

Learning Objectives

By the end of this presentation, you will be able to understand:

- how SAR configurations affect response from soils and crops
- the information content in SAR images relevant to soil and crop conditions
- the optimal sensor parameters for agriculture applications
- how to ingest, pre-process, and process SAR data for use in crop classification and soil moisture estimation

SAR System Considerations

- When planning SAR data collections and when interpreting SAR response, the three fundamental system characteristics must always be considered
- Interpreting SAR response is always done, relative to these characteristics

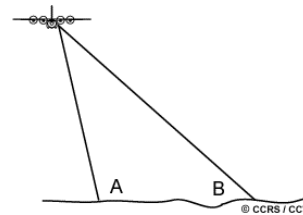
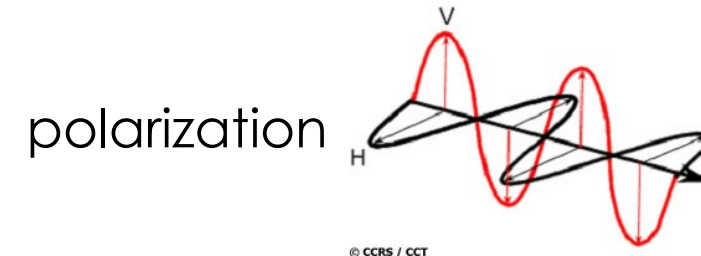


Image Credits: Polarization & Geometry CCRS/CCT

Frequency or Wavelength

The best frequency should be selected

- consider the size of the target elements relative to SAR frequency. To maximize scattering, select wavelengths that are comparable in size or smaller than these elements
- is it important to penetrate into the target or is the goal to maximize surface scattering? Lower frequency (longer wavelengths) provide greater penetration
- is the goal to maximize or minimize sensitivity to surface roughness? A low frequency wave will see a surface as smooth while a high frequency wave will see this same surface as rough

What is the best frequency for agricultural monitoring? It depends!

- soil moisture: longer wavelengths (like L-band) are better as they penetrate deeper into the canopy and interact with soil
- crop classification and biophysical modeling: depends on canopy
- need enough penetration into canopy (L- or C-band for corn, for example) but not too deep so that we have soil interference (C- or X-band for lower biomass crops like soybeans)

Polarization

Random Forest

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