

# Transport Infrastructure Monitoring by Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) and Non destructive testing methods (GPR)

Valerio Gagliardi  
Docente Guida: Prof. Andrea Benedetto

## Problem statement

- Recent and dramatic events which occurred on the European transport network, e.g., viaduct collapses or convoy derailments, have pointed out the urgent need for assessing the actual state of health along the transport assets. Analogous considerations can be addressed towards the high exposition and vulnerability of the transport system to major natural events, such as floods or earthquakes
- Most of highway and railway assets were constructed between the 1960s and the 1980s, which shows that their nominal service life (typically 25–30 years) has already elapsed.
- Enormous investments have been made over the last decades to bring results on the early-stage assessment of decays. In this framework, use of **non-destructive testing (NDT) methods** for health monitoring of civil engineering infrastructures is gaining momentum in the last decades
- Integration of datasets collected with different NDTs through a “data fusion” logic stands as a viable approach to fill technology-specific gaps, thereby ensuring a more comprehensive assessment of the infrastructure



## Objectives



- Provide a viable methodology capable to identify potential decay areas through **satellite remote sensing** data using **multi-temporal interferometric approaches**, e.g. PS-InSAR, and investigate the **sources of damage** using the data collected by the various NDTs (e.g. GPR) for monitoring of transport infrastructure networks.
- Define an innovative methodology for monitoring transport infrastructure network, such as highways and railways, monitored by various methods in its different components
- Resolution ranging between the territorial to the millimeters scale, in view of an evaluation of the overall network resilience
- Test-site application of both Synthetic Aperture Radar interferometry (InSAR) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) as both self-standing and integrated survey methodologies

## Time Scheduling

### First year

#### State of the Art

##### Literature Review about:

- Traditional and Innovative Non Destructive testing methods
- Remote sensing technique for transport infrastructure monitoring
- Definition of datasets of SAR mission
- Software and Algorithm for PSI processing
- Ground Penetrating Radar applications

### Second year

#### Experimental activities

##### Processing of SAR images through PS-InSAR technique

- Acquisition of SAR dataset in medium and high resolution (C-band and X-band)
- Data-processing (PSI technique)
- Selection of possible transport infrastructures for monitoring purpose and in particular: Highways, Railways, Bridges and Airport Runways Monitoring

### Third year

#### Analysis and results Integrated interpretation

- Analysis of PS-InSAR result
- Creation of velocity maps and critical spots
- Automatization of the process
- Geo-statistical interpretation of the results
- Highways, Railways, Bridges and Runways Monitoring

