



**ESA-MOST Dragon 4 Cooperation**  
**ADVANCED TRAINING COURSES**  
**ON LAND REMOTE SENSING**

中国科学技术部-欧空局 “龙计划” 四期  
2019陆地遥感高级培训班

# **Agriculture SAR**

**Yun Shao**

*Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)*

## **L2: Agriculture SAR (rice & wheat)**

# Contents

- **Introduction to agriculture SAR**
- **Rice monitoring with SAR**
  - *Rice mapping and varieties discrimination*
  - *Rice phenology retrieval*
  - *Rice scattering model and parameters estimation*
- **Wheat monitoring with SAR**
  - *Wheat mapping*
  - *Wheat monitoring and yield estimation*

# Agricultural

- ❑ One of the most powerful tools to **end extreme poverty** and **feed 9 billion people** by 2050
- ❑ **78 percent** of the world's poor depend largely on farming to make a living
- ❑ The single **largest employer** in the world, providing livelihoods for **40 percent** of today's global population
- ❑ Accounts for **10 percent** of gross-domestic product (**GDP**) in China
- ❑ Closely related to **climate**
  - *A warming climate could cut crop yields by more than 25 percent*
  - *Be responsible for between 19 - 29 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions*

# Agriculture monitoring

## □ Crop mapping

- Crop identification/classification
- Varieties/Species discrimination

## □ Crop monitoring

- Phenology stages retrieval
- Parameters estimation, LAI, biomass, height, soil moisture, etc.
- Yield estimation

# Assets of SAR for agriculture monitoring

- ❑ **All weather capability** to secure data acquisition during growing season
- ❑ **No effects of atmospheric constituents**, convenient to multi-temporal analysis
- ❑ **Sensitivity to dielectric properties** and consequent to biomass, soil moisture
- ❑ **Polarimetry** wave, sensitivity to vegetation structure
- ❑ **Sub-canopy penetration**, interact with the whole plant
- ❑ Accurate measurements of distance, (**interferometry**)

# SAR information for agriculture monitoring

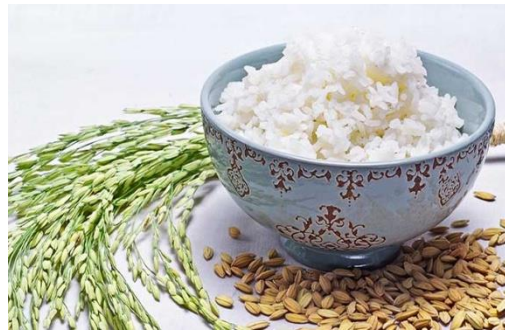
- ❑ **Multi-temporal backscatter behavior**
- ❑ **Multi-polarization backscatter behavior**
- ❑ **Polarimetry**
  - Scattering mechanisms
  - Polarimetric parameters
- ❑ **Interferometry**

# Agriculture SAR

**Two main cereal crops:**

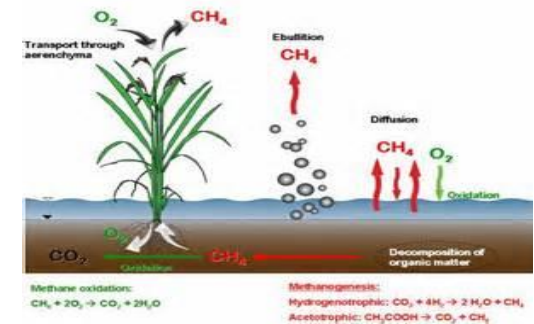
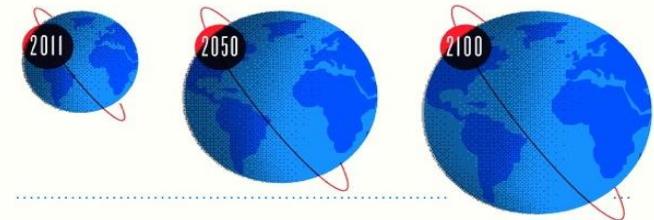
□ **Rice**

□ **Wheat**



To feed everyone, the world will need to produce 70% more food by 2050

a 100% more food by 2100, when the world population is expected to hit 10 billion.



# Rice monitoring with SAR

## □ Rice mapping and varieties discrimination

- *Multi-temporal backscatter behavior*
- *Multi-polarization backscatter behavior*
- *Scattering mechanisms and polarimetry*

## □ Rice phenology retrieval

- *Scattering mechanisms and compact polarimetry*

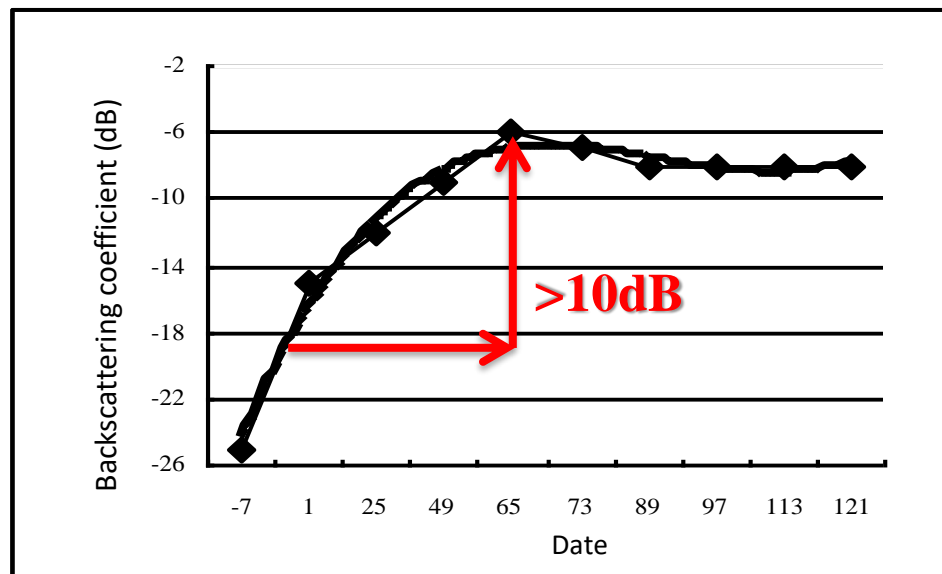
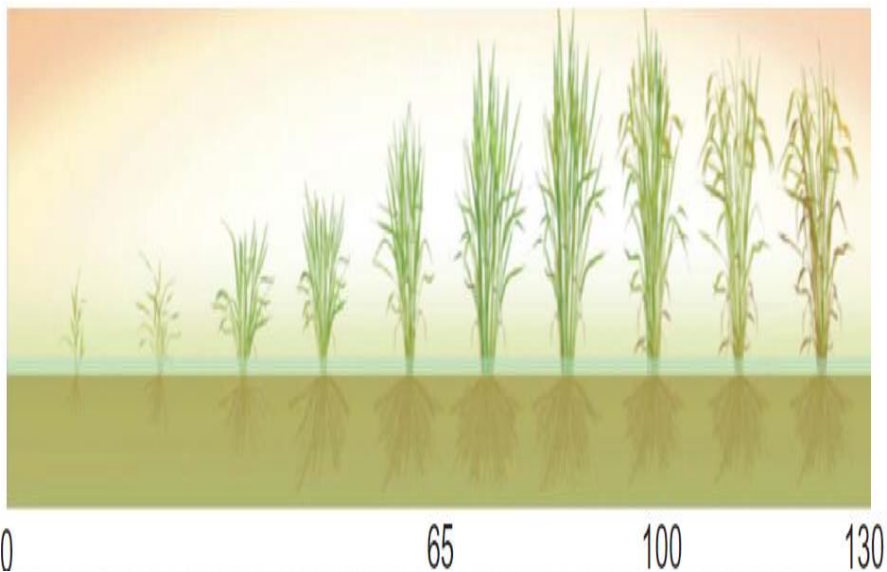
## □ Rice parameters estimation

- *Microwave scattering model*
- *Polarimetry and interferometry*



# Multi-temporal backscatter behavior

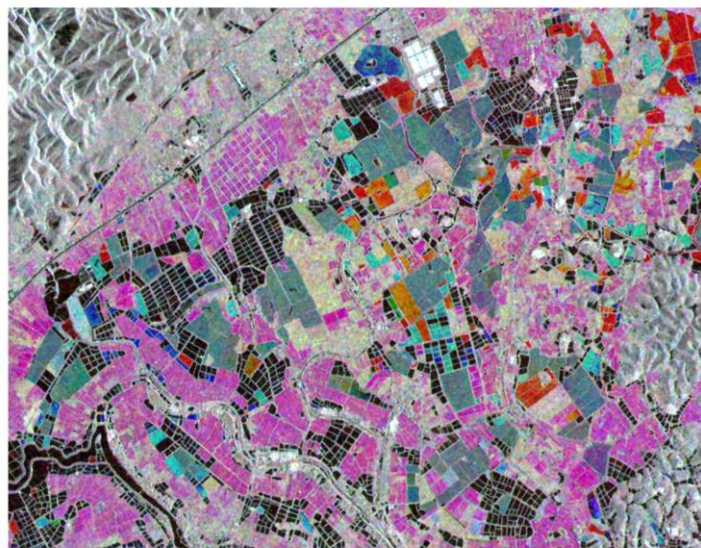
The backscatter coefficient has a **strong increase (>10dB)** during the growth cycle as the rice grows above the flooded soil



# Rice mapping with multi-temporal SAR

Rice mapping with multi-temporal SAR data was completed because of the *unique temporal backscatter signature* of rice

RADARSAT-1 multi-temporal color composite image

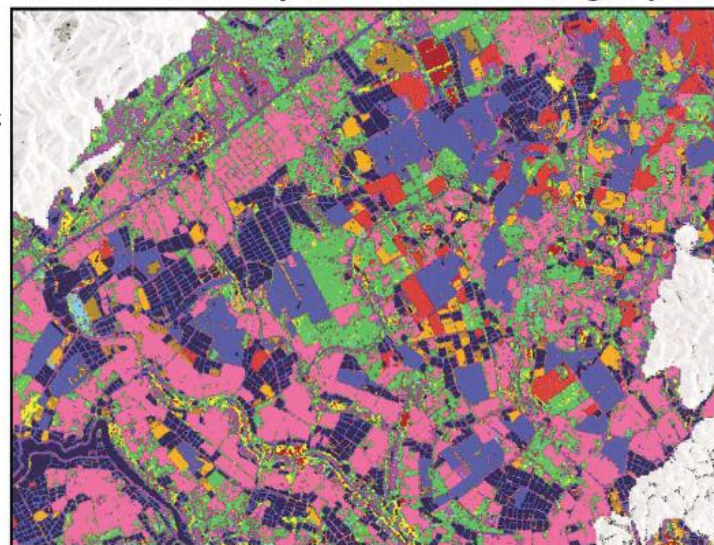


Legend

- Semilate rice
- Late rice
- Late transplanting
- Spring rice
- Autumn rice
- Gorgon
- Banana
- Grassland
- Lotus pond
- Urban
- Water
- Forest

R: Oct. 15 G: Aug. 4 B: June 10

Land Cover Map of Dinghu Site  
Based on Multi-temporal RADARSAT Images (1996)



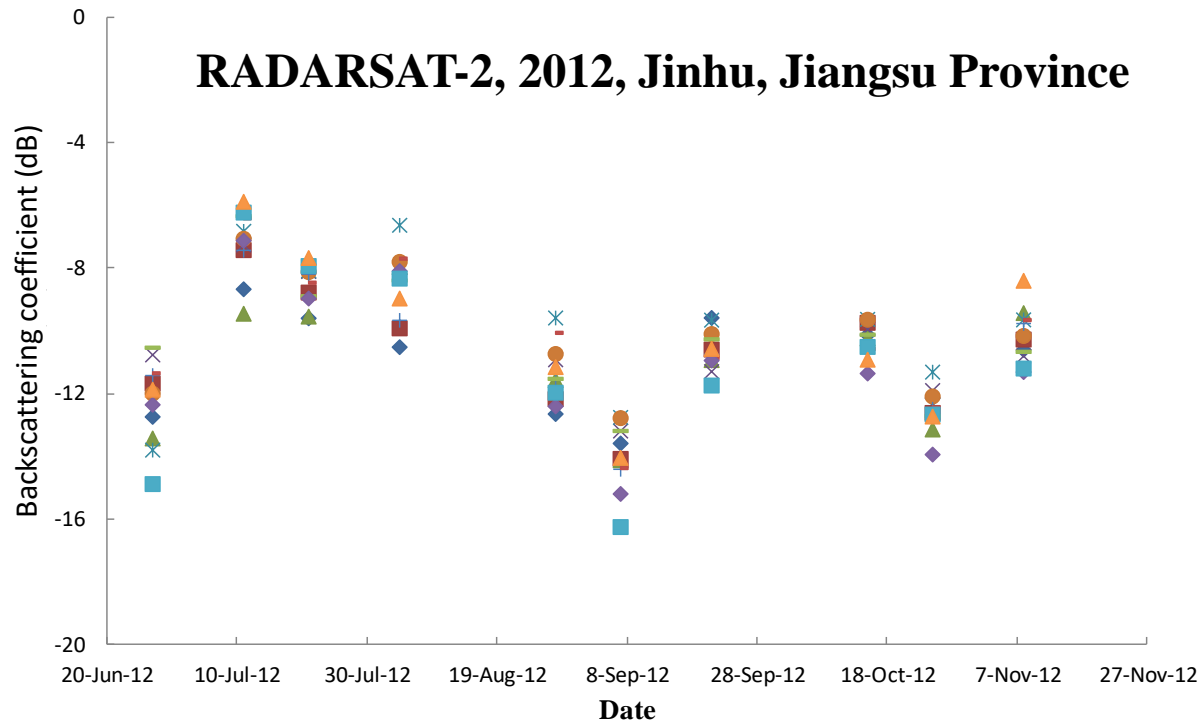
LEGEND

- Medium Mature Rice
- Late Mature Rice
- Late Transplanted Rice
- Spring Rice
- Autumn Rice
- Euryale Ferox*
- Banana
- Grassland
- Lotus Ponds
- Residential Areas
- Fish Ponds/Water Bodies
- Forest

1996, Zhaoqing, Guangdong Province

Source: Y. Shao, X.T. Fan, H. Liu, et al. 2001. Rice monitoring and production estimation using multitemporal RADARSAT. Remote Sensing of Environment, Vol.76, No.3, pp.310-325.

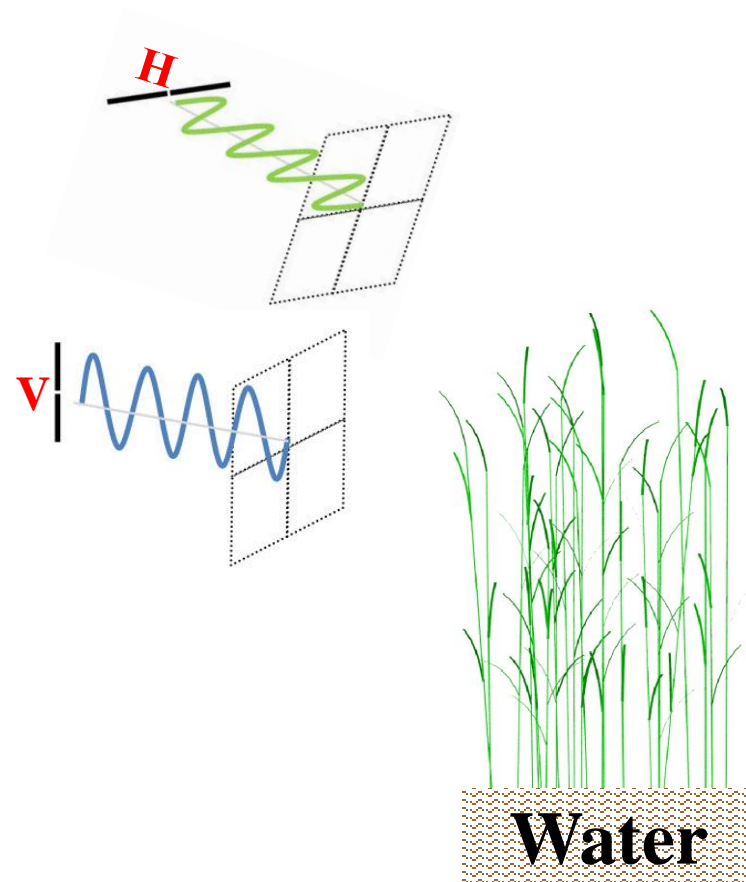
The method was straightforward, however, the temporal backscatter behavior of rice was ***not always stable*** and sometimes affected by farming activities (irrigation etc.), or heavy rain, thunder and lightning



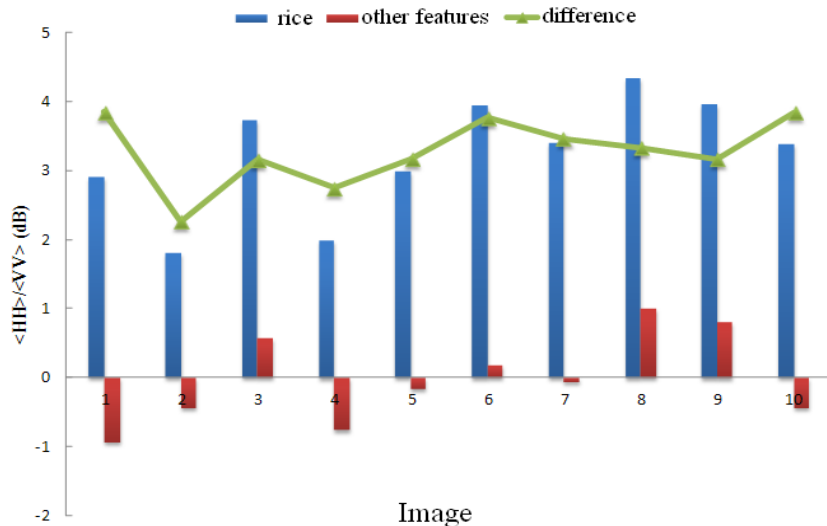
# Multi-polarization intensity

Polarimetric wave was sensitivity  
to vegetation structure

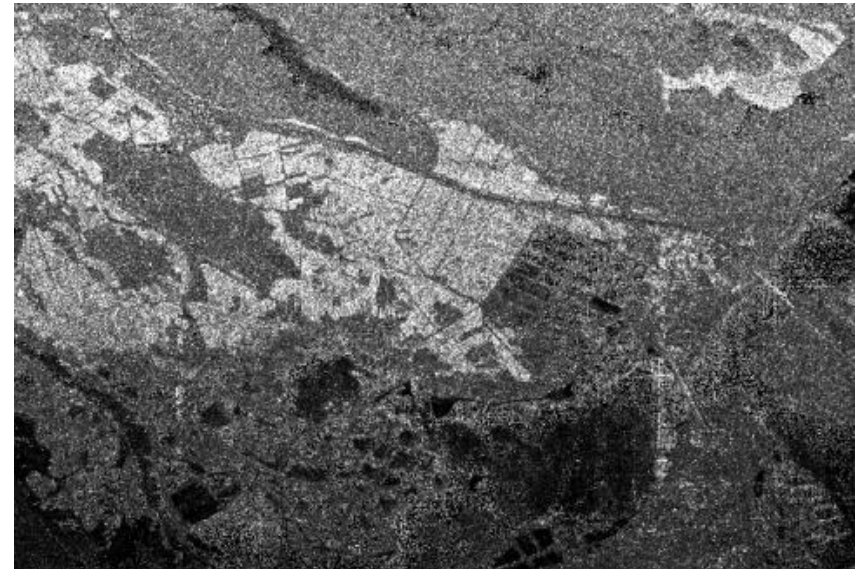
Rice vertical stems caused  
***stronger attenuation to vertical  
(VV) polarization than  
horizontal (HH) polarization***



# Polarization ratio $\langle HH \rangle / \langle VV \rangle$



$\langle HH \rangle / \langle VV \rangle$  of rice and other landcover types

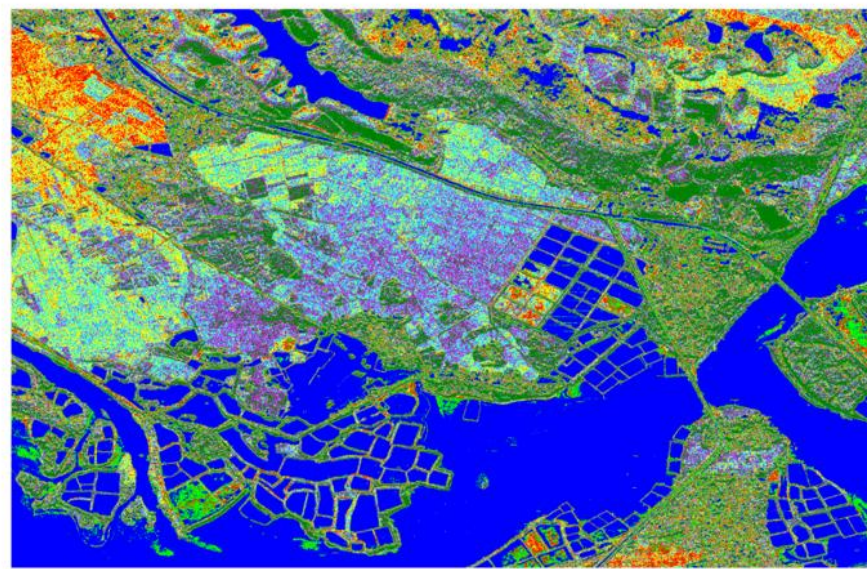


Ratio image after speckle filtering

C-band airborne SAR, 2009, Wanning, Hainan Province

# Rice mapping with multi-polarization intensity

Classified image

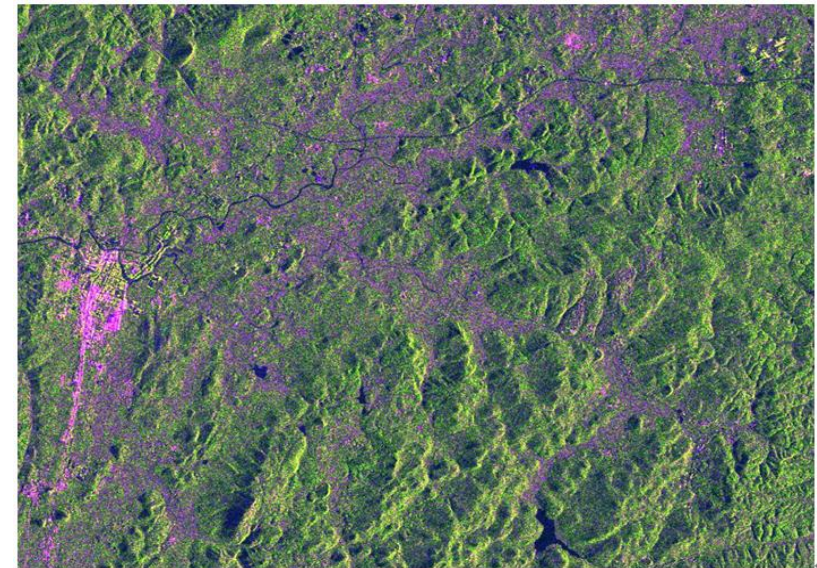
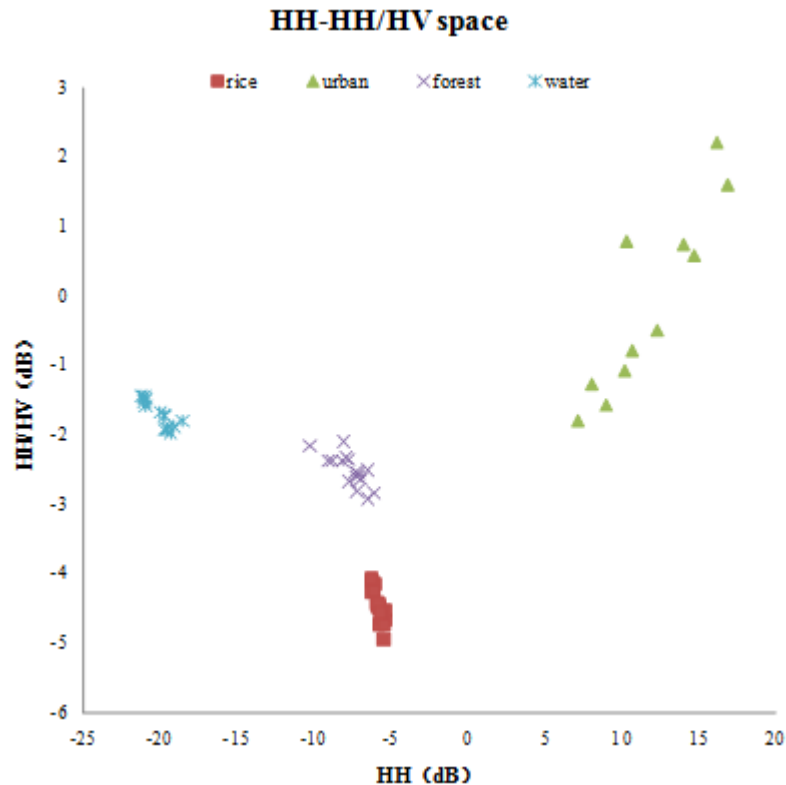


R:  $\langle HH \rangle / \langle VV \rangle + \langle HH \rangle$  G: HV B: VV

C-band airborne SAR, 2009, Wanning, Hainan Province

Source: K. Li, Y. Shao, F. Zhang. 2011. Rice information extraction using multipolarization airborne synthetic aperture radar data. *Journal of Zhejiang University (Agric & Life Sci)*, Vol.37, No.2, pp.181-186.

# Rice mapping with multi-polarization intensity



R: HH G: VH B: HH/HV

RADARSAT-2, 2009, Zhazuo, Guizhou Province

Source: K. Li, F. Zhang, Y. Shao. 2011. Polarization signature analysis of paddy rice in southern China. *Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing*, Vol.37, No.1, pp.122-135.

The above approaches are using multi-temporal or multi-polarization data, which ***do not include the phase***. The analysis options are restricted to ***ratios or differences of*** their respective ***intensities***

Intensities are the results of radar signal-target interactions, the essential characteristics of targets are ***how they interact with radar signal (scattering mechanisms)***

With the emergence of ***polarimetric SAR***, phase was measured at the same time, scattering mechanisms and polarimetric parameters can be exploited

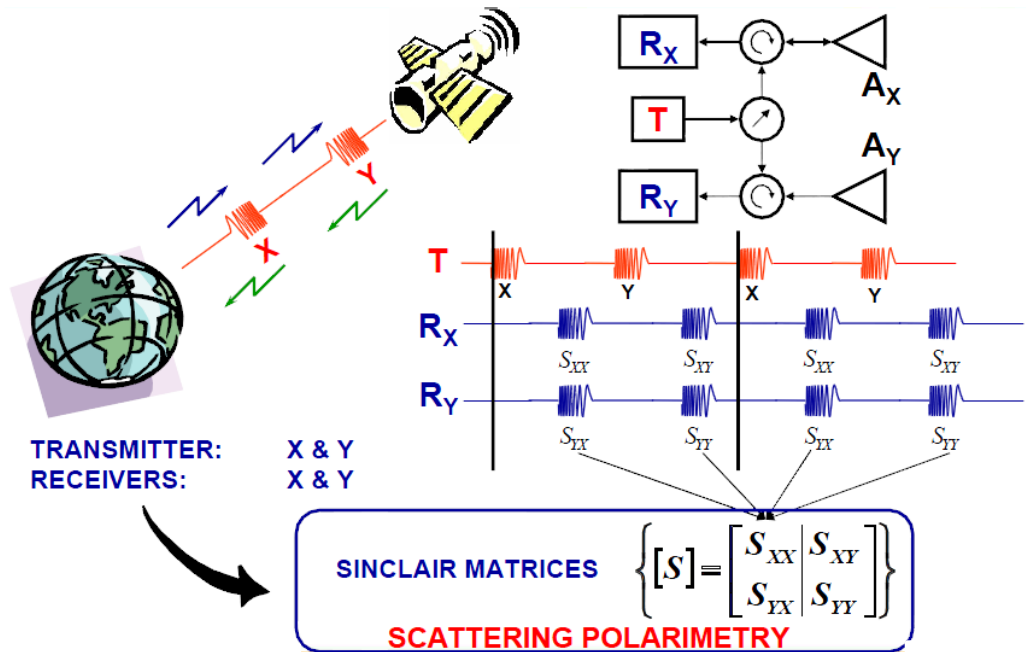


# Polarimetric SAR

## Polarimetric SAR (PoISAR)

data:

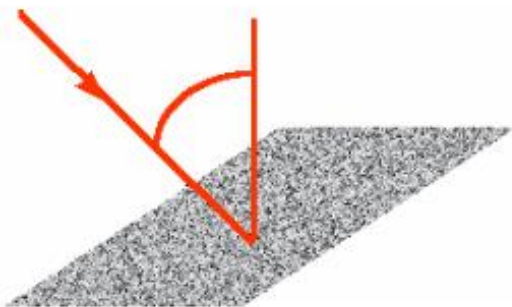
The relative **phase** is retained between the two received polarizations, which are sufficient to get the **scattering matrix**



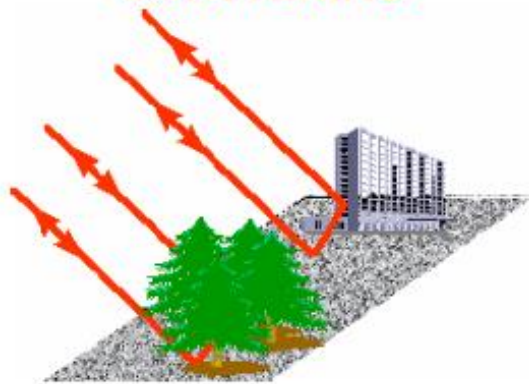
# Scattering mechanisms analysis with PolSAR

**Polarimetric target decomposition:** decomposed the total backscatter into the contributions of several typical scatters

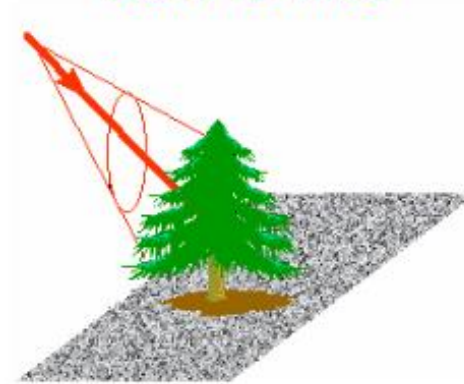
**SINGLE BOUNCE  
SCATTERING  
(ROUGH SURFACE)**



**DOUBLE BOUNCE  
SCATTERING**



**VOLUME  
SCATTERING**



# Rice scattering mechanisms

□ **Pauli decomposition:** 
$$[S] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{hh} & S_{hv} \\ S_{hv} & S_{vv} \end{bmatrix} = \alpha [S]_a + \beta [S]_b + \gamma [S]_c$$

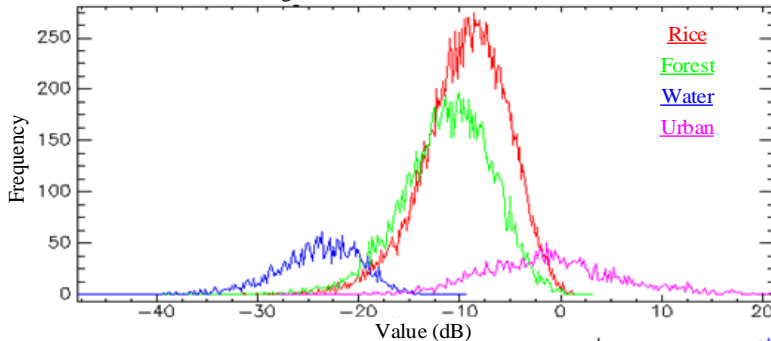
$$\alpha = \frac{S_{hh} + S_{vv}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\beta = \frac{S_{hh} - S_{vv}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

