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# EnVision

## Europe's revolutionary new mission to Venus



UNDERSTANDING  
WHY OUR CLOSEST  
NEIGHBOUR IS SO  
DIFFERENT



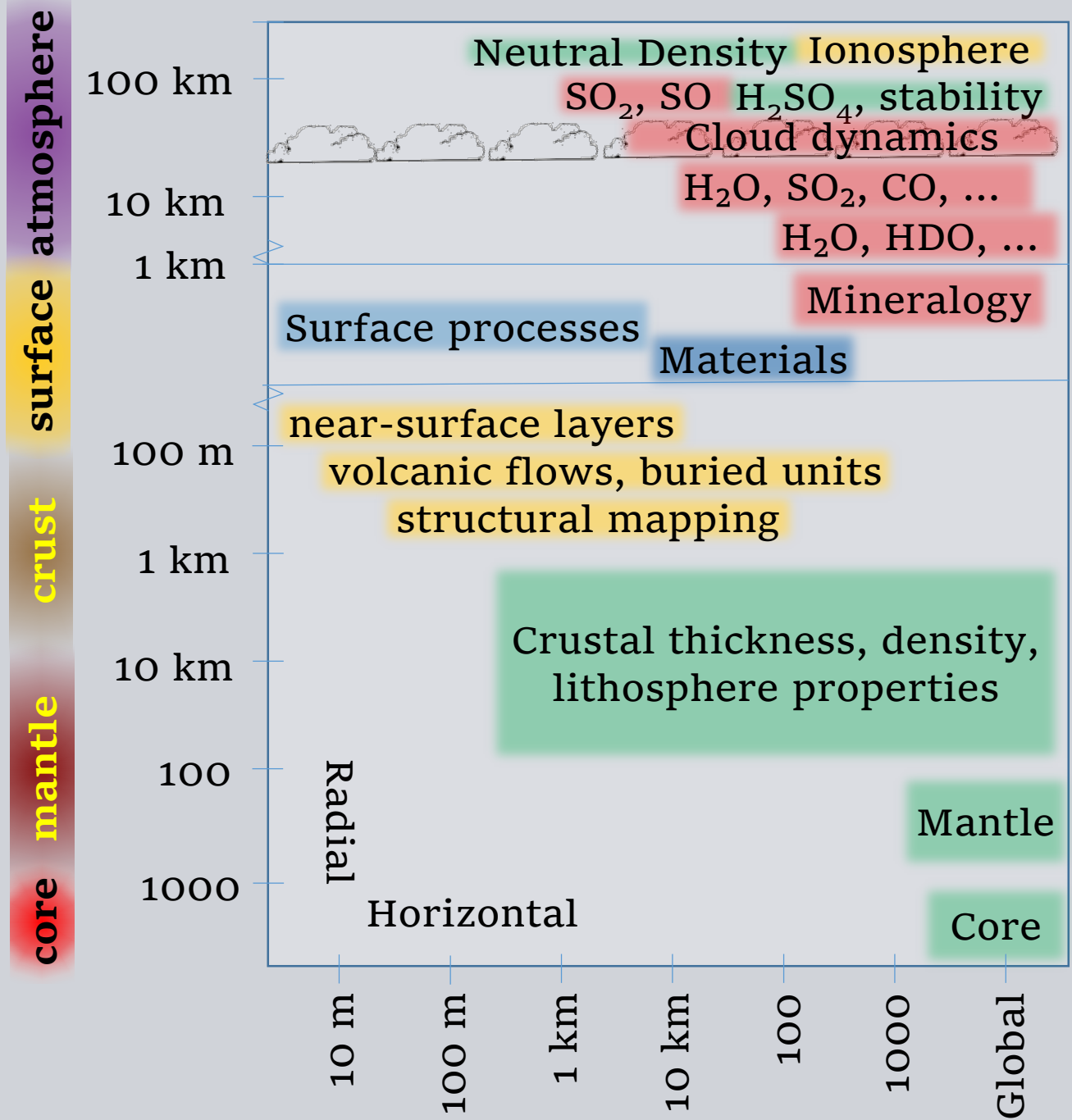
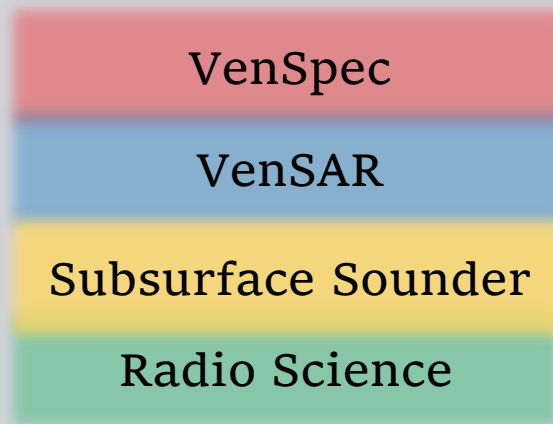
# Science focussed on four themes

- 1. Activity** – *How geologically active is Venus today?*
- 2. History** – *How has Venus evolved through time?*
- 3. Climate** – *How has Venus' atmosphere been determined by its geological activity?*

EnVision aims to understand

## Venus from its clouds to the core

and so discover why Venus is so different to Earth

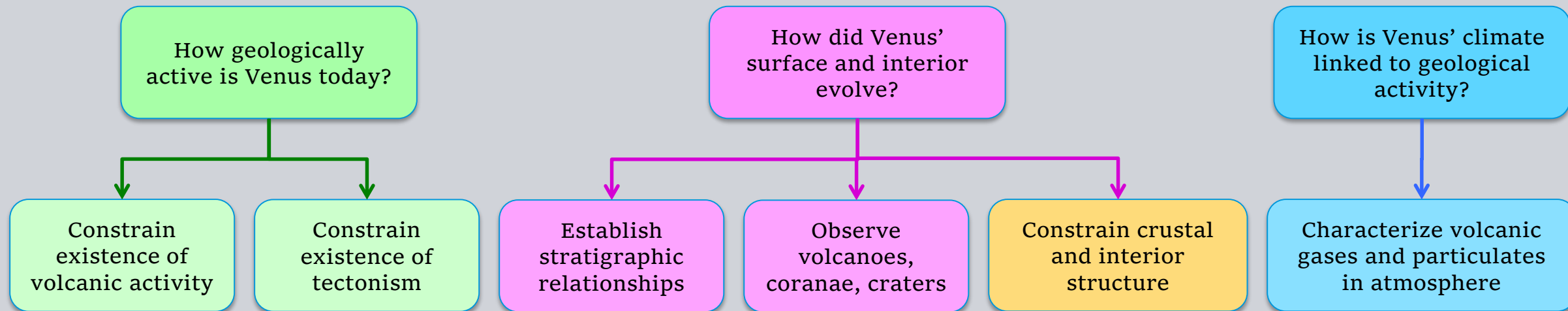


# Science requirements



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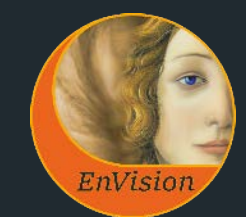
4 cycles	50% coverage	Nested approach	20% coverage
> 2 cycles	100% coverage	ROIs	2% coverage
4 cycles	periapsis at <300 km		0.2% coverage

Thermal Emissions 1 K	$k_2 \pm 0.01$	$\leq 50$ m resolution	topography	Troposphere gas 1%
cm-scale changes	Spin rate $\pm 3 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$\leq 10$ m resolution	mineralogy	Mesosphere gas 10%
Volcanic gases H <sub>2</sub> O, SO, SO <sub>2</sub>	Spin axis $\pm 10$ cm	$\leq 2$ m resolution	Subsurface layering	

2.6 years science	Frozen eccentricity orbit 220-470 km	Data return 240 Tbits
	Orbit prediction 300 m / 10 s within 2 weeks	
	35 m DSA (10 hours daily)	

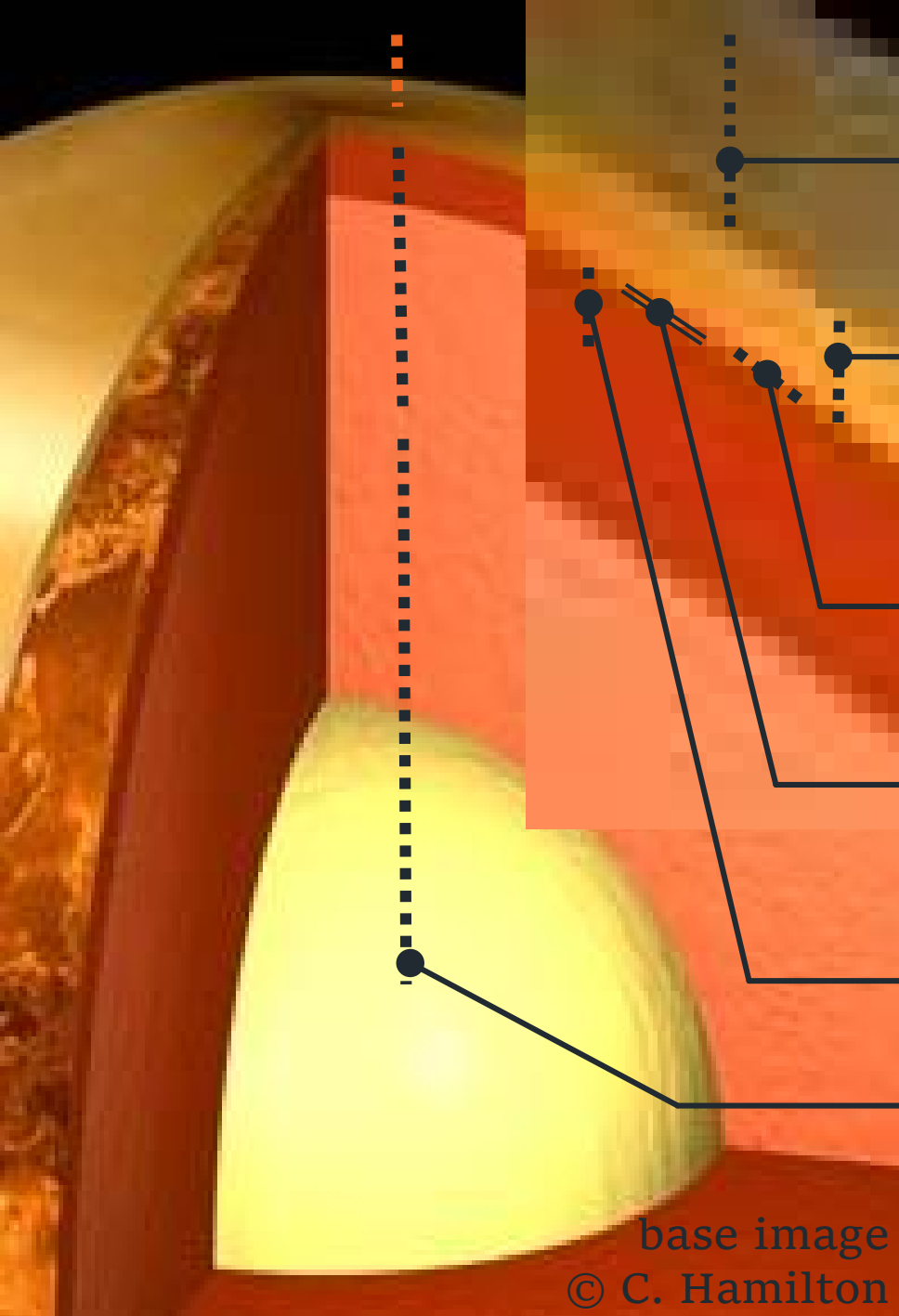
Radiometry	SAR, 1 m	VenSpec-M IR Thermal emissivity	RSE
SAR, 30 m	SAR, 6 m	VenSpec-U	
InSAR	Polarimetry, 30 m	VenSpec-H	VenSpec-M
			SRS

# Science requirements flow down



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### **VenSpec-U**

Mapping SO, SO<sub>2</sub> and UV absorber at cloud top. 210–240 nm (@ 0.2 nm), 190–380 nm (@ 2 nm), ~10 km spatial resolution

