



Comparing digital elevation models for illumination correction of satellite images in mountainous landscapes of Anhui Province, China

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Background and objectives

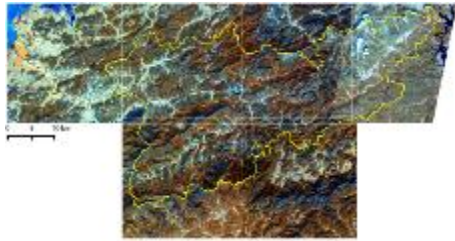
- Sino-German Lin2Value project with the objective to develop a carbon monitoring system (MRV in REDD+) using a combination of ground-based forest inventory and remote sensing.
- Digital elevation models as important remote sensing product and useful for natural resource management.

Specific research questions:

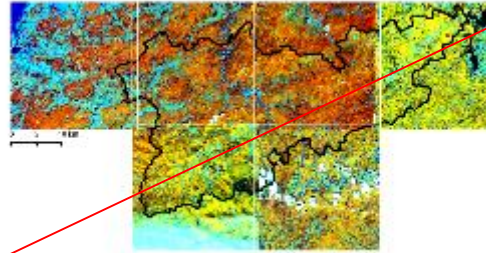
- How to optimize the pre-processing workflow of optical satellite images ?
- Which role has the data quality of digital elevation models for georeferencing and illumination correction of RapidEye satellite images in steep mountainous terrain?

Study site and material

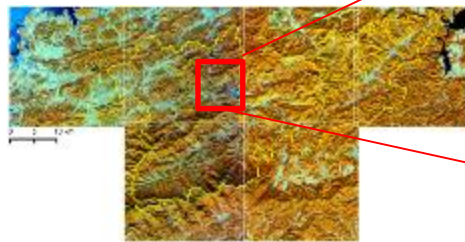
Six adjacent RapidEye L3A tiles (acquisition dates 2009-2013 from four seasons) completely cover the area of the county Shitai (1412 km²) in Anhui Province, China.



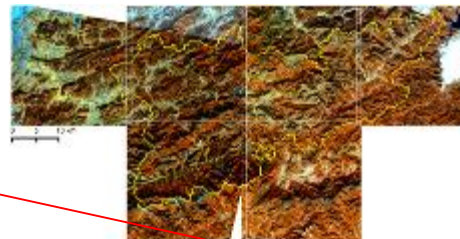
Spring



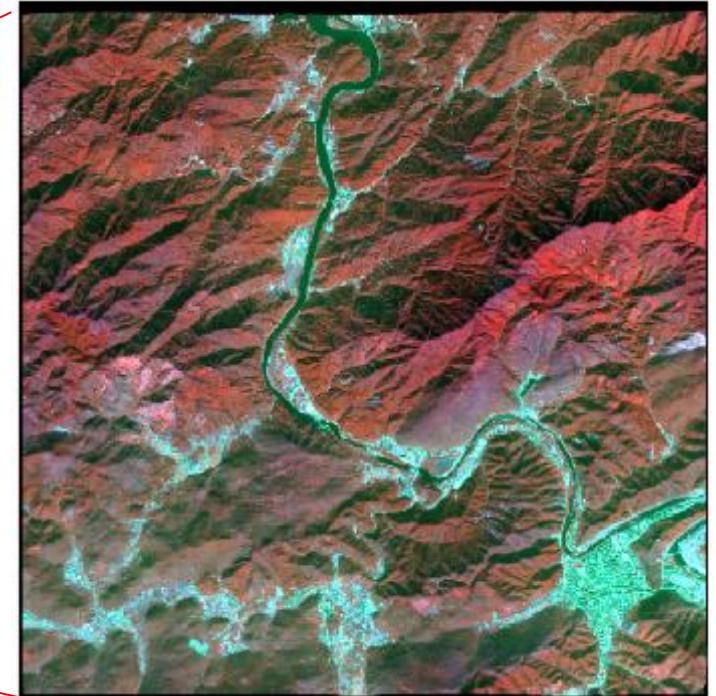
Summer



Autumn



Winter

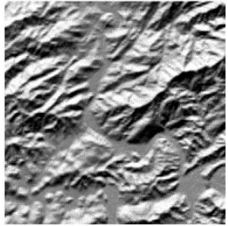


A very high spatial resolution
multispectral Pleiades composite
(RGB=431, 2013-11-07)

