

Performance of laser-based electronic devices for structural analysis of Amazonian Terra-Firme forest

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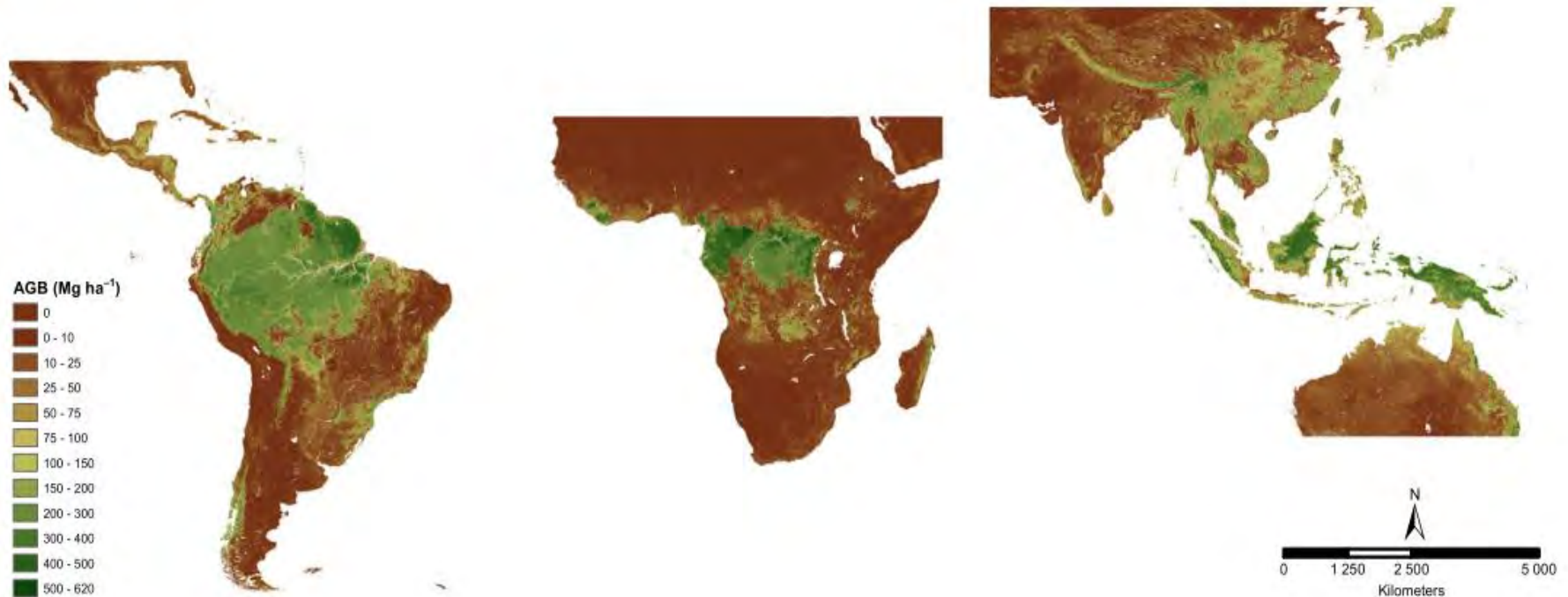


