

Altimétrie spatiale

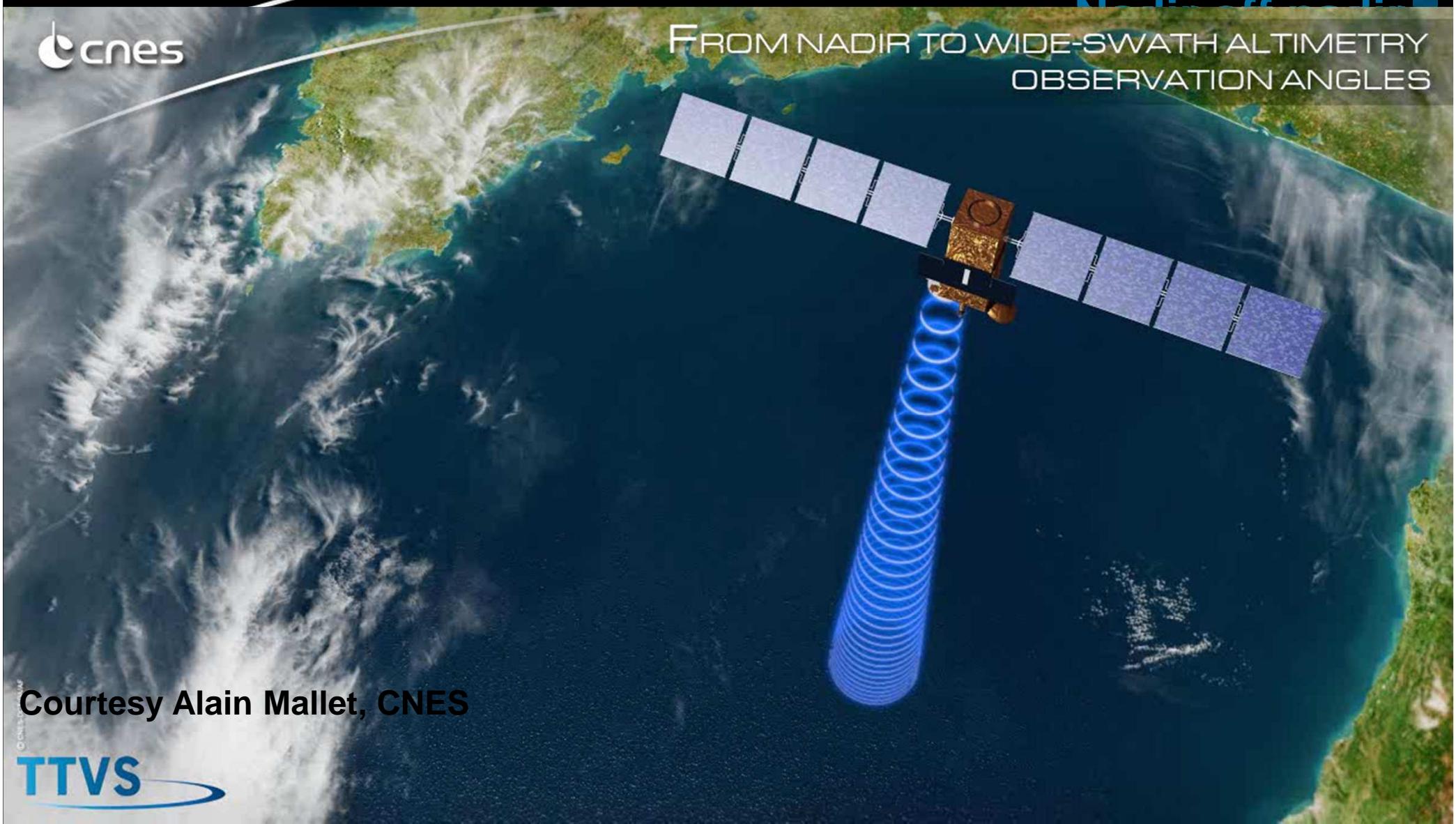
PART II : Vers l'altimétrie de nouvelle génération : du LRM au SAR, altimétrie large fauchée et diffusiométrie radar

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Service Altimétrie et Radar

Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)

- **Du LRM (Low Resolution Mode) au SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar)**
- **L'illumination cohérente et l'interférométrie**
- **La physique de la mesure de SWOT**
- **Diffusiométrie radar vent et vagues (exemple de SWIM sur CFOSAT)**

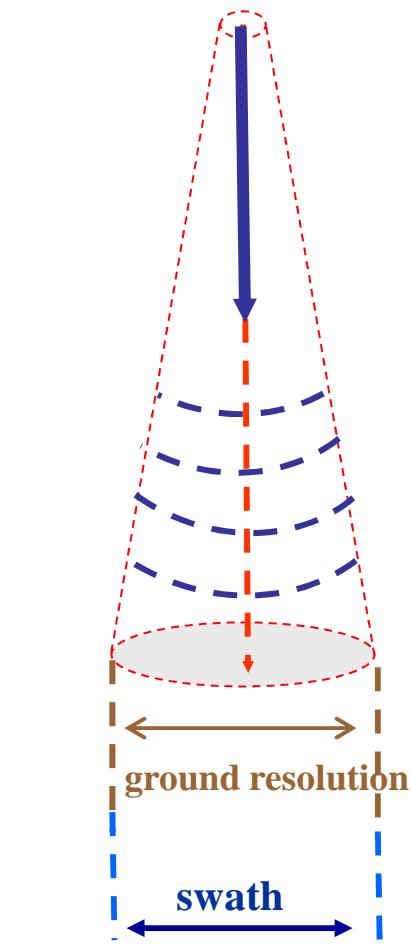
FROM NADIR TO WIDE-SWATH ALTIMETRY
OBSERVATION ANGLES

Courtesy Alain Mallet, CNES

TTVS

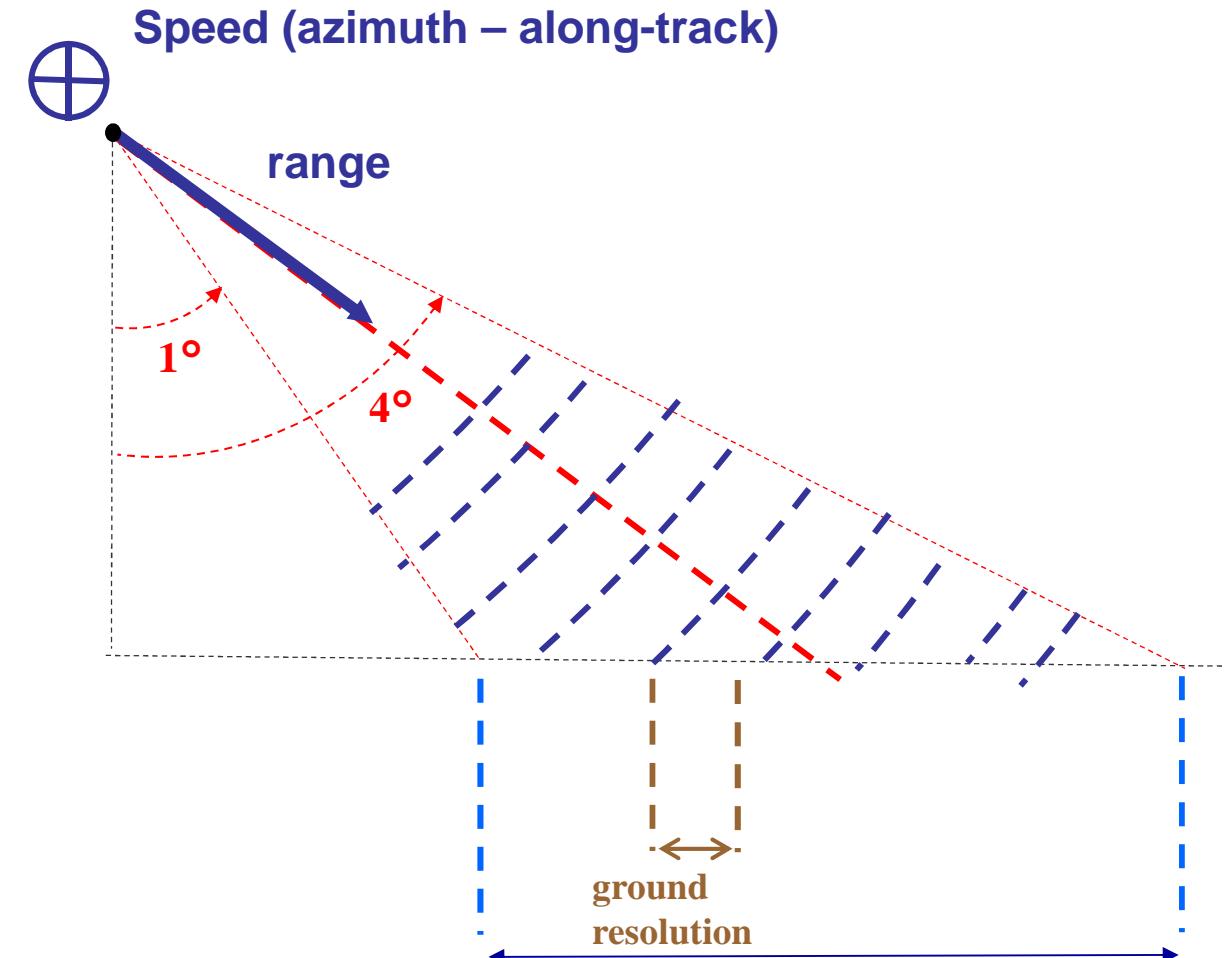
De l'OBSERVATION nadir à La large fauchée

→ Illumination Off-Nadir



MODE SONDEUR

TTVS

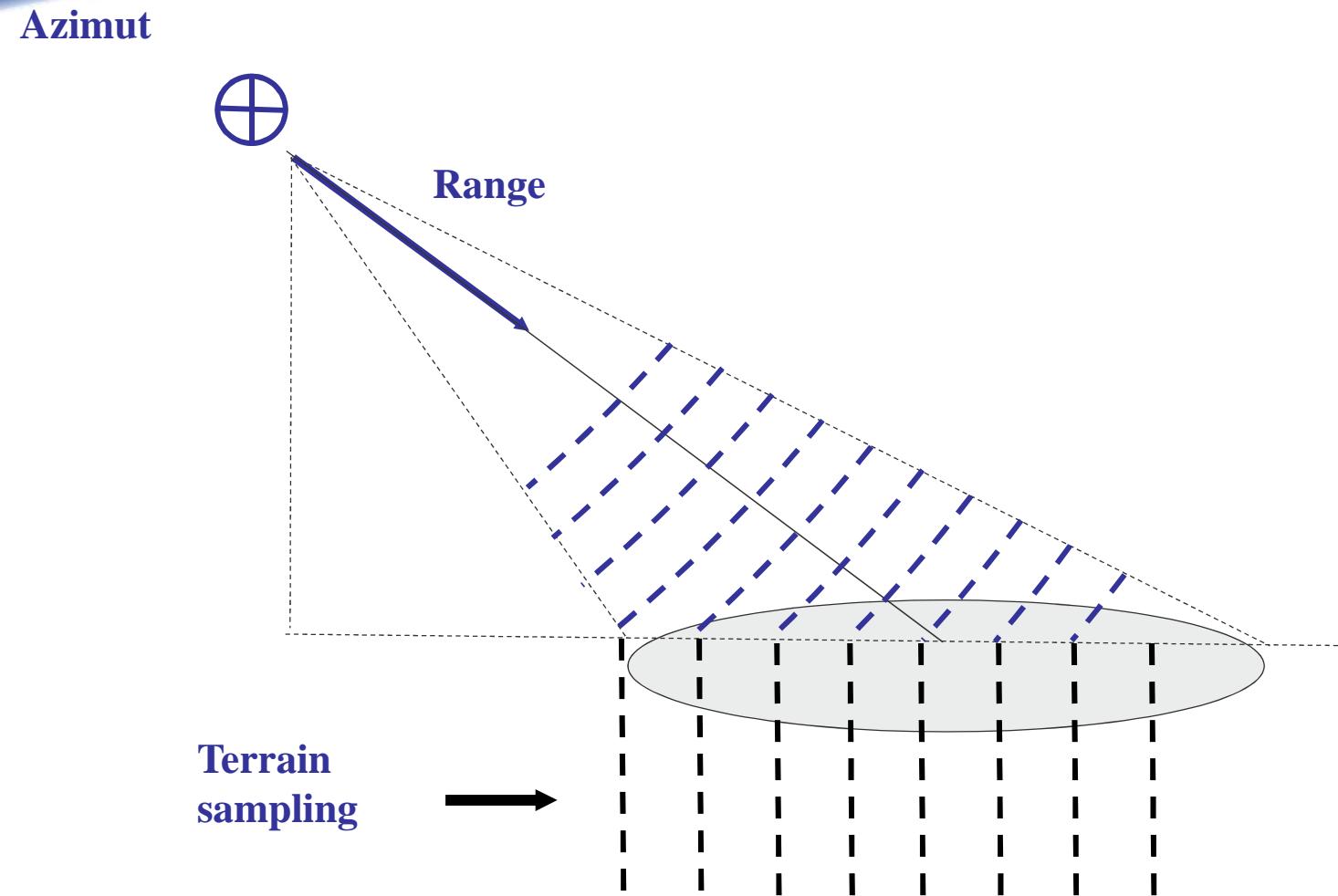


MODE IMAGEUR

(amélioration résolution across-track,
alliée à la modulation de fréquence)

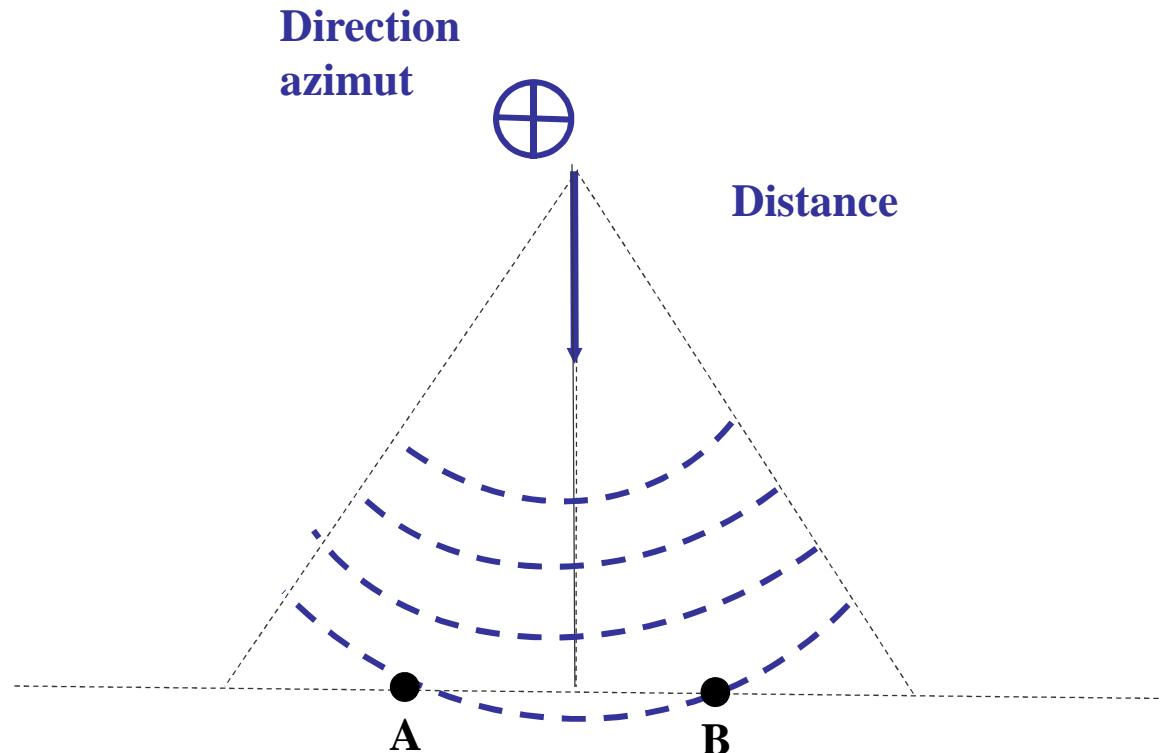


Imaging radar geometry



Imaging radar geometry

... What if radar were not in slant range ?

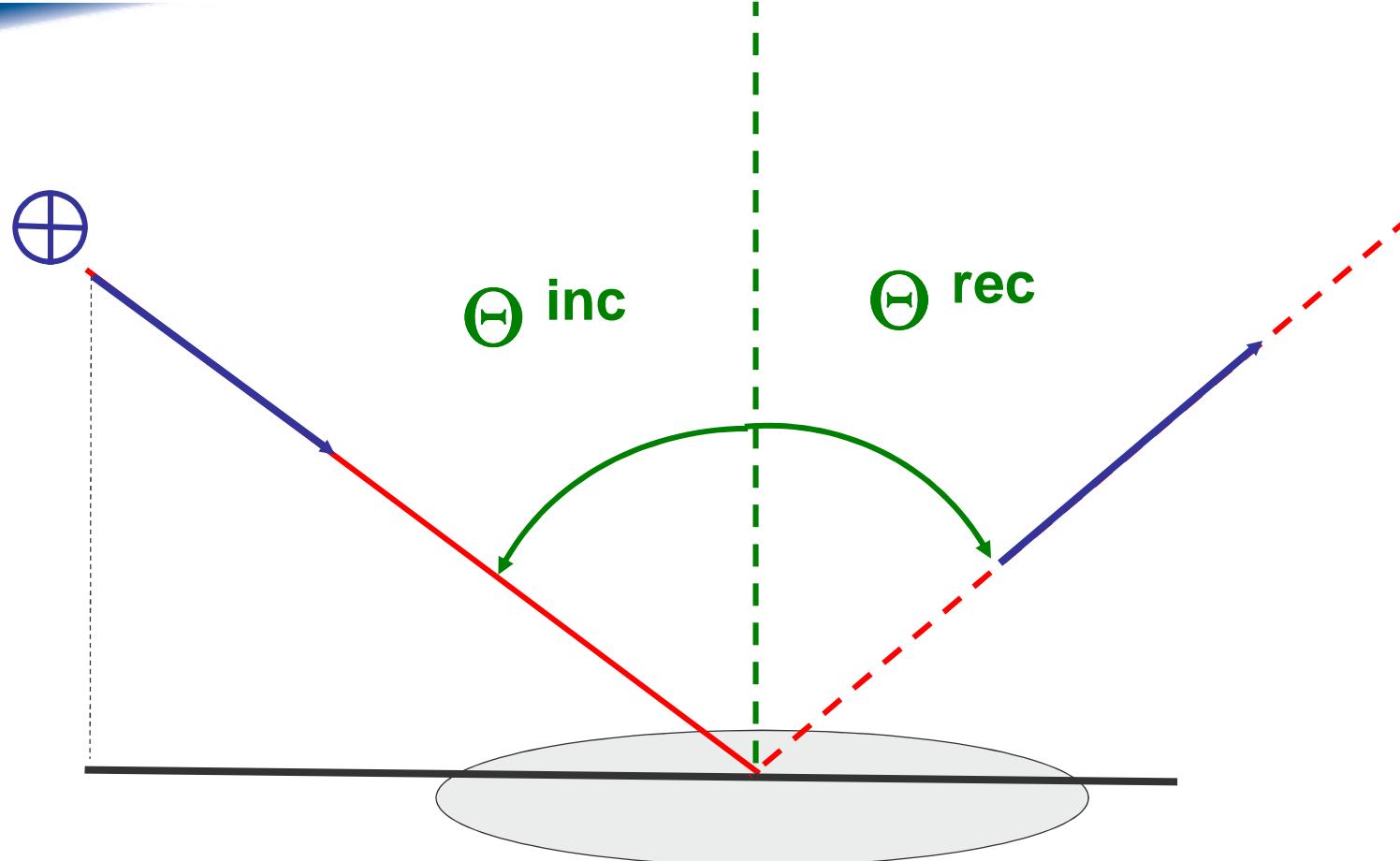


A and B are ambiguous (discrimination based on range mesurement)

Imaging radar geometry

... The radar must be in slant range !

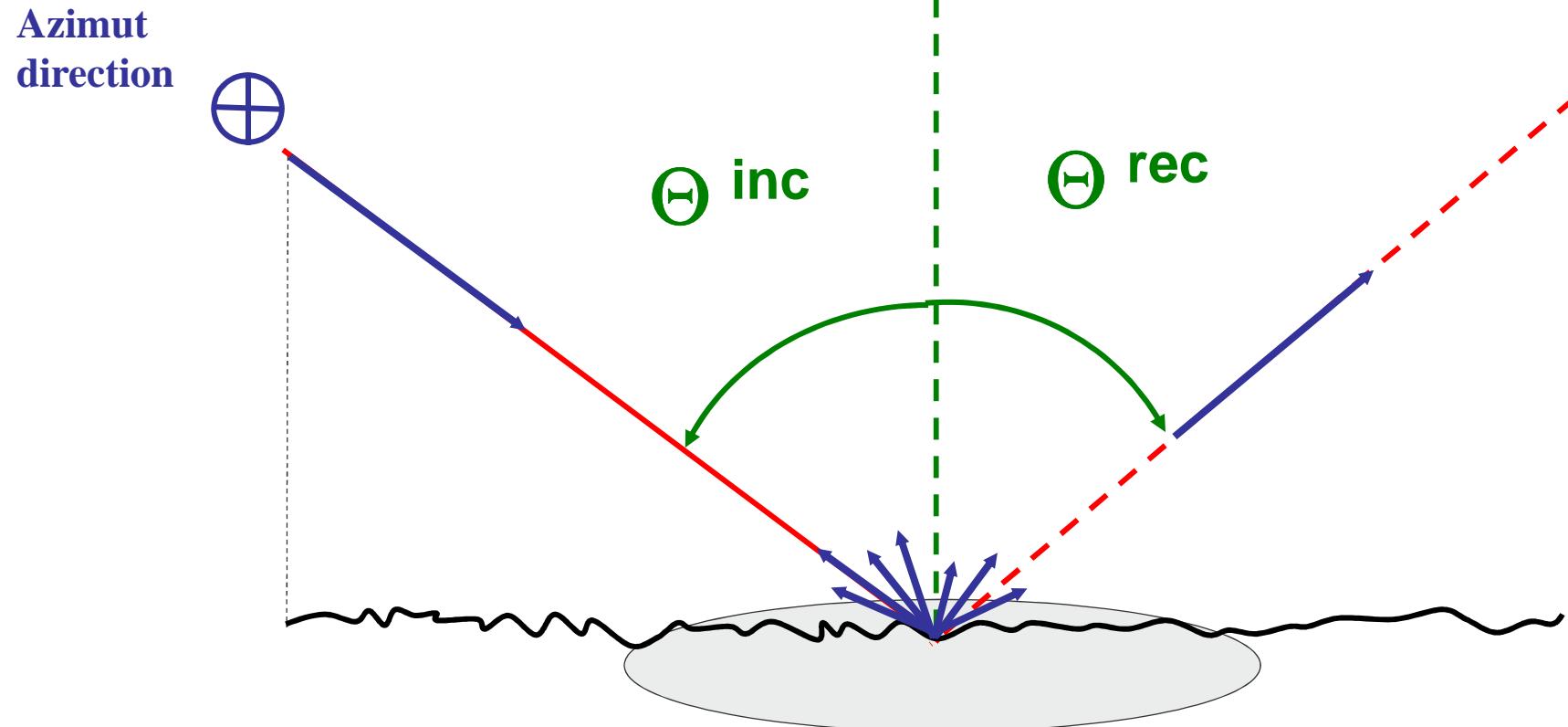
Azimuth
direction



... and the reflected energy propagates in a direction
which is not the one of the radar !

Imaging radar geometry

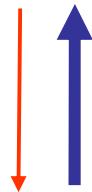
... The radar must be in slant range !



... Only a limited amount of energy is backscattered towards the radar
→ critical power budget

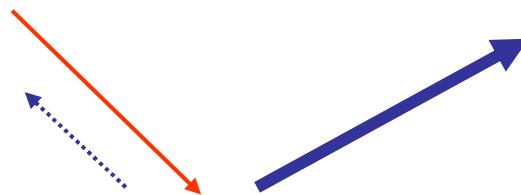
Nadir looking vs. Off-Nadir Physics : transmitted power

Nadir looking - Ku band



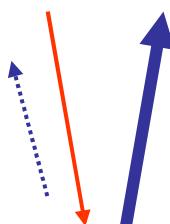
Received signal is strong : Low transmitted power
(Ex : Altimeter Poseidon on JASON ~ **10 W**)

Off-Nadir ($\sim 30^\circ$ incidence) – X band



Received signal is weak
(Ex : SAR-Lupe ~ **6 kW** !)

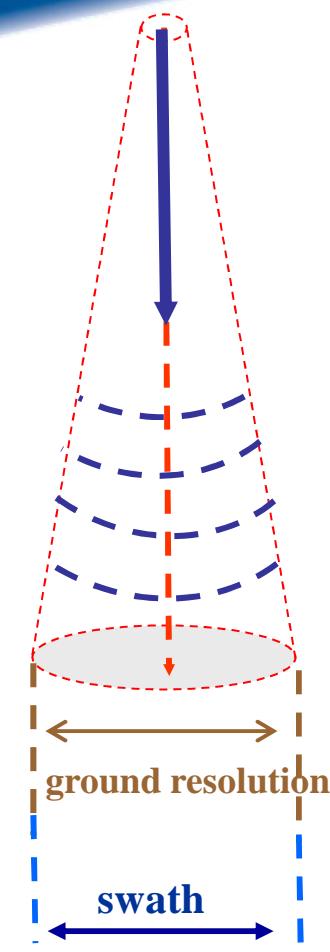
SWOT ($\sim 1-4^\circ$ incidence) – Ka band



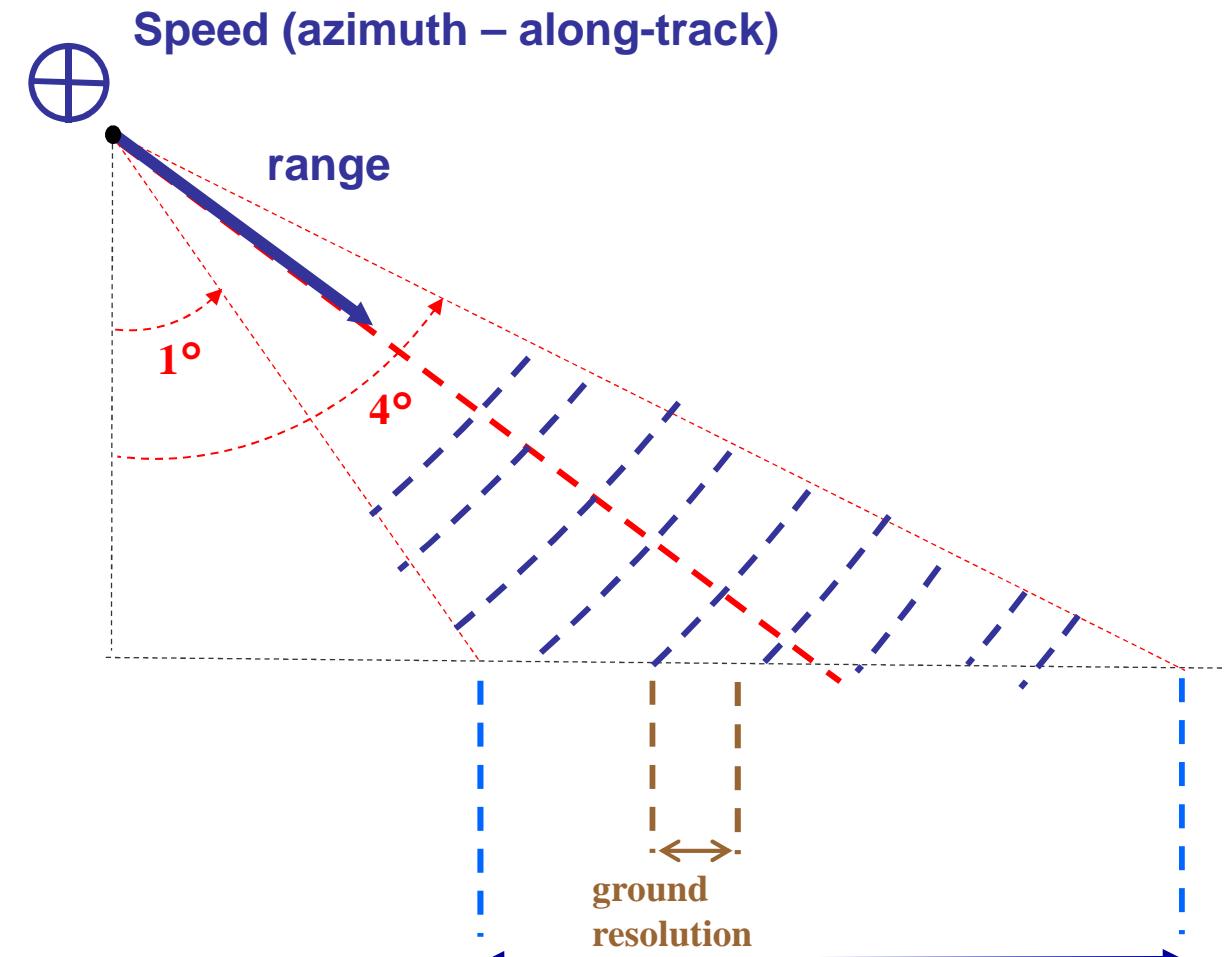
Transmitted power
($\sim 1.5 \text{ kW}$)