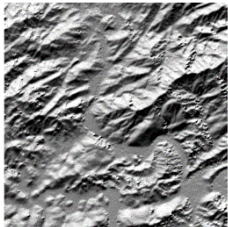


Digital elevation models (DEM)

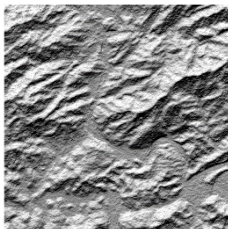
Strong influence of relief in Shitai county: altitude range 25 - 1727m and 38% of the area with slopes > 50%



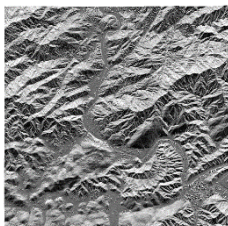
SRTM v4.1 (90m), SAR C-band interferometry,
<http://www.cgiar-csi.org/data>



SRTM-X (30m), SAR X-band interferometry,
<http://eoweb.dlr.de:8080>



ASTER GDEM v2 (30m), Stereo matching
<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>

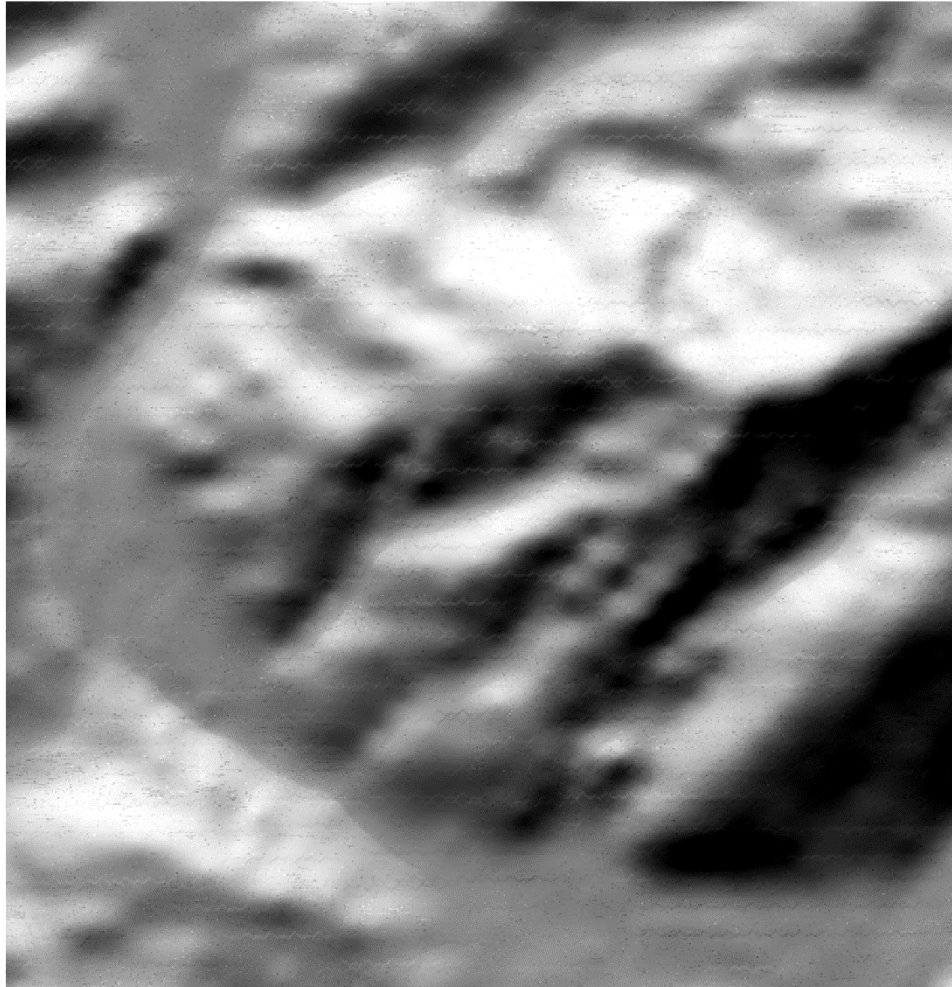
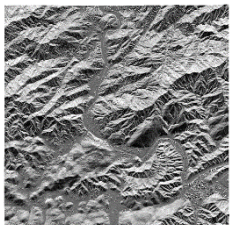
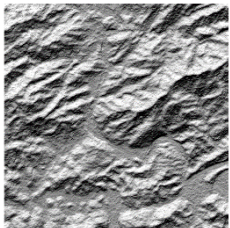
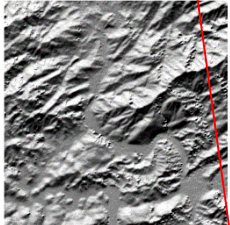
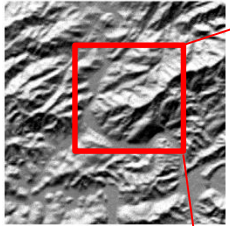


