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Table of Contents

Preface vii
Symposium Committeex
Reviewersxi
Papers
The effect of biomass and scanning angle on the laser pulse transmittance Eero Ahokas, Juha Hyyppä, H. Kaartinen, Antero Kukko, Sanna Kaasalainen, and Anssi Krooks
Analysis of spatial and temporal evolution of the NDVI on vegetated and degraded areas in the central Spanish Pyrenees
Luis Carlos Alatorre, and S. Beguería
Estimating sub-pixel to regional winter crop areas using neural nets Clement Atzberger, and Felix Rembold
Integration of contextual information for the transfer of beliefs in an information sources fusion system-application to detection and classification of trees crowns
Zouhour Ben Dhiaf, A. Hamouda, and J. Desachy
Comparison of Error Propagation in Block Orientation: An Analytical Approach Jackson Cothren, and Burkhard Schaffrin
A review on image segmentation techniques with remote sensing perspective Vivek Dey, Y. Zhang, and M. Zhong
Assessment system of GIS-objects using multi-temporal imagery for near-realtime disaster management Daniel Frey, and Matthias Butenuth
The potential of a space altimeter when measuring significant wave height Boris Y. Grishechkin, and A.I. Baskakov
Classification of settlement areas in remote sensing imagery using conditional random fields Thorsten Hoberg, and Franz Rottensteiner
Estimation of timber assortments using low-density ALS data Markus Holopainen, Mikko Vastaranta, Jussi Rasinmäki, Jouni Kalliovirta, Antti Mäkinen, Reija Haapanen, Timo Melkas, Xiaowei Yu, Juha Hyyppä, and Hannu Hyyppä
Towards Fully Automatic Photogrammetric Reconstruction Using Digital Images Taken From UAVs Arnold Irschara, Viktor Kaufmann, Manfred Klopschitz, Horst Bischof, and Franz Leberl
Exterior orientation of line-array CCD images based on quaternion spherical linear interpolation Gangwu Jiang, Ting Jiang, Hui Gong, and Xin Wang
Theoretical frameworks of remote sensing systems based on compressive sensing Living Liu, Juho Zhu, Fengyig Van, and Zenghui Zhang.

Comparison of terrestrial laser scanner and synthetic aperture radar data in the study of forest defoliation Sanna Kaasalainen, Juha Hyyppä, Mika Karjalainen, Anssi Krooks, Päivi Lyytikäinen-Saarenmaa, Markus Holopainen, and Anttoni Jaakkola	
True Orthophoto Creation Through Fusion of LiDAR Derived Digital Surface Model and Aerial Photos Akira Kato, L.M. Moskal, P. Schiess, Donna Calhoun, and Mark E. Swanson	o
Akira Kaio, L.M. Moskai, P. Schiess, Donna Cainoun, and Mark E. Swanson	0
Mapping of built-up area density from satellite images using morphological granulometries Akila Kemmouche, R. Khedam, and C. Mering	4
Analysis of BRDF characteristics of forest stands with a digital aerial frame camera	
Tatjana Koukal, and Werner Schneider	00
Land cover identification using polarimetric SAR images	
Assia Kourgli, M. Ouarzeddine, Y. Oukil, and A. Belhadj-Aissa	06
Analysis of spatiotemporal difference of NDVI in an arid coal mining region using remote sensing	
Shaogang Lei, and Zhengfu Bian	12
A framework of polarimetric SAR filter based on independency of intensity and polarimetric information	
Pingxiang Li, Shaoping Deng, Jixian Zhang, Guoman Huang, and Zheng Zhao	17
Evaluation of spectral and texture features for object-based vegetation species classification using support vector machines	
Zhengrong Li, Ross Hayward, Jinglan Zhang, Hang Jin, and Rodney Walker	22
Empirical comparison of machine learning algorithms for image texture classification with application to vegetation management in power line corridors	20
Zhengrong Li, Yuee Liu, Ross Hayward, and Rodney Walker	28
Assessment of the multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis (mesma) model applied to the HYPERION/EO-1 hyperspectral data of the coastal plain of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil	
Rodrigo M. Linn, Silvia Beatriz Alves Rolim, and Lênio Soares Galvão	34
Urban Road Tracking by Fusion of SVDD and Region Adjacency Graphs from VHR imagery Zhengjun Liu, Xiangguo Lin, Jixian Zhang, and Pengxian Pu	39
Validation of the radiometric processing chain of the Leica ADS40 airborne photogrammetric sensor	
Lauri Markelin, Eija Honkavaara, Ulrich Beisl, and Ilkka Korpela	45
Describing buildings by 3-dimensional details found in aerial photography	
Philipp Meixner, and Franz Leberl1:	51
Terrain echo probability assignment based on full-waveform airborne laser scanning observables	
Werner Muecke, Christian Briese, and Markus Hollaus1:	57
Airborne Doppler navigation system application for measurement of the water surface backscattering signature **Alexey Nekrasov***	63
A axial photo building alossification by steaking approximate and algorition accounts	
Aerial photo building classification by stacking appearance and elevation measurements Thuy Thi Nguyen, Stefan Kluckner, Horst Bischof, and Franz Leberl	69
Multitemporal RADARSAT-2 polarimetric SAR data for urban land-cover mapping	
Xin Niu. and Yifang Ban	75

