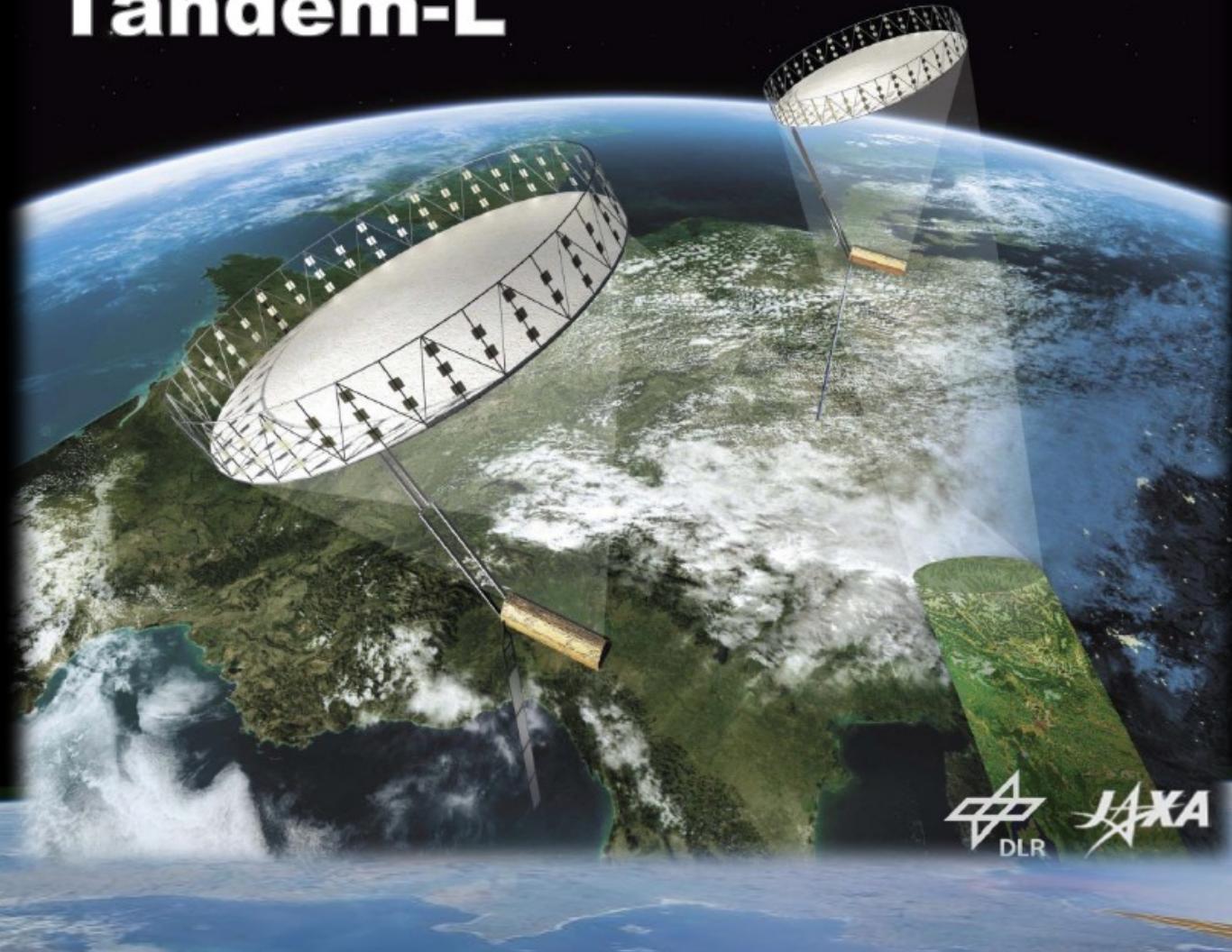
X-Band (Sngl / Dual / Quad Exp.)

2021

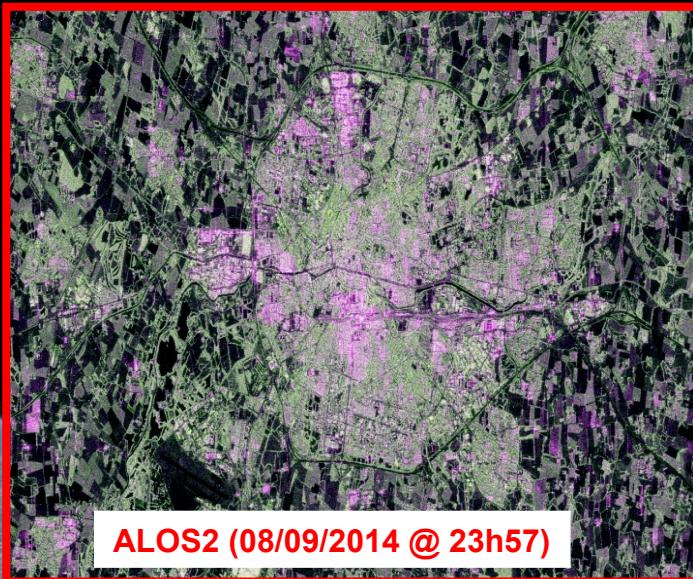
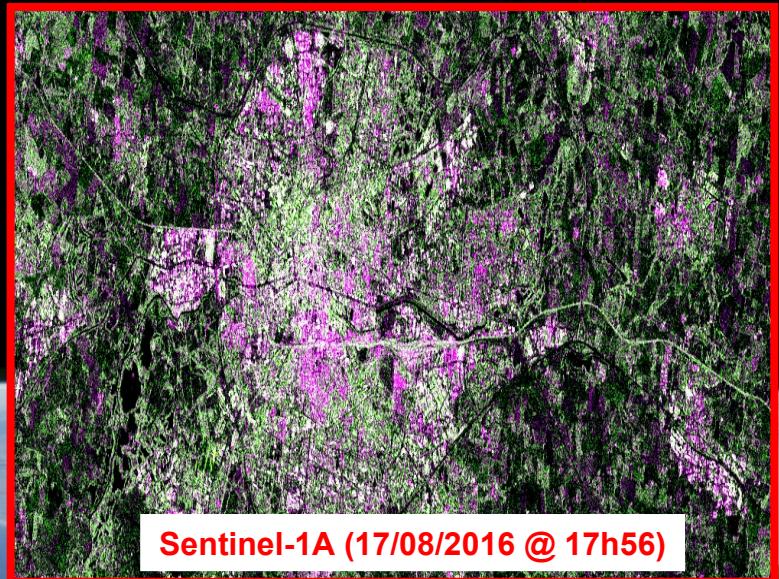
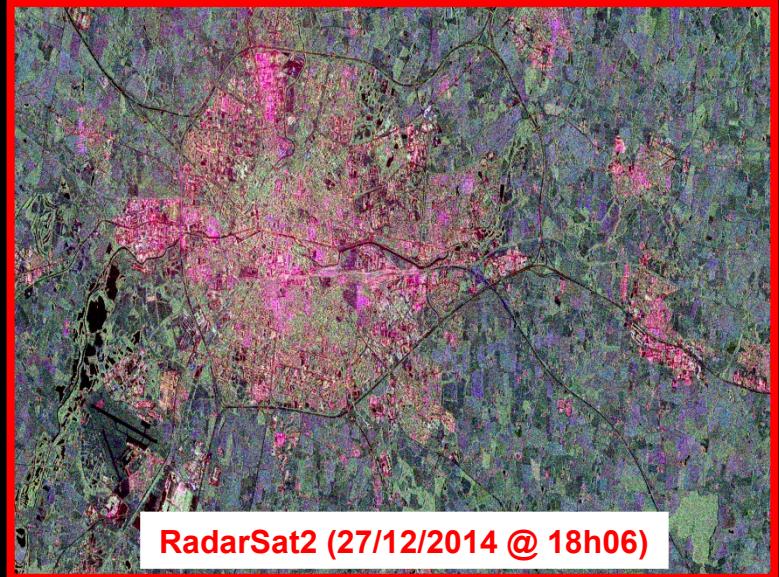
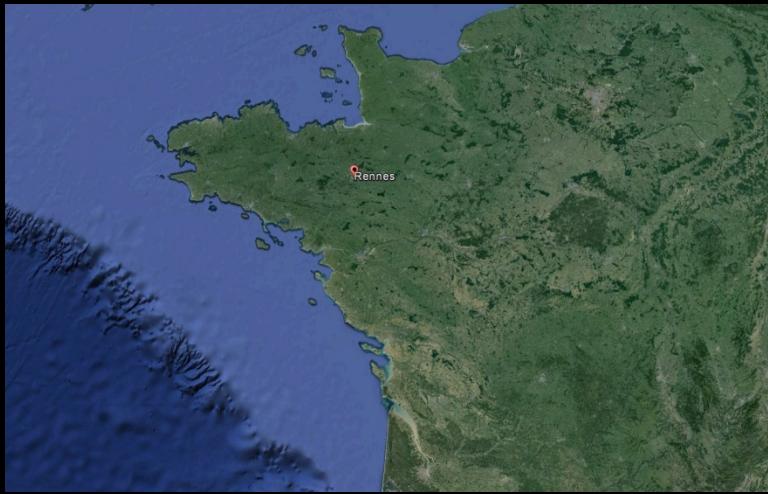
P-Band (Quad)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## Tandem-L



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

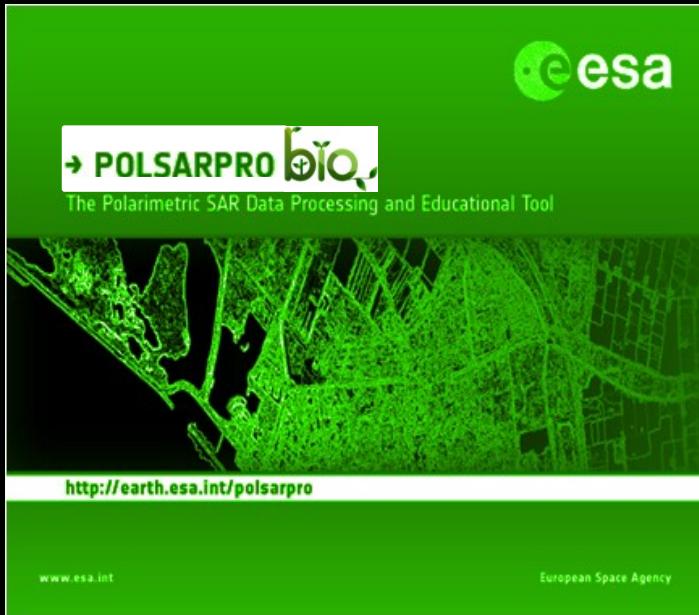


# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors



Chang Zheng-4C - GaoFen-3 (GF-3)  
(03/01/2017 @ 17h49)

# ESA PolSARpro Toolbox



Polarimetric **SAR** data Processing  
and educational tool

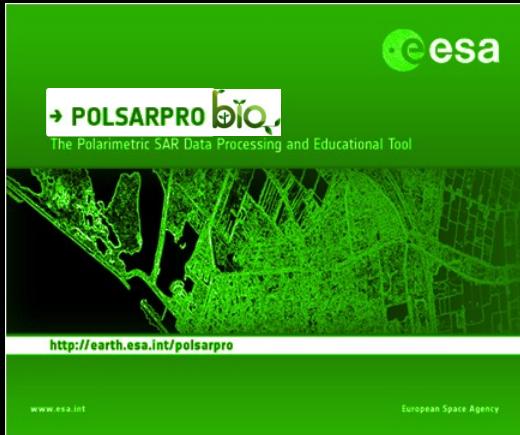
esa since 2003

- +3000 registered users
- +70 foreign countries

**International Collaborative Project**  
(Agencies, Research Centres, Universities)



# ESA PolSARpro Toolbox

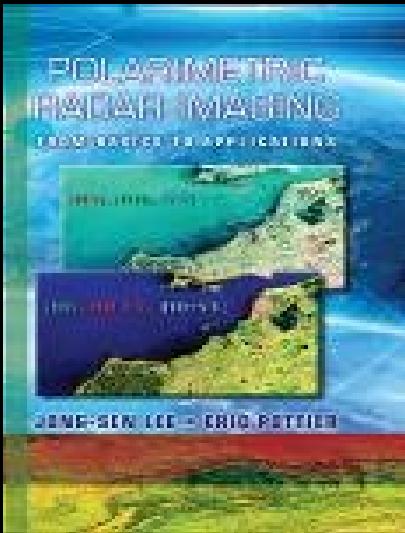


**Toolbox specifically designed to handle :  
Pol-SAR, Pol-InSAR , Pol-TomoSAR and  
Pol-TimeSAR data**

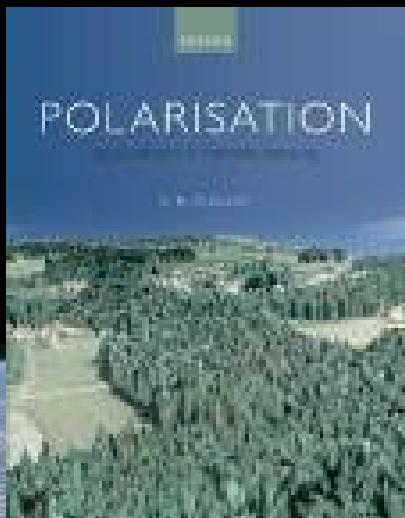
**Educational Software offering a tool for self-education in  
the field of Polarimetric SAR data processing and analysis**

**More than 1740 different Pol-SAR, Pol-InSAR, Pol-TomSAR,  
Pol-TimeSAR functionalities.**

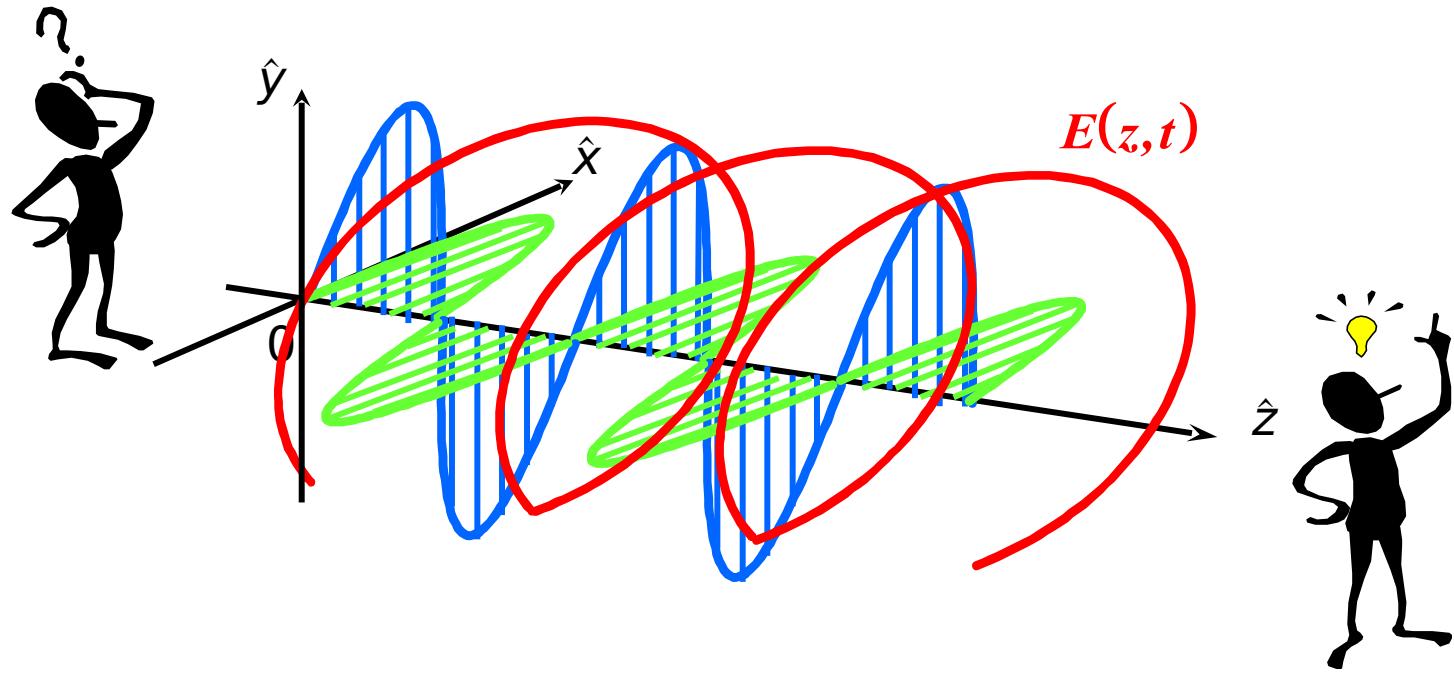
# Books On Polarimetric Radar SAR, Polarimetric Interferometry



