

Clement ATZBERGER  
& BOKU team



Determining crop traits using multi-spectral data & radiative transfer models

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## BOKU – INSTITUTE FOR SURVEYING, REMOTE SENSING AND LAND INFORMATION



**History:** ... since 1875  
**Staffing:** ... ca. 20  
**Teaching:** ... several bachelor & master programs  
**Thematics:** ... Remote sensing & photogrammetry  
 ... GIS & land information  
 ... Surveying & geodesy



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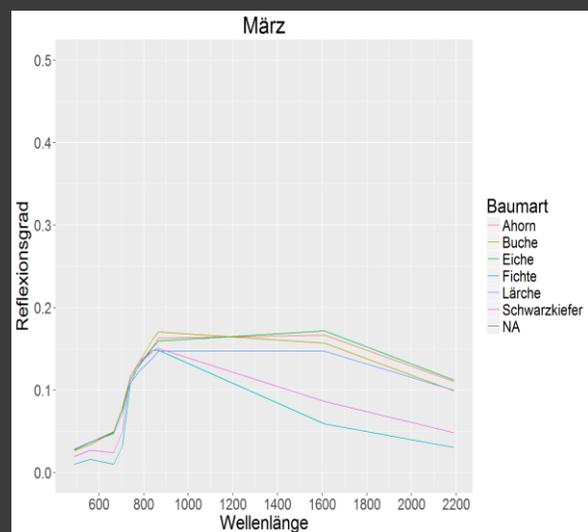
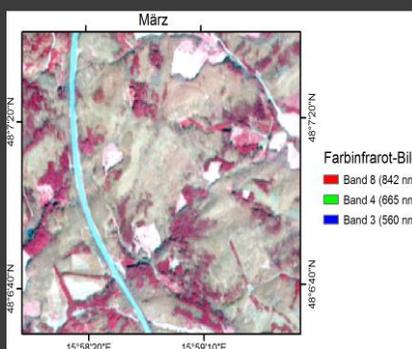
# CLASSICAL APPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING



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High  
resolution  
land cover  
classification

## ... CROP & TREE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION ...

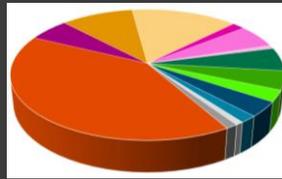


4

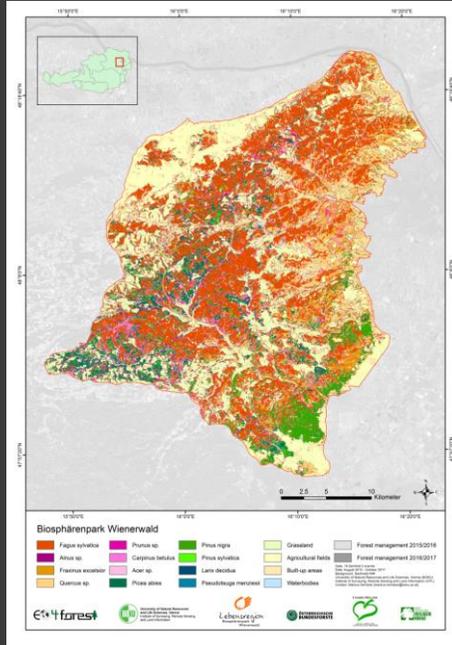
High resolution tree species classification

### ... TREE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION ...

- 12 tree species
- OAA: 89.9 %



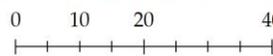
Fagus sylvatica	Prunus sp.	Pinus nigra
Alnus sp.	Carpinus betulus	Pinus sylvestica
Fraxinus excelsior	Acer sp.	Larix decidua
Quercus sp.	Picea abies	Pseudotsuga menziesii



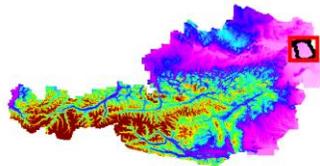
5

High resolution crop type classification

### ... CROP TYPE IDENTIFICATION ...



Maize	Onion	Soybean	Other vegetable
Sugarbeet	Potato	Pumpkin	Alfalfa
Winter cereal	Carrot	Sunflower	Asparagus
			Pea
			in gray: only present in 2018



