

# Satellite Rainfall Retrieval Over Coastal Zones



Deltas in Times of Climate Change II  
Rotterdam. September 26, 2014



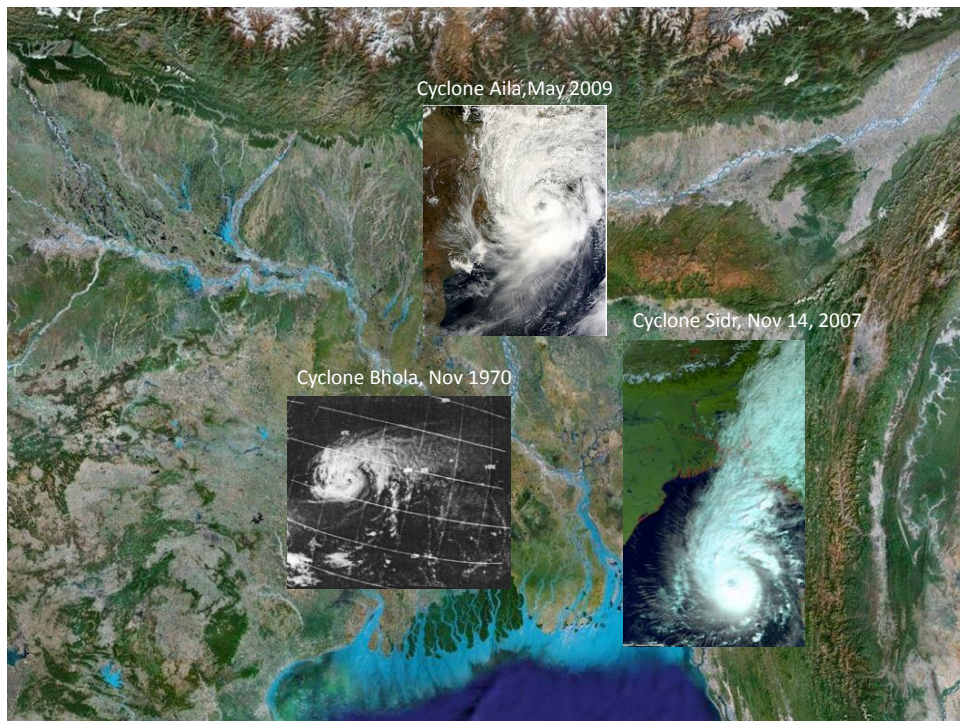
Efi Foufoula-Georgiou

University of Minnesota

Department of Civil, Environmental and Geo- Engineering

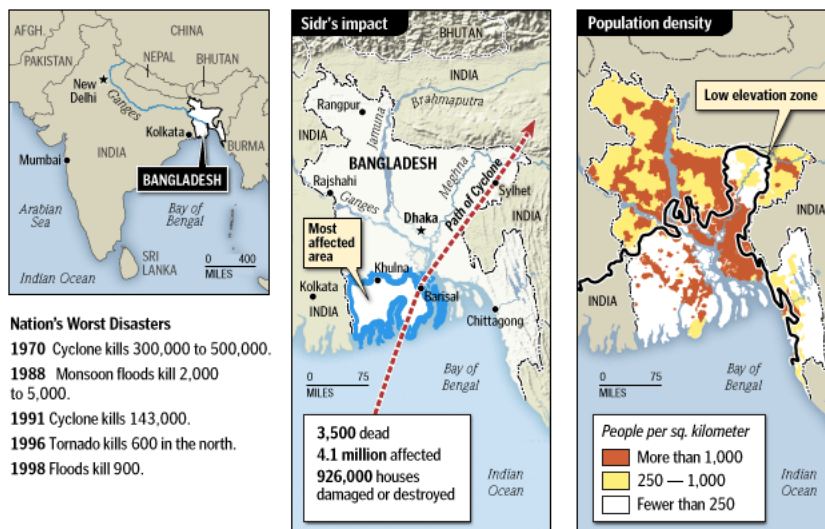








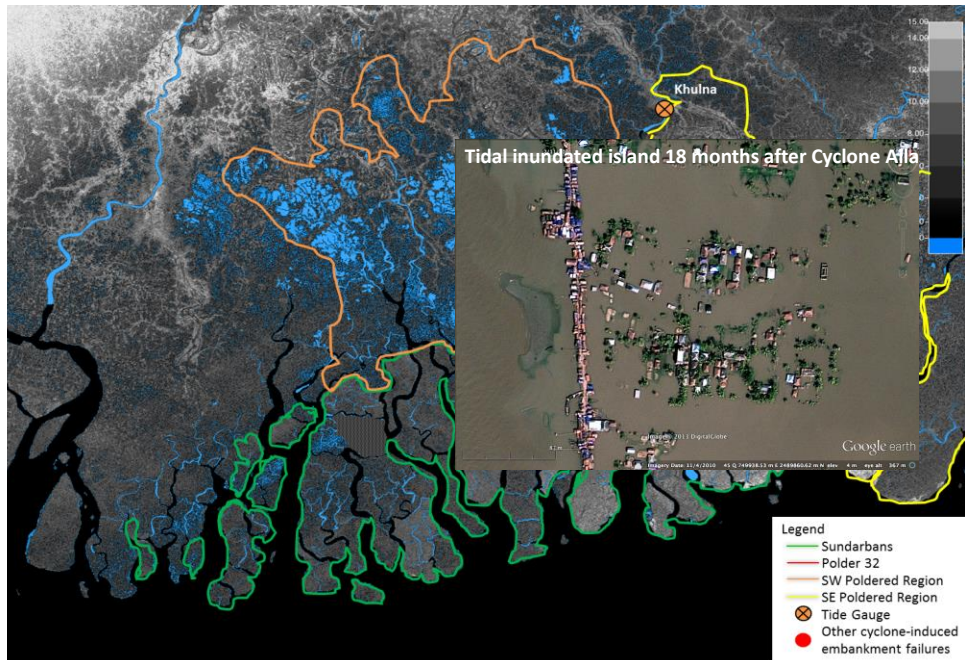
## A snapshot of worst flood disasters in Bangladesh



