

Envirosense Hungary Ltd.

Eszterházy Károly University  
Research Institute of Remote Sensing and  
Rural Development

## **Airborne Remote Sensing Technologies**

Dezső Mikus - Envirosense Hungary Ltd.  
László Bekő - Eszterházy Károly University



# Overview

- Introduction
- Technical background
  - Airborne sensors
  - Field measurements
  - Data processing
- Case studies

# Introduction

## Envirosense Hungary Ltd

Envirosense Hungary Ltd. → spin off established in 2009.

- specialist of remote sensing, **production and processing** of images by **aerial sensors**
- Remote sensing **devices**:
  - aerial hyperspectral
  - airborne LiDAR technologies
  - digital imagery +processing of UAV and satellite images.
- **Fields of activities**:
  - Environmental protection / Nature conservation
  - Forestry
  - Agriculture
  - Urban development
  - Mining
  - etc.

# Introduction

Eszterházy Károly University

Research Institute of **Remote Sensing** and **Rural Development**

- The mission of the **EKU RIRSRD** is to conduct basic and applied remote sensing research for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the environment.
- Our team is responsible for conducting all phases of remote sensing operations, including *flight/mission planning, sensor maintenance, data acquisition, data processing, data analysis and modelling*
- 10+ years experience:
  - R+D projects
  - Hyperspectral imagery
  - LIDAR and orthophoto
  - Image processing

# Introduction

Eszterházy Károly University

Research Institute of Remote Sensing and Rural Development

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT OF THE DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS – UN SPIDER

United Nations Office for Outer Space affairs (UNOOSA) I.

UNOOSA is the United Nations office responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

UNOOSA conducts international workshops, training courses and pilot projects on topics that **include remote sensing, satellite navigation, satellite meteorology, tele-education and basic space sciences** for the benefit of developing nations. It also maintains a 24-hour hotline as the United Nations focal point for satellite imagery requests during disasters and manages the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).



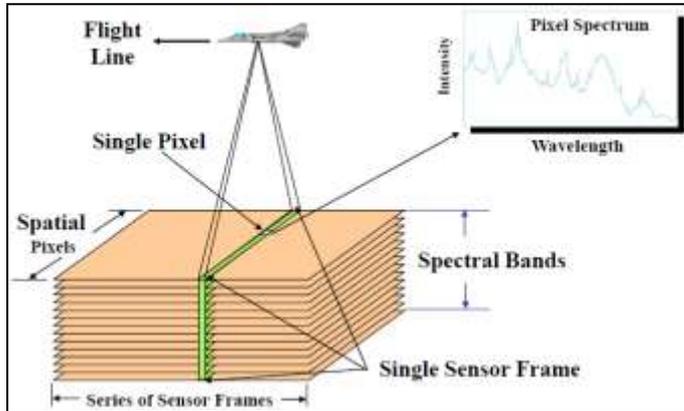
UNITED NATIONS | UNOOSA | UN-SPIDER

*United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for  
Disaster Management and Emergency Response*

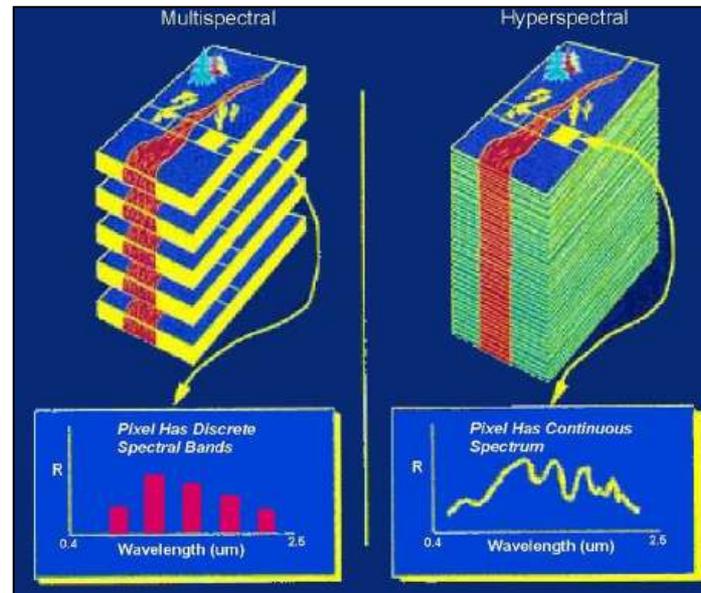
# Airborne remote sensing

## Hyperspectral imagery

What is spectral imaging?  
(hyperspectral imaging,  
imaging spectroscopy)



Each pixel is associated with simultaneous high resolution spectral information produced by a spectral camera



# Airborne remote sensing

## Hyperspectral imagery

An ***Aisa FENIX 1K*** the top-of-the-range full spectrum (380 – 2500 nm spectral range) sensor with 1024 spatial pixels used for airborne collection operations.

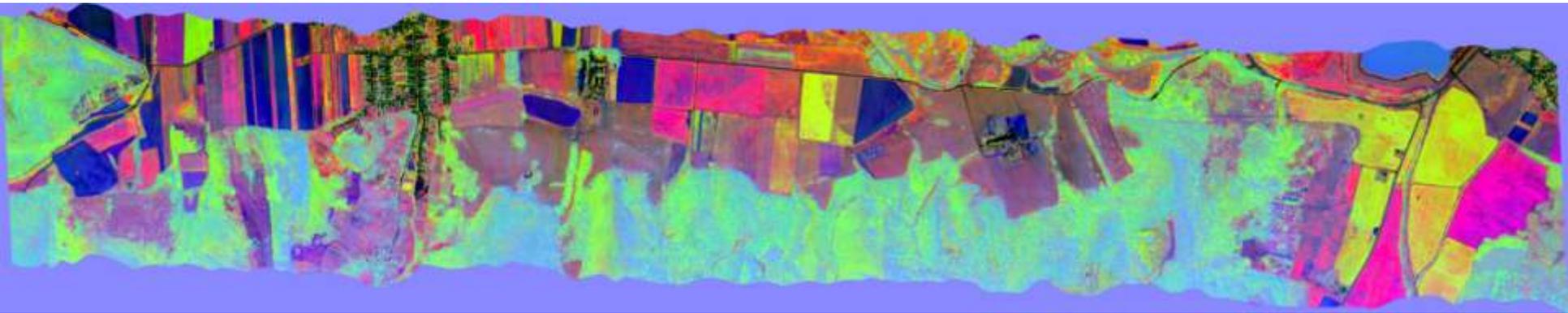
This sensor is capable to record more than 600 bands up to 0.5 m ground resolution



# Airborne remote sensing Hyperspectral imagery

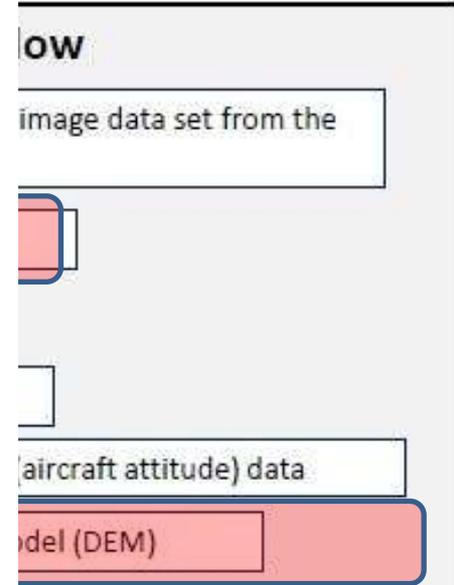
Hyperspectral image in different displays (Sajó valley, Hungary)

