



# Imaging Spectroscopy for the Detection, Assessment and Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards

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Received: 15 January 2018 / Accepted: 23 February 2019 / Published online: 18 March 2019  
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## Abstract

Natural and anthropogenic hazards have the potential to impact all aspects of society including its economy and the environment. Diagnostic data to inform decision-making are critical for hazard management whether for emergency response, routine monitoring or assessments of potential risks. Imaging spectroscopy (IS) has unique contributions to make via the ability to provide some key quantitative diagnostic information. In this paper, we examine a selection of key case histories representing the state of the art to gain an insight into the achievements and perspectives in the use of visible to shortwave infrared IS for the detection, assessment and monitoring of a selection of significant natural and anthropogenic hazards. The selected key case studies examined provide compelling evidence for the use of the IS technology and its ability to contribute diagnostic information currently unattainable from operational spaceborne Earth observation systems. User requirements for the applications were also evaluated. The evaluation showed that the projected launch of spaceborne IS sensors in the near-, mid and long term future, together with the increasing availability, quality and moderate cost of off the shelf sensors, the possibilities to couple unmanned autonomous systems with miniaturized sensors, should be able to meet these requirements. The challenges and opportunities for the scientific community in the future when such data become available will then be ensuring consistency between data from different sensors, developing techniques to efficiently handle, process, integrate and deliver the large volumes of data, and most importantly translating the data to information that meets specific needs of the user community in a form that can be digested/understood by them. The latter is especially important to transforming the technology from a scientific to an operational tool. Additionally, the information must be independently validated using current trusted practices and uncertainties quantified before IS derived measurement can be integrated into operational monitoring services.

**Keywords** Hazards · Imaging spectroscopy · Hyperspectral · Acid mine drainage · Dust · Hydrocarbon · Atmospheric emissions · Aerosols · Asbestos · Swelling clay

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## 1 Introduction

A hazard is broadly defined as a process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017). Hazards may be classified as active where the condition is certain to cause harm, or the hazards are classified as latent where they represent future threats. Most hazards are dormant with only a theoretical risk of harm. When the level of risk/threat and vulnerability elevates to cause the hazards to be severe and large scale, they are classified as disasters (Jha 2010).

Natural hazards are those that are associated with natural processes and phenomena including but not limited to wildland fires, dust storms, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, swelling clays (when exposed to excess water) and acid sulphate soils. Natural hazards have significant societal and environmental impacts. Anthropogenic hazards are those that are induced by human forces and encompass those that are both accidental and intentional in nature. Anthropogenic hazards can occur from activities such as non-renewable resource exploitation, industrial processing, agriculture, urban development, transportation, and shipping. Lastly, some hazards are classified as socio-natural, in that they are associated with a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors including environmental degradation and climate change.

Passive and active satellite Earth observations have been used for decades to inform decision-making on natural and anthropogenic hazards (Hong et al. 2007; Joyce et al. 2009; Lentile et al. 2006; Metternicht and Zinck 2003; Tralli et al. 2005) and are now generally accepted operational tools for this purpose. Until recently, imaging spectroscopy (IS), particularly from satellite platforms, has not been operationally available and hence is not yet as widely or operationally used. IS is defined as the simultaneous acquisition of spatially co-registered images in many spectrally contiguous bands ( $> 50$ ), measured in calibrated radiance units, from a remotely operated platform (Schaeppman et al. 2009; Goetz 2009). IS has unique contributions to make via its ability to provide quantitative diagnostic information to better inform assessments and monitor hazards and their related threats. In the last two decades, with the increasing availability of IS particularly in the visible (VIS) to shortwave infrared (SWIR) (400–2500 nm) range mainly from airborne platforms, some convincing studies have demonstrated its remarkable effectiveness (for acid drainage see Buzzi et al. 2016; Davies and Calvin 2017; Farrand 1997; Farrand and Harsanyi 1997; Fenstermaker and Miller 1994; Kemper and Sommer 2004; King et al. 1995; Kopačková 2014; Kruse et al. 1989; Lopez-Pamo et al. 1999; Ong and Cudahy 2014; Pearson et al. 1997; Peters et al. 1995; Shi et al. 2014a, b; Swayze et al. 1996, 2000; Rockwell et al. 2005; Zabicic et al. 2014; for fugitive dust see Clark et al. 2006; Chudnovsky et al. 2009, 2011; Ong et al. 2003a, b, c, 2008; Ong 2013; Pascucci et al. 2012; for hydrocarbon contamination see Beland et al. 2016; Clark et al. 2010; Khanna et al. 2013; Kokaly et al. 2013; Peterson et al. 2015; for atmospheric emissions see Bradley et al. 2011; Dennison et al. 2013; Deschamps et al. 2013; Franke et al. 2009; Frankenberg et al. 2016; Frassy et al. 2014; Krautwurst et al. 2017; Leifer et al. 2012; Marion et al. 2004; Roberts et al. 2010; Spinetti et al. 2008; Thompson et al. 2015b; Thorpe et al. 2012, 2013; and, for naturally occurring hazardous soils and rocks, see Bonifazi and Serranti 2016; Chabrilat et al. 2002, Chabrilat and Goetz 2006; Clark et al. 2001, 2003b; Marino et al. 2000; Massarelli et al. 2017; Swayze et al. 2004, 2009; Swayze and Kokaly 2016, and many others).

In this paper, we examine a selection of significant anthropogenic and natural hazards and show, through some key case histories, how visible (VIS)- shortwave (SWIR) IS has been used to enhance understanding and improve decision-making and management of these challenges. Finally, we explore the limitations of current systems and requirements for future operational systems.

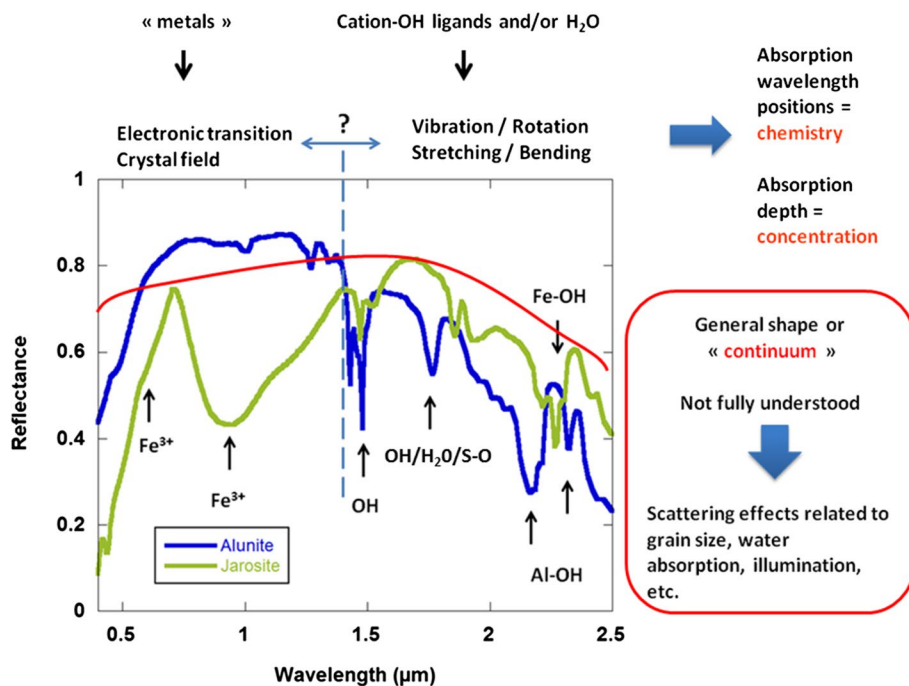
## 2 Theory and Concepts

Most of the studies conducted thus far on the use of IS for natural and anthropogenic hazards exploit the fact that the hazardous material (be it soil, water or air) has compositional characteristics that are spectrally distinct. In contrast, the surrounding non-hazardous material may have different or no diagnostic spectral features that can be used to distinguish it from the hazardous material. Therefore, the use of IS for hazards is essentially the use of spectroscopy for the detection and identification of materials be they solid, liquid or gas.

Spectroscopy deals with the interpretation, as a function of wavelength, of light reflected, emitted, transmitted or scattered, resulting from the interaction of electromagnetic radiation with matter (atoms and molecules). Absorption and scattering are the two main physical properties that can be used to identify and quantify constituents from both the surface and the atmosphere.

Figure 1 illustrates the driving mechanisms for spectral absorption features, the significance of the wavelength location and shape of spectral features for identification and quantification of the material of interest. As most of the key components of the anthropogenic hazards examined for this paper were characterized by their mineralogical composition, this figure is illustrated with two minerals. The principles described here are similarly applicable to other materials. In the ultraviolet (UV)–VIS wavelength range, the energy of a photon is used to excite electrons to a higher energy level (transition). The energy transitions for the electrons of each element are unique and are distinct from one another. For minerals, absorption features in the UV–VIS–nearinfrared (VNIR) spectral range are generally broad and caused by electronic transitions, crystal field effects and charge transfers that can be used to distinguish the observed material. For example, for the jarosite (an iron-bearing mineral) spectrum in Fig. 1, the electronic transitions and crystal field effects at wavelengths around 430, 550 and 900 nm allow for identification of materials containing iron ( $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ).

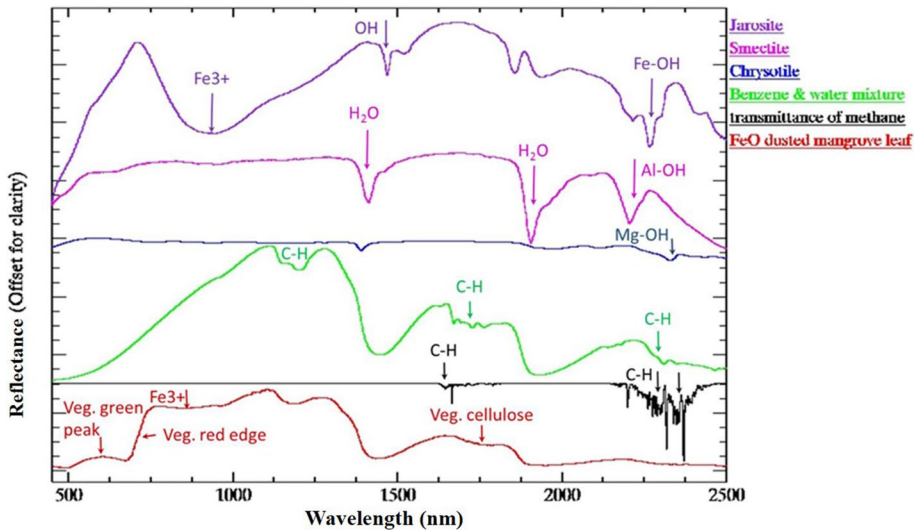
At longer wavelengths beyond the NIR towards the shortwave (SWIR) and long-wave infrared (LWIR), the energy of a photon produces changes within the atoms and molecules, more specifically vibrations of atomic or molecular bonds. As a result, the specific wavelengths of light are absorbed, resulting in narrow diagnostic absorption features that can be used to uniquely identify the observed material. Molecular vibrational features at wavelengths between 1000 and 2500 nm are diagnostic of materials containing anion groups, such as  $\text{Al-OH}$ ,  $\text{Mg-OH}$ ,  $\text{Fe-OH}$ ,  $\text{Si-OH}$ ,  $\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}_4$  and  $\text{SO}_4$  as illustrated by the  $\text{Al-OH}$  and  $\text{Fe-OH}$  features in Fig. 1 diagnostic of alunite and jarosite, respectively. Often, the various diagnostic absorption features of materials (such as the crystal field and  $\text{Fe-OH}$  of jarosite) are used in unison to interpret the spectrum, which explains why the complete VIS-SWIR is required. Small differences in the absorption band wavelength position and shape are correlated with both material composition and variability.



