





# APEX Sensor and Data Calibration, Flight operations and Higher Level Processing

BRUHYP 2012

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#### Content

- APEX System Overview & Calibration
- Data Calibration
- Known Issues

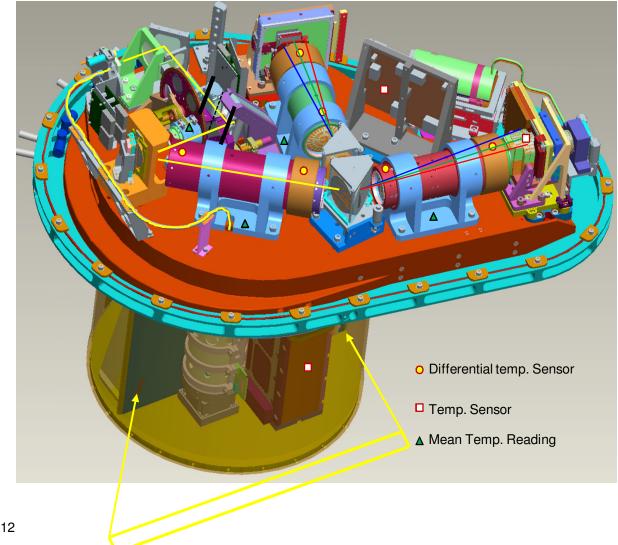








#### **Optical Path during Image and IFC Aquisition**

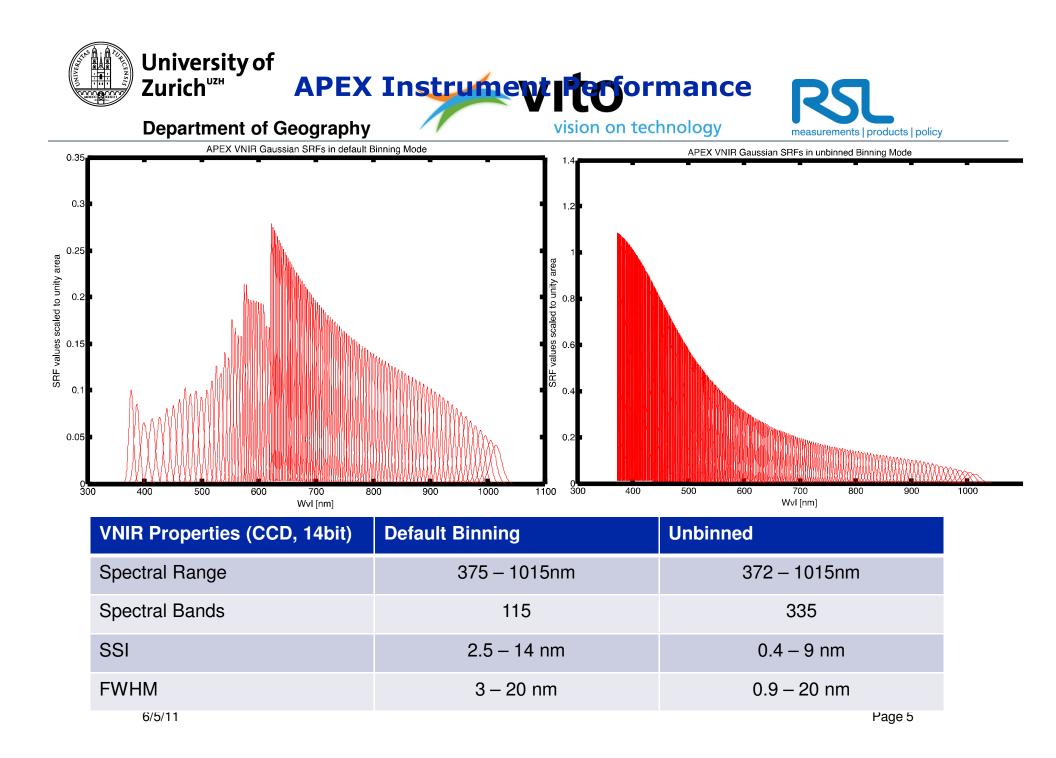


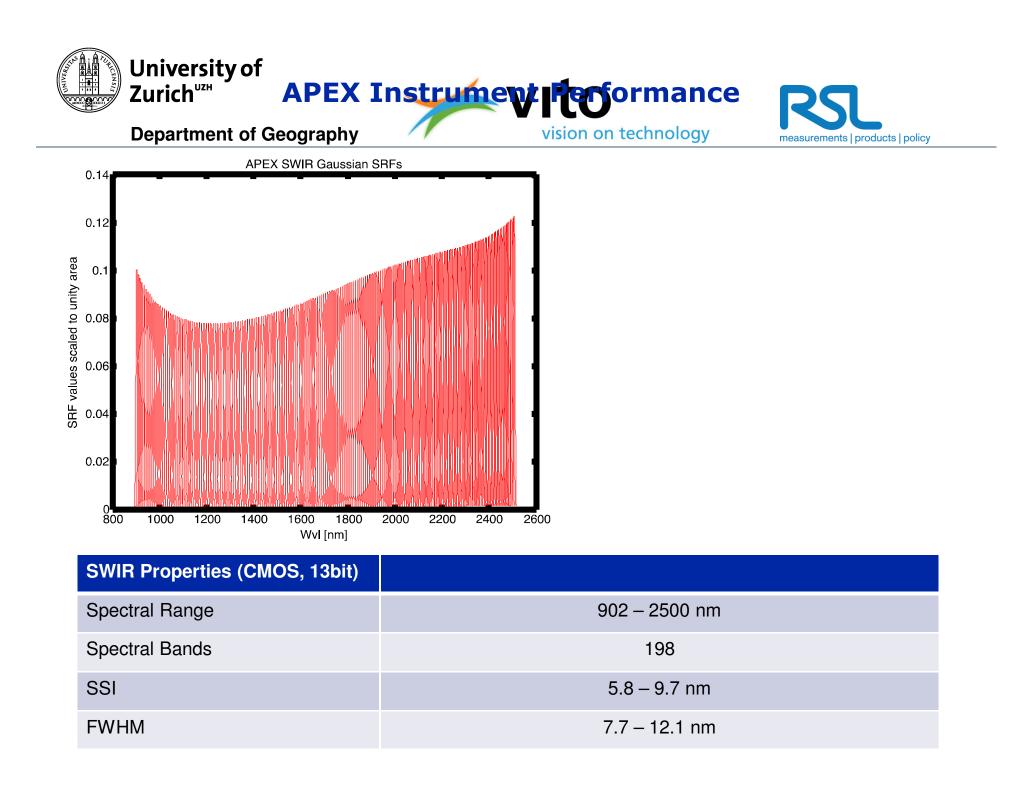


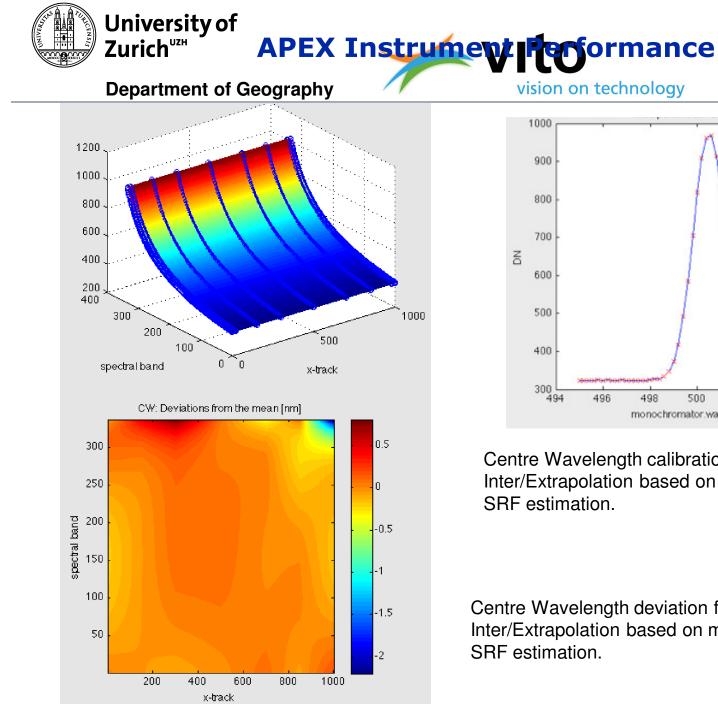


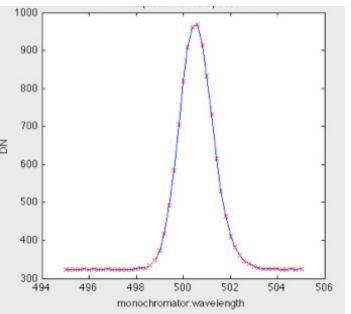


#### **Calibration Home Base at DLR** Absolute radiometric calibration 1.6 m Integrating Sphere 0.5 m Integrating Sphere 38 Relative radiometric