MNF (min 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th) Red bands



# Data processing

AISA data processing chain

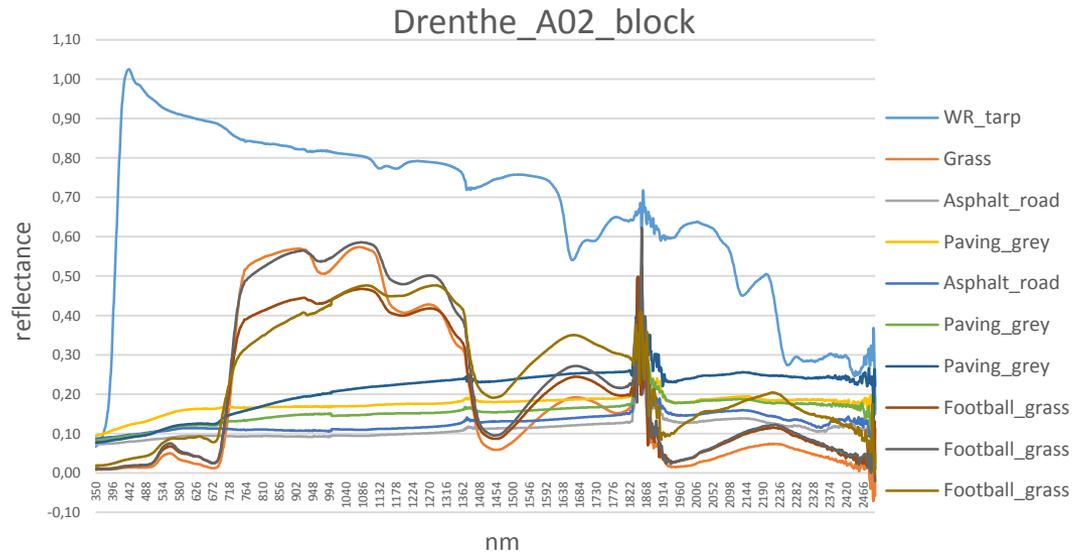




# Airborne remote sensing Hyperspectral imagery



# Airborne remote sensing Hyperspectral imagery



WR tarp

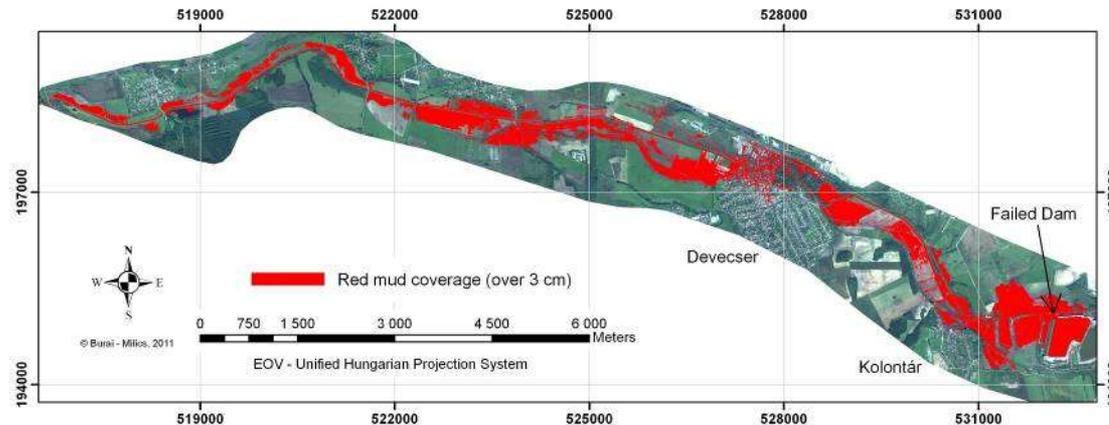
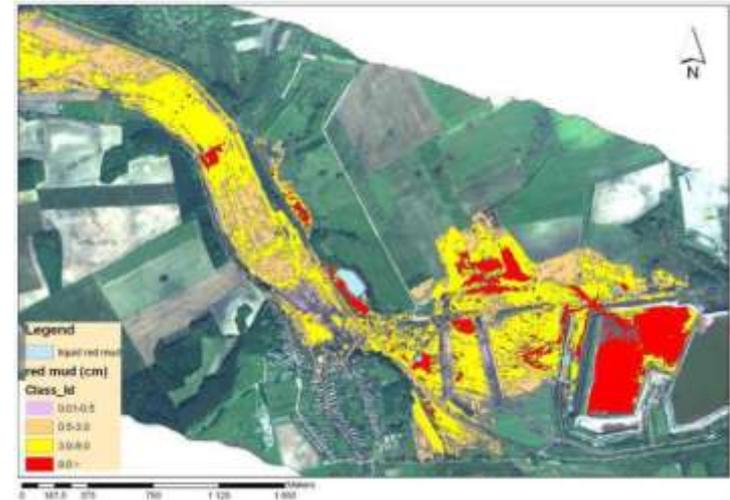


Grass



Concrete

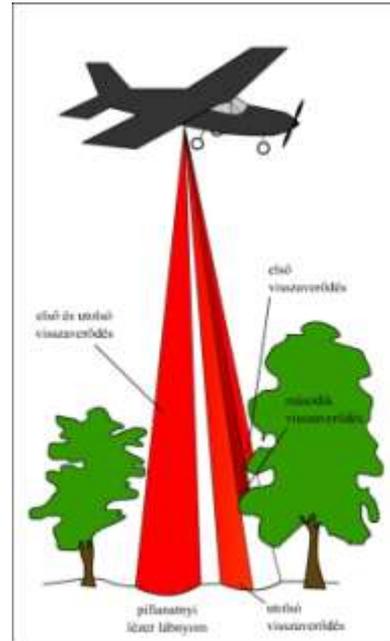
# Airborne remote sensing Hyperspectral imagery



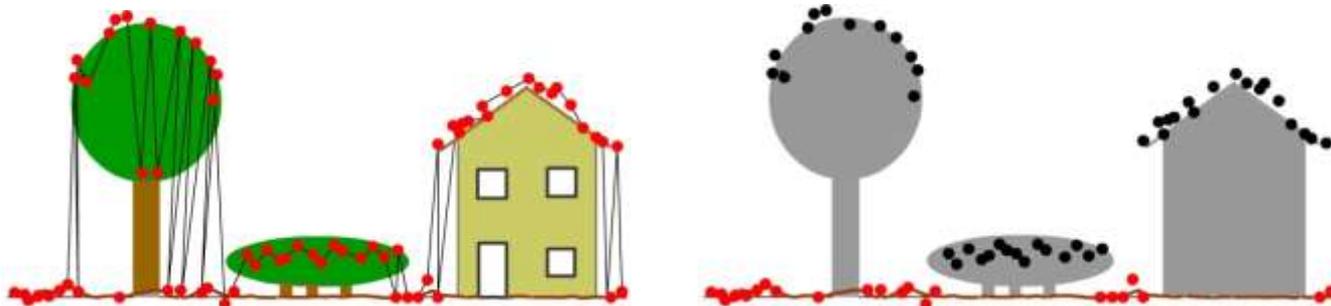
Berke J., Bíró T., Burai P., Kováts L.D., Kozma-Bognár V., Nagy T., Tomor T., Németh T. (2013): Application of remote sensing in the red mud environmental disaster in Hungary, *Carpathian Journal of Earth and Environmental Sciences*, Vol. 3, 2, pp. 49-54., <http://www.ubm.ro/sites/CJEES/viewTopic.php?topicId=318>

