


Deutsches Zentrum für Luft und Raumfahrt e.V.  
Institut für Hochfrequenztechnik und Radarsysteme

## Polarimetric SAR Interferometry

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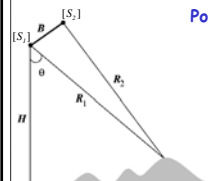
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## Polarimetric Interferometry




**Image 1:** Scattering Matrix:  $[S_1] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{HH}^1 & S_{HV}^1 \\ S_{VH}^1 & S_{VV}^1 \end{bmatrix}$   
Scattering Vector:  $\vec{k}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [S_{HH}^1 + S_{VV}^1 \quad S_{HV}^1 - S_{VH}^1 \quad 2S_{HV}^1]^T$

**Image 2:** Scattering Matrix:  $[S_2] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{HH}^2 & S_{HV}^2 \\ S_{VH}^2 & S_{VV}^2 \end{bmatrix}$   
Scattering Vector:  $\vec{k}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [S_{HH}^2 + S_{VV}^2 \quad S_{HV}^2 - S_{VH}^2 \quad 2S_{HV}^2]^T$

**Image formation:**  $i_1 = \vec{w}_1^* \cdot \vec{k}_1$  and  $i_2 = \vec{w}_2^* \cdot \vec{k}_2$  where  $\vec{w}_i$  are complex unitary vectors

**Interferogram formation:**  $i_1 i_2^* = (\vec{w}_1^* \cdot \vec{k}_1)(\vec{w}_2^* \cdot \vec{k}_2)^* = \vec{w}_1(\vec{k}_1 \cdot \vec{k}_2^*)\vec{w}_2^*$

**Example:**  $\vec{w}_1 = [1/\sqrt{2} \quad 1/\sqrt{2} \quad 0]^T \rightarrow i_1 = \vec{w}_1^* \cdot \vec{k}_1 = S_{HH}^1$   
 $\vec{w}_2 = [1/\sqrt{2} \quad 1/\sqrt{2} \quad 0]^T \rightarrow i_2 = \vec{w}_2^* \cdot \vec{k}_2 = S_{HH}^2$



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## Polarimetric Interferometry


**Image 1:**  $[S_1] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{HH}^1 & S_{HV}^1 \\ S_{VH}^1 & S_{VV}^1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \vec{k}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [S_{HH}^1 + S_{VV}^1 \quad S_{HV}^1 - S_{VH}^1 \quad 2S_{HV}^1]^T \rightarrow [T_1] = \langle \vec{k}_1, \vec{k}_1^* \rangle$

**Image 2:**  $[S_2] = \begin{bmatrix} S_{HH}^2 & S_{HV}^2 \\ S_{VH}^2 & S_{VV}^2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \vec{k}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [S_{HH}^2 + S_{VV}^2 \quad S_{HV}^2 - S_{VH}^2 \quad 2S_{HV}^2]^T \rightarrow [T_2] = \langle \vec{k}_2, \vec{k}_2^* \rangle$

↓

**Interferogram:**  $[T_0] = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{k}_1 & \vec{k}_2 \\ \vec{k}_1^* & \vec{k}_2^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \vec{k}_1, \vec{k}_1^* \rangle & \langle \vec{k}_1, \vec{k}_2^* \rangle \\ \langle \vec{k}_2, \vec{k}_1^* \rangle & \langle \vec{k}_2, \vec{k}_2^* \rangle \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [T_1] & [LQ] \\ [LQ]^* & [T_2] \end{bmatrix}$

[T<sub>1</sub>] Coherency Matrix for Image 1: 3x3 complex hermitian  
[T<sub>2</sub>] Coherency Matrix for Image 2: 3x3 complex hermitian  
[LQ] 3x3 complex non-hermitian matrix  $\vec{k}_1 \neq \vec{k}_2$



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## Polarimetric Interferometry

**Image formation:**  $i_1 = \vec{w}_1^* \cdot \vec{k}_1$  and  $i_2 = \vec{w}_2^* \cdot \vec{k}_2$


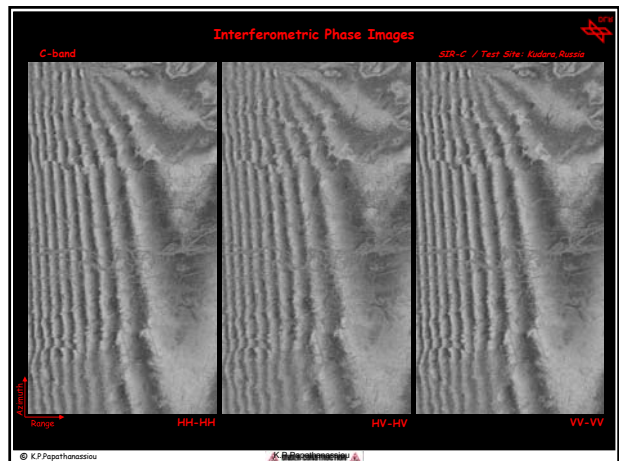
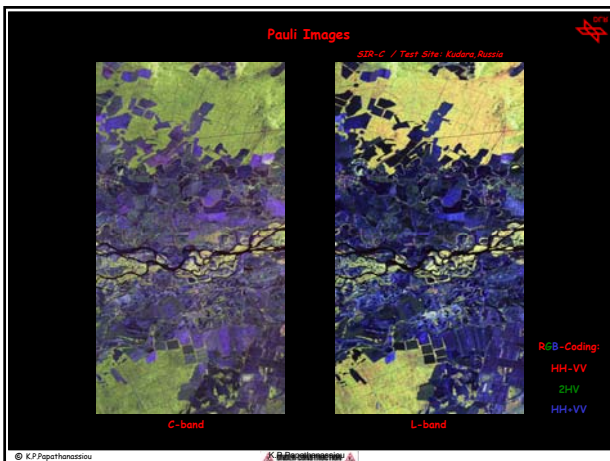
**Interferogram:**  $i_1 i_2^* = (\vec{w}_1^* \cdot \vec{k}_1)(\vec{w}_2^* \cdot \vec{k}_2)^* = \vec{w}_1(\vec{k}_1 \cdot \vec{k}_2^*)\vec{w}_2^* = \vec{w}_1[LQ]\vec{w}_2^*$

