

# Big Earth Observation Analytics: Rapid detection of illegal tropical deforestation and recovery

Jan Verbesselt



Laboratory of Geo-information Science and  
Remote Sensing, Wageningen University

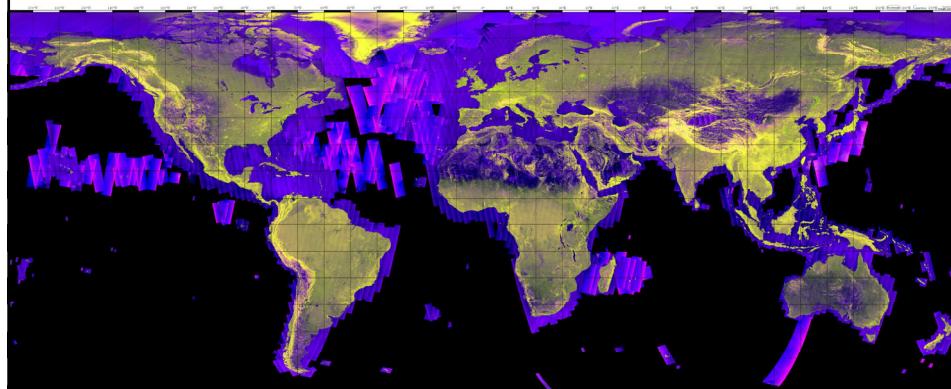
E-Science ASDI RETURN & STW Big-EO-Analytics projects



1



New Sentinel-1 radar overcomes biggest monitoring limitation: clouds.  
Global coverage since 2014



2



3

The image shows a map of a coastal area in Siak, Riau, Indonesia, illustrating land cover classification over time using Sentinel-1A and B radar data. The map features a grid overlay and color-coded regions representing different land types. A legend on the right side provides information about the radar data:

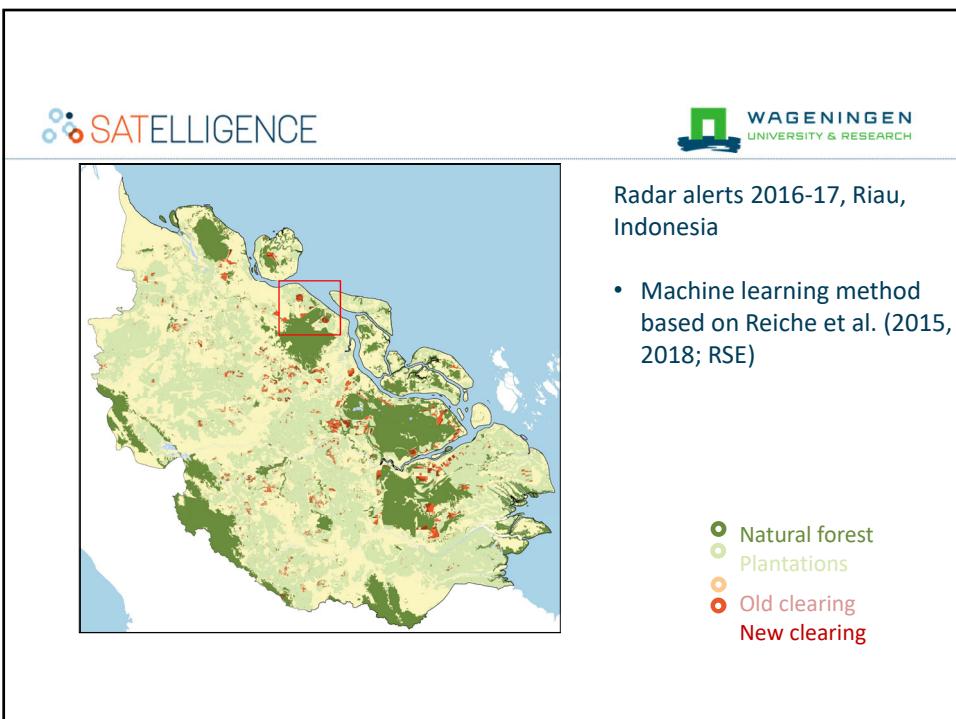
**Sentinel-1A and B radar**

- Regular and consistent observations **every 6-12 days**
- **Reliable:** cloud-free information  
-> No information gaps
- High spatial **detail (10m)**, higher detail is not needed
- **Data continuity:** 10+ years data guaranteed
- Data **free of charge**