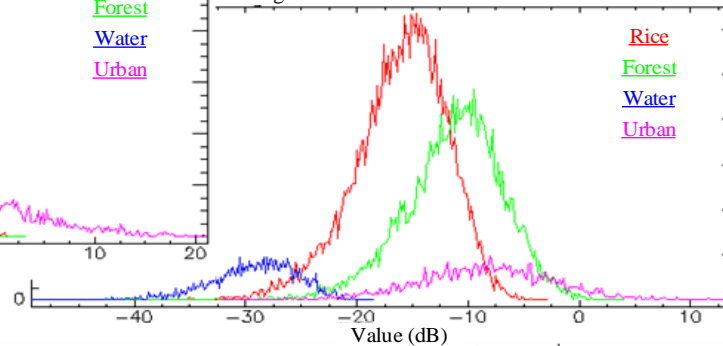
$$\gamma = \sqrt{2} S_{hv}$$

$\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  represent the power scattered by targets characterized by double- or even-bounce, single- or odd-bounce, and volume scattering respectively

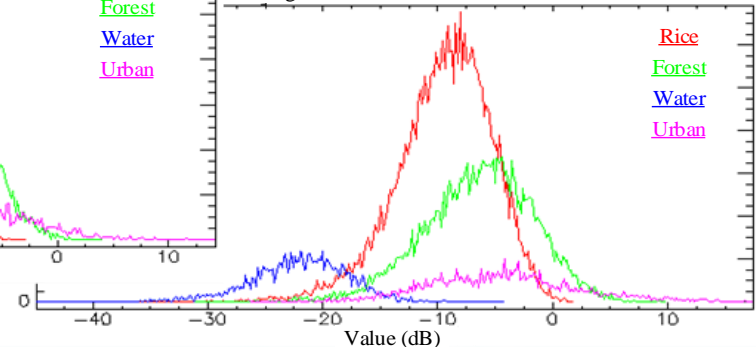
Histogram: 20090726 Pauli-double bounce



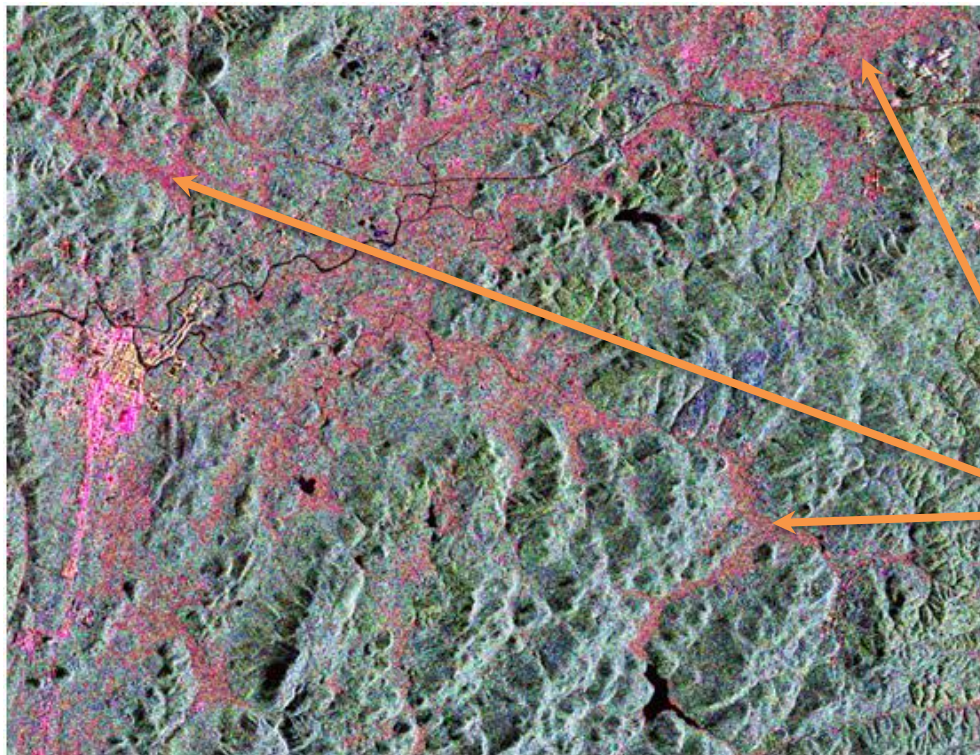
Histogram: 20090726 Pauli-volume



Histogram: 20090726 Pauli-surface



**Pauli three components of rice in heading stage**



Rice      Forest      Urban1      urban2      Water

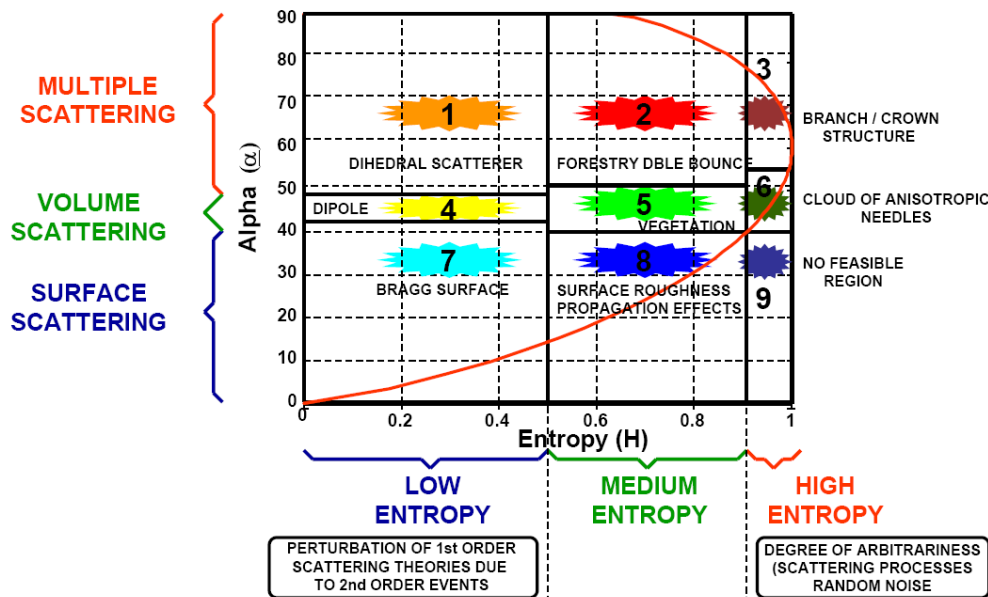
PauliRGB, R=double bounce G= volume B=surface

## RADARSAT-2, 2009, Zhazuo, Guizou Province

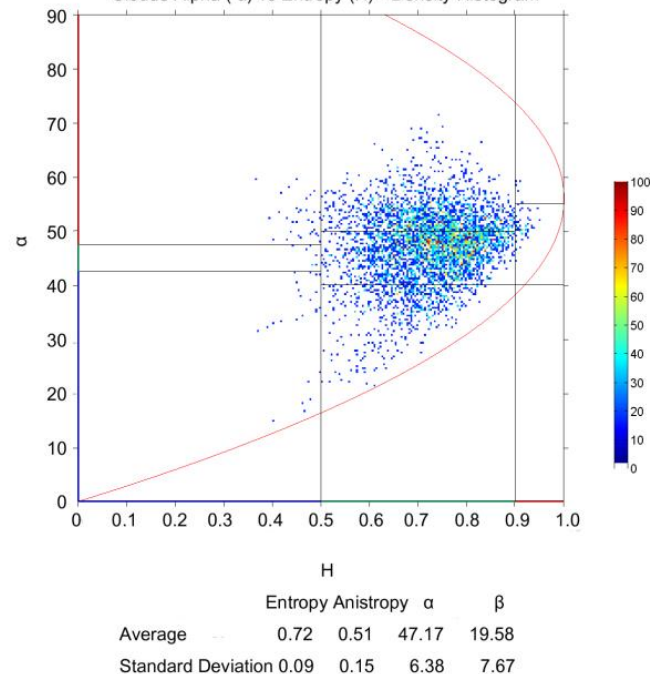
Source: K. Li, F. Zhang, Y. Shao. 2011. Polarization signature analysis of paddy rice in southern China. *Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing*, Vol.37, No.1, pp.122-135.

# ☐ Cloude-Pottier decomposition:

## SEGMENTATION OF THE $H / \alpha$ SPACE

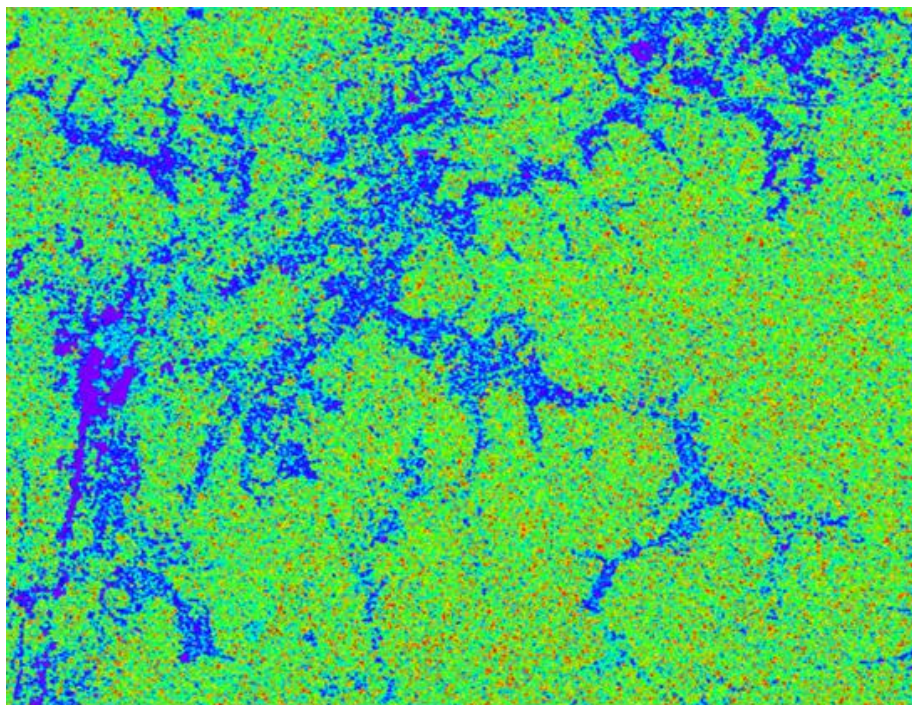


rice-RADARSAT-2 Acquisition Date: 2009-07-26  
Cloude Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) vs Entropy (H) --Density Histogram

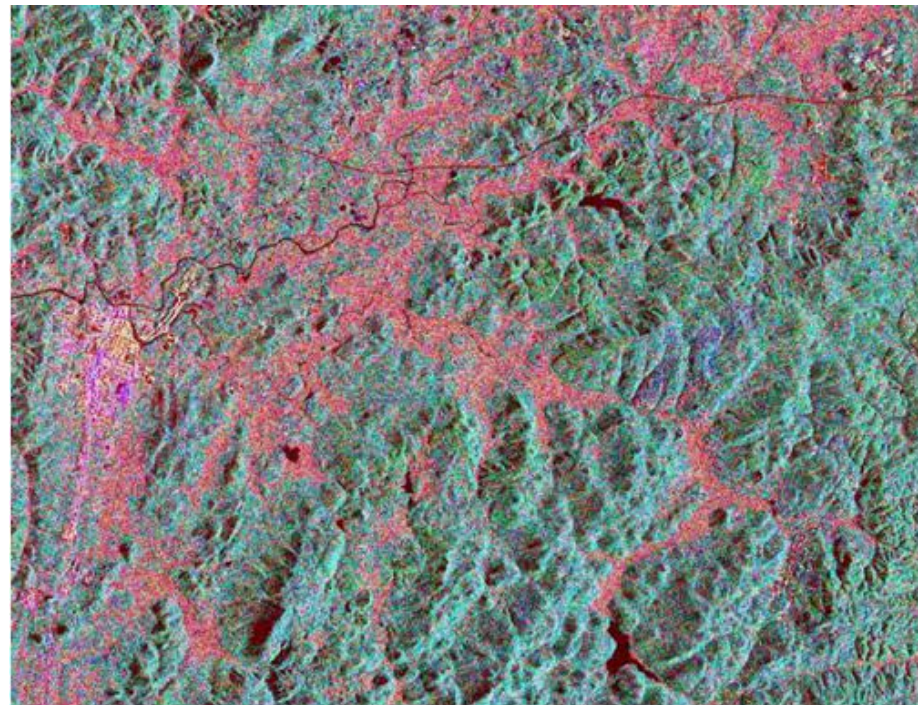


Heading stage rice in  $H/\alpha$  space

The **low value areas** (blue areas) in the image of parameter  $\beta$  coincide better with paddy fields



**Cloude-Pottier  $\beta$**



Rice identification with Cloude-Pottier  $\beta$  and Pauli double bounce scattering

**2009, Zhazuo, Guizhou Province**

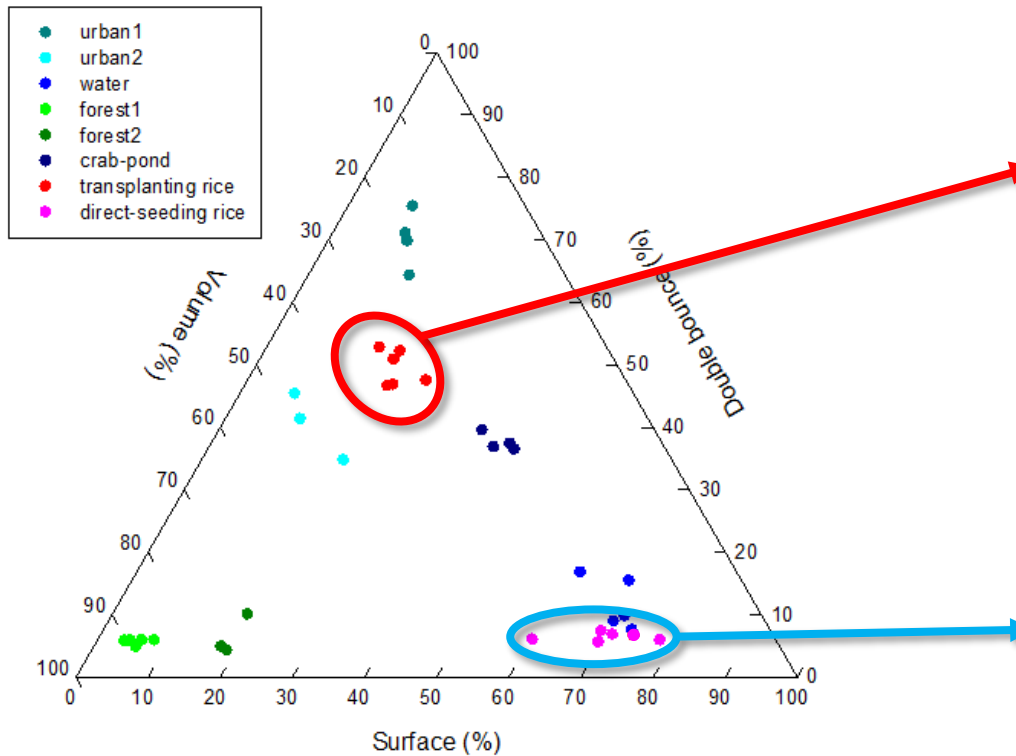
## □ Freeman-Durden decomposition:

models the covariance matrix as the contribution of three scattering mechanisms

$$[C_3] = \langle [C_3] \rangle_v + [C_3]_d + [C_3]_s$$

- Volume scattering
- Double-bounce scattering
- Surface or single-bounce scattering

# The Freeman-Durden triangle

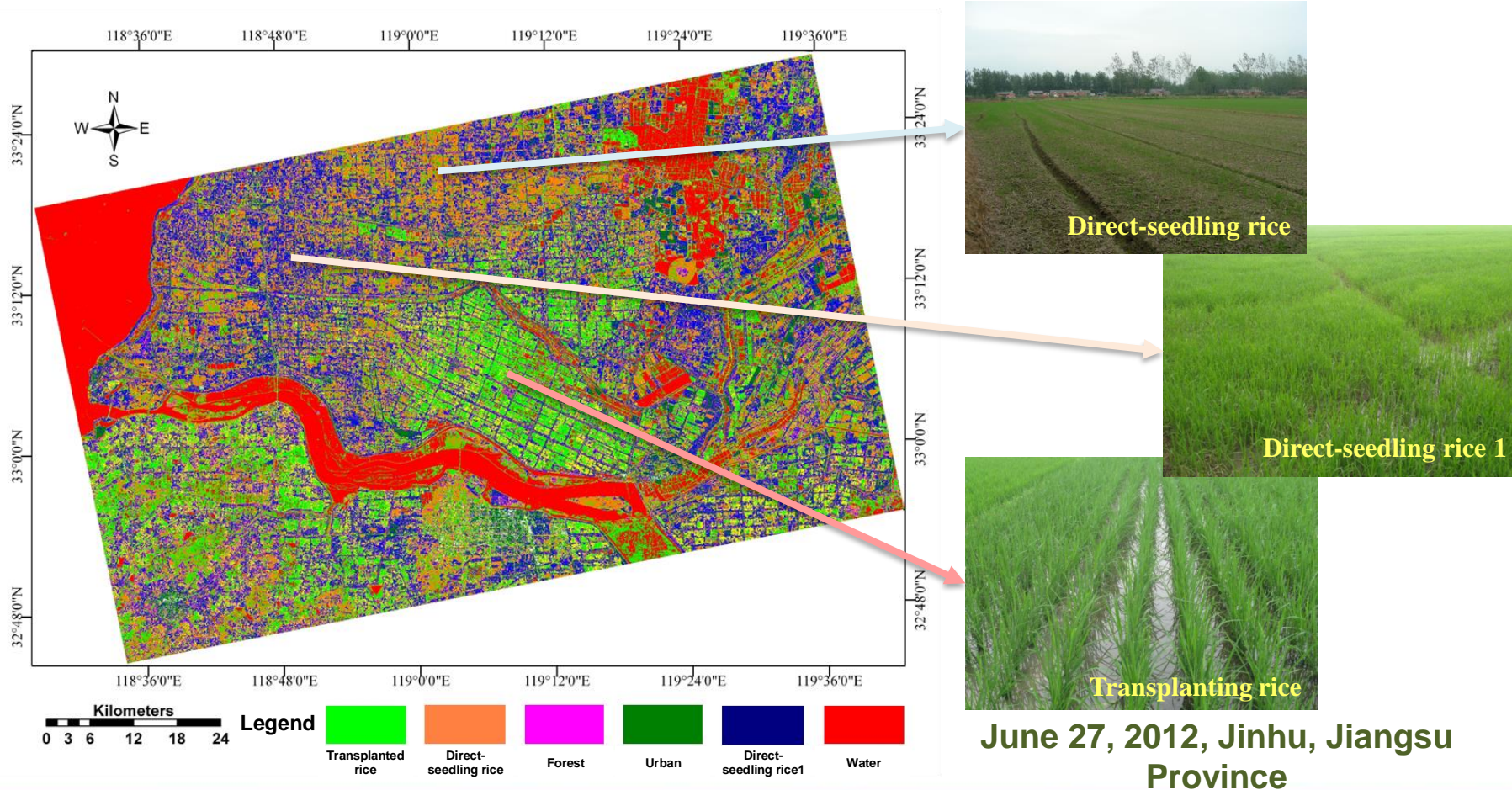


Seedling stage (June 27, 2012)  
Jinhu, Jiangsu Province

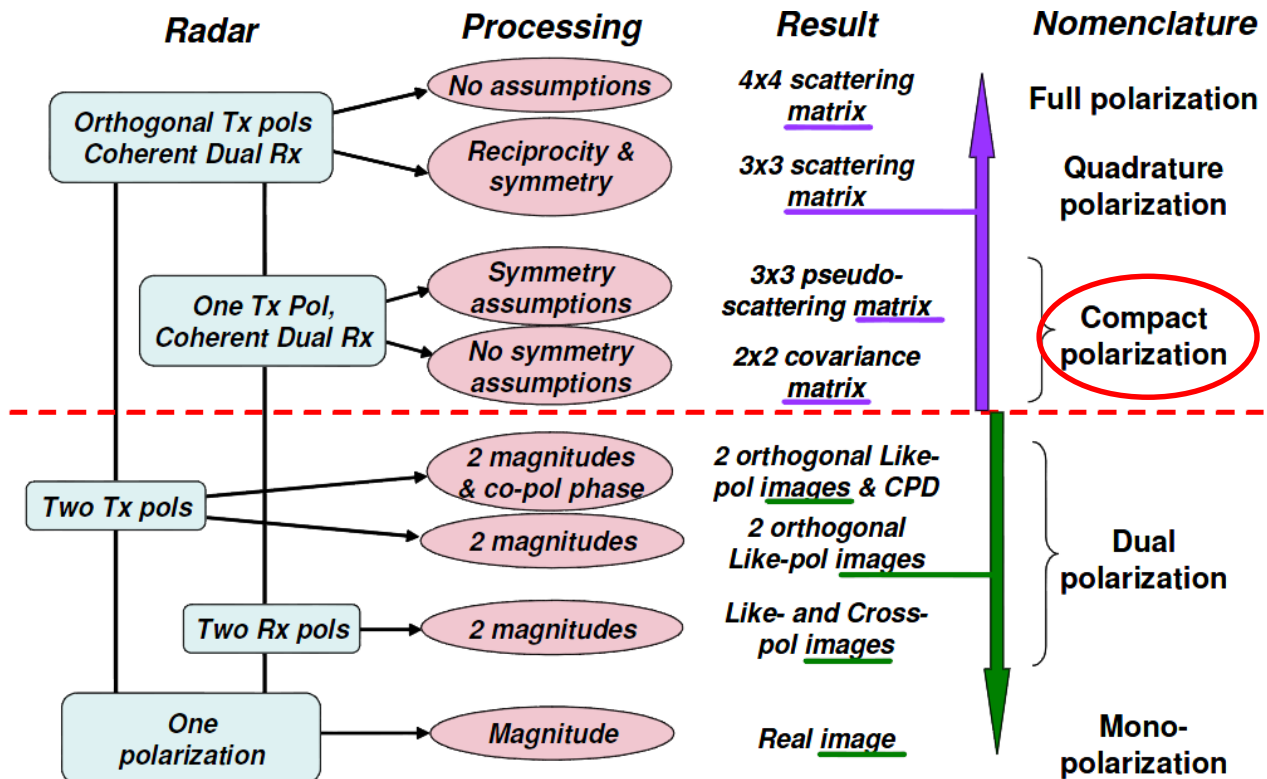




# Rice varieties discrimination with PolSAR



# Compact polarimetry SAR



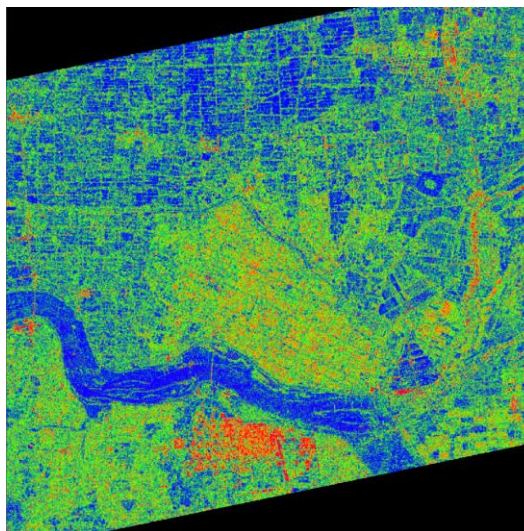
Source: R. K. Raney

## □ Simulated Compact SAR data

- Transmit: Right circular
- Receive: H and V
- Resolution : 30m

## □ m-chi decomposition

- Volume scattering
- Double-bounce
- Surface scattering

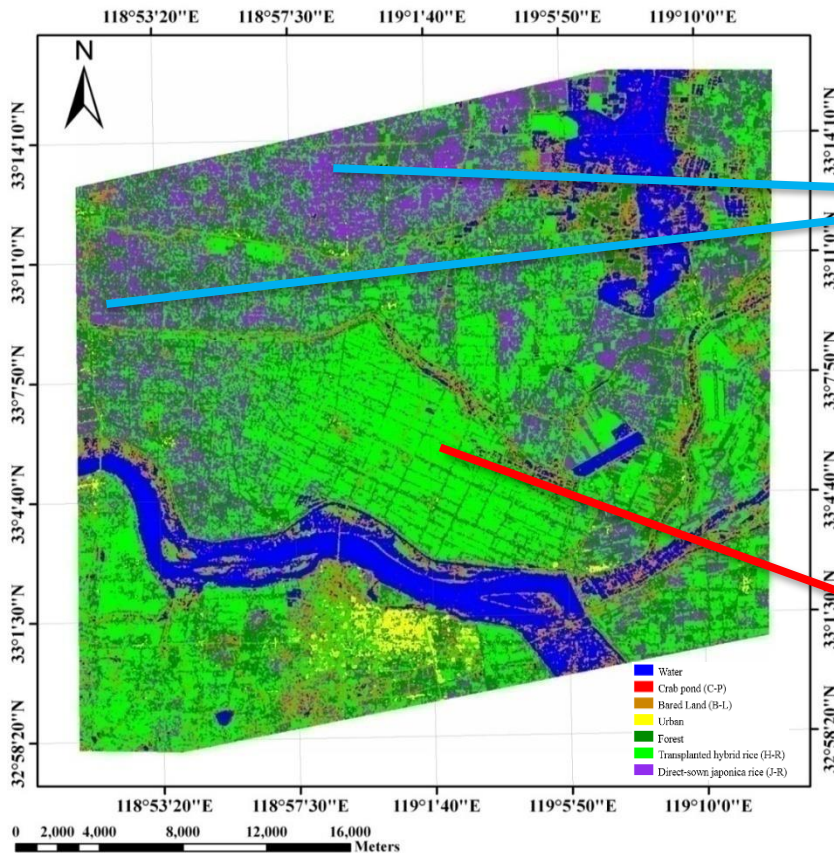


m-chi RGB image  
(R: double bounce G: volume B: surface)



Simulated CP SAR image,  
(R: RH G: RV B: RL)  
2012, Jinhu, Jiangsu Province

# Rice varieties discrimination with CP SAR



2012, Jinhu, Jiangsu Province

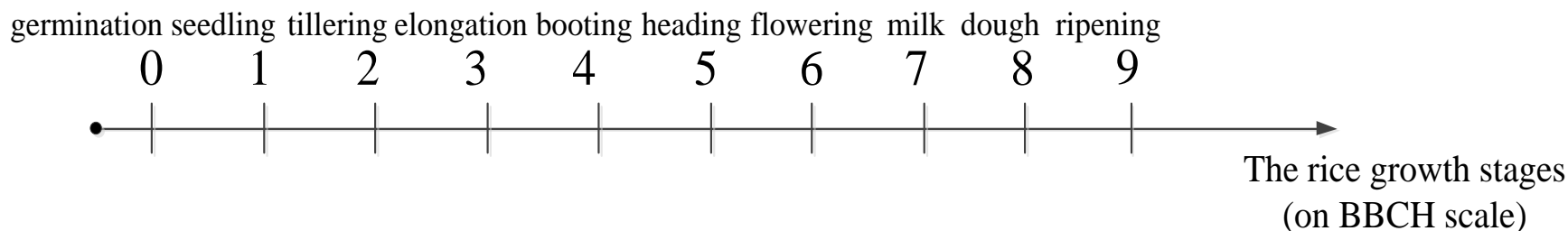


# Rice phenology monitoring

- ❑ Providing *the current phenological stage* at the time of observation, *qualitative monitoring* of rice growth condition
- ❑ Helpful for planning and/or triggering cultivation practices (irrigation, fertilization, etc.)
- ❑ Optimize resources or to detect phenological delays caused by cultivation problems, such as water salinity and plagues
- ❑ An input in crop growth and yield prediction models

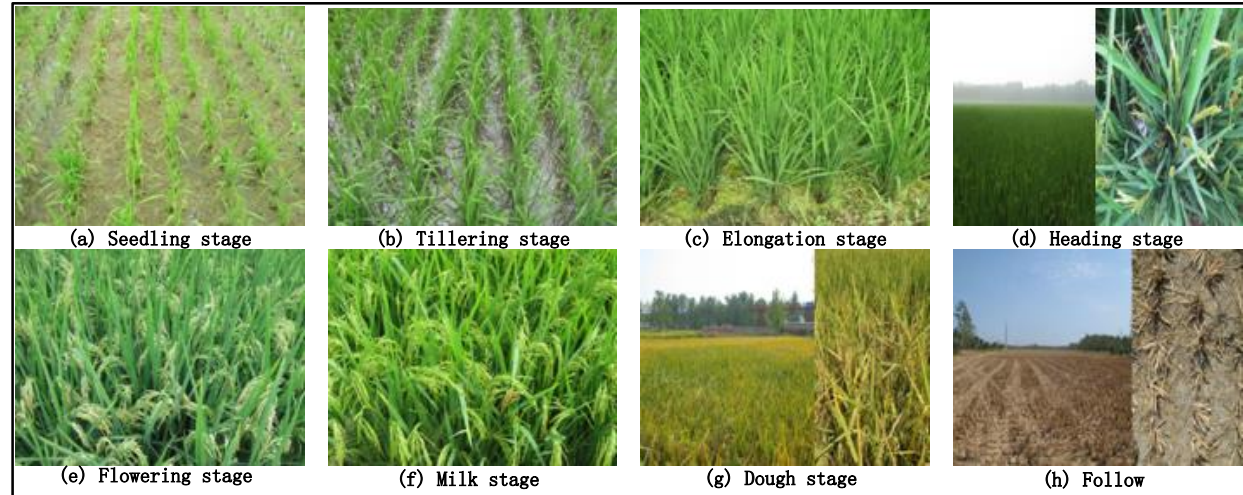
# Rice phenology

- ❑ Rice phenology is quantized using the **BBCH<sup>\*</sup> scale**
- ❑ 10 main stages were defined during the whole growth cycle
- ❑ A rice field will be considered to reach a particular BBCH stage when more than half of its plants reach that stage

