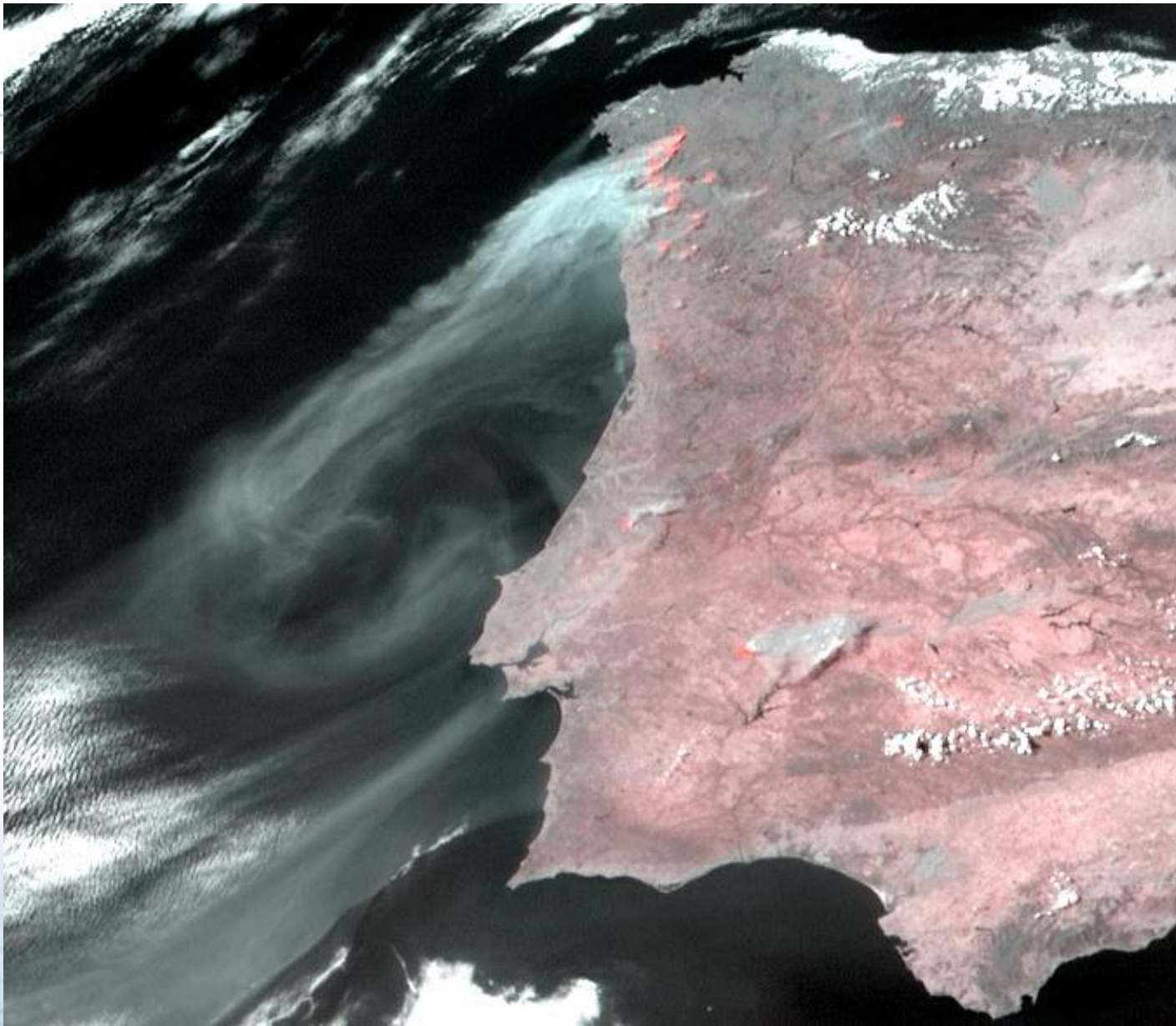




# Fire detection by Meteosat



[jose.prieto@eumetsat.int](mailto:jose.prieto@eumetsat.int)



Meteosat: 30% of channel 3.9 $\mu$ m on top of HRV

2006-July-7 16:00



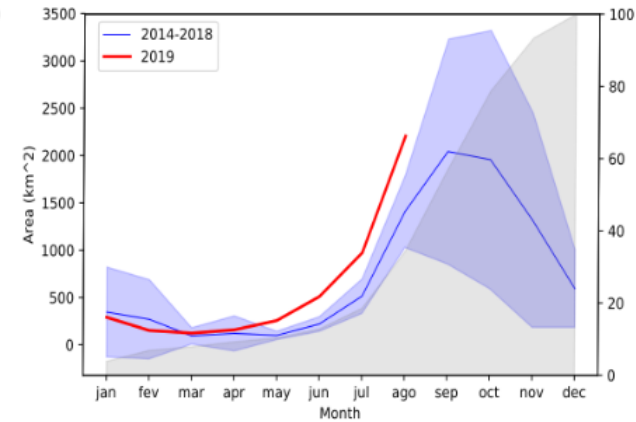
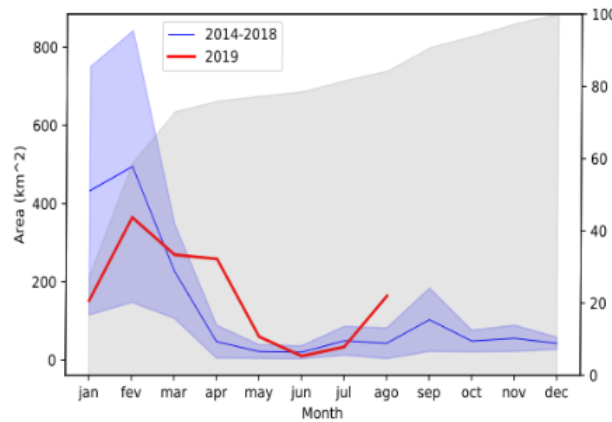
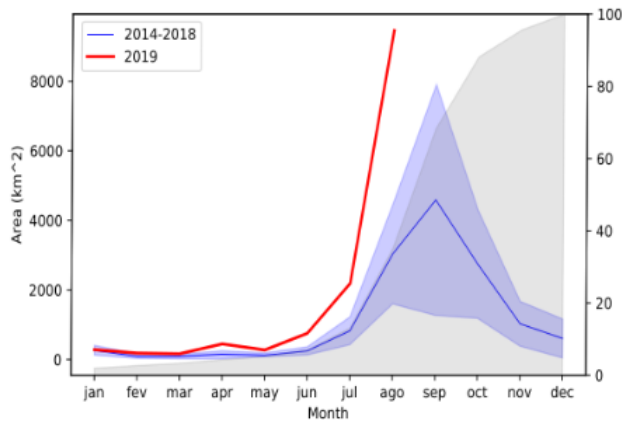
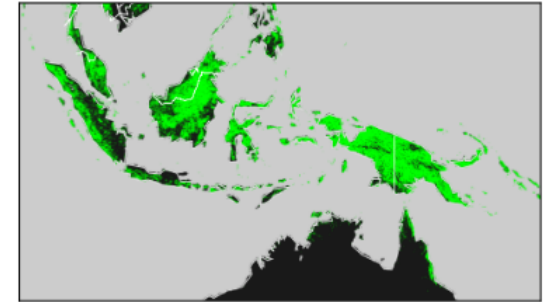
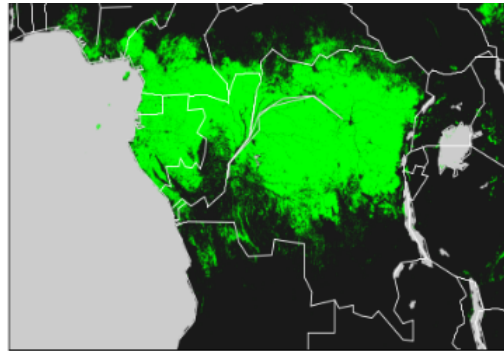
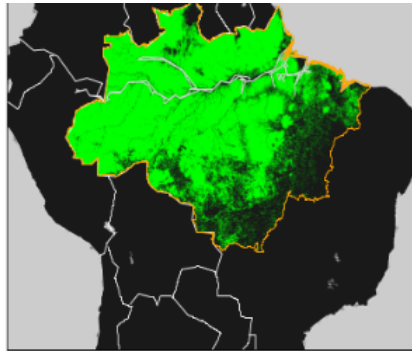
Fires in Greece on 23-07-2018. Images on 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Sentinel-2\_level2

<https://apps.sentinel-hub.com/eo-browser/>

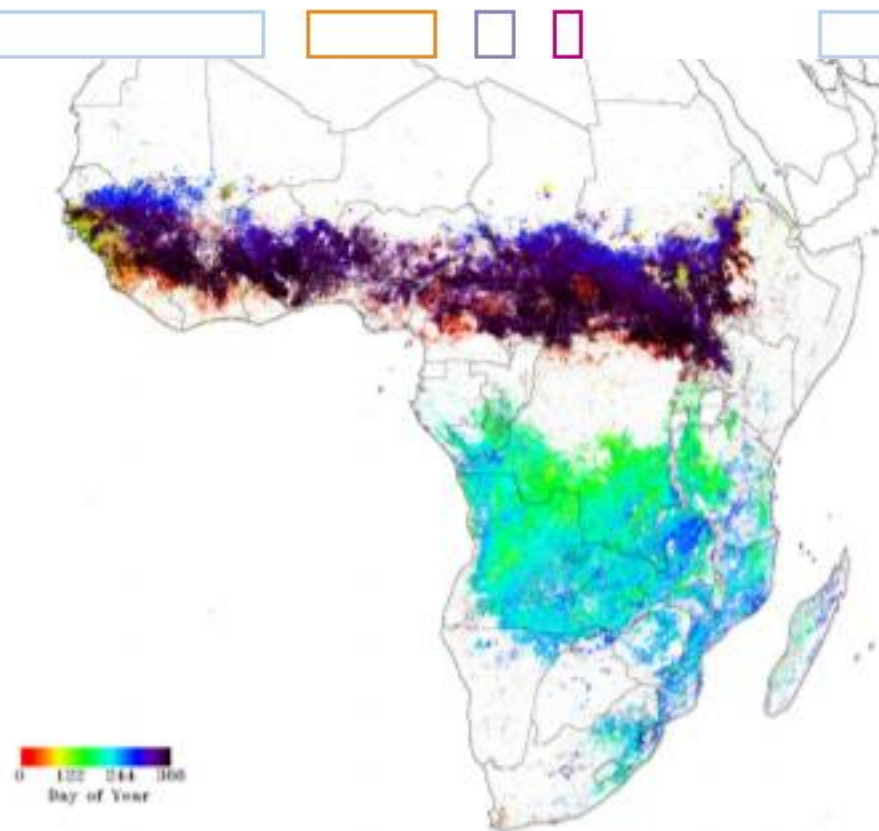


# Copernicus monitoring forest fires. Then forecast





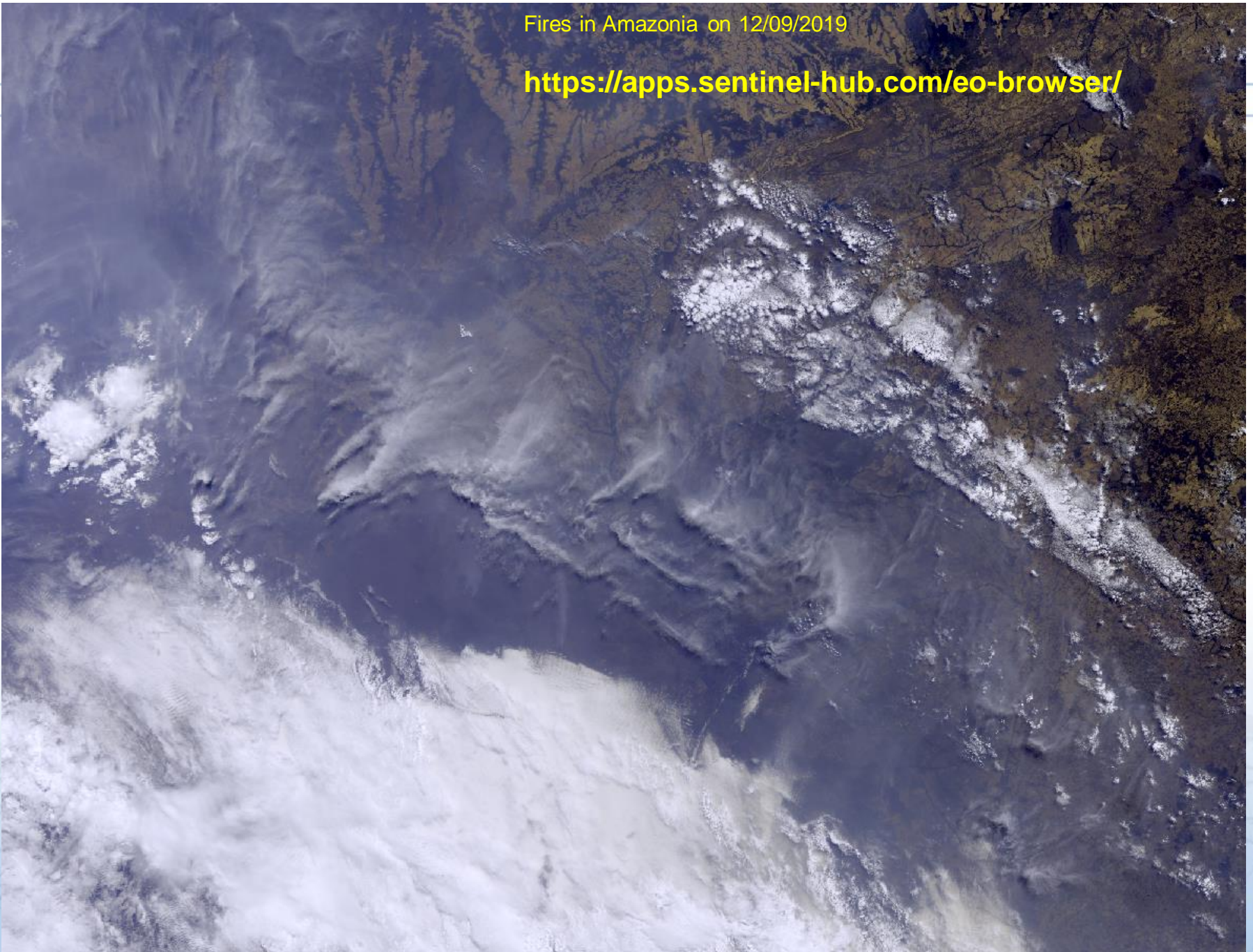
# Towards Sentinel-3 fire products (ATBD)



**Figure 1. Fire location and timing across Africa as derived from the operational Meteosat SEVIRI Fire Radiative Power product delivered by the Land Satellite Applications Facility (Roberts and Wooster, 2008; <http://landsaf.meteo.pt/>). The marked seasonality follows the dry seasons in north and southern Africa.**

Fires in Amazonia on 12/09/2019

<https://apps.sentinel-hub.com/eo-browser/>





## FILTER BY

Feature

Fire

Country/Region

All

Satellite

All

Instrument

All

Month

All

Year

All

Product

All

Author

All

Collection

All

► APPLY

► RESET

## EUMETSAT USERS TWITTER

Tweets by

@eumetsat\_users

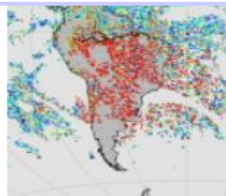


EUMETSAT Users  
Retweeted



EUMeTrain  
@EUMeTrain

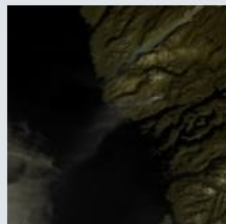
Most of Western Europe on 9 September: Oh what a nice sunny late #summer day. Frontal cloudiness connected with ex-Dorian over Great Britain on 9 September: No! Notice also the nice closed cell #convection west of Ireland connected to the cold air behind the #front.#training



### THE CHEMICAL FINGERPRINT OF AMAZONIAN FIRES

19 August 2019

Observations of formaldehyde from the GOME-2 instrument onboard Metop-B on 19-20 August 2019.



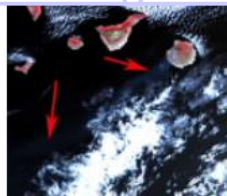
### WILDFIRES IN GREENLAND SEEN BY SENTINEL-3

15 July 2019

Wildfires in Greenland were observed by Sentinel-3 on 15 July 2019. They re-ignited on 10 August in the same area close to Sisimiut, the second largest town in Greenland.



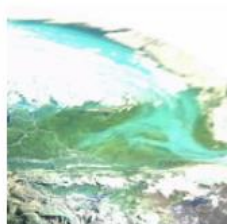
### SMOKE FROM CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



### GRAN CANARIA WILDFIRES

17 August 2019

In August 2019 parts of Gran Canaria, one of Spain's Canary Islands, were devastated by two large wildfires.



### EXTENSIVE SMOKE FROM CANADIAN WILDFIRES

01 June 2019

Smoke from widespread wildfires in Alberta, Canada travelled as far as parts of Europe and Russia in May and June 2019.



### POSSIBLE CUMULUS FLAMMAGENITUS ON THE COAST OF WESTERN



### WILDFIRES IN GREECE

10 August 2019

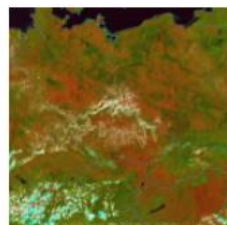
The Greek island of Elafonisos in the Peloponnese region suffered from major wildfires in August 2019.



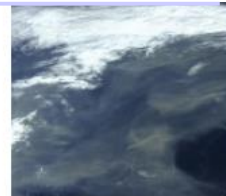
### DEVASTATING FIRE AT NOTRE-DAME

15 April 2019

Heat signatures from the fire that destroyed part of the historic Parisian cathedral Notre-Dame in April 2019 could be seen on satellite imagery.



