

A satellite image showing a large, irregularly shaped oil spill in the ocean. The spill is a light, milky color, contrasting with the dark blue of the surrounding water. The spill is located in the lower-left quadrant of the image. The background is a dark, almost black, space-like background with some faint, glowing green and yellow lines, possibly representing a map or a satellite's field of view.

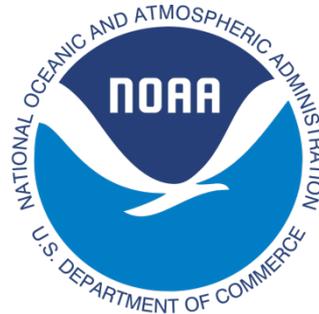
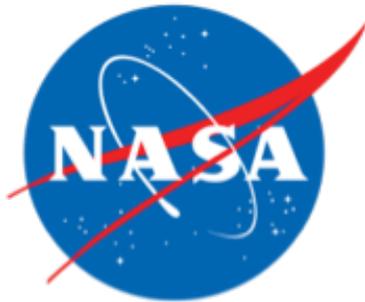
# Space-Based Oil Spill Remote Sensing

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# Thanks ....

## To the critical enabling support of:



# Disclaimer

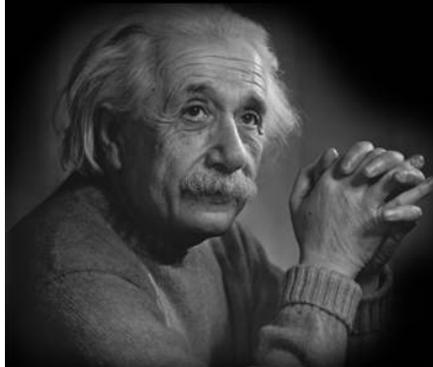
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[http://www.imdb.com/media/rm2092021760/tt0099785?ref\\_=ttmd\\_md\\_pv#](http://www.imdb.com/media/rm2092021760/tt0099785?ref_=ttmd_md_pv#)

# General Disclaimer

If we knew what it was  
we were doing, it would  
not be called research,  
would it?



**Albert Einstein**  
*German Theoretical-Physicist*  
(1879-1955)

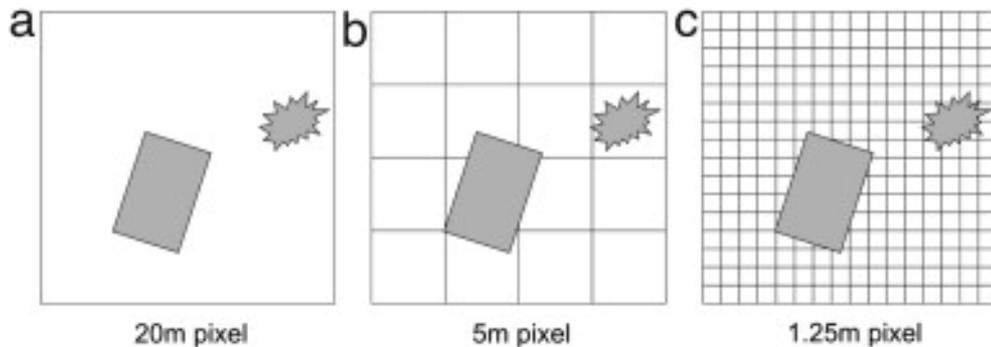
*QuoteHD.com*

# What is Remote Sensing?

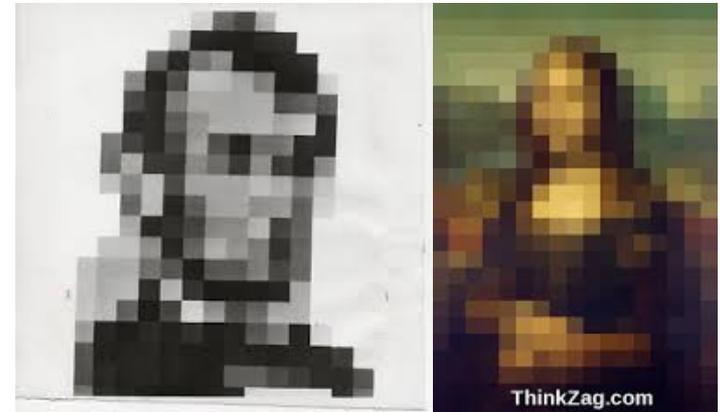
- The analysis of reflected/scattered electromagnetic radiation to determine the characteristics of the surface
- Passive reflected radiation from the sun or thermal emissions
- Active reflected radiation – typically radar or lidar for oil remote sensing
- Analysis generally involves turning into a map

# Remote Sensing Analysis

- Generally to produce a map
- Pixel-based spectroscopy – use of colors (or shades of grey to make maps
- Pattern or texture-based (image segmentation)
- Pixel resolution is key (though poor works if pattern is well-defined)

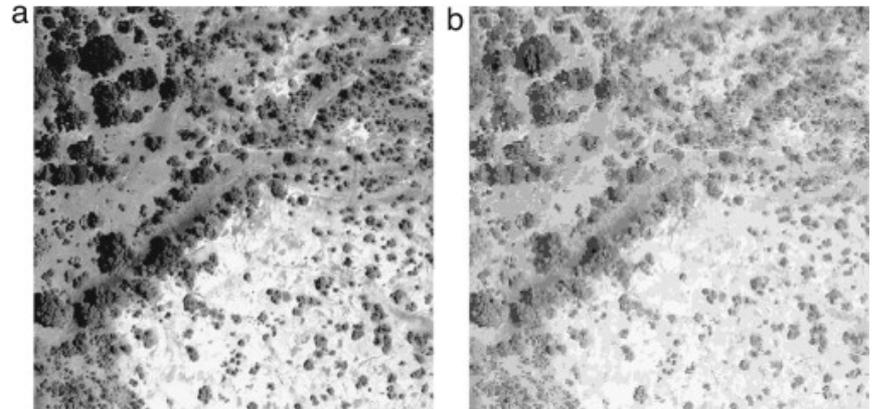


- Pattern recognition can follow pixel analysis



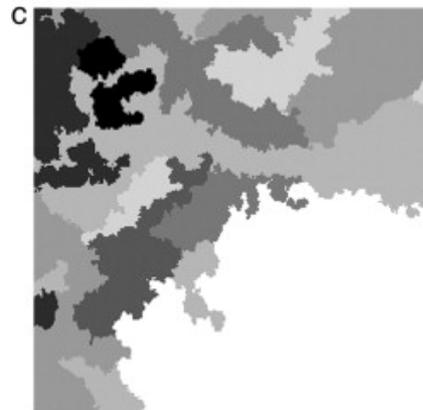
# Remote Sensing Analysis

Pixel classification  
(assignment) poor if  
based on grayscale  
intensity

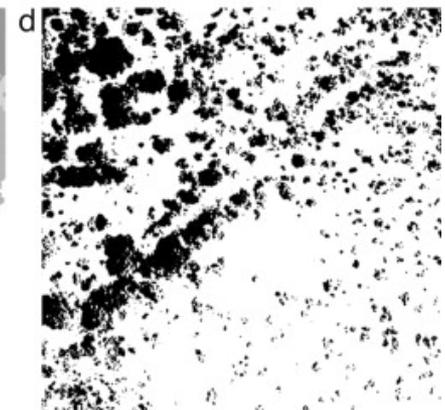


Grayscale  
0.8m resolution

Scale parameter 3  
Shape factor 0.2  
Smoothness 0.8



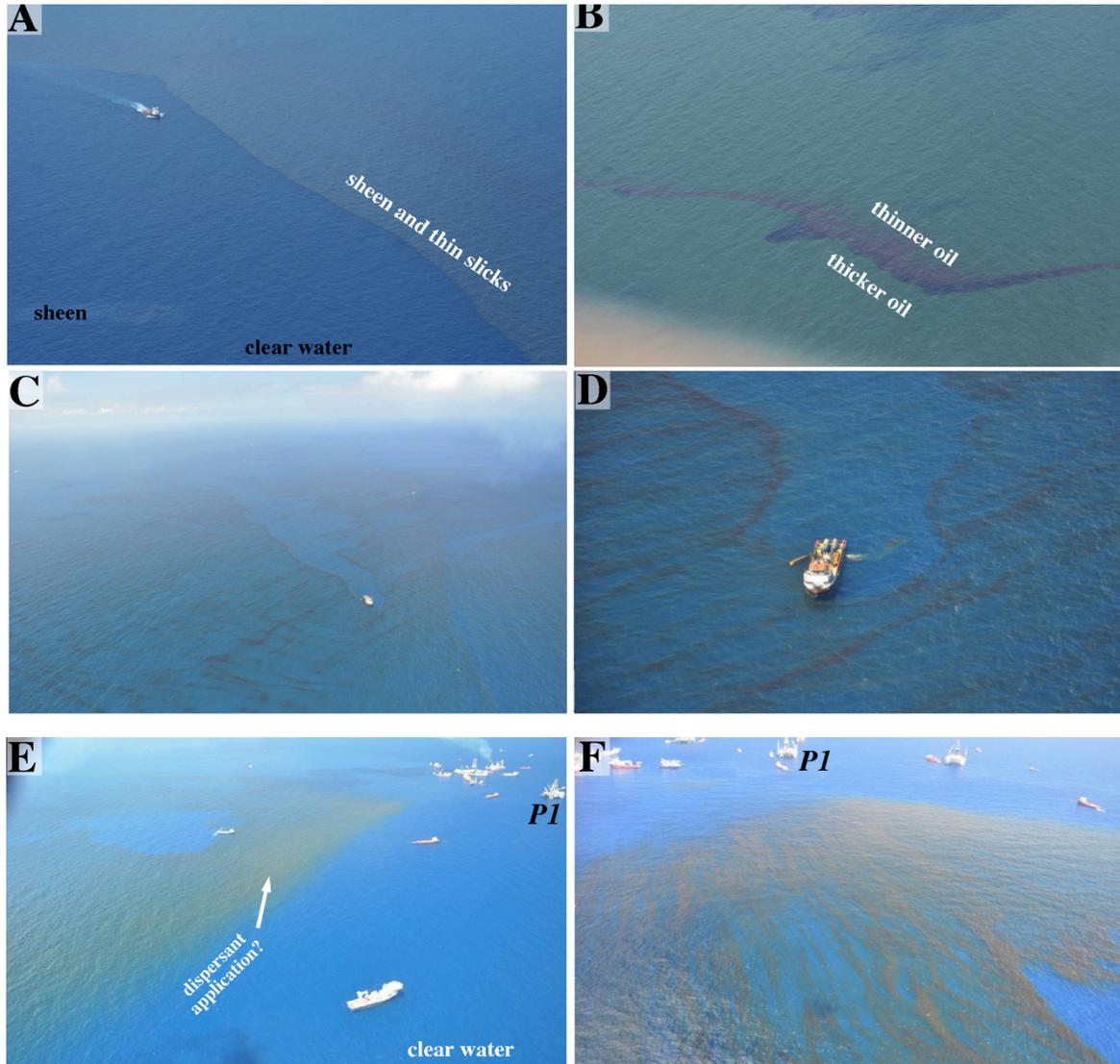
Scale parameter 250  
Shape factor 0.5  
Smoothness 0.5



Woody cover   
Bare ground and grass 

# Experienced Observers use patterns and colors

## Human eye – Very broad band spectroscopy



# Colors can deceive

## Human eye – very broad spectroscopy



**Dinoflagellate and boatwake**



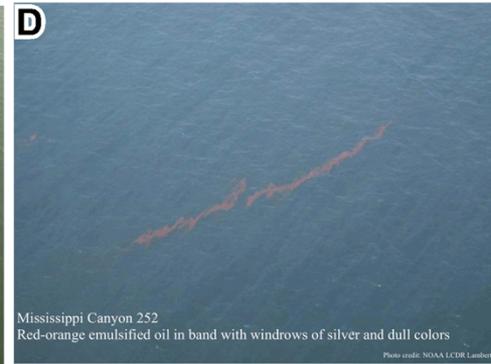
**Red emulsified oil with dull and silver sheens in convergence**



**Sargassum**



**Brown Algae**



**Red-orange emulsified oil in bands with windrows of silver and dull sheen**



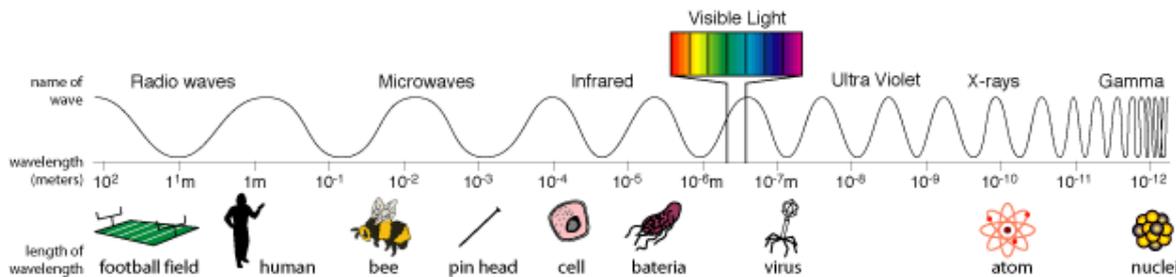
**Dark brown oil ~0.4 - 0.8 km from source**

# Remote Sensing Spectroscopy

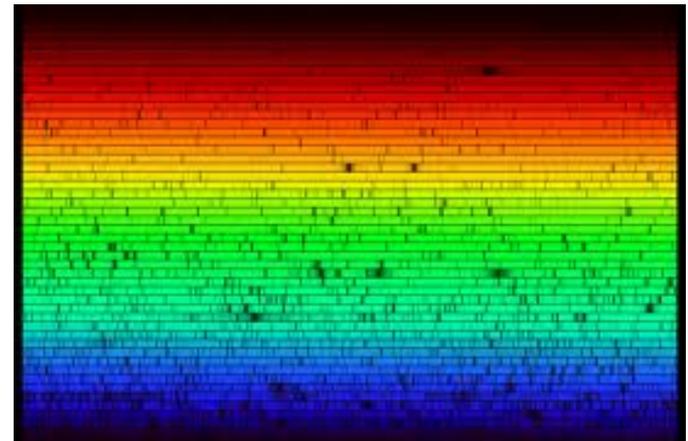
- Everything has color, lots of them, more than you can see
- However, the pure rainbow of the sun is ruined by molecular absorptions



