

Comparing SilviMetric and FUSION outputs

Robert J. McGaughey

2025-02-04

Load packages

```
library(terra)
library(sf)
library(mapview)
```

Setup

```
HAGVRTfolder <- "C:/Users/bmcgaughey/SilviMetricTesting/TestOutput/plumas_vrt_tifs/"
HAGNNfolder <- "C:/Users/bmcgaughey/SilviMetricTesting/TestOutput/plumas_nn_tifs/"
HAGFUSIONfolder <- "C:/Users/bmcgaughey/SilviMetricTesting/TestOutput/plumas_normalized_tifs/"
FUSIONfolder <- "H:/FUSIONTestMetrics/Products_FUSIONTestMetrics_2024-05-16/FINAL_FUSIONTestMetrics_2024-05-16/"

SMfile <- "m_Z_max.tif"
#SMfile <- "m_Z_mean.tif"
FUSIONfile <- "elev_max_2plus_30METERS.img"
```

Read raster data and display extent and summary info

```
## FUSION raster:      ncol= 160      nrow= 134      cells= 21440
## HAGVRT raster:     ncol= 158      nrow= 134      cells= 21172
## HAGNN raster:      ncol= 158      nrow= 134      cells= 21172
## HAGFUSION raster:  ncol= 158      nrow= 133      cells= 21014
## FUSION raster:     SpatExtent : 634695, 639495, 4400265, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
## HAGVRT raster:     SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400265, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
## HAGNN raster:      SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400265, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
## HAGFUSION raster:  SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400295, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
```

Adjust extent

The rasters produced when using PDAL's `hag_nn` are different from those produced using other `hag` filters. I don't know for sure why but suspect it has to do with the extent of ground points compared to the extent of non-ground points.

The HAGNN raster requires an extra operation to make it match the other rasters.

FUSION rasters are assigned a srs using an ESRI's projection file. The format of these files differs from the format used for the srs in the point cloud files so SilviMetric's srs doesn't exactly match FUSION's. To overcome this, I forced the srs for FUSION rasters to match those from SilviMetric.

```
## adjusted FUSION raster:      SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400295, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
## adjusted HAGVRT raster:     SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400295, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
## adjusted HAGNN raster:      SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400295, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
## adjusted HAGFUSION raster:  SpatExtent : 634725, 639465, 4400295, 4404285 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
```

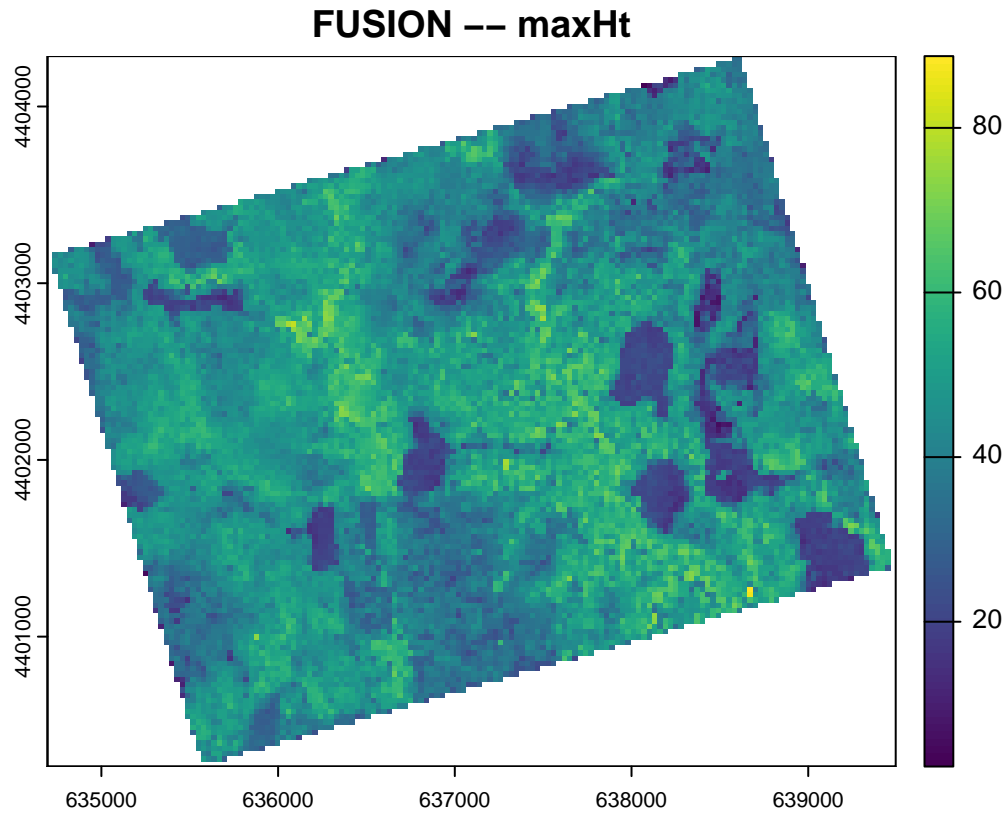
Extent and summary information for adjusted rasters

```
## FUSION output:      ncol= 158      nrow= 133      cells= 21014
## HAGVRT output:     ncol= 158      nrow= 133      cells= 21014
## HAGNN output:      ncol= 158      nrow= 133      cells= 21014
## HAGFUSION output:  ncol= 158      nrow= 133      cells= 21014
## FUSION raster:
##   Layer_1
##   Min.    : 2.408
##   1st Qu.:36.595
##   Median :44.817
##   Mean    :43.495
##   3rd Qu.:51.475
##   Max.    :88.718
##   NA's    :7415
## HAGVRT raster:
##   m_Z_max
##   Min.    : 2.551
##   1st Qu.:36.706
##   Median :44.930
##   Mean    :43.586
##   3rd Qu.:51.575
##   Max.    :88.835
##   NA's    :7409
## HAGNN raster:
##   m_Z_max
##   Min.    : 2.44
##   1st Qu.:36.67
##   Median :44.89
##   Mean    :43.59
##   3rd Qu.:51.61
##   Max.    :89.66
##   NA's    :7401
## HAGFUSION raster:
##   m_Z_max
##   Min.    : 2.41
##   1st Qu.:36.59
##   Median :44.81
##   Mean    :43.49
##   3rd Qu.:51.47
##   Max.    :88.72
##   NA's    :7414
```

