SAR interferometry and applications

Ramon Hanssen 2-6-2016

ESA SAR PECS course, Sofia, Bulgaria



Interferometry: mapping the millimeter

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Prior knowledge

- Radar principles, wavelength indications, SAR concept, resolution, satellite orbits, scattering,...
- Basic calculus: complex numbers, (rectangular form, polar form, exponential form), trigonometry,...



Learning objectives

- Interferometry: intuitive approach, physical approach
- Understanding sensitivity
- Basic observables and variables, concepts
- Practical data processing
- Quality control



6









Challenge the future





Hans Lippershey's patent, 1608

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Christiaan Huygens (1678)







Mais il faut considerer encore plus particulierement l'origine



de ces ondes, & la maniere dont elles s'estendent. Et premierement il s'ensuit de ce qui à esté dit dela production de la lumiere, que chaque petit endroit d'un corps lumineux, comme le Soleil, une chandelle, ou un charbon ardent, engendre fes ondes, dont cet endroit est le centre. Ainsi dans la flame d'une chandelle, estans diftinguez les points A, B, C; les cercles concentriques, decrits autour de chacun de ces points, representent les ondes qui en provienent. Et il en faut concevoir de mesme autour de chaque point de la sur-

the province of the contrained of the contrained

Jarce Successimements





Volcano deformation seen from sp

Image of an earthquake

SOURNAL

Sulfting out transcription factors Tropleal cradle for biodiversity Seismological detection of a mantle plume?

SCIENCE



1993

NTERNATIONAL

SAR SLC observations





SLC: Single-Look Complex data

 Single-look: no averaging, finest spatial resolution

•Complex: both real and imaginary (In-phase and quadrature phase) stored Coherent imaging

$$y_1 = \frac{|y_1|}{|y_1|} \exp(j\psi_1)$$

- Amplitude

Phase

Uninterpretable, due to scattering mechanism



Intuitive approach: geometry



Radar Interferometry



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Range

Expressed as phase (radians)





Two satellites: the 'baseline'



Figure B.2 Definition of the baseline parameters. (a) parallel/perpendicular; (b) horizontal/vertical; (c) length/orientation; Position 1 is the reference position. $B_{\parallel} > 0$ when $R_1 > R_2$, where R_i is the corresponding slant range. The angle α is defined counter-clockwise from the reference satellite (1), starting from the horizontal at the side of the look direction.





Example Reference Phase





Topographic Phase

Interferometric phase

reference (flat Earth) phase

= topographic phase

Example in 2D: interferogram



Interferometry: deriving the equations





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This equation holds for dual-pass InSAR

34



 t_1

(Far-field approximation)



Topographic Phase

Interferometric phase

reference (flat Earth) phase

= topographic phase





Height ambiguity

$$H_p = -\frac{\lambda R_1 \sin \theta^\circ}{4\pi B_\perp} \partial \phi$$

Height difference related to 1 phase cycle:



Baseline dependency, height ambiguity




Baseline dependency, height ambiguity







Baseline dependency, height ambiguity



Bperp 173 m, Bt= 1day

H_{2pi}=45m



Slant Range

Bperp 531 m, Bt= 1 day H_{2pi} =16m



Slant Range









Mauna Loa, Hawaii

- Deformation (inflation) of the Mauna Loa summit
- Position of the magma chamber better determined

...Very sensitive to deformation

Subsidence Las Vegas due to ground water extraction





Image: Falk Amelung









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InSAR data processing









Coregistration principle

The images on your computer: equal size but not matching:





Coregistration principle









Coregistration

Sampling is different for the two acquisitions



Master



Slave

Use amplitude cross-correlation



Master-Slave Offsets



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Fit a polynomial, and remove outliers

Resampling



- Use polynomial to calculate position of each master pixel in slave
- Interpolate value in slave





 Interpolation kernel should cover main spectrum, and minimal amount of replica's





Filtering - Range

• Required to remove non-overlapping spectral parts



The convolution of two spectra with a distinct signal (S_1, S_2) and noise (N_1, N_2) component, where $\mathscr{F}(s_1) = S_1$. In the convolution (the product of the original data), the noise components n_1 and n_2 appear smeared over the spectrum.

