

Radiative transfer model (VIS – TIR) for natural and urban surfaces

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** DART simulated Mont-Blanc sunrise image*



Outline

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Physical principles**
- 3. Surface 3D RTMs**
- 4. Applications**
- 5. Perspectives**

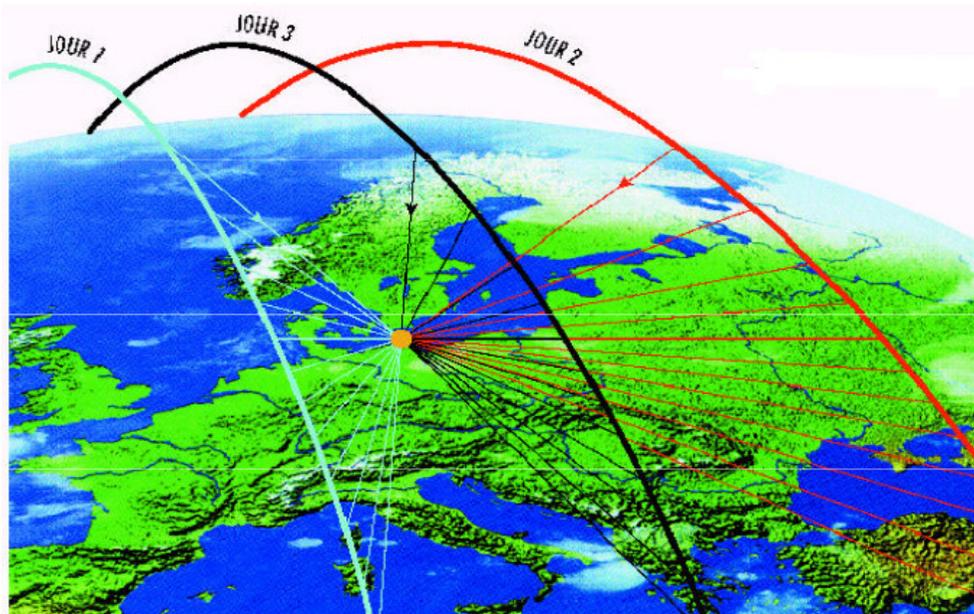
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Remote Sensing & Challenges

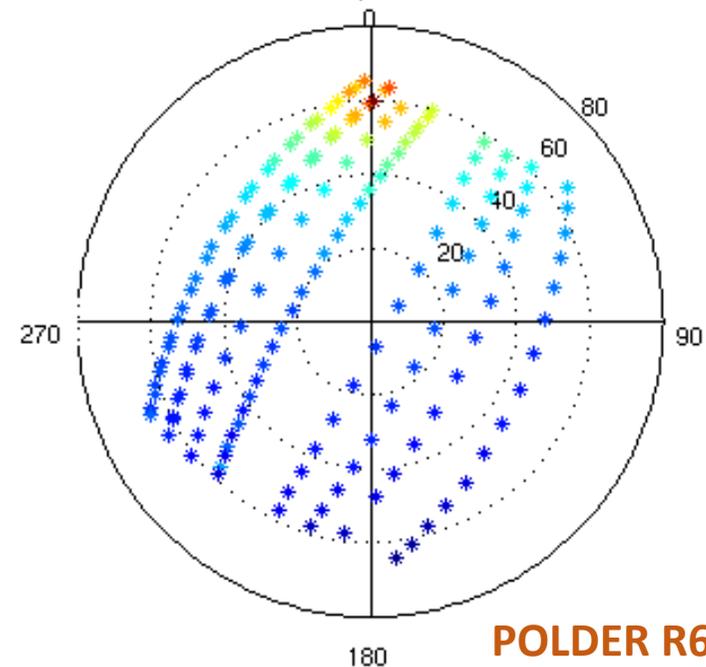
Directional effect: Observed reflectance ρ_{BOA} changes with Ω_s, Ω_v



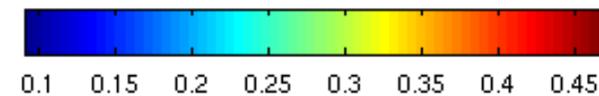
POLDER (Polarization and Directionality of Earth Reflectances) - 114° FOV, nadir resolution 6km

(E. Vermote, C. Justice and Breon, NASA supported Land LTDR Project)

incident direction Ω_s : local time
view direction Ω_v : sensor position



POLDER R670

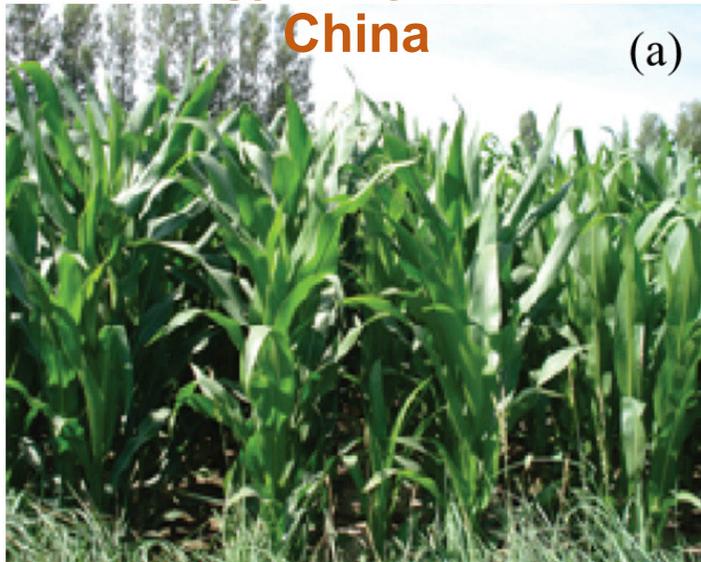




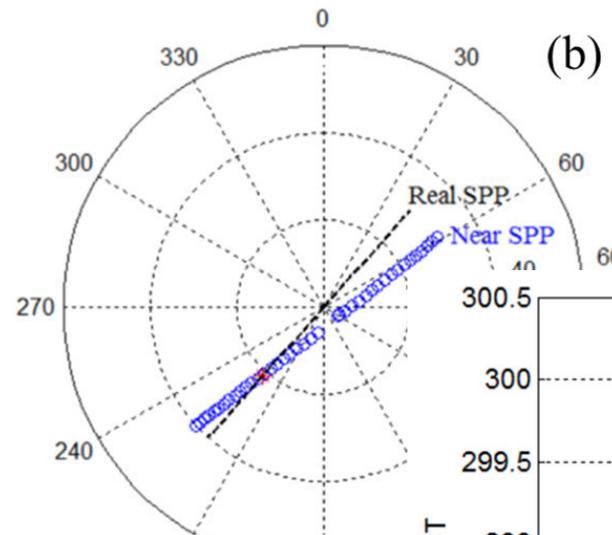
Remote Sensing & Challenges

Directional effect: Observed thermal radiance BT_{BOA} changes with Ω_s, Ω_v

Zhangye city, Gansu, China

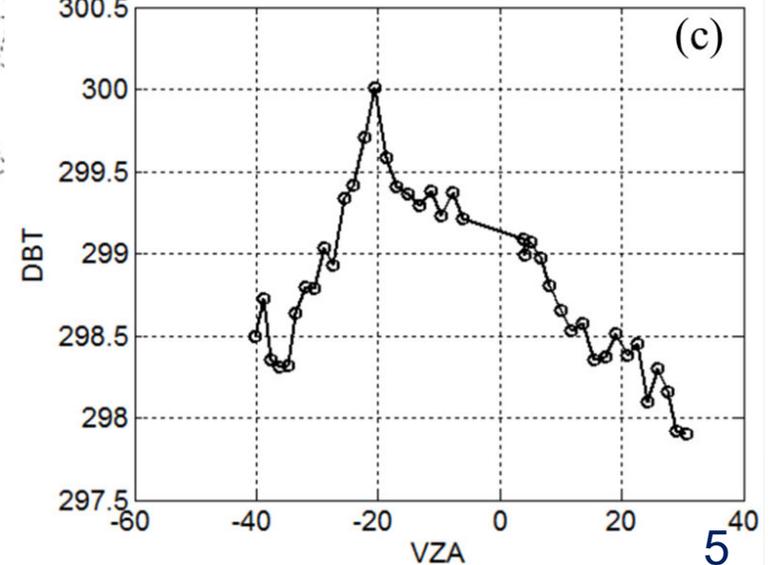


Airborne TIR camera
40° wide FOV
Spectral domain 8-11 μm



Near Solar Plane observation

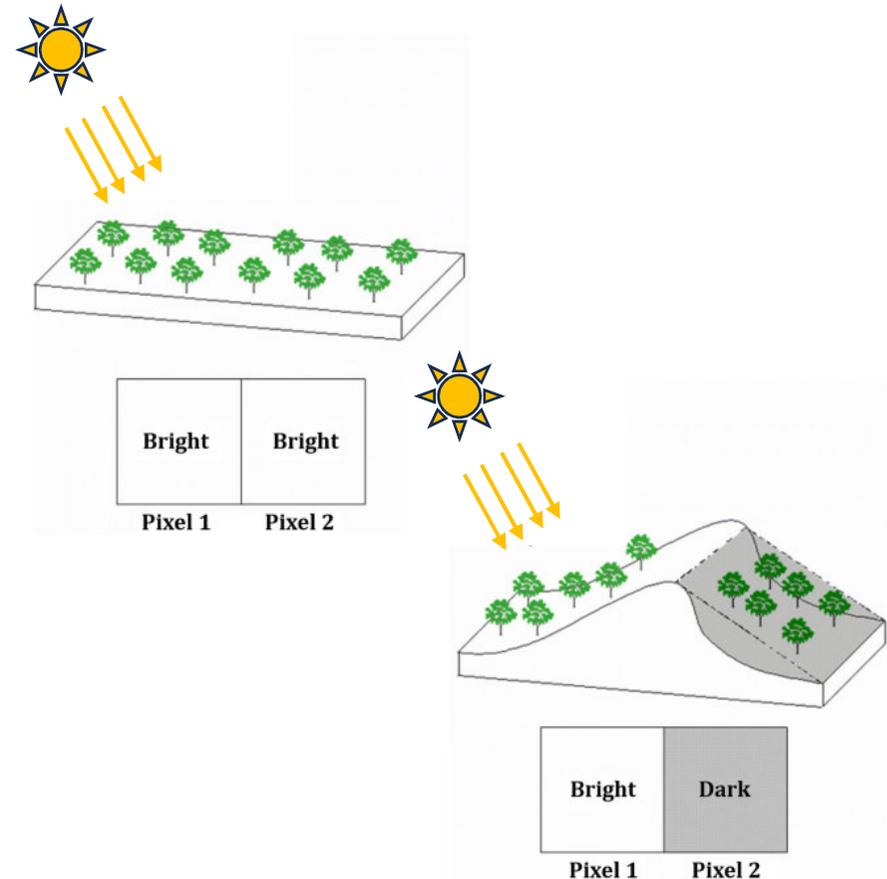
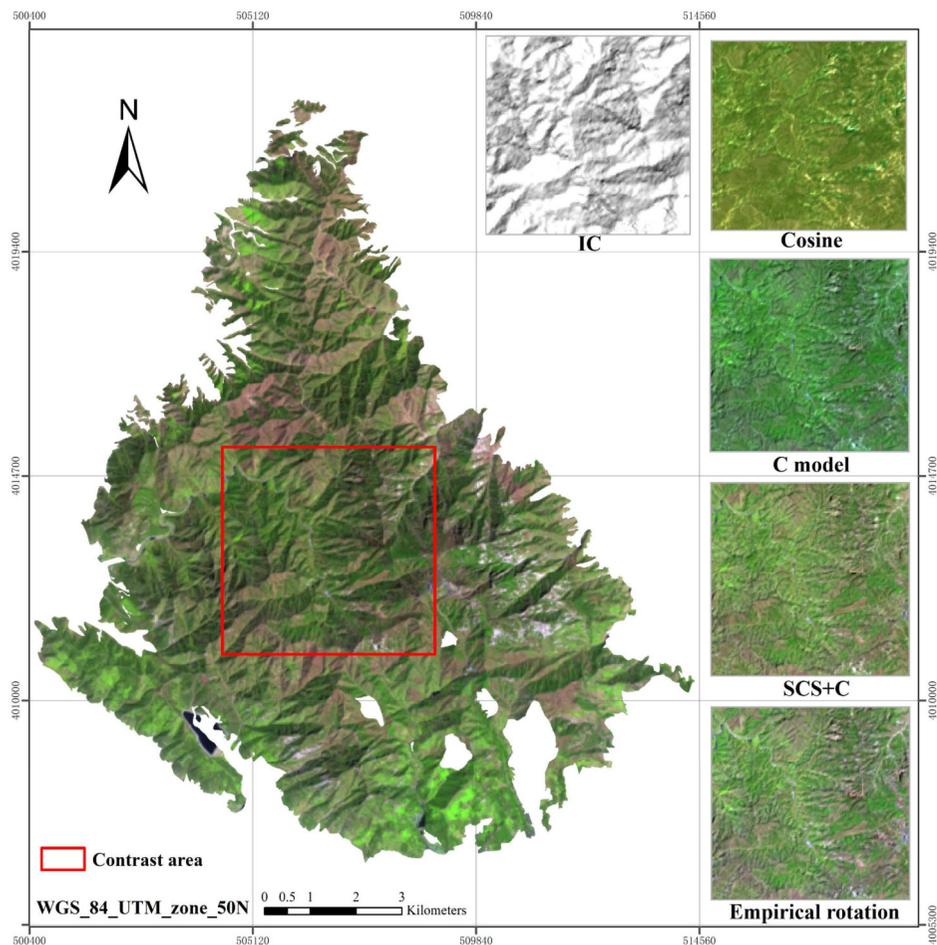
(Cao et al., 2024)





