

# Measurement of wildfire geometrical parameters by drones

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UMR CNRS 6134  
Sciences Pour l'Environnement  
Université de Corse

<https://feuxdeforet.universita.corsica>



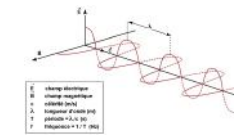
# UMR CNRS 6134 Sciences for the Environment Forest Fire Project

## UMR CNRS 6134

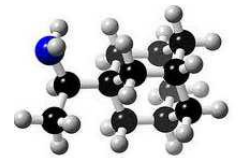
## Forest Fire Project

### 6 research projects

- Water management and recovery in the Mediterranean
- Natural resources
- Renewable energy
- Information and communication technology
- Wavefields and applied mathematics
- **Forest Fire**



- 20 researchers at the University of Corsica  
Chemistry, ecology, physics, vision, computer science
- Study and modelling of fire behavior
- Development of fire-fighting and land-use tools

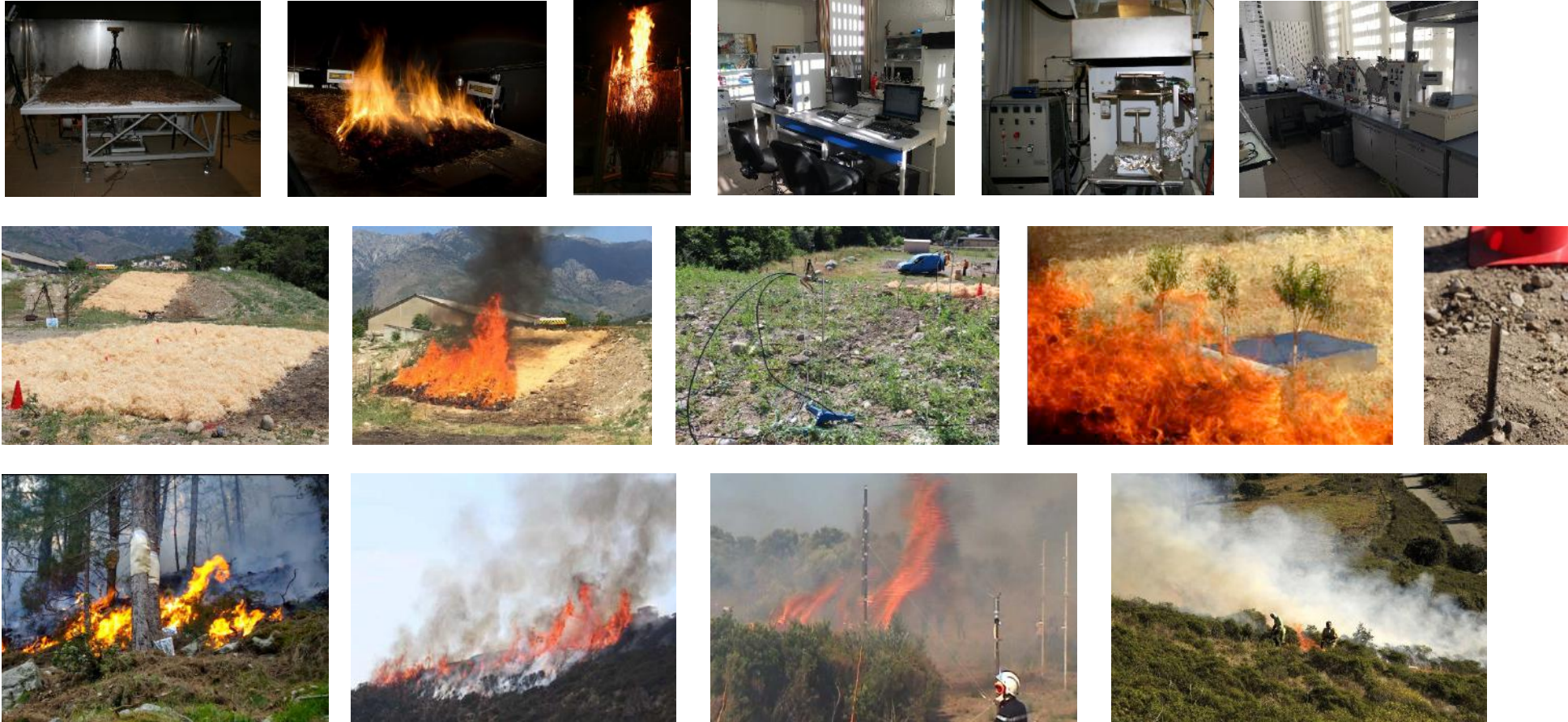


$$\left. \begin{aligned} |U_n| > u_0 \tan|\alpha| &\Rightarrow \tan \beta = \frac{U_n \cos^2 \alpha}{u_0 + U_n \sin \alpha \cos \alpha} \\ |U_n| \leq u_0 \tan|\alpha| &\Rightarrow \tan \beta = \frac{\tan \alpha}{1 + 2 \tan^2 \alpha} \\ \gamma \leq 0 &\Rightarrow r = 1 \\ \gamma > 0 &\Rightarrow r(1 - \frac{1}{2})^2 = A^2(1 + \sin \gamma - \cos \gamma)^2 \end{aligned} \right\}$$



<https://feuxdeforet.universita.corsica>

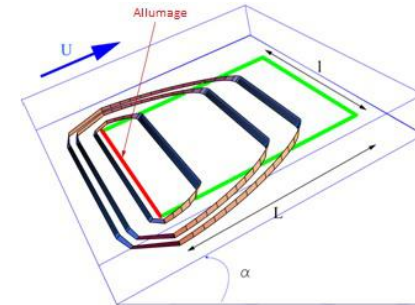
# Platforms



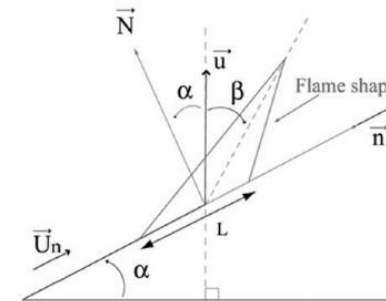


# Need of experimental data

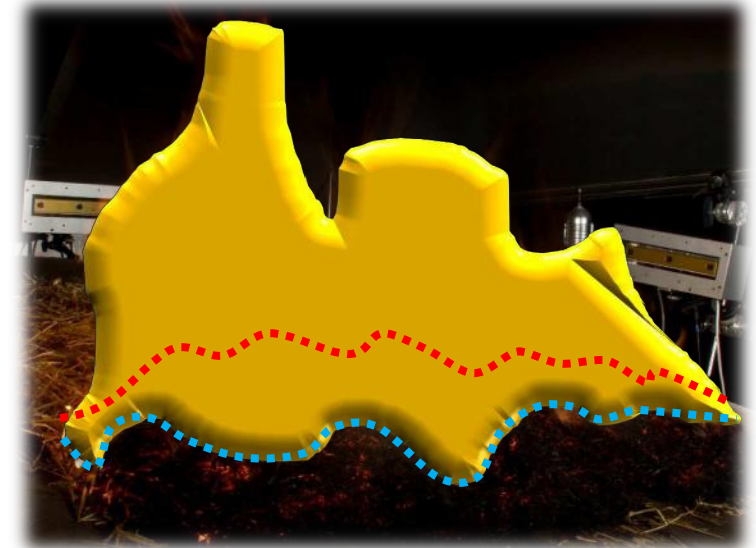
- To understand the phenomena
- To improve or/and validate numerical models
  