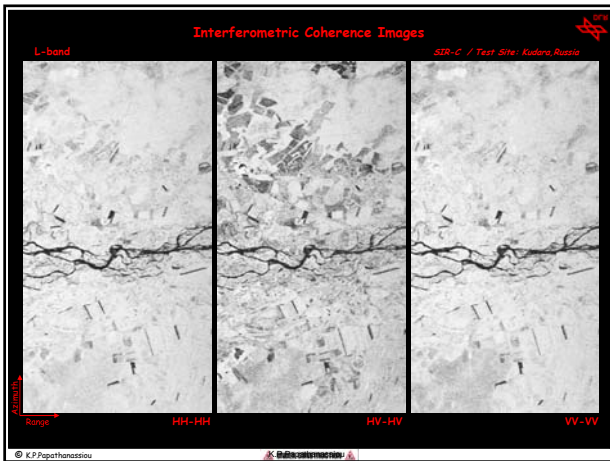
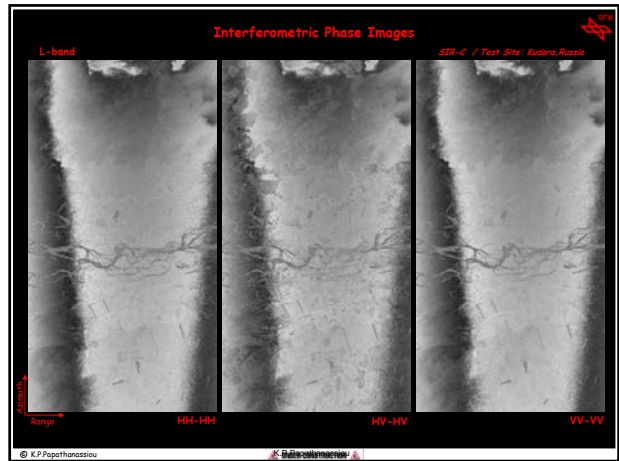
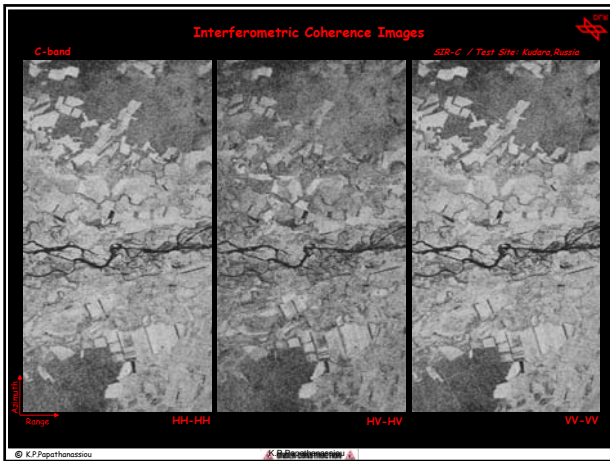
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**Complex Interferometric Coherence:**

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2) = \frac{\langle i_1 i_2^* \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle i_1 i_1^* \rangle \langle i_2 i_2^* \rangle}} = \frac{\langle \vec{w}_1[LQ]\vec{w}_2^* \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \vec{w}_1[LQ]\vec{w}_1^* \rangle \langle \vec{w}_2[LQ]\vec{w}_2^* \rangle}}$$

- $\arg\{\tilde{\gamma}\}$  ... interferometric phase  $\phi(\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2) = \arg\{\langle \vec{w}_1[LQ]\vec{w}_2^* \rangle\}$
- $|\tilde{\gamma}| = \gamma$  ... normalised complex cross-correlation coefficient
  - If  $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_2$  then  $\gamma = \gamma_{hh}$
  - If  $\vec{w}_1 \neq \vec{w}_2$  then  $\gamma = \gamma_{hh} \gamma_{pol}$



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### Coherence Optimisation

**Interferometric Coherence:**

$$\gamma(\tilde{w}_1, \tilde{w}_2) = \frac{\langle \tilde{w}_1^* [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \tilde{w}_1^* [T_{11}] \tilde{w}_1 \rangle \langle \tilde{w}_2^* [T_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 \rangle}}$$

**Question:** Wich polarisation combination leads to the maximum possible interferometric coherence ?

**Optimisation Procedure:**  $\max_{\tilde{w}_1, \tilde{w}_2} \{ L L^* \}$   $L \dots$  Lagrangian function

$L := \tilde{w}_1^* [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 + \lambda_1 (\tilde{w}_1^* [T_{11}] \tilde{w}_1 - C_1) + \lambda_2 (\tilde{w}_2^* [T_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 - C_2)$   $\lambda_{1,2} \dots$  Lagrangian multipliers

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \tilde{w}_1^*} = [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 + \lambda_1 [T_{11}] \tilde{w}_1 = 0 \rightarrow \tilde{w}_1^* [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 = -\lambda_1 \tilde{w}_1^* [T_{11}] \tilde{w}_1$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \tilde{w}_2^*} = [\Omega_{22}]^* \tilde{w}_1 + \lambda_2 [T_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 = 0 \rightarrow \tilde{w}_2^* [\Omega_{22}]^* \tilde{w}_1 = -\lambda_2 \tilde{w}_2^* [T_{22}] \tilde{w}_2$$

