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2 **Title:** End-to-end simulations to optimize imaging spectroscopy mission requirements for
3 seven scientific applications

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39 **Keywords:** imaging spectroscopy, signal-to-noise ratio, spectral sampling, image quality,
40 mineralogy, soil moisture content, tree species, leaf functional traits, bottom classification,
41 shallow water, bathymetry, seabed, urban land cover, plume, aerosols, methane, cryosphere,
42 water vapor, aerosols

43 **Highlights:**

44 • Assess the impact of instrumental design on various end-user hyperspectral
45 applications,

- 46 • Evaluation of the main sources of error, namely the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), the
47 radiometric calibration and the spectral sampling strategy,
- 48 • Analysis of sensibility to the instrumental configurations for each application.

49 **Journal:** ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

50 • **Abstract**

51 CNES is currently carrying out a Phase A study to assess the feasibility of a future hyperspectral
52 imaging sensor (10 m spatial resolution) combined with a panchromatic camera (2.5 m spatial
53 resolution). This mission focuses on both high spatial and spectral resolution requirements, as
54 inherited from previous French studies such as HYPEX, HYPXIM, and BIODIVERSITY. To
55 meet user requirements, cost, and instrument compactness constraints, CNES asked the French
56 hyperspectral Mission Advisory Group (MAG), representing a broad French scientific
57 community, to provide recommendations on spectral sampling, particularly in the Short Wave
58 InfraRed (SWIR) for various applications.

59 This paper presents the tests carried out with the aim of defining the optimal spectral sampling
60 and spectral resolution in the SWIR domain for quantitative estimation of physical variables
61 and classification purposes. The targeted applications are geosciences (mineralogy, soil
62 moisture content), forestry (tree species classification, leaf functional traits), coastal and inland
63 waters (bathymetry, water column, bottom classification in shallow water, coastal habitat
64 classification), urban areas (land cover), industrial plumes (aerosols, methane and carbon
65 dioxide), cryosphere (specific surface area, equivalent black carbon concentration), and
66 atmosphere (water vapor, carbon dioxide and aerosols). All the products simulated in this
67 exercise used the same CNES end-to-end processing chain, with realistic instrument

68 parameters, enabling easy comparison between applications. 648 simulations were carried out
69 with different spectral strategies, radiometric calibration performances and signal-to-noise
70 Ratios (SNR): 24 instrument configurations \times 25 datasets (22 images + 3 spectral libraries).

71 The results show that a 16/20 nm spectral sampling in the SWIR domain is sufficient for most
72 applications. However, 10 nm spectral sampling is recommended for applications based on
73 specific absorption bands such as mineralogy, industrial plumes or atmospheric gases. In
74 addition, a slight performance loss is generally observed when radiometric calibration accuracy
75 decreases, with a few exceptions in bathymetry and in the cryosphere for which the observed
76 performance is severely degraded. Finally, most applications can be achieved with the lowest
77 SNR, with the exception of bathymetry, shallow water classification, as well as carbon dioxide
78 and methane estimation, which require the higher SNR level tested. On the basis of these results,
79 CNES is currently evaluating the best compromise for designing the future hyperspectral sensor
80 to meet the objectives of priority applications.

81 **1. Introduction**

82 Imaging spectroscopy (IS) is now recognized as a powerful tool for satellite-based Earth
83 observation. Several sun-synchronous space missions such as Gaofen 5 (Liu et al., 2019),
84 PRISMA (Meini et al., 2015) or EnMap (Guanter et al., 2015) are already operational (Qian,
85 2021). They offer global coverage with a revisit time from 4 to 29 days. All these sensors have
86 a ground sampling distance (GSD) of 30 m which reduces the range of applications due to the
87 presence of mixed pixels in heterogeneous scenes (Zhao et al., 2014; Transon et al., 2018).
88 Spatial resolution is considered the « Achille heel » for the recovery of fine-scale surface
89 parameters. Other authors have mentioned these limitations for crop disease detection (Dutta et
90 al., 2006; White et al., 2007), forest functional traits estimation (Miraglio et al., 2022), urban

91 area classification (Cavalli et al., 2008; Heldens et al., 2011), clay mineral mapping (Gomez et
92 al., 2015), characterization of acid mine drainage (Davies and Calvin, 2017), monitoring of
93 industrial gas plumes (methane, carbon dioxide), smoke (Nesme et al., 2021; Deschamps et al.,
94 2013), or early detection of coral bleaching (Yamano and Tamura, 2004). Ustin and Middleton
95 (2021) reported that a 10 m GSD is justified to improve the mapping capabilities of crops,
96 minerals, snow/ice, water resources, vegetation type and condition.

97 There is therefore a real need to complement existing IS sensors with a new sensor with better
98 spatial resolution. A number of IS missions are currently under study, such as SHALOM
99 (Feingersh et Ben-Dor, 2016) and PRISMA-NG (Ansalone et al., 2021). For many years,
100 French researchers supported by CNES/DGA have been working on specifications of a new 10
101 m GSD IS sensor under several names: HYPXIM (Briottet et al., 2011; Carrère et al., 2013),
102 HYPEX-2 (Briottet et al., 2017) and BIODIVERSITY (Briottet et al., 2022). A phase A, led by
103 CNES was completed in mid-2022 with the aim of proposing an instrument combining
104 hyperspectral imaging (10 m GSD, spectral range 0.45–2.40 μm , 10 km swath) with
105 panchromatic imagery (2.5 m GSD) with a revisit time of 5 days. One of the aims of this study
106 was to define the optimum signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), radiometric image quality and spectral
107 sampling for different applications, within the constraint of instrument compactness:
108 geosciences, forestry, coastal and inland waters, urban areas, industrial plumes, cryosphere, and
109 atmosphere. All these applications have been selected because they require high spatial
110 resolution, on the order of 10 m, and correspond to the themes identified by Taramelli et al.
111 (2020). The aim of this work is therefore to present the results of a cross-analysis of these
112 scientific fields, which will help consolidate the mission requirements and the payload design.

113 After describing the input data in §2, the end-to-end simulator for calculating radiance at the
114 top of the atmosphere is presented in §3, along with the insertion of specific sensor
115 characteristics (spectral strategy, SNR, radiometric calibration accuracy), the choice of surface
116 reflectance and the methods used to extract the relevant parameters for each application. The
117 results are presented in §4, followed by a discussion in §5 and a conclusion in §6.

118 **2. Materials**

119 Two types of input data were used to cover these seven scientific domains: reflectance spectra
120 measured in the laboratory or simulated using dedicated models, presented in §2.1, and
121 hyperspectral images (§2.2).

122 **2.1. Laboratory, field and simulated spectra**

123 The use of laboratory measured spectra concerns applications in mineralogy and soil moisture
124 content (SMC) estimation (geosciences), while the use of simulated spectra concerns
125 applications in leaf functional traits estimation (vegetation), spectral surface area (SSA) and
126 equivalent black carbon (eBC) estimation (cryosphere), and atmospheric aerosol and gas
127 estimation (atmosphere).

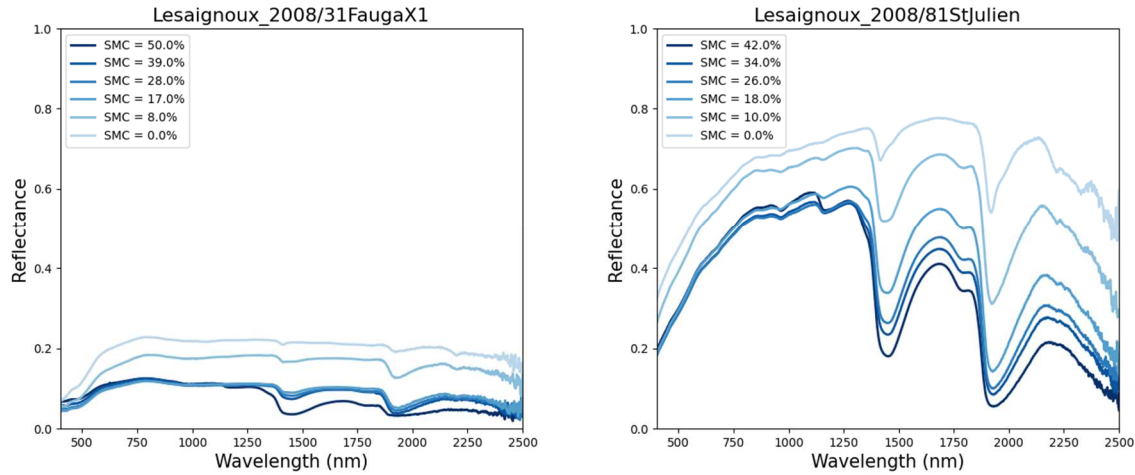
128 For mineralogy estimation, 38 reflectance spectra of 16 minerals of interest (clays, carbonates,
129 sulphates, rare earth elements (REE), oxy-hydroxides, etc.) with a wide range of chemical
130 composition and grain size were selected from the United States Geological Survey (USGS)
131 Spectral Library (<https://crustal.usgs.gov/speclab/>). The results presented here are limited to the
132 11 most typical minerals whose spectral characteristics are given in Table 1.

133 **Table 1.** Diagnostic absorption characteristics of 11 representative minerals. Bastnaesite, monazite, and
 134 xenotime have specific absorption peaks in the visible and near-infrared (VNIR) due to varying proportions of rare
 135 earth elements: only the four main absorption peaks are shown.

Mineral	USGS Reference	Wavelength positions of diagnostic absorption features
Gypsum	Gypsum_HS333.3B	~1.75 μm ; secondary absorption ~2.21 μm
Calcite	Calcite_WS272	~2.34 μm ; secondary absorption ~2.16 μm
Kaolinite	Kaolinite_CM9	Doublet ~2.16 μm and ~2.21 μm
Alunite	HS295-3B	~1.76 μm , ~2.16 μm ; secondary absorption ~2.32 μm
Goethite	Goethite_GDS134	~0.66 μm , ~0.91 μm ; secondary absorption ~0.50 μm
Hematite	Hematite_HS45.3	~0.86 μm ; secondary absorption ~0.66 μm
Jarosite	Jarosite_GDS635_Na_Cyprus	~0.43, ~0.92, 2.21 and 2.27 μm
Montmorillonite	Montmorillonite_SAz-1	~2.22 μm
Bastnaesite	Bastnaesite_REE_WS320	~ 0.58, 0.74, 0.80 and 0.86 μm
Monazite	Monazite_REE_GDS947_Calif	~ 0.58, 0.75, 0.80 and 0.87 μm
Xenotime	Xenotime_GDS966_Iceland_REE	~ 0.66, 0.75, 0.81 and 0.91 μm

136 For coastal habitat classification, a library of field spectra was acquired using an ASD FieldSpec
 137 4 Hi-Res spectroradiometer, which covers the wavelength range from 350 and 2500 nm with
 138 spectral resolution ranging from 3 nm (VIS-NIR) to 8 nm (SWIR). The spectra recorded over
 139 2151 bands were calibrated using a Spectralon to provide reflectance factor measurements.
 140 Three to five spectra were recorded on each target to account for intra-target variability. These
 141 targets have different benthic characteristics: vegetation types (green, red, brown algae and
 142 microphytobenthos) and substrate types (mud, sand, shells and rocks), *Sabellaria alveolata*
 143 bioconstructions, oyster reefs, etc. This spectral library will enable us to access the potential of
 144 the SWIR for discriminating intertidal benthic feature, given that we have no images in the
 145 coastal zone in this wavelength range.

146 For SMC, reflectance spectra of 32 soils measured for different gravimetric water contents
 147 ranging from 5% to 85% were extracted from the Les08 database (Lesaignoux et al., 2013;
 148 Figure 1) used to validate the Multilayer rAdiative tRansfer Model of soil reflectance
 149 (MARMIT) model (Bablet et al., 2018, Dupiau et al., 2022).



150
151 **Figure 1.** Reflectance spectra of two soil samples (81StJulien and 31FaugaX1) extracted from the Les08
152 database (Lesaignoux et al., 2013). <https://pss-gitlab.math.univ-paris-diderot.fr/marmit/marmit>

153 For the estimation of leaf functional traits, a spectral database was generated using the DART
154 ray-tracing model (Gastellu-Etchegorry et al., 2012) coupled to the PROSPECT leaf radiative
155 transfer model (Jacquemoud et al., 1996) with the input variables described in Table 2. The
156 objective is to simulate top of canopy reflectance images similar to those acquired by an
157 airborne hyperspectral sensor (see Miraglio et al., 2022).

158 **Table 2.** Range of variation in biochemical and physical properties of trees. FVC: fractional vegetation cover,
159 LAD: leaf angle distribution, ALA: average leaf angle, LAI: leaf area index, Cab: chlorophyll content, Car:
160 carotenoid content, EWT: equivalent water thickness, and N: leaf structure parameter in PROSPECT.

