

Editorial

Remote Sensing Best Paper Award for the Year 2015

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As a follow-up to the Best Paper Award of 2014, recognizing the most outstanding papers in the area of remote sensing techniques, design and applications published in *Remote Sensing*, we are pleased to announce the *Remote Sensing* Best Paper Award for the year 2015. Nominations were selected by the Editor-in-Chief and selected Associate Editors from among all the papers published in the year 2011. Research papers and review papers were evaluated separately. We are pleased to announce that the following five papers have won the *Remote Sensing* Best Paper Award for the year 2015:

Article Award:

1st Prize

Hartmut Boesch, David Baker, Brian Connor, David Crisp and Charles Miller

Global Characterization of CO₂ Column Retrievals from Shortwave-Infrared Satellite Observations of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 Mission

Remote Sens. **2011**, *3*(2), 270-304; doi:10.3390/rs3020270

Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/3/2/270>

2nd Prize

Curtis Edson and Michael G. Wing

Airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) for Individual Tree Stem Location, Height, and Biomass Measurements

Remote Sens. **2011**, *3*(11), 2494-2528; doi:10.3390/rs3112494

Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/3/11/2494>

3rd Prize

Andrea S. Laliberte, Mark A. Goforth, Caitriana M. Steele and Albert Rango

Multispectral Remote Sensing from Unmanned Aircraft: Image Processing Workflows and Applications for Rangeland Environments

Remote Sens. **2011**, *3*(11), 2529-2551; doi:10.3390/rs3112529

Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/3/11/2529>

Review Award:*1st Prize***Claudia Kuenzer, Andrea Bluemel, Steffen Gebhardt, Tuan Vo Quoc and Stefan Dech**

Remote Sensing of Mangrove Ecosystems: A Review

Remote Sens. **2011**, 3(5), 878-928; doi:10.3390/rs3050878Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/3/5/878>*2nd Prize***Thomas Blaschke, Geoffrey J. Hay, Qihao Weng and Bernd Resch**

Collective Sensing: Integrating Geospatial Technologies to Understand Urban Systems—An Overview

Remote Sens. **2011**, 3(8), 1743-1776; doi:10.3390/rs3081743Available online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/3/8/1743>

This paper written by Boesch, H., *et al.*, [1], was in preparation for NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) satellites. OCO satellites are used to measure atmospheric carbon. Unfortunately OCO-1 failed during the launch in 2009. But, OCO-2 had a successful launch in 2014 and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) announced the public release of L-1B data starting December 30, 2014. Consequently, this paper is timely. The paper presented and discussed the atmospheric carbon dioxide measurements from satellites (simulated), their uncertainties, and provided a set of methods and algorithms.

As is well known, LiDAR data is becoming increasingly important for measuring tree height, its characteristics, leading to biomass and carbon assessments. This paper, Edson, C., *et al.*, [2], provided a detailed approach and methods of doing so using airborne LiDAR. Andrea S. Laliberte and her co-authors presented a thorough paper on a multispectral remote sensing study of rangeland characteristics [3].

Review papers ought to be thorough. They should touch upon the state-of-art knowledge and advancements, discuss methods and approaches adopted, and establish knowledge gaps. A good review paper also has a sufficient number of tables and figures on which further discussions can be based. The two review papers, by Kuenzer, C., *et al.* on mangroves [4] and Blaschke, T., *et al.* on urban systems [5], are excellent examples of this.

We believe these five exceptional papers represent valuable contributions to *Remote Sensing* and the scientific literature. On behalf of the Prize Awarding Committee and the Editorial Board of *Remote Sensing*, we would like to congratulate these five teams for their excellent work. In recognition of their accomplishment, Dr. Hartmut Boesch, Dr. Michael G. Wing and Dr. Andrea S. Laliberte will be awarded prizes of 600 CHF, 400 CHF and 200 CHF, respectively, and the privilege of publishing an additional paper of their choice free of charge in open access format in *Remote Sensing*, after the usual peer-review procedure. Dr. Claudia Kuenzer and Dr. Thomas Blaschke will also be awarded the same privilege of publishing a research paper free of charge in *Remote Sensing*.

*Prize Awarding Committee**Editor-in-Chief***Prof. Dr. Prasad S. Thenkabail**

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