



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**HEIGHT ACCURACY OF RADARGRAMMETRIC
GENERATED DIGITAL ELEVATION MODEL**

ABDUL HADI ABDUL SAMAD

FH 2002 23



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MASTER OF SCIENCE

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

2002



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By

ABDUL HADI ABDUL SAMAD

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

November 2002



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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November 2002

Chairman : Prof. Maj. Dr. Kamaruzaman Jusoff

Faculty : Forestry

The stereoscopic concept used in photogrammetry was successfully extended to the optical sensor of SPOT (System Probatoire d'Observation de la Terre) to generate the digital elevation model (DEM) and to extract the planimetric features. Following this success, scientists are impressively encouraged to explore the feasibility of using stereoscopy on synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images, applying the radargrammetric technique. In the regions where cloud cover or darkness prevails, active microwave remote sensing data such as SAR can be fully utilized to procure information about land surface and forest canopy.

The objective of this study is to analyze the accuracy of the elevations extracted from the DEM generated using the radargrammetric technique as compared with the elevations generated from the photogrammetric technique. The capability of the radargrammetric technique and its potential in extracting the altimetric information were subsequently assessed.



The stereo RADARSAT images of Klang Valley with coverage of 100 km by 100 km were acquired. A total of 199 Ground Control Points (GCPs) were selected on relatively low terrains as backscattering radar data is very sensitive to the slope and high terrains. The primary input data was the coordinates of GCPs which were extracted from the topographical maps. When the errors produced in the GCP collection report were acceptable, the next process was creating epipolar images and generating DEM. It was then followed by generating the geocoded DEM.

The height accuracy analysis was carried out by comparing the elevation values extracted from the geocoded DEM with the original elevation values of GCPs. Comparisons with known points on the ground were also made for the purpose of checking. About 2% of the GCPs produced gross errors which were greater than 50 m or 4 pixels. Other errors were GCP conversion to check points (CPs) and falling into background or failure values. GCPs located closer to the water bodies which had zero intensity value experienced greater errors. Almost 94% of GCPs were eventually used for the height accuracy analysis. The DEM height accuracy was found to be between one to three pixels. The results obtained are very encouraging, showing that the radargrammetric technique has great potential to be considered for the future applications. However, further studies are still needed especially to identify exactly the probable causes for the occurrence of gross errors and ways to reduce or overcome these errors in order to increase the reliability level of the DEM generated using the radargrammetric technique.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai mematuhi keperluan untuk mendapatkan Ijazah Master Sains

**KETEPATAN KETINGGIAN MODEL KETINGGIAN BERDIGIT
YANG DIJANA SECARA RADARGRAMMETRI**

Oleh

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November 2002

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Konsep stereoskopi yang sebelum ini digunapakai di dalam kaedah fotogrammetri telah berjaya diperluaskan penggunaannya kepada sensor optik SPOT untuk menjana model ketinggian berdigit (MKB) dan paramuka planimetri. Kejayaan ini telah memberikan dorongan kuat kepada saintis untuk menerokai kemungkinan penggunaan konsep stereo yang dipanggil radargrammetri ke atas imej “Synthetic aperture radar” (SAR). Di dalam kawasan yang sering diliputi awan ataupun kegelapan, data gelombang mikro aktif seperti SAR boleh memberi faedah sepenuhnya untuk mendapatkan maklumat permukaan bumi dan silara hutan.

Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menganalisis ketepatan ketinggian yang dihasilkan dari MKB menggunakan teknik radargrammetri berbanding dengan nilai ketinggian yang dihasilkan menggunakan teknik fotogrammetri. Keupayaan teknik radargrammetri dan potensinya menghasilkan maklumat altimetri kemudiannya telah dibuat penilaian.

Imej stereo RADARSAT kawasan Lembah Kelang yang meliputi kawasan seluas 100 km kali 100 km telah diperolehi. Sejumlah 199 titik kawal bumi (TKB) telah dipilih di atas permukaan rendah kerana pantulan balik radar adalah sangat peka bagi kawasan bercerun dan tanah tinggi. Data kemasukan utama ialah nilai kordinat dan ketinggian TKB yang diperolehi dari peta topografi. Apabila ralat yang dihasilkan di dalam laporan pengumpulan TKB telah boleh diterimapakai, maka proses membuat imej epipolar dan penjanaan MKB dimulakan. Proses seterusnya ialah penjanaan MKB “geocoded”.