calibration APEX Folding mirror assembly Monochromator Collimator 6 ton granite optical bench Seismic Platform (max displacement 0.3 um









Centre Wavelength calibration of the VNIR: Inter/Extrapolation based on monochromator based

Centre Wavelength deviation from the mean (VNIR): Inter/Extrapolation based on monochromator based

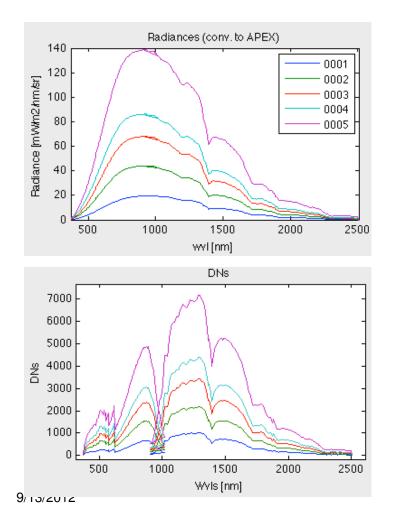
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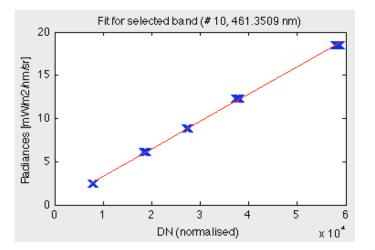






#### **Radiometric Calibration**





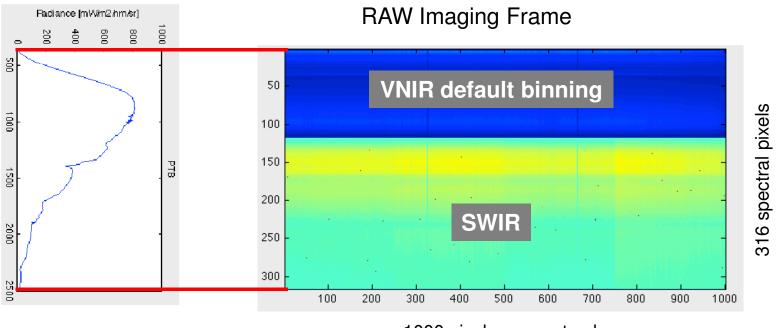
Radiometric calibration: linear fitting (gain+offset) of defined radiance levels versus observed DN's







