ABSTRACT

In many agricultural applications, one wants to characterize physical properties of plants and use the measurements to predict, for example, biomass and environmental influence. This process is known as phenotyping. Traditional collection of phenotypic information is labor-intensive and time-consuming. Use of imagery is becoming popular for phenotyping. In this paper, we present methods to estimate traits of sorghum plants from RGB cameras on board of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The position and orientation of the imagery together with the coordinates of sparse points along the area of interest are derived through a new triangulation method. A rectified orthophoto mosaic is then generated from the imagery. The number of leaves is estimated and a model-based method to analyze the leaf morphology for leaf segmentation is proposed. We present a statistical model to find the location of each individual sorghum plant.

Keywords

image segmentation, image-based phenotyping, image rectification

1. INTRODUCTION

In many agricultural applications, one wants to characterize physical properties of plants and use the measurements to predict, for example, biomass and environmental influence. This process is known as phenotyping. Obtaining high-quality phenotypic information is of crucial importance for plant breeders in order to study a crop’s performance. Some phenotypic traits such as leaf area have been shown to be correlated with above-ground biomass. Collecting phenotypic data is often done manually and in a destructive manner.

Computer-assisted methods and in particular image-based methods are becoming popular. There are commercial image-based systems for automated plant phenotyping that are mainly used indoors. In fact, most image-based phenotyping methods that have been proposed are for indoor or greenhouse settings, while real-life crops are mainly grown outdoors. Many different sensor types have been proposed for phenotyping including multi-spectral, hyperspectral, IR and RGB images. In this paper, we focus on methods that use visible RGB images acquired by a low-cost unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flying over a field. Our target crop is Sorghum.

In, a camera-based growth chamber is described for plant phenotyping using micropots. The plant leaves are segmented by selecting a green cluster in the YIQ colorspace. Leaf morphology is determined using morphological processing and connected components. The number of leaves per plant and the length of each leaf are estimated. The plant Setaria is phenotyped in a highly controlled setting. The phenotypic traits are estimated from RGB images include plant height, convex hull, and plant area using morphological and watershed methods. In, the circular geometry and overlap between the leaves of rosette plants are used in order to individually segment each leaf. In, rosette plants in a laboratory are automatically segmented and analyzed using active contours and a Gaussian Mixture Model. Other image-based methods are described in several review papers and web sites.

Low-cost UAVs have recently emerged as a promising geospatial data acquisition system for a wide range of applications including phenotyping. Recent advances in both automated UAV flying and large-field-of-view (LFOV) cameras have increased the utilization of UAVs equipped with low-cost LFOV RGB cameras. Due to the inherent spatial distortion caused by LFOV cameras, the images must be corrected before phenotypic measurements can be done. Commercial software can automate the process of 3D image 3D correction and reconstruction. However, utilization of such software for phenotyping remains a challenging task due to the fact that agriculture fields usually contain poor and repetitive texture. This can severely impact the relative
orientation recovery for UAV images.

This paper presents methods that use digital images that are acquired from a low-cost UAV using a large field of view RGB camera (e.g., GoPro Hero 3+ Black Edition). We describe the calibration of the camera to determine its internal characteristics. The position and orientation of the acquired imagery together with the coordinates of sparse points along the area of interest are derived through a proposed triangulation technique. A rectified orthophoto mosaic is then generated by fusing the derived information from the calibration and triangulation information. Finally, the distortion-free images and orthophoto mosaic are used to derive phenotypic traits such as leaf area and count and plant locations.

2. ORTOPHOTO GENERATION

As indicated above, the images from our UAV need to be spatially corrected due to the camera’s large field of view. The three steps described below for our proposed correction methods. First, due to severe image distortions caused by the wide-angle lens, camera calibration is done to estimate the internal characteristics of the LFOV camera. Then, Structure from Motion (SfM) is used to take advantage of prior information of the UAV flight trajectory and for automated image orientation recovery and image sparse point cloud generation. Finally, an RGB orthophoto mosaic image of the entire sorghum field is generated. In order to generate this mosaic, the image exterior orientation parameters (EOPs) are estimated, the camera calibration parameters, and the generated point cloud are used.

