Table of Contents

Introduction xv

Chapter 1. The Physical Basis of Synthetic Aperture Radar Imagery . . . 1
Jean-Marie NICOLAS and Sylvie LE HÉGARAT-MASCLE

1.1. Electromagnetic propagation 1
1.1.1. The laws of propagation in homogenous media 1
1.1.1.1. Basic equations 1
1.1.1.2. Propagation equation solution 3
1.1.2. Propagation equation in heterogenous media 5
1.1.2.1. The permittivity variation case 6
1.1.2.2. The propagation equation in an absorbing medium 8
1.1.3. Application to satellite radars 8
1.2. Matter-radiation interaction 10
1.2.1. Theoretical backscattering models 10
1.2.1.1. Unbounded flat interface 10
1.2.1.2. Rayleigh scatterer 12
1.2.2. Phenomenological backscattering models 12
1.2.2.1. Rough interface 12
1.2.2.2. Scattering by a generic target 13
1.2.2.3. Scattering by a set of targets 13
1.3. Polarization 14
1.3.1. Definitions 14
1.3.2. Wave polarization 16
1.3.3. The BSA convention 18
1.3.4. Complex backscattering matrix S, Mueller matrix 19
1.3.4.1. Properties of **M** 22
1.3.4.2. Other definitions of **M** 23

Chapter 2. The Principles of Synthetic Aperture Radar 25
Jean-Marie NICOLAS and Frédéric ADRAGNA

2.1. The principles of radar 26
2.1.1. Description of surveillance radars 26
2.1.2. Notion of resolution 29
2.1.3. Imaging radars 30
2.1.4. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) 32
2.1.5. The radar equation 33
2.2. The SAR equations 35
2.2.1. The principle of pulse compression 35
2.2.2. Range resolution 38
2.2.3. Azimuth resolution 41
2.2.3.1. Principles 41
2.2.3.2. Application to the ERS-1 satellite 43
2.2.3.3. Taking platform motions into account 44
2.2.4. Transfer function of the SAR antenna 45
2.2.5. Range and azimuth samplings 46
2.2.5.1. Range sampling 46
2.2.5.2. Azimuth sampling 46
2.2.5.3. Choice of a PRF: theoretical constraints 47
2.2.6. Operation of a satellite SAR 47
2.2.6.1. Effects on radial quality 48
2.2.6.2. Effects on azimuth quality 49
2.2.6.3. The squint case 49
2.3. Acquisition geometry of SAR images 50
2.3.1. Sampling and resolution 51
2.3.1.1. Range 51
2.3.1.2. Azimuth 52
2.3.2. Radar geometry and ground geometry 53
2.3.2.1. Radar geometry 53
2.3.2.2. Ground geometry 53
2.3.3. Overlays, foreshortening and shadow 54

Chapter 3. Existing Satellite SAR Systems 57
Jean-Marie NICOLAS and Frédéric ADRAGNA

3.1. Elements of orbitography 57
3.1.1. Remote sensing satellite orbits 58
3.1.1.1. Inclination 58
3.1.1.2. Period 58
3.1.1.3. Eccentricity 60
3.1.1.4. Sun-synchronism 60
3.1.1.5. Cycle 61
3.1.1.6. Phasing 61
3.1.1.7. Orbital drift and correction 61

3.2. Polar orbiting SAR satellites . . . 62
3.2.1. SEASAT . . . 62
3.2.2. ERS . . . 62
3.2.3. JERS . . . 64
3.2.4. RADARSAT . . . 64
3.3. Satellites in non-polar orbit . . . 65
3.3.1. ALMAZ . . . 65
3.3.2. Space shuttle use . . . 66
3.3.2.1. Columbia: the SIR-A program (1982) . . . 67
3.3.2.2. Challenger: the SIR-B program (1984) . . . 67
3.3.2.3. Endeavour: the SIR-C program (1994) . . . 68
3.3.2.4. Endeavour: the SRTM program (2000) . . . 69
3.4. Other systems . . . 69
3.5. Airborne SARs . . . 70
3.5.1. Sandia . . . 70
3.5.2. CCRS . . . 70
3.5.3. CRL/NASDA . . . 71
3.5.4. JPL's AIRSAR . . . 71
3.5.5. PHARUS . . . 72
3.5.6. DLR's E-SAR . . . 72
3.5.7. Some remarkable military systems . . . 72

