Pre-processing and multi-temporal analysis of SAR time series

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ESA–MOST China Dragon 4 Cooperation

2019 ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE IN LAND REMOTE SENSING

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Part 1

Multitemporal Analysis of SAR Backscatter Intensity

Objectives

- Familiarizing with SNAP toolbox
- Familiarizing with Sentinel-1 GRD prodcucts
- Calculation of backscatter intensity from Sentinel-1 detcted products
- Analysis of temporal backscatter signatures for various land cover types
- Change detection over AOI (Beijing Daxing International Airport)

Introduction

Input data: time series of Sentinel-1 GRDH images over China

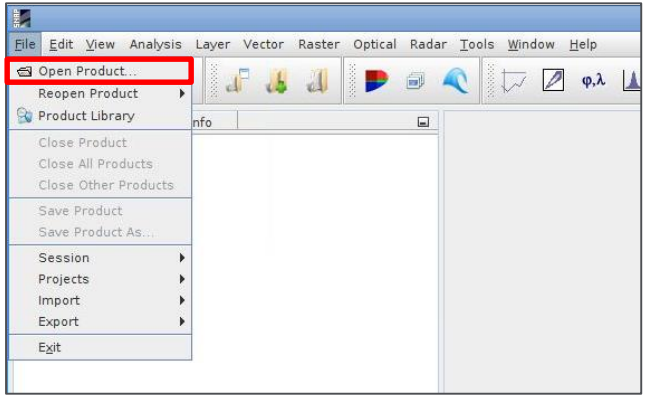
S1A_IW_GRDH_1SDV_20151003T222044_20151003T222111_007994_00B2F6_9374
S1A_IW_GRDH_1SDV_20160611T222046_20160611T222112_011669_011DDC_7FB0
S1B_IW_GRDH_1SDV_20171115T222014_20171115T222041_008298_00EAE8_2415
S1B_IW_GRDH_1SDV_20181110T222021_20181110T222048_013548_019131_A556
S1B_IW_GRDH_1SDV_20190930T222028_20190930T222054_018273_022698_C498

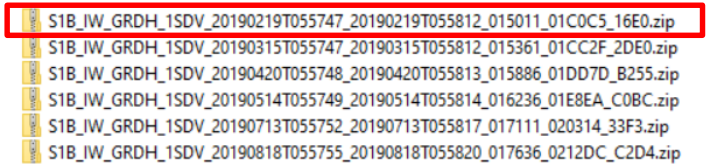
Output:

- temporal backscatter signatures for various land cover types
- change detection

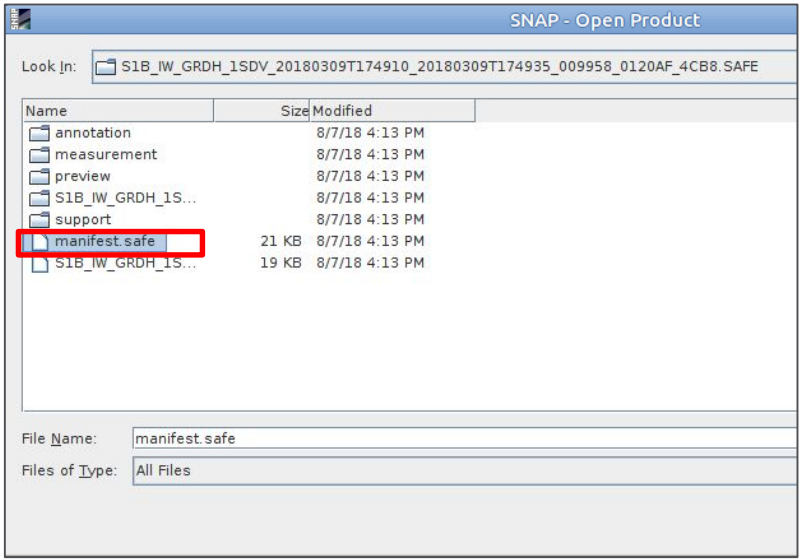
Data preparation

1. Opening the S1 data





For unzipped products



Data processing

- Creating a subset of S1 GRDH images
  Spatial subset depending on the AOI
- Updating orbits
- Radiometric calibration
  Conversion of image intensity to sigma0 providing the radar backscatter
- Terrain correction
  Compensate for geometric distortions caused by topographical variations of a scene and the tilt of satellite sensor
- Creating a multitemporal stack
  Collocation spatially overlapping products (based on geolocation)
- Speckle filtering
  Filtering the inherent salt and pepper like texturing called speckles
- Linear to dB conversion
  Compensate for very high dynamic range in visualisation
- Stack statistics and analysis of temporal backscatter signatures

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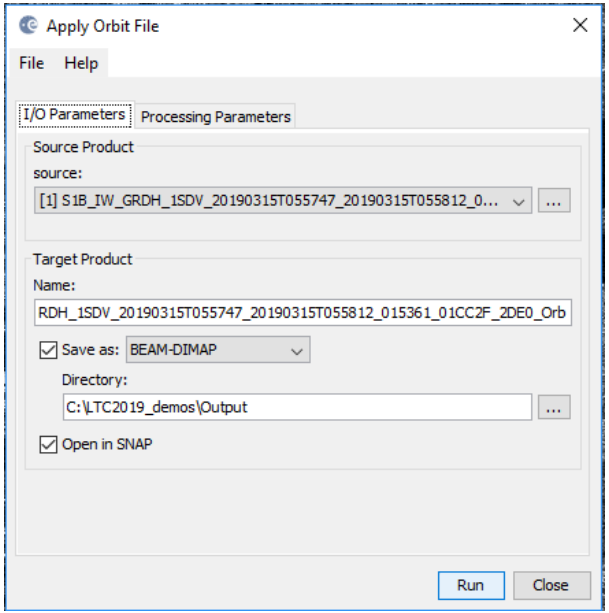
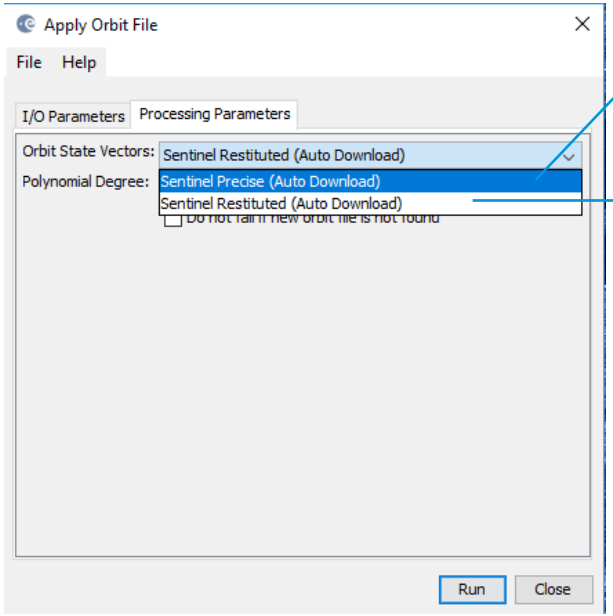
Updating orbits

Radar / Apply orbit file

The orbit file provides accurate satellite position and velocity information. Based on this information, the orbit state vectors in the abstract metadata of the product are updated.





POEORB - few weeks after acq.

RESORB – within few hours

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Radiometric Calibration

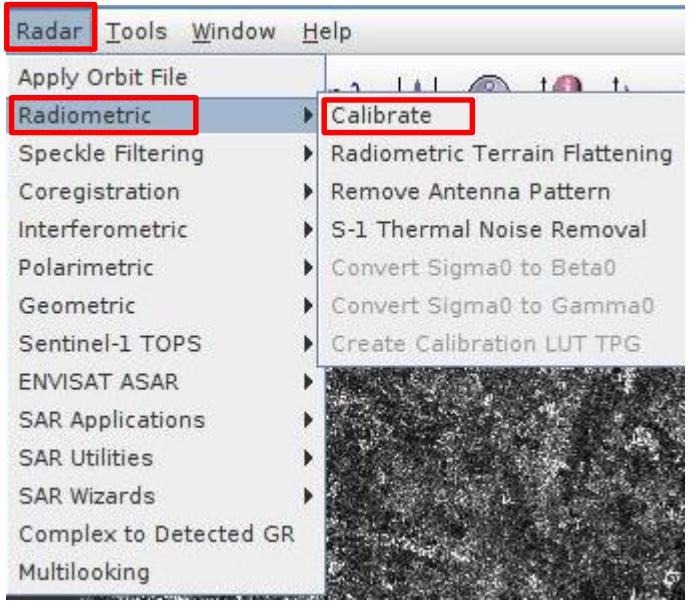
From image pixel values or digital numbers (DNs) we can derive:

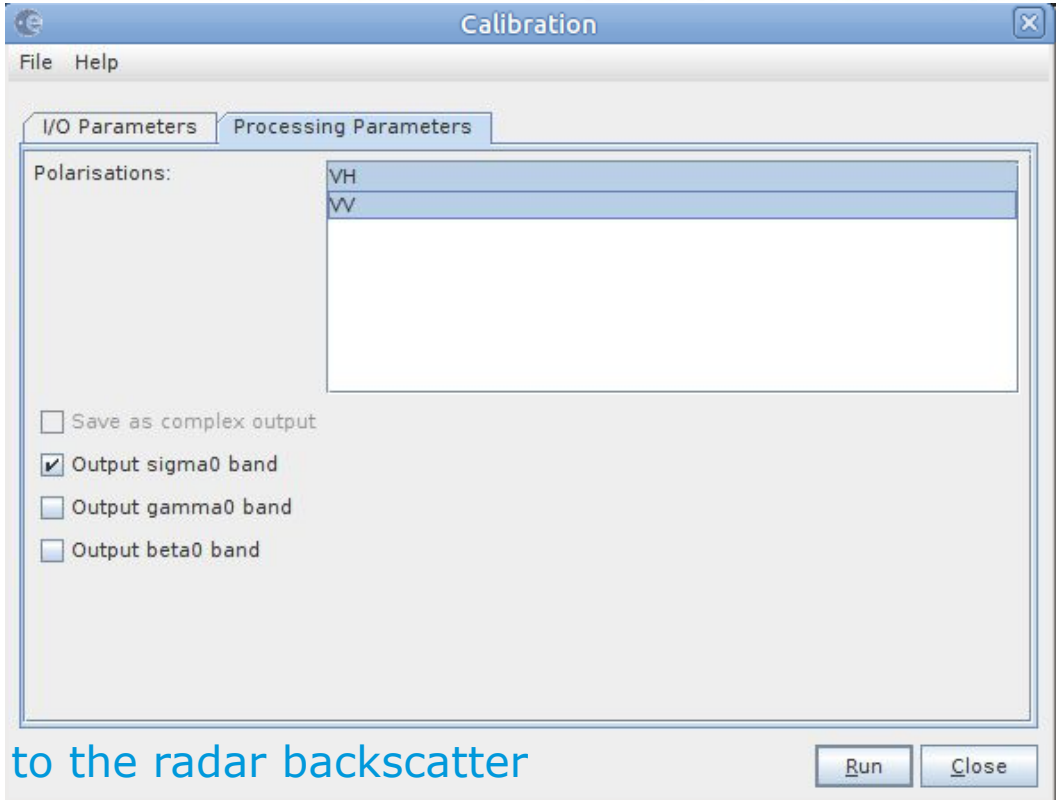
Beta Naught – radar brightness coefficient, reflectivity per unit area in slant range which is dimensionless

Sigma Naught – power returned to the antenna from the ground (distributed scatterer) in dB. A number comparing the strangth of the signal to that expected from and area of one square meter. It is defined with respect to the nominal horisontal plane and is varying with incidence angle, wavelength, polarisation and scattering surface itself

Radiometric Calibration

Radar/Radiometric/Calibrate





Pixel values can be directly related to the radar backscatter

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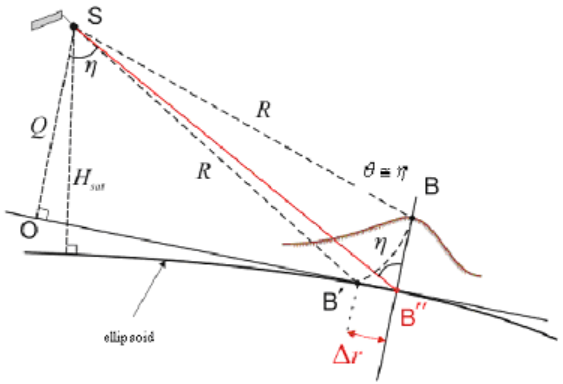
Terrain correction & Geocoding

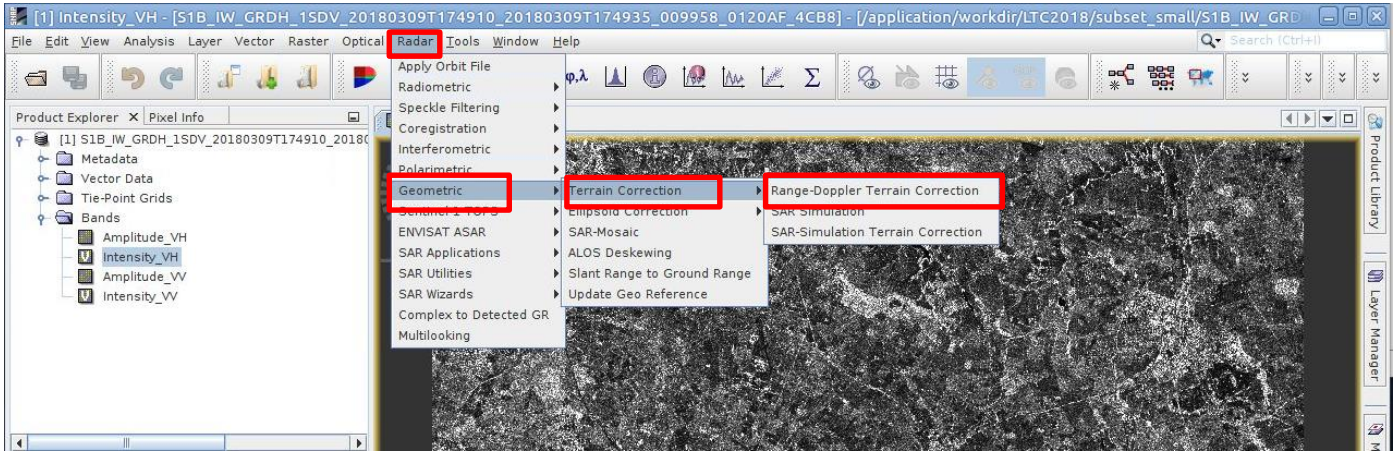


Point **B** with elevation **h** above the ellipsoid is imaged at position **B'** in SAR image, though its real position is **B"**. The offset Δr between **B'** and **B"** exhibits the effect of topographic distortions

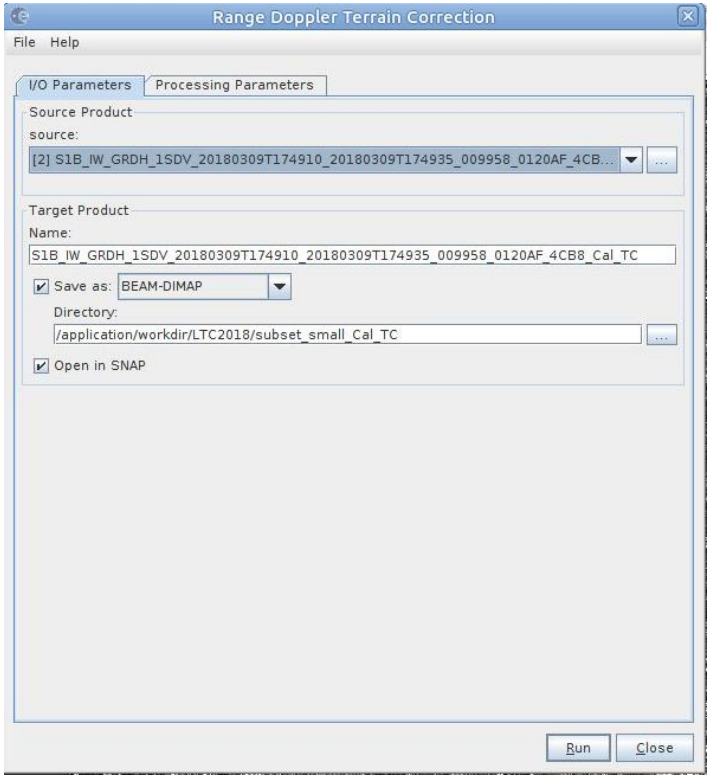
Terrain Correction allows geometric overlays of data from different sensors and/or geometries.

