

within-canopy remote sensing
hemispherical photographs,
lidar, spectrometers

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CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research

complex structure in forests – who is interested in what information?



within canopy remote sensing

complex structure in forests – who is interested in what information?

- Environmental, Habitat and Conservation Focus
- Forestry (native Forests and Plantations)
- Carbon accounting

→ different focus may lead to different assessment method
and sampling strategies



complex structure in forests – what's the relevance?

BOOSTED CARBON EMISSIONS FROM AMAZON DEFORESTATION

- Standing biomass is a major, often poorly quantified determinate of carbon losses from land clearing.
- Annual rate of deforestation has not changed significantly BUT biomass lost per unit of forest cleared increased .
- if the annual area deforested remains unchanged, future clearing will increase regional emissions by 0.04 Pg C yr⁻¹ – a 25% increase over 2001–2007 annual carbon emissions.

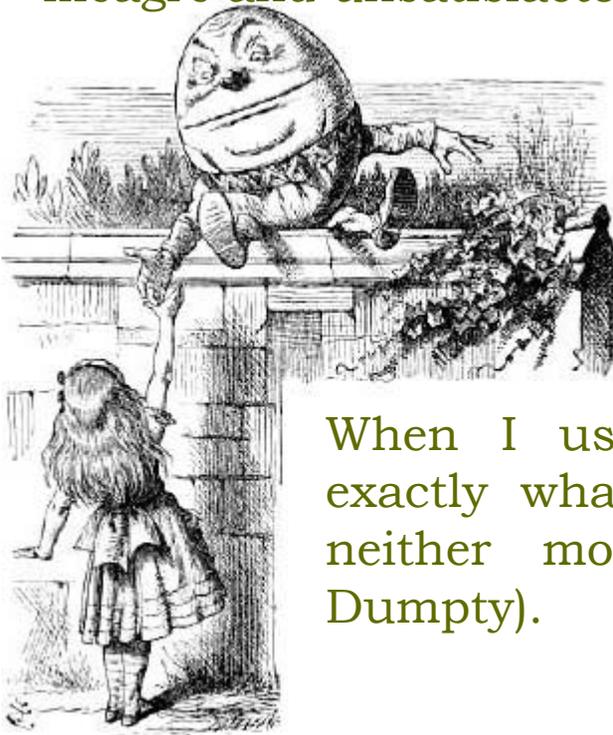
Loarie et al. 2009



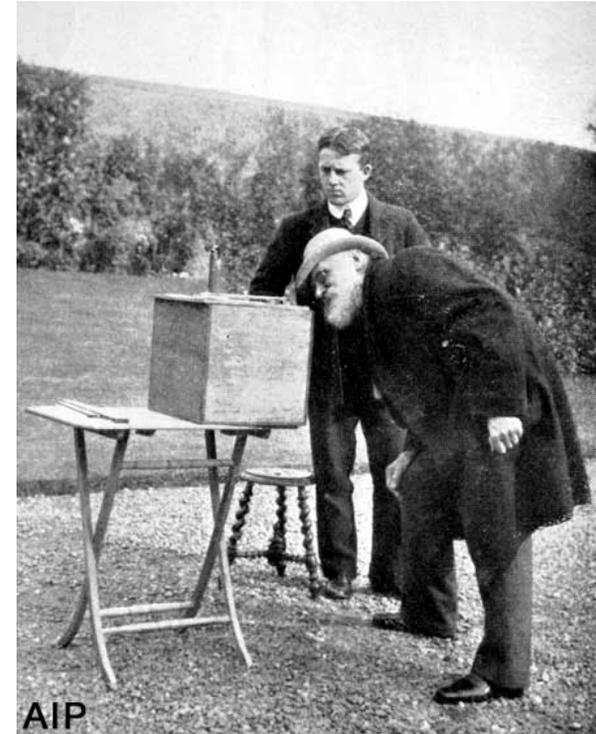
within canopy remote sensing

complex structure in forests – what's the relevance?

When you measure what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, you know something about it, but when you cannot (or do not) measure it, when you cannot (or do not) express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind (Lord Kelvin).



When I use a word, it means exactly what I want it to mean, neither more or less (Humpty Dumpty).