Chapter 4. Synthetic Aperture Radar Images . . . 75
Frédéric ADRAGNA, Sylvie LE HÉGARAT-MASCLE
and Jean-Marie NICOLAS

4.1. Image data . . . 76
4.1.1. Raw data . . . 76
4.1.2. Complex single-look data . . . 76
4.1.3. Multi-look data . . . 78
4.1.4. Derivative products . . . 79
4.1.5. Polarimetric data . . . 80
4.1.5.1. SIR-C/X-SAR data . . . 80
4.1.5.2. AirSAR data . . . 81
4.1.5.3. Polarimetric synthesis and examples . . . 82
4.2. Radiometric calibration . . . 83
4.2.1. Scalar SAR data calibration . . . 83
4.2.2. Calibration of SAR polarimetric data . . . 84
4.3. Localization precision . . . 85

Chapter 5. Speckle Models . . . 87
Armand LOPÈS, René GARELLO and Sylvie LE HÉGARAT-MASCLE

5.1. Introduction to speckle . . . 87
5.2. Complex circular Gaussian model of single-look and scalar speckle . . . 89
5.2.1. Random walk and Gaussian speckle conditions . . . 90

5.2.1.1. Random walk in a complex plane 90
5.2.1.2. Fully developed speckle hypotheses 91
5.2.2. First order distributions: R radar reflectivity 92
5.2.2.1. Fully developed complex speckle distribution: radar reflectivity 92
5.2.2.2. Distributions of amplitude A, phase ϕ and intensity I. 94
5.2.2.3. Multiplicative and additive speckle models 96
5.3. Complex circular multi-variate Gaussian model of vectorial or multi-look speckle 98
5.3.1. Joint distribution of single-look complex data 98
5.3.2. Spatial correlation and spectral properties of the single-look Gaussian speckle 99
5.3.3. Joint distribution of single-look detected data 104
5.3.4. Distributions of scalar multi-look data 105
5.3.4.1. Gamma and generalized Gamma distributions. 107
5.3.4.2. Goodman distribution 110
5.3.4.3. Multi-look logarithmic data 112
5.3.4.4. Spectral and spatial properties of multi-look speckle 115
5.3.5. Multi-look vectorial distributions 115
5.3.5.1. Distribution of the variables derived from Σ_Z and the Wishart distribution 116
5.4. Non-Gaussian speckle models. 125
5.4.1. Scalar product model and normalized texture 126
5.4.1.1. Normalized texture variable. 126
5.4.1.2. Statistical properties of heterogenous area data 127
5.4.1.3. The Pearson system and K, U, B and W distributions 129
5.4.2. Non-Gaussian clutter. 133
5.4.2.1. The lognormal distribution 134
5.4.2.2. Weibull distribution 134
5.4.2.3. Nagakami-Rice distribution. 135
5.4.2.4. The partially developed speckle 135
5.5. Polarimetric radar speckle 136
5.5.1. The Gaussian model 136
5.5.2. The product model 137
5.5.3. Distributions of the phase difference and 2-amplitude ratio 138
5.5.4. Correlation of the co- and cross-polar channels 140

Chapter 6. Reflectivity Estimation and SAR Image Filtering 143
Armand LOPÈS, Florence TUPIN and Sylvie LE HÉGARAT-MASCLE

6.1. Introduction. 143
6.2. Estimations of reflectivity *R* 145
6.2.1. Bayesian estimation recap. 145
6.2.1.1. The Kronecker function: $L(x,x') = 1 - \delta_{x,x'}$ 146
6.2.1.2. The quadratic cost function: $L(x,x') = (x - x')^2$ 146