### **VenSpec-H**

Mapping of near surface atmosphere H<sub>2</sub>O, HDO at 0–15 km @ 1.08–1.2 μm, H<sub>2</sub>O, HDO, OCS, SO<sub>2</sub> at 30–40 km @ 2.44–2.47 μm, ~100 km spatial resolution

### **VenSpec-M**

Mapping mineralogy by surface emission at 6 channels 0.82–1.2 μm at <50 km resolution

### **VenSAR**

Surface morphology, 1–50 m, polarimetry, cm changes by DInSAR @ 3.2 GHz, 5 × 38 km radiometry at 1 K precision,

### **SRS**

Subsurface radar down to 1000 m depth and ~10 m resolution @ TBD MHz

### **Radio Science**

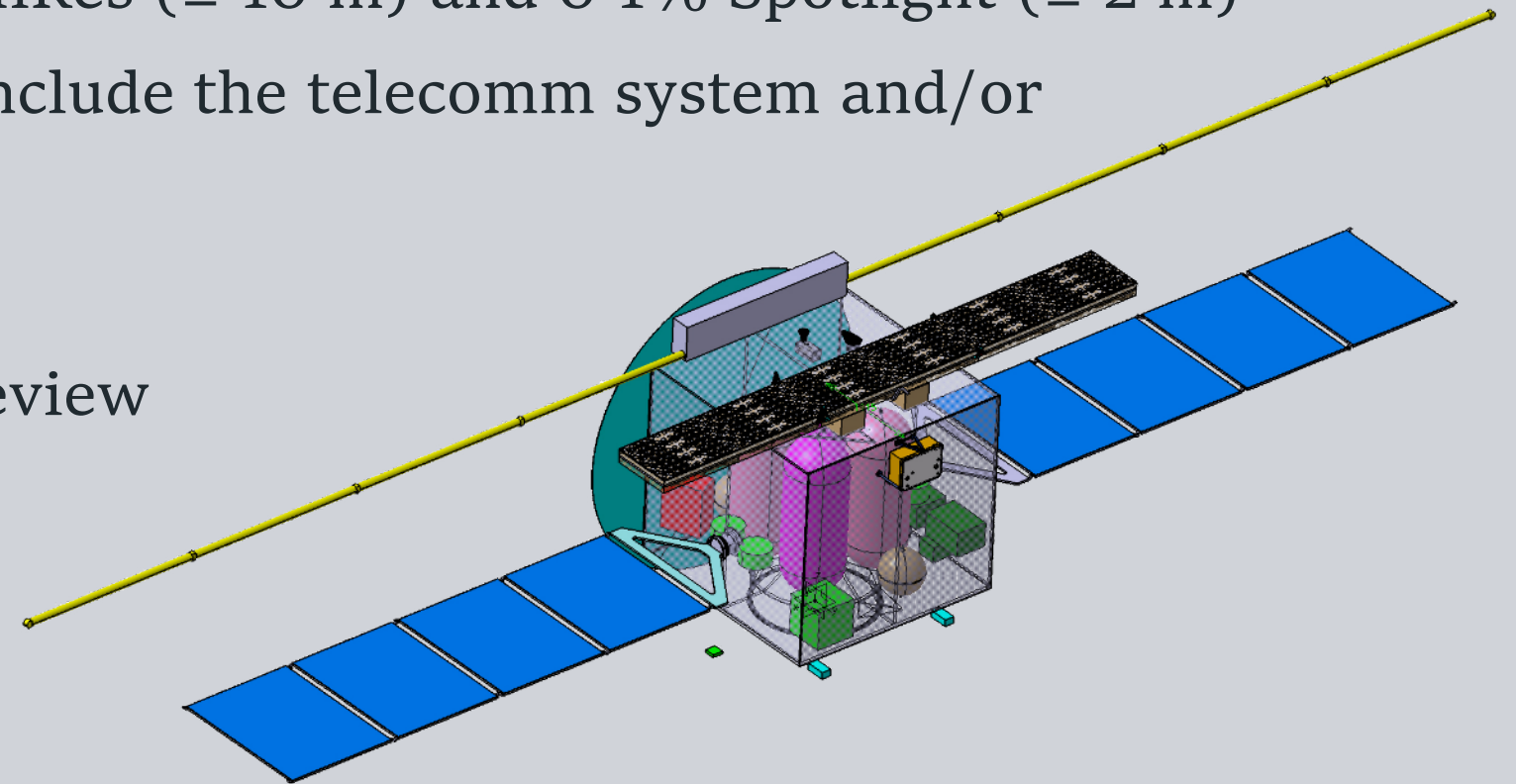
Two-way mapping, radio occultations, gravity field,  $k_2$  love number

base image  
© C. Hamilton

# Detecting past and present geological activity



- ESA's Concurrent Design Facility baseline study **successfully achieved the mission targets** within the design to cost envelope
- Baseline mission is 2032 launch, chemical propulsion with aerobraking (12 to 24 months)
- Mission start in June 2035, with a  $\geq 4$  cycle science duration (2.66 Earth years)
- **$\geq 240$  Tbit data return** in 4-cycles, with  $>60\%$  IR and sounder coverage,  $>15\%$  InSAR and polarimetry (at  $\leq 50$  m resolution), and  $2\%$  HiRes ( $\leq 10$  m) and  $0.1\%$  Spotlight ( $\leq 2$  m)
- **NASA contributions** are under review; may include the telecomm system and/or
  - VenSAR front end with UK back end, or
  - Complete SAR instrument
- EnVision passed the Mission Development Review and is now starting Phase A study
- Two parallel industrial studies from June 2019 to Q2 2021 ahead of **final down-selection in Sep 2021**



## Current status





# EnVision

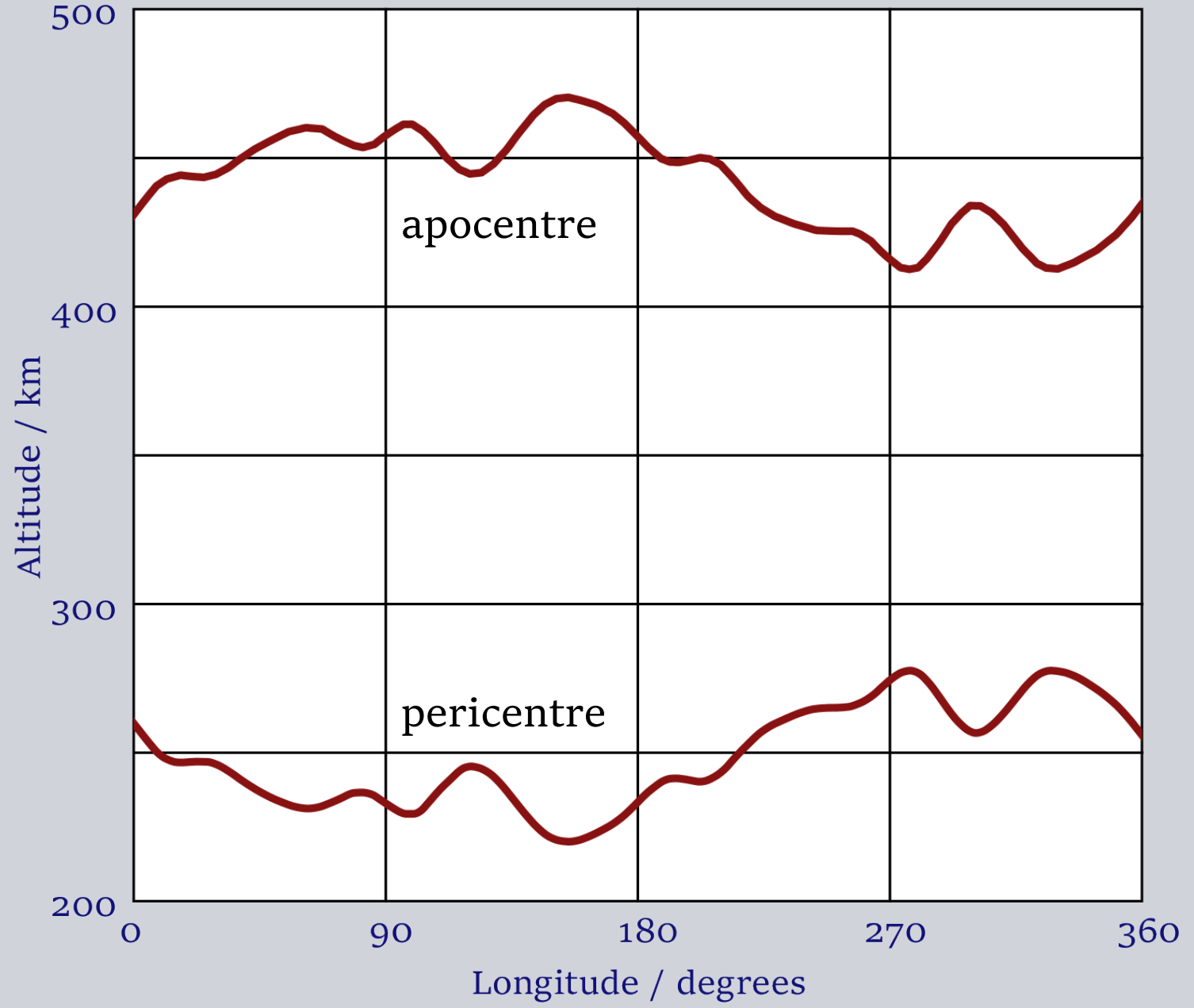
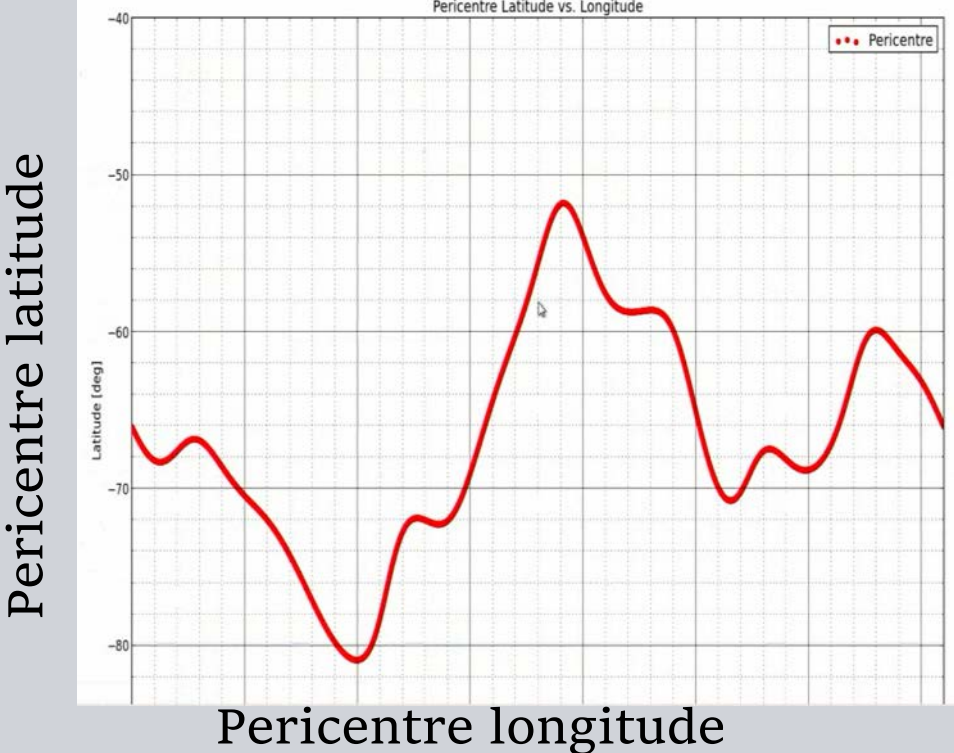


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Frozen eccentricity orbit reduces propellant consumption, but leads to:

- Limitation on maximum accessible incident angle at highest altitudes
- Rapid changes in altitude over equator are problematic for beam/image convergence
- Non-uniform degree strength gravity field