Remote Sensing & Challenges

Topographic effect: Observation changes with slope aspect

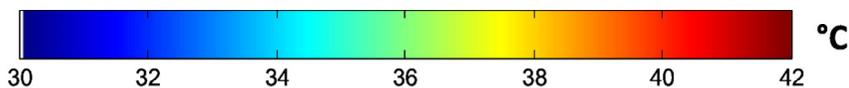
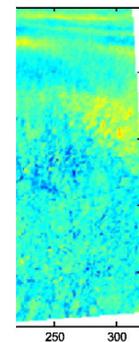
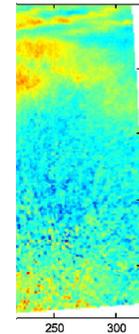
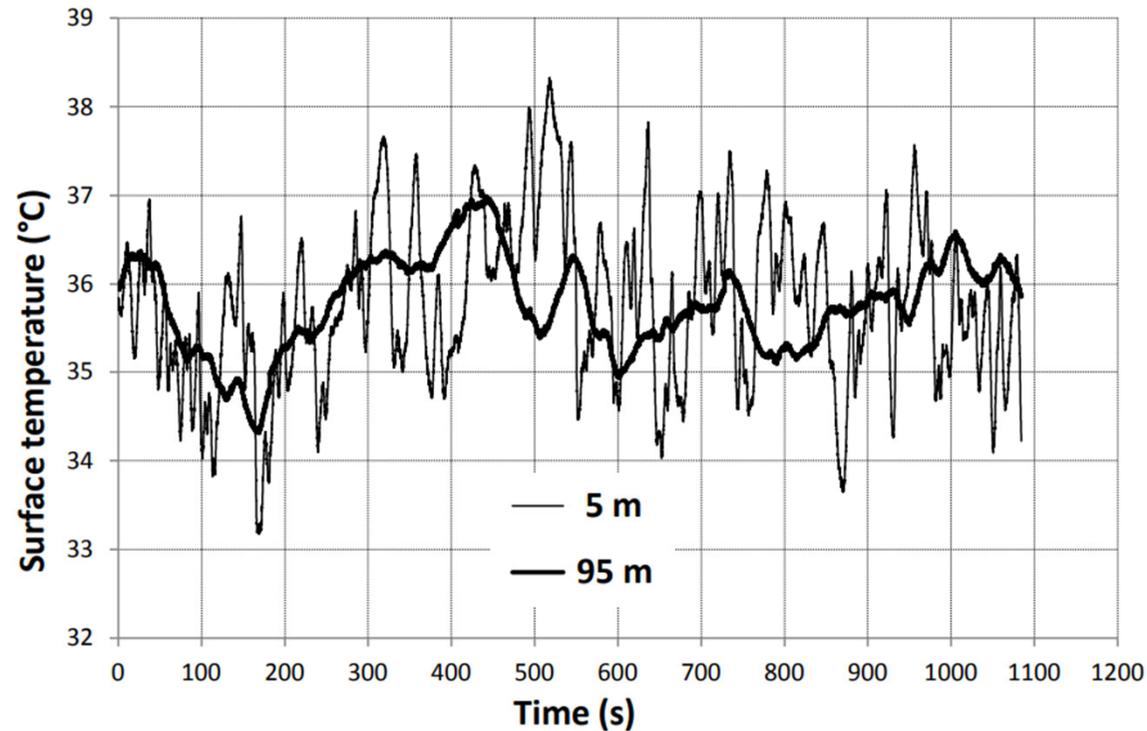
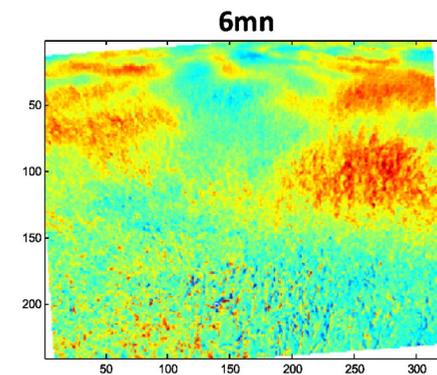


(Chao et al., 2020)



Remote Sensing & Challenges

Natural processes: Observation changes with local microclimate

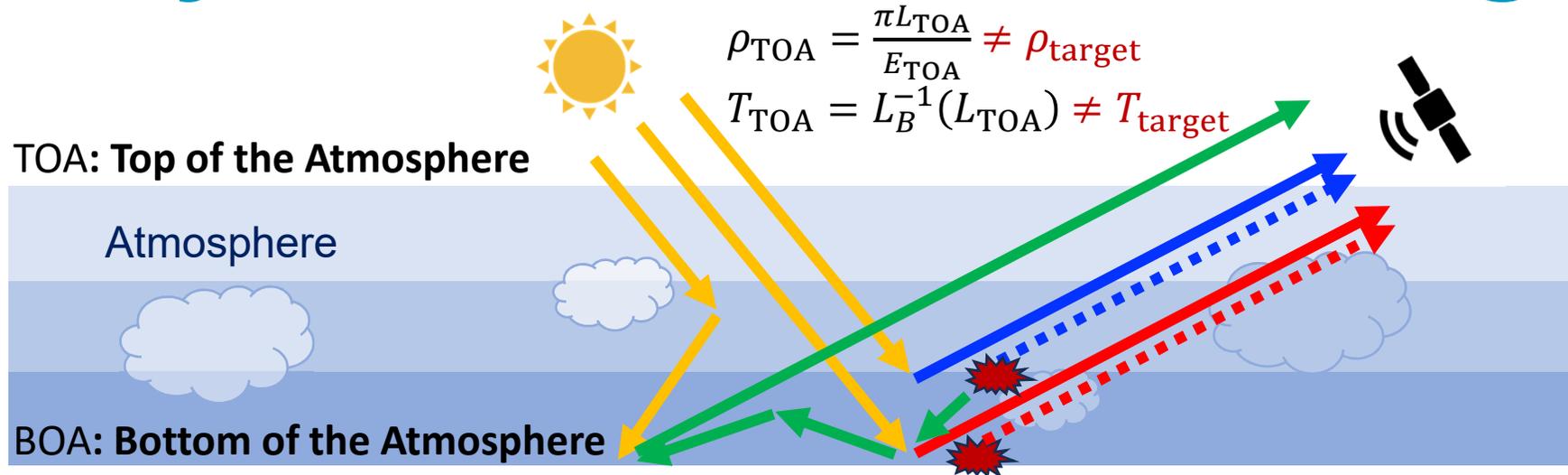


→ Turbulence induced errors on LST

(Lagouarde et al., 2015)



Physics of Remote Sensing



- L_{TOA} = Radiance due to scattering of solar flux and emission by the Earth (Only)
 + Radiance due to scattering of solar flux and emission by the Atmosphere (Only)
 + Radiance due to scattering of flux by {Earth + Atmosphere} (Multiple scattering)