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:GeordiLaForge.jpg>

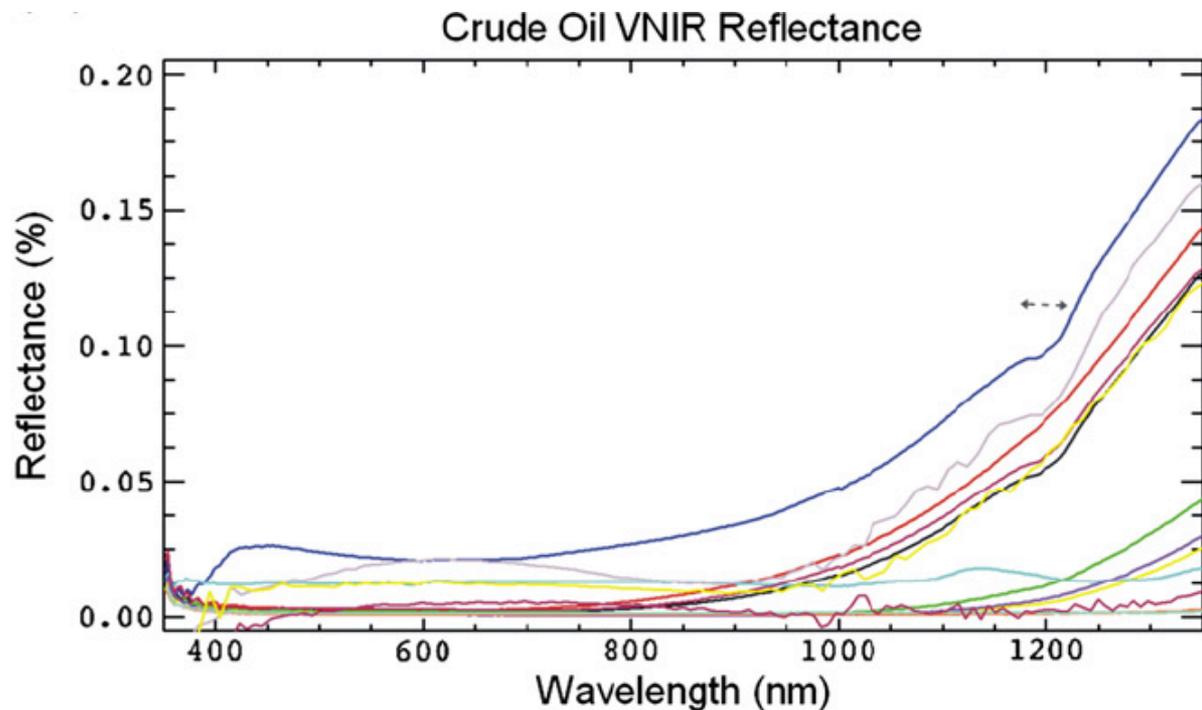


<http://science.hq.nasa.gov/kids/imagers/ems/>

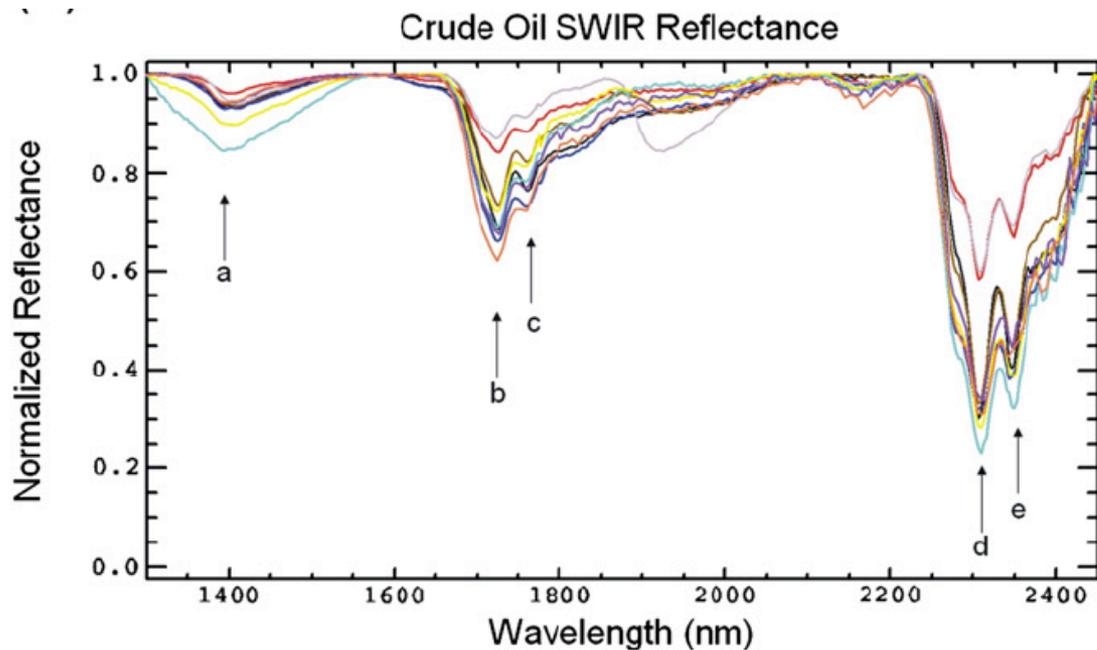


<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap100627.html>

# Oil VIS-SWIR spectroscopy

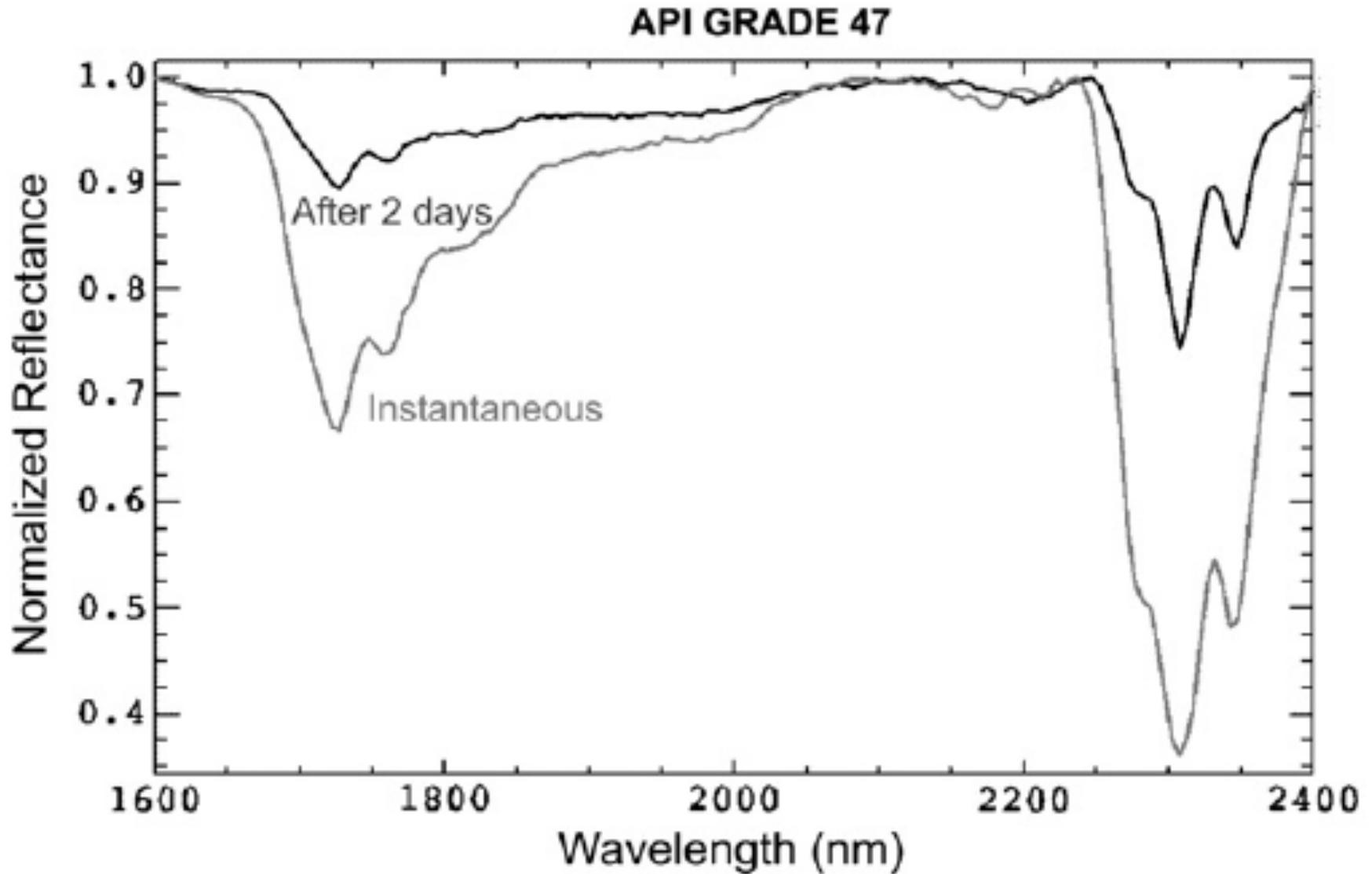


VNIR crude oil reflectance spectra showing range of C-H 2<sup>nd</sup> overtone



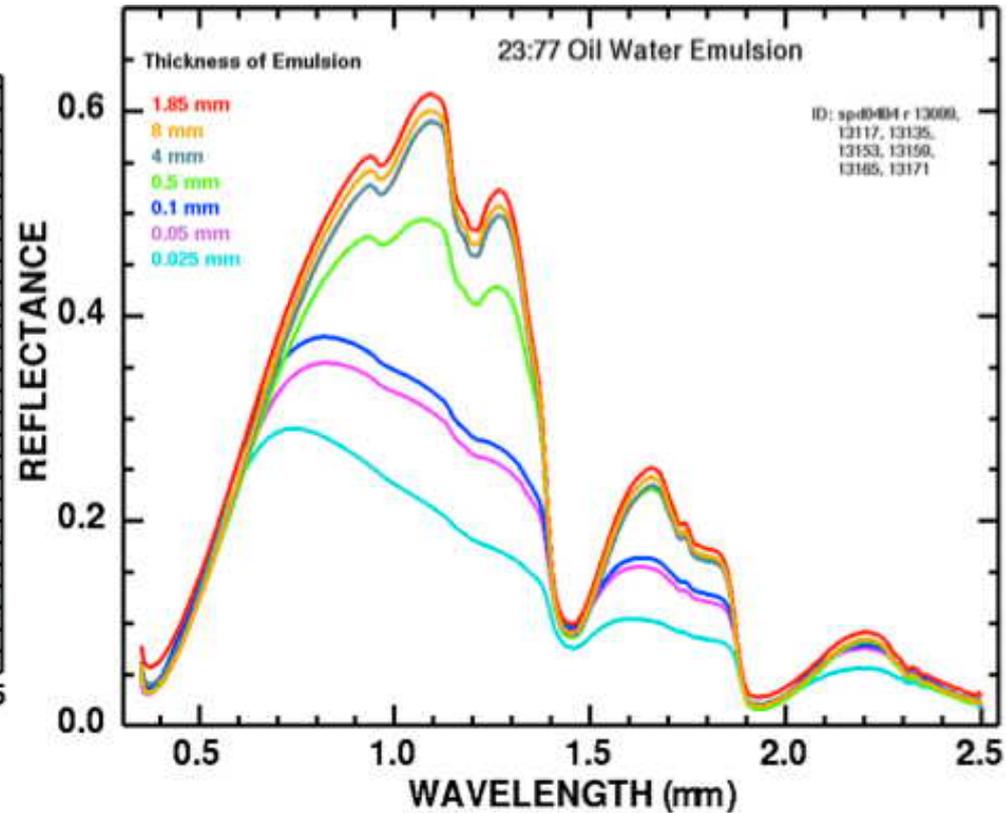
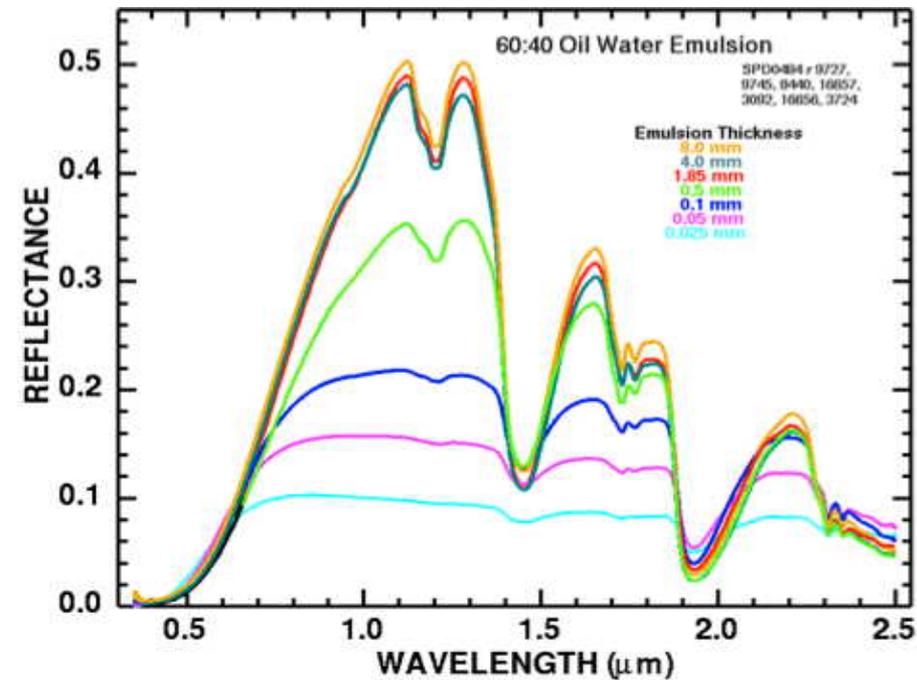
SWIR crude oil reflectance spectra continuum removed

# Oil near and short wave infrared spectroscopy



Reflectance spectra for API47 oil initial and after 2 days of weathering.

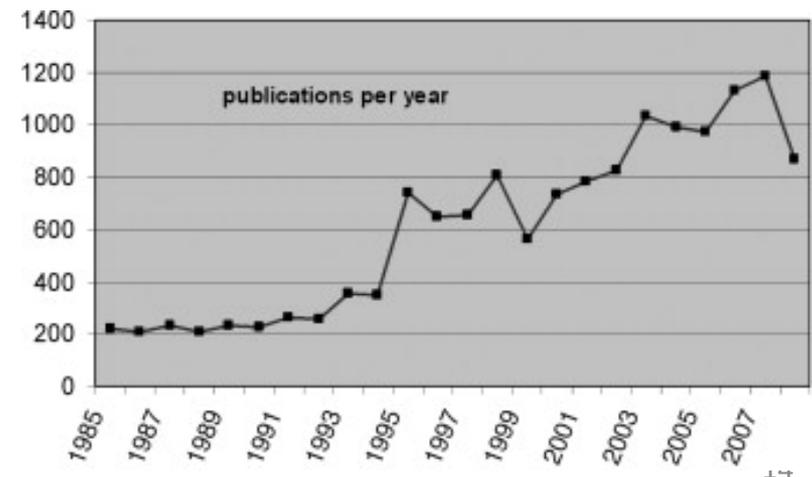
# Example Laboratory Spectra for Deepwater Horizon Spill Oil Emulsions



Laboratory spectra show spectral variability with thickness and oil to water emulsion ratio

# Why Space Remote Sensing (oil)

- Space remote sensing can provide a *synoptic* view
- Can inspect remote areas as quickly as targetable
- Can collect data when weather prevents airborne observers take off
- Some products can be communicated readily to public
- Can evaluate ecological damage



# Space Remote Sensing Issues (oil)

- Visual spectral approaches require no clouds and daylight – can be a big limitation
- Radar allows 24/7 observations if winds are in a narrow range, but many false positives (other data may reduce)
- Satellites feature: coarse resolution, poor coverage, infrequent revisit
- Slow revisit enhances cloud risk
- All space-based current approaches are non-diagnostic - most useful if a spill is known and well behaved
- Visual spectral approaches work poorly at high latitudes (too much air)

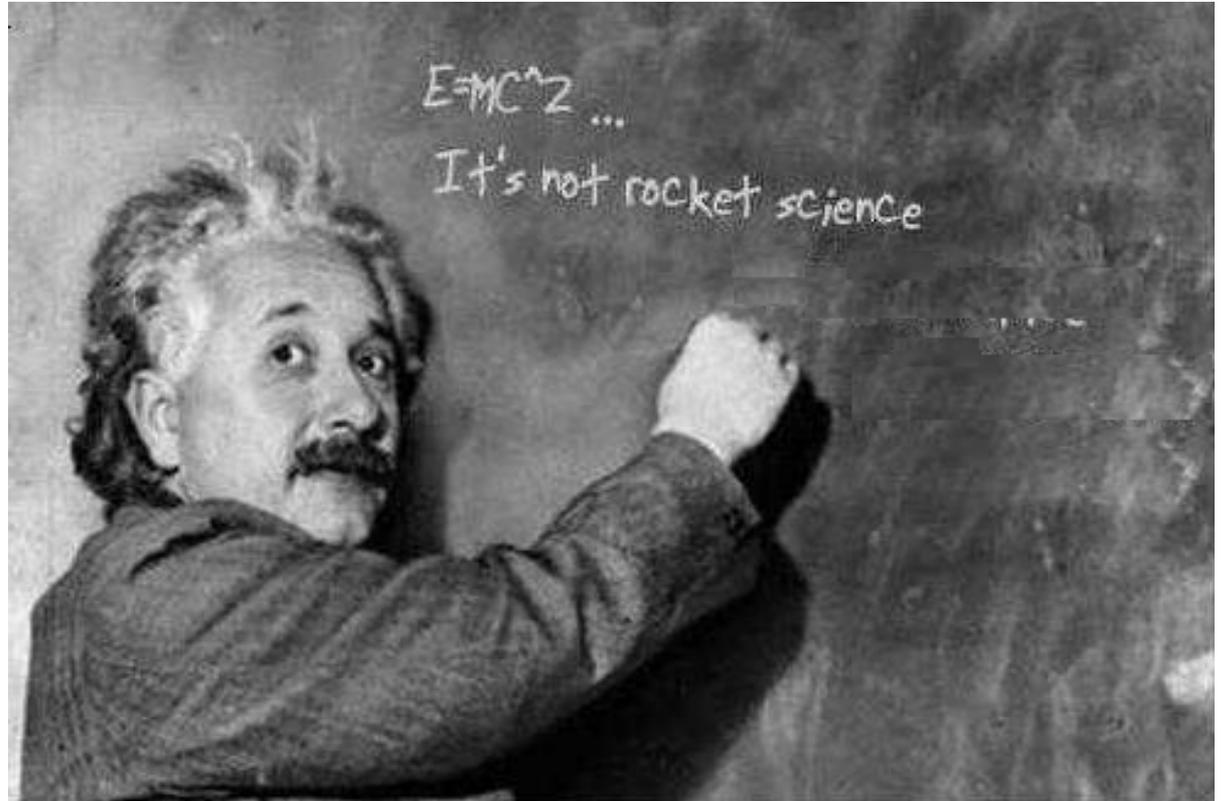
# Why Air Remote Sensing (oil)

- Often can provide a synoptic view (for typical oil spills smaller than Deepwater Horizon)
- Easily taskable – can fly between clouds, loiter, launch late or early, land at different airport
- Higher spatial resolution improves accuracy
- Higher signal to noise (less air) possible
- Airborne Hyperspectral Imagers are available
  - diagnostic capability

(Spaceborne Hyperspectral Imager - HypsIRI - launches in 5-10 yrs)

# What is Oil Spill Science?

- Fast
- Proven
- Reliable
- Well Understood
- Fast
- *USEFUL!!!*



**Oil spill science is need-based science**

# Oil Spill Response Science

## Remote Sensing – what can it do?

- 1 - Triage – first-est is best-est.
- 2 – Where is the thick oil? Is there thick oil? False positives. How much (qualitative)?
- 3 – Where is the oil spill going (trajectory)?
- 4 – What damage is being done to the Ecosystem?
- 5 – Mitigation strategy evaluation

# Thought for the talk:

Persistence works for the weather, not for fighting the next oil spill based on the war.