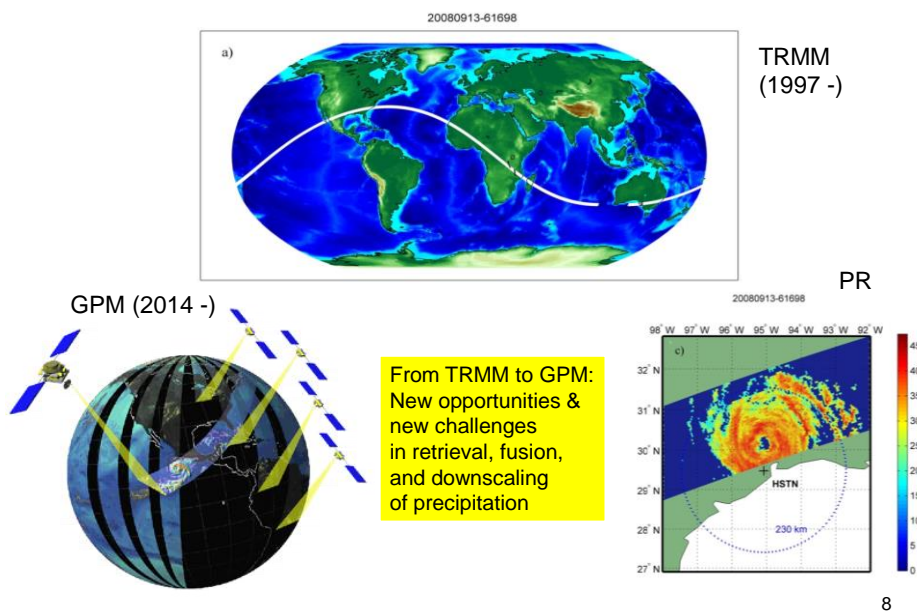
<http://freshclick.wordpress.com/2009/03/27/causes-of-the-flooding-in-bangladesh/>



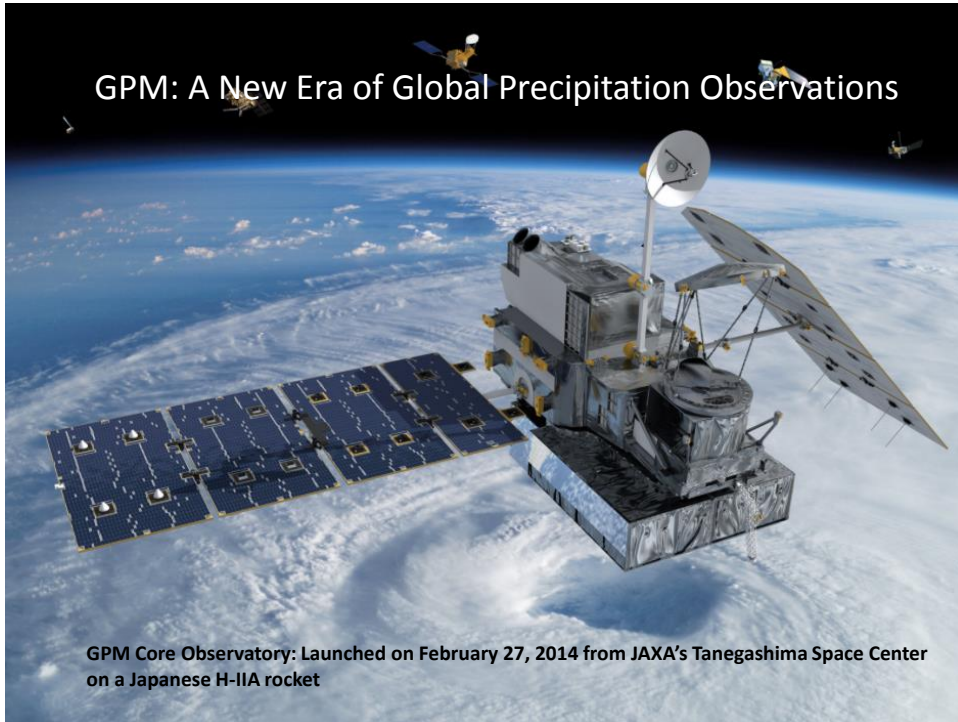
## Human amplified effects of tropical storms in low-lying delta settings



## Estimating Precipitation from Space: from TRMM to GPM

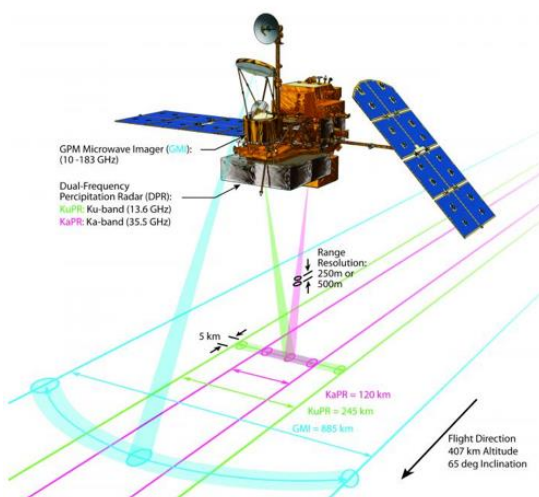


## GPM: A New Era of Global Precipitation Observations



## Spaceborne Rainfall: from TRMM to GPM

Diagram of Swath Coverage by GPM Sensors.