Physical models

Forward: $RS = f(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots)$

Inverse: $VAR \pi_i = f^{-1}(RS)$



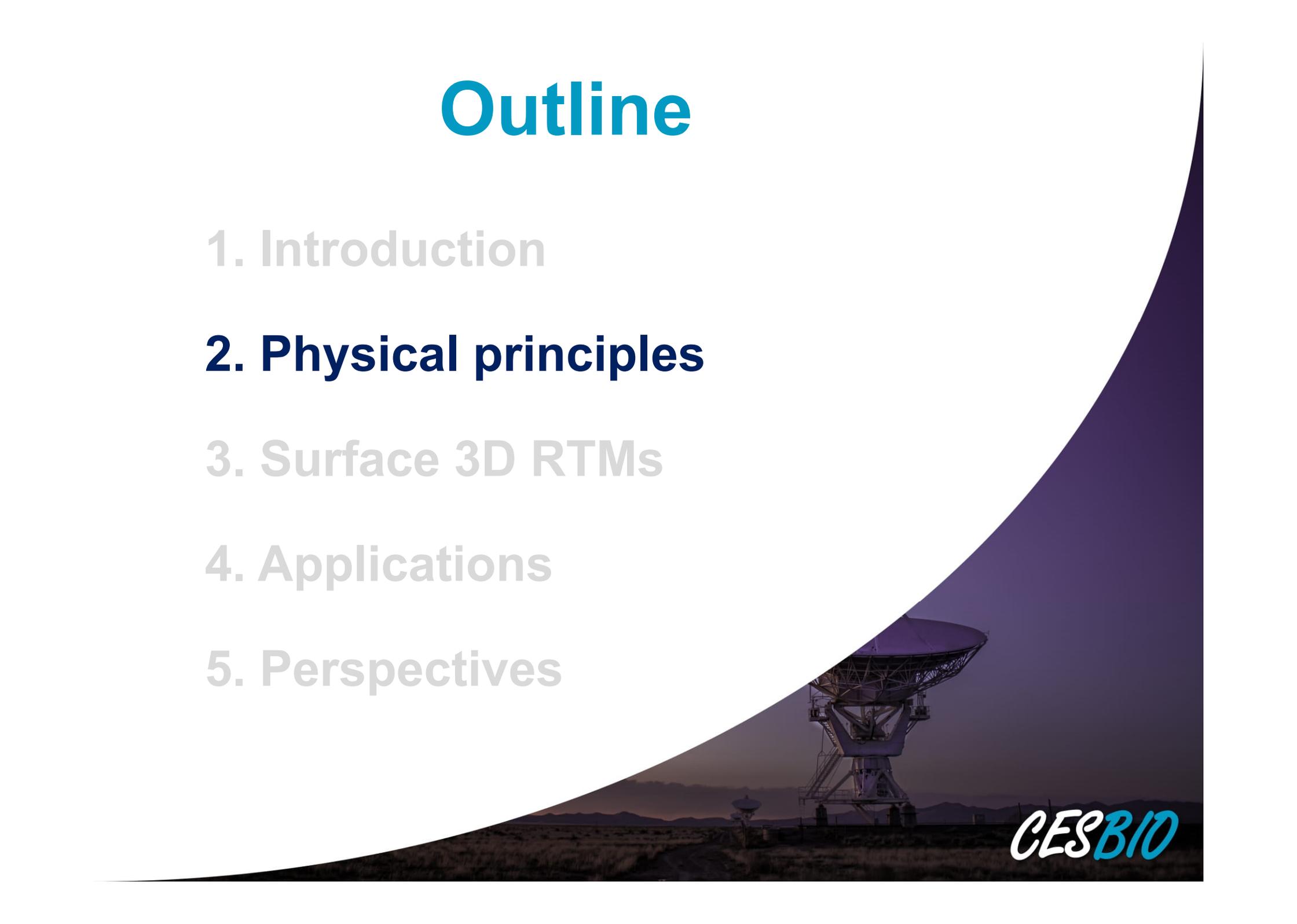
Design space missions according to scientific objectives

Derive surface variables from remote sensing observation

Study surface RB to understand land processes and climate

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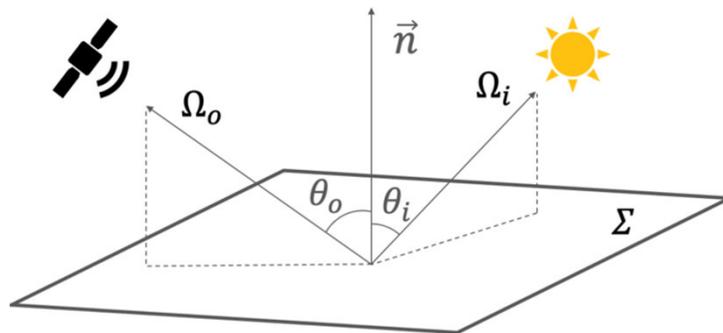
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Physical principles

Light transport equation (surface)

$$L(r, \Omega_o) = L_e(r, \Omega_o) + \int L(r, -\Omega_i) \cdot f(r, \Omega_i, \Omega_o) \cdot |\cos \theta_i| d\Omega_i$$



$$f(\Omega_i, \Omega_o) = \frac{dL(\Omega_i, \Omega_o)}{dE_i(\Omega_i)}$$

$$\int f(r, \Omega_i, \Omega_o) \cdot |\cos \theta_i| d\Omega_i \leq 1$$

$L_e(r, \Omega_o)$: emitted radiance (e.g., light source, thermal emission)

$f(r, \Omega_i, \Omega_o)$: bidirectional scattering distribution function (BSDF)

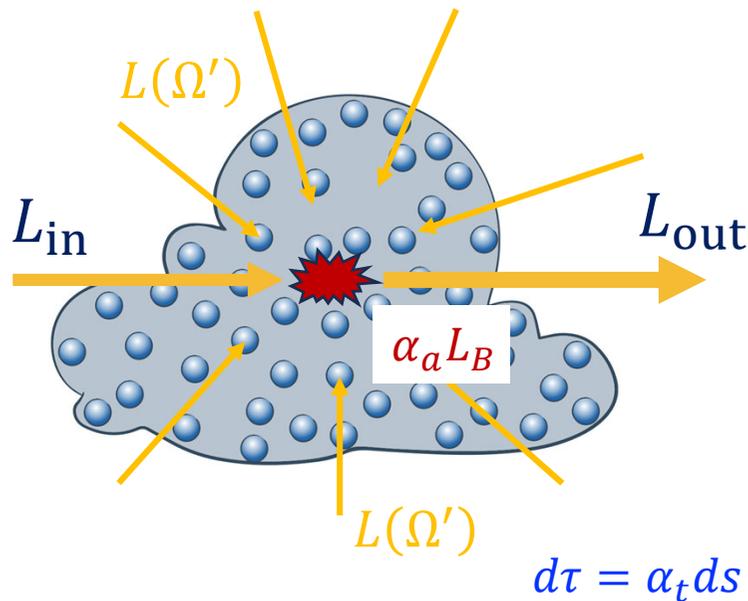
$$f(r, \Omega_i, \Omega_o) = \begin{cases} BRDF: \frac{\rho(r, \Omega_i, \Omega_o)}{\pi}, & \text{if } (\vec{n} \cdot \Omega_i) \cdot (\vec{n} \cdot \Omega_o) \geq 0 \\ BTDF: \frac{\tau(r, \Omega_i, \Omega_o)}{\pi}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Physical principles

Radiative transfer equation RTE (volume: atmosphere, turbid, fluid)

$$\frac{dL(\Omega)}{ds} = -\alpha_t L(\Omega) + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \cdot \int_{4\pi} L(\Omega') \cdot P(\Omega' \rightarrow \Omega) d\Omega' + \alpha_a L_B(T, \Omega)$$



$-\alpha_t L$: Attenuation due to **absorption** and **out-scattering**

$\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \cdot \int_{4\pi} L(\Omega') \cdot P(\Omega' \rightarrow \Omega) d\Omega'$: Contribution due to **in-scattering** into the line of sight

$\alpha_a L_B$: Contribution due to **thermal emission**

Also expressed as: $\frac{dL(\Omega)}{d\tau(\Omega)} = -L(\Omega) + \frac{\omega}{4\pi} \int_{4\pi} L(\Omega') P(\Omega' \rightarrow \Omega) d\Omega' + (1 - \omega) L_B(T, \Omega)$

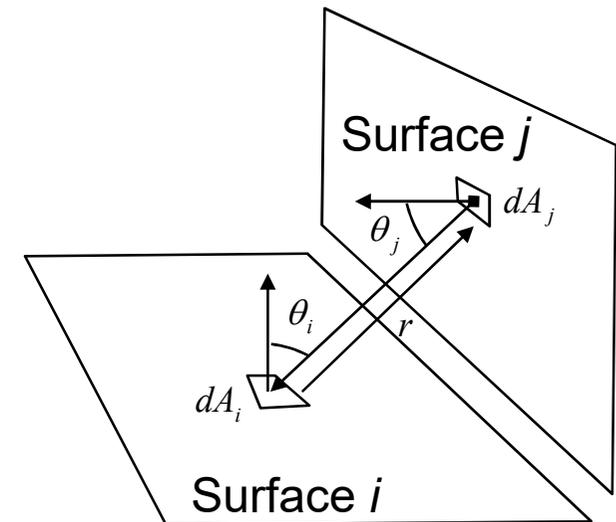


Numerical solution

Radiosity method: Radiant energy conservation.

$$B_i = E_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \xi_i \cdot F_{i,j} \cdot B_j, \text{ with } \xi_i = \rho_i \text{ or } \tau_i$$

$$F_{ij} = \frac{1}{A_i} \int_{A_i} \int_{A_j} \frac{\cos \theta_i \cos \theta_j}{\pi |r|^2} dA_i dA_j$$



B_i : Radiant flux leaving a facet i (N facets in total)

E_i : Emitted flux from a facet i

ρ_i (**reflectance**): fraction of an incident flux reflected by facet i

τ_i (**transmittance**): fraction of an incident flux reflected by facet i

$F_{i,j}$ (**view factor**): fraction of flux leaving facet j and reaching facet i



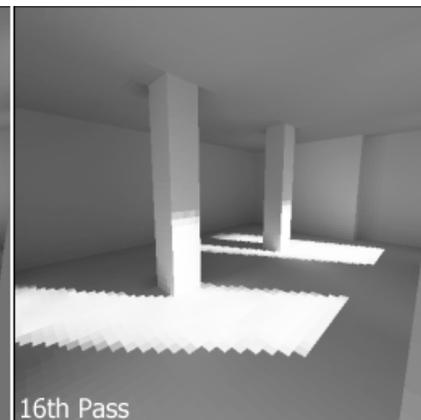
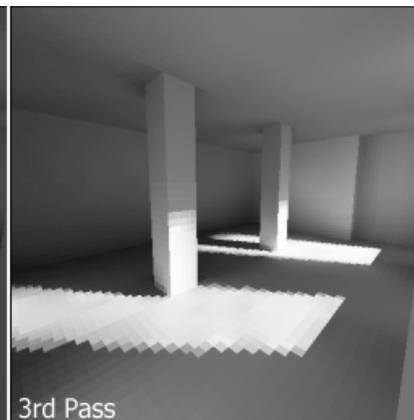
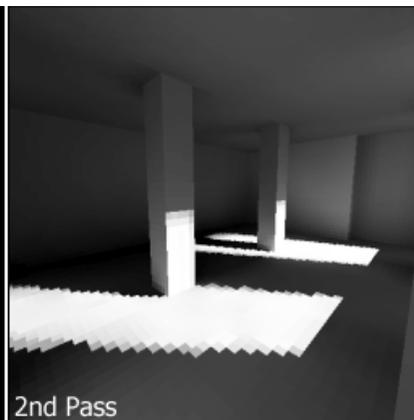
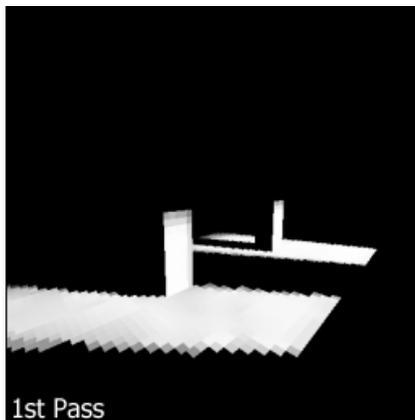
Numerical solution

Radiosity method: Transformation and solution

$$B_i = E_i + \xi_i \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N F_{i,j} \cdot B_j \quad \rightarrow \quad B_i - \xi_i \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N F_{i,j} \cdot B_j = E_i$$

