



Low-altitude / high-resolution remote sensing – from theory to application

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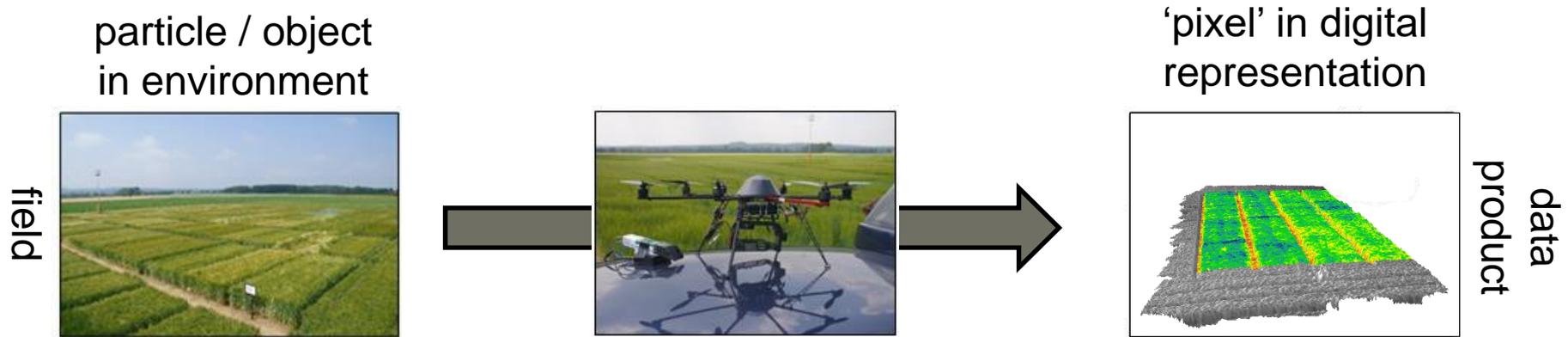
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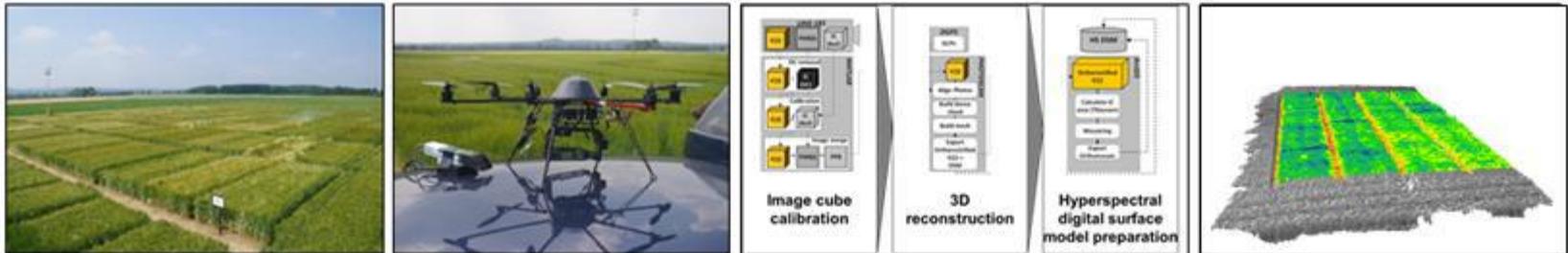
⁵European Commission (EC), Joint Research Centre (JRC), Italy



particle / object
in environment

'pixel' in digital
representation

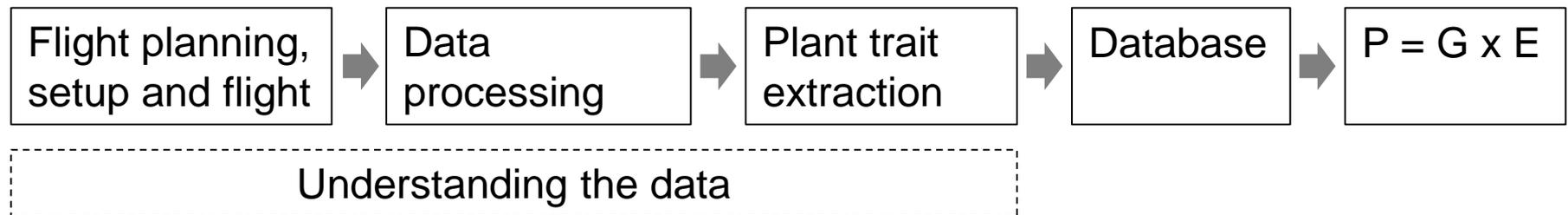
field



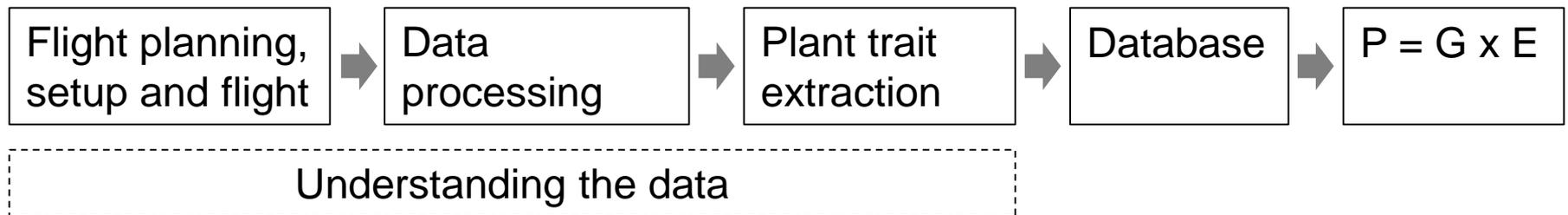
influences and modifications

PhenoFly mission statement

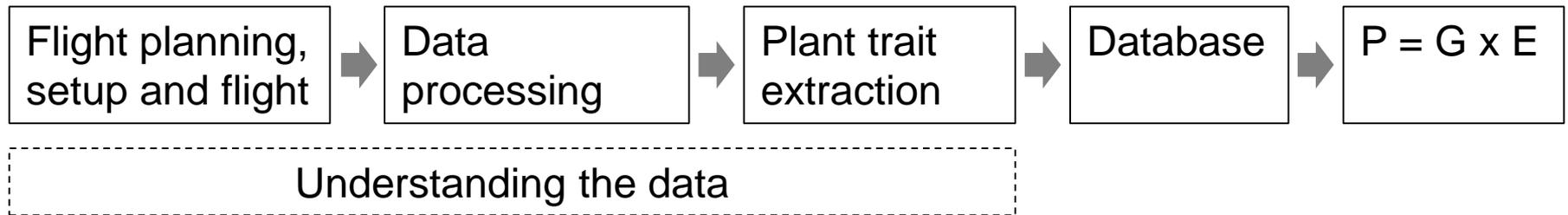
- The **PhenoFly team** develops **sensing systems and analysis procedures** that deliver quantitative data to capture **reliable information** about vegetation
- Our **vision** is to **bring** (high-throughput) **phenotyping** approaches from large facilities **to the landscape**
- We **aim** to **understand the interaction of plants with their environment** to facilitate a more sustainable use of resources.



Outline



Outline



Mission planning

- Selection of equipment
- Flight planning
- (Legislation, weather, security & health measures)

➤ Can be quite complex

- Data product (point cloud, digital surface model, orthophoto)
- Sensor (point, line or 2d imager)
- Data type (RGB, spectral, thermal ...)
- Coverage (flight time, flight speed, altitude)
- Ground sampling distance (altitude, resolution, motion blur ~ flying speed + integration time)
- Focus distance depth of field
- GCP placement

Mission planning

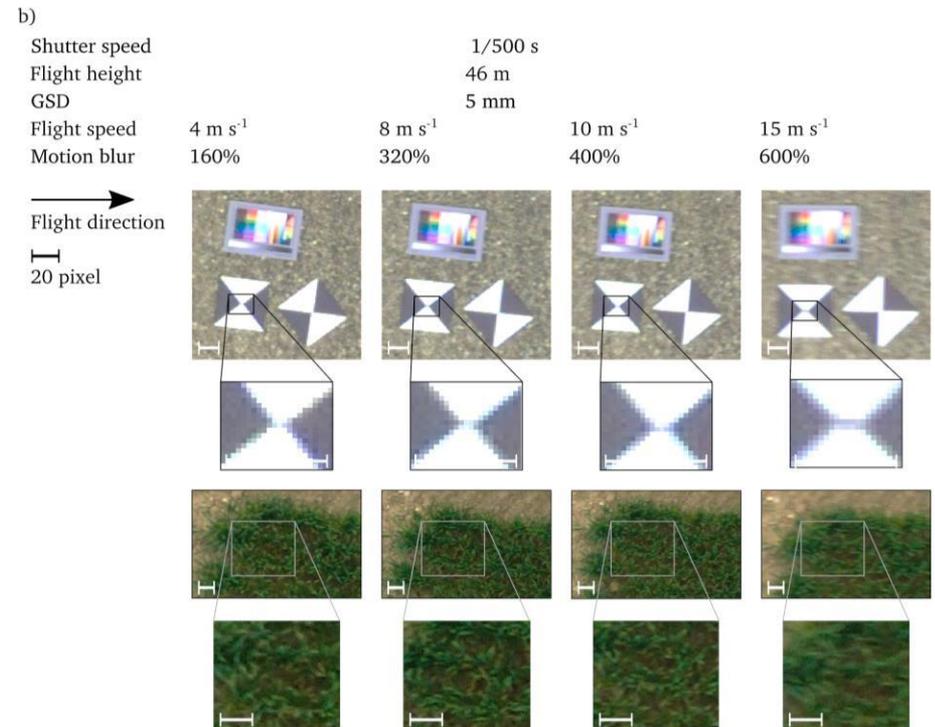
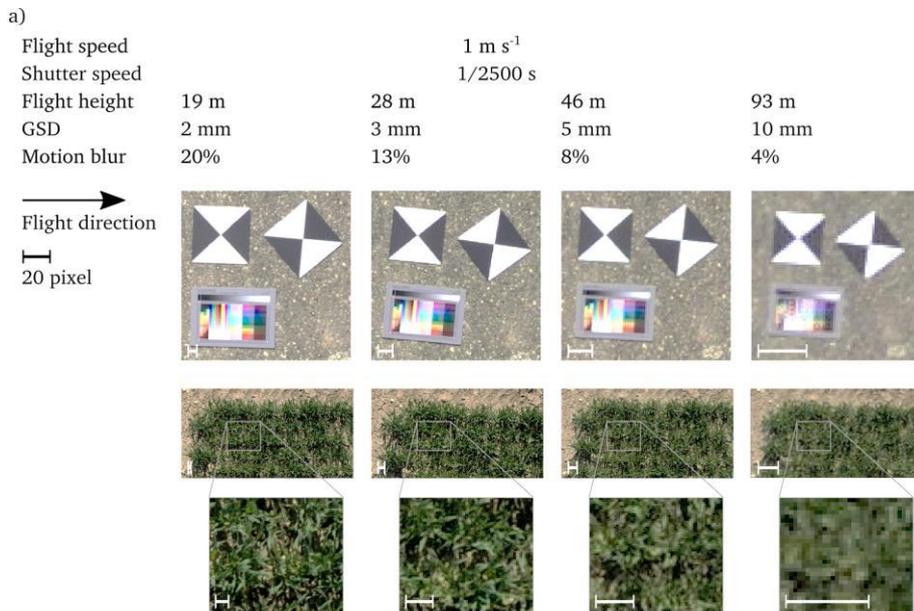
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Flight planning

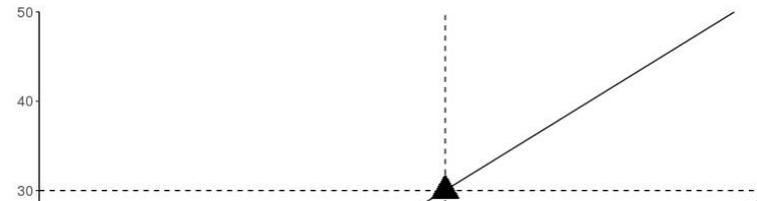
ground sampling distance \sim altitude + sensor motion blur \sim flying speed + shutter speed



Flight planning

focus distance ~ lens configuration

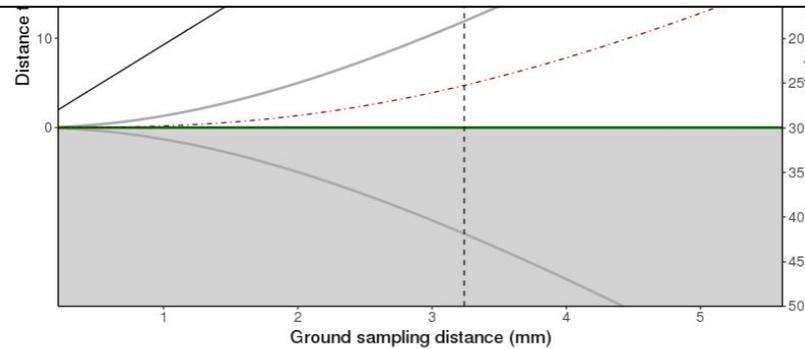
Flight height dependency



Lens intrinsic parameters

Angle of view:
horizontally: 35.9°
vertically: 24.4°
Hyperfocal distance:
63.8 m
Diffraction limited:
R (700 nm): 2.3 * circle of conf.
G (530 nm): 1.74 * circle of conf.

➤ During our literature review we found only a few publications are stating these quality indicators



Focus distance:
25.3 m
Depth of field in relation to ground:
near: 11.9 m
far: -11.9 m

— Depth of field — Flight height - - Focus distance — Ground

Flight planning

<http://phenofly.net/PhenoFlyPlanningTool>

PhenoFly Planning Tool

Sony A9 Sample Project

Edit project

Save project

Sensor/Lens Imaging Mapping GCPs Location

Sensor

Sony A9 on DJI M600P

Sensor size, x (mm)

35,6

Sensor size, y (mm)

23,8

Number of recorded pixels, x (px)

6000

Number of recorded pixels, y (px)

4000

Max. shutter speed (1/s)

32000

Max. film speed (ISO)

6400

Max. image trigger freq. (1/s)

2

Max. flight duration (min)

15

Distance between pixel centers / circle of confusion: 0.0059 mm

Lens

Focal length (mm)

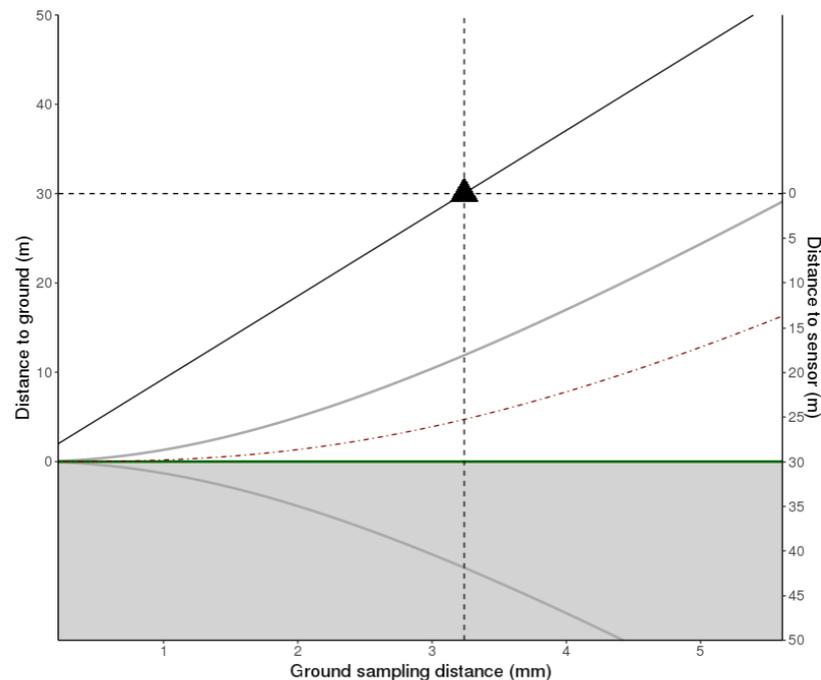
55

Aperture (f-number)

f/8

Photography Mapping properties Viewing geometry Mission briefing

Flight height dependency



Lens intrinsic parameters

Angle of view:

horizontally: 35.9°
vertically: 24.4°

Hyperfocal distance:

63.8 m

Diffraction limited:

R (700 nm): 2.3 * circle of conf.
G (530 nm): 1.74 * circle of conf.
B (470 nm): 1.55 * circle of conf.

