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*PhD Program in GeoInformation*  
DISP - Tor Vergata University

# TERRASAR-X IMAGING FOR UNSUPERVISED LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION AND FIRE MAPPING

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# Aims



- to understand the main textural features of the X-band radar backscattering from various kinds of surfaces
- to assess the potential of images acquired by X-band space borne radars:

## case studies:

1 IN MAPPING FIRE SCARS



Greece



2 IN CLASSIFYING SUBURBAN/AGRICULTURAL LAND COVER



Italy



# Method

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Novel unsupervised neural network algorithm:

## Textural Self-Organizing Map (TexSOM)

Textural object

Shape object

Radiometric layers

+  
+  
=

***TexSOM Unsupervised Classification***





Geoinformation



Application to fire scars mapping

Tor Vergata

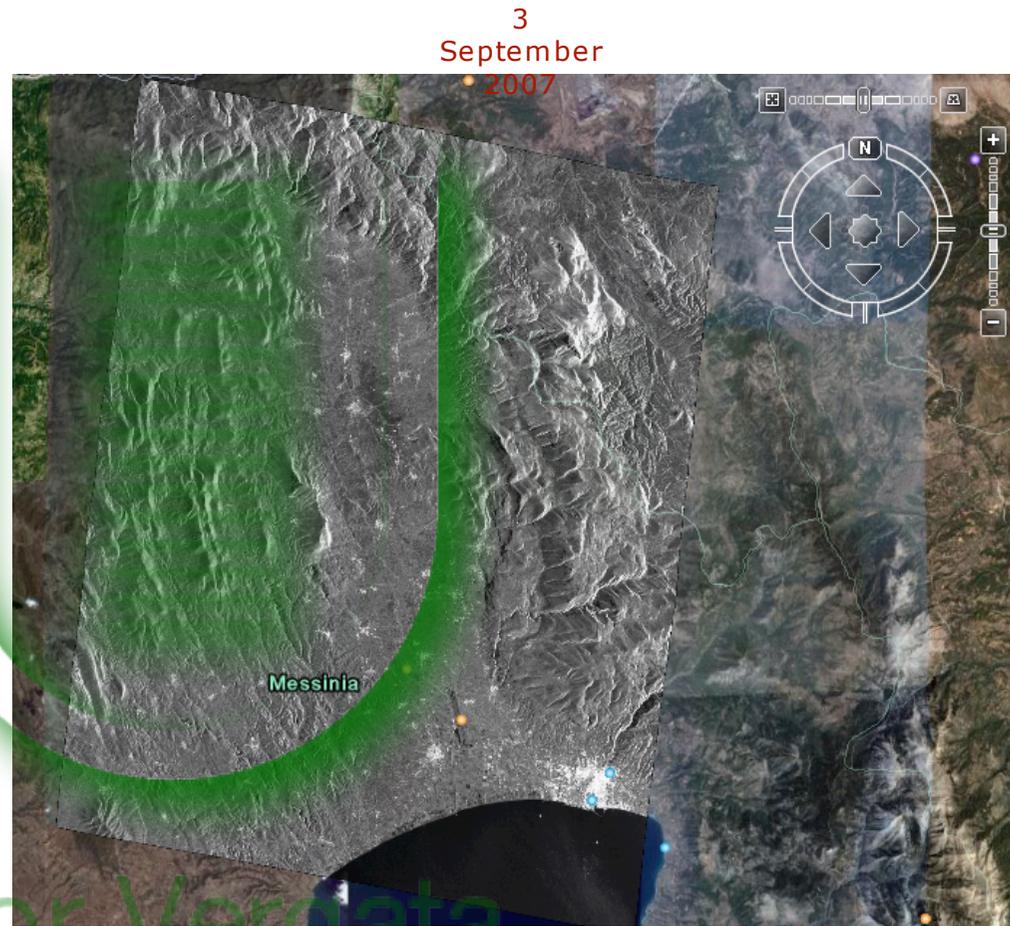
# 1<sup>st</sup> Area and Data Description: Greece



polLayer>**HH**  
 orbitDirection>**DESCENDING**  
 lookDirection>**RIGHT**  
 polarisationMode>**SINGLE**  
 productType>**MGD\_SE\_SM\_S**  
 projection>**GROUNDRange**