N equations
N unknowns

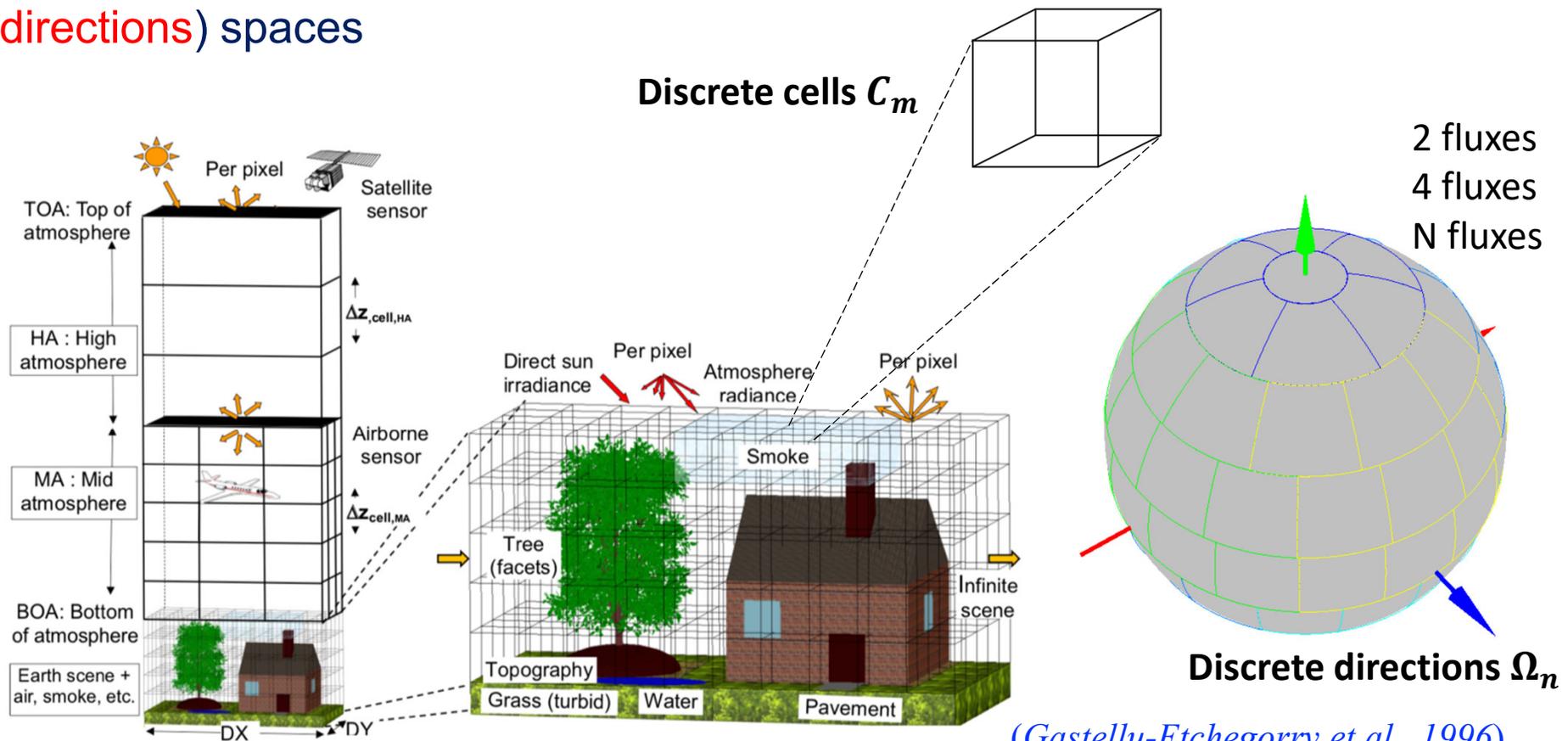
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\xi_1 F_{1,2} & \dots & -\xi_1 F_{1,N} \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ -\xi_N F_{N,1} & -\xi_N F_{N,2} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ \vdots \\ B_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E_1 \\ \vdots \\ E_N \end{bmatrix}$$





Numerical solution

Discrete Ordiantes method: Discretisation of XYZ (M cells) and angular (N directions) spaces



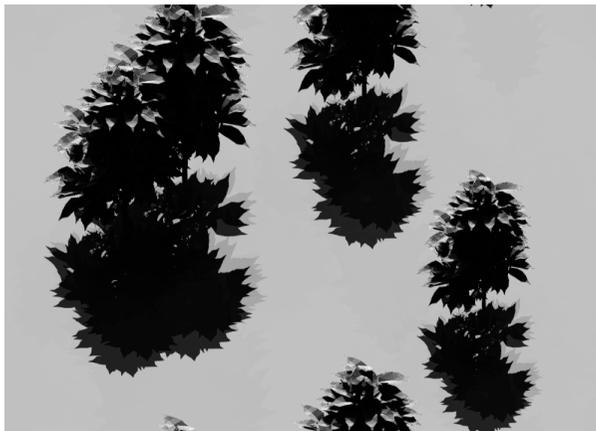


Numerical solution

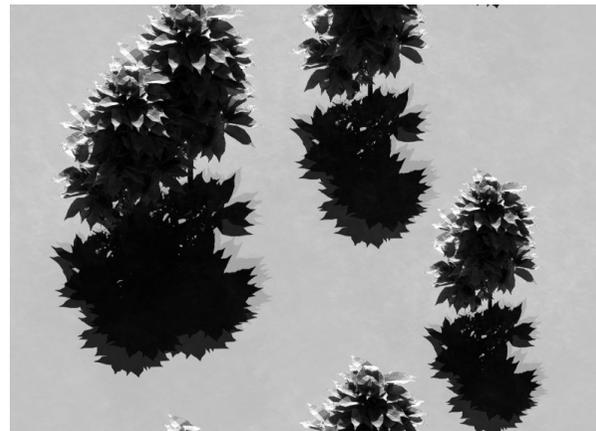
Discrete Ordiantes method: N equations per cell, for M cells

$$L_{\text{out}}(\Omega_m) = \mathcal{T}(\Omega_m)L_{\text{in}}(\Omega_m) + L_e(\Omega_m) + \sum_{i=1}^M \phi_{i,m} L_{\text{in}}(\Omega_i)$$

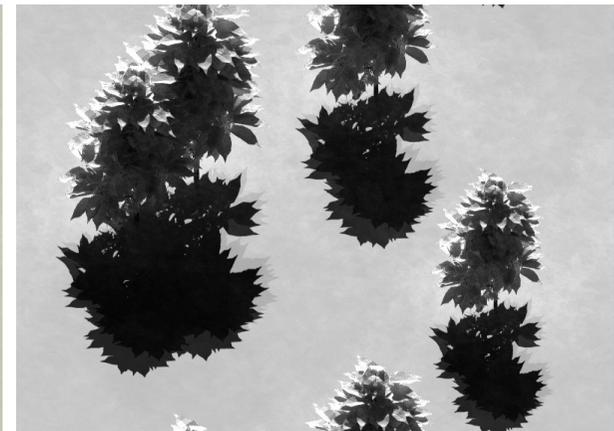
M x N equations per Pass



1st Pass



2nd Pass



20th Pass



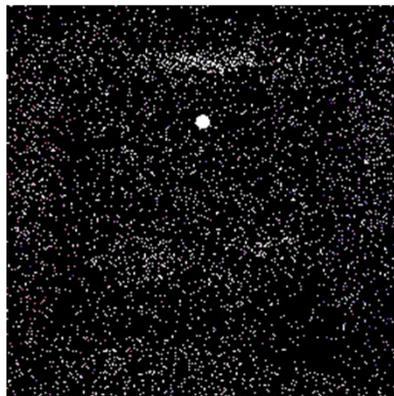
Numerical solution

Monte Carlo method: probability of interception and scattering

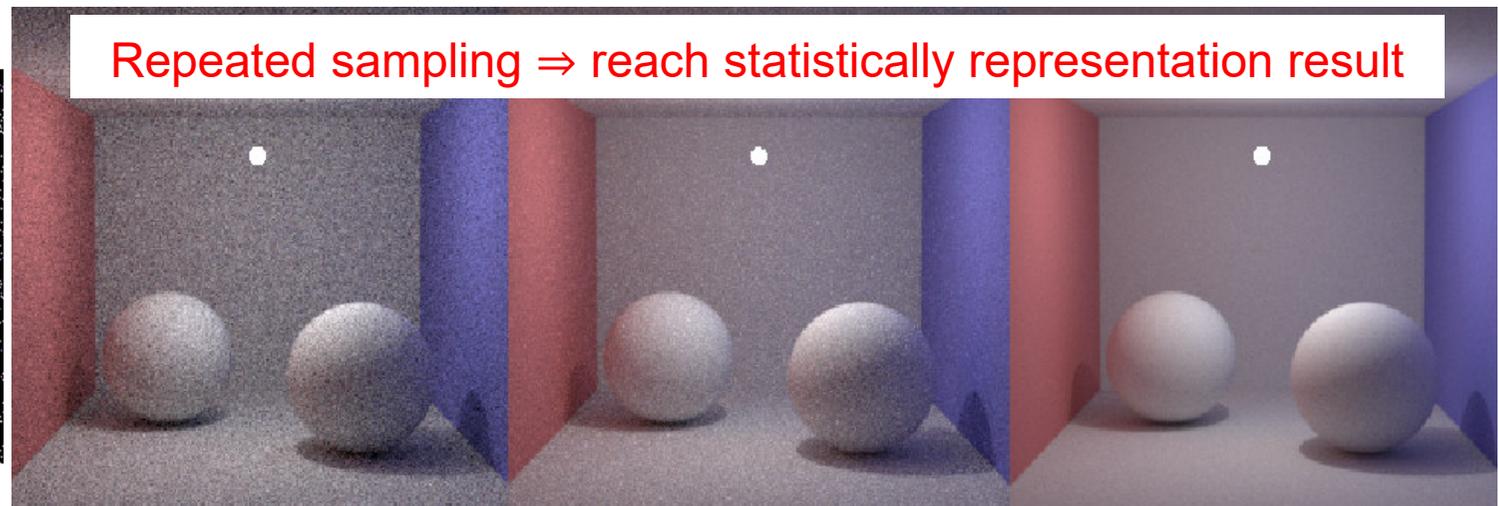
Forward approach: scene illumination by tracking rays from the source

Backward approach: scene illumination by tracking rays from the sensor

Bi-directional approach: scene illumination by tracking rays from sensor & source



MC.gif



10 samples / pixel

100 samples / pixel

1000 samples / pixel

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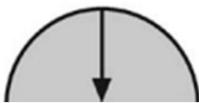


Radiative transfer modelling

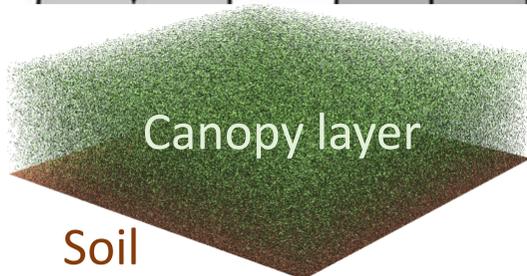
Evolution of Physical Models

RT and landscape modeling complexity ↗

Diffuse downward flux



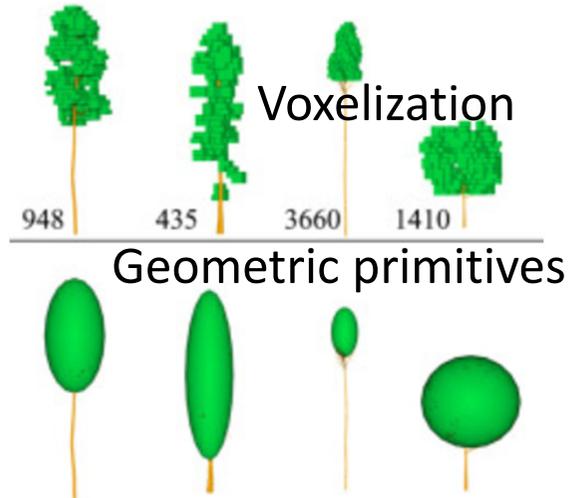
Diffuse upward flux



Canopy layer

Soil

SAIL 1980s
(2 fluxes)