Marchfeld region

DEM

Value  
High : 3793  
Low : 0

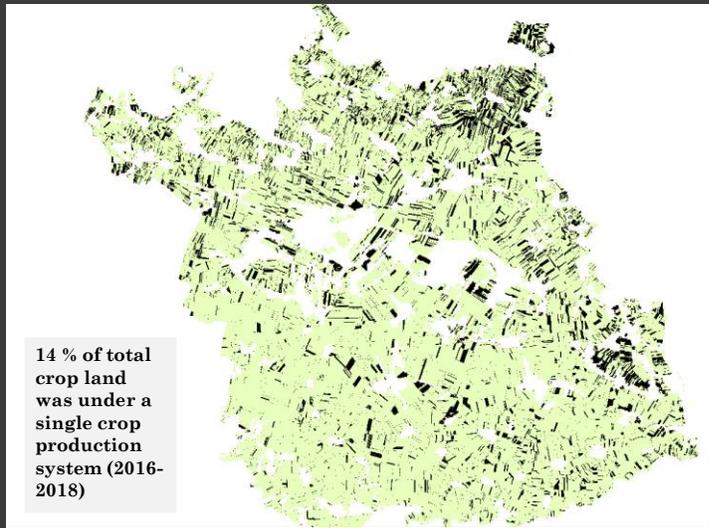
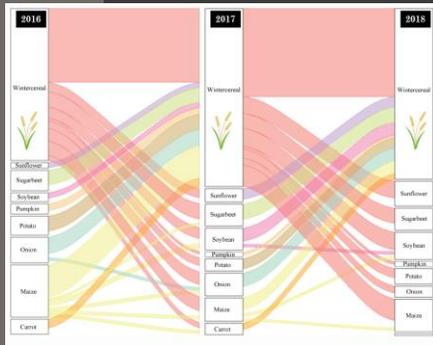


<https://ivfl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=589e41739c474c0f92ad8009b2c09fb5>

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Regional crop rotation

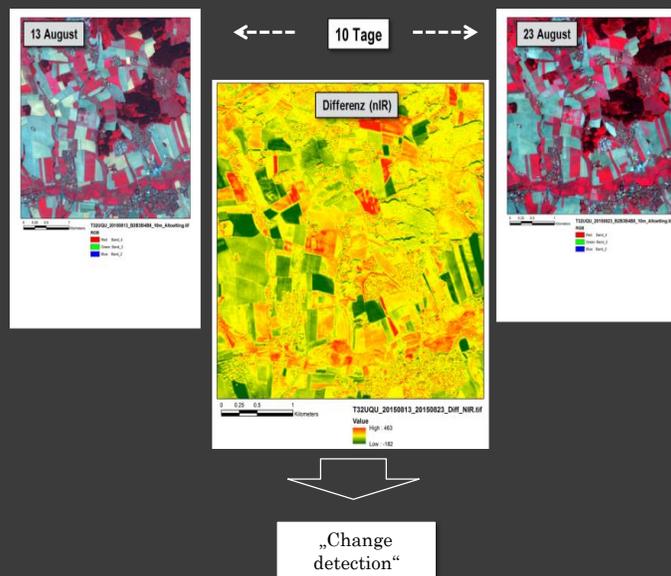
... CROP ROTATION ...



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Change detection

... CHANGE DETECTION ...



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# OBSERVING CROPS USING EO DATA:

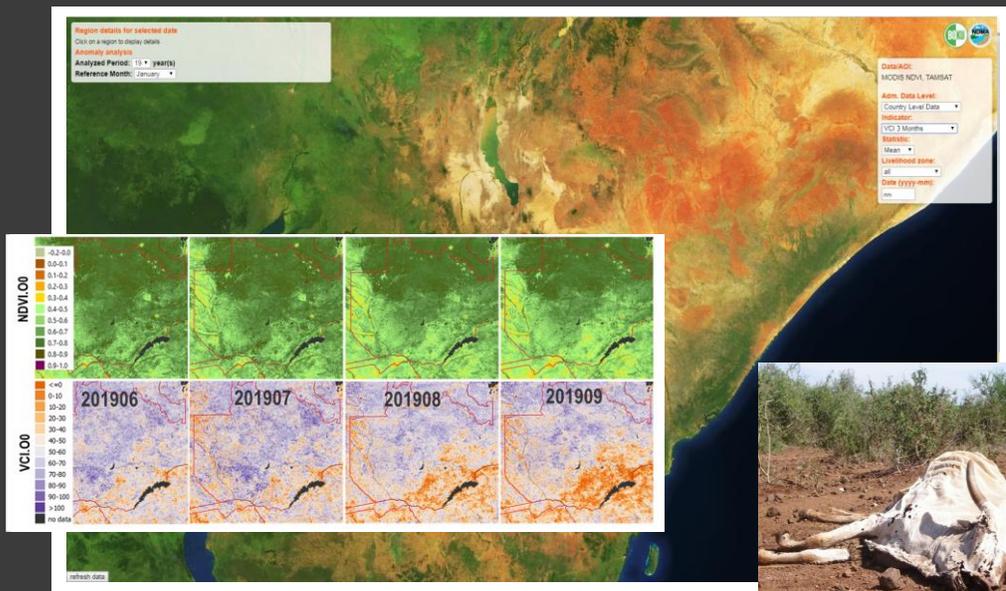
*DROUGHT RESISTANCE  
PHENOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT  
NITROGEN UPTAKE  
WATER STRESS*



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Coarse scale monitoring

## ... DROUGHT MONITORING ...



<https://ivfl-arc.boku.ac.at/kenya/map/>

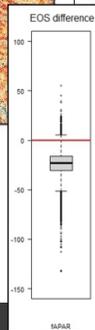
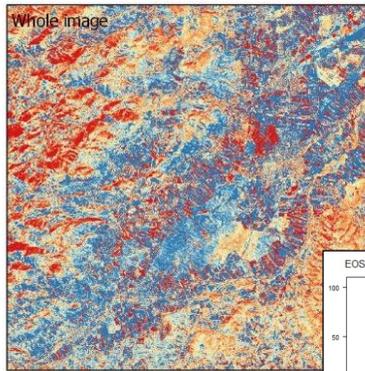


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Coarse scale monitoring

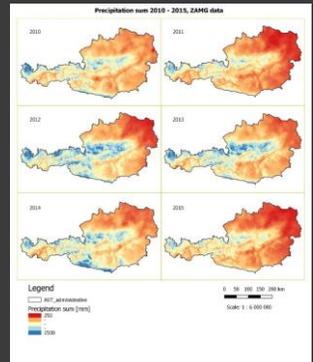
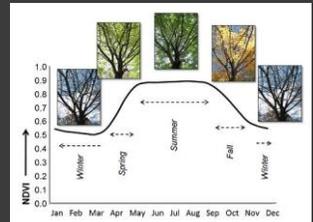
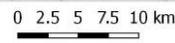
# ... LAND SURFACE PHENOLOGY ...

End of season differences from 2010-2014 and 2015



Earlier EOS 2015 [days]

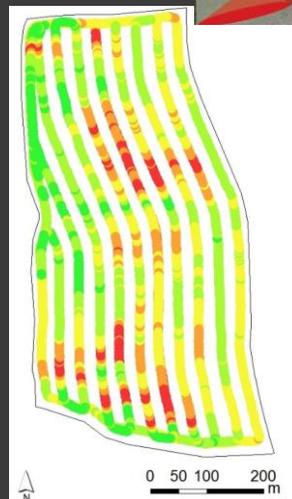
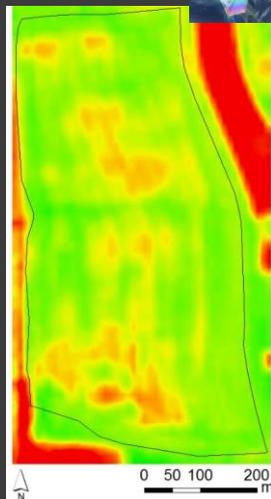
- 1
- 15
- 30
- 45
- >60