### DPR:

125 and 245 Km swaths  
Ka-band: 35.5 GHz  
Ku-band: 13.6 GHz

### GMI:

885 Km swath  
13 channels 10-183 GHz

## Rainfall Estimation Problems

- **Downscaling:** Enhancing the resolution of a measured or modeled field
- **Data Fusion:** Produce an improved estimate of a field from a suite of noisy observations at different scales
- **Data Assimilation:** Estimate the initial conditions in a predictive model consistent with the available noisy observations and model dynamics
- **Retrieval:** Estimate rainfall from indirect noisy and lower resolution observations of brightness temperature

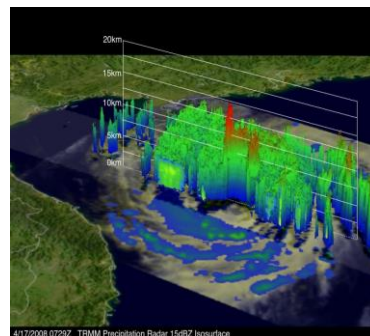
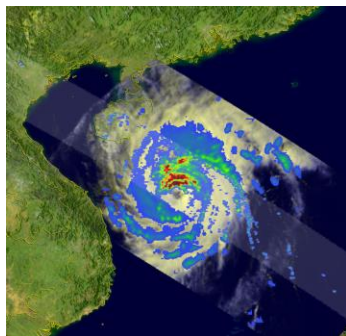


Increasing challenges over **heterogeneous surfaces and land-water interface**  
Emphasis on preserving multi-scale features, sharp fronts, and **extremes**

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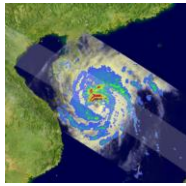
## Spatial Structure of Rainfall

TRMM PR and TMI

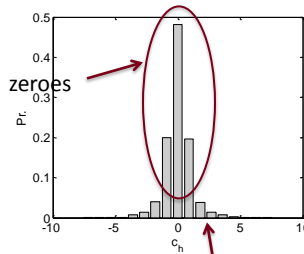


Typhoon Neoguri, Western Pacific, April, 2008, <http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov>

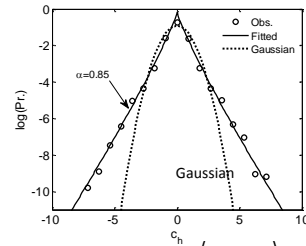
## Non-Gaussian PDF in the Gradient Domain



PDF of gradients >>



Extreme gradients



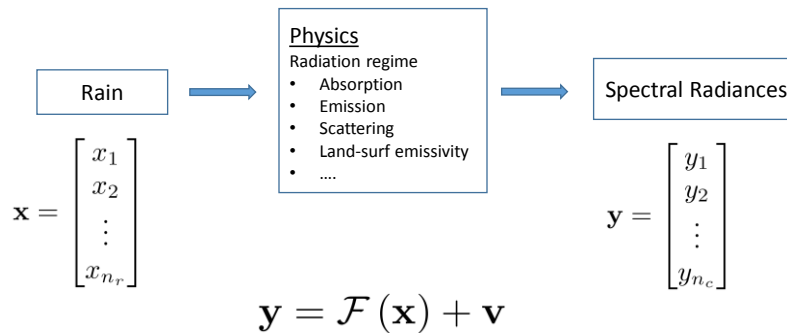
$$p(x) \propto \exp\left(-|x|^\beta\right)$$

Generalized Gaussian Density (GGD)  
( $\alpha=1$  Laplace)



"Sparsity"

## Passive Microwave Retrieval: an Inverse Problem



Retrieval problem:

$$\text{Given } \mathbf{y} \implies \mathbf{x} = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}) + \epsilon$$

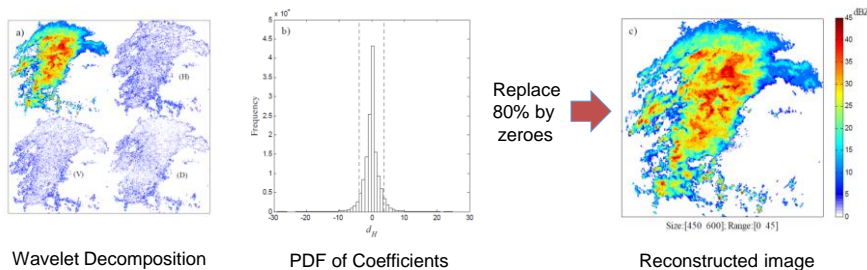
New ideas:

- Preserve sharp features in estimation by choosing the proper prior
- Learn patterns in a "smart way" from the data=> key to retrieval
- Explore Compressive sensing methodologies to retrieve from fewer observations

## NEW IDEAS for GPM Retrieval —1

### 1. Preserve unique features during estimation

-- Precipitation has an intermittent and multi-variable space-time structure →  
when projected in a derivative domain it displays “sparsity”



