

Robust Satellite Techniques for real-time monitoring of natural, environmental and man-made hazards

Valerio Tramutoli

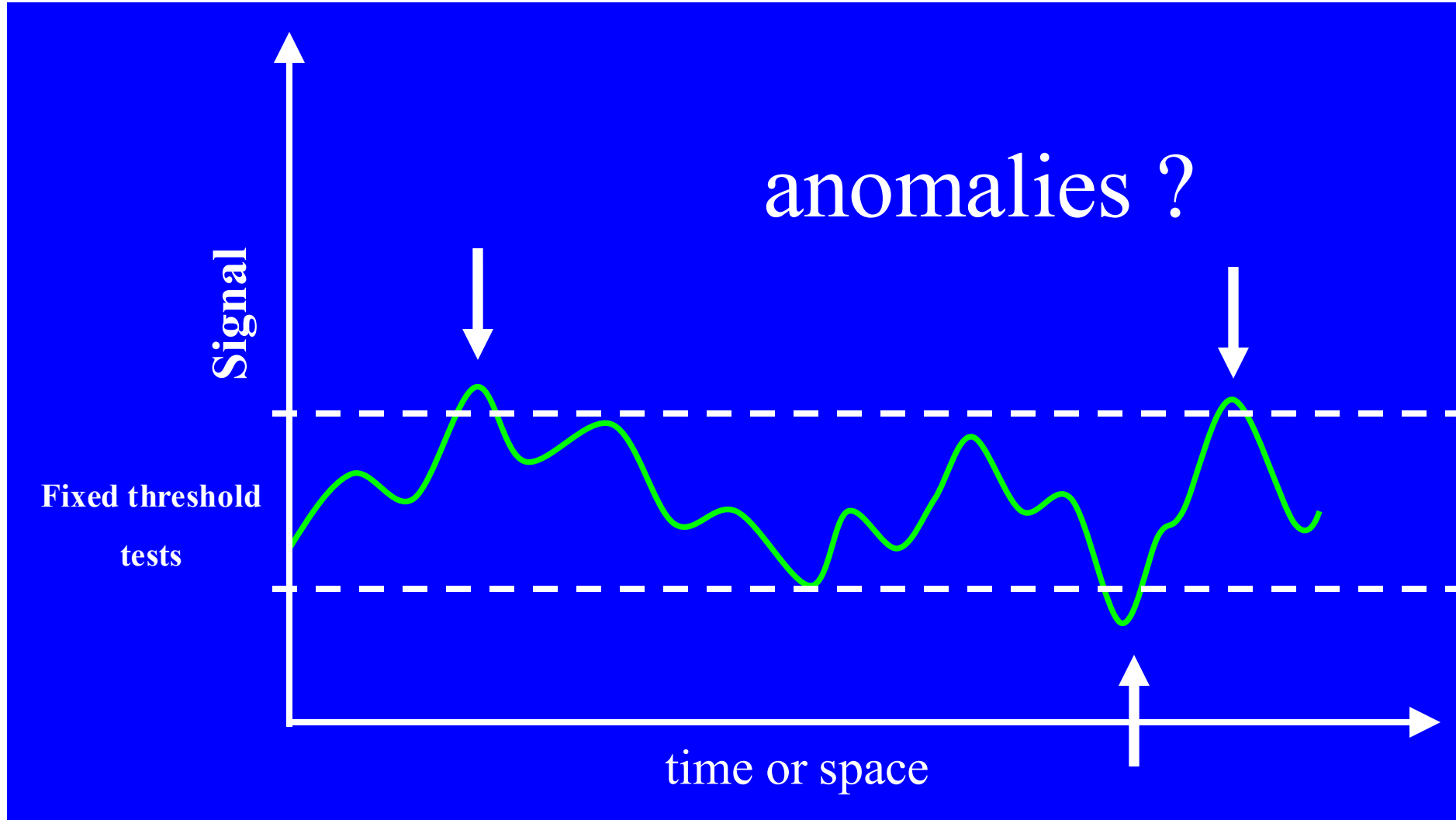
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0000-0003-3875-7909

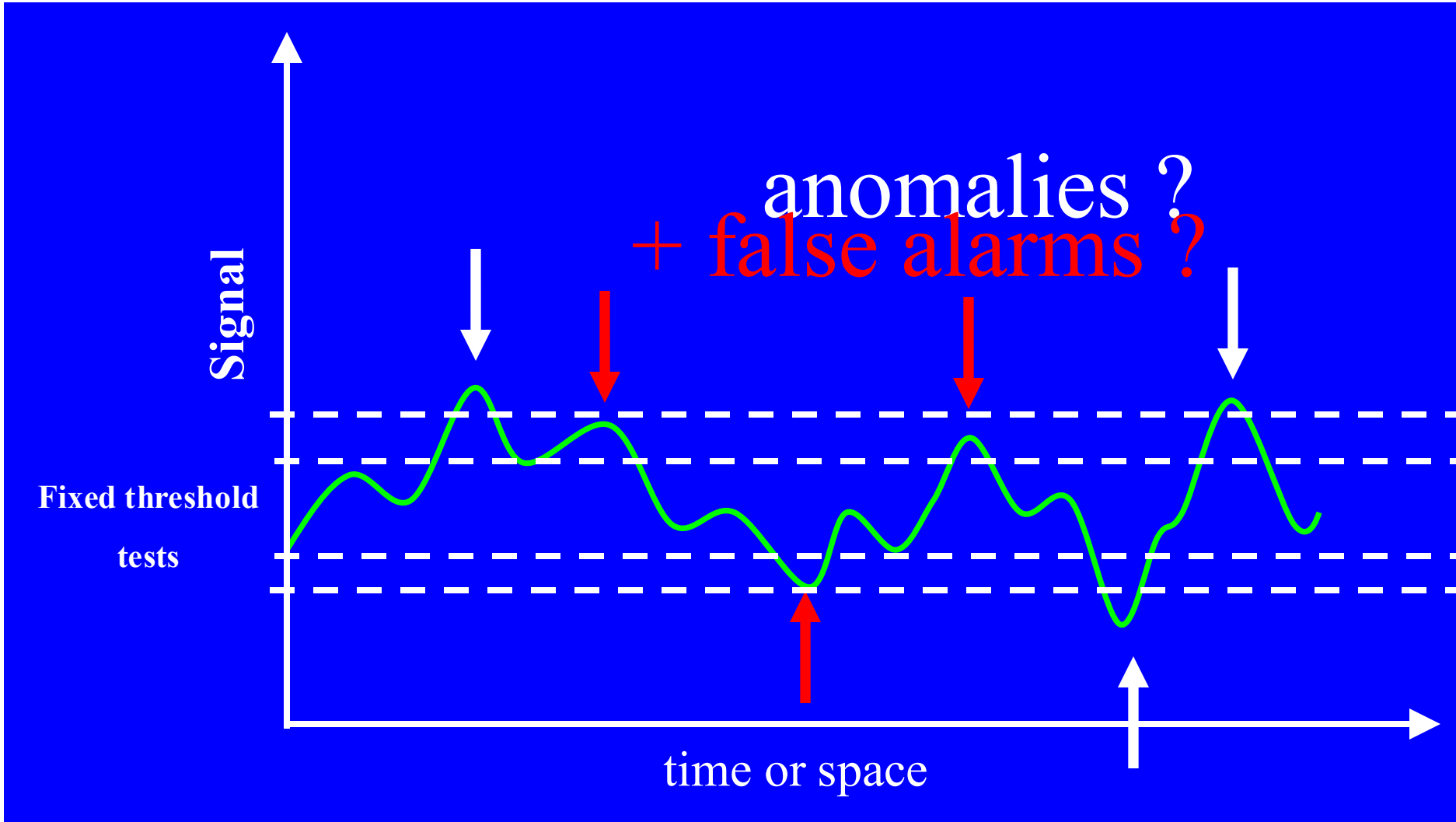
Change detection by traditional fixed-threshold approaches

Why they do not work ?



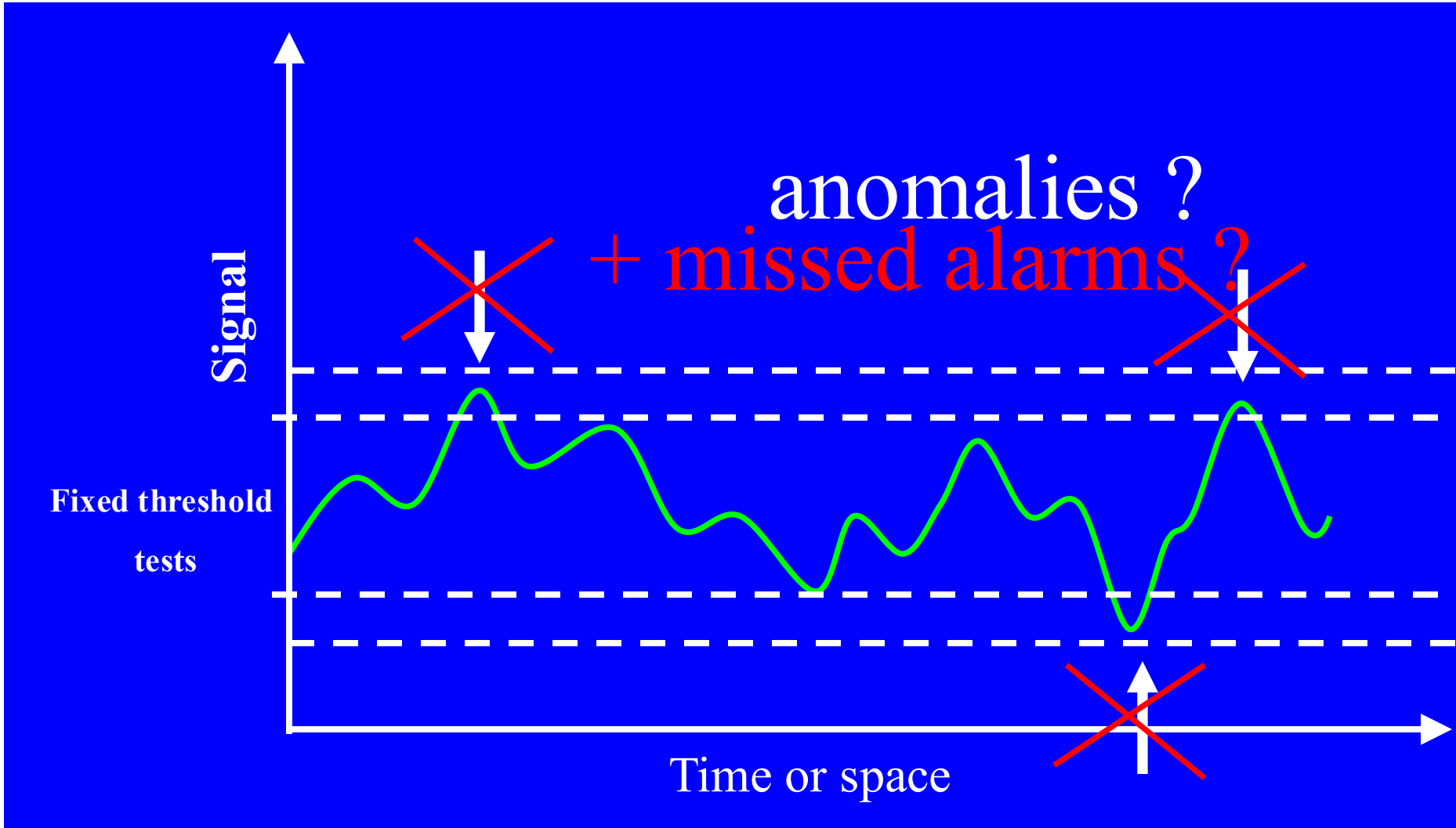
Change detection by traditional fixed-threshold approaches