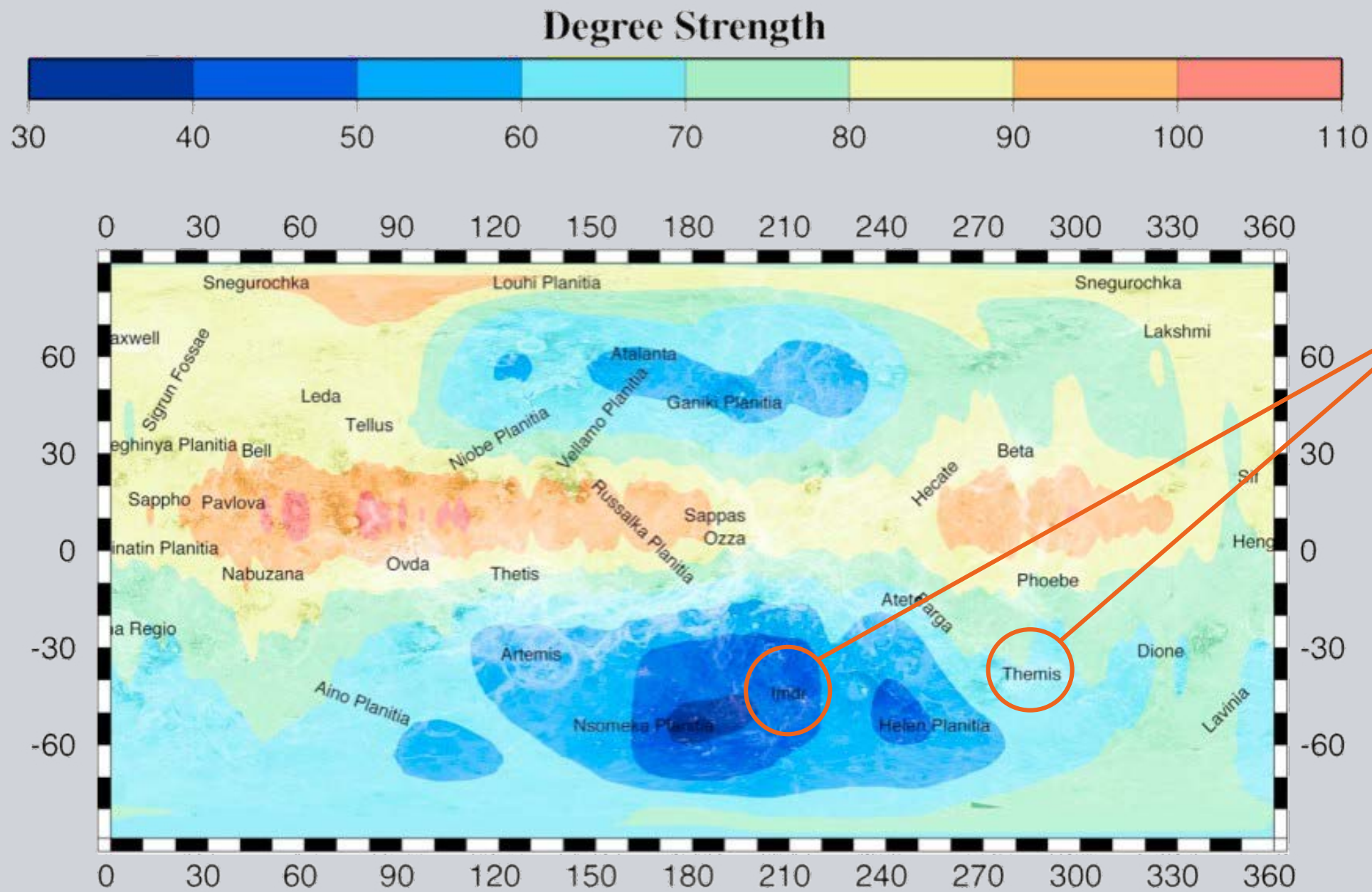


# Science orbit



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Possible Active Hot spots

- Variable degree strength gravity field from 70 to 150
- Highest in the low-resolution areas of Magellan in the southern hemisphere

Anderson & Smrekar, 2006

# Radio Science experiment and VenSAR geodesy



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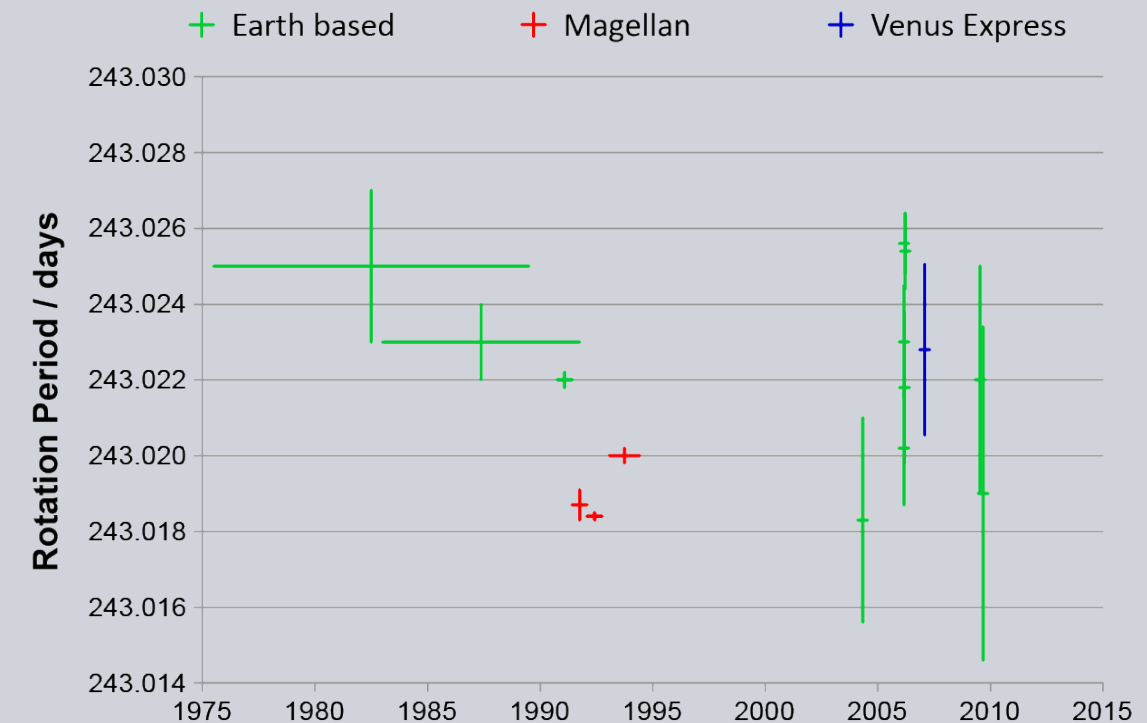


# Radio Science & Geodesy

- *Gravity experiment*  
Shallow and deep interior structure, thermal and tectonic evolution of the planet
- *Radio-occultation*  
Temperature and pressure profiles in the troposphere, Total Electron Count (TEC) profiles in the ionosphere, monitoring of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> vapour at cloudbase
- *Precise Orbit Determination*  
Improved InSAR from <100 m orbit knowledge

## VenSAR Geodesy Measurements

- *Planetary ephemerides*  
Spin axis wobble, improved GR, GM and J<sub>2</sub>
- *Length of Day*  
Measure and understand variability in spin rate

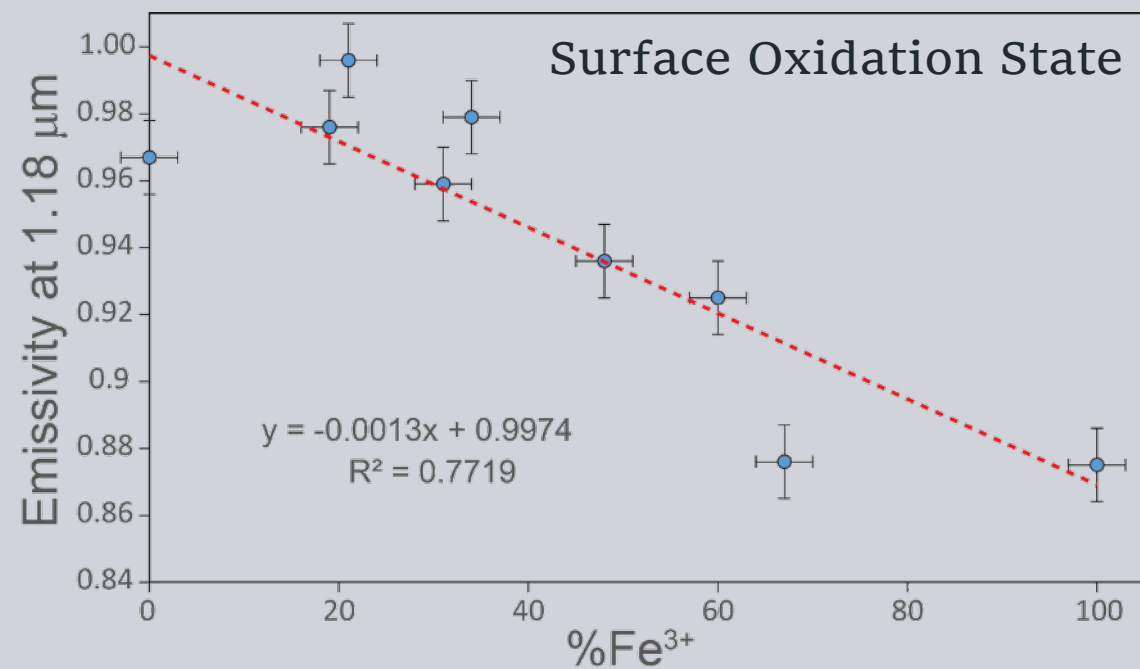


# Radio Science experiment and VenSAR geodesy



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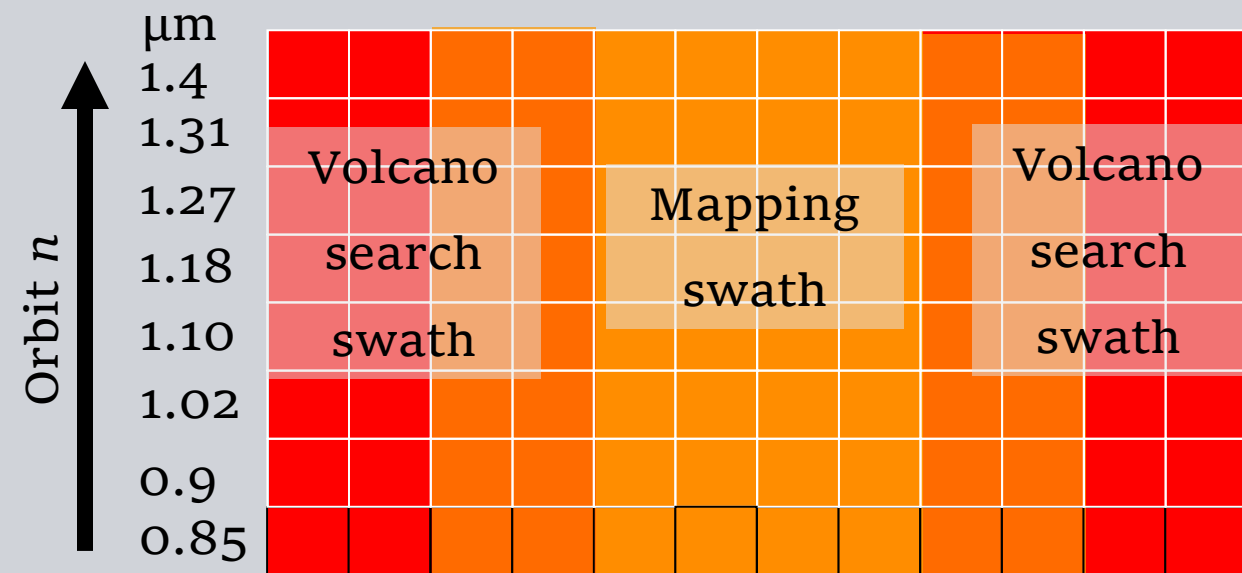
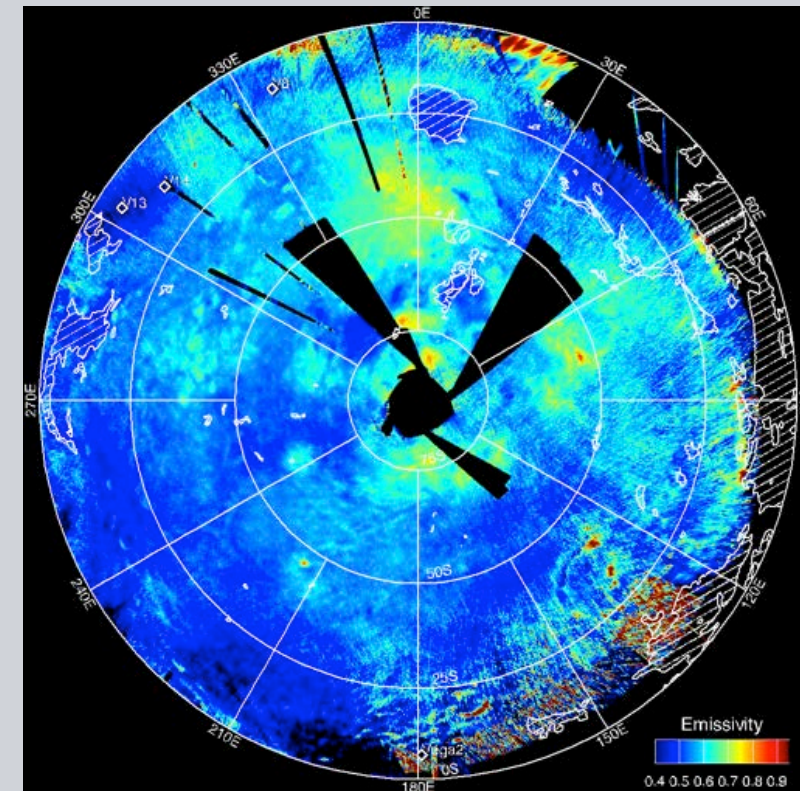


