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**Ulrich Michel
Karsten Schulz**
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Contents

vii	<i>Authors</i>
ix	<i>Conference Committee</i>
xi	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 MACHINE LEARNING FOR REMOTE SENSING

10790 02	Machine learning methods for remote sensing applications: an overview (Invited Paper) [10790-1]
10790 03	Evaluation of CNNs for land cover classification in high-resolution airborne images [10790-2]

SESSION 2 PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE I

10790 06	GIS and remote sensing based method to extract fluvial terraces for archaeological purposes [10790-6]
10790 08	The innovative documentation of cultural heritage using H-BIM: case study of Asinou church [10790-8]
10790 09	Monitoring cultural heritage sites affected by geohazards [10790-9]
10790 0A	Tunable broadband monolithic inertial sensors for real-time monitoring and characterization of sites and structures [10790-10]
10790 0B	Digitization issues in documenting cultural heritage with drones: case study of Foinikas, Cyprus [10790-13]

SESSION 3 PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE II

10790 0D	HERACLES: EU-backed multi-national project on cultural heritage preservation [10790-11]
10790 0E	Using SAR and optical data from Sentinel satellites for precise modeling of seasonal floating reed islands dynamics in Srebarna Lake [10790-14]

SESSION 4 HAZARD MITIGATION I

- 10790 0F **Comparison of terrestrial laser scanning and structure-from-motion photogrammetry for steep slope mapping** [10790-15]
- 10790 0G **A synergy of radar and optical data of Copernicus programme for landslide mapping** [10790-16]
- 10790 0H **Extraction of landslides in the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake using multi-temporal Lidar data** [10790-17]
- 10790 0I **The automatic detection of landslide features from LiDAR DEM using modifying contour connection method** [10790-18]
- 10790 0J **A comprehensive land cover classification approach for the development of wildfire fuels layers** [10790-46]

SESSION 5 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING I

- 10790 0K **Real-time texturing and visualization of a 2.5D terrain model from live LiDAR and RGB data streaming in a remote sensing workflow** [10790-19]
- 10790 0L **Reconnaissance of coastal areas using simulated EnMAP data in an ERDAS IMAGINE environment** [10790-20]
- 10790 0M **A case study on the detection of illegal dumps with GIS and remote sensing images** [10790-21]
- 10790 0N **Direct or indirect on-shore hydrocarbon detection methods applied to hyperspectral data in tropical area** [10790-22]
- 10790 0O **Time series evaluation of re-urbanization in disaster area of large-scale tsunami in Japan by high-resolution satellite remote sensing** [10790-23]

SESSION 6 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING II

- 10790 0R **GIS-based integration of spatial and remote sensing data for wildfire monitoring (Best Student Paper Award)** [10790-25]
- 10790 0T **Potential of Sentinel-2 data in the detection of lithium (Li)-bearing pegmatites: a study case** [10790-47]
- 10790 0W **Remote sensing and GIS for assessment and prediction of environmental hazards due to mine waste: case study from Daitari iron ore mines, Odisha, India** [10790-29]

SESSION 7 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING III

- 10790 0X **Surface irradiance estimations on watercourses with remote sensing data** [10790-30]
- 10790 0Y **Evaluation of MODIS NDVI based phenology indicators for the analysis of vegetation dynamics in the nature reserve Königsbrücker Heide** [10790-32]

SESSION 8 INFRASTRUCTURES AND URBAN AREAS

- 10790 10 **Assessment of electrical and infrastructure recovery in Puerto Rico following hurricane Maria using a multisource time series of satellite imagery** [10790-33]
- 10790 11 **Change detection in sequences of SAR sub-aperture images** [10790-42]
- 10790 12 **Brazilian frontier governance: survey of infrastructure based on remote sensing techniques** [10790-48]

SESSION 9 HAZARD MITIGATION II

- 10790 14 **Investigation of atmospheric anomalies recorded for moderate or strong earthquakes by geospatial and field data** [10790-38]
- 10790 15 **Automated burned area identification in real-time during wildfire events using WorldView imagery for the insurance industry** [10790-45]

SESSION 10 SENSORS AND PLATFORMS

- 10790 17 **Remote sensing in the visible to the mid-wave infrared spectral range for mapping of grasslands and assessment of grass biomass** [10790-34]

SESSION 11 HAZARD MITIGATION III

- 10790 1B **Theoretical approach to estimate the probability of strata convergence: implications for mining induced fractures and potential health risk** [10790-39]
- 10790 1D **Landslide susceptibility mapping at Dodangeh watershed, Iran using LR and ANN models in GIS** [10790-41]