Analisis ketepatan ketinggian dijalankan secara perbandingan ketinggian yang didapati dari MKB “geocoded” dengan nilai asal ketinggian TKB. Perbandingan dengan titik-titik lain diatas tanah yang diketahui ketinggiannya juga dibuat sebagai langkah semakan. Lebih kurang 2% TKB telah menghasilkan ralat besar yang melebihi 50 m atau 4 piksel. Lain-lain ralat ialah penukaran TKB kepada titik semak (TS) dan terjatuh ke dalam nilai laterbelakang atau nilai gagal. TKB yang terletak berhampiran dengan kawasan berair yang mempunyai nilai intensiti sifar juga mengalami kesan ralat. Hampir 94% TKB akhirnya telah dapat digunakan untuk membuat analisis ketepatan ketinggian. Nilai ketepatan ketinggian MKB yang diperolehi ialah diantara satu hingga tiga piksel. Keputusan ini sangat menggalakkan dan menunjukkan bahawa kaedah radargrammetri mempunyai potensi untuk dipertimbangkan di dalam aplikasi masa hadapan. Walaubagaimana pun, kajian lanjut masih diperlukan terutamanya untuk mengenalpasti dengan tepat punca berlakunya ralat besar dan langkah yang mesti diambil untuk mengatasi atau mengurangkannya bagi menambahkan tahap kebolehpercayaan terhadap MKB yang dijana menggunakan kaedah radargrammetri.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bismillahirrahmanirahim,

Praise and glory to Allah Almighty for his blessings which enabled me to complete this thesis. I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to my major supervisor Prof. Maj. Dr. Kamaruzaman Jusoff, for his invaluable guidance, encouragement and constructive criticisms throughout this research study.

Sincere thanks are also extended to other Supervisory Committee Members namely Dr. Abdul Rashid Mohamed Shariff and Dr. Muhamad Radzali Mispan for their continuous advice and comments. I sadly missed Mr. Ahmad Rodzi Mahmud who at the end of the final semester, had to be dropped from the Committee as he was taking a part time Ph.D programme.

My highest appreciations go to Yang Berbahagia Dato' Hamid Ali, Director General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia and his deputy, Mr. Chia Wee Tong for their continuous support and encouragement.

The same appreciation goes to Mr. Nik Nasruddin Mahmud, Director general of MACRES for giving the images and allowing the use of facilities in the library. I am really grateful to senior officers of the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia namely Dr. Abdul Kadir Taib, Tuan Haji Muhammed Kamil Mat Daud, Mr. Marzuki Mohd Kassim, Mr. Wan Zainuddin Wan Yusoff and Mr. Teng Chee Boo for their help and understanding accorded to me before and during this study.



I have no words to express my appreciation to Canada Center for Remote Sensing (CCRS) especially to Dr. Thiery Toutin, who initially introduced this topic to me and since then untiringly guided me through until the final part of my study. He also played crucial role during negotiations to obtain license for the radar software. My appreciation also goes to Mr. Rupert Brooks from the Natural Resources, Canada whom I met in person, for his attention and prompt action in addressing the administrative and technical problems.

It was really a rare moment when Prof. Dr. Franz W. Leberl of Graz Technical University, a well-known personality in remote sensing and photogrammetry took off his busy schedule to communicate with me. I really appreciate his efforts in sending soft copy papers that were not available locally.

I am very indebted to Mr. Masmith, Director of PCI International (Sales) for granting permission to use the PCI's OrthoEngine SE during this entire study. Special thanks are also extended to the local representative of PCI especially Mr. Khairul.

I am very grateful with the cooperation given by the support group of PCI International, Canada especially its Senior Researcher and Chief Programmer Dr. Philip Cheng whom I managed to meet in person and his entire team namely Mr. Sean Borman and Mr. Tom Lukowski who patiently went through the details of my problems. The same goes to Mr. Jay Timmerman of RSI who is very friendly and helpful.



