

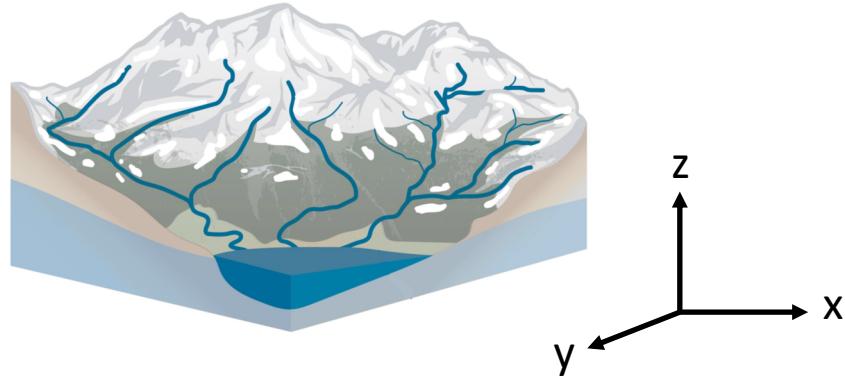
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\$> Sentinel-2, Pléiades, Icesat-2, Trishna... |

Hijacking Earth observation satellites for snow science

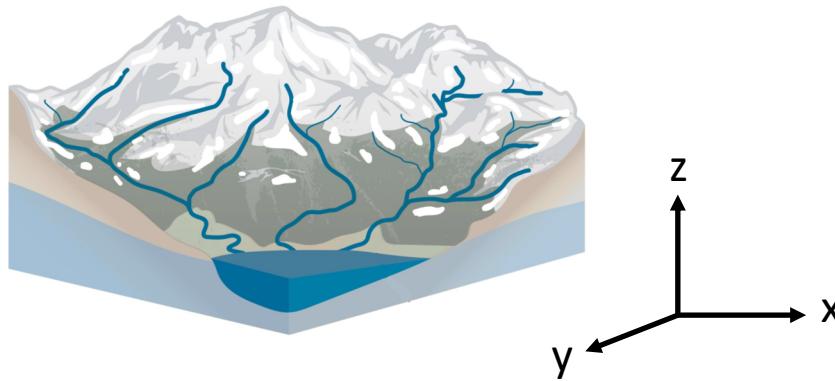


# SWE in alpine catchments



$$M = \iint_{\text{SCA}} \left( \int_0^{\text{HS}(x,y)} \rho(x, y, z) \, dz \right) dx \, dy$$

# SWE in alpine catchments



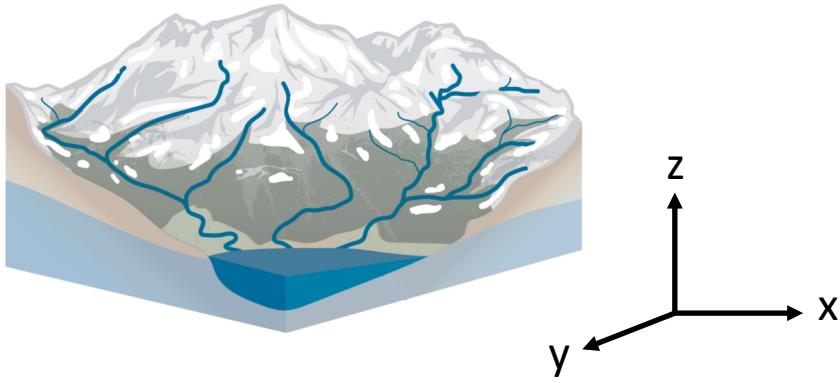
Elevation differencing  
*Pléiades, ICESat-2*