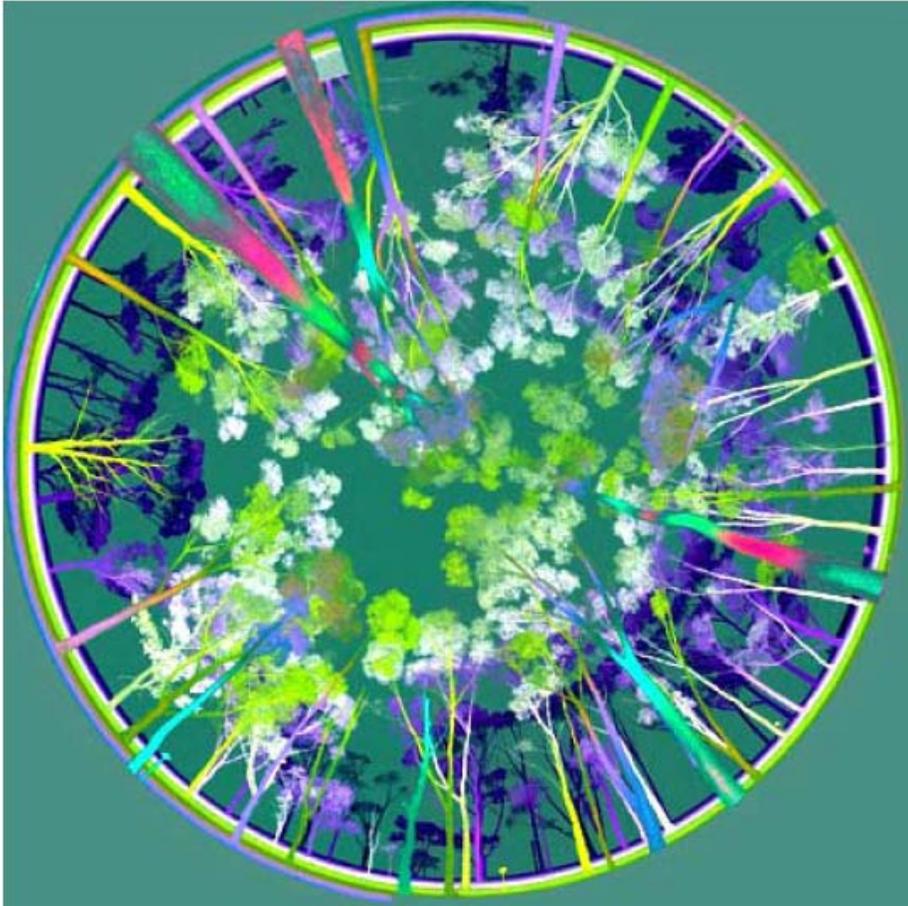
within canopy remote sensing

complex structure in forests –
it must be measured, but how?



within canopy remote sensing

ground based Lidar



▶ within canopy remote sensing

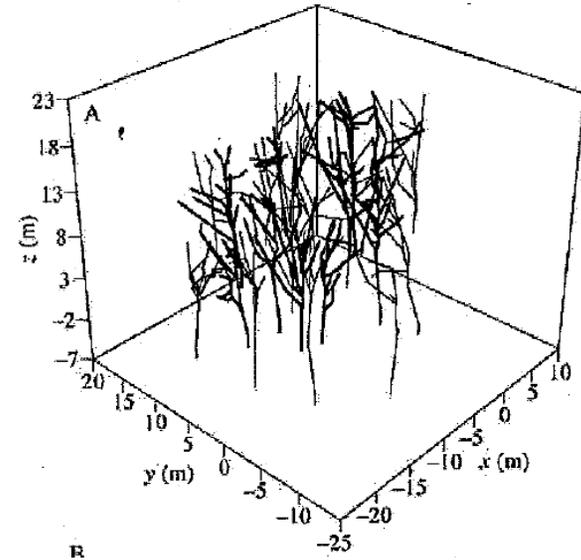
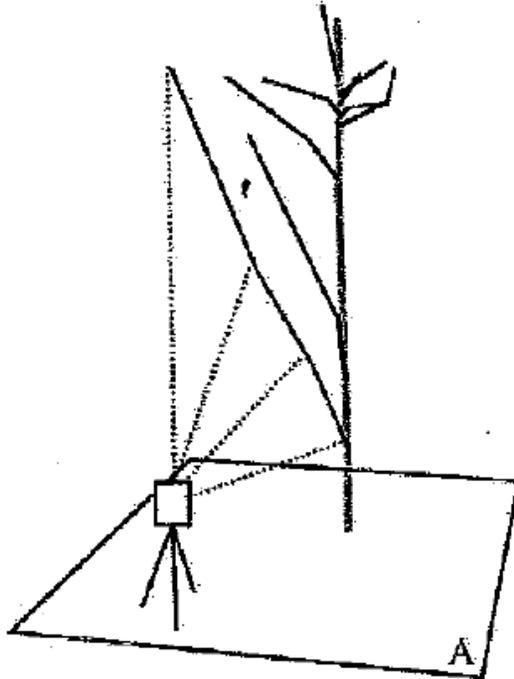
ground based Lidar

WHAT INFORMATION CAN WE GET FROM CANOPY LIDAR?

- Info on crown diameter, leaf area, ..., **vertical profile of leaf area!**
- Info on dbh, basal area, tree density ...
- Carbon stocks
- Environmental, Habitat and Conservation Focus
- Forestry (native Forests and Plantations)
- Carbon accounting

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ground based Lidar



Sumida et al. 2002

time of flight principle

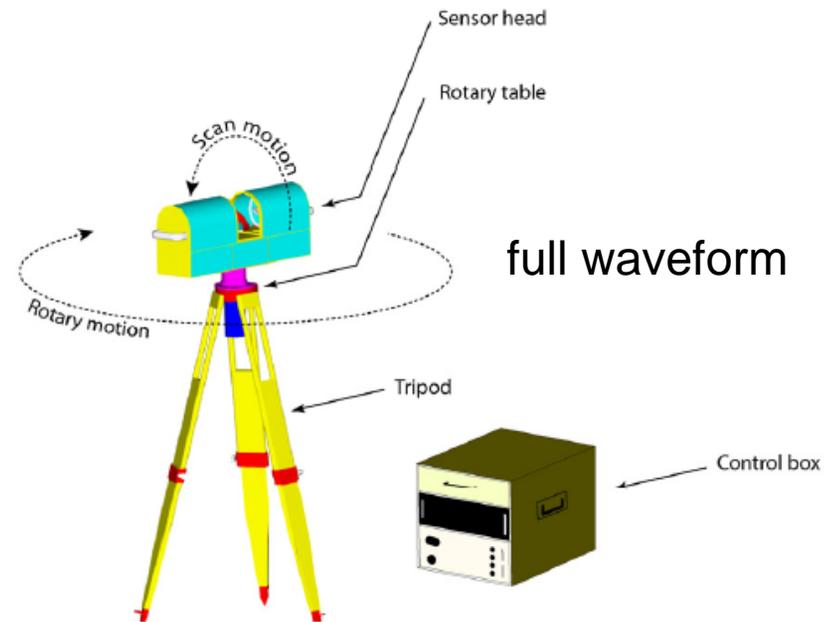
laser emits pulse; measured is the time taken by the pulse to be reflected off the target and returned to the sender: $D = ct/2$