↓

$$\begin{aligned} [T_{22}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}]^* [T_{11}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 &= [A][B] \tilde{w}_2 = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \tilde{w}_2 = \nu \tilde{w}_2 \\ [T_{11}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}] [T_{22}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}]^* \tilde{w}_1 &= [B][A] \tilde{w}_1 = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \tilde{w}_1 = \nu \tilde{w}_1 \end{aligned}$$

$[T_{22}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}]^* [T_{11}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}]$  is not hermitian but  $\nu = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$  are real

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### Coherence Optimisation

**Coherence Optimisation:**

$$\begin{aligned} [T_{22}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}]^* [T_{11}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_2 &= [A][B] \tilde{w}_2 = \nu \tilde{w}_2 \\ [T_{11}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}] [T_{22}]^{-1} [\Omega_{22}]^* \tilde{w}_1 &= [B][A] \tilde{w}_1 = \nu \tilde{w}_1 \end{aligned}$$

3 real eigenvalues:  $\nu_1 \geq \nu_2 \geq \nu_3 \geq 0$   
 and 3 pairs of eigenvectors:  $\{ \tilde{w}_{11}, \tilde{w}_{12} \}, \{ \tilde{w}_{21}, \tilde{w}_{22} \}, \{ \tilde{w}_{31}, \tilde{w}_{32} \}$

**Optimum Coherence Values:**  $\gamma_i = \sqrt{\nu_i}$  **Optimum Scattering Mechanisms:**  $\{ \tilde{w}_{11}, \tilde{w}_{12} \}$

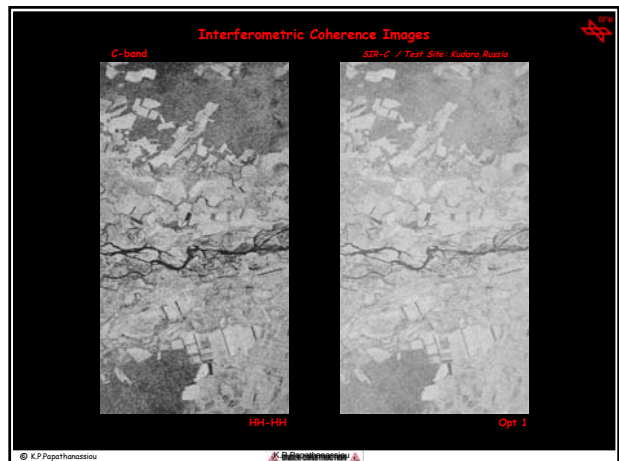
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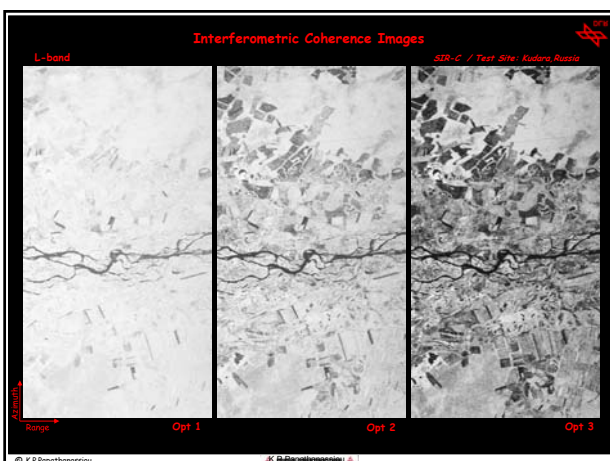
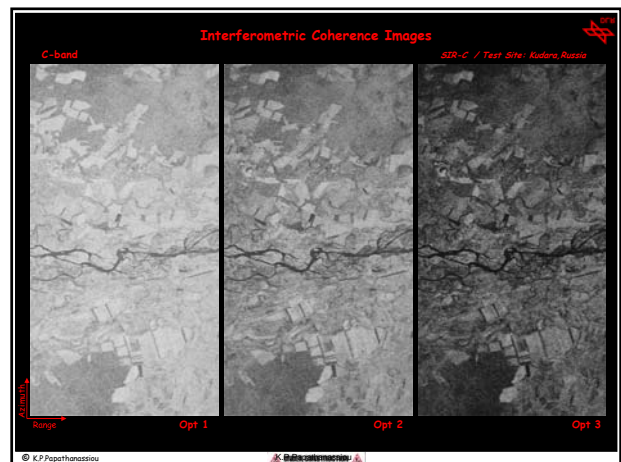
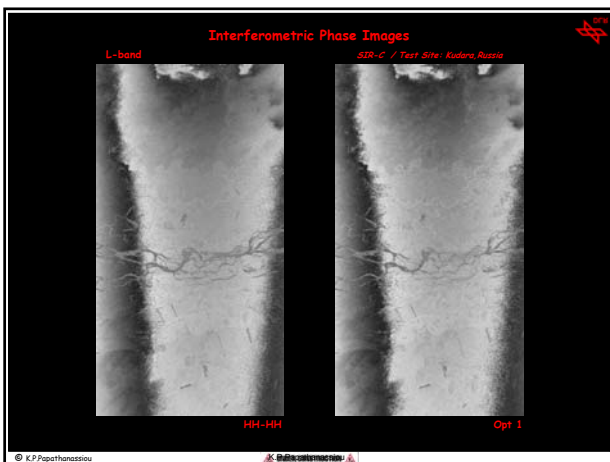
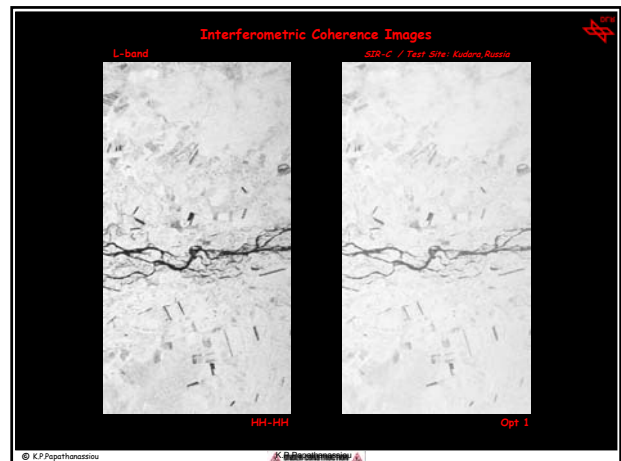
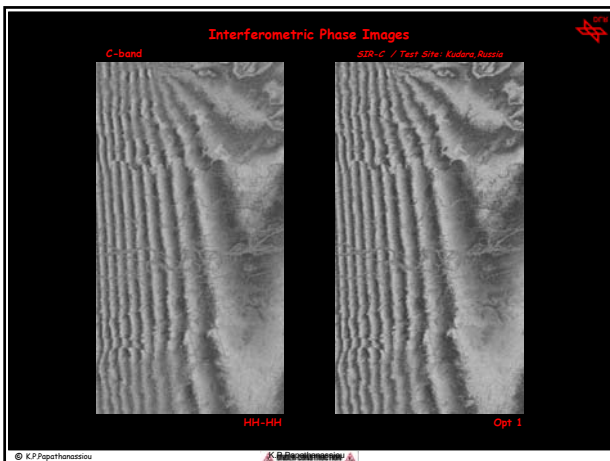
**Image Formation:**  $i_1 = \tilde{w}_{11} \cdot \tilde{k}_1$  and  $i_2 = \tilde{w}_{12} \cdot \tilde{k}_2$

