

# GEOS 639 – INSAR AND ITS APPLICATIONS GEODETIC IMAGING AND ITS APPLICATIONS IN THE GEOSCIENCES

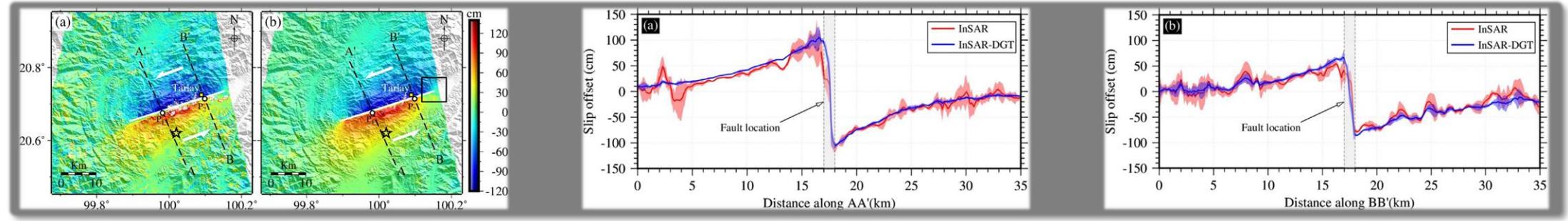
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Lecturer:

Franz J Meyer, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks; [fjmeyer@alaska.edu](mailto:fjmeyer@alaska.edu)

## Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course

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# A LOOK AT SOME APPLICATIONS RELEVANT FOR THIS COURSE

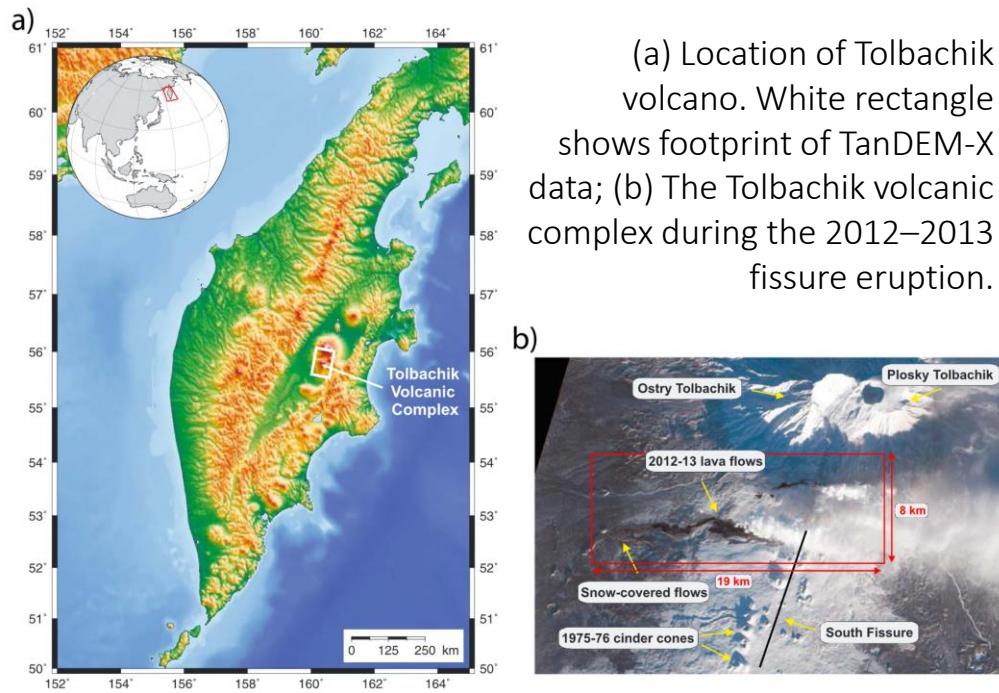
## [AND AT SOME OF THE TEACHING TOOLS WE WILL USE]



# Measuring Shape: Why We Care About DEMs

## Effusion Rate Estimation for the 2012-2013 Tolbachik Eruption using TanDEM-X

### Location

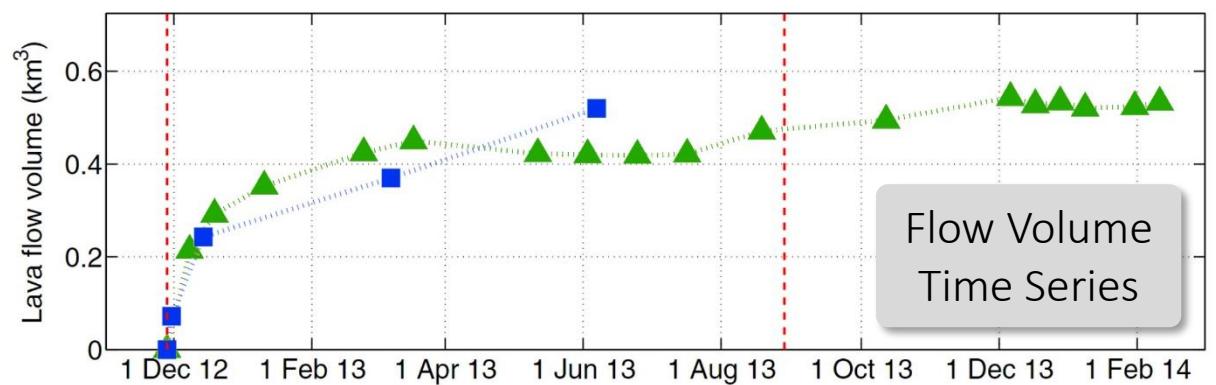
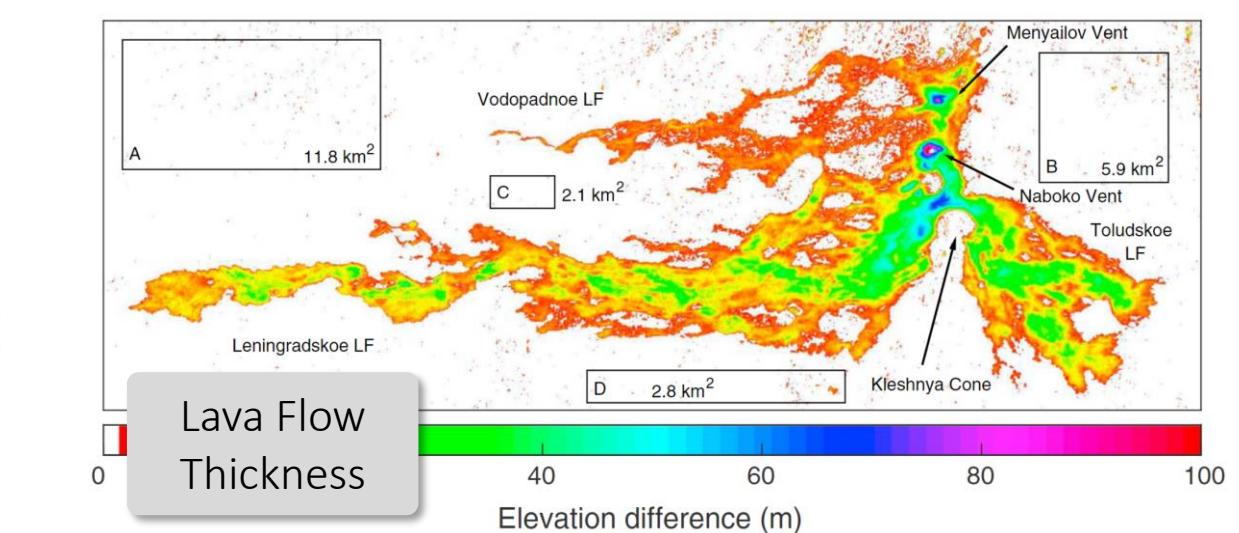


### Data

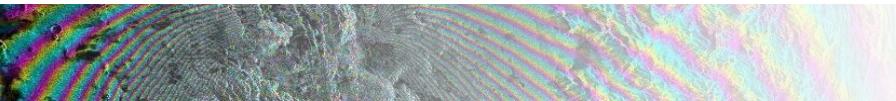
18 DEMs derived from bistatic TanDEM-X InSAR data. TanDEM-X is an X-band, high-resolution X-band SAR constellation built for global DEM generation.



### Results



Kubanek, J., Westerhaus, M., & Heck, B. (2017). TanDEM-X time series analysis reveals lava flow volume and effusion rates of the 2012–2013 Tolbachik, Kamchatka fissure eruption. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, 122(10), 7754–7774.



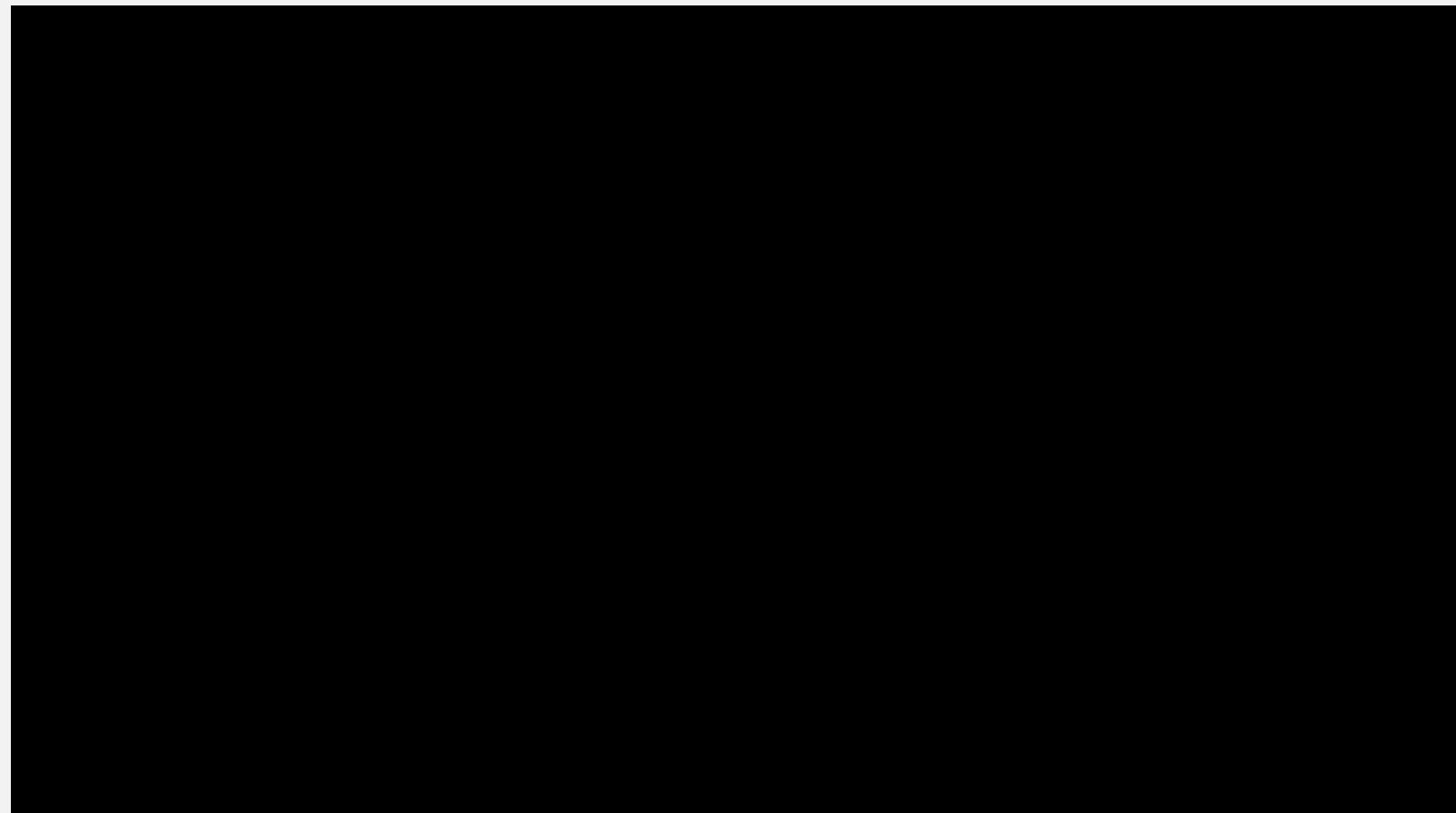
# Think – Pair – Share

## Reconstructing Shape from Images

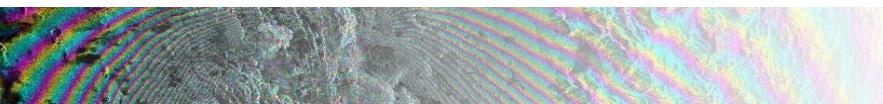


### DEM Reconstruction from Images

- **Q1:** When reconstructing shape information from images, you may encounter three product types: DEM, DSM, and DTM. Define the products behind these acronyms.
- **Q2:** Which methods do you know to derive DEM information from images? [try to come up with at least 4 independent methods]



