



Typical Problems in LiDAR surveying

What should my flight plan look like to achieve sufficient coverage of the study area?

If my data were collected in a different way,
would my method still work well?

I cannot obtain any reference data,
how should I evaluate my method?

There is not enough labelled data available.
My machine learning model does not learn
anything. What can I do?

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How should I plan the flight for the most efficient coverage of the study area?

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Simulation Experiments and Synthetic Data

There is a synthetic dataset available and my model is not learning anything.

If my data were collected in a different way, would my method still work well?



Laser Scanning Simulation with HELIOS++

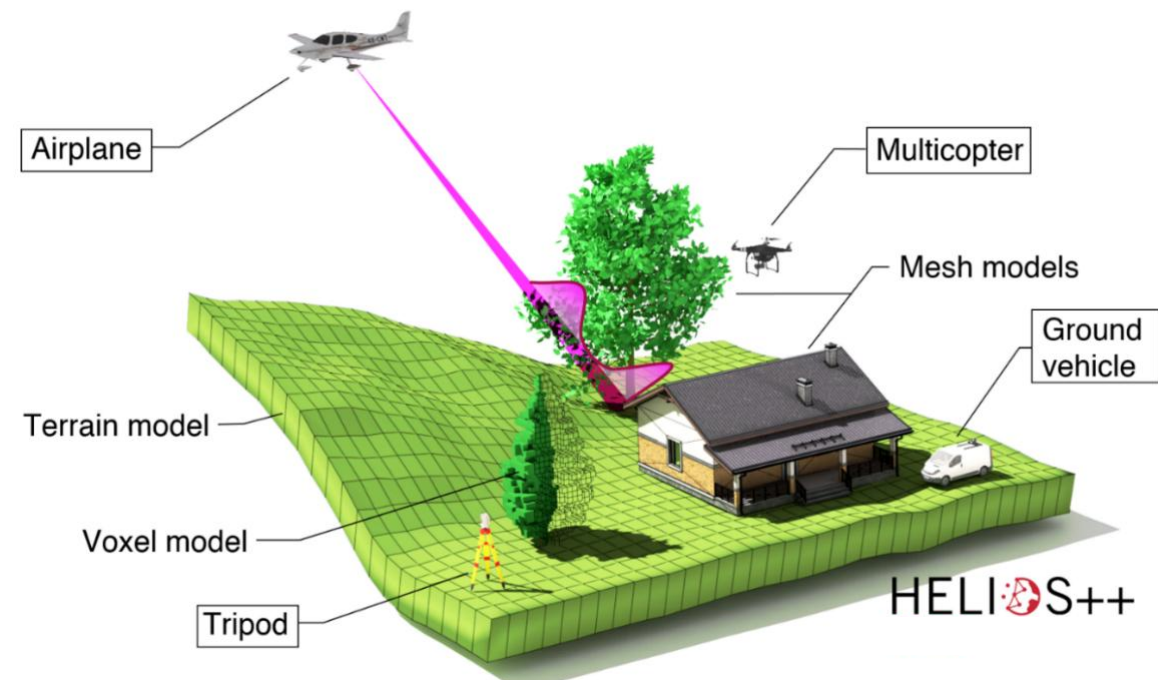
3DGeo Research Group, Institute of Geography, Heidelberg University, DE
Scientific Software Center (SSC), Interdisciplinary Center of Scientific Computing (IWR),
Heidelberg University, DE

University of Innsbruck, AT
Catalactical S.L., ES

TRAIL Workshop on Archaeological Ground Point Filtering of LiDAR Point Clouds

Virtual Laser Scanning (VLS)

- **Simulation** of laser scanning in a computer environment
- VLS to **complement** costly **real data acquisition**, e.g.,
 - Survey planning
 - Sensitivity analysis
 - Algorithm and sensor development
 - Generation of labelled data
- **Annotations and known reference**
- Creation of different **scenarios** by changing
 - scene composition
 - acquisition platforms
 - acquisition settings



[Winiwarter et al. 2022](#)

HELIOS++

- **Open-source framework** for LiDAR simulation
- Supports multiple platforms, scanners, and scene types
- Full-waveform simulation and reflectance modelling
- Execute via command-line tool or Python API