VenSpec-M is a multi-spectral imager designed to:

- Map surface composition on a global scale
- Monitor for volcanic activity
- Map near surface water vapour abundance

Pioneered by VIRTIS on Venus Express, VenSpec-M greatly improves sensitivity and spectral and spatial coverage:

- 14 spectral bands cover all five surface windows
- Oversampling at 10 km spatial resolution
- High signal to noise ratio



Spatial oversampling provides for mapping and confirmation of detected eruptions

VIRTIS on Venus Express mapped the hot surface at 1 μm using emissivity data

# VenSpec-M: IR imaging



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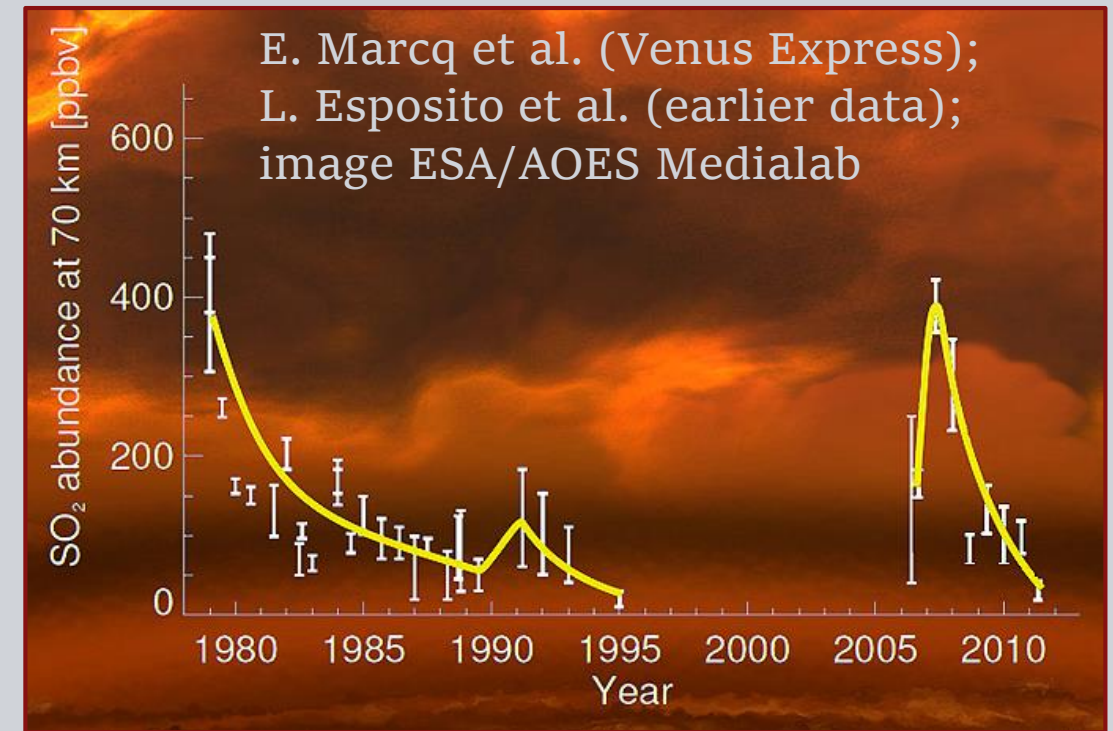
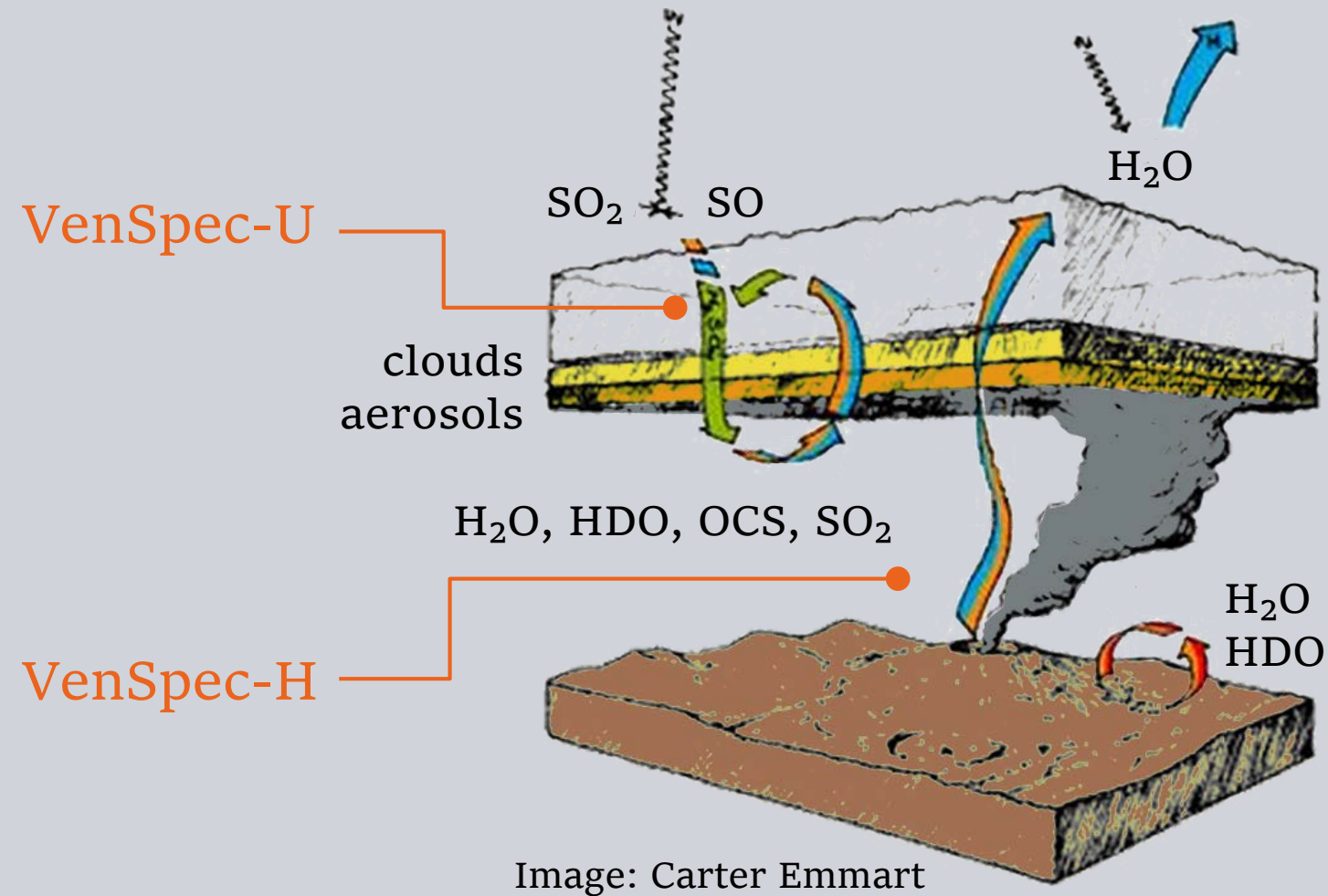


**VenSpec-H** is a high resolution infrared spectrometer designed to:

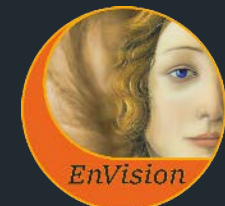
- Measure H<sub>2</sub>O and HDO contents in the lower Venus atmosphere
- Probe H<sub>2</sub>O, CO, OCS, SO<sub>2</sub> at the 30-40 km

**VenSpec-U** is an ultraviolet spectrometer designed to:

- Map mesospheric variability of SO and SO<sub>2</sub>, cloud and aerosol properties
- Distinguish atmospheric circulatory change from volcanic emissions