Compare raster values for maximum height

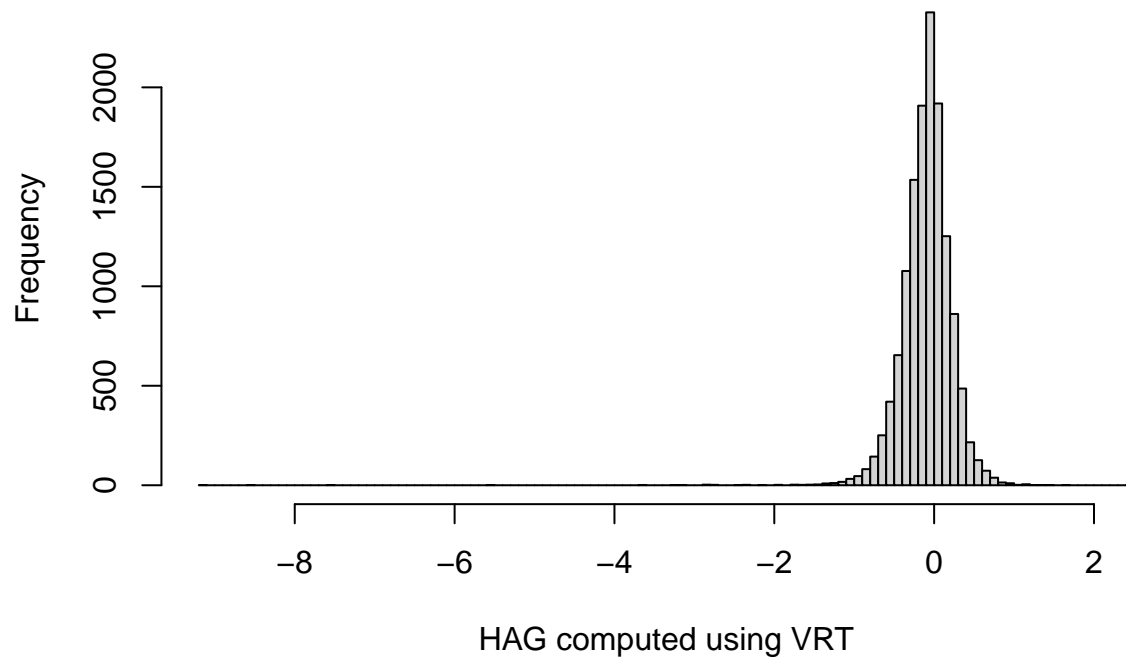
This metric (maximum HAG) doesn't involve any calculation so it basically tests that FUSION and Silviculture Metric are using the same HAG values and same point for the cells.

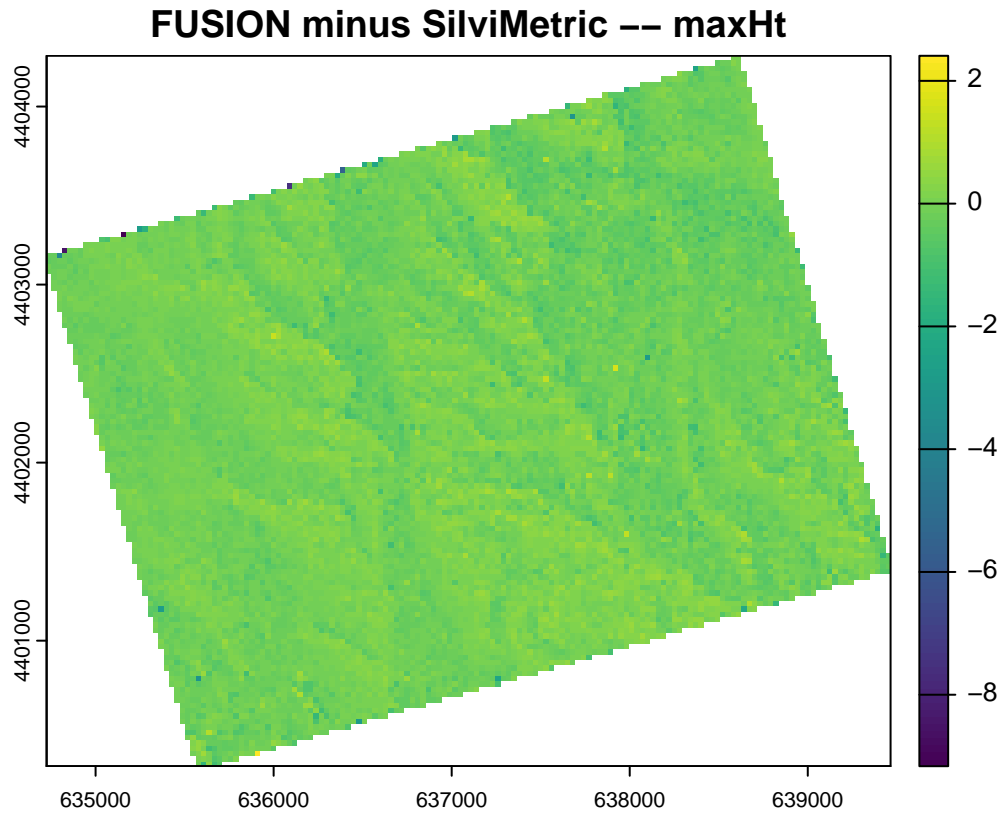
This is a plot of the FUSION output for maximum height.



The first test uses HAG computed using the VRT with PDAL's hag_dem filter. The interpolation problem with PDAL mentioned above leads to small differences between HAG compute by FUSION and using the VRT. In general, these differences are largest at the edge of the coverage area but there are patterns related to topographic features visible in the difference raster.

