

# SAR POLARIMETRY

## Polarimetric Basics

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# RADAR POLARIMETRY



## Objective

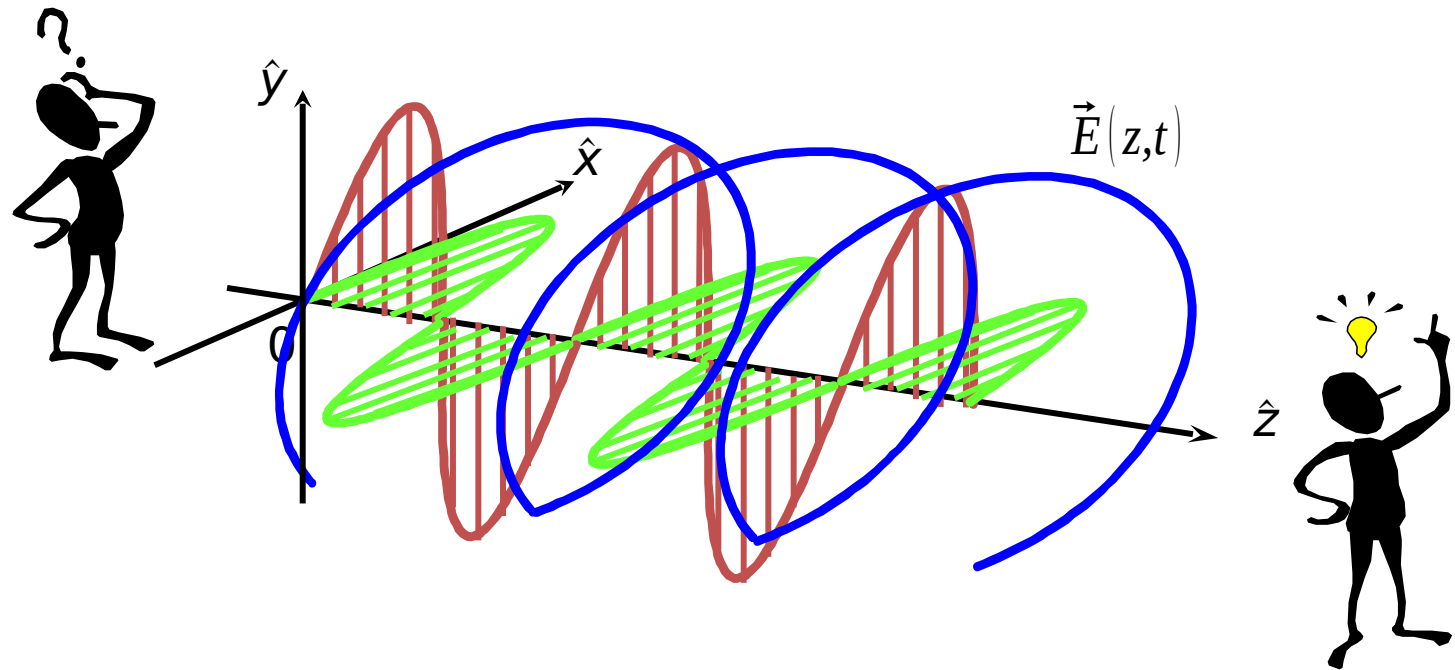
To provide the minimum, but necessary, amount of knowledge required to understand scientific works on :



**SAR Polarimetry (PolSAR)**

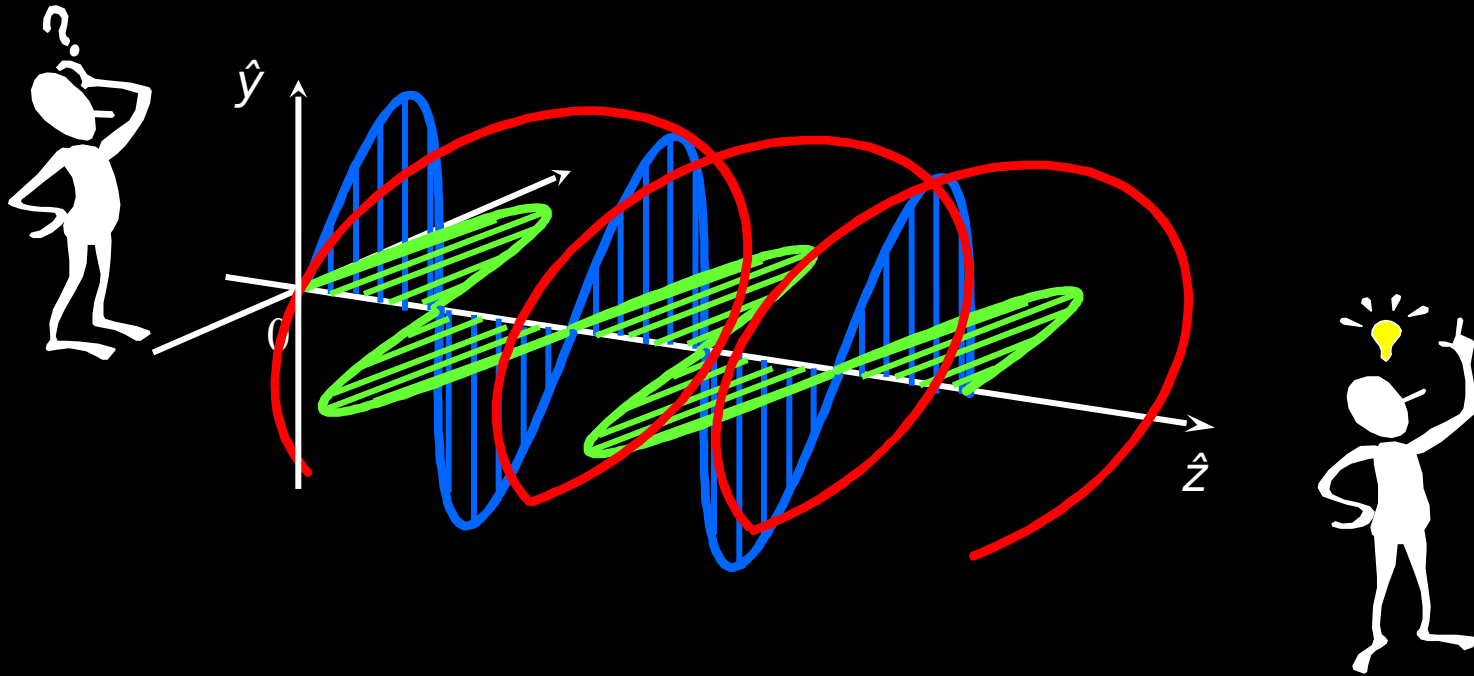
**SAR Polarimetry + Interferometry (Pol-InSAR)**

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



# GENERAL INTRODUCTION

# Radar Polarimetry



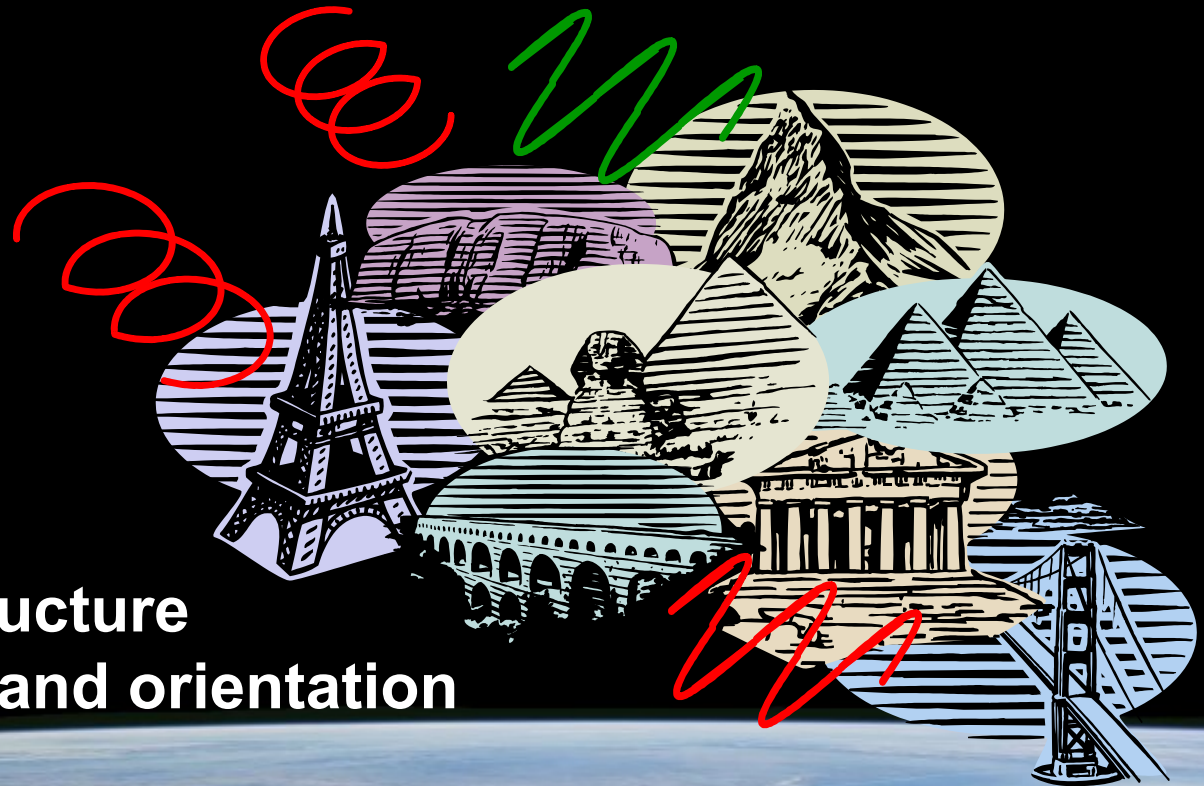
Radar Polarimetry (**Polar : polarisation Metry: measure**) is the science of acquiring, processing and analysing the polarization state of an electromagnetic field

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**

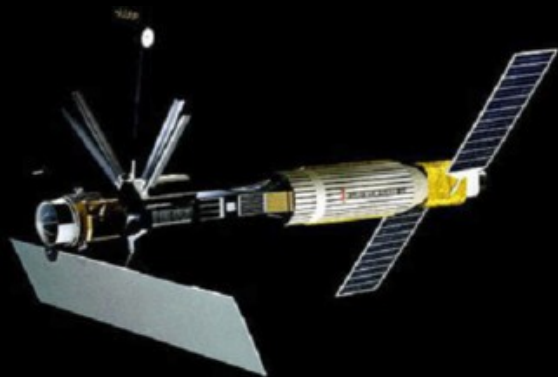
- Geometric Properties
- Dielectric Properties

- Urban Monitoring

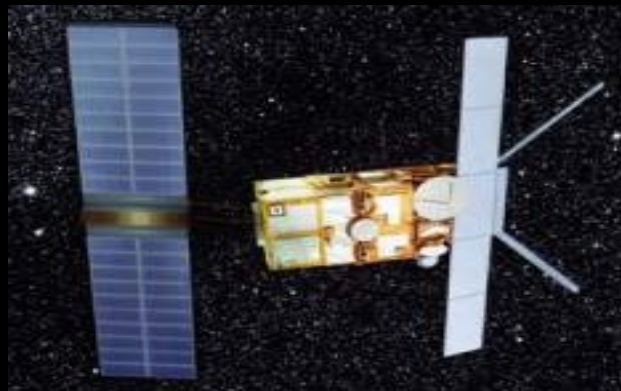


Courtesy of Dr. I. Hajnsek

# Space-borne Sensors



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



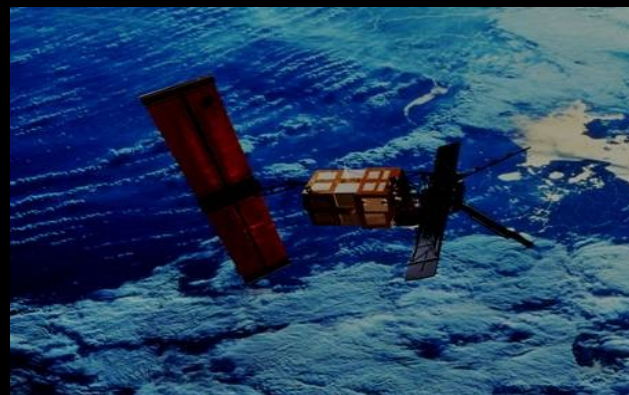
**ERS-1**  
European Space Agency (ESA)  
C-Band, 1991-2000



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



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



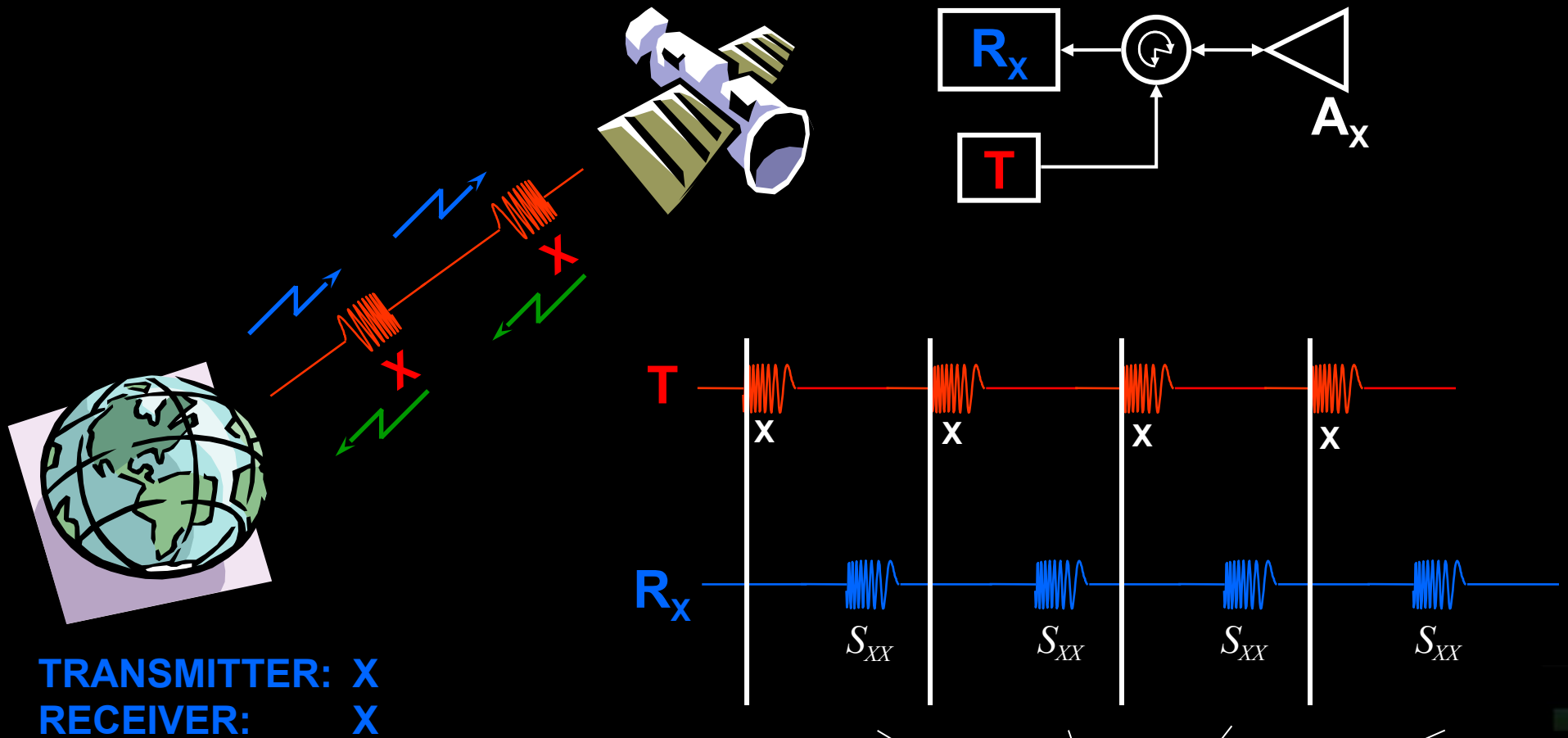
**ERS-2**  
European Space Agency (ESA)  
C-Band, 1995