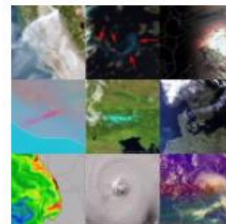
### A SUMMER OF HEATWAVES AND DROUGHT FOR MANY



### HUGE FIRES IN THE ARCTIC AND SIBERIA

27 July 2019

Huge fires in the Arctic and Siberia at the end of July 2019, were seen by the Sentinel-3 satellite.



### IMAGE LIBRARY TOP TEN FOR 2018

01 January 2019

A look at our most popular case studies from 2018



### DEVASTATING WILDFIRES NEAR ATHENS

## Forest Fires

Table

### The Fire Triangle

Weather

The Continuity Equation

Fuel

Topography

Fire Weather Index

Summary

Table of Contents

Print Version

Download Version

EUMeTrain

As you have seen in the previous chapter, synoptic patterns are not enough to indicate the locations where forest fires are likely to occur and spread. In fact, aside from the weather, a fire's behaviour also strongly depends on fuel and topography, creating the three sides of what is usually known as the *fire triangle* (Figure 3.1).

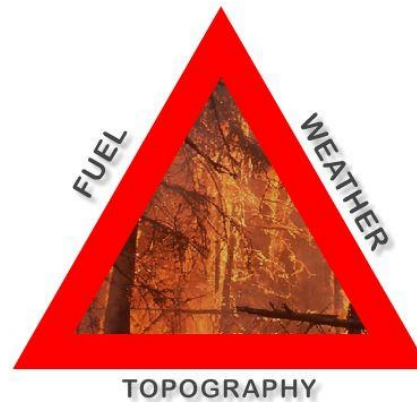


Fig 3.1 – Fire triangle. Fire hazards are influenced by fuel, weather and topography.

In this third chapter the three sides of this triangle will be further explained. After answering the following multiple choice question the chapter will continue with "weather".

Fire ignition depends most on which of the following meteorological factors:

- ☐ a) Temperature



# FIR product (active fire monitoring)

Enhanced higher resolution **land-sea** mask

**Bayesian threshold** tests. Each individual test will have a minimum and maximum threshold. All tests together will yield a 'fire probability' between 0 and 100%, encoded with parameter number of 192 of GRIB table 4.2.3.1, currently reserved for local use.

Migration to using a WMO **template**

There will be no changes for the **FIR CAP** product

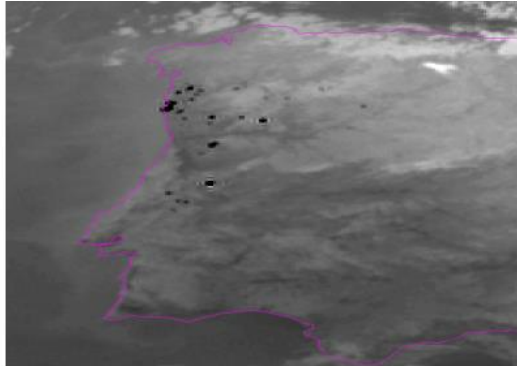
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  <scope>Public</scope>

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  </info>
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  <responseType>Monitor</responseType>
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  <severity>Moderate</severity>
  <certainty>Likely</certainty>
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  <headline>Fire detection report</headline>
  <description> Fire detection. This is a computer generated report and has not been reviewed by a
human.</description>

