

A new workflow for generating realistic synthetic airborne laser scanning data of forests

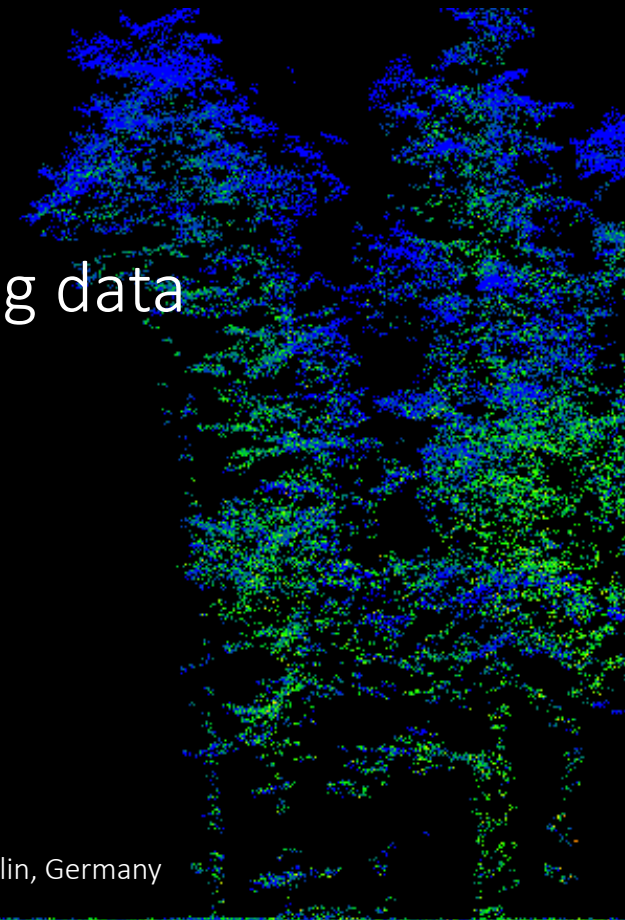
Jannika Schäfer¹, Hannah Weiser², Lukas Winiwarter²,
Bernhard Höfle^{2,3}, Fabian Ewald Fassnacht^{1,4}

¹ Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

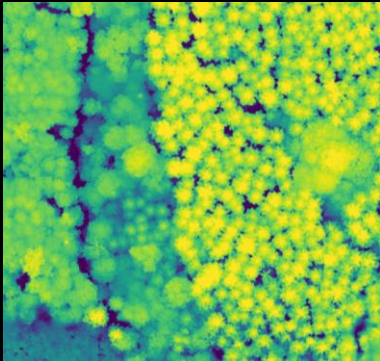
² 3DGeo Research Group, Institute of Geography, Heidelberg University, Germany

³ Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing (IWR), Heidelberg University, Germany

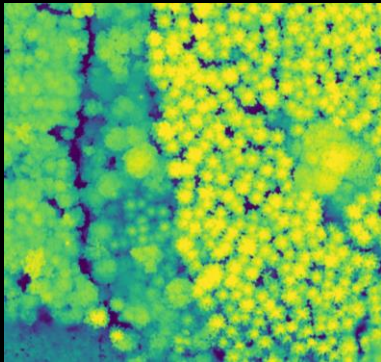
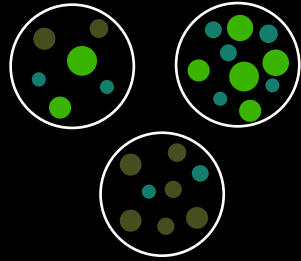
⁴ Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics, Institute of Geographic Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany



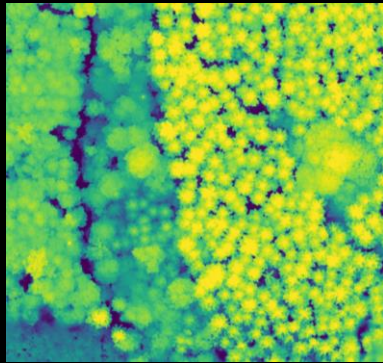
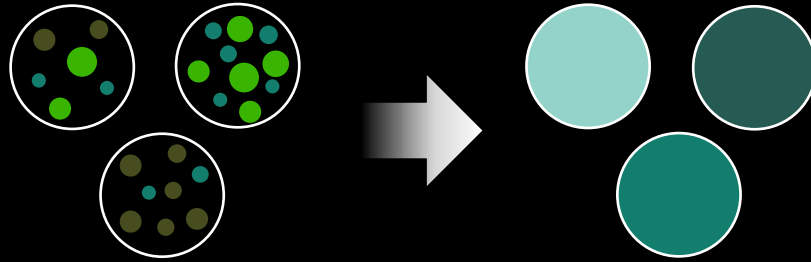
Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning



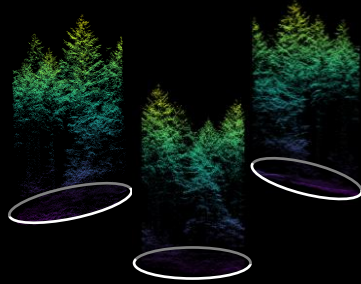
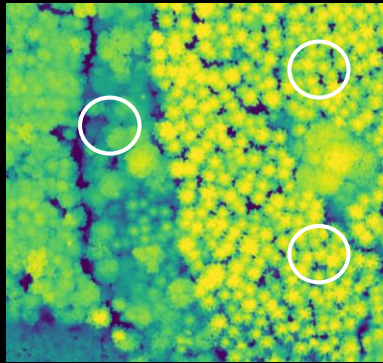
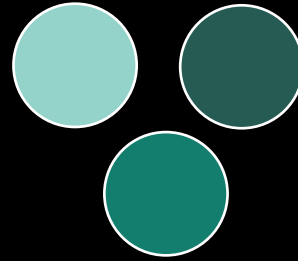
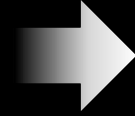
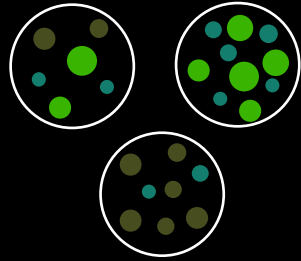
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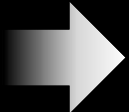
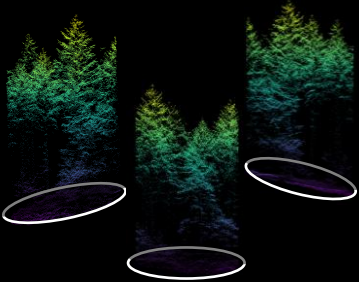
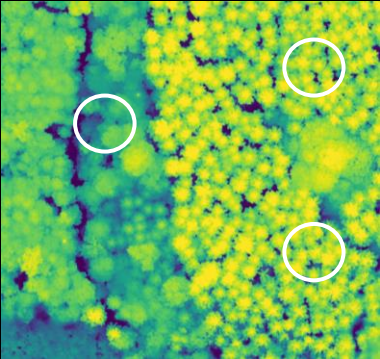
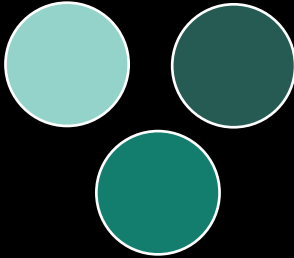
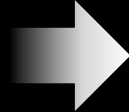
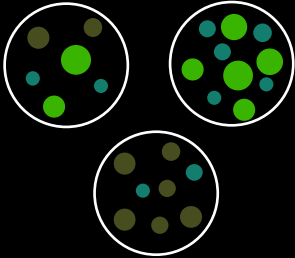
Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning



Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning

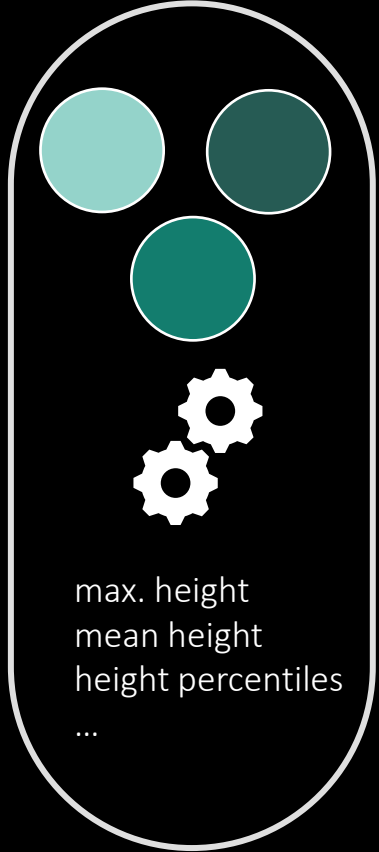
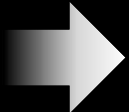
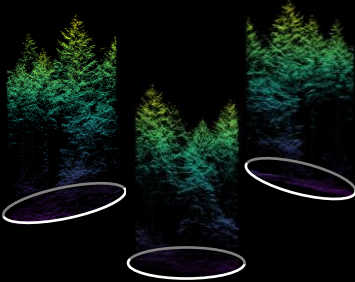
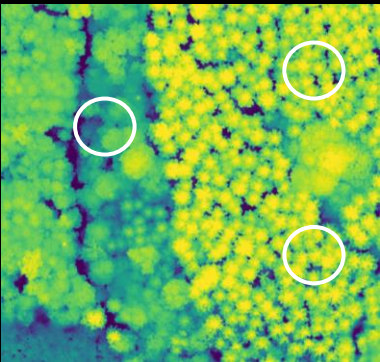
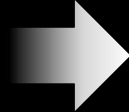
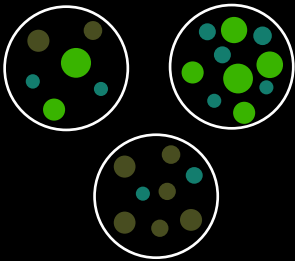


Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning

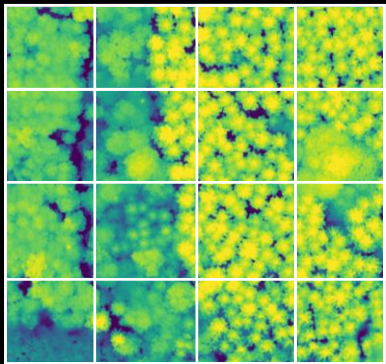
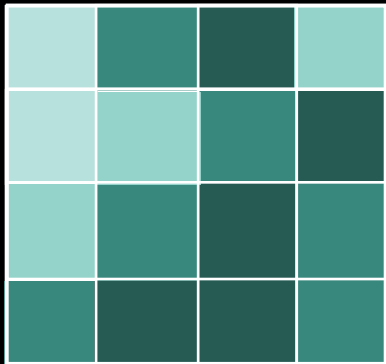
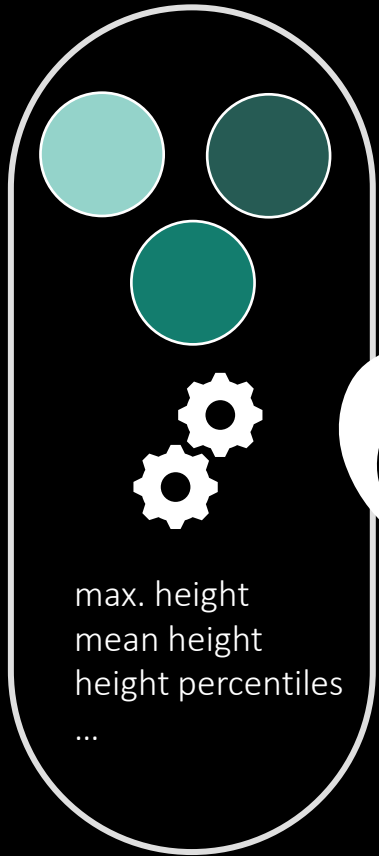
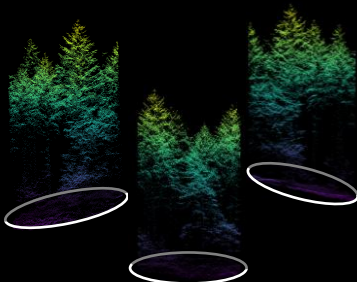
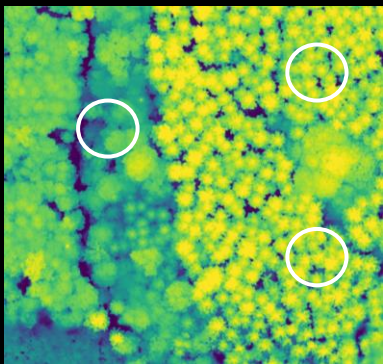
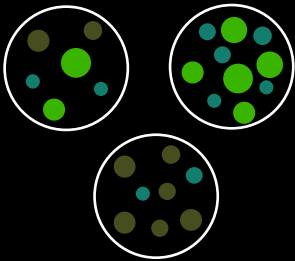


max. height
mean height
height percentiles
...

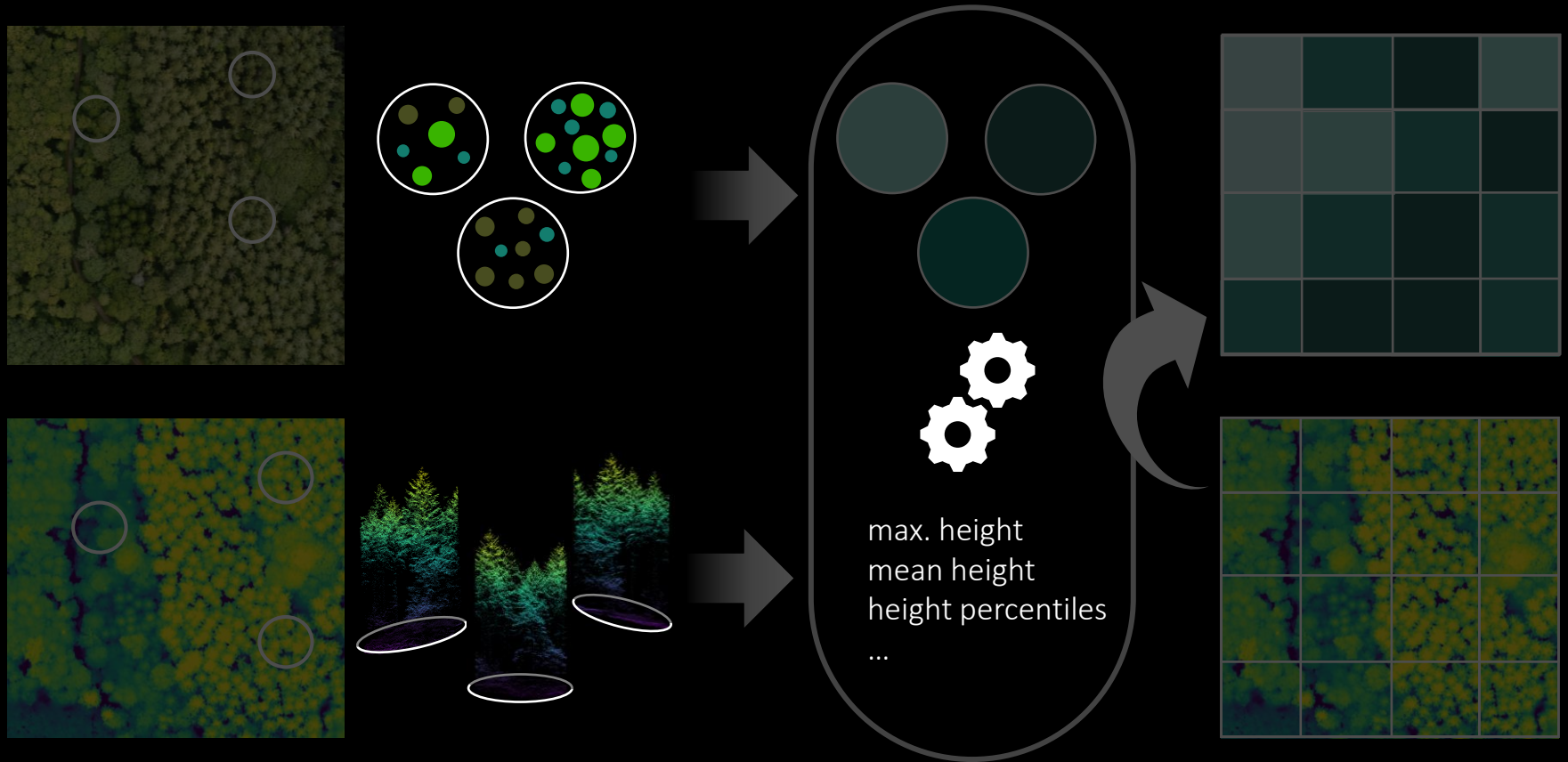
Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning



Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning



Biomass estimation by airborne laser scanning



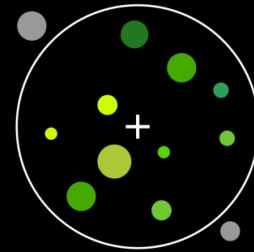
Influencing factors

- field reference data

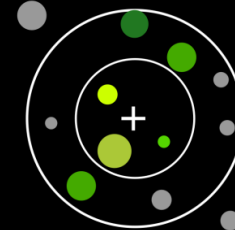


Influencing factors

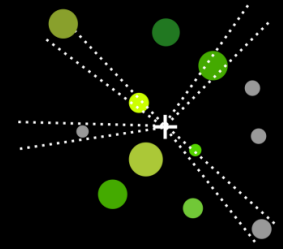
- field reference data



*complete
inventory*



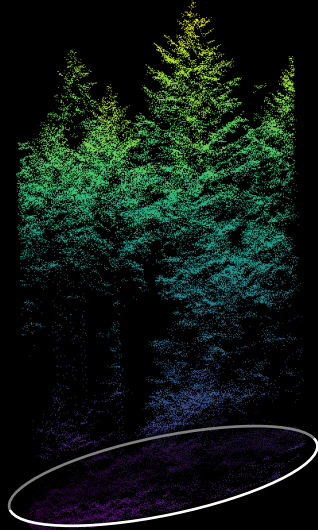
*concentric
circles*



*angle count
sampling*

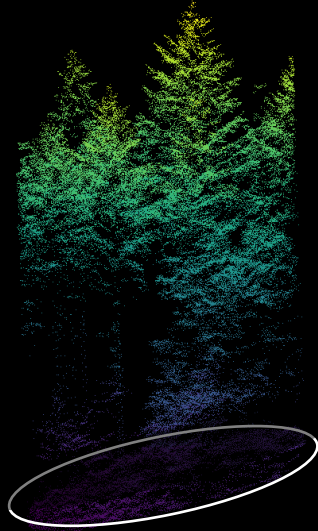
Influencing factors

- field reference data
- laser scanning data



Influencing factors

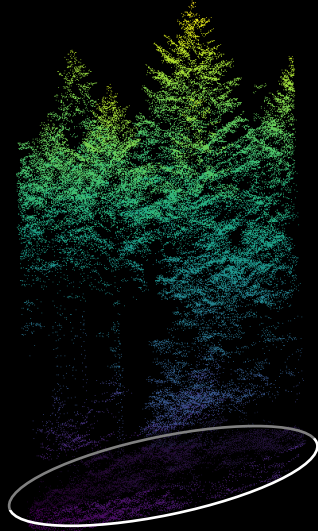
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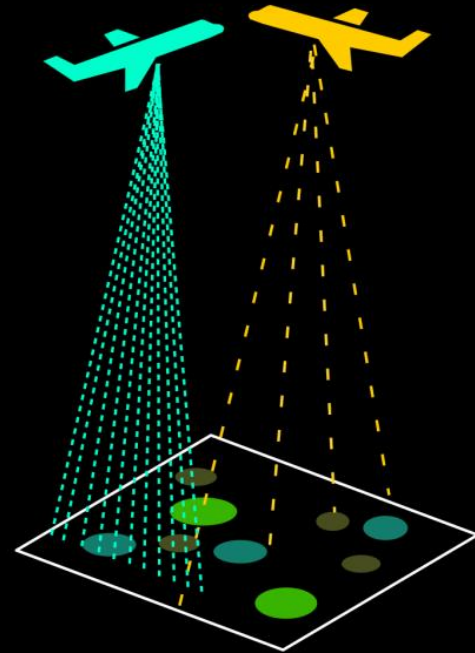
max. height
mean height
height percentiles
...