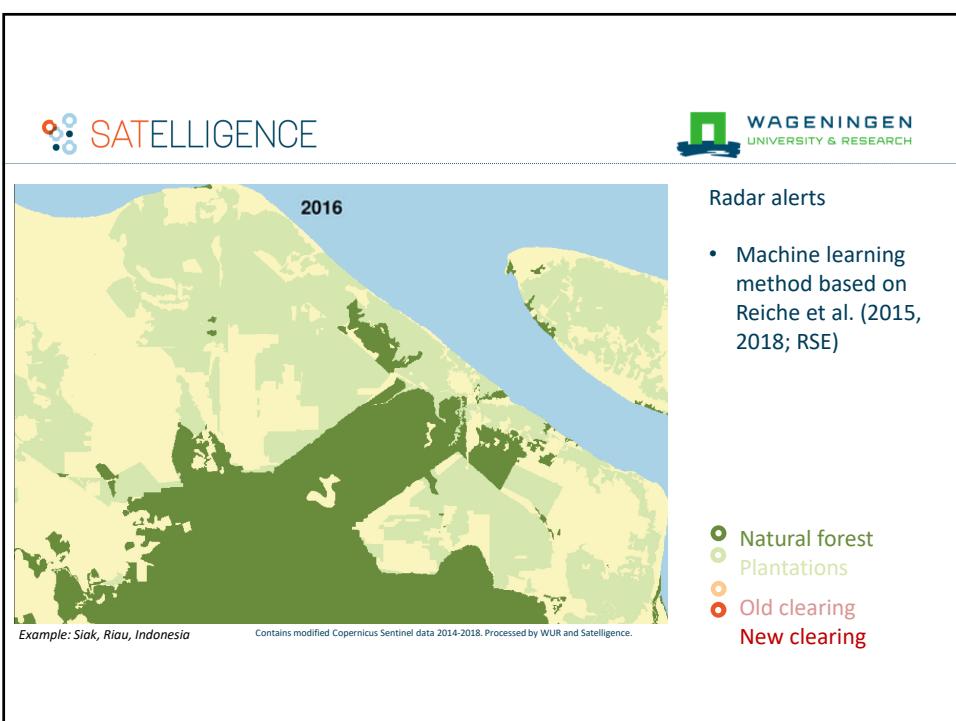
*Example: 237 observations  
Siak, Riau, Indonesia 2014 - 2018*

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2014-2018. Processed by WUR and Satelligence.

