

Methane retrieval over anthropogenic point sources using Hyperspectral Remote Sensing

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The atmospheric **methane burden** is **increasing rapidly**, contrary to pathways compatible with the goals of the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change **Paris Agreement**.

Urgent action is required to bring methane back to a pathway more in line with the Paris goals.

Emission reduction from “tractable” (easier to mitigate) **anthropogenic sources** such as the fossil fuel industries and landfills is being much facilitated by **technical advances** in the past decade, which have radically improved our ability to **locate, identify, quantify, and reduce emissions**.



Nisbet et al., 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1029/2019RG000675>

The issues with Inventories

...we find that methane emissions from natural gas, oil and coal production and their usage are 20 to 60 per cent greater than inventories.

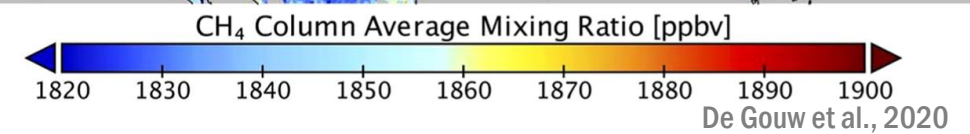
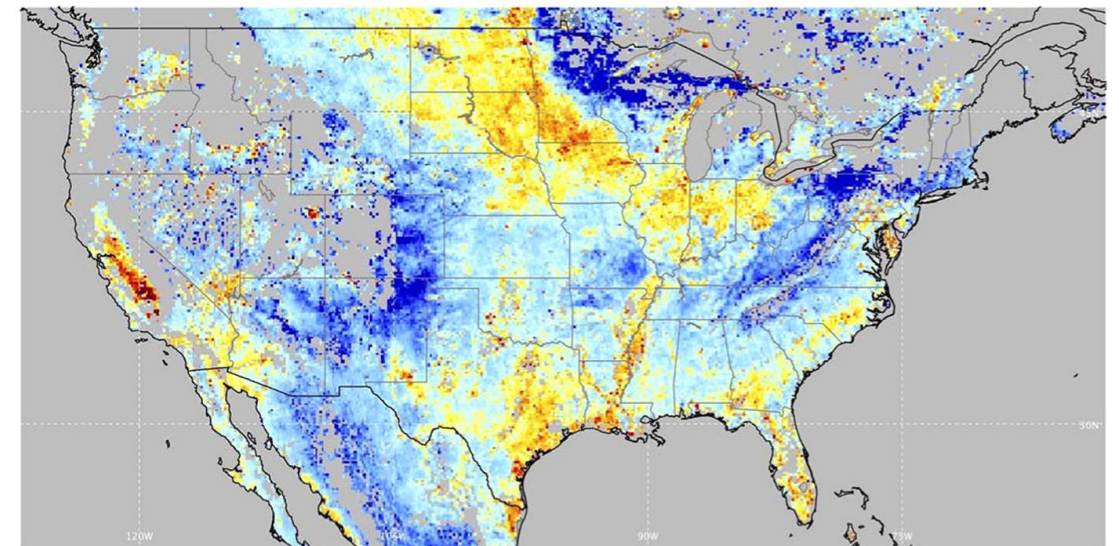
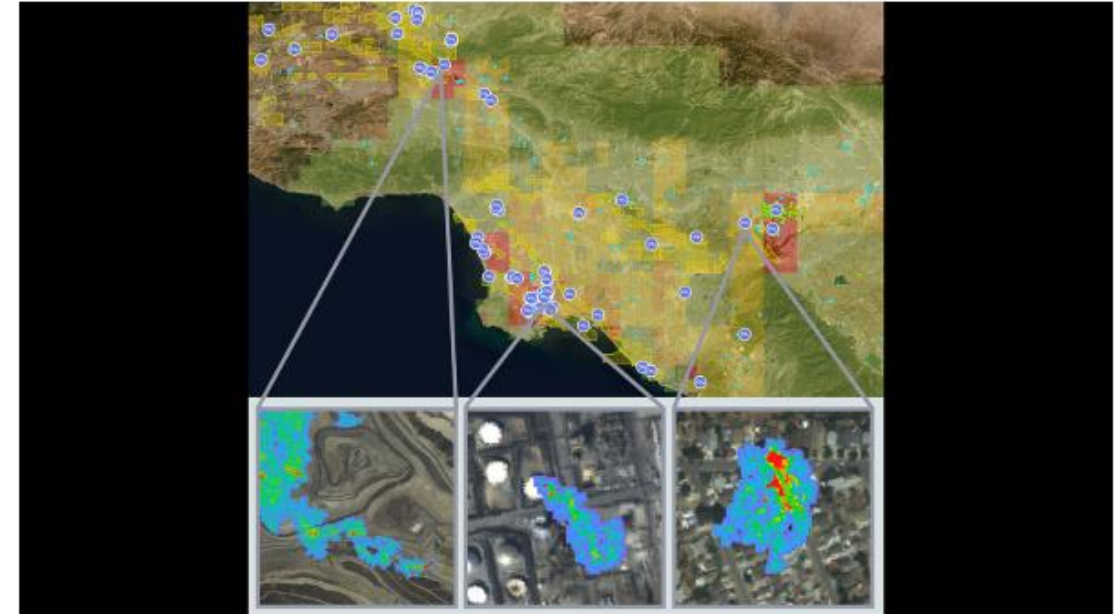
Schwietzke et al., 2016