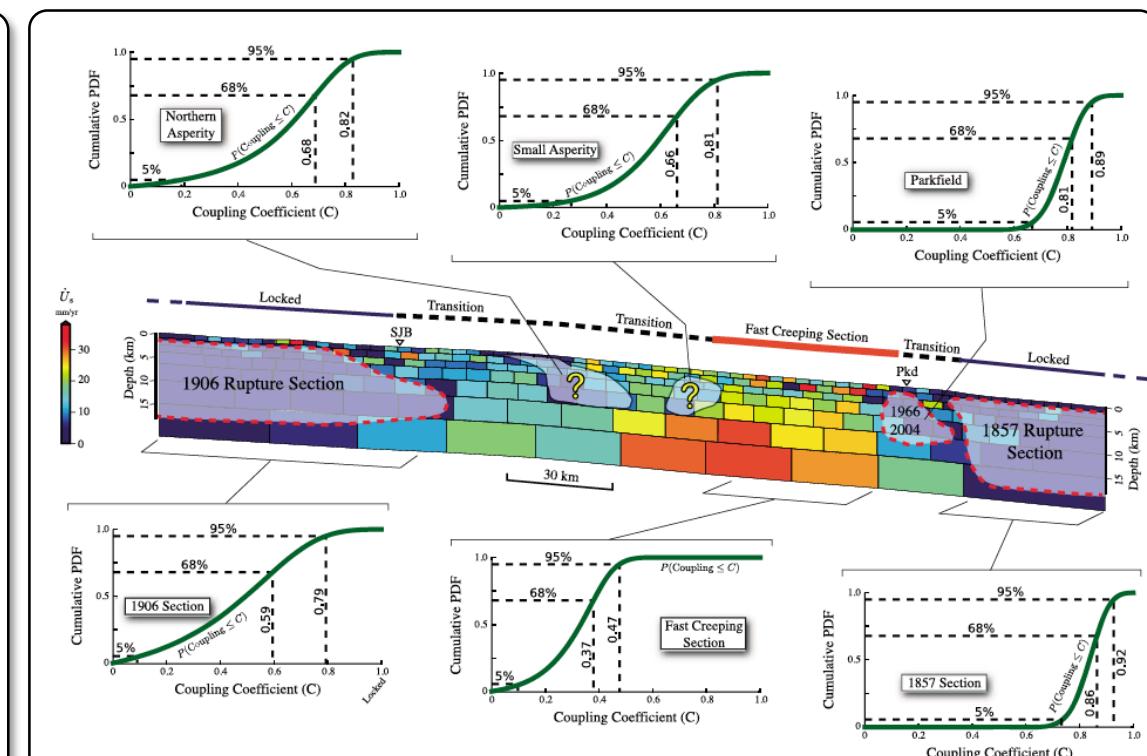
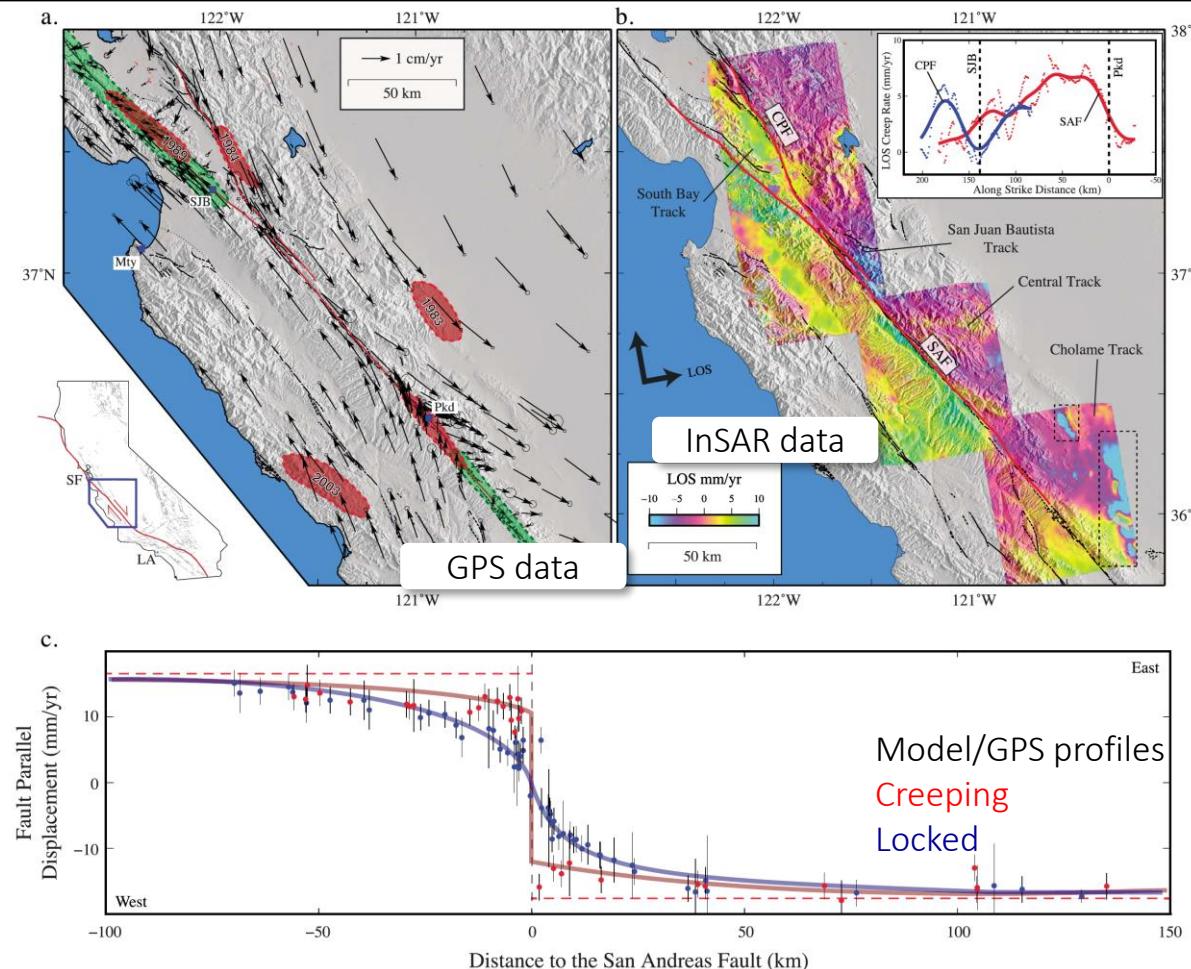
Data acquisition, data processing, and animation by M. Nolan, Fairbanks Fodar; more at <https://fairbanksfodar.com/the-first-fodar-map-of-denali-alaska>



# Why We Measure Displacements

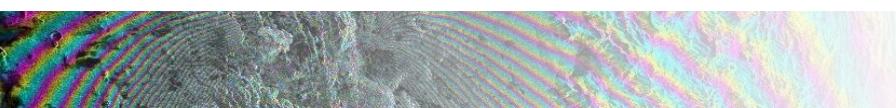
## Understanding Seismic Coupling / Fault Creep along the San Andreas Fault

InSAR Time Series 2006 -> 2010 --- 30 to 85 interferograms per stack



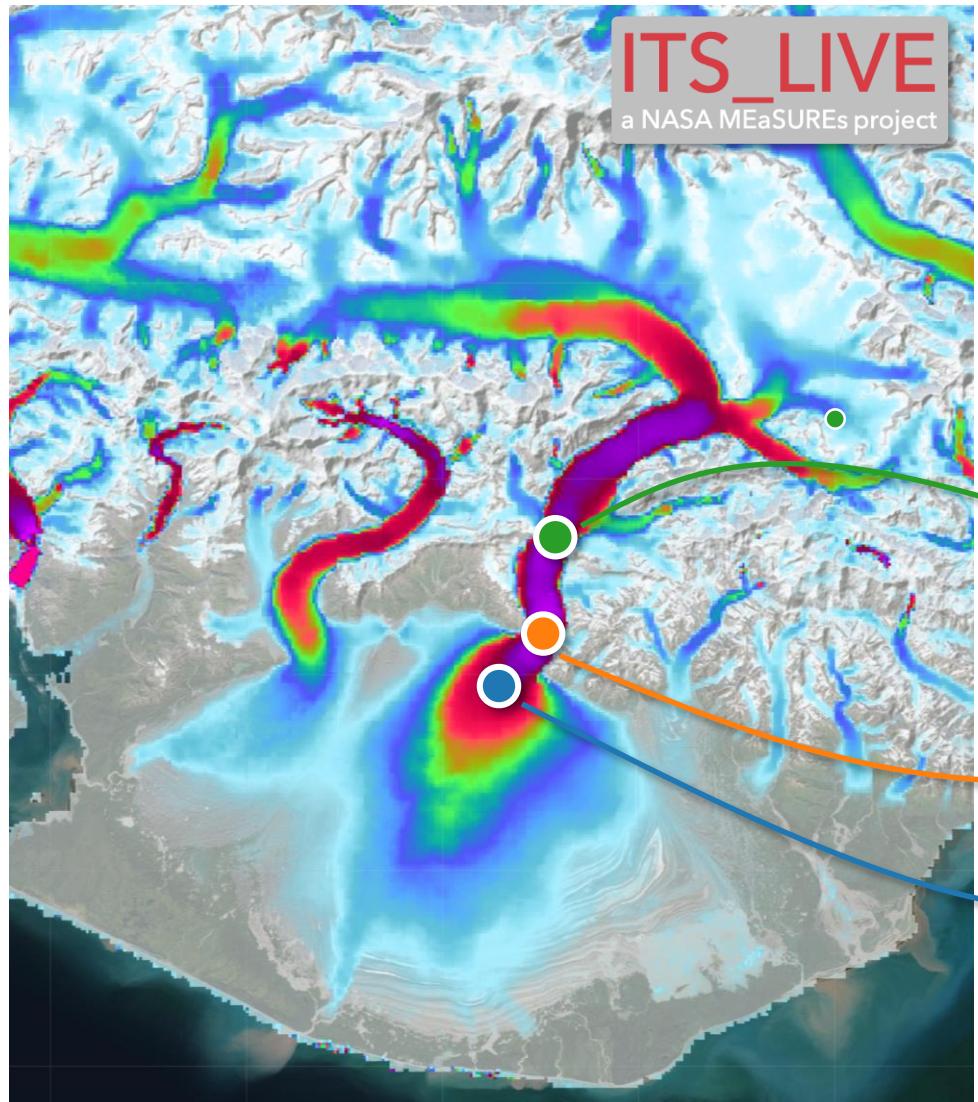
Courtesy: M. Simons, Caltech

**Locked or Creeping:** Fully probabilistic Bayesian unsmoothed inference including both data and model prediction covariance

