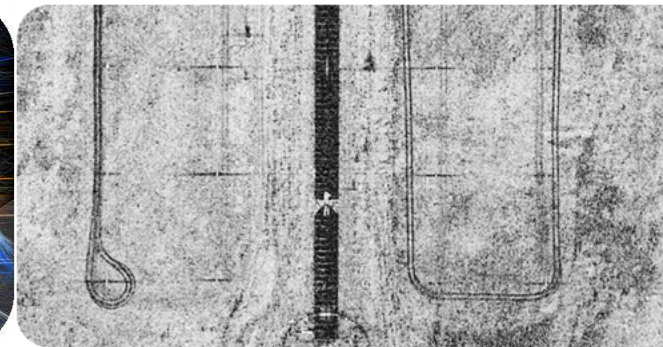
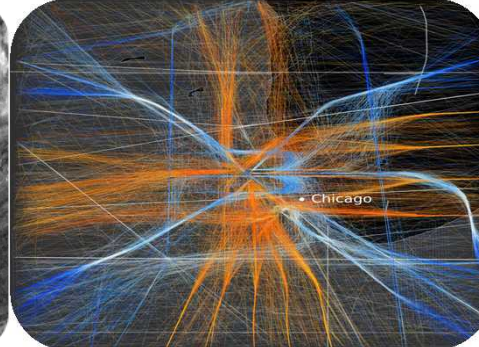


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## Automated Advancements for Improved ISR

Sandia Airborne ISR: [www.sandia.gov/radar/](http://www.sandia.gov/radar/)

Dr. James J. Hudgens, Deputy Director, Airborne ISR Systems,

Sandia National Laboratories

Unclass: [jjhudge@sandia.gov](mailto:jjhudge@sandia.gov)

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015



# Sandia National Laboratories

## Sandia Corporation

- AT&T: 1949–1993
- Martin Marietta: 1993–1995
- Lockheed Martin: 1995–present



Government owned, contractor operated



Federally funded  
research and development center



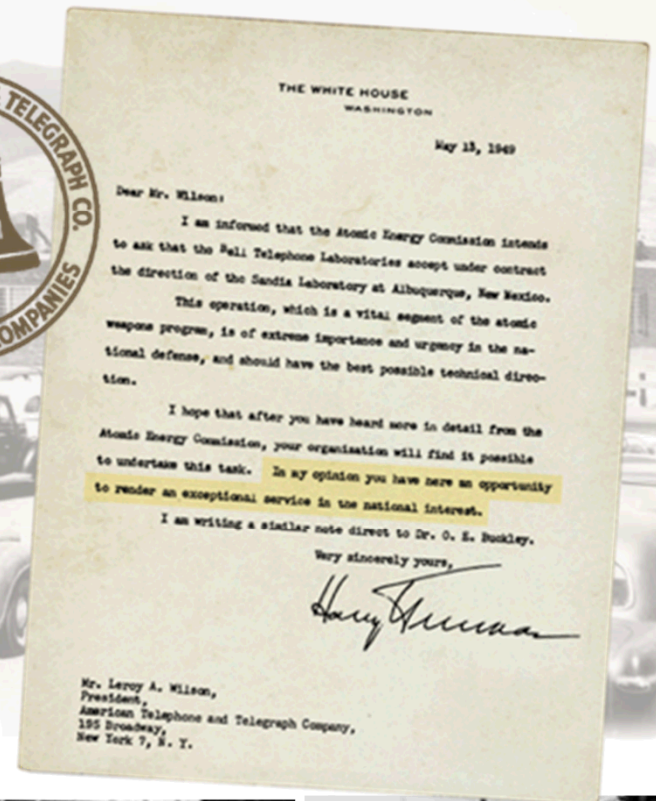


# Sandia's History

*Exceptional service in the national interest*

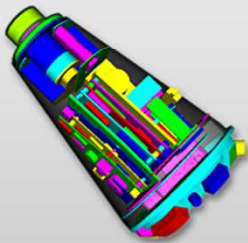
- July 1945: Los Alamos creates Z Division
- Nonnuclear component engineering
- November 1, 1949: Sandia Laboratory established

to undertake this task. In my opinion you have here an opportunity to render an exceptional service in the national interest.



# Sandia SAR Evolved from NW Mission

**NW Radar Fuze  
Tech Base**



**Radar tech base  
originated with  
Nuclear Weapons**

**Strengthened through  
SAR development**

**Applied advanced  
technology to NW  
systems  
(B-61 and W-76)**



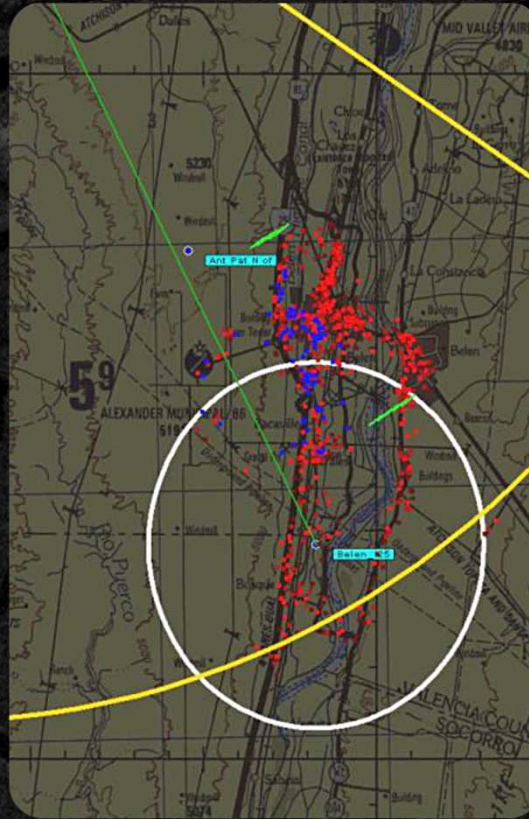
**Advanced  
radar fuzing  
technology**



**Synthetic  
Aperture  
Radar**



# SAR/GMTI Overview



- SAR forms images all weather, day/night
- GMTI provides range and velocity for moving objects
- SAR are designed differently than GMTI radars (Antenna)

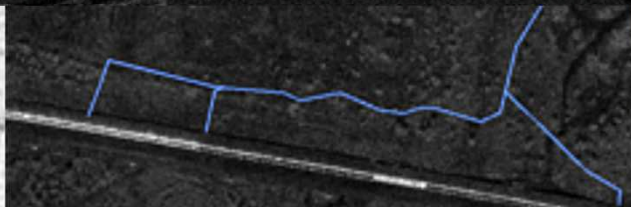
Sandia specializes in high resolution, on-board, real-time processed SAR for manned/unmanned UASs