POSTER SESSION

- 10790 1G **Long-term satellite image time series for the assesment of land use/cover change in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest** [10790-50]
- 10790 1I **Detection of ditch structures in the region of "Altes Land" by means of current optical satellite data** [10790-53]
- 10790 1K **Modification in landscape horizontal structure, induced by changing environmental conditions: a case study of Haskovo region (Southeastern Bulgaria)** [10790-55]
- 10790 1L **Pegmatite spectral behavior considering ASTER and Landsat 8 OLI data in Naipa and Muiane mines (Alto Ligonha, Mozambique)** [10790-56]
- 10790 1N **Information potential of the 3D GIS application with the use of virtual technologies** [10790-58]
- 10790 1O **Temporal generalization of an artificial neural networks for land use/land cover classification** [10790-59]
- 10790 1P **Combining field and image spectral reflectance for mangrove species identification and mapping using WorldView-2 image** [10790-60]
- 10790 1R **Modeling of forest ecosystems recovery after fire based on orthogonalization of multispectral satellite data** [10790-62]
- 10790 1S **Effects of sample size on burned areas accuracy estimates in the Amazon Basin** [10790-63]
- 10790 1T **Impact of extreme climate events and anthropogenic stressors on urban green albedo assessed from time-series MODIS satellite data** [10790-64]
- 10790 1U **Application of remote sensing data for forest fires severity assessment** [10790-65]
- 10790 1W **Experimental study on segmentation methods in road recognition** [10790-69]
- 10790 1Y **Scenario simulation of Harbin urban expansion and its spatial pattern evaluation with GIS/RS** [10790-71]

Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the seven-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first five digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Abaja, R., 17
Achard, Véronique, 0N
Alakian, Alexandre, 0N
Al-Najjar, Husam Abdulrasool H., 1D
Alqorina, Finni, 1P
Angelino, C. V., 0M
Antonakakis, Antonis, 0F
Auer, Stefan, 0L
Avetisyan, Daniela, 1K, 1R
Bachmann, Martin, 0L
Barone, F., 0A
Becker, Merlin, 0K, 0L
Belenguer-Plomer, M. A., 1S
Boldt, Markus, 1I
Borisova, Denitsa, 0E, 1W
Brauns, A., 17
Bulatov, Dimitri, 03, 0D
Cadario, Erich, 1I
Cardoso-Fernandes, J., 0T
Cerra, Daniele, 0L
Christovam, Luiz E., 1G, 1O
Chuvieco, E., 1S
Cicala, L., 0M
Coladello, Leandro F., 1G, 1O
Cosme Cravo, Silmara, 12
Danezis, Chris, 09
De, Atasi, 0W
Déliot, Philippe, 0N
De Mizio, M., 0M
Dida, Adrian I., 1T
Duarte, L., 06
Dubuca, Dominique, 0N
Fabre, Sophie, 0N
Fernandez-Carrillo, A., 1S
Filipovs, J., 17
Focareta, M., 0M
Galo, Maria de Lourdes B. T., 1G, 1O
Gege, Peter, 0L
Geller, Christina, 0J, 15
Gemusse, Ubaldo, 1L
Georgiou, Simos, 08
Ghosh, Raktim, 1B
Giordano, G., 0A
Gomes, A., 06
Guo, Rong, 1Y
Hadjimitsis, Diofantos, 08
Hänsch, Ronny, 02
Hashiba, Hideki, 0O
Häufel, Gisela, 03
Hristova, Valentina, 1W
Huang, Mengshi, 1Y
Idrees, Mohammed Oludare, 1D
Ioannides, Marinos, 08
Ivanova, Iva, 0E, 1R
Jakovels, D., 17
Janzantti, Pedro Henrique Freire, 12
Kalantar, Bahareh, 1D
Kamal, Muhammad, 1P
Karrasch, Pierre, 0X, 0Y
Kautz, Marie-Luise, 0X
Koukouvelas, Ioannis, 0F
Kumar, Dheeraj, 0W
Kyriou, Aggeliki, 0F, 0G
Lima, Alexandre, 0T, 1L
Liu, Wen, 0H
Lucks, Lukas, 03, 0D
Maciejewski, Marcin, 1N
Mata, Christian, 0R
Mateciuc, Doru N., 14
Meoli, G., 0M
Michel, Ulrich, 1I
Middelmann, Wolfgang, 0K, 0L
Mispelhorn, Jonas, 0K
Mitschke, Uwe, 0L
Molla, Ibrahim, 1U
Monteiro Rodrigues, S., 06
Moßgraber, Jürgen, 0D
Motevallí, Alireza, 1D
Murchio, Gabriele, 0D
Murti, Sigit H., 1P
Nabarrete, Airton, 12
Nedkov, Roumen, 0E, 1K, 1R, 1U
Nikolakopoulos, Konstantinos G., 0F, 0G
Ningam, Muhammad U. L., 1P
Padeletti, Giuseppina, 0D
Parrilli, S., 0M
Pastor, Elsa, 0R
Piacquadio, G., 0M
Piszczek, Marek, 1N
Planas, Eulàlia, 0R
Pohl, Melanie, 03, 0D
Pomianek, Mateusz, 1N
Pradhan, Biswajeet, 1D
Radeva, Kameliya, 1U
Rios, Oriol, 0R
Roitzsch, Andreas, 0L
Romano, R., 0A
Sagawa, Yuuki, 0H

