

Singular Reflections on the Golfo della Botte

Graham Quartly,

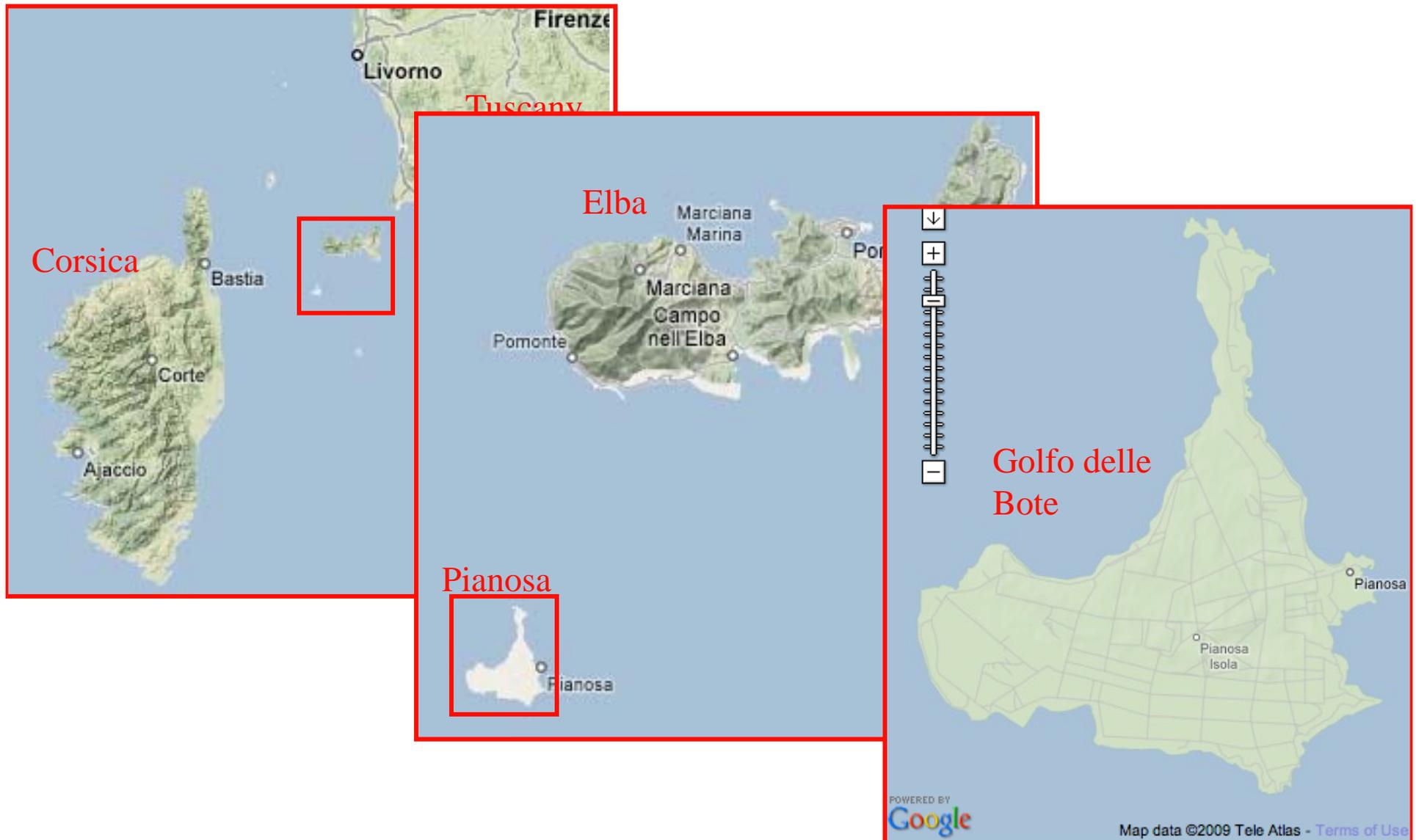
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Where?



An aerial photograph of Pianosa island, showing its irregular shape and brownish terrain. The island is surrounded by deep blue water. In the background, other islands are visible on the horizon under a clear blue sky. A decorative graphic of three parallel diagonal lines is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Why?