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PrecAg: Nitrogen management

# ... N-MANAGEMENT ...

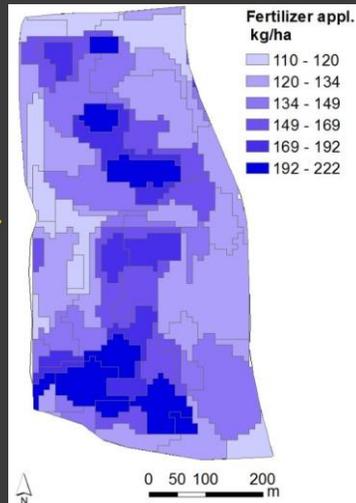
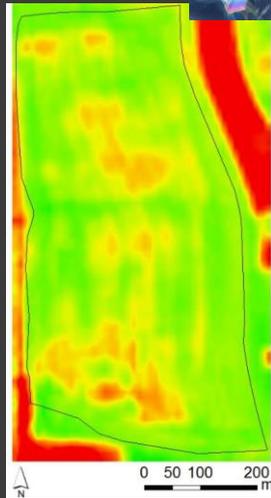
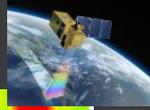


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PrecAg:  
Nitrogen  
management

### ... N-MANAGEMENT...

Sentinel-2



1<sup>st</sup> VRT N appl.  
April 26<sup>th</sup> 2017



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PrecAg:  
Irrigation  
management

### ... IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT ...

Mobile



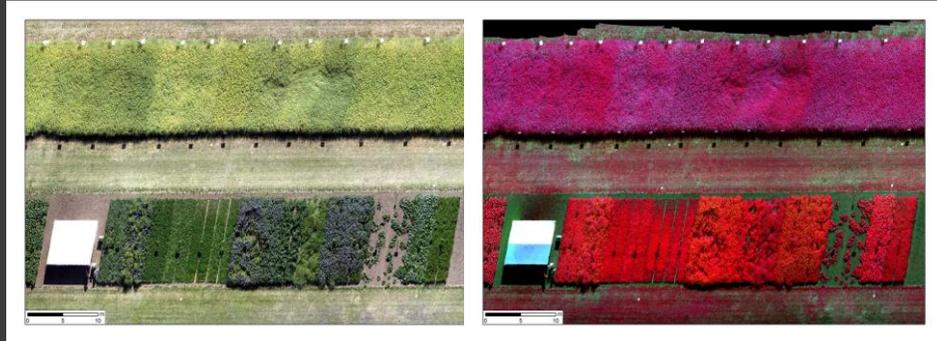
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# ... PHENOTYPING ...

Cooperation with:

Pablo Rischbeck - Division of Agricultural Engineering

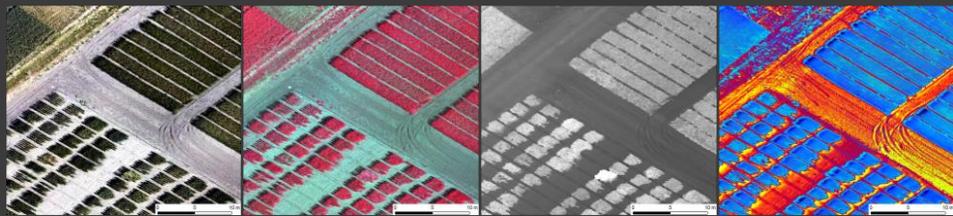
Heinrich Grausgruber - Division of Plant Breeding



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UAVs

# ... PHENOTYPING ...



RGB

CIR

DSM

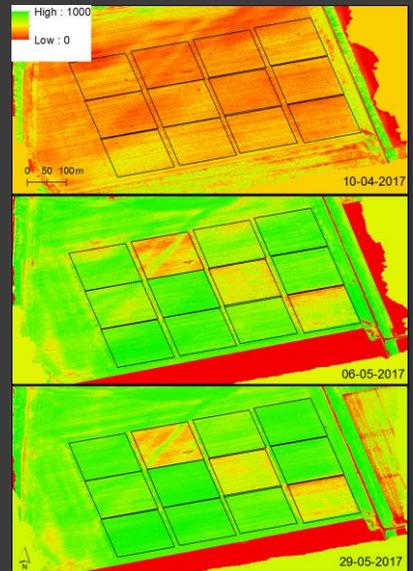
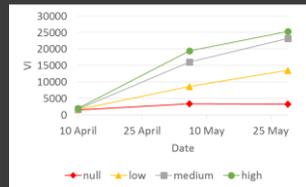
Thermal