**Eigen Phase Normalisation:**  $\phi_i = \arg \{ \tilde{w}_{11} \cdot \tilde{w}_{21} \} = 0$

$i_1 = i_1 \exp(-i\phi_i/2)$  and  $i_2 = i_2 \exp(+i\phi_i/2)$

**Interferogram Formation:**  $i_{11} \cdot i_{21}^* = (\tilde{w}_{11} \cdot \tilde{k}_1)(\tilde{w}_{21} \cdot \tilde{k}_2)^* = \tilde{w}_{11}^* [\Omega_{22}] \tilde{w}_{21}$





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### Interferometric Decomposition

Coherent Interferometric Decomposition:

$$[T_{22}]^{-1} [Q_{22}] [T_{11}]^{-1} [Q_{22}] = \sum v_i (\tilde{w}'_{i1} \tilde{w}'_{i1}) = v_1 (\tilde{w}'_{11} \tilde{w}'_{11}) + v_2 (\tilde{w}'_{21} \tilde{w}'_{21}) + v_3 (\tilde{w}'_{31} \tilde{w}'_{31})$$

$$[T_{11}]^{-1} [Q_{22}] [T_{22}]^{-1} [Q_{22}] = \sum v_i (\tilde{w}'_{i1} \tilde{w}'_{i1}) = v_1 (\tilde{w}'_{11} \tilde{w}'_{11}) + v_2 (\tilde{w}'_{21} \tilde{w}'_{21}) + v_3 (\tilde{w}'_{31} \tilde{w}'_{31})$$

Note that  $\tilde{w}'_{i1} = \sqrt{|T_{11}|} \tilde{w}_{i1}$  and  $\tilde{w}'_{i2} = \sqrt{|T_{22}|} \tilde{w}_{i2}$  are orthonormal

Three Interferograms:

- $i_{11} \cdot i_{12} = (\tilde{w}_{11} \cdot \tilde{k}_1)(\tilde{w}_{12} \cdot \tilde{k}_2)^* = \tilde{w}_{11} [Q] \tilde{w}_{12}^*$  1st Scattering Mechanism
- $i_{21} \cdot i_{22} = (\tilde{w}_{21} \cdot \tilde{k}_1)(\tilde{w}_{22} \cdot \tilde{k}_2)^* = \tilde{w}_{21} [Q] \tilde{w}_{22}^*$  2nd Scattering Mechanism
- $i_{31} \cdot i_{32} = (\tilde{w}_{31} \cdot \tilde{k}_1)(\tilde{w}_{32} \cdot \tilde{k}_2)^* = \tilde{w}_{31} [Q] \tilde{w}_{32}^*$  3rd Scattering Mechanism

The three interferograms are optimised with respect to the interferometric coherence !!!

Phase Difference between scattering mechanisms:

$$\Delta\phi_{ij} = \arg\{ (\tilde{w}_{i1} [Q] \tilde{w}_{i2}^*) (\tilde{w}_{j1} [Q] \tilde{w}_{j2}^*)^* \}$$

A small red logo is in the bottom right corner.

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### Physical Interpretation of Coherence Optimisation Algorithm

In an perfect world ...

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### Phase Difference between Scattering Mechanisms

L-band

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### SAR Images

E-SAR / Test Site: Oberpfalzenhofen

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### Interferometric Phase Images