*Every oil spill is unique and special!*

**Thought for the talk:**

***Lets Imagine the Arctic***

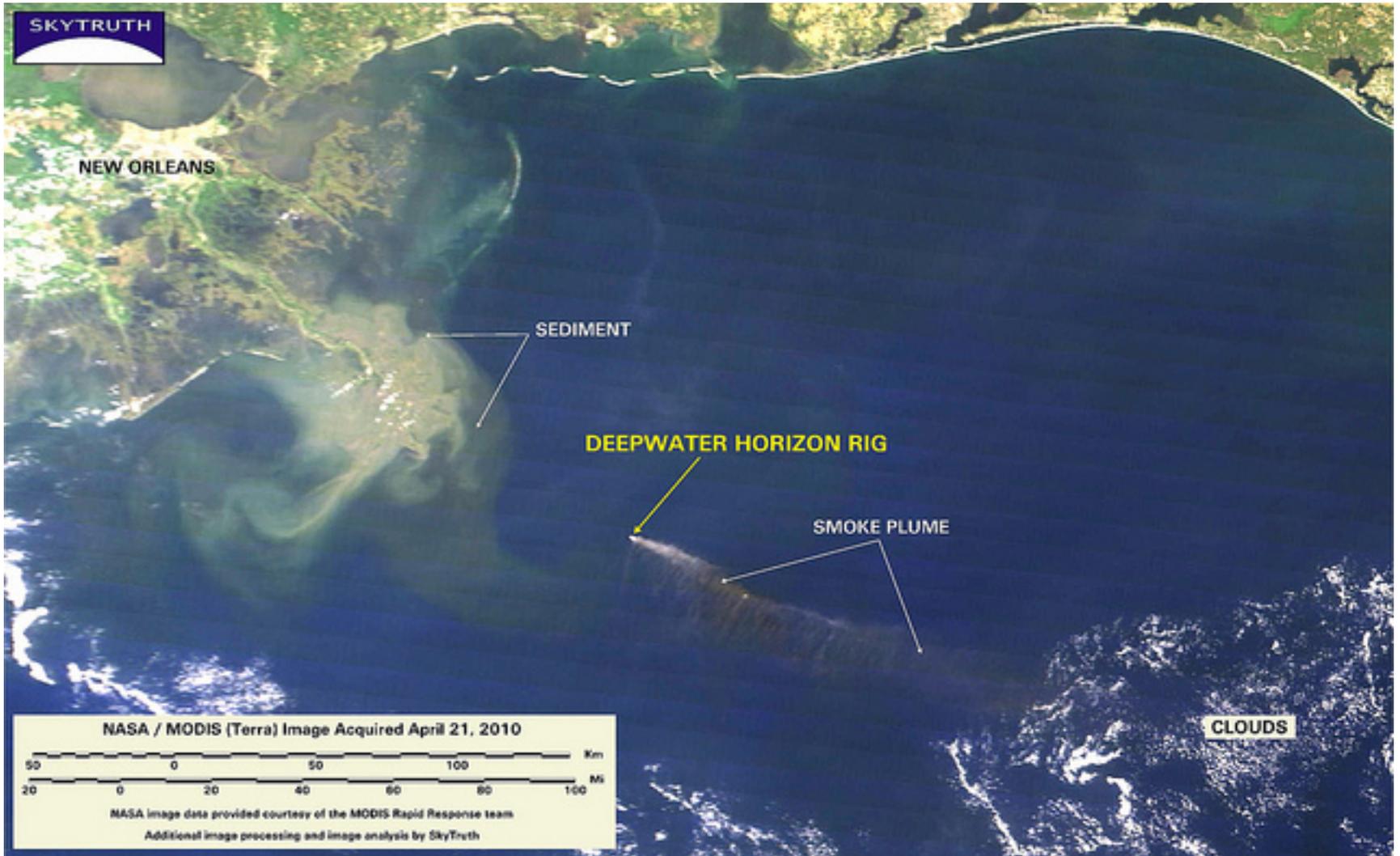


**For this talk:**



***Lets Imagine the Arctic***

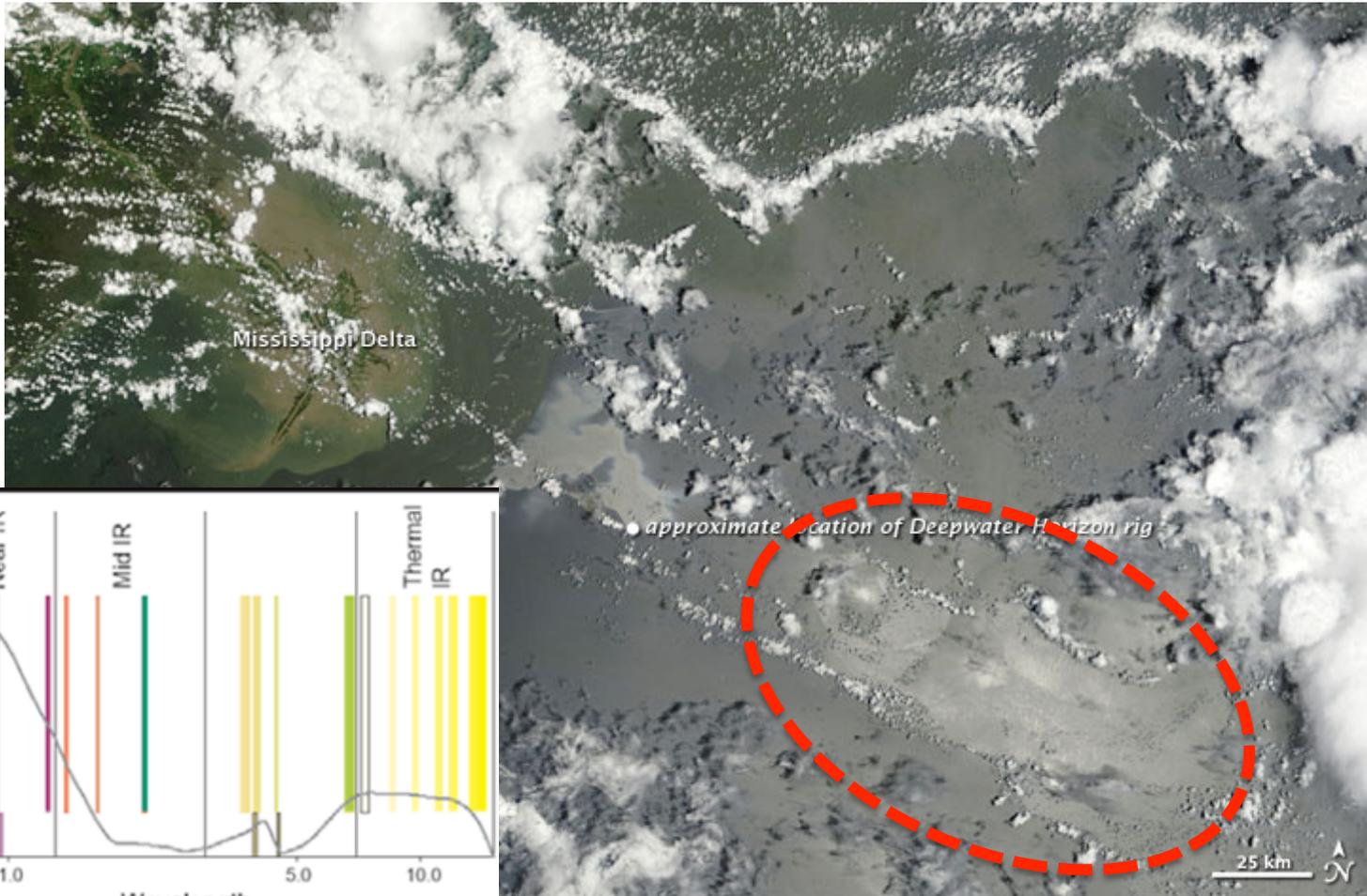
*way back when*



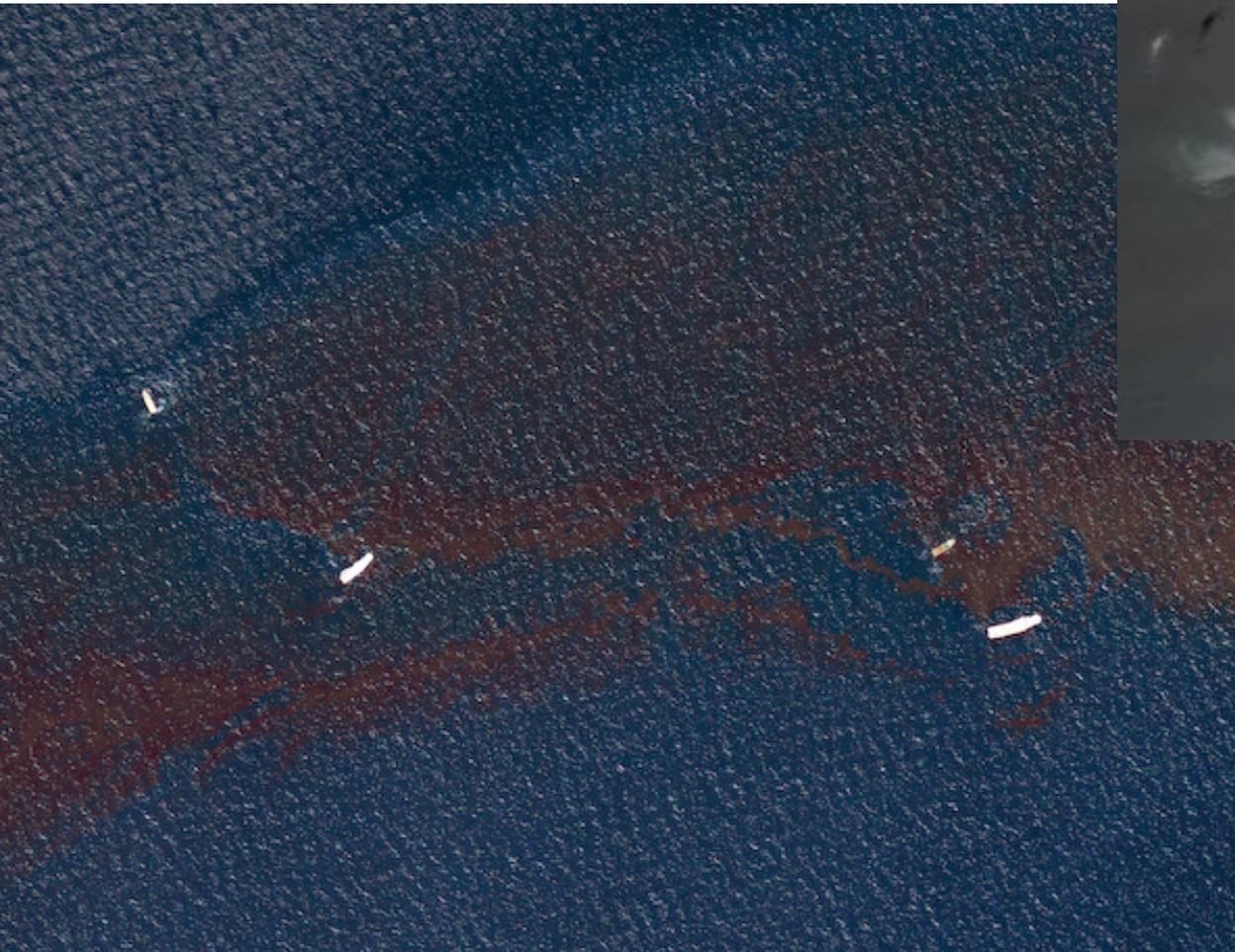
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skytruth/4544329078>

**April 21, 2010**

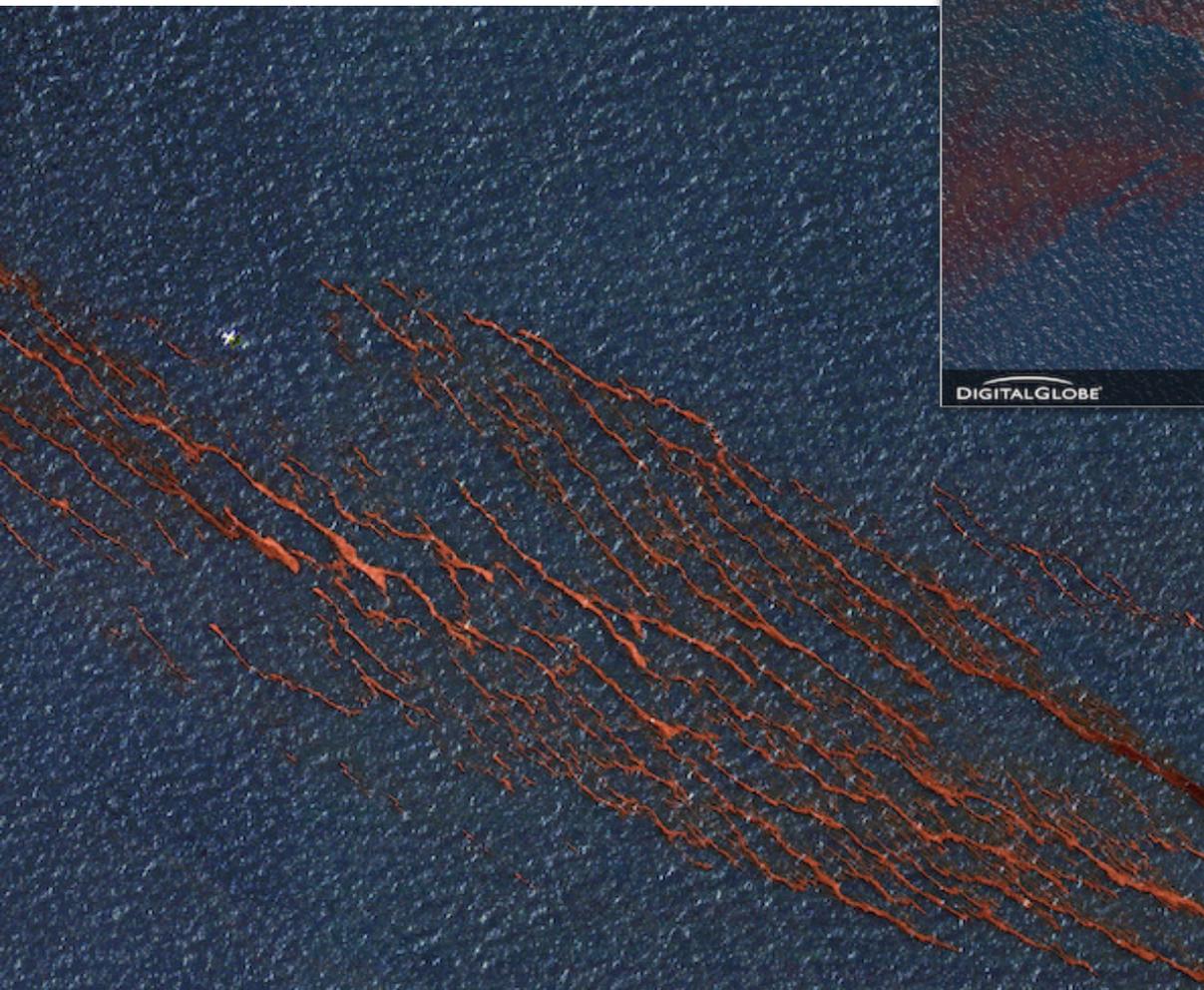
# Visual Spectrum Oil Remote Sensing – OMG look at all the oil in the central Gulf!



