Remote Sensing

University of Calgary fly-through: LiDAR DEM and draped orthophotography (both from RS)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_myUhYPeAew

This week's lab: Lab 07 Web / online mapping

… is the process of creating and distributing maps on the World Wide Web, usually through the use of Web geographic information systems e.g. ArcGIS online.

Web mapping is a service where consumers may choose what the map will show.

They can be divided into *static* and *dynamic, interactive* and *view only* web maps.

examples

1994: Atlas of Canada, world's first online atlas

2004: OpenStreetMap (OSM)

2005: Google maps

2012: Apple maps

Computers have linked mapping technologies under the umbrella term:

Geomatics includes the following geospatial (mapping) technologies:

for data collection, management, analysis and output

a. Cartography

"The art, science and technology of making maps"

b. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

"Automated systems for management, analysis, input and output of spatial data"

c. Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

"determination of ground locations using measurements from satellites"

d. Surveying

"science of determination of accurate coordinates of terrestrial locations"

e. Photogrammetry (aerial photography)

"derivation of 2D or 3D locations from stereo pairs of aerial photography"

f. Remote Sensing

"Acquisition of information about a planetary surface from a distance"

Aerial photography / early Remote Sensing

Early years 1850->
Birds, Kites, Balloons,
then Planes with camera
(and now UAVs)

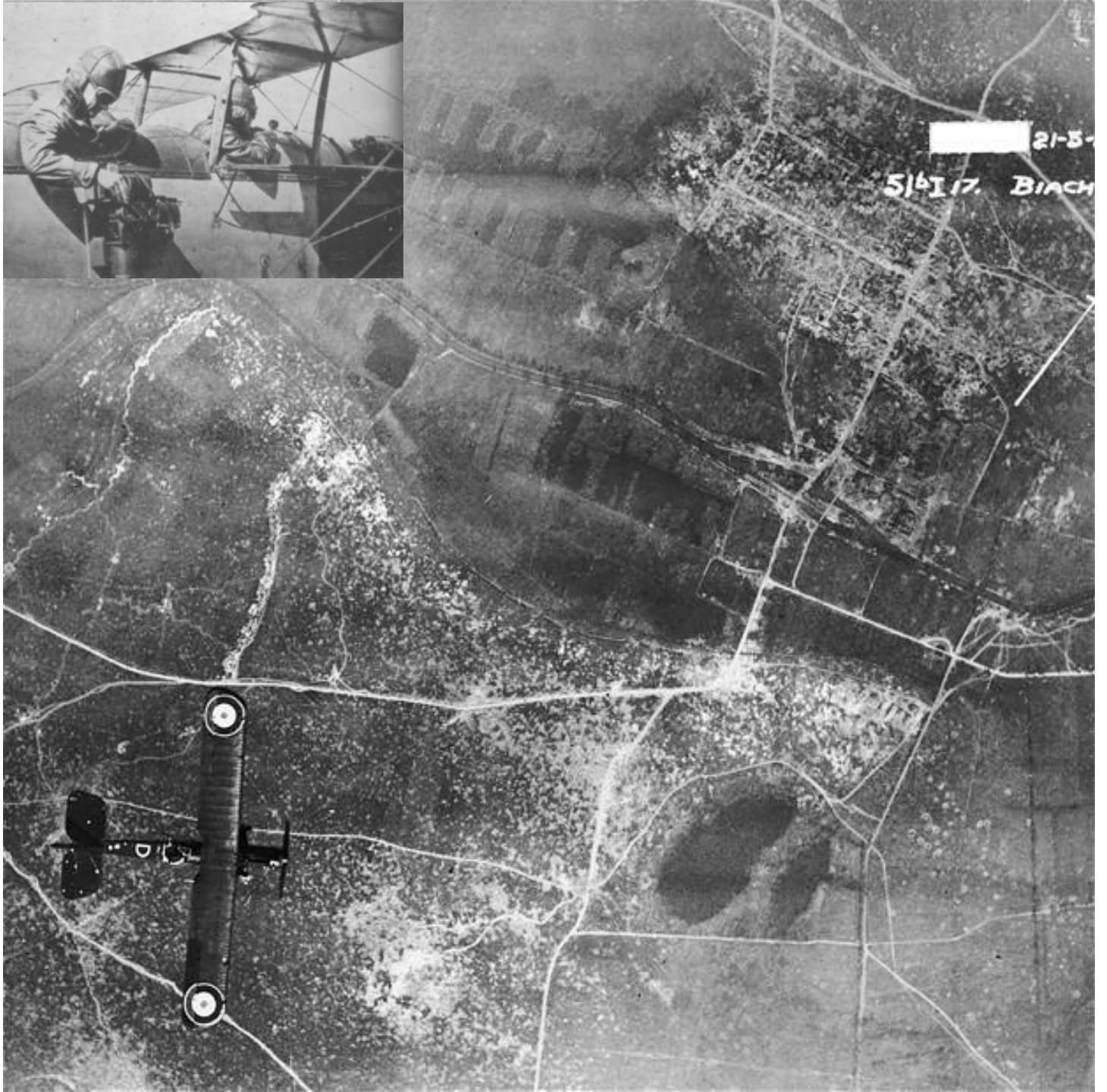
Air photos, World War 1

Reconnaissance and analysis

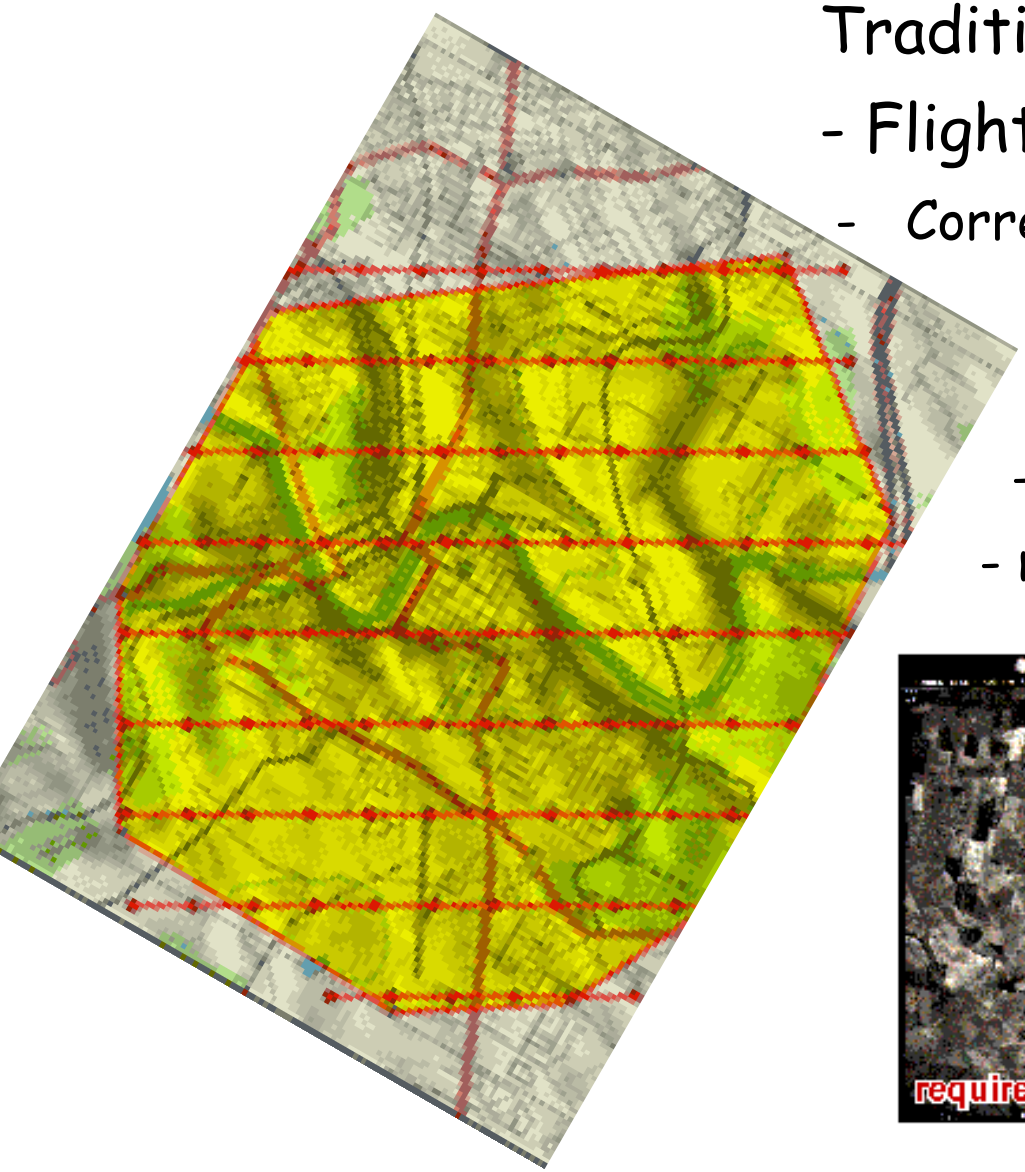
Postwar use: 1919-1938 limited by resources and the depression

World War 2: reconnaissance and mapping

Standard for mapping after World War 2 1946 ->



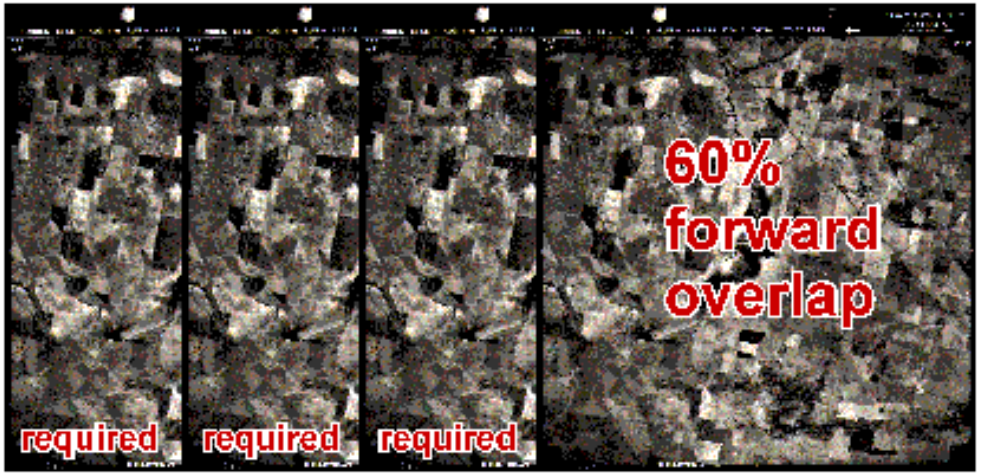
Aerial Photography



Traditional setup for film / digital

- Flightlines and overlap
  - Corrected, mosaicked -> orthophotos
    = Photogrammetry