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



# Scattering Coefficient

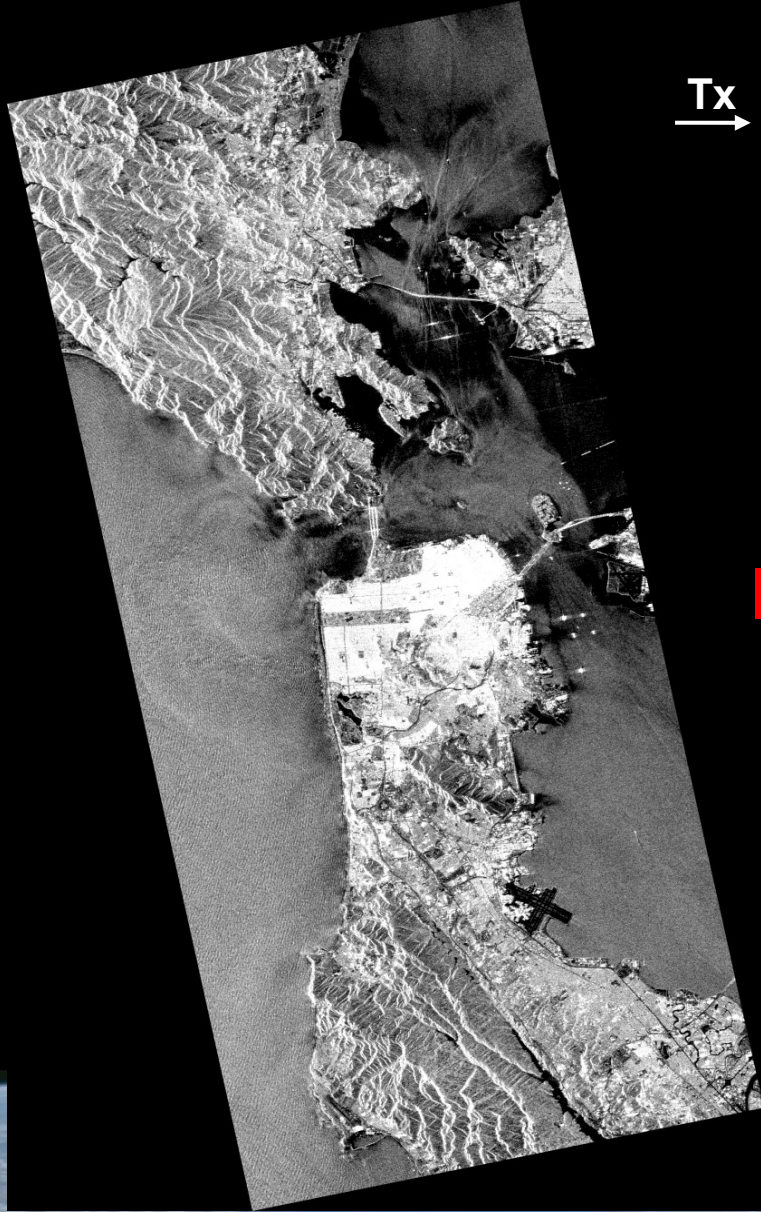


BACKSCATTERING  
COEFFICIENT

$$\{ S_{XX} \}$$

NO POLARIMETRY

# Space-borne Sensors



Tx →

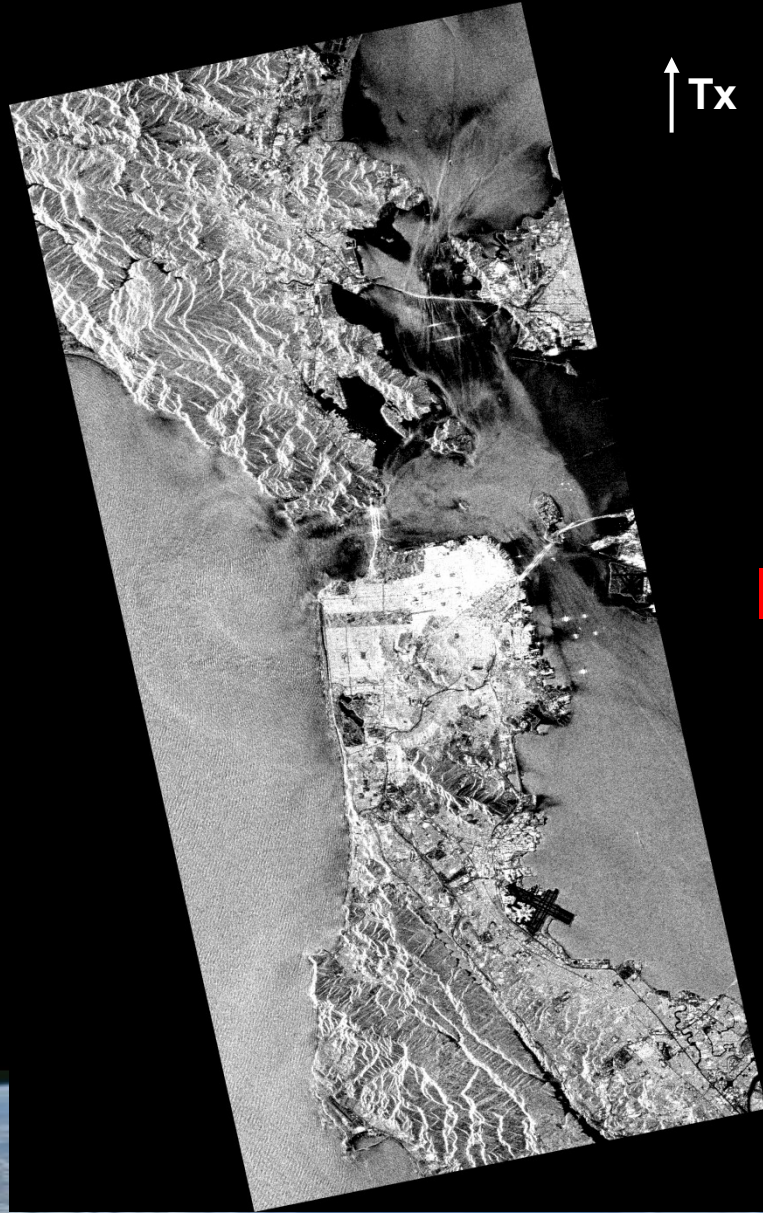
Rx →

$|HH|_{dB}$



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors



↑ Tx

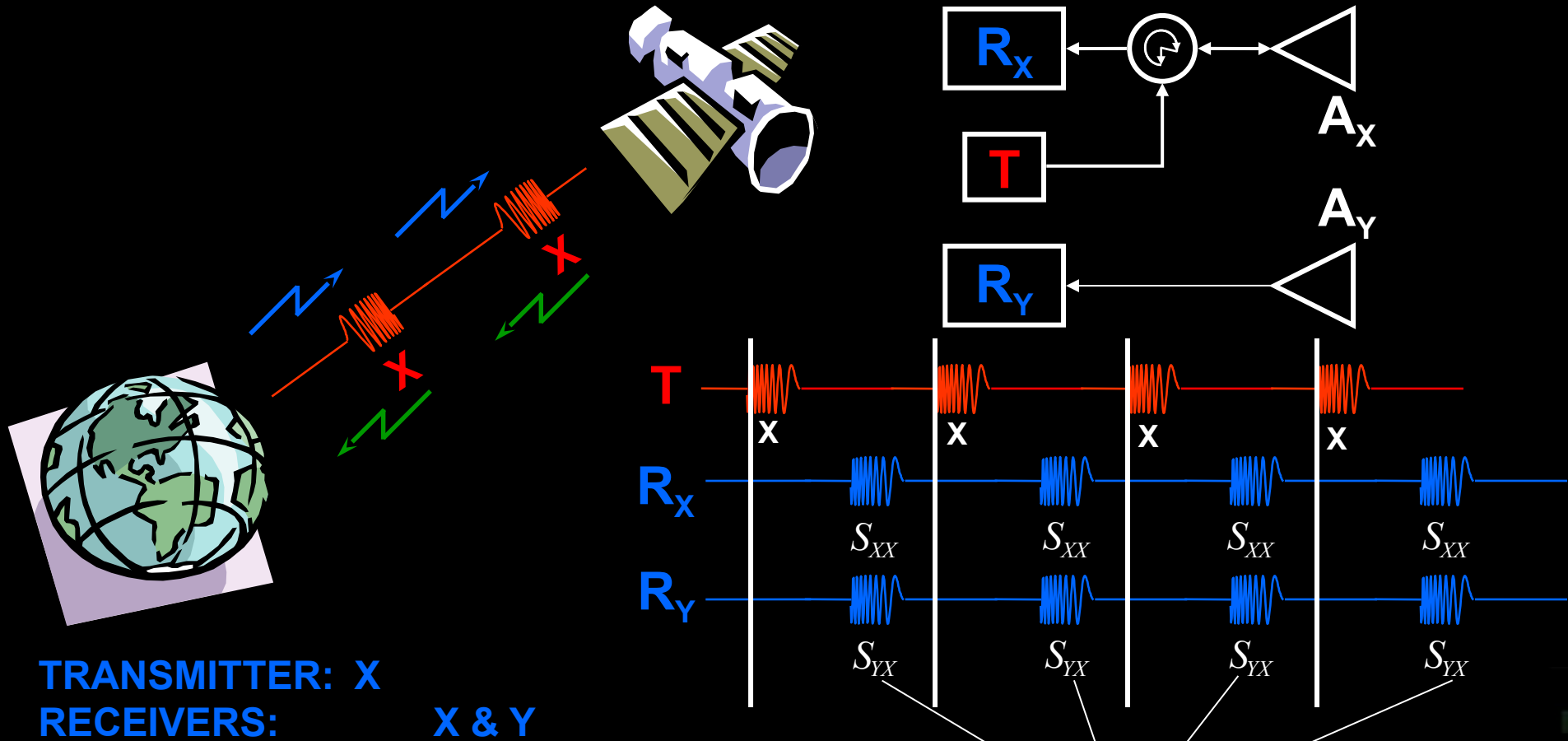
↑ Rx

$|VV|_{dB}$

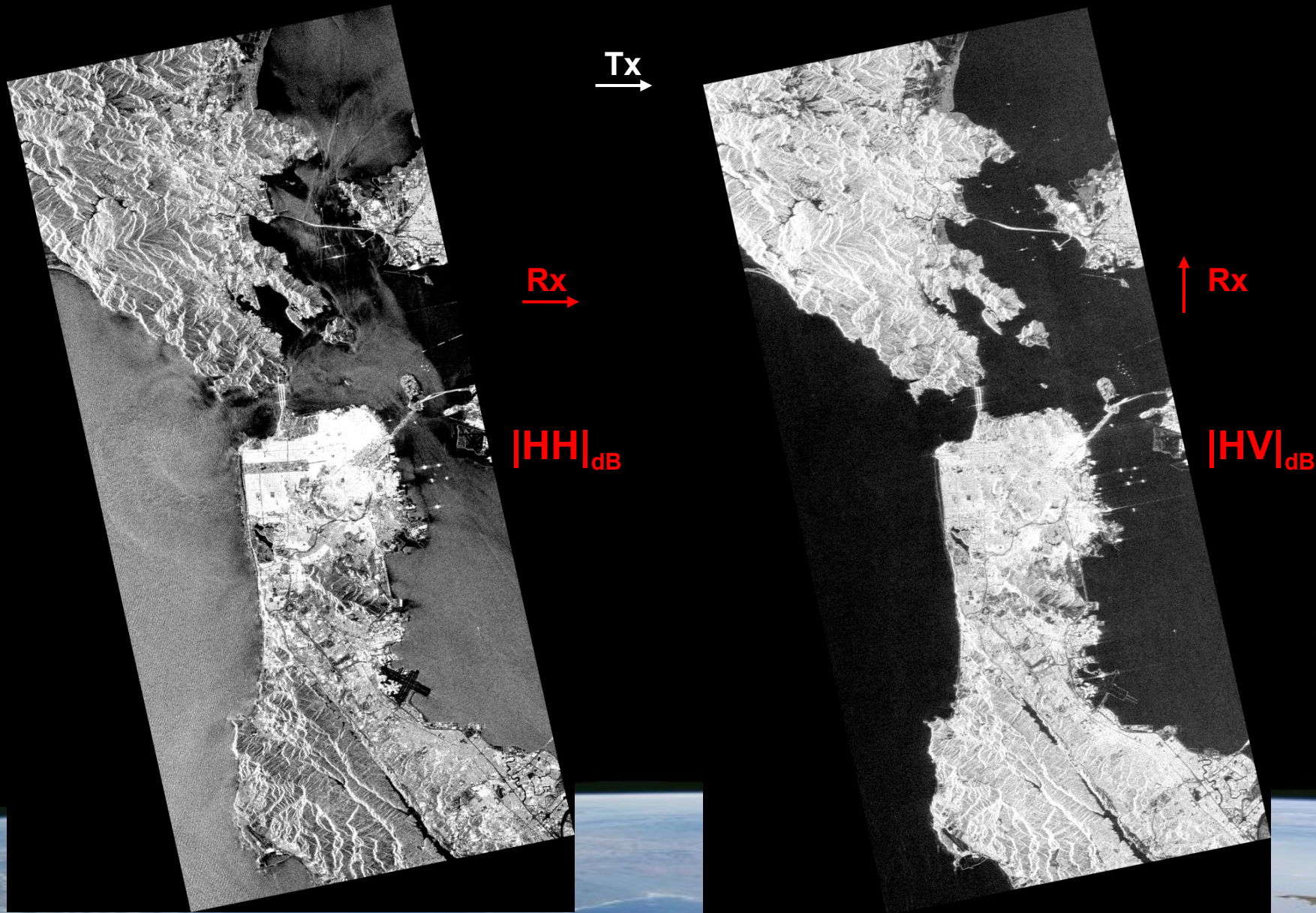


San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Wave Polarimetry



# Space-borne Sensors



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## ENVISAT - ASAR

October 2001  
C-Band (Sngl / Dual Inc)

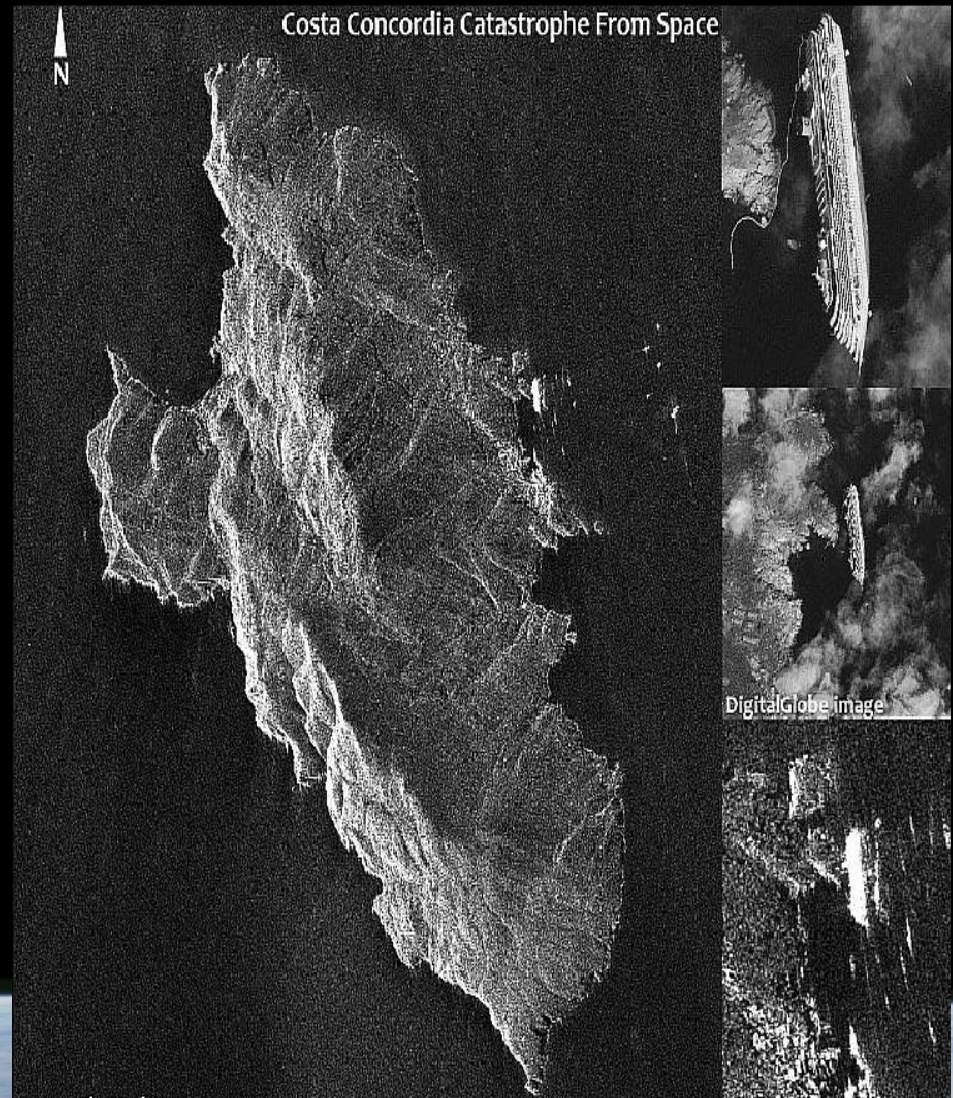


# Space-borne PoISAR Sensors

## COSMO - SkyMed



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



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## TerraSAR - X



June 2007

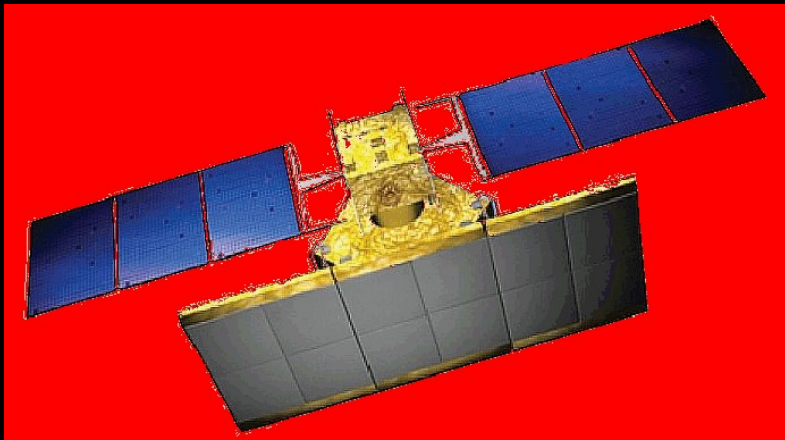
X-Band (Sngl / Twin HH-VV / Quad Exp.)





# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

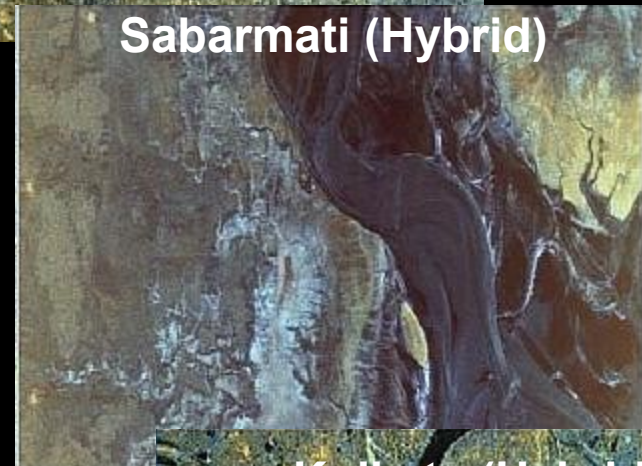
## RISAT-1A



26 April 2012

C-Band (Sngl, Dual, Hybrid)

*Operational since 2015*



# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

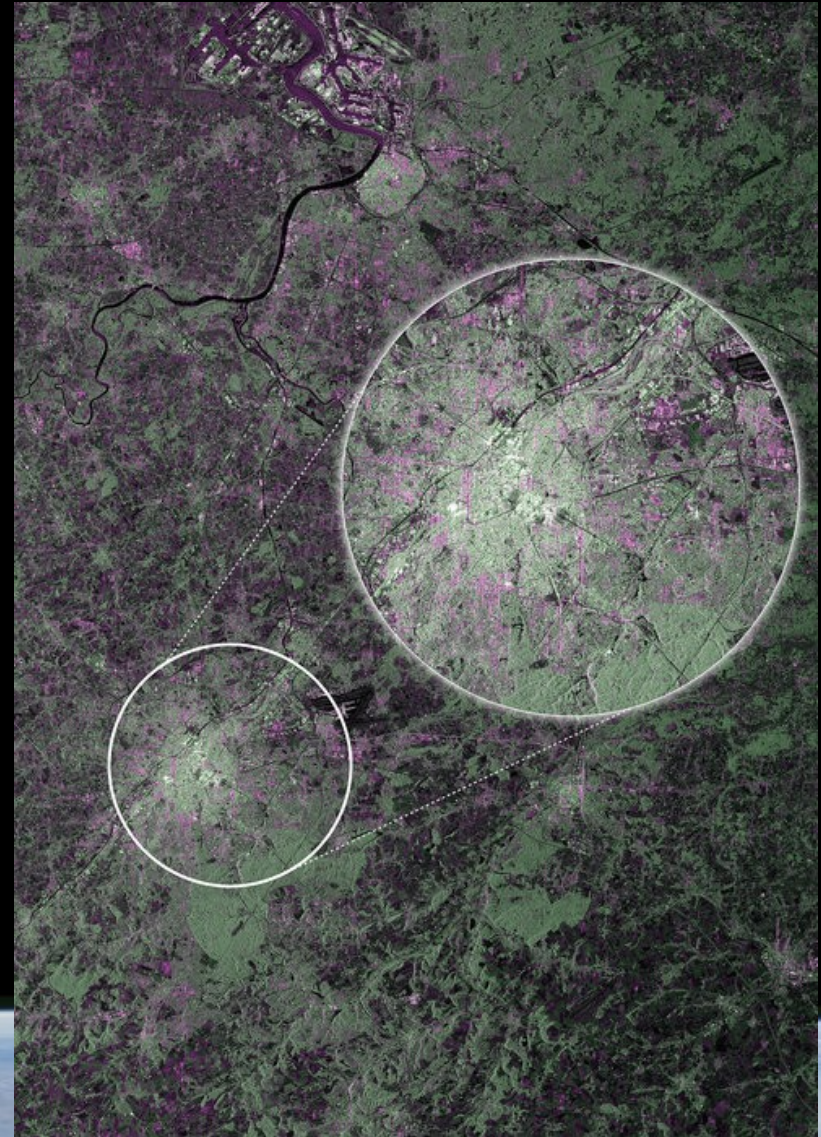
## SENTINEL – 1A



**S1A : April 2014      S1B : April 2016**

**C-Band (Sngl, Dual)**

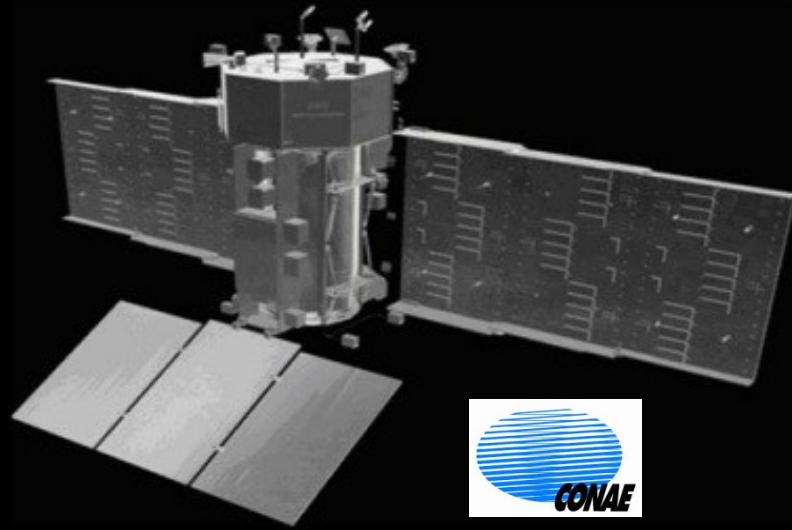
**Revisit : 6 days**



**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)



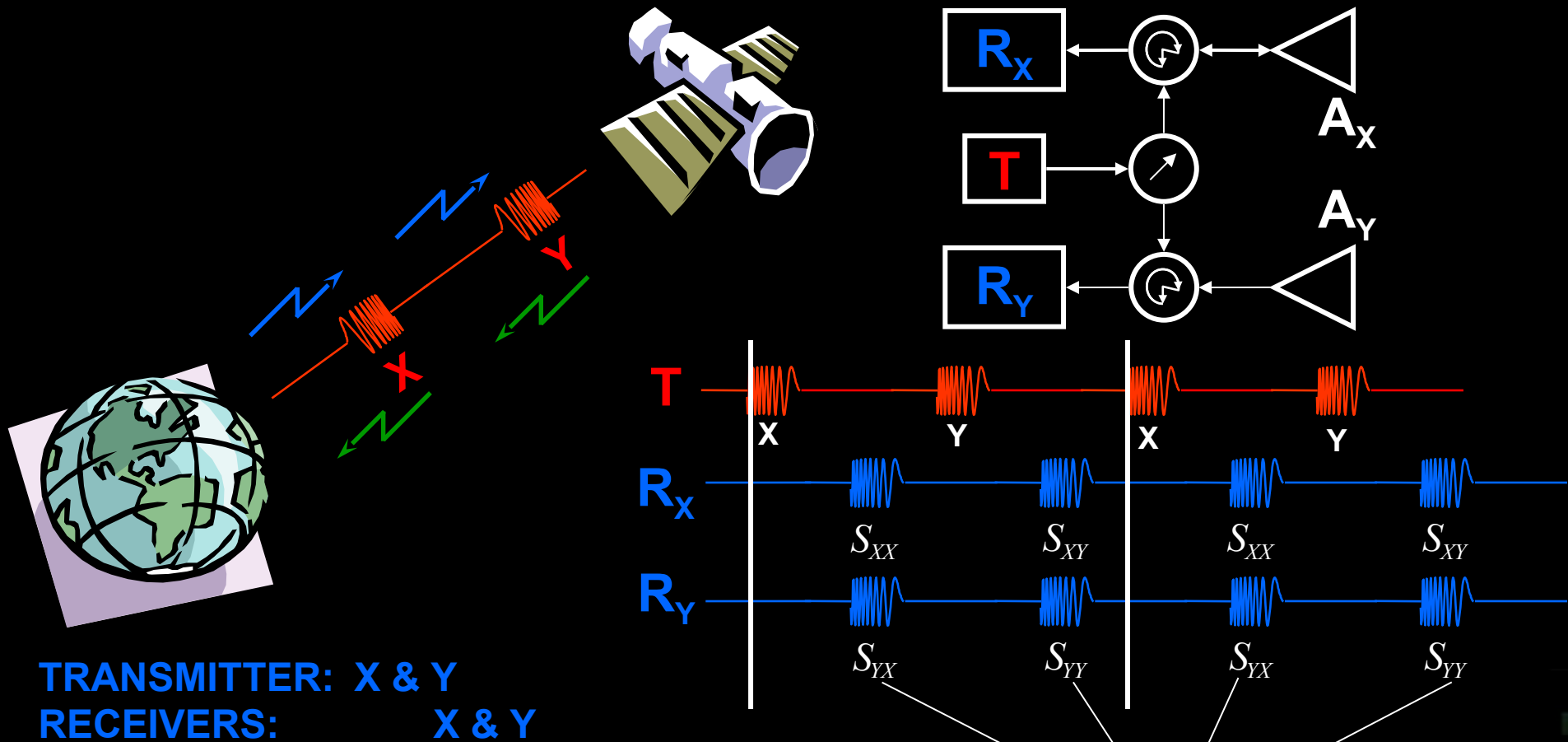
© MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (2013). All Rights Reserved

1A : 2017    1B / 1C : 2018

C-Band (Sngl, Dual, Hybrid)

Revisit : 4 days

# Scattering Polarimetry

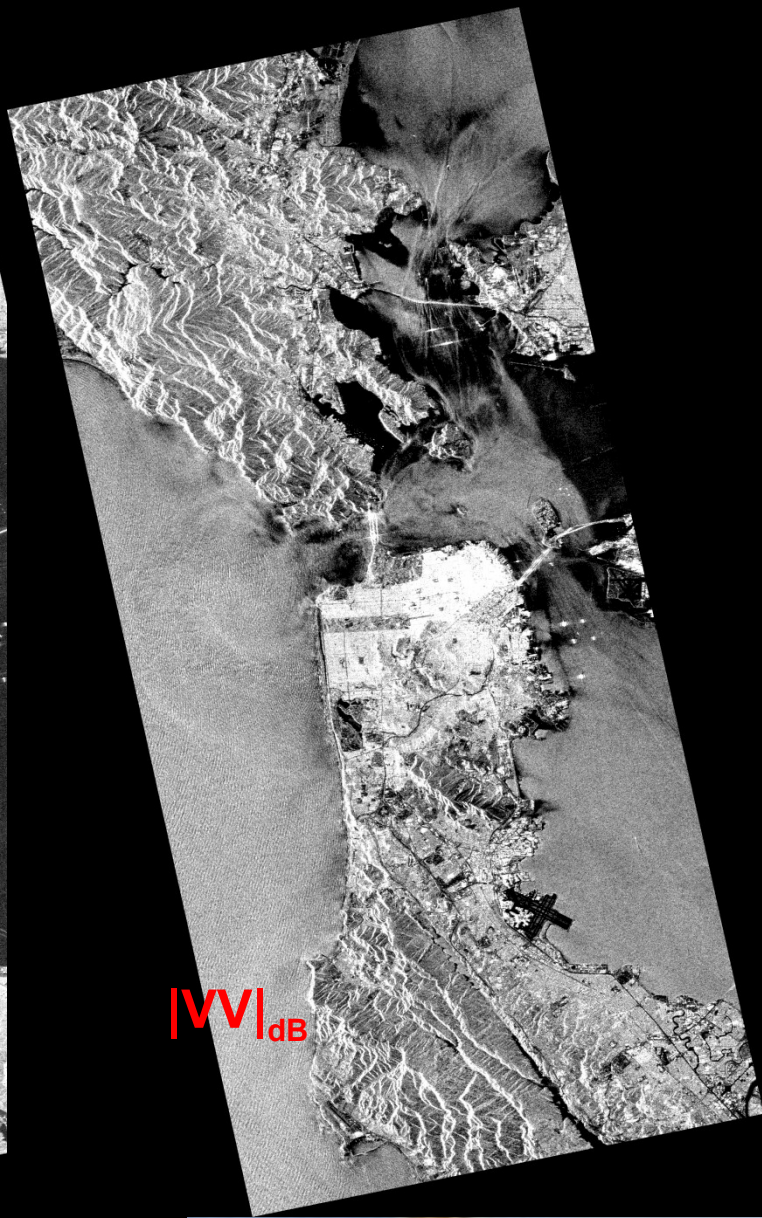
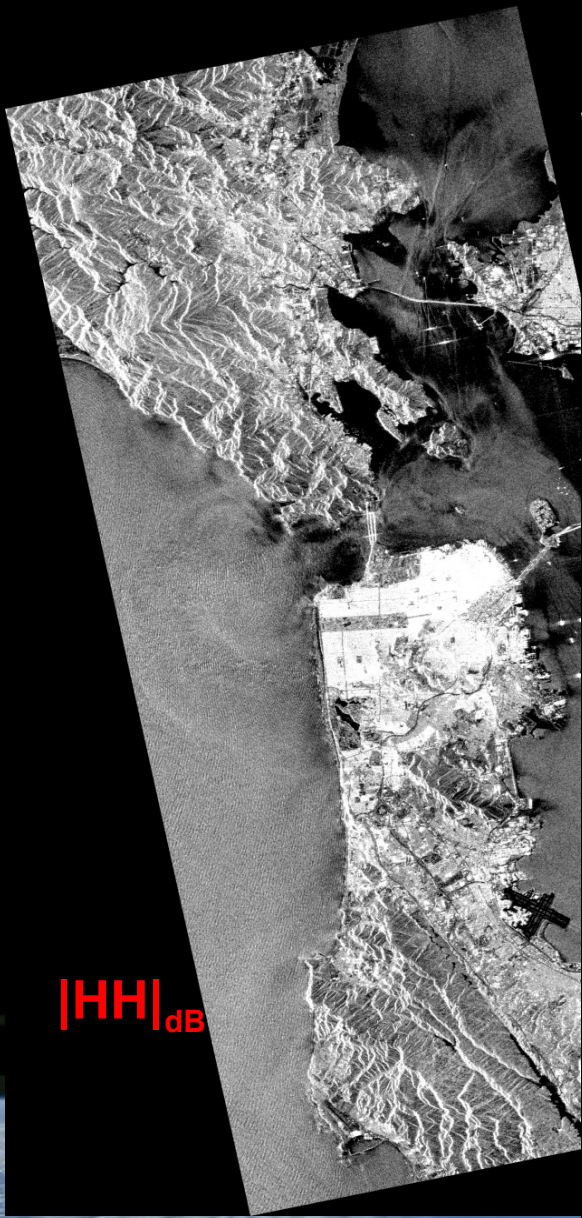


