

Drone based Sensor Platforms

Grey Corp Research and Innovation

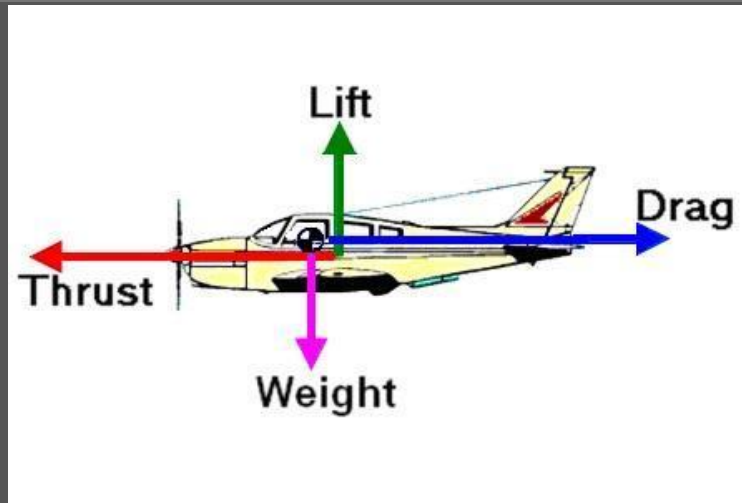
What are Drones?

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
 - Any aerial vehicle without a human on-board
 - Remotely controlled by a human operator OR
 - Controlled by onboard computers
- UGV/AGV
 - Unmanned/Autonomous Ground Vehicle
- UUV/AUV
 - Unmanned/Autonomous Underwater Vehicle

