



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# High-resolution hyperspectral and thermal imaging for the early detection of plant diseases

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The University of Melbourne

# Vegetation Indices – 50 years ago

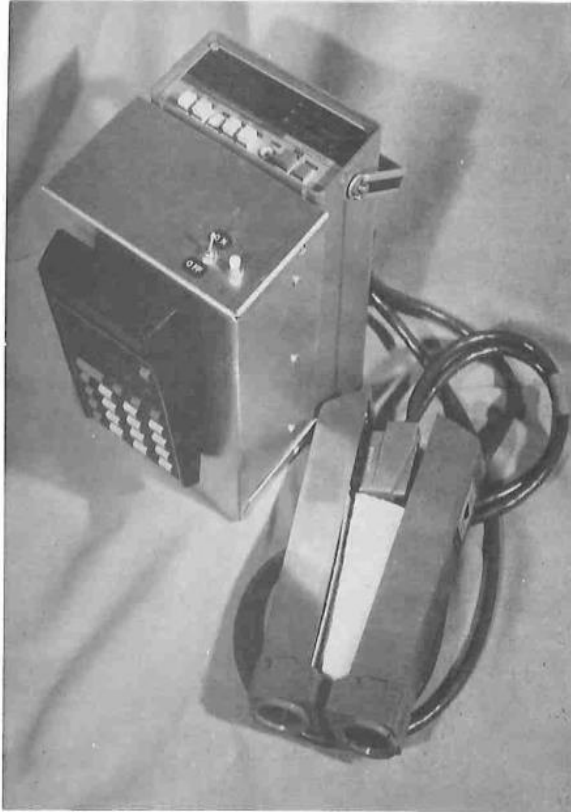


Figure 9. The prototype hand-held biomass meter consisting of a radiometer with two probes interfaced to a pocket calculator through a programmable data collection digital interface.

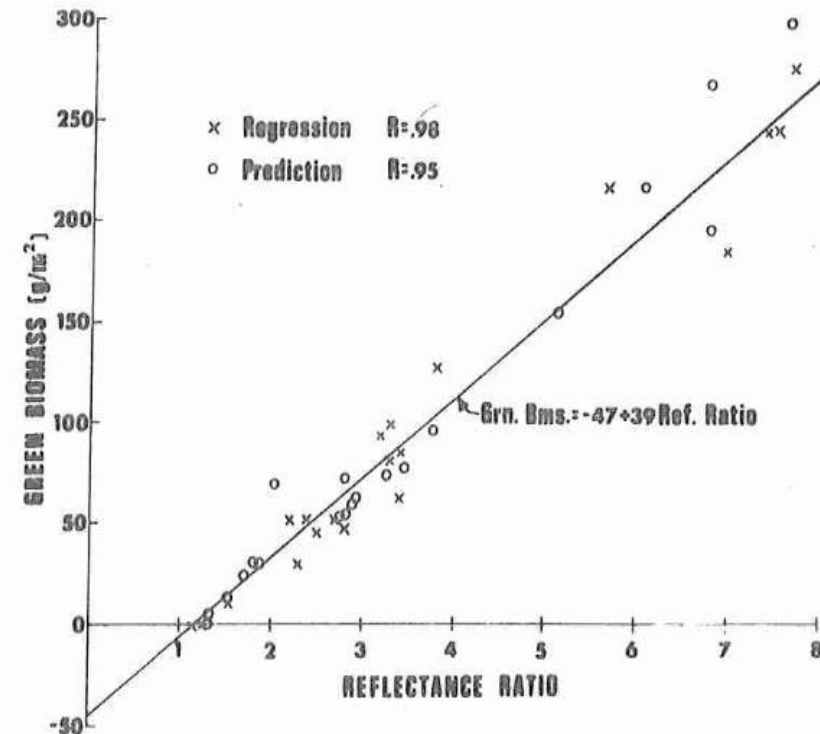


Figure 8. The linear relationship between biomass of a sample plot and the ratio of the reflectance of that plot at .800  $\mu\text{m}$  to that at .680  $\mu\text{m}$  was established on 20 plots using regression methods. Next, this linear relationship was used to predict the biomass on 20 new sample plots. The same plots measured in September were used here.



50 years of progress



## Vegetation indices

- NDVI, MTVI, RDVI ...
- CARI, MCARI, TCARI
- NDWI, SRWI ...
- PRI, BG1, BR1 ...
- ...

50 years

**Vegetation indices**

- NDVI, MTVI, RDVI ...
- CARI, MCARI, TCARI
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- PRI, BG1, BR1 ...
- ...

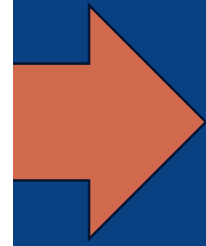
Structure

Chlorophyll

Water

Photochemical

Vegetation index	Equation
<b>Structural indices</b>	
Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)	$NDVI = (R_{NIR} - R_{red}) / (R_{NIR} + R_{red})$
Normalized Triangular Vegetation Index (MTVI)	$MTVI = 1.2 \times [1.2 \times (R_{800} - R_{550}) - 2.5 \times (R_{670} - R_{550})]$
Normalized Triangular Vegetation Index (MTVI2)	$MTVI2 = \frac{1.5 \times [1.2 \times (R_{800} - R_{550}) - 2.5 \times (R_{670} - R_{550})]}{\sqrt{(2 \times R_{800} + 1)^2 - (6 \times R_{800} - 5 \times \sqrt{R_{670}} - 0.5)}}$
Renormalized Difference Vegetation Index (RDVI)	$RDVI = (R_{800} - R_{670}) / \sqrt{(R_{800} + R_{670})}$
Simple Ratio Index (SR)	$SR = R_{NIR} / R_{red}$
Modified Simple Ratio (MSR)	$MSR = \frac{R_{NIR} / R_{red} - 1}{(R_{NIR} / R_{red})^{0.5} + 1}$
Modified Chlorophyll Absorption in Reflectance Index (MCARI1)	$MCARI1 = 1.2 \times [2.5 \times (R_{800} - R_{670}) - 1.3 \times (R_{800} - R_{550})]$
Modified Chlorophyll Absorption in Reflectance Index (MCARI2)	$MCARI2 = \frac{1.5 \times [2.5 \times (R_{800} - R_{670}) - 1.3 \times (R_{800} - R_{550})]}{\sqrt{(2 \times R_{800} + 1)^2 - (6 \times R_{800} - 5 \times \sqrt{R_{680}} - 0.5)}}$
Soil Adjusted Vegetation Index (SAVI)	$SAVI = (1 + L) \times (R_{800} - R_{670}) / (R_{800} + R_{670} + L)$ [ $L \in (0,1)$ ]
Improved SAVI with self-adjustment factor $L$ (MSAVI)	$MSAVI = \frac{1}{2} [2 \times R_{800} + 1 - \sqrt{(2 \times R_{800} + 1)^2 - 8 \times (R_{800} - R_{670})}]$
Optimized Soil Adjusted Vegetation Index (OSAVI)	$OSAVI = (1 + 0.16) \times (R_{800} - R_{670}) / (R_{800} + R_{670} + 0.16)$
<b>Chlorophyll indices</b>	
Greenness Index (G)	$G = R_{550} / R_{677}$
Normalized Chlorophyll Absorption in Reflectance Index (MCARI)	$MCARI = [(R_{700} - R_{670}) - 0.2 \times (R_{700} - R_{550})] \times (R_{700} / R_{670})$
Transformed CARI (TCARI)	$TCARI = 3 \times [(R_{700} - R_{670}) - 0.2 \times (R_{700} - R_{550}) \times (R_{700} / R_{670})]$
Triangular Vegetation Index (TVI)	$TVI = 0.5 \times [120 \times (R_{750} - R_{550}) - 200 \times (R_{670} - R_{550})]$
Zarco-Garcia Tiller	$ZTM = R_{750} / R_{710}$
<b>Water indices</b>	
Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI)	$NDWI = (R_{860} - R_{1240}) / (R_{860} + R_{1240})$
Simple Ratio Water Index (SRWI)	$SRWI = R_{850} / R_{1240}$
Plant Water Index (PWI)	$PWI = R_{970} / R_{900}$
<b>Red edge spectral parameters</b>	
$\lambda_p$	$\lambda_{p1} = \lambda_{\max(680-750)}; \lambda_{p1g} = \lambda_{\max(500-600)}; \lambda_{p2g} = \lambda_{\min(500-600)}$
$R_o$	$R_o = R_{\min(650-700)}$
$R_s$	$R_s = R_{\max(700-770)}$
$\sigma$	$\sigma$ = shape parameter as defined by the inverted-Gaussian curve-fit model
<b>Other indices mentioned but not used in this study</b>	
Simple Ratio Index (SRPI)	$SRPI = R_{430} / R_{680}$
Normalized Vegetation Index (NPVI)	$NPVI = (R_{415} - R_{435}) / (R_{415} + R_{435})$
Plant Pigment Chlorophyll Index (PPCI)	$PPCI = (R_{528} - R_{567}) / (R_{528} + R_{567})$
Normalized Pigment Chlorophyll Index (NPVI2)	$NPVI2 = (R_{531} - R_{570}) / (R_{531} + R_{570})$
Water indices	$Lic1 = (R_{800} - R_{680}) / (R_{800} + R_{680}); Lic2 = R_{440} / R_{690}; Lic3 = R_{440} / R_{740}; Lic4 = \int_{680}^{760} R$
Lichtenthaler indices	
Structure Intensive Pigment Index (SIPI)	$SIPI = (R_{800} - R_{450}) / (R_{800} + R_{650})$
Vogelmann indices	$Vog1 = R_{740} / R_{720}; Vog2 = (R_{734} - R_{747}) / (R_{715} + R_{720}); Vog3 = (R_{734} - R_{747}) / (R_{715} + R_{720}); Vog4 = D_{715} / D_{705}$
Gitelson and Merzlyak	$G\_M1 = R_{750} / R_{550}; G\_M2 = R_{750} / R_{700}$
Curvature Index (Fluorescence)	$CUR = (R_{675} - R_{690}) / (R_{683}^2)$
Double-Peak Ratio indices	$DP1 = D_{\lambda p(680-750)} / D_{\lambda 0+12}; DP2 = D_{\lambda p(680-750)} / D_{\lambda 0+22}; DP21 = D_{\lambda p(680-750)} / D_{705}; DP22 = D_{\lambda p(680-750)} / D_{720}$
Area Red Edge Peak (ADR)	$ADR = \int_{680}^{760} D$



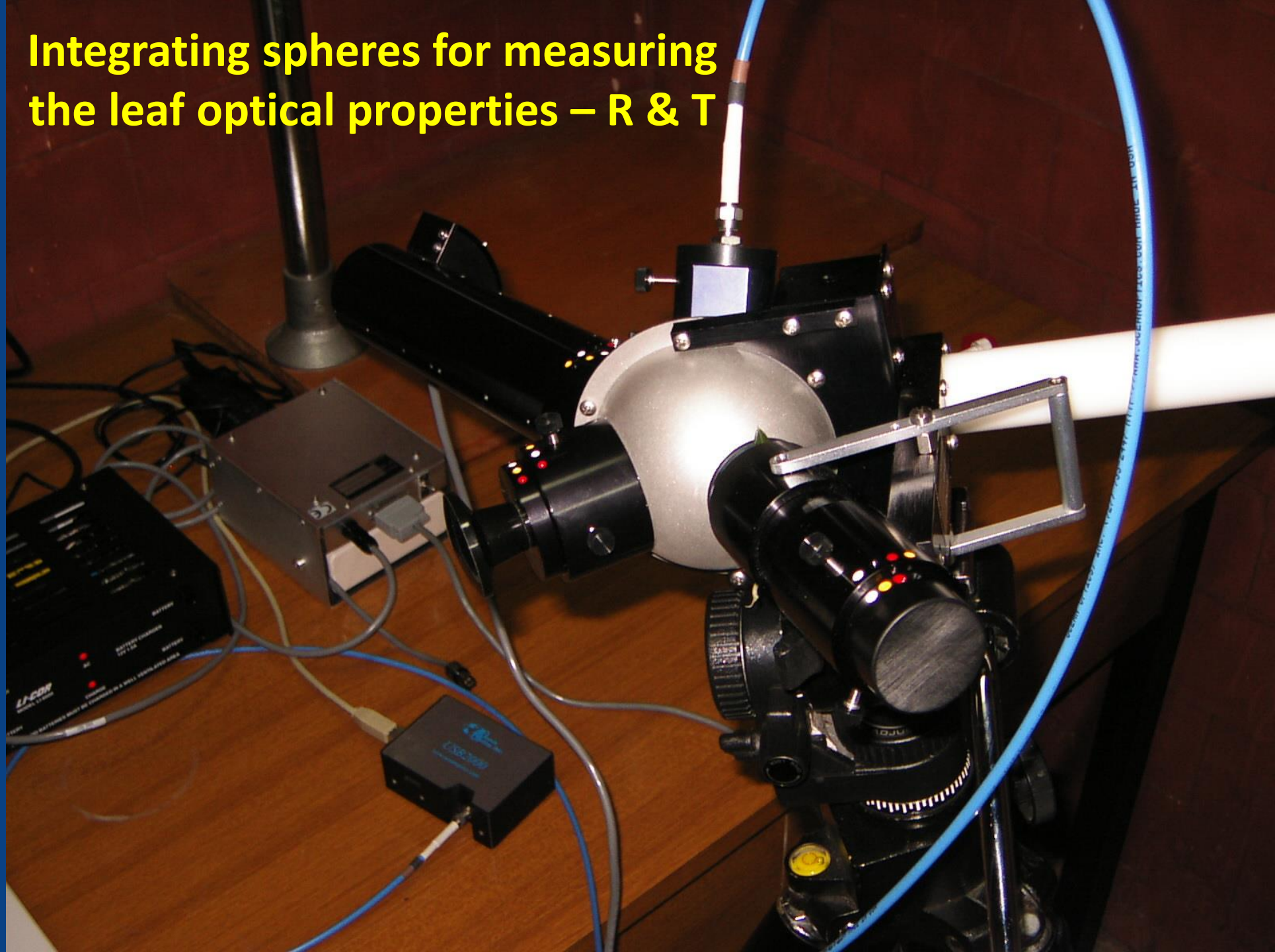


# Hand-held spectral devices



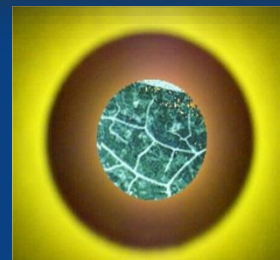
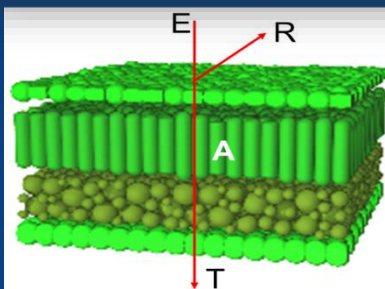
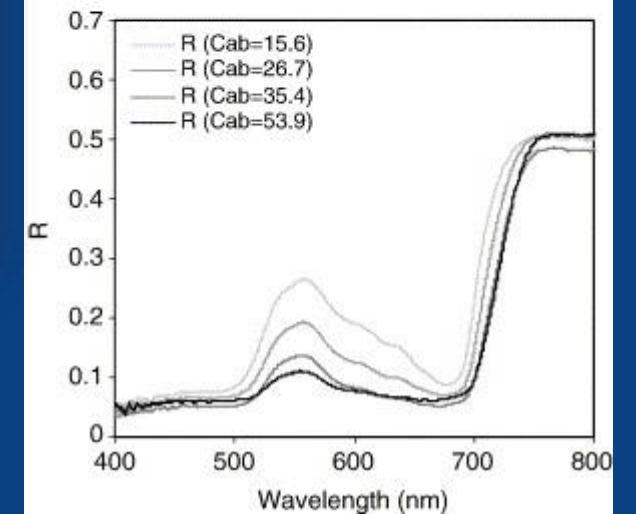
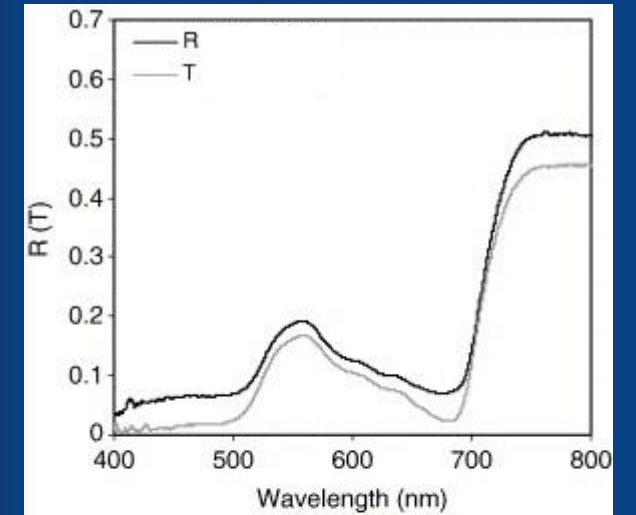


# Integrating spheres for measuring the leaf optical properties – R & T

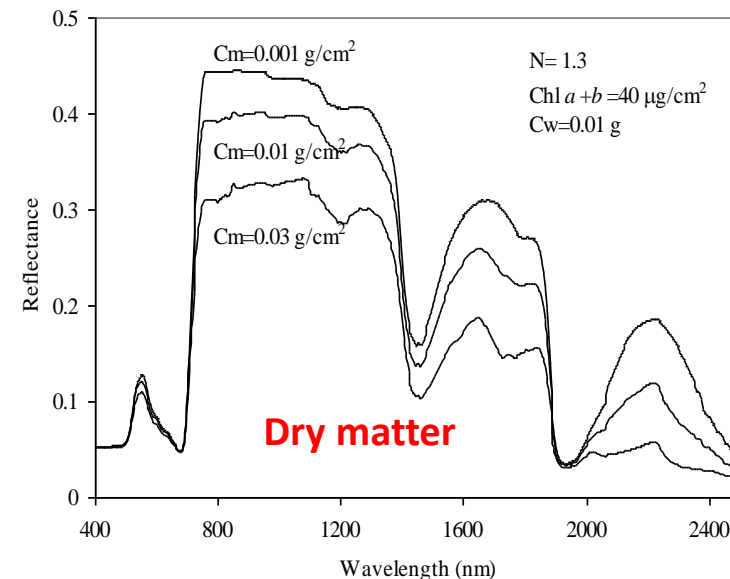
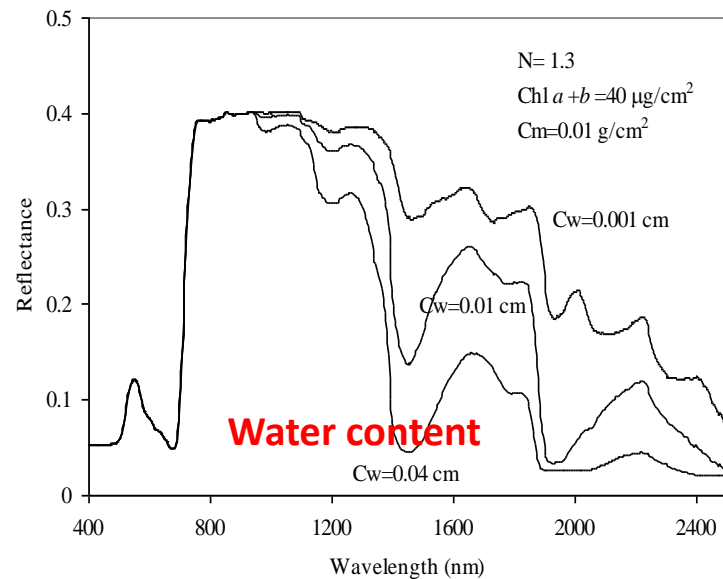
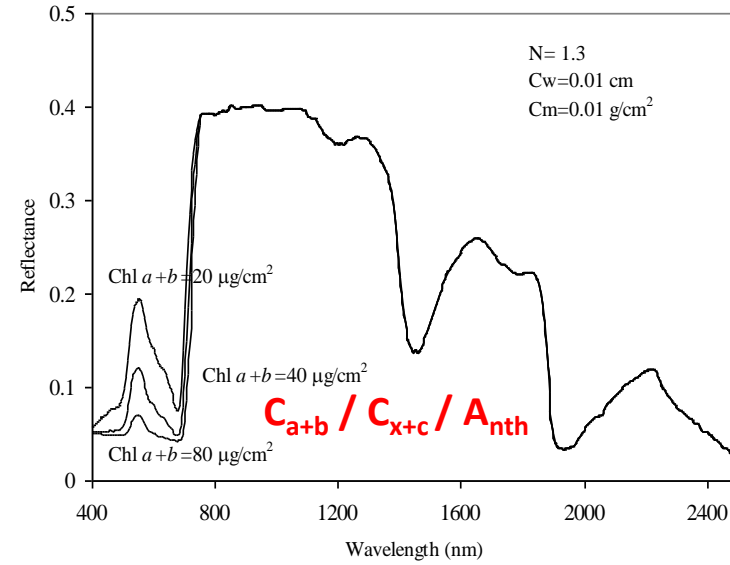
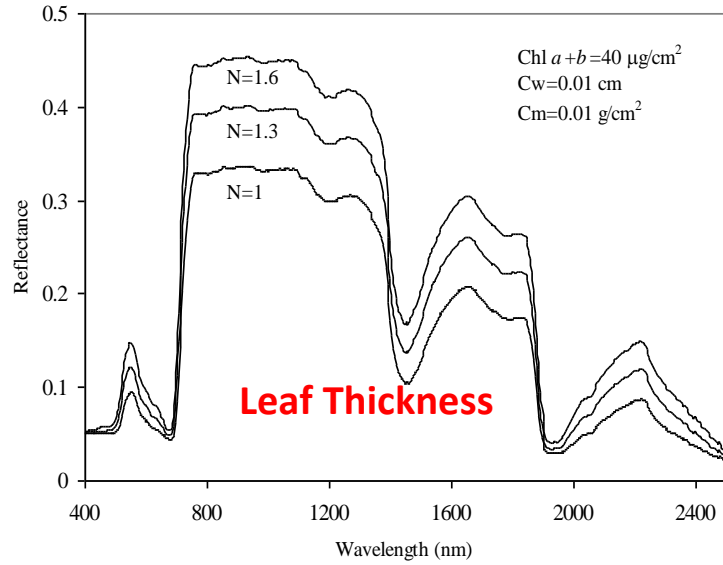


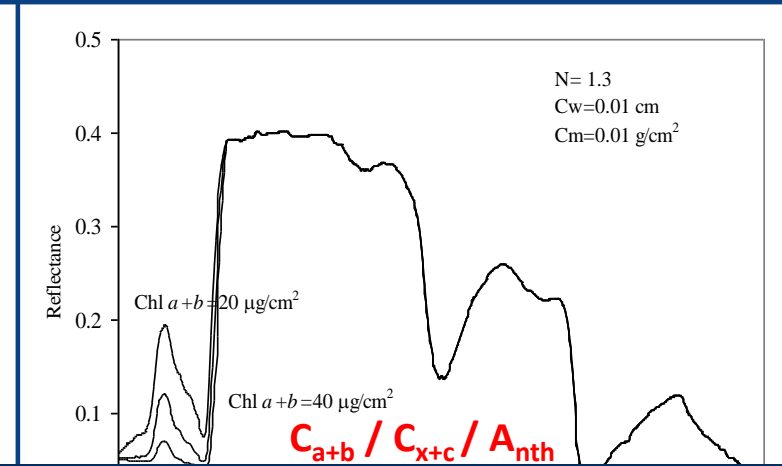
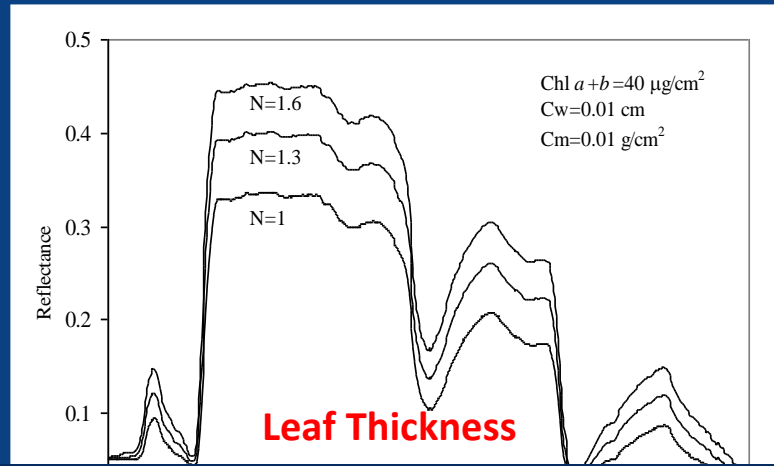


# Leaf optical properties – R & T

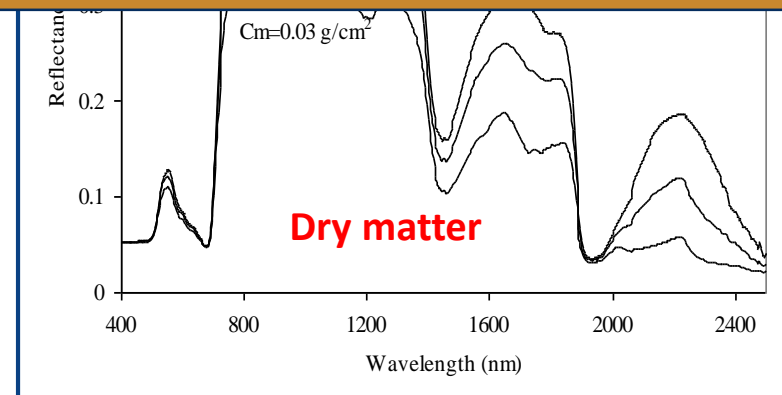
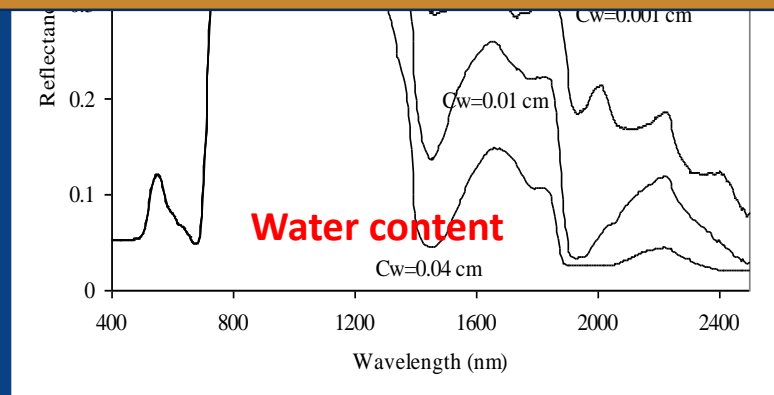




