

# Consistent Radiometric Calibration of Landsat TM and MSS Sensors

Landsat Science Team Meeting

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# Outline

- Introduction
  - Pseudo-Invariant Calibration Sites (PICS)
- Landsat-4 TM Radiometric Calibration
- MSS Radiometric Calibration
  - Cross-Calibration of MSS sensors
    - Landsat-1 to Landsat-2
    - Landsat-2 to Landsat-4
    - Landsat-3 to Landsat-4
    - Landsat-4 to Landsat-5
  - Validation of Cross-calibration results
- Cross-calibration of Landsat-5 MSS to Landsat-5 TM
- Summary & Open Issues
  
- Acknowledgements:
  - Funding by NASA GSFC & USGS EROS
  - EROS for several hundred Level 0 MSS and TM scenes
  - IP Lab staff: Rajendra Bhatt, Sirish Uprety, Jim Dewald, Luke Weyer



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# Pseudo-Invariant Calibration Site (PICS)

- Pseudo-invariant calibration sites are temporally and spatially stable natural ground targets that are ideally bright, spatially homogeneous, spectrally flat, and are generally located in arid regions.
- Pseudo-invariant sites can be used to
  - Monitor long term radiometric gain of satellite sensors (e.g. Landsat-5 TM)
  - Cross-calibrate multiple satellite sensors that are unable to take image data from the same ground target under simultaneous conditions
- However, the use of this technique requires adequate data collection from invariant sites on a repetitive basis.
- Key pseudo-invariant sites frequently used for Landsat cal-val are: *Libya-4 desert (P181R40)* and *Sonoran desert (P38R38)*.

# PICS for cross-calibration of L4 TM and L5 TM

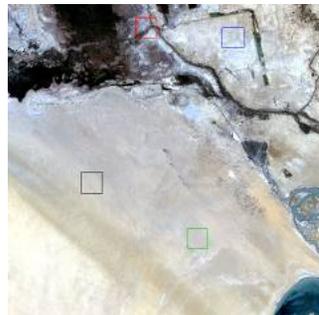
- Limited near coincident PICS collects available for L4 and L5 TM
- Cross-calibration at several points in time was achieved through use of PICS from Egypt, Sonoran Desert, Iraq, Algeria, and Libya.



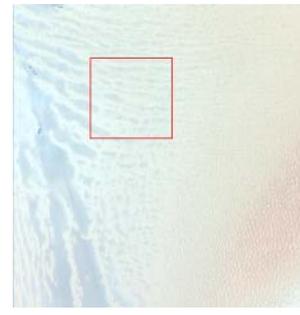
Egypt (path 179  
row 41)



Yuma, Arizona  
(path 38 row 38)



Iraq (path 166 row  
39)



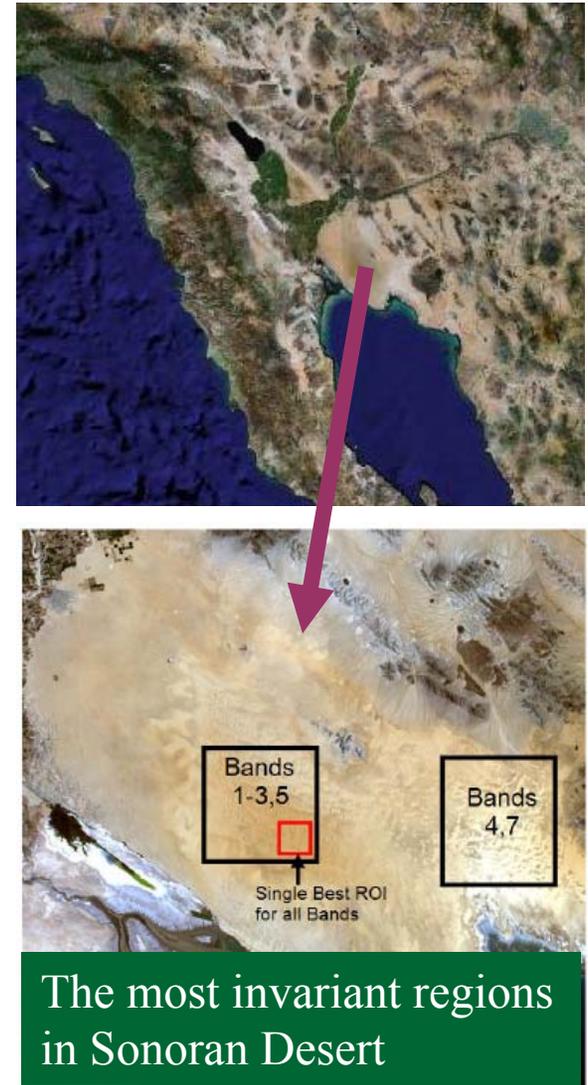
Algeria (path 192  
row 39)



Libya (path 182  
row 42)

## Sonoran Desert: An invariant site in North America

- Large African pseudo-invariant desert sites are considered to be the optimal sites in the world for sensor calibration.
- Many satellite sensors have a limited archive of data from these sites.
- Sonoran desert (on the Mexican American border) was found to have invariant regions comparable to the Saharan desert.
- The lifetime response of L5 TM to these regions agree with LUT07 calibration model to within **1-2% in the visible and 2-3% in the SWIR.**



**Reference:** Daniel L. Morstad, Dennis L. Helder, “*Use of pseudo-invariant sites for long-term sensor calibration*”, IGARSS 2008

# Radiometric formulation

- MSS data in the USGS archive is already radiometrically processed based on internal calibration system.
- The calibrated pixels ( $Q_{CAL}$ ) can be converted to at-sensor radiance ( $L_\lambda$ ) and top-of-atmosphere (TOA) reflectance ( $\rho$ ) using the following equations:

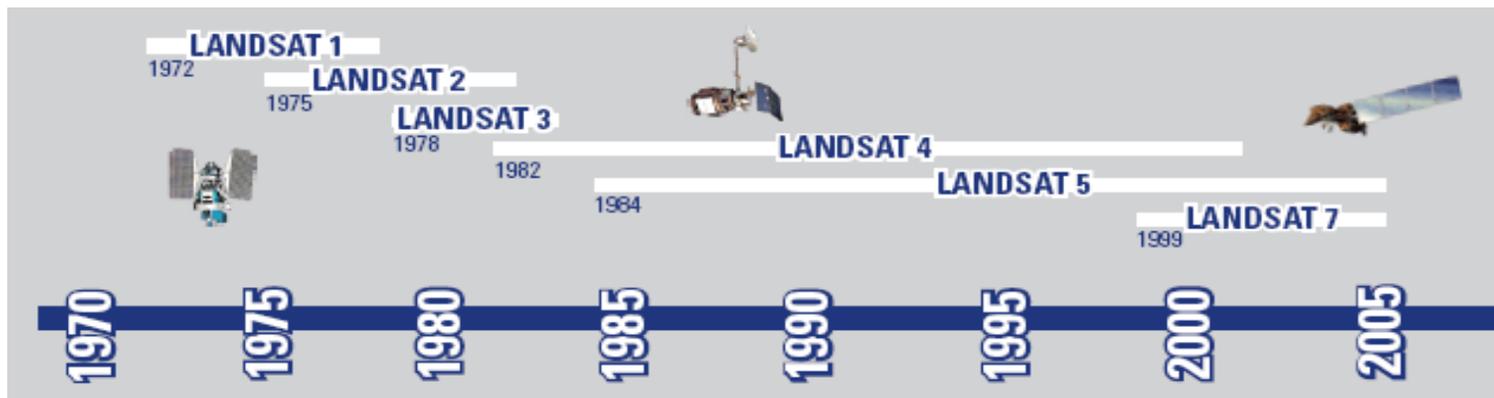
$$L_\lambda = \left( \frac{LMAX_\lambda - LMIN_\lambda}{Q_{CALMAX}} \right) Q_{CAL} + LMIN_\lambda \quad \rho = \left( \frac{\pi L_\lambda d^2}{ESUN_\lambda \cos\theta} \right)$$

where,

- $LMIN_\lambda$  and  $LMAX_\lambda$  are known as post-calibration dynamic ranges and their values are given for all five MSS sensors
- $d$  = Earth-sun distance in astronomical units (AU),
- $ESUN_\lambda$  = mean solar exoatmospheric spectral irradiances, and
- $\theta$  = solar zenith angle for the image portion of interest

# Landsat-1 to -7 Characteristics

Satellite	Launched	Decommissioned	Sensors	Orbit
Landsat-1	July 23, 1972	January 6, 1978	RBV*, MSS	18 days/900 km
Landsat-2	January 22, 1975	February 25, 1982	RBV, MSS	18 days/900 km
Landsat-3	March 5, 1978	March 31, 1983	RBV, MSS	18 days/900 km
Landsat-4	July 16, 1982	June 15, 2001	MSS, TM	16 days/705 km
Landsat-5	March 1, 1984	<b>Still Alive after almost 25 years</b>	MSS, TM	16 days/705 km
Landsat-6	October 5, 1993	Failure upon launch	ETM	16 days/705 km
Landsat-7	April 15, 1999		ETM+	16 days/705 km



\*The RBV (Return Beam Vidicon) cameras did not achieve the popularity of the MSS sensor

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# L4 TM to L5 TM Cross- Calibration

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# L4 TM Cross-Cal Key Issues

- Absolute Cross-calibration to Landsat 5 TM
    - Original work from Iraq and Sonora sites in 1990; approximately 2% uncertainty.
    - Updated with data from Egypt (1987), Libya (P182R42, 1988), approx. 2% uncertainty
  - Consistent story from all data sources
  - Consistent story across bands
  - Use of Iraq as trending site due to First Gulf War
  - Lack of sufficient PICS data for trending purposes
  - Gap in instrument operation from 1984 -- 1987
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## Key Issues (cont.)

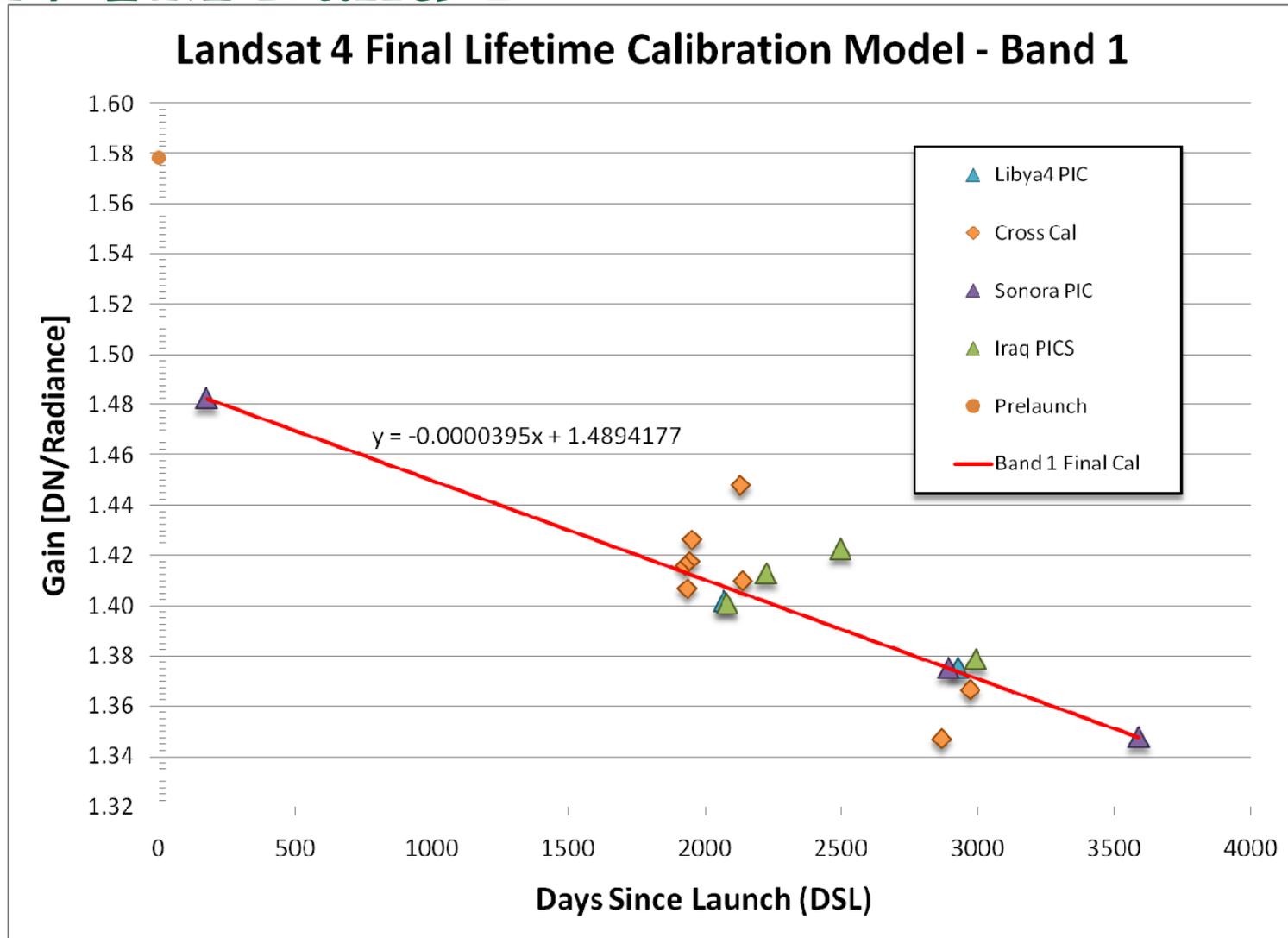
- Use of L5 long term trends to model L4
    - Quickly dismissed; no similarities
  - Reluctance to depend significantly on IC due to experience with Landsat 5 TM
    - Limited use due to lack of IC data for pre-gap model
    - IC post-gap model essentially mirrors L5—limited use
  - Appropriate use of absolute/relative data sources
    - Ranking of data wrt to confidence level
    - Combination of absolute and relative models to provide update to post-gap recommendation
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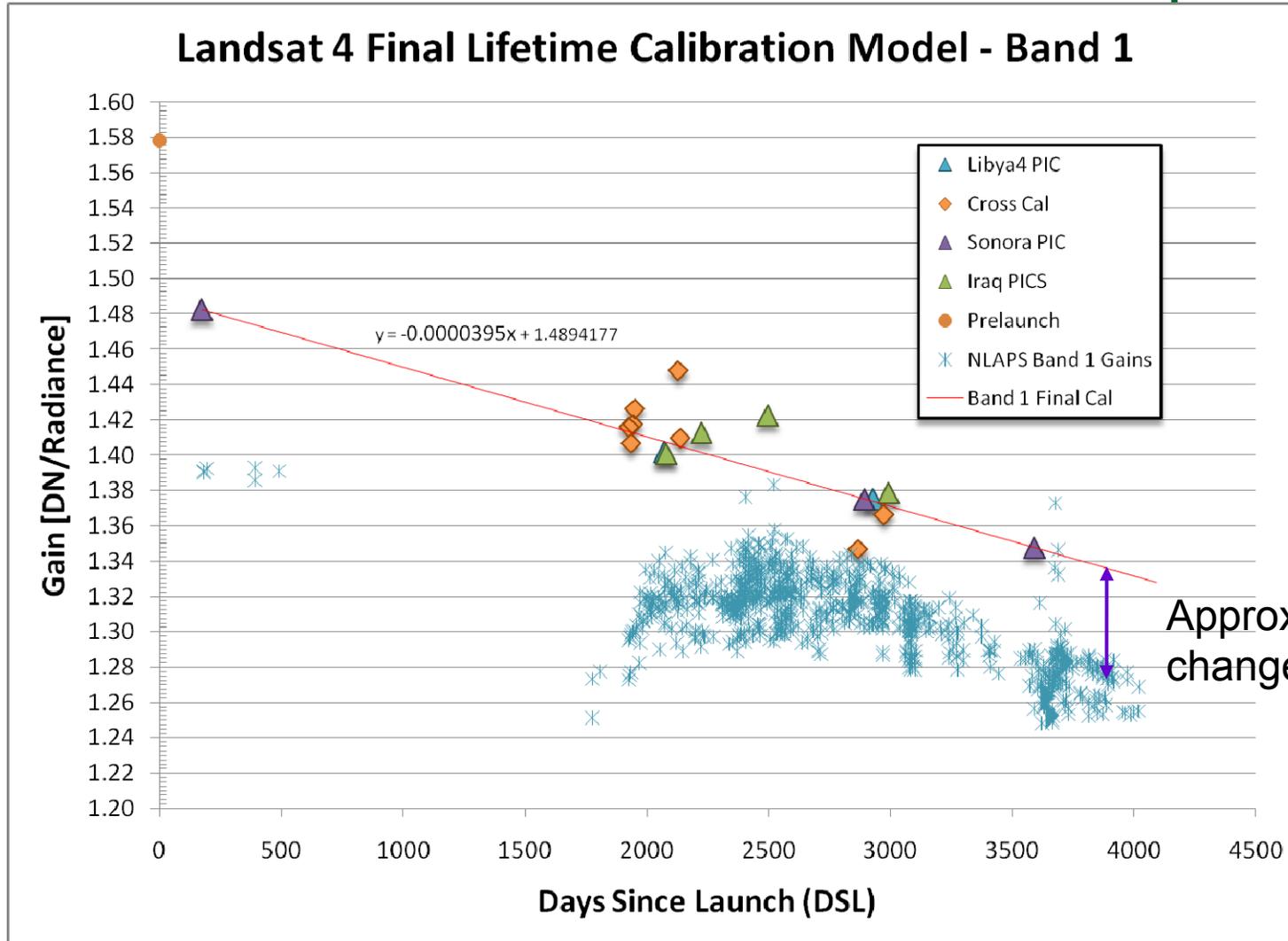
# Procedure Followed for L4 Calibration

1. Accept cross-calibration with L5 as absolute anchor point at essentially two points in time
    - ❑ Internal consistency on the order of 2%
    - ❑ Reject obvious outlier
  2. Accept Libya-4 and Sonora trending data
    - ❑ Proven consistency at 3% or less
    - ❑ Anchor at absolute cross-cal dates
  3. Accept pre-gulf war Iraqi sites
    - ❑ Use as additional trending data
    - ❑ Reject all post-gulf war Iraqi data (excessive uncertainties)
  4. Fit appropriate (i.e. simple!) mathematical model for LUT
-