Pianosa

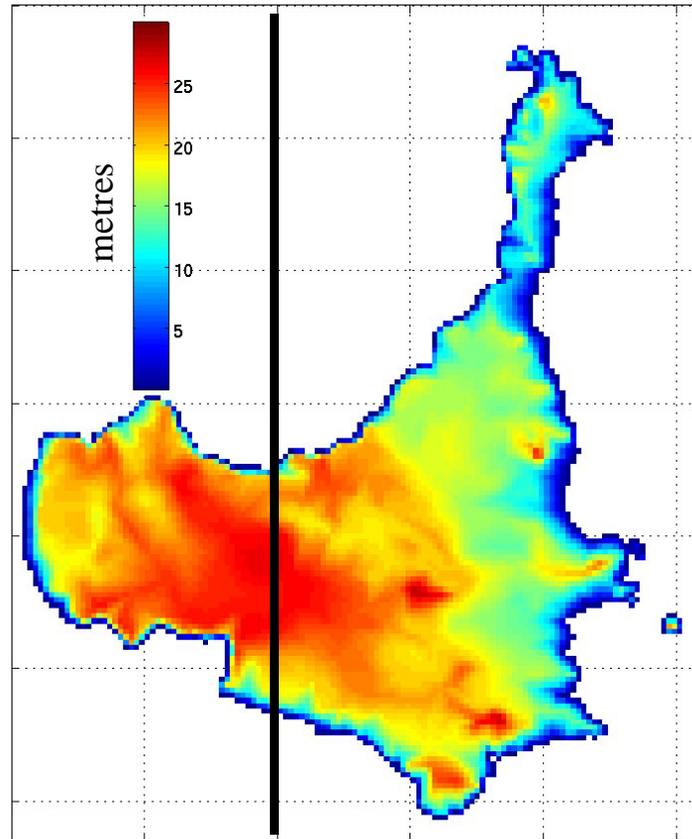
Small island (~10 km²)

Known DEM

Flat (peak ht=28m)