Dependant parameters

Ground field of view:

horizontally: 19.4 m
vertically: 13 m

Focus distance:

25.3 m

Depth of field in relation to ground:

near: 11.9 m
far: -11.9 m

Flight parameter quality assurance

<http://phenofly.net/PhenoFlyPlanningTool>

PhenoFly Planning Tool

Sony A9 Sample Project

Photography | Mapping properties | Viewing geometry | Mission briefing

Mapping area

Schematic | Map | GCP recover frequency

Parameters

- Image triggering frequency: 1.18 images/s
- Image triggering interval: 0.8 s
- Flight speed: 2.07 m/s, 7.5 km/h
- Min. flight duration: 8 min
- Number of photos: 646
- Number of GCP: 16

Mapping area settings:

- Mapping area, width (m): 36
- Mapping area, depth (m): 40
- Single plot size, width (m): 1.5
- Single plot size, depth (m): 2

Flight path settings:

- metric:
- Side lap (%): 78
- End lap (%): 91
- Side lap (m): 2.86
- End lap (m): 1.75
- Camera heading: Wide side in flight direction
- Positioning precision (m): 3
- Max. motion blur (px): 0.02

Map legend:

- Flight lines
- GCP
- Ground field of view
- Mapping area

ETH zürich

Group of crop science (<http://www.kp.ethz.ch>)
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(c) 2018 - GPL-3.0
<http://phenofly.net/PhenoFlyPlanningTool>
Based on publication: Roth et al. (2018). PhenoFly Planning Tool: Flight planning for high-resolution optical remote sensing with unmanned areal systems. *Plant Methods*, 14(1).

Flight planning

<http://phenofly.net/PhenoFlyPlanningTool>

PhenoFly Planning Tool

Sony A9 Sample Project

[Edit project](#)
[Save project](#)

[Photography](#)
[Mapping properties](#)
[Viewing geometry](#)
[Mission briefing](#)

Mapping area

Mapping area, width (m): 36
 Mapping area, depth (m): 40
 Single plot size, width (m): 1,5
 Single plot size, depth (m): 2

Flight path

metric

Side lap (%): 60
 End lap (%): 80
 Side lap (m): 7,77
 End lap (m): 2,6

Camera heading

Narrow side in flight direction
 Wide side in flight direction

Positioning precision (m): 3

Max. motion blur (px)

0.02 | 0.04 | 0.1

Camera settings

Focus distance: 25.3 m
 Film speed (ISO): 6250
 Shutter speed: 1/16000
 Aperture: f/8

Flight/campaign settings

Flight height: 30 m
 Image triggering interval: 1.2 s
 Spacing between exposure: 2.6 m
 Spacing between flight lines: 7.77 m
 Flight speed: 2.07 m/s, 7.5 km/h
 Heading: 0 deg
 Number of lines: 10

Restrictions

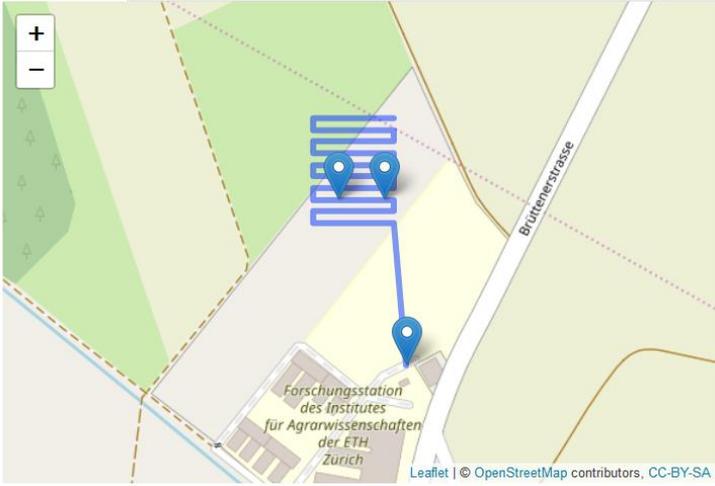
Required image trigger frequency: 0.8 images/s
 Minimum number of photos: 189
 Estimated minimal flight duration: 7 min

Waypoints

[Download waypoints as CSV](#) (e.g. to import in Litchi)

[Download mapping area as KML](#) (e.g. to import in DJI GS Pro)

Report



Mission planning

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- (Legislation, weather, security & health measures)

➤ Can be quite complex

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- GCP placement

➤ Think of it even before you buy your equipment

Spectral sensors for UAS RS



Simple consumer oriented systems



Parrot Sequoia /
Micasense Red-Edge
Multi-spectral 2D imager



TetraCam mini-mca
Multispectral 2D imager
(Berni et al., 2009)
(Kelcey and Lucieer, 2012)



Cubert UHD 185
2D Hyperspectral snapshot imager
(Aasen et al., 2015)

Rikola FPI – NIR/SWIR (1100 – 1600 nm)
2D Hyperspectral sequential 2D imager
(Honkavaara et al., 2016)



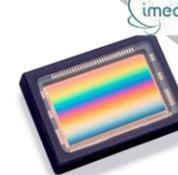
Headwall micro-HyperSpec
Hyperspectral line-scanner
(Zarco-Tejada et al., 2012)
(Lucieer et al., 2014)

Rikola FPI – VNIR
2D Hyperspectral sequential imager
(Honkavaara et al., 2013)



OceanOptics STS
Hyperspectral points-pectrometer
(Burkart et al., 2014, 2015)

Imec filter-on-chip
Hyperspectral snapshot 2D



High-quality systems

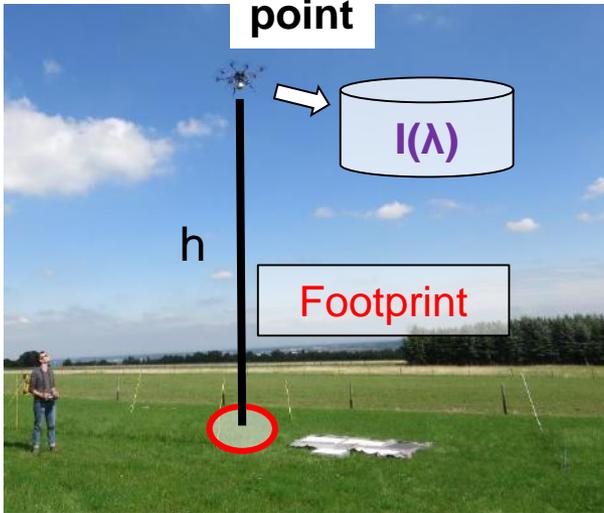
HySpex
Mjolnir



SPECIM FX10

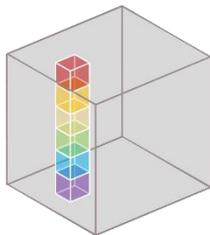


Spectral sensor types for UAS RS



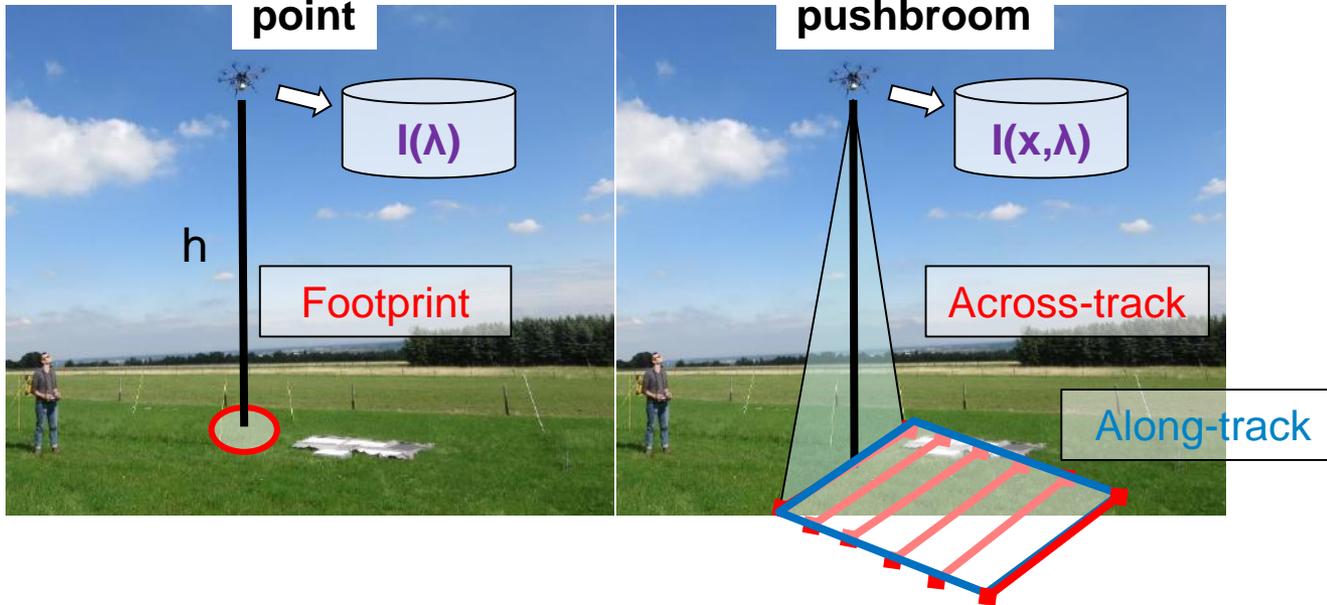
Orthorectification via

imu + gnss
(or machine vision
SfM + GCPs)



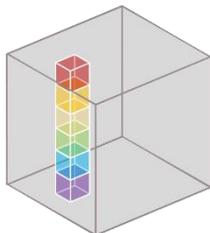
Drawings kindly provided by
Stefan Livens (VITO)

Spectral sensor types for UAS RS

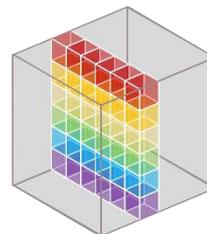


Orthorectification via

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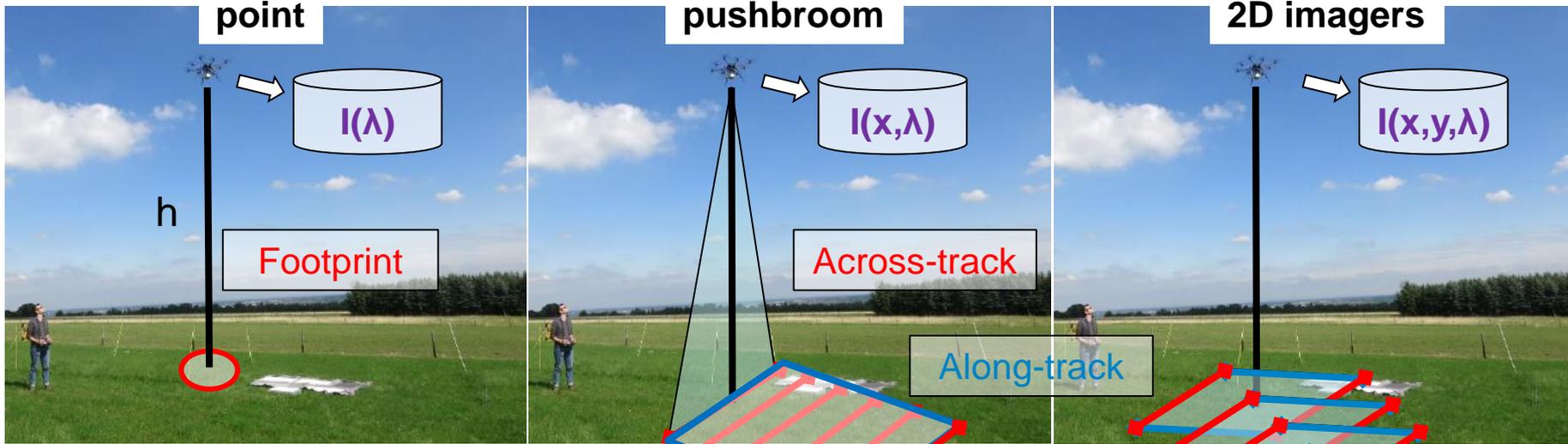


imu + gnss
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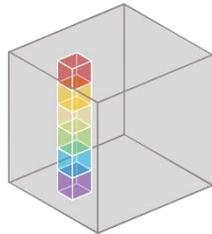
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Spectral sensor types for UAS RS

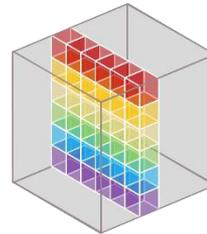


Orthorectification via

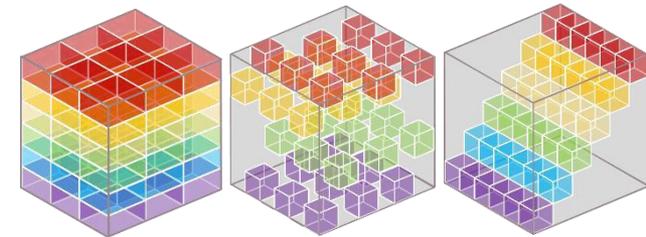
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(or machine vision
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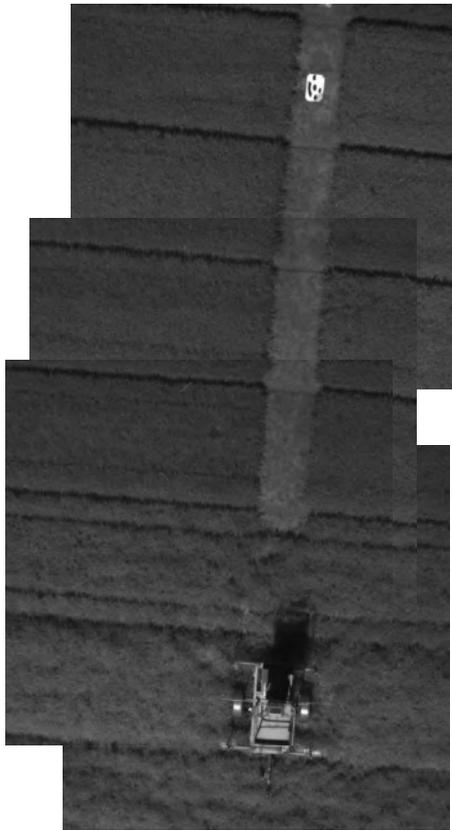
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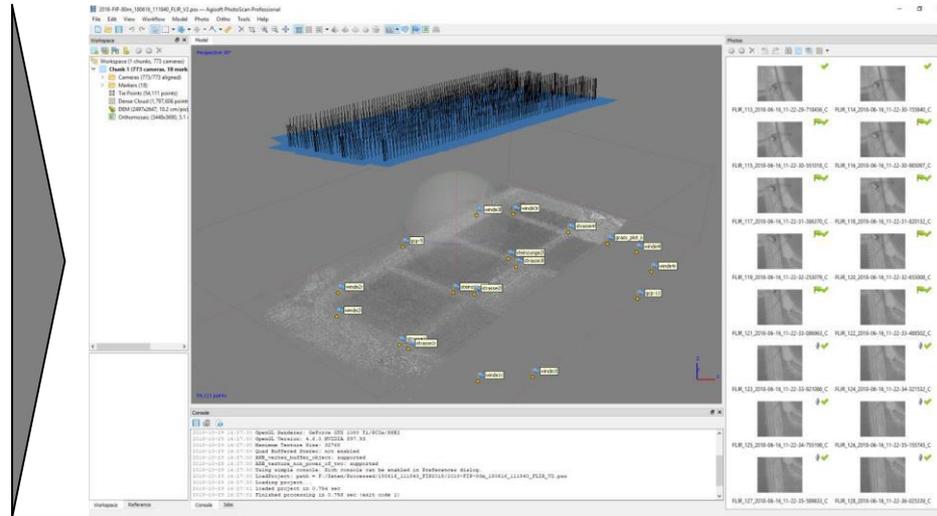
SfM + GCPs
(and/or imu + gnss)