**Fig. 1** Illustration of diagnostic spectral absorption features and the processes that cause them, and the relevance of the wavelength positions and shape for discriminating the material. The red line represents the hull or continuum of the spectrum

Additionally, absorption strength (or depth) is controlled by the optical properties, grain size and concentration of the chemical constituent (mineral, liquid or gas), according to Beer–Lambert’s law (Swinehart 1962). The general shape of a reflectance spectrum (also called continuum) is mostly influenced by the physical properties of the medium. Photons can be reflected from grain surfaces or refracted through a particle and thus be scattered. The intensity of the scattering process is controlled by the size of the grains, their optical properties and the energy of the photons. The amount of light scattered and absorbed by a grain is dependent on grain size, more specifically on the surface-to-volume ratio. The larger the grain, the larger the internal path and the higher the probability for the photons to be absorbed. Conversely, the smaller the grain, the more the surfaces of reflection and the more the scattering. As a consequence, the reflectance decreases with increasing grain size. The shape of the continuum may also be due to larger absorption features such as the wing of the 2800-nm fundamental water absorption in the SWIR.

In addition to mineralogical compositions, the other key component used to characterize the hazards examined was gaseous constituents. Gases and aerosols also have diagnostic absorption or emission features in the VIS–SWIR from which their compositions can be distinguished, which are driven by electronic transitions in the UV–SWIR region and, by vibrational–rotational transitions in the VIS–SWIR. For example,  $\text{CH}_4$  has diagnostic absorption features around 1700 nm, which is the first overtone of the C–H stretch fundamentals around 3400 nm, and, has an additional diagnostic absorption feature at 2300 nm likely caused by multiple combinations and overtones (Clark et al. 2009) (see spectrum of  $\text{CH}_4$  in Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2** Spectra of a selection of key minerals, organic compounds and hydrocarbons related to natural and anthropogenic hazards (sourced from a combination of Kokaly et al. 2017 and Ong 2013). Specifically, the spectra shown are of: jarosite, a key secondary mineral resulting from acid mine drainage (AMD); smectite, a mineral used to identify swelling clay; chrysotile, a mineral with asbestiform crystal habits; benzene and water mixture; methane, the main composition of natural gas and an iron oxide-dusted mangrove leaf

When spectral data are acquired remotely such as the case of IS, the signal recorded by IS includes the atmospheric column between the sensor and the ground surface, which must be accounted for and removed, particularly for spatially varying constituents such as water vapour. Therefore, investigators now routinely estimate atmospheric gaseous constituents based on their absorption features, via a process called atmospheric correction as an intermediate step before the retrieval of surface reflectance spectra (Frouin et al. 1990; Gao and Goetz 1990; Kaufman and Gao 1992; Carrère and Conel 1993; Schläpfer et al. 1998; Qu and Kindel 2003; Cairns et al. 2003; Thompson et al. 2015). The retrieval of gaseous constituents for gaseous hazard monitoring is analogous. In addition, scattering by air molecules (Rayleigh and Raman scattering), scattering and absorption by aerosol and cloud particles (Mie scattering), refraction due to the density gradient in the atmosphere and surface reflection attenuate these absorption or emission features of gaseous compositions and must be accounted for (Gottwald et al. 2006).

In summary, spectroscopy provides unique diagnostic capabilities for identifying and quantifying solid, liquid and gaseous materials giving IS these added diagnostic capabilities in addition to providing locational and spatial context. The theory, principles and concepts of spectroscopy of rocks, gases and other materials are comprehensively described by Farmer (1974), Burns (1993), Clark (1999), Hunt and Ashley (1979), Hunt (1977, 1980), Gottwald et al. (2006), and others. In addition, the theoretical background concepts on gases are described in more detail in Thompson et al. (2019) (this issue) and Chabrilat et al. (2019) (this issue) provide further supplementary details specifically on soils.

### 3 Applications to Anthropogenic and Natural Hazards

The use of Earth observation for natural and anthropogenic hazards have now been comprehensively proven and is generally accepted as an operational tool (Hong et al. 2007; Joyce et al. 2009; Lentile et al. 2006; Metternicht and Zinck 2003; Tralli et al. 2005). The advantages of Earth observation include the ability to provide non-contact, timely, temporal and spatial context useful for assessments of risks, characterization of hazardous events and monitoring post-event remediation efforts. IS, similarly, has these capabilities, but IS is augmented with unique diagnostic capabilities, allowing more accurate identification and quantification of risks, to improve targetting of emergency responses and, enhanced the understanding of the progress of remediation efforts.

In this section, we aim to show the augmented diagnostic capabilities of IS by emphasizing selected case histories that demonstrate the added values of IS. Additionally, as much as possible we focus on case histories where the full VIS-SWIR wavelength ranges are critical for retrieving accurate and quantitative information. This was particularly done to understand the value of future spaceborne IS which will be operating in those ranges.

Finally, we provide a synopsis on the case histories examined, describing the value of the diagnostic capabilities of IS, the spatial requirements, the status of the processing and analysis methods and the findings in the context of their benefit for improving identification and quantification of risks, improving targeting of emergency responses and enhancing the understanding of the progress of remediation efforts.

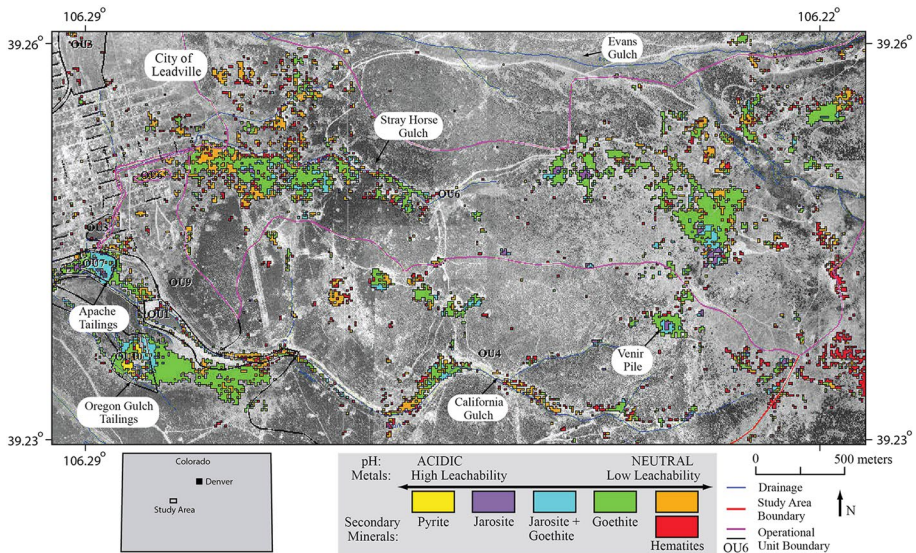
#### 3.1 Acid Drainage

The application of IS in acid mine drainage (AMD) management is one of the most well-documented uses of IS for studying anthropogenic hazards in the last two decades (see Table 1). AMD is an anthropogenic hazard that has been recognized as one of the most significant environmental challenges of the mineral industry (Akcil and Koldas 2006; Harries 1997). AMD is commonly defined as water seepage, with a pH less than 5, originating from a tailings dam, a waste rock pile or exposed sulfide-rich rock (Shaw et al. 1998). In most cases, acidic seepage comes from the oxidation of iron sulphide or pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ). The oxidation process may be induced by a variety of geochemical agents but is usually associated with Fe-oxidizing thiobacilli organisms, the most common of which is *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans*, at pH values below 4.5 (Bigham et al. 1996).

The use of VIS-SWIR IS for characterizing AMD is advantageous because many of the secondary minerals formed by the oxidation of pyrite and other iron sulfide minerals in mine waste and mineralized rocks have diagnostic spectral features detectable in the VIS-SWIR range. Specifically, many of the secondary minerals such as copiapite, jarosite, schwertmannite, ferrihydrite, goethite and haematite are iron-rich and show spectrally diagnostic features around 430, 550 and 900 nm related to ferric iron crystal field transition (see jarosite spectrum in Fig. 2), and many are hydroxyl-bearing, showing diagnostic absorption features around 2265 nm related to Fe–O–H vibrational mode as shown in the jarosite spectrum in Fig. 2 and therefore having diagnostic spectral reflectance signatures (Cloutis et al. 2006; Swayze et al. 2000; Crowley et al. 2003).

The speciations of these secondary minerals are controlled by pH, the degree of oxidation, moisture content and solution composition (Swayze et al. 2000). A prolonged period of drying of these acidic waters can produce a suite of efflorescent salts (many of which





**Fig. 3** Secondary minerals related to the AMD process in the Leadville Mining District, Colorado, USA, mapped using IS data acquired using the airborne AVIRIS-C sensor. An idealized bull’s eye model of spectrally detectable secondary mineral zones and their relation to acidity and metal leachability is shown to ease “translation” of the maps into parameters such as pH levels that are usually better known to environmental practitioners (adapted from Swayze et al. 2000)

also have spectrally diagnostic features in the VIS-SWIR range) and when dissolved can rapidly decrease the pH of acid waters and can result in short-term catastrophic effects on metal loadings and harm aquatic ecosystems (Hammarstrom et al. 2005). The leachate acidity is also capable of releasing heavy metals such as As, Pb, Cu, Co, Zn, Cd which are substituted with iron in the secondary minerals. AMD, therefore, can adversely impact the quality of drinking water and the health of riparian ecosystems. The task of identifying the sources, measuring the extent and determining the severity of AMD with traditional field methods can be costly and time-consuming.

Pioneering work by Swayze et al. (1996, 2000) at a test site near Leadville, Colorado, USA, in the district historically mined for gold, silver, lead and zinc since 1859 (Emmons et al. 1927) demonstrated that spectrally dominant iron minerals (pyrite, jarosite, a jarosite and goethite mixture, and haematite) exposed on the surface of the waste rock and tailings piles at Leadville can be identified and mapped using the Fe–O–H and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  diagnostic spectral absorption features related to those secondary minerals (Fig. 2), used from Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer Classic (AVIRIS-C) (Vane et al. 1993) imaging spectrometer acquired from an airborne platform (Fig. 3).

