

Procedure to read ALOS 1.5 data.

Original ALOS data pre-processed to level 1.5 can be read by ENVI using file/open external file and going to ALOS/PALSAR in the drop down menus. Then open one of the image files (labeled e.g. IMG-HH-ALPSRP075937180-H1.5GUA)

This will be amplitude data and for multichannel filtering intensity data is needed.

For this we used GAMMA software and the routine par_EORC_PALSAR_geo which produces “multi-look intensity” or “mli” files. The file names given by JAXA are inconvenient for everyday use and the script mli_script runs this GAMMA code allowing a new name to be given. It asks for “File root” meaning the name you want without the extension – which in this case will be .mli. I eventually used a naming convention for the root using the path, frame number and cycle number e.g. P443_F7180_C12.