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ground based Lidar



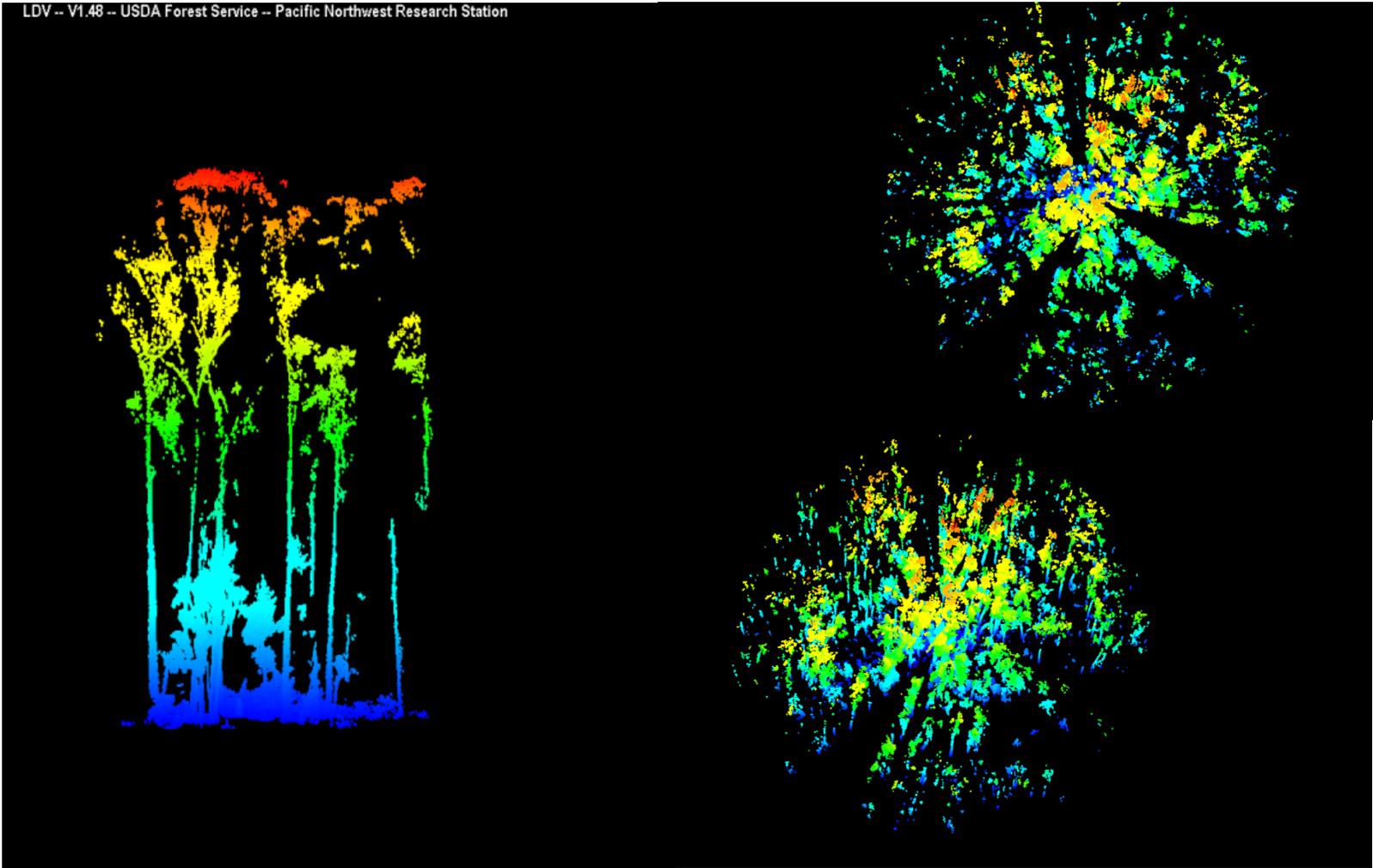
first or last return



within canopy remote sensing

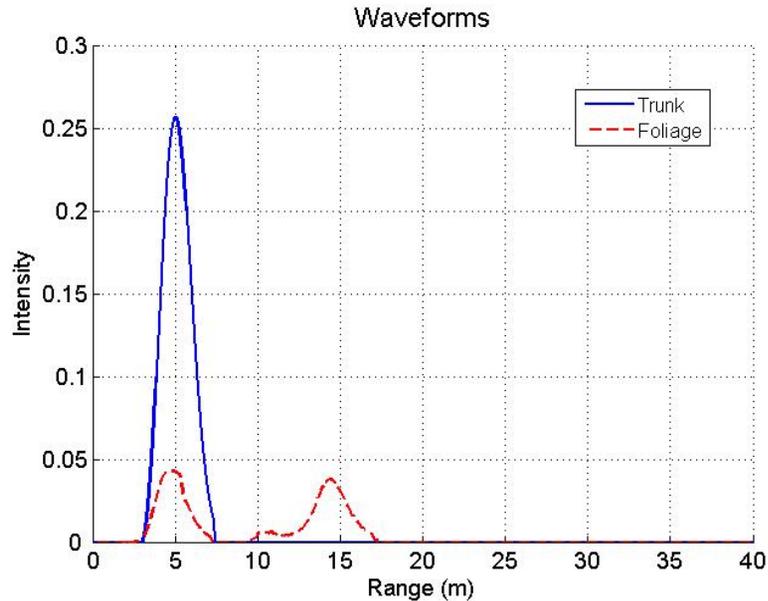
ground based Lidar

LDV -- V1.48 -- USDA Forest Service -- Pacific Northwest Research Station



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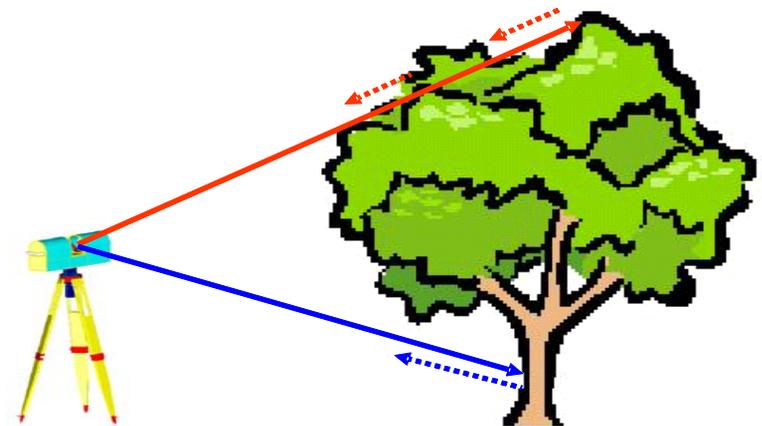
ground based Lidar