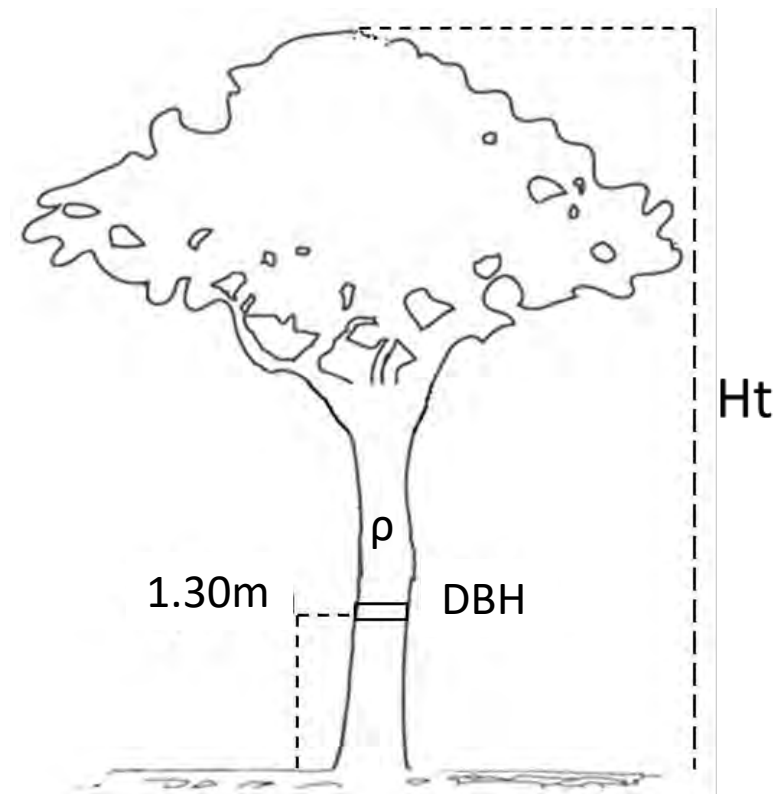
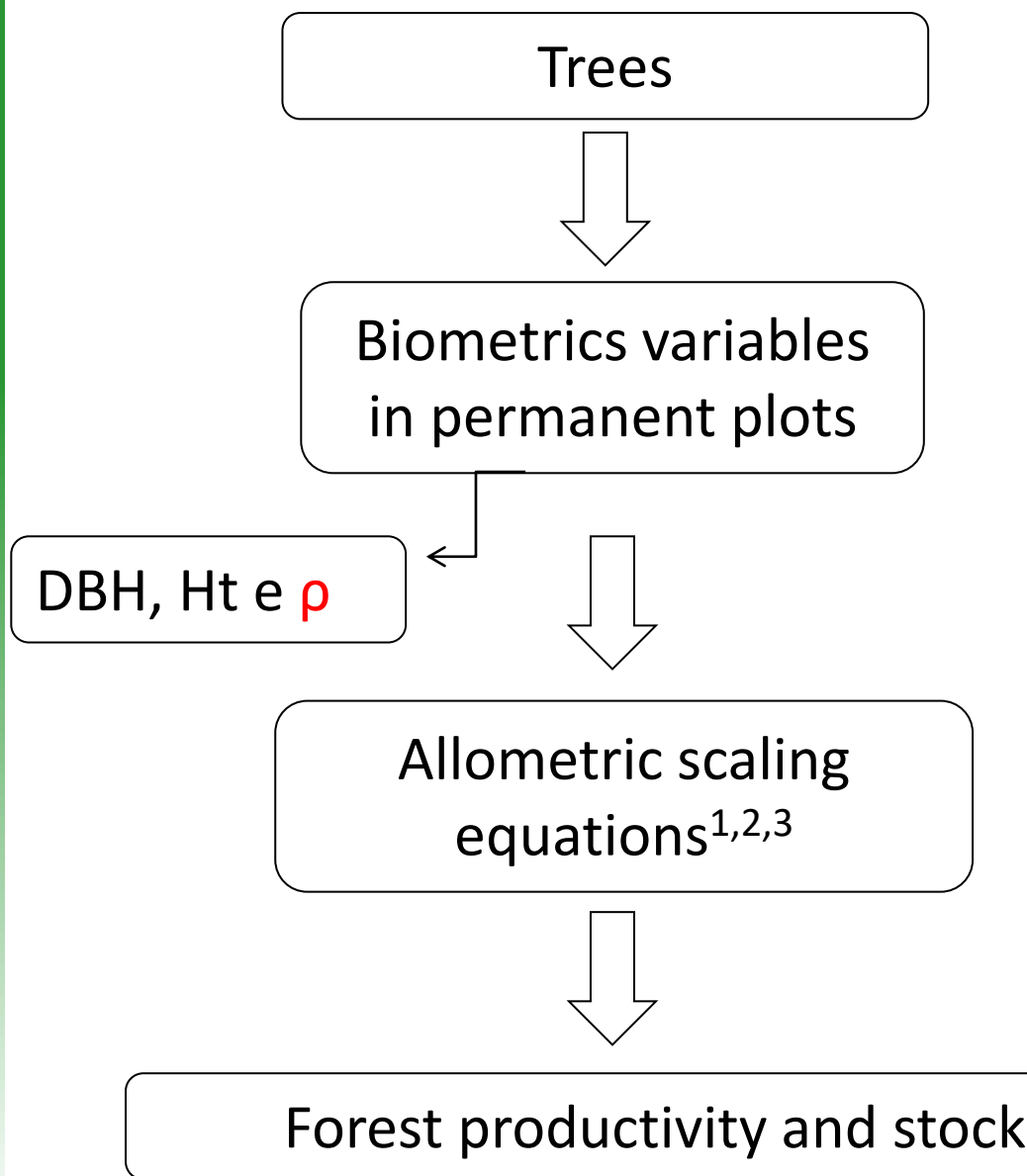
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Field-Map

Tropical forests play a key role in terrestrial carbon cycle. Mainly in a scenario of climate change.