Geoinformation  
 Tor Vergata



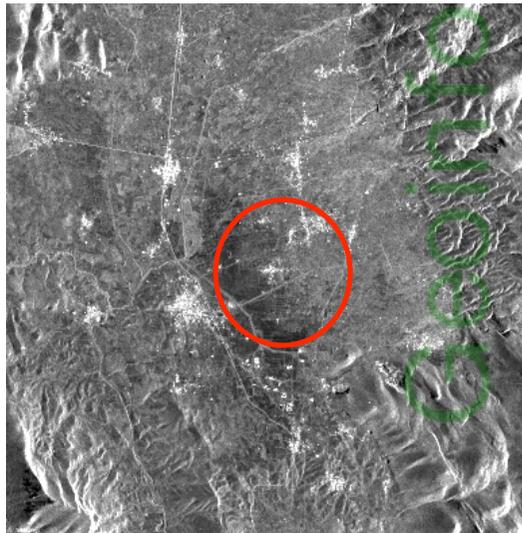
Near Range

Region of Kalamata in the Peloponnese Peninsula, Greece, where extremely severe fires, which caused the death of at least **60 people**, burned hundreds of homes and compelled thousands of people to run away, had occurred just a few days before the satellite overpass

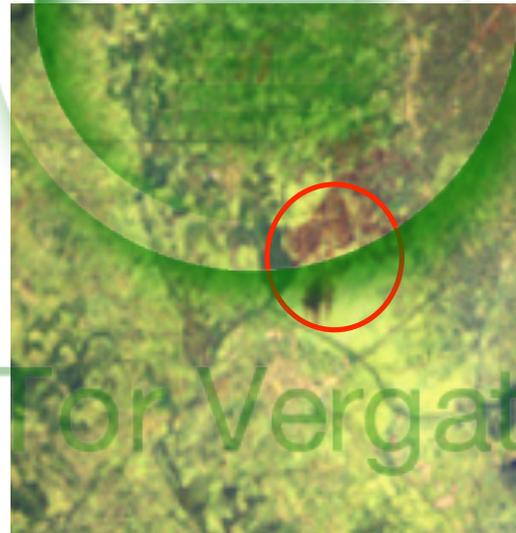
# Fire Scars

The fire scars have first been identified with the help of Landsat images on ESA web site:

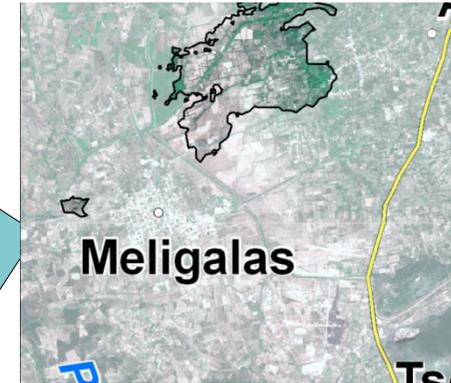
[http://earth.esa.int/ew/fires/Greece\\_Peloponnesus\\_fires\\_aug07/](http://earth.esa.int/ew/fires/Greece_Peloponnesus_fires_aug07/)



