

An introduction to remote sensing of the environment

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A definition of remote sensing

"Remote Sensing is the science and art of obtaining information about an object, area, or phenomenon through the analysis of data acquired by a device that is not in contact with the object, area, or phenomenon under investigation."



Namib Desert August 1, 2000

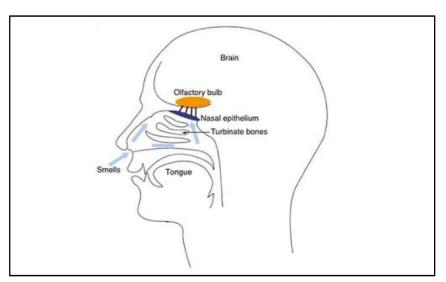


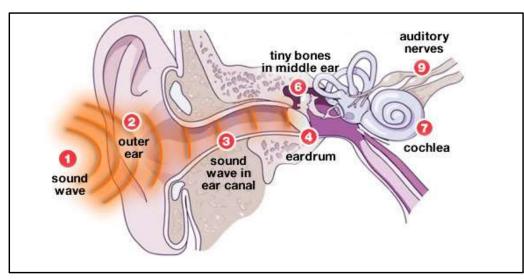
Ganges River Delta January 1, 1999

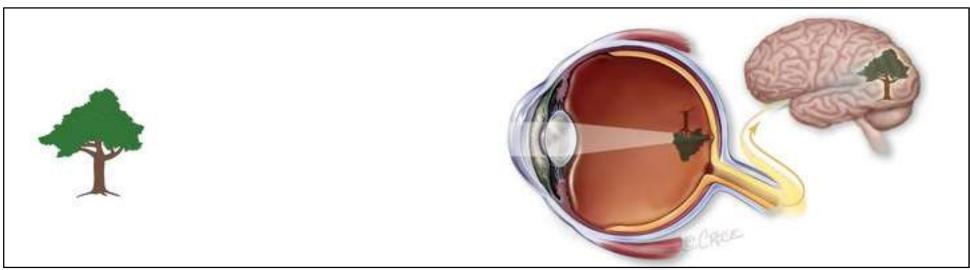


Coahuila, Mexico November 1, 1999

"Remote" senses: sound, smell, sight...