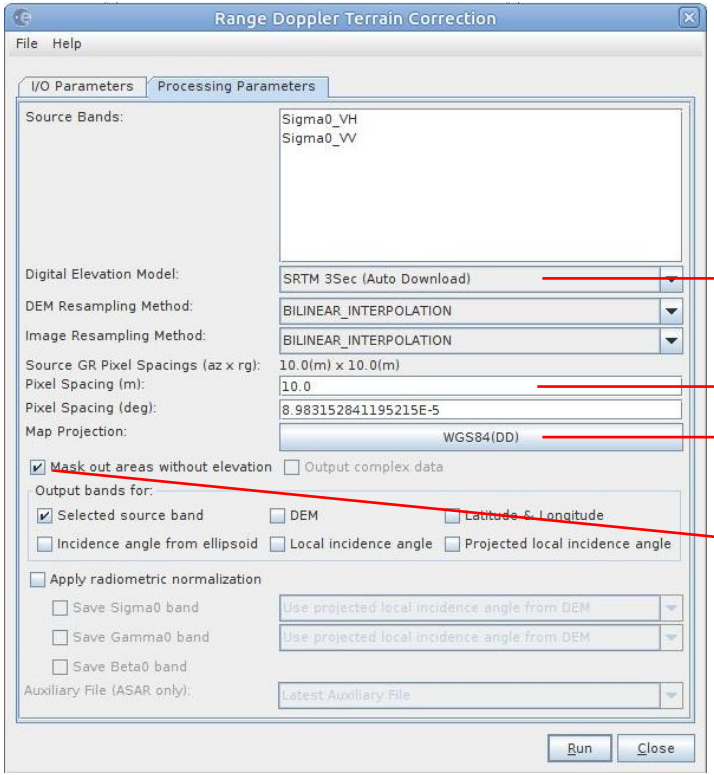
Terrain correction & Geocoding

Radar / Geometric / Terrain Correction / Range Doppler Terrain Correction



Terrain correction & Geocoding





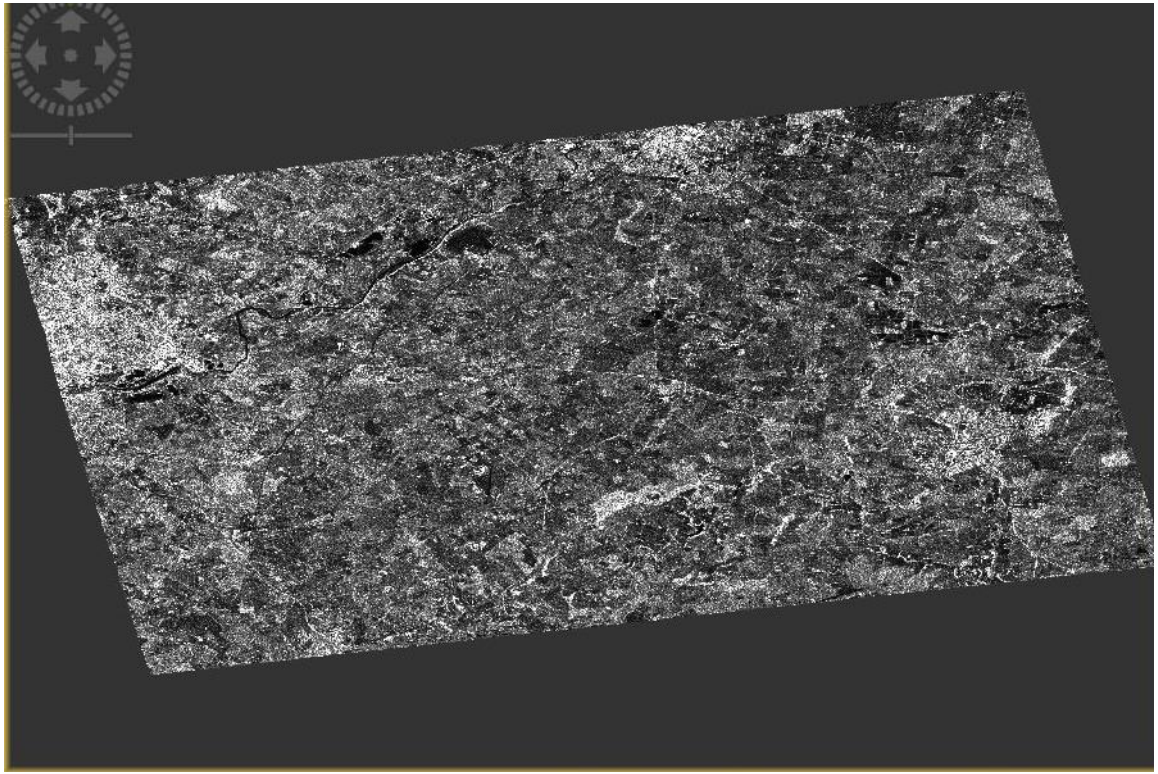
DEM selection

Pixel spacing

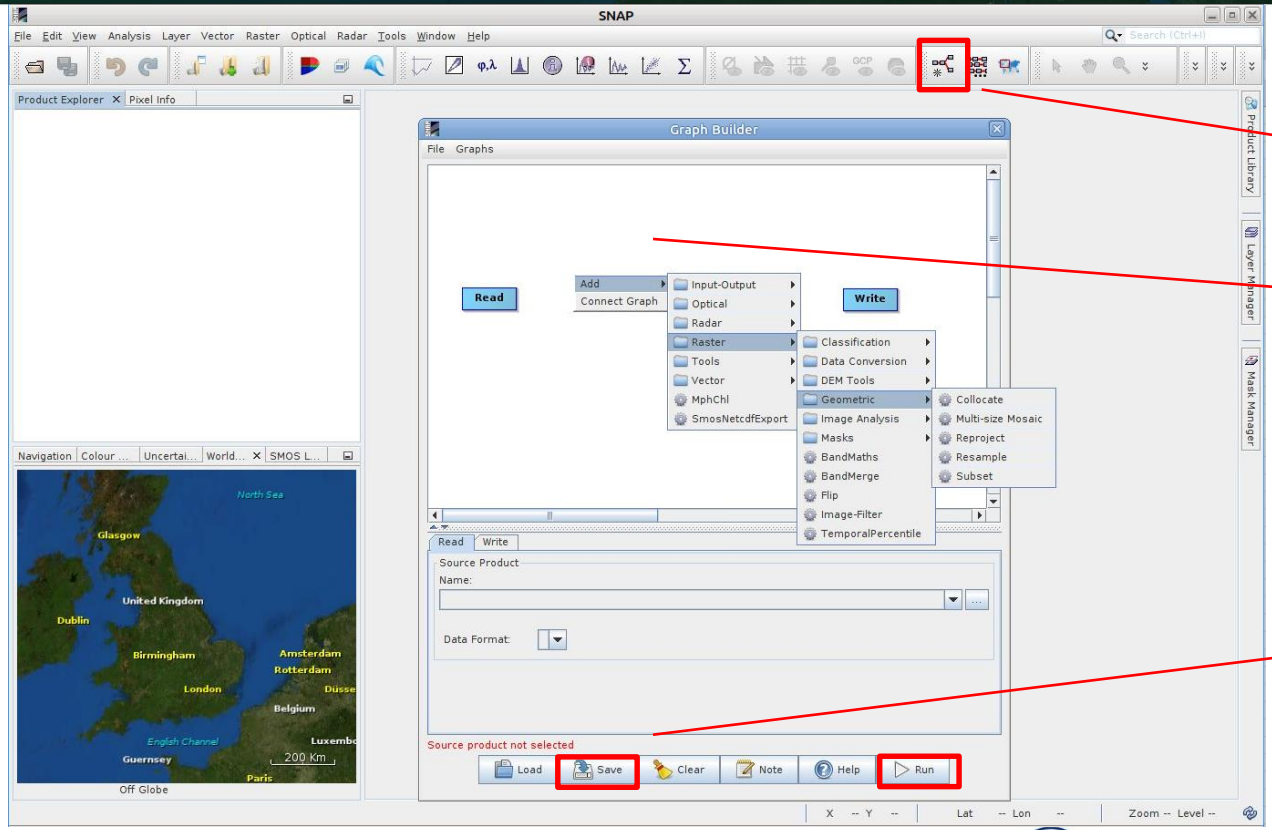
Map projection

Masking areas without elevation

Data check



Automatic Processing with Graph

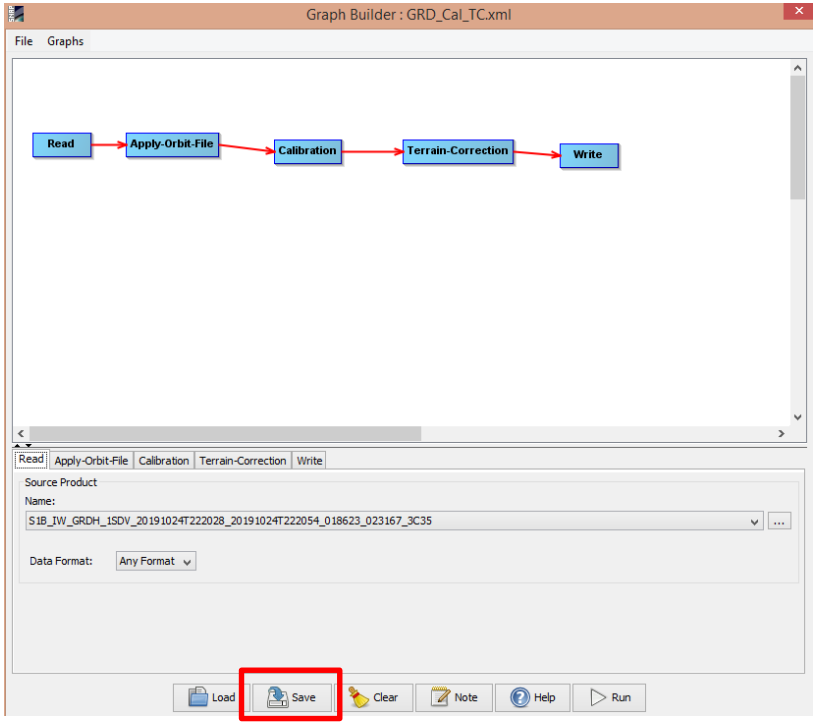


Graph Builder

Inserting blocks with particular processing operators (right mouse button)