- Panchromatic, Colour, Infra-red
- mostly panchromatic due to cost



Panchromatic air photo: 15th / University Way

Colour air photo: 15th / University Way; hardcopy cost = 2x

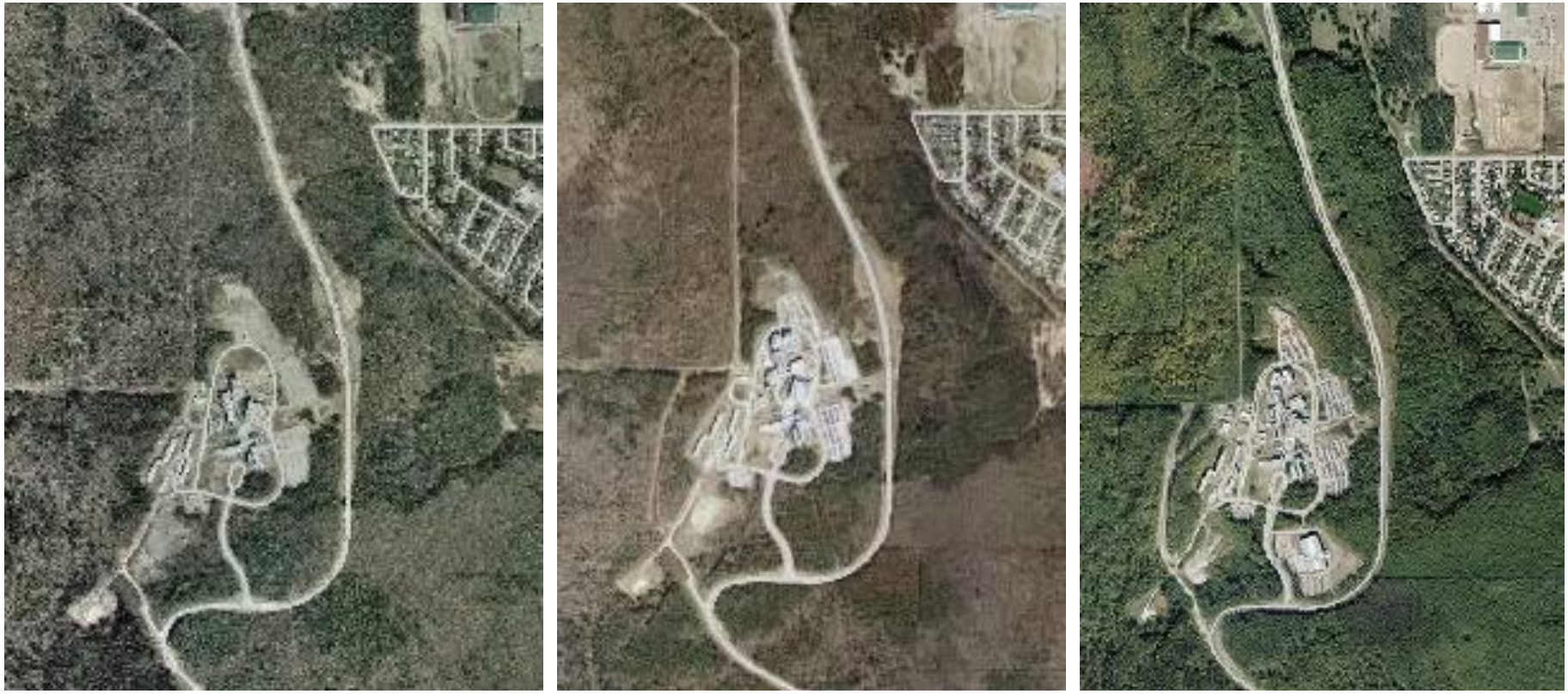
2000s Digital photogrammetry – no extra cost for colour

Orthorectification done automatically with DEM

https://www.terrasaurus.ca/imagery-examples

BC provincial photography is redone every 10-30 years
City photography : ~3 years (2023 most recently)

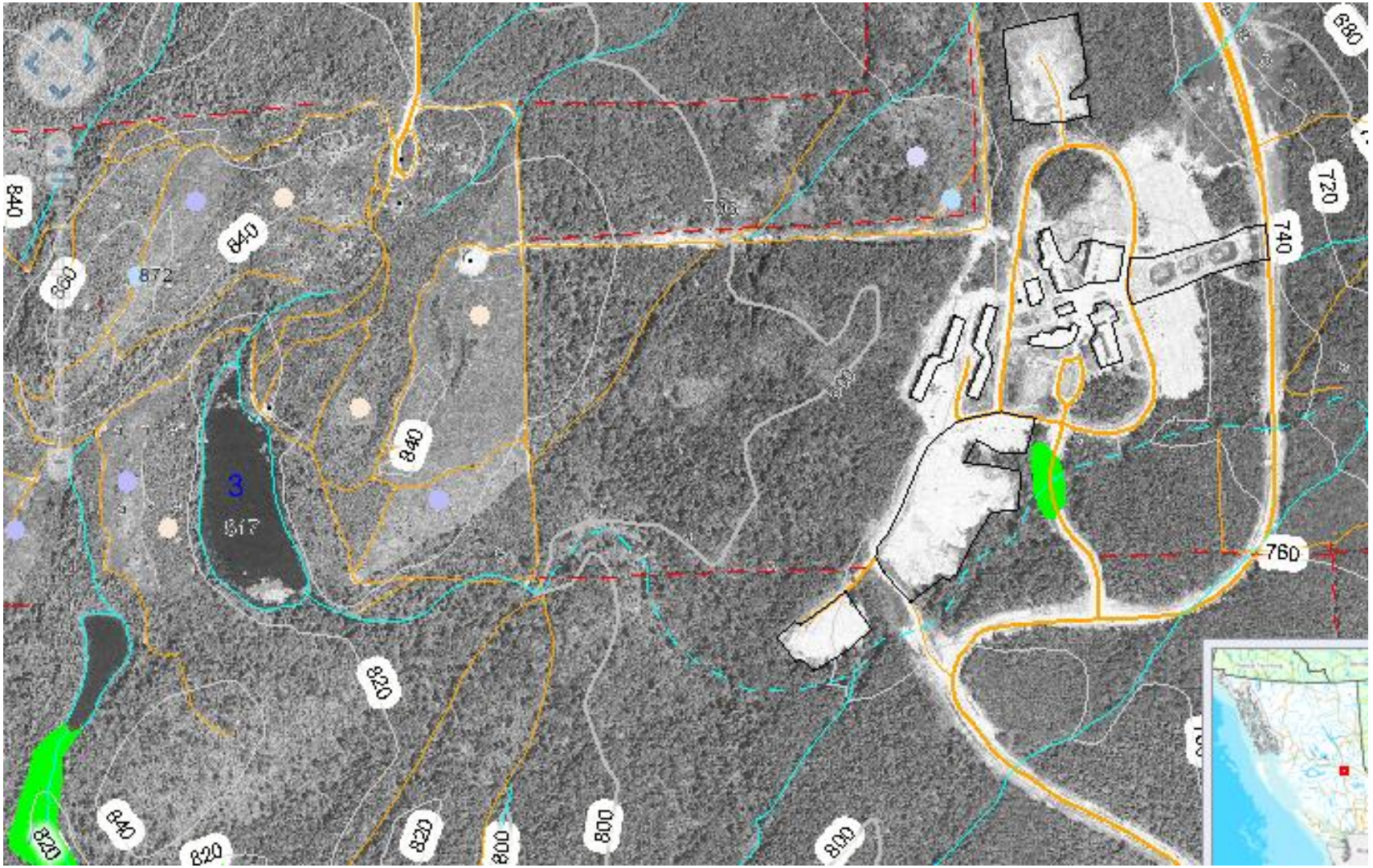
UNBC 2003 2006 2010



https://pgmap.princegeorge.ca/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=PGMap

BC digital data – Terrain Resource Information Management (TRIM)

Onscreen from digital (stereo) photogrammetry (not digitized from maps)
More 'current' more detailed than NTS: 1:20,000 (from 1980s / 1990s)

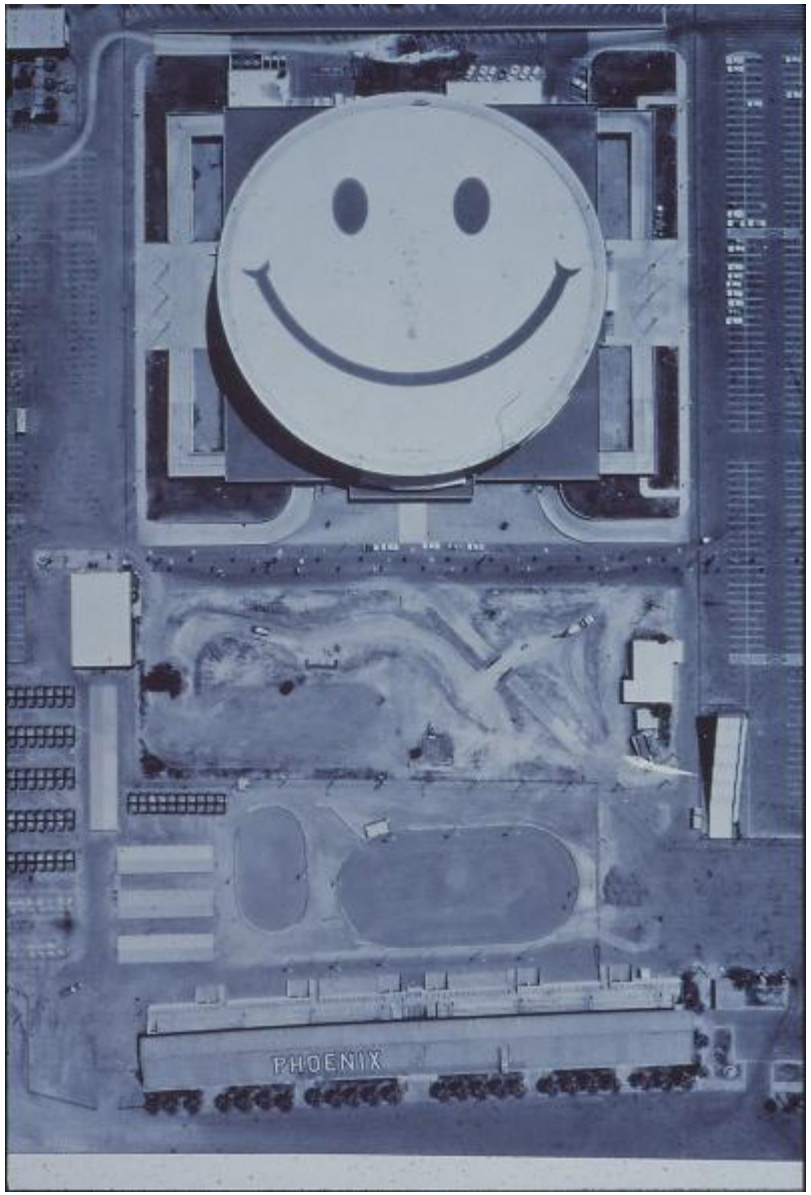


What is Remote Sensing?

"Obtaining information about a planetary surface from a distance"

The term first appeared ~1965 with the first **satellite images** (previously there were only aerial photographs).