Drawings kindly provided by
Stefan Livens (VITO)



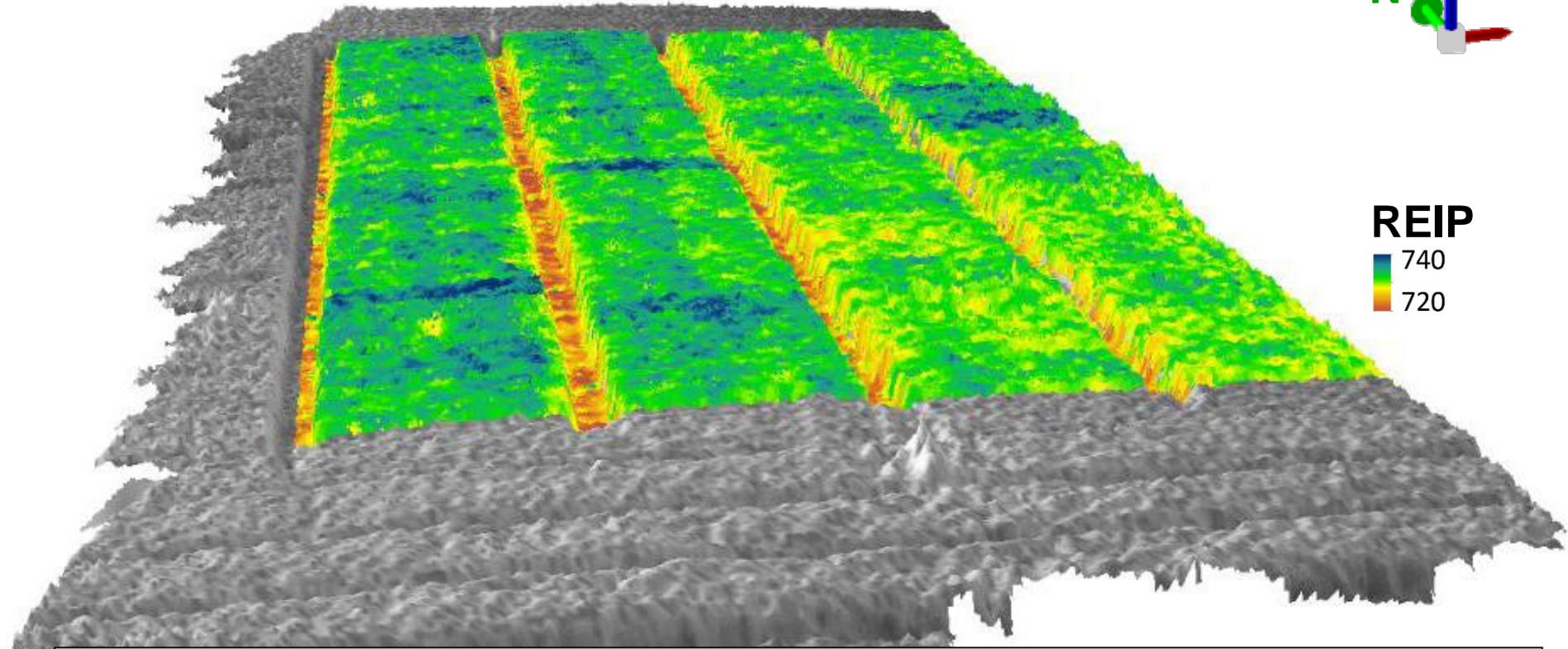
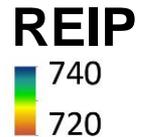
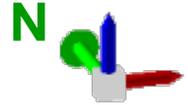
Structure from Motion



3D geometry

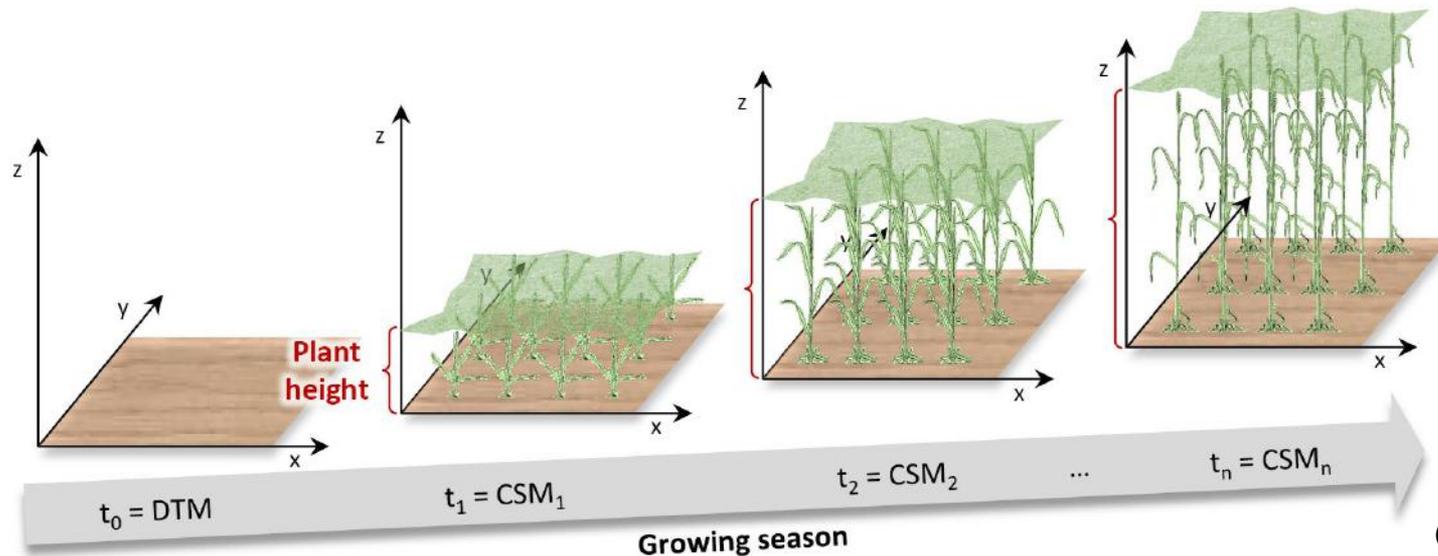
Orthorectified
(spectral)
scene

Spectral digital surface model



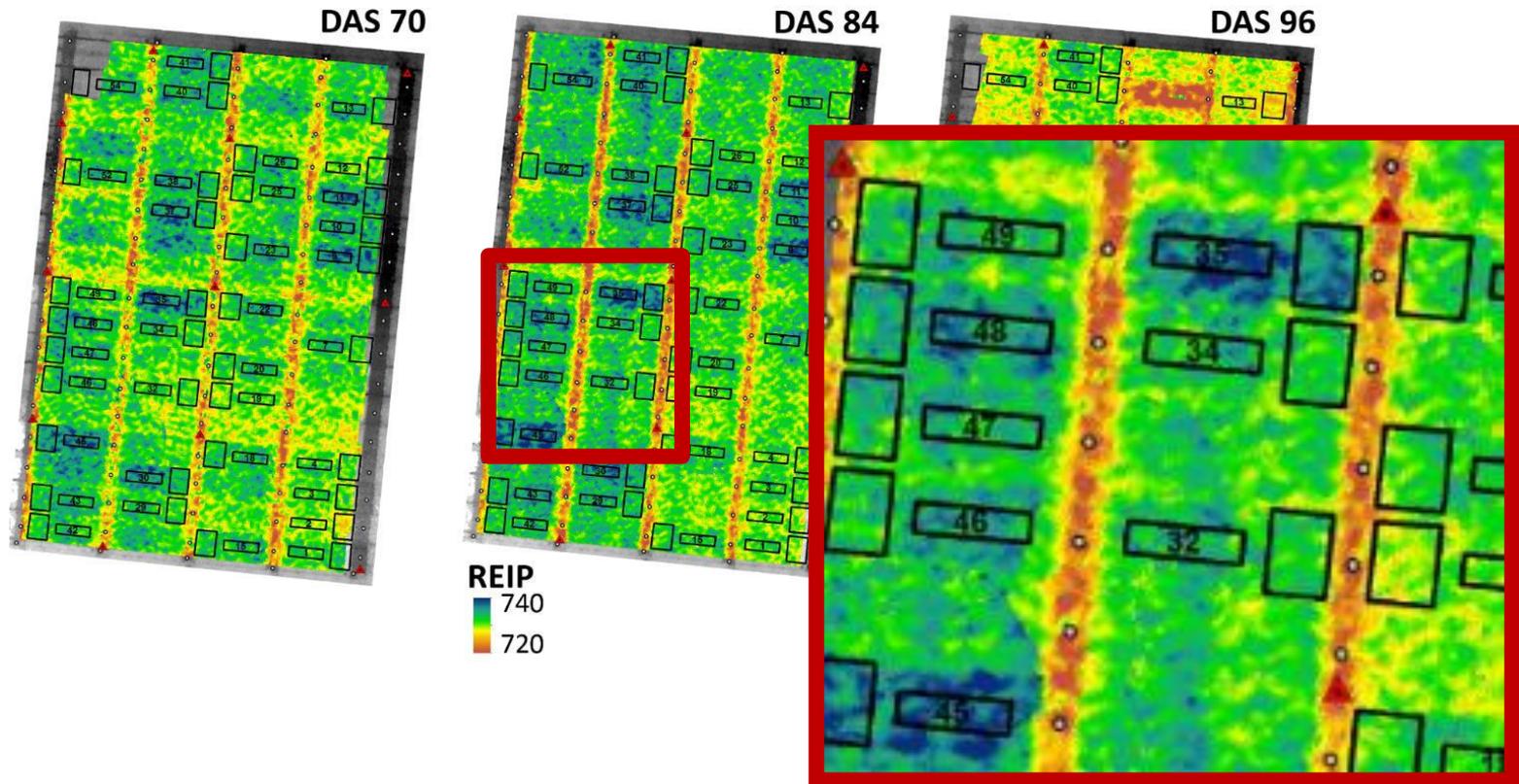
A **spectral digital surface model** is a representation of the surface in 3D space linked with spectral information emitted and reflected by the objects covered by the surface

Track plant growth with 3D information



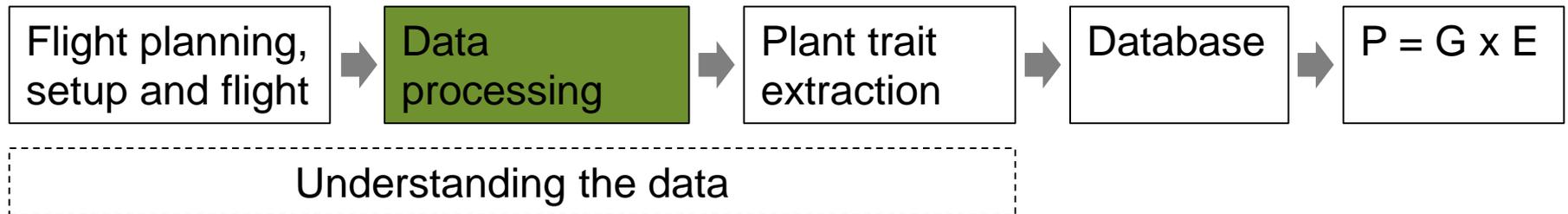
- H. Aasen, A. Burkart, A. Bolten, and G. Bareth, “Generating 3D hyperspectral information with lightweight UAV snapshot cameras for vegetation monitoring: From camera calibration to quality assurance,” *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, vol. 108, pp. 245–259, Oct. 2015.
- J. Bendig *et al.*, “Combining UAV-based plant height from crop surface models, visible, and near infrared vegetation indices for biomass monitoring in barley,” *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation*, vol. 39, pp. 79–87, Jul. 2015.
- N. Tilly, H. Aasen, and G. Bareth, “Fusion of Plant Height and Vegetation Indices for the Estimation of Barley Biomass,” *Remote Sensing*, vol. 7, no. 9, pp. 11449–11480, Sep. 2015.
- H. Aasen and A. Bolten, “Multi-temporal high-resolution imaging spectroscopy with hyperspectral 2D imagers – From theory to application,” *Remote Sensing of Environment*, vol. 205, pp. 374–389, Feb. 2018.
- H. Aasen and G. Bareth, “Ground and UAV sensing approaches for spectral and 3D crop trait estimation,” in *Hyperspectral Remote Sensing of Vegetation - Volume II: Advanced Approaches and Applications in Crops and Plants*, Second Edition., P. Thenkabail, J. G. Lyon, and A. Huete, Eds. Taylor and Francis Inc., “accepted.”
- L. Kronenberg, K. Yu, A. Walter, and A. Hund, “Monitoring the dynamics of wheat stem elongation: genotypes differ at critical stages,” *Euphytica*, vol. 213, no. 7, Jul. 2017.

Tracking biochemical traits with spectral data

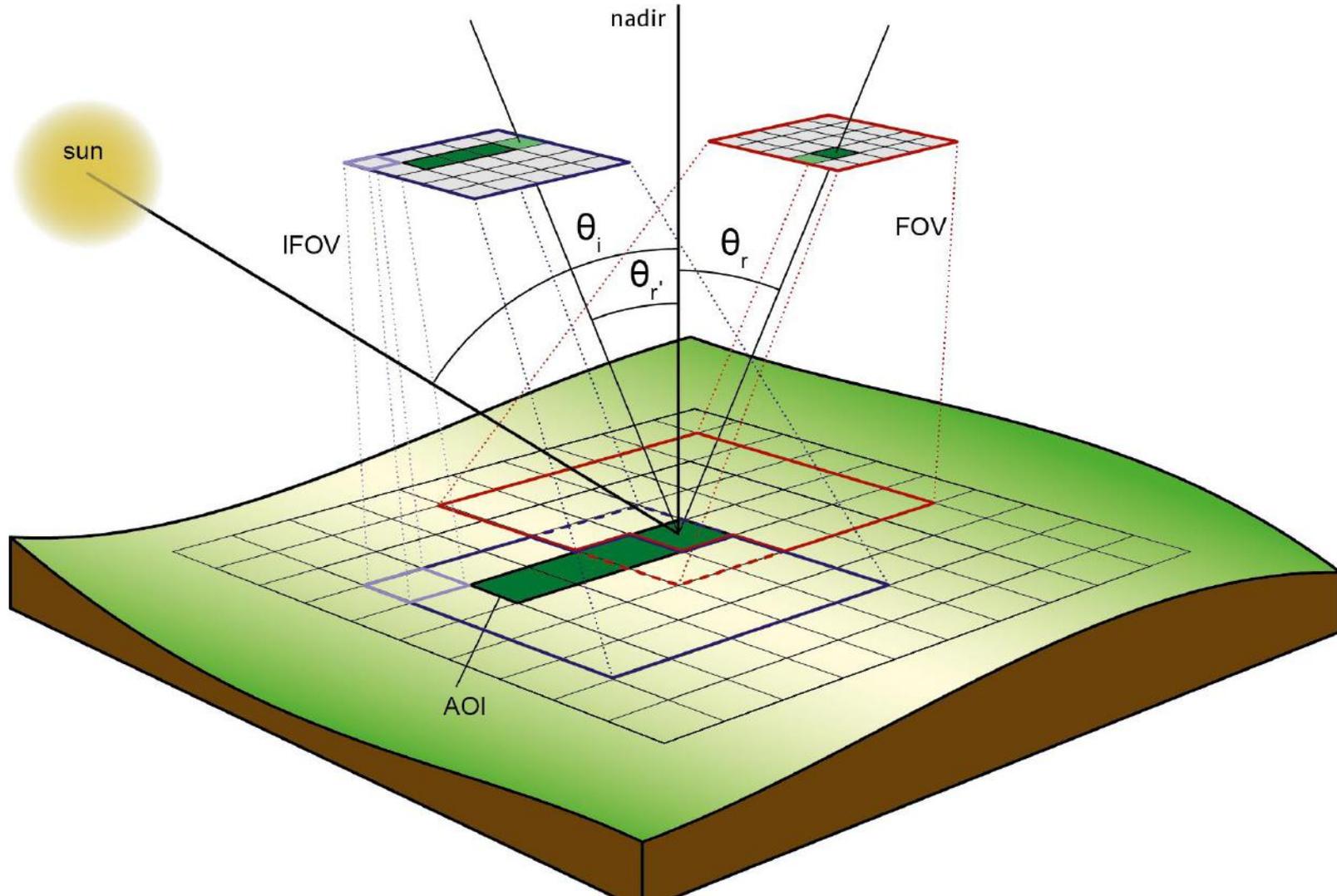


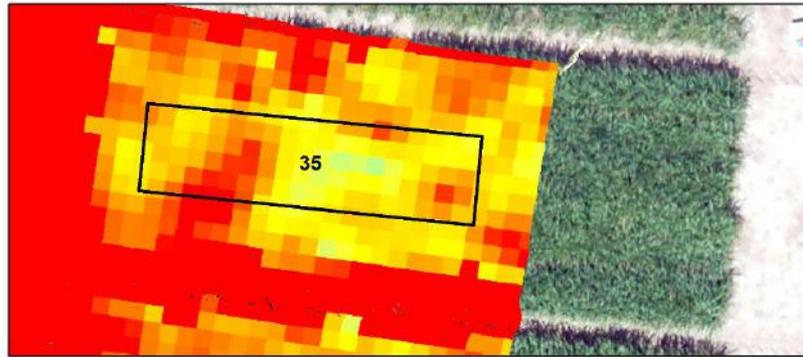
- Aasen, H., Bolten, A., 2018. Multi-temporal high-resolution imaging spectroscopy with hyperspectral 2D imagers – from theory to application. *Remote Sensing of Environment*.
- H. Aasen, M. L. Gnyp, Y. Miao, and G. Bareth, “Automated Hyperspectral Vegetation Index Retrieval from Multiple Correlation Matrices with HyperCor,” *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing*, vol. 80, no. 8, pp. 785–795, Aug. 2014.
- H. Aasen and G. Bareth, “Ground and UAV sensing approaches for spectral and 3D crop trait estimation,” in *Hyperspectral Remote Sensing of Vegetation - Volume II: Advanced Approaches and Applications in Crops and Plants*, Second Edition., P. Thenkabail, J. G. Lyon, and A. Huete, Eds. Taylor and Francis Inc., “accepted.”