$$M = \iint_{SCA} \left( \int_0^{HS(x,y)} \rho(x, y, z) dz \right) dx dy$$

Image classification  
*MODIS, Sentinel-2*

Thermal inertia?  
*Trishna, LSTM*

# SWE in alpine catchments



$$M = \iint_{SCA} \left( \int_0^{HS(x,y)} \rho(x, y, z) \, dz \right) dx \, dy$$

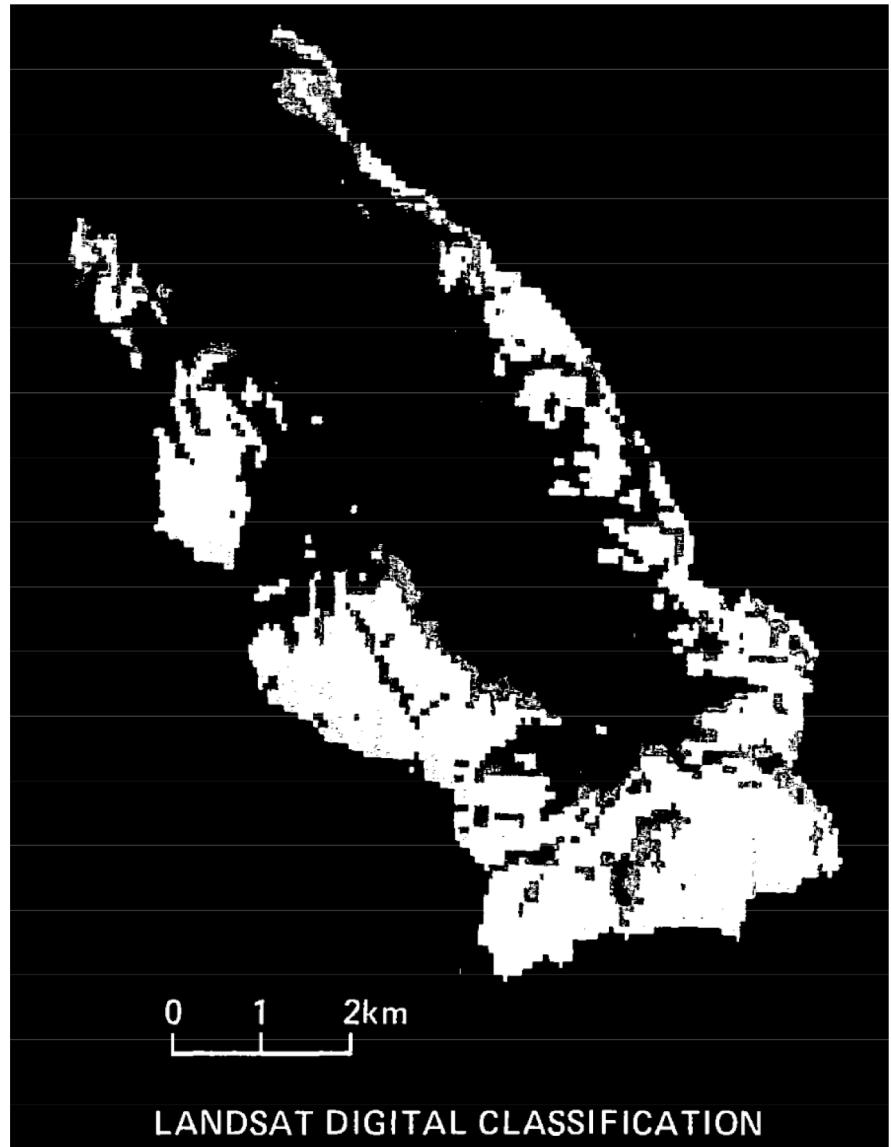
SCA

Image classification  
*MODIS, Sentinel-2*

# SCA is easy

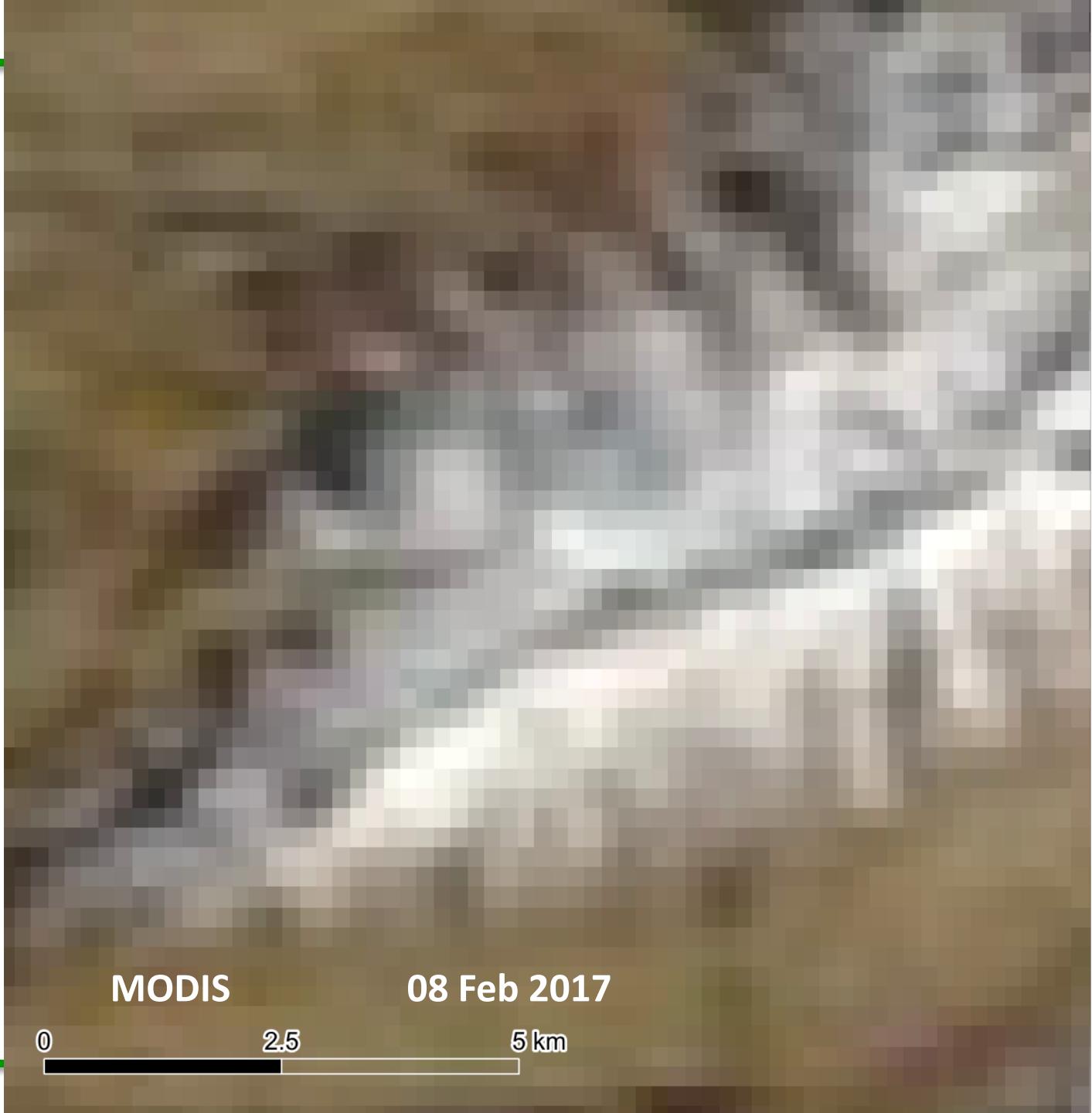
- 1972 : Landsat (30 m, 16 day)
- 2000 : MODIS (500 m, 1 day)
- 2015 : Sentinel-2 (20 m, 5 day)

Dischma, Switzerland, 8 Jun 1976  
Rango & Martinec (1979)