# L4 TM Band 1

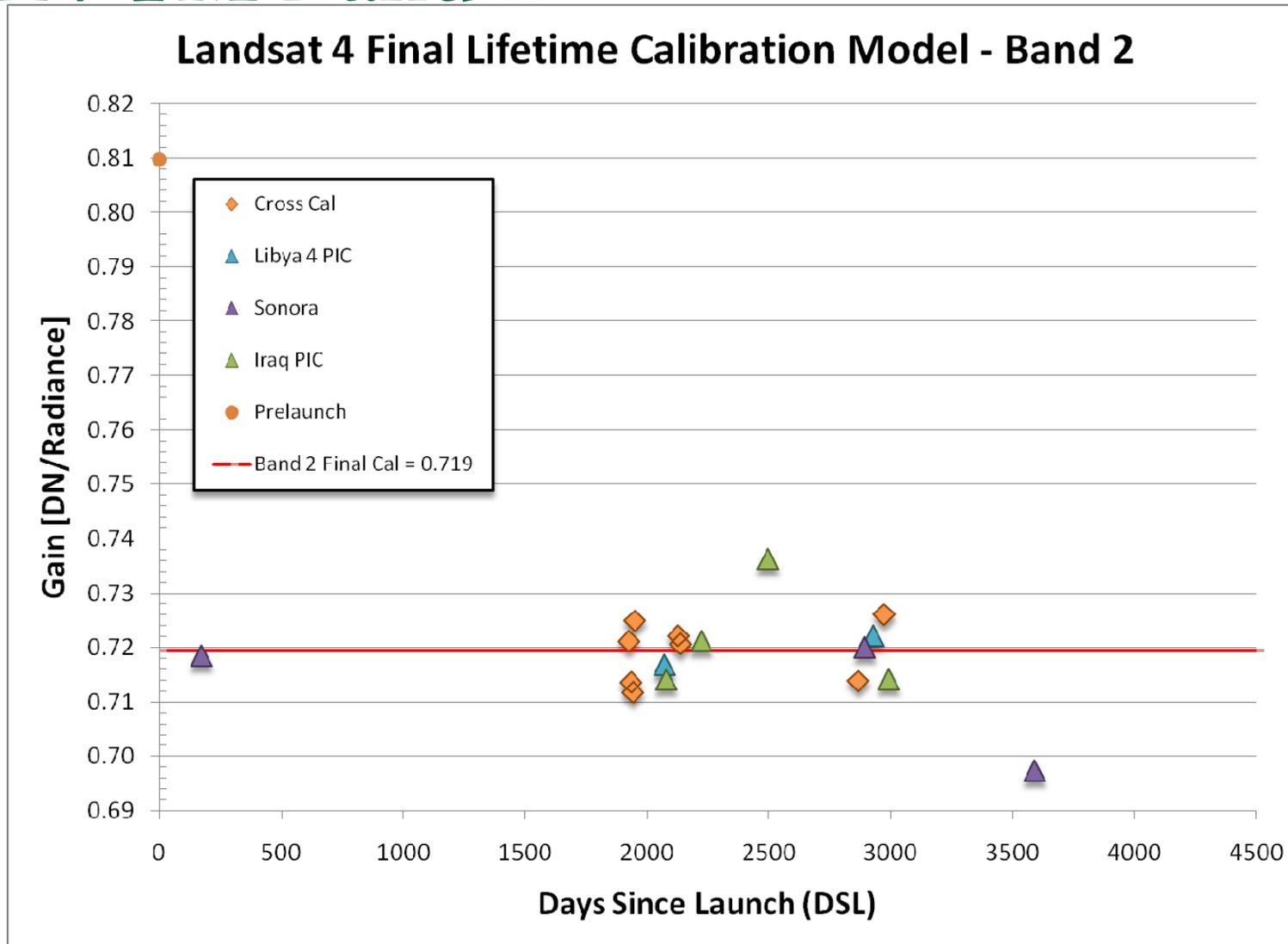


# L4 TM Band 1 – NLAPS Comparison

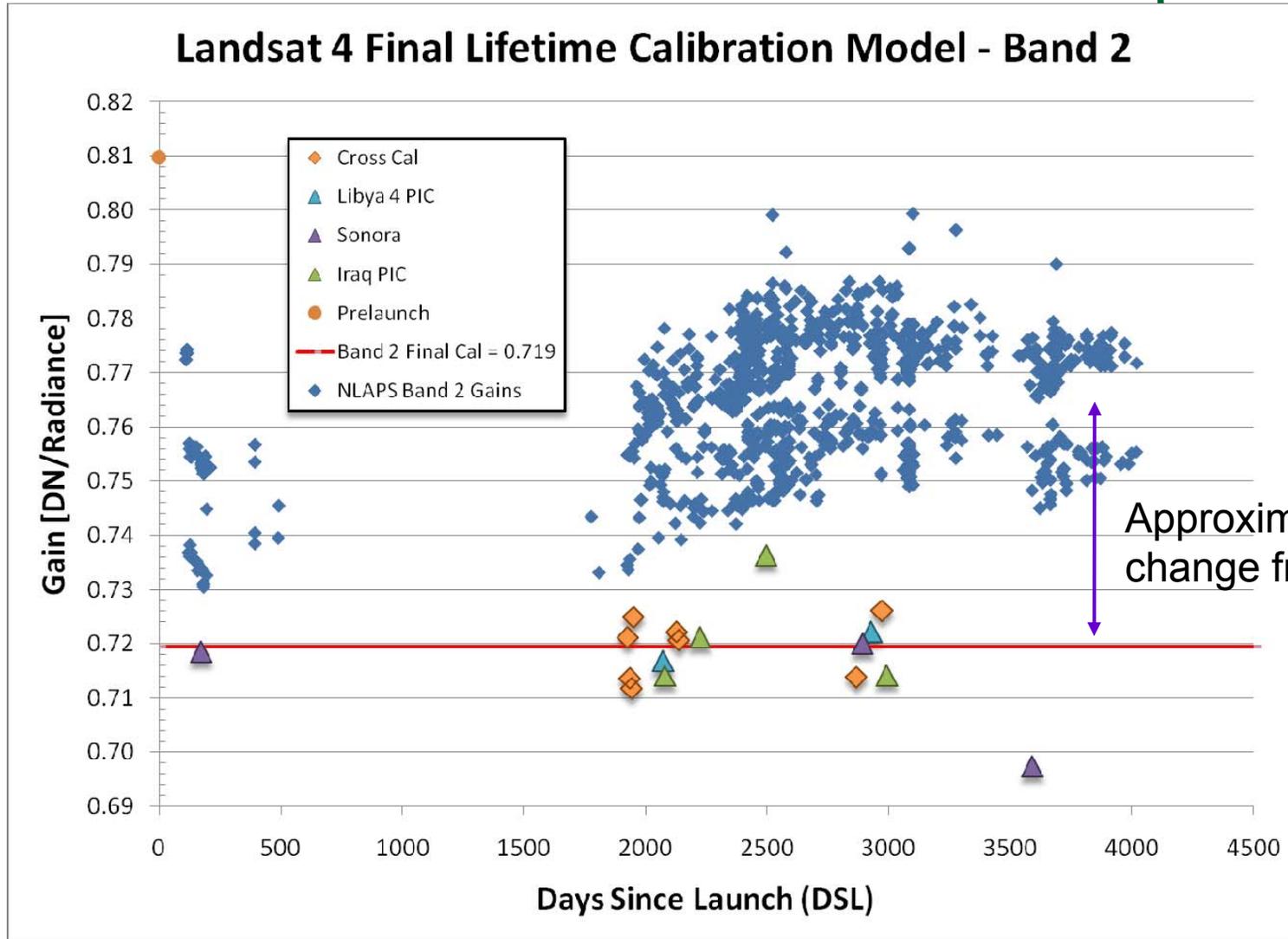


Approximately 6%  
change from NLAPS

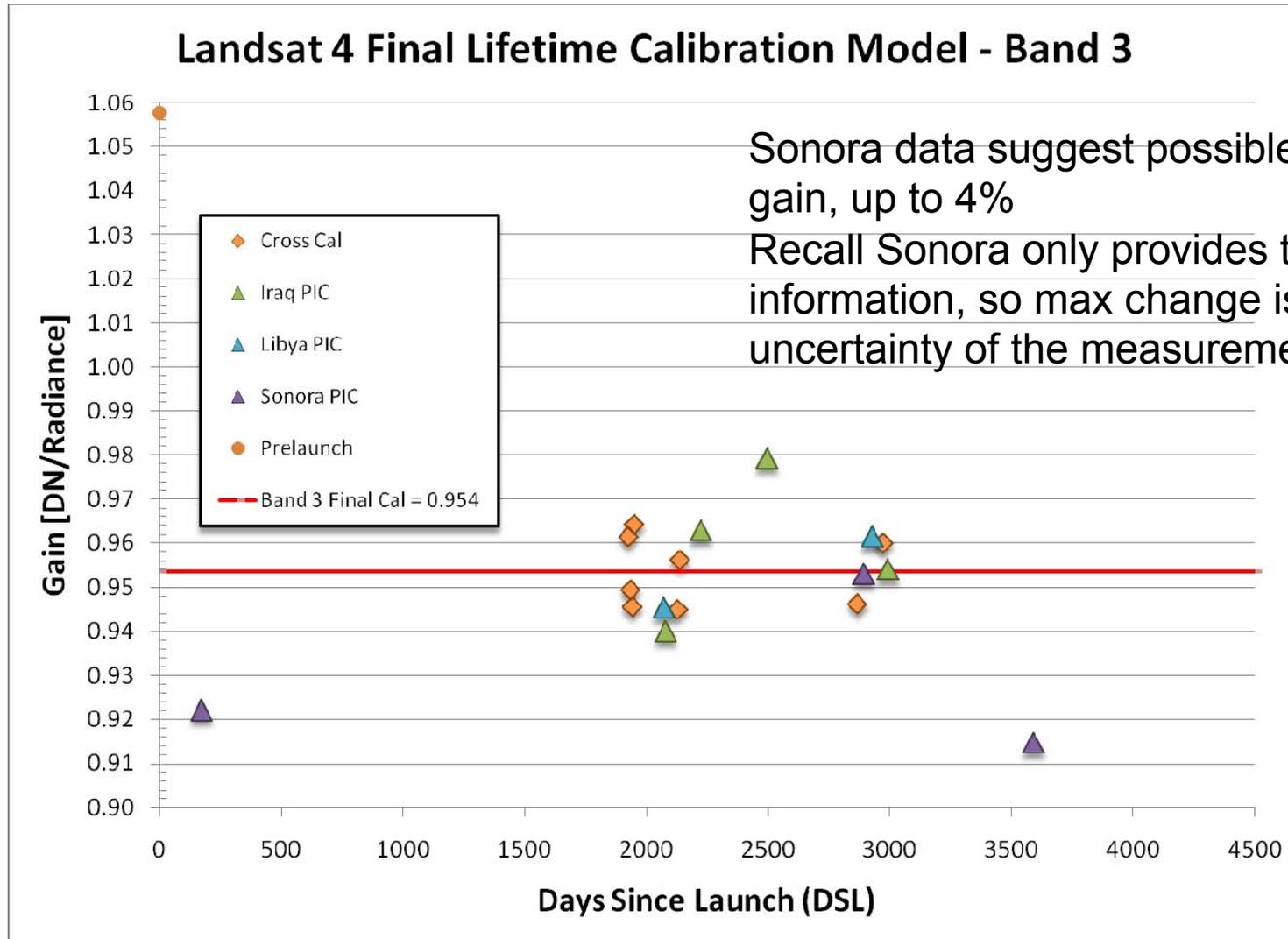
# L4 TM Band 2



# L4 TM Band 2 – NLAPS Comparison

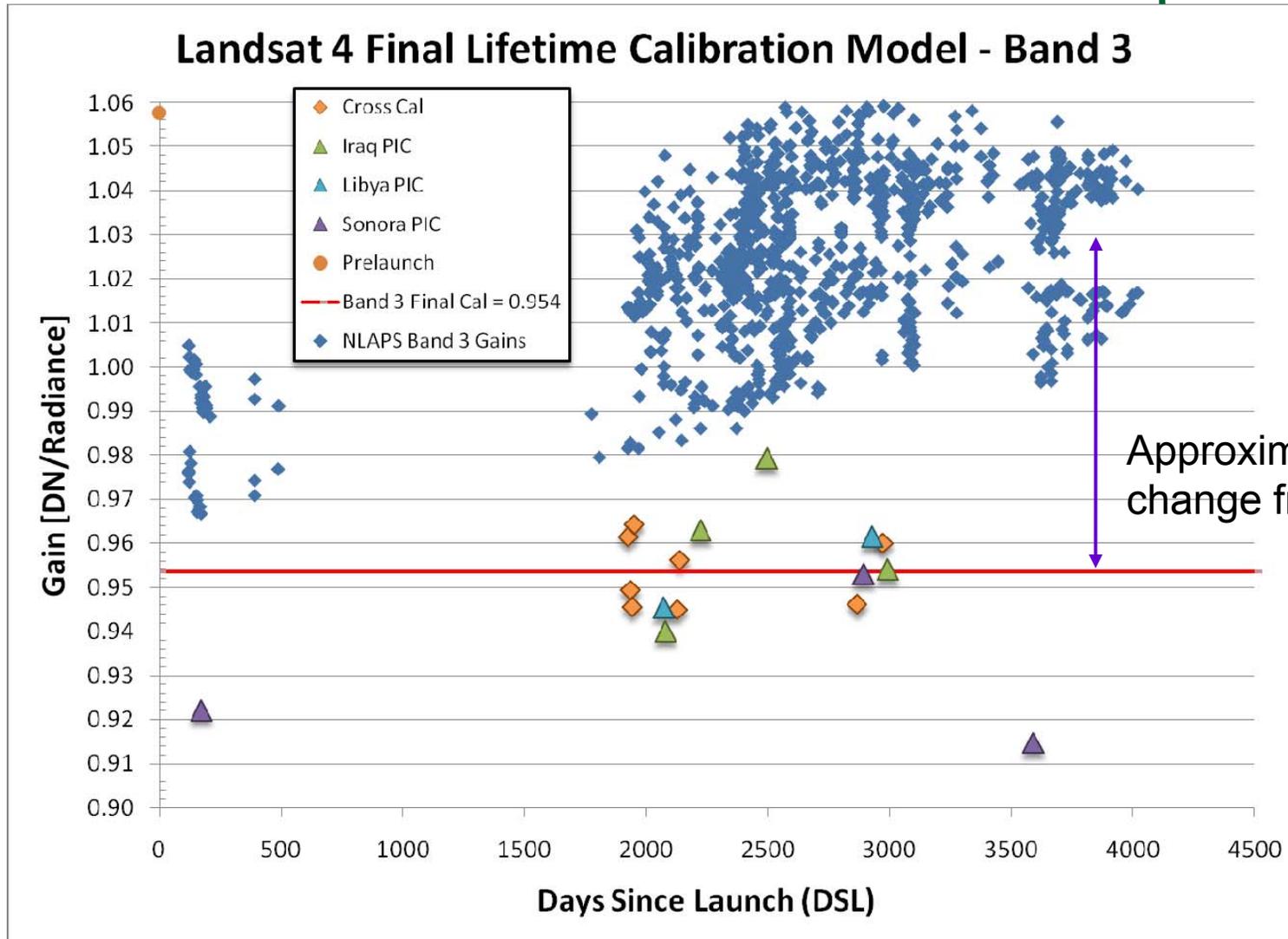


# L4 TM Band 3

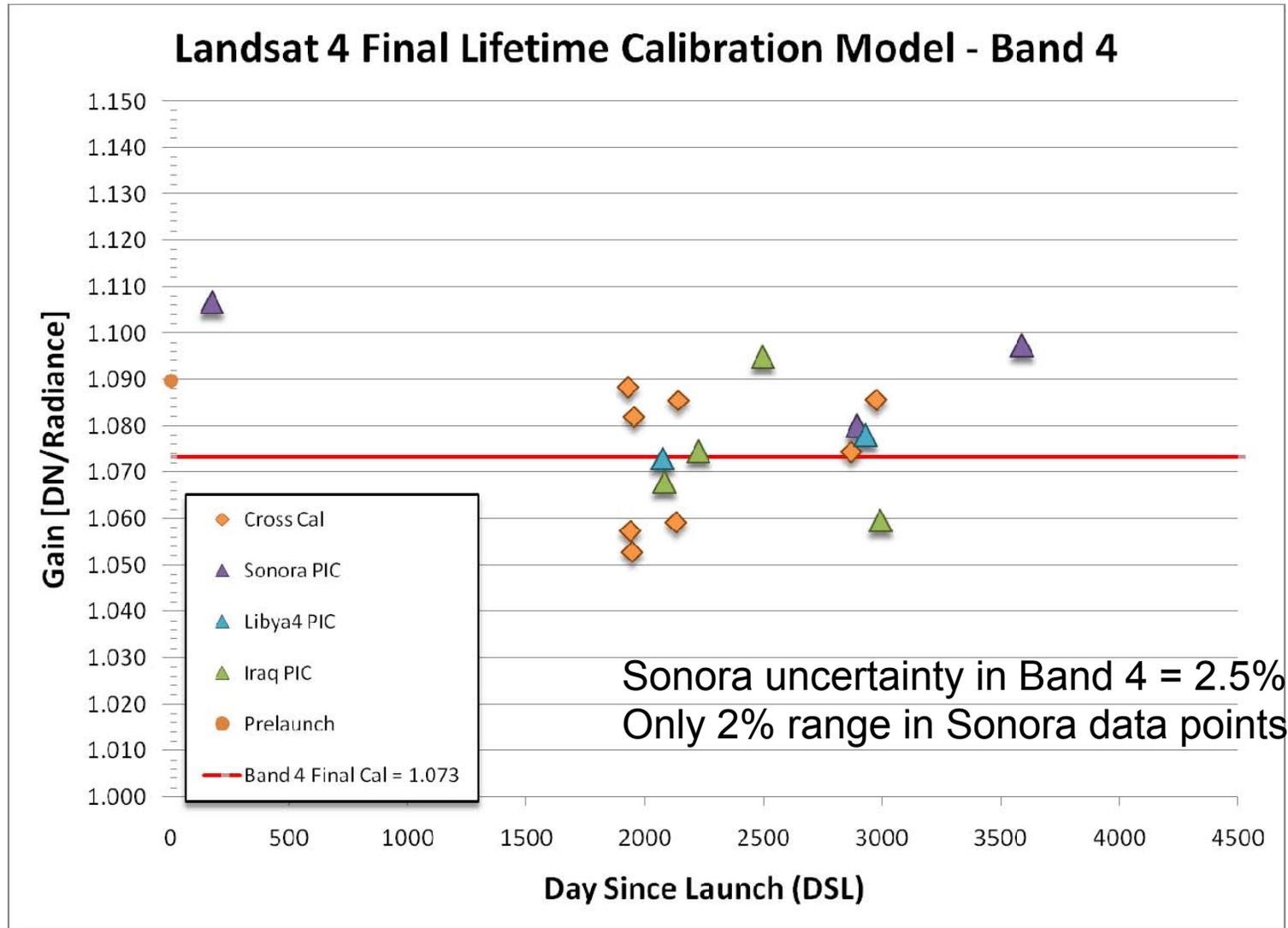


Sonora data suggest possible change in gain, up to 4%  
Recall Sonora only provides trend information, so max change is  $\pm 2\%$ --within uncertainty of the measurement.