FUSION minus SilviMetric -- maxHt

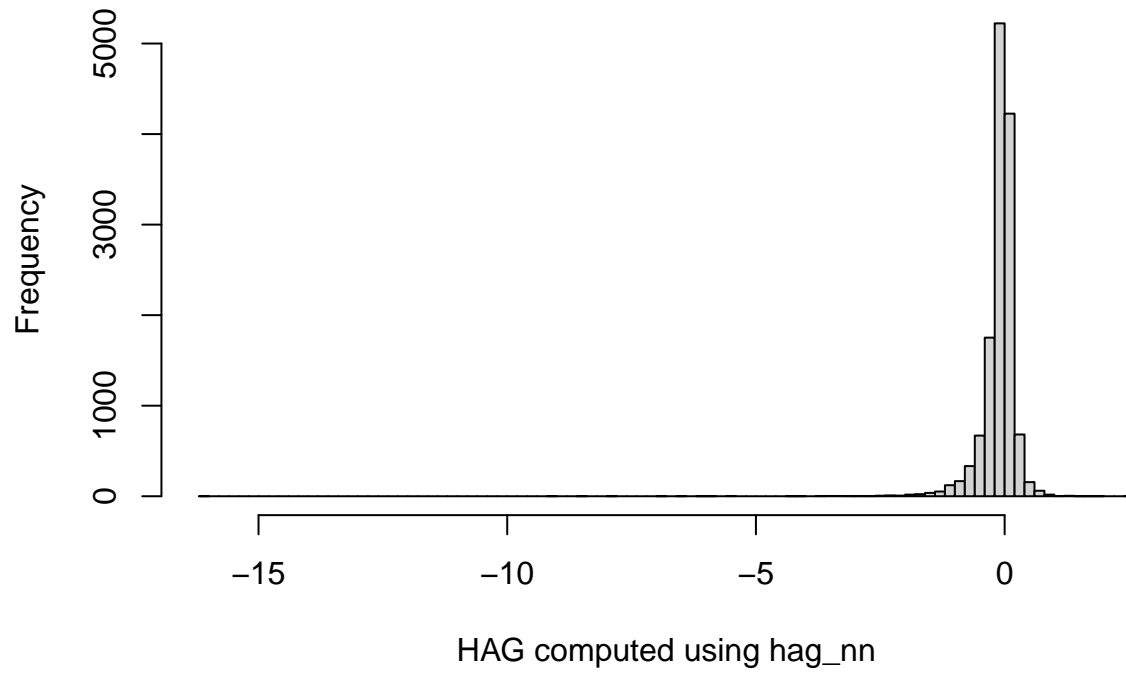


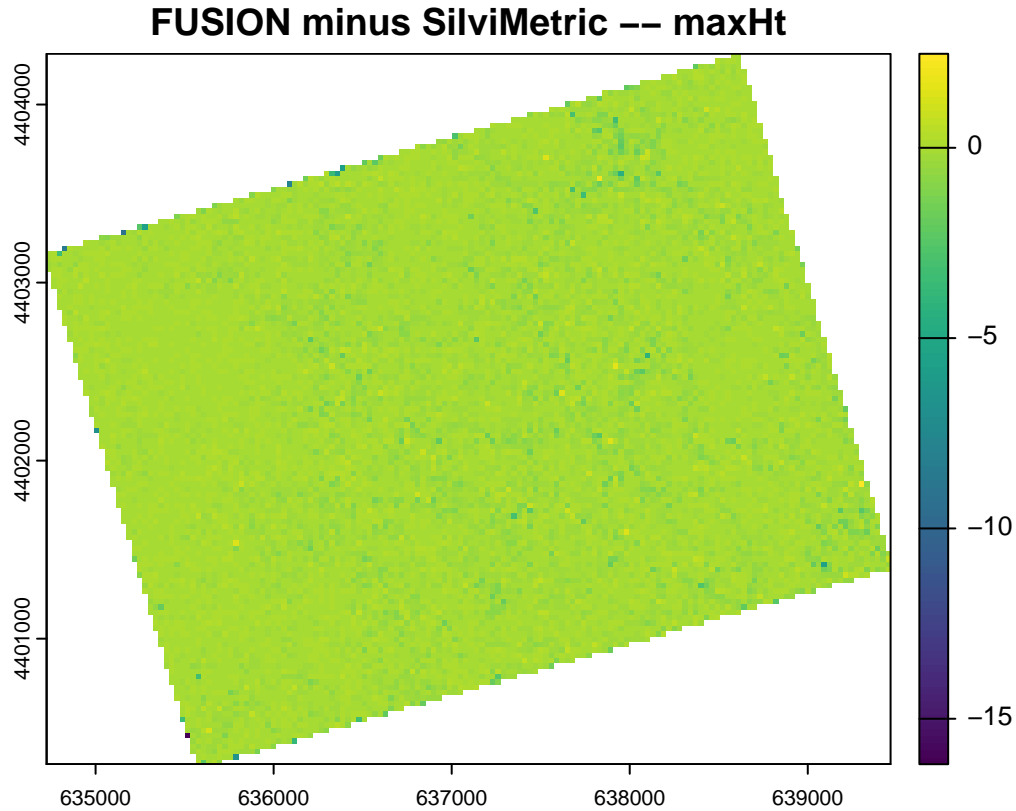


```
##      Layer_1
##  Min.   :-9.164
## 1st Qu.: -0.255
##   Median: -0.075
##    Mean  :-0.095
## 3rd Qu.:  0.080
##   Max.   :  2.409
##   NA's   :7415
```

The second test uses HAG computed using PDAL's hag_nn filter. This produces similar differences compared to the VRT method. Again, differences are largest at the edge of the coverage area. Interesting, topographic patterns are not reflected in the differences but are when using the VRT approach.