Influencing factors

- field reference data
- laser scanning data

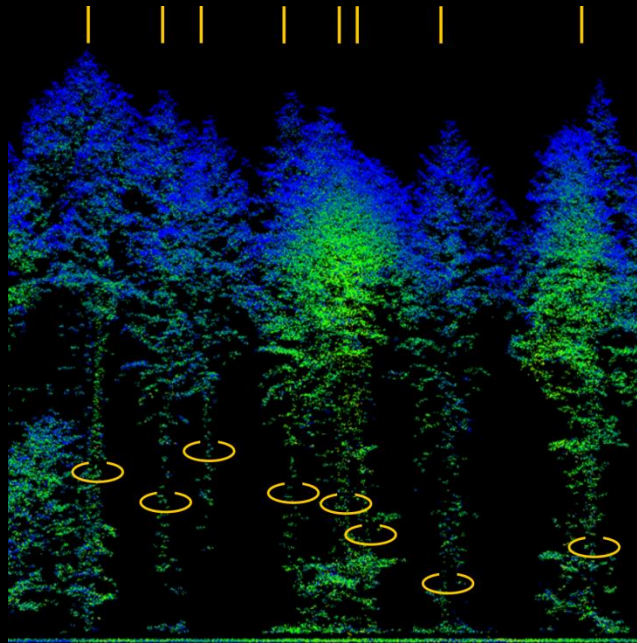


max. height
mean height
height percentiles
...



Influencing factors

- field reference data
- laser scanning data
- applied method



Sensitivity analysis & Method development

- field reference data
- laser scanning data
- applied method

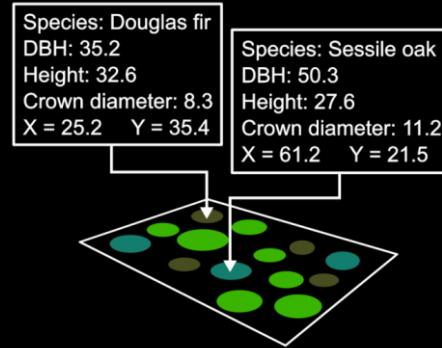
- field reference data
- laser scanning data
- applied method

Required:
large amounts of data

Sensitivity analysis & Method development

- field reference data
- laser scanning data
- applied method

Required:
large amounts of data



forest stand information

laser scanning data

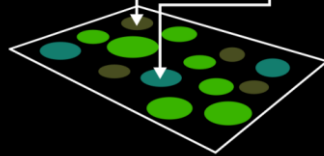
Sensitivity analysis & Method development

- field reference data
- laser scanning data
- applied method

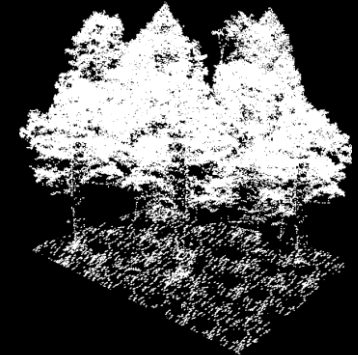


Required:
large amounts of data

Species: Douglas fir DBH: 35.2 Height: 32.6 Crown diameter: 8.3 X = 25.2 Y = 35.4	Species: Sessile oak DBH: 50.3 Height: 27.6 Crown diameter: 11.2 X = 61.2 Y = 21.5
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forest stand information

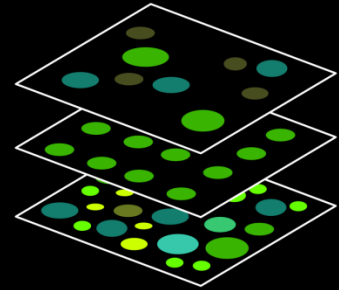


laser scanning data

Benefits of synthetic data

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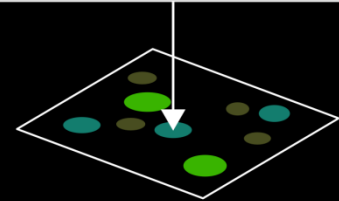
- any forest stand composition



Benefits of synthetic data

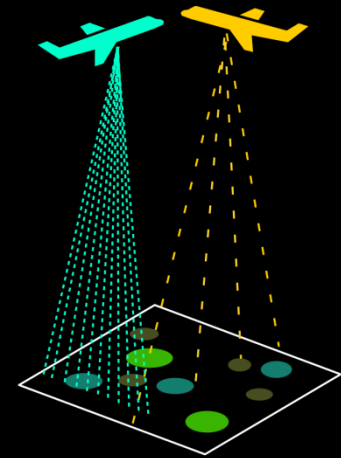
- any forest stand composition
- known position and properties of each tree

Species: Douglas fir
DBH: 35.2
Height: 32.6
Crown diameter: 8.3
X = 25.2 Y = 35.4



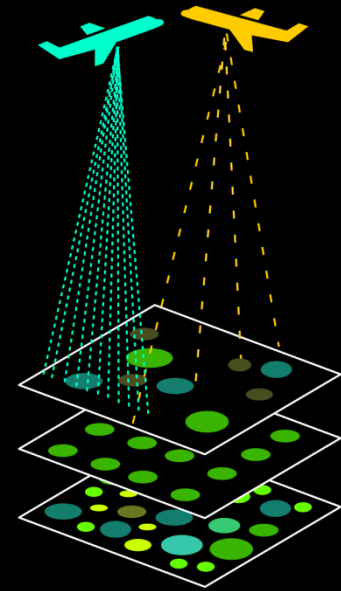
Benefits of synthetic data

- any forest stand composition
- known position and properties of each tree
- any laser scanning acquisition settings



Benefits of synthetic data

- any forest stand composition
- known position and properties of each tree
- any laser scanning acquisition settings
- in theory: unlimited amounts of data



Limits of existing approaches

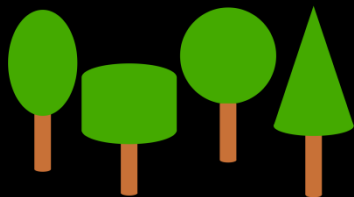
Limits of existing approaches

tree models

laser scanning
simulation

forest stands

Limits of existing approaches

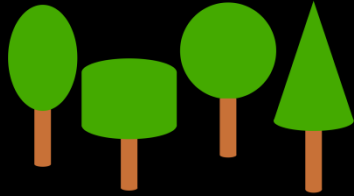


tree models

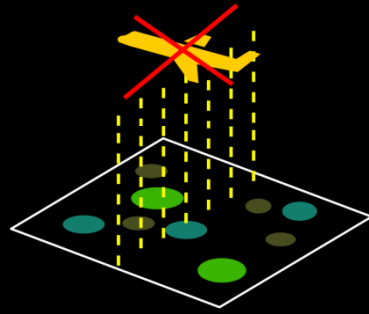
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Limits of existing approaches



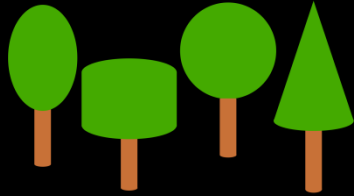
tree models



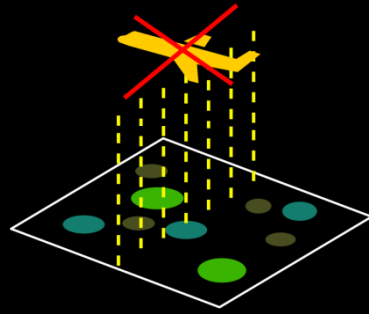
laser scanning
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forest stands