Tian YAO, Boston University

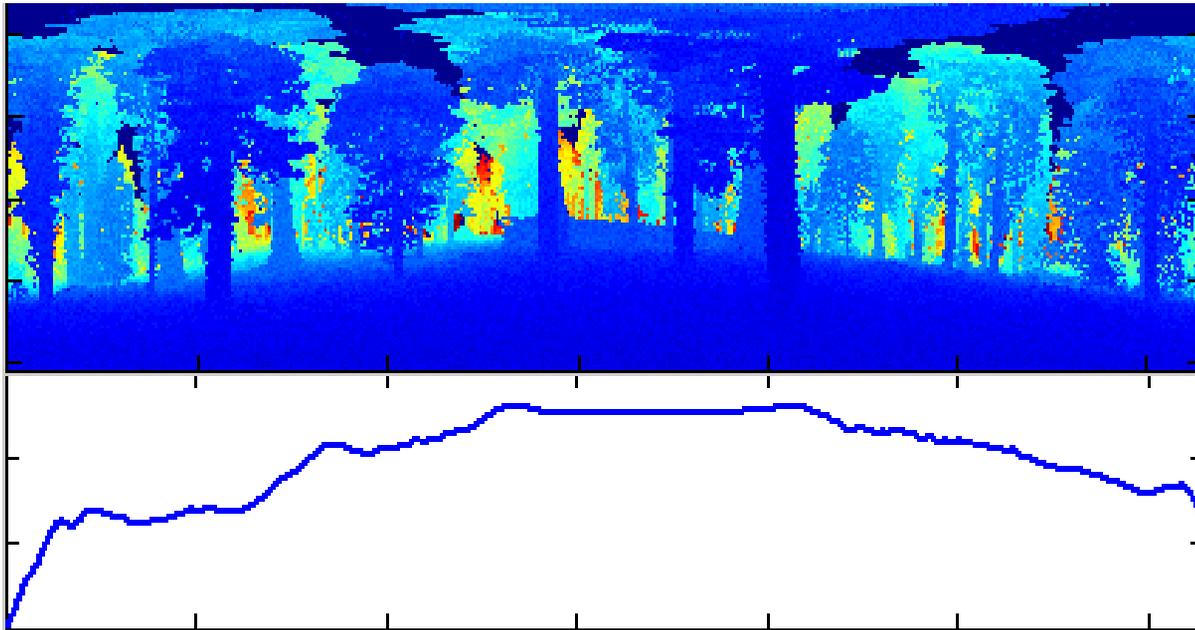
Soft Targets form distributed Returns over a range