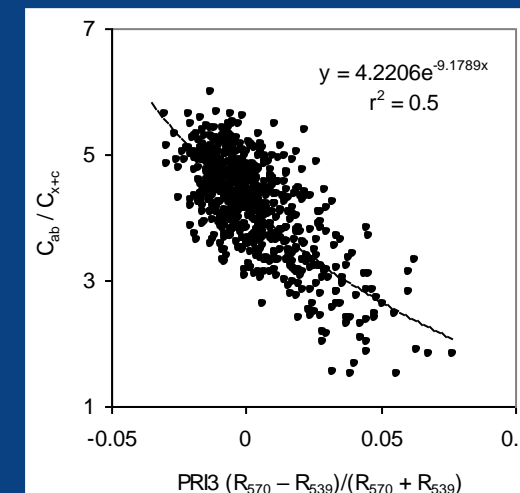
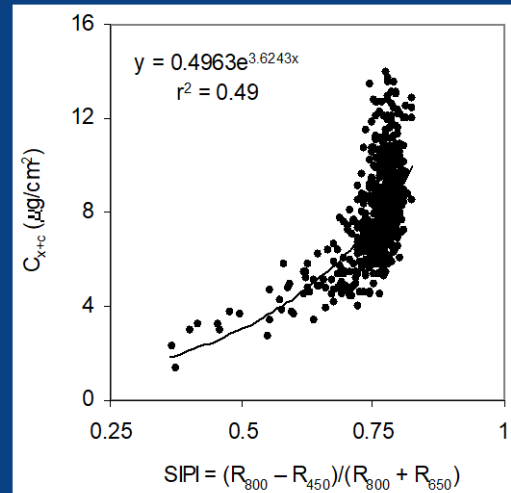
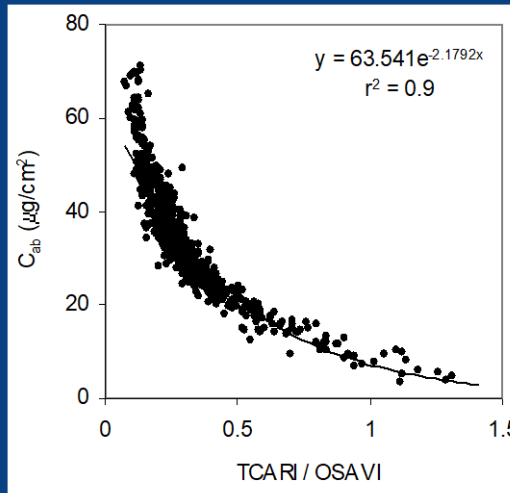
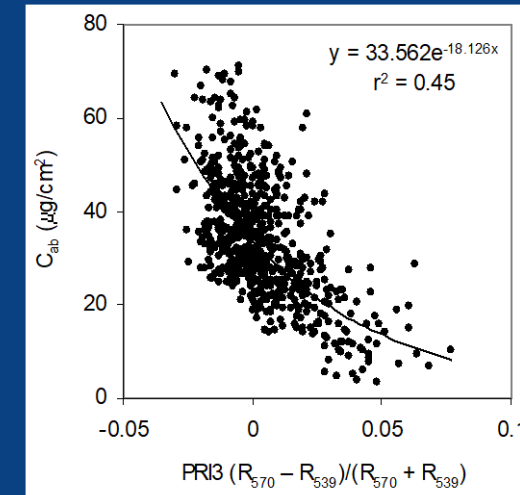
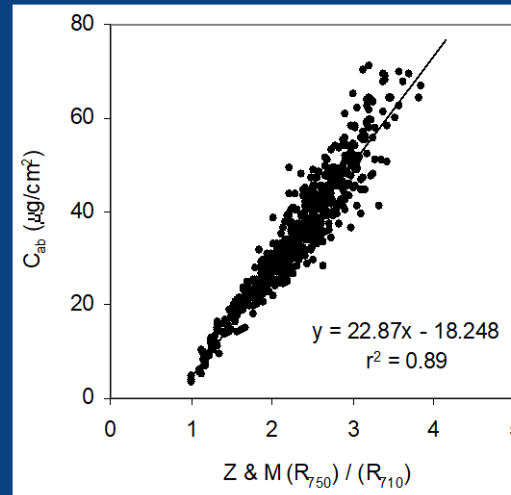
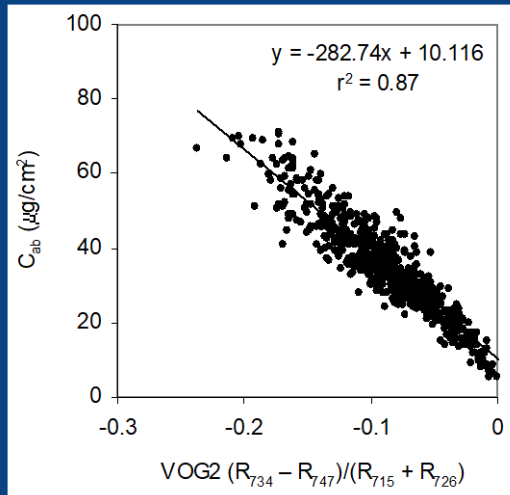




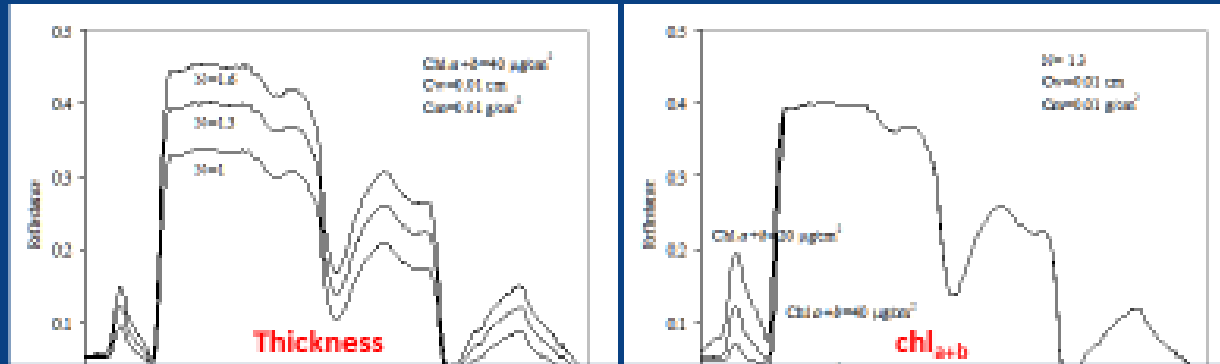
# Empirical methods



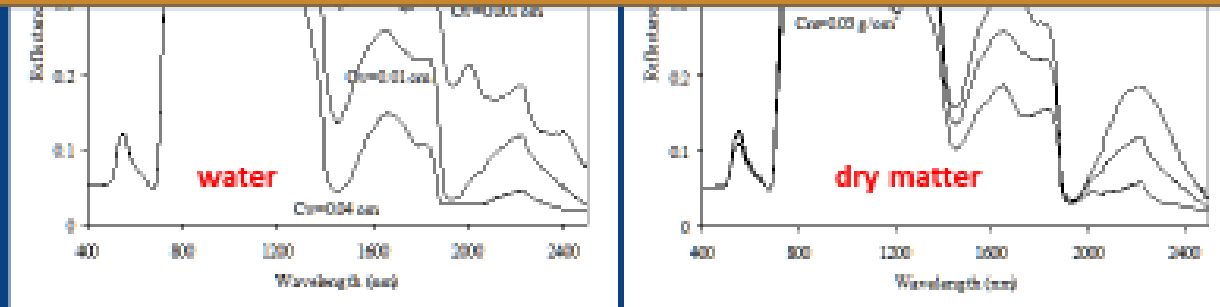
# Empirical relationships: indices vs. leaf traits



# Empirical relationships: indices vs. leaf traits



**Empirical methods**



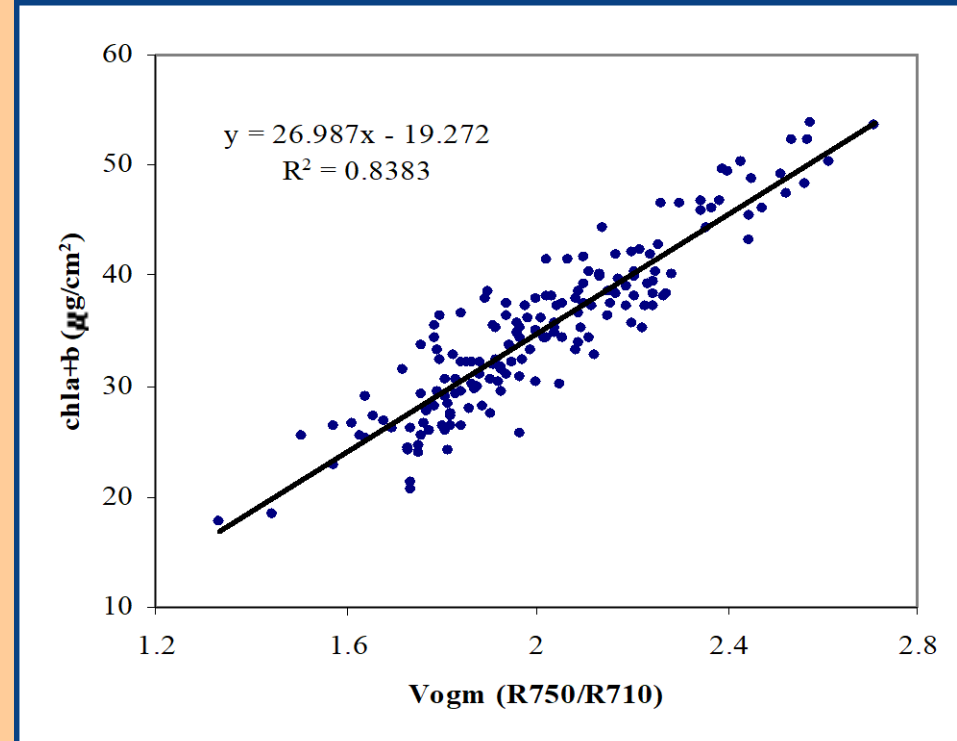
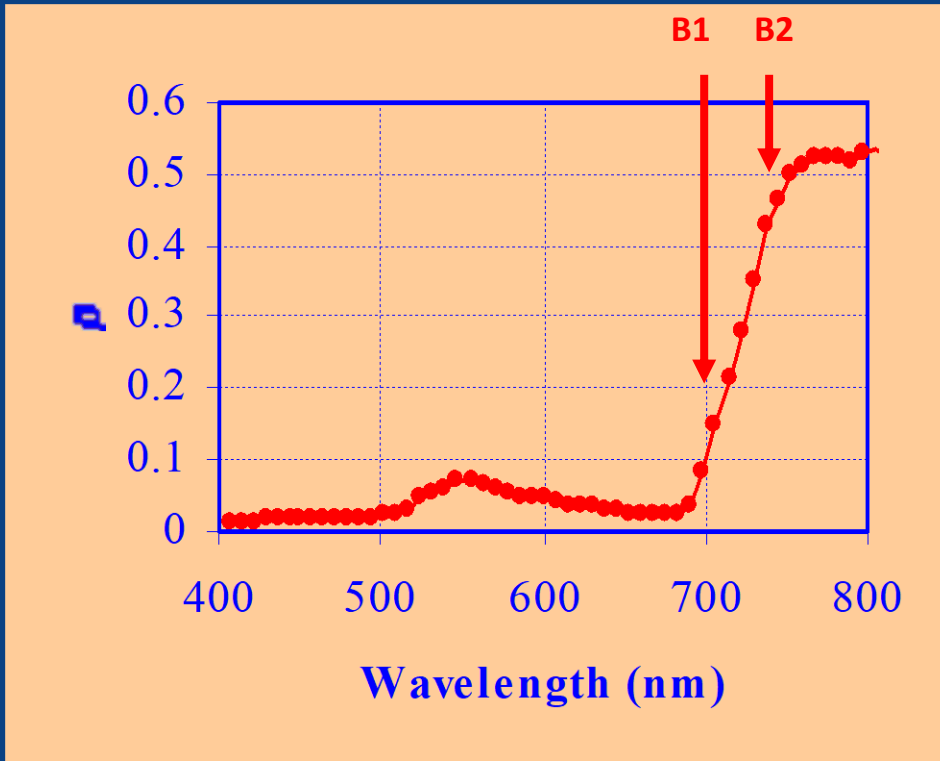
$C_{a+b}$   
 $C_{x+c}$   
 $A_{nth}$   
 $C_w$   
 $C_m$

# Main limitations of empirical models

1. Robustness of empirical relationships  
→ species / phenology / architecture

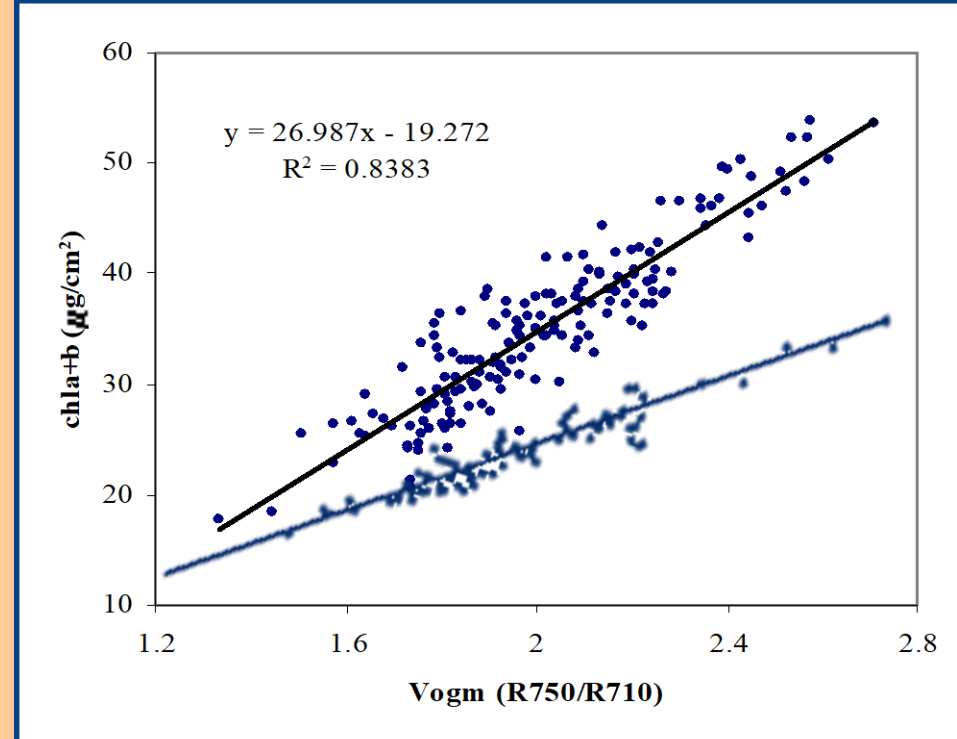
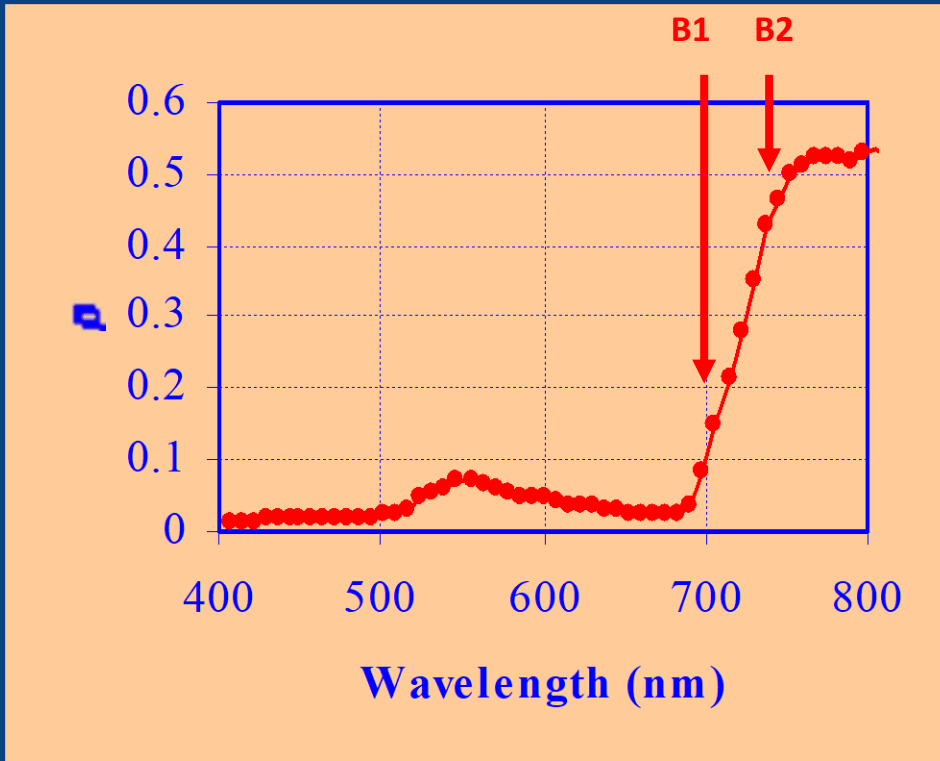


# Empirical relationships indices vs. leaf traits



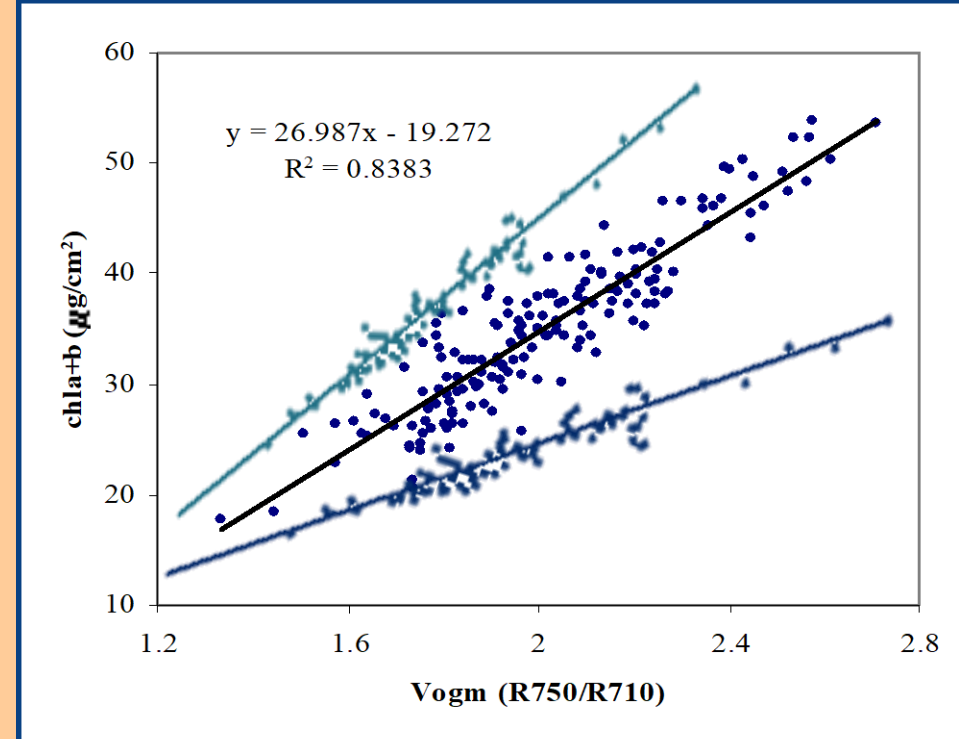
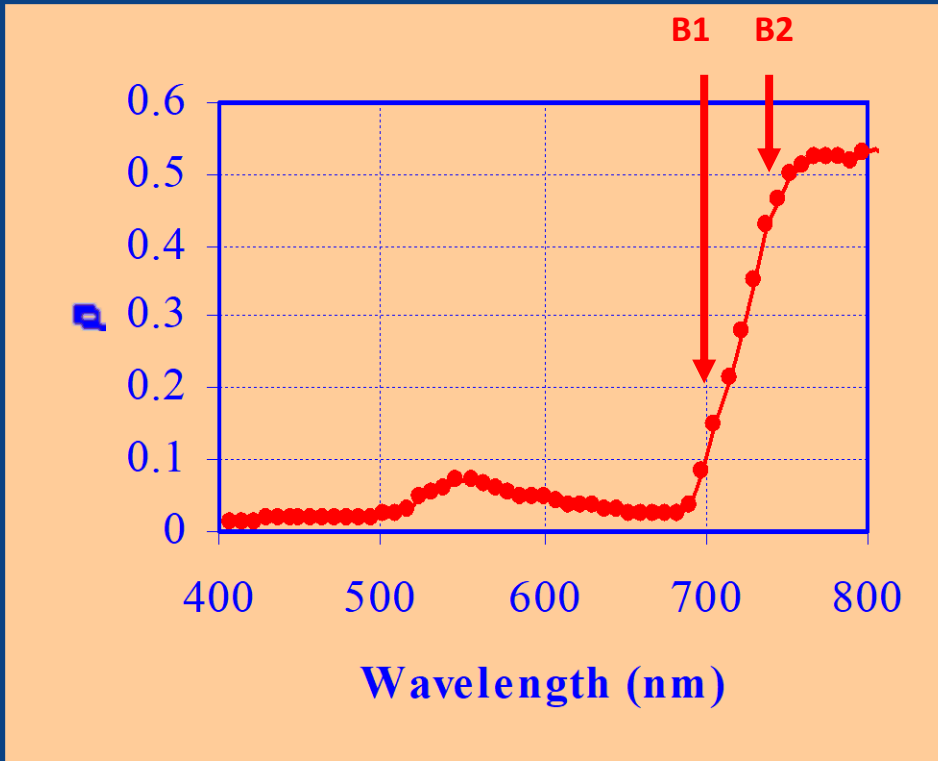
Red edge vs.  $C_{a+b}$

# Empirical relationships indices vs. leaf traits



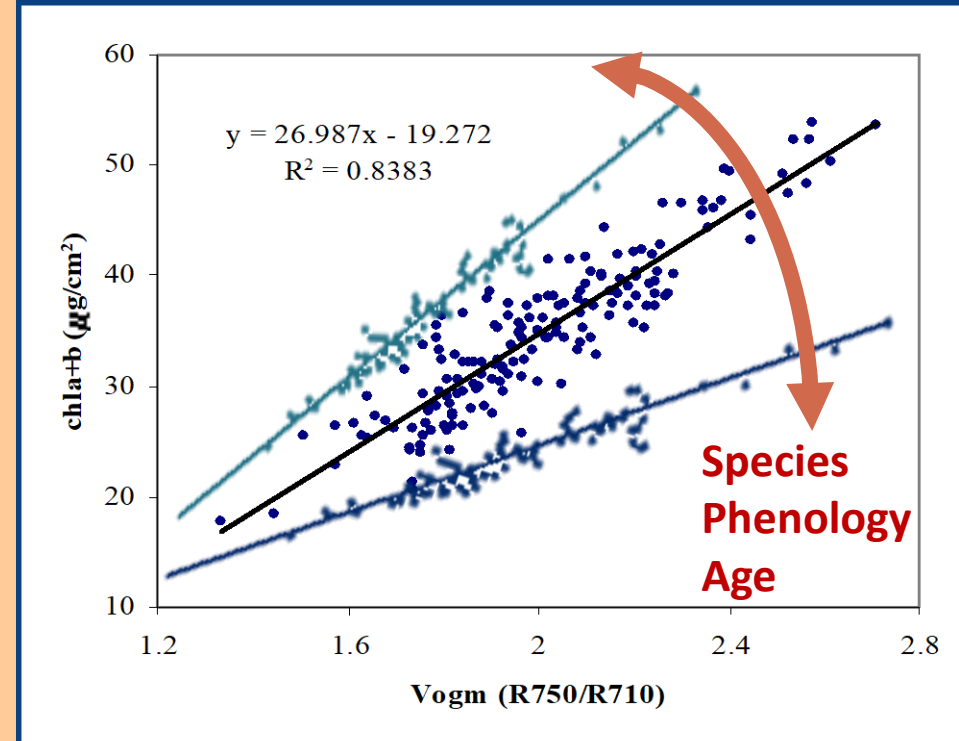
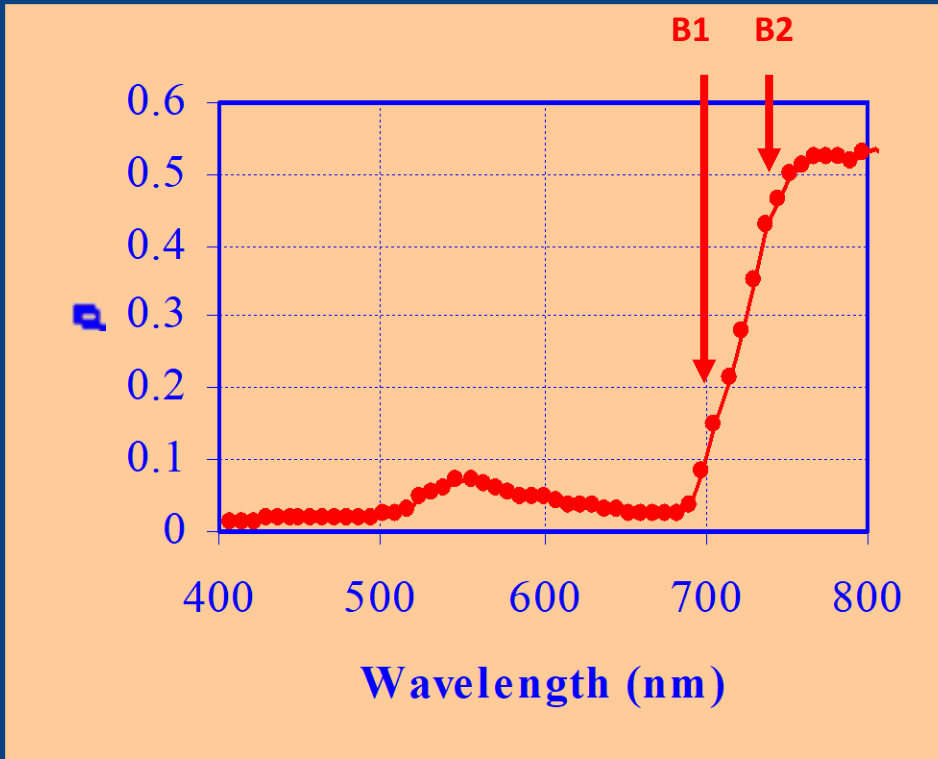
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# Empirical relationships indices vs. leaf traits



Red edge vs.  $C_{a+b}$

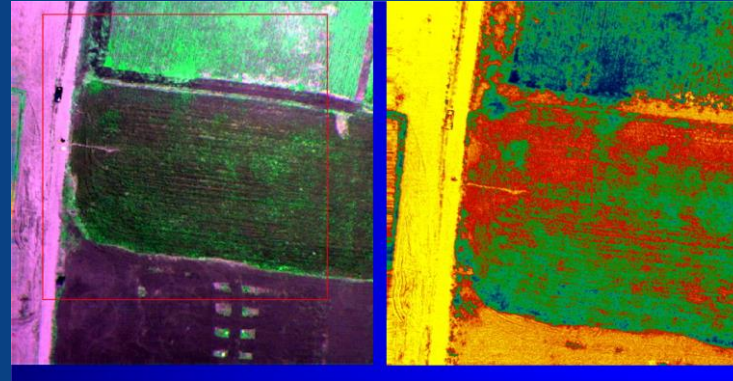
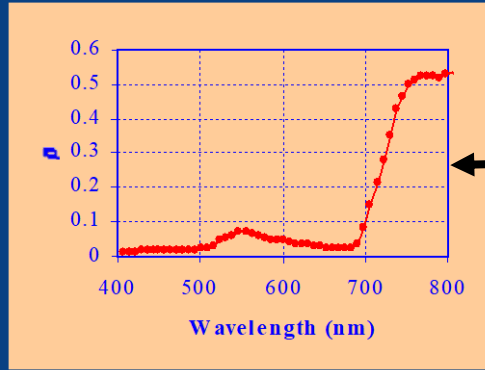
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Red edge vs.  $C_{a+b}$

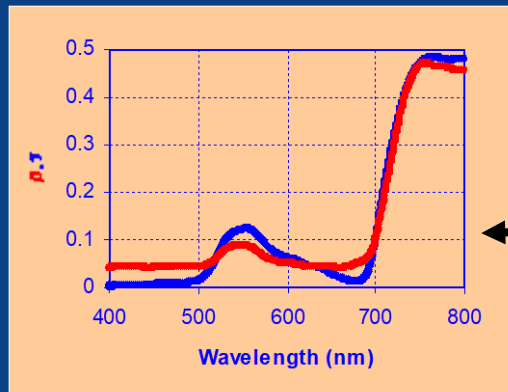
# Main limitations of empirical models

1. Robustness of empirical relationships
  - species / phenology / architecture
  - RS indices for disease detection are species- & site-specific
2. Account for the canopy structure



Canopy Level

Leaf  $\neq$  Canopy



Leaf Level













# Large differences in the leaf and canopy optical properties





# Large differences in the leaf and canopy optical properties



# Main limitations of empirical models

1. Robustness of

species /

price

the spec

2. Account for

Physically-based  
plant trait retrievals



50 years of progress



## Vegetation indices

- NDVI, MTVI, RDVI ...
- CARI, MCARI, TCARI
- NDWI, SRWI ...
- PRI, BG1, BR1 ...
- ...