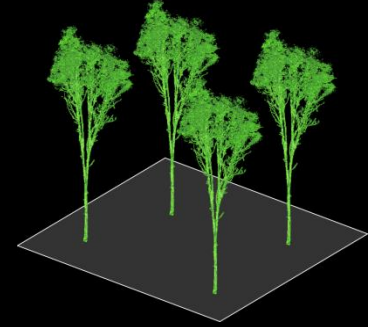
Limits of existing approaches



tree models

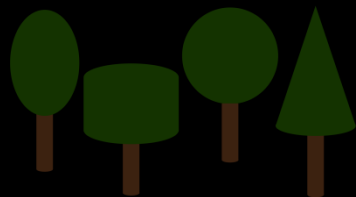


laser scanning
simulation

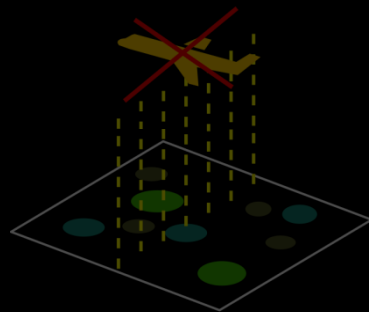


forest stands

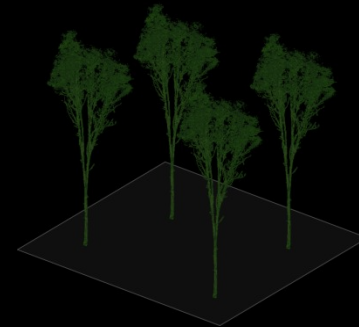
~~Limits of existing approaches~~ Our approach



tree models

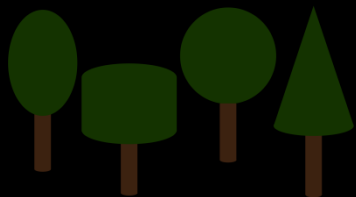


laser scanning
simulation

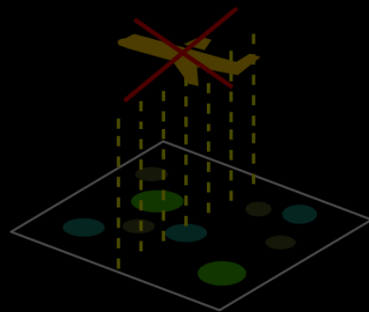


forest stands

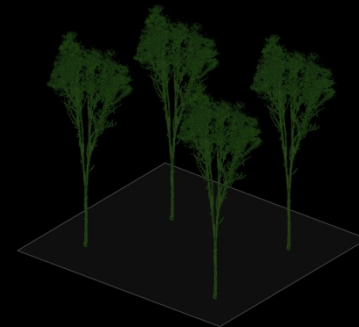
~~Limits of existing approaches~~ Our approach



tree models

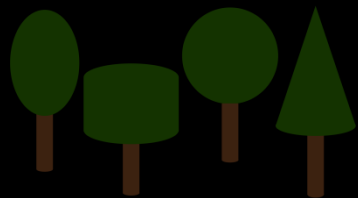


laser scanning
simulation

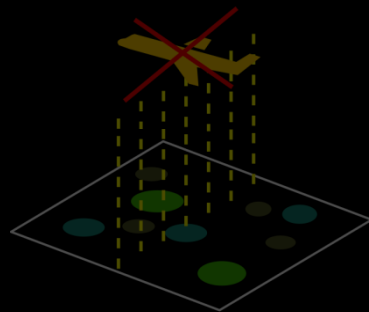


forest stands

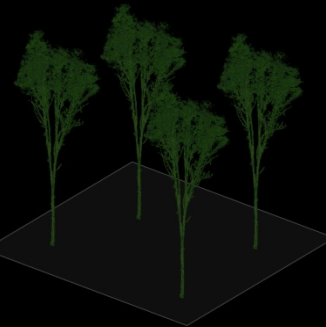
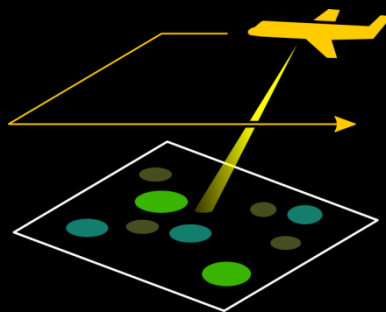
Limits of existing approaches Our approach



tree models

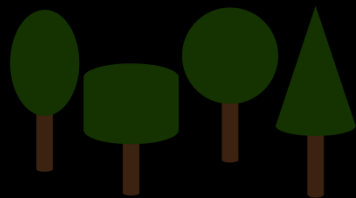


laser scanning
simulation

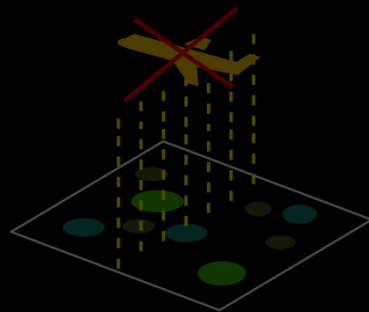
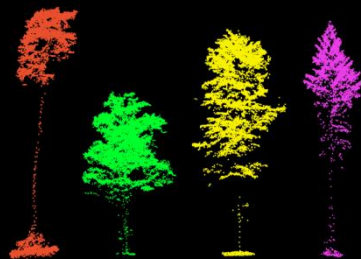


forest stands

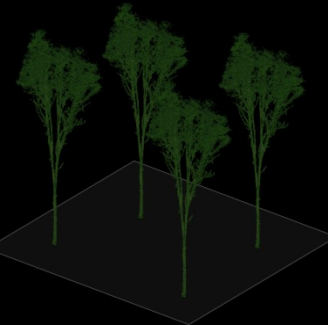
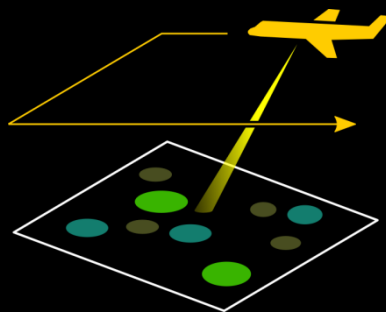
Limits of existing approaches Our approach



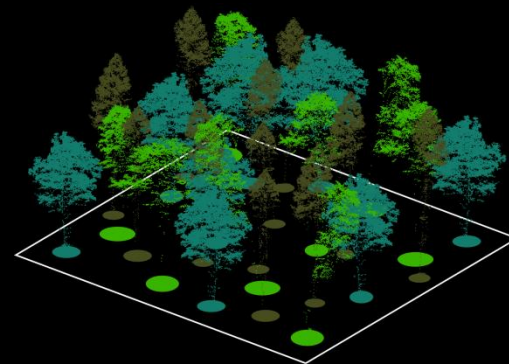
tree models



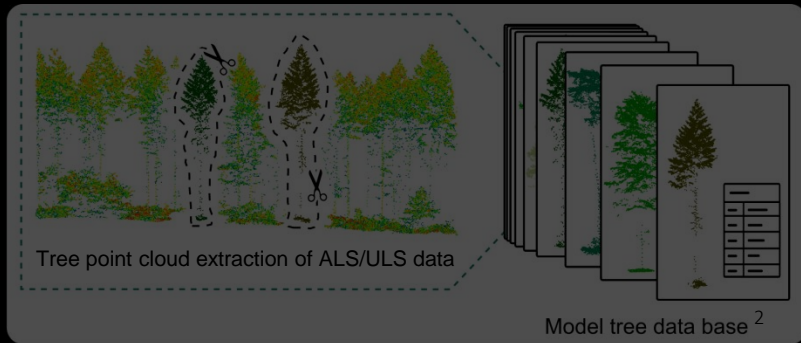
laser scanning
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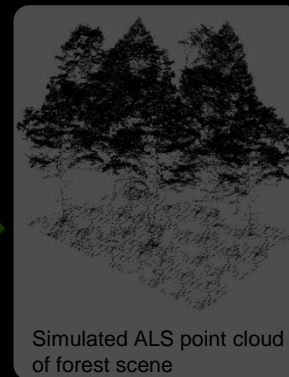
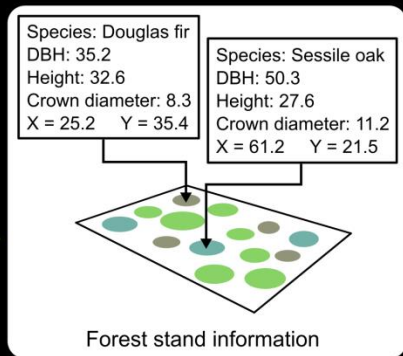
forest stands



Workflow

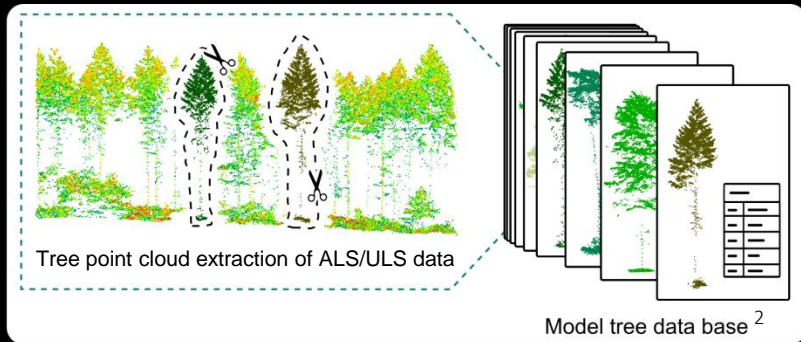


- ¹Fassnacht et al. (2018), *RSE*
- ²Weiser et al. (2021), *PANGAEA*
- ³Winiwarter et al. (2022), *RSE*

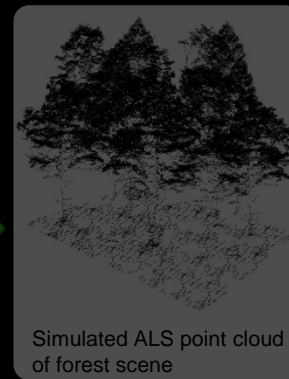
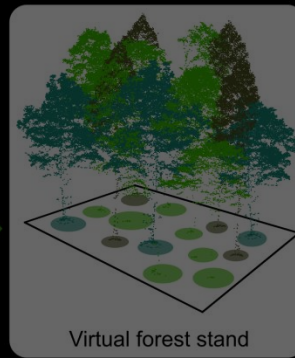
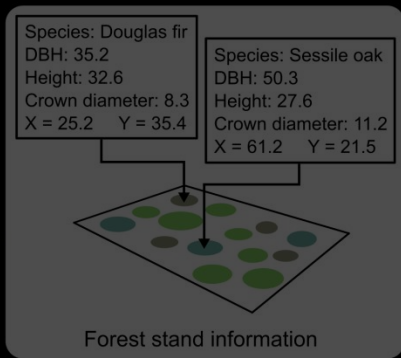


