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# SPATIALLY-EXPLICIT MODELLING OF THE SALT MARSH WAVE ATTENUATION USING PRESSURE MEASUREMENTS, UAV IMAGERY AND LIDAR DATA

Antoine MURY<sup>1\*</sup>, Antoine COLLIN<sup>1</sup>, Dorothée JAMES<sup>1</sup>, Yves PASTOL<sup>2</sup>, Samuel ETIENNE<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, PSL Research University, UMR LETG, Dinard, France  
<sup>2</sup> Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service, Brest, France.  
\* Corresponding author : antoine.mury@etu.ephe.psl.eu

## Introduction

Among the consequences of global changes, an increase of **coastal risks** is widely expected. Indeed, The sea-level rise conjugated with spring tides and hazardous storms, can lead to extreme sea-levels, in worldwide coastal areas subject to unprecedented demographic exposure, thus risks. In this context, **many methods**, using **conventional engineering** or **soft management**, are used or experimented **to reduce the coastal risk of marine flooding**, thus protecting the human stakes.

Coastal wetlands and especially **salt marsh** areas, can play a major role into the **risk mitigation** by acting as a **natural buffer zone**. So, we propose here a simple but robust solution **to quantify and map the very high resolution wave attenuation service** offered by a coastal marsh using **an easy-to-implement combinaison of in situ pressure measurements and in silico optical imagery**.

