# Airborne LIDAR tutorial

# Creation of DTM, DSM and DHM

English version - 18/11/2022 - Created by L. Dietz and A. Piboule (ONF)





## Contents



Click on the step to go directly to it



# Objective

Presentation of a processing chain that allows the creation of a digital terrain model (DTM), of a digital surface model (DSM) and a digital height model (DHM), from a Airborne LIDAR dataset, on plots.

LAS files containing LIDAR point clouds corresponding to the plots. To avoid edge effects in the DTM, the point clouds should include a buffer area. The points must be classified (at least separation of ground/above ground points).



# Results

REQUIRES

- Raster in GeoTIFF format for the digital terrain model
- Raster in GeoTIFF format for the digital surface model
- Raster in GeoTIFF format for the digital height model

## How to cite this processing chain

The software and plugins used in this script are subject to intellectual property. For citing them, click, at the end of the creation of the script, on (1). This button allows you to export the script as a documented version.



The plugins used here :

- [ONF Plugin]
   Piboule Alexandre.2022. ONF Plugin for Computree. Office National des Forêts, RDI Department. ONF plugin web page.
- [IGN-LIF Plugin]
   Vega Cédric. 2017. IGN-LIF Plugin forComputree. Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière, Laboratoire des Inventaires Forestiers.
   IGN-LIF plugin web page.

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# DTM computing method

The DTM can be calculated using two methods in Computree. The first method, to be preferred, is detailed in this tutorial, the second method is available at the end of the tutorial.

<b>DTM method 1:</b> use of a TIN (Triangulated Irregular Network)	<b>DTM METHOD 2:</b> DIRECT COMPUTING OF THE DTM FROM THE GROUND POINTS
This is a 2D triangulation of ground points. The value of each pixel of the DTM (resolution to be defined) corresponds to the altitude of the triangle located in the centre of the cell.	For a given resolution, each pixel takes the altitude of the lowest point within its extent.
If possible, this method should be preferred as it provides a more refined DTM.	Less refined method than method 1, but the computation time is faster and constant whatever the point density and the raster resolution chosen
The calculation time increases with the point density and the chosen raster resolution.	

# Methods for computing DSM and DHM



## Main steps of the processing chain



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## Detailed steps of the processing chain



CompuTree - [Document 1]



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Performing this step loads the data into memory. It is possible to view the loaded data, the steps are :

- **1** Start processing
- 2 Selection of results to be viewed
- 3 Data selection
- 4 Focus view on data





CompuTree - [Document 1]

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Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Create TIN from points".

Step

(2) Point filters

Jame of the results

Ground point

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The "searched data" ground points must be linked to the "available data" ground.

**1** Select results (tick the appropriate box)

Then, as many times as there are searched elements:

- 2 Select the required data (click on the name of the data wanted)
- 3 Select among the data entries, the one to be used (*click on the name of the available data*)

**4** Validate the choice



This window appears when there is more than one compatible input data to set up the step. In this case, it is necessary to manually indicate the input data to be used. Here there are two pieces of data being searched:

- The ground points which will be used to build the TIN
- The extent to define the area covered by the TIN. The complete scene must be selected

OK Cancel



Item configurator Log CompuTree - [Document 1]

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Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Convert TIN to DTM".



OK





Item configurator Log

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Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Remove height outliers".



OK

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File Edit Window View Language Help





![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Create DSM (Zmax)".

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_26_Picture_6.jpeg)

CompuTree - [Document 1]

![](_page_27_Picture_2.jpeg)

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### It is possible to view the created DSM.

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![](_page_27_Picture_5.jpeg)

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Item configurator Log

**Page 28** 

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Interpolate by pitfilling".

![](_page_29_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_30_Picture_3.jpeg)

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![](_page_31_Picture_1.jpeg)

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### It is possible to view the DSM with the missing value holes filled.

![](_page_31_Picture_4.jpeg)

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Item configurator Log

![](_page_32_Picture_1.jpeg)

Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Create DHM".

![](_page_33_Picture_2.jpeg)

Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Create DHM".

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

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CompuTree - [Document 1]

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_3.jpeg)

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### It is possible to view the DHM created.

![](_page_35_Picture_6.jpeg)

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CompuTree - [Document 1]

![](_page_36_Figure_3.jpeg)

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Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Raster GDAL GeoTIFF : \*.tif".

![](_page_38_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_39_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

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Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Raster GDAL GeoTIFF : \*.tif".

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![](_page_43_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_45_Picture_3.jpeg)

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Configuration des résultats d'entrée of step "Raster GDAL GeoTIFF : \*.tif".

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![](_page_47_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

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# Summary of steps

1 -Points, LAS format: IMPORT CT_Reader_LASV2		
2 -Point Filters: PB_StepApplyPointFilters	Page 12	
3 -Create TIN from points: ONF_StepComputeTIN	Page 15	
4 -Convert TIN to DTM: ONF_StepConvertTINtoDTM	Page 18	
5 - Remove height outliers: ONF_StepRemoveUpperNoise	Page 22	
6 -Create MNS (Zmax): ONF_StepComputeDSM	Page 25	
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8 - Create DHM: ONF_StepComputeCHM	Page 33	
9, 10, 11 -Raster GDAL GeoTIFF *.tif: EXPORT Raster GDAL GeoTIFF	Page 37	

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# Alternative method of DTM computing

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![](_page_57_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Picture_1.jpeg)

Item configurator Log

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