GeForse approach ¹

Workflow

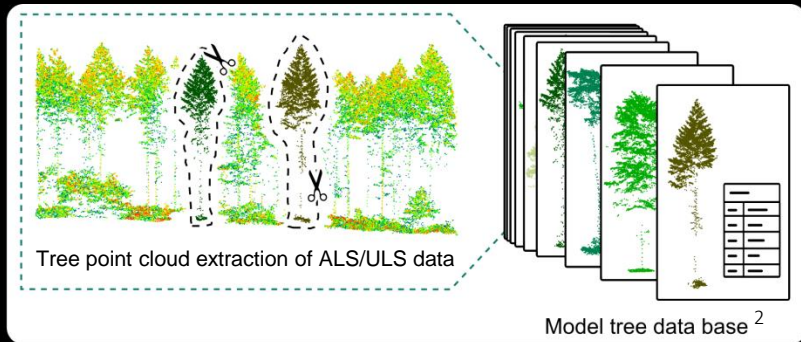


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- ²Weiser et al. (2021), *PANGAEA*
- ³Winiwarter et al. (2022), *RSE*

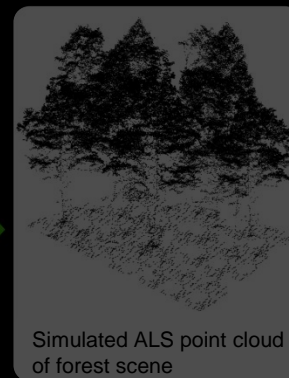
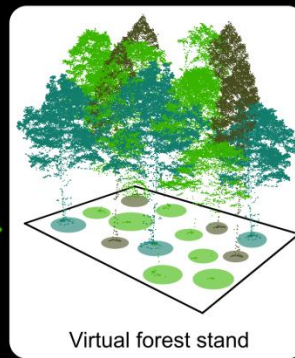
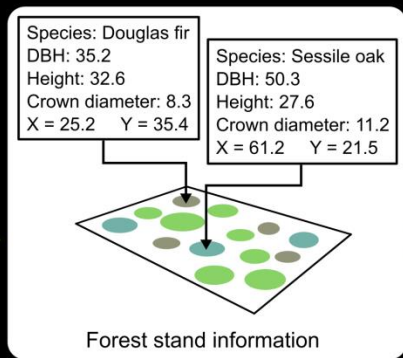


GeForse approach ¹

Workflow

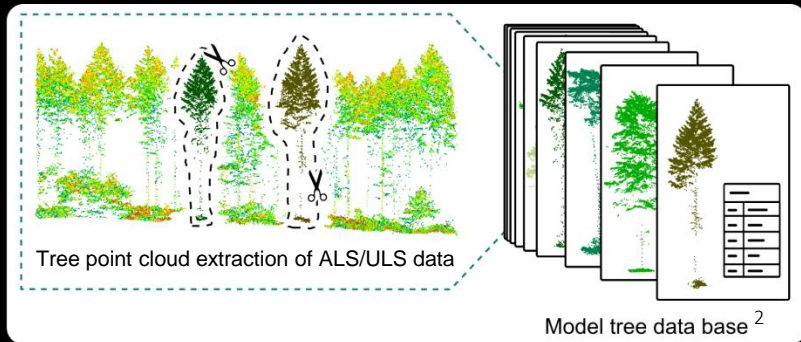


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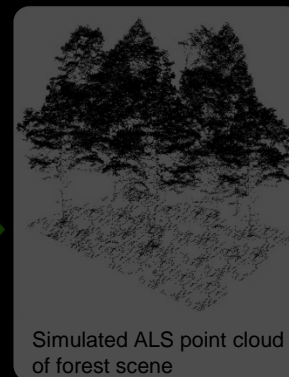
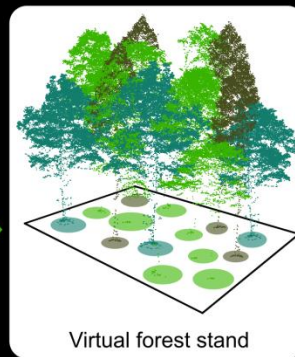
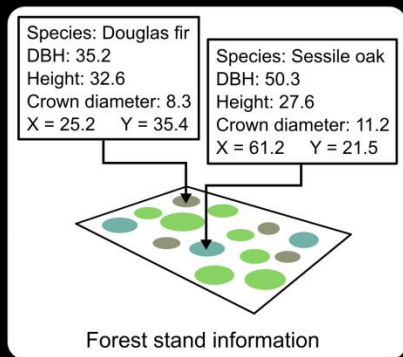


GeForse approach ¹

Workflow

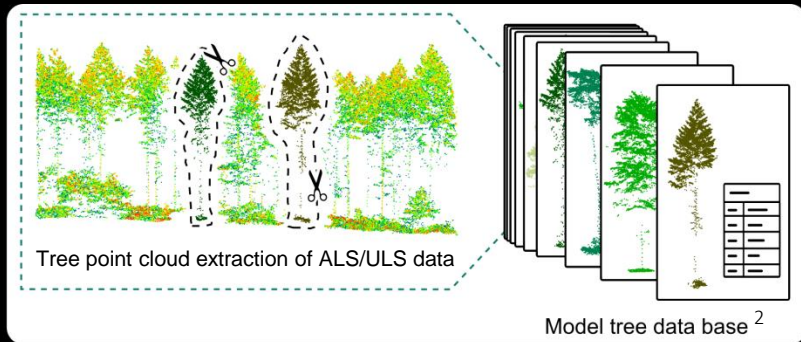


- ¹Fassnacht et al. (2018), *RSE*
- ²Weiser et al. (2021), *PANGAEA*
- ³Winiwarter et al. (2022), *RSE*

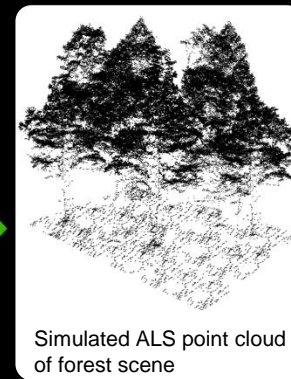
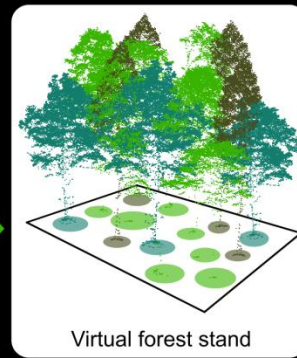
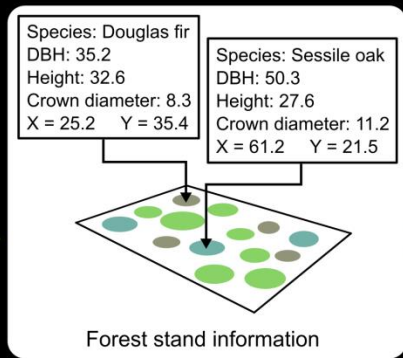


GeForse approach ¹

Workflow



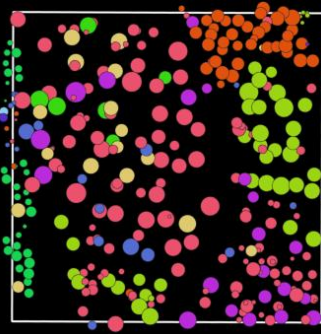
- ¹Fassnacht et al. (2018), *RSE*
- ²Weiser et al. (2021), *PANGAEA*
- ³Winiwarter et al. (2022), *RSE*



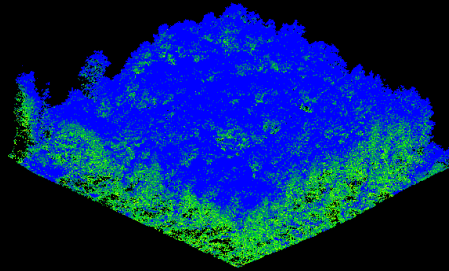
GeForse approach ¹

Validation

forest inventory data



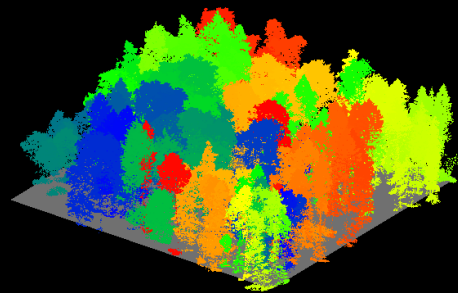
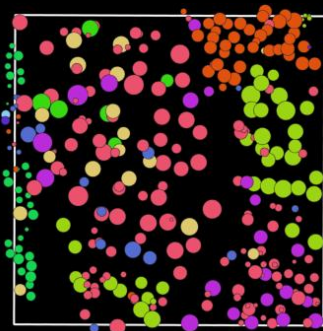
real ALS data