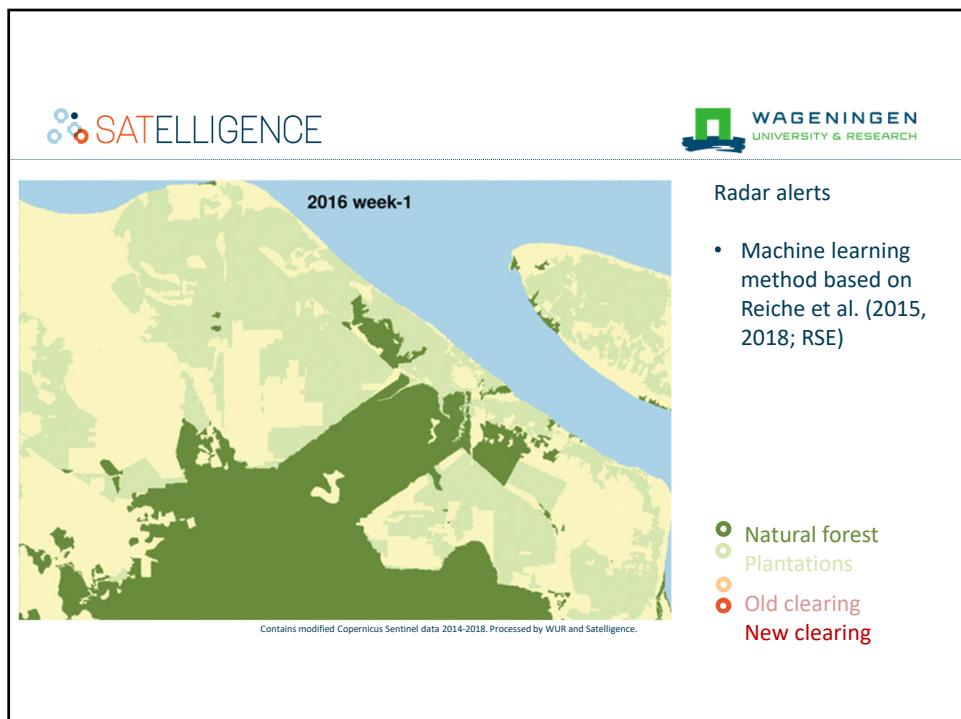
4



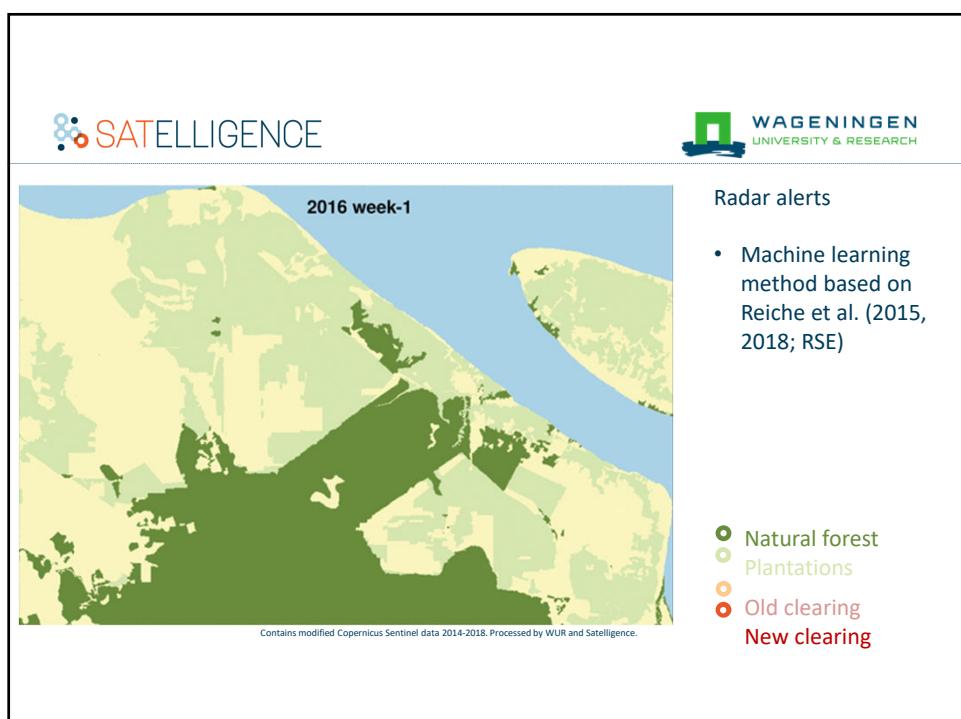
5



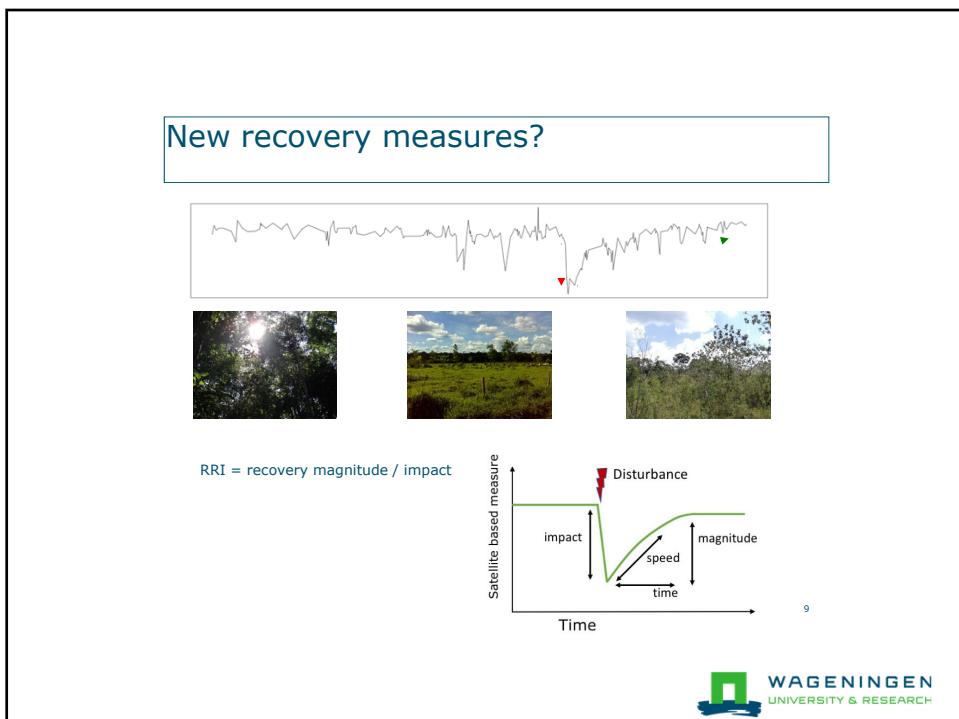
6



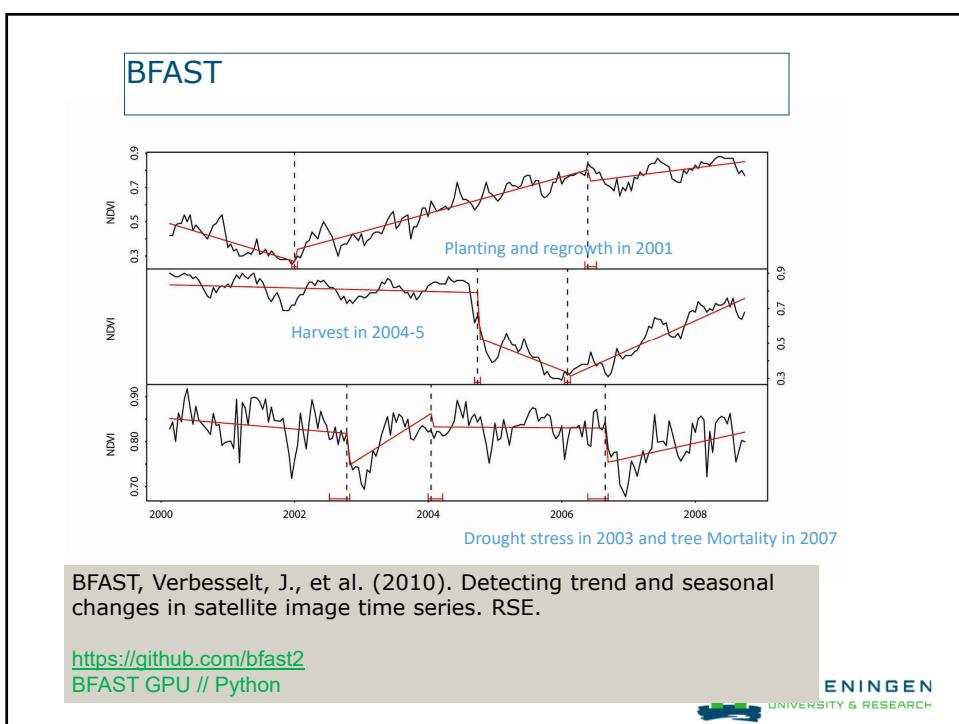
7



8



9



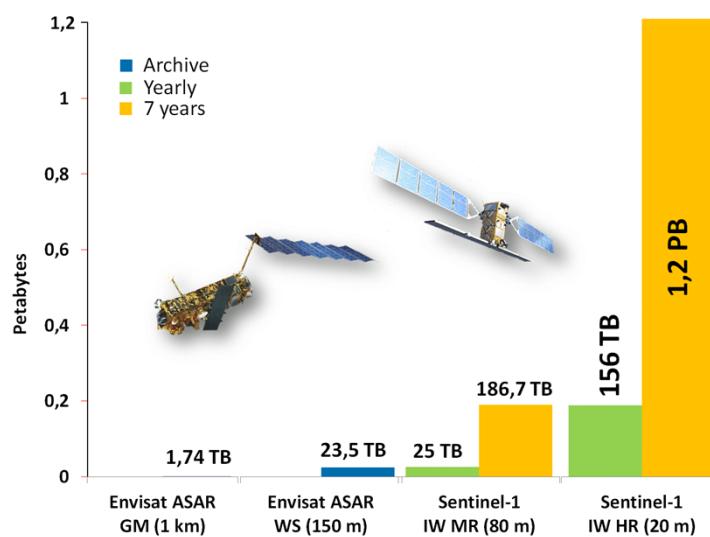
10

## Big Earth observation data amounts



11