Save the graph and/or Run

Automatic Processing with Graph – Calibration Terrain Correction

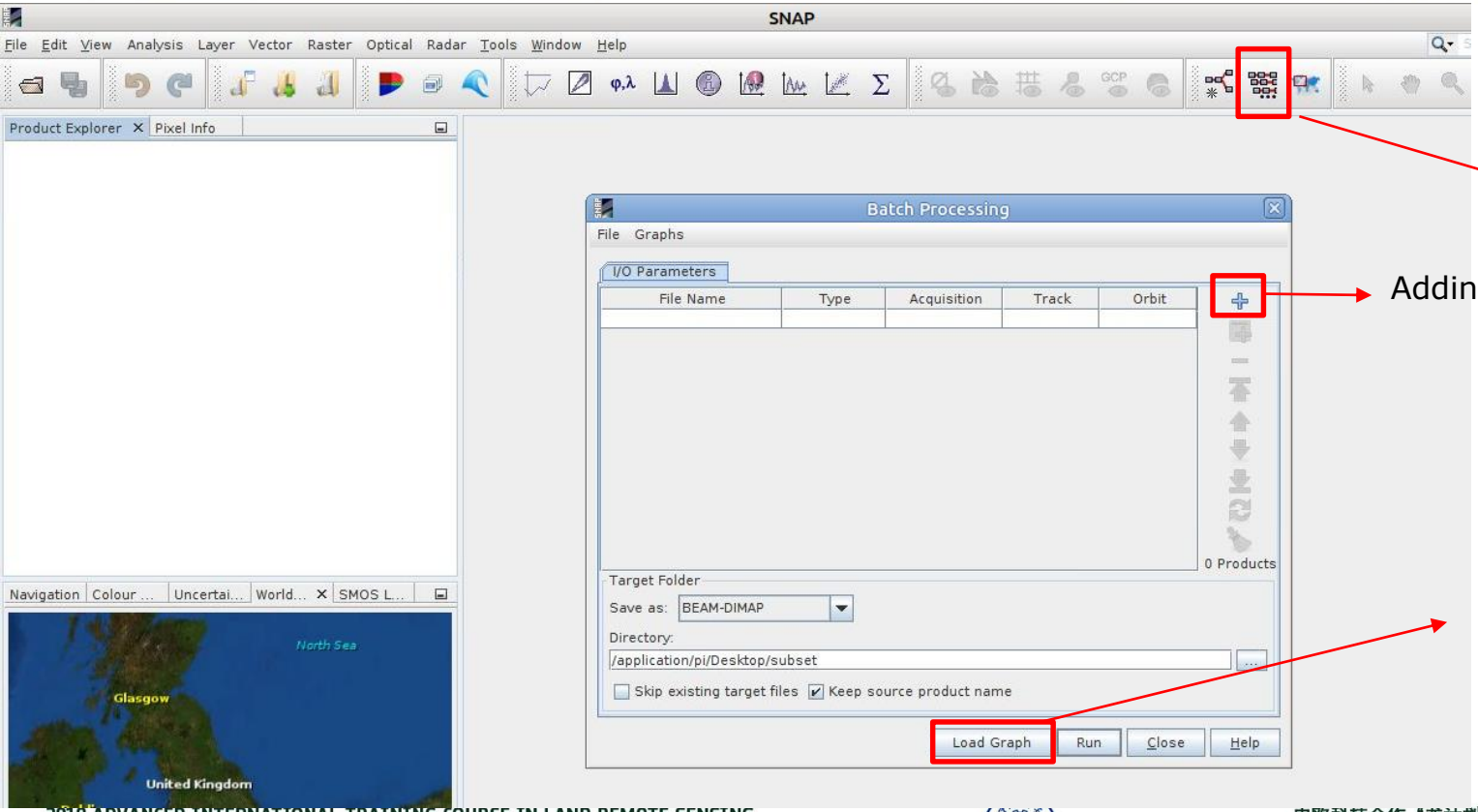


Apply Orbits: Sentinel Precise
Calibration: Output Sigma0
Terrain Correction: pixel spacing 10m