# VenSpec-H, -U: IR and UV spectroscopy



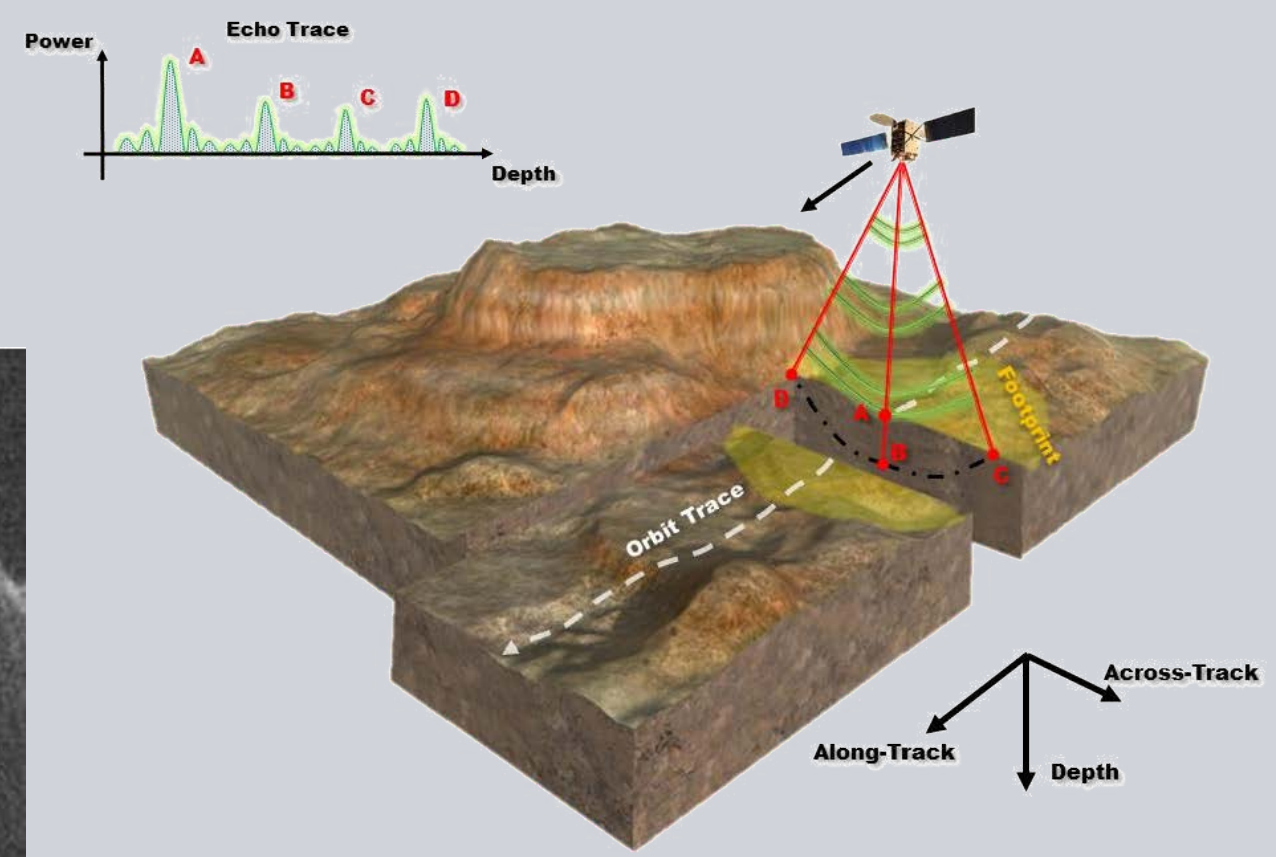
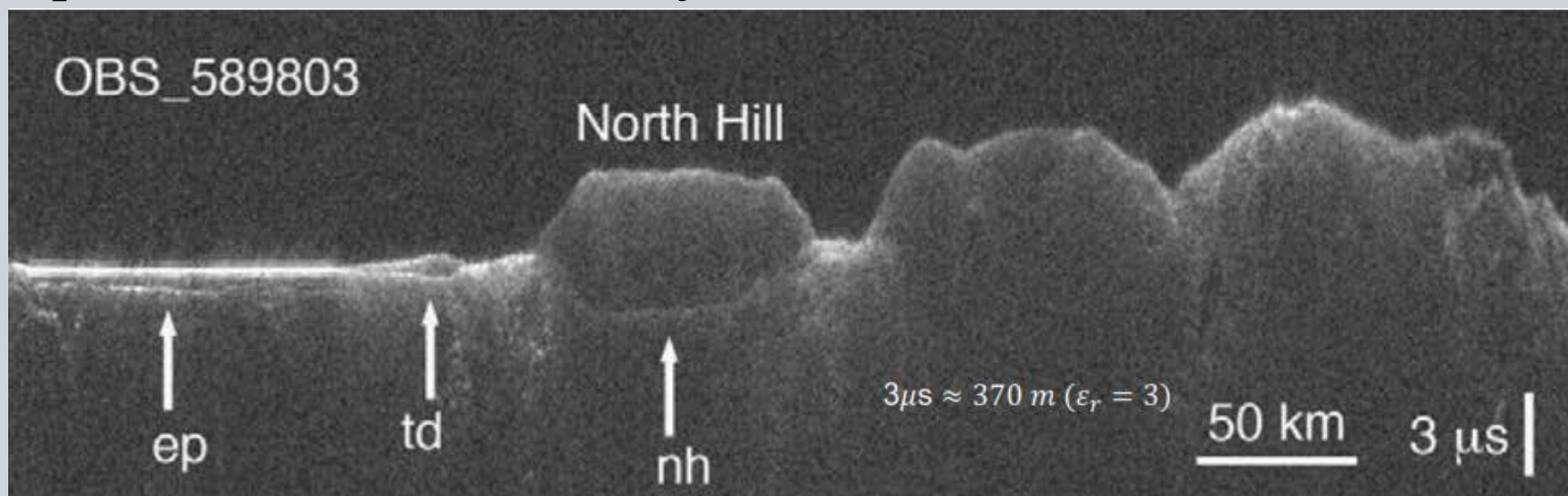
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The **Subsurface Radar Sounder** will acquire information on the shallow Venus subsurface to:

- Characterize different stratigraphic and structural patterns in the subsurface
- Map the vertical structure of geological units by exploring the subsurface properties of tessera, plains, lava flows, impact ejecta and other materials
- Detect subsurface structures that are not directly linked with surface, e.g. stealth coronae

Portion of western Medusae Fossae Formation, a low-density pyroclastic deposit spanning across the crustal dichotomy on Mars  
**td**: Thin deposit (50-100 m)    **nh**: North Hill deposit (~580 m)  
**ep**: Plains reflectors under Elysium Planitia [Carter et al. 2009]



# Subsurface Radar Sounder



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## VenSAR requirements:

- 30-50 m resolution observations
  - ~20% of planet observed  $\geq 3$  times with same geometry
  - Full raw (SLC) data for DiffInSAR
  - Polarimetry
  - Topography from stereo and/or interferometry
- 6-10 m high res imagery
- 1-2 m resolution spotlight imagery
- Radiometry

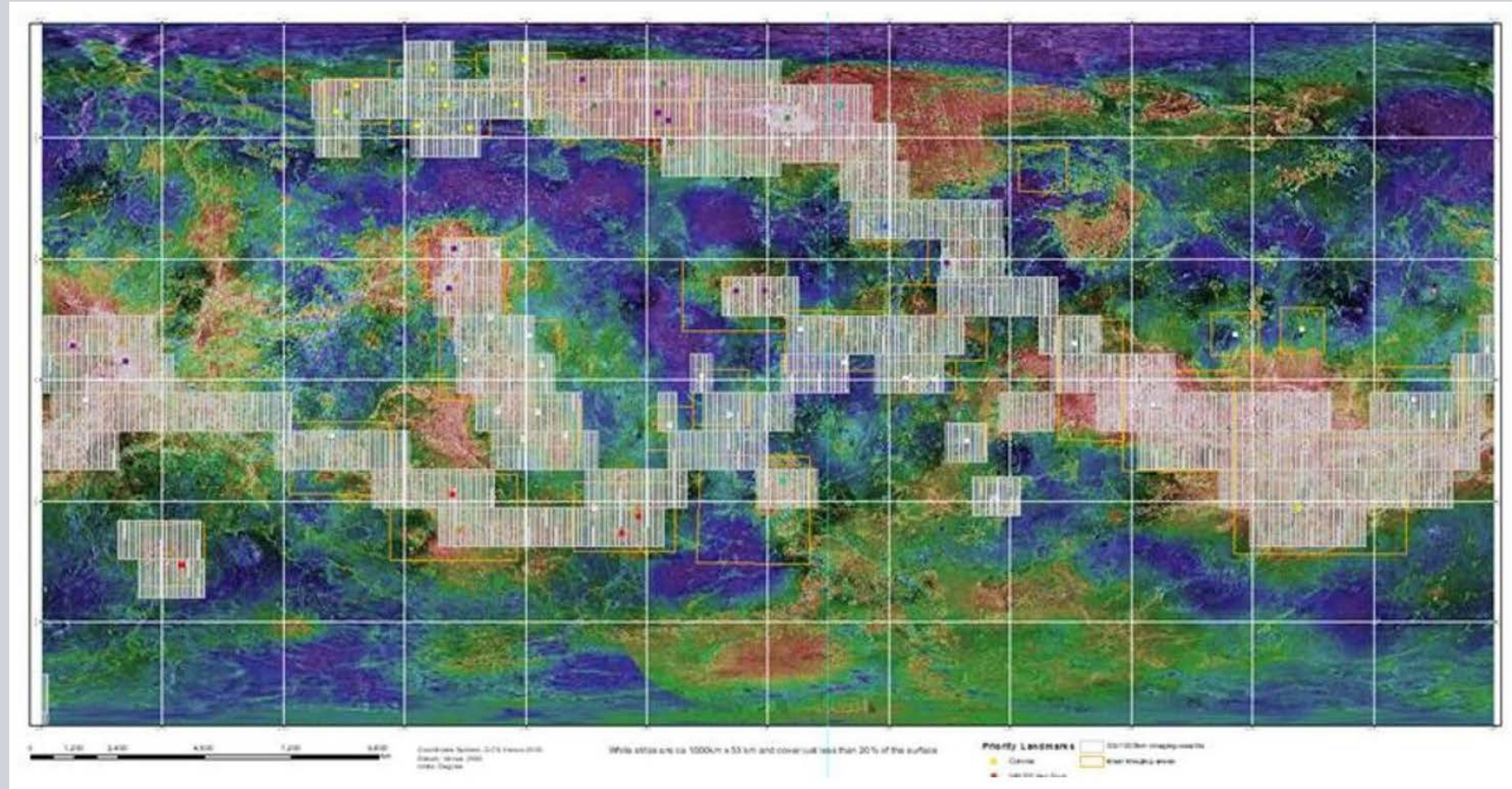
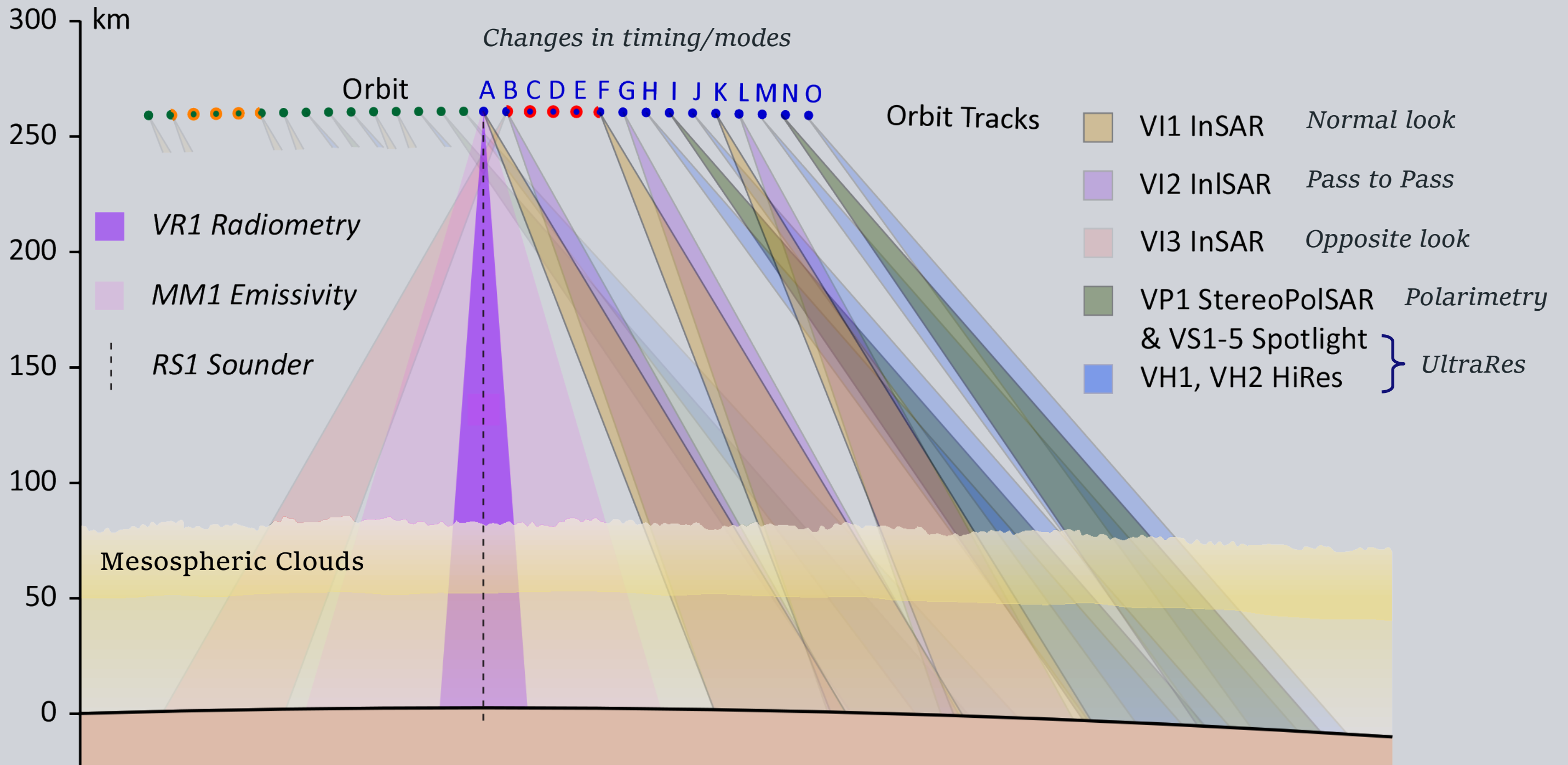
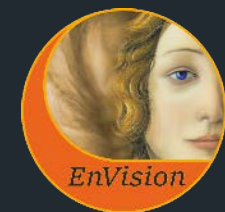


Illustration of possible target region of 20% coverage for repeated observations at ~ 30-50 m resolution. To include representative sample of all terrain types.