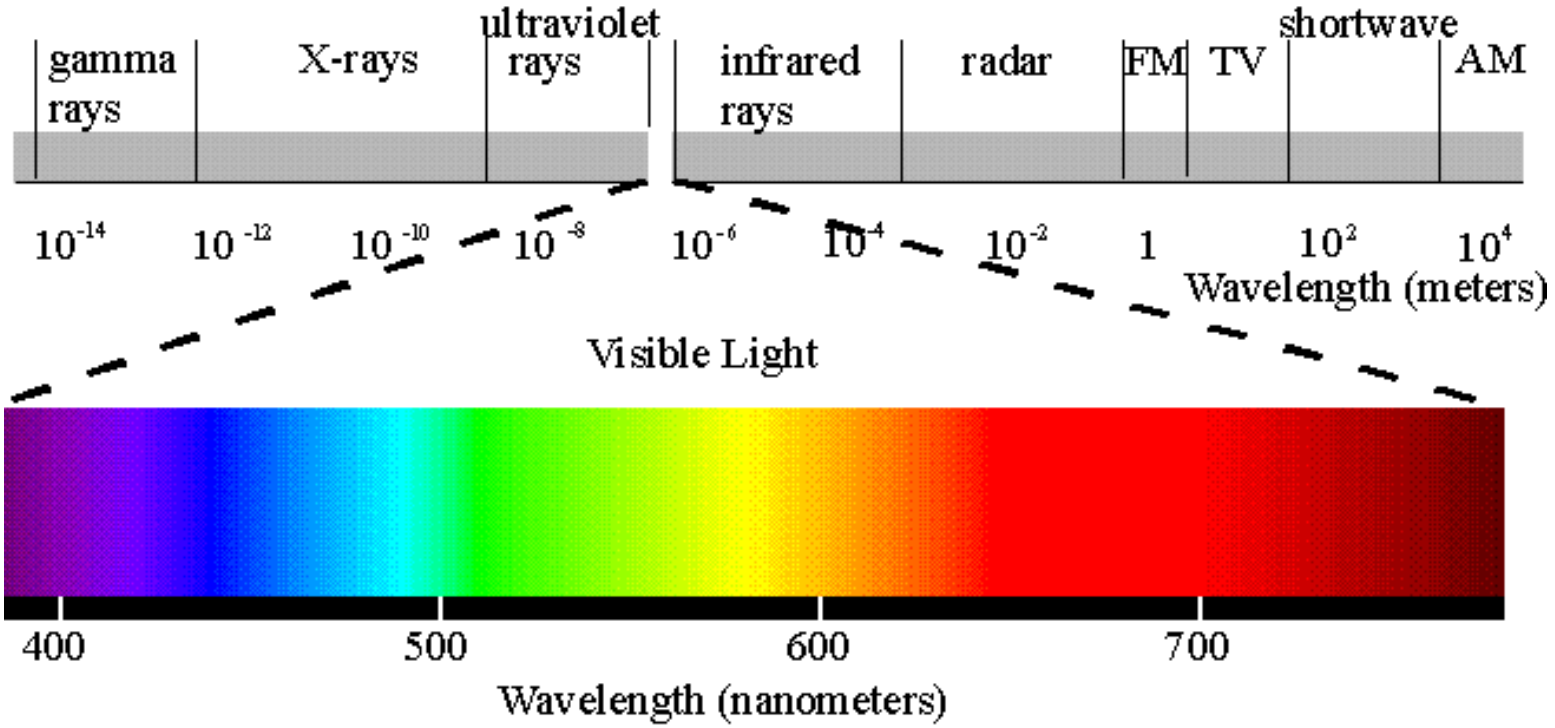
Also there was increasing use of non-visible parts of the **electro-magnetic spectrum**, such as the **Infrared**



Shopping Centre, Phoenix, AZ

Remote sensing and the electromagnetic spectrum

Used in RS



Blue **0.4 - 0.5 µm** **(microns)** **= 400 to 500 nm** **nanometres**
Green **0.5 - 0.6 µm** **= 500 to 600 nm**
Red **0.6 - 0.7 µm** **= 600 to 700 nm**

micrometres: 'microns' : thousandth of a millimetre
nanometres: millionths of a millimetre

Birds can see into the Ultraviolet

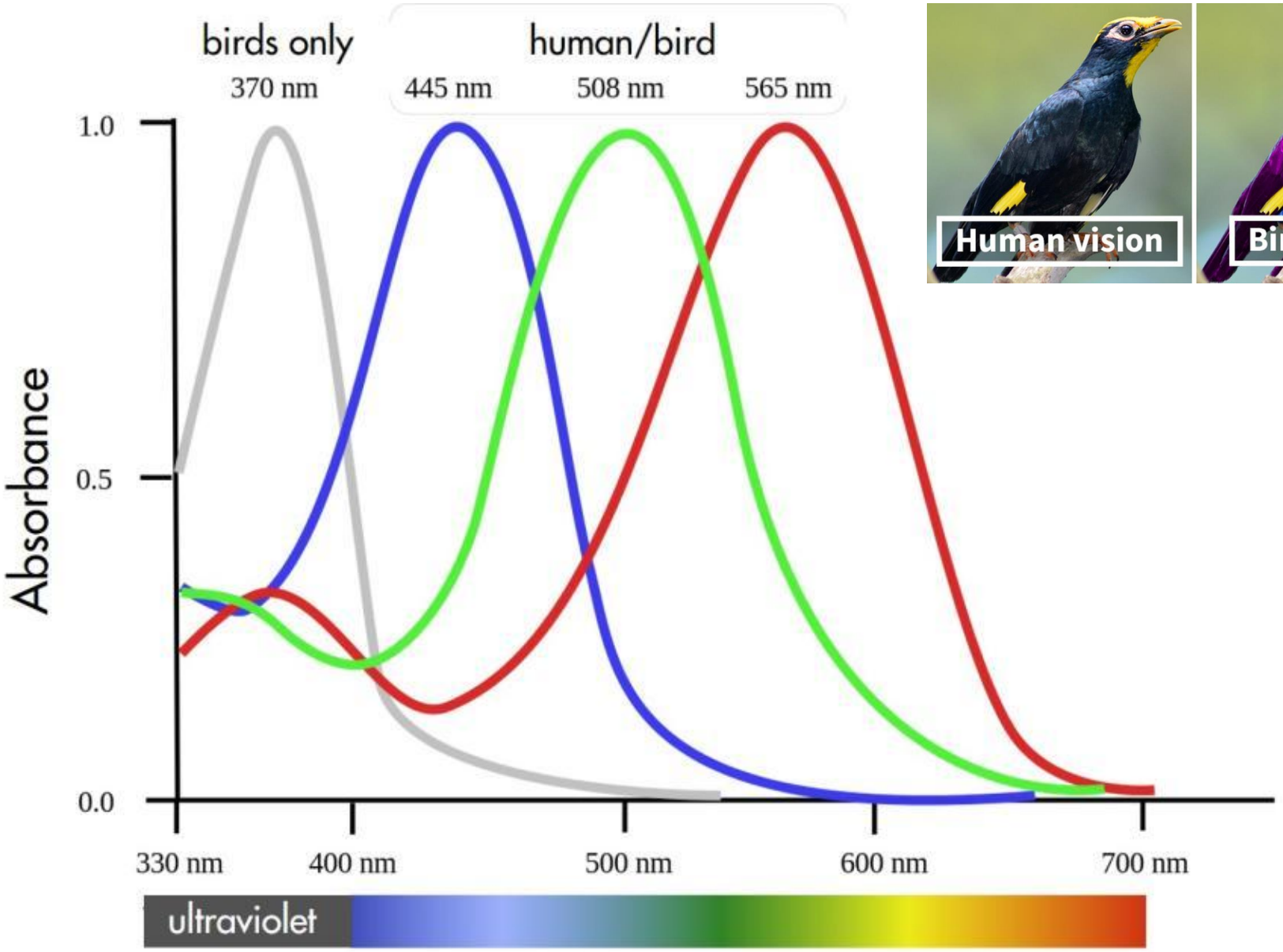


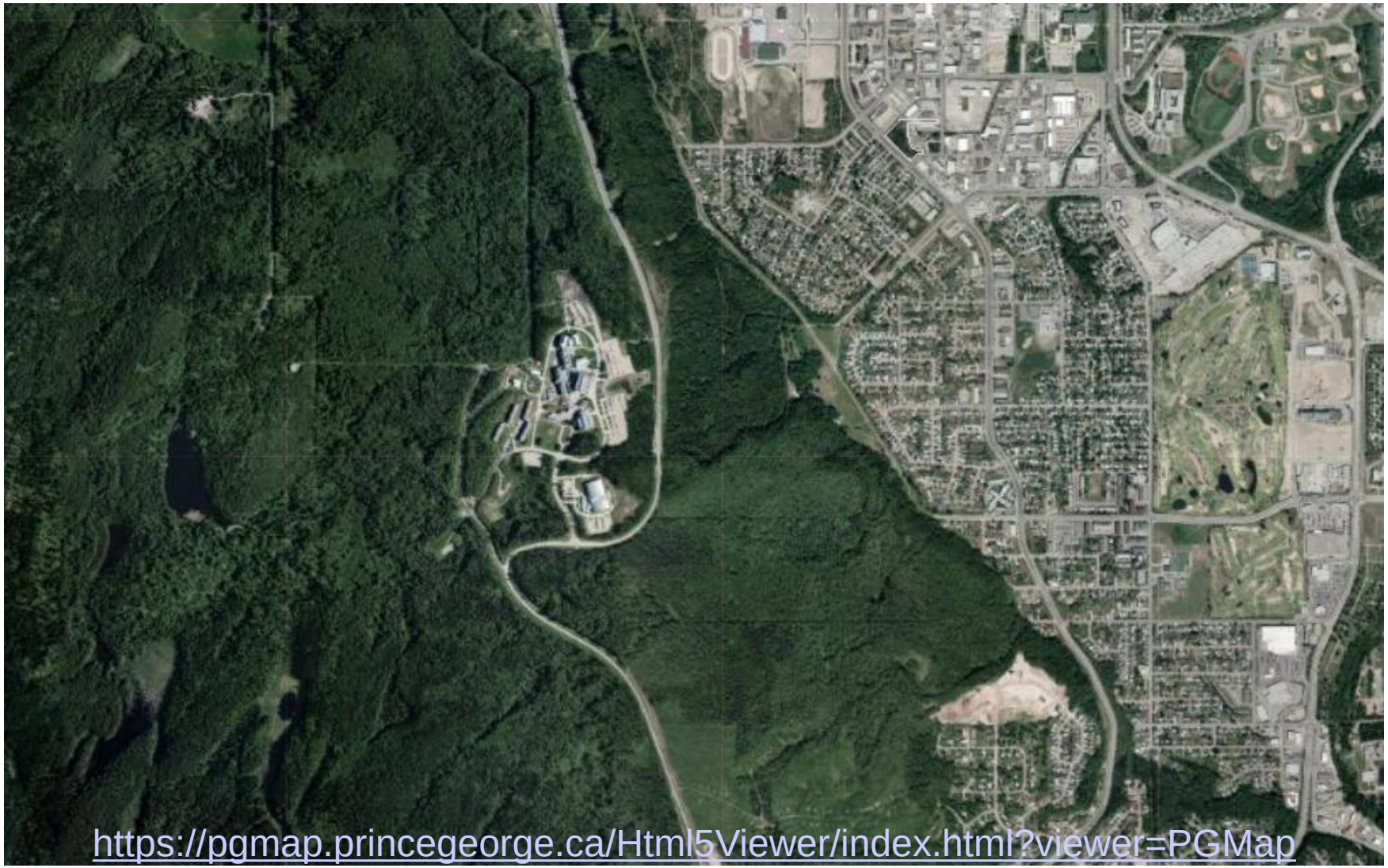
Table 2 : Characteristics of normal colour and false colour film

Normal colour film (Energy captured by film)	IR film (Energy captured by film)	Colour that results on film
B	G	Blue
G	R	Green
R	IR	Red