six plots of 1 ha

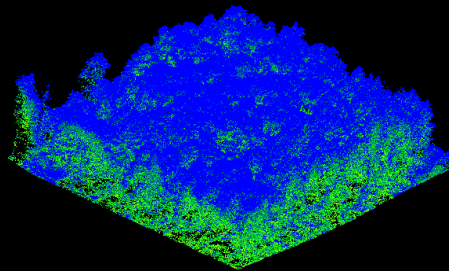
Validation

forest inventory data



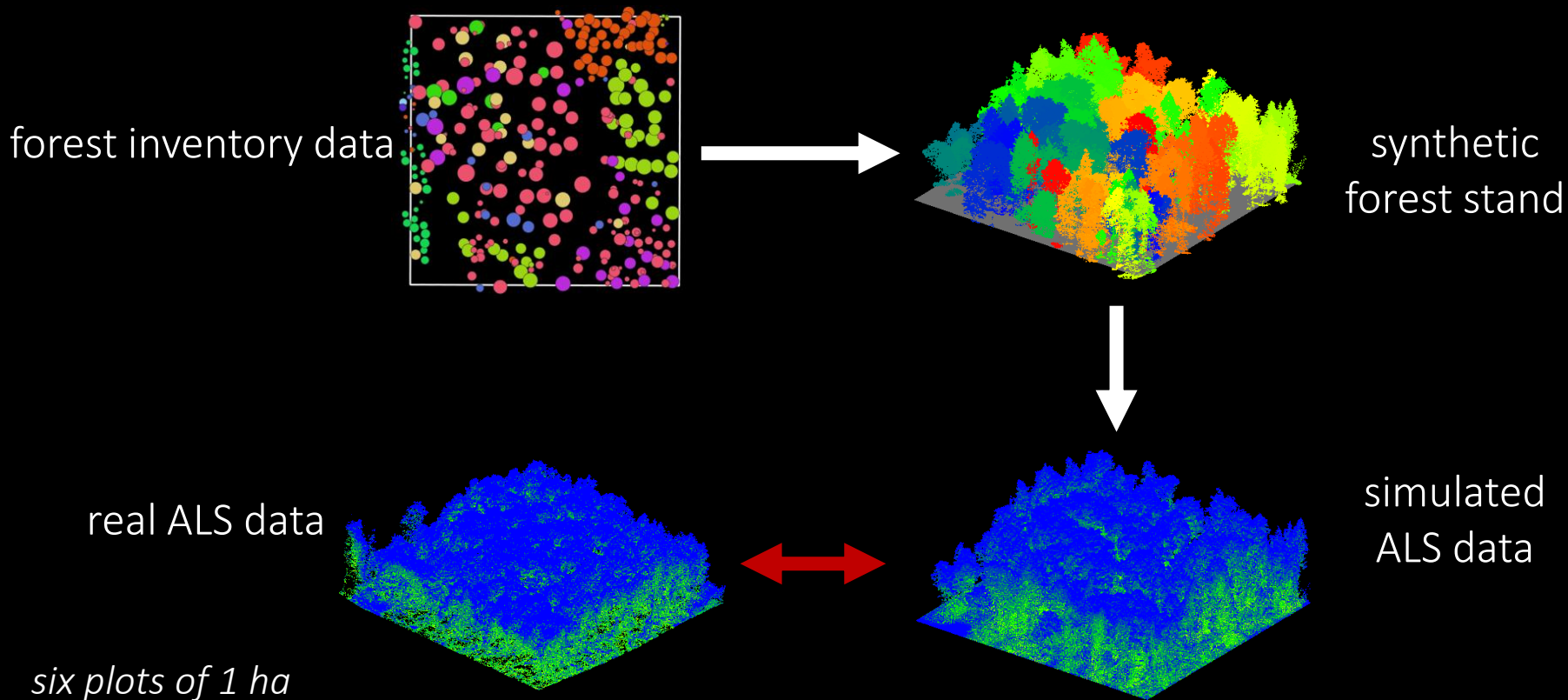
synthetic
forest stand

real ALS data



six plots of 1 ha

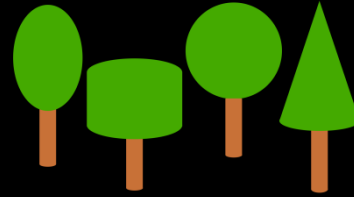
Validation



Validation



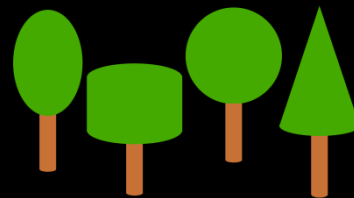
tree models



Validation



tree models



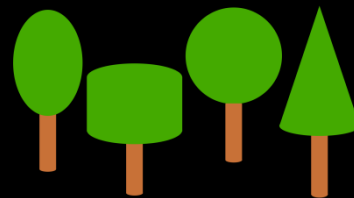
RTM

real tree models

Validation

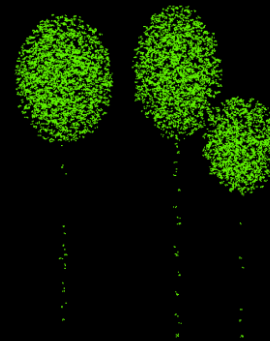


tree models



RTM

real tree models

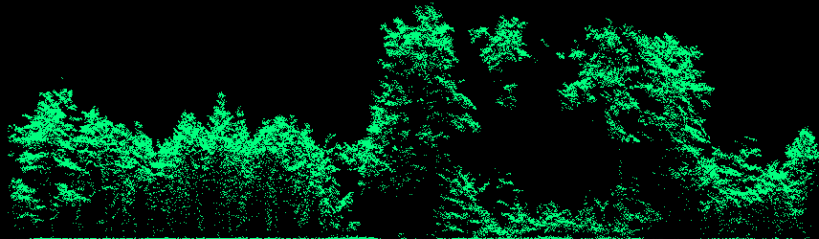


STM

simplified tree models

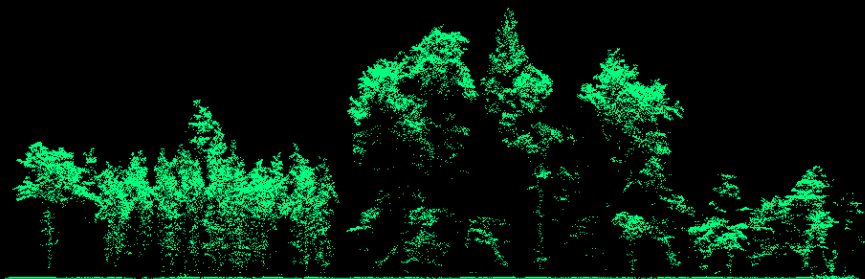
Cross sections

Cross sections

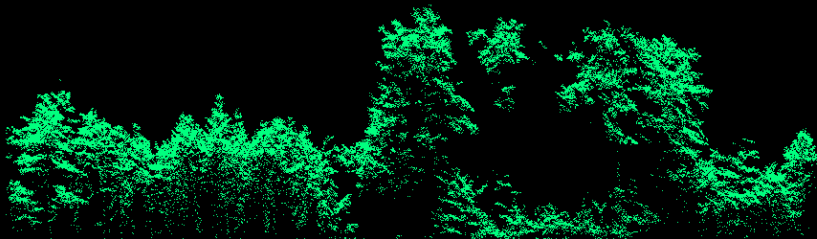


original ALS data

Cross sections

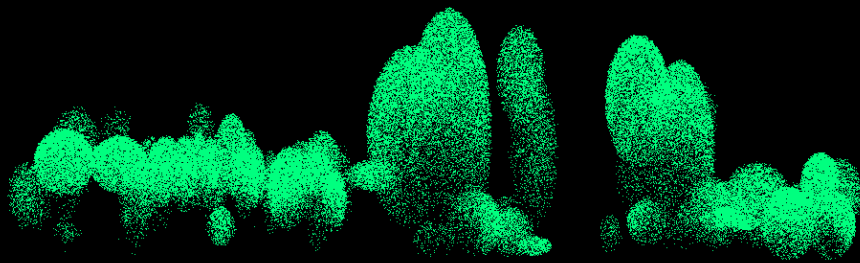


simulated RTM data

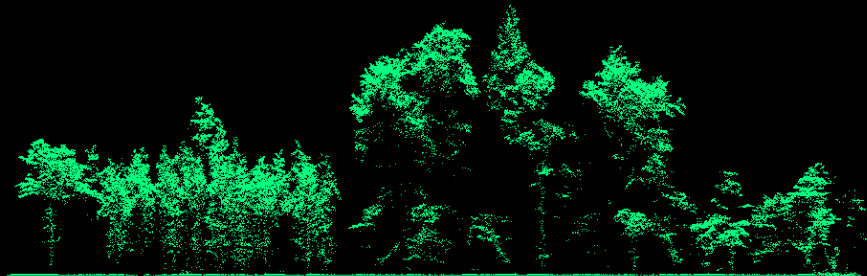


original ALS data