  <web>http://oiswww.eumetsat.org/IPPS/html/MSG/PRODUCTS/FIR</web>
  <area>
    <areaDesc>List of detected fires (latitude, longitude, radius)</areaDesc>
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    <circle>-27.857,30.811 1.975</circle>
    <circle>-27.825,30.838 1.975</circle>
    <circle>-27.823,30.798 1.975</circle>
    <circle>-25.659,30.956 1.941</circle>
    <circle>-25.657,30.9
```

←	→	↺	🔍	Not secure	ftp://ftp.eumetsat.int/pub/OPS/out/test-data/Test-data							
y	G	t	PRP	CL	T	ha	wttter	Mas	GE	é	É	MA
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# Active fire monitoring (FIR) product



Top panel: Initial IR3.9 image for 21 August 2005 at 02:00 UTC. Bottom panel: Active Fire Monitoring product applied to IR3.9 image.

- From Scenes Analysis
- Exclude thick cloud, off-shore oil fires, active volcanoes, small islands
- Exclude bare soils, sun glint and small cloud
- Use IR3.9 and IR10.8 and its standard deviations, e.g.

$$L_{RED/MIR} > \bar{L}_{RED/MIR}$$

$$\Delta T_{MIR-TIR} > \Delta \bar{T}_{MIR-TIR} + 3.2\sigma_{\Delta T_{MIR-TIR}}$$

$$\Delta T_{MIR-TIR} > \Delta \bar{T}_{MIR-TIR} + 5.6K$$

$$T_{MIR} > \bar{T}_{MIR} + 3\sigma_{T_{MIR}}$$

$$T_{TIR} > \bar{T}_{TIR} - 4K$$

$$\sigma'_{MIR} > 5K$$

	SENTINEL-3 OPTICAL PRODUCTS AND ALGORITHM DEFINITION	REF: S3-L2-SD-03-T04-KCL-ATBD VERSION: 3.2 DATE: 2012-10-10 PAGE 16 OF 2
SLSTR ATBD FIRE PRODUCT		

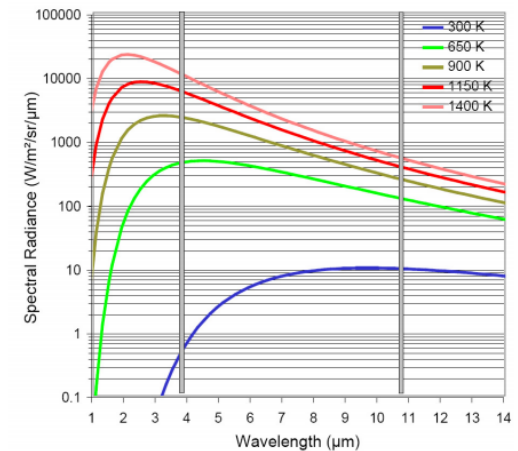
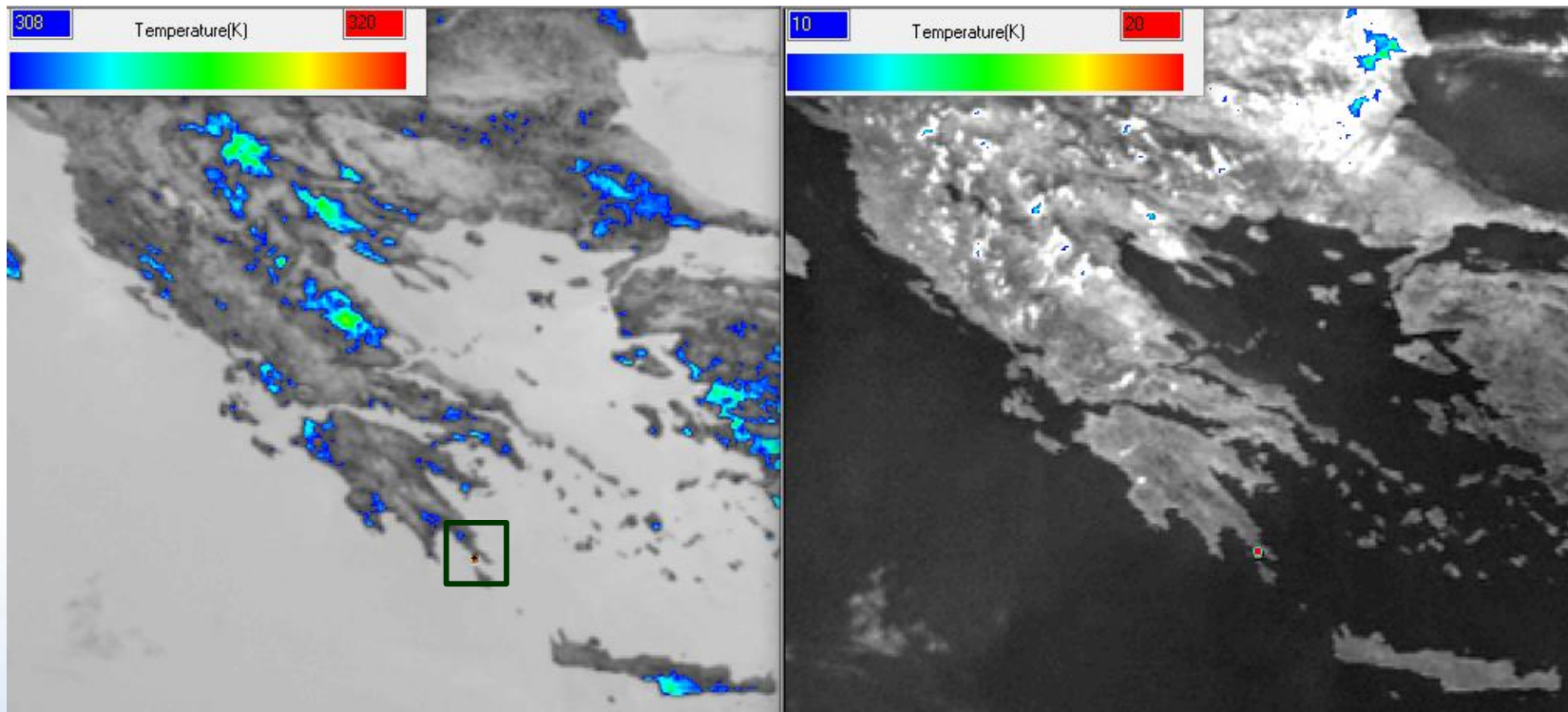


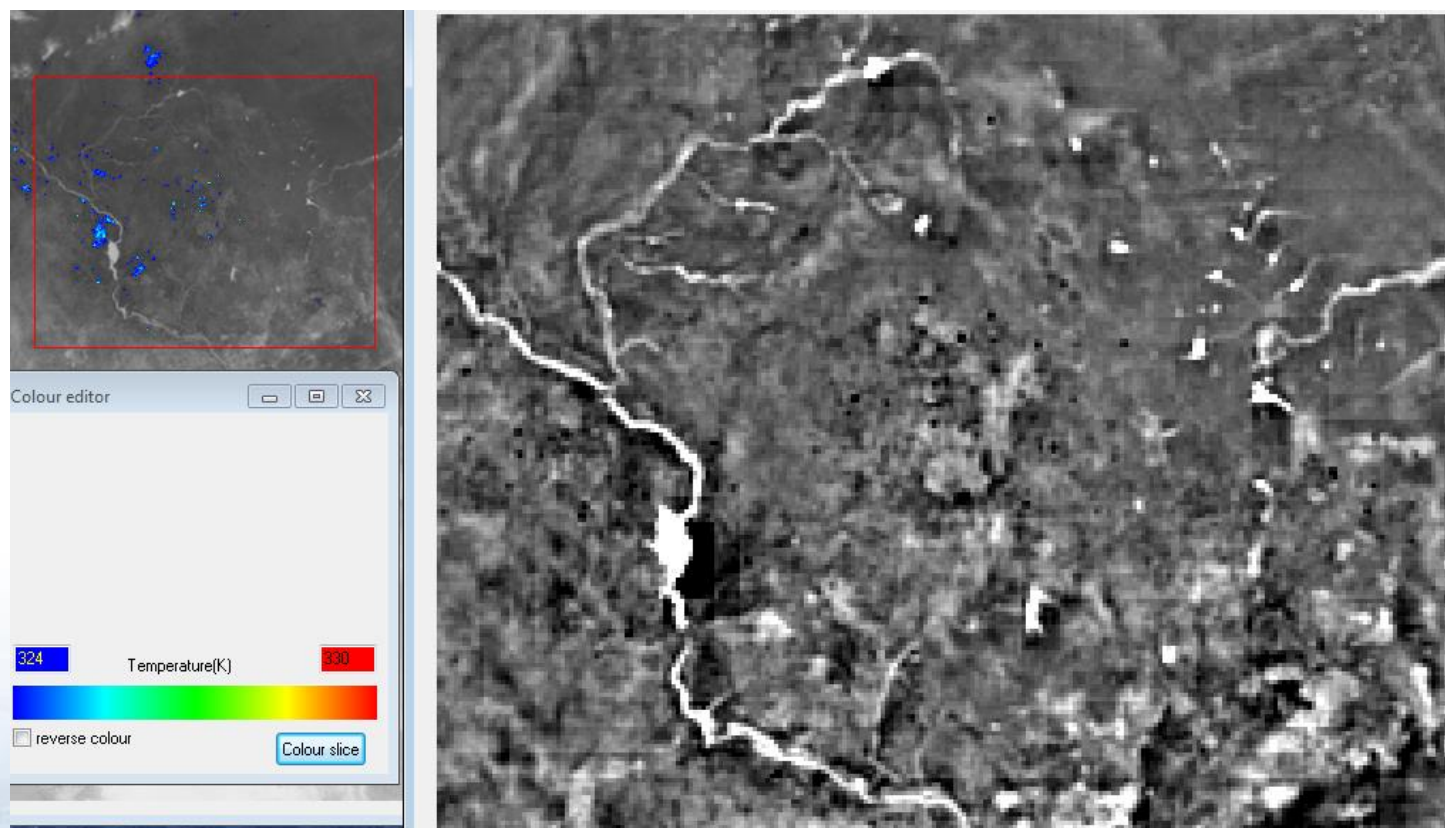
Figure 3. Spectral radiance emitted from blackbodies at Earth ambient temperature (300 K) and a range of possible vegetation fire temperatures (650 – 1400 K). The approximate central wavelengths of the SLSTR MIR (3.7 μm) and TIR1 (10.8 μm) channel are also indicated. As temperature increases the spectral radiance increases more rapidly at MIR wavelengths than at TIR wavelengths. Note the logarithmic y-axis scale.



# Fires: day confusion with barren soil or reflective cloud



3.9 μm (left) and difference 3.9μm-10.8μm



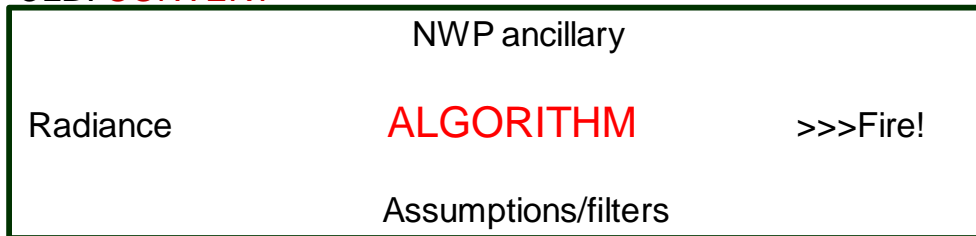
2015-02-09\_15UTC, channel 4, Meteosat-10  
**Contrast** with neighbours is better than thresholds in 3.9  $\mu\text{m}$  to spot fires



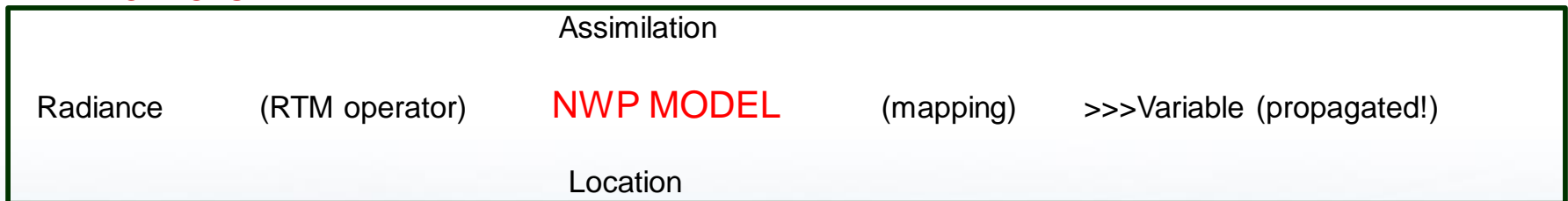
# Fire assimilation. The theory



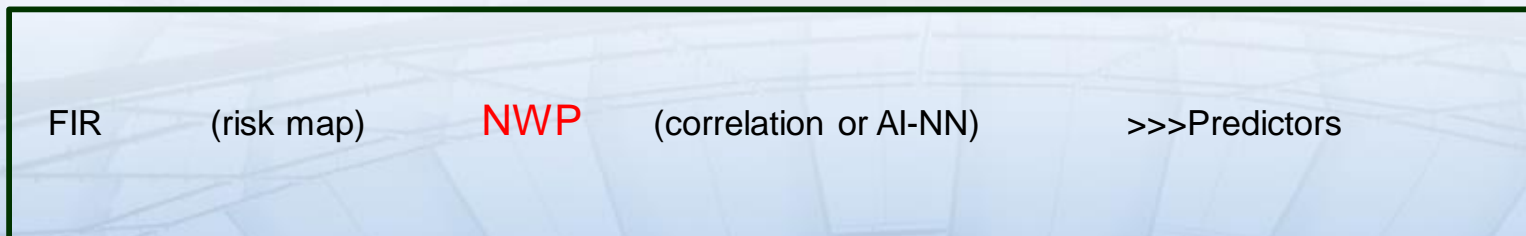
OLD: **CONVERT**



NEW: **FORECAST**



FUTURE: **PREVENT**



EO Browser

Search

Results

Visualization

Pins

Dataset: SENTINEL-3 OLCI

Q P E

Date: 2019-06-30

Back

Drag bands onto RGB fields.

B01

B02

B03

B04

B05

B06

B07

B08

B09

B10

B11

B12

B13

B14

A photograph showing a helicopter in flight, dropping a bucket of water onto a forest fire. The fire is visible as bright orange flames and thick black smoke rising from the trees. The helicopter is positioned on the left side of the frame, and the bucket is suspended below it.