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.16780208 issues 51 open license GPLv3, LGPLv3 commit activity 1/month downloads 7.7k
Build + Test passing

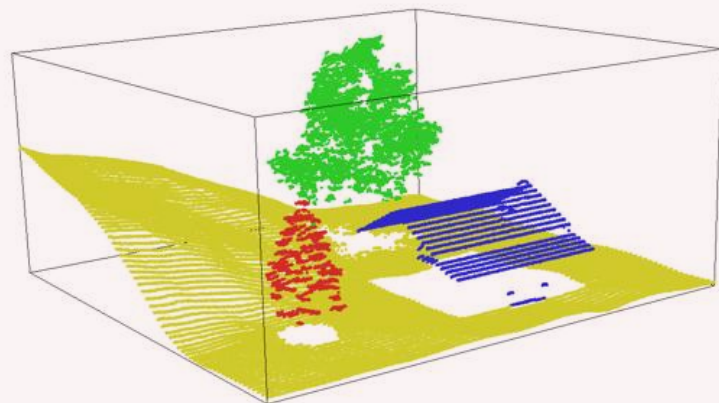
Heidelberg LiDAR Operations Simulator ++

HELIOS++

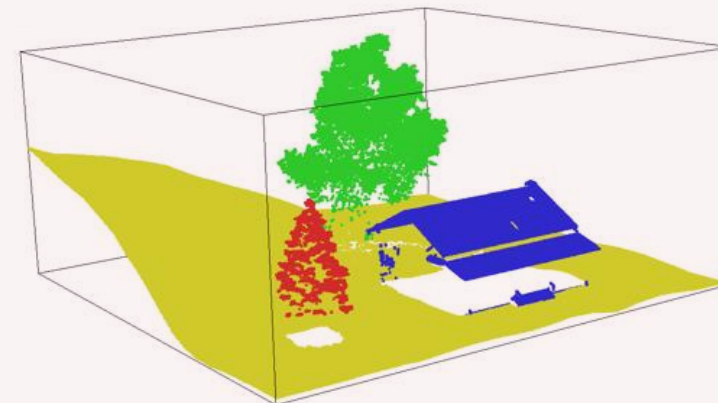
HELIOS++ is a general-purpose Python package for simulation of terrestrial, mobile and airborne laser scanning surveys written in C++11. It is developed and maintained by the [3DGeo Research Group](https://www.3dgeo-heidelberg.de/) at Heidelberg University.

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

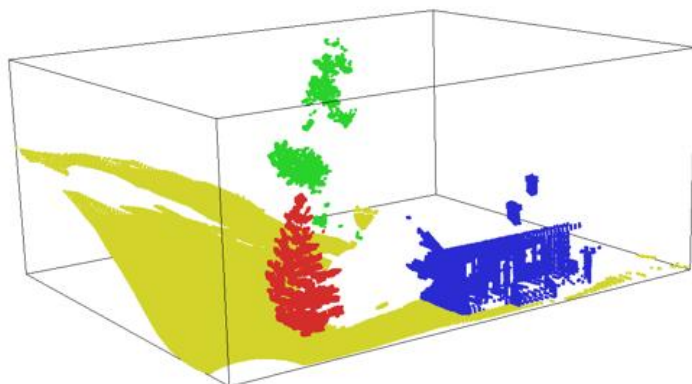
Airborne laser scanning (ALS)



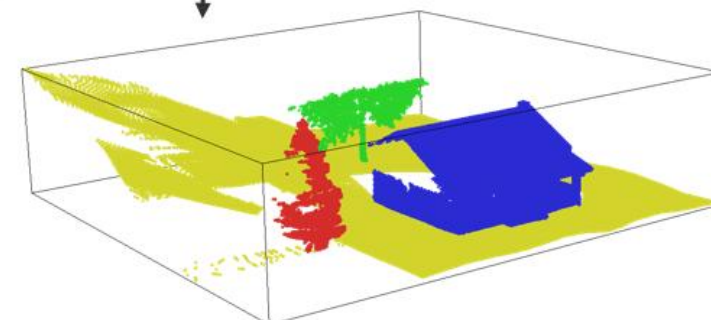
UAV-based laser scanning (ULS)