..and with digital photos

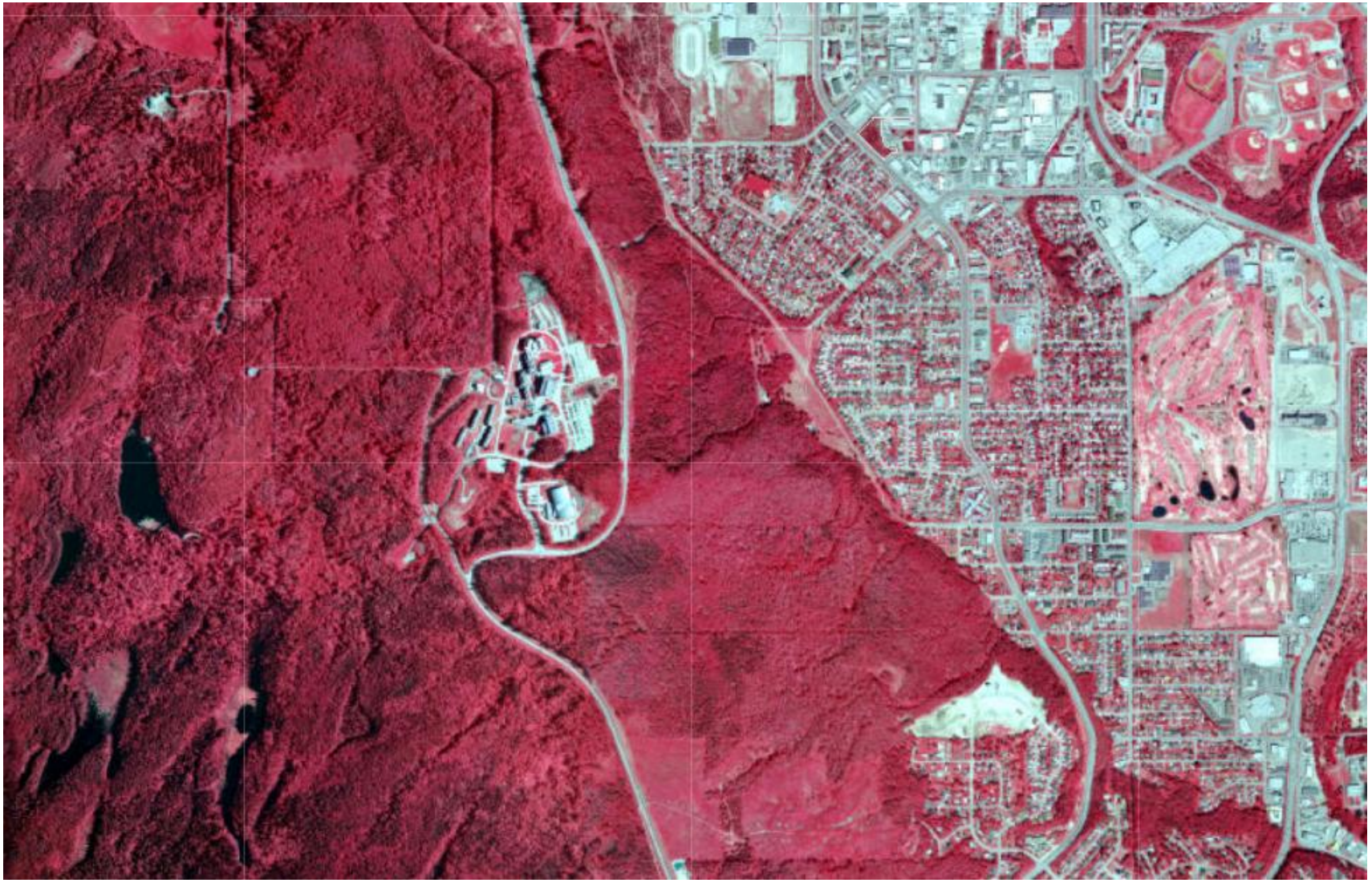
IR expands vegetation contrasts

PGmap spring 2014 natural colour



We are used to seeing natural colour but there are advantages of using Infra-Red wavelengths for mapping and GIS:

PGmap spring 2014 Infra-Red image:

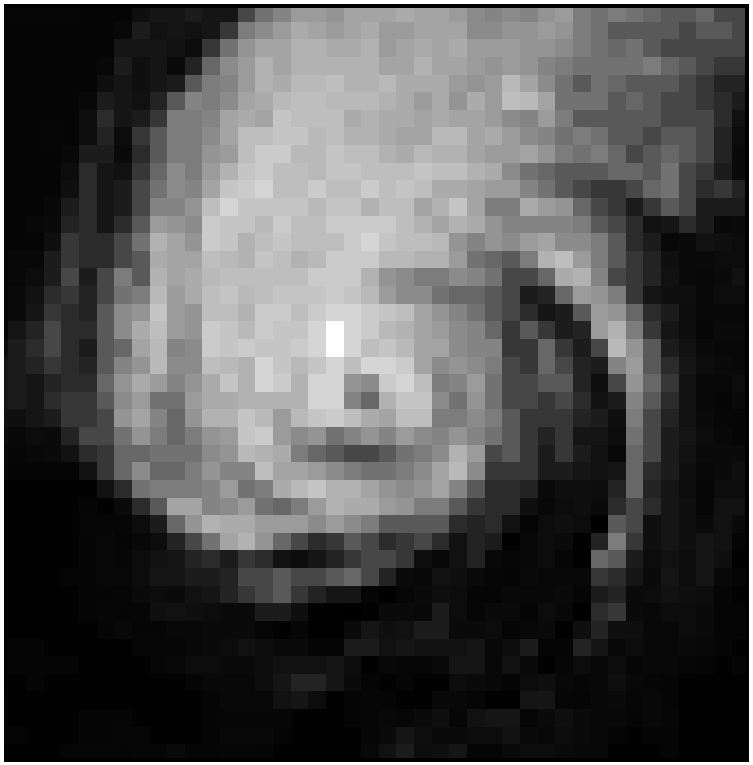


- Land-water distinctions are enhanced (but not urban features)
- Vegetation differences are enhanced, coniferous v deciduous etc..

Digital Scanning: all wavelengths

Scanners (and digital cameras) create images with pixels (picture elements)

e.g. 0=dark to 255=bright



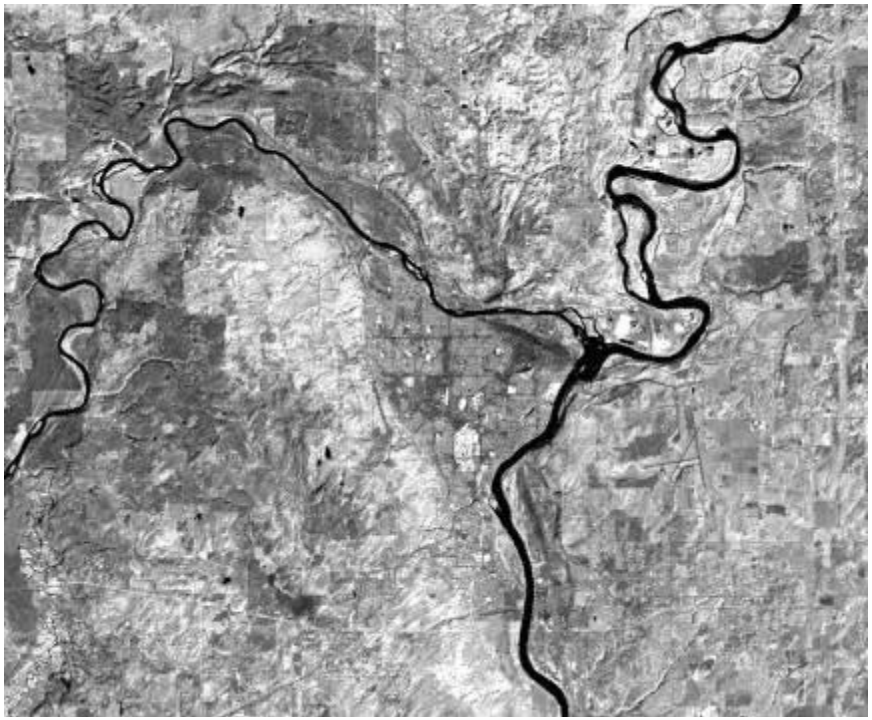
Close-up of pixels in a digital (scanned) image

Prince George – scanned IMAGE (not a photo) Visible wavelengths .. Looks like a photo, but no camera

The **near IR** (0.7-1.3 microns) records energy related to **vegetation vigour** (health), while the **shortwave-IR** (1.3-3.0 microns) is dryness.

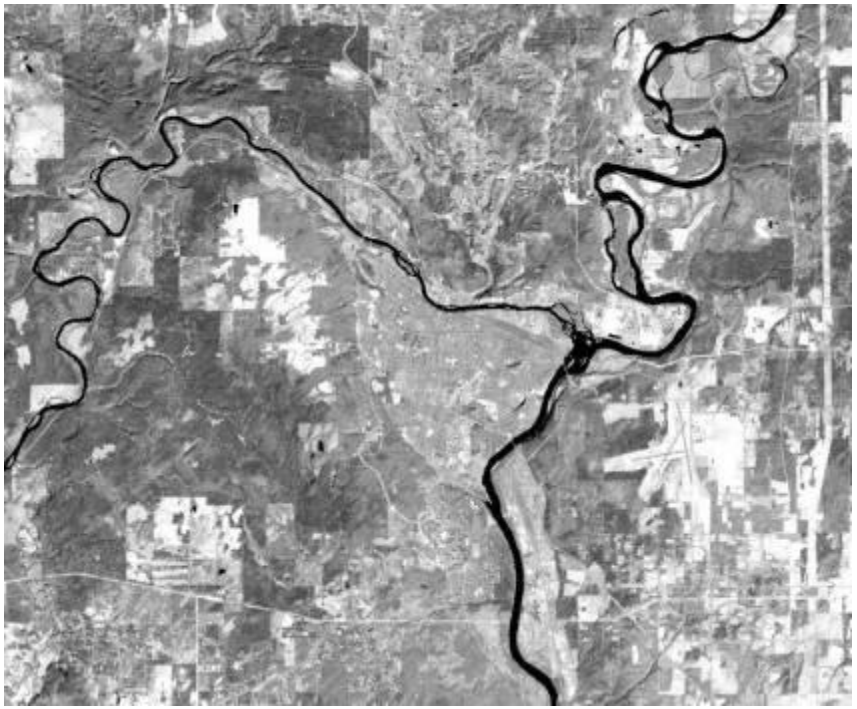
Neither have much to do with temperature

