



Remote sensing and water modelling

A 5 year outlook

Tim Malthus | CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere |
2020-02-27

Australia's National Science Agency



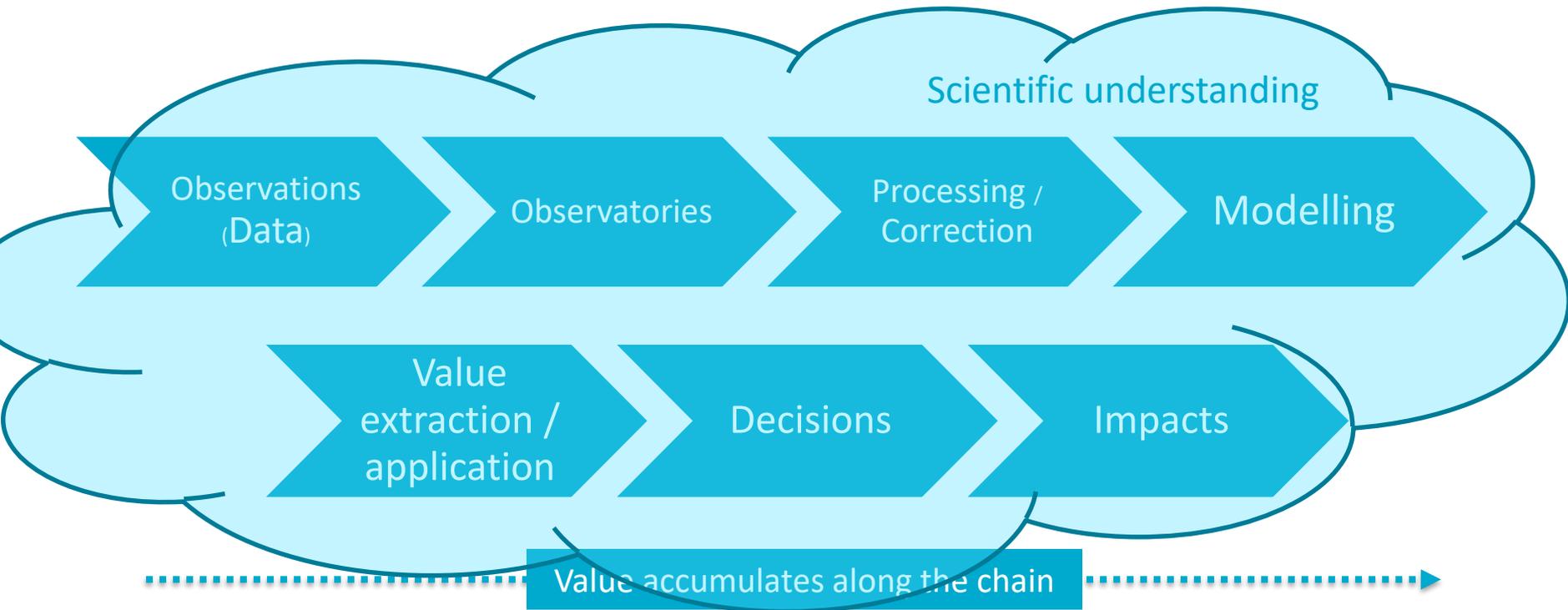


Structure

- Perspectives
- Trends in remote sensing
- Remote sensing and modelling relationship
- Issues and opportunities
- Conclusion



My pipeline - observations **and** models critical to the success of decision making





Remote sensing and modelling

| Remote Sensing | Models |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Higher spatial and temporal coverage than in situ measurements | High spatial and temporal resolution |
| 40+ year time series (hindcasting) | Tool for forecasting, scenario assessment |
| Surface view only | 3D structure |
| Cloud interference | Cloud free, continuous |
| Large uncertainties | Uncertainties? |
| Satellite drifts, calibration for time series | Process understanding |
| Regional and temporal biases | |



National perspectives



Australian Earth Observation
Community Plan 2026

Delivering essential information and services for Australia's future.

AECCG
Australian Earth Observation
Community Coordinating Group



Space

A Roadmap for unlocking future growth opportunities for Australia

2018

www.csiro.au

CSIRO FUTURES CSIRO Futures is the strategy advisory group of Australia's national science agency