- State of a fire at a given time: its geometrical characteristics
  
- At several scales: laboratory, semi-field and field



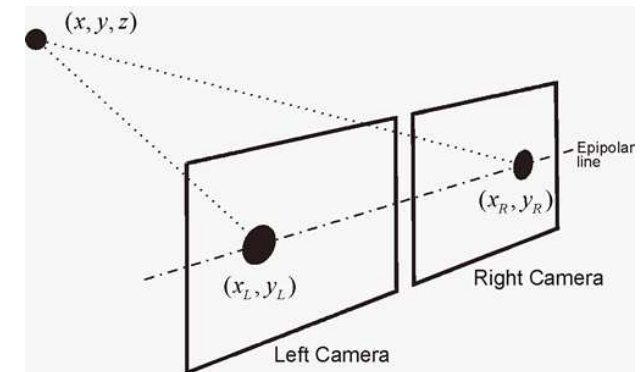
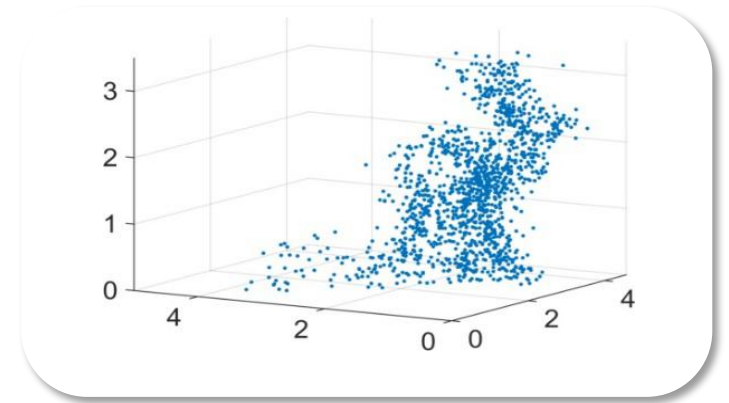
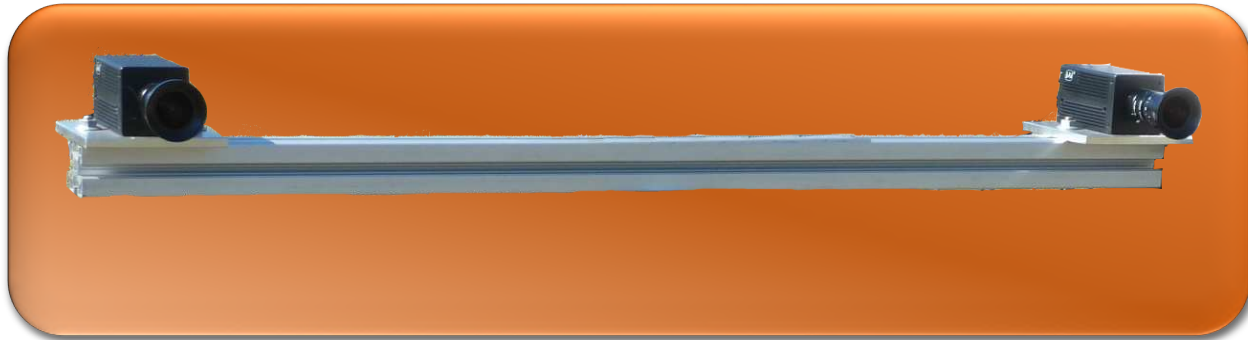
PHYSICAL MODELING OF SURFACE FIRE



- Position on the ground
- Height
- Length
- Inclination
- Width
- Speed
- Surface
- Volume

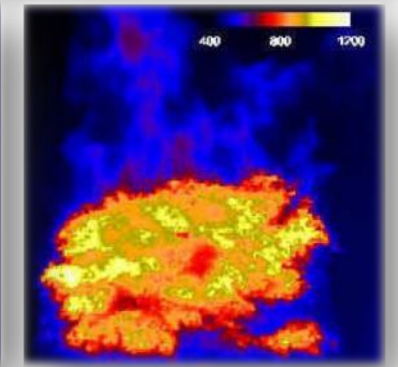
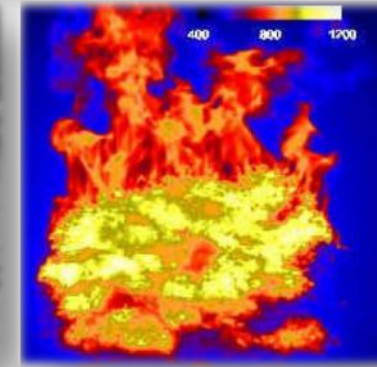
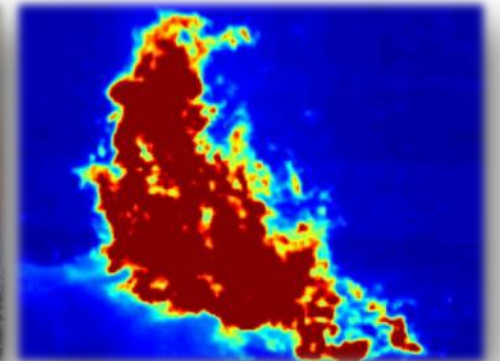
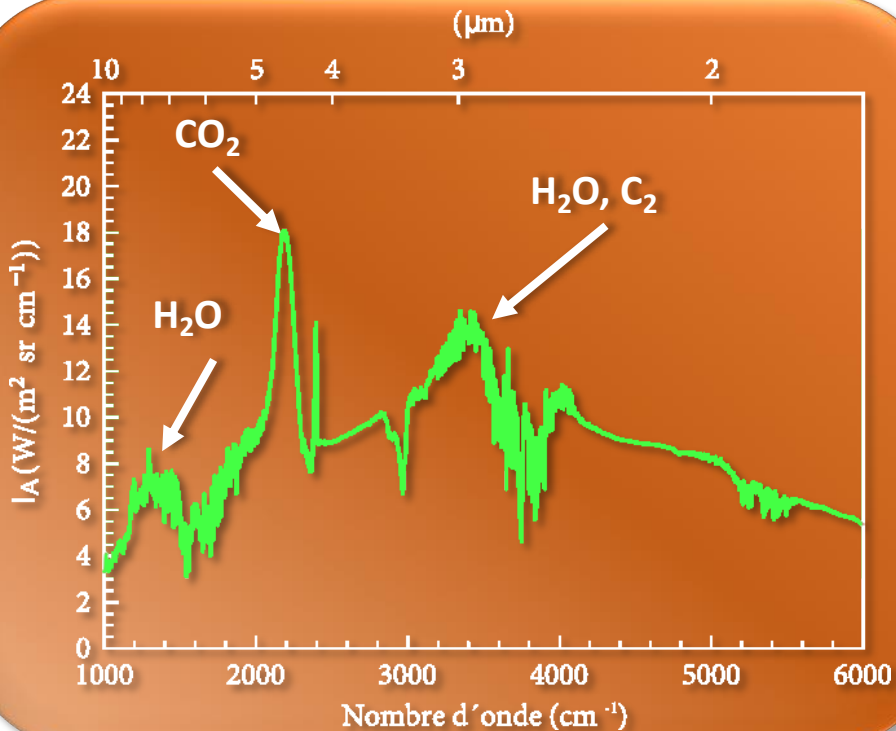


# 3D data obtained by stereovision



# Electromagnetic emissions and vision of fire in different spectra

- Combustion process
- High temperatures (400°C to 1500°C)
- Gases : CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O
- Solids : soots, embers, ashes





