

Deep Learning for Remote Sensing Applications

He & Yokoya (2018): “Multi-Temporal Sentinel-1 and -2 Data Fusion for Optical Image Simulation”, *ISPRS Int J Geo-Inf*, 7, 389, doi: 10.3390/ijgi7100389.

Christian Werner

✉ chr.werner@me.com  @cwerner76

TWiML & AI Meetup EMEA, 03.01.2019



Deep Learning for Remote Sensing

Guest Editors:

Prof. Giovanni Poggi
Department of Electrical
Engineering and Information
Technology (DIETI), University
Federico II of Naples (I), Via
Claudio 21, 80125 Napoli, ITALY
poggi@unina.it

Dr. Giuseppe Scarpa
University Federico II of Naples,
ITALY, Via Claudio 21, 80125
Naples, ITALY
giscarpa@unina.it

Dr. Luisa Verdoliva
University Federico II of Naples,
ITALY, Via Claudio 21, 80125
Naples, ITALY
verdolv@unina.it

Deadline for manuscript
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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

This Special Issue aims to report the latest advances and trends concerning the application of deep learning to remote sensing problems. Papers of both theoretical and applicative nature are welcome, as well as contributions regarding new deep learning-oriented public datasets for the RS research community.

Major topics of interest, by no means exclusive, are:

- Large-scale datasets for training and testing deep learning solutions to RS problems;
- Deep learning for RS image processing (e.g., compression, denoising, segmentation, classification)
- Deep learning for RS image understanding (e.g., semantic labeling, object detection, data mining, image retrieval)
- Deep learning for RS data fusion (e.g., optical-SAR fusion, pan-sharpening)
- Deep learning with scarce or low-quality RS data, transfer learning, cross-sensor learning
- Processing of RS time-series through deep recurrent networks

Prof. Giovanni Poggi
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Guest Editors

Special Issue

Article

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Land Cover Segmentation of Airborne LiDAR Data Using Stochastic Atrous Network

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Article

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Article

A Benchmark Dataset for Performance Evaluation of Multi-Label Remote Sensing Image Retrieval

Zhenfeng Shao, Ke Yang and Weixun Zhou *

Article

Dialectical GAN for SAR Image Translation: From Sentinel-1 to TerraSAR-X

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Article

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Wenju Wang, Shuguang Dou *, Zhongmin Jiang and Liujie Sun

Article

Aircraft Type Recognition in Remote Sensing Images Based on Feature Learning with Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks

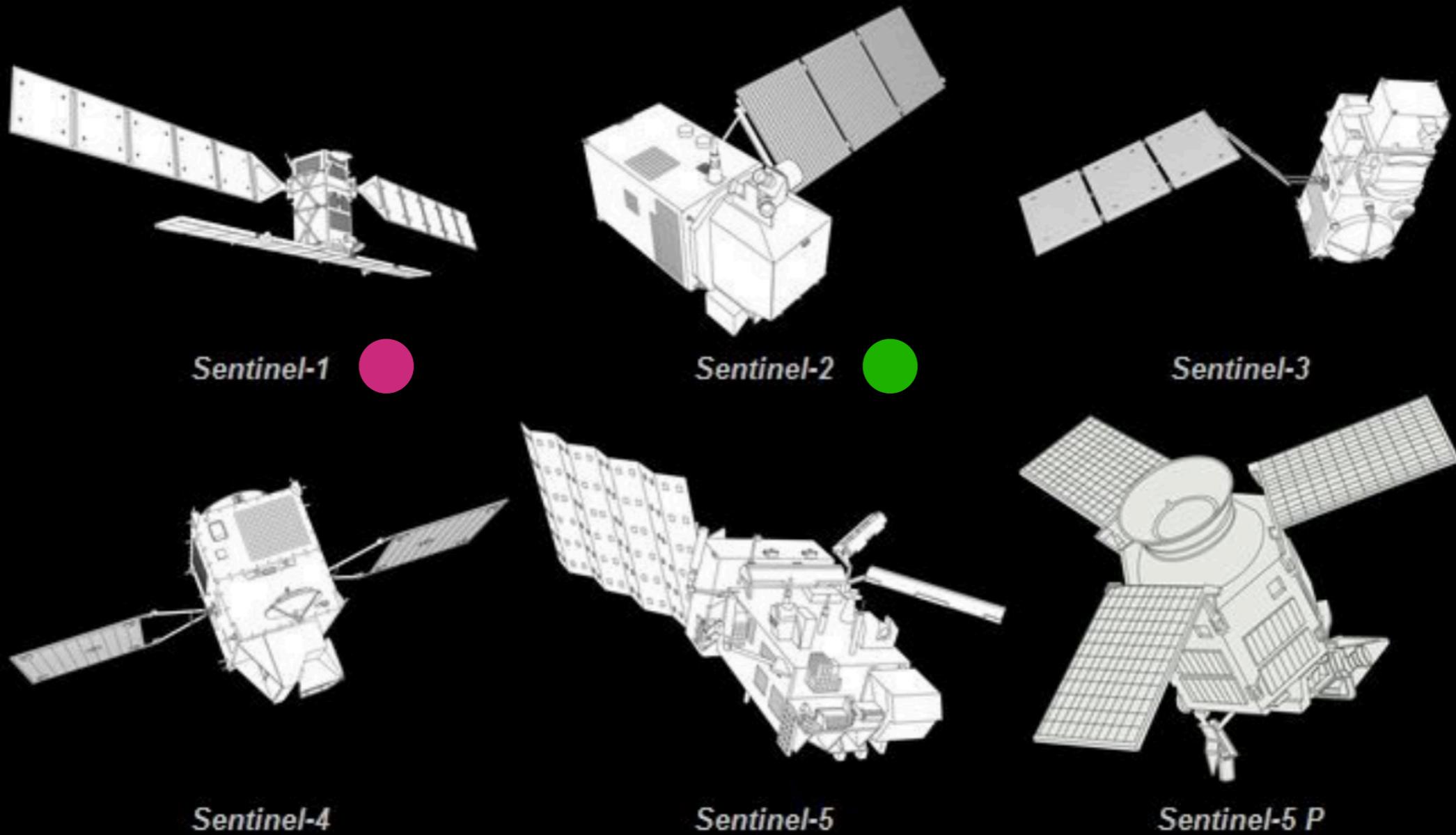
Yuhang Zhang ^{1,2}, Hao Sun ¹, Jiawei Zuo ^{1,2}, Hongqi Wang ¹, Guangluan Xu ^{1,2}

Article

Neural Network Based Kalman Filters for the Spatio-Temporal Interpolation of Satellite-Derived Sea Surface Temperature