For example, of the 270 surveyed landfills, only 30 were observed to emit large plumes of methane. However, those 30 were responsible for 40% of the total point-source emissions detected during the survey.

Riley et al., 2019



A Third of California Methane Traced to a Few Super-Emitters



My project objectives

Developing a CH₄ retrieval for point sources

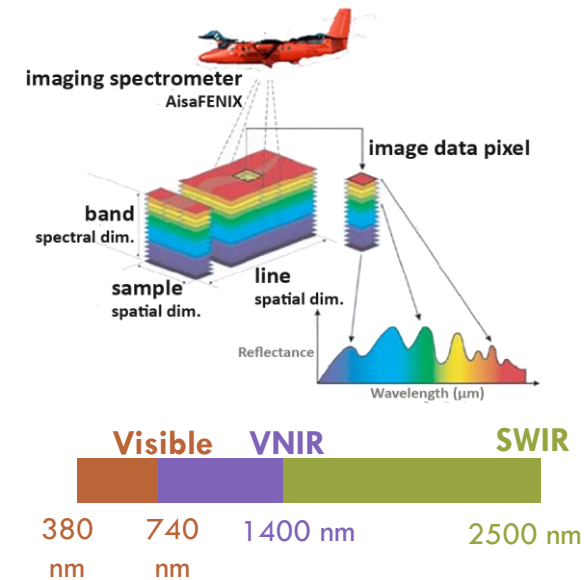
Requires very high spatial resolution; localised observations from aircraft hyperspectral

Analysing CH₄ at a local scale worldwide

Requires global data from satellites, eg. Sentinel 5 Precursor.