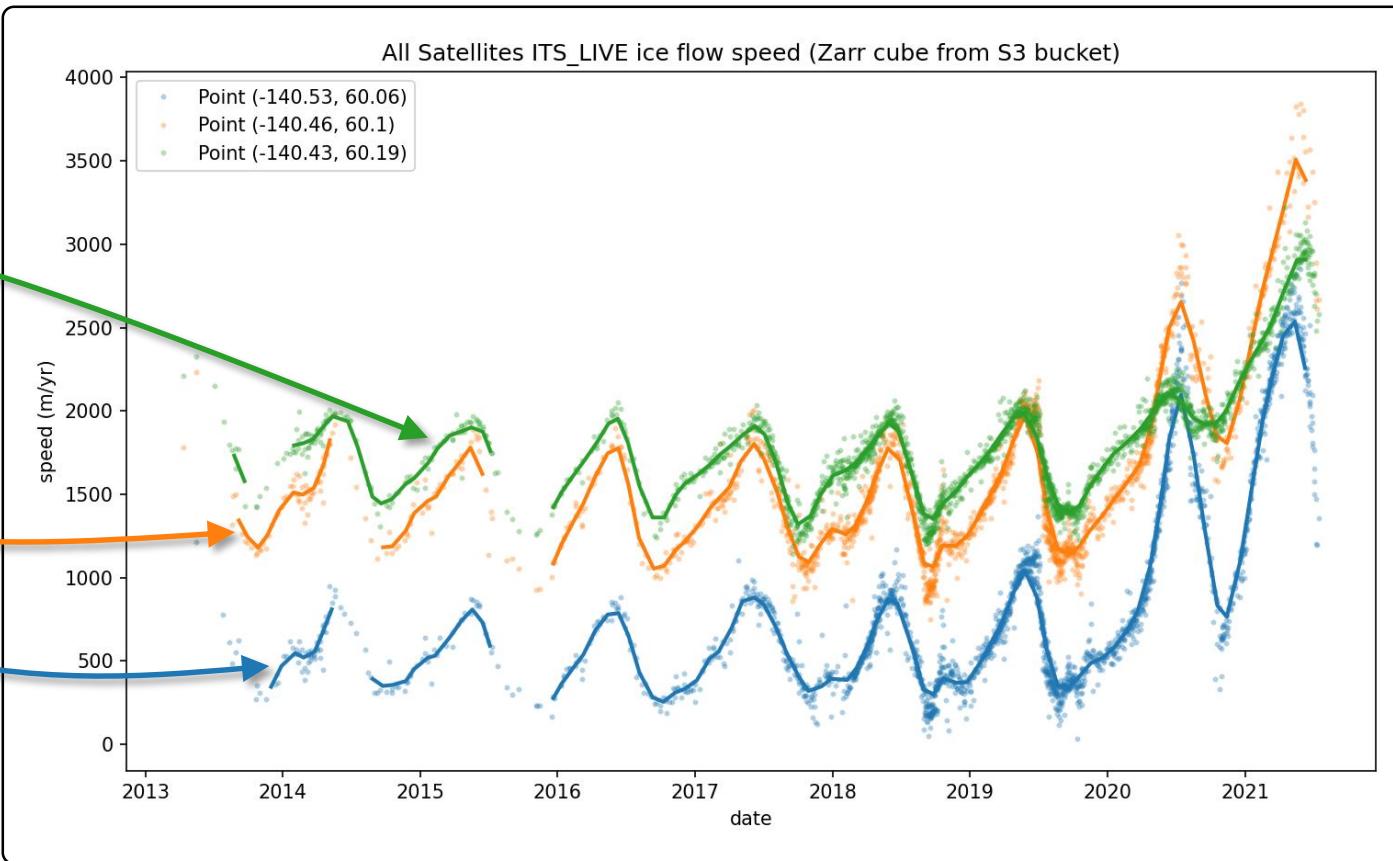


# Why We Measure Displacements

## Monitoring Surge of Malaspina Glacier, Alaska using Optical and SAR Data



Its\_Live is led by Alex Gardner, JPL and includes partners at UAF. The project uses Feature Tracking from Landsat, Sentinel-2, and Sentinel-1 data to monitor velocities at all glaciers in the world!



# A Second Interactive Vehicle

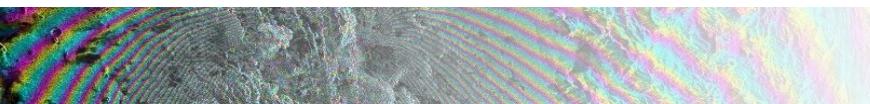
## Mentimeter Polling



# Mentimeter

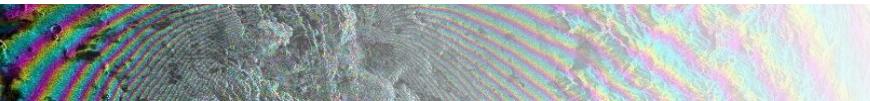
- Interactive polling with realtime feedback
- Accessible via web browser from any internet-enabled device

- Here is your first Mentimeter poll:





## A LOOK AT THE SYLLABUS



# A Short Introduction About Myself



**TUM**

I'm studying here.

MSc & PhD in Engineering, Technische Universitaet Muenchen, Munich Germany

**DLR**

TerraSAR-X Team, German Aerospace Center



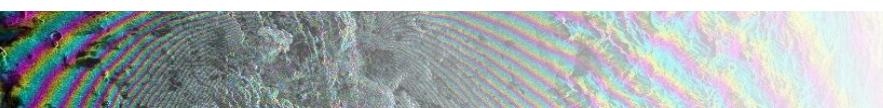
Professor of Remote Sensing

**UAF**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ALASKA  
FAIRBANKS

Chief Scientist

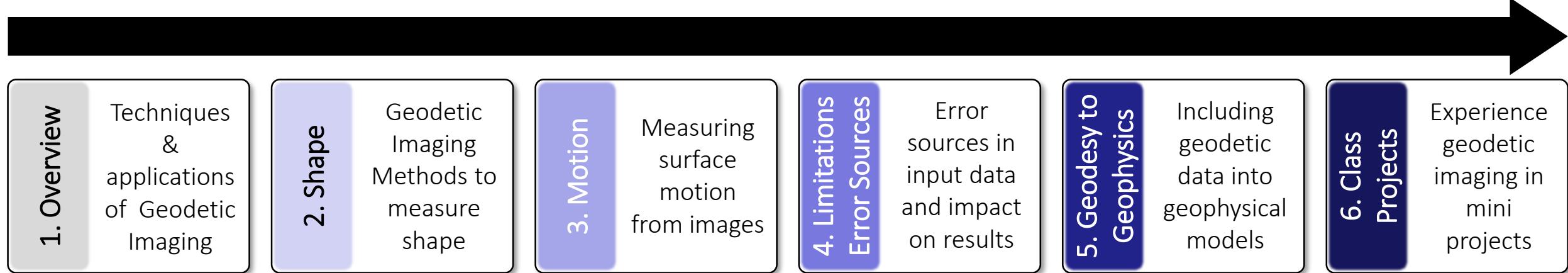
**UAF** ALASKA SATELLITE FACILITY  
Making remote-sensing data accessible since 1991

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK



# The Workshop Concept

- Outline of the Class (<https://radar.community.uaf.edu/syllabus/>):

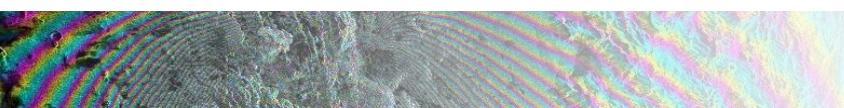


- Introduction to Cloud-based and Python-based SAR data processing:

- No data download and no local compute hardware needed  
→ High-performance computing from any internet-connected device
- Full access to relevant data sets and open-source software
- Use as you need – only download what you need
- Jupyter Notebook tools for algorithm development and use

[Opensarlab.asf.alaska.edu](https://opensarlab.asf.alaska.edu)

- Full performance lab exercises
- End-user processing with moderate local compute & internet infrastructure



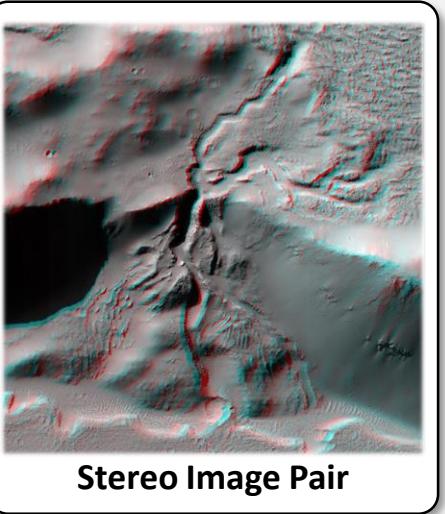
# Topic 2: Reconstructing Shape from Images

Geodetic Imaging Methods to measure shape

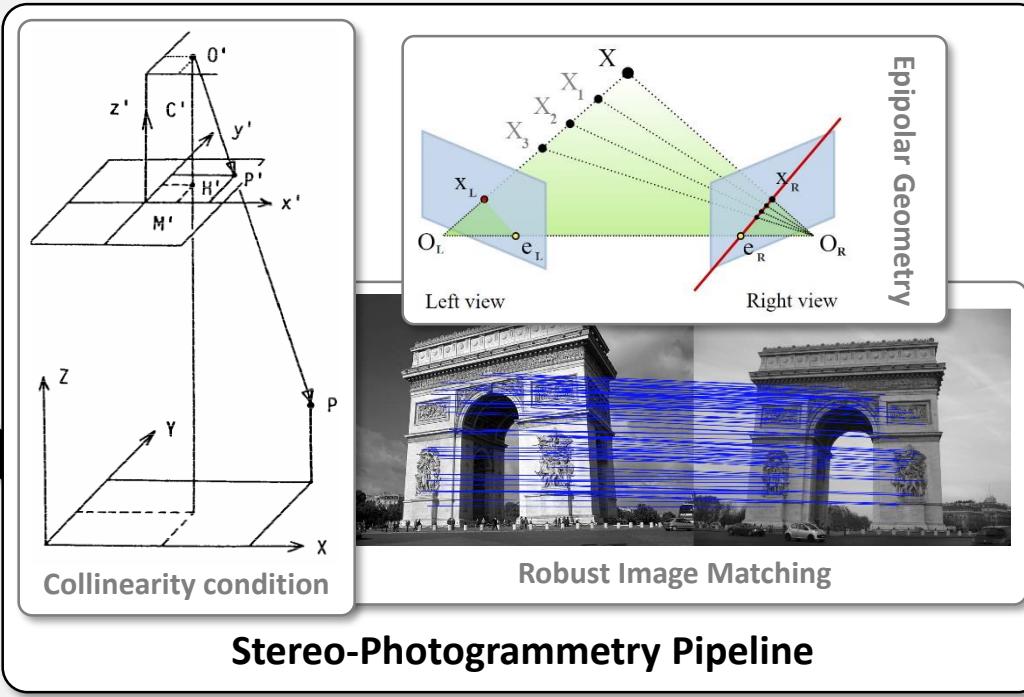


2. Shape

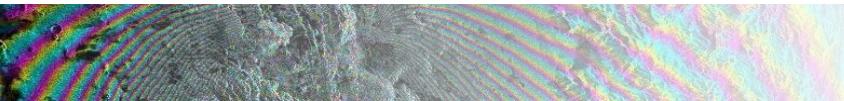
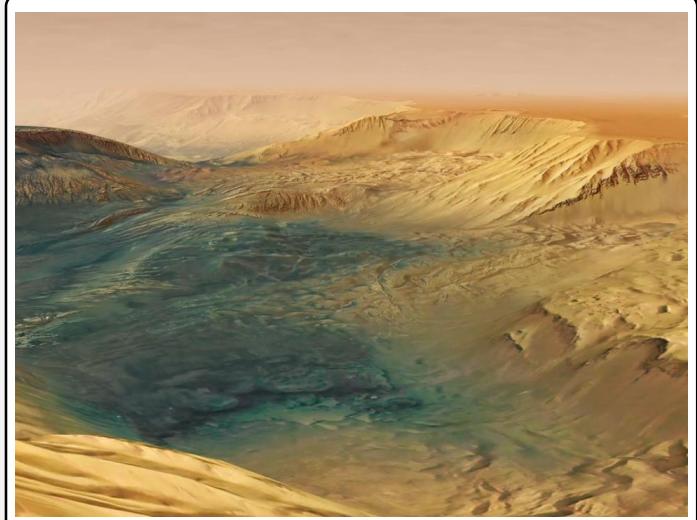
## DEM Reconstruction from Images – Stereo Photogrammetry



<http://www.uahrsse.org/anaglyph/>



[http://www.esa.int/Our\\_Activities/Space\\_Science/Fly\\_through\\_a\\_canyon\\_on\\_Mars](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Science/Fly_through_a_canyon_on_Mars)