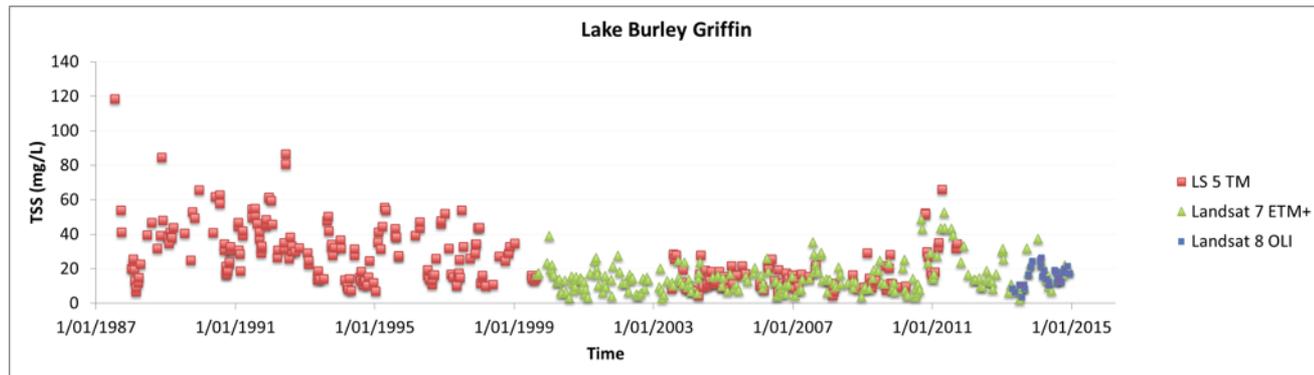
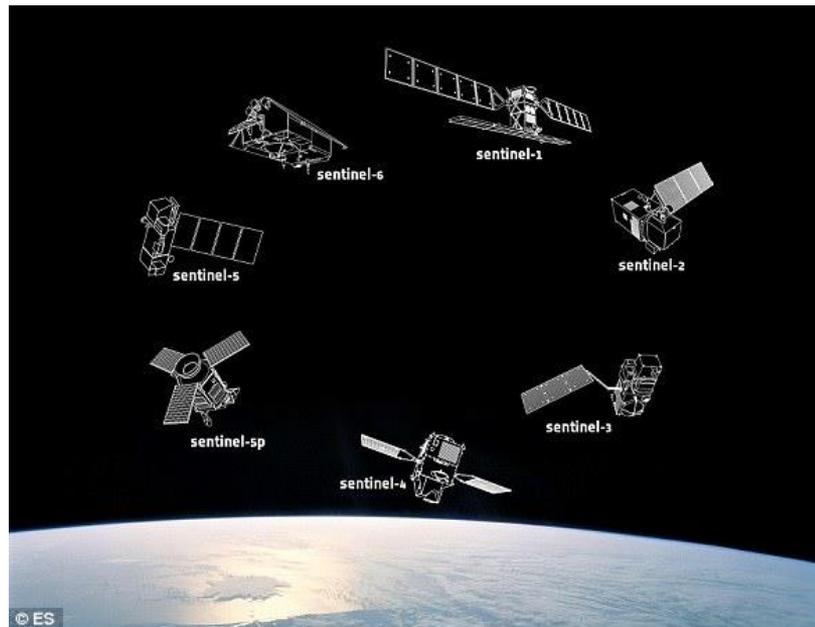


Trend – Data continuity



Data supply guaranteed until 2030s

Supported by Landsat:
Landsat 9 – Dec 2020
Landsat 10 – in planning





Trend – Diversity

- Platforms:
 - UAVs
 - Planes, balloons
 - Cube and micro-sats
 - Satellites
- Sensors:
 - Hyperspectral
 - Lidar
 - Radar
 - Geostationery



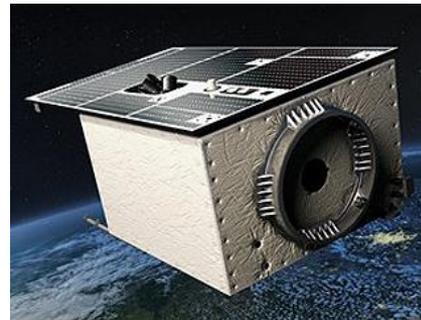
Trend - Hyperspectral satellites



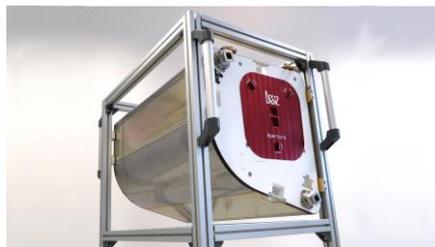
Prisma (2019)



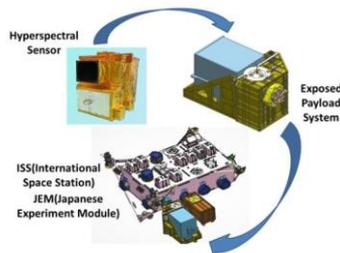
Gaofeng-5 (2018)



EnMap (2020)



DESI (2018)

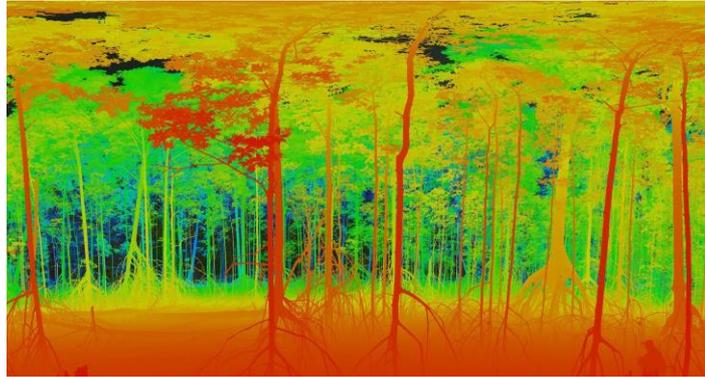


HISUI (2019)