A false-color satellite image of a coastal area. The image is composed of a grid of colored pixels, with shades of blue, purple, and pink. The coastline is visible on the right side, with a label "Cenicientos" in the bottom right corner. The image is a zoomed-in view of a specific geographic area.

A blue background with a faint grid pattern, likely a placeholder or a decorative element. The grid is composed of light blue lines forming a square pattern.



Q Search   Results   Visualization   Pins

Dataset: SENTINEL-2 L1C   [SHOW L2A](#)

Date: 2019-07-27

---

Custom  
Create custom rendering

True color  
Based on bands 4,3,2

False color  
Based on bands 8,4,3

False color (urban)  
Based on bands 12,11,4

NDVI  
Based on combination of bands  $(B8 - B4)/(B8 + B4)$

Moisture index  
Based on combination of bands  $(B8A - B11)/(B8A + B11)$

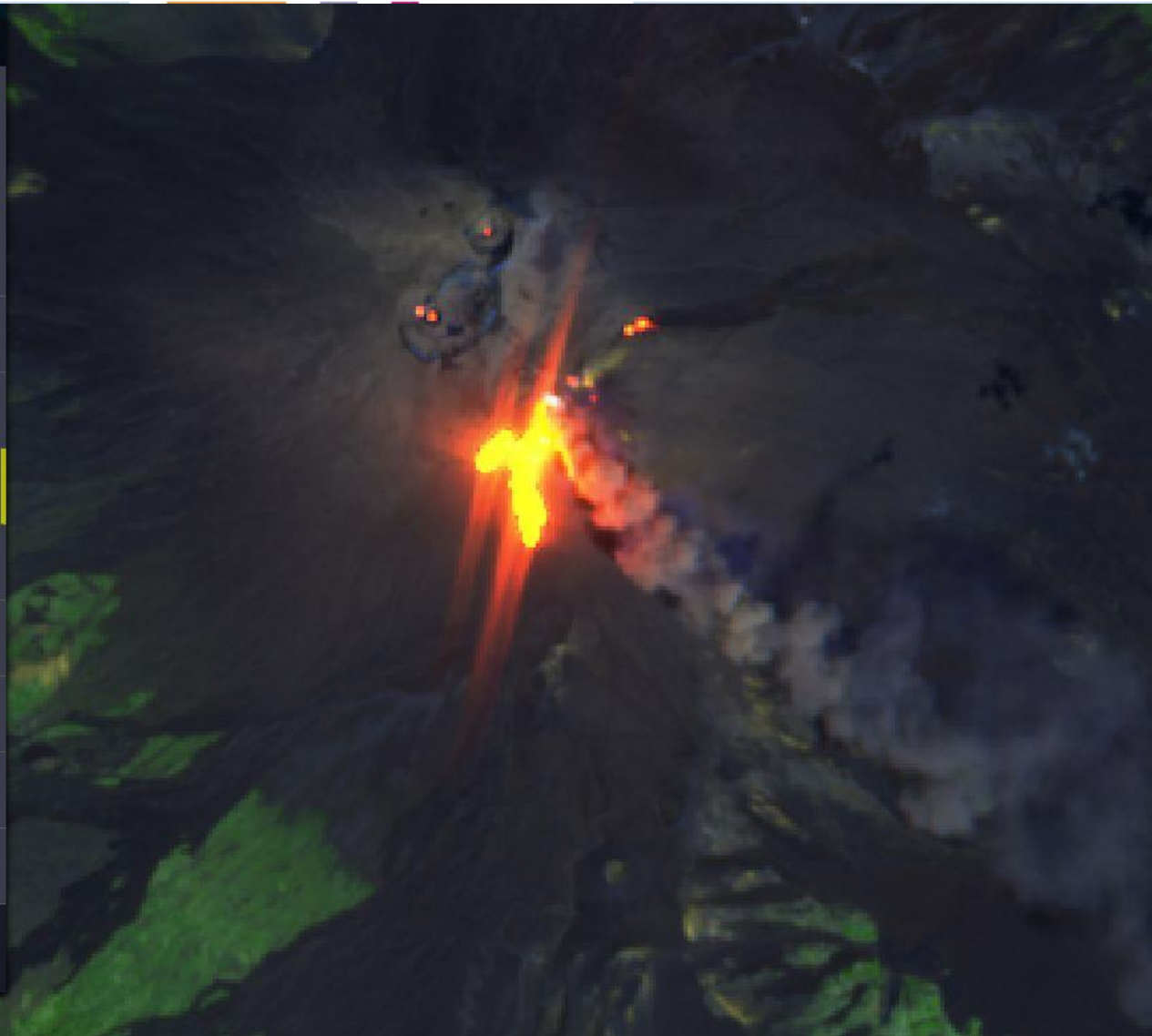
SWIR  
Based on bands 12,8A,4

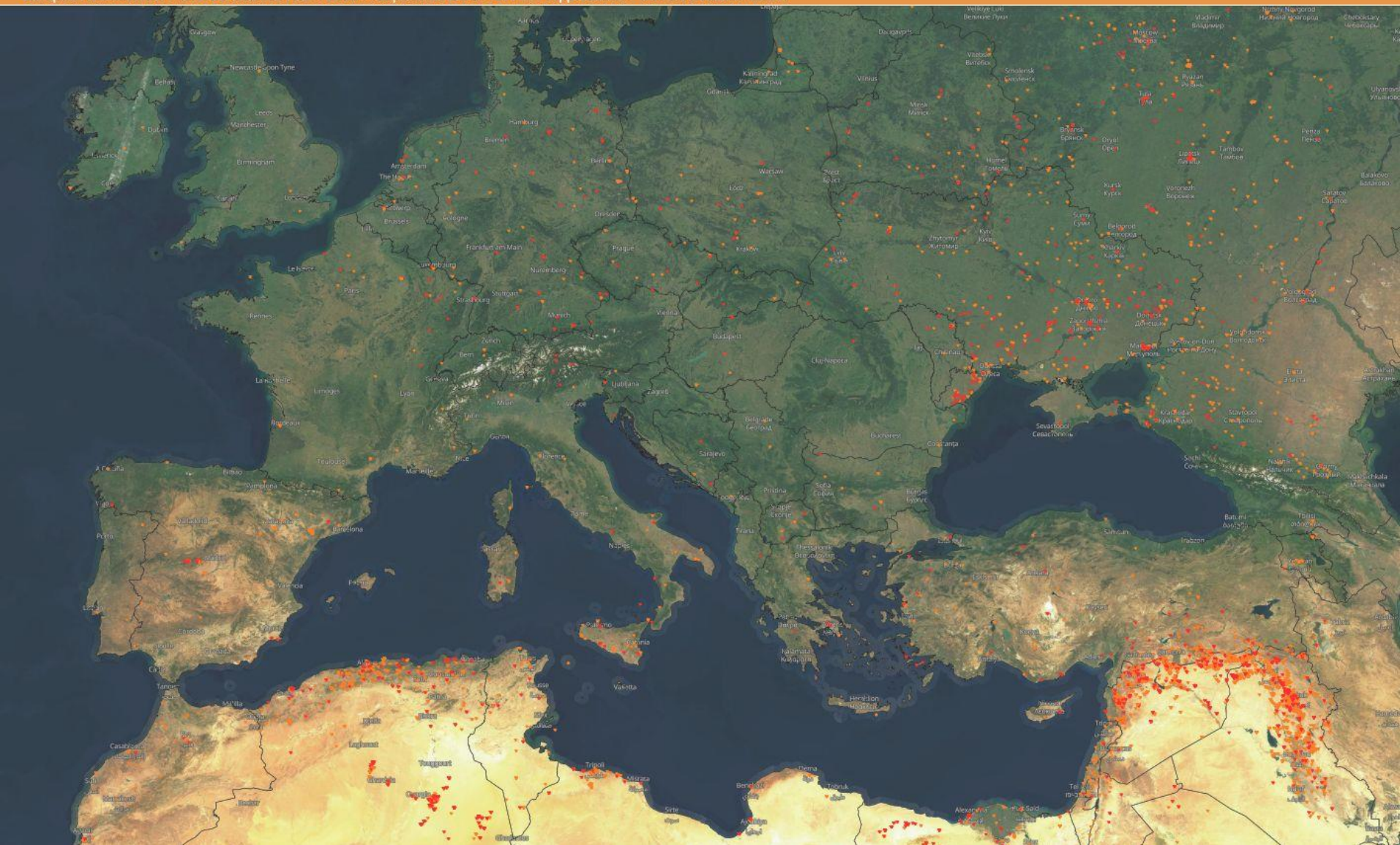
NDWI  
Based on combination of bands  $(B3 - B8)/(B3 + B8)$

NDSI  
Based on combination of bands  $(B3 - B11)/(B3 + B11)$ ; values above 0.42 are regarded as snowy

[Free sign up](#) for all features

Powered by [Sinergise](#) with contributions from the European Space Agency  
v2.19.5

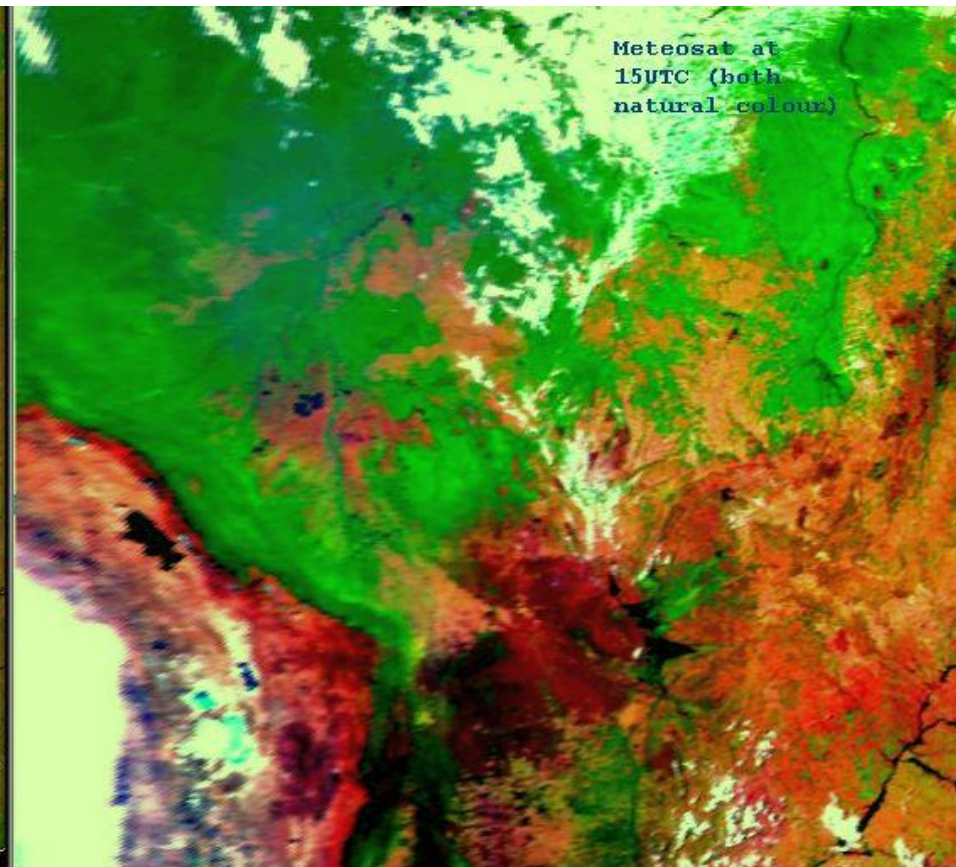
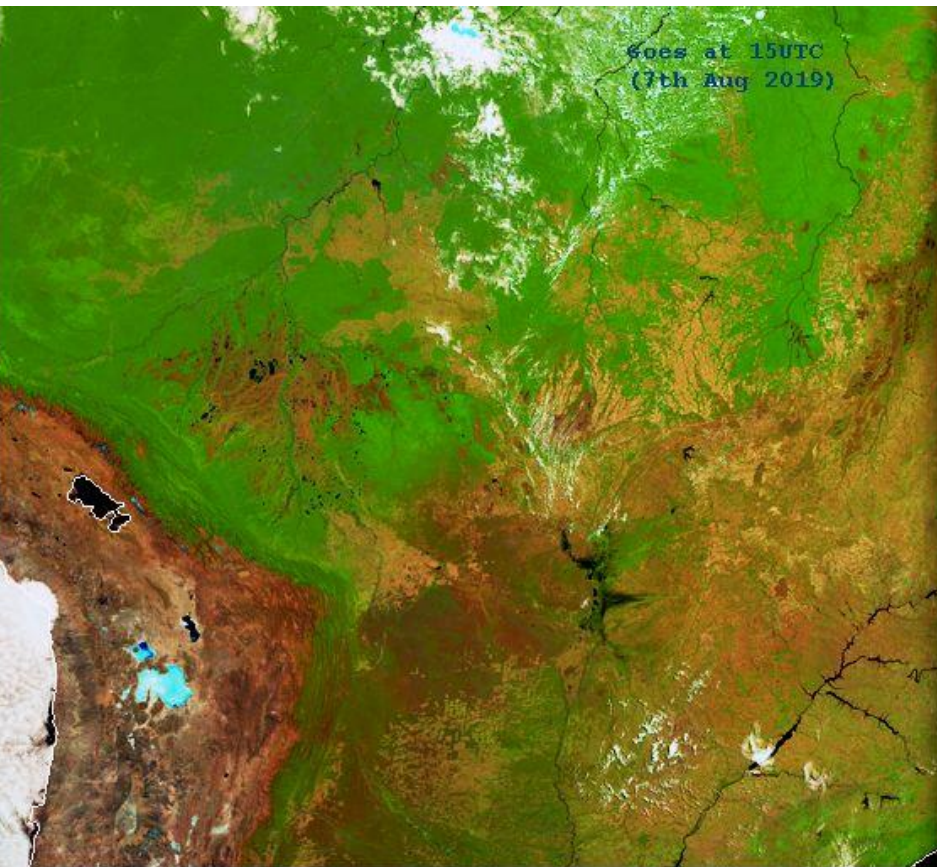






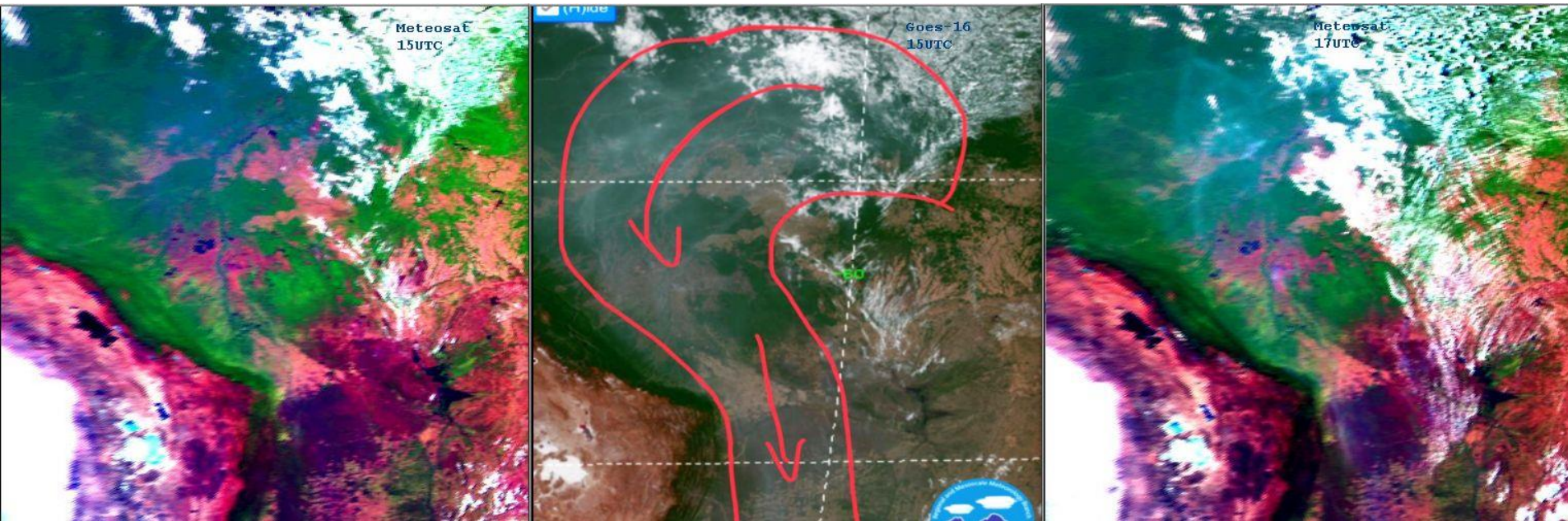
# Oblique view favours smoke detection

(increased optical depth in the atmosphere)  
Goes-16 (l.h.s.) and Meteosat-11 (r.h.s.) imagery





# Smaller smoke particles are better grasped by lower wavelength channels



Forward propagation and different RGBs result in different sensitivity to smoke:  
15 and 17 UTC Natural colours (Meteosat) and  
15 UTC True color (Goes-16)

# 3.9 $\mu$ m characteristics: mark the true!



Maximum emission by flames

Response to subpixel thermal anomalies



No absorption by water vapour

No absorption by carbon dioxide



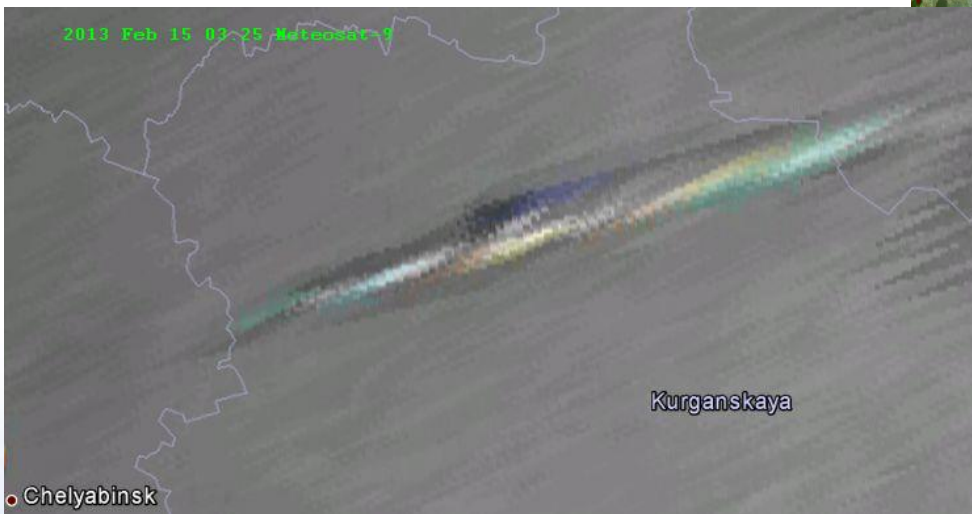
Meteosat pixel saturation for fires



Low ground emissivity



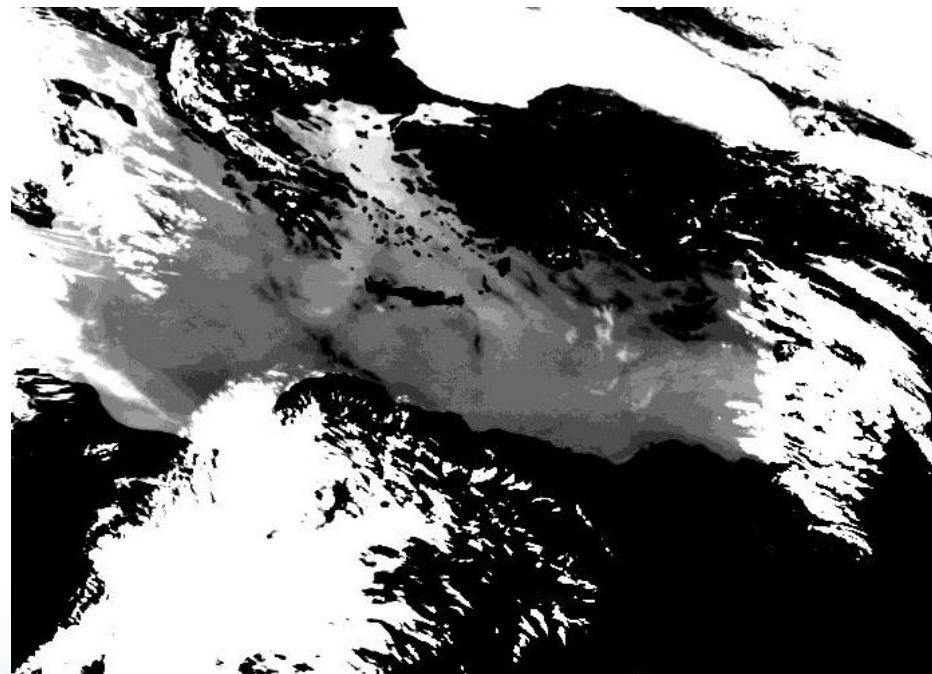
# Subpixel detection at 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$



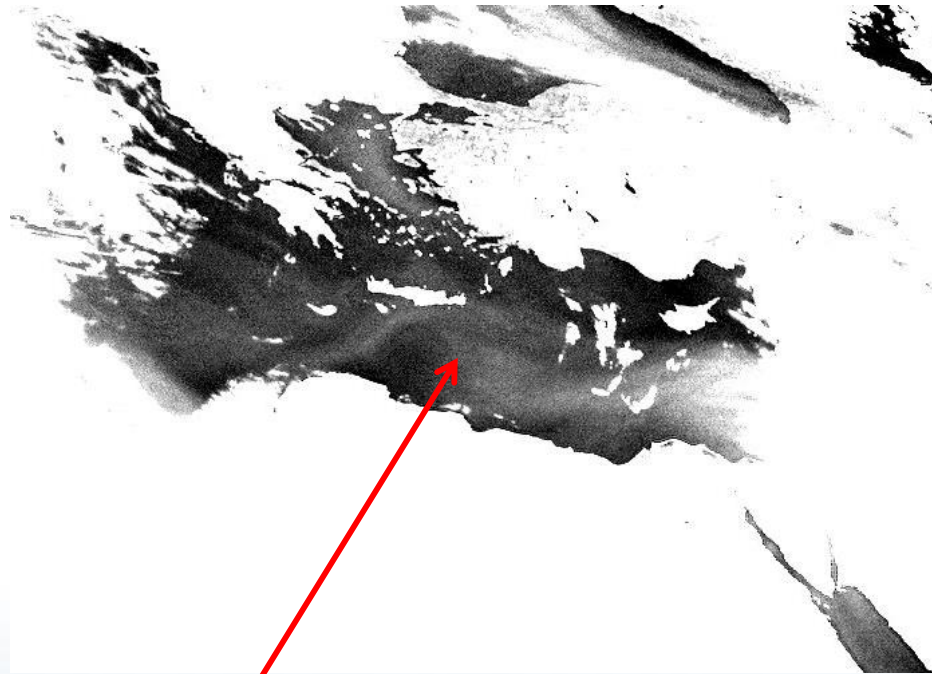
Colour from Meteosat-9 channel 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$ .  
Blue=270K Red=280K



## 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$ and 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$ channels: water vapour total column



2016\_Apr\_05 10UTC Channel 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$  [215K .. 315 K]

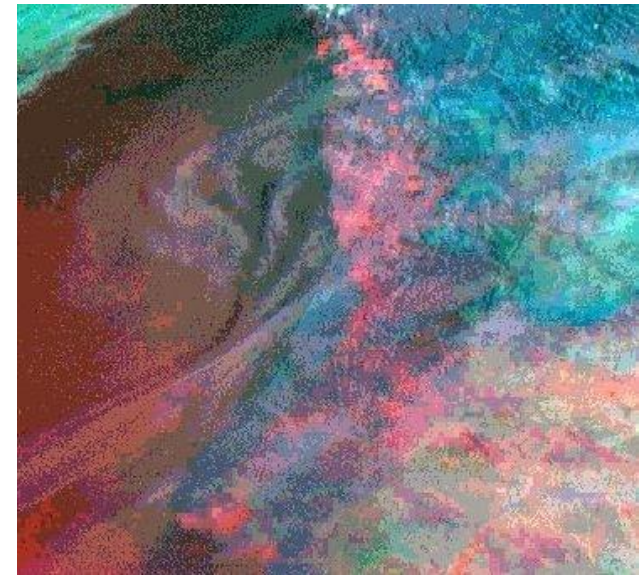
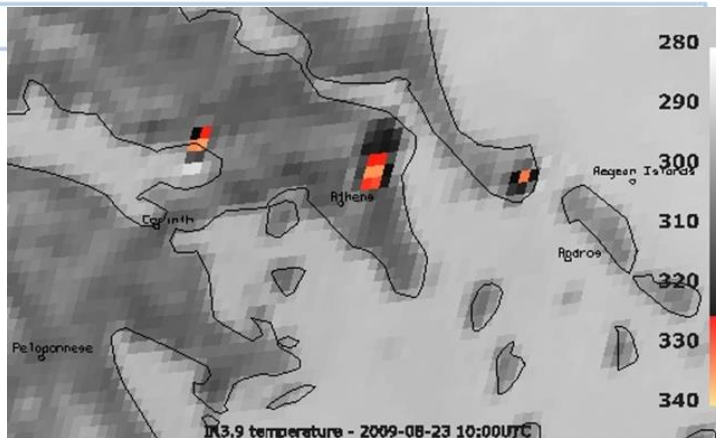


Difference 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$  - 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$  [-8K .. +60K]