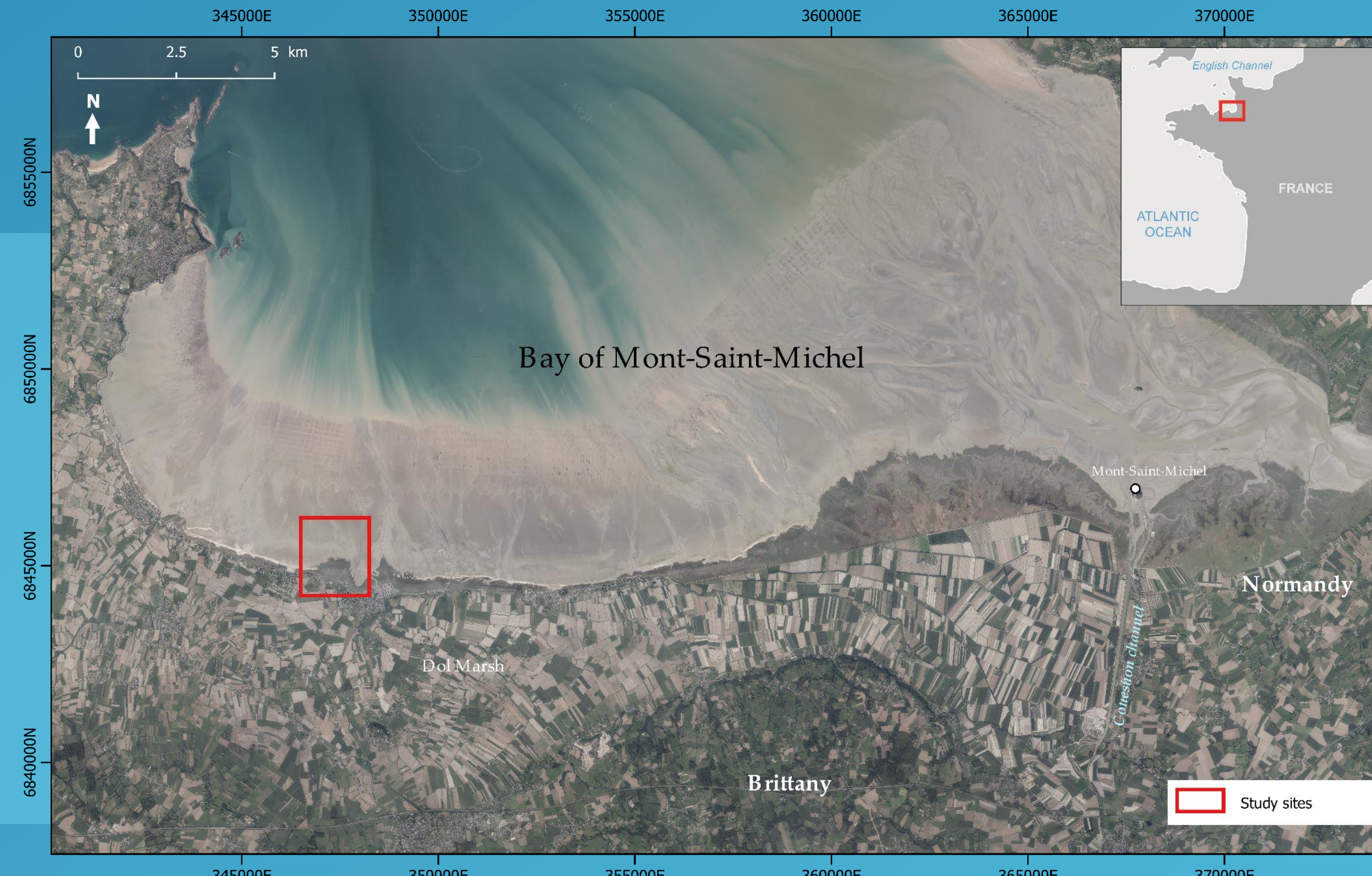


Figure 1. Location of the study area in the megatidal bay of Mont-Saint-Michel (France)

## Wave attenuation measurements

### Material and methods

1. Deployment of **pressure sensors** NKE SP2T10 (Figure 2) along two cross-shore transects (T1 and T2)
2. Pressure data acquired at a frequency of 2 Hz are corrected and converted into water heights, from which the wave signal is extracted for the determination of **significant wave heights (Hs)**.
3. The wave attenuation is determined from the average of significant wave height calculated over two hours of high tide, then turn into **attenuation per unit of distance (%/m)** to be easily compared between study sites.