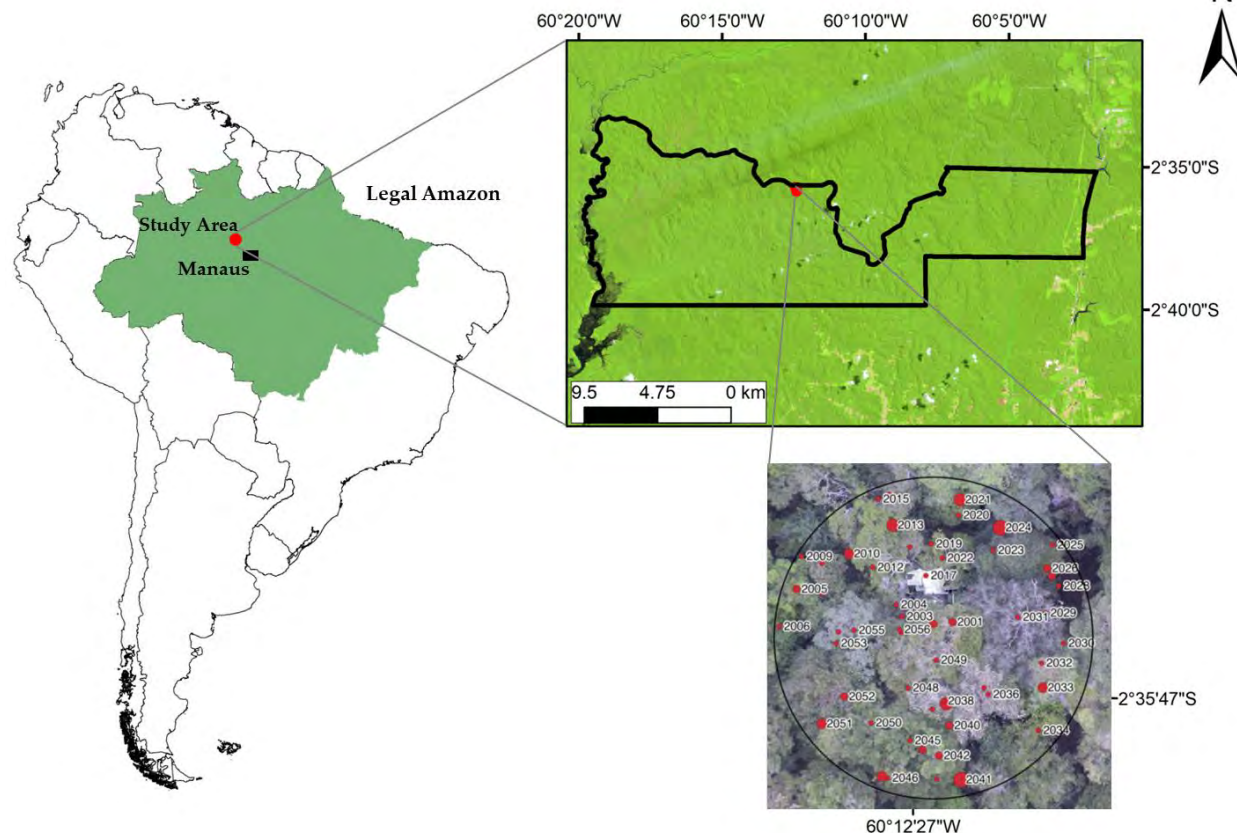




New technologies brings news approaches for forest inventory

Objectives	
Compare traditional methods with laser-based electronic devices	Quantify the total error, the systematic error and the random error

Location

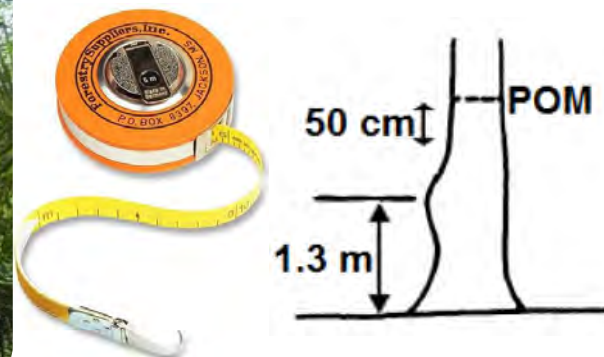


- Amazon FACE program- one plot (706m²);
- Köppen-Geiger:classification Am ¹;
- Temp.: (25.8 - 27.9 °C) ²;
- Precipitation 2431 mm/ year ²;
- Ferralsol / Oxisol- low availability in nutrients ³;
- *Terra firme*- Old growth forest;
- Canopy mean height = 30 m ⁵;
- Basal area: 28-30 m²/ha ⁵.