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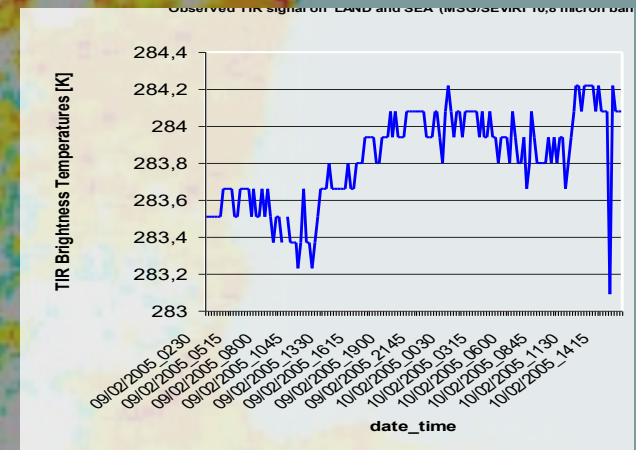
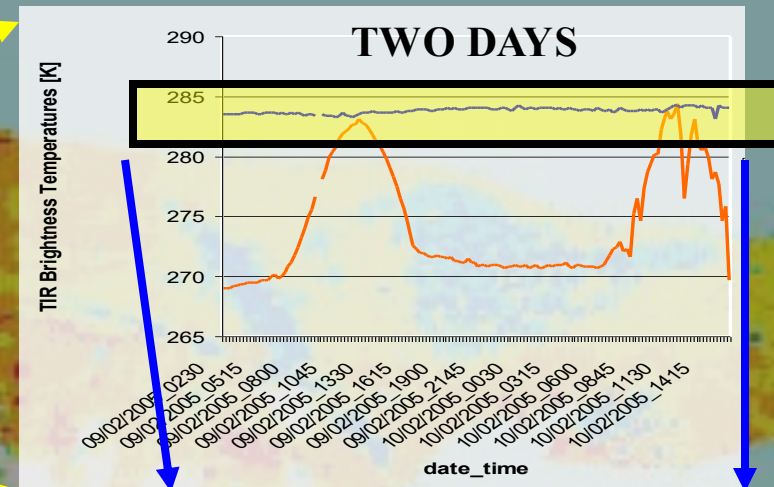
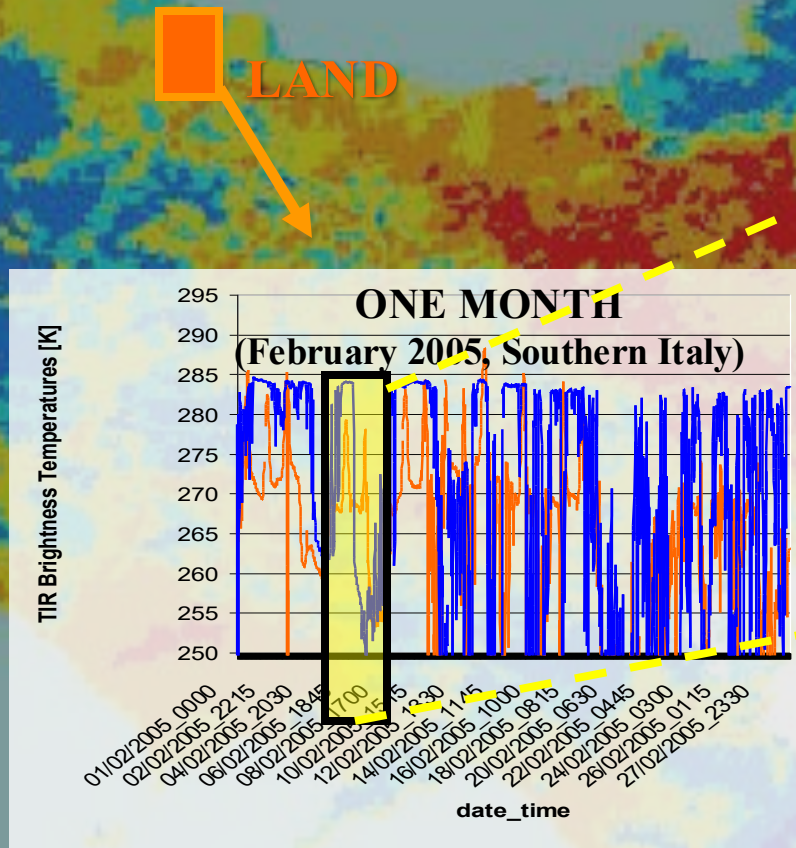
Change detection by traditional fixed-threshold approaches

Why they do not work ?



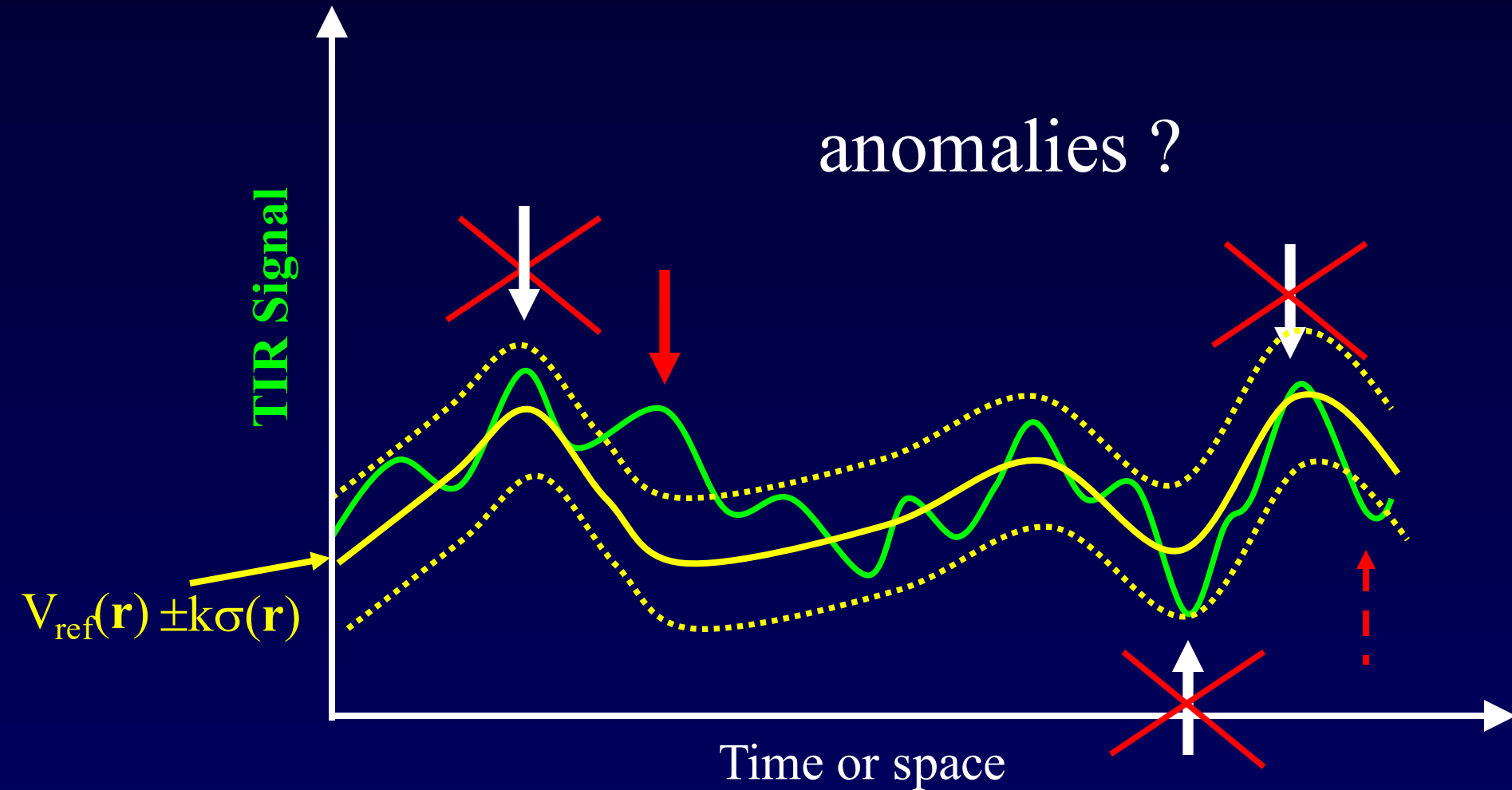
Signal temporal Dynamics

Example: TIR signal on LAND and SEA
(MSG/SEVIRI 10,8 micron band)



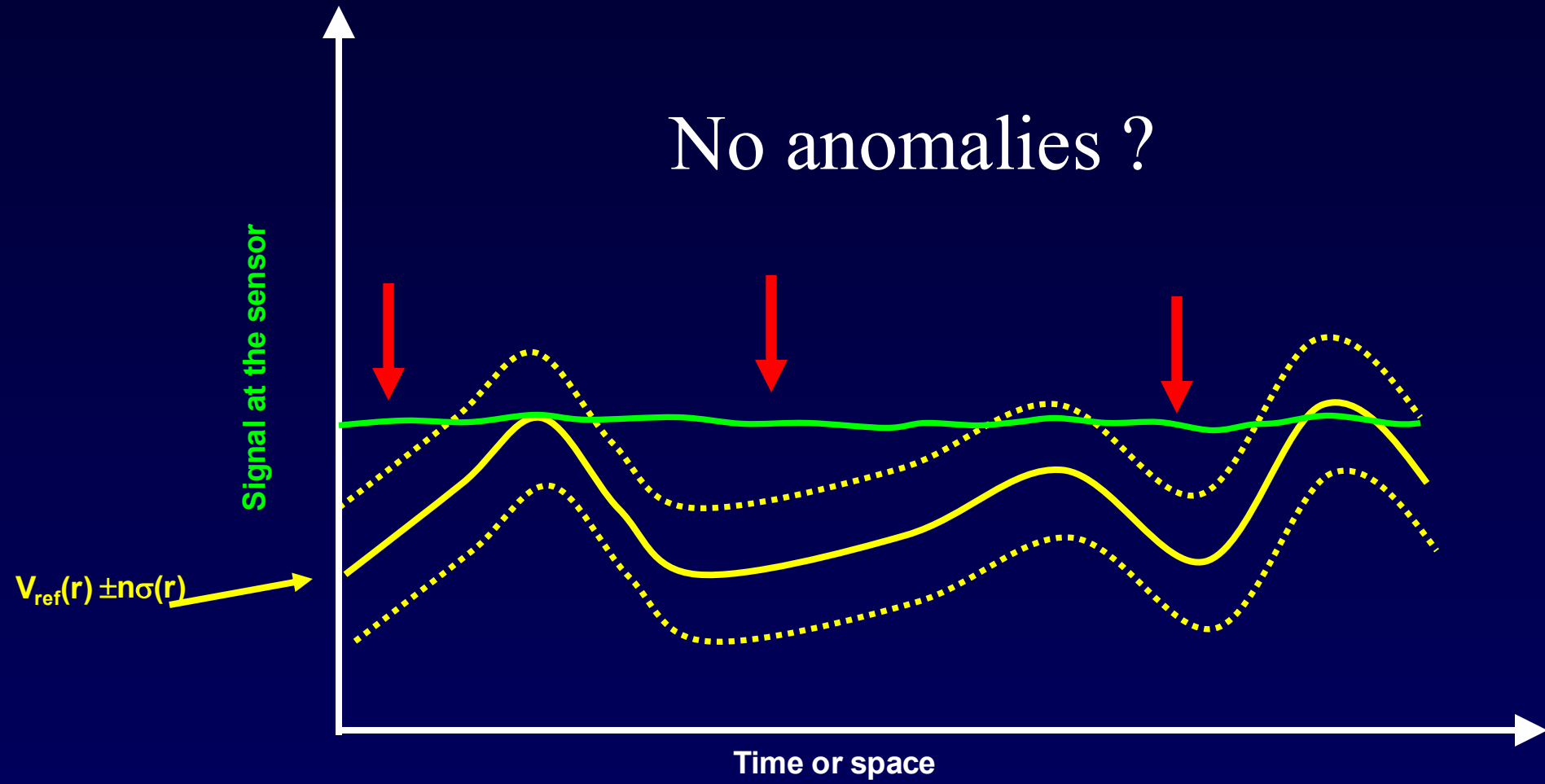
What “anomaly” means ?

anomalies ?



What “anomaly” means ?

No anomalies ?

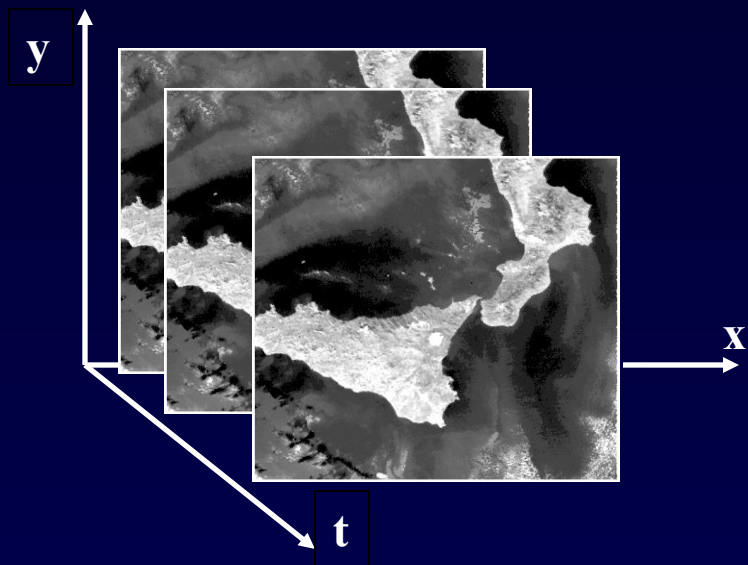




Robust Satellite Techniques (RST)



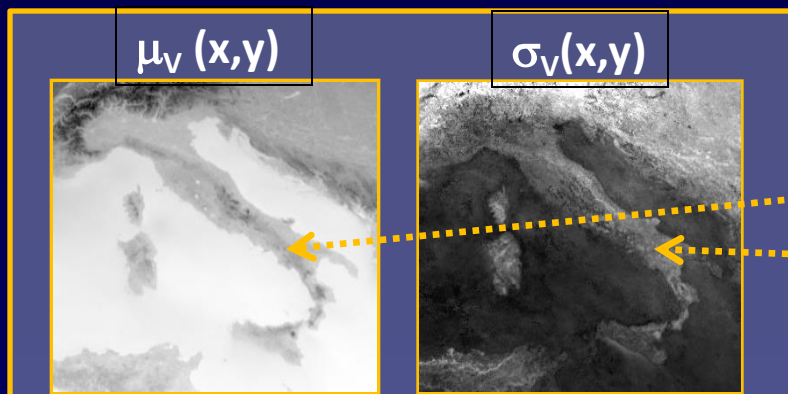
(formerly **RAT** : Robust AVHRR Techniques, V.Tramutoli, 1998, 2005,2007)



1. Selection of a database $V(x,y,t)$ of cloud-free images **homogeneous** for selected observational conditions (same period of the year and satellite overpass time).

