

## Lessons Learned from SIR-C Calibration

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*Abstract* -- In 1994 NASA/JPL flew the first spaceborne, polarimetric, multi-frequency SAR system on board the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Calibration of the data products produced by this system was a challenging task, which involved a great deal of experiment. Initial requirements were set through interactions with the SIR-C science team. Algorithms and techniques for calibrating polarimetric SAR were field-tested using airborne SAR campaigns prior to the two SIR-C flights in 1994. Measurements were made during system test and some repeated in flight.

In this paper, lessons learned through the calibration of SIR-C data will be reviewed in the context of upcoming spaceborne, polarimetric SAR missions planned for launch later in this decade.

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