2.1 Camera Calibration

The basis of the camera calibration is bundle adjustment that includes additional parameters that describe the camera’s internal characteristics. We demonstrated the capability of using the USGS Simultaneous Multi-frame Analytical Calibration (SMAC) distortion model for both target-based and feature-based calibration of LFOV cameras. The SMAC model is used here for the calibration of the UAV camera. For the SMAC model, all pixel locations \((x, y)\) must be referenced to the image coordinate system and then translated to the principal point \((x_p, y_p)\). \((\bar{x}, \bar{y})\) are the pixel coordinates after correcting to the principal point using Equation 1.

\[
\begin{align*}
\bar{x} &= x - x_p \\
\bar{y} &= y - y_p
\end{align*}
\]

For the distortion parameters, both radial and decentering lens distortions are considered. Radial lens distortion is caused by the large off-axial angle and lens manufacturing flaws and are located along a radial direction from the principal point. Radial lens distortion is more significant in LFOV systems. According to the SMAC model, the correction for the radial lens distortion \((\Delta x_{RLD}, \Delta y_{RLD})\) can be expressed as in Equation 2 using the coefficients \((K_0, K_1, K_2, K_3)\).

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta x_{RLD} &= \bar{x} \left[ K_0 + K_1 (r^2 / R_0^2) + K_2 (r^4 / R_0^4) + K_3 (r^6 / R_0^6) \right] \\
\Delta y_{RLD} &= \bar{y} \left[ K_0 + K_1 (r^2 / R_0^2) + K_2 (r^4 / R_0^4) + K_3 (r^6 / R_0^6) \right]
\end{align*}
\] (2)

where \(r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}\), \(R_0\), \(K_1\), \(K_2\), and \(K_3\) are the radial lens distortion parameters, \(R_0\) is a camera-specific constant. In this paper, \(R_0\) is defined as 0 mm. Decentering lens distortion is caused by misalignment of the elements of the lens system along the camera’s optical axis. The decentering lens distortion has radial and tangential components. To evaluate the decentering lens distortion \((\Delta x_{DLD}, \Delta y_{DLD})\) for the measured points, one can use the coefficients \((P_1, P_2)\) as shown in Equation 3:

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta x_{DLD} &= P_1 (r^2 + 2x^2) + 2P_2 xy \\
\Delta y_{DLD} &= 2P_1 xy + P_2 (r^2 + 2y^2)
\end{align*}
\] (3)

where \(P_1\) and \(P_2\) are the decentering lens distortion parameters.

2.2 Structure From Motion

The SfM automates the image EOPs recovery as well as the generation of the sparse image-based point cloud. The SfM approach we used was described by He and Habib in 2014. It is based on a 3-step strategy. In the first step, the relative orientation parameters (ROPs) of all possible image stereo pairs are estimated. The estimation of ROPs requires the identification of conjugate points in the set of available images. Therefore, we use the Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) on the stereo-images. Using the Euclidean distances between the SIFT descriptors, potential matches are identified. Then, an approach which uses prior information of the UAV flight trajectory is used for the estimation of the ROPs. We assume that the UAV is moving at constant altitude while operating a nadir-looking camera. This is consistent with our UAV operations using onboard gimbals. Therefore a minimum of two point correspondences are required for the estimation of the ROPs. Random Sample Consensus (RANSAC) is used to remove potential outliers among the initial matches. RANSAC is used to find the point-to-epipolar distance of each conjugate point pair using parameters that are derived from different randomly selected point samples. Then an estimate of the ROPs using an iterative procedure is done. This approach is different from the conventional non-linear least-square adjustment in that it is based on a direct linearization of the co-planarity model. The matching outliers are then removed using a normalization process that imposes constraints on the xy-parallax according to epipolar geometry.

Once the ROPs of all possible stereo-pairs are estimated, the image EOPs are initialized. This initialization starts with defining a local coordinate frame using an image triplet that satisfies both a large number of corresponding points and a compatibility configuration. The remaining images are then sequentially augmented into the final image block or trajectory. In order to reduce the effects of error propagation, at each step of the image augmentation, only the image that exhibits the highest compatibility with the previously referenced imagery is selected. Finally, this image is aligned relative to the pre-defined local coordinate system.