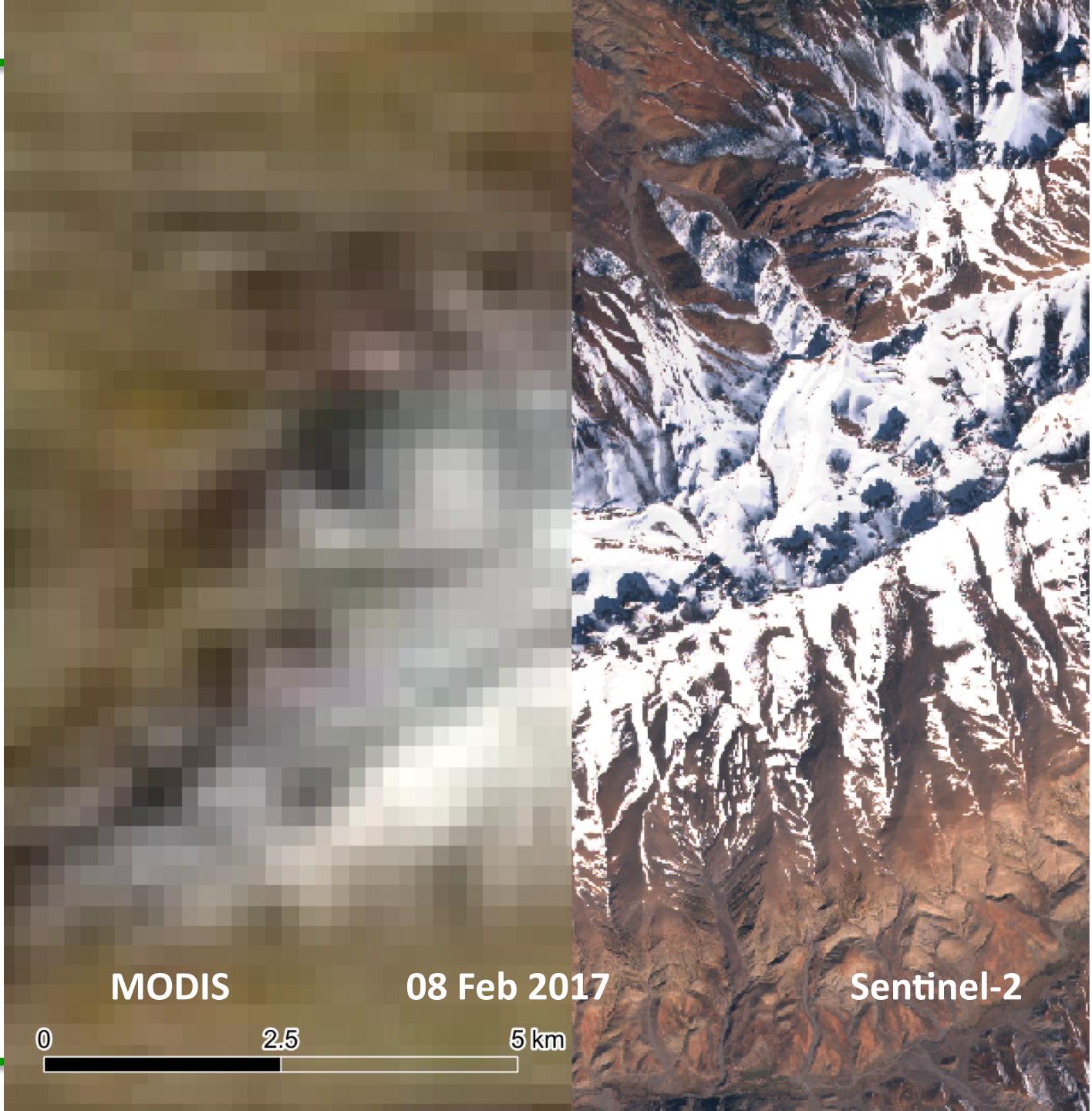
# SCA is easy

- 1972 : Landsat (30 m, 16 day)
- **2000 : MODIS (500 m, 1 day)**
- 2015 : Sentinel-2 (20 m, 5 day)

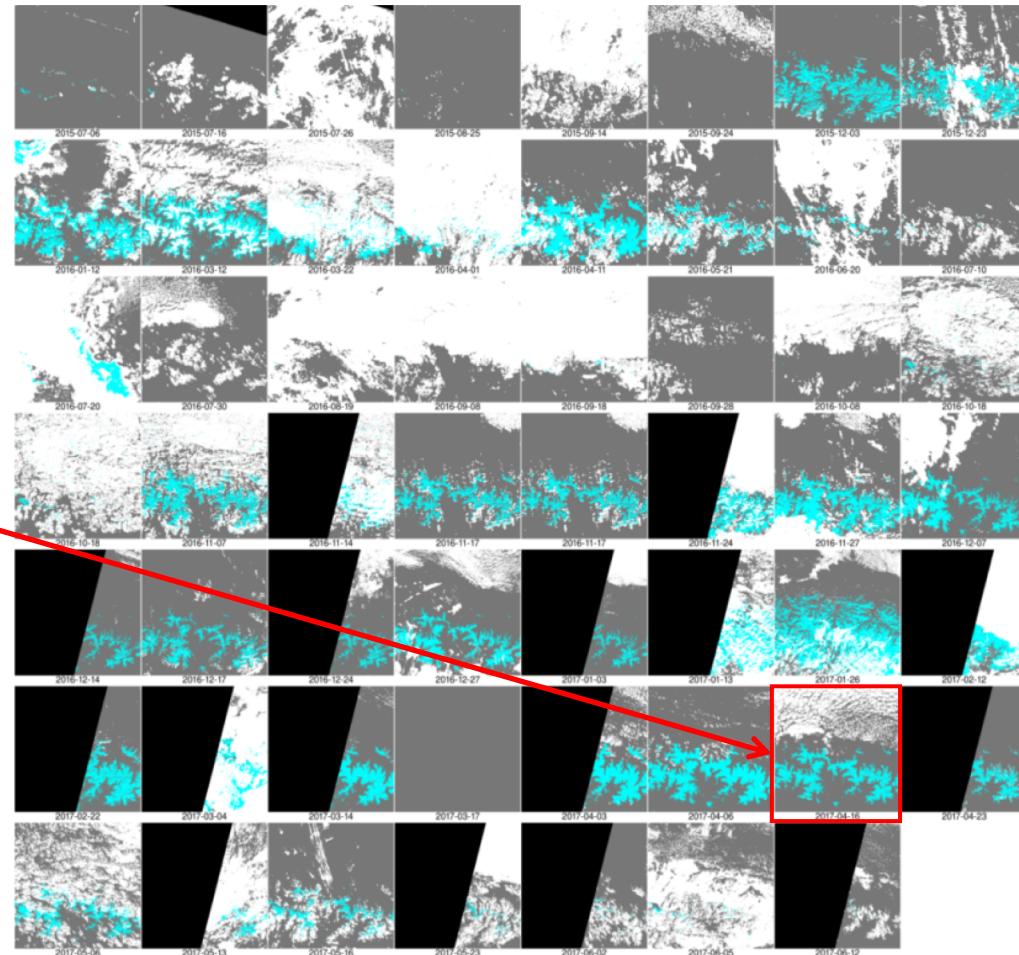
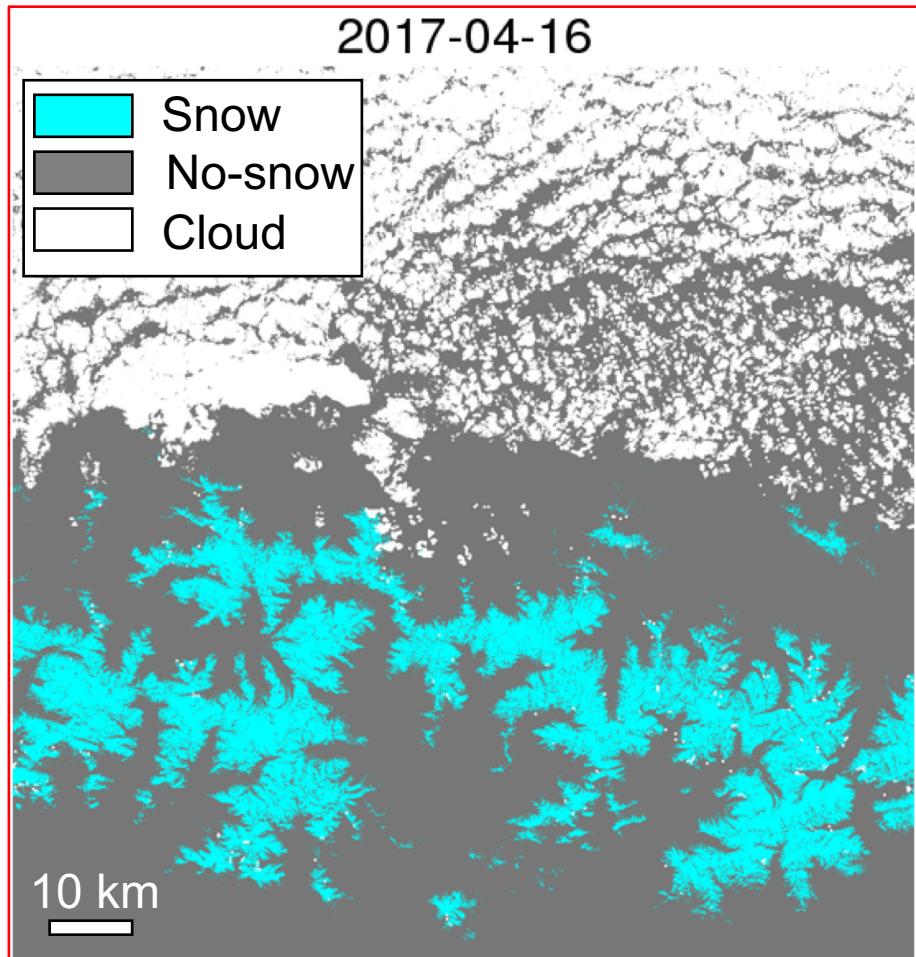