E-SAR / Test Site: Oberpfalzenhofen

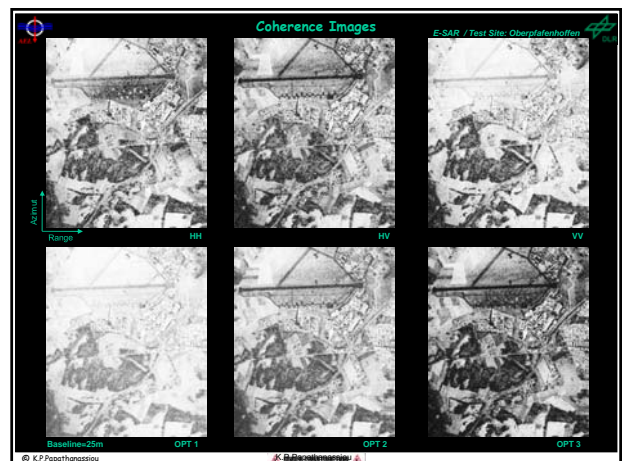
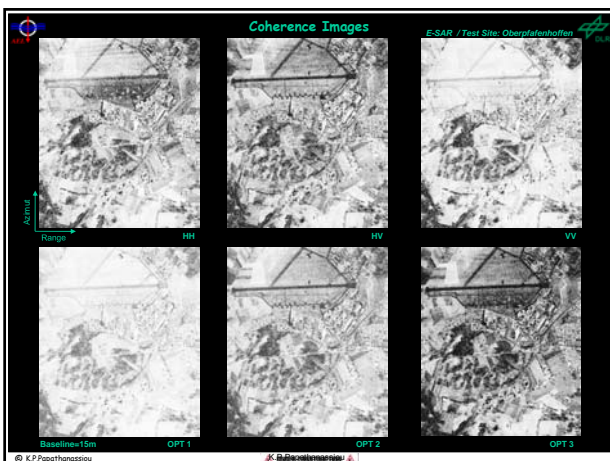
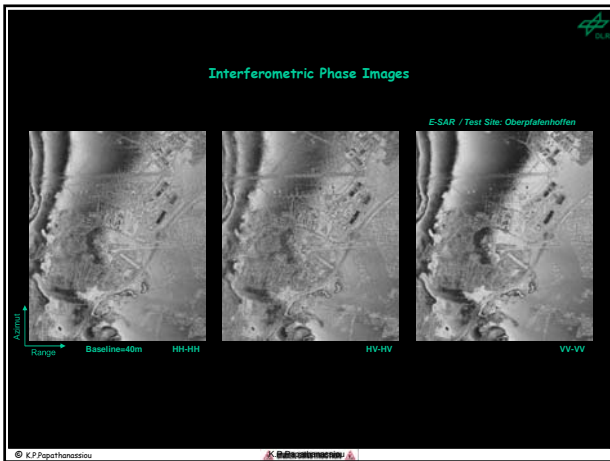
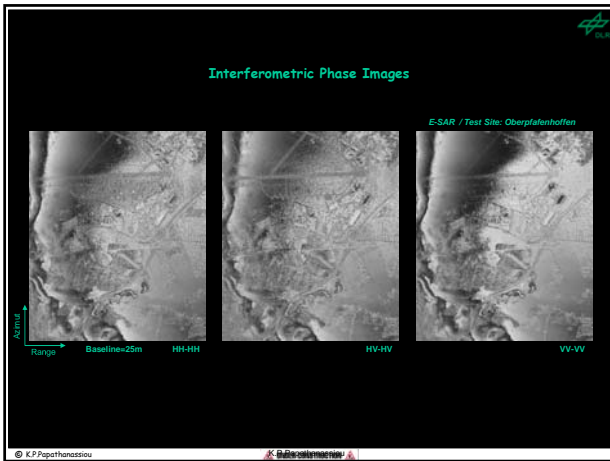
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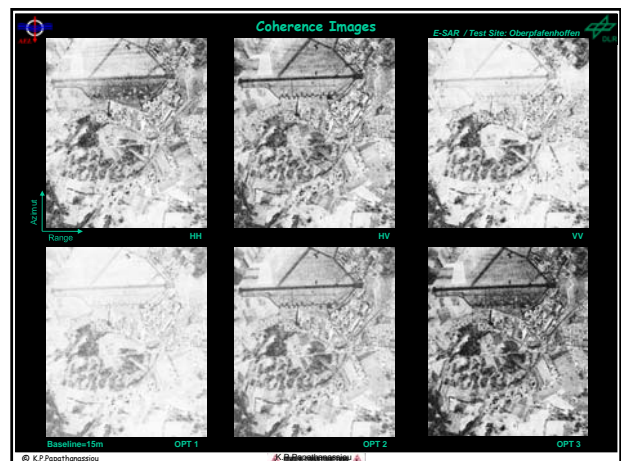
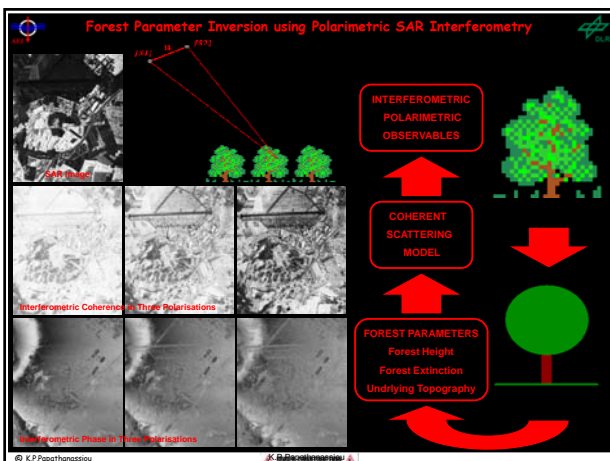
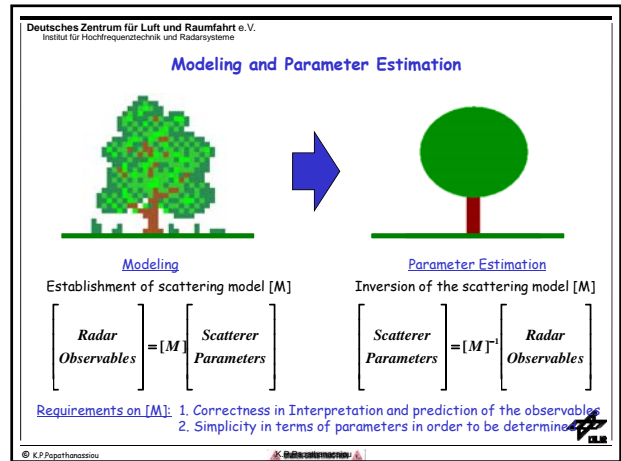
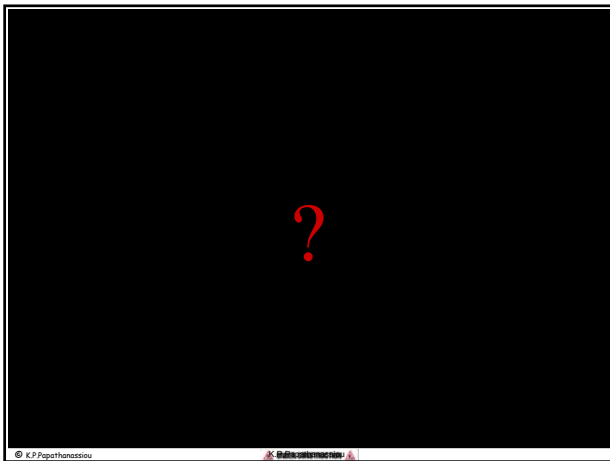
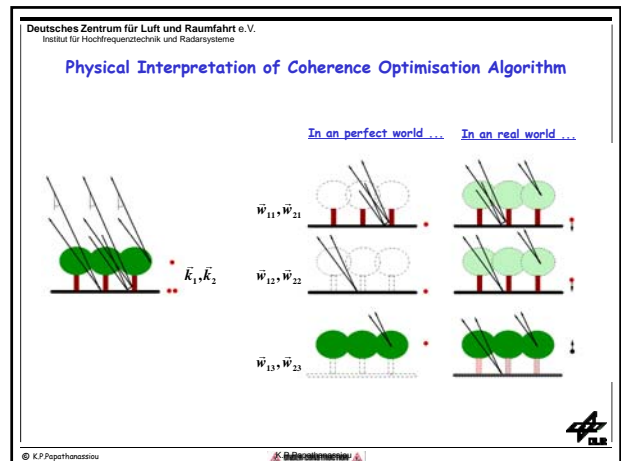
### Interferometric Coherence Images