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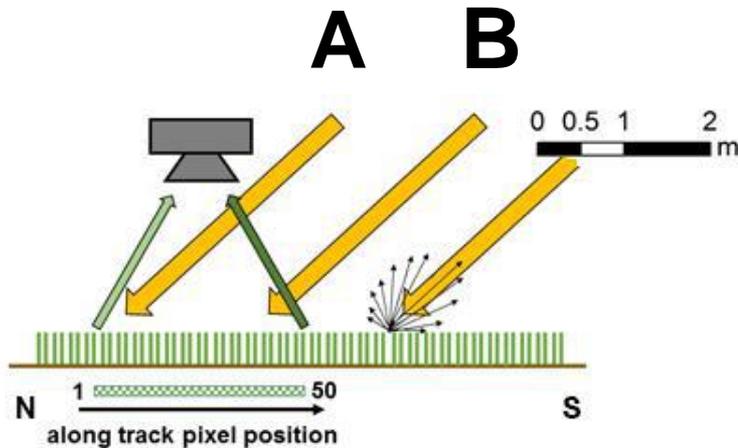
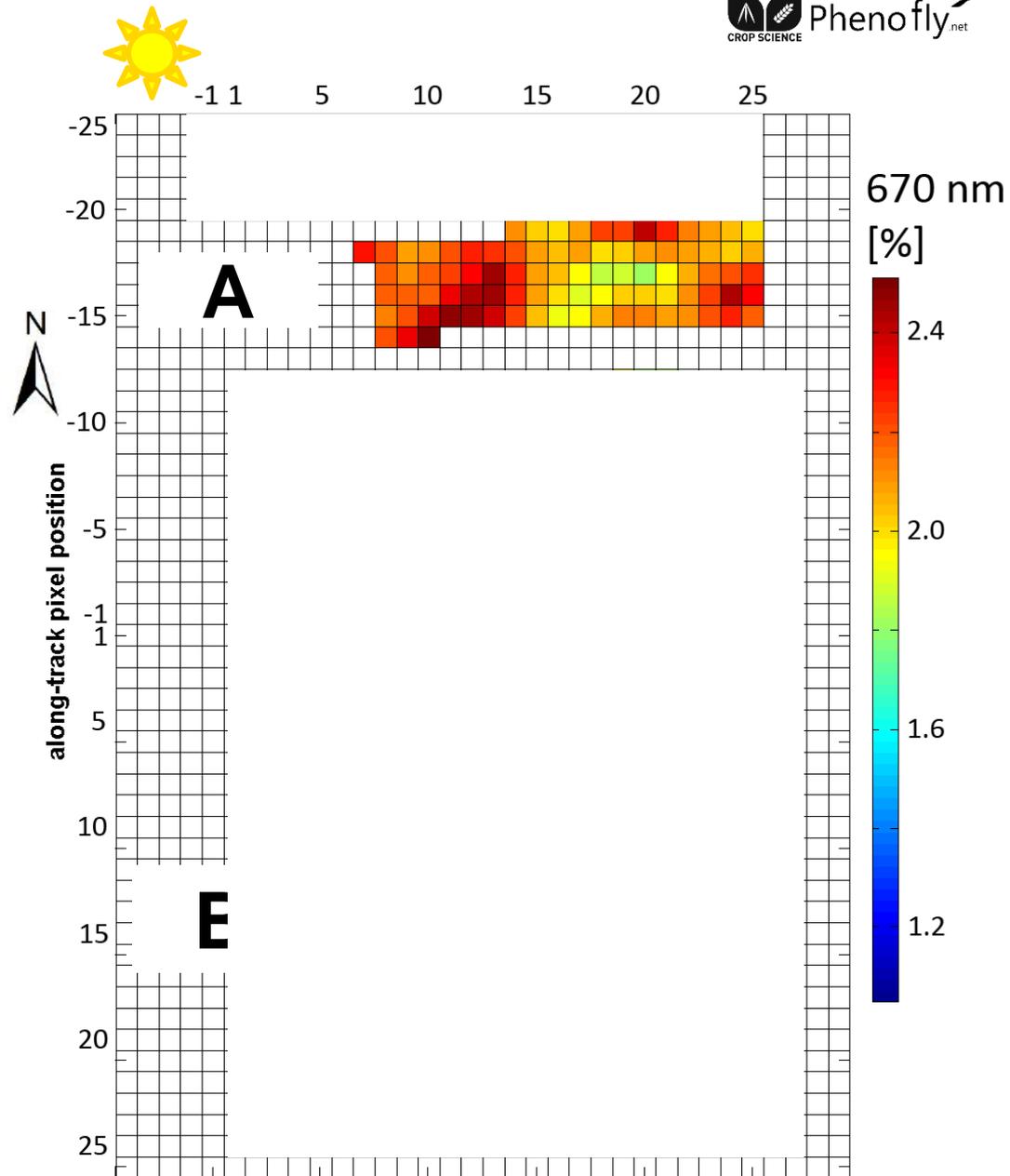


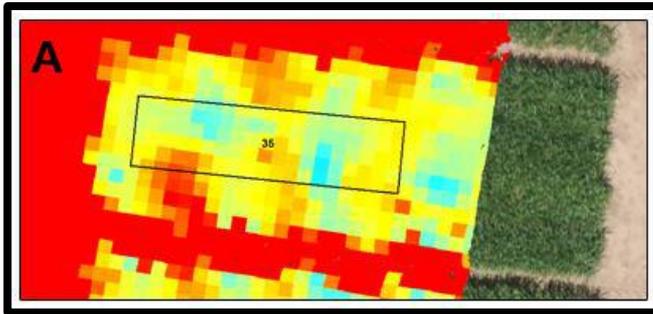
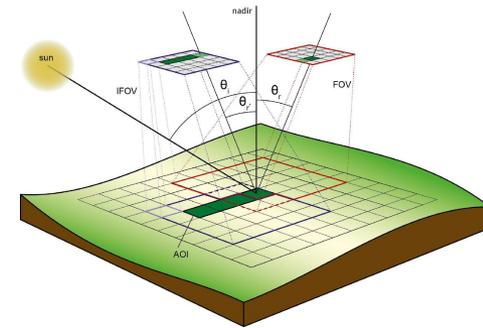
Imaging spectroscopy with 2D imagers



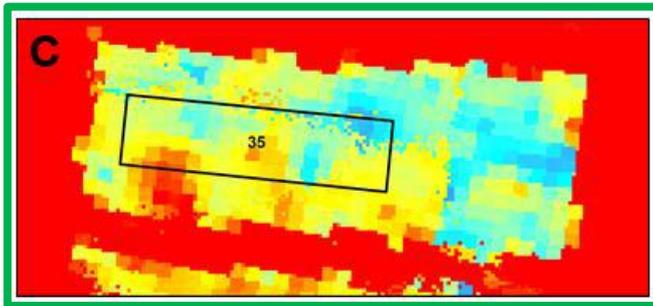


670 nm, A

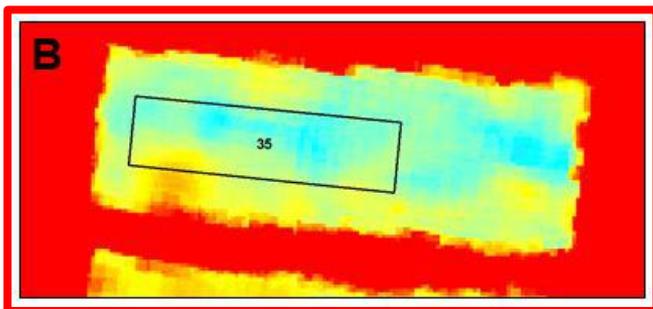




Single image



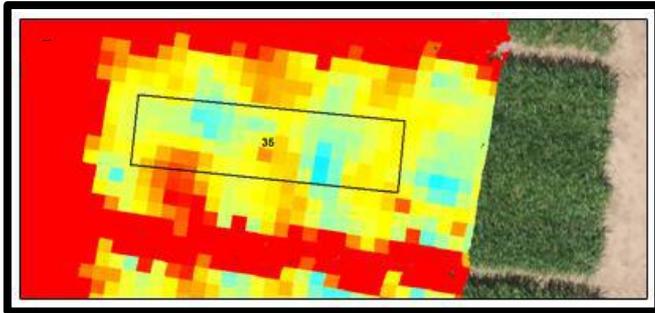
Mosaic, blending: disabled



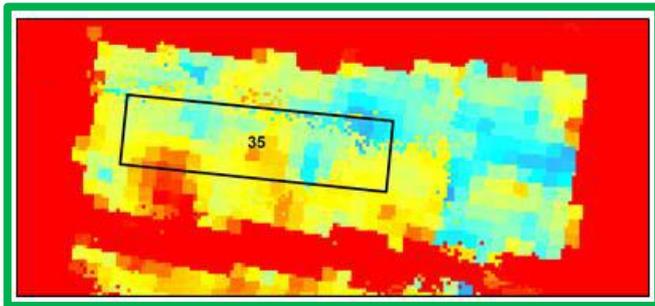
Mosaic, blending: average

Influence of the SFOV

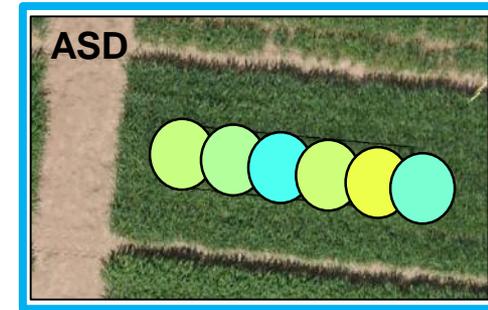
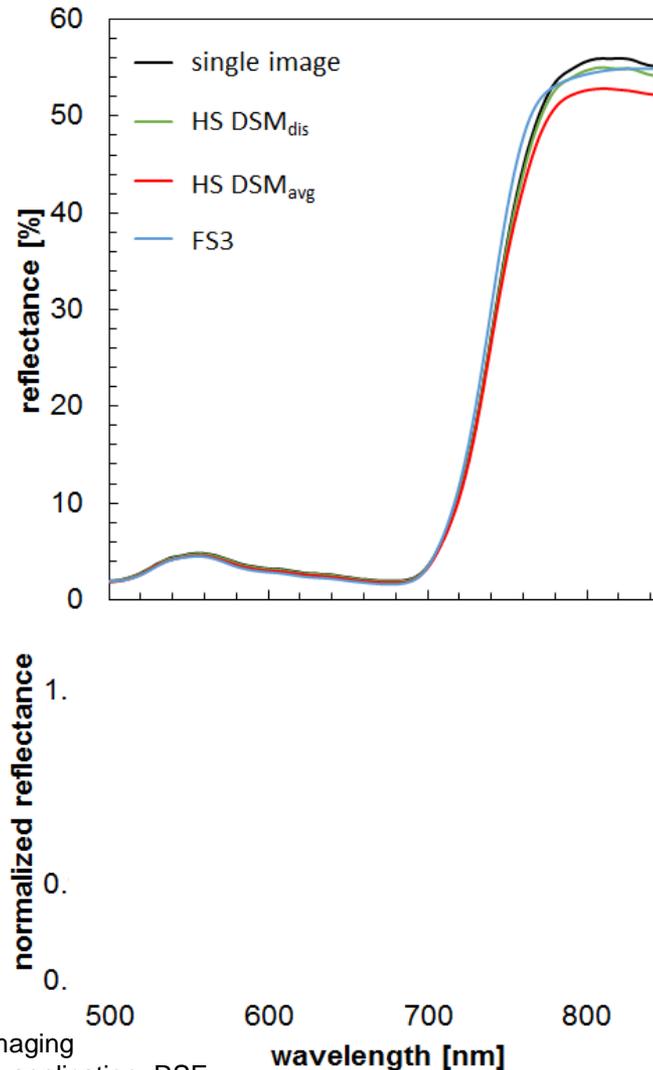
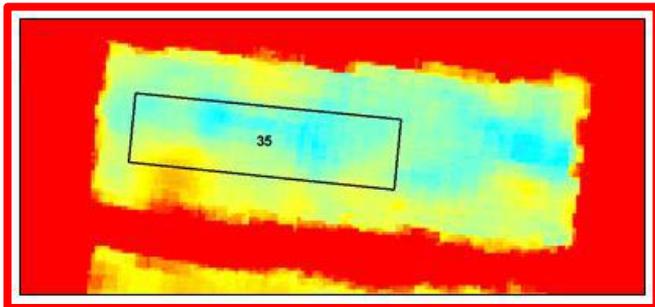
Single image