The EOPs from the initial recovery are only relative to an arbitrarily defined local reference frame. We transform the estimated EOPs to an absolute orientation and the sparse point cloud to a mapping reference frame. An example is shown in Figure 1. The coordinates of Ground Control Points (GCPs) are derived through a prior GPS survey of the sorghum field. These GCPs are used to establish the absolute orientation. After the estimation of the absolute orien
tation parameters, a global bundle adjustment is done. This bundle adjustment includes SIFT-based tie points, manually measured image coordinates of the GCPs, and the corresponding GPS-coordinates of these GCPs. This yields the image EOPs and the sparse point-cloud coordinates relative to the GCPs’ reference frames. Figure 2 illustrates the inputs and outputs of the global bundle adjustment process.

Figure 1: Reconstructed sparse point cloud, positions and orientations.

2.3 RGB Orthophoto Mosaic

Finally, in order to generate the RGB orthophoto, a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) is interpolated from the sparse point cloud, which has been transformed relative to the mapping frame. Then, the DEM, the bundle adjustment-based image EOPs, and the camera calibration parameters are used to produce an RGB orthophoto mosaic of the entire field. An example of the orthophoto is shown in Figure 3.

The conceptual basis for generating an RGB orthophoto mosaic is an object-to-image backward and forward projection process using collinearity equations [27]. It is important to note that, although each pixel from the orthophoto can be visible in multiple UAV images, only the closest one in the mapping frame is utilized for the RGB mosaic.

3. IMAGE BASED PHENOTYPING

3.1 Leaf Counting

In this section, we present a method for leaf counting without individually segmenting each leaf.

First, the uncorrected image or orthomosaic is converted from RGB to HSV color space [29]. From the image in the HSV color space, a segmentation mask $Y$ is generated. Each pixel $Y_m$ in this mask is obtained as:

$$
Y_m = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } \tau_1 \leq H_m \leq \tau_2 \text{ and } (\tau_3 \leq S_m \text{ or } \tau_4 \leq V_m) \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
$$

where $H_m$, $S_m$, and $V_m$ are the hue, saturation, and value of the pixel $m$. The thresholds $\tau_1$, $\tau_2$, $\tau_3$, and $\tau_4$ are determined experimentally. $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$ select the characteristic green color of the leaves. $\tau_3$ and $\tau_4$ prevent misclassifying some soil pixels as leaves. Then, the number of pixels classified as sorghum leaves is determined as

$$\alpha = \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} Y_m \quad (5)$$

where $M$ is the number of pixels in the image. This pixel-wise segmentation makes use of the strong color difference between the sorghum leaves, which are generally green or yellow, and the soil and panicles, which are usually brown. An example of the segmentation result is shown in Figure 4.

Now, we want to estimate the number of leaves, denoted as $\lambda$, from $\alpha$. In order to do this, we assume that number of leaves and the number segmented pixels are linearly related as $\lambda = \frac{\alpha}{\rho}$. This assumes that all leaves have approximately the same area. The number of pixels per leaf is $\rho$.

In order to calibrate $\rho$, a small region of the image is selected. The number of leaves in this region is manually counted and denoted as $\lambda_0$. The number of pixels classified as sorghum is denoted as $\alpha_0$. Finally, $\rho$ is estimated by $\rho = \frac{\alpha_0}{\lambda_0}$, and the final leaf count can be obtained as $\lambda = \frac{\alpha}{\rho}$. We experimentally determined that the relationship between the number of leaves and the number of sorghum

Figure 3: RGB orthophoto of the sorghum field.

Figure 4: (a) Section of a orthorectified mosaic at an altitude of 15 m. (b) Segmentation result.
pixels is approximately linear at a given growth stage. This method requires that all leaves are at the same distance from the camera. This condition is fulfilled when using the orthorectified mosaic. Also, only leaves that are visible can be counted.