Canopy parameter	Value and range
FVC (%)	30, 50, 70, 90
LAD (°)	Ellipsoidal
ALA (°)	55-65
LAI (m ² /m ²)	1-4
Cab (µg/cm ²)	5 - 70
Car (µg/cm ²)	4 - 20
EWT (g/cm ²)	0.001 – 0.025
LMA (g/cm ²)	0.001 – 0.025
N	1.5 – 2.1

161 To estimate the specific surface area (SSA) and the equivalent black carbon (eBC)
162 concentration, snow reflectance spectra were simulated with the Two-streAm Radiative
163 TransfEr in Snow model (TARTES, Libois et al., 2013) with the input parameters detailed in

164 Table 3. SSA and eBC values were determined using *in situ* hyperspectral measurements
165 (Libois et al., 2013; Picard et al., 2016; Dumont et al., 2017; Tuzet et al., 2019, 2020).

166 **Table 3.** Definition of the variation ranges of the inputs for the TARTES simulations.

Variable	Range
Spectral range	350-3000 nm at 1 nm resolution
Specific surface area (SSA)	3-100 kg m ⁻²
Sun zenith angle	0-80° by 10° step
Dust	11 values between 0 and 500 10 ⁻⁶ g g ⁻¹
Equivalent black carbon (eBC) concentration	11 values between 0 and 300 10 ⁻⁹ g g ⁻¹

167 To estimate the composition of the gaseous atmosphere (water vapor, carbon dioxide),
168 performance is assessed on the basis of a standard mid-latitude summer atmosphere, with a CO₂
169 concentration of 400 ppm. The observation is at nadir and the solar zenith angle is 20°, while
170 the ground reflectance corresponds to a bright desert-like surface.

171 For atmospheric aerosols, synthetic TOA radiances were generated using the Generalized
172 Retrieval of Aerosol and Surface Properties (GRASP, Dubovik et al. 2021) algorithm for a
173 fixed geometry corresponding to a scattering angle of 150° and selected nominal wavelengths
174 in the atmospheric windows (419, 441, 492, 546, 669, 770, 865, 2312 nm). Only a subset of
175 wavelengths was selected, as the spectral characteristics of aerosols vary little in the solar
176 domain. A mixture of two aerosol types with different size distributions, chemical compositions
177 and shapes was used for the simulations: a fine mode for pollution particles and a coarse mode
178 for desert dust. The influence of gases is negligible in this study, as the spectral bands were
179 selected outside the main gas absorption peaks. The top of atmosphere reflectance ranged from
180 0.09 to 0.11 at 419 nm and around 0.01 at 2190 nm, representing different aerosol
181 concentrations over a dark surface (water). Only one scenario is presented here, corresponding
182 to a constant SNR of 200 in the 400-550 nm spectral range and 100 in the 600-2400 nm spectral
183 range.

2.2. Airborne hyperspectral imaging

185 Images were acquired by airborne sensors with different spectral resolutions: NEO-HySpex (4-
 186 7 nm, <https://www.neo.no/>), NEO-ODIN (3-6 nm, <https://www.neo.no/>), AVIRIS-C (10 nm,
 187 <https://aviris.jpl.nasa.gov/>), and AVIRIS-NG (3.7 nm, <https://aviris.jpl.nasa.gov/>). They all
 188 cover the 0.4-2.5 μm spectral range. Table 4 lists the images and variables of interest for each
 189 scientific field.

190 **Table 4.** IS images used in this study, with θ_s sun zenith angle applied in subsequent simulations and all the
 191 images are acquired at nadir.

Scientific domain	Acquisition date	Location	Sensor characteristics	Applications: Variable of interest
Geosciences	Sept. 2019 $\theta_s = 50.5^\circ$	Cherves-Richemont, France	HySpex: GSD _{VNIR} = 0.5 m GSD _{SWIR} = 1 m	Mineralogy: gypsum, calcite
	Sept. 2019 $\theta_s = 50.2^\circ$	Chevanceaux, France	HySpex: GSD _{VNIR} = 0.5 m GSD _{SWIR} = 1 m	Mineralogy: kaolinite
	June 2020 $\theta_s = 15.8^\circ$	Cuprite, NV, USA	AVIRIS-NG GSD = 2.9 m	Mineralogy: alunite, kaolinite, iron oxy-hydroxides
	June 2014 $\theta_s = 76.1^\circ$	Mountain Pass, CA, USA	AVIRIS-NG GSD = 3.7 m	Mineralogy: bastnaesite (carbonate-fluoride mineral, REE)
Vegetation	Sept. 2015 $\theta_s = 47.3^\circ$	Fabas Forest, France	HySpex: GSD _{VNIR} = 4 m GSD _{SWIR} = 4 m	Tree species classification (temperate forest, LAI = 3 m ² /m ²): 20 species
	June 2014 $\theta_s = 17.9^\circ$	Tonzi Ranch, CA, USA (Figure 11)	AVIRIS-NG GSD = 4 m	Mediterranean woodland savannah, (LAI = 0.8 m ² /m ²): Cab, Car, LMA and EWT
Coastal waters	July 2016 $\theta_s = 31.3 - 32.3^\circ$	Roscoff, France	HySpex GSD _{VNIR} = 0.5 m	Bathymetry
	Sept. 2017 $\theta_s = 42.4^\circ$	Porquerolles Island, France (Figure 13)	HySpex GSD _{VNIR} = 1 m	Bathymetry, Water column estimation: phytoplankton, SPM, CDOM Bottom classification of shallow water.
	July 2019 $\theta_s = 22.5^\circ$	Camargue, France	HySpex GSD _{VNIR} = 1 m	
	June, 2019 $\theta_s = 25.5^\circ$	Champeaux, France	HySpex GSD _{VNIR} = 0.5 m	Classification of intertidal coastal habitats (10 classes)
Urban area	June 2015 $\theta_s = 20.5^\circ$	Toulon, France	NEO-ODIN GSD = 0.5 m	Urban land cover (10 classes)
Industrial site	Sept. 2015 $\theta_s = 58.2 - 60.7^\circ$	Fos-sur-Mer, France	HySpex GSD = 1.4 m	Aerosol plume

Oct. 2019 $\theta_s = 15.0^\circ$	New Mexico, USA	AVIRIS-C GSD = 6.6 m	Methane leaks
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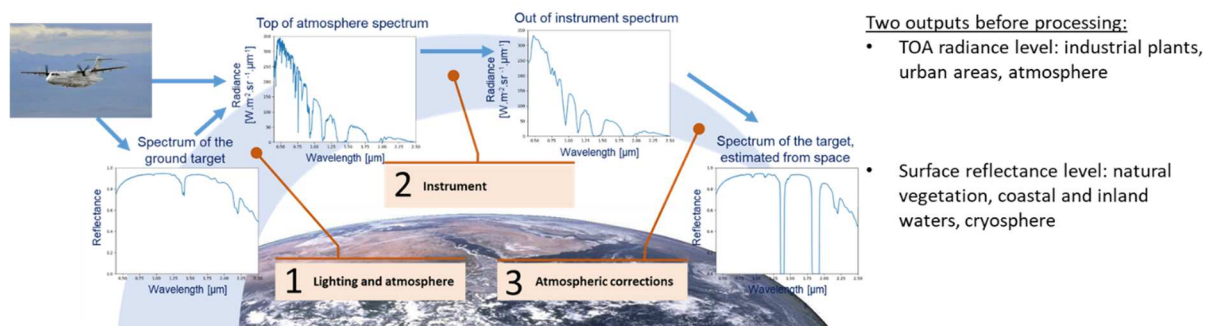
192 The Fabas forest is composed of six distinct dominant species, including *Quercus* sp., Douglas
 193 pine (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Laricio pine (*Pinus nigra*), maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*),
 194 Weymouth pine (*Pinus strobus*) and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). These six species
 195 are included in the classification process, along with two additional classes: other conifer and
 196 deciduous trees.

197 For urban areas, ten classes were considered: tile, vegetation, shadow, high reflectance, asphalt,
 198 bare soil, pavement, road, stadium and stone.

199 For shallow water bottom classification, three classes were considered for the Porquerolles site
 200 (sand, *Posidonia oceanica* and *Caulerpa taxifolia*), and four classes for Camargue site
 201 (sediments, zosters, green algae and red algae).

202 3. Method

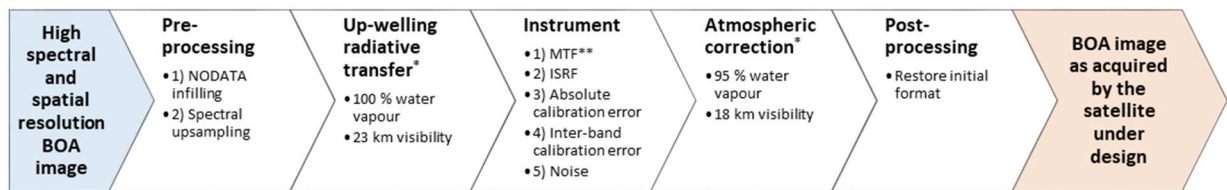
203 The processing chain is detailed in Figure 2.



205 **Figure 2.** Overview of the end-to-end simulator.

206 Each application targets one or several variables of interest. For each, a reference value is
 207 defined and hyperspectral data (spectra or images) are produced. The end-to-end simulator
 208 propagates this data at the top of the atmosphere, just as it would have been acquired by a

209 satellite. Various satellite performances can be simulated. Next, a specific method is applied to
 210 retrieve the variable of interest from the satellite data. Finally, the estimated value is compared
 211 with the reference value. The discrepancy between the estimation and the reference indicates if
 212 the satellite performances meet the application requirements or not. The end-to-end simulator
 213 and the processing of each application are detailed below. Figure 3 gives the processing orders
 214 and the main parameters used in our simulations.



215
 216 **Figure 3.** Processing order of the end-to-end simulation chain. *: Not applied on applications based on TOA images
 217 (gas content estimation, pan-sharpening), **: Not applied on spectral libraries. ISRF: instrumental spectral response
 218 function, MTF: Modulation transfer function

219 The End-to-End simulator and the processing for each application are detailed in the following.

220 **3.1. End-to-end simulator**

221 The aim of the end-to-end simulator (Figure 2) is to simulate the output signal, in spectral
 222 radiance unit, that a sensor can acquire, taking into account its own errors, and then to carry out
 223 the atmospheric correction to retrieve the spectral reflectance of the surface.

224 All data processing was carried out using an end-to-end simulator developed and operated
 225 by the French Space Agency (CNES), so that results could be compared (Figure 2). This
 226 simulator allows two types of input to be taken into account, depending on the data available
 227 for each application: surface reflectance spectra or airborne images expressed in radiance units.

228 **3.1.1. Input top-of-atmosphere spectral radiance**

229 The COMANCHE code (Poutier et al., 2002), based on MODTRAN 5.3 (Berk et al., 2005),
 230 was used to calculate the top-of-atmosphere (TOA) radiance. We chose the MODTRAN

231 standard parameters which were coherent with the case studies, i.e. a mid-latitude summer
 232 atmosphere and a rural aerosol type with a 23 km horizontal visibility. The solar angular
 233 conditions were deduced from the input acquisition conditions (Table 4). A nadir viewing angle
 234 was applied for all images since they were all acquired at nadir. The resulting TOA spectral
 235 radiance is then processed further to simulate the acquired signals in the hyperspectral and
 236 panchromatic channels.

237 3.1.2. Output top-of-atmosphere spectral radiance

238 Several scenarios were explored to quantify the instrumental effects on the final products:

- 239 ● Two signal-to-noise ratios: *optimistic* (O) [100-400] @L_{ref} and *realistic* (R) [50-250] @L_{ref}
 240 (Figure 4), with L_{ref} the reference radiance. Gaussian noise with a zero mean and a standard
 241 deviation σ was added to the input radiance. σ is equal to:

$$242 \quad \sigma(\lambda) = \sqrt{a(\lambda) + b(\lambda) \cdot L(\lambda)}$$

243 with a a constant noise and b a noise associated to the radiance, both depending on the
 244 spectral width, L the TOA radiance, and λ the central wavelength of the spectral band. L_{ref}
 245 is defined for an albedo of 0.3, a sun zenith angle of 60° and nadir viewing, a standard mid-
 246 latitude winter atmosphere, and a continental aerosol type with a 23 km horizontal visibility.

- 247 ● Two absolute and interband calibration performances (Figure 5): *threshold* (t) [5% absolute,
 248 2% interband] and *target* (T) [3% absolute, 1% interband].

