**PhD thesis project**
**Blind restoration of hyperspectral aerial images. Application to coastal environment**

The new generation of airborne hyperspectral imaging sensors, embedded on light aircraft or UAVs, is of great economic, technical and scientific interest. Nowadays, these sensors deliver huge datasets with very fine spectral and spatial resolutions. These datasets allow retrieving valuable information on the nature (content) and the spatiotemporal evolution of over flown areas. However, their analysis and interpretation remain difficult in practice, especially for the data acquired in coastal areas because they are distorted by several sources of degradation (at the sensor level or due to the atmosphere and/or the water column). Some reflectance models and inversion techniques have already been developed in the literature to estimate the specific parameters of the water column. However, the accuracy of the corresponding results is highly dependent both on the studied areas (due to inherent spatial and temporal variability) and on the availability of auxiliary data coupled with the aerial acquisition. This limits the use of these models in terms of accuracy, robustness, and automatic operation.

To interpret the content of such data in an optimal way (so as to reveal, for instance, the accurate spectral signature of in-situ minerals and vegetable species imaged on the whole available spectrum), a preliminary stage of restoration (including denoising and deconvolution) must be introduced to compensate for the different sources of degradation, either depending on the sensor and/or the acquired scene.
To solve this complex problem the development of a restoration approach introducing a minimum of *a priori* knowledge and a joint exploitation of local spatial and spectral information is necessary
To achieve this goal, we propose in this thesis to develop an original multi-criteria restoration approach both taking into account the heterogeneity of involved environments and being adaptive to the acquisition conditions and the content of over flown areas. Three components will therefore be considered together:

• The first component focuses on the analysis and the estimation of the characteristics of a signal dependent observation noise, especially for images acquired with the last generation of hyperspectral sensors.

• The second component relates to the deconvolution problem of hyperspectral data. It requires first an advanced modelling of the point spread function (PSF) of the whole imaging system and then its accurate estimation. In this modelling phase, the different stages involved in the image forming process must be taken into account (including the characteristics of the instrument and parameters dependent on acquisition conditions, phenomena such as atmospheric turbulence, absorption, emission and transmission). The final task is to estimate both the dimension and the variability of the PSF spatial and spectral spreads.

• The third component aims to formalize the impact on the efficiency of the subsequent processings of uncertainty on the estimated characteristics of the PSF and the observation noise. The goal is essentially to adapt these correction procedures so as to make them robust to such uncertainties on estimated parameters.

The methodological contribution of the restoration approach proposed in the thesis will be directly evaluated on targeted topics, mainly linked to costal areas.

**Keywords**: modelling, estimation, filtering, restoration, deconvolution, optimization, multi-criteria, regularization, data with large spatial and spectral dimensions

**Eligible Skills**:
- Applied mathematics and/or signal and image processing
- Object-oriented programming and/or, Matlab, correct level in French and English.

Full-time PhD studentship co-funded by Region Bretagne and department des Côtes d'Armor (France).

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