Figure 2. Location map of the several measurement points

### Wave attenuation results

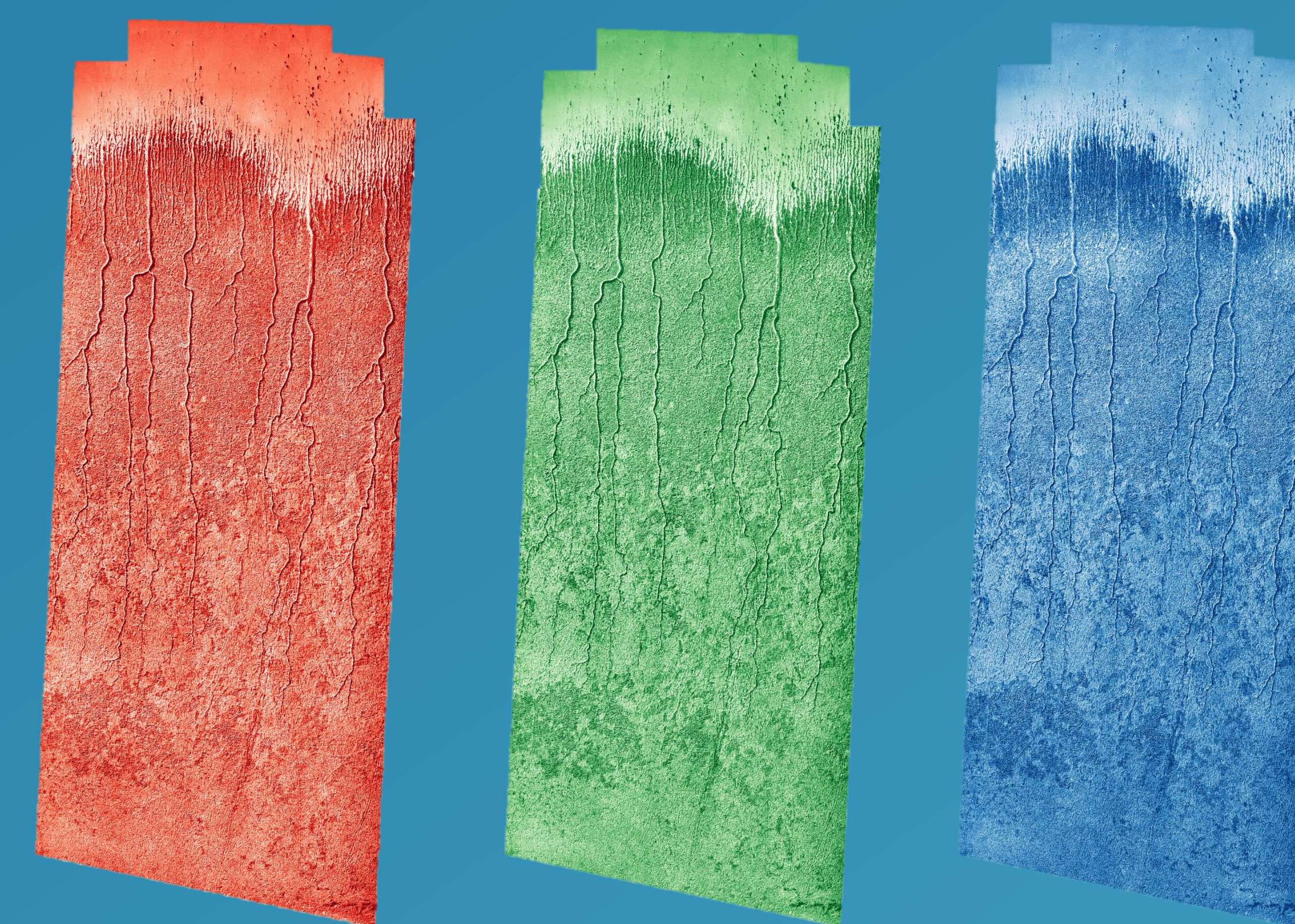


### Attenuation values (%/m)

- 0.01 - 0.00
- 0.00 - 0.50
- 0.50 - 0.75
- 0.75 - 1.00
- 1.00 - 1.12

Figure 3. Mapping of the wave attenuation along two cross-shore transects

## UAV imagery (0.1 m × 0.1 m)

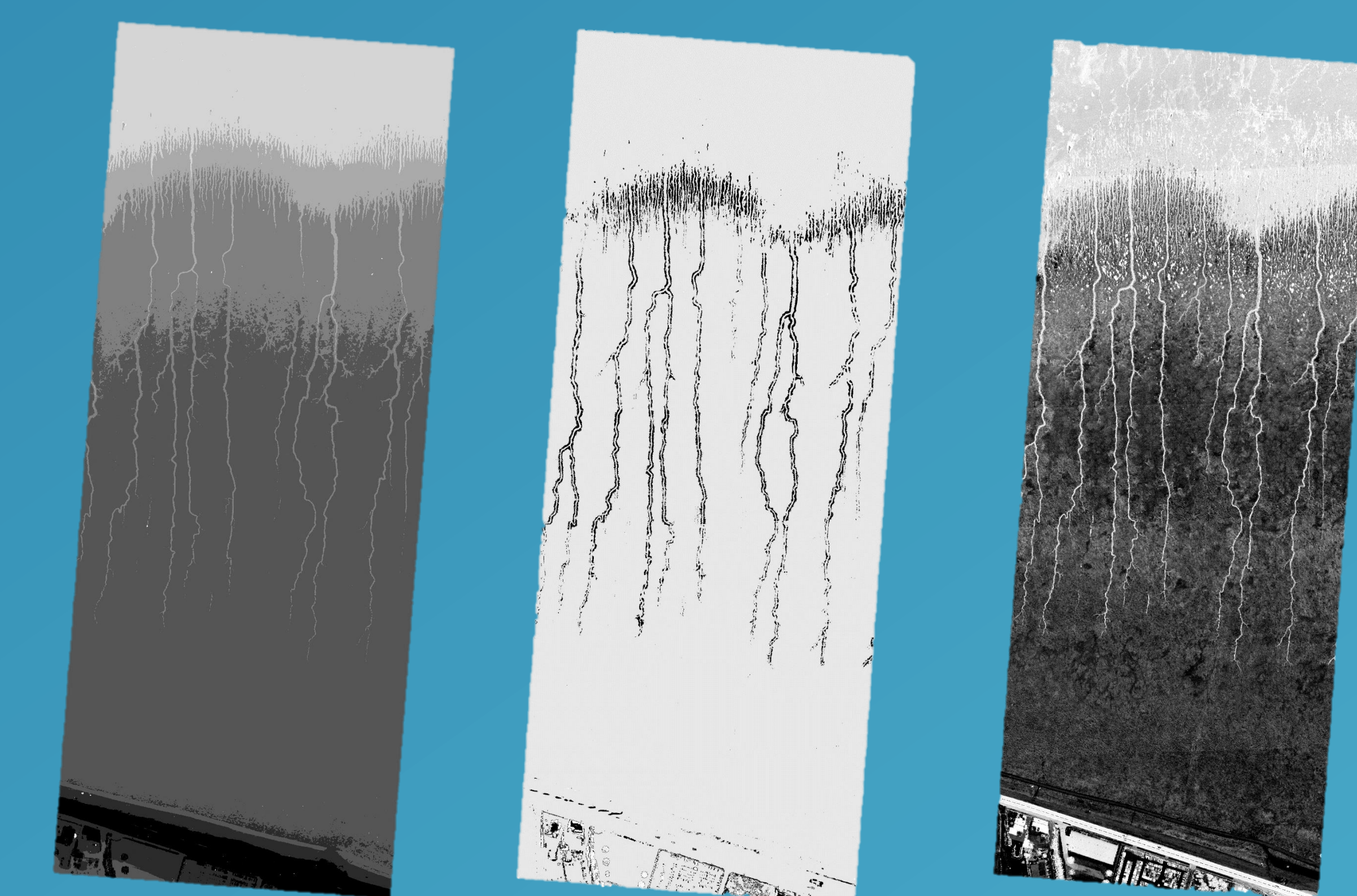


Red band

Green band

Blue band

## LiDAR data (0.1 m × 0.1 m)



Elevation

Height

Intensity

## Simple and Multiple regression models

### Predictors

## Mapping results

### Attenuation values (%/m)

- 0.1
- 0.117
- 0.333
- 0.55
- 0.767
- 0.983
- 1.2

R<sup>2</sup>: Linear coefficient of determination  
r: Linear coefficient of correlation (Pearson)