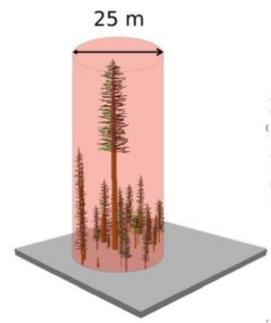
High spectral resolution promises improved parameters and reduced uncertainties



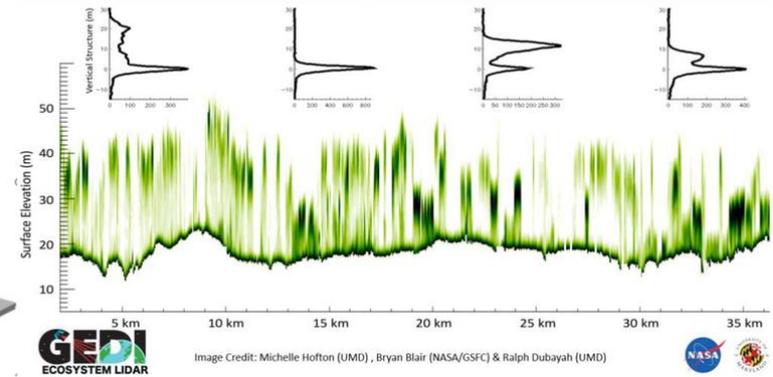
Lidar



Terrestrial Laser scanning - Mangroves



GEDI – Forest Canopy Profile and Waveforms

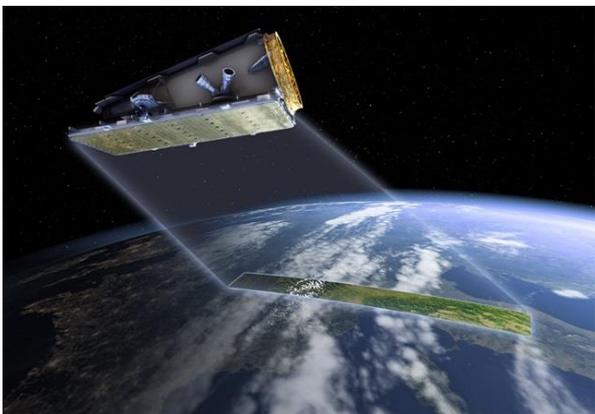


Lidar offers 3D structure, fine scale



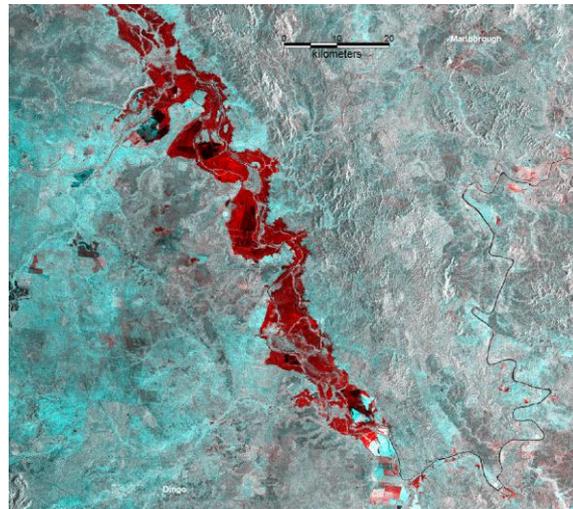
Radar

Sentinel-1 (2015)



NovaSAR (2018)

SAR offers weather independence,
structure, water delineation





Geostationery



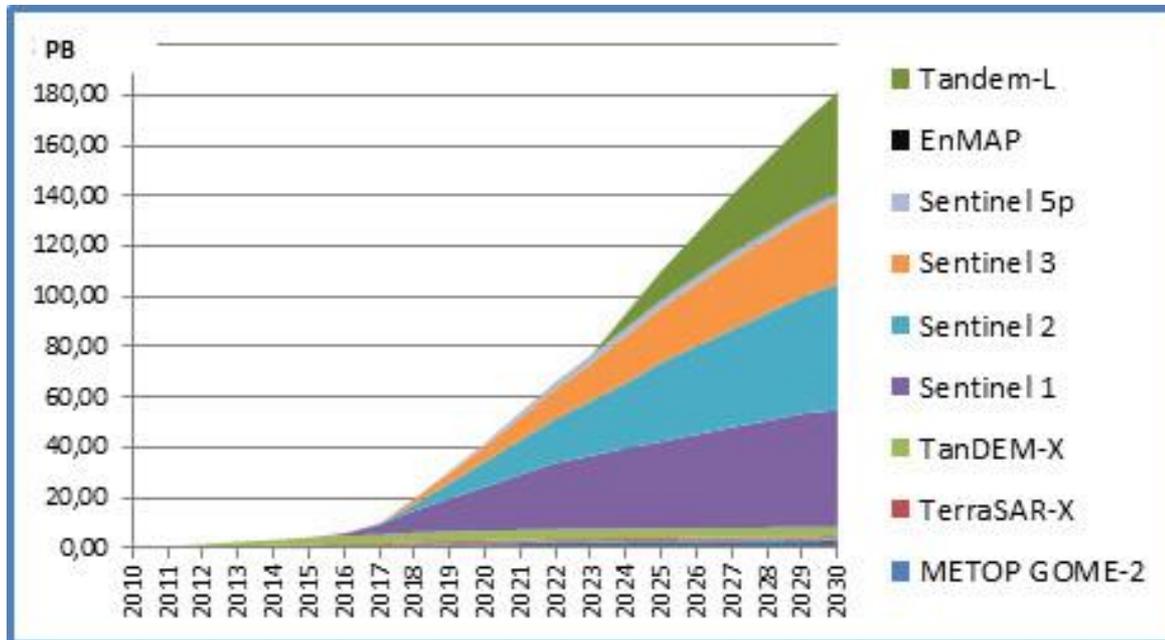
Himawari-8 (2014)