In the Leadville study, secondary minerals resulting from AMD were mapped using Tetracorder, a spectral shape-matching system (Clark et al. 2003a) applied to atmospherically corrected and calibrated AVIRIS-C data. Tetracorder is a modified least squares shape-matching algorithm that compares the continuum-removed (Clark and Roush 1984) absorption features of spectra of a comprehensive reference library to those of an observed spectrum (in this case the IS data). The continuum removal for each spectrum in the reference library spectra is tuned to the wavelength region around key diagnostic absorption features. Before comparison of each observed spectrum, it is first normalized against its

continuum around the same wavelength region of the diagnostic absorption feature of the reference library spectrum and then scaled by a multiplicative constant so that its depth matches that of the corresponding reference absorption feature. Least squares correlation coefficients are then calculated and weighted according to the area under the curve and/or optional user-defined weights. Sets of absorption features for specific materials are compared based on a prescribed set of rules. An identification is then issued based on the application of these rules to the calculated values.

Validation of these mineral maps with a comprehensive suite of ground-based spectral measurements analysed using Tetracorder and independently cross-validated with soil samples collected from the site which were laboratory-analysed for leachate pH, leachate-specific conductance, bulk metal composition and metal leachability (see Swayze et al. 2000 for details) indicated that, the correlation between the AVIRIS-C-derived map and the ground traverse was very good except near man-made structures with rusted metal roofs and walls, which have a goethite spectral signature. The leachate chemical analyses indicate excellent correlation between mine waste pH and spectral zones mapped using IS, and the leachate trace metal concentrations generally showed a good correlation to the spectral mineral zones with metal leachability in the goethite zone with a small fraction of that in the other spectral zones (except for Mn). In fact, leachate concentrations of Pb, Cu, As and Co vary over three orders of magnitude across the spectral zones. This is significant because it indicates that the mineralogy in the spectral zones exerts a powerful control on metal leachability (e.g., the susceptibility of metals to leach into surface run-off) and hence the mapping of these minerals will be a good surrogate for leachability.

In summary, the maps produced from the Leadville study provided identification, location, spatial distribution and quantification of risks contributing towards improved targeting of remediation efforts which would otherwise be time-consuming and costly to map with traditional methods. In this regard, IS data could represent considerable savings in environmental remediation efforts.

Following the Leadville work, many other similar studies were conducted demonstrating the use of imaging spectrometers for mapping secondary minerals related to acid drainage (Kruse et al. 1989; Fenstermaker and Miller 1994; King et al. 1995; Peters et al. 1995; Farrand 1997; Farrand and Harsanyi 1997; Lopez-Pamo et al. 1999; Rockwell et al. 2005; Pearson et al. 1997; Kemper and Sommer 2004 and many others). Of particular interest, are the studies conducted by Zabcic et al. (2014) and Buzzi et al. (2016) who carried out the mapping of efflorescent salts, many of which have spectrally diagnostic features. For example, malenterite has a broad double crystal field transition absorption feature at 892 and 1150 nm related to ferrous iron and a smaller absorption feature at 434 nm related to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -O charge transfer feature (Crowley et al. 2003). These efflorescent salts, which are often difficult to detect remotely because of their small size, were detected using HyMap (Cocks et al. 1998) airborne hyperspectral data acquired at the Sotiel Migollas Mine in the Iberian Pyrite Belt, Spain. The detection followed several years of drought allowing large spatial distributions of these salts at the tailings holding ponds and to a lesser extent on riverbeds to be formed. Here, the mapping of these salts by Zabcic et al. (2014) was done using a combination of the spatial-spectral endmember extraction (SSEE) algorithm (Rogge et al. 2006) for extracting spectral endmembers and iterative linear spectral unmixing analysis (ISMA) (Rogge et al. 2006) to derive the mineral maps, and, by Buzzi et al. (2016) using the Spectral Angle Mapper (SAM) (Kruse and Dwyer 1993) to perform the mineral mapping. The ability to detect these salts is significant as these salts are one of the most potent sources of metals, providing a ready source of acids and metals (Alpers et al.

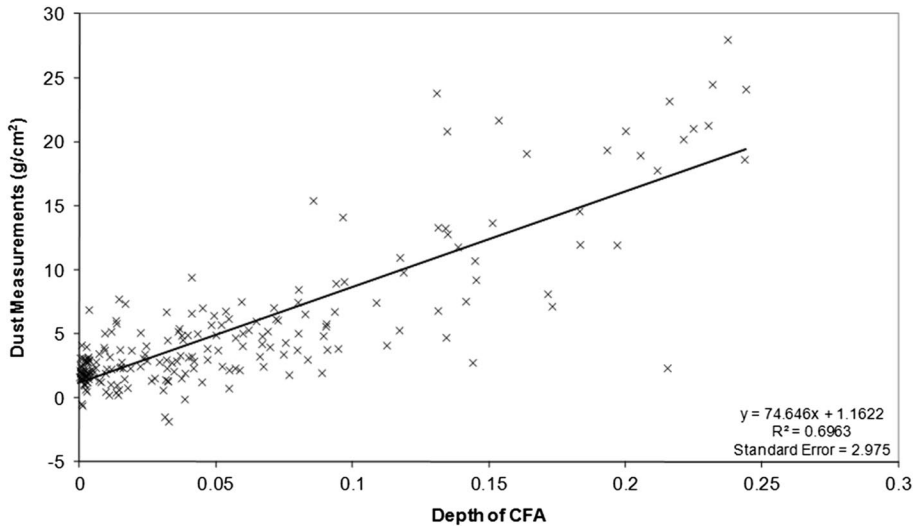


1994; Plumlee et al. 1999). Specifically for the Sotiel Migollas Mine, the maps showing the abundance of these efflorescent salts is potentially useful for estimating the concentration of heavy metals and other hazardous metals that could be liberated and hence infer the risks of this abandoned mine where the infrastructure is thousands of years old, where an accidental spill or breach of the tailings pond following the next heavy rainfall event would have significant implications as in the case of the Aznalcollar accident (Achterberg et al. 1999; van Geen and Chase 1998). In fact, the use of IS for determining heavy metal loads was demonstrated by Kemper and Sommer (2004) following the Aznalcollar incident providing useful data for understanding the distribution and severity of the hazard and contributed towards better targeting of the clean-up process.

Although mapping of AMD conditions is crucial for characterizing AMD hazards, assessing its risks and targeting remediation work, monitoring is equally essential after remediation work commences. This monitoring aspect is demonstrated by Zabcic et al. (2014), Ong and Cudahy (2014) and Buzzi et al. (2016) using multi-temporal airborne IS data. By exploiting the relation between the minerals generated as a result of AMD and pH, Zabcic et al. (2014) and Ong and Cudahy (2014) extended the mapping of AMD mineral from IS to pH maps using Partial Least Squares (PLS) (Haaland and Thomas 1988). Such translated maps are useful for downstream users such as on-site environmental practitioners to understand the temporal evolution of the acid-producing material and to target and assess the effectiveness of remediation efforts.

Acid sulphate soil (ASS) is a socio-natural hazard where acidic soils or sediments that contain iron sulphides, mainly pyrite, and sulphuric acid are exposed either via natural or anthropogenic activities such as urban development. ASS is widely distributed around the world and has raised environmental concerns because of its the soil's capability to produce strong acidity and consequent trace metal release. The mechanism and oxidation process is similar to AMD, hence the methods used for AMD are equally relevant. As it is challenging to detect the occurrence and severity of ASS by conventional methods, which include time-consuming intensive field surveys followed by chemical measurements, mapping the location and severity of ASS from IS is an attractive prospect. Studies were conducted by Shi et al. (2014a, b), which showed that secondary minerals and associated pH related to ASS surrounding an estuary in Western Australia could be mapped using similar spectral feature fitting and PLS analysis methods as the AMD studies described above. Such maps help to improve targeting of remediation efforts and inform land-use planning. However, ASS generally is spatially small, posing cost challenges for current IS.

In terms of understanding the capabilities for future spaceborne IS, Davies and Calvin (2017) conducted a study to simulate the ability of future spaceborne IS and found that identification of key minerals related to AMD were possible at all spatial resolutions (2–60 m) albeit the finest spatial resolution images provided the best result with the most endmembers with more accurate spatial boundaries, and the lowest spatial resolution lost the ability to identify smaller features. Specifically, the areas mapped were reduced by one half when the spatial resolution was reduced to 15 m, but from 15 to 30 m, no further reduction in the area mapped was seen. Further, they found that near-future spaceborne IS which will predominantly be at a spatial resolution of 30 m, will be most relevant to identifying potentially hazardous AMD that cover large areas of at least 75 m in width.



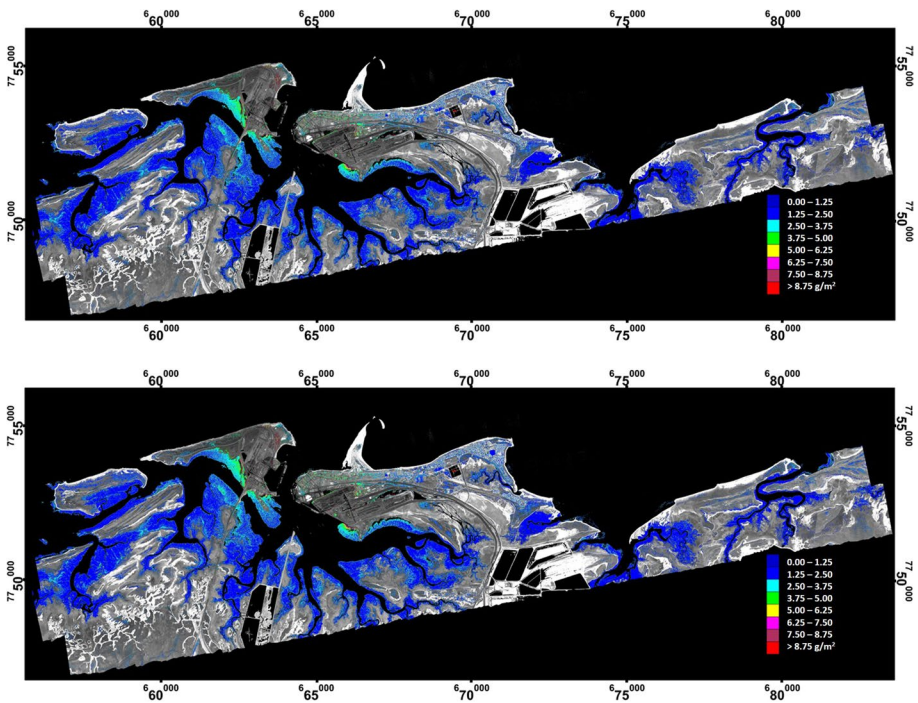
**Fig. 4** Scatterplot of the crystal field absorption (CFA) feature near 900 nm for ferric iron oxide (x) and the mass per unit area of dust on the leaves (y) from which an empirical line relation was developed to estimate iron oxide dust quantities using airborne IS data (sourced from Ong 2013).  $R^2$ , coefficient of determination

### 3.2 Fugitive Dust

The detection and diagnosis of hazardous fugitive dust, whether naturally occurring or anthropogenic, is based on spectroscopic principles where spectrally diagnostic features of the dust deposited on surfaces of leaves, soils or other background materials are used as markers/fingerprints for detecting the distribution and quantification of the concentration. Also, the underlying surfaces may have spectrally diagnostic features that may be used to identify the material where the dust is deposited. An example of this is the case of the spectrum of an iron oxide-dusted leaf in Fig. 2, where the ferric iron crystal field absorption (CFA) feature around 900 nm is evident together with features related to the chlorophyll vegetation such as the green peak at 550 nm, the red edge between 650 and 750 nm (Filella and Peñuelas 1994 and references therein) and cellulose feature around 1700 nm.