50 years of progress



## Vegetation indices

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## Leaf & Canopy traits

- LAI, % cover, height
- $C_{ab}$ ,  $C_{x+c}$ , Anth
- $C_w$ ,  $C_m$
- SIF
- ...



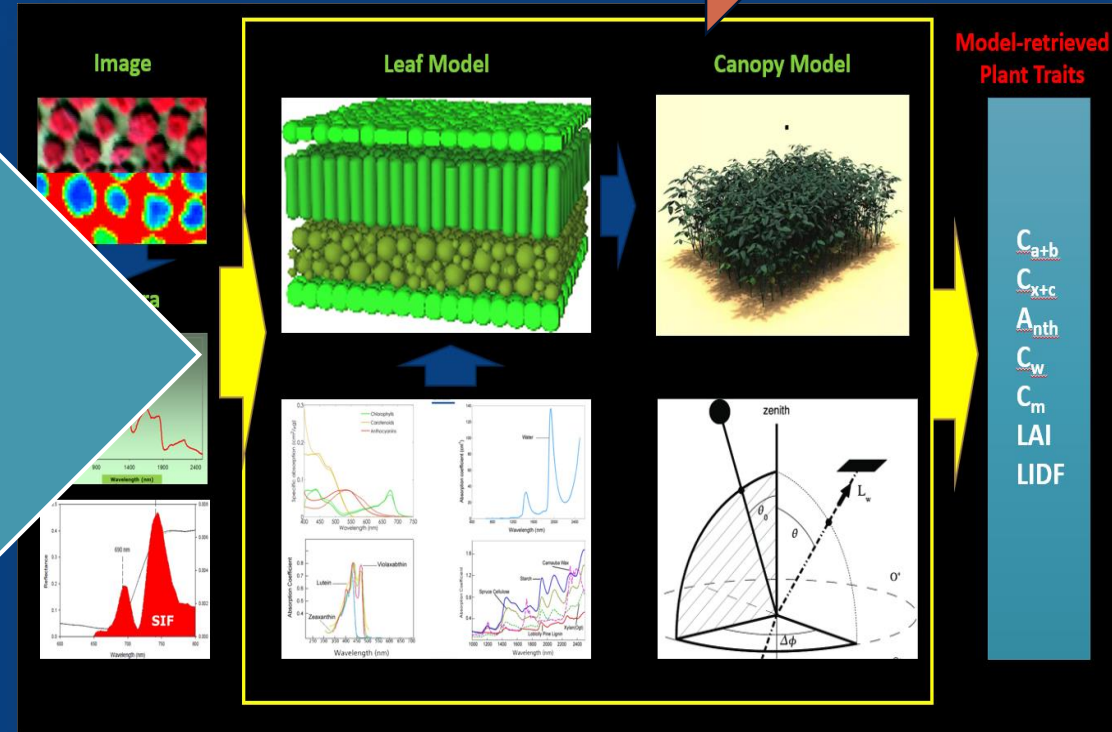
# 50 years of progress

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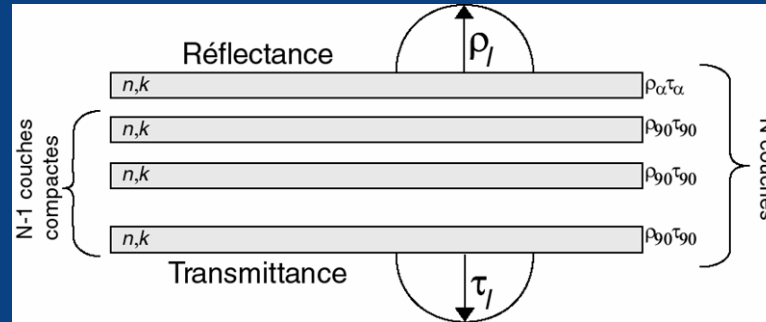
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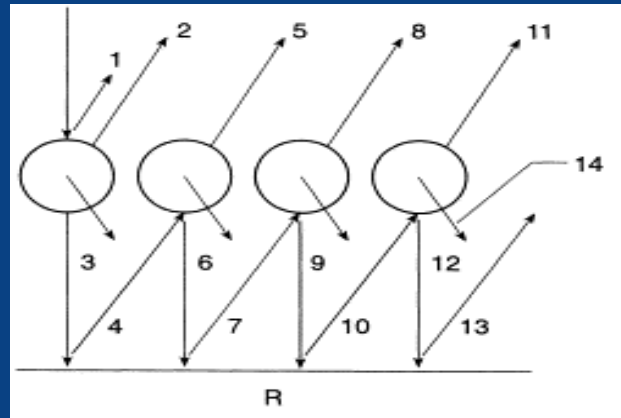


# Progress on Leaf RT Models: from *plate* models to 3D simulations

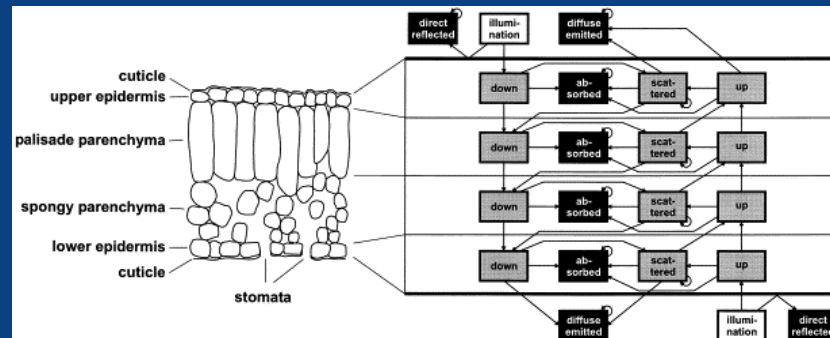
## Plate Models



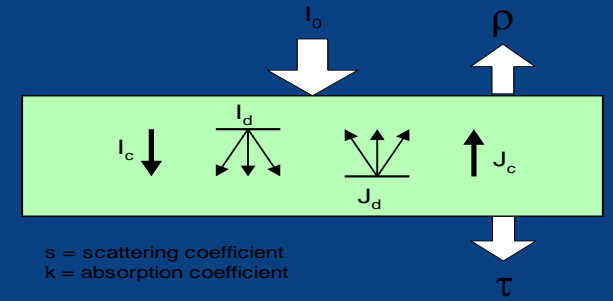
## Models based on Spheric Particles



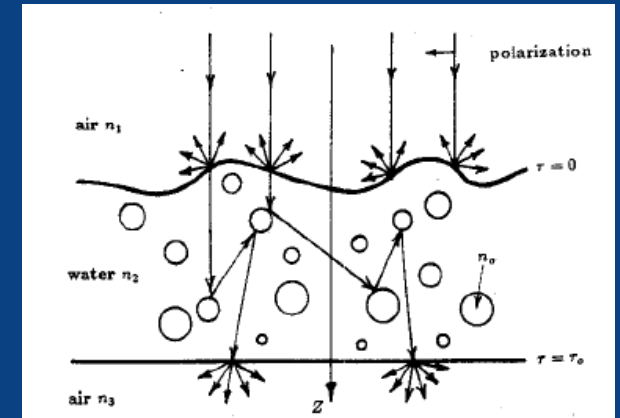
## Stochastic Models



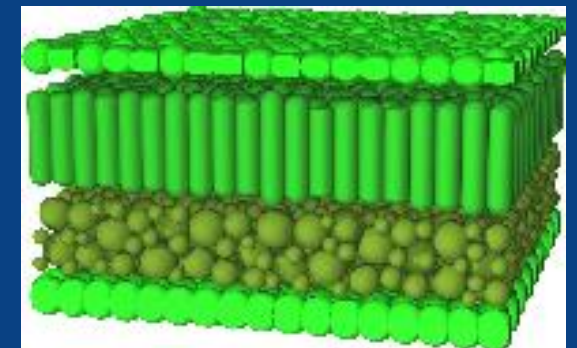
## Models N-Flux



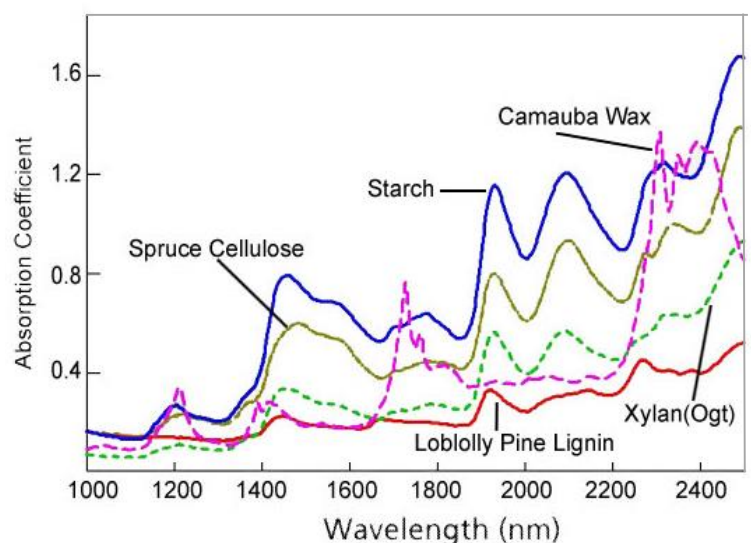
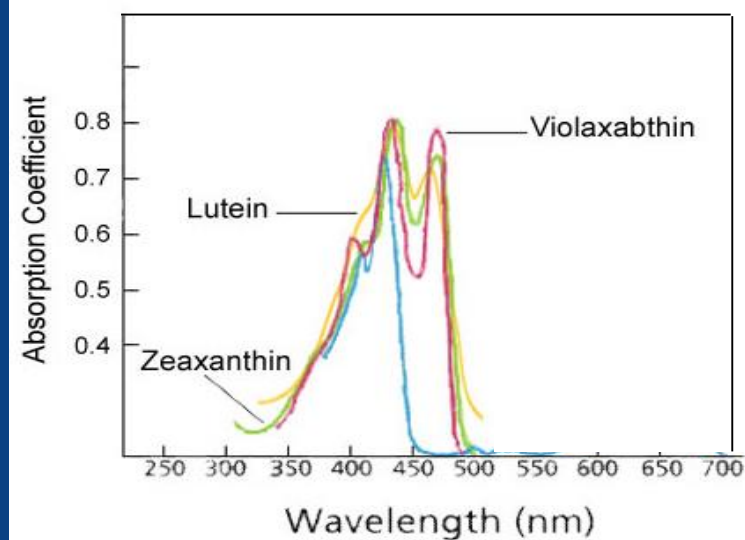
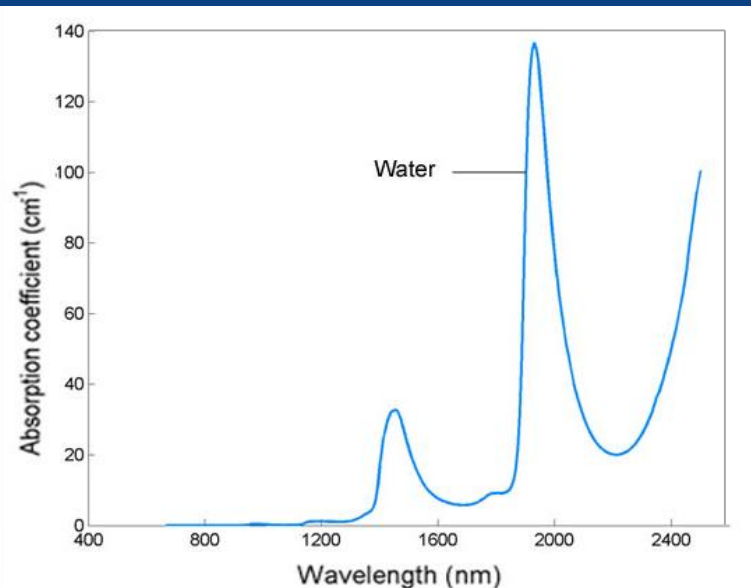
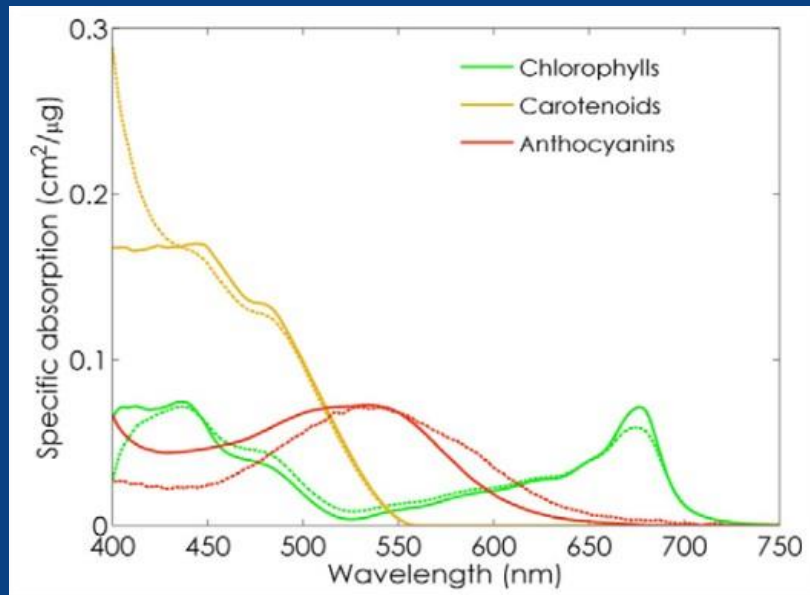
## Radiative Transfer Theory



## Ray Tracing Models (Monte Carlo)



# Progress on leaf Radiative Transfer modelling



**PROSPECT**

(Jacquemoud & Baret, 1990)



Separation of total chlorophylls  
from total carotenoids

**PROSPECT-5**

(Feret *et al.*, 2008)



Anthocyanins, chlorophylls and  
carotenoids

**PROSPECT-D**

(Feret *et al.*, 2017)



Xanthophyll dynamics

**Fluspect-CX**

(Vilfan *et al.*, 2018)



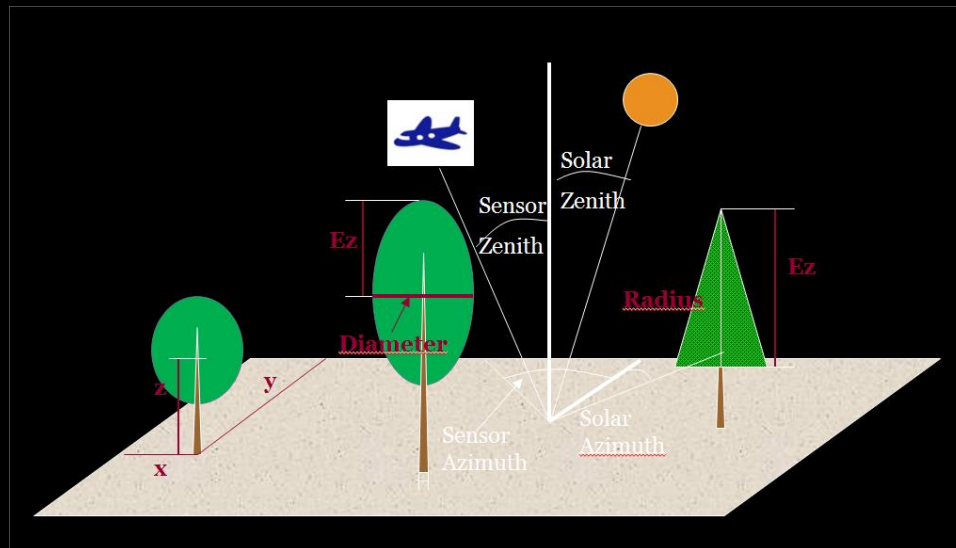
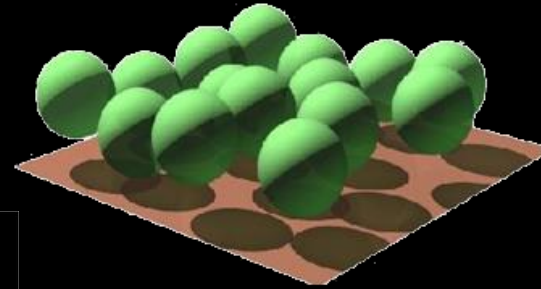
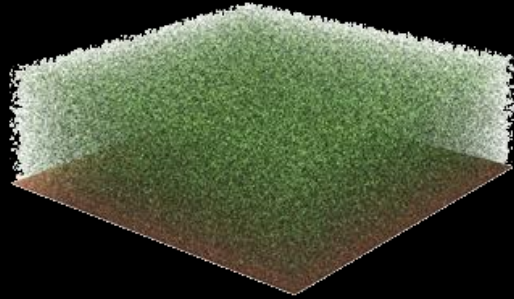
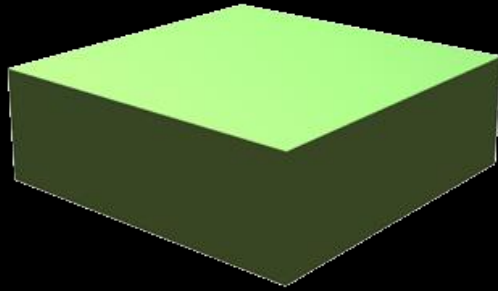
Leaf proteins and other carbon-  
based constituents

**PROSPECT-PRO**

(Feret *et al.*, 2021)

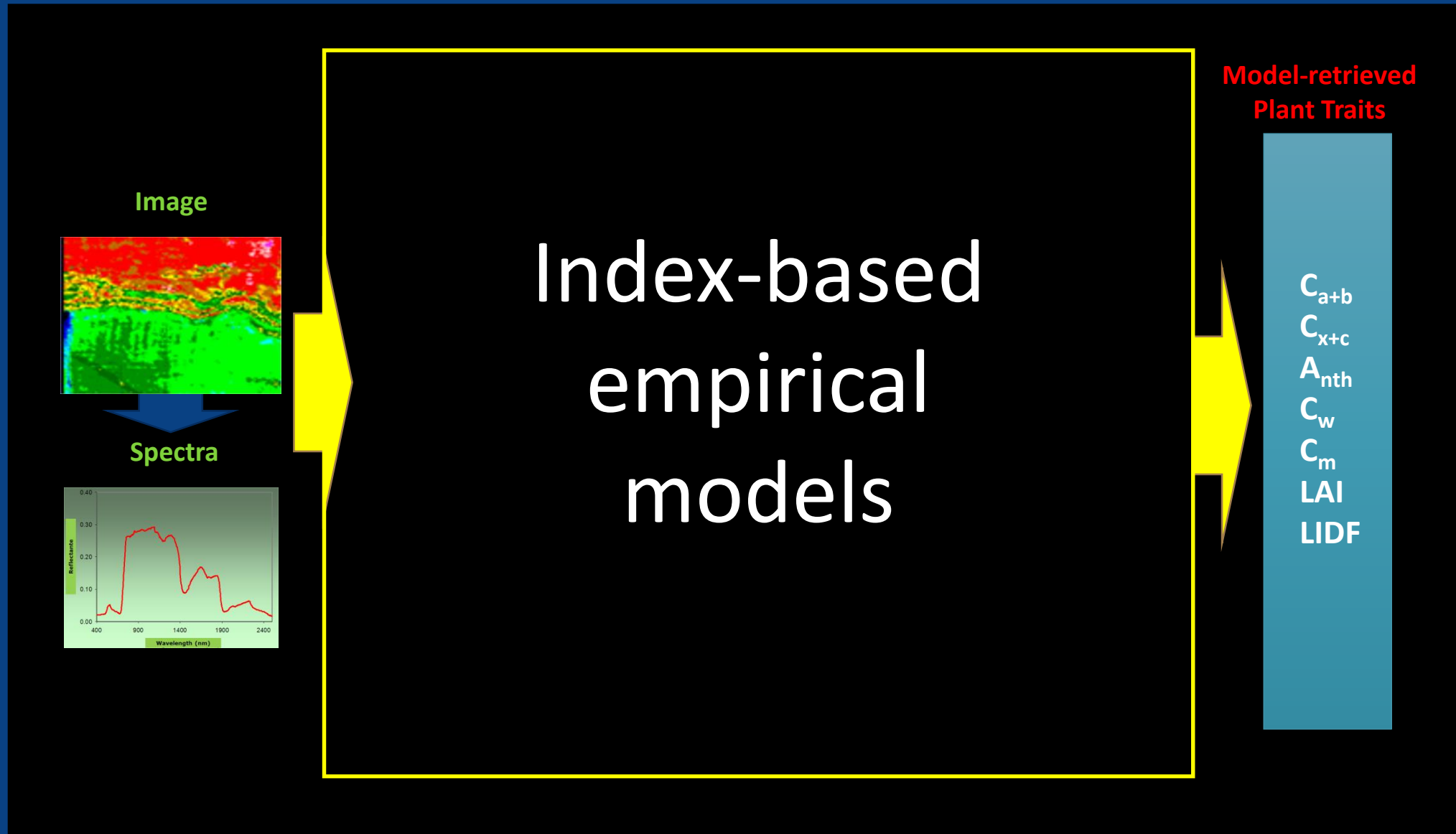


# Canopy RT simulation models



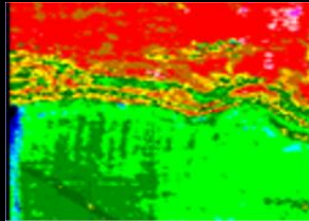
From SAIL to DART / SCOPE RT models

# Linked leaf-canopy simulation models

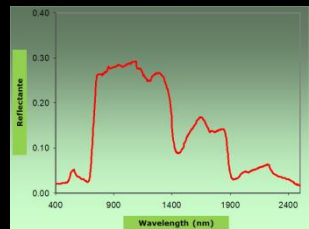


# Linked leaf-canopy simulation models

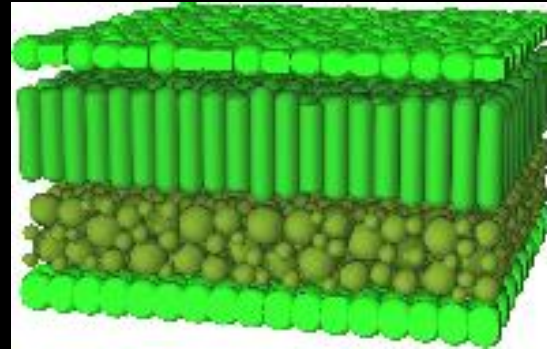
Image



Spectra



Leaf Model

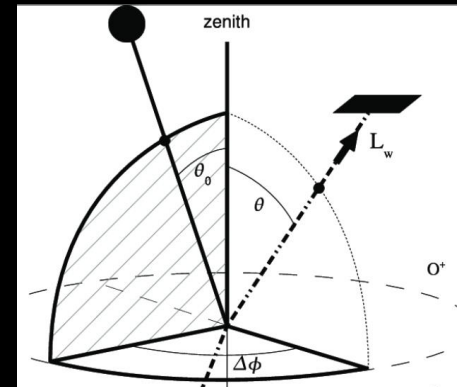
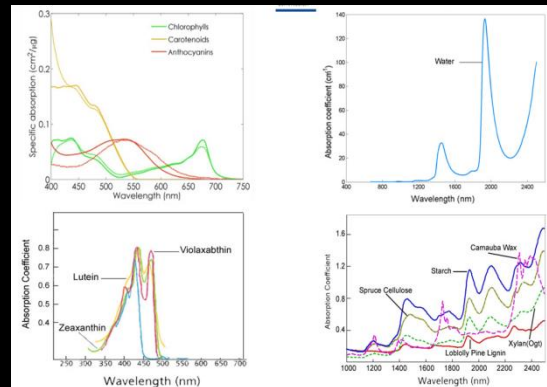