Geostationery offers high temporal resolution, dynamic processes

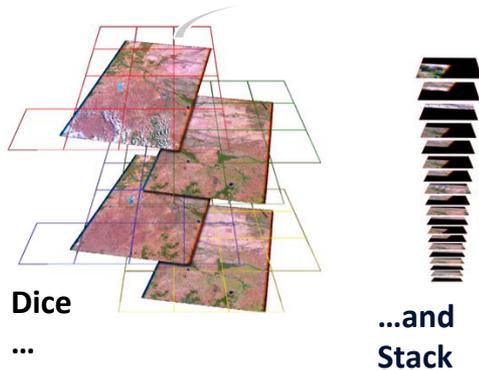


Challenge – Data volumes



Trend – Discoverability & processing

- Analysis Ready Data
- Data cubes / Hubs (the pixel is key)
- Open data / Open source
- Off-the-shelf products
- Lowering the barrier to entry
- Operational services
- Processing in the cloud



Google Earth Engine





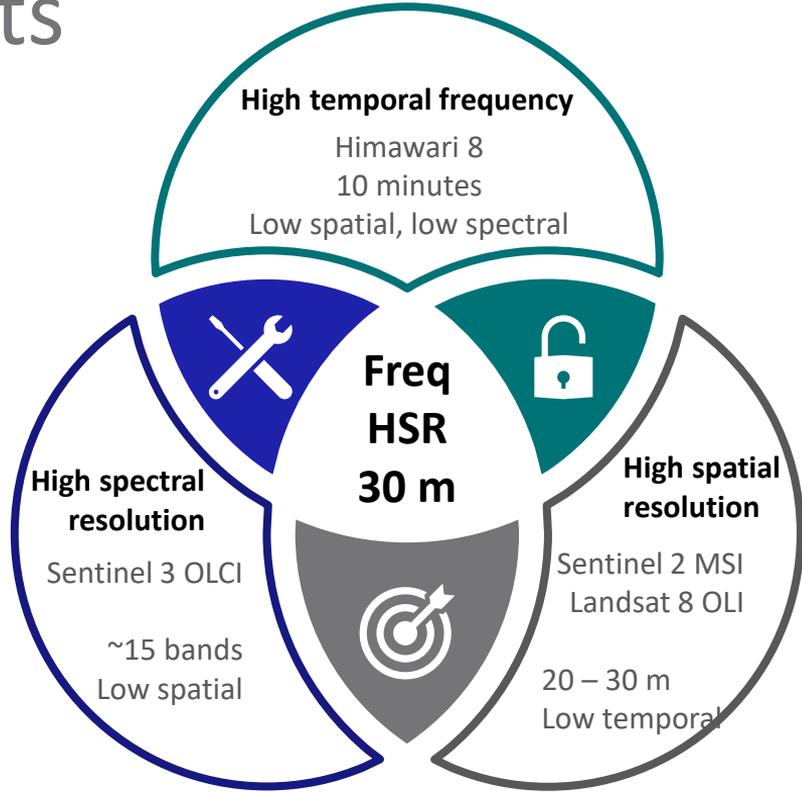
Issues and opportunities

- Access is mixed
- Continuity of the time series and products
- Duplication of effort
- Continuing calibration and validation

- From single-sensor products to the development of temporal merging, multi-sensor products, data assimilation
- Hierarchical approaches - Small scale high resolution to wider scale low resolution
- Automated recognition – structures, habitats, species

Data fusion, virtual datasets

- Exploits high temporal, spatial and spectral resolution
- No single sensor achieves it, but we have sensors that satisfy each requirement
- Can we combine these to satisfy what we need?
 - Spectral-temporal / Spatial-temporal fusion
 - ML / AI