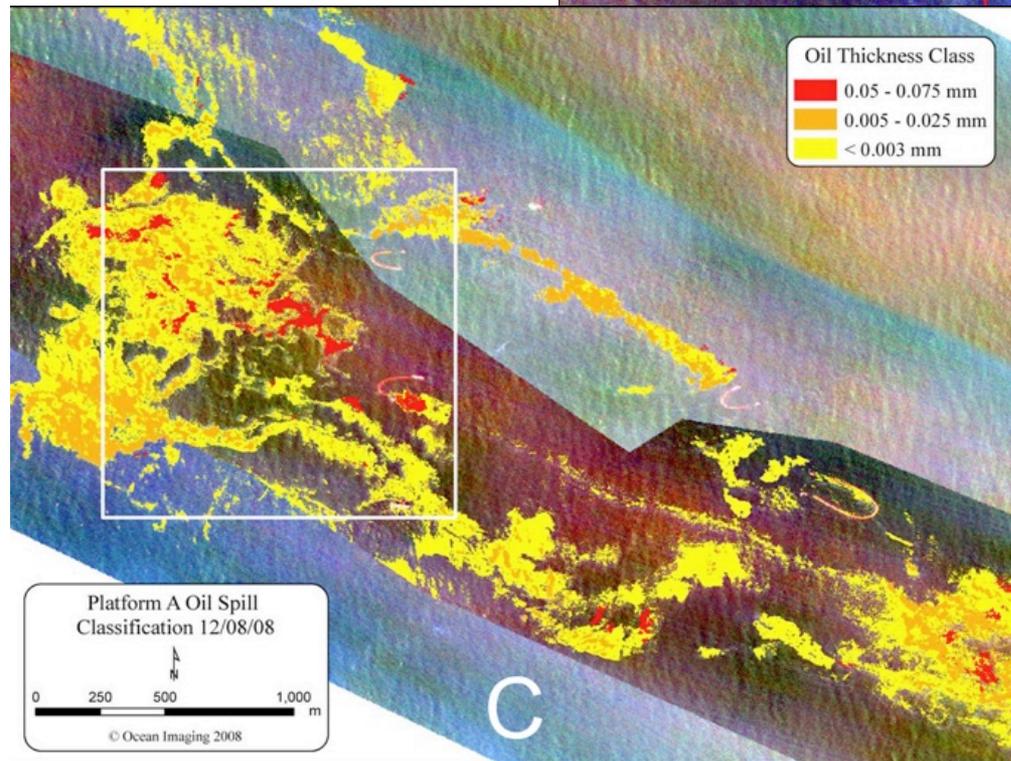
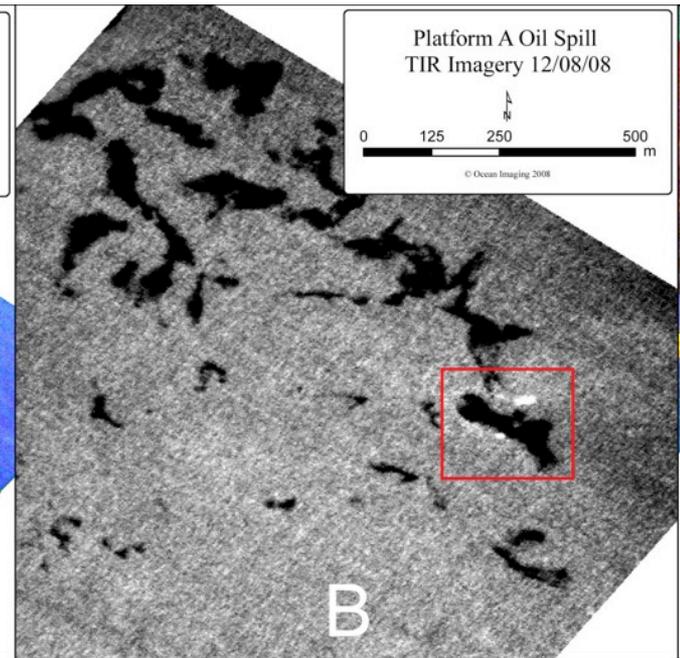
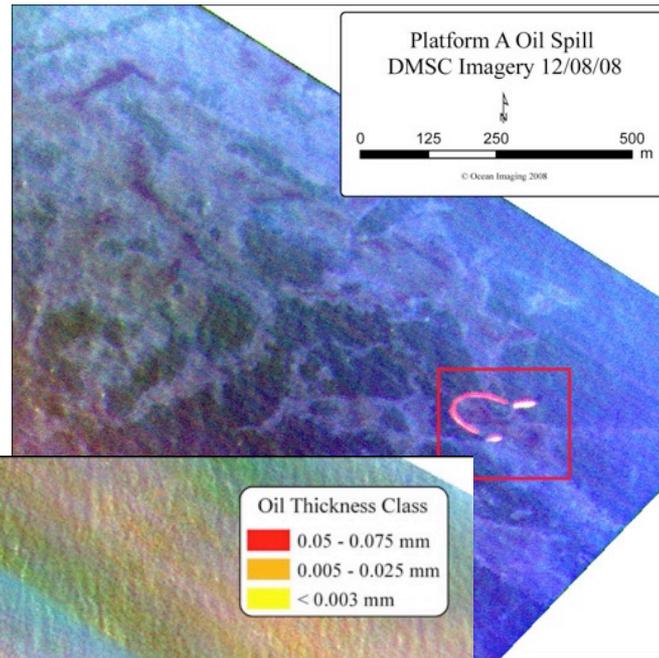
**Let's talk spatial resolution:  
MODIS-synoptic misses almost  
all slick structural detail**



# High Resolution Captures Structure Misses Synoptic



# Very broad-band airborne oil imaging



**Thick oil is hot**

# The hottest spill on the satellite data record!!

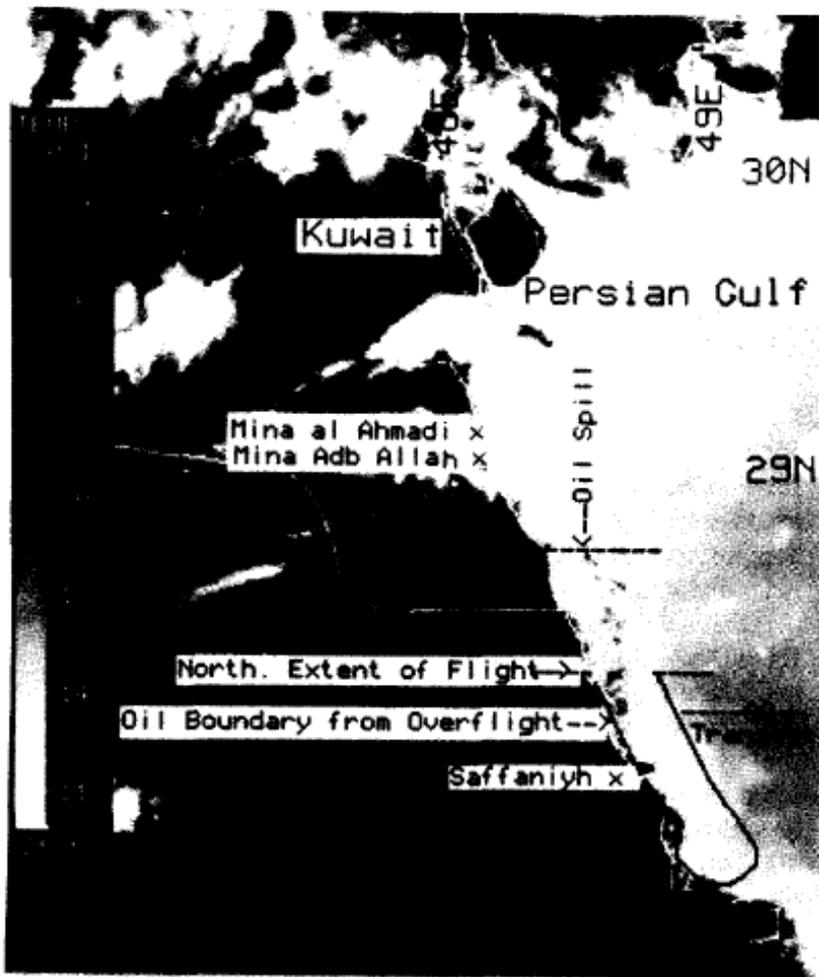


Figure 1.  
Enhanced AVHRR Channel 4 at 10:38 UT  
(Local Time 13:38) on February 1, 1991.

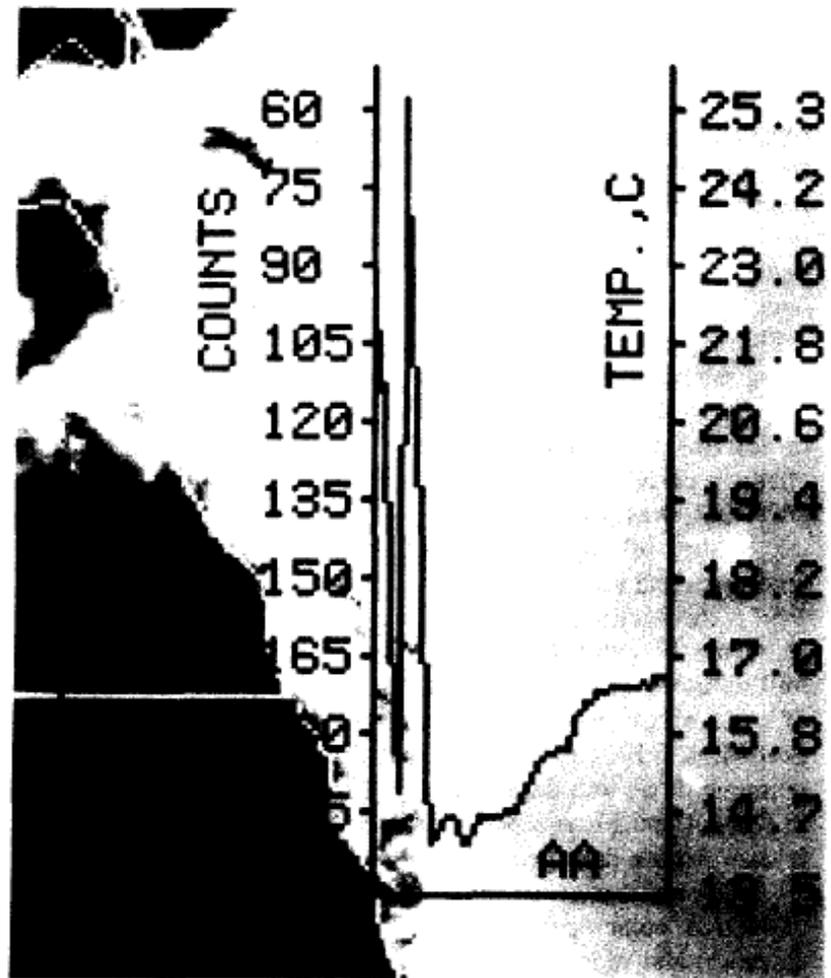
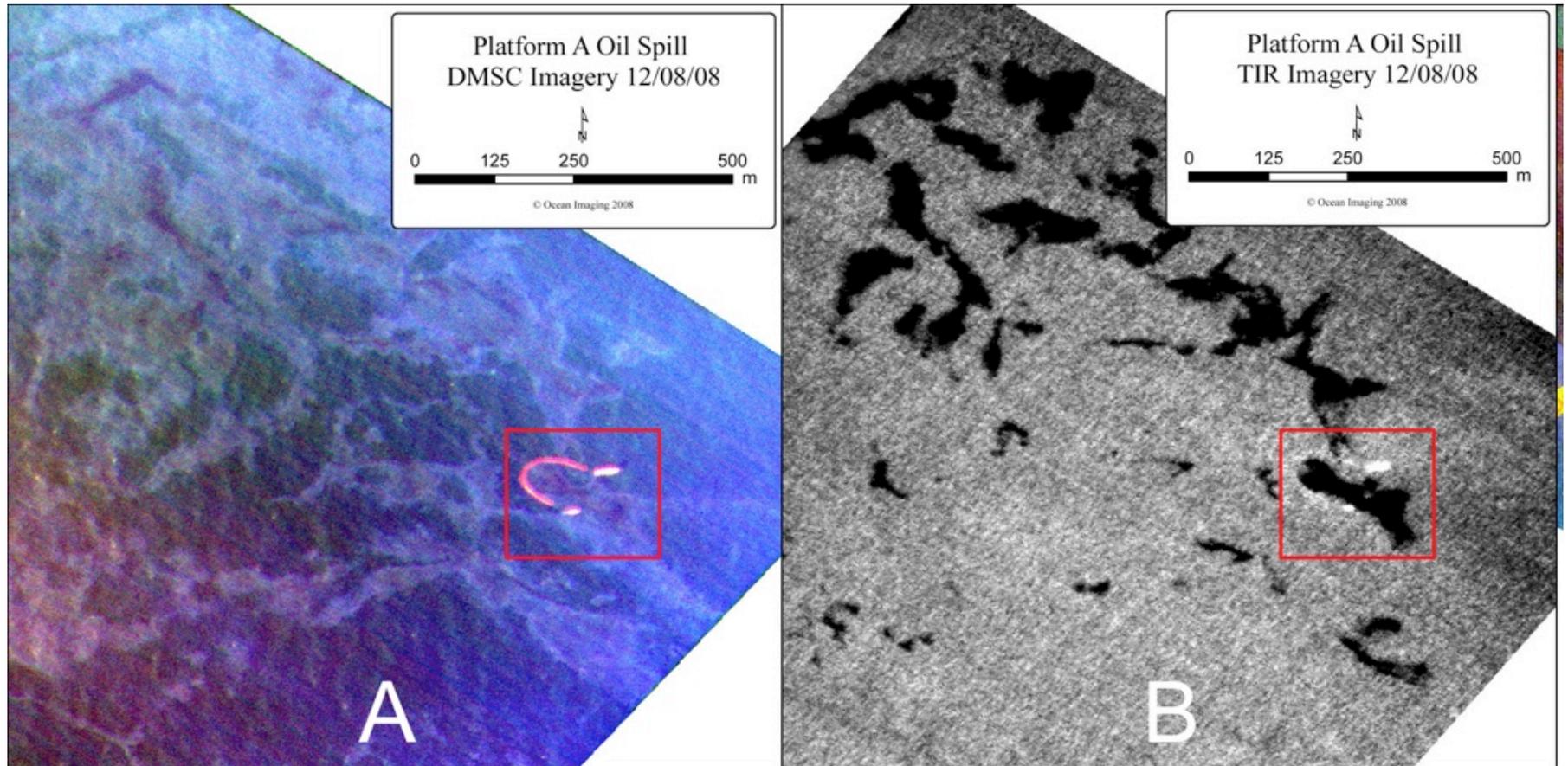


Figure 2.  
Enlarged SST Distribution across  
an East-West Transection, AA, in Figure 1.