Traditional methods (TM) observed data

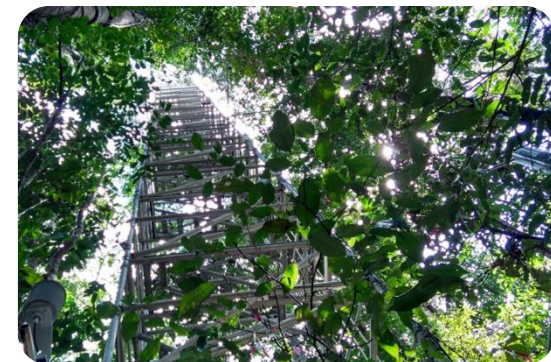
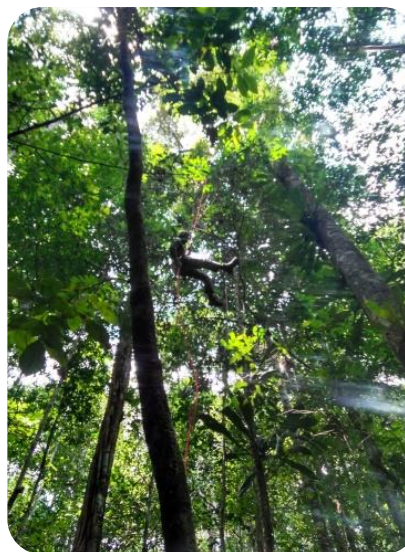
Diametric tape (DT)

- Used for DBH (observed data);
- Following protocols ^{1,2};
- Fast, easy and cheap;



Metric tape (MT)

- Used for Ht (observed data);
- professional climber and central tower in plot;
- Slow, difficult and expensive.



Field-Map Bundle (FM)

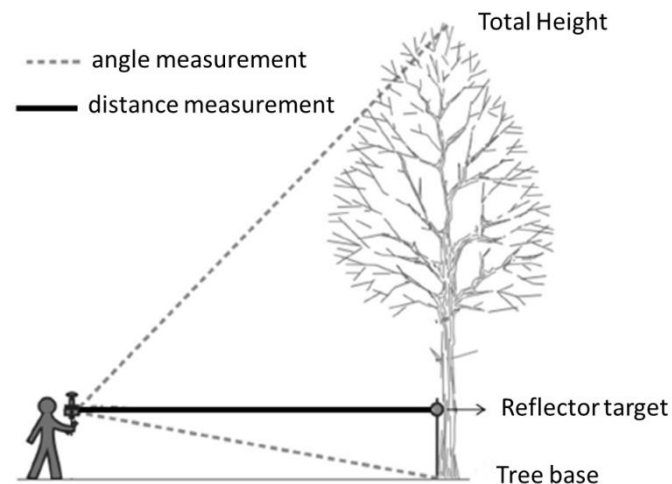


Electronic caliper

- Used for DBH;
- Following protocols ¹;
- 2 measurements per tree in the same point of DT.

Laser rangefinder

- Used for Ht;
- Laser beam for measures distances
- Based in trigonometry ²;
- 2-3 measurements per tree.



Terrestrial Laser Scanning or terrestrial LiDAR (TLS)

RIEGL VZ-400i

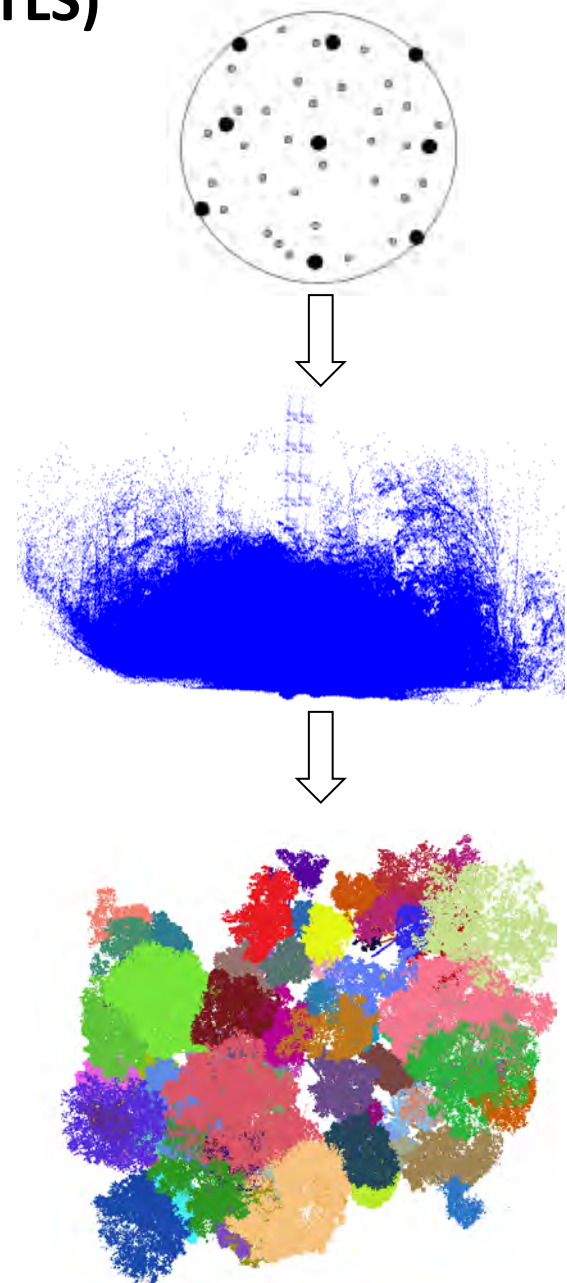
- Active sensor of the type that emits a series of pulses of laser to the environment;
- High precision clock that calculates the time of emission and return (reflection) of beams registered with precision;
- Three-dimensional coordinates (x, y, z) based on the distance of the returns to the sensor;
- Forming a cloud of points with millions of coordinates in minutes.