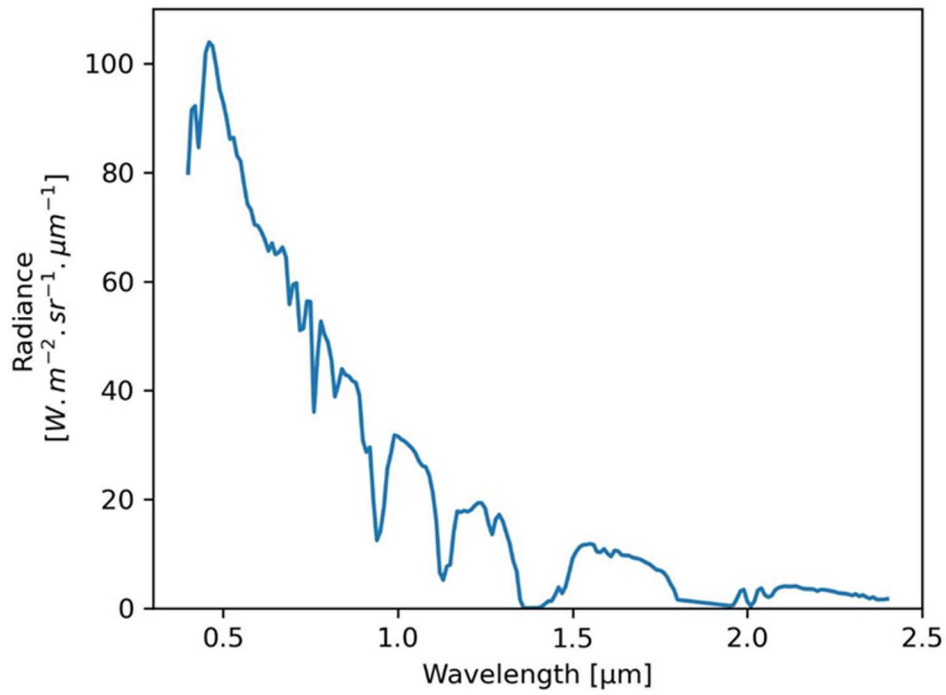
- 249 ● Six instrumental spectral response functions (ISRF) defining different sampling strategies,
 250 labelled from #1 to #6 (Table 5). Note that the spectral configurations differ only in the
 251 SWIR. The ISRF defines how sensible are each spectral channel to every incoming
 252 wavelength. The TOA equivalent radiance acquired in a given spectral band i is computed

253 by: $L_i = \frac{\int ISRF_i(\lambda) \cdot L(\lambda) \cdot d\lambda}{\int ISRF_i(\lambda) \cdot d\lambda}$ where $L(\lambda)$ is the TOA radiance computed in Paragraph 3.1.1 and

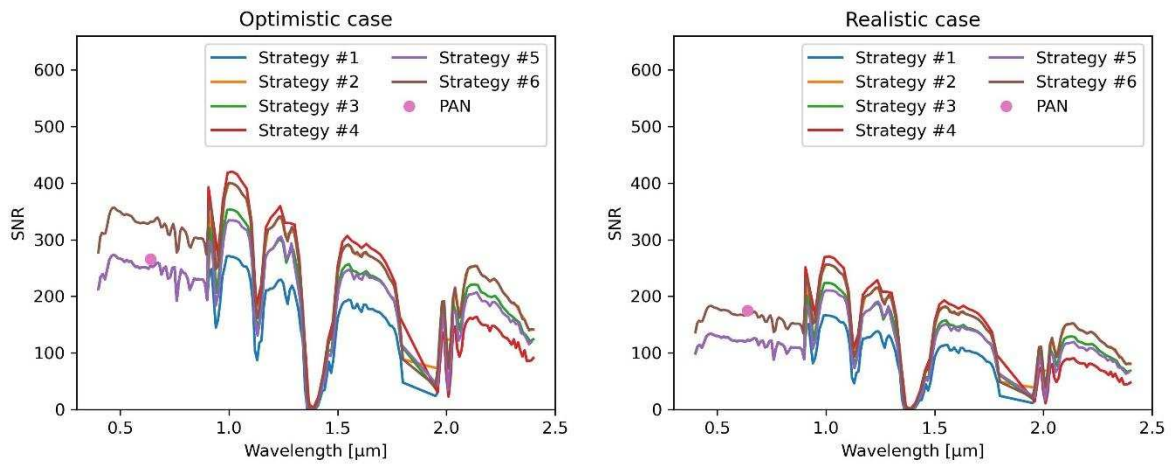
254 $ISRF_i(\lambda)$ the spectral response of band i . $ISRF_i(\lambda)$ is modeled as a Gaussian function with
255 a central wavelength λ_{C_i} and a full width at half maximum $FWHM_i$. Table 5 provides the
256 spectral step (i.e. the distance between λ_{C_i} and $\lambda_{C_{i+1}}$) and the spectral width ($FWHM$) of
257 each sampling strategy. Note that strategy #5 is a sum of Gaussian functions with a linear
258 increasing $FWHM$. Several ISRFs were tested as the matrix detector might have a limited
259 number of lines to record all the spectral bands. This disadvantage can be overcome by
260 widening the channels spectral width and thus reducing their number. To take into account
261 that the central wavelength of each band may not be known precisely, the calculation
262 includes a constant spectral shift of 1 nm, typical from a spectral calibration error.

263 Note the instrument parameters used are realistic and that the sensor is technologically feasible.

264 In summary, a scenario is defined by a spectral strategy (#1 to #6), a calibration performance (t
265 for *threshold* or T for *target*) and a SNR (O for *optimistic* or R for *realistic*). Each scenario is
266 then referred to as the triplet (spectral strategy, calibration, SNR). A star indicates that the
267 comment applies to all possibilities in the triplet component. The reference scenario is (#1, T,
268 O), i.e. 10 nm wide spectral channels with the lower calibration errors and the best SNR.



269

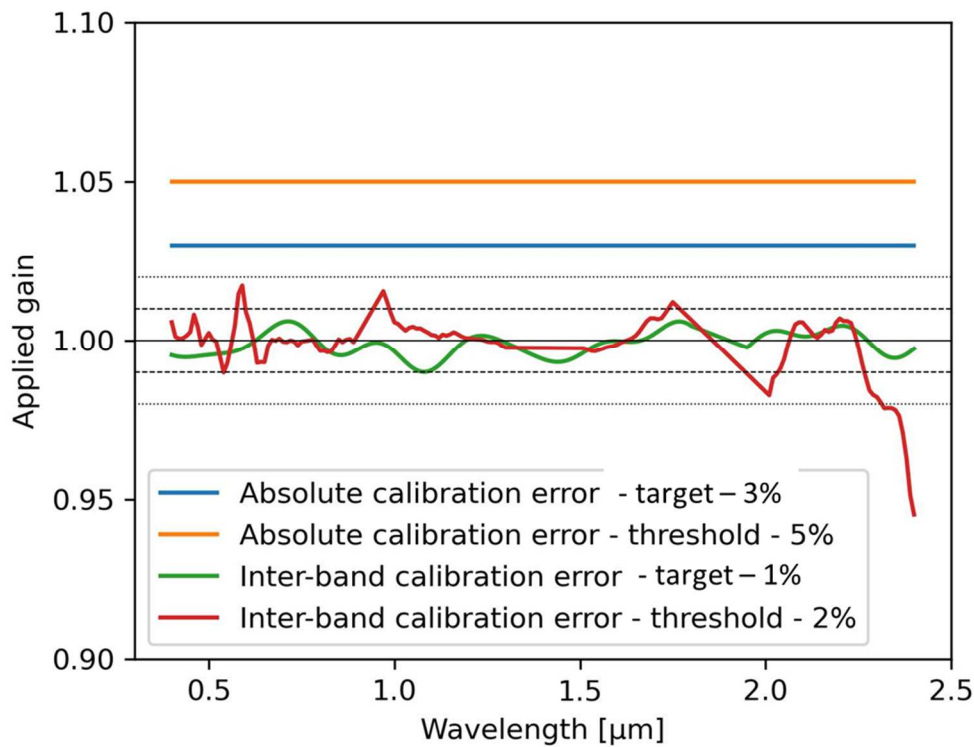


270

271

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Figure 4. Top: reference spectral radiance, L_{ref} , used to define SNR. Bottom left: optimistic SNR. Bottom right: realistic SNR.



273

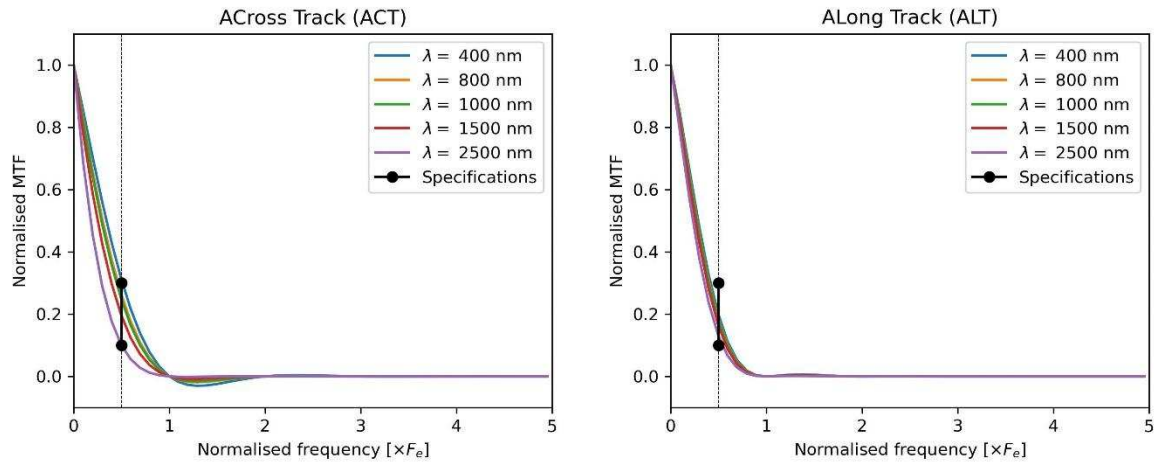
274 **Figure 5.** Absolute and interband calibration errors: threshold and target.

275 **Table 5.** Spectral sampling strategies. The spectral range from 1850 to 1950 nm is unused.

Sampling Strategy	VNIR (400 – 900 nm)			SWIR (900 – 1850 nm / 1950 – 2400 nm)		
	Spectral step (nm)	Spectral width (nm)	Number of channels	Spectral step (nm)	Spectral width (nm)	Number of channels
#1	10	10	51	10	10	136
#2	10	10	51	20	20	68
#3	10	10	51	16	16	85
#4	10	10	51	22 for $\lambda \leq 1.95$ 10 for $\lambda > 2.05$	22 for $\lambda \leq 1.95$ 10 for $\lambda > 2.05$	86
#5	10	10	51	12	Linear increase from 14 to 17 nm over [0.9 – 1.3], [1.3 – 1.8], and [1.95 – 2.4],	112
#6	8	16	63	10	20	136

276 In addition, the instrument introduces some blurring into the image, the magnitude of which
 277 depends on the wavelength and is modelled by the modulation transfer function (MTF). Due to
 278 the push-broom acquisition mode, the MTF is not equivalent along and across the satellite track
 279 (Figure 6). When processing the spectral libraries, the MTF simulation is not activated as only
 280 one pixel is processed.

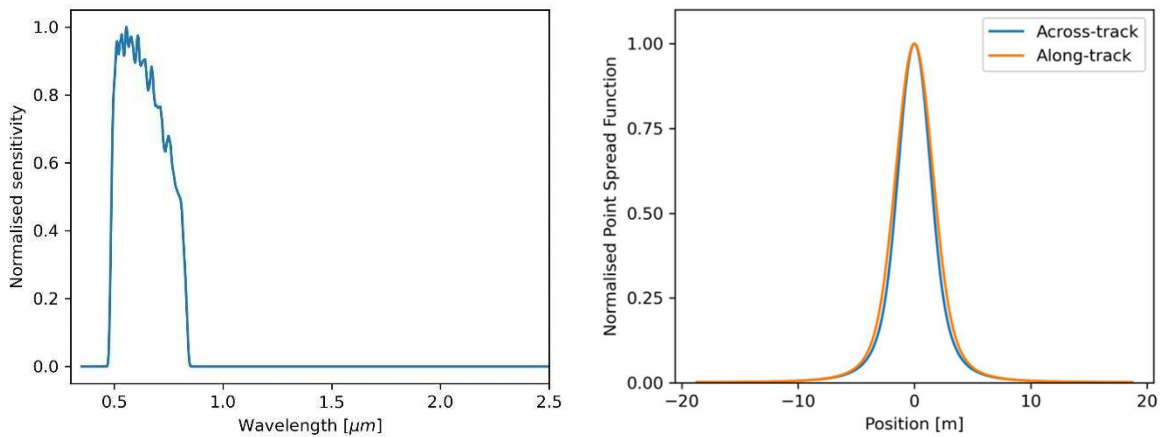
281 When processing the spectral libraries, MTF simulation is not activated as only one pixel is
282 processed.



283

284 **Figure 6.** Modulation transfer function (MTF) of five spectral bands of the instrument in the frequency domain.

285 The instrument also features a panchromatic channel (PAN). Four additional images were
286 generated with two SNR (realistic or optimistic, Figure 4) and two instrumental calibration
287 performances (threshold or target). Figure 7 shows the normalized sensitivity of the
288 panchromatic channel and its point spread function at 639 nm.



