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BOOK REVIEW

SIGNATURES SPECTRALES D'OBJETS EN TÉLÉDETECTION. Spectral Signatures of Objects in Remote Sensing. (Coll. int. INRA No. 5). — Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Versailles 1981. 674 pp.

In September 1981, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing supported by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales organised the Symposium on Spectral Signatures of Objects in Remote Sensing at Avignon (France). There were 170 participants from 20 countries present.

The volume edited by G. Guyot and M. Verbrugghe contains both the papers delivered at plenary sessions and poster contributions dealing with three main topics: I. Determination of spectral properties of objects: equipments and methods (chairman: H. W. Gausman, USA. 4 papers of general interest, G, and 16 poster contributions, P). II. Relationship between the characteristics of an object and its spectral properties (N. J. J. Bunnik, the Netherlands. 6 G, 18 P). III. Influence of the conditions of measurement (F. Becker, France. 5 G, 5 P). Each Theme (topic) is supplemented by a short synthesis of the discussion. Finally, general conclusions of the colloquium are added (chairman: R. J. Bouchet, France). Some 30 pages contain information on the exhibition that was organised on the occasion of the colloquium and devoted to equipments especially for the radiometric and ground truth measurements, as well as a survey of related scientific books and pedagogic documents. The volume is supplemented by an author index and a list of participants. The papers are written in French with an English summary or in English.

There is no doubt that the remote sensing techniques enable a completely new approach to plant and canopy analysis of both agronomic and ecologic value. Hence, there will be a broad variety of readers interested in this voluminous publication with recent data on manifold aspects of remote sensing. Therefore, it might be of interest to the readers of Biol. Plant. to rewrite the general recommendations for further work that comprise:

"1. The role of ground-based signatures (spectral, spatial and temporal) in relation to satellite imaginery and user needs should be carefully examined. 2. For the particular case of plant canopies, there is a need for a closer working relationship between the spectral signature researcher and the plant physiologist. 3. More emphasis on microwave spectral signatures of plant canopies, soils and geologic units is justified, particulary as a complementary sensor to vis/IR".

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