Terrestrial Laser Scanning or terrestrial LiDAR (TLS)

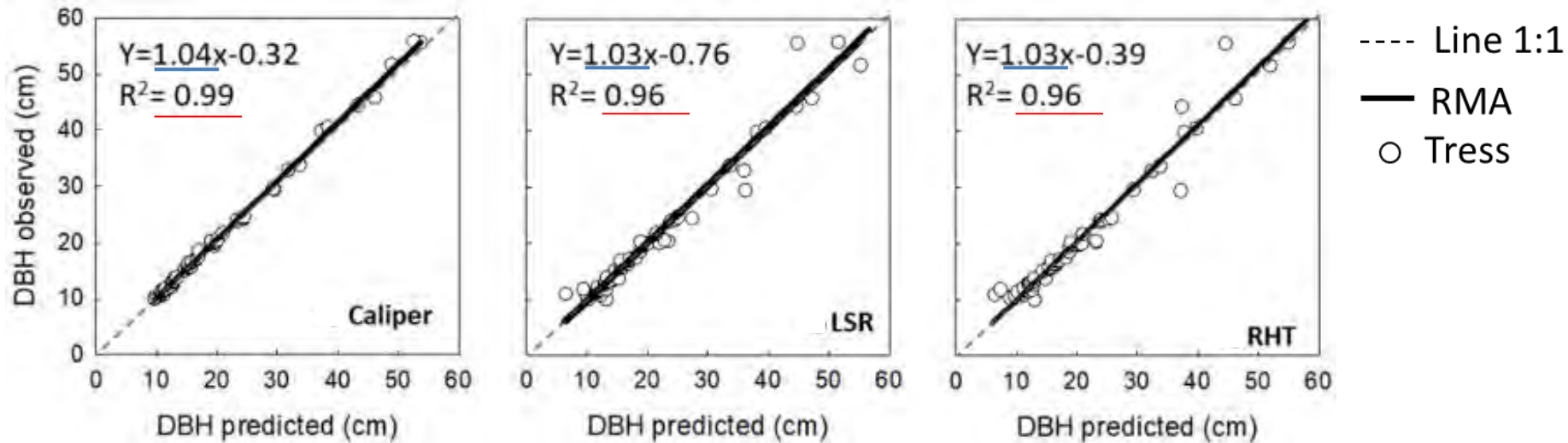
Terrestrial Laser Scanning data

- Collecting data → scan in different spots → create a unique point cloud (*raw point cloud*);
- Extracting individuals trees from raw point cloud using algorithm *treeseg*¹;
- Software *3D Forest*² used for obtain the biometric variables:
 - DBH two ways: last square regression (LSR) and Randomized Hough Transformation (RHT);
 - Ht two ways: height of point cloud (TLS height) and length of point cloud (TLS length) .