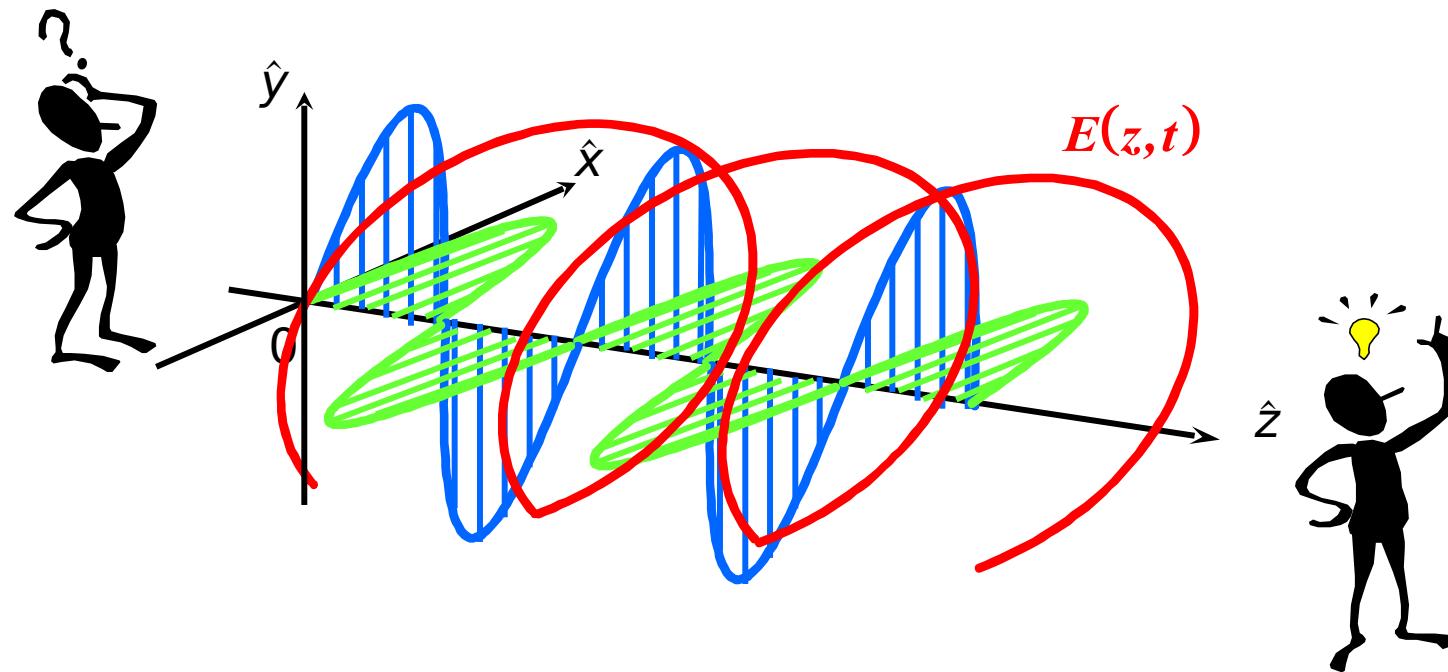
**Polarimetric Radar Imaging: From basics to applications**  
**Jong-Sen LEE – Eric POTTIER**  
CRC Press; 1st ed., February 2009, pp 422  
ISBN: 978-1420054972



**Polarisation: Applications in Remote Sensing**  
**Shane R. CLOUDE**  
Oxford University Press, October 2009, pp 352  
ISBN: 978-0199569731



# BASIC CONCEPTS



# WAVE POLARIMETRY

# PROPAGATION EQUATION

REAL ELECTRIC FIELD VECTOR  $\vec{E}(z,t)$

## MAXWELL EQUATIONS

MAXWELL – FARADAY EQUATION

$$\nabla \wedge \vec{E}(z,t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}(z,t)}{\partial t}$$

MAXWELL – AMPERE EQUATION

$$\nabla \wedge \vec{H}(z,t) = \vec{J}_T(z,t)$$

GAUSS THEOREM

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D}(z,t) = \rho(z,t)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B}(z,t) = 0$$

# PROPAGATION EQUATION

$$\nabla \wedge (\nabla \wedge \vec{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) - \nabla \cdot (\nabla \vec{A})$$



## PROPAGATION EQUATION

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E}(z,t) - \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}(z,t)}{\partial t^2} - \mu\sigma \frac{\partial \vec{E}(z,t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial \rho(z,t)}{\partial t}$$

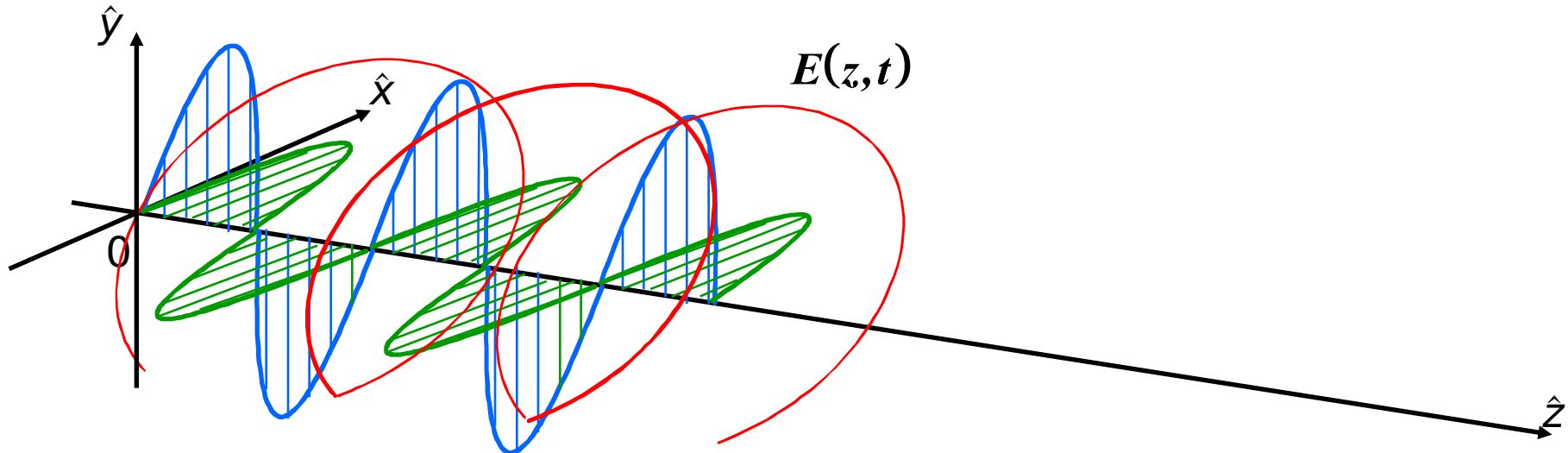


## HELMHOLTZ PROPAGATION EQUATION

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E}(z,t) - \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}(z,t)}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

Source Free, Linear, Homogeneous, Isotropic,  
Dielectric and lossless Medium

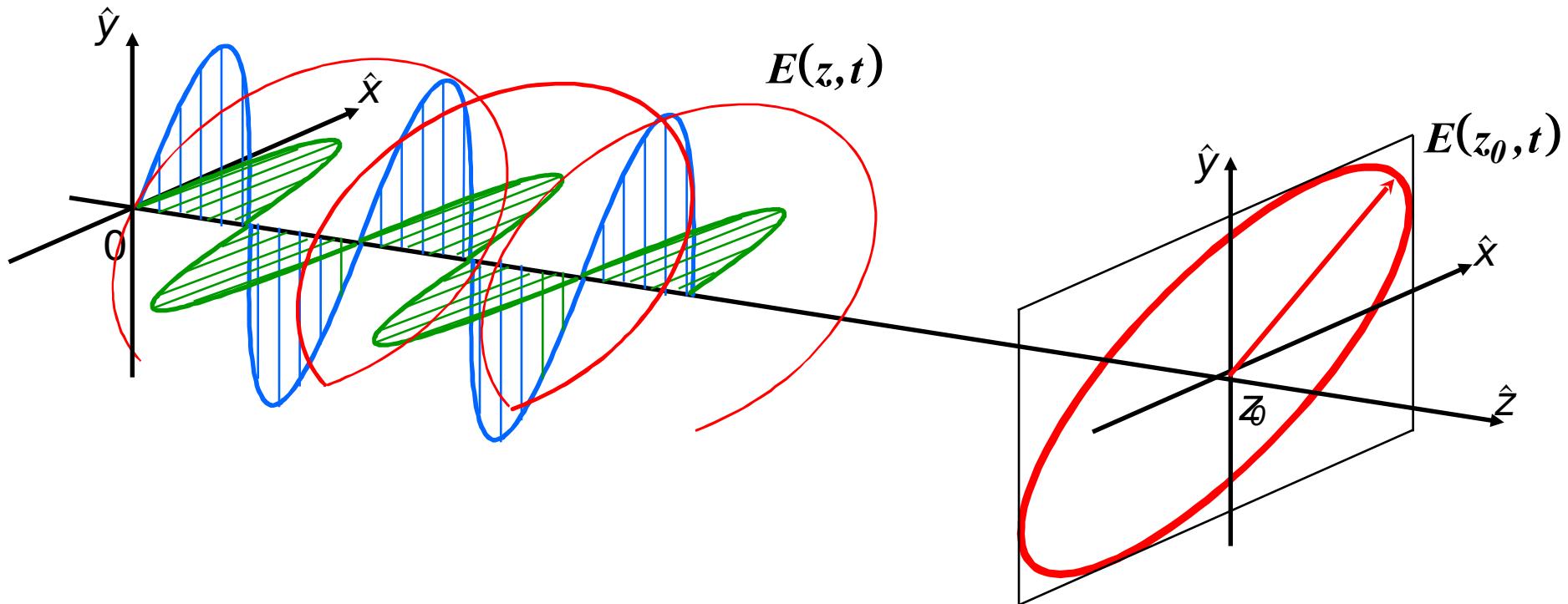
# POLARISATION ELLIPSE



## REAL ELECTRIC FIELD VECTOR

$$\vec{E}(z,t) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} E_x = E_{0x} \cos(\omega t - kz - \delta_x) \\ E_y = E_{0y} \cos(\omega t - kz - \delta_y) \\ E_z = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

# POLARISATION ELLIPSE

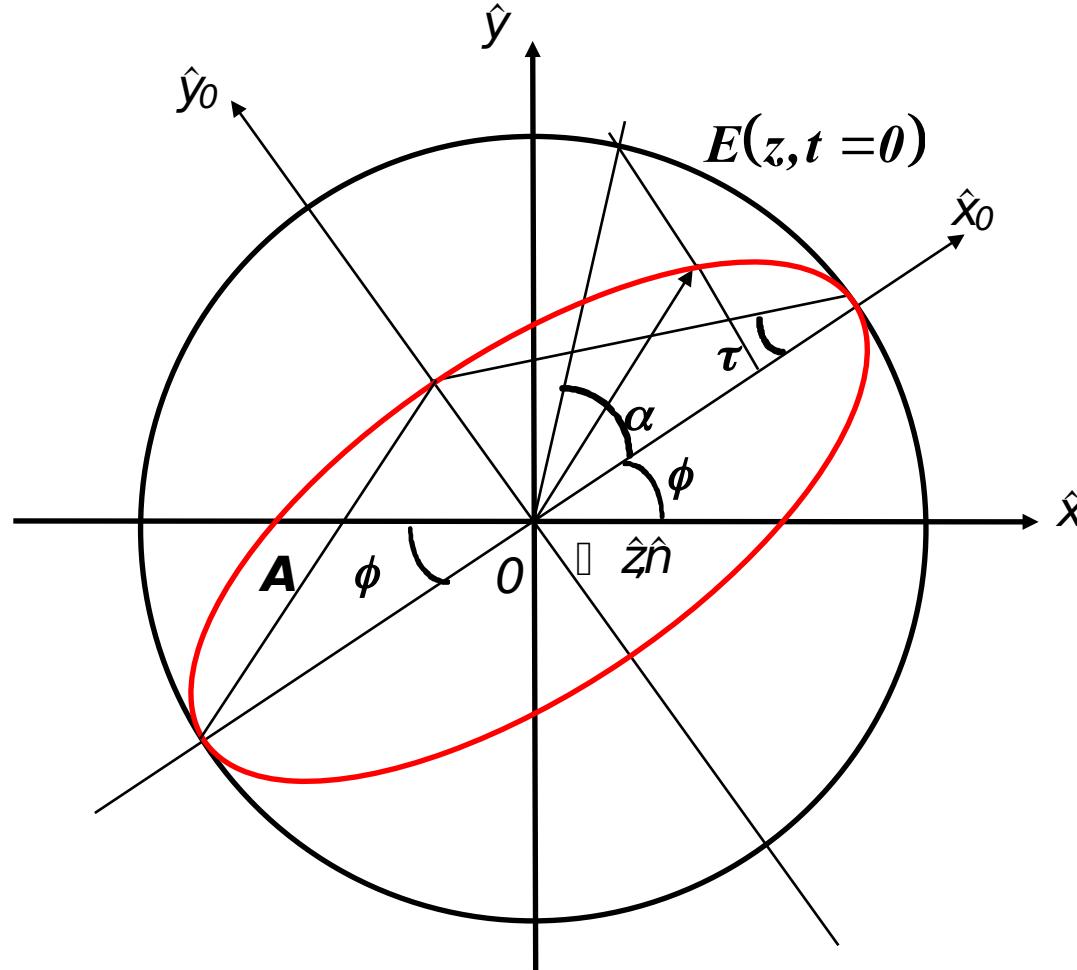


THE REAL ELECTRIC FIELD VECTOR MOVES IN TIME ALONG AN ELLIPSE

$$\left(\frac{E_x}{E_{0x}}\right)^2 - 2 \frac{E_x E_y}{E_{0x} E_{0y}} \cos(\delta) + \left(\frac{E_y}{E_{0y}}\right)^2 = \sin^2(\delta)$$

With:  $\delta = \delta_y - \delta_x$

# POLARISATION ELLIPSE



A : WAVE AMPLITUDE

$\alpha$  : ABSOLUTE PHASE

$\phi$  : ORIENTATION ANGLE

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \phi \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

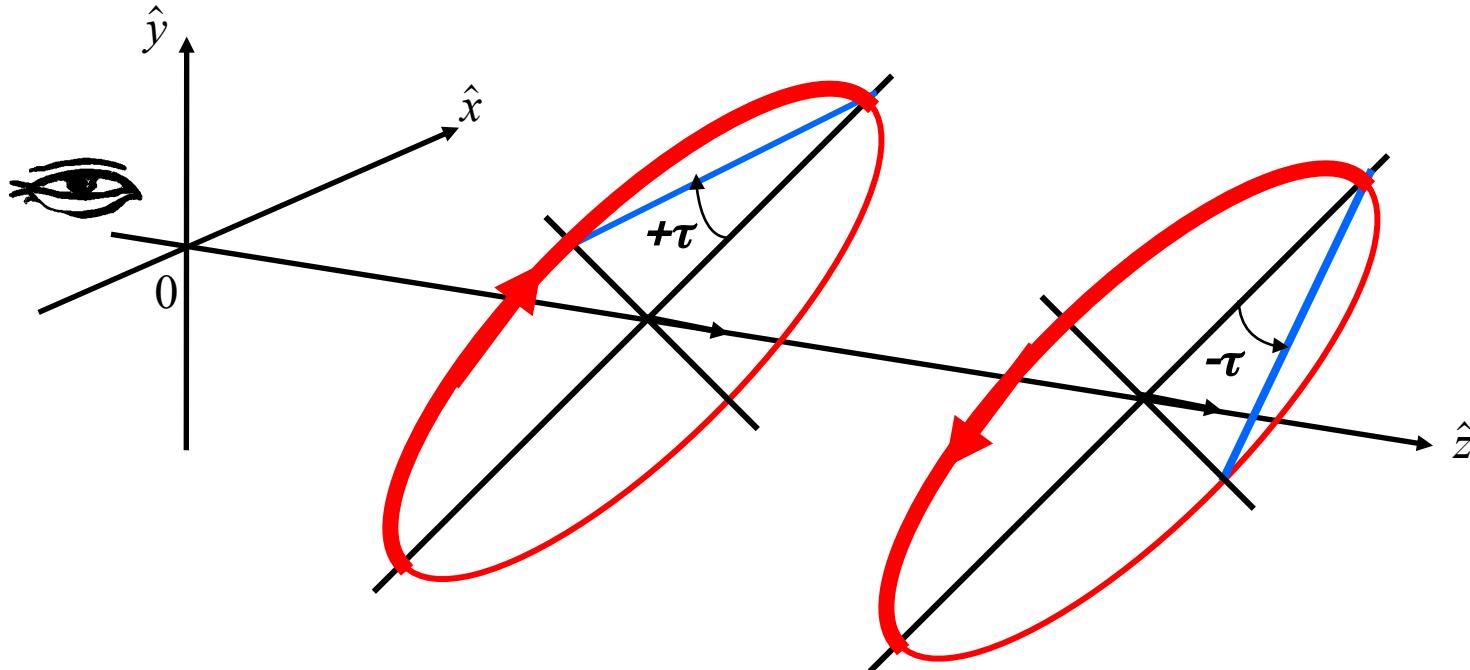
$\tau$  : ELLIPTICITY ANGLE

$$0 \leq \tau \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$$



# POLARISATION HANDEDNESS

ROTATION SENSE: LOOKING INTO THE DIRECTION OF THE WAVE PROPAGATION



ANTI-CLOCKWISE ROTATION

LEFT HANDED POLARISATION



ELLIPTICITY ANGLE :  $\tau > 0$

CLOCKWISE ROTATION

RIGHT HANDED POLARISATION



ELLIPTICITY ANGLE :  $\tau < 0$

$$-\frac{\pi}{4} \leq \tau \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$$

# JONES VECTOR

## REAL ELECTRIC FIELD VECTOR

$$\vec{E}(z,t) = \begin{cases} E_x = E_{0x} \cos(\omega t - kz - \delta_x) \\ E_y = E_{0y} \cos(\omega t - kz - \delta_y) \\ E_z = 0 \end{cases}$$

With:

$$\vec{E}(z,t) = \Re(\underline{E} e^{j(\omega t - kz)})$$

## PHASOR = JONES VECTOR

$$\underline{E} = \begin{bmatrix} E_x = E_{0x} e^{j\delta_x} \\ E_y = E_{0y} e^{j\delta_y} \end{bmatrix}$$