Although the use of IS to manage fugitive dust is not as comprehensively studied as AMD, Ong et al. (2003a, b, c), Ong et al. (2008) and Ong (2013) undertook an extensive study related to mineral resource development and the associated operations at the Port Hedland handling facility in Western Australia to better understand the impacts of fugitive dust originating from the handling of iron ore on the surrounding mangrove ecosystem. The method employed relied on an extensive calibration dataset of field samples to correlate the ferric iron oxide CFA feature around 900 nm to laboratory measurements of surficial dust quantities. Specifically, an empirical line relation between the continuum-removed 900-nm CFA depth and dust concentrations (see Fig. 4) was developed that was then applied to atmospherically corrected and continuum-removed airborne HyMap data collected over a 10-year period.

The resulting dust maps shown in Fig. 5 demonstrate that it is possible to positively identify the source of the fugitive dust and quantitatively identify, measure, map and monitor the spatial distribution of fugitive iron oxide dust through time. The ability to



**Fig. 5** Maps of ferric iron oxide dust levels on mangroves and other vegetation surrounding Port Hedland harbour, Western Australia, generated from remotely sensed IS data acquired on 20 October 2002 (top) and 24 August 2006 (bottom). The color coding is such that cool colors (starting with dark blue) denote low fugitive dust levels and hot colors (ending with red) denote high fugitive dust levels. The dust measurements are in units of  $\text{g/m}^2$ . Image sourced from Ong et al. (2008) and Ong (2013)

provide identification and quantification is important in this case as the mining company is obliged via a ministerial agreement to monitor their impact. Additionally, the spectral-derived maps provided new insights into the spatial distribution of fugitive dust across the landscape where it was not possible with previous methods, which, had acquired measurements at a few discrete points and did not allow for rapid identification of the composition of the dust. The spectral-derived maps generated from the Ong (2013) study were comprehensively validated paving the way for the method to potentially be used operationally, especially after the launch of future spaceborne IS sensors such as Environmental Mapping and Analysis Program (EnMAP, Guanter et al. 2015), Hyperspectral Imager Suite (HISUI, Matsunaga et al. 2018), Surface Biology and Geology (SBG, Green 2018, previously Hyperspectral InfraRed Imager (HyspIRI, Lee et al. 2015), Hyperspectral Imaging Mission for the Environment (CHIME, Nieke and Rast 2018) and Hyperspectral Precursor of the Application Mission (Loizzo et al. 2018). Importantly, the Ong (2013) study was undertaken to quantify the uncertainties in the dust products generated using the method. Quantifying these uncertainties is important when such measurements are used to meet regulatory requirements. For example,

it was determined that the wavelength miscalibration of up to 2.1 nm could potentially increase the uncertainties up to 34% in the determination of fugitive dust levels.

Further to this work, Ong et al. (2008) and Pascucci et al. (2012) provide supporting evidence of the potential to map and characterize other fugitive dusts based on the spectrally diagnostic features of the hazardous material at other mining operations.

Often large amounts of fugitive dust can be generated as a result of accidental spills or human malice. In some cases, the dust can be hazardous. Therefore, the deployment of IS for the task of remotely and rapidly detecting and locating the deposition of fugitive dust after such a hazardous event presents an important tool for emergency responders and those involved in the clean-up especially where there is a safety concern for those undertaking the clean-up process. IS from AVIRIS-C sensor was deployed for such an application where potentially hazardous dust was discriminated following the 11 September 2001 World Trade Centre (WTC) attack (Clark et al. 2006). Specifically, the AVIRIS-C data were used to map the abundance and extent of dust and debris resulting from the collapse of the WTC using Tetracorder. Of immediate concern was the potential presence of asbestos-bearing materials in the dust, and hence the data were used to determine the presence and distribution of asbestos materials using the Mg–O–H spectral absorption feature present in chrysotile (Figs. 2, 6). Although spectroscopy is only able to measure minerals related to asbestos and will not discriminate between asbestiform or non-asbestiform particles, the AVIRIS-C data were able to identify pockets (or small clusters of pixels) of serpentine, indicating potential asbestos levels of a few per cent, up to 10 and 20%. Such data were valuable as guidance towards determining the risks to those involved in the clean-up operations.

Dust storms are natural atmospheric events that are typically associated with deserts, and they are known to cause significant impacts on the physical environment and human health (Goudie and Middleton 2006). Often dust storms carry mineral dust from eroded exposed soil surfaces.

Chudnovsky et al. (2009, 2011) employed spectral matching to known mineralogical spectral features (Duckworth 2004) and SAM (Kruse and Dwyer 1993) using spaceborne IS data acquired by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) EO-1 Hyperion sensor to map the mineral composition of the dust at the Bodélé Depression of Northern Chad, considered to be one of the world's largest sources of atmospheric mineral dust. In the Chudnovsky et al. (2009) case study, they demonstrated that it was possible to detect key minerals from suspended dust particles from the remotely sensed spectral data. As the composition of the deposited dust can have varying impacts on the receptor environment (Jickells et al. 2005; Westrich et al. 2016), the ability to determine the composition of the dust is important for quantifying their impacts and predicting their associated risks. An extension of the case study (Chudnovsky et al. 2011) indicated that IS data can be used to map the distribution and composition of the dust via their mineralogical features, which in turn has the potential to be used to track the transportation routes of the dust. As this case study was conducted at similar spatial resolutions as future global and temporal spaceborne IS missions such as the SBG mission (Green 2018; Lee et al. 2015), the next-generation spaceborne IS missions would make such applications viable allowing a better understanding of dust on climate radiative forces.



**Fig. 6** Serpentine and amphibole minerals map of the lower Manhattan area, New York City, New York, USA. Image sourced from Clark et al. (2006)

### 3.3 Hydrocarbon Contamination in Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems

An oil spill is oil, discharged accidentally or intentionally, that floats on the surface of water bodies as a discrete mass and is carried by the wind, currents and tides (United Nations Statistical Division 2017). The term oil spill usually refers to marine oil spills, where oil is released into the ocean or coastal waters, but spills may also occur on land. The largest oil spill in the US history occurred in the Gulf of Mexico on 20 April 2010, when an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) offshore drilling rig released  $\sim 780,000 \text{ m}^3$  of crude oil into the Gulf before being capped on 15 July 2010 (Lehr et al. 2010).

The detection of oil spills, whether manifested on the ground or surfaces of rivers, lakes or oceans, from IS depends on the presence of diagnostic hydrocarbon spectral absorptions centered near 1200, 1700 and 2300 nm which arise from overtones and



combinations of the fundamental absorptions of C–H bonds (see the green-coloured spectrum of benzene and water mixture in Fig. 2).

During the DWH disaster, Clark et al. (2010) and Leifer et al. (2012) used a combination of airborne AVIRIS-C and multi-spectral Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS, Salomonson et al. 1989) data to estimate the spatial distribution and thickness of the oil spill on the ocean. Airborne IS data acquired on 17 May 2010 for approximately 30% of the core spill area were used to estimate the composition and thickness of the oil based on diagnostic hydrocarbon spectral features. Specifically, the AVIRIS-C data were processed with Tetracorder using 22 reference spectra of laboratory-constructed emulsions measured at oil thicknesses ranging from 0.025 to 28 mm. Using these spectral-derived maps, the oil volumes within the top few millimeters of the ocean surface were estimated to be 19,000 (conservative) to 34,000 (aggressive) barrels of oil (Clark et al. 2010). The conservative and aggressive volume estimates are based on choosing either 2 mm (conservative) or 4 mm (aggressive) for AVIRIS-C spectra of sea surface emulsions that spectrally resemble similar-looking reference emulsions with those thicknesses.

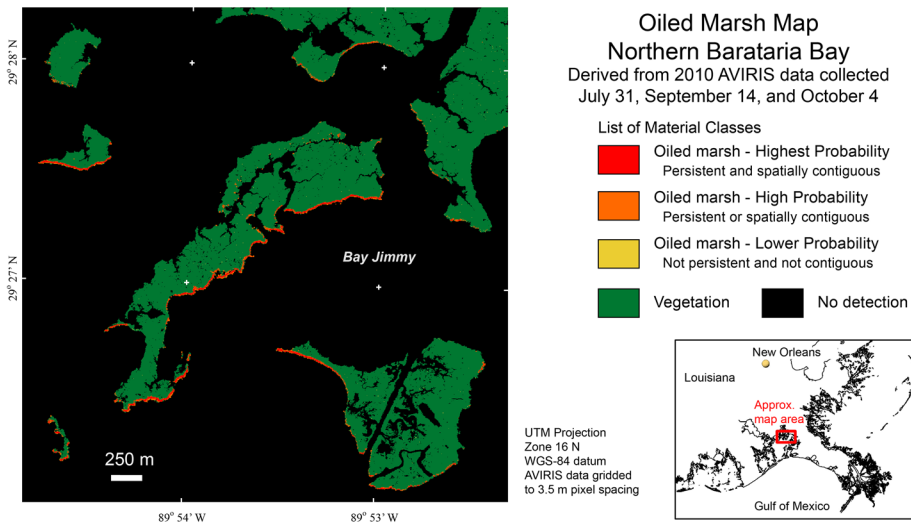
As the AVIRIS-C data did not cover the entire extent of the oil spill, MODIS data were used to define the spatial boundaries and internal structure of the oil spill to extrapolate the estimation of the oil thickness to the larger spatial distribution of the oil spill. If the core spill areas not covered by AVIRIS-C contained similar amounts of oil and water-in-oil emulsions, then extrapolation to the entire core spill area defined by the MODIS image indicated a minimum of 66,000–120,000 barrels of oil was floating on the surface (Clark et al. 2010). These surface volumes form the basis of the flow rate estimation (Labson et al. 2010) contributing to the clean-up process. However, these were conservative estimates as the calculation was made assuming thick surface oil and did not include oil in sheens, oil under the surface, oil washed onto land, or oil burned, evaporated, or bio-degraded. Indeed, field observations of the oil emulsions indicated that the thickness of oil could sometimes exceed 20 mm. If this larger thickness was used to estimate the volume of oil, the estimation could potentially be as high as 150,000 barrels within the AVIRIS-C coverage. If this volume was extrapolated to the entire spill estimated by MODIS, the estimated volume for the core spill would be approximately 500,000 barrels of thick oil remaining on the ocean surface.

In addition to the oil on the surface of the ocean, the DWH oil spill caused oil to be washed onto approximately 796 km of shoreline comprised of intertidal marshes, disproportionately impacting salt marshes along the coastline of Louisiana, the USA (Michel et al. 2013). Using IS to understand the status and progress of rehabilitation of the impacted area was the subject of several studies.