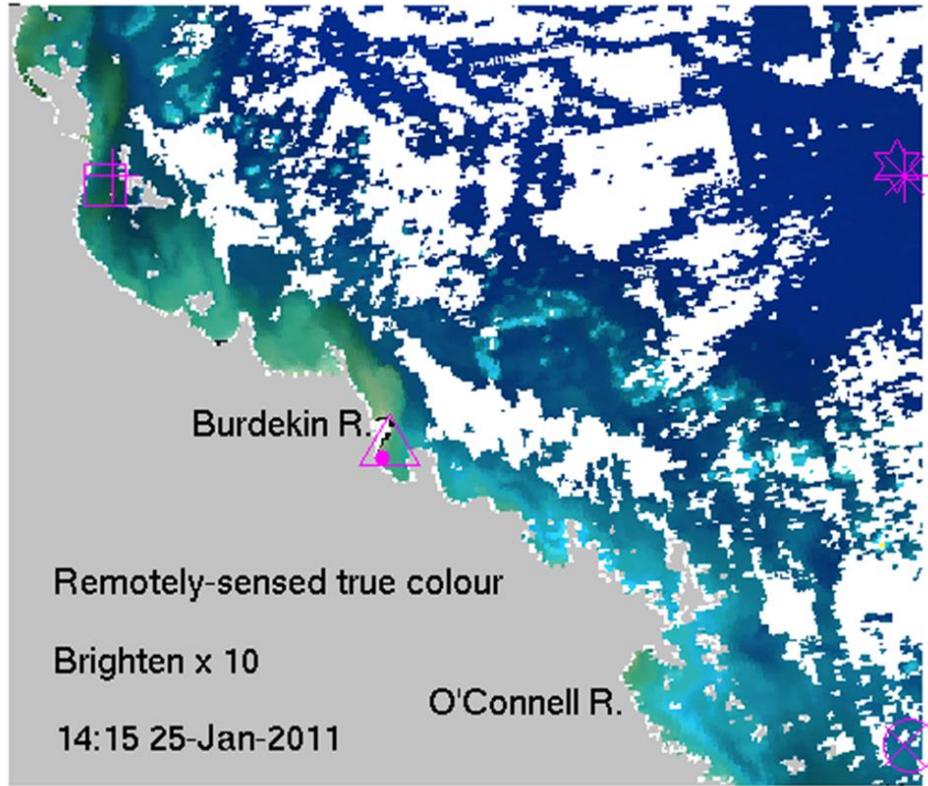


Remote sensing and modelling

- Greater synergy between RS and models
- RS informs model validation, model skill assessment
- Modelling informs RS, e.g. algorithm improvement
- Challenges:
 - Mis-match between model outputs and ocean colour products
 - Each provides a different “measurement” inhibiting straightforward intercomparisons
 - Differences in terminology/similarly names variables, uncertainties, new developments in modelling directly link to RS (example)



eReefs – Validation using true colour

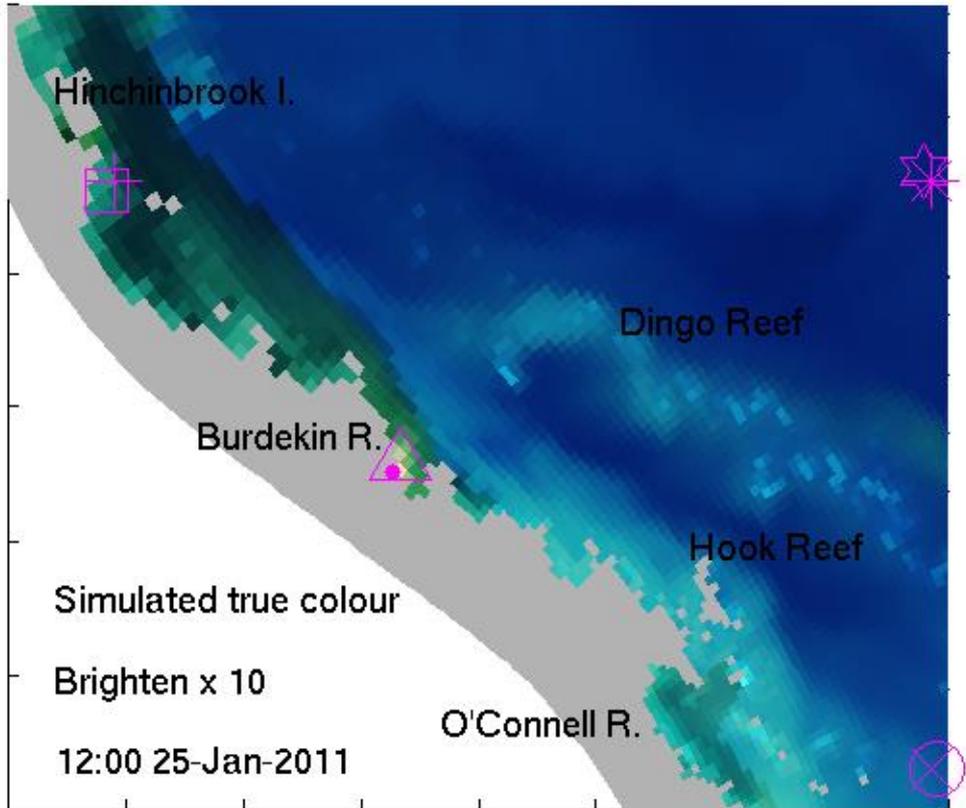


Remotely-sensed true colour

Brighten x 10

14:15 25-Jan-2011

True colour from orbiting satellite (MODIS)