Canopy Model



Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

$C_{a+b}$   
 $C_{x+c}$   
 $A_{nth}$   
 $C_w$   
 $C_m$   
 LAI  
 LIDF





50 years of progress



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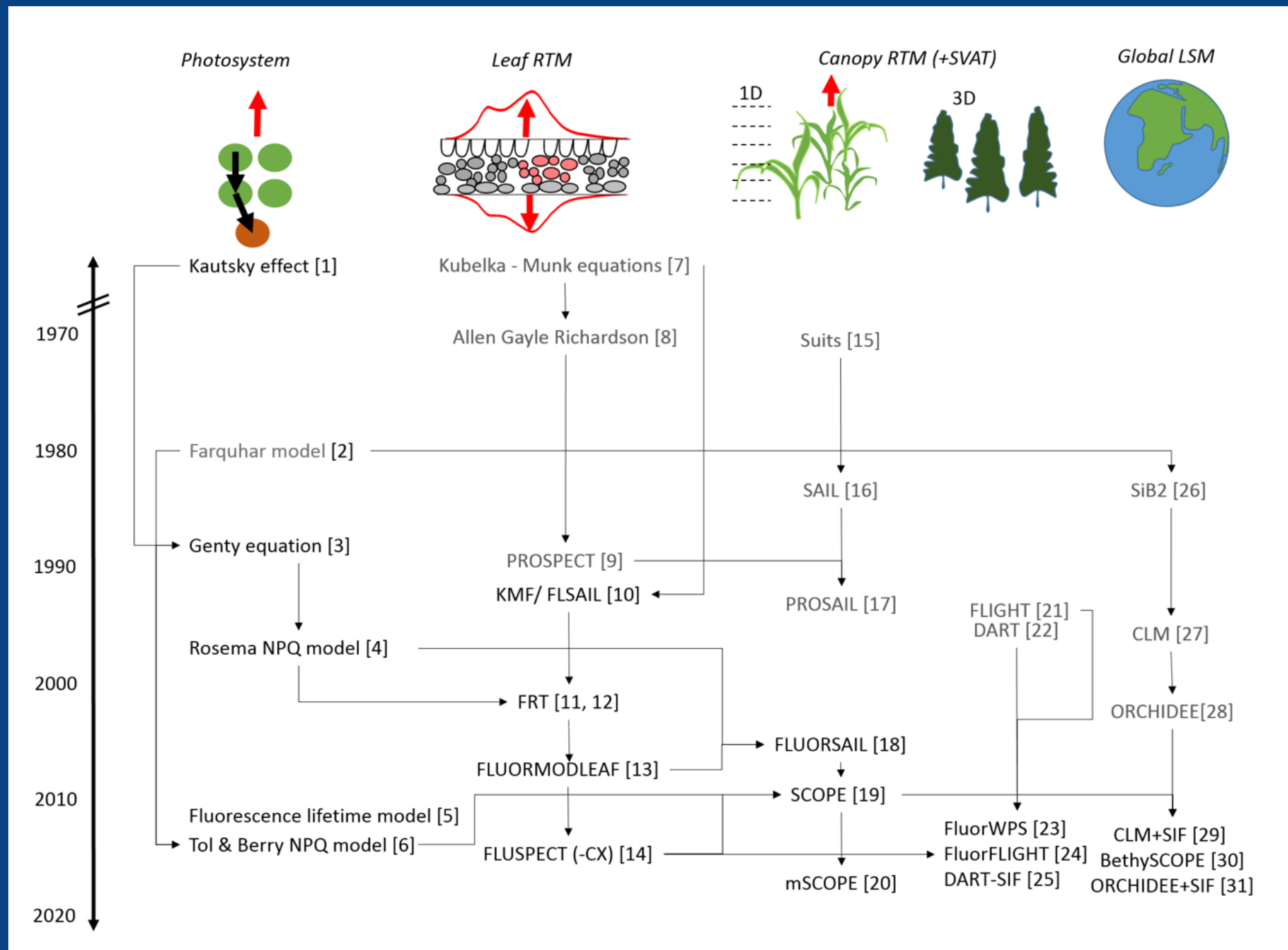
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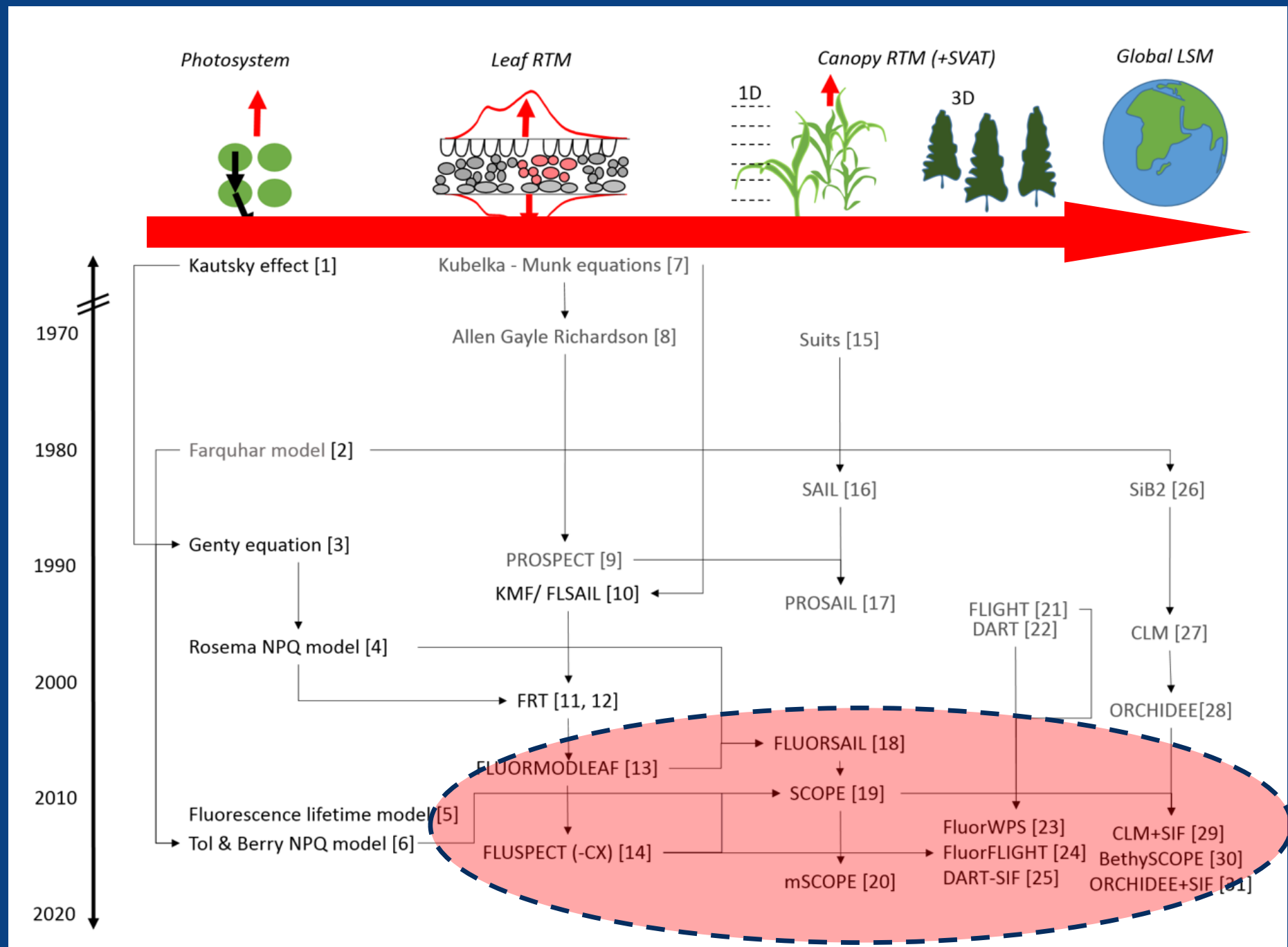
## Functioning

- $G_s$  / Transpiration
- Assimilation rates

# SIF quantification: 50 years of progress

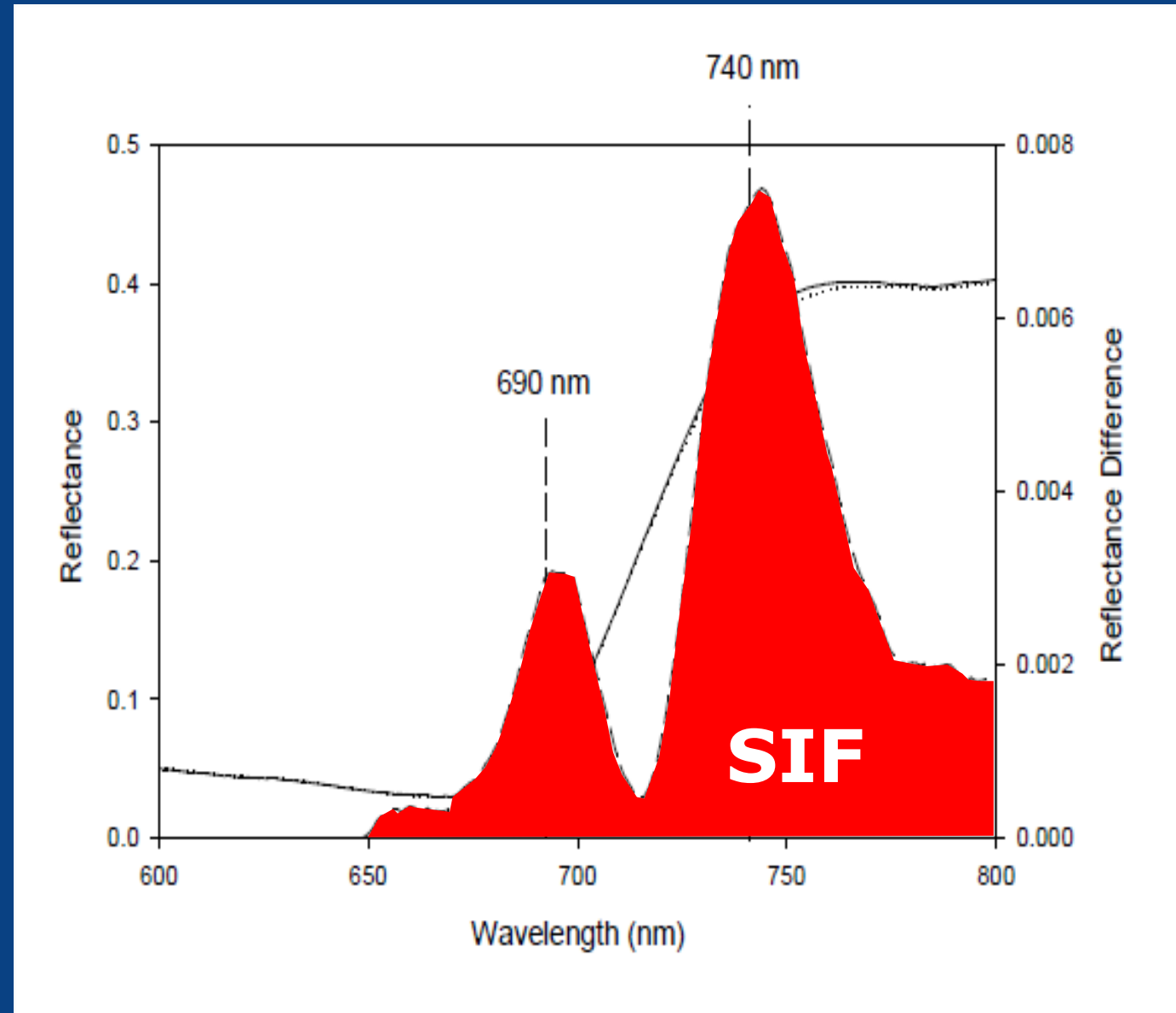


# SIF quantification: 50 years of progress



# Solar-induced Chlorophyll Fluorescence (SIF)

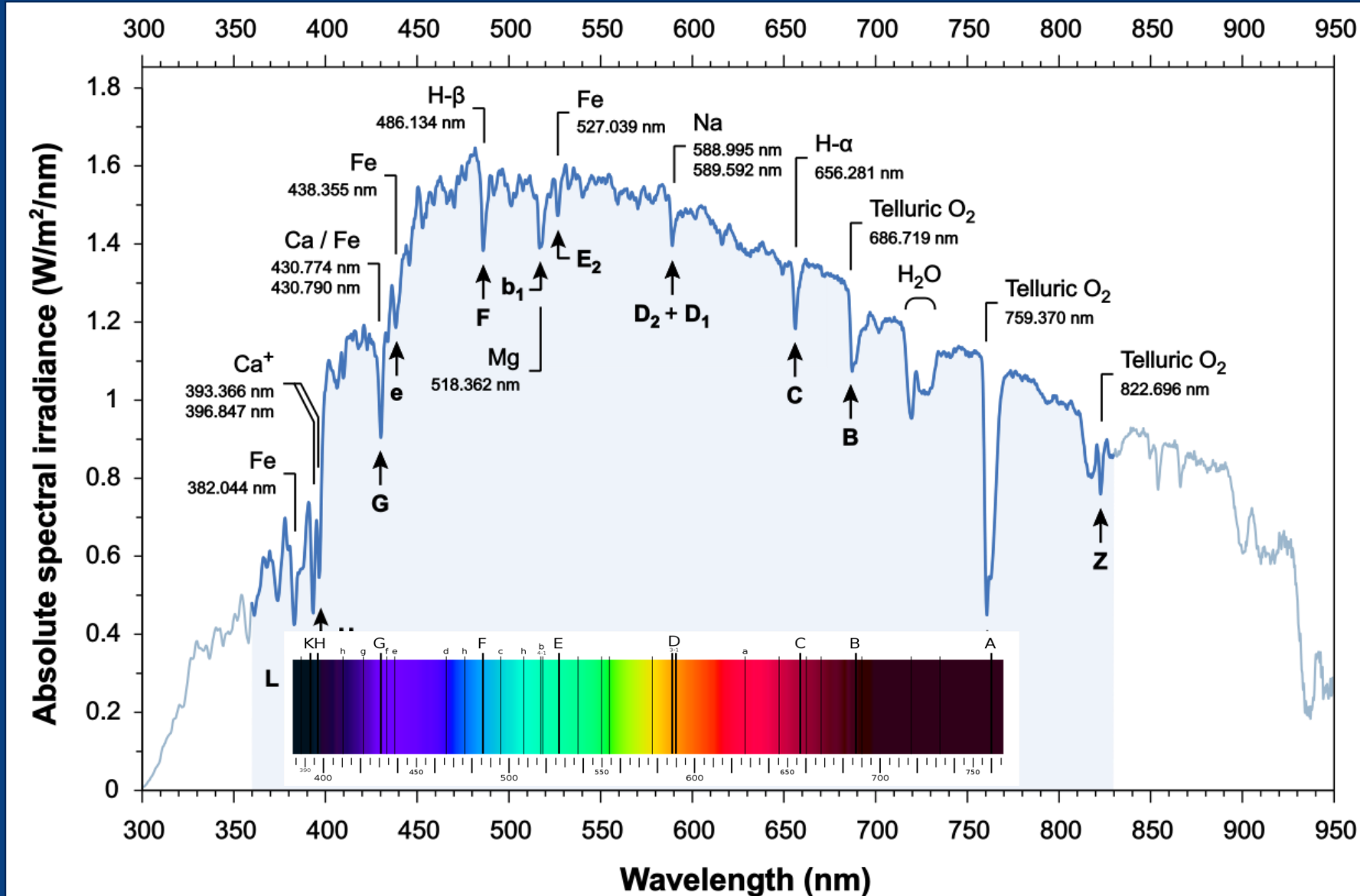
- ~2% of the total incoming radiation
- Linked to photosynthesis
- High spectral resolution required
- Early indicator of stress





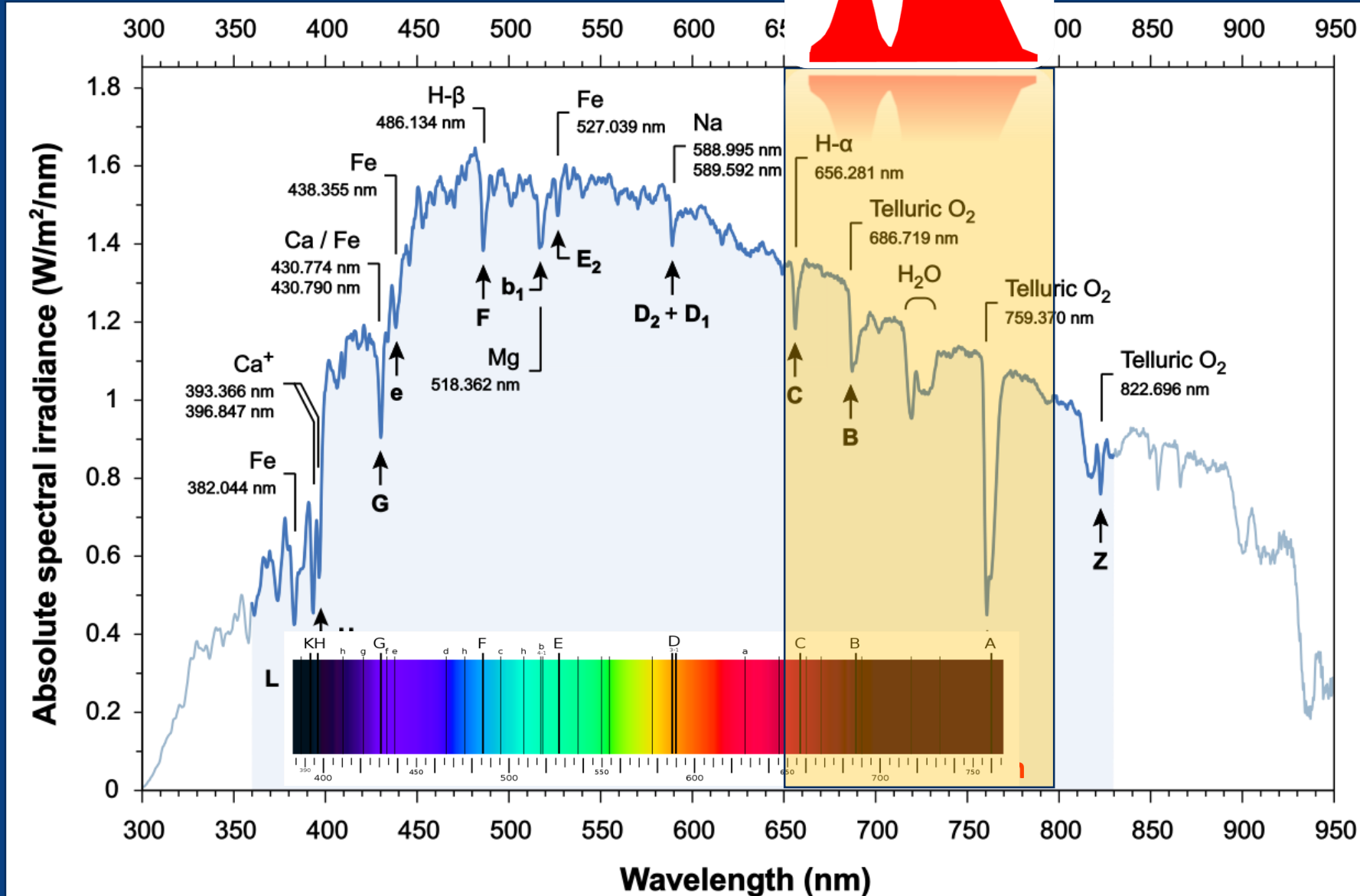
# Fraunhofer lines

dark features (absorption lines) in the optical spectrum of the Sun

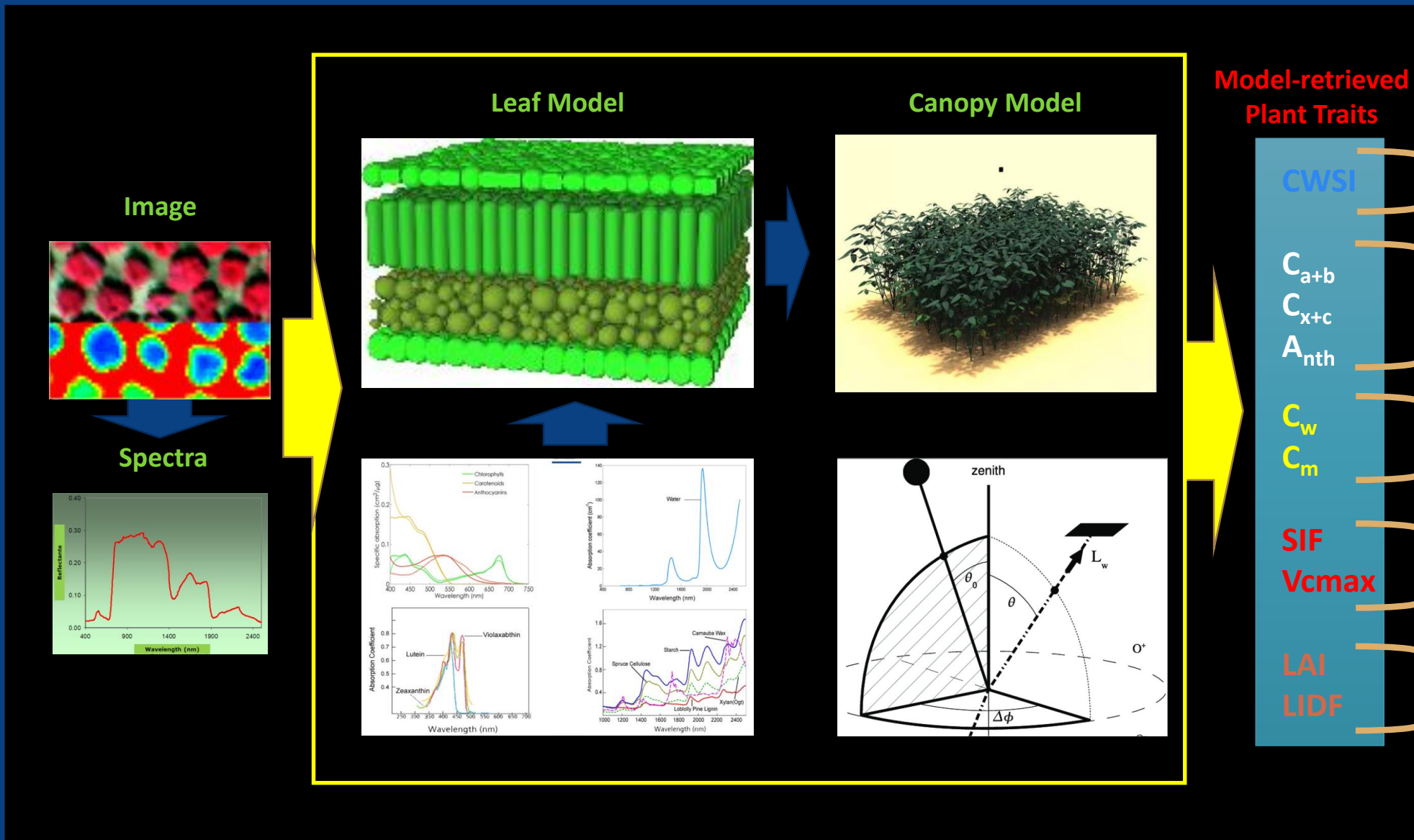


# Fraunhofer lines

→ Fluorescence emission



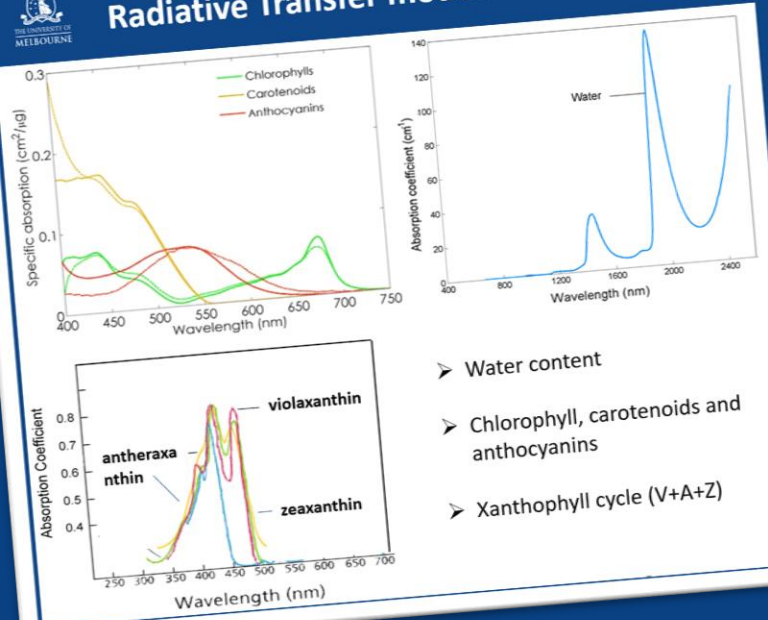
# Plant traits quantification using Radiative Transfer models



# Main advantages of quantifying plant traits

1. Non site-specific algorithms
2. Robust across species
3. Measurable
4. Physiological meaning

## Plant biochemistry quantification with Radiative Transfer models



- Water content
- Chlorophyll, carotenoids and anthocyanins
- Xanthophyll cycle (V+A+Z)

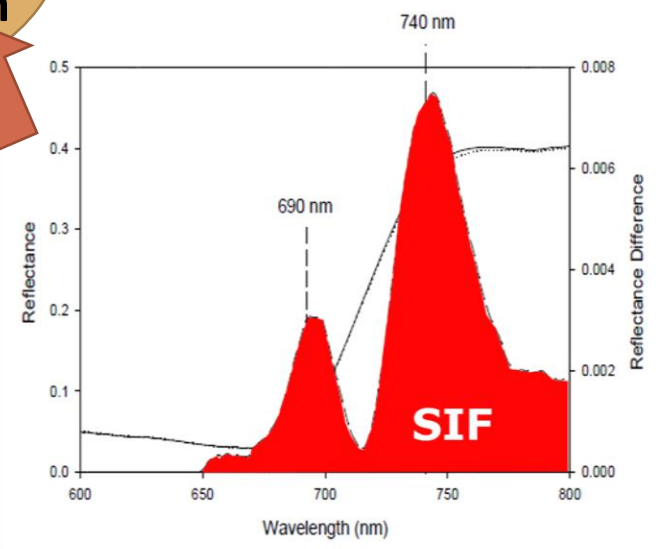
## Plant biochemistry

**PROSPECT**  
(Jacquemoud & Baret, 1990)  
↓  
Separation of total chlorophylls from total carotenoids  
**PROSPECT-5**  
(Ferret *et al.*, 2008)  
↓  
Anthocyanins, chlorophylls and carotenoids  
**PROSPECT-D**  
(Ferret *et al.*, 2017)  
↓  
Xanthophyll dynamics  
**Fluspect-CX**  
(Vilfan *et al.*, 2017)

**Biotic / abiotic stress detection**

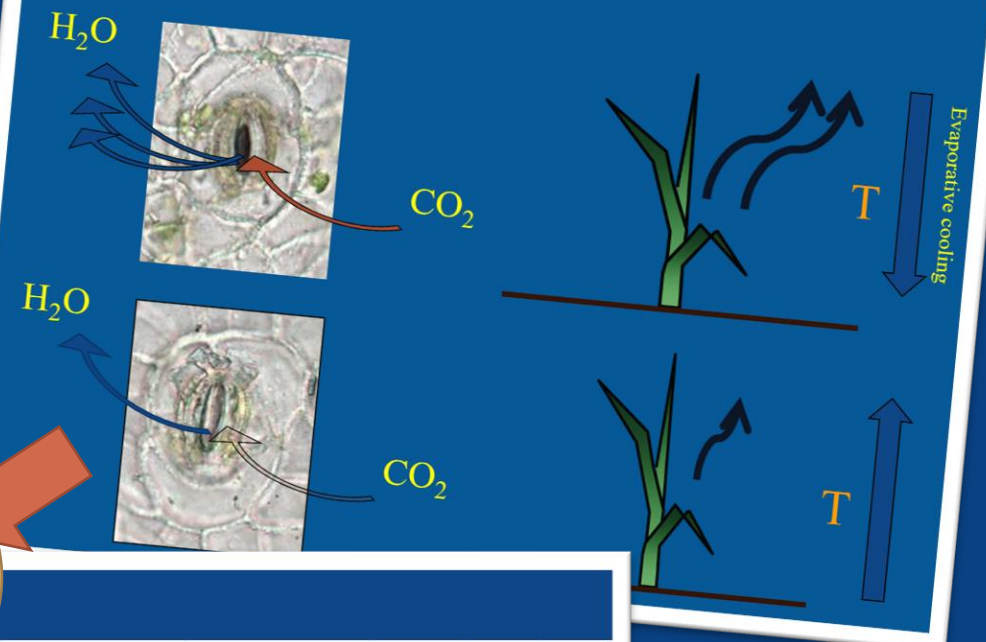
## Solar-induced Chlorophyll Fluorescence (SIF)