The same settings like in manual processing

save as GRD_Cal_TC.xml

Batch processing

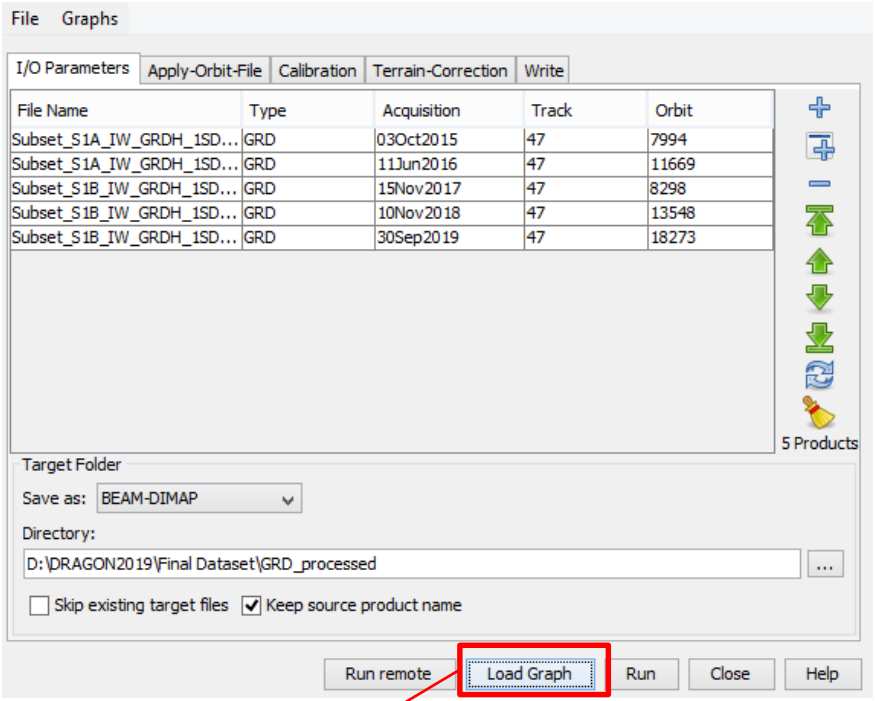


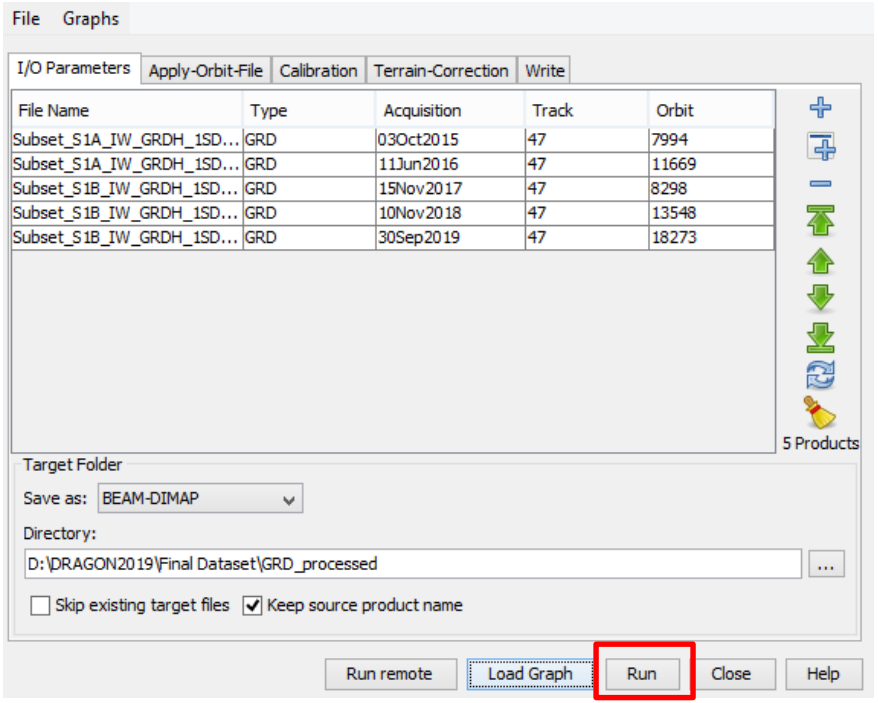
Batch processing tool

Adding data products

Loading the graph

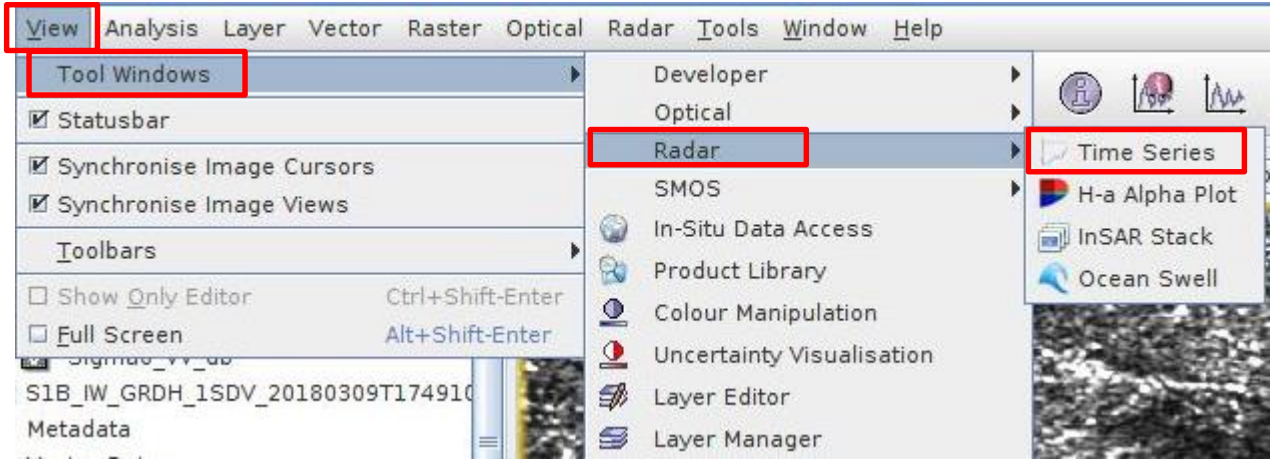
Batch processing

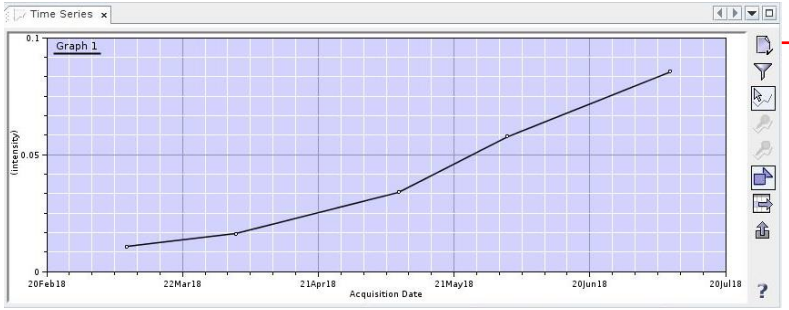




Open previously saved graph GRD_Cal_TC.xml

Time series analysis

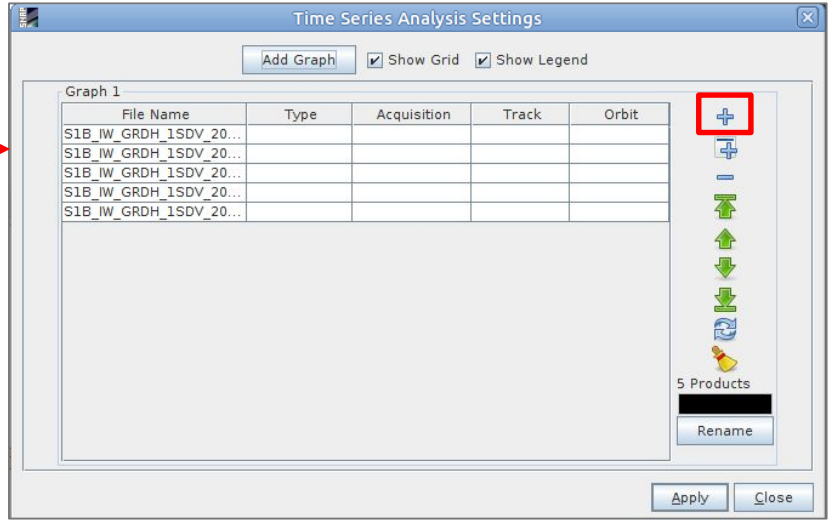




Add your data products

Time series analysis

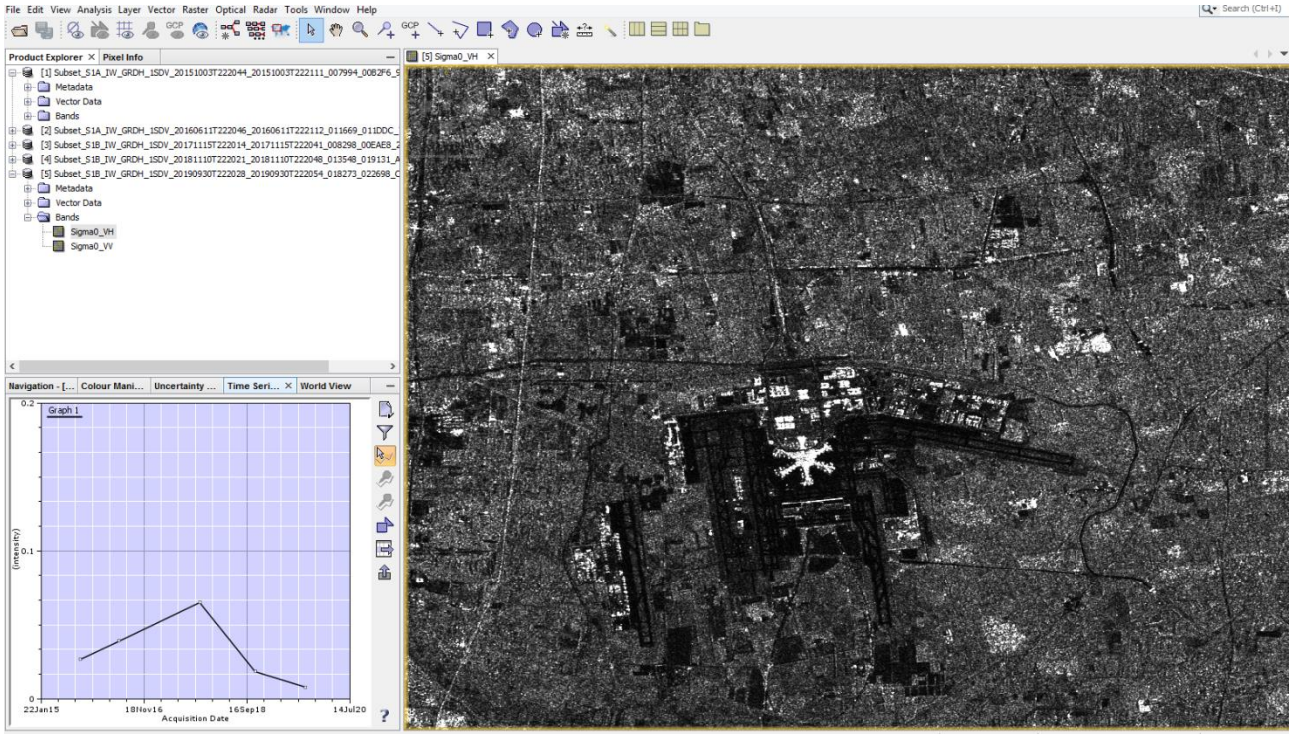
Choose your processed data products



Bands filter

Show plot at cursor position

Time series analysis



One of the plottet bands has to be opened

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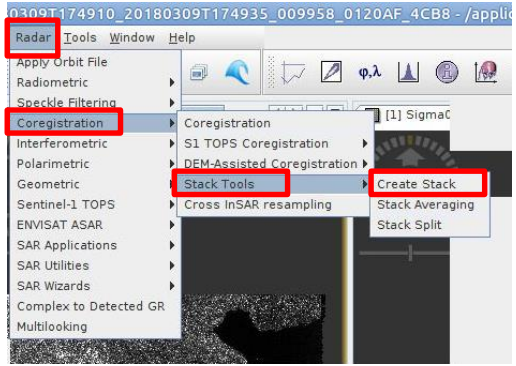
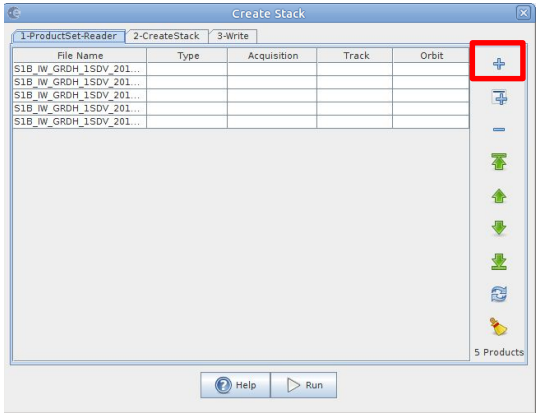
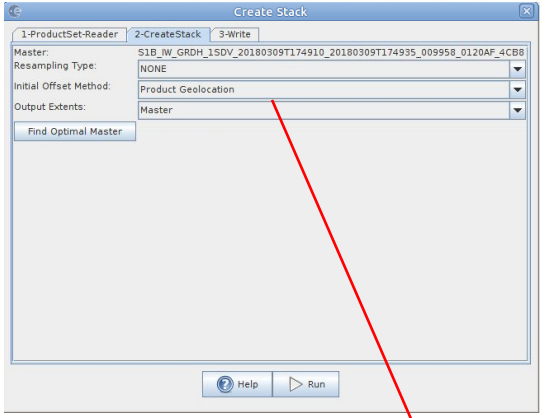
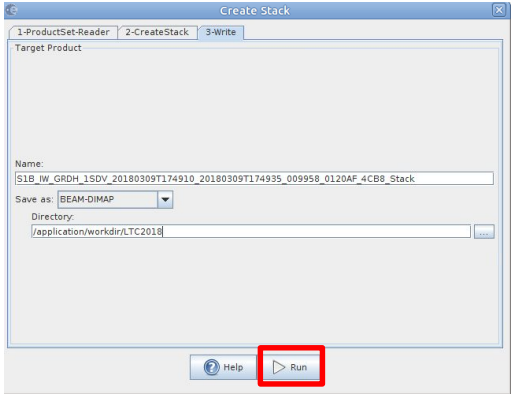
Creating multitemporal stack