# Images of a spreading fire in the visible and infrared spectra



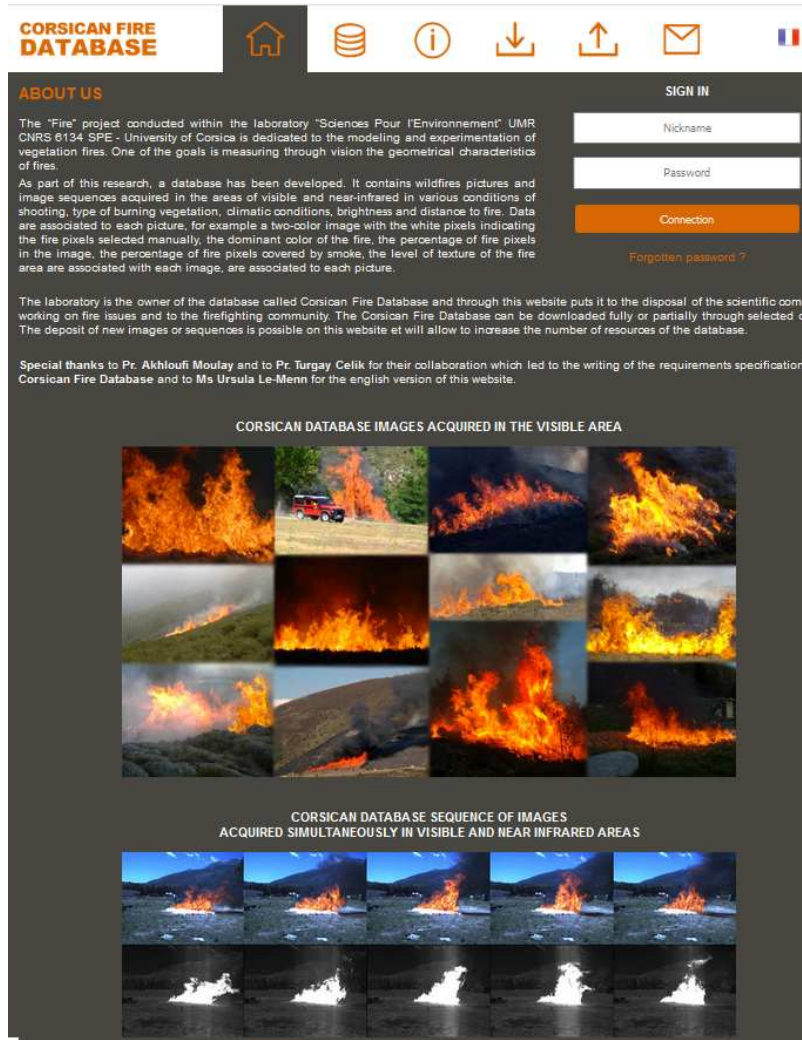


# Detection of fire pixels in the visible domain

- **Visible domain: reference**
- **Heterogeneous colors**
- **Different textures**
- **Smoke**
- **A lot of research on this subject**



<http://cfdb.univ-corse.fr/>



**CORSICAN FIRE DATABASE**

**ABOUT US**

The "Fire" project conducted within the laboratory "Sciences Pour l'Environnement" UMR CNRS 6134 SPE - University of Corsica is dedicated to the modeling and experimentation of vegetation fires. One of the goals is measuring through vision the geometrical characteristics of fires.

As part of this research, a database has been developed. It contains wildfires pictures and image sequences acquired in the areas of visible and near-infrared in various conditions of shooting, type of burning vegetation, climatic conditions, brightness and distance to fire. Data are associated to each picture, for example a two-color image with the white pixels indicating the fire pixels selected manually, the dominant color of the fire, the percentage of fire pixels in the image, the percentage of fire pixels covered by smoke, the level of texture of the fire area are associated with each image, are associated to each picture.


The laboratory is the owner of the database called Corsican Fire Database and through this website puts it to the disposal of the scientific community working on fire issues and to the firefighting community. The Corsican Fire Database can be downloaded fully or partially through selected options. The deposit of new images or sequences is possible on this website and will allow to increase the number of resources of the database.

Special thanks to Pr. Akhloufi Moulay and to Pr. Turgay Celik for their collaboration which led to the writing of the requirements specification of the Corsican Fire Database and to Ms Ursula Le-Menn for the english version of this website.


**SIGN IN**

Nickname  
Password  
Connection  
Forgotten password ?

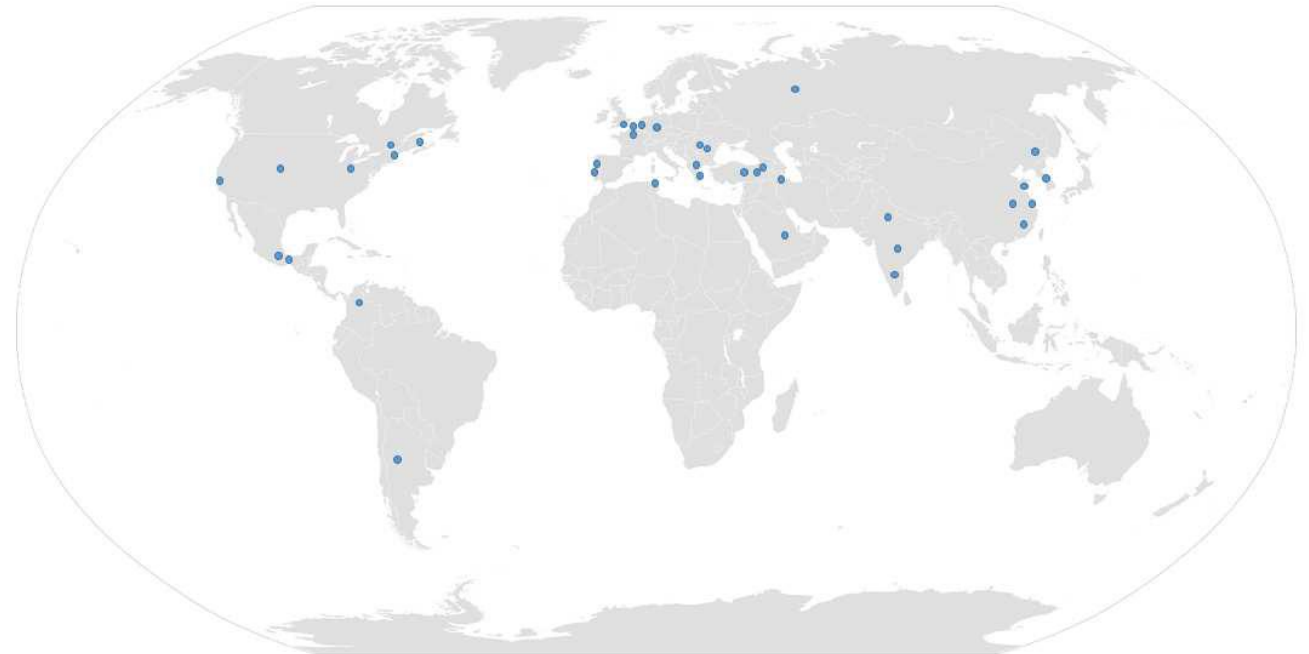
**CORSICAN DATABASE IMAGES ACQUIRED IN THE VISIBLE AREA**



**CORSICAN DATABASE SEQUENCE OF IMAGES ACQUIRED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN VISIBLE AND NEAR INFRARED AREAS**

