

Analysis of Interferometric Radar Data in a Queensland, Australia Tropical Rain Forest



by

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NASA/ **JPL** AIRSAR RADAR



- NASA/JPL operates a multi-frequency fully polarimetric mapping radar onboard a DC-8 aircraft.
- Typically the radar flies at 8000 m (24000 ft) above the ground and collects data in swath about 10 km wide. The radar simultaneously collects data from multiple frequencies and is capable of making interferometric radar measurements.

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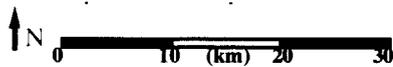
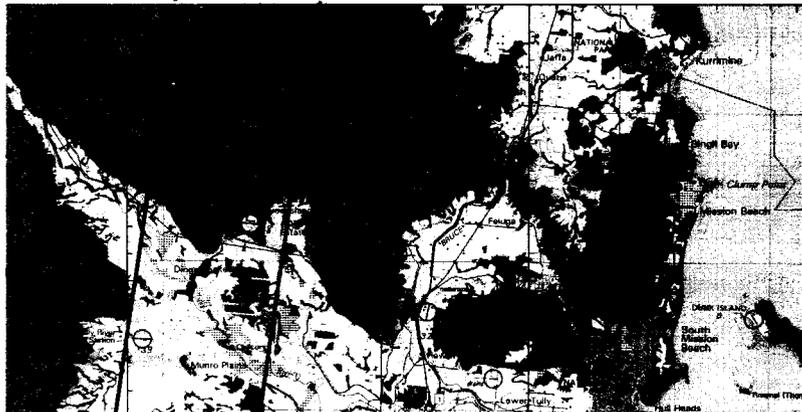
TOPSAR/AIRSAR Data Collected



- 3 pairs of flight lines were collected near Tully in northern Queensland over the same site with headings of 11° and 191° .
- Data was collected using C-band and L-band Ping-Pong TOPSAR modes and the polarimetric P-band mode.
- Multiple flight lines at P-band collected for repeat pass interferometry and classification studies.

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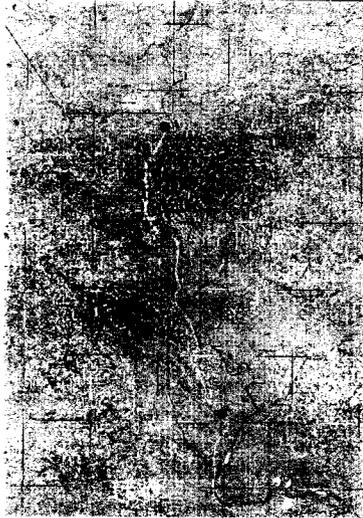
Tully Region



|| Region Mapped by Radar

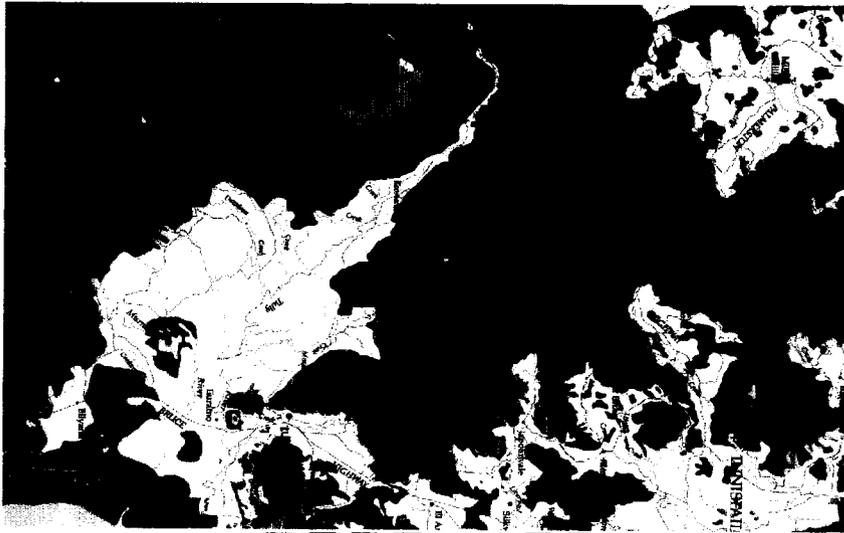
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Tone Generator Locations