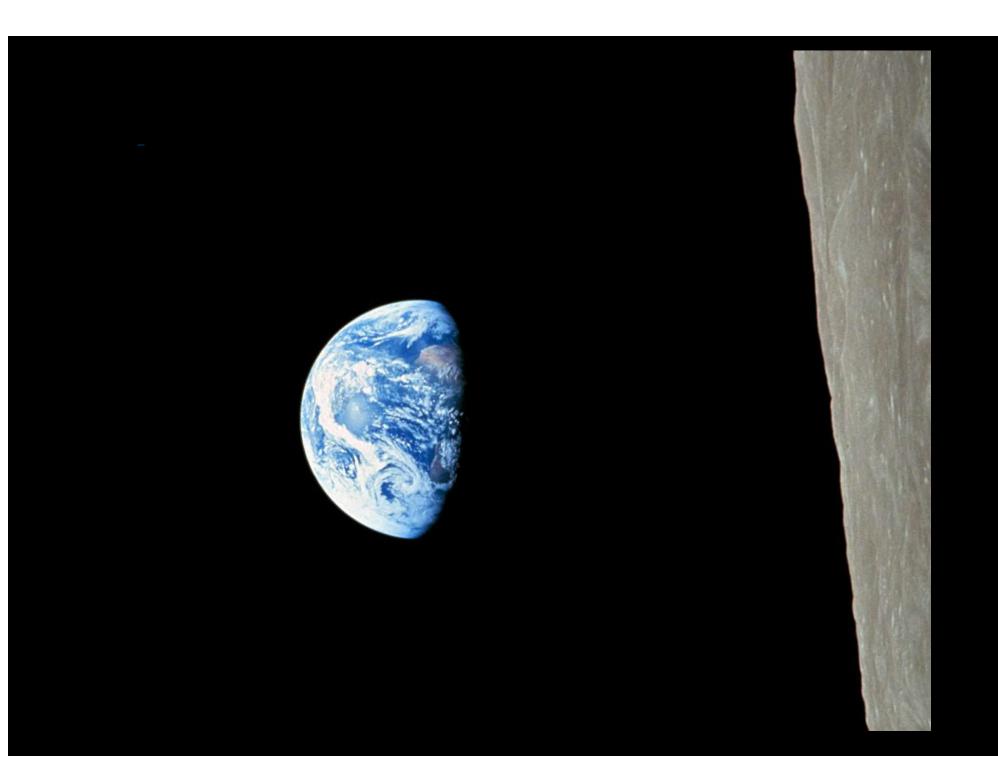






http://bionicvision.org.au/__data/assets/image/0007/464173/Healthy_Vision.jpg http://human-physiology---ashley-vg.wikispaces.com/file/view/How_the_Ear_Hears.jpg/133885195/How_the_Ear_Hears.jpg http://archive.siliconchip.com.au/static/images/articles/i308/30801_2lo.jpg

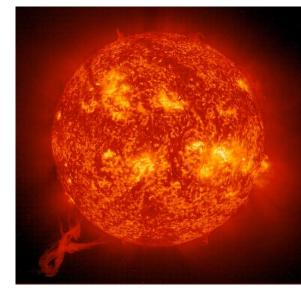




Information flow and carrier

- Information must flow from the object, area, or phenomenon to the observer
- In remote sensing the carrier is electromagnetic radiation
- Information is captured visually and / or is recorded
- Recording started out as film and ended up as digital





Archives photographiques (Médiathèque de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine) 1858

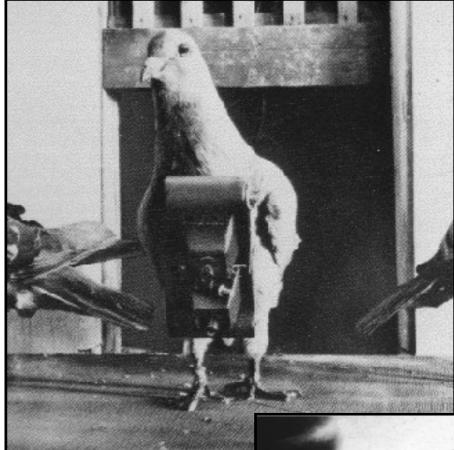
> Gaspard-Félix Tournachon (b. April 6th 1820 d. March 21st 1910)