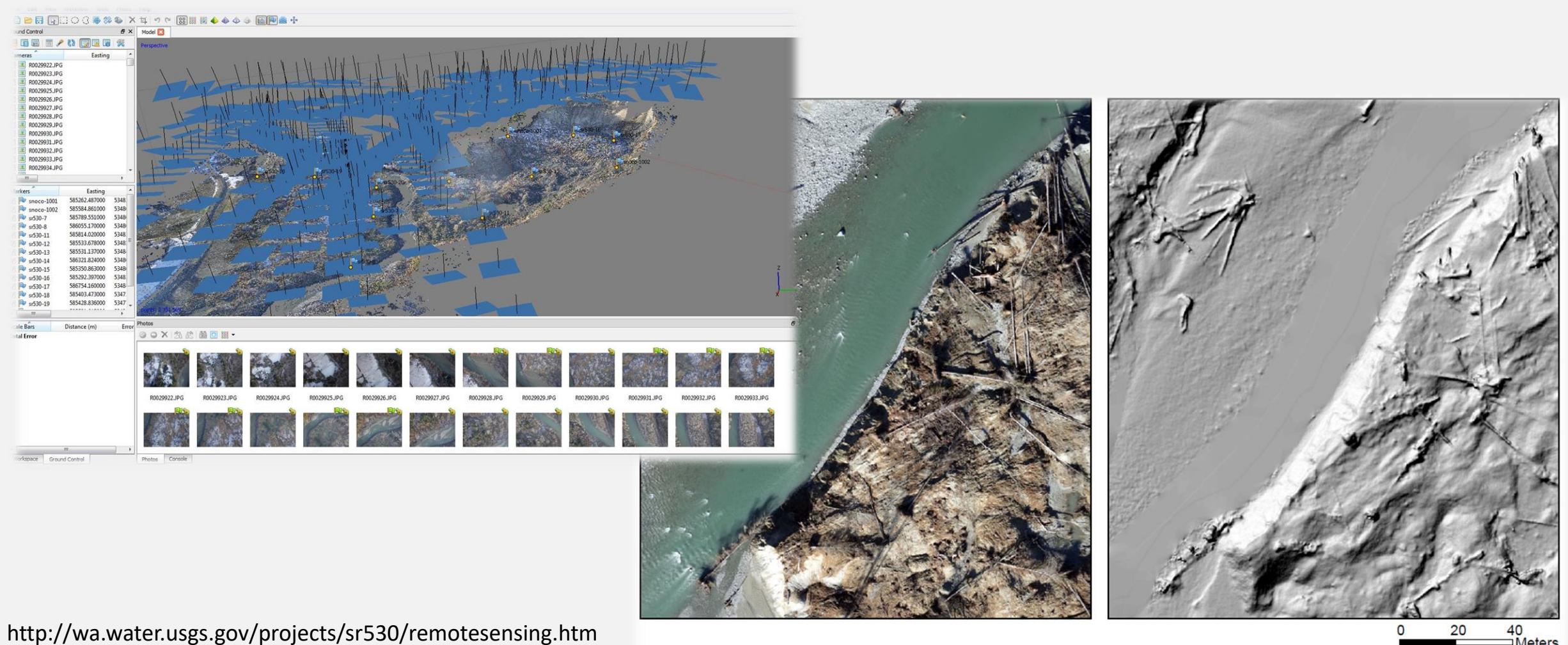


# Topic 2: Reconstructing Shape from Images

Geodetic Imaging Methods to measure shape

## 2. Shape

### DEM Reconstruction from Images – Structure from Motion



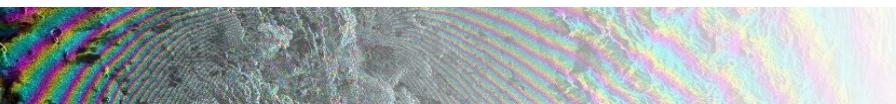
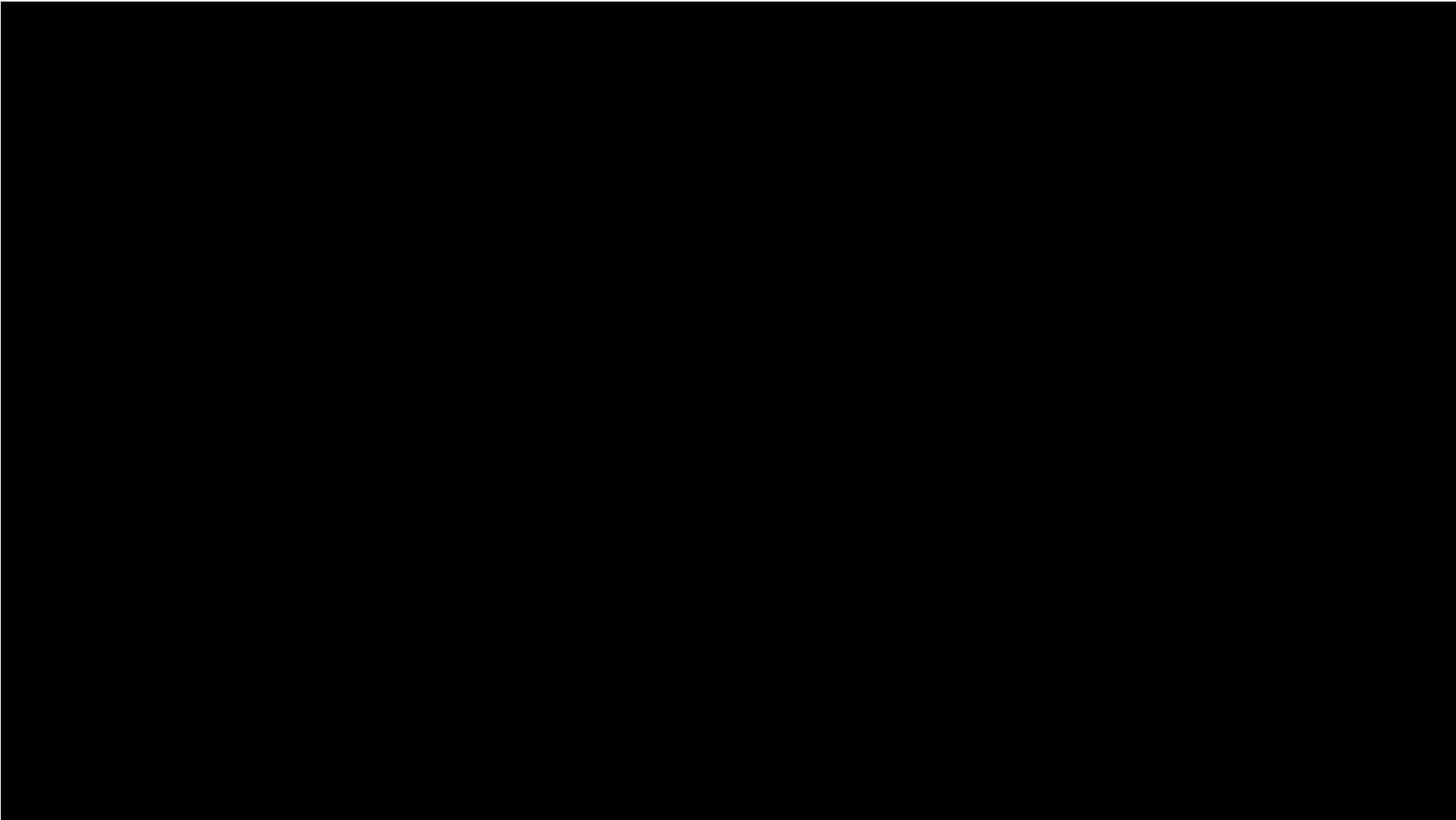
# Topic 2: Reconstructing Shape from Images

2. Shape

Geodetic  
Imaging  
Methods to  
measure  
shape



## 3D Object Reconstruction from Images Blocks



Franz J Meyer, UAF

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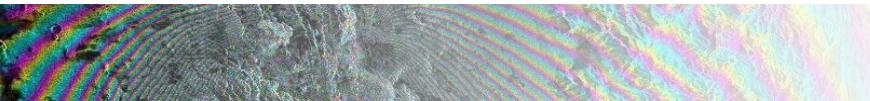
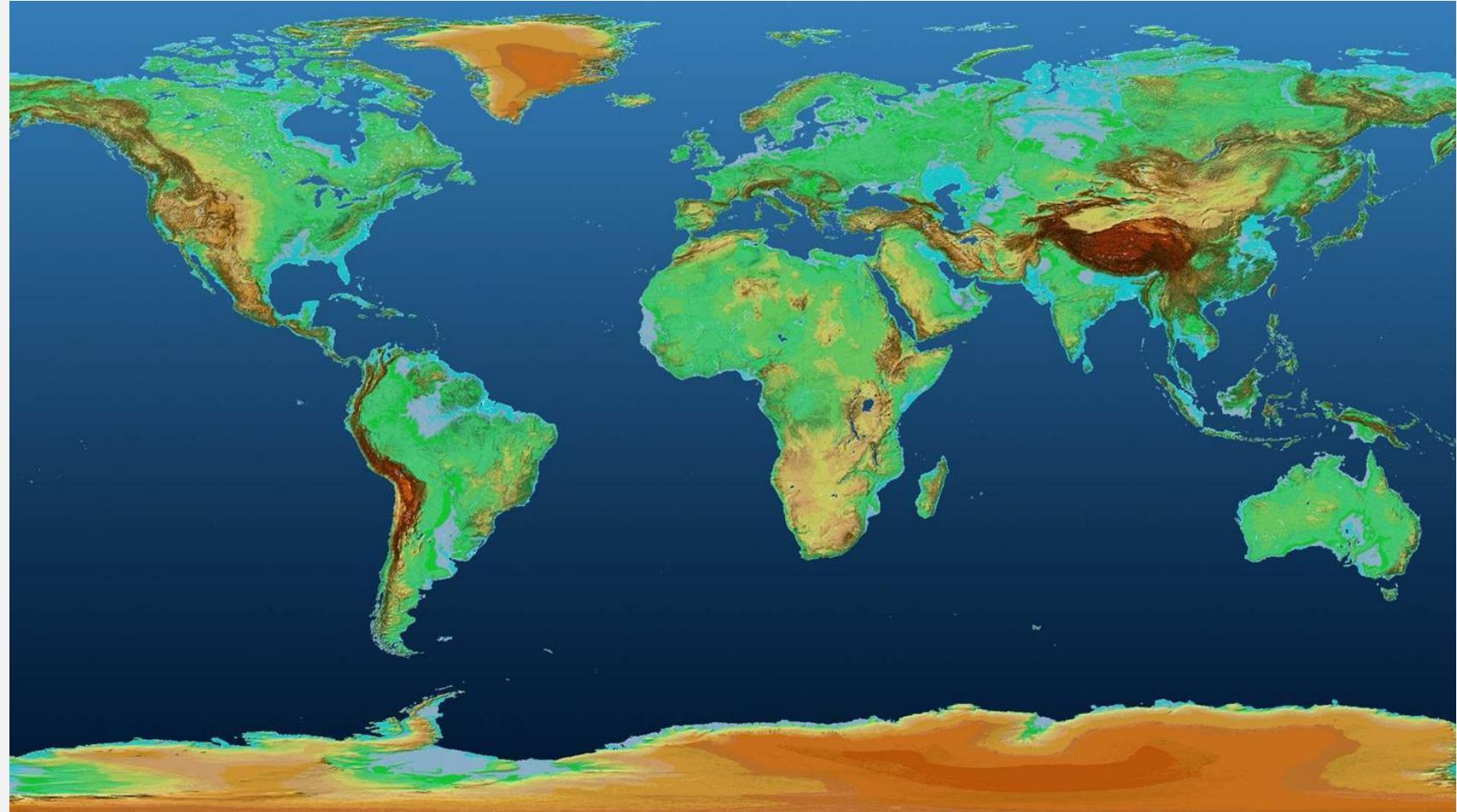
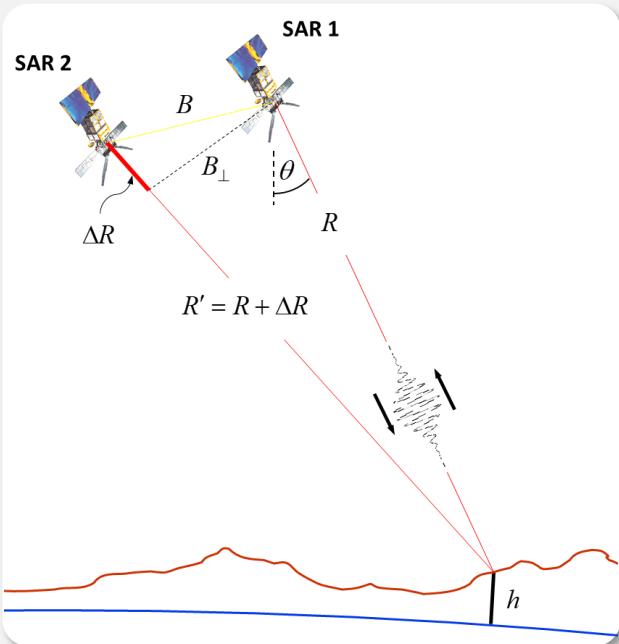
# Topic 2: Reconstructing Shape from Images

Geodetic  
Imaging  
Methods to  
measure  
shape



2. Shape

## DEM Reconstruction from Images – InSAR



# Topic 2: Reconstructing Shape from Images

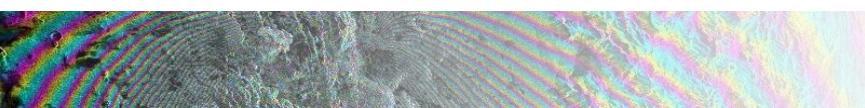
## 3D Reconstruction – Other Methods

- We will summarize additional methods for 3D reconstruction from images such as
  - Shape from shading
  - Depth from focus
  - Radarclinometry



Qualitative results for shape and reflectance estimation from a single image: input image [30], estimated normals and reflectance map, and novel view (from left to right).