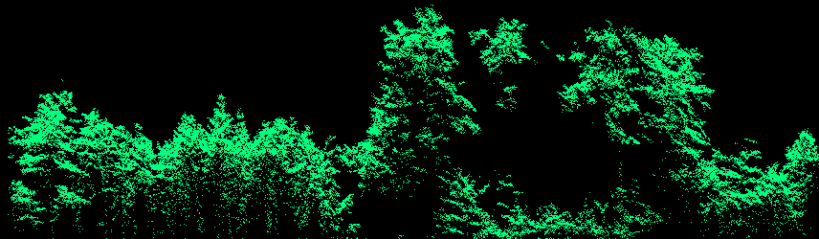
Cross sections



simulated STM data

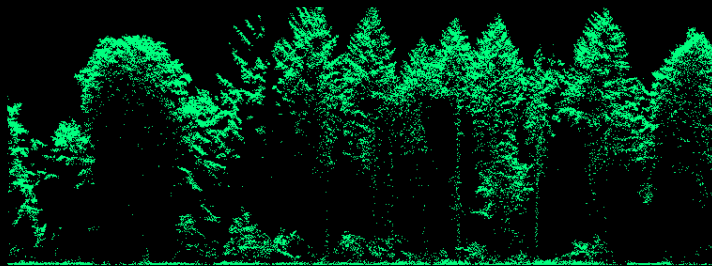


simulated RTM data



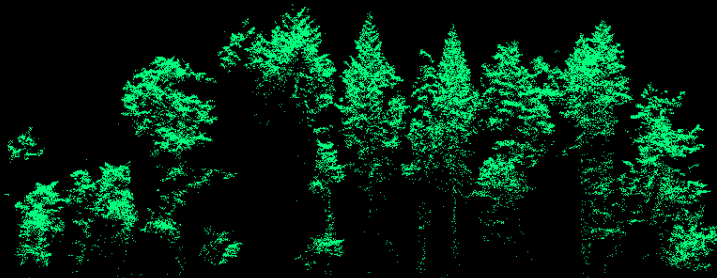
original ALS data

Cross sections

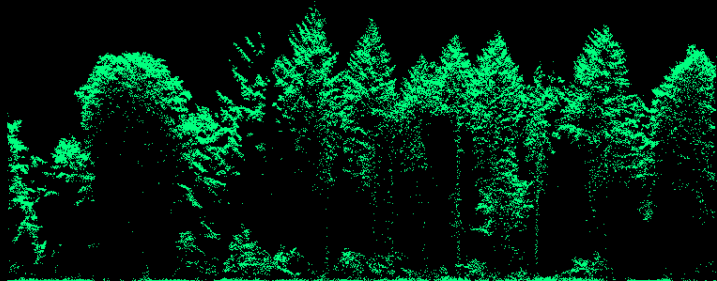


original ALS data

Cross sections

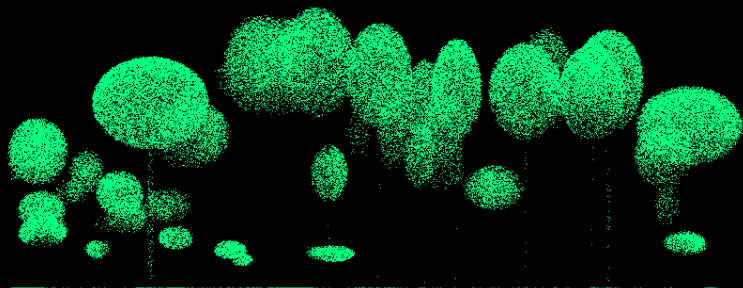


simulated RTM data

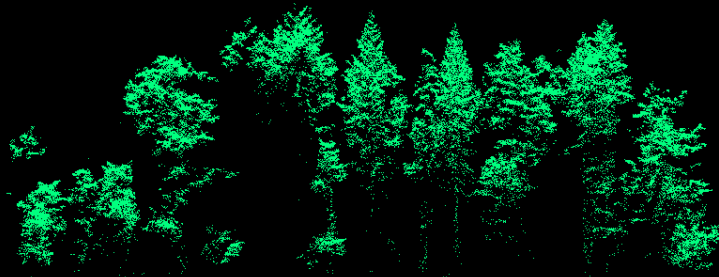


original ALS data

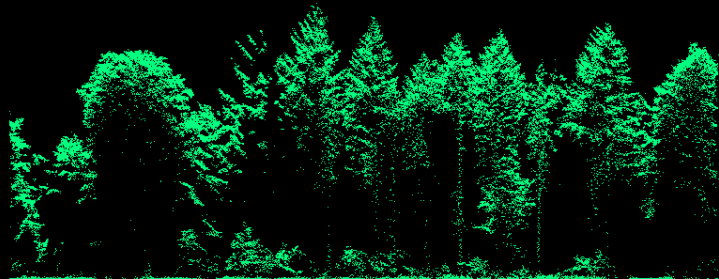
Cross sections



simulated STM data

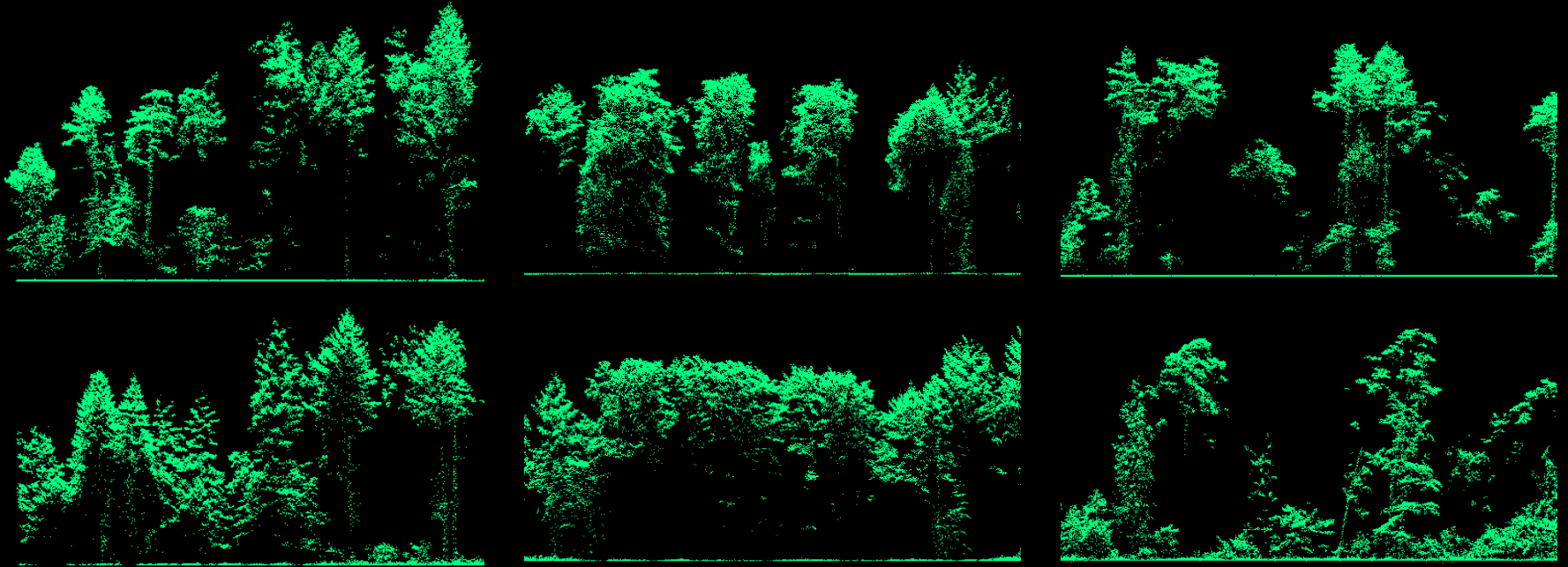


simulated RTM data



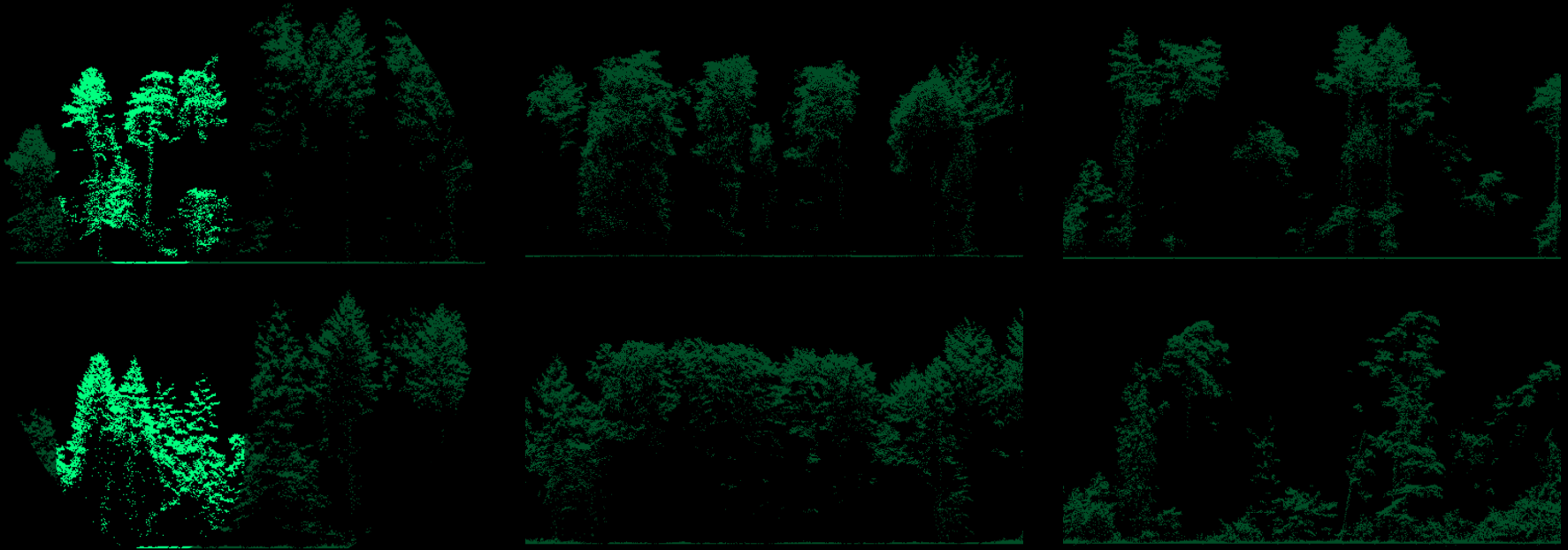
original ALS data

Cross sections – revealed problems of synthetic stands



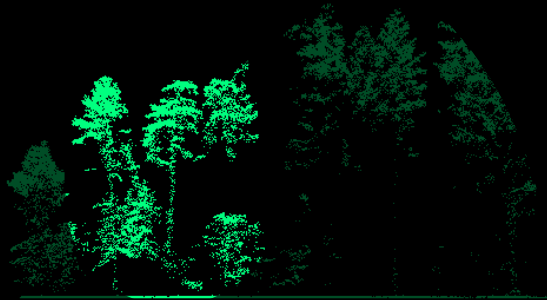
Cross sections – revealed problems of synthetic stands

false tree model species

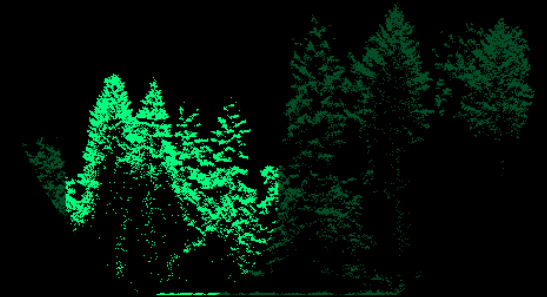
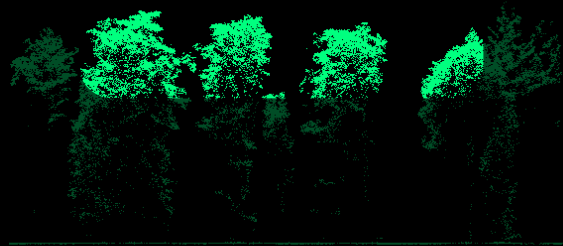