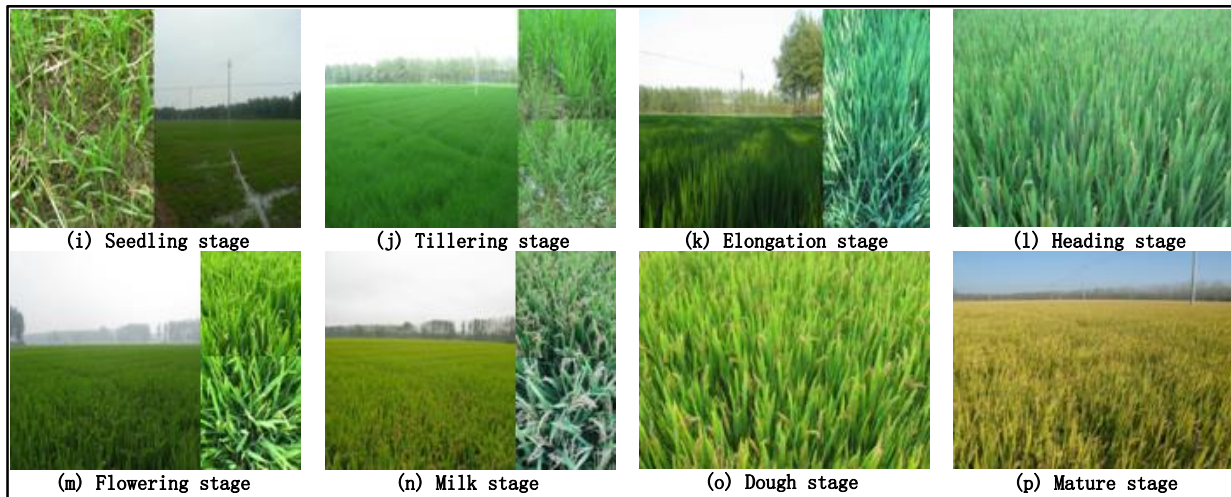


*\*BBCH: Biologische Bundesanstalt, Bundessortenamt und CHemische Industrie*

# Rice phenological changes in Jinhua, Jiangsu Province, China



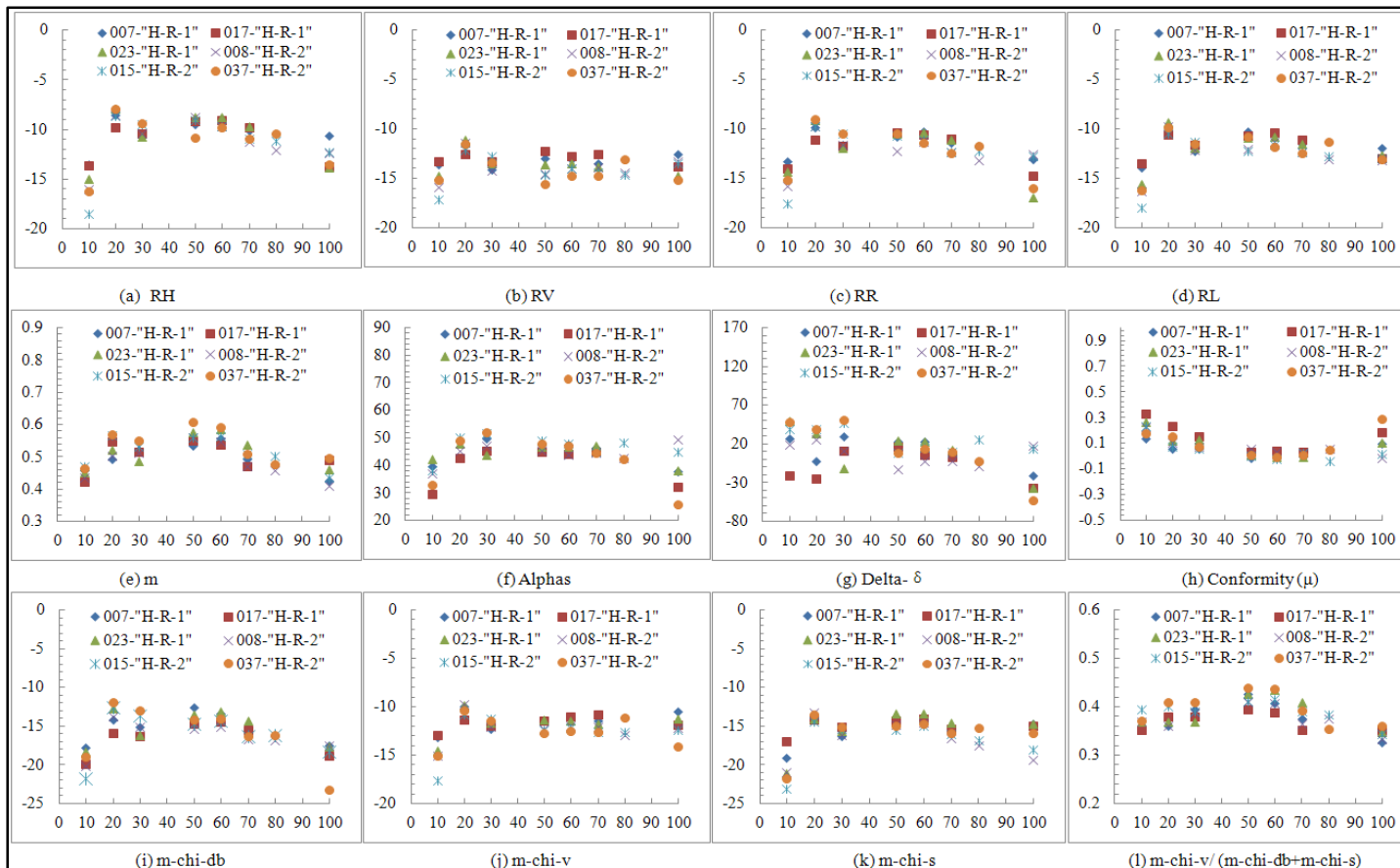
## Hybrid rice



## Japonica rice

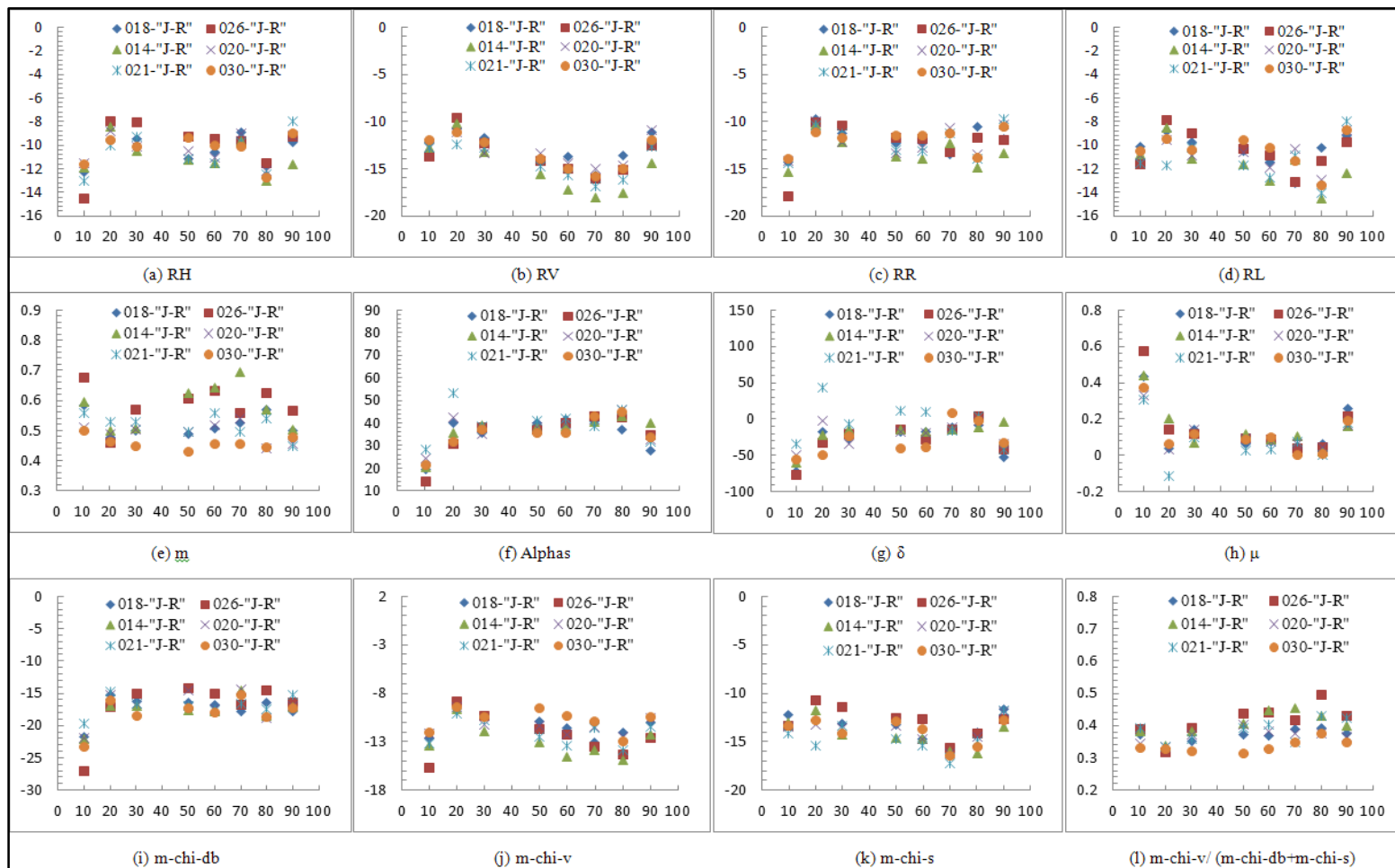
# Compact-pol parameters VS rice phenological changes

Hybrid rice



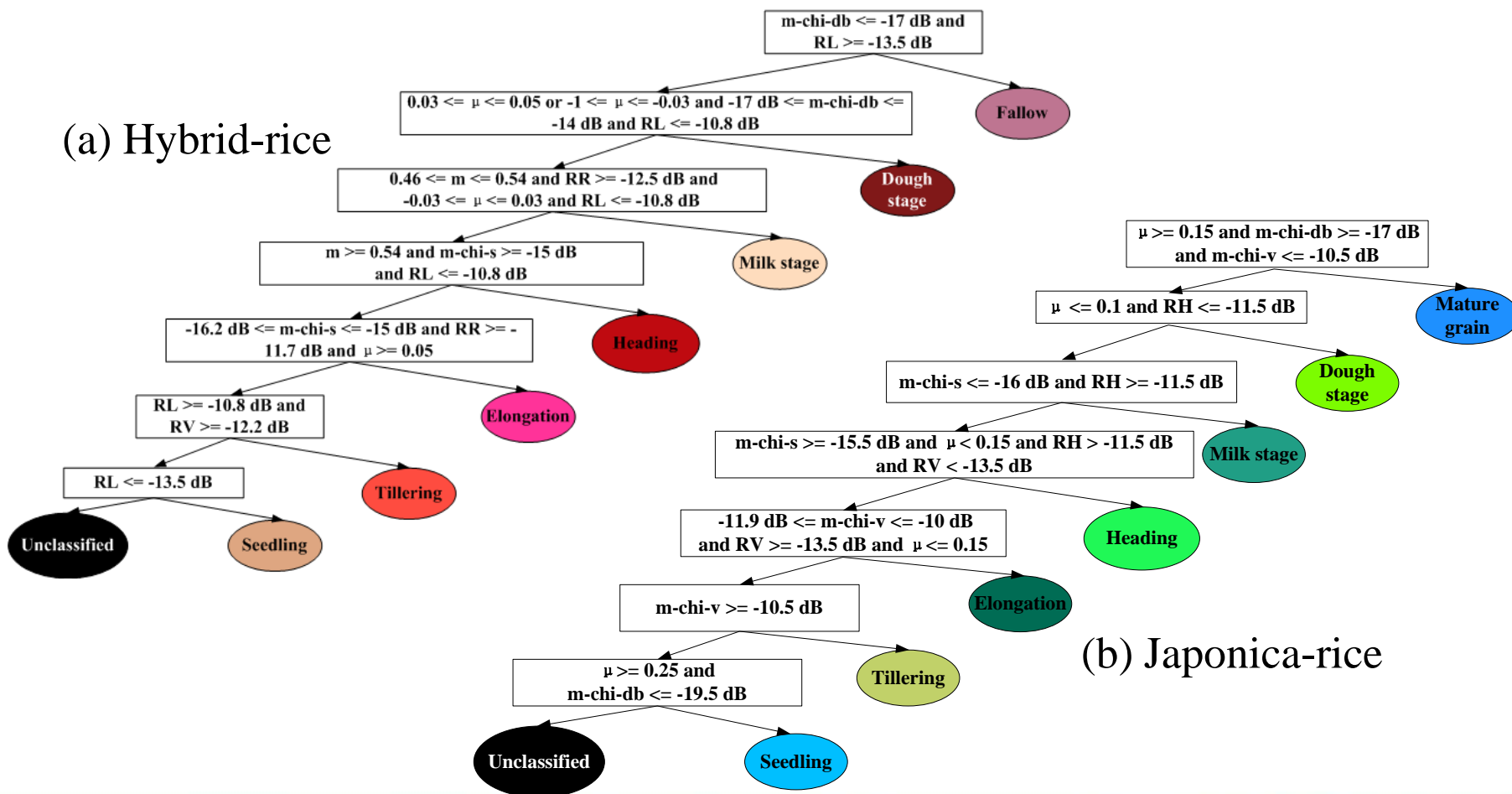


Japonica rice



# Decision Tree Algorithms for rice phenology retrieval

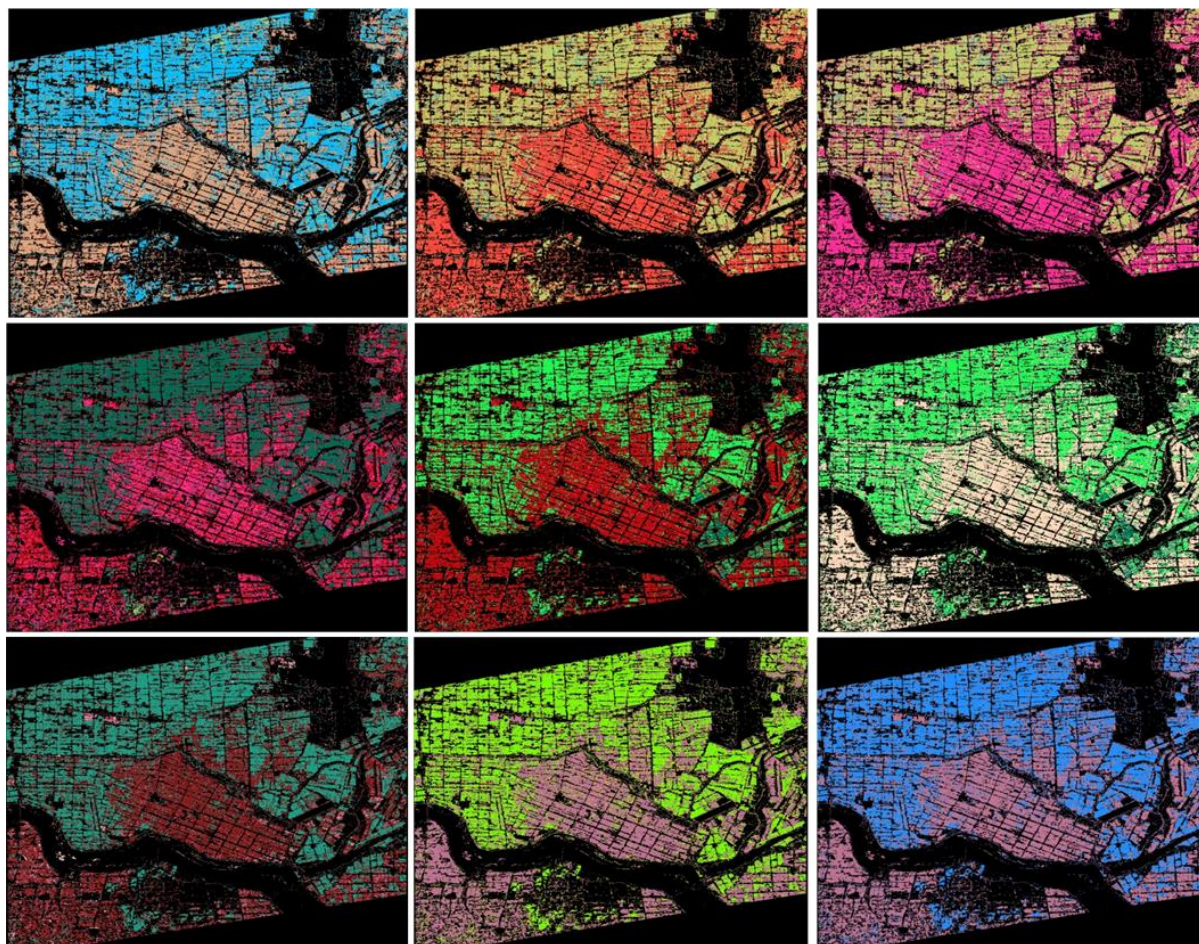
(a) Hybrid-rice



(b) Japonica-rice

Source: Z. Yang, K. Li, L. Liu, et al. 2014. Rice growth monitoring using simulated compact polarimetric C band SAR. Radio Science, Vol.49, No.12, pp.1300-1315.

# Rice phenological change map at local scale



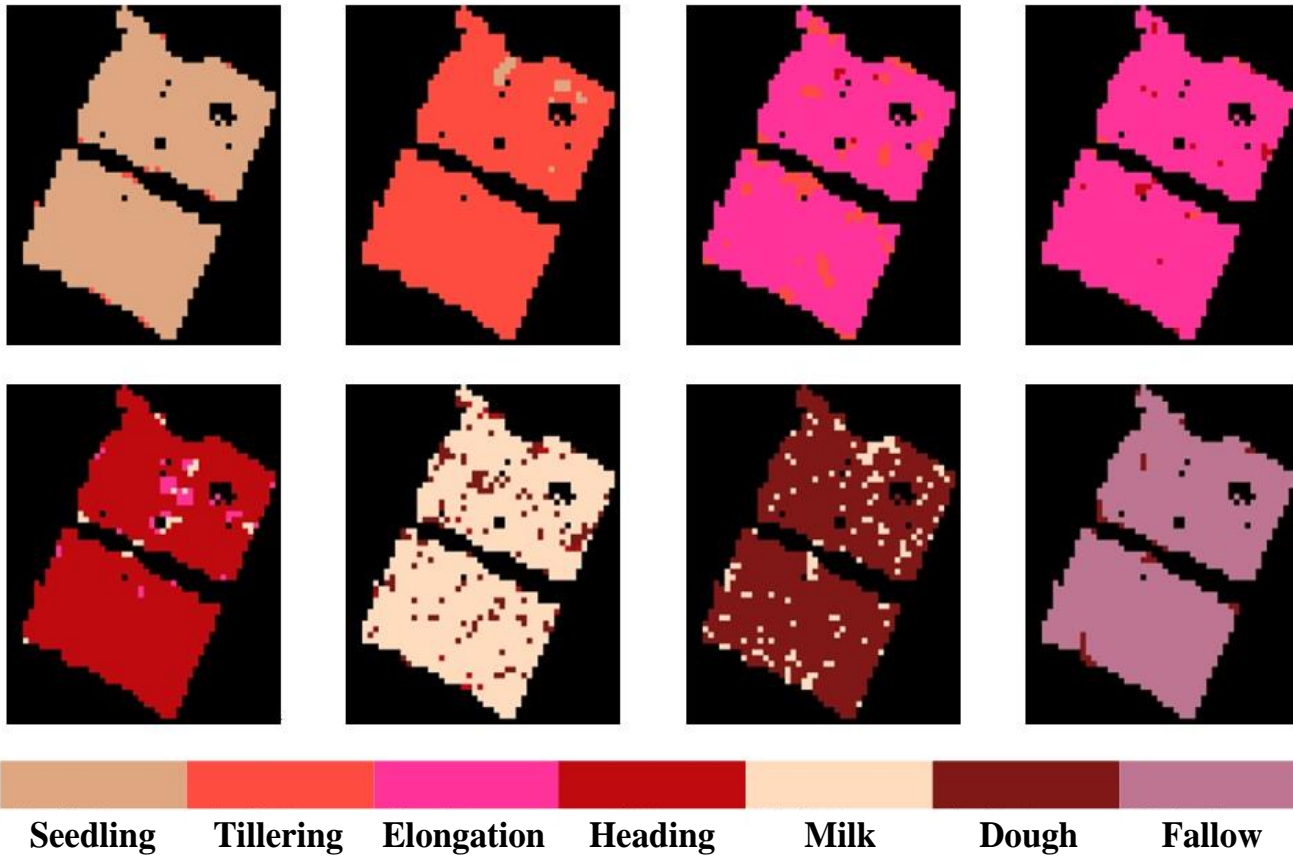
2012, Jinhu,  
Jiangsu Province

H-R
10-Seeding
20-Tillering
30-Elongation
50-heading
60-Flowering
70-Milk stage
80-Dough stage
100-Fallow

J-R
10-Seeding
20-Tillering
30-Elongation
50-heading
60-Flowering
70-Milk stage
80-Dough stage
90-Mature grain

Source: Z. Yang, K. Li, L. Liu, et al. 2014. Rice growth monitoring using simulated compact polarimetric C band SAR. *Radio Science*, Vol.49, No.12, pp.1300-1315.

# Rice phenological change map at field scale



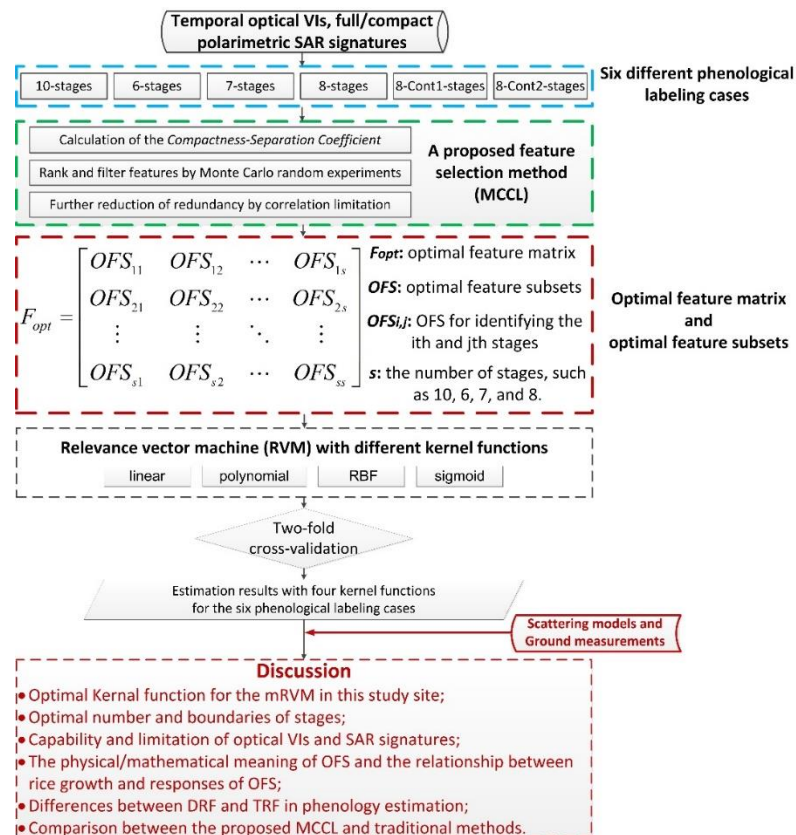
2012, Jinhua, Jiangsu Province

# Accuracy assessment at field scale

No. of sites	Percentage	2012-6-27	2012-07-11	2012-07-21	2012-08-04	2012-08-28	2012-09-21	2012-10-15	2012-10-25	2012-11-08
"H-R"-7	Correct	92.2177%	92.1169%	92.5202%	92.3185%	92.3185%	89.6976%	93.2258%	93.2258%	93.2258%
	Error	1.3105%	1.4113%	1.2096%	1.3105%	1.3105%	3.8306%	0.3024%	0.3024%	0.3024%
	Unclassified	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%	6.4718%
"H-R"-8	Correct	94.2638%	94.0831%	92.7281%	92.7281%	90.3794%	90.0958%	89.4634%	93.3604%	93.3604%
	Error	0.2710%	0.4517%	1.8067%	1.8067%	4.1553%	4.4390%	5.0713%	1.1743%	1.1743%
	Unclassified	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%	5.4652%
"H-R"-15	Correct	94.3051%	94.0678%	92.5763%	92.5763%	92.6102%	89.8983%	89.2712%	93.7627%	93.7627%
	Error	0.5424%	0.7797%	2.2712%	2.2712%	2.2373%	4.9491%	5.5763%	1.0847%	1.0847%
	Unclassified	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%	5.1525%
"H-R"-19	Correct	92.6847%	93.3949%	93.3949%	92.6847%	90.7670%	90.3352%	92.6136%	92.6136%	92.6136%
	Error	0.9233%	0.2131%	0.2131%	0.9233%	2.8409%	3.2727%	0.9943%	0.9943%	0.9943%
	Unclassified	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%	6.3920%
"H-R"-24	Correct	90.2564%	90.1709%	90.1709%	89.6581%	89.5726%	89.4872%	90.0855%	90.0855%	90.0855%
	Error	1.1111%	1.1966%	1.1966%	1.7094%	1.7949%	1.8804%	1.2821%	1.2821%	1.2821%
	Unclassified	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%	8.6325%
"H-R"-40	Correct	92.8544%	91.1303%	91.0345%	91.0345%	90.1724%	89.1188%	88.6877%	92.4234%	92.4234%
	Error	0.0958%	1.8199%	1.9157%	1.9157%	2.7778%	3.8314%	4.2625%	0.5268%	0.5268%
	Unclassified	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%	7.0498%
"J-R"-18	Correct	90.7363%	90.4537%	90.4537%	89.4176%	87.9733%	87.9733%	87.3673%	87.2873%	86.4976%
	Error	1.0361%	1.3187%	1.3187%	2.3548%	3.7990%	3.7990%	4.4051%	4.4851%	5.2747%
	Unclassified	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%	8.2276%
"J-R"-26	Correct	91.1417%	90.7034%	90.7034%	89.4617%	88.8042%	88.8042%	87.3433%	90.1921%	89.3156%
	Error	1.6801%	2.1103%	2.1103%	3.3601%	4.0175%	4.0175%	5.4785%	2.6297%	3.5062%
	Unclassified	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%	7.1782%
"J-R"-30	Correct	91.1075%	88.3692%	88.3692%	87.4564%	87.9919%	87.9919%	87.3550%	87.8032%	87.2535%
	Error	2.3327%	5.0710%	5.0710%	5.9838%	5.4483%	5.4483%	6.0852%	5.6369%	6.1866%
	Unclassified	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%	6.5598%
"J-R"-32	Correct	91.9002%	92.3833%	92.3833%	88.6795%	89.1626%	89.1626%	89.2899%	89.4847%	89.0821%
	Error	1.0467%	0.5636%	0.5636%	4.2673%	3.7842%	3.7842%	3.6570%	3.4622%	3.8648%
	Unclassified	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%	7.0531%
"J-R"-33	Correct	91.9427%	91.8933%	91.8933%	90.5593%	91.3498%	91.3498%	86.6067%	88.6818%	88.2372%
	Error	0.7905%	0.8399%	0.8399%	2.1739%	1.3834%	1.3834%	6.1265%	4.0514%	4.4960%
	Unclassified	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%	7.2668%
"J-R"-34	Correct	91.8413%	91.7143%	91.7143%	90.8889%	90.5079%	90.5079%	89.2857%	88.7460%	88.4762%
	Error	0.1429%	0.2698%	0.2698%	1.0953%	1.4763%	1.4763%	2.6984%	3.2381%	3.5079%
	Unclassified	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%	8.0159%

# An improved scheme for rice phenology estimation

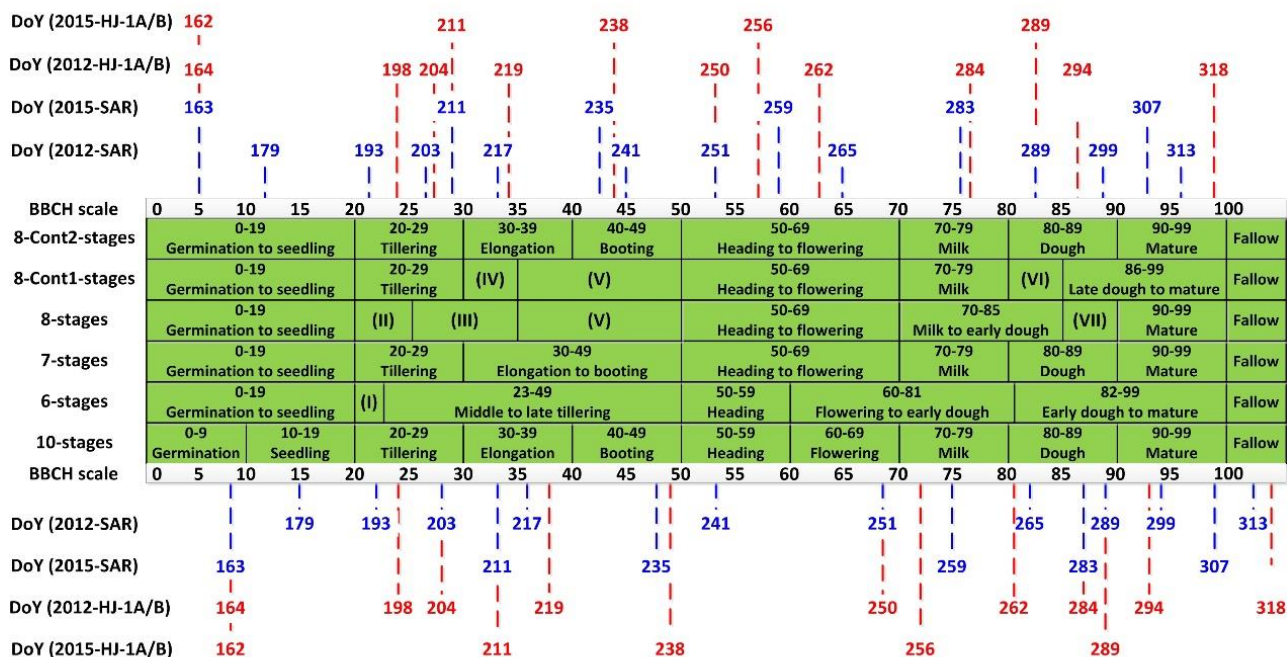
- ❑ Phenology labeling cases discussion
- ❑ Time-series HJ-1A/B and polarimetric RADARSAT-2 data
- ❑ Feature optimization



Source: Z. Yang, Y. Shao, K. Li\* et al. 2017. An improved scheme for rice phenology estimation based on time-series multispectral HJ-1A/B and polarimetric RADARSAT-2 data. Remote Sensing of Environment, 195: 184-201

# Setup of phenological labeling cases

## DRF

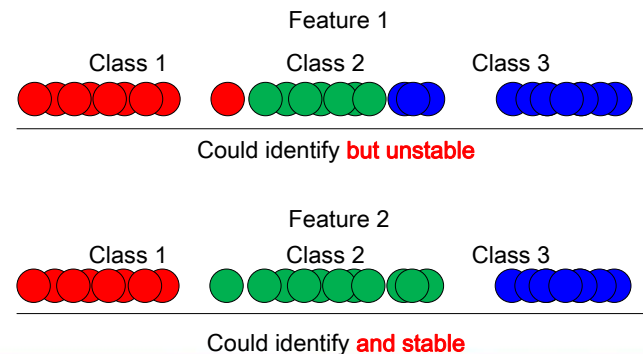
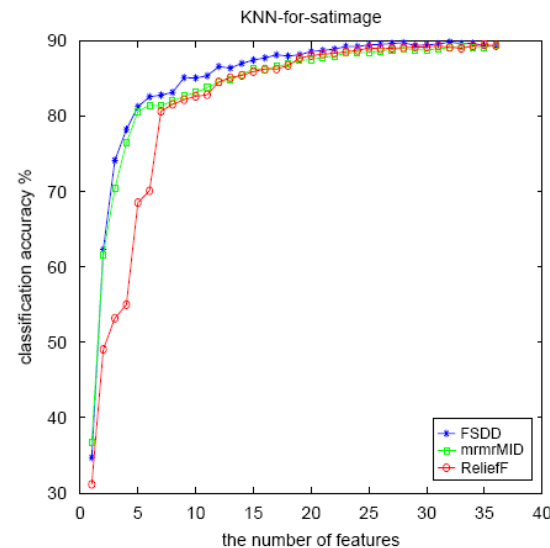


## TRF

- (I): 20-22, Very early tillering; (II): 20-25, Early tillering; (III): 26-35, Late tillering to early elongation; (IV): 30-35, Early elongation;
- (V): 36-49, Late elongation to booting; (VI): 80-85, Early dough; (VII): 86-89, Late dough; (VIII): 86-89, Late dough;

# MCCL feature optimization

- ❑ Can't determine the dimensions of optimal features and the robustness of features are not considered:
- ❑ *Calculate the compactness-separation coefficient*
- ❑ *Feature selection with Monte-Carlo*
- ❑ *Further feature optimization with correlation analysis*