Wavelet Decomposition

PDF of Coefficients

Reconstructed image

-- Sparsity requires moving away from standard Least Squares (L2) estimation paradigms and working with L1 norms (preserve a non-Gaussian prior)

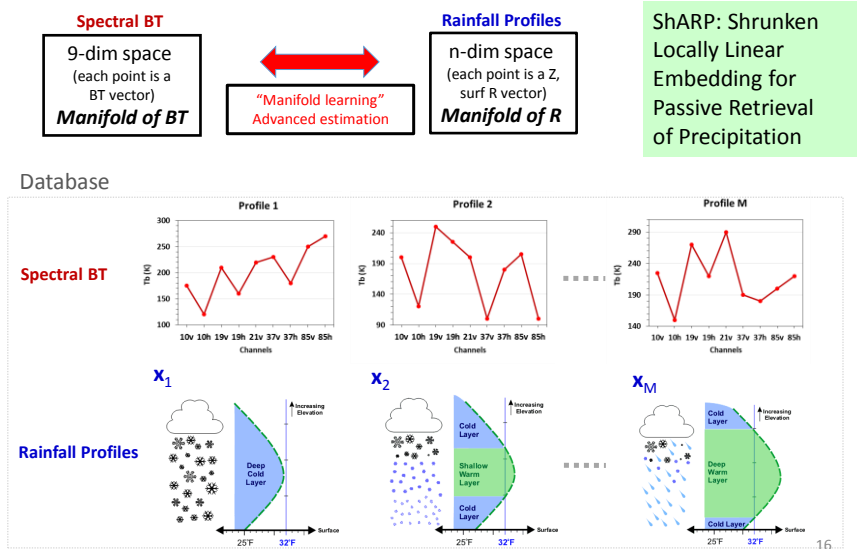
-- Downscaling, Fusion, Variational Data Assimilation

1. Ebtehaj A.M., G.Lerman, E Foufoula-Georgiou, *JGR-A*, 2012
2. Ebtehaj, A.M. and E. Foufoula-Georgiou, *WRR*, 2013
3. Ebtehaj, A.M., M. Zupanski, G. Lerman, and E. Foufoula-Georgiou, *Tellus A*, 2014
4. Foufoula-Georgiou, E., A.M Ebtehaj, S. Zhang, A. Hou, *Surveys in Geophysics*, 2014

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## NEW IDEAS for GPM Retrieval —2

### 2. Learn patterns from data for retrieval



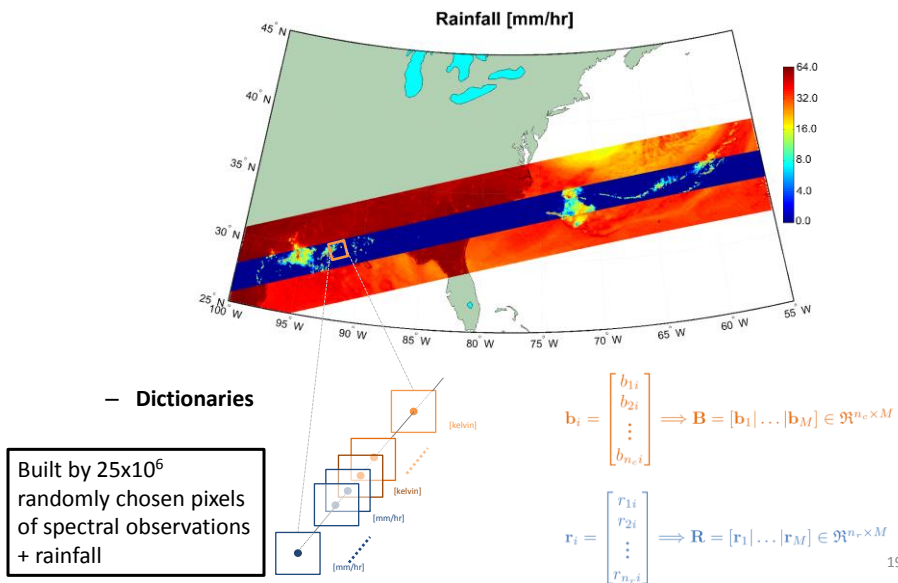


## CONCEPTS AND RESULTS ON RETRIEVAL

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### Overlapping measurements of TMI and PR

- Rainfall and Radiometric Observations:

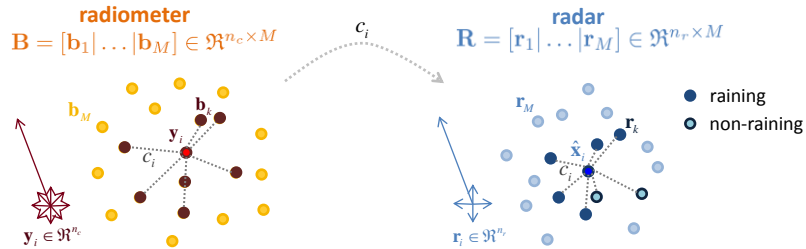


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## ShARP: Locally linear embedding for rainfall retrieval

- **A New Algorithm (concept):**

- Concept of the locally linear embedding (supervised NL manifold learning):



- Search for the **K-nearest neighbors** to detect raining signatures

$$\mathbf{B}_S = [\mathbf{b}_1 | \dots | \mathbf{b}_K] \in \mathbb{R}^{n_c \times K}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_S = [\mathbf{r}_1 | \dots | \mathbf{r}_K] \in \mathbb{R}^{n_r \times K}$$