# Airborne remote sensing

## Airborne laser scanning (LiDAR)



Multiple returns



Point cloud classification

# Airborne remote sensing

## Airborne laser scanning (LiDAR) and digital orthophoto

**Leica ALS-70 HP** sensor with high accuracy GPS/INS and **Leica RCD 30 RGBN 60 MP** digital medium format camera

Maximum Flying Height (m AGL)	3500	
Maximum Measurement Rate (kHz)	500	
Field of view (degrees)	0–75 (full angle, user adjustable)	
Roll stabilization (automatic adaptive, degrees)	75–active FOV	
Scan patterns (user selectable)	single	200
	triangle	158
	raster	120
Maximum Scan Rate (Hz)	unlimited	
Numbers of returns	3 (first, second, third)	
Number of intensity measurements	see graph	
Accuracy	removable 500 GB SSD	
Storage media	6	
Storage capacity (hours @ max measurement rate)		



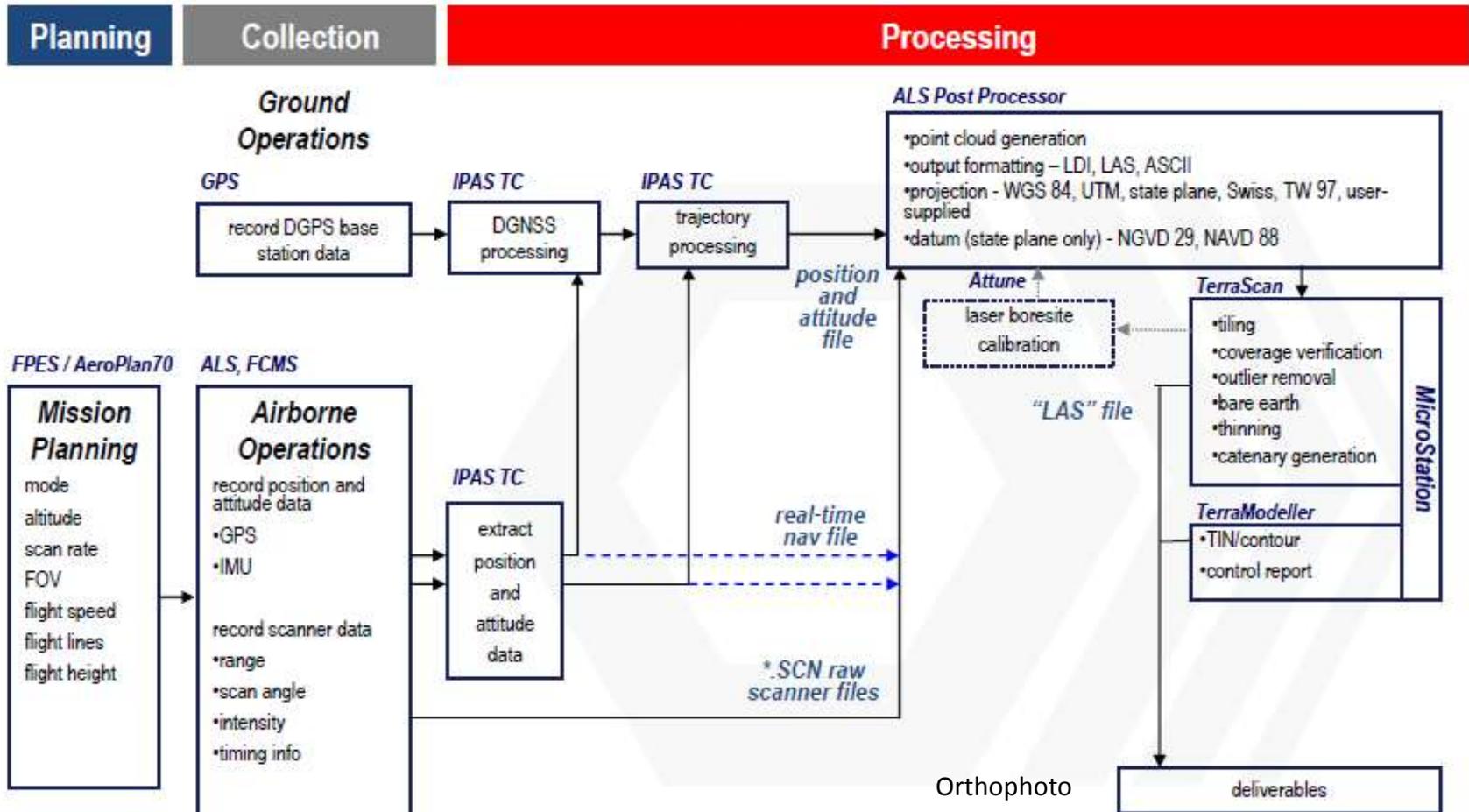
**Piper PA-23-250 "Aztec" aircraft**



60 megapixels resolution (8956 x 6708 pixel)  
Geometric resolution (max) : 4 cm  
Spectral range: RGB és NIR (780 – 900 nm)  
50 mm focal length objective

# Data processing

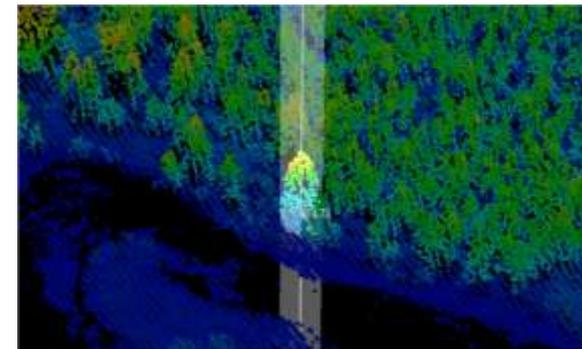
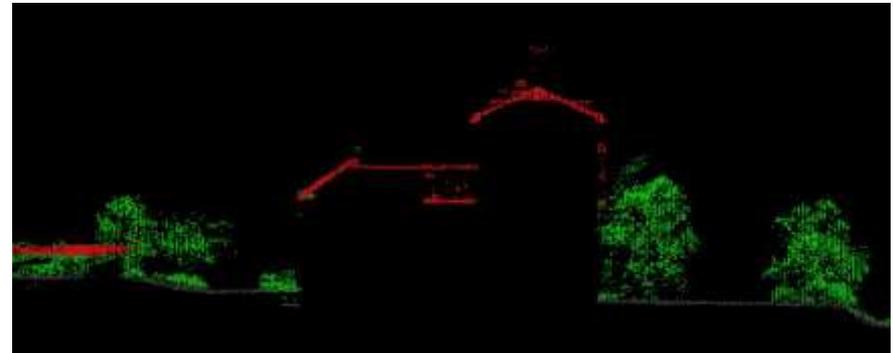
## Processing of LIDAR data and aerial digital images



# Airborne remote sensing

## Advantage of LIDAR and aerial digital imagery

- Producing **DSM** and **DTM**, especially in **forested areas**
- **High accuracy** and very **dense measurement** applications, e.g., DTM generation and **volume calculation** in open pit mines, waste deposits, forest parameters
- DTM and DSM generation in **urban areas**, generation of **3D city models**
- Mapping of **corridors**, e.g., roads, railway tracks, pipelines, waterway landscapes
- Mapping of **electrical power lines** and **towers** including tree clearance
- Mapping **large area** (500-1000 km<sup>2</sup>/day)



# Ground based measurements

## *Airborne laser scanning (LIDAR) and aerial digital imagery :*

- Ground survey with DGPS and base station for calibrating
- Reference points surveys with high accuracy DGPS
- Collecting GNSS data with base station (during airborne acquisition and post-process)



## *Airborne hyperspectral imagery :*

- Reference surveys with field spectrometer
- Study and control sites surveys with DGPS
- Collecting ground samples (ASD FieldSpec3, etc)
- In situ measurements (WALZ Mini-Pam, etc.)