Blending: disabled

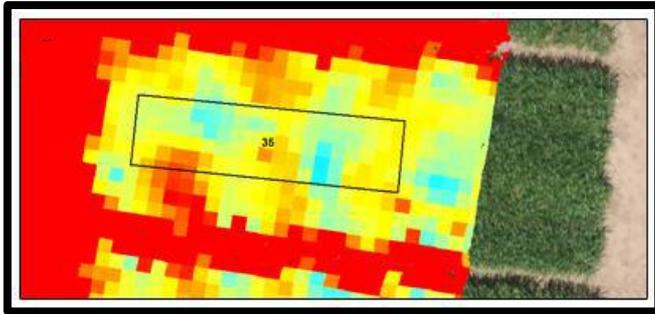


Blending: average

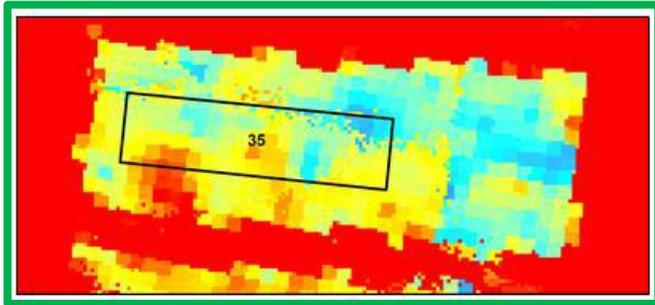


Influence of the SFOV

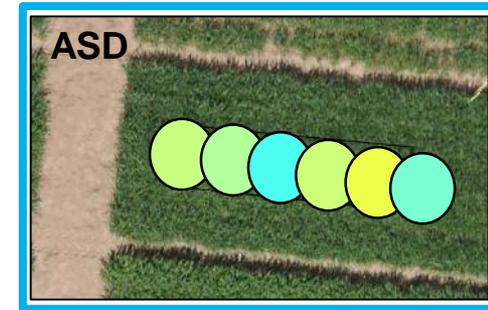
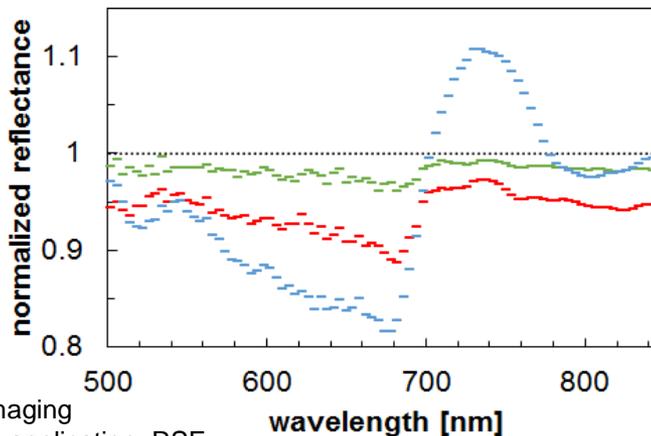
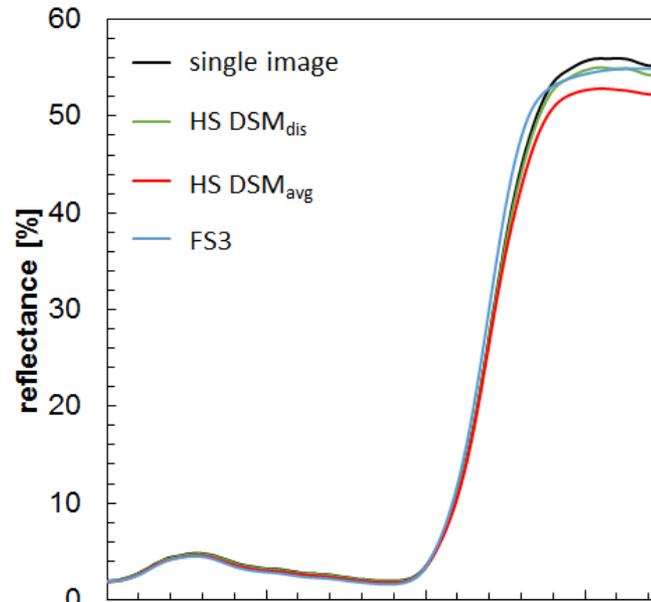
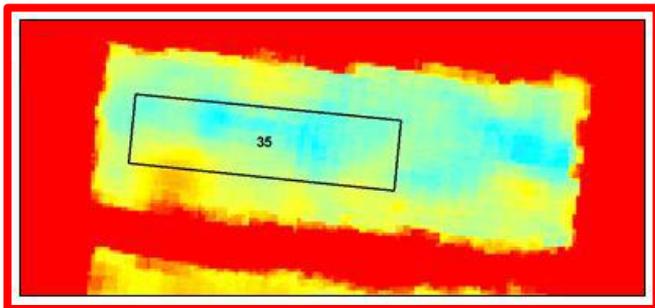
Single image

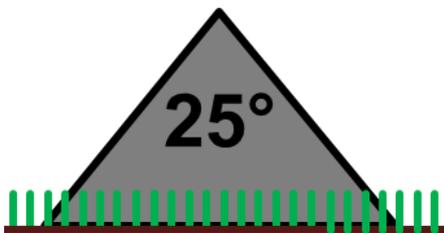
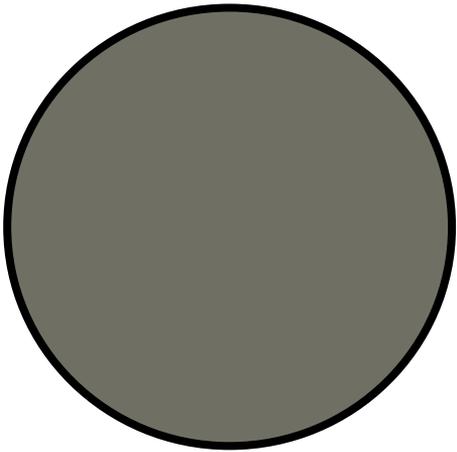
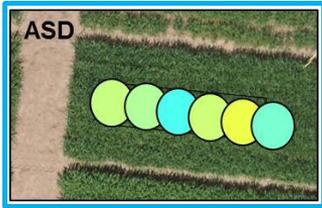


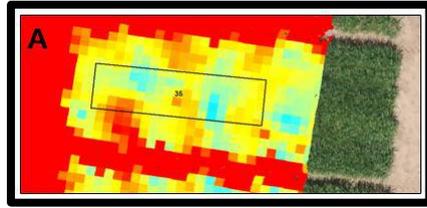
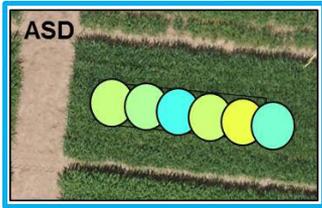
Blending: disabled



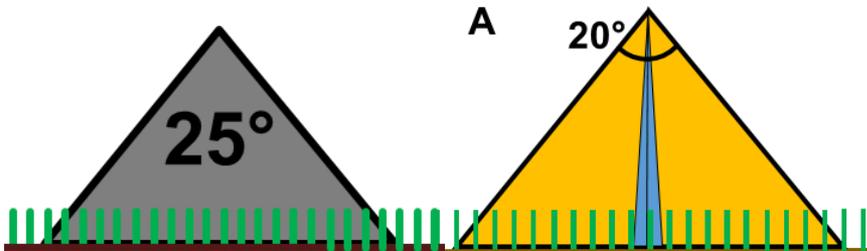
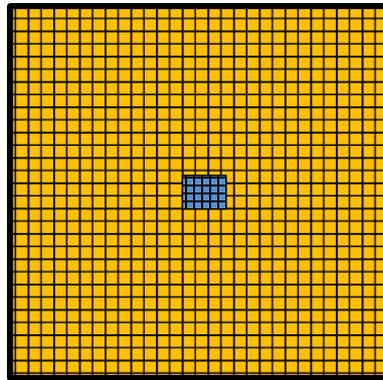
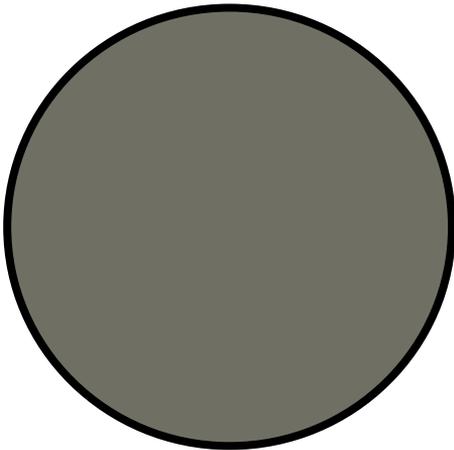
Blending: average

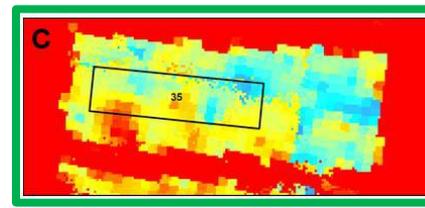
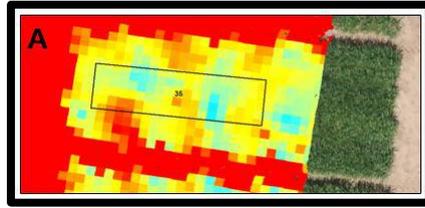
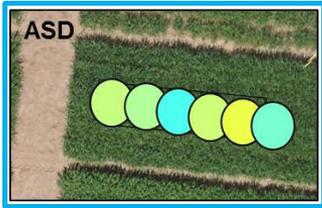






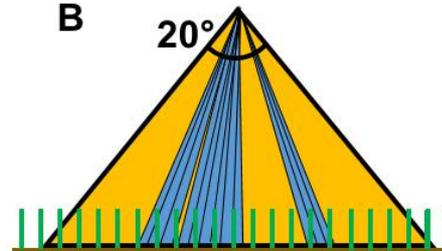
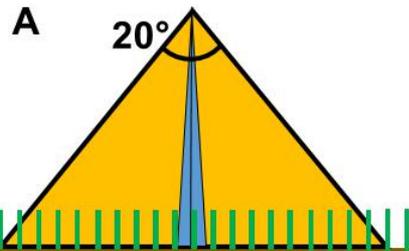
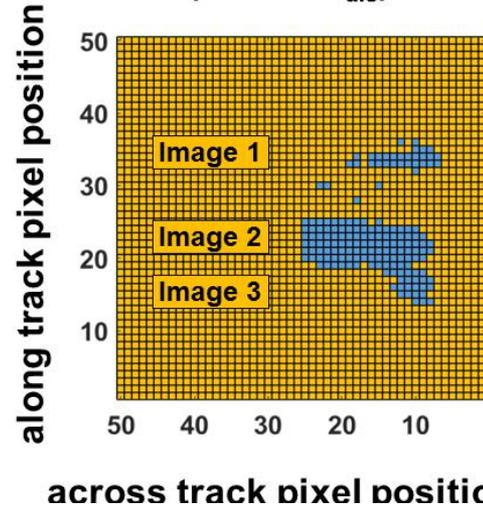
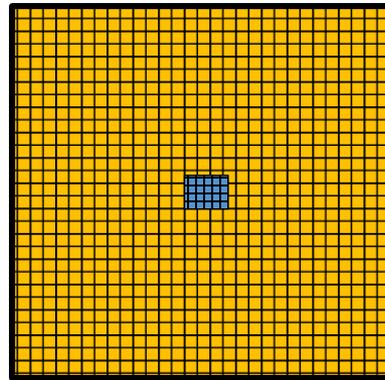
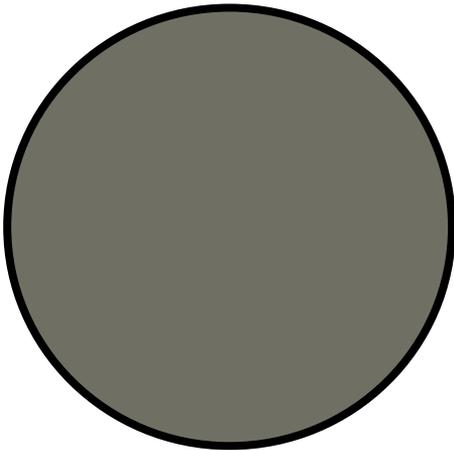
A: single image



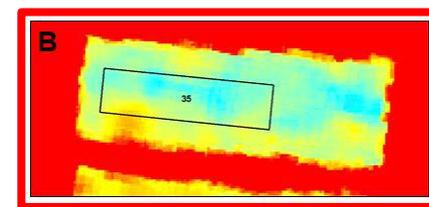
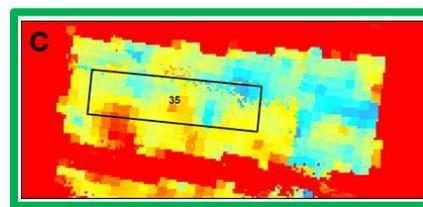
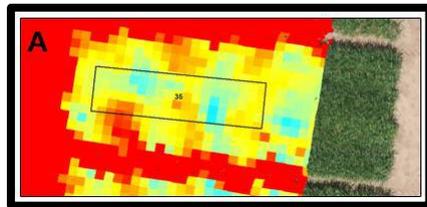
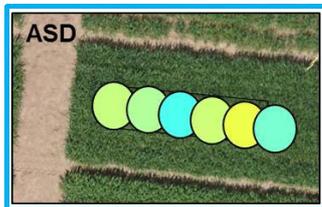


A: single image

C: blending: disabled
(HS DSM_{dis})



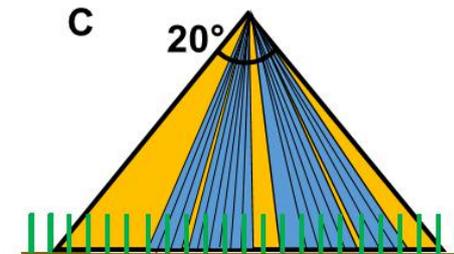
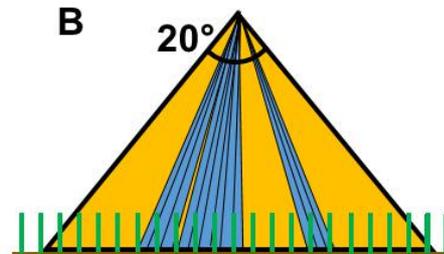
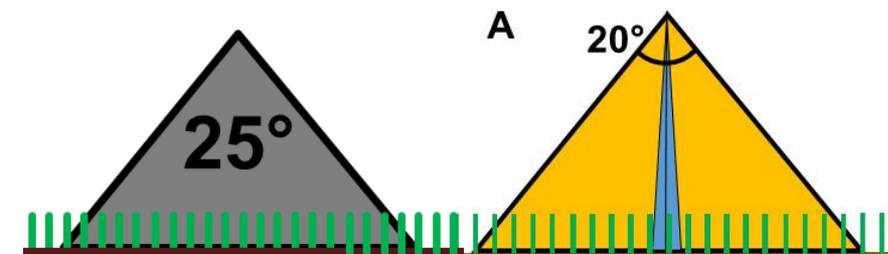
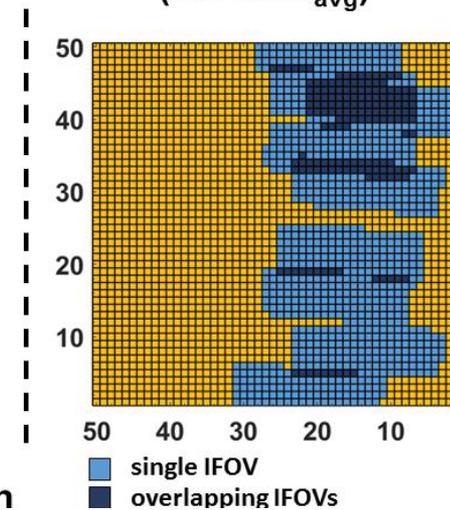
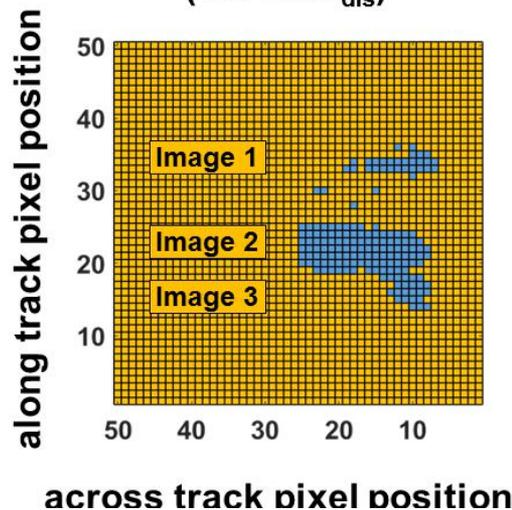
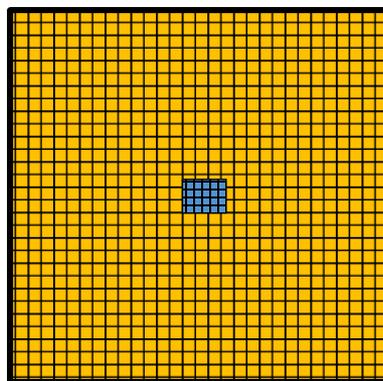
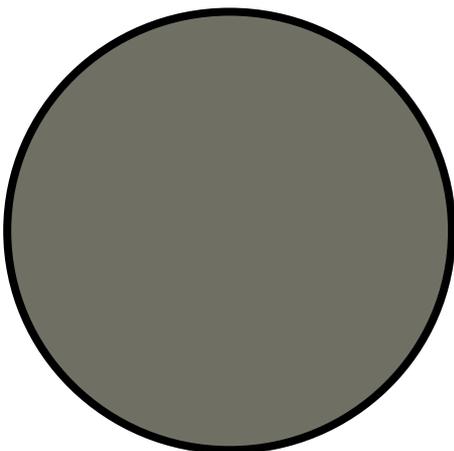
25°