# L4 TM Band 3 – NLAPS Comparison

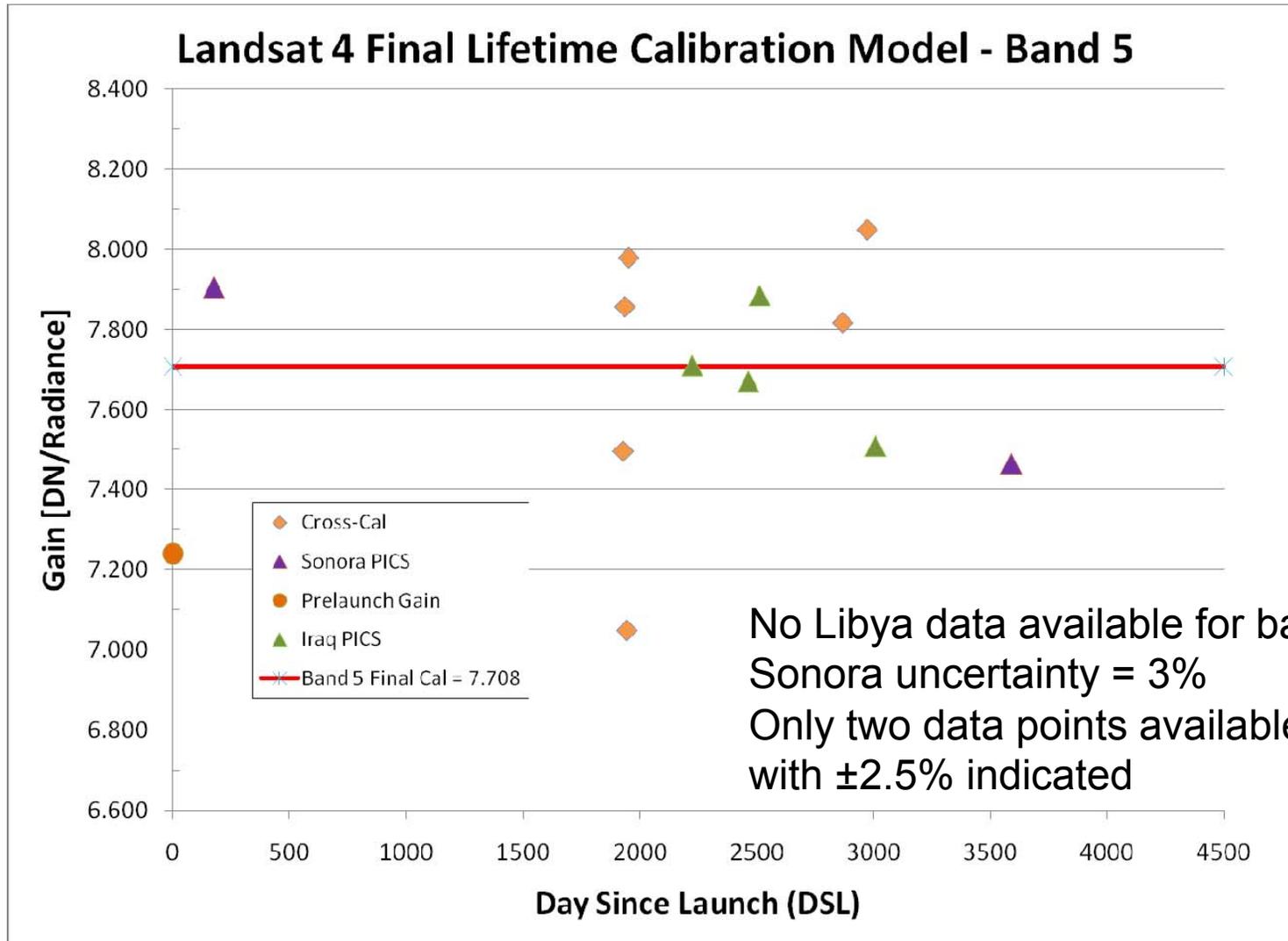


# L4 TM Band 4

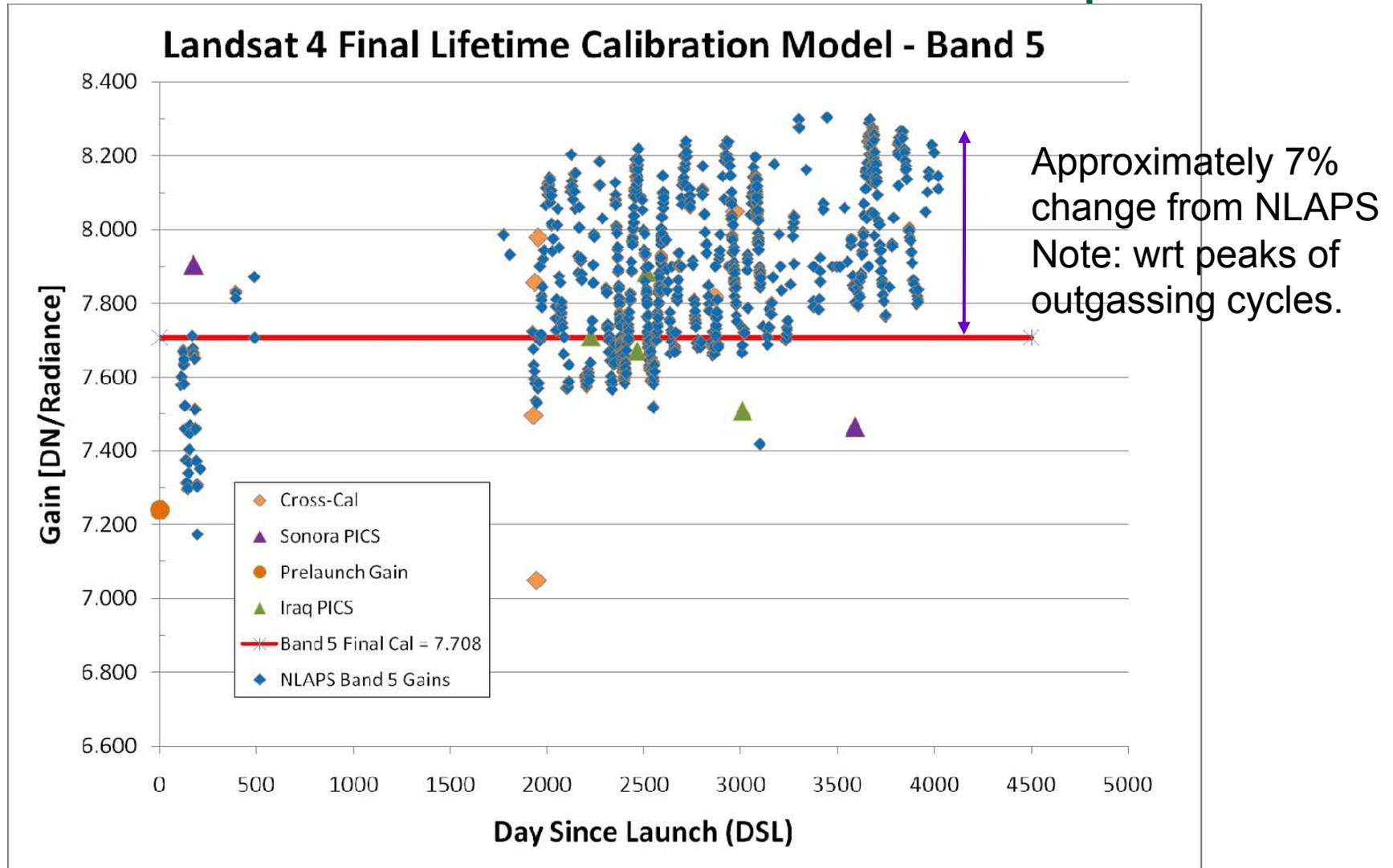




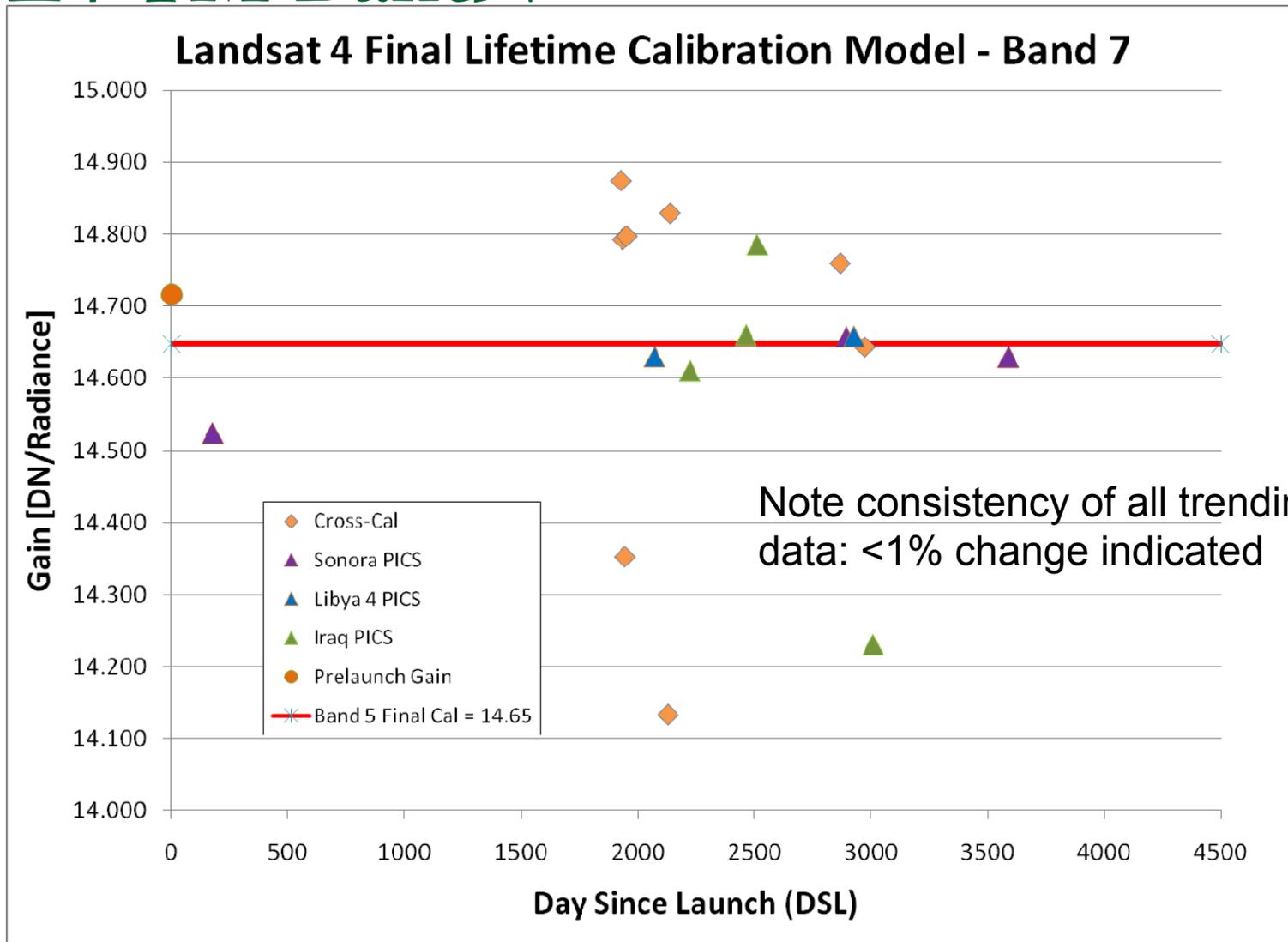
# L4 TM Band 5



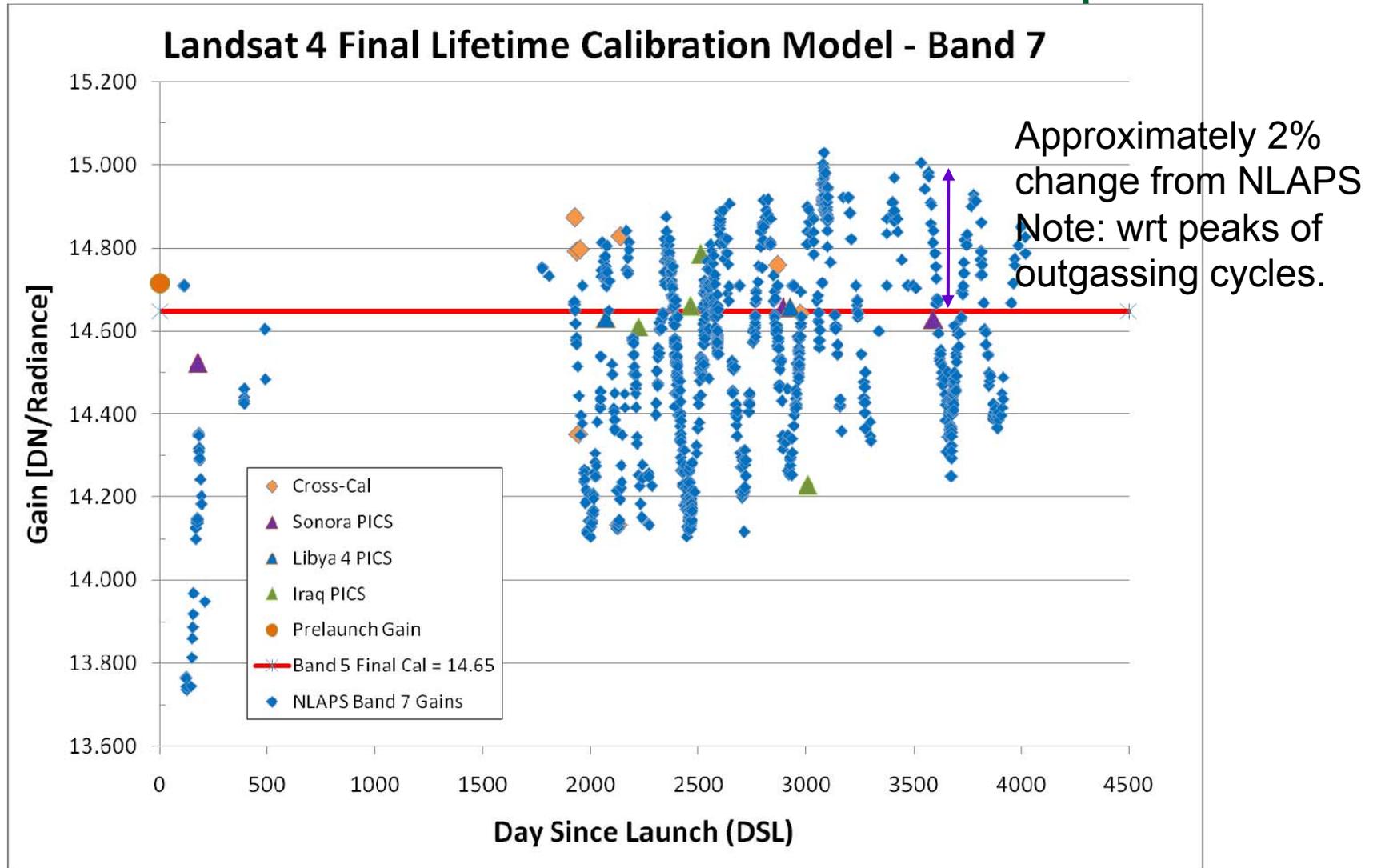
# L4 TM Band 5 – NLAPS Comparison



# L4 TM Band 7



# L4 TM Band 7 – NLAPS Comparison



# L4 TM Gain Recommendations

Band	Gain	Uncertainty	Difference from NLAPS
1	$3.95 \times 10^{-5} \text{DSL} + 1.49$	$\pm 2\%$	6%
2	$0.719 \pm 0.005$	$\pm 1\%$	6%
3	$0.954 \pm 0.008$	$\pm 2\%$	8%
4	$1.073 \pm 0.015$	$\pm 2\%$	3-5%
5	$7.708 \pm 0.375$	$\pm 5\%$	7%
7	$14.65 \pm 0.266$	$\pm 2\%$	2%

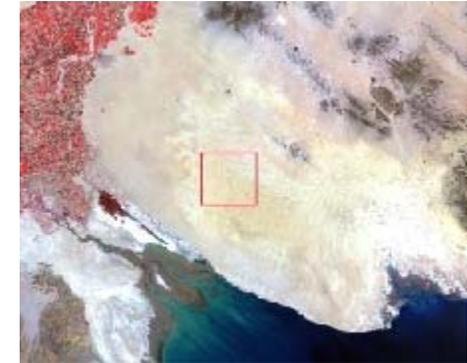
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# Lifetime Radiometric Calibration Stability and Consistency of Landsat-1 through -5 MSS Sensors



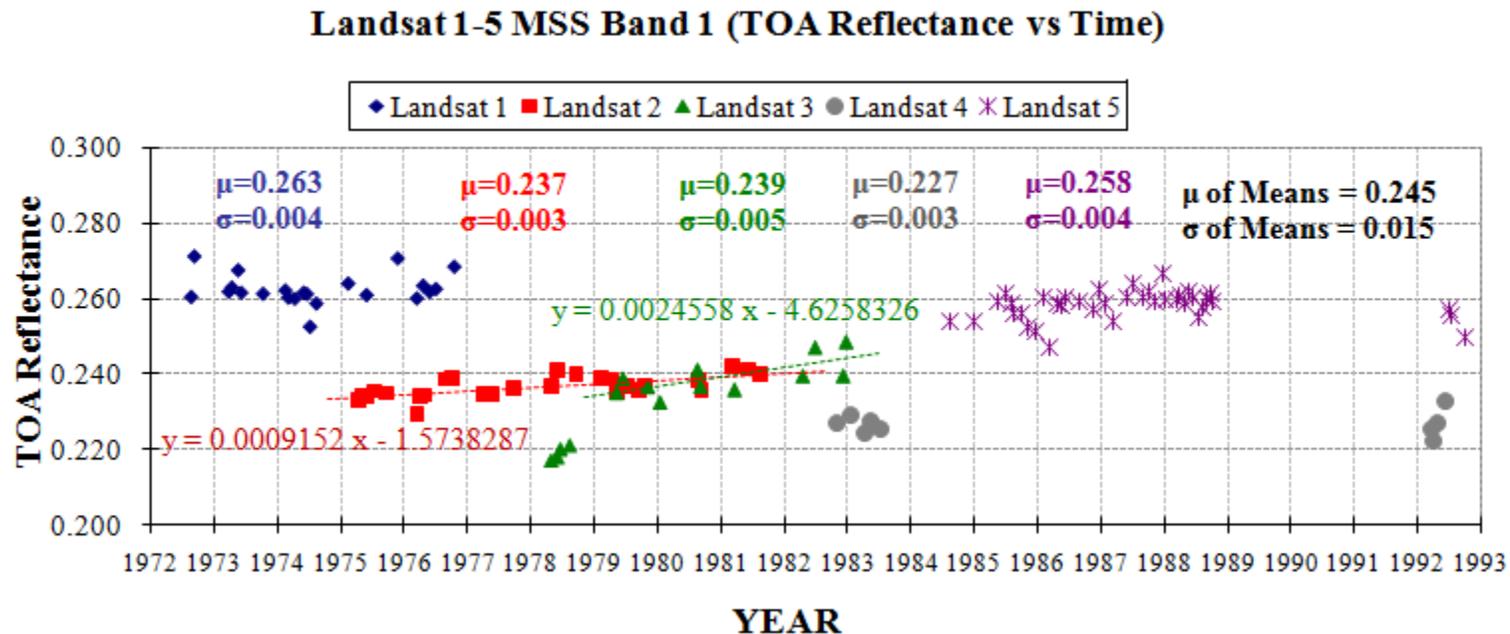
# Methodology

- Good quality and cloud free scenes from Sonoran Desert were searched for all 5 MSS sensors.
- Varieties of scenes used: MSS-X, MSS-P, and MSS-A
- TOA reflectance values were derived for the specified 250\*250 pixel (MSS-X/A) ROI for all scenes.
- A lifetime instrument response was derived by plotting TOA reflectance against time for each sensor.
- Atmospheric and BRDF effects are not accounted for initially.