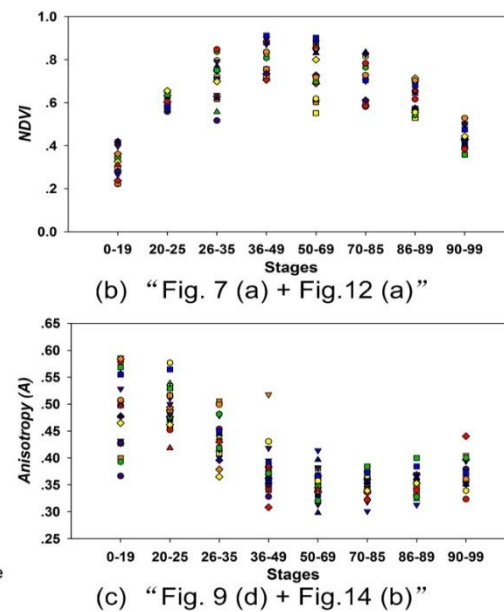
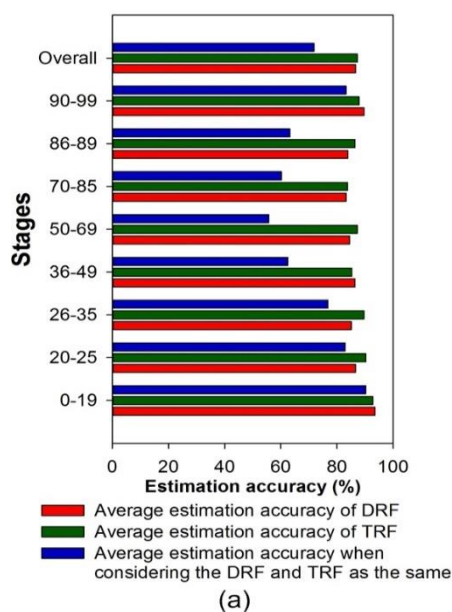
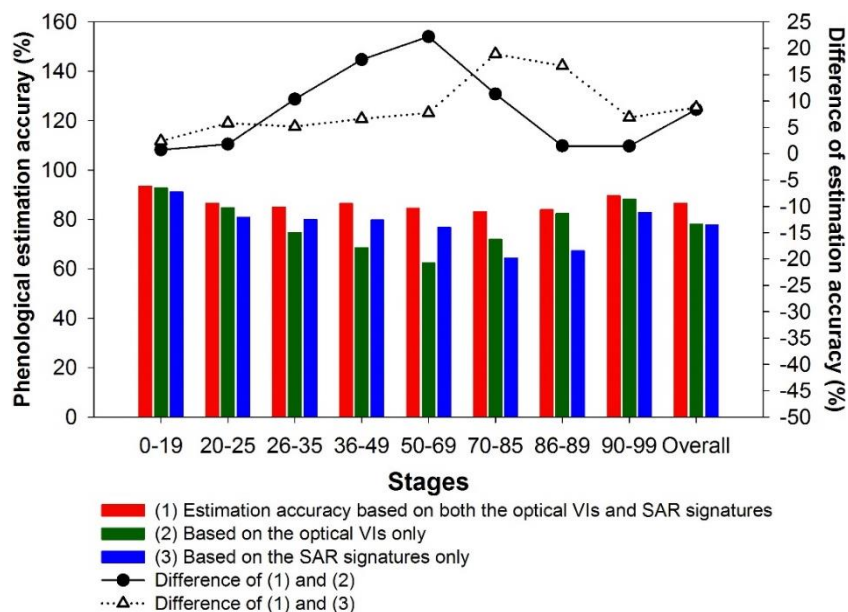


# Optimal feature matrix for rice phenology

	0-19.	20-25.	26-35.	36-49.	50-69.	70-85.	86-89.	90-99.
0-19.	—	(1), (10), (18), (24).	(1), (4), (8), (10), (12), (23)-(24).	(1), (4), (8), (10)-(12), (15), (23)-(24).	(1), (4), (8), (11), (14), (15), (24).	(1), (4), (8), (10)-(12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), (23).	(1), (4), (8), (11)-(12), (14), (17), (23)-(24).	(4), (8), (11)-(12), (15), (17), (23).
20-25.	(1)-(6).	—	(2), (25).	(1), (4)-(5), (11), (13)-(14), (16), (22), (25).	(2)-(3), (5), (6), (11)-(14), (17)-(18).	(2)-(6), (7), (11)-(14), (16)-(18), (21)-(22), (25), (27).	(2)-(6), (7), (11)-(14), (16)-(18), (20)-(21).	(1)-(3), (5)-(7), (11), (16), (25), (27).
26-35.	(1)-(4), (7), (8), (9).	(1), (11), (12), (15), (17).	—	(2), (5), (6), (8), (13)-(14), (16), (22), (25).	(2)-(3), (5)-(6), (7), (10), (17), (25).	(3)-(6), (7), (12)-(13), (16), (17)-(18), (22), (26), (27).	(2)-(6), (7), (12)-(13), (16), (18), (25), (26).	(1)-(3), (5), (6), (7), (17).
36-49.	(1)-(4), (7), (8), (9), (10).	(1), (4), (15)-(17), (40).	(8), (13), (16), (17).	—	(4), (8), (22).	(1), (4), (16), (21).	(1), (27).	(1)-(3), (5).
50-69.	(1), (4), (8), (9), (11)-(14).	(1), (11)-(14), (16), (17)-(19).	(10), (12)-(15), (19).	(2), (5), (11), (14), (17).	—	(2), (5).	(1), (27).	(1), (4)-(5), (11)-(12), (16), (22).
70-85.	(1), (4), (8), (9), (10), (11), (14).	(1), (6), (11), (14), (15), (17), (19)-(21).	(10), (19).	(19).	(22), (23).	—	(1).	(1)-(4), (12)-(14), (16), (17), (22), (26).
86-89.	(1), (4), (8), (9), (11)-(12), (14), (15).	(10)-(14), (16)-(18), (21), (31).	(1), (6), (10), (13)-(14), (21).	(1)-(2), (11), (14).	(1), (11), (19), (22), (23).	(1).	—	(1), (3), (5), (12), (14), (16), (18).
90-99.	(4), (8), (9), (11)-(12), (14), (16).	(11), (13)-(14), (16), (18), (21).	(14).	(1)-(2), (21).	(1), (19).	(1), (19).	(1).	—

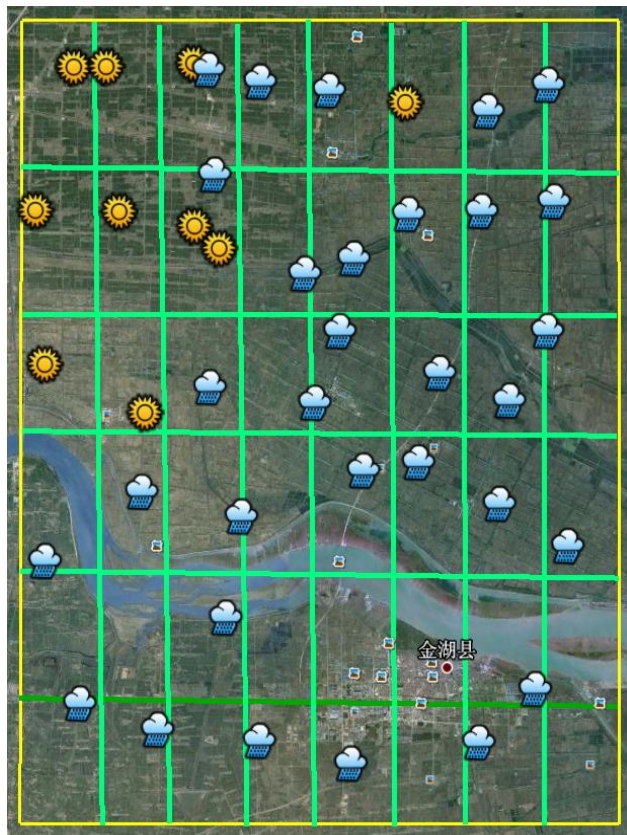
(1) NDVI; (2) SE; (3)  $\sigma_{HH}$ ; (4)  $\sigma_{HH}/\sigma_{VV}$ ; (5)  $SE_I$ ; (6)  $\lambda_2$ ; (7)  $\lambda_3$ ; (8) TSVM- $\alpha_1$ ; (9)  $\mu$ ; (10) *Freeman\_V*; (11)  $\sigma_{HV}/\sigma_{VV}$ ; (12) TSVM- $\alpha_3$ ; (13) *A*; (14)  $\beta_2$ ; (15) *Freeman\_V%*; (16)  $H \times A$ ; (17)  $\sigma_{VV}$ ; (18) *DERD*; (19) *m*; (20) *RVI-I*; (21) *Freeman\_db*; (22)  $(1-H) \times (1-A)$ ; (23)  $\beta_1$ ; (24)  $\sigma_{RH}$ ; (25) *SE\_norm*; (26)  $\beta_3$ ; (27) Polarization asymmetry.

# Results and discussion



- ❑ A combination of the optical VIs and SAR signatures was the best (86.59%)
- ❑ It is important to consider the differences between DRF and TRF in rice phenology estimation

# Rice parameters collection

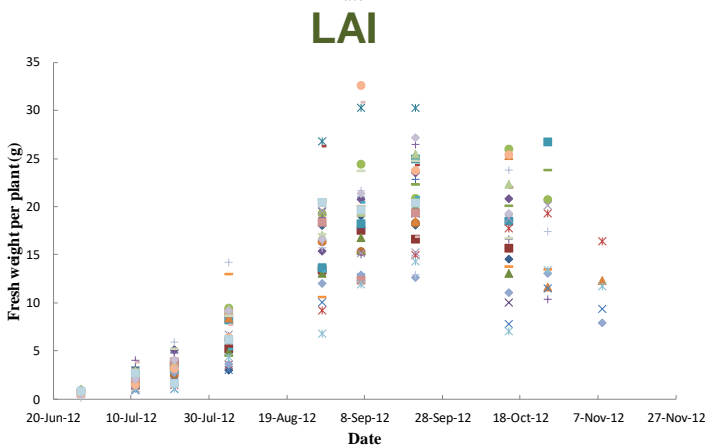
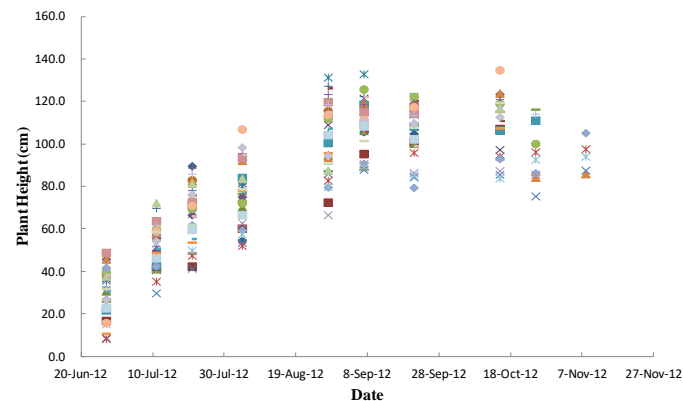
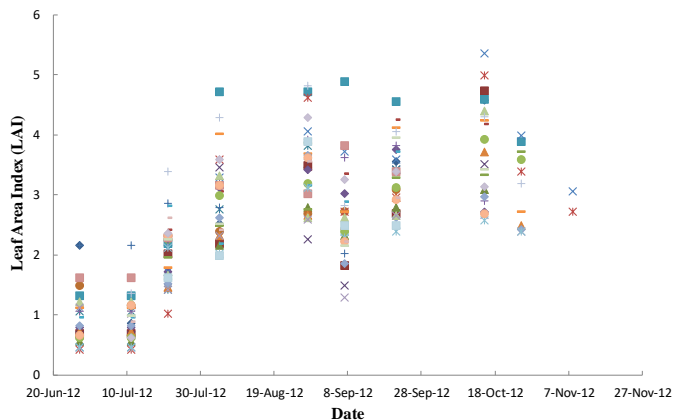


Field work, 2012, Jinhu, Jiangsu Province

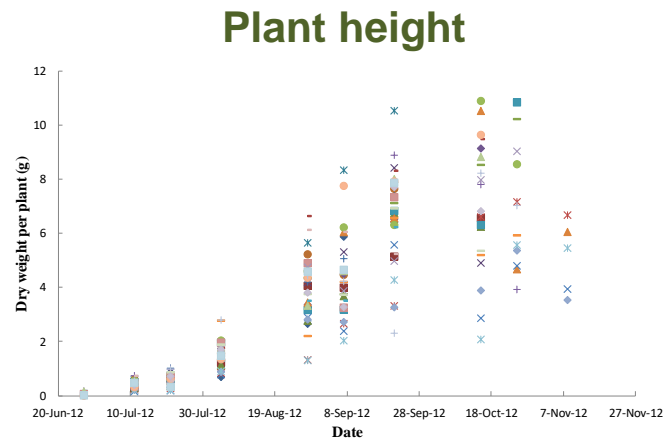
# In situ data

Category		Parameters	
Geographic Information		Location, plots boundaries, elevation, topography, etc.	
Meteorological data		Temperature, humidity, wind direction, precipitation, etc.	
Calendar		Planting dates, growth stages, cultivation methods, irrigation, rice varieties	
		Geometry	Bio-physical
Rice	Plant	Height, diameter of cluster, density	LAI, moisture, fresh weight
	Stem	Length, diameter, inclination	Fresh weight, dry weight, moisture
	Leaf	Length, width, depth, inclination, density	Fresh weight, dry weight, moisture
	Ear	Length, diameter, inclination, density	Fresh weight, dry weight, moisture
Surface	Water	Depth	
	Soil	Roughness	Types, moisture, Organic, pH, TN, etc.

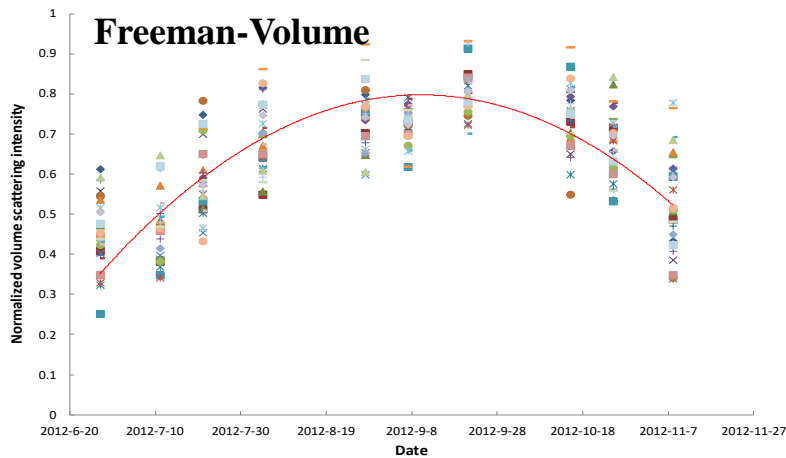
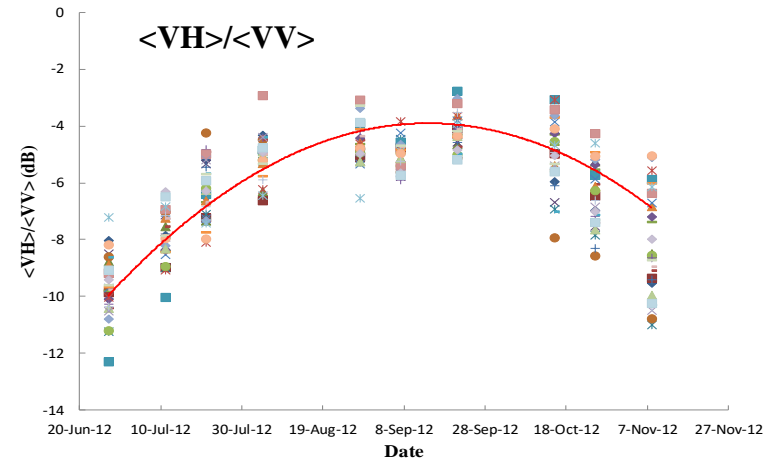
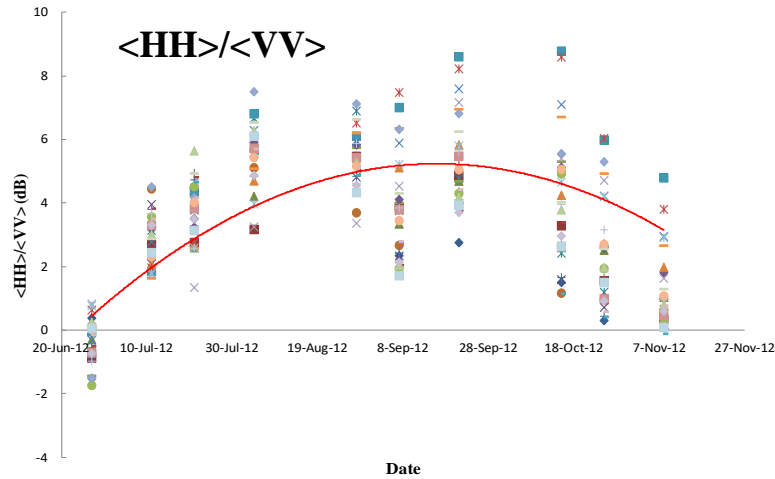
# Rice parameters VS time



Fresh weight



Dry weight



Polarization ratio  $\langle HH \rangle / \langle VV \rangle$ ,  $\langle VH \rangle / \langle VV \rangle$ , and the *Freeman\_Volume* term are most sensitive to rice parameters during the growth cycle

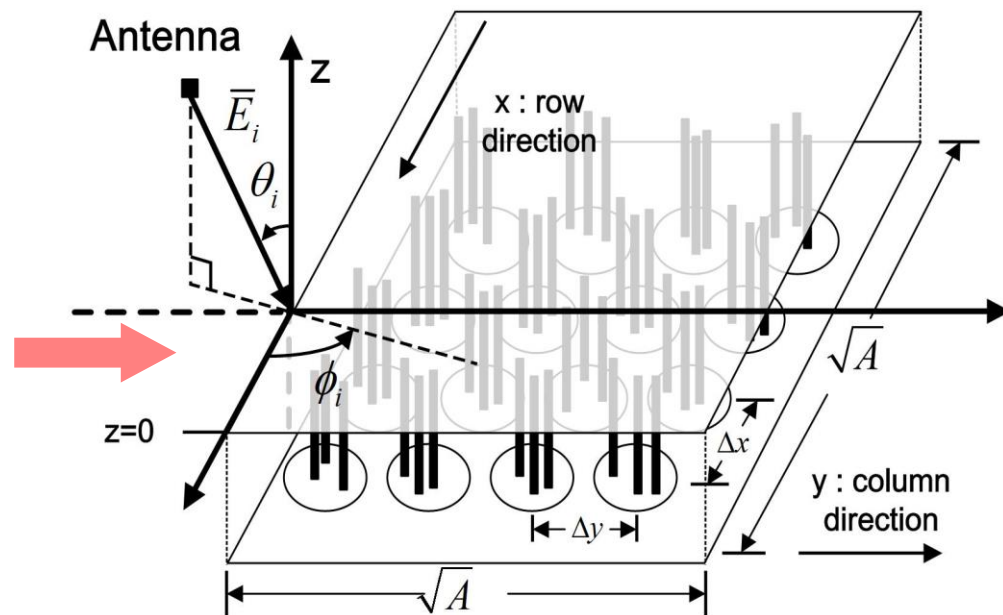
# Rice scattering model

- ❑ Microwave scattering model is the key point for rice parameter estimation using SAR data
- ❑ A coherent microwave scattering model of rice using Monte-Carlo numerical simulation methods, considering the ear layer, was developed to simulate backscatter of rice during the whole growth stage

# Rice field configuration



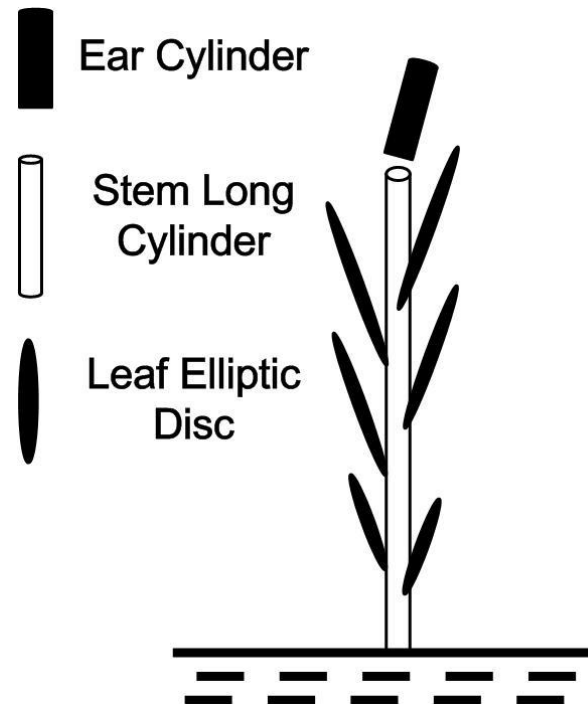
Rice field



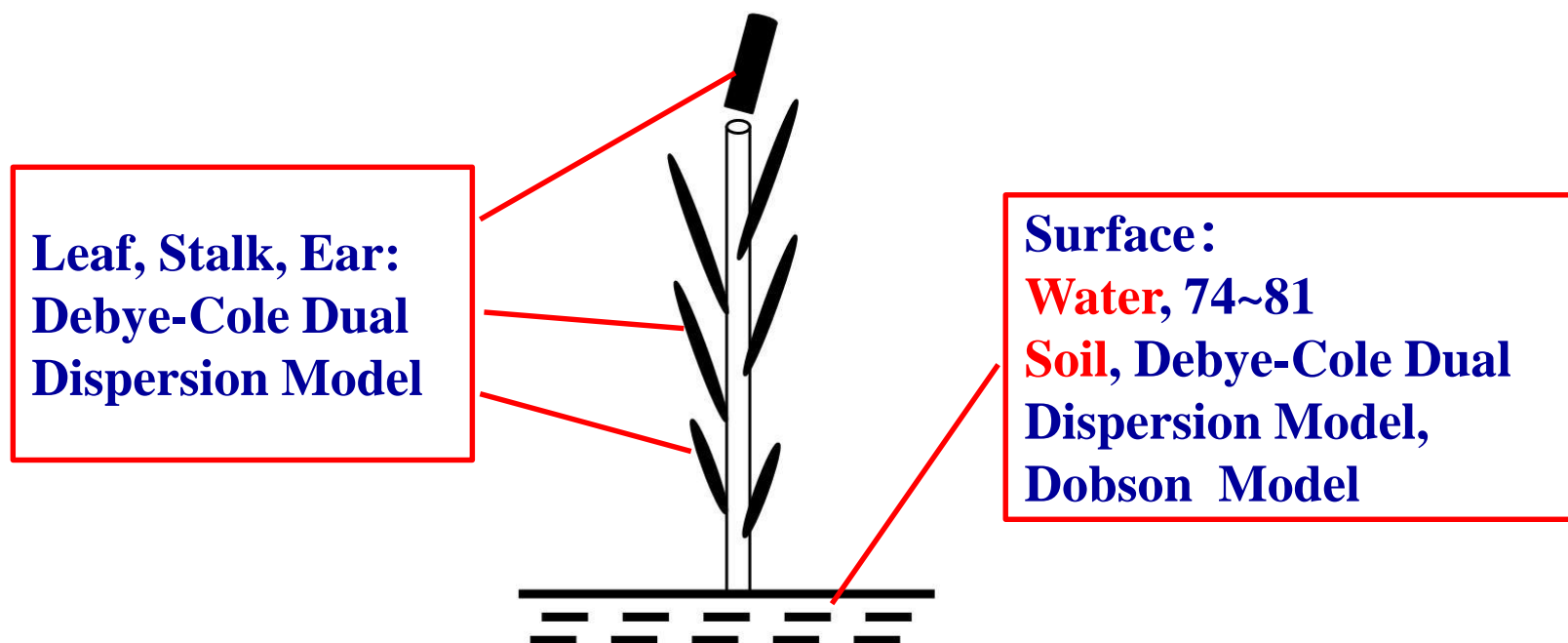
Radar observation pattern and rice field configuration



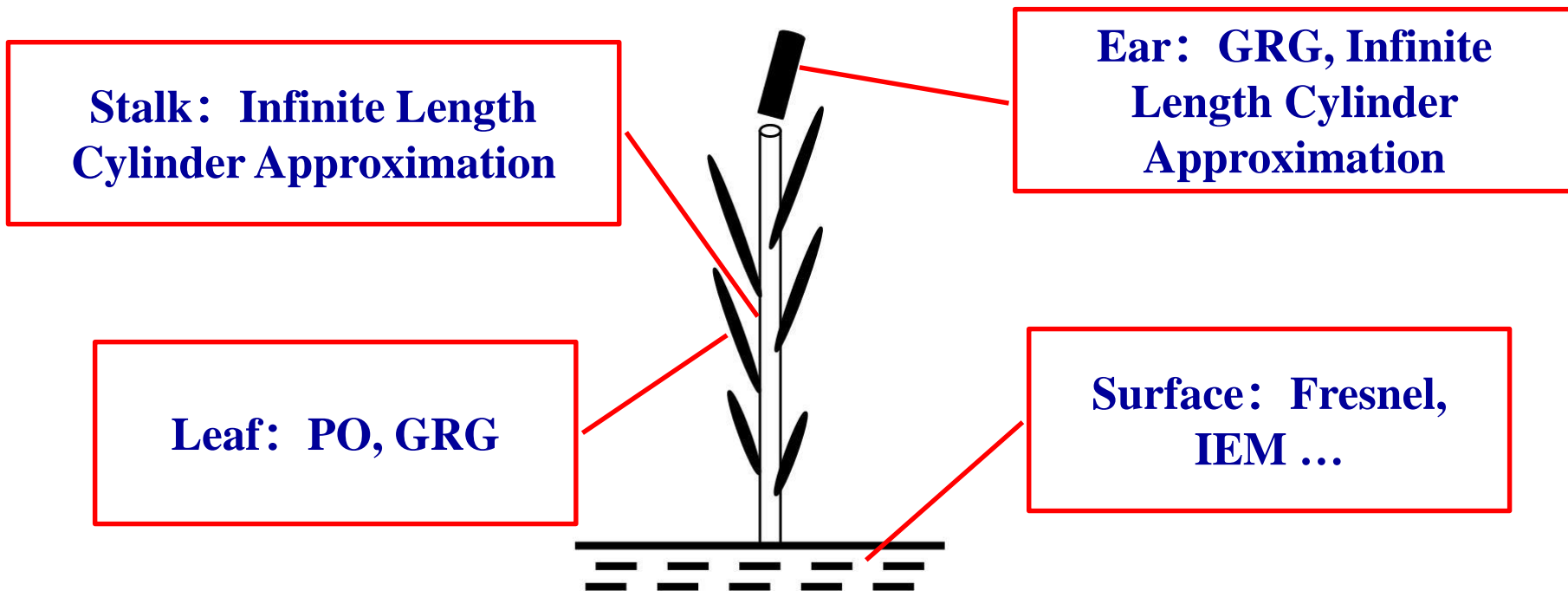
# Rice plant geometric modeling

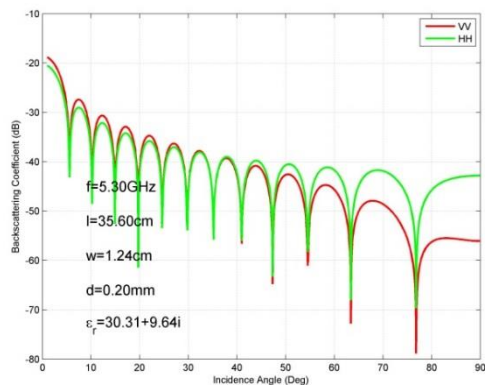


# Dielectric constant calculation

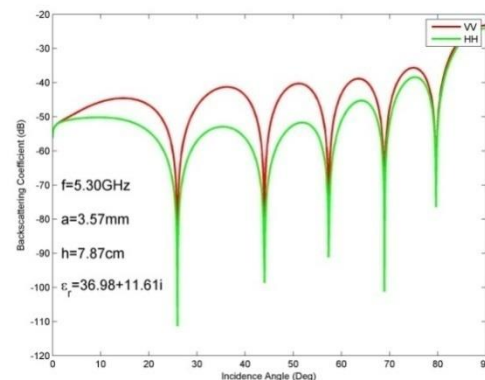


# Scattering properties calculation

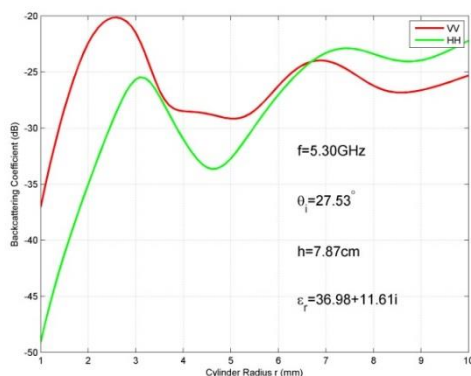




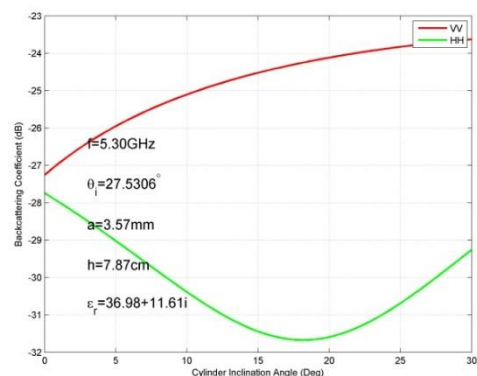
**Leaf backscatter with incidence angle**



**Stem backscatter with incidence angle**

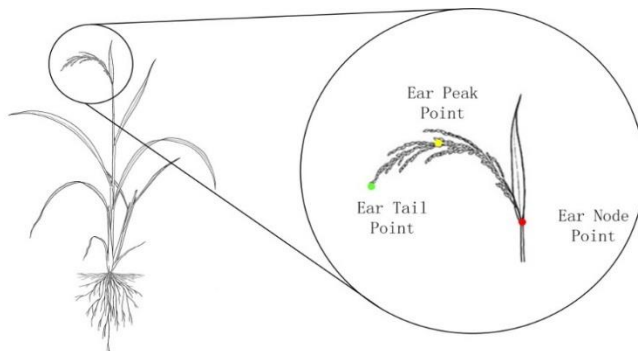
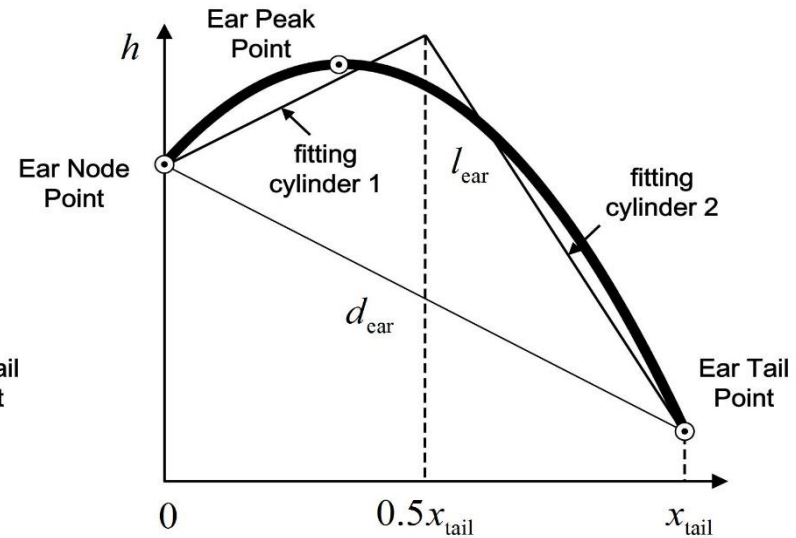
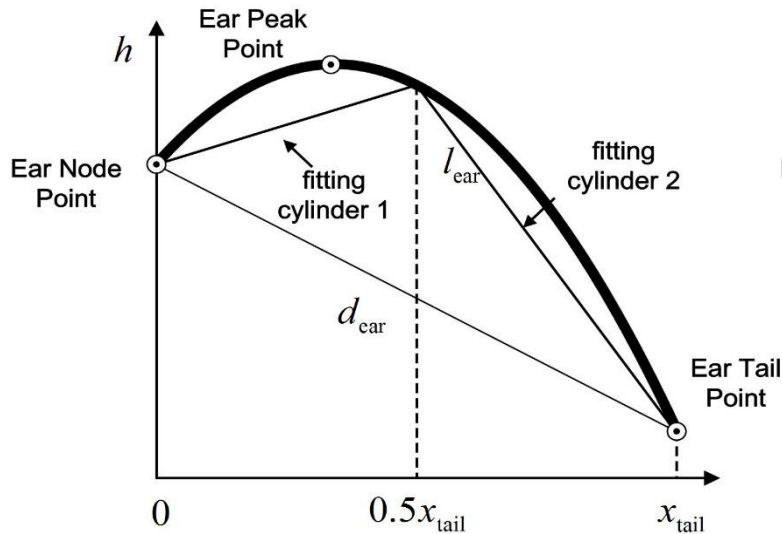