DART, FLIGHT, etc. 1990s
(DOM, MC, Radiosity)



© European Union

DART, LESS, etc. 2020s
(MC)

Close to reality reference;
Validate other models

Accuracy

3D radiative transfer models

(Survey on 09/2022, Wang Yingjie, 2022)

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Possible

		<i>DART</i>	<i>DIRSIG</i>	<i>Eradiate</i>	<i>FLiES</i>	<i>FLIGHT</i>	<i>LCVRT</i>	<i>LESS</i>	<i>Librat</i>	<i>MCScene</i>	<i>RAPID</i>	<i>Raytran</i>	<i>WPS</i>
		M/D	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	R	M	M	
Radiative transfer	Mode (MC, DOM, Radiosity)	M/D	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	R	M	M	
	Short wave [12]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Thermal emission [7]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
	SIF emission [6]	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
	LiDAR [7]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
	Surface anisotropic scattering [9]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Surface specular reflection [8]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Polarization [3]	Yes	Possible	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
3D radiative budget [8]	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Light source	Parallel sunlight [12]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Spherical sun [8]	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
	BOA anisotropic atmosphere [10]	Yes	Possible	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	No	Yes	Yes
	Multi light sources [8]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

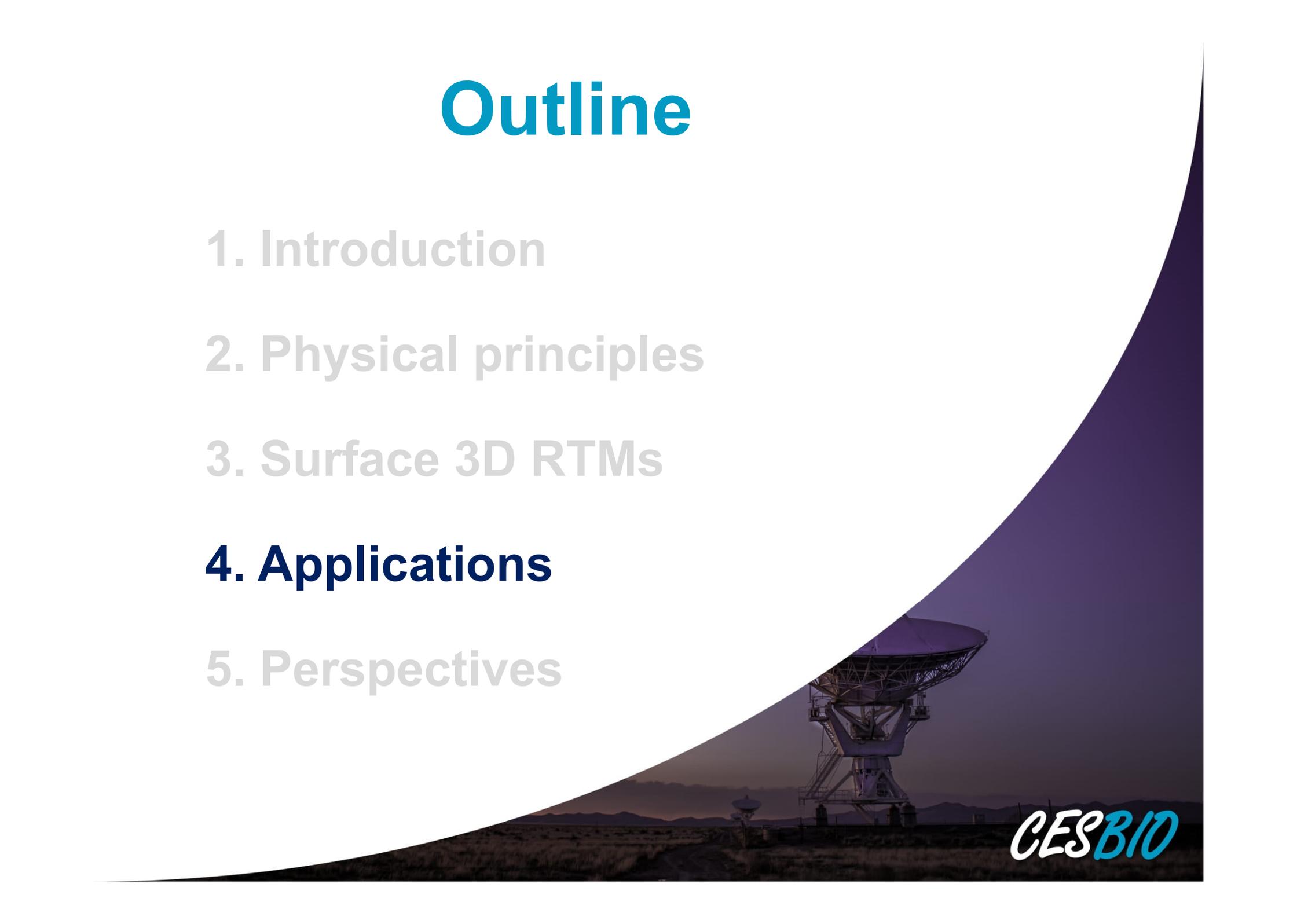
[\(Survey on 09/2022, Wang Yingjie, 2022\)](#)

Yes
 No
 Possible

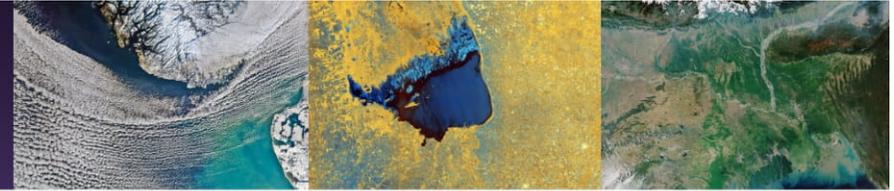
		DART	DIRSIG	Eradiate	FLIES	FLIGHT	LCVRT	LESS	Librat	MCSScene	RAPID	Raytran	WPS
Sensor	Orthographic camera [9]	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
	Perspective camera [10]	Yes	Yes	No	Possible	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Hemispheric camera [9]	Yes	No	Yes	Possible	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
	Pushbroom [8]	Yes	No	No	Possible	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Yes	No	
Land surface	Turbid medium (vegetation) [11]	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Possible	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Solid surface (buildings, etc.) [11]	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Fluids (gas, aerosol, etc.) [7]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
	Topography [9]	Yes	Yes	No	Possible	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Spherical Earth surface [5]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Possible	Yes	No	No	No	No
Atmos.	Plane parallel [9]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
	Spherical [3]	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	
	3D clouds [3]	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	
Energy balance	Photosynthesis, thermal conduction, etc. [5]	Possible	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

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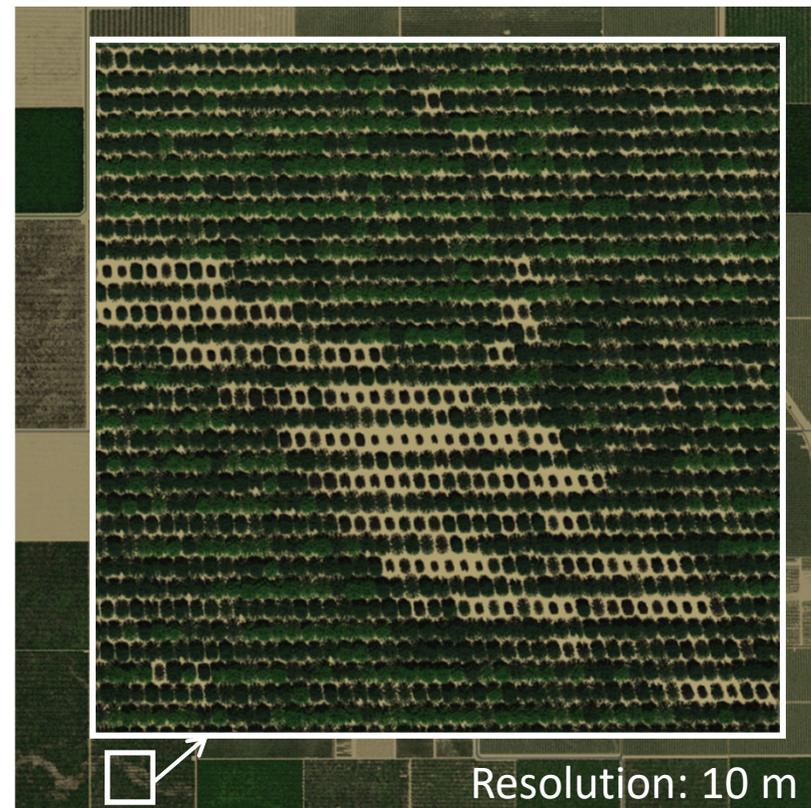
Sentinel-2 NG (ESA)

DART scenes used as reference \Rightarrow Trade-off "several satellite" vs "large FOV".
Project Sentinel-2 NG (ESA) *(Gastellu-Etchegorry et al., 2022)*



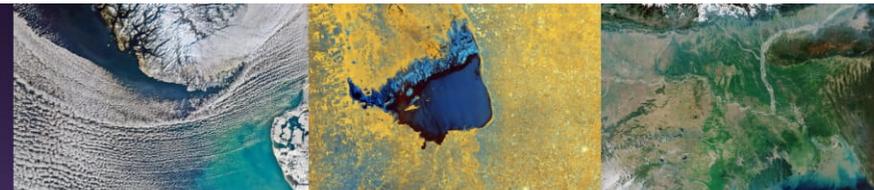
Google map (Ripperdan, USA, Sept. 2018)

3 km



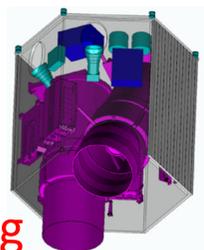
DART Simulation

DART Discrete Anisotropic Radiative Transfer



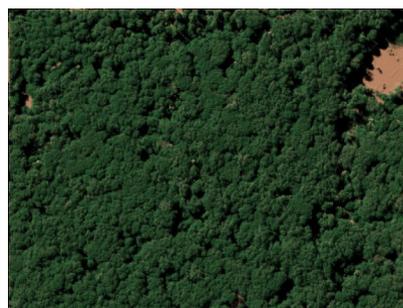
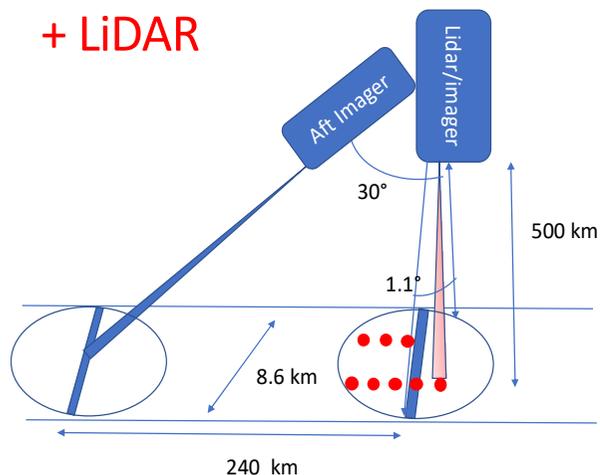
STV (NASA)

Design next generation instrument \Rightarrow HR global topography. Project STV (NASA)