Over water, 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$  roughly shows SST fields  
But 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$  – 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$  shows humidity at low level

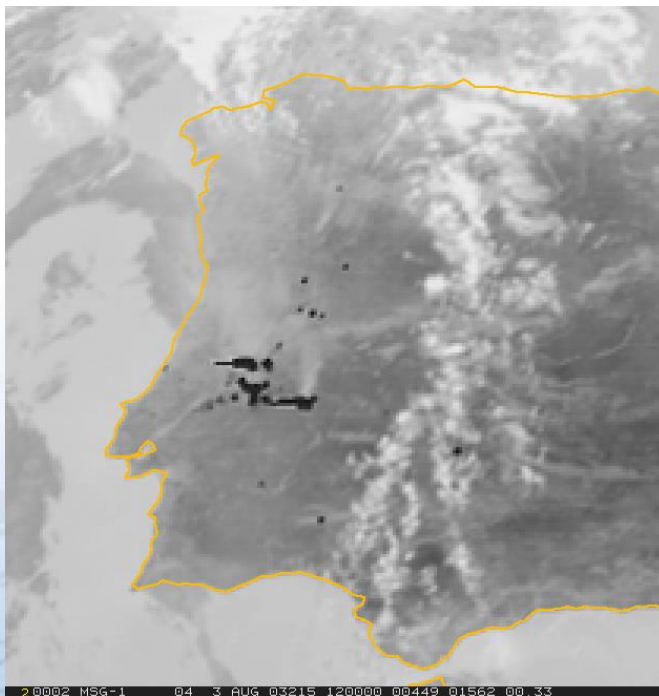


## 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$ and 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$ channels: sensor blinding and filters

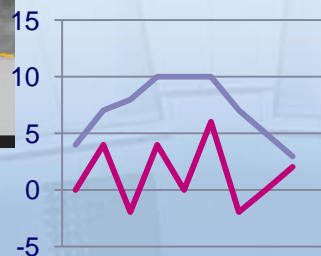


2006\_08\_07 06:19UTC  
rgb\_HRV + 4-3-2

**HRV** can be combined with lower horizontal resolution for more **spectral** information



For pixels west of the fire the sensors can be blinded, following geometrical patterns (rings)



— measured  
— real data





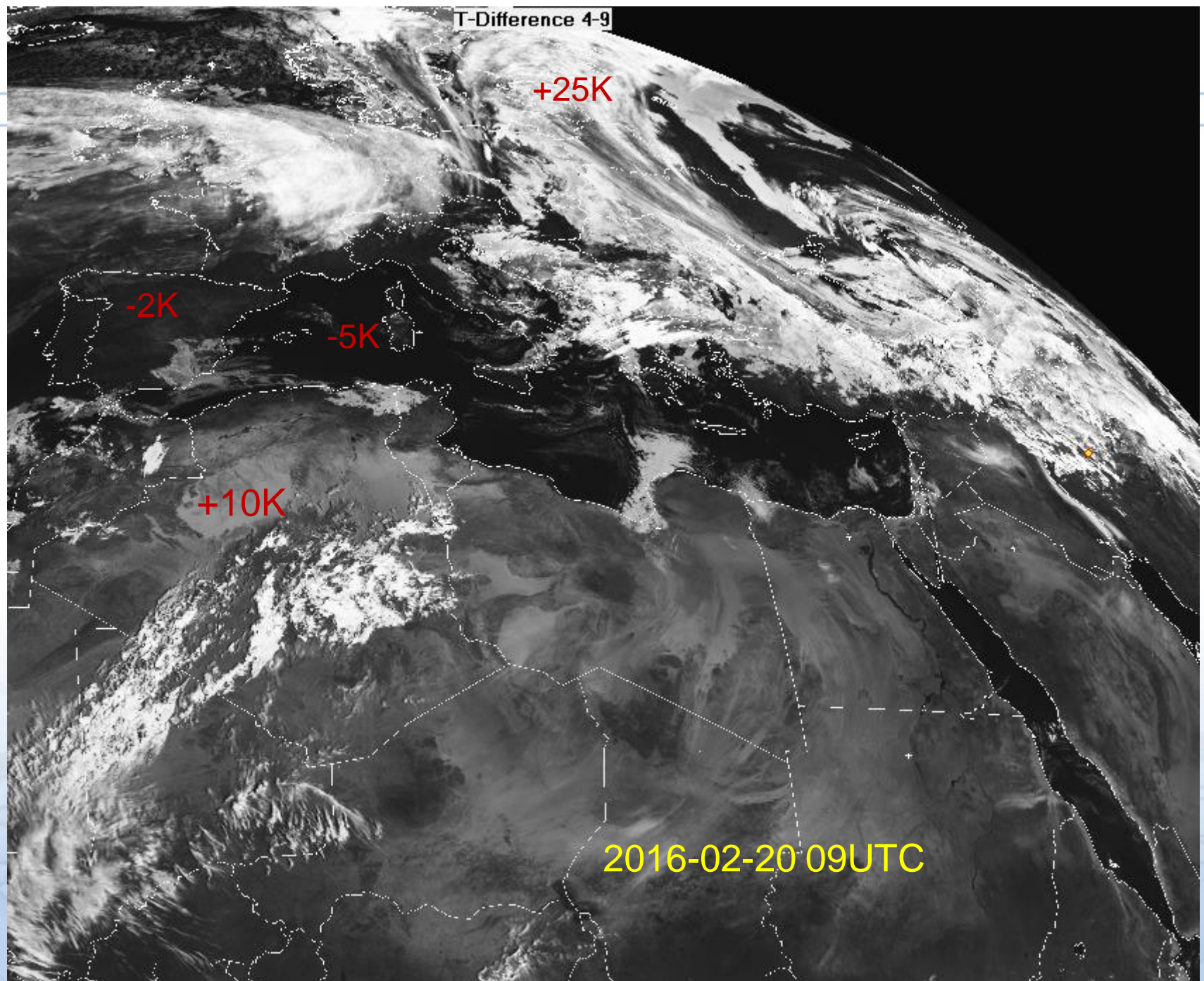
## 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$ and 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$ : window channels

### 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$

- ❖ Negligible absorption by atmospheric humidity
- ❖ Close to a **CO2 absorption** band, 4-7 Kelvin signal reduction
- ❖ High temperature **sensitivity** (big sub-pixel effects)  $\sim 14 * \Delta T/T$
- ❖ **Blinding** effect by hot pixels, affecting measurements west of the saturated pixel
- ❖ Fog warnings: daytime start or night dissipation onset
- ❖ **Sun** enhancement during day, emission effects during night

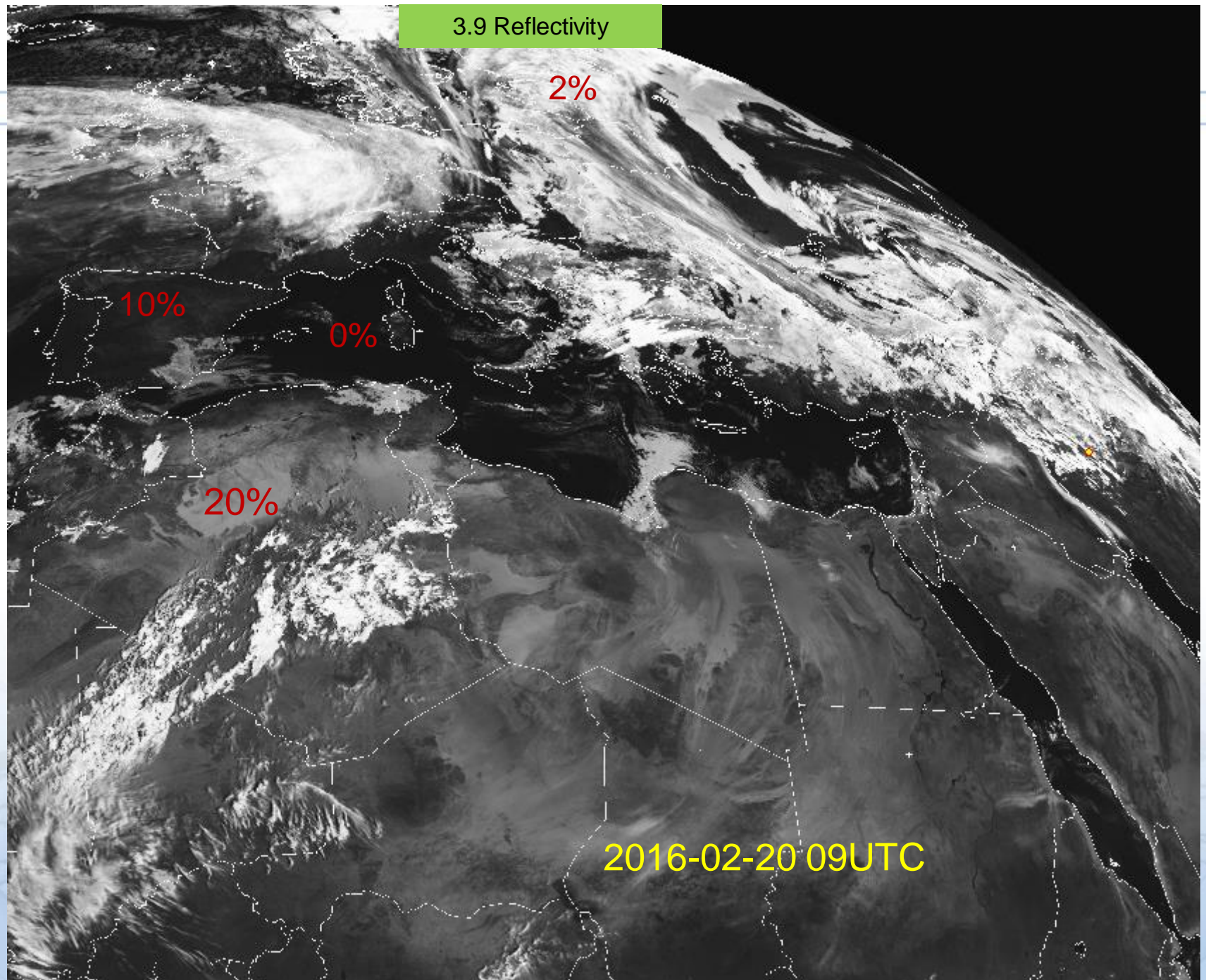
### 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$

- ❖ 1-2 Kelvin absorption by atmospheric humidity
- ❖ No signal reduction by CO2
- ❖ Lower temperature sensitivity (small subpixel effects)  $\sim 4 * \Delta T/T$
- ❖ No risk of sensor blinding by fires
- ❖ Low values compared with 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$  due to semitransparent cloud or smoke.





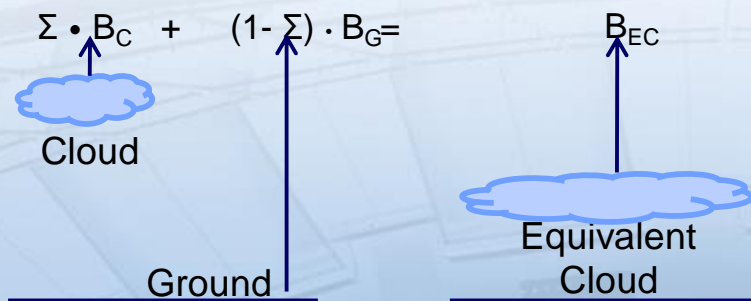
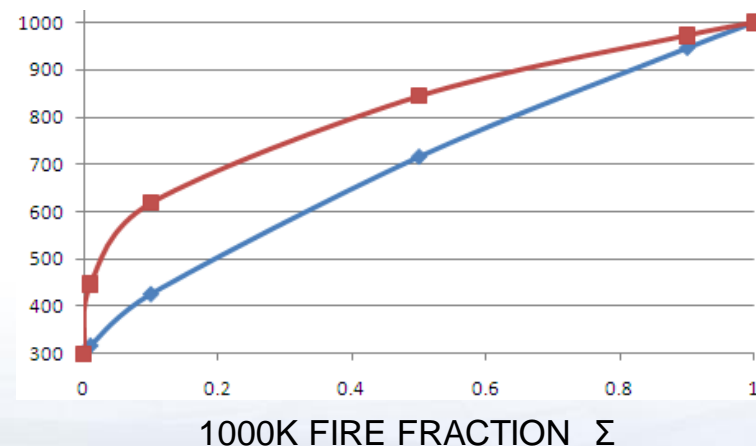
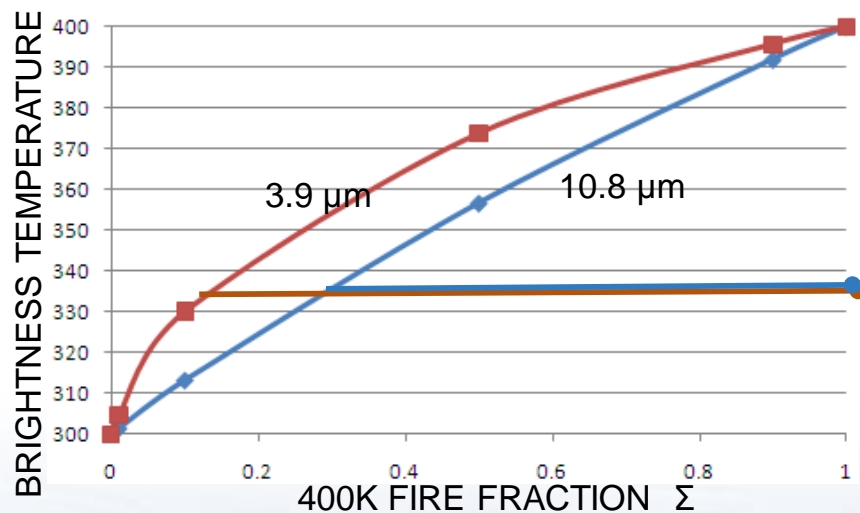
### 3.9 Reflectivity



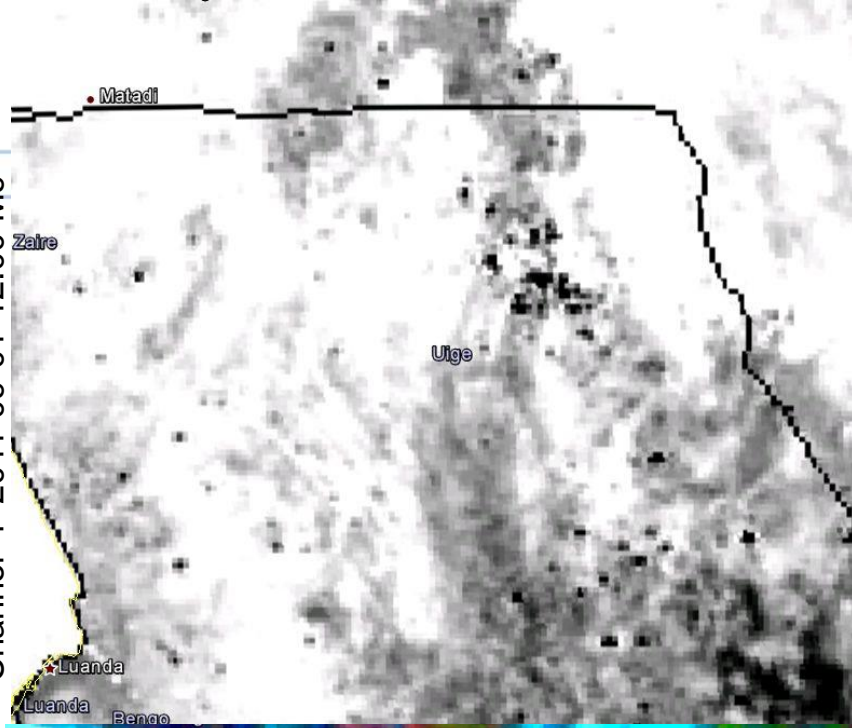


# Subpixel effects = temperature sensitivity = warm bias

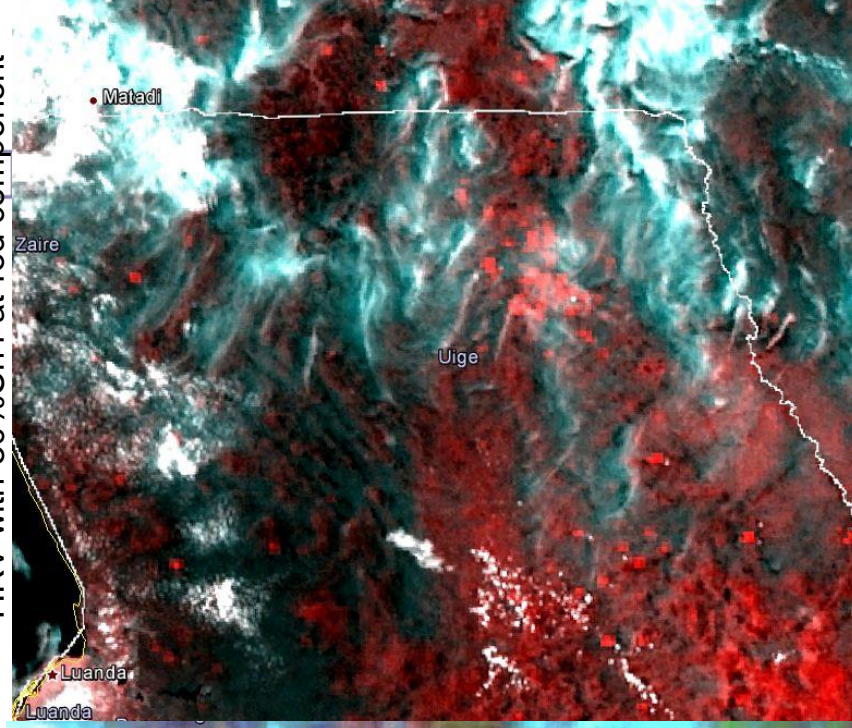
Widespread fires (15%) show less difference 3.9 $\mu$ m – 10.8 $\mu$ m than small ones (5% of the pixel)



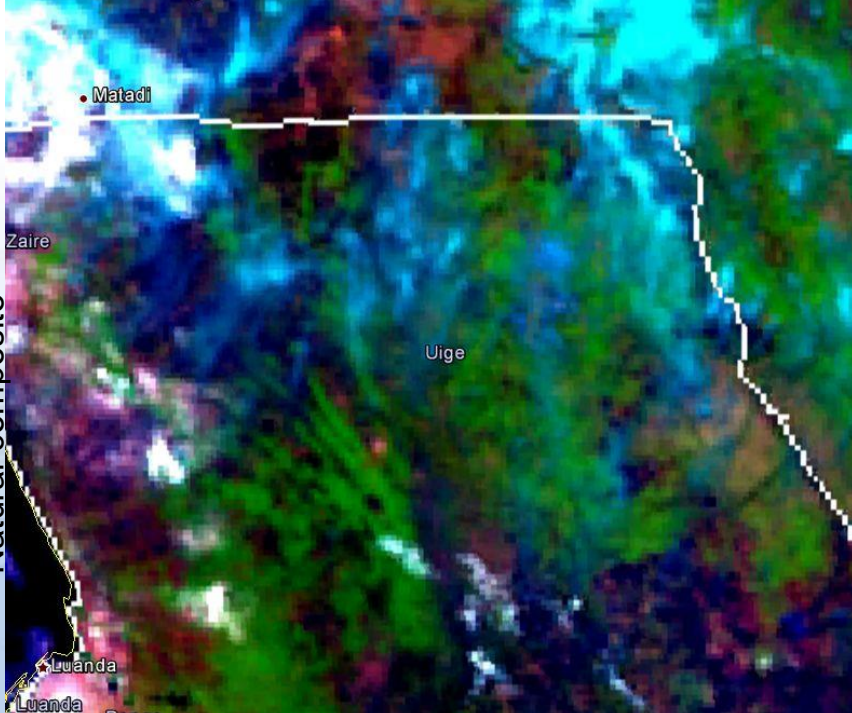
Channel 4 2011-09-01 12:00 M9



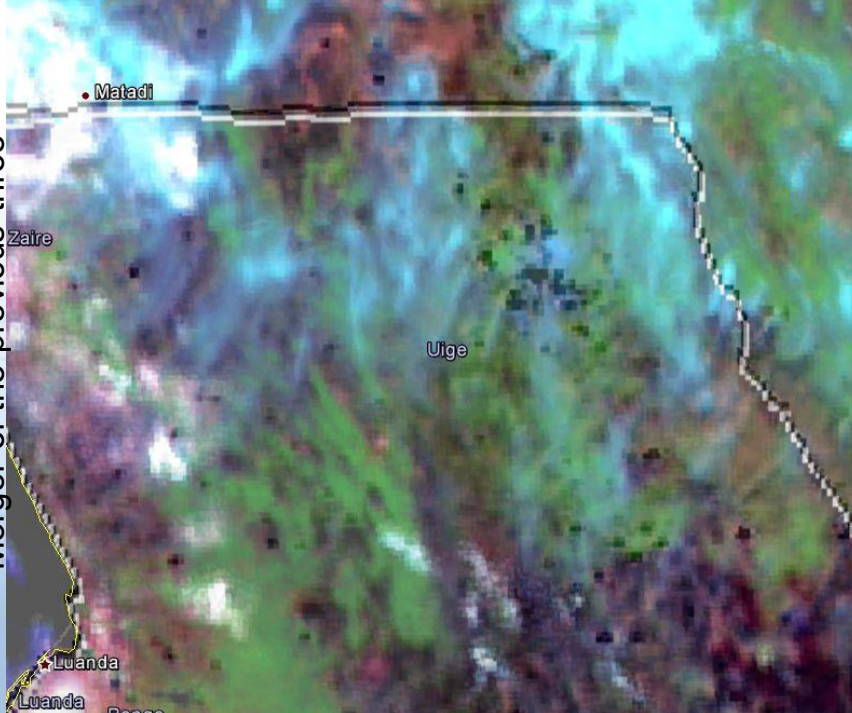
HRV with 30%Ch4 at red component



Natural composite

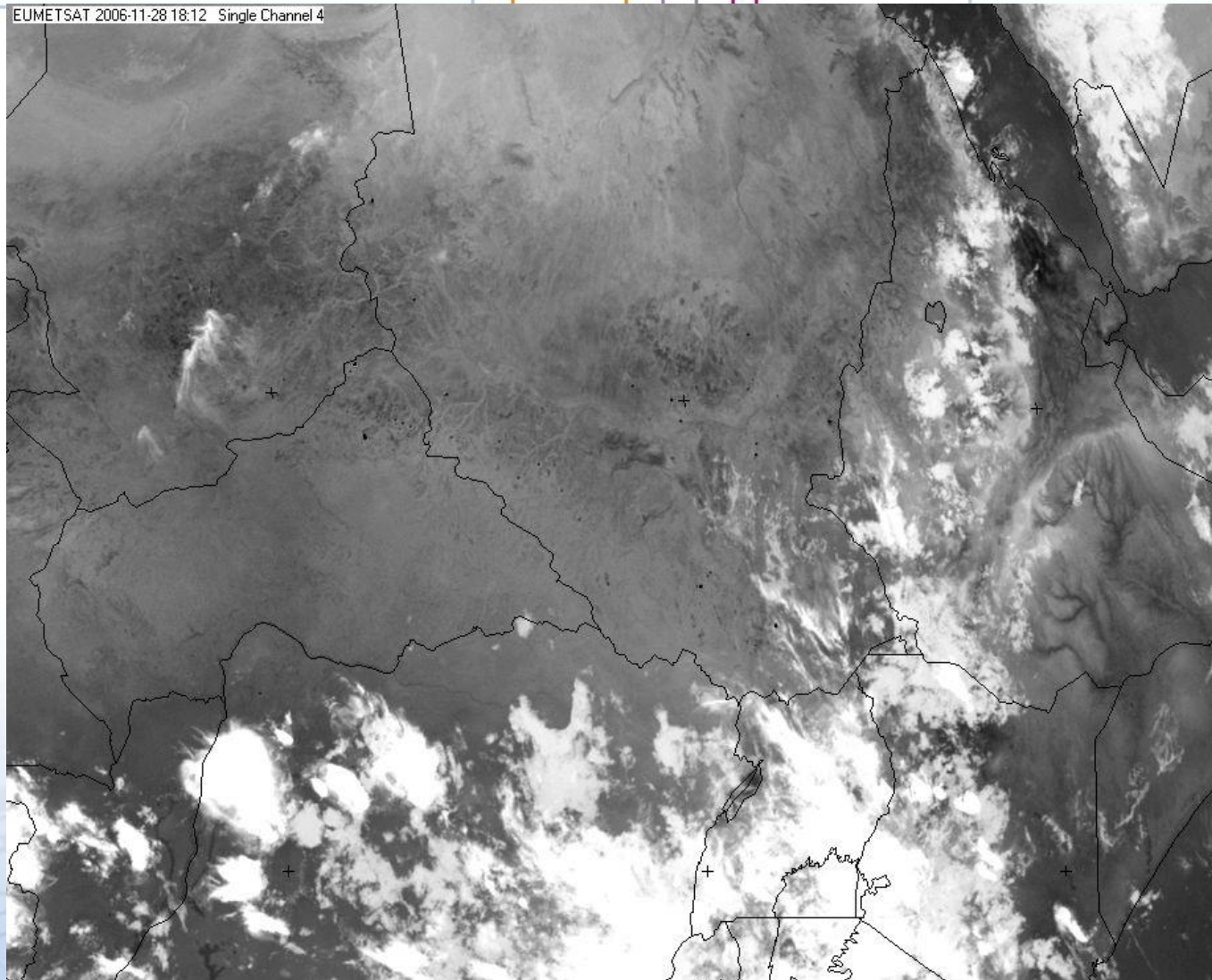


Merger of the previous three

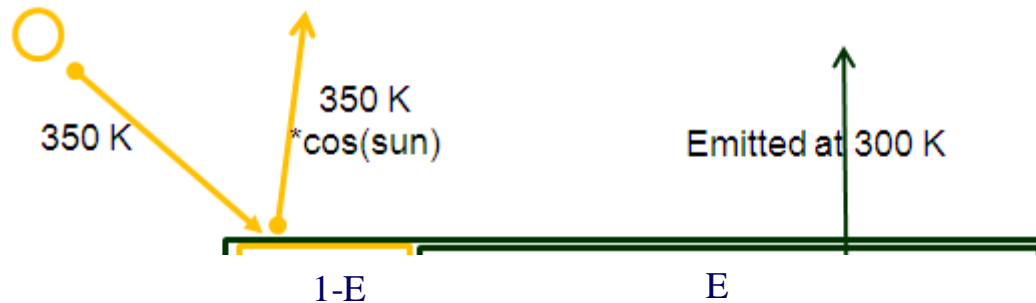




# Fires on 1.6μm images



# Solar reflection and emission combined (3.9 $\mu\text{m}$ )

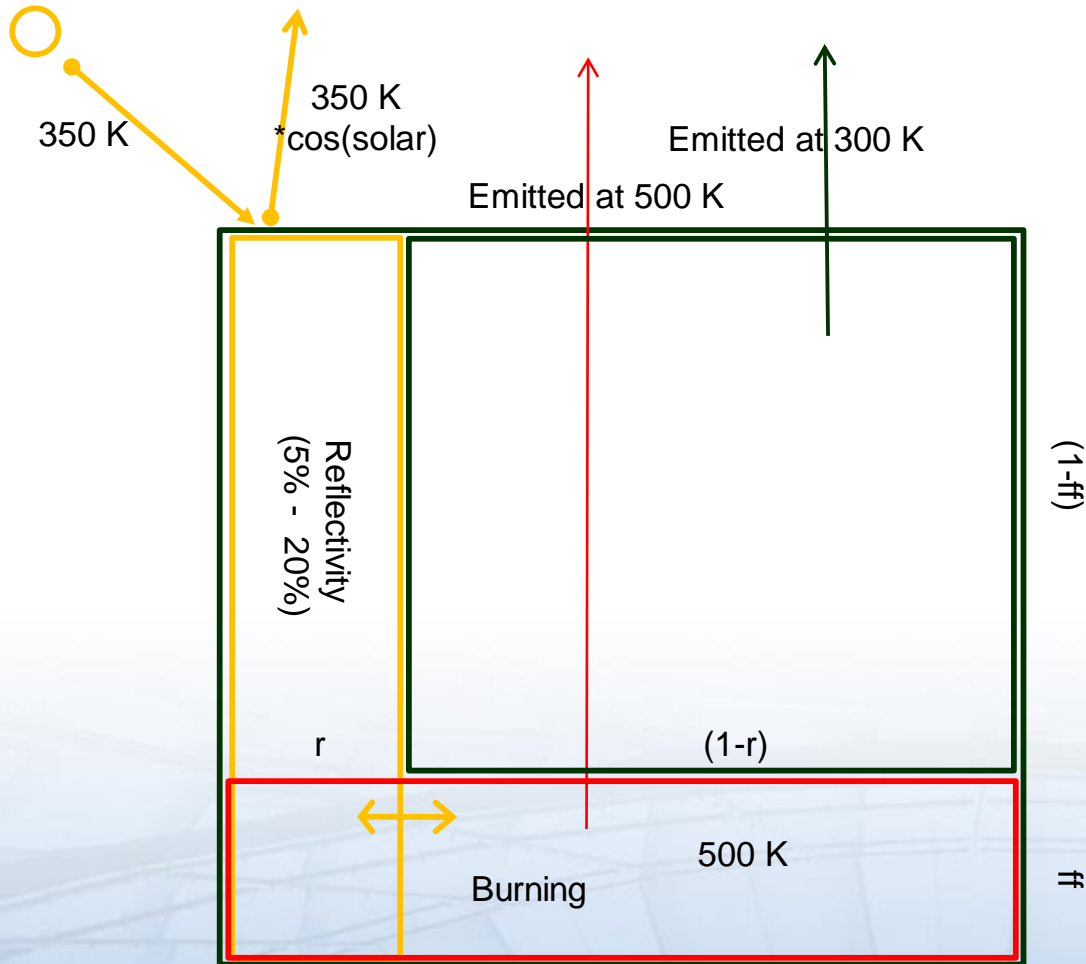


$$B(BT) = (1-E) * B(350K) + E * B(300K)$$

- Warm bias in brightness temperature towards 350K (depends on illumination)