Near-IR



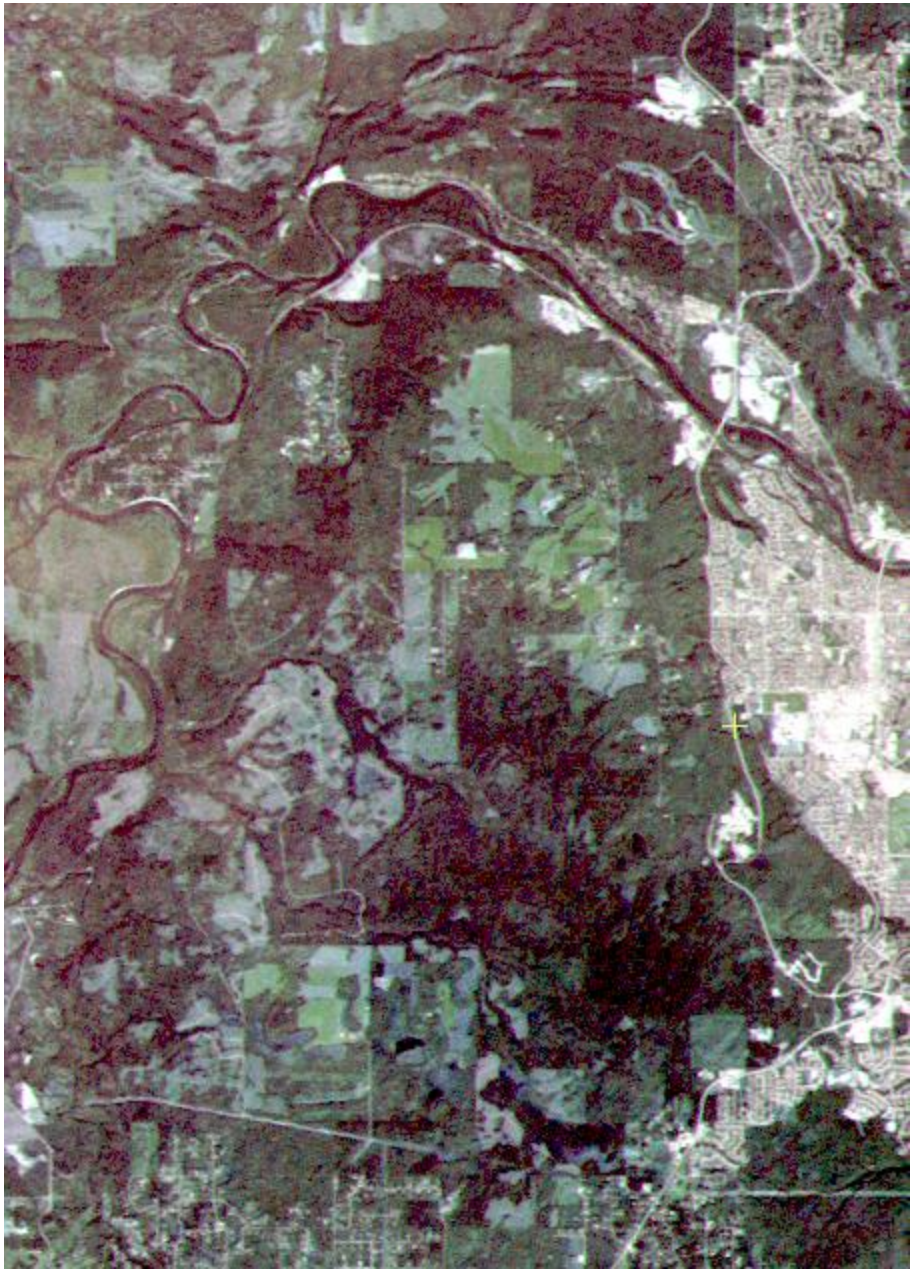
Vegetation health / vigour

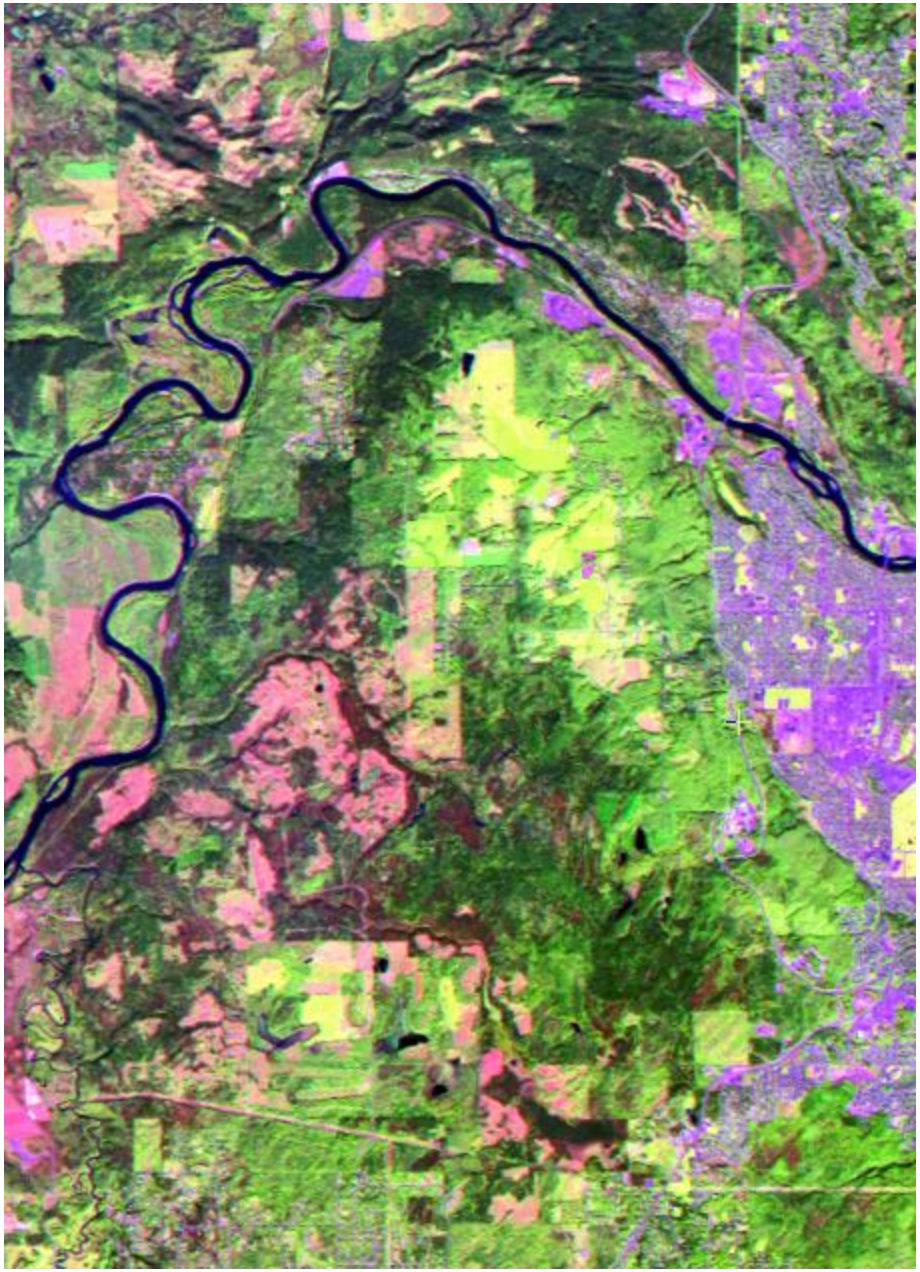
SWIR
(Shortwave)



Moisture / dryness

PG: normal colour and ‘red / near-IR / SWIR’

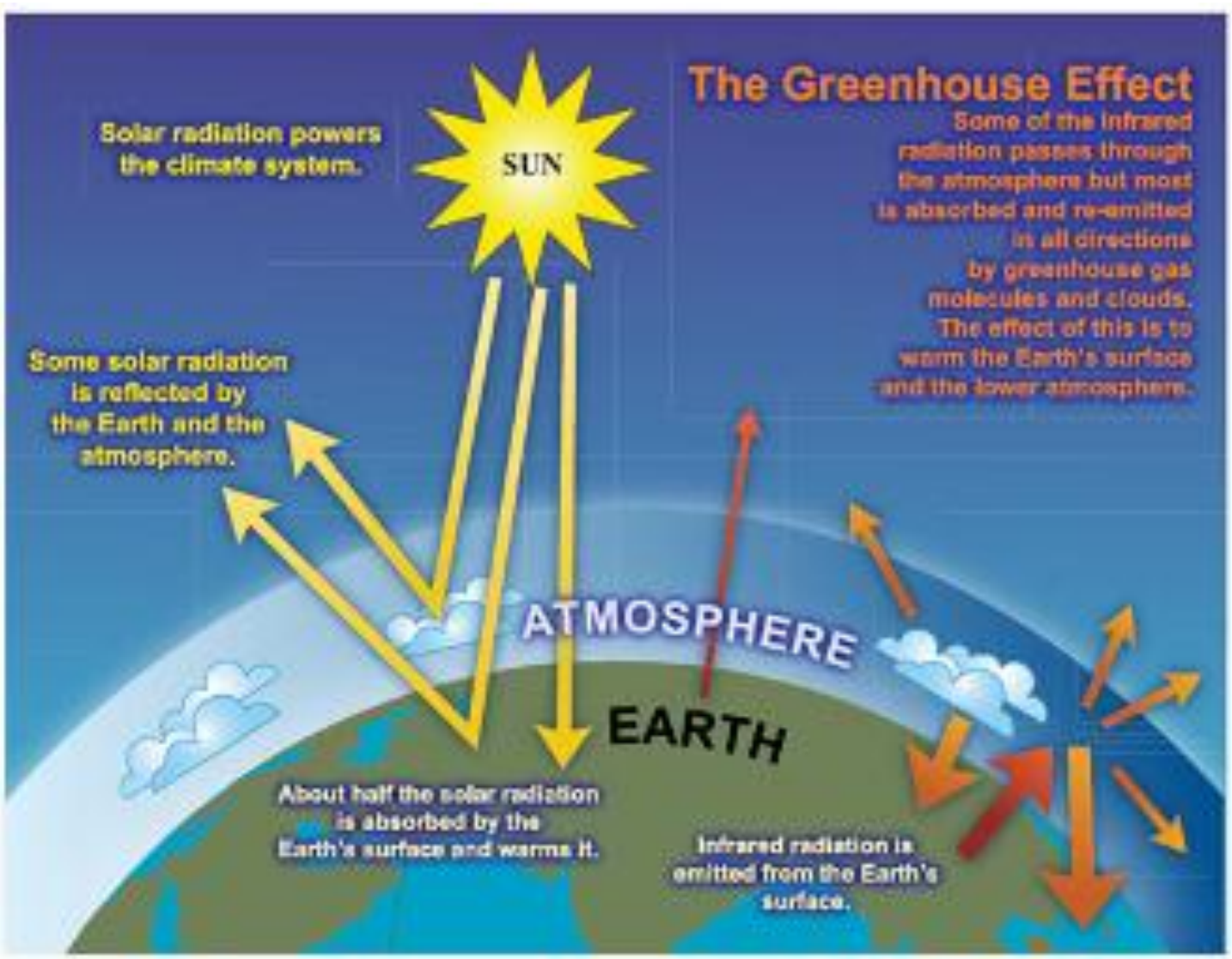




Extra contrast using two IR layers

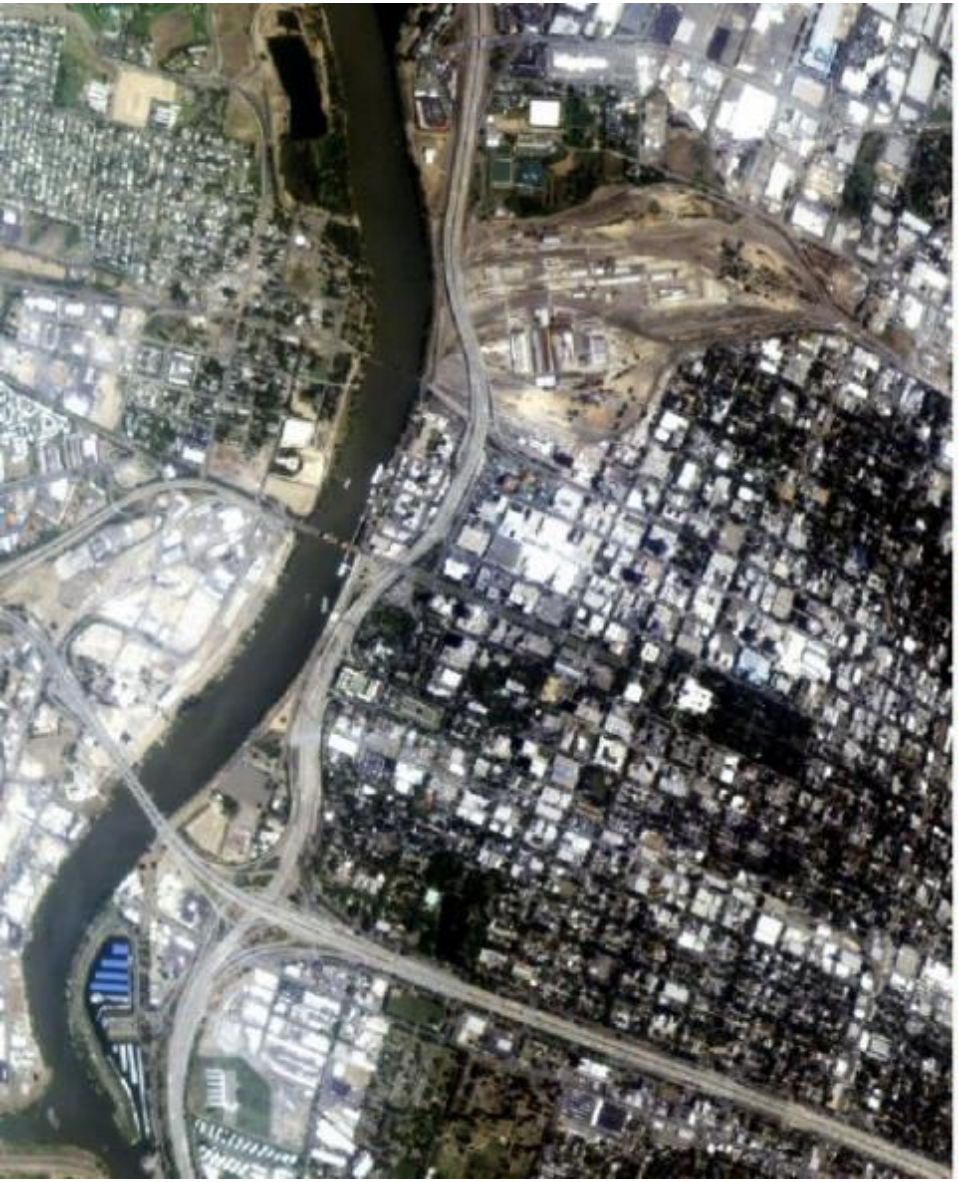
Thermal Infrared (3-14 microns)