289

290 **Figure 7.** (Left) Normalized sensitivity of the panchromatic channel. (Right) Point spread function at 639 nm.

291 To summarize the end-to-end processing chain, the input TOA radiance is first affected by the
292 MTF (reduction of the input spatial resolution), then by the ISRF (reduction of the input spectral

293 resolution). At this point, the absolute calibration error as well as the inter-band calibration
294 error are applied. The last step corresponds to the instrumental noise simulation.

295 In the end, for each input image, this experimental design produced twenty-four simulated
296 images representative of various instrumental performances. However, the sensor design does
297 not yet allow us to take into account other potential defects, such as stray light, geometric errors
298 (geolocation, band registration, etc.), across-track variations in instrument characteristics
299 (MTF, ISRF, etc.) including the smile effect, polarization sensitivity, directional effects induced
300 by slowing down the satellite during acquisition or, and detector defects (remanence, dead
301 pixels, etc.).

302 **3.1.3. Spectral surface reflectance**

303 The complexity of atmospheric correction algorithms allow them to be adapted to different
304 situations. In this study, simulated data or images have been corrected for atmospheric effects
305 with high performance so as not to interfere with the other parameters of interest (i.e.,
306 instrument configuration). However, some typical sources of error are accounted for:

- 307 ● An error of 5 km in horizontal visibility: the upward transfer is performed with a visibility
308 of 23 km and the downward transfer with a visibility of 18 km. Aerosol type remains
309 unchanged.
- 310 ● A 5% error in the water vapor content: the downward transfer is calculated with 95% of the
311 water vapor content simulated on the upward transfer.

312 As the upward transfer is done numerically, the atmospheric correction can be carried out with
313 the same performance whatever the target. This choice makes it possible to compare images
314 from one application to another.

315 **3.2. Description of methods by scientific field**

316 For each scientific field covered by this study, Table 6 provides the variables of interest, the
317 input format, the method used to estimate these variables, the bibliographic reference detailing
318 the method and the evaluation criteria.

319 **Table 6.** Methods used to retrieve application-related variables. SA: Spectral Analyst, SAM: Spectral Angle Mapper, SD: standard deviation, SFF: Spectral Feature Fitting,
 320 SVM: Support Vector Machine, PLS: Partial Least Square, ACE: Adaptive Coherence Estimator, RMSE: Root-Mean-Square Error, PM: Particle Matter.

Scientific domain	Variable of interest	Type of IS inputs (unit)	Method and author	Reference value of the variable of interest	Evaluation criteria
Geosciences	Mineral composition	Image (surface reflectance)	Visual assessment SAM (Kruse et al., 1993) SFF (Clark et al., 1990)	Mineralogical maps of the site	Position and shape of absorption features Identification if SA > 0.7 and SAM < 0.2 Identification if SA > 0.7 and max(RMSE of SFF) > 0.1
	Soil moisture content	Spectra (surface reflectance)	MARMIT model (Bablet et al., 2018)	Laboratory measurements	RMSE between laboratory input and satellite outputs
Vegetation	Tree species classification	Image (surface reflectance)	Supervised classification: SVM with Radial Basis function (Gimenez et al., 2022)	In situ measurements	Mean, RMSE values of Overall Accuracy, F-score over the 24 scenarios and 30 iterations each
	Leaf functional traits	Image (surface reflectance)	Hybrid method using DART/PROSPECT simulations and PLSR (Miraglio et al., 2022)	Traits maps from a high spatial resolution image	RMSE by comparing ISRF #1 and the others ISRF
Coastal zones	Bathymetry	Image (surface reflectance)	HYPIP processing chain (Lennon et al., 2013)	Lidar measurements	SD and RMSE / bathymetric Lidar
	Bathymetry and bio-optical aquatic parameters	Image (surface reflectance)	Hybrid method based on the Lee model (Lee et al., 1999, Minghelli et al., 2020)	Lidar measurements, in situ water characterization	RMSE / in situ data $RE(\%) = \frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{ \hat{y}_i - y_i }{y_i}$ / in situ data
	Classification of intertidal coastal area	Image (surface reflectance)	With and without IS Pansharpening + Fully Constrained Least Square – the endmembers are known (Heinz and Chang, 2001)	Manual in situ classification map	Normalized RMSE on abundance
	Intertidal coastal area	Spectra (surface reflectance)	PLS and discriminant analysis (Lee et al., 2018)	In situ field spectra	Kappa coefficient Overall Accuracy
Urban area	Urban Land Cover 1	Image (TOA radiance)	IS Pansharpening, Random Forest classification (Loncan et al., 2015)	Manual classification	Good classification rate / reference image
	Urban Land Cover 2	Image in TOA radiance unit	Upsampling of the IS image, SVM classification, fusion with PAN (Ouerghemmi et al., 2017)	Manual classification	Mean F-Score over the classes
Industrial site	PM1 Flux of industrial aerosol plume	Image (TOA radiance)	Multitemporal algorithm (Foucher et al., 2019)	In situ measurements	Estimated error High objective: < 80 µg/m ³ Low objective: < 150 µg/m ³
	Methane concentration of industrial plume	Image (TOA radiance)	Plume detection with ACE detector, quantification of the concentration (Nesme et al., 2021)	JPL estimation	Estimated error High objective: < 1000 ppm.m Low objective: < 1500 ppm.m

Cryosphere	Specific Surface Area, equivalent black carbon content of snow	Spectra (surface reflectance)	Hybrid method with TARTES (Dumont et al., 2017)	Simulations	Bias, standard deviation of the estimates / reference inputs
Atmosphere	Water vapor and CO ₂	Spectra (TOA radiance)	Optimal estimation theory (Herbin et al., 2013)	Simulations	RMSE
	Aerosols	Spectra (TOA radiance)	GRASP and optimized fitting following the multi- term Least Square Method (Dubovik et al., 2021)	Simulations	RMSE

321

322 **3.2.1. Geosciences**

323 A first assessment of the impact of instrument characteristics was carried out qualitatively on
324 spectra of representative minerals extracted from the spectral library and image pixels. The
325 positions and shapes of their absorption features enabled us to visually evaluate the different
326 scenarios, in particular with regards to the spectral strategy. Next, a quantitative assessment
327 was carried out using the Spectral Analyst (SA) algorithm in the ENVI software
328 (<https://www.nv5geospatialsoftware.com/>). This compares the spectra of representative
329 minerals with those of a reference spectral library at the same spectral resolution, resampled
330 according to the spectral characteristics (band positions and full width at half maximum) of the
331 different strategies. This procedure enabled us to assess the impact of instrument calibration
332 and SNR. To compare the spectra, we used two well-known spectral matching techniques called
333 Spectral Angle Mapper (SAM) (Kruse et al., 1993) and Spectral Feature Fitting (SFF) (Clark
334 et al., 1990). SAM determines the spectral similarity between two spectra by treating them as
335 two vectors in a space whose dimensionality is equal to the number of bands, and calculating
336 the angle between these vectors. This technique is insensitive to illumination and albedo effects
337 when used on calibrated reflectance spectra. SFF is based on the least squares method. The
338 reference spectra are scaled to match the unknown spectra after the continuum is removed from
339 both (Clark et al., 1990; Mars and Rowan, 2010). SAM and SFF values are calculated on VNIR
340 (0.4-1.3 μm), SWIR1 (1.3-2.0 μm) and SWIR2 (2.0-2.5 μm) to avoid as far as possible
341 problems associated with atmospheric corrections in the two main water vapor absorption bands
342 around 1.4 and 1.9 μm . This also allows us to focus on spectral ranges where the selected
343 minerals exhibit diagnostic absorption features, which is recommended with these spectral
344 matching techniques. The SA result is a ranked or weighted score, with higher scores indicating
345 greater confidence.

346 Soil moisture content is estimated by inversion of the MARMIT model, which represents a
 347 wet soil as a dry soil covered by a thin layer of liquid water of thickness L (Babiet et al., 2018).
 348 The dry soil can be fully or partially covered with water, with a coverage fraction equal to ϵ .
 349 The two input parameters of MARMIT, L and ϵ are estimated by minimizing the cost function:

$$\chi^2(L, \epsilon) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} (R_{meas}(\lambda) - R_{mod}(\lambda, L, \epsilon))^2}{n_\lambda}}$$

350 with n_λ the number of wavelengths (or channels), R_{meas} the measured soil reflectance, and
 351 R_{mod} the soil reflectance estimated by MARMIT. The lower and upper bounds of the model
 352 parameters are 0 and 1 for ϵ , 0 and 0.2 cm for L . A calibration step is required to establish a
 353 statistical relationship between the mean water thickness (mean light path) defined as $\varphi = L \times$
 354 ϵ and the measured SMC. The evaluation of the method consists in retrieving SMC by applying
 355 the relation found in the calibration step and comparing it with the measured values. The RMSE
 356 is calculated on 160 SMC values ranging from 5 to 85%.

357 **3.2.2. Vegetation**

358 A supervised support vector machine (SVM) classification is applied together with a radial
 359 basis function (RBF) kernel to classify tree species on the basis of spectral signatures extracted
 360 from the HySpex image and corresponding to the field inventory. Two subsets are randomly
 361 generated, a training one (70%) and a validation one (30%). The training subset is used to
 362 optimize the RBF-SVM hyper-parameters, C and Gamma. The strategy followed is based on
 363 an exhaustive grid search strategy with 5-fold cross validation aimed at maximizing the overall
 364 accuracy (OA) of the classifier. The space defined by C values ranging from 10^{-2} to 10^9 and
 365 Gamma values ranging from 10^{-7} to 10 is explored. The model is then trained using the
 366 parameters obtained and the training subset. Next, the trained SVM classifier is applied to the
 367 validation subset. The method's performance is evaluated using the OA and F-score, the user

368 and producer accuracy for each class. As the scores can depend on initial conditions, the whole
369 procedure is repeated 30 times and the mean and RMSE of each accuracy score is calculated.
370 Thirdly, the tree species map is produced using the same scheme with the spectral signature
371 dataset for the training and the image for application. Ultimately, the relevance of each of the
372 twenty-four scenarios is evaluated using this classification scheme, and compared using the
373 mean and standard deviation of the accuracy scores obtained.

374 Leaf functional traits are estimated using a hybrid method based on training a PLSR on the
375 previously described spectral database generated by DART. An automatic determination of the
376 optimal number of latent variables and a selection of the most important variables in the
377 projection design are performed for the PLSR parameterization. To optimize trait extraction,
378 the spectral range is adapted to the influence of each trait: 0.5-0.8 μm for chlorophyll (Cab) and
379 carotenoids (Car), and 1.5–2.4 μm for leaf mass per area (LMA) and equivalent water thickness
380 (EWT) (Miraglio et al., 2022). Then, the optimal trained PLSR is applied on the airborne image
381 to derive inversion maps of leaf traits, and the RMSE is calculated by comparing the reference
382 scenario (#1) with the others (#2 to #6).

383 **3.2.3. Coastal zones**

384 Shallow water bathymetry is estimated in the 400-900 nm range using the SWIM® software
385 developed by Hytech-imaging (Lennon et al., 2013). SWIM® includes modules for the
386 correction of the sun glint at the surface and for the correction of the air/water interface. Both
387 SWIM and HYPIP include modules for uncertainty propagation from the sensor to the final
388 products. Another method is applied to simultaneously estimate bathymetry and bio-optical
389 parameters and perform shallow water bottom classification (Lee et al., 1999; Minghelli et al.,
390 2020). The aquatic bio-optical parameters are chlorophyll, suspended particulate matter (SPM),

391 colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM), depth, bottom sediment abundance, zosters, green
392 and red algae.

393 A fully constrained least squares (FCLS) unmixing method is also applied to the airborne VNIR
394 image to estimate the abundance of the several seabed species. PLS-DA analysis (Lee et al.,
395 2018) is then used for VNIR-SWIR field spectra to evaluate the discrimination performance of
396 BIODIVERSITY configurations. This method can be applied to datasets with few observations
397 and many explanatory variables (spectral reflectance), as is the case with the spectral library
398 used in this study.

399 **3.2.4. Urban area**

400 Considering that a GSD of 10 m is not sufficient to classify an urban area, a hyperspectral
401 pansharpening method called Gain is first applied (ULC1). It is inspired by the Brovey
402 transform applied to the RGB+PAN case (Saroglu et al., 2004), but has been generalized to the
403 HS+PAN case (Loncan et al., 2015). A supervised classification method (random forest) is then
404 applied to the resulting image. Ten classes are selected, each composed of twenty spectra. The
405 calibration and validation phases follow the k-fold method: random selection of five groups
406 with a uniform distribution of each class, then four groups are used for calibration and the last
407 one for validation. A second urban land cover (ULC2) method is applied. First, a hyperspectral
408 image is oversampled (bilinear interpolation) to a GSD of 2.5 m corresponding to the
409 panchromatic band. Then, a supervised SVM classification is performed. Ten classes are
410 considered. Fifty training samples were selected for each class, to provide a model unbiased by
411 the unbalanced distribution of classes. This number is considered sufficient to obtain efficient
412 classification models, while keeping a sufficient number of validation samples. For each
413 classification, ten iterations of the classification process (involving random selection of training

414 samples) are performed. Then, a fusion process is then applied. The classification results are
415 evaluated by averaging the F-scores over the classes.