Fusion of optical and radar remote sensing data: Munich city example Gintautas Palubinskas, and Peter Reinartz
Tidal wetland monitioring using polarimetric synthetic aperture radar Sang-Eun Park, D. Kim, HS. Lee, W. M. Moon, and Wolfgang Wagner
Automatic detection of buried channel deposits from dense laser altimetry data Boudewijn M.J. Possel, Roderik C. Lindenbergh, and Joep E.A. Storms
Land use and land cover classification using RADARSAT-2 polarimetric SAR imagery Zhixin Qi, Anthony Gar-On Yeh, Xia Li, and Zheng Lin
Four reduced-reference metrics for measuring hyperspectral images after spatial resolution enhancement Shen-En Qian, and Guangyi Chen
A comparative case of study of image sharpening Victor F. Rodríguez Galiano, E. Pardo-Igúzquiza, M. Chica-Olmo, M.J. García-Soldado, J.P. Rigol-Sánchez, and M. Chica-Rivas
Mapping key hydrological variables using remotely sensed images integrated in a distributed water balance model Nilda Sánchez, J. Martínez-Fernández, Alfonso Calera, Enrique Torres, and C. Pérez-Gutiérrez
Detection of 25-year land-cover change in a critical watershed in southern philippines using LANDSAT MSS and ETM+ images: importance in watershed rehabilitation Jojene R. Santillan, Meriam M. Makinano, and Enrico C. Paringit
Remote Sensing and GIS in Inflow Estimation: The Magat Reservoir, Philippines Experience Czar Jakiri S. Sarmiento, Ryan James V. Ayson, Rhodora M. Gonzalez, and Peter Paul M. Castro
A supervised spectral substratum classifier to classify images with fuzzy memberships Zongyao Sha, and Yichun Xie
Image Texture Preservation in Speckle Noise Suppression Ali Shamsoddini, and John C. Trinder 239
Texture analysis to improve supervised classification in IKONOS imagery Anna Nora Tassetti, E.S. Malinverni, and Michael Hahn
The registration of 3-D model and 2-D image using point and line features Tee-Ann Teo, and Liang-Chien Chen
Estimation of aerosol and air quality fields with PM MAPPER – an optical multispectral data processing package Thi Nhat Thanh Nguyen, S. Mantovani, and M. Bottoni
Change visualization through a texture-based analysis approach for disaster applications Daniel Tomowski, Sascha Klonus, Manfred Ehlers, Ulrich Michel, and Peter Reinartz
Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Shannon's Entropy: Measuring Urban Sprawl in a Mountainous Environment Loureal Camille O. Verzosa, and Rhodora M. Gonzalez
Automated Extraction of Plantations from IKONOS Satellite Imagery Using a Level Set Based Segmentation Method
Karsten Vogt, Björn Scheuermann, Christian Becker, Torsten Büschenfeld, Bodo Rosenhahn, and Jörn Ostermann275