#### APEX Instrument Performance APEX Frame: Flat Fielding Example



1000 pixels across-track

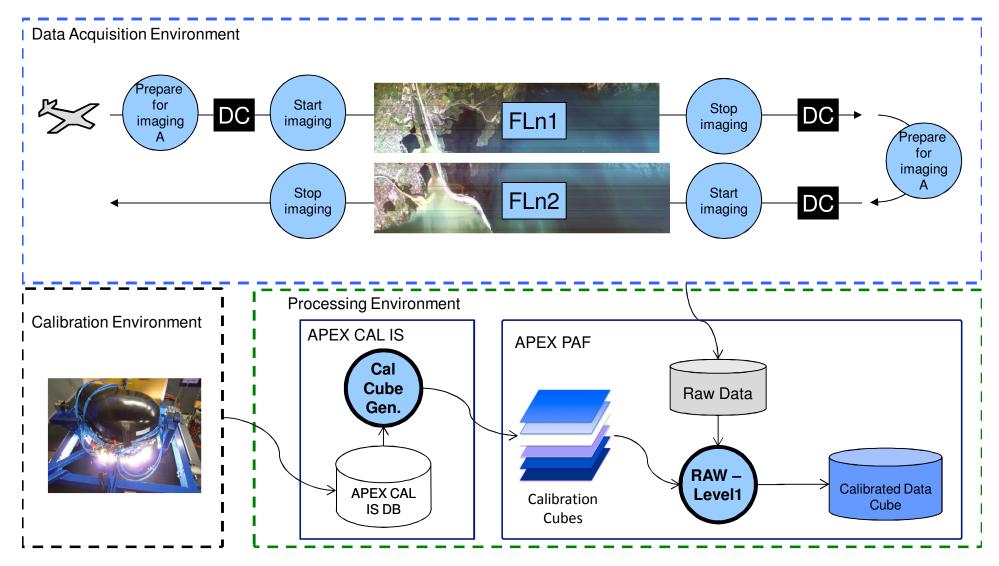
VNIR/SWIR co-registration: < 0.5 pixels



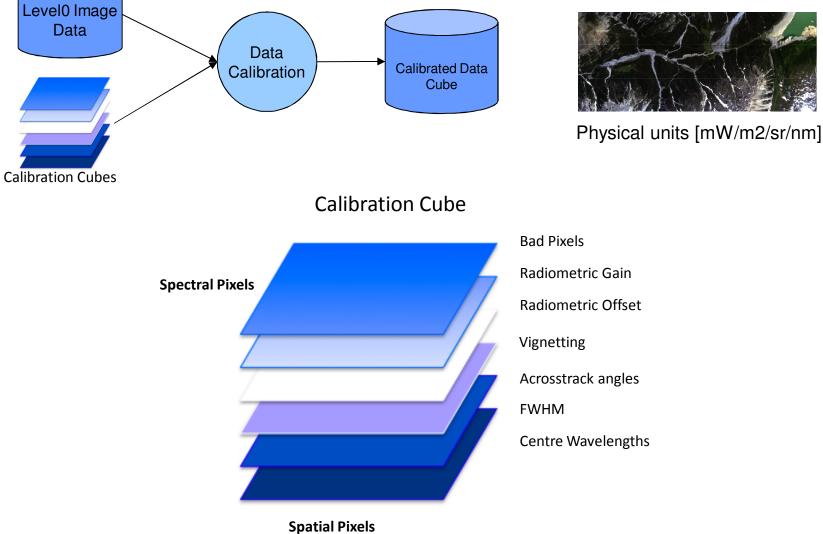




#### **APEX Data Acquisition to Product Chain**







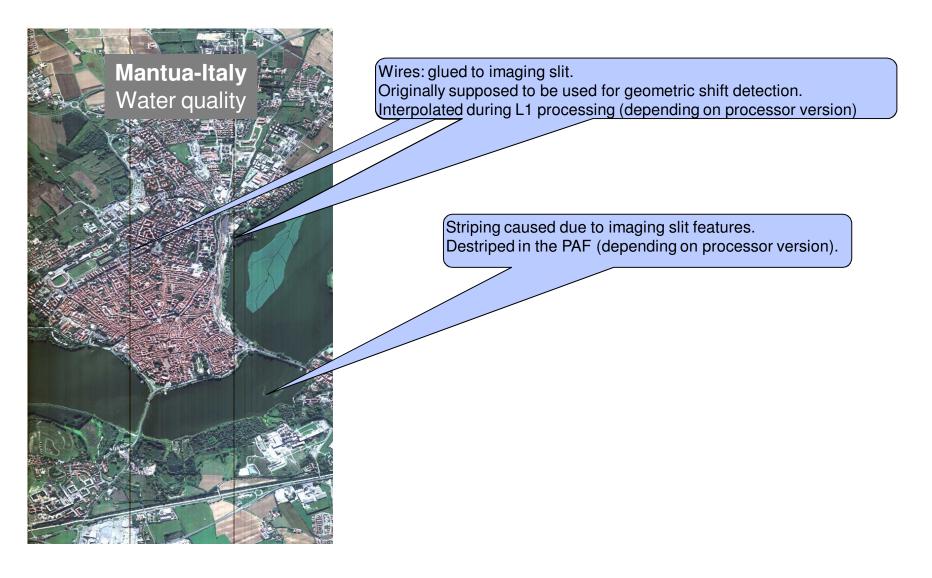


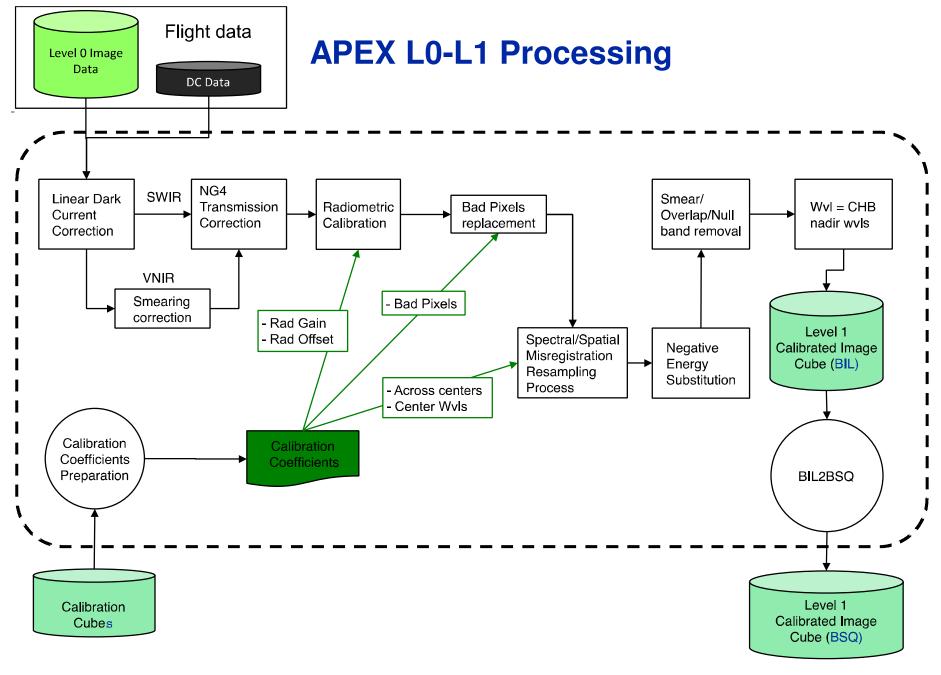
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#### Wires and striping

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9/13/2012

www.apex-esa.org/content/free-data-cubes



#### Known Issues

Greatest care is taken in processing APEX data sets to provide high accuracy spectroscopy data sets to the user community. However, APEX is an experimental system and some issues remain as artefacts in the data. These known issues are







being addressed as part of the continuous improvement of the dedicated processing chain to provide even better data in the future. For a list of known issues please refer to the table provided below.

Residual along track striping	APEX is a pushbroom instrument and hence technologically prone to striping artefacts. Most of the striping is removed during radiometric calibration and destriping before atmospheric correction. However, some residual striping, occasionally at lower spatial frequency may appear.
Residual across track striping	Some minimal across track striping may be observed in a limited number of bands.
Interpolated wires	Wires were placed on the entry slit to observe spatial shifts. Depending on the geometric shifts appar ent on the flight level of this data cube, some remaining wire residuals may exist. Some linear artefacts due to interpolation may exist. The acr oss track wire positions are: 334-335 and 674-675, the interpolated region currently encompasses a buffer of 1 pixel around the wire positions. Pixels in the interpolated wire region should be treated with caution. Interpolated wire pixels are also contained in the interpolated bad pixel quality layer.
Image crispness	Spatial misregistration correction can lead to loss of information and according visual fuzziness due to spatial resampling.
Radiometric artefacts	Some radiometric miscalibrations are known to exist in the spectral band region 1020nm ±2 bands and spatial sample positions 319-324 as well as in the 1030nm region for all across-track positions. Pixels contained within the above mentioned spatial-spectral regions have been corrected for these artefacts but should be treated with care in this processing version.
Saturated pixels	A low number of pixels is affected by saturation due to high radiance reflected from very bright or specular objects in the scene. Spectral signatures of these pixels should be treated with caution. The saturated pixels are indicated in the supplied saturation quality layer.
Directional effects	The data are known to exhibit spectro-directional effects which have not yet been corrected for. These natural effects are known to affect information extraction routines in shaded and sloped areas of the imaged scene.
Low SWIR HCRF	Targets with very low reflectance characteristics in the SWIR may appear to bright due too yet to be compensated detector non-linearities.