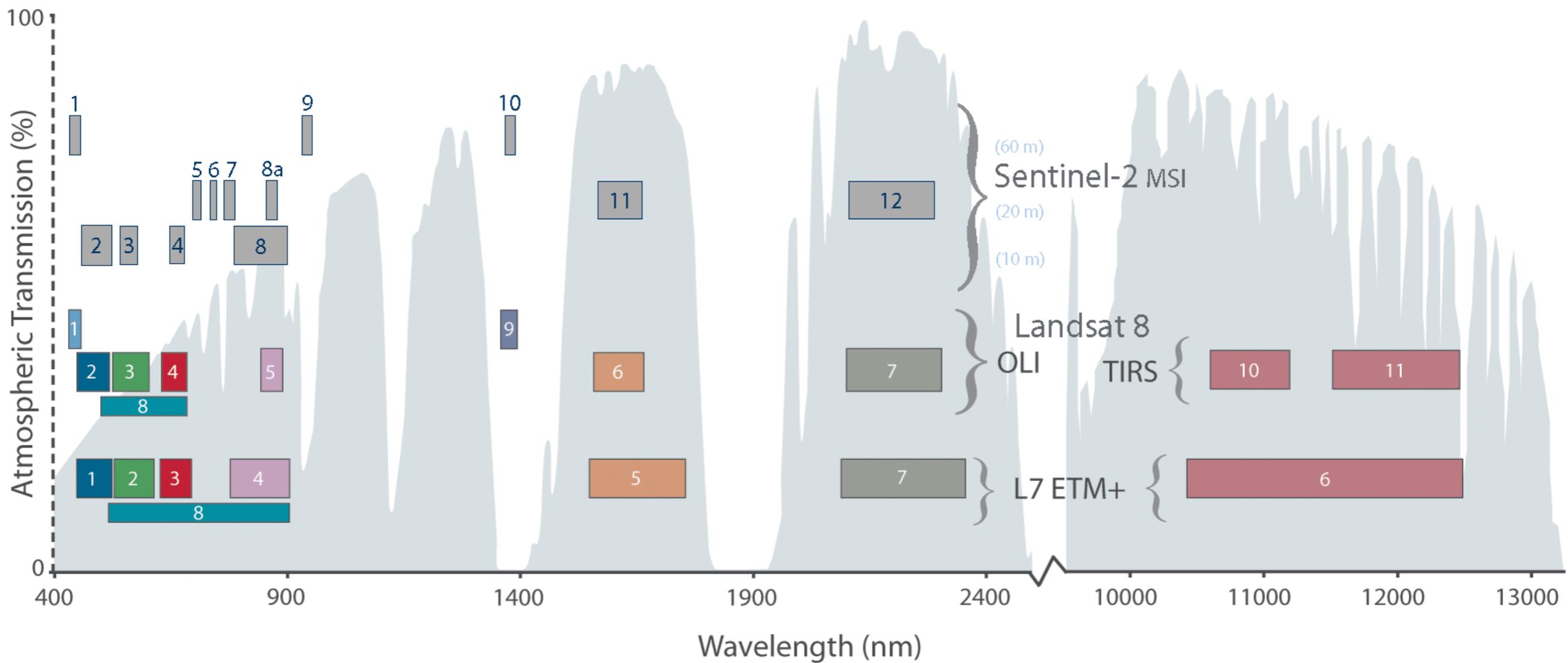
Said Ouala ^{1,*}, Ronan Fablet ¹, Cédric Herzet ^{1,2}, Bertrand Chapron ³, Ananda Pascual ⁴, Fabrice Collard ⁵ and Lucile Gaultier ⁵

Sentinels Satellites





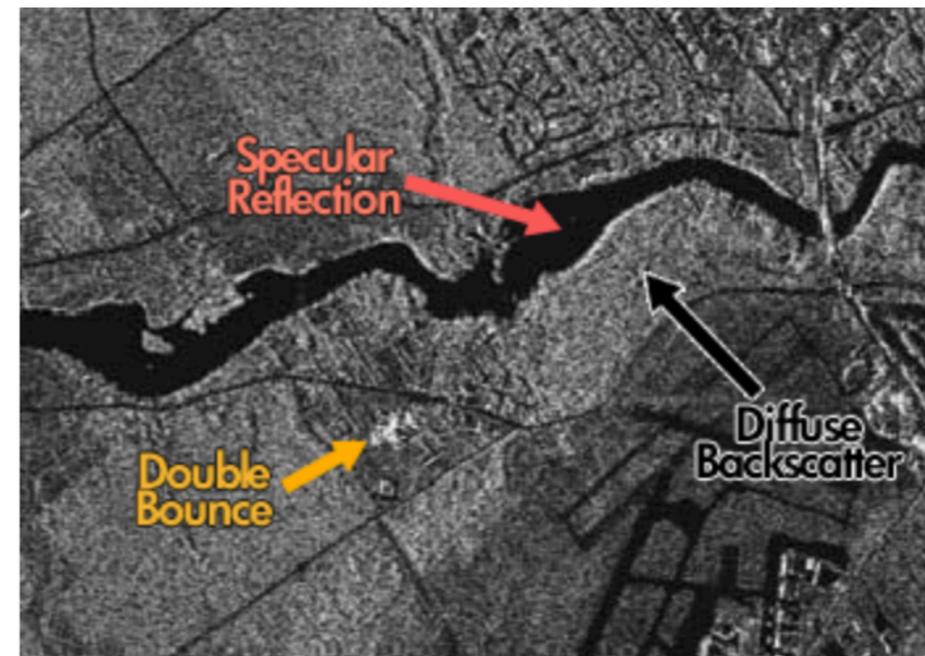
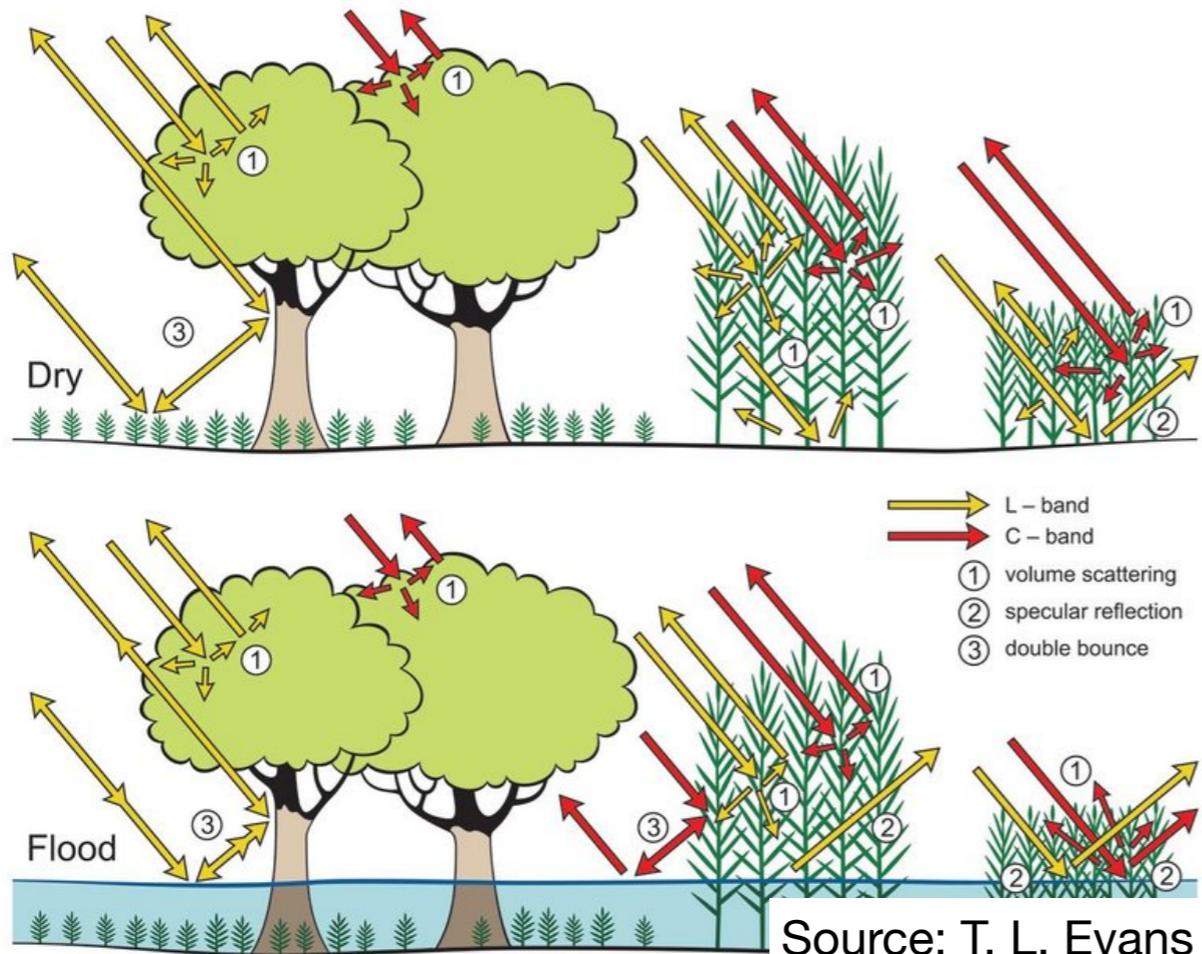
Comparison of Landsat 7 and 8 bands with Sentinel-2