- ~2% of the total incoming radiation
- Linked to photosynthesis
- High spectral resolution required
- Early indicator of stress



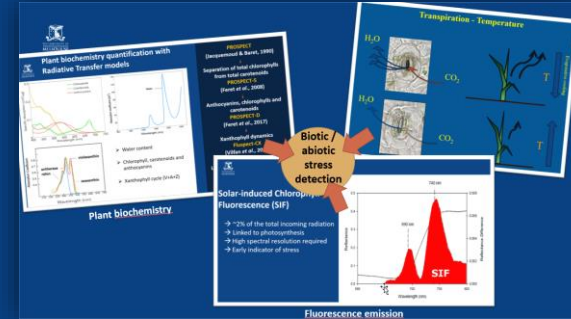
## Fluorescence emission

## Transpiration - Temperature



# Using plant traits and plant functioning indicators for biotic-induced stress detection

- *Xylella fastidiosa*
- *Verticillium dahliae*
- Phytophthora
- Red leaf blotch
- Mildew
- Yellow rust
- Pine wood nematode (PWN)



➔ **Early detection vs damage**

➔ **Disentangling Biotic vs Abiotic stress indicators**

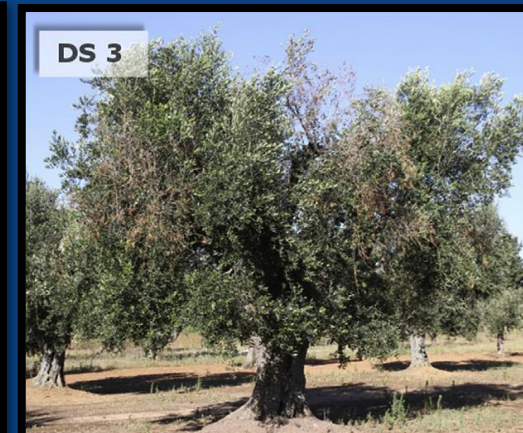
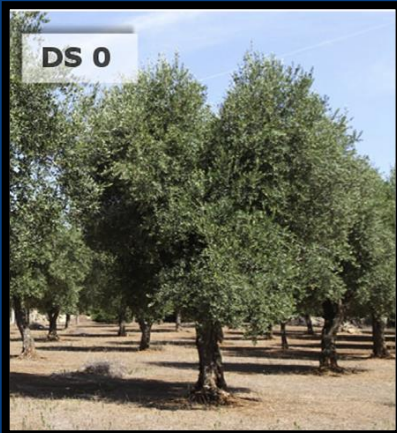


# Spectral plant traits for biotic-induced detection

Asymptomatic

Initial

Severe



Structural changes

Photosynthetic pigments

Fluorescence emission

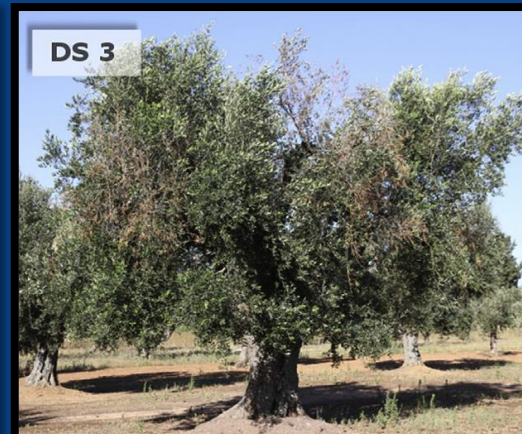
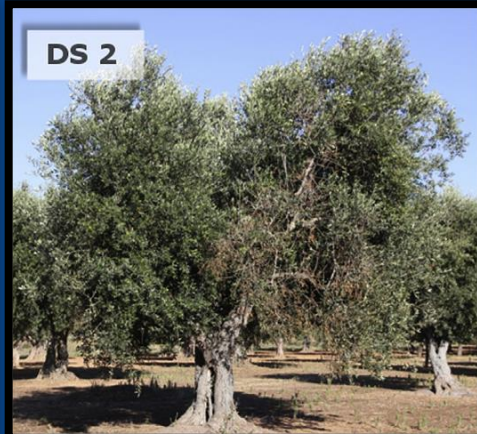
Transpiration

# Spectral plant traits for biotic-induced detection

Asymptomatic

Initial

Severe



Structural changes

Photosynthetic pigments

Fluorescence emission

Transpiration



# Spectral plant traits for biotic-induced detection

Asymptomatic

Initial

Severe

DS 0

DS 1

DS 2

DS 3

DS 4

Damage mapping

Structural changes

Photosynthetic pigments

Fluorescence emission

Transpiration

# Spectral plant traits for biotic-induced detection

Asymptomatic

Initial

Severe

DS 0

DS 1

DS 2

DS 3

DS 4

Early detection

Structural changes

Photosynthetic pigments

Fluorescence emission

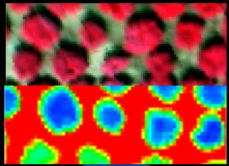
Transpiration



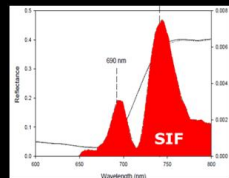
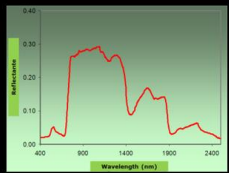
# Disease detection framework from hyperspectral data

## Mechanistic models

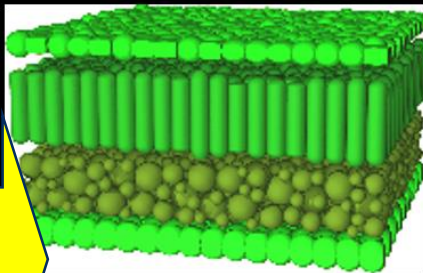
Image



Spectra



Leaf Model



Canopy Model



Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

$C_{a+b}$

$C_{x+c}$

$A_{nth}$

$C_w$

$C_m$

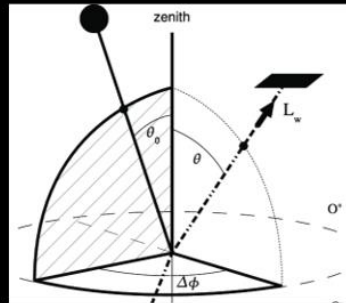
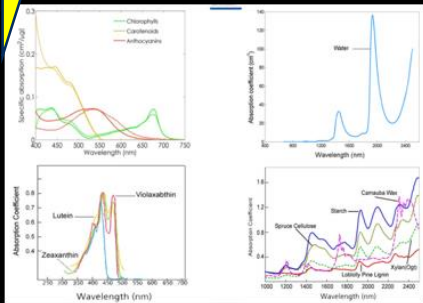
LAI

LIDF

SIF

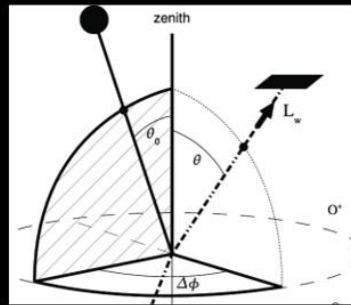
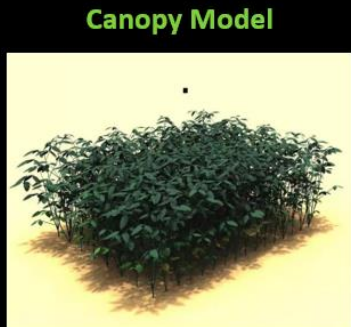
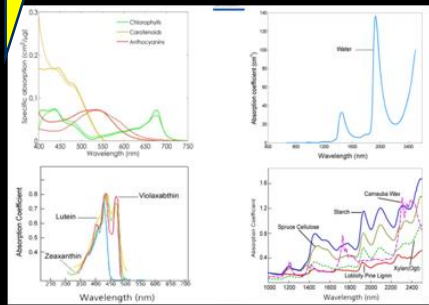
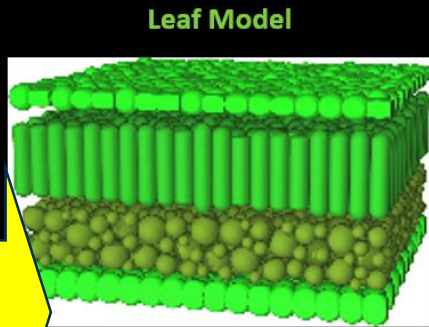
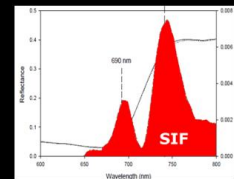
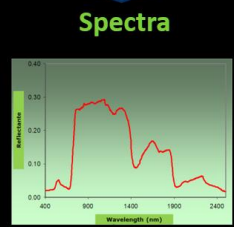
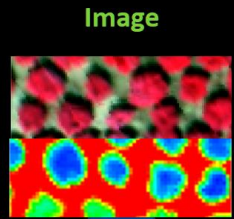
$V_{cmax}$

A



# Disease detection framework from hyperspectral data

## Mechanistic models



Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

- $C_{a+b}$
- $C_{x+c}$
- $A_{nth}$
- $C_w$
- $C_m$
- LAI
- LIDF
- SIF
- $V_{cmax}$
- A

Importance of each  
RS-based indicator



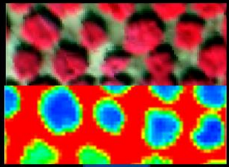
Structural changes
Photosynthetic pigments
Fluorescence emission
Transpiration
Spectral indicators



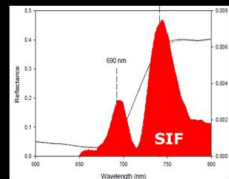
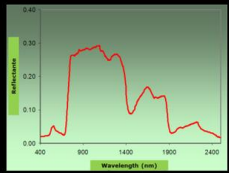
# Disease detection framework from hyperspectral data

## Mechanistic models

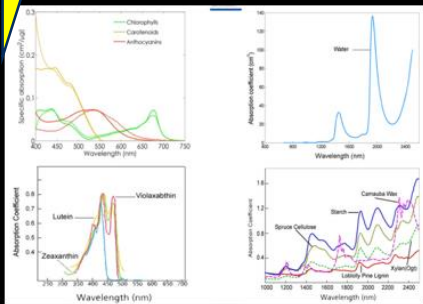
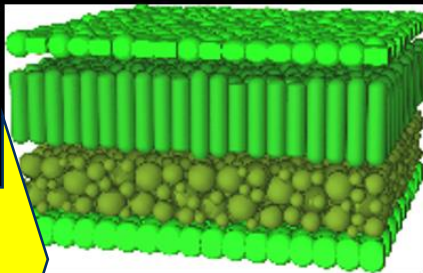
Image



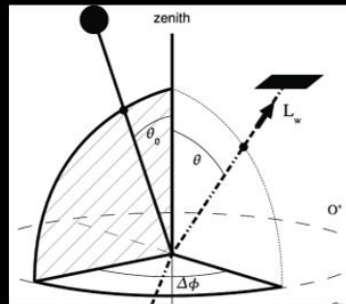
Spectra



Leaf Model



Canopy Model



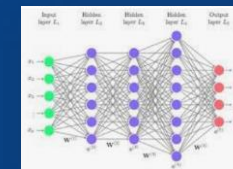
Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

$C_{a+b}$   
 $C_{x+c}$   
 $A_{nth}$   
 $C_w$   
 $C_m$   
 LAI  
 LIDF  
  
 $SIF$   
 $V_{cmax}$   
 $A$

Importance of each  
RS-based indicator

Structural changes
Photosynthetic pigments
Fluorescence emission
Transpiration
Spectral indicators

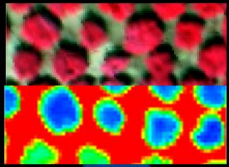
Machine  
Learning



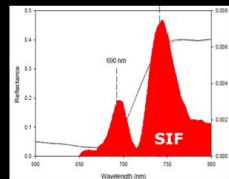
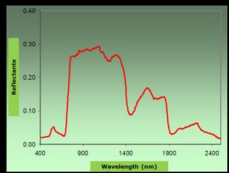
# Disease detection framework from hyperspectral data

## Mechanistic models

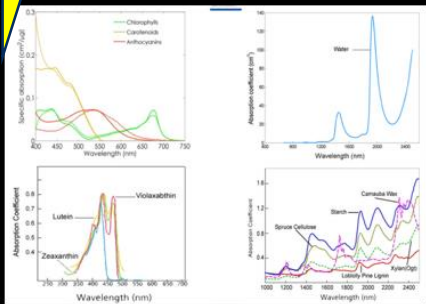
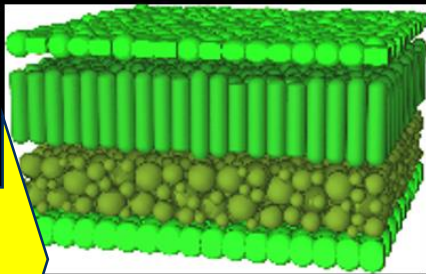
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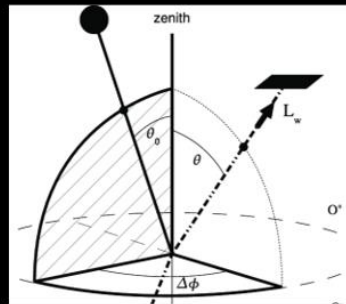
Spectra



Leaf Model



Canopy Model



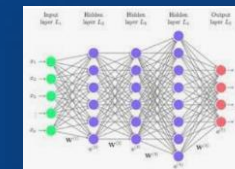
Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

$C_{a+b}$   
 $C_{x+c}$   
 $A_{nth}$   
 $C_w$   
 $C_m$   
LAI  
LIDF  
  
SIF  
 $V_{cmax}$   
A

Importance of each  
RS-based indicator

Structural changes
Photosynthetic pigments
Fluorescence emission
Transpiration
Spectral indicators

Machine  
Learning



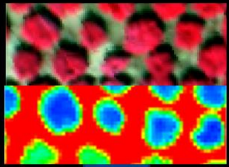
Disease  
detection



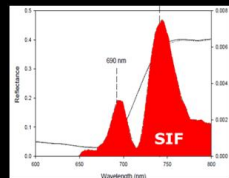
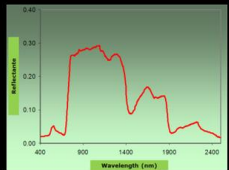
# Disease detection framework from hyperspectral data

## Mechanistic models

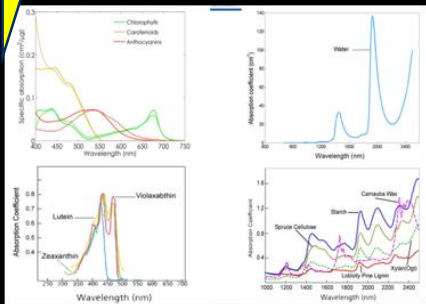
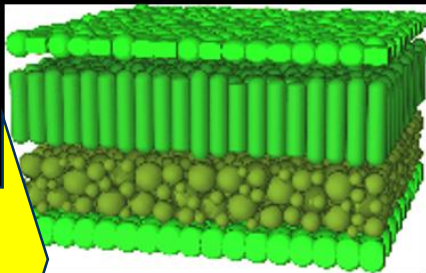
Image



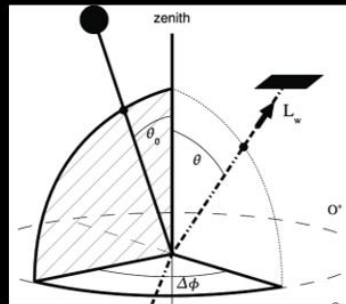
Spectra



Leaf Model



Canopy Model



Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

$C_{a+b}$   
 $C_{x+c}$   
 $A_{nth}$   
 $C_w$   
 $C_m$   
 LAI  
 LIDF  
  
 $SIF$   
 $V_{cmax}$   
 $A$

Importance of each  
RS-based indicator

Structural changes

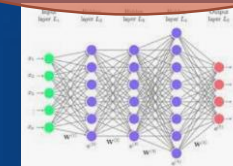
Photosynthetic pigments

Fluorescence emission

Transpiration

Spectral indicators

Machine  
Learning

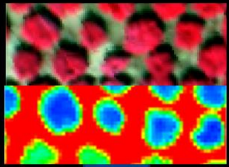


Disease  
detection

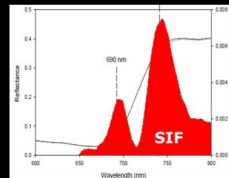
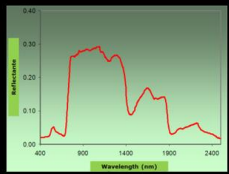
# Disease detection framework from hyperspectral data

Mechanistic models

Image



Spectra



Model-retrieved  
Plant Traits

$C_{a+b}$   
 $C_{x+c}$   
 $A_{nth}$   
 $C_w$   
 $C_m$   
 LAI  
 LIDF  
  
 $SIF$   
 $V_{cmax}$   
 $A$

Importance of each  
RS-based indicator

Structural changes

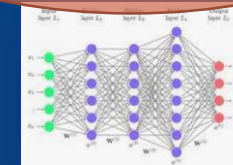
Photosynthetic pigments

Fluorescence emission

Transpiration

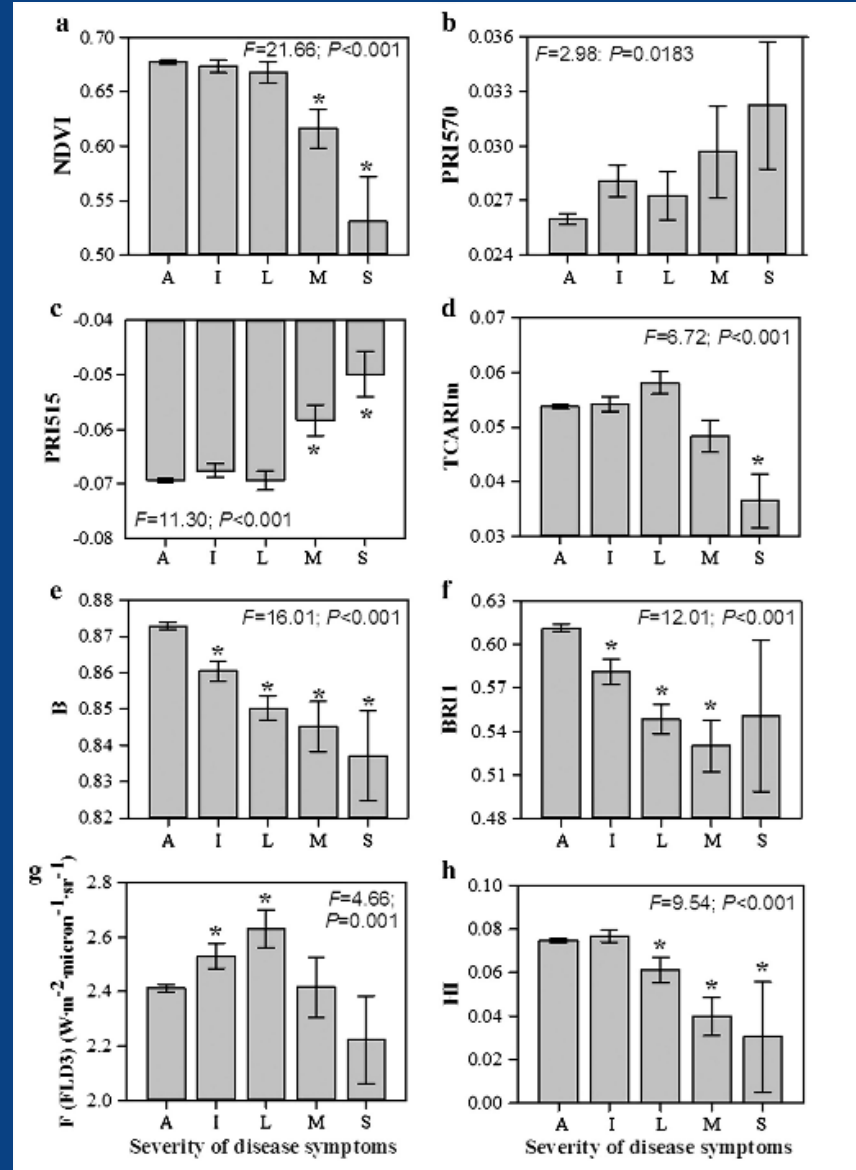
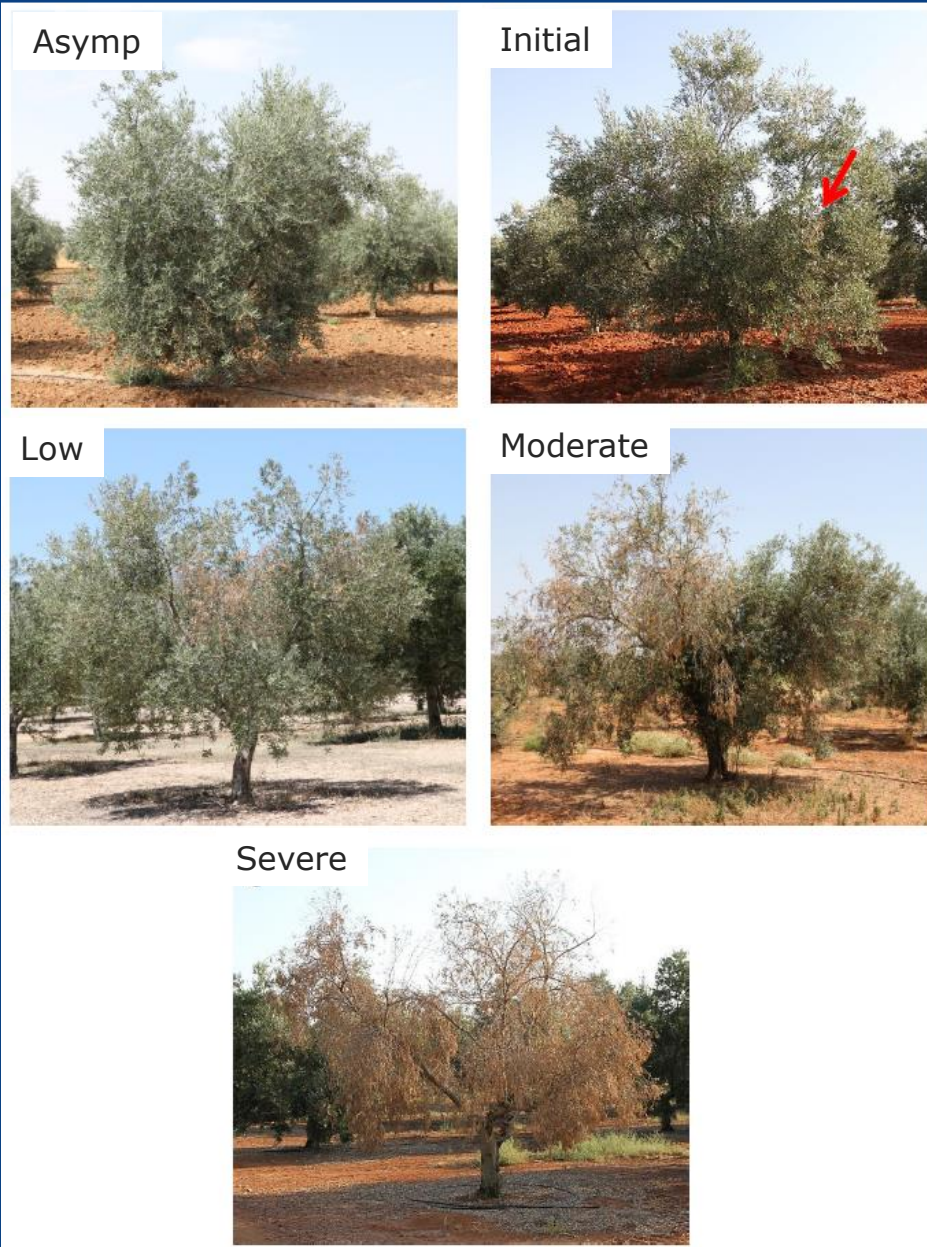
Spectral indicators