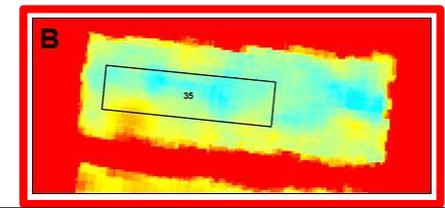
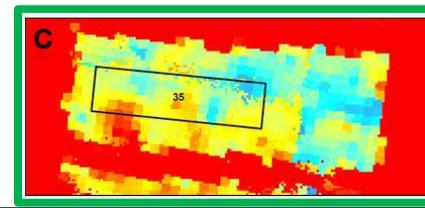
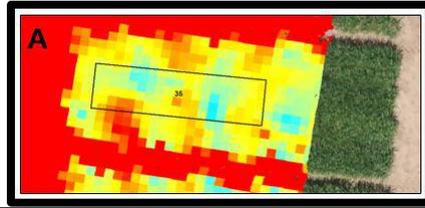
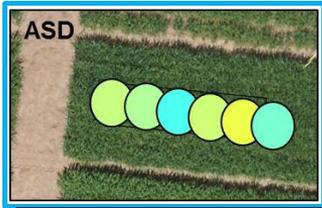


A: single image

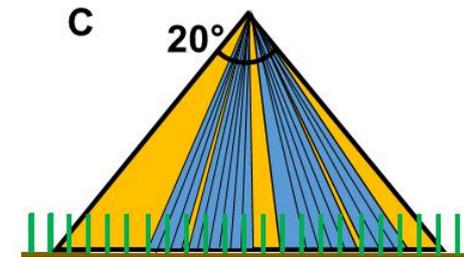
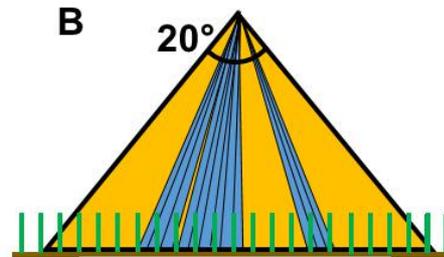
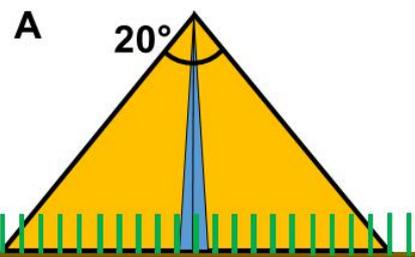
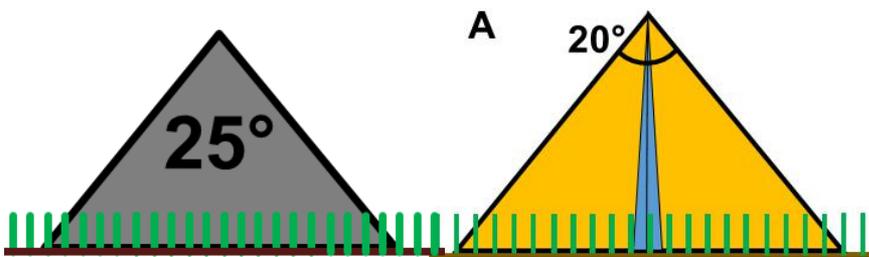
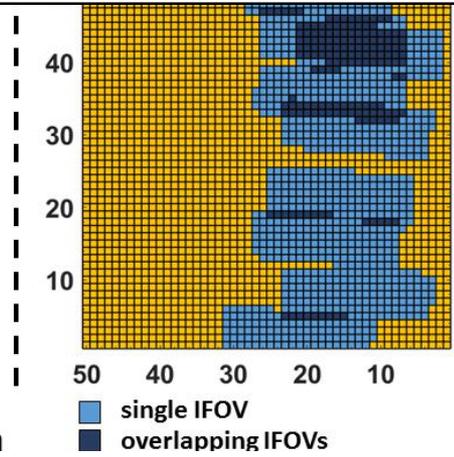
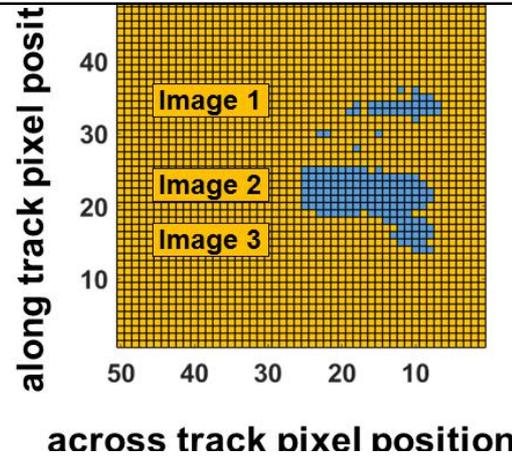
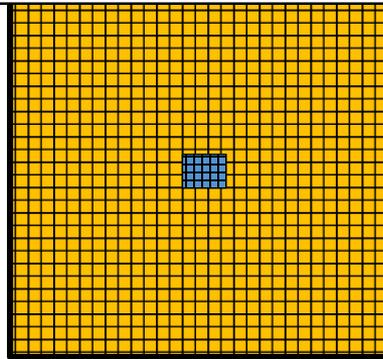
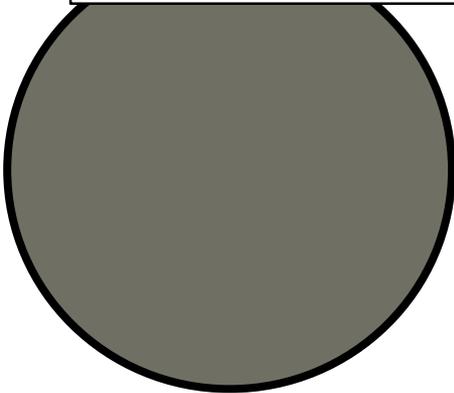
C: blending: disabled
(HS DSM_{dis})

D: blending: average
(HS DSM_{avg})





The **specific field of view** is the composition of pixels and their angular properties within a scene used to characterize a specific AOI on the ground

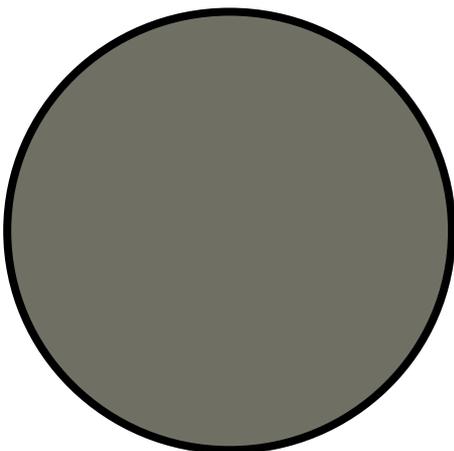


Hemispherical conical reflectance factor (HCRF)

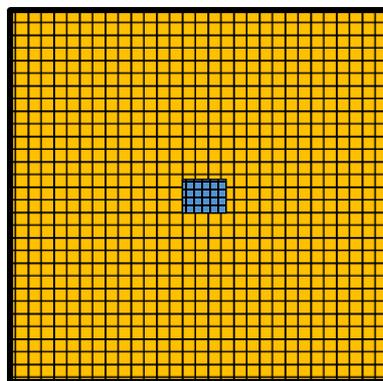
Hemispherical directional reflectance factor (HDRF)

Hemispherical conical reflectance factor (HCRF)

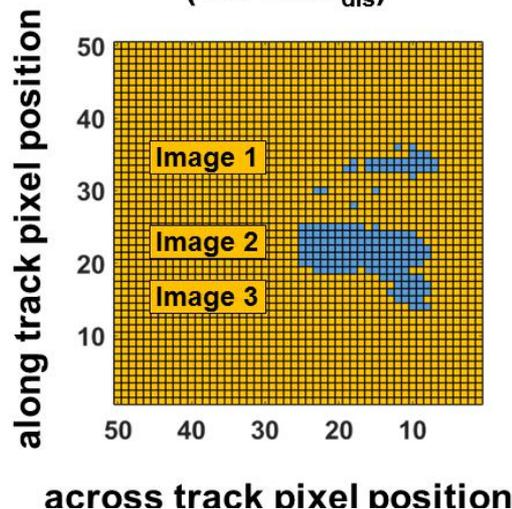
Field spectrometer



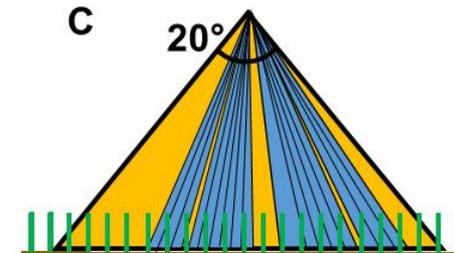
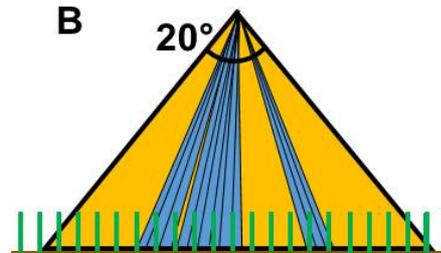
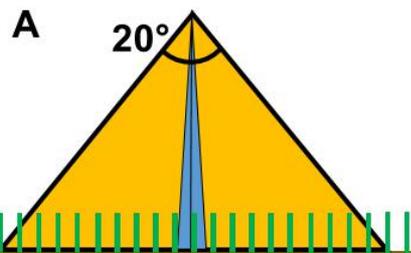
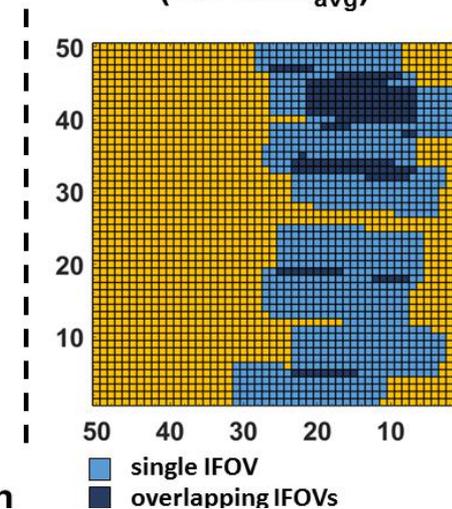
A: single image



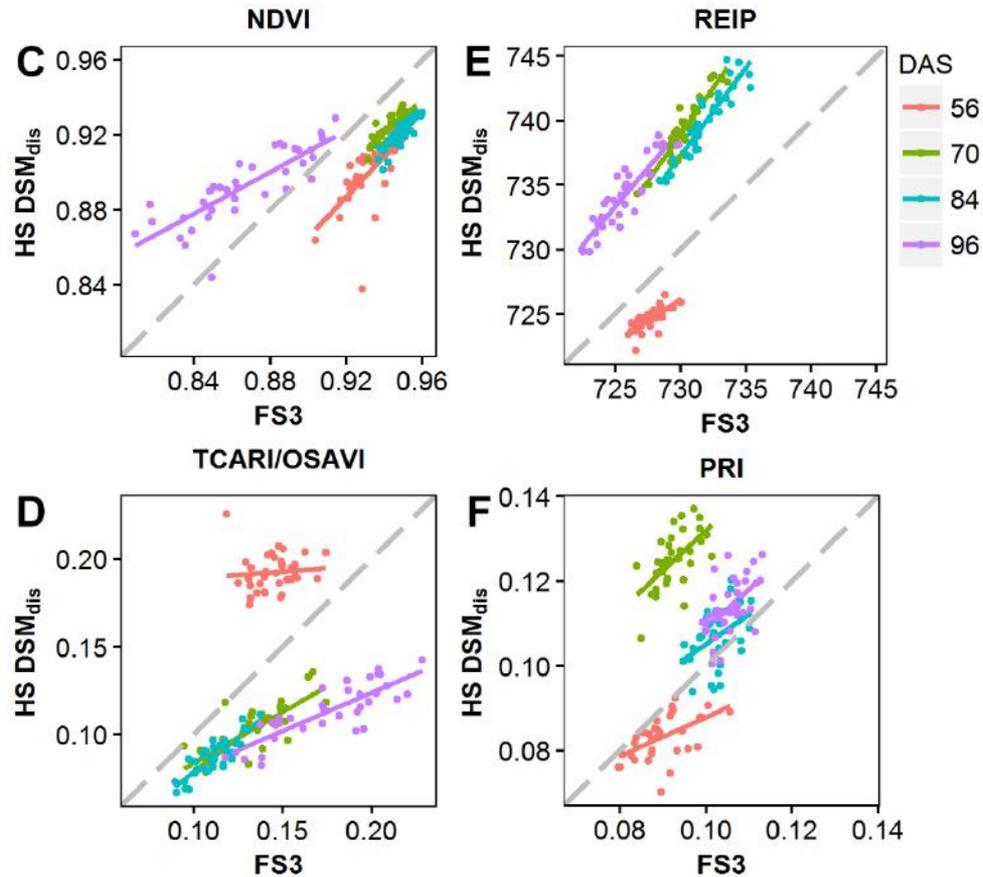
C: blending: disabled (HS DSM_{dis})



D: blending: average (HS DSM_{avg})

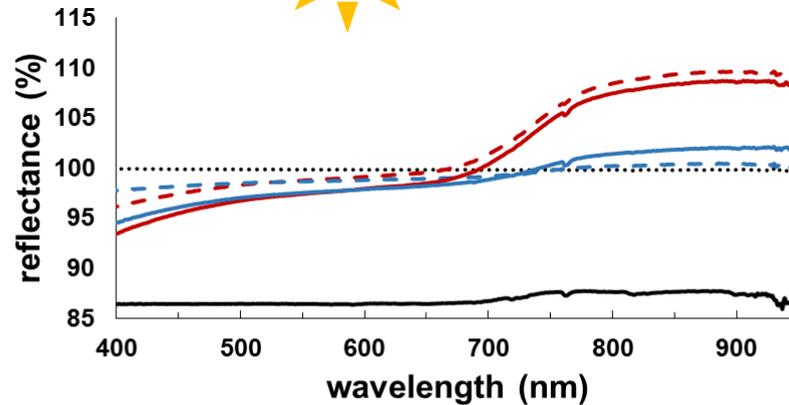
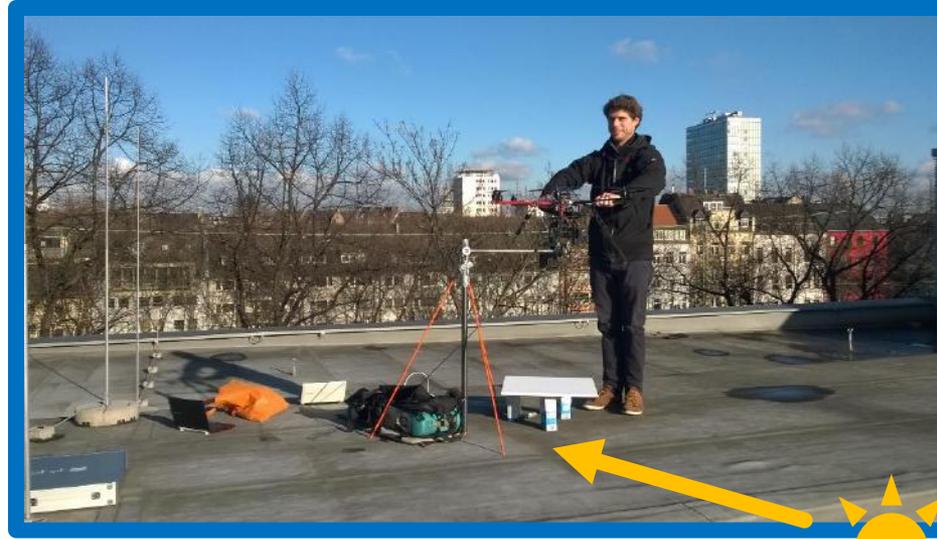


Influence of the SFOV on retrievals (VIs)