Terrestrial laser scanning (TLS)



Mobile laser scanning (MLS)

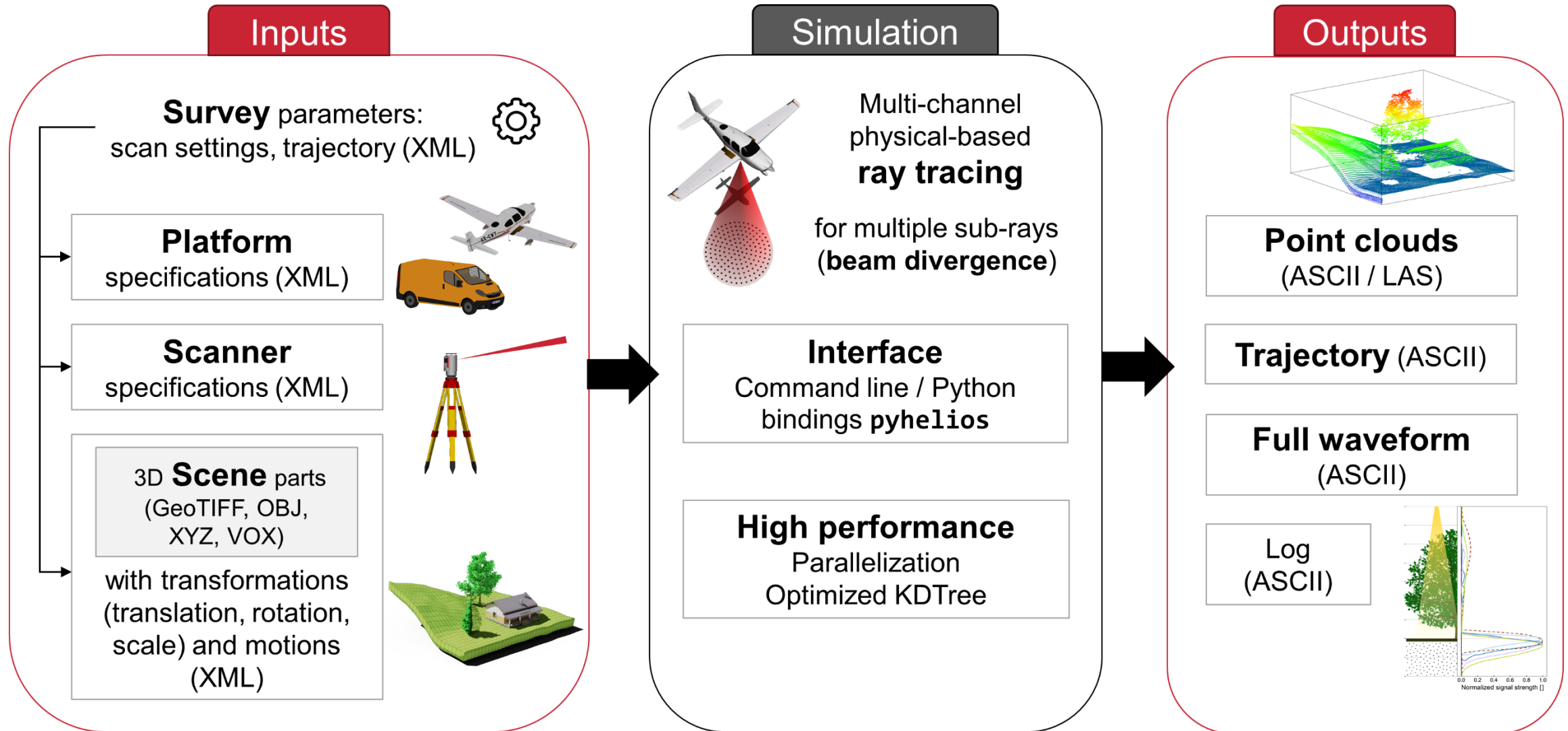


3D scene

Winiwarter et al. 2022: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2021.112772>