My utmost gratitude goes to my office staff especially Mr. Hasnan, Mr. Maniam, Madam Lim Kwai Har, Mr. Kashpul and Mr. Mazzakir for their help in disseminating invaluable information from the digital data and maps as well as identifying salient points for ground control points.

I do not forget to thank all staff of UPM whose direct and indirect involvement made this study a success. Special thanks to staff of Faculty of Forestry, Forest Survey and Geospatial Information Laboratory, Department of Geomatics, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and School of Graduate Studies.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Madam Nik Mazlina, Mr. Saiful, Mr. Ku Noh and other MACRES staff for their kind help. My thanks also go to many lecturers from UPM, UTM, UiTM and USM whom I met in official meetings or seminars for their views and comments.

My appreciations also go to Miss Katherine Thiang of the Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (ISM) and my colleague Miss Che Suhaini for patiently going through the grammar and contents of the thesis.

Last but not least, my deepest admiration to my dear wife, Maznah and lovely daughter, Suriya who not only endured loneliness while I prepared the thesis, but also provided courage and inspiration without which this research study would not have been completed.

This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. Members of the Supervisory Committee are as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1D	One dimensional
2D	Two dimensional
3D	Three dimensional
ACRS	Asian Conference on Remote Sensing
AirSAR	NASA's Airborne Synthetic Aperture Radar
ASL	Above Sea Level
ASTER	Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer is an imaging instrument that is flying on Terra, a satellite launched in December 1999 as part of NASA's Earth Observation System (EOS).
AVHRR	Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer
C	C-band
CCRS	Canada Center for Remote Sensing
CP	Check Point
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DVP	The digital stereo workstation developed by CCRS
EMR	Electromagnetic Radiation
EOC	Earth Observation Center
ERS-1	European Remote Sensing Satellite 1
ERS-2	European Remote Sensing Satellite 2
ESA	European Space Agency
F2	The RADARSAT image with fine mode 2
F5	The RADARSAT image with fine mode 5
GCP	Ground Control Point
H	Horizontally polarized
HH	Horizontal polarized transmission, horizontal polarized reception
HV	Horizontal polarized transmission, vertical polarized reception
IFSAR	Interferometry SAR
IKONOS	IKONOS, launched on September 24 1999 is the first commercial high-resolution satellite.
INPE	Instituto Nacional De Pesquisas Espaciais
IRS	Indian Remote Sensing
LANDSAT	An earth orbiting satellite operated by the United States. The LANDSAT series of satellites first began in 1972 with the launch of ERTS-1, subsequent launches have occurred in 1975 (Landsat 2), 1978 (Landsat 3), 1982 (Landsat 4) and 1984 (Landsat 5). Landsat 6 was due to be launched in 1994, but failed.
LANDSAT-TM	An electromechanical sensor onboard the LANDSAT series of satellites (Landsats 4 and 5). A Thematic Mapper image will have data recorded in 7 spectral bands of the electromagnetic spectrum.
JERS	Japanese Earth Remote Sensing
JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
JUPEM	Jabatan Ukur dan Pemetaan Malaysia
MACRES	Malaysian Center for Remote Sensing



MODIS	Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer.
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Agency
NMO	National Mapping Organizations
R&D	Research and Development
RADAR	RADio Detection And Ranging
RADARSAT	Radar satellite launched by Canadian Space Agency in 1995
RMS	Root Mean Square
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
RSI	RADARSAT International
RSO	Rectified Skew Orthomorphic Projection System
SAR	Synthetic Aperture Radar
SEASAT	The first earth-orbiting satellite designed for remote sensing of the earth's oceans and had onboard the first spaceborne SAR.
SFS	Shape From Shading
SGA	Synoptics Geo-Application Limited
SIR	Shuttle Imaging Radar
SLAR	Side Looking Airborne Radar
SPOT	System Probatoire d'Observation de la Terre
TP	Tie Point
TPS	Thin Plate Splines
V	Vertically polarized
VIR	Visible and Infra Red
VH	Vertical polarized transmission, horizontal polarized reception
VV	Vertical polarized transmission, vertical polarized reception



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

DEM data are sampled arrays of surface elevations in raster form which provide elevation values in rows and columns corresponding to a regular grid of points on the earth's surface. They are stored as a series of profiles in which the spacing of the elevations along and between each profile is in regular whole number intervals. The DEM has always been considered very useful for deriving elevations which are necessary in managing various geospatial applications such as drainage and watershed, surface slope calculation, ortho-image generation and other applications related to infra structural planning and development.