# SCA is easy

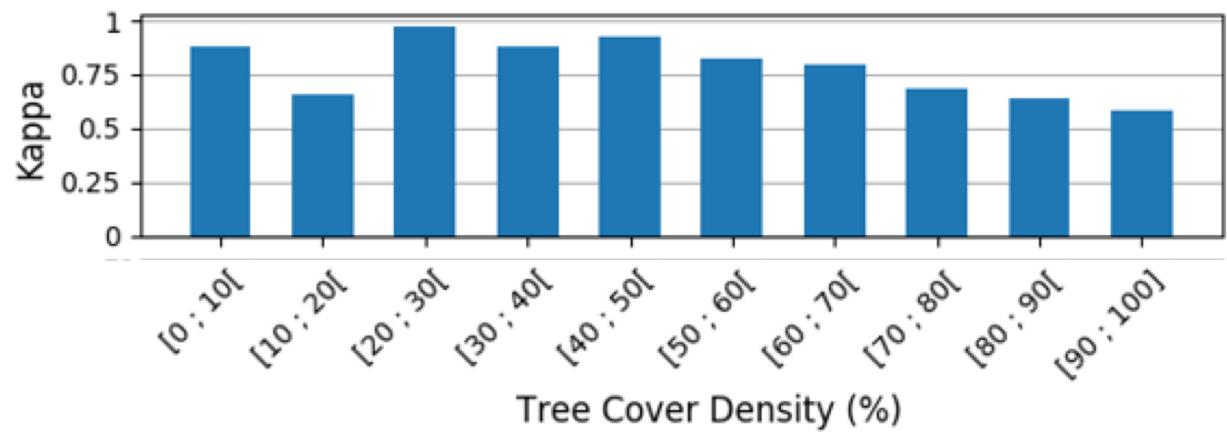
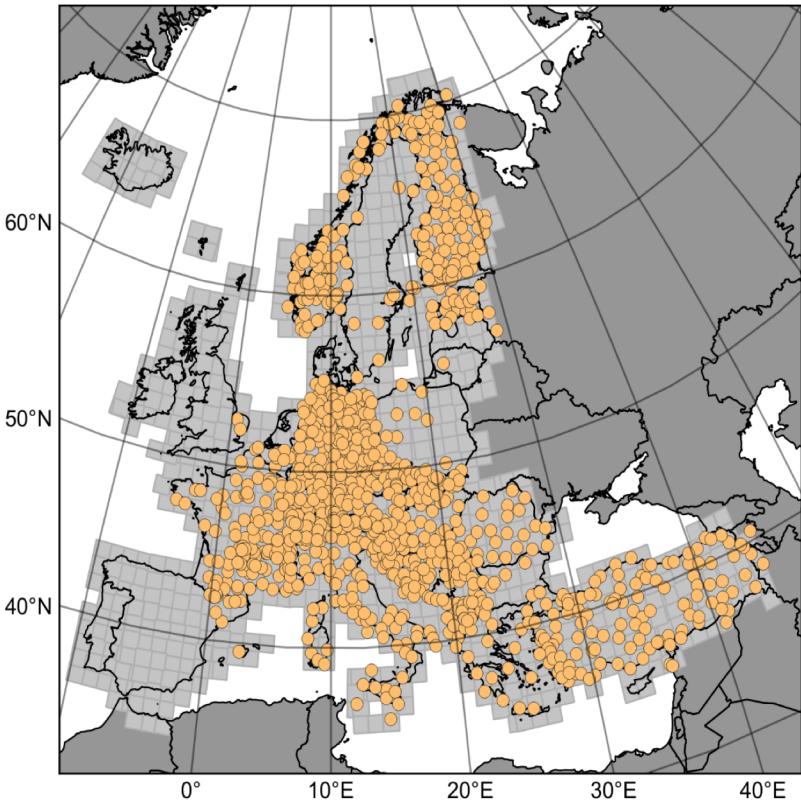
- 1972 : Landsat (30 m, 16 day)
- 2000 : MODIS (500 m, 1 day)
- **2015 : Sentinel-2 (20 m, 5 day)**



# Sentinel-2 SCA time series



# Sentinel-2 SCA evaluation

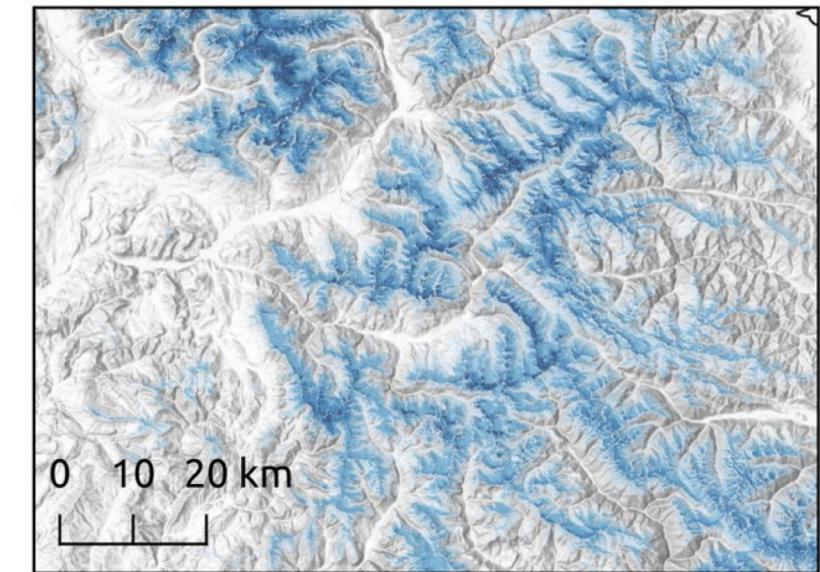
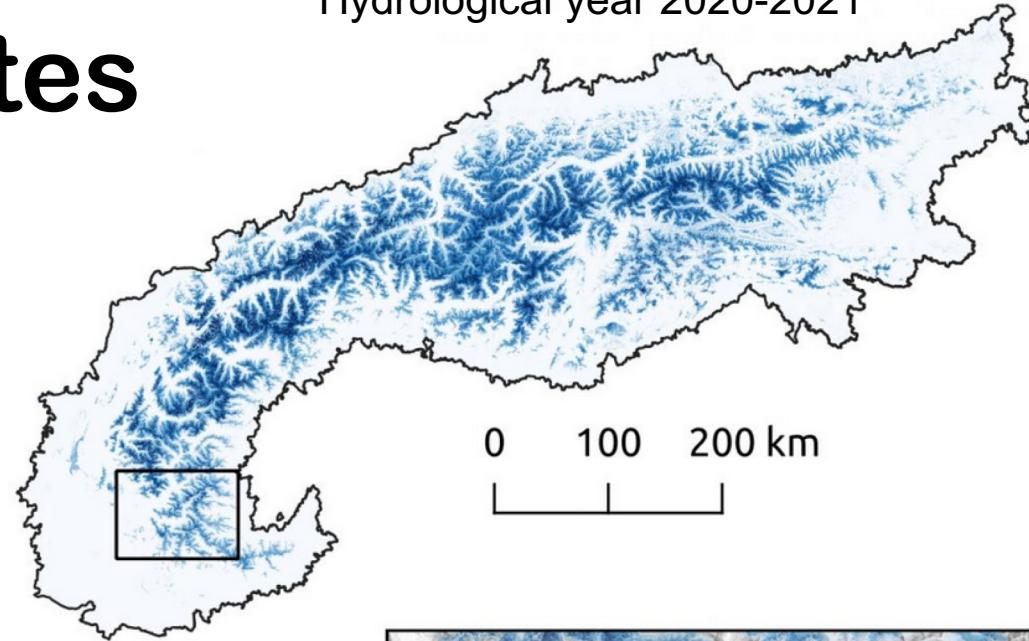