# Real World Applications



**Coherent Change Detection**



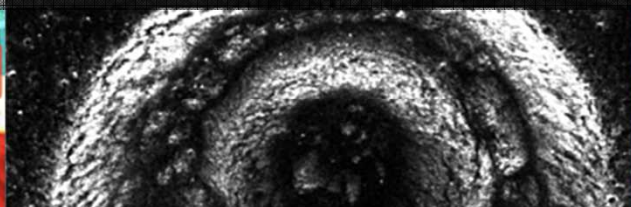
**Facilities and Border Protection**



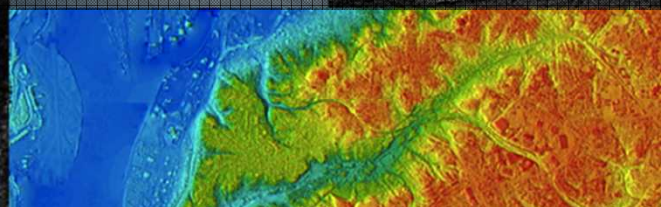
**Crevasse Detection**



**Environmental Monitoring**



**Space Missions**



**High Res. Terrain Elevation Mapping**



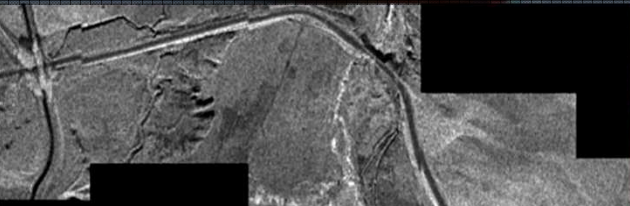
**Maritime & Littoral**



**Vehicle and Dismount Tracking**



**S&R and Targeting**



**C-IED & Route Reconnaissance**



**Patterns of Life**



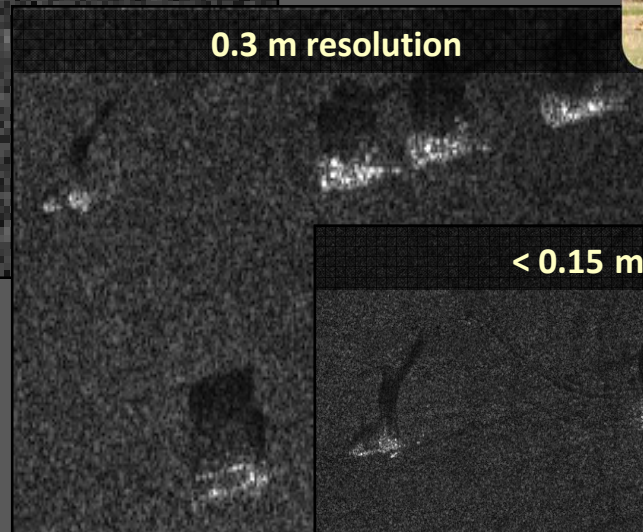
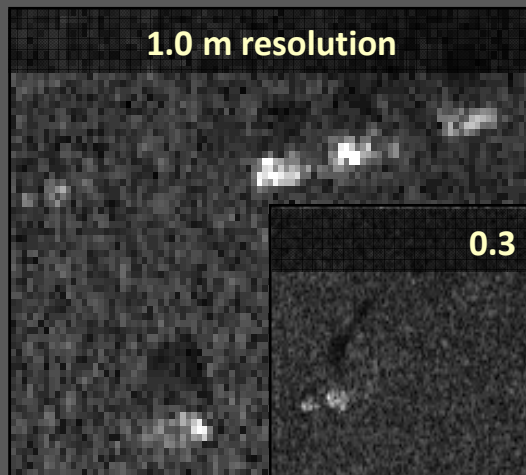
**Precision Guidance**



# Resolution Matters

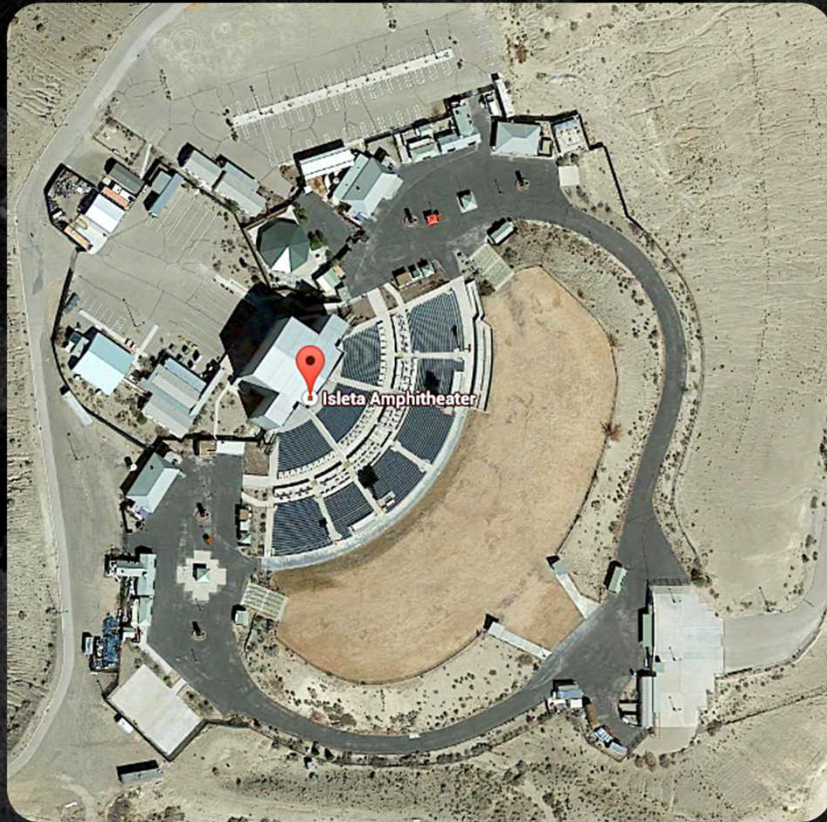
## Modes:

- Spotlight
- SpotDwell
- Circle
- Stripmap
- Arbitrary
- Stripmap, CCD/NCP
- IFSAR
- VideoSAR/VICTR
- GMTI/DMTI
- Wide Area Search
- High Range Resolution