SINCLAIR MATRICES

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

SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

# Space-borne Sensors



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors



$|HH|_{dB}$

$|HV|_{dB}$

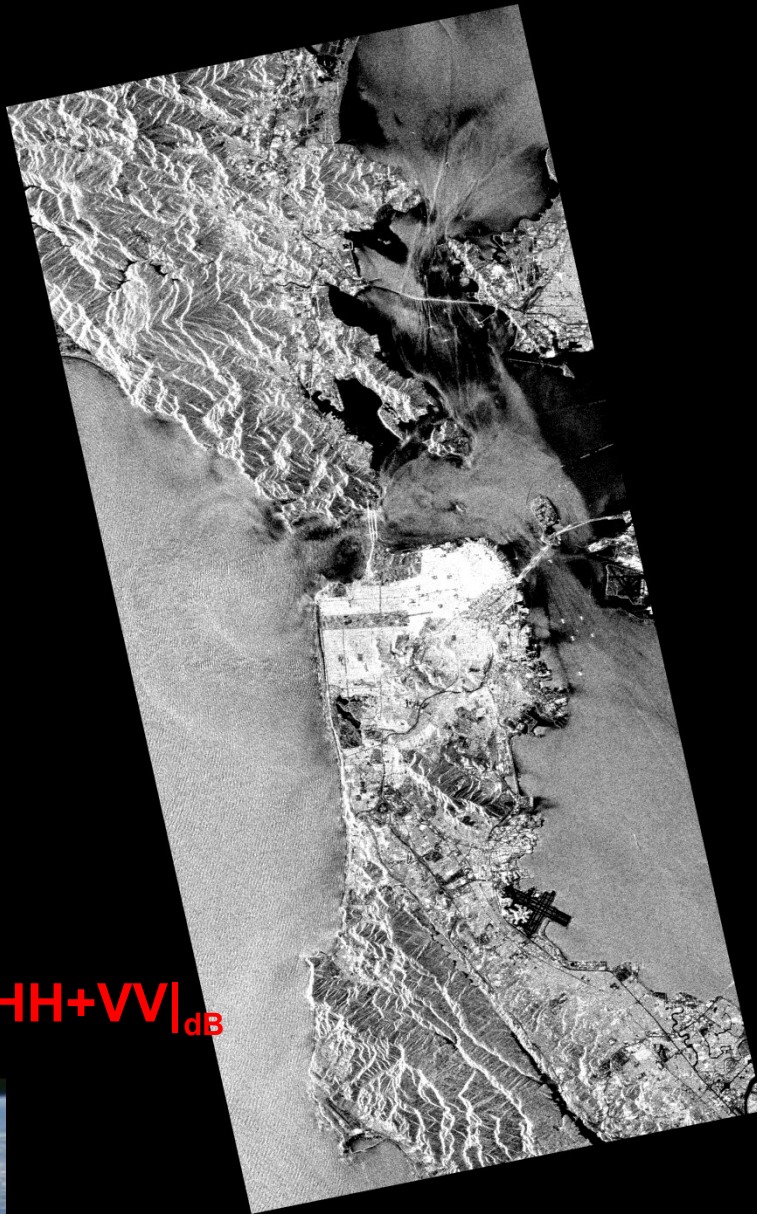
$|VV|_{dB}$



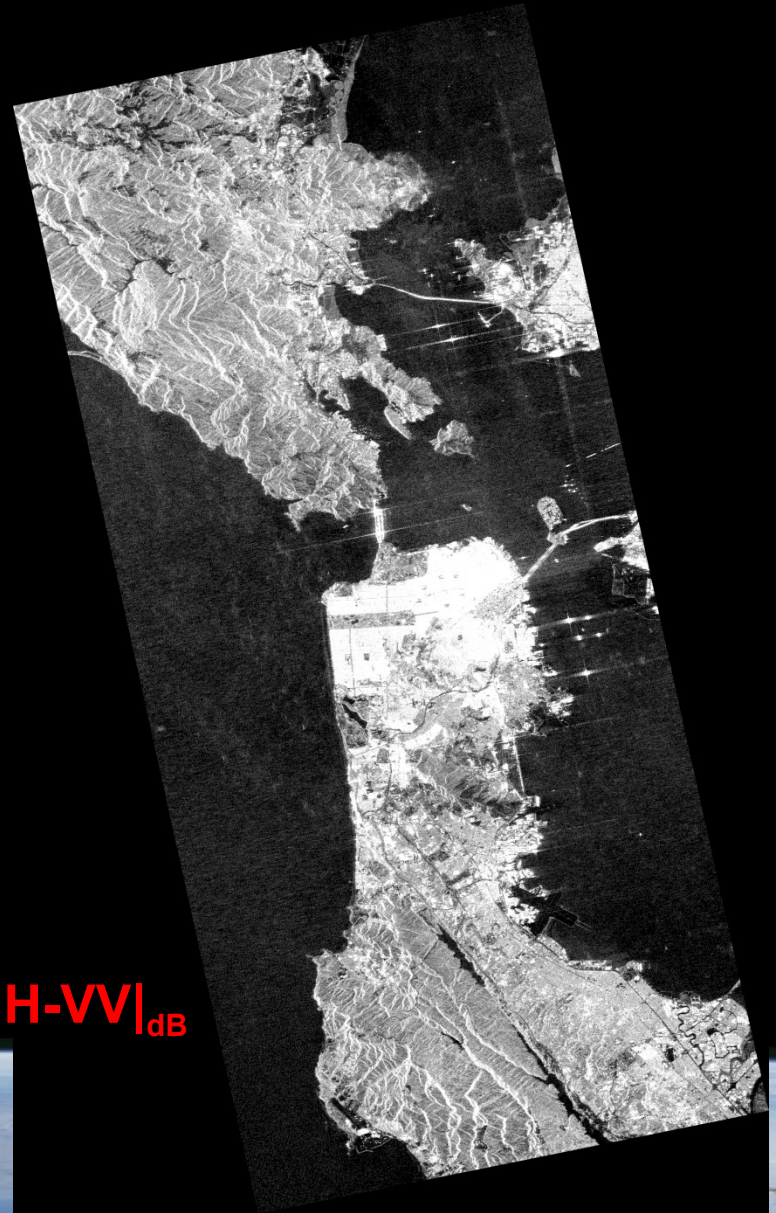
San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors

$|HH+VV|_{dB}$

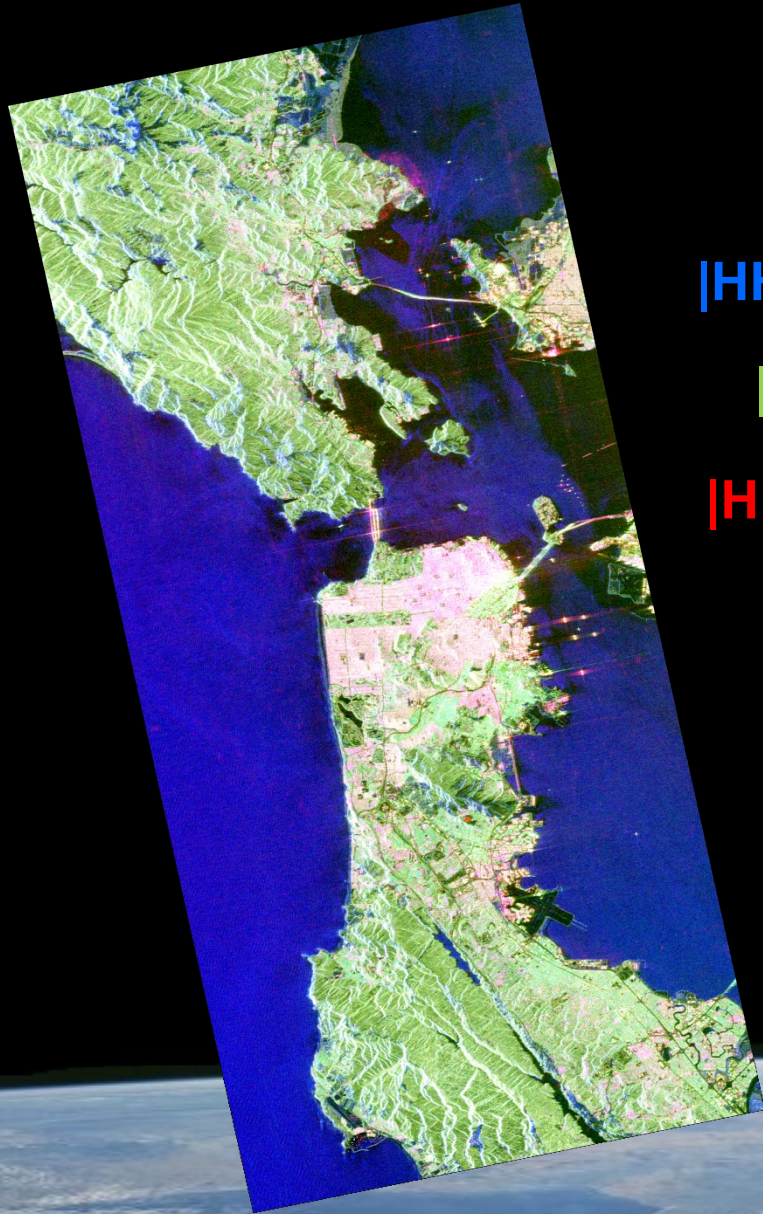


$|HH-VV|_{dB}$



San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

# Space-borne Sensors



$|HH+VV|_{dB}$

$|HV|_{dB}$

$|HH-VV|_{dB}$

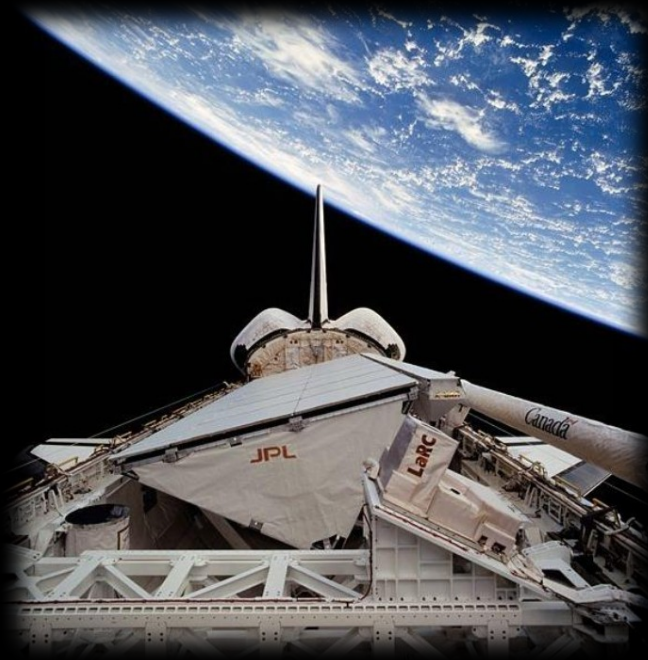


San Francisco Bay – (L-Band)

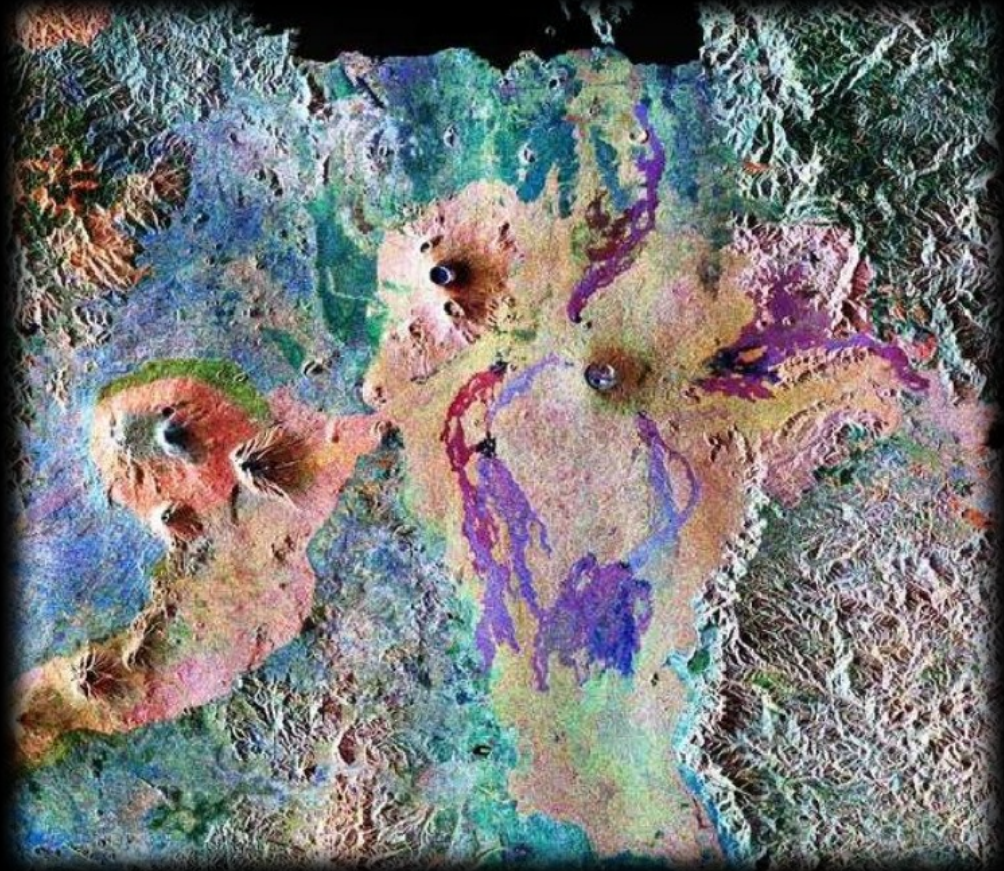


# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## 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

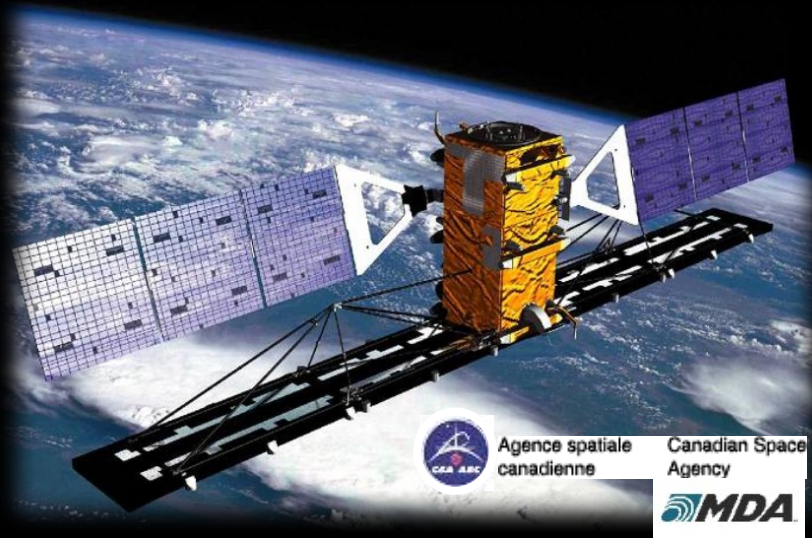
L-Band (Sngl / Twin / Quad)



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

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

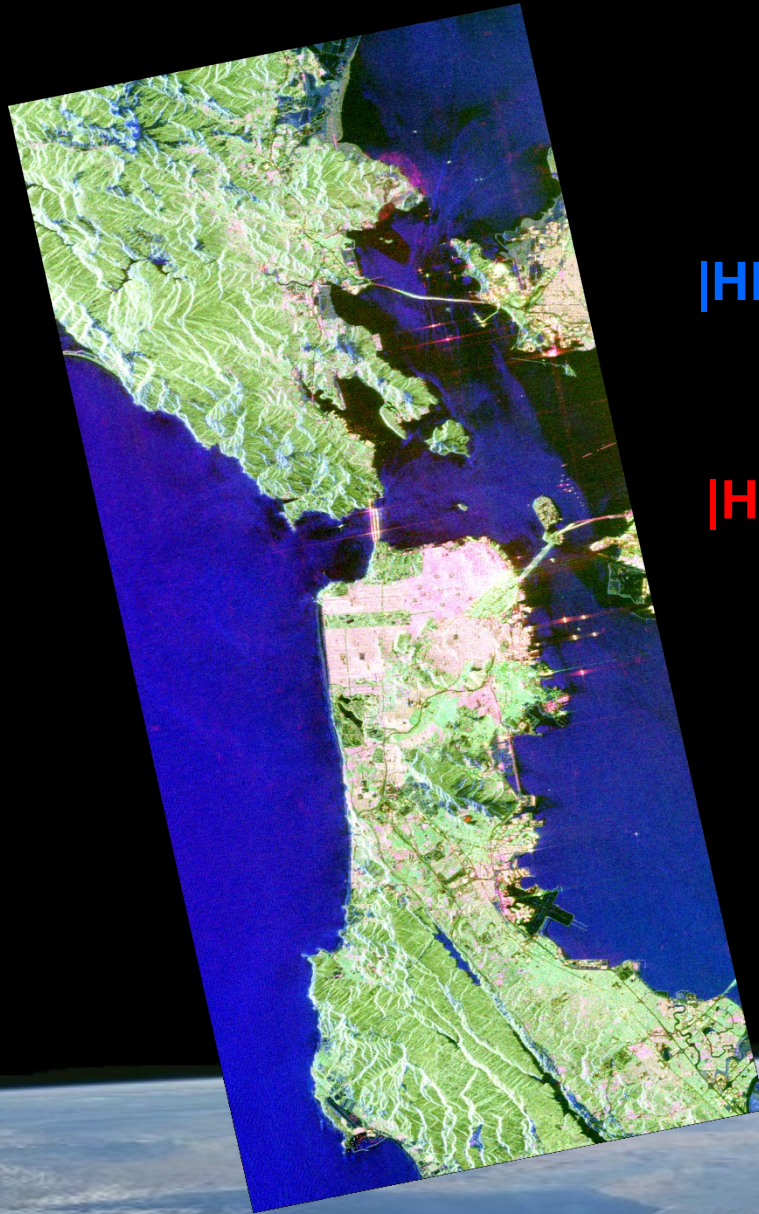
## RADARSAT - 2



December 2007  
C-Band (Quad)



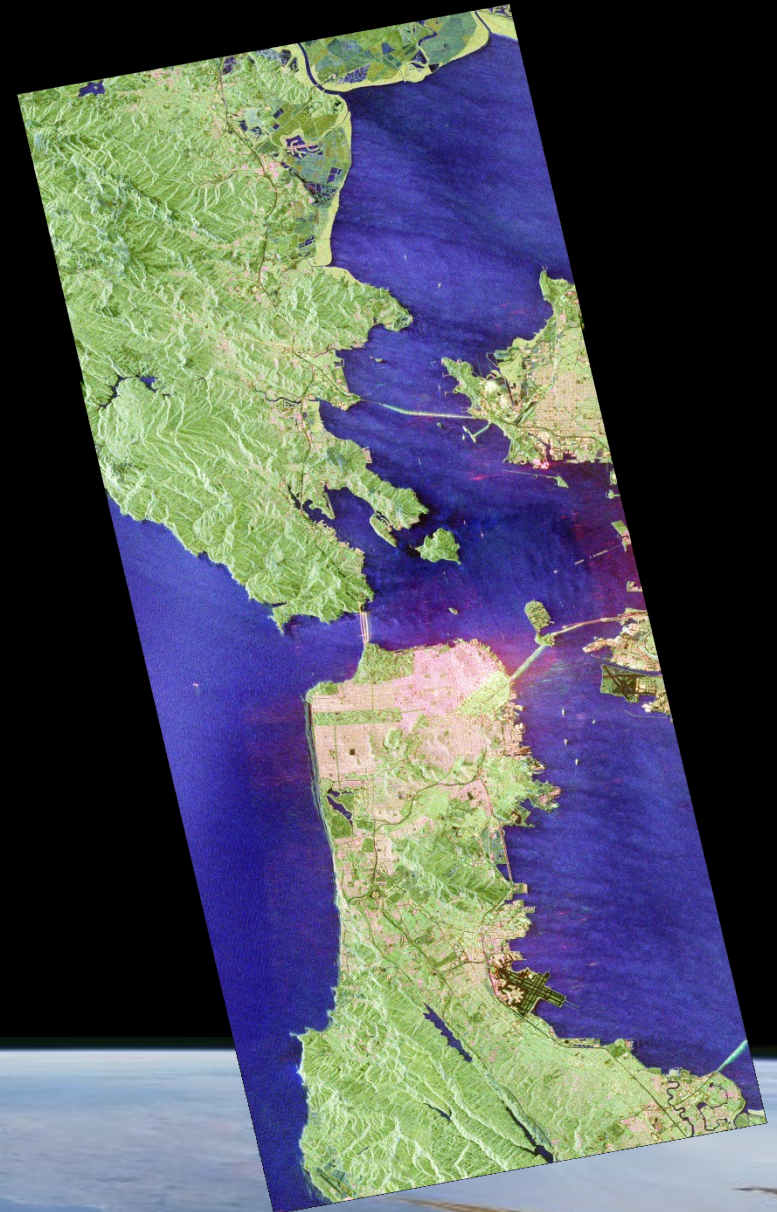
# Space-borne Sensors



$|HH+VV|_{dB}$

$|HV|_{dB}$

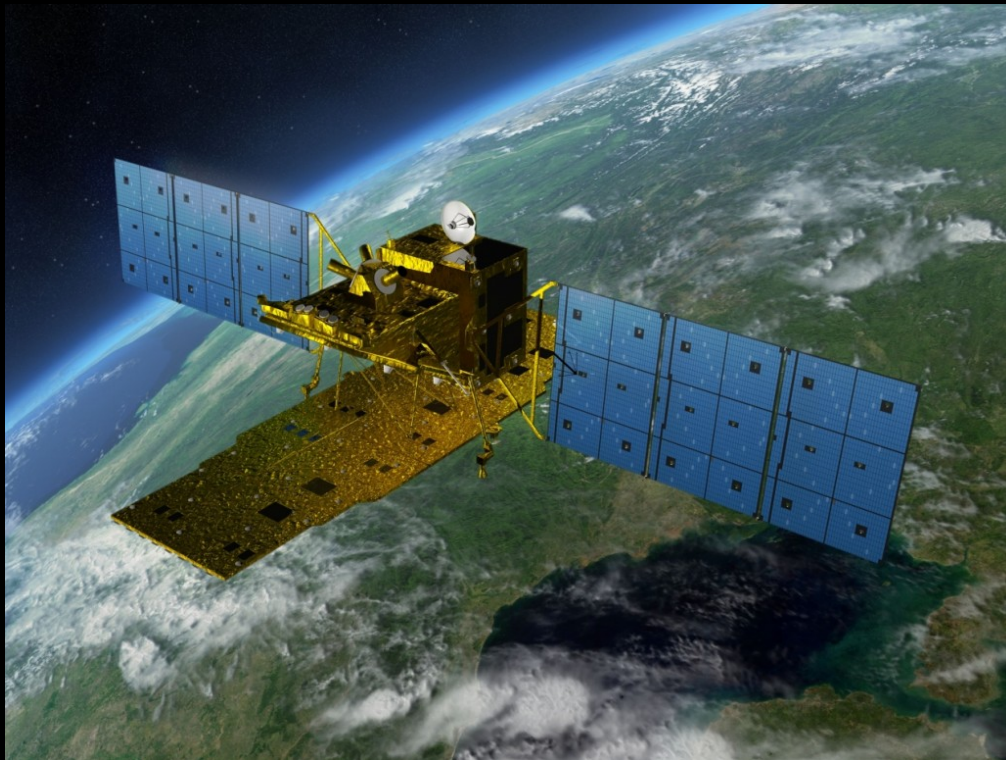
$|HH-VV|_{dB}$



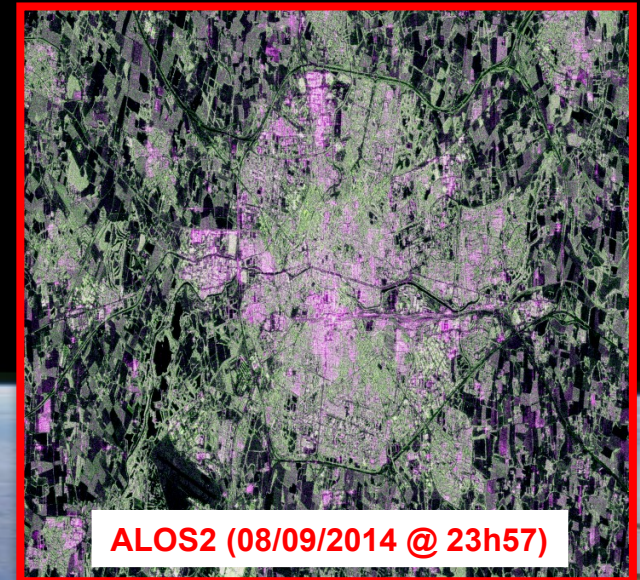
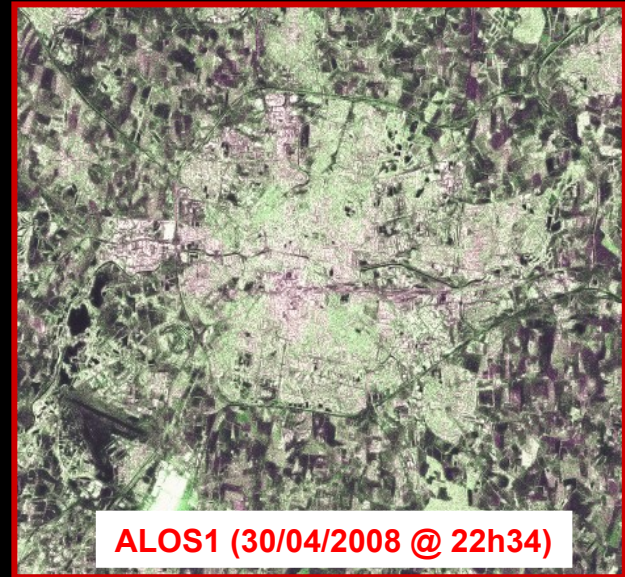
San Francisco Bay – (L-Band and C-Band)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