Barrou Dumont, Z., Gascoin, S., Hagolle, O., Ablain, M., Jugier, R., Salgues, G., Marti, F., Dupuis, A., Dumont, M., and Morin, S.: Brief communication: Evaluation of the snow cover detection in the Copernicus High Resolution Snow & Ice Monitoring Service, *The Cryosphere*, 2021.

# Sentinel-2 composites

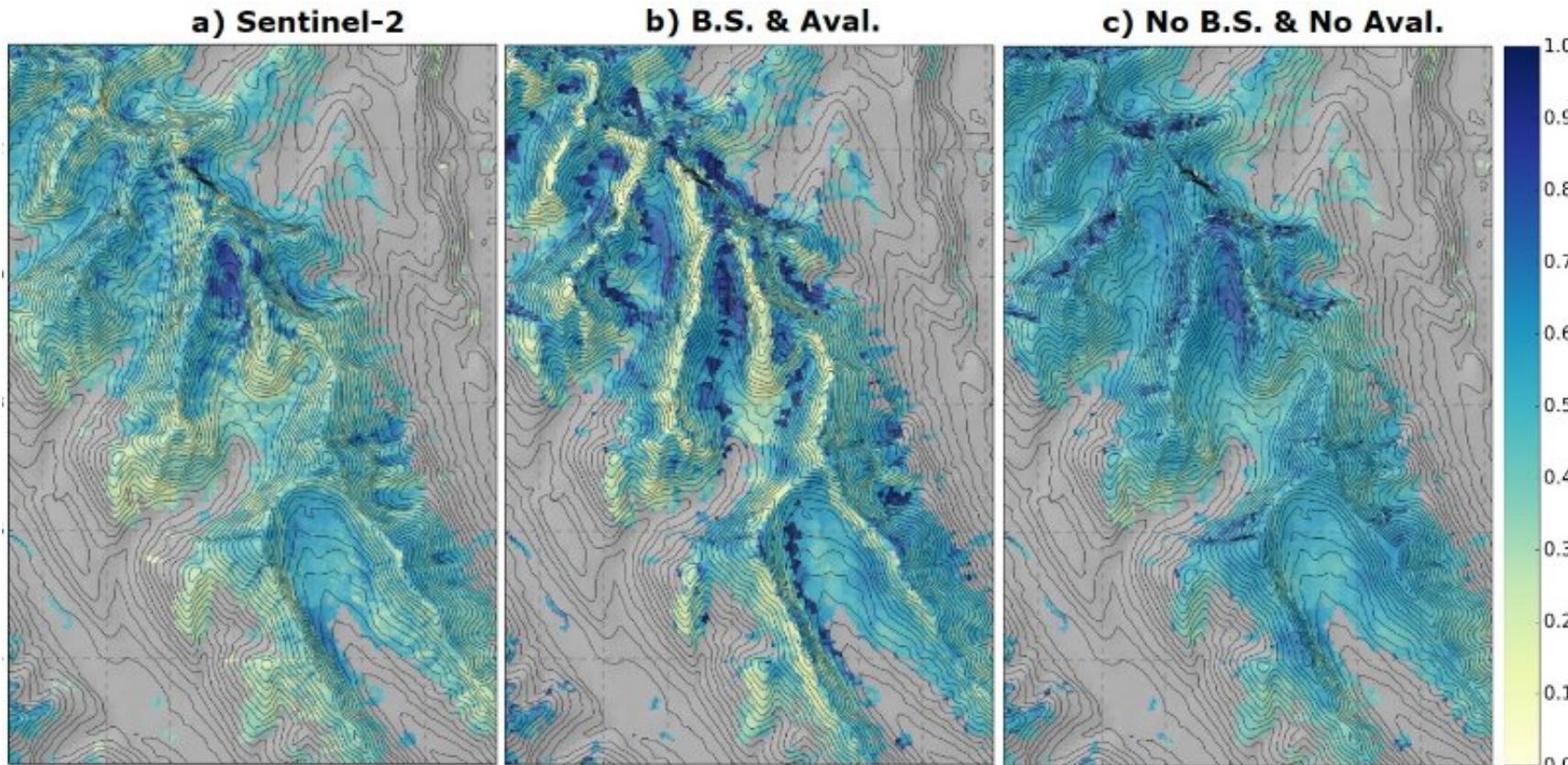
- Snow probability
- Snow duration
- Snow onset date
- Snow melt out date

Hydrological year 2020-2021



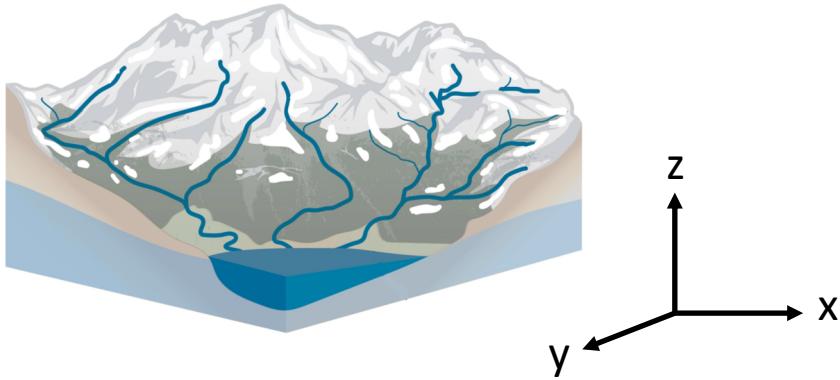
# Evaluation of the Canadian Hydrological Model

Snow probability



Vionnet, V., Marsh, C. B.,  
Menounos, B., Gascoin, S.,  
Wayand, N. E., Shea, J.,  
Mukherjee, K., and  
Pomeroy, J. W.: Multi-scale  
snowdrift-permitting  
modelling of mountain  
snowpack, *The Cryosphere*,  
2020