TerraSAR-X, HH



Landsat TM



# TerraSAR X HH

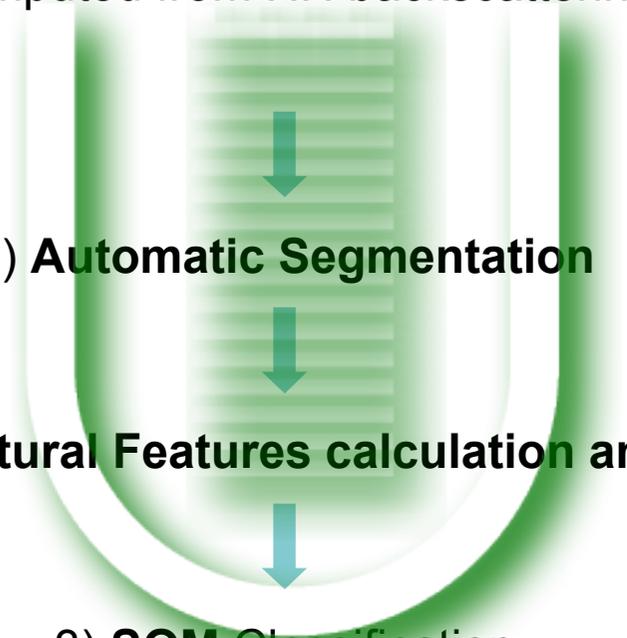
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# Unsupervised Algorithm Description



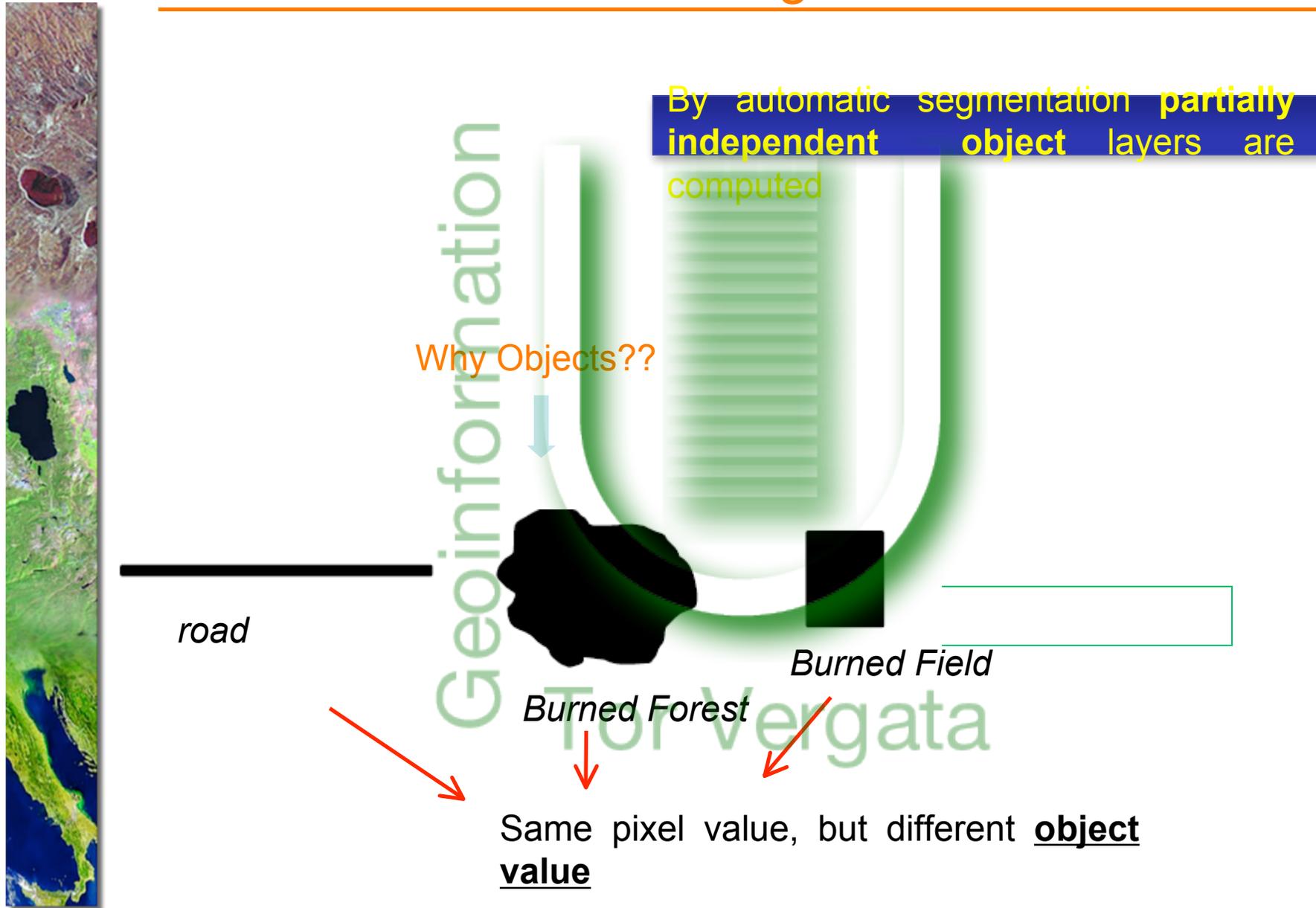
Object layers computed from HH backscattering intensity image