6.2.1.3. Notes on estimator behavior 147
6.2.2. Estimation of constant reflectivity *R*. 148
6.2.2.1. Multi-look filters 148
6.2.2.2. Spatial filters 150
6.3. Single-channel filters with *a priori* knowledge of the scene 151
6.3.1. Linear MMSE filters 151
6.3.1.1. Lee and Kuan filters 151
6.3.1.2. Frost filter 152
6.3.2. Non-linear MMSE filters 154
6.3.2.1. T-linear filters 154
6.3.2.2. APE filters 155
6.3.3. Non-linear MAP filters 156
6.4. Multi-channel filters. 157
6.4.1. Intensity data 157
6.4.1.1. Homogenous channels 157
6.4.1.2. Textured channels 158
6.4.2. A general case: the linear vector MMSE 159
6.5. Polarimetric data filtering 161
6.5.1. Speckle reduction filters based on a combination of polarimetric channels 161
6.5.2. Polarimetric data restoration filters 165
6.6. Estimation of filter parameters 167
6.6.1. Formulae for statistical estimation 167
6.6.2. Choice of a calculation window 168
6.7. Filter specificities 169
6.7.1. Statistical evaluation of the various estimators 169
6.7.2. Results on an ERS-1 image 171
6.8. Conclusion 172

Chapter 7. Classification of SAR Images 175
Danielle DUCROT, Florence TUPIN and Sylvie LE HÉGARAT-MASCLE

7.1. Notations 176
7.2. Bayesian methods applied to scalar images 177
7.2.1. Pixel-based Bayesian methods 179
7.2.1.1. Supervised methods 179
7.2.1.2. Unsupervised methods 180
7.2.2. Contextual Bayesian methods 181
7.2.2.1. Supervised methods 182
7.2.2.2. Unsupervised methods 184
7.2.3. Global Bayesian methods 185
7.2.3.1. Supervised methods 185
7.2.3.2. Unsupervised methods 186
7.3. Application of the Bayesian methods to ERS-1 time series 186
7.3.1. Pixel classification 188

7.3.1.1. The single-channel case . . . 188
7.3.1.2. Multi-temporal contribution . . . 188
7.3.1.3. Introduction of derived channels . . . 189
7.3.1.4. Contribution of contextual classification methods . . . 189
7.3.2. Radar and SPOT fusion, comparison with SPOT . . . 191
7.3.3. Conclusion . . . 192
7.4. Classification of polarimetric images. . . . 192
7.4.1. Classification in three major backscattering mechanisms . . . 193
7.4.1.1. The principle . . . 193
7.4.1.2. Implementation and illustration of results . . . 193
7.4.1.3. Conclusion . . . 195
7.4.2. Entropy-based classification . . . 195
7.4.2.1. The principle . . . 195
7.4.2.2. Implementation and illustration of results . . . 196
7.4.3. Polarimetric Bayesian classifications . . . 198
7.4.3.1. The single-look Gaussian case . . . 198
7.4.3.2. The multi-look Gaussian case . . . 200
7.4.3.3. The product model case . . . 201
7.4.4. Polarimetric non-Bayesian classifications . . . 201

Chapter 8. Detection of Points, Contours and Lines . . . 207
Florence TUPIN and Armand LOPÈS

8.1. Target detectors . . . 208
8.1.1. Intensity threshold . . . 208
8.1.2. Ratio use . . . 210
8.1.3. Other approaches . . . 213
8.1.4. Conclusion . . . 213
8.2. Contour detectors . . . 214
8.2.1. Average ratio . . . 215
8.2.2. Likelihood ratio . . . 218
8.2.2.1. Use of detected data . . . 218
8.2.2.2. Complex data use . . . 219
8.2.3. Exponentially-balanced average ratio . . . 221
8.2.4. Multi-directional case . . . 225
8.3. Line detectors . . . 225
8.3.1. Average ratio . . . 226
8.3.2. Correlation with an ideal structure . . . 227
8.4. Line and contour connection. . . . 228
8.5. Conclusion . . . 231

Chapter 9. Geometry and Relief . . . 233
Frédéric ADRAGNA

9.1. Radar image localization . . . 233
9.1.1. Precision of orbital data . . . 234

9.1.2. Distance localization 234
9.1.3. Azimuth localization 235
9.1.4. Three-dimensional point localization from radar imaging 237
9.1.5. Moving targets 238
9.2. Geometric corrections. 239
9.2.1. Geometric corrections with DTM 239
9.2.2. Image registration. 240
9.2.2.1. Case of images obtained from identical orbits 240
9.2.2.2. Images acquired from different incidences 241
9.2.2.3. Images obtained in opposite direction orbits (ascending/descending) 241