416 **3.2.5. Industrial site**

417 Characterization of PM1 aerosols in an industrial plume uses a multi-temporal algorithm
418 (Foucher et al., 2019). The objective is to determine the difference between two images
419 corrected for illumination and viewing angles, acquired in two wind directions to enhance the
420 PM1 plume signature. The differential model depends on aerosol properties, such as radius,
421 single scattering albedo, and concentration. A correlation map (adaptive coherence estimator,
422 ACE) between the temporal differential and the a priori plume signature from different aerosols
423 types is then calculated. The model assumes a constant layer height of 100 m: for a GSD of 10
424 m, a mass of 1 g would correspond to a concentration of $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, or a column concentration
425 of $10^{-2} \text{g}/\text{m}^2$. Pixel concentration is estimated using a linear formalism. To validate the estimate,
426 the error must be below a given threshold (Table 5).

427 Industrial methane plumes are characterized in two stages (Nesme et al., 2021). To validate the
428 estimate, the error must be below a given threshold (Table 5): a low threshold associated with
429 a flow rate of around 30 g/s, a high threshold associated with a flow rate of around 50 g/s. The
430 detection map is built from thresholds on the ACE detector, on the residuals, and on a priori
431 sensitivity. The amount of excess methane is associated with the transmission τ_{gaz} deduced by
432 inversion of the equation:

$$L_g^* = L_{ng}^* \tau_{gaz} \quad (2)$$

433 with L_g^* the sensor radiance corresponding to excess gas in the optical path and L_{ng}^* the sensor
434 radiance of the same pixel without excess gas, both corrected for atmospheric path radiance.

435 **3.2.6. Cryosphere**

436 The snow surface is characterized by two properties accessible from imaging spectroscopy
437 (Dumont et al., 2017): the specific surface area (SSA), the ratio between the surface area of air-
438 ice and the snow mass and the equivalent black carbon concentration (eBC). The extraction
439 method finds optimal values for the two variables that minimize the difference between a large
440 set of measured reflectance data and TARTES simulations.

441 **3.2.7. Atmosphere**

442 The method for quantifying water vapor and carbon dioxide used the Shannon information
443 content with the formalism proposed by Rodgers (2000). It introduces the theory of optimal
444 estimation, widely described by Herbin et al. (2013). The a priori errors of the CO₂ and H₂O
445 profiles are set at 5% and 10% respectively. The covariance matrix of measurement errors is
446 deduced from instrument performance and accuracy. The latter is related to the radiometric
447 noise expressed by the SNR defined as *Optimistic-Target*, and *Realistic-Threshold*. The
448 accuracy of non-retrieved parameters is set to $\delta T = 1\text{K}$, compatible with the typical values used
449 by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts on each layer of the temperature
450 profile for assimilation, and to an uncertainty of 0.5° on the optical path.

451 The atmospheric aerosol retrieval method uses the GRASP algorithm. The inversion procedure
452 is based on a statistically optimized least squares method and combines the advantages of a
453 variety of approaches (Dubovik, 2004). This method has already been applied to PRISMA
454 images (Litvinov et al., 2021).

455 **4. Results**

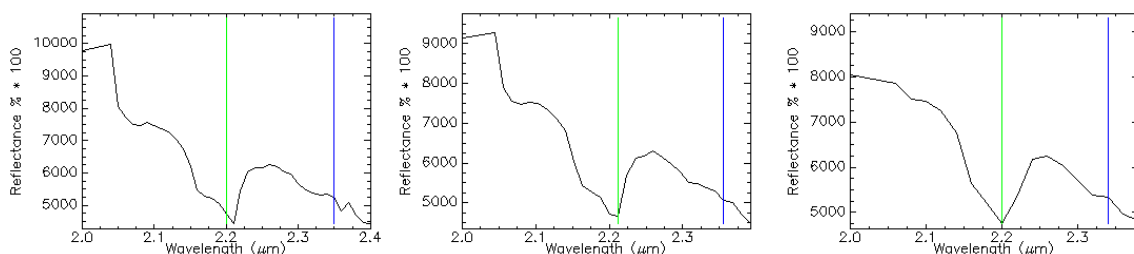
456 **4.1. Geosciences**

457 Table 7 presents only a representative subset of the results focusing on cases with spectral
458 strategies (#1, #2, #5 and #6) and with *realistic* SNR conditions representing medium and
459 extreme scenarios.

460 All diagnostic gypsum absorption bands (Table 1) are observed visually. As expected, there is
461 also an impact of smoothing due to a lower spectral resolution on the shape of the secondary
462 2.21 μm absorption for # 2 and # 6. In terms of quantitative evaluation (Table 7), the SAM
463 score (respectively SFF) is above 0.75 (resp. 0.61) in SWIR1 except for (#2, T, R), and 0.90
464 (resp. 0.73) in SWIR2. Whatever the scenario, good scores are obtained with SWIR1 except for
465 (#2, T, R) where gypsum is not identified despite a higher SNR (150:1).

466 Diagnostic absorption of calcite at $\sim 2.34 \mu\text{m}$ is visible for all scenarios but smoothing (#2, #5,
467 and #6) has an impact on shape and position, leading to possible confusion with dolomite,
468 another carbonate, whose absorption is located at $\sim 2.33 \mu\text{m}$. For all scenarios, secondary
469 absorption at $\sim 2.16 \mu\text{m}$ is very low. Whatever the scenario (Table 7), the SAM score is > 0.88
470 and the SFF score > 0.73 .

471 The kaolinite doublet (Table 2) is visible for #1 and slightly visible for #5 and #6 for which the
472 weaker absorption at $\sim 2.16 \mu\text{m}$ is attenuated (Figure 8). Confusion with other clay minerals is
473 possible and the crystallinity of kaolinite cannot be characterized because the relative strength
474 of the doublet absorptions is modified. Unfortunately, the kaolinite doublet is no longer visible
475 with #2. According to Table 7, in all scenarios, SAM remains > 0.88 and SFF > 0.76 .



476
477 **Figure 8.** Three kaolinite spectra extracted from the Chevaux image, from left to right: (#1,T,R), (#5,T,R),
478 (#2,T,R).

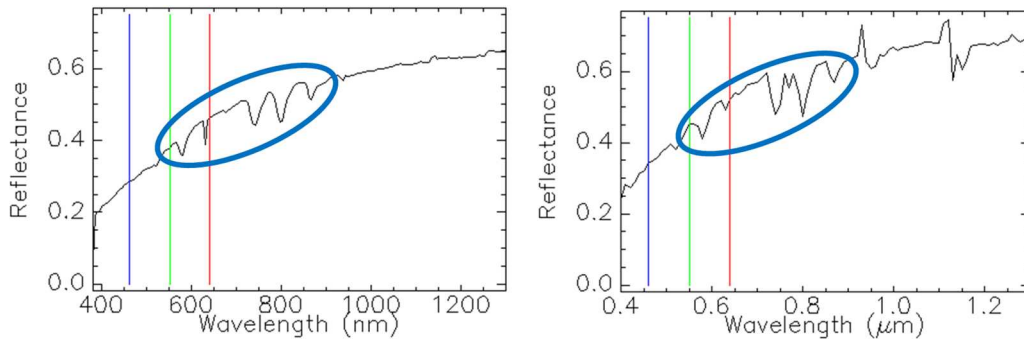
479 For gypsum, the diagnostic absorption of alunite at 1.76 μm is visible. The other absorptions
480 are visible whatever the scenario, except for (#2, T, R) and (#5, T, R) for which there is a small
481 difference in the right-hand side of the absorption at $\sim 2.16 \mu\text{m}$ that could hamper identification
482 when using a feature fitting approach. However, high scores are obtained (SAM > 0.85 and SFF
483 > 0.77).

484 Diagnostic absorptions in the VNIR for goethite and hematite can be identified visually
485 whatever the scenario; meanwhile residual peaks related to atmospheric correction can be
486 corrected. This is confirmed by the fact that SAM can detect goethite (score > 0.73) but hematite
487 detection remains more challenging (score > 0.64). In contrast, SFF cannot detect the
488 corresponding absorption bands (score < 0.53).

489 All jarosite absorption bands can be detected visually in the infrared, regardless of the scenario
490 tested, leading to SAM scores > 0.79 in the VNIR and > 0.91 in the SWIR. High scores > 0.71
491 are also achieved with SFF except for (#6,T,R). However, whatever the scenario, the jarosite
492 absorption at $\sim 0.45 \mu\text{m}$ is not clearly visible because it is partially cut off, being located at the
493 edge of the VNIR; this could be a problem for jarosite identification.

494 The montmorillonite absorption band is clearly visible for all scenarios except for (#2,T,R),
495 where a shape change is detected. SAM and SFF scores are high, > 0.9 and > 0.73, respectively.

496 Finally, rare-earth elements (bastnaesite, monazite and xenotime) spectra show clear diagnostic
497 absorptions in the VNIR for all scenarios (Figure 9). However, instrument calibration and
498 atmospheric correction errors induce “peaks” located in the absorption bands of dioxygen (\sim
499 $0.76 \mu\text{m}$) and water vapor (~ 0.94 and $\sim 1.13 \mu\text{m}$). This explains the poor SFF scores. On the
500 contrary, SAM scores are > 0.67, the lowest score being obtained for (#6,T,R).



501
 502 **Figure 9.** Representative rare-earth elements spectra extracted from the Mountain Pass image. Left: Reference
 503 USGS reflectance spectrum. Right: Reflectance for scenario (#1,t,R) after atmospheric correction.

504 In general, SAM gives better results than SFF, with scores close to 0.9 in the SWIR2. This
 505 difference can be explained by the fact that SFF compares the shape of spectra that have
 506 undergone continuum removal.

507
508

Table 7. SAM/SFF scores from Spectral Analyst (SA) tool (scenario #, t for threshold, T for Target, R for Realistic). Note that SA was performed on a subset of the SWIR2 to avoid the problem caused by CO₂ absorption peaks. In the SWIR1, gypsum and alunite scores are estimated by excluding atmospheric water vapor absorption at 1.4 μm.

Mineral	#1, T, R			#1, t, R			#2, T, R		#5, T, R		#6, T,R
	VNIR	SWIR 1	SWIR 2	VNIR	SWIR1	SWIR 2	SWIR1	SWIR 2	SWIR 1	SWIR 2	VNIR
Gypsum		0.77/0.64	0.90/0.77		0.75/0.61	0.90/0.84	0.00/0.58	0.94/0.92	0.96/0.94	0.93/0.88	
Calcite			0.91/0.73			0.88/0.82		0.94/0.92		0.94/0.89	
Kaolinite			0.91/0.78			0.88/0.76		0.92/0.85		0.92/0.85	
Alunite		0.66/0.49	0.89/0.80		0.43/0.00	0.85/0.77	0.00/0.57	0.88/0.84	0.72/0.94	0.90/0.84	
Goethite	0.73/0.47			0.77/0.53							0.84/0.10
Hematite	0.68/0.27			0.65/0.18							0.64/0.00
Jarosite	0.80/0.71		0.91/0.70	0.79/0.70		0.87/0.71		0.95/0.91		0.93/0.87	0.85/0.01
Montmorillonite			0.90/0.73			0.90/0.79		0.95/0.91		0.94/0.88	
Bastnaesite	0.68/0.40			0.67/0.40							0.61/0.03
Monazite	0.75/0.40			0.75/0.43							0.74/0.15
Xenotime	0.69/0.60			0.71/0.70							0.64/0.21

509

510

511 Estimated soil moisture content is unaffected by the scenarios, with a mean RMSE of 2.6% and
 512 a standard deviation of 0.1%.

513 4.2. Vegetation

514 The overall accuracy (OA) performance is summarized in Table 8 for tree classification.

515 **Table 8.** Overall accuracy performance of tree classification.

	<i>Optimistic</i>		<i>Realistic</i>	
	<i>Target</i>	<i>Threshold</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Threshold</i>
#1	0.82 ± 0.03	0.83 ± 0.03	0.76 ± 0.04	0.76 ± 0.03
#2	0.81 ± 0.02	0.81 ± 0.03	0.74 ± 0.03	0.74 ± 0.04
#3	0.82 ± 0.03	0.81 ± 0.03	0.75 ± 0.03	0.77 ± 0.02
#4	0.82 ± 0.03	0.81 ± 0.03	0.75 ± 0.03	0.75 ± 0.03
#5	0.82 ± 0.03	0.82 ± 0.03	0.78 ± 0.03	0.76 ± 0.03
#6	0.83 ± 0.04	0.84 ± 0.02	0.77 ± 0.03	0.79 ± 0.04

516 The overall accuracy of *optimistic* simulations (mean OA value 0.82) is better than that of
 517 *realistic* simulations (mean OA value 0.76), whatever the sampling strategy. Performance
 518 depends only on the SNR (7% loss between *optimistic* and *realistic*), but not on calibration.