Types of Drones

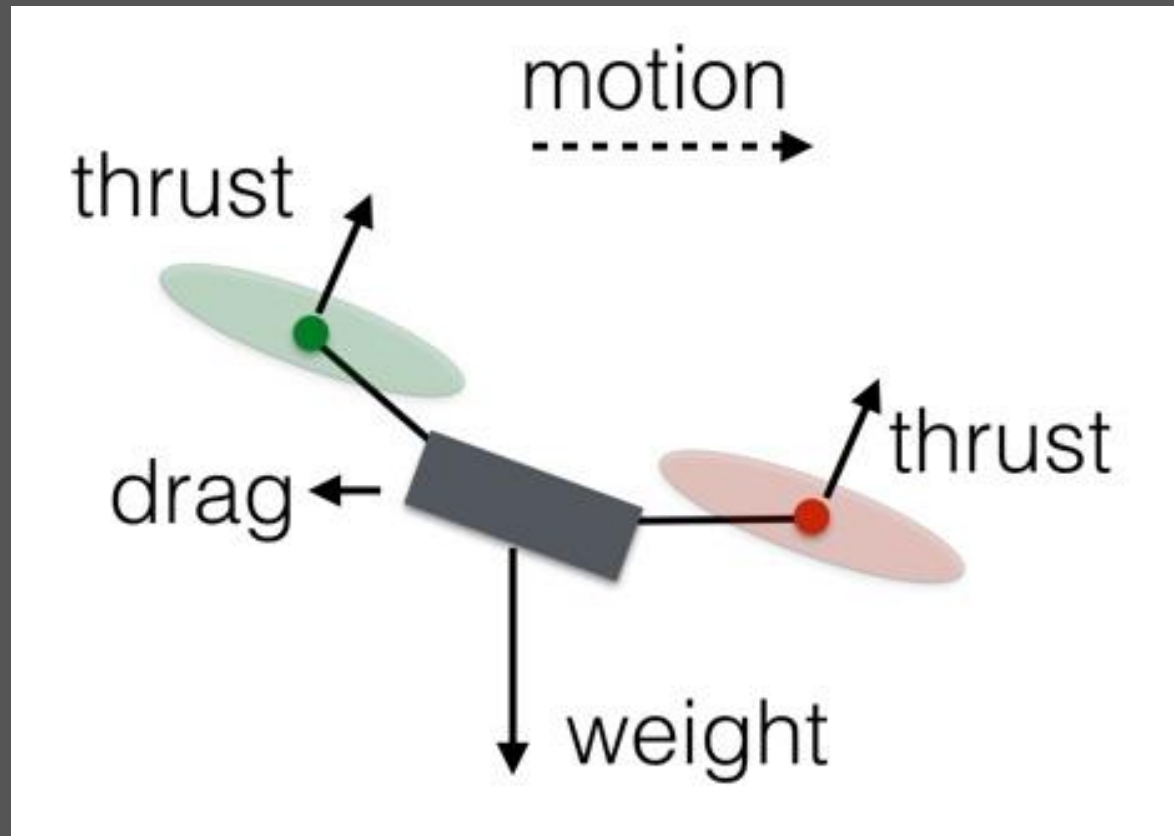


Four Forces of Flight



- Thrust: A force that moves aircraft forward
 - Needs to overcome drag (frictional force)
 - Produced by the engine
- Lift: A force that “lifts” the aircraft up
 - Needs to overcome weight
 - Created by airflow over wings

How does a Drone Fly?



Components of a Drone - 1



Frame



Motor

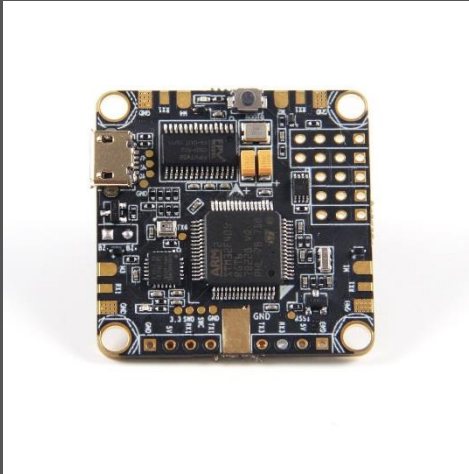


Speed Controller



Propeller

Components of a Drone - 2



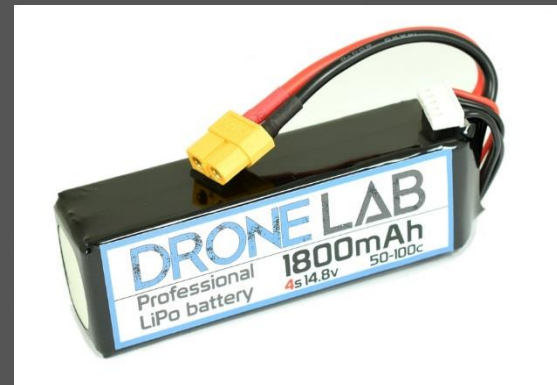
Flight Controller



Radio Transmitter



Radio Receiver



Battery

Components of a Drone - 3



Telemetry Module



Camera



Video Transmitter



Video Receiver

Components of a Drone - 4



Ground Control Station

Components of a Drone - 5



OSD

- Monitor vital stats of drone
- Battery voltage
- Current draw
- ESC temperature
- Pitch & roll values
- Radio signal strength
- GPS signal strength
- Altitude, speed, heading
- Distance to next waypoint
- Distance to home

Sensors in a Drone - 1



- Accelerometer
 - Measures acceleration in all 3 axis
- Gyroscope
 - Measure angular rate in all 3 axis
- Compass
 - Determines heading
- GPS
 - Determines position based on GPS/GLONASS satellites
- Power module
 - Power supply to flight controller

Sensors in a Drone - 2



- Optical flow
 - More accurate landing
- Obstacle avoidance
 - Sense & avoid
- ADS-B
 - Broadcasts your position

- PID (Proportional Integral Derivative) control
 - Closed loop control to stabilize the drone
- Inertial navigation
- Extended Kalman Filtering
 - Fuses all available measurements
 - Better error rejection
 - Non-linear state prediction
- SLAM
 - Autonomous navigation in GPS denied environment

Flight Modes



- Four controllable DoFs
 - Forward/backward, left/right, up/down, yaw
- Acro mode
 - Used by racing professionals
 - Gives more control over the drone
 - Uses least number of sensors for control
 - Less stable but high performance
- Stabilize
 - Flight controller (FC) just stabilizes drone
 - User controls all 4 DoFs
- Altitude hold
 - FC controls up/down
 - User controls 3 DoFs

- Loiter (position hold or hover)
 - FC controls all 4 DoF
- Autonomous
 - FC controls all 4 DoFs
 - Drone takes-off, reaches a preset altitude
 - Drone navigates through a set of GPS waypoints at set speed
 - Drone returns to the launch point, lands