3.2 Model Based Leaf Segmentation

Plant leaves have similar morphology but different traits such as leaf length, width and green color hue. From the segmentation of each individual leaf, these traits can be estimated. In this section, we present a shape-based approach to leaf segmentation.

\[ |G_A - G_B + \pi| \mod 2\pi < T_a \] (6)

Leaf slices are obtained by using the Stroke Width Transform \[30\]. The slice angle \(\theta_{AB}\) of \(S_{AB}\) is defined as the normal of the slice (in radians) as

\[ \theta_{AB} = \frac{G_A + G_B}{2} \mod \pi \] (7)

In order to reconstruct leaves from leaf slices, adjacent leaf slices, \(S_{AB}\) and \(S_{CD}\), are compared. If their angles \(\theta_{AB}\) and \(\theta_{CD}\) differ less than a constant \(T_b\), i.e,

\[ |\theta_{AB} - \theta_{BC}| < T_b \] (8)

then slices \(S_{AB}\) and \(S_{CD}\) are merged. Some cases of leaf discontinuity are due to leaf crossing, but requires that leaf edges are clearly distinguishable. Overlap of parallel leaves may lead to under-segmentation.

3.3 Plant Location Model

In this section we present a statistical model for segmentation of the plant and determining its location. The location of each plant is defined as the pixel coordinates where the stalk intersects the ground plane and can be used to automatically obtain the inter-row and intra-row spacing. A row of plants is defined as all the plants that are aligned together. Inter-row spacing is defined as the distance between rows. Intra-row spacing is defined as the distance between plants within the same row.

The number of plants in an image is denoted as the constant \(P\) and assumed to be known a priori. The positions of the plants are modeled as a random vector \(X\), i.e,

\[ X = [X_0, X_1, \ldots, X_{P-1}] \] (10)

where \(X_p, p = 0, \ldots, P-1\), contains the \((i,j)\) coordinates of the \(p\)-th plant:

\[ X_p = \begin{bmatrix} X_{p,i} \\ X_{p,j} \end{bmatrix} \] (11)

Our goal is to estimate \(X\) from \(Y\), where \(Y\) is the color based segmentation mask (Section 3.1).

The 2D coordinates of the pixel \(m\) are denoted as \(K(m)\). A vector \(Z\) is constructed as

\[ Z = [Z_0, Z_1, \ldots, Z_{N-1}] \] (12)

where each element \(Z_n = K(n)\), \(n = 0, \ldots, N-1\), is included if \(Y_n = 1\). \(N\) is the number of pixels classified as leaf pixels. Notice that \(N \leq M\).

The plant \(p\) that is closest to the pixel \(n\) is denoted as \(C(n)\). The Euclidean distance from the pixel \(n\) to the plant \(C(n)\) is denoted as \(D_n\) and is computed as in Equation 13.

Figure 6: (a) A single leaf with a discontinuity that may be due to a leaf crossing. (b) Two leaf segments \(L_1\) and \(L_2\) with almost parallel facing slices \(S_{AB}\) and \(S_{EF}\). (c) From leaf slice \(S_{AB}\), we search in the direction of \(\theta_{AB}\) until we find the slice \(S_{EF}\) of the opposite leaf segment \(L_2\).
the distance $D_n$ to a leaf pixel $n$.

$$D_n = \|K(n) - K(C(n))\|_2$$

$$= \arg \min_{p=0,1,\ldots,P-1} \|K(n) - X_p\|_2$$

Equation 13.

$D_n$ is modeled as a random variable with exponential conditional probability density function with mean and standard deviation $\sigma$. Therefore the probability density function for a leaf pixel $n$ at distance $D_n = d_n$ from $C(n)$ is

$$p_{D_n}(d_n) = \frac{1}{\sigma} e^{-\frac{d_n}{\sigma}}$$

Equation 14.

$\sigma$ can be interpreted as the average radius of a plant.

Then, the conditional distribution of a single point $Z_n$ only depends on its closest plant:

$$p_{Z_n|x}(z_n|x) = p_{Z_n|x,C(n)}(z_n|x,C(n))$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sigma^N} e^{-\frac{1}{\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n}$$

Equation 15.

From our assumptions above we have conditional independence and the joint conditional density of $Z$ is

$$p_{Z|x}(z|x) = \prod_{n=1}^N p_{Z_n|x}(z_n|x)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sigma^N} e^{-\frac{1}{\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n}$$

Equation 16.