De l'OBSERVATION nadir à La large fauchée

→ Illumination Off-Nadir



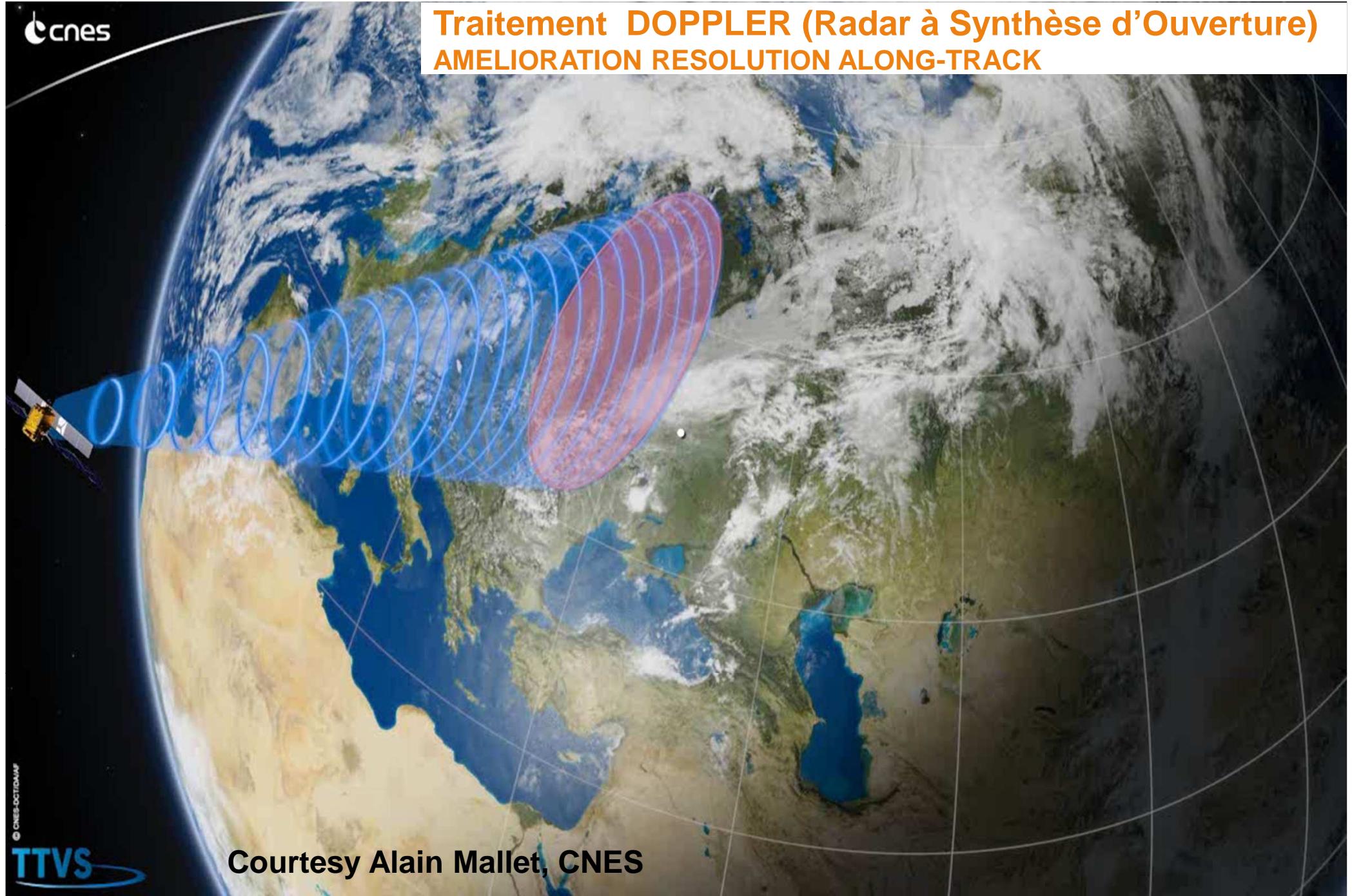
MODE SONDEUR



MODE IMAGEUR

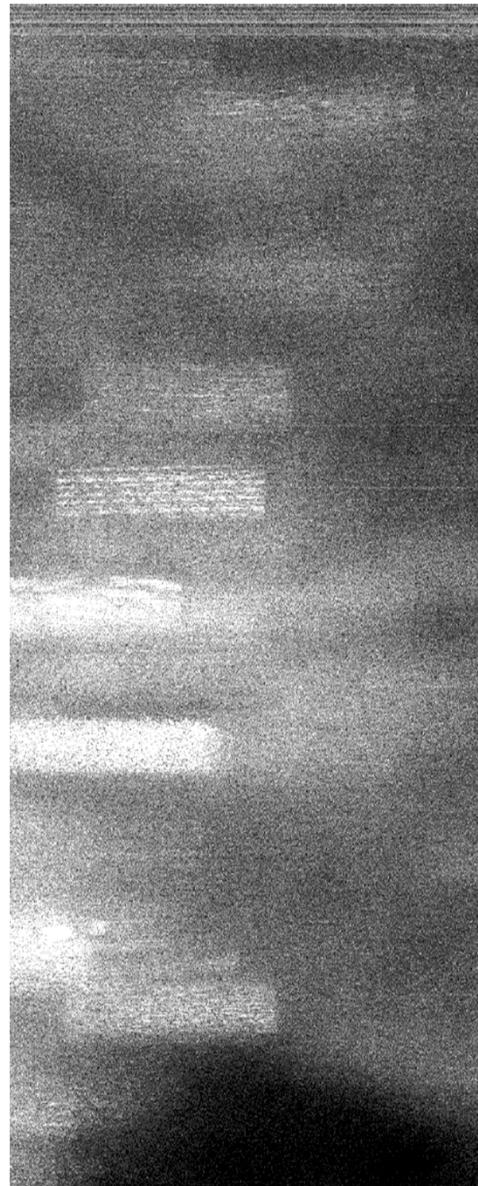
swath
(amélioration résolution across-track,
alliée à la modulation de fréquence)

Traitement DOPPLER (Radar à Synthèse d'Ouverture) AMELIORATION RESOLUTION ALONG-TRACK

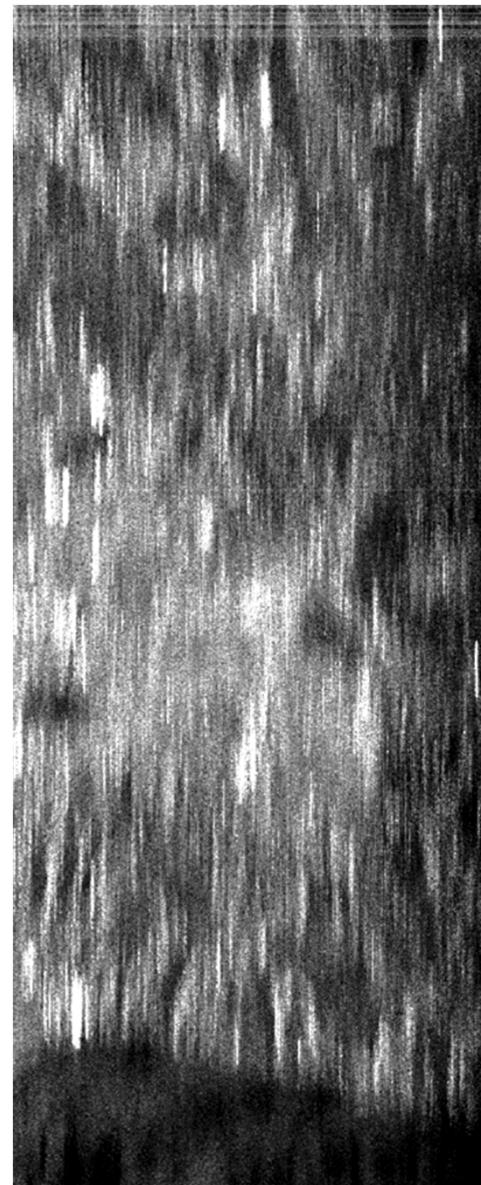


SAR Image synthesis in action

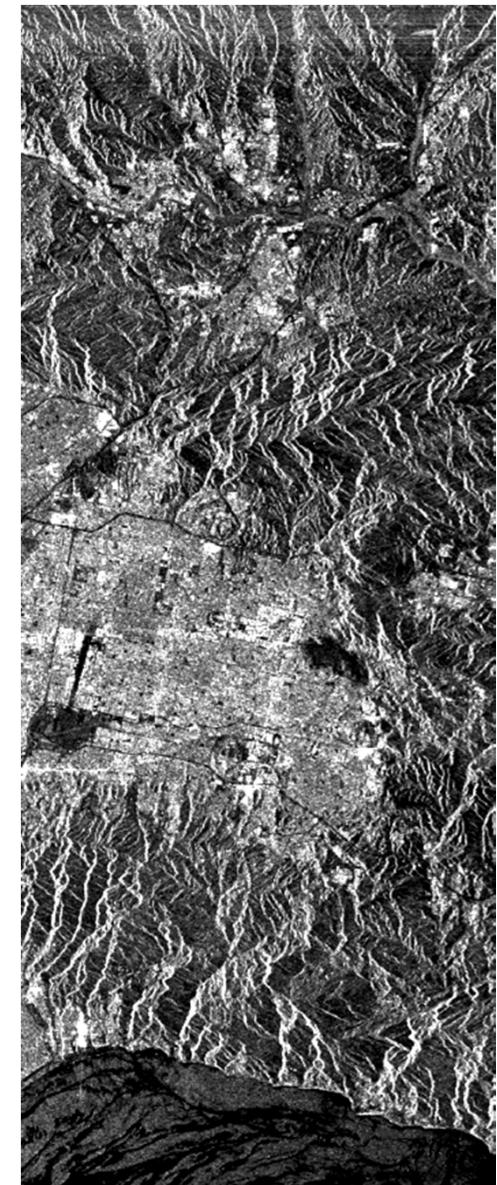
Azimuth



Raw Image



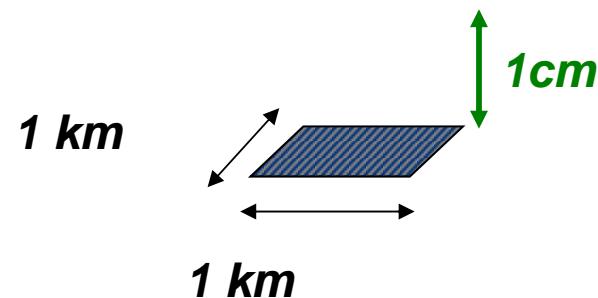
Range Compression



Resolved Image

Wide Swath Altimetry for HR oceanography

OCEANOGRAPHIE HAUTE RESOLUTION

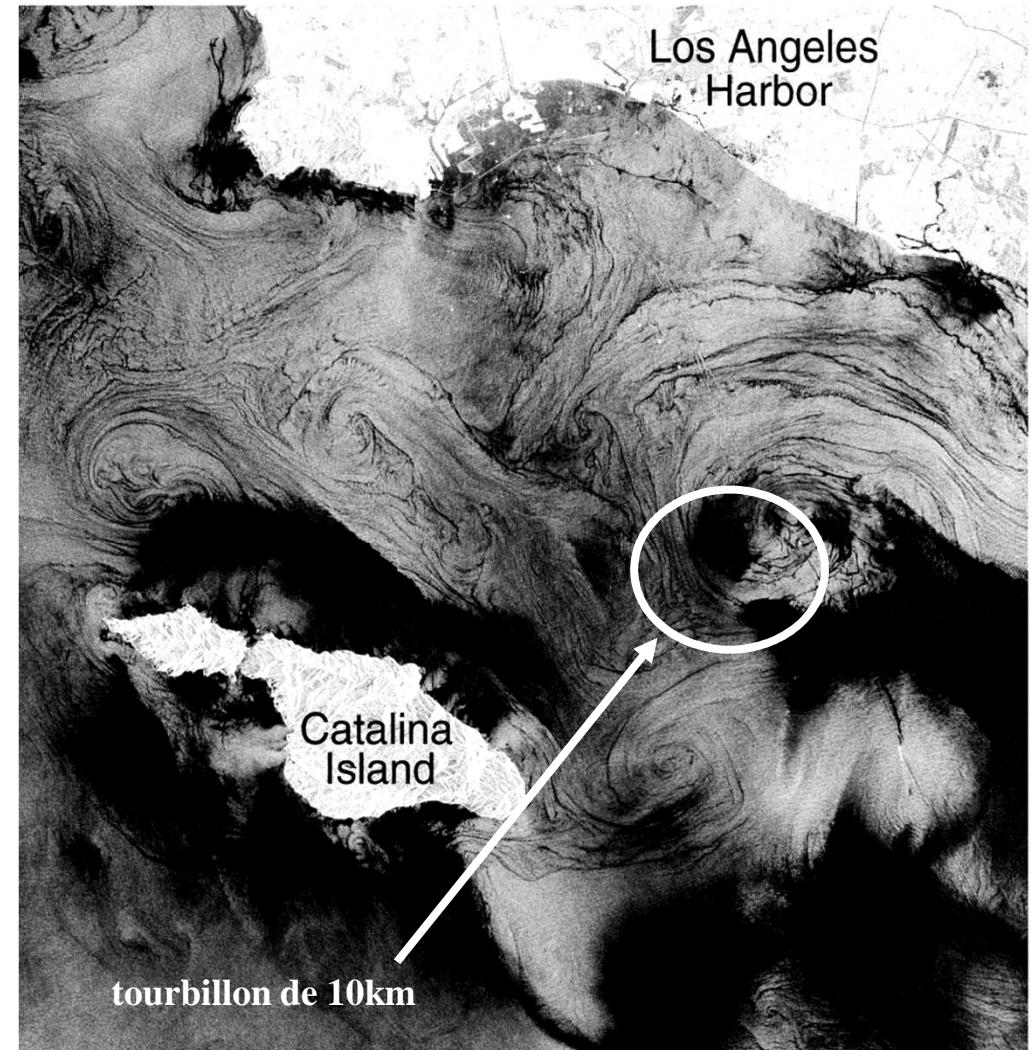


Existant : ~ qq cm sur 7 km x 7 km

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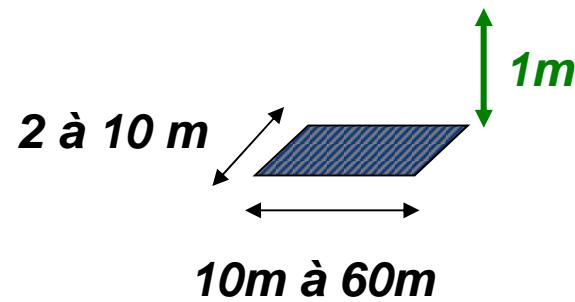
TTVS

RADARSAT - December 26, 1998

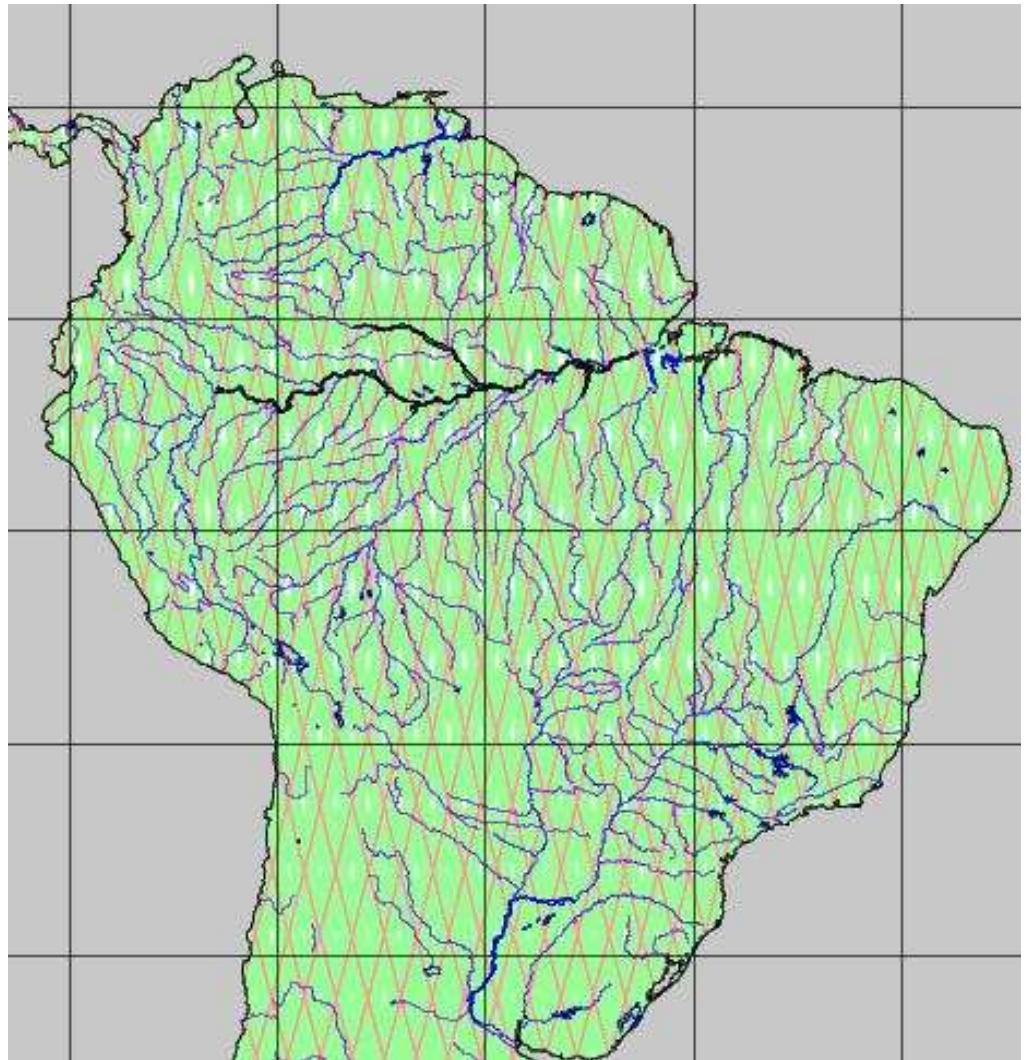


Wide Swath Altimetry for hydrology

HYDROLOGIE
CONTINENTALE

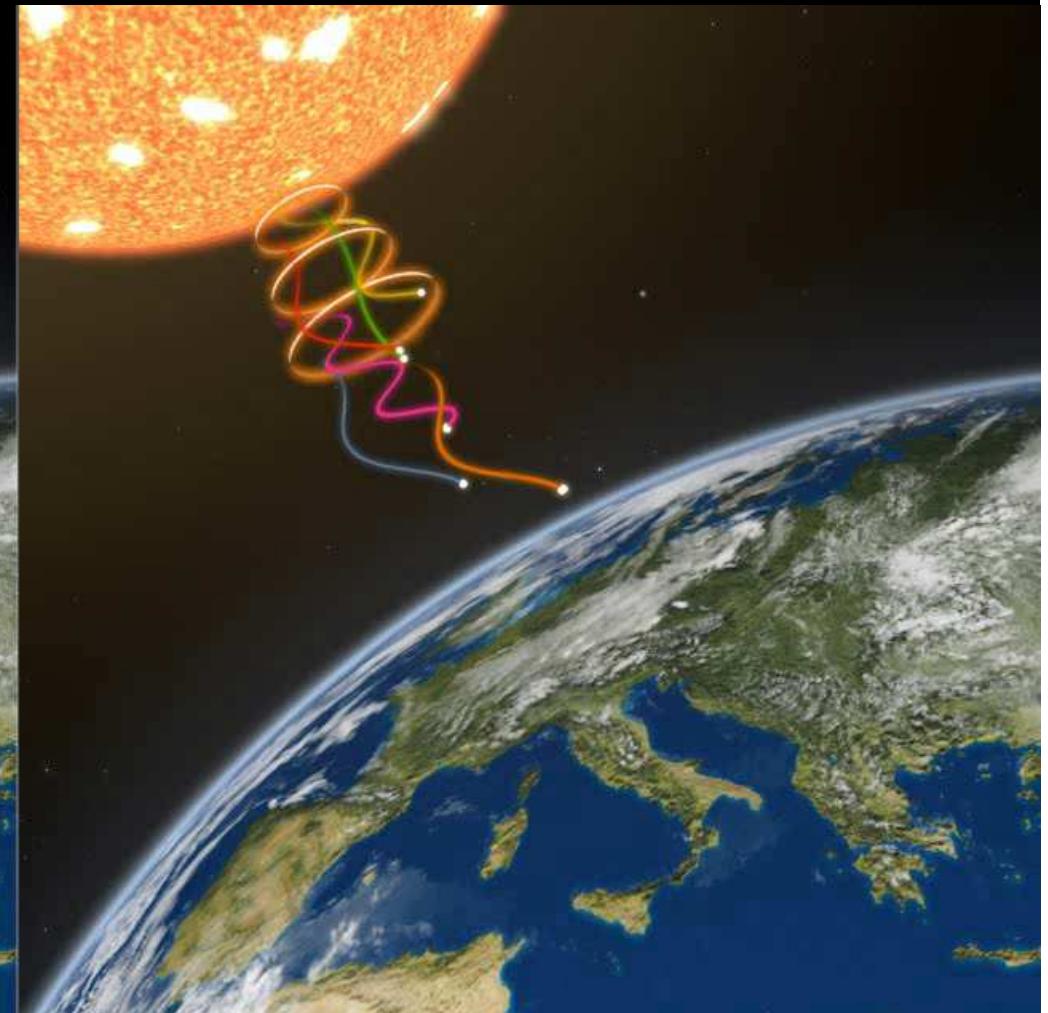
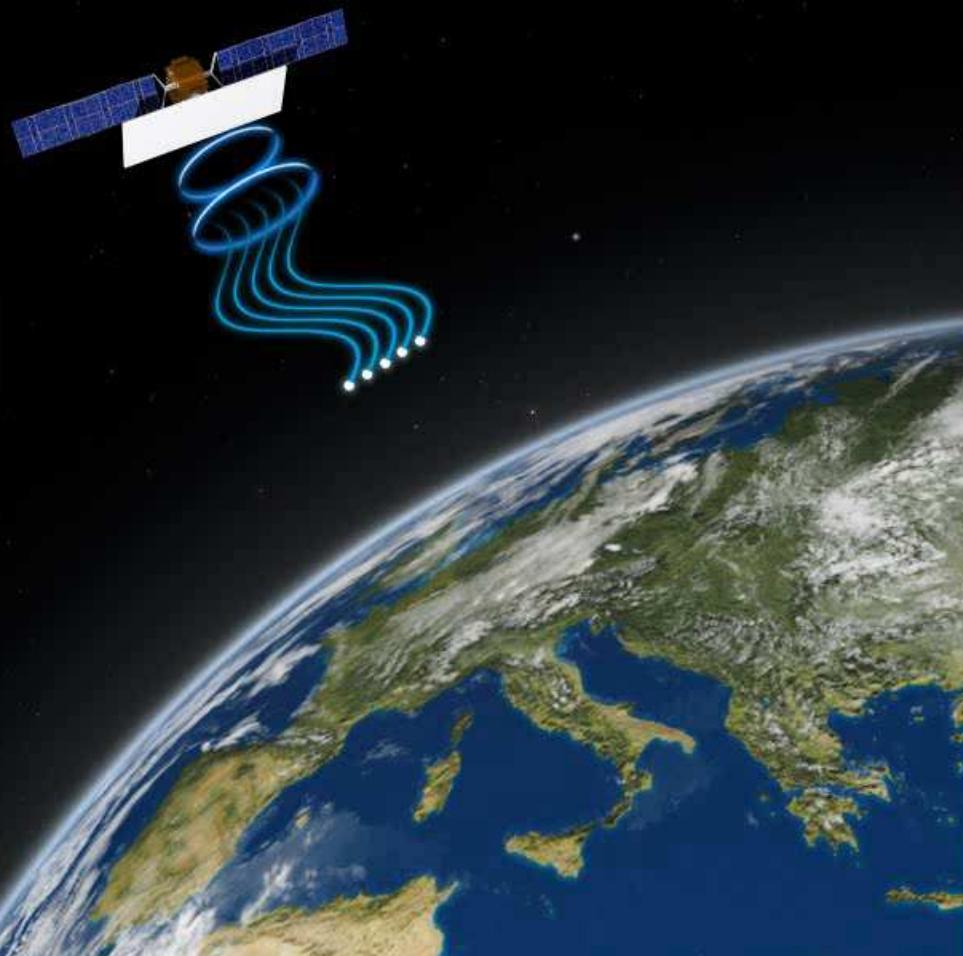


Existant : ~ qq cm sur 7 km x 7 km

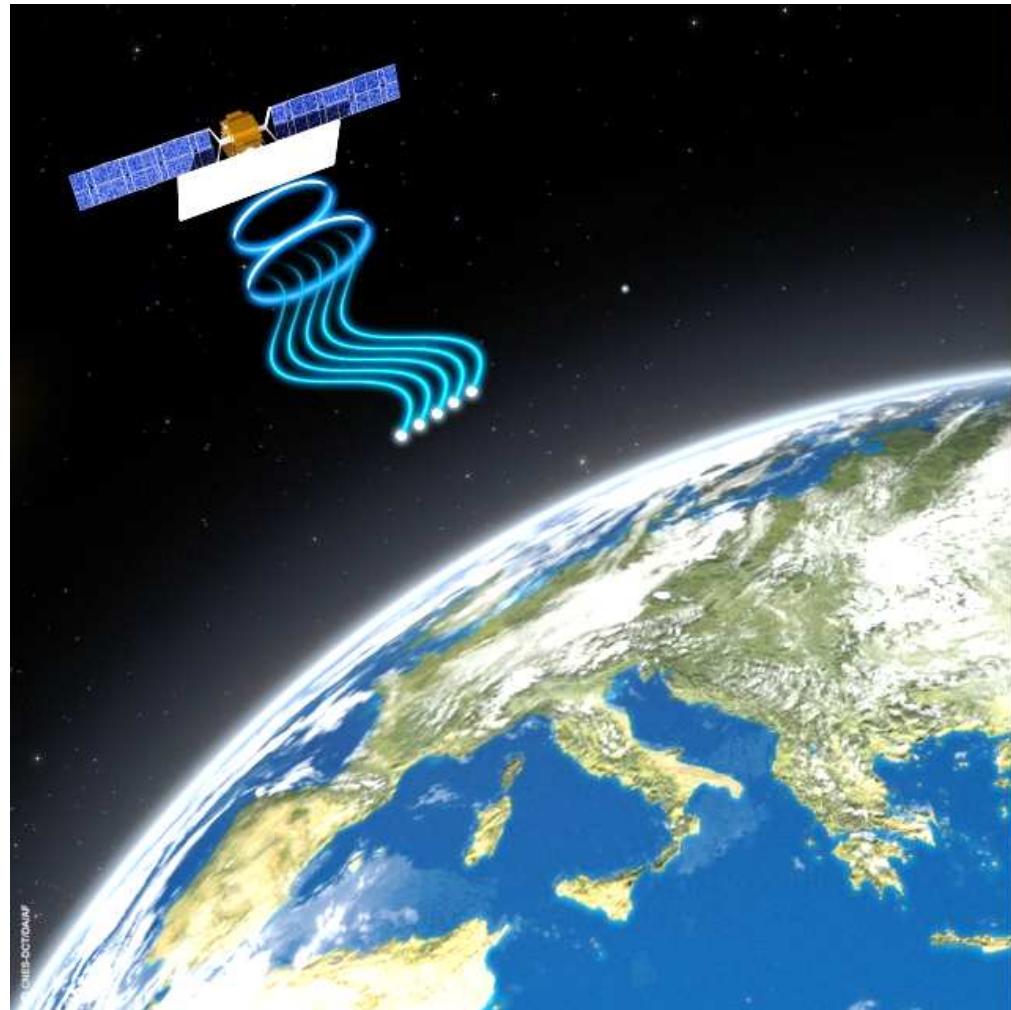


Coherent versus incoherent illumination

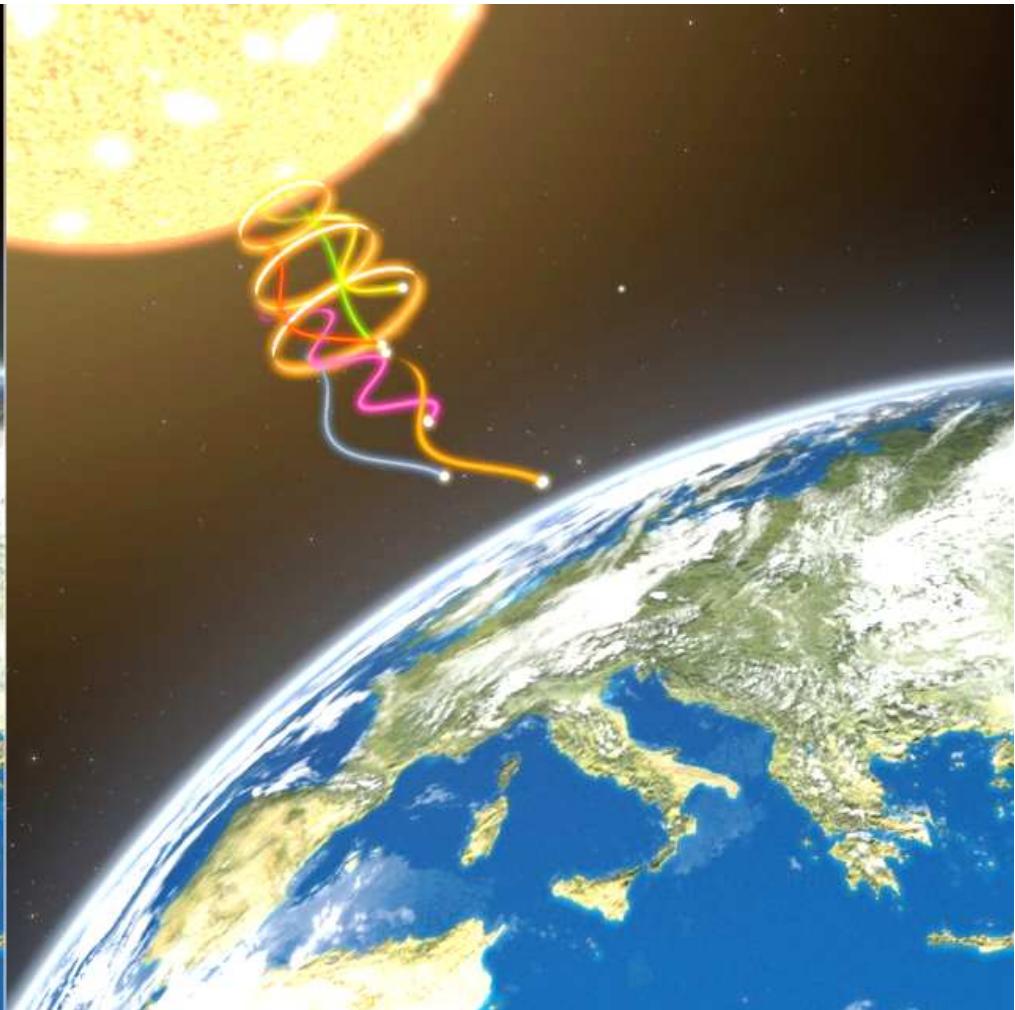
For coherent illumination, the in-phase photonic vibration allows for the use of the radar signal phase information



Coherent Illumination, non coherent illumination ... On the spartan organisation of the radar wavelength !