Safety Features



- Redundant sensors
 - Accelerometers, gyros, compass and power supply
- Pre-flight and in-flight checks
 - Check all sensors and isolate faulty sensors and continue flight
 - Return to home or land in case of sensor failures
- Battery failsafe
 - Return to home in case of low battery voltage
- Radio failsafe
 - Return to home in case of radio signal loss
- GPS failsafe
 - Land in case of GPS signal loss
- Geo-fence
 - Return home if fence is breached

Typical Drone Specs

- Small drones (like DJI Phantom)
 - Weight: 1.5 kg
 - Range: 2-3 km
 - Speed: 40 to 80 kmph
 - Endurance: 20 min
 - Payload capacity: 300 gms
- Racing drones
 - Weight: 750 gm
 - Range: 2-3 km
 - Speed: 150 to 200 kmph
 - Endurance: 5 to 15 min
 - Payload capacity: 100 gms



Applications of Drones



Hobby Drones

- Fun & recreation
- Photography
- Racing



Commercial

- Surveillance
- Disaster response
- Agriculture
- Inspection
- Media
- Entertainment



Military

- Reconnaissance
- Attack

Agriculture

- Crop health analysis
 - Estimation of nutrition & water levels
 - Detection of pests & diseases
 - Estimation of height, count, acreage & yield
- Spraying fertilizers & pesticides
- Soil analysis



Infrastructure Inspection

- Pipeline inspection
 - Cracks, leaks, corrosion
- Railway track inspection
 - Rails, sleepers, fishplates
 - Ballast, vegetation
- Wind turbine inspection
- Powerline inspection
- Rooftop inspection