- During night, brightness temperature (BT) is lower than 300K
- Albedo (1-E) varies with type of soil: 20% (savannah) to 5% (forest)
- Cloud (1-E=2%) is usually present in burning areas



# Hot spots contributions in a pixel ( $3.9\mu\text{m}$ )



DAY BT		Reflectivity $3.9\mu\text{m}$	
Fraction burning		5%	20%
		Forest	Savannah
	0	314	333
	0.01	328	339
	0.1	380	370
	0.5	449	425
	1	490	460
NIGHT BT		Reflectivity $3.9\mu\text{m}$	
Fraction burning		5%	20%
	0	296	284
	0.01	318	304
	0.1	377	356
	0.5	448	421
	1	489	457

Sunrise and sunset change  $3.9\mu\text{m}$  BT but normally **outside of the detection** range of SEVIRI

# Not only 3.9μm allows fire detection

## NEAR INFRARED (e.g. 1.6μm)

- More adequate for smoke detection than 3.9μm
  - Small fires not visible (below threshold)
- No CO<sub>2</sub> absorption (higher “fire temperature”)
  - High sub-pixel sensitivity

Karthala, Met-8, 29 May 2006, 12:15 UTC  
Natural colours RGB 1.6μm-0.8μm-0.6μm

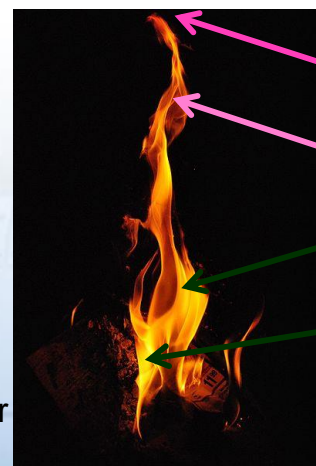


How hot is lava?

## 3.9μm

- Hotspots are easily detected
- Total absorption of ground radiation by CO<sub>2</sub>
- BT is temperature of the **CO<sub>2</sub> layer** above the fire
  - 100m minimum fire size for Meteosat pixel
- Sun interference noticeable (~20 K), but truncated by 3.9μm channel dynamic range limit (333K)
- Difficult statistics due to man-made fire generation (e.g. after harvest)

Abundant CO<sub>2</sub>  
..and soot...



300K,  
neighbour  
pixels

Which one is the “fire  
temperature”?



# Not only 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$ allows fire detection



A fire one Modis pixel in size shows colder in Meteosat pixel (100 times bigger)

Influence of gas in brightness temperature

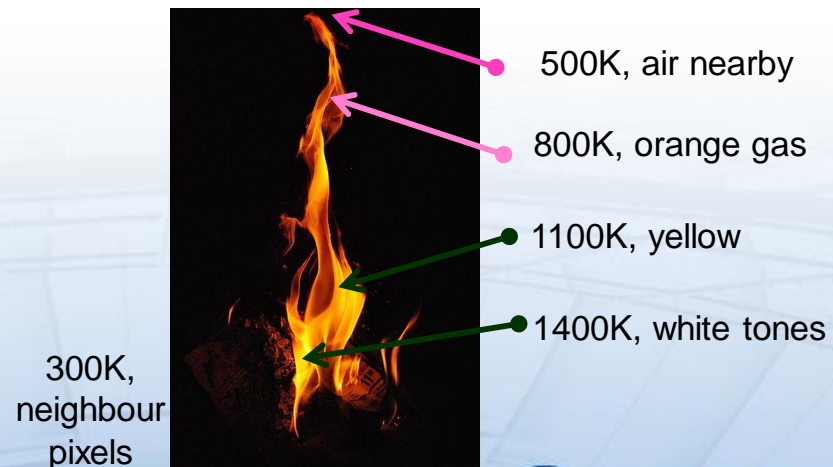
Gas T	Tb
300	290
330	310
350	320
370	335
400	360
450	400

meteosat	modis
300	300
301	350
305	400
312	450
323	500
336	550

3% absorption by CO<sub>2</sub> in 100hPa of atmosphere

50% absorption by CO<sub>2</sub> directly above fire

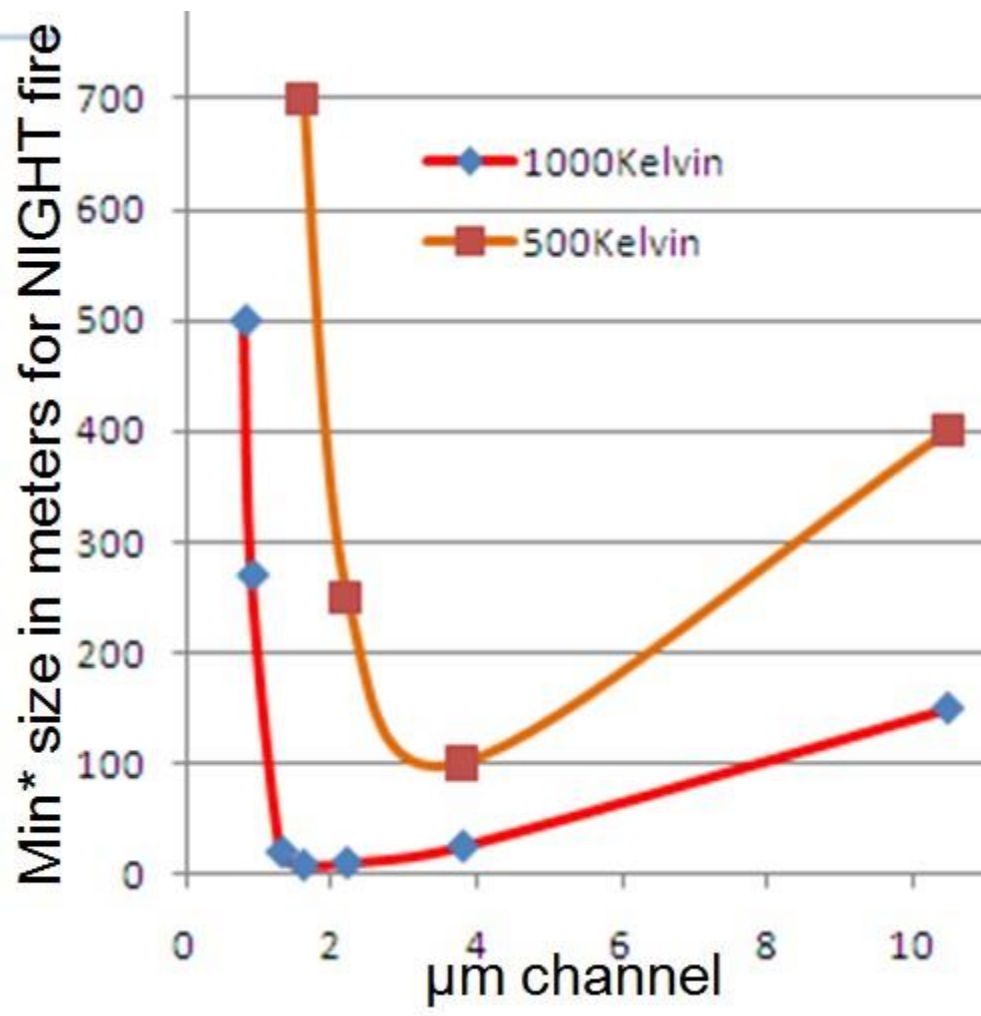
Abundant CO<sub>2</sub>  
..and soot...



Which one is the "fire temperature"?

# The fire traffic lights

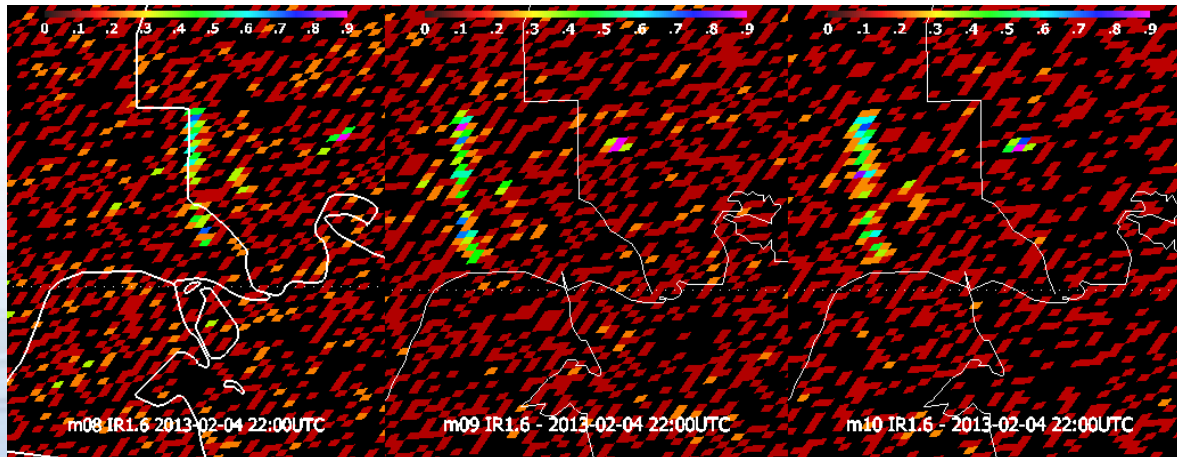
- A fire at 500K will be sensed, as it grows
- **first** by 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$  (at ~100m)
- **second** by 2.25 $\mu\text{m}$  (250m)
- **third** by 10.8 $\mu\text{m}$  (400m)
- An RGB=(3.9;2.2;10.8) might be a good indicator for severity of a fire.
- For a hotter fire (1000K), typically gas flares, channels in the solar domain react faster than 3.9 $\mu\text{m}$



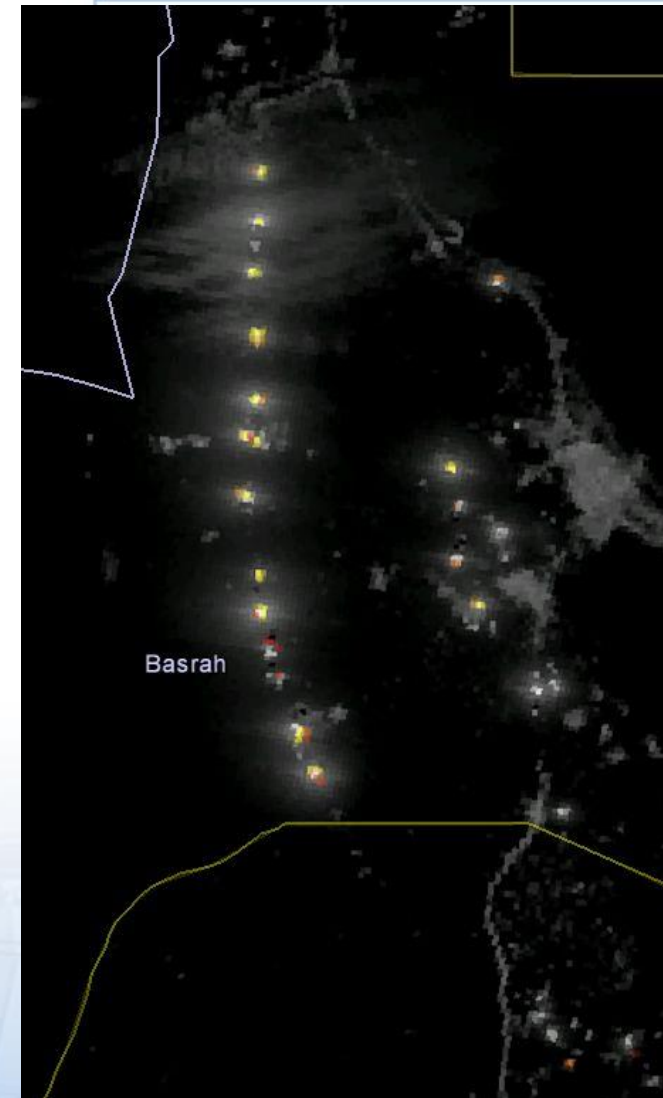


# Meteosat IR dynamic range top limits (kelvin)

Channel ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	3.8	8.7	9.7	10.5	12.3	13.3