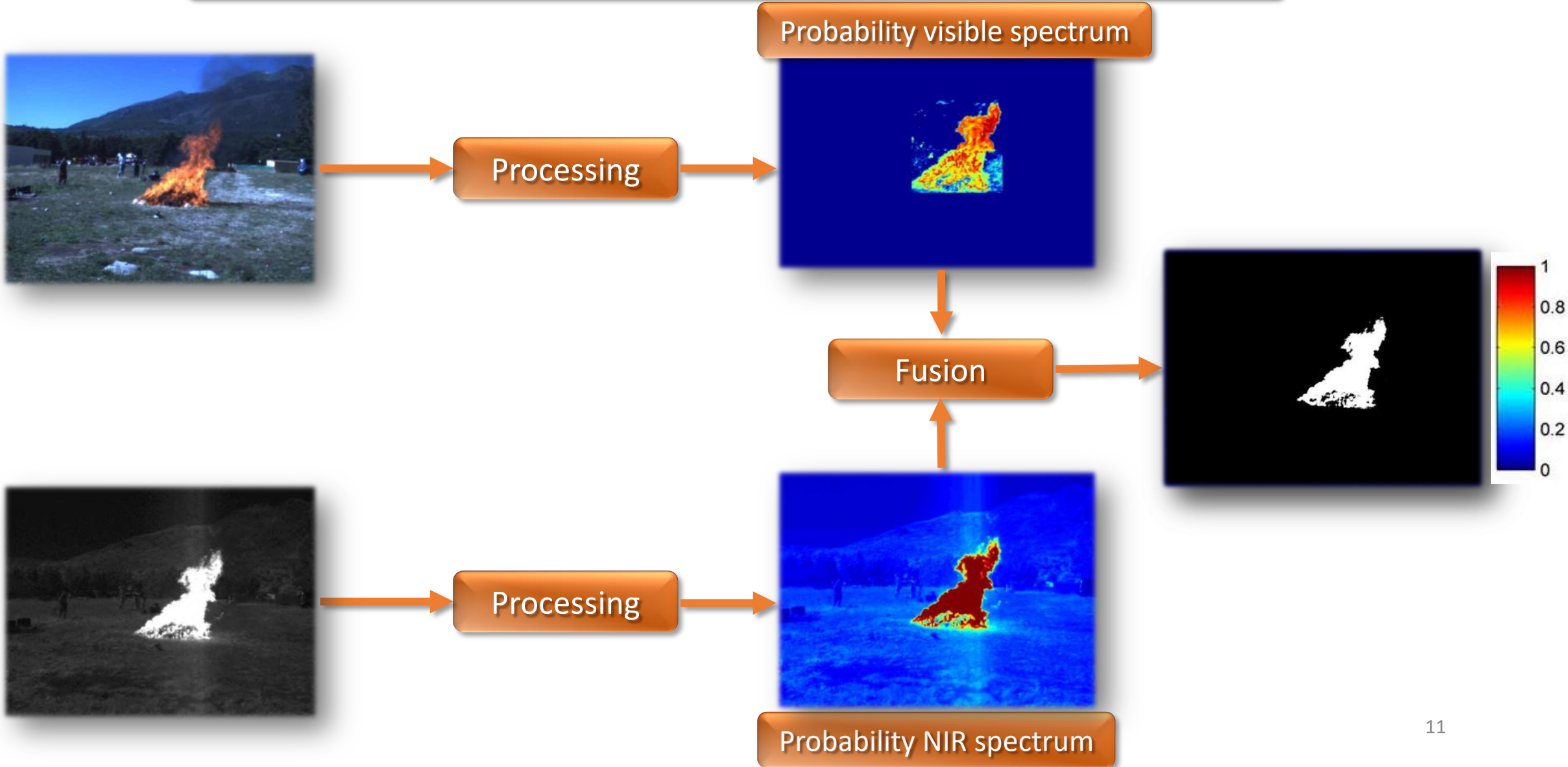


**More than 50 accounts have been created**



*Computer vision for wildfire research: an evolving image dataset for processing and analysis*, T. Toulouse, L. Rossi, A. Campana, T. Celik, M. Akhloufi, Fire Safety Journal, 92, 188-194, 2017, 10.1016/j.firesaf.2017.06.012

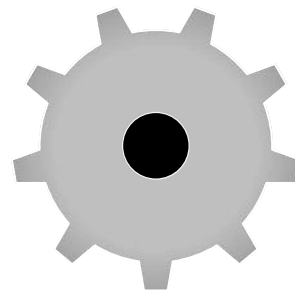
# Multimodal fire detection by result fusion





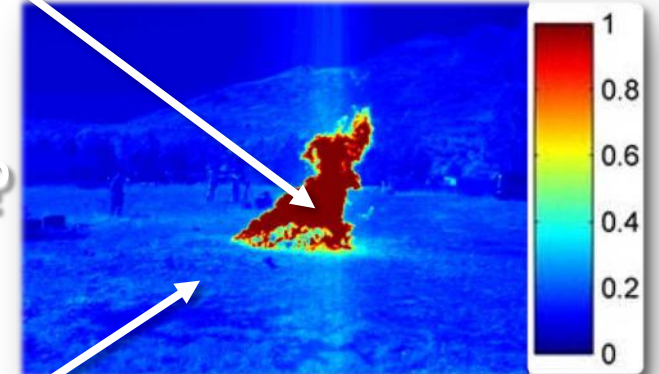
# Probability associated to each pixel of an infrared image

$$p(\text{feu}|x) = \frac{x - t}{2(255 - t)} + \frac{1}{2}$$

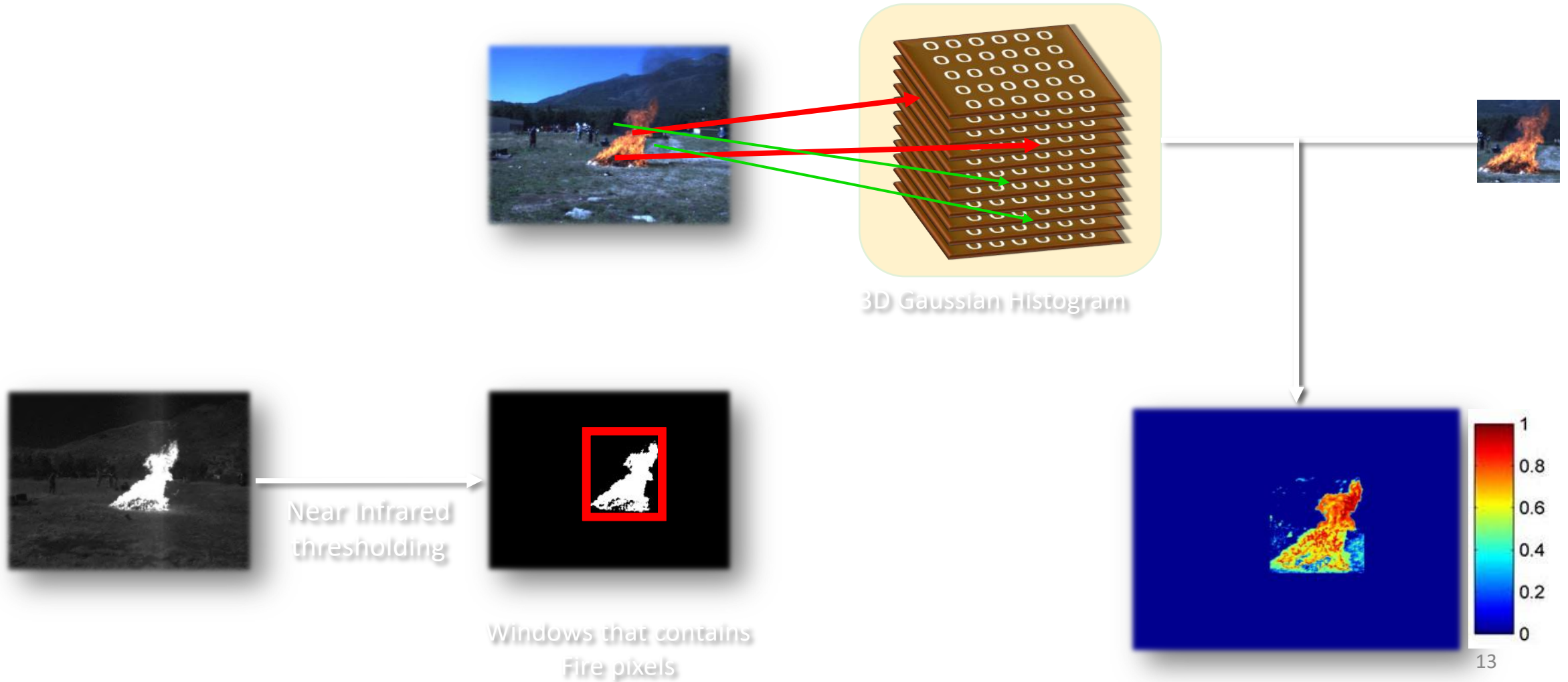


> threshold ?