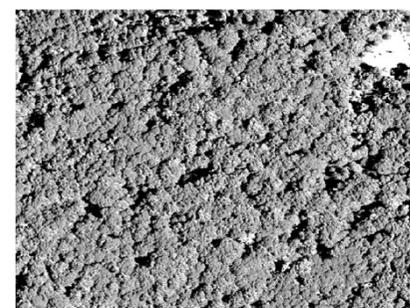


DART gives images and (x, y, z) coordinates of scene elements
 \Rightarrow NASA uses DART to define the optimal satellite configuration

Stereo imaging
+ LiDAR



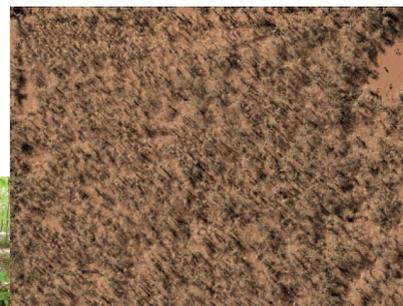
DART: 400x400m SERC forest



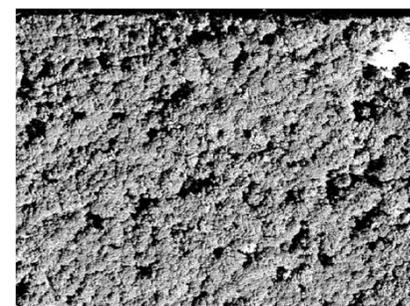
DART: nadir (15/06/2012, 9am)



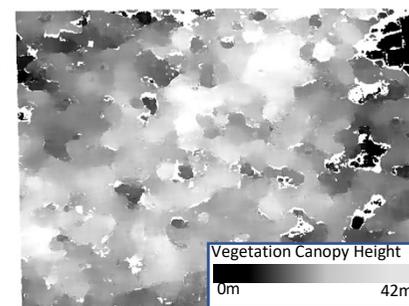
NASA G-LiHT Lidar Reference



DART: scene-leaf off



DART -20° (15/06/2012, 9am)



Canopy height from DART stereo pair

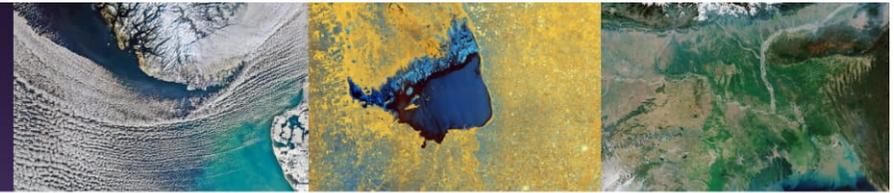


Image processing algorithm

DART Large-Scale Simulations of Stereogrammetry

Google map
(4.5km×1km)