● Tone Generator Deployment

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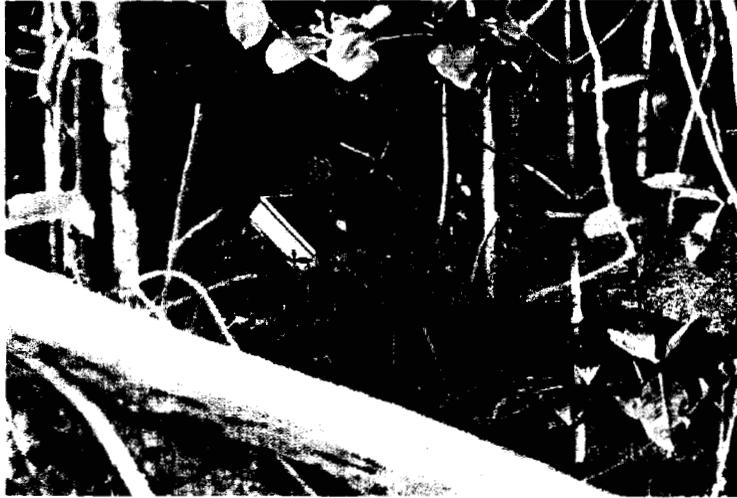


Wet Tropics Classification Map

- Cleared
- Medium and Low Woodlands
- Nitrophyll
- Vine Forest
- Medium Open Forest
- Mesophyll
- Vine Forest
- Tall Woodland
- Low Woodland
- Cleared Forest
- Cleared Forests with Acacia

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Typical Tone Generator Deployment



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Earles Court



- Trees varied from 15 - 25 m surrounding clearing in forest at Earles Court.

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Medium Density Canopy



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Ground and Crown of Low Density Canopy



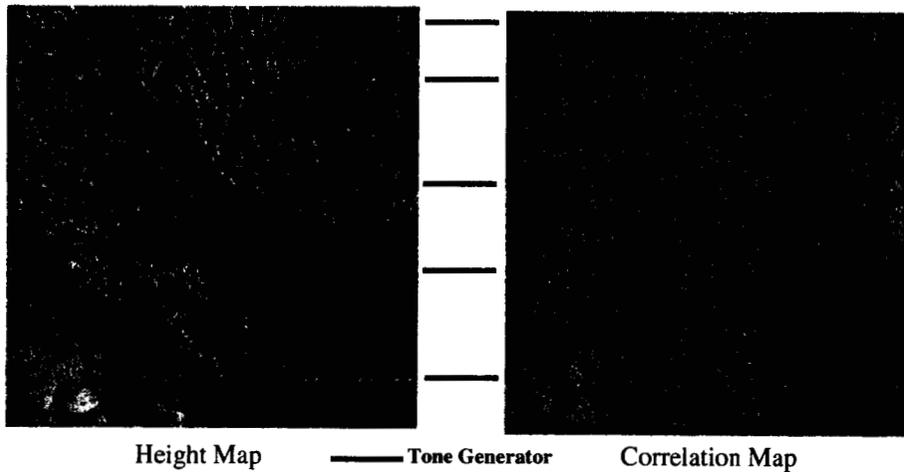
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Thick Canopy



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C-band Tone Generator Detection



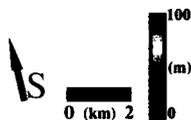
- Five C-band Tone Generators were deployed and all five were detected even in locations with 80% canopy closure.

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Height Maps - Before and After RFI Removal Innisfail L-Band Ping-Pong Data

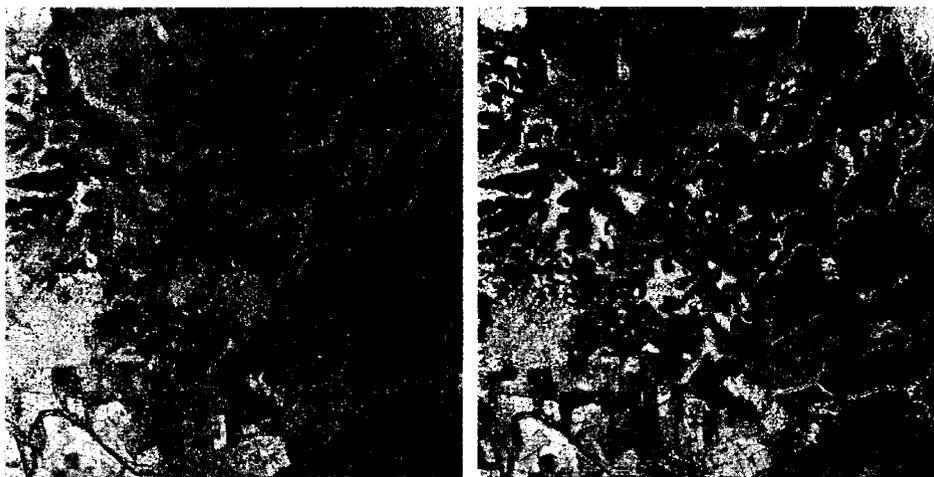


Before RFI (Tone Generators) Removal After RFI (Tone Generators) Removal



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Cleared Region Amplitude Images



C-band Amplitude Image

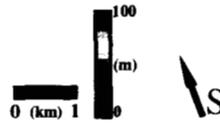
L-band Amplitude Image

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Cleared Region C-band Topographic Map



Very flat agricultural area with readily discernible elevation differences due to vegetation along drainages and in some cultivated areas.