Land Monitoring (2017 vs 2018)



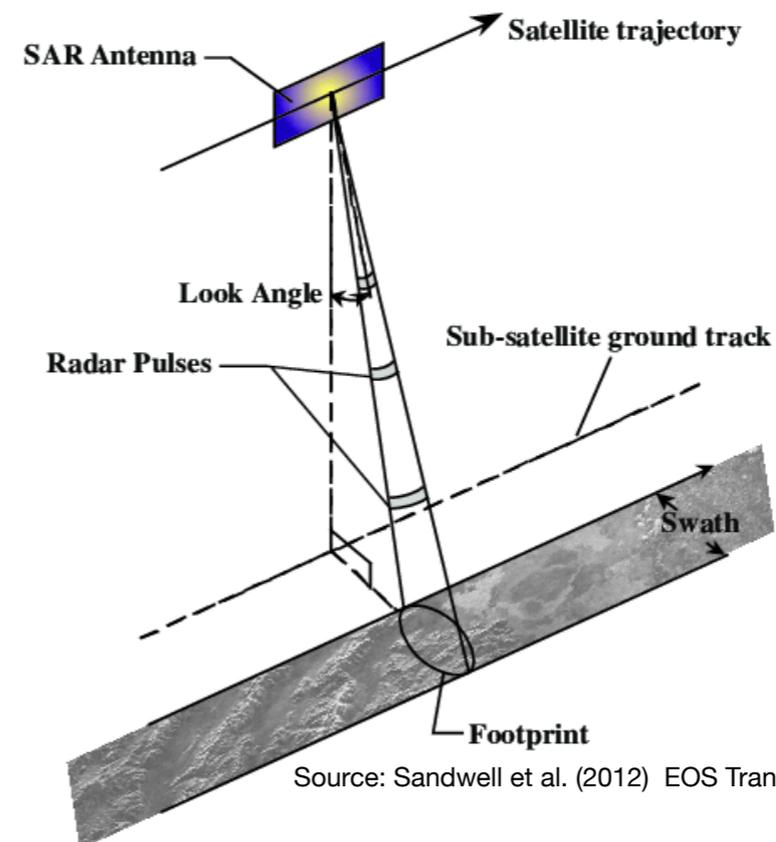
Slagelse in Zealand, Denmark; source: ESA



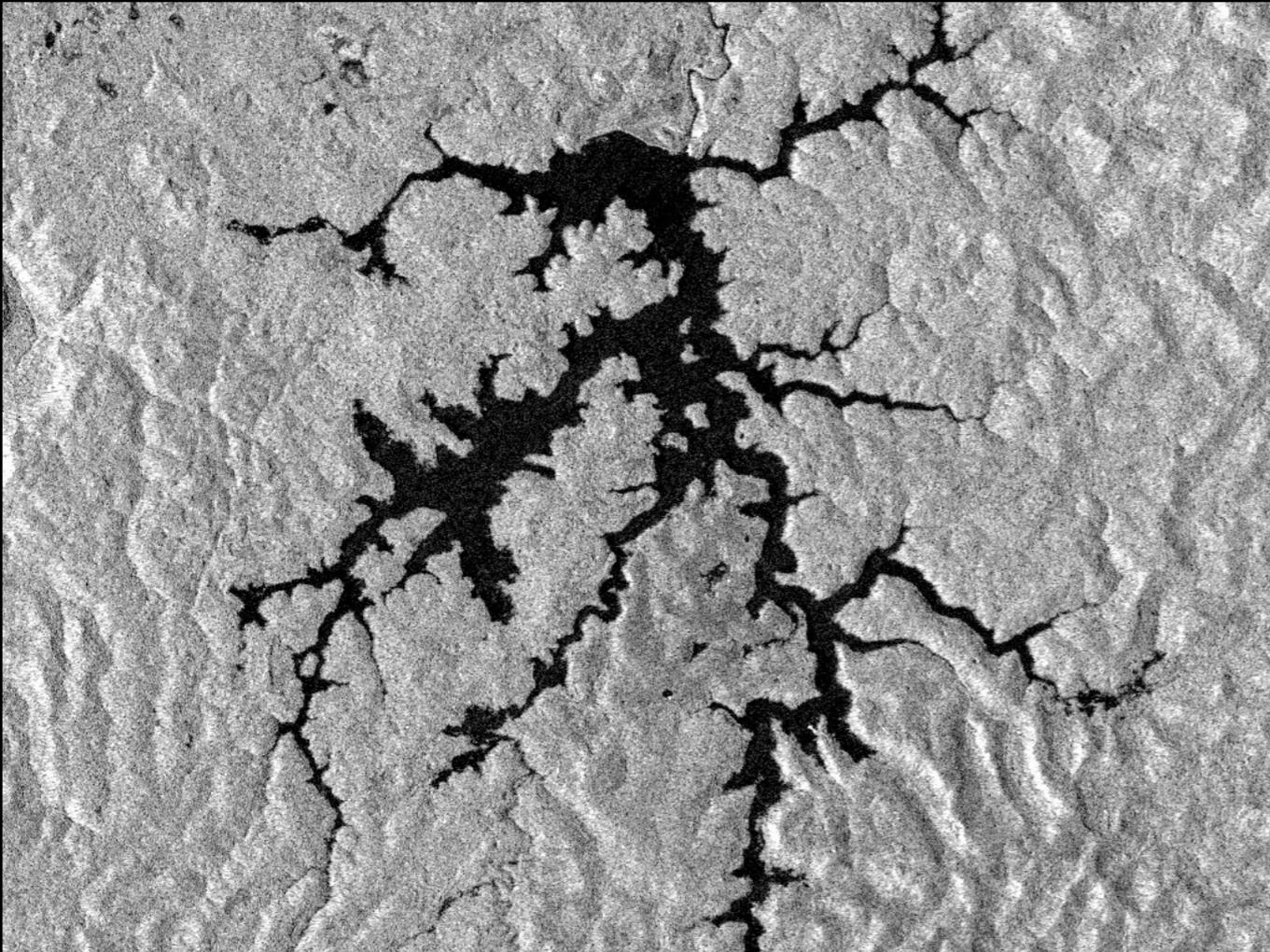
Source: <https://gisgeography.com/synthetic-aperture-radar-examples/>

1. FREQUENCY	2. INCIDENCE ANGLE	3. POLARIZATION	4. GEOMETRY	5. DIELECTRIC CONSTANT
a. LOW	a. HIGH	a. HORIZONTAL	a. TREE	a. HIGH
b. HIGH	b. LOW	b. VERTICAL	b. CROP	b. LOW