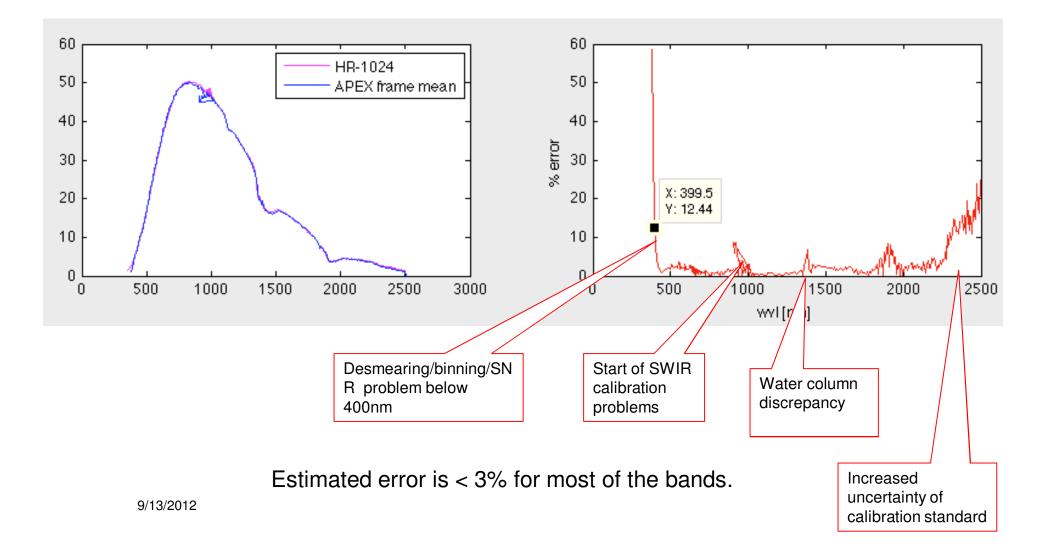
Available on: <u>www.apex-esa.org</u> as part of the APEX Open Science Dataset description







#### **Radiometric Artefacts and Issues: 2012 Status**

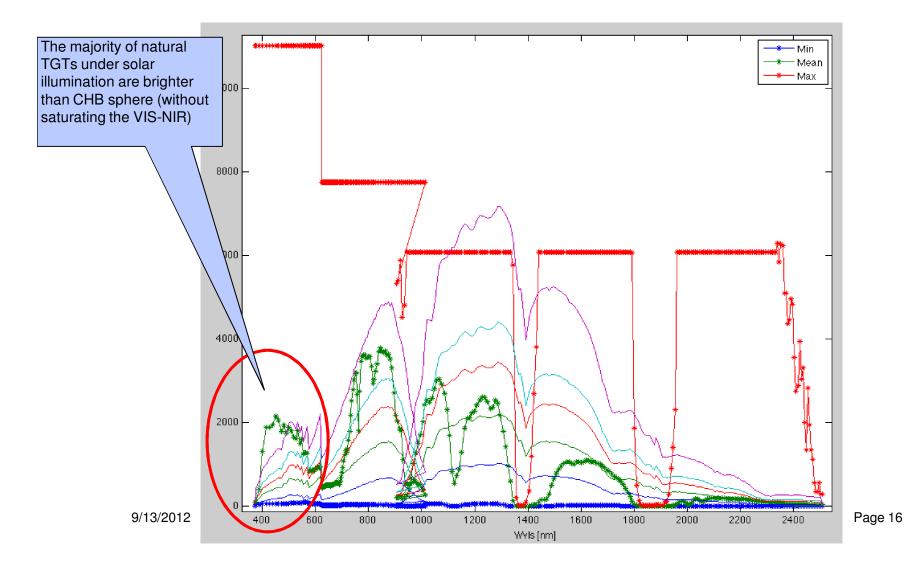








#### **Restrictions of current default Rad Cal Setup**

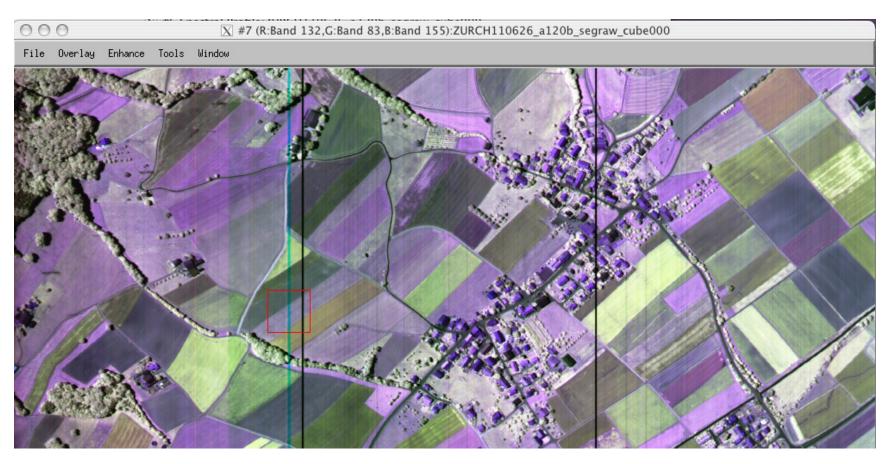








#### **Radiometric Artefacts and Issues: 2012 Status**



L0 image with red band set to 132 (~1030nm), showing the change in radiometry next to the wire.







#### **Spatio-spectral anomaly**

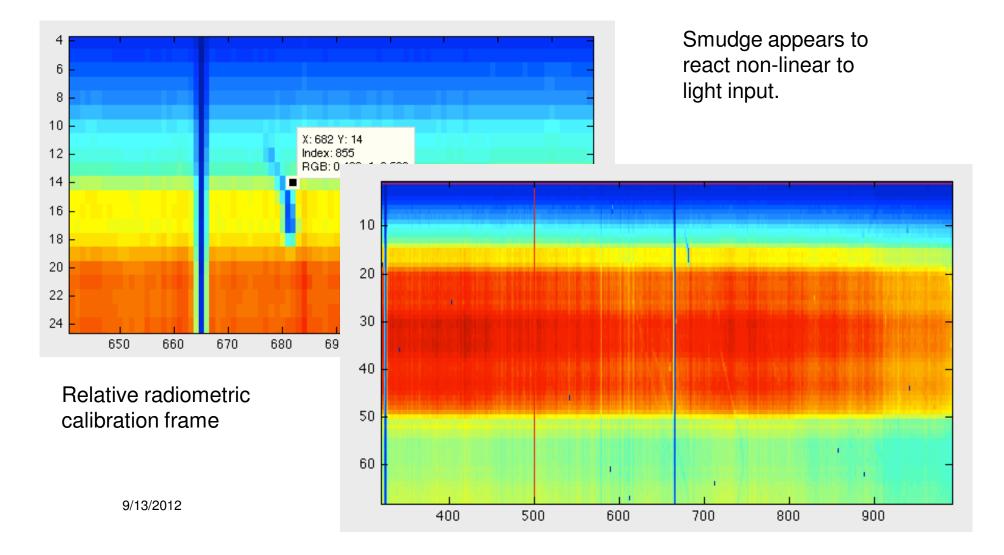








#### **Spatio-spectral anomaly**





#### **Spectral Artefacts – Spectral shifts APEX campaign June 2011 IFC – Selected results** 21061 270611 280611 140611 150611 260611 290611 2 - VNIR $\overline{\nabla}$ 1.5 O∵ Alt 10000 1 Mean Spectral Shift (px) 0.5 Altitude (m) 更 C -0.5 = 50005 10 15 20 0 25 Acquisition count (nr)

