On the Implementation of a Vegetation Baseline for ALOS/PALSAR

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- Open issues from May 2003
 - baseline
 - effect on crustal deformation studies
 - orbital requirements
 - temporal decorrelation
- Recommended Interferometric Observing Strategy and Resulting Benefits



One example used to find observing constraints for ALOS/PALSAR Kyoto and Carbon Cycle Initiative



Measurement Planning: Instrument Configuration

• Often we are given access to some form or forms of measurement capability. The question we must answer as scientists is how to best utilize that resource for obtaining our objectives.



Interferometric Data Products

DEM from Interferometry

Correlation Map





$$\gamma_{obs} = |\gamma_{obs}| e^{i\phi_{obs}} = \gamma_{vol} \gamma_{temp} \gamma_{SNR} \gamma_{geom}$$



Techniques for Measuring Carbon Stored in Vegetation



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Baseline Studies

В	veg. gain	deformation gain	limitations
1	1	\checkmark	phase unwrapping, baseline decorr.
\checkmark	\checkmark	1	SNR (thermal & ambiguities)



Tree Height Estimation from Radar Interferometry



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Interferometric Modeling

Single Antenna Backscatter

$$\left\langle \left| E_1 \right|^2 \right\rangle = A^4 \int_{vol} W_r^2 W_\eta^2 e^{-\kappa z/\cos\theta} \rho(z) \left\langle f_b^2 \right\rangle d^3 r$$

Two Antenna Interferometry

$$\gamma = \left\langle E_1 E_2^* \right\rangle = A^4 \int_{vol} e^{-ik_z z} W_r^2 W_\eta^2 e^{-\kappa z/\cos\theta} \left\langle f_b^2 \right\rangle d^3 r$$

height dependent
phase term

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Approach to System/Measurement Design

• Explore the effects of changing baseline, B, and look angle, θ , on the estimate error.



Contributions to the observed correlation signature

• Geometric Decorrelation



$$\Delta f = \frac{c B \cos(\theta - \alpha)}{2 r_0 \lambda \tan(\theta - \tau_y)}$$

$$\gamma_{geom} \approx 1 - \frac{c B \cos(\theta - \alpha)}{2 BW r_0 \lambda \tan(\theta - \tau_y)}$$

• Thermal Noise



$$\gamma_{SNR} = \frac{S}{S(1+\alpha) + N_{th}}$$

Choose kz to maximize signal and minimize errors



- large baseline desired to maximize sensitivity to volumetric decorrelation (short volumes have small decorrelation signatures)
- maximum baseline is limited by
 - loss of signal due to the wavenumber shift (Prati filtering)
 - maximum decorrelation allowable for phase unwrapping (γ=0.4)
- simple volumetric model used to demonstrate this tradoff in figure at left.
- minimum detectable height set by observational errors

Some Comparisons

• Observational characteristics for various interferometers can be compared with a proposed InSAR observation that would be sensitive to vegetation

Sensor	Altitude	θ, α	Β, λ	k _z	h _{ambig}	BW, B _{crit}
	(km)	(deg)	(m)	(rad/m)	(m)	(MHz, m)
GeoSAR X	10,000	45,0	2(2.6), 0.03	0.08	160	160, 230
GeoSAR P	10,000	45,0	2(20), 0.87	0.02	310	160, 6500
AIRSAR C	10,000	45, 65	2(2.5), 0.056	0.05	120	40, 85
SRTM	230,000	40, 45	60, 0.056	0.03	240	10, 600
DLR - L	3,000	39,0	2(15), 0.24	0.24	27	100, 260
ALOS/PALSAR	700,000	35,0	2(800), 0.24	0.07	90	28, 13400



Repeat Pass Cross-Track Baseline





Implementation Issues

- Baseline changes as a function of latitude
- Very small amount of lateral thrust (<0.001 m/s) applied to spacecraft at equator crossing to achieve "time of day" shift in crossing. Typical thrust budget is ≈ 100 m/s.





Drag-free Ground Track Walk at the Equator

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Deformation





Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar

Mission Objective: The InSAR mission objective is to provide the first dedicated spaceborne interferometry mission to precisely map Earth surface deformation due to tectonic, volcanic, and glacial processes. The resulting data will uniquely allow characterization and quantification of underlying processes enabling predictive models.