E-SAR / Test Site: Oberpfalzenhofen

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### Random Volume + Ground Scattering Model: Interferometric Behaviour

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}) = \exp(i\phi_0) \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v + m(\tilde{w})}{I + m(\tilde{w})}$$

4 Parameters:

- Volume height  $h_v$
- Extinction  $\sigma$
- Topography  $\phi_0$
- G/V Ratio  $m(\tilde{w})$

Volume Coherence  $\tilde{\gamma}_v = \frac{I}{I_0}$

$$I = \int_0^{h_v} \exp(i\kappa_z z') \exp\left(\frac{2\sigma z'}{\cos\theta_0}\right) dz'$$

$$I_0 = \int_0^{h_v} \exp\left(\frac{2\sigma z'}{\cos\theta_0}\right) dz'$$

G/V Ratio  $m = \frac{m_G}{m_v I_0}$  Vertical Wavenumber  $\kappa_z = \frac{\kappa \Delta \theta}{\sin(\theta_0)}$

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### Single Baseline Inversion Scenarios

| Single-Polarisation Interferometry  | Dual-Polarisation Interferometry  | Quad-Polarisation Interferometry  |
|---|---|---|
| $\begin{bmatrix} h_v \\ \sigma \\ \phi_0 \\ m(\tilde{w}_1) \end{bmatrix} = [M]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix}  \tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_1)  \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_1)\} \end{bmatrix}$ | $\begin{bmatrix} h_v \\ \sigma \\ \phi_0 \\ m(\tilde{w}_1) \\ m(\tilde{w}_2) \end{bmatrix} = [M]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix}  \tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_1)  \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_1)\} \\  \tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_2)  \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_2)\} \end{bmatrix}$ | $\begin{bmatrix} h_v \\ \sigma \\ \phi_0 \\ m(\tilde{w}_1) \\ m(\tilde{w}_2) \\ m(\tilde{w}_3) \end{bmatrix} = [M]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix}  \tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_1)  \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_1)\} \\  \tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_2)  \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_2)\} \\  \tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_3)  \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}_3)\} \end{bmatrix}$ |
| 4 Parameters ↔ 2 Observables  | 5 Parameters ↔ 4 Observables  | 6 Parameters ↔ 6 Observables  |
| ↓<br><b>Underestimated</b>  | ↓<br><b>Underestimated</b>  | ↓<br><b>Solvable !!!</b>  |

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### Random Volume + Ground Scattering Model: Geometrical Interpretation

Interferometric Coherence:  $\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}) = \exp(i\phi_0) \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v + m(\tilde{w})}{I + m(\tilde{w})}$

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\tilde{w}) = \exp(i\phi_0) \left[ \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v + m(\tilde{w})}{I + m(\tilde{w})} (I - \tilde{\gamma}_v) \right]$$

Equation of a straight line in the complex plane !!!

- Line Slope :=  $f(\text{Baseline, Vegetation Height, and Extinction})$
- Line Length :=  $f(\text{Baseline, Vegetation Height, Extinction, and Ground Scat. Amplitudes})$
- Line/Circle Intersection Point :=  $\tilde{\gamma}(m(\tilde{w}) \rightarrow \infty) \Rightarrow \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(m(\tilde{w}) \rightarrow \infty)\} \rightarrow \phi_0$  !!!