Hard Targets form a Single return that is a Copy of the outgoing pulse



within canopy remote sensing

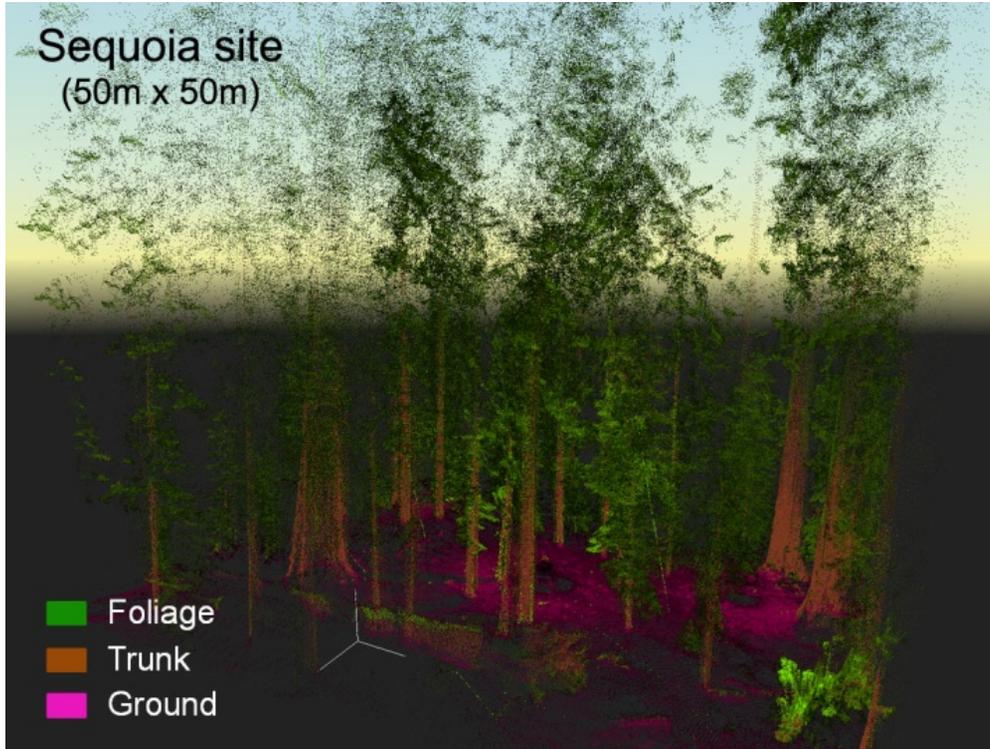
ground based Lidar



Tian YAO, Boston University

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ground based Lidar



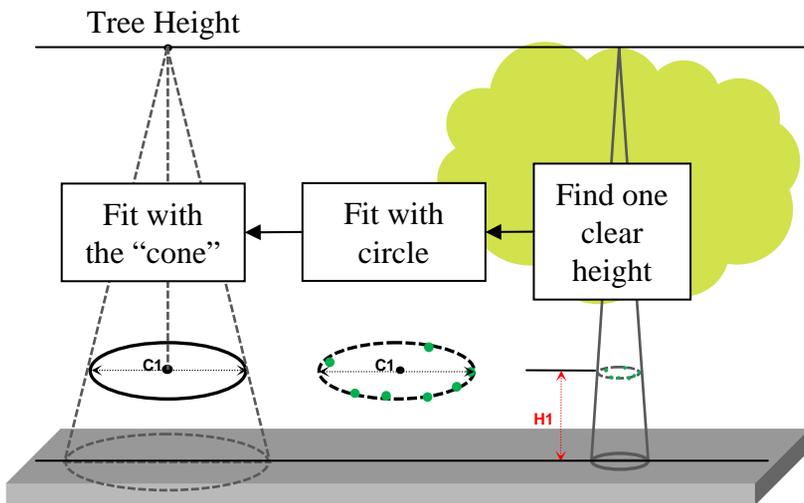
Intensity & range
based classification

Xiaoyuan Yang, Boston University

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ground based Lidar

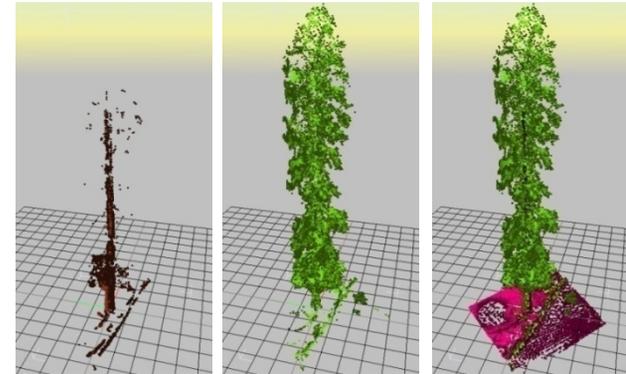
“Cone” model simplified



Assumptions:

1. “Cone” shaped trunk
2. Straightly growing trunk
3. “Clear height” can be easily defined