# So thermal doesn't see thin oil...



# Or does it...

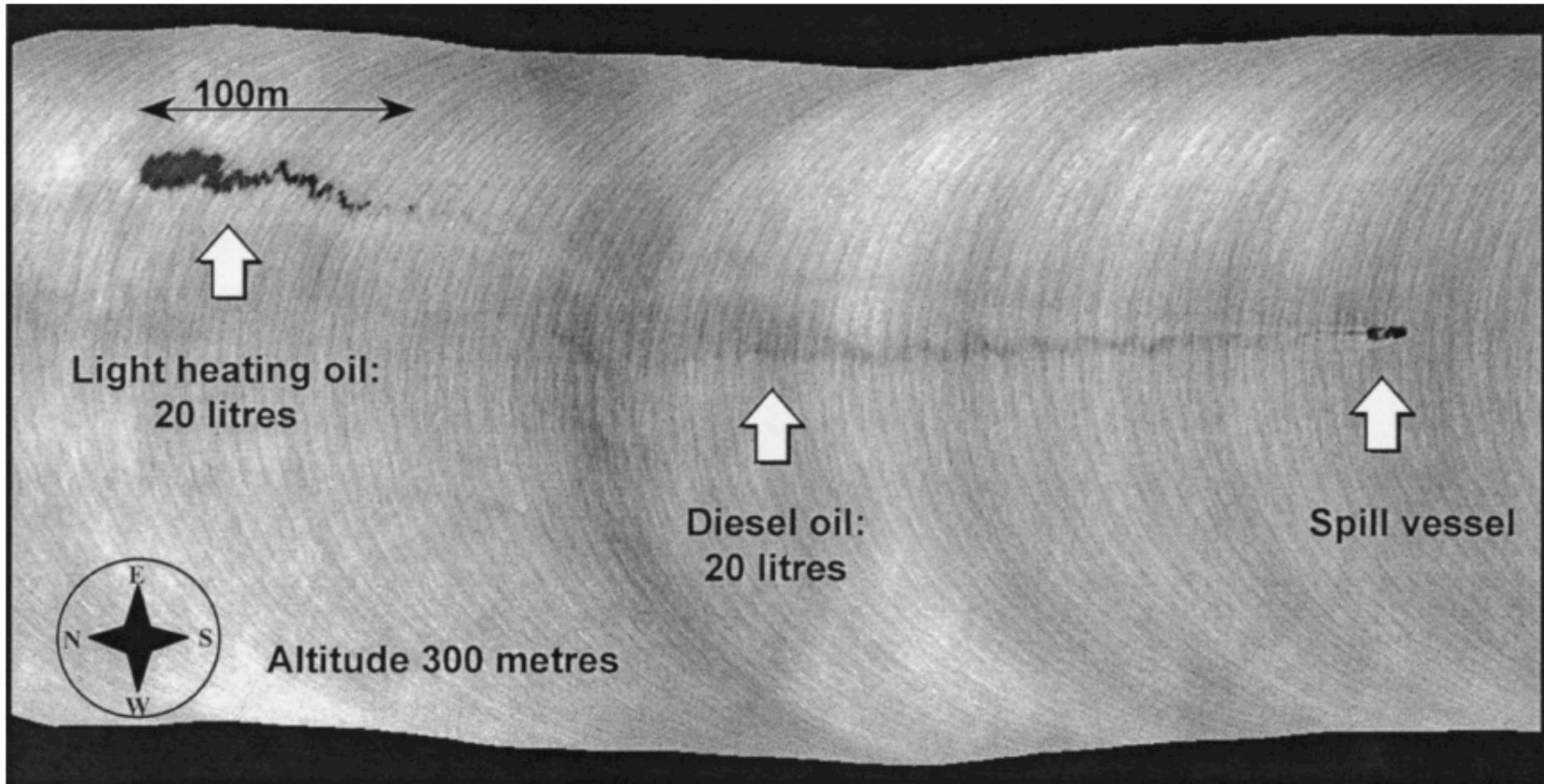
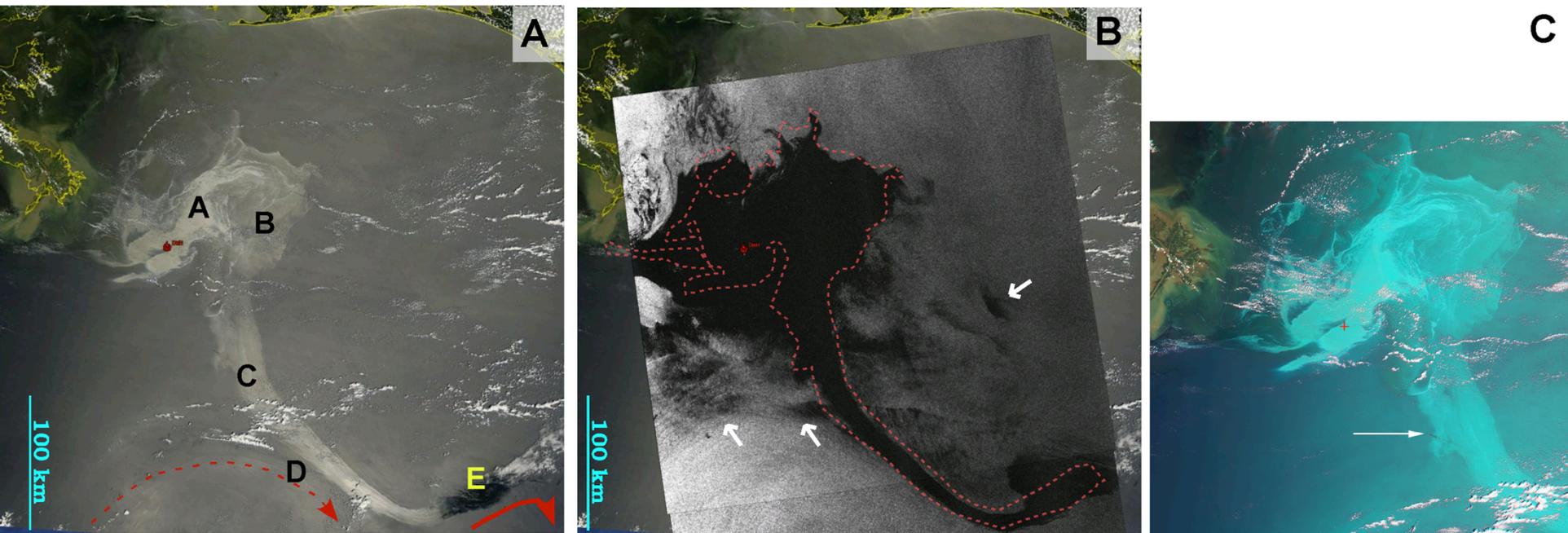


Figure 3. Thermal imagery of the oil residue spills taken in darkness.

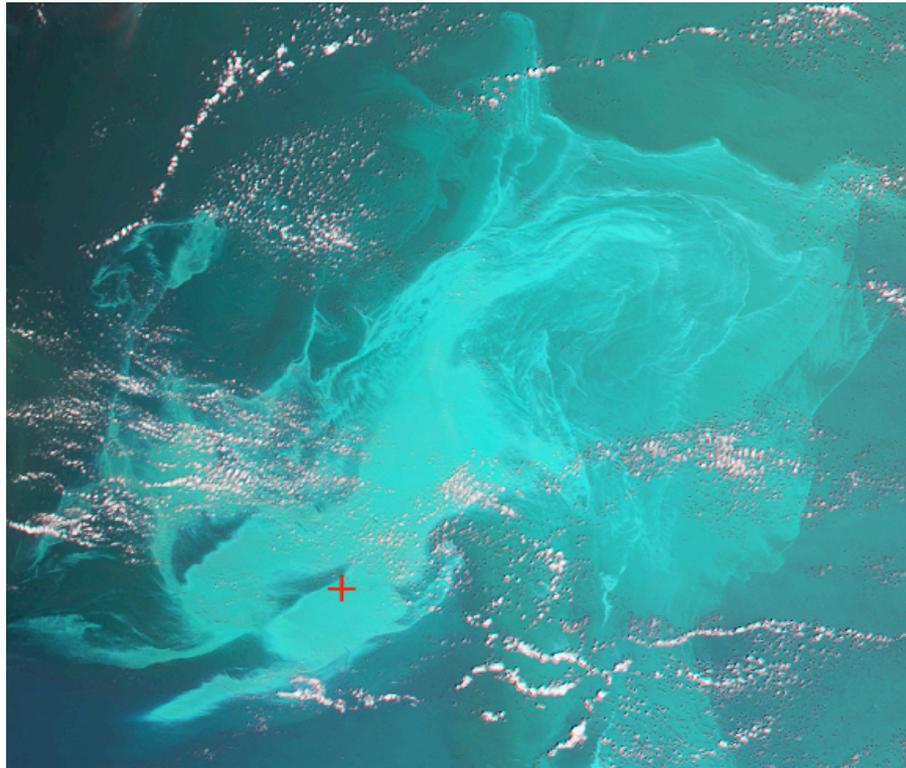
## Depends on the instrument

# *The famous tiger tail*



**Fig. 11.** A. MODIS Terra image and B. RADARSAT-2 SAR image of the *Deepwater Horizon* spill, acquired 17 May 2010 at different times. Note greater spatial extent of the SAR-identifiable spill in B (dashed red line shows oil slick outline from A, white arrows indicated false positives). C MISR false color image based on combination of nadir viewing blue and green with 26° forward red band, arrow indicates smoke from in situ burn (MISR 2010). See text for discussion. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

# The famous tiger head in thermal

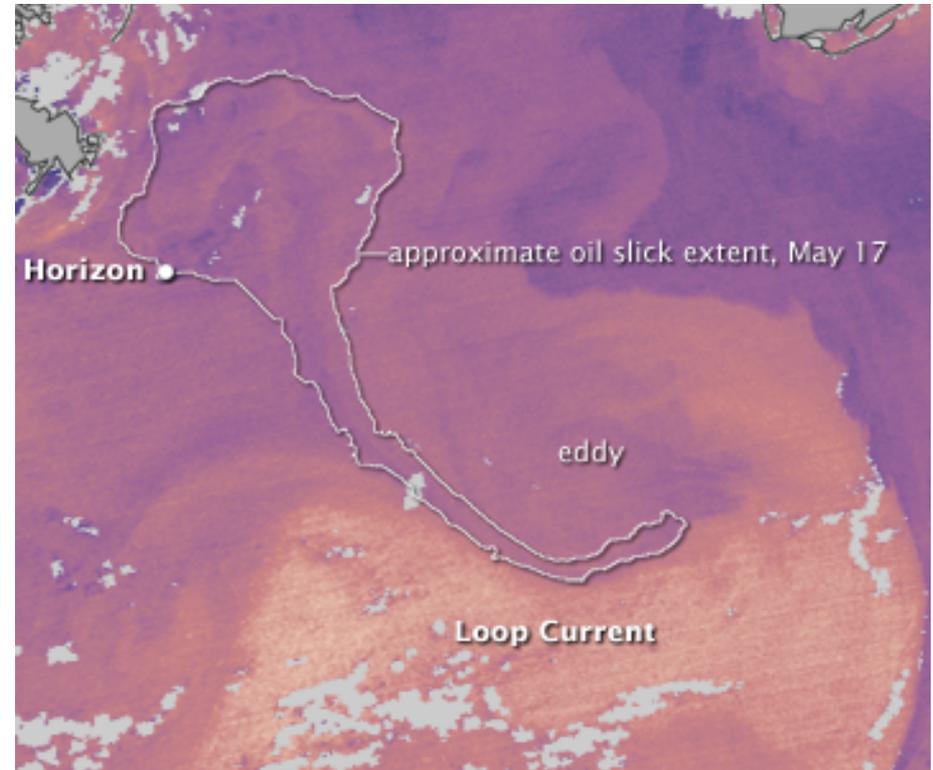


from Leifer et al. 2012

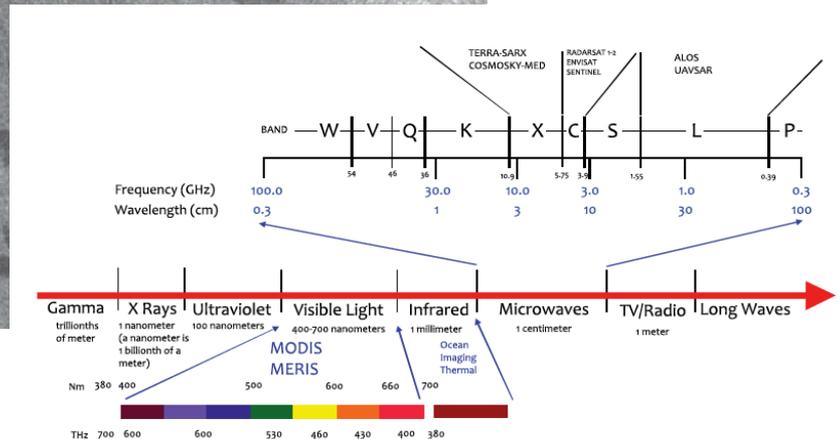
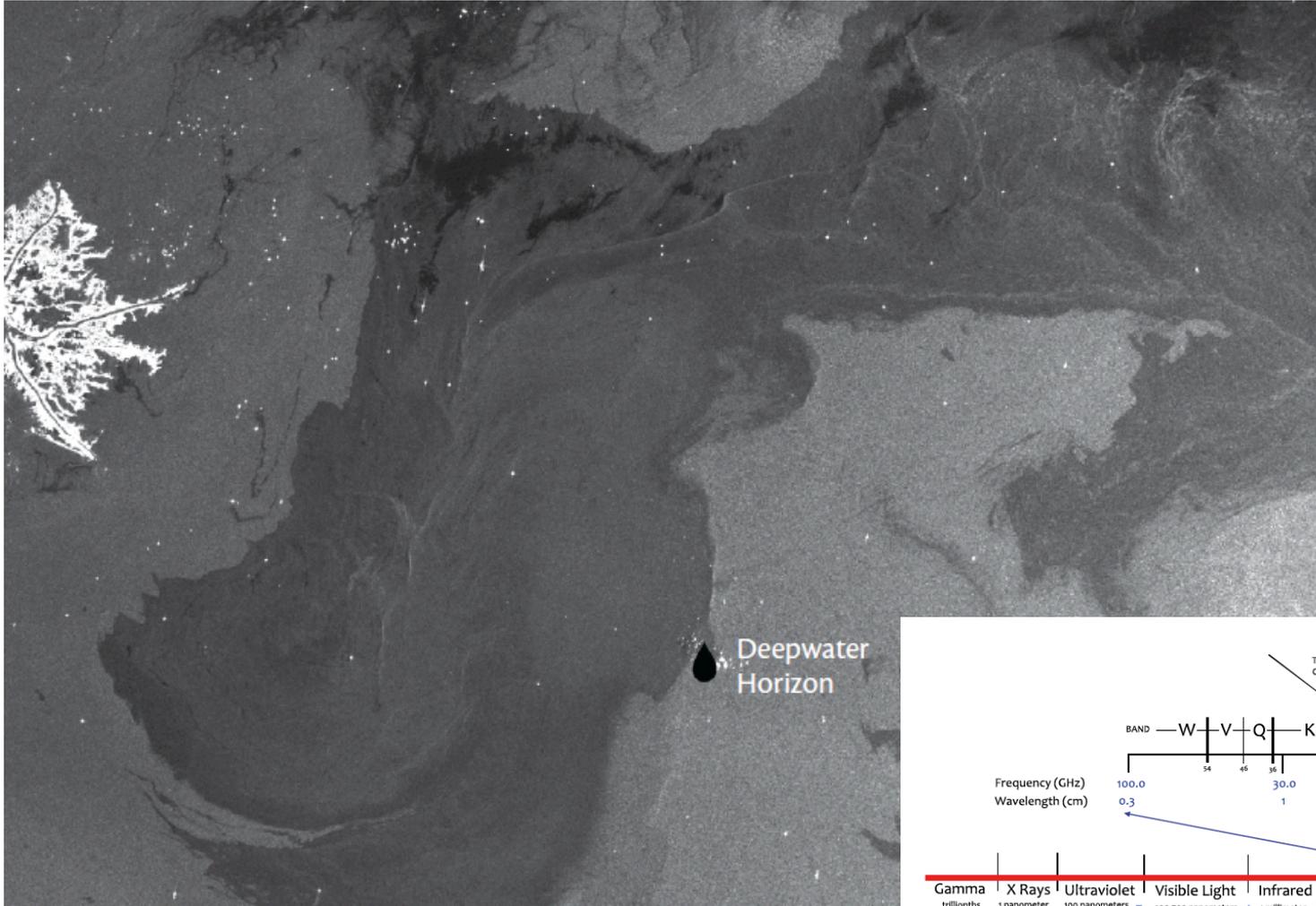