Pleiades DEM (0.5m), Stereo matching
<http://www.astroium-geo.com/en>



Digital elevation models (DEM)

Strong influence of relief in Shitai county: altitude range 25 - 1727m and 38% of the area with slopes $> 50\%$

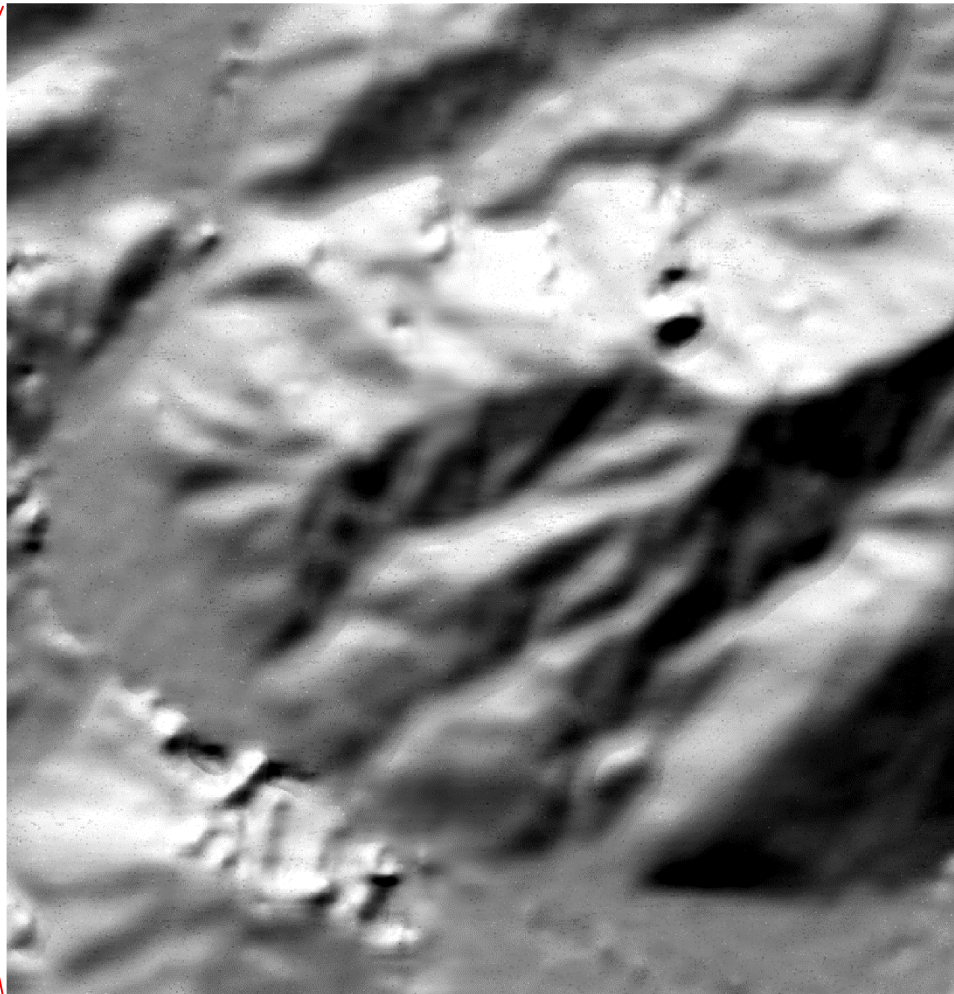
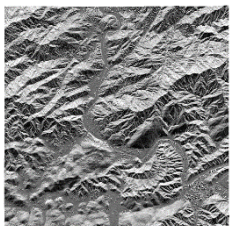
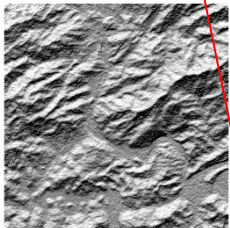
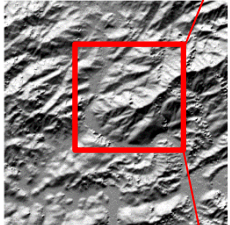
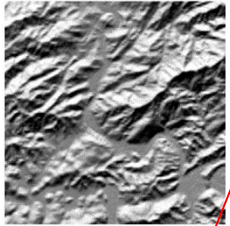