519 For the estimation of leaf functional traits, the *optimistic* and *realistic* scenarios perform
 520 similarly regardless of the trait studied, and are not further discriminated in the following.
 521 Figure 12 shows the Cab, Car, LMA and EWT maps obtained with scenario (#1, T, O).
 522 Comparison of leaf trait estimation performance for sampling strategies #2 to #6 versus #1 leads
 523 to an average RMSE of 2.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for Cab (average standard deviation of 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$), 0.8
 524 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for Car (resp. 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$), 0.0008 g/cm^2 for LMA (resp. 0.0003 g/cm^2) and 0.0014
 525 g/cm^2 for EWT (resp. 0.0000 g/cm^2). In fact, the same RMSE values are found for EWT
 526 whatever the scenario. The performance of *threshold* compared with *target* deteriorates slightly,
 527 with an average increase in RMSE of 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for Cab, 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for Car and 0.0004 g/cm^2
 528 for LMA. Overall, irrespective of calibration performance and SNR level, the quality of leaf
 529 trait estimation with scenarios #2 to #6 is similar to that of scenario #1.

530 These results can be compared to absolute RMSE values of 8.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for Cab under the same
 531 conditions (Miraglio et al., 2020), or to an RMSE of 8.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for a sparse coniferous forest
 532 (Zarco-Tejada et al., 2019). For Car, Miraglio et al. (2020) found an RMSE of 2.24 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$,
 533 Zarco-Tejada et al. (2013) an RMSE of 0.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ on crops and Asner et al. (2015) an RMSE
 534 of 0.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ on tropical forests. On tropical forests, Chadwick et Asner (2016) found an RMSE
 535 of 0.0020 g/cm^2 and Asner et al. (2015) an RMSE of 0.0023 g/cm^2 for LMA. Buddenbaum et
 536 al. (2015) estimated EWT on European beech seedlings with an RMSE of 0.0007 g/cm^2 , within
 537 a range of 0.001 to 0.008 g/cm^2 . Li et al. (2008) retrieved EWT with an RMSE of 0.0132 g/cm^2
 538 from optical libraries and simulated data.

539 4.3. Coastal zones

540 For bathymetry, since scenarios #1 to #5 have the same spectral strategy in the VNIR, only
 541 scenarios #1 and #6 will be compared. Table 9 summarized the results for the three images used
 542 to estimate bathymetry.

543 **Table 9.** Bathymetry performance obtained on the three images.

Site	RMSE (m)					
	Roscoff		Porquerolles Island		Camargue	
Scenario	#1-5	#6	#1-5	#6	#1-5	#6
<i>Optimistic, Target</i>	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.2	0.3	0.4
<i>Optimistic, Threshold</i>	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.6	0.4	0.5
<i>Realistic, Target</i>	1.2	1.2	2.2	1.4	0.3	0.4
<i>Realistic, Threshold</i>	1.8	1.8	2.8	1.7	0.4	0.5

544 Water depth is estimated at between 0 and 10 m in Porquerolles Island and between 0 and 2.5
 545 m in Camargue.

546 For Roscoff, the (*,T,*) scenarios give better results than the (*,t,*) scenarios (decrease of
 547 around 0.7 m). Scenario #6 tends to smooth out the results, with a noise distribution similar to
 548 that of scenario #1. The impact of calibration is therefore the most critical factor. The
 549 performance of bathymetric products calculated with the *target* calibration is consistently better

550 than that calculated with the *threshold* calibration. Using the best configuration (#1,T,*),
 551 bathymetric product performance is close to that calculated with the original HySpex data. The
 552 SNR effect is insignificant, but caveats can be made about the impact of noise inherent in the
 553 source data, which could have an impact on the calibration present value and noise effects.

554 For Porquerolles, the *target* calibration gives better results than the *threshold* calibration (Figure
 555 14). The difference between derived bathymetry and the in-situ data is small (RMSE < 2.8 m
 556 corresponding to a relative error < 30%). Note, however, that retrieval in *threshold* calibration
 557 remains acceptable. Retrieval performance is better for #6 than for #1. For Camargue, the *target*
 558 calibration provides 20% better bathymetry retrieval than that obtained with the *threshold*
 559 calibrations. The latter is not acceptable: the relative difference between bathymetry retrieval
 560 and in-situ data is ~ 80%. Performance is consistently better for sampling strategy #1 than for
 561 sampling strategy #6.

562 For remote sensing of coastal ecosystems, the retrieval of bathymetry using simulated data is
 563 always of interest. A relative error < 30% remains satisfactory and is generally accepted by the
 564 community (Dekker et al., 2011). A relative error < 20% should ideally be sought to
 565 significantly improve understanding of these ecosystems. For the classification of shallow
 566 water bottoms, Tables 10 and 11 give the classification results obtained for Porquerolles Island
 567 and Camargue.

568 **Table 10.** RMSE error for bottom abundance fraction retrieval in Porquerolles Island.

Scenario	Sand (%)	<i>Posidonia oceanica</i> (%)	<i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i> (%)
(#1,O,T)	29	33	8
(#6,O,T)	28	32	4
(#1,O,t)	30	33	4
(#6,O,t)	29	33	4
(#1,R,T)	38	46	24
(#6,R,T)	29	34	11
(#1,R,t)	30	35	4
(#6,R,t)	28	32	4

569

Table 11. RMSE error for bottom abundance fraction retrieval in Camargue.

Scenario	SPM (%)	Zoster (%)	Green algae (%)	Red algae (%)
(#1,O,T)	11.	19.	23.	23.
(#6,O,T)	15.	2.	17.	26.
(#1,O,t)	20.	7.	25.	49.
(#6,O,t)	34.	5.	10.	49.
(#1,R,T)	14.	17.	15.	27.
(#6,R,T)	17.	6.	16.	32.
(#1,R,t)	2.	11.	18.	49.
(#6,R,t)	31.	9.	9.	49.

570 For Porquerolles, the average RMSE found for retrieval of bottom abundance fractions varies
571 according to the background (Figure 14): sand (30-28%), *Posidonia oceanica* (32-46%) and
572 *Caulerpa taxifolia* (4-24%). The lowest RMSE is obtained on the latter with an RMSE < 10%
573 except for (#1,T,R) and (#6,T,R). The best scenarios are (#6,T,O), (#6,T,O), (#1,t,O), (#6,t,O),
574 (#1,t,R) and (#6,t,R). For Camargue, the RMSE error is between 2% and 49% for all scenarios.
575 The retrieval of zoster species (between 2% and 19%) leads to the best results. Overall, the best
576 scenario for estimating the four variables is (#6,T,O). Inversion performance is globally higher
577 for Camargue than for Porquerolles Island. As the bathymetry of Camargue is much lower than
578 that of Porquerolles Island, the TOA radiance is higher, which reduces the influence of sensor
579 noise on retrieval performance. A degradation in sensor calibration induces a significant
580 decrease in inversion performance and thus reduces the ability to correctly derive bathymetry
581 in shallow water. Sensitivity to SNR shows that a strategy involving wider spectral bands is
582 preferred (i.e., Porquerolles Island). The narrow spectral band strategy only has an advantage
583 when SNR is not the limiting factor, typically for shallow water sites such as Camargue.
584 Estimates of abundance fraction of bottom species proved to be inconsistent and non-
585 exploitable (RMSE > 3 m) for bottom depths > 10 m.

586 For coastal habitat classification, unmixing performance was evaluated on the VNIR
587 hyperspectral image and compared with the reference. RMSE performance is very similar
588 across all scenarios (average RMSE 4.65%, average standard deviation 3.73%). A slight
589 improvement is obtained using pansharpened images (4.26% and 3.40%, respectively). This is

590 not surprising given the high spatial heterogeneity of these areas and the need for fine spatial
591 resolution to improve the accuracy of biological component estimates. The best performances
592 were obtained with (#6,T,O) and (#1,T,O), and the worst with (#1,t,R) with or without prior
593 pansharpening.

594 Finally, PLS-DA applied to the VNIR-SWIR spectral library on a limited number of scenarios
595 (#1,T,R), (#2,T,R), (#5,T,R), (#1,t,R) led to better performances than those obtained with VNIR
596 images (Kappa ranging from 0.76 to 0.92). Among the four scenarios tested, the best
597 performance is obtained with (#2,T,R), underlining the importance of SNR in the discriminant
598 process.

599 **4.4. Urban land cover**

600 Whatever the scenario, performance is very similar. With the ULC1 method (Figure 15), overall
601 accuracy performance is between 66 and 67% with *target* calibration and $\sim 65\% \pm 0.1$ with
602 *threshold* calibration. With the ULC2 method, all scenarios are similar, with an F-score of \sim
603 $54\% \pm 0.1$. This classification is based primarily on the overall spectral shape of the reflectance
604 and is therefore insensitive to spectral strategies.

605 **4.5. Industrial site**

606 To estimate PM1 aerosols, only the VNIR is used. Consequently, only sampling strategies #1
607 and #6 are considered. First, the detection performance of the aerosol plumes present in the
608 images is evaluated by estimating the percentage of true positives and false positives compared
609 with the airborne image used as a reference (Table 12). As performance does not depend on
610 calibration, only an average value is given.

611 **Table 12.** Detection rate compared with the airborne image.

	True positive (%)	False positive (%)
#1, <i>Optimistic</i>	56	19
#6, <i>Optimistic</i>	64	23
#1, <i>Realistic</i>	64	21
#6, <i>Realistic</i>	67	23

612 The detection rate varies from 56% to 67% and the false detection rate from 19% to 23%. There
 613 is no trend between these values and changes in the instrument specifications, especially with
 614 the optimization of segmentation parameters. Table 13 shows the average sensitivity to aerosol
 615 properties estimated from the differential image for #1 and #6. This includes uncertainty due to
 616 instrumental mode, native noise, registration errors and radiative transfer model assumptions.
 617 This image was acquired with a high sun zenith angle and a low spatial extent of the plume.
 618 With this particular geometry, the downward solar flux does not pass through the plume,
 619 leading to poor soot estimation whatever the strategy.

620 **Table 13.** Average sensitivity to PM1 mass concentration for the aerosol model studied.

Scenario	Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) Known aerosol type	Radius (nm)	Absorptance (%)	Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) Unknown aerosol type
(#1,T,O)	73	42	30	140
(#6,T,O)	74	43	40	160
(#1,t,O)	91	90	5	145
(#6,t,O)	92	57	4	140
(#1,T,R)	82	45	30	280
(#6,T,R)	79	53	40	190
(#1,t,R)	106	100	50	260
(#6,t,R)	98	70	50	170

621 When the aerosol model is known, the high objective of $80 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is reached for (*,T,O), and
 622 the acceptable low objective of $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is reached for all scenarios. However, when the
 623 aerosol model is unknown (uncertainties in radius and soot fraction), the increase in uncertainty
 624 depends on the sensitivity of the estimate of aerosol radius and soot content. Only scenarios
 625 (#1,T,O), (#1,t,O) and (#6,t,O) meet the low objective.

626 Table 14 presents the methane estimates.

627 **Table 14.** Methane abundances (ppm.m) for each scenario. Note that the reference value obtained from the
 628 airborne image is 510 ppm.m.

Sampling	Optimistic		Realistic	
	Target	Threshold	Target	Threshold
#1	900	980	1330	1490
#2	980	1050	1300	1510
#3	900	1120	1310	1420
#4	930	1020	1330	1410
#5	890	1000	1250	1450
#6	800	860	1070	1160

629 In the case of a *realistic* SNR and a *threshold* value for calibration, sampling strategy #3 should
 630 achieve the low objective of 1500 ppm.m. Sampling strategy #1 is better than #3 in the case of
 631 high SNR (*optimistic*), but has no advantage in the case of low SNR (*realistic*). Sampling
 632 strategy #6 performs better at all SNRs and should provide results within the high objective of
 633 1000 ppm.m. However, due to the low spectral resolution, it leads to an increase in false alarms
 634 compared to the other strategies, which induced a bias in the flow rate estimation. For sampling
 635 strategies #1 to #5, the high objective is only achieved in the case of high SNR (*optimistic*).

636 4.6. Cryosphere

637 Table 15 shows the retrieval results for specific surface area (SSA) and equivalent black carbon
 638 (eBC) concentration.

639 **Table 15.** Mean bias and standard deviation on retrieved SSA and eBC. The SSA reference value is 2 ± 1
 640 m^2/kg . The black carbon reference value is $18 \pm 14 \text{ ng/g}$.