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Cleared Region Correlation Maps



C-band Ping-Pong
Correlation

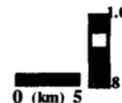


C-band TOPSAR
Correlation



L-band Ping-Pong
Correlation

- Correlation maps used to derive penetration estimates. Note the correlation is strongly linked the vegetation in the scene.

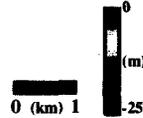


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L-Band - C-Band TOPSAR Heights in Cleared Region

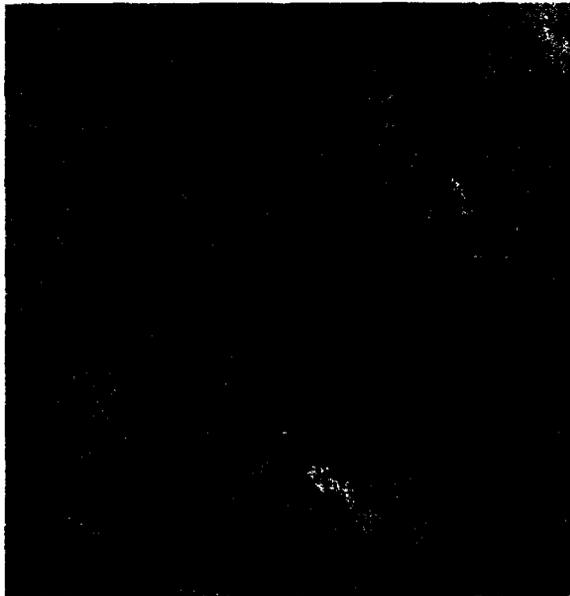


- Height difference of L-band Ping-Pong with C-band Ping-Pong heights in area south of Tully site.
- Vegetation in this area is mostly agricultural (sugar cane) with sporadic tree growth.
- Mean height difference in vegetated region is approximately 0 m except in vegetated areas.

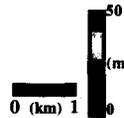


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“Tree Height” Estimated from Correlation For Cleared Region

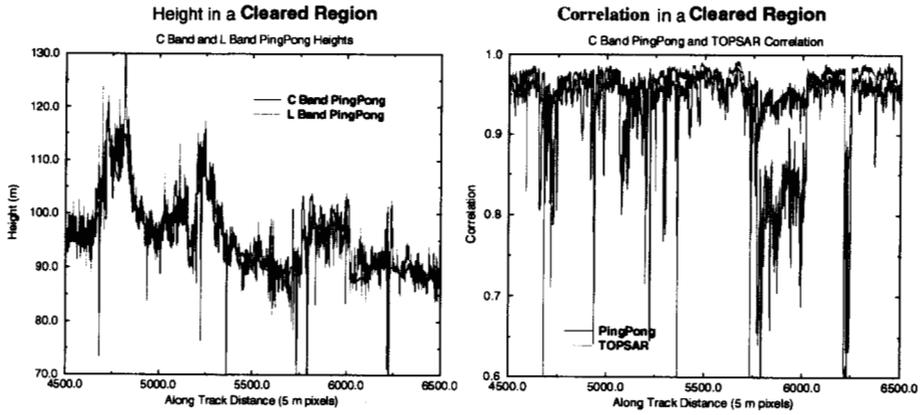


- Tree height is scaled standard deviation from correlation estimates to give rough vegetation height estimate.
- Vegetation in this area is mostly agricultural (sugar cane) with sporadic tree growth.
- Mean vegetation height in vegetated areas is approximately 5 m.