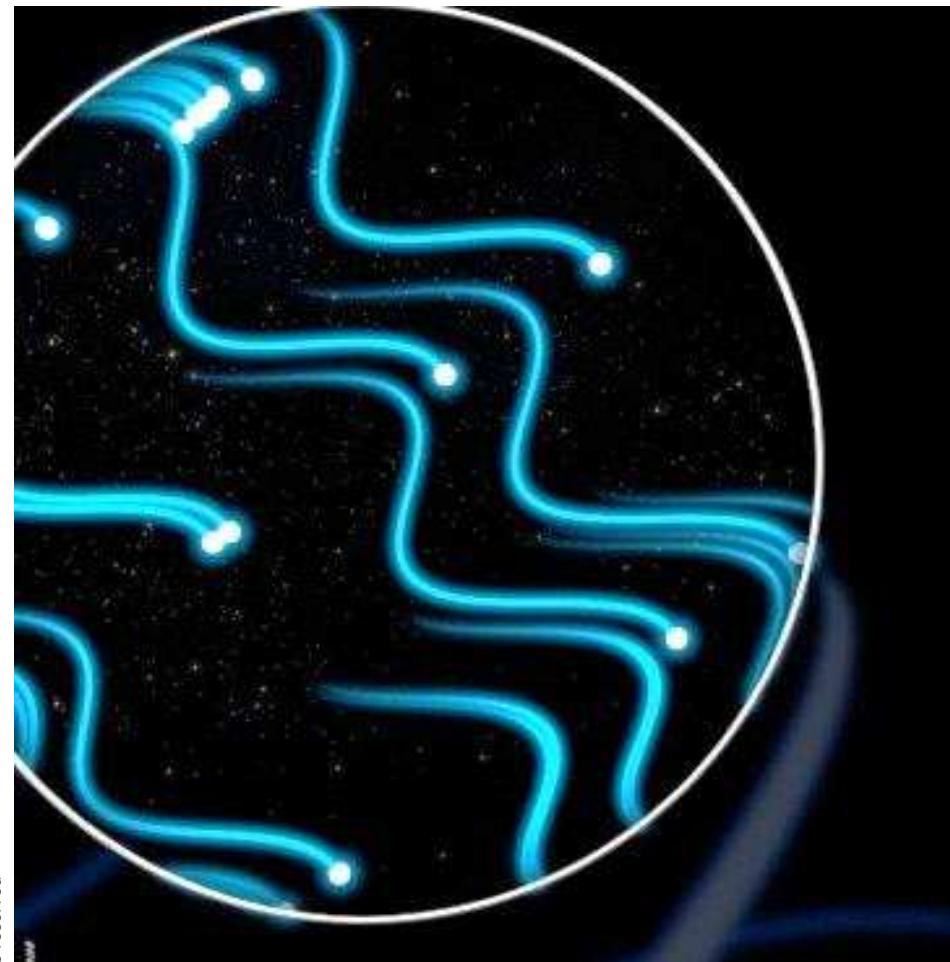
Radar illumination (or laser)



Natural illumination

Coherent Illumination, non coherent illumination

... On the spartan organisation of the coherent wave !



Radar (or laser) illumination
COHERENT



Natural illumination
INCOHÉRENT

The phase of the coherent wave



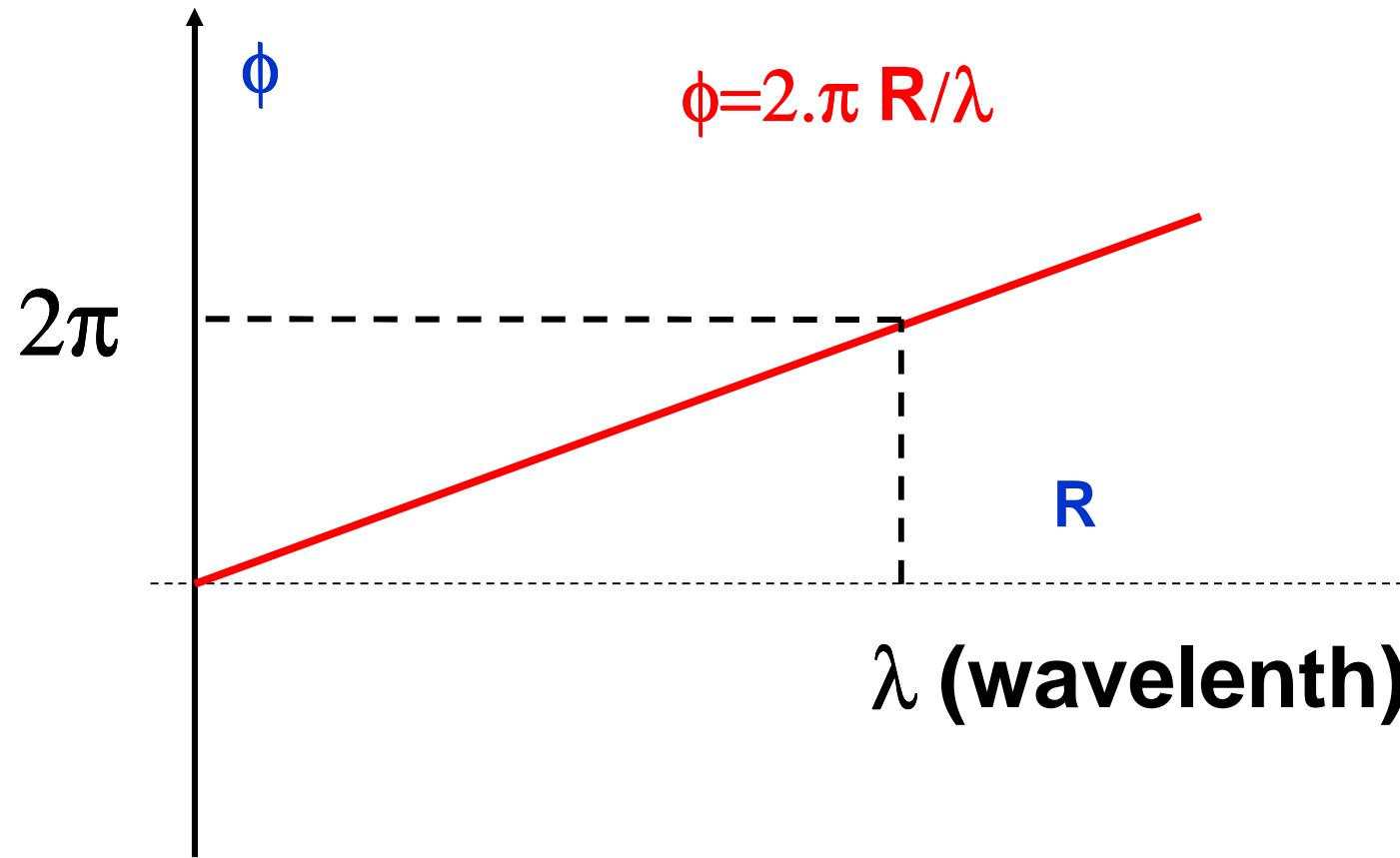
Phase (i.e. vibration state) of
one photon =

Same as the phase of any photon

→ We can define the
« Phase of the wave »,
as the phase state common
to every photon of the wave.

The phase of the coherent wave

T

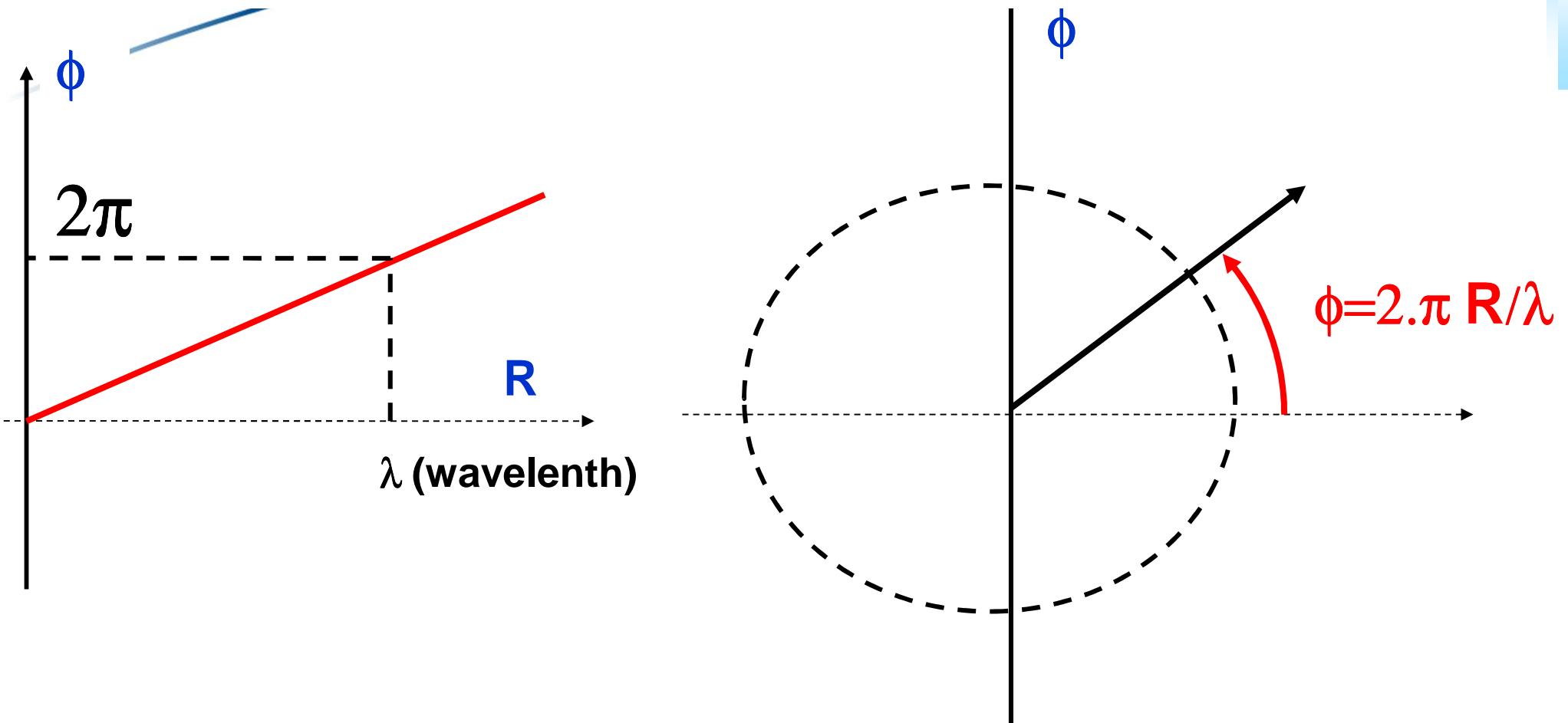


The phase state is a function of

the distance R covered by the wave

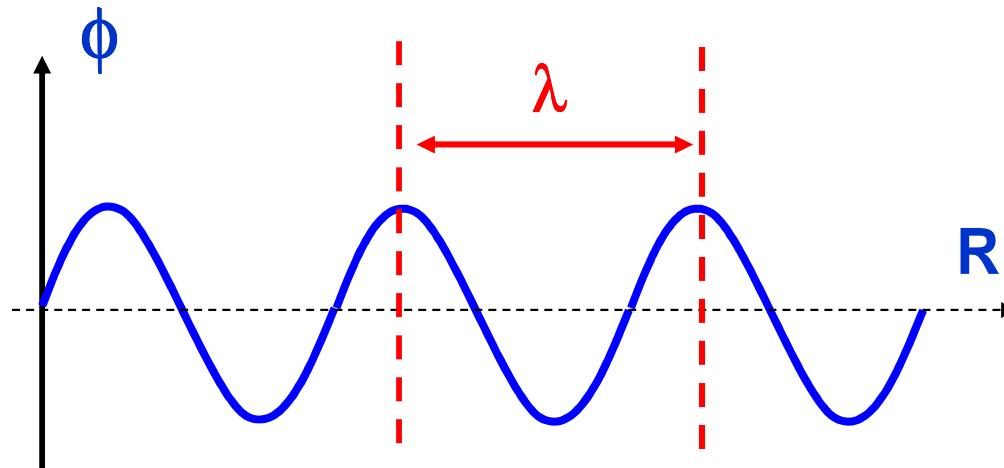
TTVS

Phase of the coherent wave / Phase of the radar signal



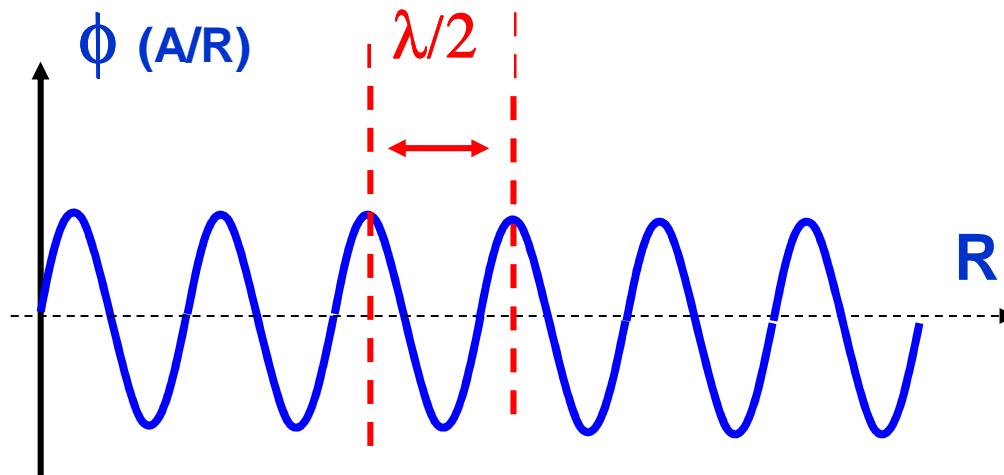
Phase of the wave → Phase of the radar signal

Coherent Illumination: the phase of the radar wave



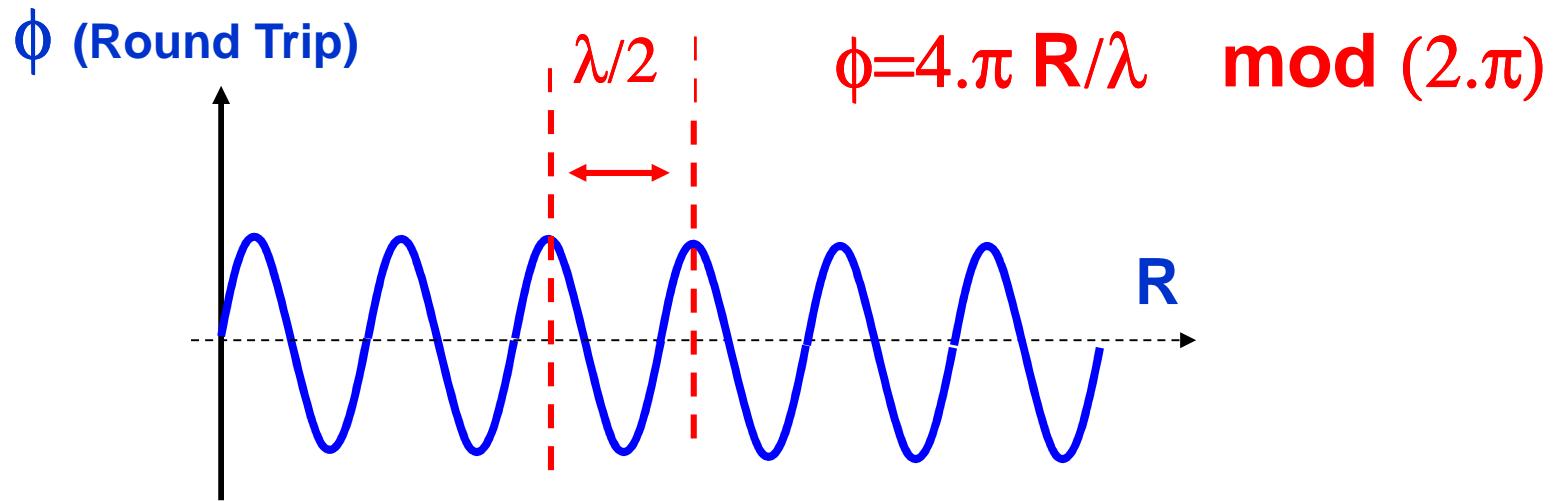
The phase of the radar signal (**modulo 2π**) takes the same value at two locations separated by the range λ (wavelength)

Coherent Illumination: the phase of the radar wave



... Actually : the range $\lambda/2$ when accounting for the round trip distance

Coherent Illumination : the phase of the radar wave

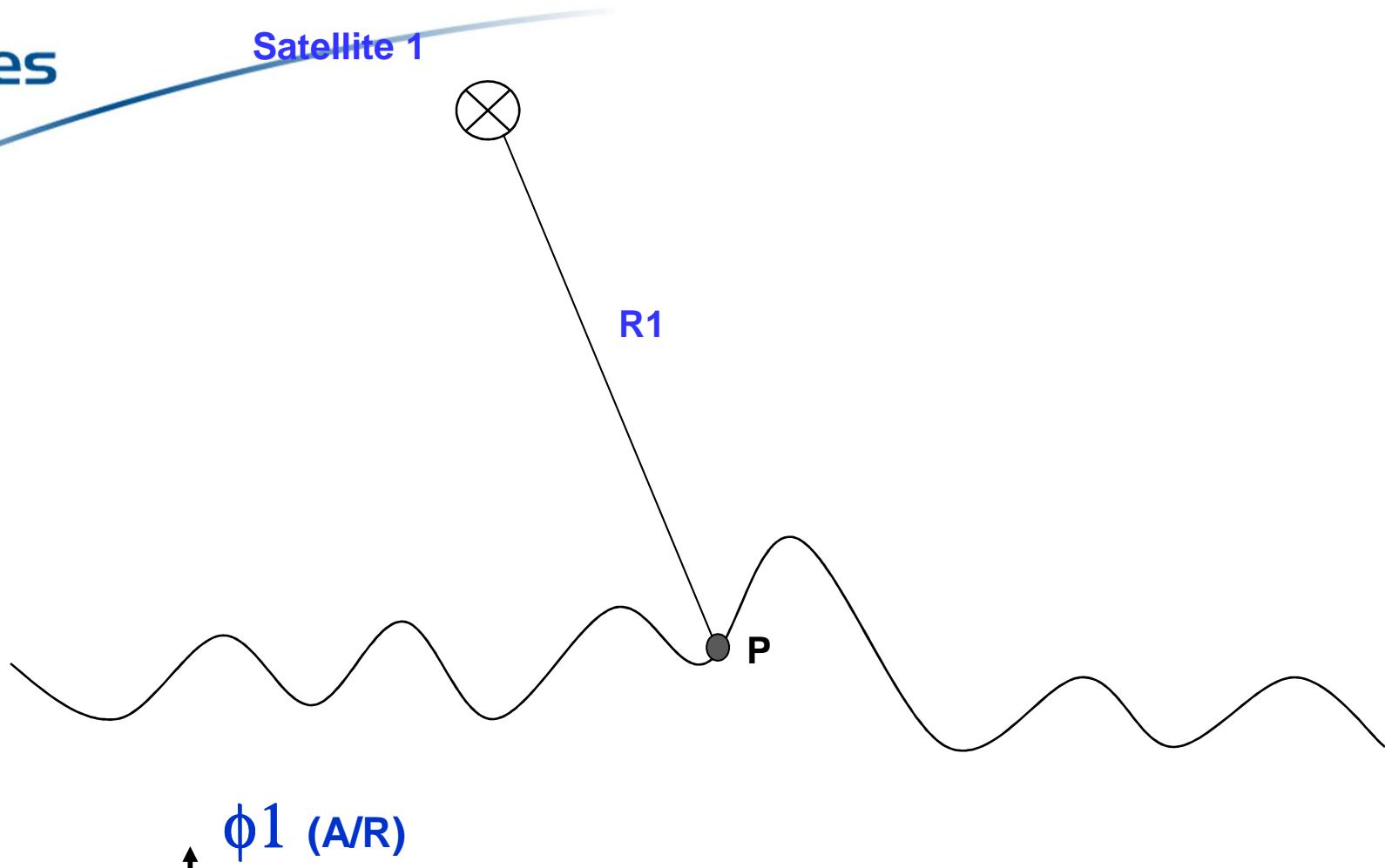
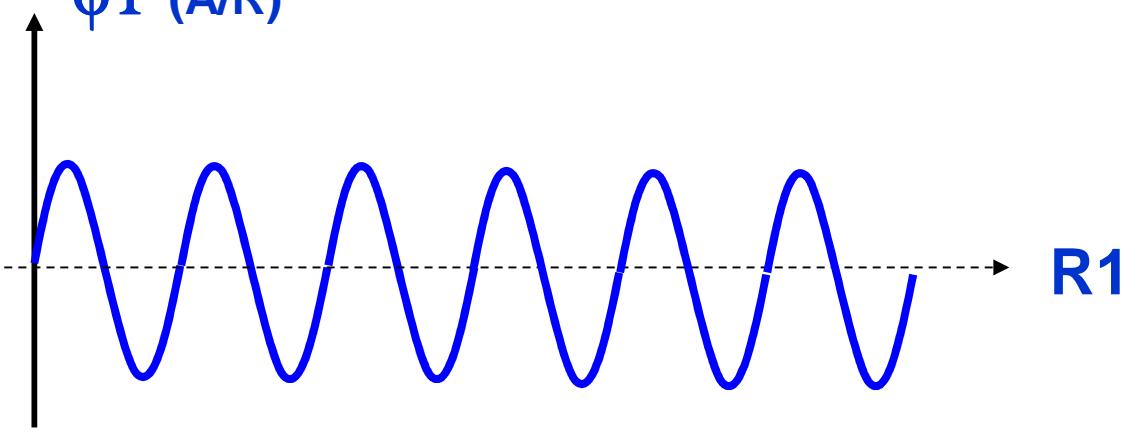


Can we infer the range R from the knowledge of the phase ϕ ?

... Quite difficult, as it would require to determine the number N of $\lambda/2$ segments over the range R very precisely

Ex : Bande Ka : $\lambda/2 = 4 \text{ mm} \rightarrow N = R/(\lambda/2) \sim 1000 \text{ km} / 4 \text{ mm} \sim 2 \cdot 10^8$

... and moreover to assume that neither the atmosphere nor the wave / surface interaction corrupt the phase

 $\phi_1 \text{ (A/R)}$ 

Satellite 1

 R_1 $R_1 \sim 1000 \text{ km}$
 $\lambda/2 \sim 4 \text{ mm}$ $\pm \lambda/2$

P

 $\phi_1 \text{ (A/R)}$

8 mm

 R_1



Satellite 1

Satellite 2

R2

R1

Interferometry

 $\pm\lambda/2$

P

$$\phi_2 \text{ (A/R)} - \phi_1 \text{ (A/R)}$$

$$R2-R1$$

The differential phase is stabilized

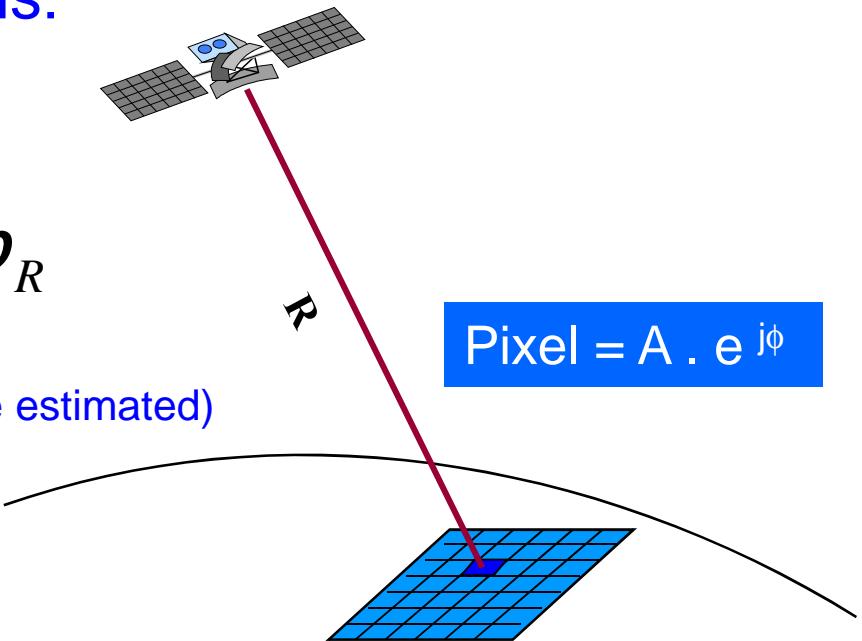
Principle of interferometry

- ◆ Each image pixel contains two terms:
 - Amplitude: A
 - Phase:

$$\varphi_{pixel} = \varphi_{specific} + \varphi_R$$

$\varphi_{specific}$ (wave / surface interaction cannot be estimated)

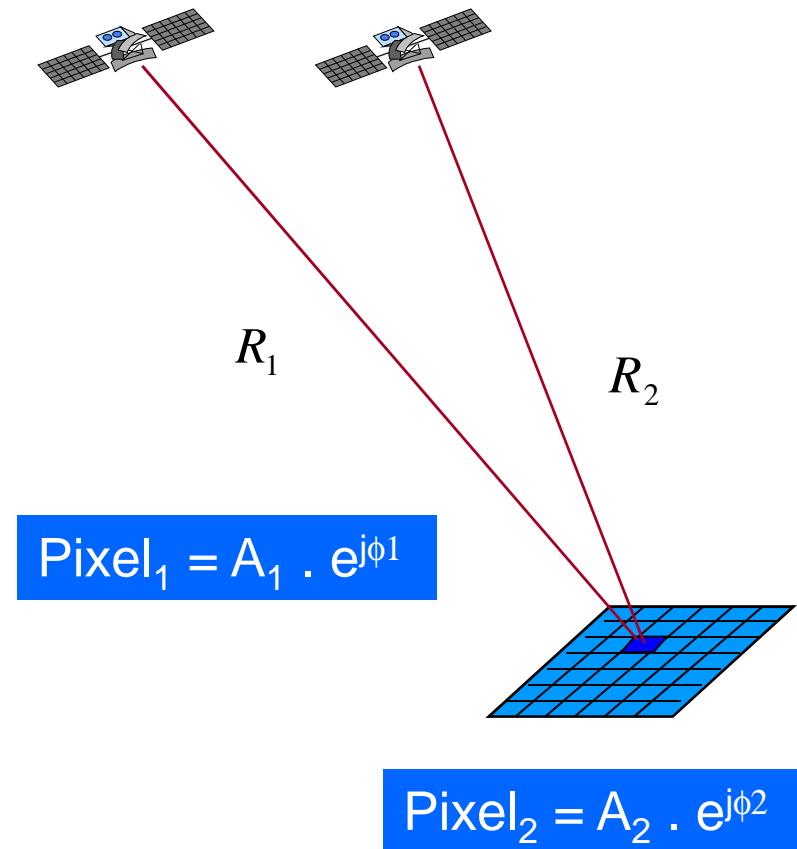
$$\varphi_R = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} R$$



→ Absolute phase cannot be used as information

Principle of interferometry

- ♦ If two images with unchanged ground conditions



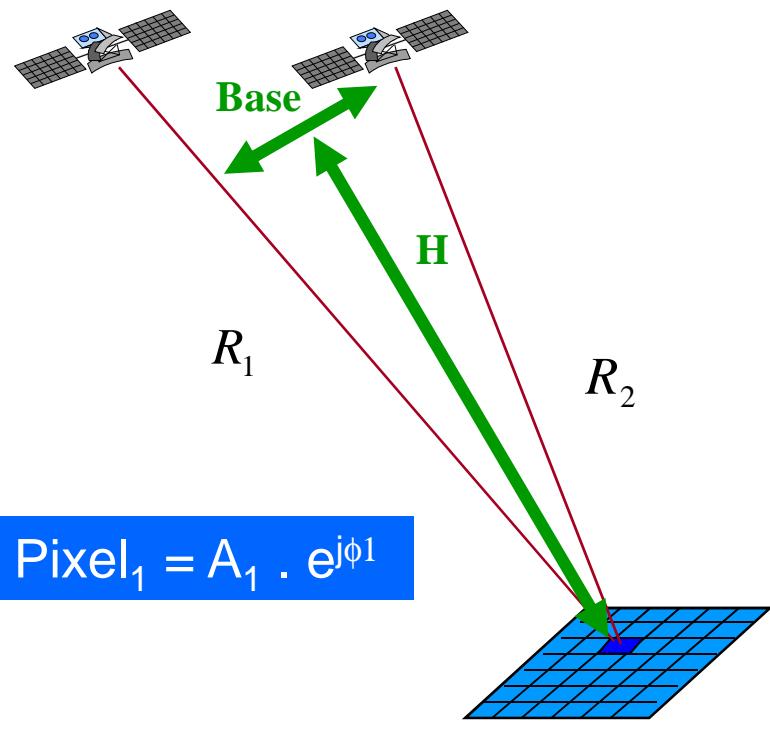
$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_{\text{specific_1}} &= \varphi_{\text{specific_2}} \\ \Rightarrow \Delta\varphi &= \varphi_2 - \varphi_1 = \varphi_{R_2} - \varphi_{R_1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta\varphi = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} (R_2 - R_1)$$

- ♦ Image of $\Delta\varphi$ = interferogram = image of distance differences

If : $(R_2 - R_1)$ varies of $\frac{\lambda}{2}$ $\Rightarrow \Delta\varphi$ varies of 2π (one fringe)

Principle of interferometry



$$\text{Pixel}_1 = A_1 \cdot e^{j\phi_1}$$

$$\text{Pixel}_2 = A_2 \cdot e^{j\phi_2}$$

Interferometry is not stereoscopy

Phase Base/H << « Optical Base/H »