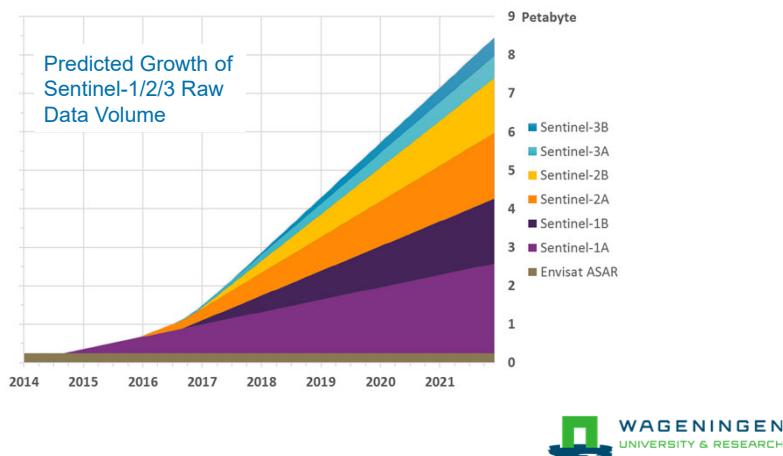
### From ENVISAT ASAR to Sentinel-1



12

## Towards a New Era in Earth Observation

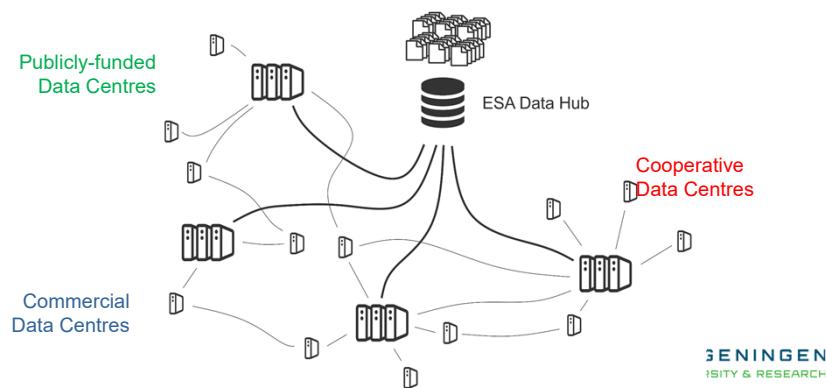
- Volume and diversity of EO data is growing fast
- **Bringing the users and their software to the data**  
rather than vice versa becomes inevitable



13

## The Formation of a Network of EO Cloud Platforms

- Reaching a critical mass is essential for survival
- How to scale up?
  - Venture capital → Google, Amazon, ...
  - Public investments → Copernicus DIAS, ESA Open Data Cube
  - Cooperatives → EODC, Science Centres