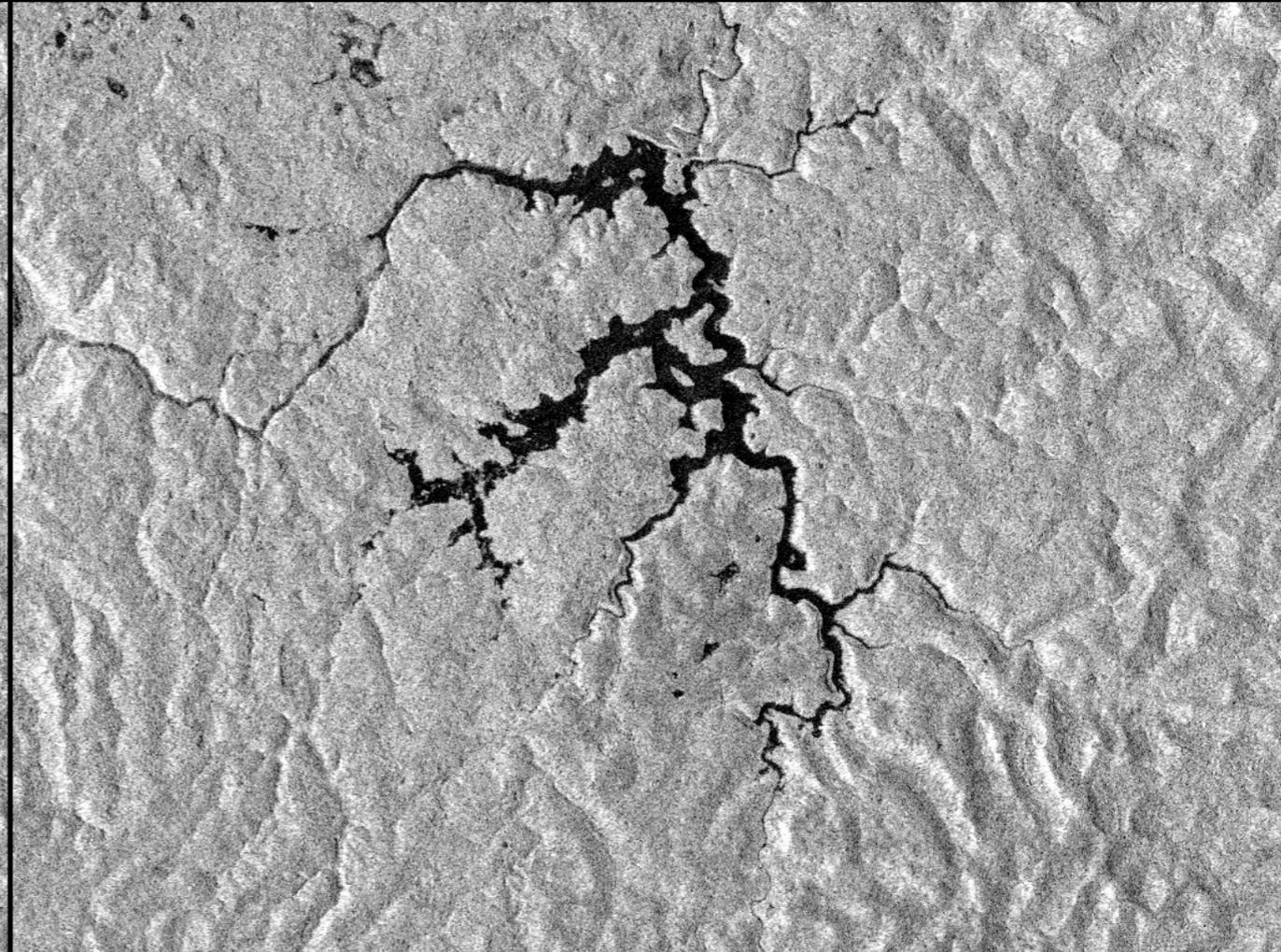
Source: van Emmerik



Xe-Pian Xe-Namnoy lake (Copernicus Sentinel-1)



Before dam breach (2018-07-13)

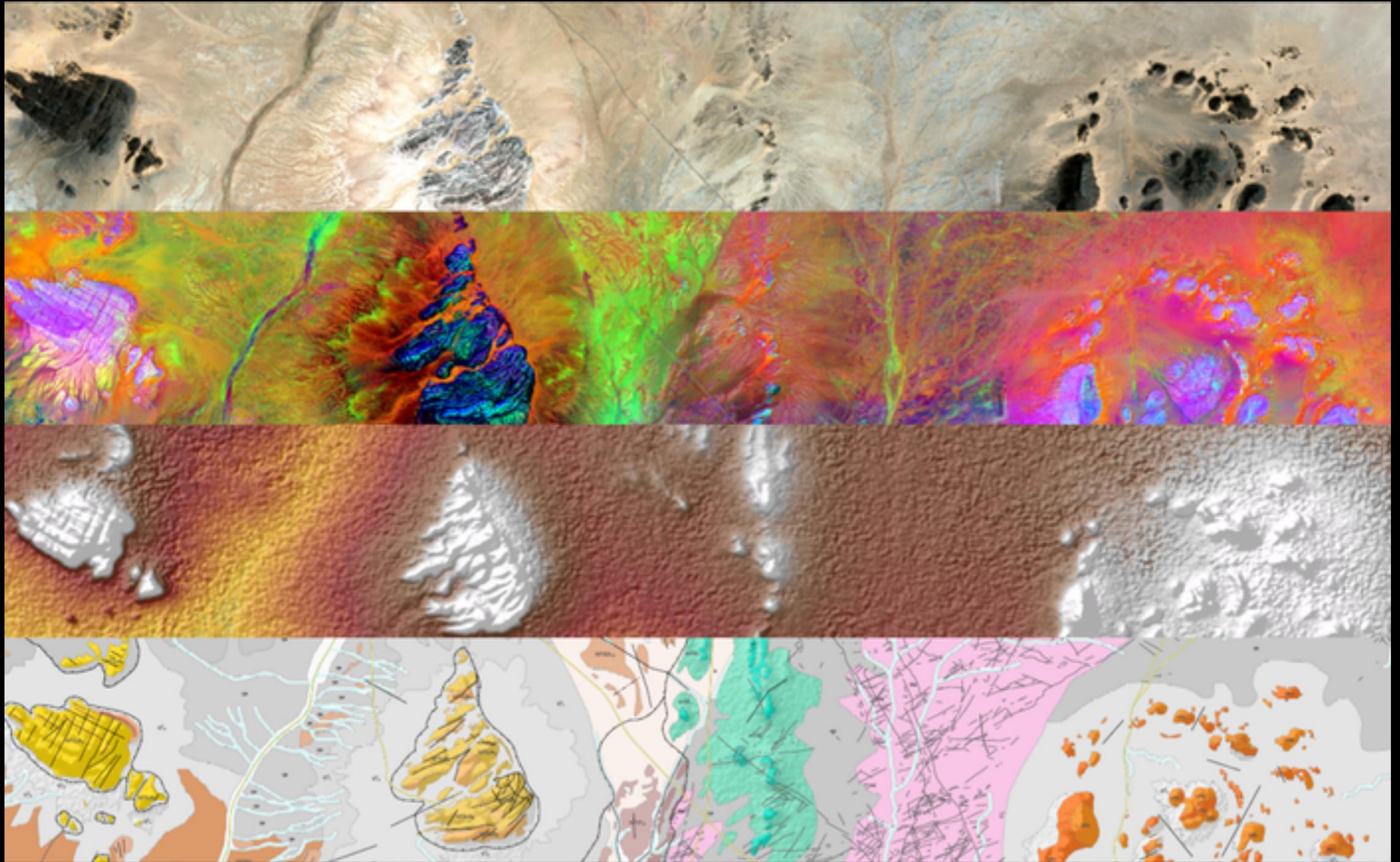


After dam breach (2018-07-25)

Source: ESA / CESBIO

Sentinels Helping to Map Minerals

Sentinel 2
Sentinel 2 (PCA)
SRTM DEM
Geol. Map



Source: ESA / GAF



Dstl Satellite Imagery Feature Detection

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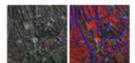
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EPFL ML Road Segmentation

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Article

Multi-Temporal Sentinel-1 and -2 Data Fusion for Optical Image Simulation

Wei He  and Naoto Yokoya 

RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project, RIKEN, Tokyo 103-0027, Japan; wei.he@riken.jp (W.H.); naoto.yokoya@riken.jp (N.Y.)

