Script Review: '14_lidR-Processing_to_Git'

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Contents

Action

This following indcludes R Markdown documentation of the LiDAR processing steps taken to derive landscape metrics and raster covariates from a continuous point cloud using the lidR package. This report and literate programming, along with its virtual environment were are stored in the github repository here: 13_lidR_PointCloud_Processing.

1 Import LiDAR

LiDAR downloads for the Ahbau region were imported as zip files and unpacked from their top-directory and subdirectory folders using the unzip function. I could not find any published R packages that deal with .7z archive files. Instead custom-written function was adopted from the RAMP project. This was done with the following code chunk:

```
zip_file_ahbau = ("./14_LiDR-Processing_GitRepo/Data/Ahbau.zip")
zip_dir_ahbau_top = ("./14_LiDR-Processing_GitRepo/Data/")
unzip(zip_file_ahbau,
      exdir = zip_dir_ahbau_top,
      overwrite = TRUE)
zip_dir_ahbau_sub = ("./14_LiDR-Processing_GitRepo/Data/Ahbau/Las_v12_ASPRS")
zip_file_ahbau_sub = list.files(
  zip_dir_ahbau_sub,
  full.names = T,
  recursive = F,
  pattern = '.7z$')
 Write RAMP function and extract
un7zip = function(archive, where) {
  archive <- normalizePath(archive)
  current_path <- setwd(where)
  system(paste("7zr x", archive, sep = " "))
  setwd(current_path) }
un7zip(zip_file_ahbau_sub, zip_dir_ahbau_top)
```

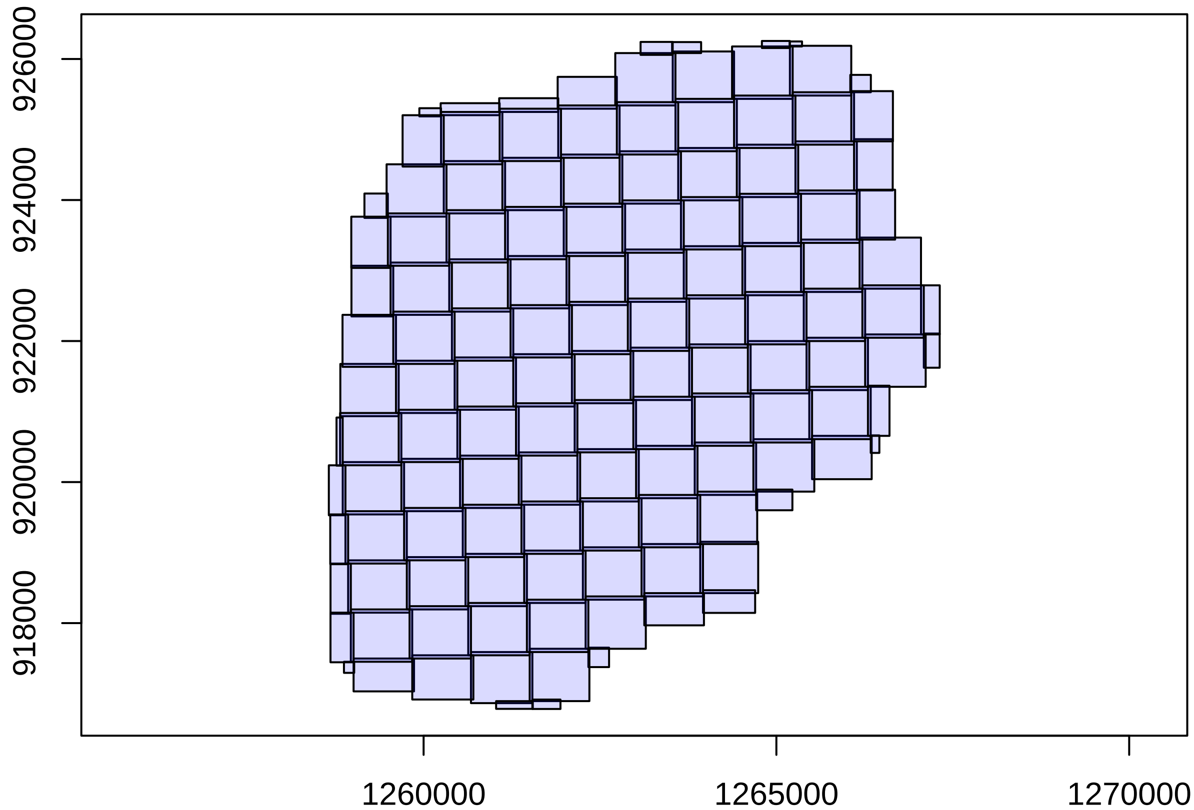
2 Read, Validate, and Assemble LiDAR Collection