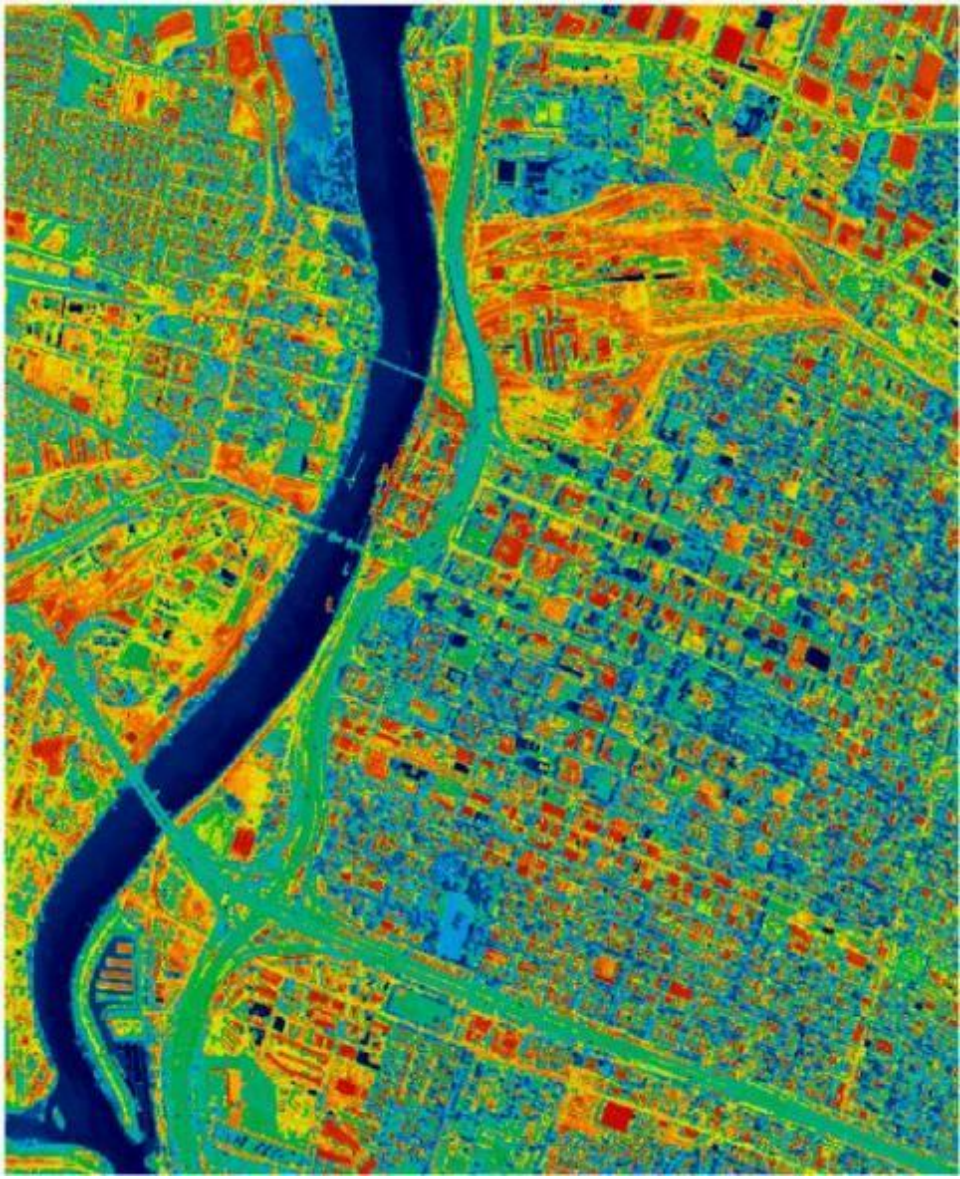
This records longer wavelengths and temperature as energy is **emitted** from the earth (= temperature), not reflected from the Sun



Daytime **Day and night**

Normal colour and thermal images of Sacramento, CA

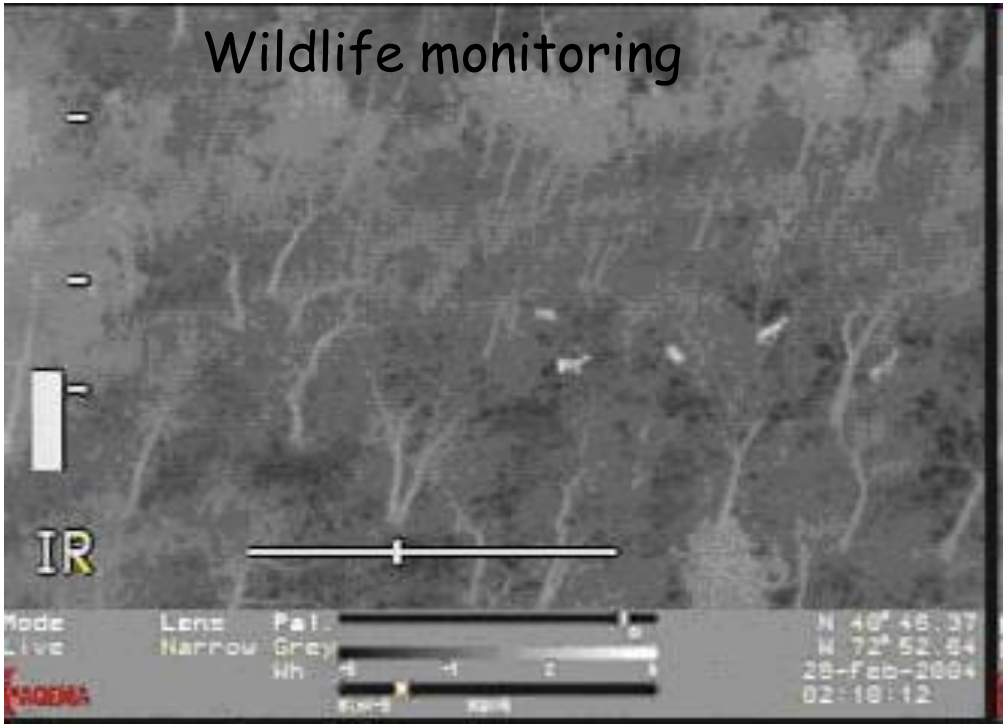


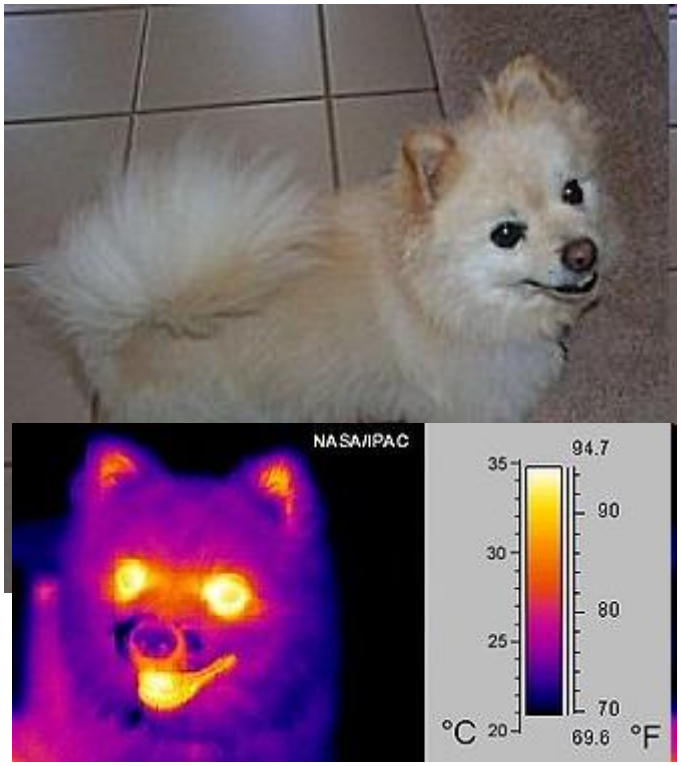


Colours indicate temperature, blue-> red

Drones with thermal cameras used to locate Koalas in Australian bush fires

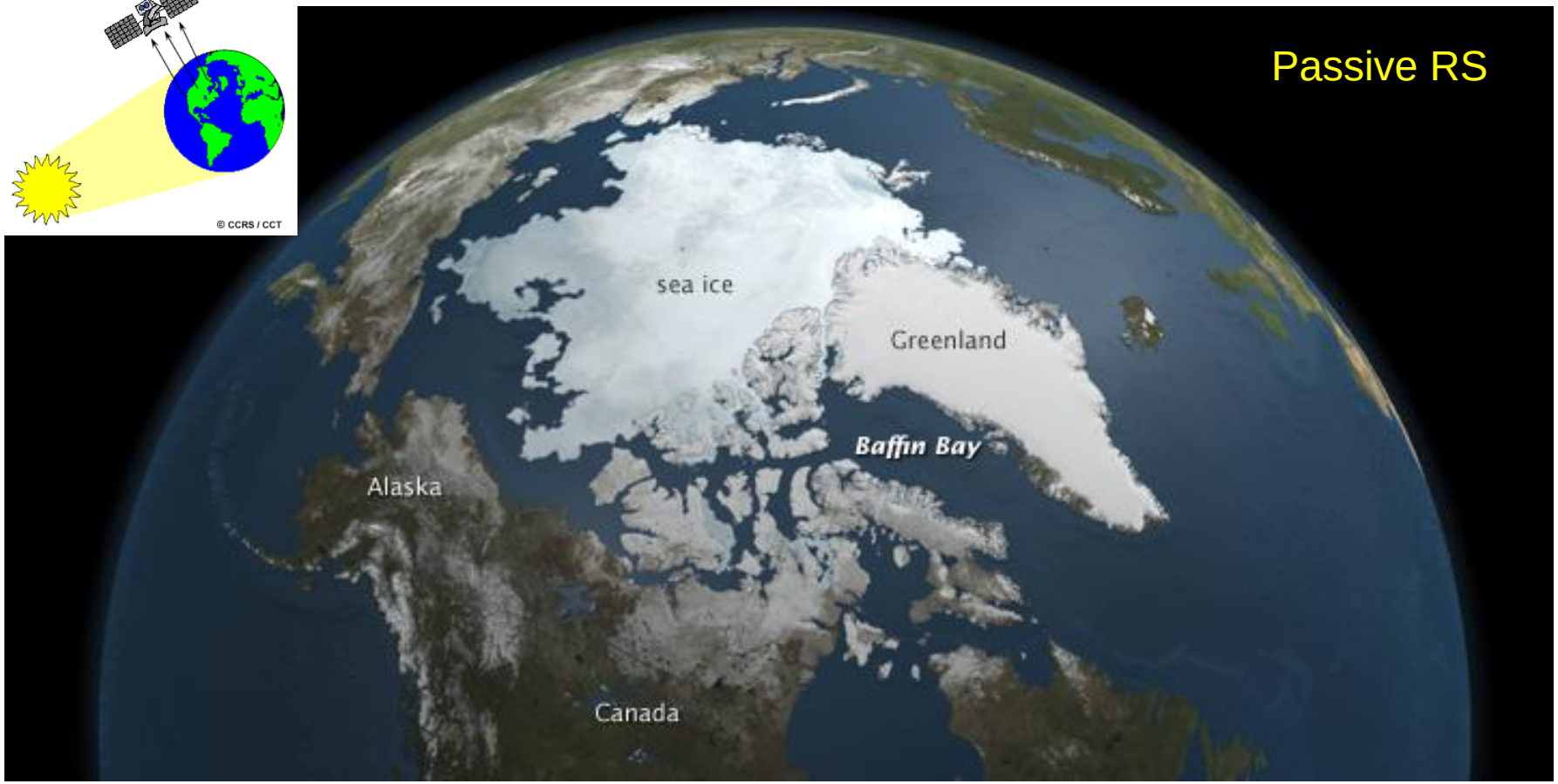
Night vision goggles (Russian military -> equipment) – sensing thermal IR