Received: 26 July 2018; Accepted: 21 September 2018 ; Published: 26 September 2018



Abstract: In this paper, we present the optical image simulation from synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data using deep learning based methods. Two models, i.e., optical image simulation directly from the SAR data and from multi-temporal SAR-optical data, are proposed to testify the possibilities. The deep learning based methods that we chose to achieve the models are a convolutional neural network (CNN) with a residual architecture and a conditional generative adversarial network (cGAN). We validate our models using the Sentinel-1 and -2 datasets. The experiments demonstrate that the model with multi-temporal SAR-optical data can successfully simulate the optical image; meanwhile, the state-of-the-art model with simple SAR data as input failed. The optical image simulation results indicate the possibility of SAR-optical information blending for the subsequent applications such as large-scale cloud removal, and optical data temporal super-resolution. We also investigate the sensitivity of the proposed models against the training samples, and reveal possible future directions.

Keywords: Sentinel; synthetic aperture radar; optical; data simulation; convolutional neural network; generative adversarial network



THE SENTINEL-2 CLOUDLESS LAYER COMBINES OVER 80 TRILLION PIXELS COLLECTED DURING DIFFERING WEATHER CONDITIONS BETWEEN MAY 2016 AND APRIL 2017. IMAGE: ESA.

Aim: Use with high-temp. resolution even if cloudy

Method: Multi-source (S, O) data fusion

Q: Can we use SAR data to predict optical images?

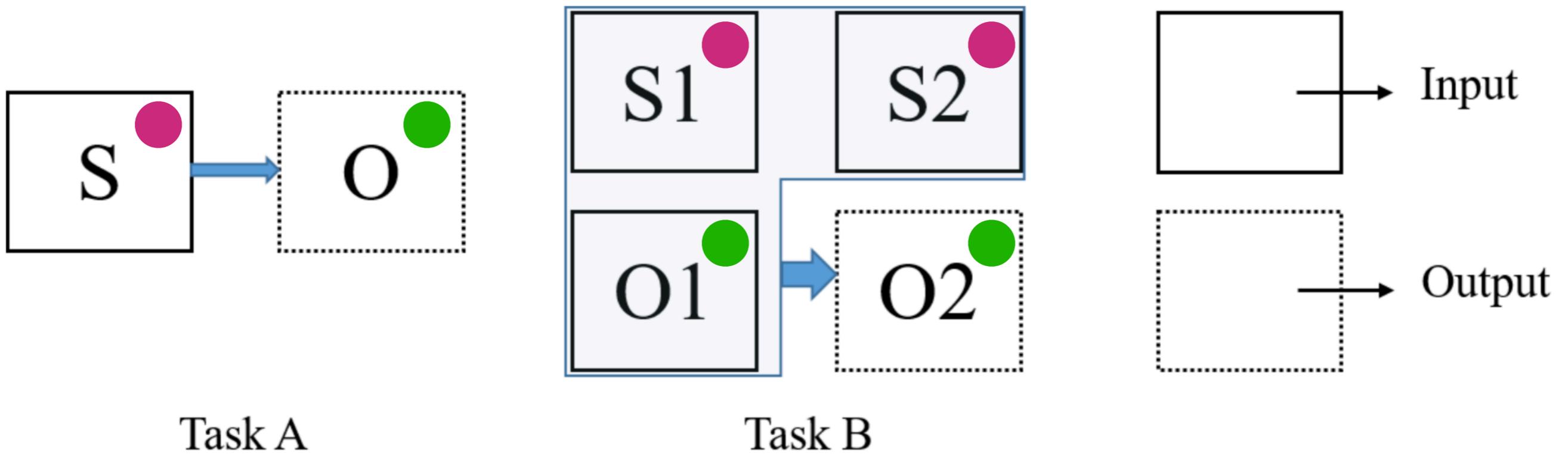


Figure 1. Illustration of two optical simulation tasks.

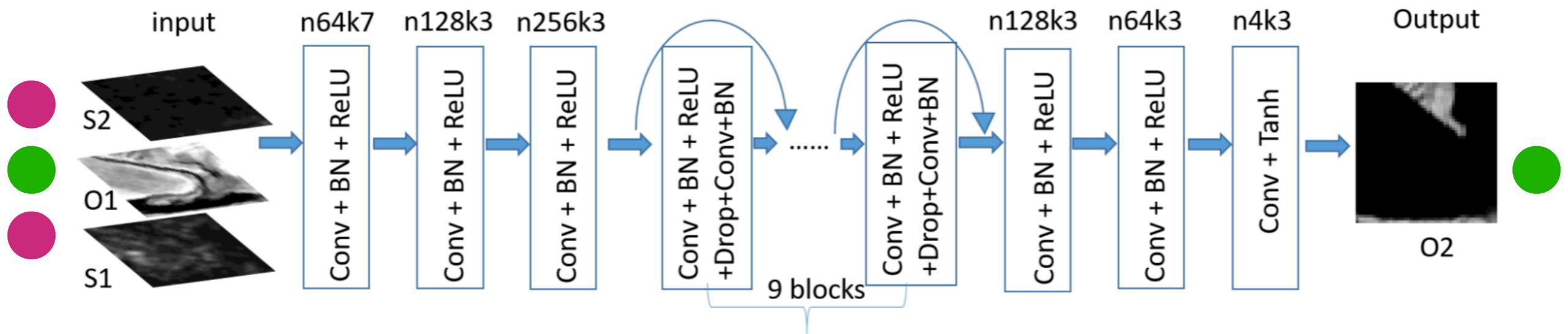


Figure 2. Illustration of the CNN generation network.