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UAVs

# ... FERTILIZATION EXPERIMENTS ...



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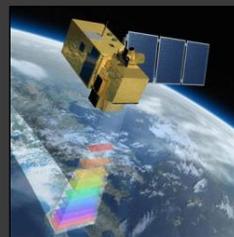
# NEW SENSORS FOR LEAN PHENOTYPING



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*Sentinel-2  
game  
changer*

## ... THE ARRIVAL OF A GAME CHANGER ...



- Two identical satellites
- 10m spatial resolution
- 13 spectral channels
- Global coverage every 5 days
- Data is free and open

The **Sentinel-2** mission is a land monitoring constellation of two identical satellites providing high resolution optical imagery and provide continuity for the current SPOT and Landsat missions for the next ~20 years.

The mission provides a global coverage of the Earth's land surface every 5 days, making the data of great use for agricultural applications.

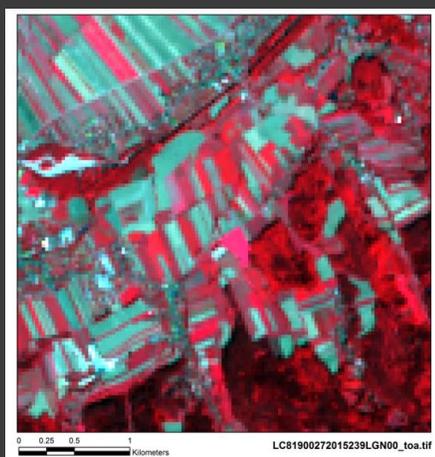
The satellites are equipped with the state-of-the-art MSI (Multispectral Imager) instrument, that offers high-resolution optical imagery. All data are for free to everyone.



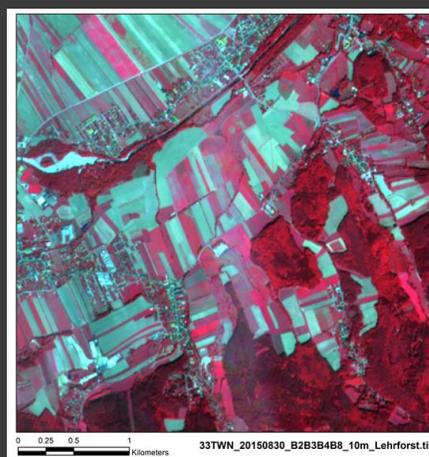
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*Spatial  
resolution of  
10m*

## ... THE ARRIVAL OF A GAME CHANGER ...



Landsat @30m



Sentinel-2 @10m

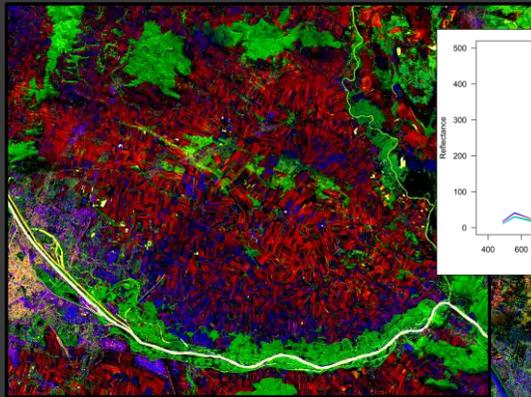


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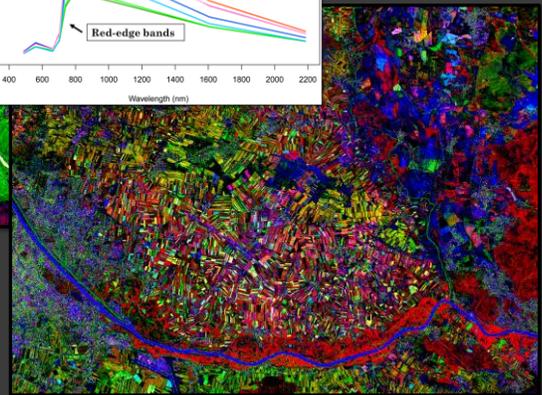
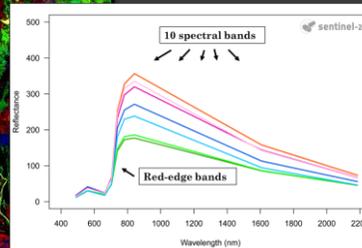
*Rich and uncorrelated information*

*Single image*

... THE ARRIVAL OF A GAME CHANGER ...