Other Uses



- Disaster response
- Assess damage
- Search & rescue

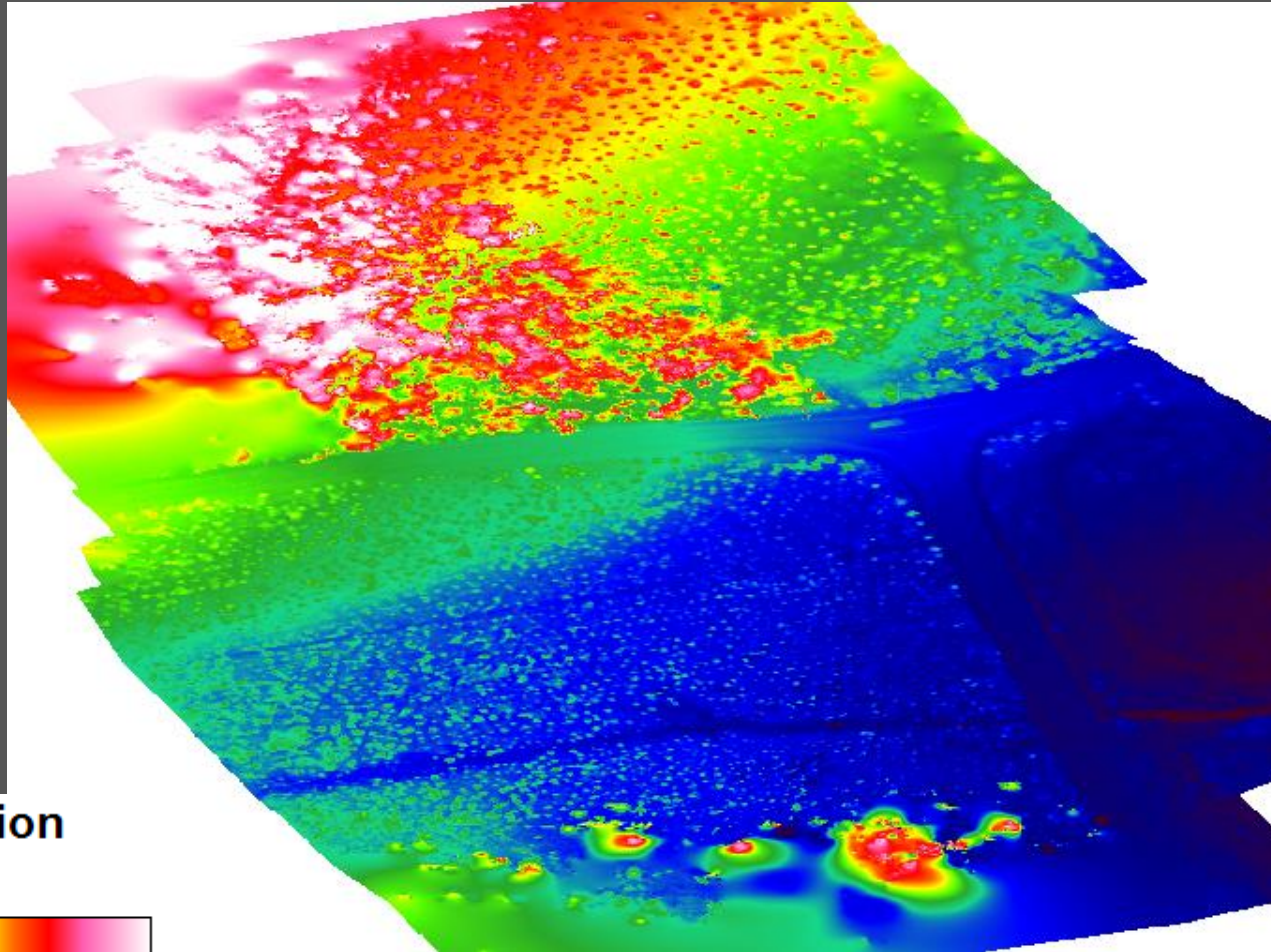


- Medical supplies delivery
- Blood, organs, first aid kits

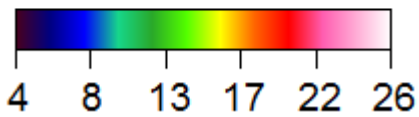


- Package delivery

High Resolution Elevation Maps

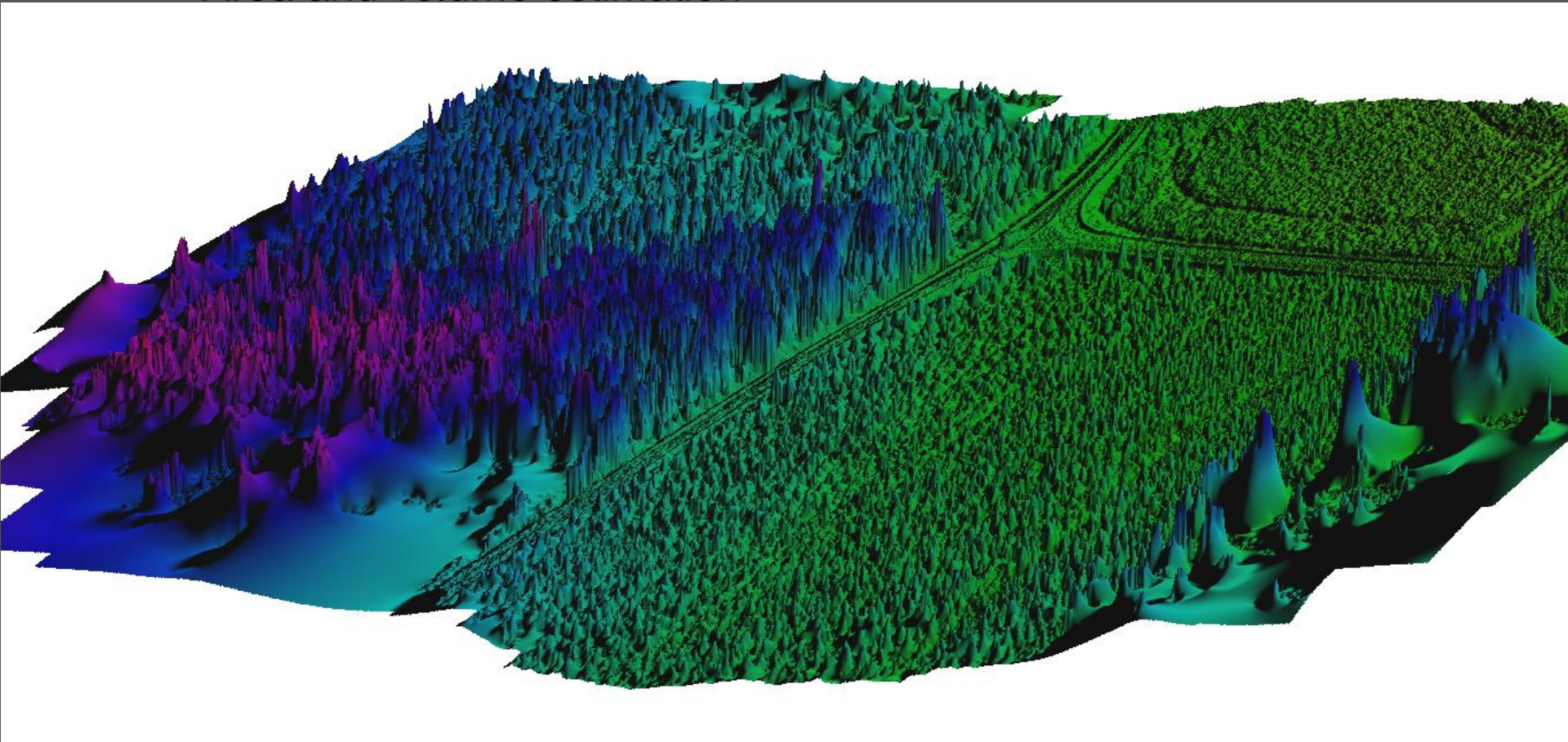


Elevation
(m)



3D Point Clouds and DSMs

- Key forest figures
 - Tree count and height
 - Area and volume estimation



Estimating Crown Diameter

Grey Corp Algorithm approach overview example:

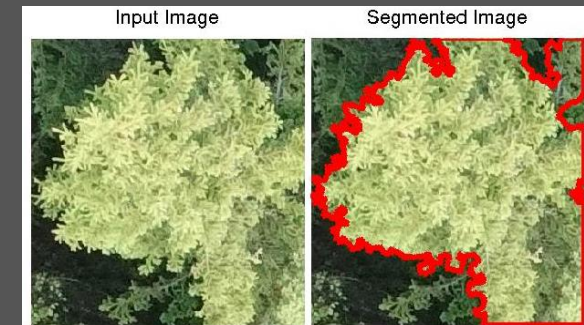
- The crown diameter estimation was performed through a process of continuous iterations of “fitting an ellipse” across the visible canopy of the target tree (*threshold of 1200 iterations were employed for the purpose*)
- The major axis of the ellipse for each tree was considered the diameter of associated crown.