Risk Assessment for priority of maintenance activities

## Experimental activities

## Proposed solution: “Data-Fusion” Methodology



**1. Detection of statistically stable scatterers over an inspected area**

**2. Analysis of the range variation between the images**

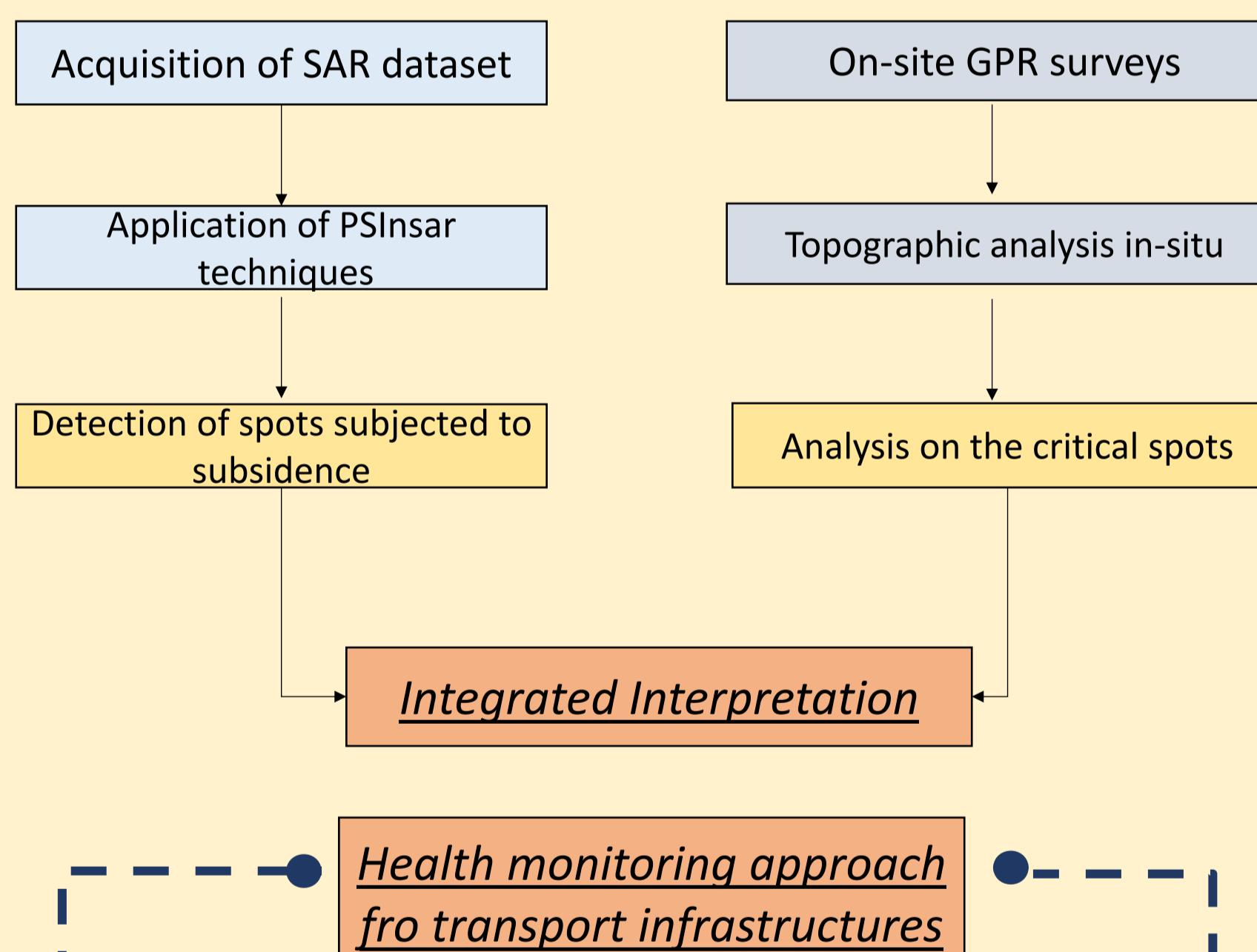
**3. Displacement velocity assessment**

**Interferometric phase**

$$\Delta\Phi = \Delta\psi + \frac{4\pi}{\lambda}\Delta r + \Delta\alpha + \nu$$

$\Delta\psi$  Reflectivity of the target  
 $\frac{4\pi}{\lambda}\Delta r$  Propagator: depends on the radar-target distance r  
 $\Delta\alpha$  Atmospheric contribution  
 $\nu$  Noise

## Methodology: Data Fusion



**GPR laboratory test**

**Instrumented vehicle for GPR road inspections**

**GPR Horn Antenna**

**Maxwell Equation**

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{D} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$$

