Detection of an Introduced Tree Species in Protected River Islands with UAV Remote Sensing



Study area

Island mosaic of Mareau-aux-Prés on the Loire river (France)

Four islands dominated by black poplar (*Populus nigra*) Beaver presence favors an introduced species: box elder (*Acer negundo*)





Material

Lidar data acquired with a YellowScan surveyor (mean density193 points/m²) Orthophotos: RGB+NIR, 2 cm resolution resampled at 10 cm • 300 discs of 1 m diameter are sampled

irstea

and manually classified as poplar or elder



Methods

- Two classification workflows are compared: pixel- and object-based
- Derived metrics are computed in each object/pixel:



Object segmentation is performed by applying a watershed algorithm to the canopy height model (0.5 m)

mean and standard deviation of band ratios (r/(g+b), g/(r+b), b/(r+g), ndvi, grvi, nir/r) standard deviation of Lidar heights (point cloud and canopy height model) Tested classifiers are linear discriminant

analysis (LDA), support vector machines (SVM) and partition trees

 Metrics are computed for pixels at 1 m resolution



Results

- Classification accuracy is similar in both workflows. LDA and SVM perform better than partition trees classifier.
- Noise in pixel-based maps could be reduced by regularization, with specific case of shadows.





Radiometric and geometric metrics derived from UAV remote sensing were efficient in classifying two tree species in a riparian environment. Further research has yet to investigate how to make the most of UAV high resolution data, e.g. for tree mortality or regeneration monitoring.



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