Original classification



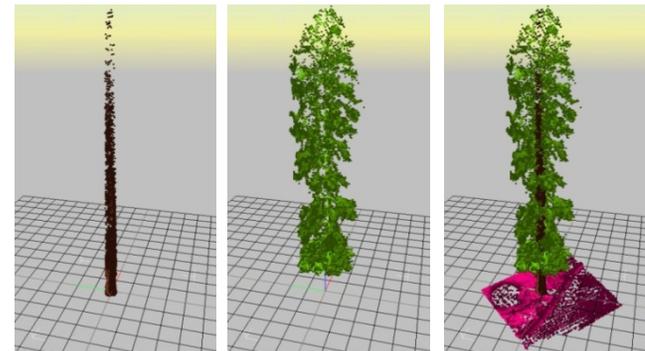
Trunk

Foliage

Single Tree



Improved classification



Trunk

Foliage

Single Tree

within canopy remote sensing

ground based Lidar

“Cone” model simplified



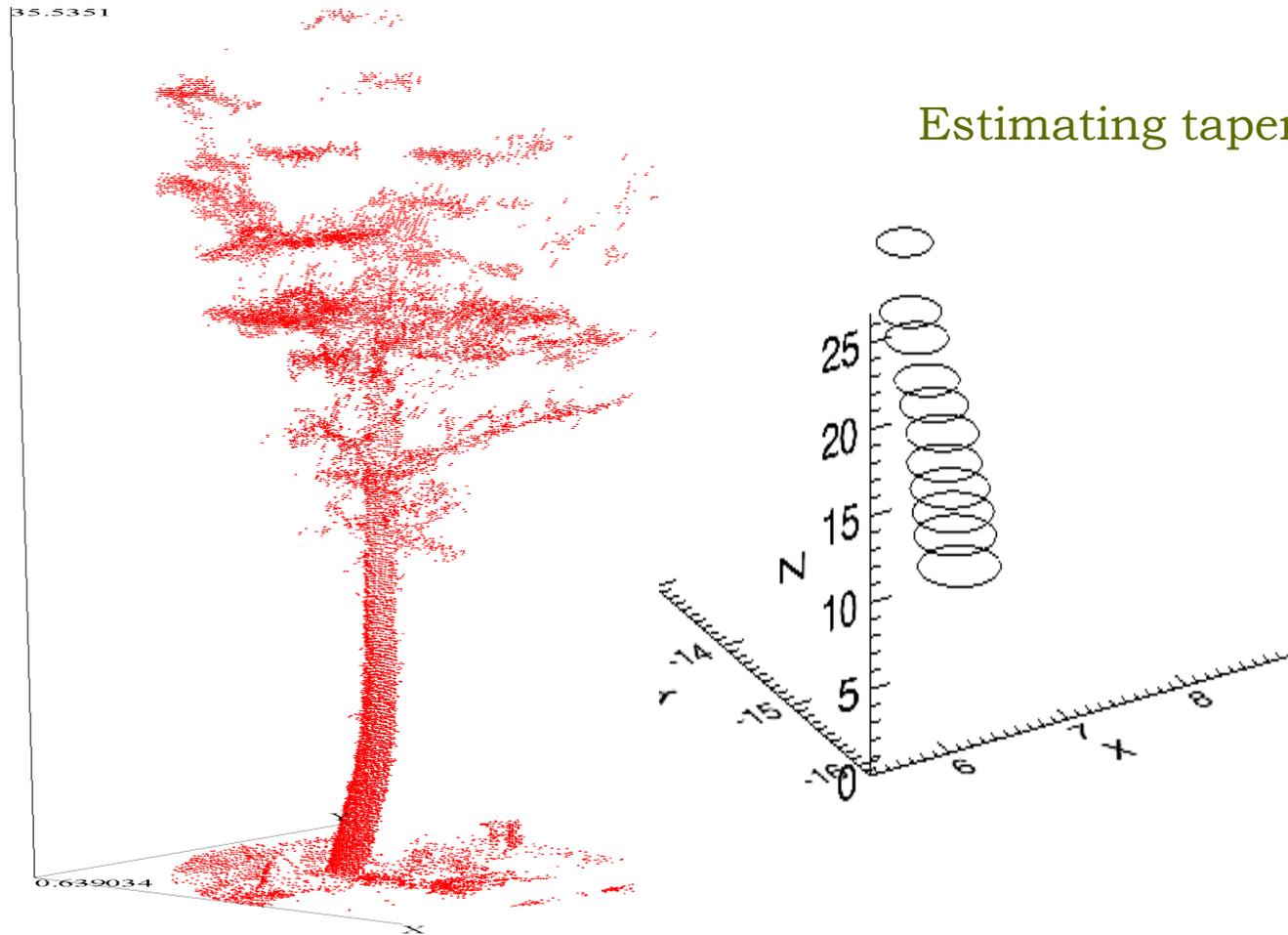
before



after

▶ within canopy remote sensing

ground based Lidar

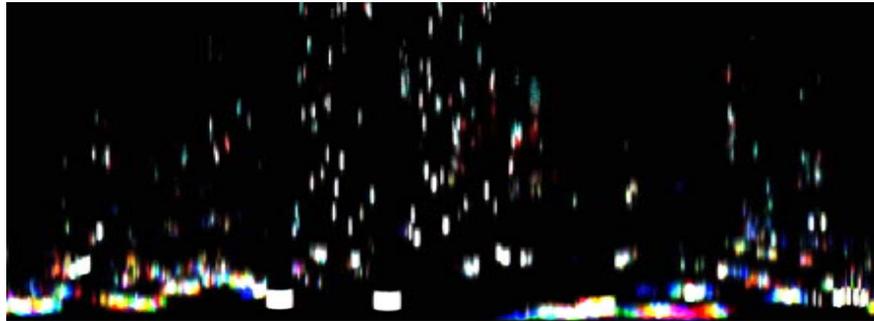


▶ within canopy remote sensing

ground based Lidar

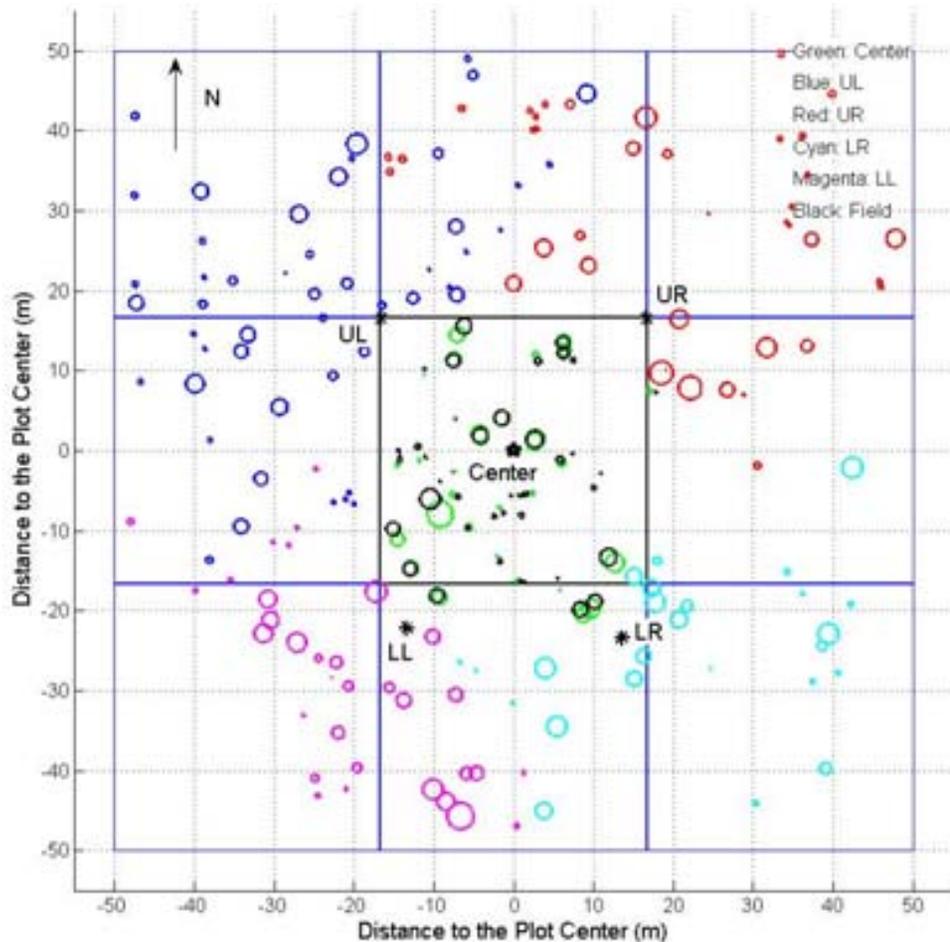


Waveform using
Andrieu projection



Three planar slices as color
composite using cylindrical
projection of the data cube.