Birch



Pine



Spruce

Species Recognition & Proximity Assessment

Species identification: Coconut



Road detection

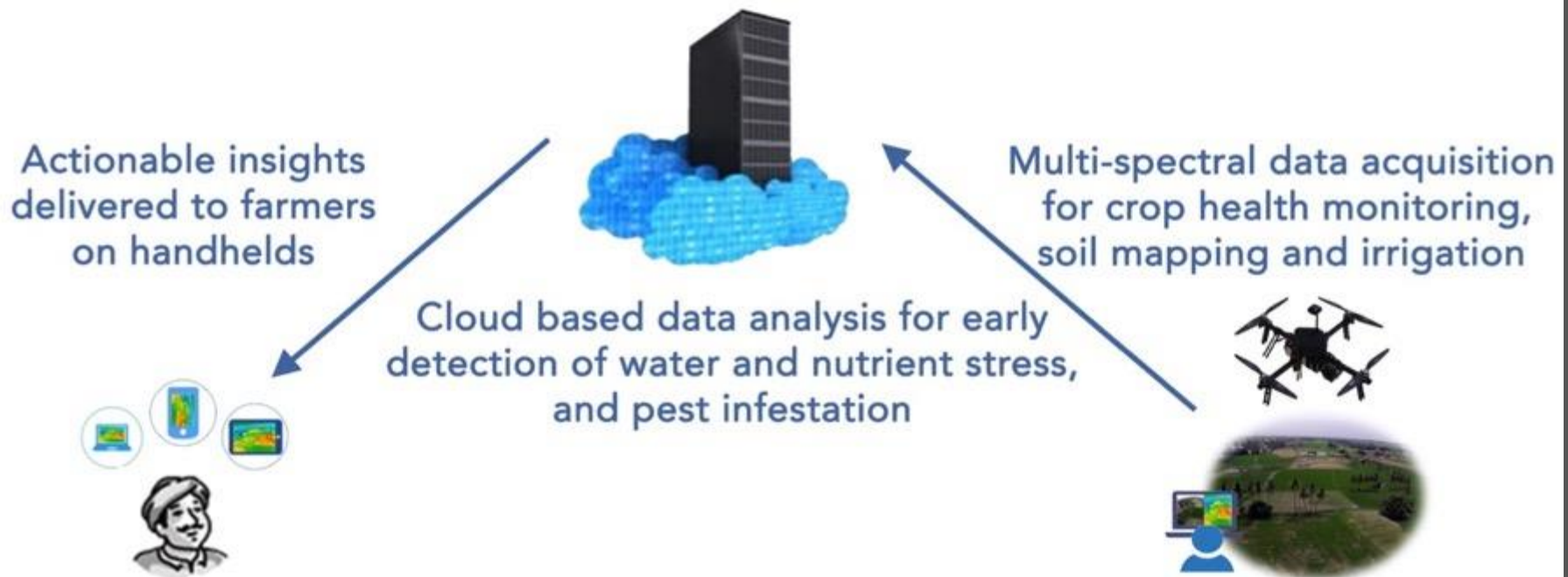


Water area detection



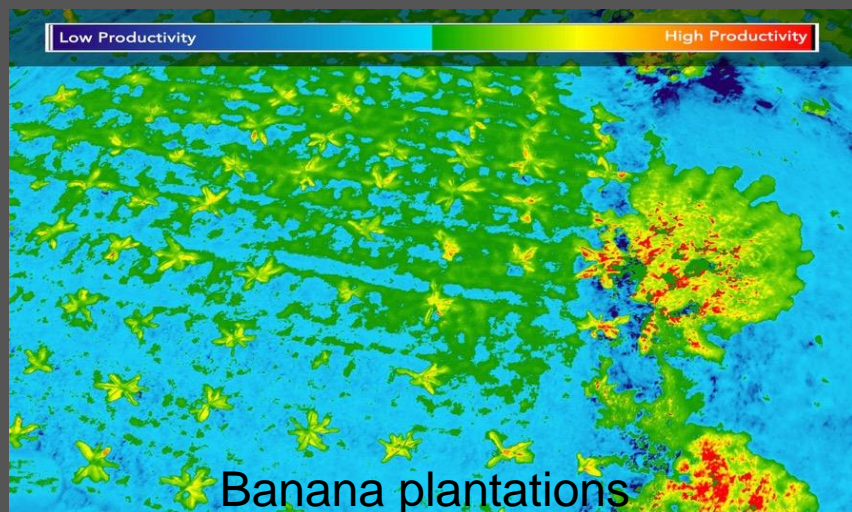
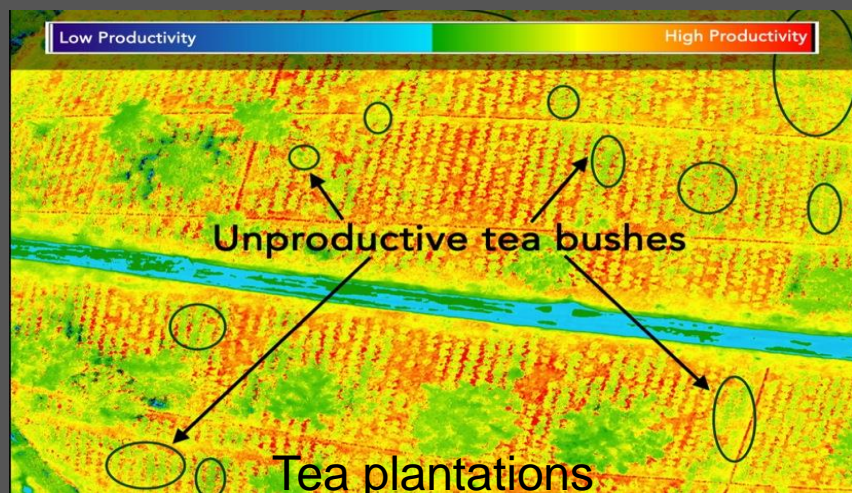
- Deep learning algorithm for tree species identification and common infrastructure detection
- Proximity assessment