Scattering Model Validation

E-SAR / Test Site: Oberpfaffenhofen

P1: Surface Scatterer      P2: Forest Scatterer

P3: Surface Scatterer      P4: Forest Scatterer

Scattering Model Validation

E-SAR / Test Site: Oberpfaffenhofen

P1: Surface Scatterer      P2: Forest Scatterer

P3: Surface Scatterer      P4: Forest Scatterer

Forest Parameter Inversion

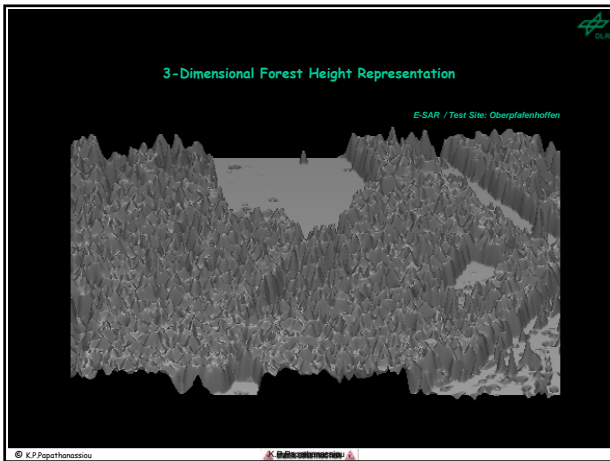
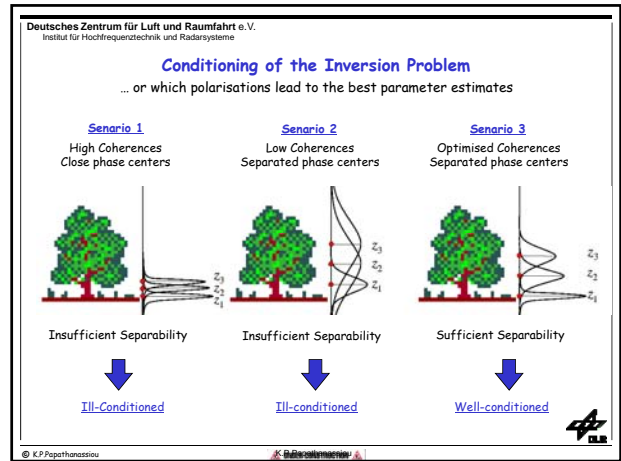
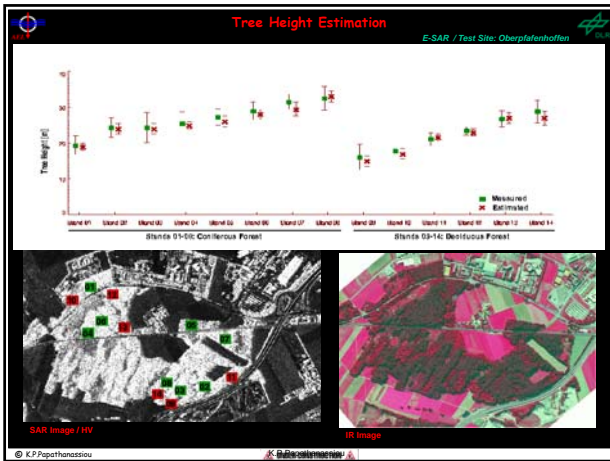
E-SAR / Test Site: Oberpfaffenhofen

Vertical Wavenumber

INVERSION ALGORITHM

3D Representation of Tree Height





Forest Height and Biomass Estimation

Conventional Biomass Estimators from SAR Data:

|                    | Biomass Saturation Limit [T/ha] | Biomass [Kg/(m <sup>2</sup> )] | % of Earths Vegetated Area | % of Total Biomass Stock |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| C-band             | 20                              | 2                              | 25%                        | 4%                       |
| L-band             | 40                              | 4                              | 35%                        | 8%                       |
| P-band             | 100                             | 10                             | 60%                        | 20%                      |
| <b>Tree Height</b> | <b>250</b>                      | <b>25</b>                      | <b>75%</b>                 | <b>80%</b>               |

Alternative Inversion Scenarios

Multi-Baseline Single-Polarisation Interferometry:

Baseline 1:  $\tilde{\gamma}(\kappa_{i1}) = \exp(i\phi_0) \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v(\kappa_{i1}) + m}{1 + m}$

Baseline 2:  $\tilde{\gamma}(\kappa_{i2}) = \exp(i\frac{\kappa_{i2}}{\kappa_{i1}}\phi_0) \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v(\kappa_{i2}) + m}{1 + m}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} h_v \\ \sigma \\ \phi_0 \\ m \end{bmatrix} = [M]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} |\tilde{\gamma}(\kappa_{i1})| \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\kappa_{i1})\} \\ |\tilde{\gamma}(\kappa_{i2})| \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(\kappa_{i2})\} \end{bmatrix}$$

4 Parameters ↔ 4 Observables **Solvable !!!**

Single-Baseline Dual-Frequency Interferometry:

Frequency 1:  $\tilde{\gamma}(f_1) = \exp(i\phi_0) \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v(f_1) + m(f_1)}{1 + m(f_1)}$