Kokaly et al. (2013) applied spectral feature analysis to the AVIRIS-C data collected during and after the DWH oil spill to delineate the distribution of oil-damaged canopies in the marshes of Barataria Bay, Louisiana. Spectral feature analysis based on Material Identification and Characterization Algorithm (MICA), a shape-matching algorithm (Kokaly 2011), was used to compare the AVIRIS-C data to reference spectra of oiled marsh collected by the researchers during field surveys. The spectra fitting relied on both the 1700 and 2300 nm C–H absorption features. A composite map of oiled areas at 3.5-m grid spacing (Fig. 7), accumulated over three dates, was found to be 93.4% accurate in detecting oiled shorelines.

Similarly, Peterson et al. (2015) applied multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis (MESMA) (Franke et al. 2009) to the same AVIRIS-C data for Barataria Bay to detect oil on the coastal marsh. Peterson et al. (2015) were able to obtain accuracies ranging





**Fig. 7** Hydrocarbon contamination detected in AVIRIS-C data for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in a portion of Barataria Bay, Louisiana, the USA. Figure adapted from Kokaly et al. (2013)

from 87.5 to 93.3% by using a nine-band subset emphasizing the hydrocarbon absorption regions.

AVIRIS-C data collected during the DWH oil spill and 1 year afterwards (2011) were used by Khanna et al. (2013) to show that vegetation stress, measured spectrally using the chlorophyll spectral absorption feature as indicated in Fig. 2, was restricted to the tidal zone extending 14 m inland from the shoreline in September 2010. The stress indices used showed that the highest values were located on pixels next to the shoreline and decreased with distance inland from the shore. The later imagery acquired in 2011 indicated that the stress index values were no longer correlated with proximity to oil, suggesting that the marsh on the Barataria Bay was on its way to recovery. One year after the oil spill, the data indicated that areas denuded of vegetation experienced varying degrees of revegetation and that recovery of plants was poorest in the first three pixels (~ 11 m) adjacent to the shoreline.

Beland et al. (2016) evaluated changes in dominant species cover from 2010 to 2012 for oiled and non-oiled shorelines. They used field-referenced image endmembers and canonical discriminant analysis to classify 21 AVIRIS-C images acquired during the autumns of 2010, 2011 and 2012. Marshes that were heavily contaminated with oil exhibited variable responses from 2010 to 2012. Some marsh area was converted to open water along oiled and non-oiled shorelines that were similarly situated in the landscape. Marsh loss along oil-contaminated shorelines was double that of non-oiled shorelines. Analysis of dominant species showed that only *Spartina alterniflora*-dominated marshes were extensively degraded, losing 15% (354,604 m<sup>2</sup>) cover in oiled shoreline zones, suggesting that *S. alterniflora* marshes may have been more vulnerable to shoreline erosion following hydrocarbon stress, due to their landscape position.

This case study from DWH demonstrated the use of IS not only for locating the oil spill but for identifying the different oil chemistries, including its weathering state and thickness. The provision of such diagnostic data is potentially beneficial for directing recovery efforts to areas where they are most effective. Also, IS data were demonstrated to be

sufficient for identifying hydrocarbon contamination on marshes, and multi-temporal IS data were found to be effective for monitoring the impact and the recovery process of the vegetation.

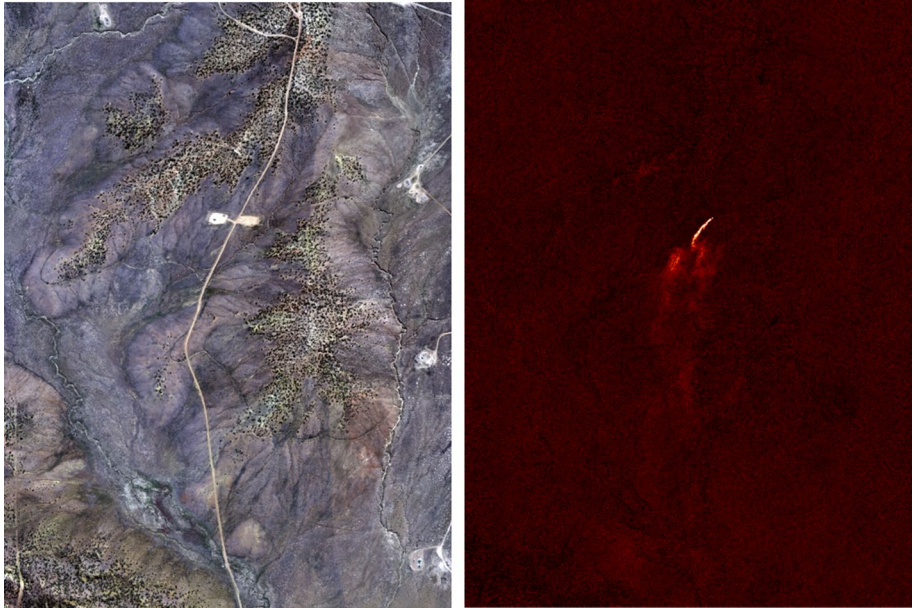
### 3.4 Atmospheric Emissions

Atmospheric emission is a global issue projected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to cause 6 and 9 million premature deaths in 2060 at the cost of USD18–25 trillion (OECD 2016). Much of this relates to air quality issues such as particulates and aerosols, especially in non-OECD (low income, low human development index, less developed) countries. However, in first-world nations, the greatest atmospheric emission issues by far are those that affect the climate—which in turn relates to modern society's heavy reliance on energy and the use of fossil fuels resulting in increased levels of greenhouse gases (OECD 2016). Studies demonstrating the use of IS for the detection of atmospheric gas relied on the fact that the atmospheric gas hazard was either spectrally distinct or was sufficiently enhanced from ambient conditions where the gas was a composition of ambient air. The former may be the case for industrial gases such as hexasulphur ( $S_6$ ), while the latter may be the case with fugitive methane ( $CH_4$ ) emissions from a coal mine or oil production equipment (see transmittance spectrum of methane in Fig. 2).

A long history of sounding<sup>1</sup> missions has measured the atmosphere using absorption of reflected solar light (Rodgers 2000). Such instruments typically have coarse ( $> 500$  m) spatial resolution. In contrast, IS investigations have historically focused on higher spatial resolution mapping of Earth's surface at resolutions of 30–100 m (Schaeppman et al. 2009). However, the VIS-SWIR region observes vibrational transitions by trace gases such as  $CH_4$  and  $CO_2$  and hence IS can be used to map these gases via the diagnostic atmospheric spectral features. The use of solar energy precluded the need for a scene temperature contrast, making the detection strength a predictable function of known illumination and simplifying quantitative analysis. Indeed, investigators routinely estimate atmospheric gas absorption as an intermediate step in atmospheric correction. More recently, advances in instruments and algorithms have made imaging of atmospheric composition a subject of study in its own right. IS has increasingly been deployed to image local atmospheric anomalies such as pollutants, aerosols and enhancements of trace gases such as carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), methane ( $CH_4$ ) and sulphur dioxide ( $SO_2$ ). While trace gas characterization has more often used sounding spectrometers (Gerilowski et al. 2011) or in situ airborne sensors (Conley et al. 2016), imaging spectrometers bring unique capabilities. IS can survey wide areas, detecting spatially small sources that had not been identified previously. The higher spatial resolutions afforded by IS provide the ability to improve localization and attribution to specific point sources. Finally, IS can spatially characterize the structure of extended enhancements, such as volcanic plumes, to better constrain spatial extent and transport.

In recent times, AVIRIS-C has been successfully used to find local gas enhancements in the VIS-SWIR (Thorpe et al. 2012, 2013). Researchers generated images of industrial stack plumes (Dennison et al. 2013) as well as natural seeps such as coal oil point (Roberts et al. 2010; Bradley et al. 2011). Promising results have also been obtained for mapping nitrogen dioxide ( $NO_2$ ) sources, such as the Zurich (Switzerland) airport, a waste incinerator

<sup>1</sup> A sounding system measures the intensity of radiation to provide information about a particular property as a function of height in the atmosphere.



**Fig. 8** (Left) True color segment of an AVIRIS-NG flight line acquired in 2014 from the Four Corners Campaign with spectroscopic data available from <http://avirisng.jpl.nasa.gov>. (Right) A  $\text{CH}_4$  retrieval using the technique of Thompson et al. (2015b) shows a plume emanating from a gas well pad. Brighter pixels correspond to higher local enhancements

and motorways, from the Airborne Prism Experiment (APEX) imaging spectrometer (Popp et al. 2012). AVIRIS-C overflew the Hawaiian volcano at Kilauea (USA), providing the first ever map of  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations in a volcanic plume (Spinetti et al. 2008). The study of an AVIRIS-C image of a biomass plume from a prescribed fire in Quinalt, Washington, USA, by Marion et al. (2004, 2006), Alakian et al. (2008, 2009) and Deschamps et al. (2012, 2013) and highlighted the need to correct the radiative effect of aerosols in the  $\text{CO}_2$  absorption band at 2000 nm to accurately derive  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration maps in strong optically thick smoke plume. The next-generation AVIRIS (AVIRIS-NG) instrument (Hamlin et al. 2011) offered greater sensitivity in comparison to AVIRIS-C thanks to higher signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) and finer spectral sampling. Controlled release experiments have characterized the sensitivity of AVIRIS-NG at multiple wind speeds and altitudes (Thorpe et al. 2016).