PCs: 1-2-3: 30/08/2015



PCs: 5-6-7: 30/08/2015

sentinel-2



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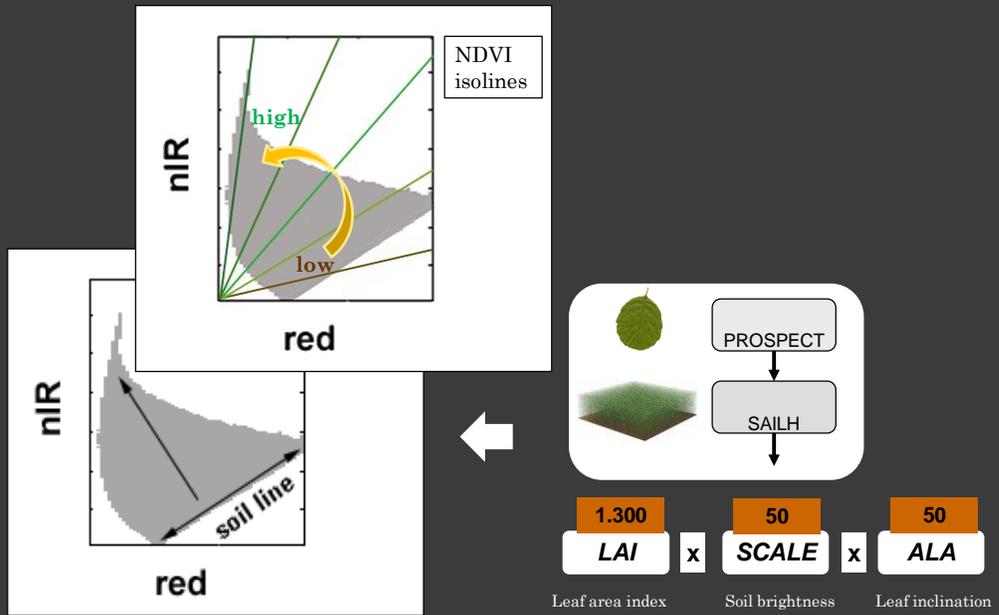
RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELLING:  
*MAKING OPTIMUM USE OF FULL SPECTRAL INFORMATION*



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Whats wrong with (2-band) VIs ?

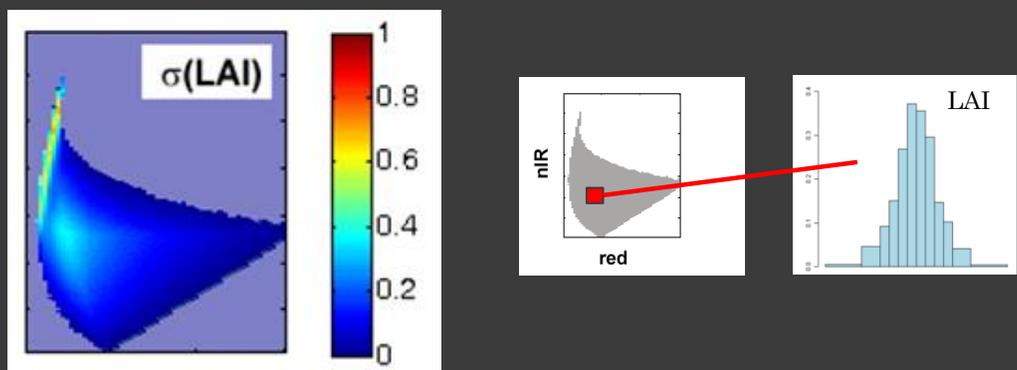
### ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



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Whats wrong with (2-band) VIs ?