Simulated true colour

Brighten x 10

12:00 25-Jan-2011

True colour as a model output



eReefs – RS data assimilation

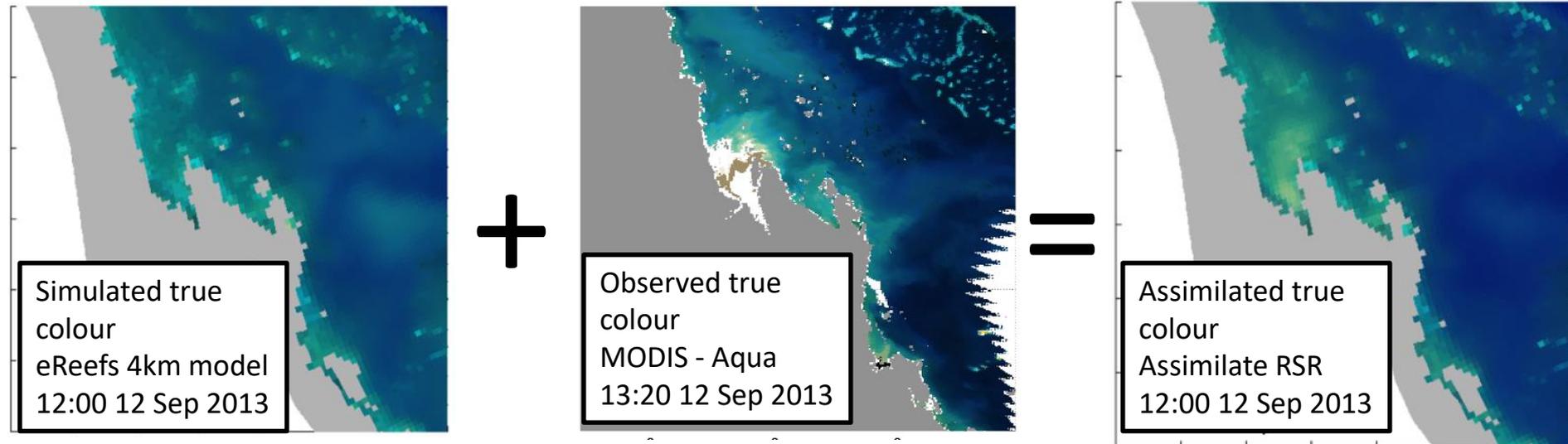
- Data assimilation system constrained using the mismatch between observed and simulated remote-sensing reflectance.
- Reanalysis (1 June 2013 – 30 October 2016) completed on 24 Feb 2017, 4 days ahead of schedule.

Biogeosciences, 13, 1–30, 2016
www.biogeosciences.net/13/1/2016/
doi:10.5194/bg-13-1-2016
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Use of remote-sensing reflectance to constrain a data assimilating marine biogeochemical model of the Great Barrier Reef

Emlyn M. Jones¹, Mark E. Baird¹, Mathieu Mongin¹, John Parslow¹, Jenny Skerratt¹, Jenny Lovell¹, Nugzar Margvelashvili¹, Richard J. Matear¹, Karen Wild-Allen¹, Barbara Robson², Farhan Rizwi¹, Peter Oke¹, Edward King¹, Thomas Schroeder³, Andy Steven³, and John Taylor⁴





Conclusions

- A RS data explosion, more accessible, higher resolution, diversity
- Modellers need to be better informed of RS use and developments
- Greater dialogue needed between the two communities – how to interpret the comparisons
- Data assimilation needs work – formal mechanisms to synthesize observations and models
- Uncertainty in RS products requires greater understanding
- Both RS and modelling depend on in situ data