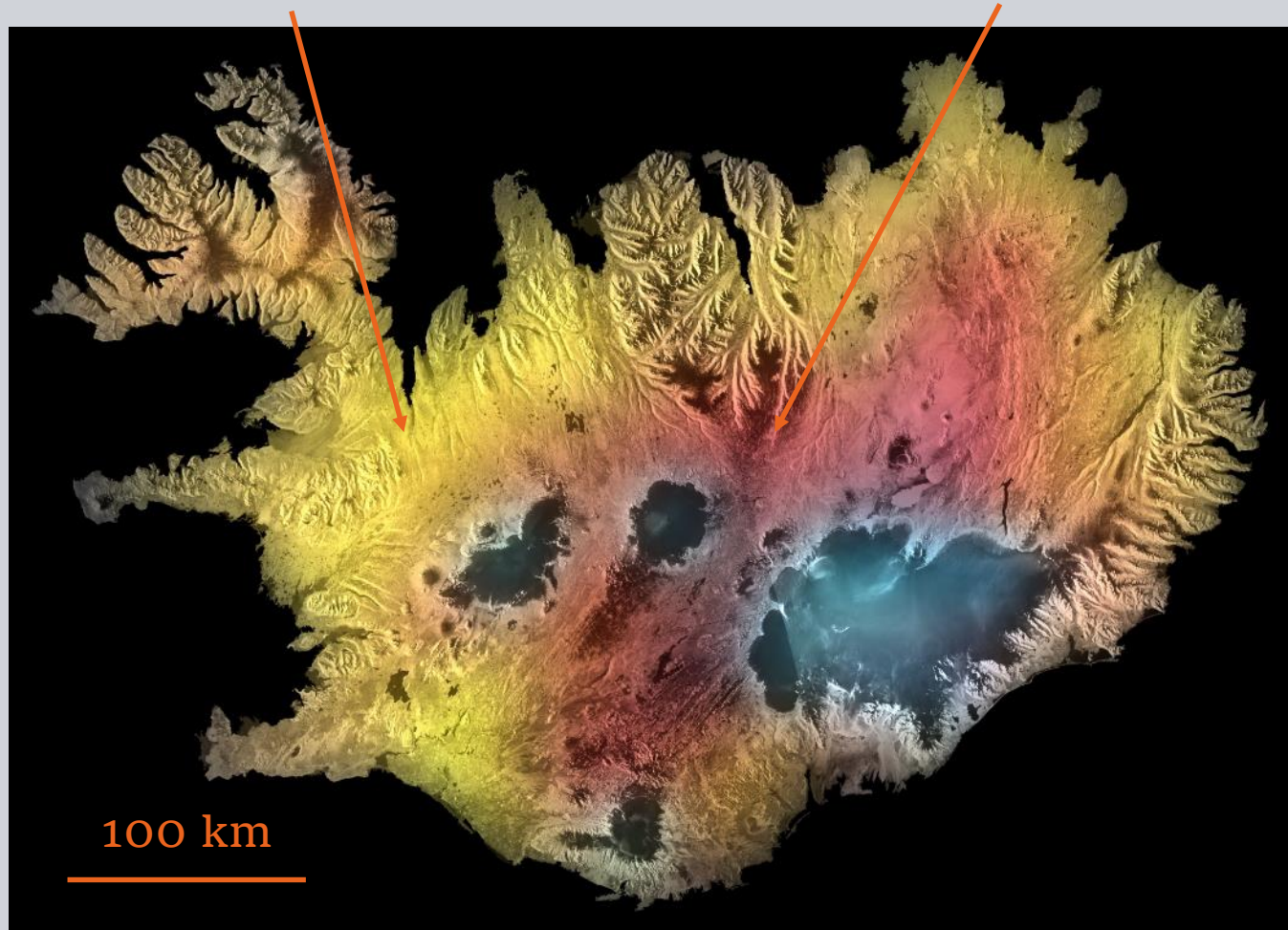
# Science operations



# VenSpec-M emission maps

Weathered basalt  
[hematite-rich]

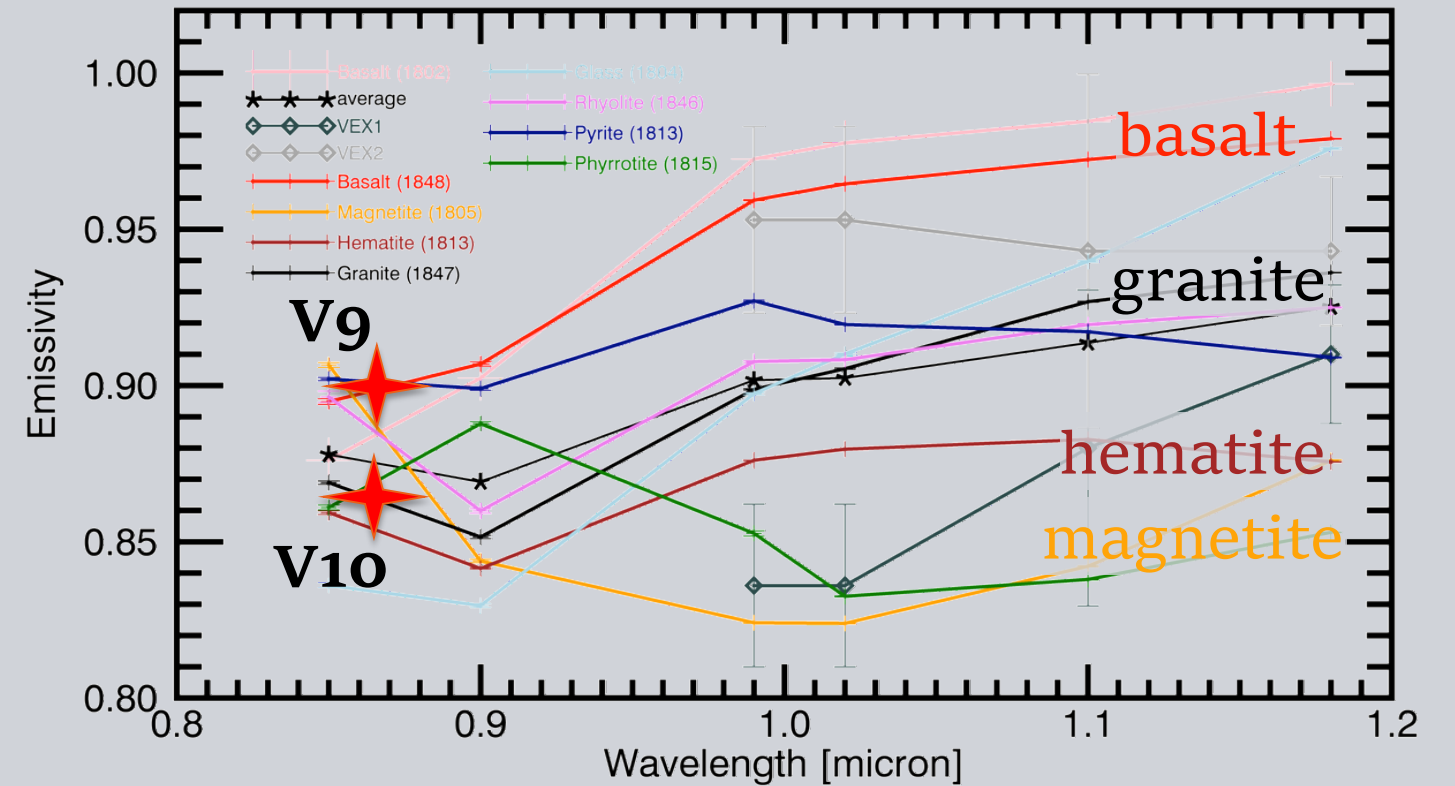
Fresh basalt  
[magnetite-rich]



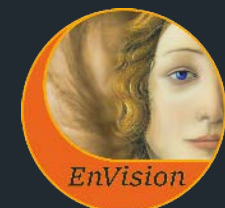
Simulated 3-band [1.1, 1.02, 0.9 μm RGB] VenSpec-M on VenSAR image

# VenSpec-M emission spectra

VenSpec Spectral Profiles



Global scale (  $10^2 - 10^4$  km scale )



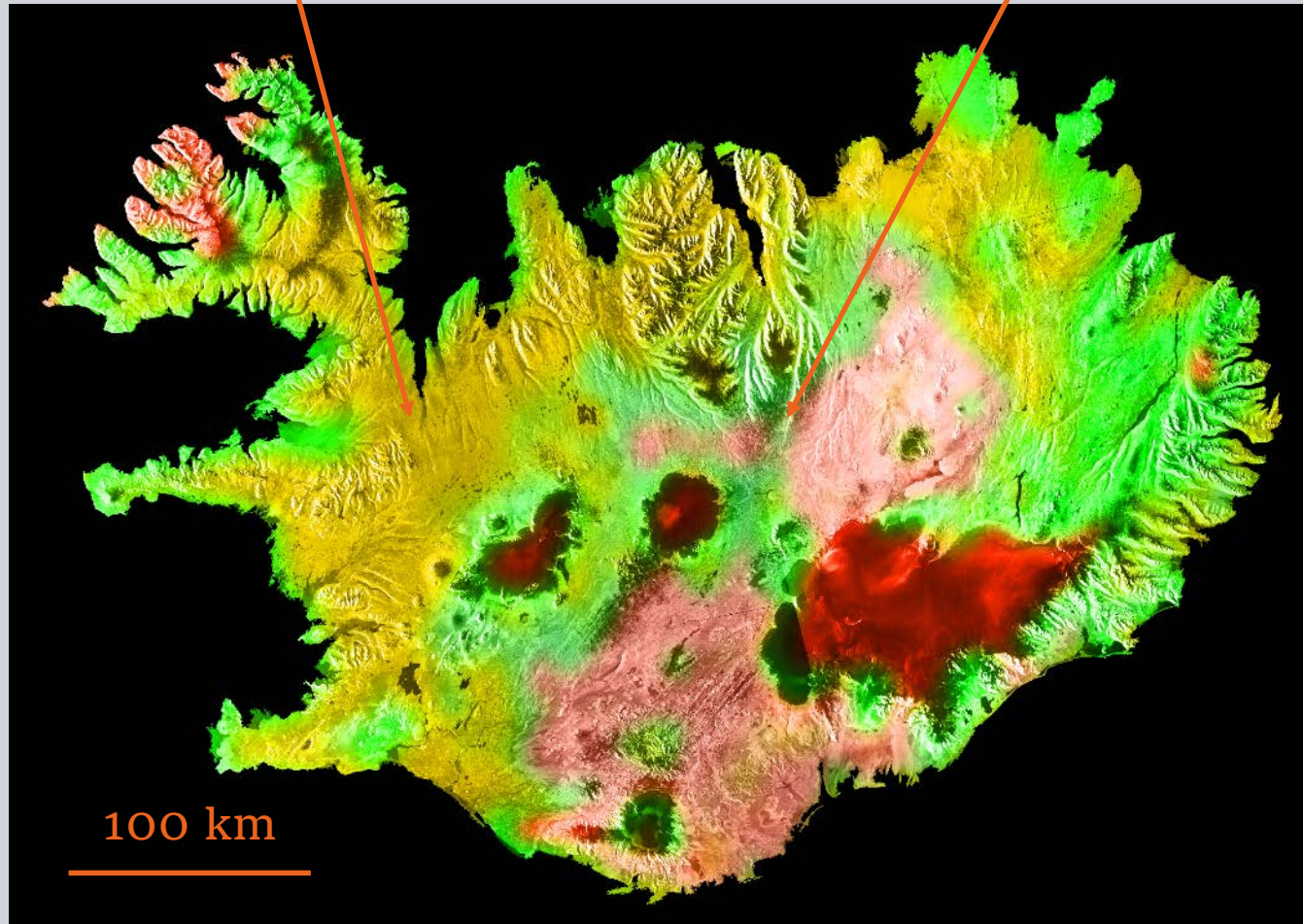
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## SAR emissivity

