# The use of remotely sensed imagery and GIS analysis for the automated detection of water infiltration in residential structures

Robert E. Roth | reroth@psu.edu

The Pennsylvania State University

# Introduction



the Democratization of GIScience

- A. Familiarizing Water Infiltration and the Chimney Pan Proxy
- **B.** Assessing the Possibility of Remote Detection
- C. Assessing the Feasibility of Remote Detection

*building construction* – the erection, maintenance, and removal of residential, commercial, and industrial structures

**building diagnostics –** identification and maintenance of potential structural issues before they become fatal to the building

*infrared thermography of buildings* – the planimetric (from above) or oblique (from the side) remote detection of failures in the insulation of the home with the goal of preventing energy waste



#### detrimental effects of water infiltration:

1) jeopardizing of the structural integrity of the home



detrimental effects of water infiltration:2) encroachment of unwanted creatures





the chimney pan proxy



the *chimney pan* proxy

remote detection of the chimney pan proxy hinges upon differences in physical characteristics between:

smooth metal (a functional pan)
rust (a failed pan)

these two material types can be extracted from remotely sensed orthophotography in one of two methods

examining each material's spectral reflectance
examining each material's spectral radiance

# $\mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{I}}(\lambda) = \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{R}}(\lambda) + \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{A}}(\lambda) + \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{T}}(\lambda)$

where:

 $E_{r}(\lambda)$  = incident energy at a given wavelength  $E_{R}(\lambda)$  = reflected energy at a given wavelength  $E_{A}(\lambda)$  = absorbed energy at a given wavelength  $E_{T}(\lambda)$  = transmitted energy at a given wavelength

#### The Possibility of Remote Detection: Spectral Reflectance



specular versus diffuse/Lambertian reflectors

#### The Possibility of Remote Detection: Spectral Radiance



spectral signatures of each material's emissivity

# **The Possibility of Remote Detection**



# technical concerns

- 1) non-uniform incident energy source
- 2) atmospheric effects
- 3) ambiguous radiance responses
- 4) sensor limitations

\*spatial resolution \*spectral resolution \*radiometric resolution "The Subdivision Effect" – because homes of a subdivision are often built all at once, it is likely that most of the pans within that subdivision will fail at relatively the same time

\* Selecting subdivisions that are 7-10 years old should increase the success rate of our marketing

#### ethical concerns: privacy

privacy of the home covered by Fourth Amendment

\* confirmed by Griswold v. Connecticut in 1965

\* later expanded upon in the Privacy Act of 1974

the issue of the legality in remote sensing addressed in *Dow Chemical Company v. United States* 

open field doctrine: "whatever can be seen from above is fair game for official and unofficial snooping" (Monmonier 2002)

# The Feasibility of Remote Detection

# Thank you kindly for your time!

~Rob