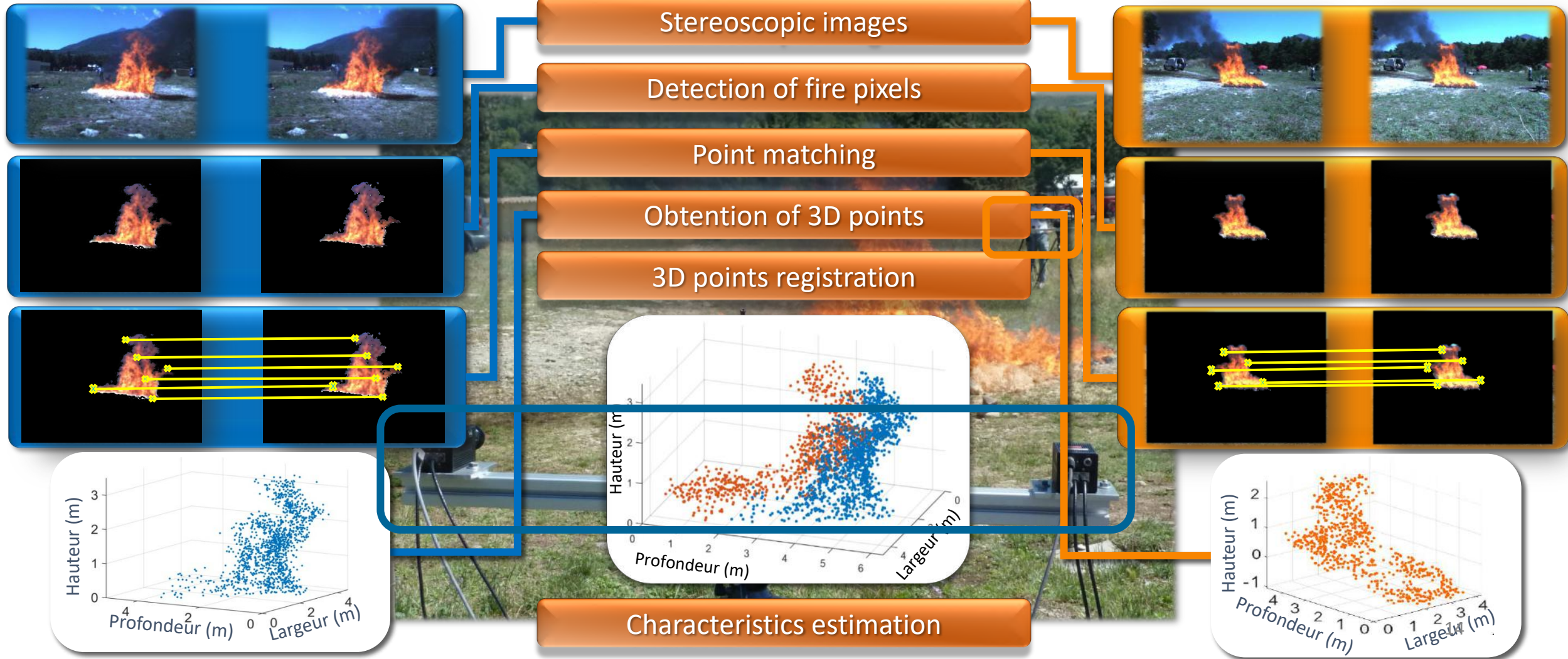
$$p(\text{feu}|x) = \frac{x - t}{2t} + \frac{1}{2}$$