Keyword Index	
Author Index	
Fusion of ascending and descending polarimetric SAR data for color orthophoto generation Jixian Zhang, Jujie Wei, Guoman Huang, and Yonghong Zhang	
Precise Processing of SPOT-5 HRS and IRS-P5 Stereo Imagery – For the Project of West China Topographic Mapping at 1:50,000 Scale Li Zhang, and Jixian Zhang	
Monitoring impervious surface sprawl using tasseled cap transformation of LANDSAT data Qian Zhang, and Yifang Ban	
Multistage algorithm for lossless compression of multispectral remote sensing images Alexander Zamyatin	
Structural high-resolution satellite image indexing Gui-Song Xia, Wen Yang, Julie Delon, Yann Gousseau, Hong Sun, and Henri Maître	
Mapping deformation of man-made linear features using dinsar technique Hongan Wu, Yonghong Zhang, Jixian Zhang, and Xiaoyong Chen	
Pansharpening – Relating Quantitative Quality Measures to Impact on Results of Subsequent Processing Steps **Uwe Weidner**	
Retrieval of biophysical vegetation products from RapidEye imagery Francesco Vuolo, Clement Atzberger, Katja Richter, Guido D'Urso, and Jadunandan Dash	

Preface

These are the proceedings of the ISPRS Technical Commission VII Symposium that was held on July 5–7, 2010, at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria. The proceedings consist of two parts: Part A collects all papers that were accepted on the basis of peer-reviewed full manuscripts; Part B contains papers which have been selected based on a review of the submitted abstracts.

The topic of the symposium was "100 Years ISPRS – Advancing Remote Sensing Science" to celebrate the foundation of the International Society for Photogrammetry (ISP) on July 4, 1910, on the initiative by Prof. Eduard Doležal. The Society changed its name to the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) in 1980, reflecting the increasing integration of the two disciplines. In our modern digital age, photogrammetry and remote sensing have virtually grown together, having as their common scope the extraction of reliable information from non-contact imaging and other sensor systems about the Earth and its environment through recording, measuring, analysing and representation.

Given the particular occasion the themes of the symposium extended beyond the traditional realms of Commission VII ("Thematic Processing, Modelling and Analysis of Remotely Sensed Data") by inviting contributions from the other ISPRS Commissions as well. Contributions that provided a comprehensive overview of the major research areas in remote sensing, highlighting past achievements and identifying challenges for the future, were particularly welcome. The conference topics were

- Multi-spectral and hyperspectral remote sensing
- Microwave remote sensing
- Lidar and laser scanning
- Geometric modelling
- Physical modelling and signatures
- Change detection and process modelling
- Land cover classification
- Image processing and pattern recognition
- Data fusion and data assimilation
- Earth observation programmes
- Remote sensing applications
- Operational remote sensing applications

We would like to take this opportunity here to sincerely thank the reviewers of both the full-papers and the abstracts for their valuable time and expertise! Each paper within Part A was reviewed by at least two reviewers and revised according to their comments. Only 60% of the submitted full papers finally made it through this review process. Also each abstract was reviewed by two peers, most of them by even three of more peers. Without question, the reviewer's effort was not in vain as it has helped to raise the quality of the papers and has allowed us to put together a high-quality technical programme.

Nevertheless, we also would like to add some self-criticism here. Within ISPRS the importance of a proper review process is broadly recognised. Also, more and more ISPRS colleagues rightfully request that all papers published in the *International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences* (such as those contained in the current volume) shall be covered by prominent indexing and abstracting databases. Yet, there is no standard ISPRS reviewing system, nor is there a professional editorial support and indexing service. Consequently, every organiser of an ISPRS workshop, symposium or congress needs to reinvent the wheel by building up his/her own system for reviewing and handling the scientific contributions and for producing the proceedings. Having never organised an event with more

than hundred people, the learning curve has been particularly steep for us. As a result, mistakes were unavoidable and we would like to apologise with the authors and reviewers for any inconvenience that they may have experienced. We are confident that together we will be able to solve this challenge for future scientific meetings to the benefit of our discipline.

Finally, we want to highlight the very positive fact that we have received many excellent papers from scientists from developing regions. This suggests to us that ISPRS has been quite successful in stimulating the exchange of scientists from around the world and diverse cultural background. This will become the ever more important as climate change, continued population growth and shrinking natural resources have all become truly global problems that require, as one small part of the solution, global observation capabilities to better understand of how we have to act locally.

Vienna, June 2010

Wolfgang Wagner

Balázs Székely

Symposium Committee

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