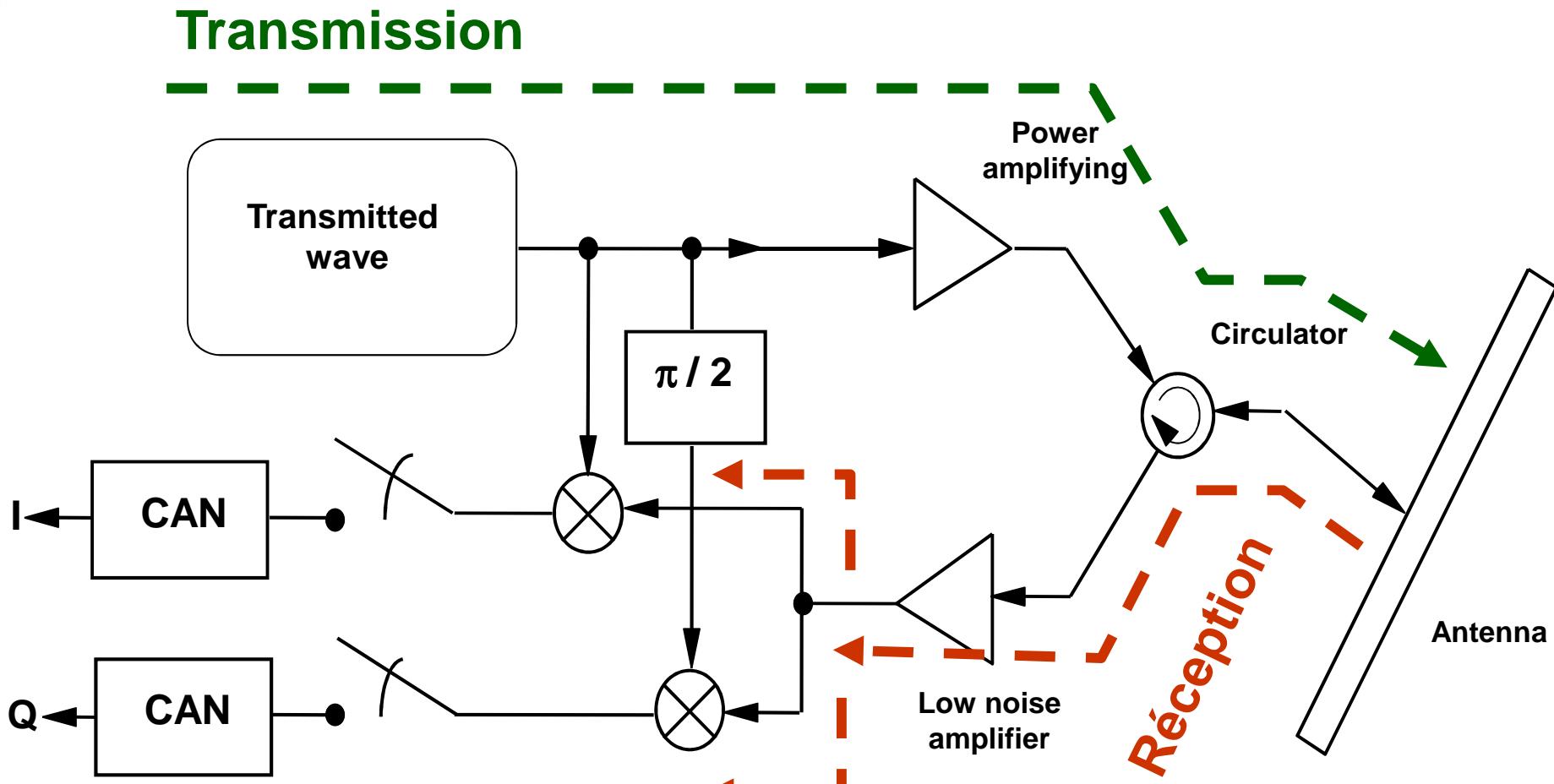
SWOT :
Base=10m, H=1000 km

Variation de
phase

SPOT :
Base=100 km, H=1000 km

Déformation
géométrique

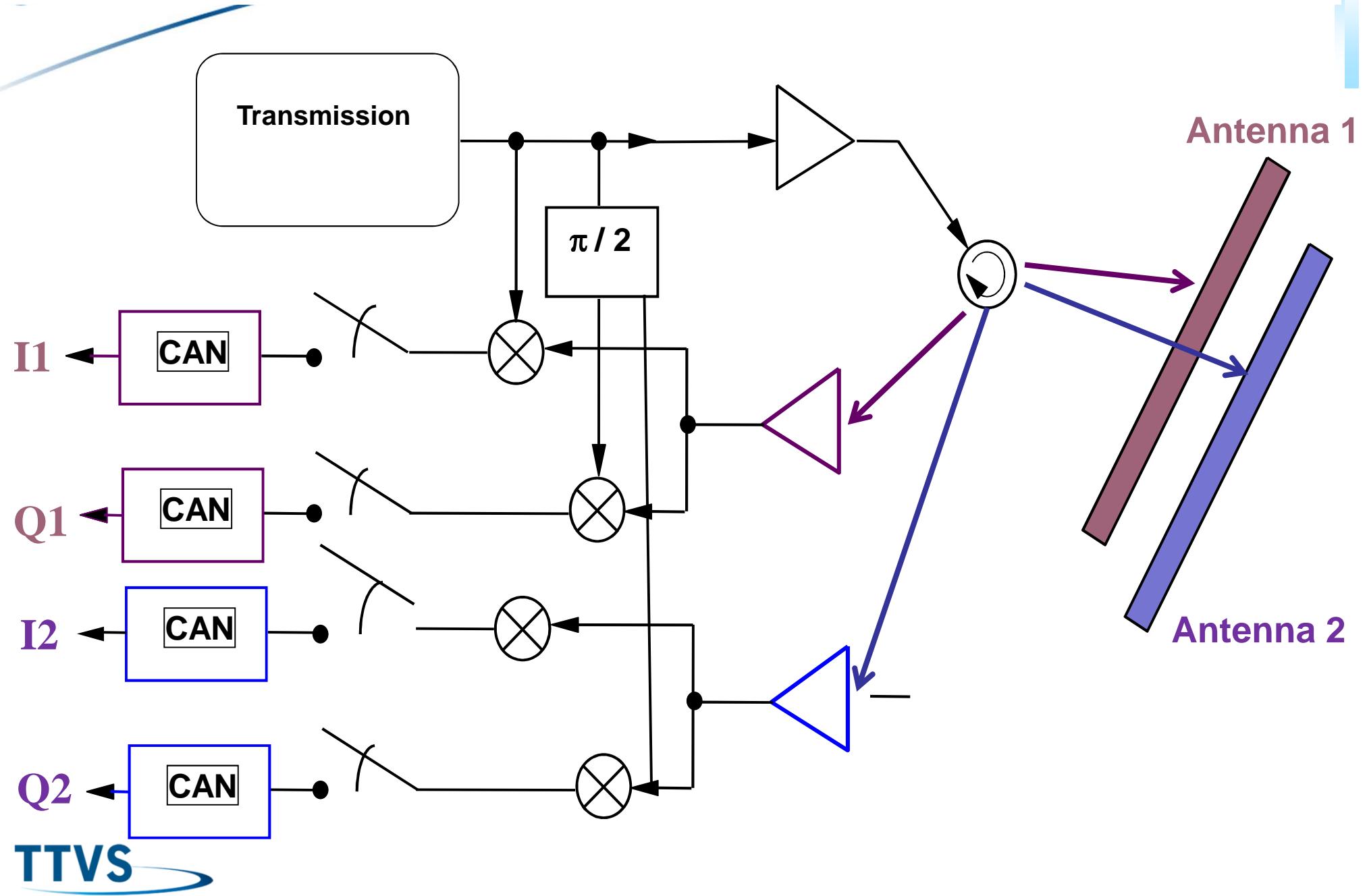
Radar signal measurement / Phase measurement



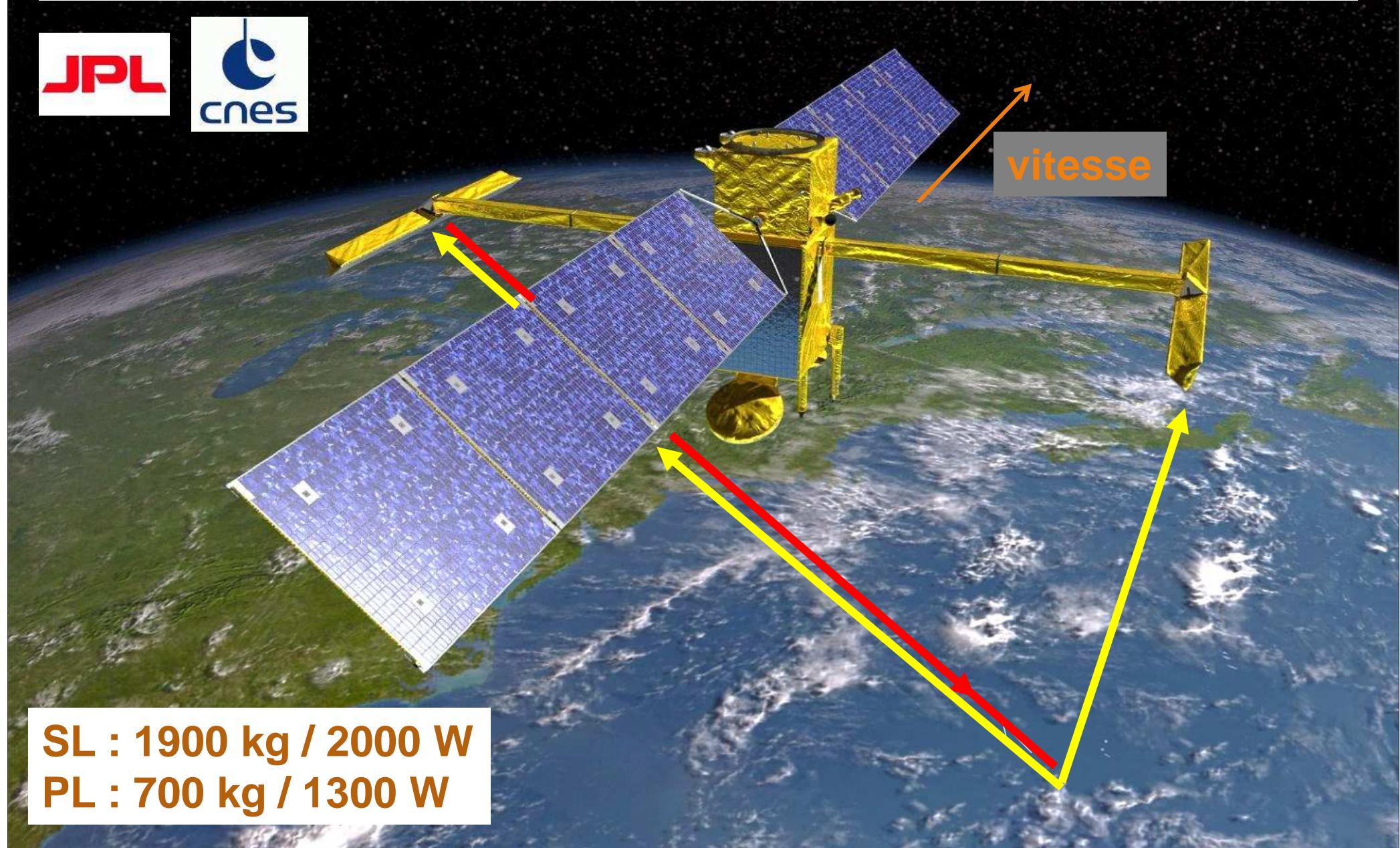
1 image pixel = $I + j \cdot Q$ (complex number) = radiometry + phase

A **TFRS** signal is a « two-layers » signal, including a radiometric layer and a phase layer

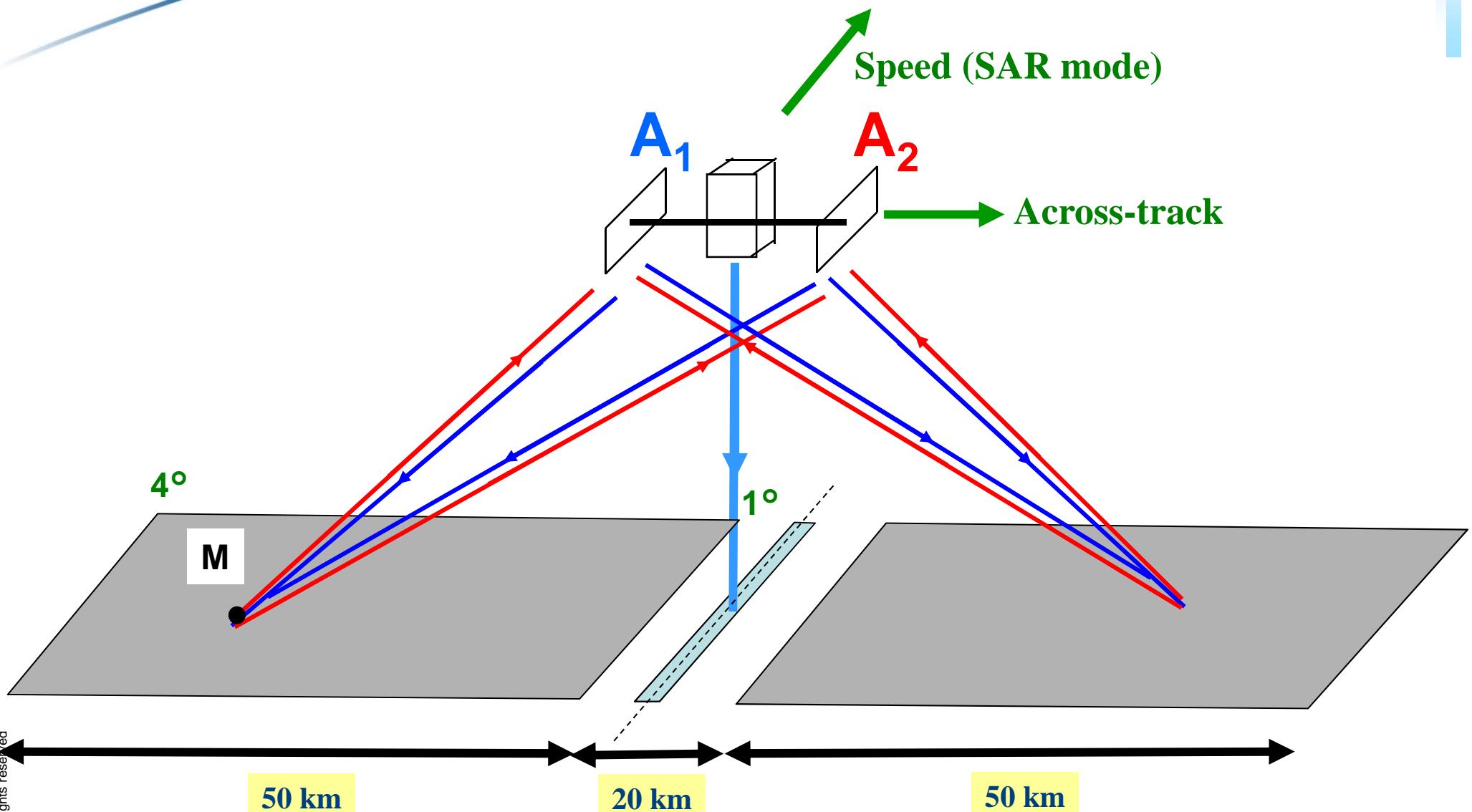
Interferometric Radar chain



SURFACE WATER AND OCEAN TOPOGRAPHY (SWOT)

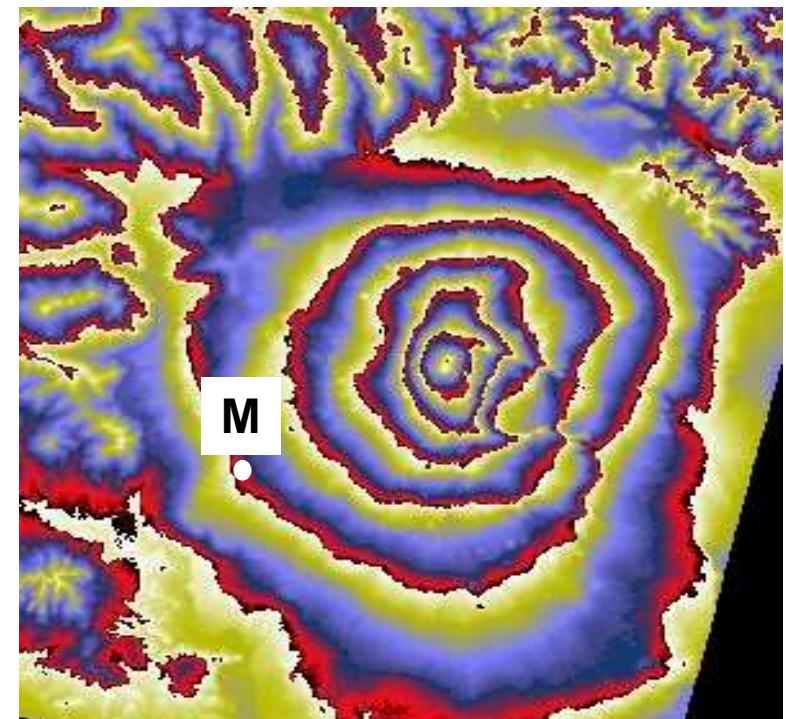
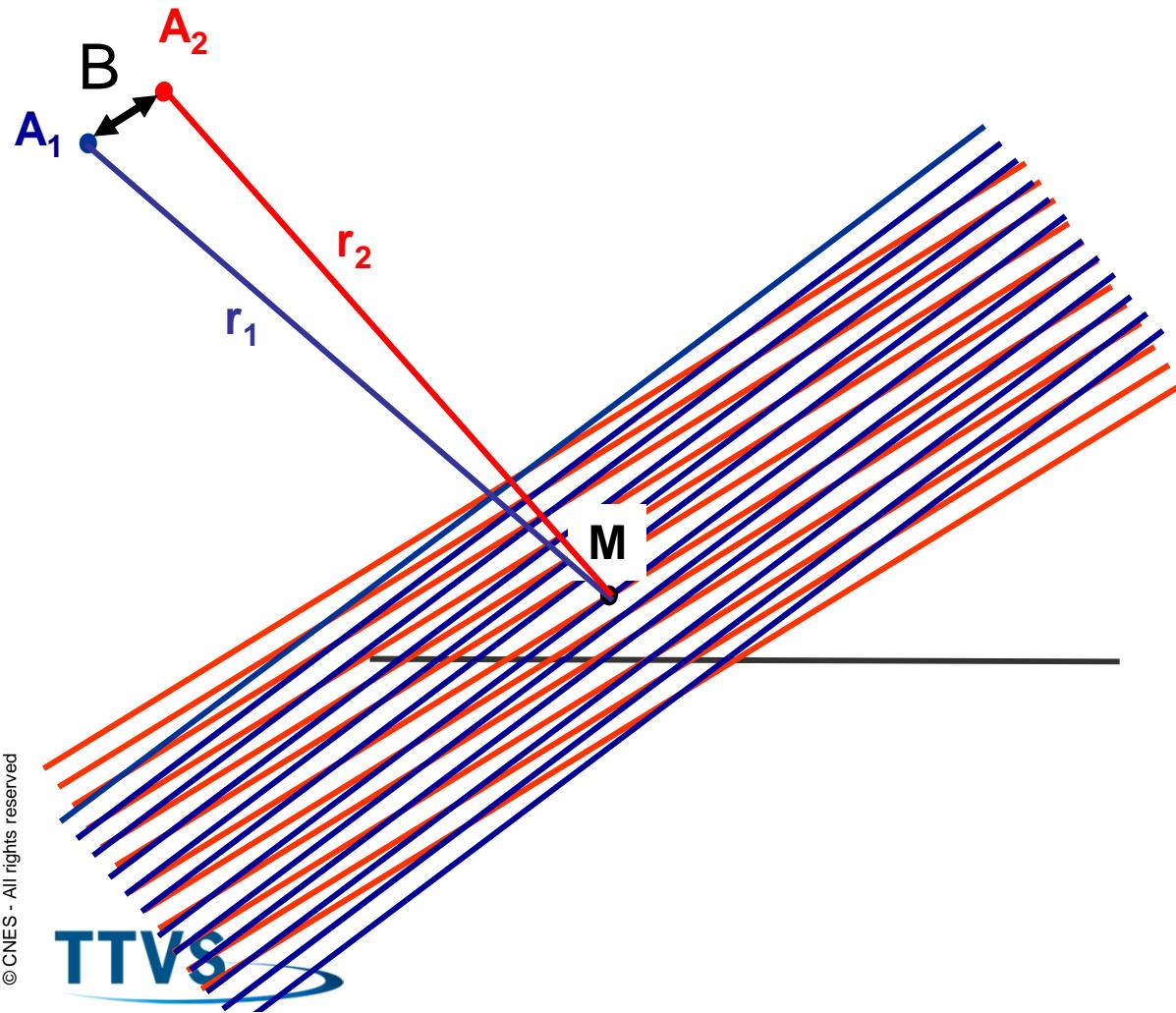


SWOT ACQUISITION



Sensibilité topographique et baseline interférométrique

Baseline / wavelength : B/λ (= 1000)

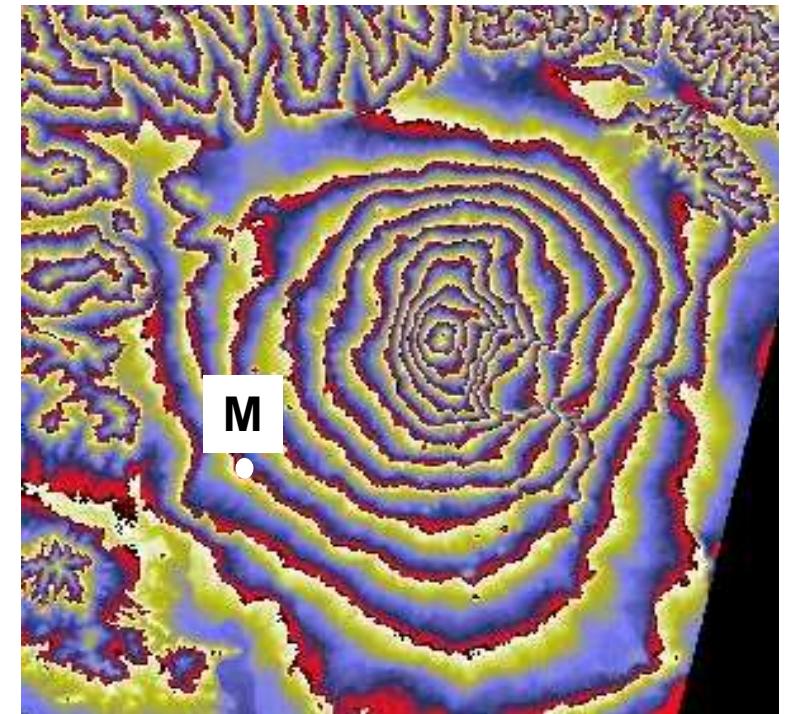
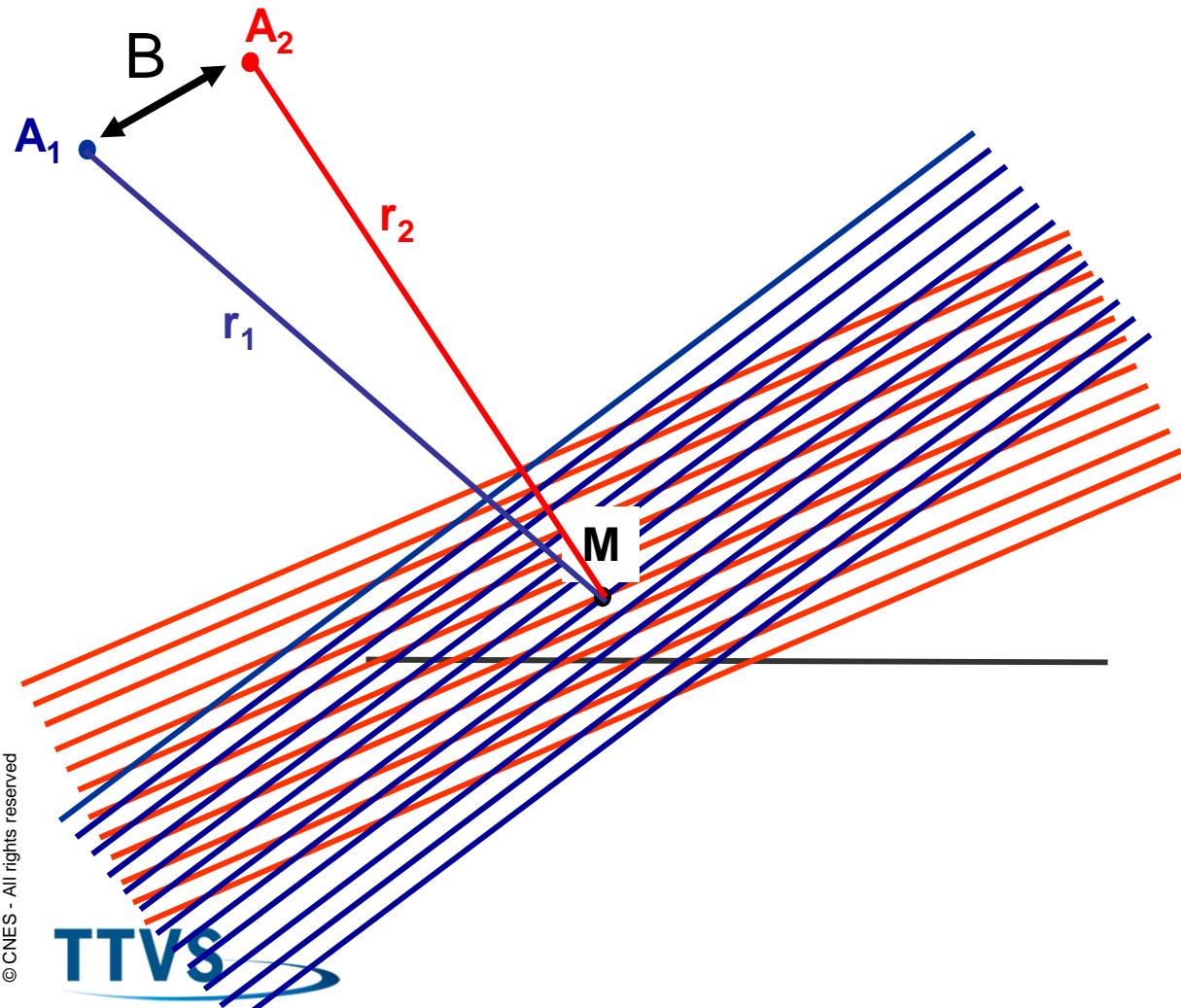


Iso-altitude line (r_1-r_2)

→ Height measurement

Sensibilité topographique et baseline interférométrique

Baseline / wavelength : B/λ (= 2000)



Iso-altitude line ($r_1 - r_2$)

→ Height measurement

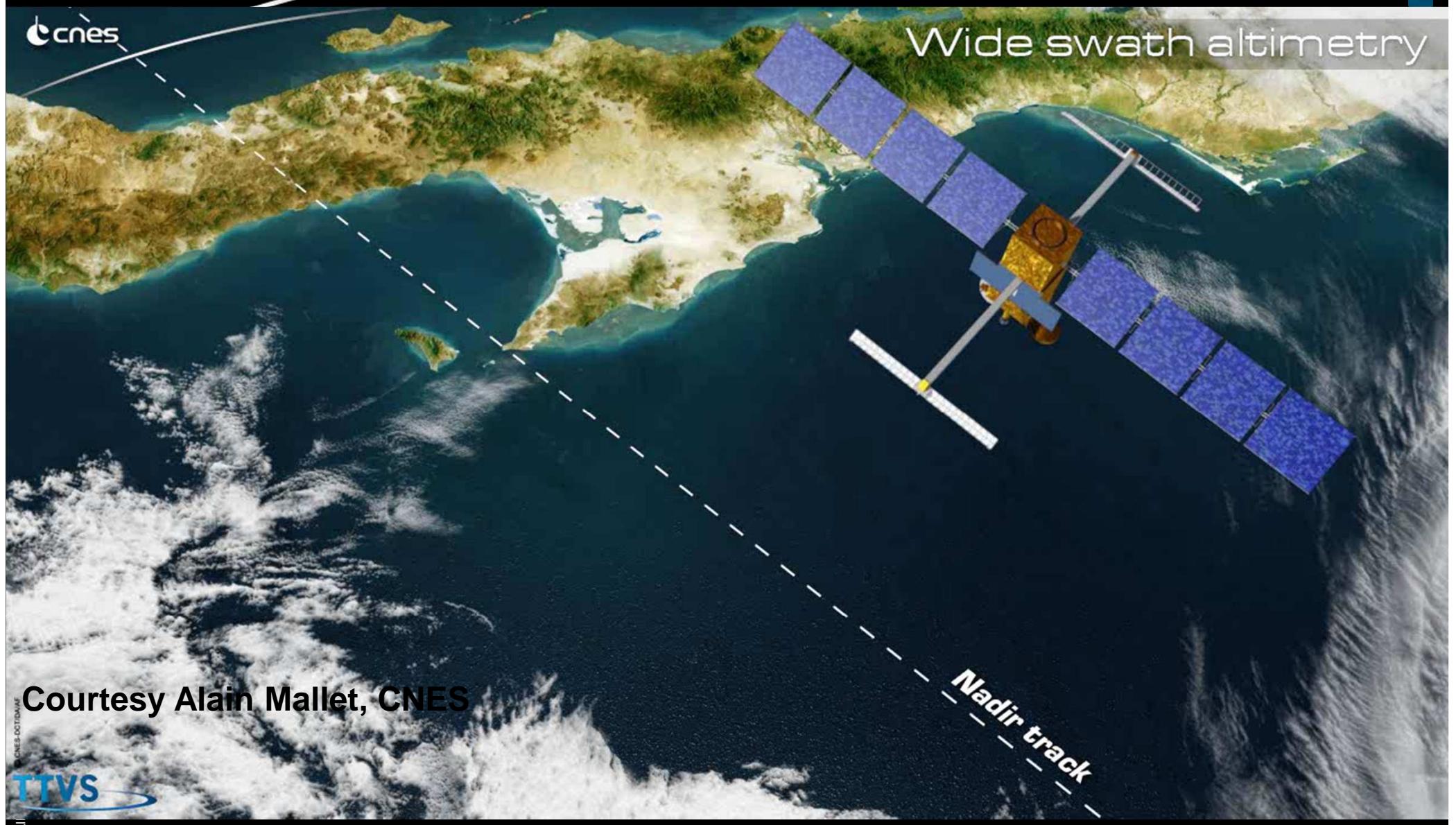
Sensibilité topographique et baseline interférométrique