[Source: Richter& Roth (2015). Discriminative shape from shading in uncalibrated illumination. IEEE CVPR (pp. 1128-1136)]

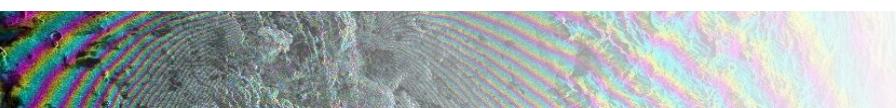
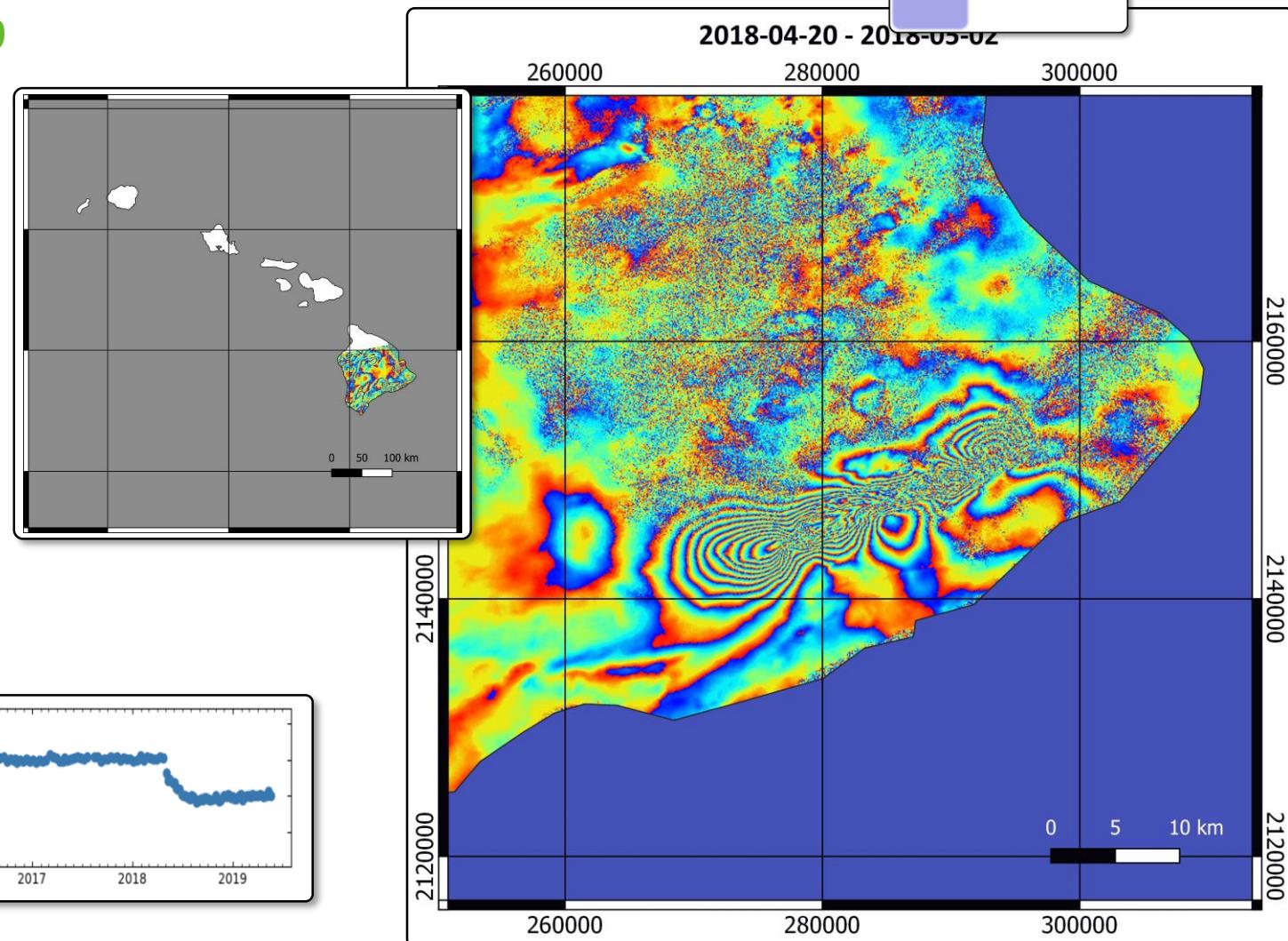
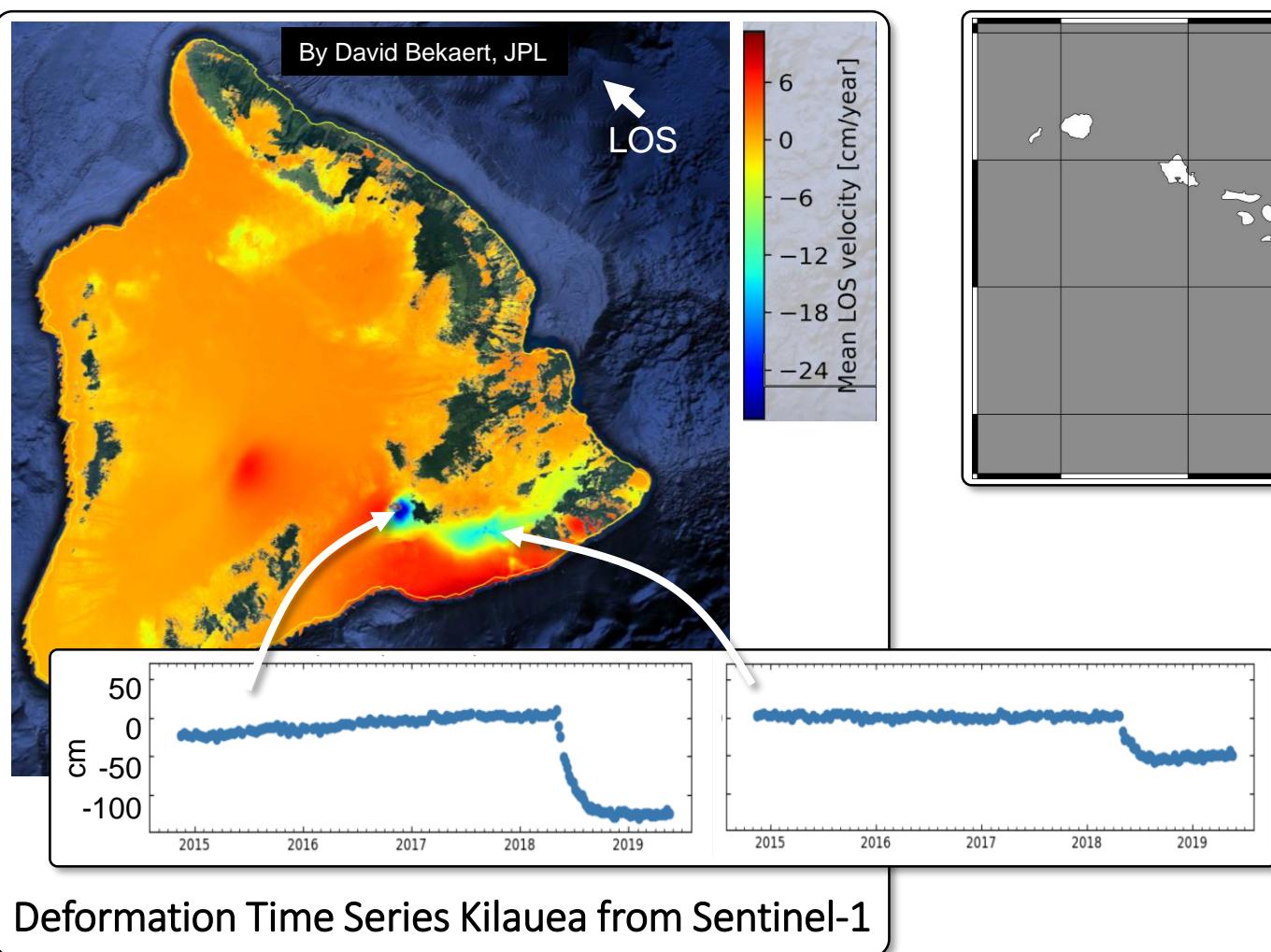


# Topic 3: Surface Displacement from Images

## Slow Motion Monitoring [mm/y to m/y] with InSAR

3. Motion  
Measuring  
surface  
motion  
from images

- InSAR Deformation of Kilauea Event in 2019

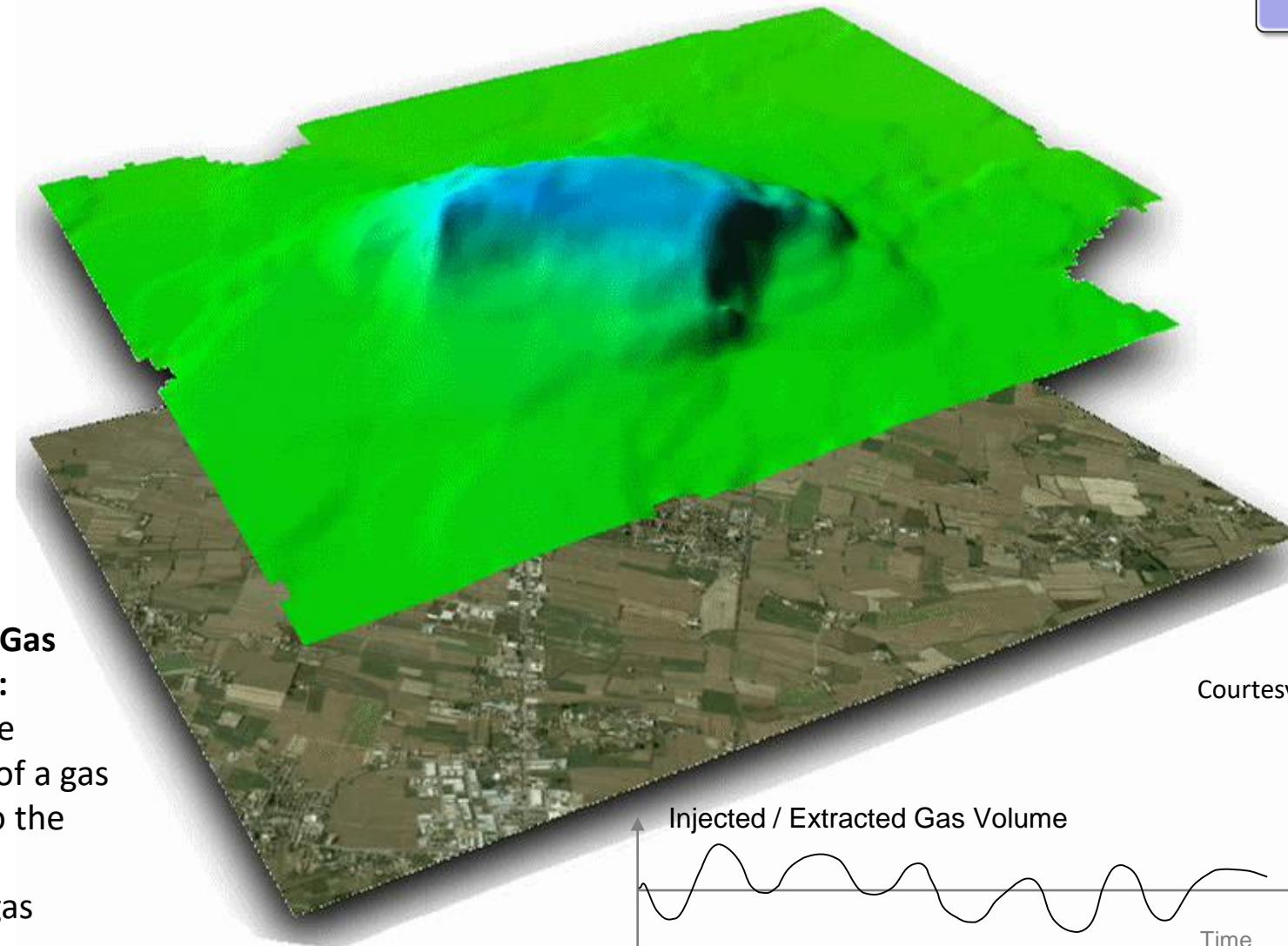
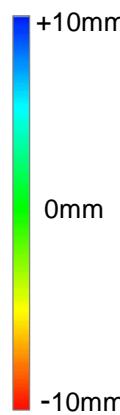