Science Objectives:

- Characterize and understand strain changes in tectonically active areas leading to and following major earthquakes
- Characterize three dimensional magma movements leading to better prediction of volcanic eruptions
- Assess the impact of ice sheet and glacier system dynamics on sea level rise and characterize temporal variability

Mission Requirements:

- ٠ 5-year lifetime
- 10-minutes of data per orbit (average)

Project Implementation:

- JPL instrument electronics build
- Commercial spacecraft bus; antenna panels, structure, and ٠ deployment mechanism
- Precision GPS as GFE to spacecraft bus contractor
- JPL I&T of phased-array antenna and radar electronics



Flight System:

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Enhanced RSDO Catalog bus

Navigation and Orbit:

760 km. 98.5°

Sun synchronous 6am/6pm

- GPS for Precision Orbit Determination/Nav. •
- *Selected-to-full redundancy*
- 1350 kg wet (CBE + cont.) Mass Downlink
- Storage
- 0.1 °/sec left/right pointing Maneuvers
- Pointing 0.04° 3-sigma yaw/pitch 0.25° 3-sigma roll



InSAF

Measurement Technology:

- Repeat pass radar interferometry
- 3-D vector deformation by observing •while pointing to the left and right •on ascending and descending orbits

Launch System:

- Delta II 2920-10
- 3150 kg to 760 km
- 57% Launch Margin
- April 2009, VAFB
- 13.8 m x 2.5 m antenna aperture
- Deployable antenna structure
- Mass 600 kg (CBE +30%)
- 1800 W peak (CBE +30%) Power
- 130 Mbps average (CBE) Data rate





Operations:

- Simple 8-day repetitive mission cycle
- *Two S/X-band Ground Stations* ASF and Svalbard
- Selected ground automation
- Distributed processing architecture



Payload System:

- L-band single-polarization (HH) radar •
- Split spectrum for ionospheric correction
- Full redundancy of radar electronics
- Stripmap, High-Resolution and ScanSAR Modes •Primary operating mode – Stripmap Mode (continuous strip-mapping with 3 possible beams)



InSAR Mission Study - Midterm Report 2/27/04

300 Mbps X-band 256 Gb minimum

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Observing Sensitivity to Deformation

• Observed interferometric phase is sensitive to the surface deformation projected onto the look direction.

$$D_{\parallel} \equiv \hat{l}_1 \cdot \overline{D} = \phi \frac{\lambda}{4\pi} + B \sin(\theta - \alpha)$$





Error Budget

• The instrument measurement requirements are split the error into its constituent sources.

$$\sigma_{D_{\parallel}}^{2} - \left(\frac{\partial D_{\parallel}}{\partial \phi}\right)^{2} \sigma_{\phi}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial D_{\parallel}}{\partial \lambda}\right)^{2} \sigma_{\lambda}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial D_{\parallel}}{\partial B}\right)^{2} \sigma_{B}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial D_{\parallel}}{\partial \theta}\right)^{2} \sigma_{\theta}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial D_{\parallel}}{\partial \alpha}\right)^{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}$$

$$\sigma_{D_{\parallel}}^{2} = \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi}\right)^{2} \sigma_{\phi}^{2} + \left(\frac{B}{\lambda}\sin\left(\theta - \alpha\right)\right)^{2} \sigma_{\lambda}^{2} + \sigma_{B}^{2} + \left(\frac{B\cos\left(\theta - \alpha\right)}{\rho\sin\theta}\right)^{2} \left[\sigma_{h}^{2} + \sigma_{H}^{2} + \cos^{2}\theta\sigma_{\rho}^{2}\right]$$





Topographic Leakage

• Uncertainty in topography will induce a signature proportional to the error in topographic knowledge.

$$D_{\parallel} \equiv \hat{l}_1 \cdot \overline{D} = \phi \frac{\lambda}{4\pi} + B \sin(\theta - \alpha)$$

$$\sigma_{D_{\parallel}}^{2} = \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi}\right)^{2} \sigma_{\phi}^{2} + \left(\frac{B}{\lambda}\sin\left(\theta - \alpha\right)\right)^{2} \sigma_{\lambda}^{2} + \sigma_{B}^{2} + \left(\frac{B\cos\left(\theta - \alpha\right)}{\rho\sin\theta}\right)^{2} \left[\sigma_{h}^{2} + \sigma_{H}^{2} + \cos^{2}\theta\sigma_{\rho}^{2}\right]$$