- Interferométrie = Mesure de hauteur
- Sensibilité topographique \nearrow qd : B/λ \nearrow
- $B/\lambda \nearrow$ qd : $\lambda \searrow$ (plus facile que \nearrow B ! – longueur mât)
→ Transition Bande Ku vers Bande Ka (Gain en sensibilité : 2.6)
- ... En bénéficiant de l'héritage AltiKa

cnes

cnes

Wide swath altimetry



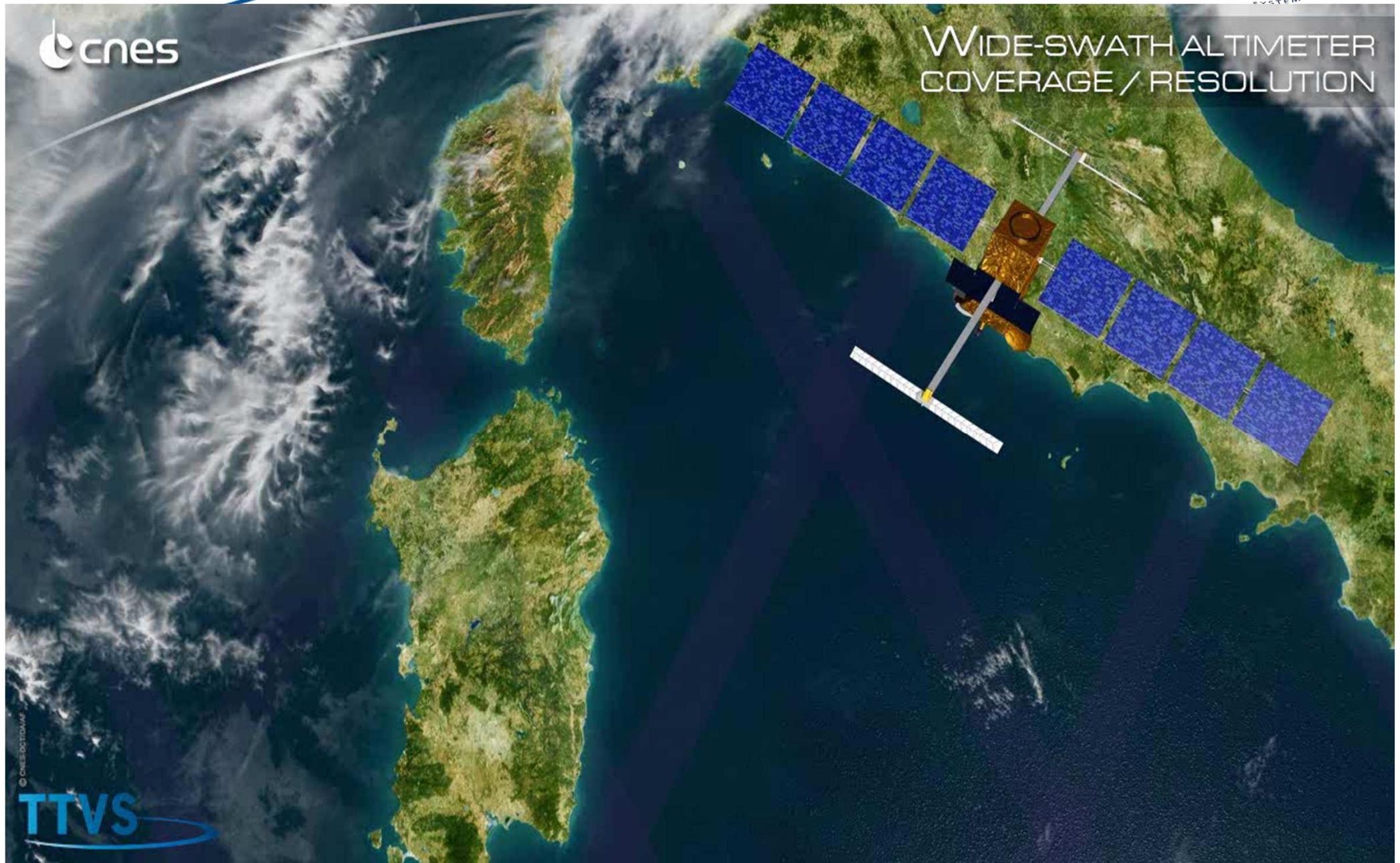
Courtesy Alain Mallet, CNES

TTVS

© CNES - Alain Mallet

TTVS

SWOT (couverture / résolution)



SWOT geometry : The territory of uncharted incidences ... and « singular » frequencies

Nadir
Altimetry
(JASON, ...)

SWOT

Standard SAR, and wind diffusiometry
(TERRASAR-X, C-SK, ...)

0.6°

4°

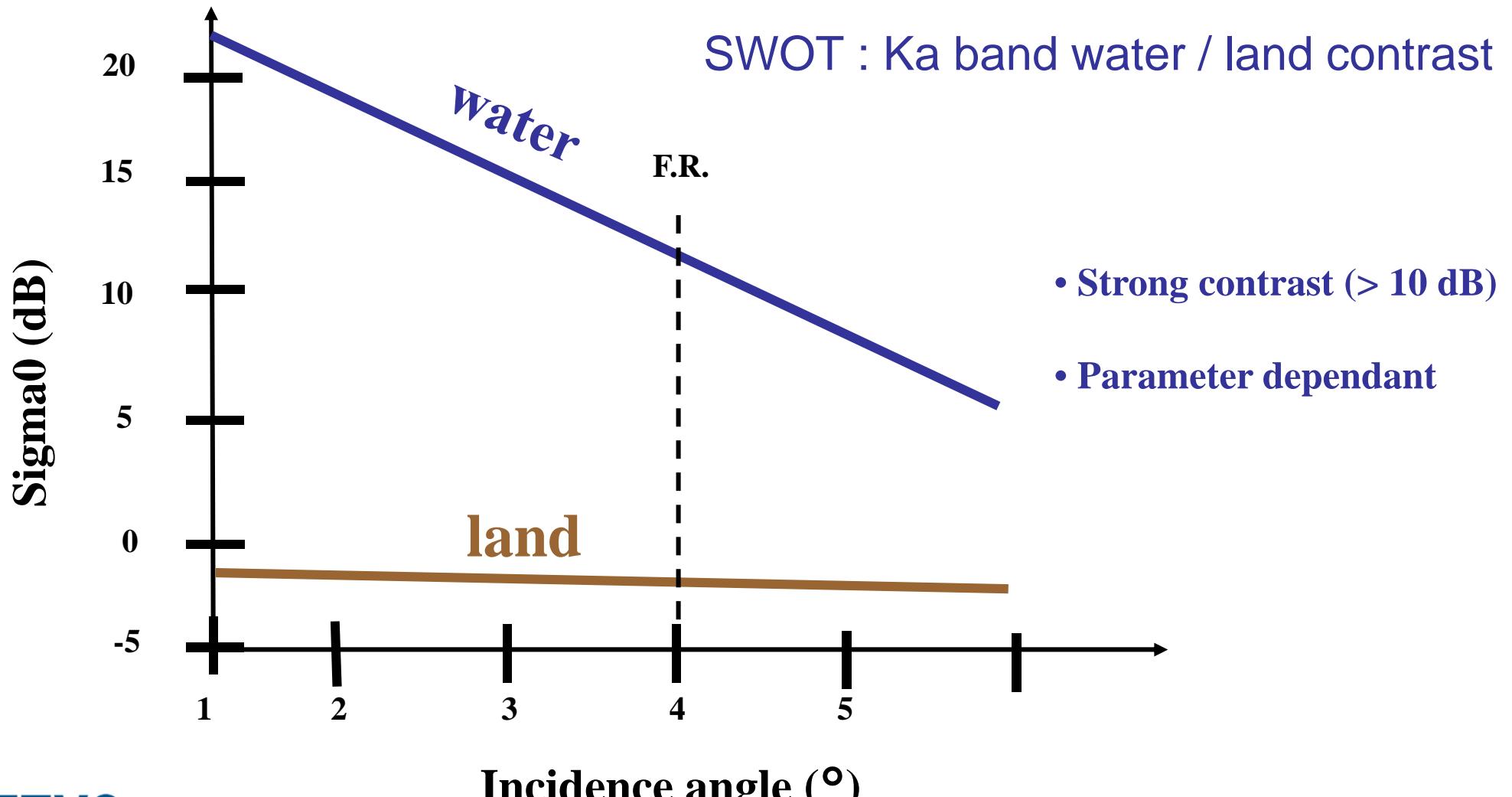
20°

50°

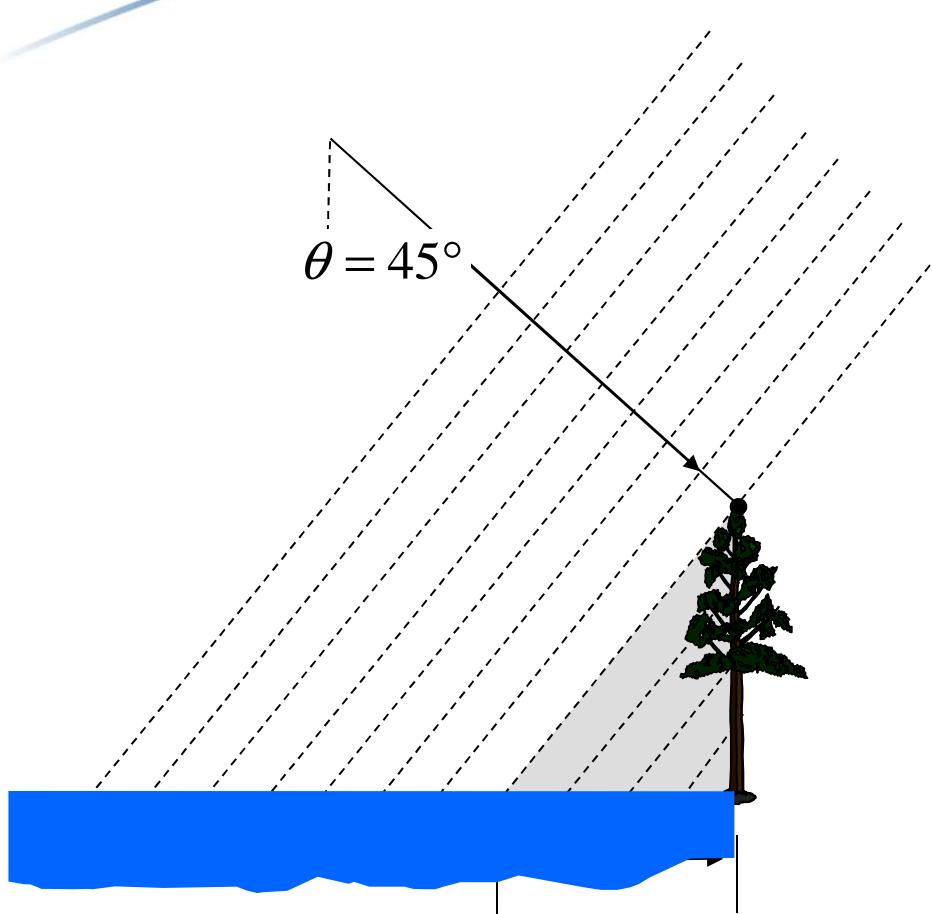
θ

Wave diffusiometry (SWIM)

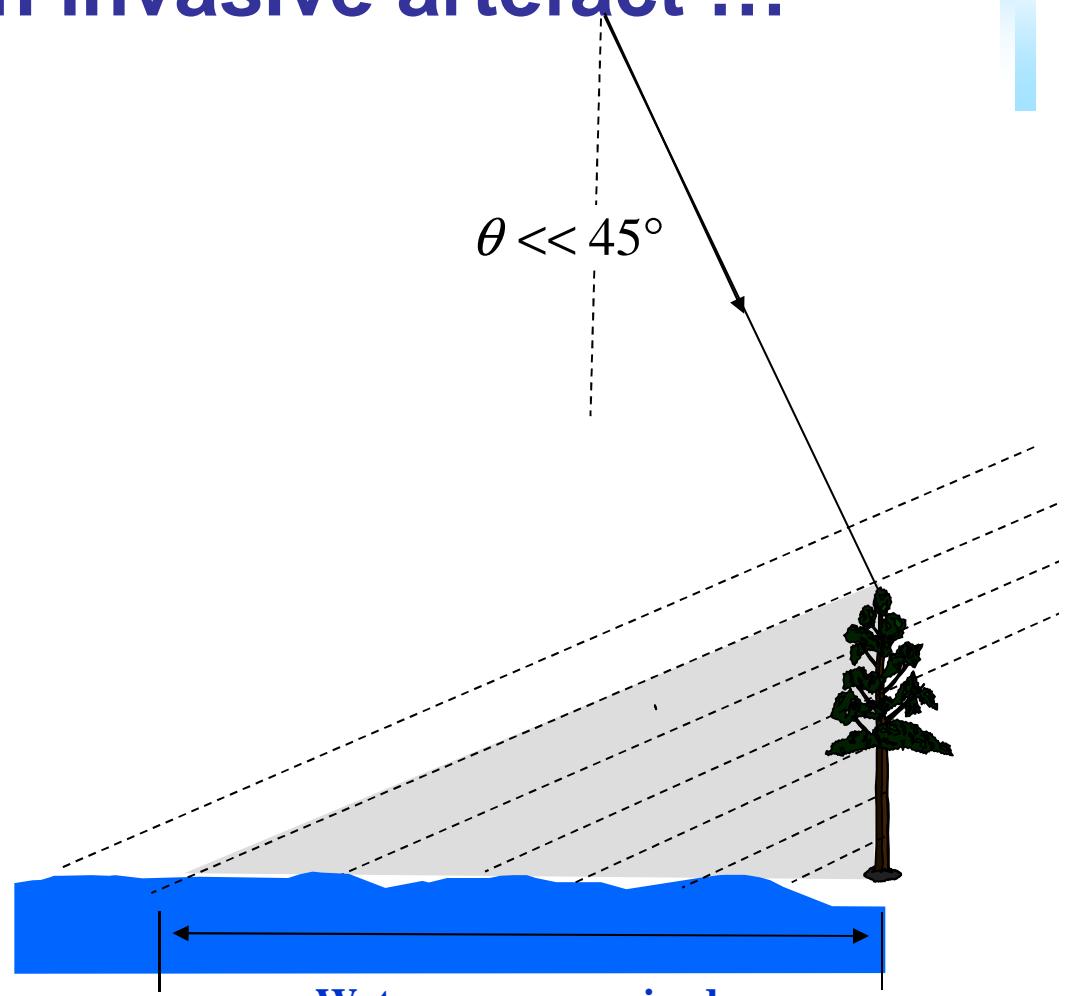
SWOT physics : challenging the contrast between water and soil ...



The layover on SWOT, an invasive artefact ...



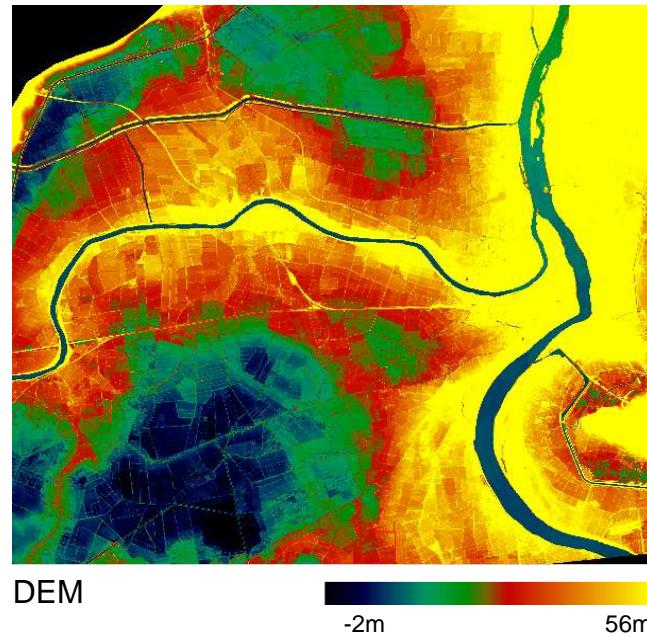
Water response mixed
with forest response



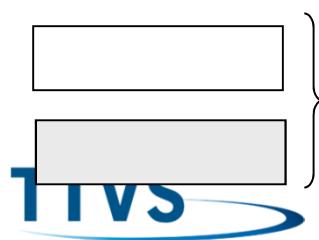
Water response mixed
with forest response

LAYOVER \uparrow when $\theta \downarrow$

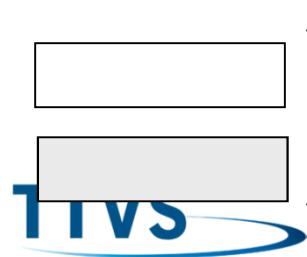
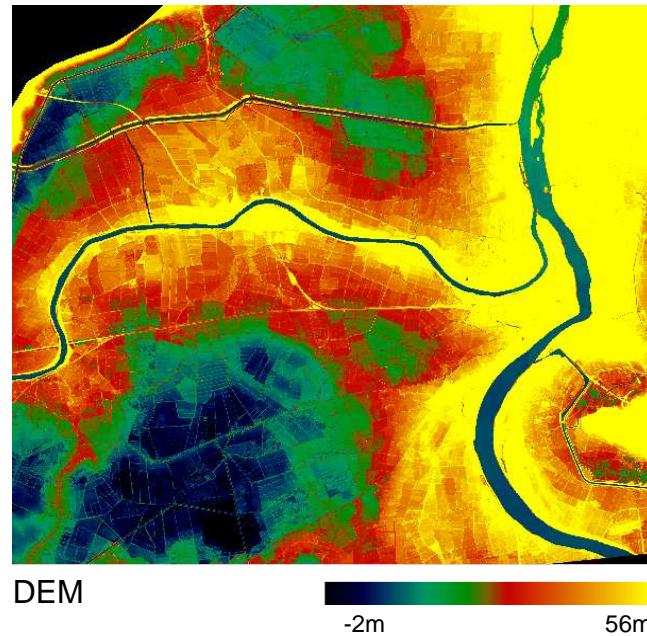
SWOT Layover ($4^\circ \rightarrow 1^\circ$)



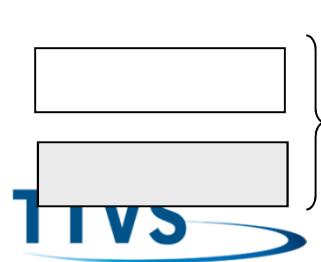
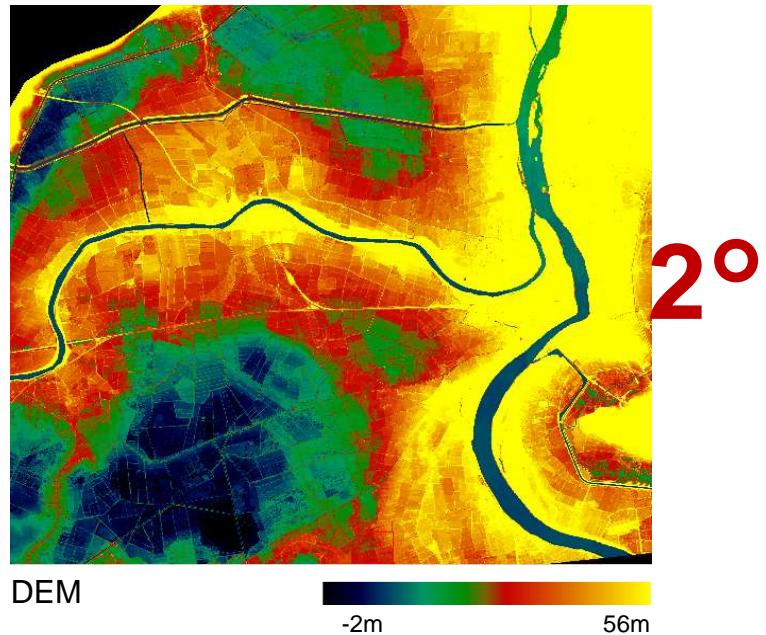
Layover zones



SWOT Layover ($4^\circ \rightarrow 1^\circ$)



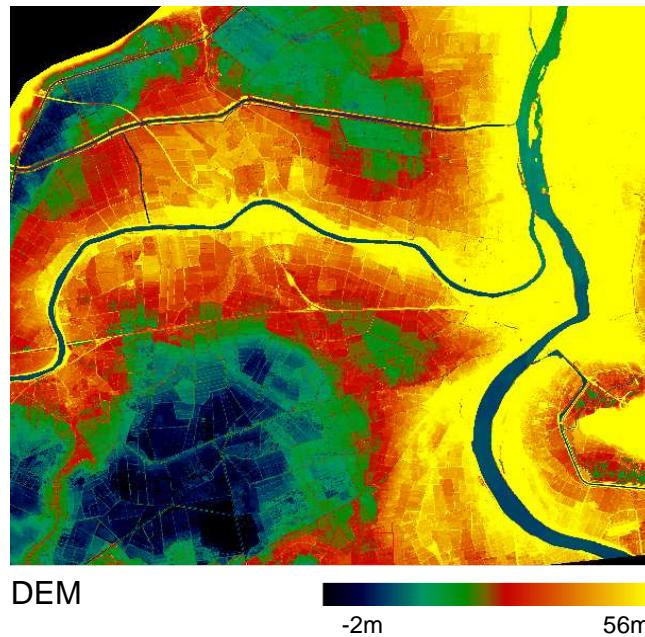
SWOT Layover ($4^\circ \rightarrow 1^\circ$)



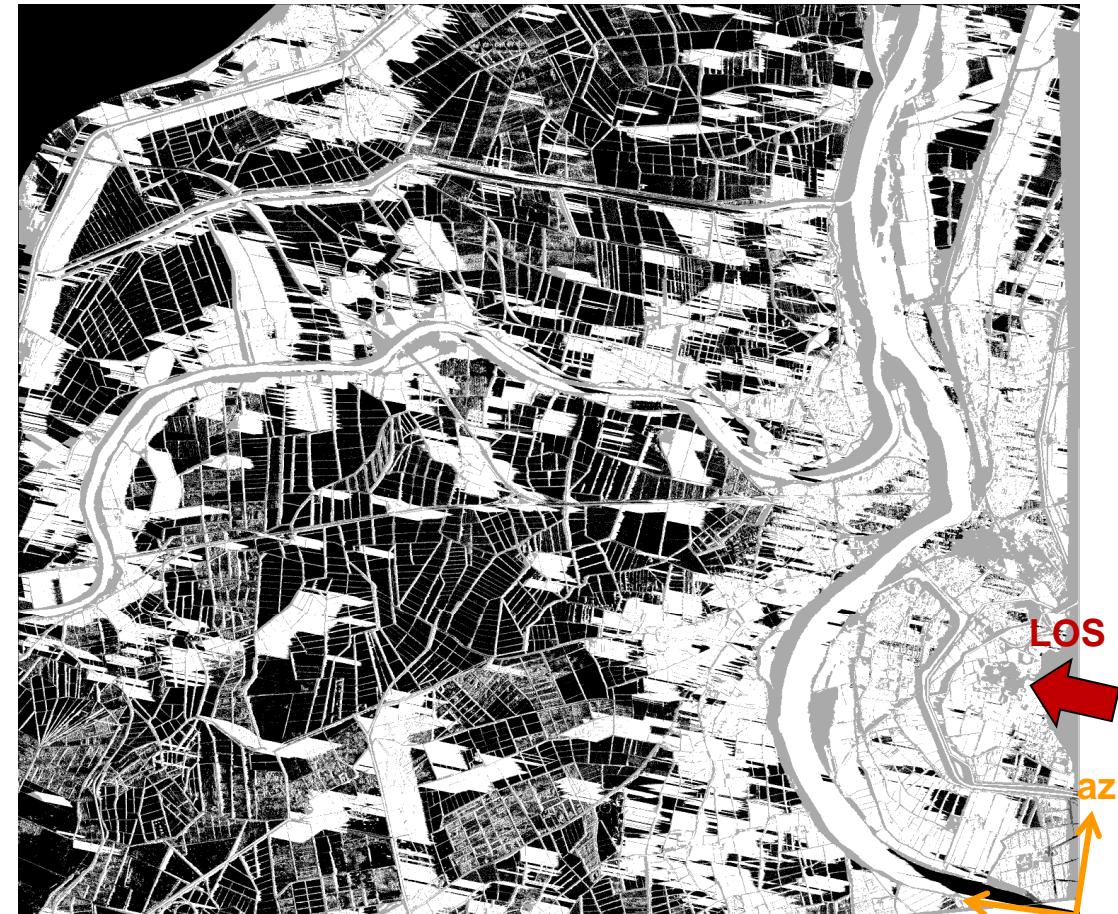
SWOT Layover ($4^\circ \rightarrow 1^\circ$)



Lay-over impact reduced tks to strong Water / Land contrast



Layover zones





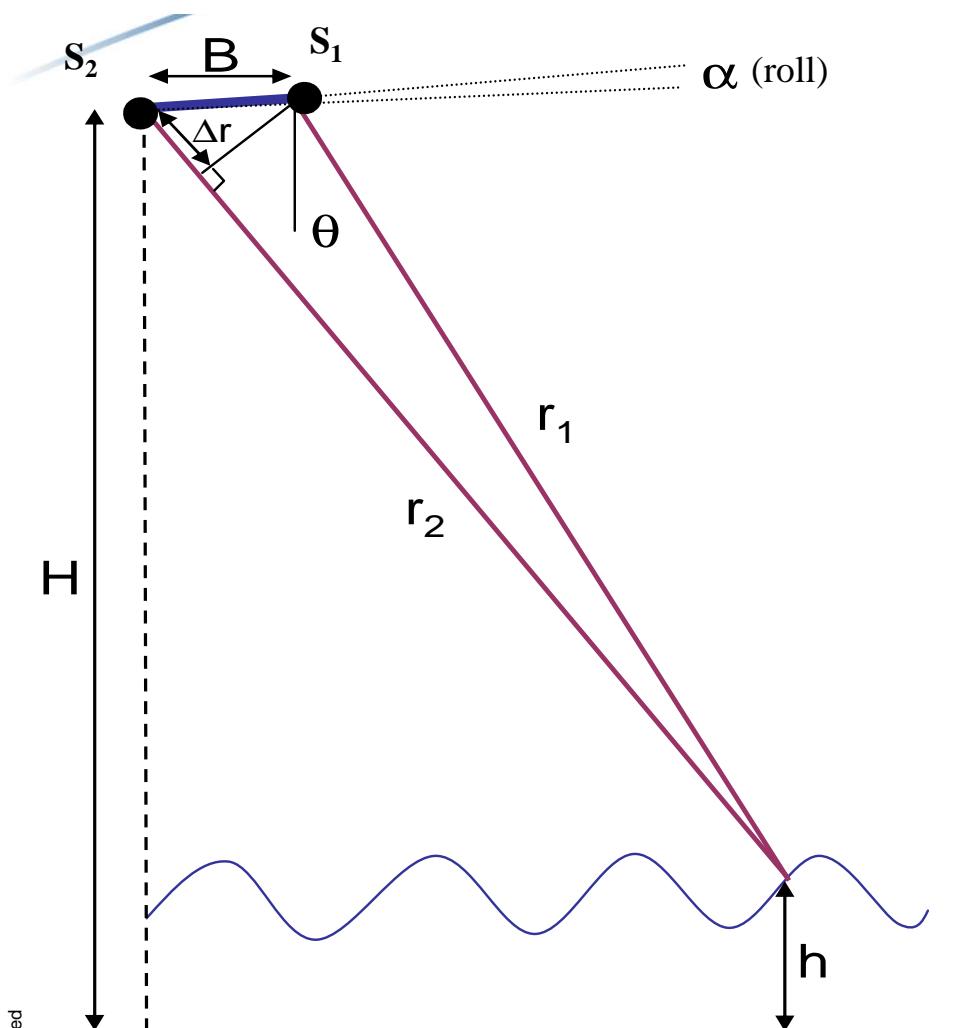
Courtesy Alain Mallet, CNES

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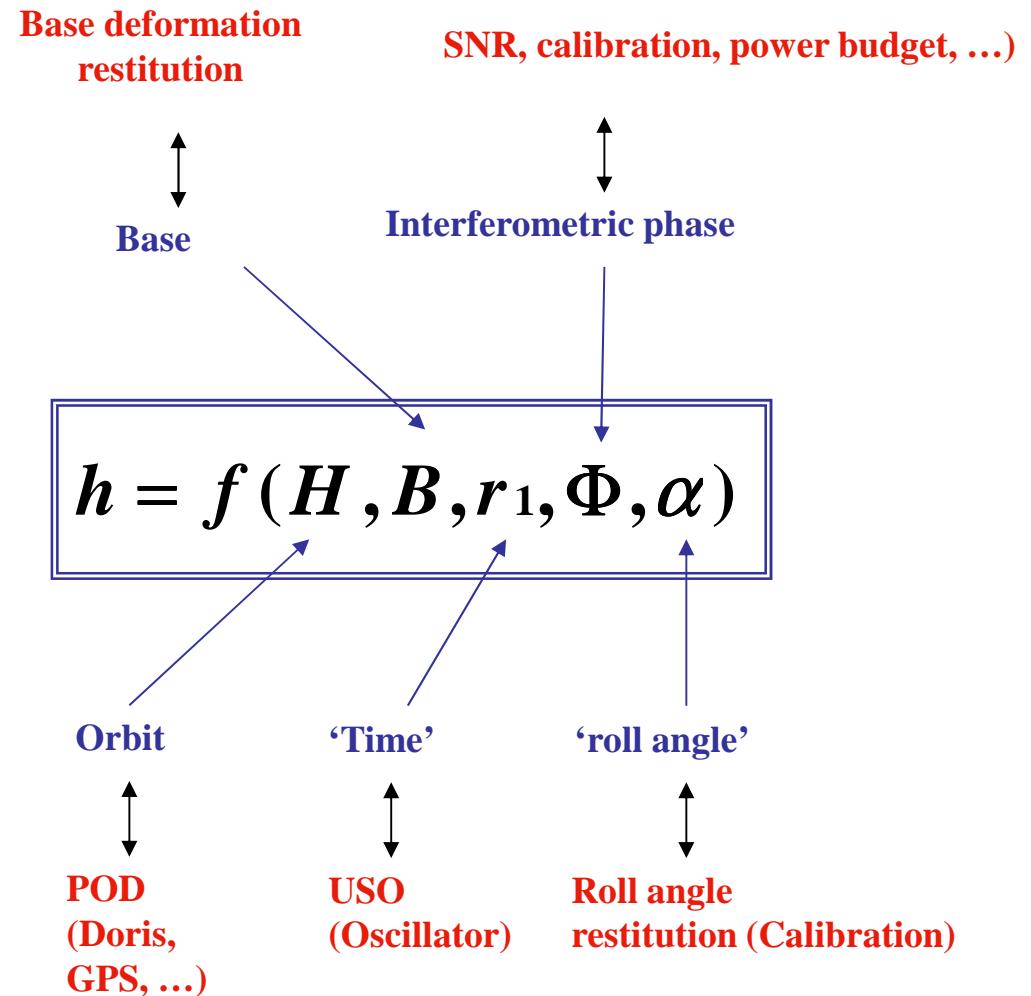
October 1st to 5th 2012