# SWE in alpine catchments



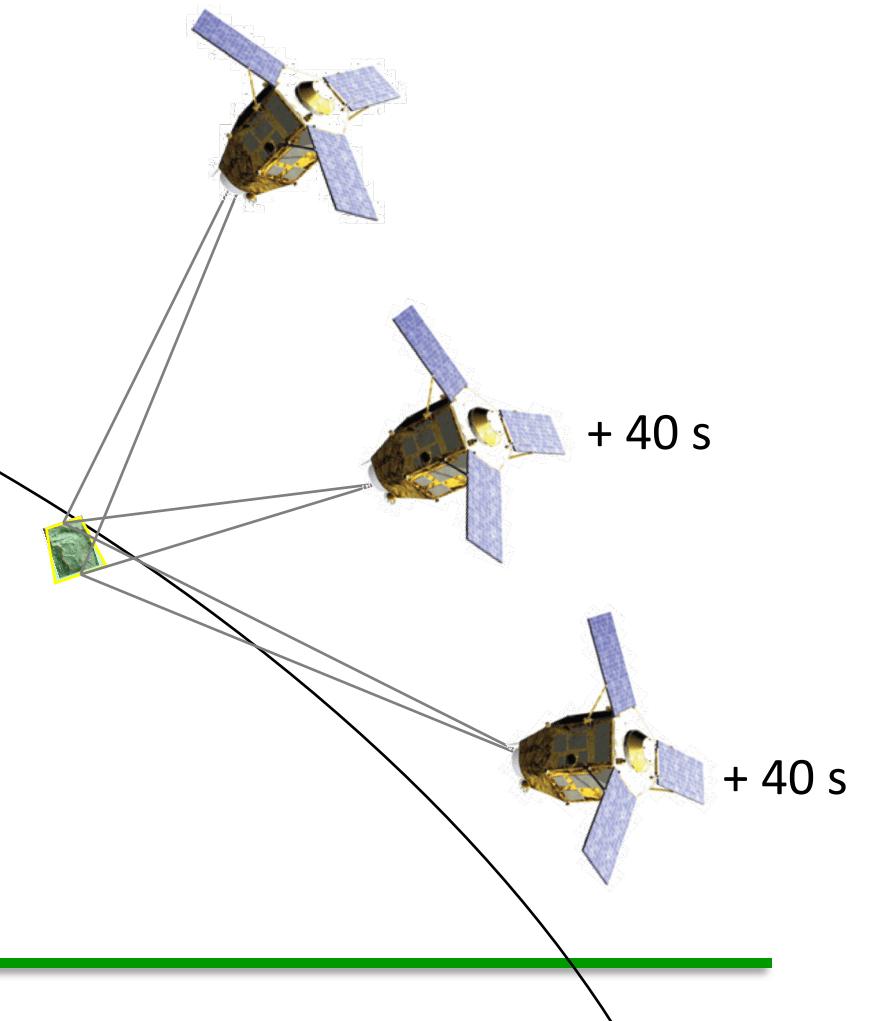
Elevation differencing  
*Pléiades, ICESat-2*

$$M = \iint_{\text{SCA}} \left( \int_0^{\text{HS}(x,y)} \rho(x, y, z) \, dz \right) dx \, dy$$

# Pléiades snow depth

Pléiades : 70 cm, swath 20 km

- Difference of snow-off and snow-on DEMs

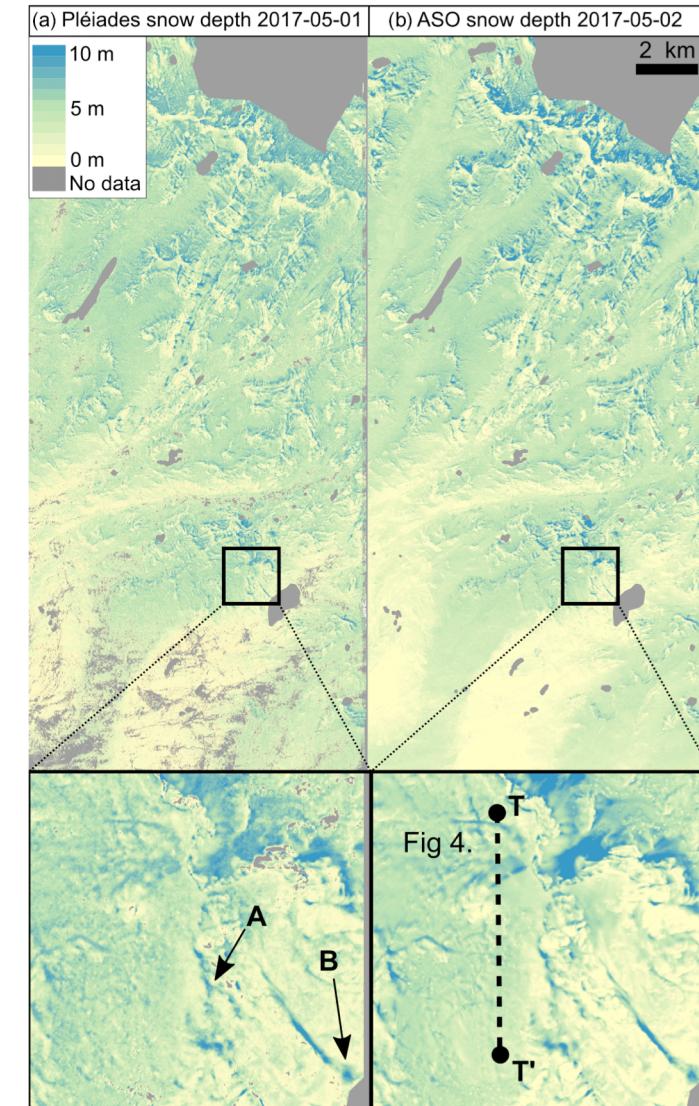


# Pléiades snow depth

- Difference of snow-off and snow-on DEMs
- Accuracy ~ 50 to 70 cm at 2 m resolution

Marti, R., Gascoin, S., Berthier, E., de Pinel, M., Houet, T., and Laffly, D.: Mapping snow depth in open alpine terrain from stereo satellite imagery, *The Cryosphere*, 2016

Deschamps-Berger, C., Gascoin, S., Berthier, E., Deems, J., Gutmann, E., Dehecq, A., Shean, D., and Dumont, M.: Snow depth mapping from stereo satellite imagery in mountainous terrain: evaluation using airborne laser-scanning data, *The Cryosphere*, 2020