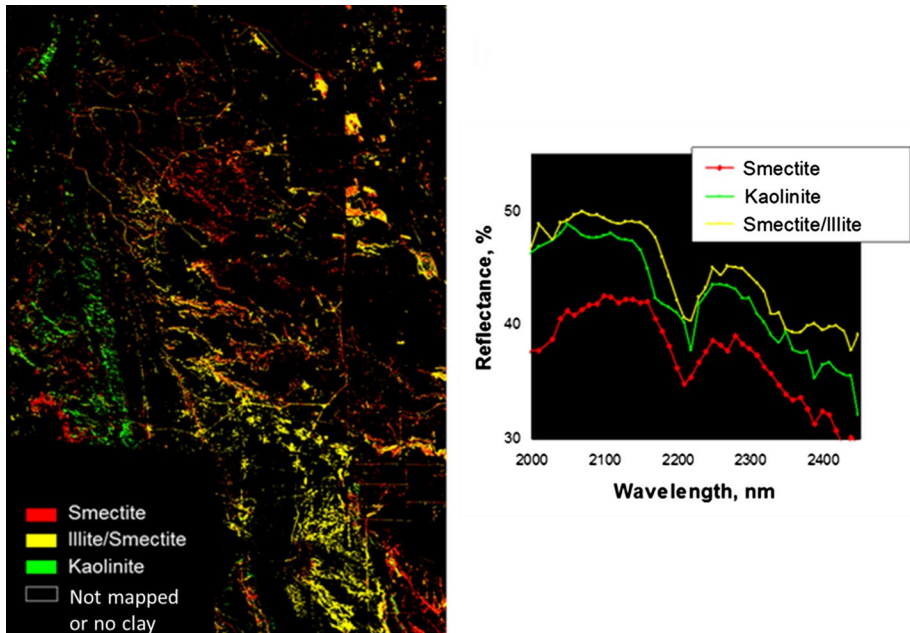
In recent years, VIS-SWIR IS has been increasingly used for wide-area surveys to locate, characterize and quantify gaseous leaks related to the oil and gas industry. This is further assisted by the recent incorporation of detection algorithms into real-time analysis on-board the aircraft, permitting radiometric calibration, detection, quantification, mapping and finally geolocation by ray tracing with digital elevation maps and camera models (Thompson et al. 2015b). These operations execute immediately, generating results to a real-time display so that operators can adjust future flight lines and guide field teams that deploy instruments in situ. This capability was introduced during an AVIRIS-NG campaign in 2014, demonstrated the ability to map oil- and gas-related emissions (Thompson et al. 2015b) and observed plumes from a landfill in the Los Angeles Basin, California, USA

(Krautwurst et al. 2017). After that, AVIRIS-NG was acquired jointly with the HyTES instrument operating in thermal ranges (Hulley et al. 2016), and other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and university-sponsored teams, to characterize the Four Corners area of the USA. This area had been identified as a CH<sub>4</sub> emission “hot spot,” but the attribution of this emission to specific sources was not well understood (Frankenberg et al. 2015). Two aircrafts mapped a large fraction of this region, identifying over 200 distinct anthropogenic sources (Fig. 8) including gas well pad unloading events, drilling operations, storage venting and emissions from processing facilities (Frankenberg et al. 2016) based on methane spectral absorption features (Fig. 2) from AVIRIS-NG (Fig. 7). In addition, the IS data detected multiple underground pipeline leaks from transmission lines. These measurements demonstrated the use of IS to provide a reliable statistical characterization of emission sources and accounted for a large fraction of the overall emissions observed in the region.

After the Four Corners survey in 2014, the number of CH<sub>4</sub> investigations using imaging spectrometers in the USA has grown considerably in a short time. VIS-SWIR and thermal sensors viewed the Aliso Canyon, Southern California, USA, event, a large accidental release of methane from an underground storage facility in autumn 2015–winter 2016. The Aliso Canyon event was the largest single CH<sub>4</sub> point-source-emitter detected to date and was successfully observed by the NASA EO-1 Hyperion (Pearlman et al. 2001) instrument on-board the Earth-orbiting EO-1 spacecraft (Thompson et al. 2016). The EO-1 spacecraft was only able to image the plume under sub-optimal illumination conditions, resulting in an extremely low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR). Nevertheless, it observed the plume morphology on three occasions to achieve the first ever detection and attribution of a single CH<sub>4</sub> point source from orbit. In 2016, the state of California began an extended campaign by using AVIRIS-NG to characterize CH<sub>4</sub> point sources in key areas across the state (Duren et al. 2017). This represented the first systematic, multi-sector effort involving remote sensing technology. Through these efforts, spectroscopic CH<sub>4</sub> imaging has continued to evolve from a purely scientific method to practical policymaking support tool, and is an important component of a multi-tier CH<sub>4</sub>-accounting regime (Hopkins et al. 2016).

### 3.5 Naturally Occurring Hazardous Soils and Rocks

Expansive or swelling clays and clay shales are soils that have the potential to significantly change their volume with changes in moisture, hence, with wet and dry cycles, these volumetric changes can cause extreme pressure in the soil profile resulting in severe engineering problems (building and road cracks, foundation deformation), agricultural problems (root cutting), as well as environmental problems (drying up of the sub-surface horizon, floods, landslides) causing billions of dollars of damage worldwide every year, more than all other natural hazards combined (Jones and Jefferson 2012). Expansion of soils is a result of a combination of minerals present in the matrix (mainly clay mineral species and content), water quality (fresh or saline), organic matter content, availability of Ca ions, as well as the origin and content of free iron oxides. In particular, aluminium-rich smectite (montmorillonite) (see Fig. 2 for spectrum) has been shown to be the main culprit for the expansive potential hazard. IS with its capabilities for direct identification of the key culprit constituent minerals in soils is potentially an attractive tool for rapid and inexpensive regional and local mapping to augment standard engineering and geological methods which are time-consuming and expensive, and do not provide spatial coverage.

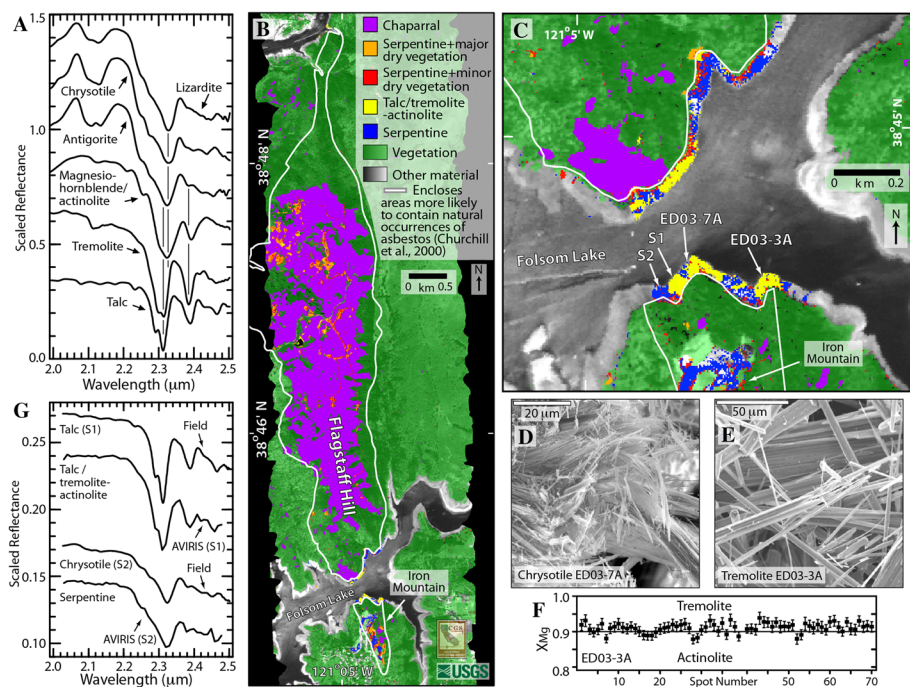


**Fig. 9** Regional map for the Front Range Urban corridor near Denver, Colorado, USA of expansive clays exposed at the surface and of swelling soils hazards (red: high, yellow: medium, green: low/none) based on airborne AVIRIS-C IS data. Figure modified from Chabrilat and Goetz (2006)

Pioneering work from Chabrilat et al. (2002) demonstrated the potential of IS to detect and map swelling clays with a study along the Front Range Urban corridor near Denver, Colorado, USA, a rapidly growing urban area that was severely affected by swelling soils. This was due to the heaving bedrock hazard associated with the coincidence of steeply dipping layers of sedimentary bedrock having dip angles of greater than  $30^\circ$ , and zones of expansive bedrock that swell in volume when excess moisture was introduced. Chabrilat et al. (2002) showed that VIS-SWIR IS from AVIRIS-C can be used to discriminate pure smectite from mixed layers of illite/smectite samples (associated with decreasing swelling potential), and thus can be used to produce a map of hazards for the studied area (e.g., Chabrilat et al. 2002; Chabrilat and Goetz 2006). Spectral discrimination and identification of variable clay mineralogy (smectite, illite/smectite and kaolinite), related to variable swelling potential, was possible from airborne IS data at high spatial resolution ( $<5$  m), and on a regional basis with slightly lower spatial resolution (20 m) (Fig. 9). Spectral feature fitting was used to discriminate the swelling soils, and the level of success was dependent on the level of the exposures and the variable mineralogy, and the presence of partial vegetation cover.

Subsequently, many studies extended the concept and extended the knowledge on swelling soils' optical properties (e.g., Kariuki et al. 2004; Bourguignon et al. 2007; Yitegasu et al. 2009; Dufrechou et al. 2016) and their link to potential swelling hazard. Nowadays, IS is a proven method for the identification and mapping of the occurrences of swelling soils, as demonstrated in many regions around the world (the USA, Kenya and France). Such optical remote sensing methods, coupled with a reduced amount of field and laboratory





**Fig. 10** **A** Reflectance spectra of some minerals associated with serpentine deposits in Calvaras County in California, USA. **B, C** Potentially asbestos-bearing minerals and vegetation preferentially growing on asbestos-bearing rocks in western El Dorado County in the Sierra Nevada of California, USA, mapped using IS data acquired using the AVIRIS-C. **D, E** Scanning electron micrograph of chrysotile fiber bundles. **F** Comparison of spectra extracted from AVIRIS-C to spectra collected in the field collected over the Red Hill Complex, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, California, USA. Figure sourced from Swayze et al. (2009)

analyses, can offer a practical tool for town planners, as long as the swelling soils are adequately exposed at the surface and the instrument has a high enough SNR particularly in the SWIR.

Hazards related to asbestos exposure and their detrimental implications for human health are well documented (International Agency for Research on Cancer 2012; van Oss et al. 1999). Asbestos is a morphological term describing mineral fibres with lengths that are much greater than their widths. Consequently, the asbestos name does not always correspond to a mineral name. A variety of minerals have asbestiform crystal habits (Ross 1999). The two main categories used commercially for asbestos insulation are chrysotile, the only fibrous member of the serpentine mineral group, and several fibrous amphibole minerals comprised of anthophyllite, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite and actinolite. IS can be used to identify some of these minerals such as chrysotile (see spectrum and related diagnostic feature in Fig. 2), and indeed, there have been a handful of case studies on the use of the technology for identifying asbestos-bearing rocks and man-made materials (e.g., Marino et al. 2000; Clark et al. 2001, 2003b; Swayze et al. 2004, 2009; Frassy et al. 2014; Massarelli et al. 2017; Bonifazi and Serranti 2016).