# VideoSAR

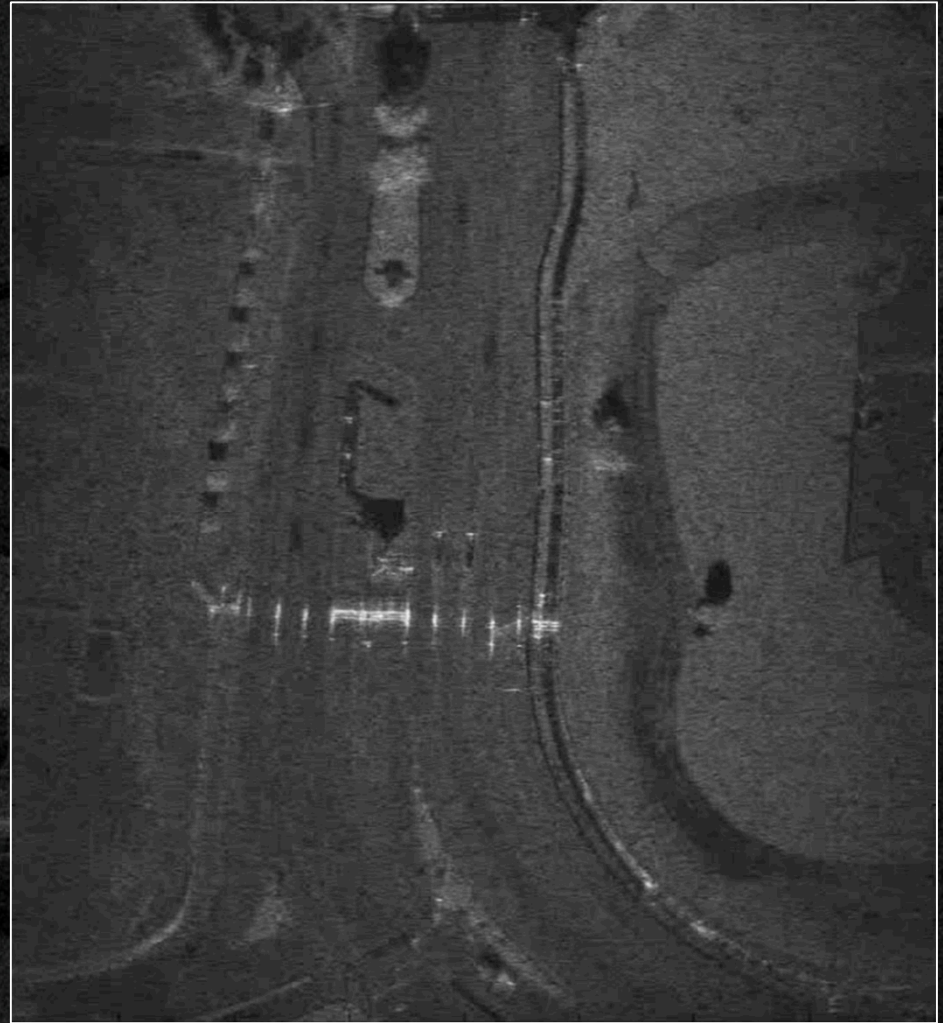
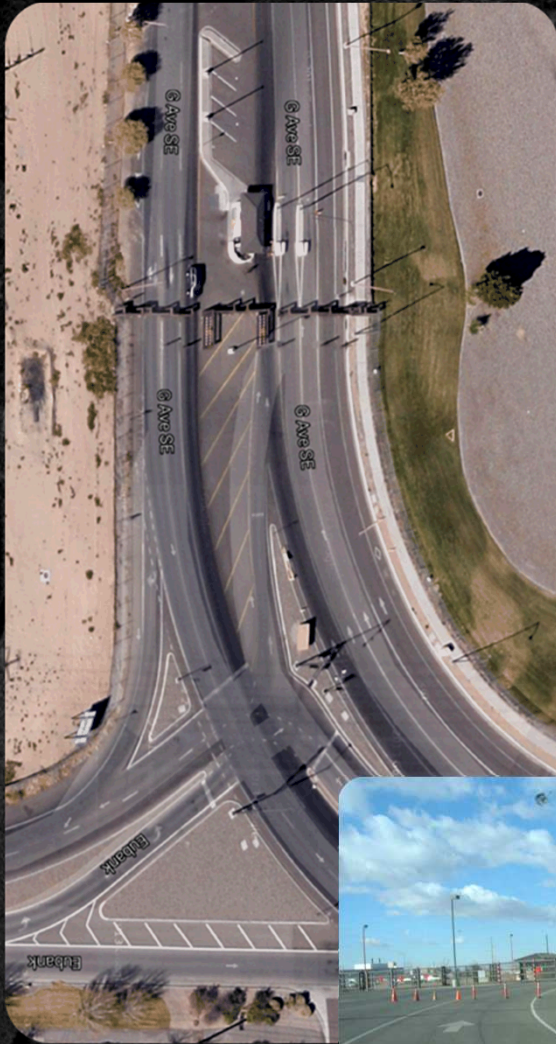


Journal Pavilion Amphitheater  
Albuquerque, NM





# VideoSAR



Kirtland AFB Gate  
Albuquerque, NM



# Coherent Change Detection (CCD)

## Normalized Coherent Product (NCP)

PASS 1: Before activity

- Foot paths
- Tire tracks
- Bicycle tracks
- Ground disturbances
- **Often the changes cannot be seen at visible wavelengths**

PASS 2: Before activity

CCD: Reference

PASS 3: After activity

CCD: Post Activity

Normalized Coherence Product (NCP)





# MISSION EXAMPLES



# Counter IED -- Copperhead

## ■ Mission

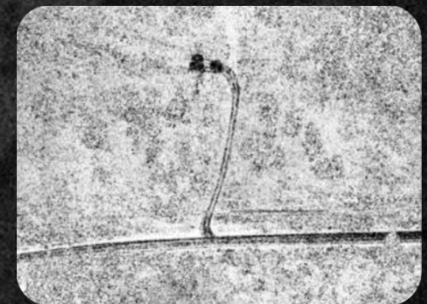
- Counter - IED ISR (C-IED ISR) - Monitors one or more routes and provides MGRS coordinates of suspected enemy activity for Route Clearance Teams to investigate

## ■ Copperhead Provides:

- Change Detection - capable of detecting very small surface disturbances
- Modes: Route Following Strip-map, Circle (Spotlight) images
- Onboard Processing and compression
- Images meeting quality specifications in high-relief terrain
- Automatically-created flight plans for route following and disturbance verification missions