FUSION minus SilviMetric -- maxHt

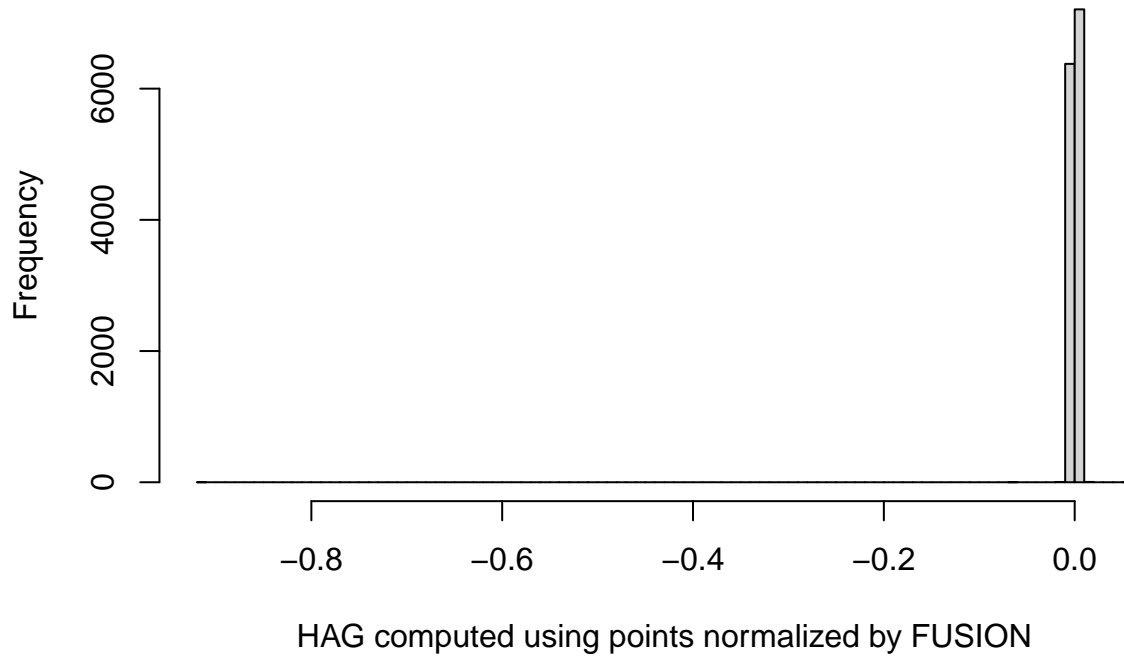


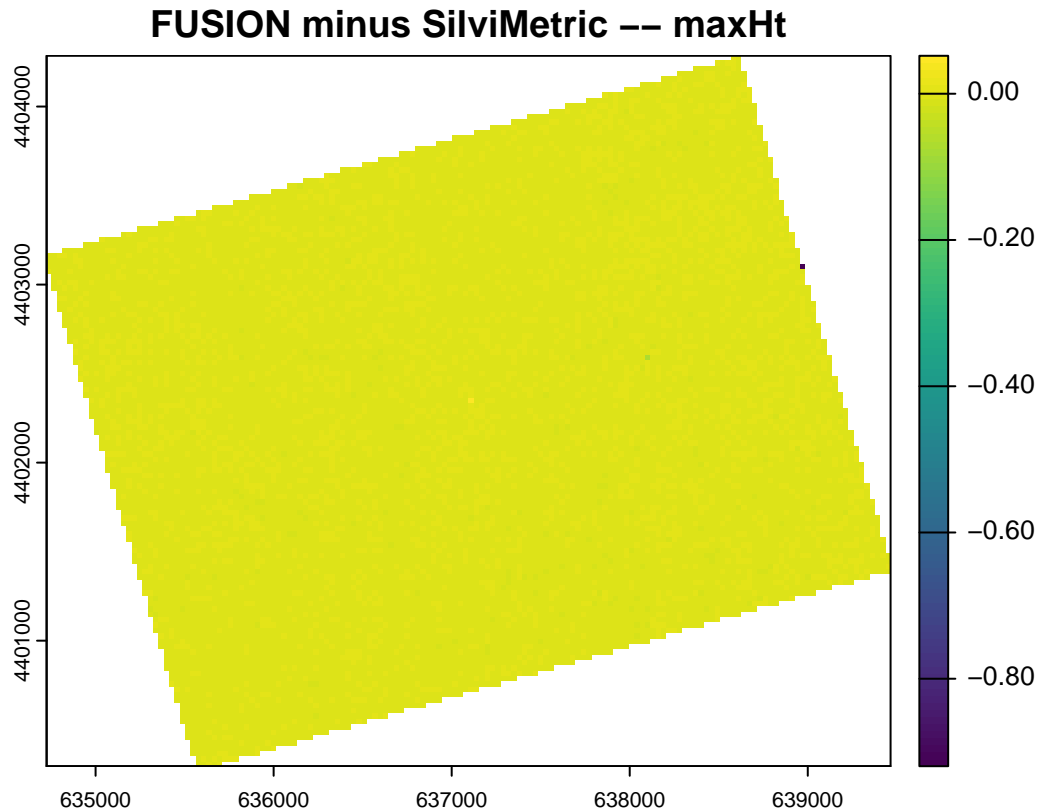


```
##      Layer_1
##  Min.   :-16.194
## 1st Qu.: -0.187
## Median : -0.043
## Mean   : -0.110
## 3rd Qu.:  0.049
## Max.   :  2.469
## NA's   :7415
```

The final test used FUSION to compute HAG for the point tiles. Then PDAL to convert the tiles back to COPC format (FUSION doesn't write COPC format). The normalized point tiles were then used with SilviMetric (so no HAG computation was needed). This test, compared to the first test, highlights the difference in the HAG values computed in FUSION and PDAL. The maximum heights for cells are nearly identical with differences attributable to numeric precision used for the HAG values (FUSION carries more significant digits...not necessarily more accurate values).

FUSION minus SilviMetric -- maxHt





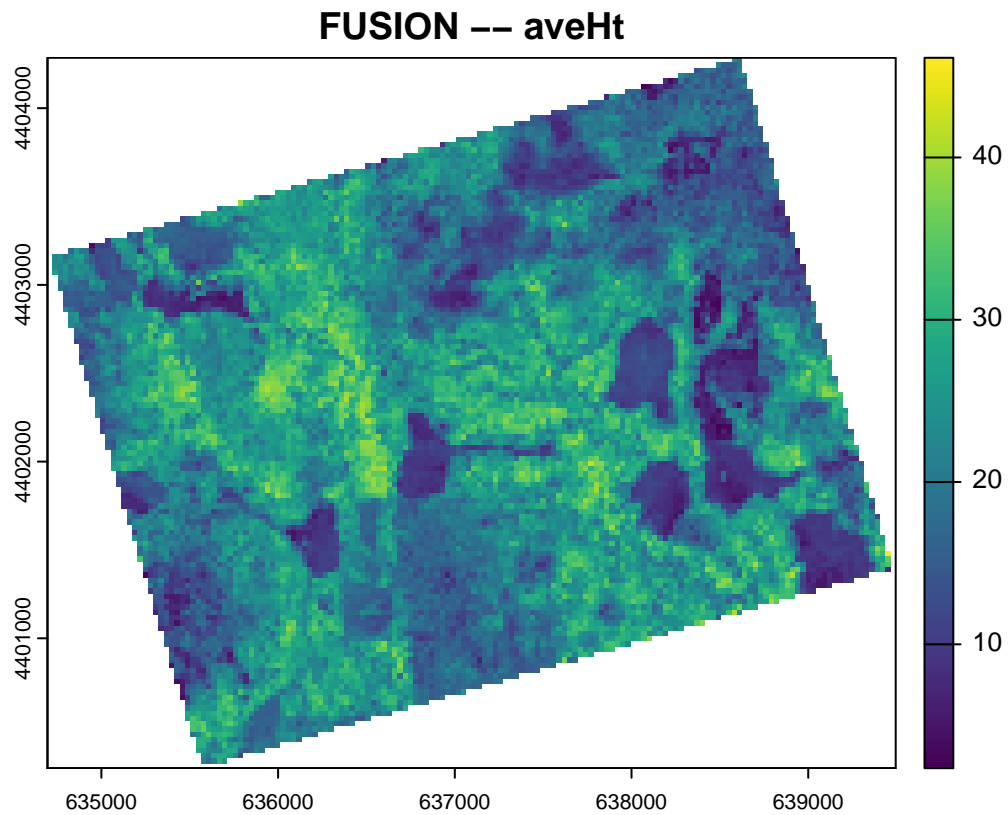
```
##      Layer_1
##  Min.   :-0.920
## 1st Qu.: -0.002
## Median : 0.000
## Mean   : 0.000
## 3rd Qu.: 0.003
## Max.   : 0.052
## NA's   :7415
```

I suspect that differences in the third test also result from the rules used to select point for a cell. FUSION does not include points that exactly fall on the top and right edges of a cell whereas, PDAL includes these points. While this does produce slightly different values for metrics, I don't think it affects the utility of the metrics. It is debatable which method is more "correct" but I don't expect to see large differences in metrics over large areas because of this difference... only for scattered individual cells.

Compare raster values for mean height

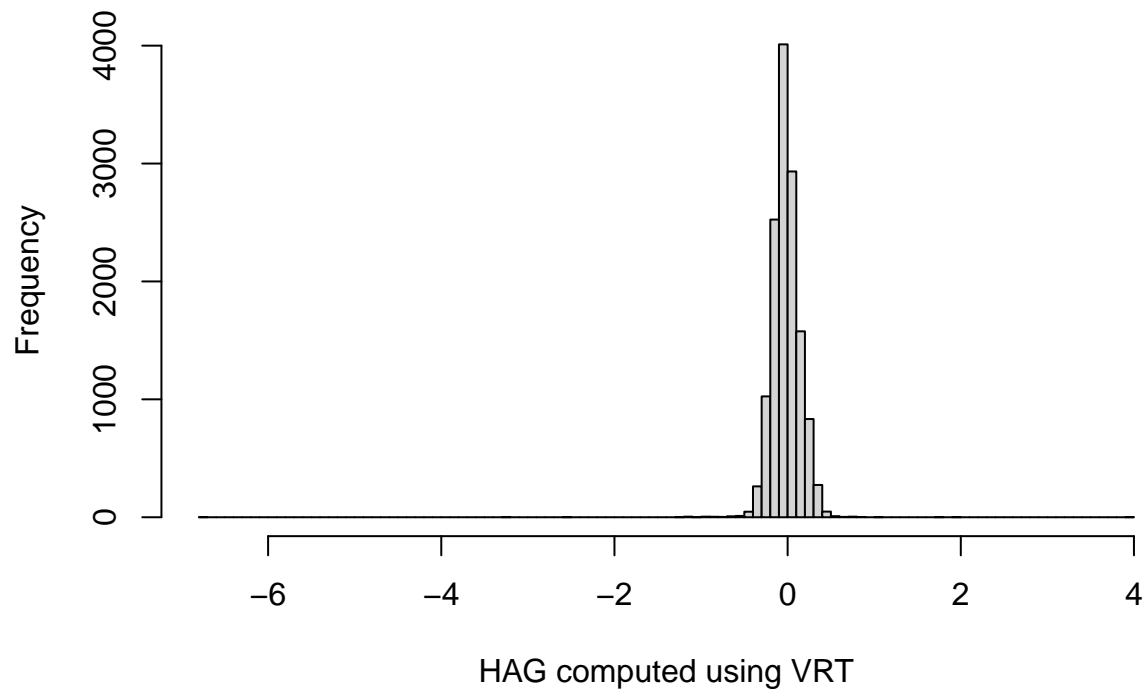
This metric (mean HAG) involves calculation so it tests that FUSION and SilviMetric are using the same points and calculation methods.