Machine  
Learning



Disease  
detection

# Early Detection of *Verticillium* wilt in Olive

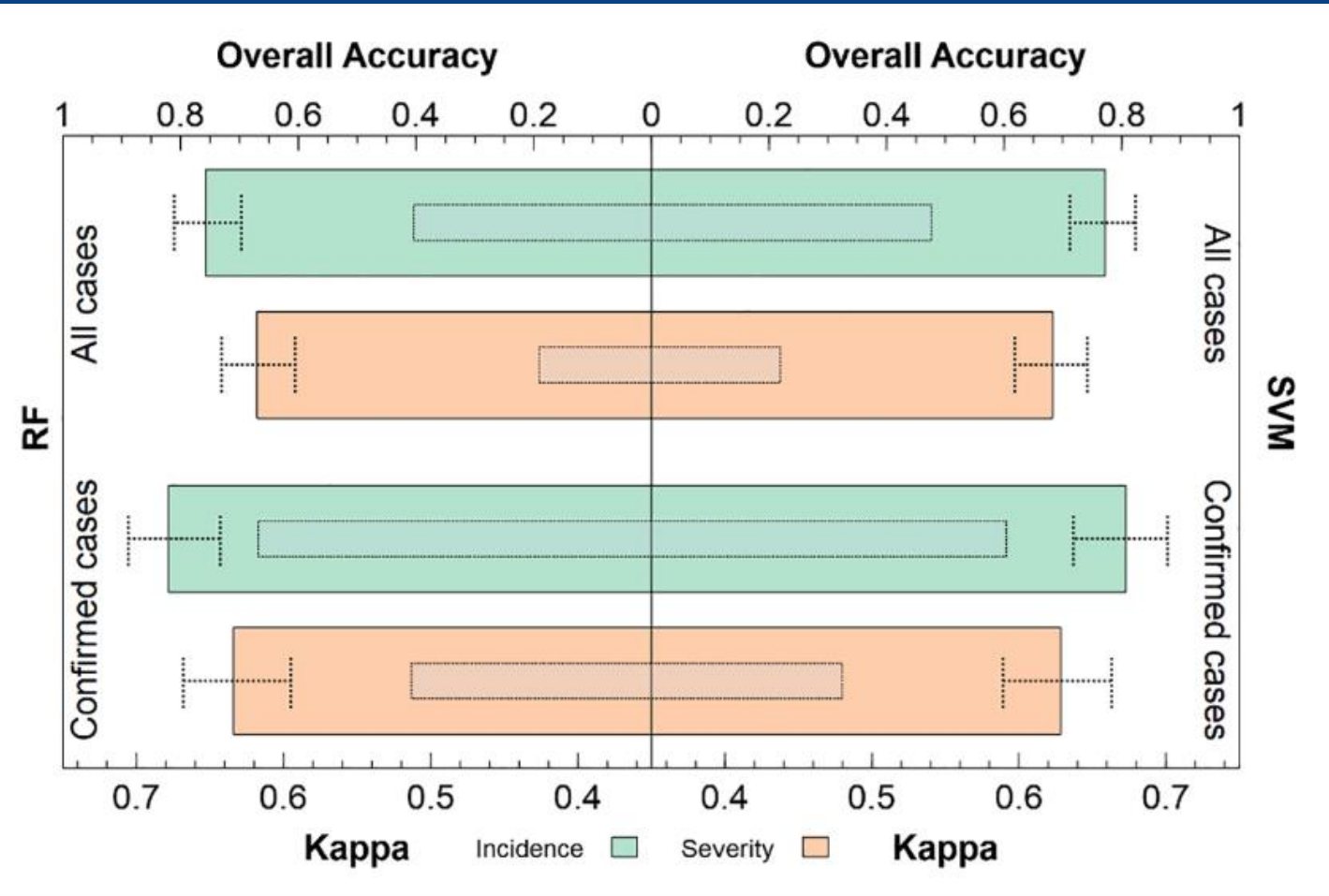
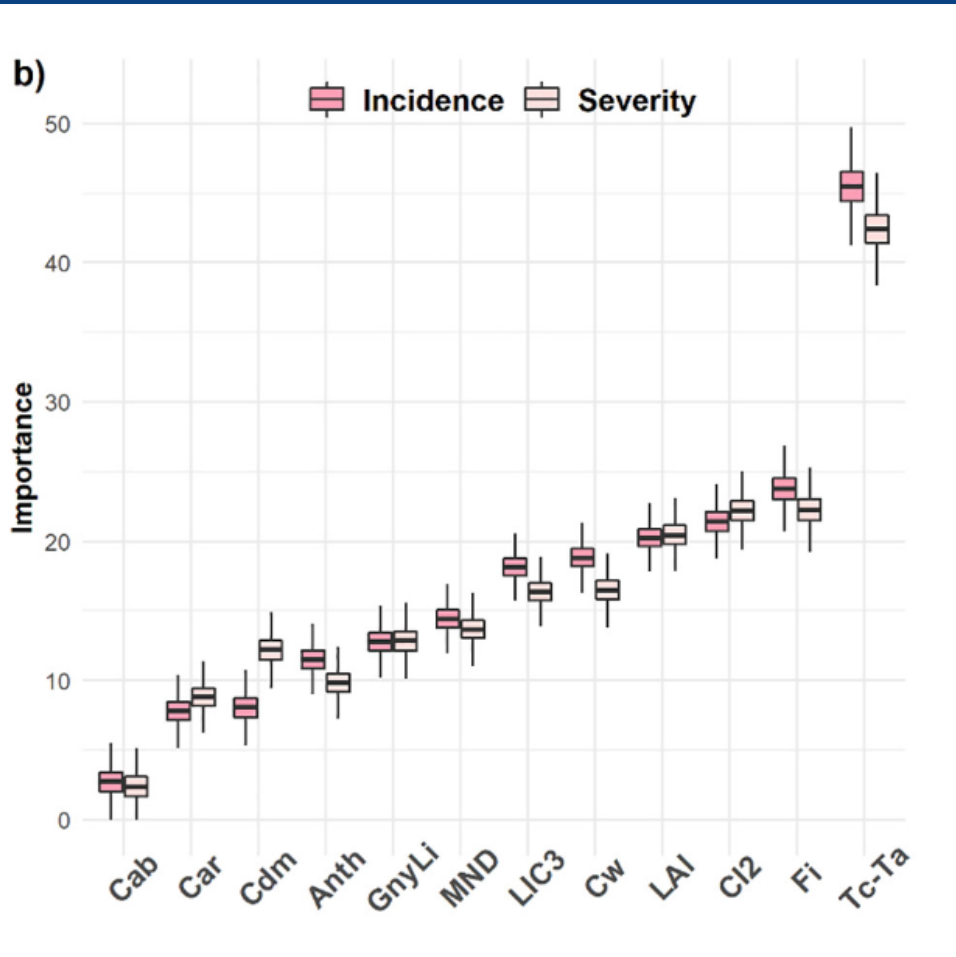


OA=70-80%



# Phytophthora-induced symptoms detection

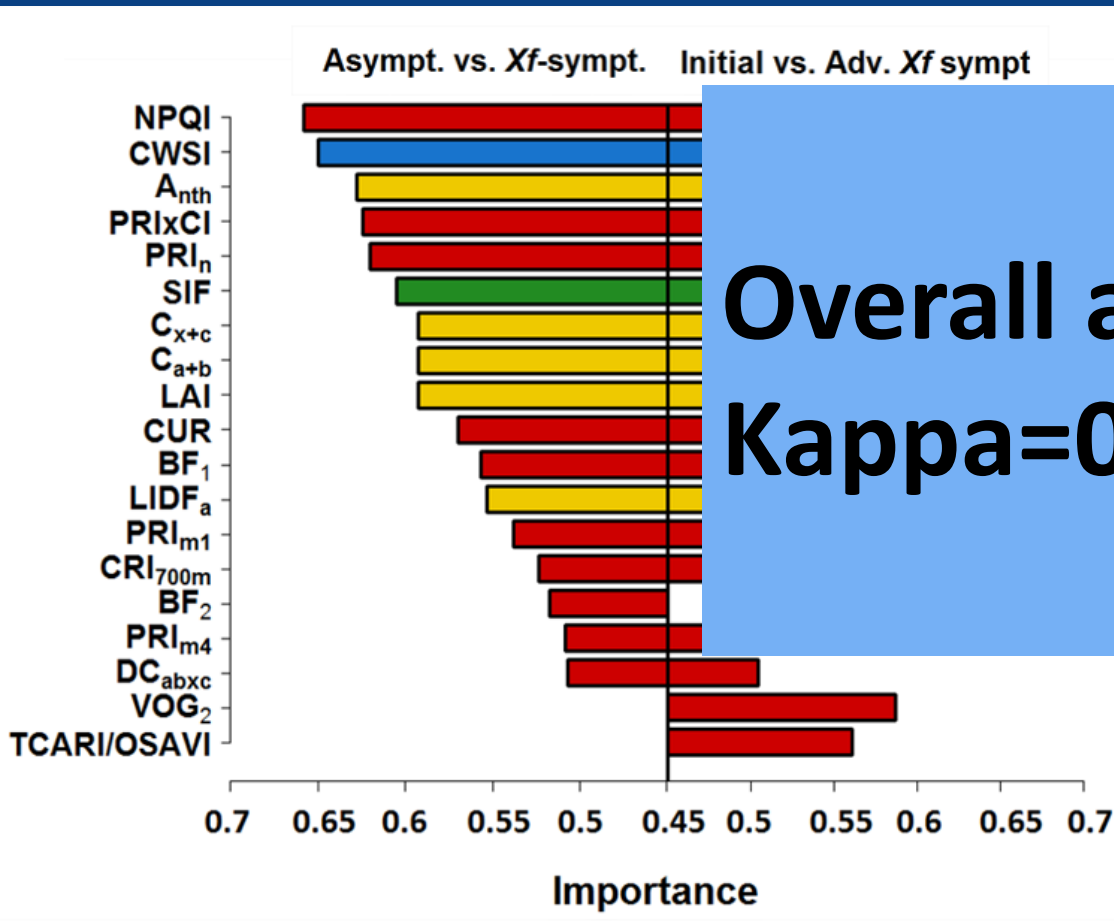
80% accuracy



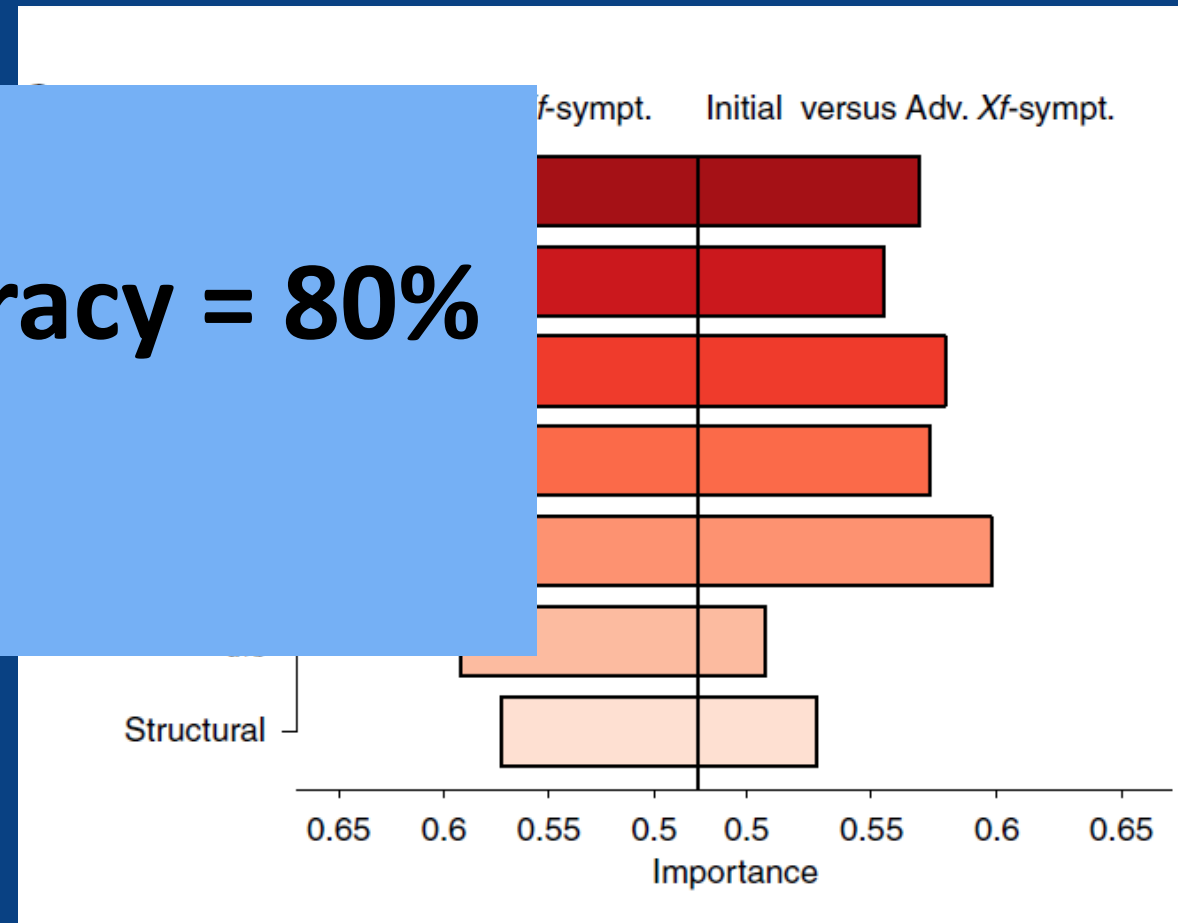


# Sensitivity of Plant Traits to *Xf* symptoms - olive

## Spectral plant traits

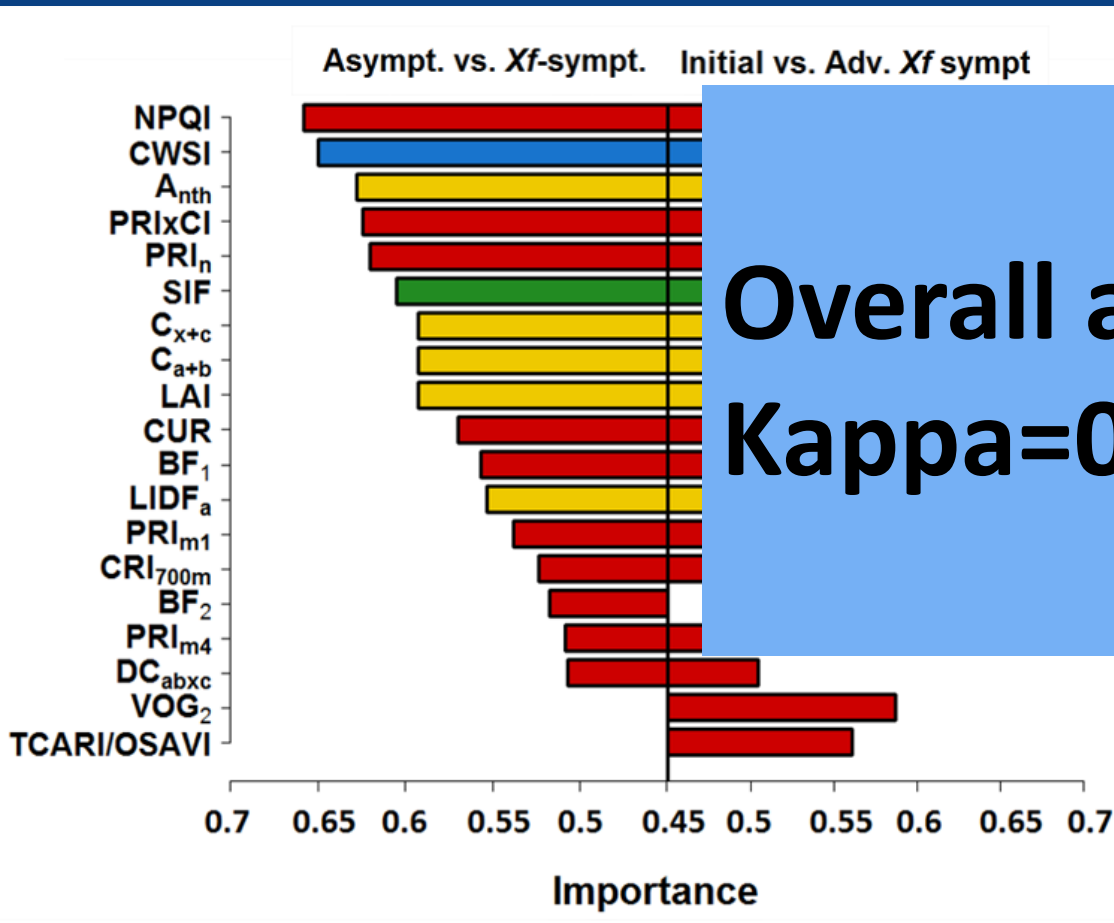


## Spectral functional groups

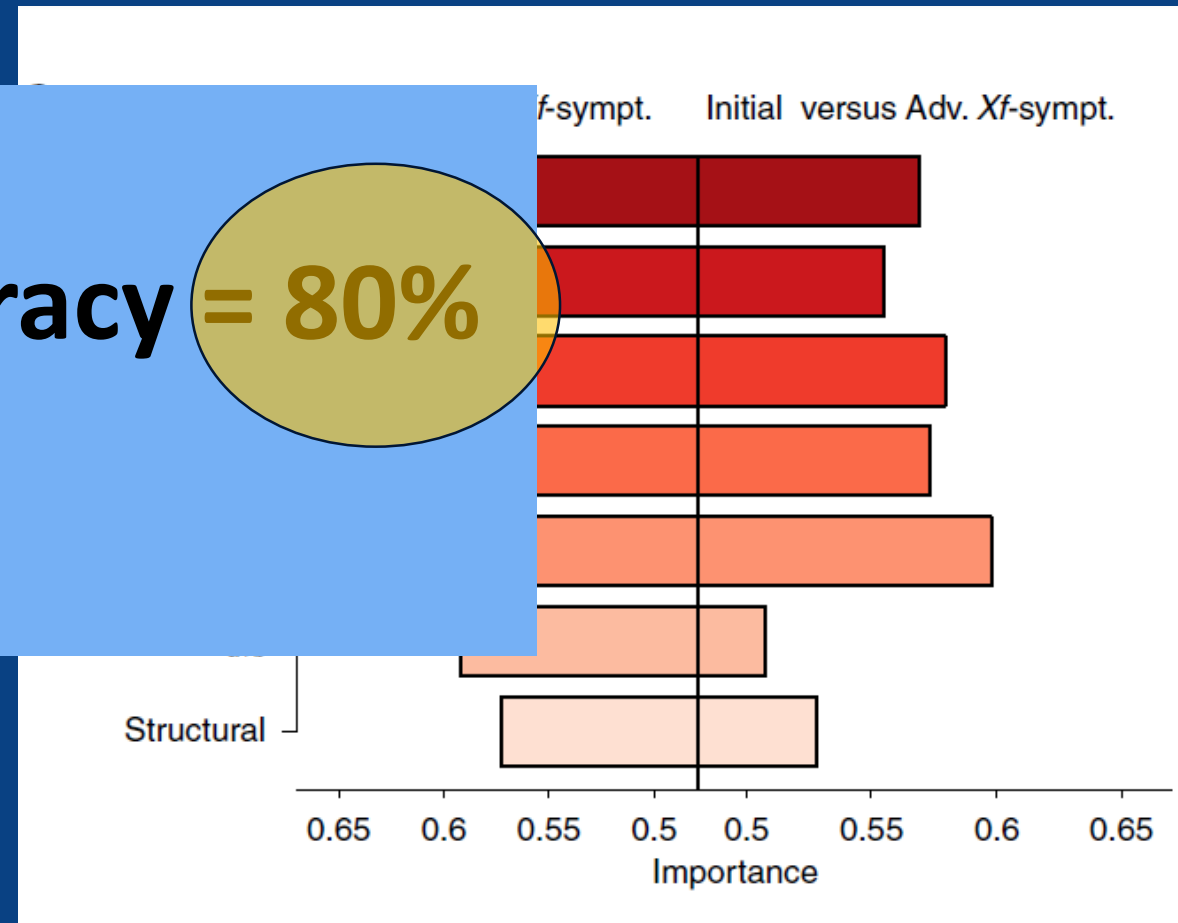


# Sensitivity of Plant Traits to *Xf* symptoms - olive

## Spectral plant traits

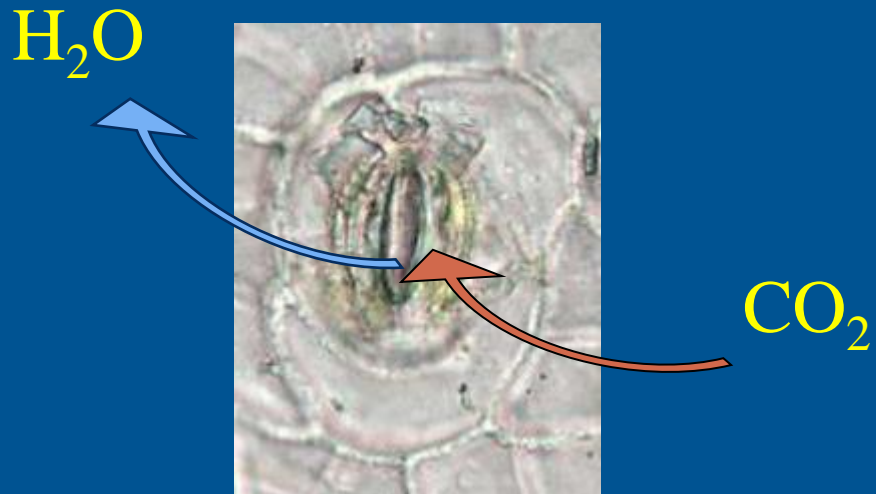
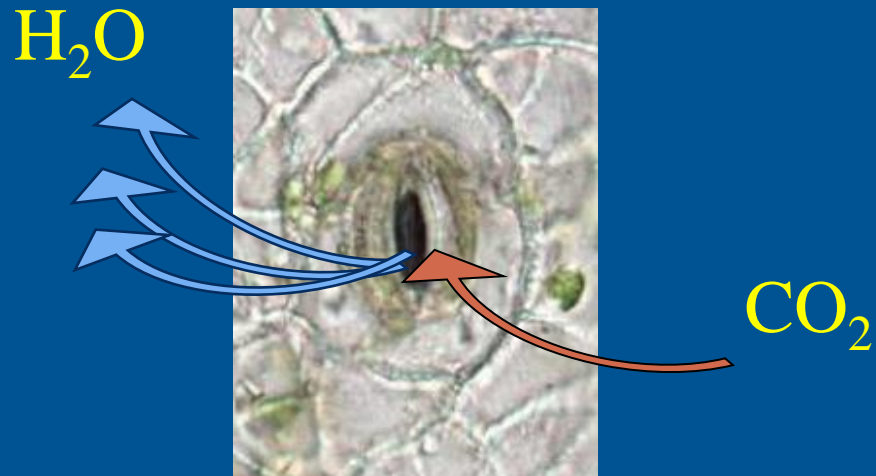


## Spectral functional groups



# Understanding **abiotic** stress to improve **biotic** stress detection

# Transpiration - Temperature



Gates (1968)  
Jackson *et al.* (1977)



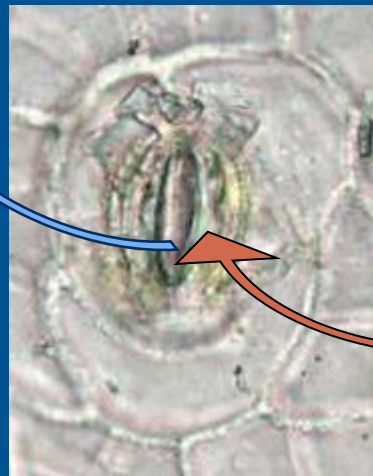
# Transpiration - Temperature



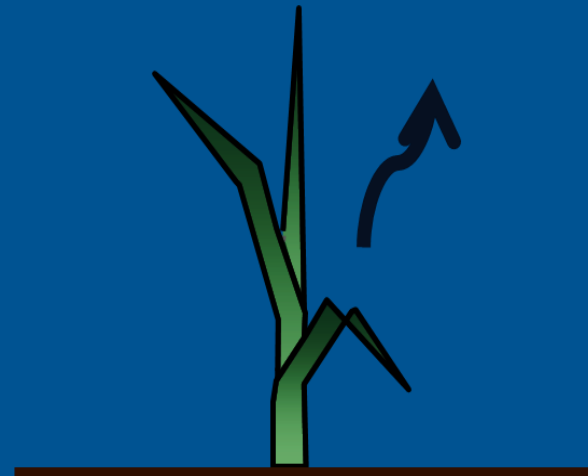
## Vascular plant pathogens:

- Colonize and blocks the vascular system → interfere with water and nutrients flow
- Confounding effects with water stress

H<sub>2</sub>O



CO<sub>2</sub>



T

Gates (1968)  
Jackson *et al.* (1977)



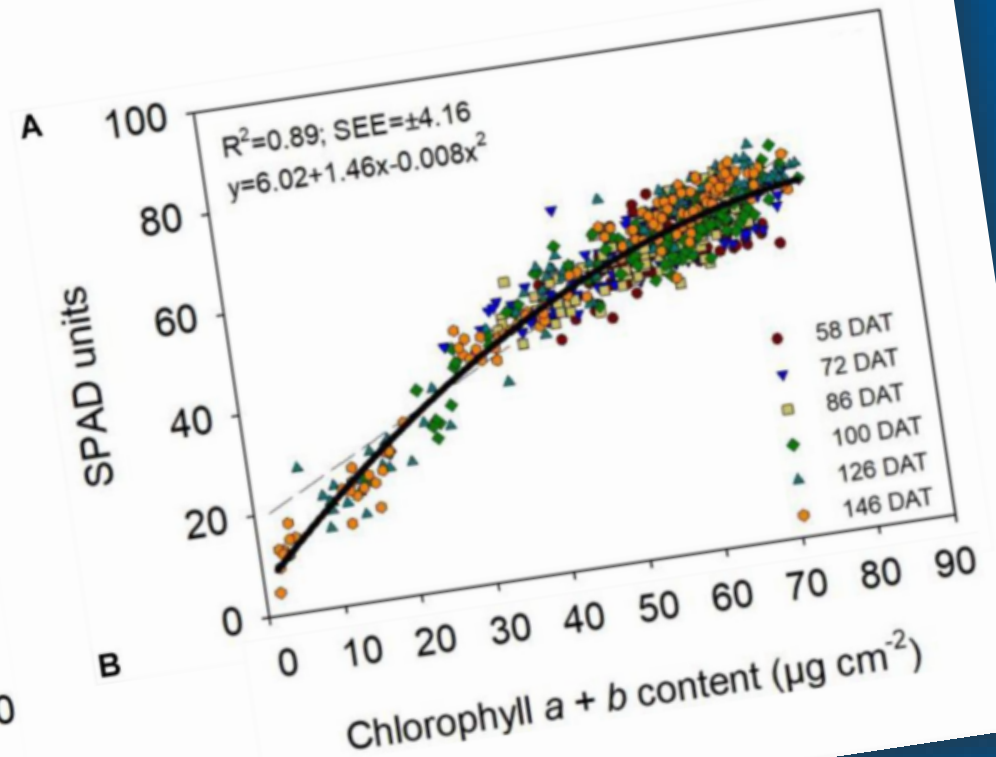
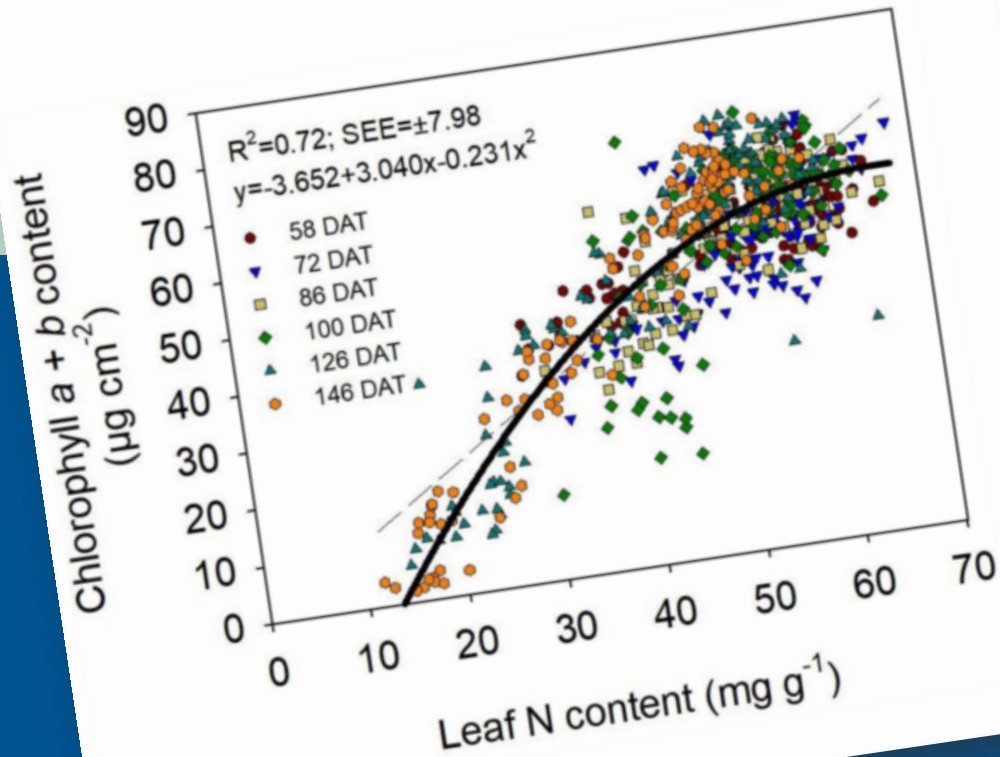