MODIS Thermal from LSU website

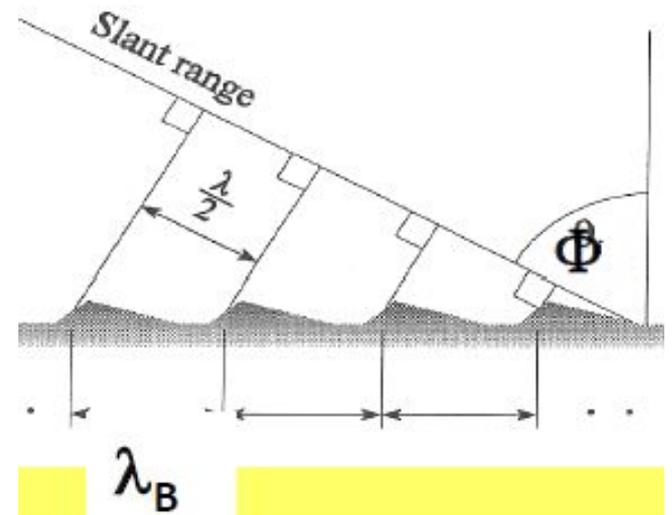
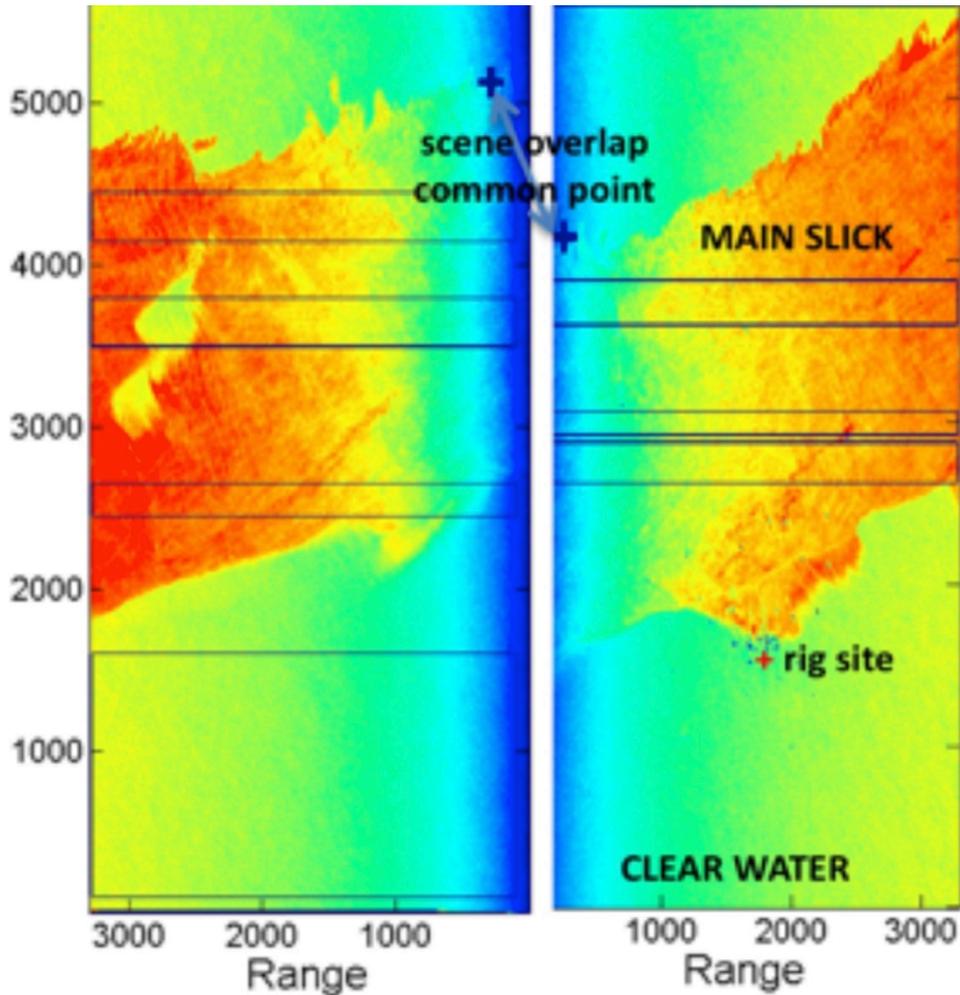
# The famous tiger tail in thermal



# So what does SAR see?

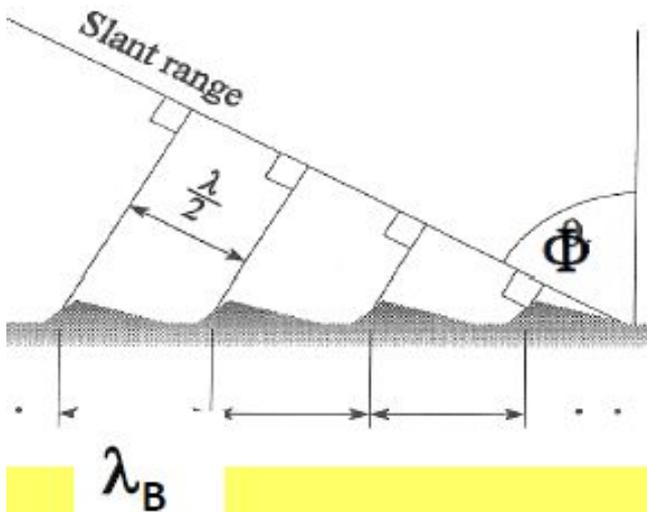
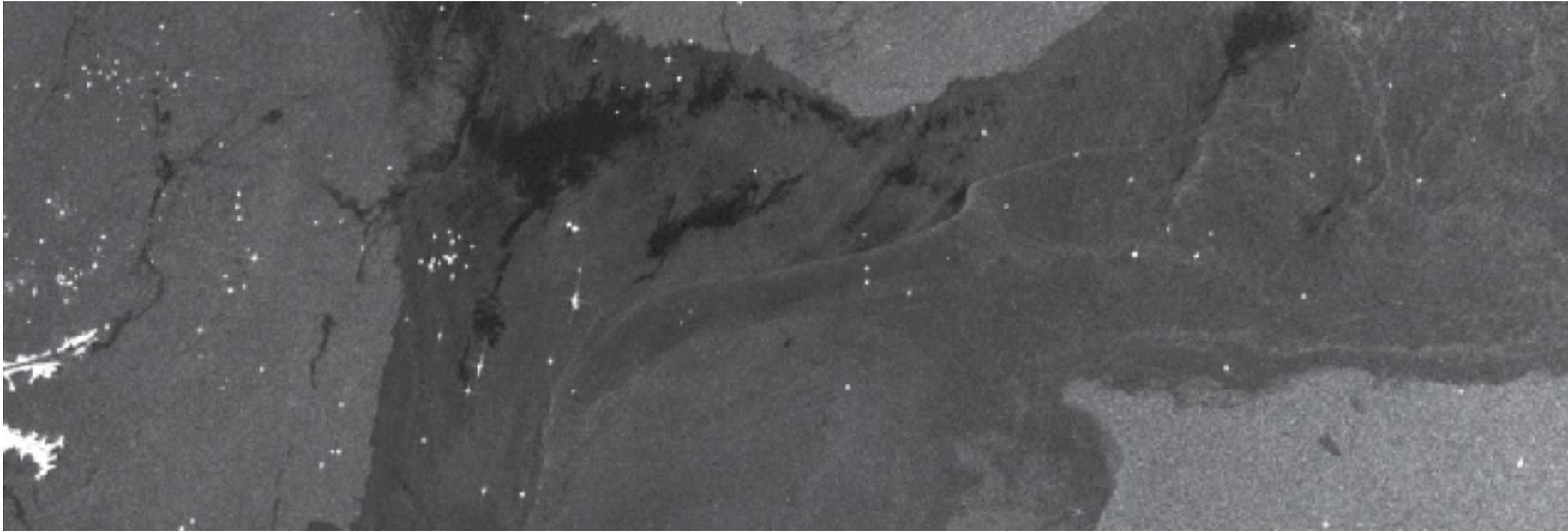


# So what does SAR see?



## Airborne SAR – Dielectric

# So what does sat SAR see?



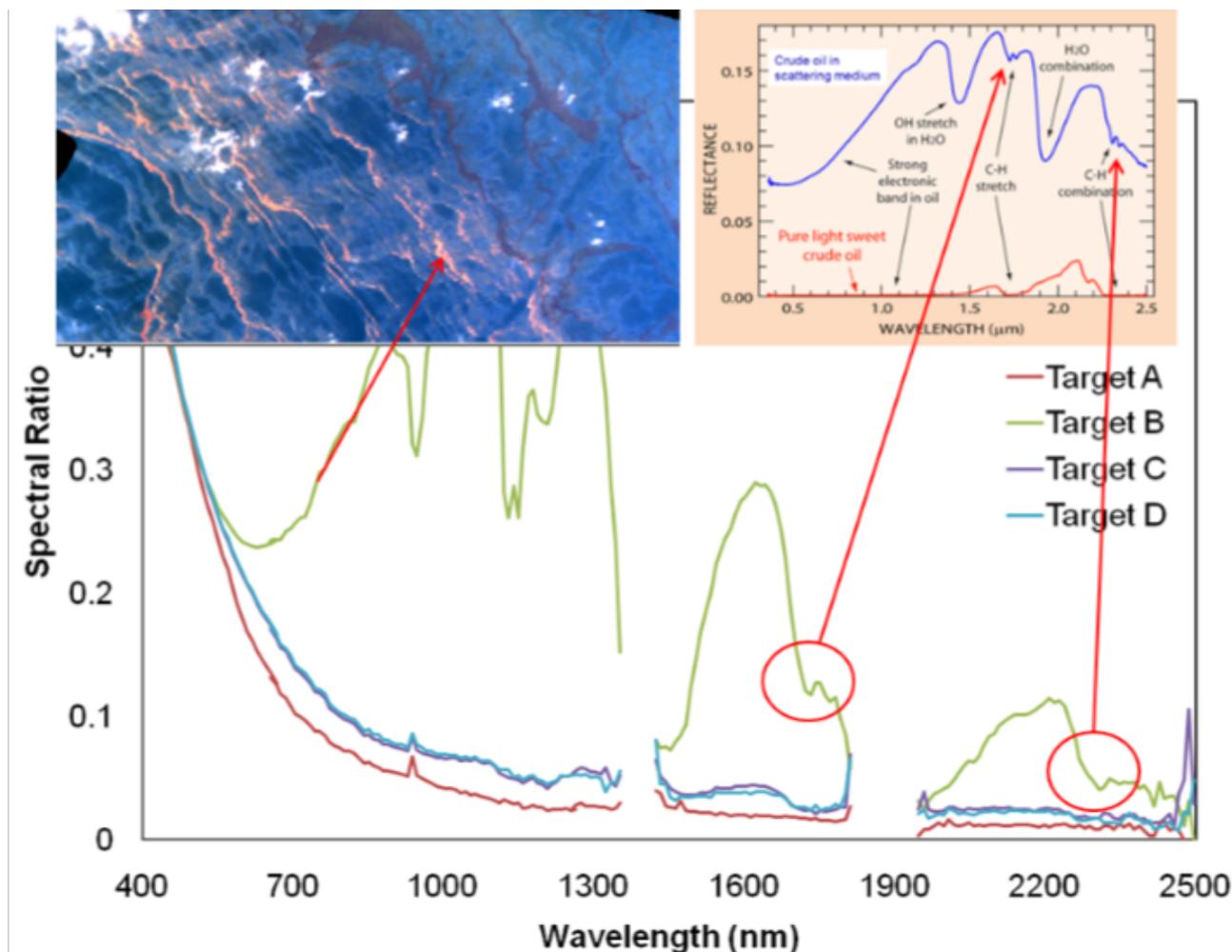
**Bragg reflection,  
and....**

# The future is spectroscopic Elementary – it's diagnostic



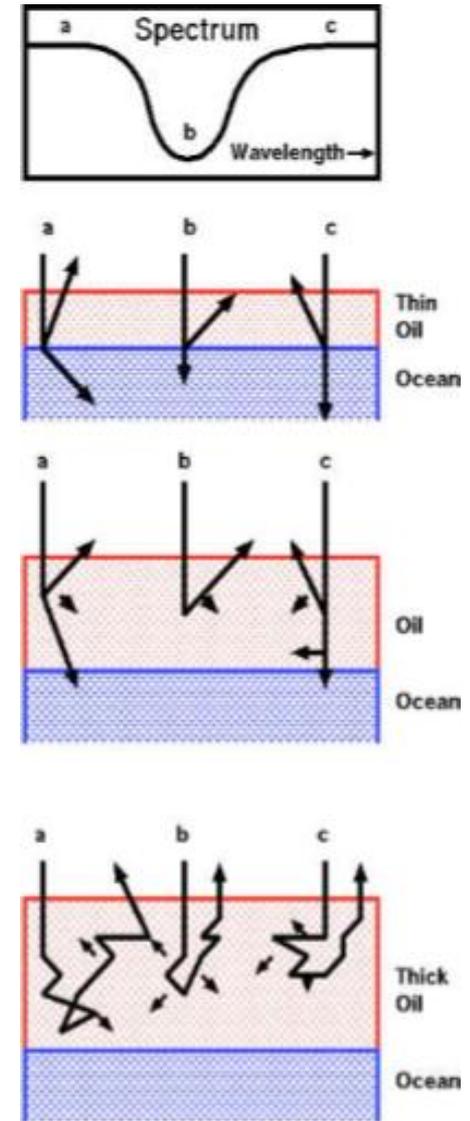
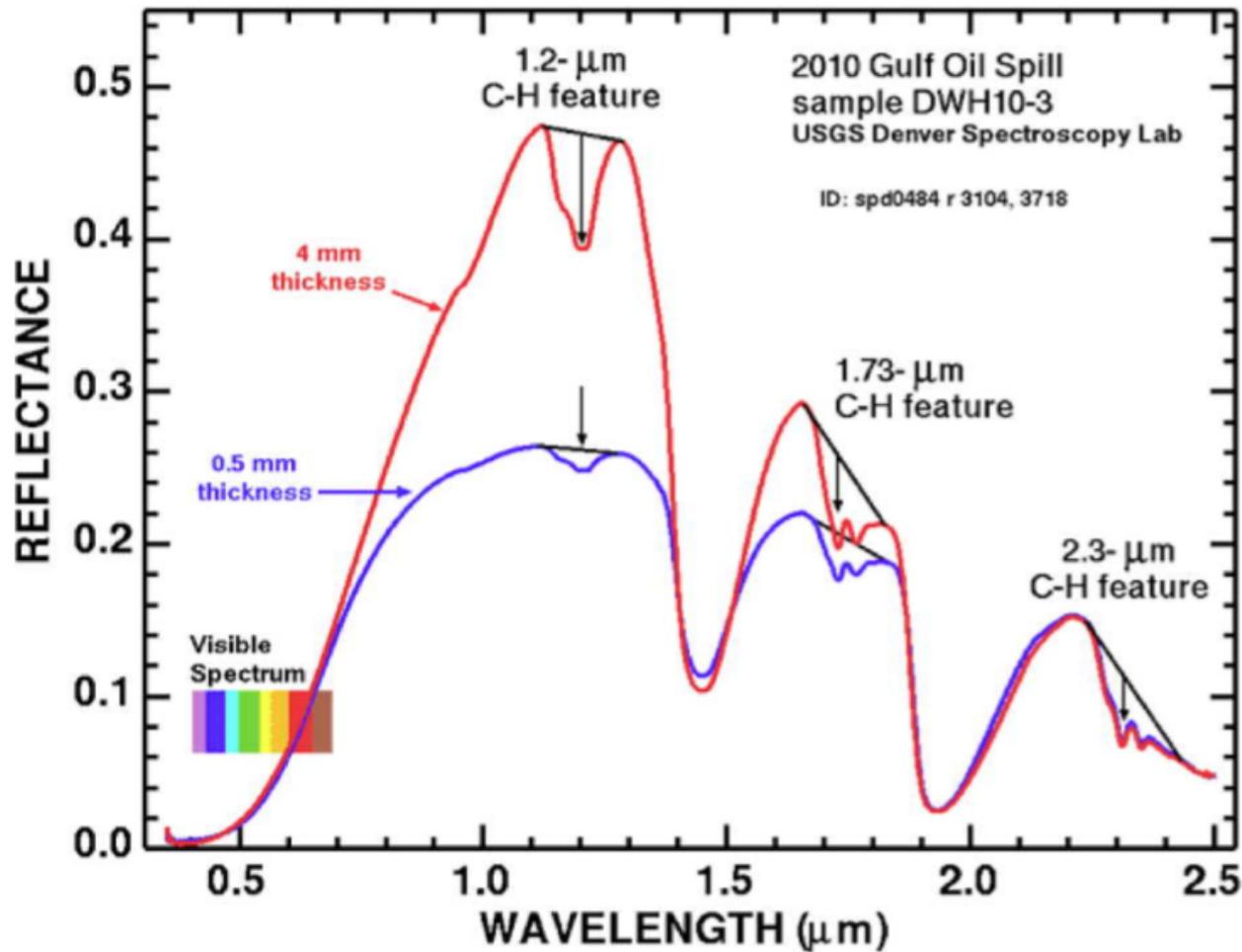
## AVIRIS SWIR Oil Thickness Mapping on the ER2