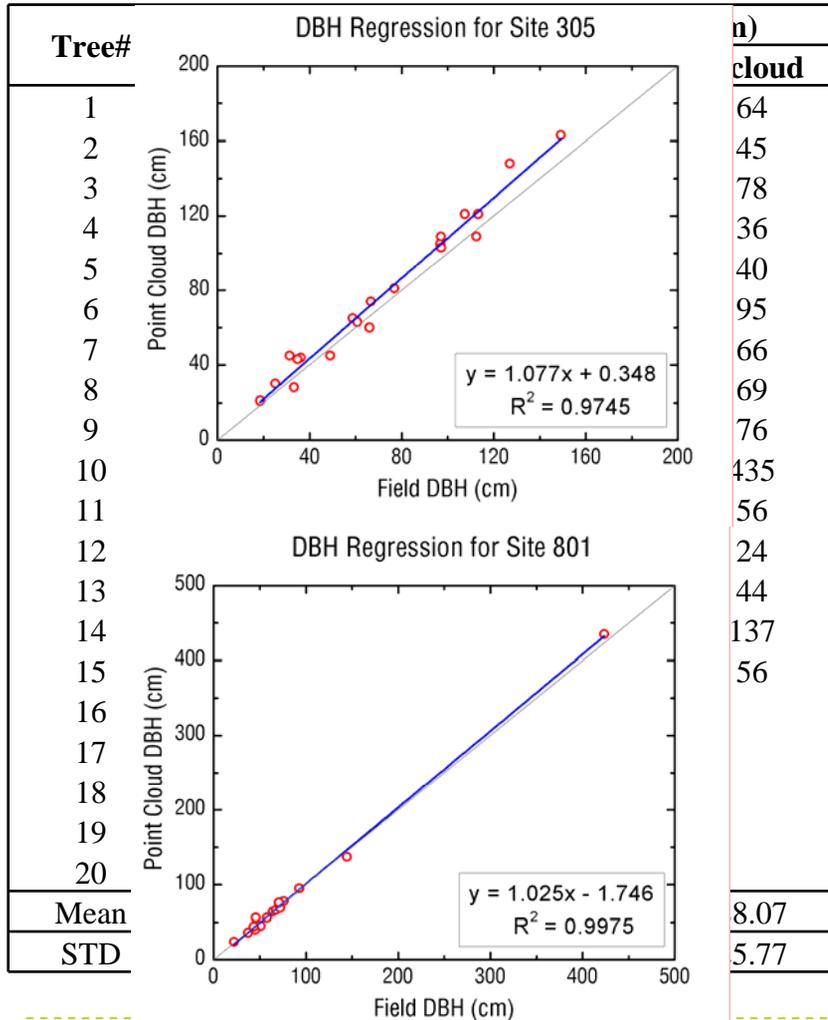
ground based Lidar



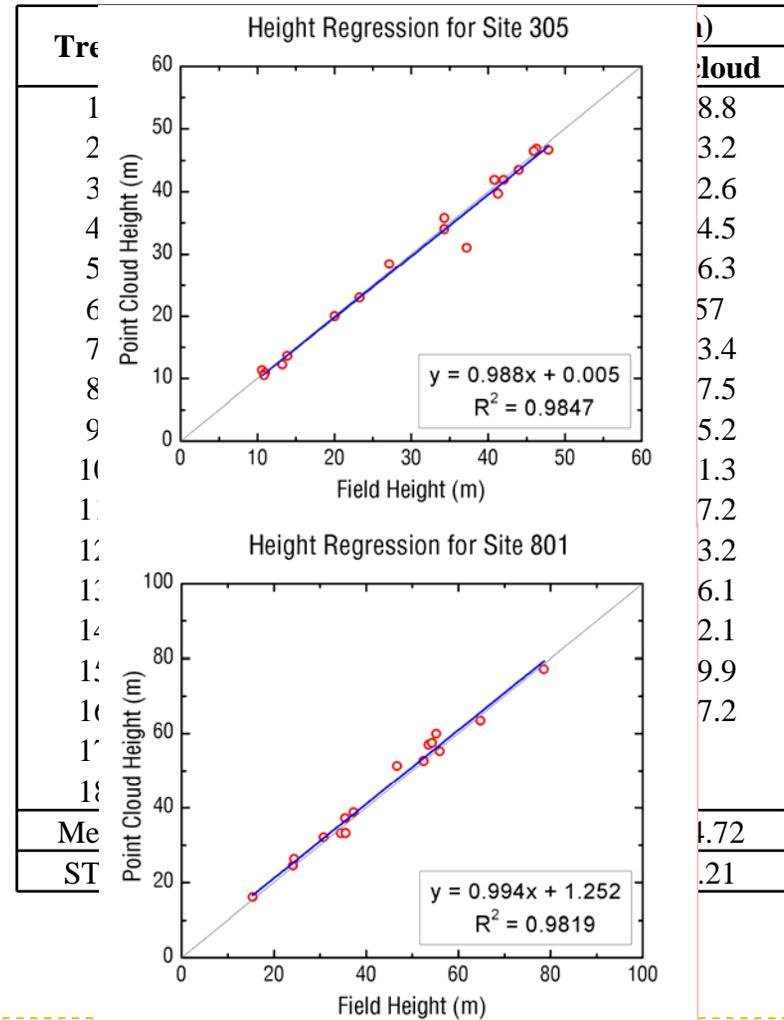
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ground based Lidar

