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# PRISMA data for cryospheric applications in Alpine and polar environments

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## **Objectives of the presentation**



- To briefly review hyperspectral remote sensing of snow and ice
- To present PRISMA Cal/Val activities in the Alps
- To show first applications of PRISMA in the Alps, Greenland and Antarctica



# Hyperspectral remote sensing of snow and ice esa



- Snow reflectance in the Visible and Near-Infrared wavelengths decreases a snow ages (increase in grain size)
- Absorption features (800 nm, 1030 nm, 1250nm, 1500nm, 2000nm) are related to the imaginary part of the refractive index

# Hyperspectral remote sensing of snow and ice eesa



Di Mauro et al. 2021. Light-Absorbing Particles in Snow and Ice: A Brief Journey Across Latitudes. *Springer Series in Light Scattering* 

- Snow reflectance in the Visible wavelengths allows to derive the nature, concentration and radiative forcing of light-absorbing impurities (e.g. mineral dust, cryoconite, algae) in snow and ice
- These impurities are involved in the snow/ice-albedo feedback and play an important role in snow and ice melting at global scale

## Hyperspectral remote sensing of snow and ice







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## **PRISMA** imaging spectrometer



- **PRISMA** (PRecursore IperSpettrale della Missione Applicativa) is a satellite mission by the Italian Space Agency (**ASI**).
- Launched in April 2019
- On-demand hyperspectral data of Earth surface
- The imaging spectrometer features 239 bands covering the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared wavelengths (400-2500 nm) with a spectral resolution <12nm.</li>
- Spatial resolution: 30m, Swath: 30 km.









Di Mauro et al. (in prep)

eesa

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## **PRISMA** cal/val – Torgnon site



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General: High altitude (2160 m) experimental site (Torgnon, Aosta Valley) in the Western Alps.
Snow cover duration: October-May
Instruments operating at the site: net radiometer, webcam, sensors for snow depth, snow water equivalent, snow surface temperature, snow spectral reflectance (400-900nm)





## PRISMA cal/val – Plateau Rosa site





- Plateau Rosa is located in the Monte Rosa massif at 3500m asl
- Almost flat area easy to reach with the cableway
- Snow is present on the glacier also during the summer season

PRISMA acquisition: 9th July 2020





## **Cal/Val activities in the Alps**





#### **Torgnon**

- Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ٠
- SZA 61° •
- VZA 8.7°-10.2° ٠
- SAA 159° •
- RAA 55° ٠
- fresh snow ٠
- Sentinel-2 (Feb 14<sup>th</sup> • 2020)
- RoX spectra •



#### Plateau Rosa

- Jul 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ٠
- SZA 27° •
- VZA 8.7°-10.2° •
- SAA 145° •
- RAA 42° ٠
- aged snow •
- Sentinel-2 (July 8<sup>th</sup> • 2020)

## Cal/Val activities in the Alps – TOA Radiance





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## Cal/Val activities in the Alps – BOA Reflectance





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## Cal/Val activities in the Alps – TOA Radiance





Di Mauro et al. (in prep)

## **Cal/Val activities in the Alps – BOA Reflectance**



Torgnon

**Plateau Rosa** 



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# Mapping grain size and impurities at the Aletsch glacier (Swiss Alps)



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NDGSI

SDI

PRISMA true color (7 August 2020)





### **LWC retrievals in Western Alps**



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## Glacier ice parameters retrieval from PRISMA





Bohn, N., Di Mauro, B., Colombo, R., Thompson, D. R., Susiluoto, J., Carmon, N., Turmon M. J., Guanter L. (2022). Glacier ice surface properties in South-West Greenland Ice Sheet: First estimates from PRISMA imaging spectroscopy data. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences*, 127, e2021JG006718. https://doi.org/10.1029/2021JG006718

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## **Glacier ice parameters retrieval from PRISMA**





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### **Glacier ice parameters retrieval from PRISMA**







# **Snow surface properties over the Nansen Ice Shelf (East Antarctica)**





December 2020



Snow surface properties derived from PRISMA satellite data over the Nansen Ice Shelf (East Antarctica).Kokhanovsky A., B. Di Mauro, R. Colombo (2022)*Front. Env. Sci.* 

# Snow surface properties over the Nansen Ice Shelf (East Antarctica)





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## **Conclusions and perspectives**



**Two experimental sites** were employed to investigate PRISMA performance on snow-covered areas and two field campaigns were carried out simultaneously to PRISMA overpasses in the Western Alps

PRISMA L1 and L2D spectra show a **good agreement** with field measurements and Sentinel-2 data, within the MRD requirements (lower than 5%) for most of the wl.

Tests over Greenland and Antarctica showed a great potential of PRISMA for mapping snow and ice surface properties from space in polar areas

PRISMA data look promising for applications in the study of the cryosphere. In particular, for the retrieval of parameters such as: **albedo**, **grain size**, **impurities** (concentration and radiative forcing) and **liquid water content**.

There is a need for a **comparison** among different **atmospheric/topographic correction** in order to improve PRISMA L2 Reflectance product and with other imaging spectroscopy data (e.g. EnMAP)



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