**ALOS - 2**



**May 2014**  
**L-Band (Quad)**



# 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



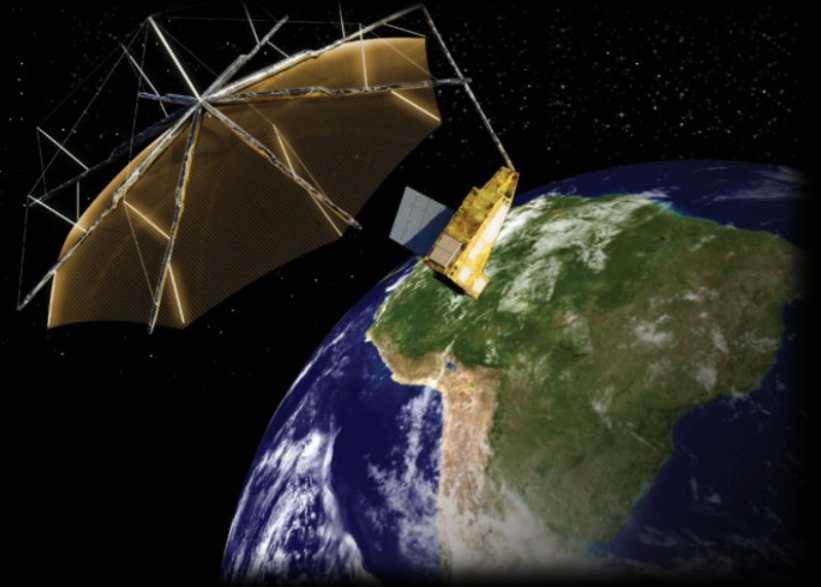
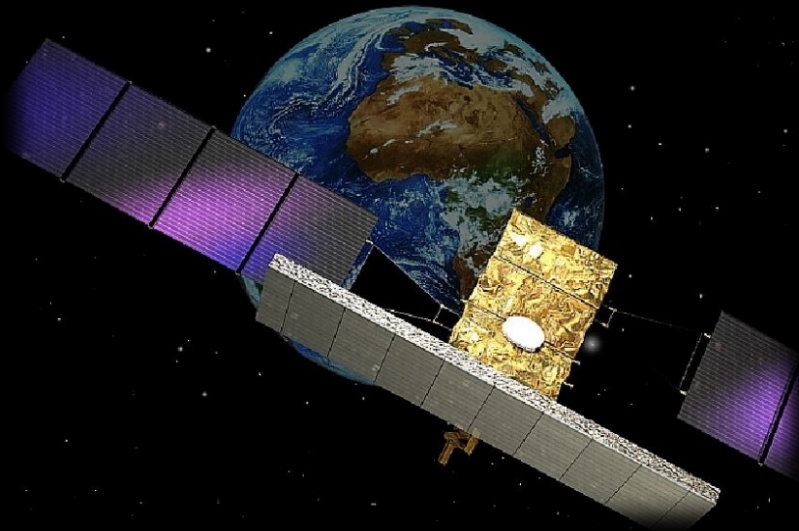
Beijing - 2017

© L. Ferro-Famil & E. Pottier (2022)

# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

**COSMO - SkyMed - CSG**

**Earth Explorer - BIOMASS**



**2A : 2018    2B : 2019**

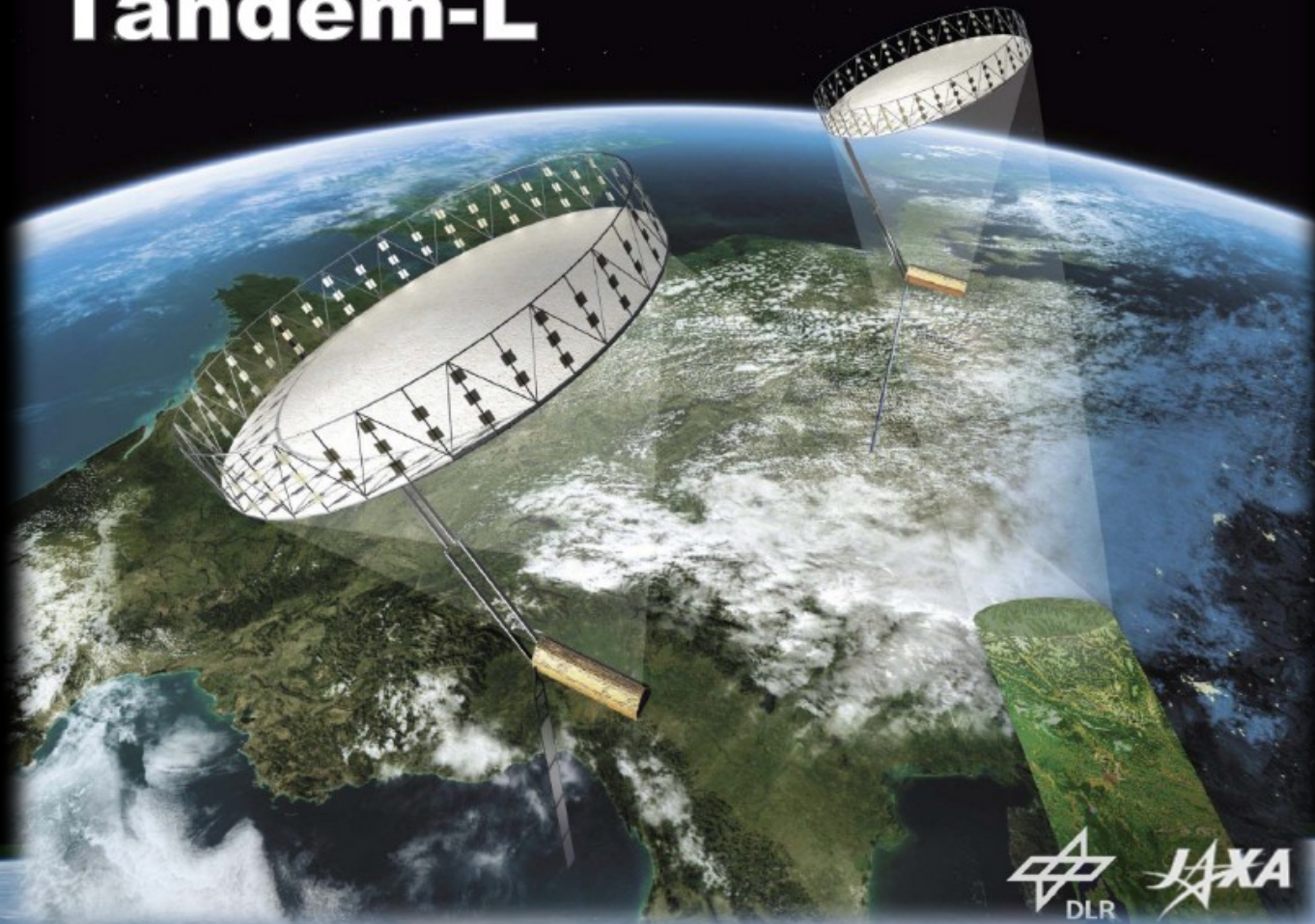
**2021**

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

**P-Band (Quad)**

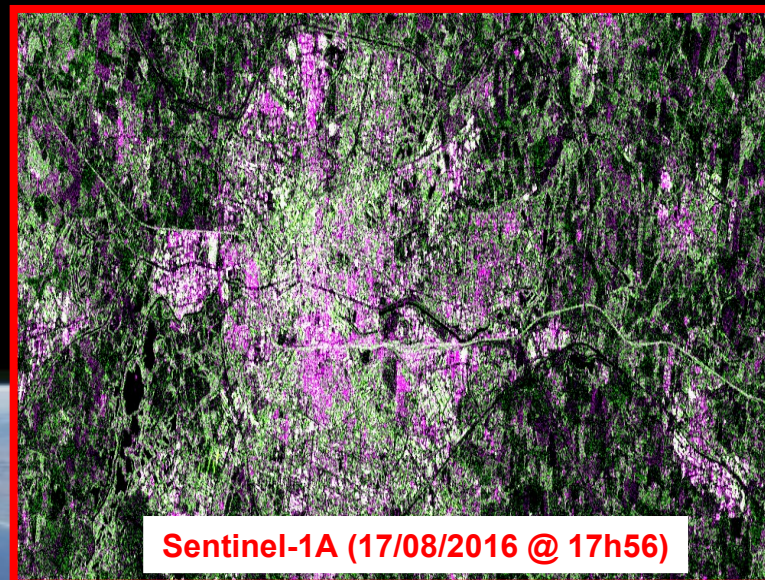
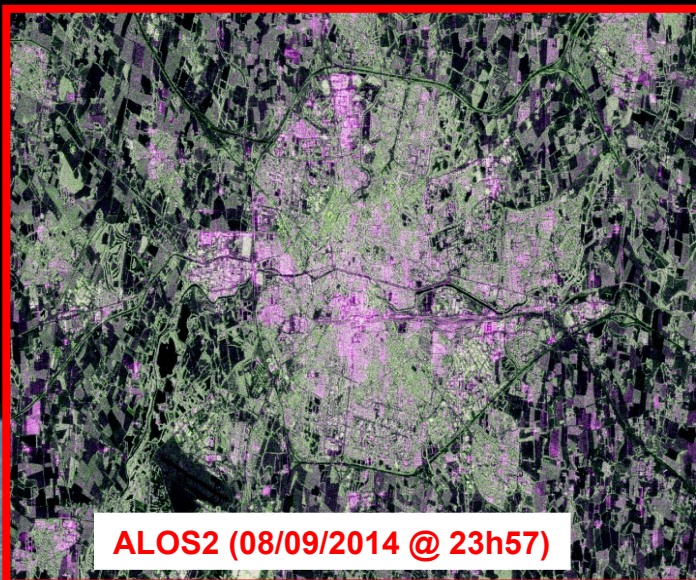
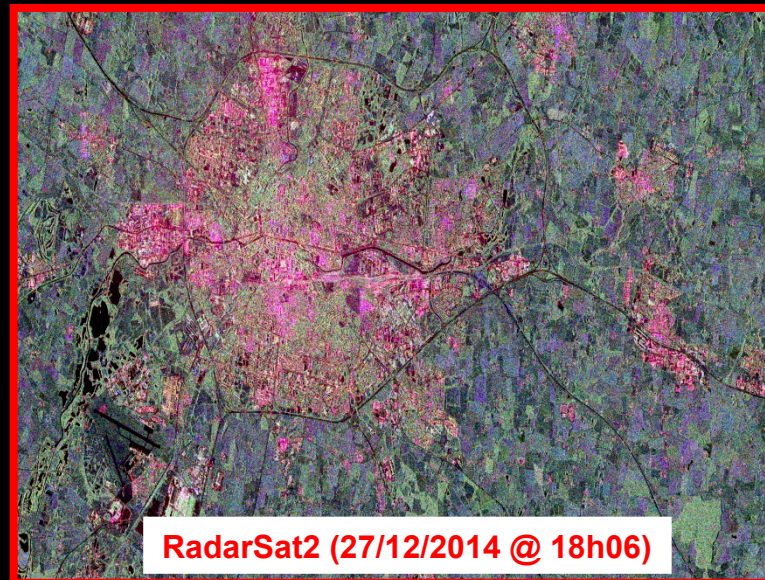
# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

## Tandem-L





# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors

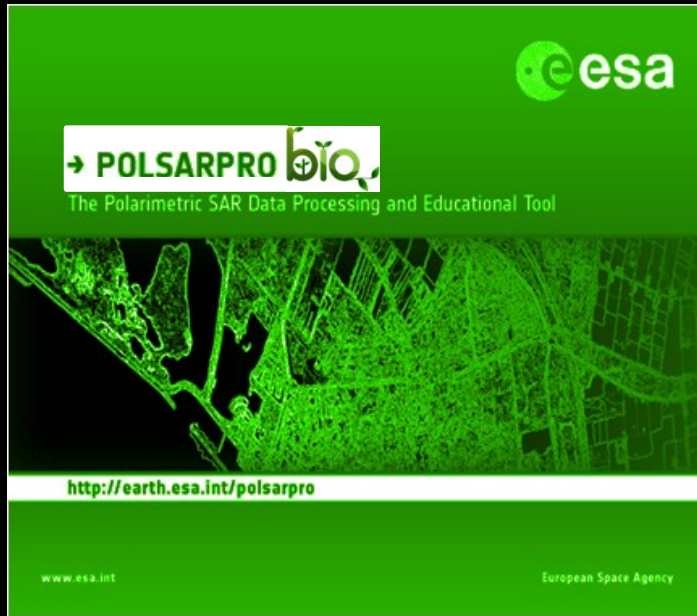


# Space-borne PolSAR Sensors



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

# ESA PolSARpro Toolbox



Polarimetric SAR data Processing and educational tool

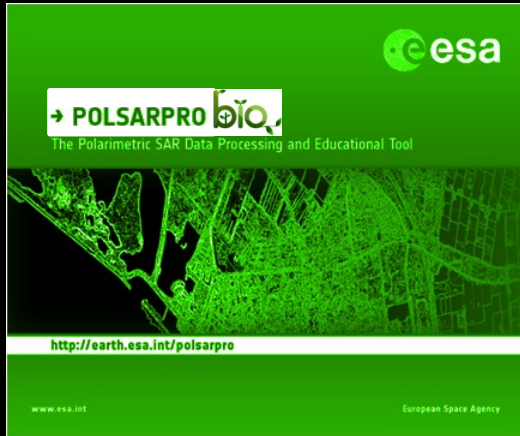
ESA since 2003

- +3000 registered users
- +70 foreign countries

International Collaborative Project  
(Agencies, Research Centres, Universities)