SWOT geometry seen from the engineering team)



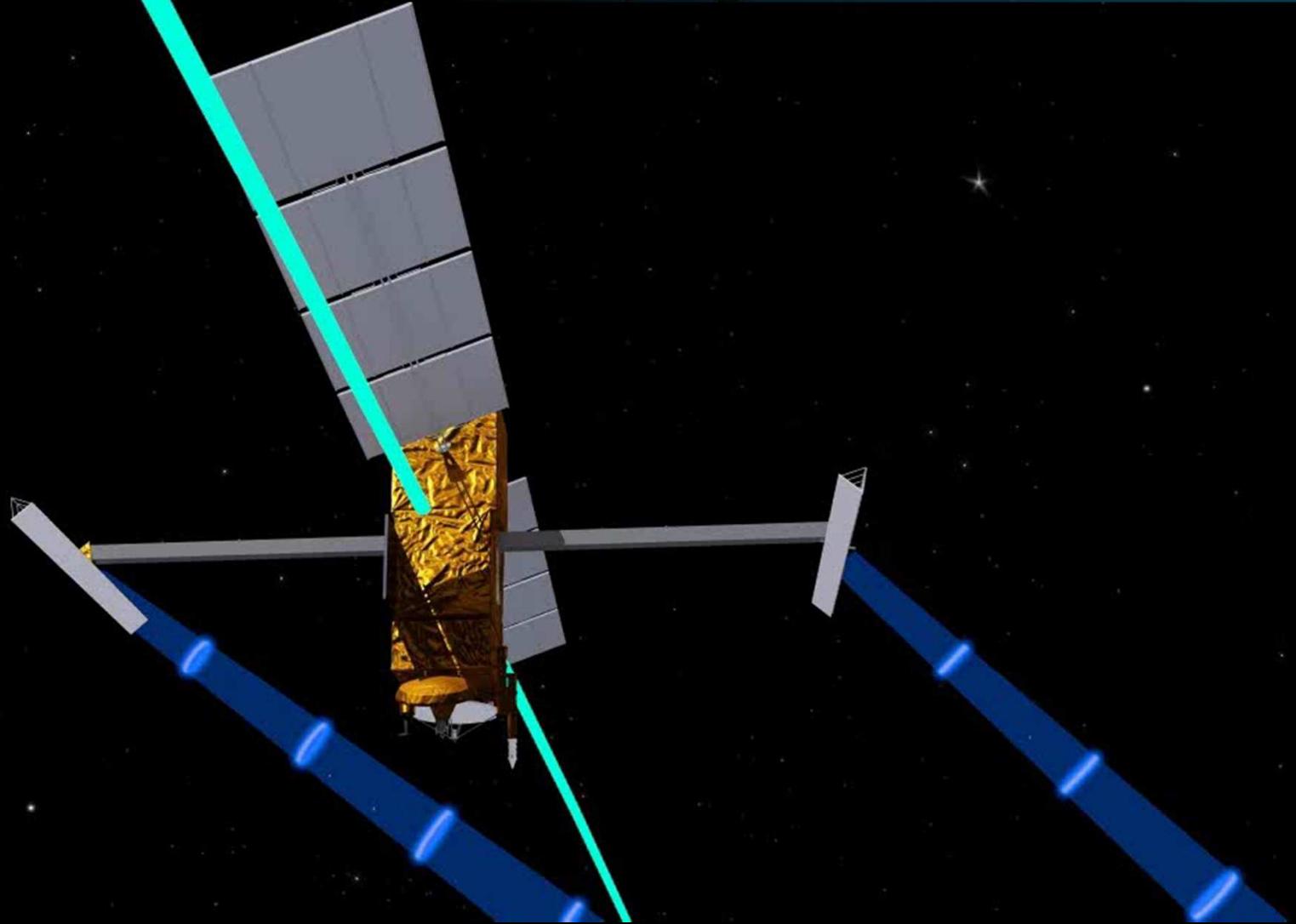
$$\Delta r = B \cdot \sin(\theta - \alpha) = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi} \cdot \Phi$$

TTVS: interferometric phase





Coping with satellite salsa

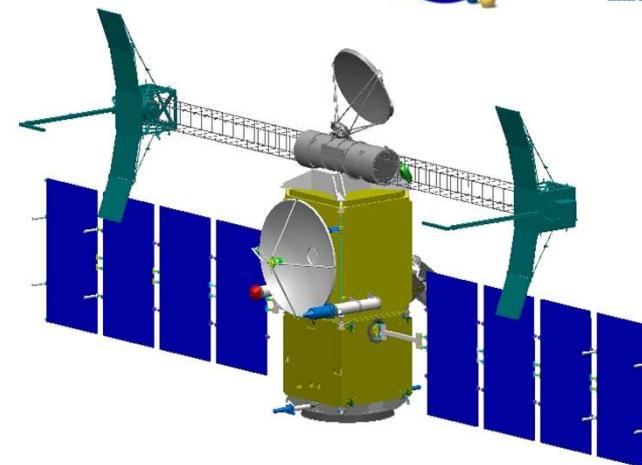


KaRIn instrument on SWOT : heritages

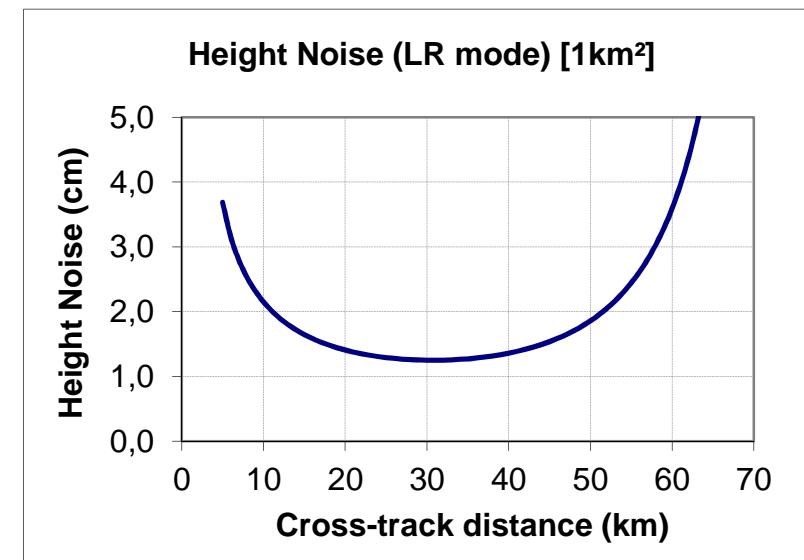
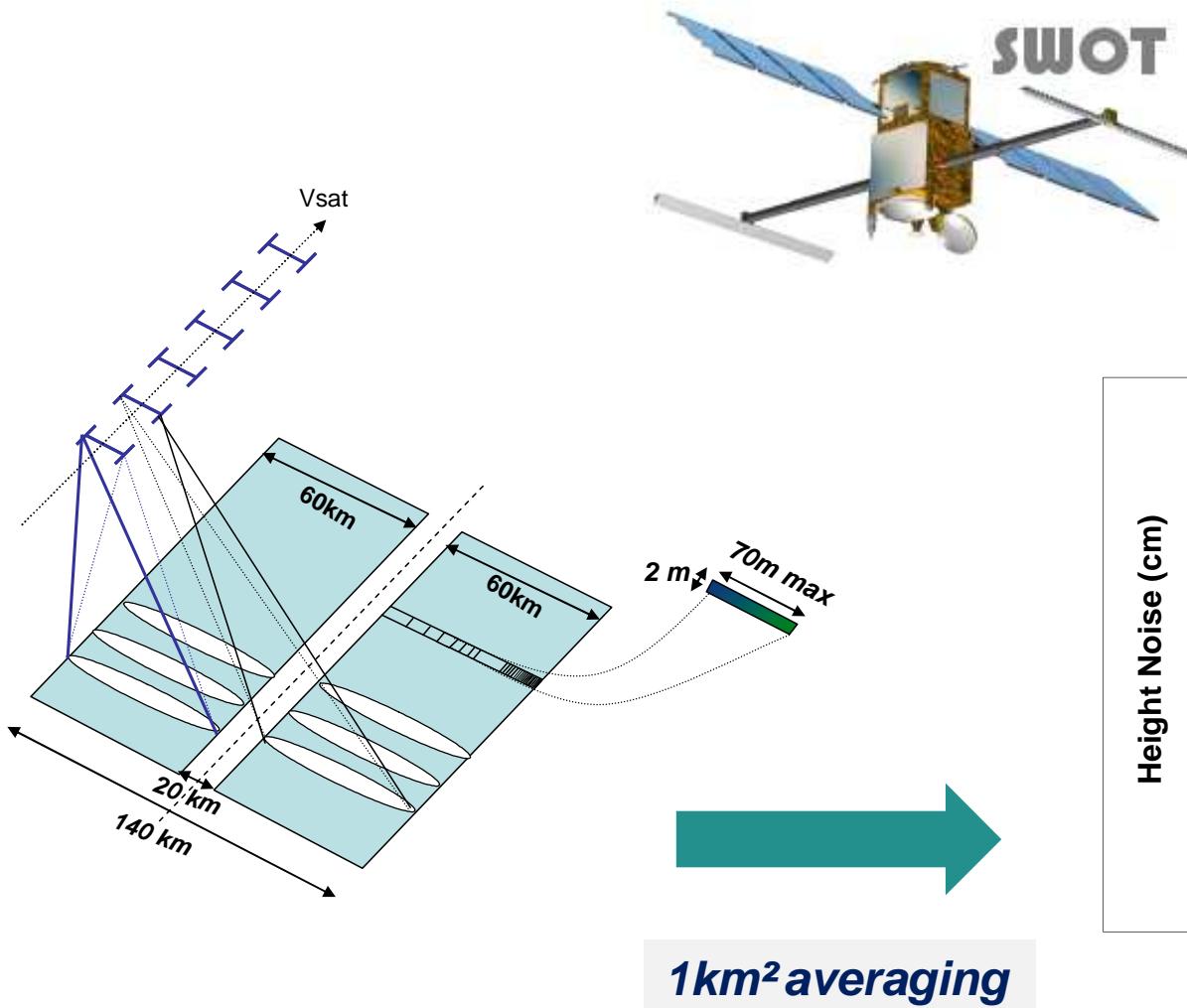
- **SRTM** “Shuttle Radar Topography Mission”
 - C band and X band, 60 meters mast
 - 10 days acquisition in 2000 → global DEM



- **WSOA** instrument considered for JASON2
 - Ku band, 7 meters mast

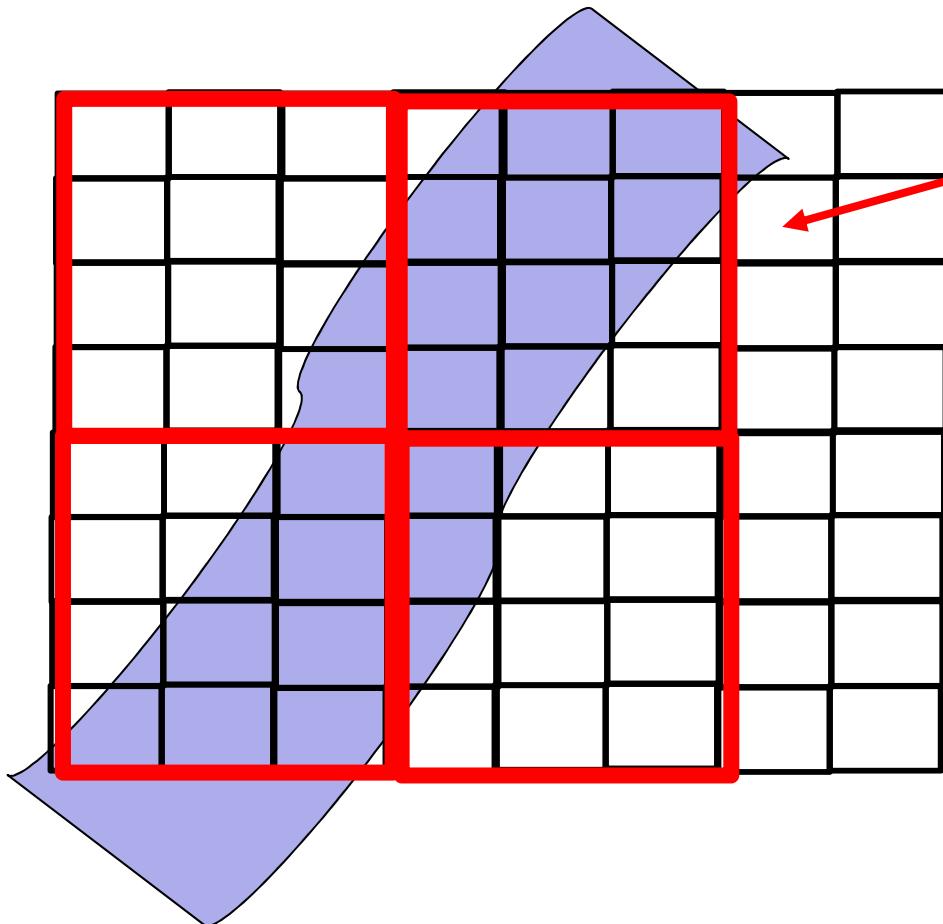


Acquisition geometry / Ocean height error performances



DEM

→ Vertical accuracy : if it is not enough ...



Group on N
pixels

$$\sigma_z = \frac{\sigma_\phi}{2\pi} \cdot Ea \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$

Trade-off between planimetric
resolution and altimetric
accuracy on N pixels

$$\sigma_z = \frac{\sigma_\phi}{2\pi} \cdot Ea$$

The interferometric end-to-end performance

- On-board processing (pre-summation, BAQ)

- BAQ⁻¹ (decoding)
- Range compression
- SAR synthesis
- Co-registration

Channel 1 & 2
SAR signals

Internal calibration
(systematic error ϕ_c)

Instrument height error budget

- SNR
- Geometry: B, H, r_1 (perfect knowledge)

- Orbite
- Troposphere
- Roll
- Baseline variations

Global height error budget

Nb of looks
(averaging in azimuth and range)

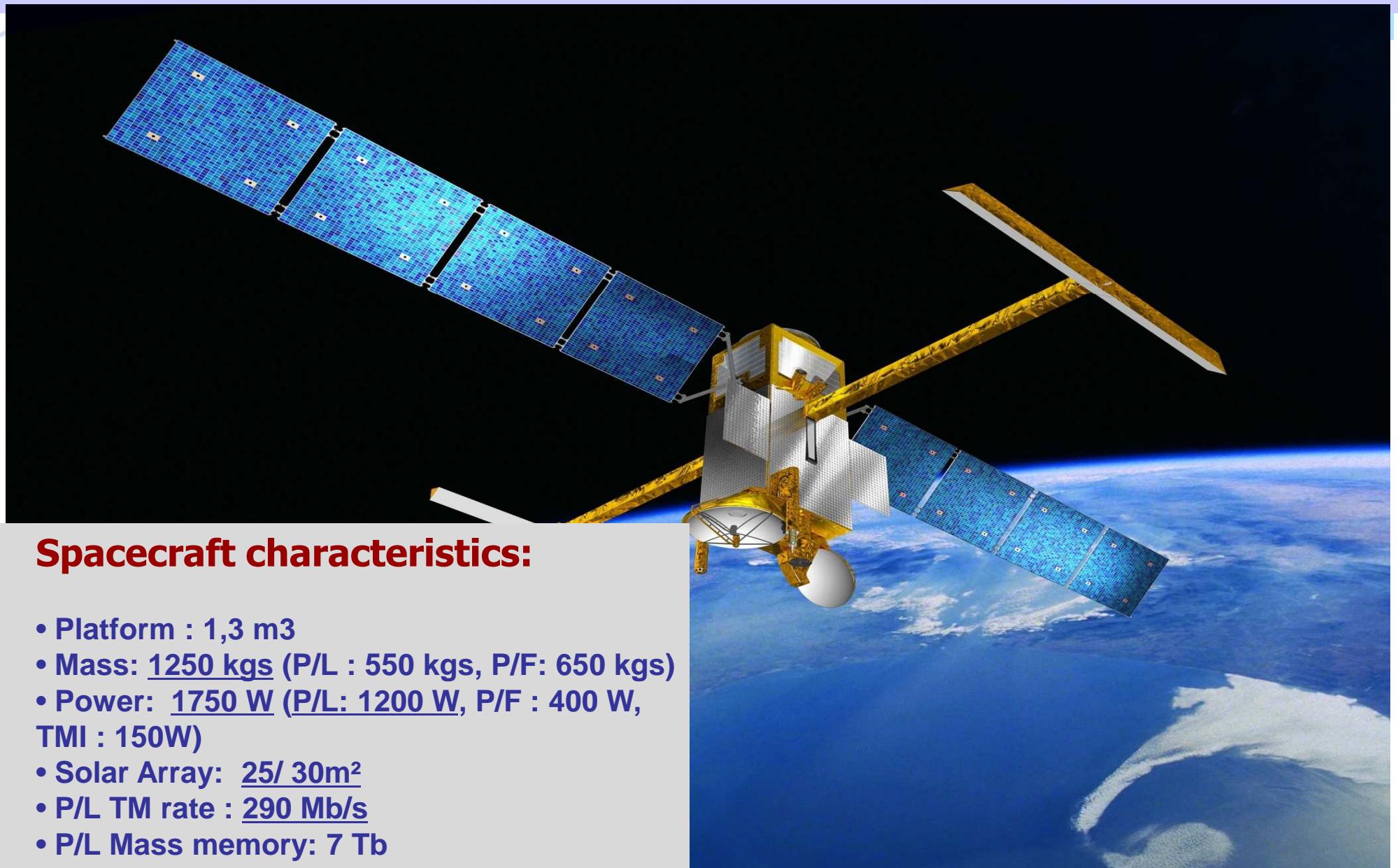
Measured interferometric phase Φ

Radar processing

Instrument

System

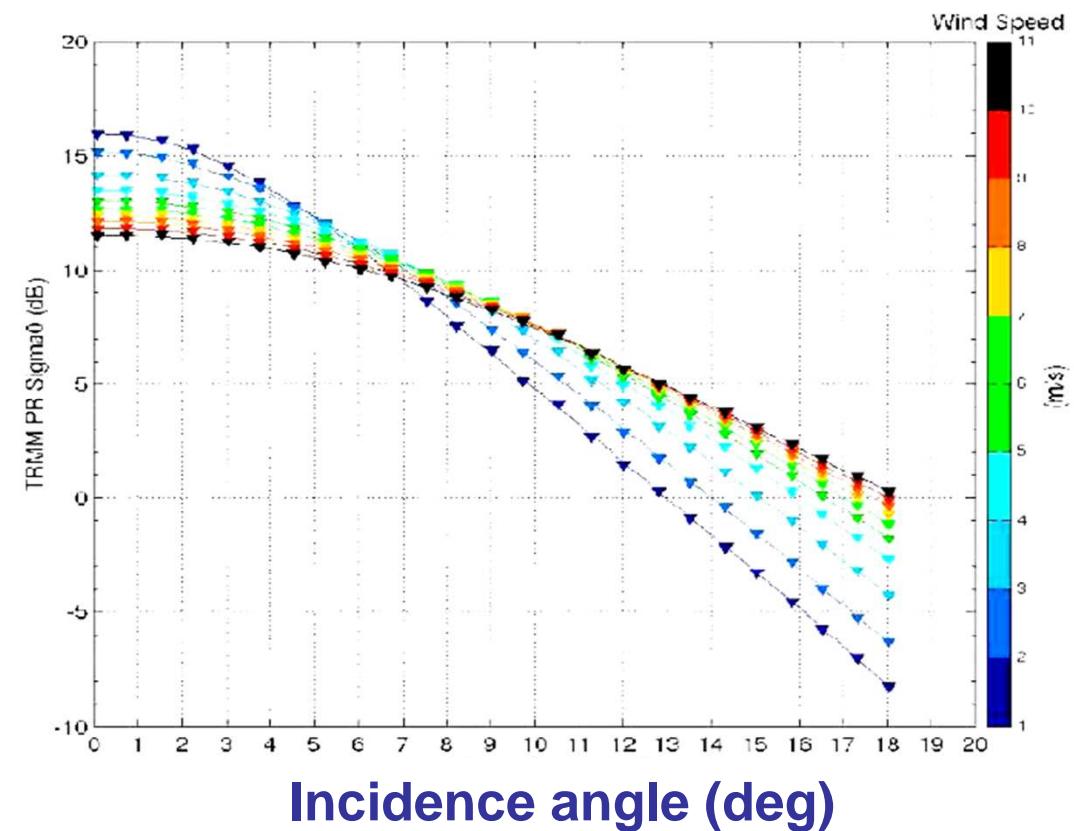
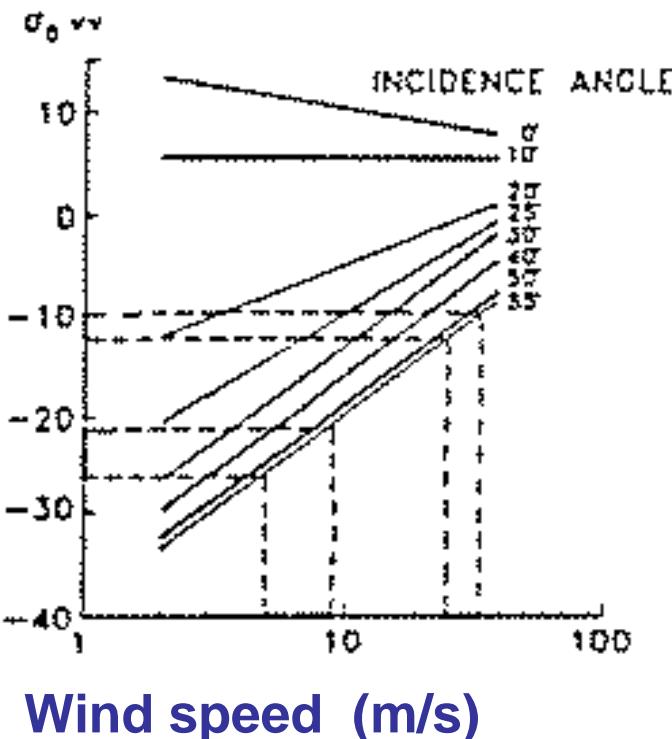
SWOT FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY (NASA / JPL – CNES, 2020) INTERFEROMETRY FOR WATER AREAS !



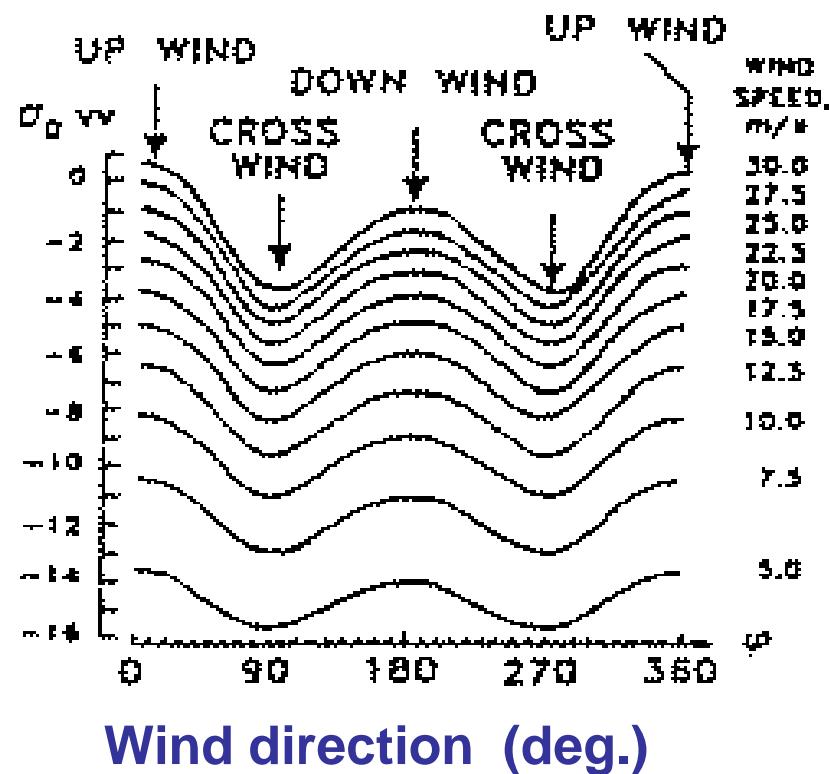
Wave and Wind scatterometry

Wind Scatterometer : principle

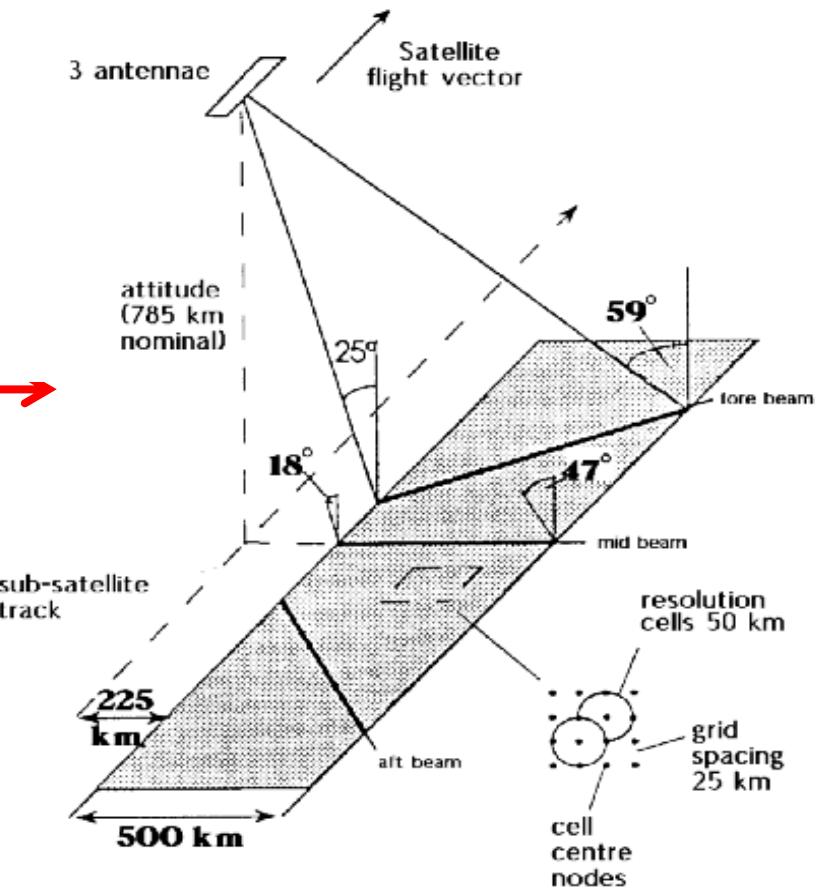
As the wind blows over the ocean, the surface is roughened by the generation of capillary waves. These, in turn, modify the surface backscatter (reflected signal or echo) properties.