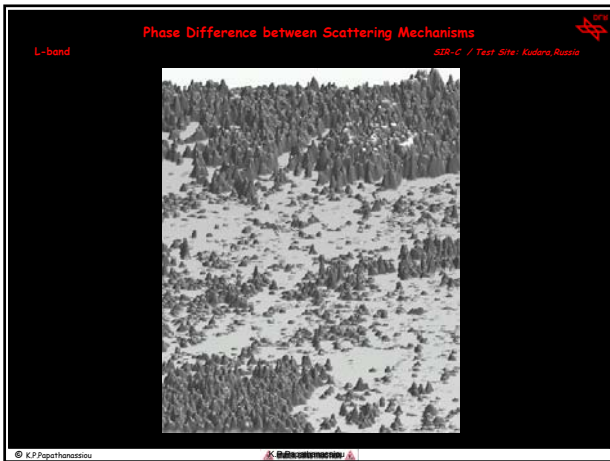
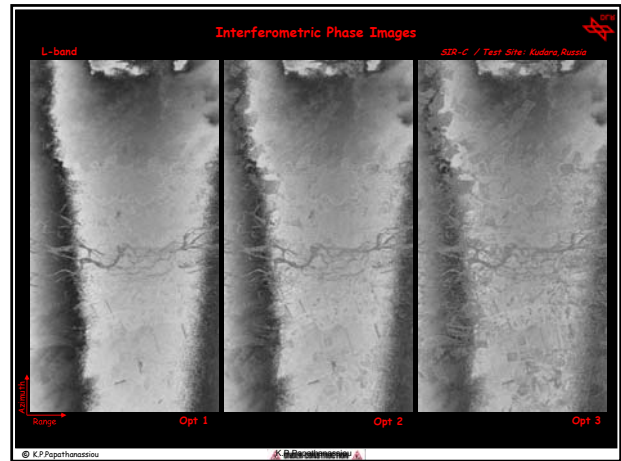
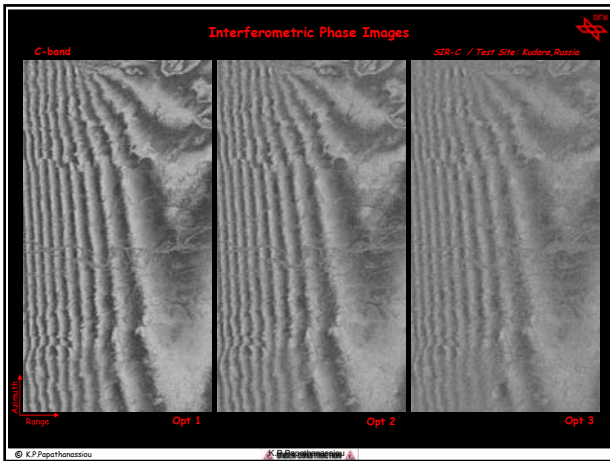
Frequency 2:  $\tilde{\gamma}(f_2) = \exp(i\frac{f_2}{f_1}\phi_0) \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_v(f_2) + m(f_2)}{1 + m(f_2)}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} h_v \\ \sigma(f_1) \\ \sigma(f_2) \\ \phi_0 \\ m(f_1) \\ m(f_2) \end{bmatrix} = [M]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} |\tilde{\gamma}(f_1)| \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(f_1)\} \\ |\tilde{\gamma}(f_2)| \\ \arg\{\tilde{\gamma}(f_2)\} \end{bmatrix}$$

6 Parameters ↔ 4 Observables **Underestimated**







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### From Remote Imaging to Remote Measurement

**What has been done:** Estimation of Tree Height, Forest Extinction, Underlying Topography, Ground Signature under the Forest  
... using a single frequency single baseline sensor  
Validation in L-band  
Validation in P-band

**Where are we now:** Model extension to account for temporal decorrelation, Model Development and Validation of Biomass Estimation, Multi-Baseline Pol-InSAR Processing Techniques, Model Development, Inversion Algorithms

**Where we like to go:** Estimation of Surfaces Parameters under Vegetation, Estimation of Forest Structural parameters, Differential Polarimetric Interferometry

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### Coherence Optimisation

**Interferometric Coherence:** 
$$\gamma(\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2) = \frac{\langle \vec{w}_1^T [\Omega_{12}] \vec{w}_2 \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \vec{w}_1^T [T_{11}] \vec{w}_1 \rangle \langle \vec{w}_2^T [T_{22}] \vec{w}_2 \rangle}}$$

**Question:** Which polarisation combination leads to the maximum possible interferometric coherence?

**Coherence Optimisation:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} [T_{22}]^T [\Omega_{12}]^T [T_{11}]^T [\Omega_{12}] \\ [T_{11}]^T [\Omega_{12}] [T_{22}]^T [\Omega_{12}] \end{bmatrix} \vec{w}_2 = [A][B] \vec{w}_2 = \nu \vec{w}_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} [T_{22}]^T [\Omega_{12}]^T [T_{11}]^T [\Omega_{12}] \\ [T_{11}]^T [\Omega_{12}] [T_{22}]^T [\Omega_{12}] \end{bmatrix} \vec{w}_1 = [B][A] \vec{w}_1 = \nu \vec{w}_1$$

3 real eigenvalues:  $\nu_1 \geq \nu_2 \geq \nu_3 \geq 0$   
and 3 pairs of eigenvectors:  $\{\vec{w}_{11}, \vec{w}_{12}\}, \{\vec{w}_{21}, \vec{w}_{22}\}, \{\vec{w}_{31}, \vec{w}_{32}\}$

**Optimum Coherence Values:**  $\gamma_i = \sqrt{\nu_i}$       **Optimum Scattering Mechanisms:**  $\{\vec{w}_{11}, \vec{w}_{12}\}$

**Image Formation:**  $s_1 = \vec{w}_1 \cdot \vec{k}_1$  and  $s_2 = \vec{w}_2 \cdot \vec{k}_2$

**Interferogram Formation:**  $s_{11} \cdot s_{21}^* = (\vec{w}_{11} \cdot \vec{k}_1)(\vec{w}_{21} \cdot \vec{k}_2)^* = \vec{w}_{11}^T [\Omega] \vec{w}_{21}^*$

**Eigen Phase Normalisation:**  $\phi_i = \arg\{\vec{w}_{1i} \cdot \vec{w}_{2i}\} = 0$

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### Random Volume + Ground Scattering Model: Polarimetric Behaviour

$$[T_V] = \begin{bmatrix} t_{V11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & t_{V22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t_{V33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[T_G] = \begin{bmatrix} t_{G11} & t_{G12} & 0 \\ t_{G21} & t_{G22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t_{G33} \end{bmatrix}$$