Analysis of horizontal vegetation structure (tree diameter)

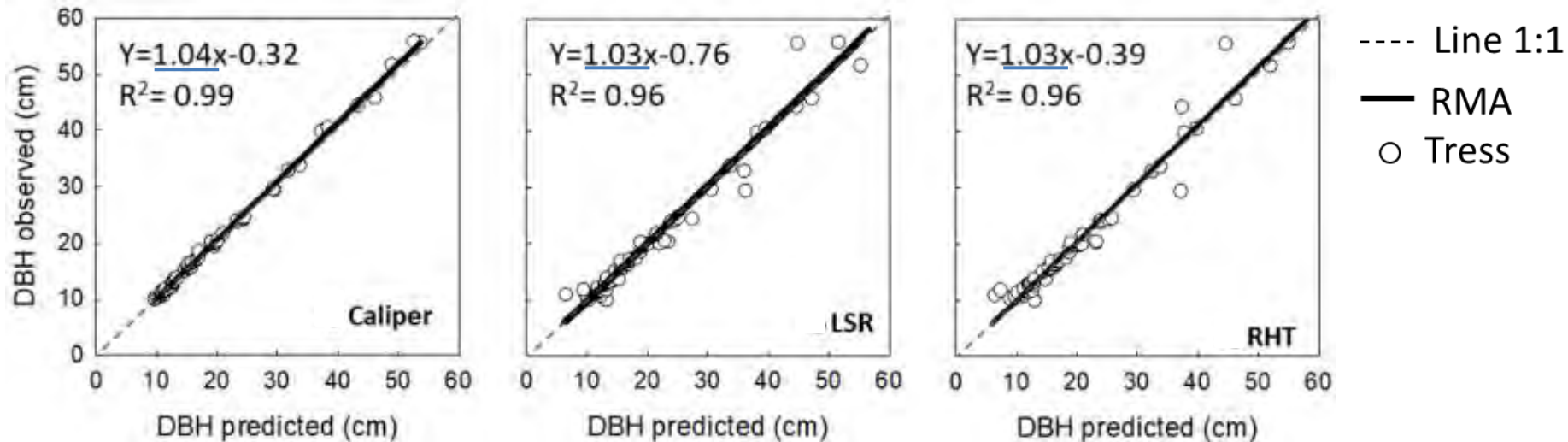


Above the line 1:1 → underestimate

Under the line 1:1 → overestimate

Methodology	Total error (Et)		Systematic error		Random error	
	Et (cm)	Et _{prop} (%)	Es (cm)	Es _{prop} (%)	Er (cm)	Er _{prop} (%)
Caliper	0.9	3.2	-0.5	-2.3	0.7	2.3
RHT	2.4	11.1	-0.4	-1.8	2.4	11.0
LSR	2.3	10.2	0.2	1.6	2.0	10.1

Analysis of horizontal vegetation structure (tree diameter)