DBH



Tree height



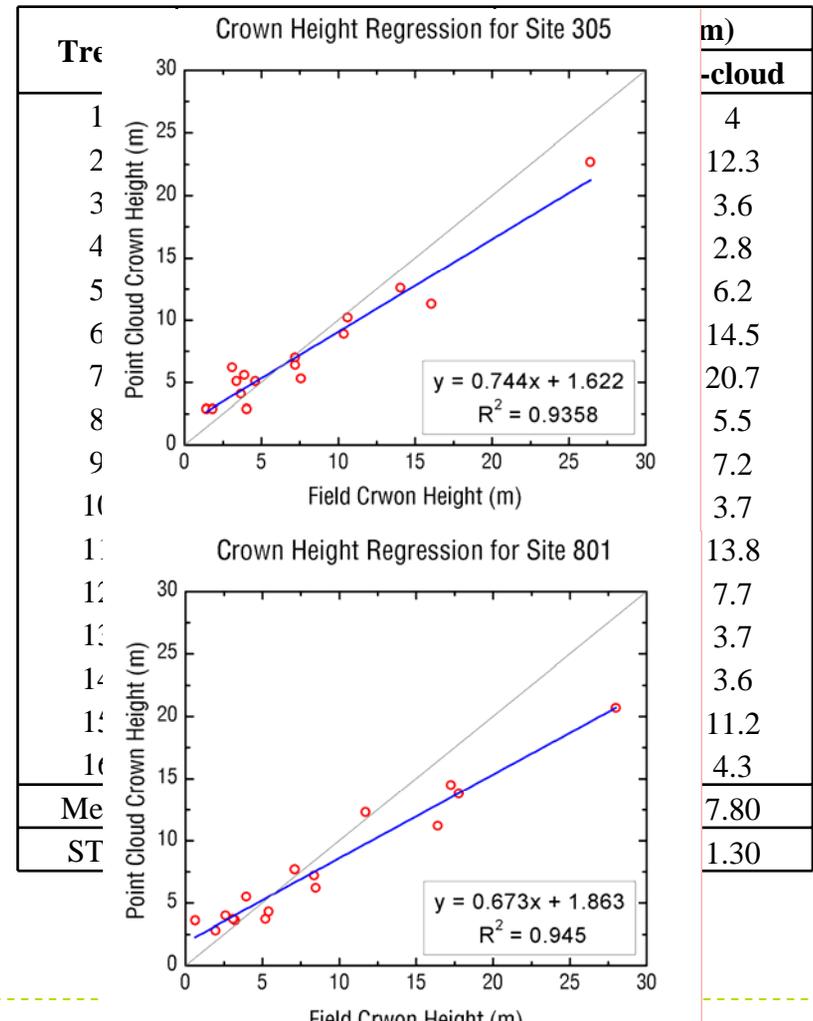
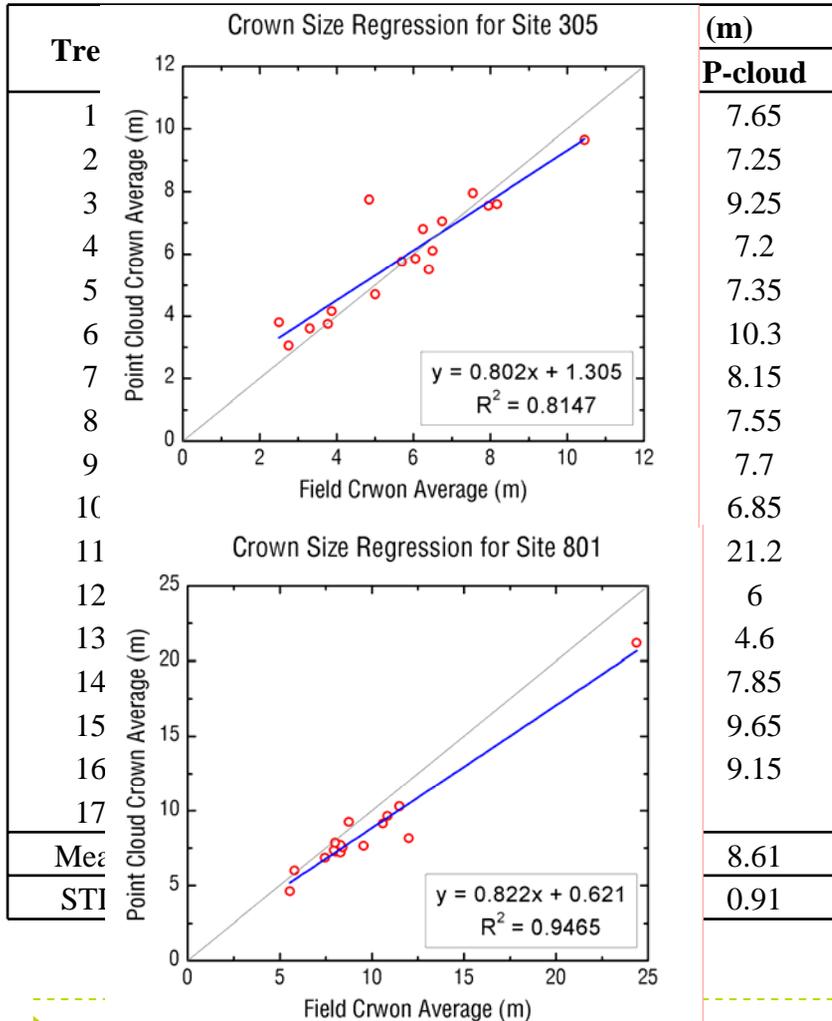
within canopy remote sensing



ground based Lidar

Crown size

Height to Crown



within canopy, ...

ground based Lidar

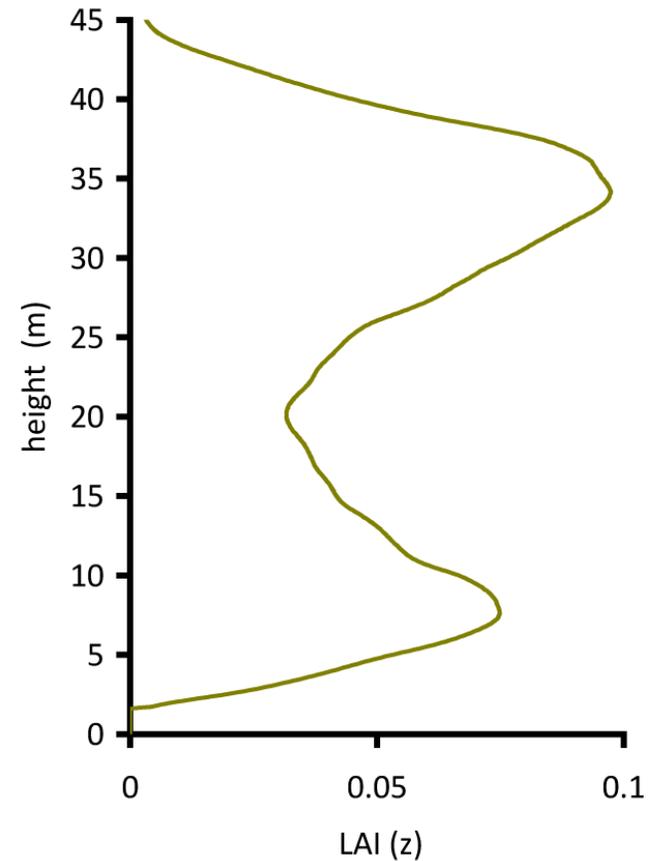
P_{gap} can be directly modelled

Statistical Lidar model:

$$E(r) = -E_0 \frac{C(r)}{r^2} \rho_v \frac{dP_{gap}}{dr}(r)$$

$E(r)$ = measured power

P_{gap} = gap probability



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THANK YOU