# Topic 3: Surface Displacement from Images

## Slow Motion Monitoring [mm/y to m/y] with InSAR

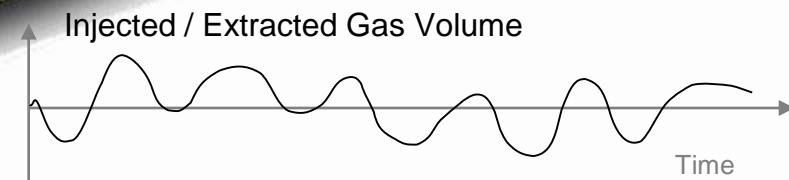
3. Motion

Measuring  
surface  
motion  
from images



**Managing  
Underground Gas  
Storage (UGS):**  
Vertical surface  
displacement of a gas  
field related to the  
injection and  
extraction of gas  
volumes

Courtesy: A. Ferretti, TRE ALTAMIRA



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SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Franz J Meyer, UAF

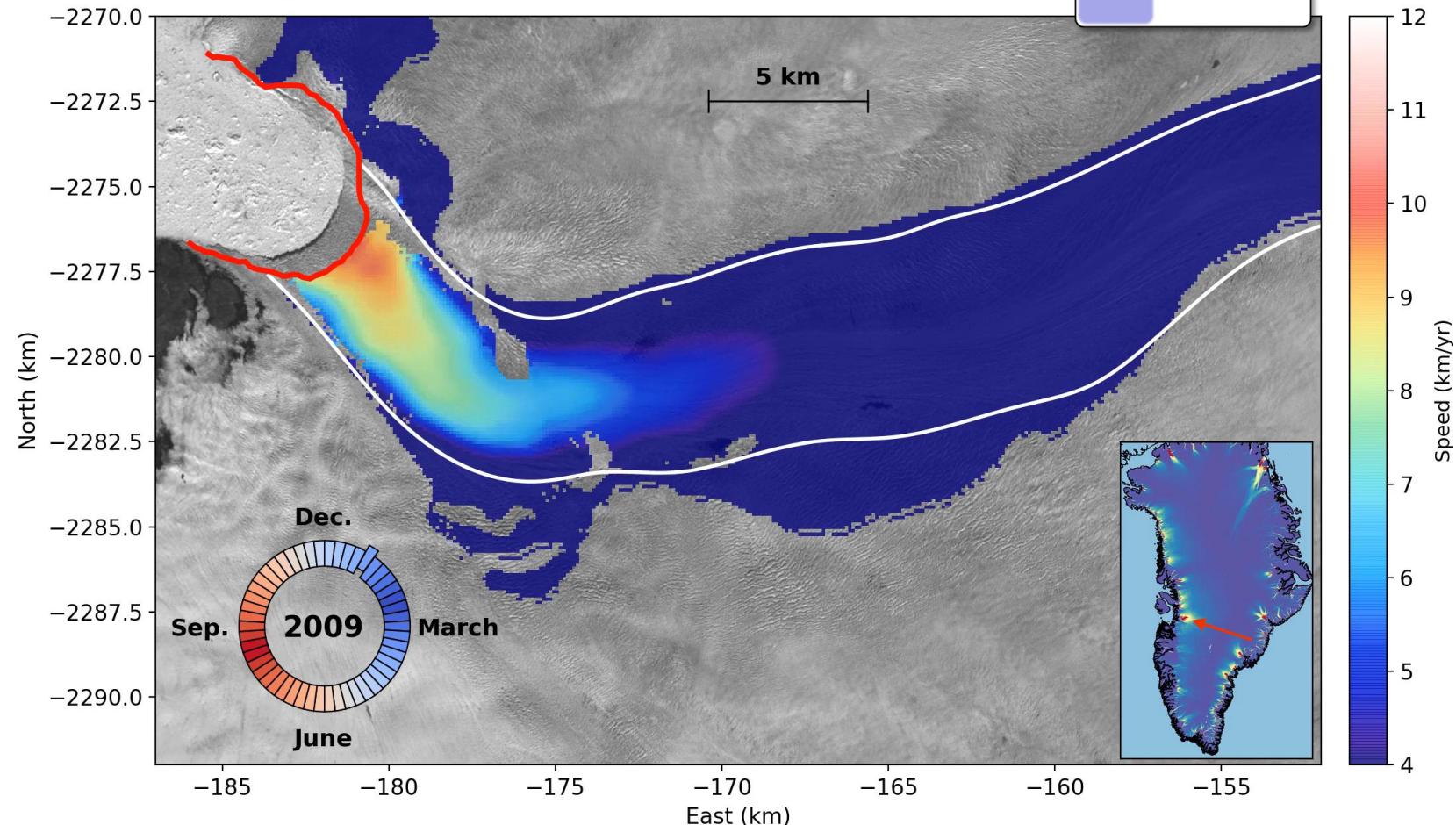
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# Topic 3: Surface Displacement from Images

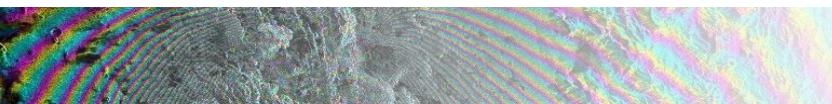
## Fast(er) Motion Monitoring [m/y to km/y] Using Feature Tracking and Optical Flow



- Lot's of surface motions can be too fast for InSAR to work (see lectures later on):
  - Glacier motion (and variations thereof)
  - Sea Ice motion
  - Large earthquake motion
- We will use feature tracking and optical flow techniques to estimate motion velocities and directions



Bryan Riel. 2020. [Animation of time-dependent velocity magnitudes for Sermeq Kujalleq \(Jakobshavn Isbræ\) from 2009 - 2019](#). Arctic Data Center. doi:10.18739/A2W66990B.



# Topic 3: Surface Displacement from Images

## Fast(er) Motion Monitoring [m/y to km/y] Using Feature Tracking and Optical Flow

3. Motion

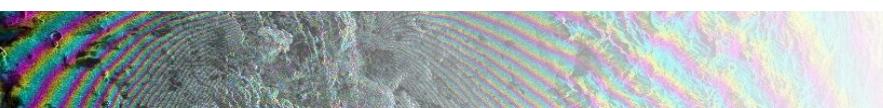
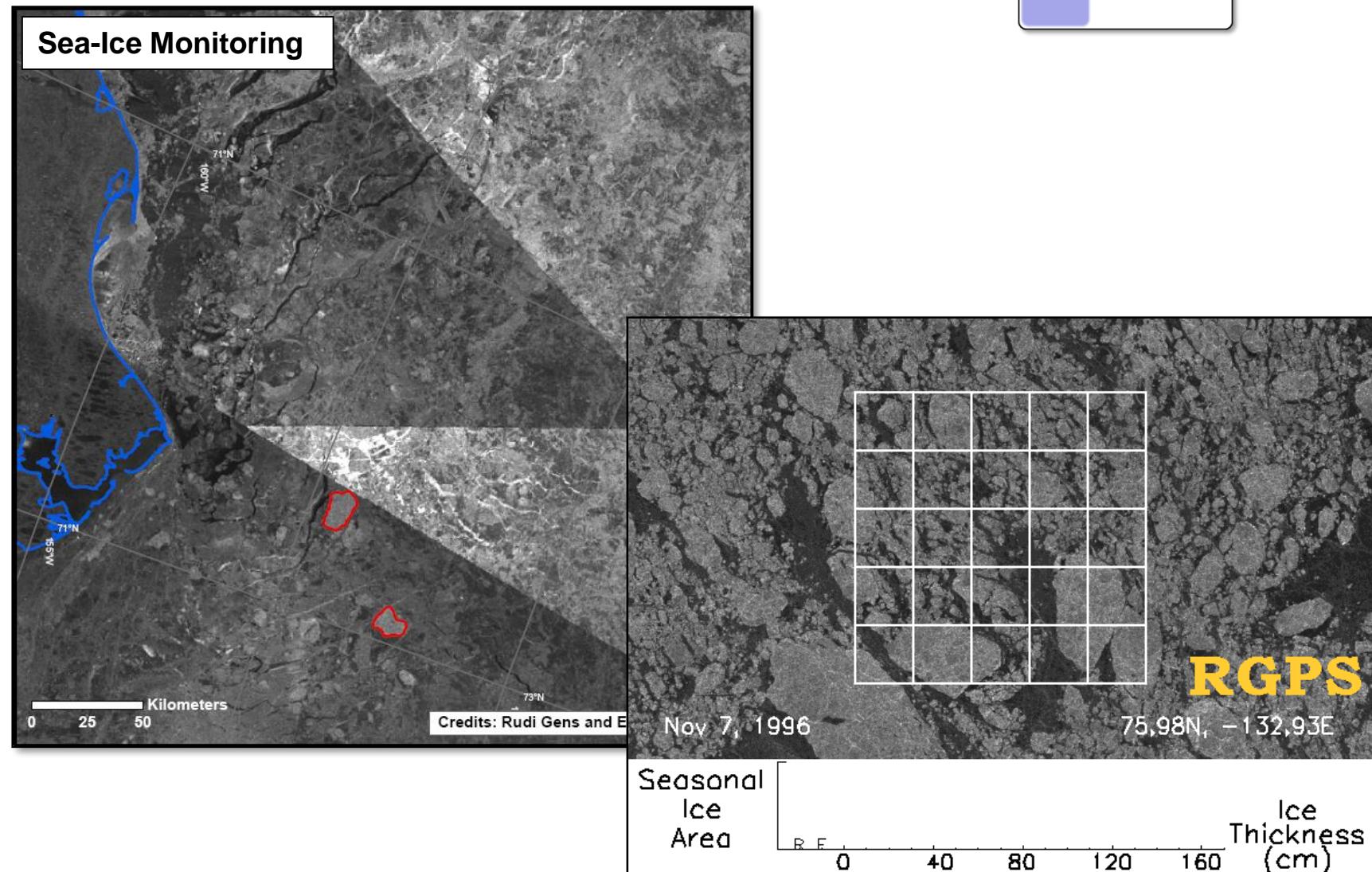
Measuring  
surface  
motion  
from images



- Lot's of surface motions can be too fast for InSAR to work (see lectures later on):

- Glacier motion (and variations thereof)
  - **Sea Ice motion**
  - Large earthquake motion

- We will use feature tracking and optical flow techniques to estimate motion velocities and directions



# Limitations Of Imaging Geodesy Techniques

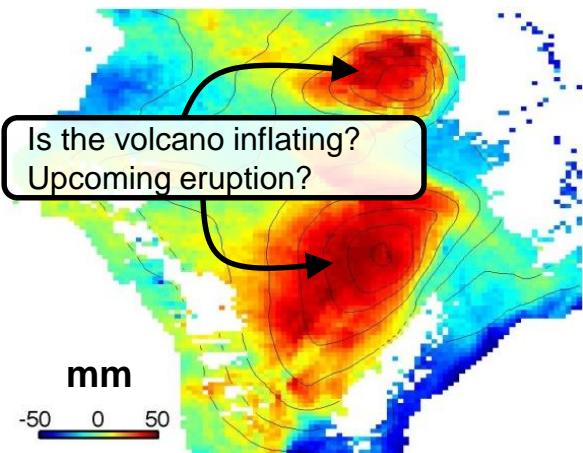
## Atmospheric Delay / Ionospheric Delay

4. Limitations  
Error Sources

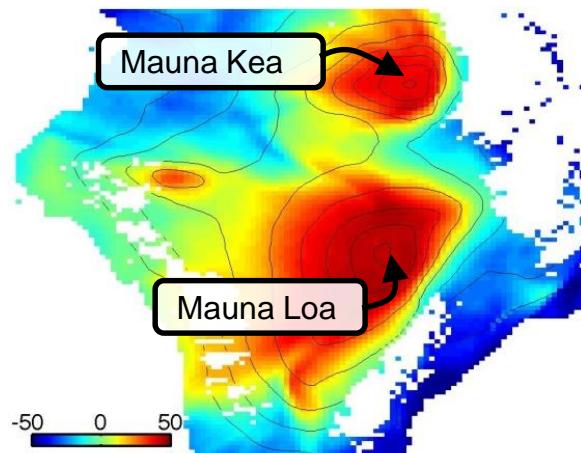
Error sources in input data and impact on results



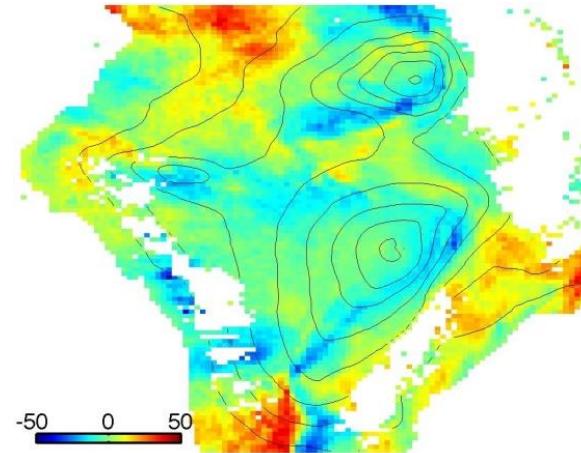
Atmospheric Signals can lead to incorrect interpretation of observations:



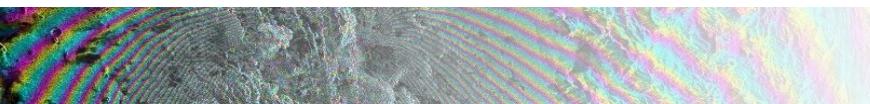
d-InSAR Observations,  
Big Island, Hawaii



Atmospheric Model



d-InSAR – Atmospheric Model



**ASF**



**UAF** COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Franz J Meyer, UAF

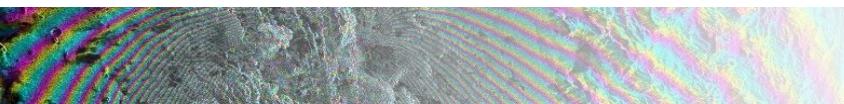
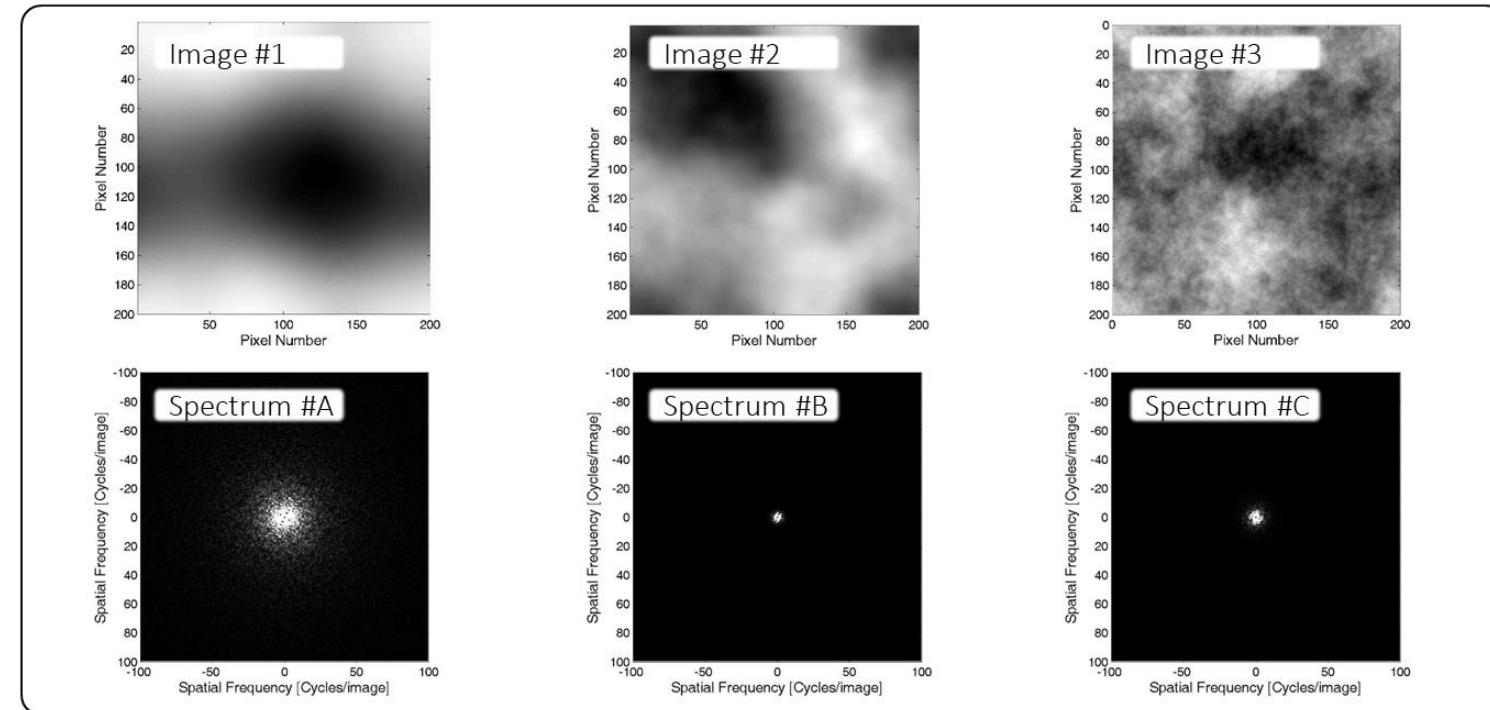
GEOS 657 Microwave RS - 20

# Limitations Of Imaging Geodesy Techniques

## Assessing the Accuracy of Image Matching Algorithms

- We will analyze the accuracy of image matching techniques used in feature tracking

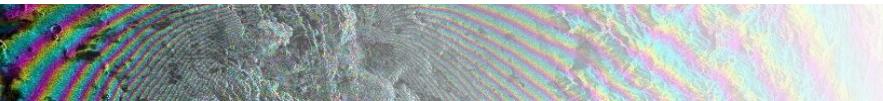
- E.g. we will assess how accurate pixel offsets can be estimated using cross correlation techniques and how this accuracy depends on signal-to-noise, window size, and signal properties





# WHY TAKE THIS COURSE Now?

## THE GOLDEN AGE OF REMOTE SENSING



# The Golden Age of Remote Sensing

**SAR:** Free-and-Open, Regularly-Sampled, Global, Cloud-Free Earth Observation Data from Space

## Sentinel-1



Frequency:  
C-band  
Launch Date:  
2015 & 16



## NISAR



Frequency:  
L-band  
Launch Date:  
Spring 2023

## TanDEM-L

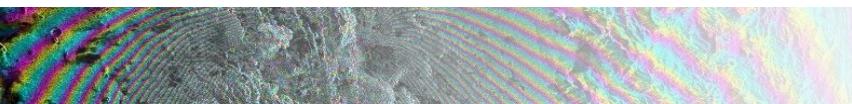


Frequency:  
L-band  
Launch Date:  
TBD

## Arctic Sea Ice Export through Nares Strait

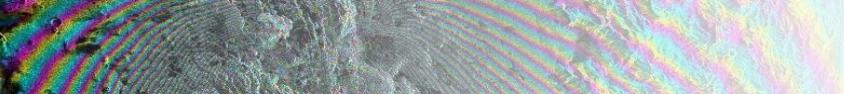
Copyright contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2016–17), processed by David Small

150 km



# Radar Systems with Operational Character

- **Sentinel-1 (2014 - today): First SAR satellite system with operational mission**
  - Regular reliable observation according to operational requirements
  - Imaging all landmasses, coastal zones and shipping routes every six days
  - Specifically designed for InSAR



# Preparation for NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Radar Earth Observation Satellite Project



LAUNCH SPRING 2023

First spaceborne L- and S-band SAR

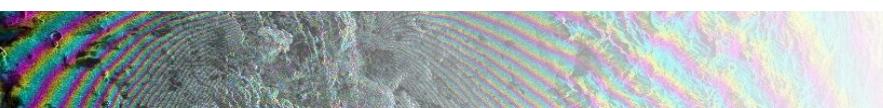
Full global coverage in 12 days

150 Petabyte of Earth Observation  
data / year

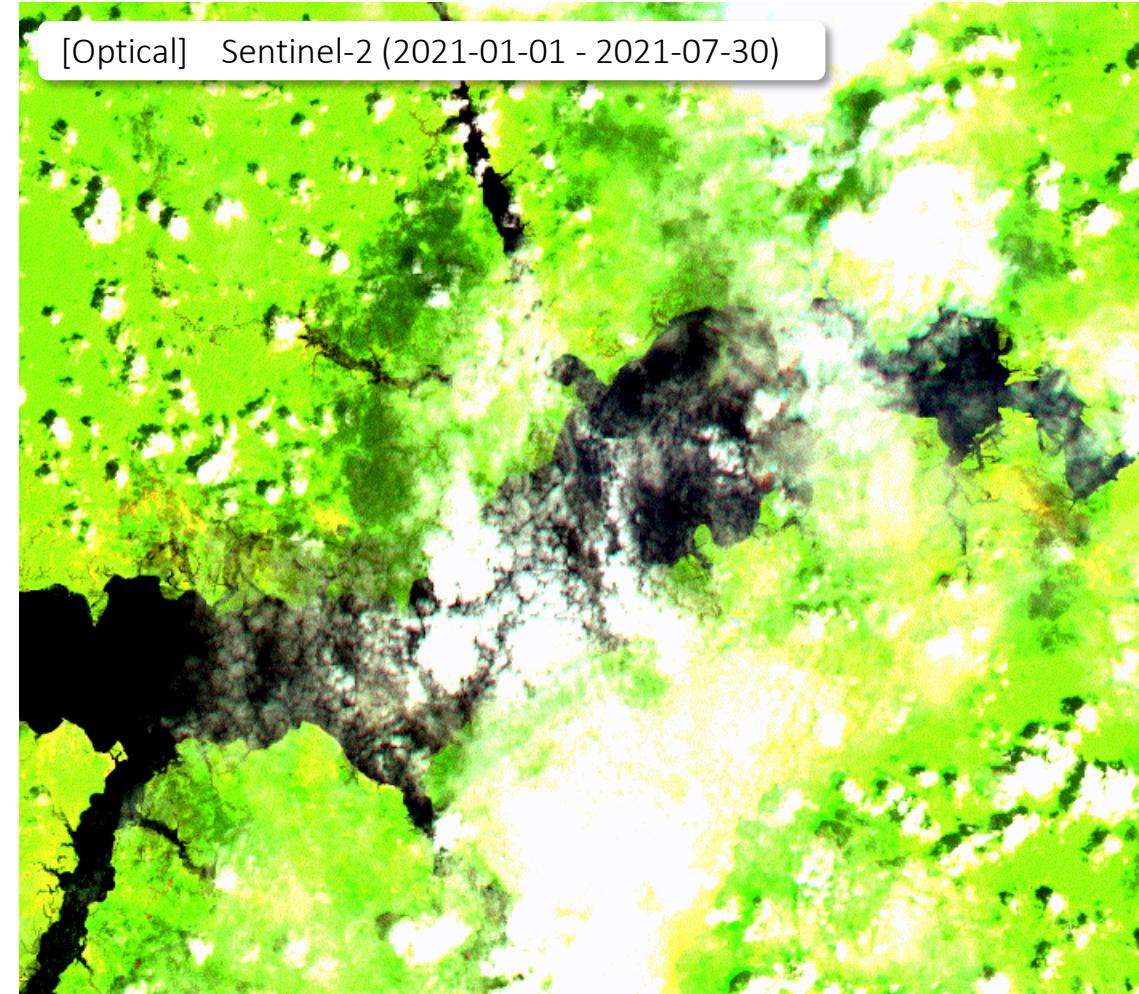
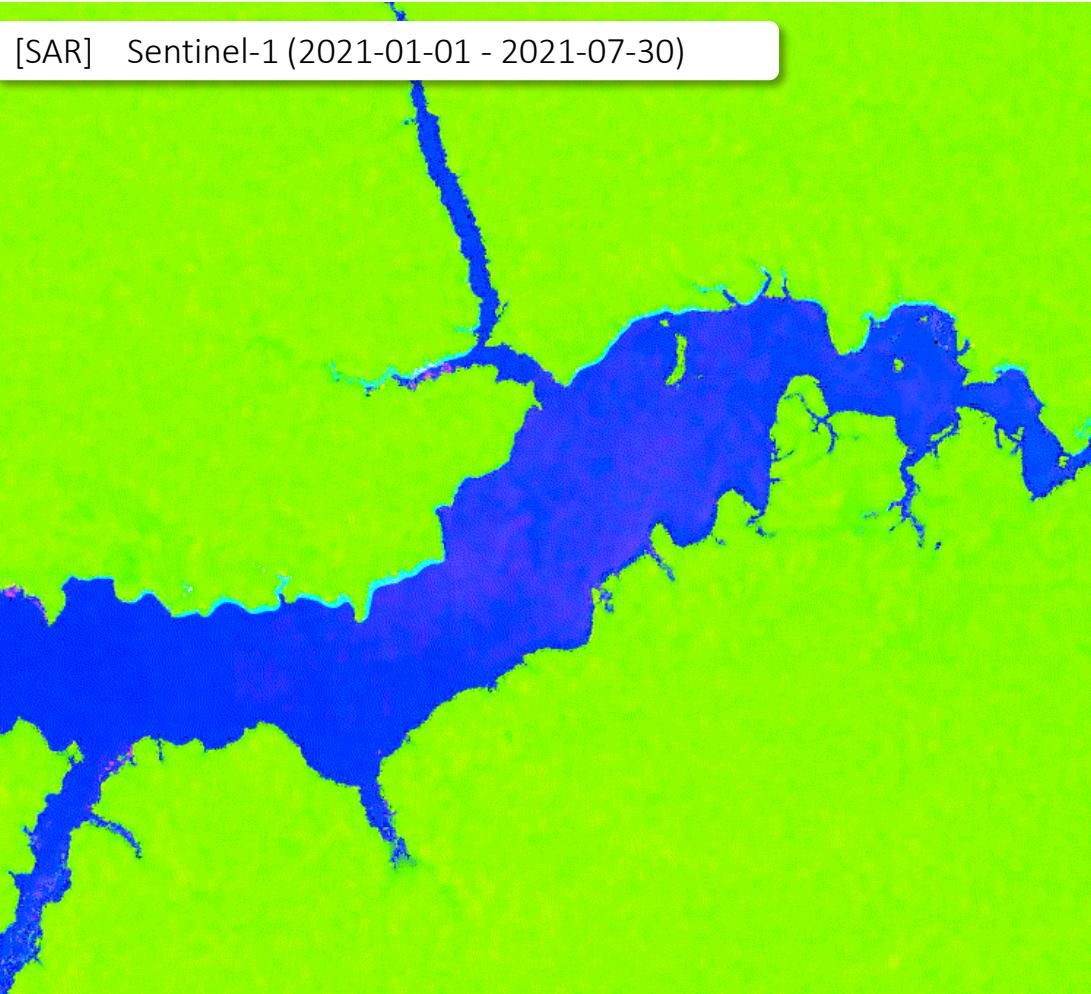
**ALL DATA FREE AND OPEN!**