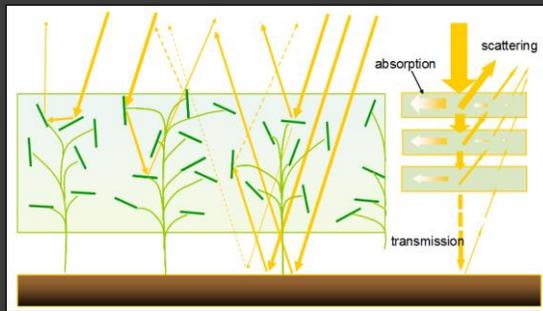
### ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



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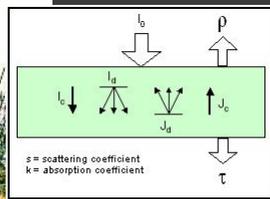
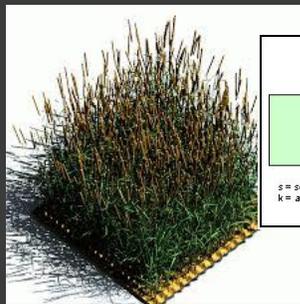
RTM based on physical principles

# ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



Jones & Vaughan, 2010

Radiative transfer modeling:  
"Use of physical laws"



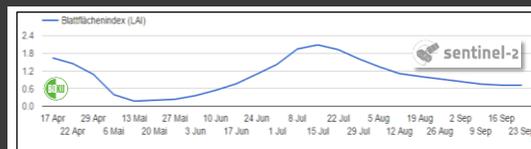
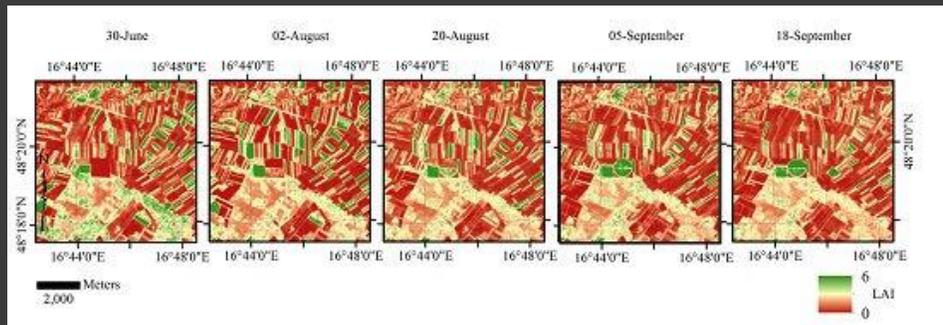
s = scattering coefficient  
k = absorption coefficient

... therefore some advantages (in theory):  
- Field data only for validation needed  
- More generic (time, landscape)  
- Not sensor specific  
- Data redundancy not a problem



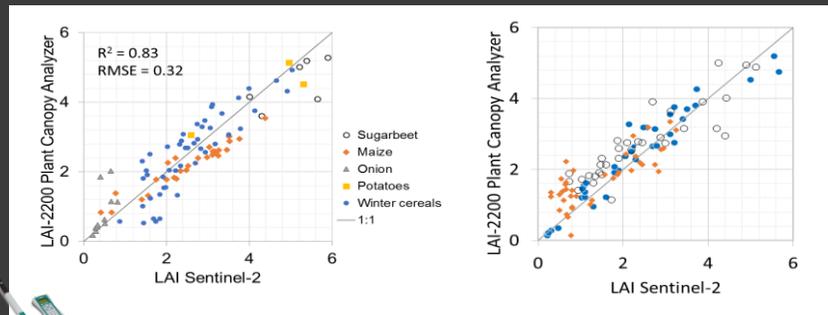
LAI validation

# ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



LAI  
validation

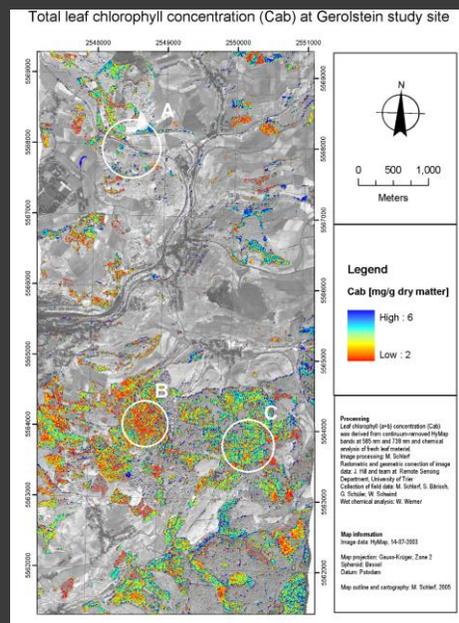
# ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