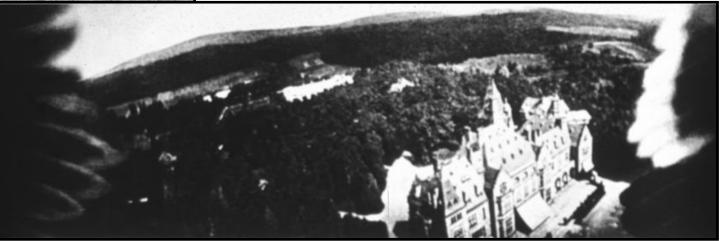




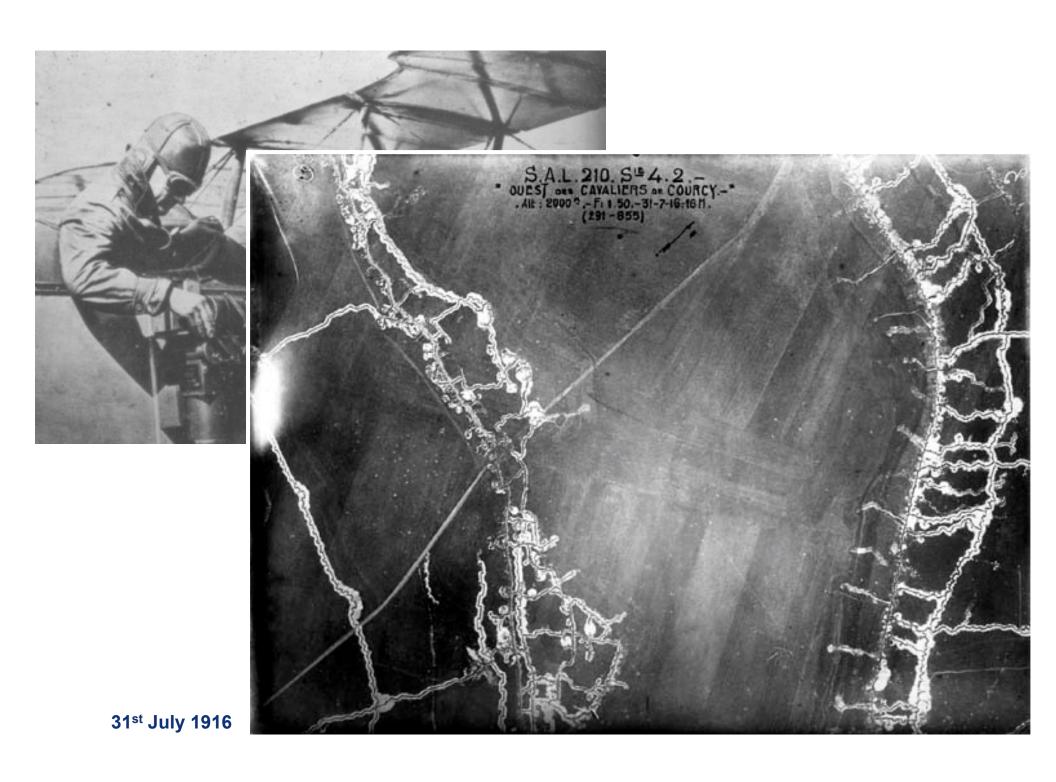


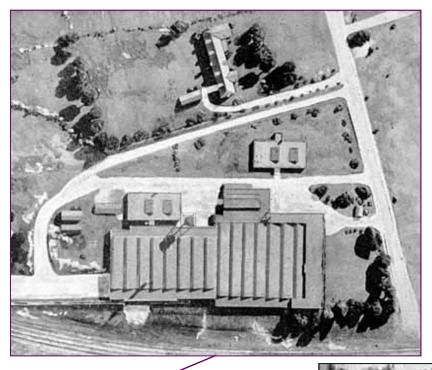






Schlosshotel Kronberg c.a. 1903 seen from Pigeon – altitude c.a 100 m







NOW YOU SEE IT. Before the camouflage experts went to work, this factory - a model, for test purposes - was photographed from the air on conventional panchromatic film. The bomber's eye would see what you see - a perfect set-up for destruction.

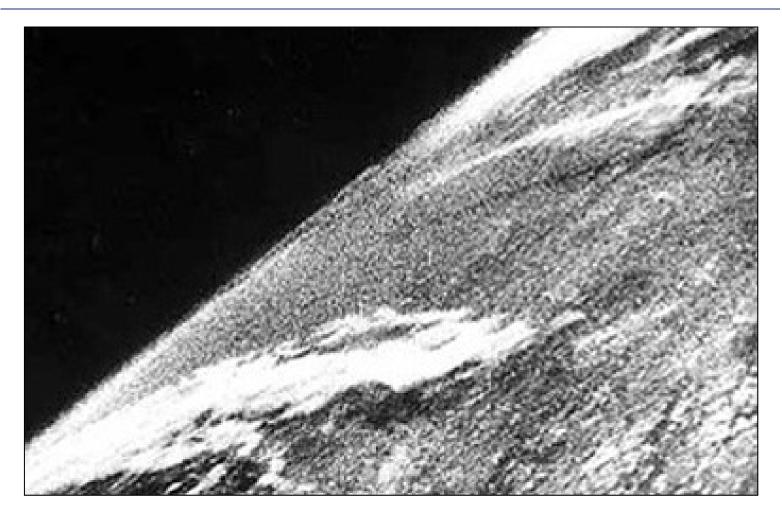
1942 Kodak patents first false color I.R. sensitive film March 1943, WW-II era, advertisement



NOW YOU DON'T. With camouflage materials - false structures, netting, cloth streamers, paint, and artificial trees - the experts have fooled the camera, and the bombardier. To the aerial camera loaded with panchromatic film, even the marks of erosion on the slope by the railroad tracks have disappeared.

BUT HERE IT IS AGAIN. With Kodak Infrared Film in the aerial cameras, pictures like this are brought back from an observation flight. On Infrared pictures, the false, "dead" camouflage materials look almost black. The natural landscape is unnaturally light. A trained cameraman, with one look, knows where the bombs should strike.

The first ever image from space



View of Earth from a camera on V-2 #13, launched October 24, 1946. (White Sands Missile Range/Applied Physics Laboratory)

The New York Times. LATE CITY EDITION

SOVIET FIRES EARTH SATELLITE INTO SPACE: IT IS CIRCLING THE GLOBE AT 18,000 M. P. H.; SPHERE TRACKED IN 4 CROSSINGS OVER U.S.