# Data processing

## Techniques and devices

- **SGI supercomputer** SGI UV 2000 (24 db 2,4GHz Intel Xeon E5-4610 type CPU-144 core, total:1536 GB RAM)
- **SGI Octane III** high-performance graphics workstations
- **SGI C2108-TY11** server
- **SGI C1104-2TY9** dual-node server
- **RAID storage**



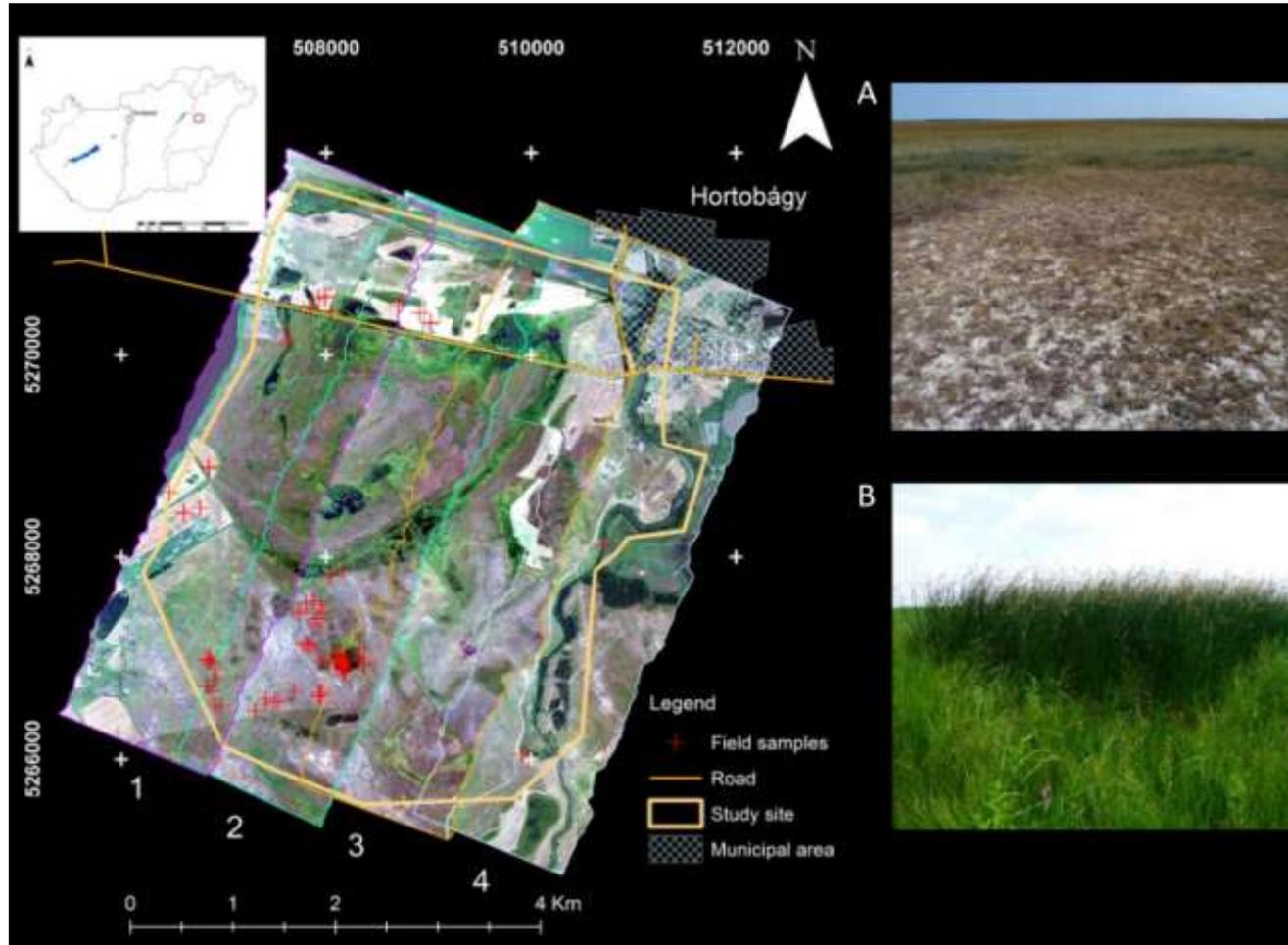
# Case studies

1. Mapping of grassland (natural conversation)
2. Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species (forestry, railway)
3. Mapping of invasive tree species

# Vegetation mapping using hyperspectral imagery

Study site: Pentezug-puszta (Hortobágy National Park), size: 23.5 km<sup>2</sup>

Partners: National Park of Hortobágy, University of Debrecen



Hyperspectral imagery can be a suitable method for a **detailed vegetation classification** based on the **dominant** or **subdominant genera** or **species**

# Hyperspectral acquisition and data sampling

Sensor: AISA Eagle +  
Spectral resolution: 400-1000nm  
Spectral resolution: 5nm  
Number of bands: 128  
Ground resolution: 1m  
Acquisition: 07/07/2013



The sensor was mounted to a Piper Aztec aircraft.

# Hyperspectral acquisition and data sampling

For the calculations we classified the species as dominant (>50%) and subdominant species (10%–50%) based on their relative cover.