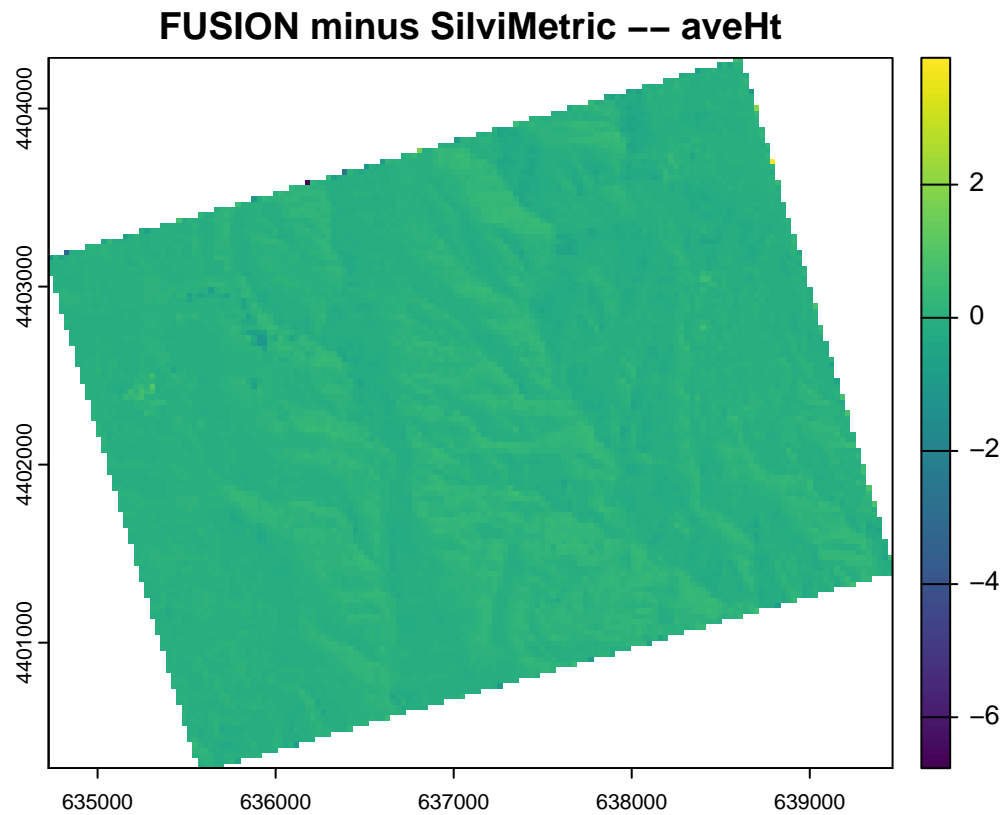
This is a plot of the FUSION output for average height.



This is the difference using HAG computed using a VRT with FUSION-derived DEM tiles.