# Probability associated to each pixel of a visible image

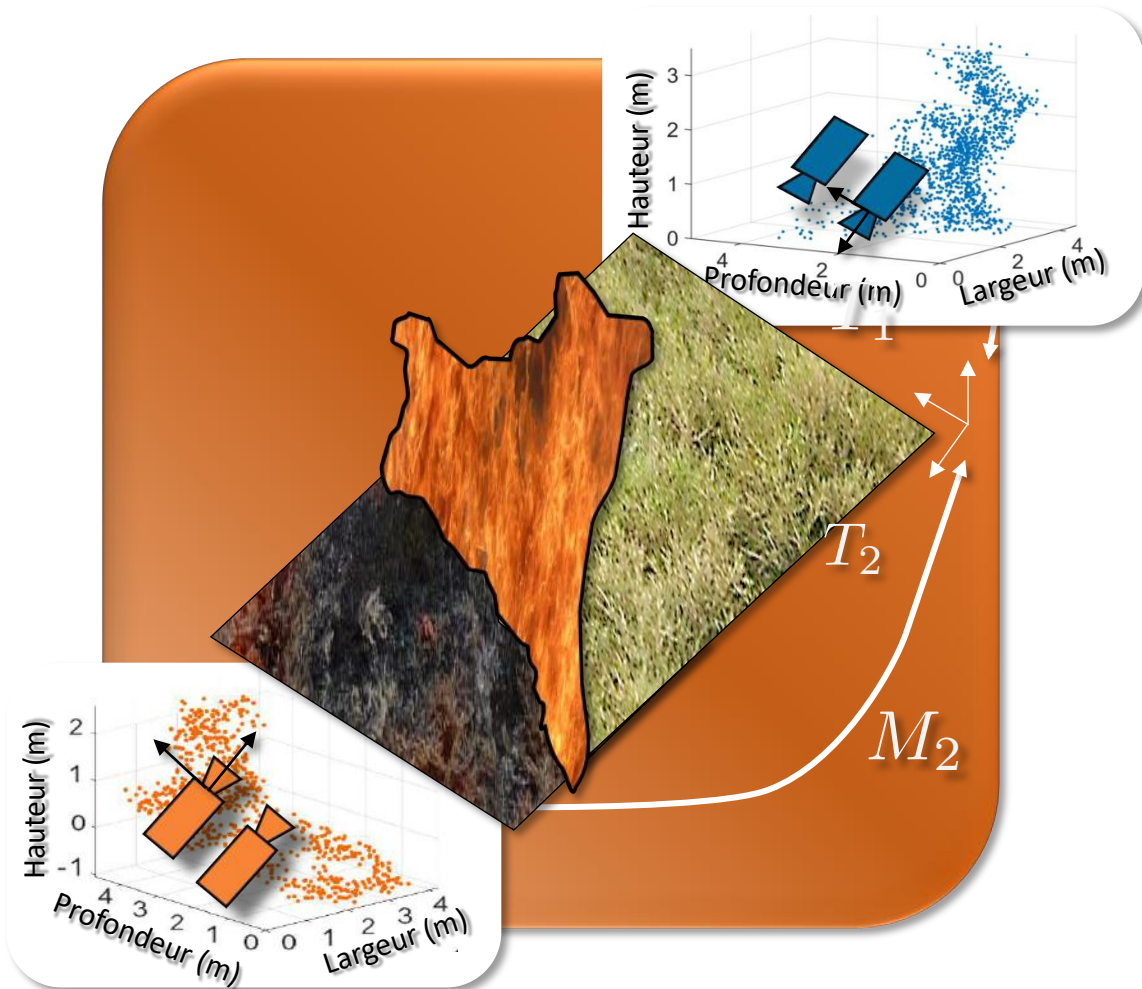


# Fire measurement by stereovision

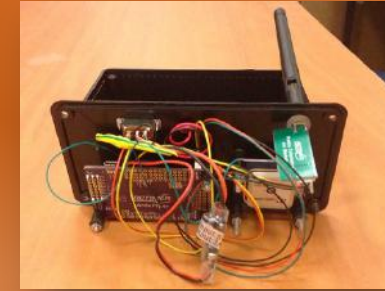




# Registration of 3D points Obtained from the various stereovision systems



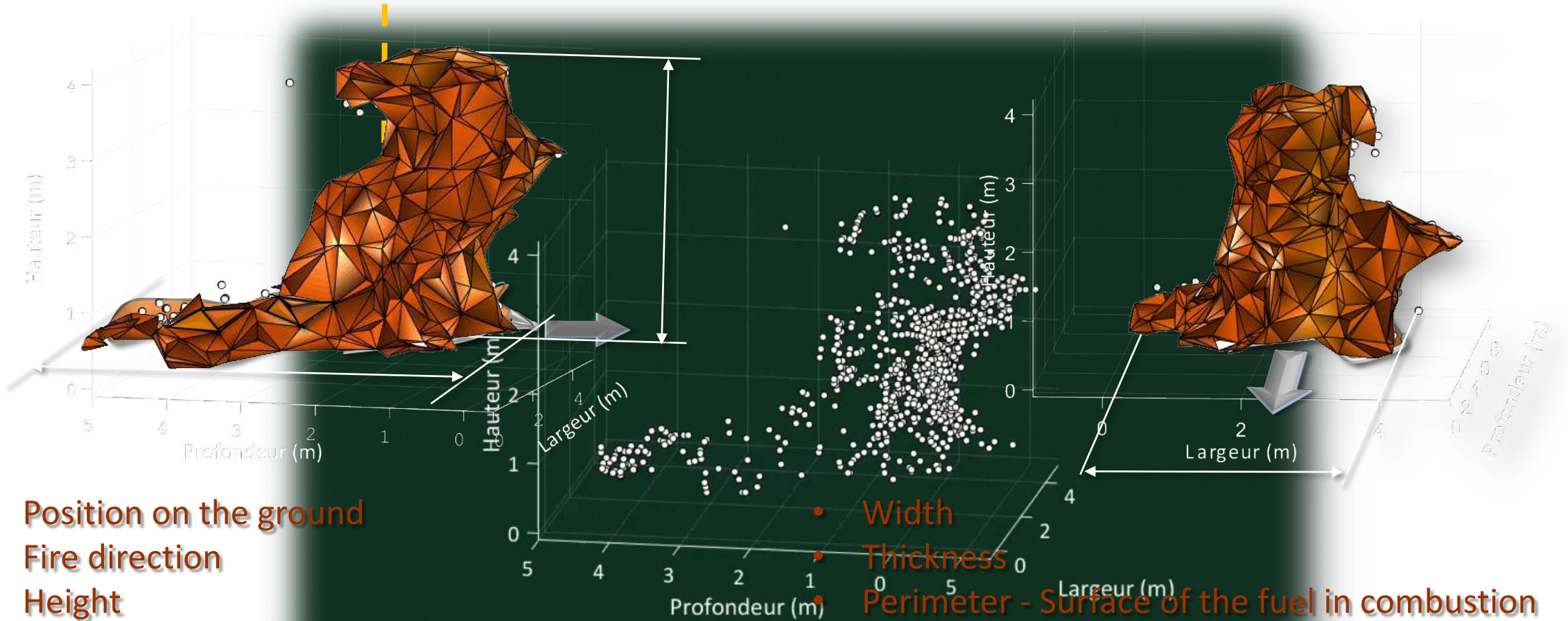
Flight controller of the AR Parrot UAV



GPS Leica Viva CS10 receptor with RTK system



# Fire geometrical characteristics estimation



- Position on the ground
- Fire direction
- Height
- Length
- Inclination

- Width
- Thickness
- Perimeter - Surface of the fuel in combustion
- Volume



# Prescribed fires



## Difficult camera placement on the ground

- No access
- High vegetation

## Difficulty to anticipate the fire travel and to position the cameras

## Great distances traveled



Idea  Use of UAV



# Use of drone to detect and monitor fires

## SDIS 40 Landes Fly N Sense society 2010



## SDIS 13 Bouches du Rhône 2017 NOVADEM society



## United States



# Detection, monitoring and measurement of forest fire by UAV

2005 American Control Conference  
June 8-10, 2005, Portland, OR, USA

## Forest Fire Monitoring With Multiple Small UAVs

David W. Casbeer  
Randal W. Beard  
Timothy W. McLain  
Brigham Young University

Sai-Ming Li  
Raman K. Mehra  
Scientific Systems Company, Inc.

**Abstract**—Frequent updates concerning the progress of a forest fire are essential for effective and safe fire fighting. Since a forest fire is typically inaccessible by ground vehicles due to mountains terrain, small Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) are emerging as a promising means of monitoring large forest fires. We present an effective UAV path planning algorithm utilizing infrared images that are collected on-board in real-time. To demonstrate the effectiveness of our path planning algorithm in realistic scenarios, we simulated the propagation of a forest fire with the EMBYR model. A new cooperative control mission concept is introduced where multiple Low-Altitude, Short-Endurance (LASE) UAVs are used for fire monitoring. By employing multiple UAVs, the effectiveness of the mission in terms of information update rate can be improved dramatically.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Forest fires cause billions of dollars in damage to property and the environment every year. To combat forest fires effectively, early detection and continuous tracking is vital. Many methods have been developed to detect remote forest fires using satellite images [1], [2]. Such images are taken

EMBYR in Simulink, which generates the time-evolution of a typical forest fire. We also introduce a new cooperative control mission concept utilizing multiple LASE UAVs to monitor the perimeter of the fire. By using multiple UAVs, the effectiveness of the mission in terms of the information update rate can improve dramatically. On the other hand, new problems such as coordination of UAV paths to cover the most critical areas, when and which UAV should be taken down for refueling, and how to measure the performance of the entire fleet of UAVs, must be addressed.

The paper is organized as follows: The fire monitoring problem is described in Section II, followed by a description of the fire simulation model in Section III. Section IV describes the fire perimeter tracking algorithm used, with simulation results. Section V describes our cooperative control approach using a simplified scenario where the fire is assumed to be of circular shape. Finally, Section VI concludes the paper with comments on future work.

### II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

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sensors

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Article

## Automatic Forest-Fire Measuring Using Ground Stations and Unmanned Aerial Systems

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Published: 16 June 2011

FrA04.5

2005



2015



REVIEW

## A survey on technologies for automatic forest fire monitoring, detection, and fighting using unmanned aerial vehicles and remote sensing techniques

Chi Yuan, Youmin Zhang, and Zhixiang Liu

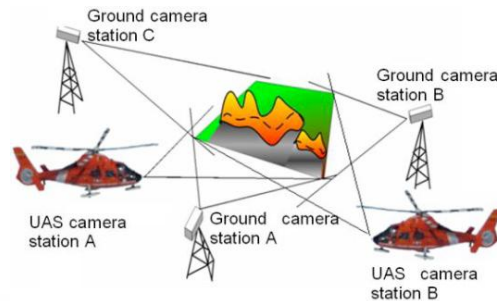
**Abstract:** Because of their rapid maneuverability, extended operational range, and improved personnel safety, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with vision-based systems have great potential for monitoring, detecting, and fighting forest fires. Over the last decade, UAV-based forest fire fighting technology has shown increasing promise. This paper presents a systematic overview of current progress in this field. First, a brief review of the development and system architecture of UAV systems for forest fire monitoring, detection, and fighting is provided. Next, technologies related to UAV forest fire monitoring, detection, and fighting are briefly reviewed, including those associated with fire detection, diagnosis, and prognosis, image vibration elimination, and cooperative control of UAVs. The final section outlines existing challenges and potential solutions in the application of UAVs to forest firefighting.

**Key words:** forest fire, fire monitoring, detection, and fighting, image processing, remote sensing, unmanned aerial vehicles.

**Résumé :** Étant donné qu'ils sont rapidement manoeuvrables, qu'ils ont un grand rayon d'action opérationnel et qu'ils offrent une meilleure sécurité pour le personnel, les véhicules aériens sans pilote (UAV) équipés de systèmes de vision ont un potentiel énorme pour surveiller, détecter et combattre les feux de forêt. Au cours de la dernière décennie, la technologie de lutte contre les feux de forêt qui utilise des UAV s'est avérée de plus en plus prometteuse. Cet article présente un aperçu complet des progrès actuels dans ce domaine. D'abord, une brève revue du développement et de l'architecture des systèmes de surveillance, de détection et de combat des feux de forêt qui utilisent des UAV est présentée. Ensuite, les technologies liées à la surveillance, à la détection et au combat des feux de forêt sont brièvement passées en revue, incluant celles qui sont associées à la détection, au diagnostic et au pronostic des feux, à l'élimination de la vibration des images et au contrôle coopératif des UAV. La dernière section décrit les défis actuels et les solutions potentielles liés à l'utilisation des UAV dans la lutte contre les feux de forêt. (Traduit par la Rédaction)

**Mots-clés :** feu de forêt, surveillance, détection et combat des feux, traitement des images, télédétection, véhicules aériens sans pilote.

2011



2019

Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems

February 2019, Volume 93, Issue 1-2, pp 337-349 | Cite as

## Learning-Based Smoke Detection for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Applied to Forest Fire Surveillance

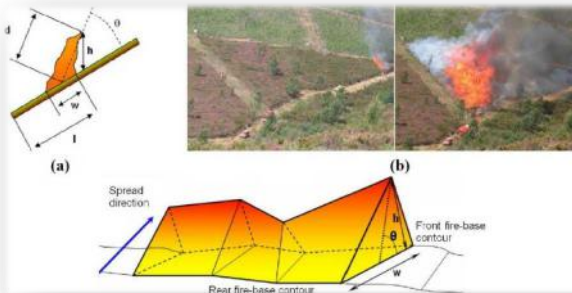
Authors Authors and affiliations

Chi Yuan, Zhixiang Liu, Youmin Zhang

Article  
First Online: 28 March 2018

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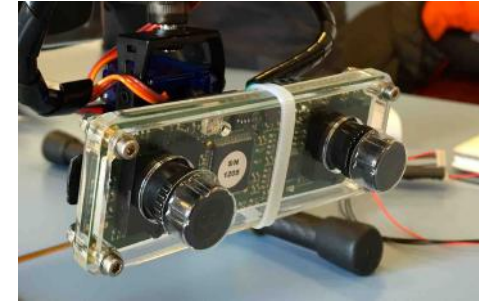
Downloads