Analyzed spectral regions: VNIR:  $\lambda_c = 629-656$  nm; FWHM = 3.7 nm; SSI = 2.7 nm SWIR:  $\lambda_c = 1897-1969$  nm; FWHM = 10 nm; SSI = 8 nm

Reference nominal spectral parameters: calibration cubes 08/2011 Page 20







#### **Flight Operations and Higher Level Processing**

• APEX Flight Operations

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- APEX Processing and Archiving (PAF)
- Website





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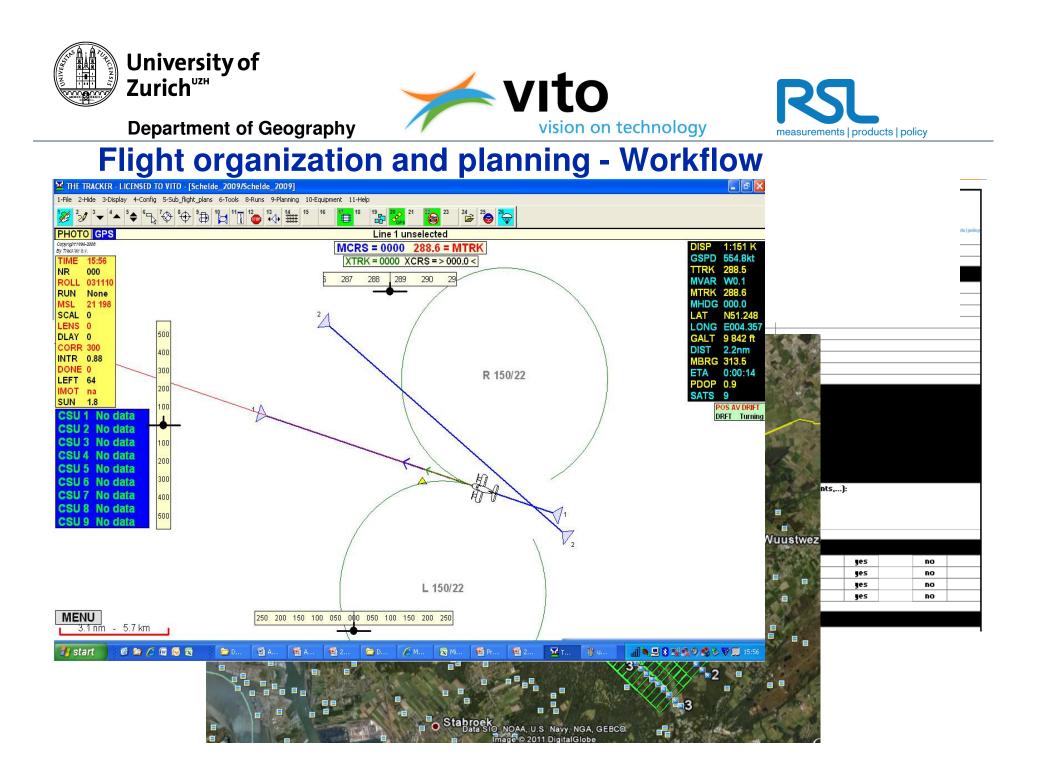


#### **APEX Team**

APEX 'Operations' Team based at VITO, Mol,B

Team tasks:

- Flight planning and preparation
- Aircraft and ATC planning and coordination
- Instrument Operations and handling
- APEX Processing and Archiving and Data dissemination
- Laboratory calibration together with RSL and generation of calibration parameters
- Website









#### **APEX Operations - aircraft installation**









### **APEX Operations - Aircraft**

- APEX is currently certified to fly on DLR's DO-228 aircraft (D-CFFUand D-CODE ongoing) and Skyvan of CAE Aviation → 3 aircraft available
- Ongoing activities to certify APEX on several other platforms (CAE Aviation – Cessna; DLR Halo – Gulfstream; RUAG – DO-228NG; etc.).
- Airworthiness certification costs per aircraft range from approx. 40 -100 kEUR depending on type and rules.
- Export license rules apply for the operation of APEX in certain countries.
- EUFAR European Facility for Airborne Research (<u>www.eufar.net</u>) offers aircraft + APEX within a EC FP7 project → new opportunities end 2013...

