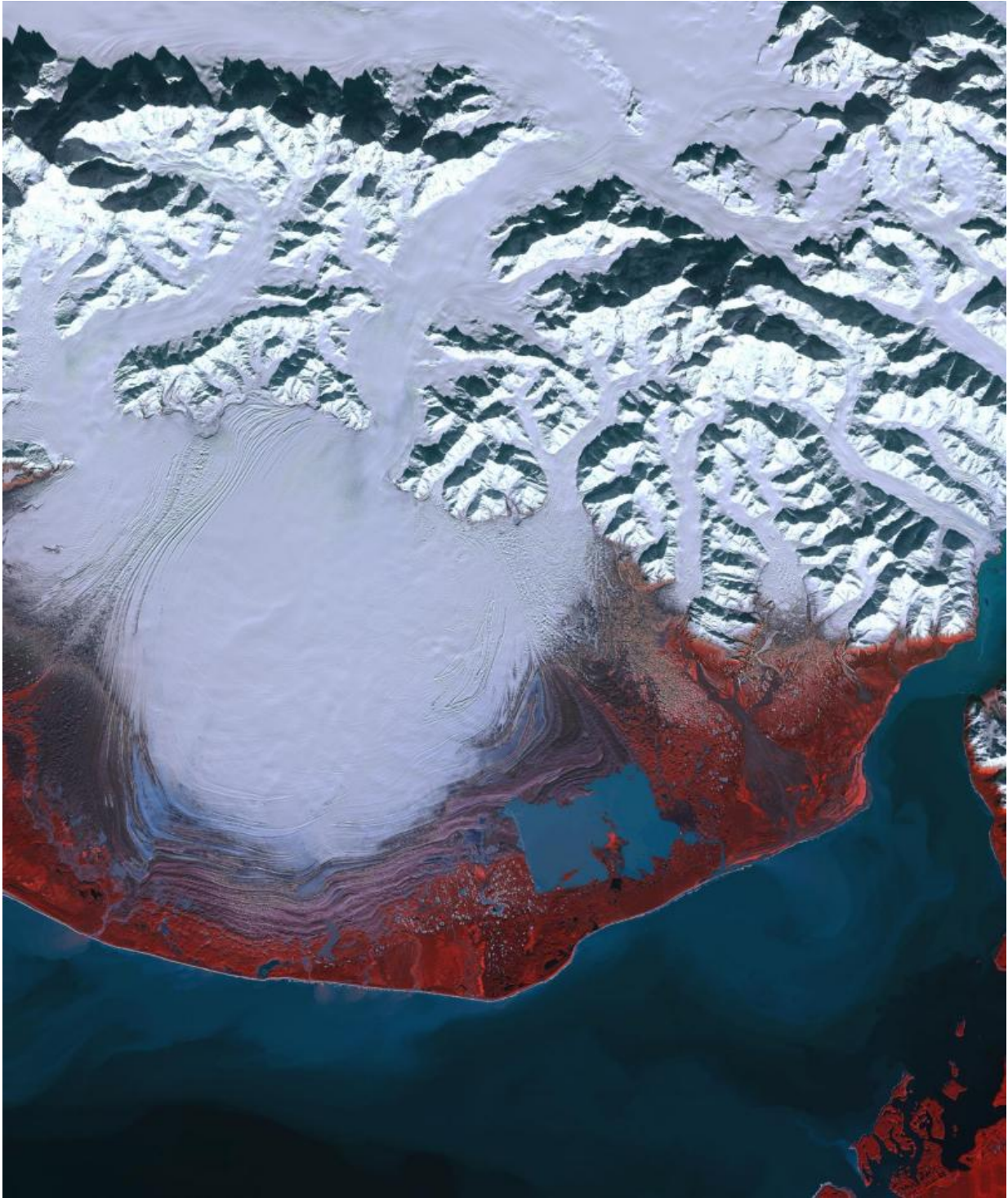


Image: Sentinel-2A captures Malaspina Glacier

July 8 2016



Credit: ESA

The Sentinel-2A satellite takes us over southeastern Alaska to the Malaspina Glacier.

The climate and topography of this area over the last 12.5 million years have been favourable for glaciers. During the Ice Age, a vast ice sheet covered this spot. When temperatures rose, an [interglacial period](#) began.

The coastal mountains and the maritime climate of this area provide the perfect setting for glaciation: some of the world's longest and most spectacular [glaciers](#) are found here.

Malaspina is a piedmont glacier – meaning that ice flows down a steep valley and spills out onto a relatively flat plain. It is the largest of its kind, with an area of about 3900 sq km.

In this false-colour image, red depicts vegetated areas while purple shows rock. The wavy purple lines around the lower half of the glacier are rock, soil and other debris that have been deposited by the glacier – called moraines.

Satellite data show that the elevation of Malaspina has dropped over the past decades, and this [ice](#) loss has made a significant contribution to [sea-level rise](#).

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: Sentinel-2A captures Malaspina Glacier (2016, July 8) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-07-image-sentinel-2a-captures-malaspina-glacier.html>

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