It is also important to recognize and appreciate the DEM that allocates accurate control measures during implementation of such applications. For example, drains must be laid down at such gradient angle so as to enable the water's free flowing which could be accomplished by applying the DEM data along the proposed project site. Similarly, by using the DEM an earthwork development can be carried out at a much faster pace within an optimum cost. An equitable amount of earth volume cutting down at higher terrain could be filled up at the lower level of the project area. In the first case, the higher order accuracy of DEM is required whereas in the latter, the lower order accuracy is acceptable.

In the olden days, the conventional land survey techniques using the survey instruments such as the theodolite, level and tacheometer were applied to generate elevation values of terrains that were later converted into contours for easy interpretation and presentation. However, these techniques have proven to be very slow, tedious and indeed uneconomical especially for larger and rugged terrains.

Subsequently, the photogrammetric technique which utilized the stereo aerial photographs as its prime source of input data was introduced. Since then, this technique has been applied by most of the national mapping organizations (NMO) throughout the world to produce the various types of maps. The photogrammetric technique has been opted basically due to its capability to satisfy the accuracy compliance required in the mapping specifications.

A stereo model needs to be generated from a pair of the stereo aerial photographs before the geographical information can be extracted. It has distinguished characteristics that facilitate the extraction of both the planimetric and altimetric information. Nevertheless, this technique is quite tedious, time consuming and costly, particularly for developing large project areas that require periodical revision of outdated information.

Recent advances in the computer technology involving its speed, data handling and storage capability, and growing demand for the digital databases and computer based mapping production capabilities have encouraged the use of remotely sensed information as a data source for mapping applications. With the emergence of high spatial resolution data, such as a 1 m spatial resolution IKONOS image, the

application of the visible infra red (VIR) remote sensing data has increased progressively. Scientists have continuously carried out numerous research studies to extend the use of the aerial photographs in the stereoscopic viewing concept to other remote sensing data, such as SPOT and SAR to generate the medium scale map of 1:100,000 or larger.

The radar data is comparatively often considered a superior data source since it is capable of collecting data in nearly every atmospheric condition by day and night. Due to the high spatial resolution of civilian satellite SAR sensors since the 1980s with the Shuttle Imaging Radar (SIR), a large number of researchers around the world have investigated the elevation modeling and the production of DEMs (Toutin and Gray, 2000). In addition, the recent research in the computer vision to model human vision has led to the advent of new alternatives applied to the satellite imagery. SAR data in different formats can be processed by different methods, taking advantage of different sensors and image characteristics using different types of technology and processing. It has thus allowed the mapping process to become more automated, though not completely due to the occasional matching failures.

To date, the radar remote sensing technology offers many new and unique observational possibilities, such as the use of the advanced multi frequency polarimetric and interferometric (IFSAR) systems as well as radargrammetry. Each system which has its own unique capabilities in extracting data can be used complementarily to each other to maximize its benefits.

1.2 Problem Statement

Since the last five years, request for the mapping digital data produced by the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM) has soared up remarkably. The users need the latest information which requires JUPEM to update its data periodically. This request is necessary in order to avoid the ground disorientation which is caused by the obsolete data, especially in the urban and fast-developed areas. Nevertheless, due to unanticipated factors, JUPEM has not been able to meet its clients' demand. One of the principal factors which has been identified by JUPEM is its inability to obtain the aerial photographs routinely at any desired time and location.

The problem arises because aerial photography is exposed to the various environmental phenomena, especially the presence of persistently heavy cloud cover which is absolutely beyond the human control. Consequently, mapping production or updating in any affected area is delayed indefinitely, causing difficulties to users who badly needed the geographical information to carry out their development projects. Due to this problem, the expectation on extensive research and development (R&D) studies which will produce an alternative data source has always been high. Recently, the radar development uncovered that its unique characteristics can penetrate the cloud cover, thus bringing it much closer to become an alternative data for aerial photographs. The author's decision to explore the radar application technology is thus encouraged and motivated by the high expectation of the usage of radar.