- Estimate the **representation coefficients** and thus the rainfall profile

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \sum_{k=1}^K c_k \mathbf{b}_k + \mathbf{v}_k \longrightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i = \sum_{k=1}^K c_k \mathbf{r}_k$$

Saul and Roweis, Science, 2000

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## ShARP: Algorithmic sketch

- **Shrunken Locally Linear Embedding Algorithm for Precipitation Retrieval**

- **Detection step:**

- K-nearest neighborhood search + a probabilistic voting rule for rain/no-rain

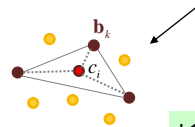
- **Estimation Step:**

- Estimation of the representation coefficients

$$\underset{\mathbf{c}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \left\| \mathbf{W}^{1/2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{B}_S \mathbf{c}) \right\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{c}\|_1 + \lambda_2 \|\mathbf{c}\|_2^2$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{c} \succeq 0, \quad \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{c} = 1,$$

$$\ell_p \text{-norm: } \|\mathbf{c}\|_p^p = \sum_i |c_i|^p \\ \lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$$



$$\mathbf{B}_S = [\mathbf{b}_1 | \dots | \boxed{\mathbf{b}_{i-1} | \mathbf{b}_i} | \dots | \boxed{\mathbf{b}_{j-1} | \mathbf{b}_j} | \dots | \mathbf{b}_K] \in \mathbb{R}^{n_c \times K}$$

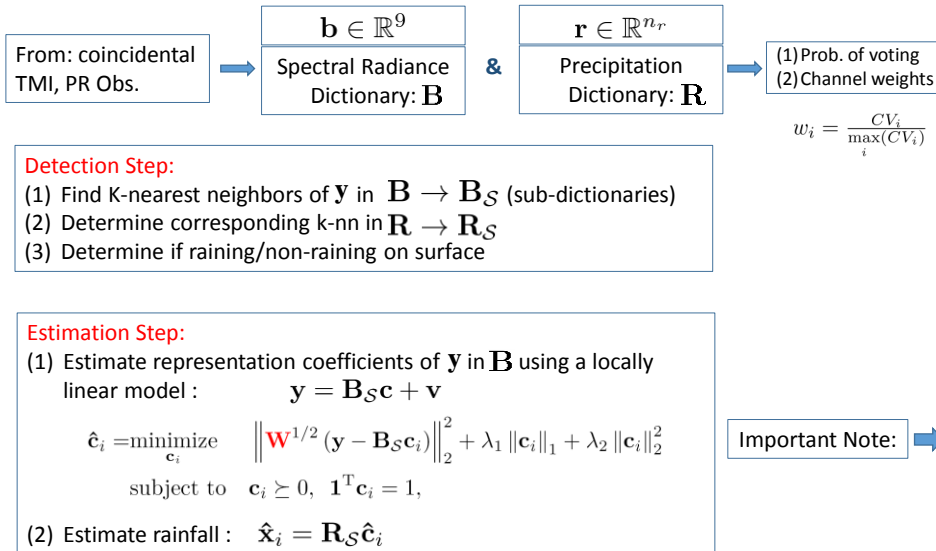
L1-L2 regularization for stability and reduced estimation error

- Rainfall estimates

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{R}_S \hat{\mathbf{c}}$$

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## ShARP methodology



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## Estimation of representation coefficients in ShARP

- **Combined L1-L2 estimation**

$$\begin{aligned} &\underset{\mathbf{c}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \left\| \mathbf{W}^{1/2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{B}_S \mathbf{c}) \right\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{c}\|_1 + \lambda_2 \|\mathbf{c}\|_2^2 \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{c} \succeq 0, \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{c} = 1, \end{aligned}$$

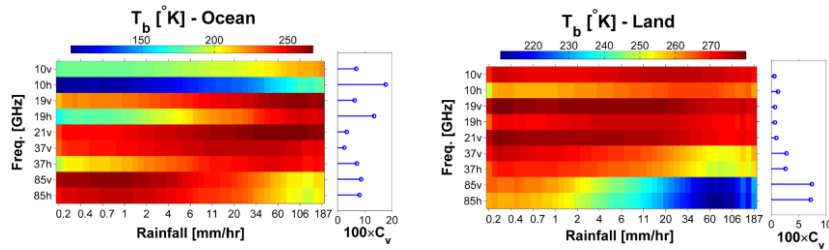
- 1) Some representation coefficients are very large and some very small (shrinkage due to L1 regularization chooses the most important neighbors)
- 2) The L2 regularization stabilizes the inversion for efficient and stable solution

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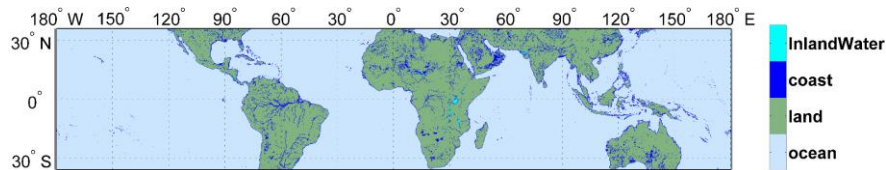