This model assumes that the leaf distribution does not have any direction preference, i.e., the leaves grow uniformly in all directions. In some situations, however, the plant is tilted, and the stalk is not completely at the center of the plant.

As we can see in Figure 4, since we are using an orthorectified mosaic, the crop field follows a structure. The plants in the image are very much aligned in rows as they are in the field. We make use of this information to introduce a prior distribution for $X$.

The conditional probability density of the position of one plant $X_p$ given the remaining plants $X_0, \ldots, X_{p-1}, X_{p+1}, \ldots, X_{P-1}$ is assumed normal

$$p_{X_p|x_{\neq p}}(x_p|x_{\neq p}) = \frac{1}{2\pi|R_p|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{||x_p - \mu_p||^2}{R_p^{-1}}\right)$$

Equation 17.

where $\mu_p$ are the coordinates of the vertical and horizontal plant lines where $X_p$ is a member, and

$$R_p = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{p,i}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{p,j}^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Equation 18.

is the covariance matrix of the positions of the plants that are aligned with the plant $p$, either vertically or horizontally. $\sigma_{p,i}^2$ and $\sigma_{p,j}^2$ are the vertical and horizontal standard deviations of $X_p$ (see Figure 8). $\sigma_{p,i}^2$ is typically very low because of the alignment of the planter at planting time. $R_p$ is a diagonal matrix when the field rows are aligned with the image axis in the orthorectified image.

Figure 7: A single sorghum plant. The distance from pixel $n$ (with coordinates $Z_n$) to $X_p$ (the coordinates of Sorghum plant $p$) is $D_n$, obtained by Equation 13.

Figure 8: Vertical and horizontal alignments of the plants in the field when viewed vertically. The green dot is the plant whose prior position we are developing.

From Equation 16 we can obtain the MAP estimate of $X$ as

$$\hat{X}(Z) = \arg \max_x p_{X|Z}(x|Z) = \arg \max_x p_{X|Z}(x|Z) - \ln p_X(x)$$

$$= \arg \min_x \left( \frac{1}{\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n - \ln p_X(x) \right)$$

Equation 19.

Obtaining a closed form for $p_X(x)$ involves dependencies between pant positions because the plant positions are not mutually independent. We iteratively obtain the MAP estimate of each plant position $X_p$ separately:

$$\hat{X}_p(Z) = \arg \max_{x_p} p_{X_p|Z,X_{\neq p}}(x_p|Z,X_{\neq p}) = \arg \min_{x_p} \left( -\ln p_{Z|X}(Z|x) - \ln p_{X_{\neq p}}(x_{\neq p}|X_{\neq p}) \right)$$

$$= \arg \min_{x_p} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n + \frac{1}{2} \frac{||x_p - \mu_p||^2}{R_p^{-1}} \right)$$

Equation 20.

For the special case in which the prior term is not used, the estimate $\hat{X}_p(Z)$ in Equation 20 is reduced to

$$\hat{X}_p(Z) = \arg \min_{x_p} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n$$

Equation 21.

This corresponds to the cost function of the k-means clustering technique. In this case, $\hat{X}_p(Z)$, has a closed form solution, shown in Equation 21 which is the average of the points in the cluster formed by plant $p$.

$$\hat{X}_p(Z) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N h(x_p|Z_n)Z_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N h(x_p|Z_n)}$$

Equation 22.
where
\[ h(x_p|Z_n) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 & \text{if } p = C(n) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right. \tag{23} \]
is the membership function that indicates whether the pixel
\( n \) corresponds to plant \( x_p \) or not.