# ESA PolSARpro Toolbox

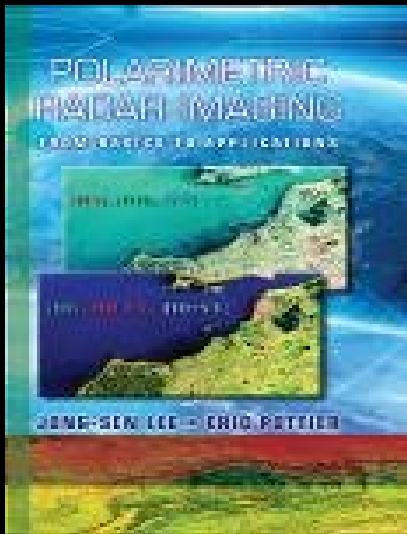


**Toolbox** specifically designed to handle :  
**Pol-SAR, Pol-InSAR , Pol-TomoSAR and Pol-TimeSAR data**

**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

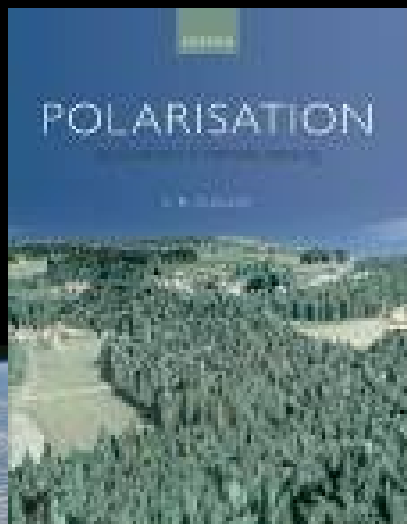


## **Polarimetric Radar Imaging: From basics to applications**

*Jong-Sen LEE – Eric POTTIER*

CRC Press; 1st ed., February 2009, pp 422

ISBN: 978-1420054972

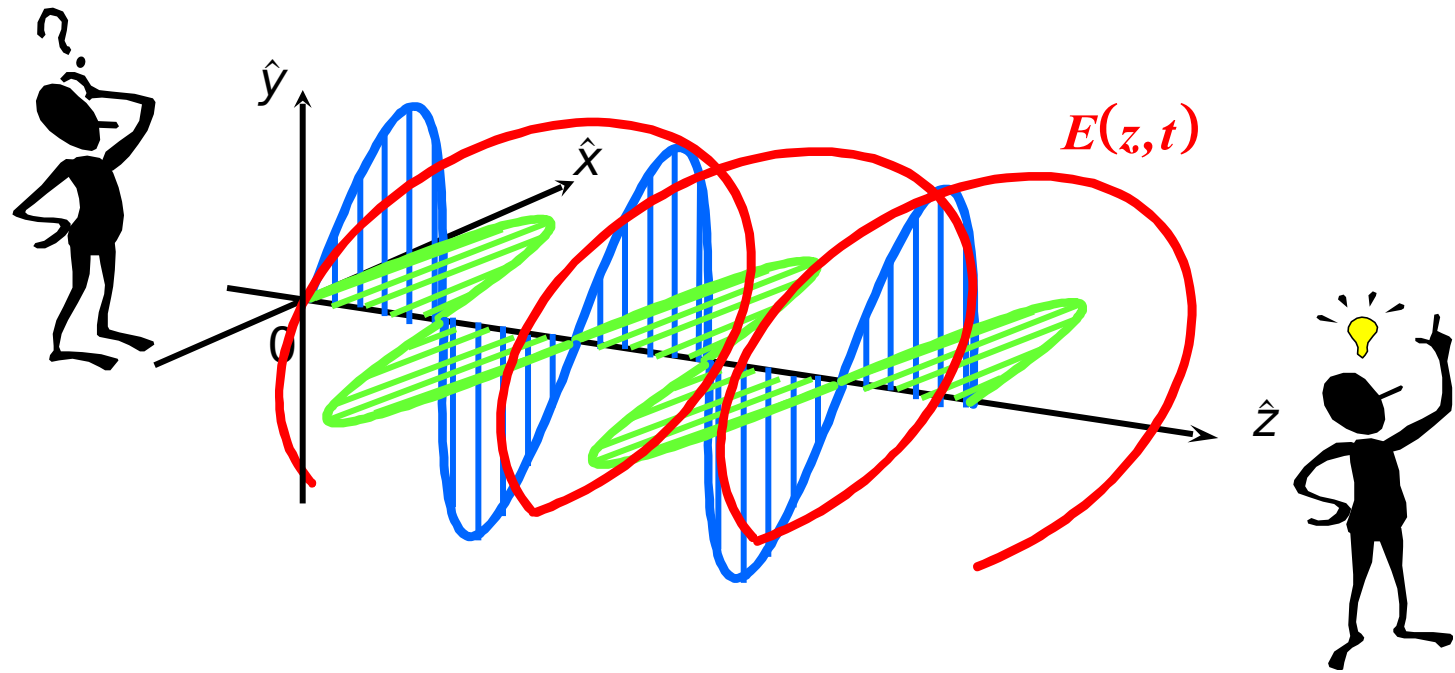


## **Polarisation: Applications in Remote Sensing**

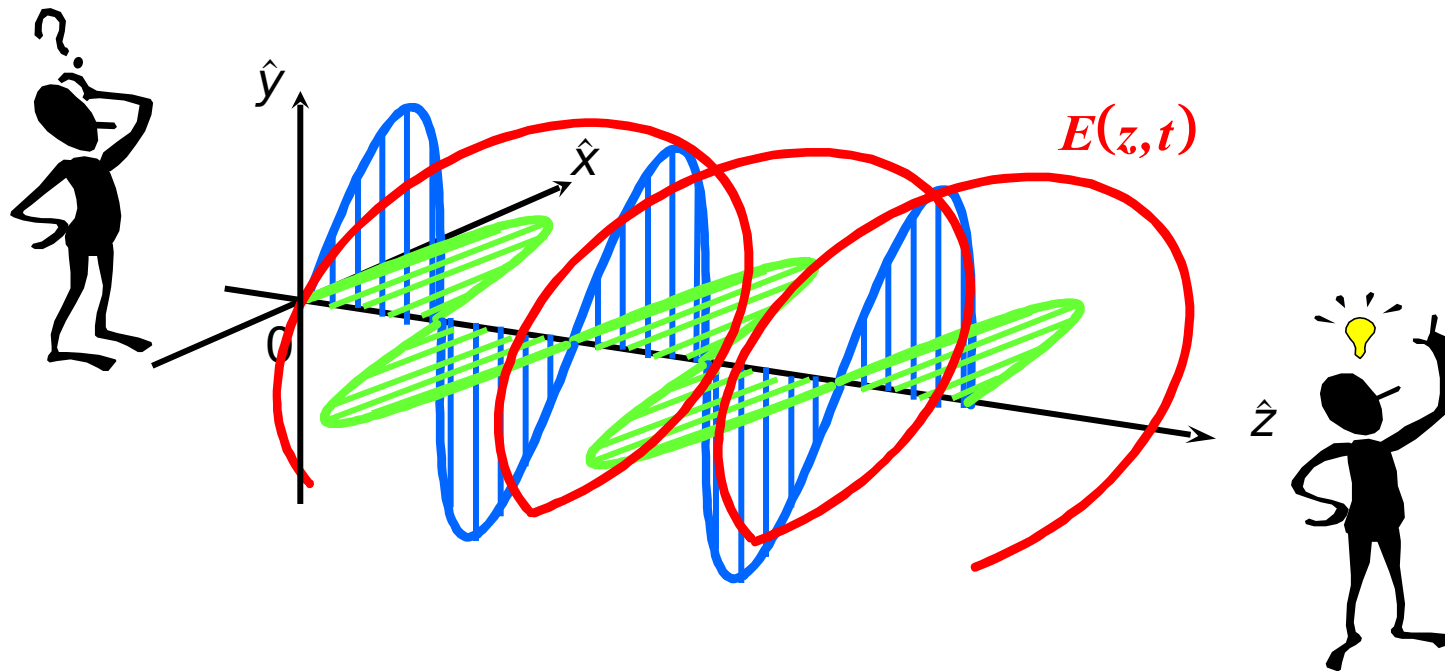
*Shane R. CLOUDE*

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

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

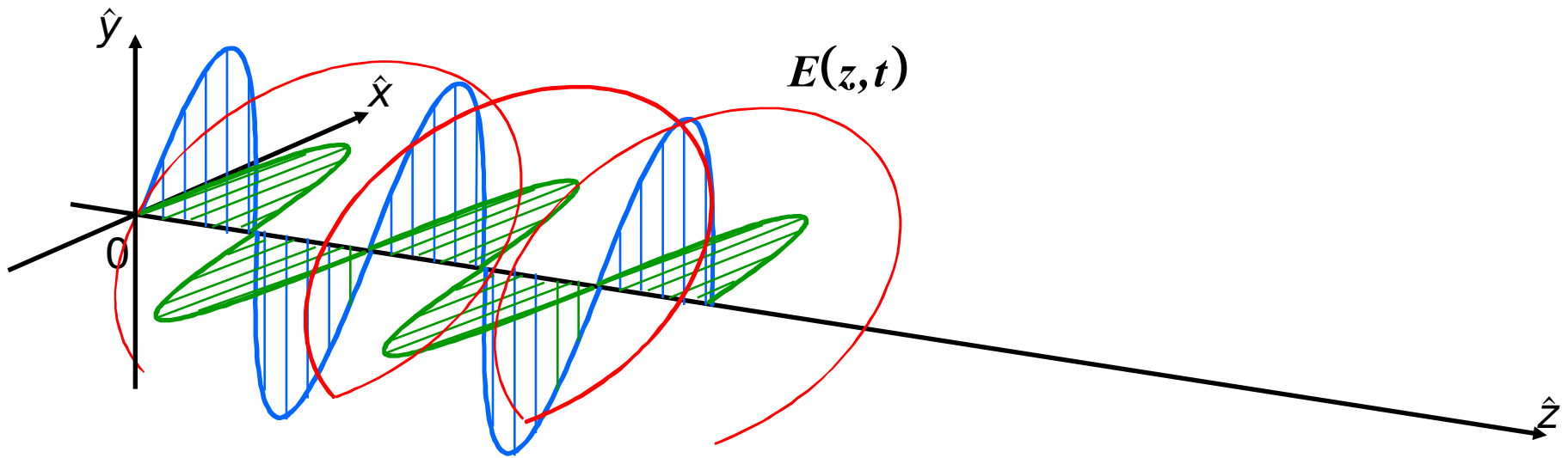


## HELMHOLTZ PROPAGATION EQUATION

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

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

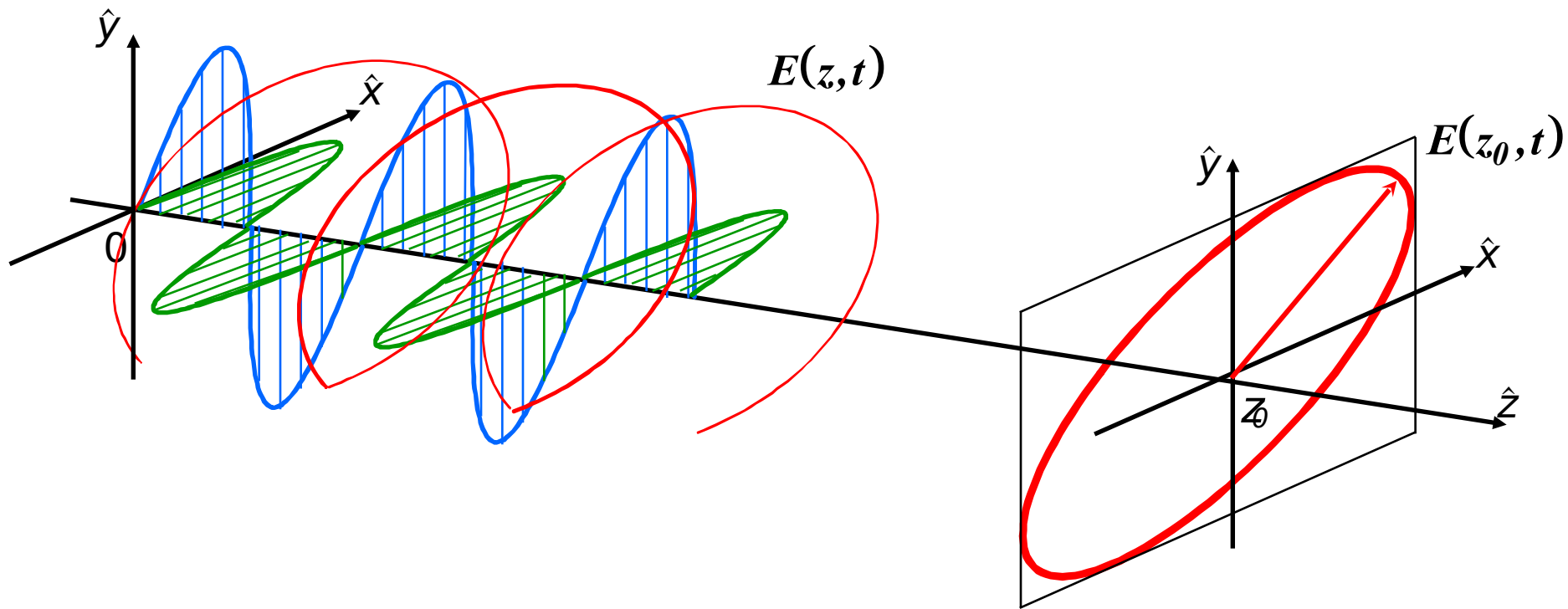
# POLARISATION ELLIPSE



## REAL ELECTRIC FIELD VECTOR

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

# POLARISATION ELLIPSE

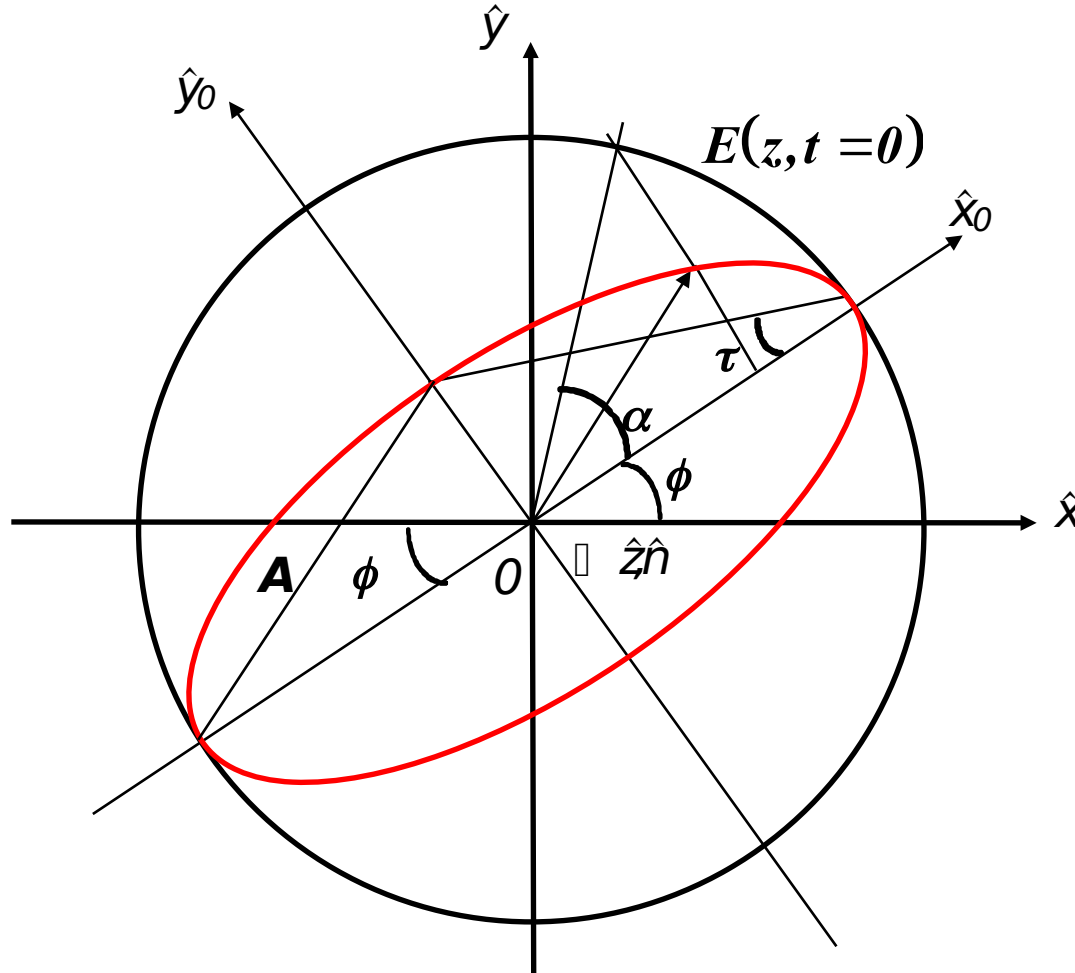


THE REAL ELECTRIC FIELD VECTOR MOVES IN TIME ALONG AN ELLIPSE

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

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

# POLARISATION ELLIPSE



**A : WAVE AMPLITUDE**

**$\alpha$  : ABSOLUTE PHASE**

**$\phi$  : ORIENTATION ANGLE**

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

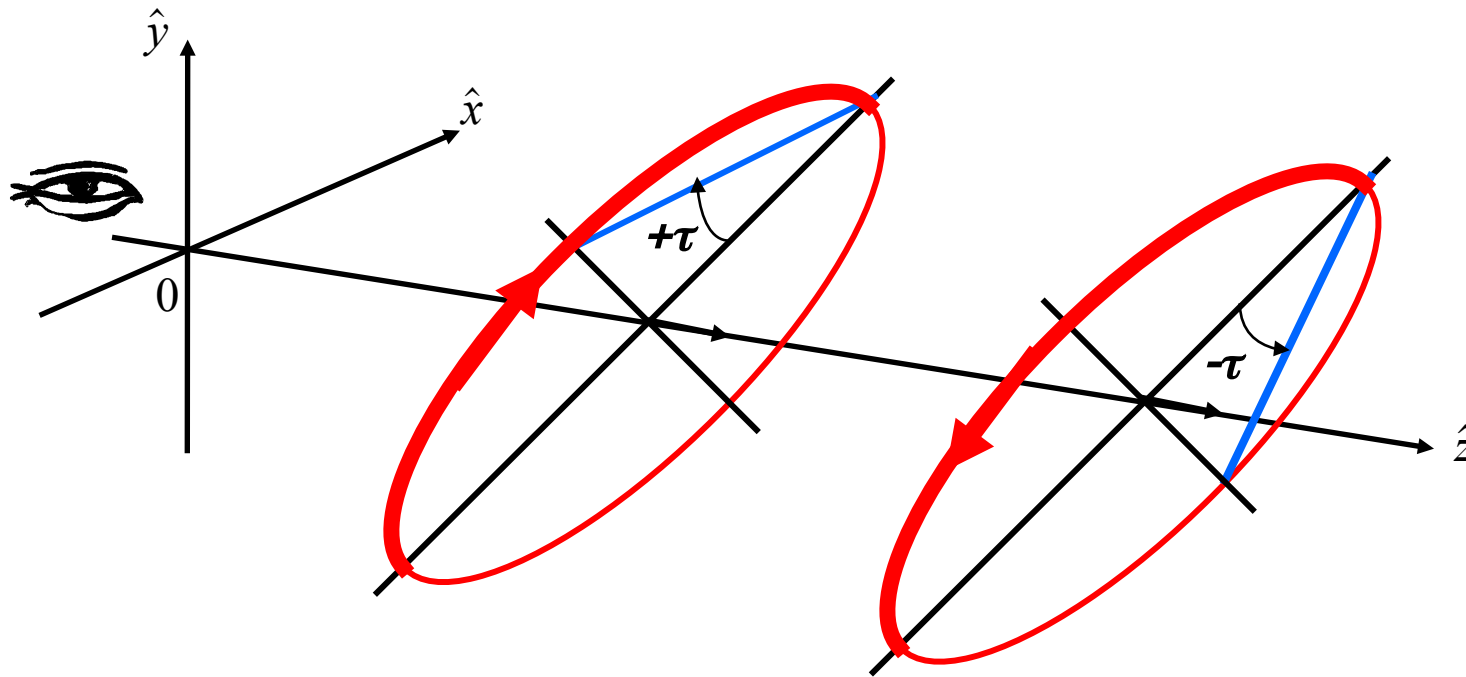
**$\tau$  : ELLIPTICITY ANGLE**

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



# POLARISATION HANDENESS

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

## PHASOR = JONES VECTOR

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

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

## GEOMETRICAL PARAMETERS

### ABSOLUTE PHASE

$$\alpha = \delta_x$$

### AMPLITUDE

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

### ORIENTATION ANGLE

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

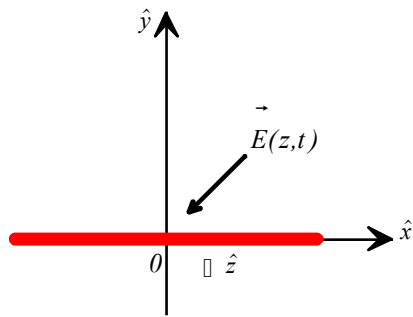
### ELLIPTICITY ANGLE

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

### POLARISATION HANDENESS: $Sign(\tau)$

# JONES VECTOR

## HORIZONTAL POLARISATION STATE

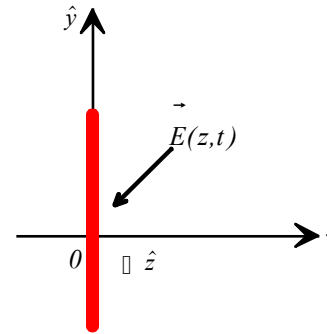


$$\underline{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\phi = 0$$

$$\tau = 0$$

## VERTICAL POLARISATION STATE

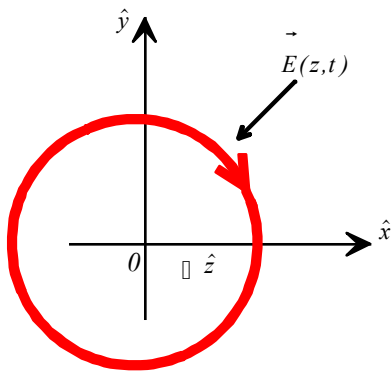


$$\underline{V} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\tau = 0$$

## LEFT CIRCULAR POLARISATION STATE

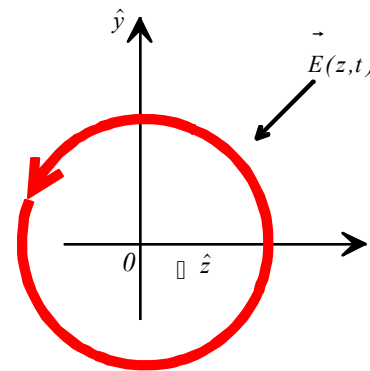


$$\underline{LC} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ j \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

## RIGHT CIRCULAR POLARISATION STATE

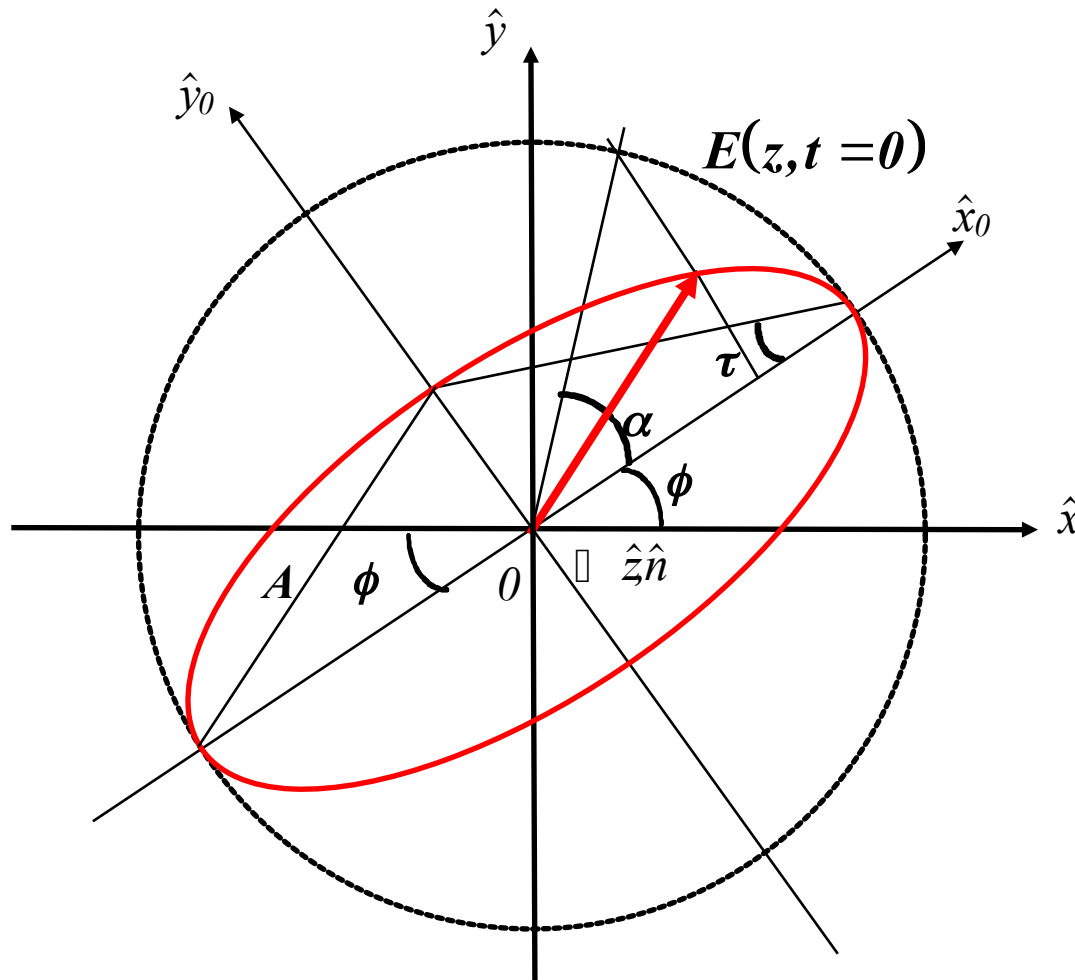


$$\underline{RC} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -j \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

# JONES VECTOR



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





# 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**  $\|\underline{E}\| = \sqrt{E_{0x}^2 + E_{0y}^2}$

**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

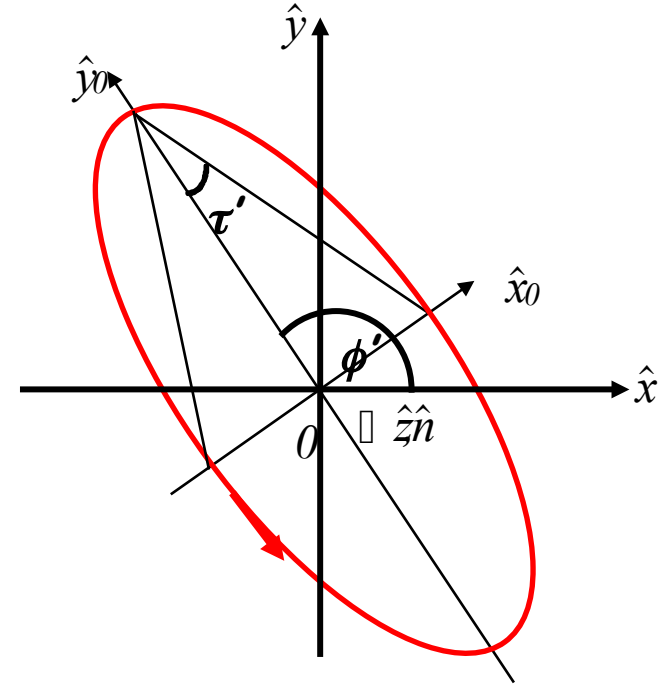
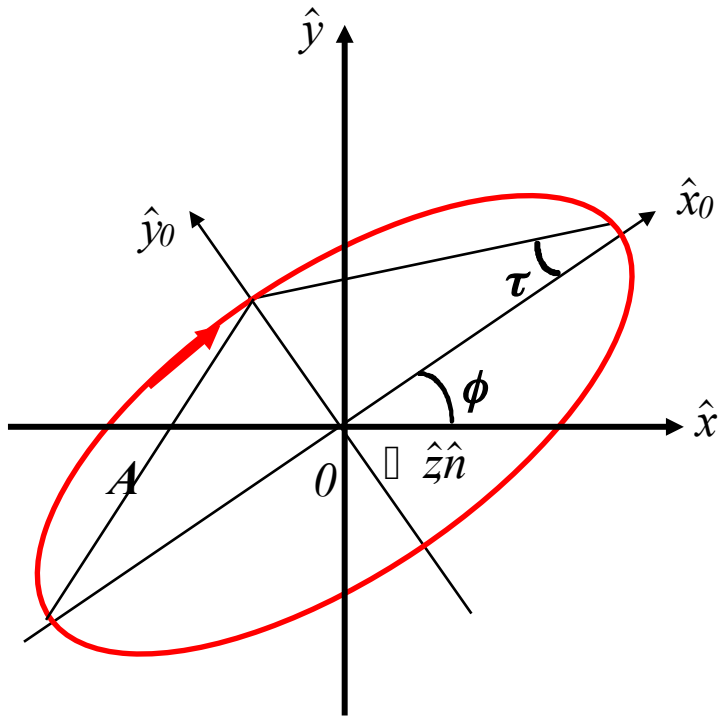
$$[U(\varphi, \tau, \alpha)] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix}$$



## 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

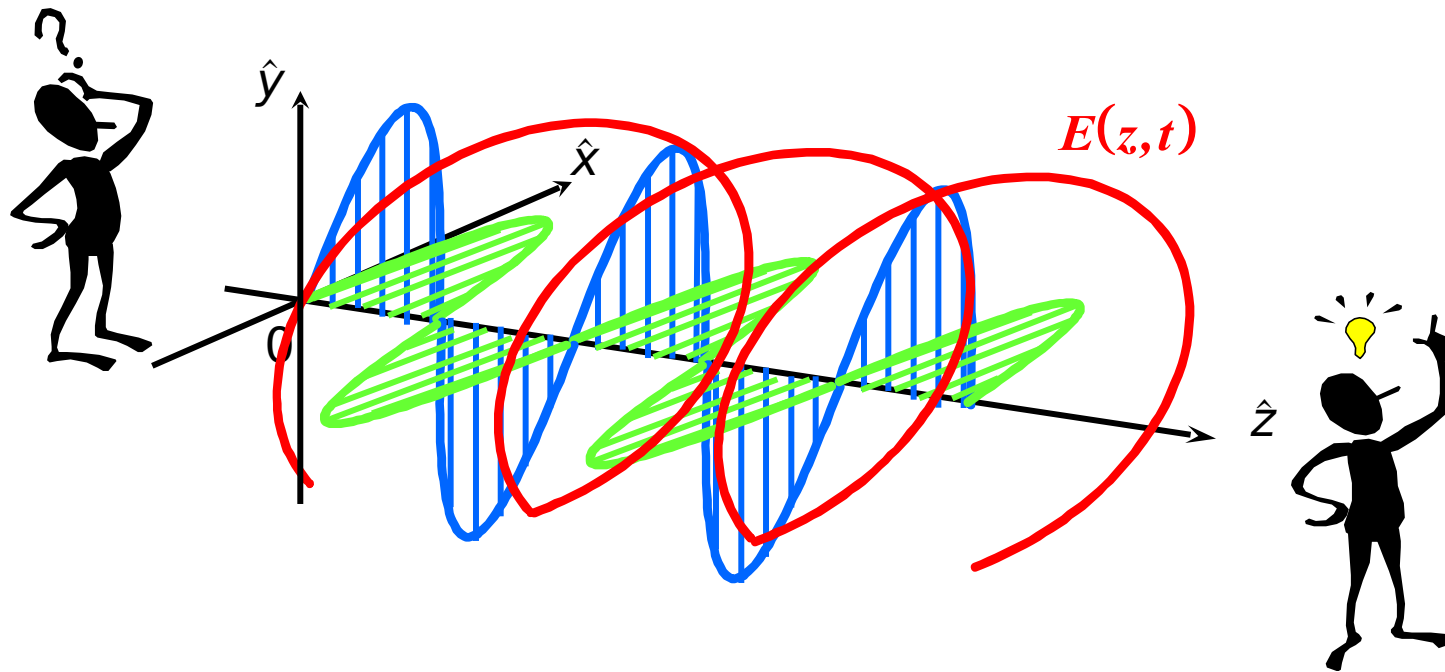


## ORTHOGONALITY CONDITIONS

$$(\varphi, \tau) \mapsto \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi' = \varphi + \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \tau' = -\tau \end{array} \right\}$$