Chapter 10. Radargrammetry 243
Henri MAÎTRE

10.1. Stereovision principles: photogrammetry 243
10.1.1. Principles 243
10.1.2. Stereovision methods 244
10.2. Principles of radargrammetry 245
10.2.1. Lateral vision effects 246
10.2.2. Geometric reconstruction 249
10.2.2.1. Disparity/altitude relation in the general case 249
10.2.2.2. Simplified disparity/altitude relations 250
10.2.3. Matching 251
10.2.3.1. Correlation 251
10.2.3.2. Pyramidal approach. 254
10.2.4. Geometry effects connected with radar viewing 255
10.2.5. Filling of hidden parts and non-matched areas 257
10.3. Results of radargrammetry 257
10.4. Conclusion 259

Chapter 11. Radarclinometry 261
Henri MAÎTRE

11.1. Radarclinometry equation 262
11.1.1. Shape from shading 262
11.1.2. Shape from shading and radar. 263
11.1.3. Radarclinometry equation 263
11.2. Resolution of the radarclinometry equation 265
11.2.1. Wildey approach 265
11.2.2. Frankot and Chellappa approach 266
11.2.3. Resolution of radargrammetry equation without *a priori* knowledge 267
11.2.3.1. Inversion of equation [11.6] 268
11.2.3.2. Regularization 268

11.3. Determination of unknown parameters 271
11.3.1. Determination of σ^o 271
11.3.2. Determination of backscattering distribution 272
11.4. Results 273
11.5. Radarpolarimetry 276
11.6. Conclusion 278

Chapter 12. Interferometry 279
Frédéric ADRAGNA and Jean-Marie NICOLAS

12.1. Interferometry principle 280
12.1.1. Phase and interference 280
12.1.2. Construction of an interferometric product 281
12.1.3. What type of information does the interferogram carry? 282
12.2. Interferogram modeling 283
12.2.1. Statistical laws of interferograms 283
12.2.2. Estimation of empirical coherence 284
12.3. Geometric analysis of data 285
12.4. Applications of interferometry 288
12.4.1. Elevation measurement 288
12.4.1.1. Limitations 290
12.4.1.2. Precisions 291
12.4.2. Land movement measurement: differential interferometry 291
12.4.3. Use of coherence 292
12.4.3.1. Implementation 293
12.5. Limitations of interferometry imaging 294
12.5.1. Temporal change limitations 294
12.5.2. Limitations due to geometry 294
12.5.3. Effects of atmospheric propagation 297
12.5.3.1. Troposphere case 298
12.5.3.2. Ionosphere case 299
12.5.4. Role of signal-to-noise ratio 299

Chapter 13. Phase Unwrapping 301
Emmanuel TROUVÉ and Henri MAÎTRE

13.1. Introduction 301
13.1.1. Corrected phase shift 302
13.1.2. Residue detection 304
13.2. Preprocessing of InSAR data 305
13.2.1. Analysis of local frequencies 306
13.2.1.1. Modeling 306
13.2.1.2. Direct estimation method 307
12.2.1.3. Confidence measure 309
13.2.1.4. Multi-scale implementation 310
13.2.2. Interferogram filtering 312

13.2.2.1. Two different approaches 312
13.2.2.2. Fringe pattern compensation 313
13.2.3. Detection of non-unwrappable areas 317
13.3. Phase unwrapping methods 319
13.3.1. Local methods 320
13.3.1.1. Placing the cuts 321
13.3.1.2. Finding a mask 321
13.3.2. Least squares 322
13.3.2.1. Considering disturbances 323
13.3.2.2. Minimization algorithms 325
13.3.3. Green's functions 326
13.3.4. Conclusion 329

Chapter 14. Radar Oceanography 331
Jean-Marc LE CAILLEC and René GARELLO

14.1. Introduction to radar oceanography 331
14.2. Sea surface description 334
14.2.1. Division of the sea spectrum into different scales 334
14.2.2. Reflection of electromagnetic waves from the sea surface 336
14.3. Image of a sea surface by a real aperture radar 337
14.3.1. Tilt modulation 337
14.3.2. Hydrodynamic modulation 341
14.4. Sea surface motions 344
14.5. SAR image of the sea surface 345
14.5.1. Quasi-linear approximation of the SAR spectrum image 345
14.5.2. Modeling of non-linearities 348
14.6. Inversion of the SAR imaging mechanism 352
14.6.1. SAR spectrum inversion 352
14.6.2. Underwater topography inversion 353

Bibliography 357

List of Authors 377

Index 379