- 
- 1) **Automatic Segmentation**
  - 2) **Shape and Textural Features calculation and optimization**
  - 3) **SOM Classification**

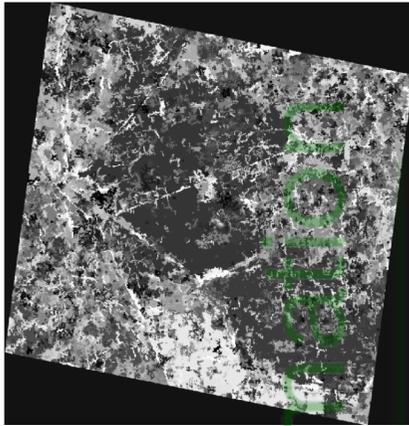
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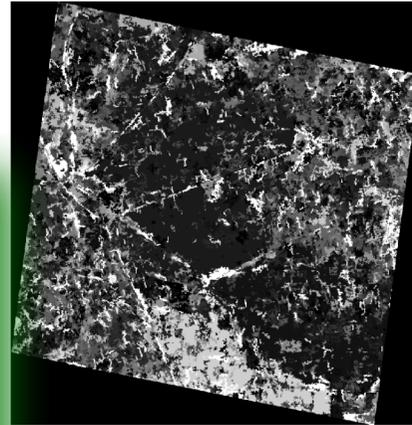
# Automatic Segmentation