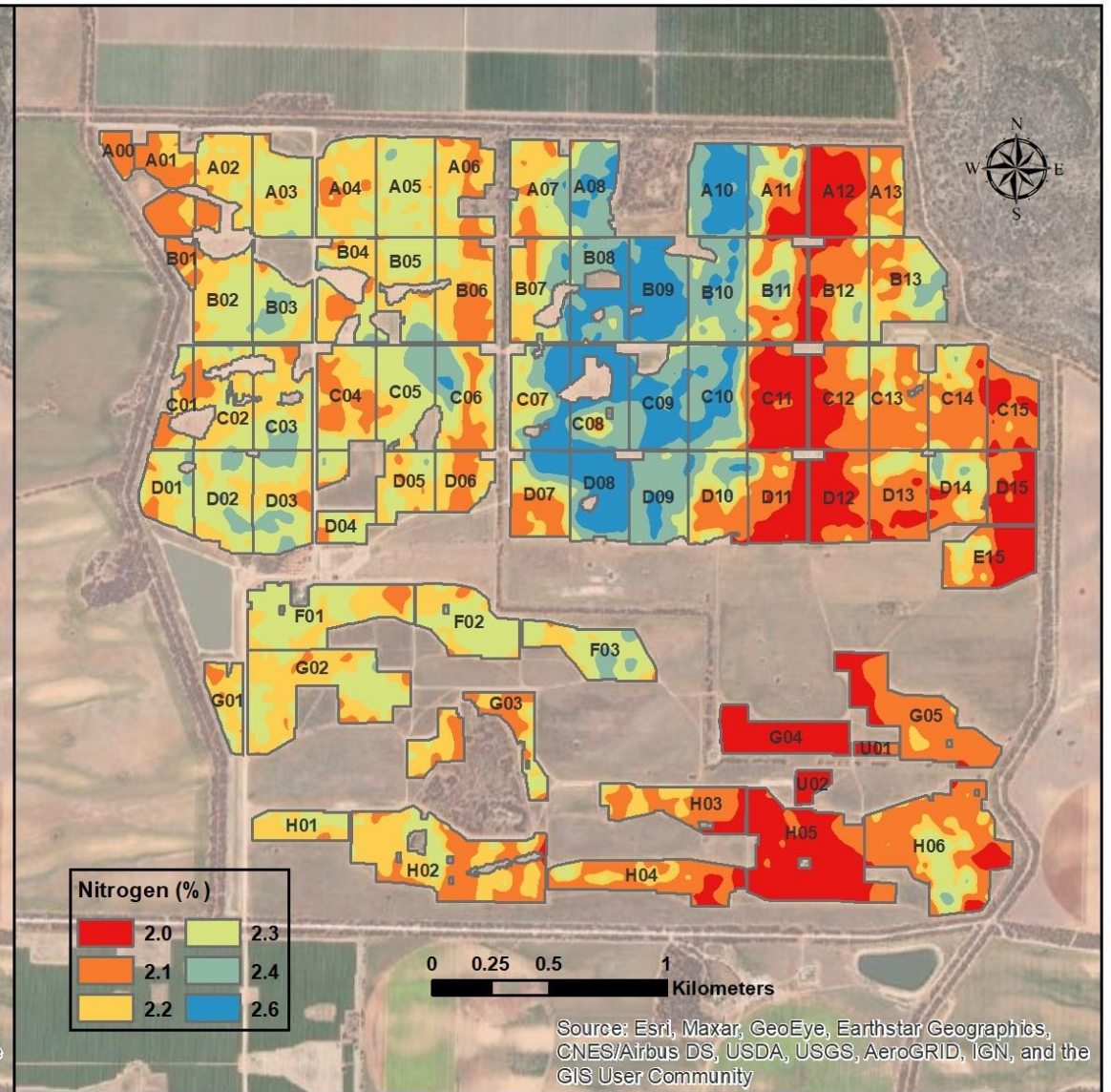
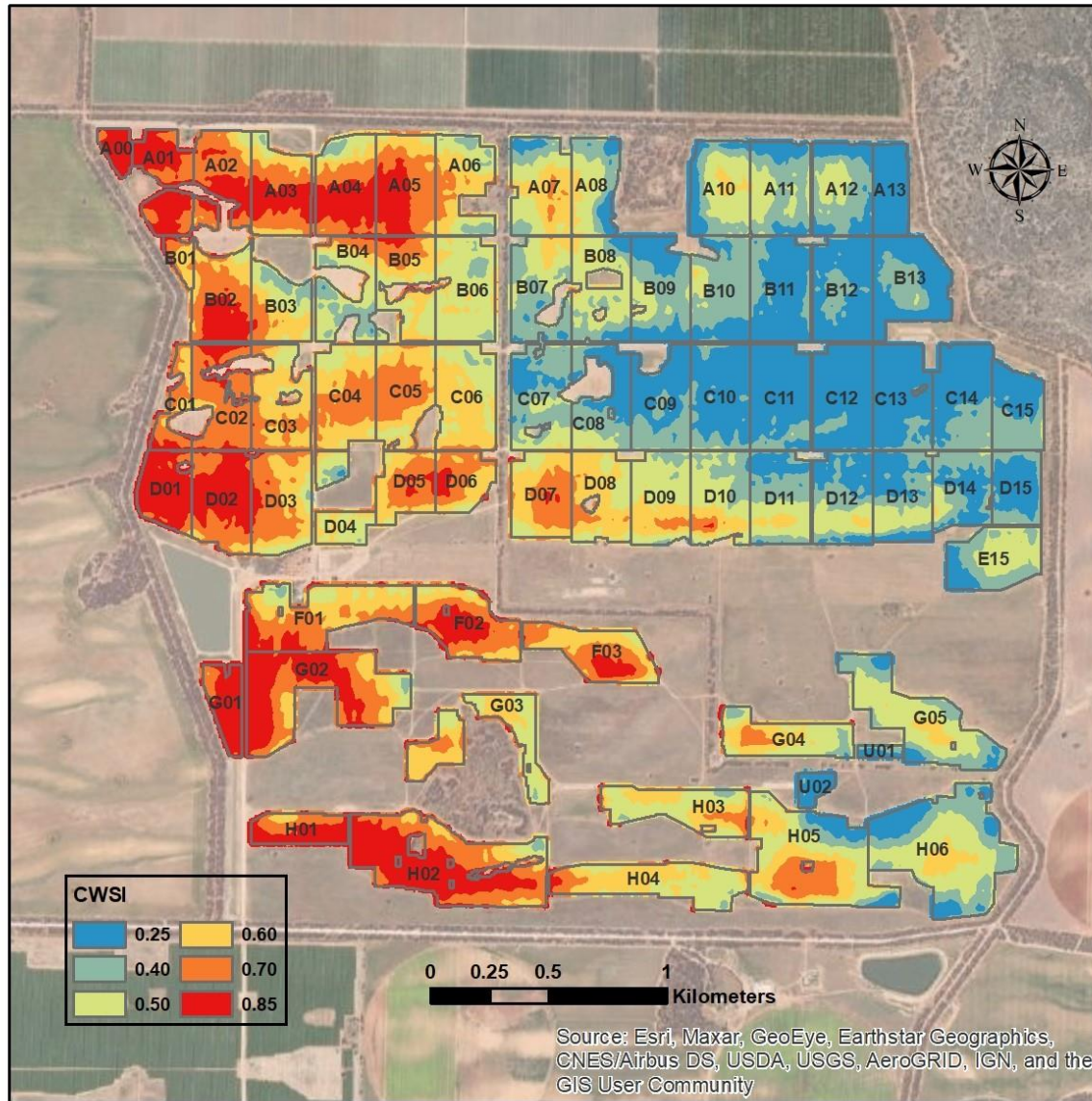
# Transpiration - Temperature



## Chlorophyll a+b as a proxy of nutrient assessment



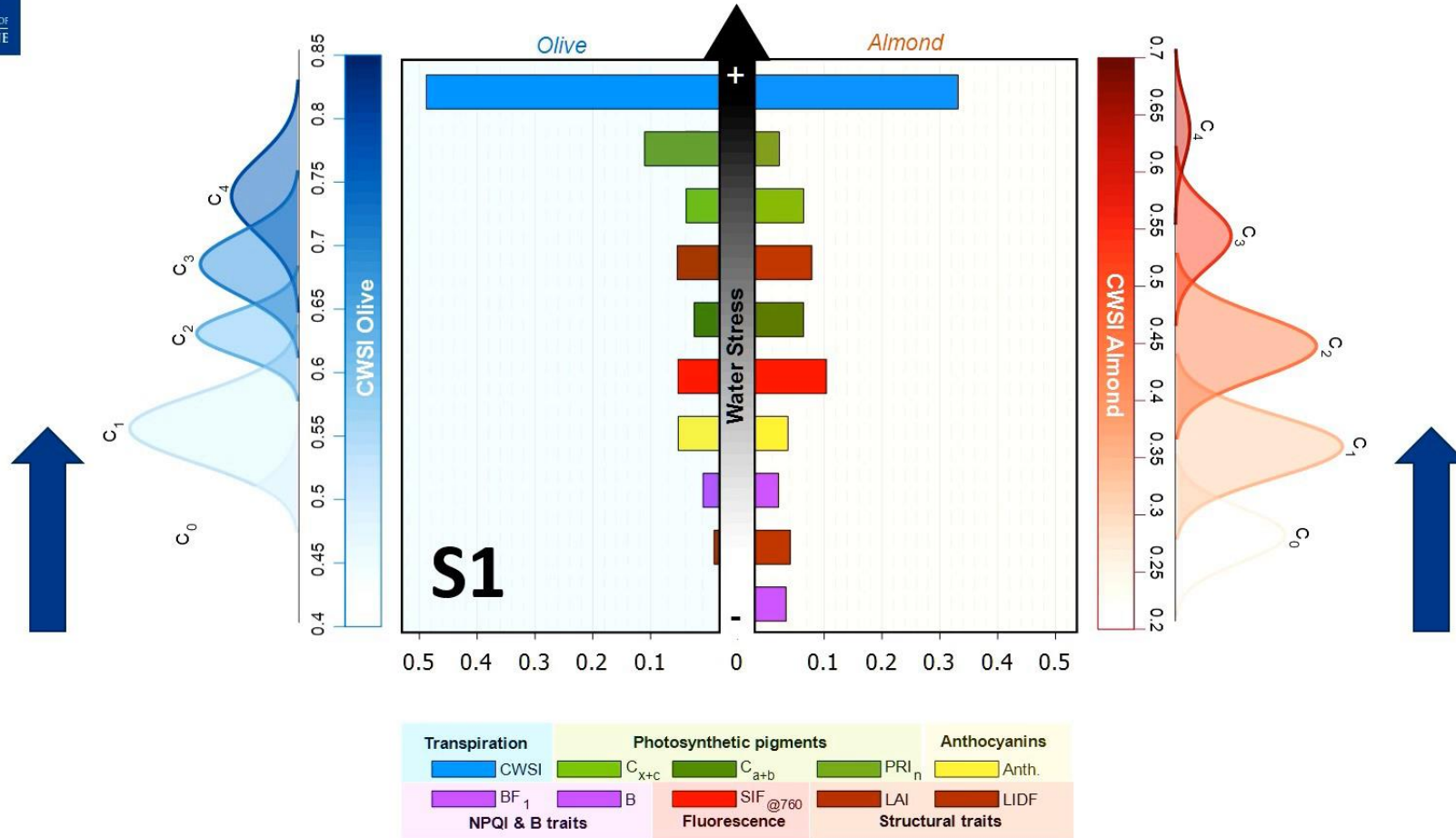




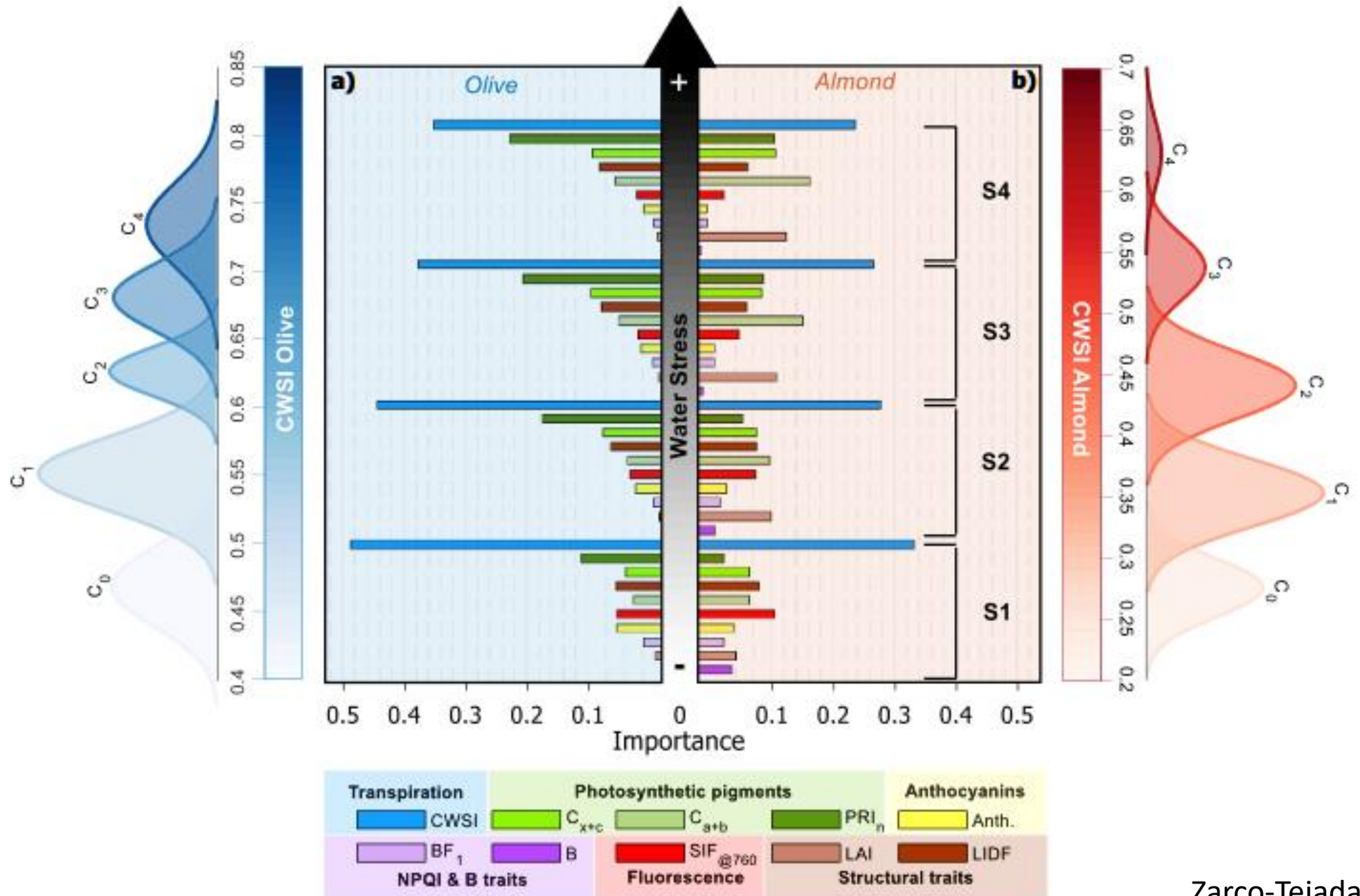




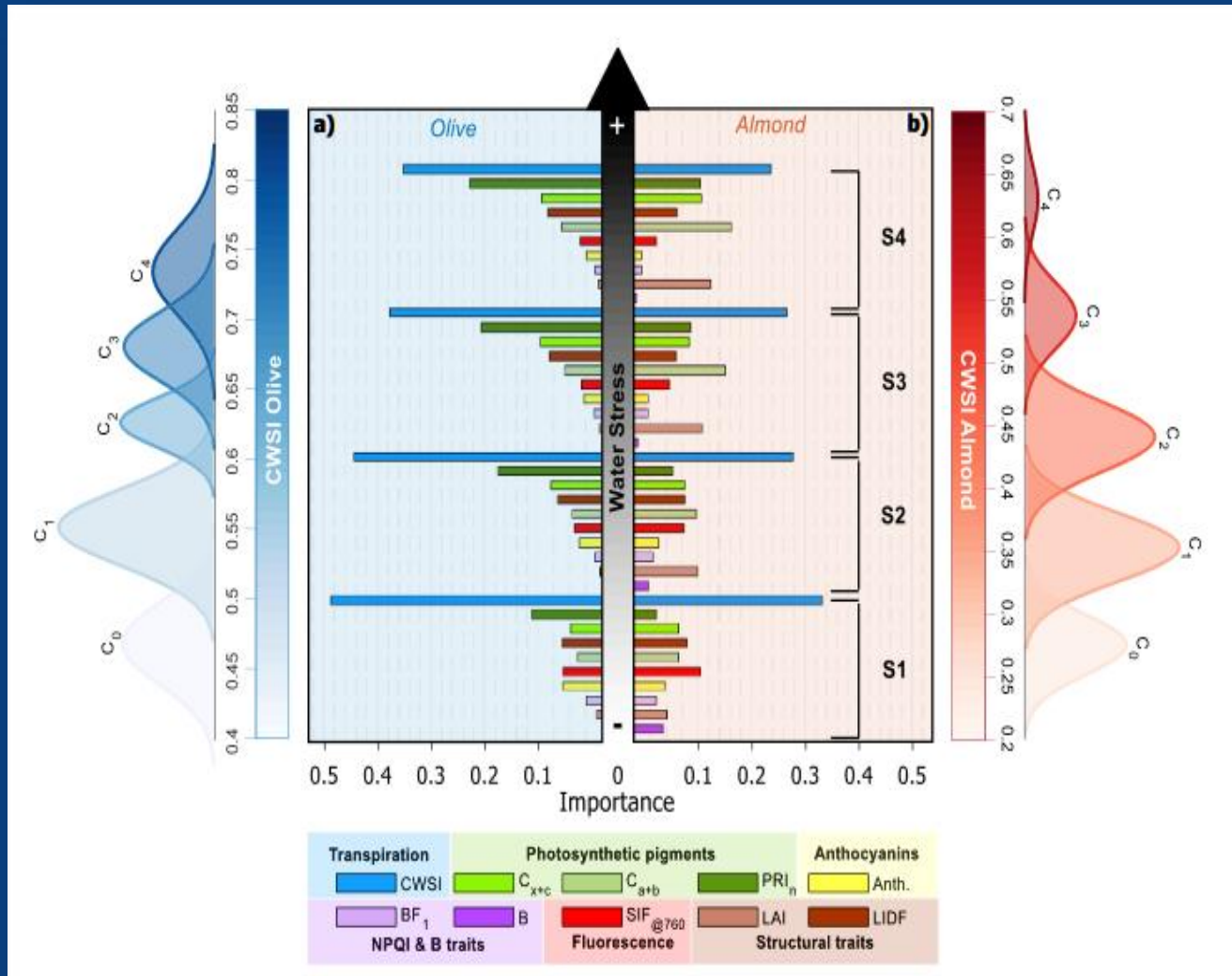
# Importance of plant traits to detect water stress as a function of stress levels



# Importance of plant traits to detect water stress as a function of stress levels



# Dynamics of thermal & hyperspectral with water stress

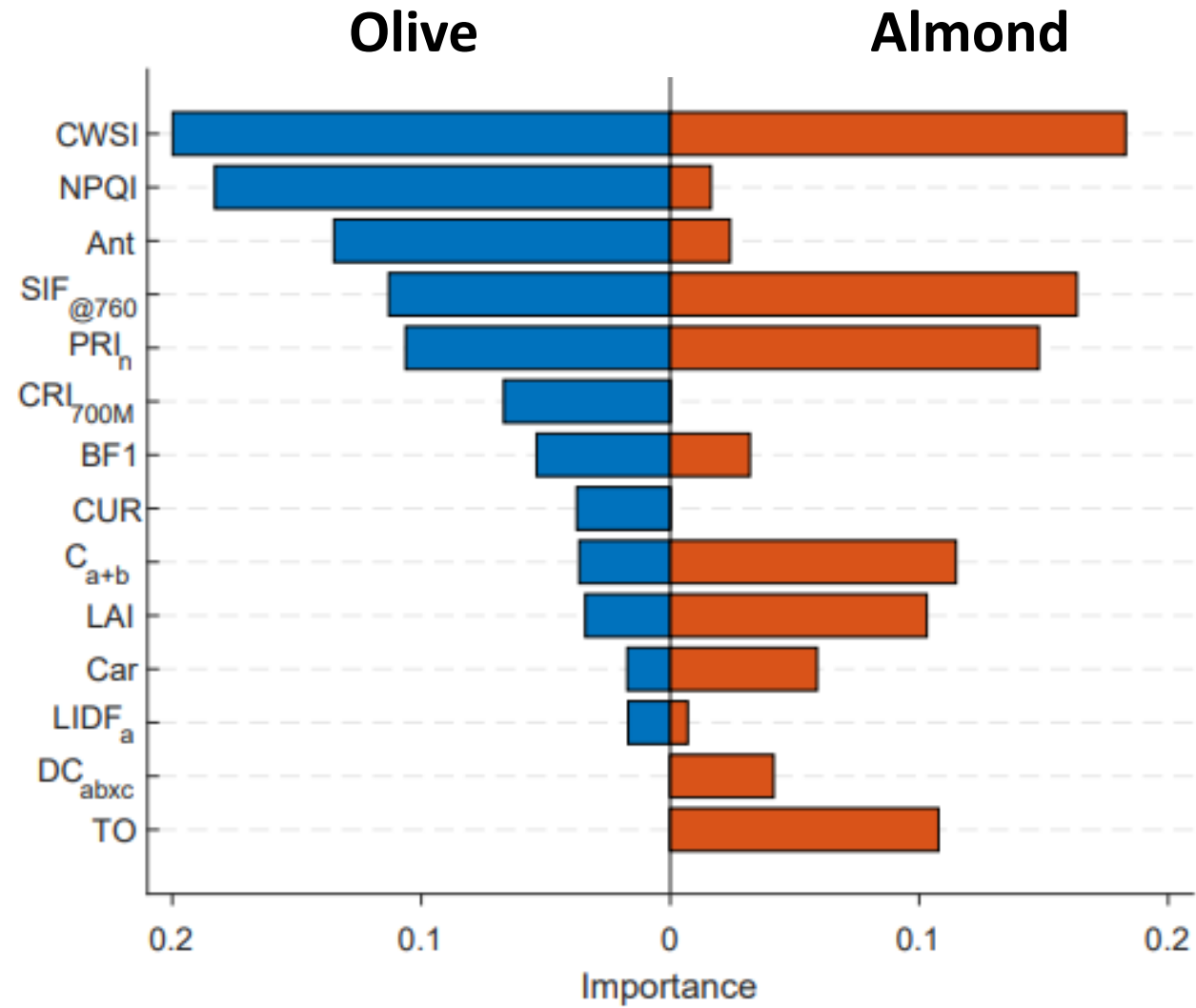


- At early stages, thermal is the most important water stress indicator
- As water stress  $\uparrow$  the relative importance of thermal  $\downarrow$
- After thermal, hyperspectral traits showed high sensitivity to water stress:
  - C<sub>a+b</sub>, C<sub>x</sub>  $\uparrow$  importance with water stress
- Thermal and SIF  $\rightarrow$  inverse trends with increasing water stress levels

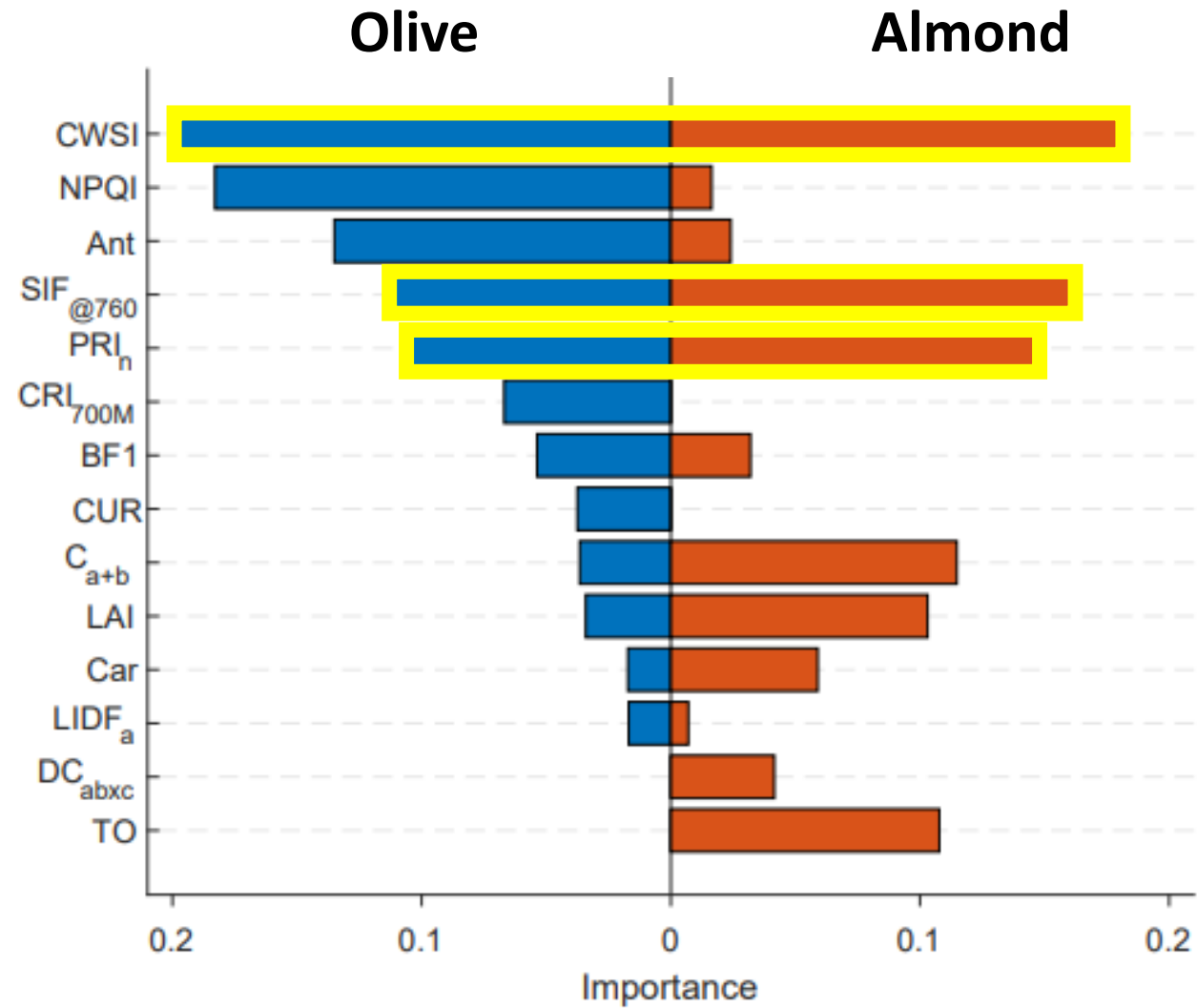
**RS traits are species- and pathogen-specific**