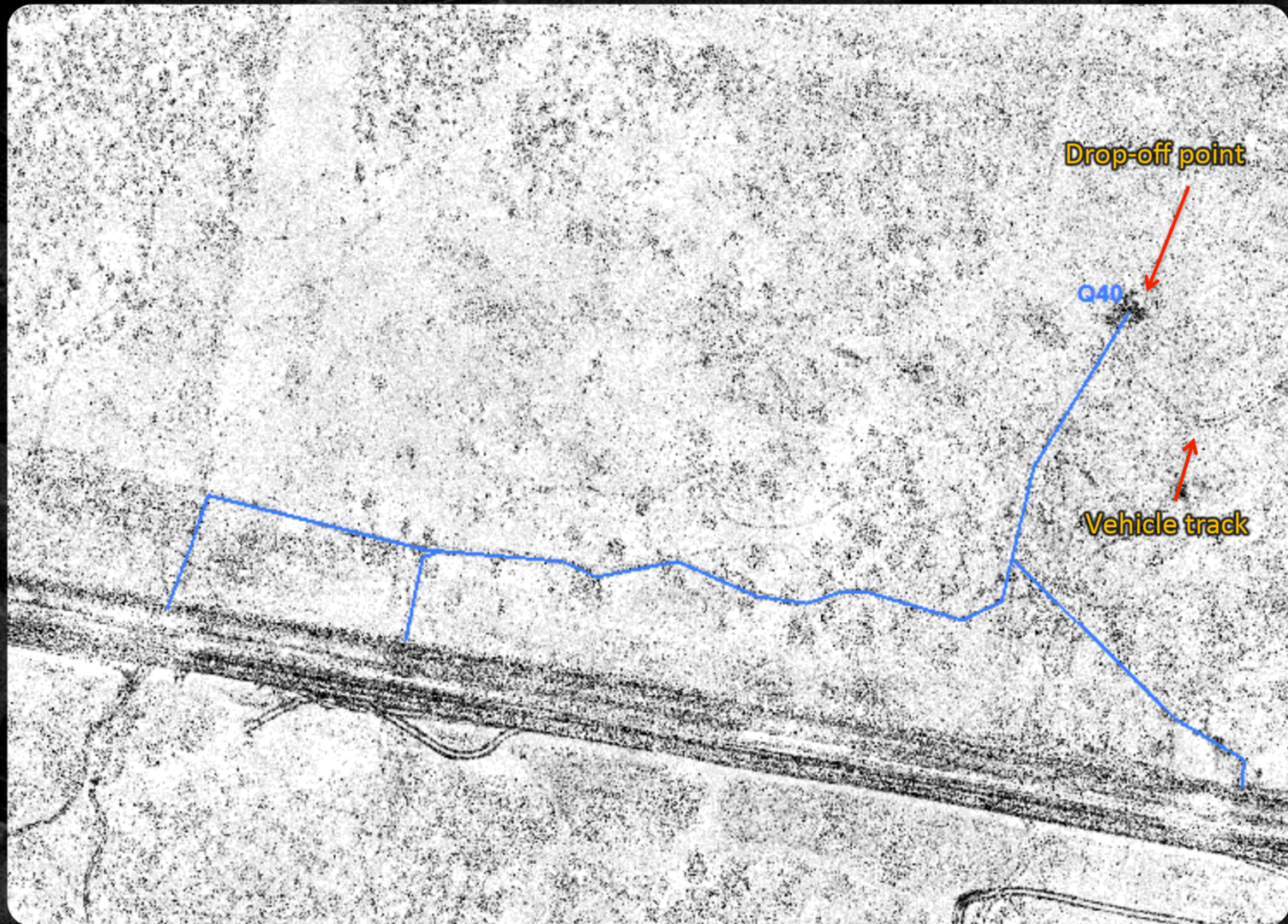


Size	Volume: 1.53Ft <sup>3</sup> (REA inside UAS), 0.83Ft <sup>3</sup> for the radome
Weight	< 65lbs
Power	< 650W peak
Frequency Band	Ku-Band
Platform	Hunter UAS





# Border Security



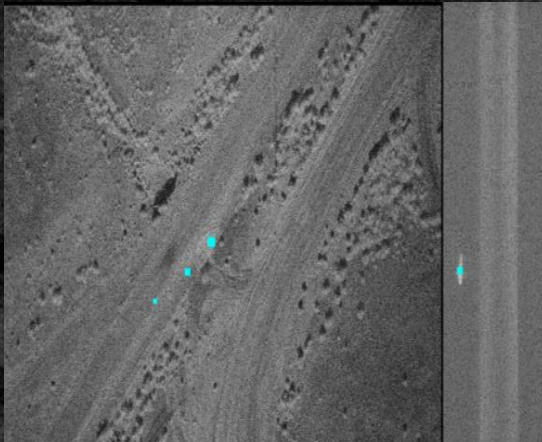
Statistically Normalized Coherence



# Where are we headed?



Rethinking Search



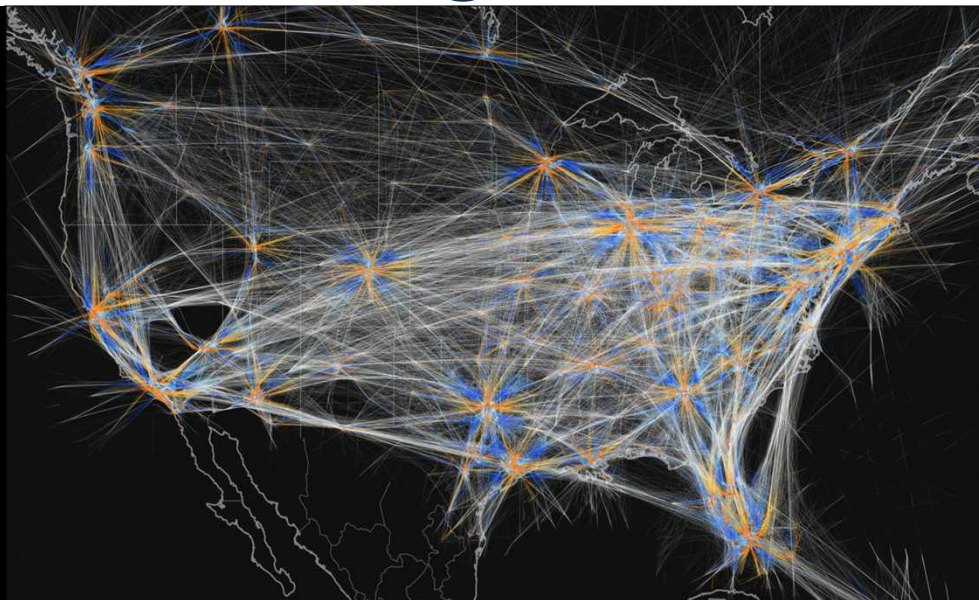
Simultaneous VideoSAR/GMTI with automated tracking of movers (VICTR)



Fully Polarimetric VideoSAR/CCD



# Rethinking Search

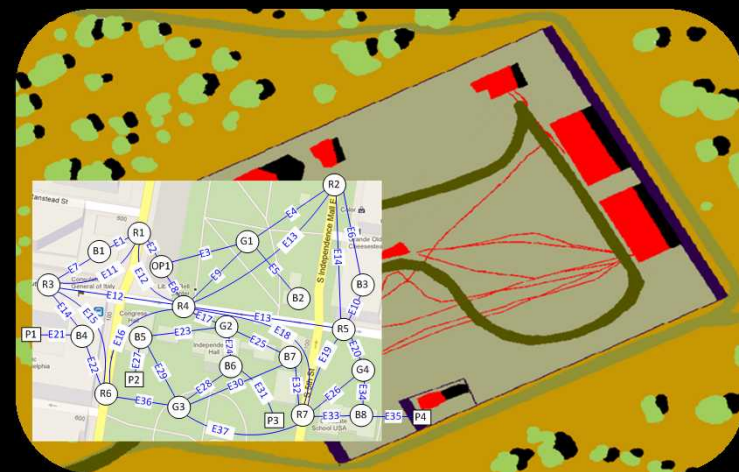


## *Rethinking patterns in motion.*

- Geometric and temporal trajectory analyses – changing dots to tracks to *trajectories*.
- Geospatial-temporal relationships – i.e., identifying things like co-travelers.

## *Rethinking traditional GIS and geospatial search.*

- Compact, efficient representations of features extracted from sensor data.
- Sensor agnostic capability for multi-INT feature relationships in time and space.
- Predictive and forensic analysis.