## GEOMETRICAL PARAMETERS

### ABSOLUTE PHASE

$$\alpha = \delta_x$$

### AMPLITUDE

$$A = \sqrt{E_{0x}^2 + E_{0y}^2}$$

### ORIENTATION ANGLE

$$\tan 2\phi = 2 \frac{E_{0x} E_{0y}}{E_{0x}^2 - E_{0y}^2} \cos \delta$$

### ELLIPTICITY ANGLE

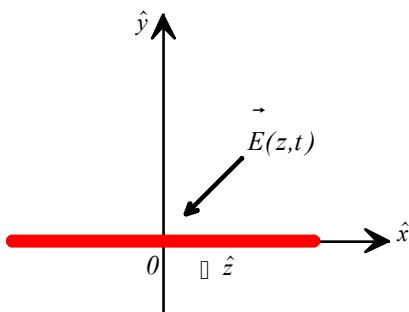
$$\sin 2\tau = 2 \frac{E_{0x} E_{0y}}{E_{0x}^2 + E_{0y}^2} \sin \delta$$

### POLARISATION HANDNESS: $\text{Sign}(\tau)$



# JONES VECTOR

## HORIZONTAL POLARISATION STATE

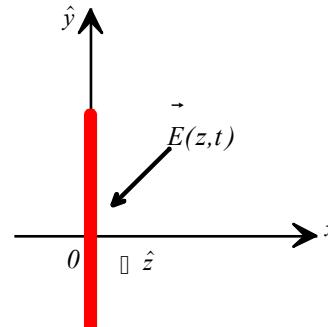


$$\underline{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\phi = 0$$

$$\tau = 0$$

## VERTICAL POLARISATION STATE

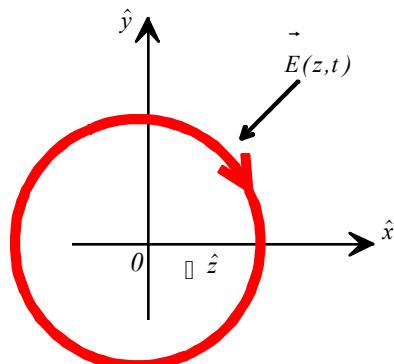


$$\underline{V} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\phi = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\tau = 0$$

## LEFT CIRCULAR POLARISATION STATE

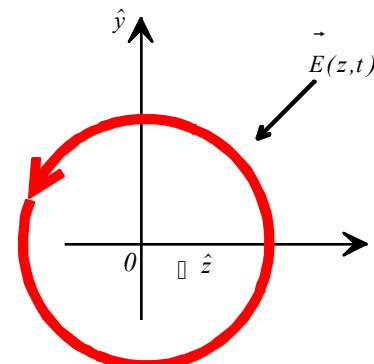


$$\underline{LC} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ j \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \phi \leq +\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\tau = +\frac{\pi}{4}$$

## RIGHT CIRCULAR POLARISATION STATE

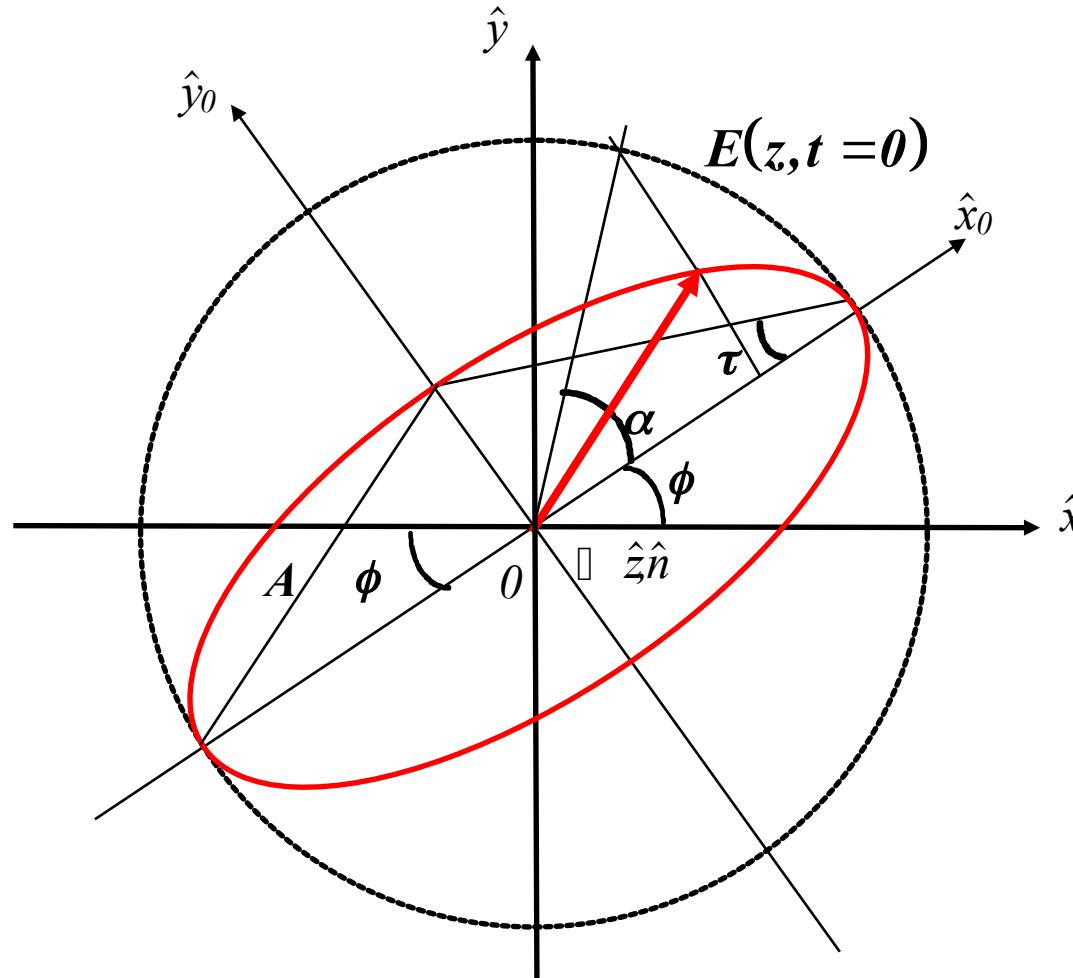


$$\underline{RC} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -j \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \phi \leq +\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\tau = -\frac{\pi}{4}$$

# JONES VECTOR



$$\underline{E} = A \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\phi) & -\sin(\phi) \\ \sin(\phi) & \cos(\phi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \hat{u}_x$$

# ORTHOGONAL JONES VECTOR

## JONES VECTOR

$$\underline{E} = \begin{bmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E_{ox} e^{j\delta_x} \\ E_{oy} e^{j\delta_y} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= A \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \hat{u}_x$$



## POLARISATION ALGEBRA

**NORM OF A JONES VECTOR**  $\|\underline{E}\| = \sqrt{E_{ox}^2 + E_{oy}^2}$

**SCALAR PRODUCT**  $\langle \underline{A}, \underline{B} \rangle = \underline{A}^{T^*} \underline{B}$

**ORTHOGONALITY**  $\langle \underline{A}, \underline{A}_{\perp} \rangle = 0$

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## JONES VECTOR

$$\underline{E} = A \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \hat{u}_x$$

## ORTHOGONAL JONES VECTOR

$$\underline{E} = A \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \hat{u}_y$$



$$[\underline{E}, \underline{E}] = A \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} [\hat{u}_x, \hat{u}_y]$$



## ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## SU(2) : SPECIAL UNITARY TRANSFORMATION MATRIX

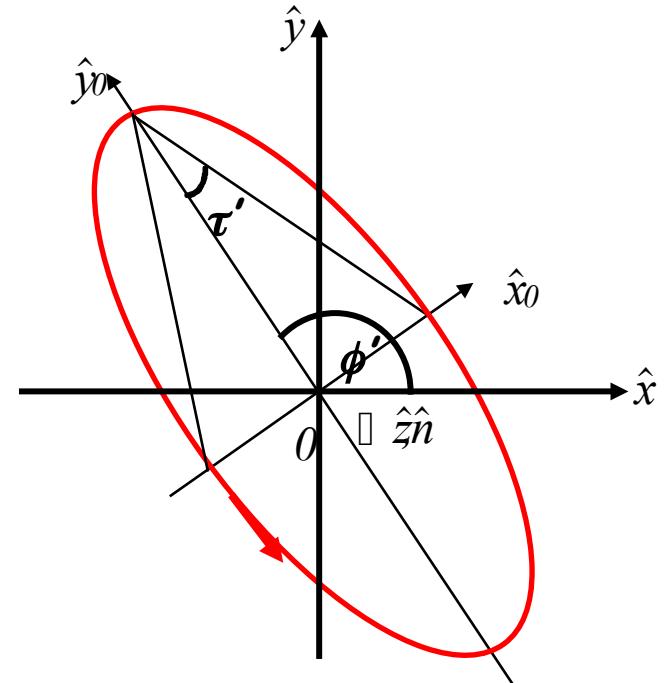
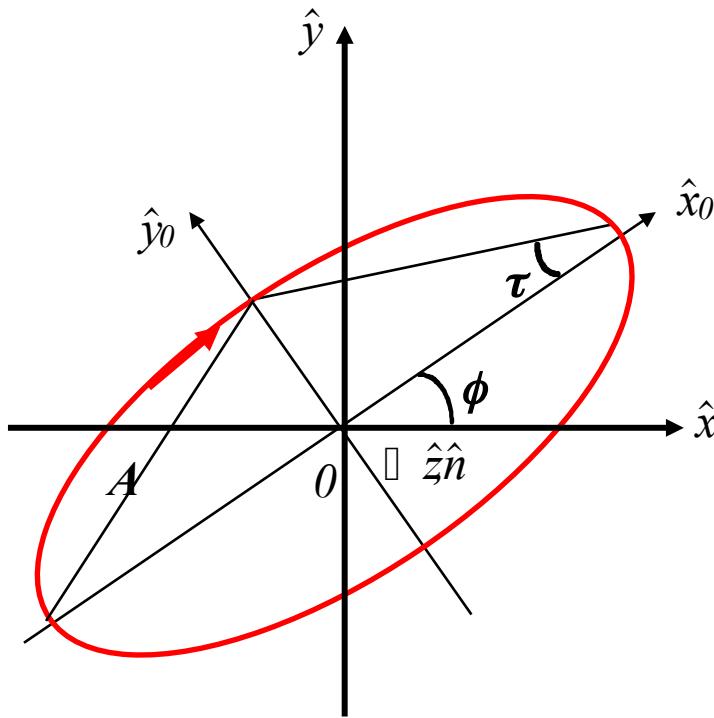
$$[U(\varphi, \tau, \alpha)] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix}$$



## ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION MATRIX

$$\begin{aligned}[U_{(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}] &= [U(\varphi, \tau, \alpha)]^{-1} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & -j \sin(\tau) \\ -j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & \sin(\varphi) \\ -\sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

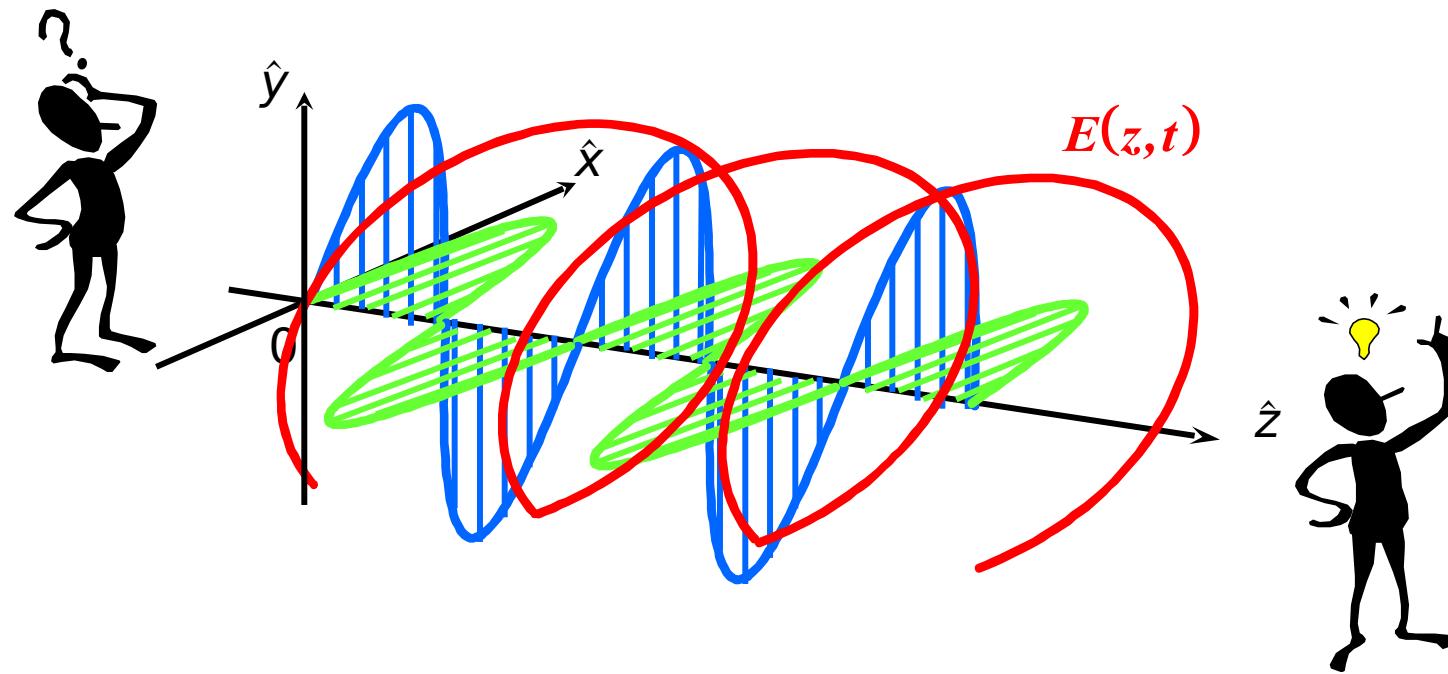
# ORTHOGONAL JONES VECTOR



## ORTHOGONALITY CONDITIONS

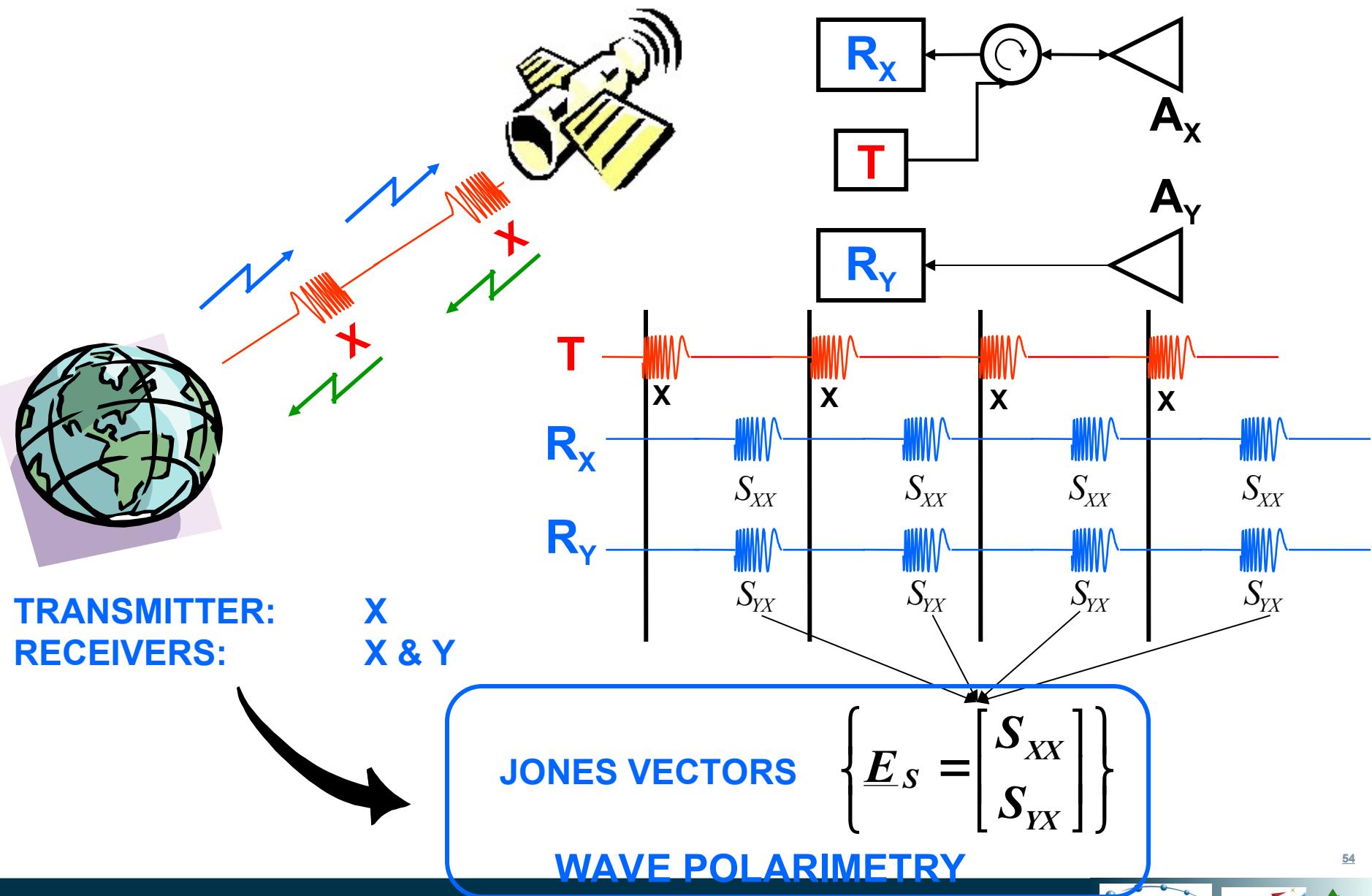
$$(\varphi, \tau) \mapsto \begin{cases} \varphi' = \varphi + \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \tau' = -\tau \end{cases}$$