LiDAR data for the Ahbau region included 311 tiles. Tiles were assembled, imported and processed as a LAS collection object using the *LAScatalog* Engine. Initial validation of catalog tiling reported overlapping areas. As per PI recommendations, retiling and rebuffering was implemented to remove potential duplicates with new chunk sizing ok 1km each, *readALSLAScatalog* function, which allowed settings for chunk processing, spatial indexing, buffering and duplicate cleaning. Parameters were calibrated to conduct retiling and remove duplicates generated by tiles This was confirmed in validation reports below.

```
las_ctg_ahbau = readALSLAScatalog("./Data/Ahbau/Las_v12_ASPRS/", select = "xyzcr",)
```

```
##   |                                                                              |=================
```

```
plot(las_ctg_ahbau)
```



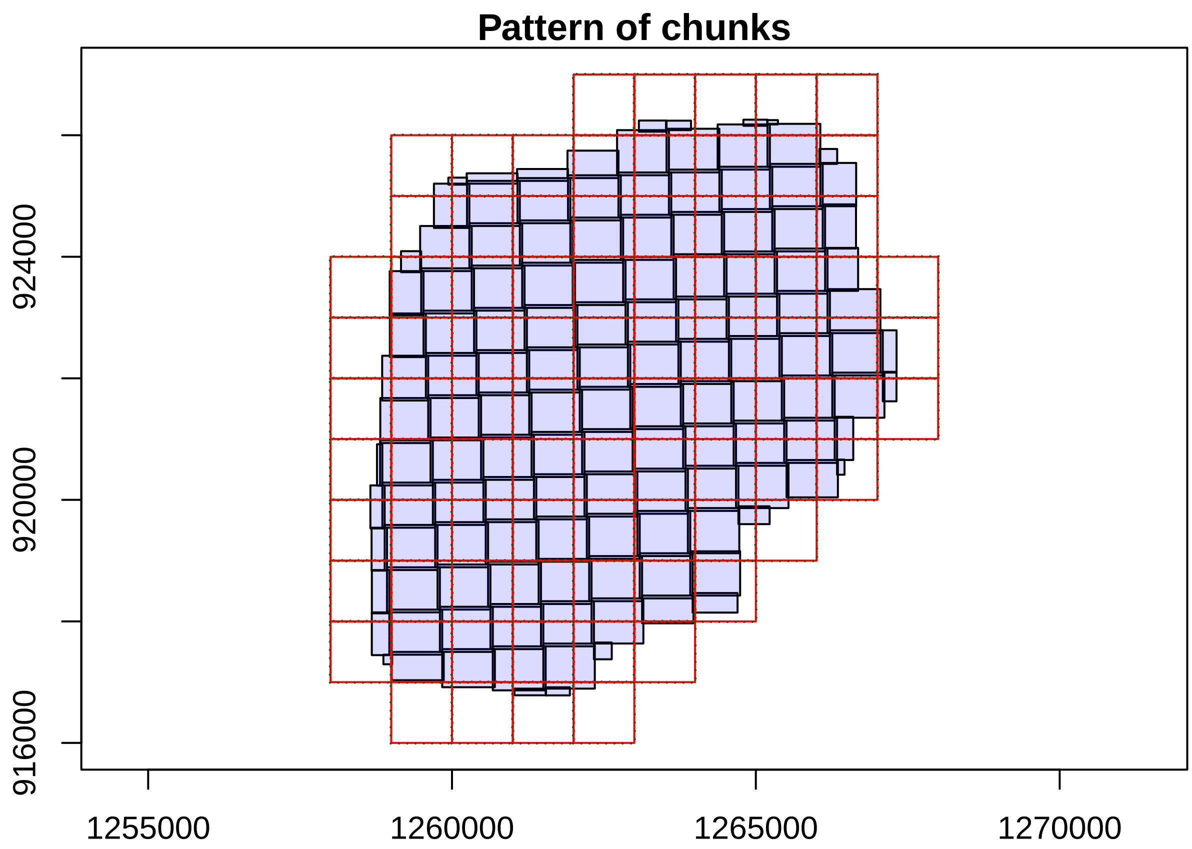

```
#las_check(las_ctg_ahbau)
```

```
|=========================================================================================
======================================== |  99%Be careful, some tiles seem to overlap each
other. lidR may return incorrect outputs with edge artifacts when processing this catalog.

 Checking headers consistency
  - Checking file version consistency... ✓
  - Checking scale consistency... ✓
  - Checking offset consistency... ✓
  - Checking point type consistency... ✓
  - Checking VLR consistency... ✓
  - Checking CRS consistency... ✓
 Checking the headers
  - Checking scale factor validity... ✓
  - Checking Point Data Format ID validity... ✓
 Checking preprocessing already done
  - Checking negative outliers... ✓
  - Checking normalization... no
 Checking the geometry
  - Checking overlapping tiles...
    ⚠ Some tiles seem to overlap each other
  - Checking point indexation... yes
```