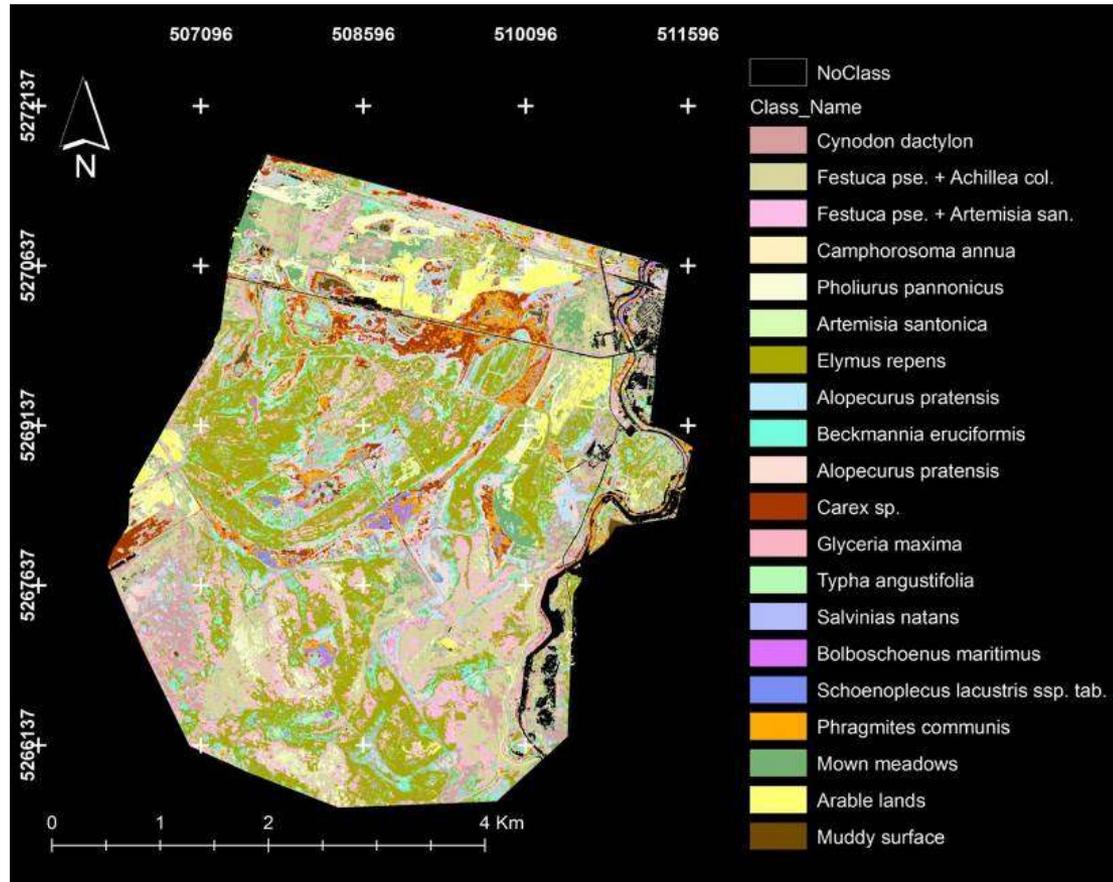
Abbreviation	Dominant Species	Subdominant Species	Canopy Height (cm)	Total Coverage of Vegetation (%)	Measured Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
CYN	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Achillea collina</i>	21.2	96.2	211
FAC	<i>Festuca pseudovina</i>	<i>Achillea collina</i>	3.0	80.0	141
FAR	<i>Festuca pseudovina</i>	<i>Artemisia santonica</i>	28.3	80.8	96
CAM	<i>Camphorosma annua</i>	-	4.4	28.0	118
PHO	<i>Pholiurus pannonicus</i>	-	18.6	47.0	142
ART	<i>Artemisia santonica</i>	<i>Pholiurus pannonicus</i>	13.7	43.7	64
ELY	<i>Elymus repens</i>	-	96.0	64.0	402
ALO	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	48.3	93.3	531
BEC	<i>Beckmannia eruciformis</i>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> , <i>Cirsium brachycephalum</i>	87.5	91.2	552
ACI	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> <i>Elymus repens</i>	140.0	85.0	82
CAR	<i>Carex</i> spp.	-	100.0	90.0	253
GLY	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	-	40.0	90.0	229
TYP	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	<i>Salvinia natans</i>	200.0	70.0	63
SAL	<i>Salvinia natans</i>	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	133.0	70.0	65
BOL	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	-	76.2	78.8	179
SCH	<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> ssp. <i>tabernaemontani</i>	-	166.0	87.0	121
PHR	<i>Phragmites communis</i>	-	250.0	100.0	297
FMM *	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	-	10.0	80.0	351
ARA *	<i>Gypsophyla muralis</i> , <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	-	8.0	80.0	123
MUD **	not relevant	-	10.0	8.0	158



random  
sampling  
method

**training  
and  
validation  
dataset**

# Vegetation mapping using hyperspectral imagery



Open vegetation was characterized by grasslands and wetlands with three classifiers and we could **separate 20 vegetation classes** with a **OA of 82.06%** (using SVM with MNF-transformed bands).

*BURAI, P.–DEÁK, B.–VALKÓ, O.–TOMOR, T. (2015): Classification of herbaceous vegetation using airborne hyperspectral imagery. Remote Sensing, Vol. 7 (2), pp. 2046-2066.*

# Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species



AOI: Nord and Aisne province of Northern France. The target area was the 500 m buffer zone of 100 km length rail track.

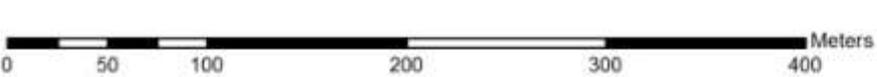
Partners: SNFC

# Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species



Spatial subset of hyperspectral image (RGB)

# Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species



Classified nDSM

# Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species

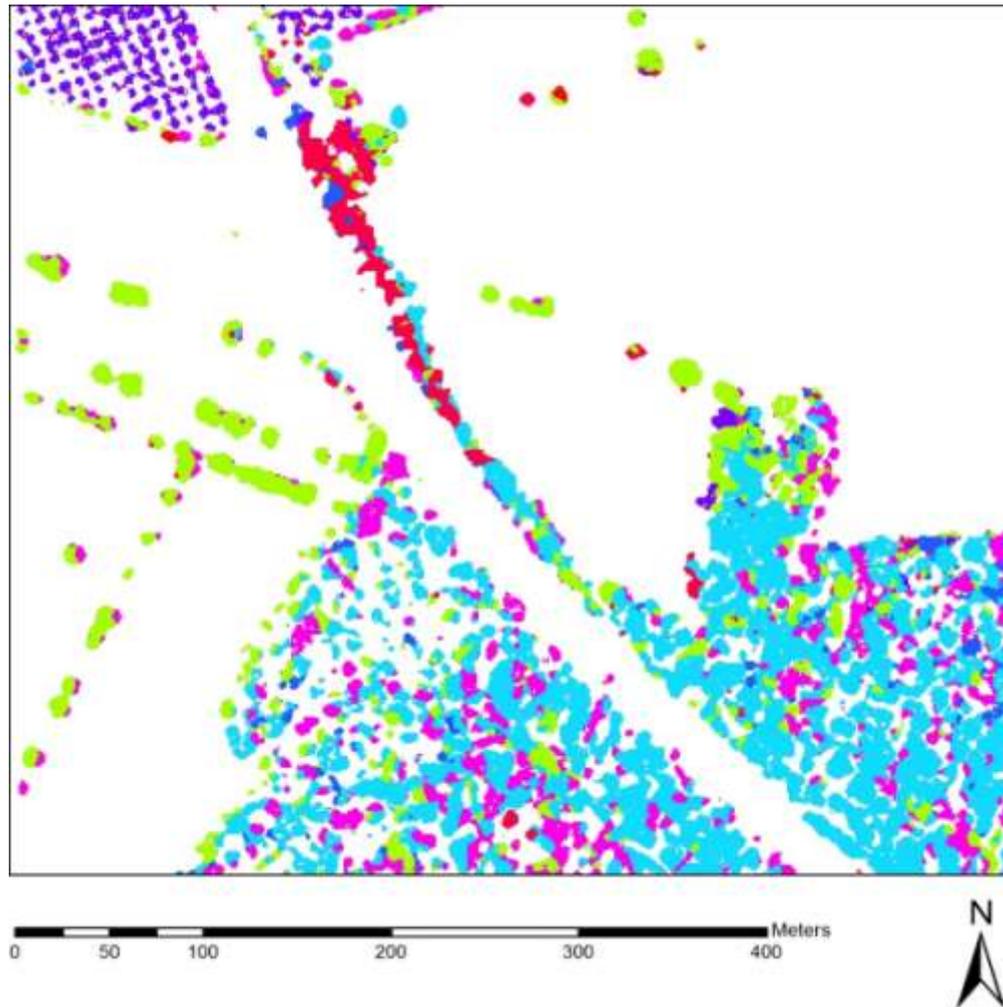


0 50 100 200 300 400 Meters



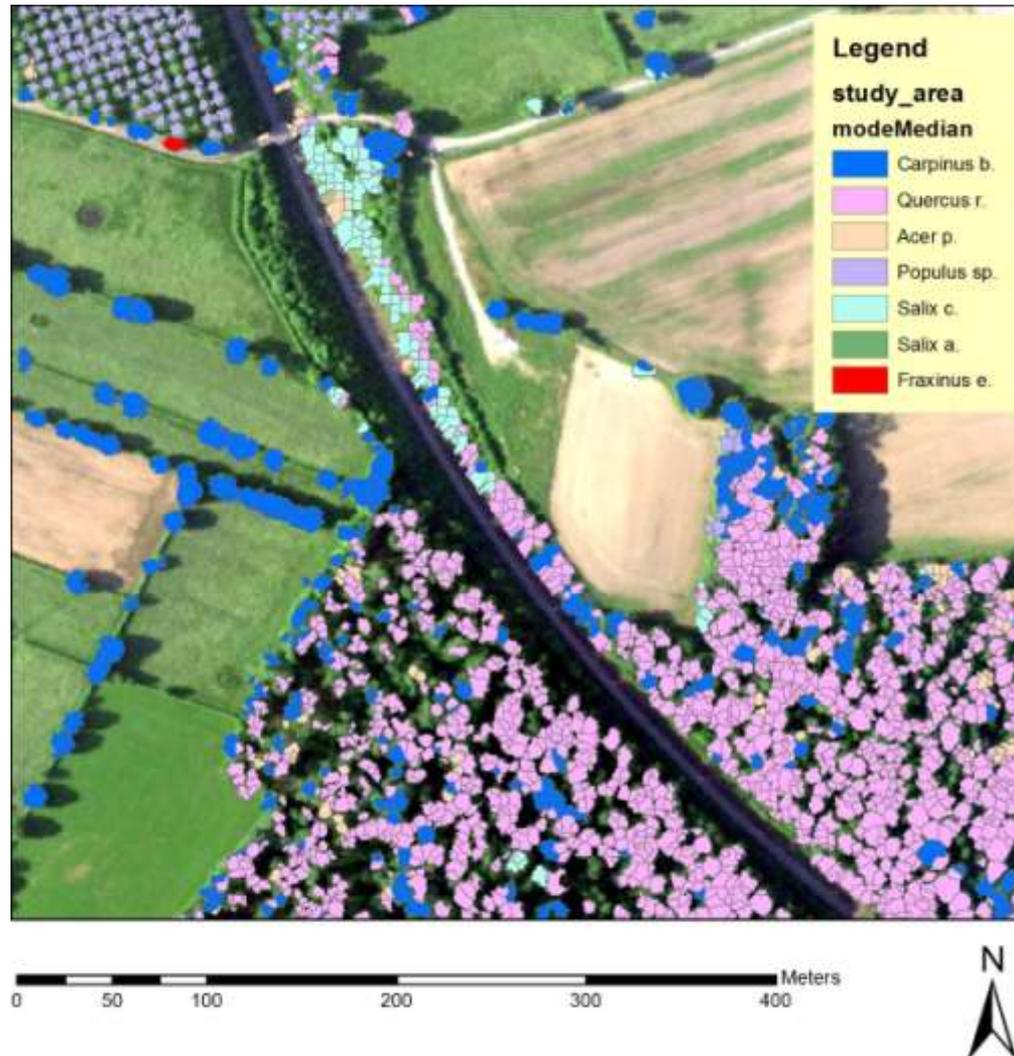
Crown segments

# Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species



**24 tree species** were collected on the field measurements – **12 classes** were labeled for image classification

# Integration of hyperspectral and Lidar dataset to analyse tree species



Classified trees

# Mapping invasive trees using hyperspectral and LiDAR data

## Sensor and flight parameters

- Flight altitude: 1415 m (AGL) / 4642 ft (AGL)
- Swath width: 1024 m
- Flight speed (GS): 100 kts (185.2 km/h)
- Spectral res.: 3.5 nm (VNIR) / 6.3 nm (SWIR)
- Spectral range: 380-2450 nm
- Number of spectral bands: 420
- Spatial resolution: 1 m
- Overlapping: 20%
- Flight day: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (08:07 – 08:49 UTC)
- Flight line (to cover the AOI): 21
- Raw data size: 195 GB