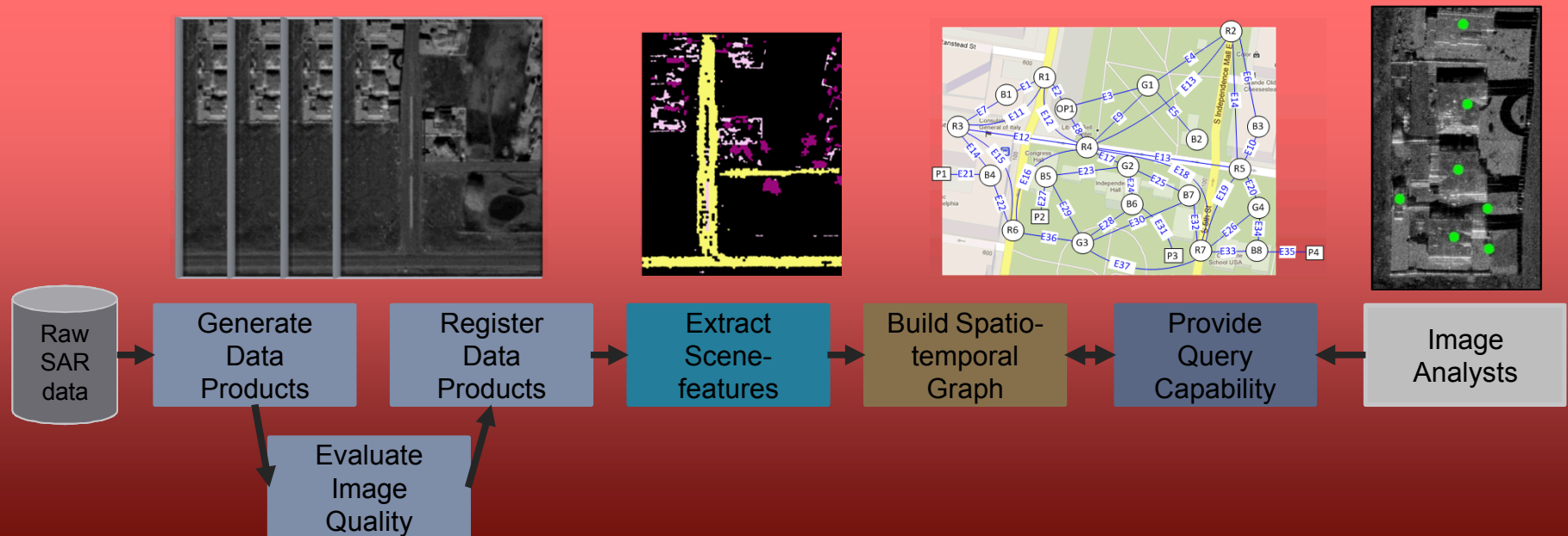
**Analysts care about “what”, “where”, and “when”.**

**Where is it going? Where has it been? What’s the relationship? What’s changed?**



# Automatic SAR Feature Extraction

- Aiding analysis in exploiting massive amounts of SAR image data.
- Moving from pixels to analysis:
  - Augment analyst capabilities through automated query and search of SAR data products.
  - Represent spatial and temporal relationships of scene features in searchable graph.
  - Automate classification of static structures and terrains.
  - Automate detection of ephemeral tracks, disturbances, and vehicle movement.

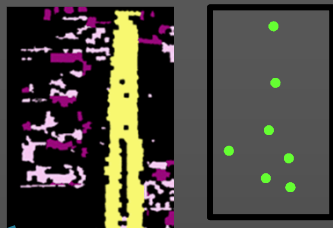




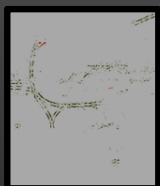
# Moving Away From Pixels

## Graph Construction and Analysis

### Static Features

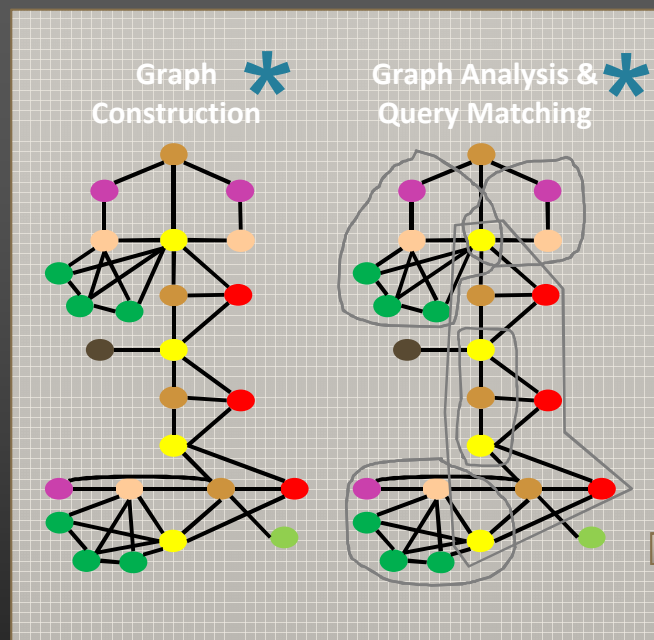


### Ephemeral Features



Points at which big sensor data becomes more manageable

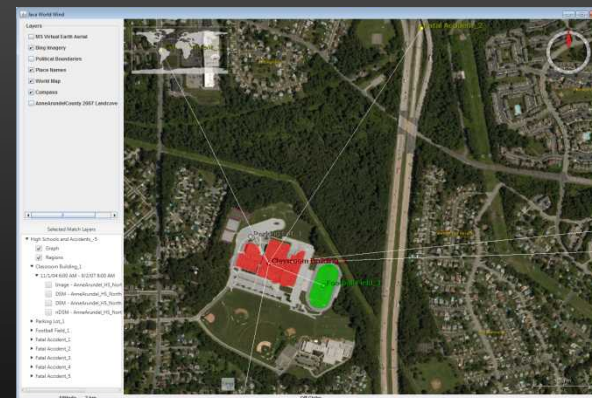
Analyst constructs search queries and visualizes results



### Query Pattern



### Search Results





# Moving Away from Pixels

**Example:** Seek complexes of new buildings, across an entire city:

$\leq 40 \text{ m}$   
 $A_{\text{relative}} \leq 1.5 \times$   
 $\text{Eccentricity}_{\text{relative}} \leq 1.5 \times$