CHANGE OF POLARISATION HANDENESS

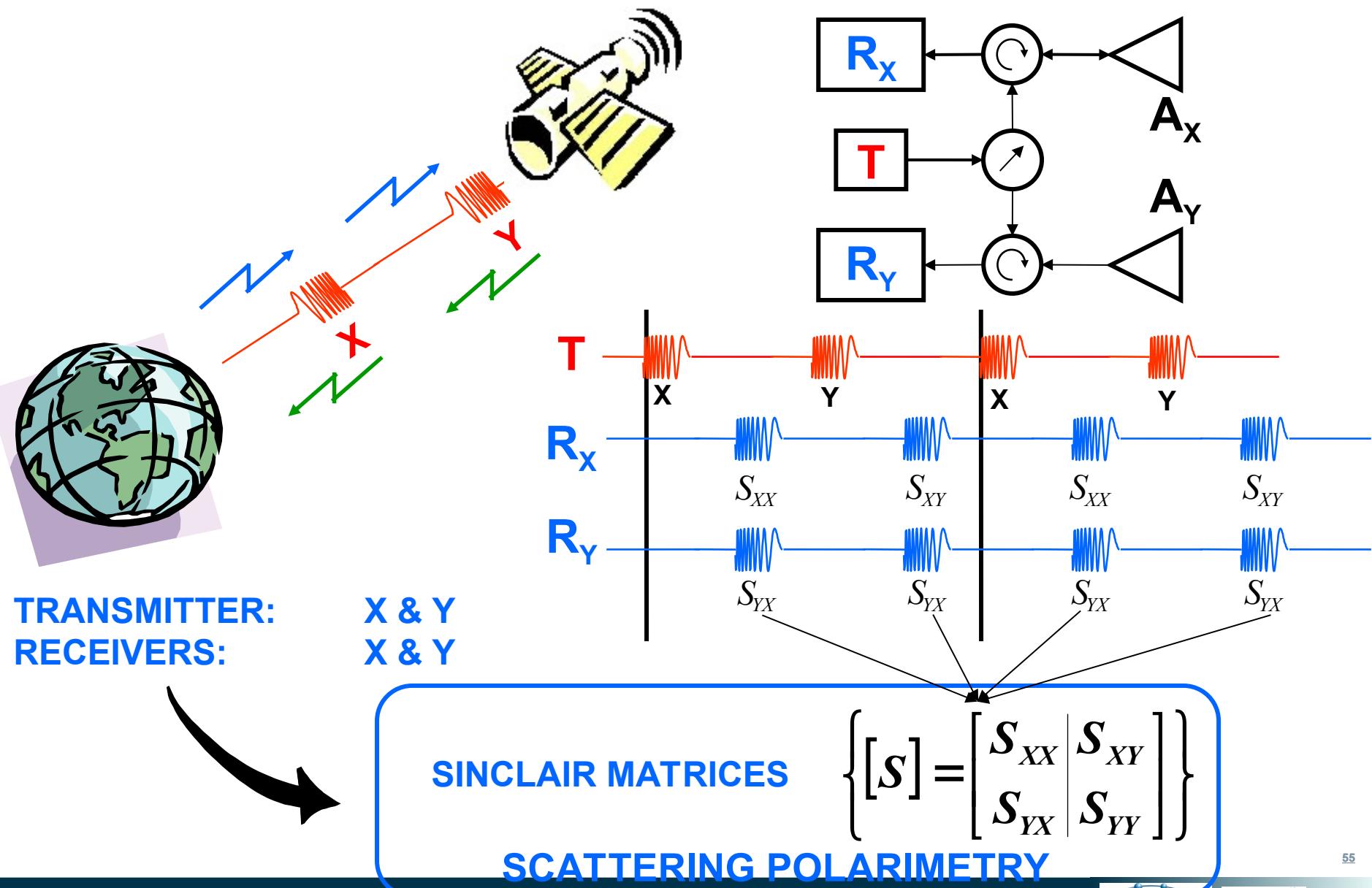


# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

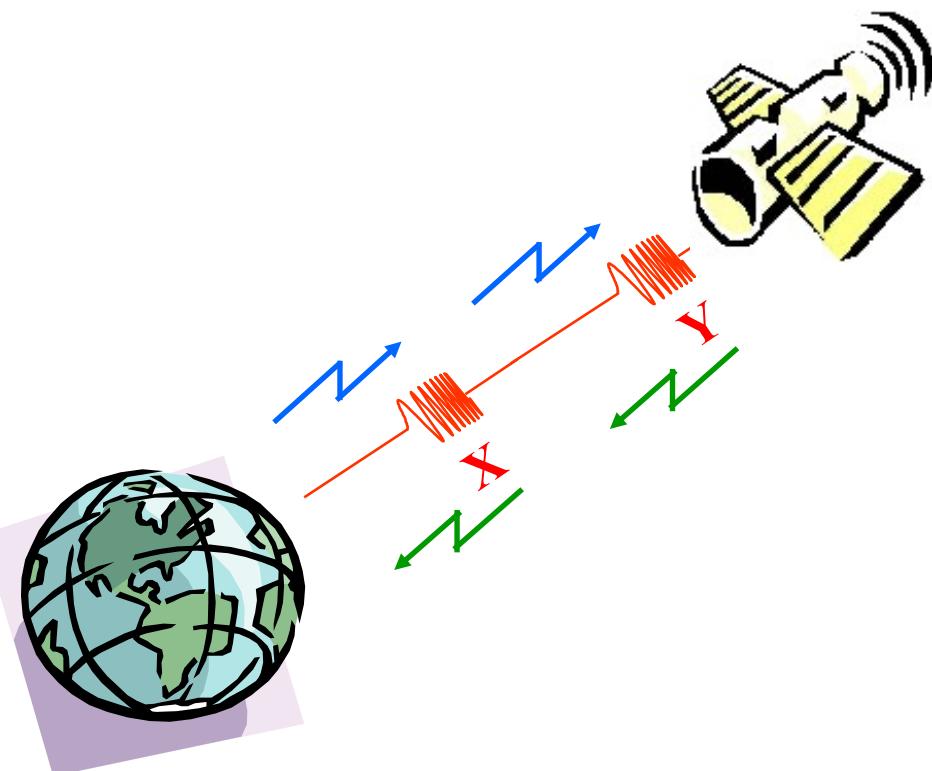
# WAVE POLARIMETRY



# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY



# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

- [S] SINCLAIR Matrix
- $k, \Omega$  Target Vectors
- [K] KENNAUGH Matrix
- [T] Coherency Matrix
- [C] Covariance Matrix

# BACKSCATTERING MATRIX

$$[S] = \frac{e^{jkr}}{r} \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX} & S_{XY} \\ S_{XY} & S_{YY} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{e^{jkr}}{r} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} |S_{XX}| e^{j\phi_{XX}} & |S_{XY}| e^{j\phi_{XY}} \\ |S_{XY}| e^{j\phi_{XY}} & |S_{YY}| e^{j\phi_{YY}} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{ABSOLUTE BACKSCATTERING MATRIX}}$$

$$[S] = \frac{e^{jkr} e^{j\phi_{XX}}}{r} \begin{bmatrix} |S_{XX}| & |S_{XY}| e^{j(\phi_{XY} - \phi_{XX})} \\ |S_{XY}| e^{j(\phi_{XY} - \phi_{XX})} & |S_{YY}| e^{j(\phi_{YY} - \phi_{XX})} \end{bmatrix}$$

Absolute Phase Factor

**RELATIVE BACKSCATTERING MATRIX**  
Five Parameters: 3 Amplitudes and 2 Phases

**SCATTERER POLARIMETRIC DIMENSION = 5**

# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

Tx → Rx →

Tx → Rx ↑

Tx ↑ Rx ↑



|HH|<sub>dB</sub>

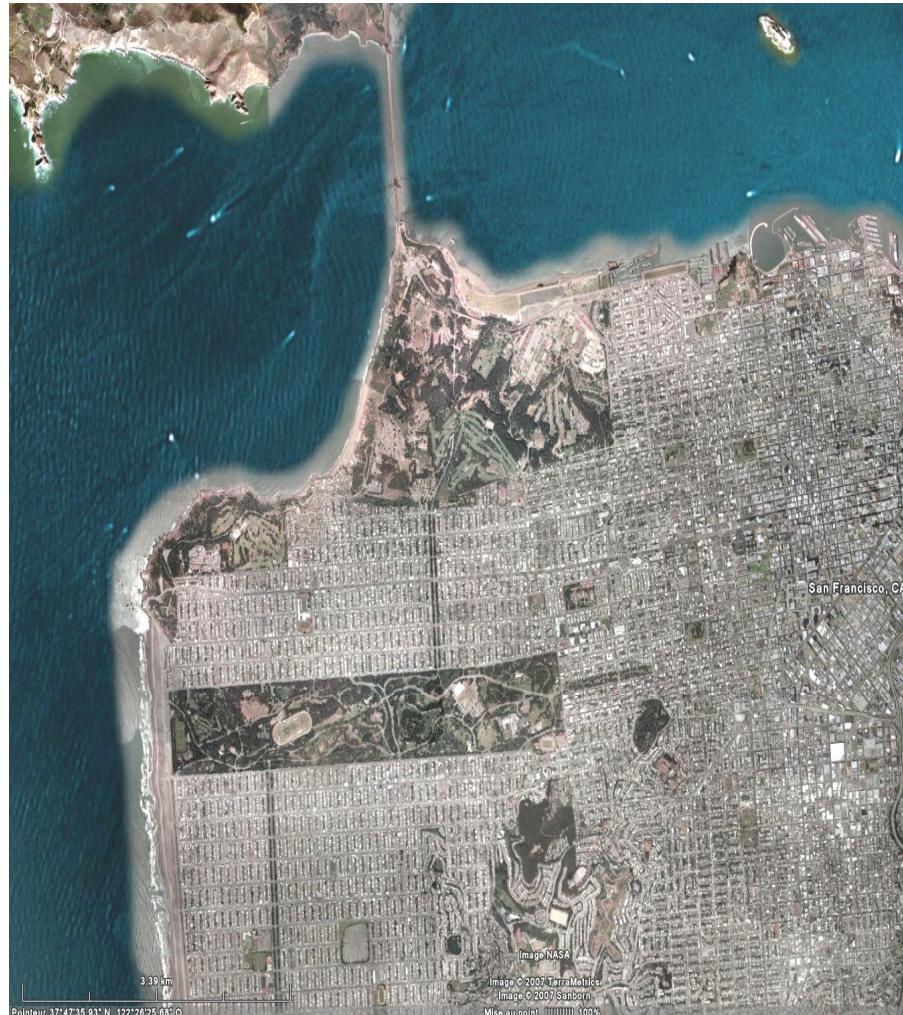
|HV|<sub>dB</sub>

|VV|<sub>dB</sub>

-30dB -15dB 0dB

# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

Sinclair Color Coding



© Google Earth



|HH|

|HV|

|VV|

59

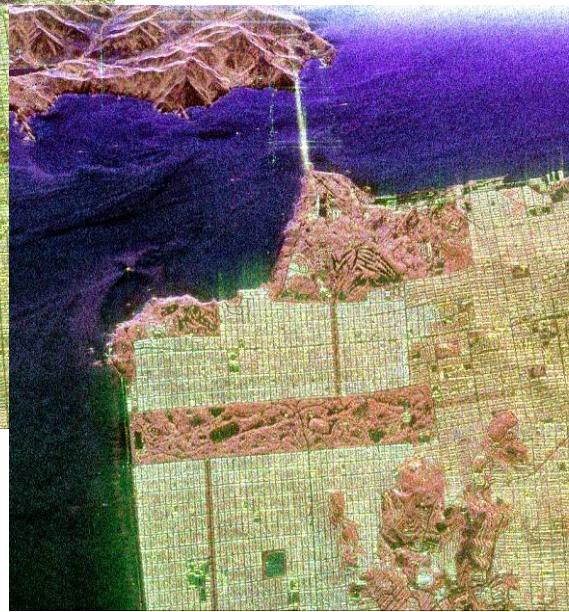
# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION



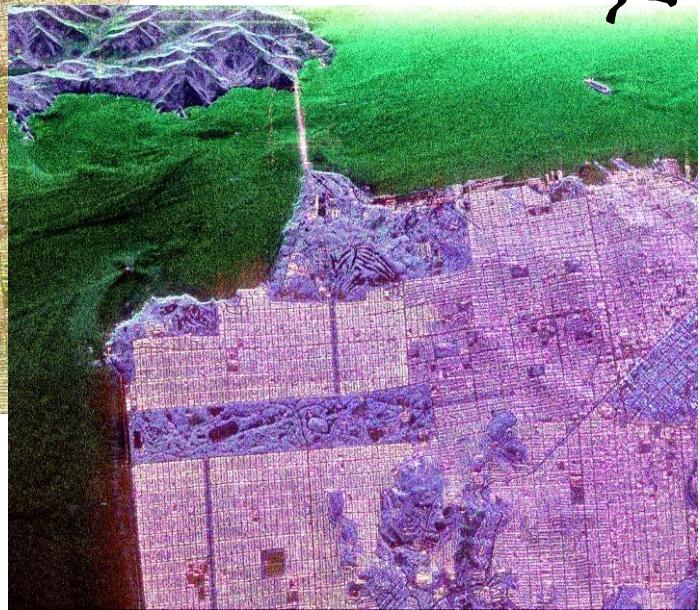
Pauli Color Coding (H,V)



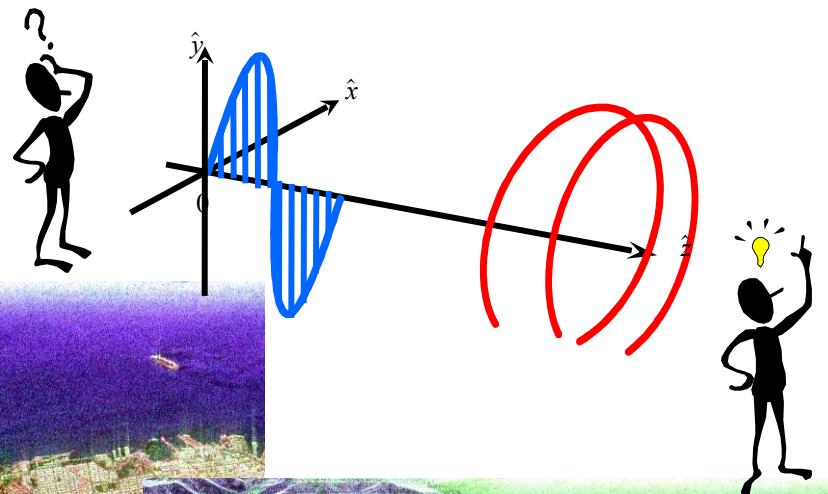
Ernst LÜNEBURG  
(PIERS95 - Pasadena)



Pauli Color Coding (+45,-45)



Pauli Color Coding (L,R)



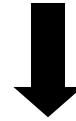
# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

$$[S_{(B,B)}] = [U_{(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}]^T [S_{(A,A)}] [U_{(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}]$$

CON-SIMILARITY TRANSFORMATION

$$[U_{(A,A_\perp) \mapsto (B,B_\perp)}]$$

SU(2) SPECIAL UNITARY ELLIPTICAL  
BASIS TRANSFORMATION MATRIX



$$\begin{aligned} & [U_{(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}] & [U(\varphi, \tau, \alpha)]^{-1} \\ & \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & -j \sin(\tau) \\ -j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & \sin(\varphi) \\ -\sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \\ & [U_2(-\alpha)] & [U_2(-\tau)] & [U_2(-\varphi)] \end{aligned}$$