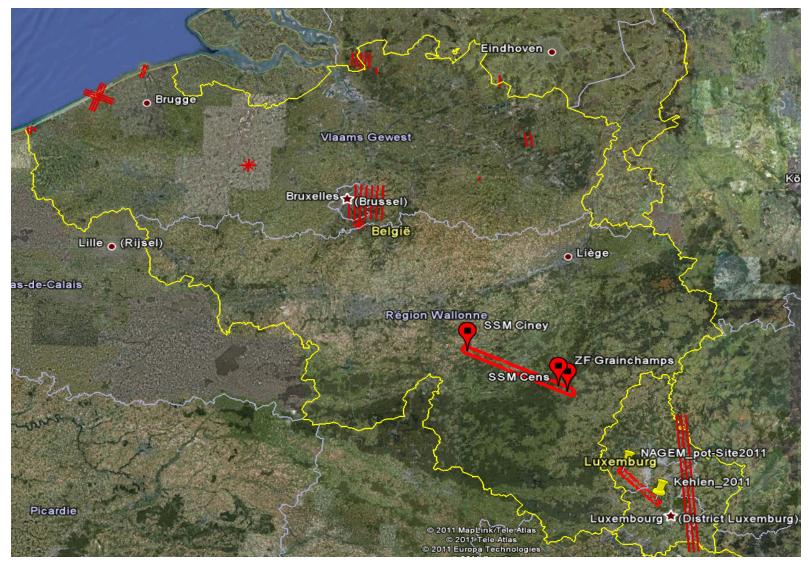


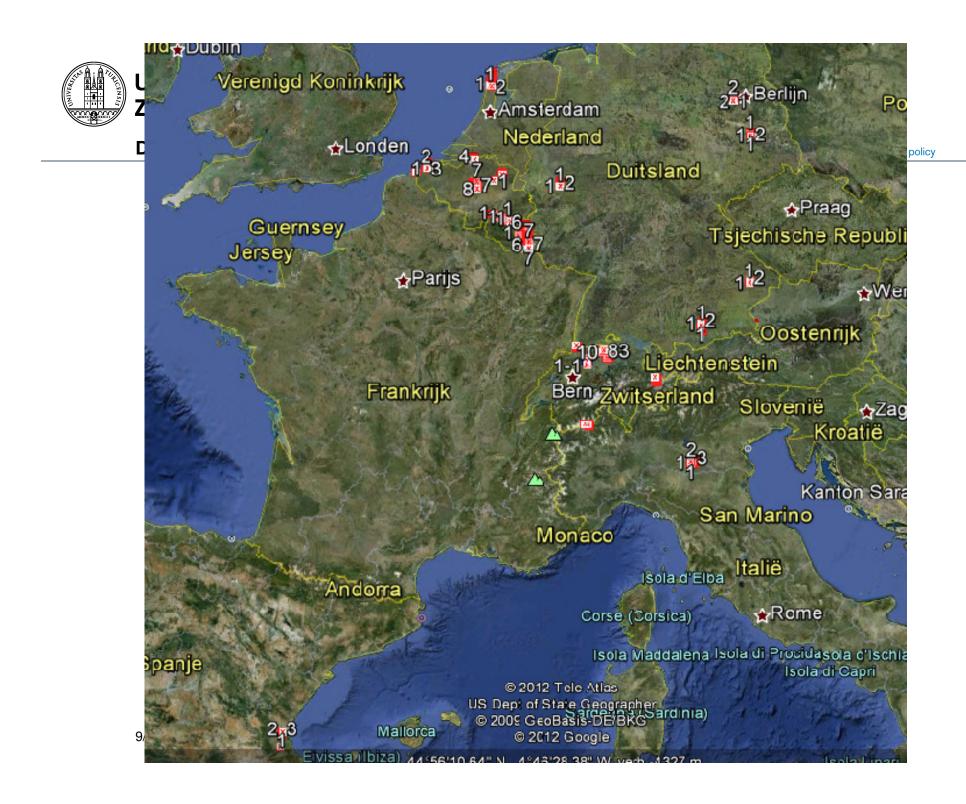






#### **APEX flights 2011**











### **BUT... many (operational ) constraints**

Mostly group shoots (priorities!!)

Airspace restrictions

- Civil aviation
- Military aviation / exercises

understanding of user requirements

- Tidal / Timing restrictions (sun elevation)
- Flight orientation (sunglint)
- Specific areas in the flight lines / area
- Simultaneous ground campaigns (field spectra, reference targets, calibration)
- Pixel size, flight level, airspeed
- Terrain profile
- Coordinates projections and geodetic data

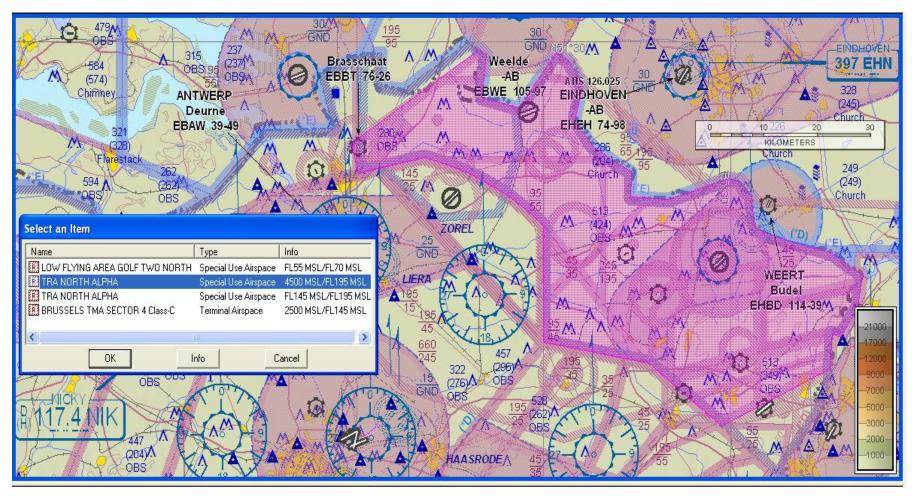






#### **ATC restrictions**

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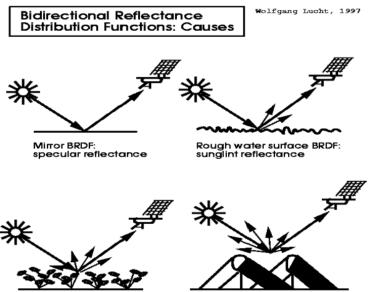




## Flight line orientation

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# sunglint effects on water body



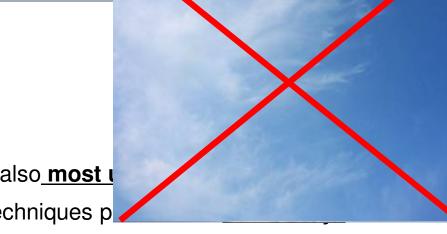
Volume scattering BRDF: leaf/vegetation reflectance

Gap-driven BRDF (Forest): shadow-driven reflectance





#### **METEO**



- a. Probably most important but also most u
- Most optical remote sensing techniques p <u>conditions</u>:
- c. Acceptable (?) <u>1/8 Cumulus</u>
- d. <u>No Cirrus</u> because of variable illumination conditions!
- e. <u>Accurate and up to data meteo information is a must!</u> E.g. meteo websites, webcams, personnal contacts,...

vito

vision







#### **APEX Operations lead to....strange behaviour**









#### **APEX Processing and Archiving Facility (PAF)**

VITO is in charge of <u>operational level 0-1</u> (RSL development cfr Andy) processing and <u>additional level 2-3</u> processing

APEX PAF disposes of dedicated hardware and supports all levels of processing (Level 0-3)

Hardware concept is based on VITO's processing experience and various instruments and activities (Pegasus, Medusa, AGIV, CASI, Hymap, AHS, etc.)

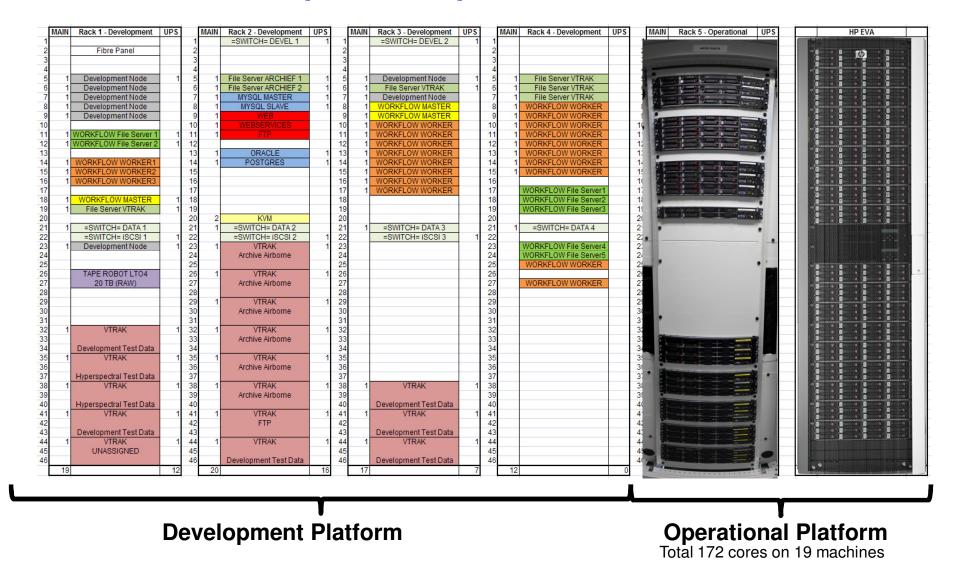
Middleware based concept supporting parallel computing approaches: <u>Master/Worker</u> and <u>Task/Data decomposition</u>