Comparing CH₄ fluxes to emission inventories

Combining methods, eg. high resolution transport models, to evaluate emissions



CH₄ targets

for AisaFENIX campaign, UK, May 2018

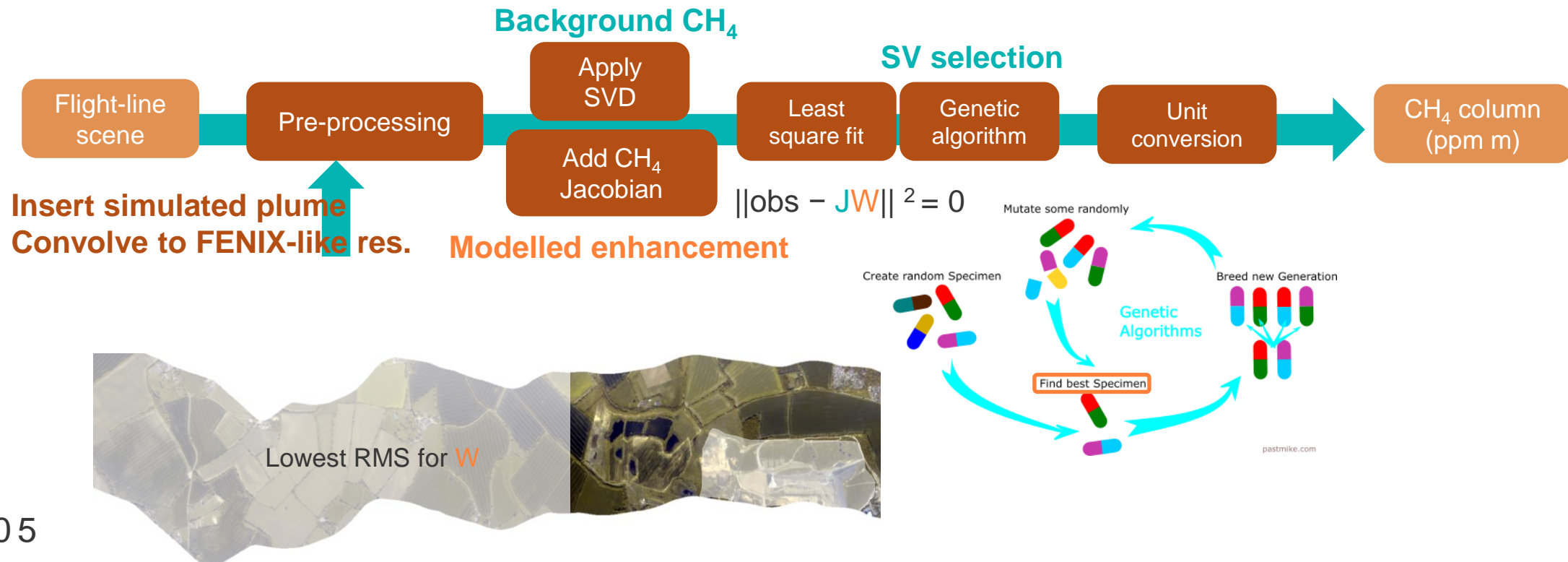
Novel application for this instrument

First UK CH₄ point source campaign using remote sensing

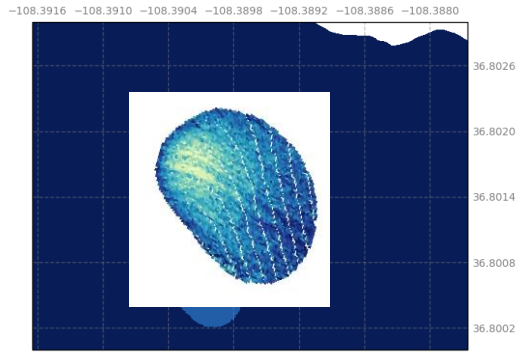


Using SVD for spectral analysis

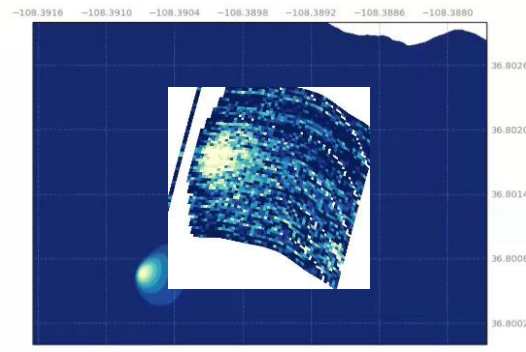
The goal is to identify **large CH₄ enhancements** over the **background CH₄** with a statistical approach:
It's faster and no instrument knowledge is required



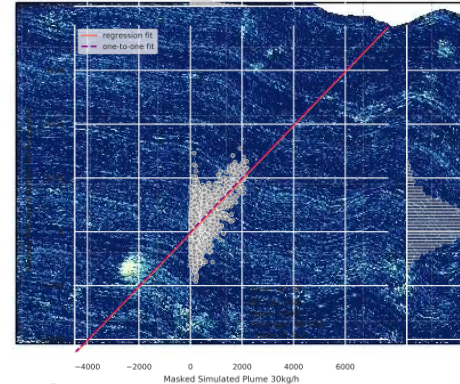
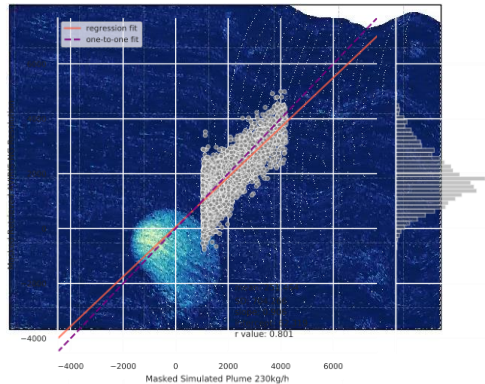
230 kg/h CH₄ plume (ppm m)



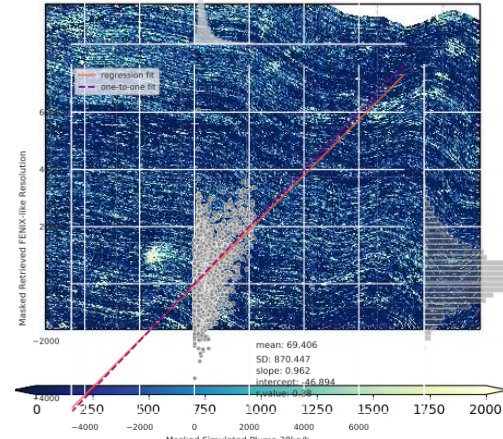
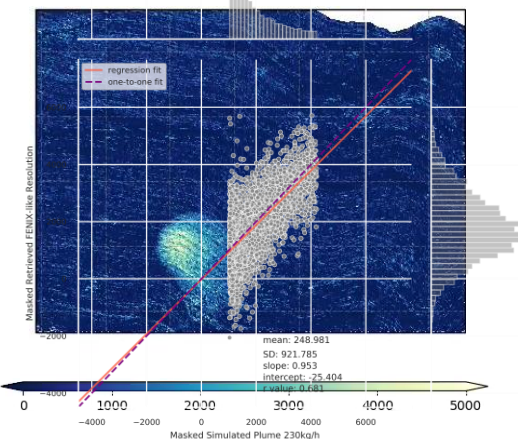
30 kg/h CH₄ plume (ppm m)