• Wavenumber shift is baseline dependent



Interferogram formation

$$y_1 y_2^* = |y_1| e^{j\varphi_1} |y_2| e^{-j\varphi_2} = |y_1| |y_2| e^{j(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)}$$



Phase contributions: reference surface+topography+deformation+atmosphere+noise





Phase contributions: **topography**+deformation+atmosphere+noise



Phase ambiguity estimation

(AKA Phase unwrapping. Essentially means counting fringes)







June 2, 2016

Unwrapping Phase Images



General approach

- Strictly: phase unwrapping is ill-posed problem (not possible to obtain unique solution)
- Heuristic approach: assumption of Nyquist criterion: sampling rate is high enough to avoid aliasing
- In other words:

True (unwrapped) phase values of neighboring pixels assumed to lie with one-half cycle



Forward problem

• Define the <u>Wrapping operator</u>:

$$\psi = W\{\phi\} = \operatorname{mod}\{\phi + \pi, 2\pi\} - \pi \qquad \in [-\pi, \pi).$$

Inverse problem

• Main condition for wrapped phase gradients:

 $|\Delta \psi(x)| = |\psi(x+1) - \psi(x)| < \pi$

• Phase unwrapping is the integration of phase gradients





- Key to phase unwrapping:
 - not: directly estimating unwrapped phase, but...
 - Estimating the phase differences between them (phase gradients)
- Problems occur due to additive phase noise (decorrelation) or high spatial frequency phase variation



2D phase unwrapping

define discrete equivalents to partial derivatives of a function F as

$$\Delta_i F(i,k) = F(i+1,k) - F(i,k)$$
$$\Delta_k F(i,k) = F(i,k+1) - F(i,k)$$

and compact them into gradient notation:

$$\nabla F(i,k) = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_i F(i,k) \\ \Delta_k F(i,k) \end{pmatrix}$$





Suppose 2D vector field $A = \begin{pmatrix} A_i \\ A_k \end{pmatrix}$

Definition of *curl* :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta_i \\ \Delta_k \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} A_i(i,k) \\ A_k(i,k) \end{pmatrix} = \Delta_i A_k(i,k) - \Delta_k A_i(i,k)$$

= $[A_k(i+1,k) - A_k(i,k)] - [A_i(i,k+1) - A_i(i,k)]$
= $A_k(i+1,k) - A_k(i,k) - A_i(i,k+1) + A_i(i,k)$

June 2, 2016



Suppose 2D vector field
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A_i \\ A_k \end{pmatrix}$$
 $\nabla F(i, k) = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_i F(i, k) \\ \Delta_k F(i, k) \end{pmatrix}$

Definition of *curl* :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta_i \\ \Delta_k \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} A_i(i,k) \\ A_k(i,k) \end{pmatrix} = \Delta_i A_k(i,k) - \Delta_k A_i(i,k)$$

= $[A_k(i+1,k) - A_k(i,k)] - [A_i(i,k+1) - A_i(i,k)]$
= $A_k(i+1,k) - A_k(i,k) - A_i(i,k+1) + A_i(i,k)$

Assume that $A = \nabla F$

From vector analysis (and potential field theory) it is known that the curl of a gradient field is equal to zero. The gradient field is therefore a **<u>conservative field</u>**.

$$\nabla \times \nabla F = 0$$



$$\nabla \times \nabla F = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_i \\ \Delta_k \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_i F(i,k) \\ \Delta_k F(i,k) \end{pmatrix} = \Delta_i \Delta_k F(i,k) - \Delta_k \Delta_i F(i,k) \qquad \nabla F : \forall F = \Delta_i F(i,k) = \Delta_i F(i,k) = \Delta_i F(i,k) = 0$$



Curl of vector gradient of scalar potential *F* is identically zero.