Microwave: 1mm – 1 metre ('passive')

These wavelengths beyond the infra-red can 'see through' clouds, light rain, and snow, but there is a low amount of it; low resolution e.g. 10km pixels … this is why we use these wavelengths for communications.

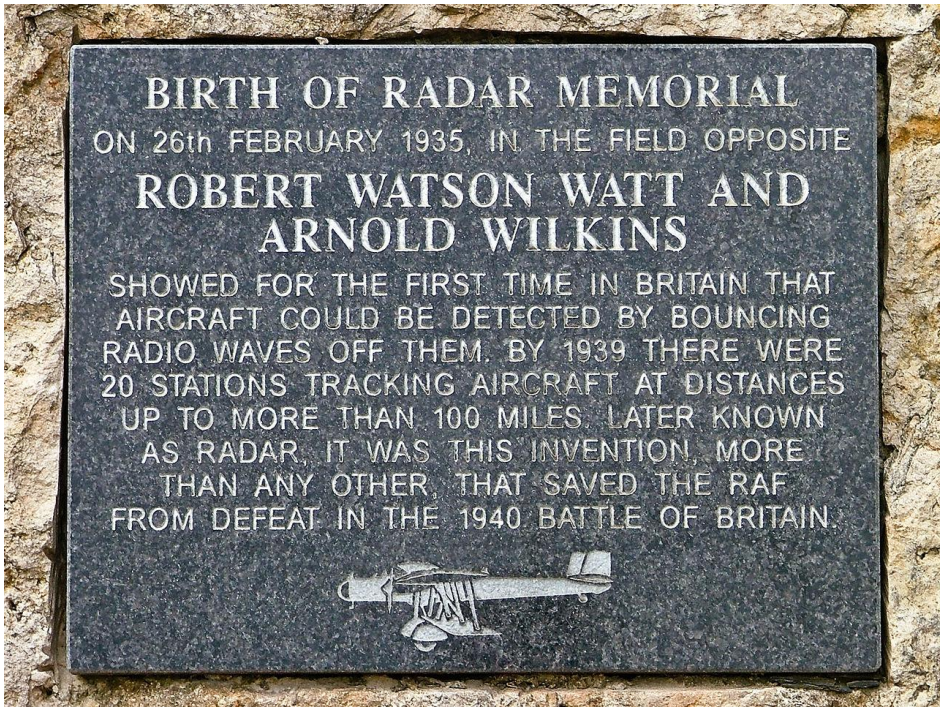


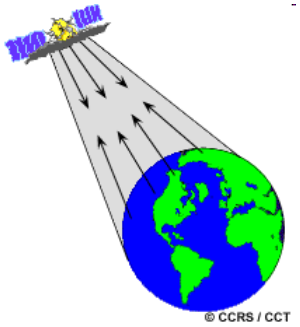
Microwave: - RAdio Detection And Ranging (RADAR)

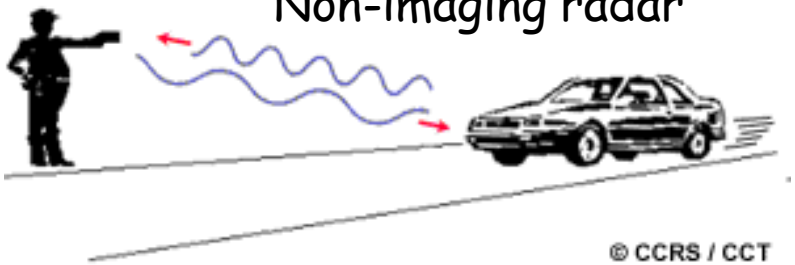
'**active**' remote sensing at wavelengths of 1-30 cm

The original technology was developed in the 1930s

to detect enemy ships and planes during WWII

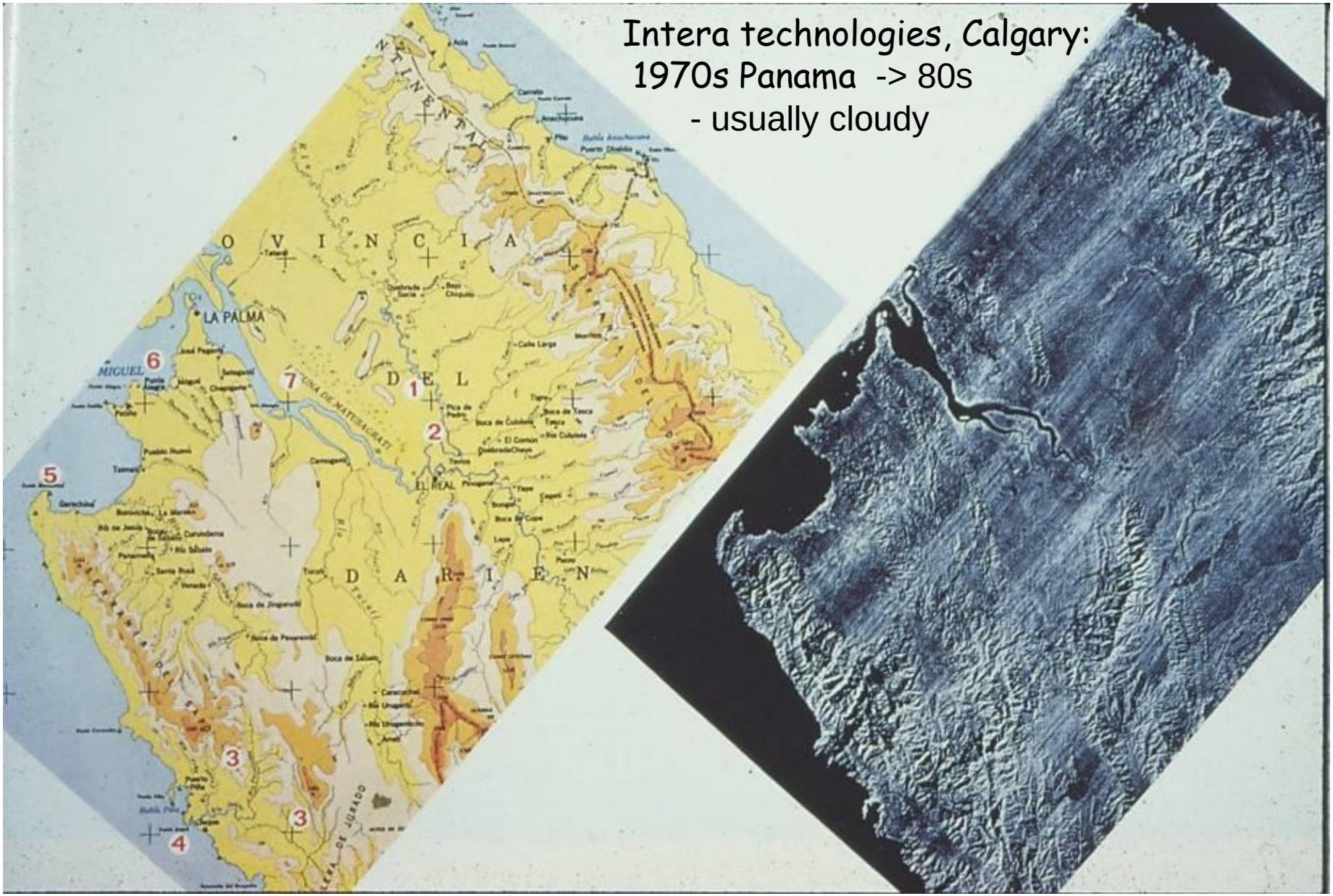






Imaging radar systems have been in use since the 1950s.

Microwave RADAR .. first developed before/during World War II for aircraft detection - early imaging RADAR for mapping was airborne.



Massachusetts-based Raytheon in 1947 named the original microwave the **“Radarange”** because it cooked food using the same radio-wave-producing magnetron tubes that the company manufactured for use in military radar.

Raytheon credits the discovery of microwave cooking to a radar engineer named Percy L. Spencer. One day in 1945, Spencer was walking through a radar test room with a chocolate bar in his pocket, and the candy began to melt.

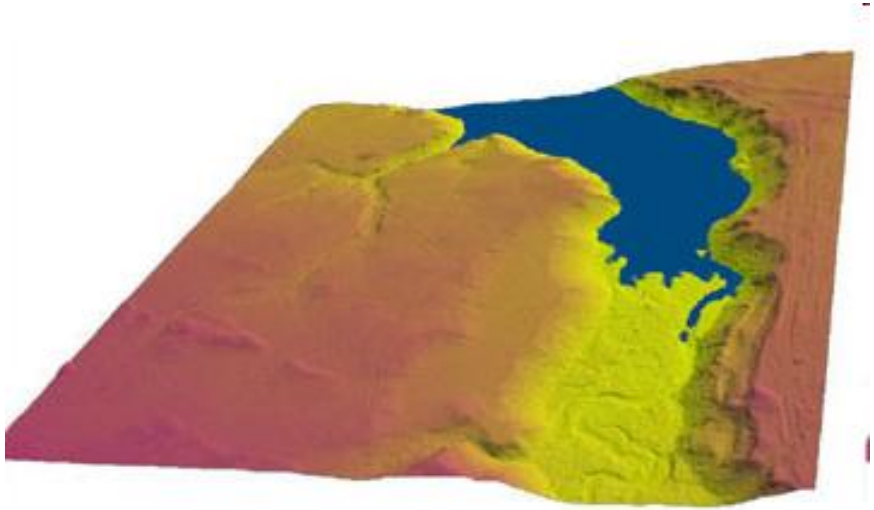
2000 -> LiDAR = Light Detection And Ranging