Collocating spatially overlapping images

- *Product geolocation (if terrain corrected)*
- *Orbits (if not terrain corrected)*

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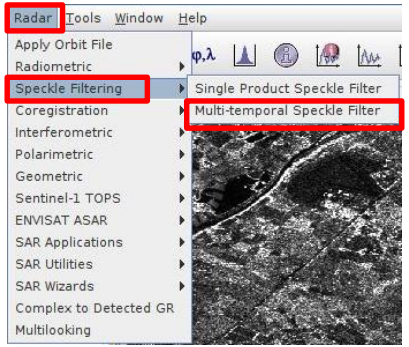
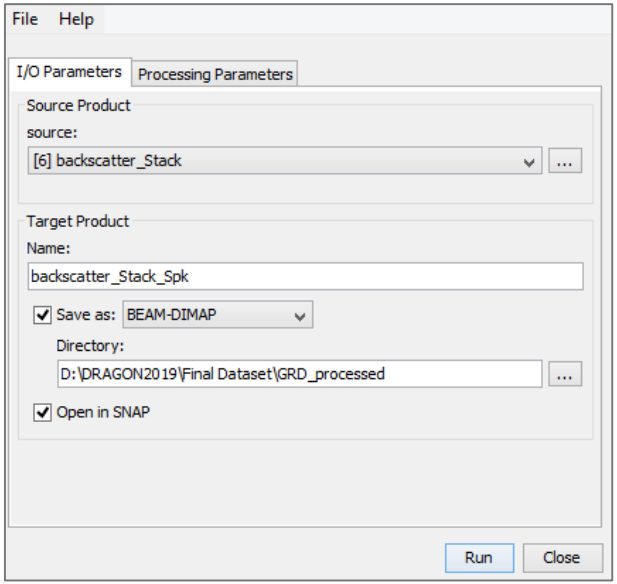
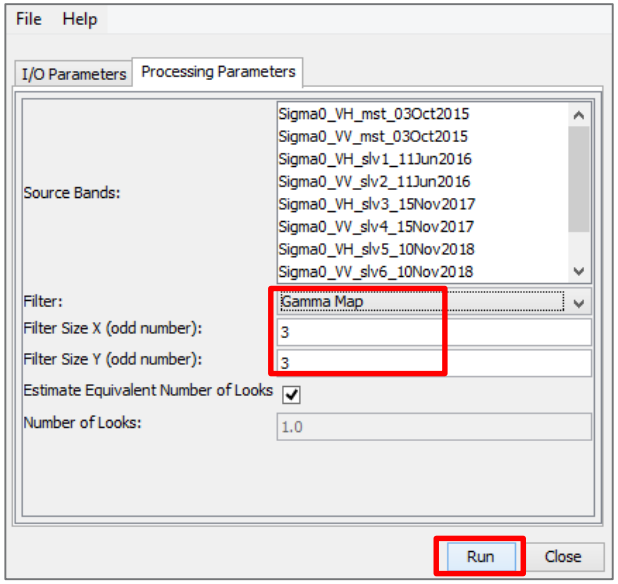
Multitemporal speckle filtering







Spatial filtering with weighted average of selected filter across the images of the time series

Multitemporal speckle filtering

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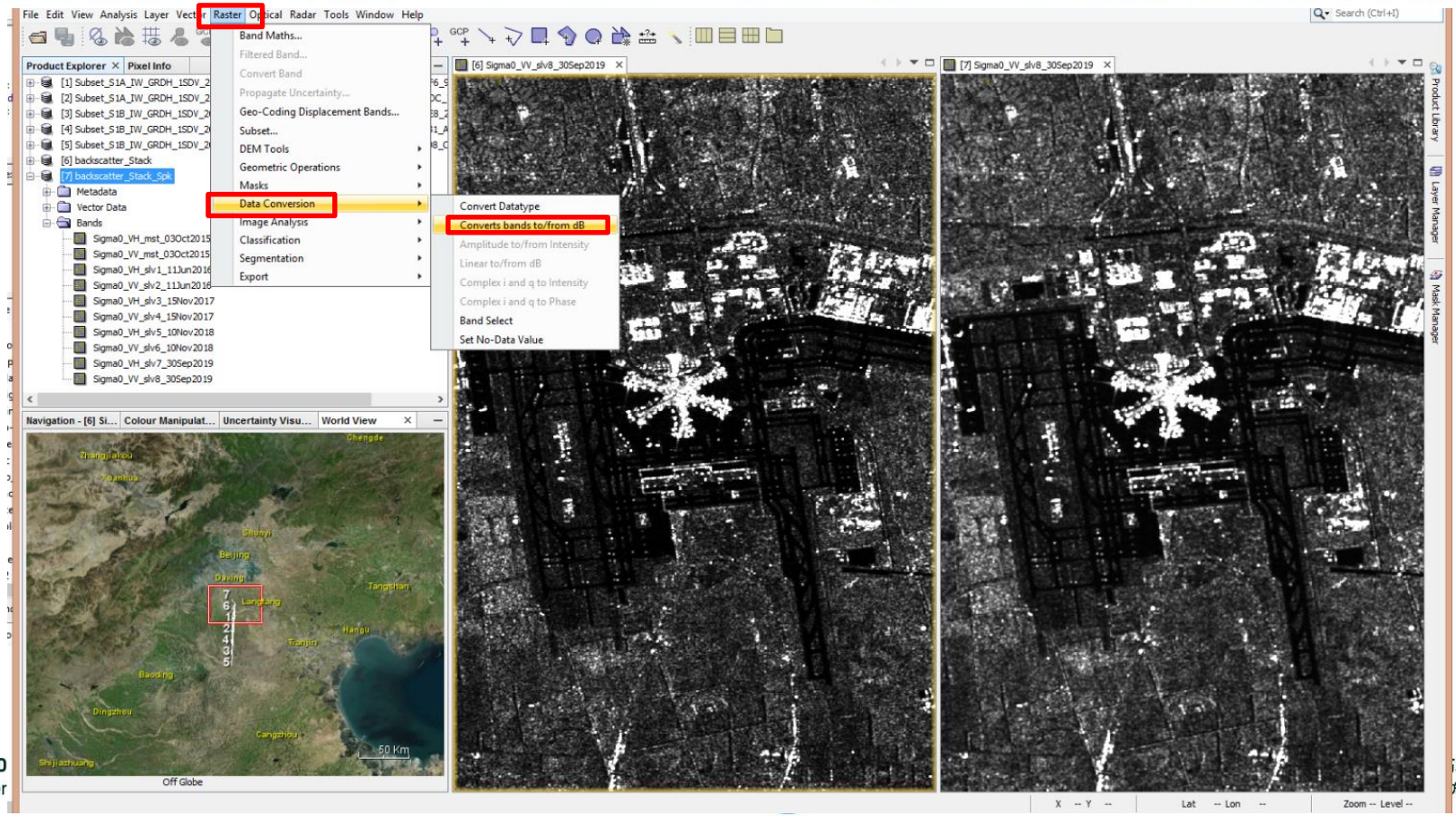
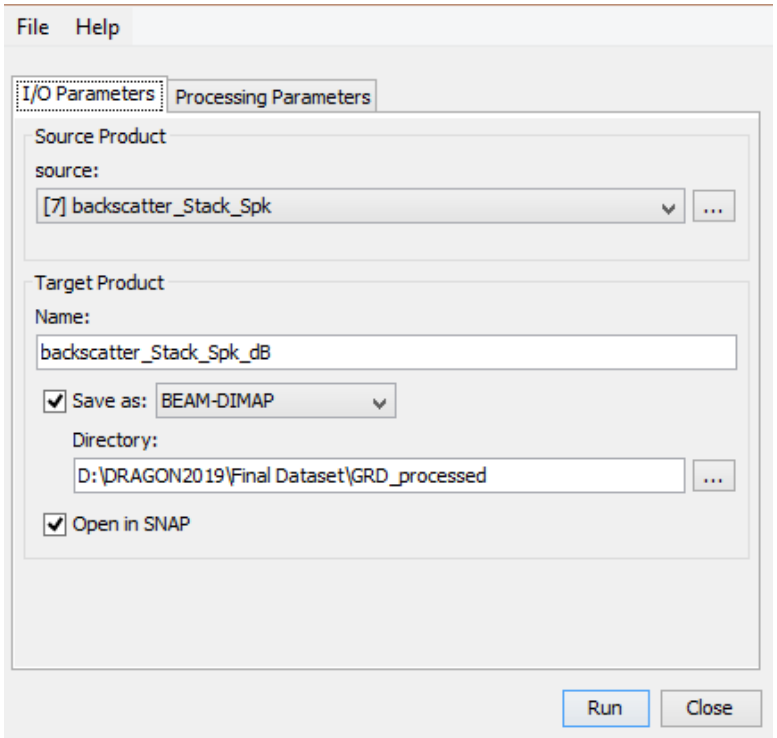
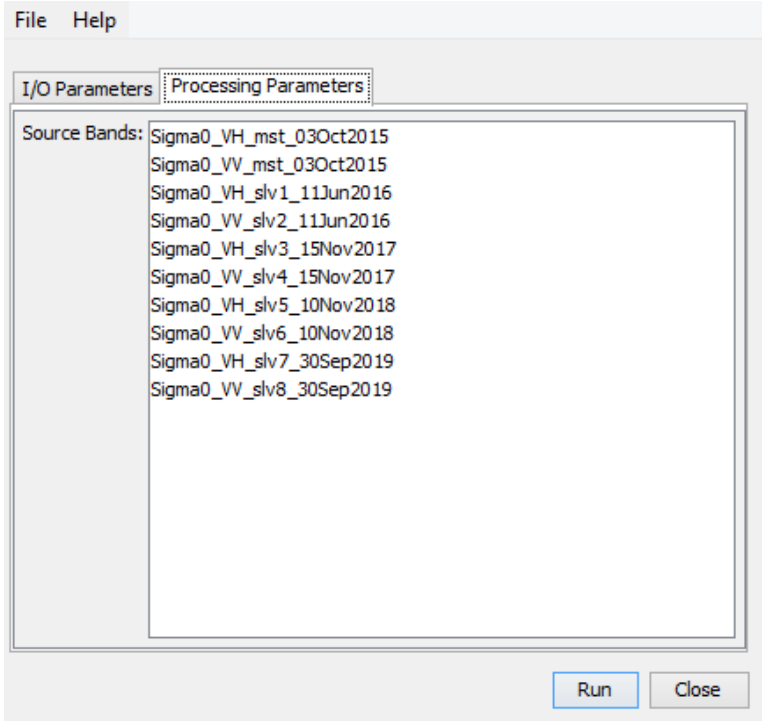
Conversion from linear to dB