## ShARP spectral weights (**W**) and land surfaces

- Spectral weights denote relative importance of each channel



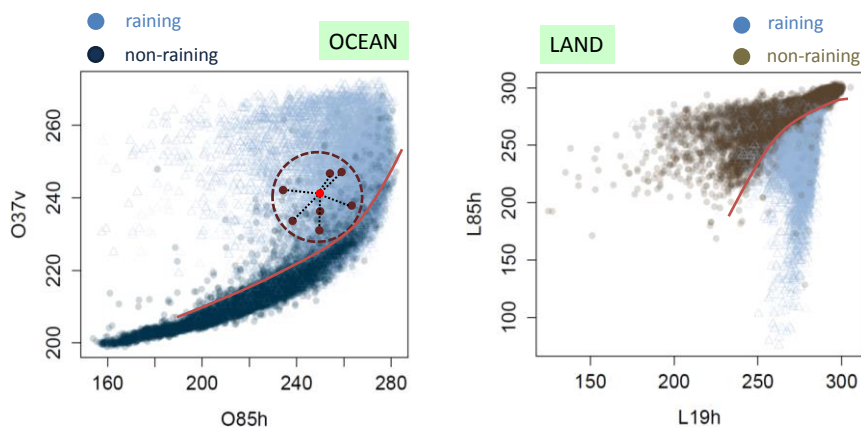
$$w_i = \frac{CV_i}{\max_i(CV_i)}$$



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## TMI rain/non-rain spectral signatures

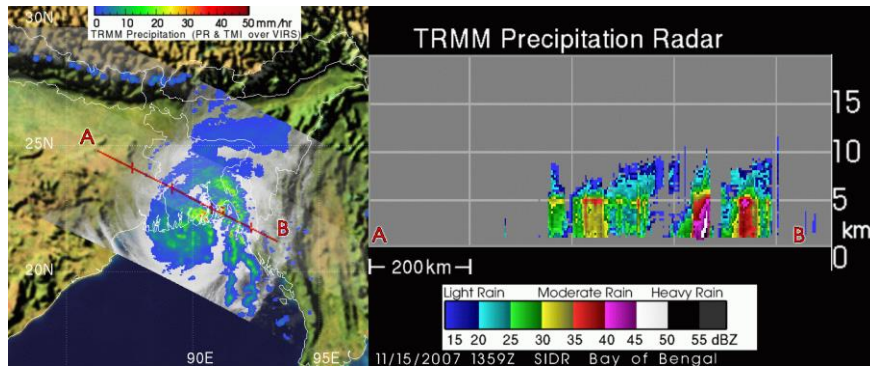
- A local estimation-detection model



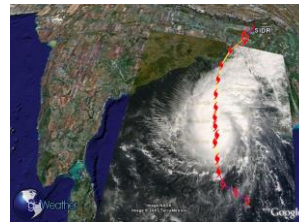
- Neighborhood Euclidean distance in a multi-spectral sense

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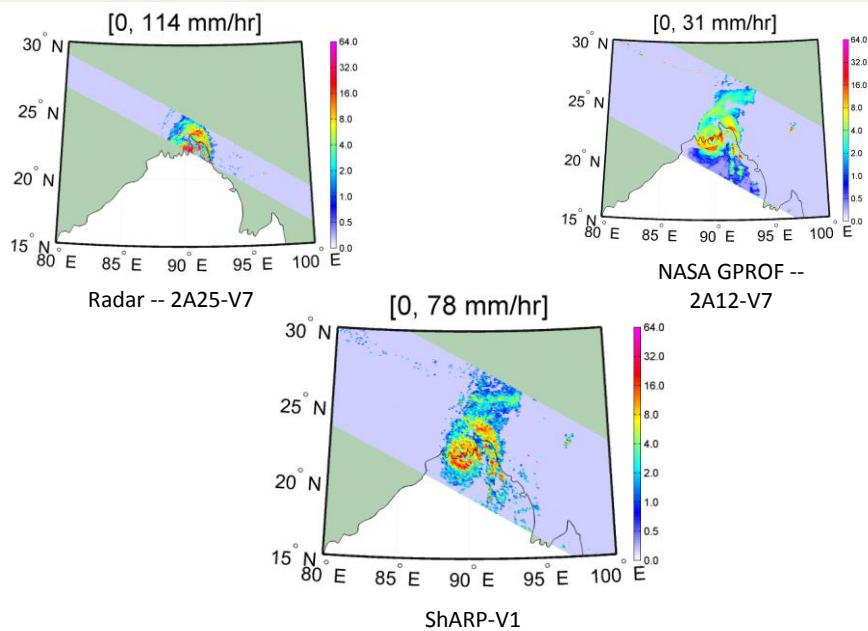
## Cyclone Sidr, Nov. 2007



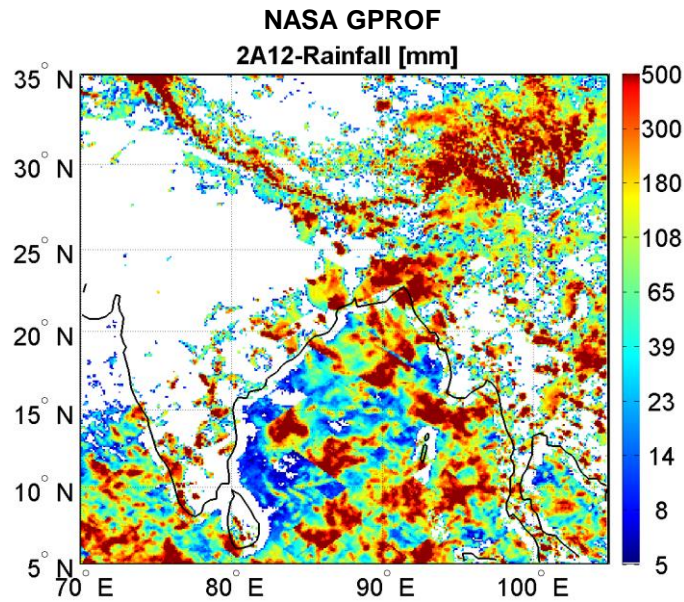
Date: Nov. 15 at 13:59 UTC (8:59 a.m. EST)