SRTM v4.1 (90m)



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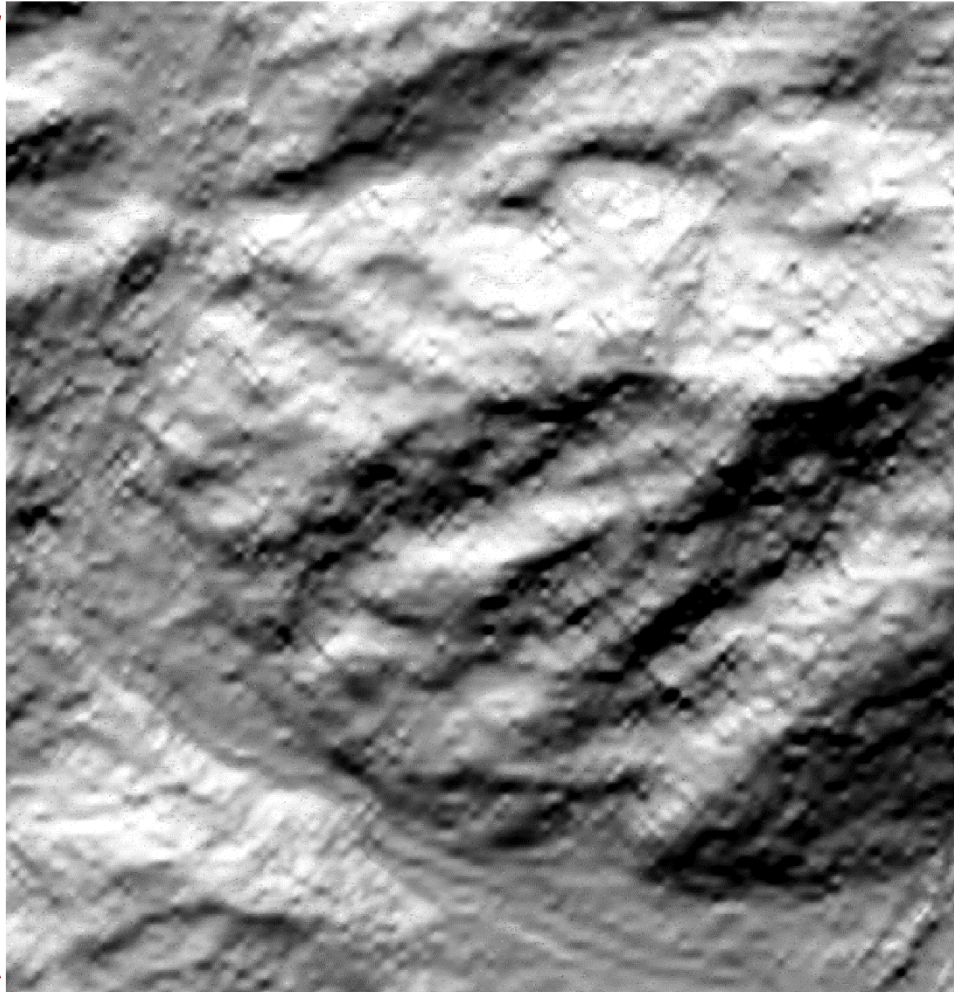
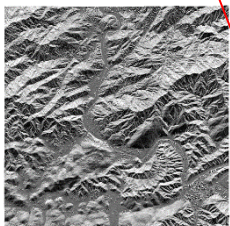
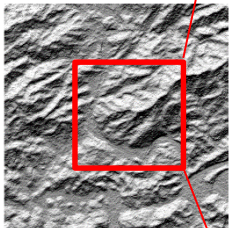
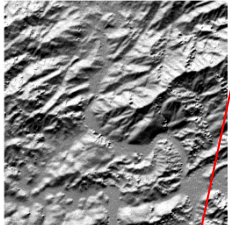
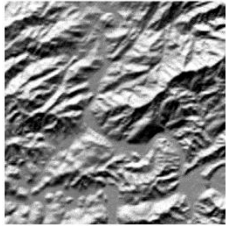