Thank you

Oceans and Atmosphere

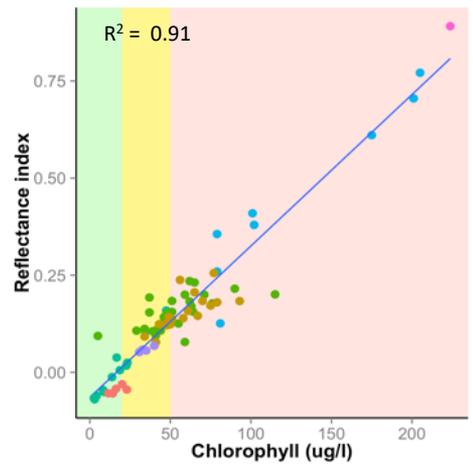
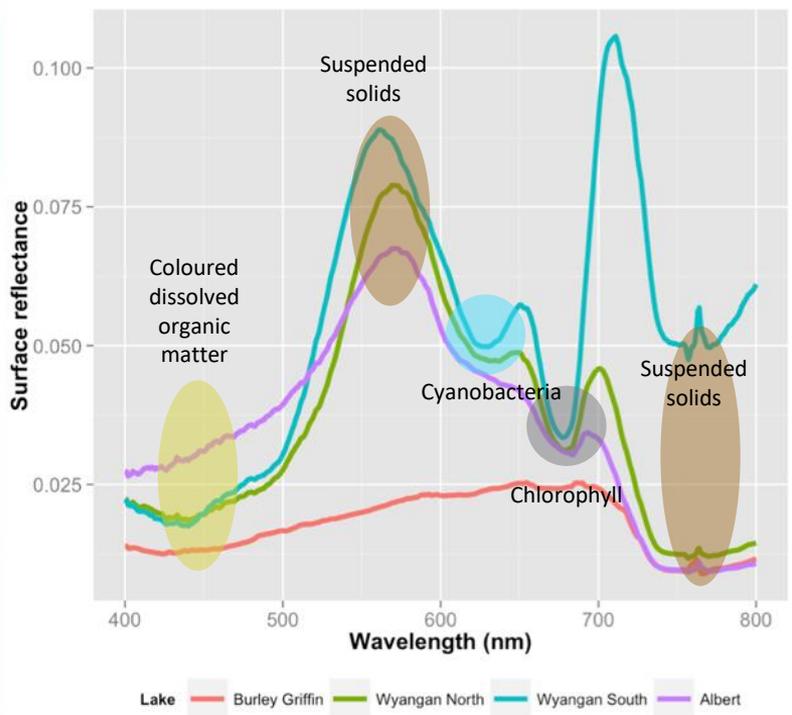
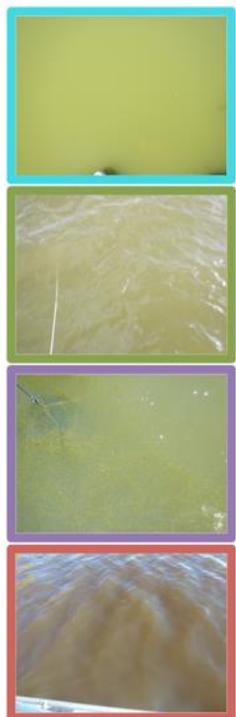
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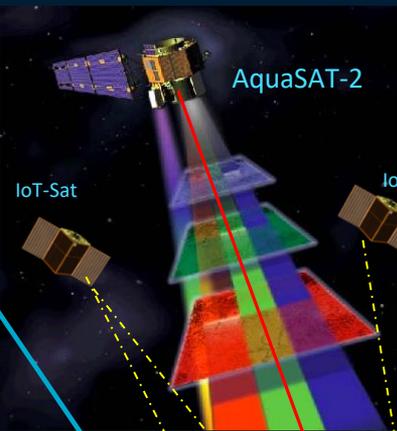
Driven by colour - information in spectral reflectance



| Alert level | Chlorophyll level |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Green | <20 ug Chl l ⁻¹ |
| Amber | >20-50 ug Chl l ⁻¹ |
| Red | >50 ug Chl l ⁻¹ |



In-Situ Sensor Pack



AquaSAT-2

IoT-Sat

IoT-Sat

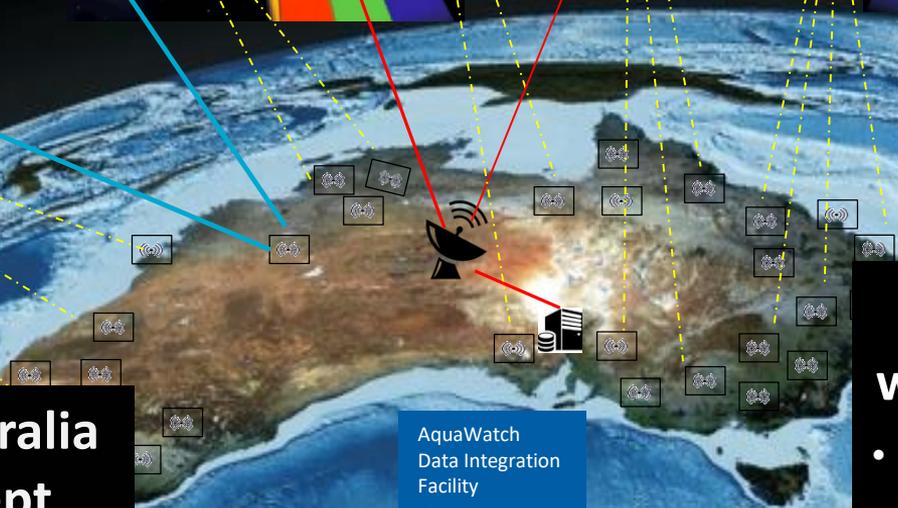
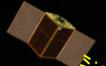
IoT-Sat