.. is the other common form of active remote sensing

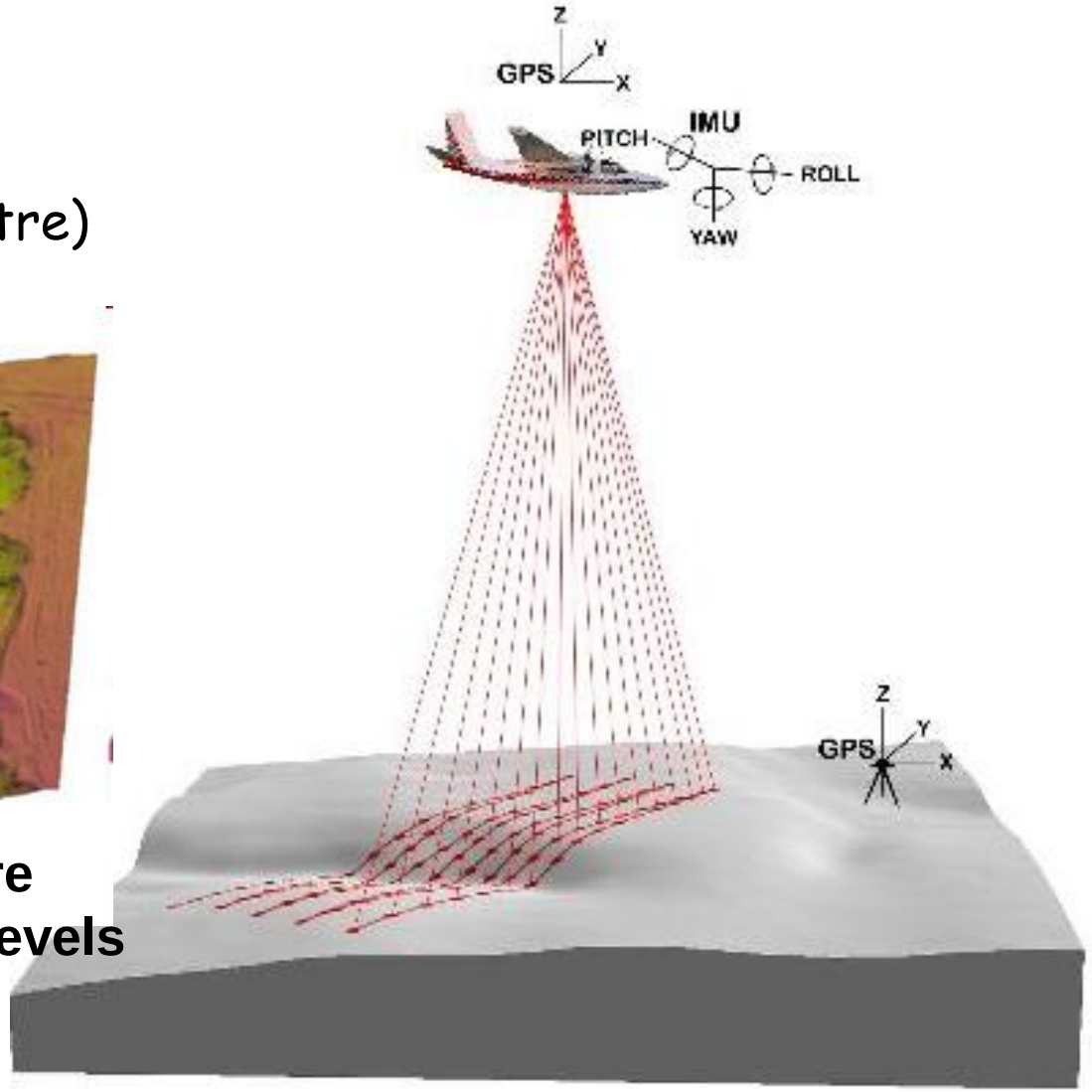
visible/NIR wavelengths

It is often used to create

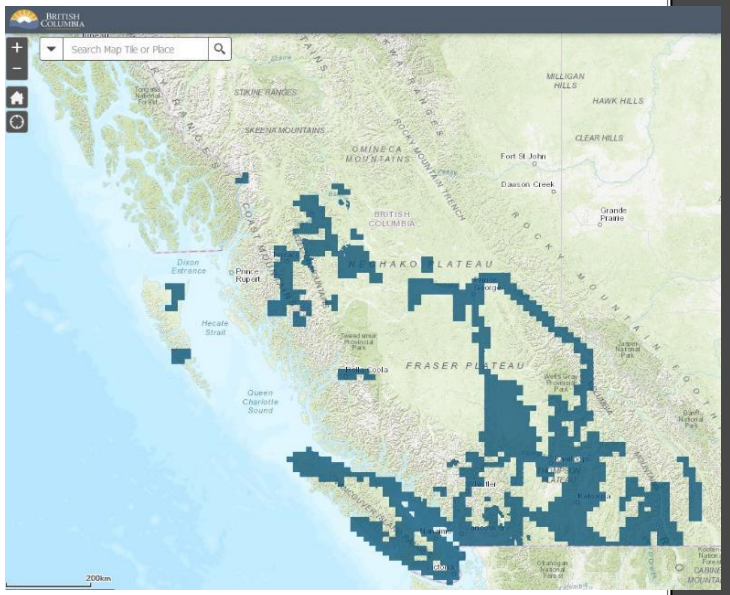
high resolution DEMs (< 1 metre)

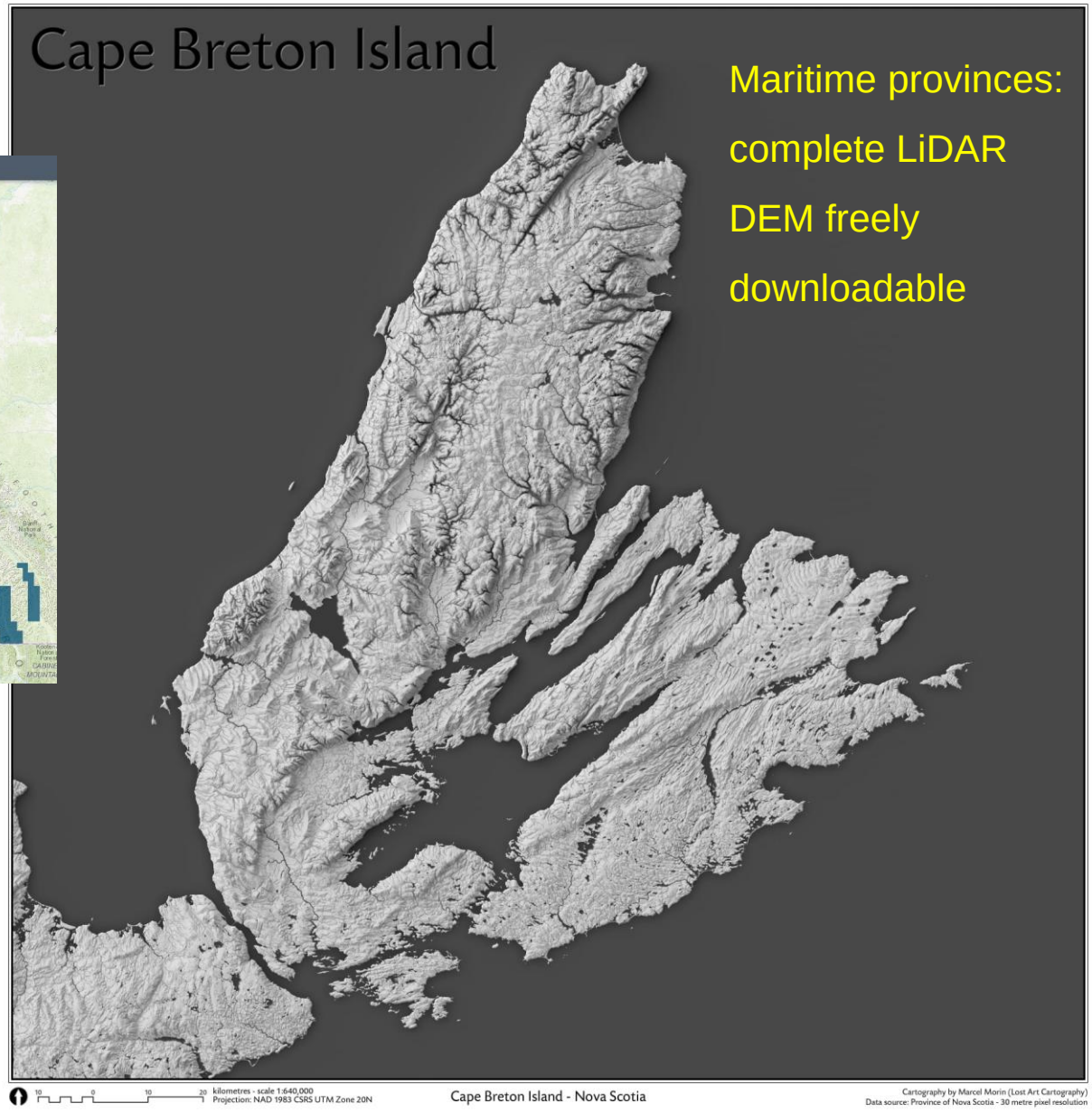


Major BC cities with rivers are mapped by LiDAR for flood levels



BC LiDAR data portal

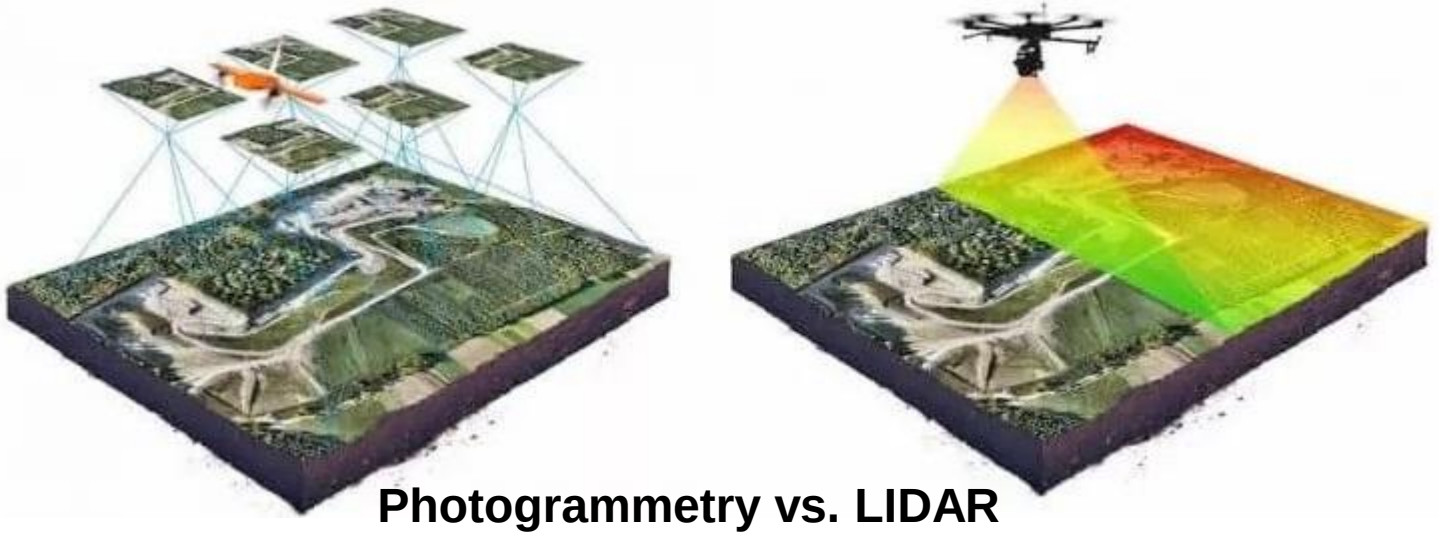




https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/local-news/bc-announces-38-million-aerial-mapping-project-6853531

2000s -> Mapping from drones - UAVs

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – easily and quickly launched



Photogrammetry vs. LIDAR

Matterhorn:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs2C_wXQ_IM

UNBC

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikIr_HBxd3E&list=PL877dKYWswMJFQHwaIXb64BwGfbTmJZUb