SRTM-X (30m)



Digital elevation models (DEM)

Strong influence of relief in Shitai county: altitude range 25 - 1727m and 38% of the area with slopes $> 50\%$

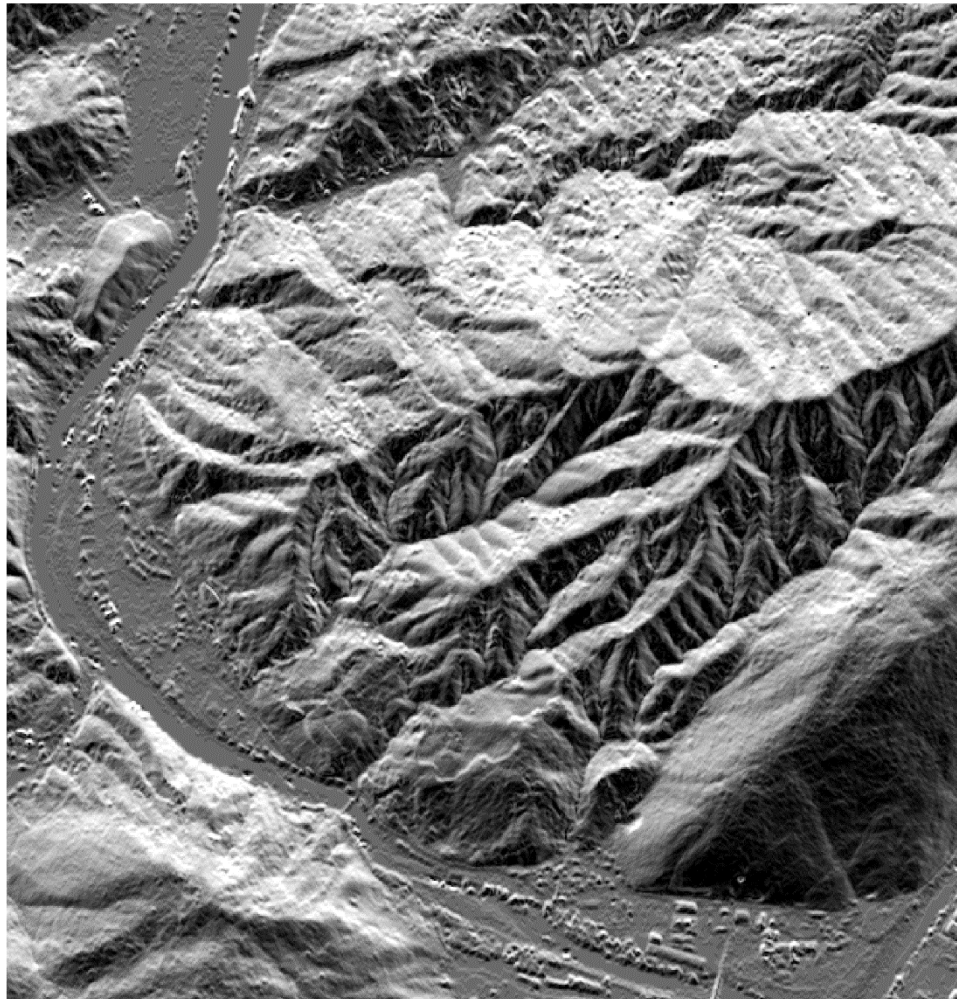
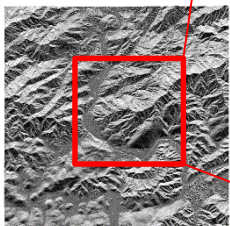
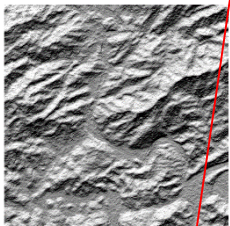
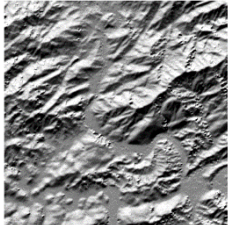
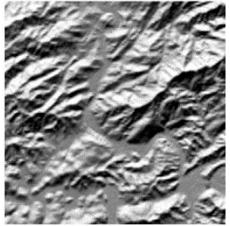


ASTER GDEM v2 (30m)



Digital elevation models (DEM)