**Stem backscatter with its diameter**



**Stem backscatter with its inclination angle**

# Curving rice ear backscatter calculation



*Approx. 1*

$$\alpha_1 = \arctan(0.5a\rho_t + b)$$

$$\alpha_2 = \arctan(1.5a\rho_t + b)$$

$$L_1 = \int_0^{0.5\rho_t} \sqrt{1 + (2a\rho + b)^2} d\rho$$

$$L_2 = \int_{0.5\rho_t}^{\rho_t} \sqrt{1 + (2a\rho + b)^2} d\rho$$

*Approx. 2*

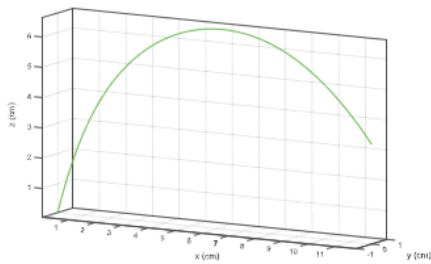
$$\alpha_1 = \frac{2}{\rho_t} \int_0^{0.5\rho_t} \arctan(2a\rho + b) d\rho$$

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{2}{\rho_t} \int_{0.5\rho_t}^{\rho_t} \arctan(2a\rho + b) d\rho$$

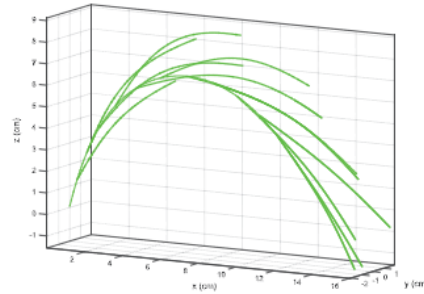
$$L_1 = 0.5\rho_t / |\cos \alpha_1|$$

$$L_2 = 0.5\rho_t / |\cos \alpha_2|$$

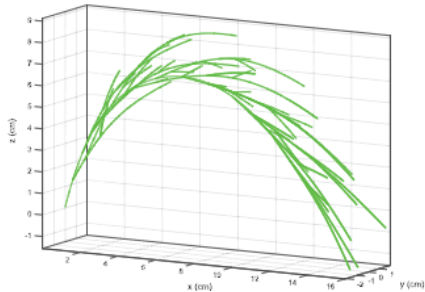
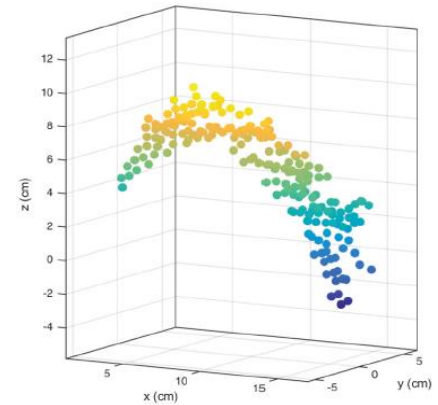
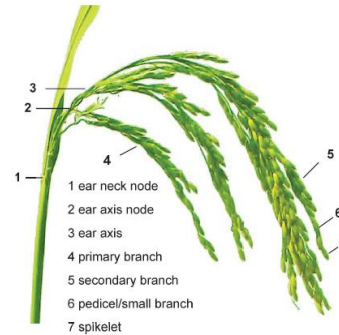
# Curving rice ear backscatter calculation



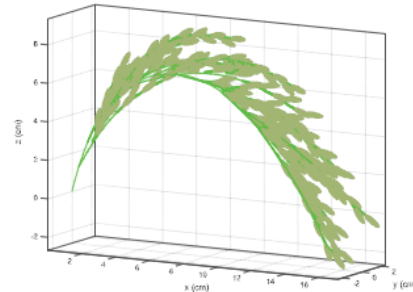
Ear axis



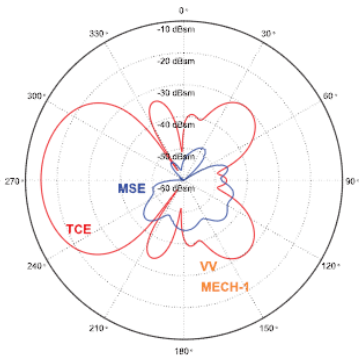
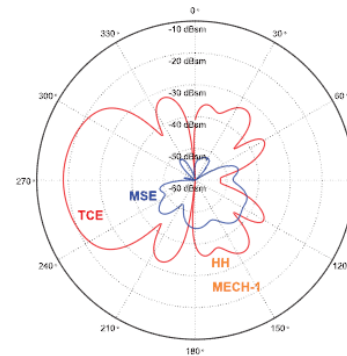
Primary branch



Secondary branch



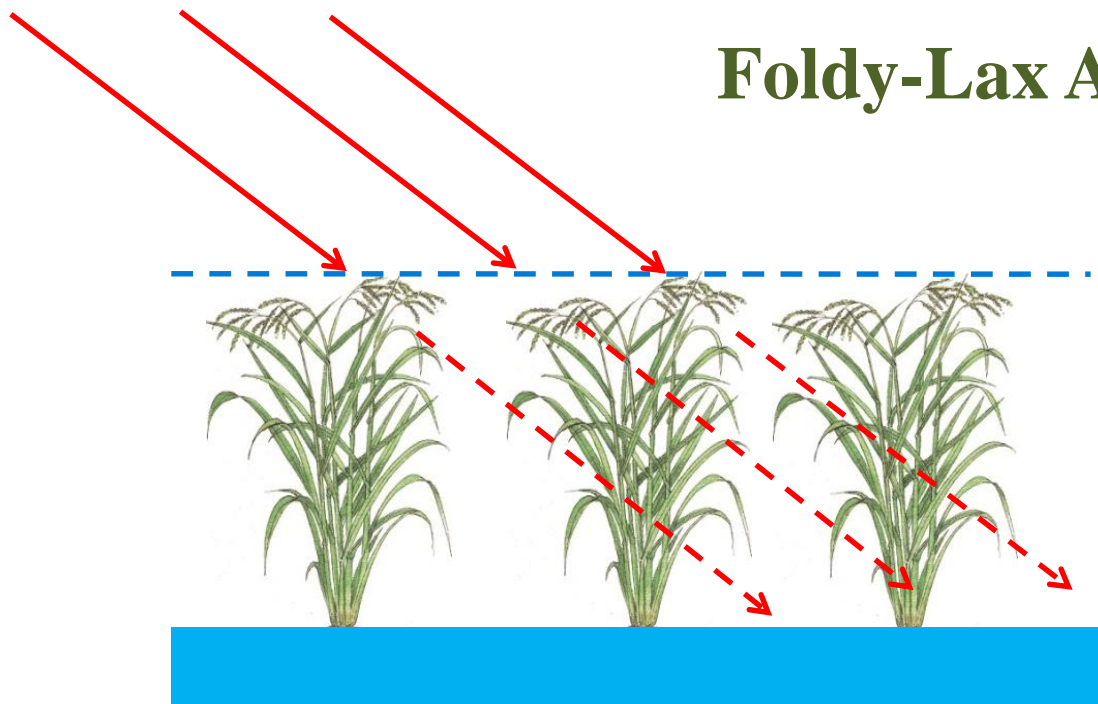
Spikelet



Source: L. Liu, Y. Shao, K. Li, et al. 2017. Modeling the Scattering Behavior of Rice Ears. *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*, Vol. 14, No.4, pp.579-583.

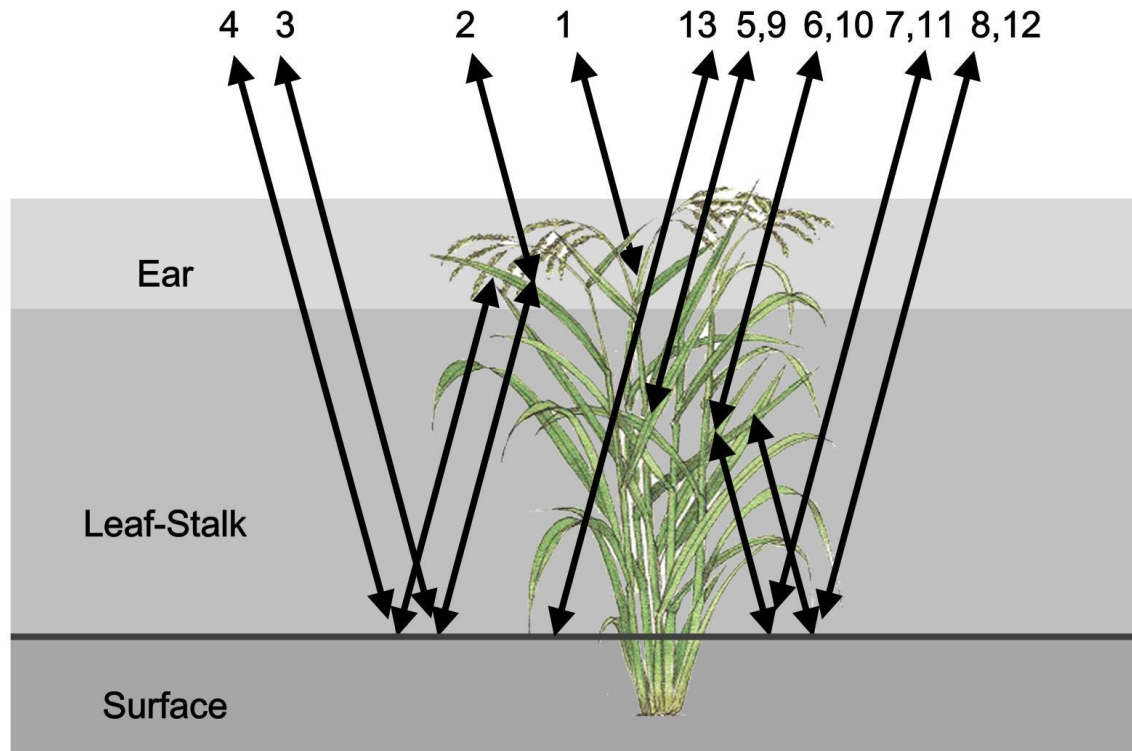
# Attenuation Feature of Layered Media

## Foldy-Lax Approximation



# Scattering mechanisms

**Coherently** summing the scattering mechanisms as the total backscatter :

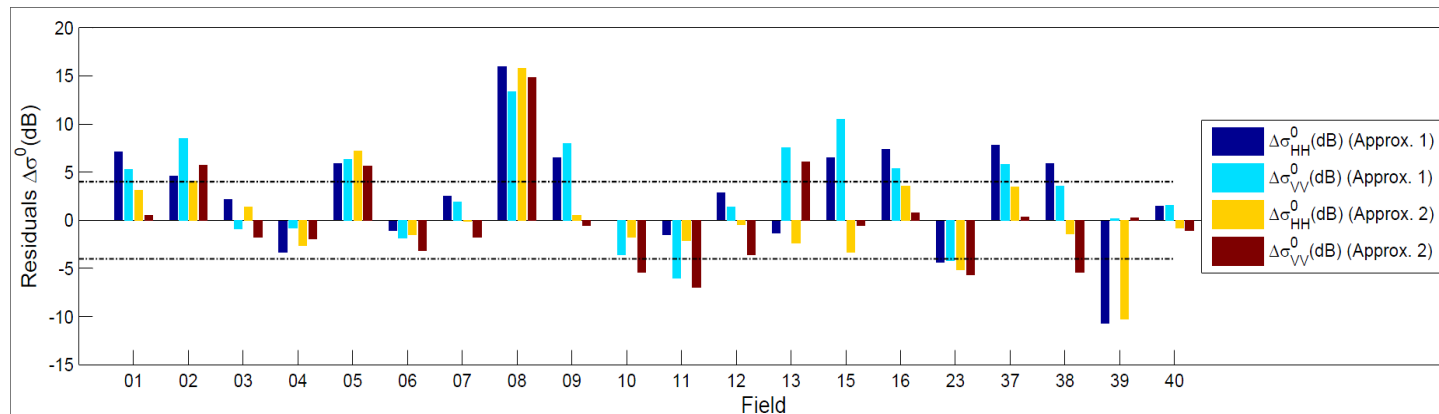




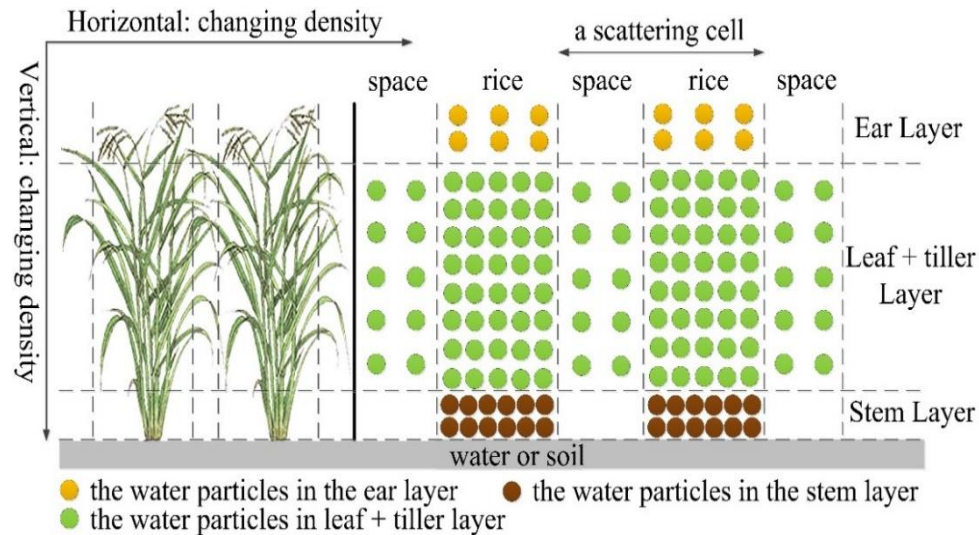
# Model inputs and validation

Field	$\phi_0(^{\circ})$	$\Delta x(m)$	$\Delta y(m)$	$r_c(m)$	$N_s$	$r_{stak}(m)$	$l_{stak}(m)$	$\epsilon_{stak}$	$N_l$	$l_{hear}(m)$	$w_{hear}(m)$	$t_{hear}(m)$	$\theta_{hear}(^{\circ})$	$\epsilon_{hear}$
01	83.9	3.08E-01	1.45E-01	3.25E-02	16.00	3.23E-03	7.53E-01	(29.6,9.4)	3.33	4.51E-01	1.42E-02	2.00E-04	25.00	(30.6,9.7)
02	-2.8	3.26E-01	1.56E-01	3.47E-02	15.67	2.99E-03	5.94E-01	(30.2,9.6)	6.00	3.92E-01	1.73E-02	2.00E-04	21.39	(29.4,9.4)
03	-7.9	3.05E-01	1.57E-01	4.25E-02	17.33	2.98E-03	7.41E-01	(31.2,9.9)	4.33	4.10E-01	1.50E-02	2.00E-04	25.77	(31.4,9.9)
04	83.5	3.24E-01	1.76E-01	4.08E-02	10.67	3.10E-03	7.98E-01	(34.2,10.8)	4.00	5.07E-01	1.84E-02	2.00E-04	31.67	(25.6,8.2)
05	-8.9	3.15E-01	1.70E-01	3.92E-02	16.33	3.27E-03	8.58E-01	(33.6,10.6)	4.00	5.31E-01	1.65E-02	2.00E-04	22.92	(28.3,9.0)
06	81.2	3.11E-01	1.56E-01	4.17E-02	15.00	3.42E-03	6.65E-01	(33.2,10.5)	3.33	5.29E-01	1.26E-02	2.00E-04	37.50	(42.0,13.1)
07	-36.3	3.24E-01	1.85E-01	3.58E-02	14.00	3.14E-03	8.46E-01	(20.3,6.6)	4.33	5.83E-01	1.87E-02	2.00E-04	25.92	(35.7,11.2)
08	55.6	2.85E-01	1.54E-01	3.83E-02	14.67	3.39E-03	7.23E-01	(32.9,10.4)	4.33	5.71E-01	2.02E-02	2.00E-04	18.62	(27.5,8.8)
09	-31.8	3.33E-01	2.03E-01	4.33E-02	18.67	3.02E-03	7.59E-01	(33.7,10.7)	4.67	4.11E-01	1.64E-02	2.00E-04	21.21	(36.7,11.5)
10	-27.2	2.53E-01	1.59E-01	4.27E-02	16.67	3.20E-03	7.66E-01	(31.6,10.0)	4.67	4.44E-01	1.69E-02	2.00E-04	22.86	(27.9,8.9)
11	83.6	2.84E-01	1.97E-01	3.30E-02	15.67	3.26E-03	6.85E-01	(33.7,10.6)	4.33	5.81E-01	1.88E-02	2.00E-04	18.46	(29.3,9.3)
12	-7.5	3.10E-01	1.71E-01	3.05E-02	10.00	3.14E-03	7.96E-01	(33.4,10.6)	3.33	5.74E-01	1.64E-02	2.00E-04	19.00	(24.6,7.9)
13	86.3	2.78E-01	1.16E-01	3.10E-02	14.00	2.90E-03	6.42E-01	(33.1,10.5)	6.00	3.39E-01	1.32E-02	2.00E-04	17.22	(30.0,9.6)
15	-34.3	3.19E-01	1.60E-01	4.10E-02	18.33	3.94E-03	8.72E-01	(30.3,9.6)	5.00	5.08E-01	1.61E-02	2.00E-04	28.67	(28.7,9.2)
16	-29.0	3.20E-01	1.62E-01	4.22E-02	15.33	3.69E-03	8.72E-01	(29.9,9.5)	4.00	5.76E-01	2.00E-02	2.00E-04	33.75	(22.5,7.3)
23	-34.1	3.31E-01	1.59E-01	4.17E-02	26.67	3.07E-03	7.86E-01	(32.4,10.3)	3.67	5.23E-01	1.53E-02	2.00E-04	24.73	(28.3,9.0)
37	-33.4	3.27E-01	1.54E-01	4.92E-02	17.33	3.76E-03	7.30E-01	(32.4,10.3)	4.33	5.38E-01	1.88E-02	2.00E-04	19.62	(30.4,9.7)
38	-32.5	3.19E-01	1.94E-01	4.08E-02	17.67	3.52E-03	8.35E-01	(35.3,11.1)	4.00	5.22E-01	1.89E-02	2.00E-04	19.58	(32.2,10.2)
39	-10.2	3.25E-01	1.61E-01	2.92E-02	7.67	2.97E-03	6.31E-01	(36.7,11.5)	4.33	4.93E-01	1.98E-02	2.00E-04	19.23	(31.7,10.1)
40	58.1	3.21E-01	1.97E-01	4.43E-02	13.33	3.80E-03	7.24E-01	(36.8,11.6)	4.67	5.60E-01	1.85E-02	2.00E-04	25.00	(32.4,10.3)

Field	$l_{ear}(m)$	$r_{ear}(m)$	$\epsilon_{ear}$	a	b	c
01	2.82E-01	9.00E-03	(13.6,4.5)	-2.80E+01	2.99E+00	6.75E-01
02	2.19E-01	7.50E-03	(24.9,8.0)	-1.37E+02	1.03E+01	5.22E-01
03	2.81E-01	7.50E-03	(24.2,7.8)	-2.51E+01	3.09E+00	7.20E-01
04	2.71E-01	7.80E-03	(9.9,3.3)	-2.12E+01	1.95E+00	7.75E-01
05	2.80E-01	8.10E-03	(11.8,3.9)	-2.25E+01	3.91E+00	7.20E-01
06	2.50E-01	8.60E-03	(11.9,3.9)	-4.37E+01	3.21E+00	7.26E-01
07	2.44E-01	7.60E-03	(19.3,6.3)	-2.27E+01	2.94E+00	8.65E-01
08	2.25E-01	8.30E-03	(22.1,7.2)	-3.11E+01	3.85E+00	7.31E-01
09	2.24E-01	8.60E-03	(31.3,9.9)	-1.73E+01	3.60E+00	7.38E-01
10	2.15E-01	6.90E-03	(25.8,8.3)	-2.50E+01	2.65E+00	7.20E-01
11	2.35E-01	7.20E-03	(37.3,11.7)	-1.67E+01	3.93E+00	7.00E-01
12	2.62E-01	7.20E-03	(12.5,4.1)	-1.67E+01	1.29E+00	7.05E-01
13	1.47E-01	5.50E-03	(27.3,8.7)	-5.20E+01	6.48E+00	6.58E-01
15	3.06E-01	7.10E-03	(17.0,5.6)	-2.42E+01	3.39E+00	8.71E-01
16	2.58E-01	9.40E-03	(14.8,4.9)	-1.74E+01	2.64E+00	9.20E-01
23	2.45E-01	7.80E-03	(14.5,4.8)	-2.14E+01	2.45E+00	7.10E-01
37	2.29E-01	6.30E-03	(29.6,9.4)	-2.74E+01	3.26E+00	7.13E-01
38	2.97E-01	7.60E-03	(22.9,7.4)	-1.44E+01	2.40E+00	8.90E-01
39	2.04E-01	5.90E-03	(31.0,9.8)	-5.02E+02	2.00E+01	6.50E-01
40	2.40E-01	7.30E-03	(27.9,8.9)	-6.02E+02	2.42E+01	7.45E-01



# Rice parameters estimation with PolSAR

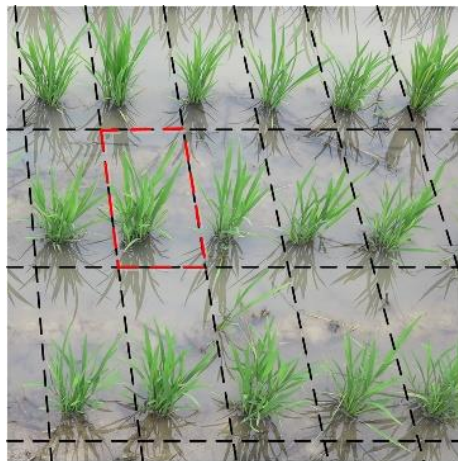


**Volume fraction** and its phenological changes was considered for rice parameters estimation

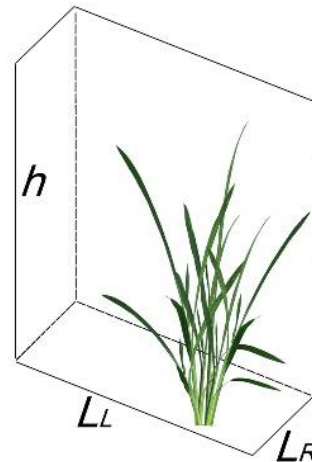
**Polarimetric decomposition components** were introduced for rice **LAI** and **height** estimation

Source: Z. Yang, K. Li \*, Y. Shao et al. 2016. Estimation of Paddy Rice Variables with a Modified Water Cloud Model and Improved Polarimetric Decomposition Using Multi-Temporal RADARSAT-2 Images. Remote Sensing, 8:878.

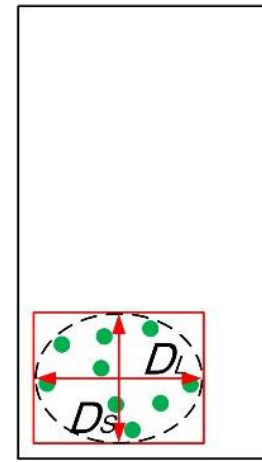
# The configuration of a scattering cell



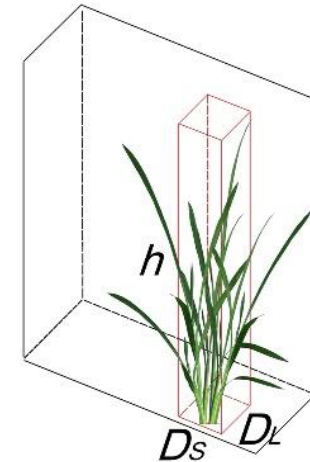
(a)



(b)



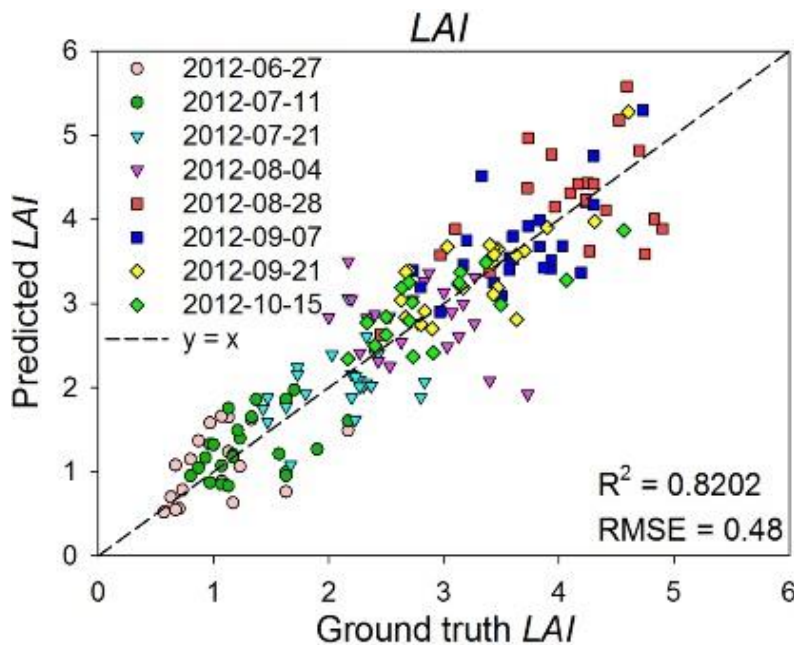
(c)



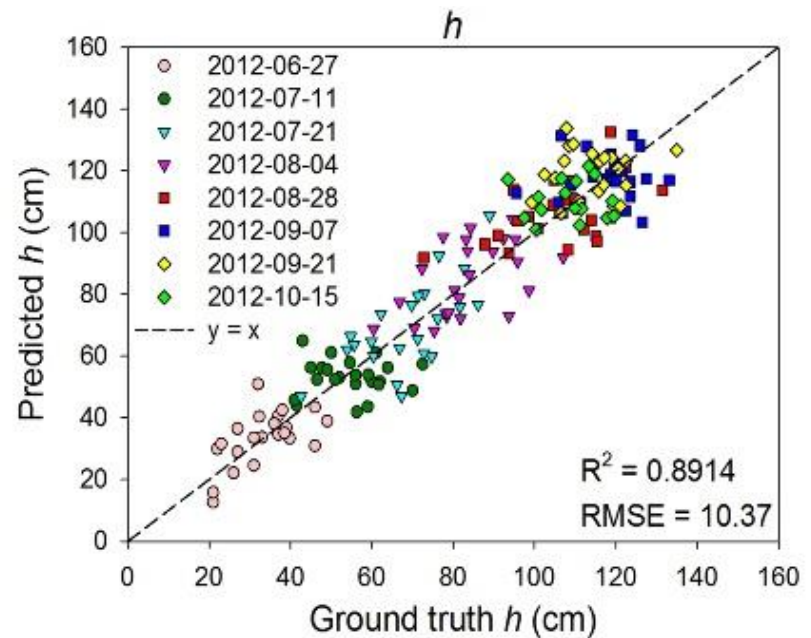
(d)

Source: Z. Yang, K. Li \*, Y. Shao et al. 2016. Estimation of Paddy Rice Variables with a Modified Water Cloud Model and Improved Polarimetric Decomposition Using Multi-Temporal RADARSAT-2 Images. Remote Sensing, 8:878.