- Three-pass differential interferometry can be used to reduce this effect, by essentially estimating the topography and removing it.
- Phase noise is still an issue

$$\sigma_h^2 = \sigma_\phi^2 / k_z^2$$

$$\sigma_{D_{\parallel}}^{2} \approx \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi}\right)^{2} \left(1 + \frac{B_{\parallel}^{2}}{B_{z}^{2} \left(1 - \delta_{geom}\right)^{2}}\right) \sigma_{\phi}^{2} + \left(\frac{B}{\lambda} \sin(\theta - \alpha)\right)^{2} \sigma_{\lambda}^{2} + \sigma_{B}^{2}$$



Single-side Orbit Tube Geometry

• Orbital tube is defined in the perpendicular look direction by geometric decorrelation, the fringe rate and topographic errors





Two-Side Orbital Tube Geometry

- Orbital tube geometry and dimension is set by knowledge of the look angle (i.e. topography) and baseline decorrelation.
- Shown below is the error induced in the deformation measurement due to a 10m accuracy in the surface topograpy.



Temporal Decorrelation



Temporal Decorrelation

- Need for a well calibrated signal
 - understand error sources
 - provide ability to unwrap desired signature from other observational artifacts.
- Devise an efficient observing strategy
- Assess possibility of removing this effect
- Observed correlation is modeled as the combination of a variety of sources

$$\gamma_{obs} = \gamma_{vol} \gamma_{SNR} \gamma_{geom} \gamma_{temp}$$

$$h_v = f^{-1}(\gamma_{vol})$$



Estimation of γ_{temp}

• Model can be inverted to solve for the temporal decorrelation γ_{obs}

$$\gamma_{temp} = \frac{\gamma_{obs}}{\gamma_{vol}\gamma_{SNR}\gamma_{geom}}$$

• Would like to include target type as well as SNR and geometric decorrelation parameters into estimate



Duke Forest, North Carolina (Oct 9 & 10, 1995; kz = 0.01 rad/m)



backscatter



correlation

temporal decorrelation

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Raco, Michigan (Oct 8 & 9, 1994; kz = 0.04 rad/m)





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Raco, Michigan



backscatter

correlation

temporal decorrelation



Estimates of Temporal Decorrelation over Raco

- Both surfaces and vegetated regions show evidence of significant temporal decorrelation even after assuming 30m tall vegetation.
- Surfaces show less decorrelation, as would be expected





Source of Temporal Decorrelation ?

Raco, MI Early October, 1994







Estimation of γ_{temp}

• Note that γ_{temp} will have a statistical distribution based on our ability to estimate contributing sources.

$$\gamma_{temp} = \frac{\gamma_{obs}}{\gamma_{vol}\gamma_{SNR}\gamma_{geom}}$$

- Ultimately, resolution can be traded off to increase estimate accuracy
- At what Δt does temporal decorrelation become an issue?
 - one minute?
 - one hour?
 - one day?
 - one week?
 - one month?

• Need to investigate more closely the time dependence of temporal decorrelation ...



La Selva & AIRSAR



Experiment Location



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AIRSAR Flight Lines

• A total of 36 flight lines were





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Lidar Coverage (DEM & vegetation height)





A Visit From the Top









Deployment Logistics







Secondary Regrowth Test Sites





Deploying Corner Reflectors



• Corner reflectors were deployed in open areas within the reserve.

• Reflectors were oriented to be visible on both the 124° and 296° heading flight

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- The La Selva Biostation is located about 80 km north of the capitol, San Jose.
- Within the reserve are well studied stands ranging in age from 1-2 year regrowth to mature tropical forests.
- LVIS LIDAR ground surface DEM and canopy heights are available for a portion of the reserve.



Vegetation Photos



Site Survey or Goofing Off?









Flight Plans





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Wave Number Diversity at La Selva

• The vertical wave number, that depends on range, baseline and wavelength, determines the sensitivity of the interferometer to vertical structure or vegetation height.



AIRSAR Repeat Pass Flight Line Geometry

• Two aircraft headings were used for repeat-pass interferometry at La Selva (124° & 296°), collected over three days (March 3, 6, and 20 of 2004).

• Shown below are the cross-track and altitude changes for +/- 5km along-track distance to the La Selva OTS facility.



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Data Analysis



Interferometric Baselines

- Flight lines may be combined to form various interferometric pairs
- Shown below are the perpendicular baseline (Bp) and perpendicular baseline variations (standard deviation) for various interferometric pairs, as well as the time between pairs (in hours; 72 hrs = 3 days)
- Pairs are sorted in order of descending perpendicular baseline.

