森林評価のための写真測量による河川流量推定

River flow estimation using photogrammetry for forest evaluation

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論文要旨

近年,河川流量の減少が社会生活や生態系に影響を与えており問題視されている.河川流量の減少による問題は,降水量の少ない渇水期に特に顕著であり,渇水期における河川流量の安定化が必要となっている.

河川流量には様々な要素が起因しており、その内の一つが森林である、森林は水源涵養機能によって洪水の緩和や安定した流量供給を担っている、一方で、森林は樹木の生命活動に大量の水を使用することでも知られており、樹木の伐採による河川流量の増加は多くの研究で確認されている。そのため、河川流量を適切に保つためには、適切な森林管理が必要である。

河川流量を安定させる森林状態に管理するためには,河川流量と森林の関係性評価が要求され, 互いの観測が必要である.森林観測は非接触での観測が急速に発展しており,河川流量計測も同様 に画像計測やレーザー計測など開発が進められているが,山間部の小規模な河川での適用が難し い.そこで,写真測量技術のひとつである SfM を用いて河川の三次元モデルである点群を作成し, より簡便に山間部小規模河川での河川流量計測が行えないか検討した.

SfM による河川流量の推定には、マニングの公式を用いた、マニングの公式は径深、動水勾配、マニングの粗度係数で流速の算出が可能である。本研究では、データの検討を行なった上で問題ないと判断し、径深を平均水深、動水勾配は水面勾配と置き換えて用いた。これらの要素を SfM で作成された河川点群より計測し、マニングの公式を用いることで流速を算出した。また、点群から作成した DEM より断面積を計測し、流速と乗じることで流量の推定を行なった.

その結果,推定された流量は実測値と比べ,過小評価ぎみであり,誤差のある結果となった.しかし,推定値と実測値の相関は 0.993 と非常に高く,相対的な値は高精度に取得できていることが分かった.誤差の要因としては,断面積の過小評価とマニングの粗度係数の水位変化等による変動にあった.断面積の過小評価は,水面の影響による屈折率の変化から発生するもので,補正係数にて補正を行なった.また,マニングの粗度係数は水位変化による変動が確認されたが,対象とする渇水期は水位の変化が少なく,マニングの粗度係数も安定していたこと,また標準値の 0.1 m^{-1/3}s を用いたが相対的な河川流量は計測できており,河川流量の変化は高精度に捉えられる結果となった.

そこで,本研究手法が山間部小規模河川の流量変化を捉えられるとして,本手法の簡便性評価を,可搬式流速計による実測と比較して行なった.その結果,現地での計測時間が本研究手法では可搬式流速計を用いた実測と比べ半減できており,計測機器も大幅に軽減できた.地域特性のある森林と河川流量の関係性評価のためには,山間部小規模河川で多地点の計測が必要である.そのため,計測時間の短縮や計測機器の軽減は非常に重要であり,より簡便に,相対的ではあるが高精度に河川流量の変化を捉えられる本研究手法は山間部小規模河川での流量計測に適した手法ではないかと考える.

Abstract

The decrease in river flow in recent years has been impacting both societal life and ecosystems, and it is a growing concern. The problems caused by the reduction in river flow are particularly evident during dry periods with low rainfall, and stabilizing river flow during such dry periods has become necessary. River flow is influenced by various factors, one of which is forests. Forests contribute to the regulation of river flow by enhancing water retention, which helps mitigate floods and ensures a stable flow of water. On the other hand, forests are also known for using large amounts of water for the life activities of trees, and many studies have confirmed that deforestation leads to an increase in river flow. Therefore, proper forest management is crucial to maintaining appropriate river flow.

To manage forests in a way that stabilizes river flow, an evaluation of the relationship between river flow and forests is required, along with observations of both. Forest observation technologies have rapidly developed for non-contact measurement, and river flow measurement has similarly progressed with the development of imaging and laser measurement techniques. However, applying these methods to small rivers in mountainous areas remains challenging. Therefore, this study investigates whether a more convenient method for measuring river flow in small mountainous rivers can be developed by creating three-dimensional models of rivers using a photogrammetry technique called SfM.

To estimate river flow using SfM, Manning's equation was applied. Manning's equation allows the calculation of flow velocity based on variables such as hydraulic radius, slope, and Manning's roughness coefficient. In this study, after reviewing the data, it was determined that using the average water depth as the hydraulic radius and substituting water surface slope for the slope of the flow was acceptable. By measuring these variables from the point cloud created by SfM and applying Manning's equation, the flow velocity was calculated. Additionally, the cross-sectional area was measured from the DEM created from the point cloud, and the flow rate was estimated by multiplying the flow velocity by the cross-sectional area.

The result showed that the estimated flow rate was somewhat underestimated when compared with the measured values, indicating some error. However, the correlation between the estimated and measured values was very high 0.993, suggesting that relative values could be obtained with high accuracy. The sources of error were identified as underestimation of the cross-sectional area and fluctuations in Manning's roughness coefficient due to changes in water levels. The underestimation of the cross-sectional area was caused by changes in the refractive index due to the water surface, which was corrected using a correction factor. While fluctuations in Manning's roughness coefficient due to water level changes were observed, it was found that during the dry period, the water level remained relatively stable, and Manning's roughness coefficient also stabilized. Furthermore, using the standard value of 0.1 m^{-1/3}s still allowed for accurate measurement of relative river flow, and the changes in river flow were captured with high precision.

Therefore, this research method, which can capture changes in flow in small mountainous rivers, was evaluated for its simplicity by comparing it with field measurements using a portable flow meter. The results showed that the measurement time using this research method was reduced by half compared to field measurements with a portable flow meter, and the measurement equipment was also significantly lighter. For evaluating the relationship between forest characteristics and river flow in specific regions, multiple measurements at different locations in small mountainous rivers are necessary. Thus, reducing measurement time and equipment weight is crucial. This research method, which can capture changes in river flow with relatively high accuracy in a more convenient way, appears to be a suitable approach for flow measurement in small mountainous rivers.