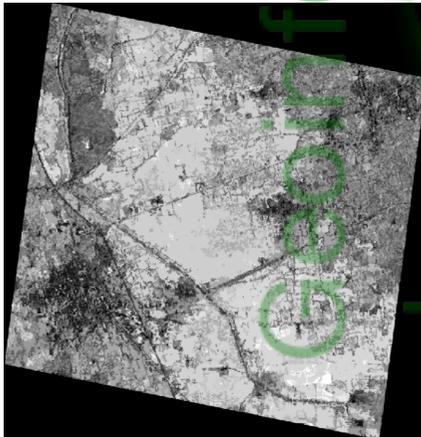
# Object layers



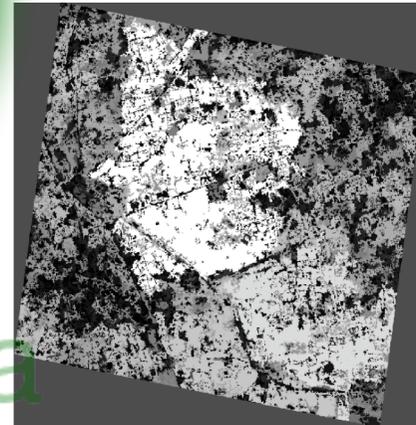
Asymmetry



Lenght\_on\_Width



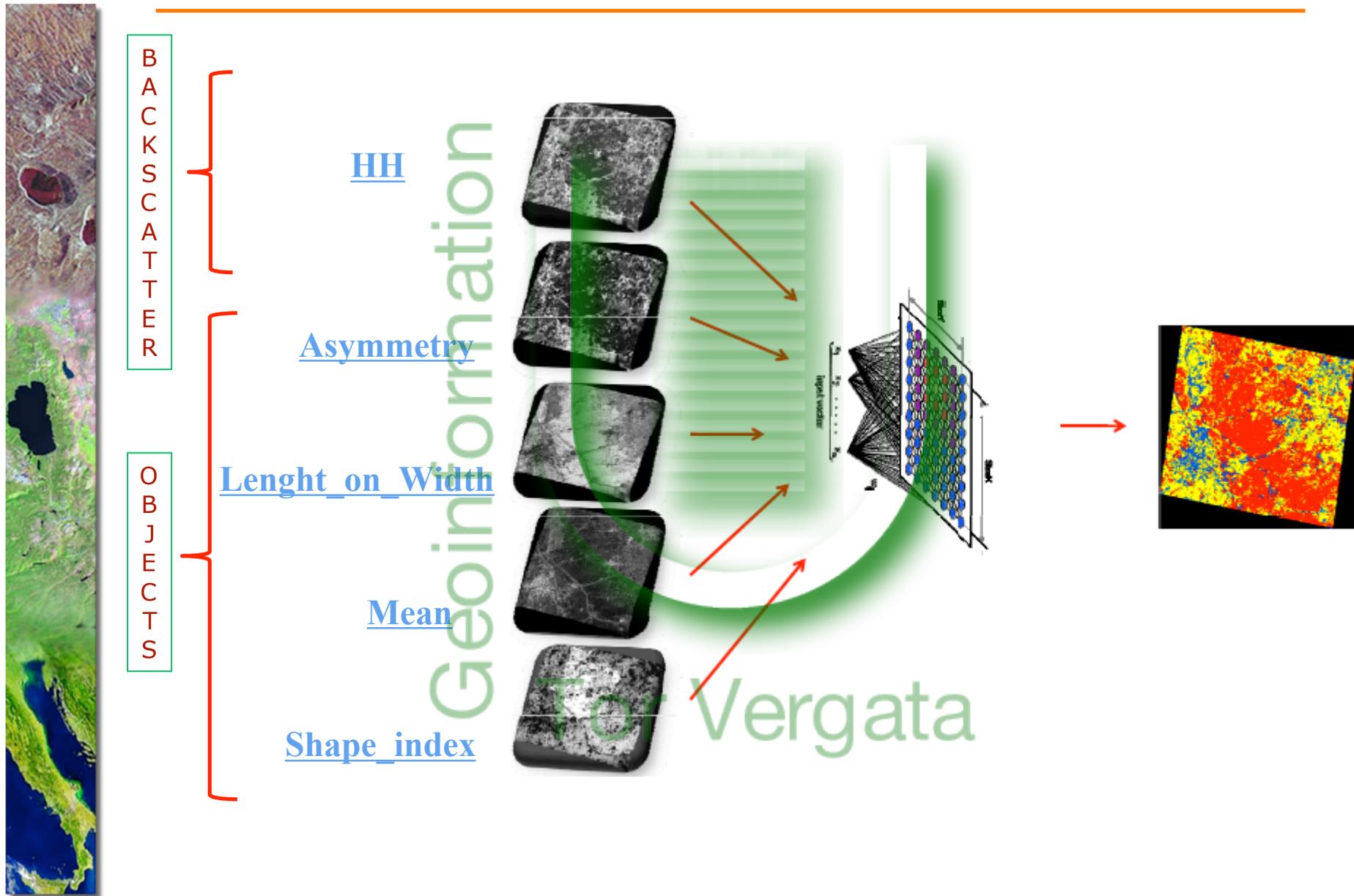
Mean



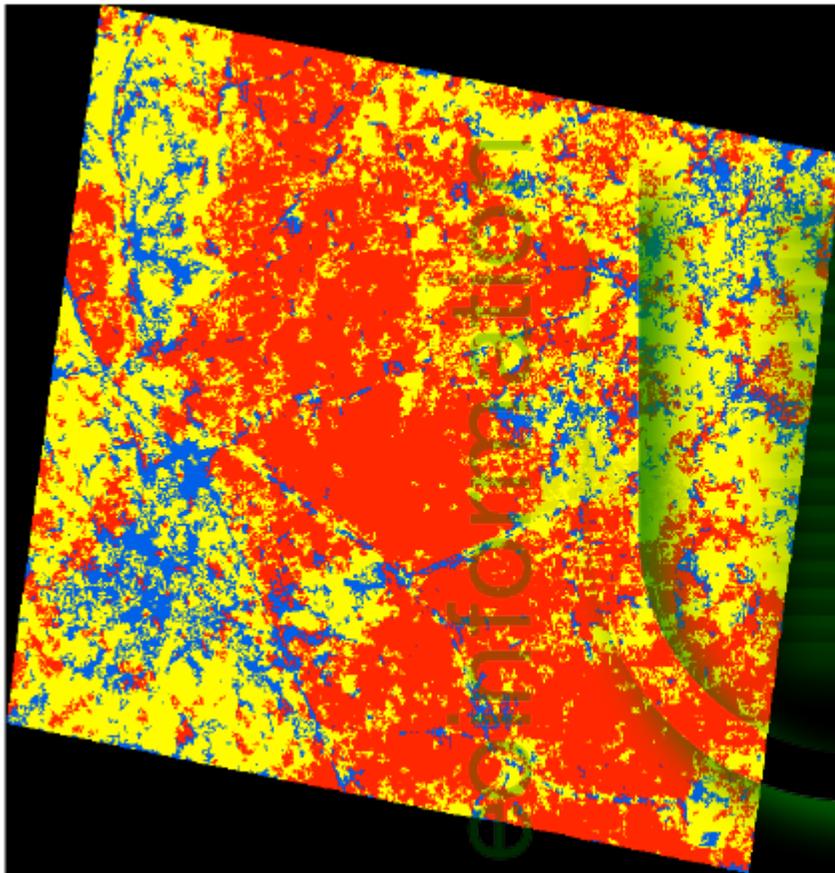
Shape\_index



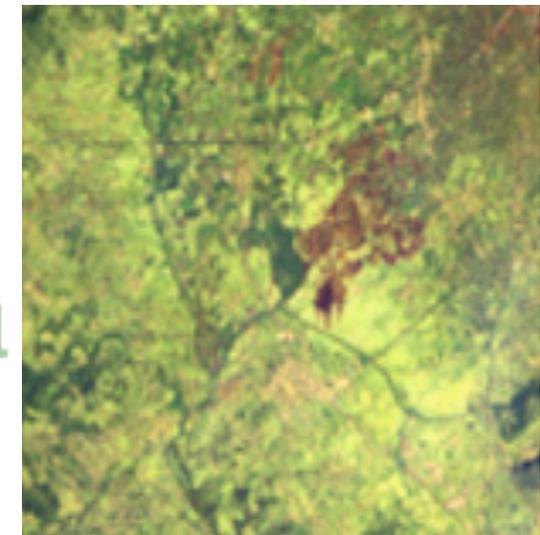