# Measurement of wildfire geometrical characteristics by UAV

- **Work started in 2015**
- **Continuity of works using stereovision**
- **Ongoing PhD thesis on this subject run by M. Vito Ciullo**
  - **Distance Fire - Drone: about 15 m**
  - **UAV never flies over of the fire**
  - **Post-processing**
  - **Development of a stereovision system portable by drone**
  - **Measurement of the geometrical characteristics of a fire propagating on an unknown sloping ground of about 100 m<sup>2</sup>**





# Development of a stereovision system and assembly on drone



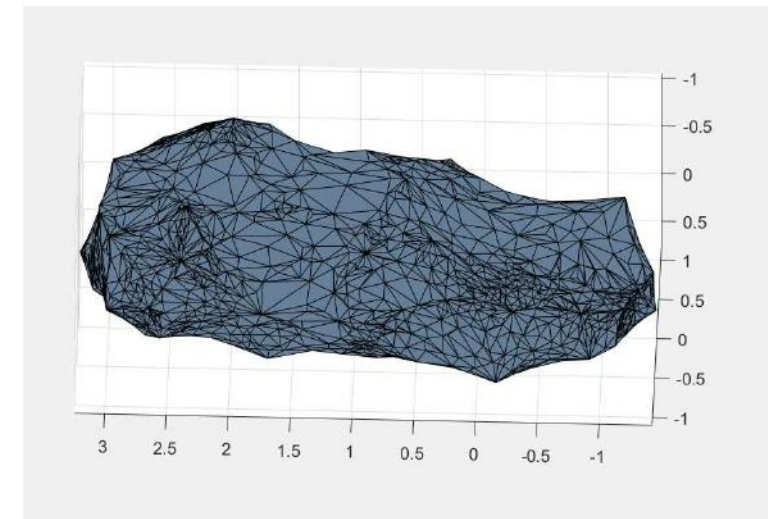
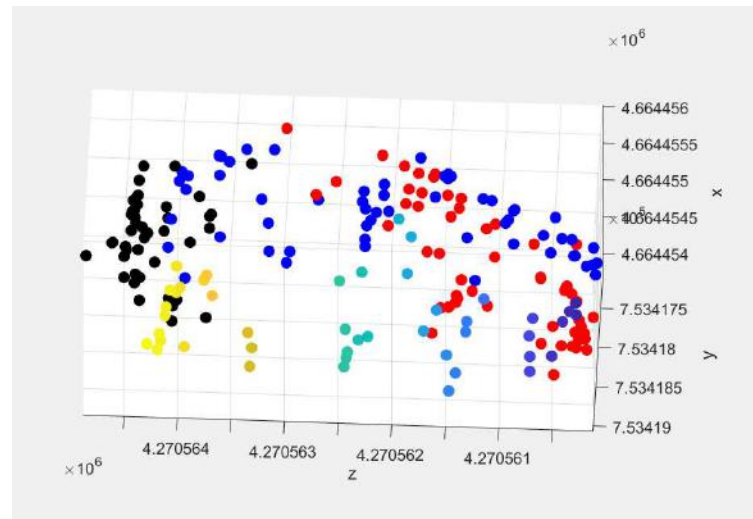
Leopard Imaging  
camera  
LI-OV4689-MIPI  
2.8 mm focal length  
1280 x 800 pixels  
Synchronisation



- Baseline = 0.9 m
- Weight = 2.6 kg

Calibration procedure

# Ground truth



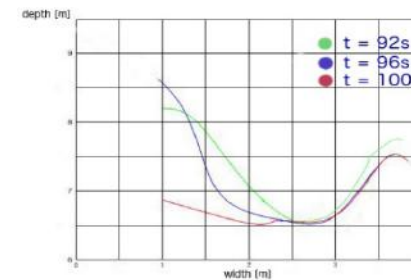
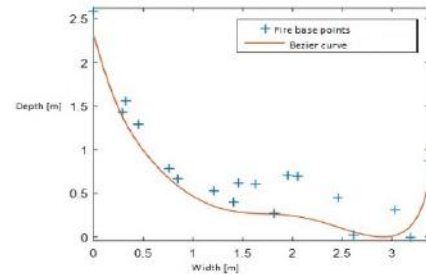
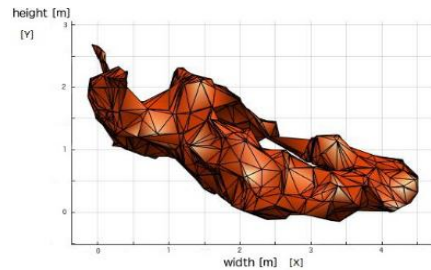


# Canonical case



Camera GPS  
and IMU data

**3 x 5 m fuel area**  
**No propagating fire**  
**Position of the fire is known**

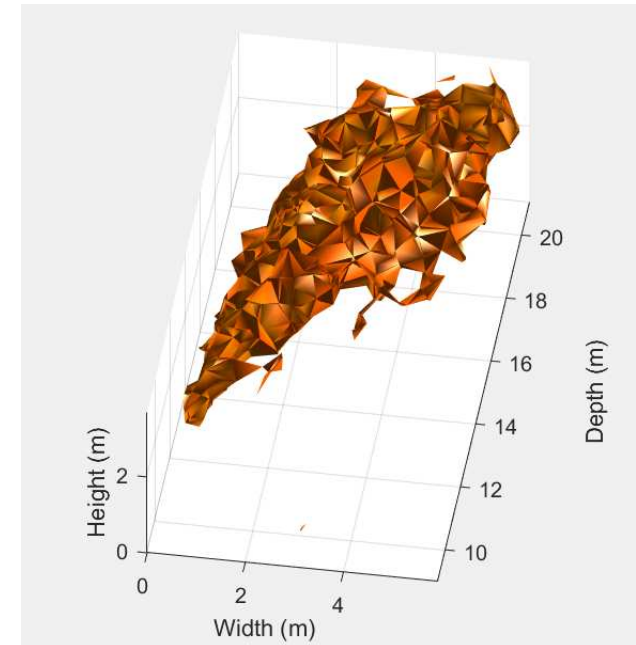
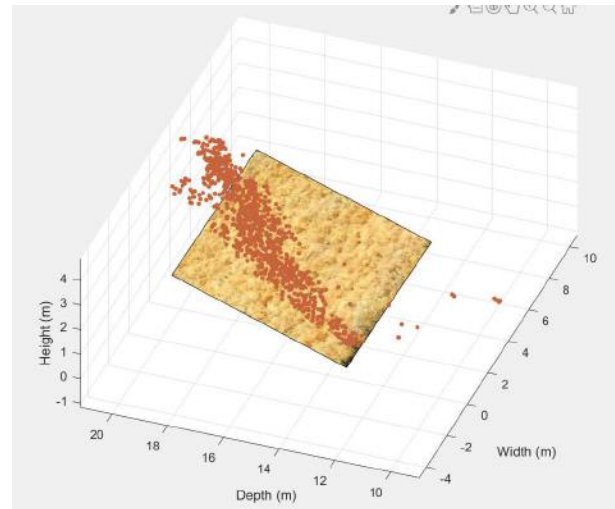
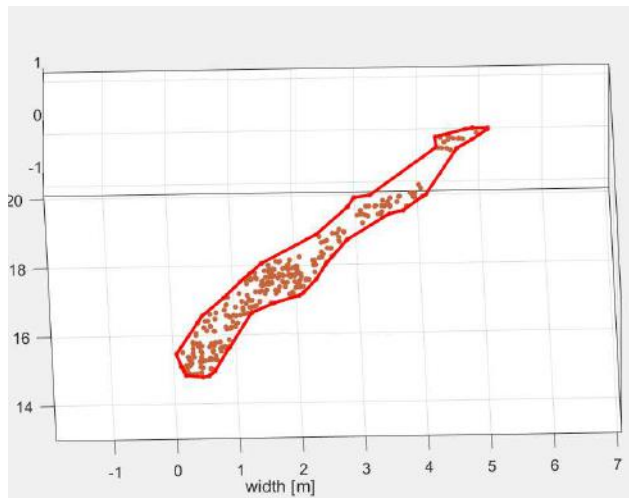
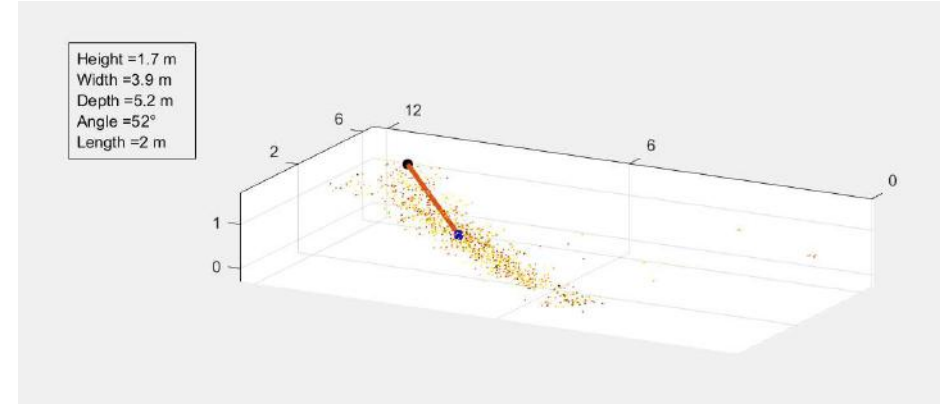