**Constitutive Equations**

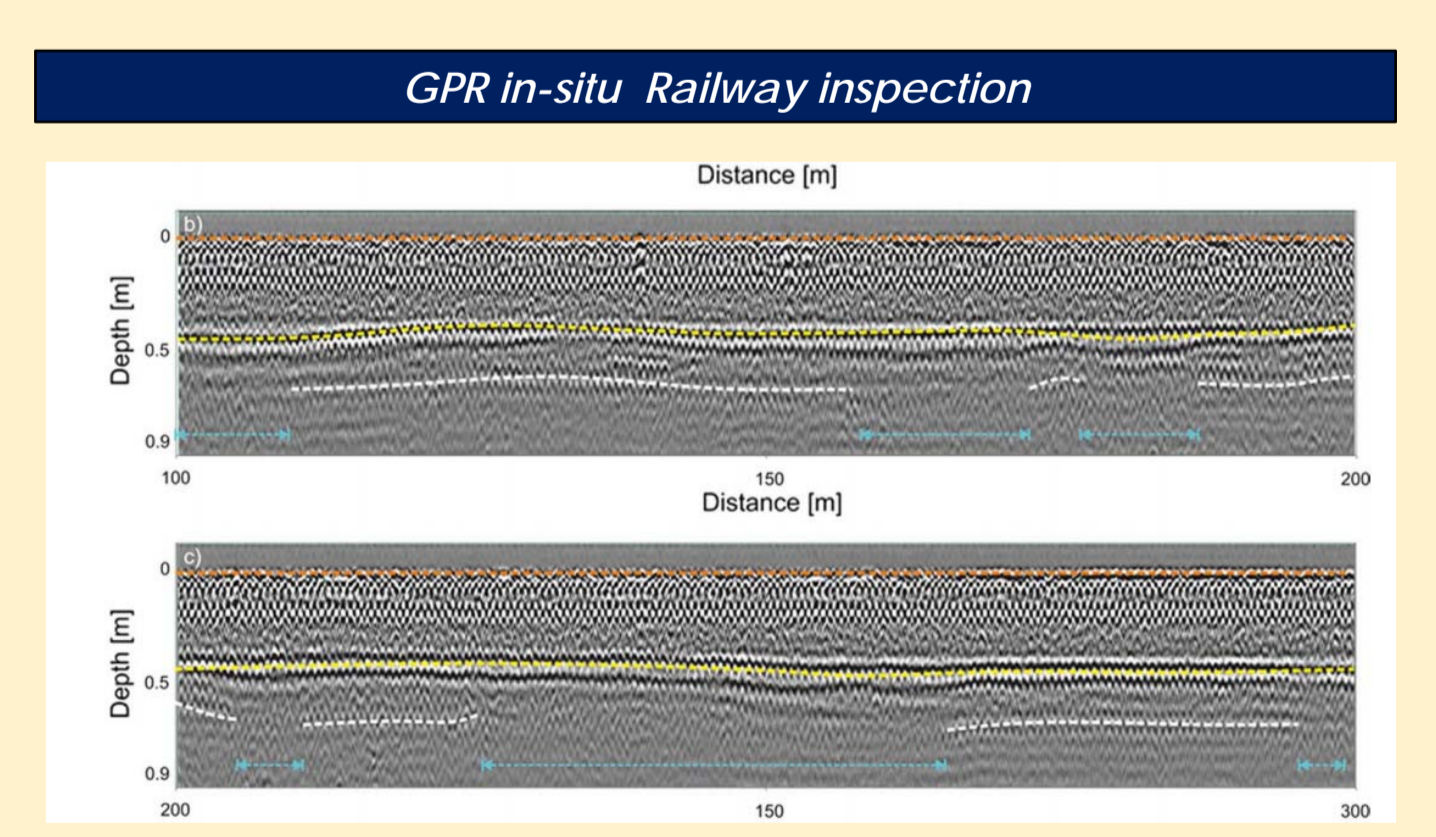
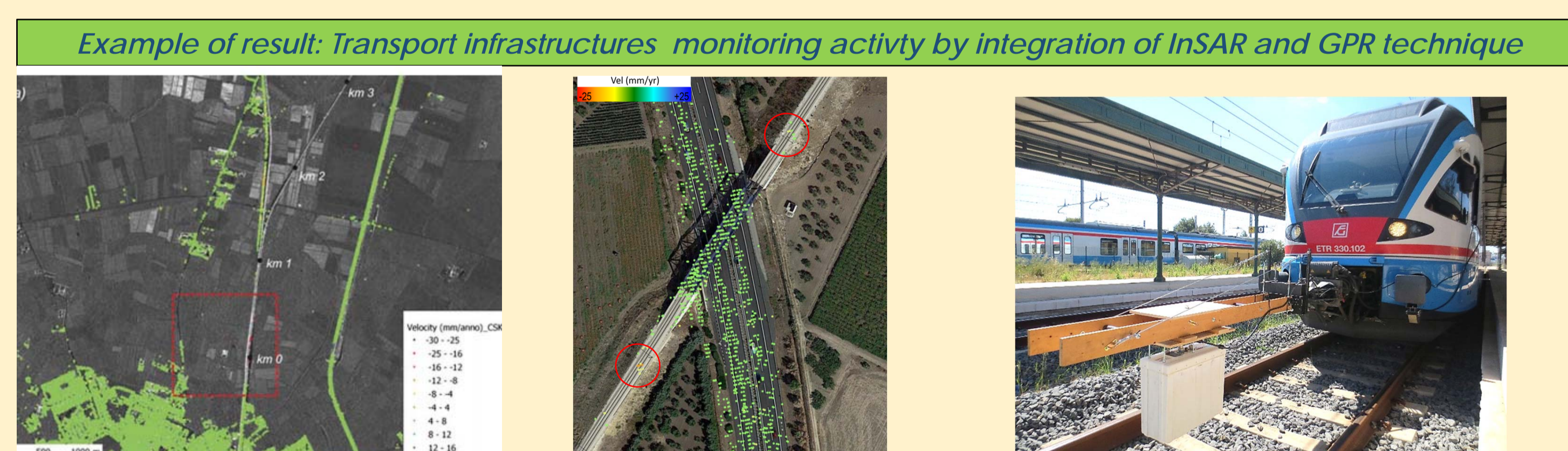