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Chlorophyll  
validation

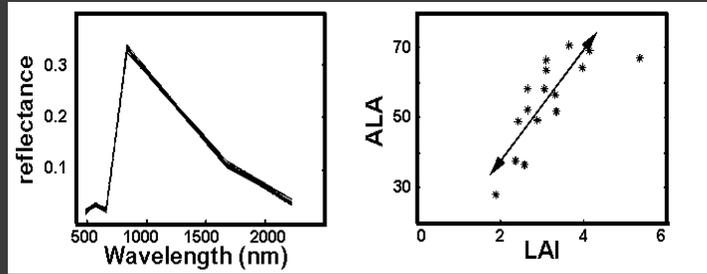
# ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



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Solving the ill-posed inverse problem

### ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



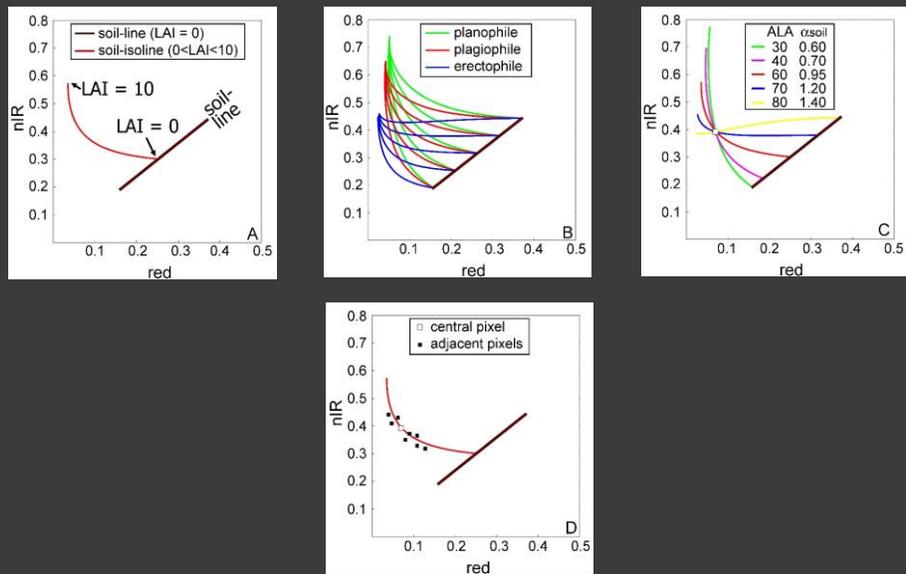
The ill-posed inverse problem illustrated for a Landsat-TM sensor: (left): 15 different parameter combinations lead to  $\pm$  similar canopy reflectance spectra (SAILH+PROSPECT simulations); (right): counterbalancing effect between average leaf angle (ALA) and leaf area index (LAI)



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Solving the ill-posed inverse problem

### ... RADIATIVE TRANSFER MODELING...



Optimization of „soil-isolines“ for pixels within 3 x 3 gliding windows, assuming that only LAI shows a remarkable variation within  $\pm 1$  pixel



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## ... CONCLUSIONS ...

**Vegetation indices (VI) only capture part of the available information ! ... too much information is lost & no generalization**

**Radiative transfer models link crop types with spectral signatures ! ... based on physical principles ... & using all bands**

**Method transfer from (classical) Earth Observation to phenotyping is warranted ... leveraging experience in EO**



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*Thank you!*

### CONTACT

**University of Natural Resources  
and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria**

**Department of Landscape, Spatial  
and Infrastructure Sciences**  
Institute of Surveying, Remote Sensing  
and Land Information

**Clement ATZBERGER, Univ.-Prof. Dr.**  
Peter Jordanstraße 82, A-1190 Vienna, Austria  
Tel.: +43 1 47654-85701

clement.atzberger@boku.ac.at

<http://ivfl-info.boku.ac.at/index.php/homepage>  
<http://s2.boku.eodc.eu/>



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