Catalog indexing and chunk processing was attempted first time around using the *catalog_laxindex* and the *catalog_retile* operations. This was a little more sluggish and buggy, and only relies on the internal lidR tools of *readALSLAScatalog* that was faster. The *readALSLAScatalog* function allows calibrating chunk processing, rebuffering, indexing, and filtering while reading in. According to lidR manual, 'catalogs with files that overlap are not natively supported… the user should filter any overlaps' (cite: pg #no.). To avoid edge artifacts, reccommended buffering was left at 10m and the '-drop_class 19' filter was applied. For LAS point classifications, see ESRI resource here.

```
las_ctg_ahbau_indexed = readALSLAScatalog("./Data/Ahbau/Las_v12_ASPRS/")
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) = paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_indexed")
opt_select(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) = "xyzcr"
opt_filter(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) = '-drop_class 19'
opt_chunk_size(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) = 1000
opt_chunk_buffer(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) = 10
filter_duplicates(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed)
is.indexed(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed)
#las_check(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed)
plot(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed, chunk = TRUE)
```

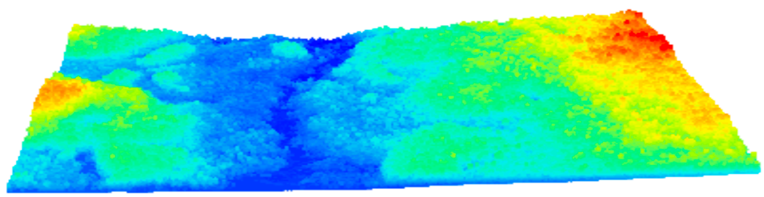
```
## [1] TRUE
```




```
|==============================================================================
========================================== |  99%Be careful, some tiles seem to overlap each
other. lidR may return incorrect outputs with edge artifacts when processing this catalog.

 Checking headers consistency
  - Checking file version consistency... ✓
  - Checking scale consistency... ✓
  - Checking offset consistency... ✓
  - Checking point type consistency... ✓
  - Checking VLR consistency... ✓
  - Checking CRS consistency... ✓
 Checking the headers
  - Checking scale factor validity... ✓
  - Checking Point Data Format ID validity... ✓
 Checking preprocessing already done
  - Checking negative outliers... ✓
  - Checking normalization... no
 Checking the geometry
  - Checking overlapping tiles...
    ⚠ Some tiles seem to overlap each other
  - Checking point indexation... yes
```