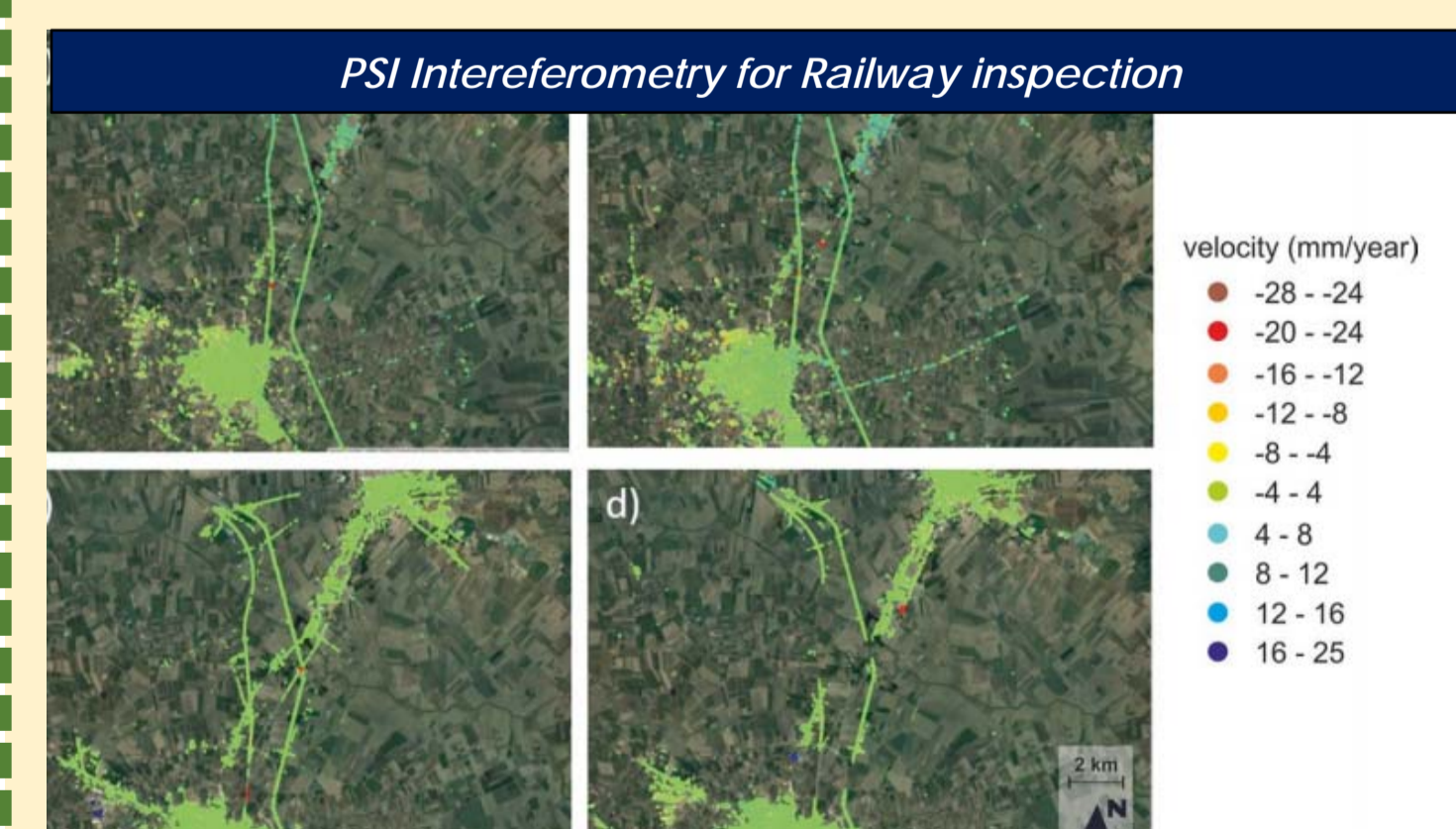
$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H}$$