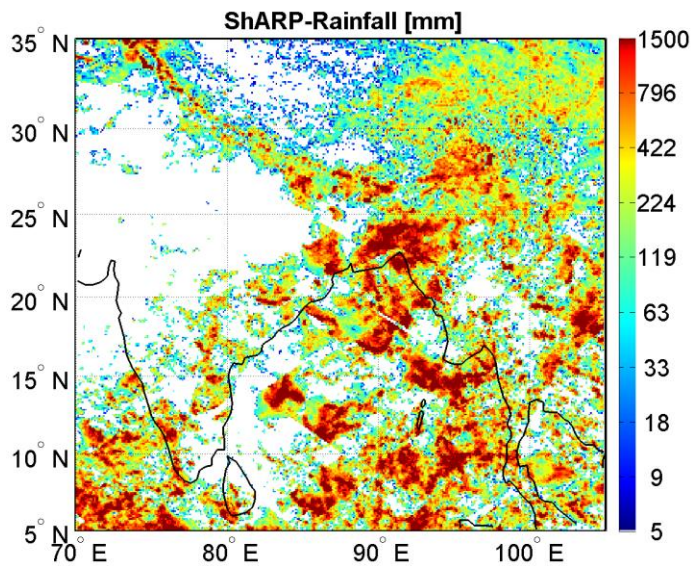
## Retrieval of Tropical Cyclone Sidr



## Retrieval of Monthly Rain, May 2013

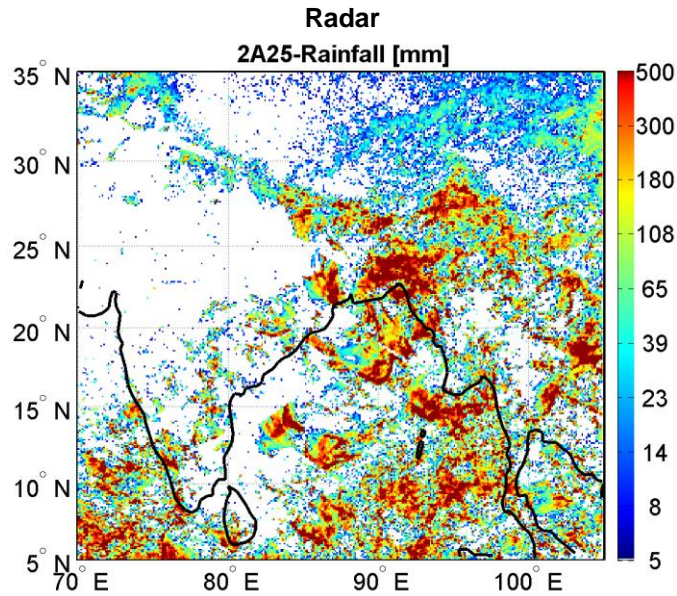


## Retrieval of Monthly Rain, May 2013

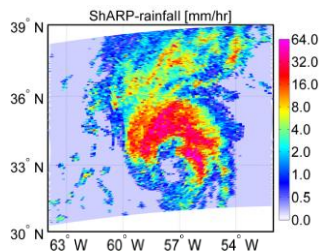




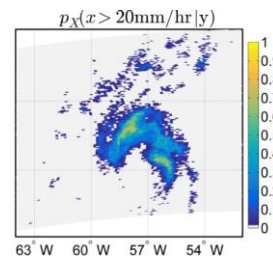
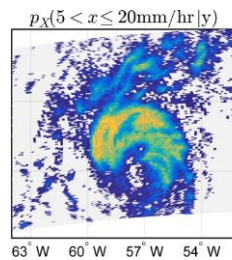
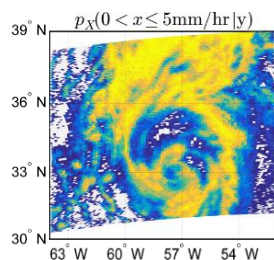
## Retrieval of Monthly Rain, May 2013



## ShARP retrieval uncertainty



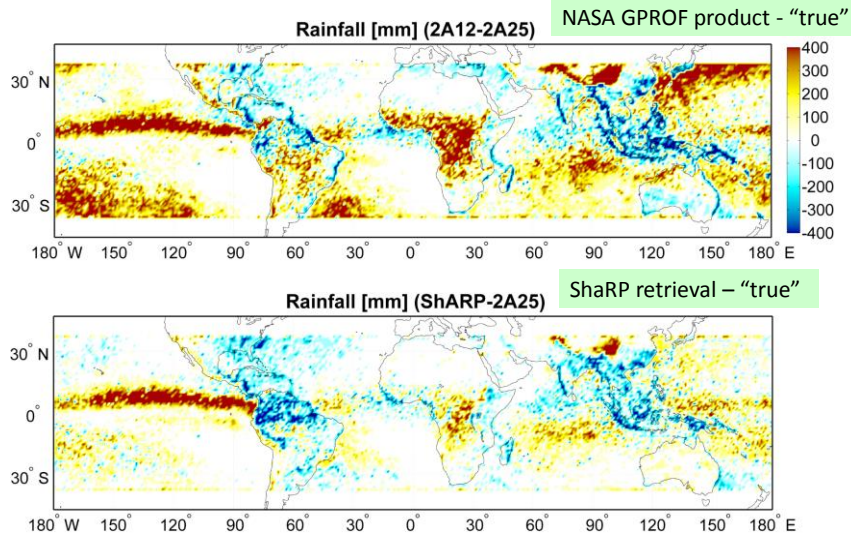
- **Hurricane Danielle (2010)**
- Approximate the entire posterior PDF of the ShARP retrievals
- Probability of exceedance for the extreme rainfall for risk analysis