Cross sections – revealed problems of synthetic stands

false tree model species

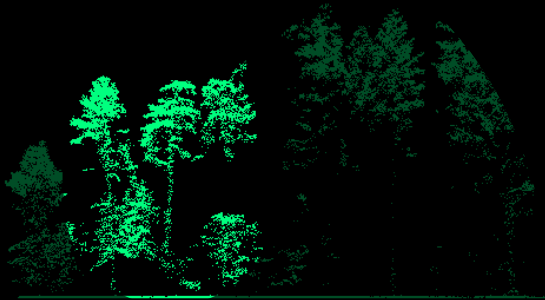


canopy gaps

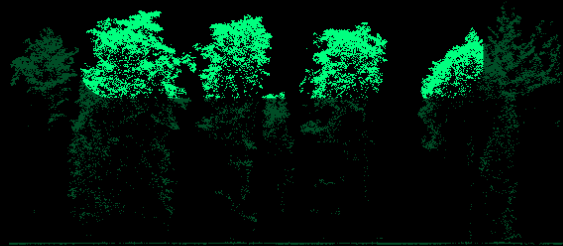


Cross sections – revealed problems of synthetic stands

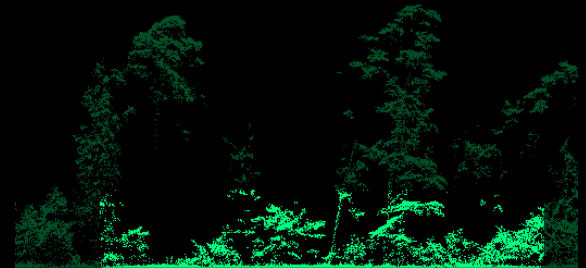
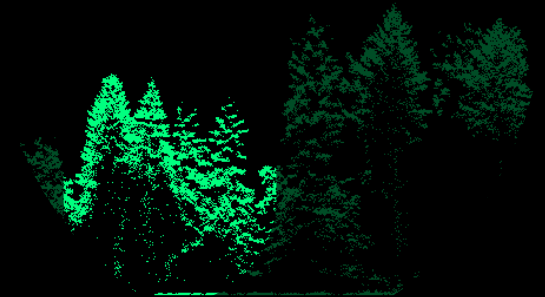
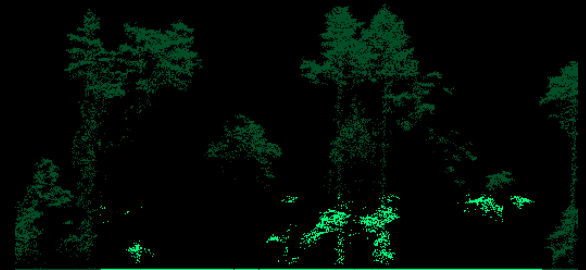
false tree model species



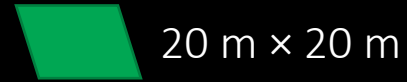
canopy gaps



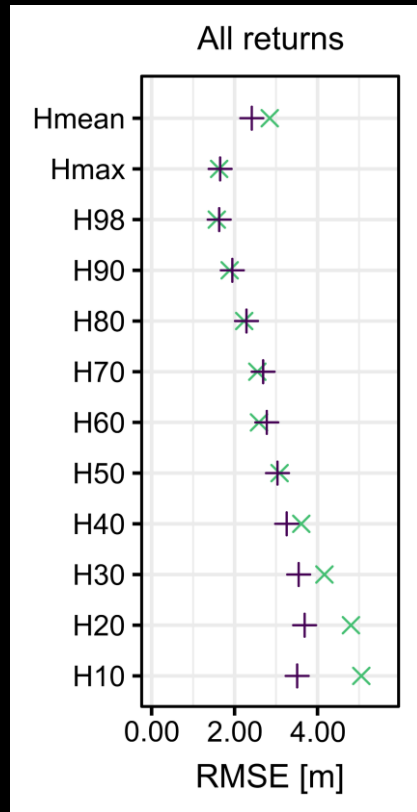
missing undergrowth



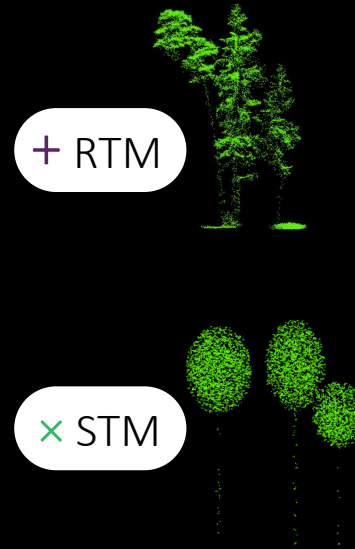
Height percentiles



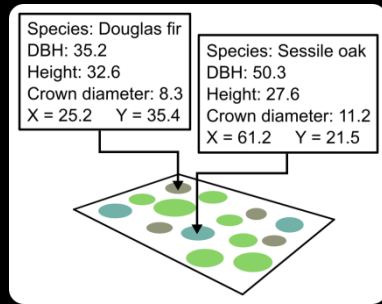
Height percentiles



20 m × 20 m



Conclusion



forest inventory
information

+



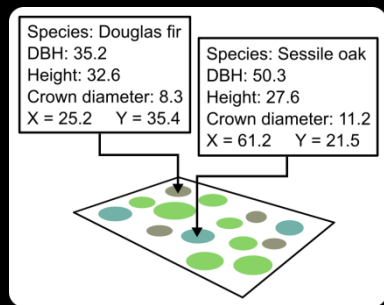
tree point cloud
database

+



HELIOS++

Conclusion



forest inventory
information

+

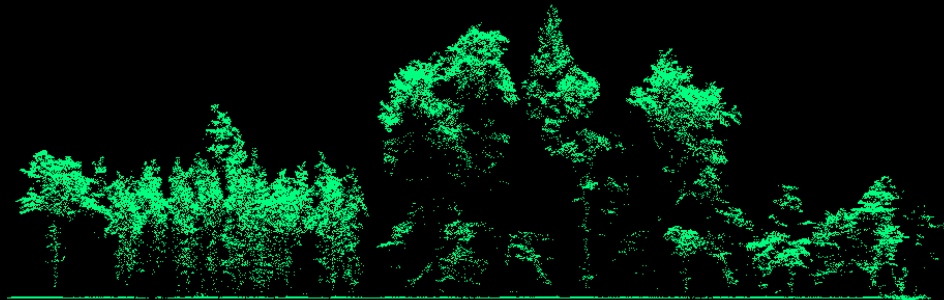


tree point cloud
database

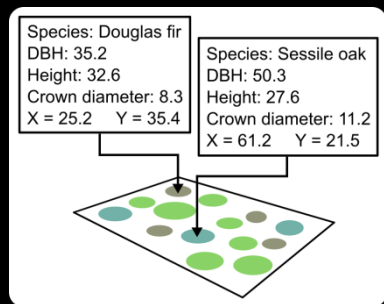
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Conclusion



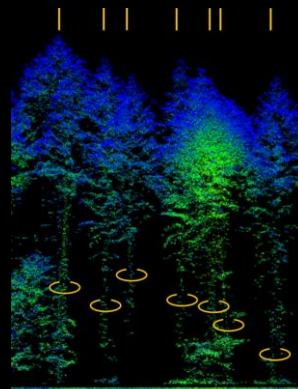
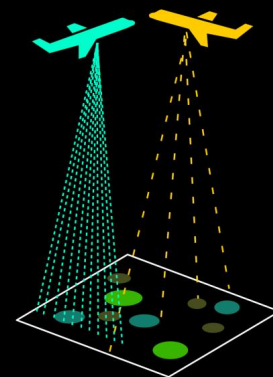
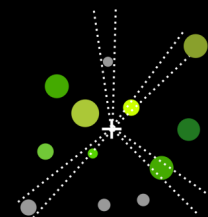
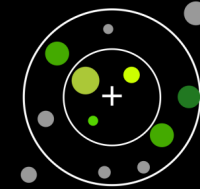
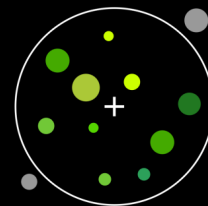
forest inventory
information



tree point cloud
database




HELIOS++



Thank you for your attention!

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jannika.schaefer@kit.edu

 @JannikaSchafer

More information:

uni-heidelberg.de/syssifoss

uni-heidelberg.de/helios



DFG Deutsche
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Links and references

GeForse approach

Fassnacht, F. E., Latifi, H., & Hartig, F. (2018). Using synthetic data to evaluate the benefits of large field plots for forest biomass estimation with LiDAR. *Remote sensing of environment*, 213, 115-128.

Model tree data base

<https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.933426>

Weiser, H., et al. (2021). Terrestrial, UAV-borne, and airborne laser scanning point clouds of central European forest plots, Germany, with extracted individual trees and manual forest inventory measurements. *PANGAEA*.

HELIOS++

<https://github.com/3dgeo-heidelberg/helios>

Winiwarter, L., et al. (2022). Virtual laser scanning with HELIOS++: A novel take on ray tracing-based simulation of topographic full-waveform 3D laser scanning. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 269, 112772.