# AVIRIS Measurements of Carbon-Hydrogen Bond Spectral Signature in Gulf Oil Spill

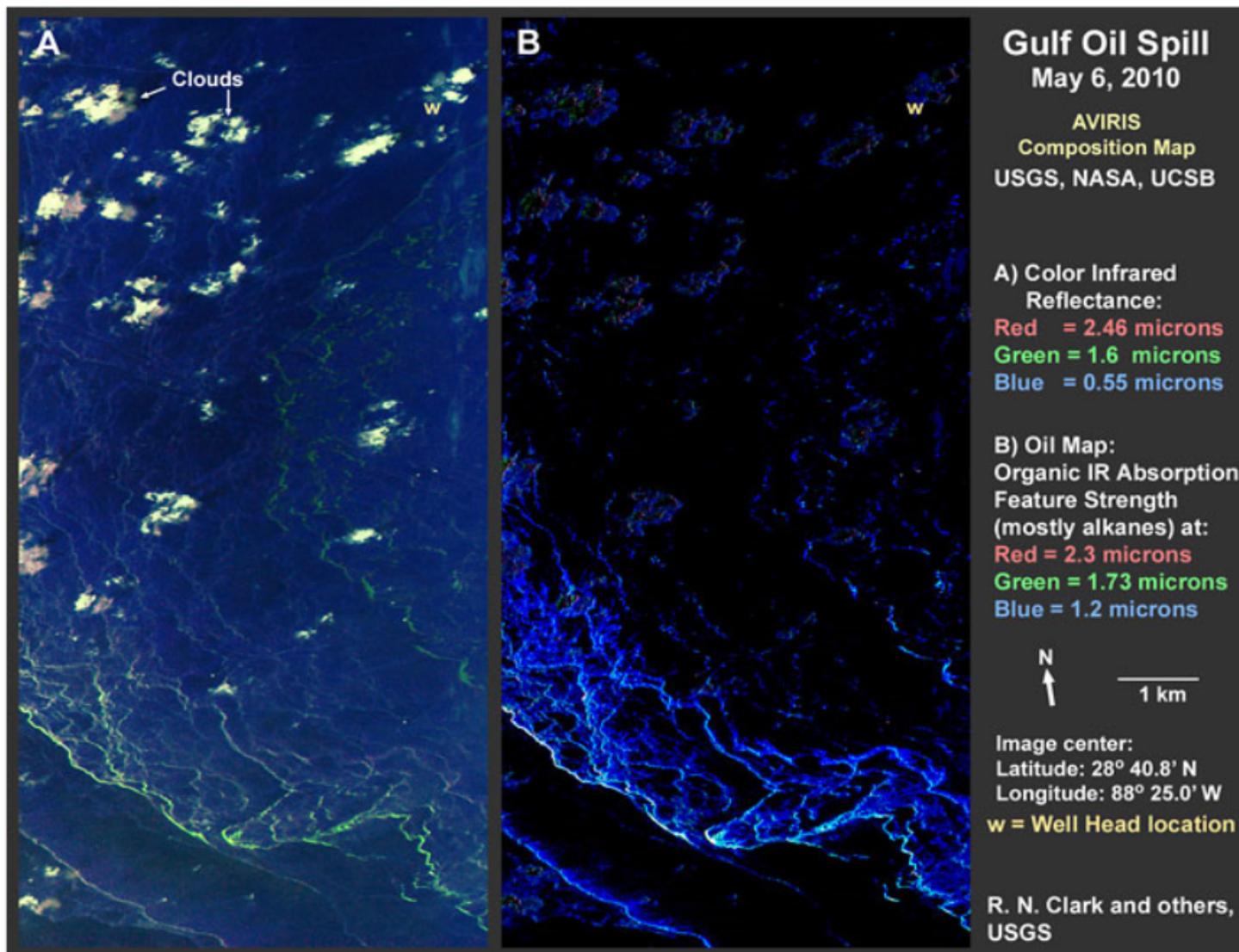


First AVIRIS results over the Gulf Oil Spill showed the spectroscopic signature of the crude oil carbon-hydrogen bond SWIR absorption features

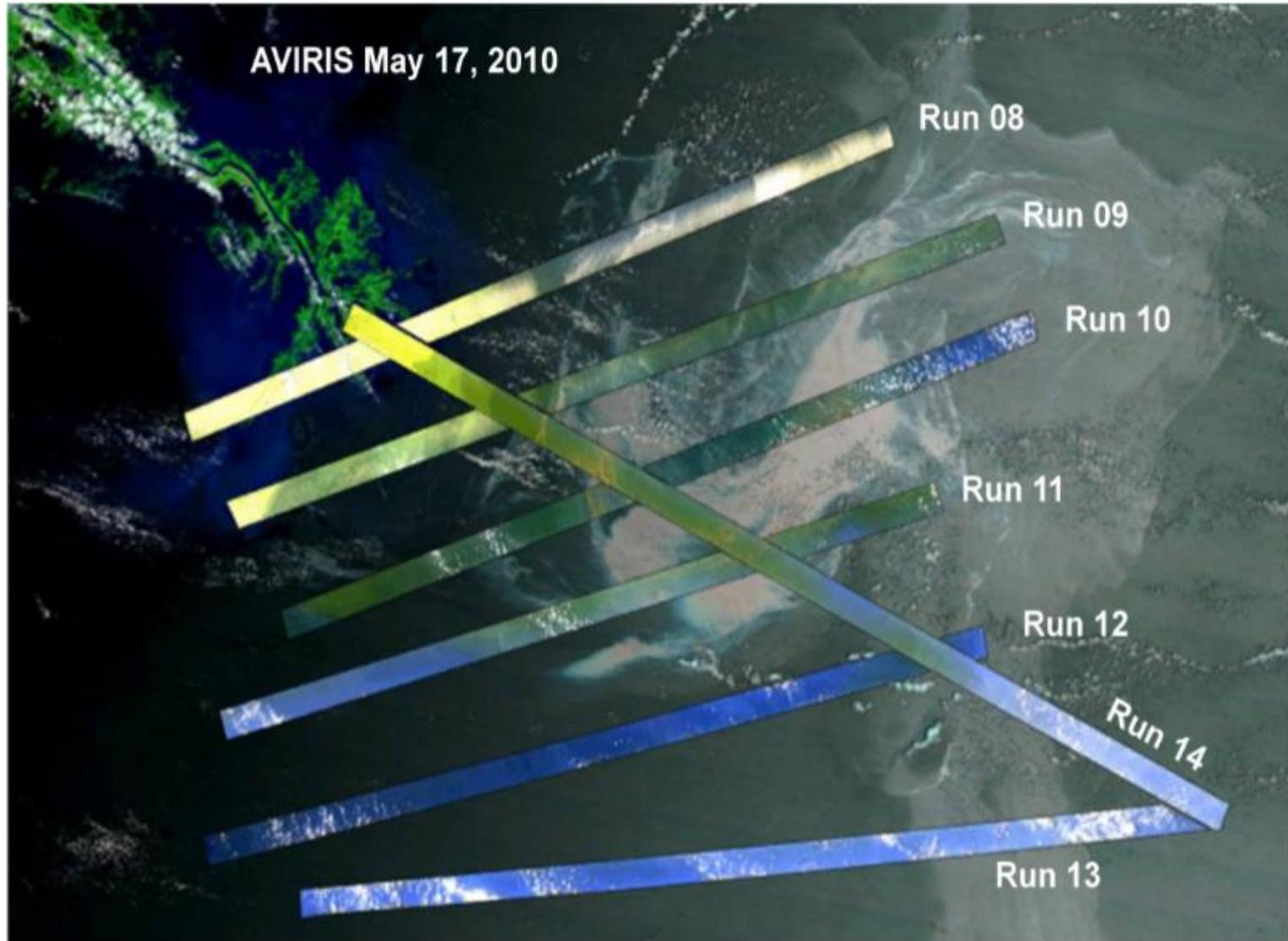
# Oil Imaging Spectroscopy



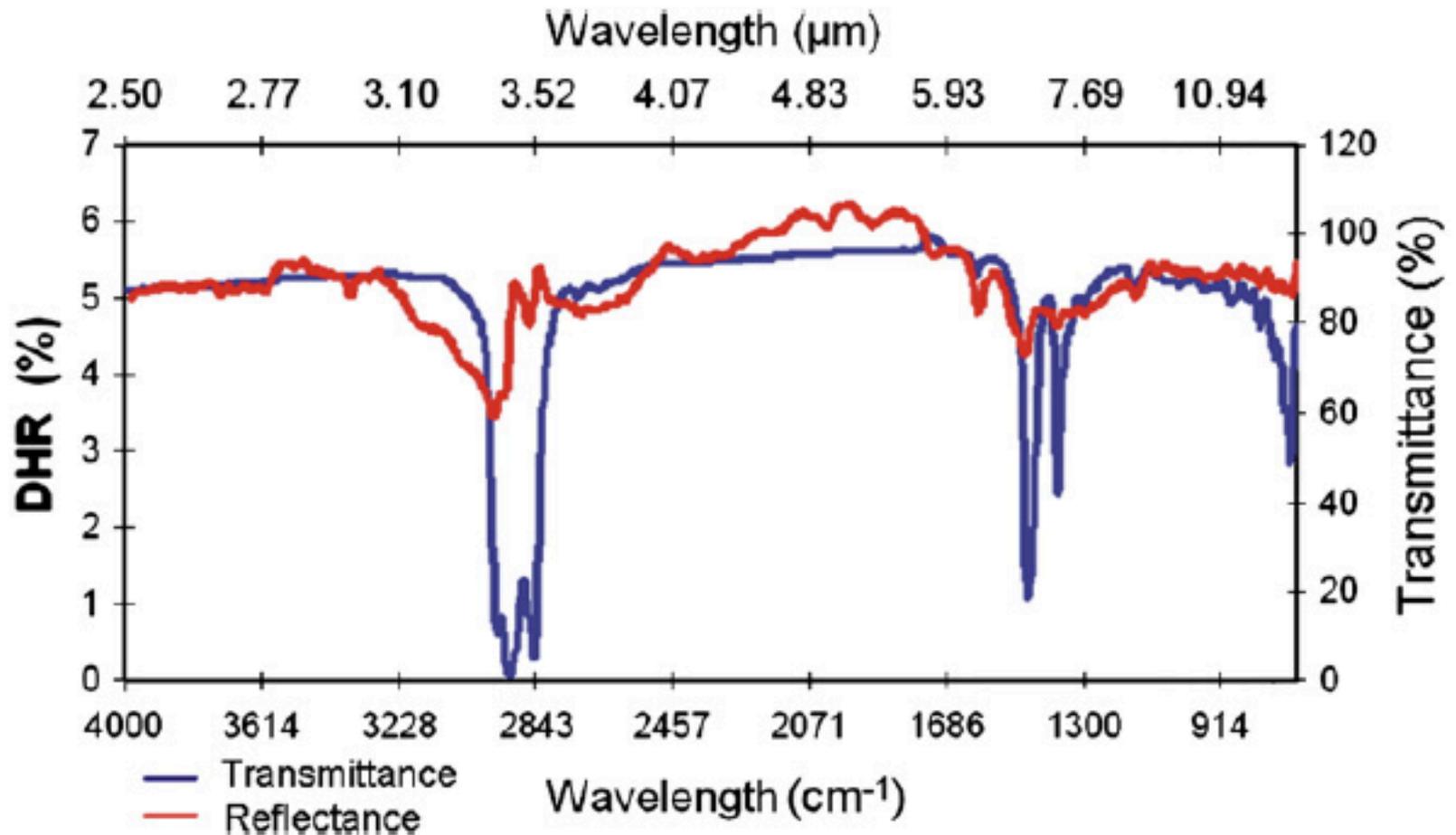
# USGS first Mapping of 1200, 1730, and 2300 nm Carbon-Hydrogen Bond Absorption with AVIRIS



# AVIRIS oil slick coverage on the ER2

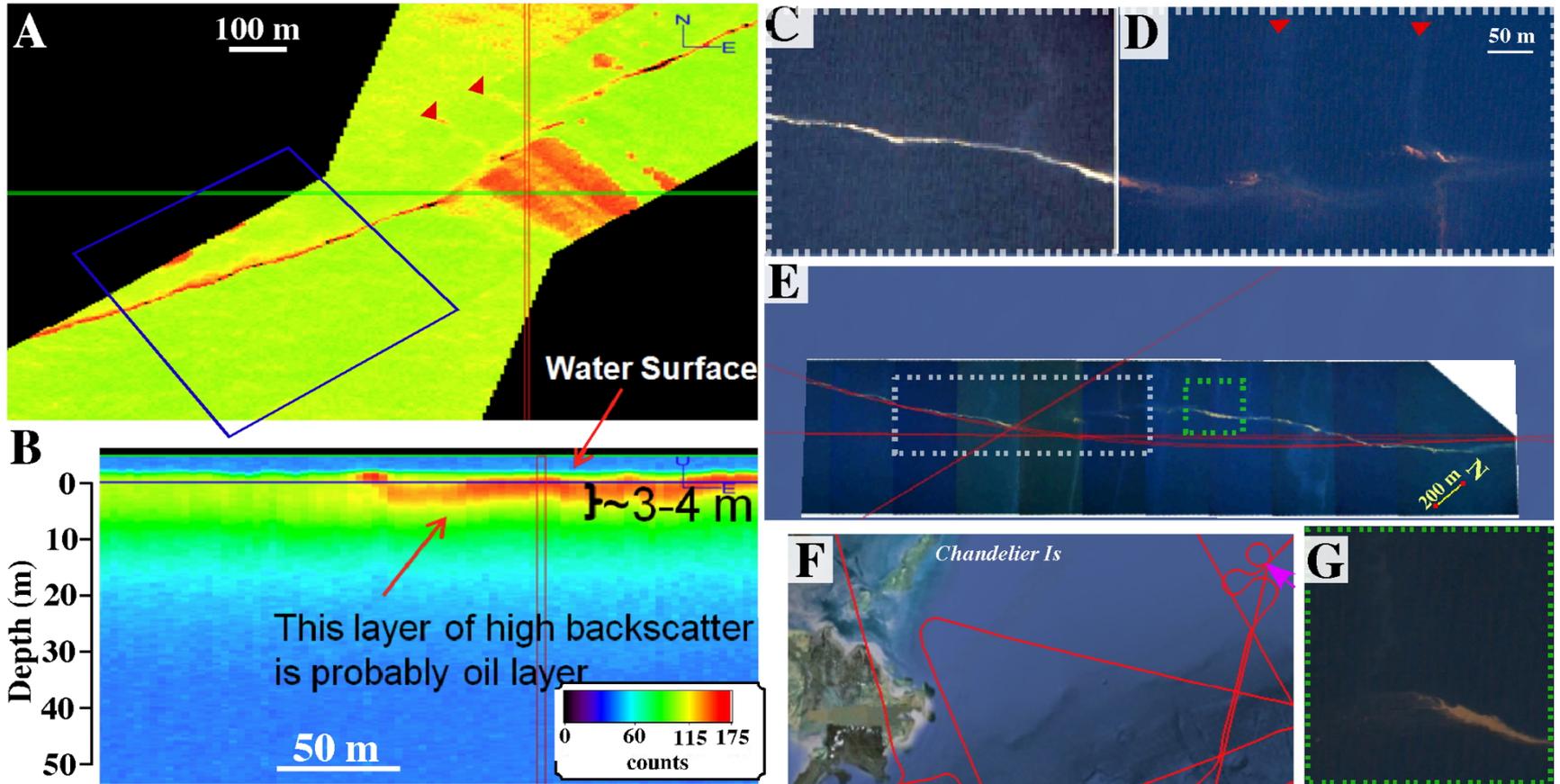


# Back to Thermal – Unused Spectral Potential

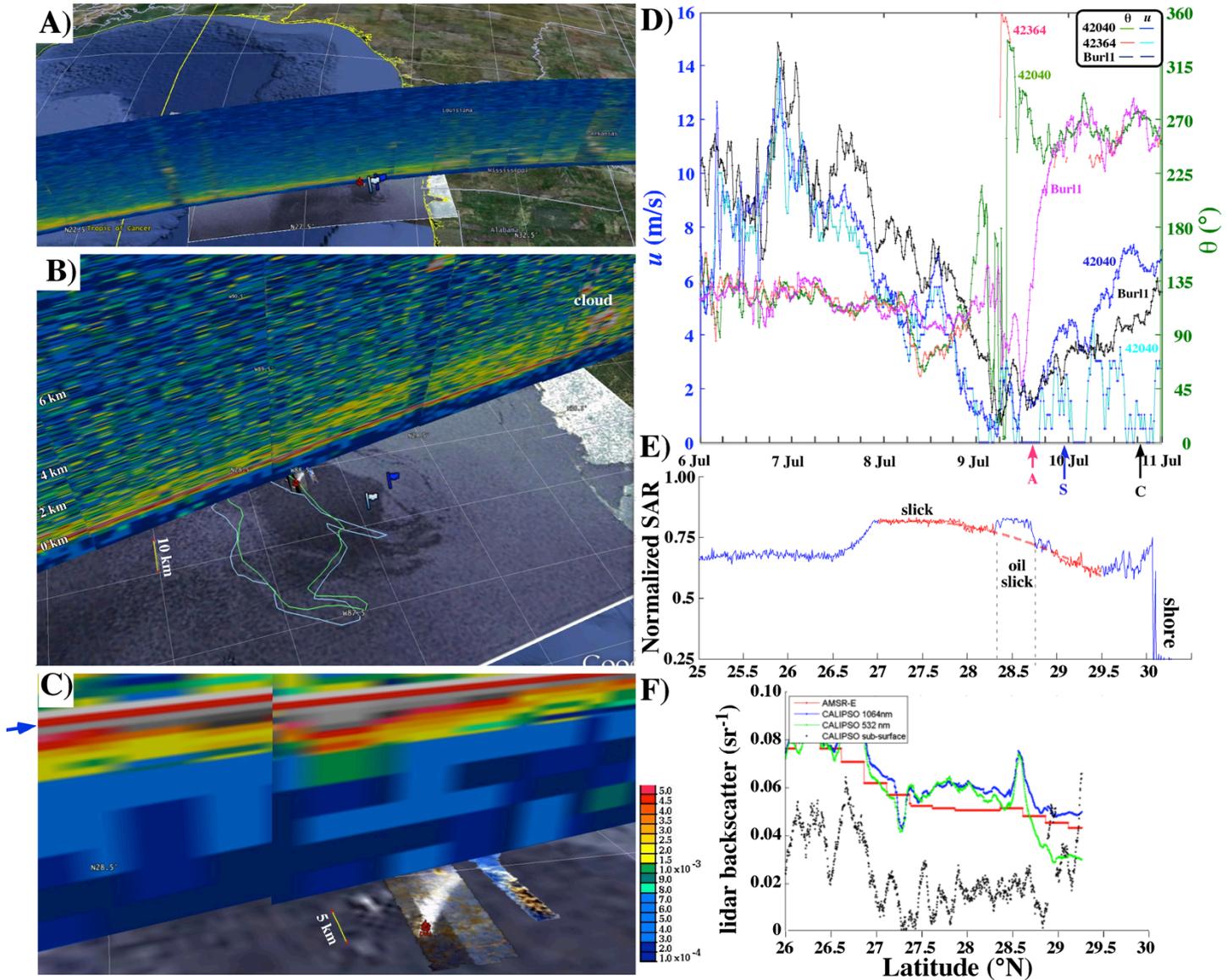


**Fig. 10.** Comparison of transmittance and reflectance spectra of crude oil sample (<sup>o</sup>API 47) indicating portions dominated by surface scattering (3.4/3.5 μm) and volume scattering (6.8/7.2 μm).