IoT-Sat



AquaSAT-1

IoT-Sat



AquaWatch
Data Integration
Facility

AquaWatch Australia Mission Concept

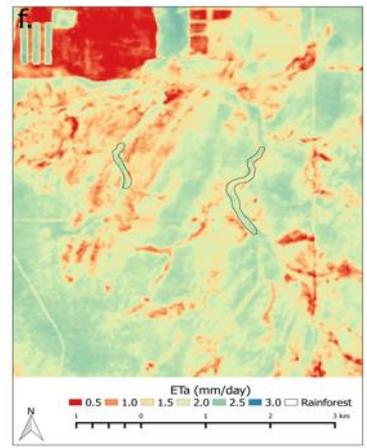
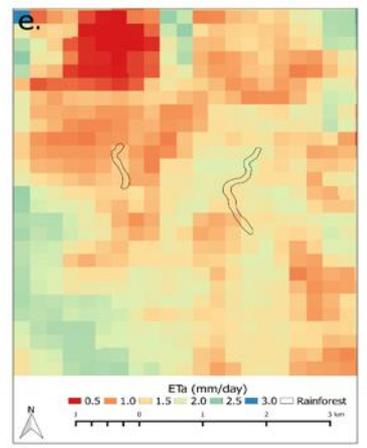
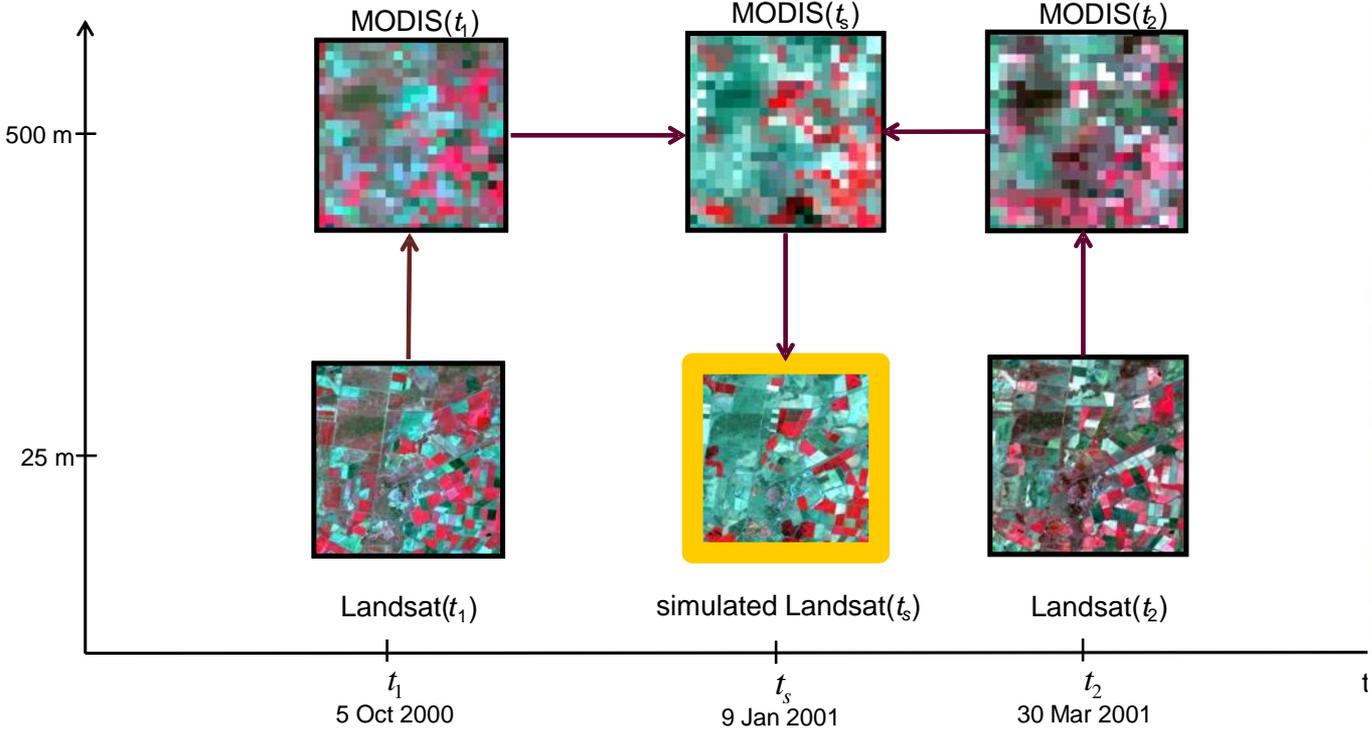
Australia (& Global) water monitoring system

- Ground sensor networks + IoT
- New EO satellites
- Data integration



Example - Landsat-MODIS blending

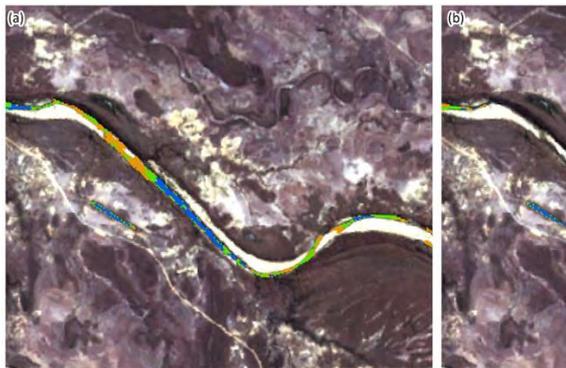
Spatial resolution



Waterhole persistence and quality

May

October



Inundation time (based on available data)

- 80-100%
- 50-80%
- 20-80%