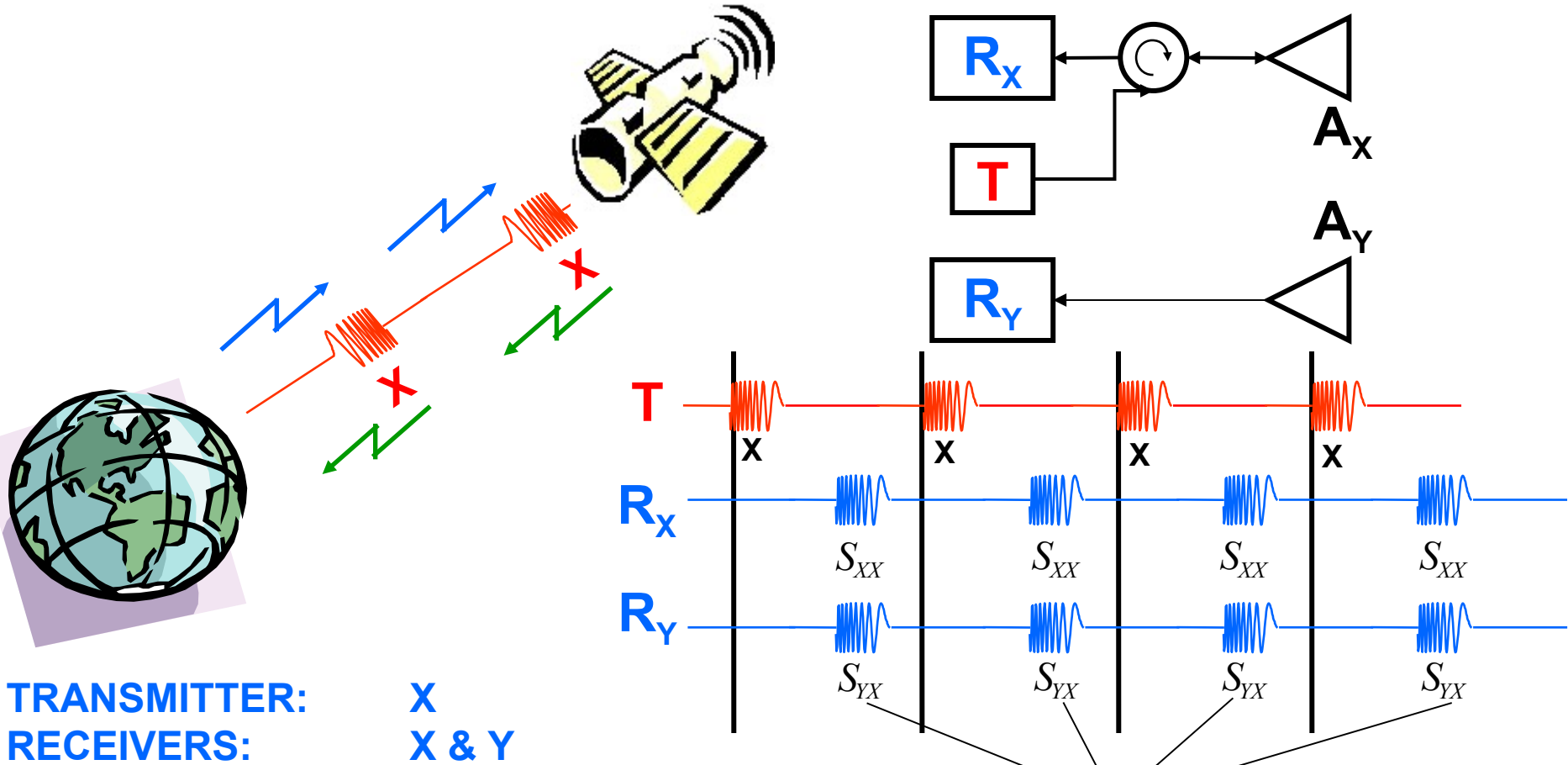


CHANGE OF POLARISATION HANDENESS



# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

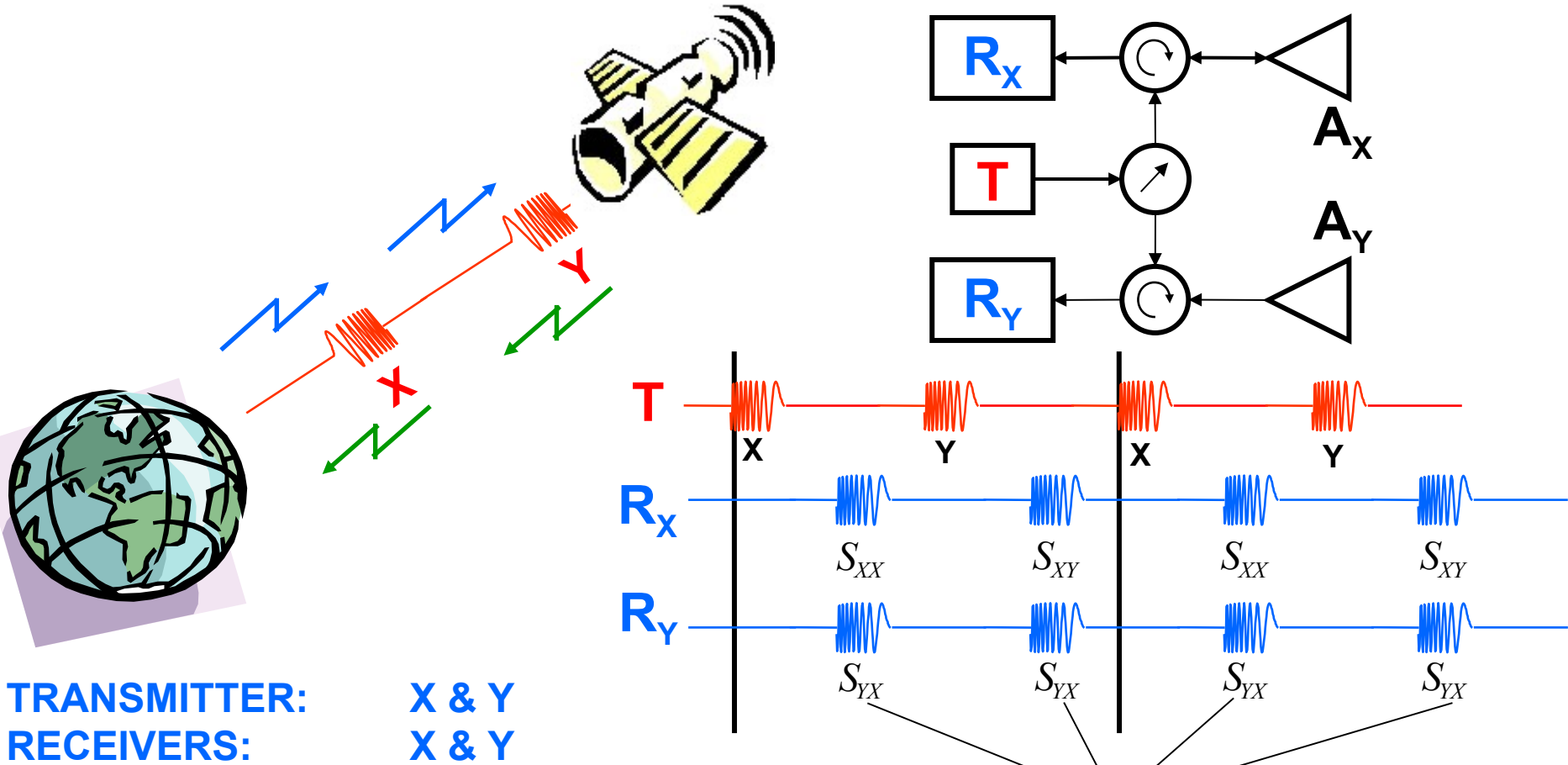
# WAVE POLARIMETRY



JONES VECTORS  $\left\{ \underline{E}_s = \begin{bmatrix} S_{XX} \\ S_{YX} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

WAVE POLARIMETRY

# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

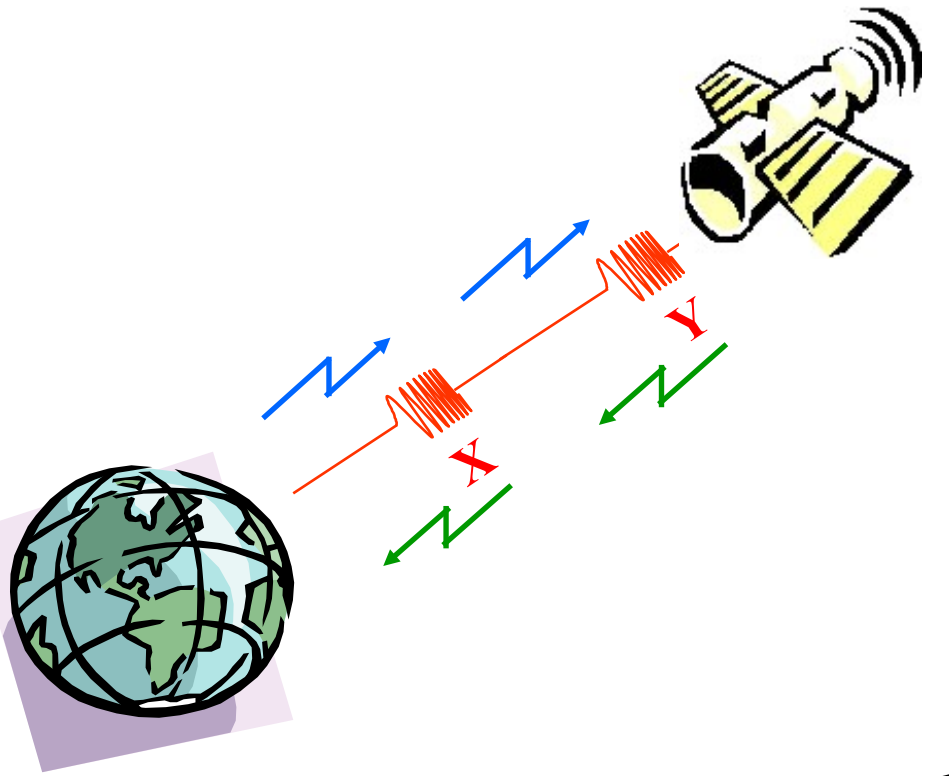


SINCLAIR MATRICES

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

SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

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



# BACKSCATTERING MATRIX

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

**ABSOLUTE BACKSCATTERING MATRIX**

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

**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 ↑



$|HH|_{dB}$

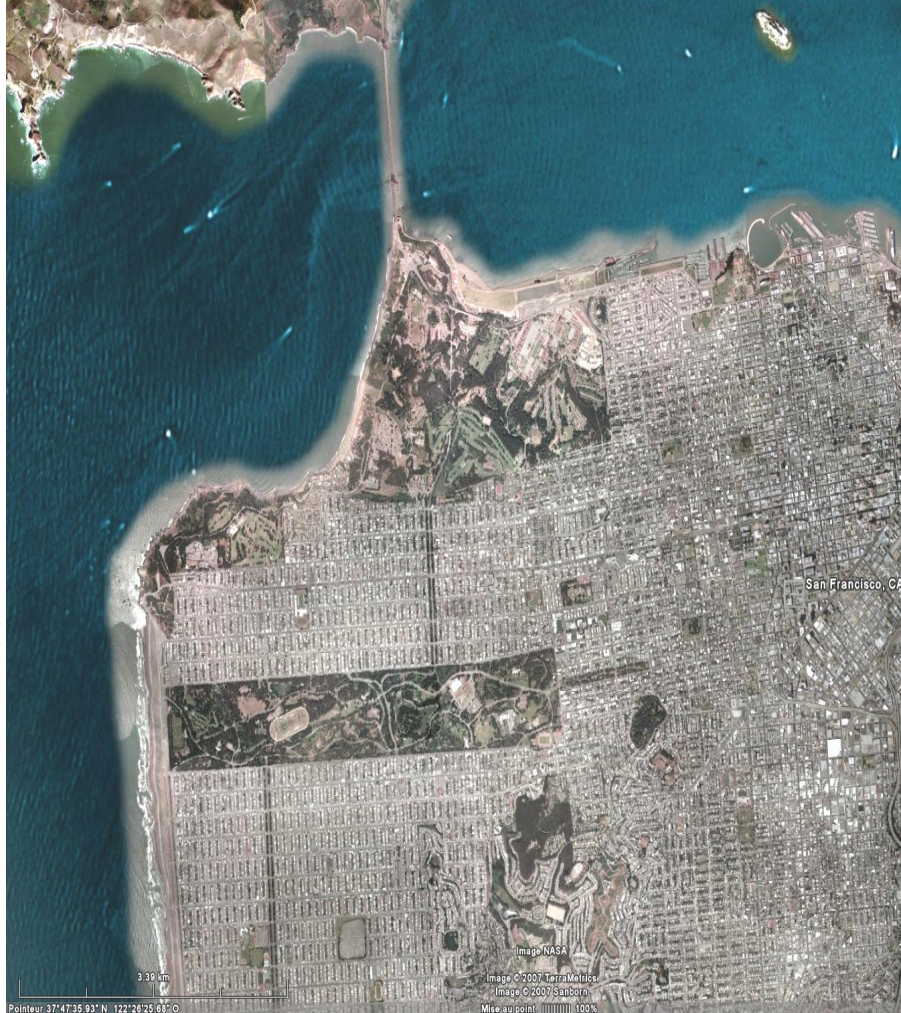
$|HV|_{dB}$

$|VV|_{dB}$



# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY

## Sinclair Color Coding



© Google Earth



|HH|

|HV|

|VV|

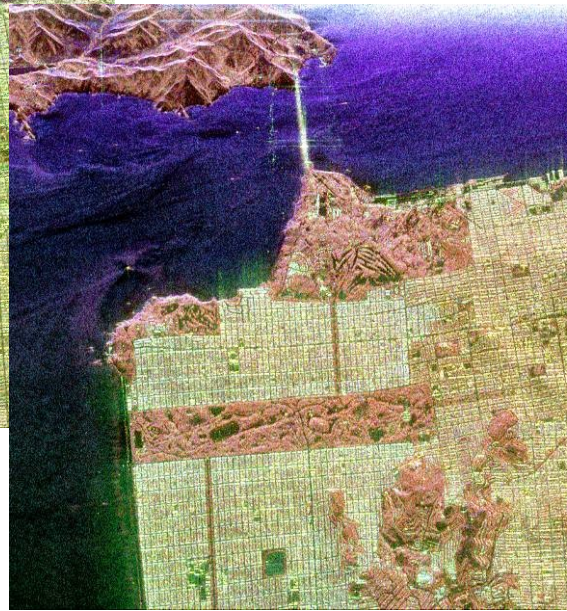
59



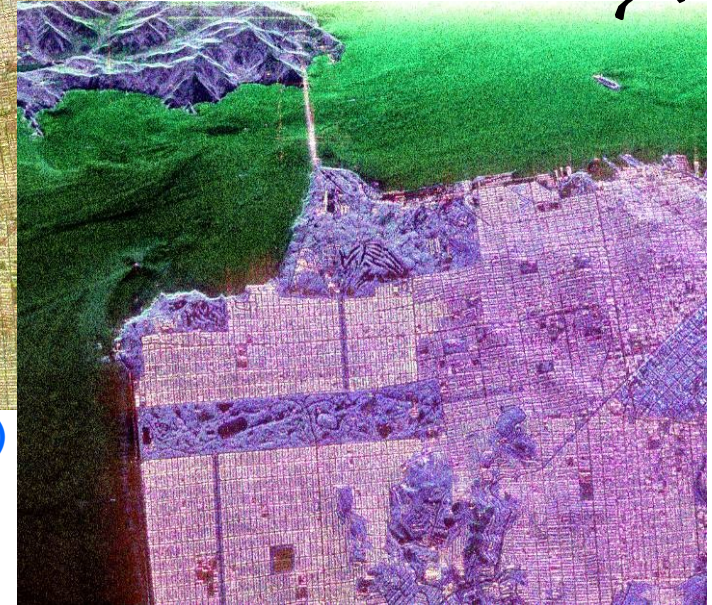
# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION



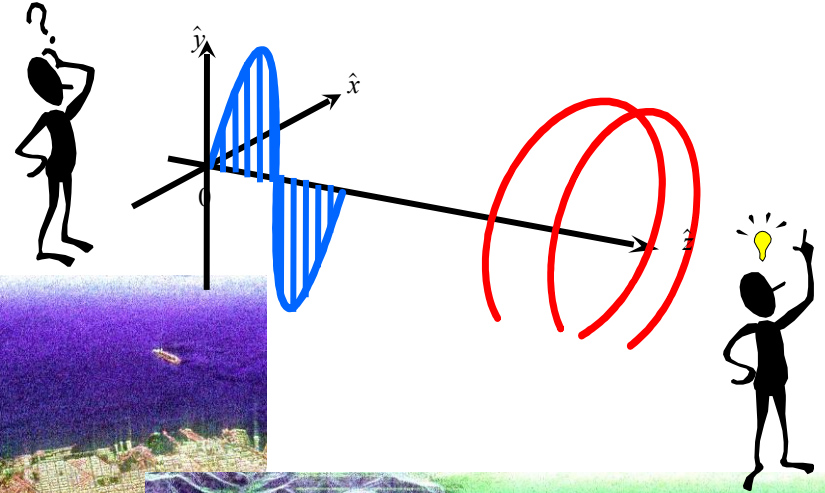
Pauli Color Coding (H,V)



Pauli Color Coding (+45,-45)



Pauli Color Coding (L,R)



Ernst LÜNEBURG  
(PIERS95 - Pasadena)

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

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

**CON-SIMILARITY TRANSFORMATION**

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

**SU(2) SPECIAL UNITARY ELLIPTICAL  
BASIS TRANSFORMATION MATRIX**



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

$$\left[ U(\varphi, \tau, \alpha) \right]^{-1}$$

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

$$\left[ U_2(-\alpha) \right]$$

$$\left[ U_2(-\tau) \right]$$

$$\left[ U_2(-\varphi) \right]$$

# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## (H,V) POLARISATION BASIS



© Google Earth



|HH+VV|

|HV|

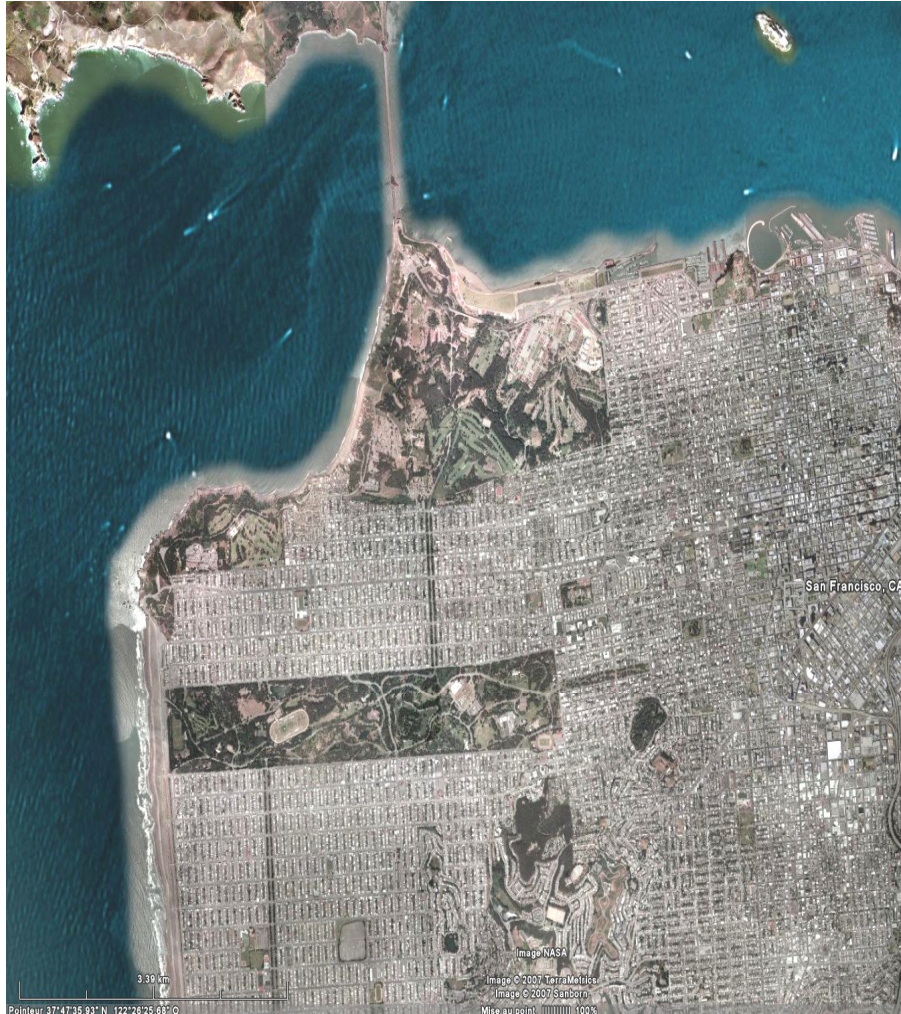
|HH-VV|

62



# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

(+45°, -45°) POLARISATION BASIS



© Google Earth

|AA+BB|

|AB|

|AA-BB|

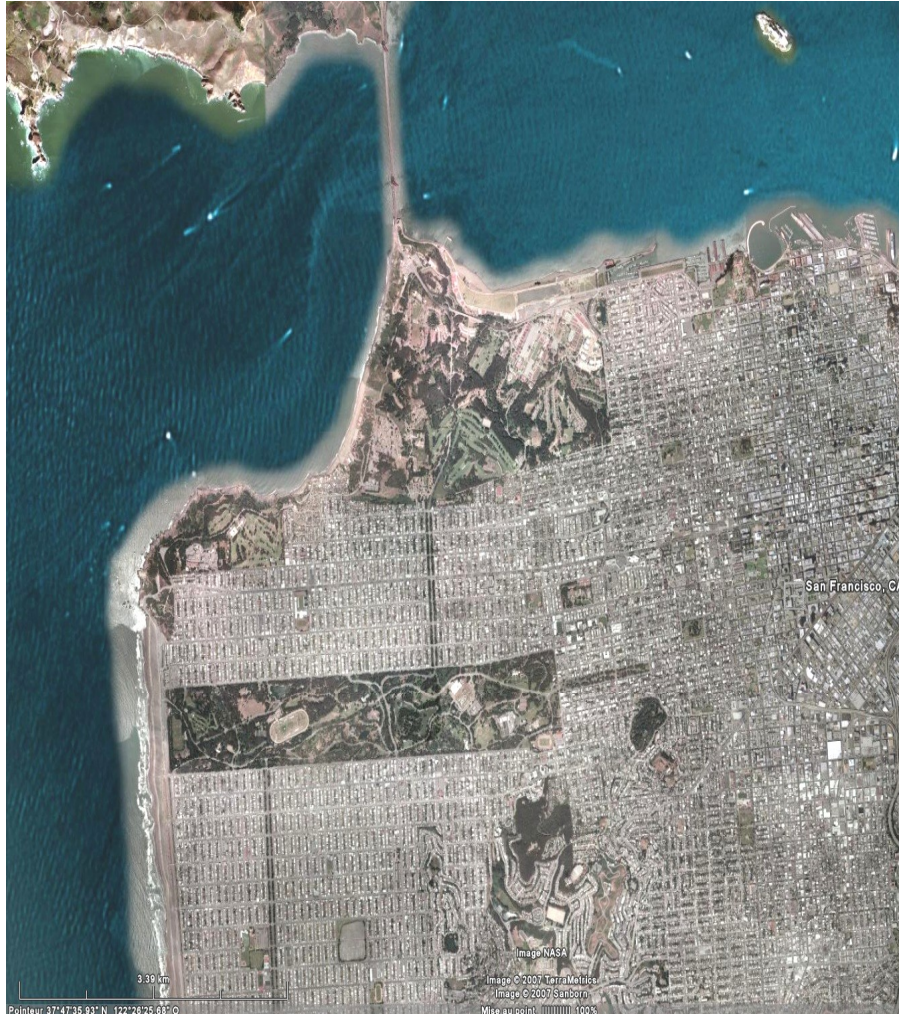
63

With: A=Linear +45°, B=Linear -45°

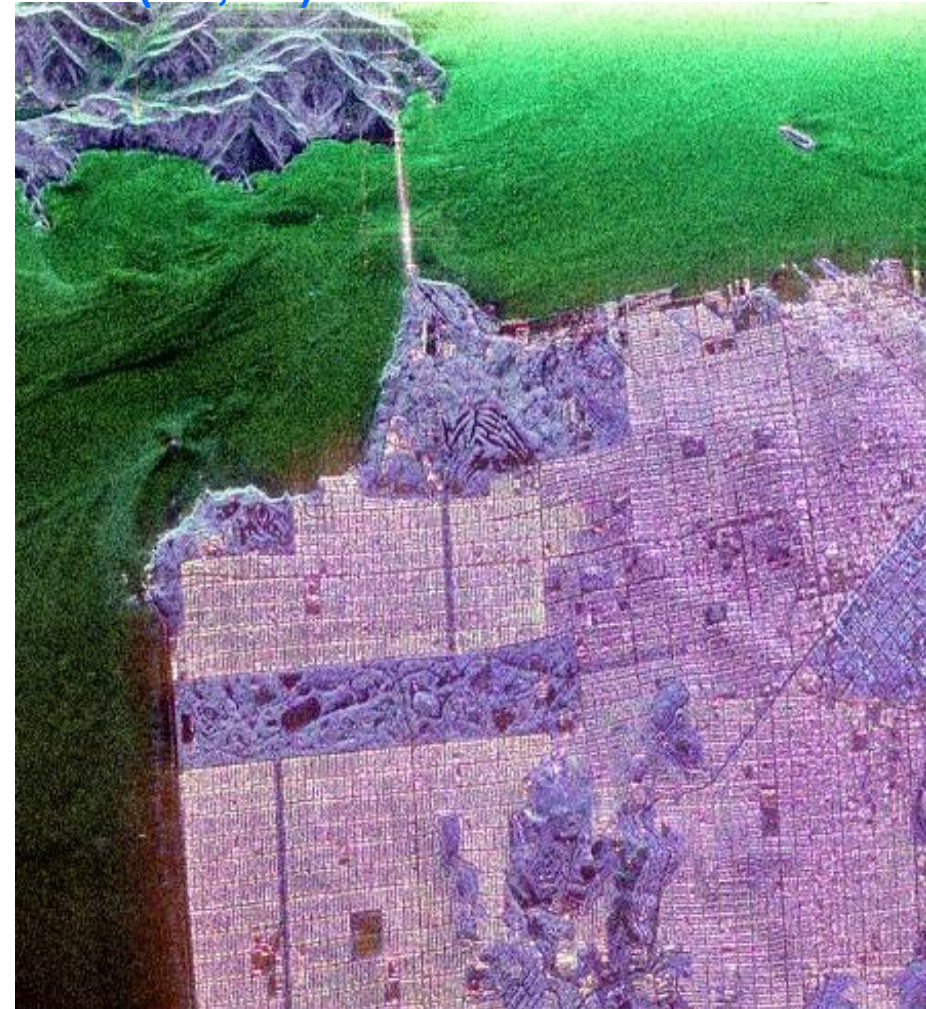


# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

(LC,RC) POLARISATION BASIS



© Google Earth



|LL+RR|

|LR|

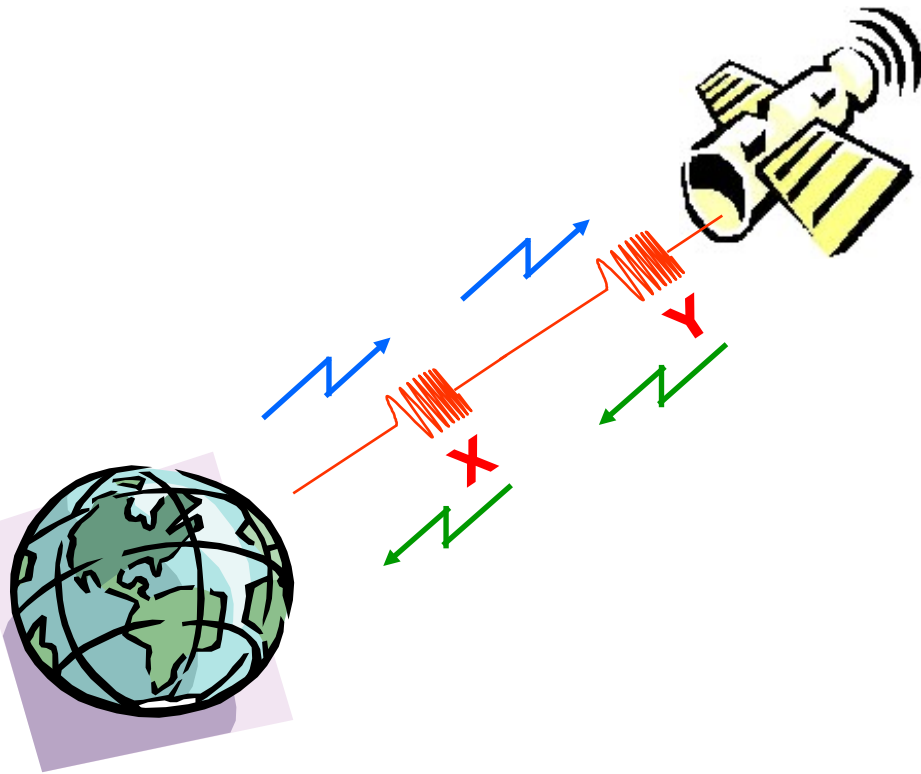
|LL-RR|

64





# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y



## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

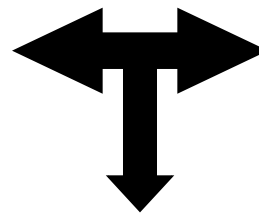
- [S] SINCLAIR Matrix
- $\mathbf{k}$ ,  $\mathbf{\Omega}$**  Target Vectors
- [K] KENNAUGH Matrix
- [T] Coherency Matrix
- [C] Covariance Matrix