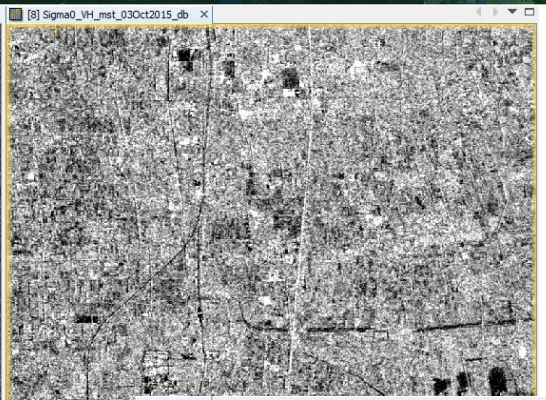


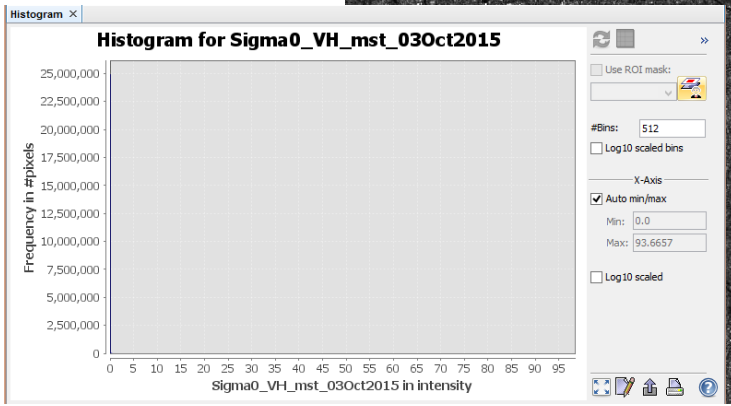
Conversion from linear to dB

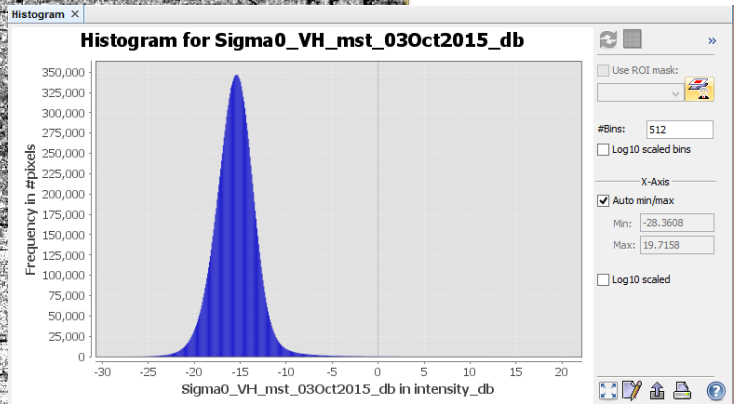




Linear vs dB comparison







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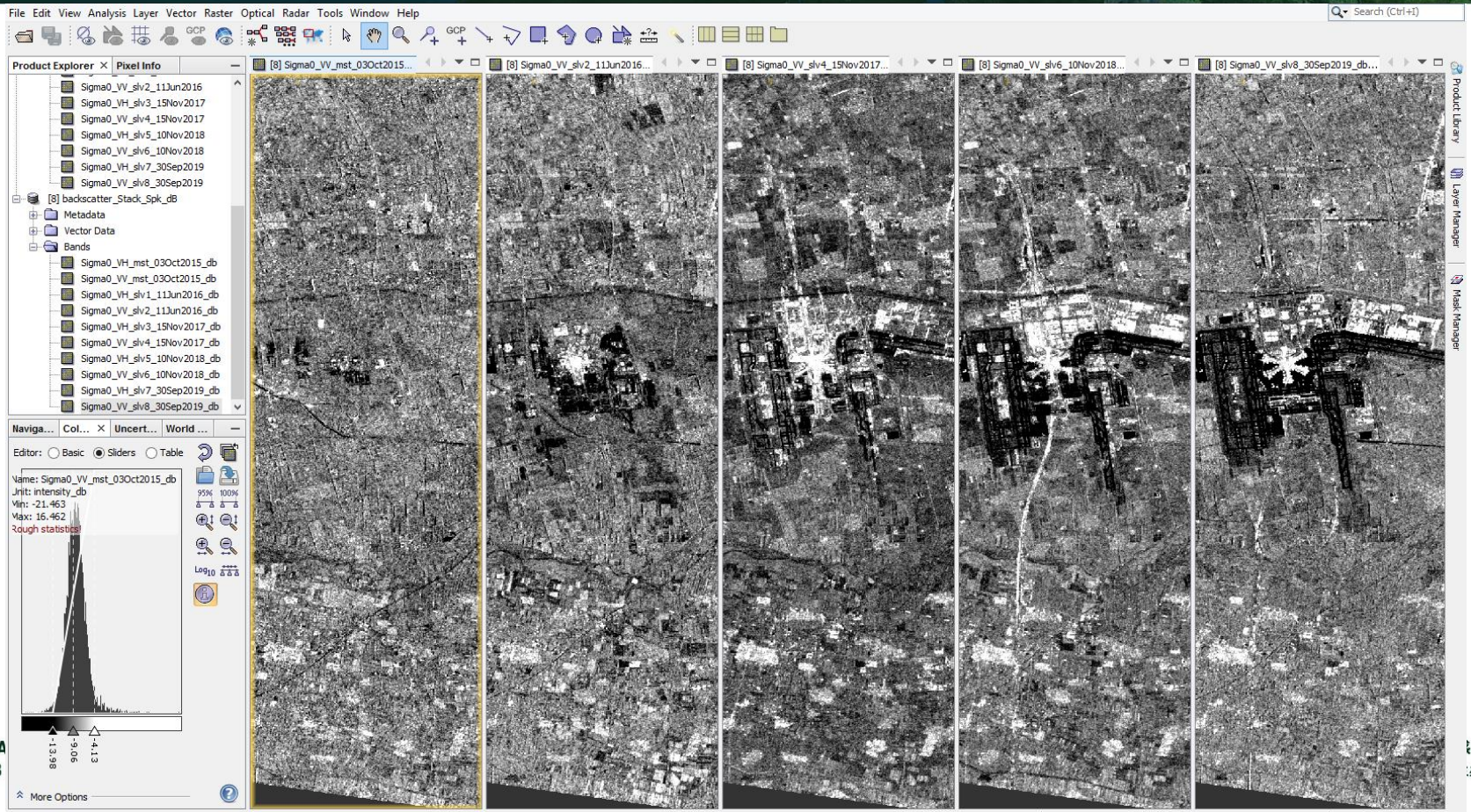
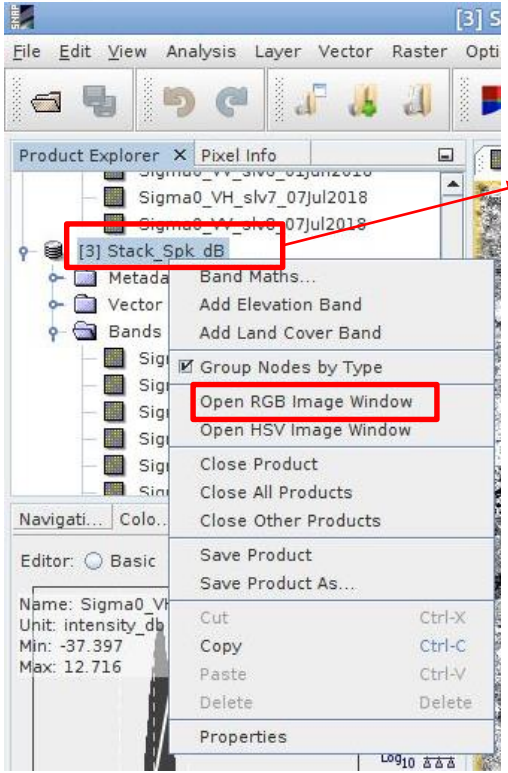
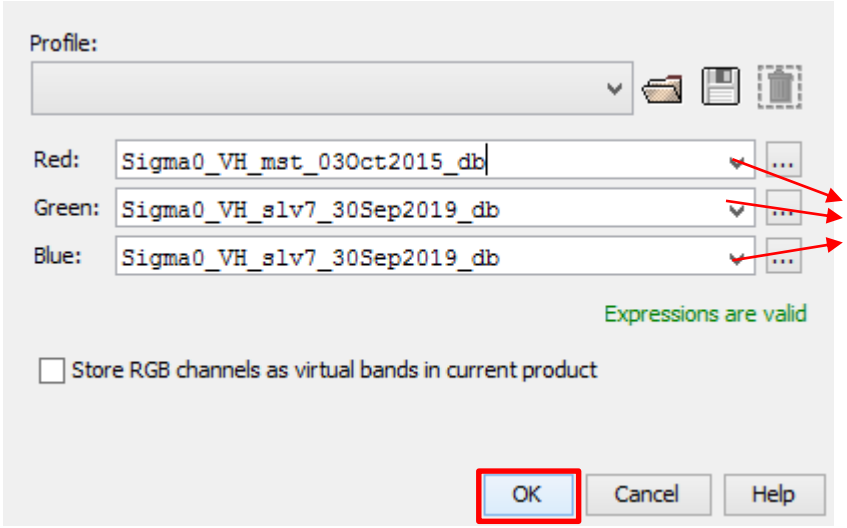
Visual inspection of the time series