**Examples of GPR results:**

- Pavement thickness and Road Condition Assessment
- Highways and Bridge-deck evaluations



Application of PSI technique to both Sentinel 1 (ESA) datasets in a ascending and b descending geometries, and COSMO-SkyMed (ASI) data in c ascending and d descending acquisition geometries

Investigation about the track-bed condition and the cause of subsidence detected by satellite remote sensing

## Scientific Publications

### International peer-reviewed journals papers

- Bianchini Ciampoli, L., Gagliardi, V., Clementini, C. et al. Transport Infrastructure Monitoring by InSAR and GPR Data Fusion. *Surv Geophys* 41, 371–394 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10712-019-09563-7>. IF: 5.226
- D'Amico F, Gagliardi V, Bianchini Ciampoli L, Tosti F. Integration of InSAR and GPR for Monitoring Transition Areas in Railway Bridges, 2020. *NDT & E International*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ndteint.2020.102291>
- Bianchini Ciampoli, L., Gagliardi, V., Ferrante, C., Calvi, A., D'Amico, F., & Tosti, F., Displacement monitoring in Airport Runways by Persistent Scatterers SAR Interferometry, 2020. *Remote Sensing*. (Accepted, in press).

### International Project:

**MoBI: Monitoring Bridges and Infrastructure Networks.** The project is approved by ESA (European Space Agency) -Eohops Proposal id 52479. Principal investigator (PI): Valerio Gagliardi.

**MoTIB: Monitoring Transport Infrastructure Network and Bridges,** (Open call for science, ID 742) accepted by ASI: Italian Space Agency. Co-investigator

### Conference publications

- Gagliardi V, Benedetto A, Bianchini Ciampoli L, D'Amico F, Alani M, Tosti F, Health-Monitoring Approach for Transport Infrastructure and Bridges by Satellite Remote-Sensing Persistent Scatterers Interferometry (PSI). *Proc. SPIE 11534, Earth Resources and Environmental Remote Sensing/GIS Applications XI, 115340K* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2572395>
- Gagliardi, V., Bianchini Ciampoli, L., D'Amico F., Tosti, F., Alani, A., & Benedetto, A., (2020). “A novel geo-statistical approach for transport infrastructure network monitoring by Persistent Scatterer Interferometry (PSI)”. In 2020 IEEE Radar Conference (RadarConf20).
- Gagliardi V, Bianchini Ciampoli L, Tosti F, Benedetto A, Alani A. Health monitoring of masonry arch bridges by integration of GPR and InSAR techniques. To: EGU General Assembly Conference (EGU 2020). *Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 22, Wien, Austria, May 2020*. DOI: 10.5194/egusphereegu2020-13899
- Tosti F, Gagliardi V, D'Amico F, Alani A.M., Transport infrastructure monitoring by data fusion of GPR and SAR imagery information. *Transp Res Proc* 2020; 45:771-778. 721, (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2020.02.097>