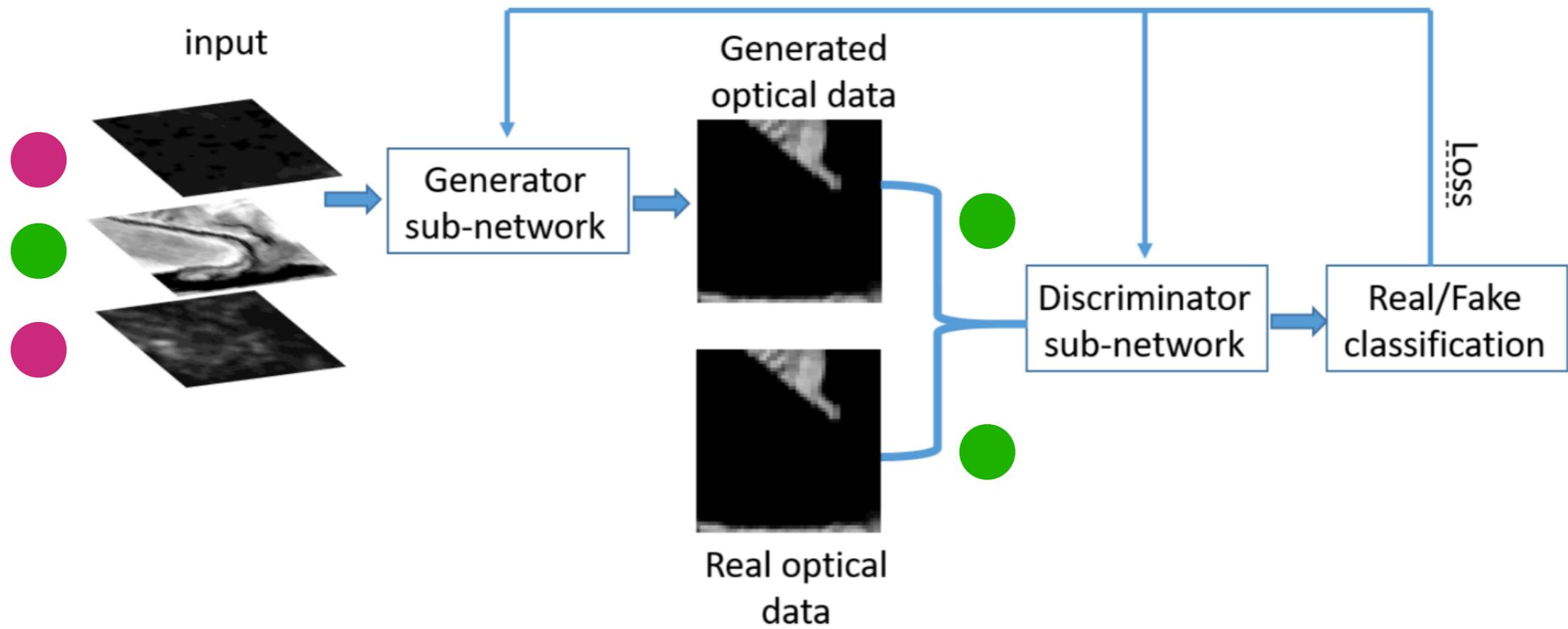


Figure 3. The flowchart of the cGAN architecture.

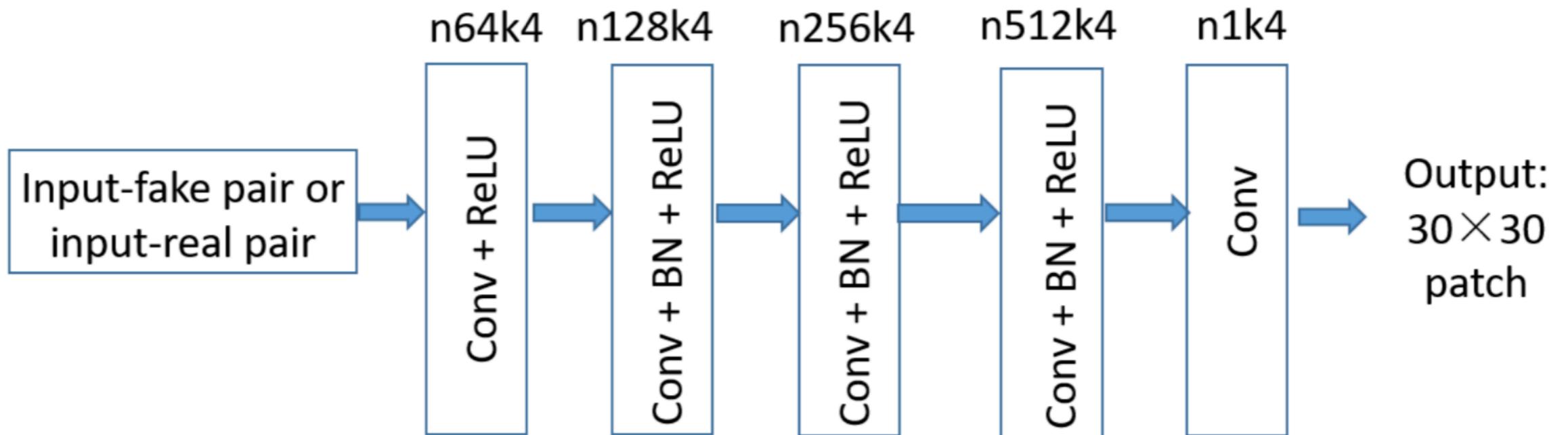


Figure 4. Illustration of the discriminative sub-network.

generative model discriminative model

cGAN loss:

Discriminator: ? Fake
 G(x, z)
 y True
 Goal: D(G(x, z)) = 0
 D(x, y) = 1

$$\min_G \max_D \mathcal{L}_{cGAN}(G, D) = \mathbf{E}_{(x,y) \in p_{data}(x,y)} [\log D(x, y)] + \mathbf{E}_{x \in p_{data}(x), z \in p_{data}(z)} [1 - \log D(x, G(x, z))]. \quad (1)$$

Reduce blurring with L1 regularization:

$$\mathcal{L}_{L1}(G) = \mathbf{E}_{(x,y) \in p_{data}(x,y), z \in p_{data}(z)} \|y - G(x, z)\|_{L1} \quad (2)$$

Final objective function:

$$G^* = \min_G \max_D \mathcal{L}_{cGAN}(G, D) + \lambda \mathcal{L}_{L1}(G). \quad (3)$$

Table 1. Sensing time of optical and SAR image pairs used in the experiments.

Y-M-D	S1	O1	S2	O2
Iraq	12 November 2017	10 November 2017	6 December 2017	10 December 2017
Jiangnan	14 November 2017	12 November 2017	20 December 2017	19 December 2017
Xiangyang	14 November 2017	12 November 2017	20 December 2017	19 December 2017

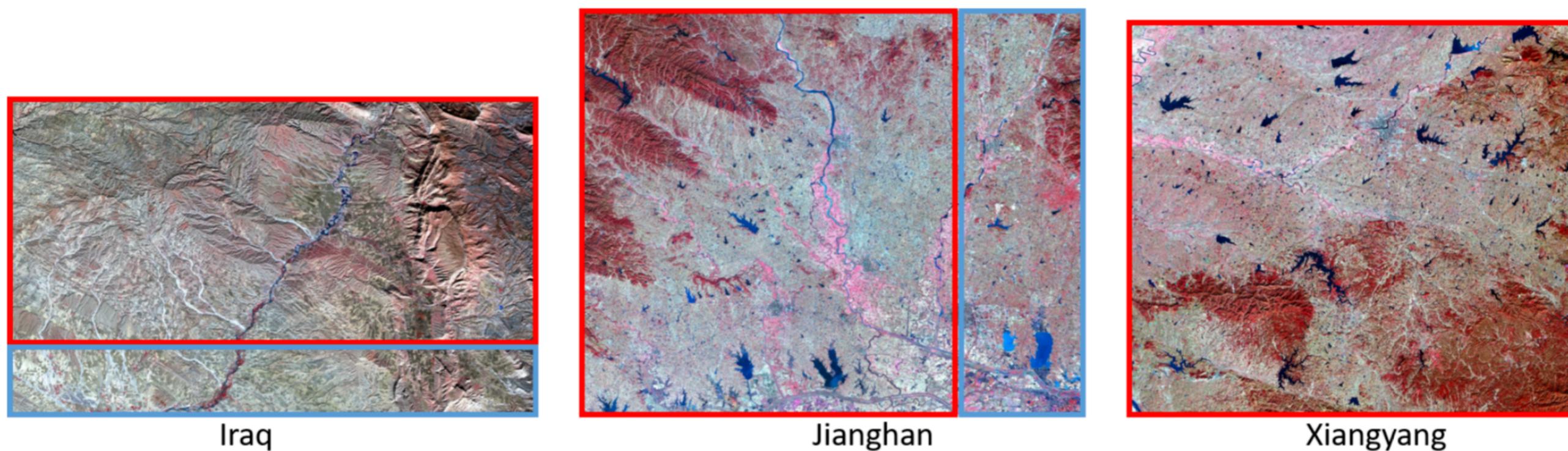


Figure 5. O2 images of Iraq, Jiangnan and Xiangyang pairs. The training patches are selected from the red rectangle and the test patches are from the blue area.