Strong influence of relief in Shitai county: altitude range 25 - 1727m and 38% of the area with slopes $> 50\%$



Pleiades DEM (0.5m)

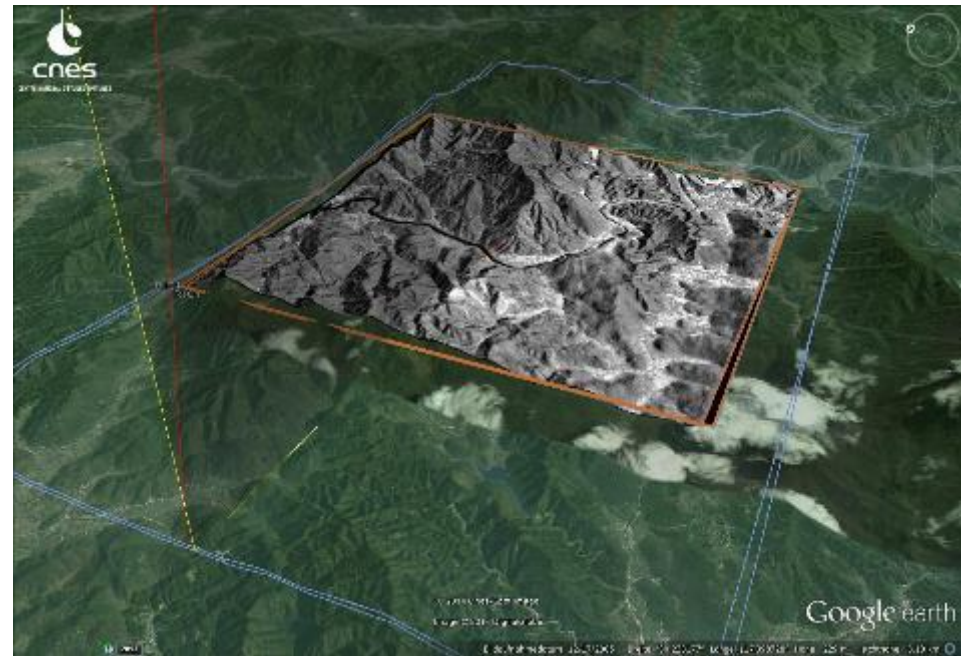
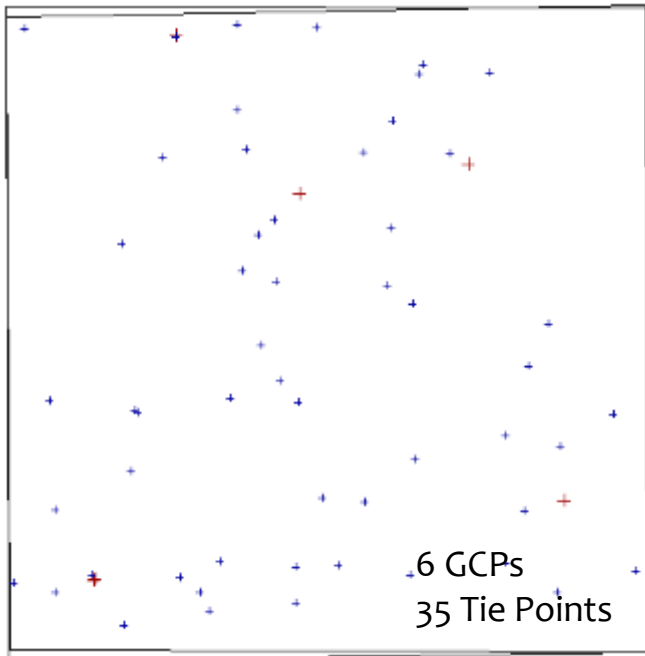


Stereo matching

Digital surface models can be efficiently generated with automatic image matching from optical stereo images

Pleiades offer high resolution stereoscopic coverage capability

Product used for DSM Extraction: Panchromatic image (0.5 m)