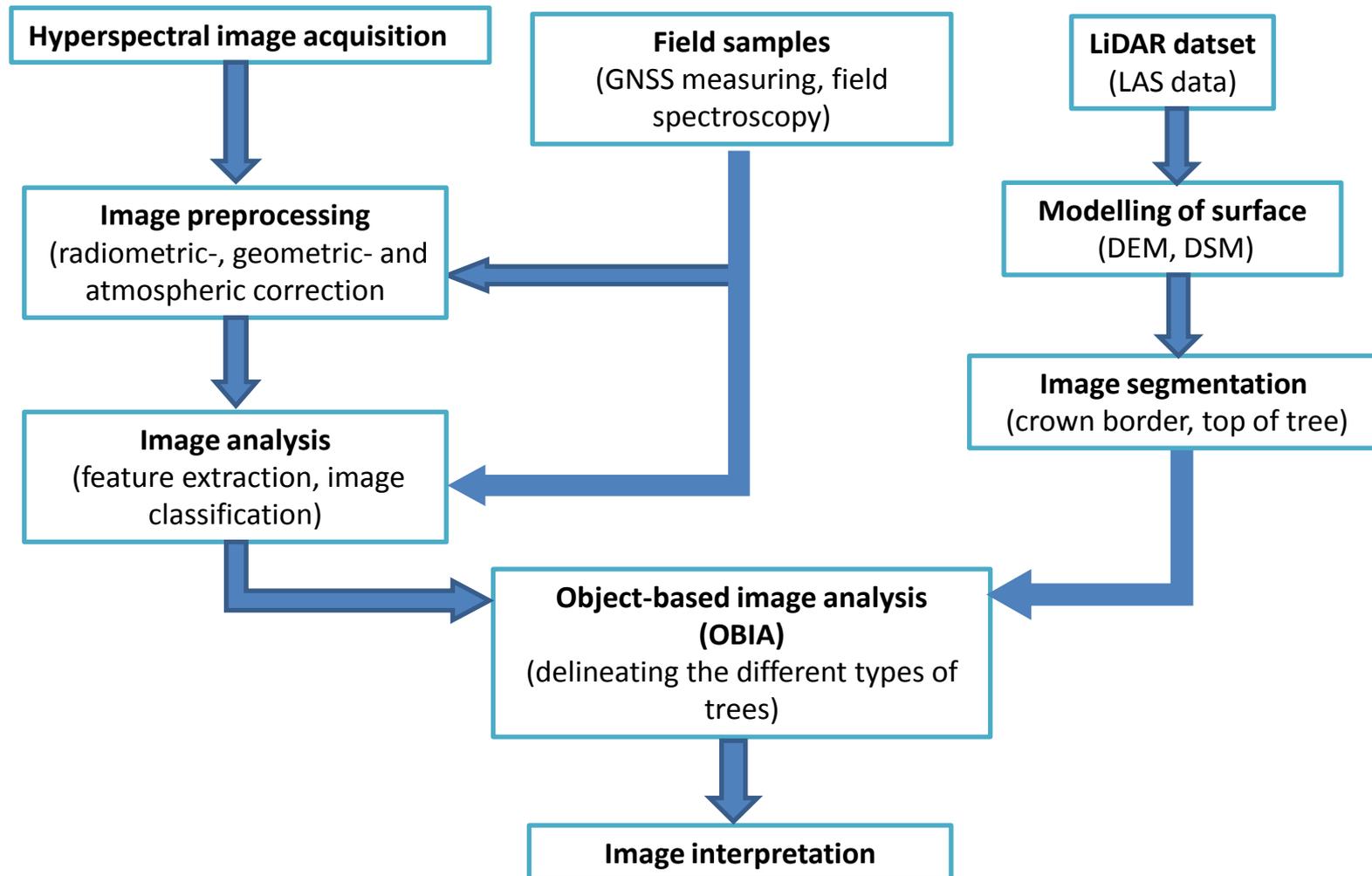


Visible colour (RGB) mosaic of hyperspectral lines

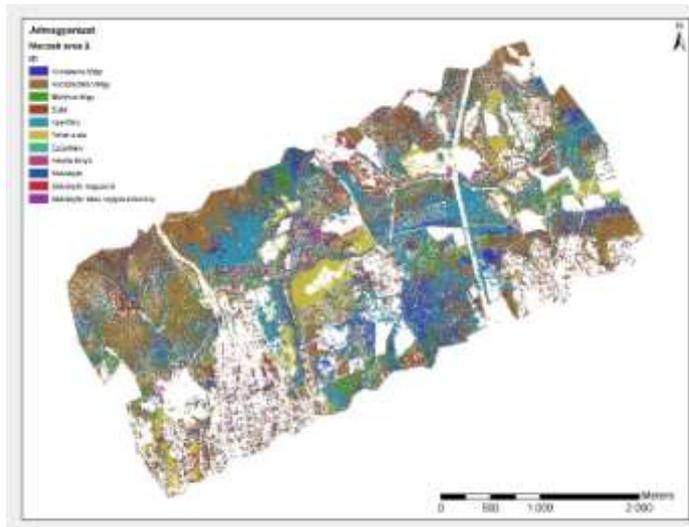
# Mapping invasive trees using hyperspectral and LiDAR data

## Workflow of image processing

**15 tree species** were collected on the field measurements – **18 classes** were labeled for image classification



# Classified hyperspectral image



**15 tree species** were collected on the field measurements – **18 classes** were labeled for image classification

Classes	Species	Latin name	Training (pixel)	Controll (pixel)	Overall (pixel)
1	Pedunculate oak	Quercus robur	234	112	346
2	Sessile oak	Quercus petraea	1942	676	2618
3	Downy oak	Quercus pubescens	296	124	420
4	Common beech	Fagus sylvatica	153	67	220
5	Common hornbeam	Carpinus betulus	460	243	703
6	Black locust	Robinia pseudoacacia	1589	828	2417
7	Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	91	27	118
8	Field maple	Acer campestre	120	49	169
9	Common ash	Fraxinus excelsior	82	26	108
10	Manna ash	Fraxinus ornus	166	74	240
11	Silver lime	Tilia tomentosa	176	73	249
12	Cherries	Cerasus	369	175	544
13	Spruce	Picea	77	17	94
14	Black pine	Pinus nigra	234	128	362
15	Ailanthus	Ailanthus	932	387	1319
16	Ailanthus (spreading seeds)	---	237	94	331
17	Black locust, Ailanthus mixed population	---	271	115	386
18	Ailanthus (re-growth after clear-cut)	---	83	49	132

# Mapping invasive trees using hyperspectral and LiDAR data

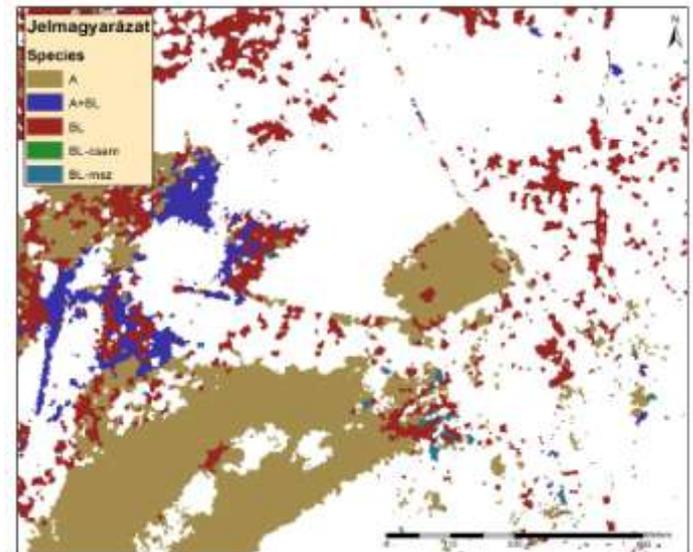
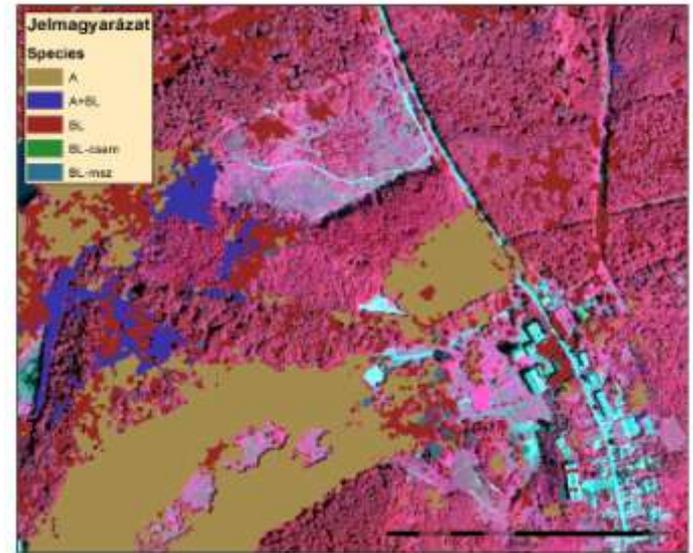
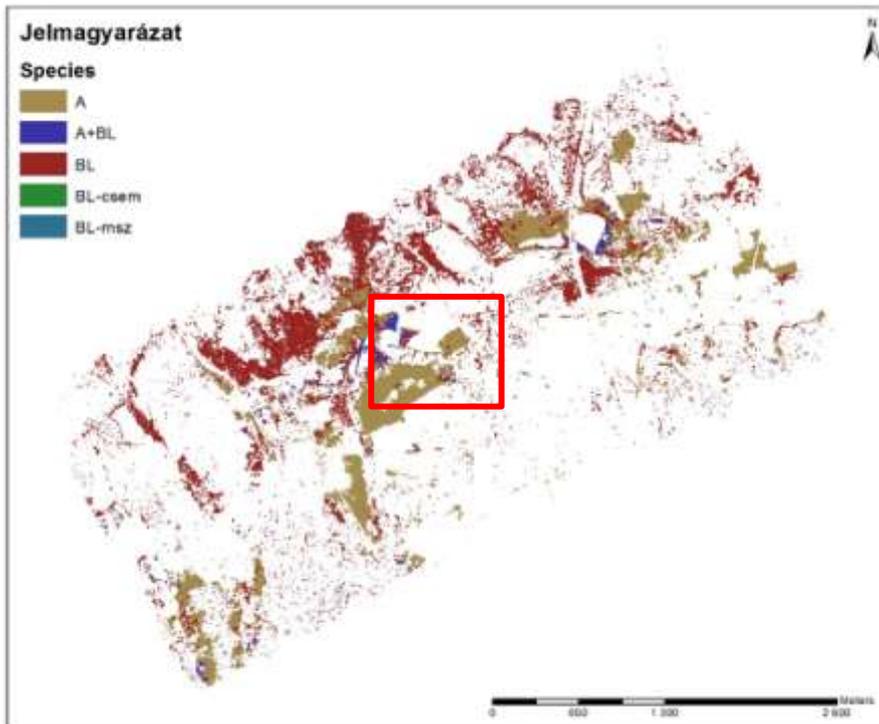
## Result of image classification (MNF bands + SVM)