2. . Computing the unperturbed **reference fields** images $V_{REF}(x,y)$ and $\sigma_V(x,y)$ for $V(x,y,t)$

3. Computation of the **ALICE** (*Absolutely Llocal Index of Change of Environment*) index for detecting and qualifying anomalous variations of the signal.



$$\otimes_V(x,y,t) = \frac{V(x,y,t) - V_{REF}(x,y)}{\sigma_V(x,y)}$$

ALICE

(*Absolutely Llocal Index of Change of Environment*)

RST Main advantages

1. Entirely based on satellite data at hands (non-parametric approach) it is **intrinsically exportable** at the global scale to whatever geographic area and existing/planned sensors

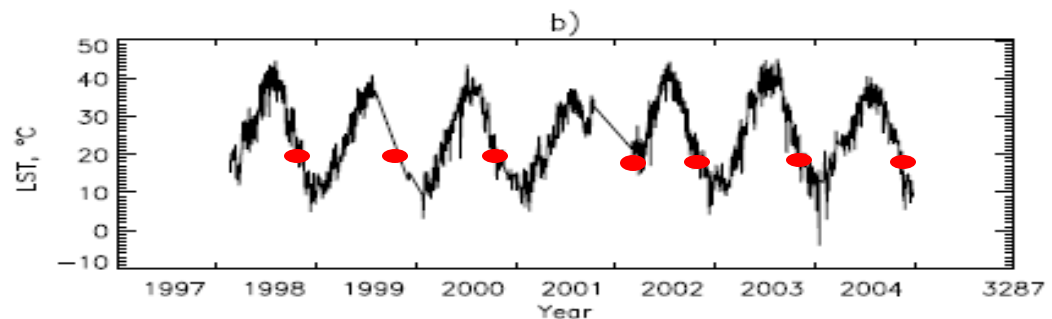
same time of the day

to reduce the variability of $V(x,y,t)$ associated to the daily solar cycle



same period (e.g. month) of the year

to also reduce the variability of the signal due to the annual solar and vegetation (growing) cycles



2. No ancillary data required
3. Independent from site effects

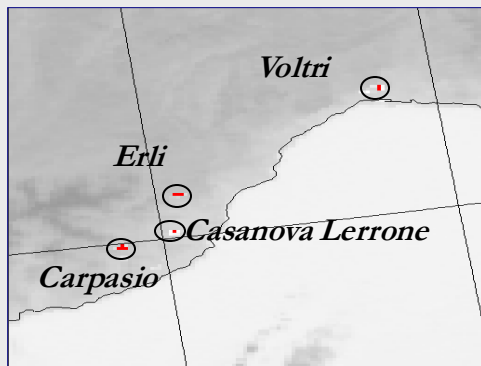
25 years of RST applications

to optical and microwaves sensors onboard polar and geostationary satellites



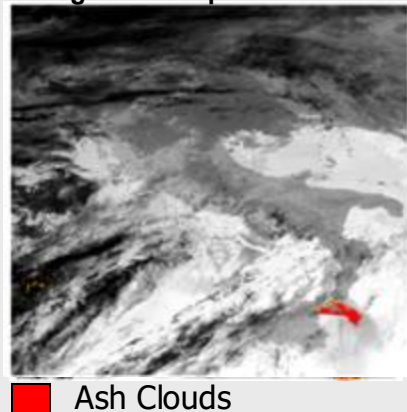
Forest fires

e.g. Fires in Italy, February 2005



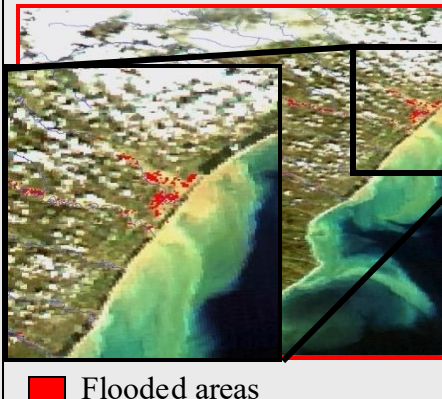
Volcanic Eruptions

e.g. Etna eruption Oct 2002



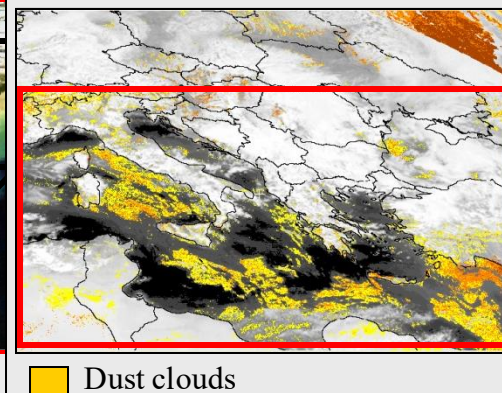
Floods

e.g. Basilicata flood, March 2011



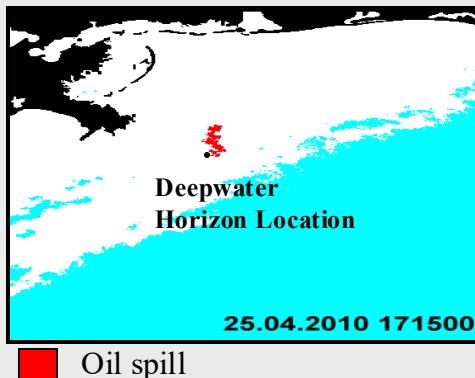
Dust storms

e.g. Libia 13 May 2004



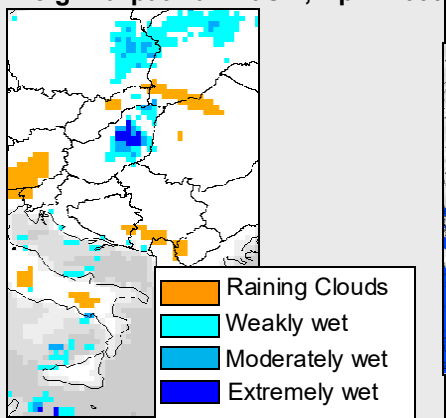
Oil spills

e.g. Oil spill in the Mexico Gulf, April 2010



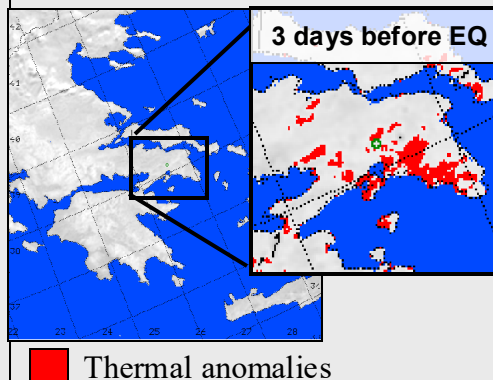
Soil wetness

e.g. Carpathian Basin, April 2000



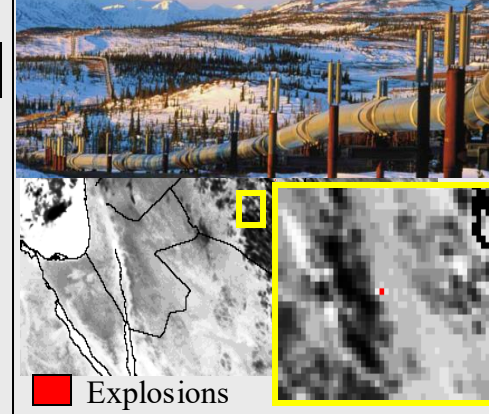
Earthquakes

e.g. 7 September 1999 Athens Earthquake



Infrastructures

e.g. 18 October 2005 IRAQ



25 years of RST Applications

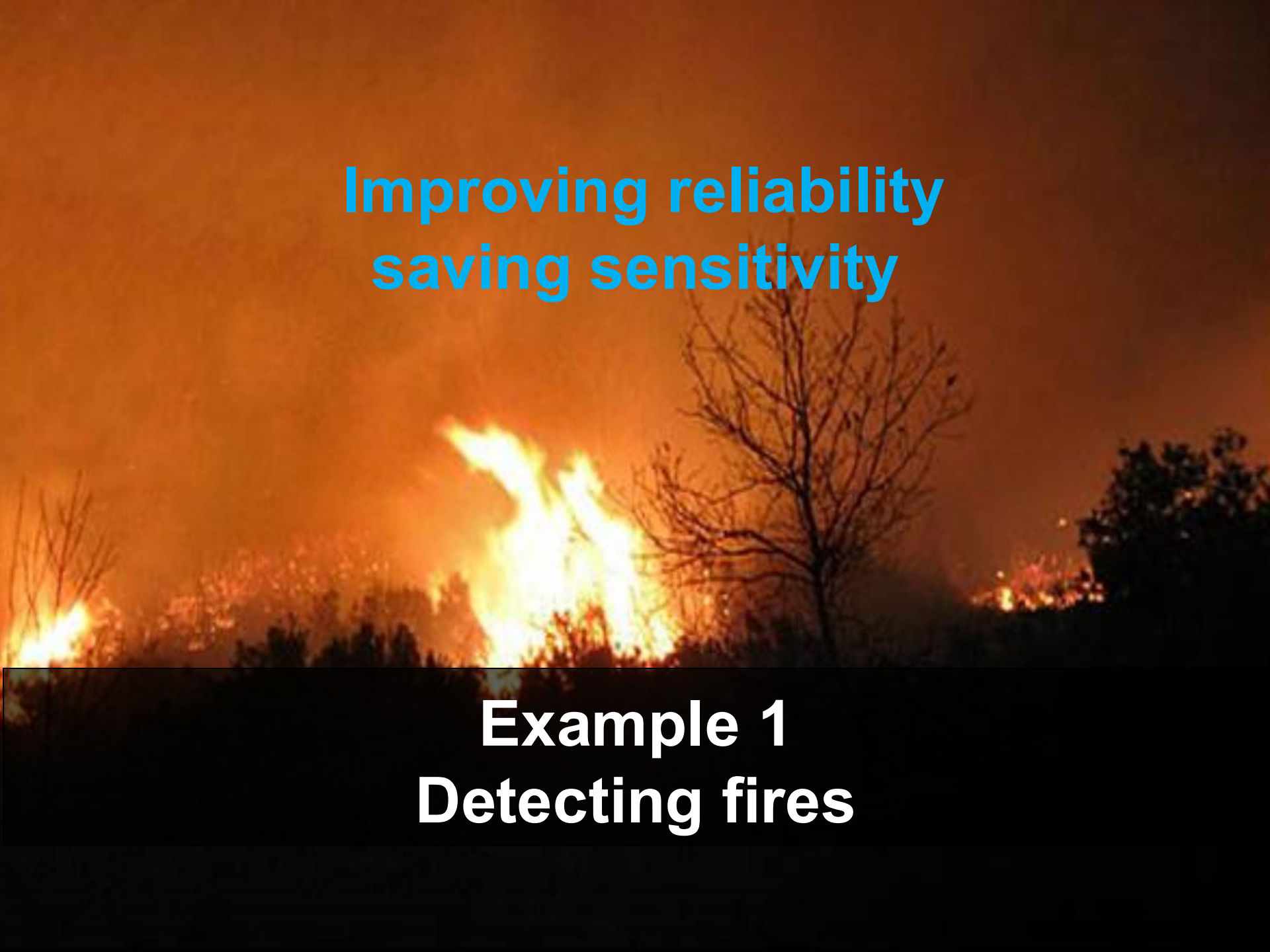


short scale changes (relatively confined in the space and/or in time) to be detected mainly for damages mitigation purposes

- Volcanic eruptions (e.g. *Remote Sens. of Env.*, 2004a, 2004b, 2007, 2011)
- Forest fires detection (e.g. *Remote Sens. of Env.*, 2016, *Int. J. of Rem. Sens.*, 2001)
- Oil spill and water monitoring (*NHESS*, 2011, *Int. J. Rem. Sens.*, 2011, *AGU Books*, 2011)
- Landslides (e.g. *Remote sensing* 2023)
- Radio interference monitoring (e.g. *IEEE-TGRS* 2012, *IGARSS* 2010)
- Energy production and transport systems monitoring (e.g. *GNHR* 2024, *Rem. Sens.* 2020)
- Infrastructures monitoring (e.g. *Nat hazards* 2017, *Springer Verlag Book*, 2009)
- Cloud-detection (e.g. *Atmosph. Research.*, 2004)
- Rapid alert for security purposes (*Multitemp* 2007., *Springer Verlag Book*, 2009)

medium, long scale, changes (in space and/or time) to be analysed in terms of relative trends or as precursor of short scale events

- Saharan dust, air quality and pollution monitoring (e.g. *Rem. Sens.*, 2017, *Acta Astronautica* 2014, *GIGS* 2014)
- Soil Wetness and flood risk monitoring (e.g., *Rem. Sens. Env.*, 2005, 2010a, 2010b, *Phys. Chem. Earth.*, 2006)
- Flood monitoring and mapping (*Int. J. Rem.Sens.*, 2010, *Remote Sensing* 2024)
- Seismic hazard forecast (e.g. *JGR* 2021, *Rem.Sens.Env.*, 2005, *Tectonoph.*, 2007)
- Water quality and pollution monitoring (e.g. *Continental Shelf Research* 2018, *Rem. Sens.* 2018, 2021)

A photograph of a large fire burning at night. The fire is bright yellow and orange, with a large plume of smoke rising from it. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of trees and bushes. The background is dark, and the sky is filled with smoke.