250\*250 pixels ROI

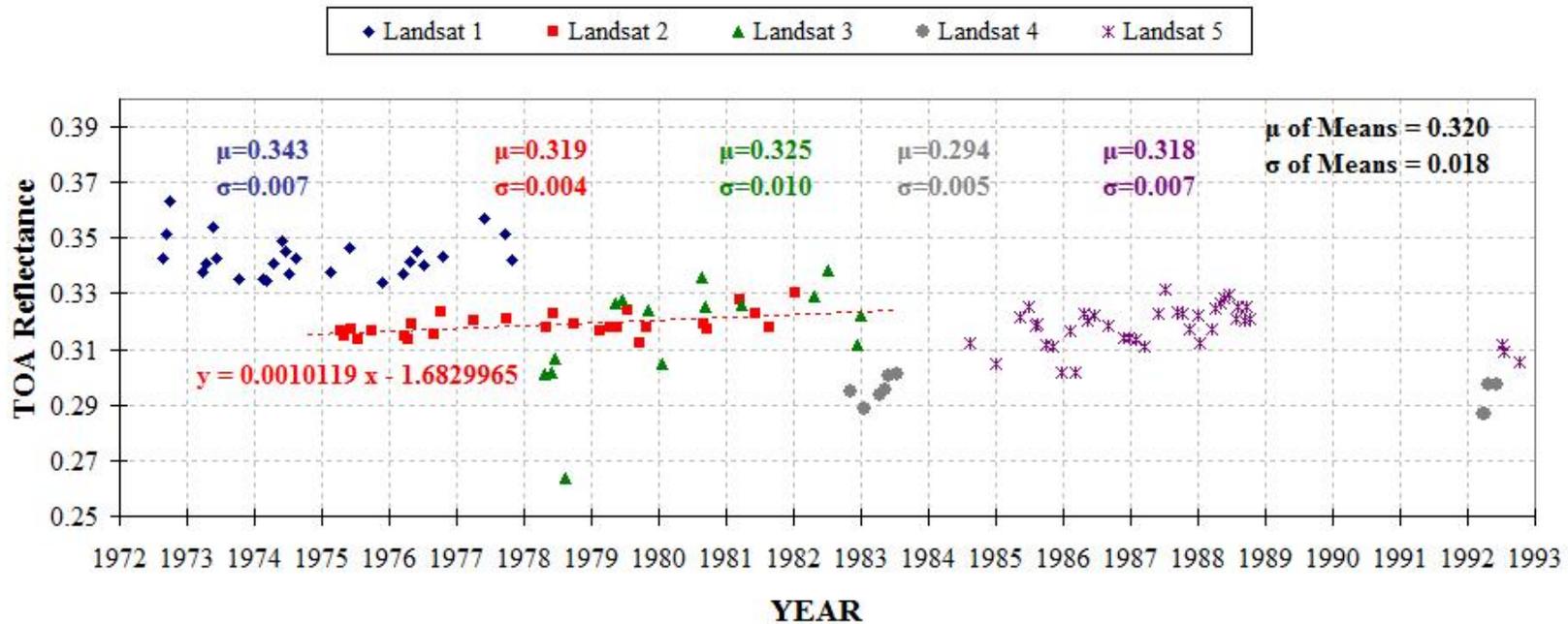
# Results: Band 1



- Radiometric calibration of MSS sensors show good stability over lifetime.
- Pre-1979 data from Landsat-3 are not consistent with the post 1979 data.
- Landsat-1 and -4 exhibit the maximum inconsistency (16%) in calculating the TOA reflectance.
- Landsat-2 and -3 have increasing response trend supported by statistical tests.

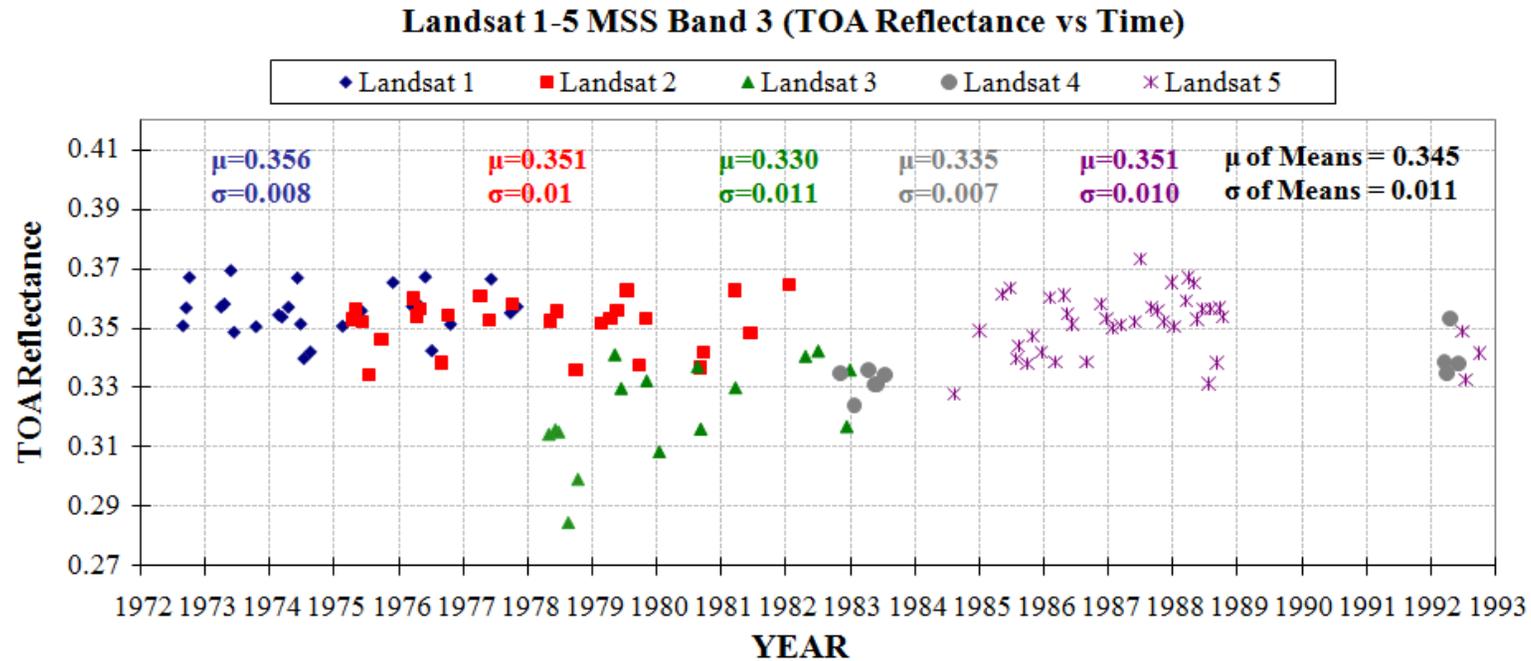
# Results: Band 2

Landsat 1-5 MSS Band 2 (TOA Reflectance vs Time)



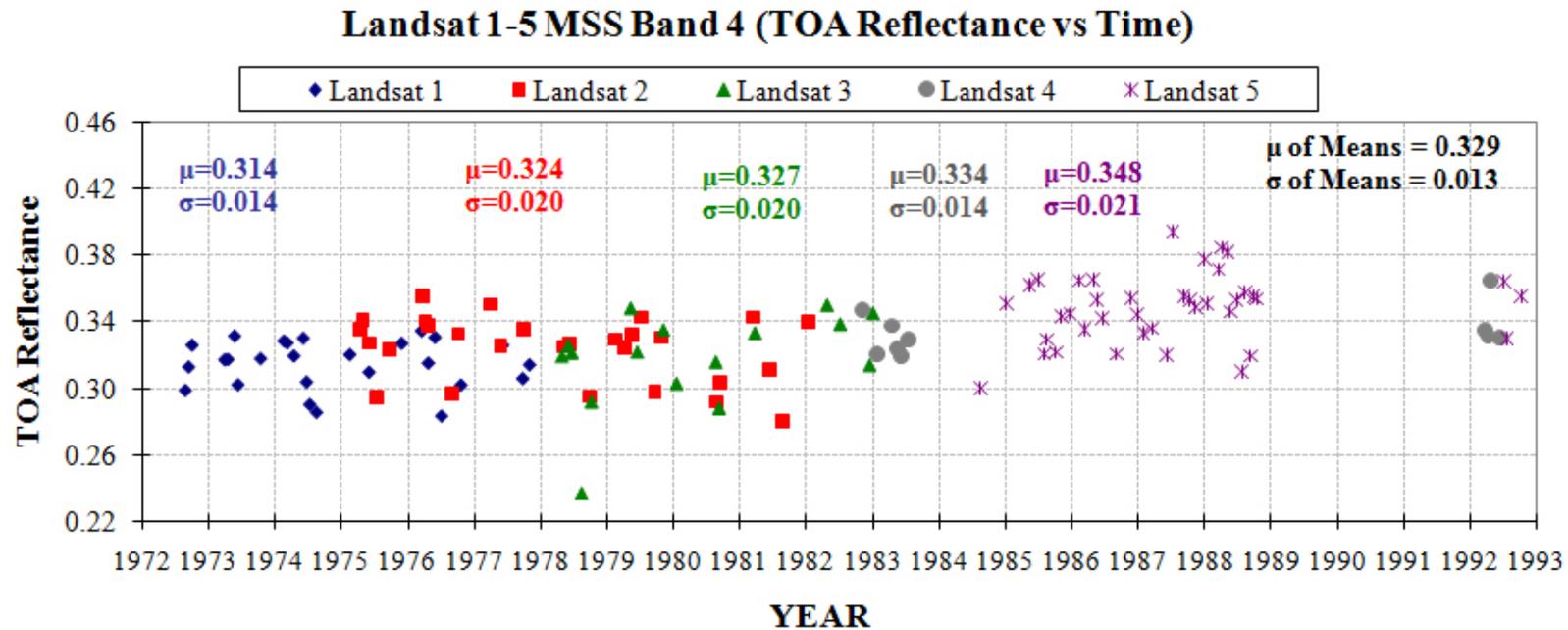
- Landsat-2, -3, and -5 mean TOA reflectance agree within 1%.
- Landsat-1 and -4 again exhibit the maximum inconsistency (17%) in calculating the TOA reflectance.
- Slightly increasing response trend of Landsat-2 is supported by statistical tests.

# Results: Band 3



- Landsat-1, -2, and -5 calibration seems consistent within 1%.
- Landsat-3 and -4 agree in the calculation of TOA reflectance within 2%.
- No trend in any response was supported by statistical tests.

# Results: Band 4



- Landsat-1 through -4 calibration seems consistent within 6%.
- Variability of data within each sensor is comparatively higher because band 4 is susceptible to the water vapor content in the atmosphere.
- No clear trend exists in any sensor.

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## Summary of Lifetime Stability/Consistency of MSS sensors

- Data from each MSS sensor indicates better than expected radiometric stability.
- Absolute gains of all 5 MSS sensors exhibit a maximum difference of 17%.

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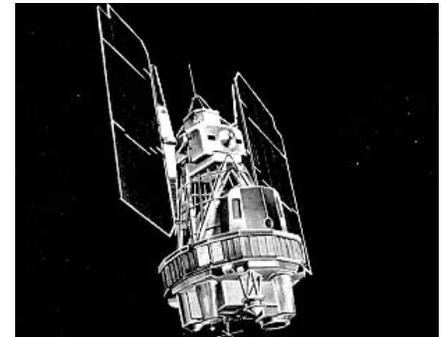
# Cross-calibration

- *Cross-calibration is a post launch calibration method where a given satellite sensor is calibrated against another satellite sensor for which the radiometric calibration is better known, using simultaneous or near simultaneous imaging of a common ground target.*
- **Issues:**
  - *Relative Spectral Response (RSR) profiles*
  - *Spatial Resolution*
  - *Misregistration*
  - *Temporal Differences*





# Cross-calibration of L1 MSS to L2 MSS



# Background

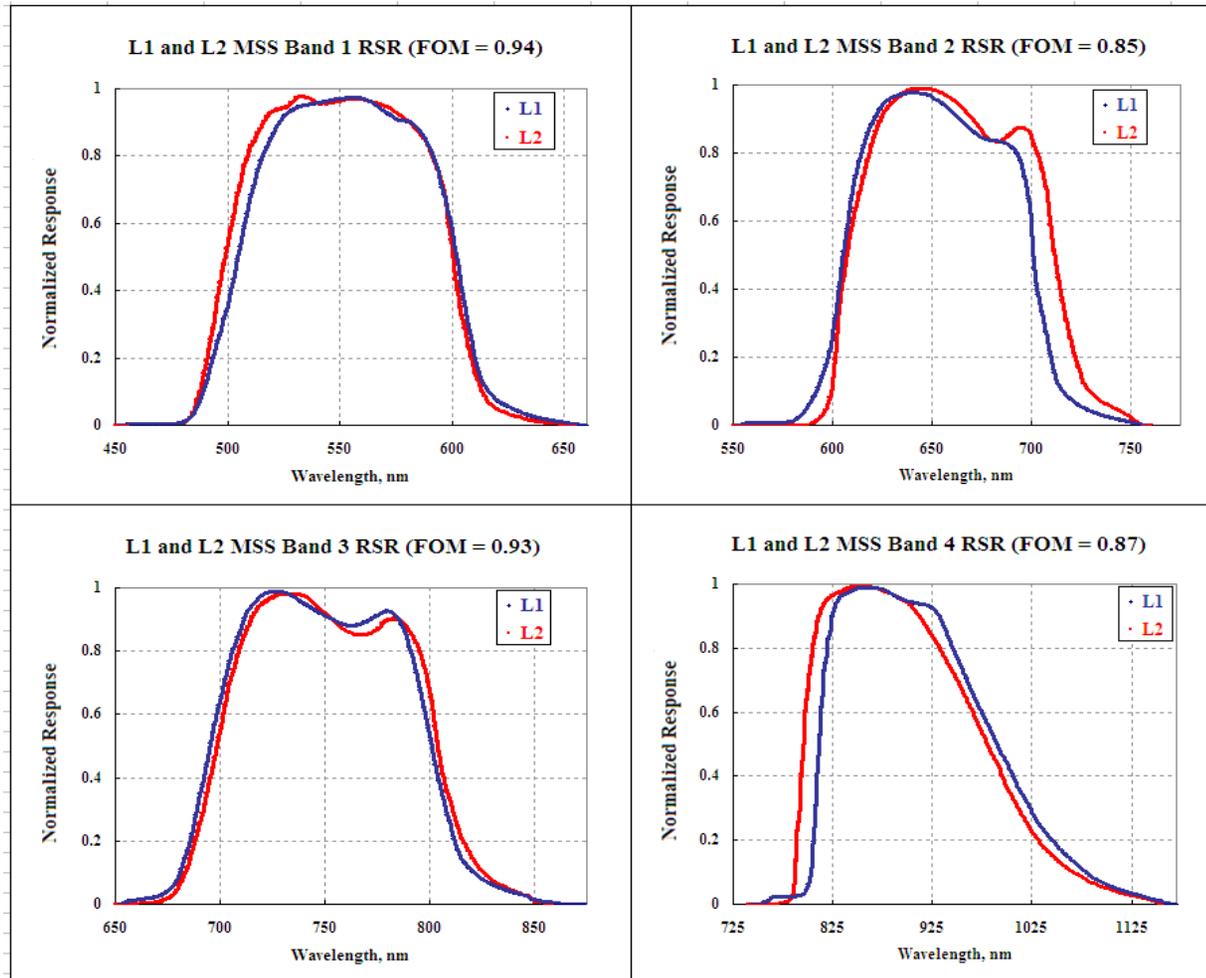
- Six pairs of near-coincident scenes from Sonoran desert are selected.
- For better regression, some additional ROIs with different reflectance values were selected.

Scene Pairs used (6), Total 9 ROIs	
LM10410381975150AAA04	LM20410381975159AAA05
LM10410381976073AAA02	LM20410381976082AAA01
LM10410381976109AAA02	LM20410381976100AAA01
LM10410381976109AAA02	LM20410381976118AAA04
LM10410381976289AAA04	LM20410381976280AAA03
LM10410381977262AAA04	LM20410381977274AAA01

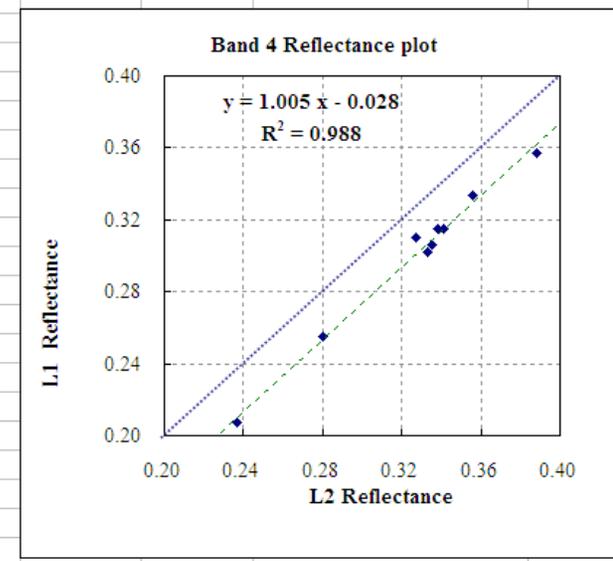
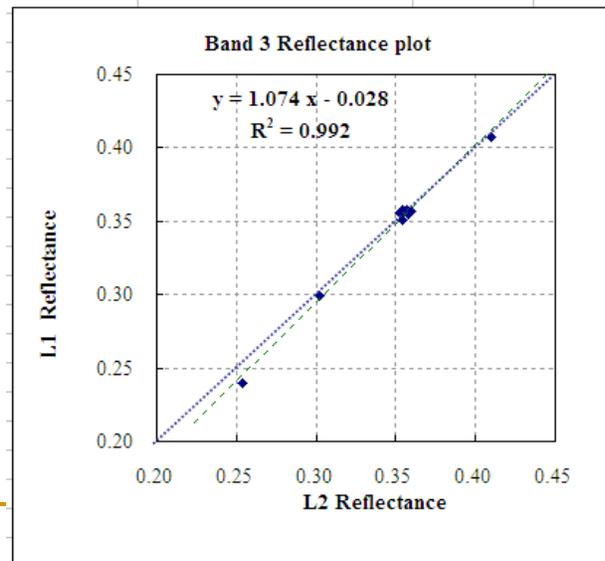
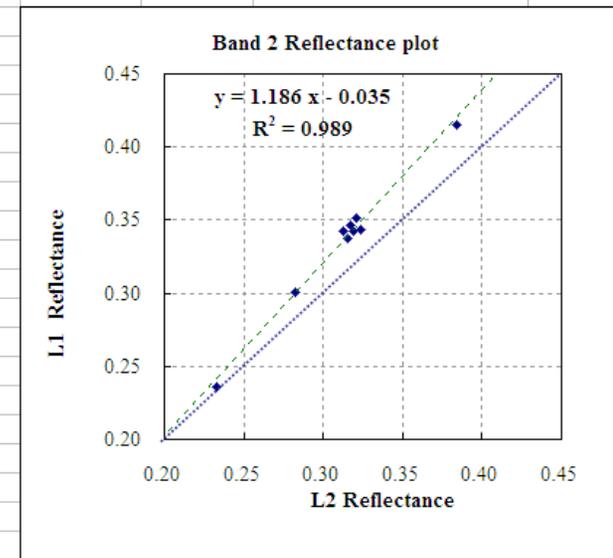
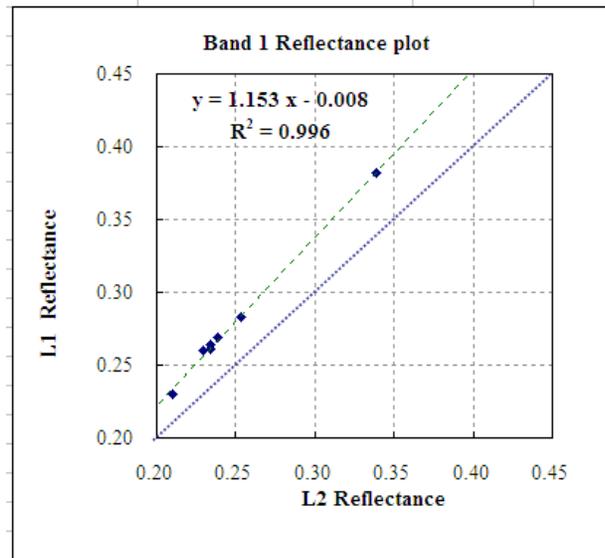
Additional ROIs