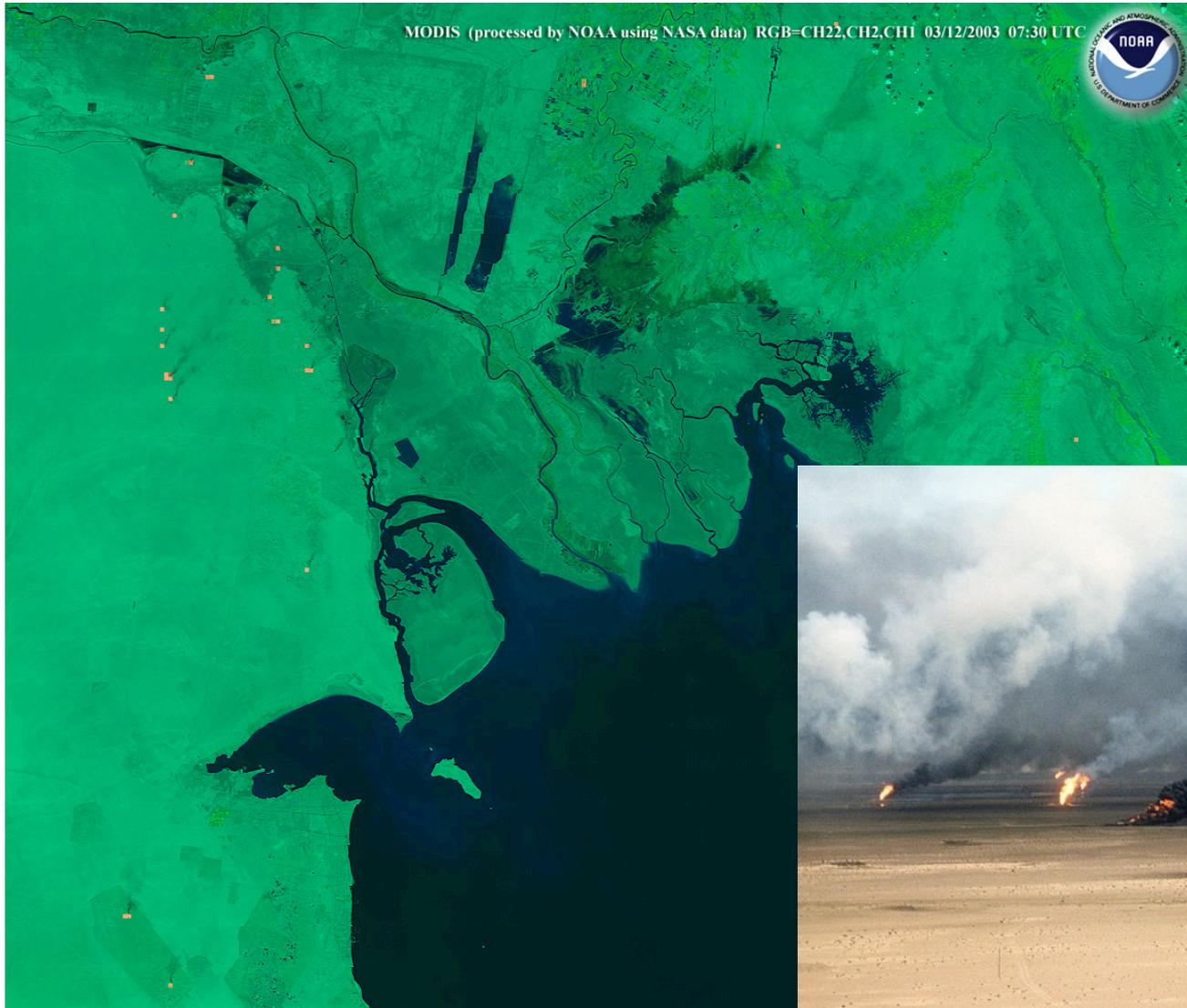
# Random Oil Remote Sensing (Airborne)



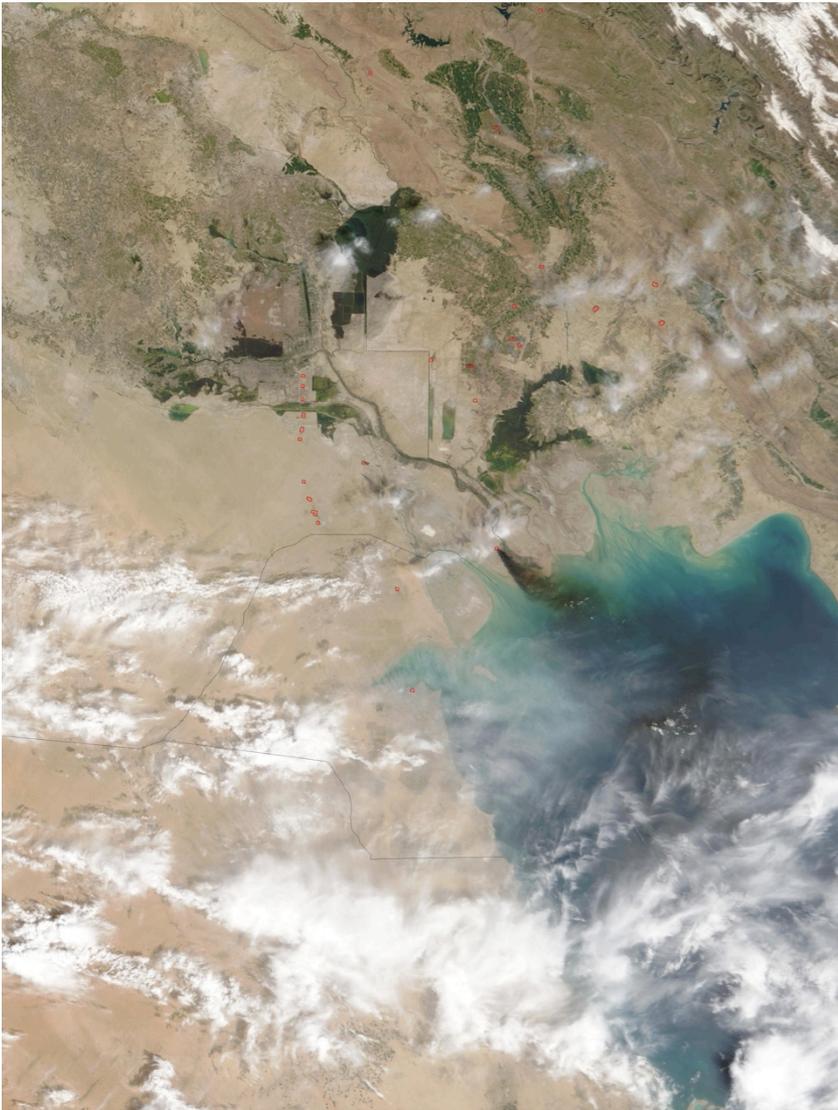
# Random Oil Remote Sensing – Lidar (Space)



# Random Oil Remote Sensing – Fire! (Space Thermal)



# Random Oil Remote Sensing – Smoke! (Space)

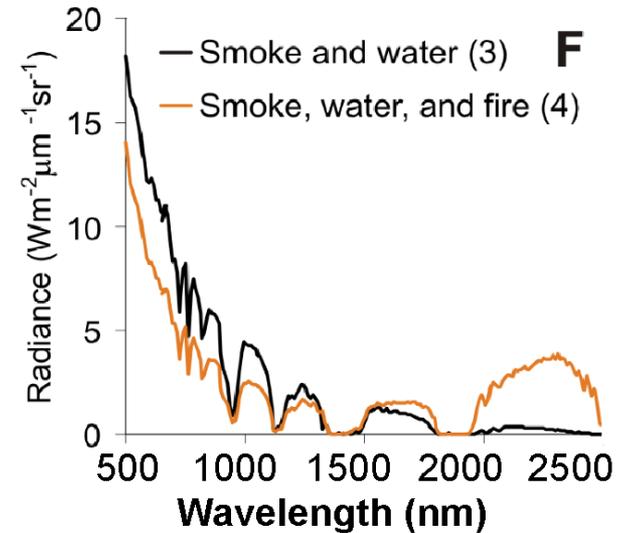
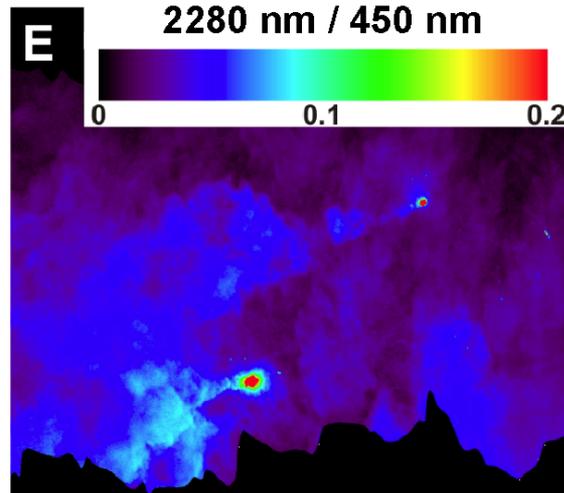
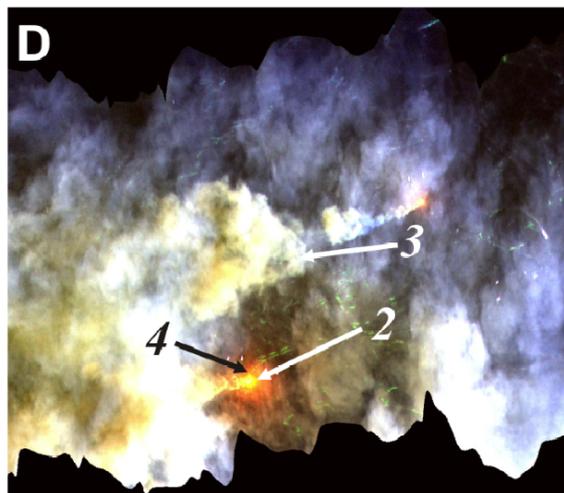
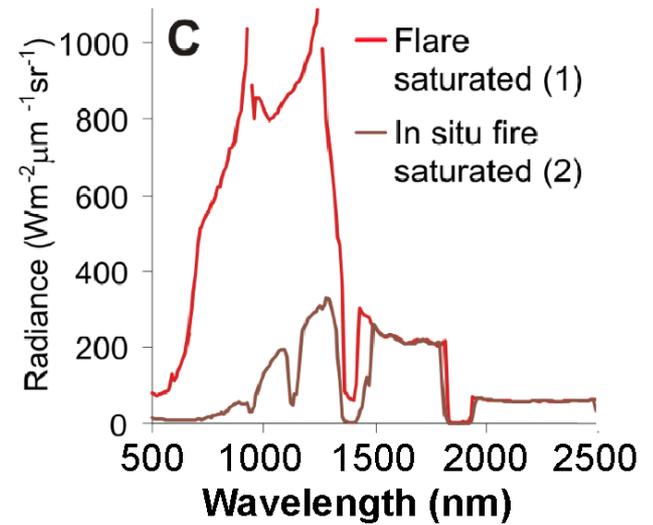
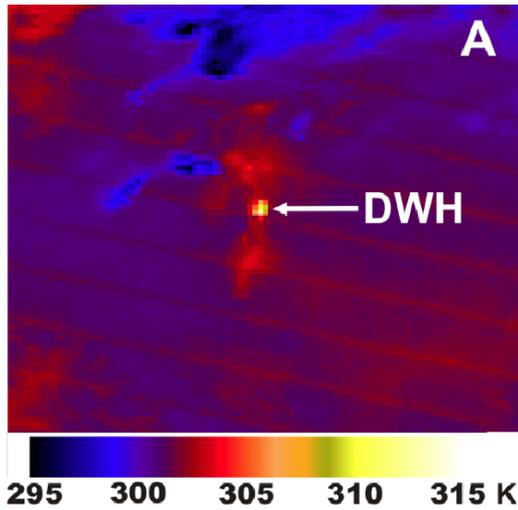


NASA/MODIS

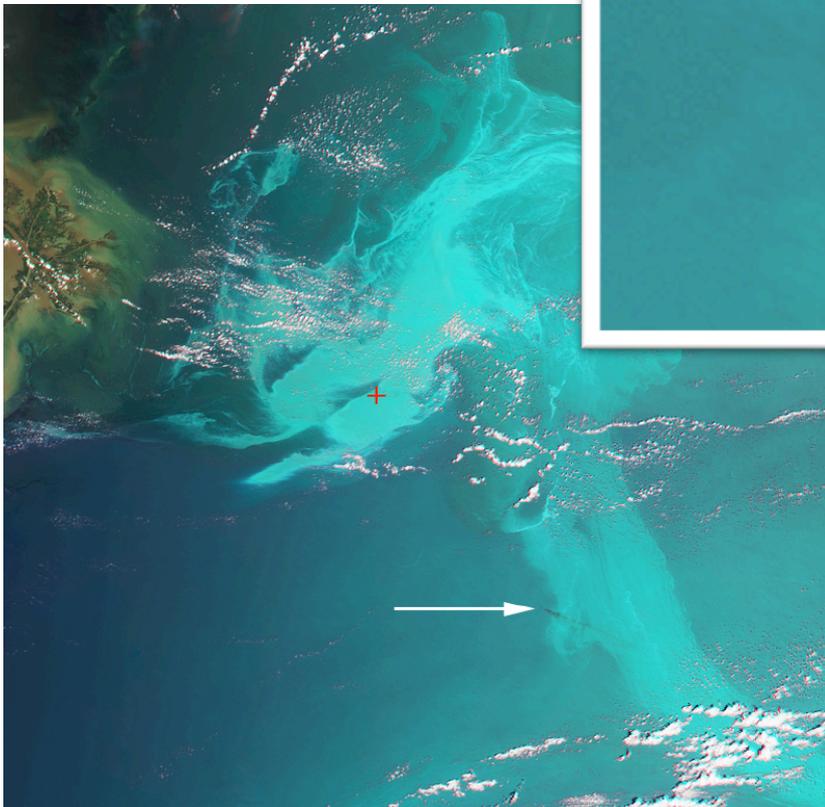


<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52587508@N00/211540617/>

# Airborne Fire Remote Sensing Could Monitor In Situ Burns



# Satellite Remote Sensing Monitors In Situ Burn (MISR)



# The Beauty of Santa Barbara

## Some key points

Remote sensing has many advantages

Pattern recognition has significant false positives

-requires ancillary data (other sensors, other info, model)

Spectroscopy is diagnostic – not yet in space



<http://hyspirci.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Many novel applications, at lab research stage

Thermal spectroscopy is feasible, not implemented

# The next spill will be different

Remote sensing can help



<https://stemn.com/projects/somp---students-oxygen-measurement-project>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CubeSat#/media/File:CubeSat\\_in\\_hand.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CubeSat#/media/File:CubeSat_in_hand.jpg)

# Discussion – Think Arctic

- Six months dark – no passive visible/NIR
- Lots of clouds – SAR works, but ice confusion
- Thermal works
- Airborne – what altitude – current approaches all require flying low
- Weather in the Arctic is miserable – takeoff can be a problem
- Basing