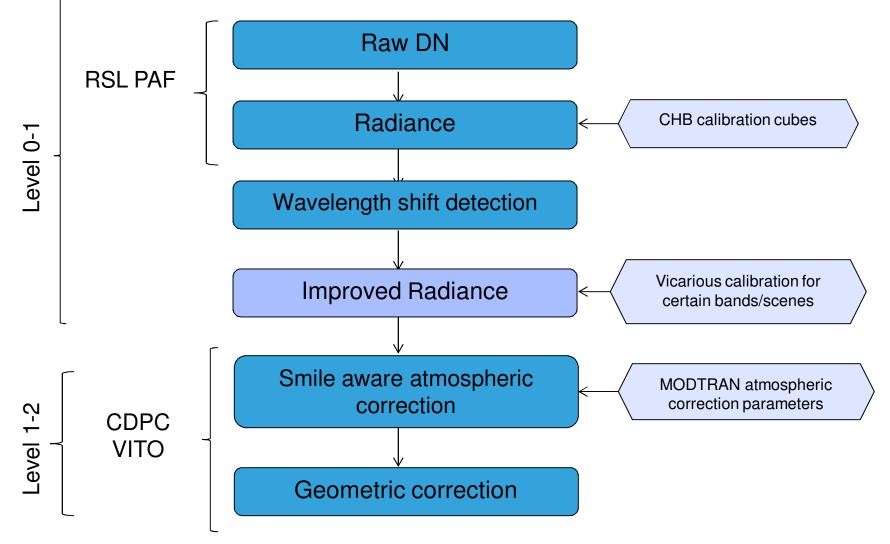
#### Hardware: development + operational environment







#### **APEX Processing Level 0-2 workflow**



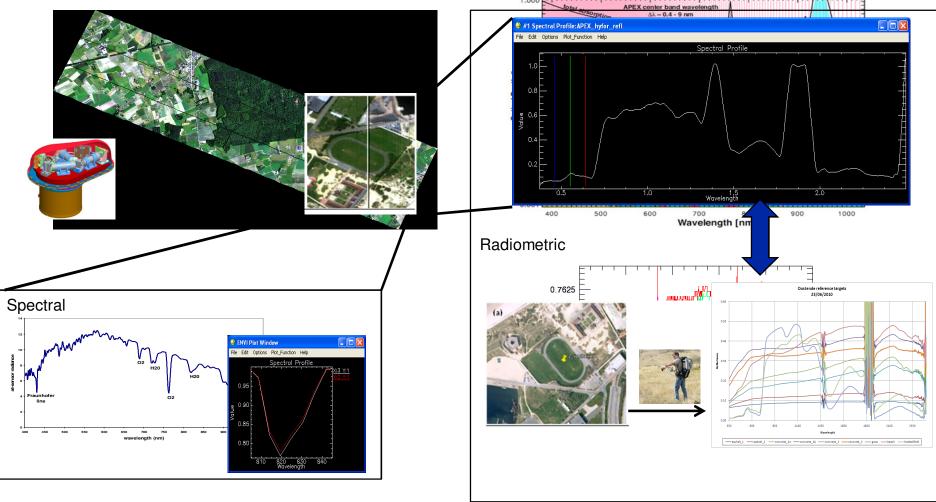






## **APEX Calibration: radiometric/spectral**

Monitoring spectral and radiometric performance









# **Boresight calibration...**

#### Inputs:

Specific flight pattern

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GPS/IMU processing (lever arms, dGPS,)

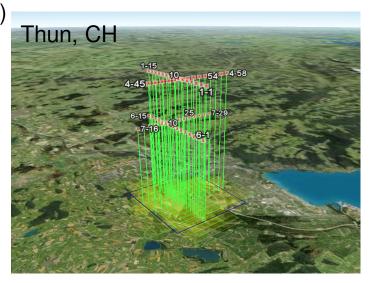
GCP selection

APEX sensor model (FOV, IFOV, CCD size,...)

Residual boresight parameters

(+/-1 pixel accuracy)