Absorber	CO <sub>2</sub>	SO <sub>x</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>		H <sub>2</sub> O	CO <sub>2</sub>
MSG	333	300	310	333	333	300
Dynamic MTG	580	330	310	340	340	300

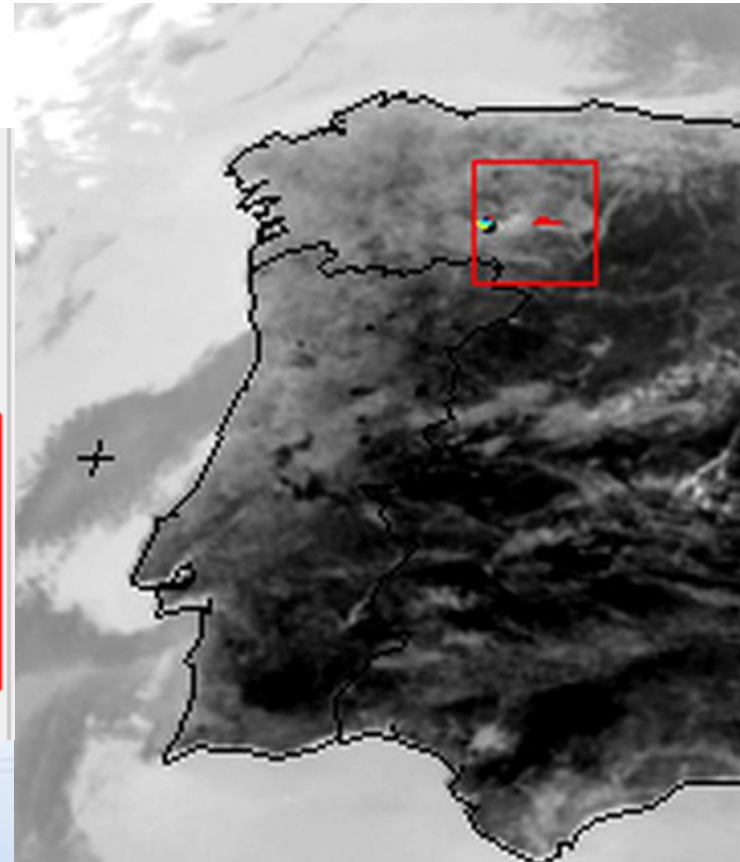
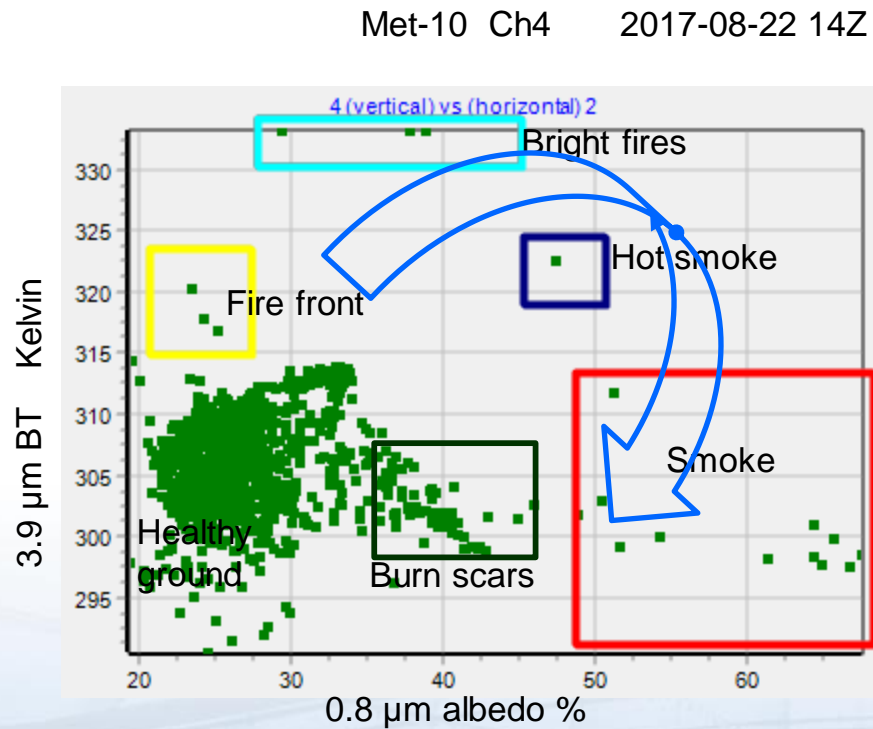


Meteosat-8,9,10 looking concurrently at gas flares in Kuwait through channel 1.6 $\mu\text{m}$



VIIRS 2013-02-17:2200

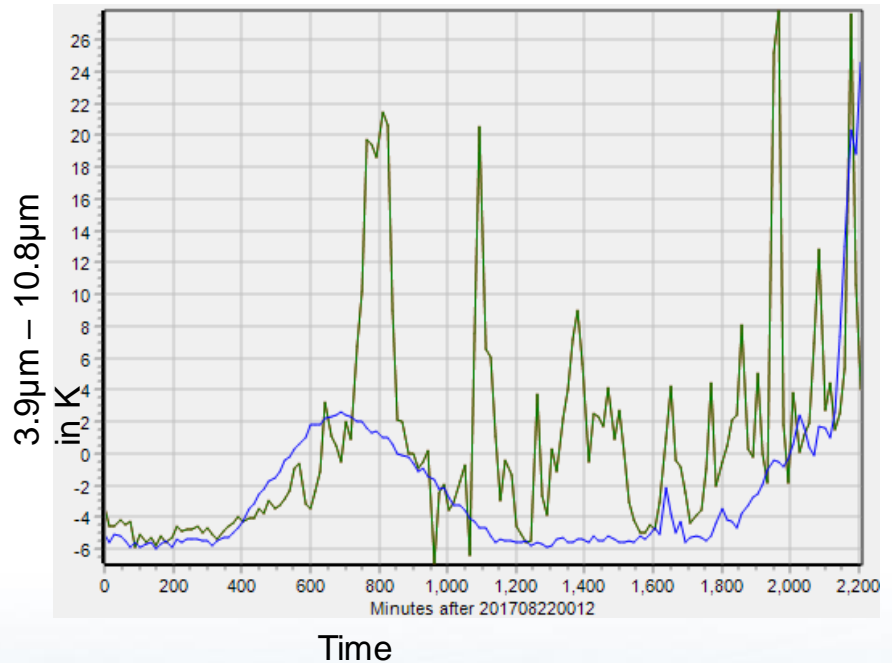
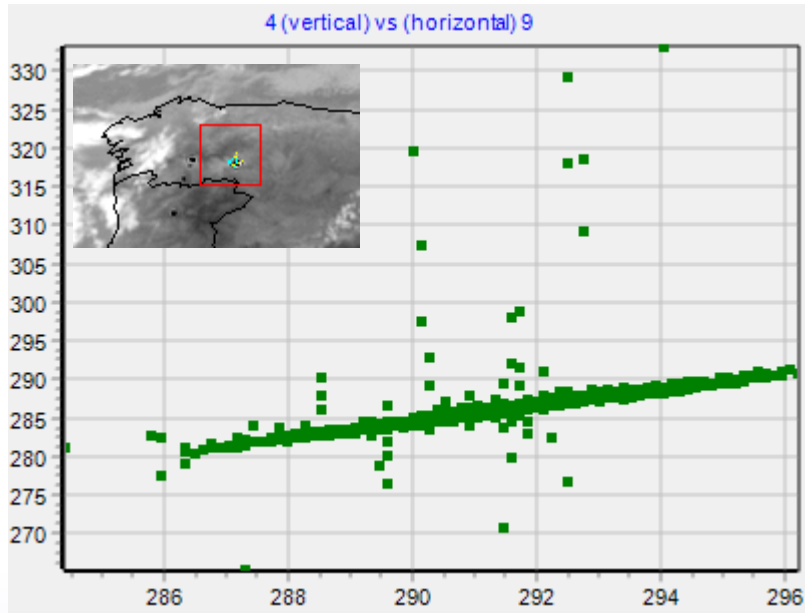
# The fire cycle, pixel by pixel



Fire fronts can increase the pixel albedo, first by the flames emission, later by changing the ground into a burnt surface, more reflective than a forest.  
West wind



# Burnt pixels and hot pixels



The diagram shows in green values for pixels inside the red square (inset)

What are the pixels above the main long cluster?

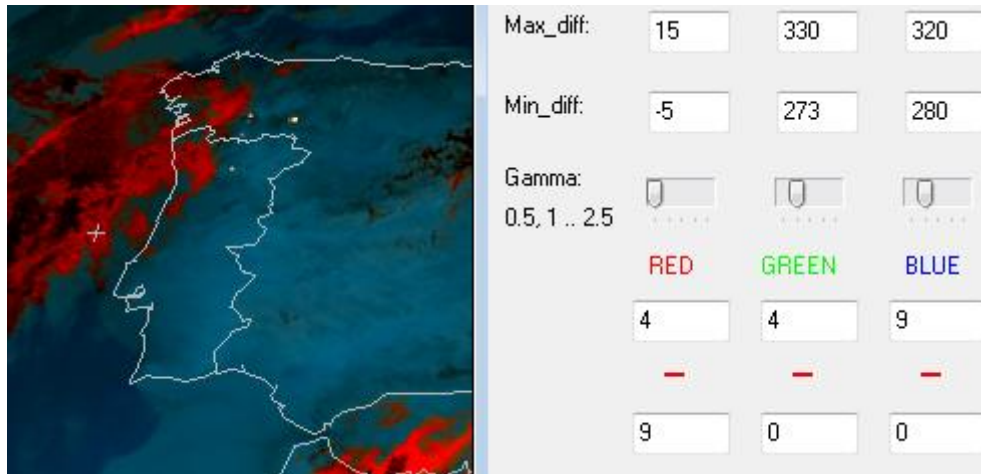
What are those pixels under the cluster?

When was the main burning phase for the pixel in green? (blue pixel is fire and cloud free, 200 km south)

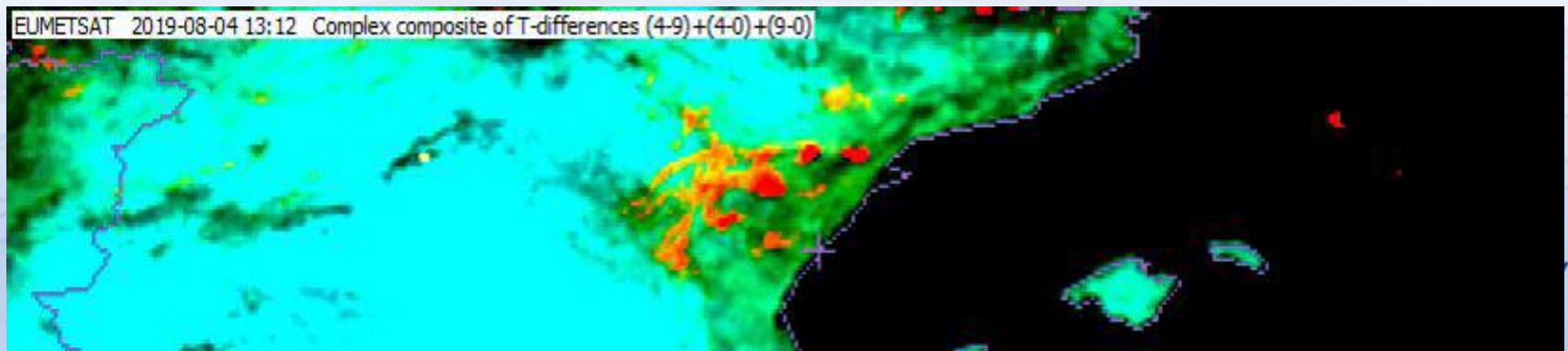
What are the other peaks in the green curve?

Does the fire get variable in intensity?

# One more fire RGB (4-9, 4, 9) recipe for MSG



Cloud, as a hiding factor, in reddish hues  
Fire in yellow, more intense for [stronger fire](#).  
[fermoselle.gif](#)

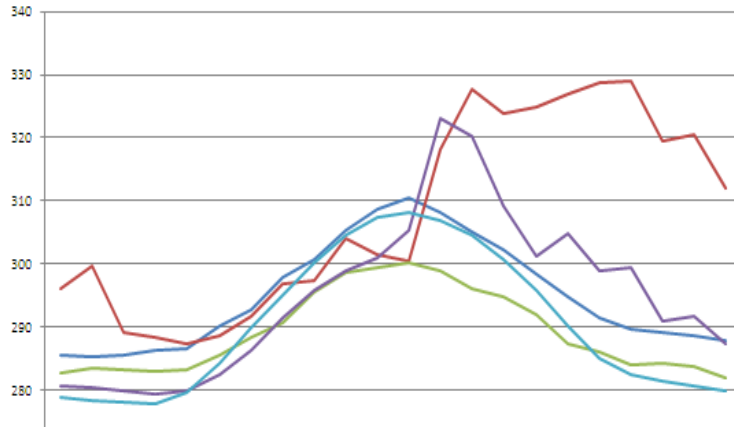




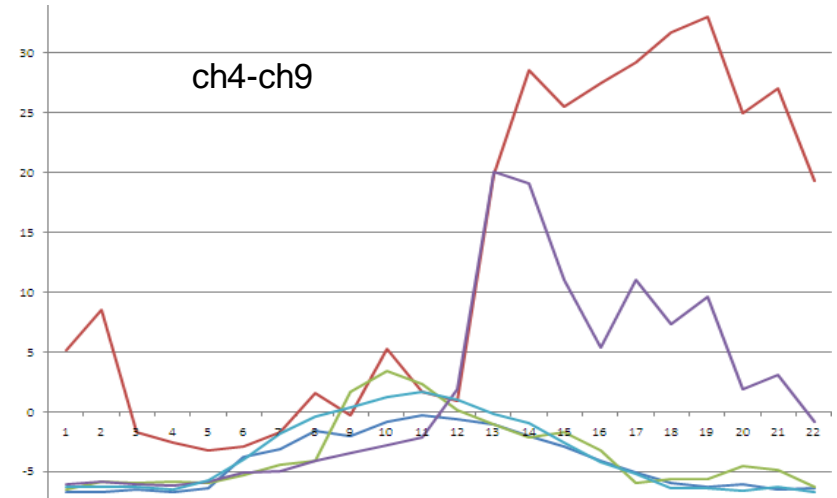
# Hot spots, brightness temperature daily evolution



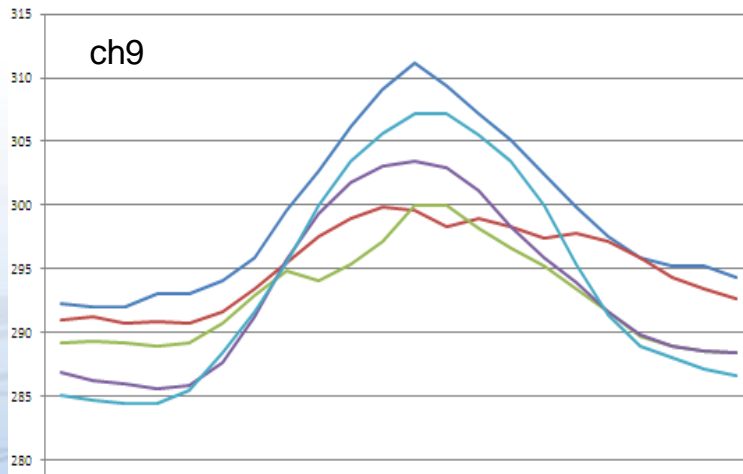
ch4



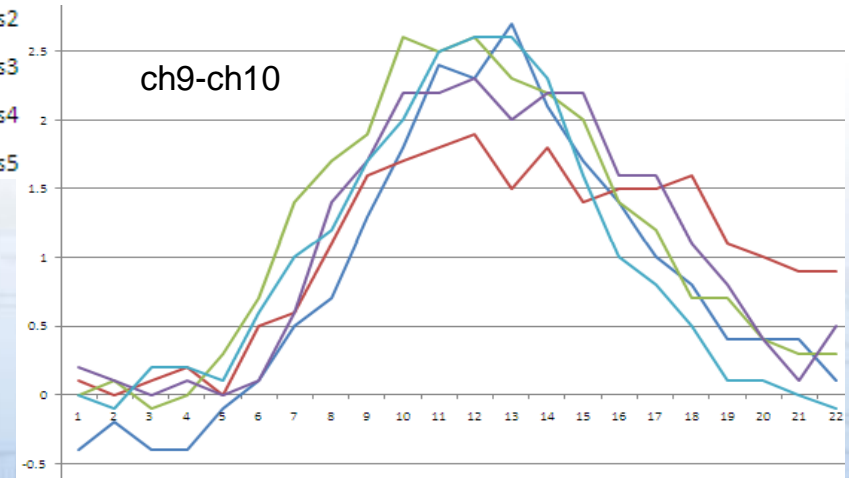
ch4-ch9



ch9



ch9-ch10



Series1

Series2

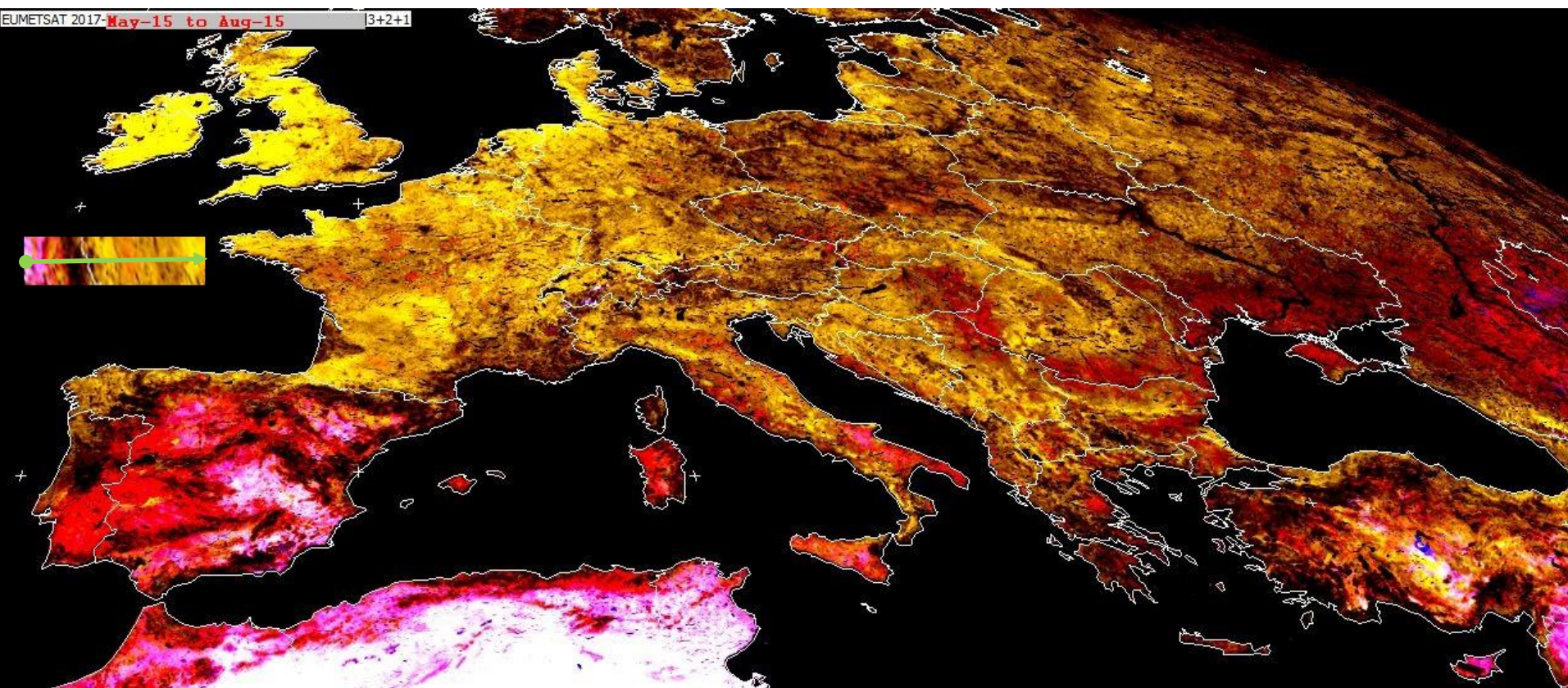
Series3

Series4

Series5

- Stronger response in 3.9 $\mu$ m than in 10.8 $\mu$ m or 12 $\mu$ m
- Optimal index is 3.9 $\mu$ m – 10.8 $\mu$ m
- Alternative index 10.8 $\mu$ m – 12 $\mu$ m, due to humidity increase?

# Drought as a fire risk indicator



Dry + Vegetation = Fire risk

Algorithm based on  $RGB = \left( \begin{matrix} \min\_in\_sequence(\max\_on\_pixel(c3, c2)) \\ \min\_in\_sequence(c2) \\ \min\_in\_sequence(c1) \end{matrix} \right)$

c3: sandy



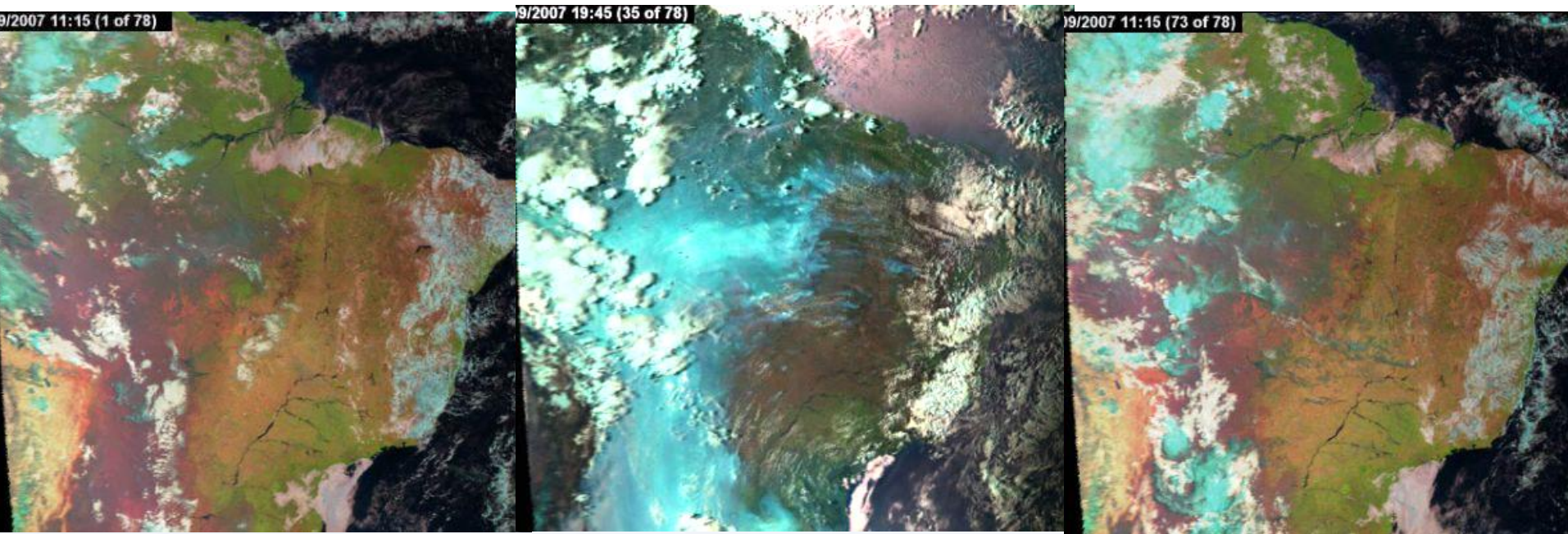
c1: dry

c2: growing

Fire risk areas in brown or red.



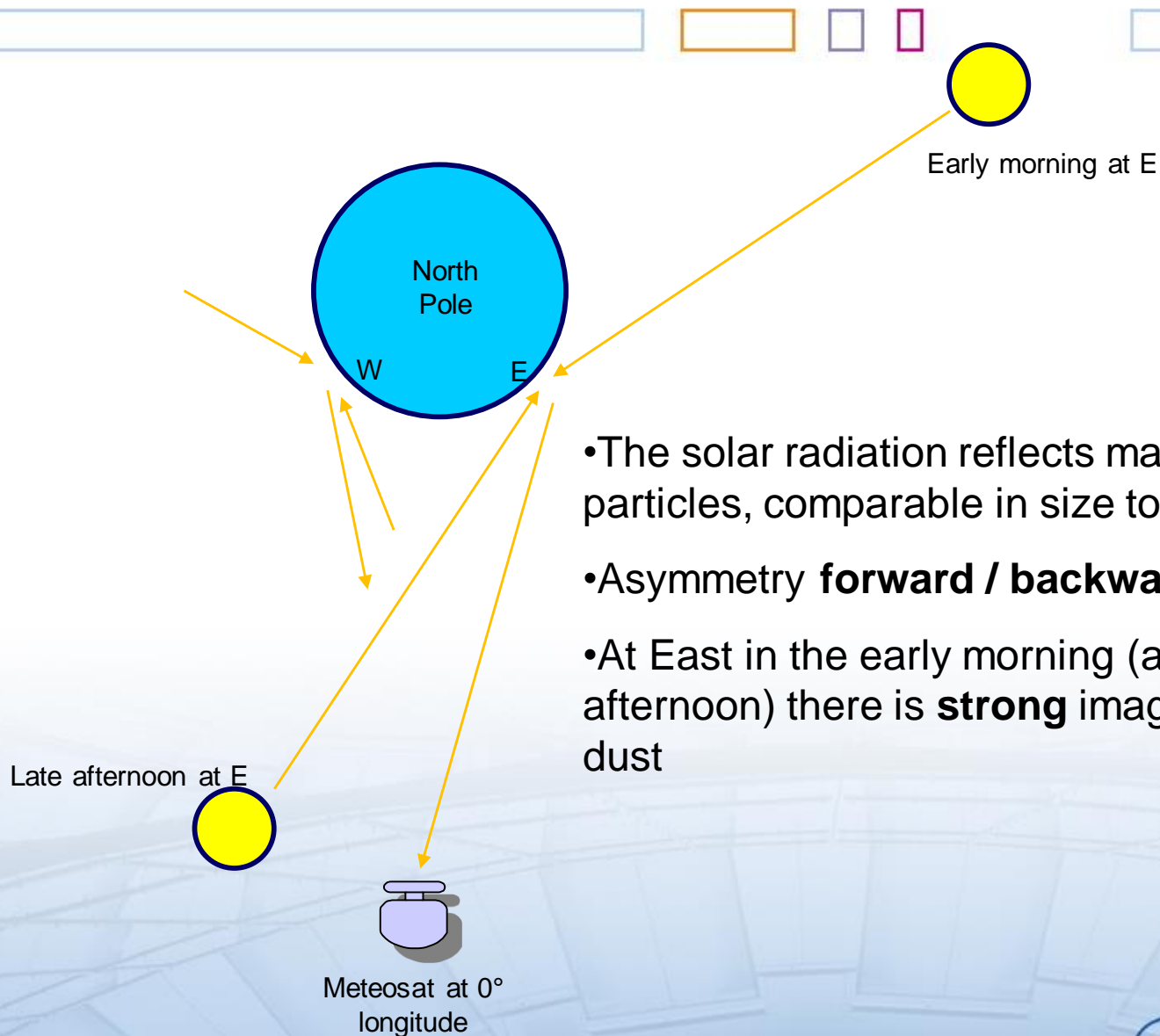
# Smoke



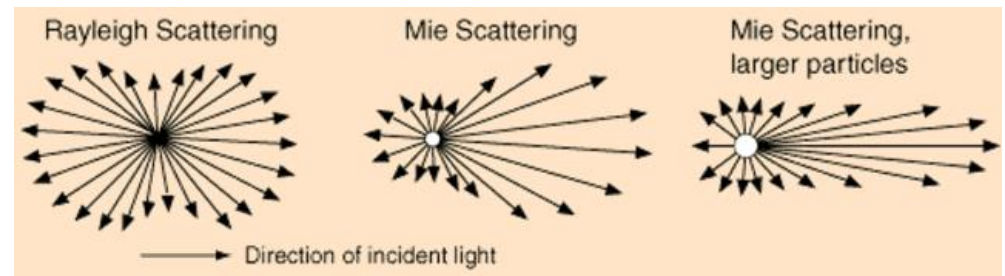
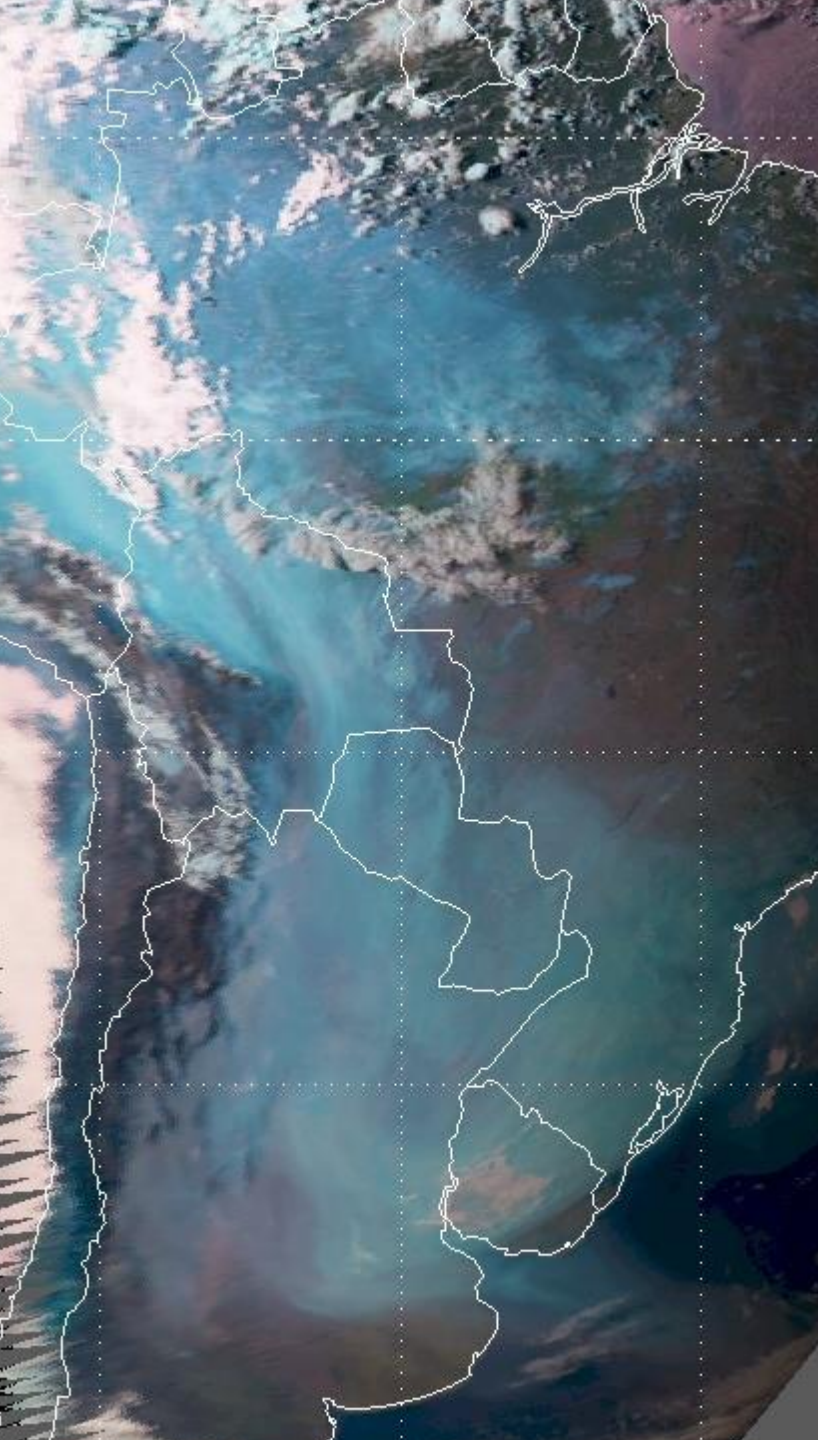
5-6 September 2007, Meteosat-9  
Around sunrise and sunset times for central south America

Assuming no major smoke sink or source in 24 hours, the intensity difference is due to the sun angle

# Image contrast for smoke or dust in solar images

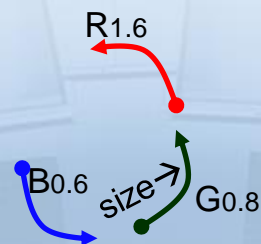
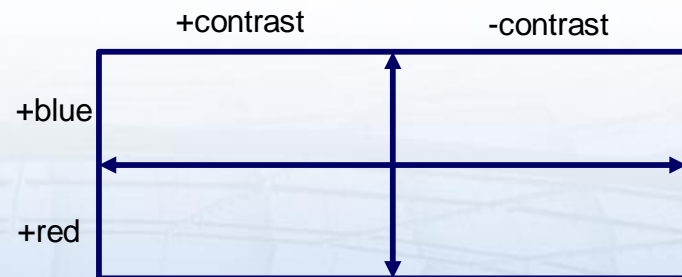






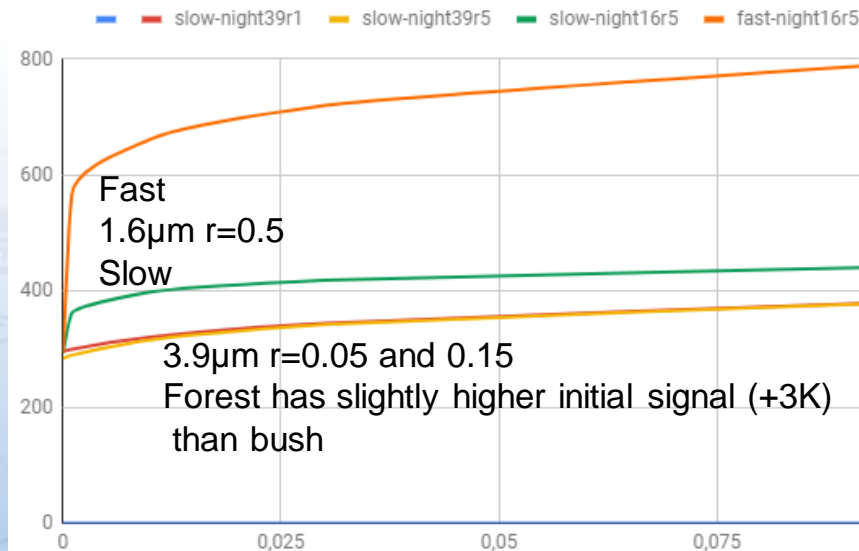
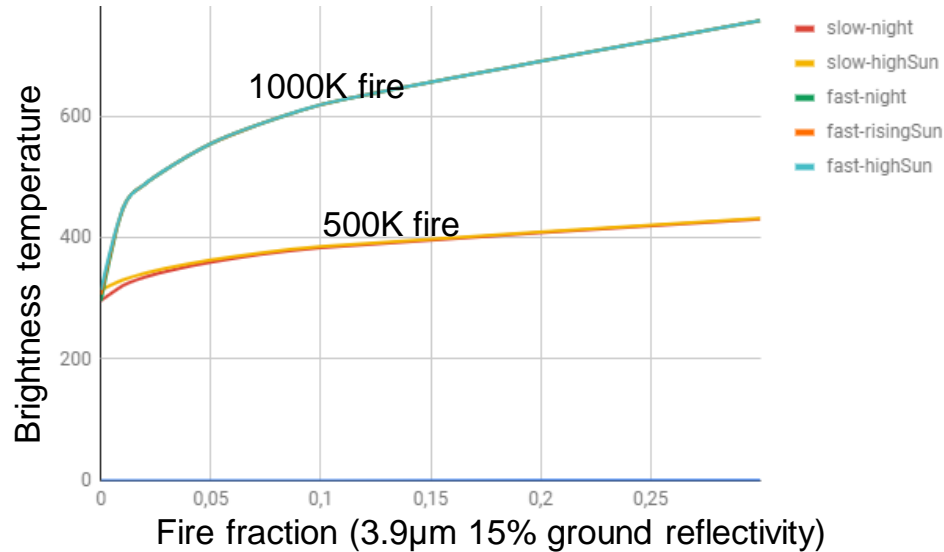
- Smaller wavelengths favoured by forward scattering