# Validation with field data

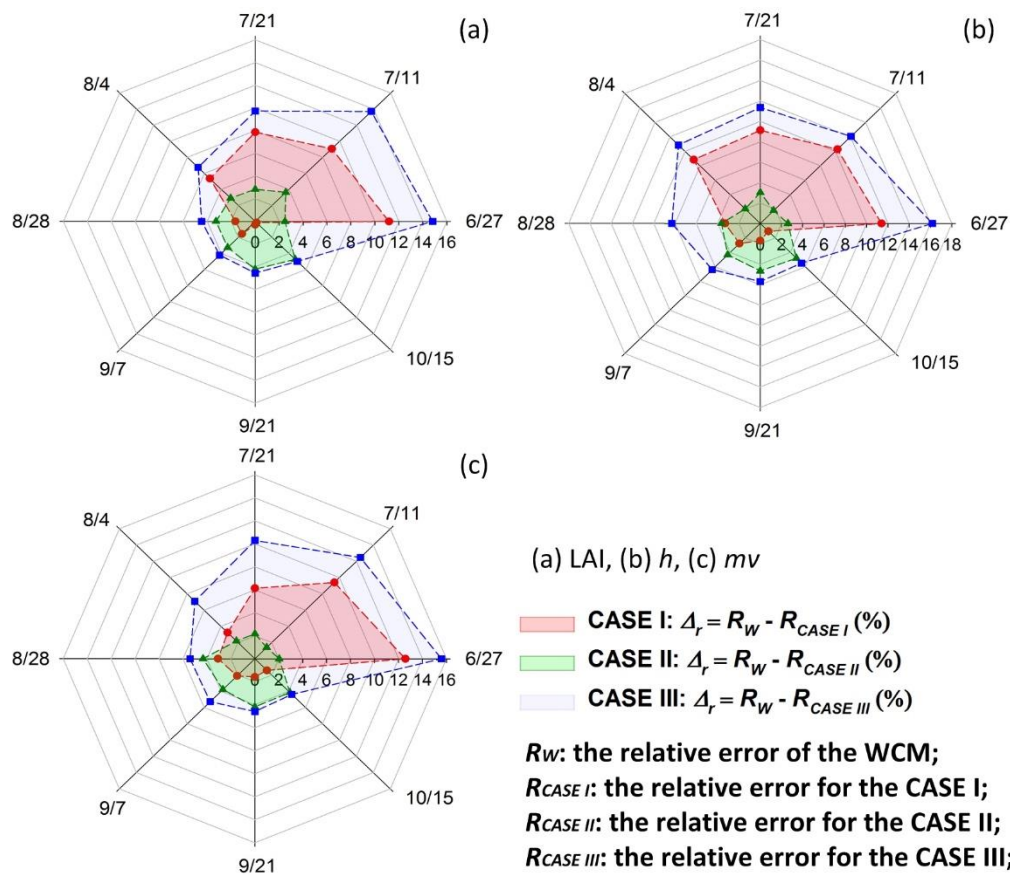


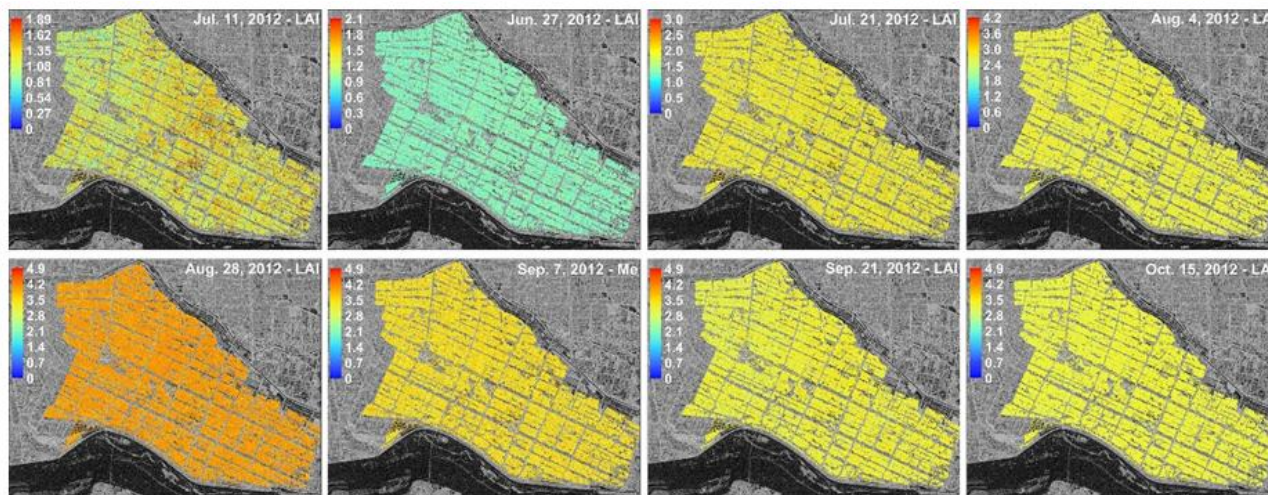
(a) The estimated results vs. Ground truth of LAI



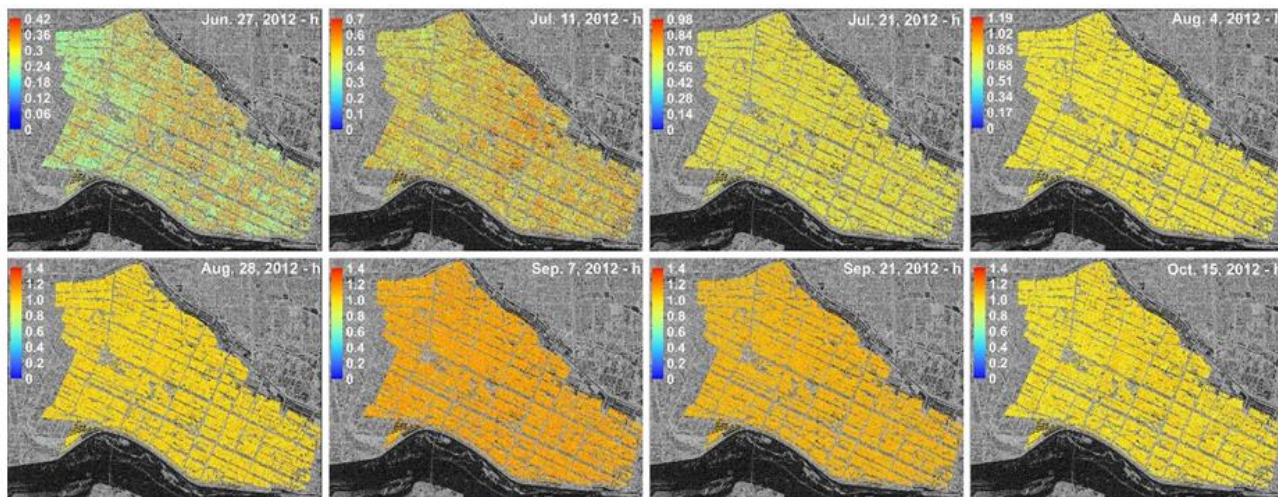
(b) The estimated results vs. Ground truth of  $h$

# Comparison with the WCM





(a) Thematic images for LAI in the whole rice growth cycle

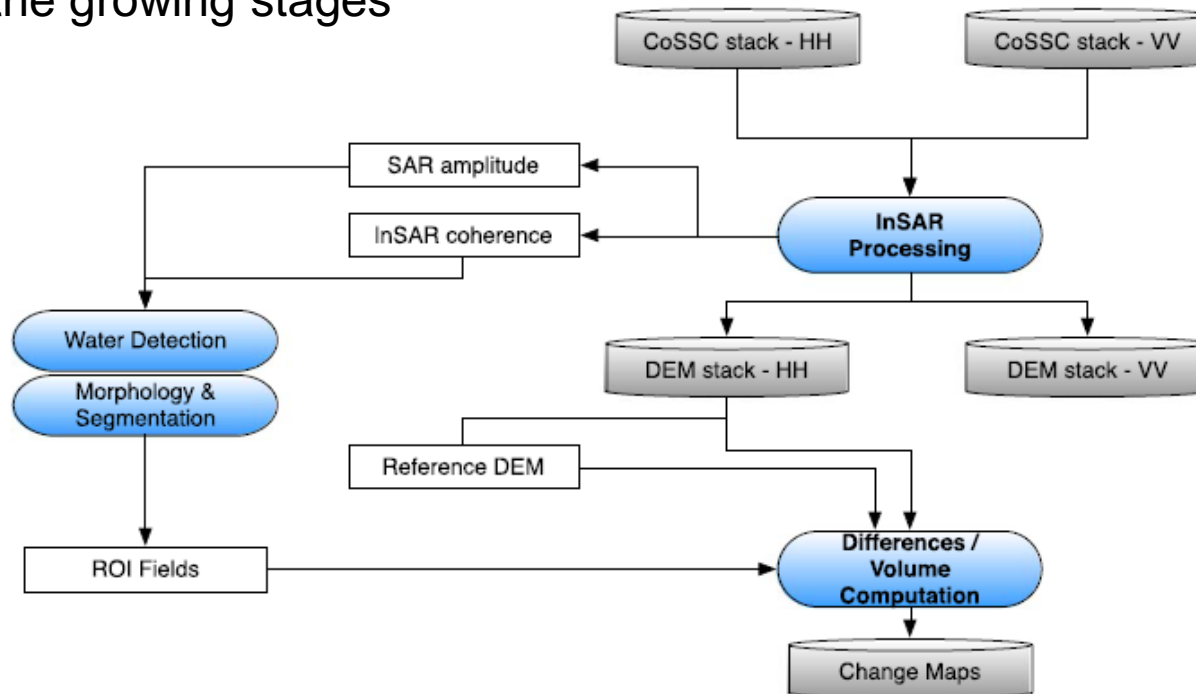


(b) Thematic images for  $h$  in the whole rice growth cycle

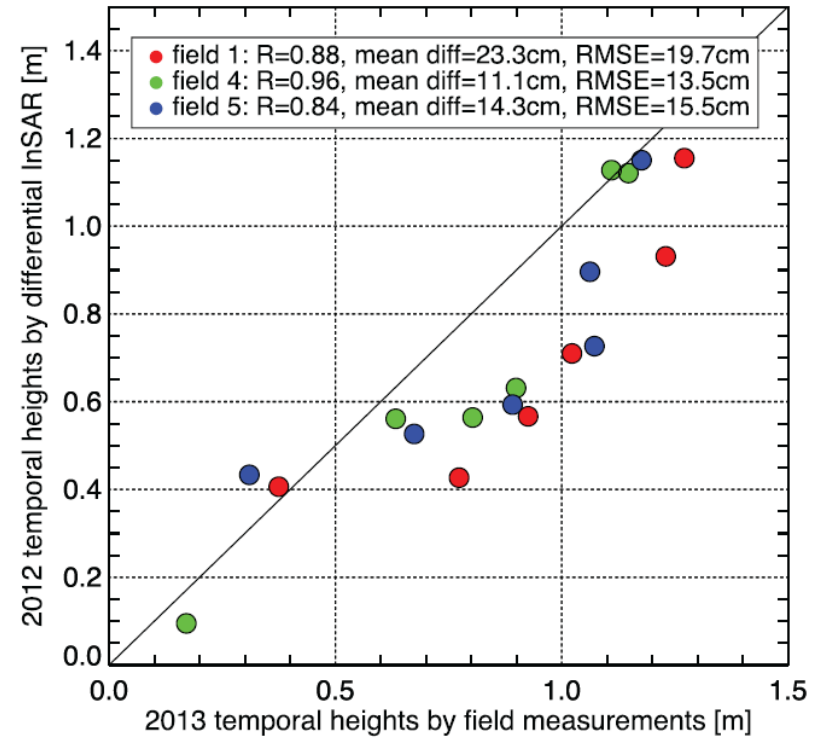
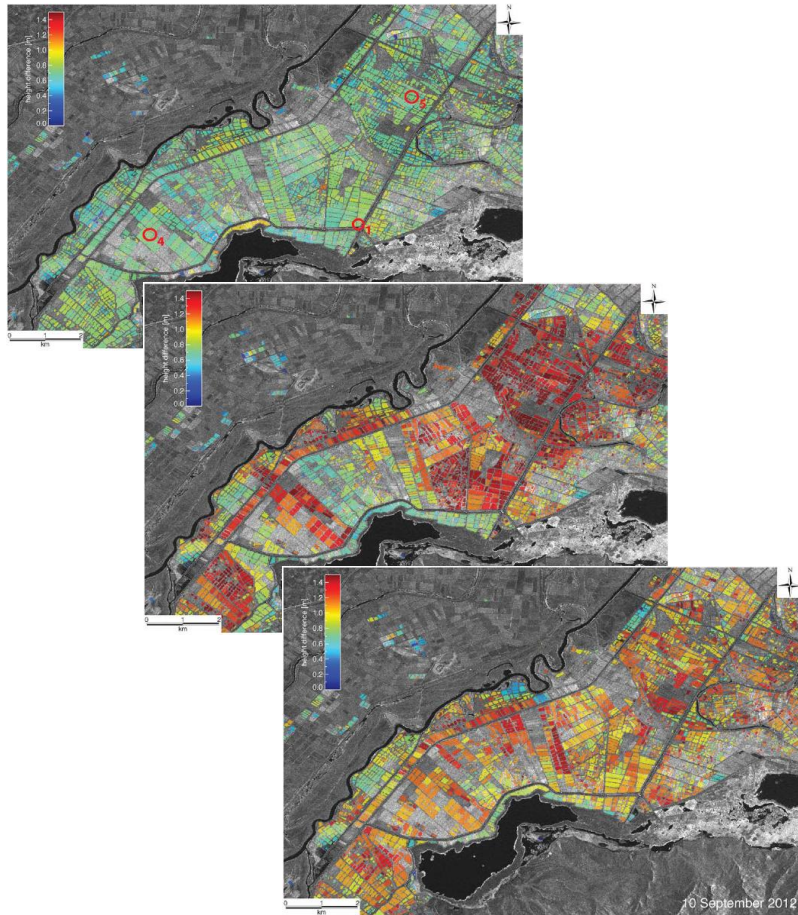
2012, Jinhu,  
Jiangsu  
Province

# Rice canopy height estimation with differential InSAR

*The interferometric phase* was capable to estimate rice canopy heights for almost all the growing stages



Source: C. Rossi and E. Erten. 2015. Paddy-Rice Monitoring Using TanDEM-X. IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing, Vol.53, No.2, pp.900-910.

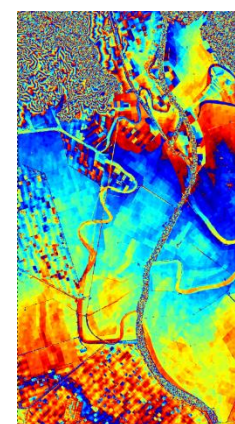
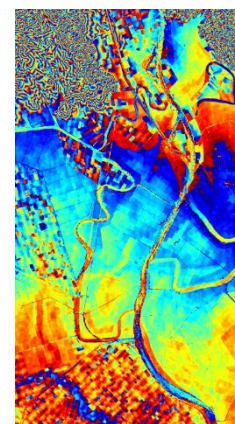
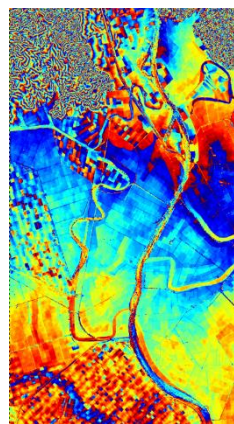
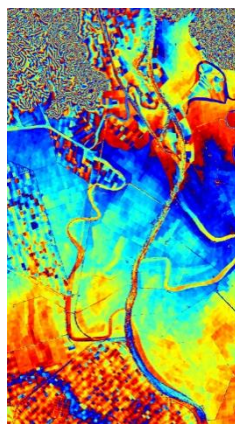
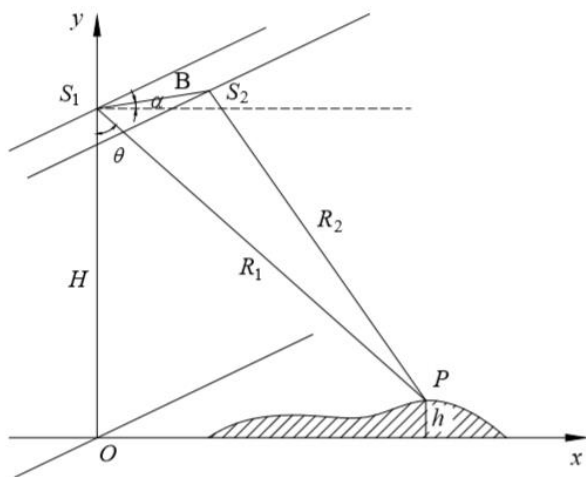


Source: C. Rossi and E. Erten. 2015. Paddy-Rice Monitoring Using TanDEM-X. *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, Vol.53, No.2, pp.900-910.



## Rice height estimation with PolInSAR

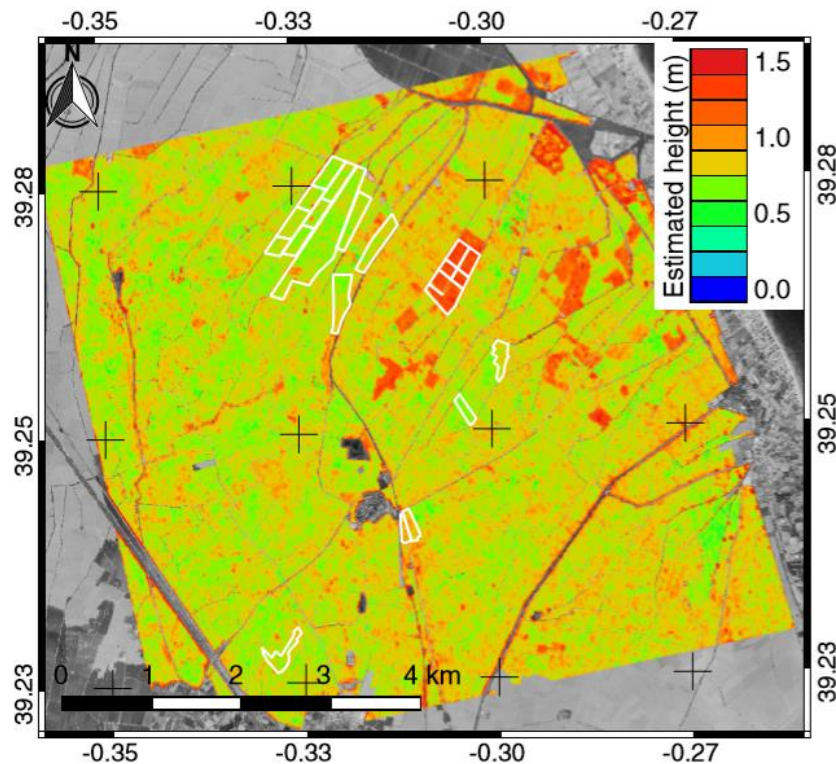
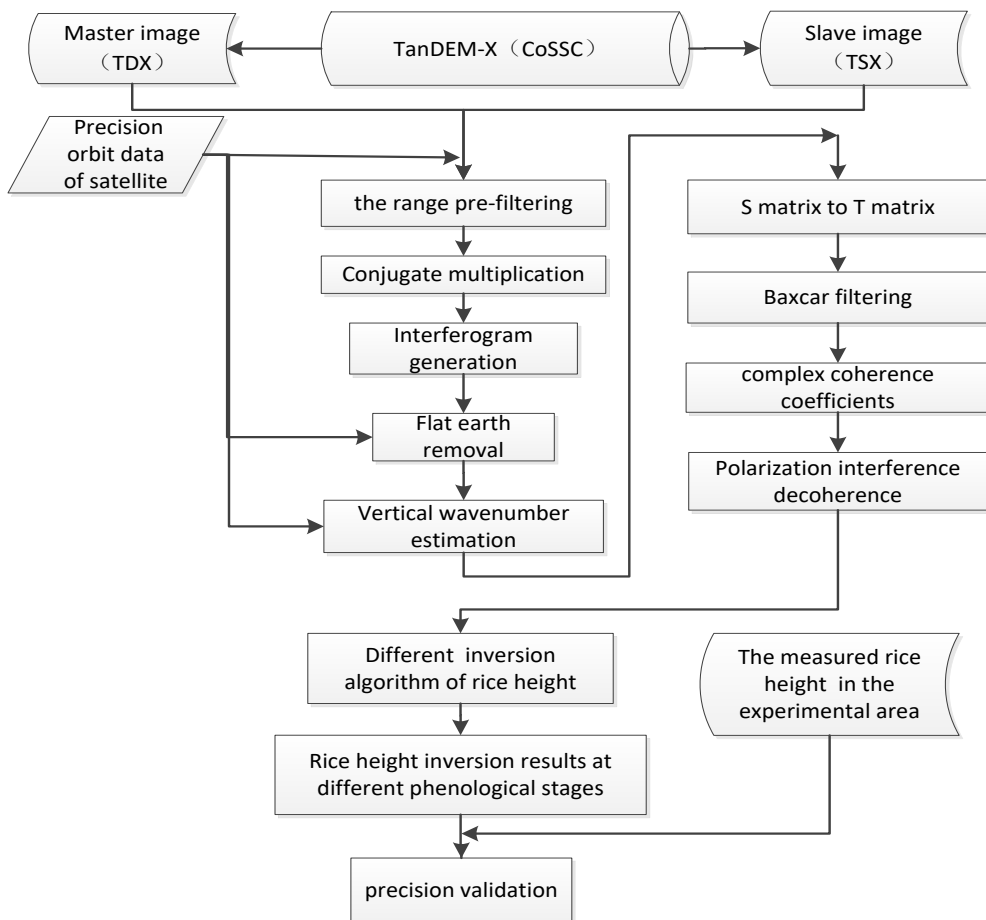
*PolInSAR has not only InSAR's sensitivity to spatial distribution of vegetation scatterers, but also PolSAR's 's sensitivity to shape and direction of vegetation scatterers.*



Interferometric Phase Following Flat Earth Removal  
(HH\VV\HH+VV\HH-VV)

Source: Guo Xian-Yu, Li Kun, Shao Yun, et al. 2020. Inversion of rice height using multitemporal TanDEM-X polarimetric interferometry SAR data. *Spectroscopy and Spectral Analysis*, Vol.40, No.9.

# Rice height estimation with PolInSAR

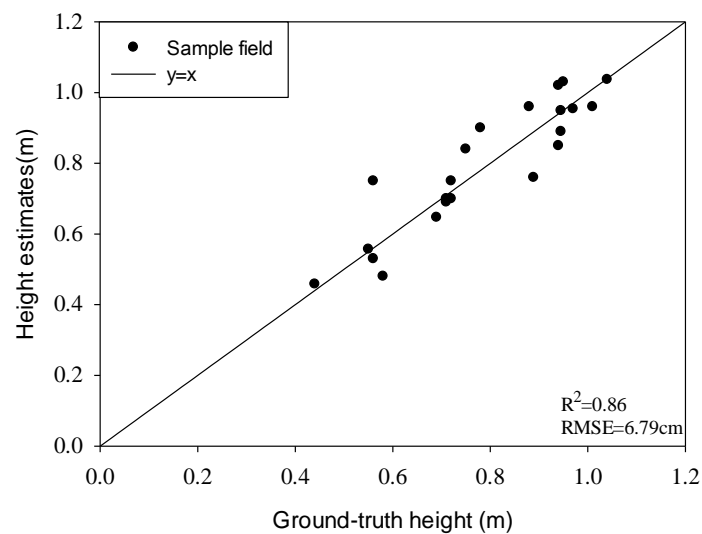
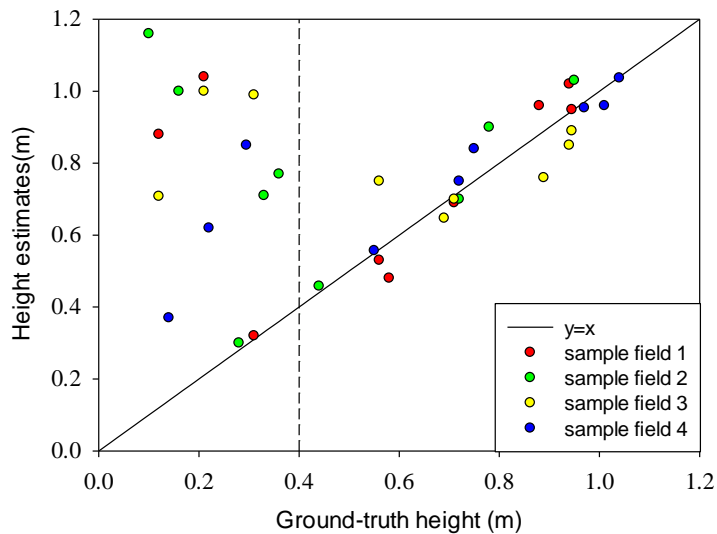
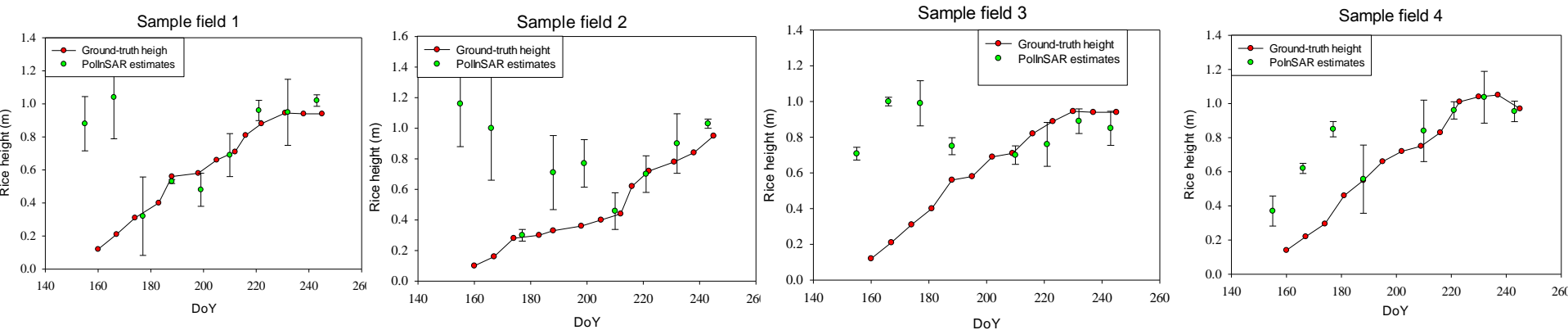


Source:

[J. Lopez-Sanchez et al. 2017. Retrieval of vegetation height in rice fields using polarimetric SAR interferometry with TanDEM-X data. Remote Sensing of Environment Vol.192, pp. 30–44.](#)

[Guo Xian-Yu, Li Kun, Shao Yun, et al. 2020. Inversion of rice height using multitemporal TanDEM-X polarimetric interferometry SAR data. Spectroscopy and Spectral Analysis, Vol.40, No.9.](#)

# Rice height estimation with PolInSAR



2015, Sevilla, Spain

Source: Guo Xian-Yu, Li Kun, Shao Yun, et al. 2020. Inversion of rice height using multitemporal TanDEM-X polarimetric interferometry SAR data. *Spectroscopy and Spectral Analysis*, Vol.40, No.9.

# Wheat monitoring with SAR

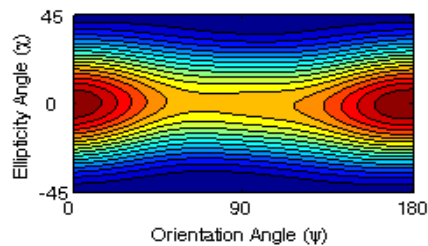
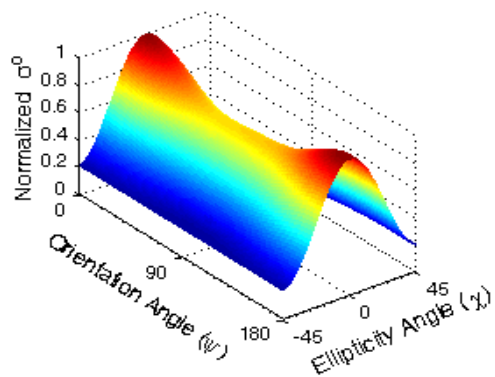
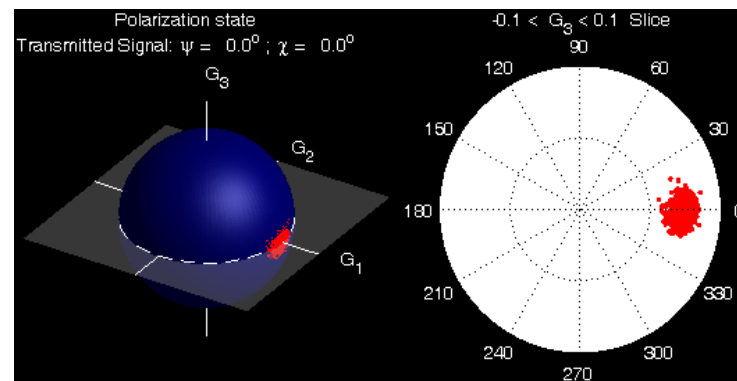
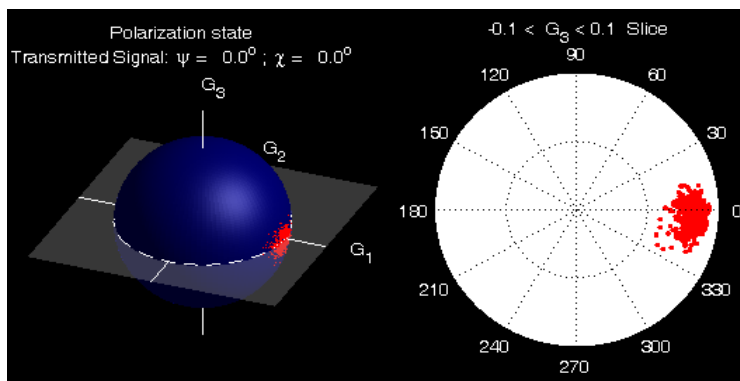
## □ Wheat mapping

- *Polarimetric signature and scattering mechanisms*

## □ Wheat monitoring and yield estimation

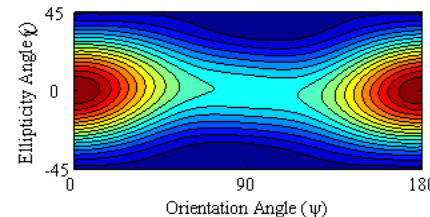
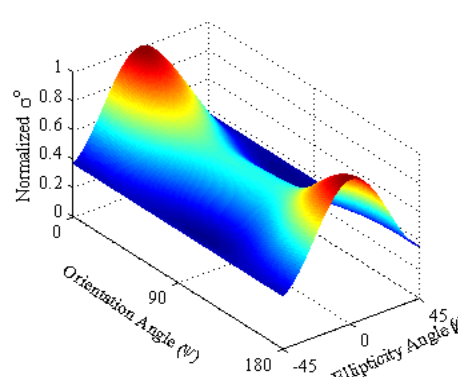
- *Plant density and soil moisture estimation*
- *Yield estimation*

# Polarimetric signature of wheat



Max Co-Pol: ( $\psi = 177^\circ$ ;  $\chi = 0^\circ$ )  
 Min Co-Pol: ( $\psi = 73^\circ$ ;  $\chi = 42^\circ$ )  
 Pedestal Height Co-Pol: 0.21

**Booting stage**

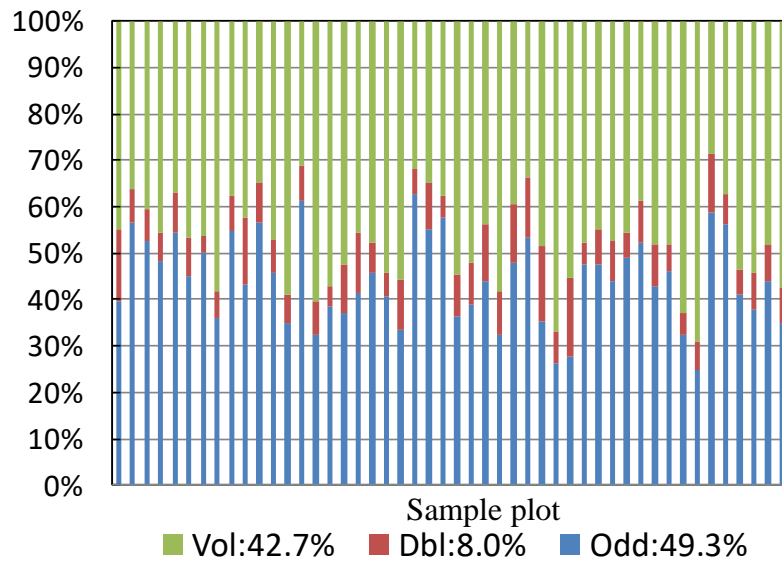


Max Co-Pol: ( $\psi = 0^\circ$ ;  $\chi = 0^\circ$ )  
 Min Co-Pol: ( $\psi = 79^\circ$ ;  $\chi = 38^\circ$ )  
 Pedestal Height Co-Pol: 0.33

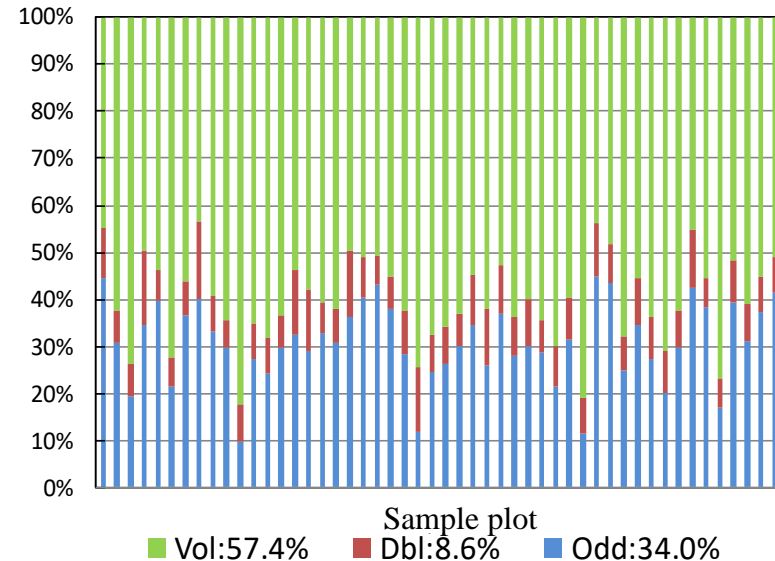
**Milk stage**

# Scattering mechanisms of wheat

The contributions of the Freeman three components:



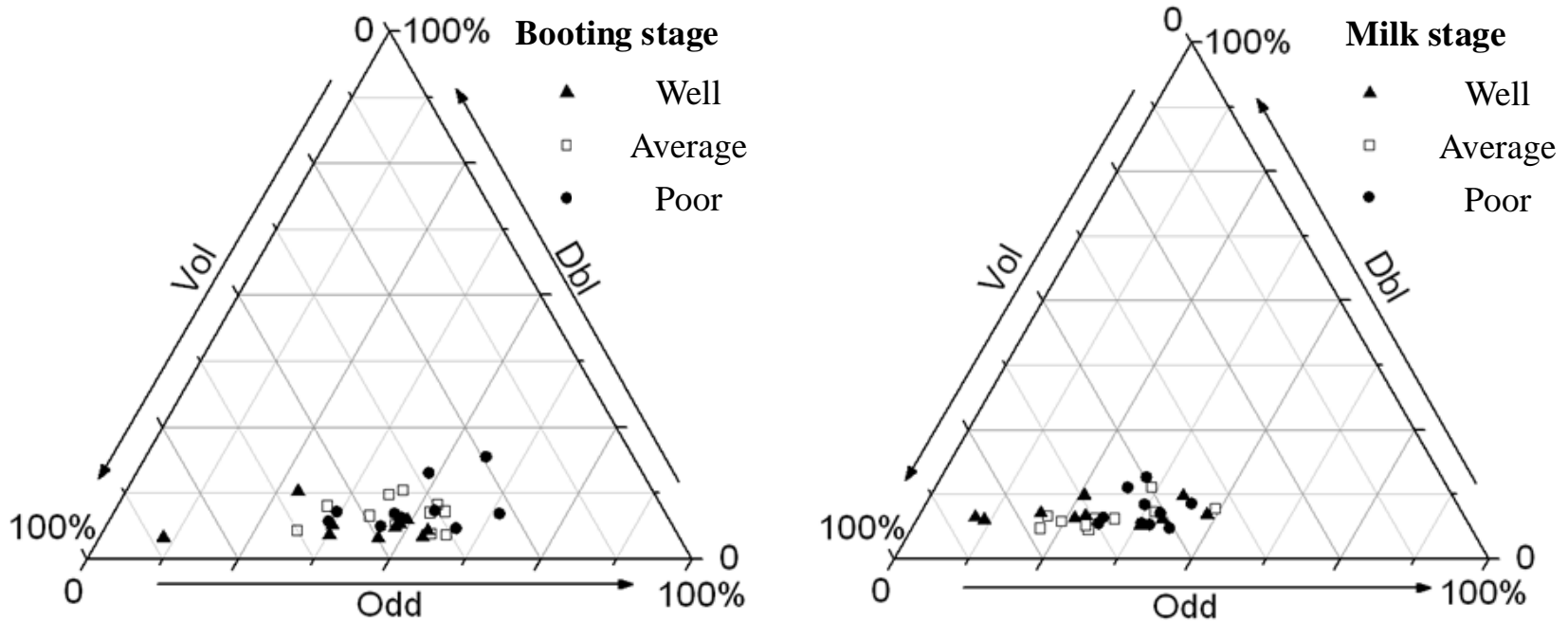
Booting stage



Milk stage

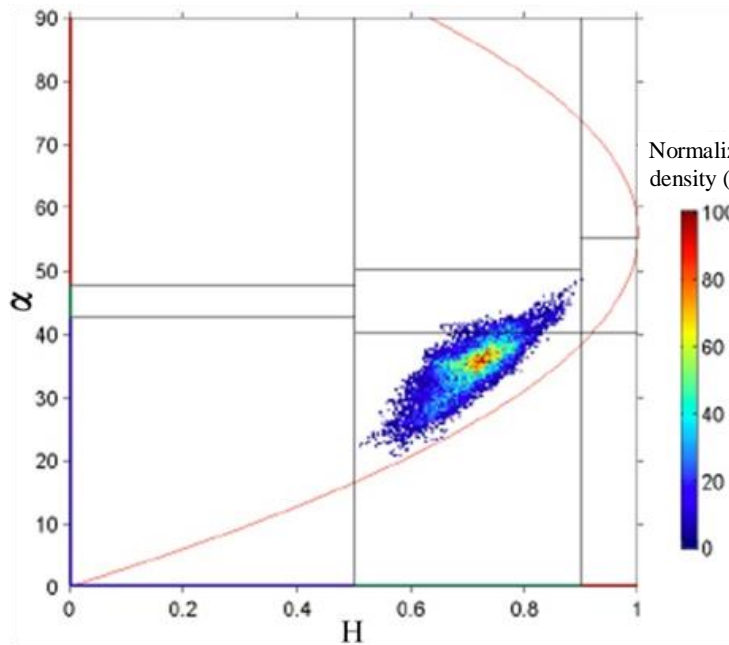
2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province

# Scattering mechanisms of wheat with different growth condition

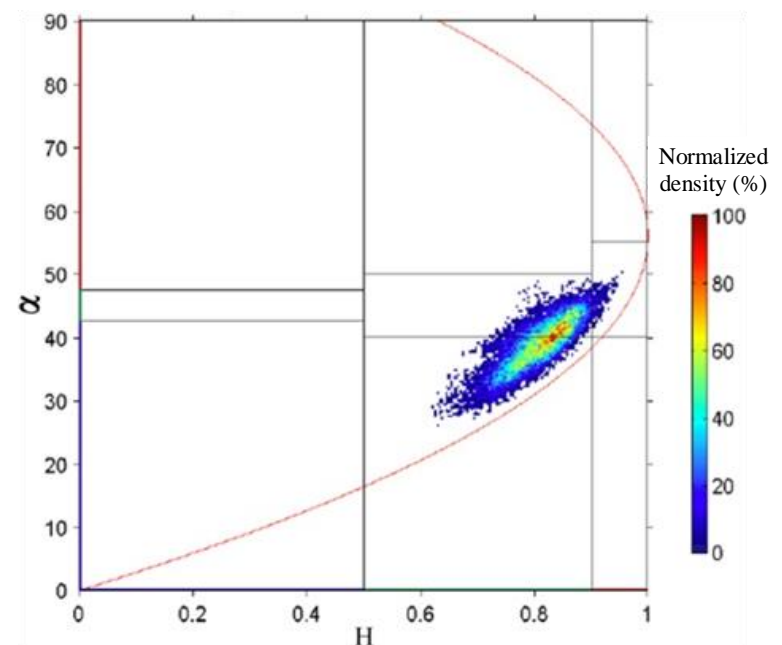


2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province

# Wheat with different phenological stages in $H/\alpha$ space



Booting stage

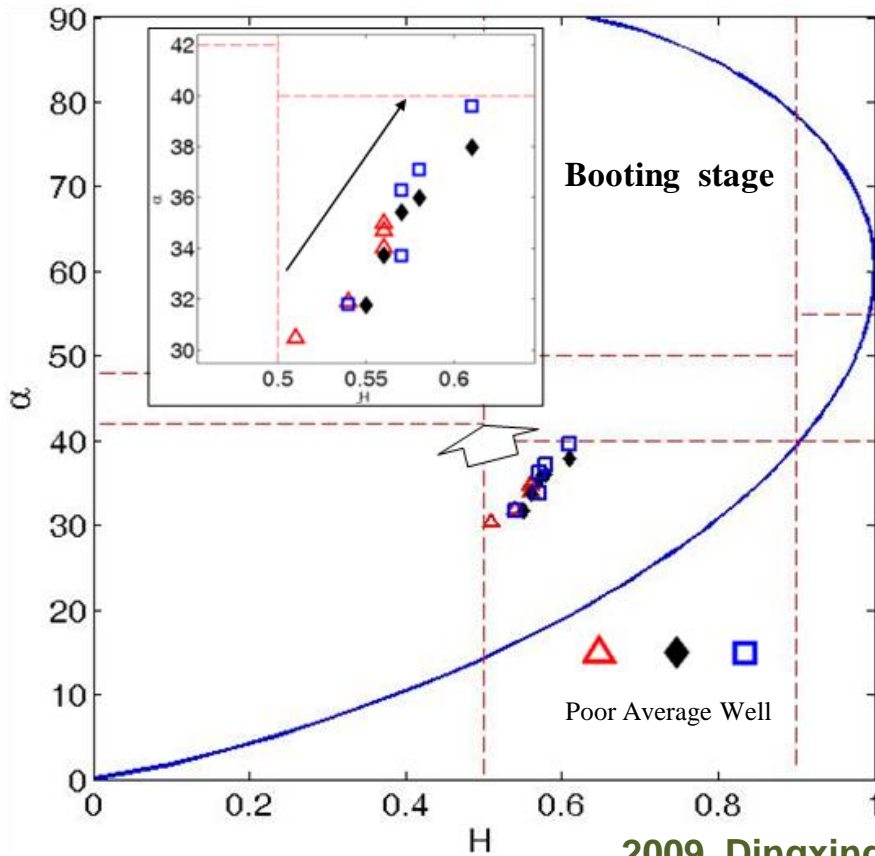


Milk stage

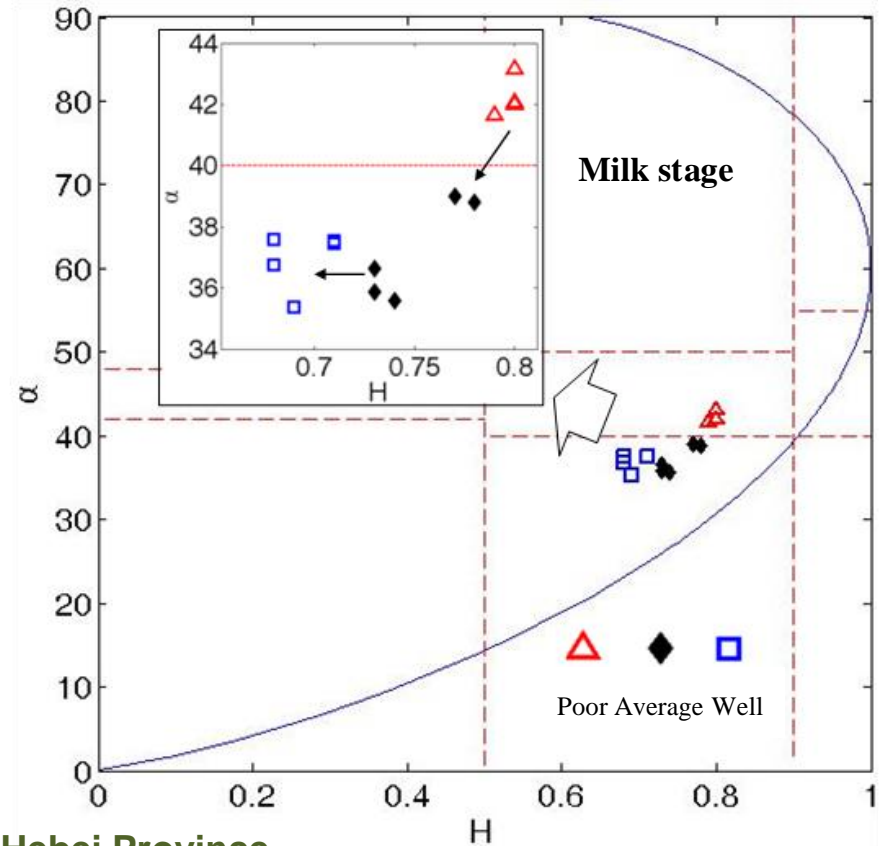
2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province



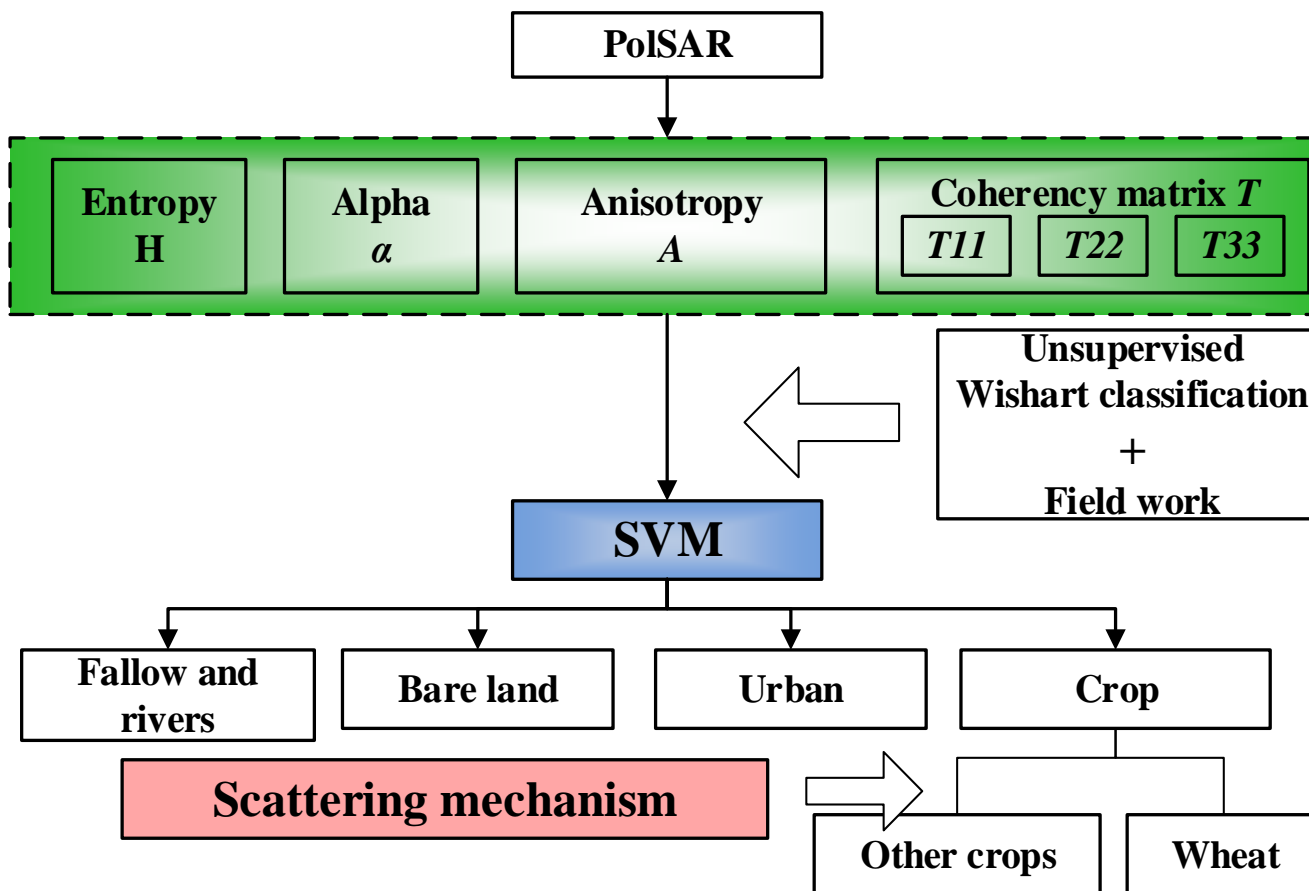
# Wheat with different growth conditions in $H/\alpha$ space

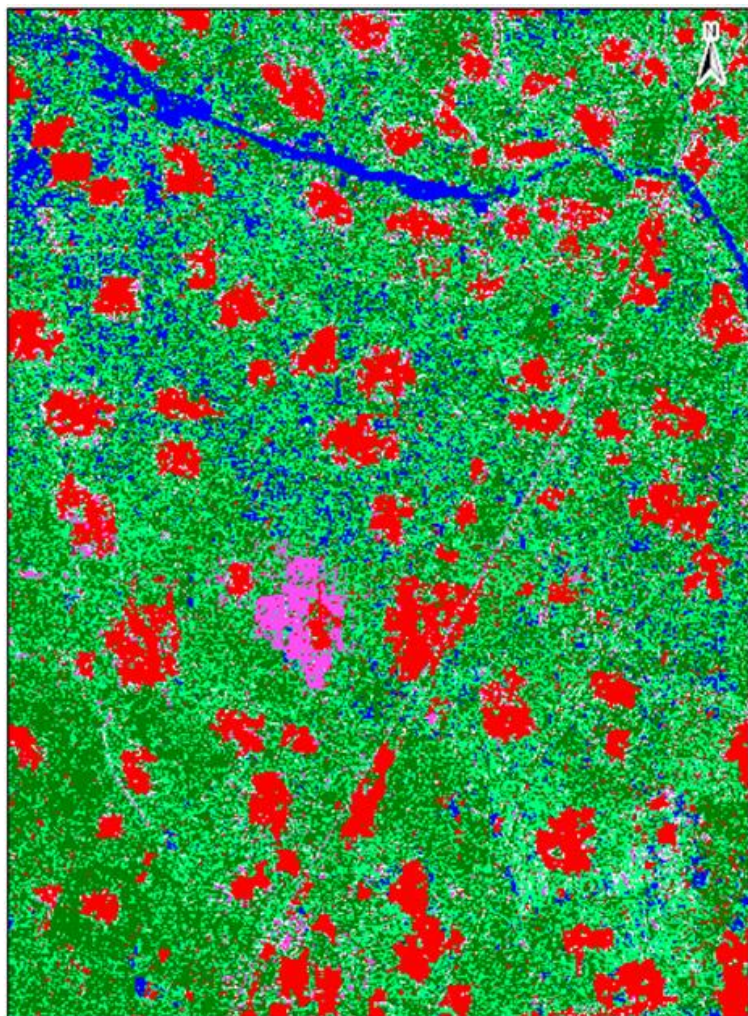


2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province

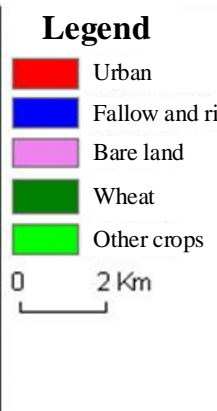


# The flowchart of wheat mapping





# Wheat mapping with PolSAR



Class	Urban	Fallow and rivers	Bare land	Wheat	Other crops
Urban	97.24	1.51	1.25	0.00	0.00
Fallow and rivers	1.03	88.97	8.96	0.00	1.04
Bare land	0.00	5.63	86.83	3.22	4.32
Wheat	0.00	1.86	4.30	<b>83.52</b>	10.32
Other crops	0.00	1.61	1.87	11.21	85.31
Areas (pixels)	1.080e+6	4.643e+5	6.543e+6	2.613e+6	1.884e+6

2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province

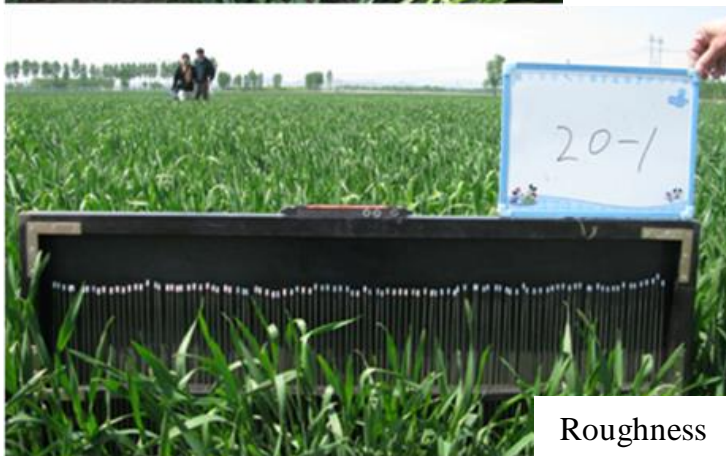
# Wheat parameters collection



Plant size



LAI



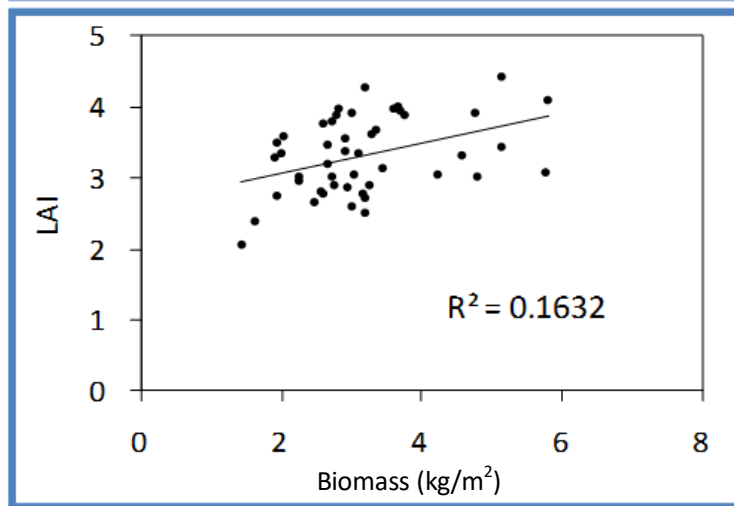
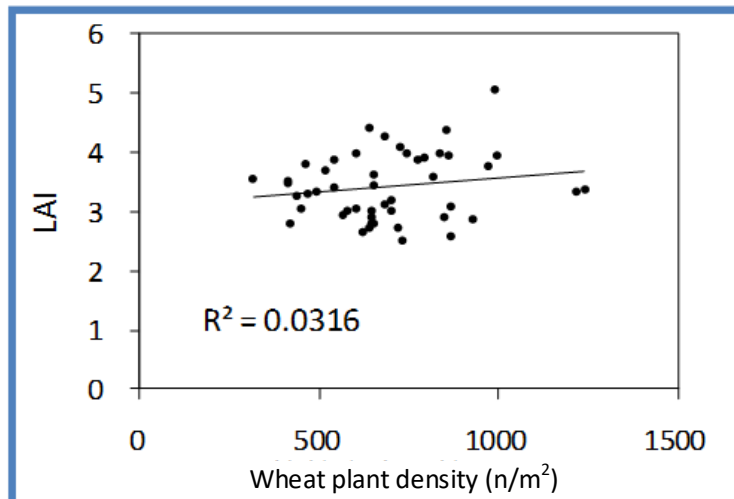
Roughness



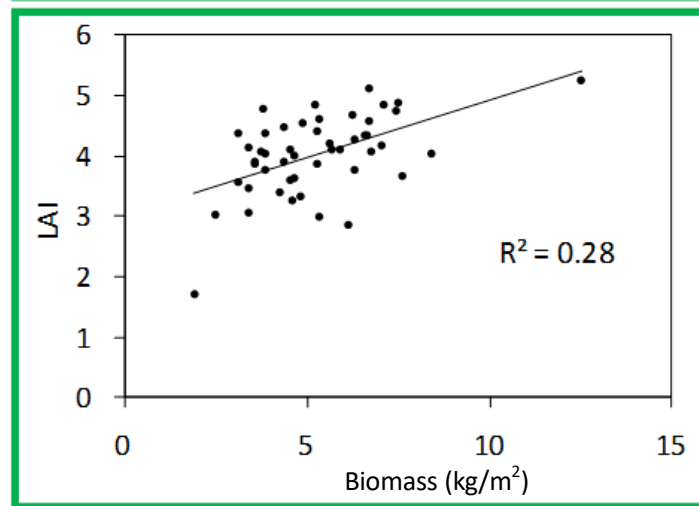
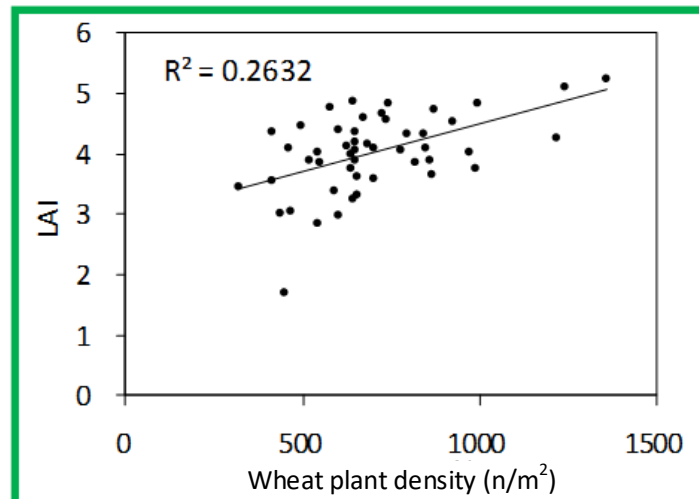
Biomass

Field work, 2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province

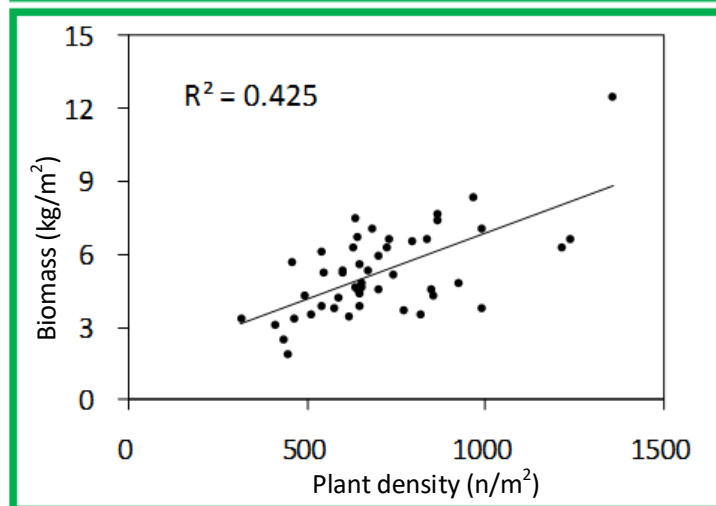
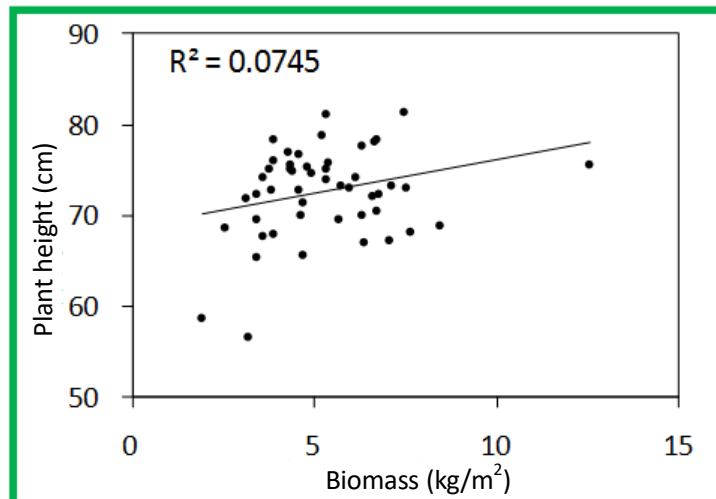
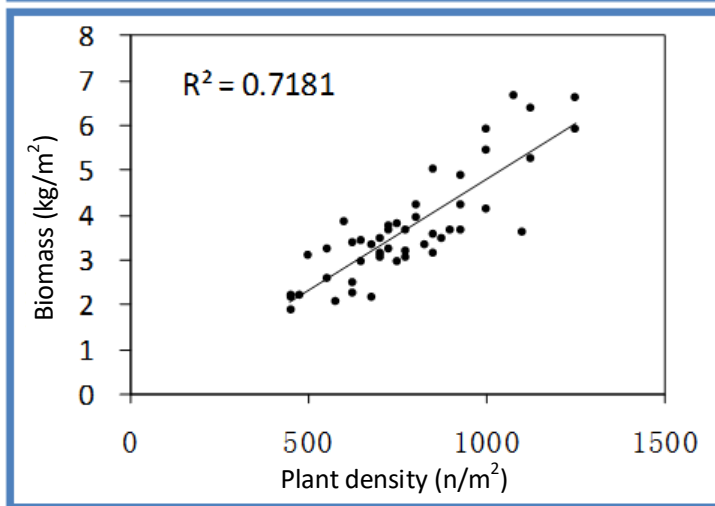
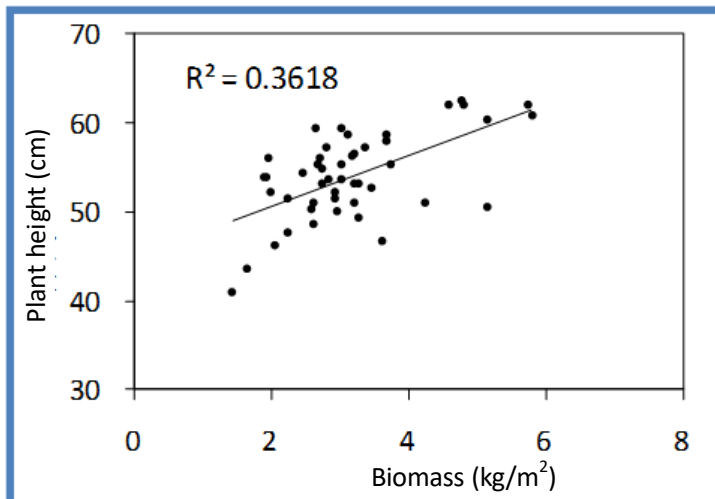
Booting stage



Milk stage



Booting stage

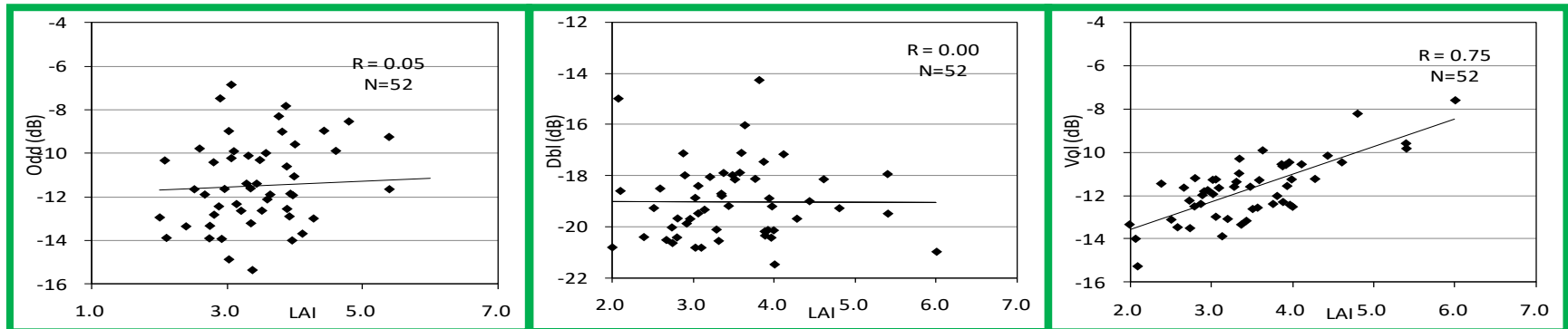


Milk stage

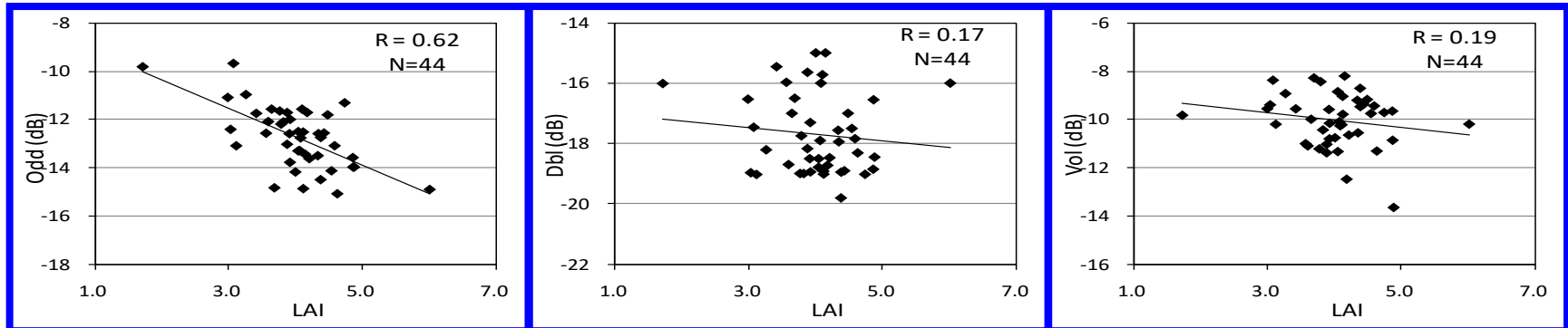
# Polarimetric parameters VS wheat parameters