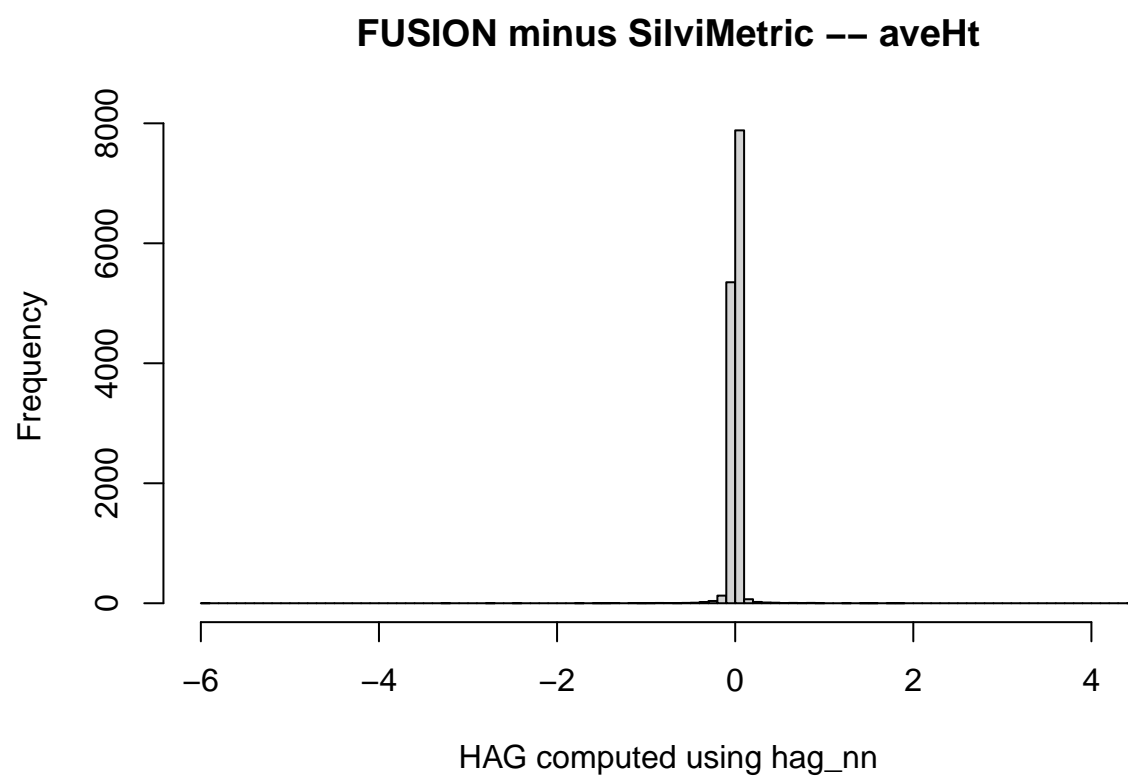
FUSION minus SilviMetric -- aveHt

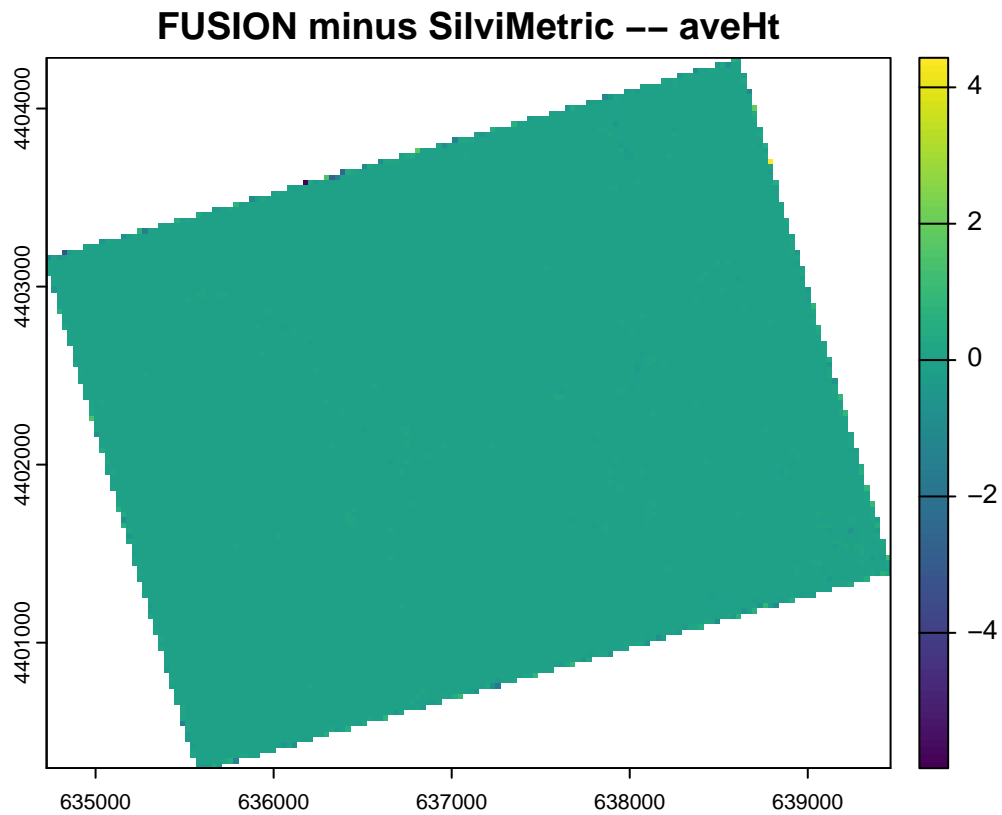




```
##      Layer_1
##  Min.   :-6.765
## 1st Qu.: -0.114
## Median :-0.025
##  Mean  :-0.019
## 3rd Qu.:  0.071
##   Max.   :  3.905
##   NA's   :7415
```

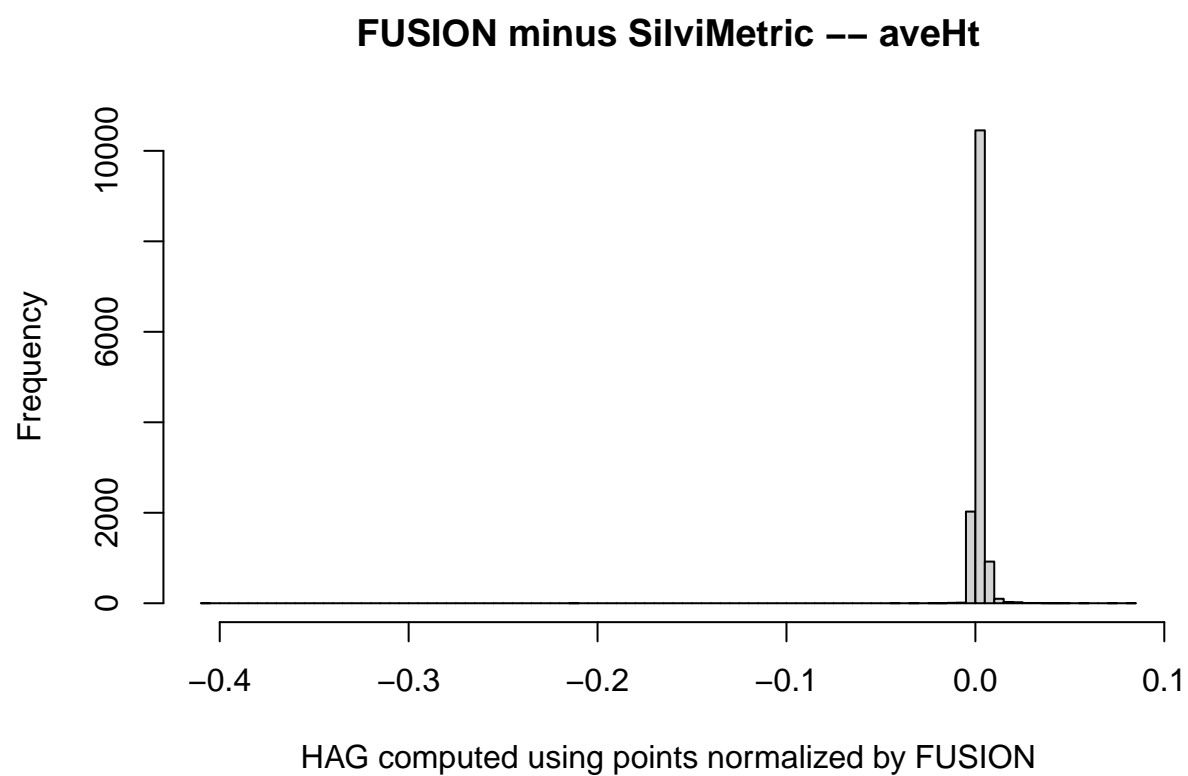
This is the difference using HAG computed using dem_nn.

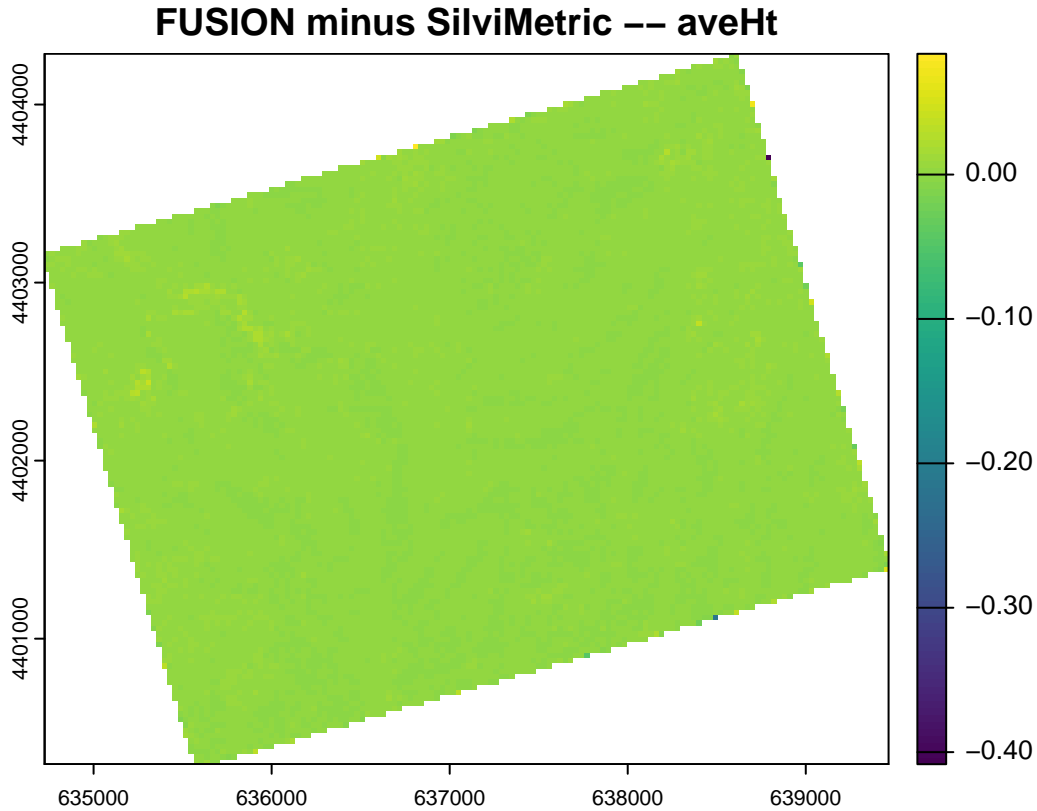




```
##      Layer_1
##  Min.   :-5.985
## 1st Qu.: -0.006
##  Median :  0.003
##   Mean  :  0.000
## 3rd Qu.:  0.011
##   Max.   :  4.433
##  NA's    :7415
```