# Propagating fire experimental setup



# Measurement of propagating fire geometrical characteristics by drone



# SATT Sud Est Pre-maturation



**1<sup>st</sup> Price of My Innovation is ....**



**Pre-maturation**

**Development of a new stereovision system in progress**



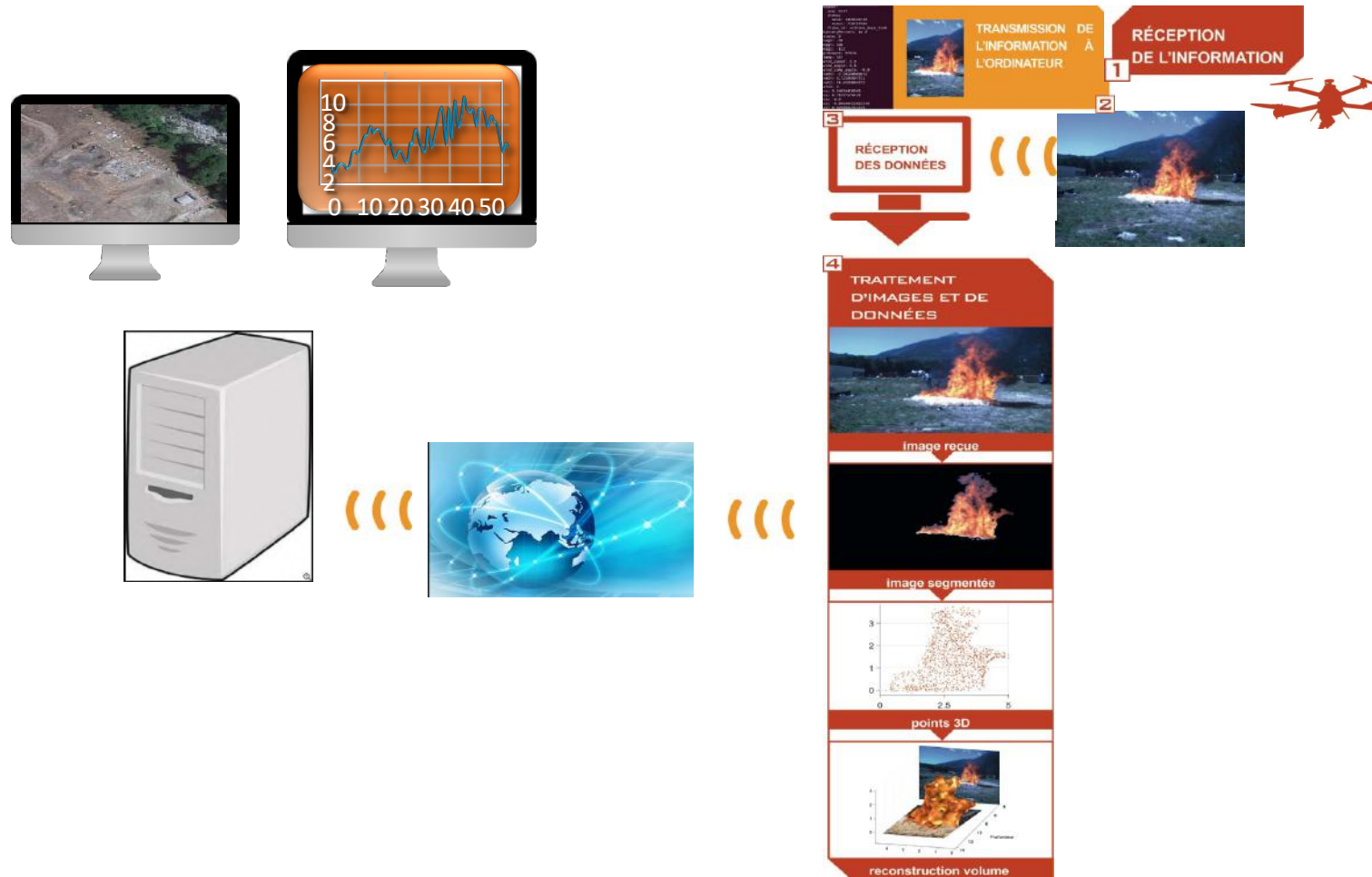
## Prospects – Prescribed fires

### Test of the system on prescribed fires



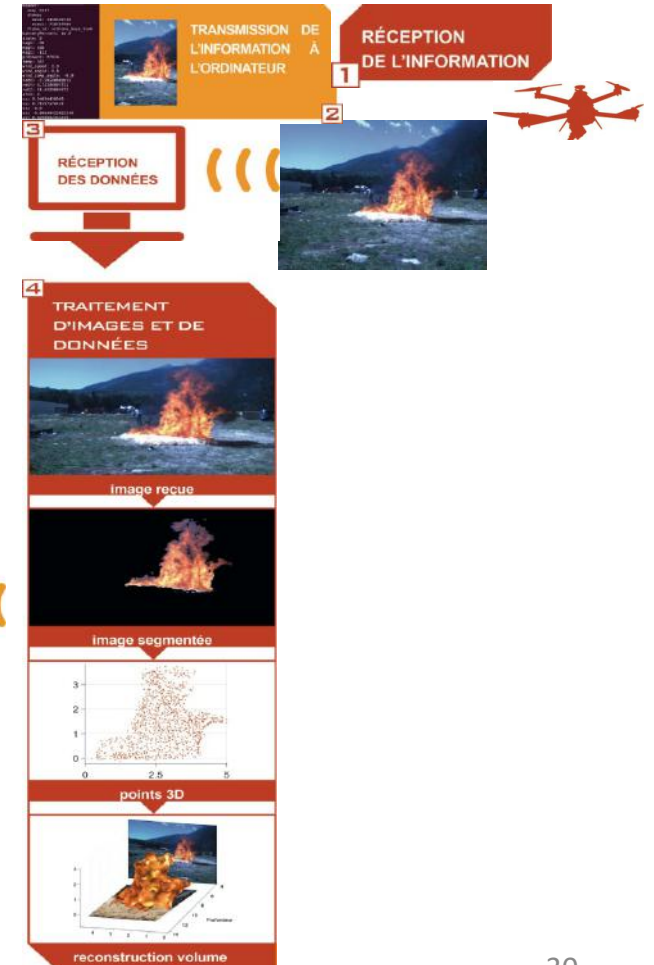
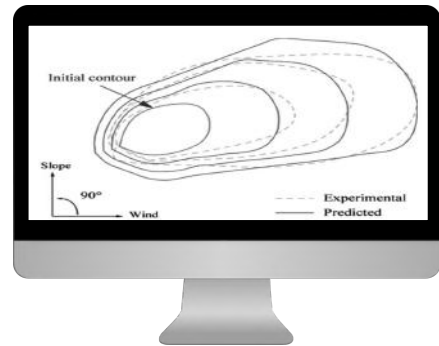
# Prospects – Real time and SIG

## Geolocalisation of the geometrical characteristics in real time and display of the data in a web server



## Assimilation of the data by the Balbi's behavior fire model in real time

- Fire Position
- Emitted heat flux





# Prospects – Autonomous behavior

- **Autonomous drone position for optimal image capture**
- **Tracking of the fire during its propagation**
- **Collaborative work of several drones**



# Measurement of wildfire geometrical parameters by drones



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