Met. station

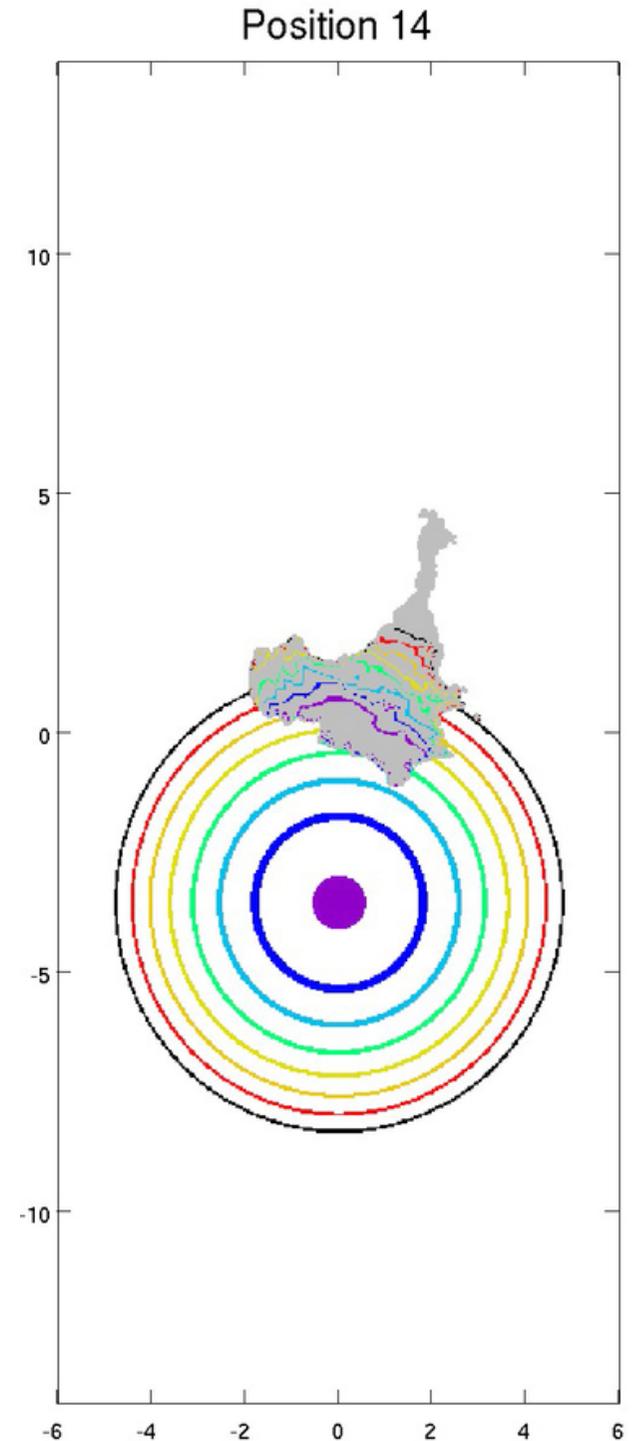
Envisat fly by



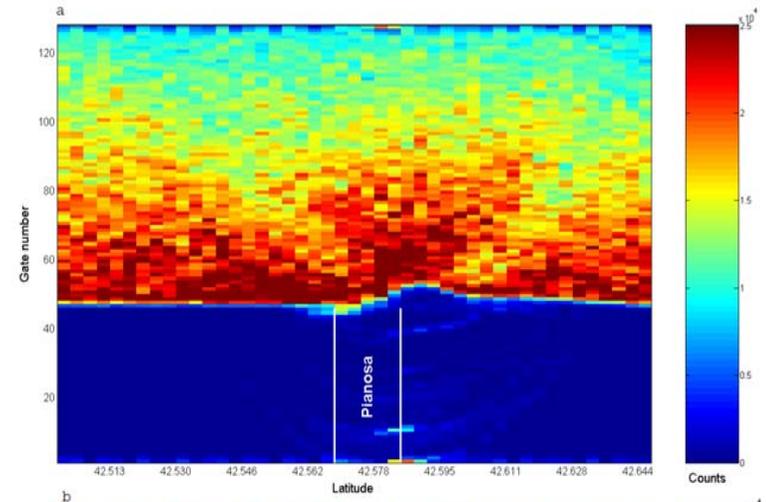