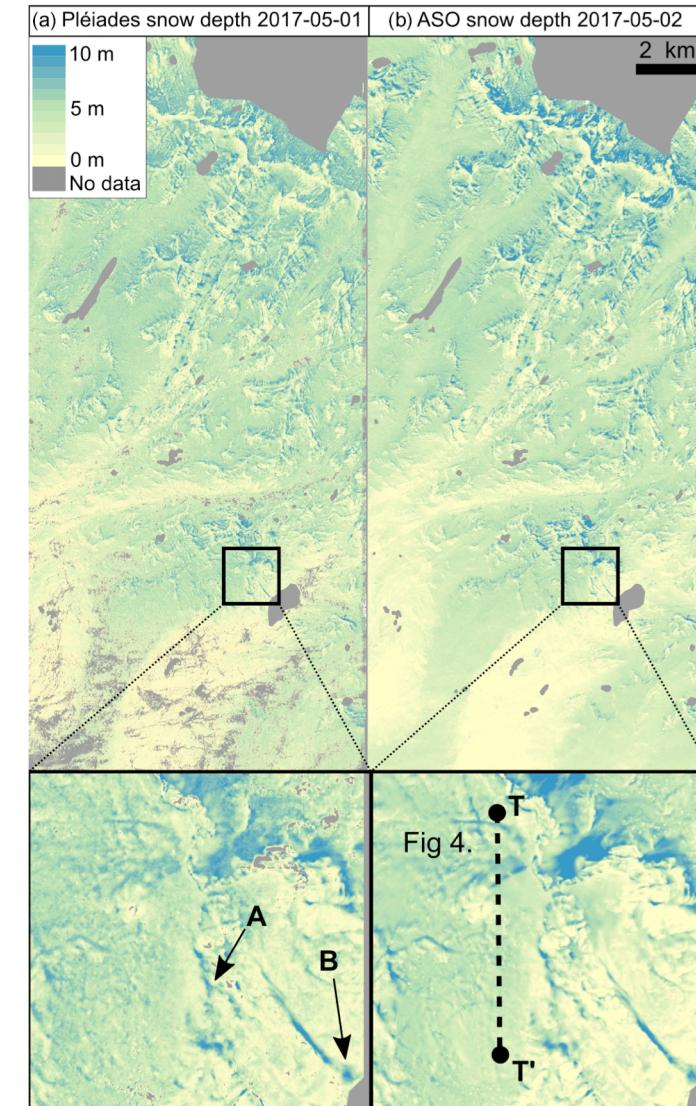


# Pléiades snow depth

- Difference of snow-off and snow-on DEMs
- Accuracy ~ 50 to 70 cm at 2 m resolution
- Accuracy ~ 30 cm at 30 m resolution

Marti, R., Gascoin, S., Berthier, E., de Pinel, M., Houet, T., and Laffly, D.: Mapping snow depth in open alpine terrain from stereo satellite imagery, *The Cryosphere*, 2016

Deschamps-Berger, C., Gascoin, S., Berthier, E., Deems, J., Gutmann, E., Dehecq, A., Shean, D., and Dumont, M.: Snow depth mapping from stereo satellite imagery in mountainous terrain: evaluation using airborne laser-scanning data, *The Cryosphere*, 2020



# Pléiades snow depth

## Successful case studies

- 🇫🇷 Bassiès, France (Martí et al. 2016)
- 🇺🇸 Tuolumne, USA (Deschamps-Berger et al. 2020)
- 🇨🇱 Yeso, Chile (Shaw et al. 2020abc)
- 🇩🇪 Zugspitze, Germany (Koch et al., WIP)

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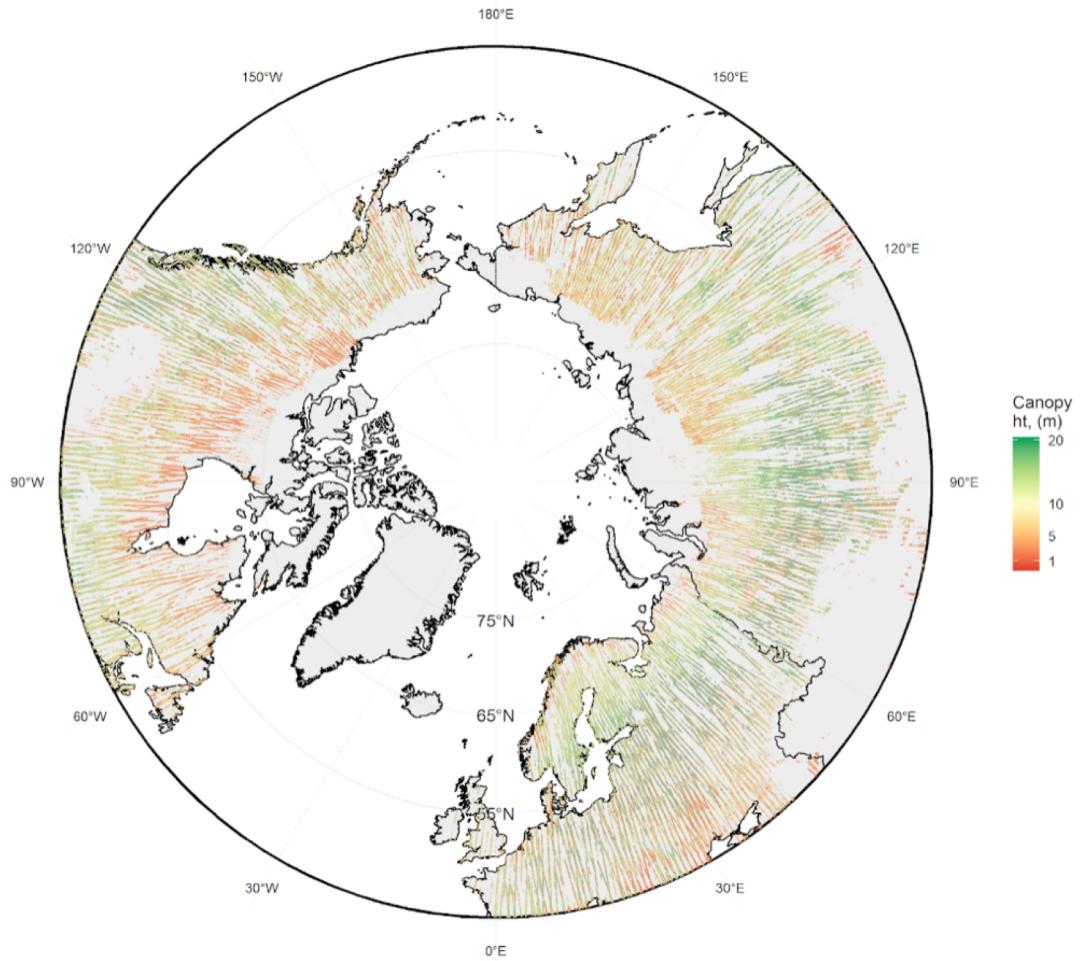
# ICESat-2 snow depth?