NISAR  
INVOLVEMENT

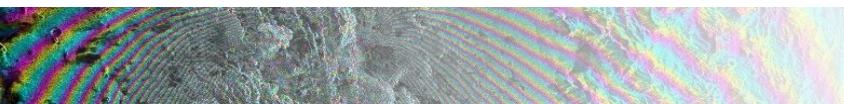
- NISAR Data Center
- NISAR Ground Station
- NISAR Science Team Member
- NISAR L2 Algorithm Development



# Cloud Free? Yes, Really!!



Seasonal Flooding in the Amazon Region



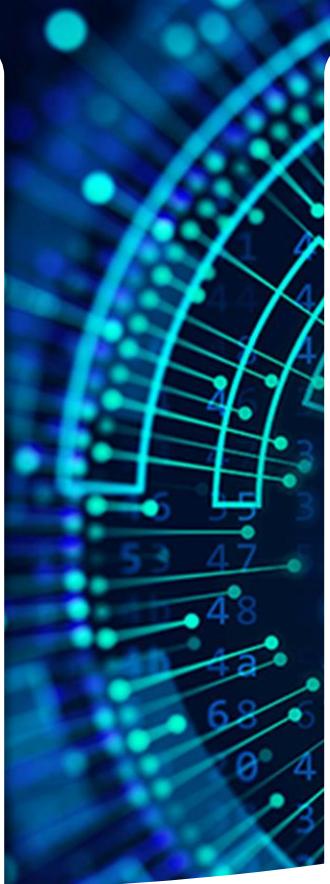
# The Golden Age of Remote Sensing

SAR: Unprecedented Earth Observation Data Volumes

ASF SAR DATA  
ARCHIVE

2014

1PB



ASF SAR DATA  
ARCHIVE

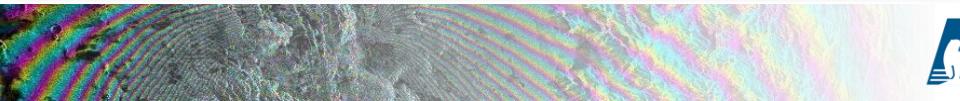
2019

10PB

ASF SAR DATA  
ARCHIVE

2025

~180PB

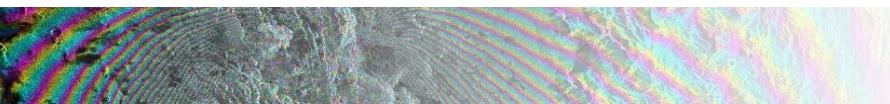
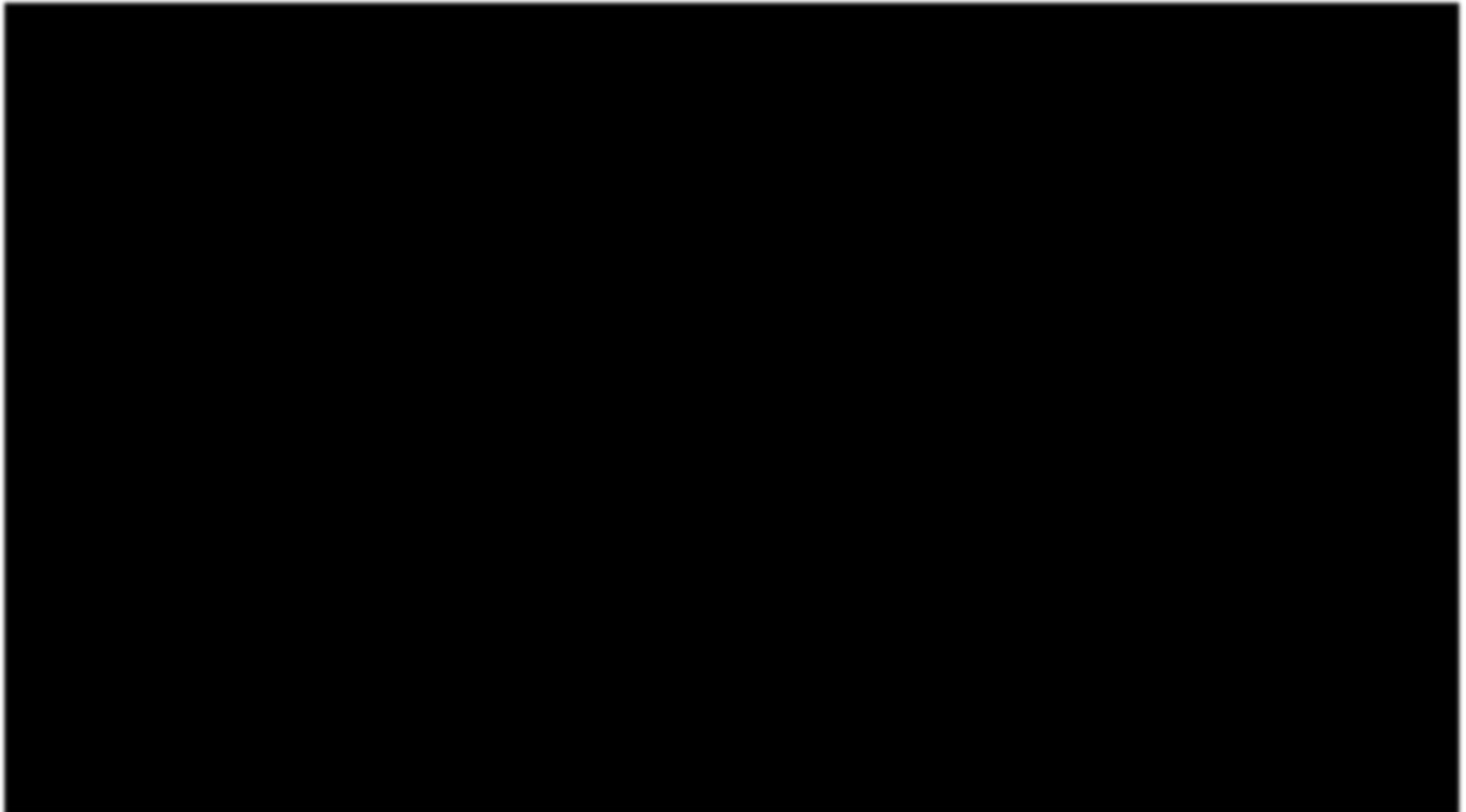


# The Golden Age of Remote Sensing

## Optical: The Landsat Time Series

Landsat:  
Consistent Earth  
Observation Data  
Since 1972

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/11433>



# Exploding Constellation of Imaging Earth

## Observation Sensors

- Growing constellation of traditional (old space) remote sensing sensors

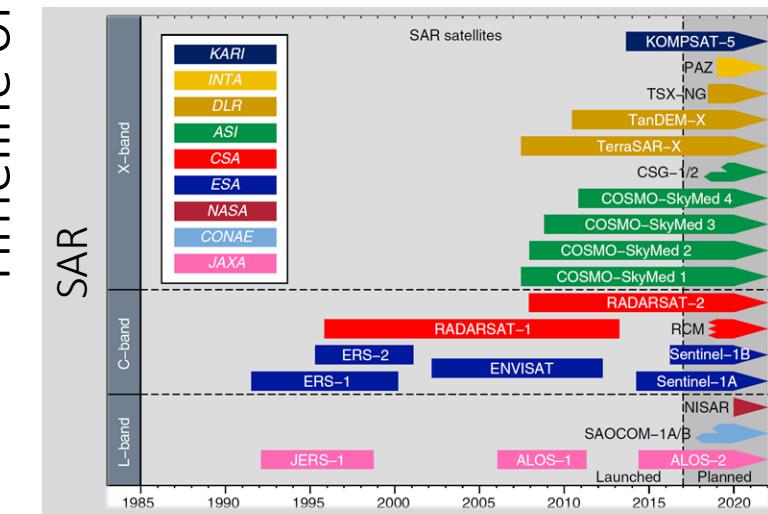
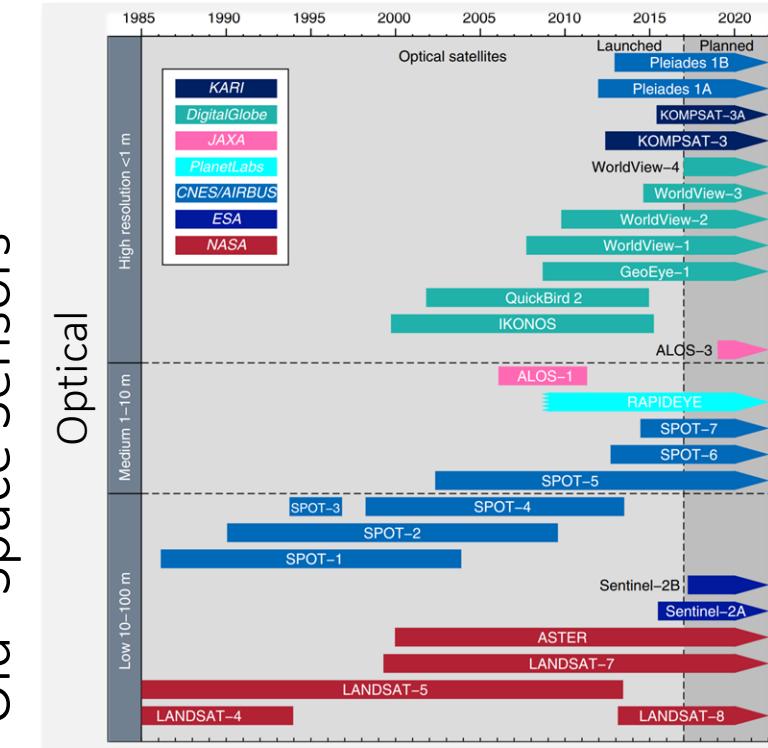
- Additionally a ever growing availability of New Space Earth Observation data:

Optical

- Planet constellation (RapidEye; Dove; Skysat)
- Blacksky optical sensors
- Satellogic
- ...

SAR

- ICEYE
- Capella Space
- Umbra
- ...





## COURSE TOOLS



# Technology to Support the Course

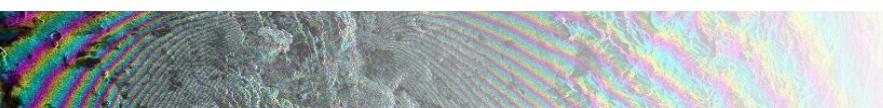
Modern Tools to enable earth-observation data analysis from (almost) anywhere

<https://opensarlab.asf.alaska.edu/>



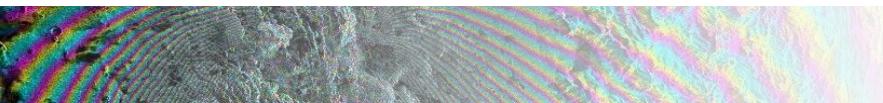
Tools to Stay in Touch

Link to Canvas page



# Class Project Information

- Students will complete a class project on SAR
- Wide range of options available
- Group work for class project is allowed but should be discussed with me
- Several class projects in recent years led to publications





# QUESTIONS?