Savastru, Dan M., 14
Savastru, Roxana S., 14
Schilling, Hendrik, 03
Schreiner, Simon, 0L
Schulz, Karsten, 02
Shermeyer, Jacob, 10
Shimabukuro, Milton H., 1G
Solbrig, Peter, 0D
Sonobe, Masashi, 0O
Sörgel, Uwe, 02
Stankova, Nataliya, 0E, 1R
Stefanopoulos, Panagiotis, 0F
Tanase, M. A., 1S
Taskovs, J., 17
Teodoro, A. C., 06, 0T, 1L
Themistocleous, Kyriacos, 08, 09, 0B
Thieme, Anne, 1I
Tolentino, Franciele M., 1G, 1O
Ueda, Naonori, 1D
Valero, Mario M., 0R
Velizarova, Emiliya, 1U
Wessollek, Christine, 0X, 0Y
Wicaksono, Pramaditya, 1P
Wu, Kahn-Bao, 0I
Yamazaki, Fumio, 0H
Zoran, Liviu Florin, 1T
Zoran, Maria A., 14, 1T

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- 1 Machine Learning for Remote Sensing
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- 2 Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage I
Kyriacos Themistocleous, Cyprus University of Technology (Cyprus)
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Bildauswertung (Germany)

- 3 Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage II
Dimitri Bulatov, Fraunhofer-Institut für Optronik, Systemtechnik und Bildauswertung (Germany)
Kyriacos Themistocleous, Cyprus University of Technology (Cyprus)
- 4 Hazard Mitigation I
Konstantinos G. Nikolakopoulos, University of Patras (Greece)
- 5 Environmental Monitoring I
Christine Wessollek, TU Dresden (Germany)
- 6 Environmental Monitoring II
Gisela Häufel, Fraunhofer-Institut für Optronik, Systemtechnik und Bildauswertung (Germany)
- 7 Environmental Monitoring III
Pierre Karrasch, TU Dresden (Germany)
- 8 Infrastructures and Urban Areas
Markus Boldt, Fraunhofer-Institut für Optronik, Systemtechnik und Bildauswertung (Germany)
- 9 Hazard Mitigation II
Konstantinos G. Nikolakopoulos, University of Patras (Greece)
- 10 Sensors and Platforms
Markus Boldt, Fraunhofer-Institut für Optronik, Systemtechnik und Bildauswertung (Germany)
- 11 Hazard Mitigation III
Konstantinos G. Nikolakopoulos, University of Patras (Greece)

Introduction

This Proceedings volume is a collection of papers based on the invited and contributed presentations from the SPIE conference, Earth Resources and Environmental Remote Sensing/GIS Applications, formerly titled, Remote Sensing for Environmental Monitoring, GIS Applications, and Geology. The conference took place in Berlin, Germany 11–13 September 2018. It was the eighteenth conference on this topic after its inauguration in Toulouse, France, in 2001. Approximately 40 papers were presented at this conference.

The conference sessions with presented papers and interactive posters were grouped into the following themes: Infrastructures and Urban Areas; Hazard Mitigation Geologic Applications; Sensors and Platforms; Environmental Monitoring Concepts; and two new fields, Machine Learning for Remote Sensing; and Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage. Lively discussions often continued into the coffee breaks, especially on the latter topics. Although the session topics seem to be rather diverse, the multidisciplinary community of this conference allows discussion of important topics from several interesting points of view. After all, there was strong support from the audience to continue these themes for future conferences and following the suggestions, we will try to organize a special session dealing with methods and assessment of Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage again. The topic of machine learning, and especially deep learning, will be present in the future in our conference. The keynote presentation concerning machine learning attracted attention and it is planned to look for further opportunities to intensify this topic in our conference.

The paper submission and review processes were again perfectly organized by the SPIE staff. We like to thank the SPIE staff on-site for their responsiveness and support. We are also grateful to our program committee for their help in the reviewing and session compilation process.

**Ulrich Michel
Karsten Schulz**