# 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:

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

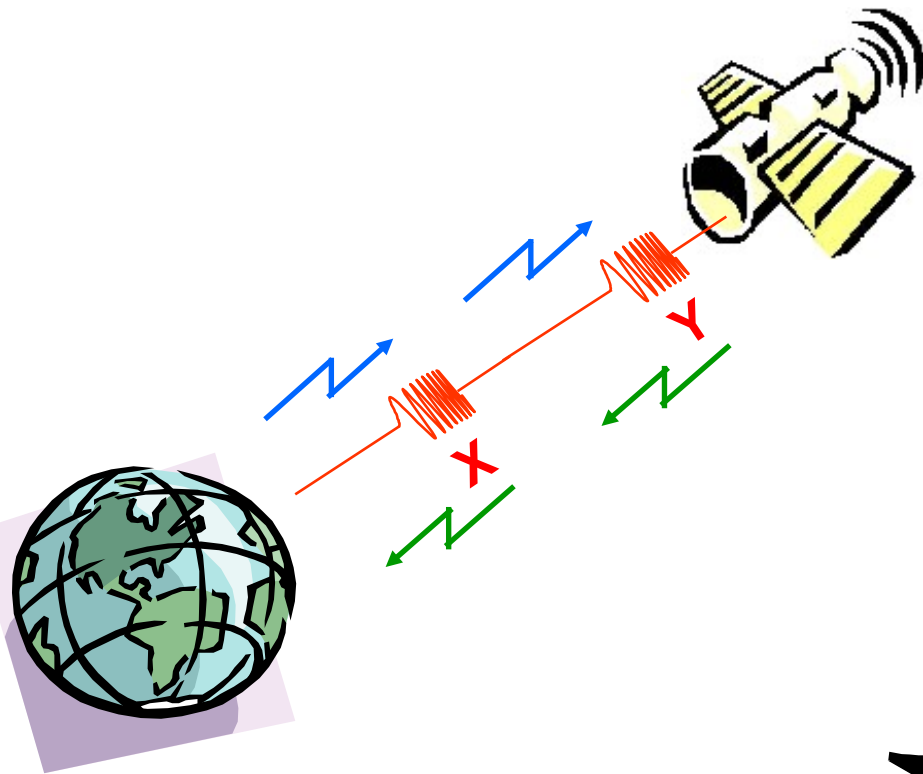
### UNITARY TRANSFORMATION

$$\underline{k} = [D_3] \underline{\Omega} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{\Omega} = [D_3]^{-1} \underline{k} = [D_3]^T \underline{k}$$

WHERE  $[D_3]$  IS A SU(3) MATRIX  
IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE NORM  
OF THE SCATTERING VECTOR

$$[D_3] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

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

STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION  
PARTIAL SCATTERING POLARIMETRY



# COHERENCY MATRIX

## MONOSTATIC CASE

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

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



### 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

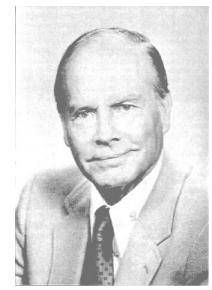
$A_0, B_0+B, B_0-B$  : HUYNEN TARGET GENERATORS

# HUYNEN PARAMETERS

## PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION MAN-MADE TARGET DECOMPOSITION IDENTIFICATION and ANALYSIS

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

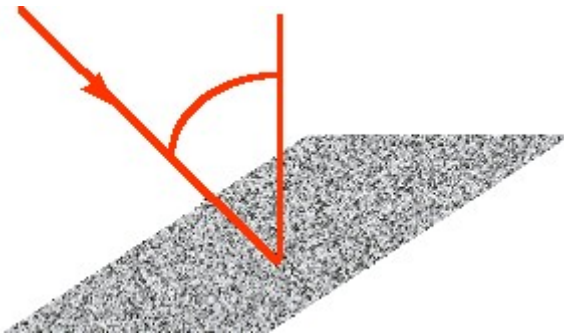
- A0 : GENERATOR OF TARGET SYMMETRY
- B0+B : GENERATOR OF TARGET NON-SYMMETRY
- B0-B : GENERATOR OF TARGET IRREGULARITY
- C : GENERATOR OF TARGET GLOBAL SHAPE (LINEAR)
- D : GENERATOR OF TARGET LOCAL SHAPE (CURVATURE)
- E : GENERATOR OF TARGET LOCAL TWIST (TORSION)
- F : GENERATOR OF TARGET GLOBAL TWIST (HELICITY)
- G : GENERATOR OF TARGET LOCAL COUPLING (GLUE)
- H : GENERATOR OF TARGET GLOBAL COUPLING (ORIENTATION)



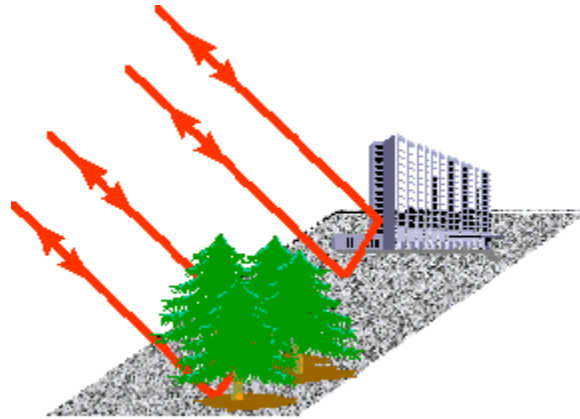
# TARGET GENERATORS

## PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION

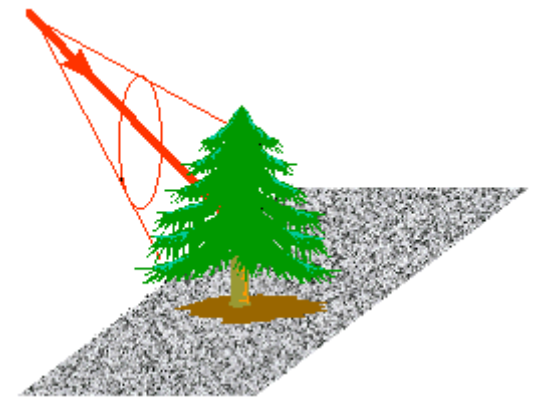
**SINGLE BOUNCE  
SCATTERING  
(ROUGH SURFACE)**



**DOUBLE BOUNCE  
SCATTERING**



**VOLUME  
SCATTERING**



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

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

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

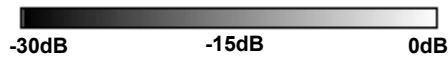
# TARGET GENERATORS



$|HH+VV|_{dB}$



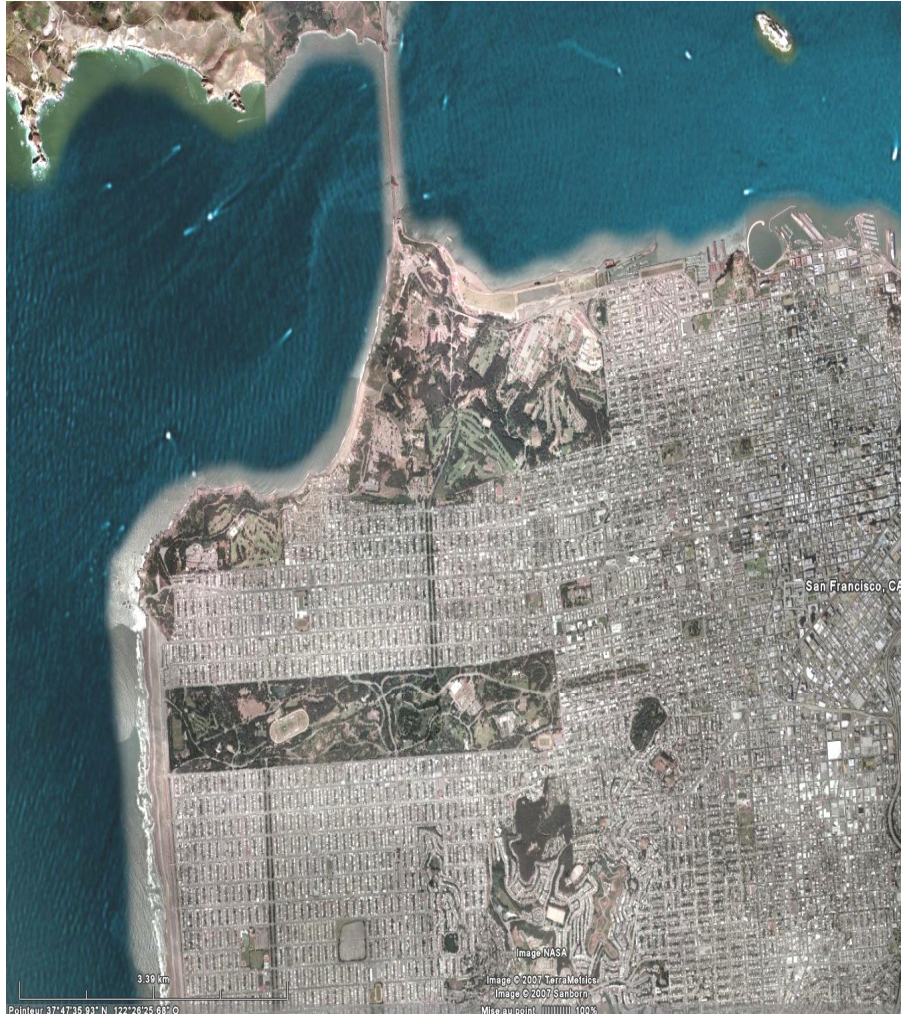
$|HV|_{dB}$



$|HH-VV|_{dB}$

# TARGET GENERATORS

## (H,V) POLARISATION BASIS



© Google Earth



|HH+VV|

|HV|

|HH-VV|

72





# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(2) GROUP

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

$$\begin{matrix} [U_2(\varphi)] & [U_2(\tau)] & [U_2(\alpha)] \end{matrix}$$



## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(3) GROUP

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

$$\begin{matrix} [U_3(2\varphi)] & [U_3(2\tau)] & [U_3(2\alpha)] \end{matrix}$$

# 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

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

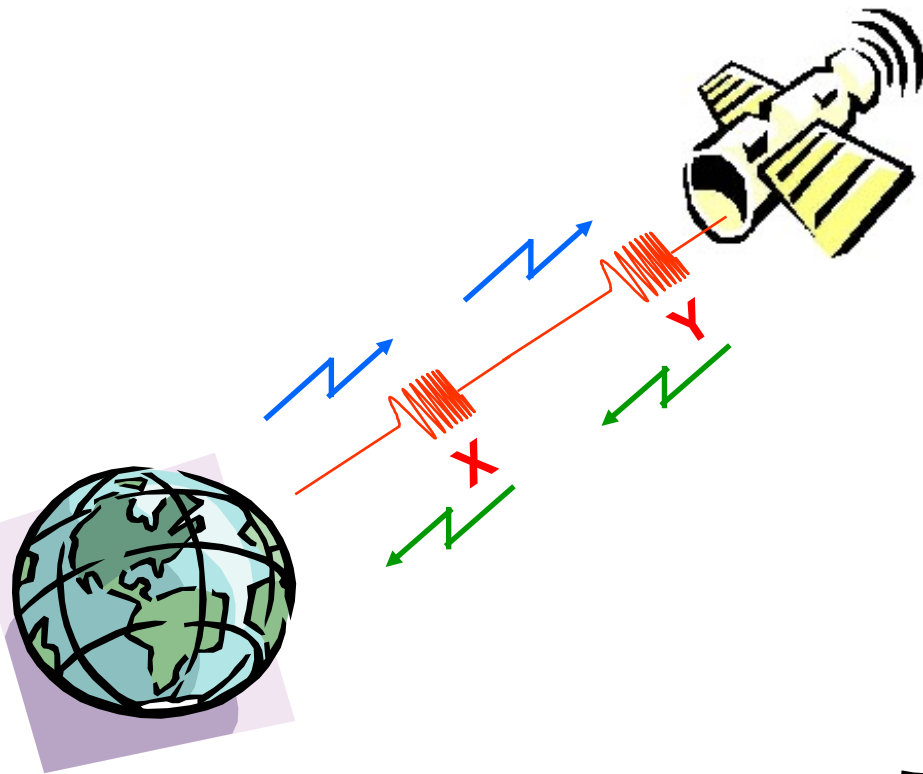
## SIMILARITY TRANSFORMATION

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

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



# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS



TRANSMITTER:  
RECEIVERS:

X & Y  
X & Y

## THE DIFFERENT TARGET POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

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

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

$$\underline{k} = [D_{3or4}] \underline{\Omega}$$

## COVARIANCE MATRIX

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

### UNITARY TRANSFORMATION

$$[T] = [D_{3or4}] [C] [D_{3or4}]^{T*}$$

**[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 $\underline{k}$

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

## COHERENCY MATRIX [T]

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

## SCATTERING VECTOR $\underline{\Omega}$

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

## COVARIANCE MATRIX [C]

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

# POLARIMETRIC DESCRIPTORS

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

**[ S ]**  
SINCLAIR  
SU(2)

**[ C ]**  
COVARIANCE  
SU(3)

**[ T ]**  
COHERENCY  
SU(3)

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

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



# ELLIPTICAL BASIS TRANSFORMATION

## SPECIAL UNITARY SU(2) GROUP

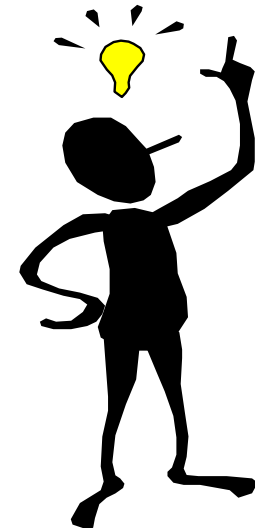
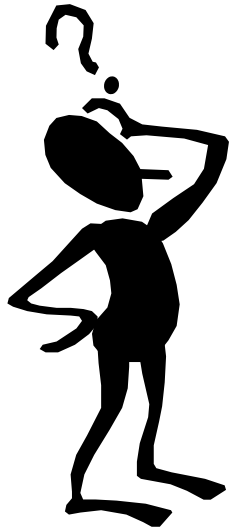
$$\begin{matrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & -\sin(\varphi) \\ \sin(\varphi) & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\tau) & j \sin(\tau) \\ j \sin(\tau) & \cos(\tau) \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\alpha} \end{bmatrix} \\
 [U_2(\varphi)] & [U_2(\tau)] &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

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

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



# 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

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

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



TARGET MONOSTATIC  
POLARIMETRIC « DIMENSION »

||

5

KENNAUGH MATRIX [K]  
COHERENCY MATRIX [T]

9 HUYNEN REAL PARAMETERS  
(A0, B0, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)

COVARIANCE MATRIX [C]

9 REAL PARAMETERS  
|XX|, |XY|, |YY|,  
Re(XXXY\*), Im(XXXY\*)  
Re(XXYY\*), Im(XXYY\*)  
Re(XYYY\*), Im(XYYY\*)

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 »