For visualization purposes, a single las tile '093g030122ne" was loaded, processed and plotted. All subsequent illustrations of processing operations were rendered using this tile chunk.

```
las_tile_ahbau = readLAS("./Data/Ahbau/Las_v12_ASPRS/093g030122ne.las", select = 'xyzcr', filter = '-dro
plot(las_tile_ahbau, bg = "white")
```

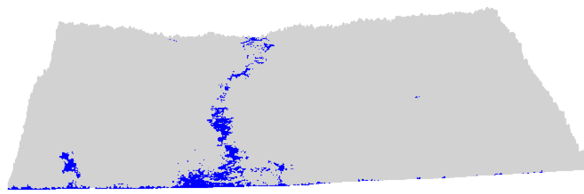


3 Classification of Ground Points

Classification of ground points was implemented twice comparing system running time and data voids between the 'csf()' Cloth Simulation Filter algorithm [@zhang2016] and the 'pmf()' Progressive Morphological Filter algorithm [@zhang2003]. To cover all potnetial eventualities, the RCSF packaged was installed from CRAN source file and loaded into the github repository ready for virtual environment cloning (see link in Action section). Though this package is not a package dependent, just seems to facilitate better with fewer bugs popping up.

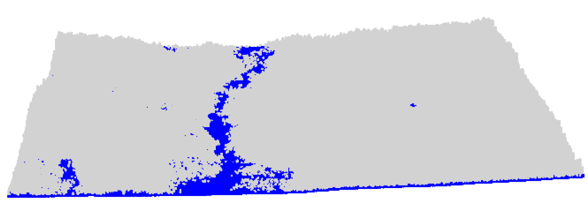
The Cloth Simulation Filter algorithm was fitted with three parameters in order to account for variable topography across the study site and to reduce errors during any potential post-processing. This included the sloop_smooth that was applied over a cloth resolution of 10cm at a rigidness factor of 1.

```
library(RCSF)
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) =  paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_csf")
las_ctg_ahbau_csf = classify_ground(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed, csf(sloop_smooth=TRUE, 0.5, 1))
las_tile_ahbau_csf = classify_ground(las_tile_ahbau, csf(sloop_smooth=TRUE, 0.5, 1))
plot(las_tile_ahbau_csf, color = "Classification", bg = "white")
```



The Progressive Morphological Filter algorithm was tuned using the 'util_makeZhangParam()' method, which generated a list of candidate parameters for testing window size and threshold. This internal function simply provides a sequence of parameters that match those in the original paper [@zhang2003].

```
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed) =  paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_pmf")
util_makeZhangParam()
las_ctg_ahbau_pmf = classify_ground(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed, pmf(seq(5, 9, 13), seq(3, 3, 3)))
las_tile_ahbau_pmf = classify_ground(las_tile_ahbau, pmf(seq(5, 9, 13), seq(3, 3, 3)))
plot(las_tile_ahbau_pmf, color = "Classification", bg = "white")
```