This is the difference using HAG computed by FUSION.





```
##      Layer_1
##  Min.   :-0.408
## 1st Qu.: 0.001
## Median : 0.002
## Mean   : 0.002
## 3rd Qu.: 0.003
## Max.   : 0.084
## NA's   :7415
```

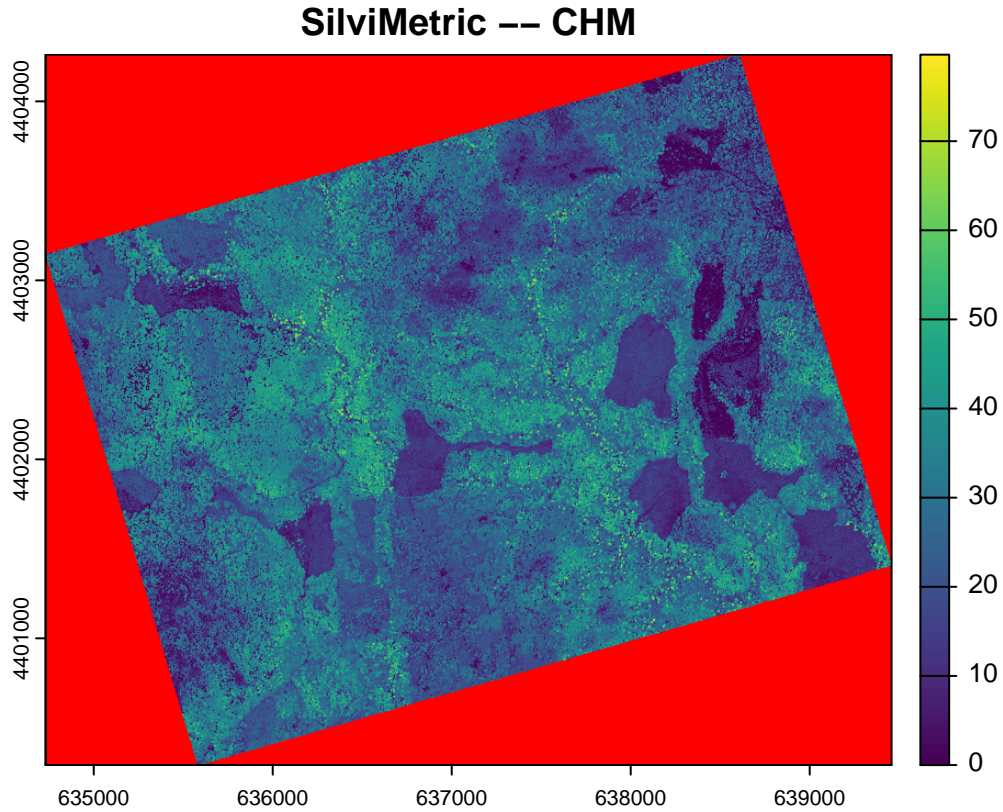
As with the comparison of maximum height values, the smallest differences occur when FUSION was used to normalize the point data. For this metric, the HAG and the set of points due to inclusion of points on the right and top edges of cells affect the comparison.

CHM comparison

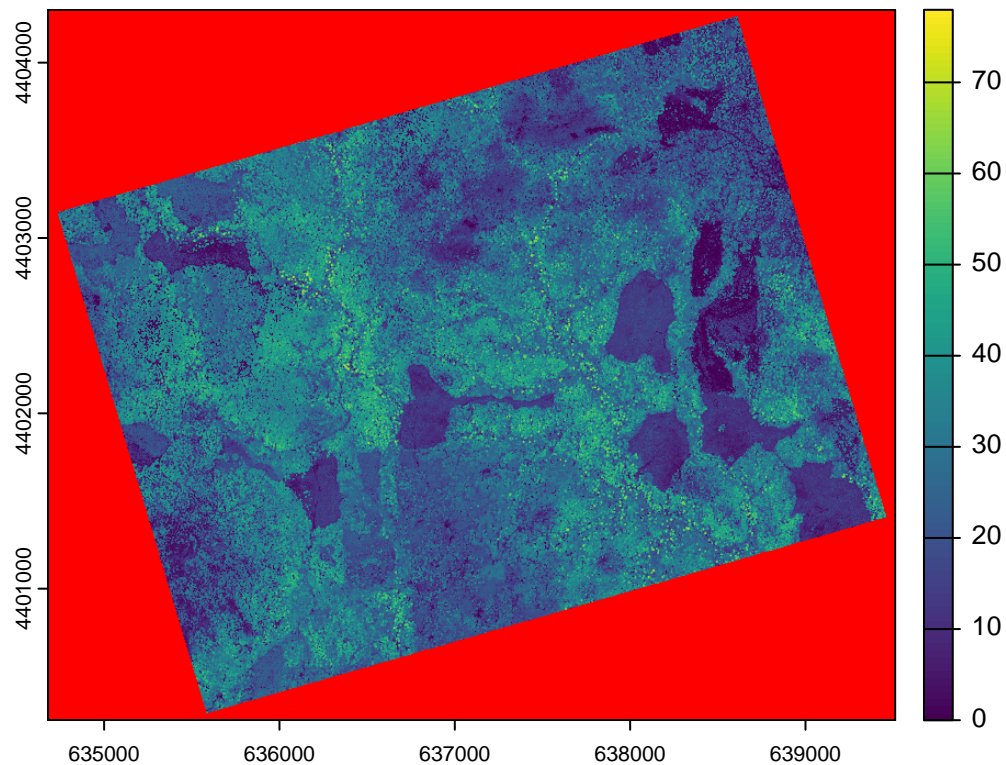
SilviMetric was used to produce a CHM using 1.5m resolution. HAG was computed using the FUSION-derived DEM tiles and below ground points were dropped from the data. As with the metric rasters, some cropping of the FUSION output was needed to match the extent of the SilviMetric CHM. FUSION's normal logic fills holes (areas with no points) using bilinear interpolation. This was turned off when creating this CHM.