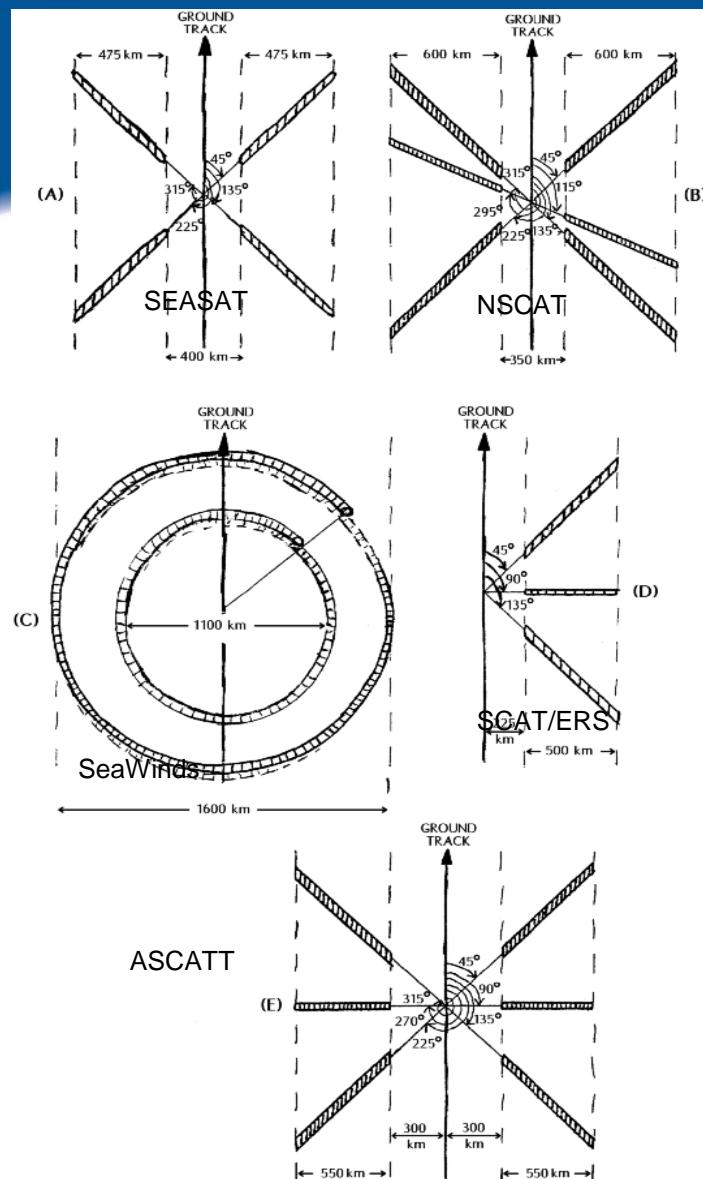
Wind Scatterometer : wave impact



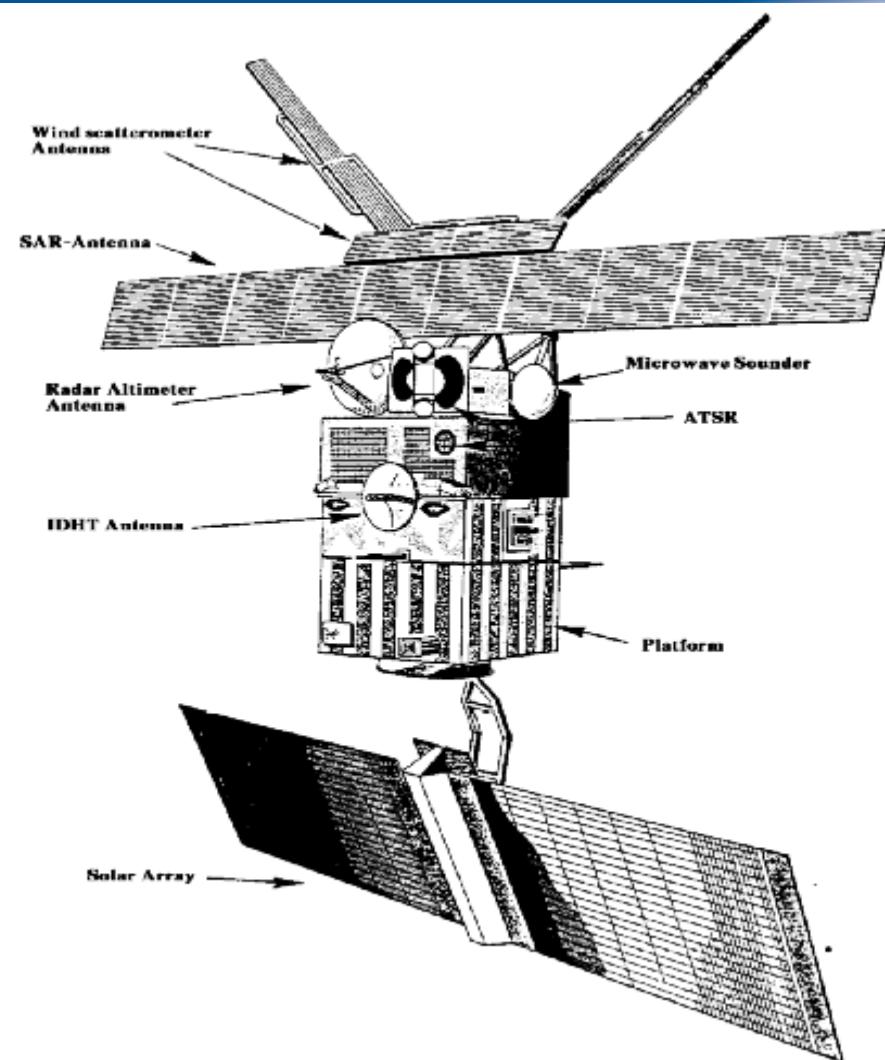
Multi-directional measurement



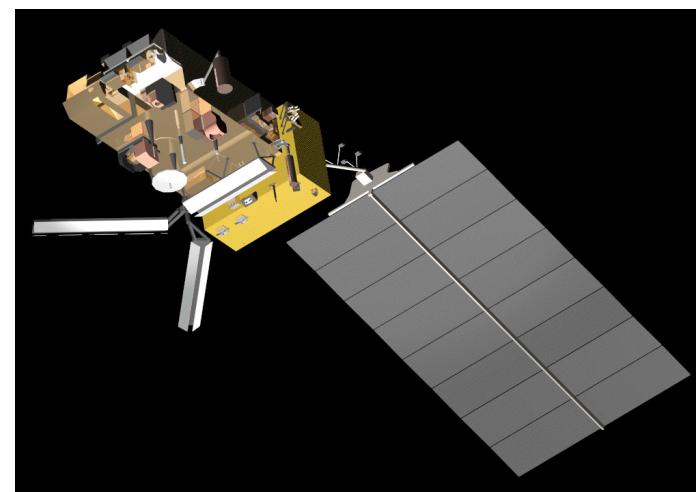
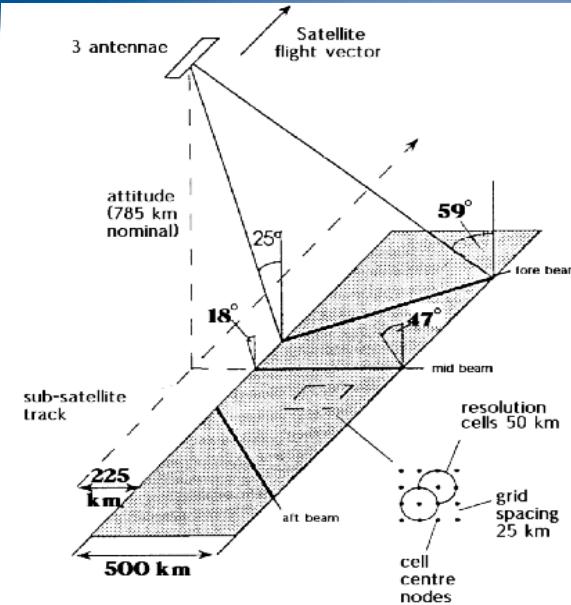
Wind Scatterometer annuary



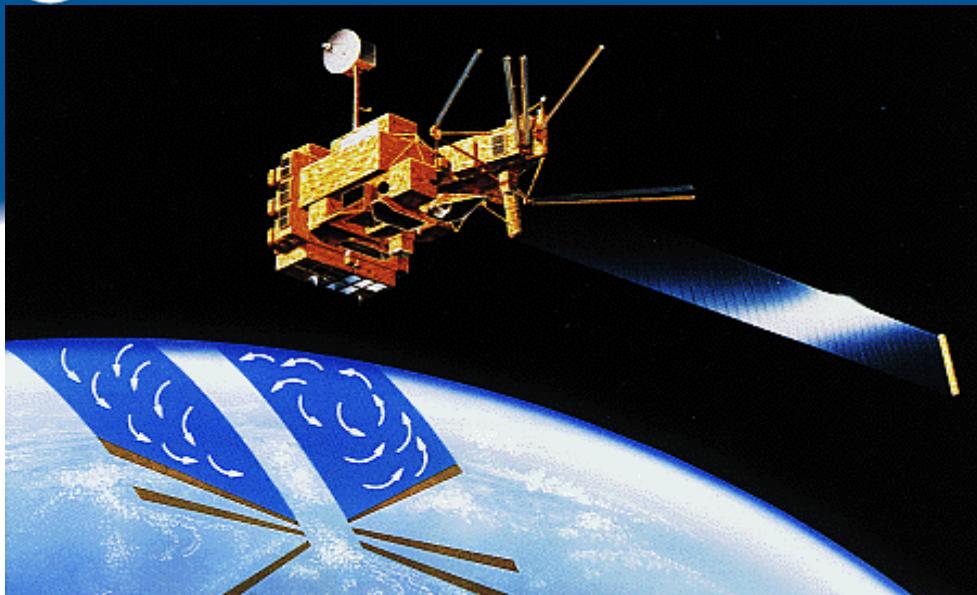
Projects	SEASAT	ERS-1 ERS-2	NSCAT	ASCAT	SeaWinds
Launch	1978	1991,1994	1996	2006	1998/2000
Frequency	14.6 (Ku)	5.3 (C)	13.995 (Ku)	5.3 (C)	13.4 (Ku)
Space resolution (km)	20x60	50x50	25x25	50x50	50 x 50
Swath (Km)	2x500	1x500	2x600	2x500	1800
Antennas	4	3	6	6	1 (2 faisceaux)
Antennas Dimensions(m)	0.15x2.3	0.4x3.6	0.15x3	0.4x4	Ø 1 m
Polarization	VV,HH	VV	VV,HH	VV	?
Peak power (W)	110	5000	120	120	110
Pulse length	4.8 ms	100 µs	5 ms	6 ms	?
Altitude (km)	800	780	820	800	820
Mass (kg)	102	270	235	175	200
Consumption (W)	136	531	275	277	200



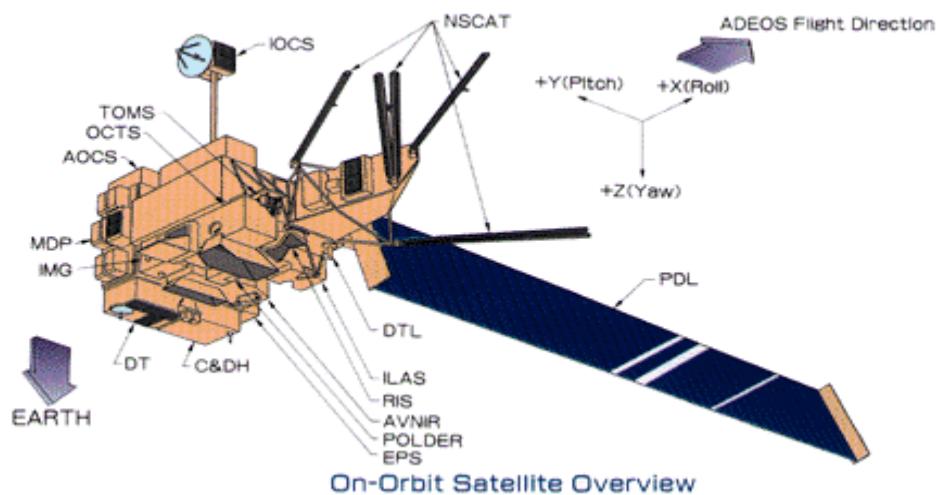
ERS-1/2



ASCAT / METOP



NSCAT / ADEOS



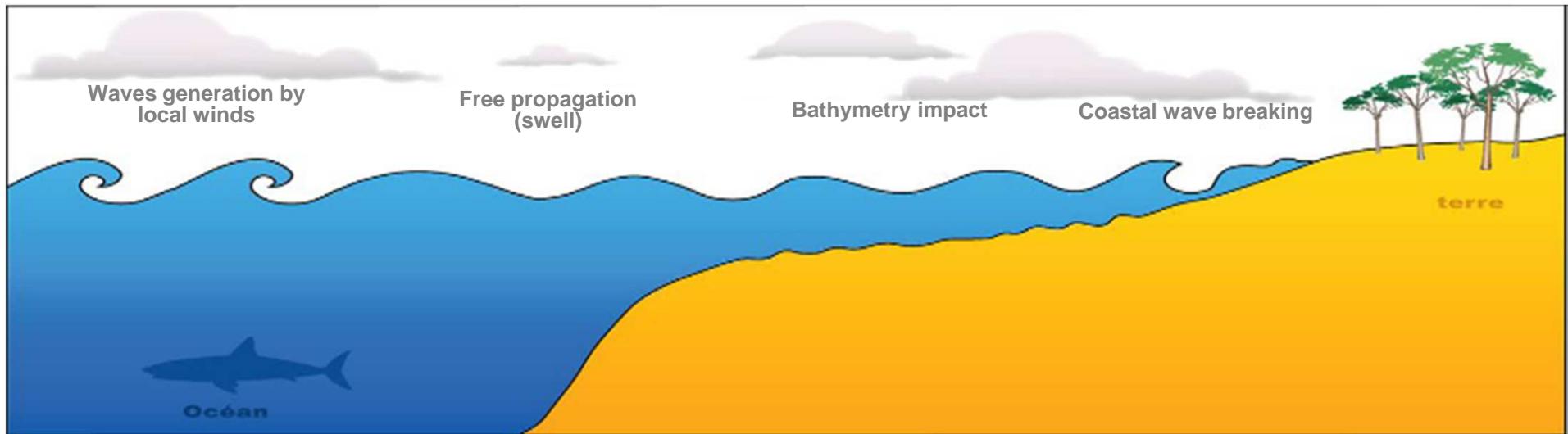
On-Orbit Satellite Overview



SeaWinds / QuikScat

Wave scatterometry

Wave radar scatterometry?



Different kinds of waves corresponding to different sea states

- Wind Sea
- Swell
- Mixed sea conditions

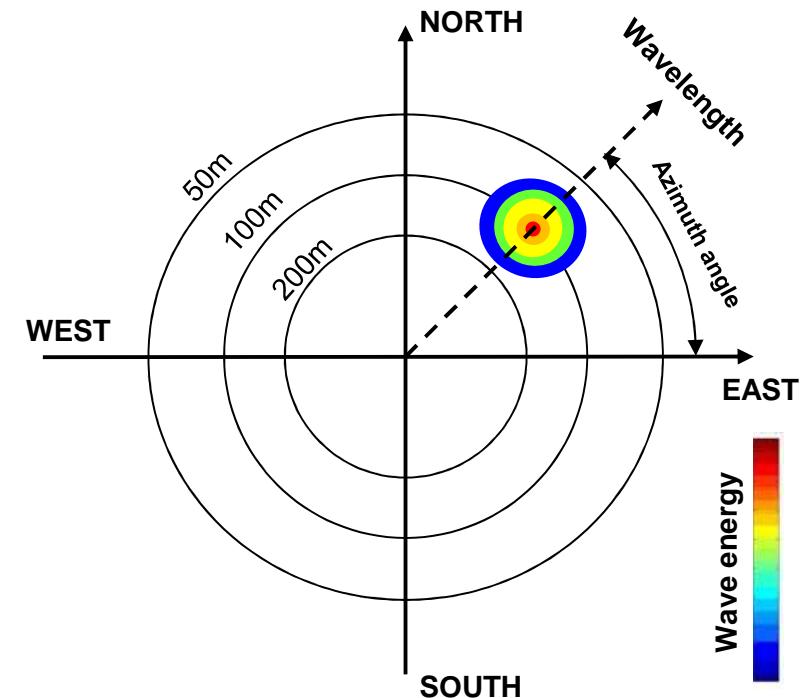
Wave radar scatterometry?

Radar scatterometer



Directional wave spectrum

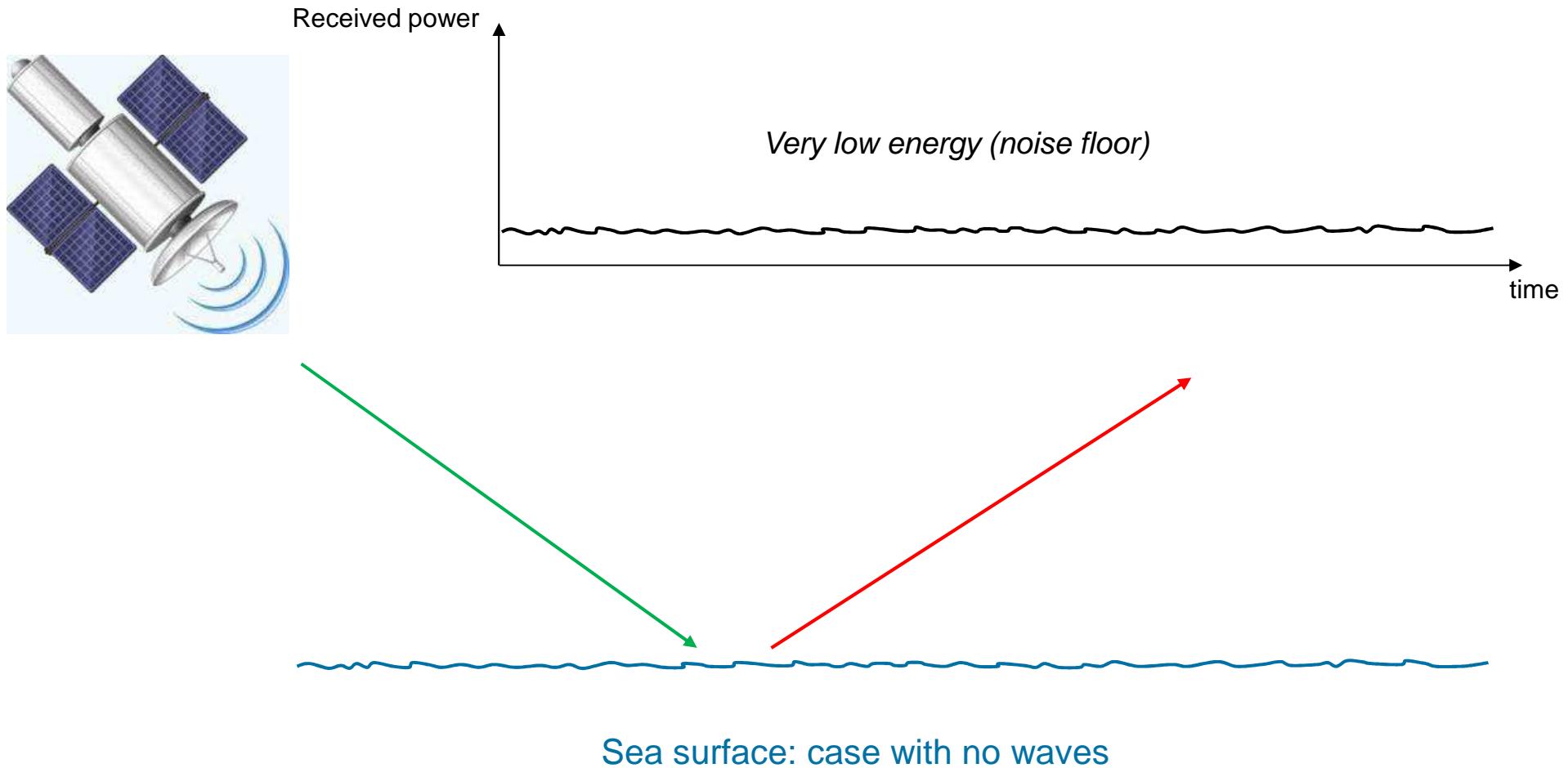
- Distribution of the waves heights with regards to:
 - their wavelength
 - their propagation direction



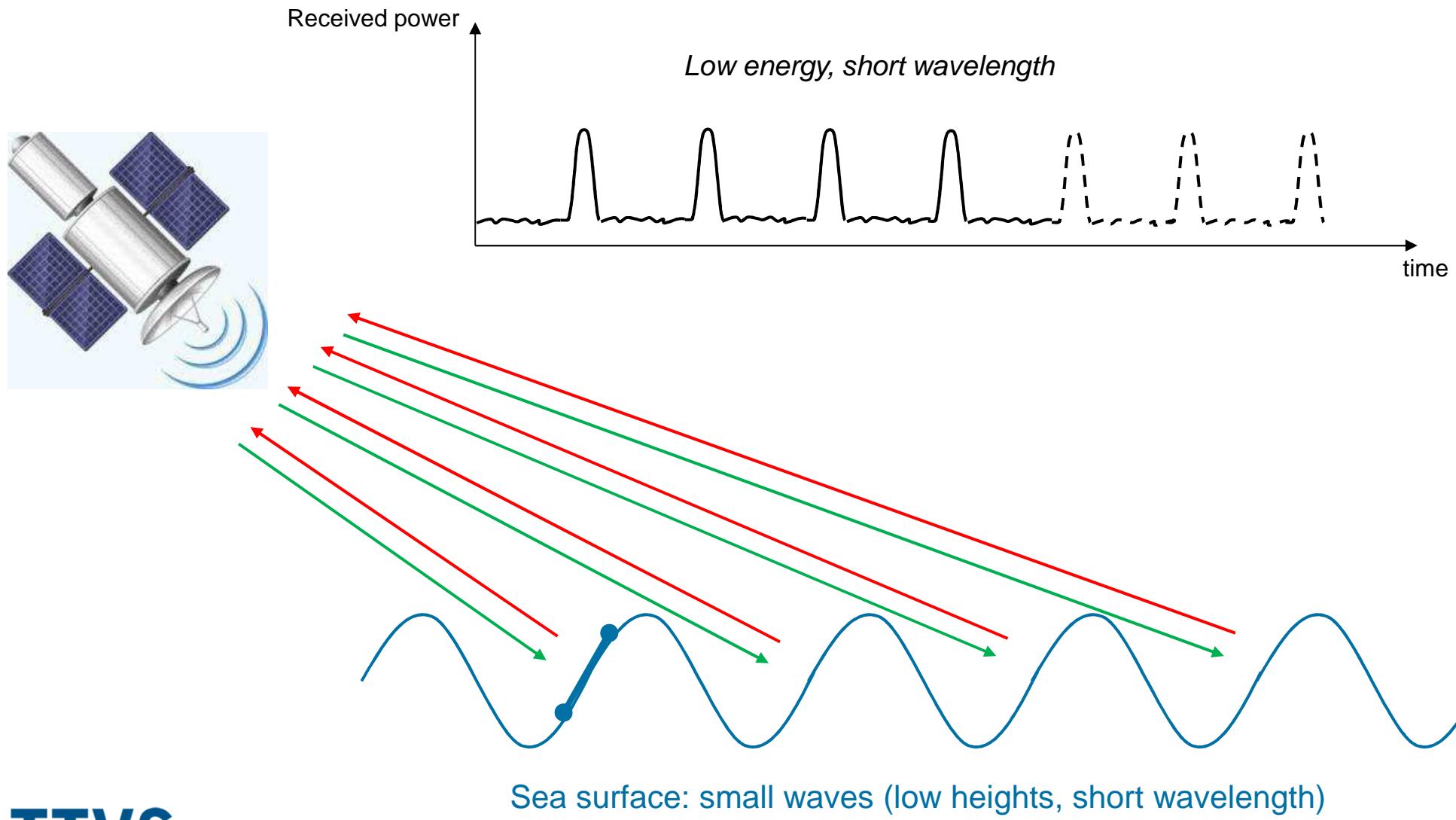
Sea state information through wave characteristics

Wave radar scatterometry?

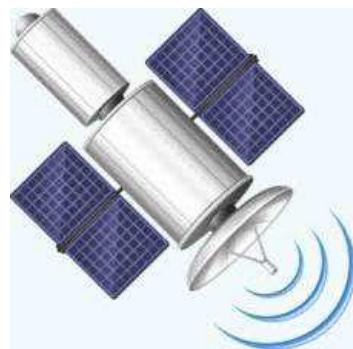
How to characterize the waves with a radar ?



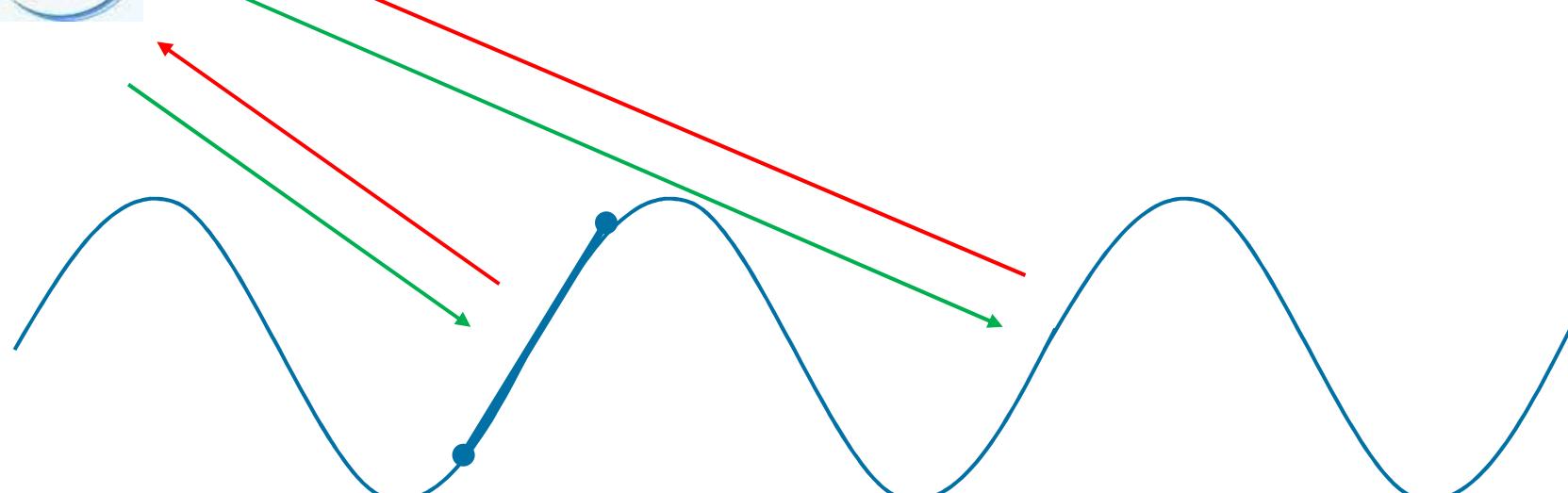
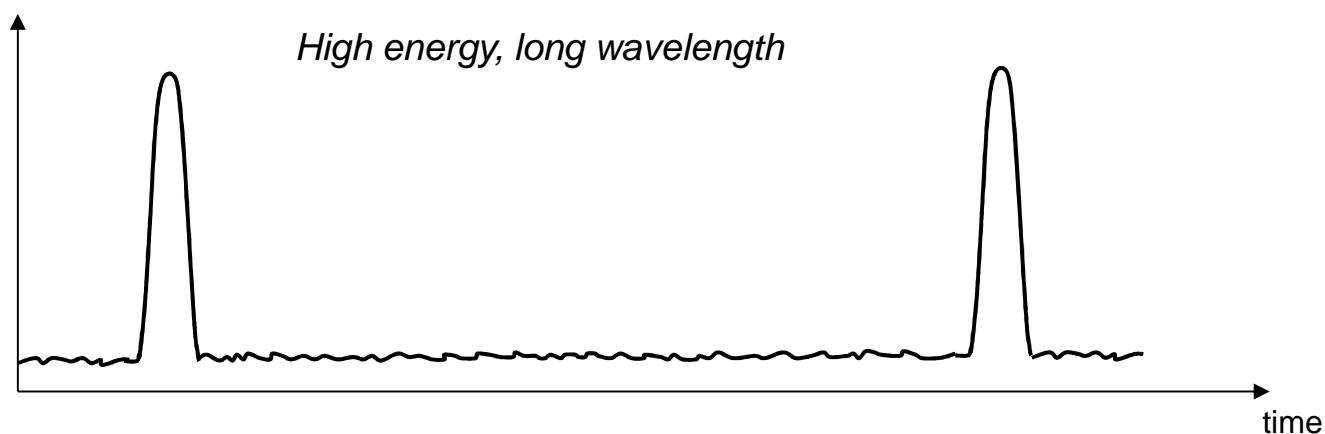
Wave radar scatterometry?



Wave radar scatterometry?

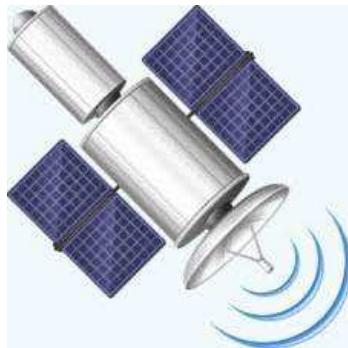


Received power



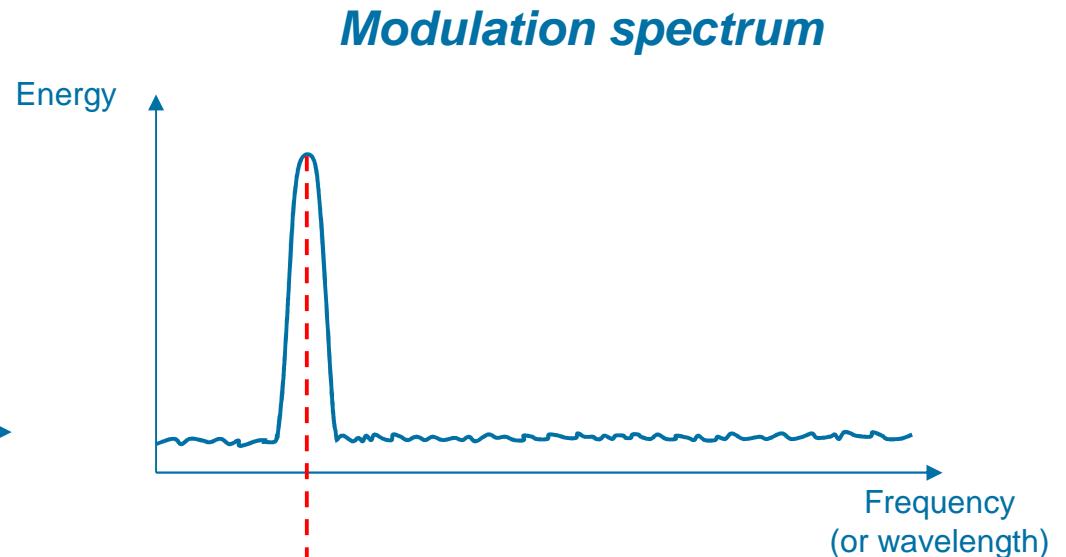
Sea surface: Large waves (high heights, long wavelength)

Wave radar scatterometry?