# TexSOM Scheme



# Classification result



- Crops
- Urban
- Burned Areas



**NO POST-CLASSIFICATION FILTER!!**  
Urban areas and streets are CRITICAL  
for firefighting



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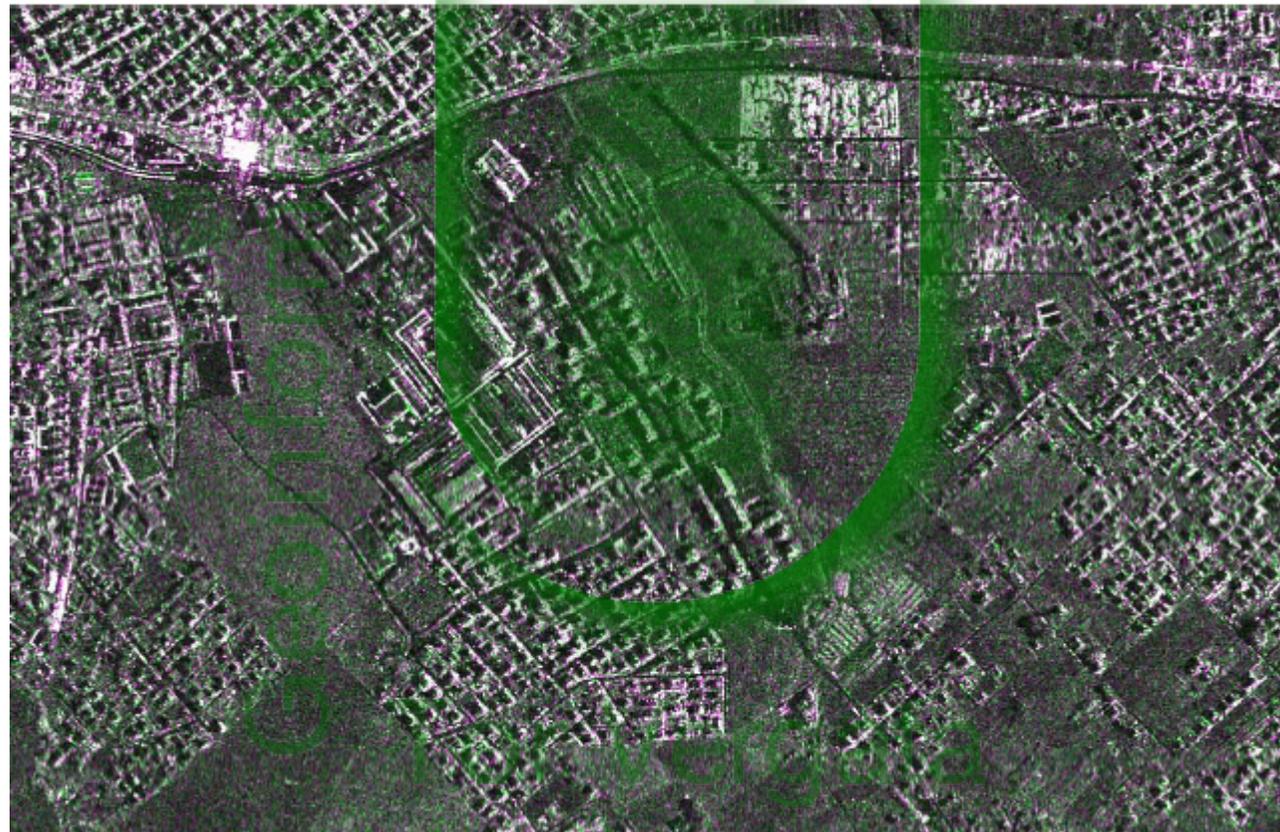
Geoinformation

Application to sealing maps