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION



© Google Earth

## (H,V) POLARISATION BASIS



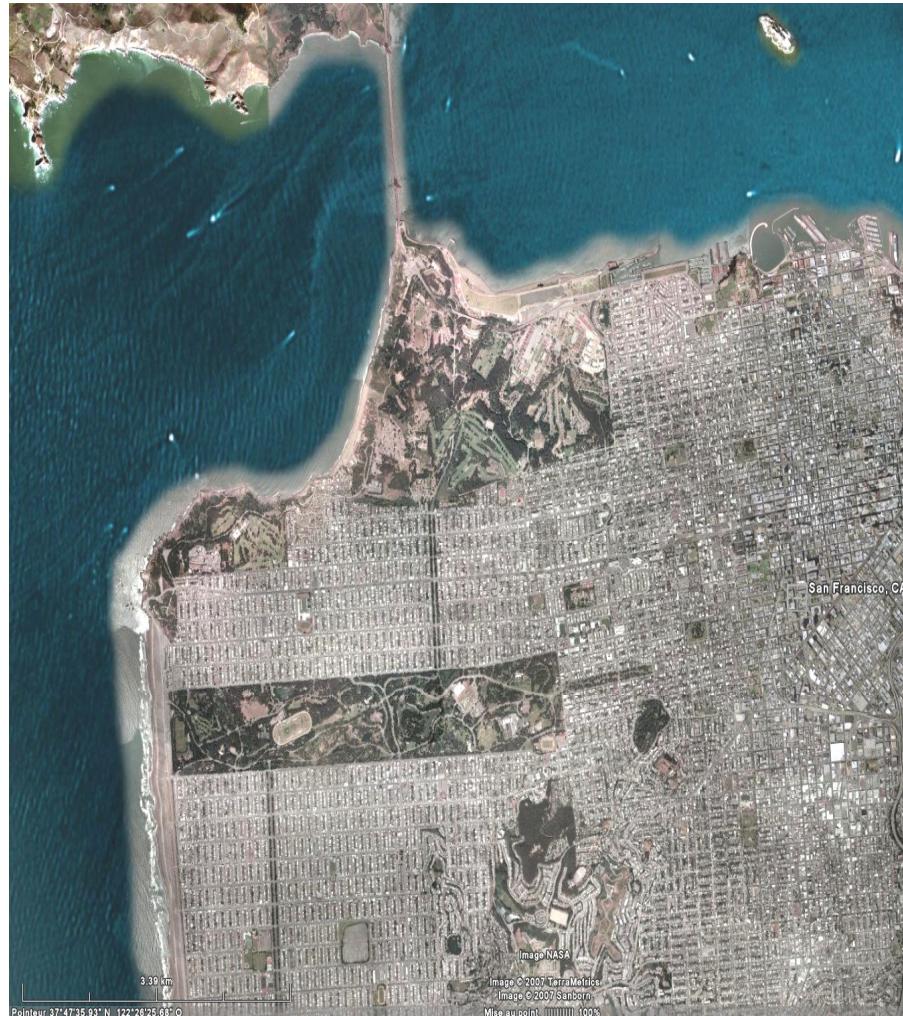
|HHH+VV|

|HV|

|HH-VV|

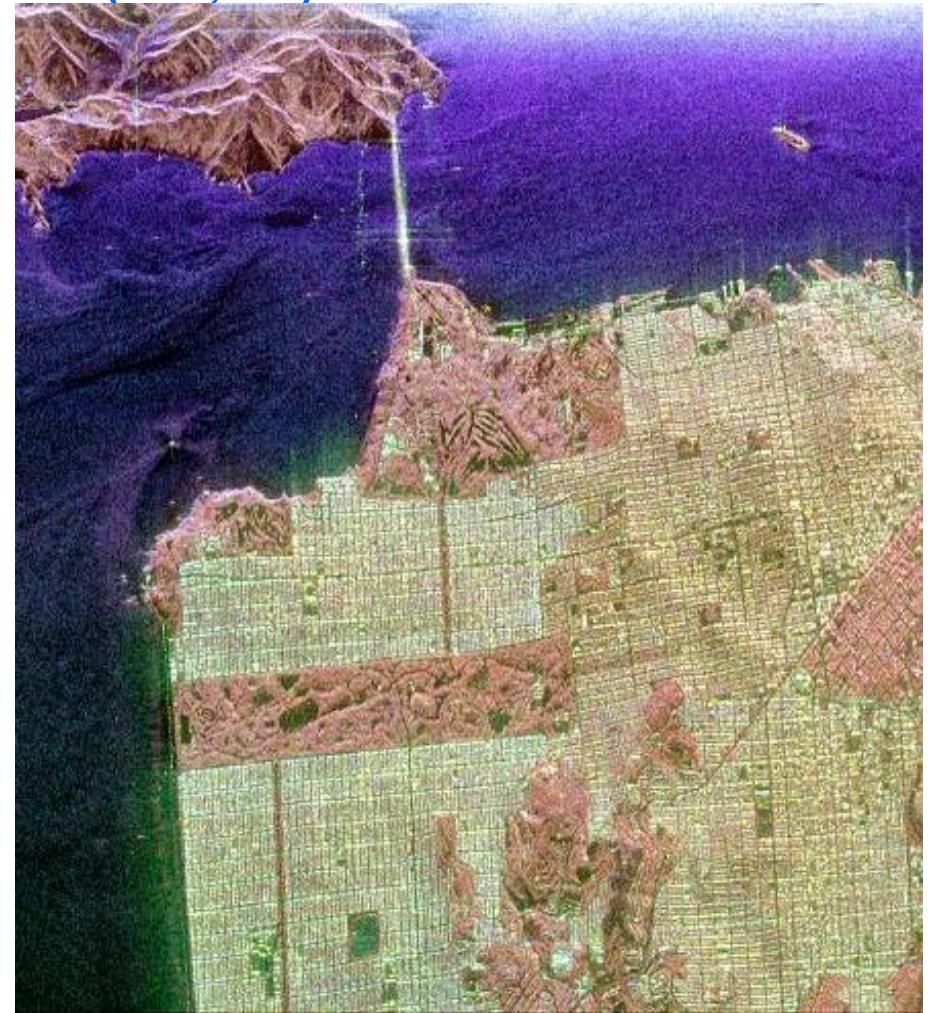
62

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION



© Google Earth

(+45°,-45°) POLARISATION BASIS



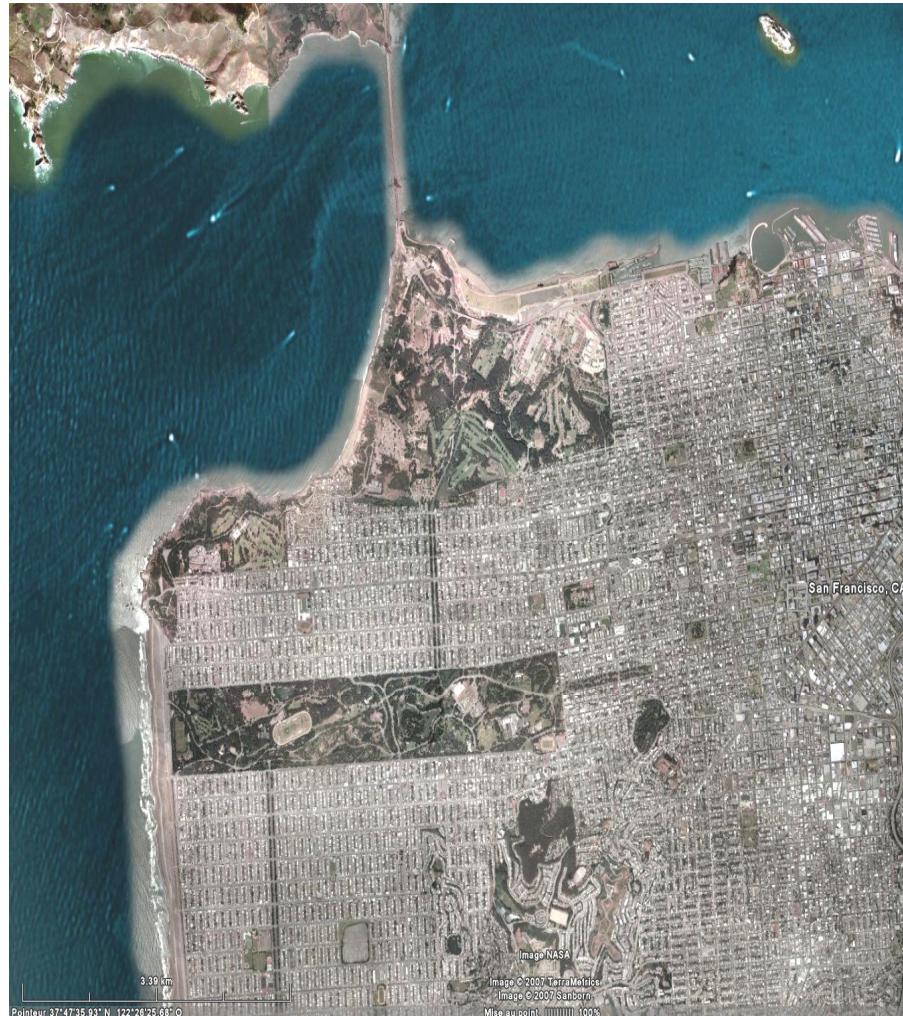
|AA+BB|

|AB|

|AA-BB|

With: A=Linear +45°, B=Linear -45°

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION



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(LC,RC) POLARISATION BASIS



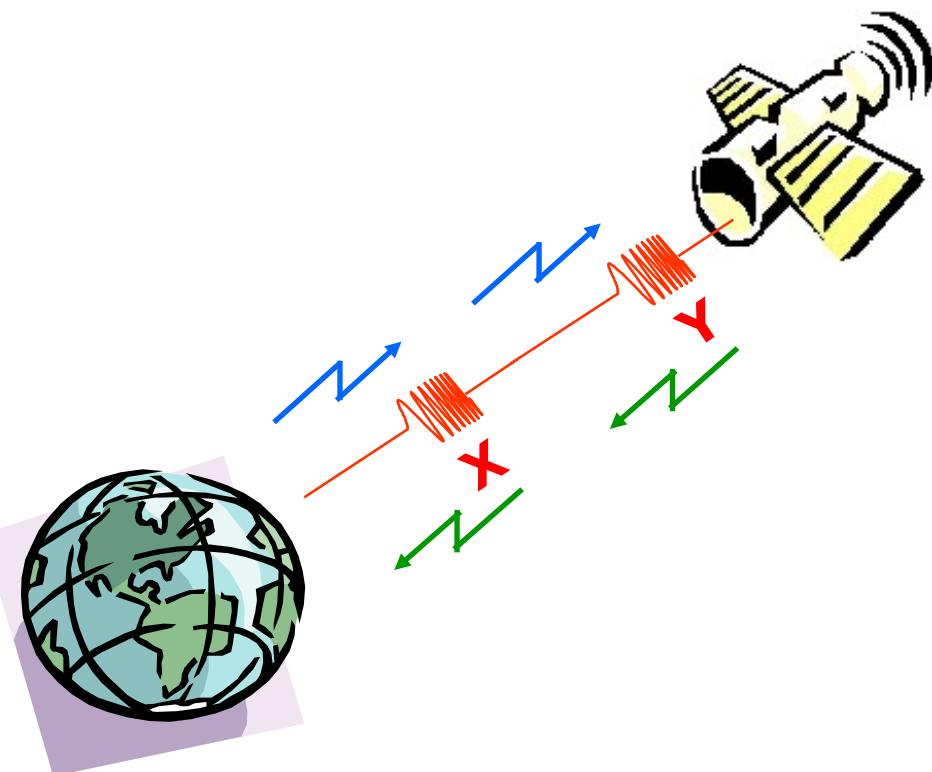
|LL+RR|

|LR|

|LL-RR|

64

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

- [S] SINCLAIR Matrix
- k,  $\Omega$  Target Vectors
- [K] KENNAUGH Matrix
- [T] Coherency Matrix
- [C] Covariance Matrix

# TARGET VECTORS

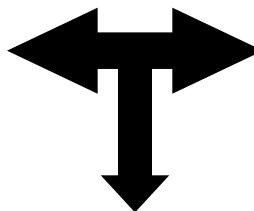
## SCATTERING VECTOR TRANSFORMATIONS

Pauli Scattering Vector:

$$\underline{k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX} + S_{YY} \\ S_{XX} - S_{YY} \\ 2S_{XY} \end{bmatrix}$$

Lexicographic Scattering Vector:

$$\underline{\Omega} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX} \\ \sqrt{2}S_{XY} \\ S_{YY} \end{bmatrix}$$



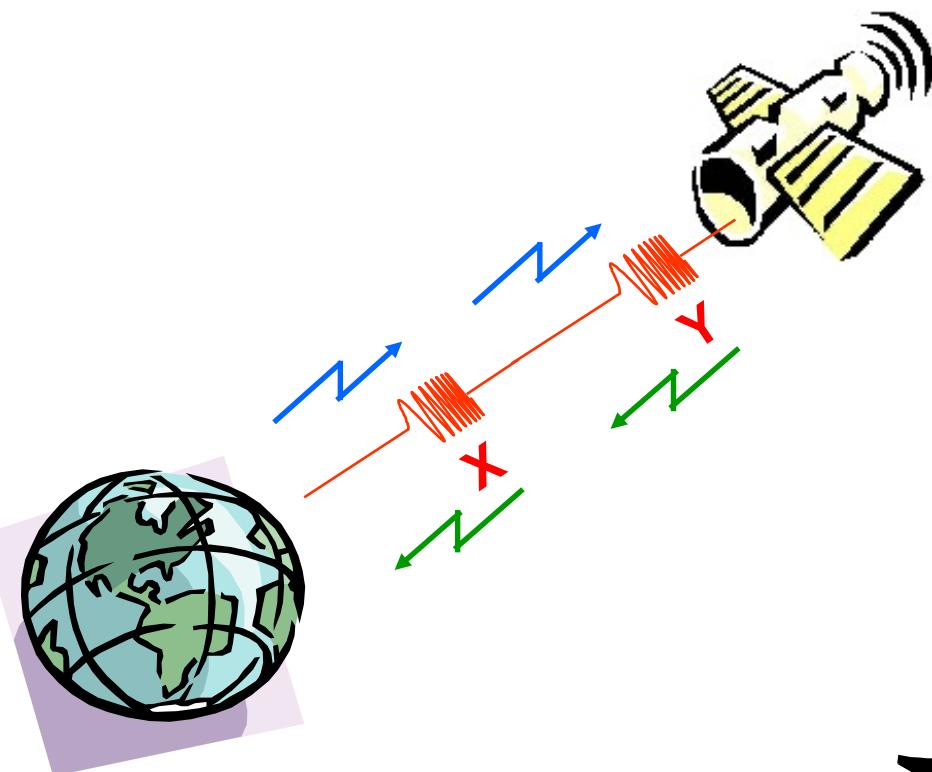
UNITARY TRANSFORMATION

$$\underline{k} = [\mathbf{D}_3] \underline{\Omega} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{\Omega} = [\mathbf{D}_3]^{-1} \underline{k} = [\mathbf{D}_3]^T \underline{k}$$

WHERE  $[\mathbf{D}_3]$  IS A SU(3) MATRIX  
IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE NORM  
OF THE SCATTERING VECTOR

$$[\mathbf{D}_3] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

[S]

$k, \Omega$

[K]

[T]

[C]

SINCLAIR Matrix

Target Vectors

KENNAUGH Matrix

Coherency Matrix

Covariance Matrix

## STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

## PARTIAL SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

# COHERENCY MATRIX

## MONOSTATIC CASE

### PAULI SCATTERING VECTOR $\underline{k}$

$$\underline{k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [S_{XX} + S_{YY} \quad S_{XX} - S_{YY} \quad 2S_{XY}]^T$$



### COHERENCY MATRIX $[T]$

$$[T] = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{k}^{*T} = \begin{bmatrix} 2A_0 & C - jD & H + jG \\ C + jD & B_0 + B & E + jF \\ H - jG & E - jF & B_0 - B \end{bmatrix}$$

HERMITIAN MATRIX - RANK 1

A0, B0+B, B0-B : HUYNEN TARGET GENERATORS

# HUYNEN PARAMETERS

## PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION

### MAN-MADE TARGET DECOMPOSITION IDENTIFICATION and ANALYSIS

« *PHENOMENOLOGICAL THEORY OF RADAR TARGETS* » (1970)

A0 : GENERATOR OF TARGET SYMMETRY



B0+B : GENERATOR OF TARGET NON-SYMMETRY

B0-B : GENERATOR OF TARGET IRREGULARITY

C : GENERATOR OF TARGET GLOBAL SHAPE (LINEAR)

D : GENERATOR OF TARGET LOCAL SHAPE (CURVATURE)

E : GENERATOR OF TARGET LOCAL TWIST (TORSION)

F : GENERATOR OF TARGET GLOBAL TWIST (HELICITY)

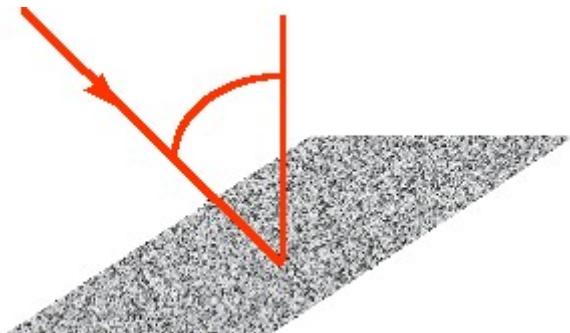
G : GENERATOR OF TARGET LOCAL COUPLING (GLUE)

H : GENERATOR OF TARGET GLOBAL COUPLING (ORIENTATION)

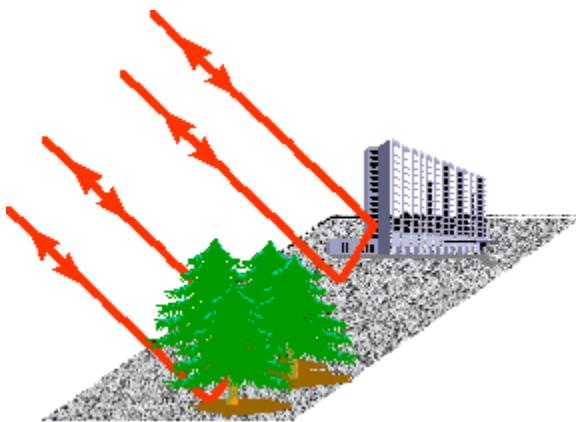
# TARGET GENERATORS

## PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION

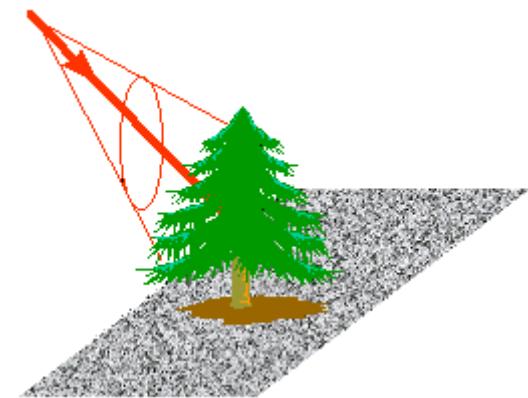
SINGLE BOUNCE  
SCATTERING  
(ROUGH SURFACE)