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## ShARP cumulative results

- Difference of the total rainfall in calendar year 2013 (1°-degree)

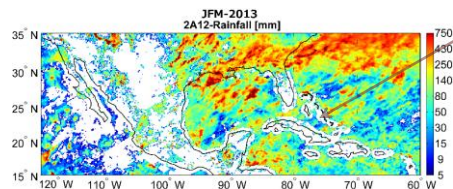


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## ShARP cumulative results

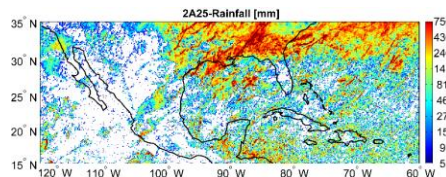
- Rainfall accumulation through **January, February and March** in calendar year 2013 (0.5°-degree)

NASA  
Passive retrieval

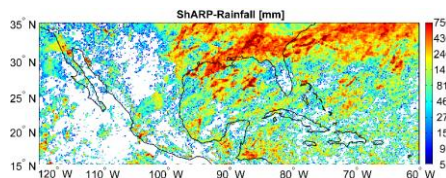


Coastal zones

NASA  
Active retrieval  
(reference)



ShARP  
Passive retrieval



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## Take home message and future research

- GPM offers opportunities for accurate estimation of rainfall over coastal zones
- The proposed ShARP algorithm introduces two innovations: (1) smart selection of estimation neighborhood and (2) advanced estimation within it (screens out irrelevant spectral candidates and reduces the effects of land surface heterogeneity in emissivity)
- The superiority of the proposed algorithm, compared to the standard NASA retrieval algorithm especially over coastal areas, was demonstrated
- Perform extensive testing over delta regions and examine improvement in retrieval, early warning systems, and modeling of inundation and floods



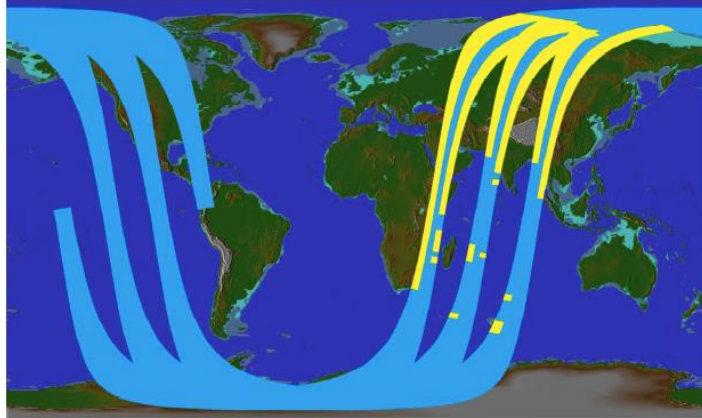
Co-authors: Mohammad Ebtehaj & Rafael Bras (Georgia Tech); Zach Tessler (CUNY)

Ebtehaj A.M., R. L. Bras, E. Foufoula-Georgiou (2014), Shrunk Locally Linear Embedding Algorithm for Retrieval of Precipitation <http://arxiv.org/abs/1405.0454>

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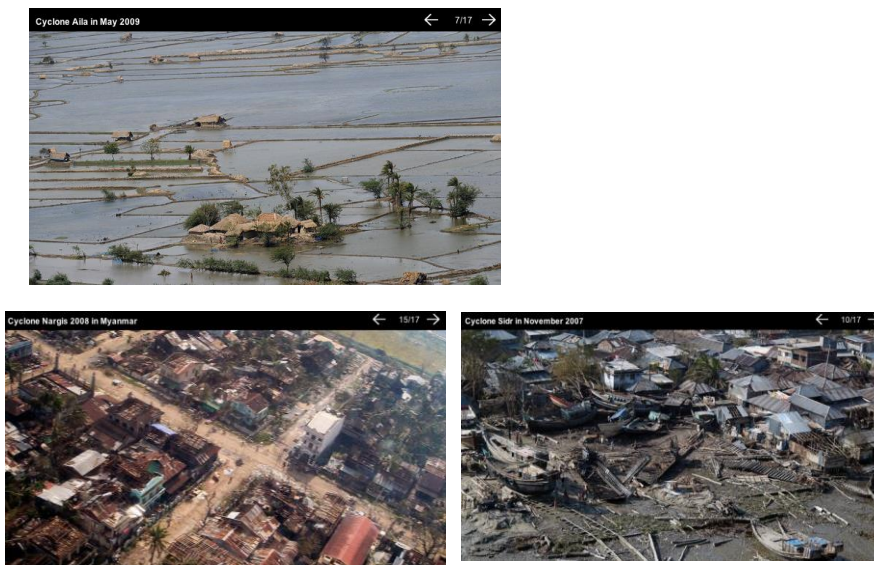
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**Figure 2.** Sample SMAP coverage for three orbits. Collection of radiometer data and low-resolution radar data is shown in blue. Collection of high-resolution radar data is shown in yellow.

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<http://www.weather.com/news/weather-hurricanes/deadliest-cyclone-history-bangladesh-20130605>