**Improving reliability
saving sensitivity**

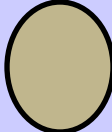
**Example 1
Detecting fires**

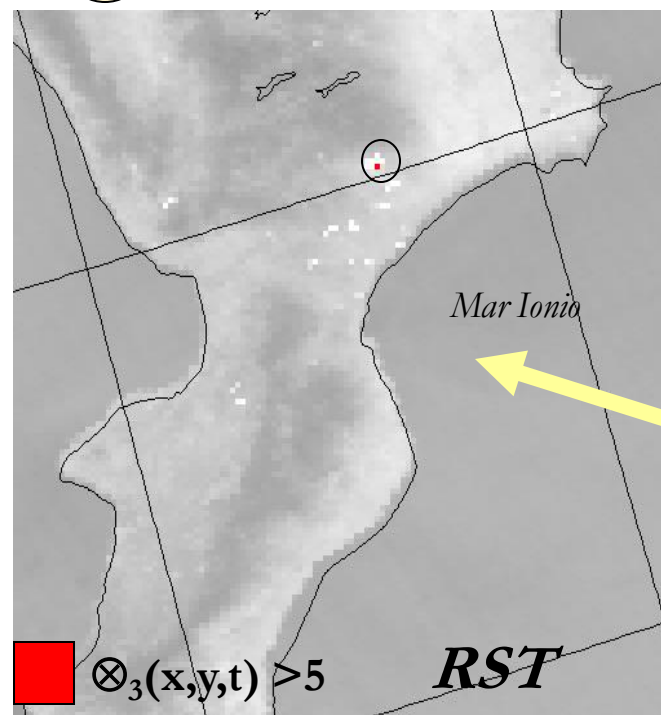
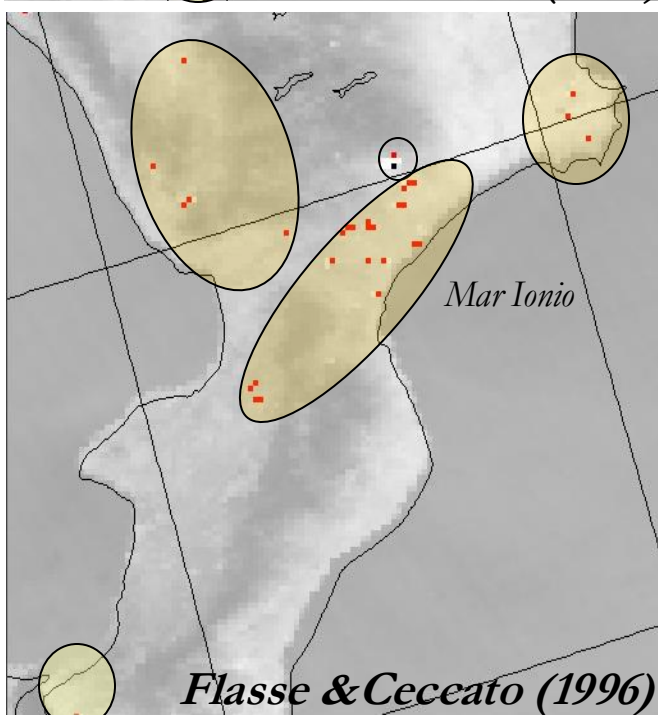
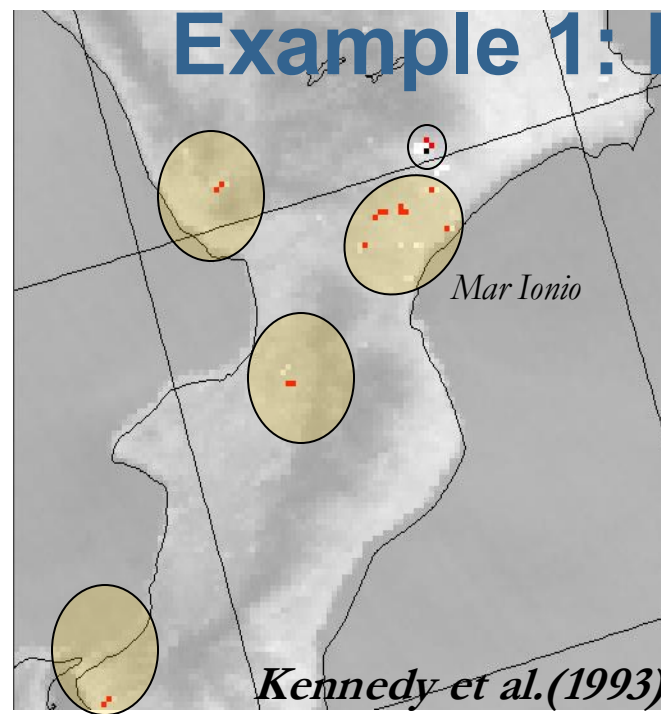
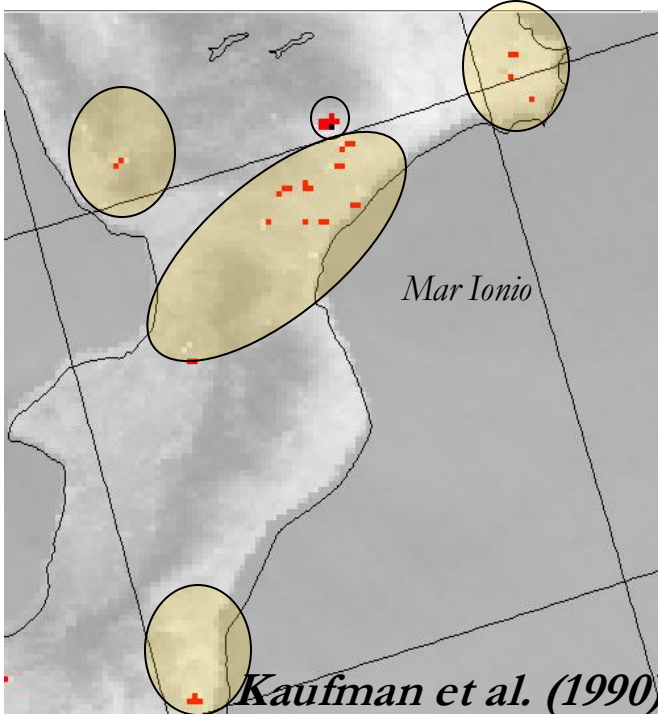
Example 1: Fire Detection

AVHRR – 5th july 2000
15:00 GMT (South Italy)

 Fires detected

 Actual fires

 **FALSE ALARMS**



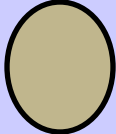
$$\otimes_{MIR}(x,y,t) \equiv \frac{T_{MIR}(x,y,t) - \mu_{MIR}(x,y)}{\sigma_{MIR}(x,y)}$$

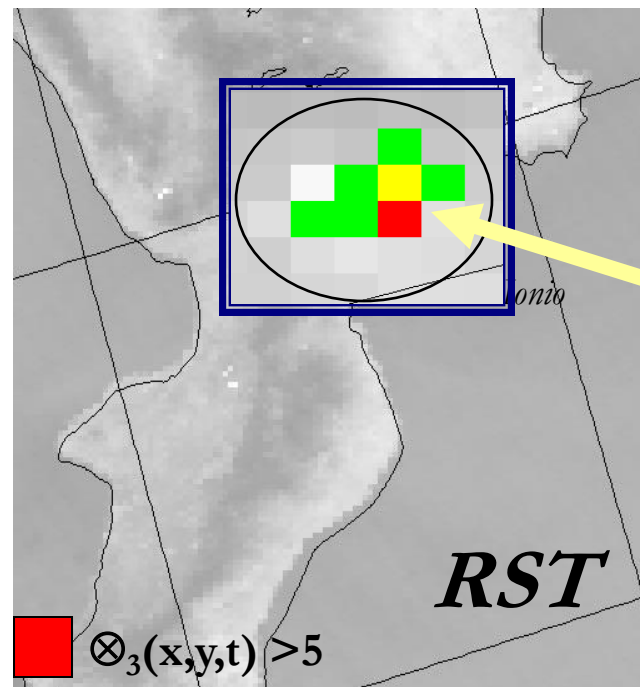
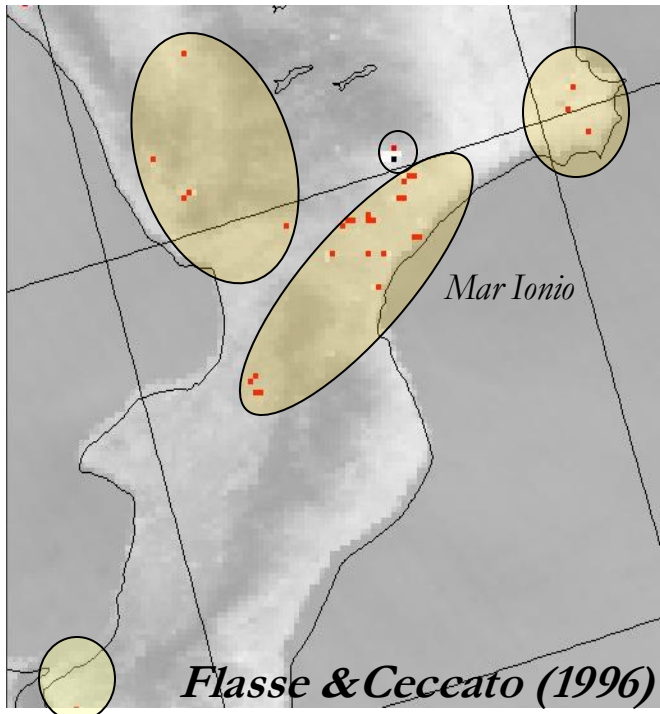
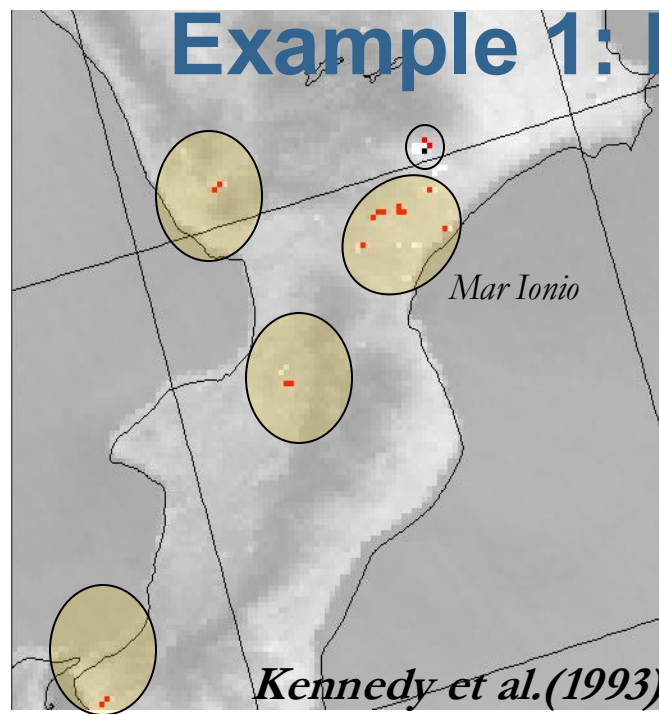
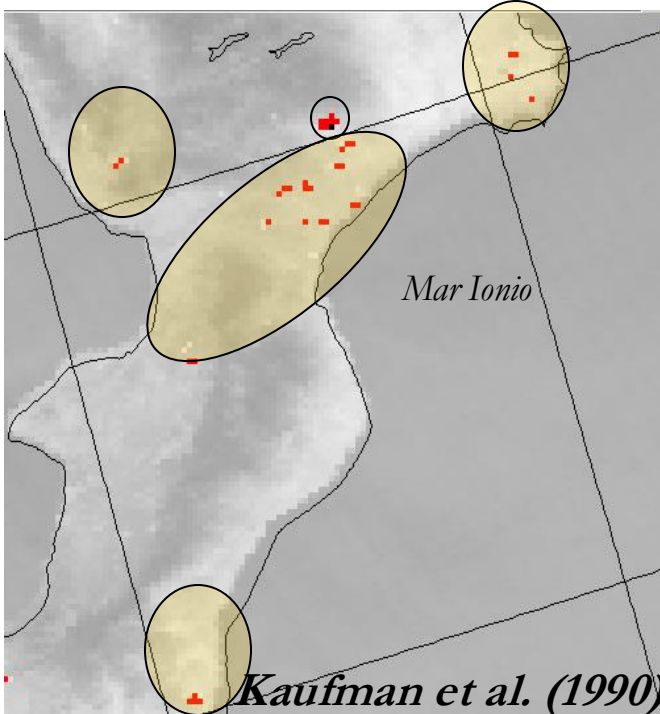
Example 1: Fire Detection

AVHRR – 5th July 2000
15:00 GMT (South Italy)

 Fires detected

 Actual fires

 FALSE ALARMS



**RST tunability:
Thermal structure
description**

 $\otimes_3(x,y,t) > 5$

 $\otimes_3(x,y,t) > 4$

 $\otimes_3(x,y,t) > 3$

Example 1: Fire Detection

Thanks to its «fire-band» (at higher saturation level) EOS/MODIS facilitate reduction of the false positives rate BUT...

$$\otimes_{MIR}(x, y, t) \equiv \frac{T_{MIR}(x, y, t) - \mu_{MIR}(x, y)}{\sigma_{MIR}(x, y)}$$