Tor Vergata

## 2<sup>st</sup> Area and Data Description: Italy

TexSOM classification applied to dual polarization TerraSAR-X acquisitions on the Tor Vergata, Rome, test site



R,B= HH; G=VV



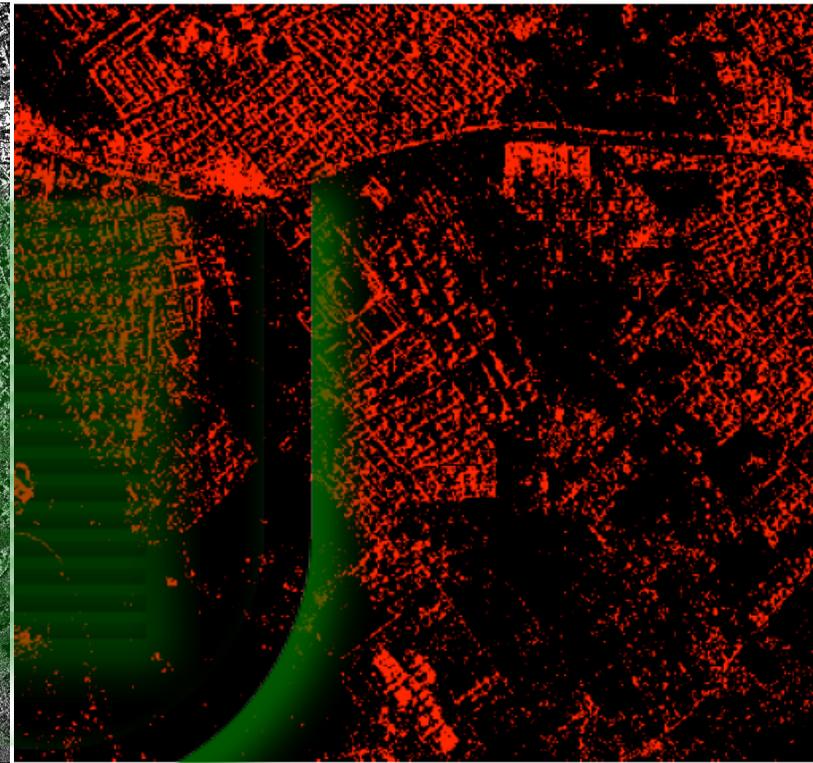
# Textural, shape and raster layers combination