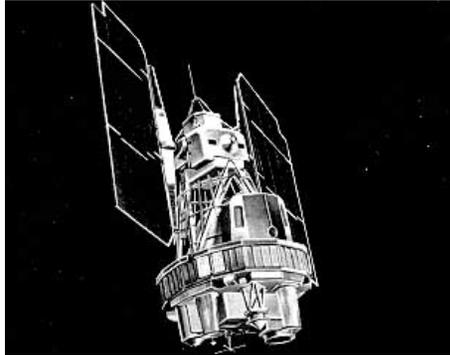


# RSR Profiles of Landsat-1 and -2

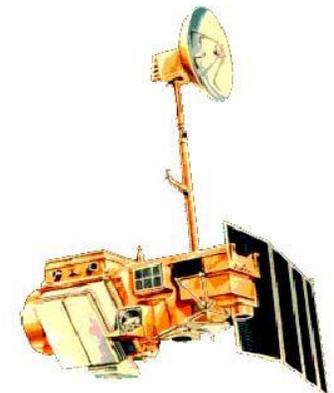


# Landsat-1 to -2 Cross-calibration Results





# Cross-calibration of L2 MSS to L4 MSS



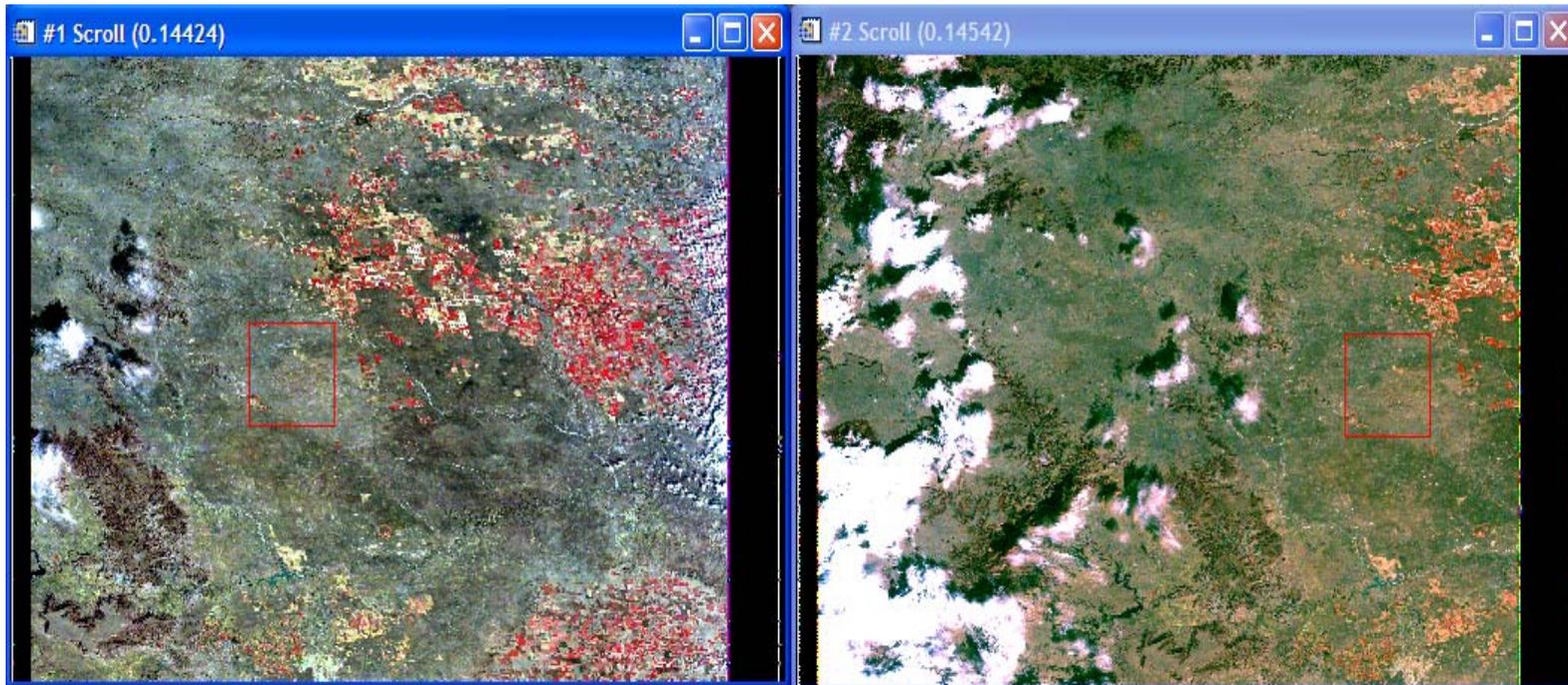
# Background

- The different temporal resolution of Landsat-2 and -4 (18 days vs. 16 days) provided an opportunity to these instruments on November 9, 1982 to acquire *almost simultaneous image data within minutes*.
- Three pairs of scenes selected for this work.

Pair No.	Scene Identifier	Date and Time Acquired (YYYY:DOY:HH:MM:SS)	WRS Path	WRS Row	WRS Type	Acquisition Quality	Sun Azimuth (°)	Cloud Cover
1	LM20340371982313AAA03	1982:313:16:56:05	34	37	1	9	149	10
	LM40320371982313AAA03	1982:313:17:00:04	32	37	2	9	150	30
2	LM20340341982313AAA03	1982:313:16:56:00	34	34	1	9	151	10
	LM40320341982313AAA03	1982:313:16:59:05	32	34	2	9	152	40
3	LM20340351982313AAA03	1982:313:16:55:04	34	35	1	9	151	10
	LM40320351982313AAA03	1982:313:16:59:02	32	35	2	9	151	20

*The difference in sun azimuth arises due to a drift in the scene center.*

# An Example Scene Pair



LM20340351982313AAA03

1982:313:16:56:00

Sun Elevation =  $31^\circ$

Sun Azimuth =  $151^\circ$

LM40320351982313AAA03

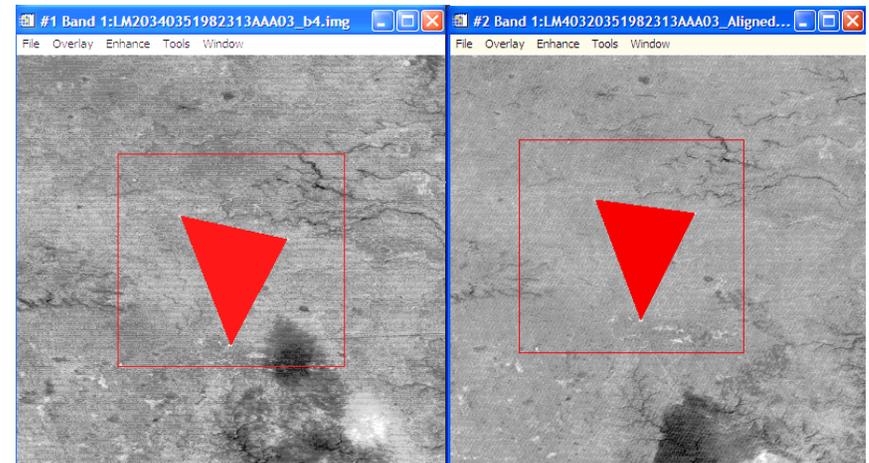
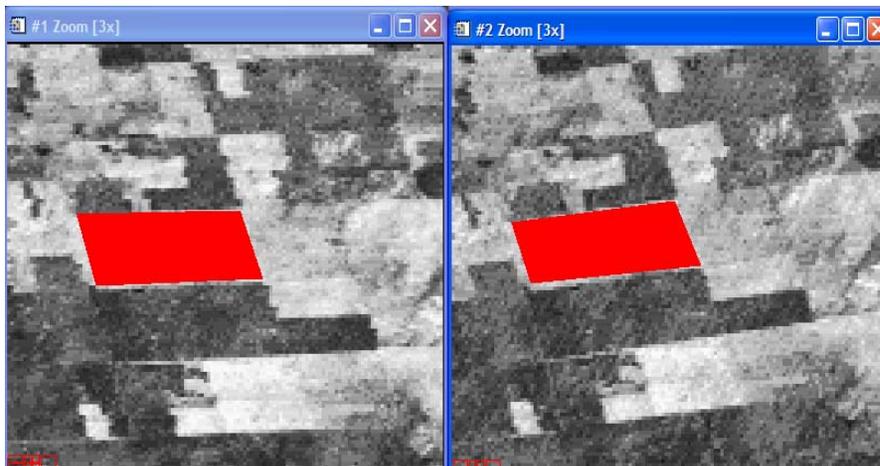
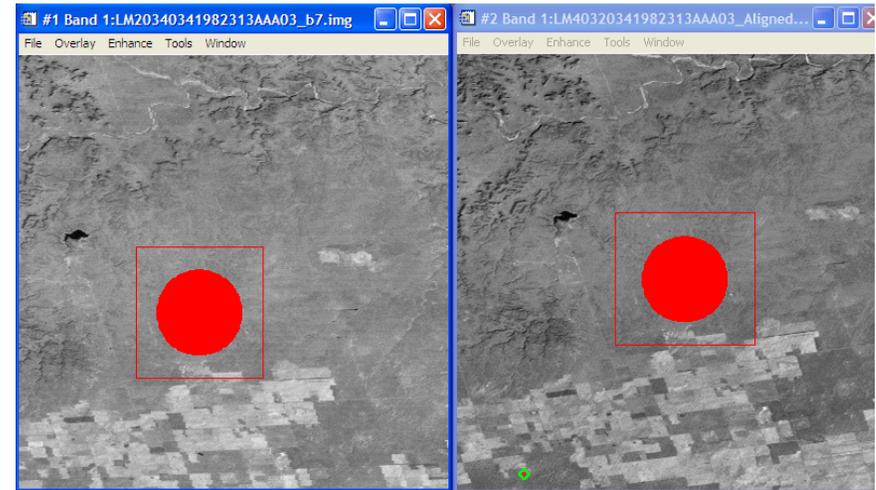
1982:313:16:59:05

Sun Elevation =  $32^\circ$

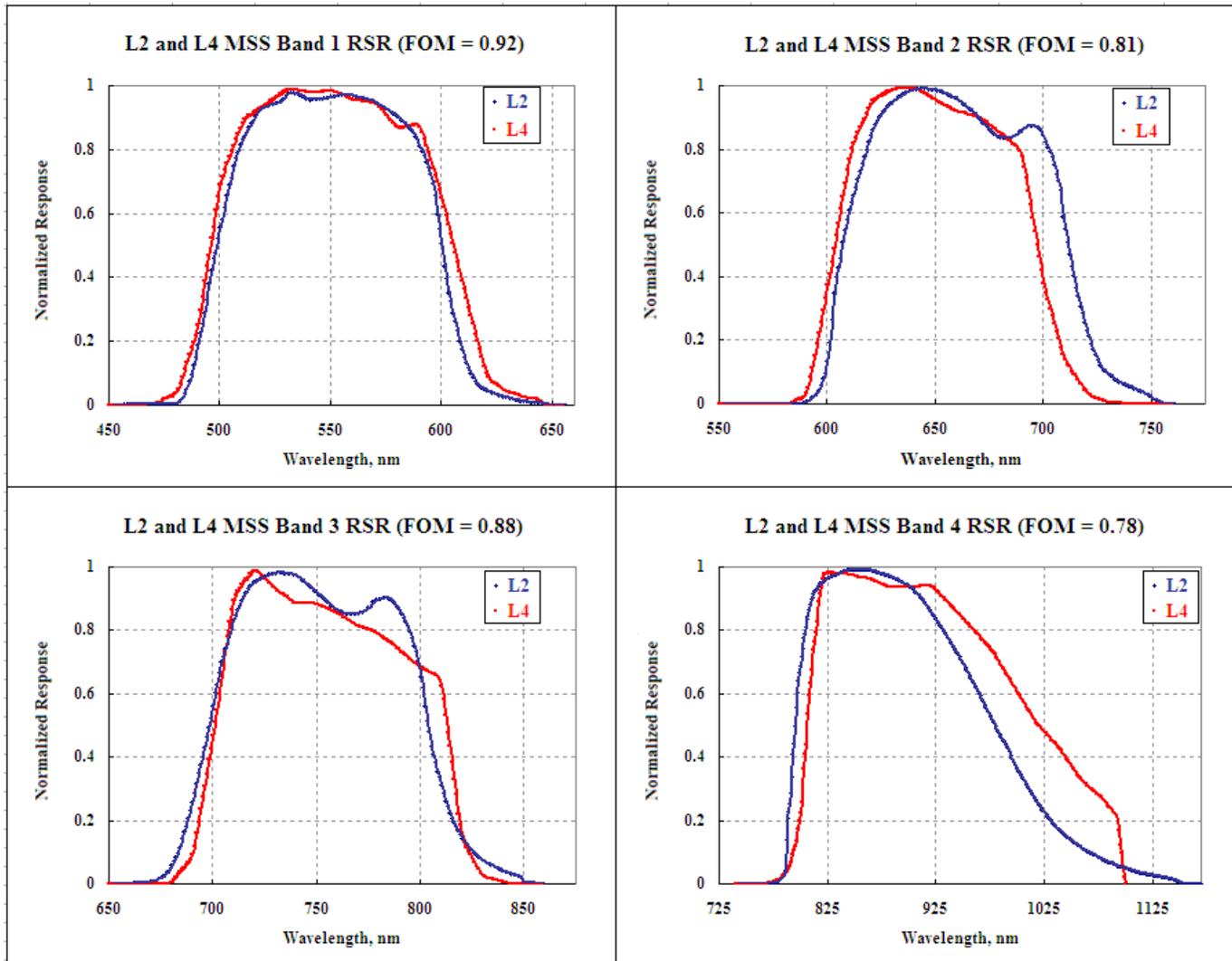
Sun Azimuth =  $151^\circ$

# Region of Interest

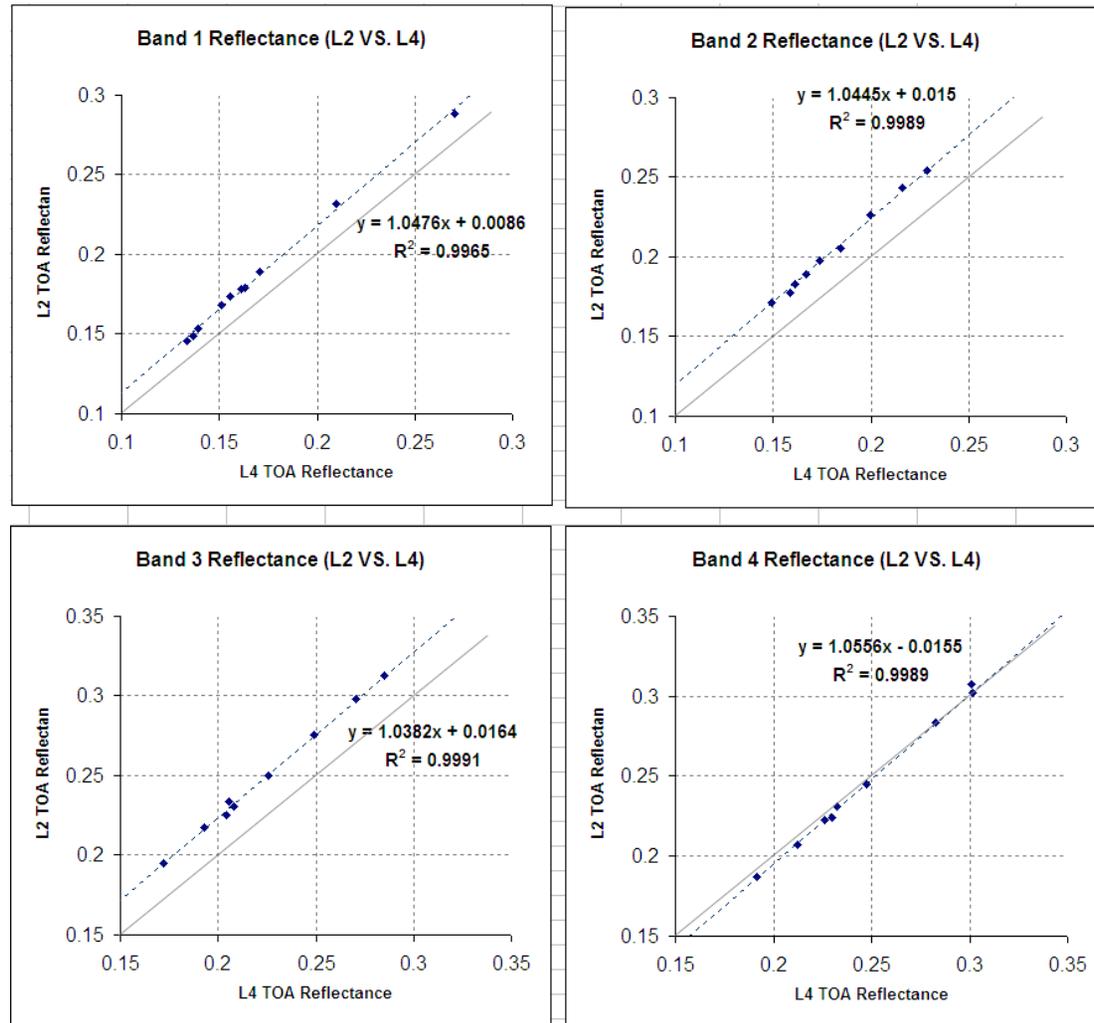
- Since none of these acquisitions are from known invariant sites, defining precisely geolocated ROI is a real challenge.
- Geographical features were used to avoid any misregistration error.