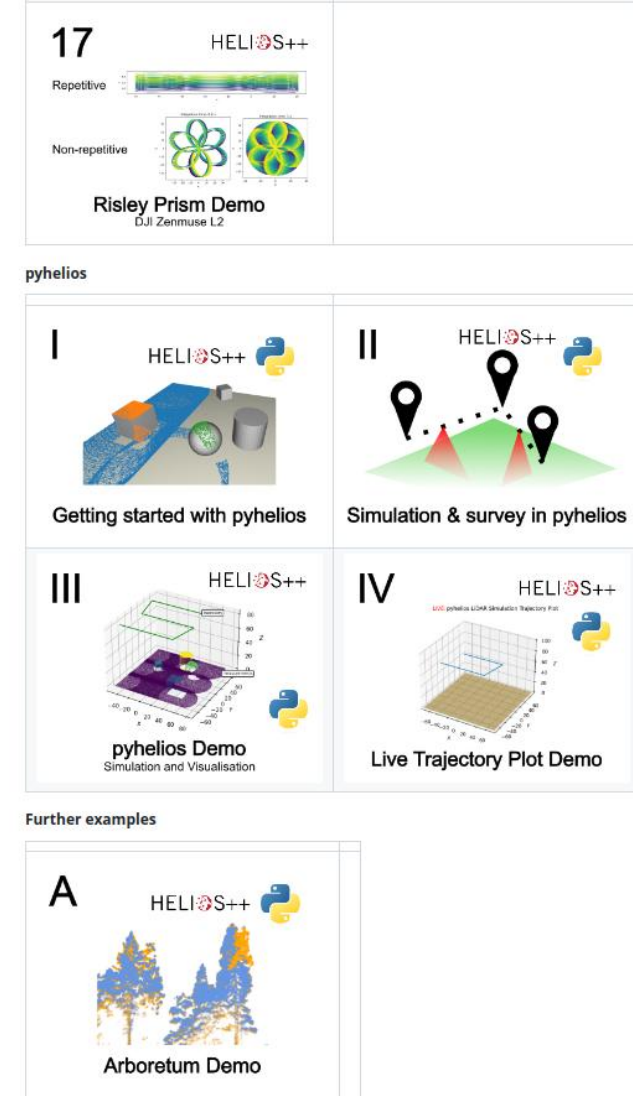
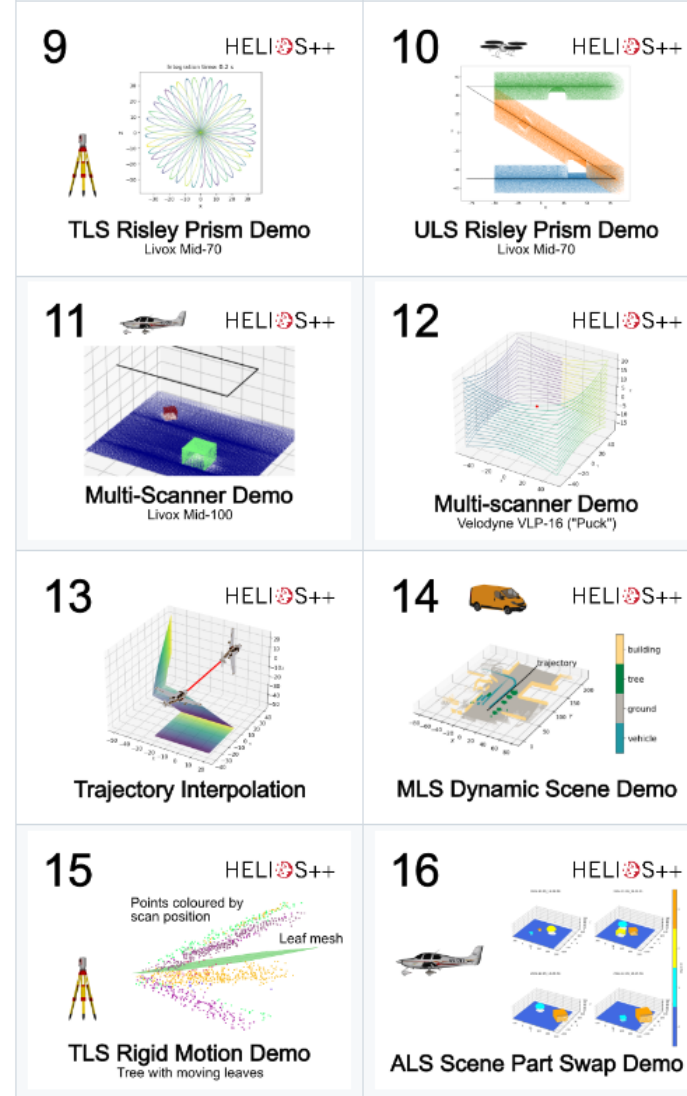
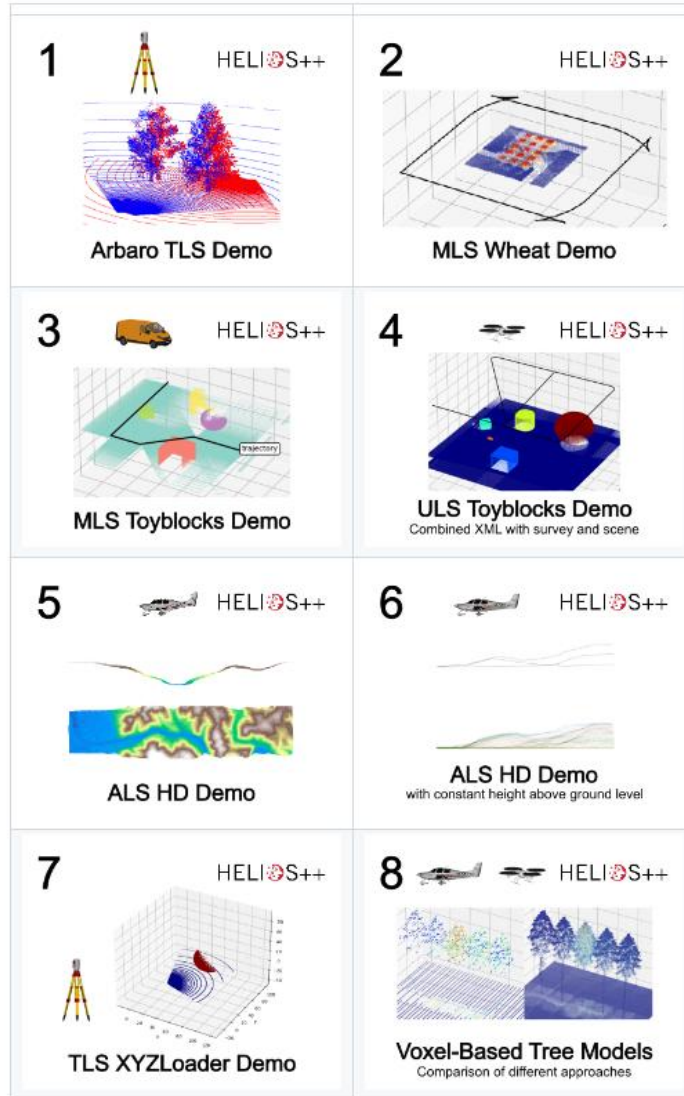
HELIOS++

Heidelberg LiDAR Operations Simulator



Gallery of Examples

<https://github.com/3dgeo-heidelberg/helios?tab=readme-ov-file#-examples>



References

- Bechtold, S. & Höfle, B. (2016). **HELIOS: A Multi-Purpose LiDAR Simulation Framework for Research, Planning and Training of Laser Scanning Operations with Airborne, Ground-Based Mobile and Stationary Platforms.** *ISPRS Annals of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, III-3, 161-168. <https://doi.org/10.5194/isprs-annals-III-3-161-2016>
- Esmorís, A. M., Weiser, H., Winiwarter, L., Cabaleiro, J. C., & Höfle, B. (2024). **Deep learning with simulated laser scanning data for 3D point cloud classification.** *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, 215, 192–213. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2024.06.018>
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- Winiwarter, L., Esmorís Pena, A., Weiser, H., Anders, K., Martínez Sanchez, J., Searle, M., Höfle, B. (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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2021.112772>