Drones for Precision Agriculture



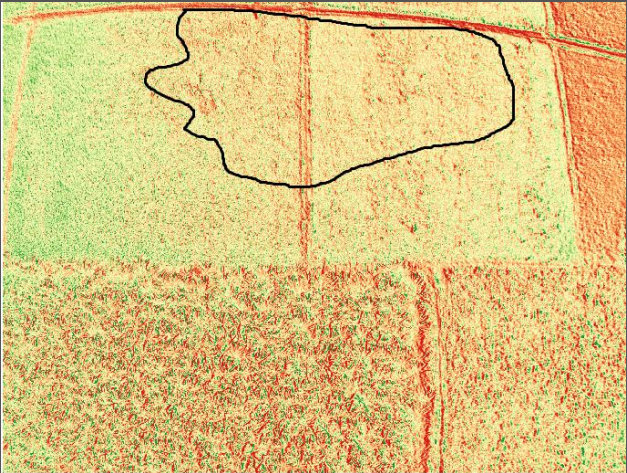
- Reduces water and fertilizer usage
- Reduces pollution
- Increases farmer income

Crop Health Analysis

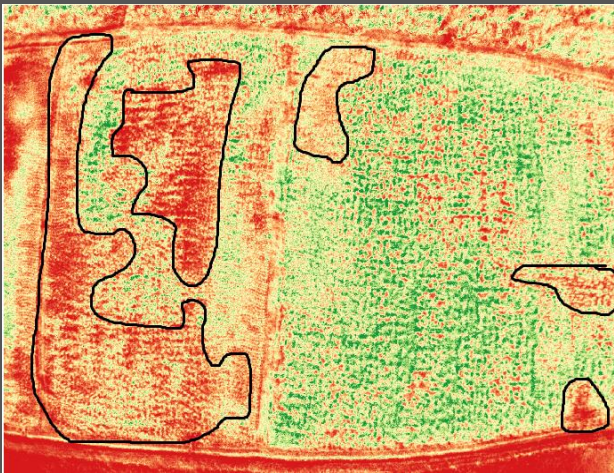


- Multi-spectral and visual imagery acquisition using TCS drones
- Accurate crop health analysis using various crop health indices
- Early detection of nutrient deficiencies and other problems
- Advanced algorithms for species identification, population estimation and localization

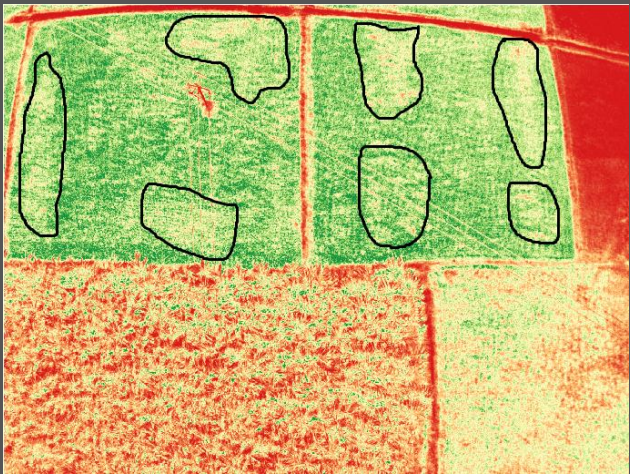
Early Detection of Crop Health Problems



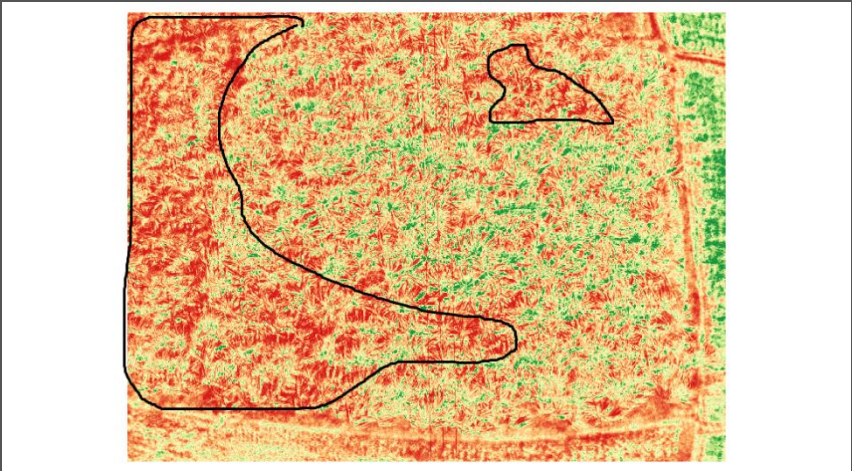
Nitrogen deficiency in paddy



Productivity variations in paddy



Poor tillering in paddy



Productivity variations in sugarcane