... a comment on UAV radiometric calibration procedures

Radiometric calibration protocol



..... reference - - - person pp. - - - person
 — cloudy pp. — UAV pp. — UAV

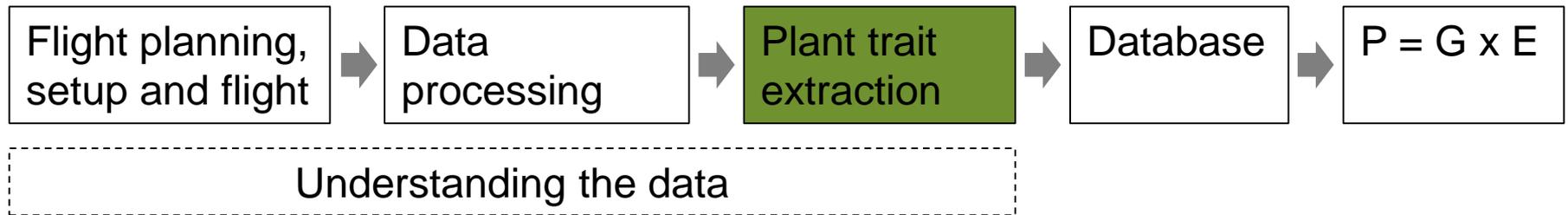
➤ **Not suited for radiometric calibration**

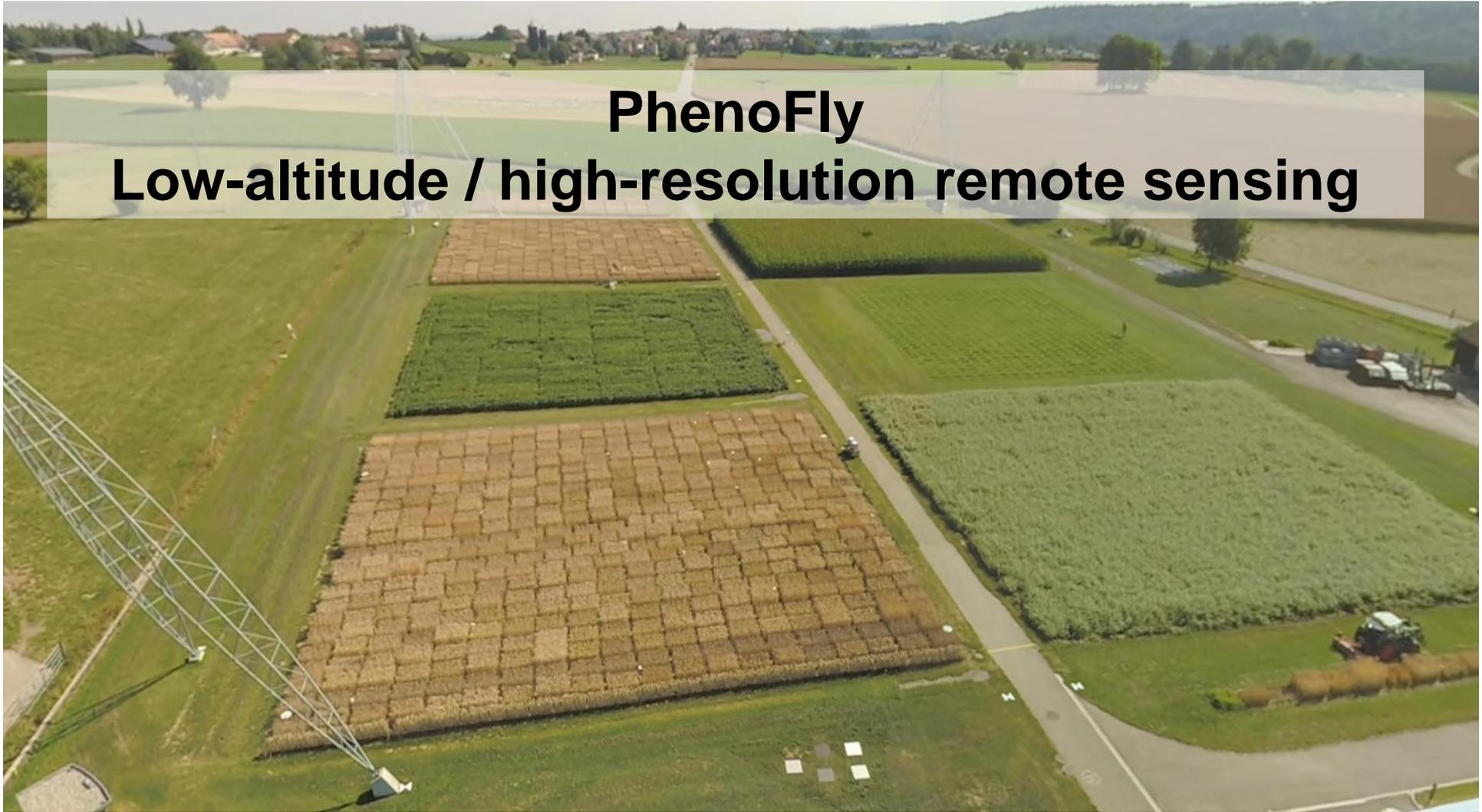
Metadata and standardization

Table 5. Numeric (n) or qualitatively (q) mandatory (m), and advised (a) auxiliary and metadata for spectral data processing. Although the direct and diffuse illumination ratio is important, it is set to advised, since it is not easy to measure.

Pixel	Image	Scene
signal-to-noise ratio (n, m)	capturing position (n, m)	sensor description (q, m)
radiometric resolution (n, m)	illumination (q, m)	(including version)
viewing geometry (n, m)	conditions	band configuration (n, m)
	direct and diffuse (n, a)	(FWHM, band center)
	illumination ratio	geometric processing (q, m)
	capturing time (n, m)	procedures and accuracies
		(including software version and parameters)
		top-of-canopy (q, m)
		reflectance calculation method
		reflectance uncertainty (n, a)
		environmental (q, m)
		conditions during measurement

Outline





PhenoFly
Low-altitude / high-resolution remote sensing

Low-altitude / high-resolution remote sensing at PhenoFly

Low-altitude remote sensing

Close range

Proximal



FIP¹

LS, hyper-spec, thermal, RGB

Multi-rotor UAVs

Hyper-spec, thermal, RGB

Fixed-wing UAVs

Multi-spec, RGB

Leaf, plant, plot

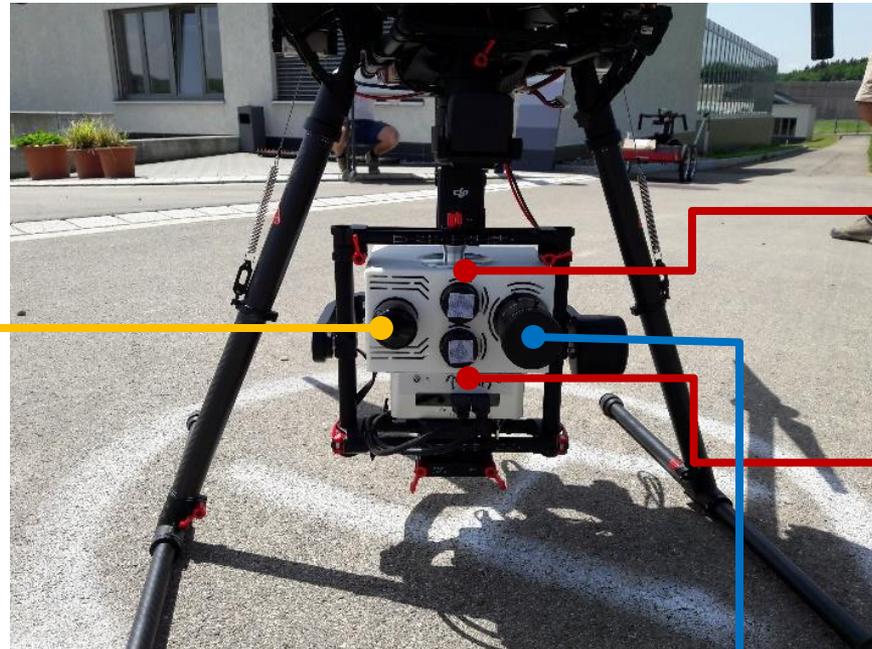
Plot to field (<2 ha)

Field to region (< 50 ha)



¹Kirchgessner, N., Liebisch, F., Yu, K., Pfeifer, J., Friedli, M., Hund, A., Walter, A., 2017. The ETH field phenotyping platform FIP: a cable-suspended multi-sensor system. Functional Plant Biology

Multi-sensor pack



**Thermal camera
FLIR A65**

**VIS spectral camera
IMEC SNm4x4
460-630 nm**

**NIR spectral camera
IMEC SNm5x5
600-1000 nm**

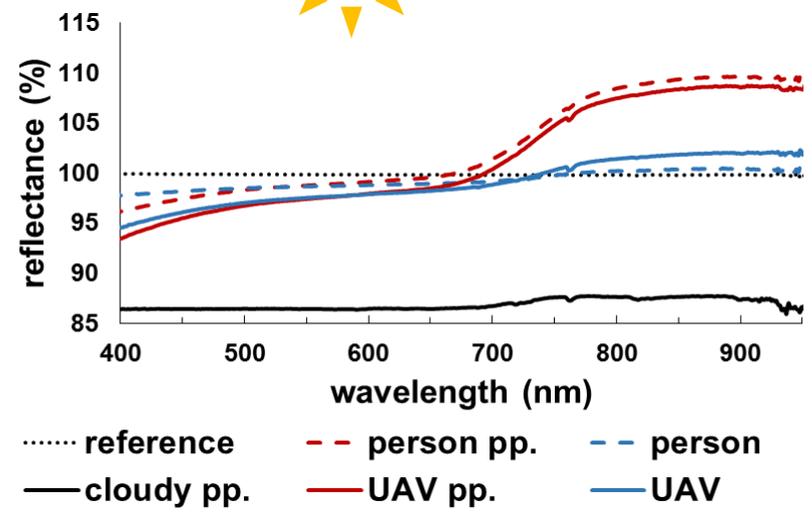
**RGB camera
Point gray 12 mpix**

Plant research station Eschikon, ETH Zurich



[FIP field 360°](#)

Example 2: Radiometric calibration protocol



FIP field –plant research station Eschikon

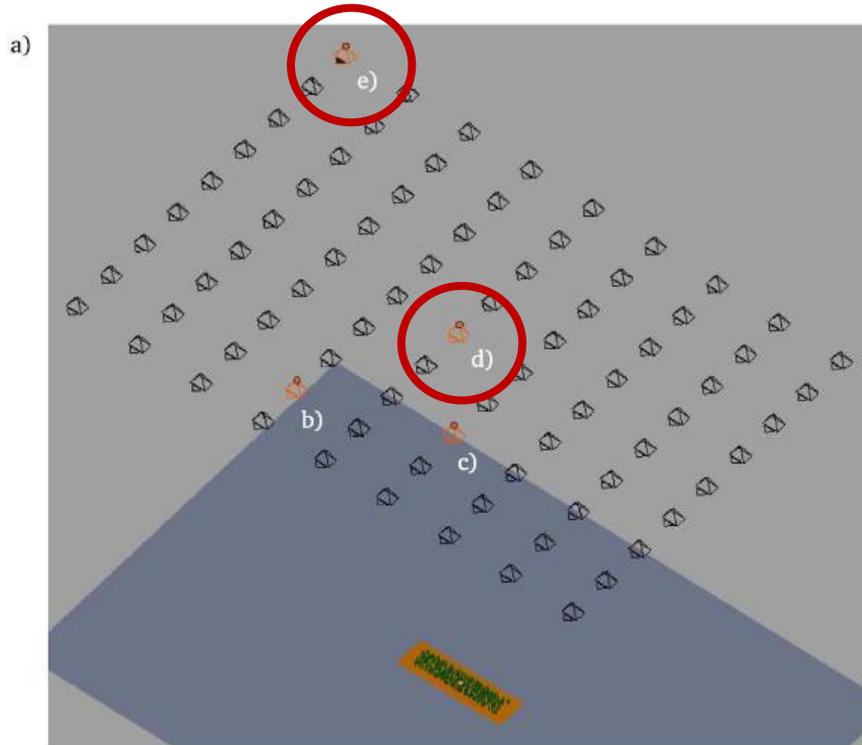
- RGB orthophoto and DSM (> 0.003 m)
- Mapped 1-3 times a week



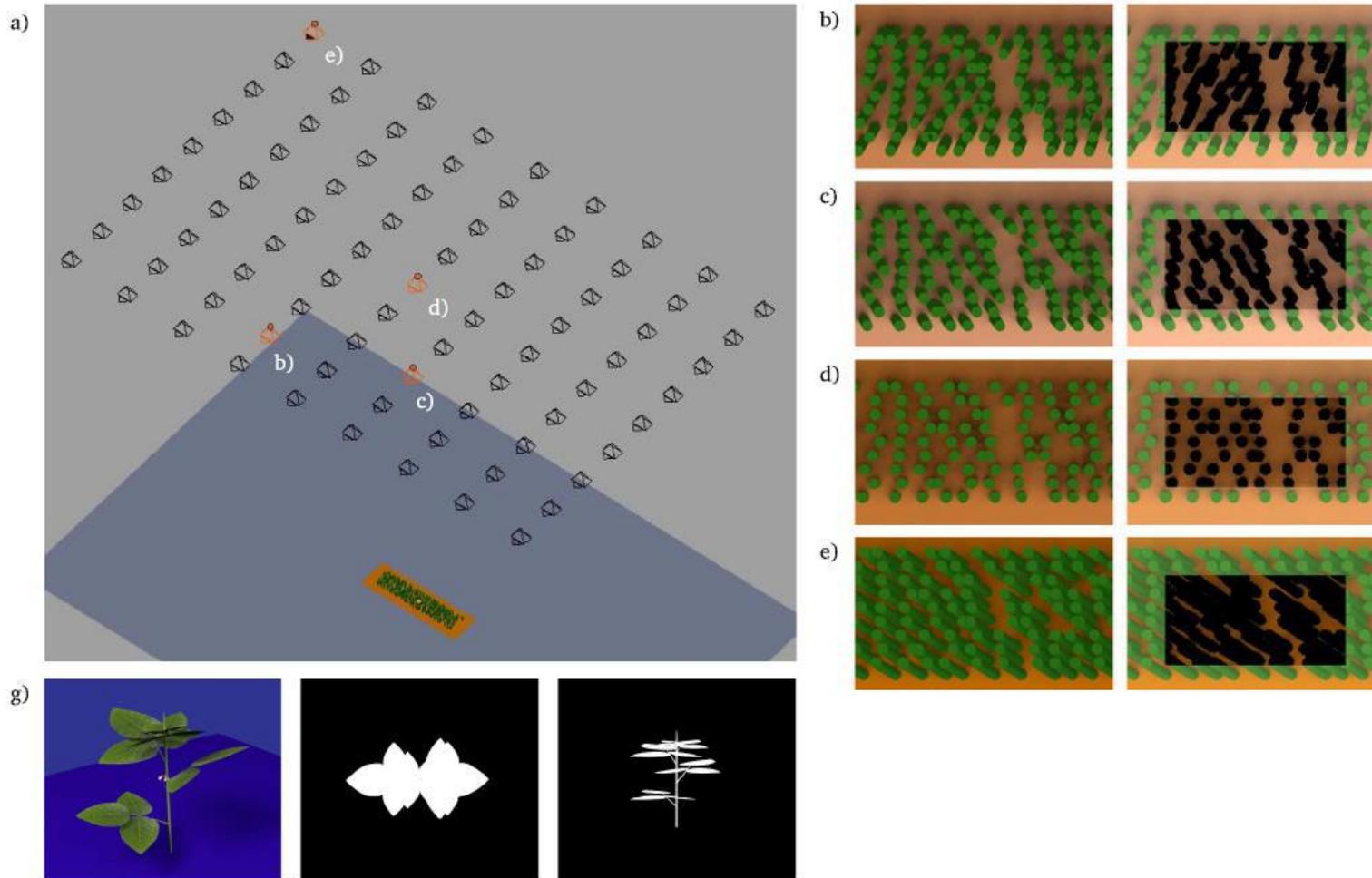


Extracting leaf area index using viewing geometry effects

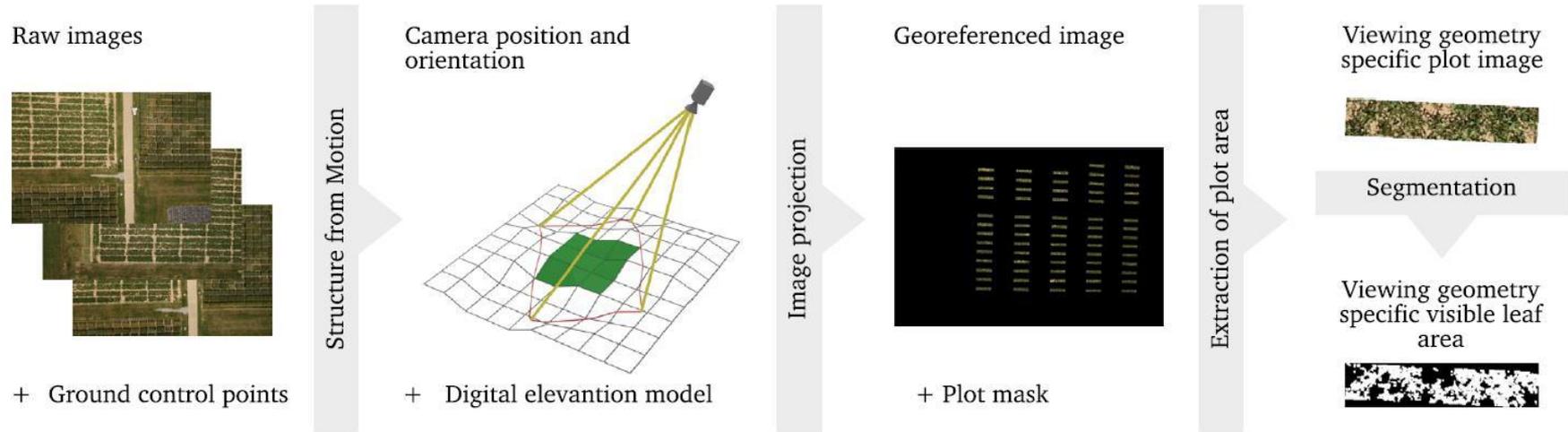
Extracting leaf area index using viewing geometry effects