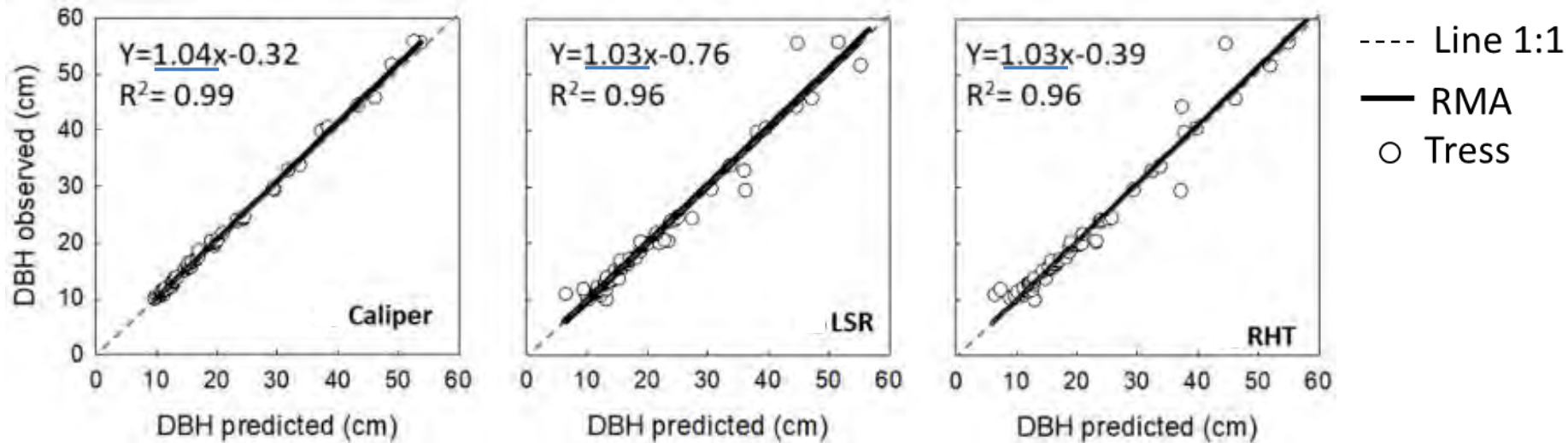


Lowest RMSE and
Random error
Highest systematic error

Highest RMSE and
Random error
Lowest systematic error

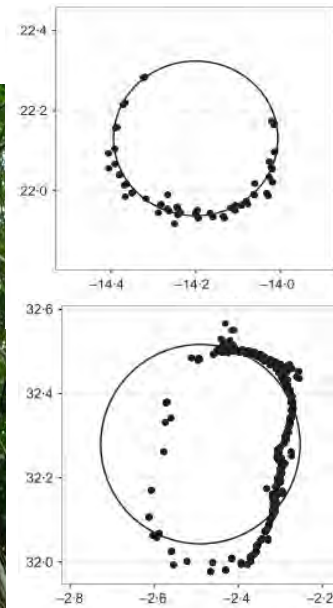
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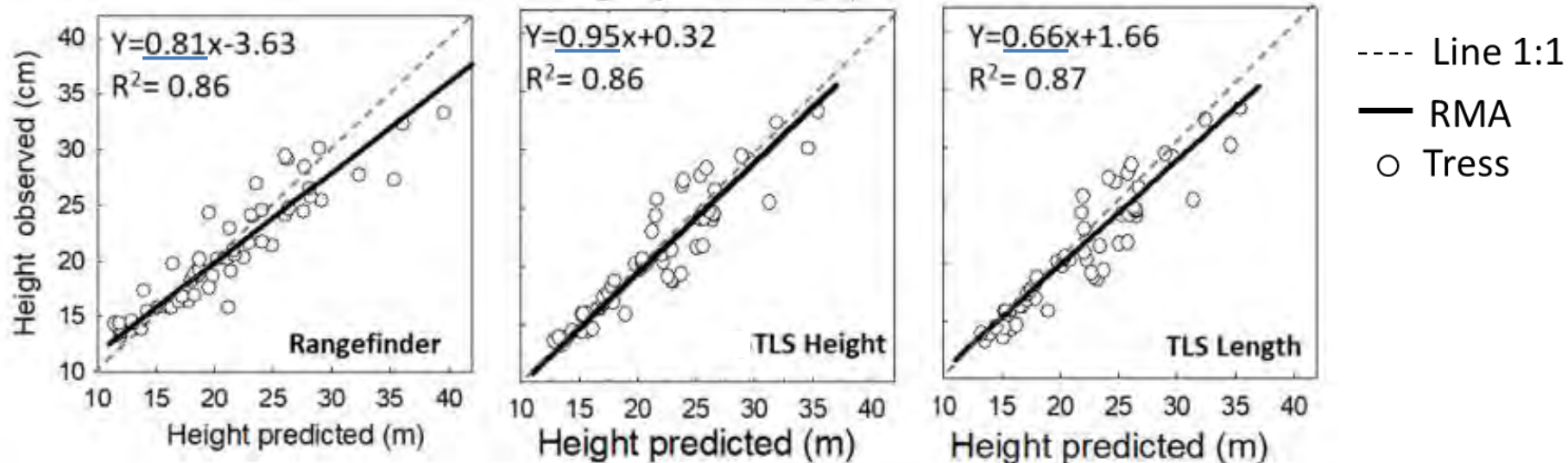


Difference between TM and devices :

- Non-circularity of trunks affect both devices ;
- TLS influenced of occlusion or noise by vegetation → no correct fit of the circle to the tree trunk.



Analysis of vertical vegetation structure (tree height)



Highest RMSE and
Random error
Lowest systematic error

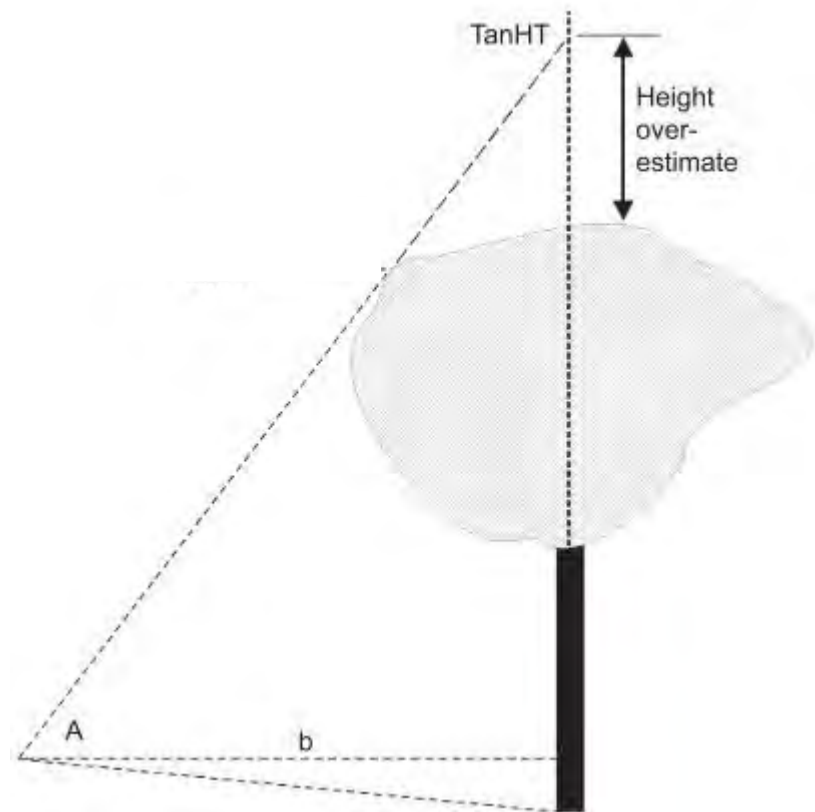
Lowest RMSE and
Random error
Highest systematic error