COURSE RECORDED Kavy Picks Up Radio Signals-4 Report Sighting Device

FALBUS COMPARES | Vie Widow in Coss | ARGENTINA TAKES HIS STAND TO LEES 200,000 Pupils One EMERGENCY STEPS

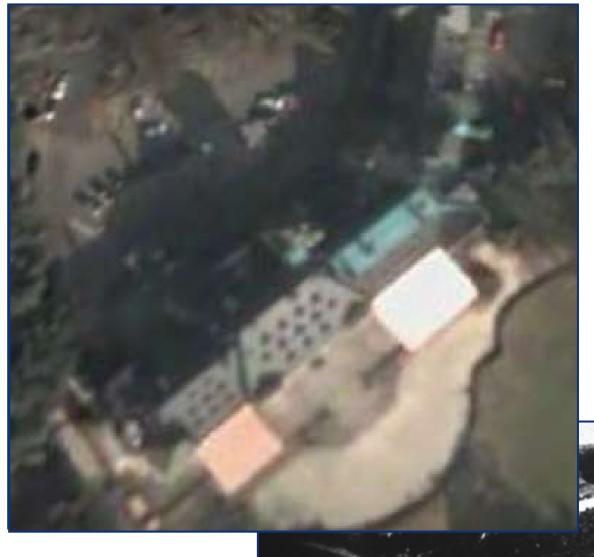
Binoculars, Moscow

Statement Says

Device Is 8 Times Heavier Than One Planned by U.S.

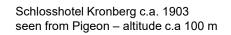


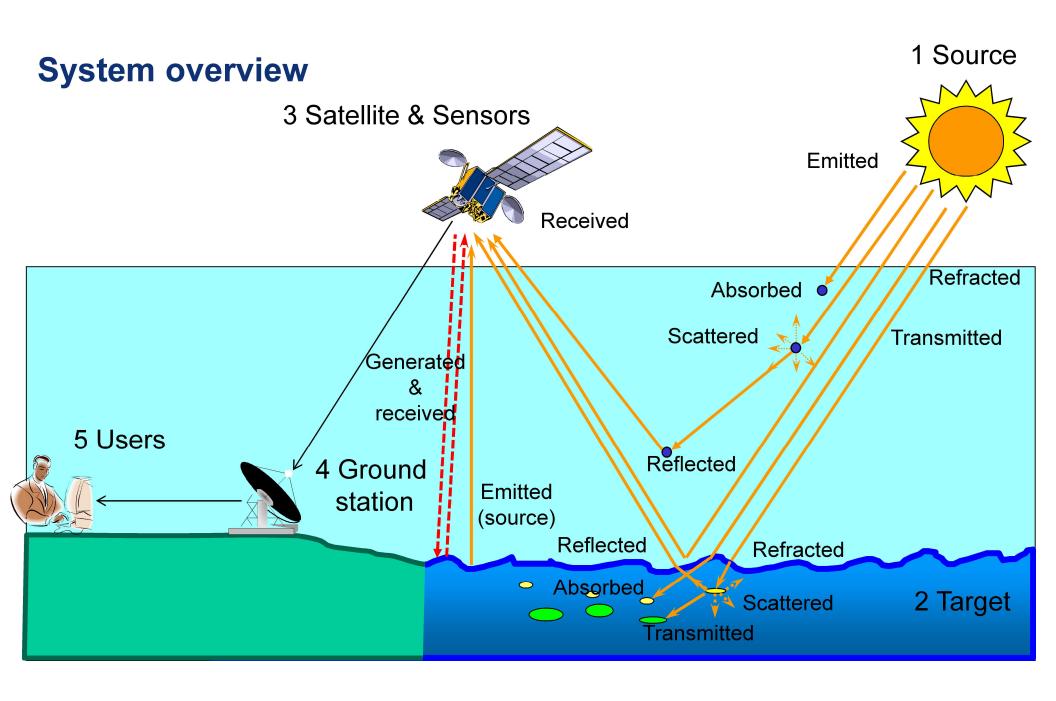




Schlosshotel Kronberg 2003 seen from QuickBird2 altitude 450,000 m







Some attributes of remote sensing for environment

- 1 improved vantage point
 - Synoptic view
 - Global view
- 2 captures dynamic processes and provides a permanent record
- 3 source of measurements
 - heights, distances, areas, number
 - positions, angles, volumes
 - biophysical values
- 4 improved spectral information
- 5 improved spatial context even 3 D
- 6 Independent, neutral and verifiable information

