

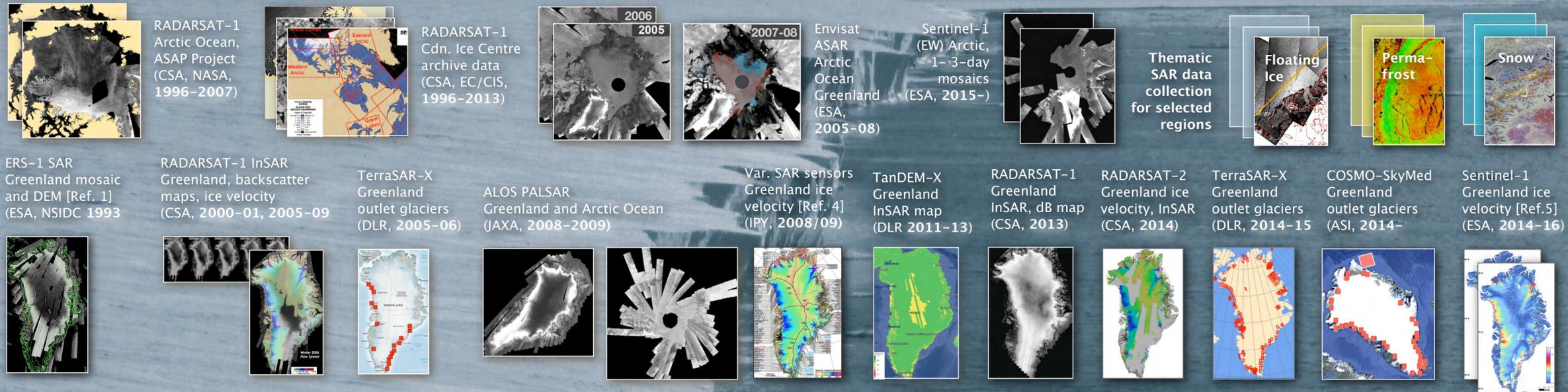
Overview of Two Decades of Coordinated Satellite SAR Data Acquisitions over Polar Regions

Background Photo: Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea Credit: Ralph Timmermann, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany



COOPERATION and COORDINATION

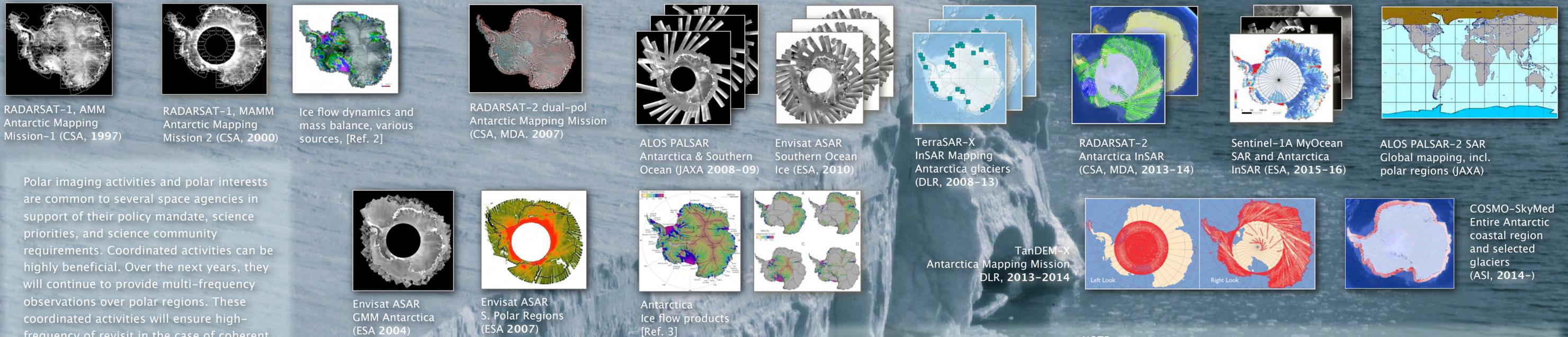
Over the past two decades, the collection of large amounts of satellite radar imagery over vast polar regions has become an outstanding example of international cooperation among space agencies and the polar science community. Building on the successful cooperation and coordination during the International Polar Year, the Polar Space Task Group (PSTG) has recently re-enacted the SAR Coordination Working Group. This Group provides coordination among space agencies operating SAR satellites to facilitate acquisition and distribution of fundamental SAR datasets. It also contributes to the development of data products in support of cryospheric scientific research and applications.



International Polar Year



Polar Space Task Group - SAR Coordination Working Group >>>



Polar imaging activities and polar interests are common to several space agencies in support of their policy mandate, science priorities, and science community requirements. Coordinated activities can be highly beneficial. Over the next years, they will continue to provide multi-frequency observations over polar regions. These coordinated activities will ensure high-frequency of revisit in the case of coherent and interoperable datasets from various missions, and they will strive for workload distribution across agencies - consistent with mission constraints and capabilities.

REFERENCES:
 [Ref. 1] Fahnestock et al. 1997
 [Ref. 2] Rignot et al. 2006
 [Ref. 3] Rignot et al. 2011
 [Ref. 4] Rignot & Mouginot 2012
 [Ref. 5] Nagler et al. 2015

NOTE:
 This graphic was prepared on behalf of the Polar Space Task Group's SAR Coordination Working Group. The contributions and advice received from the working group members is gratefully acknowledged. The summary information presented here is not exhaustive. It reflects the status of plans and actual SAR data collections as of 2015.
 For further information: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/pstg-sarcwg_en.php

Concept & design: Dirk Werle (April 2016 update)

