# The view from on-orbit – New challenges and opportunities in Earth observation and satellite remote sensing

June 14, 2009

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## **Acknowledgments**

Mark Friedl, Allan Strahler (Boston U.)

Chris Small (Columbia U.)

Will Turner (Conservation International)

Ben Tuttle (NOAA)

Budhu Bhaduri, Eddie Bright, Neal Feierabend (Oak Ridge National Lab)

Solly Angel, Tom Espenshade, Kosuke Imai, Doug Massey, Burt Singer, David Wilcove (Princeton U.)

Wayne Appleton, Chang Chung, Jennifer Curatola, Bill Guthe, Dawn Koffman, Wangyal Shawa, Henry Umansky (Princeton U. and OPR IT/Programming Support)

Mark Montgomery (Stony Brook U.)

Dan Civco, Jason Parent (U. of Connecticut)

Erle Ellis (U. of Maryland-Baltimore County)

Mutlu Ozdogan, Annemarie Schneider (U. of Wisconsin-Madison)

Alessandro Baccini (Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.)

### Group on Earth Observations - Member Countries

55 Members of GEO + EC

Sources: Map - ESRI Members - http://earthobservations.org Design - Ministry of Environment, Israel





# Four Frontiers of Earth Observation

**Spatial Resolution** 

**Spectral Resolution** 

**Temporal Resolution** 

**New Sensors** 

©2009Google

Eye alt 8324.57 mi 🔘

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Image © 2009 TerraMetrics Image IBCAO Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO Iat 38.902829° Ion -77.011231° elev 336 ft

























## High Spatial Resolution Satellites

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 **IKONOS-2** OPTICAL QuickBird-2 Resolution OrbView 3 GeoEye-1 US WorldView 1 0.41M WorldView 2 **0.5** m EROS A1 Israel EROS B EROS C 0.6 M India Cartosat-2 0.7 M Pleiades-1 France Pleiades-2 1.0 M Resurs DK-1 Russia □1.8 M Arirang-2 Korea RADAR TerraSAR X TerraSAR L Germany TanDEM X COSMO-Skymed-1 COSMO-Skymed-2 Italy COSMO-Skymed-3 COSMO-Skymed-4

Source: ASPRS Guide to Land Imaging Satellites, 2006.

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## Landsat Series Primer

Polar Orbit 5000 lbs 700 km 6.8 km/sec (15,212 mph)

Spatial Res. ~ 60m, 30m, 15m Spectral ~ 8 bands Temporal ~ 16 day repeat



# Where are the 7 bands?



#### Salton Sea 321

(R) Red(G) Green(B) Blue



### Salton Sea 432

(R) NIR(G) Red(B) Green



Salton Sea 543

R: Mid-IR G: NIR B: Red



## Stretching – raw unstretched



## Stretching – *stretched*



# **NASA's Earth As Art Gallery**

Goddard Spaceflight Center Greenbelt, Maryland




















































































## Four Frontiers of Earth Observation

**Spatial Resolution** 

**Spectral Resolution** 

**Temporal Resolution** 

**New Sensors**
### MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer)

Landsat-like orbit

Spatial Res. ~ 1km - 250m Spectral ~ 32 bands *Temporal ~ Twice-daily repeat* 



















# MODIS Phenology -2001



Credit: Xiaoyang Zhang





### Four Frontiers of Earth Observation

**Spatial Resolution** 

**Spectral Resolution** 

**Temporal Resolution** 

**New Sensors** 













## Patterns of Forest Clearing along the Appalachian Trail Corridor

Potere, D., C.E. Woodcock, A. Schneider, M. Ozdogan, A. Baccini. Patterns in Forest Clearing along the Appalachian Trail Corridor, *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* (forthcoming, June 2007).



Photo © Frank Logue



The Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia

# **Forest Dynamics**

- Growth
  - replanting
  - natural succession
- Mortality
  - fire
  - disease, pests, invasives
  - drought, flooding, storms

### Clearing

- harvest (land cover change)
- development (land use change)

Photos courtesy of www.forestryimages.org and USFS.



### Mapping Forest Clearing using Remote Sensing

Acquire Images Correct Images



GeoCover Landsat Dataset

Interpret Images Change Detection Multitemporal Kauth-Thomas Transforms

**Decision Tree Classifiers** 

Editing Accuracy Assessment



# Image Acquisition and *GeoCover*





#### Multitemporal Kauth-Thomas Transforms







### **Decision Tree Classification**



### **Classification at the level of Regions**



![](_page_95_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### **Final Map**

Northern Terminus of the Appalachian Trail

Mt. Katahdin, Maine

![](_page_96_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### **Regularized Corridor Plots**

![](_page_97_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Wal-Mart from Space

![](_page_98_Picture_1.jpeg)

Potere, D., N. Feierabend, A. Strahler, E. Bright. Wal-Mart from Space: A New Land Cover Change Validation Product, *Photogrammetric Engineering* & *Remote Sensing*, 2008.

# Wal-Mart Opportunity

Wal-Mart stores represent an excellent set of training data for land cover change.

- 1. Plenty of sites 5,000 facilities globally.
- 2. Stores are big 300 meters on a side.
- 3. Company lifespan is long 1964-2005.
- 4. Wal-Mart builds on undeveloped land.

Useful for validating both endpoint and time series land cover change mapping methods.

![](_page_100_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_101_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_102_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_103_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_104_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_105_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_106_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Land Cover Change Mapping— Two Strategies

- Endpoint Based: Collect two images (or image clusters) of the same area, separated by a time interval.
- 2. Time Series Analysis: Collect imagery at frequent intervals throughout the year, and identify change events from shifts in the phenology.
# Endpoint based methods



Inputs

few images medium-fine resolution, multispectral Outputs

high spatial resolution coarse temporal resolution

Landsat, SPOT

LEDAPS

# Time Series Analysis

Inputs

## Outputs

many images atmospherically corrected coarse resolution high temporal resolution coarse spatial resolution

MODIS, SPOT-Veg, AVHRR **MODIS 250m NDVI** 

Wal-Mart & LEDAPS

Landsat Ecosystem Disturbance Adaptive Processing System

Dr. Jeff Masek (Goddard Spaceflight)

Disturbance Index Change (1987-2002)



High Disturbance

Low Disturbance



### LEDAPS Disturbance Index Product

Wal-Mart Store in Durham, NC Opened October 17, 1995



Durham, NC, March 1993 (Pixxures, TerraServer) Durham, NC, Wal-Mart, 2005 (DigiGlobe, GoogleEarth) Disturbance Index Change (1987-2002)

High Disturbance

Low Disturbance



2e. Wal-Mart Validation Sites for LEDAPS scene 016/035





26 Wal-Mart stores in North Carolina and Virginia.





# Time Series Analysis

Inputs

## Outputs

many images atmospherically corrected coarse resolution high temporal resolution coarse spatial resolution

MODIS, SPOT-Veg, AVHRR **MODIS 250m NDVI** 

Boston University, Normalized Bi-Directional Reflectance Product May 2001, False-Color Infrared





Detail view of Apple Valley, CA, site. – UMD 250m NDVI MODIS

Figure 3a. Apple Valley, CA, May 1994 (TerraServer).



Figure 3b. Apple Valley, May 2005 (DigiGlobe / GoogleEarth).





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