## The Freeman three scattering components VS wheat LAI

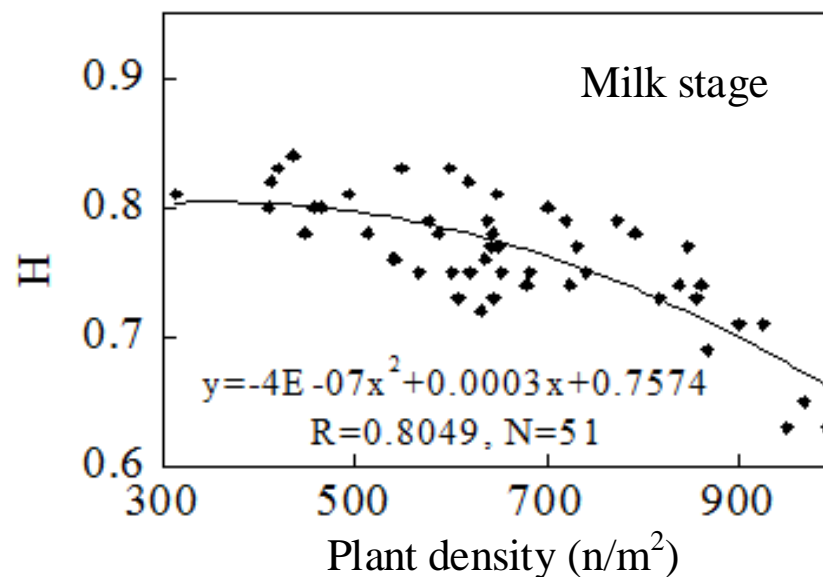
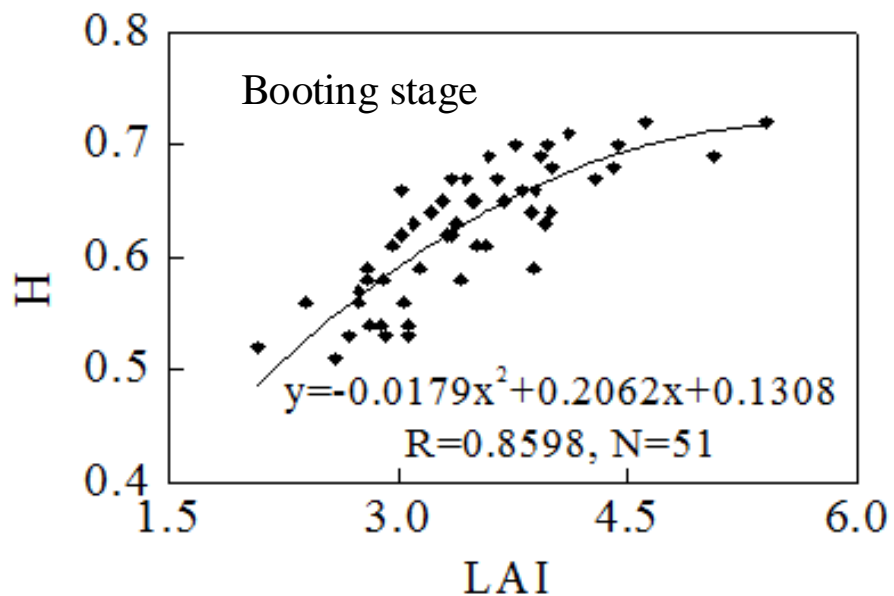
Milk stage



Booting stage

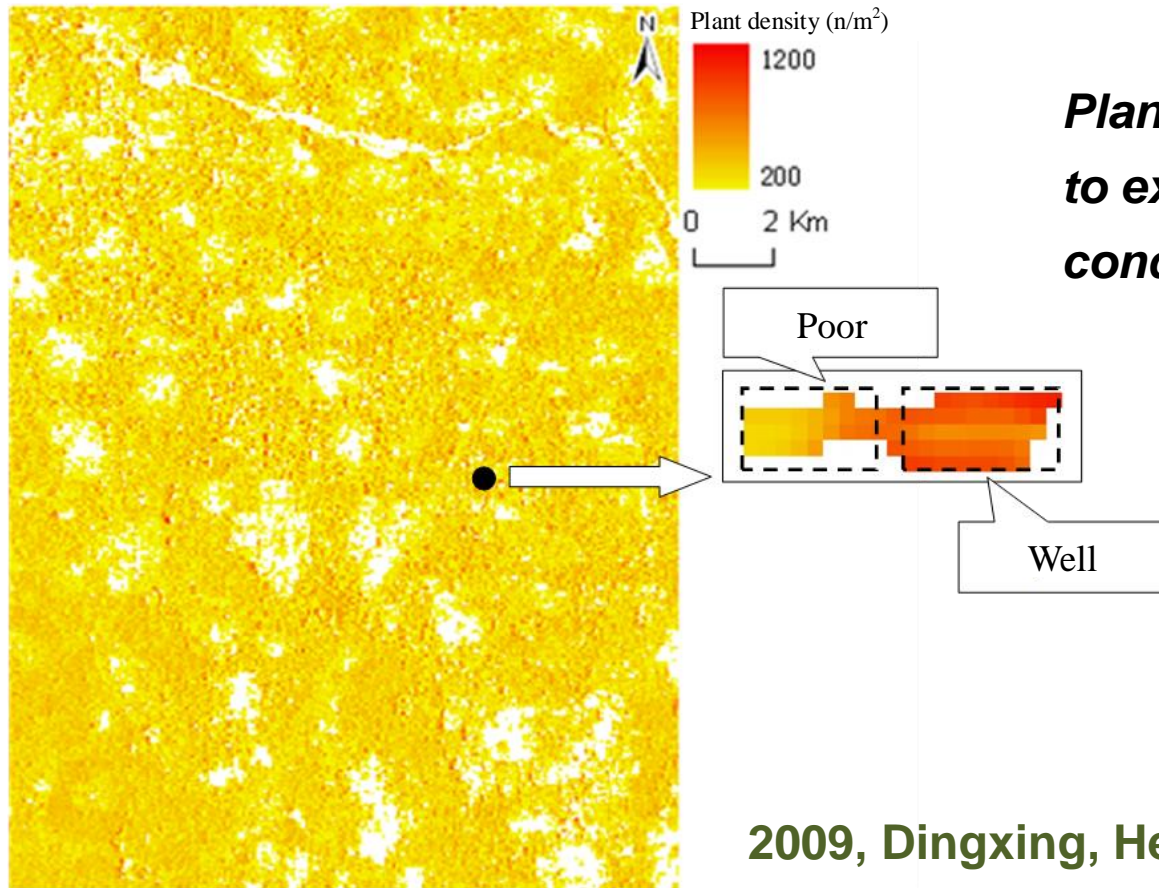


## The Cloude entropy $H$ VS wheat LAI and plant density





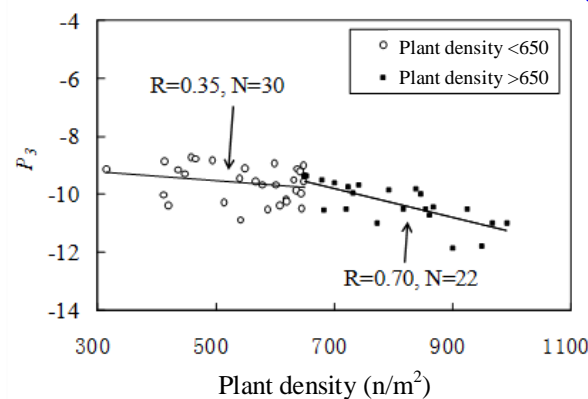
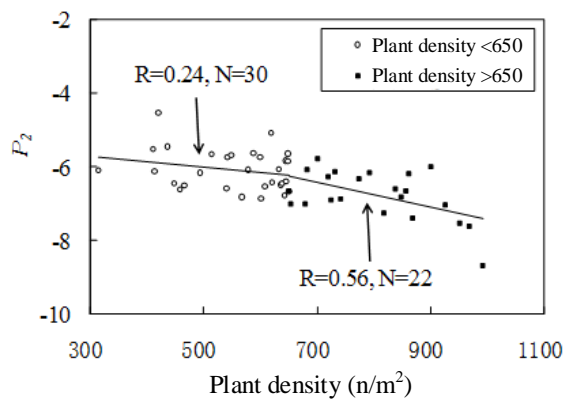
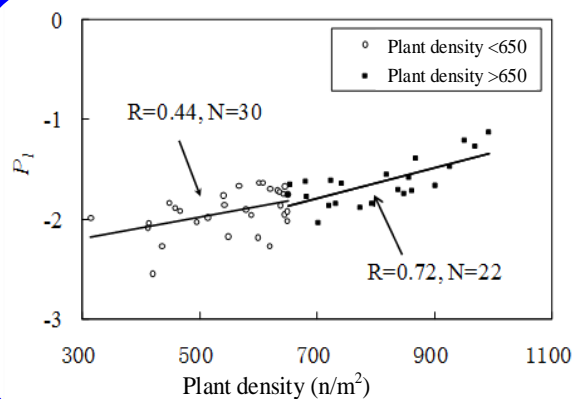
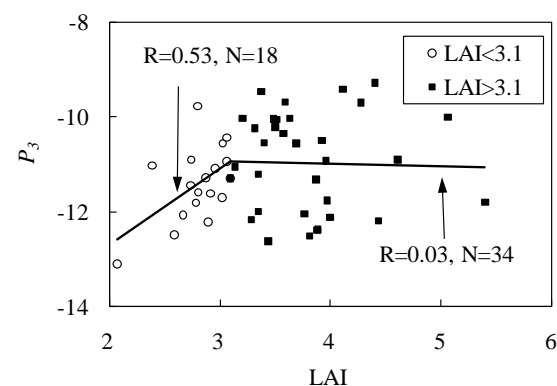
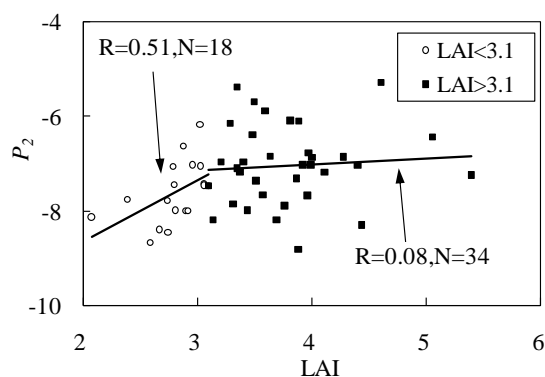
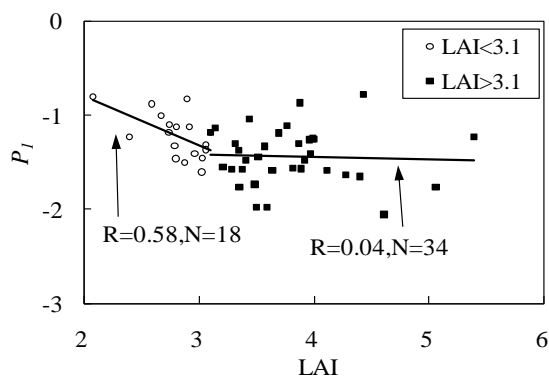
# Wheat growth condition mapping with $H$

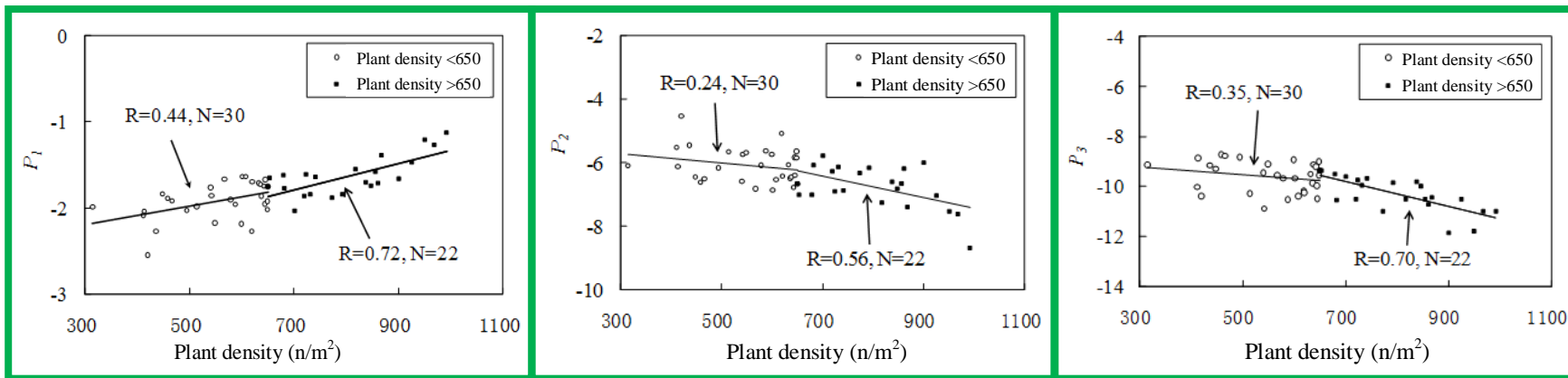


*Plant density was used to express the growth condition of wheat*

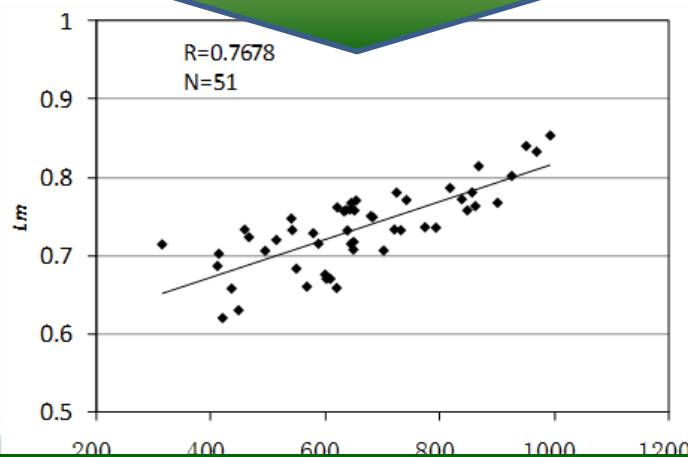
2009, Dingxing, Hebei Province

## The Cloude three eigenvectors VS wheat LAI and plant density

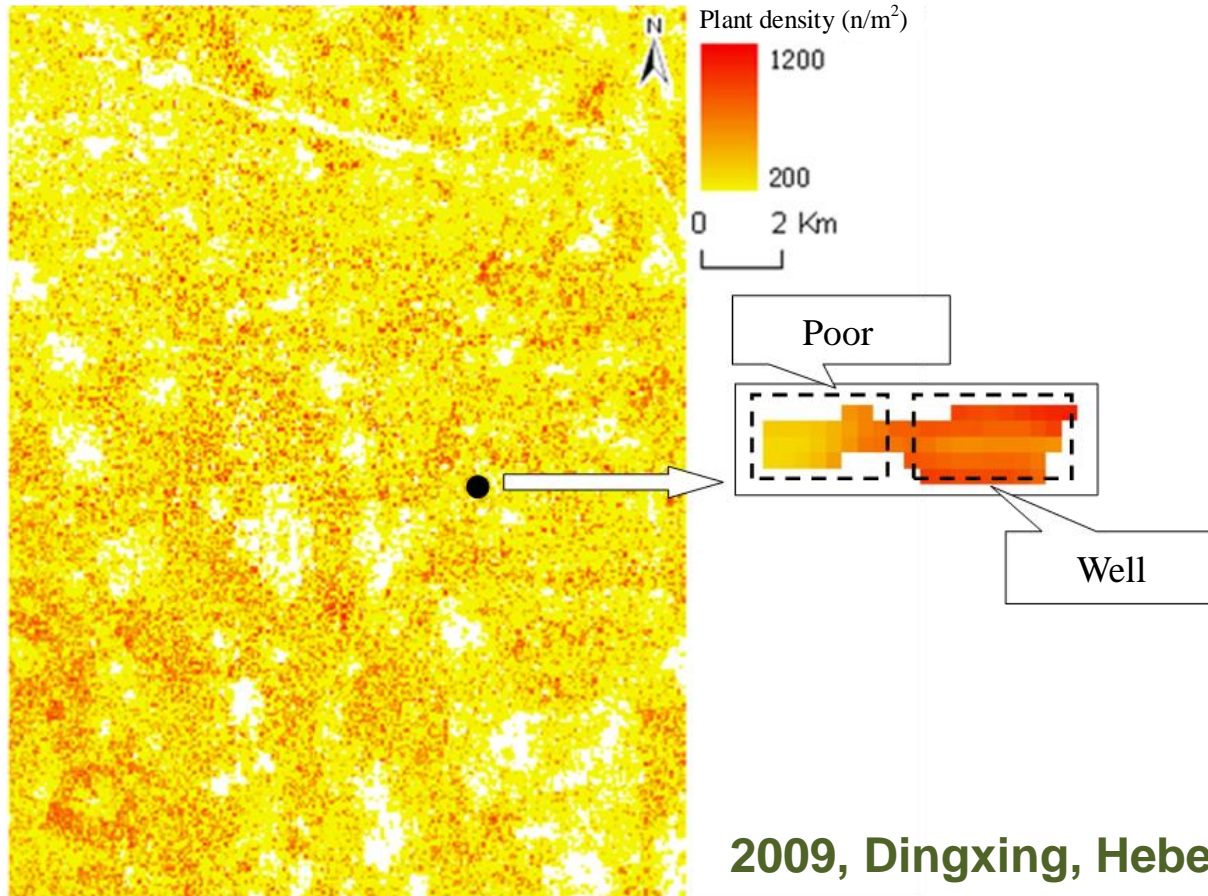




$$L_m = \frac{2\lambda_1 - \lambda_2 - \lambda_3}{2\lambda_1} \quad 0 \leq L_m \leq 1$$



# Wheat growth condition mapping with $L_m$



# Soil moisture estimation

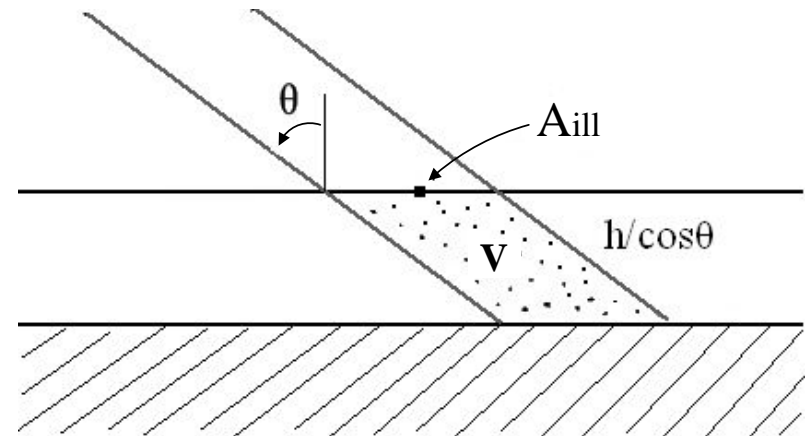
## Water cloud model

$$\sigma_{can}^0 = \sigma_{veg}^0 + \tau^2 \cdot \sigma_{soil}^0$$

$$\sigma_{veg}^0 = A \cdot V_1^E \cdot \cos \theta (1 - \tau^2)$$

$$\tau^2 = \exp(-2B \cdot V_2 / \cos \theta)$$

$$\sigma^0 = A \cdot V_1^E \cos \theta [1 - \exp(-2B \cdot V_2 / \cos \theta)] + \exp(-2B \cdot V_2 / \cos \theta) \cdot (C + D \cdot SM)$$

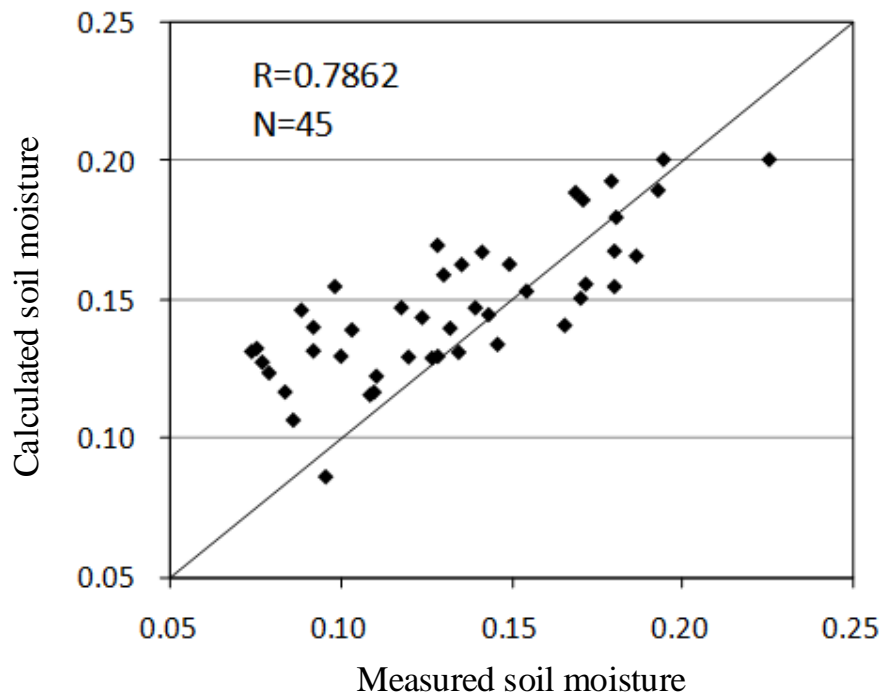


$$Span = A \cdot H^2 \cdot \cos \theta [1 - \exp(-2B \cdot H / \cos \theta)] + [\exp(-2B \cdot H / \cos \theta) \cdot \sigma_s^0]$$

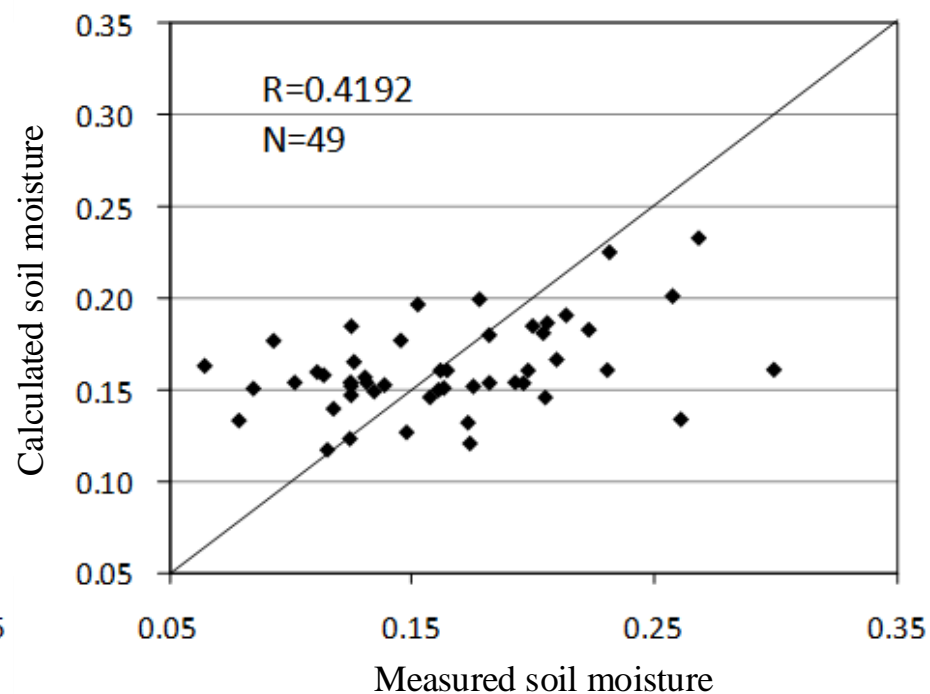
$$\sigma_s^0 = C + D \cdot SM$$

***H is the Cloude entropy***

# Soil moisture estimation



**Booting stage**



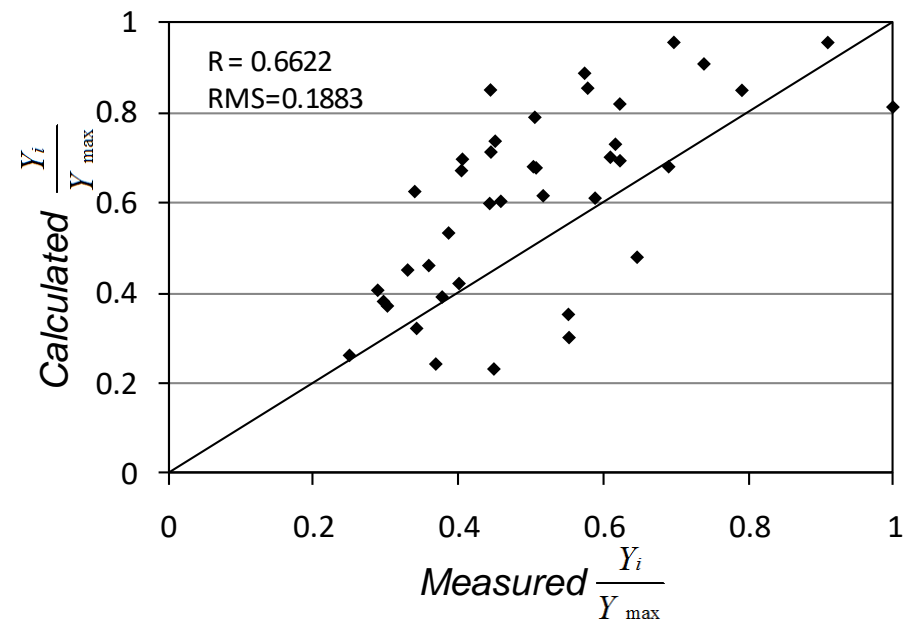
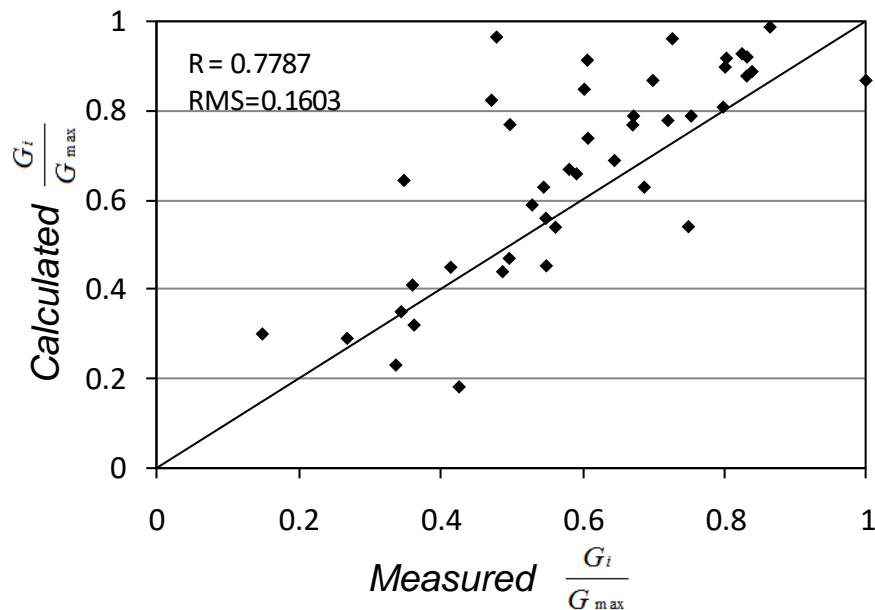
**Milk stage**

## Wheat yield model influenced by drought

$$\left(1 - \frac{Y_i}{Y_{\max}}\right) = \prod_{k=1}^m C_k \cdot \frac{G_{ki}}{G_{k \max}} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{SM_i}{SM_{\max}}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

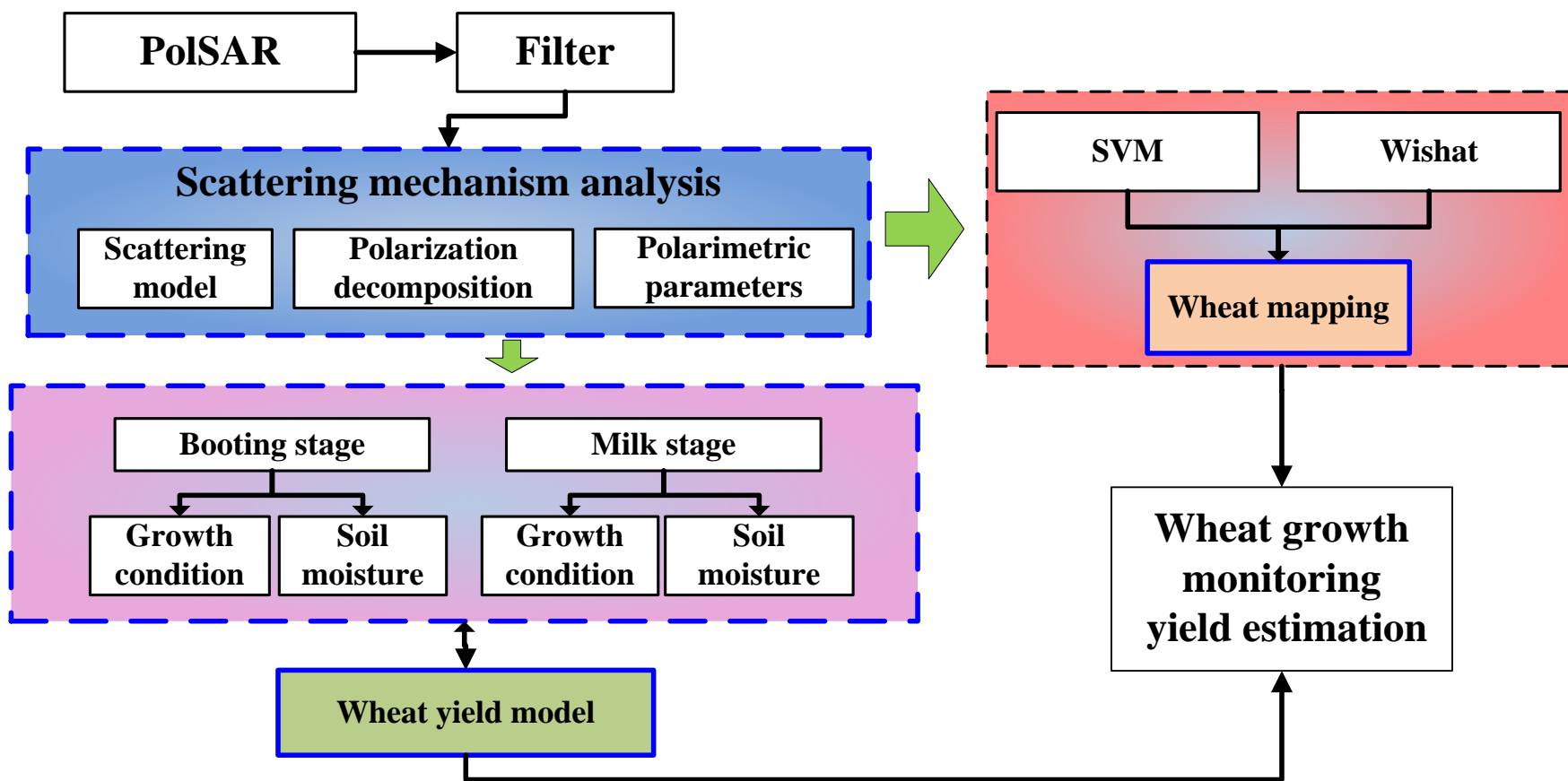
$\frac{Y_i}{Y_{\max}}$  is the yield coefficient,  $1 - \frac{Y_i}{Y_{\max}}$  denotes the loss rate of yield caused by drought;  $\frac{G_i}{G_{\max}}$  is used to measure the growth condition of wheat;  $\frac{SM_i}{SM_{\max}}$  is the soil moisture coefficient and  $1 - \frac{SM_i}{SM_{\max}}$  indicates the degree of drought;  $m$  is the phenological stage;  $C$  is the weighing coefficient

# Wheat growth monitoring and yield estimation





# Wheat monitoring and yield estimation model





*Thanks for your attention!*

**Email: [shaoyun@radi.ac.cn](mailto:shaoyun@radi.ac.cn)**