# RSR Profiles of Landsat-2 and -4

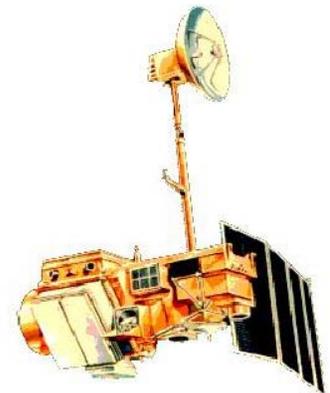


# Landsat-2 to -4 Cross-calibration Results





# Cross-calibration of L3 MSS to L4 MSS

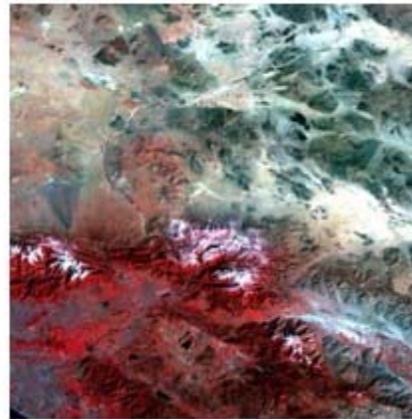


# Background

- The different temporal resolution of Landsat-3 and -4 (18 days vs. 16 days) also provided an opportunity to these instruments to follow *identical paths on January 20, 1983 within minutes*.
- Two pairs of good scenes are selected from this dataset to cross-compare the responses of Landsat-3 and -4.



LM30430361983020AAA03  
1983:020:17:47:04



LM40400361983020AAA03  
1983:020:17:51:00



LM30170401983012AAA03  
1983:012:15:20:00

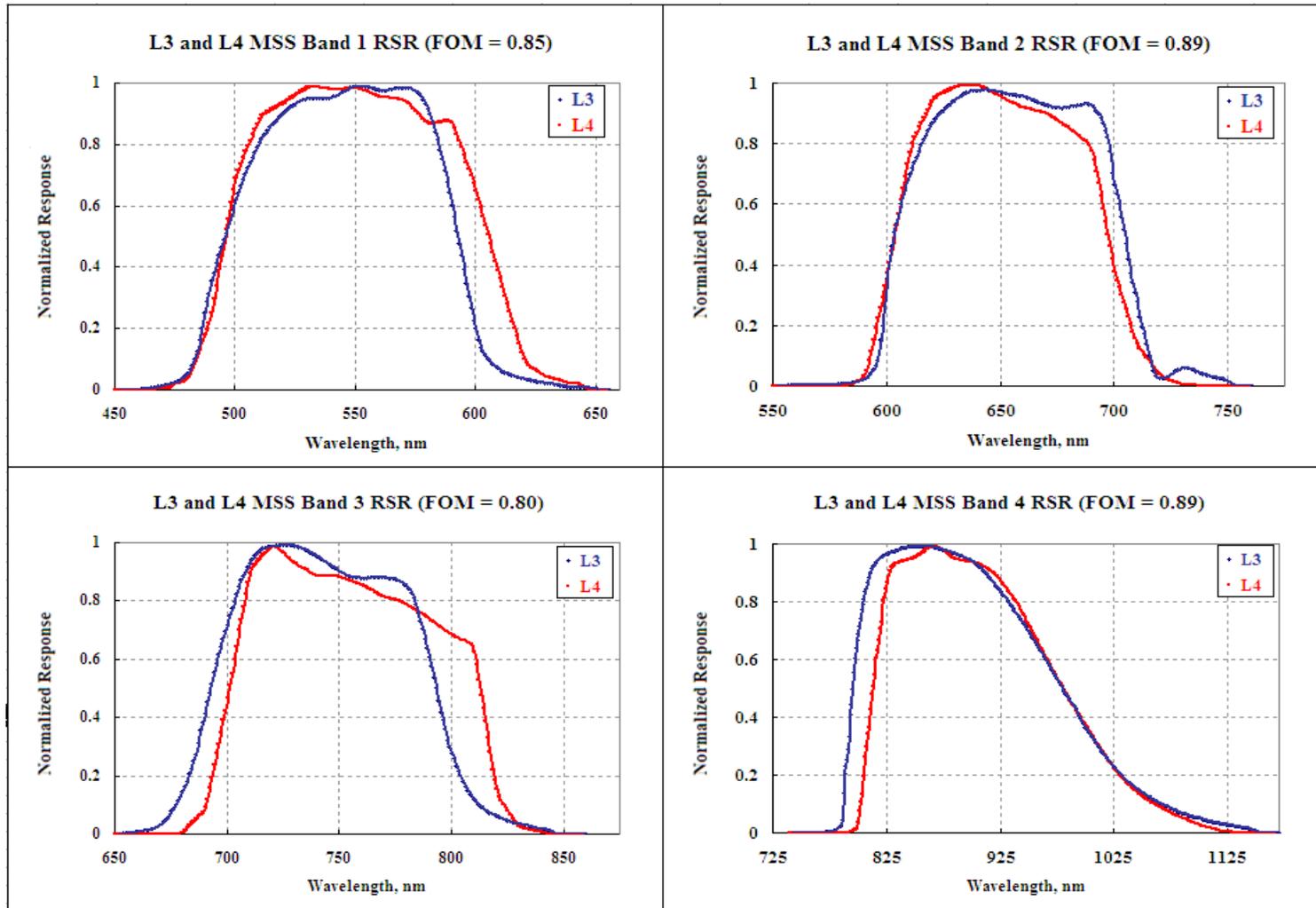


LM40160401983012AAA03  
1983:012:15:24:00

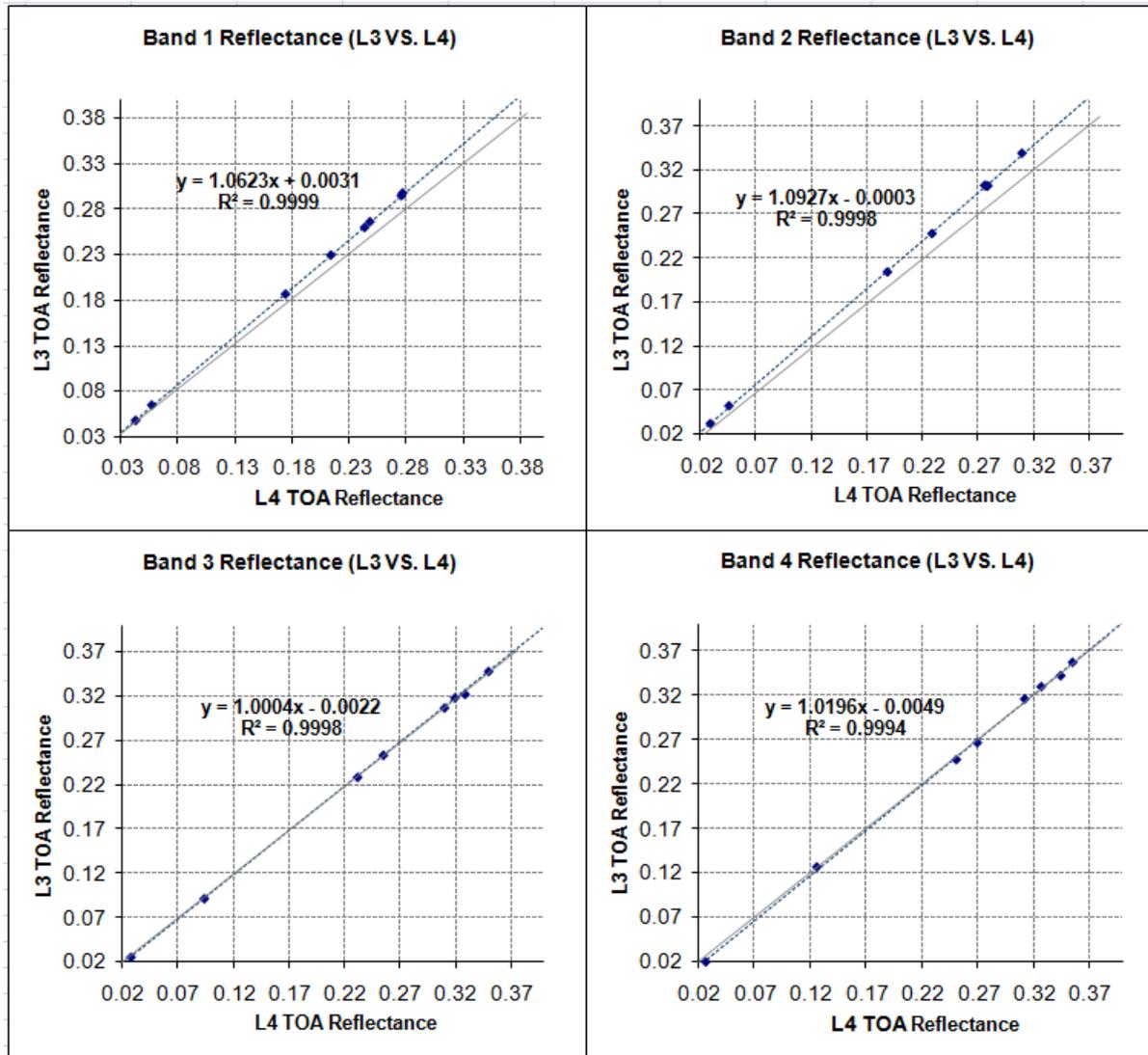
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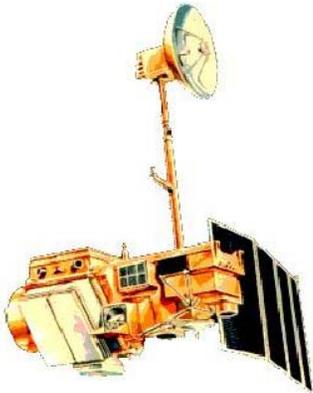
*Altogether eight ROIs were defined in the homogeneous areas on the scenes.*

# RSR Profiles of Landsat-3 and -4



# Landsat-3 to -4 Cross-calibration Results





# Cross-calibration of L4 MSS to L5 MSS

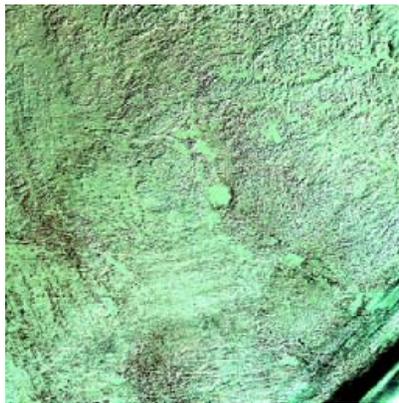


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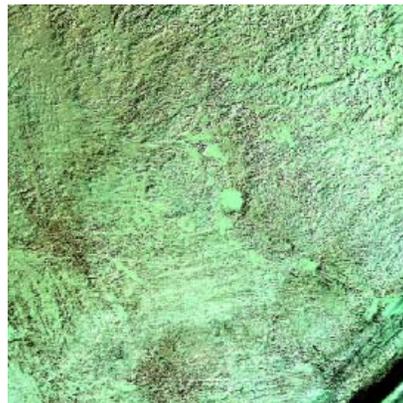


# Background

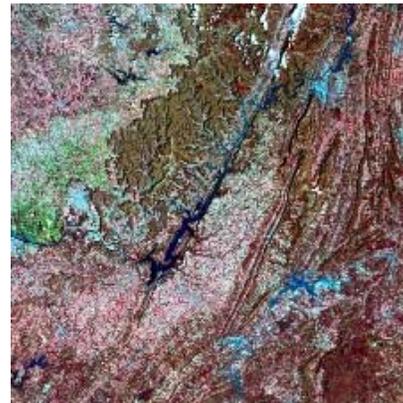
- Immediately after launch, the Landsat-5 was initially placed in a tandem orbit close to that of Landsat-4.
- The data acquired during this period was almost simultaneous with a difference of few seconds.
- Two pairs of good scenes were selected from this dataset to cross-compare the responses of Landsat-4 and -5.



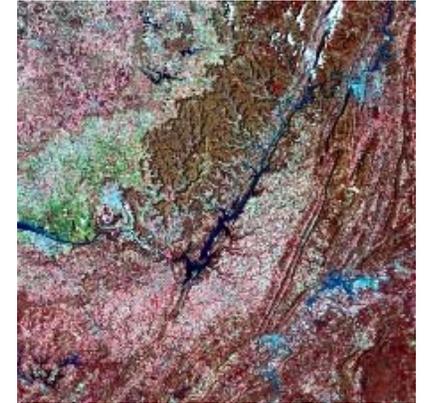
LM40200181984075XXX03  
1984:075:15:38:04



LM50200181984075AAA03  
1984:075:15:38:02



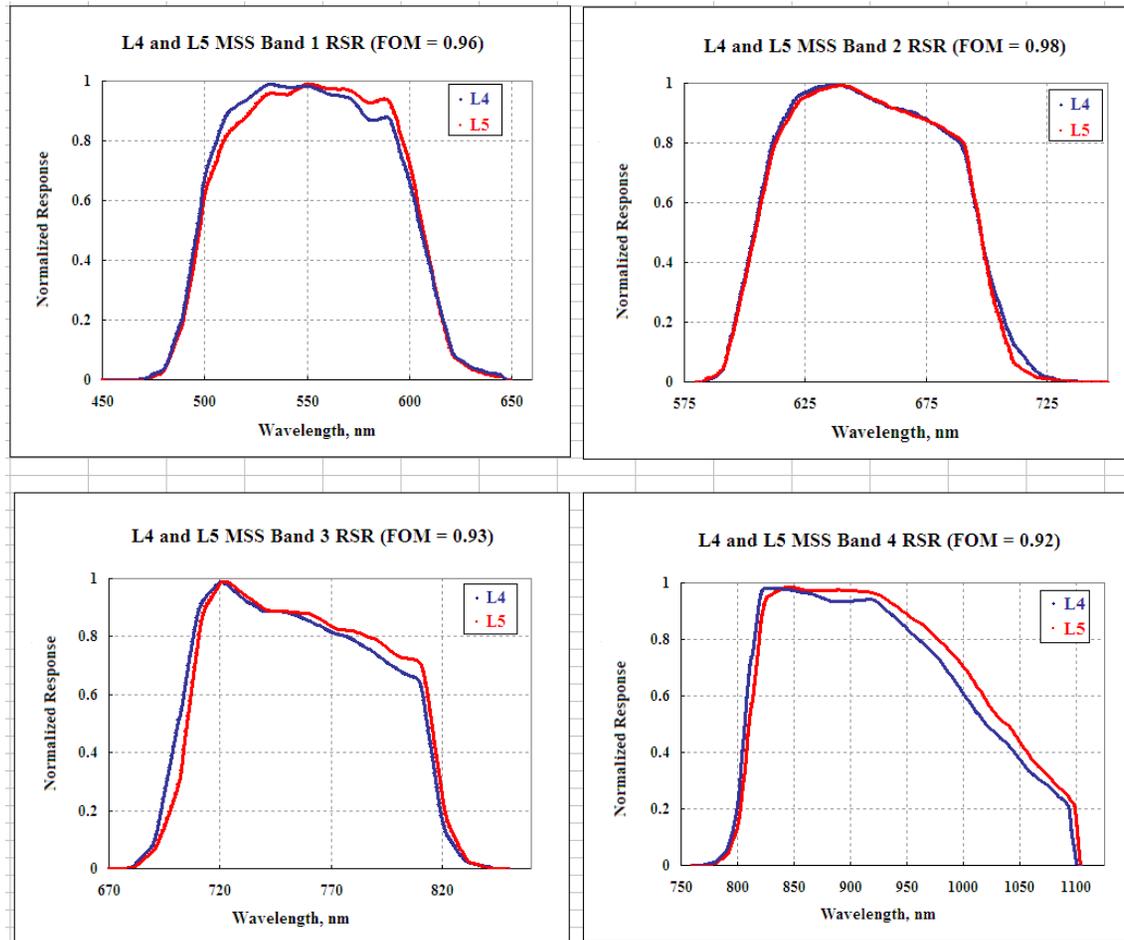
LM40200361984075AAA04  
1984:075:15:45:05



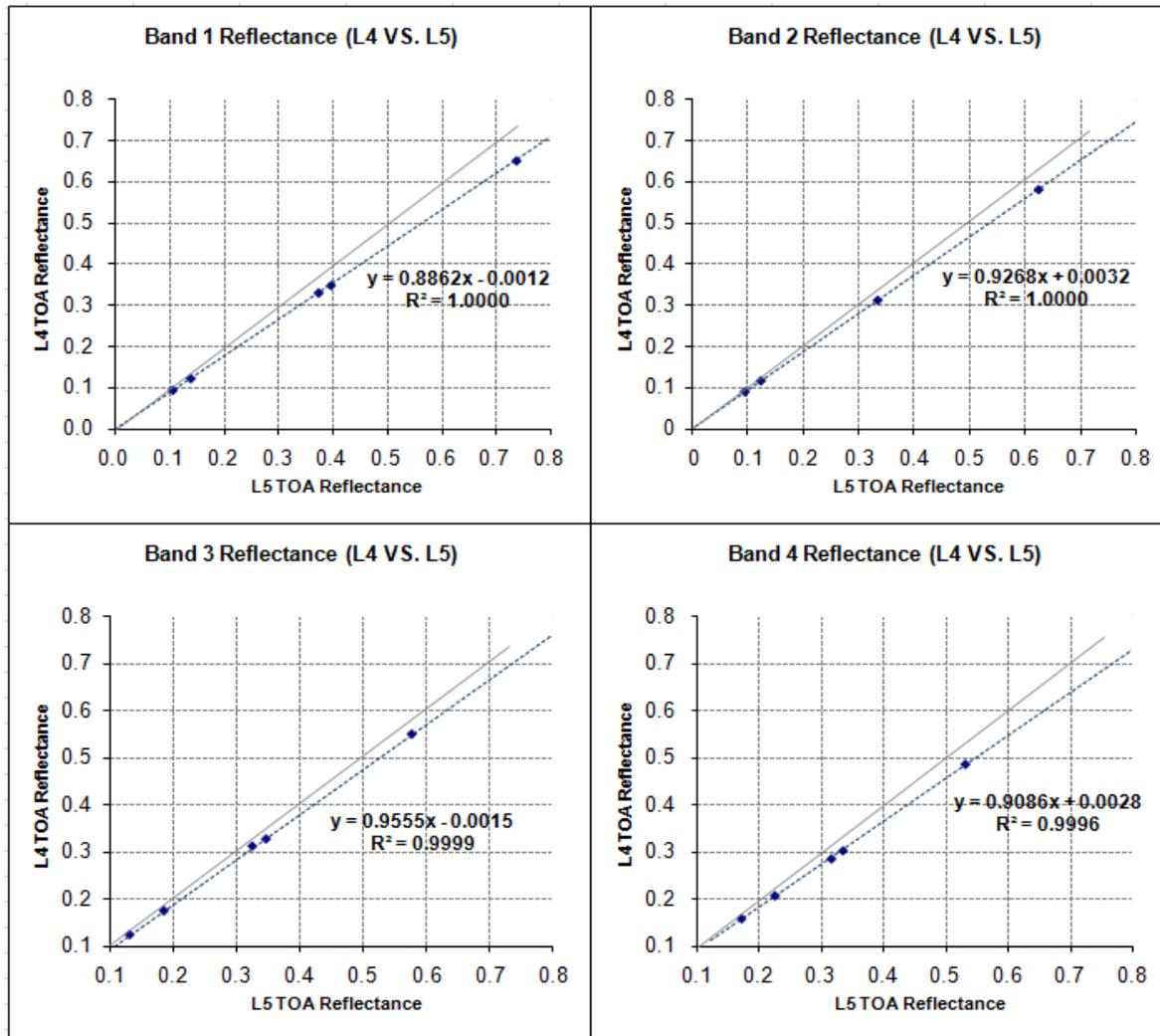
LM50200361984075AAA03  
1984:075:15:45:03