Although there is high public awareness of the hazards related to insulation and other manufactured goods, and even legacy mines, issues related to naturally occurring



**Table 1** Summary of anthropogenic and natural hazards examined, sensors used and associated spectral and spatial specifications, and the spatial extent of the studies examined

Hazard examined	Sensors	Spectral specifications	Spatial resolution	Area covered
A AD, A AE, N AE, NOHSR, HC	AVIRIS-C	Range 360–2500 nm, 224 bands Resolution: 6.7 nm (360–670 nm), 9.5 nm (660–1280 nm), 10.0 nm (1260–2500 nm)	5–20 m	5–12.5 km <sup>2</sup>
A AE	AVIRIS-NG	Range 380–2520 nm Resolution: 5 nm	0.4–3.5 m	Variable
A AD S-N AD, A FD	HyMap	Range 450–24,800 nm Resolution: 15–16 nm (450–1800 nm), 18–20 nm (1950–2480 nm)	1.5–10 m	7.5–100 km <sup>2</sup>
A AD	ProspectTIR	Range 398–2455 nm Resolution: 5 nm	2 m	
N FD	Hyperion*	Range 400–2500 nm Resolution: 10 nm	30 m	Typically 750 km <sup>2</sup>
A AD	MIVIS	Range 430–830, 1150–1550, 1983–2478, 8180–12,700 nm Resolution: 20 nm (VIS), 50 nm (NIR), 90 nm (SWIR), 340–350 nm (TIR)	3.5 m	~32 km <sup>2</sup>

\* denotes spaceborne

The hazards examined were anthropogenic acid drainage (AD), socio-natural acid drainage (S-N AD), anthropogenic fugitive dust (A FD), natural fugitive dust (N FD), anthropogenic atmospheric emission (A AE), hydrocarbon contamination (HC), natural atmospheric emission (N AE), naturally occurring hazardous soils and rocks (NOHSR)

**Table 2** Summary of the selected case studies examined, analysis employed, calibration and validation methods employed, and key findings

Hazard	Reference of detailed investigation	Analysis methods	Calibration and validation information	Key findings
A AD	Swayze et al. (1996, 2000), Kruse et al. (1989), Fenstermaker and Miller (1994), King et al. (1995), Peters et al. (1995), Farrand (1997), Farrand et al. (1995), Farrand and Harsanyi (1997), Lopez-Pamo et al. (1999), Rockwell et al. (2005), Pearson et al. (1997) and Kemper and Sommer (2004)	Tetracorder (Clark et al. 2003a, b) mapping distinct diagnostic spectral features of AMD secondary mineral. SAM (Kruse and Dwyer 1993) Variable multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis (VMESMA) (García-Haro et al. 2005)	Field spectroscopy and laboratory chemical analysis (X-ray diffraction (XRD), XRF, pH, specific conductance, bulk metal composition and metal leachability)	Key AMD minerals can be detected using various spectral feature fitting and unmixing methods Mineral maps useful to quantify acidity and metal leaching potentially useful for prioritizing remediation efforts
A AD	Zabiec et al. (2014), Buzzi et al. (2016), Ong et al. (2003a, b, c), Ong and Cudahy (2014) and Davies and Calvin (2017)	SSEE (Rogge et al. 2006) to extract spectral endmember and ISMA (Rogge et al. 2006) to map minerals PLS (Haaland and Thomas 1988) to infer pH from the spectral data SAM	Field spectroscopy and laboratory chemical analysis (XRD, pH)	Extension beyond detection and mapping to monitoring demonstrated with mineral and pH maps from multiple dates Proper atmospheric correction and calibration essential for temporal work Effluorescent salts can be detected, and multi-temporal maps can be used to monitor AMD processes and infer risks of significant trace metal leaching potential especially at ancient mine infrastructure pH maps were useful for understanding the evolution of the acid-producing material, target areas for remediation and monitoring remediation efforts Simulation of future satellite systems indicates that secondary minerals can be detected for AMD impacts on areas larger than 75 m

**Table 2** (continued)

Hazard	Reference of detailed investigation	Analysis methods	Calibration and validation information	Key findings
S-N AD	Shi et al. (2014a, b)	PLS to infer pH from the spectral data Multi-spectral feature fitting (MSFF) similar to Clark et al. 2003a, b	Field spectroscopy and laboratory chemical analysis (XRD, scanning electron microscope (SEM), energy- dispersive X-ray analysis (EDXRF))	ASS minerals detectable with present imaging spectrometers but constrained by spatial resolution pH maps can be used to establish the spatial extent and severity of soil acidity
A FD	Ong et al. (2003a, b, c), Ong et al. (2008), Ong (2013) and Pascucci et al. (2012)	Tailored empirical relationship between spectral feature depth and dust quantities	Field spectroscopy, laboratory analysis of weight of dust XRD and EDXRF	Source of dust and receptor can be uniquely identified; Dust concentration can be quantified; Initial map provided an understanding of spatial distribution and extent of the impact;
A FD	Clark et al. (2006)	Tetracorder	Field spectroscopy and laboratory chemical analysis (XRD, XRF)	Temporal maps were used to monitor dust levels and dust suppression efforts Fingerprinting of dust fallout to identify hazardous areas used to aid clean-up operations
N FD	Chudnovsky et al. (2009, 2011)	Spectral matching to known mineral- ogical features (Duckworth, 2004) SAM	Field spectroscopy and laboratory chemical analysis (XRD, XRF, free ion, granulometry)	The composition of the deposited dust was used to understand impacts on the receptor environment Potential to track the transportation routes of the dust

**Table 2** (continued)

Hazard	Reference of detailed investigation	Analysis methods	Calibration and validation information	Key findings
A HCC	Clark et al. (2010), Leifer et al. (2012), Kokaly et al. (2013), Peterson et al. (2015), Khanna et al. (2013) and Beland et al. (2016)	Tetracorder MICA shape-matching algorithm (Kokaly 2011) Multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis (MESMA) (Franke et al. 2009)	Field spectroscopy and laboratory synthetic oil mixtures	Quantification of surface volumes based on diagnostic hydrocarbon spectral features contributed towards the flow rate estimation for the clean-up process IS was able to delineate the distribution of oil-damaged canopies in the marshes Comparison of IS data before and 1 year after oil spill indicated that areas denuded of vegetation experienced varying degrees of revegetation and recovery of plants was poorest adjacent to the shoreline Data from 3 consecutive years were used to identify progress changes in dominant species at the marsh
A AE	Bradley et al. (2011), Dennison et al. (2013), Deschamps et al. (2013), Franke et al. (2009), Frankenberg et al. (2016), Frassy et al. (2014), Krautwurst et al. (2017), Leifer et al. (2012), Marion et al. (2004); Roberts et al. (2010), Spinetti et al. (2008), Thompson et al. (2015b), Thorpe et al. (2012, 2013, 2016) and Thorpe (2016)	MODTRAN modelling Cluster-tuned matched filter (CTMF) (Funk et al. 2001, Thorpe et al. 2013) Classical matched filter (Manolakis et al. 2014)	Controlled release of gas Field gas sampling	CH <sub>4</sub> , NO <sub>2</sub> , CO <sub>2</sub> absorption in the VIS-SWIR was measured using imaging spectrometer data Over 200 CH <sub>4</sub> plume sources were identified across the gas producing areas Real-time analysis consisting of radiometric calibration, detection, quantification, mapping and geolocation demonstrated Large CH <sub>4</sub> sources mapped using spaceborne IS

**Table 2** (continued)

Hazard	Reference of detailed investigation	Analysis methods	Calibration and validation information	Key findings
NOHSR	Chabrilat et al. (2002) and Chabrilat and Goetz (2006) Marino et al. (2000), Clark et al. (2001, 2003b), Swayze et al. (2004), Frassy et al. (2014), Massarelli et al. (2017), Bonifazi and Serranti (2016), Swayze et al. (2009) and Swayze and Kokaly (2016)	Spectral feature fitting Tetracorder	Field spectroscopy and laboratory chemical analysis (XRD, XRF)	Key minerals driving swelling clay can be mapped using data at 5–20-m spatial resolution Mapping of minerals related to asbestos achieved with field validation shows good agreement with the map Asbestiform crystal habits

asbestos (NOA) are not as commonly known even though it can potentially be a hazard for people living near its sources (Pan et al. 2005). For example, in central and northern California, USA, chrysotile and fibrous amphiboles like tremolite and actinolite are dominantly, but not exclusively, associated with serpentinite and ultramafic rocks, which are common in the Sierra Nevada, Coast Ranges and Klamath Mountains. Consequently, it is important that these rock types be identified to help reduce the public's exposure to potentially NOA-bearing dust generated during building and outdoor activities.

A study using data collected by AVIRIS-C in western El Dorado County in the Sierra Nevada of California, USA, demonstrated the use of IS for mapping the distribution of these potentially NOA-bearing serpentinite and ultramafic rocks (Swayze et al. 2009; Swayze and Kokaly 2016). Here, direct detection of potentially NOA-bearing minerals exposed in rock outcrops and mapping of vegetation cover that preferentially grows on these rocks as a surrogate of NOA-bearing minerals was achieved using Tetra-corder as shown in Fig. 10 where the fibrous chrysotile was mapped together with other non-fibrous serpentine minerals and the potentially fibrous tremolite and actinolite were combined into a single spectral category called talc/tremolite-actinolite (T/TA). Compared to traditional field mapping, nearly all of the high-density clusters of pixels mapped as potentially NOA: that is serpentine, serpentine + minor dry vegetation and T/TA, either fall inside or within a few hundred metres of the boundaries identified by Churchill and Hill (2000) and Churchill et al. 2000 (i.e. shown by white polygons in Fig. 10B, C) except where transported by human activities or exposed by low-water condition of Folsom Lake. Field validation work verified the exposures of NOA along the Folsom Lake shoreline as seen in Fig. 10 C to be chrysotile-bearing serpentinite and tremolite-talc schist. Further, there is potential to identify serpentine by mapping chaparral as these species of vegetation have a local affinity for serpentine (Kruckeberg 1984).

Spectral maps that integrate information from substrate-dependent vegetative classification and lithologically independent mineral identification can be used as a tool for delineating areas more likely to contain NOA. These maps can also be used to identify roads surfaced with serpentine aggregate, locate areas in need of dust control or remediation and help fill gaps in geologic mapping where access is limited.

### 3.6 Summary Discussions

Use cases on the application of IS for anthropogenic acid drainage (A AD), socio-natural acid drainage (S-N AD), anthropogenic fugitive dust (A FD), natural fugitive dust (N FD), anthropogenic atmospheric emission (A AE), hydrocarbon contamination (HC C), natural atmospheric emission (N AE), naturally occurring hazardous soils and rocks (NOHSR) (reference shown in Table 2) were examined as part of this paper.

All the case studies examined showed that diagnostic spectral features in the VIS-SWIR range were crucial for providing identification and quantification of the hazards. Specifically, the hazardous materials for A AD, S-N AD, A FD, N FD and NOHSR all have unique mineralogical spectral features that can be discriminated across the VIS-SWIR. In addition, hazardous A AE and HC C contamination also has spectrally distinguishing features across the VIS-SWIR region. These features and their associated shapes/geometries were key to accurate identification and quantification of the hazardous materials. These identification and quantification capabilities then translated to the enabling of better assessments of risks as shown for all case histories, improved targeting of emergency responses



**Table 3** User requirements for natural and anthropogenic hazard applications examined as part of this review

User objective	Spatial requirements ground sample distance (GSD)	Temporal requirements	Capture to delivery time	IS capabilities
Anthropogenic hazards emergency response	< 2–5 m	1–3 days aligned with remediation efforts	Real time	Target mission
Anthropogenic hazard routine monitoring	< 2–10 m	Dependent on regulatory requirements	Days to weeks	Target mission
Anthropogenic baseline risk assessment	< 5 m	Once off to be followed by monitoring	Weeks	Target mission
Natural hazards regional-scale routine monitoring	< 20–30 m	Dependent on climate, data frequencies of 30–100 days may be sufficient for most applications	Weeks	Mapping mission
Natural hazards local-scale (e.g., ASS) routine assessment and monitoring	< 5 m	Dependent on climate, capturing events as required and possibly biannual to annual assessments	Weeks	Target mission

demonstrated by case histories in A FD and HC C, and enhanced understanding of the progress of remediation efforts shown for monitoring A AD, A FD and HC C hazards.