## Constructed

Data: Building

Exists now

$A \geq 100 \text{ m}^2$

New, Extended, Changed

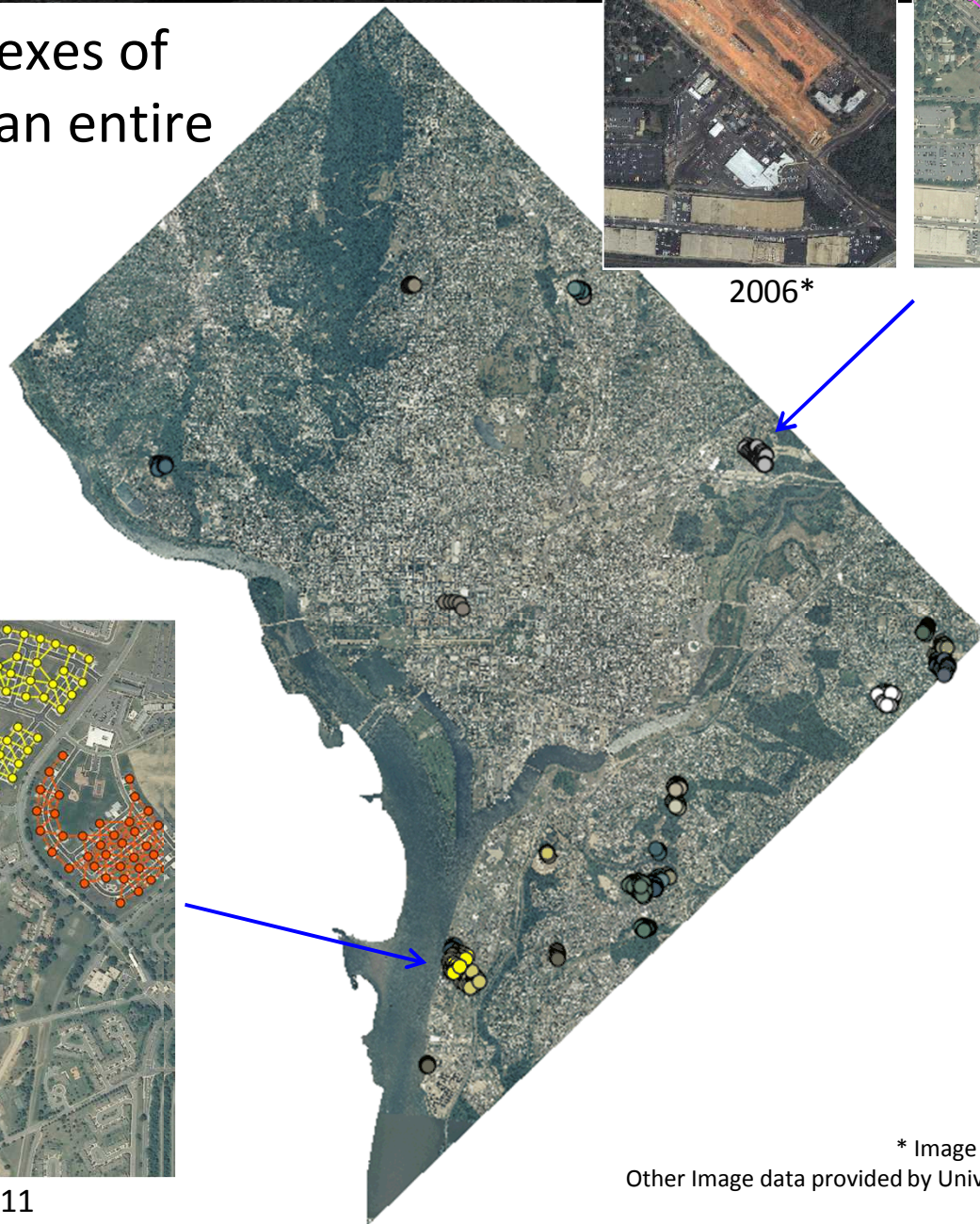
$n \in [5, \infty]$



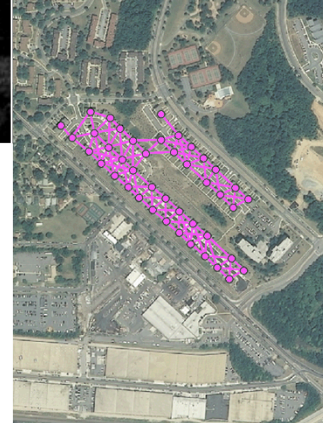
2006\*



2011



2006\*



2011

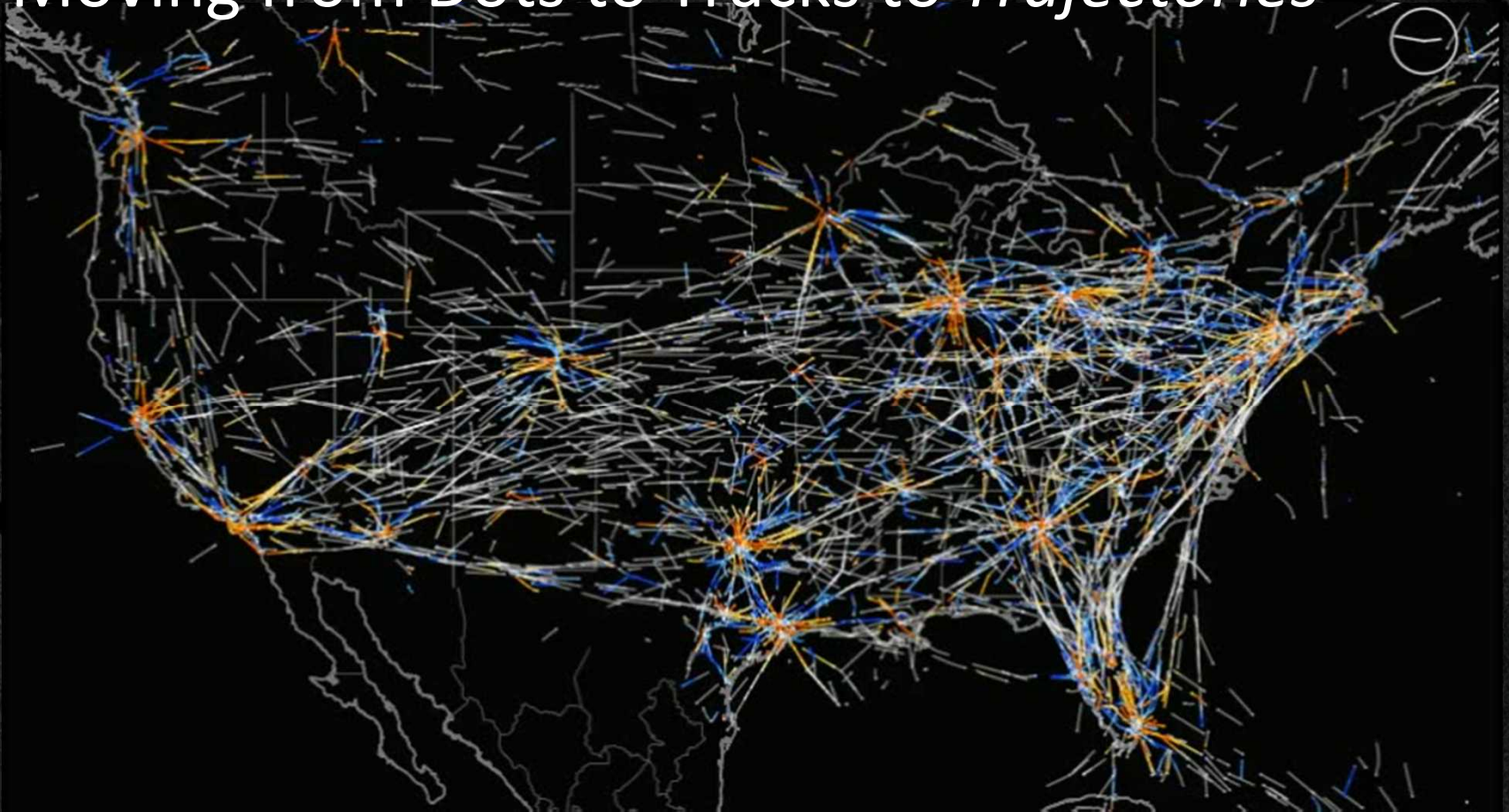
\* Image from DigitalGlobe.

Other Image data provided by University of Vermont.