FUSION's alignment for surfaces is different from the alignment for raster layers. For the CHM, the cell edges are a multiple of the cell size rather than the cell centers. This originated due to differences between lattice and raster (or GRID) formats and alignment. A version of SilviMetric that matched this alignment was used to create the SilviMetric CHM.

Looking closely at the following plots, I don't see many empty (red) cells (NODATA or NA values for cells) in the FUSION output but do see some in the SilviMetric output. FUSION's behavior (CanopyModel) is to replace any valid negative point height value with 0.0. The logic in my build_pipeline() function drops points if there HAG is below 0.0. This can probably be changed so it will include points with negative elevations and, possibly, set their HAG to 0.0.

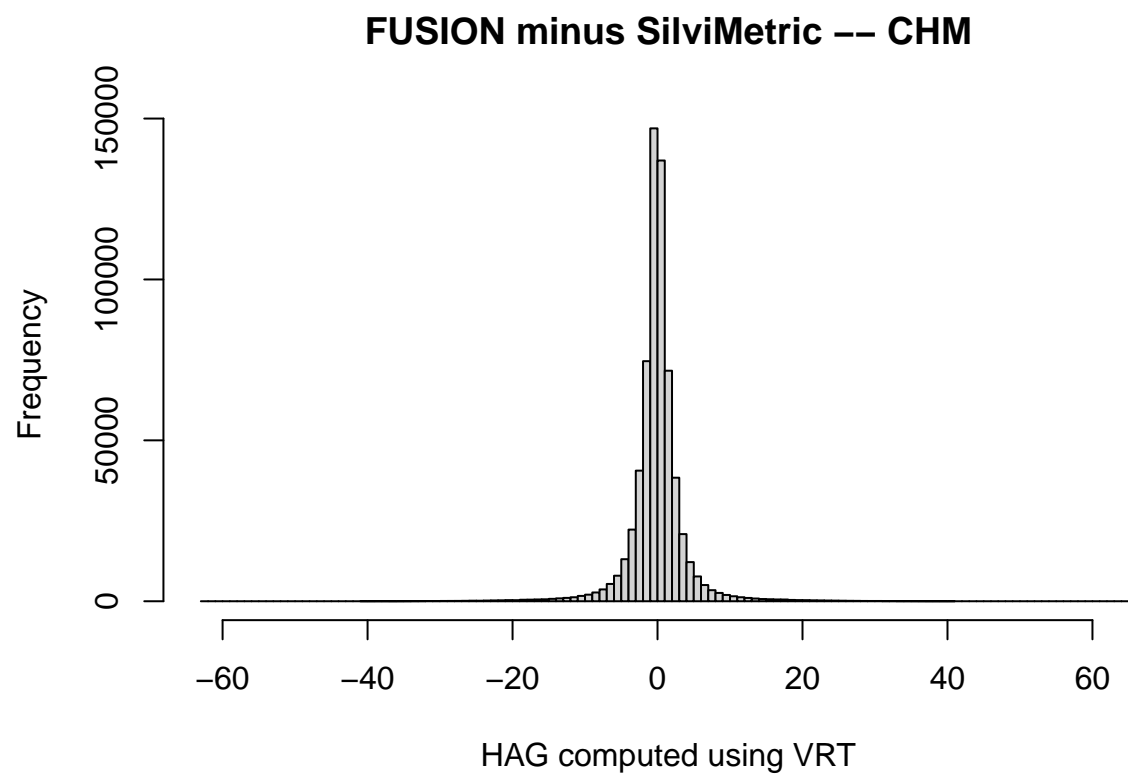


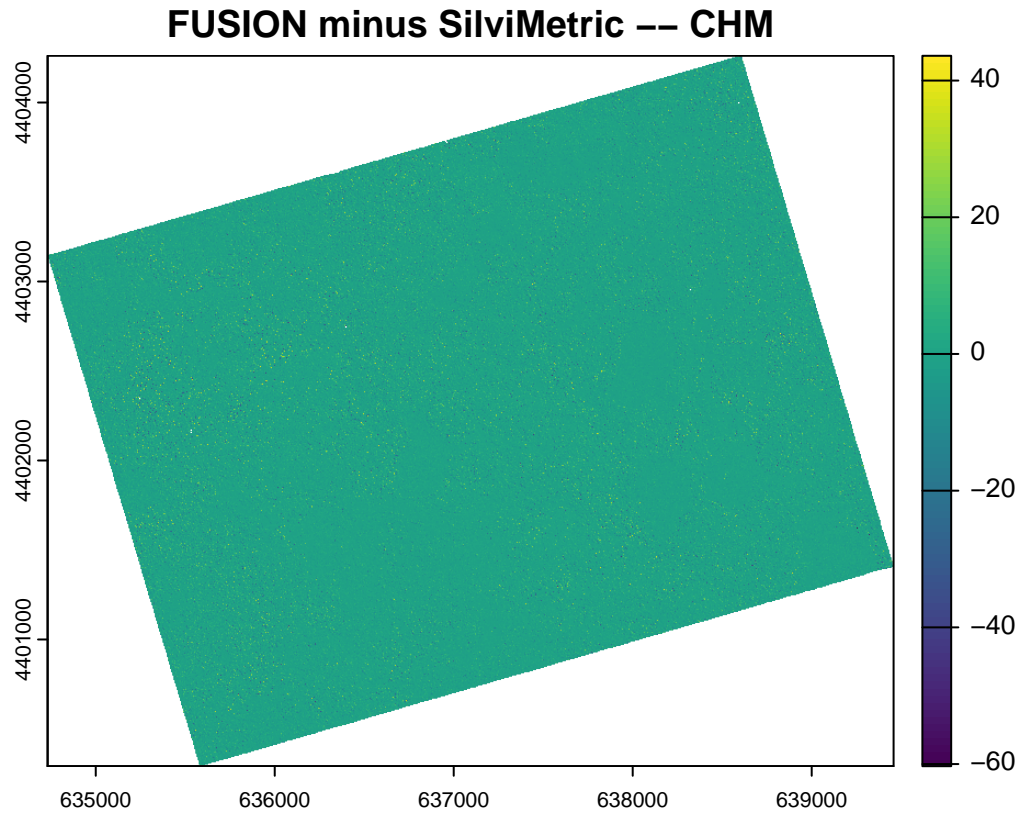
FUSION -- CHM



```
## Warning: [summary] used a sample
## Warning: [summary] used a sample
## Warning: [summary] used a sample
```

```
## Warning: [hist] a sample of 12% of the cells was used (of which 36% was NA)
```





```
## SilviMetric raster:
##   m_Z_max
##   Min.   : 0.00
##   1st Qu.:16.83
##   Median :25.64
##   Mean   :25.84
##   3rd Qu.:34.55
##   Max.   :79.06
##   NA's   :36147
##
##
## FUSION raster:
##   Layer_1
##   Min.   : 0.00
##   1st Qu.:16.78
##   Median :25.65
##   Mean   :25.84
##   3rd Qu.:34.63
##   Max.   :75.13
##   NA's   :38837
##
##
## Difference raster:
##   Layer_1
##   Min.   : -49.62
##   1st Qu.: -1.25
```

```
## Median : -0.04
## Mean   : -0.05
## 3rd Qu.:  1.15
## Max.    : 48.16
## NA's    :36174
```