||  
5

## 9 - 5 = 4 TARGET EQUATIONS

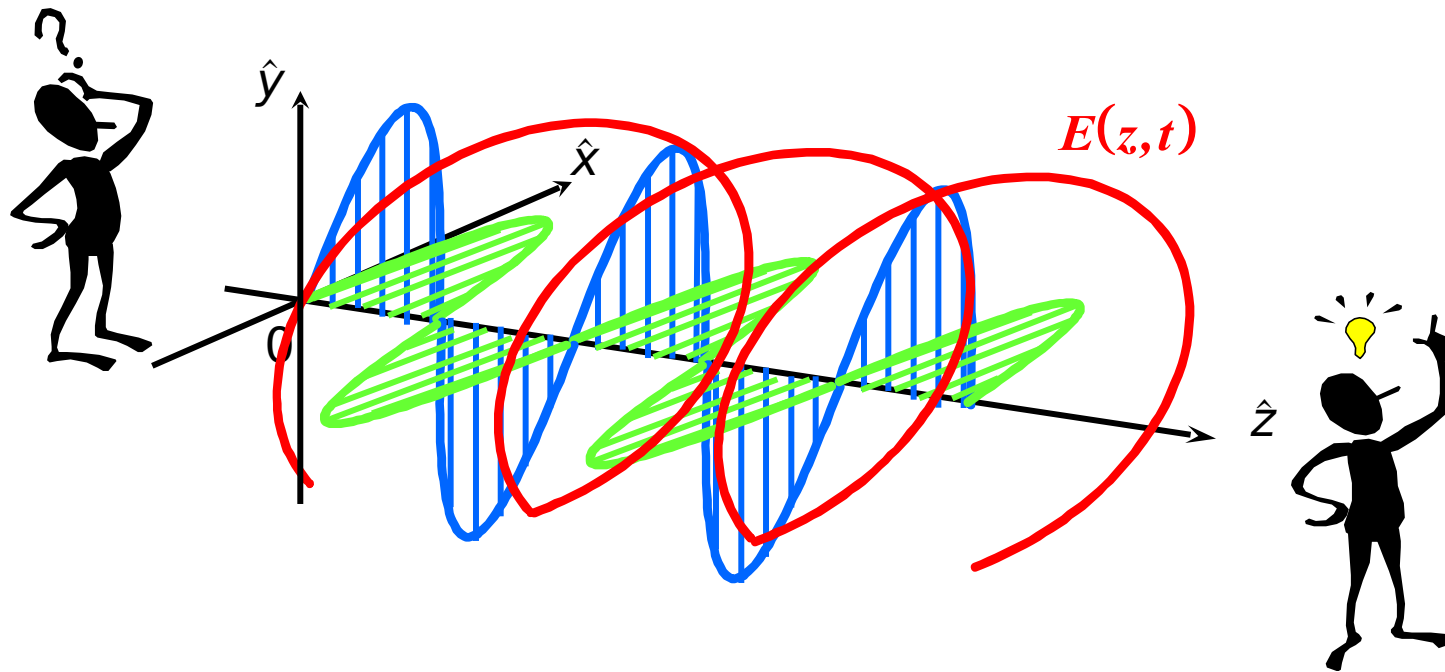
$$2A_0(B_0 + B) = C^2 + D^2$$

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

$$2A_0E = CH - DG$$

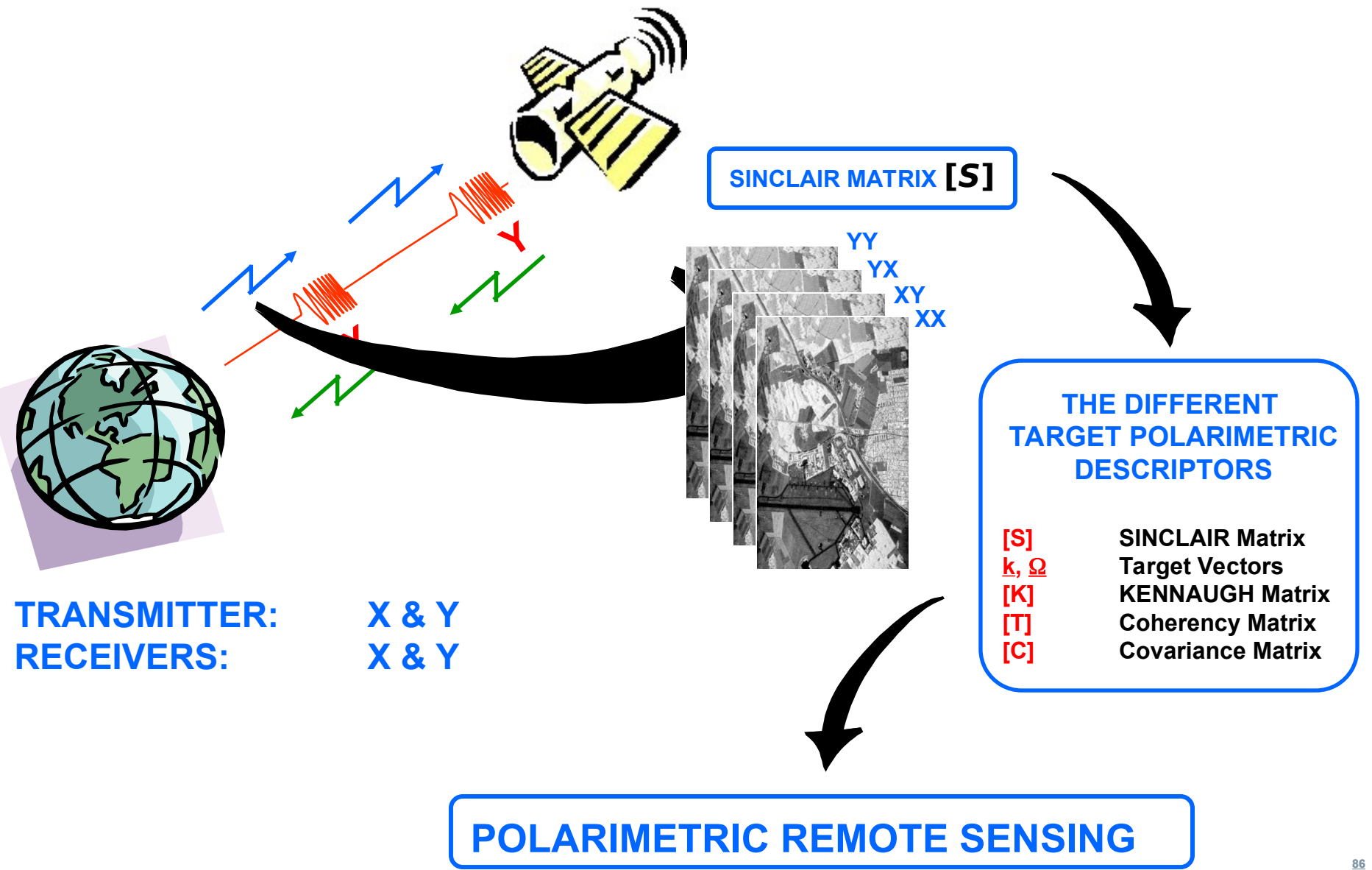
$$2A_0F = CG + DH$$



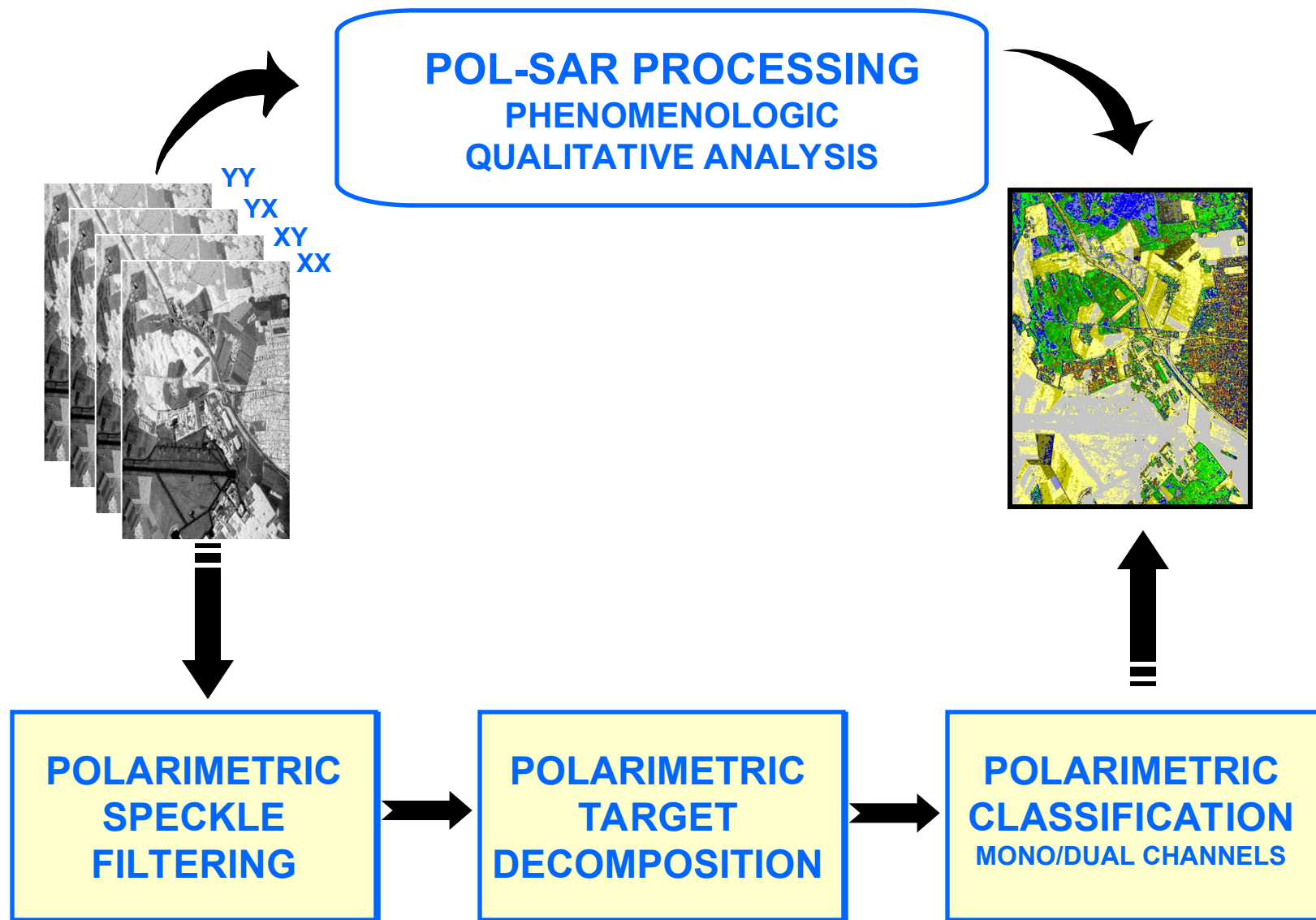


# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING

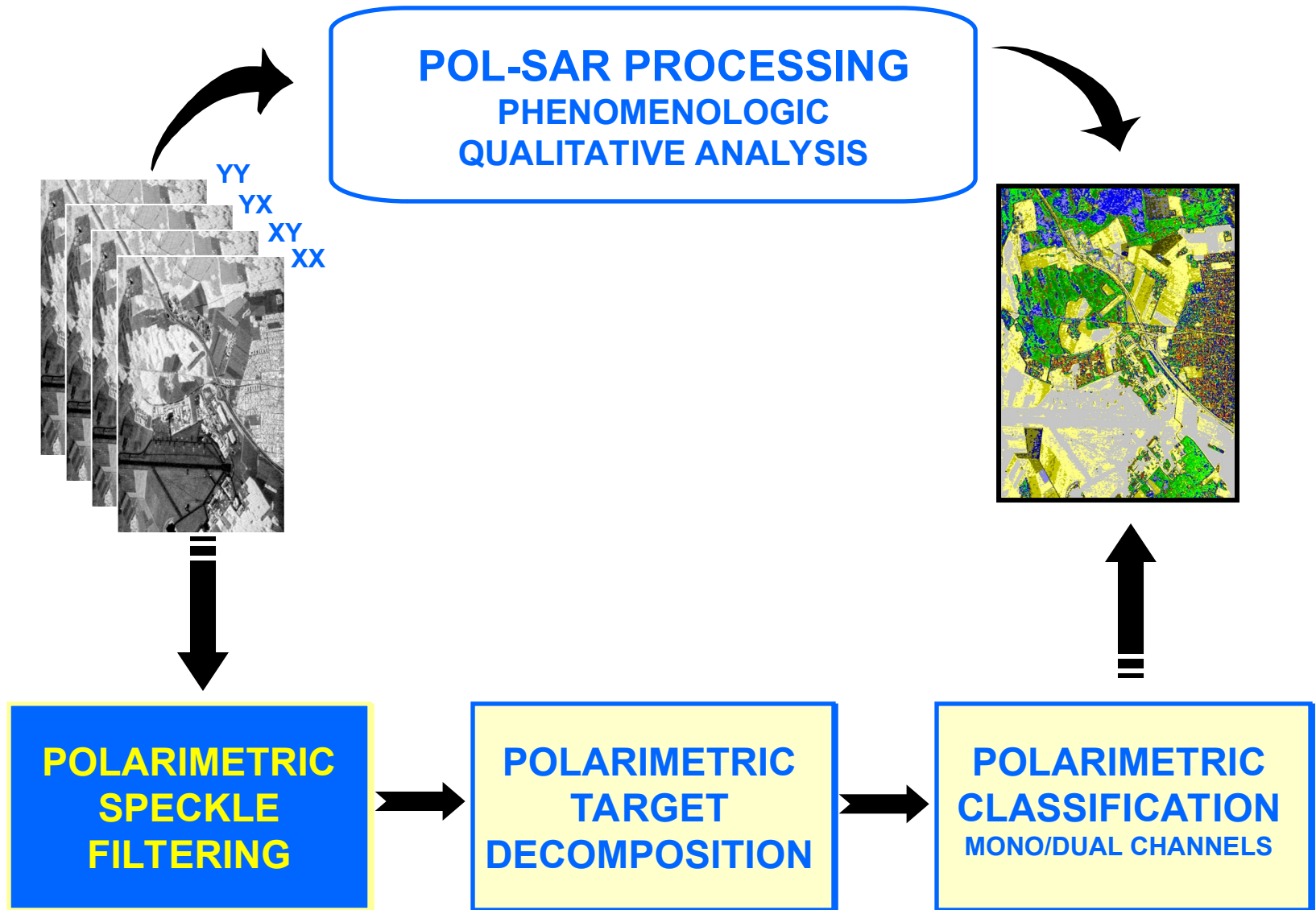
# SCATTERING POLARIMETRY



# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING

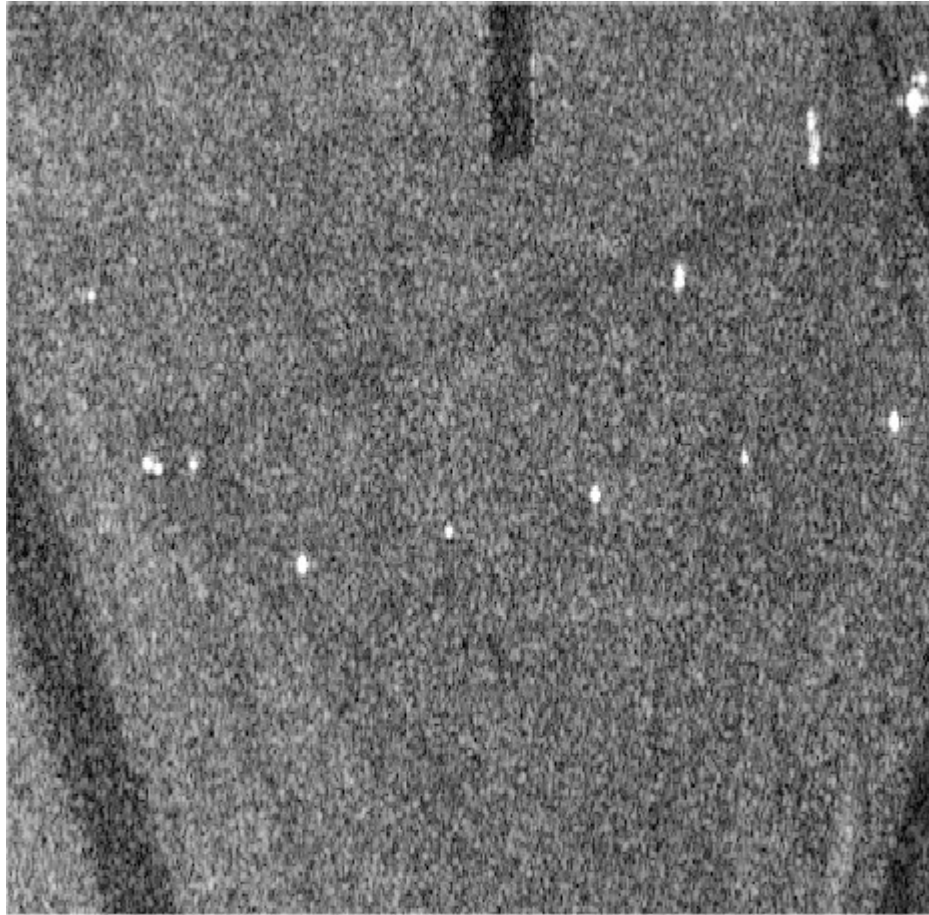


# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING

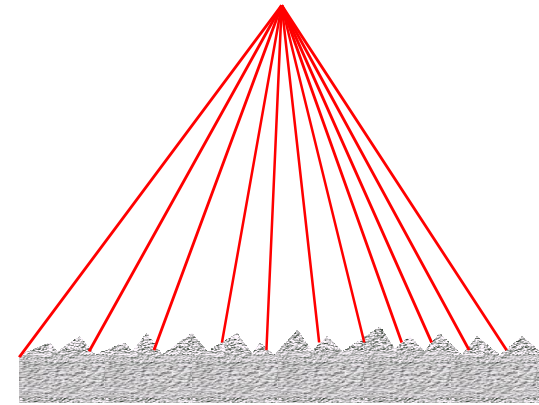




# SPECKLE PHENOMENON



OBSERVATION POINT



SURFACE ROUGHNESS  
WAVELENGTH

SCATTERING FROM DISTRIBUTED  
SCATTERERS



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



GRANULAR NOISE



# SPECKLE FILTERING

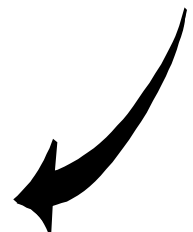
SPECKLE PHENOMENON



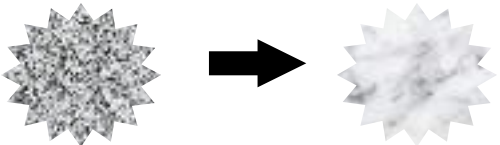
DISTORTION OF THE INTERPRETATION



SPECKLE FILTERING

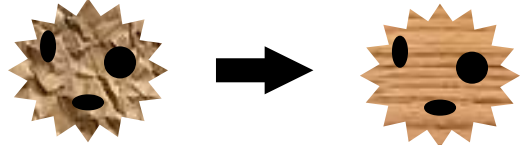


HOMOGENEOUS AREA



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

$$\langle [T] \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k_i k_i^{*T} \rightarrow \boxed{[\hat{T}] = E([T]) - k[E([T]) - [T]]} \rightarrow [\hat{T}]$$

**SPAN IMAGE**  
 $S_S = \langle T_{11} \rangle + \langle T_{22} \rangle + \langle T_{33} \rangle$

**LINEAR SCALAR LEE FILTER**  
 $\hat{S} = E(S_S) - k[E(S_S) - S_S]$

$$k = \frac{\text{var}(S)}{\text{var}(S_S)} = \frac{CV_{S_S}^2 - \sigma_v^2}{CV_{S_S}^2 [1 + \sigma_v^2]}$$



J.S. LEE

**Homogeneous Areas**  
 $\text{var}(S) \approx 0 \Rightarrow k = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{S} = E(S_S)$

**Highly Inhomogeneous Areas**  
 $\text{var}(S) \mapsto \text{var}(S_S) \Rightarrow k = 1 \Rightarrow \hat{S} = S_S$

## REFINED FILTER

# SPECKLE FILTERING



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

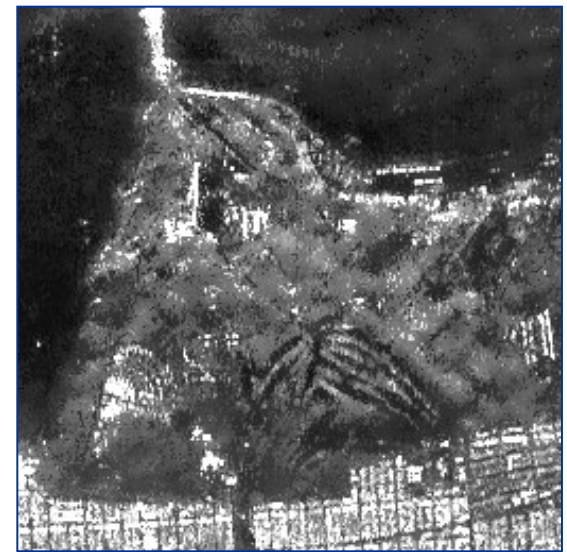


AVERAGING DATA



SECOND ORDER  
STATISTICS

COHERENCY MATRICES



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

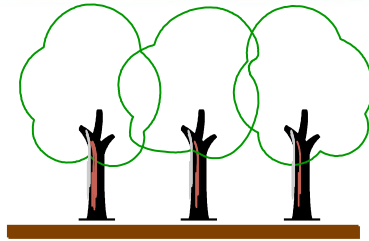


SMOOTHING AVERAGING



CONCEPT OF THE DISTRIBUTED TARGET

# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS



PURE TARGET

COHERENCY MATRIX [T]

POLARIMETRIC DISTRIBUTED  
TARGET « DIMENSION » = 5

9 REAL DEPENDANT  
HUYNEN PARAMETERS  
(A<sub>0</sub>,B<sub>0</sub>,B,C,D,E,F,G,H)

9 - 5 = 4 TARGET EQUATIONS

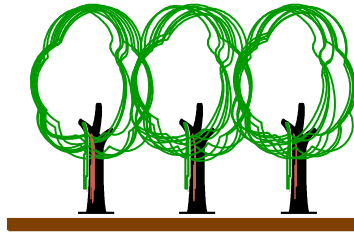
$$2A_0(B_0 + B) = C^2 + D^2$$

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

$$2A_0E = CH - DG$$

$$2A_0F = CG + DH$$

# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS



DISTRIBUTED TARGET

COHERENCY MATRIX  $\langle [T] \rangle$

POLARIMETRIC DISTRIBUTED  
TARGET « DIMENSION » = 9

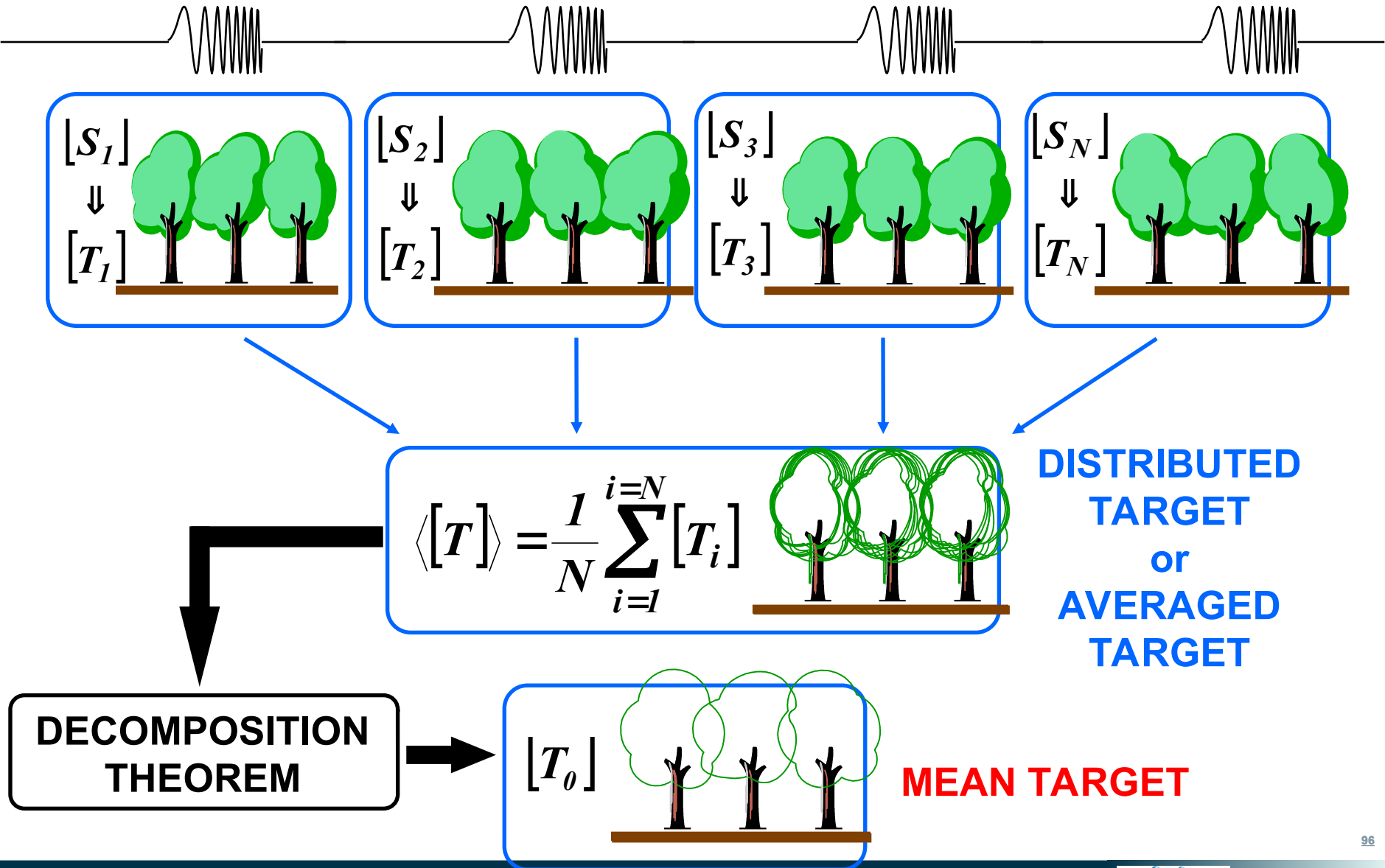
9 REAL INDEPENDANT  
HUYNEN PARAMETERS

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

## 9 TARGET INEQUATIONS

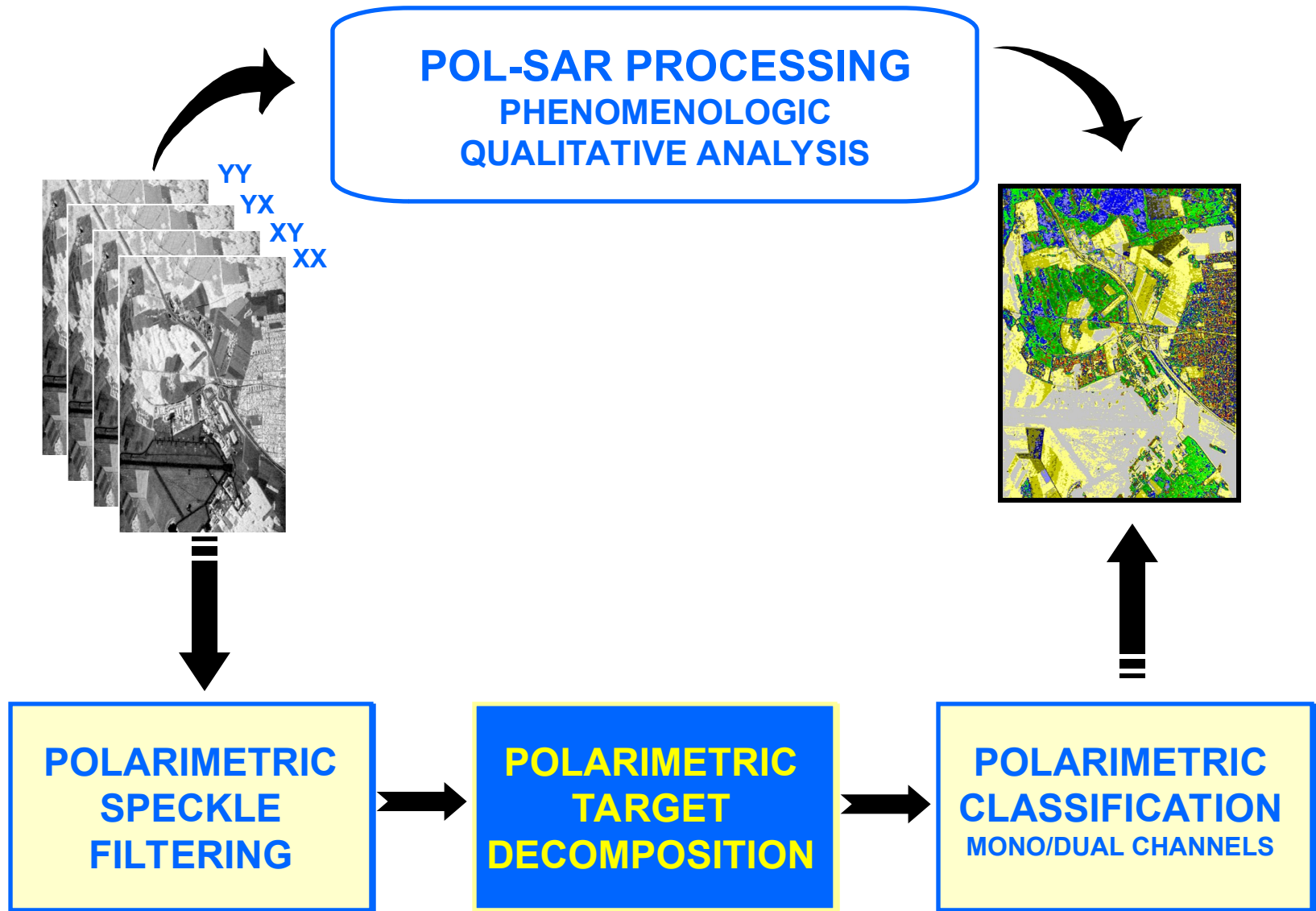
$$\begin{aligned}
 2\langle A_0 \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle + \langle B \rangle) &\geq \langle C \rangle^2 + \langle D \rangle^2 & \langle H \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle + \langle B \rangle) &\geq \langle C \rangle \langle E \rangle + \langle D \rangle \langle F \rangle \\
 2\langle A_0 \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle - \langle B \rangle) &\geq \langle G \rangle^2 + \langle H \rangle^2 & \langle G \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle + \langle B \rangle) &\geq \langle C \rangle \langle F \rangle - \langle D \rangle \langle E \rangle \\
 2\langle A_0 \rangle \langle E \rangle &\geq \langle C \rangle \langle H \rangle - \langle D \rangle \langle G \rangle & \langle C \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle - \langle B \rangle) &\geq \langle H \rangle \langle E \rangle + \langle F \rangle \langle G \rangle \\
 2\langle A_0 \rangle \langle F \rangle &\geq \langle C \rangle \langle G \rangle + \langle D \rangle \langle H \rangle & \langle D \rangle (\langle B_0 \rangle - \langle B \rangle) &\geq \langle F \rangle \langle H \rangle - \langle G \rangle \langle E \rangle \\
 \langle B_0 \rangle^2 &\geq \langle B \rangle^2 + \langle E \rangle^2 + \langle F \rangle^2 & &
 \end{aligned}$$

# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS





# POLARIMETRIC REMOTE SENSING



# TARGET DECOMPOSITIONS

[S]

[T]

[C]

## COHERENT DECOMPOSITION

E. KROGAGER  
(1990)

W.L. CAMERON  
(1990)

[K]

## TARGET DICHOTOMY

J.R. HUYNEN  
(1970)

R.M. BARNES  
(1988)

## EIGENVECTORS BASED DECOMPOSITION

S.R. CLOUDE  
(1985)

W.A. HOLM  
(1988)

## 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)

## AZIMUTHAL SYMMETRY

## MODEL BASED DECOMPOSITION

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