4 Classification and Removal of Noise

Classification of photon noise was applied using the 'sor' Statistical Outlier Removal' algorithm. This was fitted with default neighbourhood sample and multiplier of k=10 and m=3. Four possible methods for noise screening were found: 1) classifcation with internal algorithms and filtering with 'filter_poi' function and 'LASNOISE' string, 2) or filtering using the LAS classification codes with 'opt_filter' tool and '-drop class 19' string, 3) screening by threshold such as 'Z > 40 & Z < 0', 4) or screening by 95th percentiles. Seems a signficant topic in forestry so leave this to your better judgement. The first approach seemed slower in the long run due to loss spatial indexing after assigning new catalog object to operate the filter_poi function, as seen below.

```
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_csf_so")
opt_select(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = "xyzcr"
opt_filter(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = "-drop_class 19"
opt_chunk_size(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = 1000
opt_chunk_buffer(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = 10
sensor(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = "als"
index(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) = "quadtree"

las_ctg_ahbau_csf_so = classify_noise(las_ctg_ahbau_csf, sor(k=10, m=3))
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_so) = paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor")
las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor = filter_poi(las_ctg_ahbau_indexed, Classification != LASNOISE)

las_tile_ahbau_csf_so = classify_noise(las_tile_ahbau_csf, sor(k=10, m=3))
las_tile_ahbau_pmf_so = classify_noise(las_tile_ahbau_pmf, sor(k=10, m=3))
plot(las_tile_ahbau_csf_so, color = "Classification", bg = "white")
plot(las_tile_ahbau_pmf_so, color = "Classification", bg = "white")
las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor = filter_poi(las_tile_ahbau_csf_so, Classification != LASNOISE)
las_tile_ahbau_pmf_sor = filter_poi(las_tile_ahbau_pmf_so, Classification != LASNOISE)
```

5 Digital Terrain Model

A digital terrain model was derived from a continuous, cleaned point cloud by applying the 'Inverse Distance Weighting' algorithm [@tu2020]. The LAScataolog was read in again for faster processing by selectingfilter as is common practic in forestry analysis. As per PI's guidance, the Inverse Distance Weighting algorithm was chosen for its improved running time and its sensitivity to lake anomalies. This was implemented twice using the sample tile to compare visually between those derived from 'CSF' and 'PMF' processing. Parameters were set to default maximum radius of 50m, neighbourhood of 10 and inverse distance weighting power of 2, with a resolution of 1m.

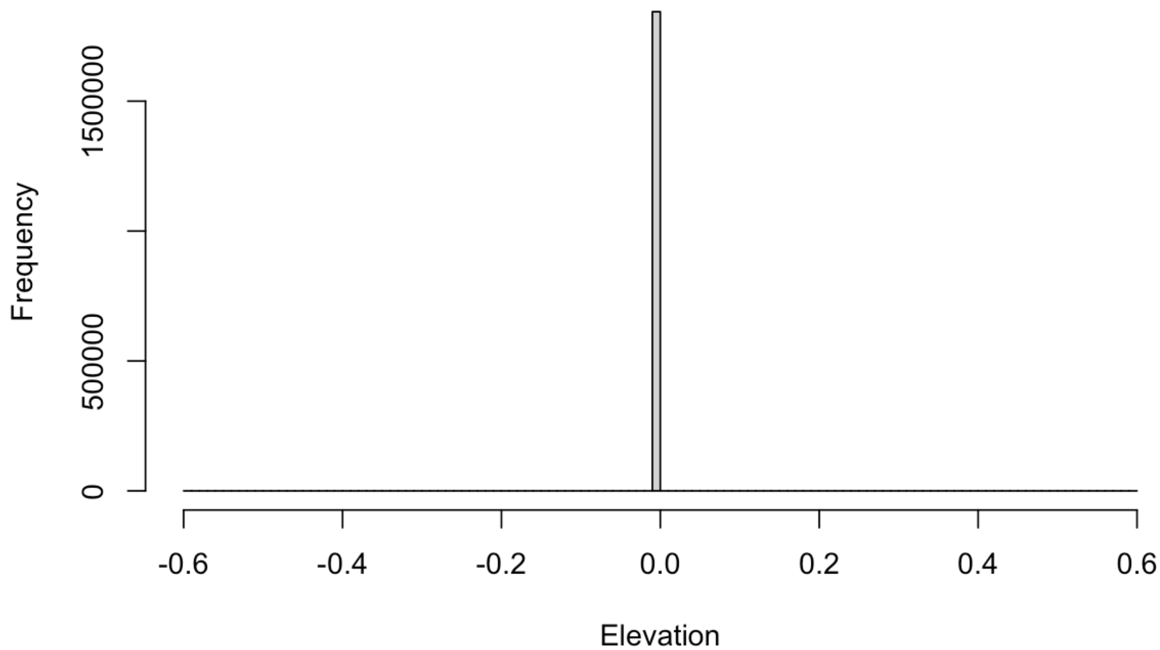
```
las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm = grid_terrain(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor, 1, knnidw(10, 2, 50))
las_tile_ahbau_pmf_sor_dtm = grid_terrain(las_tile_ahbau_pmf_sor, 1, knnidw(10, 2, 50))
las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_plot = plot_dtm3d(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm, bg = "white")
las_tile_ahbau_pmf_sor_dtm_plot = plot_dtm3d(las_tile_ahbau_pmf_sor_dtm, bg = "white")
```