DOUBLE BOUNCE  
SCATTERING



VOLUME  
SCATTERING



$$T_{11} = 2A_0 = |S_{XX} + S_{YY}|^2$$

$$T_{33} = B_0 - B = 2|S_{XY}|^2$$

$$T_{22} = B_0 + B = |S_{XX} - S_{YY}|^2$$

# TARGET GENERATORS



$|HH+VV|_{dB}$



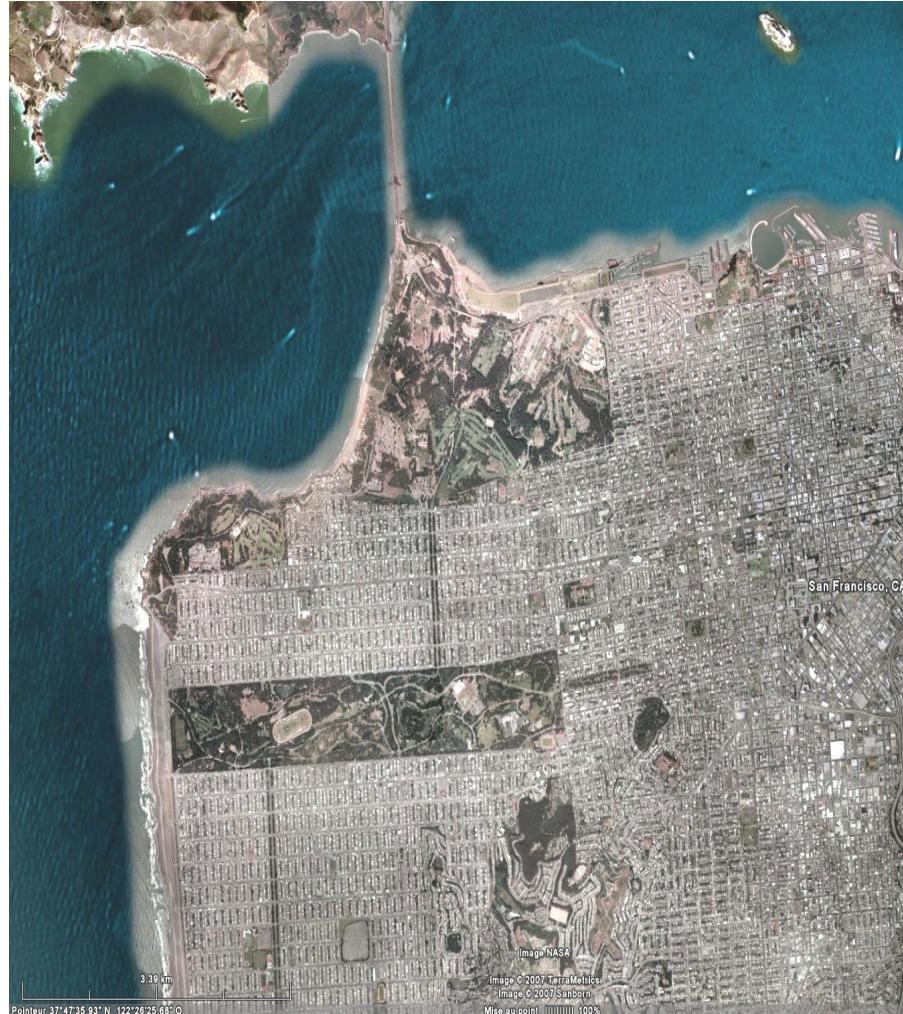
$|HV|_{dB}$

-30dB -15dB 0dB



$|HH-VV|_{dB}$

# TARGET GENERATORS



© Google Earth

(H,V) POLARISATION BASIS



|HH+VV|

|HV|

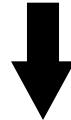
|HH-VV|

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# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(2) GROUP

$$[U_2] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j\sin(\tau) \\ j\sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$[U_2(\varphi)] \qquad [U_2(\tau)] \qquad [U_2(\alpha)]$$



## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(3) GROUP

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(2\varphi) & \sin(2\varphi) \\ 0 & -\sin(2\varphi) & \cos(2\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\tau) & 0 & j\sin(2\tau) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ j\sin(2\tau) & 0 & \cos(2\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\alpha) & -j\sin(2\alpha) & 0 \\ -j\sin(2\alpha) & \cos(2\alpha) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$[U_3(2\varphi)] \qquad [U_3(2\tau)] \qquad [U_3(2\alpha)]$$

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## SINCLAIR MATRIX

$$E_{(A,A)}^s = [S_{(A,A)}] E_{(A,A)}^i$$

$$E_{(B,B)}^s = [S_{(B,B)}] E_{(B,B)}^i$$

$$[S_{(B,B)}] = [U_{(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}]^T [S_{(A,A)}] [U_{(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}]$$

## CON-SIMILARITY TRANSFORMATION

## COHERENCY MATRIX

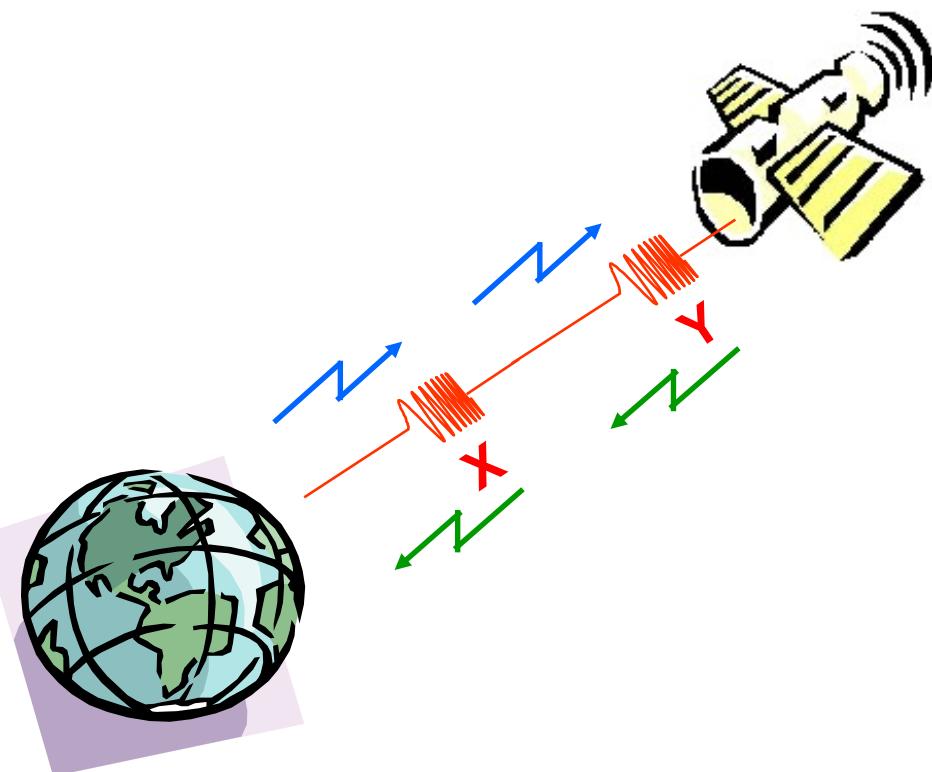
$$[T_{(B,B)}] = [U_{3(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}] [T_{(A,A)}] [U_{3(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}]^{-1}$$

## SIMILARITY TRANSFORMATION

$$[U_{3(A,A) \mapsto (B,B)}]$$

## U(3) SPECIAL UNITARY ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION MATRIX

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

[S]

$k, \Omega$

[K]

[T]

[C]

SINCLAIR Matrix

Target Vectors

KENNAUGH Matrix

Coherency Matrix

Covariance Matrix

STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

PARTIAL SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

# COVARIANCE MATRIX

## MONOSTATIC CASE

LEXICOGRAPHIC SCATTERING VECTOR  $\underline{\Omega}$

$$\underline{\Omega} = [S_{XX} \quad \sqrt{2}S_{XY} \quad S_{YY}]^T$$



COVARIANCE MATRIX  $[C]$

$$[C] = \underline{\Omega} \cdot \underline{\Omega}^{*T} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX}S_{XX}^* & \sqrt{2}S_{XX}S_{XY}^* & S_{XX}S_{YY}^* \\ \sqrt{2}S_{XY}S_{XX}^* & 2S_{XY}S_{XY}^* & \sqrt{2}S_{XY}S_{YY}^* \\ S_{YY}S_{XX}^* & \sqrt{2}S_{YY}S_{XY}^* & S_{YY}S_{YY}^* \end{bmatrix}$$

HERMITIAN POSITIVE SEMI DEFINITE MATRIX - RANK 1

# COVARIANCE-COHERENCY MATRICES

## COHERENCY MATRIX

$$[T] = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{k}^{*T}$$

$$\underline{k} = [D_{3\text{or}4}] \underline{\Omega}$$

## COVARIANCE MATRIX

$$[C] = \underline{\Omega} \cdot \underline{\Omega}^{*T}$$

### UNITARY TRANSFORMATION

$$[T] = [D_{3\text{or}4}] [C] [D_{3\text{or}4}]^{T*}$$



[T] and [C] HAVE THE SAME EIGENVALUES

Both contain the same information about Polarimetric Scattering Amplitudes, Phase Angles and Correlations

[T] is closer related to Physical and Geometrical Properties of the Scattering Process, and thus allows a better and direct physical interpretation

[C] is directly related to the system measurables

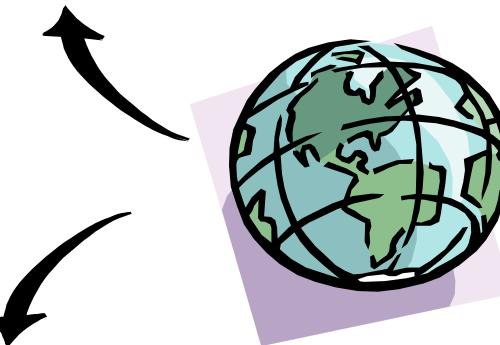
[T] is directly related to the Kennaugh matrix and the Huynen parameters



# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

## SINCLAIR MATRIX

$$[S] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{xx} & S_{xy} \\ S_{yx} & S_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$



EQUIVALENCE ?

## SCATTERING VECTOR $\underline{k}$

$$\underline{k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [S_{xx} + S_{yy} \quad S_{xx} - S_{yy} \quad 2S_{xy}]^T$$

## COHERENCY MATRIX $[T]$

$$[T] = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{k}^* T$$

## SCATTERING VECTOR $\Omega$

$$\Omega = [S_{xx} \quad \sqrt{2}S_{xy} \quad S_{yy}]^T$$

## COVARIANCE MATRIX $[C]$

$$[C] = \Omega \Omega^T$$

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

$$[S'] = [U_2]^T [S] [U_2]$$



$$[C'] = [U_3][C][U_3]^{-1}$$

$$[T'] = [U_3][T][U_3]^{-1}$$

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(2) GROUP

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j\sin(\tau) \\ j\sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix}$$

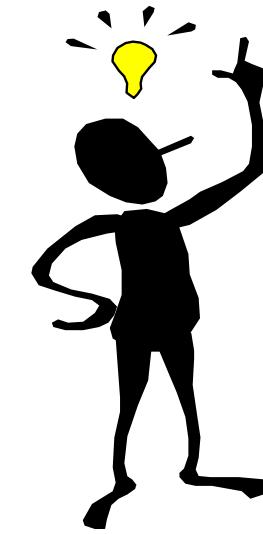
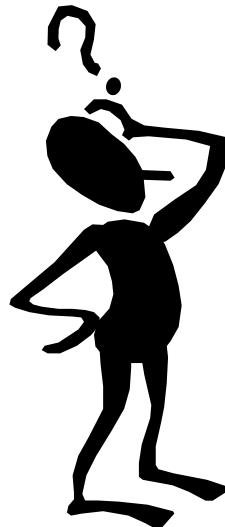
$[U_2(\varphi)]$                              $[U_2(\tau)]$                              $[U_2(\alpha)]$

## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(3) GROUP (T Matrix)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(2\varphi) & \sin(2\varphi) \\ 0 & -\sin(2\varphi) & \cos(2\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\tau) & 0 & j\sin(2\tau) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ j\sin(2\tau) & 0 & \cos(2\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\alpha) & -j\sin(2\alpha) & 0 \\ -j\sin(2\alpha) & \cos(2\alpha) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$[U_3(2\varphi)]$                              $[U_3(2\tau)]$                              $[U_3(2\alpha)]$

# TARGET EQUATIONS



## POLARIMETRIC GOLDEN NUMBER

### POLARIMETRIC TARGET DIMENSION



# TARGET EQUATIONS



$$[S] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX} & S_{XY} \\ S_{YX} & S_{YY} \end{bmatrix}$$

5 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

$$|S_{XX}|, |S_{XY}|, |S_{YY}|$$

$$\phi_{XY-XX}, \phi_{YY-XX}$$

KENNAUGH MATRIX [K]  
COHERENCY MATRIX [T]

9 HUYNEN REAL PARAMETERS  
( $A_0, B_0, B, C, D, E, F, G, H$ )

COVARIANCE MATRIX [C]

9 REAL PARAMETERS

$$|XX|, |XY|, |YY|,  
Re(XXXXY^*), Im(XXXXY^*)  
Re(XXYY^*), Im(XXYY^*)  
Re(XYYY^*), Im(XYYY^*)$$

TARGET MONOSTATIC  
POLARIMETRIC « DIMENSION »

II

5

9 - 5 = 4 TARGET EQUATIONS

# TARGET EQUATIONS

## PURE TARGET – MONOSTATIC CASE

$$[T] = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{k}^{*T} = \begin{bmatrix} 2A_0 & C - jD & H + jG \\ C + jD & B_0 + B & E + jF \\ H - jG & E - jF & B_0 - B \end{bmatrix}$$

3x3 HERMITIAN MATRIX - RANK 1



9 PRINCIPAL MINORS = 0

$$\begin{aligned} 2A_0(B_0 + B) - C^2 - D^2 &= 0 & 2A_0(B_0 - B) - G^2 - H^2 &= 0 \\ - 2A_0E + CH - DG &= 0 & B_0^2 - B^2 - E^2 - F^2 &= 0 \\ C(B_0 - B) - EH - GF &= 0 & - D(B_0 - B) + FH - GE &= 0 \\ 2A_0F - CG - DH &= 0 & - G(B_0 + B) + FC - ED &= 0 \\ H(B_0 + B) - CE - DF &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# TARGET EQUATIONS


$$[S] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX} & S_{XY} \\ S_{YX} & S_{YY} \end{bmatrix}$$

5 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

$$|S_{XX}|, |S_{XY}|, |S_{YY}|$$

$$\phi_{XY-XX}, \phi_{YY-XX}$$

COHERENCY MATRIX  $[T]$

9 HUYNEN REAL PARAMETERS  
 $(A_0, B_0, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)$

TARGET MONOSTATIC  
POLARIMETRIC « DIMENSION »