	R	G	B
Co_occ_Contrast_HH	1		
Co_occ_Contrast_VV			1
HH_09		3	
Occ_data_Range_HH	1	1	
Occ_Mean_HH		3	
Occ_Mean_VV	1	1	
VV_09		3	

Textural layers derived from HH and VV images

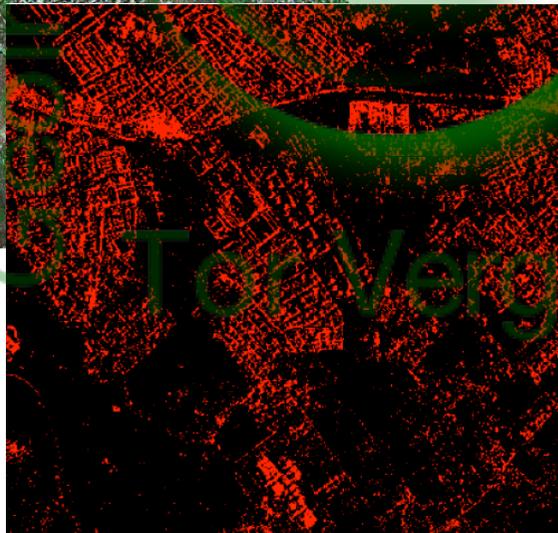
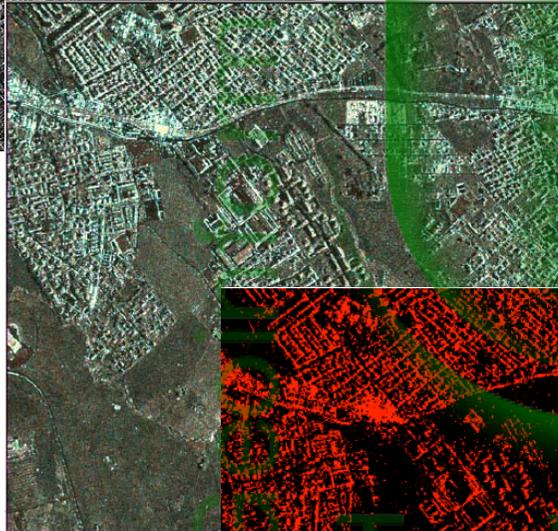
# Sealing Map



Sealing map generated by TexSOM

Geomatics  
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# Sealing Map



Overall Accuracy = 86.95%

Kappa Coefficient = 0.71

Ground Truth (Percent)

Class	Unsealed	Sealed	Total
Unsealed	82.50	2.15	59.28
Sealed	17.50	97.85	40.72

# Conclusions

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- TerraSAR-X data used to produce both fire scar and sealing maps.
- A set of object layers extracted from the backscattering intensity image used to implement TexSOM (Texture SOM) for unsupervised classification.
- TexSOM fed by texture layers provide fire scars and sealing maps.
- Both results are relevant to the management of a fire event. Distance of fire from urban areas and fire extension are important for planning firefighting.
- Smoke in the most active and changing burning areas limits the use of optical observations.
- The short revisit-time SAR constellations will offer the means of acquiring data vital for actions in severe fire emergencies.



Thank you for your attention



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