Visually, the cloth simulation filter produced better DEM result than the pmf that appears grainy. Rousseau (2021: 3.2) mentioned that the progressive morphological filter is an originally raster-based algorithm, while 'csf' may perform better with lidR operations that are point-orientated. The former was chosen to derive below a DEM raster for the Ahbau catalog. TODO: run individual las_check on two chunks showing warnings in processing image report of 'grid_terrain...knnidw()' operation bottom image:

```r
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_dtm")
opt_select(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = "xyzcr"
opt_filter(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = '-drop_class 19'
opt_chunk_size(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = 1000
opt_chunk_buffer(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = 10
sensor(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = 'als'
index(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = "quadtree"
las_ctg_ahbau_csf_dtm = grid_terrain(las_ctg_ahbau, 1, knnidw())
#opt_stop_early(las_ctg_ahbau_csf) <- FALSE #to skip voids
#las_ctg_ahbau_csf_dtm = grid_terrain(las_ctg_ahbau, 1, tin())
las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_crop = crop(
  las_ctg_ahbau_csf_dtm, extent(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_dtm) - 10)
crs(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_crop) = 3005
las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_slope = terra::terrain(
  las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_crop, "slope", unit = "radians")
las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_aspect = terra::terrain(
  las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_crop, "aspect", unit = "radians")
las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_shade = hillShade(
  las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_slope, las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_aspect, 40, 270)
plot(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_dtm_shade, col=grey(0:100/100), legend=FALSE)
```