Weathered basalt  
[*low permittivity*]

Fresh basalt  
[*high permittivity*]

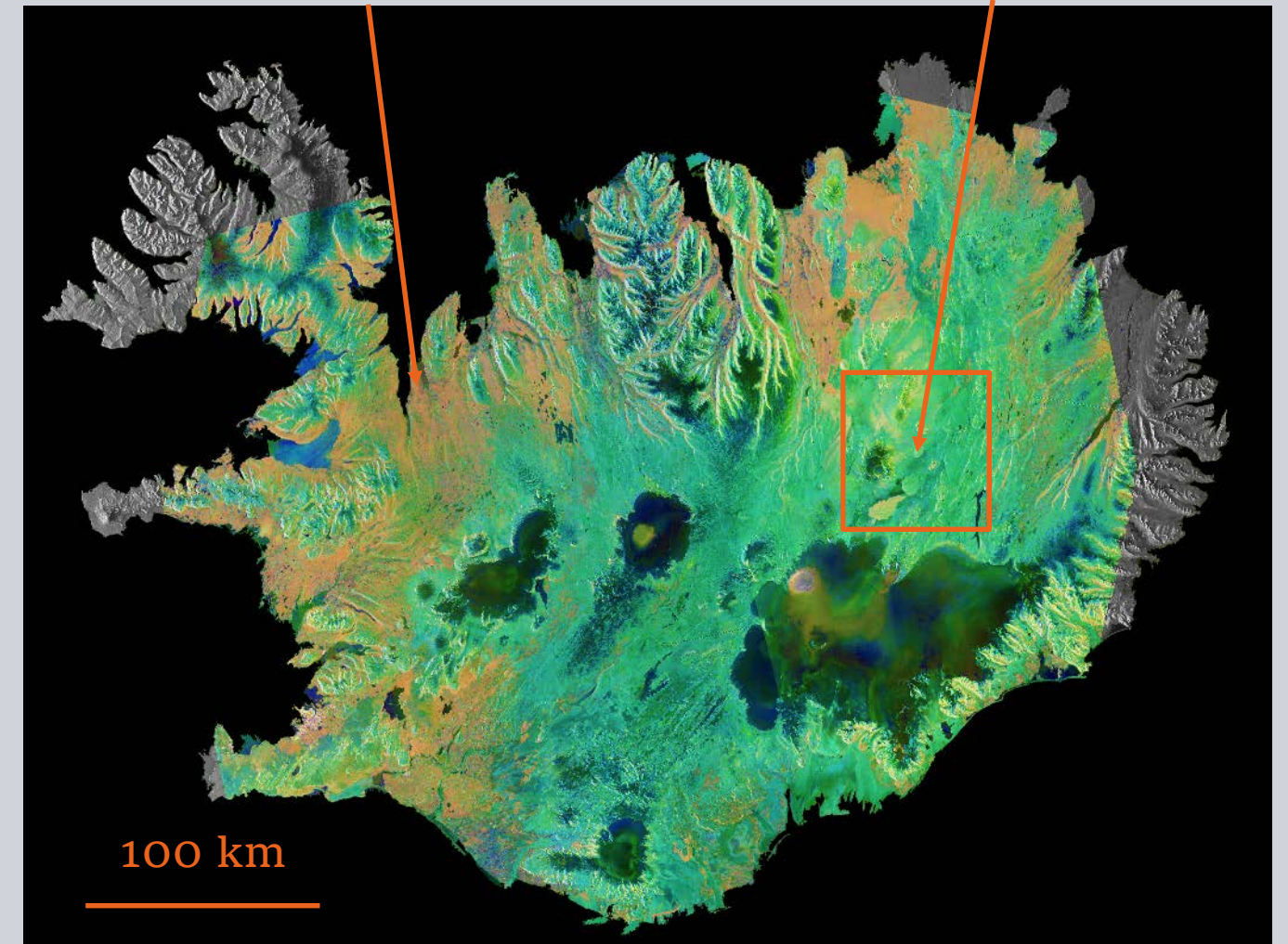


Simulated colour-coded emissivity [*relative permittivity*]

## SAR polarimetry

Granular material  
[*weathered lavas, soils*]

Rough bare rock  
[*aa lava, boulders*]

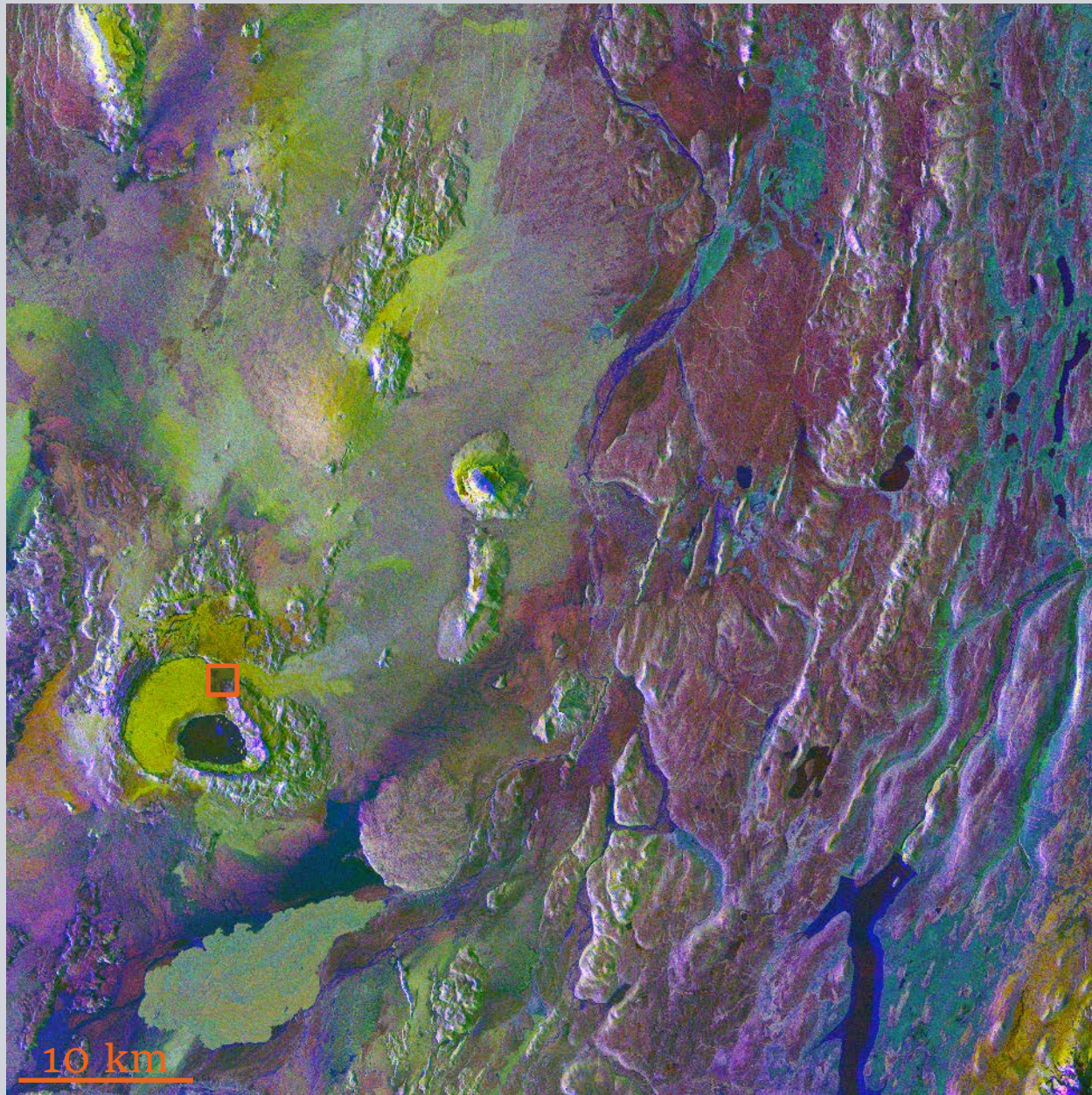


Simulated polarimetric [*VH-VV-HH RGB*] PolSAR

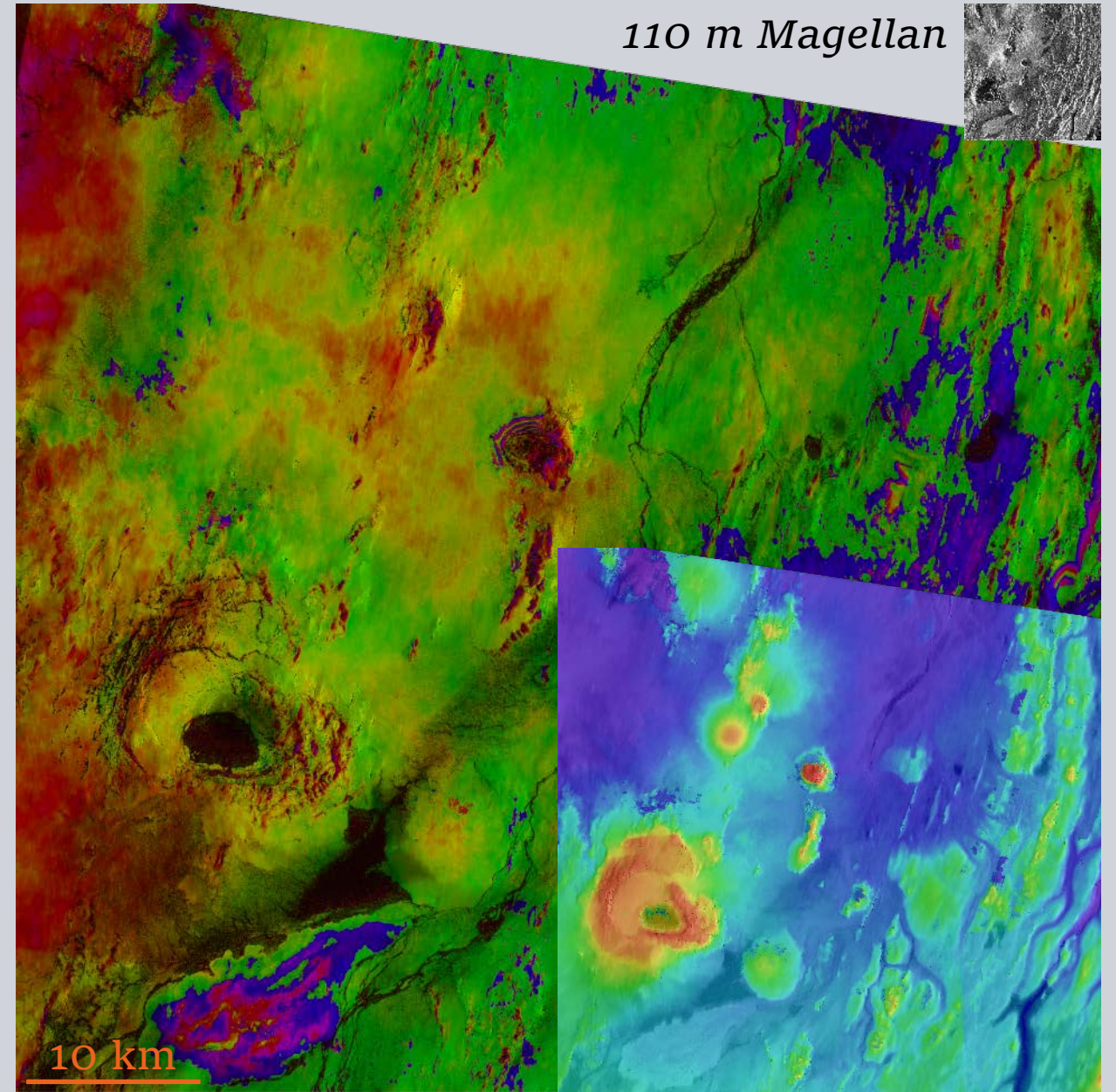
# Reconnaissance ( $10^{-1}$ - $10^3$ km) scale