*Initially five precisely geolocated ROIs were defined on the scenes.*

# RSR Profiles of Landsat-4 and -5



# Landsat-4 to -5 Cross-calibration Results



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# Validation of Cross-calibration Results



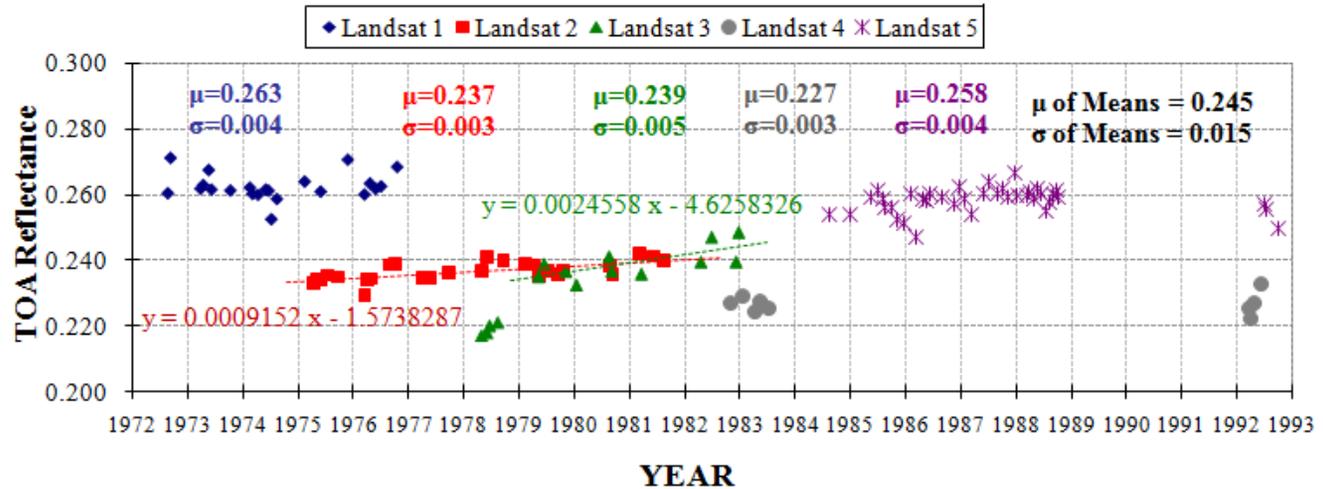
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# Methodology

- Sonoran desert site is selected again for validation of cross-cal results.
  - Following assumptions are made:
    - The Sonoran desert site is stable from 1972 to 1992.
    - Any genuine trend observed in the instrument response to this site is the characteristics of the instrument itself.
  - Landsat-1 through -4 MSS data from Sonoran desert were transformed to apparent Landsat-5 data using the cross-calibration connections established in the previous part of this presentation.
  - Time factor was introduced in the cross-calibration results of Landsat-2 band 1 and 2, and Landsat-3 band 1 to account for the trends they showed in their lifetime responses to Sonora.
  - Pre-1979 data from Landsat-3 are left unaltered.
-

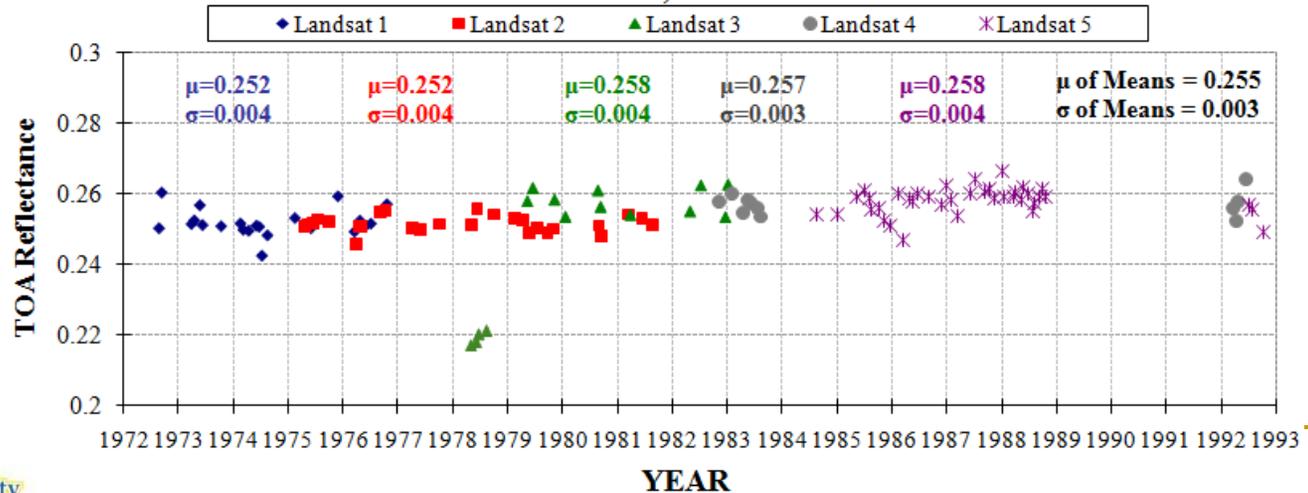
# Results: Band 1

Landsat 1-5 MSS Band 1 (TOA Reflectance vs Time)



Before Cross-calibration applied

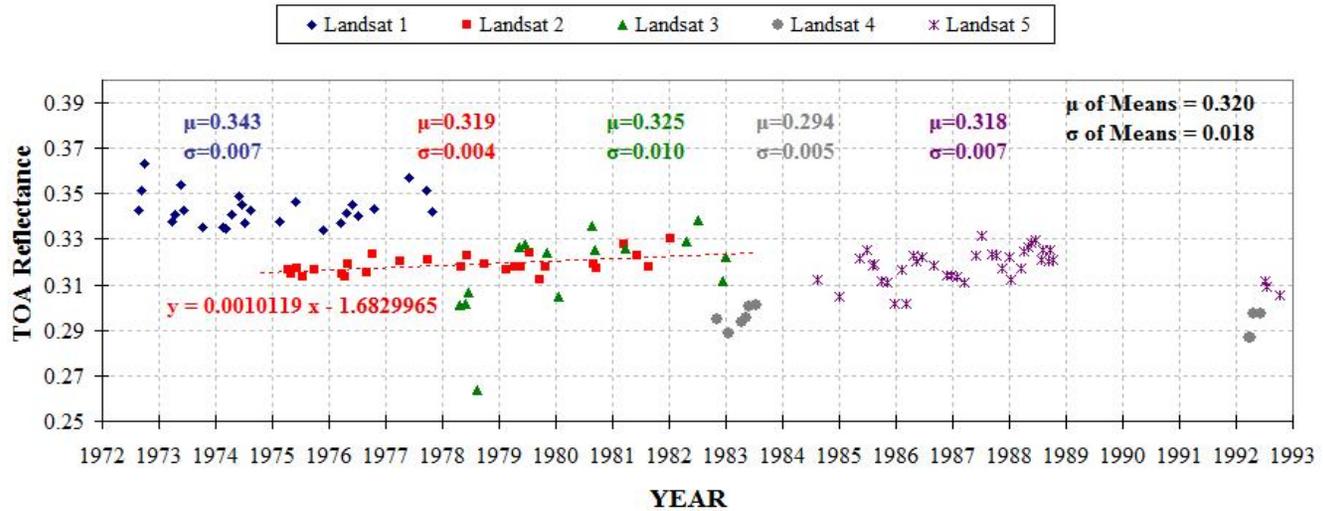
TOA Reflectance derived over Sonoran desert as apparently seen by Landsat-5 since 1972, Band 1



After Cross-calibration applied

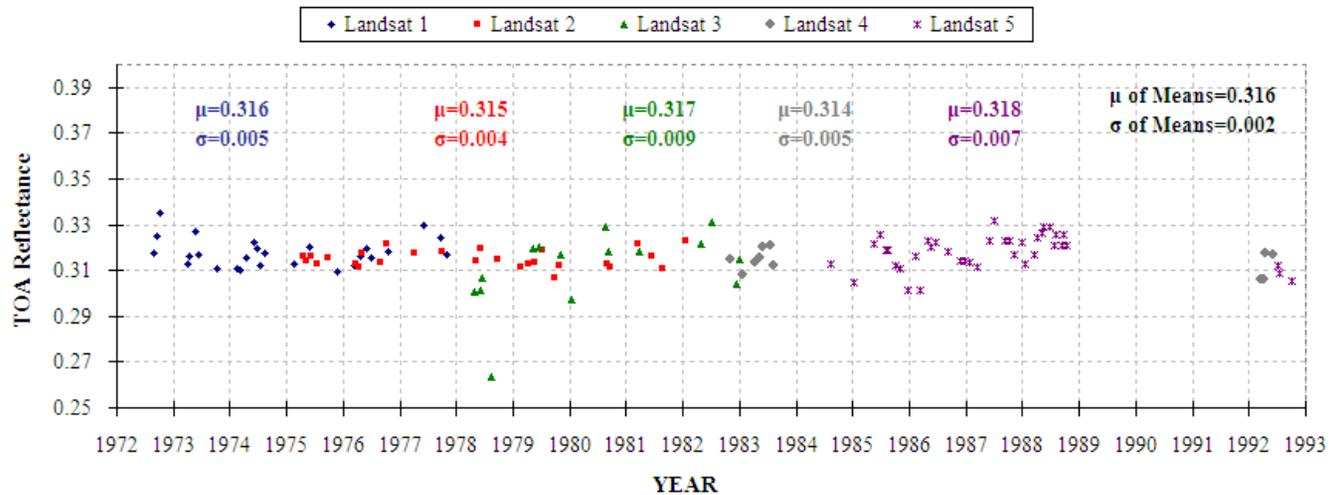
# Results: Band 2

Landsat 1-5 MSS Band 2 (TOA Reflectance vs Time)



Before Cross-calibration applied

TOA Reflectance derived over Sonoran desert as apparently seen by Landsat-5 MSS since 1972, Band 2

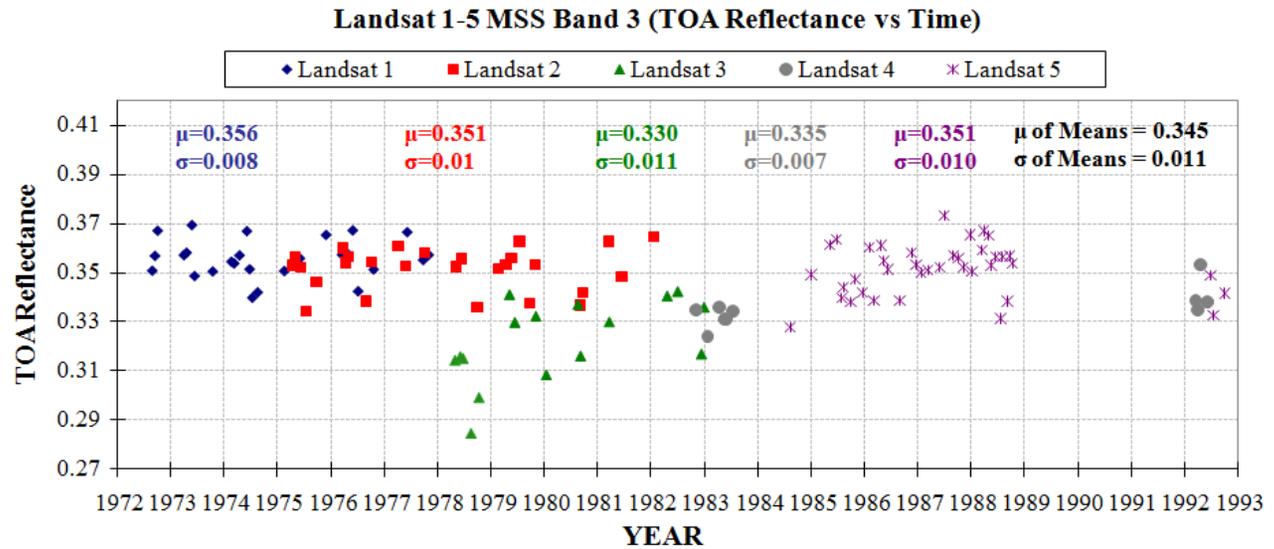


After Cross-calibration applied

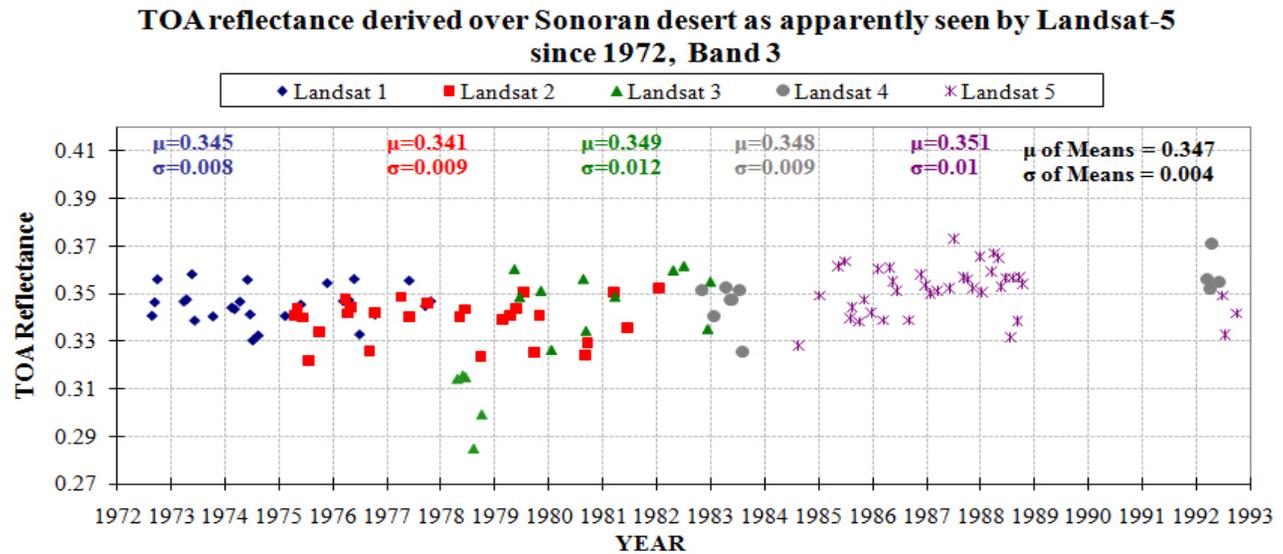


# Results: Band 3

Before Cross-calibration applied

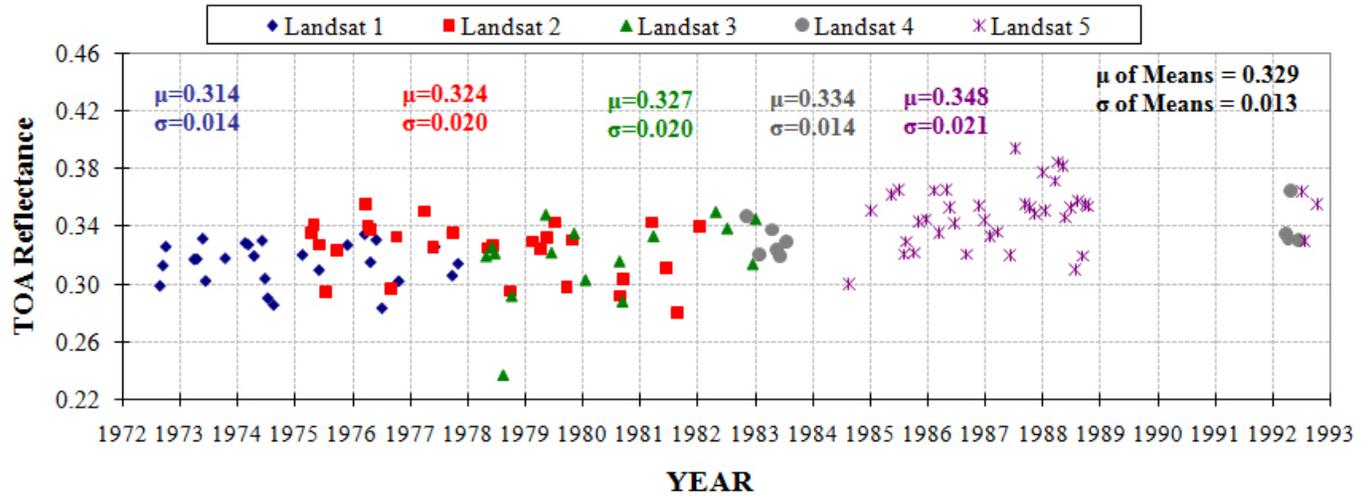


After Cross-calibration applied



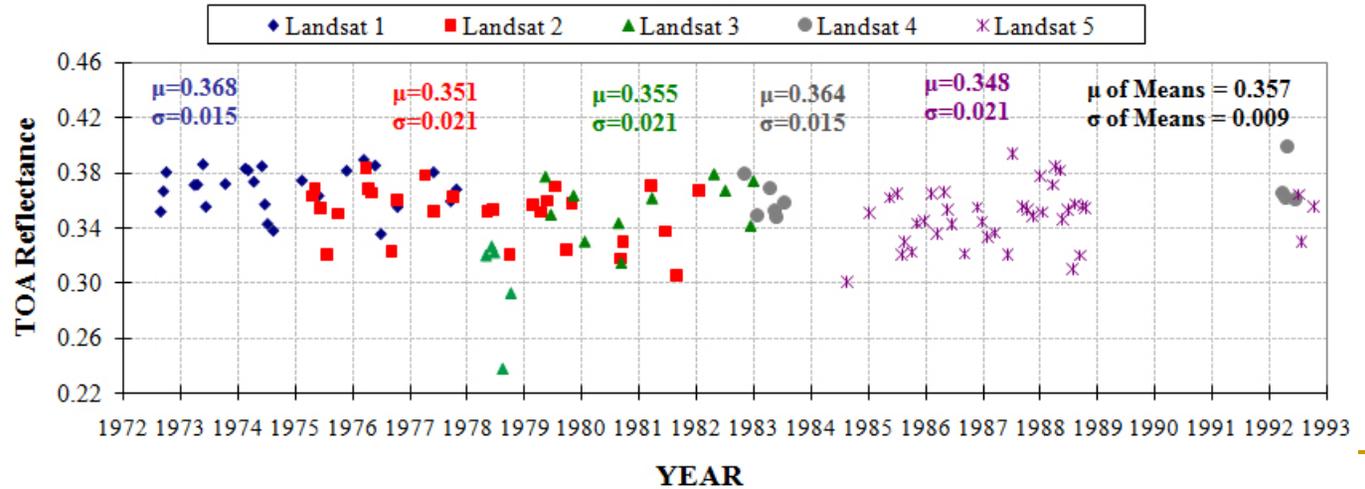
# Results: Band 4

Landsat 1-5 MSS Band 4 (TOA Reflectance vs Time)