Accurate altimeter with  
91-day repeat orbit



# ICESat-2 snow depth?

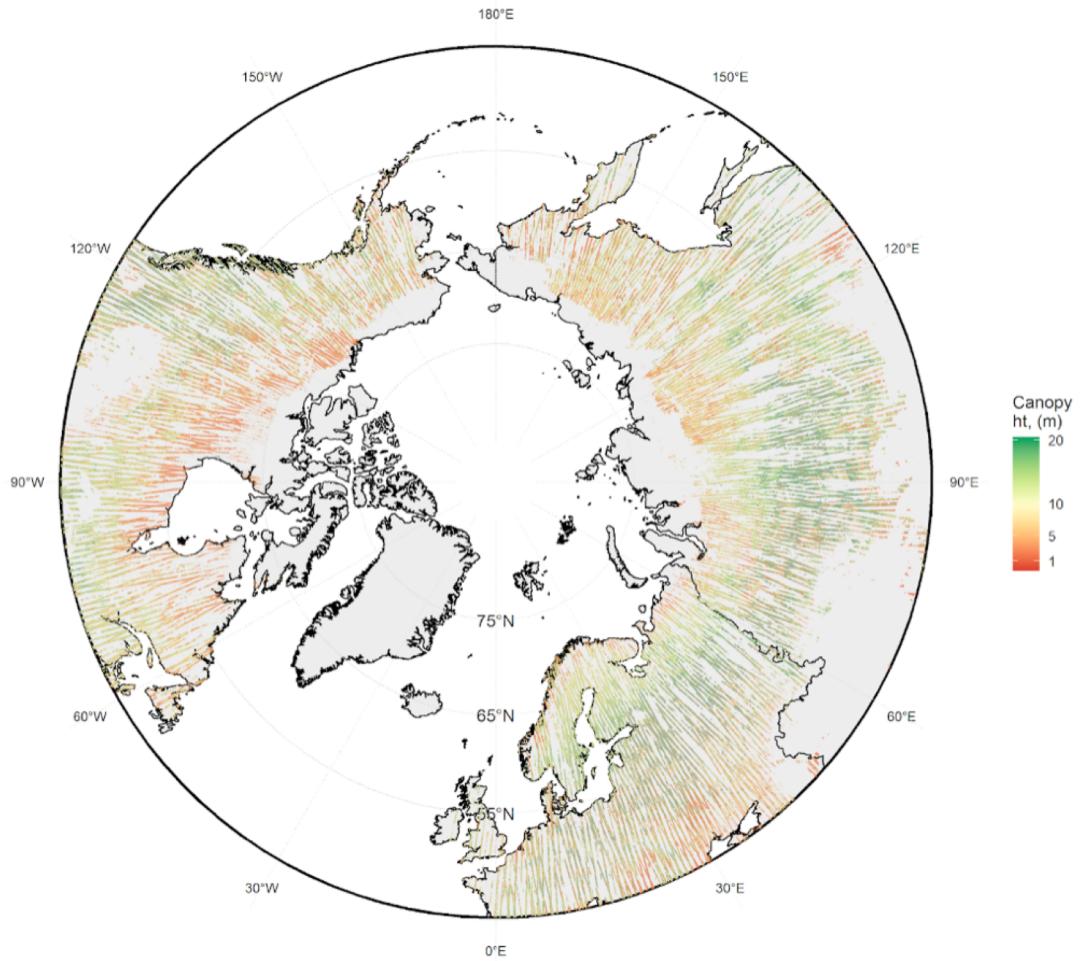
Accurate altimeter with  
91-day repeat orbit  
... but off-nadir pointing  
over land areas



# ICESat-2 snow depth?

Accurate altimeter with  
91-day repeat orbit  
... but off-nadir pointing  
over land areas

**snow-on:** ICESat-2  
**snow-off:** airborne lidar,  
Pléiades

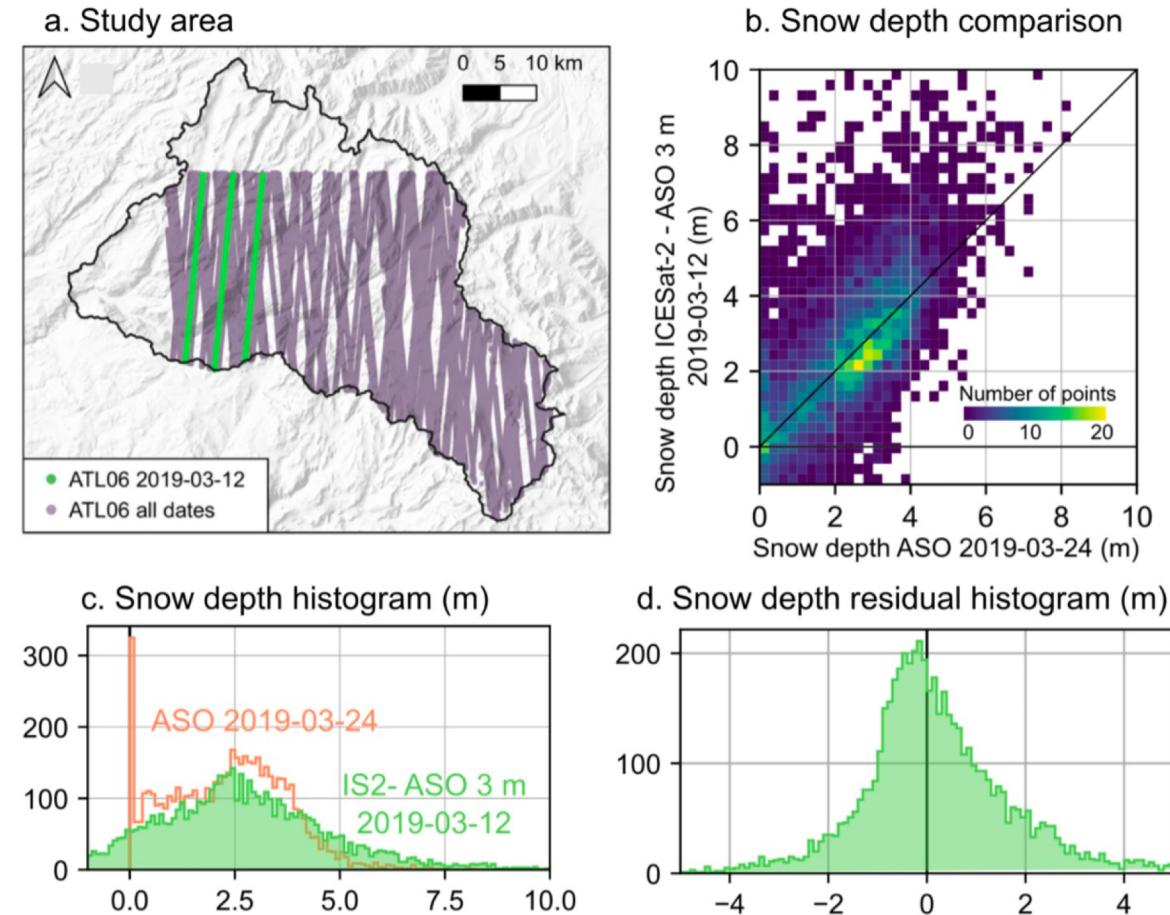


# ICESat-2 snow depth?

Deschamps-Berger, C.,  
Gascoin, S., Shean, D.,  
Besso, H., Guiot, A., and  
López-Moreno, J. I.:  
Evaluation of snow depth  
retrievals from ICESat-2  
using airborne laser-  
scanning data, *The  
Cryosphere Discuss.*

<https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-2022-191>

- Bias ~0.2 m, precision ~0.5 m (NMAD) for slopes < 10°
- Precision ~1.2 m > 30°



Combination of ICESat-2 ATL06 and ASO 3 m snow-off DEM

# Conclusion

Remote sensing data for the Common observing period (COPE)?

Data	Cost	Technology readiness level	Workload
MODIS / SCA			
Sentinel-2 / SCA			
Pléiades / HS	20k\$ or free		
ICESat-2 / HS			

\*Considering 10 to 15 sites of ~ 100 km<sup>2</sup>