Class	Ground Truth (Percent)																			Total
	BL	CS	KTT	GY	A	B	A+BL	HJ	EH	KST	BL-msz	LF	BL-csem	MK	MOT	VK	MJ	FF		
BL	<b>76,61</b>	0,81	0,31	0,00	1,20	1,31	2,95	0,00	0,57	0,00	1,27	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,35	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,43	10,13
CS	6,97	<b>86,18</b>	4,69	0,87	0,63	1,31	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,27	0,00	0,00	1,22	1,35	0,00	0,83	0,00	0,00	6,64
KTT	0,86	2,98	<b>69,26</b>	4,13	0,06	0,65	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	4,22	0,00	0,00	2,44	5,07	3,01	0,00	0,00	0,00	18,86
GY	0,54	2,44	3,96	<b>67,39</b>	0,00	6,54	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,69	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,04	1,81	0,00	0,00	0,00	5,68
A	4,61	1,08	0,21	1,09	<b>89,93</b>	0,00	2,58	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,84	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,34	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	19,89
B	0,21	1,90	1,39	4,78	0,06	<b>88,89</b>	0,00	0,00	1,14	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,03	0,60	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,71
A+BL	3,00	0,00	0,31	0,43	5,85	0,00	<b>93,73</b>	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,42	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	5,14
HJ	0,00	1,08	0,05	0,22	0,13	0,00	0,00	<b>98,94</b>	0,00	2,14	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,41
EH	0,21	0,54	0,82	0,43	1,45	0,00	0,00	0,00	<b>96,02</b>	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,87
KST	0,00	0,27	1,39	0,00	0,19	0,00	0,00	1,06	0,57	<b>97,86</b>	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,49
BL-msz	6,01	0,00	0,82	0,87	0,06	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	<b>87,34</b>	0,00	0,00	1,22	0,00	0,60	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,81
LF	0,11	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,13	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	<b>100,00</b>	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,06
BL-csem	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,57	0,00	0,00	0,00	<b>100,00</b>	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,12
MK	0,00	2,44	7,36	0,00	0,25	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,42	0,00	0,00	<b>91,46</b>	1,35	0,60	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,15
MOT	0,00	0,27	5,87	17,83	0,06	1,31	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,84	0,00	0,00	3,66	<b>82,09</b>	0,60	0,00	1,28	6,01	
VK	0,21	0,00	2,94	1,52	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,57	0,00	0,84	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,03	<b>90,36</b>	0,00	0,43	3,01	
MJ	0,32	0,00	0,62	0,43	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,57	0,00	0,84	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,34	0,00	<b>99,17</b>	0,00	1,86	
FF	0,32	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,74	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,01	0,00	0,00	<b>97,86</b>	3,15	
Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

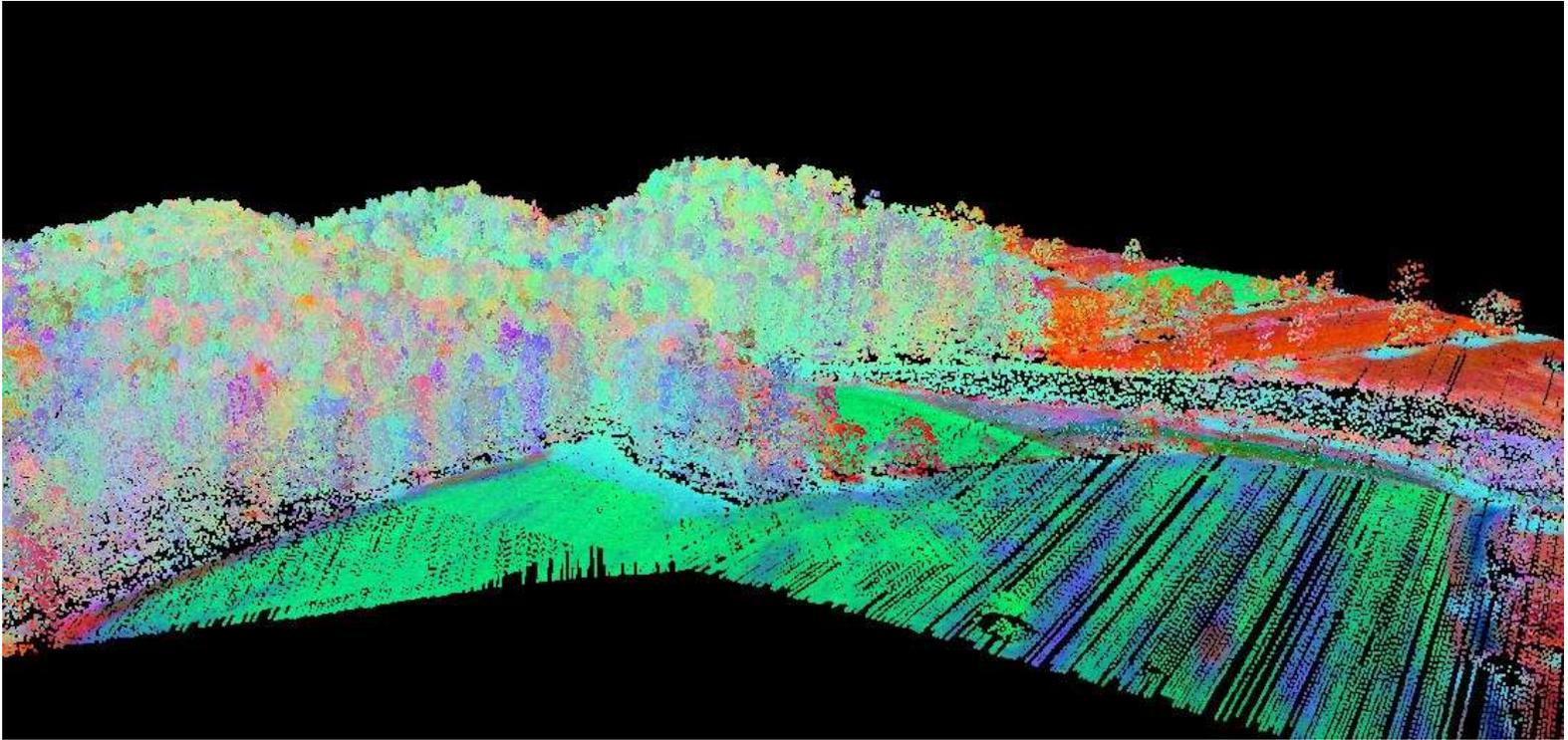
Overall accuracy: 82.24%

Kappa: 0.798

# Mapping of invasive trees



# Thank you for your attention!



**Dezső Mikus** – [mikus@envirosense.hu](mailto:mikus@envirosense.hu)

**László Bekő**