# Trajectory Analysis

Moving from Dots to Tracks to *Trajectories*



24 hours in the US: Average of 50,000 flights  
5 million data points / 1GB of data

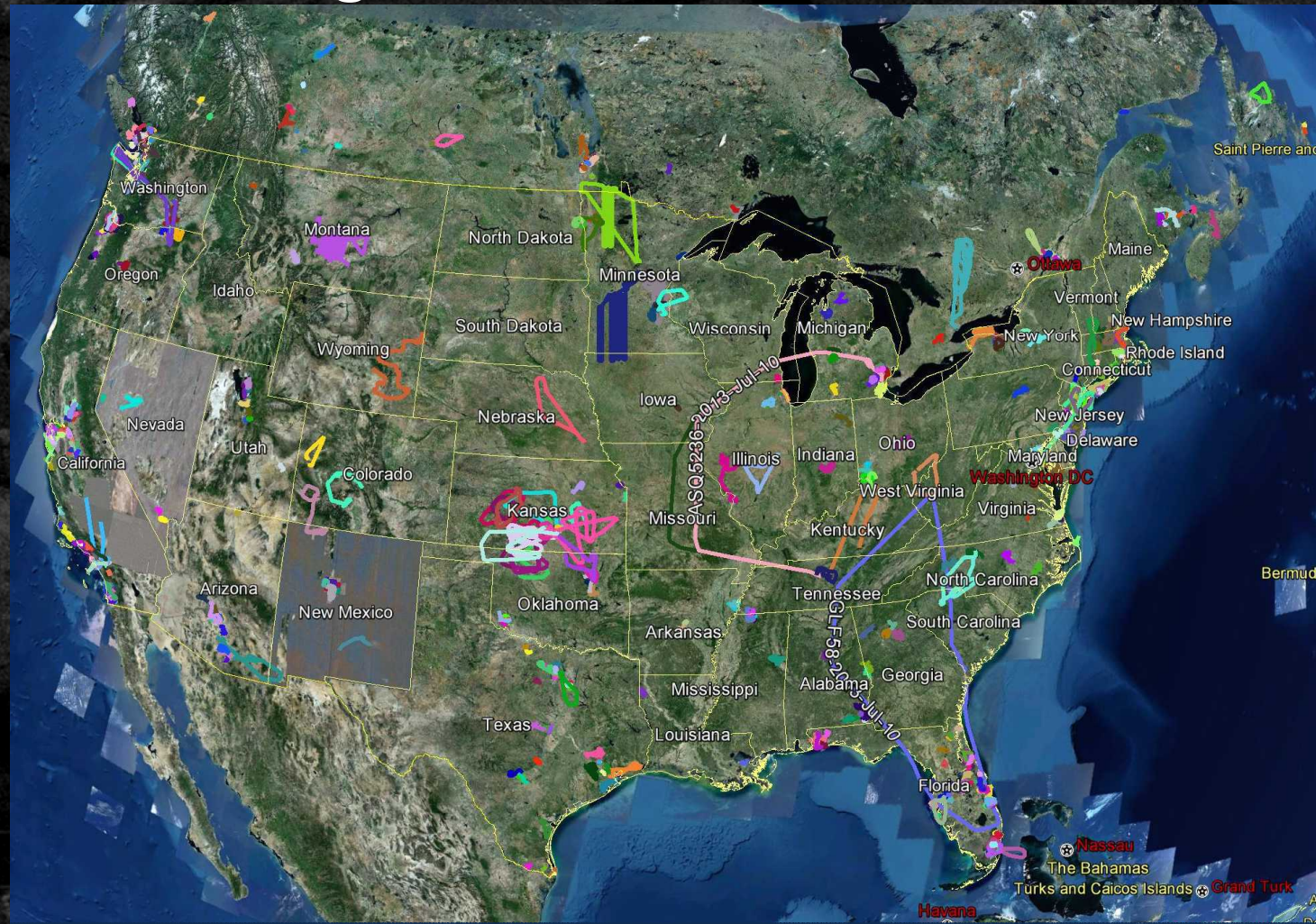




# Discovery of Odd flights

## Unsupervised learning

Clustering  
done based  
on geometric  
features.

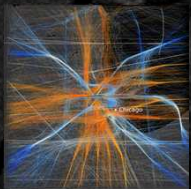
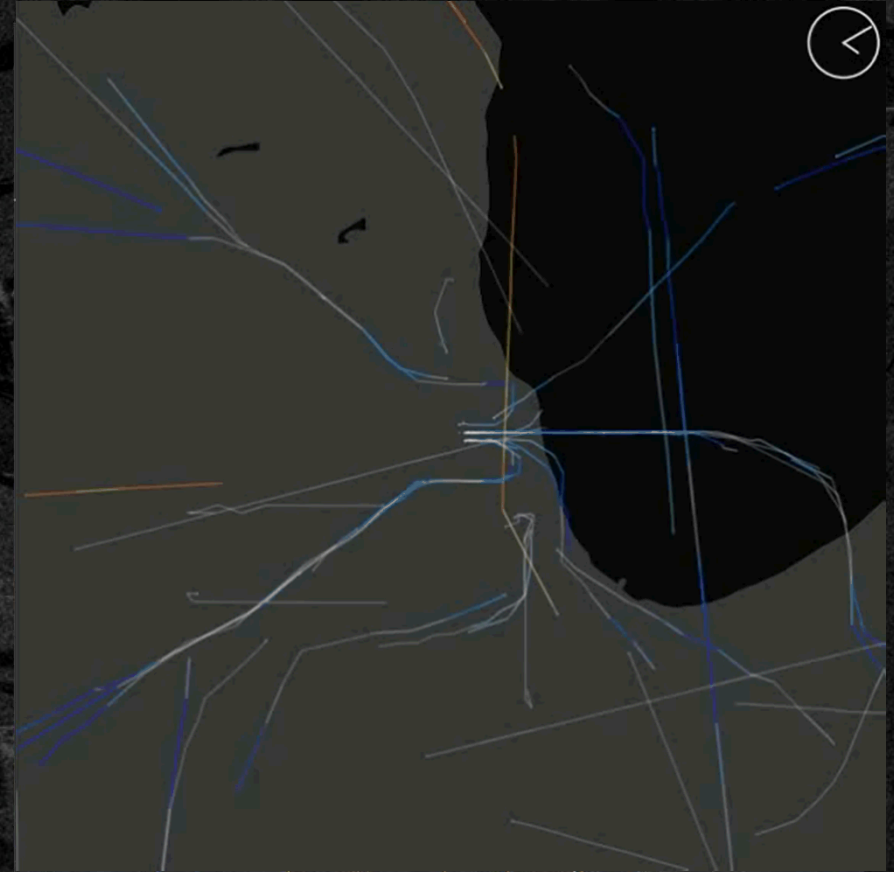
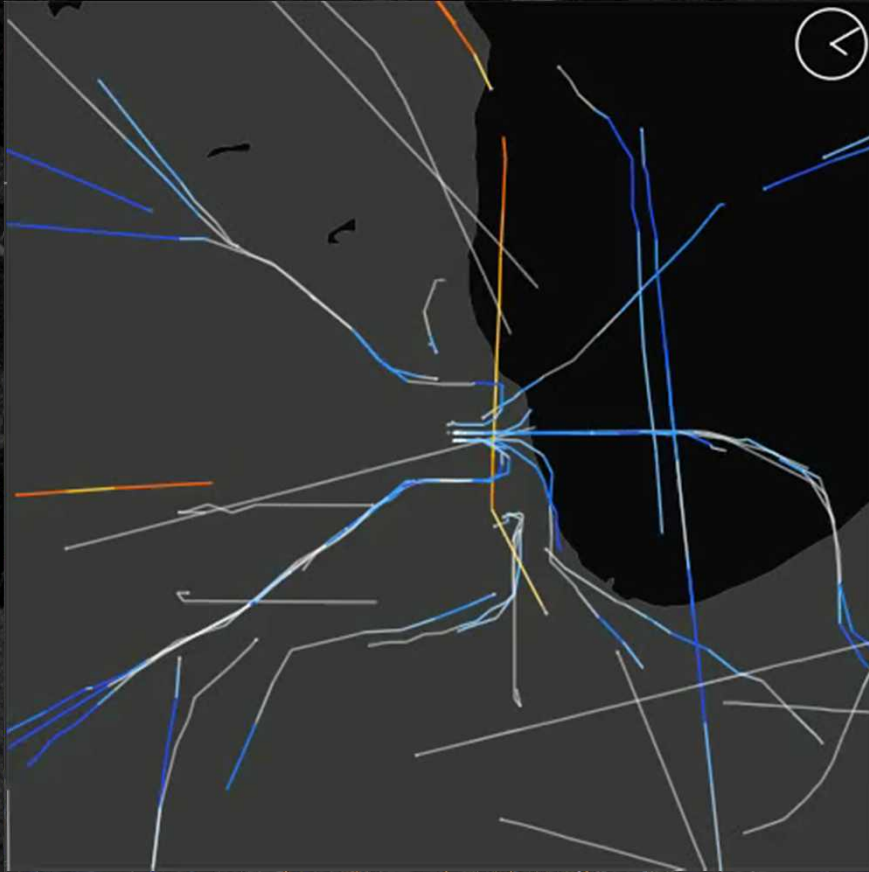