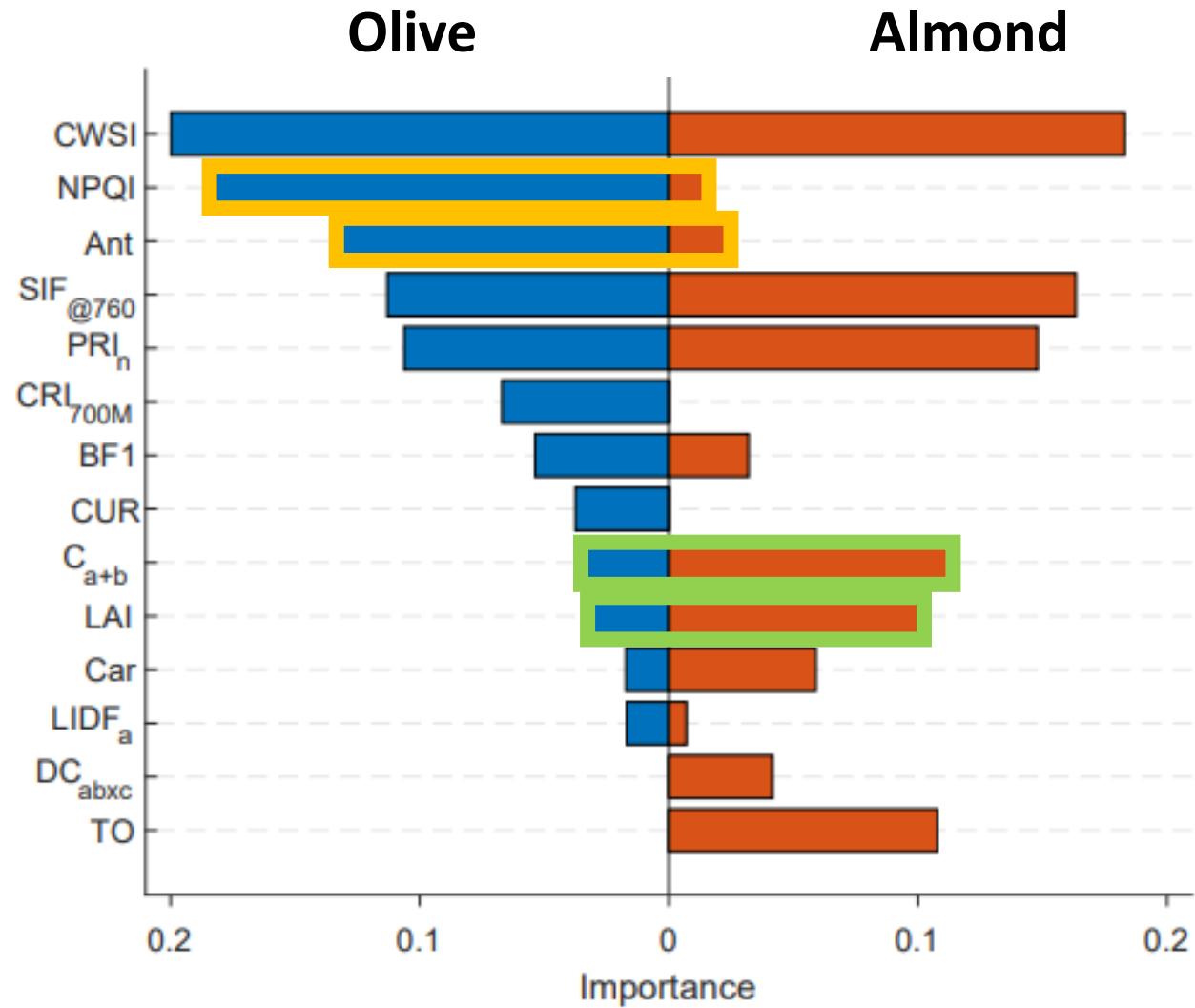
# Importance of *Xf*-sensitive spectral traits in olive vs. almond



# Importance of *Xf*-sensitive spectral traits in olive vs. almond

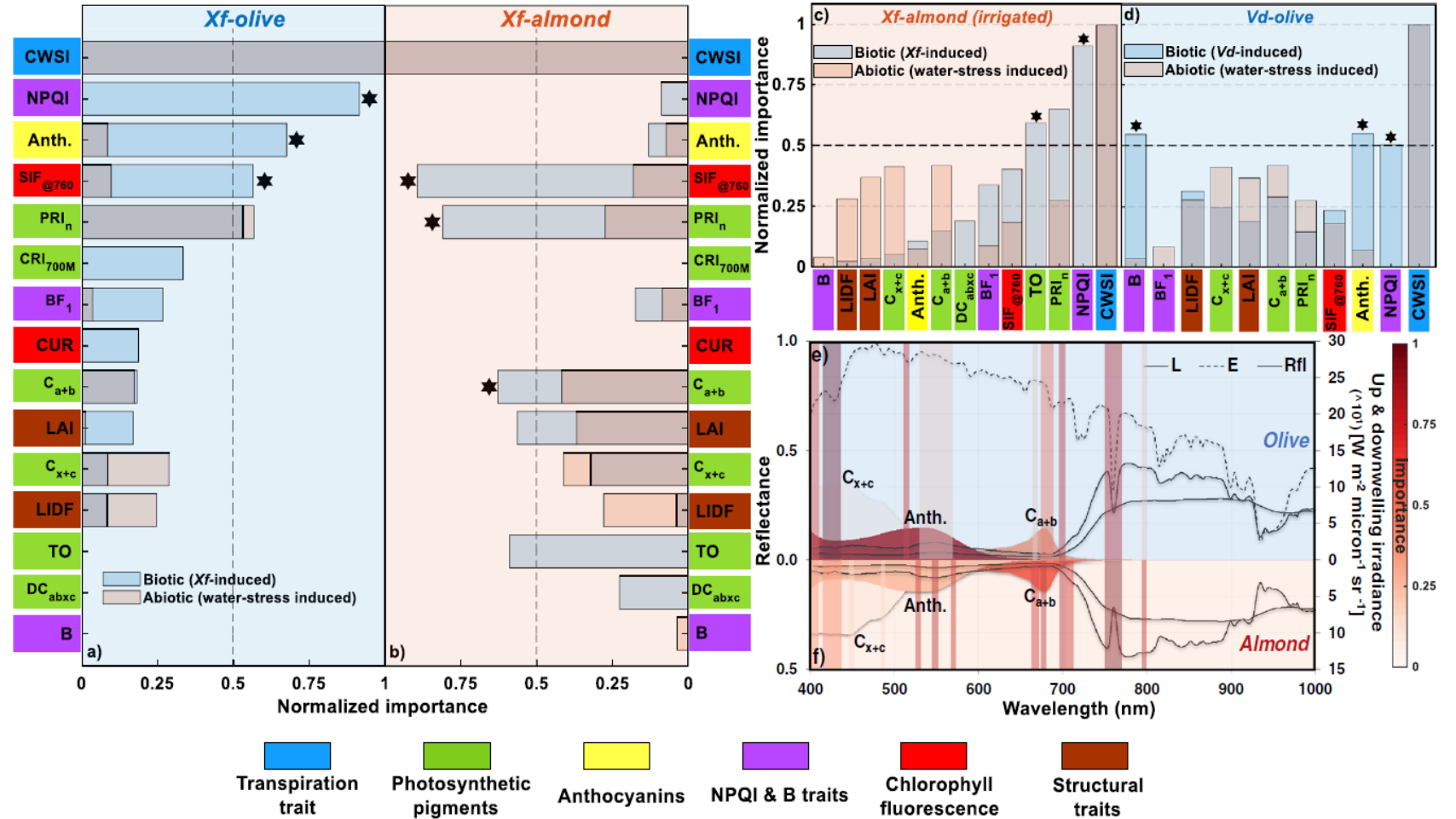


# Importance of *Xf*-sensitive spectral traits in olive vs. almond



Hyperspectral indicators are species-specific (*almond vs olive*) and pathogen-specific (*Xf vs Vd*)

Accuracy > 92%

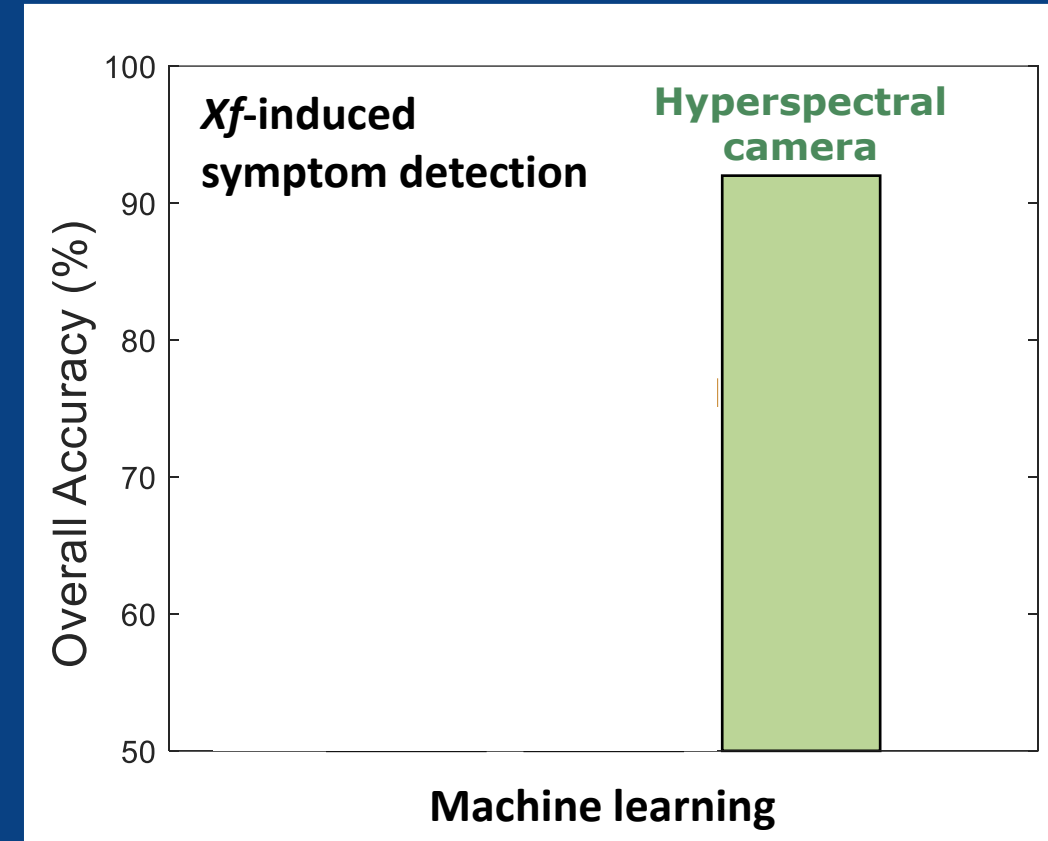
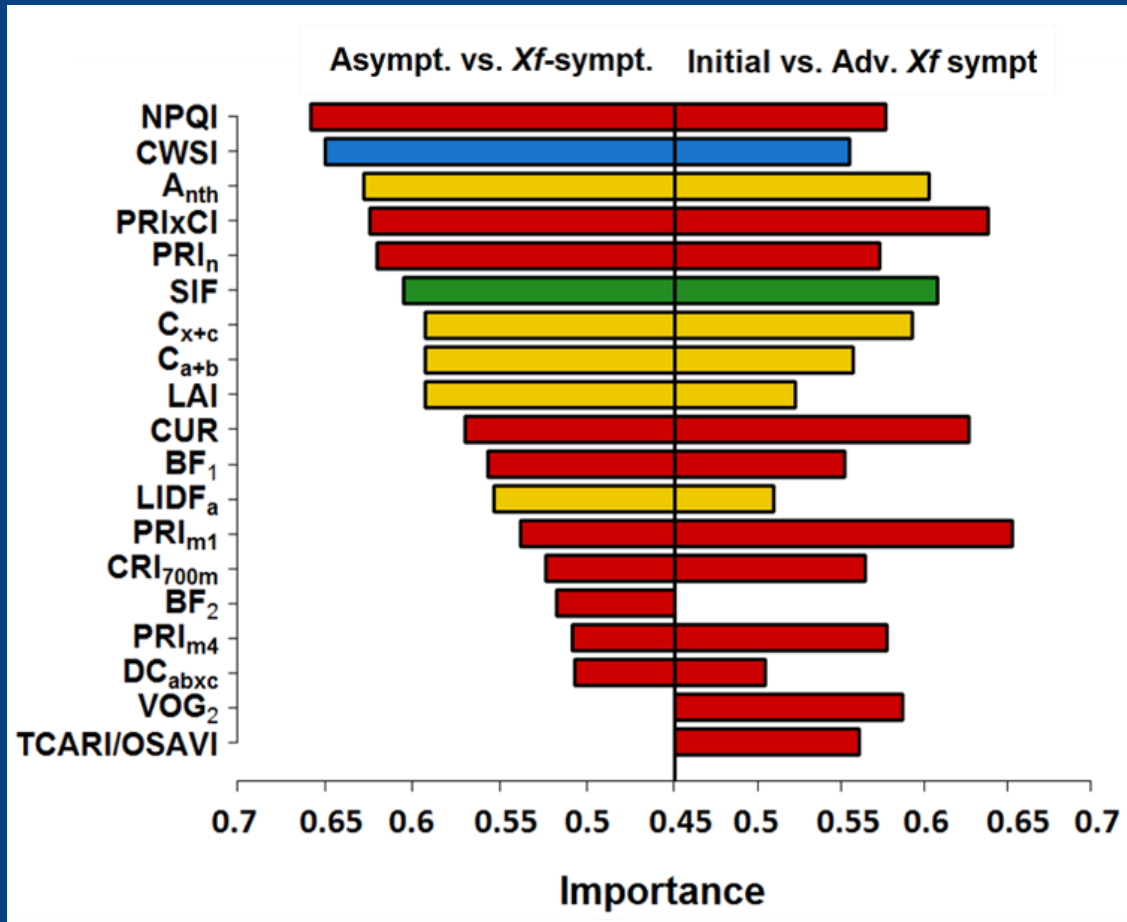




# Need for hyperspectral data ?

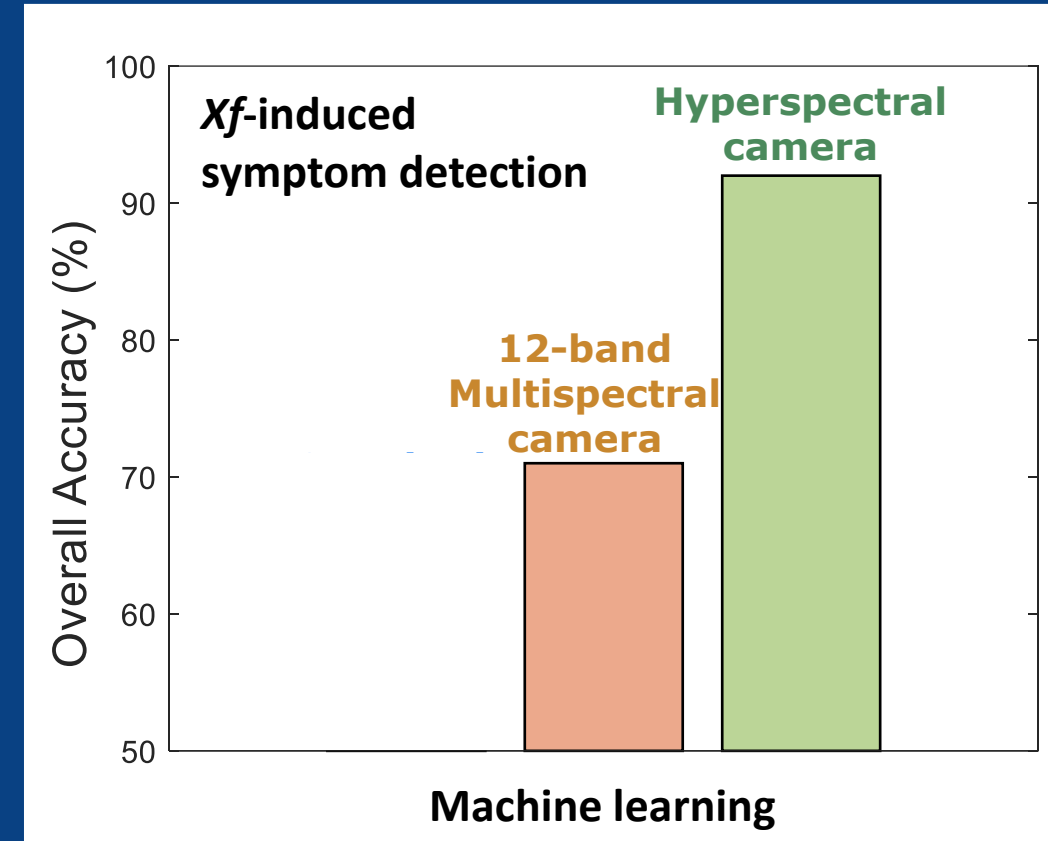
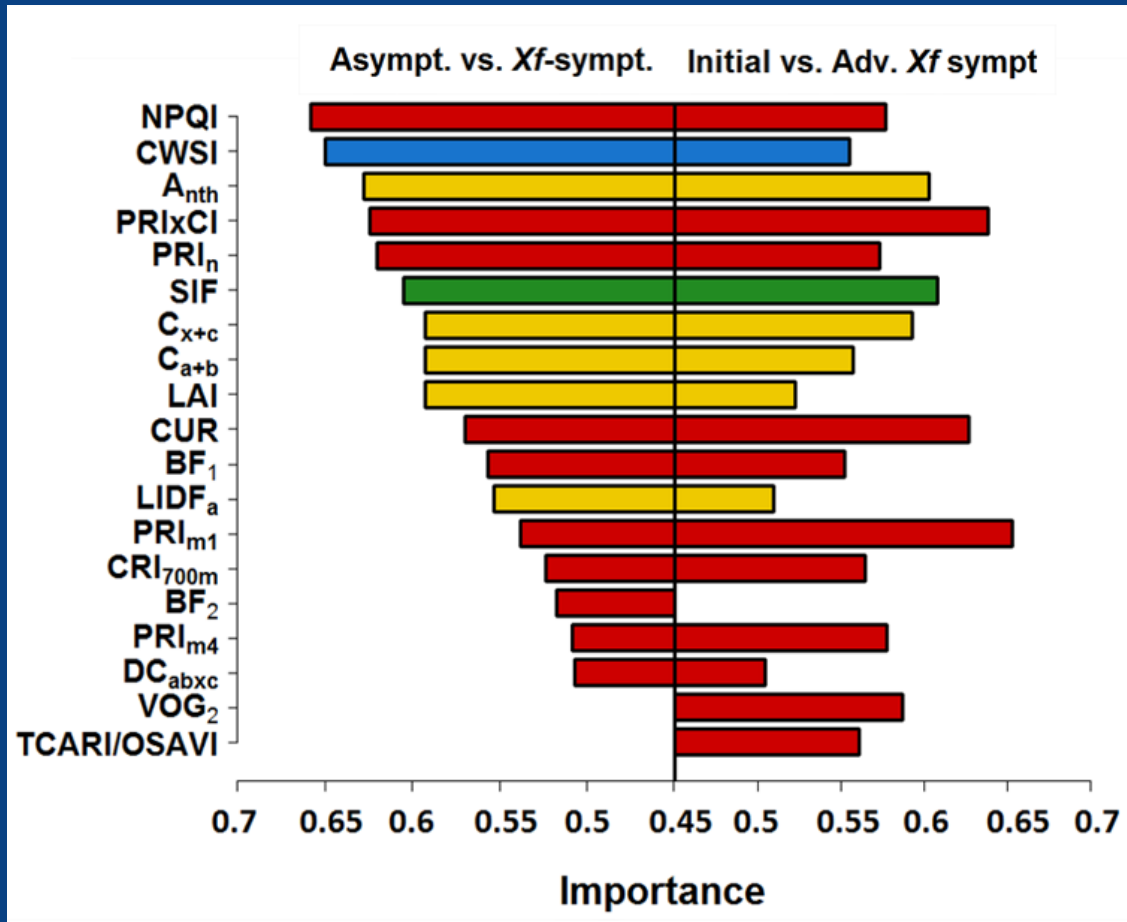
# Sensitivity of Plant Traits to *Xf* symptoms

## Hyperspectral traits



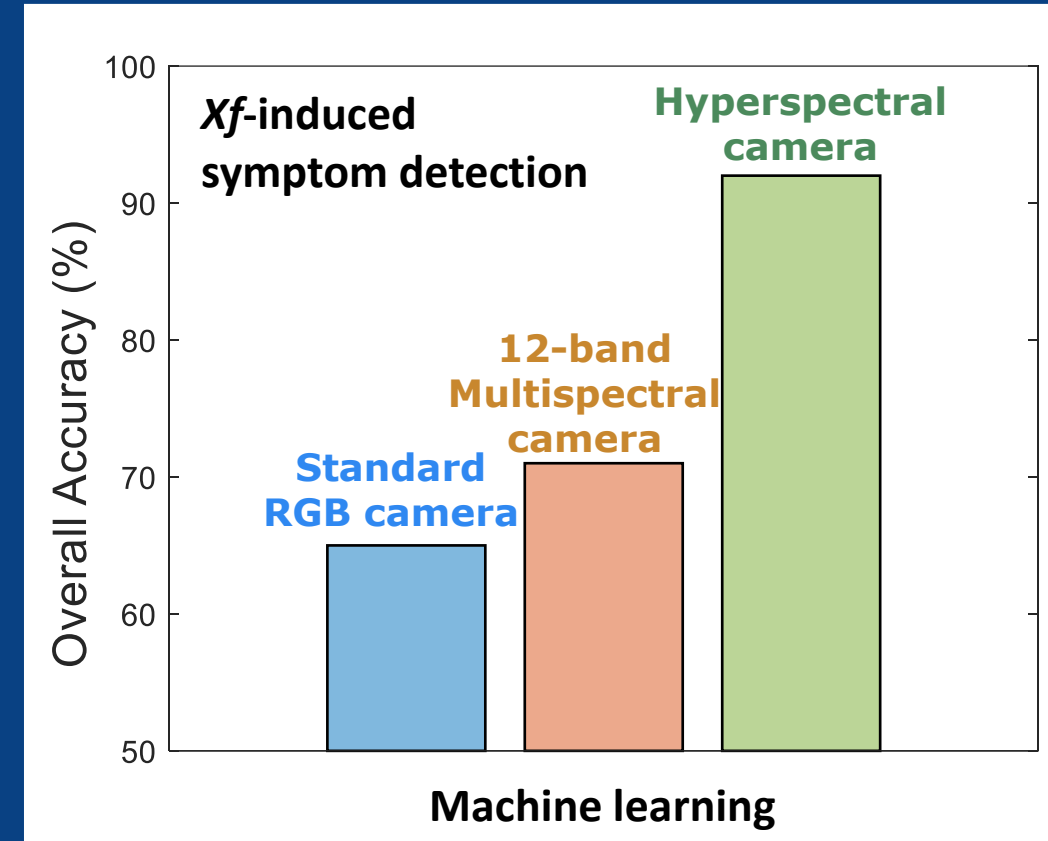
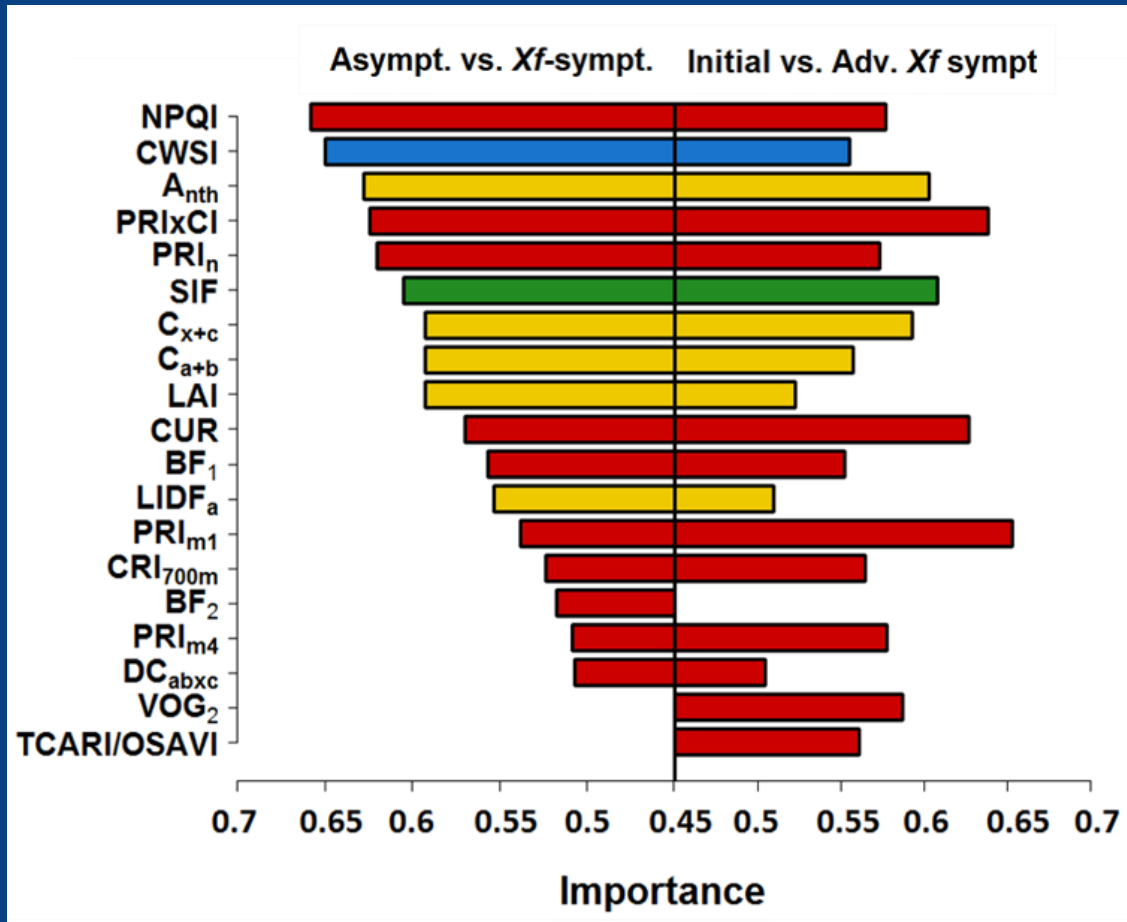
# Sensitivity of Plant Traits to *Xf* symptoms

## Hyperspectral traits



# Sensitivity of Plant Traits to *Xf* symptoms

## Hyperspectral traits





# Conclusions & Final Remarks

1. Progress made is the last 20 years with hyperspectral & thermal data for biotic-induced stress detection across species (**OA>0.8-0.9;  $\kappa>0.6$** )
2. **Traits (RT) critical for robust detection** of stress (avoiding site-specific empirical models)
3. **Species-specific spectral indicators** & traits identified for *Xf*-, *Vd*- and *Ph*-induced symptoms (CWSI, NPQI, Anth, Xanth, SIF and  $PRI_n$ )
4. Quantifying the **abiotic status** is critical for improved detection of **biotic stress**:
  - Almond: OA: 83% ( $\kappa=0.65$ )  $\rightarrow$  94% ( $\kappa=0.87$ )
  - Olive: OA: 77% ( $\kappa=0.43$ )  $\rightarrow$  92% ( $\kappa=0.83$ )
5. Airborne (thousands of hectares) / drone (hundreds of hectares) hyperspectral and thermal imagery can be used for **early** disease detection and monitoring
6. Satellite data (commercial & Sentinel-2) can be used for disease monitoring at **medium / advanced** severity levels  $\rightarrow$  **failing to detect biotic stress at early stages**



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## **Full list of authors cited in the presentation:**

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# High-resolution hyperspectral and thermal imaging for the early detection of plant diseases

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