Variable	Optimistic		Realistic	
	(* _t ,T,O)	(* _t ,t,O)	(* _t ,T,R)	(* _t ,t,R)
SSA (m^2/kg)	4 ± 2	7 ± 4	4 ± 3	8 ± 4
eBC (ng/g)	84 ± 56	102 ± 64	83 ± 56	101 ± 64

641 The results show that instrumental noise and sampling strategy have a negligible effect
 642 compared to calibration errors. SSA retrieval is generally satisfactory, while eBC concentration
 643 retrieval is more challenging. In some cases, degradation of the spectral strategy slightly
 644 modifies sensitivity to other errors. Thus, a high-performance calibration should enable these
 645 two key parameters to be estimated, whereas a low-performance calibration will only give

646 access to SSA. The retrieval of SSA and eBC concentration is not affected by the change in
 647 spectral resolution from 10 to 20 nm in the SWIR.

648 4.7. Atmosphere

649 Table 16 summarizes the total uncertainties of the H₂O and CO₂ atmospheric columns. As the
 650 variations in performance are not very large, only the two extreme cases (*,T,O) and (*,t,R) are
 651 shown.

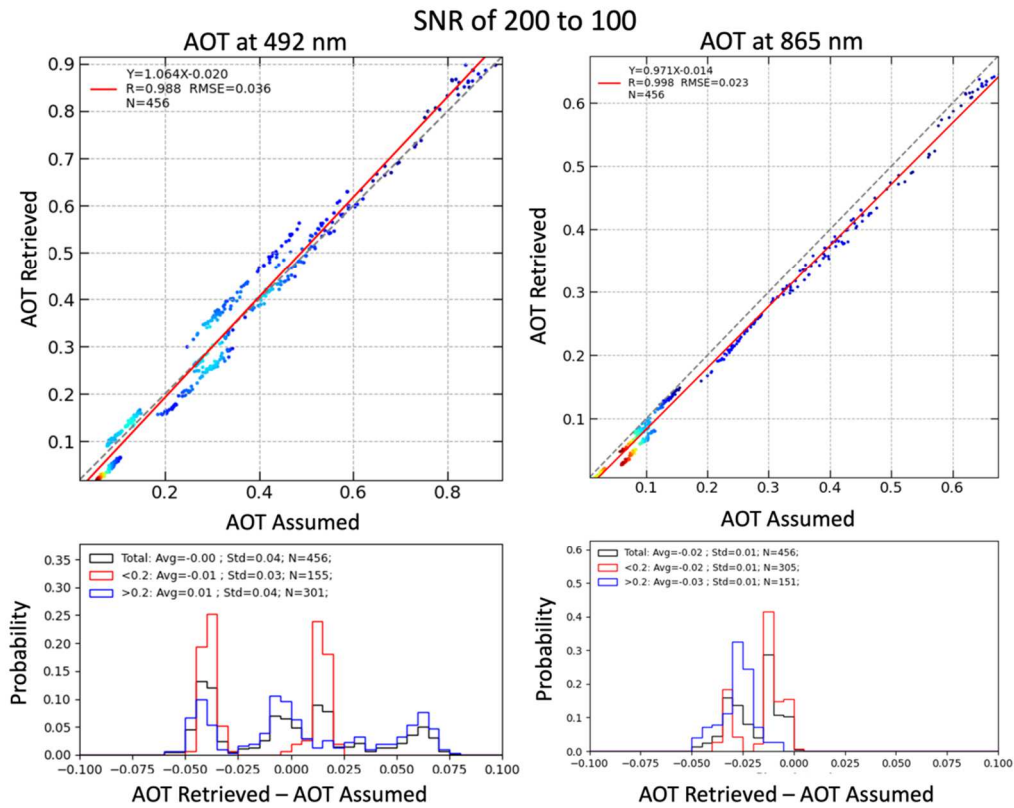
652 **Table 16.** Mean error and standard deviation on H₂O and CO₂ estimates calculated for the six sampling
 653 strategies.

Scenario	H ₂ O (%)		CO ₂ (%)	
	(*,T,O)	(*,t,R)	(*,T,O)	(*,t,R)
	4.5 ± 0.8	5.7 ± 1.0	2.3 ± 0.2	2.5 ± 0.1

654 For water vapor, whatever the sampling strategy, the degradation in SNR and image quality
 655 leads to a slight increase in the average uncertainty from 4.5 to 5.7%. Total uncertainty on the
 656 tropospheric CO₂ profile is minimum at around 2.0 with (#1,T,0), corresponding to an
 657 uncertainty of 8 ppm on the estimated tropospheric CO₂ column. It is maximum at around 2.6
 658 with (#2,T,R), corresponding to an uncertainty of 10.5 ppm on the estimated tropospheric CO₂
 659 column. Thus, sampling strategy #1 is the best option, while #2 is the least favorable. In contrast
 660 to H₂O, the best SNR is preferable to spectral resolution for a better estimation of the
 661 tropospheric CO₂ column. Finally, in the case of simultaneous restitution of both gas
 662 concentrations, the choice of spectral strategy will depend mainly on the measurement noise.

663 Figure 10 shows retrieved versus assumed AOT in the forward radiance simulations, the former
 664 thus representing the reference (true) values, at 492 nm and 865 nm. Consistently good spectral
 665 retrieval indicates correct aerosol model identification. The figure shows the AOT correlations
 666 for SNR =200 (spectral bands centered on 419, 441, 492 and 546 nm) and SNR = 100 (spectral
 667 bands centered on 669, 770, 865 and 2190 nm) for the scenario (#1,T,R). A slight degradation
 668 compared to the noise-free case (not presented here) was noted in the simulations. At the same

669 time, the retrieved AOT values and spectral dependence are reasonably good: R is ~ 0.99 and
 670 RMSE from 0.023 to 0.036. These performances are considered to be of reasonable quality,
 671 since the same simulations, but without noise, led to RMSEs of 0.015 and 0.025, demonstrating
 672 that intrinsic GRASP uncertainty explains a large part of the RMSE. With an SNR of 50, the
 673 retrieval convergence algorithm is very poor for all channels.



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675 **Figure 10.** Top: Correlation between retrieved and assumed aerosol optical thickness (AOT) in forward radiance
 676 simulations for SNR = 200 (spectral bands centered on 419, 441, 492 and 546 nm) and SNR = 100 (spectral bands
 677 centered on 669, 770, 865 and 2190 nm). AOTs are presented at 492 nm and 865 nm. R is the correlation
 678 coefficient, RMSE the root mean square error, N the number of points. Bottom: Histograms of absolute differences
 679 in AOT (black for all, red for AOT < 0.2 and blue for AOT > 0.2).

680 5. Discussion

681 5.1. End-to-end simulation

682 These end-to-end simulations were performed with realistic instrument characteristics. All
 683 products simulated in this exercise used the same end-to-end processing chain, with similar and
 684 realistic instrumentation parameters, which facilitated comparisons between the different

685 applications. This work was based on 24 instrument configurations \times 27 spectral datasets (22
686 images + 5 spectral libraries) leading to 648 simulations with different (spectral strategy,
687 calibration performance and SNR) combinations. However, some limitations were identified.
688 One of the first limitations was that all the instrumental defects were not taken into account
689 such as the straylight, the geometrical errors (geolocation, band co-registration, etc.), the across-
690 track variations of the instrument characteristics (MTF, ISRF, etc. including the smile effect for
691 instance), the polarization sensitivity and the detector defects (such as remanence, dead pixels,
692 etc.). Another limitation was the potential overestimation of the performance of the atmospheric
693 correction. Only the water vapor content and the aerosols load errors were considered. The
694 following sources of errors have been neglected: carbon dioxide abundance, aerosol type and
695 the environment effects. Some applications may show better performance here than the ones
696 actually achievable on satellite images. However, the comparison between applications and
697 between different instrumental configurations should remain relevant. Another limitation of
698 this approach was to consider that the performance of the atmospheric correction was constant
699 whatever the performance of the instrument. In practice, the degradation of the instrument will
700 also degrade the atmospheric correction, and will therefore affect the final products even more.
701 The quality of the atmosphere correction was closely related to the calibration performance
702 because the atmospheric water vapor correction uses absorption bands that must be calibrated.
703 But the calibration of bands affected by the atmosphere is more difficult with methods based
704 on ground acquired data (known as vicarious methods), and thus dedicated on-board calibration
705 facilities are required.

706 **5.2. Dependence to the application methods and their input datasets**

707 The results of this study were obtained with specific estimation methods on specific input
708 datasets. The relative performances observed in this context gave valuable information for the

709 satellite design with seven applications covered; but further work will be required to consolidate
710 the conclusions at an even larger scale. For coastal habitat classification, the SWIR spectral
711 range improved classification performance when using spectral libraries. This observation
712 needs to be evaluated at the image level. SMC was estimated with the MARMIT model (Bablet
713 et al., 2018) but an updated version called MARMIT-2 is now available (Dupiau et al., 2021)
714 and could improve our results. Impurities in snow were not well estimated, one reason being
715 related to the choice of the inverse method, so future work would focus on developing a new
716 and more adapted method. The urban area classification was performed using the hyperspectral
717 pansharpening method named GAIN. The presence of mixed pixels limited the performance of
718 the method. Constans et al. (2021) proposed a new method handling mixed pixels which will
719 be evaluated in the future.

720 **5.3. Synthesis of the results**

721 Table 17 summarizes the results. This is followed by discussions on spectral strategy (§5.3.1),
722 SNR (§5.3.2) and calibration performance (§5.3.3).

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Table 17. Summary of thematic performance by strategy. The color code is as follow: ■ indicates that performance is achieved, ■ indicates that performance is around the objective threshold, ■ indicates that performance is below the objective threshold. When necessary, the objective threshold (Δ) is indicated in the first row.

Thematic	Optimistic		Realistic	
	Target	Threshold	Target	Threshold
Mineralogy 11 minerals	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Soil Moisture Content Δ SMC/SMC=10%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Tree Species Classification 8 classes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Forest EBV				
Δ Cab~8 μ g.cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Δ Car~1-2 μ g.cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Δ EWT~0.001 g.cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Δ LMA~0.002 g.cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Bathymetry Δ Depth<1 m	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Bottom Classification of Shallow Water 6 classes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Classification of Coastal habitats (without Fusion)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Urban Land Cover 10 classes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Industrial Plant Gas Δ CH ₄ =1000 ppm.m	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Industrial Plant Gas Δ CO ₂ =150000 ppm.m	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Industrial Plant Aerosol: aerosol model known				
Δ AOT=80 μ g/cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Δ AOT=150 μ g/cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Industrial Plant Aerosol: aerosol model not known Δ AOT=150 μ g/cm ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Cryosphere: Δ SSA=2 m ² .kg ⁻¹	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Cryosphere Δ eBC=18 nb.g ⁻¹	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Atmospheric Gas H ₂ O, Δ H ₂ O/H ₂ O (10%)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Not tested	Not tested	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Atmospheric Gas CO ₂	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Not tested	Not tested	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Atmospheric Aerosol with revisit or auxiliary (type, abundance)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

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5.3.1. Spectral strategy

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As Table 5 shows, the different spectral strategies are fairly equivalent over the VNIR and variable over the SWIR. Two types of results can be distinguished, depending on the variable to be extracted.

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First, when searching for local spectral features characterizing a material, the method's performance is highly dependent on the spectral strategy. This is the case for mineralogy, where the kaolinite doublet can only be discriminated with sampling strategies #1 and #4. Sampling strategies #5 and #6 are acceptable for some minerals, but lead to confusions for others. Sampling strategies #2 and #3 fail to achieve the objectives set for mineralogy. These results confirm the work of Swayze et al. (2003), who predict a spectral resolution of 10 nm to

736 discriminate clays and more specifically kaolinite. Sun et al. (2006) estimate that a spectral
737 sampling interval of 8.2 nm and an SNR > 200 between 1.95 and 2.4 μm does not affect the
738 identification of the 15 minerals tested. Furthermore, kaolinite (resp. dickite) cannot not be
739 detected if the spectral sampling interval is > 16.4 nm (resp. 12.3 nm). On the other hand,
740 Chabrillat et al. (2002) showed that a spectral resolution of 17 nm reduces the ability to detect
741 kaolinite in a mixture, as the Al-OH doublet is not well sampled, but allows the detection of
742 smectites or illites. Although the spectral resolution of HyMAP (~17 nm) is almost half that of
743 AVIRIS (~10 nm), Kruse (2002) showed that both sensors can separate calcite from dolomite
744 and the three varieties of sericite present in Northern Grapevine mountains (NV, USA).

745 Spectral sampling #2 is not recommended for H₂O and CO₂ estimates, but the best spectral
746 strategy depends strongly on SNR. Spectral sampling #6 is not recommended for bathymetry
747 and aerosol plume. For the gas plume, spectral sampling #5 fails to detect CH₄ accurately (<
748 1500 ppm.m).