Extracting leaf area index using viewing geometry effects

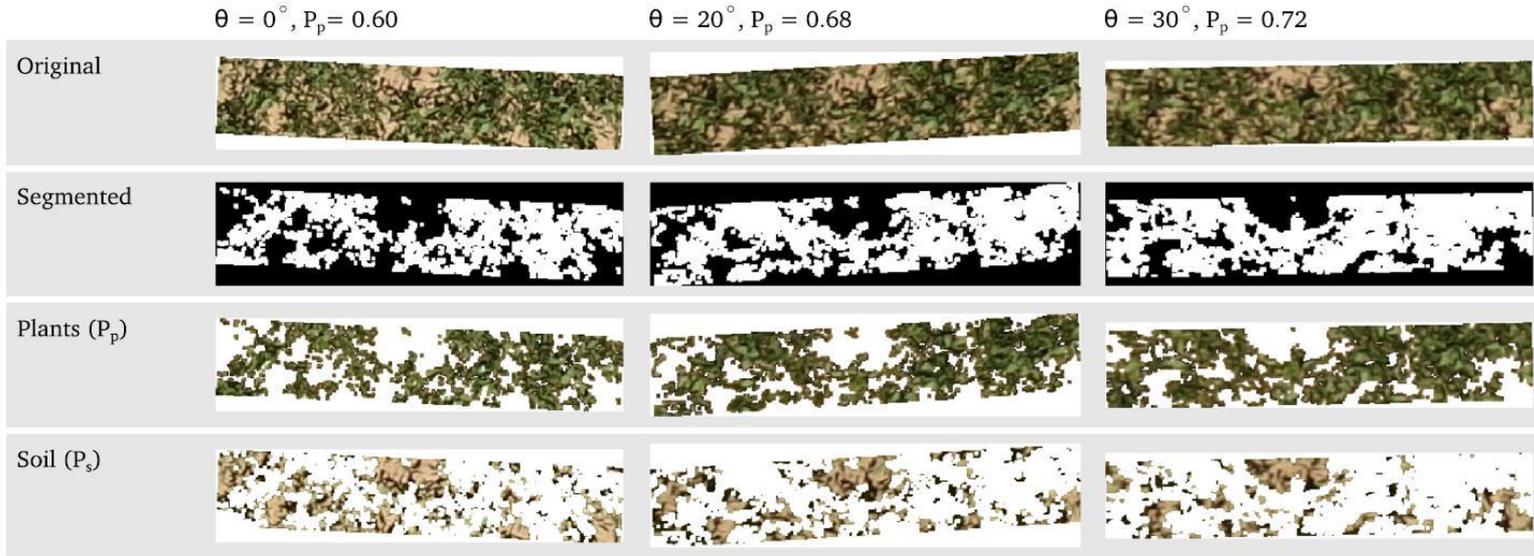


Extracting leaf area index using viewing geometry effects



Extracting leaf area index using viewing geometry effects

images



simulation

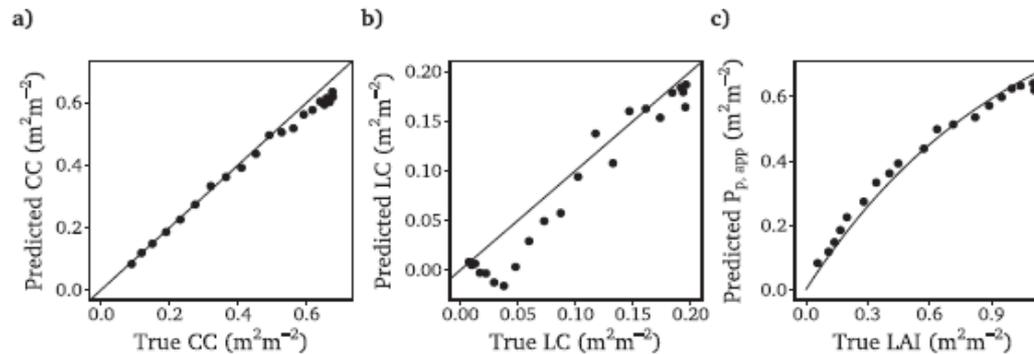
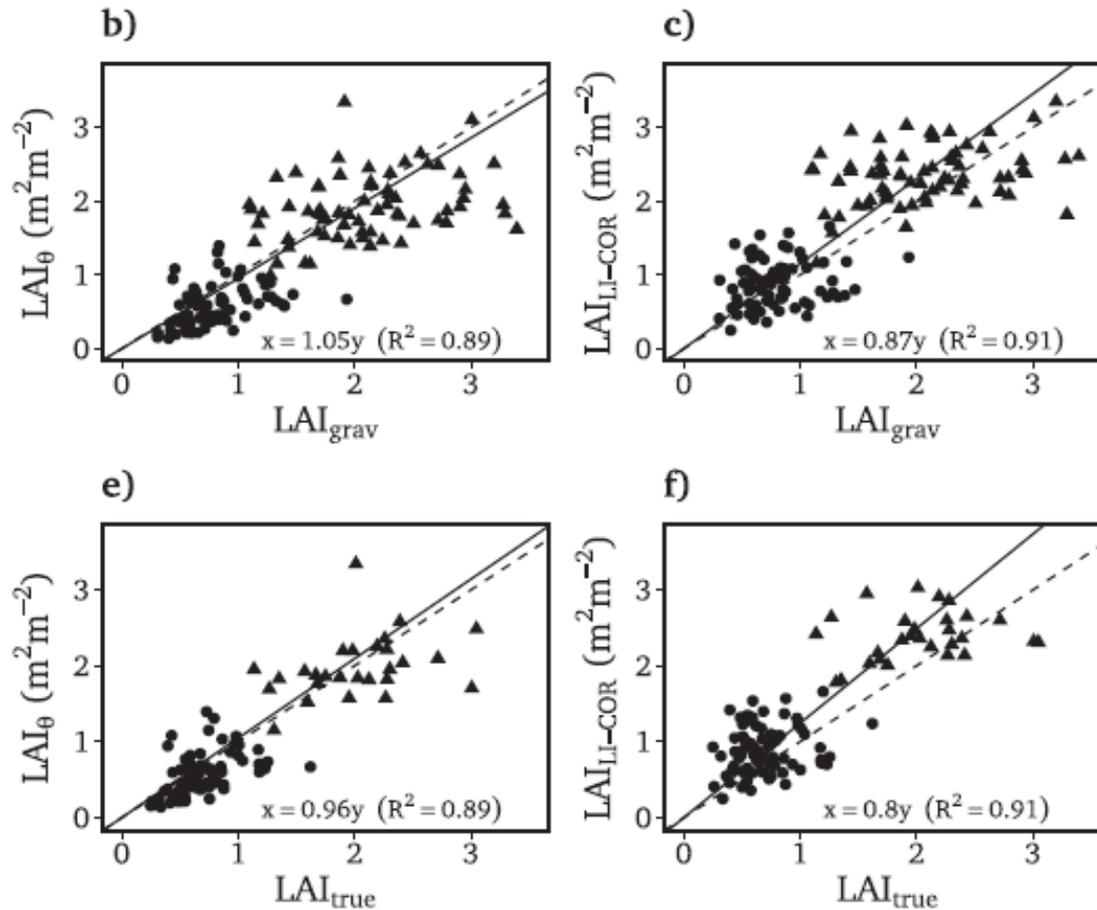


Fig. 7. Prediction performance of the CC/LC viewing geometry model for soybean growth simulation data for canopy cover (CC, a), lateral cover (LC, b) and apparent plant area fraction ($P_{p,app}$) versus leaf area index (LAI) (c). Black lines show an implied 1:1 relationship (a and b) respectively a negative exponential relationship (c).

Extracting leaf area index using viewing geometry effects



• 2017/06/15 ▲ 2017/06/26

Conclusions

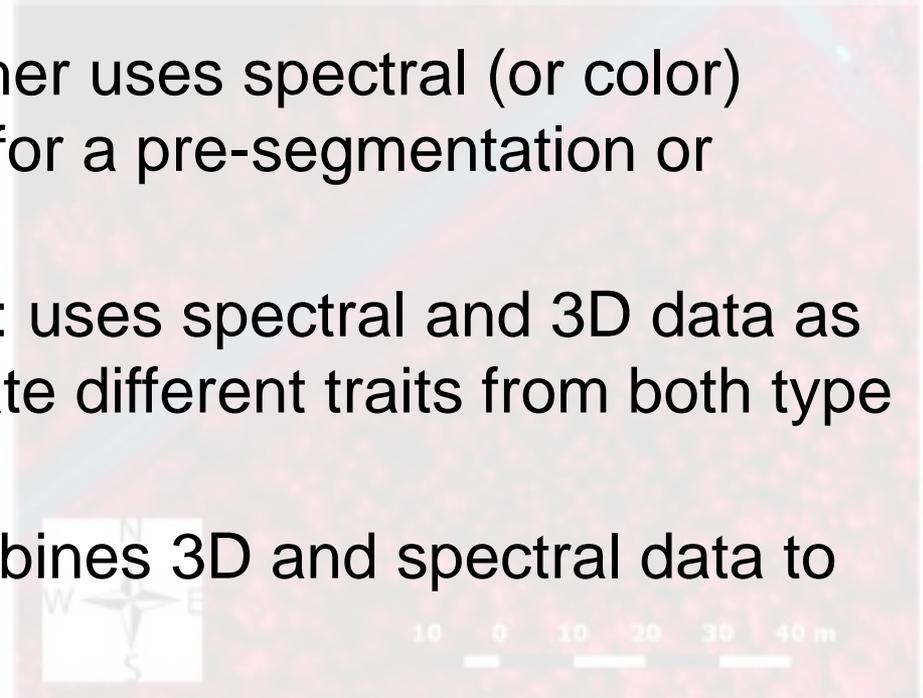
- You need to know what you are doing
 - It is your responsibility to generate reliable data
 - Know your sensing system and your flight parameters
 - Think of what you want to measure – and what you are measuring

- UAS remote sensing is ready
 - Provide reliable data
 - New approaches beyond classical approaches

- What is next...
 - Multi-modal remote sensing - combining 3D, spectral, thermal data

Multi-modal remote sensing: Combining different data types

- **Segmentation approach:** either uses spectral (or color) information or 3D information for a pre-segmentation or classification
- **Complementation approach:** uses spectral and 3D data as complementary data to estimate different traits from both type of data
- **Combination approach:** combines 3D and spectral data to estimate one trait



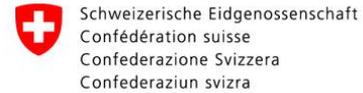
Conclusions

- You need to know what you are doing
 - It is your responsibility to generate reliable data
 - Know your sensing system and your flight parameters
 - Think of what you want to measure – and what you are measuring
 - State quality parameters

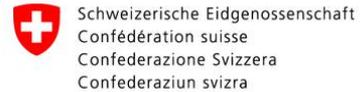
- UAS remote sensing is ready
 - Provide reliable data
 - New approaches beyond classical approaches

- What is next...
 - Multi-modal remote sensing - combining 3D, spectral, thermal data
 - From pixel to object base image analysis - Exploring the high spatial resolution

Thank you for your attention and special thanks to:



Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft BLW

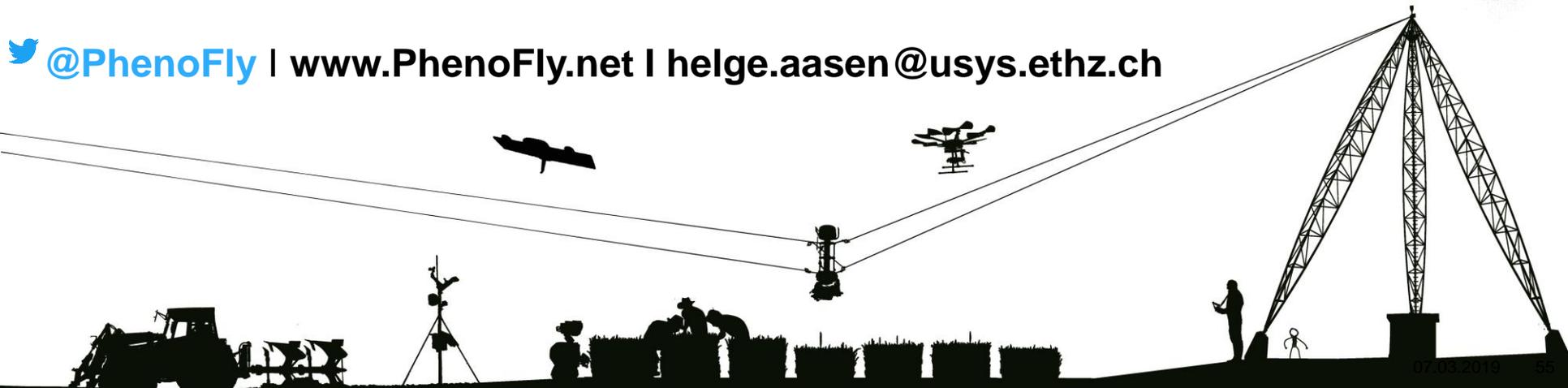


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 @PhenoFly | www.Phenofly.net | helge.aasen@usys.ethz.ch



SENSECO: Optical synergies for spatiotemporal sensing of scalable ecophysiological traits (COST Action CA17134)



WG 1

Closing the scaling gap:
from leaf measurements
to satellite images

WG 2

Closing the temporal
gap: from daily
observations to seasonal
trends

WG 3

Realizing synergy
between passive EO
spectral domains

WG 4

Establishing data quality
through traceability and
uncertainty

The main objectives:

- To tackle the scaling gap between leaf and satellite measurements in order to link driving mechanisms at the leaf scale to photosynthesis at the global scale.
- To improve the time-series processing of satellite sensor data for modelling vegetation processes related to seasonal productivity.
- To improve synergies between passive optical EO domains.
- To ensure measurements comparability across different scales, space and time.

