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Automatic Detection of the Tracks of Wild Animals in the Remote Sensing Images and Its Use

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Abstract

While the human population continues to grow and the economy is growing, the natural environment is decreasing in the wake of land development, for instance. However, it is essential for humans to obtain ecosystem services. Therefore it is required to maintain biodiversity and its sustainable development. Wildlife monitoring is important for the preservation of biodiversity. Recently we can obtain the accurate position of wildlife (Global Positioning System) telemetry. However the use of telemetry is allowed

of wildlife. Therefore it is expected to increase the ecological knowledge by constructing the system which obtains ecological information from remote sensing images. We developed DTR algorithm which is for computer aided detection of tracks in the snow using high spatial resolution remote sensing images. DTR algorithm is designed to find out directly the tracks by visually examination of remote sensing images without overlooking the tracks. This time we apply DTR algorithm to the aerial remote sensing images of Sarufutsu in Hokkaido. And we distinguished species which left the tracks by visual examination and discriminant analysis based on field investigation. The tracks which left detected tracks were interpreted as sika deer (*Cervus Nipponensis*) according to length and width of one set of the footprints. Also we estimated the density of target animals by applying INTGEP (Intersection Points on Geometrical Probability) method to lengths of sika deer's tracks. The results of the footprints from the DTR algorithm and from visually examination of the snow showed that the footprints in the snow could be detected using the DTR algorithm. It is concluded that the detection of the tracks in the snow in remote sensing images is possible using the DTR algorithm.

Keywords: [Wild animals](#), [tracks](#), [DTR](#), [INTGEP](#), [sika deer \(*Cervus Nipponensis*\)](#)

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