 In phase unwrapping: the vector gradient field of the <u>unwrapped</u> <u>phase</u> is necessarily zero (every closed loop integral is zero)

$$\nabla \times \nabla F = 0$$

•The unwrapped phase field is thus completely specified, up to an additive constant

•However, the vector gradient field of the <u>wrapped</u> phase can be nonconservative (closed-loop integrals can give non-zero results)

 $\nabla \times \hat{\nabla} \psi \neq 0$



Ascending and descending, by M.C. Escher

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Neutral

Result is path independent



Example residue



Positive residue

Result is path dependent











Unloaded residue pair

Positive residue Negative residue





Figure 11. Wrapped phase (grey), residues (green, red), and branch-cuts (blue, multiple cuts: pink) found by a minimum cost flow algorithm. Left: minimization of total branch-cut length (constant costs); note the unrealistic long straight branch-cuts. Centre: minimization of a cost function derived from the phase gradient and its variance; the branch-cuts are guided along the ridges of the mountains (visible as bright areas in the intensity SAR image of the same area (right)).



Terrain motion

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Previous lecture: Learning objectives

- Interferometry: intuitive approach, physical approach
- Understanding sensitivity
- Basic observables and variables, concepts
- Practical data processing
- Quality control



Learning objectives 2nd lecture

- Interferogram interpretation
- Quality control InSAR
- Time series techniques: PSI, SBAS
- PSI interpretation and example HB



Interferogram interpretation



24 Aug 2014, Napa Valley, M6.0 earthquake. 7-31 Aug Sentinel-1a

Processing by P. Marinkovic and Y.Larsen





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'Computer' datum: Data file / matrix

Binary data file



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Summary

- Descending image (morning acquisitions) are <u>flipped left-right!</u>
- Ascending image (evening acquisitions) are *flipped up-down!*



Interpretation: On the sign of the phase



-image on the right is standard output Doris (independent of descending or ascending image)



96





Interpretation: On the sign of the phase

FIRST, consider the TIMES of the images!!!

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We perform: MASTER – SLAVE
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CHECK: t_{master} < t_{slave}
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If YES: range increase $(\mathbf{R}_{t1} < \mathbf{R}_{t2})$

 \rightarrow phase decrease ($\varphi_{t1} > \varphi_{t2}$)

→interferometric phase increase ($\varphi_{t1} - \varphi_{t2} > 0$)

 $D = -\frac{\lambda}{4\pi}\phi$



Interpretation: On the sign of the phase





Interpretation: On the sign of the phase



Quality control

• The Stochastic Model for InSAR



Model of observation equations (1) Functional model:

$$\begin{array}{l} \partial \phi_p = -\frac{4\pi}{\lambda} (D_p + \frac{B_\perp}{R_1 \sin \theta^\circ} H_p) \\ \hline \textbf{Observation} & \textbf{Unknowns} \\ \hline \textbf{Rank deficiency!} & \textbf{Often treated opportunistically} \\ \hline \textbf{Stochastic model:} \\ Q_\phi = \sigma_\phi^2 I_n & \textbf{Based on thermal (instrumental) noise} \\ \hline \textbf{This is too much simplified, let's} \end{array}$$

make it more realistic!



Model of observation equations (2)

- Add unknown parameter:
 - Phase ambiguity

Integer valued unknown

$$\partial \phi_p = -\frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \left(D_p + \frac{B_\perp}{R_1 \sin \theta^\circ} H_p \right) + 2\pi \frac{k}{R_1}$$

- Add error signal to stochastic model:
 - Atmosphere (troposphere, ionosphere)



Main condition for interferometry

Coherence!



