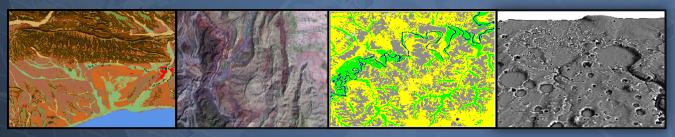


# Route To A Remote Sensing Geology Career



#### Today's Agenda:

- My Route
- Potential Employers & Skills
- Trends Going Forward
- Take-Away Messages

GRSG - September 10, 2014
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### My Route:



BS Geology/AAS Civil Engineering Technology

- Geomorphology Research Assistant
- Geotechnical Engineering Firm
- MA Geology
  - Thesis: Electrical geophysics and fluid flow
- Shell Oil Company
- Environmental Consulting Companies

EarthSat/MDA
Remote Sensing Geologist/Manager
oil/environmental/gov't/mining/water



# Who Hires Geologists With Remote Sensing Skills?

- Geospatial companies (services/products)
- Government agencies and contractors
  - Natural resources; defense
- Academia
- Environmental firms/organizations
- Oil companies
- Mining companies
- Engineering/Water companies

# **Geologic Consulting RS Projects**



Petroleum Exploration

Water
Exploration/
Management

Mining Exploration

Environmental and/or Government

Oil Seeps and Spills

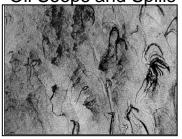
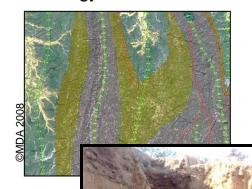
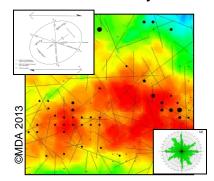


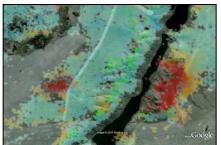
Image: RADARSAT-1 data © CSA 2011 Received by the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing. Processed and distributed by MDA Geospatial Services Inc.

#### Lithology and Structures

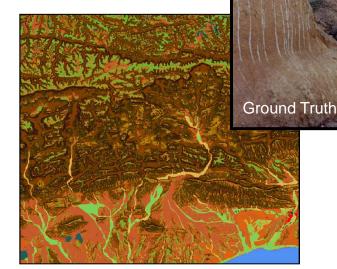


**Lineament Analysis** 



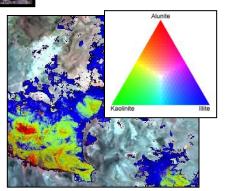


Ground Deformation from RADAR (InSAR) ©MDA 2012



Modelled Soil Texture
Terrain Analysis and Land Cover Mapping

©MDA 2012



Mineral Alteration Mapping
ASTER Imagery



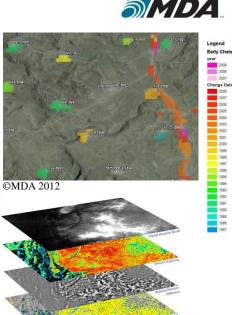
# Skill Set For Remote Sensing Projects

Skill Set For RS Projects	Have a Good Understanding Of:	Take Geomorphology, Field Geology, And:	Other Courses To Take Or Topics To Read Up On:
Petroleum Exploration	-Hydrocarbon migration and trapping mechanisms -Geomorphic expressions of structure	-Structural geology -Historical geology -Geophysics	-Offshore oil seeps -The geochemistry behind geomorphic/mineral alteration indications of microseepage
Water Exploration/ Management	-Fluid flow and storage -Sustainability	-Hydrogeology -Hydrology -Geochemistry	-Sedimentology -Geophysics -Civil engineering topics
Mining Exploration	-Mineralization models -Fluid flow	-Mineralogy/Petrology -Geochemistry -Geophysics	-Historical geology -Case histories -Structural geology -Civil engineering topics
Environmental and/or Government	-Various reasons for projects -Geologic/Terrain/ Vegetation implications and interactions	-Geochemistry -Forestry, Ecology and/or Agronomy	Marine processes/ocean color -Climate/Meteorology -Civil Engineering topics

**Trends Going Forward** 







#### Then (1997)

- •Few players; nearly brandnew industry
- Negatives, hardcopies and light tables ruled
- •Each Landsat image cost \$3,000

#### Now (2014)

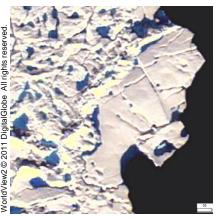
- Many more players but still lots to do
- It's a digital world
- •Stacks of imagery Landsat is now free!

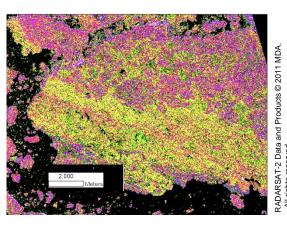
# **Trends Going Forward**





Stereoscope with prints of Landsat and declassified Corona imagery on light table





To research characterization methods for ice floe textures, multiple types of imagery were synchronously acquired while a research vessel obtained ground truth photos. Left: Image from a stereopair of DigitalGlobe WorldView 2 imagery Right: Wishart classification of QuadPol RADARSAT More information: Brunke et al - IGARSS, 2014.

#### Then

- (DEMs)
- No commercial highresolution satellites
- GPS challenging to use
- Limited satellite RADAR options

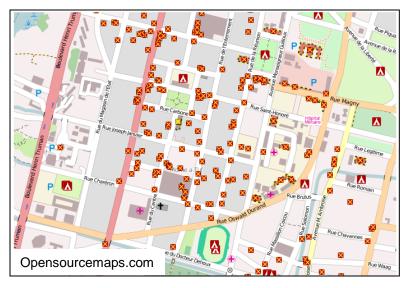
#### Now

- Rare Digital Elevation Models Multiple Global DEMs different sensors, scales and dates
  - Many options for higher spatial, spectral, & temporal resolutions
  - GPS easy and widely available
  - Multiple RADAR band and polarity choices

# **Trends Going Forward**







Open Street Maps was used by crises responders to tag damaged buildings after the Haiti Earthquakes

#### Then

- Major innovations in image processing, and geolocational accuracy.
- Professional cartographers used tools like zoom transferscope, exacto knifes, vellum, "image paint", etc.

#### Now

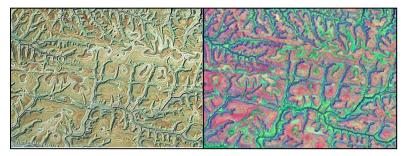
- Increasing sophistication in processing and GIS software
- Opportunities to leverage crowd source data, social media, and open-source GIS for ground truth (with caution).

# **Take Away Messages**



- Big picture
  - Develop your geologic skills and stay flexible
    - Remote sensing and GIS are great tools!

- Day-to-day
  - Use the right imagery and processing for the job
    - Know your data sets' benefits and limitations
    - Don't forget RADAR and thermal!
  - Maintain your passion and creativity



Left: Landsat GeoCover 2000 – Natural color processing

Right: Same data after selective masking and MNF processing