- Blue-cyan colour due to 1.6  $\mu\text{m}$  rather Rayleigh
- Scattering intensity higher in the western late afternoon

What if smoke particles were **smaller**?  
More contrast (intense)? Redder or bluer in hue?



Smaller Bigger

# Characterise a fire



In the EUMETSAT moodle repository above. Not easy to display in Chrome



## Brightness temperature at 3.9 micron for detecting fire in the pixel

### Fires brightness temperature (BT)

This applet interface describes with sliders the characteristics of the atmosphere, and provides the BT at 3.9 $\mu$ m (or 10.8 $\mu$ m with the button) for different types of soil, times of the day (sun elevation), intense and extensive fires and cloud above.

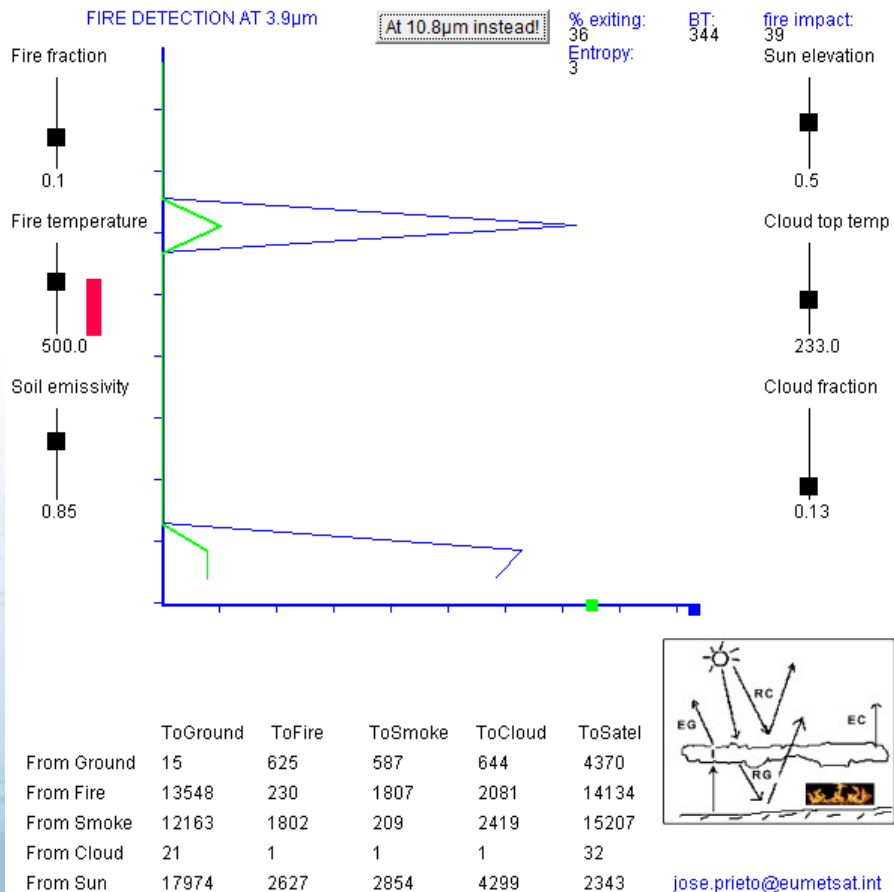
Green indicates the amount of cloud, fire and soil emissivity (bottom green square). Blue is the fraction of radiation from different sources exiting the Earth, the rest being absorbed by the Earth-atmosphere.

The global value is given in upper line. The reddish square close to the Fire Temperature slider gives an idea of the extent and intensity of the fire and its size depends on the first two sliders. Its colour is given by the brightness temperature difference (fire impact) with and without the fire. Red indicates that the difference is above 5 K, so the satellite could see the fire.

The bottom table specifies the actual amounts of energy exchanged by the elements in the scene, relative to 100000 photons emitted in total by all surfaces, upwards and downwards.

Back to work:

1. First, set all sliders to 0, but "Soil emissivity" to 1 (absolutely non-reflective ground. Usually, it should be between 0.50 for desert or savannah and 0.85 for thick forest). Notice 100% of the emitted radiation reaches the satellite. This proportion will decrease when new sources are added.
2. Set the Cloud thickness to some intermediate value, and observe the changes. What do you expect for a brightness temperature, as a function of the Cloud top temperature? Are you correct? If not, why?
3. Back to Cloud thickness zero, try with Sun elevation, the sun rising over the horizon and sending radiation at 3.9 $\mu$ m into the atmosphere and back to the satellite. Any changes when you move the slider? How does BT vary when we change Soil emissivity on the ground?





# Conclusions

- Channel 3.8 $\mu$ m in MTG is an excellent detection tool for active fires above 100m across (1 Ha), and for measuring burnt areas as reflectivity changes
- Statistics on fires (natural or man-made) are missing or affected by sensor **saturation**. However, an approximate retrieval can be attempted based on frequency curves below saturation
- The Land SAF offers a large choice of vegetation products to assess vegetation stress and **fire risk**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!