3D visualization and perception

True illumination angle: 170°



Simulated illumination angle: 315°



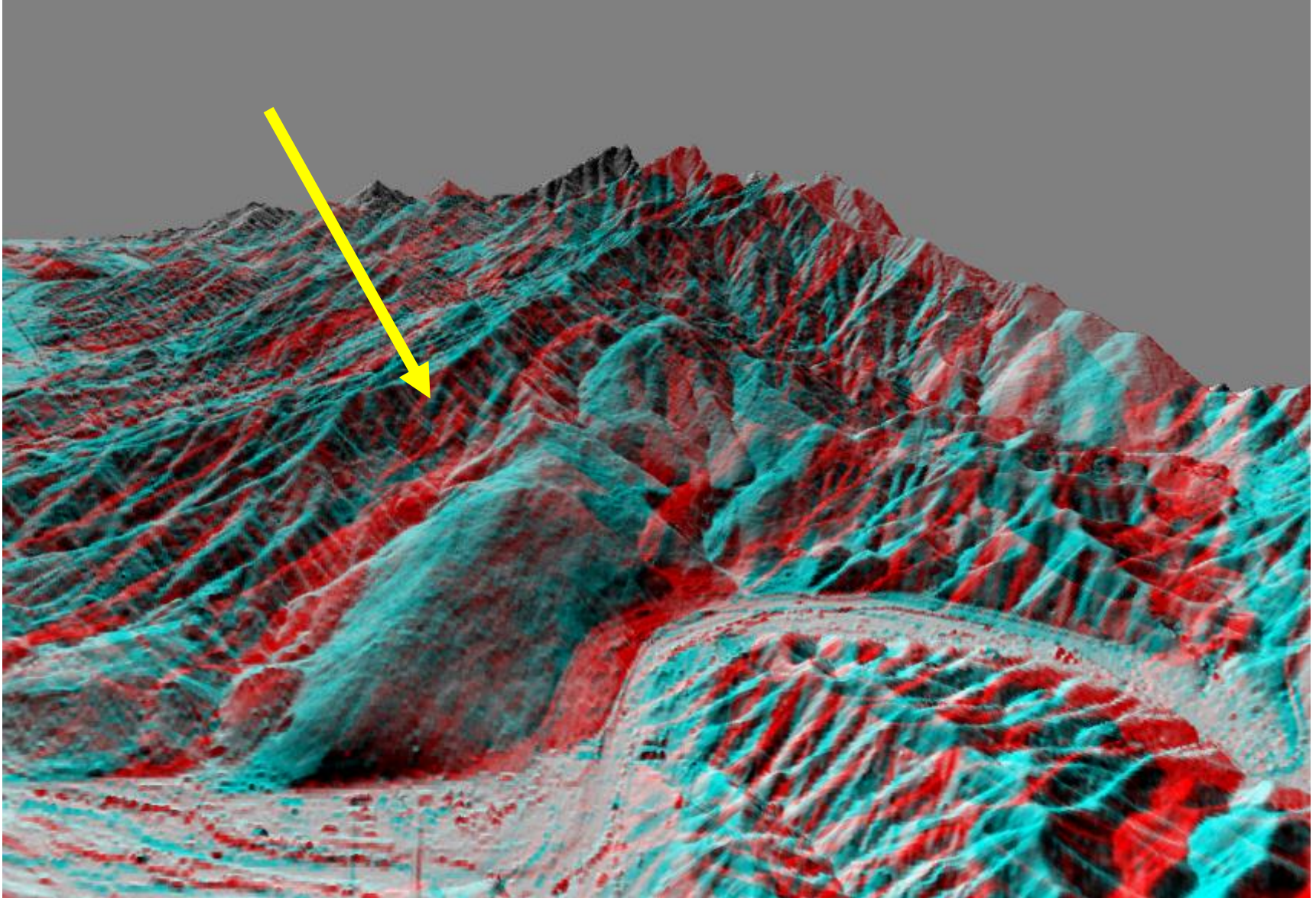
Where is the ground inventory plot located?

- A Valley
- B Ridge





3D visualization and perception





Conclusion

- Illumination correction and digital and elevation models should be utilized to enhance RapidEye satellite images in mountainous terrain.
- The different degrees of detail of digital elevation models have an influence on the quality of illumination correction.
- Digital elevation models are crucial for ecophysiological zoning and management of mountain forests.



Acknowledgements



We thank DLR for providing the satellite images from the RapidEye Science Archive (RESA) and BMBF for funding. Thanks to the ForestEye Processor Development Team and Henning Aberle. The support of the Lin²Value team (Prof. Dr. Christoph Kleinn, Dr. Lutz Fehrmann, Dr. Haijun Yang, Sabine Schreiner, Dengkui Mo, Xiaolu Tang, Julia Böning, Metodi Panev) is gratefully acknowledged.