meter-scale

DART simulated images



(a) Nadir



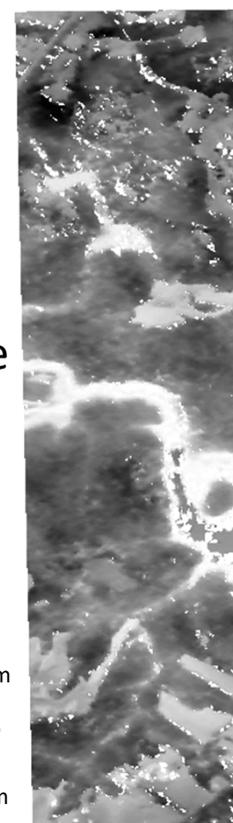
(b) 10° to 40° forward



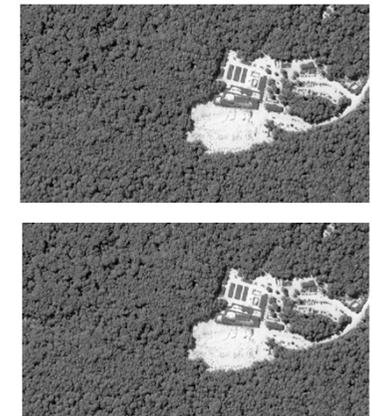
(c) -10° to -40° backward

Generated DSMs

NASA
ASP
pipeline

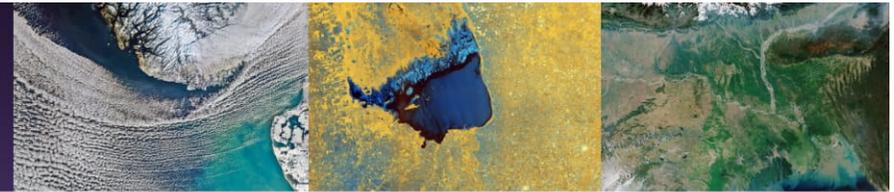


70 m
0 m

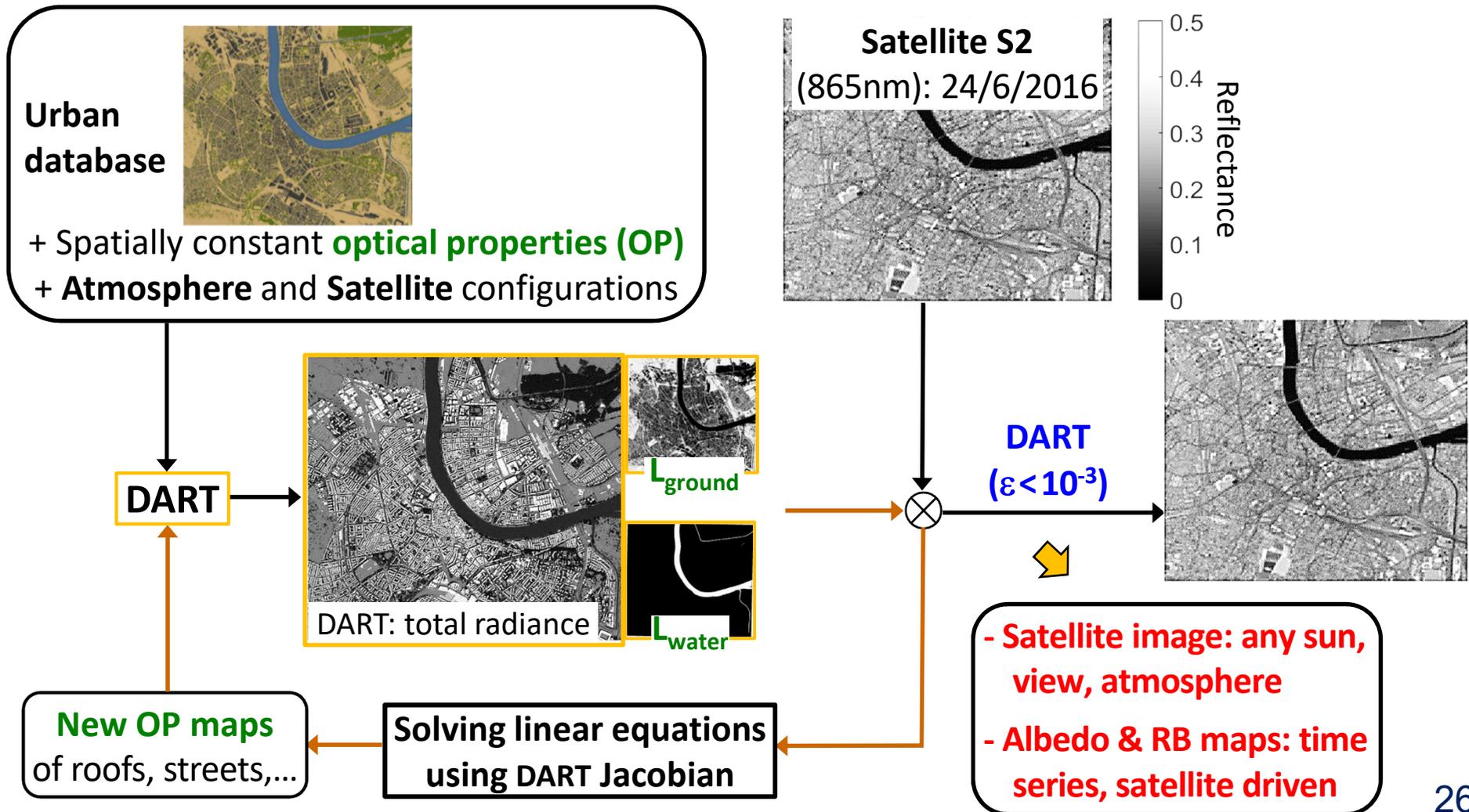


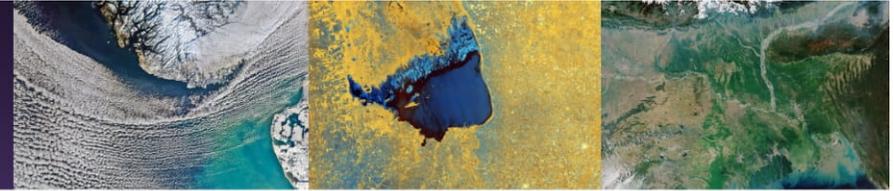
Jitter simulation





Inversion

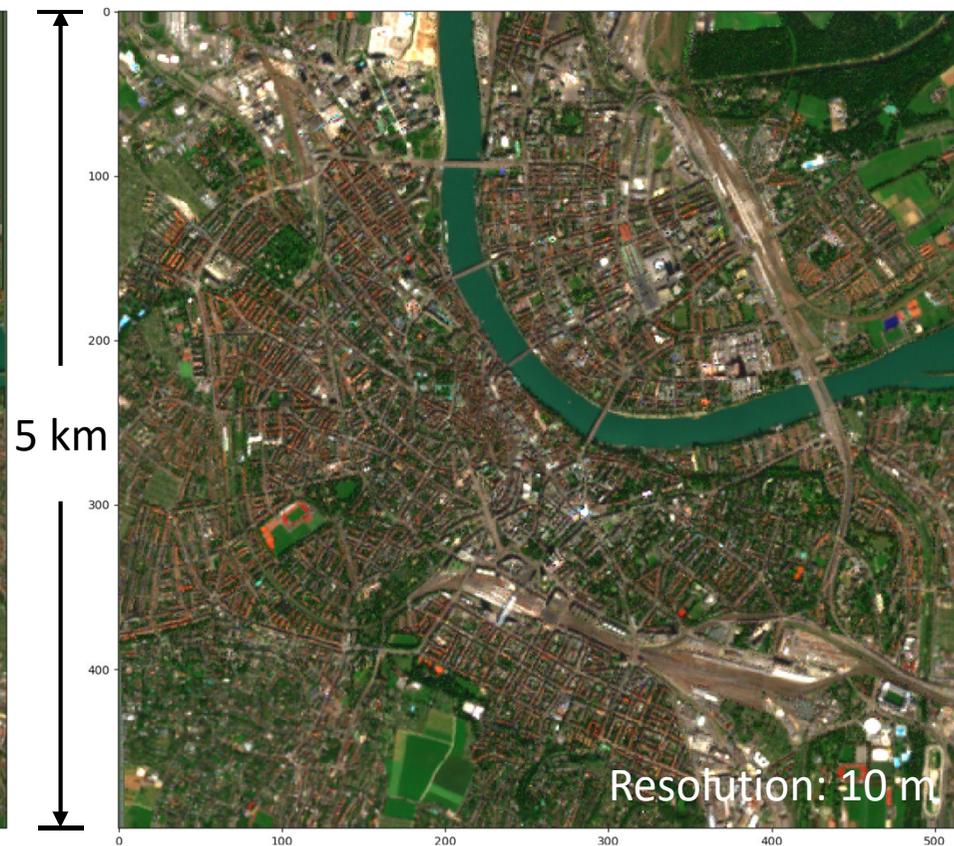




Inversion

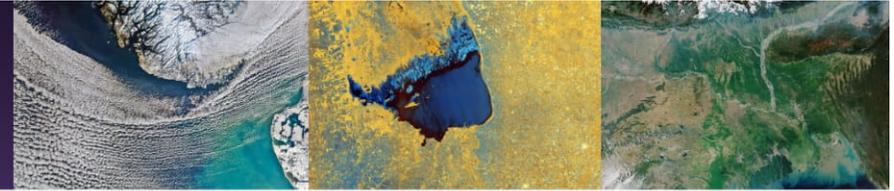


Sentinel 2 RGB (B2, B3, B4) - VIS



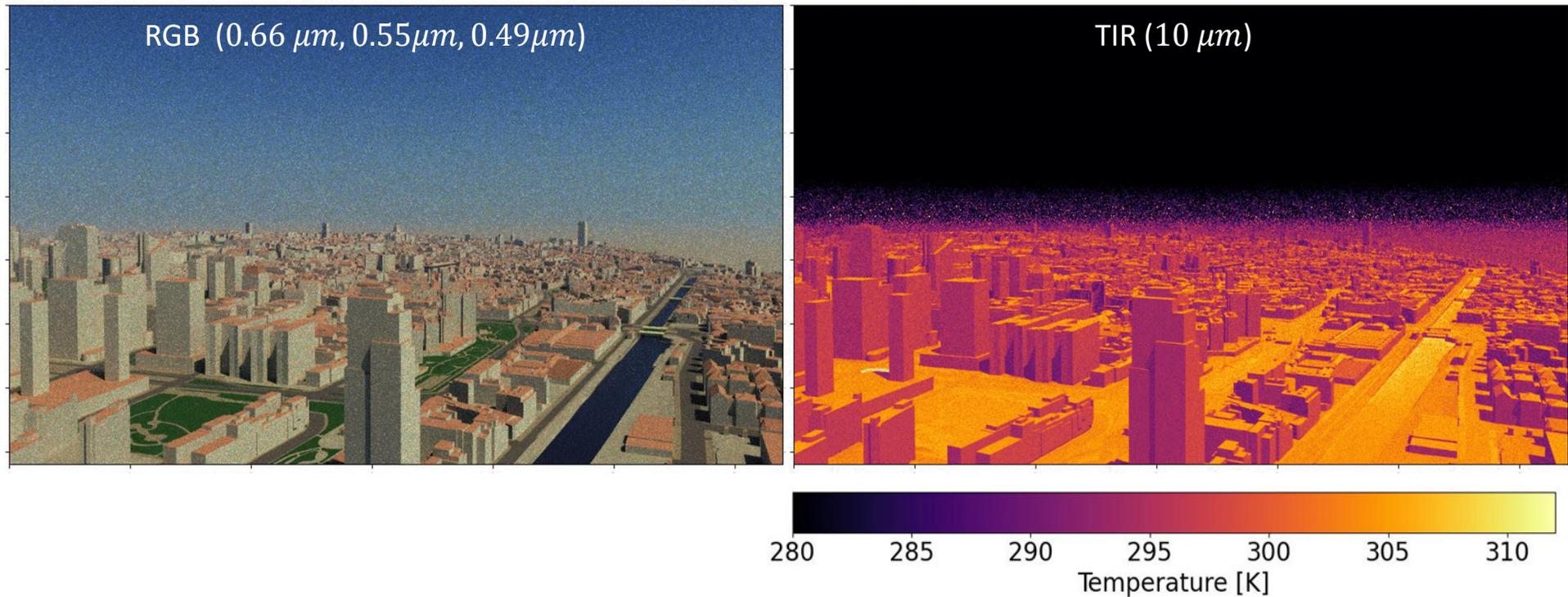
DART simulation with ρ/τ maps

(Zhen et al., 2021)

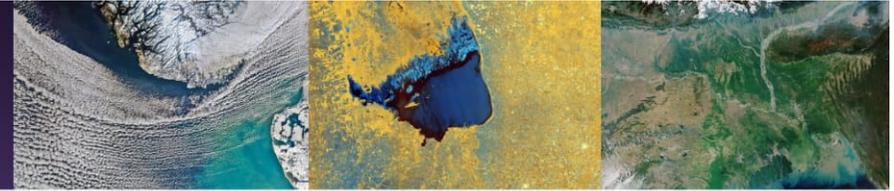


Urban heat island

Urban short wave and long wave radiation budget. Project Suabe (Belgium)



DART image: Brussels city. Land parameters from inversion S2/ASTER



Fire

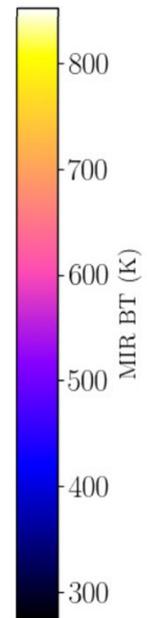
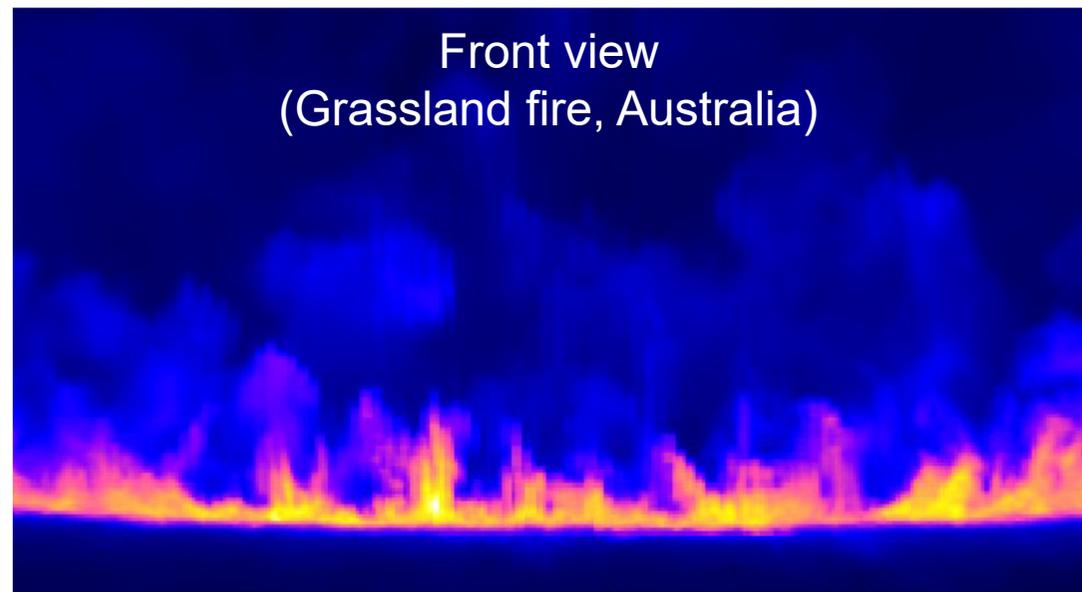
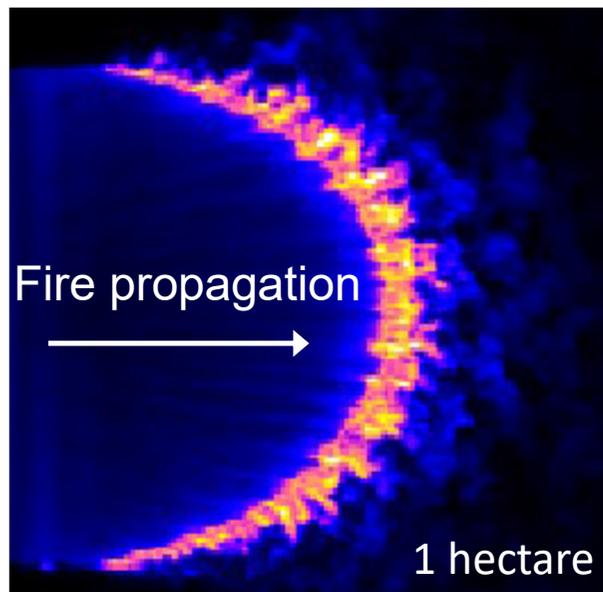
FDS (Fire Dynamics Simulator) model \Rightarrow 3D temperature distribution
3D soot/gas density

DART \Rightarrow Remote sensing observations (TIR camera, satellite)

\Rightarrow Study the **fire radiative power** from satellite observation



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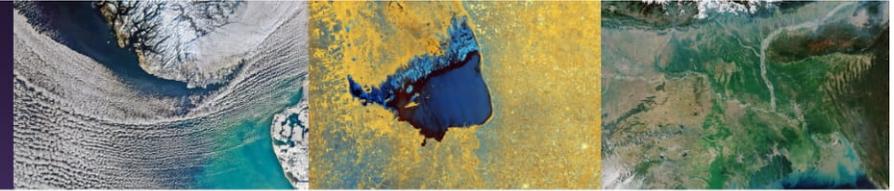
DART simulation from R. Paugam (UPC), 50s after fire ignition

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Physical principles
3. Surface 3D RTMs
4. Applications
- 5. Perspectives**



CESBIO



Multi-scale modelling

Forest reconstruction with TLS and QSM: 1ha, 559 trees

(Calders, et al. 2018)

(Liu et al. 2022)