It is important to note that for all the case studies examined, the data had to be processed to remove atmospheric attenuation. In addition, recalibration (wavelength and radiometric) was also essential for the retrieval of accurate data particularly for multi-temporal monitoring. There are now operational techniques for this process (Richter and Schl pfer 2002; FLAASH, Adler-Golden et al. 1998; SODA, Rodger 2011; CSES 1997; Berk et al. 1998; Berk 2005; Carr re and Conel 1993). To encourage the uptake of the technology, it may be important for data providers to consider the delivery of data with this level of processing. In addition, for spaceborne IS, international networks such as the Radiometric Calibration Network (RadCalNet) (RadCalNet 2018) should prove to be valuable for radiometric calibration.

A variety of techniques have been developed to enable the detection and quantification of these natural and anthropogenic hazards starting with simple ratios, unmixing algorithms including different variants of matched filters (Stocker et al. 1990; Manolakis et al. 2009; Funk et al. 2001), spectral feature matching (Chabrillat et al. 2016; Clark et al. 2003a), spectral deconvolution approaches (Sunshine et al. 1990; Brossard et al. 2016) and the employment of chemometric methods such as PLS (Haaland and Thomas 1988) (see more details in Table 2). A notable development relevant to emergency response is the work by Thompson et al. (2105b) which provides near-real-time capability across the complete chain of processing from radiometric correction to information products. Such capabilities would enable IS technologies to be more readily deployed operationally. If such systems were to be developed further, it would extend the potential for future spaceborne IS to real-time decision-making in disaster management. In the area of risk assessments and monitoring linked to regulatory requirements, the method developed by Ong (2013) included an assessment of the uncertainties in the method essential for meeting the compliance requirements and hence is at a state where it is ready to be operationally deployed.

Associated with the development of these analysis techniques, spectral libraries and associated corroborative information were compiled to better understand the material, background, and mixtures. This has resulted in quite a few new and extended reference spectral libraries (e.g., for AMD secondary minerals and asbestos (Kokaly et al. 2017; Crowley et al. 2003); for oils of varying composition and oil emulsions of different oil:water ratios and thicknesses (Lammoglia and Souza Filho 2011, 2012; Clark et al. 2010; Kokaly et al. 2017); for mixtures of oils with a variety of minerals and soils (Scafutto and Souza Filho 2016; Scafutto et al. 2016, 2017)). These techniques and spectral libraries provide a strong basis for the application of IS for natural and anthropogenic hazards detection, assessment and monitoring.

The data used were acquired from a range of VIS-SWIR imaging spectrometers (see Table 1) mainly from airborne platforms except for EO-1 Hyperion. Note that no unmanned autonomous systems (UAS) were examined as there are insufficiently documented case histories deploying the full VIS-SWIR. The spatial resolutions used the range from 0.4 to 20 m, but most of them were less than 5 m and the areas covered was generally small with the largest being 100 km<sup>2</sup>. Generally, the spatial resolution chosen was governed by the size of the impacted area and the ability to discriminate the spectral feature. Therefore, the choice of the optimal spatial resolution cannot be generalized for any application.

## 4 User and Observational Requirements

A diverse range of applications of IS for natural and anthropogenic hazards (see Table 2) for risk assessments, emergency response, targeting clean-up/remediation and monitoring remediation efforts have been examined in this paper. The area of impact varied as well as the response time required to attend to the hazard and the remediation impacts to be seen. The observational requirements which vary according to the needs of the hazard and user community, are summarized in Table 3 and are based on the use case examined.

In general, the temporal requirements depend on whether the data would be used for emergency responses, routine monitoring or baseline assessments. If the applications are for emergency responses, spaceborne pointing capabilities would be ideal allowing capture immediately following an accidental oil spill, tailings dam breach or gas/chemical release, earthquake, flood, wildfire or terrorist attack. Repeat observations every several days aligned with the schedule of the clean-up process would be useful to help to guide and focus the remediation effort. Such applications would require the data to be provided to the clean-up team in real time or at least over a very short time frame (that is, hours). Strategies such as on-board processing and fast downlink are critical so that data can be incorporated into the clean-up framework. After containment of the pollutant, the frequency of acquisition likely could be reduced to once per a couple of months depending on the progress of remediation. Regarding spatial requirements, most emergency responses require spatial resolutions of 5 m or finer. For example, the data captured for the WTC attack were at 2 m spatial resolution.

If the user requirement is for routine monitoring, in general, a moderate repeat time of 30 days will suffice for most applications. For anthropogenic hazards, the temporal frequency of data acquisition is usually determined by the regulatory requirements; whereas for natural hazards, the temporal frequency may be determined by the need to capture critical climatic events or changes as they occur. For example, in the monitoring of dust resulting from iron ore handling, current routine ground monitoring using dust depositional gauges is conducted monthly, and hence the availability of remotely sensed dust maps in line with this schedule would be sufficient. Further, for hydrocarbon monitoring, continuous, natural releases of hydrocarbons are not constrained within a specific collection window, but if pollutants are on the water surface, wind conditions may constrain data collection. Therefore, a moderate 30-day repeat or longer revisit cycle, which takes surface conditions into account, may be sufficient for their detection, assuming spatial resolution is adequate.

With regard to spatial resolution, anthropogenic hazard applications usually require finer spatial resolutions than natural hazards as monitoring is usually conducted at the local scale, for example within a mineral lease area. Most of the examples examined captured data with the spatial resolutions of 2–5 m. A pixel resolution of 20 m appears to be sufficient for most natural hazards monitoring applications. However, there are some natural hazard applications such as mapping acid sulphate soils where finer spatial resolutions of less than 5 m are required as the hazards are usually localized point sources.

One of the most comprehensive studies on spectral requirements was conducted by Swayze et al. (2003). In this study, the effects of spectrometer bandpass, sampling and SNR on the spectral identification of a range of surface materials relevant to anthropogenic and natural hazards was examined. The study results indicated that when the sampling interval (SI) is broad, it is the main factor that drives the ability to identify a material because of spectral aliasing, a condition where absorption features of different materials can resemble

one another. At narrow SI values relative to the natural full width at half maximum of absorptions, the SNR drives the identification of materials. The bandpass (BP) is less critical to spectral identification than the SI or SNR because broadening the BP does not induce spectral aliasing. It is possible to use the results from studies such as Swayze et al. (2003) to define the optimum combination of BP, SI and SNR for particular applications. Therefore, if we assume the materials examined in Swayze et al. (2003) are fair representations of surface materials encountered for natural and anthropogenic hazards, then the lowest SI to achieve correct spectral identification at 50% of the time for the electronic region (400–1350 nm) is around 13 nm, and 10 nm for the vibrational region (1350–2500 nm). If higher accuracy is desired finer sampling will be required. These values are in the range of the specifications of future spaceborne IS missions such as Environmental Mapping and Analysis Program (EnMAP, Guanter et al. 2015), Hyperspectral Imager Suite (HISUI, Matsunaga, et al. 2018), Surface Biology and Geology (SBG, Green 2018, previously Hyperspectral InfraRed Imager (HyspIRI), Lee et al. 2015), Hyperspectral Imaging Mission for the Environment (CHIME, Nieke and Rast 2018) and Hyperspectral Precursor of the Application Mission (Loizzo et al. 2018). The SNR specifications for future spaceborne missions are also higher than the SNR required for the identification of the different materials examined.

It is important to note that the Swayze et al. (2003) study examined pure materials, and in real-world situations usually mixtures of materials are encountered; therefore, further studies to examine these implications are required. Additionally, Swayze et al. (2003) did not cover hydrocarbons, gaseous emissions and aerosols. It would be useful to conduct studies to examine the requirements for spectral identification of these materials.

## 5 Challenges and Future Directions

This paper examined the use of VIS-SWIR IS to inform decision-making on natural and anthropogenic hazards. Specifically, several case histories for management of A AD, S-N AD, A FD, N FD, A AE, HC C, NOHSR representative of some significant societal and global challenges were examined. These case histories were chosen predominantly to highlight the distinguishing capability of VIS-SWIR IS—the ability to provide quantitative diagnostic information. These diagnostic data generally cannot be obtained at the quantification level, speed, spatial comprehension or resolution from current operational remote sensing systems.

Although the case studies provided compelling evidence for the use of IS, the technology is currently still generally considered to be a scientific tool because of the lack of operational systems, the perceived complexity when using the data and the high costs of acquisitions. The projected launch of spaceborne IS sensors in the near future should fill a proportion of this gap especially for applications where the areas of impact is large as found by Davies and Calvin (2017). However, for many of the case histories examined, the small areas of impact preclude the use of these near term spaceborne IS, which generally has spatial resolution of 30 m. For these cases, in the midterm, there are a small number of high spatial resolution spaceborne IS systems being suggested. Additionally, high quality and moderate cost of off the shelf sensors are becoming more accessible. These next-generation technologies may have the potential to fill this gap. With the latter, there is still the issue of operational costs with airborne systems. Here, the possibilities to couple UAS with miniaturized systems operating across the complete VIS-SWIR ranges, albeit not yet

currently available, are a long-term future opportunity to overcome some of the challenges with current operational systems.

With regard to the availability of scientific tools and knowledge to handle the data, the associated studies accompanying many spaceborne missions and the availability of commercial off the shelf sensors have seen an incremental increase in the tools being made publically available, such as those provided by the EnMAP mission (van der Linden et al. 2015). The van der Linden et al. (2015) study shows that many analysis methods have been developed and many of them have also been verified. There is an opportunity now to capture these verified methods in analysis packages in readiness for future spaceborne IS so that downstream products can be quickly accessed enabling faster uptake of the technology.

The challenges and opportunities for the scientific community when future spaceborne IS and next-generation sensors from airborne or UAS platforms become available will be ensuring consistency between data from different sensors, handling, processing, integrating and delivering the large volumes of data and most importantly translating the data to information that meets specific unmet needs of the user community in a form that can be digested/understood by them. The latter is especially important for transferring the technology from a scientific to an operational tool. Good progress has been made by the airborne community in this area especially by organizations such as the European Facility for Airborne Research (EUFAR, <http://www.eufar.net/tools/>) which has developed an extensive variety of tools for these purposes. These tools could potentially be a good basis for future spaceborne IS missions.

In addition to the consistency of products, the downstream information products must be independently validated using current trusted practices and uncertainties quantified before the IS derived measurement can be integrated into operational monitoring services. Most of the case histories captured in this paper demonstrated this aspect where the products have been independently validated.

**Acknowledgements** This paper is an outcome of a Workshop on Requirements, capabilities and directions in spaceborne IS held at the International Space Science Institute (ISSI) in Bern, Switzerland, in November 2016. The support of ISSI is gratefully acknowledged. A portion of this research was carried out at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). US Government support is acknowledged.

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