Methodology	Total error		Systematic error		Random error	
	Et (m)	Et _{prop} (%)	Es (m)	Es _{prop} (%)	Er (m)	Er _{prop} (%)
Rangefinder	2.6	11.7	0.4	1.1	2.6	11.8
TLS Height	2.2	10.0	0.7	3.6	1.8	9.3
TLS Length	2.2	10.1	0.9	4.5	2.0	9.1

Analysis of vertical vegetation structure (tree height)

Difference between TM and devices :

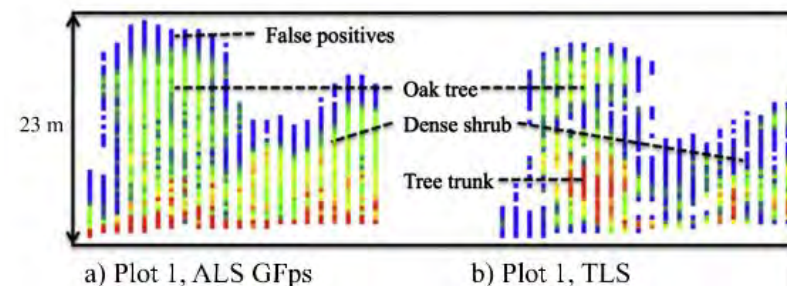
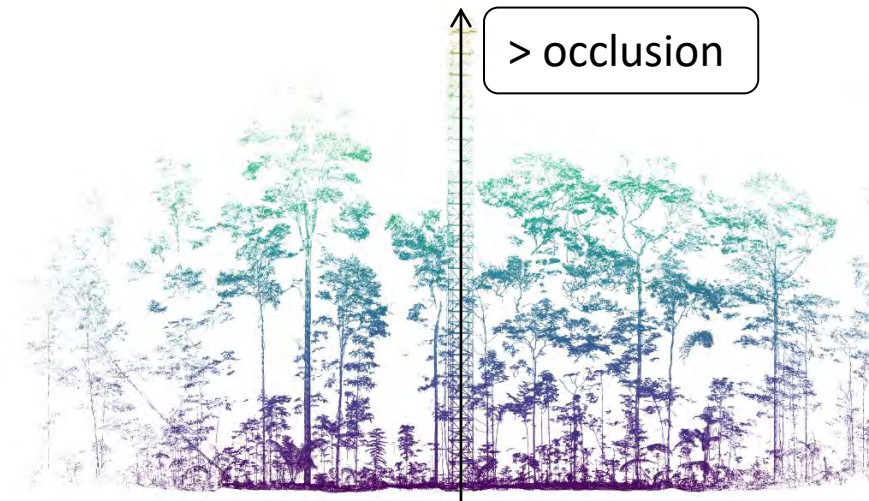
- LR: related with distance to the tree of interest;
 - low distance increase the angle → overestimate;
 - High distances decrease the angle and the bias → underestimate;
- Some trees not possible to see the top from the ground.



Analysis of vertical vegetation structure (tree height)

Difference between TM and devices :

- TLS: effects of the occlusion results in not good representation of the canopy ^{1,2,3};
- Noise caused by wind and neighborhood vegetation created a false positives ⁴;



Satisfactory performance of both technologies evaluated:

DBH:

Field Map bundle: Highest precision and accuracy between technologies;

TLS: slightly lower precision and accuracy than caliper measurements;

Ht:

Field Map bundle : LR precision and accuracy slightly lower than TLS measurements;

TLS: better precision and accuracy between technologies and low tendency in estimates;

Technologies can be used to survey basic biometric variables for input into different models to better understand the carbon cycle within the tree component.



For more information (Free access)









remote sensing



Article

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