749 Methods based on the use of the global spectral shape do not depend on the spectral sampling
750 strategy. This is the case for SMC, tree species classification, tree functional trait estimation,
751 bathymetry, shallow water bottom classification, coastal habitat classification, urban land
752 cover, snow and ice characterization, and aerosols. They depend on either the SNR (bathymetry,
753 classification in general) and/or instrument calibration (bathymetry, classification,
754 characterization of industrial plant and snow). Gomez et al. (2018) evaluated the predictive
755 performance of clay soil properties as a function of spectral configuration and showed that it
756 did not depend on spectral sampling, which ranged from 5 to 100 nm. For species identification,
757 Jianxin Jia et al. (2022) compared the classification performance of eleven species with
758 different bandwidths, which ranged from 9.6 to 153.6 nm. They conclude that classification
759 performance is similar for a bandwidth ranging from 9.6 to 19.2 nm, and if the bandwidth is
760 widened, leading to a similar SNR, spatial resolution can be improved. Serbin et Townsend

761 (2020) recommended spectral sampling and FWHM of 10 nm for leaf pigments (Cab, Car), of
762 20 nm for EWT and LMA. These results are in line with our results.

763 **5.3.2. Signal-to-noise ratio**

764 For applications using specific absorption bands, performance depends firstly on SNR
765 (*optimistic/realistic*) and secondly on calibration performance. Estimates are slightly degraded
766 between *optimistic* and *realistic*, but most of the applications tested depend little or not on the
767 SNR studied, with the exception of bathymetry and shallow water classification due to low
768 reflectance, carbon dioxide and methane.

769 For mineralogy, according to Kruse et al. (2002), an SNR of at least 100 in the SWIR is required
770 for mineral detection, so the *realistic* SNR is slightly above this limit, while the *optimistic* SNR
771 is higher, as for the PRISMA or EnMap instruments (Peyghambari and Zhang, 2021). Below
772 this value, applications such as calcite-dolomite or clay discrimination, mineral mapping, soil
773 component discrimination or sediment detection is critical (Transon et al., 2018). Thus, such
774 discrimination will be difficult if not impossible with the current SNR of the mission. Sun et al.
775 (2006) estimate that an SNR of at least 200 at 2100 nm is required to map minerals with linear
776 spectral unmixing. Chabrillat et al. (2002) show that detection of dark clays or dark Granero
777 shales requires an SNR > 600 to detect them partially.

778 **5.3.3. Calibration performance**

779 Most of the applications tested depend little or not at all on the calibration scenarios, with the
780 exception of bathymetry (not filled for *threshold*) and cryosphere (equivalent black carbon
781 concentration not estimated with *threshold*). A slight loss in performance was observed between
782 *target* and *threshold* calibrations. Whatever the spectral strategy, scenarios with *target*
783 calibration performance and *optimistic* SNR clearly delivered similar performance. Scenarios
784 with *threshold* calibration performance and *optimistic* SNR and scenarios with *target*

785 calibration performance and *realistic* SNR represent a good compromise. With the SNR used
786 in this study, the impact of instrument calibration on mineralogy is low. There is no obvious
787 difference between *target* and *threshold* cases. Spectral calibration and atmospheric correction
788 errors should be taken with care, as they can induce peaks at H₂O and CO₂ wavelengths, which
789 can be problematic for the identification of certain minerals, depending on the algorithm
790 selected.

791 **6. Conclusion**

792 CNES is working on a hyperspectral mission (0.40-2.45 μm , 10 m GSD, 10 km swath) with a
793 panchromatic camera (2.5 m GSD). A phase A study has just been completed in mid-2022. A
794 large French scientific community has been involved to optimize the instrument design. Taking
795 into account the technological constraints of the SWIR detector, an analysis of several spectral
796 sampling strategies was conducted to assess their impact on end-user applications (mineralogy,
797 vegetation, coastal area, urban area, industrial site, cryosphere and atmosphere).

798 An end-to-end simulator has been developed to generate the hyperspectral images that the
799 satellite under design will acquire, taking into account the main instrumental effects. It will be
800 improved by including other sources of error when the instrument design matures.

801 It has also been shown that most of applications can be realized with an optimistic SNR level
802 and target calibration, whatever the sampling scenario. With *optimistic* SNR and *threshold*
803 calibration, most applications have been achieved, with the exception of bathymetry and
804 cryosphere (eBC). With *realistic* SNR and a *target* calibration, most applications have been
805 achieved, with the exception of industrial aerosols. Finally, with *realistic* SNR and *threshold*
806 calibration, most applications have been achieved, with the exception of bathymetry, bottom
807 classification of shallow water, industrial aerosol and cryosphere (eBC). We also found that
808 some spectral strategies were unable to track certain spectral features for mineralogy and

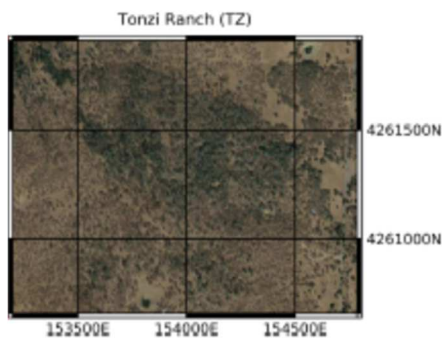
809 industrial gas estimation. All scenarios tested were simulated with the same atmospheric
810 uncertainty on water vapor content and aerosol optical thickness, regardless of instrument
811 configuration.

812 Based on these results, CNES is studying the best compromise for designing the hyperspectral
813 sensor that will meet the objectives of the priority applications. These preliminary conclusions
814 need to be confirmed by further studies, in particular taking into account the dependence
815 between scenario and atmospheric correction performance, as well as improvements in
816 estimation methods. Other applications will be evaluated, such as crop characterization,
817 pollution monitoring and plastic detection.

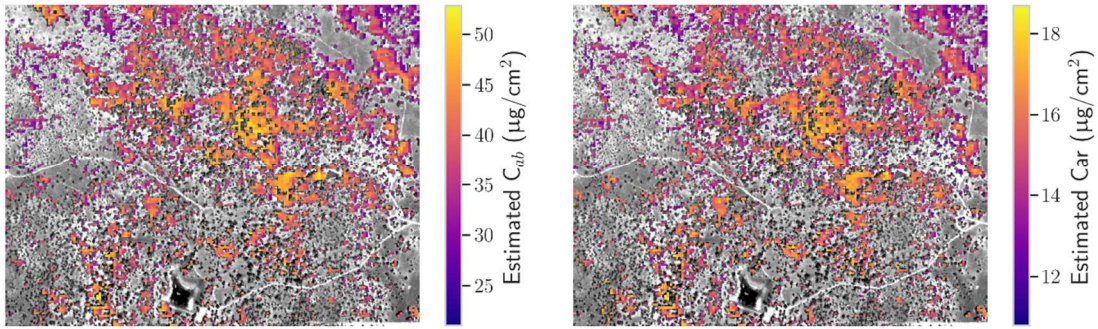
818 **Appendix**

819 This appendix completes the results obtained in this work: maps of leaf functional traits,
820 shallow water bottom classification and urban land cover.

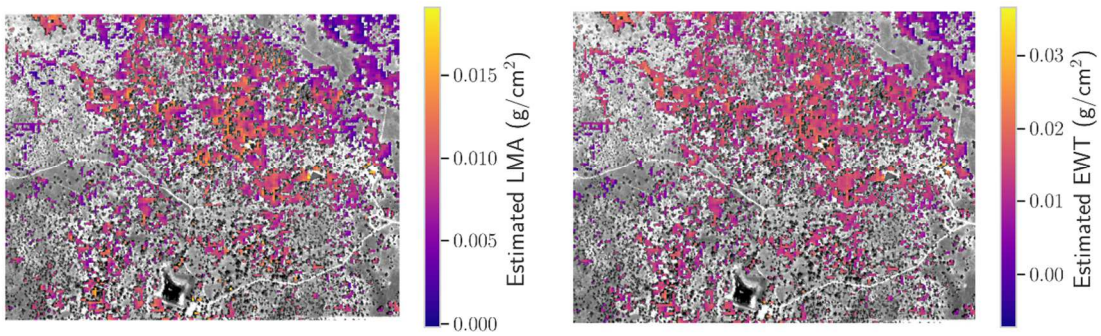
821 Figure 11 is an RGB image of the Tonzi site. Figure 12 shows the Cab, Car, LMA and EWT
822 maps estimated on QUDO with sampling strategy (#1,T,O).



823
824 **Figure 11.** Tonzi site (CA, USA)



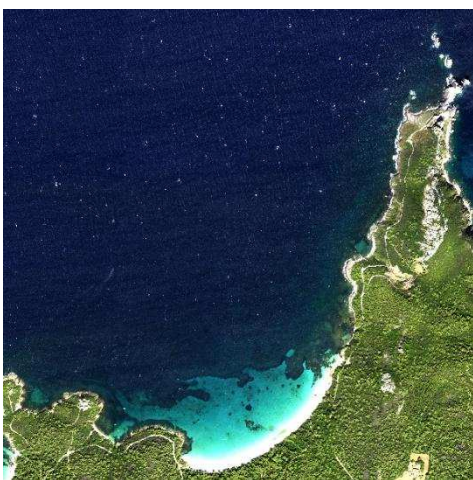
825



826

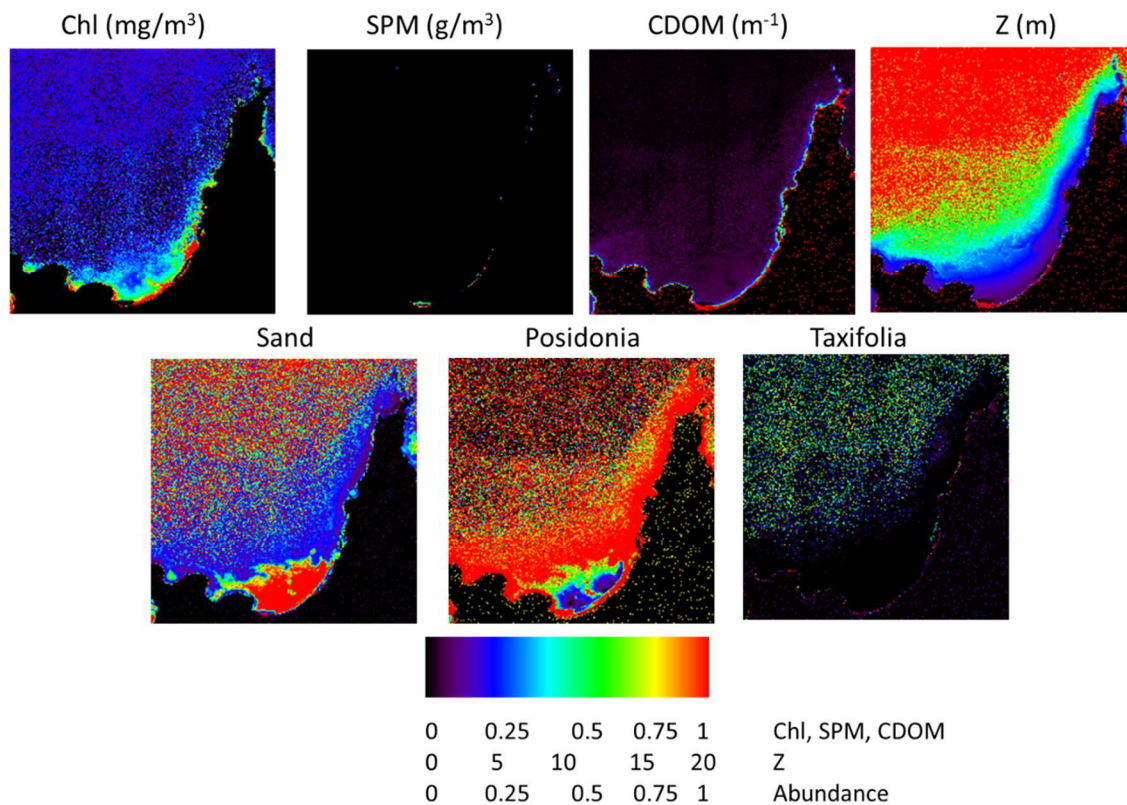
827 **Figure 12.** Leaf functional trait maps obtained with scenario (#1,T,O). Top left: Cab. Top right: Car. Bottom
 828 left: LMA. Bottom right: EWT.

829 Figure 13 is an RGB image of the Porquerolles site. Figure 14 shows maps of water parameters
 830 (chl, SPM, CDOM), depth and seabed abundance with (#1,T,O).



831

832 **Figure 13.** The true color hyperspectral image captured by HYSPEX for the Porquerolles site.



833

834 **Figure 14.** Estimation of water parameters (chl, SPM, CDOM), depth and seabed abundance with (#1,T,O) at
 835 Porquerolles site.

836 Figure 15 is an RGB image of the Toulon area with the classification map obtained with
 837 (#1,T,O).



838

839 **Figure 15.** Left: RGB reference image of Toulon at 2.5 m GSD. Right: Classification map with (#1,T,O).

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