Represents approximately 700 out of the total 50,000 flights.



# Discovery of Odd flights

## Unsupervised learning



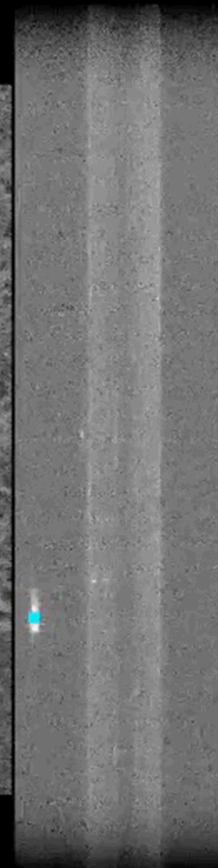
Chicago Air  
Traffic

80,456 points  
3,986 flights  
~15MB of data



# Continuous Tracking

## Velocity Independent Continuous Tracking Radar (VICTR)

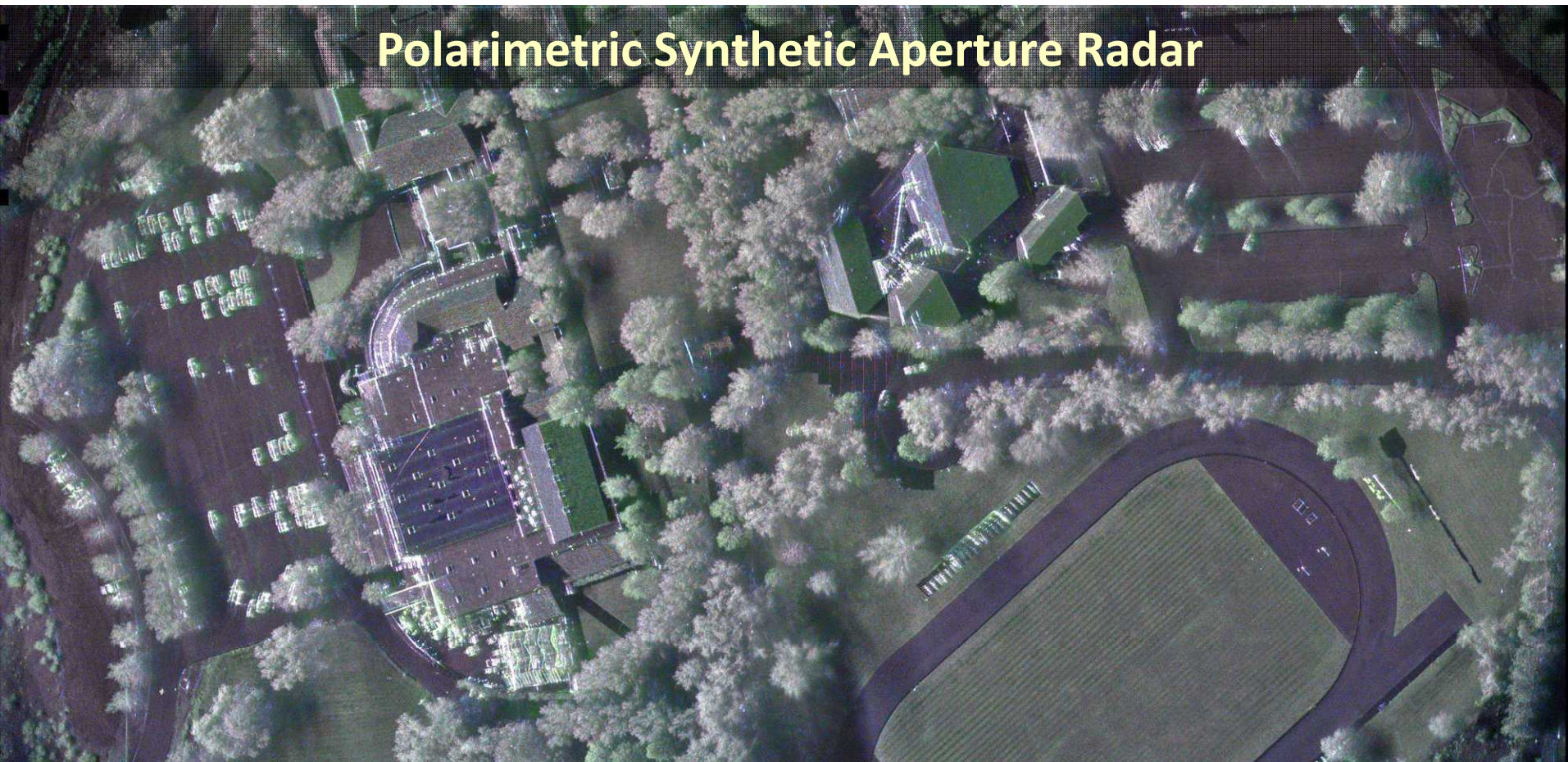


Simultaneous VideoSAR/GMTI with automated tracking of movers including repointing the antenna



# Polarimetric SAR

## Polarimetric Synthetic Aperture Radar



Enables the determination of underlying scattering mechanism, not just the brightness of the scattering. This adds an information rich dimension to the SAR image products.





**THANK YOU**

**Dr. James J. Hudgens**  
**Sandia National Laboratories**  
**Airborne ISR**

**[jjhudge@sandia.gov](mailto:jjhudge@sandia.gov)**

**[www.sandia.gov/radar/](http://www.sandia.gov/radar/)**