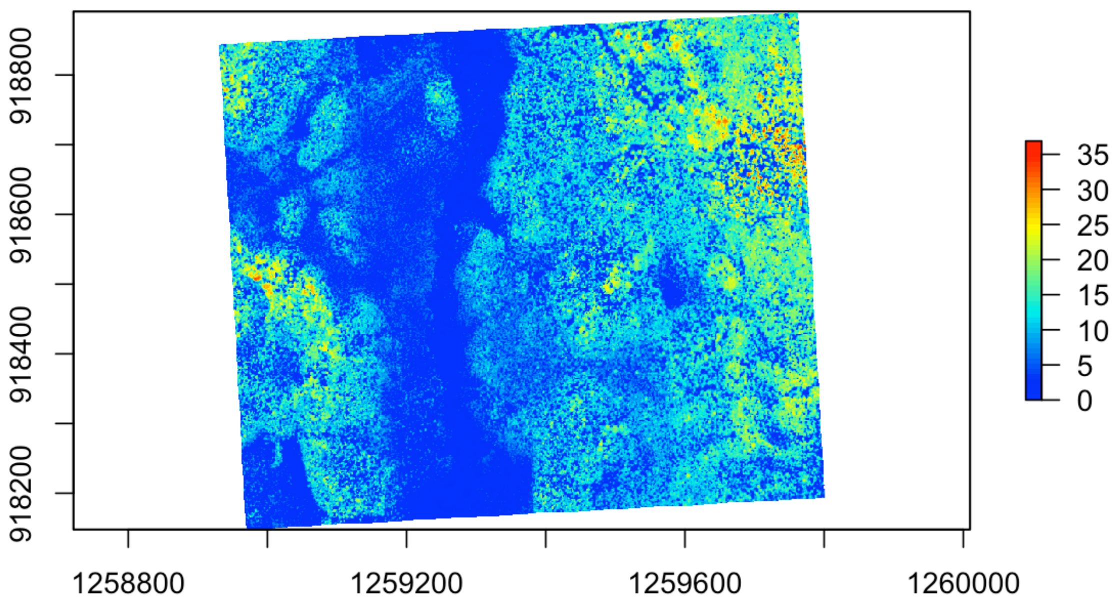
6 Height Normalization of Point Cloud

```r
opt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) =  paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_norm")
opt_select(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = "xyzr"
opt_filter(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = '-keep_first'
opt_chunk_size(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = 1000
opt_chunk_buffer(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = 10
sensor(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = 'als'
index(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor) = "quadtree"

las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm = normalize_height(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor, knnidw())
las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm = normalize_height(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor, knnidw())
hist(filter_ground(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm)$Z,
     breaks = seq(-0.6, 0.6, 0.01), main = "", xlab = "Elevation")
plot(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, bg = "white")
```



7 Area-Based Canopy Height Model

```
opt_selopt_output_files(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = paste0(tempdir(), "./Data/las_ctg_ahbau_dtm")
opt_select(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = "xyzr"
opt_filter(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = '-keep_first'
opt_chunk_size(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = 1000
opt_chunk_buffer(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = 10
sensor(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = 'als'
index(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm) = "auto"

las_ctg_ahbau_chm = grid_canopy(las_ctg_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, 1, dsmtin(8))
las_tile_ahbau_chm = grid_canopy(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, 1, dsmtin(8))
plot(las_tile_ahbau_chm, col = height.colors(50))
```



8 Individual Tree Metrics & Canopy Height Model

```
las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm_ttops = find_trees(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, lmf(4), uniqueness = "bitme
algo = dalponte2016(las_tile_ahbau_chm, las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm_ttops)
las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm_ttops_segmented = segment_trees(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, algo)


#filter_poi(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, Z < 0 & Z >= 0.15)
myMetrics = tree_metrics(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm, ~list(
    zmean    = mean(z),
    zmax     = max(z),
    q01      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.01)),     # 1st percentile value for cell
    q05      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.05)),     # 5th percentile value for cell
    q10      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.1)),      # 10th percentile value for cell
    q20      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.2)),      # 20th percentile value for cell
    q30      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.3)),      # 30th percentile value for cell
    q40      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.4)),      # 40th percentile value for cell
    q50      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.5)),      # 50th percentile value for cell
    q60      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.6)),      # 60th percentile value for cell
    q70      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.7)),      # 70th percentile value for cell
    q75      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.75)),     # 75th percentile value for cell
    q80      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.8)),      # 80th percentile value for cell
    q90      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.9)),      # 90th percentile value for cell
    q95      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.95)),     # 95th percentile value for cell
    q99      = quantile(z, probs = c(0.99)))     # 99th percentile value for cell
```

```
myMetrics_htop_plot = plot(myMetrics$q95)

metrics = tree_metrics(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm_ttops_segmented, ~list(z_max = max(Z), z_mean = mean
metrics_htop = filter_poi(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm_ttops_segmented, treeID, %in%, metrics$z_mean=>95
metrics_htop = tree_metrics(las_tile_ahbau_csf_sor_norm,quantile(z, probs = c(0.95))
plot(metrics_htop)
```