II

5

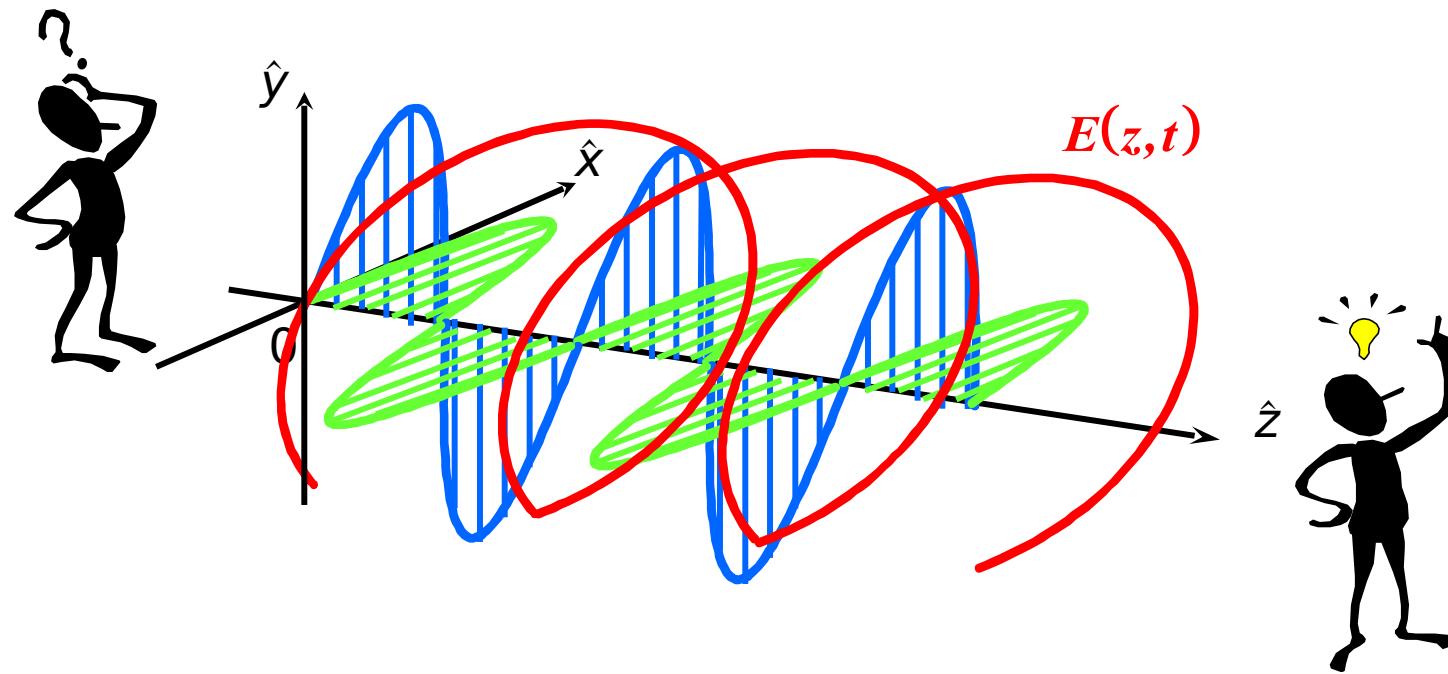
9 - 5 = 4 TARGET EQUATIONS

$$2A_0(B_0 + B) = C^2 + D^2$$

$$2A_0(B_0 - B) = G^2 + H^2$$

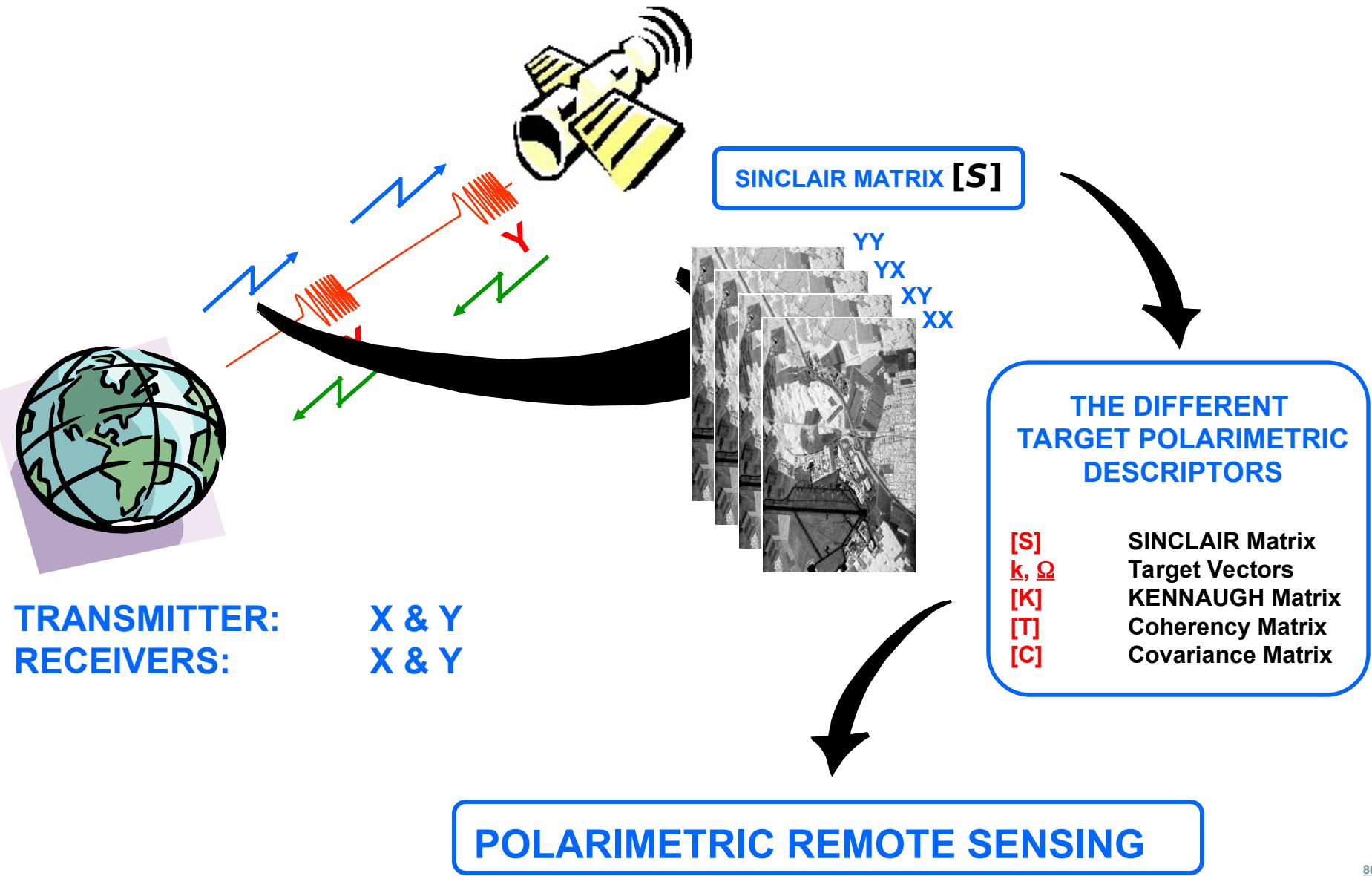
$$2A_0E = CH - DG$$

$$2A_0F = CG + DH$$

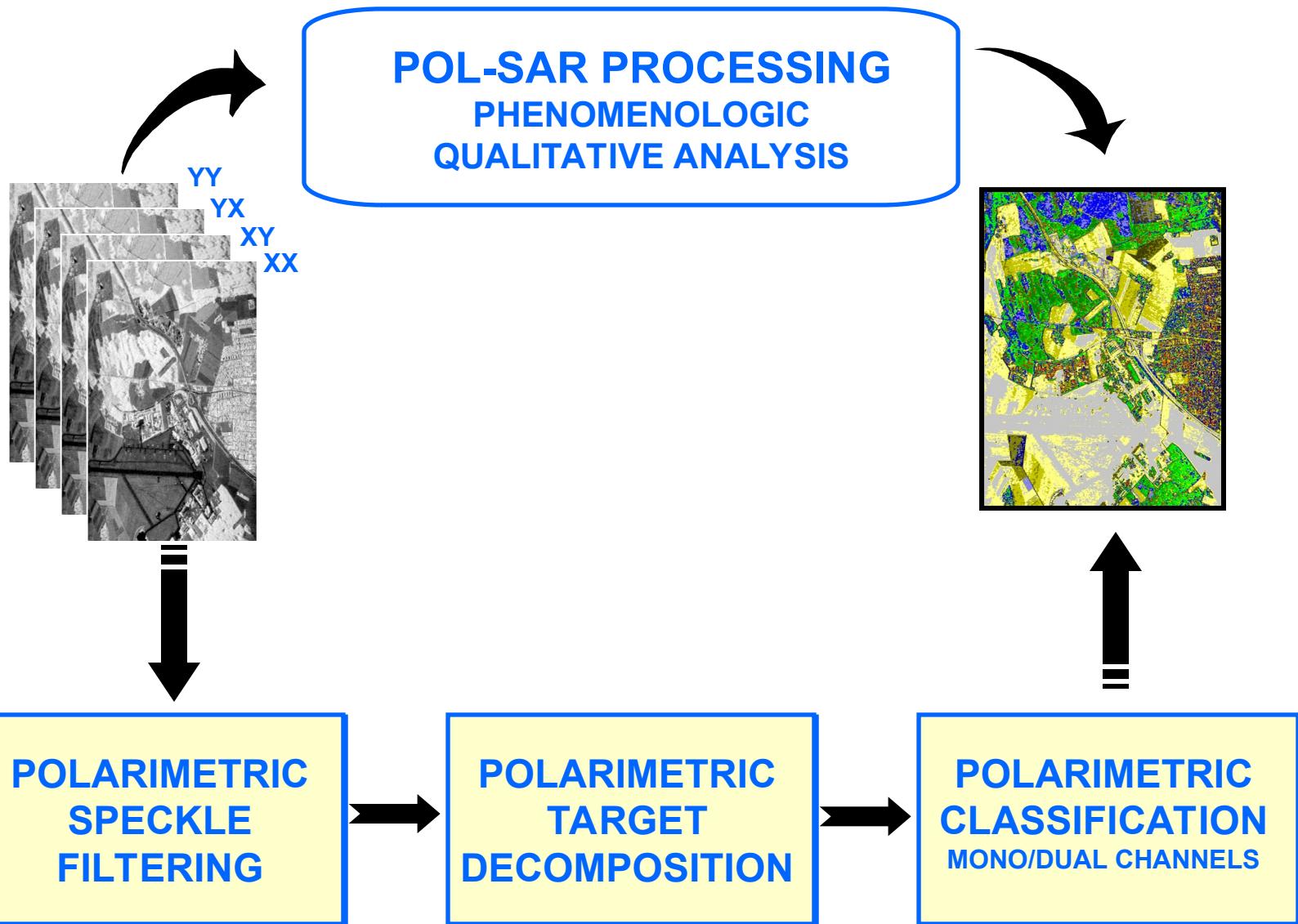


# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING

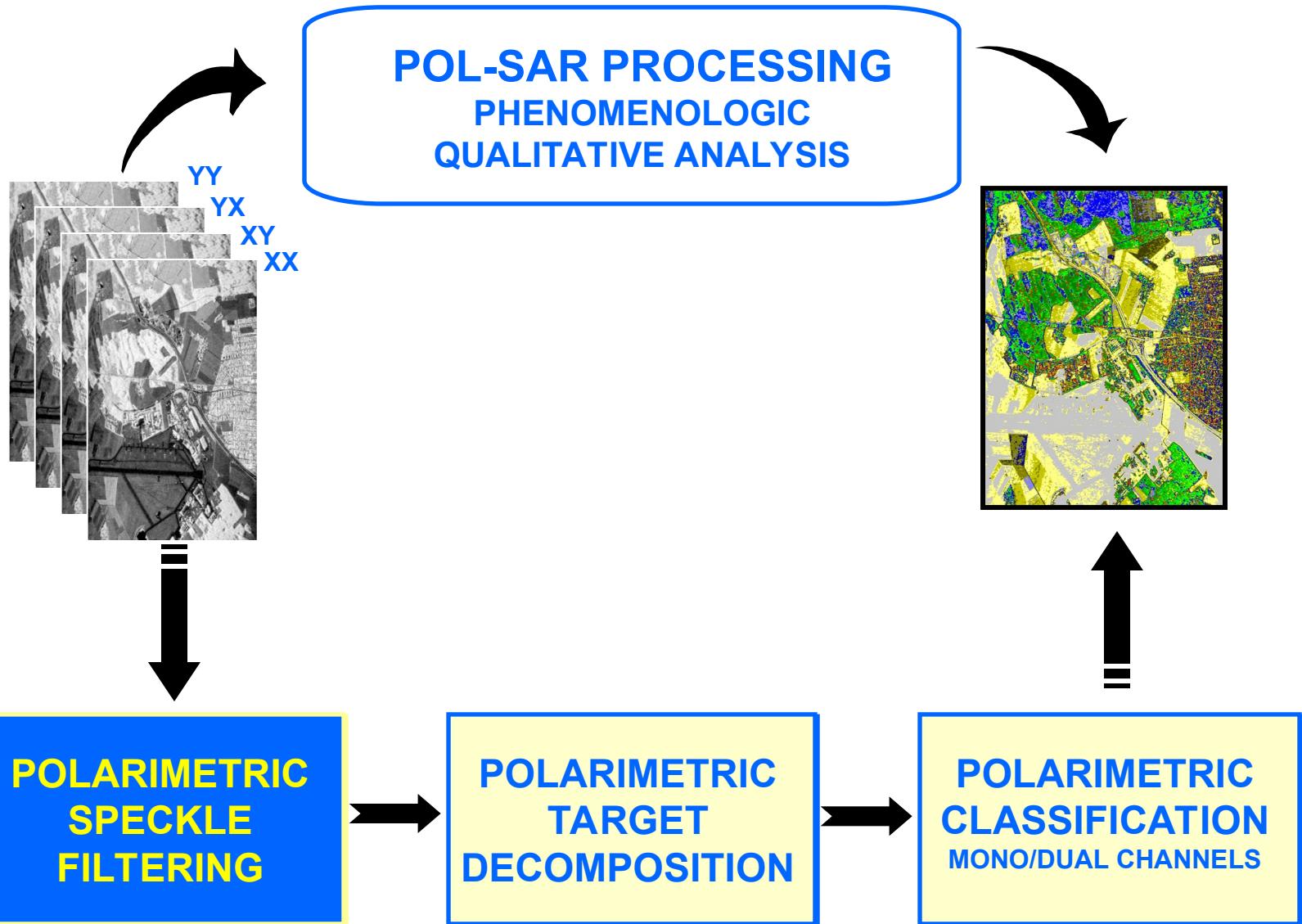
# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY



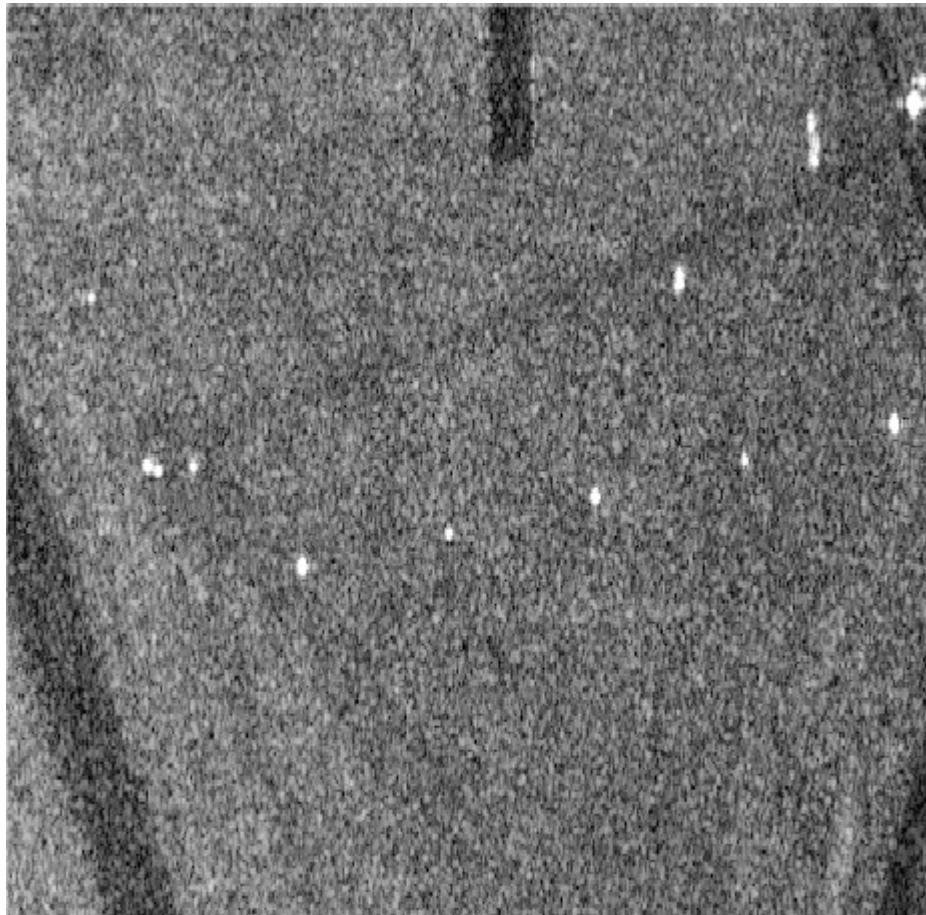
# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING



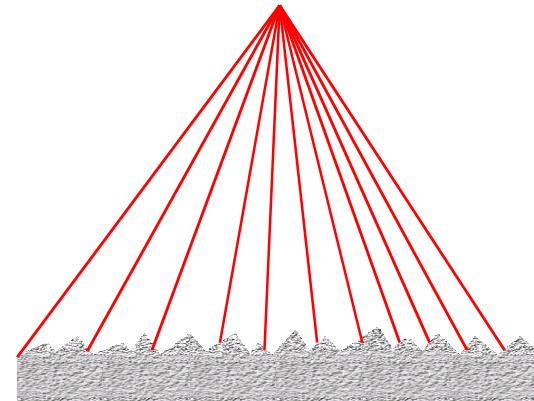
# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING



# SPECKLE PHENOMENON



OBSERVATION POINT



SCATTERING FROM DISTRIBUTED  
SCATTERERS



COHERENT INTERFERENCES OF WAVES  
SCATTERED FROM MANY RANDOMLY  
DISTRIBUTED ELEMENTARY SCATTERERS  
INSIDE THE RESOLUTION CELL



GRANULAR NOISE



SPECKLE PHENOMENON

# SPECKLE FILTERING

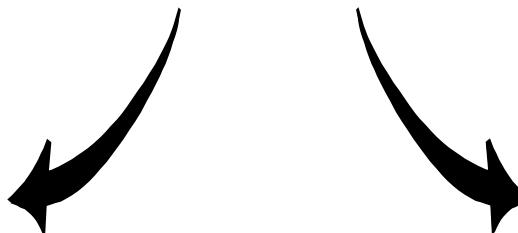
SPECKLE PHENOMENON



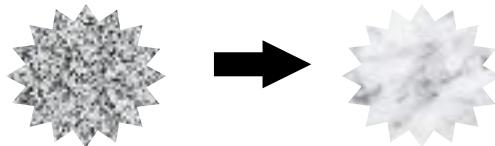
DISTORTION OF THE INTERPRETATION



SPECKLE FILTERING

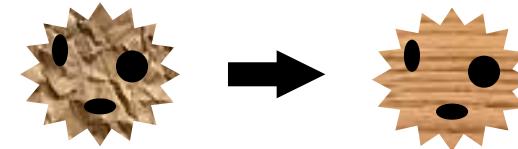


HOMOGENEOUS AREA



SPECKLE REDUCTION  
(RADIOMETRIC RESOLUTION)

HETEROGENEOUS AREA



DETAILS PRESERVATION  
(SPATIAL RESOLUTION)