30 m Polarimetric 53-km scanSAR swath



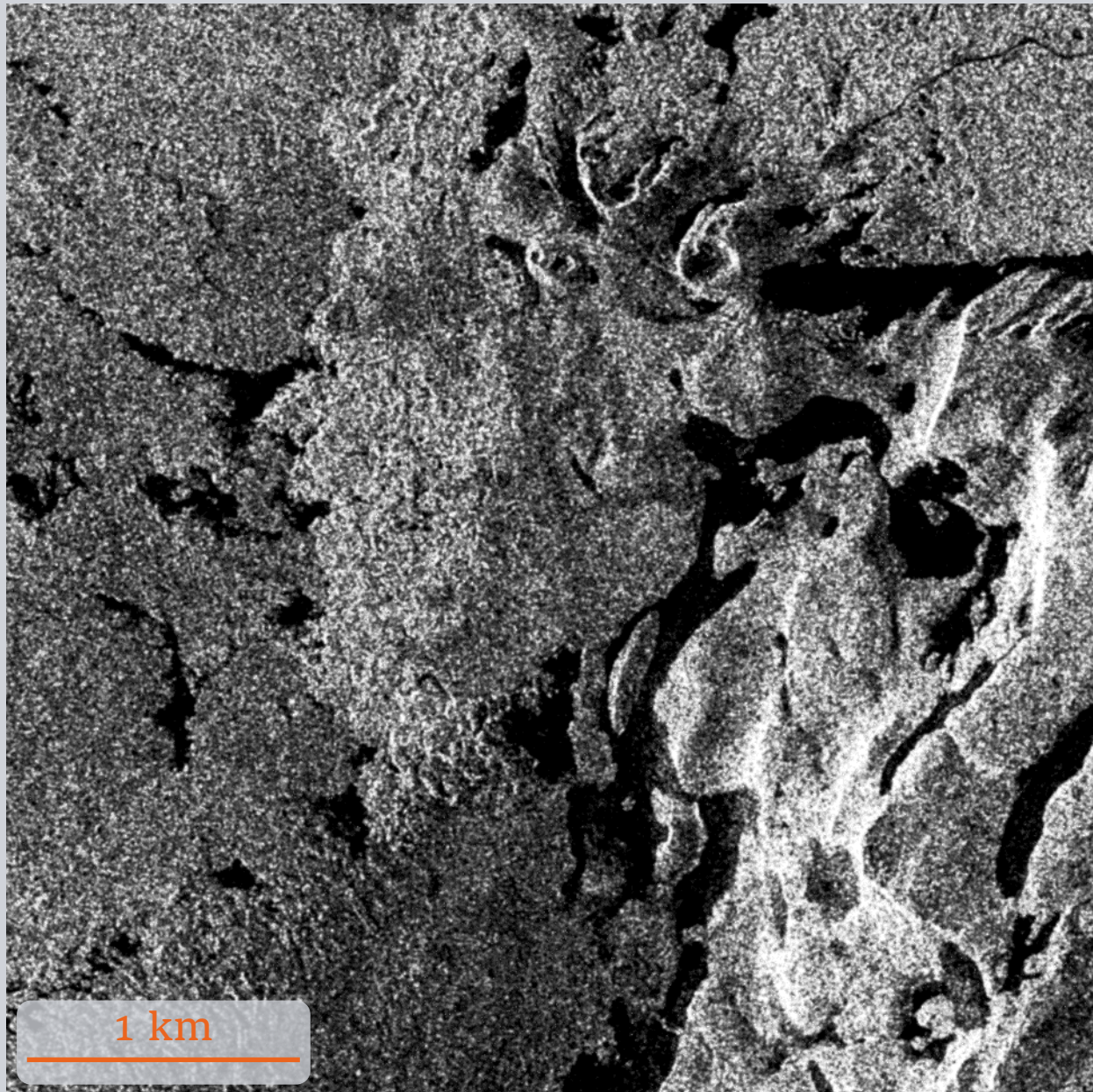
30 m DInSAR with 60 m derived DEM

# Reconnaissance ( $10^{-1}$ - $10^3$ km) scale



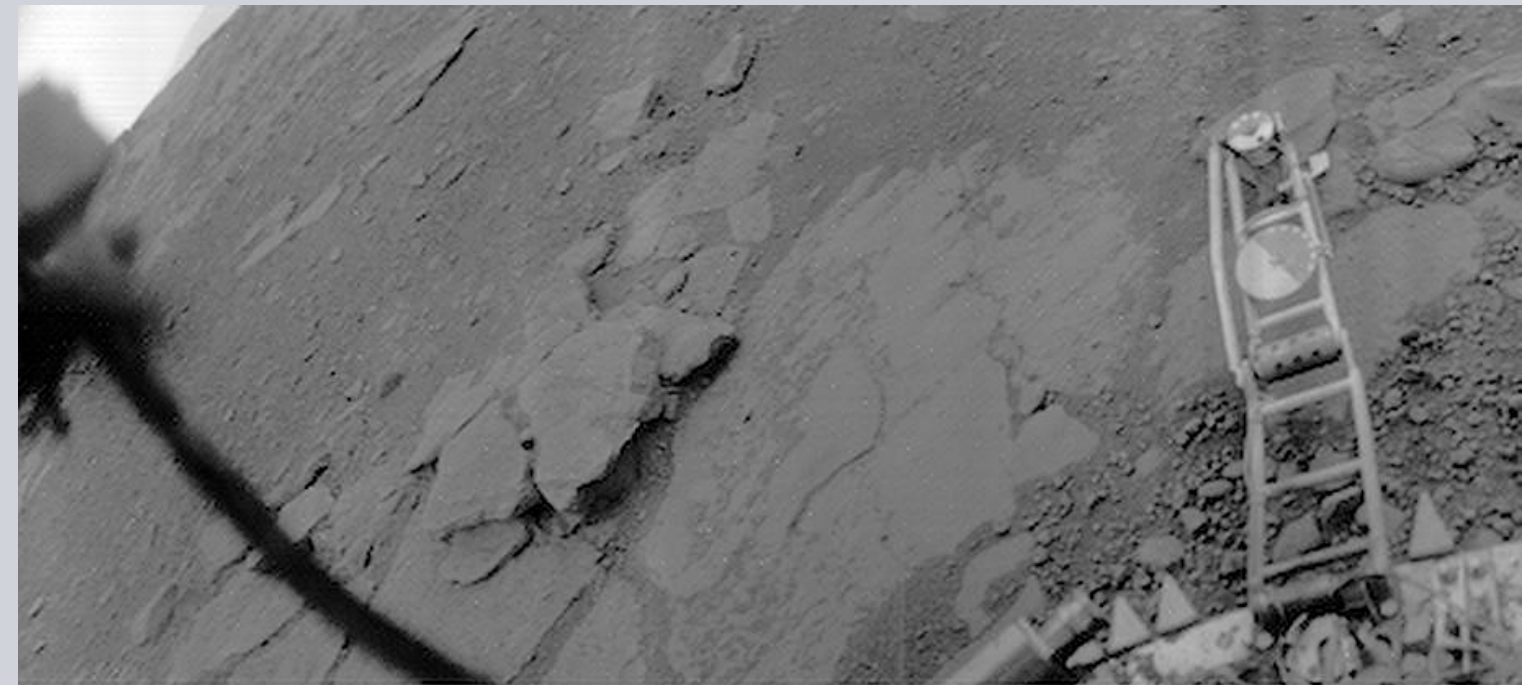
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- Reaching  $\leq 10$  m resolution used for selected targets, including Venera landing sites
- Nested data are essential for understanding context and global significance
- The combination of interior, surface, and atmospheric data is key to understanding processes and cycles

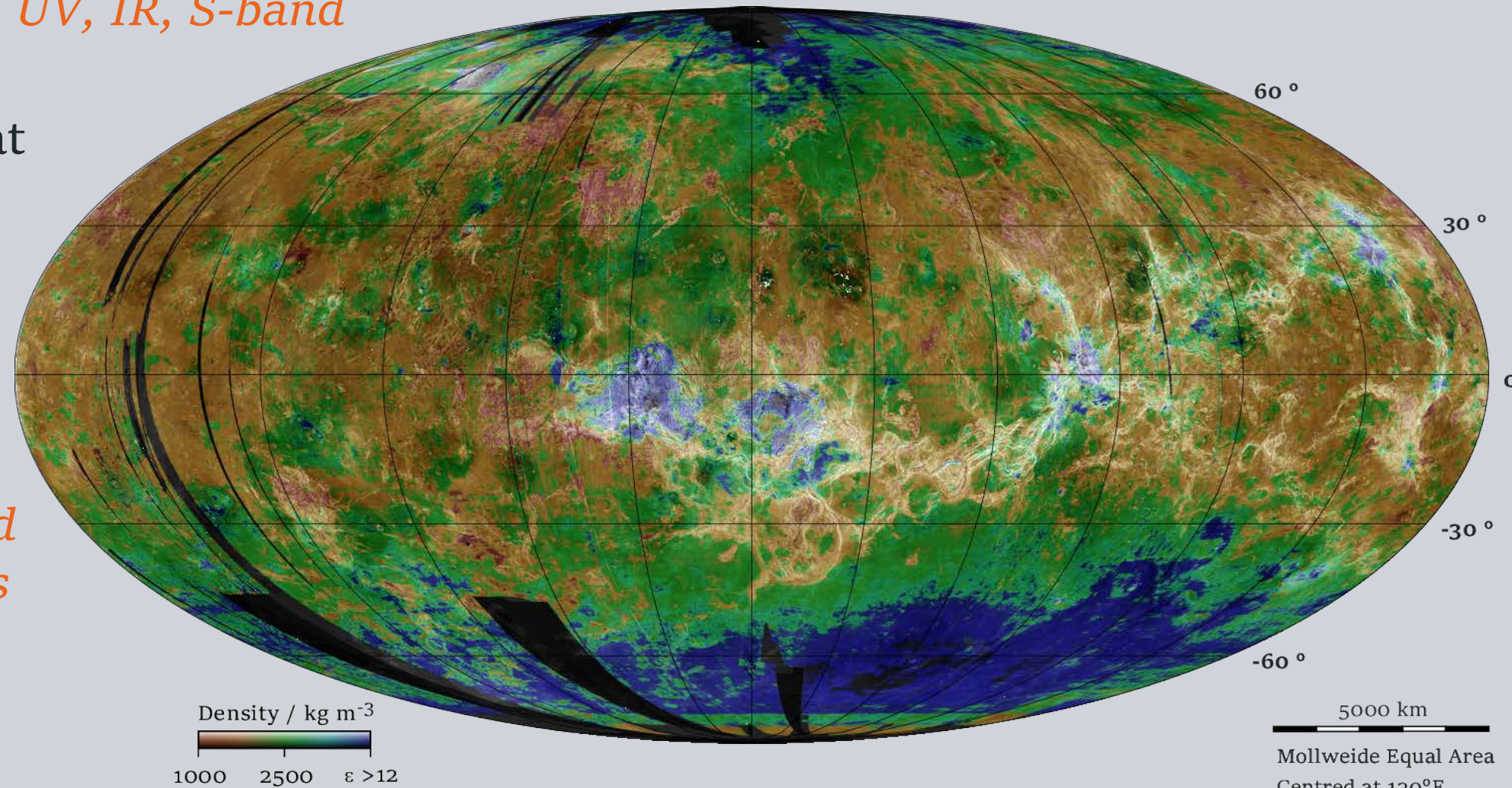
2 m UltraRes 30-km wide stripmap swath



## High-res (1 – 10 m resolution) imagery

## Holistic nested data

- To really learn about Venus, we need to use all the available types of data that can be acquired from orbit
  - *EnVision delivers gravity, UV, IR, S-band and sounding radar*
- We need to link observations at all scales
  - *EnVision delivers nested data from global to 1 m*
- We need to understand change
  - *EnVision delivers repeated observations over 4 Venus days (32 months) with IR and InSAR*



# EnVision the future of Venus exploration



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EnVision warmly invites your participation and support.

More information: [www.envisionvenus.eu](http://www.envisionvenus.eu)

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Deputy Leads: Colin Wilson (Oxford U) &  
Thomas Widemann (Paris Obs)