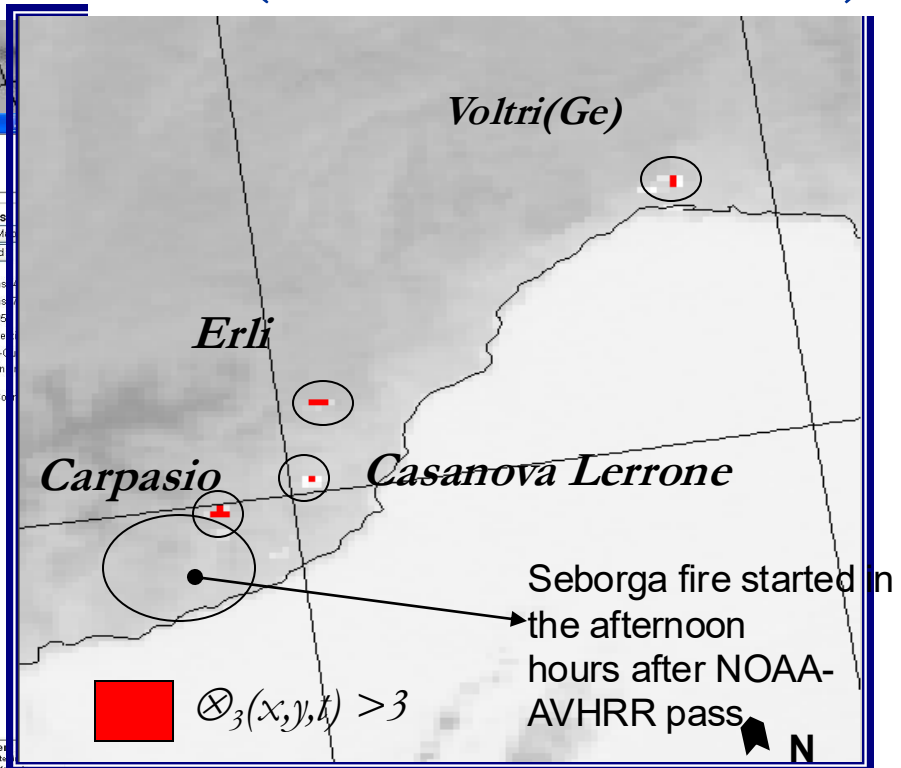
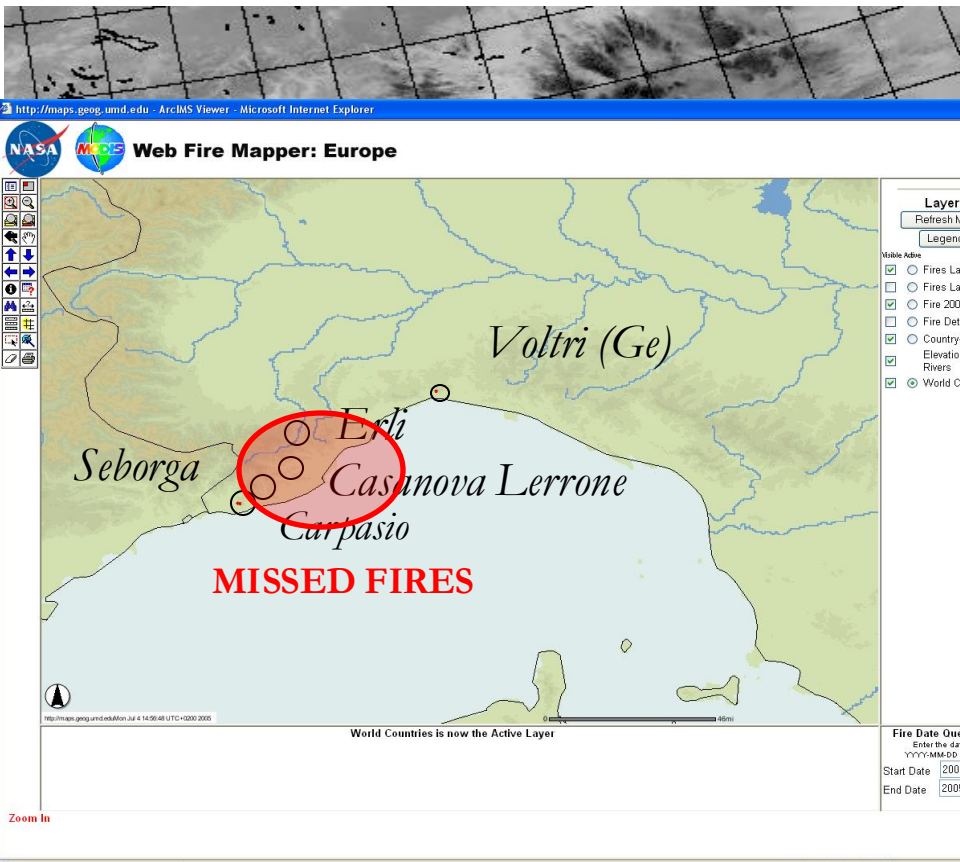
EOS-MODIS (MOD14-algorithm)

North-Italy WINTER (17 Feb 2005 24 h)

AVHRR – 17th February 2005

15:00 GMT (South Italy)

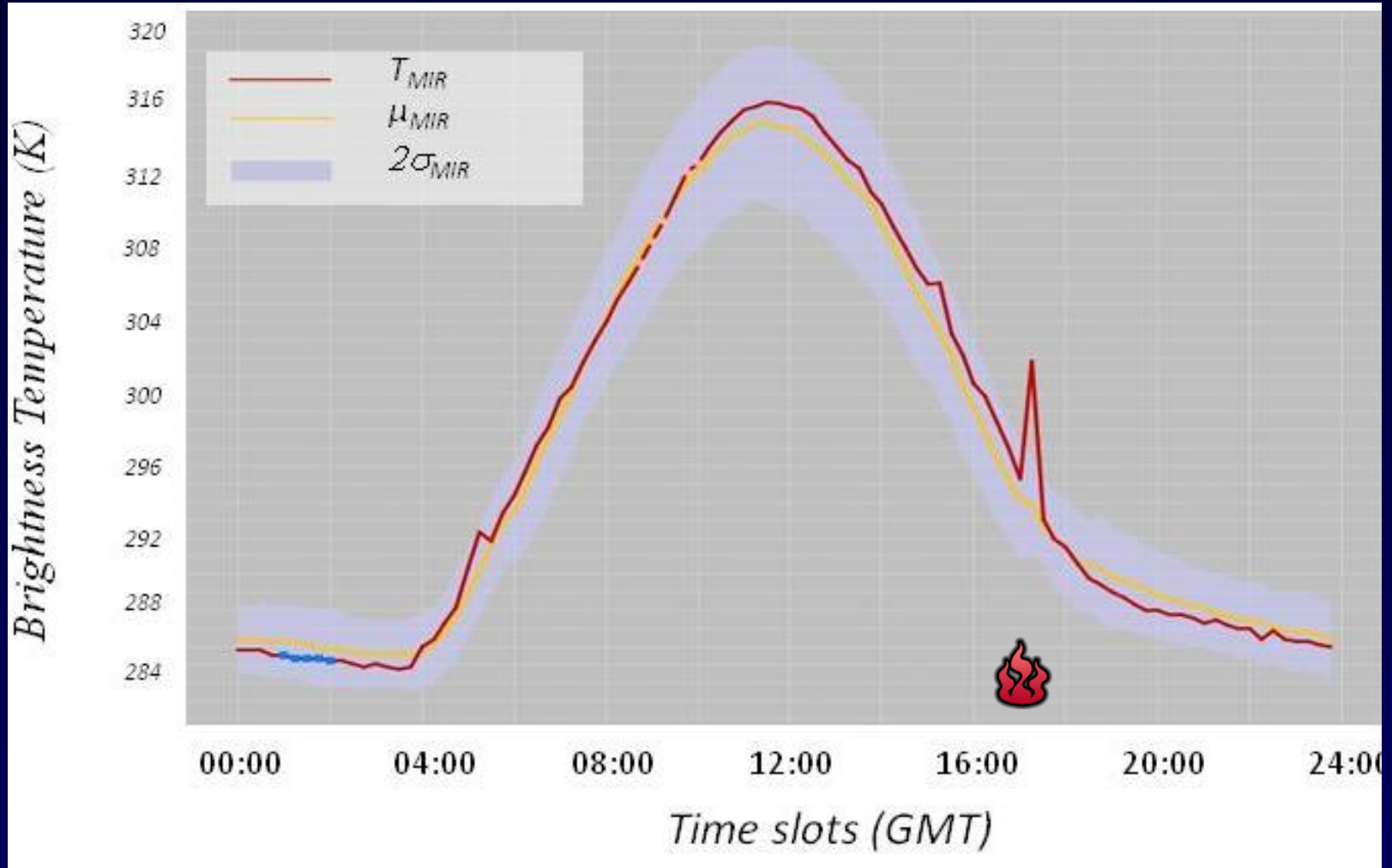
RST (AVHRR at 1:00 GMT)



NO MISSED NO FALSE FIRES

Example 1: Forest fires

(MSG/SEVIRI MIR band)



(Filizzola et al., Remote Sensing of Environment, 2017)

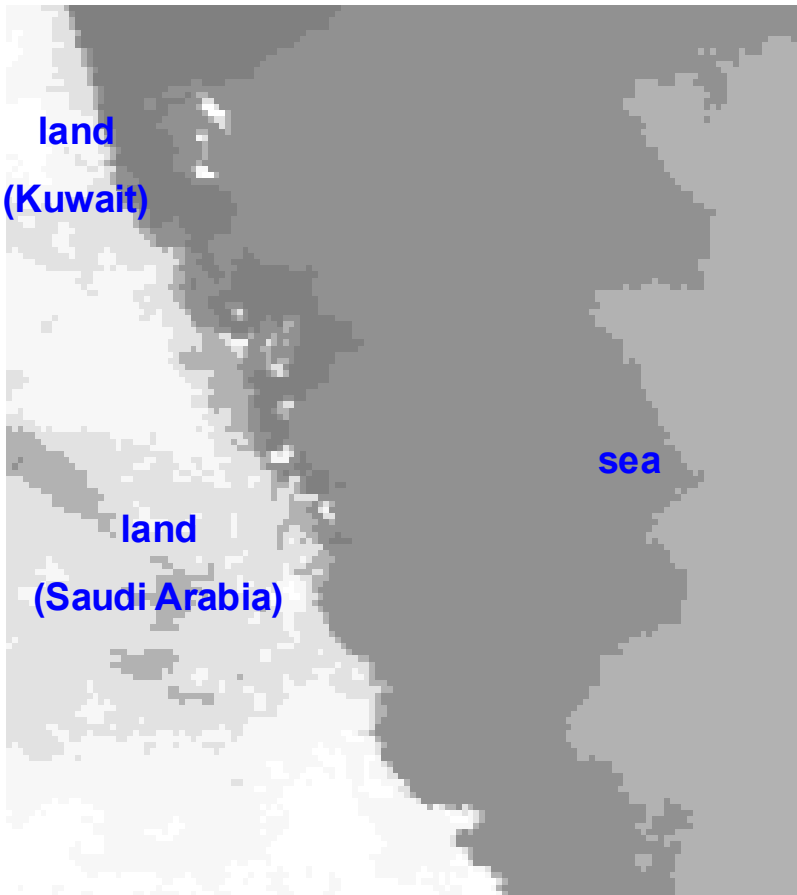
Automatic detection not just mapping



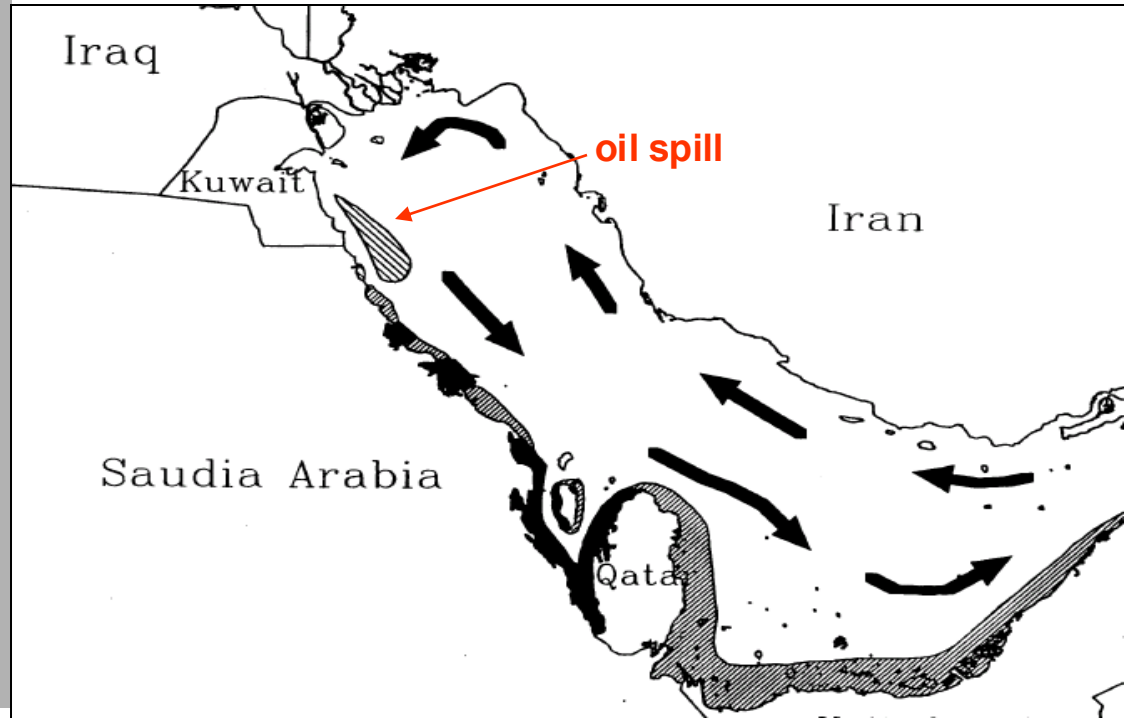
Example 2
Detecting oil spills

Example 2: Oil Spill Detection

Single image processing – Fixed threshold (Cross, 1991)



23 - 30 January 1991 (Gulf War): release of crude oil on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia coasts