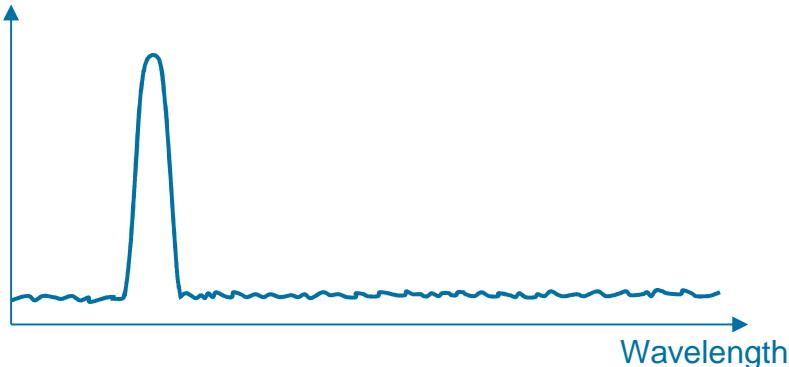
Received power

Spectral
information

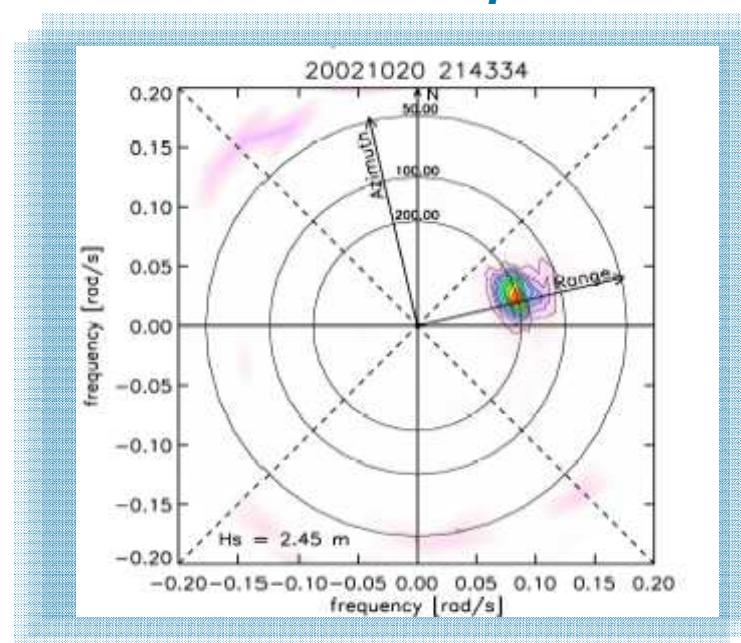
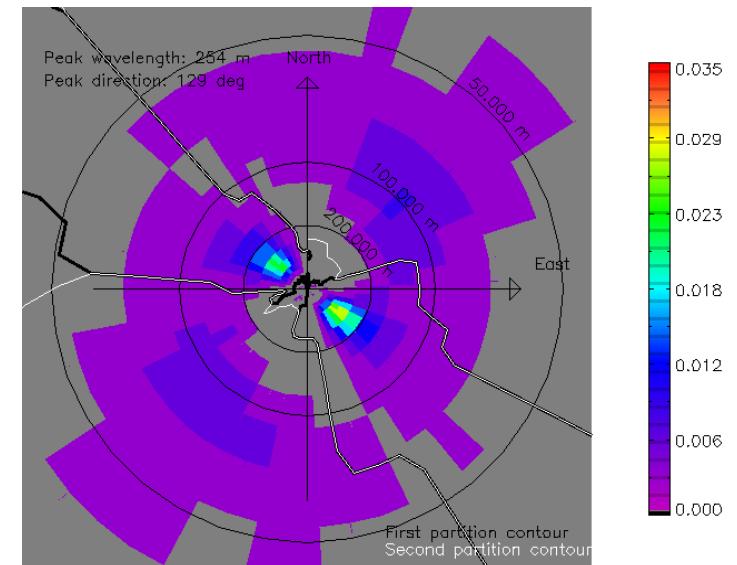


Wave radar scatterometry?

Energy

Modulation spectrum

Acquisitions in all azimuth directions

Directional Wave spectrum**2D Modulation spectrum**

Linear relation

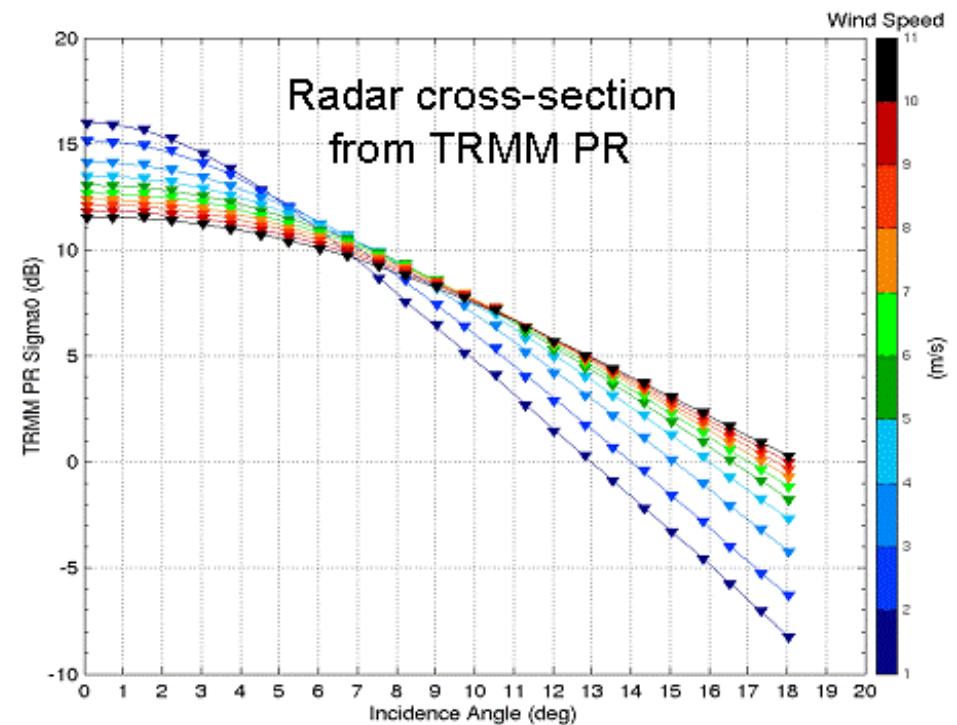
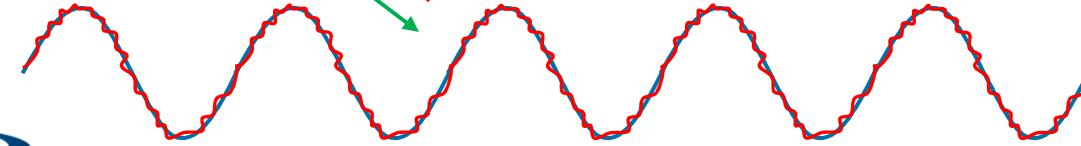
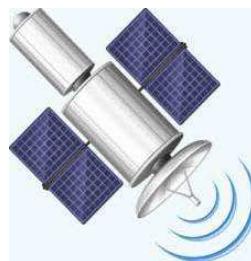
+
180° ambiguity solving

Wave radar scatterometry?

Received power depends:

- On large slopes (waves)
- But also on surface roughness (generated by winds)

Received power depends only on waves around 8° of incidence !



CFOSAT: China France Oceanography SATellite

Oceanographic mission for sea surface monitoring

- Wave and wind measurements
- Backscattering profile

Mission mainly dedicated to:

- Oceanography
- Meteorology
- Climatology



- **Two payloads:**
 - SWIM: wave scatterometer (Surface Wave Investigation and Monitoring)
 - SCAT: wind scatterometer
- **Orbit**
 - Altitude = 519 km
 - SSO (13 days repeat cycle)
- **Mission : 3 years duration**

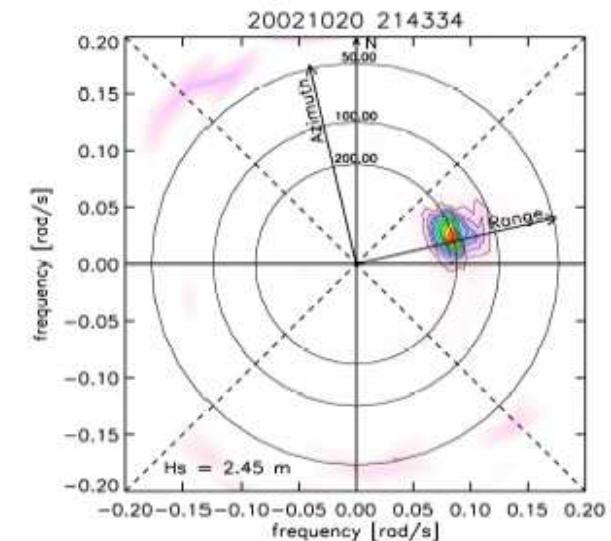
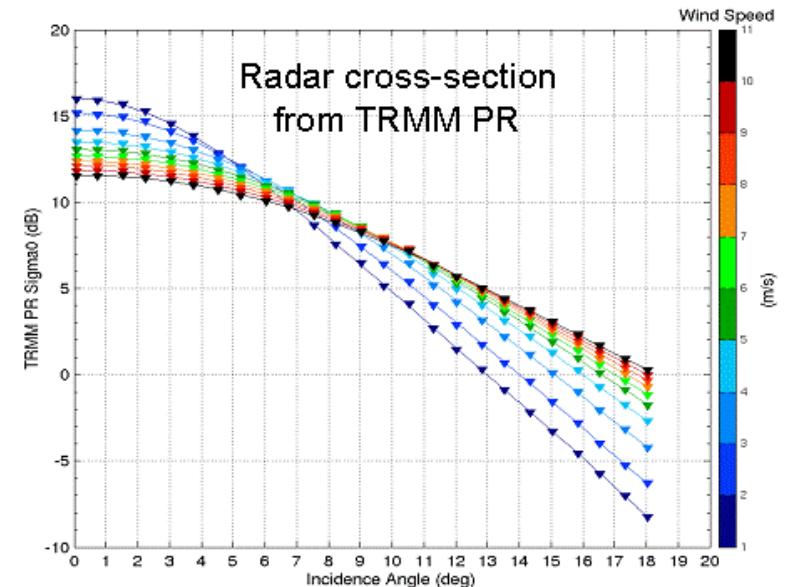
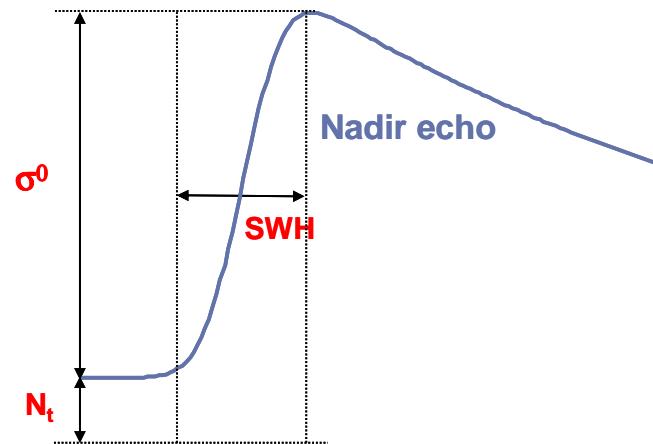
SWIM wave scatterometer

Measurement of the backscattering coefficient σ^0 in all incidence angles (from nadir to 10°)

Wave spectrum

- Modulation depends only on waves around 8° of incidence (use of incidence beams 6°, 8° and 10°)
- Directional wave spectrum using 360° scans

Measurement of SWH from nadir echo



Fiche instrument SWIM / CFOSAT

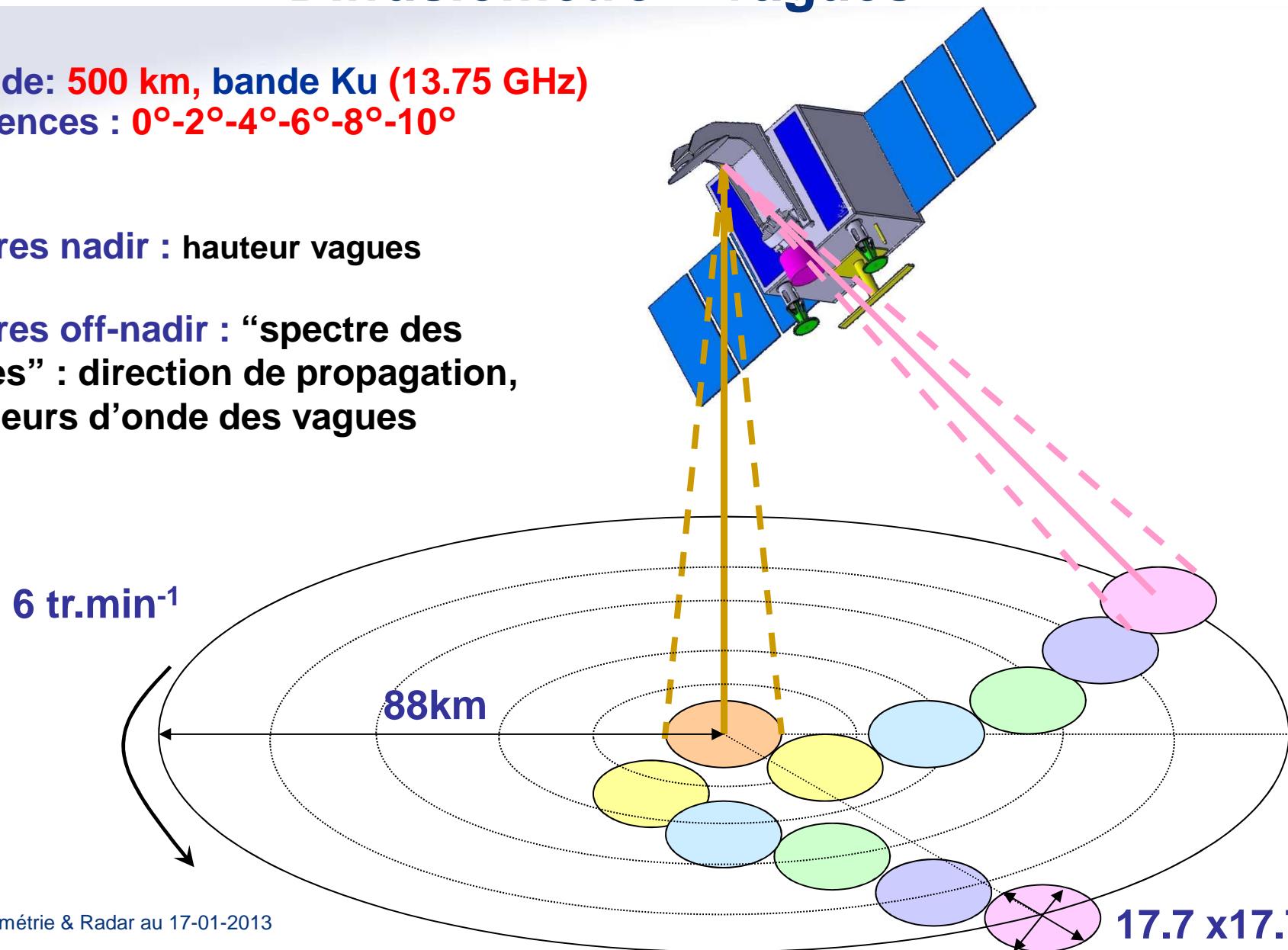
DCT/SI/AR

SWIM / CFOSAT (2014) – Diffusiomètre « vagues »

- Altitude: **500 km, bande Ku (13.75 GHz)**
- Incidences : **0°-2°-4°-6°-8°-10°**

Mesures nadir : hauteur vagues

Mesures off-nadir : “spectre des vagues” : direction de propagation, longueurs d’onde des vagues



Orbit

Sun synchronous

Local time at descending node

AM 7:00

Altitude at the equator

519 km

Cycle duration

13 days

 Satellite mass and dimensions

Mass

600 kg

Primary structure

1.4m x 1.4m x 1.2m



□ SWIM characteristics

Mass

100 kg (including antenna = 50kg)

Consumption

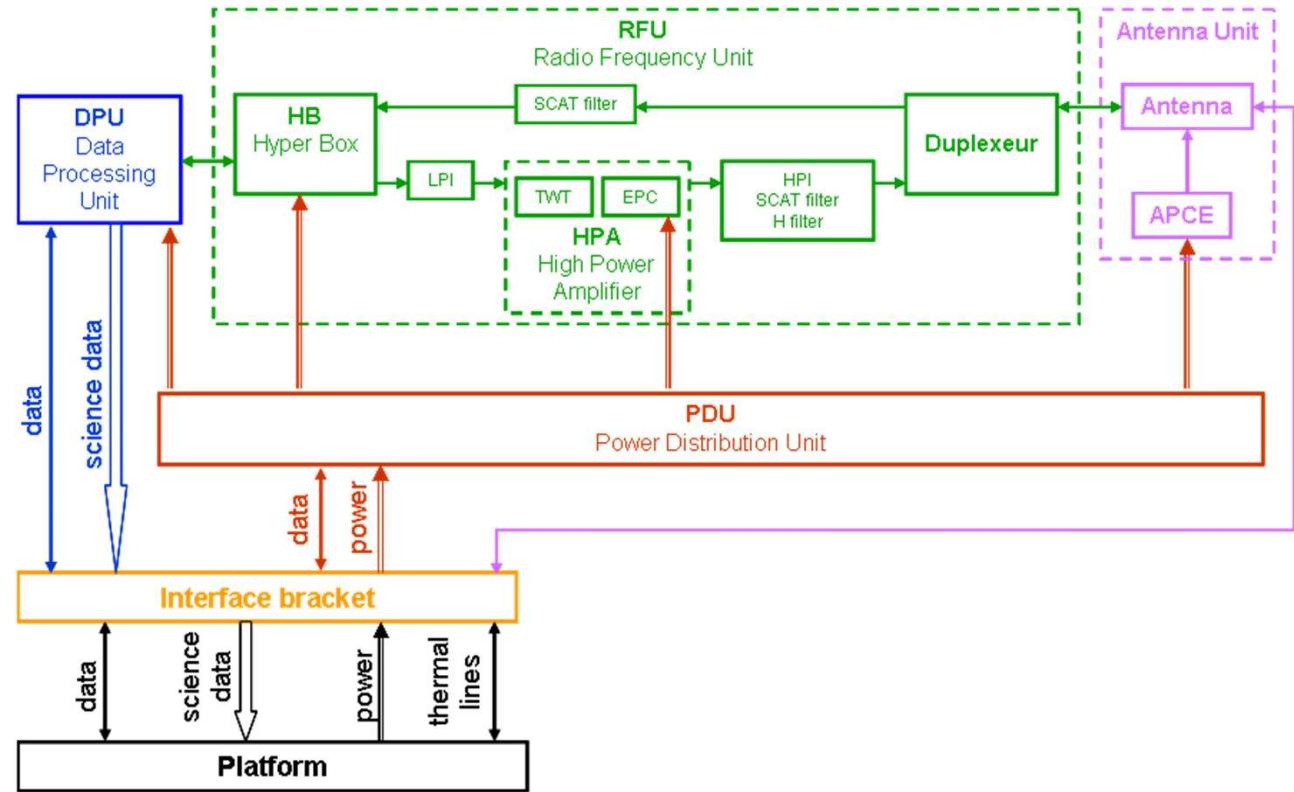
220W

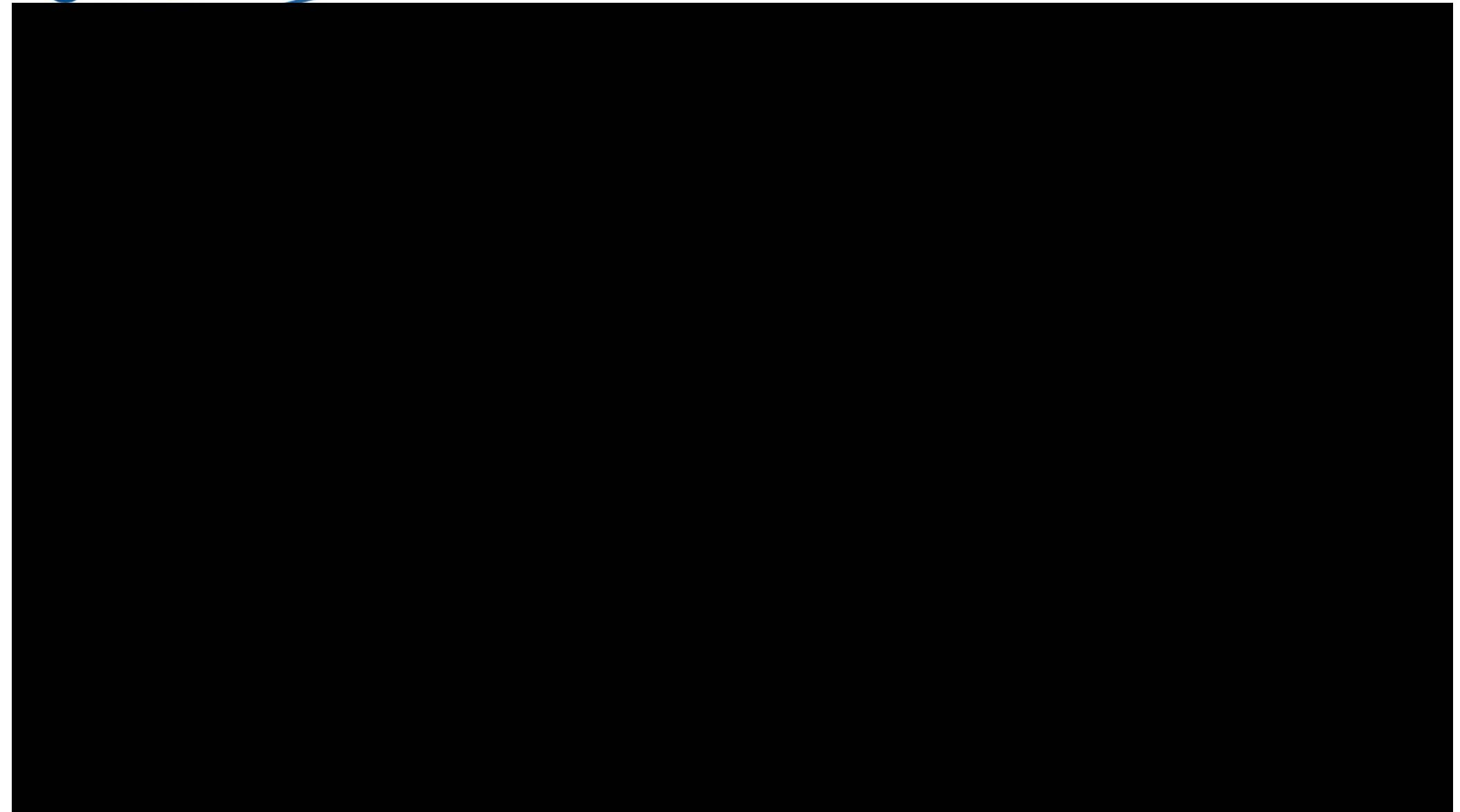
Science telemetry data rate

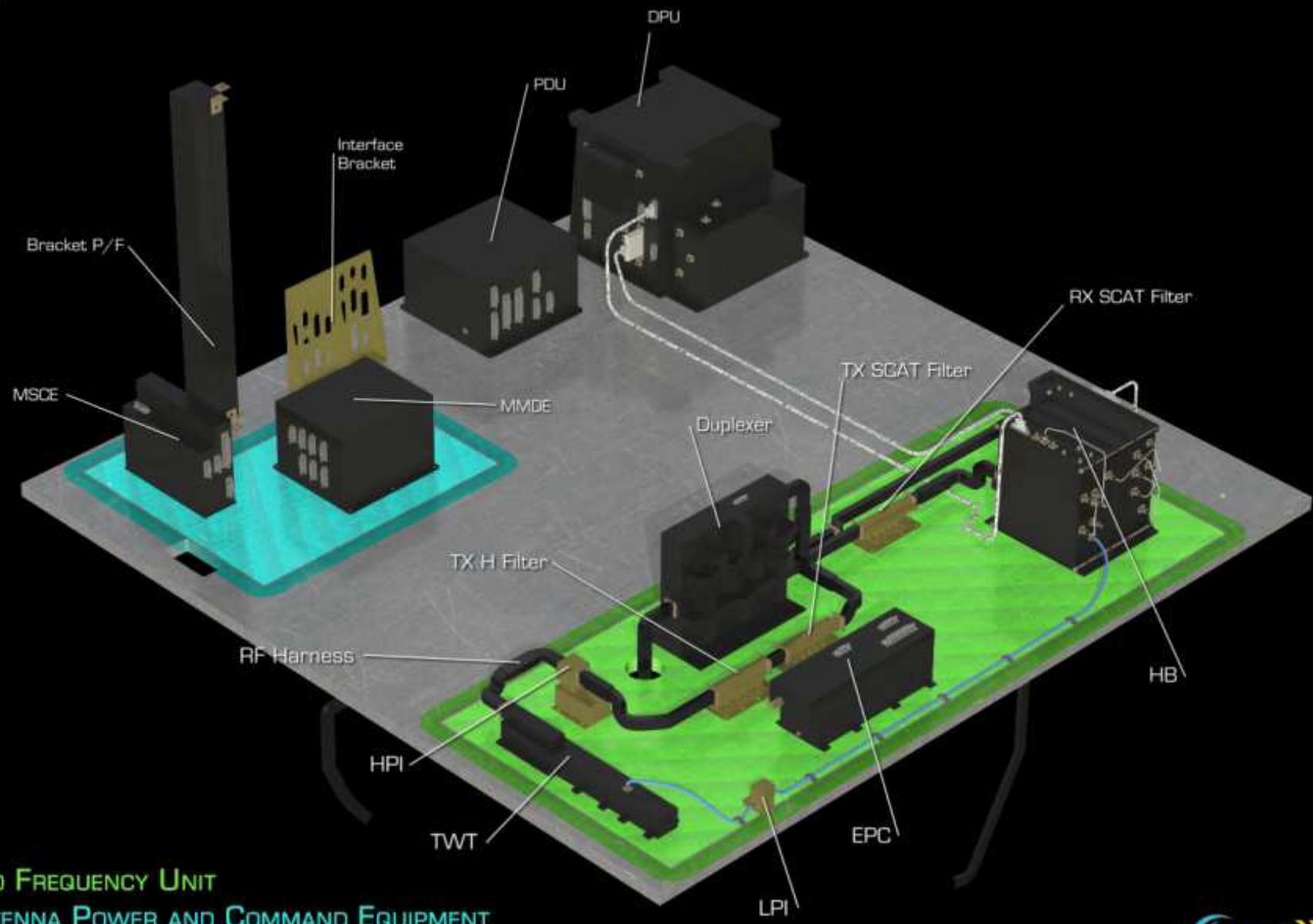
1Mbit/s

□ Technological challenges

- Antenna mechanism (RMA)
- On board processing (ASIC)
- Antenna on-board calibration
- Platform interfaces (CAN Bus, LVDS)
- SCAT compatibility

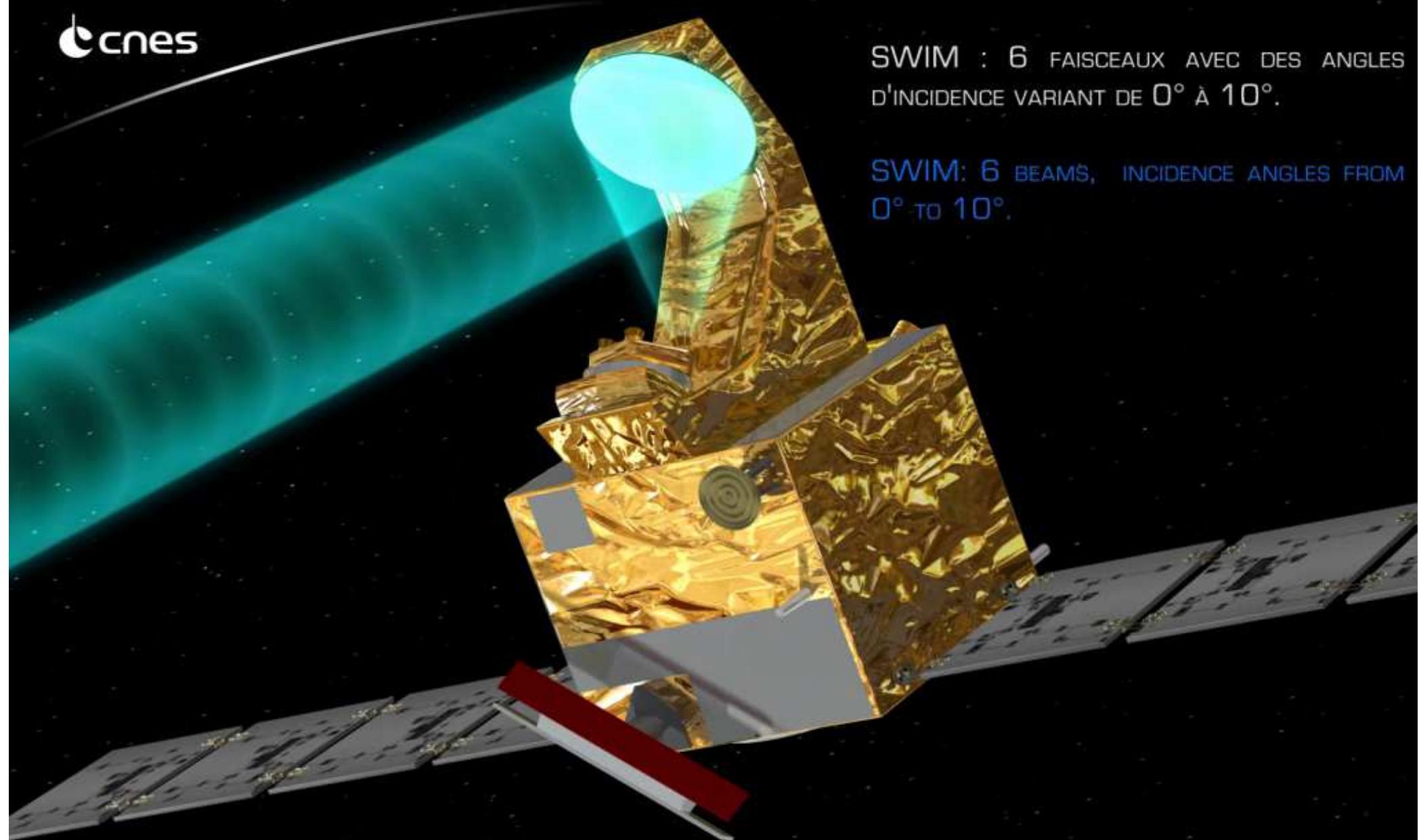






RFU: RADIO FREQUENCY UNIT

APCE: ANTENNA POWER AND COMMAND EQUIPMENT



SWIM : 6 FAISCEAUX AVEC DES ANGLES
D'INCIDENCE VARIANT DE 0° À 10°.

SWIM: 6 BEAMS, INCIDENCE ANGLES FROM
0° TO 10°.

SWIM / CFOSAT