RGB Composite

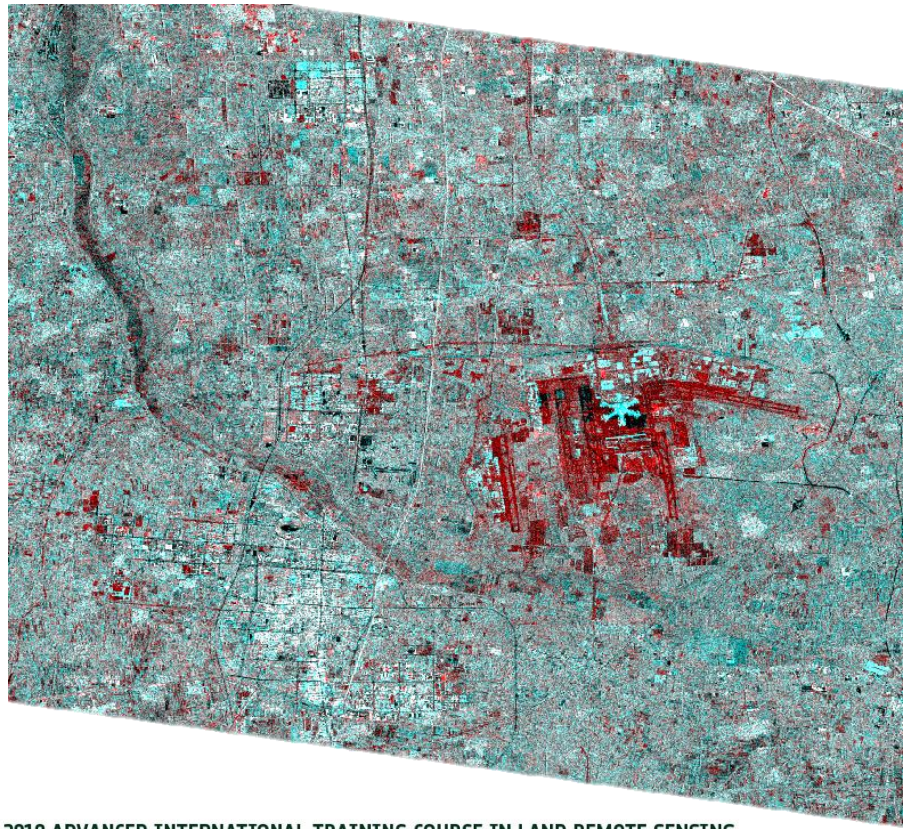


Right click on the product

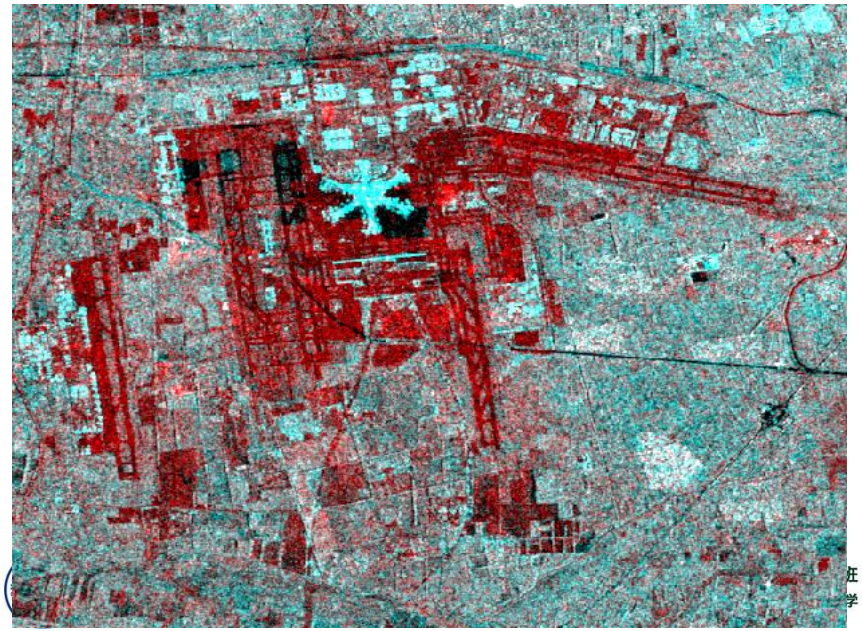


Band selection

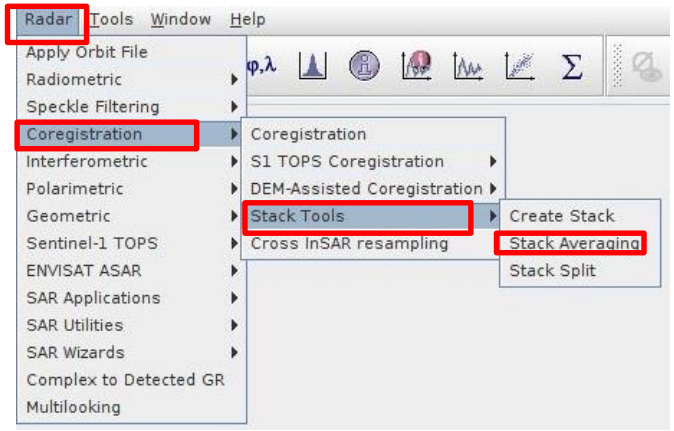
RGB Composite

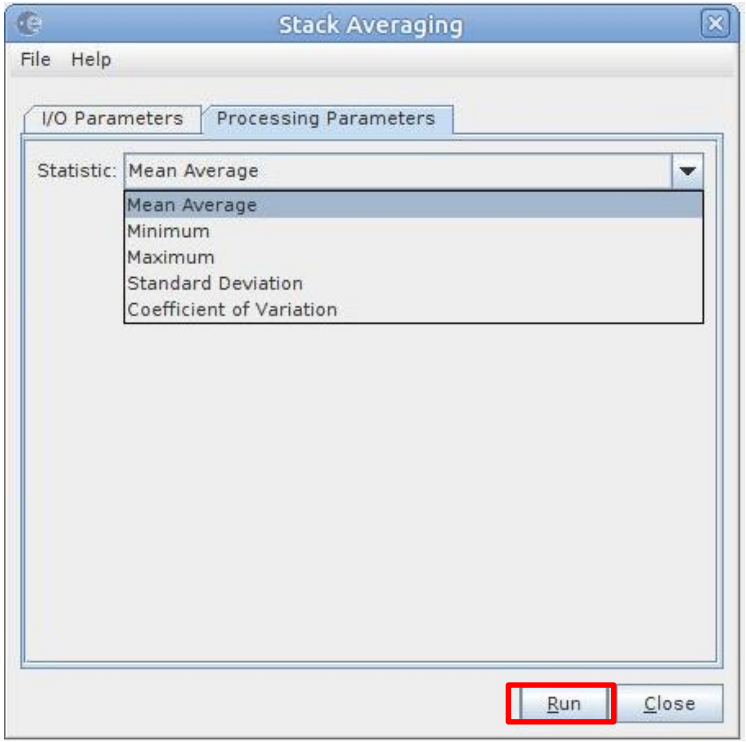


Red – high backscatter in 2015, low backscatter in 2019
Cyan – low backscatter in 2015, high in 2019



Stack averaging





Stack averaging – RGB Composite

RGB combination for land cover classification