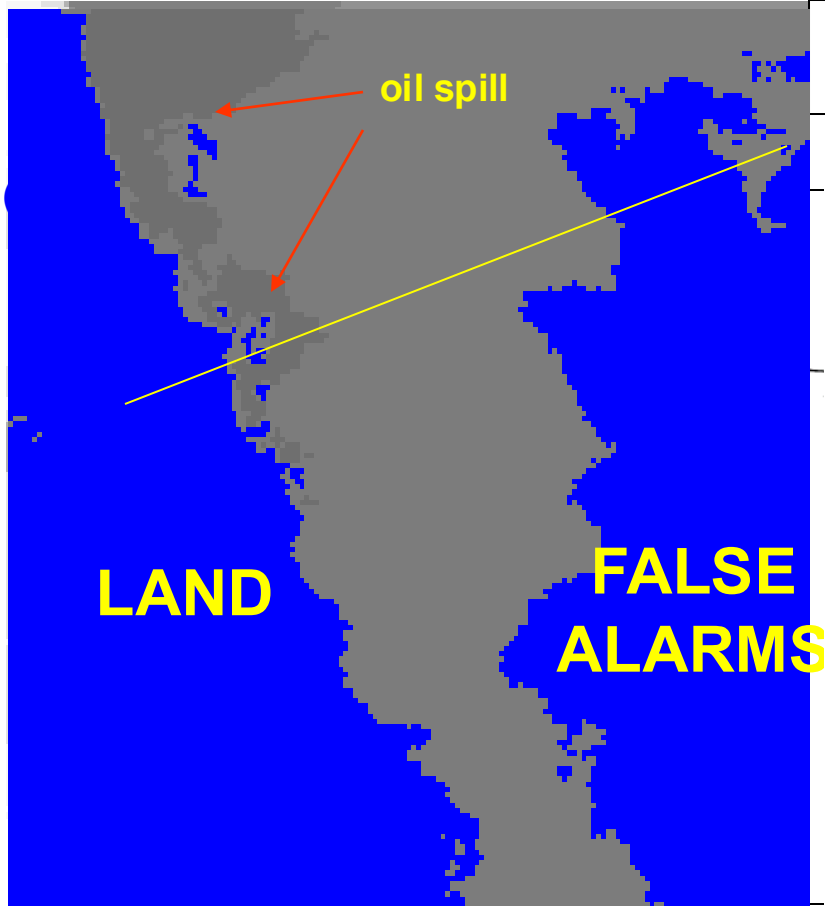
24th January 1991

(NOAA/AVHRR TIR channel 4 – 10:38 GMT)

Example 2: Oil Spill Detection

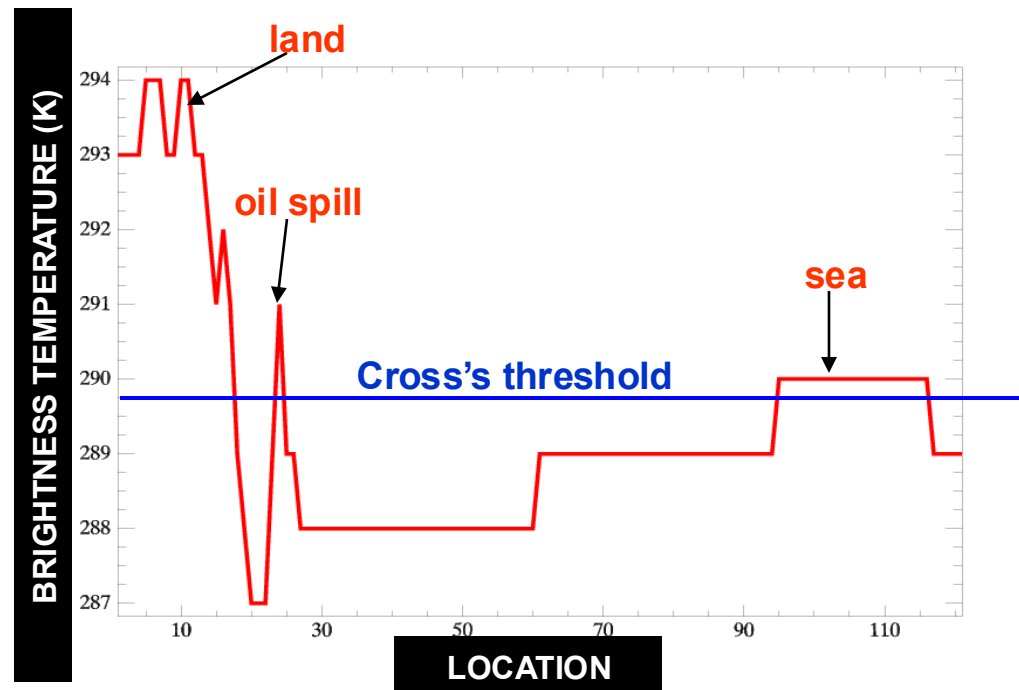
Single image processing – Fixed threshold (Cross, 1991)

■ oil spill if $T_4 > 289.8$ K



24th January 1991
(NOAA/AVHRR TIR channel 4 (11μ) – 10:38 GMT)

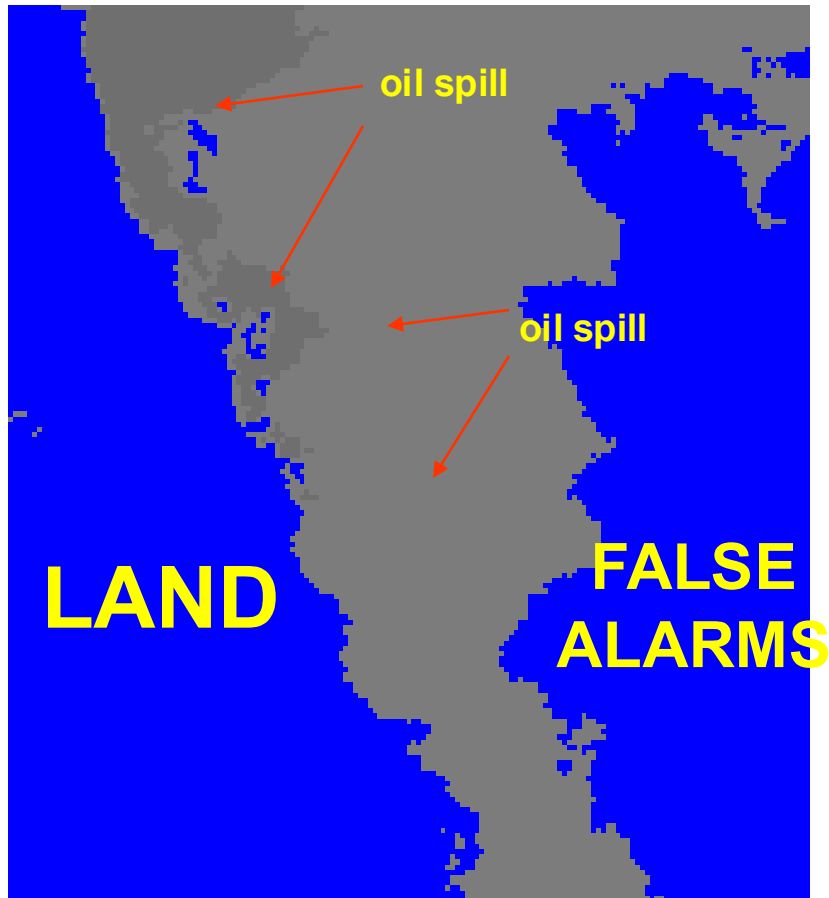
23 - 30 January 1991 (Gulf War): release of crude oil on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia coasts



Example 2: Oil Spill Detection

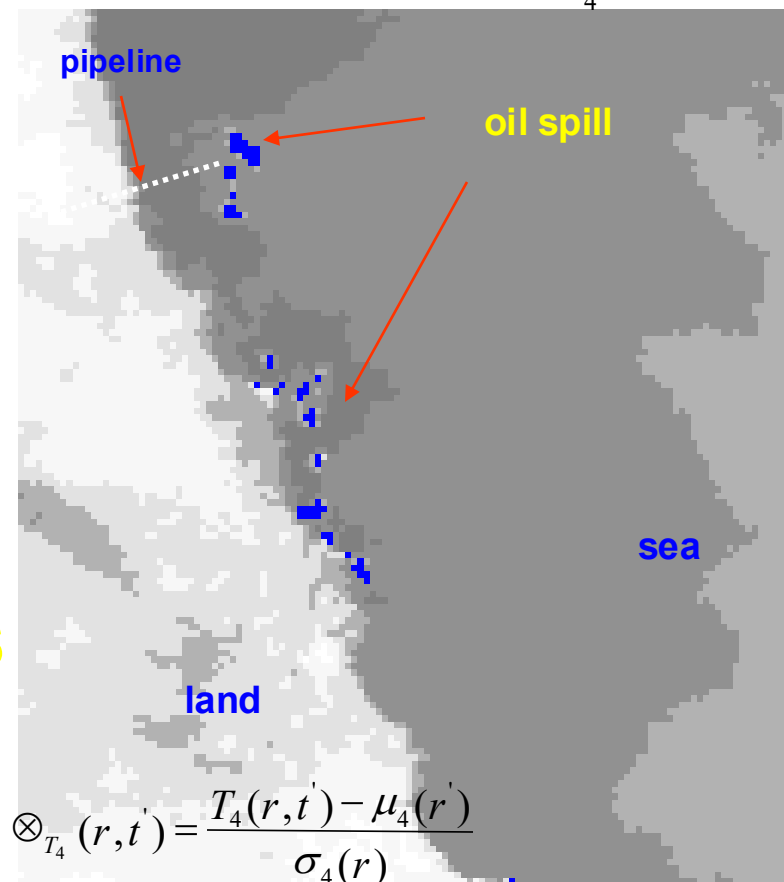
23 - 30 January 1991 (Gulf War): release of crude oil on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia coast)

Cross (1991) ■ $T_4 > 289.8 \text{ K}$



1991- 01- 24
(channel 4 AVHRR - 10.38 GMT)

RST ■ $\otimes_{T_4} > 5$



1991- 01- 24
(channel 4 AVHRR - 10.38 GMT)

NO FALSE
ALARMS

AUTOMATIC
DETECTION
(NOT JUST
MAPPING)



Again fixed threshold issues

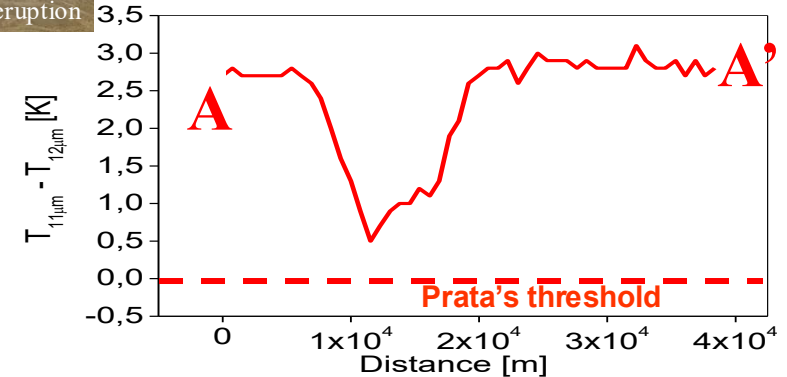
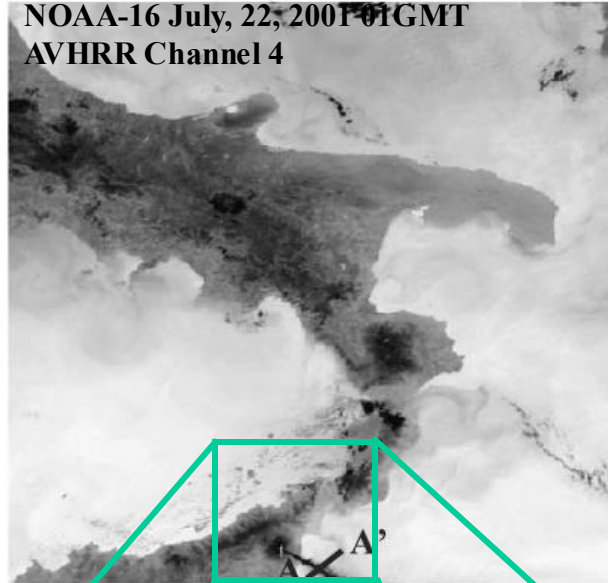
AFP/GETTY

Example 3: Detecting and monitoring volcanic ash clouds

A NASA satellite image taken on Saturday May 10 2010 shows the ash plume drifting from Iceland.