Before Cross-calibration applied

TOA reflectance derived over Sonoran desert as apparently seen by Landsat-5 since 1972, Band 4



After Cross-calibration applied

# Cross-calibration validation summary

## Band 1

Sensor	TOA Reflectance	Normalized to L5	Normalized to L5 after Cross-cal
L1	0.263	1.02	0.98
L2	0.237	0.92	0.98
L3	0.239	0.93	1
L4	0.227	0.88	1
L5	0.258	1	1

## Band 2

Sensor	TOA Reflectance	Normalized to L5	Normalized to L5 after Cross-cal
L1	0.343	1.08	0.99
L2	0.319	1.00	0.99
L3	0.325	1.02	1.00
L4	0.294	0.92	0.99
L5	0.318	1.00	1.00

## Band 3

Sensor	TOA Reflectance	Normalized to L5	Normalized to L5 after Cross-cal
L1	0.356	1.01	0.98
L2	0.351	1.00	0.97
L3	0.33	0.94	0.99
L4	0.335	0.95	0.99
L5	0.351	1.00	1.00

## Band 4

Sensor	TOA Reflectance	Normalized to L5	Normalized to L5 after Cross-cal
L1	0.314	0.90	1.06
L2	0.324	0.93	1.01
L3	0.327	0.94	1.02
L4	0.334	0.96	1.05
L5	0.348	1.00	1.00

# Equivalent Landsat-5 MSS TOA Reflectance Conversion Factors for Landsat-1 through -4 MSS

Equivalent Landsat-5 TOA Reflectance Conversion Factors							
Band	Landsat-1			Band	Landsat-2		
	Gain	Offset Term	Time Dependent Term		Gain	Offset Term	Time Dependent Term
1	0.9343	0.0059	0	1	1.0772	-0.0079	0.0009858*(1982.86-t)
2	0.8714	0.0183	0	2	1.0334	-0.019	0.0010453*(1982.86-t)
3	0.9386	0.0114	0	3	1.0081	-0.0149	0
4	1.0374	0.0422	0	4	1.0426	0.0131	0
Band	Landsat-3 (Applicable to post-1979 data only)			Band	Landsat-4		
	Gain	Offset Term	Time Dependent Term		Gain	Offset Term	Time Dependent Term
1	1.0623	-0.0019	0.002611*(1983.05-t)	1	1.1284	0.0014	0
2	0.9875	-0.0032	0	2	1.079	-0.0035	0
3	1.0461	0.0039	0	3	1.0466	0.0016	0
4	1.0794	0.0022	0	4	1.1006	-0.0031	0

**Example:** Suppose, a TOA reflectance calculation in band 1 over any specified ROI of Landsat-2 scene, LM20410381976118AAA04, is found to be 0.234. The Equivalent Landsat-5 TOA is given by,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \rho_{L5} &= \text{Gain} * \rho_{L2} + \text{Offset} + \text{Time dependent term} \\
 &= 1.0772 * 0.234 - 0.0079 + 0.0009858 * (1982.86 - 1976.32) \\
 &= 0.251
 \end{aligned}$$

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# Cross-calibration of Landsat-5 MSS to TM

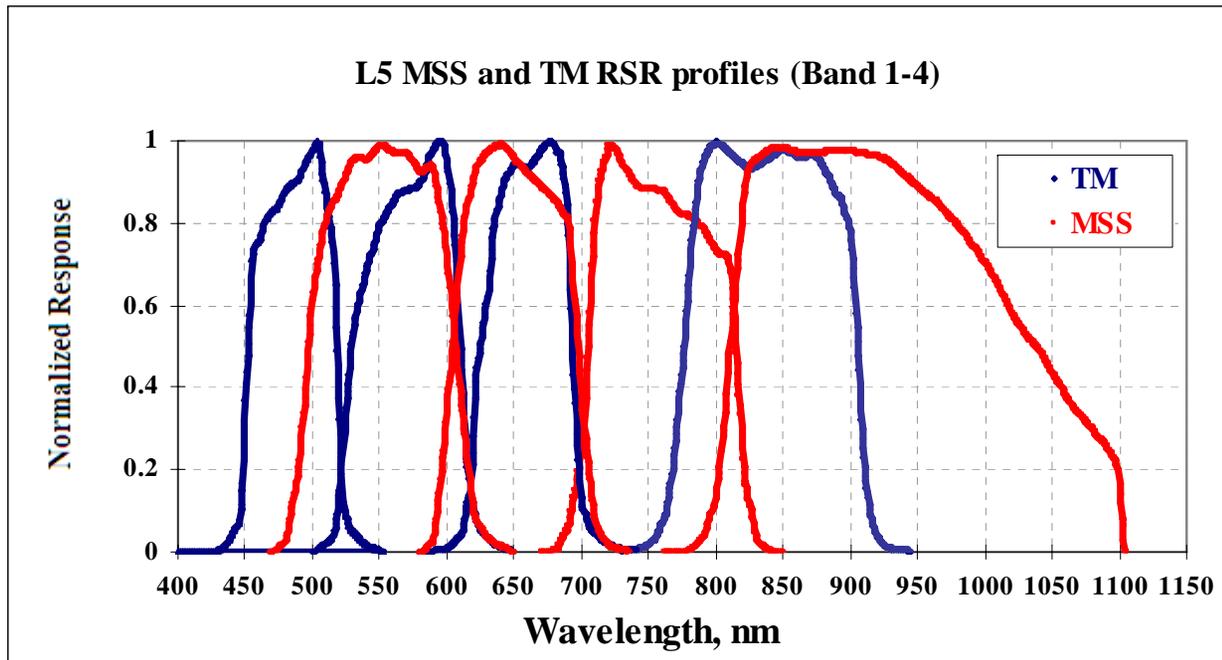


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# Background

- Landsat-5 TM is known to have an absolute radiometric accuracy of 5%.
  - Absolute calibration of MSS sensors can be achieved by establishing a cross-calibration between Landsat-5 MSS and TM.
  - Major issues:
    - Spatial resolution
    - RSR Differences
-

# Key Concern: Dissimilar RSR Profiles



## Spectrally best matching pairs

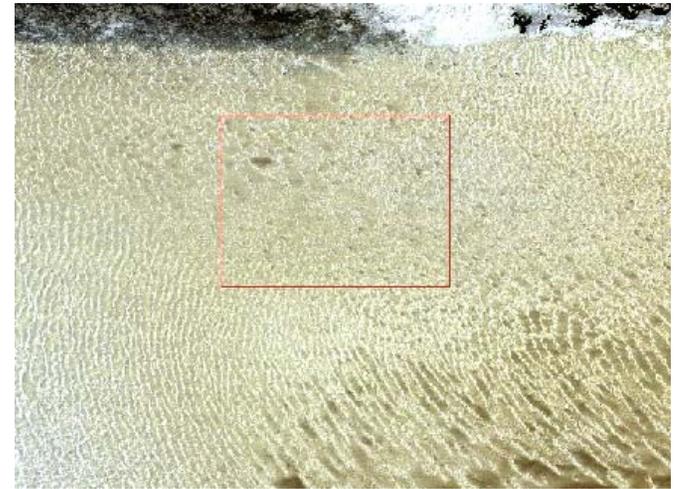
MSS	TM	FOM
B1	B2	0.635
B2	B3	0.708
B3	B4	0.182
B4	B4	0.328

- None of the four bands match closely in their RSR profiles, indicating that the two sensors may produce different results while looking at the same ground target.
- Effect of Spectral Band Difference is scene specific, and we need to know the spectral signature of target as well to find the Spectral Band Adjustment Factors (SBAFs).

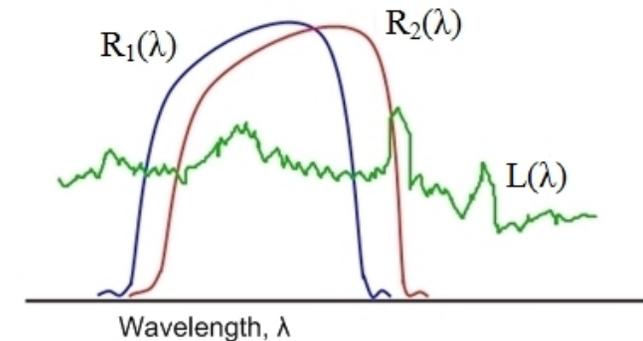
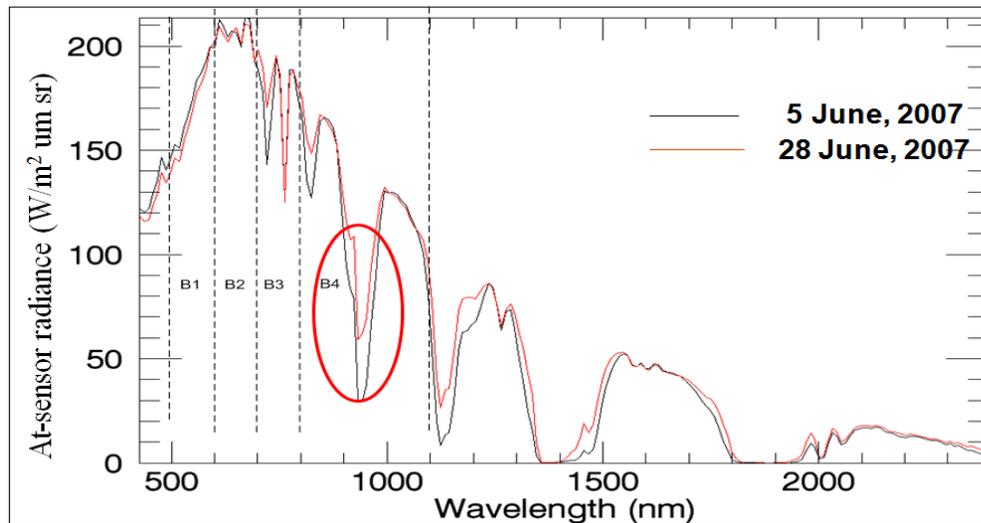
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# Region of Interest (ROI)

- Twelve pairs of coincident TM and MSS scenes acquired by Landsat-5 over Libya-4 desert were selected to cross-calibrate MSS to TM.
- 1000×800 pixels ROI defined on MSS scenes (which is equivalent to 1900×2187 TM pixels).
- The dune features in the site were used to geolocate the ROI.



# Spectral Band Adjustment Factor (SBAF) Calculation



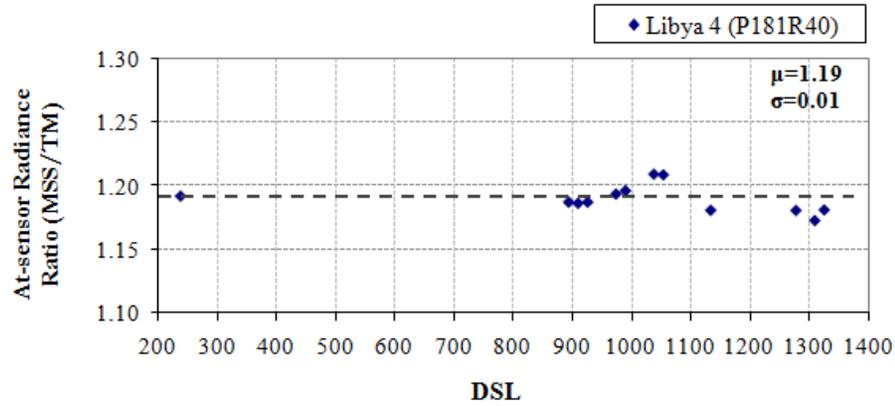
$$SBAF = \frac{\int R_1(\lambda).L(\lambda)d\lambda / \int R_1(\lambda)d\lambda}{\int R_2(\lambda).L(\lambda)d\lambda / \int R_2(\lambda)d\lambda}$$

- Spectral signature of Libya-4 desert was derived using hyperspectral data acquired by Hyperion sensor on Earth Observer-1.

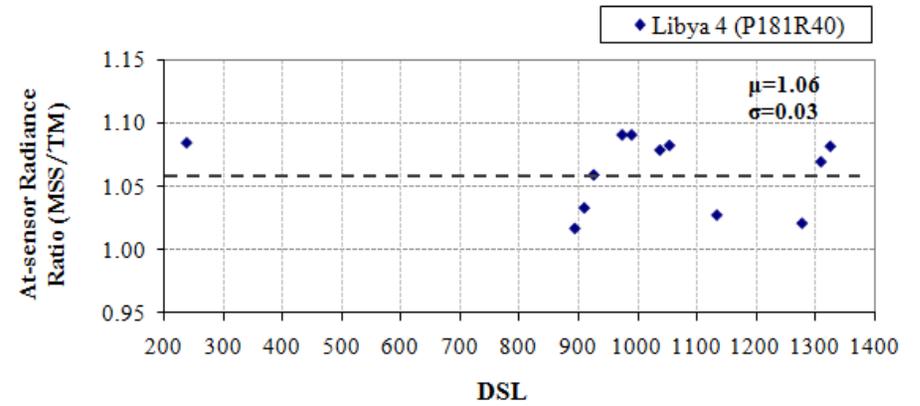
MSS and TM matching Bands	Average SBAF from two Hyperion data set (TM/MSS)	Percentage difference (%)
MSS B1-TM B2	1.050	0.62
MSS B2-TM B3	0.990	0.04
MSS B3-TM B4	0.903	0.11
MSS B4-TM B4	1.310	5.44

# Results

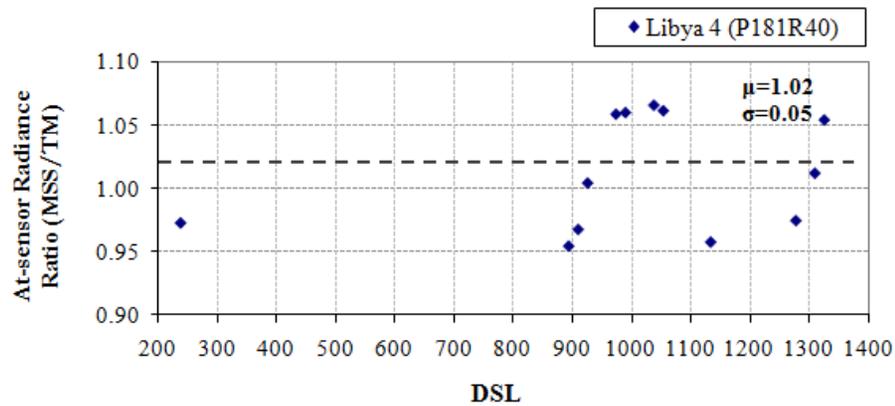
Time series showing cross-cal MSS Band 1 to TM Band 2 ratio



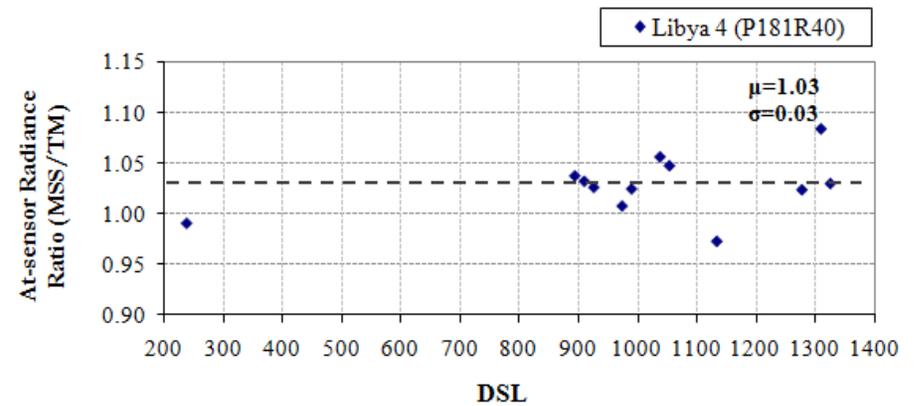
Time series showing cross-cal MSS Band 2 to TM Band 3 ratio



Time series showing cross-cal MSS Band 3 to TM Band 4 ratio



Time series showing cross-cal MSS Band 4 to TM Band 4 ratio

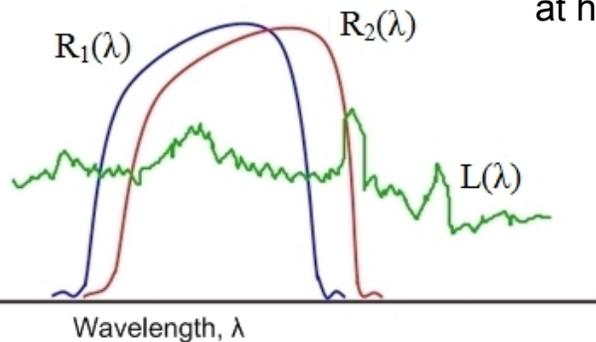


# SBAF Examples

(or how do we perform spectrally dependent cross-cal?)

	Landsat-5 MSS Band	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
	Landsat-5 TM Band	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 4
Vegetation	Conifer	1.016	0.925	1.221	1.010
	Deciduous	1.019	0.939	1.231	0.996
	Dry Grass	1.062	1.028	1.096	0.927
	Green Grass	1.082	0.919	1.261	0.979
	Cheat Grass	1.076	1.054	1.277	0.872
	Maple Leaf	1.066	0.929	1.268	1.011
	<b>Average:</b>	1.053	0.966	1.226	0.966
<b>Maximum:</b>	1.016	0.919	1.096	0.872	
<b>Minimum:</b>	1.082	1.054	1.277	1.011	
<b>Range:</b>	0.066	0.134	0.182	0.139	

\* Spectral profiles obtained from the ASTER Spectral Library available at <http://speclib.jpl.nasa.gov>



$$SBAF = \frac{\int R_1(\lambda).L(\lambda)d\lambda / \int R_1(\lambda)d\lambda}{\int R_2(\lambda).L(\lambda)d\lambda / \int R_2(\lambda)d\lambda}$$

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# Conclusions

- Cross-calibration of TM4 to TM5 accomplished
    - Uncertainties 1-3% in all reflective bands, up to 5% in band 5
    - Up to 8% differences with respect to NLAPS-based gains
  - The radiometric calibration of each MSS sensor was found stable within 2% in band 1, 3% in bands 2 and 3, and 6% in band 4, throughout the lifetime.
    - The absolute gains of five MSS sensors exhibit a maximum difference of 17% as derived from the currently existing radiometrically processed MSS data in the USGS archive.
    - Cross-calibration connections established so far shows the ability to place Landsat-1 through -5 MSS sensors on a consistent radiometric scale within 6%.
  - Initial cross-calibration to Landsat-5 TM using a desert site suggests the absolute radiometric gain of the Landsat-5 MSS is lower in band 1 by 19%, band 2 by 6%, band 3 by 2%, and in band 4 by 3%.
  - Tables of conversion factors coming soon to a website near you!
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# Open Issues

- NLAPS calibration of L4 TM and MSS
  - Should be ‘easily’ invertible for L4 TM
  - MSS radiometric processing not well understood; indications that perhaps only solar zenith angle correction applied.
  - LPGS/IAS capability for L4 TM imminent; *need to insure development of similar capability for MSS*
- Development of spectral-based cross-calibration technique for TM to MSS ?
- Consider atmospheric modeling and BRDF effect.
- Determine the effect of RSR mismatch; particularly for Landsat-2 to -4 and Landsat-3 to -4 cross-calibration.