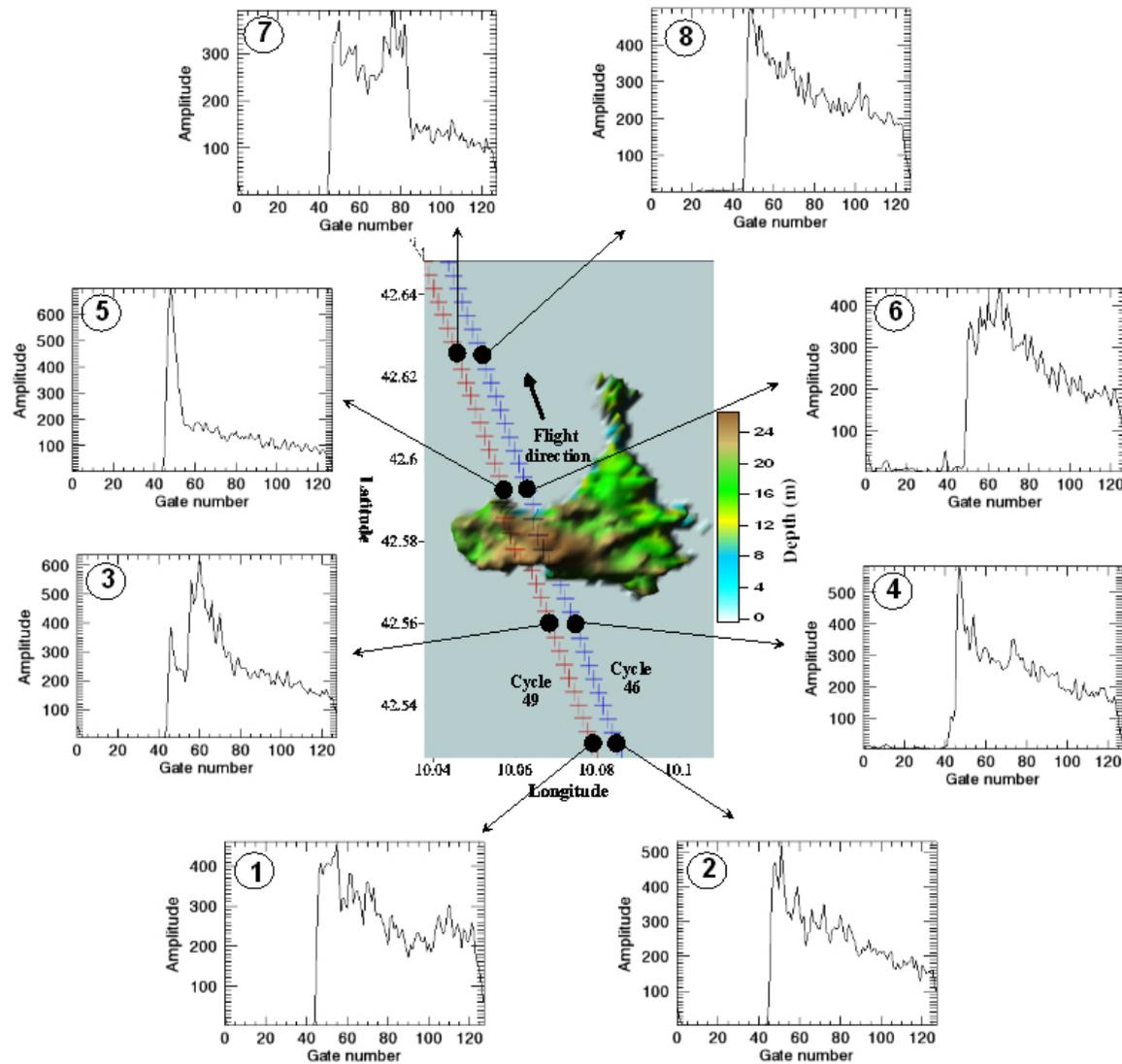
Expected effects on altimetry:

Weaker over land -> power loss for where no sea

Land higher -> Return before track point

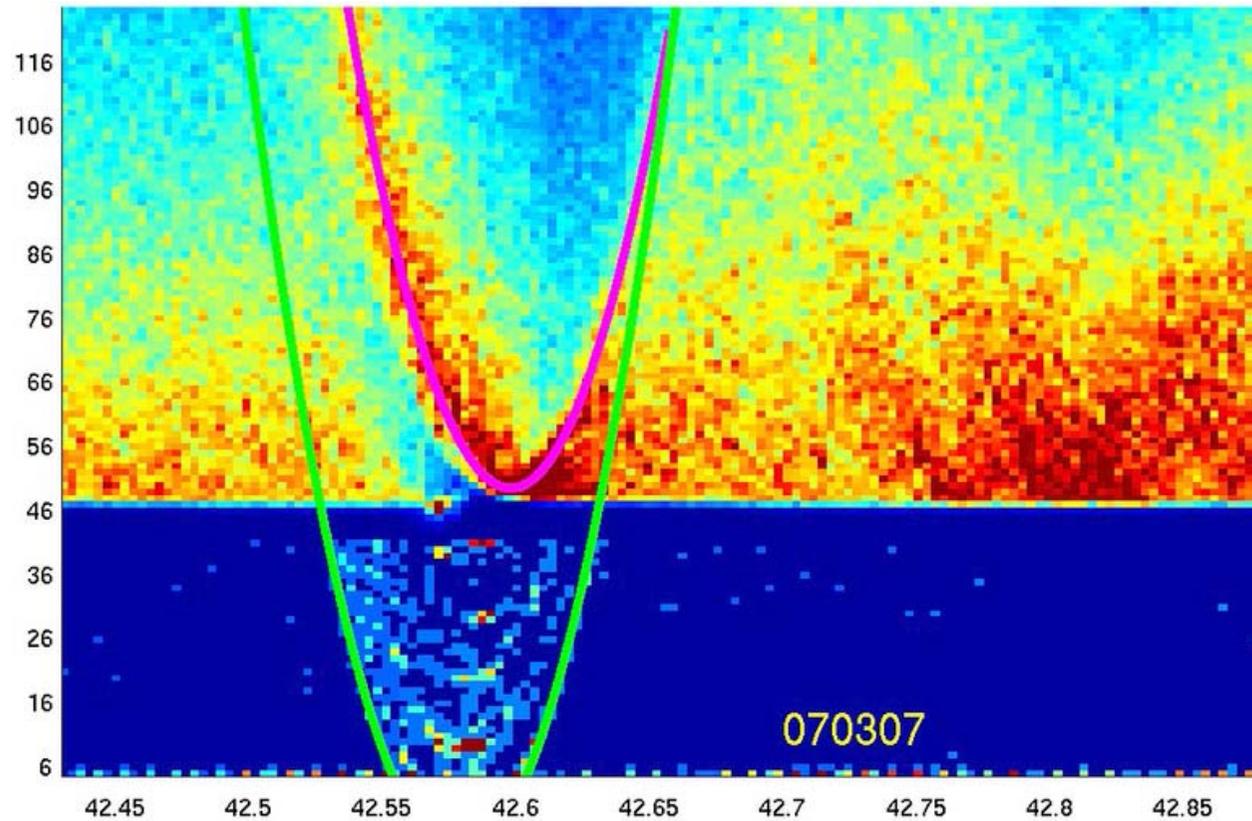


Waveform analysis



20 passes

11 hyperbolae



Physical cause?