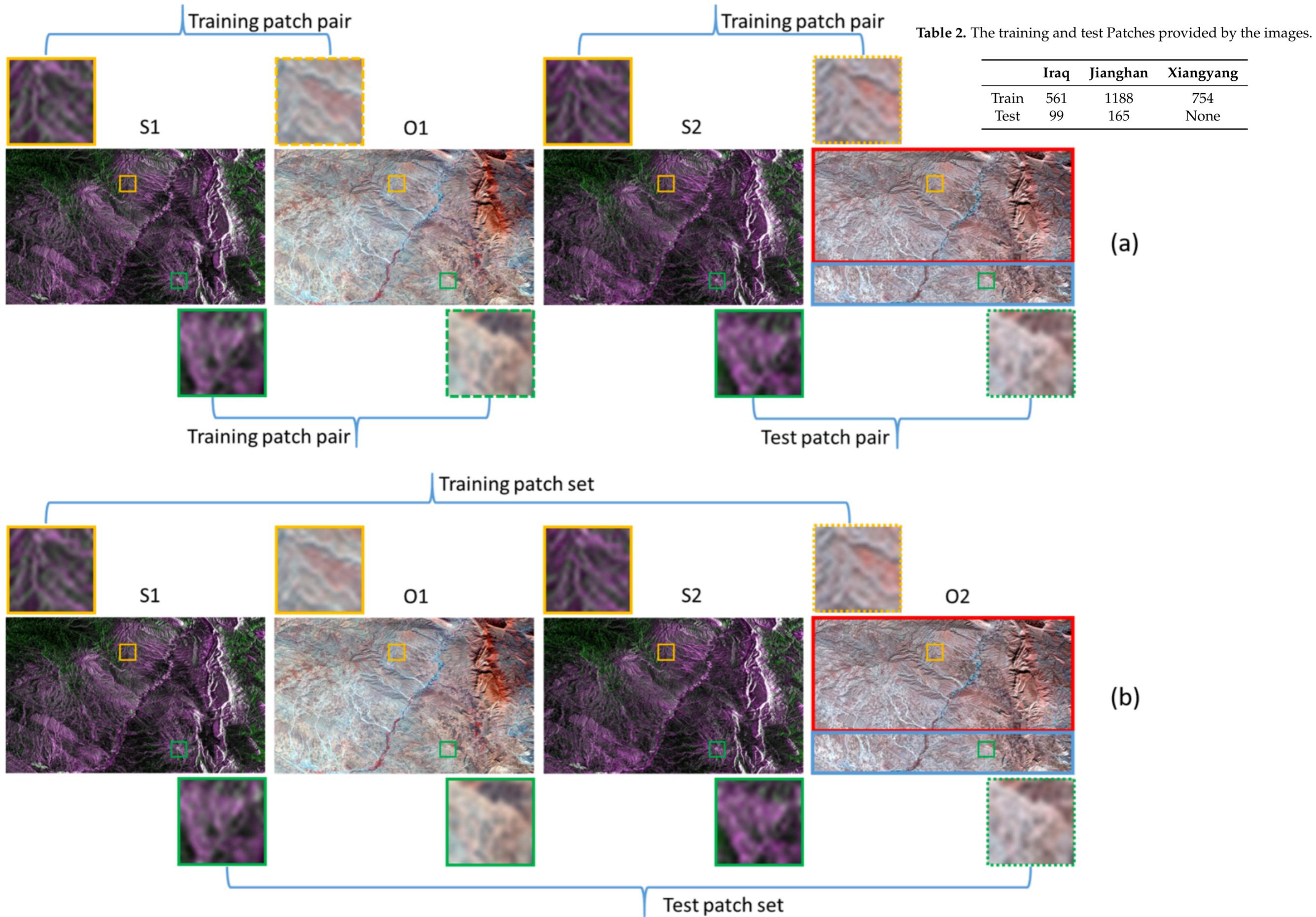


Figure 6. Illustration of training and test patch pairs with Iraq dataset for (a) Task A, and (b) Task B.

Table 3. The evaluation values of PSNR, SSIM, MSA and training time of different methods in Case 1.

Index	pix2pix	CNN	cGAN	MTCNN	MTcGAN	baseline
PSNR (dB)	26.50	26.60	26.79	30.61	32.32	29.77
SSIM	0.6419	0.6477	0.6519	0.9028	0.9110	0.8528
MSA	0.6545	0.6769	0.6581	0.3796	0.3146	0.5529
Training Time (s)	4252	3747	4025	3506	3892	None

Test patches from Jiangnan image (influence of different training sets):

Table 4. Simulation accuracy of MTCNN and MTcGAN with different training samples in Case 2.

Method	Index	Jiangnan	Iraq	Xiangyang	Mixed	O1
MTCNN	PSNR	35.08	29.44	34.30	34.38	34.01
	SSIM	0.9508	0.8585	0.9412	0.9479	0.9401
	MSA	0.4684	0.8400	0.5138	0.4774	0.5319
MTcGAN	PSNR	35.25	31.09	34.44	34.83	34.01
	SSIM	0.9509	0.8850	0.9413	0.9463	0.9401
	MSA	0.4629	0.6137	0.5070	0.4649	0.5319

PSNR (peak signal to noise ratio), SSIM (structural similarity), MSA (mean spectral angle)