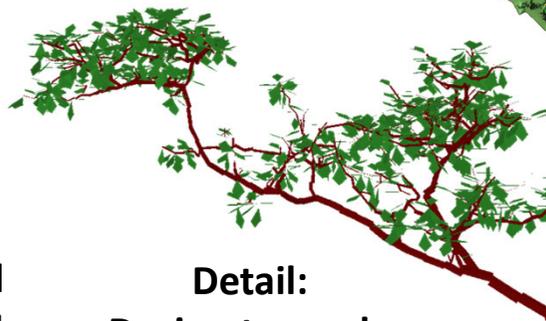
Q-FORESTLAB



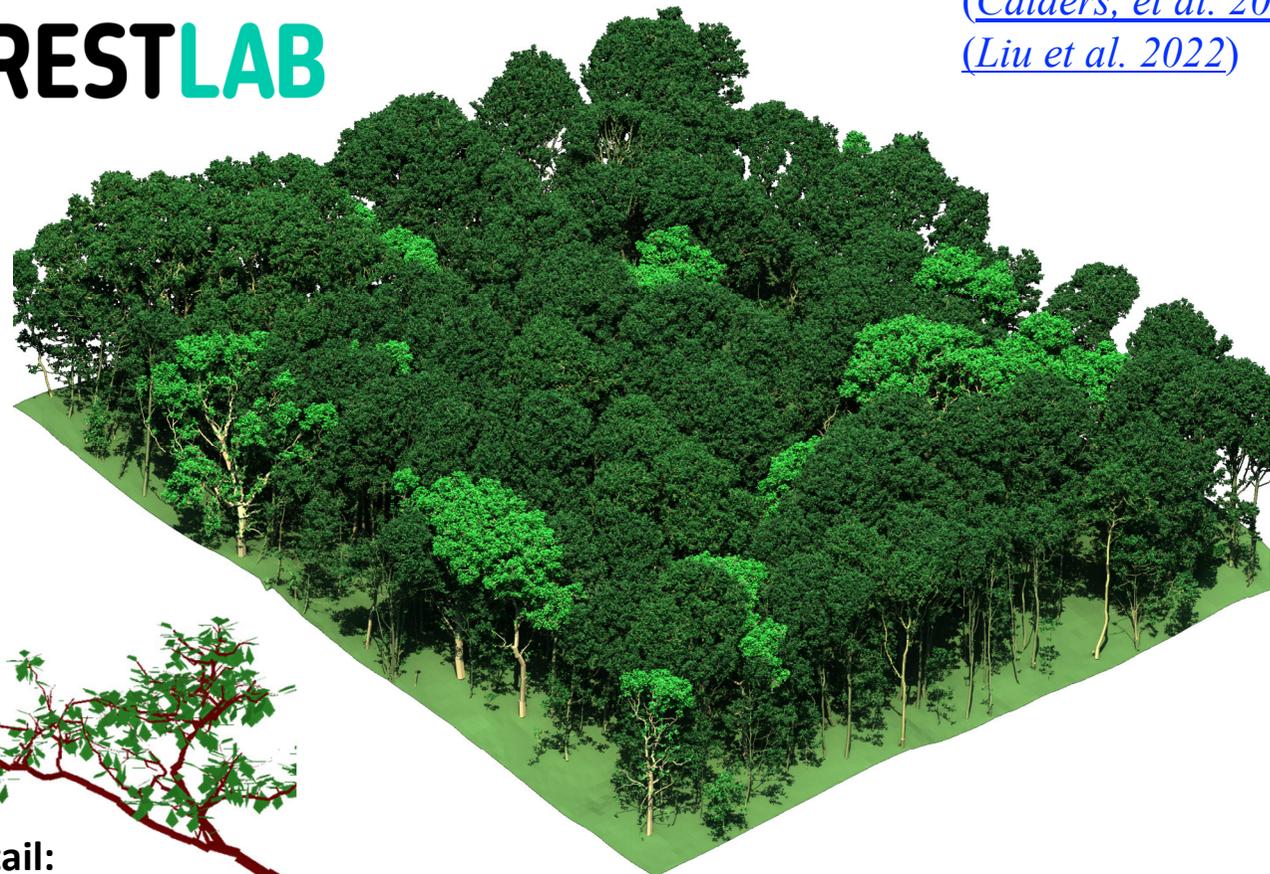
Terrestrial LiDAR point cloud

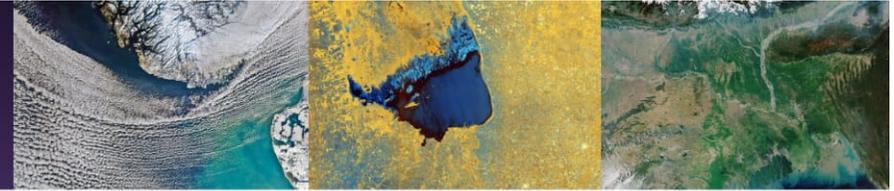


Reconstructed 3D tree model



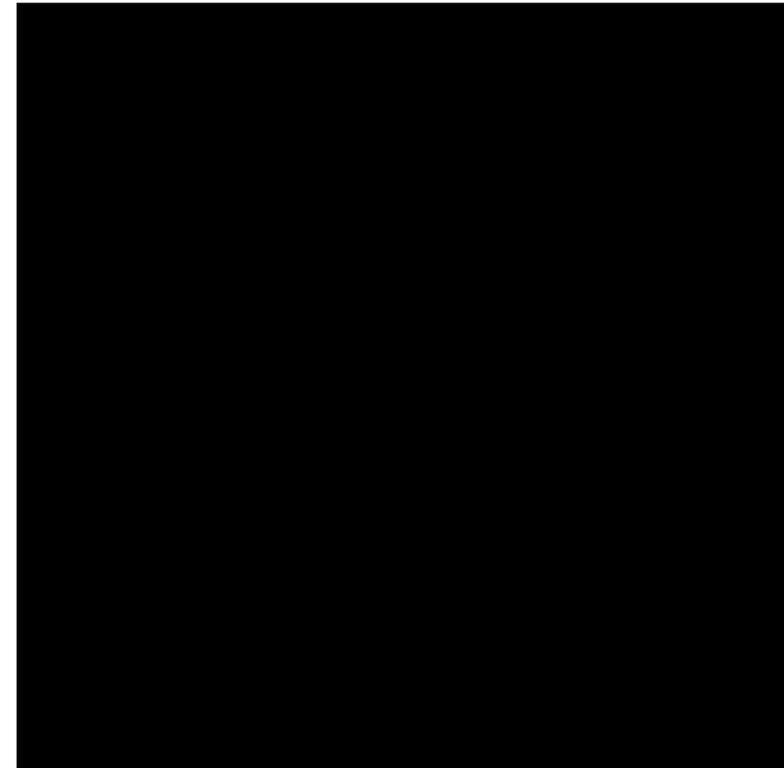
Detail: Decimeter-scale



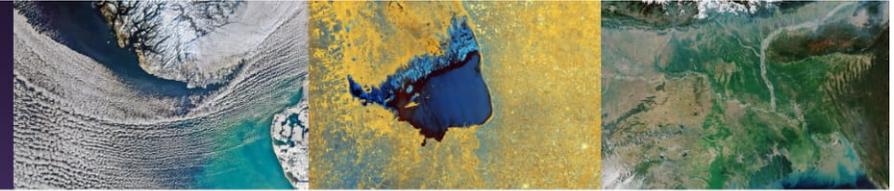


Multi-scale modelling

Data sources: Earth DEM (GEBCO 2022), Land cover (EarthEnv), Clouds cover (Copernicus EUMETSAT), Atmosphere profile (AFGL: USSTD76)



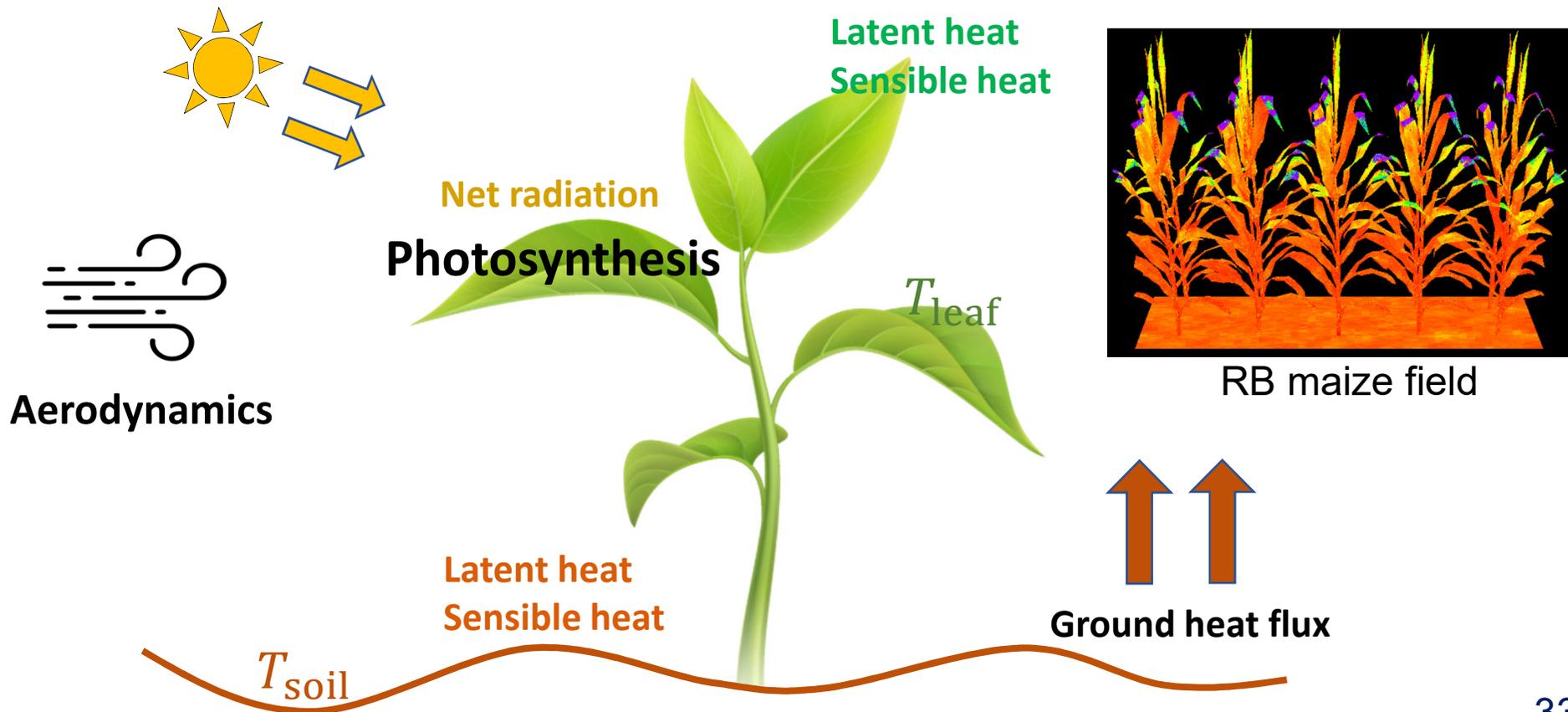
DART simulation (E. Chavanon), resolution = 10 km ($1^\circ \times 1^\circ$)

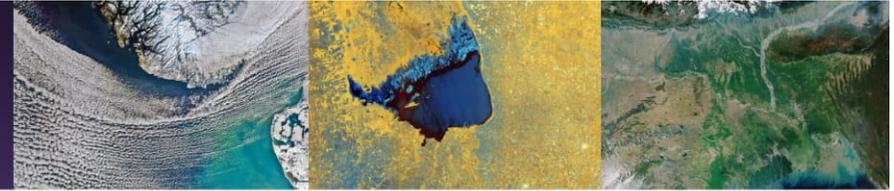


Energy balance

EB modelling: Photosynthesis, heat flux, turbulence, *etc.* + Radiative Transfer

Products: Temperature distribution, evapotranspiration, *etc.*

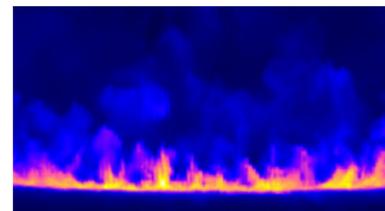




Other improvements

- (1) **Uncertainty (Jacobian):** Modelling the propagation of Uncertainties/Errors
- (2) **Georeferencing:** Import georeferenced scenes and export georeferenced images
- (3) **RT acceleration for volume:** Turbid representation of vegetation, Fire, Pollutants,...
- (4) **Measurements:** Import measurements (optical/thermal properties, 3D structure, ...)
- (5) **Surface process:** Coupling with climate/process models (SCOPE, SOLENE, ...), ...

$$\mathbf{J}_f = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{array} \right]$$



THANK YOU

DART is freely available for research and education.

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(Nicolas Lauret)

Tutorial DART 17:00 – 18:00



sDrive

sdrive.cnrs.fr/s/Y9bMZqGsbBKmDMf

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