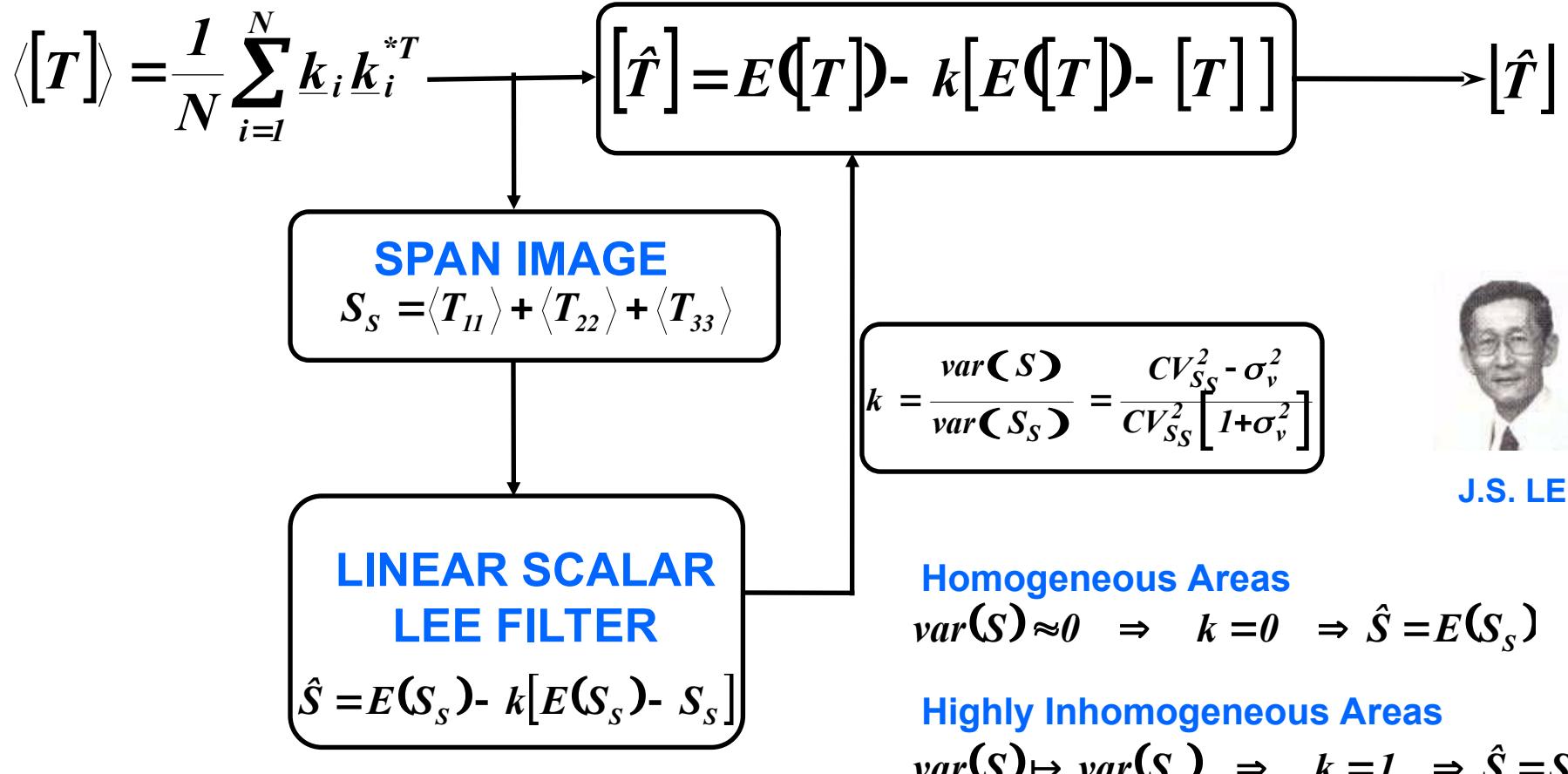
# POLSAR SPECKLE FILTERING

- **Preserving polarimetric properties**
- **Filter all elements equally like multi-look Processing**
- **Select pixels with the same scattering property**
- **Introduce no cross-talk**
- **Filter each element separately but equally**
- **Reduce speckle while preserving image quality**

J.S. Lee, M.R. Grunes and G. De Grandi, "Polarimetric SAR Speckle Filtering and Its Impact on Terrain Classification" *IEEE TGRS*, September 1999

# POLSAR SPECKLE FILTERING

## POLARIMETRIC VECTORIAL SPECKLE FILTER



## REFINED FILTER

# SPECKLE FILTERING



AVERAGING DATA



SECOND ORDER  
STATISTICS

COHERENCY MATRICES



SMOOTHING AVERAGING

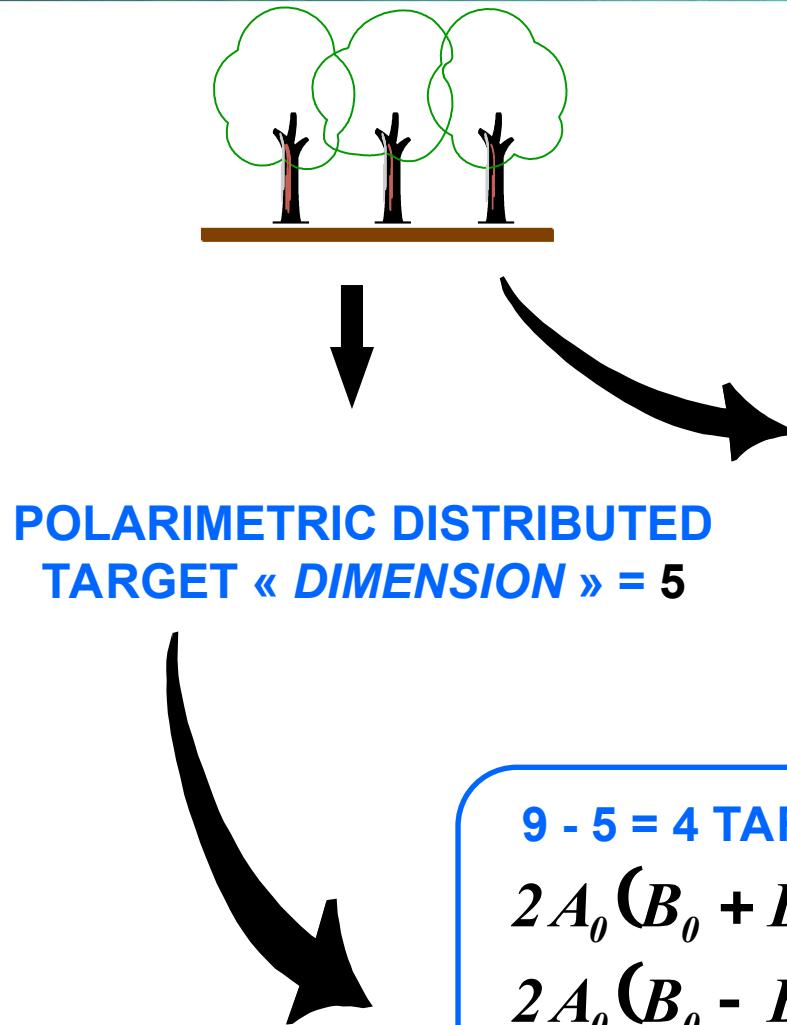


$$[T] = \underline{k} \underline{k}^* {}^T$$

$$\langle [T] \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \underline{k}_i \underline{k}_i^* {}^T$$

CONCEPT OF THE DISTRIBUTED TARGET

# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS



PURE TARGET

COHERENCY MATRIX  $[T]$

9 REAL DEPENDANT  
HUYNEN PARAMETERS  
( $A_0, B_0, B, C, D, E, F, G, H$ )

9 - 5 = 4 TARGET EQUATIONS

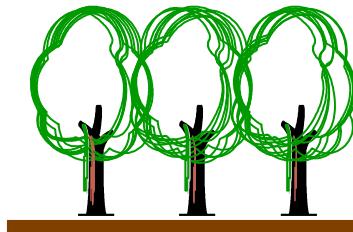
$$2A_0(B_0 + B) = C^2 + D^2$$

$$2A_0(B_0 - B) = G^2 + H^2$$

$$2A_0E = CH - DG$$

$$2A_0F = CG + DH$$

# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS



DISTRIBUTED TARGET

POLARIMETRIC DISTRIBUTED  
TARGET « *DIMENSION* » = 9

COHERENCY MATRIX  $\langle [T] \rangle$

9 REAL INDEPENDANT  
HUYNEN PARAMETERS

$(\langle A_0 \rangle, \langle B_0 \rangle, \langle B \rangle, \langle C \rangle, \langle D \rangle, \langle E \rangle, \langle F \rangle, \langle G \rangle, \langle H \rangle)$

9 TARGET INEQUATIONS

$$2\langle A_0 \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle + \langle B \rangle) \geq \langle C \rangle^2 + \langle D \rangle^2$$

$$2\langle A_0 \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle - \langle B \rangle) \geq \langle G \rangle^2 + \langle H \rangle^2$$

$$2\langle A_0 \rangle \langle E \rangle \geq \langle C \rangle \langle H \rangle - \langle D \rangle \langle G \rangle$$

$$2\langle A_0 \rangle \langle F \rangle \geq \langle C \rangle \langle G \rangle + \langle D \rangle \langle H \rangle$$

$$\langle B_0 \rangle^2 \geq \langle B \rangle^2 + \langle E \rangle^2 + \langle F \rangle^2$$

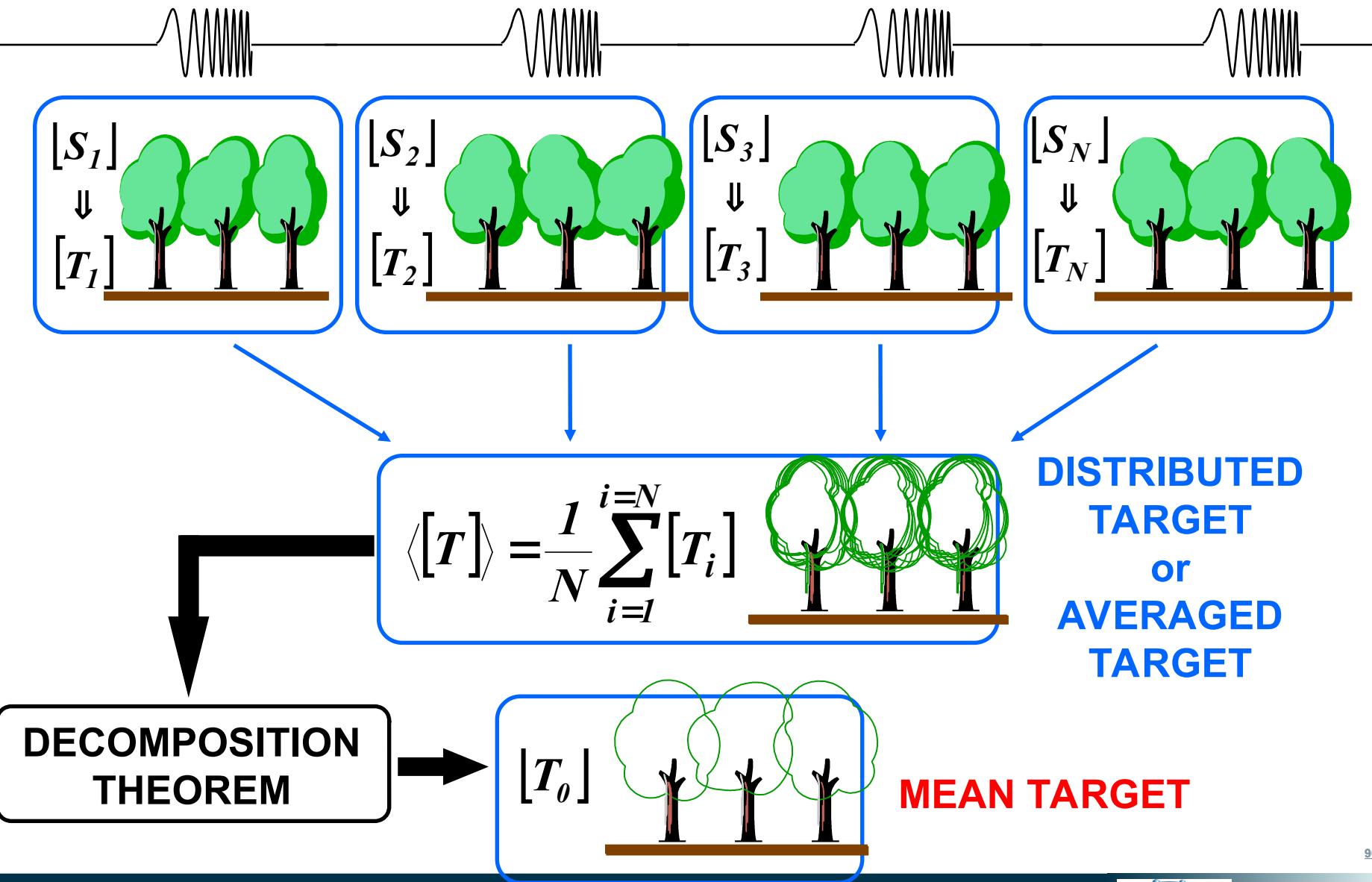
$$\langle H \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle + \langle B \rangle) \geq \langle C \rangle \langle E \rangle + \langle D \rangle \langle F \rangle$$

$$\langle G \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle + \langle B \rangle) \geq \langle C \rangle \langle F \rangle - \langle D \rangle \langle E \rangle$$

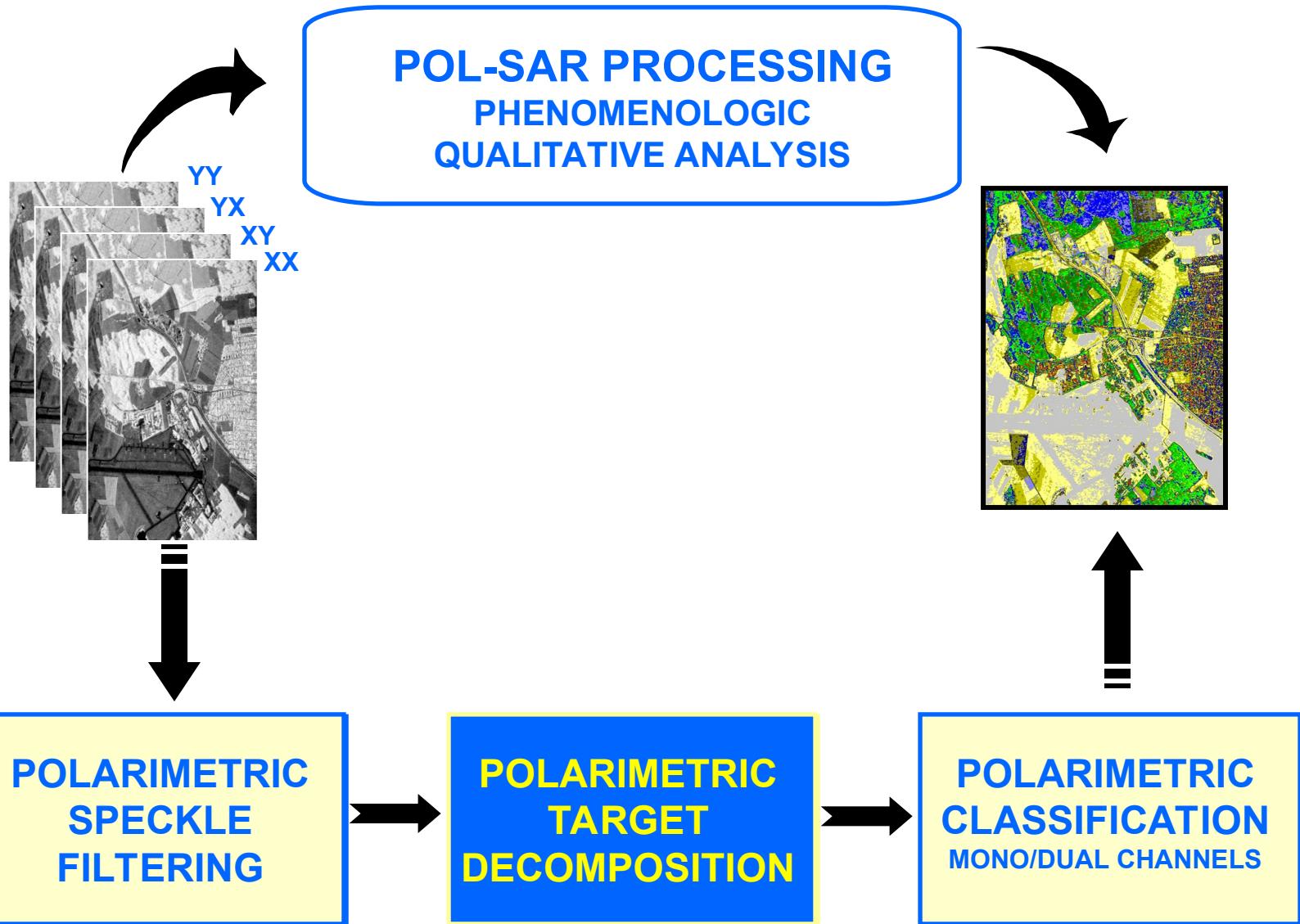
$$\langle C \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle - \langle B \rangle) \geq \langle H \rangle \langle E \rangle + \langle F \rangle \langle G \rangle$$

$$\langle D \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle - \langle B \rangle) \geq \langle F \rangle \langle H \rangle - \langle G \rangle \langle E \rangle$$

# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS



# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING



# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS

[S]

## COHERENT DECOMPOSITION

E. KROGAGER  
(1990)

W.L. CAMERON  
(1990)

[K]

## TARGET DICHOTOMY

J.R. HUYNEN  
(1970)

R.M. BARNES  
(1988)

[T]

## EIGENVECTORS BASED DECOMPOSITION

S.R. CLOUDE  
(1985)

W.A. HOLM  
(1988)

## AZIMUTHAL SYMMETRY

## MODEL BASED DECOMPOSITION

A.J. FREEMAN – S.L. DURDEN (1992)  
Y. YAMAGUSHI (2005 - 2012), AN  
(2010)

## EIGENVECTORS / EIGENVALUES ANALYSIS & MODEL BASED DECOMPOSITION

J.J. VAN ZYL (1992-2008), M. ARII (2010)  
TSVM (R. TOUZI – 2007)

## EIGENVECTORS / EIGENVALUES ANALYSIS ENTROPY / ANISOTROPY

S.R. CLOUDE - E. POTTIER  
(1996-1997)

98