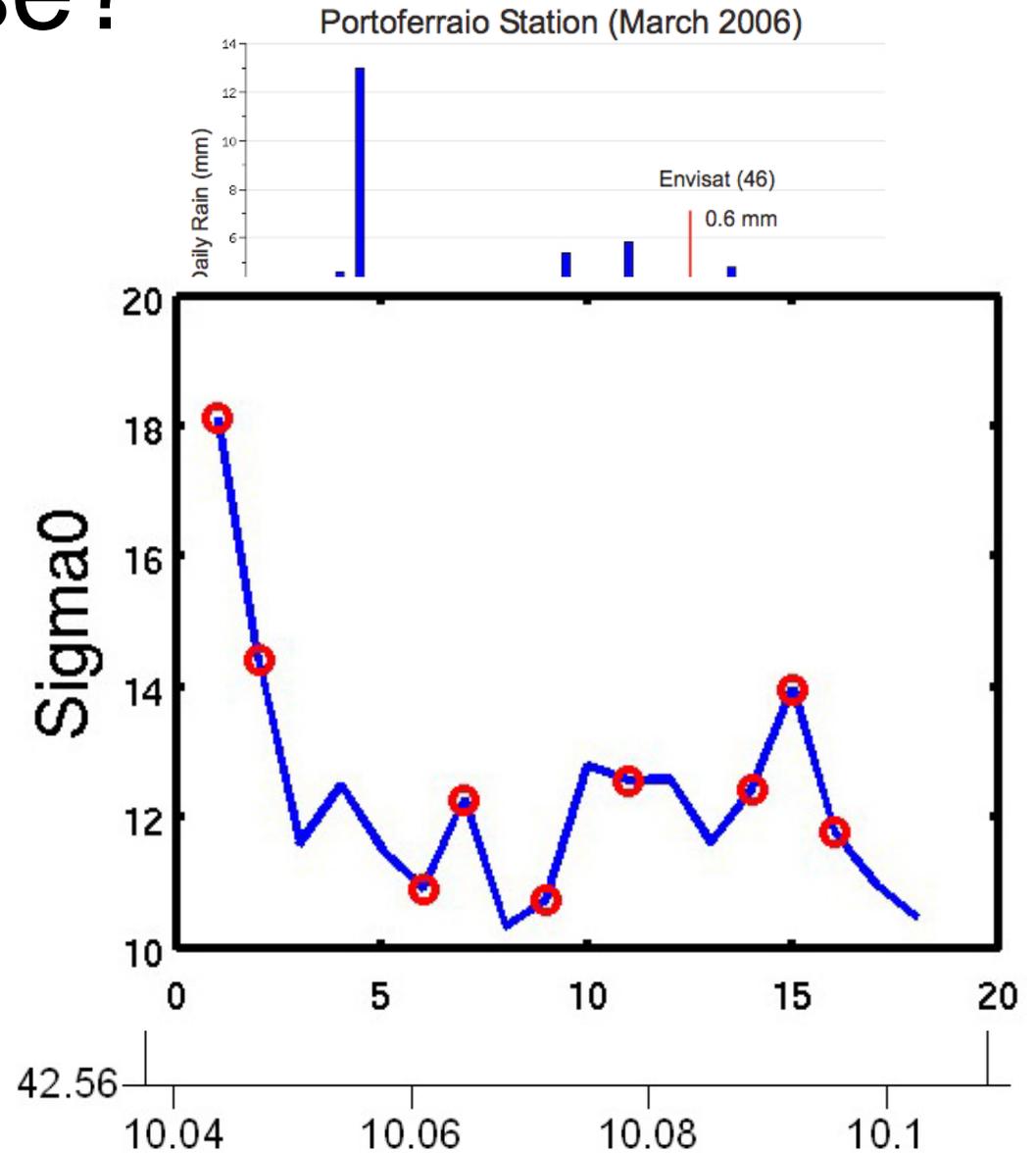
Recent rainfall? **No**

Land target? **No**

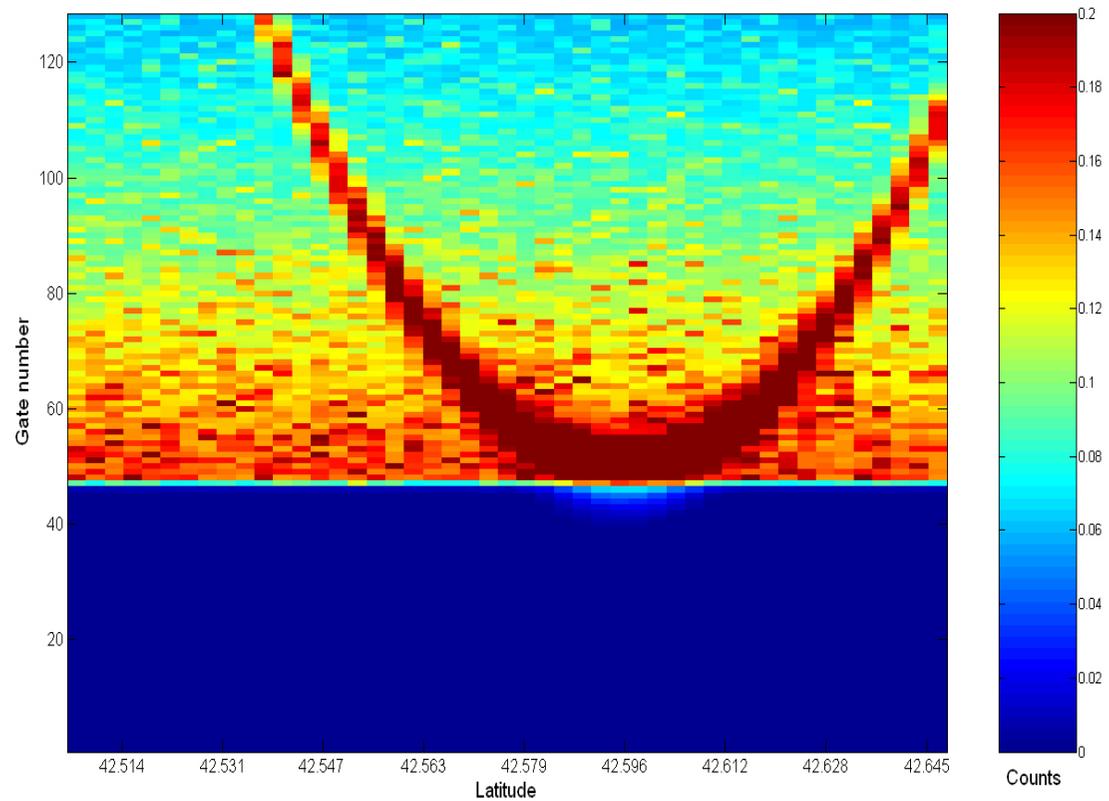
Exposed sand banks? **No**

Wind speed? **No**

Wind direction, waves, c



Simulated signal



Bright target is physically small

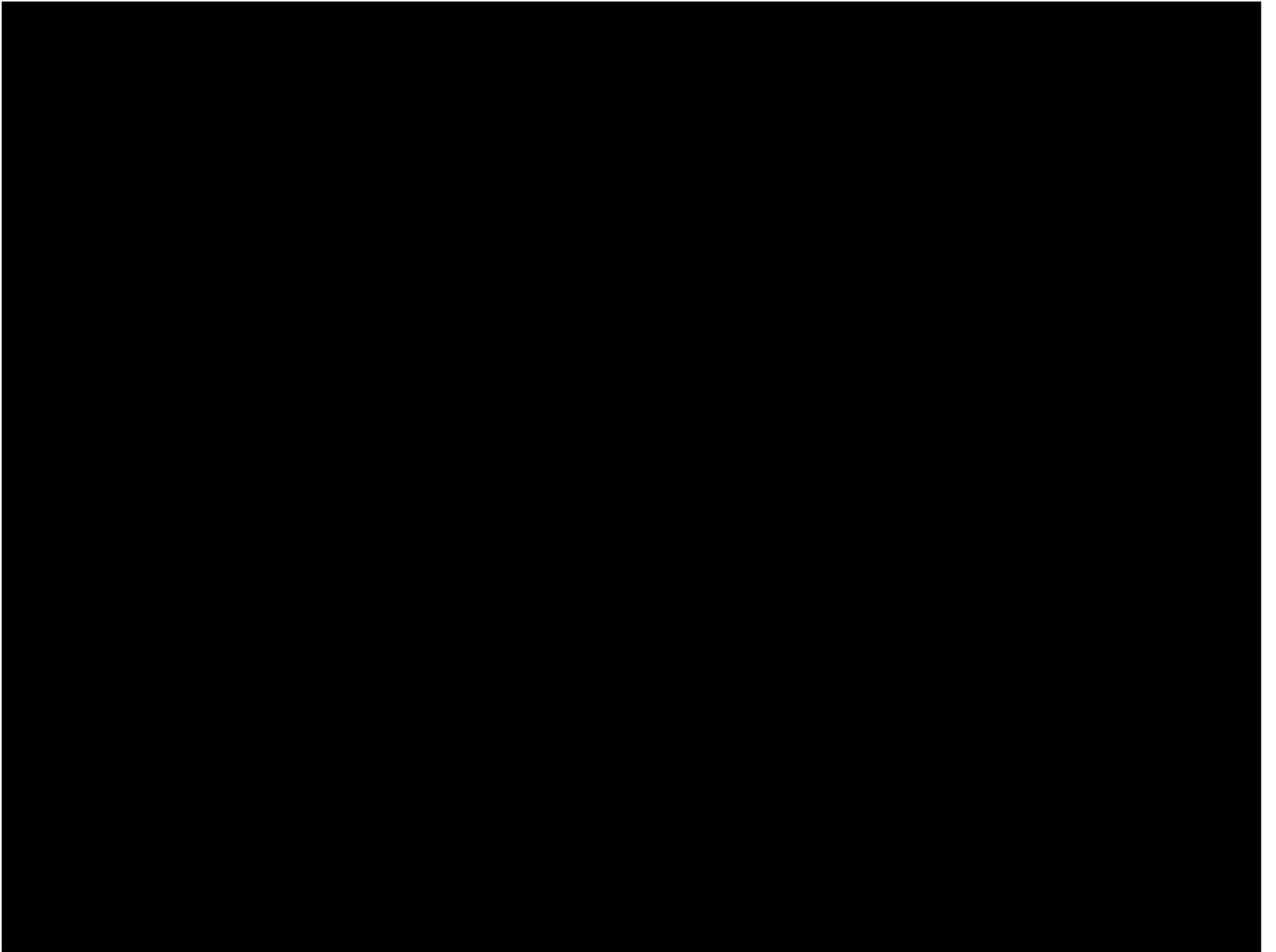
Ongoing work

Understand physical causes

Simulate and remove effects

Achieve altimetry up to coast

Simple, but common, example



Pianosa: land surface



Images from <http://piccard.esil.univmed.fr/venus/>



"Quadratic"

$$(H - h)^2 + \rho^2 = (H + \xi)^2$$

$$\xi = (b - b_0) g \quad ; \quad \rho^2 = \rho_0^2 + v^2 \Delta t^2$$

b - Bin number, g - bin width

ρ_0 - nearest range

v - velocity, Δt - waveform interval

$$(2Hh + h^2 - \rho_0^2) + 2Hg(b - b_0) = v^2 \Delta t^2$$