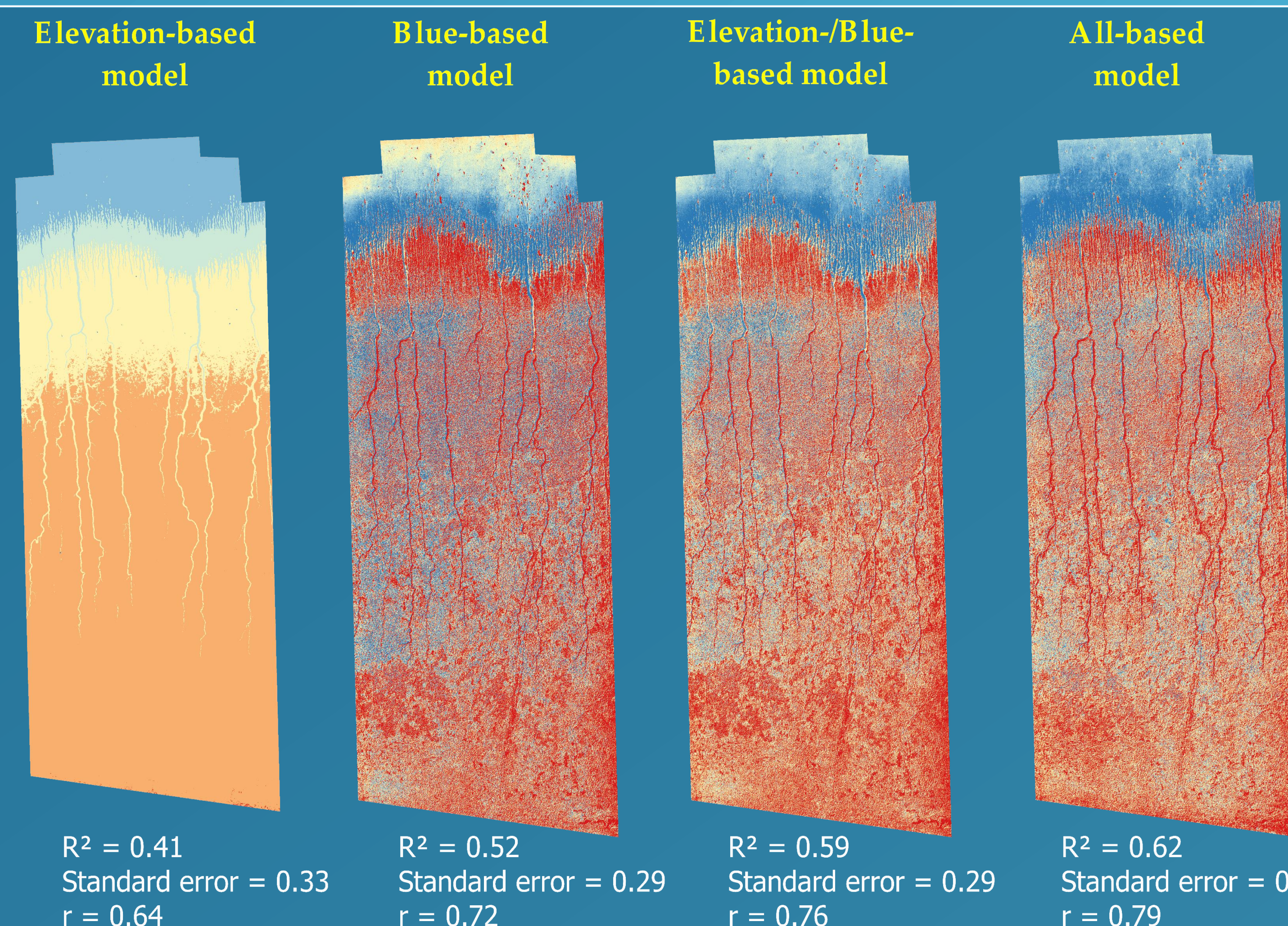


Figure 4. Spatially-explicit models

## Conclusion

- **The salt marsh wave attenuation can be mapped at very high resolution using UAV and LiDAR predictors modeled by regression models**
- **Blue is the best UAV predictor** (representing the absorption peak of chlorophyll pigments)  
R<sup>2</sup> = 0.52      Standard error = 0.29      r = 0.72
- **Elevation is the best LiDAR predictor** (representing the topography)  
R<sup>2</sup> = 0.41      Standard error = 0.33      r = 0.64
- **Blue + Elevation is the best predictor's combination**  
R<sup>2</sup> = 0.59      Standard error = 0.29      r = 0.76
- **Highest wave attenuations are located at the salt marsh edge, channels and high marsh**

### References :

Collin, A. et al., 2018, Mapping wave attenuation induced by salt marsh vegetation using WorldView-3 satellite imagery. *Revista de Investigacion Marina*, Unidad de Investigación Marina de AZTI, 25 (2), pp.67-69.  
Mury, A. et al., 2018, Wave attenuation service of saltmarshes and shelly cheniers: a spatio-temporal study in Mont-Saint-Michel Bay, France, Proceedings of the EGU General Assembly Conference, Vienna, Austria, 2018, poster session



Photography encouraged