Example 3: Ash Cloud Detection

Traditional methods (Prata, 1989)



$$\Delta T = T_{11\mu m} - T_{12\mu m} < 0 \text{ K}$$

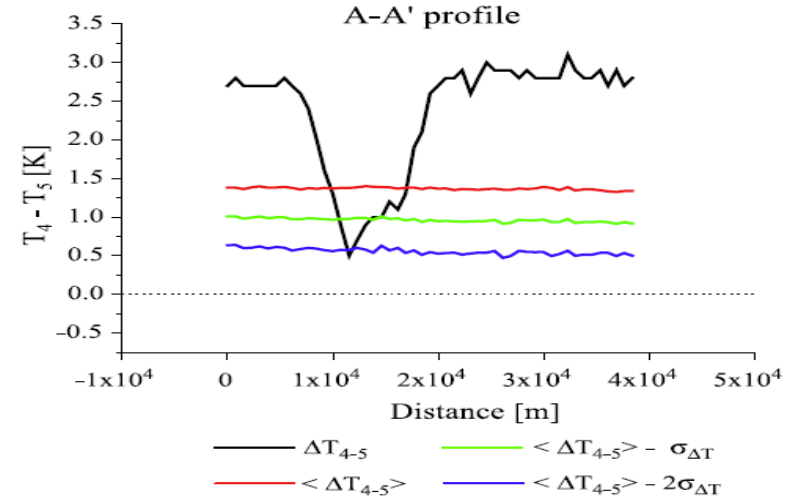
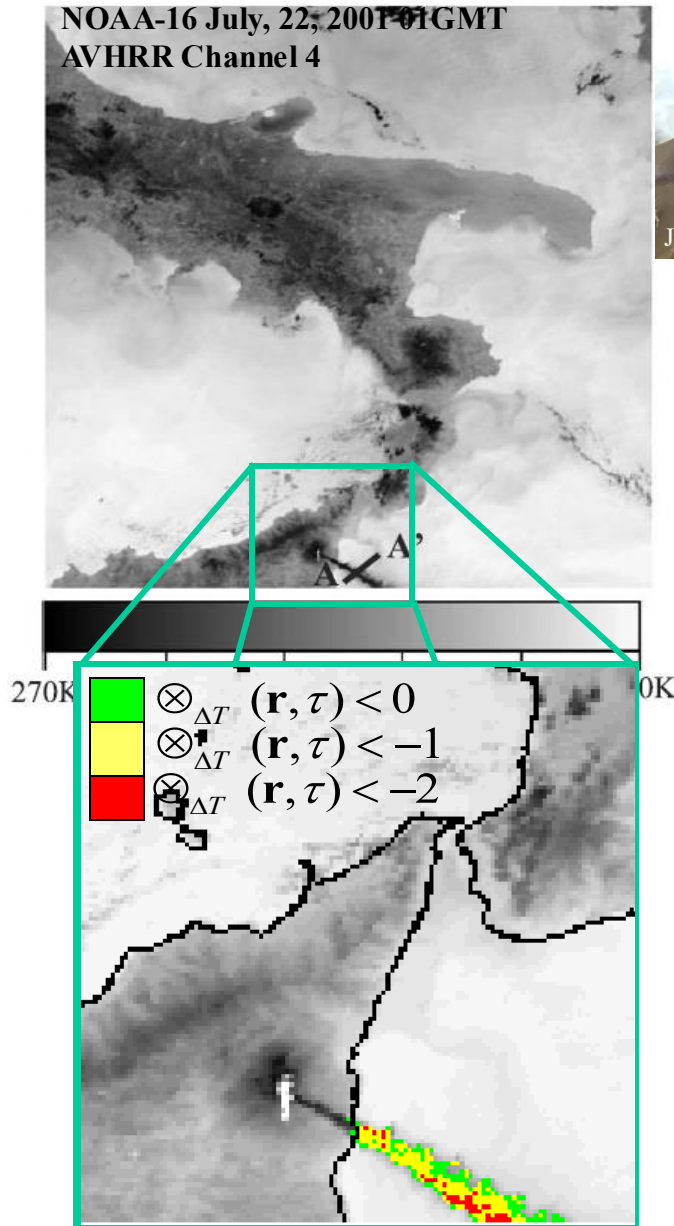
e.g. Prata, 1989

Traditional fixed threshold methods

NO DETECTION!!

Example 3: Ash Cloud Detection

RST

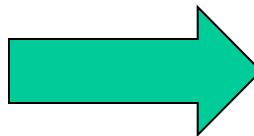


$$\otimes_{\Delta T}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{[\Delta T(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mu_{\Delta T}(\mathbf{r})]}{\sigma_{\Delta T}(\mathbf{r})}$$

RST

$$\Delta T(\mathbf{r}, t) = T_{11\mu}(\mathbf{r}, t) - T_{12\mu}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

DETECTION AND
TUNABILITY!



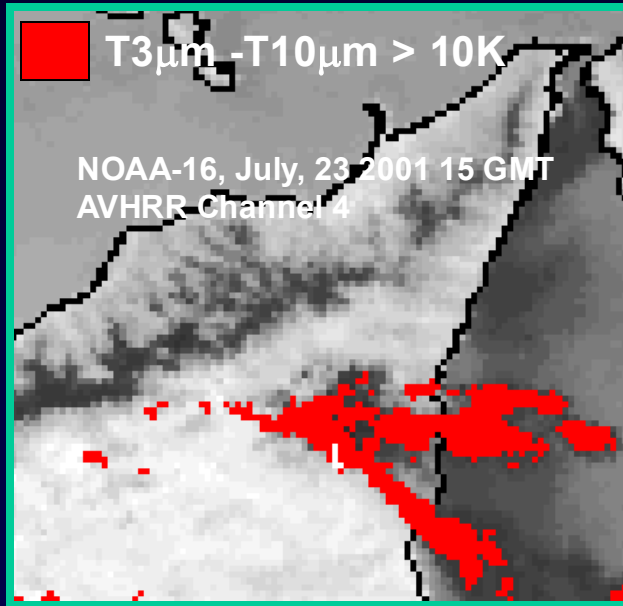


**Improving reliability
saving sensitivity**

**Example 4
Monitoring lava flows**

Example 4:

Monitoring lava flows

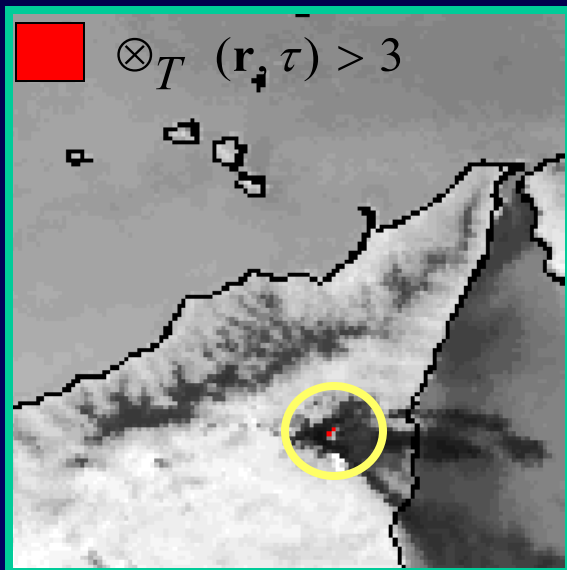


Traditional Methods (Harris et al. , 1995)

$$\Delta T = T_{3\mu m} - T_{11\mu m} > 10K$$



FALSE DETECTIONS



$$\otimes_{T_{3\mu m}} (\mathbf{r}, \tau) = \frac{|T_{3\mu m}(\mathbf{r}, \tau) - \mu_{T_{3\mu m}}(\mathbf{r})|}{\sigma_{T_{3\mu m}}(\mathbf{r})}$$

RST



NO FALSE DETECTIONS!

Example 4: Monitoring lava flows

■ $T_{MIR} - T_{TIR} > 10\text{ K}$

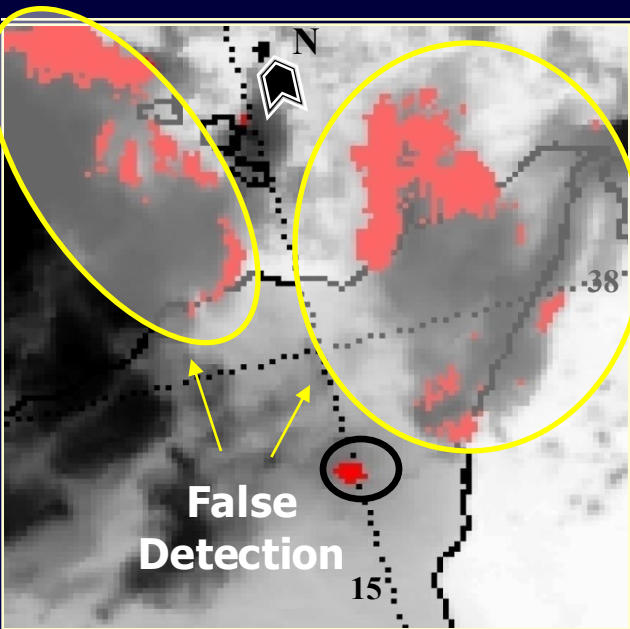
$\mu_{MIR-TIR}$ spatial averages

$\sigma_{MIR-TIR}$

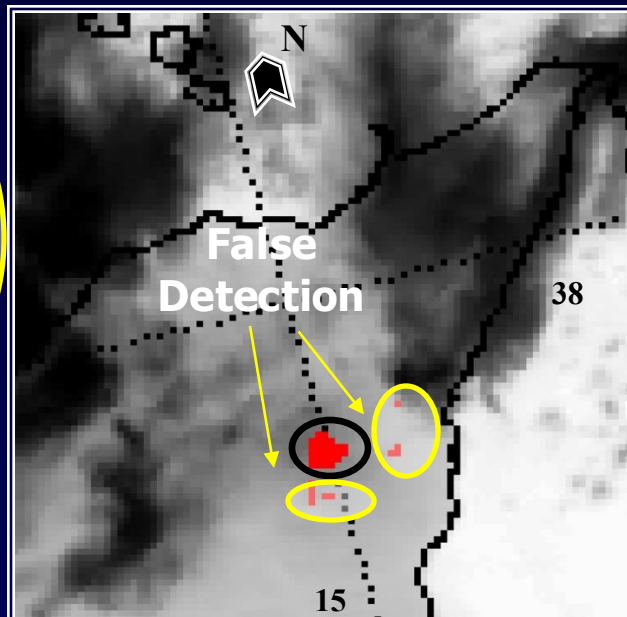
■ $\frac{|(T_{MIR} - T_{TIR}) - \mu_{MIR-TIR}|}{\sigma_{MIR-TIR}} > 3$

■ $\otimes_{T_{3\mu m}}(\mathbf{r}, \tau) = \frac{|T_{3\mu m}(\mathbf{r}, \tau) - \mu_{T_{3\mu m}}(\mathbf{r})|}{\sigma_{T_{3\mu m}}(\mathbf{r})}$

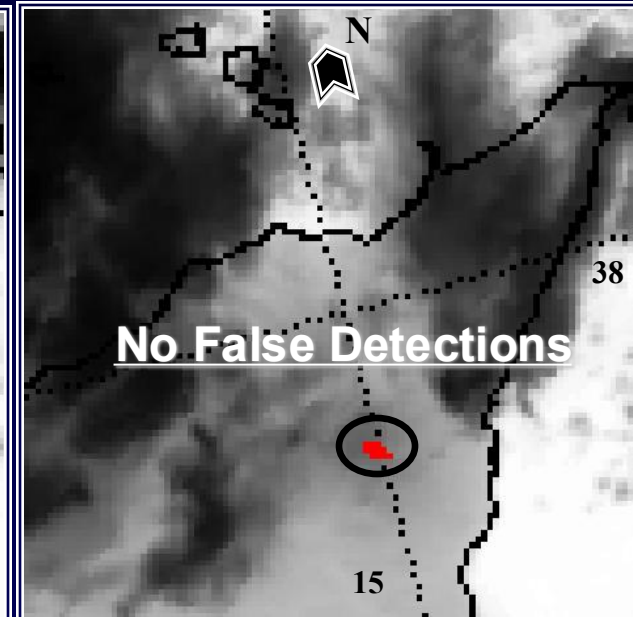
■ $\otimes_3(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{t}) > 3$



Multichannel fixed threshold Techniques (e.g. Harris et al. 1995)



Contextual algorithms (Kaneko, 2002)



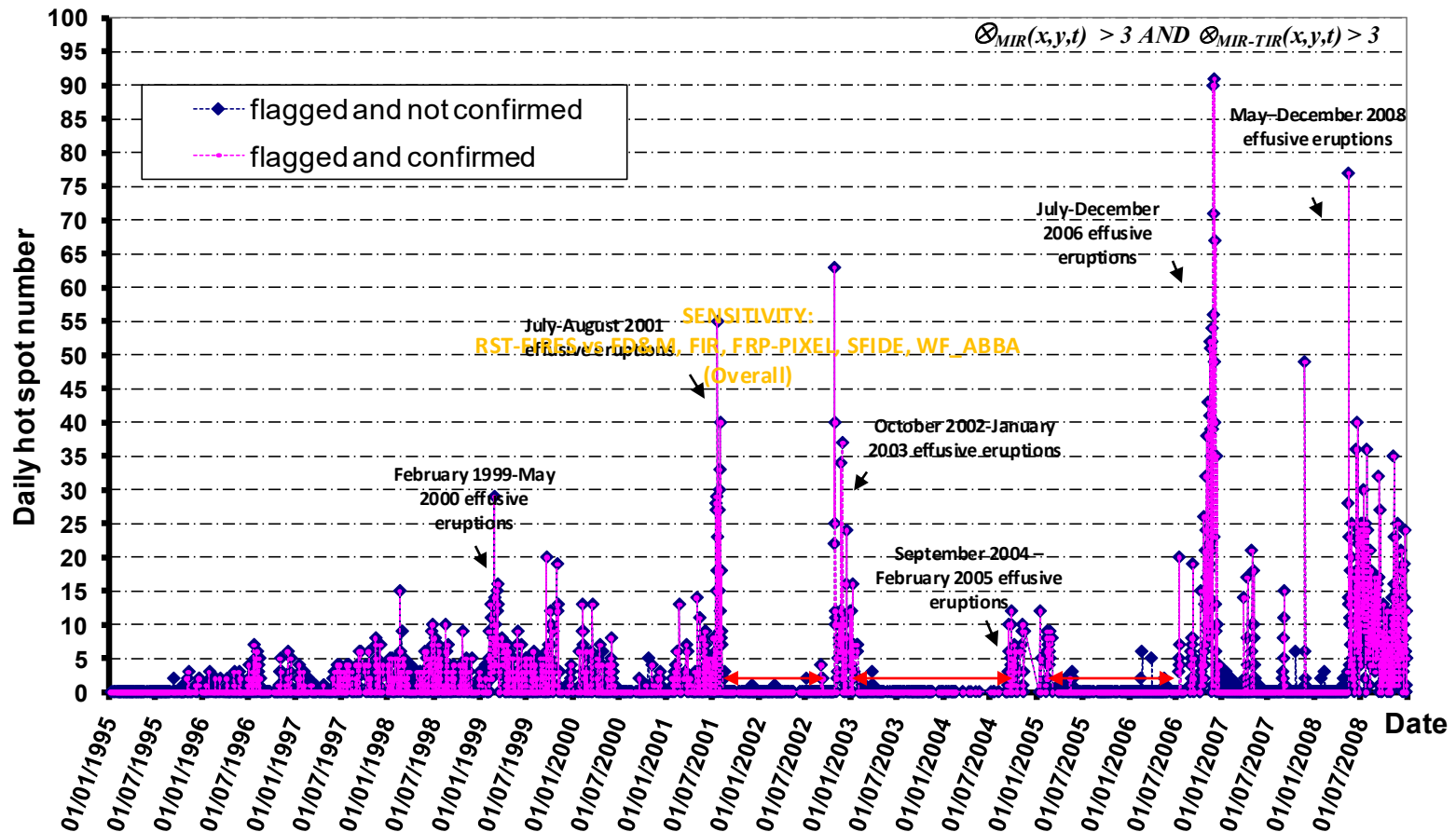
RST

(12 February 1999 around h01 GMT)