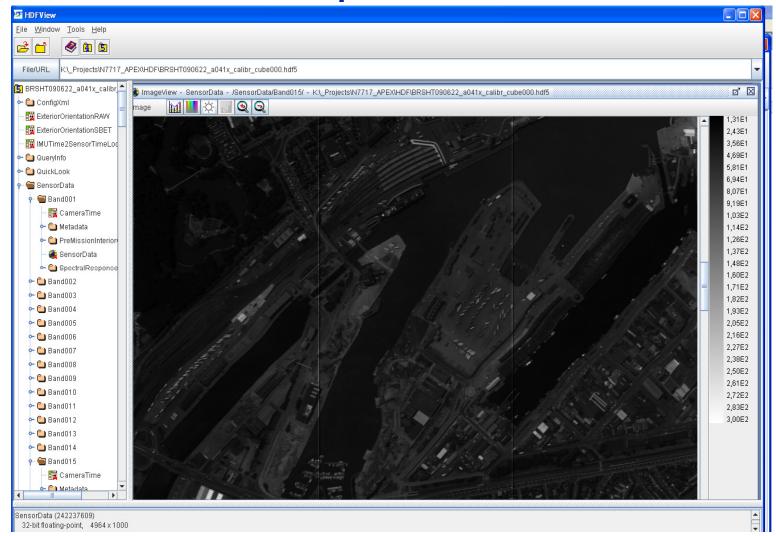


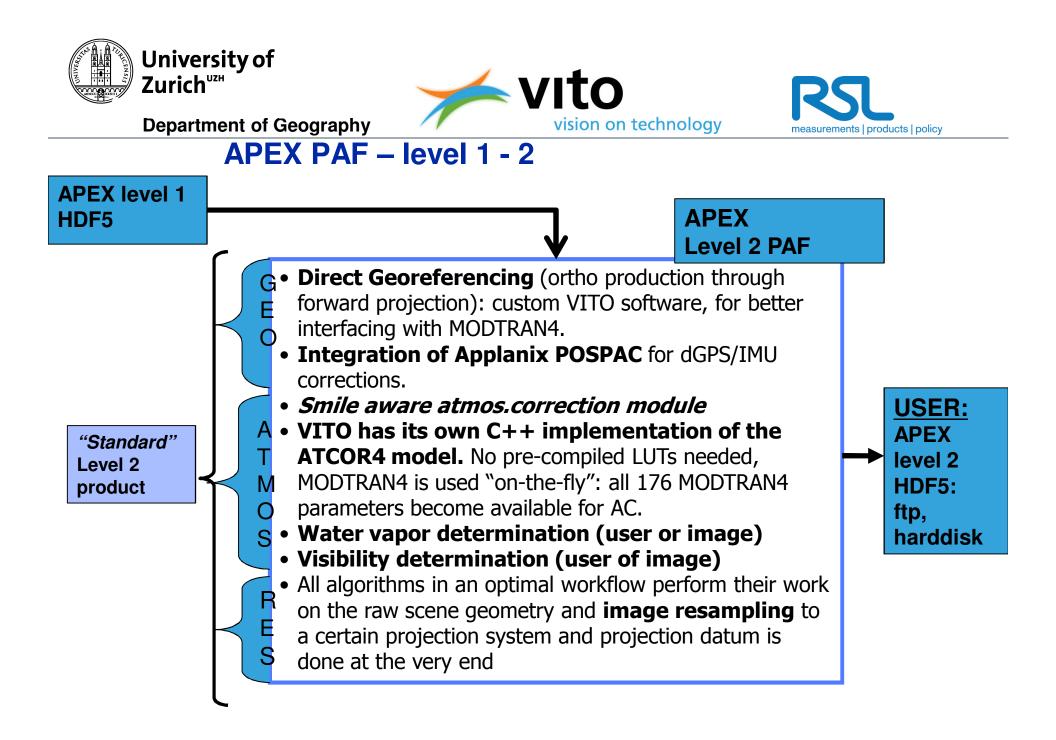






# **APEX PAF - level 1 HDF5 product**







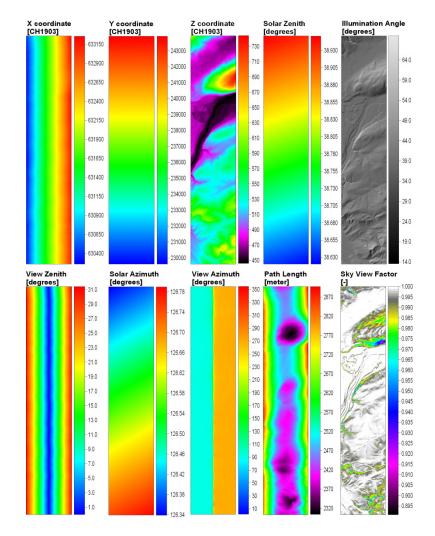




#### **Algorithms Level1-Level2: Ortho-rectification**

For:

- A better interfacing with Modtran4, and
- Given the requirement that all Level2 algorithms have to work on the raw sensor geometry and resampling has to be done at the very end of the workflow, and
- To support frame sensors, whiskbroom and pushbroom sensors
- It was decided to develop an in-house C++ module.
- This C++ module was fully validated against the Inpho OrthoVista package using UltracamD imagery and Parge using AHS data



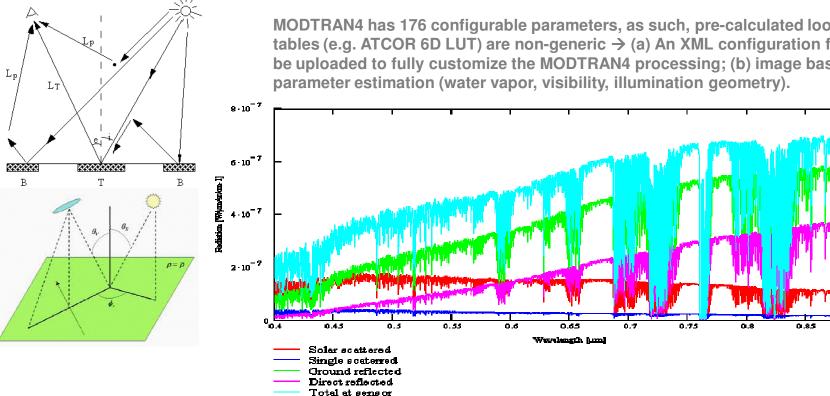






#### Algorithms Level1-Level2: On-the-fly configuration of MODTRAN4 (AFRL: US Air Force Research Laboratory)

Atmospheric Correction = Determining the at-target radiance ( $L_T$ ) by correcting the measured at-sensor spectral radiance for the "path radiance"  $L_{P}$  (Haze) and "background radiance" ( $L_{P}$ ).  $L_{P}$  and  $L_{T}$  are influenced by: earth-sun distance, solar incident angle (i), solar azimuth, sensor zenith angle (e), sensor viewing azimuth, atmospheric composition (water vapor, O<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, ...) and cloud cover.



MODTRAN4 has 176 configurable parameters, as such, pre-calculated look-up tables (e.g. ATCOR 6D LUT) are non-generic  $\rightarrow$  (a) An XML configuration file can be uploaded to fully customize the MODTRAN4 processing; (b) image based







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# **Data Volumes generated 2011**

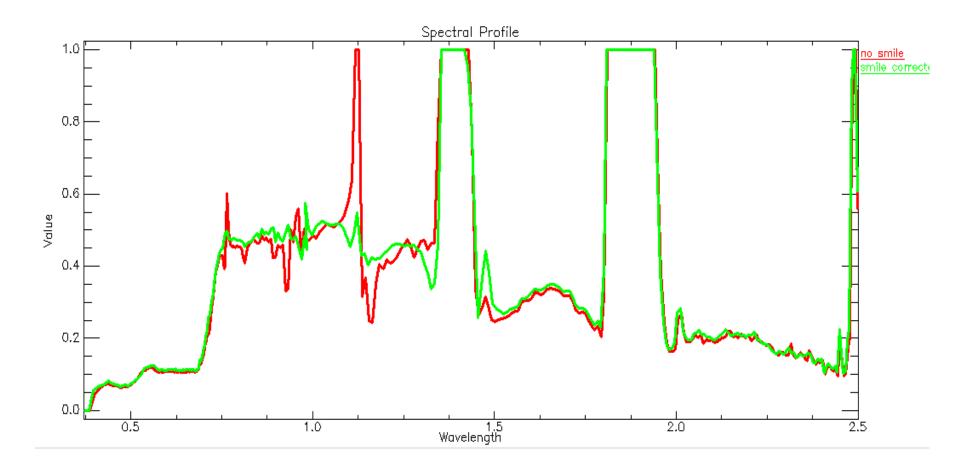
_	# flightlines	Raw image data (GB)	L1 HDF5 data (GB)	L2 data (GB)	SBET data (GB)	Intermediate (RSL-PAF) L0 and L1 data (GB)
June 2011	60	238.8	321.2	26.82	2.4	1900
Sept 2011	88	295.2	541.6	160.38	3	3300
Total	148	534	862.8	187.2	5.4	5200







## **Effect smile correction on final reflectance**



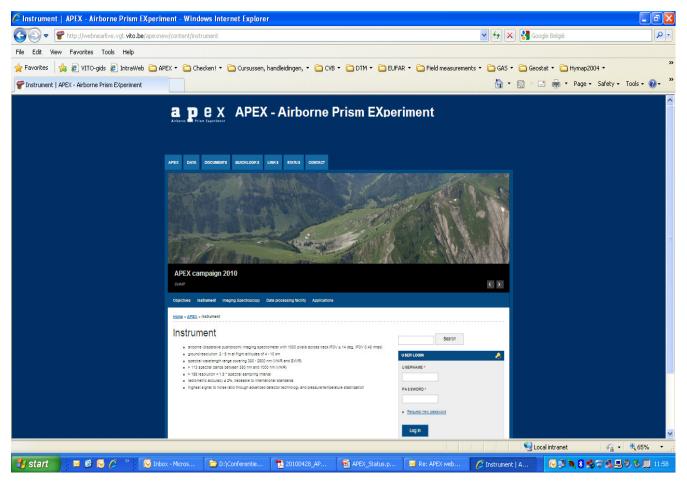






# **APEX website**

#### www.apex-esa.org









## **APEX – Airborne Prism Experiment**



Thank you for your attention!

www.apex-esa.org