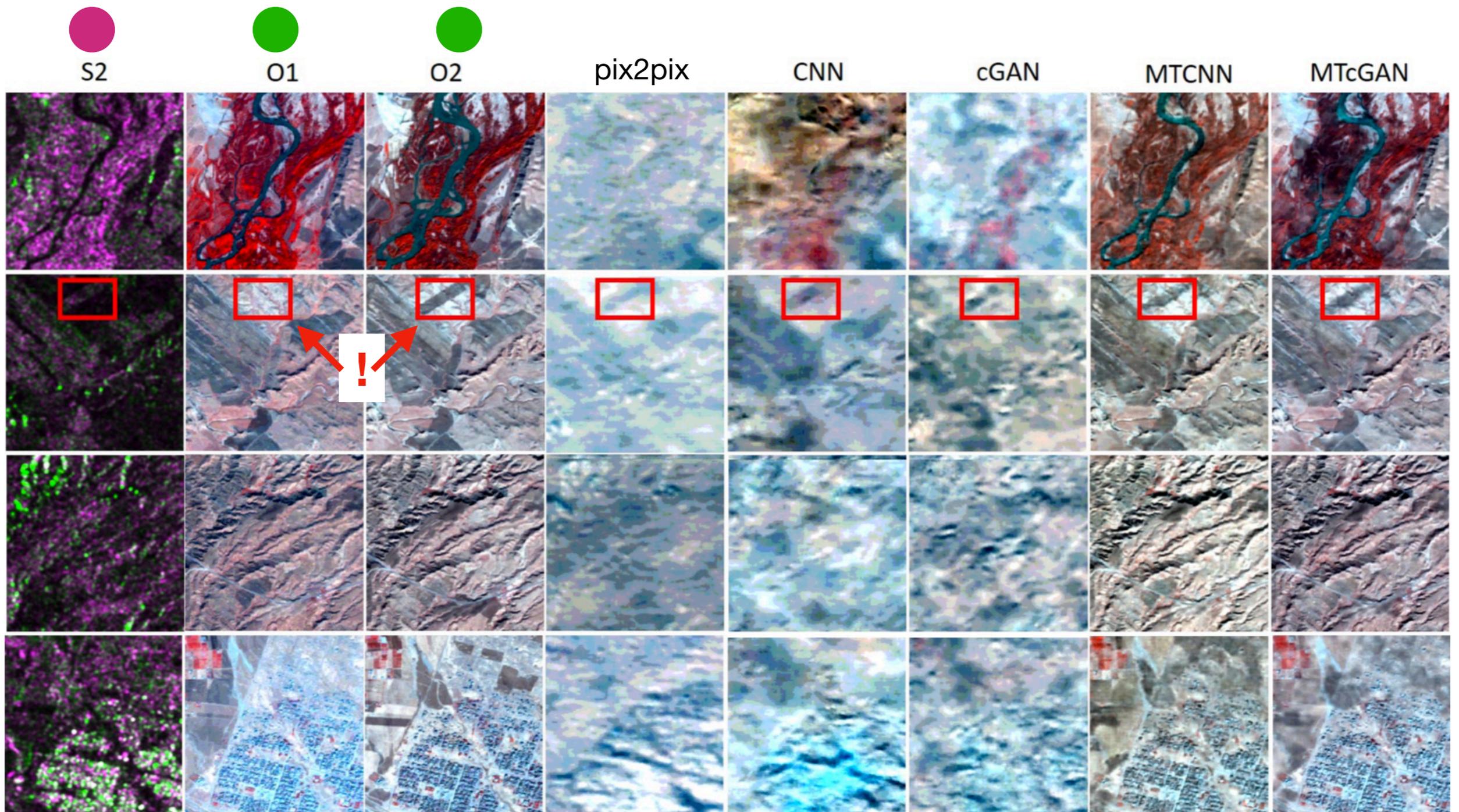


Figure 7. Simulated images of different methods in Case 1, accompanied with the input images (S2 and O1) and output reference image (O2).

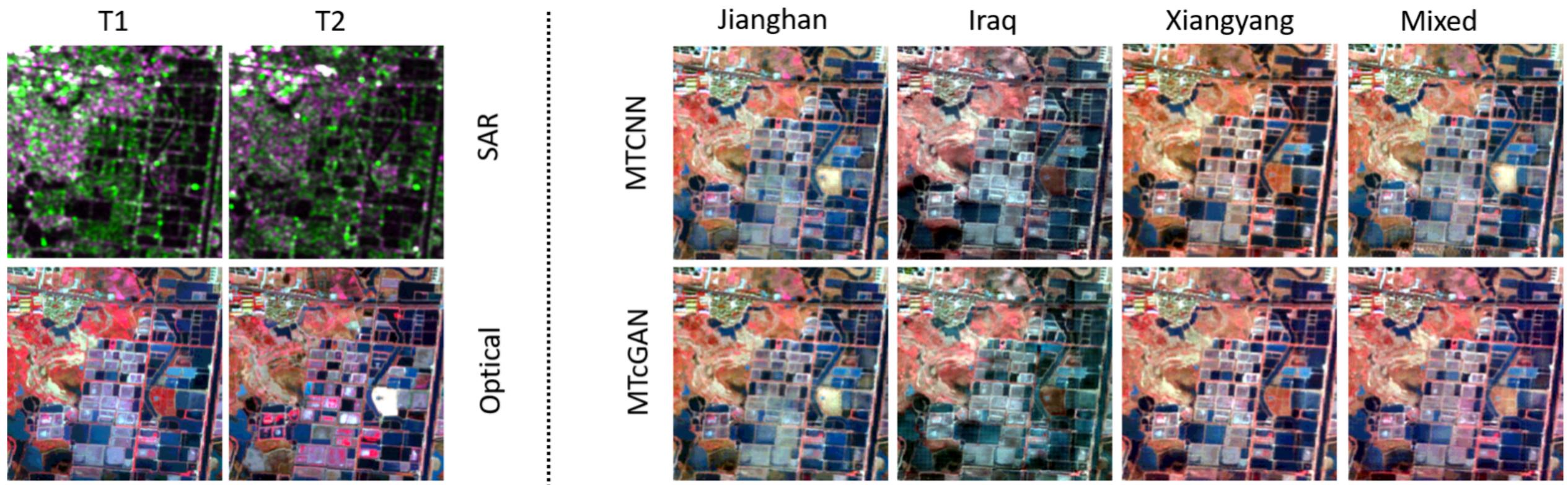


Figure 8. Simulated images of different methods in Case 2. The input images (S1, S2 and O1) and output reference image (O2) on the left side, and simulated images with different training samples on the right side.

Conclusions

- Multi-temporal data fusion based optical image generation works
- Adversarial networks are useful and effective

However:

- Simulated images (O_2) in changing parts ($S_1 \rightarrow S_2$) are blurred
- Selection of training samples has an impact on outcome
- More time-steps could help create more stable results

PSNR is most easily defined via the **mean squared error (MSE)**. Given a noise-free $m \times n$ monochrome image I and its noisy approximation K , MSE is defined as:

$$MSE = \frac{1}{m n} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} [I(i, j) - K(i, j)]^2$$

The PSNR (in **dB**) is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} PSNR &= 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\frac{MAX_I^2}{MSE} \right) \\ &= 20 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\frac{MAX_I}{\sqrt{MSE}} \right) \\ &= 20 \cdot \log_{10}(MAX_I) - 10 \cdot \log_{10}(MSE) \end{aligned}$$

PSNR: peak signal to noise ratio

Here, MAX_I is the maximum possible pixel value of the image. When the pixels are represented using 8 bits per sample, this is 255. More generally, when samples are represented using linear **PCM** with B bits per sample, MAX_I is $2^B - 1$.

The SSIM index is calculated on various windows of an image. The measure between two windows x and y of common size $N \times N$ is:^[4]

$$SSIM(x, y) = \frac{(2\mu_x \mu_y + c_1)(2\sigma_{xy} + c_2)}{(\mu_x^2 + \mu_y^2 + c_1)(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 + c_2)}$$

with:

- μ_x the **average** of x ;
- μ_y the **average** of y ;
- σ_x^2 the **variance** of x ;
- σ_y^2 the **variance** of y ;
- σ_{xy} the **covariance** of x and y ;
- $c_1 = (k_1 L)^2$, $c_2 = (k_2 L)^2$ two variables to stabilize the division with weak denominator;
- L the **dynamic range** of the pixel-values (typically this is $2^{\#bits \text{ per pixel}} - 1$);
- $k_1 = 0.01$ and $k_2 = 0.03$ by default.

SSIM: structural similarity

MSA: mean spectral angle

$$\text{MSA} = \frac{180}{\pi} \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \arccos \left(\frac{\sum_{v=1}^M Z^*(x_i, t, v) Z(x_i, t, v)}{\sqrt{\sum_{v=1}^M Z^{*2}(x_i, t, v) \sum_{v=1}^M Z^2(x_i, t, v)}} \right) \right)}{N},$$