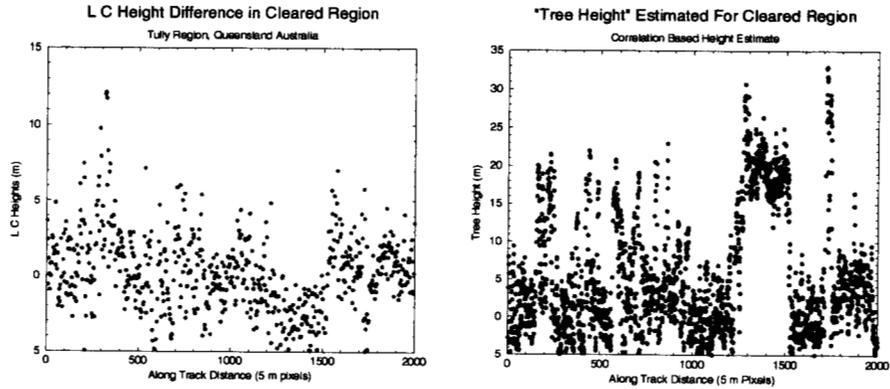




Height and Correlation Comparisons for Cleared Region

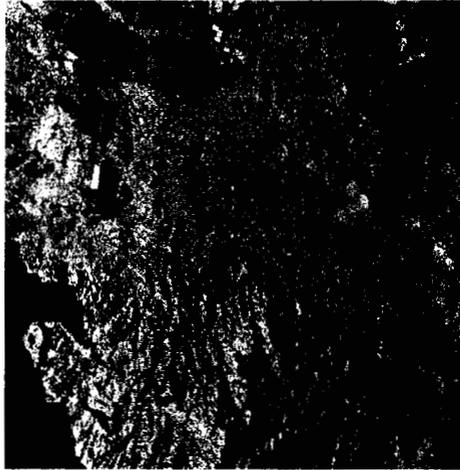


Penetration and Tree Height Estimates for Cleared Region

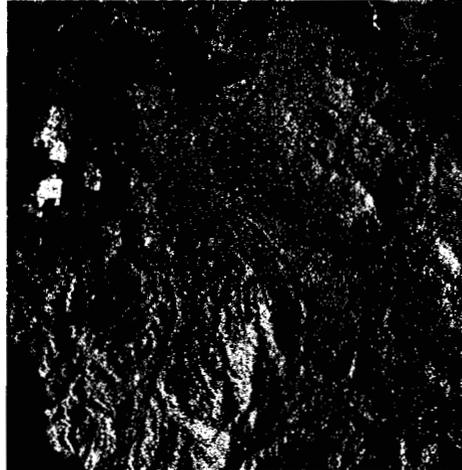


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Tropical Forest Amplitude Images



C-band Amplitude Image



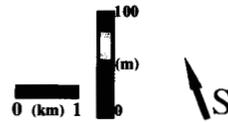
L-band Amplitude Image

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Tropical Region C-band Topographic Map



Dense tropical forest with relatively flat area along Jarra Creek between the Table Top and Walter Hill Ranges. Although these ranges are of modest elevation the average slope is quite large in some areas.

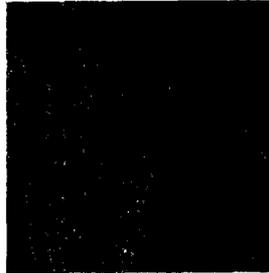


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Tropical Forest Correlation Maps



C-band Ping-Pong
Correlation

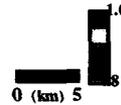


C-band TOPSAR
Correlation



L-band Ping-Pong
Correlation

- Correlation maps used to derive penetration estimates. Note the correlation is strongly linked the vegetation in the scene.

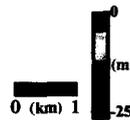


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L-Band - C-Band TOPSAR Heights in Tropical Forest



- Height difference of L-band Ping-Pong with C-band Ping-Pong heights at the Tully site.
- Vegetation height in this area varies from 25-35 m.
- Area covered by multi-layered dense tropical forest.
- Mean height difference in vegetated region is approximately 3 m.

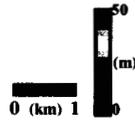


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“Tree Height” Estimated from Correlation For Tropical Forest

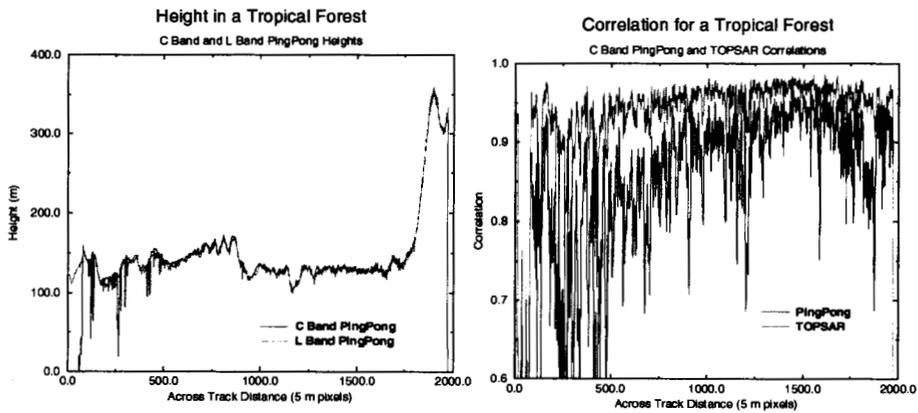


- Tree height is scaled standard deviation from correlation estimates to give rough vegetation height estimate.
- Vegetation in this area is tropical rain forest where tree heights range from 25-35 m.
- Mean vegetation height in vegetated areas is approximately 20 m.



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Height and Correlation Comparisons for Tropical Forest





Penetration and Tree Height Estimates for Tropical Forest