Another special case occurs when the prior distribution
about the intra-row spacing prior is not used. When \( \sigma_{p,i} \to \infty \), Equation 20 becomes
\[
\lim_{\sigma_{p,i} \to \infty} \hat{X}_p(Z) = \arg \min_{\sigma_p} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^{N} d_n + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x_{p,j} - \mu_{p,j}}{\sigma_{p,j}} \right)^2 \right) \tag{24} \]

Since \( \sigma \) is not known, we estimate it after every Iterative Coordinate Descent (ICD) \cite{31} iteration using the Maximum Likelihood estimator, that can be obtained in closed form:
\[
\hat{\sigma}(Z, X) = \arg \max_{\sigma} p_{Z|X,\sigma}(Z|X) = ... \]
\[
= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} d_n \tag{25} \]

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The experimental dataset was acquired by a DJI Phantom 2 UAV equipped with a GoPro Hero 3+ Black Edition camera at the Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE) at Purdue University. The UAV was at an altitude of approximately 15 meters and at a speed of roughly 8 m/s. The overlap and side lap percentages for the images are approximately 60%. The ground sampling distance for the images is roughly 1.5cm. The camera is mounted on a gimbal to ensure that images are acquired with the camera’s optical axis pointing in the nadir direction, which is consistent with our assumptions for the triangulation approach we described in Section 2.2. To generate the orthophoto mosaic, 18 Ground Control Points (GCPs) and 10 check points are established. Both GCPs and check points were surveyed with a GPS to an approximate accuracy of \pm 2 cm. The root-mean-square error (RMSE) for the check points is evaluated after the bundle adjustment as described in Section 2.3. The outcome from the bundle adjustment is finally used to produce an orthophoto mosaic image. We collected on June 24, 2015 489 images with RMSE for the X, Y, and Z coordinates being 0.04 m, 0.03 m, and 0.05 m, respectively. Figure 3 shows the orthophoto mosaic image. We also collected on July 15, 2015 497 images with RMSE for the X, Y, and Z coordinates being 0.04 m, 0.03 m, and 0.04 m, respectively. Figure 4 shows the orthophoto mosaic image. Note that the height and nadir-looking assumptions are only required for stereo-pairs that may be captured along the same flight line or in two different flight lines. Experimental results involving captured datasets by fixed-wing and quad copters have shown that the proposed procedure is quite robust to deviations from such assumptions.

The color-based leaf counting method of Section 3.1 was tested using individual perspective images, the distortion-free images, and the entire orthorectified mosaic. By perspective images we mean the original, non-rectified individual images as they are taken from the camera. The distortion-free images are the perspective images whose lens distortion has been removed. Figure 9 shows the leaf segmentation of a perspective image taken on July 15, 2015. The local density of leaf pixels is also shown as a heat map. The value of a given pixel in the heat map is the number of leaf pixels in the neighborhood of that pixel. The size of the neighborhood was set to 41 \times 41 by manually selecting one of the plants. Figure 10 shows the leaf segmentation of a distortion-free image taken on July 15, 2015. Figure 11 shows the leaf segmentation of an orthorectified mosaic. The perspective images used to generate the mosaic were taken on June 24, 2015. The thresholds we used for these images were experimentally chosen as \( \tau_1 = 30, \tau_2 = 79, \tau_3 = 30, \) and \( \tau_4 = 163 \). These threshold are HSV values in the range [0, 0, 0] to [180, 255, 255] for 8 bits images. These values may greatly change in different growth stages, and lighting conditions.
the segmentation of each leaf, the leaf count was obtained. The thresholds we used for these images were experimentally chosen as $T_a = \frac{\pi}{5}$, $T_b = \frac{\pi}{8}$, and $T_c = \frac{\pi}{6}$.

Locations of plants in the orthorectified mosaic of Figure 3 were estimated using the method proposed in Section 3.3. Processing the entire field would take an enormous amount of time. This is because all $N$ pixel coordinates in $Z$ are involved into the evaluation of the cost function of Equation 20 for a single candidate $x_p$ value. In order to reduce the computational complexity, the mosaic is cropped into regions, and each region is analyzed independently. In Figure 13 the cost function at one iteration is shown. At this iteration, all plant positions are fixed except for one. Note that the coordinate that minimizes the cost function of the free plant is very close to the true position.

5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper has shown the feasibility of using consumer-grade digital cameras onboard low-cost UAVs for the estimation of plant phenotypic traits. Current and future work will be focusing on the use of the additional sensors such as position and orientation systems as well as LiDAR. Future work will also include image-based plant height determination and the use of leaf angle information for the estimation of the plant center location.

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