Reliability

RST_{VOLC} vs volcanological bulletins at Mt. Etna (1995-2008)

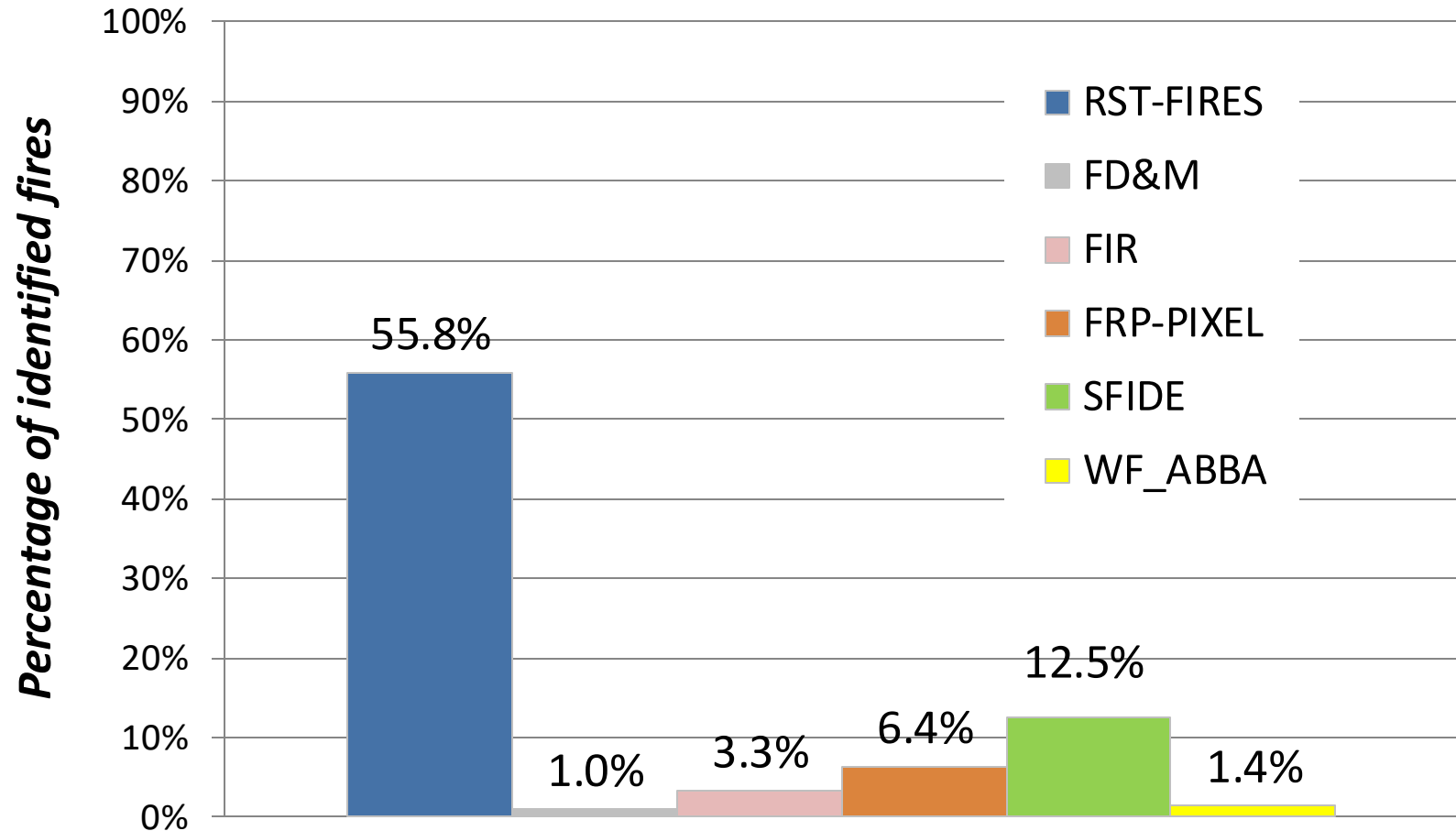
High trade-off between reliability/sensitivity of detection



False positive rate < 1 %

Sensitivity

RST_{FIRES} vs FD&M, FIR, FRP-PIXEL, SFIDE, WF_ABBA
after aerial and ground surveys in Lombardy Basilicata and Sicily



Filizzola et al., 2016 *Remote Sensing of Environment*

RST-FIRES operational implementation in Italian Regions (Sicily 2008, MSG-SEVIRI)

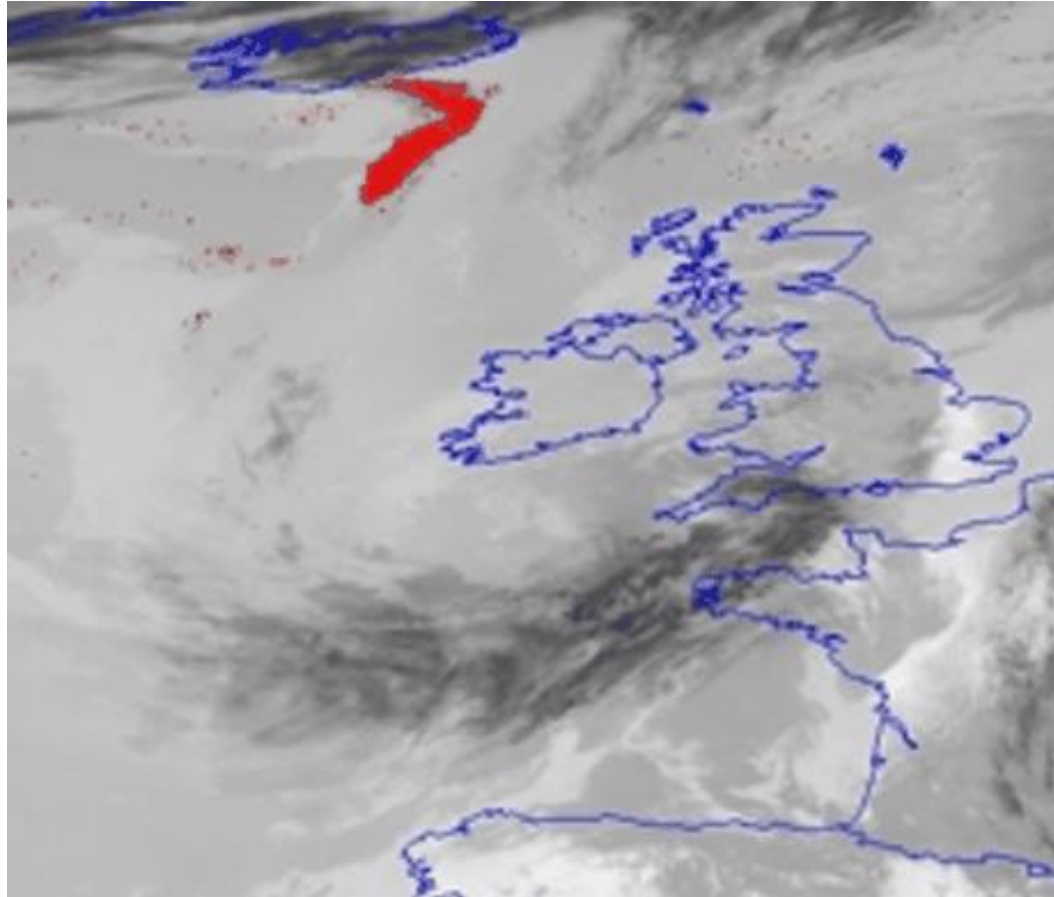
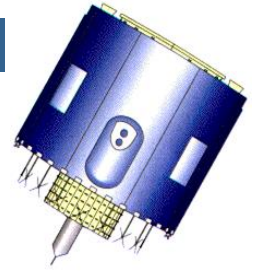
S. Giuseppe Jato, 10 september 2008, pyromaniacs caught



Exportability

RST_{ASH} implementation on MSG-SEVIRI

Eyjafjallajökull eruption - II phase

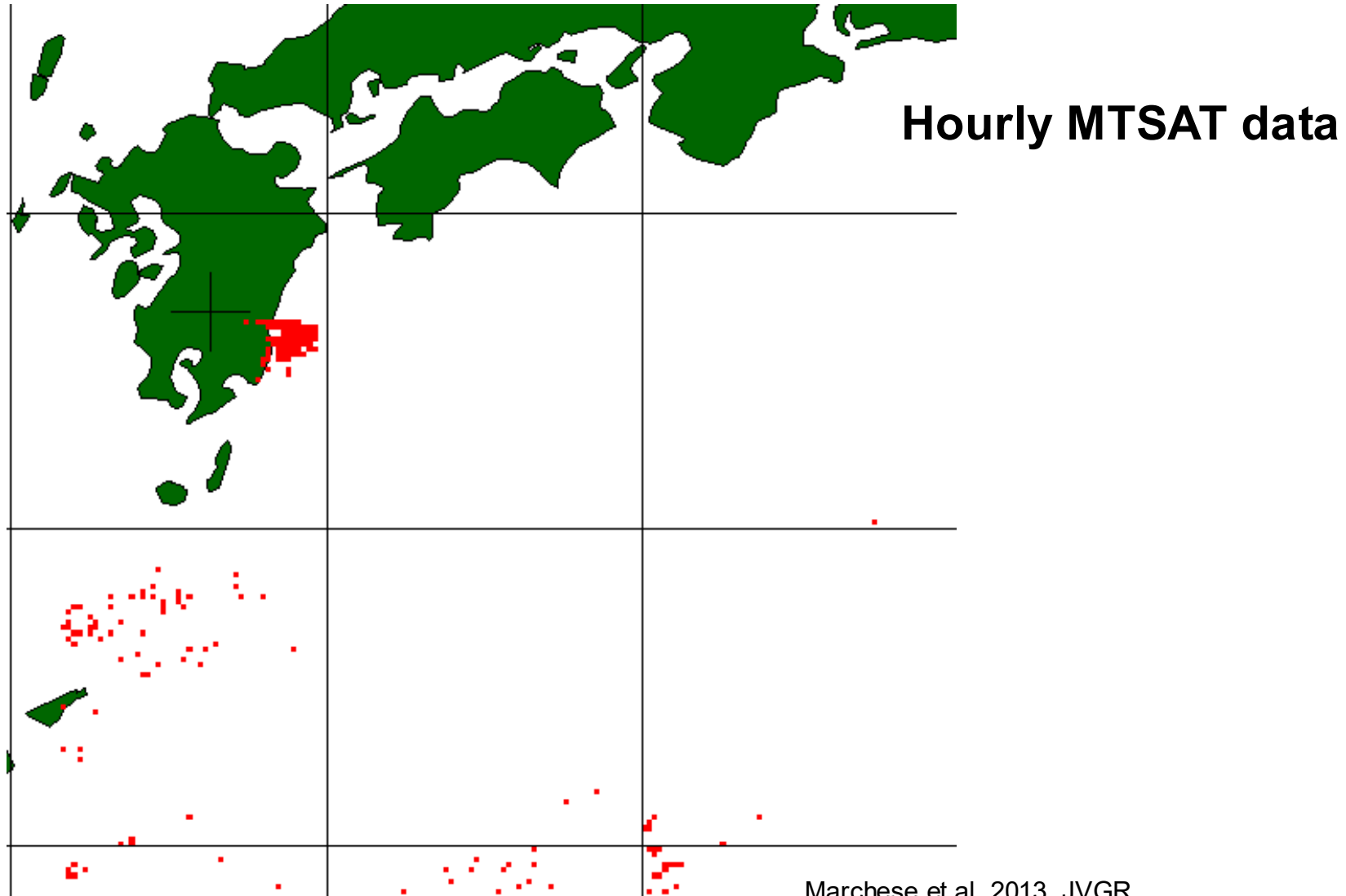


From 06/05/2010 to 16/05/2010 (@ synoptic hours)

Exportability

RST_{ASH} implementation on MTSAT

Shinmoedake (Japan) eruption of 26-27 January 2011



CONCLUSIONI

Risultato chiave: Satelliti meteorologici (in particolare geostazionari) per il monitoraggio continuo di eventi rapidi

Lesson learnt / best practice: L'utilizzo di tecniche RST efficace nel migliorare contemporaneamente sensibilità e affidabilità delle tecniche di change-detection (intrinsecamente esportabile su aree geografiche e sensori diversi e facilmente implementabile per l'on-board processing)

Idea progettuale o tema di R&D che si propone per future iniziative: Sviluppo di un sistema integrato per il monitoraggio continuo e a grande scala dei territori per il riconoscimento tempestivo dei cambiamenti a breve (anche con integrazione Geostazionari con costellazione di 50+ VHR microsattelliti) e medio termine

Requisito utente o necessità di downstream non ancora soddisfatte: Controllo sistematico del territorio (reati ambientali, sovvenzioni in agricoltura, incidenti industriali, incendi, eruzioni vulcaniche, inondazioni, oil spills, inquinamento dell'aria, etc.)

RAT/RST people (differently contributing to this work)



**C. Filizzola
R. Colonna
N. Genzano
E. Ciancia
N. Pergola
F. Marchese
V. Satriano
G. Mazzeo
MP. Faruolo
A. Falconieri
C. Pietrapertosa
M. Lisi
T. Lacava**

THANKS