AVIRIS-NG resolution



FENIX-like resolution



Plume simulations

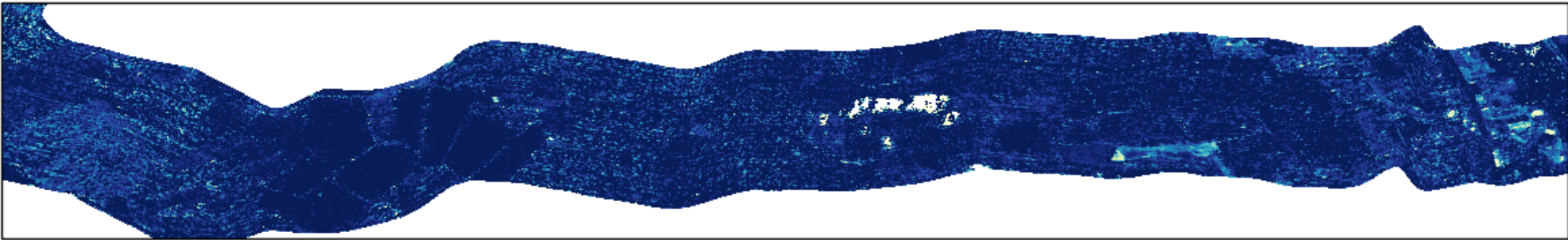
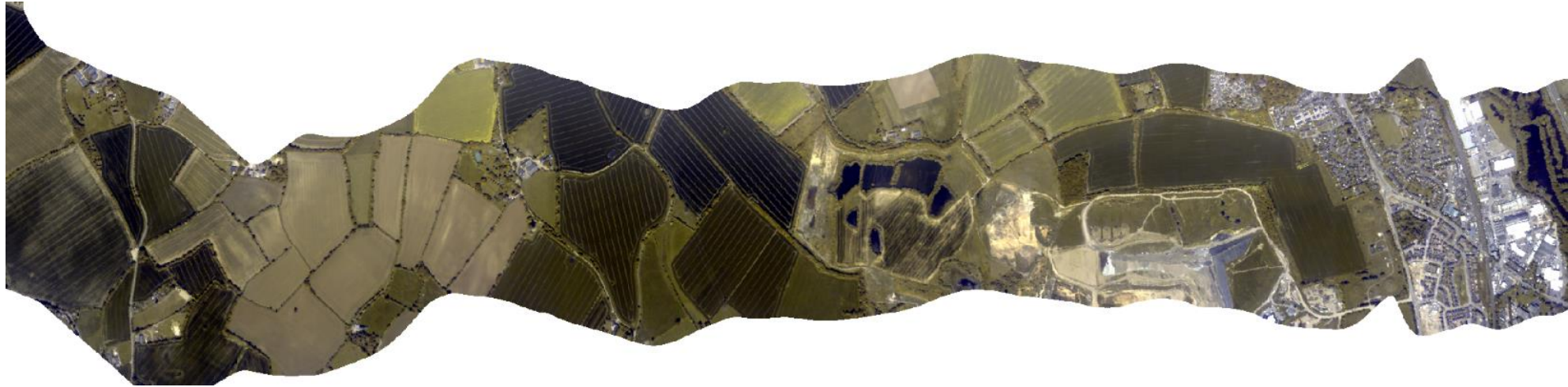
Can we find the plume?

How well does the retrieved agree with the simulation?

Challenges

- Stripeing pattern in the image
- Reflective surfaces (albedo bias)

FENIX landfill preliminary results



Next steps



Run simulations on other scene

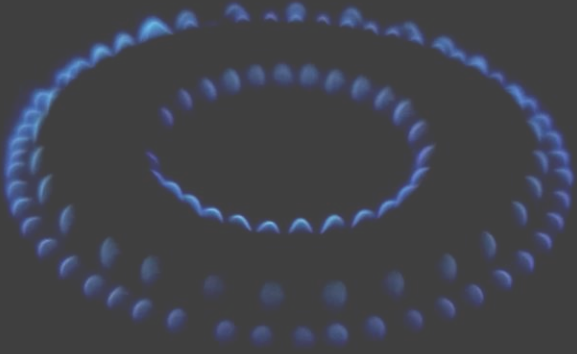
Check how reflective surfaces (buildings, etc.) affect the retrieval

Run our retrieval on all sites for FENIX

Isolate plumes and calculate fluxes

Use Sentinel 5P CH₄ for super-emitters globally

Evaluate emission inventories through atmospheric modelling



SUMMARY

- 😊 Developed our own retrieval method tested on AVIRIS-NG.
- 😊 Results compare very well to simulated plumes.
- 😊 Promising for confidence in retrievals from FENIX data.

Thank you