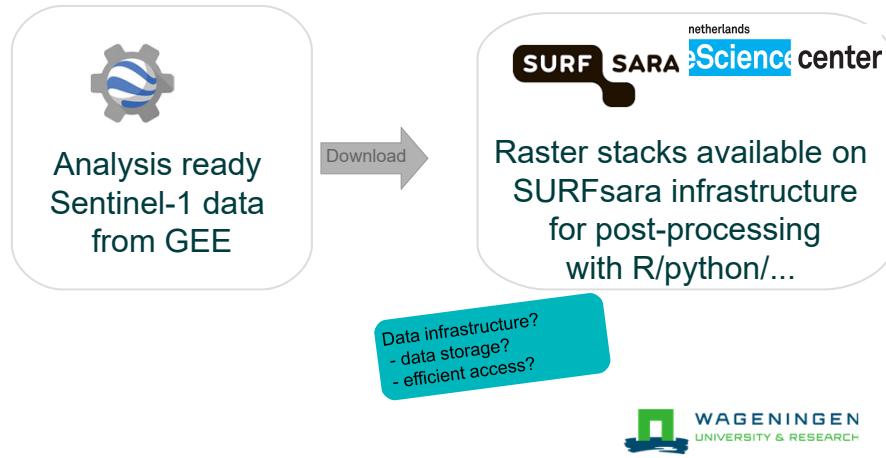


14

VJ3

## ASDI RETURN - Scaling recovery capacity

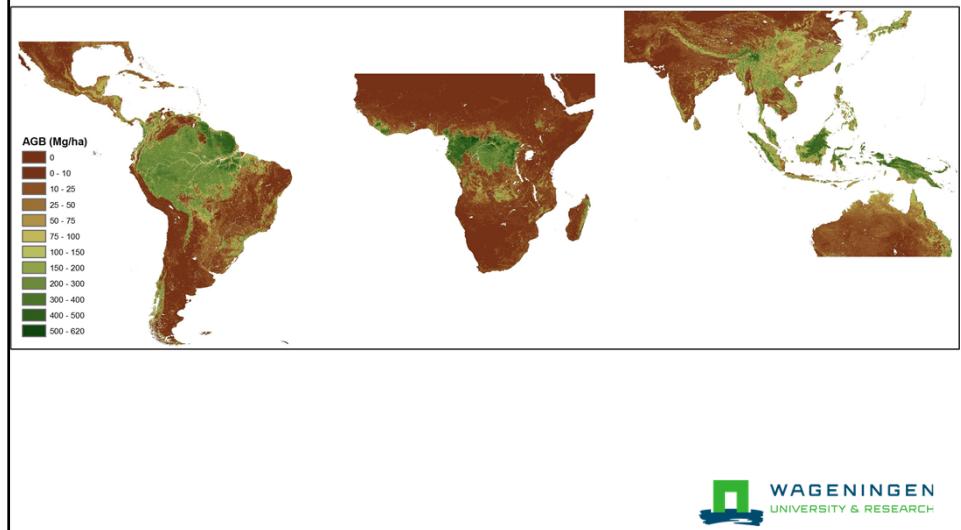
- Scaling algorithms: need for distributed computing frameworks and tools



15

VJ3

## Vision: ARD ready S1 data for the pan-tropics



16

## **Slide 15**

---

**VJ3** @wanda: kan deze slide eventueel wat uitgebreid worden.  
Verbesselt, Jan, 02/10/2019

## **Slide 16**

---

**VJ3** @wanda: kan deze slide eventueel wat uitgebreid worden.  
Verbesselt, Jan, 02/10/2019

## Discussion & thanks

What is the best way to gain access to ARD ready Sentinel data?

Ongoing projects:

- ASDI RETURN project (2019-2021)  
<https://www.esciencecenter.nl/project/monitoring-tropical-forest-recovery-capacity-using-radar-sentinel-satellite>
- NWO STW Big-EO-Analytics project 15839 (2019-20)
  - <https://big-eo-analytics.gitlab.io/>
- H2020 Open-EO project (2018-2021)
  - <http://openeo.org/about/>
  - European solution for opening up access to EO data
  - H2020: EO-2017 Number 776242 “openEO”
  - openEO develops an open API to connect R, python, javascript and other clients to big Earth observation cloud back-ends in a simple and unified way



Thanks

Jan Verbesselt  
<https://github.com/bfast2>



17

**igarss**  
BRUSSELS 2021

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE WORLD  
FROM THE HEART OF EUROPE

11 - 16 July 2021  
in Brussels

18

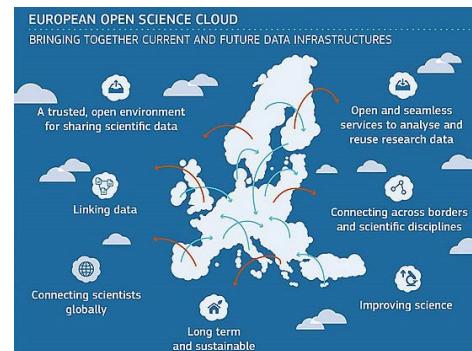
## EO cloud platforms?



19

### How to Organise Collaboration? - HPC versus Data

- HPC, metadata and some selected data sets can be organised nationally
  - Same/similar requirements for a wide range of applications
- Science does not stop at borders → scientific data centres must transgress national boundaries
- Earth observation is by its nature a global undertaking
  - Organisation along thematic topics
    - Sensors
    - Geoscientific disciplines



20

10