Coherence (Complex Correlation)

• Definition:

$$\gamma = \frac{E\{y_1 y_2^*\}}{\sqrt{E\{|y_1|^2\} \cdot E\{|y_2|^2\}}}$$

• Estimation of coherence magnitude:

$$|\hat{\gamma}| = \frac{|\sum_{n=1}^{N} y_1^{(n)} y_2^{(n)} \cdot e^{-j\phi^{(n)}}|}{\sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^{N} |y_1^{(n)}|^2 \sum_{n=1}^{N} |y_2^{(n)}|^2}}$$

 Coherence magnitude is a measure of the correlation (values 0 – 1)



Coherence loss as function of time 1 day interval



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Anthropogenic features remain coherent over long time intervals

Coherence, multilooks, and phase PDF



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Temporal Decorrelation



Distributed scatterer pixel

If scatterers move with respect to each other, the phase sum changes









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Source: H.Zebker



Coherence as function of wavelength



Source: H.Zebker

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Results SIR-C mission, Simultaneous C and L band $\Delta T=6$ months

C-Band $\lambda = 5.6$ cm





0 Correlation 1 1 Vegetation 0

Error sources

- Decorrelation
- Atmosphere
- Orbit error
- DEM error



Structure of Atmosphere



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Ionospheric refractivity

 $N(x,z,t) = -4.03 \cdot 10^7 n_e/f^2$

- n_e = number of electrons f = electromagnetic free
 - = electromagnetic frequency

- Delay due to free electrons
- Dispersive (frequency-dependent): ✓ How many times worse is L-band than C-band?


Ionospheric Delay

IONOSPHERIC PROPAGATION ERROR (EUROPE) at 10.01.97



Wenchuan Earthquake, L-Band



lonospheric fringes?

Ding et al, ALOS Symposium, 2008



Range offsets

Azimuth offsets



High-Latitude Azimuth offsets



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Meyer and Nicoll, Fringe 2007

Structure of Atmosphere



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Tropospheric Refractivity

$$N(\mathbf{x}, z, t) = \frac{P}{k_1 T} + \left(\frac{e}{k_2 T} + \frac{e}{T} + \frac{e}{k_3 T^2}\right) + 1.4W$$

•P=Pressure

•T=Temperature

•e=Partial water vapour pressure

•W=Liquid water

Most spatial variability

Hydrostatic term from surface measurements
Wet delay term (sensitivity 4-20 times higher for WV than for T)
Liquid term limited (<5%)







Spatial variability of water vapour



Tropospheric signal





Temporal variability in water vapour

In the presence of topography, changes in the refractivity between the two acquisitions will cause an interferometric phase even if no spatial variability





Change in refractivity profile



✓ A difference between I_2 and I_1 will result in a phase offset between p and q

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Error sources

- Decorrelation
- Atmosphere
- Orbit error
- DEM error











Orbit Error Components



Orbit Error Correction







Interferogram

Orbit Correction Estimate

Remaining Phase

Courtesy Herman Baehr





Persistent Scatterer Interferometry









Time-Series approach: Persistent Scatterers

Pixels with strong and consistent (coherent) reflections in time.

Multi-pass InSAR – time series

Estimate atmospheric signal, ambiguities, topography, displacement



Validation experiment

- 5 (4) reflectors, ~200 m spacing
- Monitored March 2003 now
- 3.5 years: ~40 Envisat and ~40 ERS-2 images
- Spirit leveling performed at every acquisition





140



Deformation measurements: time-series approaches

- Evaluation per point: double-differences
- Opportunistic subsets

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Subsets vs Single-master stack













Examples: Nation-wide deformation model





Infrastructure monitoring









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• Measuring rail stability from space











← → C 🔒 https://maps.hansjebrinker.com/maps/184



Rotterdam Cosmo/TSX full frame

Terms of Use 🕕





Point properties

- Point ID: L143039P23524
- Linear: -14.8 mm/yr
- Height: -0.4 m
- Quality: 0.65
- from layer: nl_delft_dsc_tsx_t048

- @ D

☆ 🔘 🗉

Logged in as: ramon | Log out



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160



- Vertical ~1 mm precision
- Horizontal ~4 mm precision



Play with PSI data

- Data set made available by SkyGeo, the Netherlands
- <u>Demo.skygeo.com</u>
- Login:esa_course pw: esa_course7