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296	3	10	-71.53	2.50	63.75	1.1	1.6
296		7	-74.17	9.80	-37.54	8.6	2.8
296	3	8	-72.64	15.96	-28.24	9.2	6.2
296	8	10	1.11	17.61	151.05	10.3	7.0
124	5	8	-73.67	36.22	-84.32	14.7	6.1
296	7	8	0.50	21.72	171.79	17.1	2.9
296	4	9	-72.66	21.85	-171.45	20.2	4.9
124	2	8	-72.13	52.41	-32.09	24.7	5.7
296	5	8	-73.67	31.06	175.85	25.7	1.5
296	2	9	-71.64	27.98	7.18	25.8	7.7
296	3	7	-73.14	36.98	-14.61	26.3	4.2
296	7	10	1.61	38.57	165.11	27.4	5.2
124	3	7	-73.14	42.99	-8.08	33.9	4.0
296	3	5	1.03	46.15	-11.01	34.9	5.4
124	4	5	0.52	50.55	164.09	35.4	7.2
296	5	10	-72.56	47.71	168.75	36.0	6.0
124	2	5	1.54	41.75	11.27	39.4	5.7
296	2	5	1.54	51.67	69.54	44.3	5.3
296	2	4	1.02	49.82	7.77	46.0	3.2
124	3	4	0.51	54.94	-174.46	50.0	4.6
124	4	8	-73.15	50.21	-153.93	50.1	1.8
296	2	7	-72.63	61.28	38.9	52.9	5.8
296	2	8	-72 13	82.69	107 46	70.0	39
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296	5	9	-73.18	79.34	2.12	70.1	3.9
124	2	4	1.02	89.76	-3.49	74.8	5.6
296	7	9	0.99	88.90	2.36	78.7	2.6
296	2	3	0.51	97.42	174.32	79.2	9.2
296	2	10	-71.02	98.96	174.13	80.3	10.4
124	4	7	-73.65	97.22	-0.4	83.9	7.7
124	3	5	1.03	103.60	175.55	85.4	2.7
296	4	5	0.52	101.06	-176.59	90.4	3.3
296	8	9	0.49	110.26	0.36	95.8	4.6
296	4	7	-73.65	110.61	-176.54	99.0	2.7
124	3	8	-72.64	103.45	-164.63	100.1	3.7
296	3	9	-72.15	124.71	-2.63	105.0	1.7
296	9	10	0.62	126.24	177.2	106.1	2.7
296	4	8	-73.15	131.90	-178.37	116.1	2.1
124	5	7	-74.17	146.52	-5.5	119.3	3.6
124	2	3	0.51	144.22	-0.03	124.8	4.4
296	3	4	0.51	146.19	-1.04	125.3	6.4
296	4	10	-72.04	147.71	178.8	126.4	7.5
124	7	8	0.50	143.92	-171.42	134.0	7.3
124	2	7	-72.63	186.87	-1.86	158.7	3.7







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L-band RPI 20-30 m Baseline



Magnitude

Phase

Correlation

• L-band repeat pass data collected on March 3, 2004 from passes 296-1 and 296-2. Interferometric baseline varies between 20 m and 35 m depending on location long-track. Paul Sigueira Slide # 58

Correlation Comparison

L-band SPI DEM (2.2 m)



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L-band 20 m Baseline Tree Height Estimates from Correlation



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L-band Polarimetric Correlations - 100 m Baseline



P-band 20 m Baseline Interferogram





Flight Lines 296-1 and 296-2

P-band Polarimetric 20 m Baseline Interferometry



PHH image from the 296-1 and 296-2 20 m baseline interferometric pair.

P-band Polarimetric Correlation Maps







Conclusions and Future Work



Conclusions

- Over one year has passed since the last meeting this work was presented in this venue
- Since then, we have
 - addressed the issue of chosing a baseline (more to be done both pre- and post-launch)
 - effect on deformation observing strategy has been quantified and demonstrated to not be an issue
 - orbital issues have been investigated and found not to be a significant problem
 - temporal decorrelation studies have been performed and are actively under way.
- In the near term we want to be active members in PALSAR calibration
 - Raw, level zero, reformatted signal data is requested
 - A variety of repeat-pass baselines over short time periods
 - Both quad-pol and dual-pol data...



Dual Pol vs. Quad Pol

• keep in mind that quad-pol requires 2x PRF, and so there are tradeoffs to be considered in chosing the best observing strategy.



What Next?





MIRSL's mission is to train students for careers in engineering and the physical sciences through research and development of innovative instrumentation and techniques for remote sensing of the environment.



close collaboration with JPL to continue.



