

## Vertical Accuracy Assessment of DSM from TerraSAR-X and DTM from Aerial Photogrammetry on Paddy Fields – Karawang, Indonesia

Bambang Riadi<sup>1</sup>, Yustisi A. Lumban-Gaol<sup>\*1</sup>, Bimo Wicaksono<sup>2</sup> and Sekar Pranadita<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Geospatial Information Agency, Jalan Raya Jakarta-Bogor Km.46, Cibinong 16911, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>University of Indonesia, Kampus Universitas Indonesia Depok, Depok 16424, Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

A Digital Terrain Model (DTM) is a digital model representing the earth 's surface topography in three dimensions (3D) while a Digital Surface Model (DSM) represents the whole terrain including the objects on it such as trees and buildings. DTMs can be created through stereo-plotting. The advantage of this method is that the 3D data can be obtained with a high level of accuracy, but the data is limited in cloudy areas. This problem can be solved by using DSM, which can be created using TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X Satellites with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) system. This research aims to analyze the accuracy of DSMs from TerraSAR-X alongside DTMs extracted from aerial photogrammetry. The accuracy assessment of vertical height was completed by choosing 121 check points spread systematically on a paddy field in Karawang Regency, West Java. As paddy field was chosen to minimize errors between the DSM and DTM. The average, minimum, and maximum value of height differences between the DSM and DTM was calculated to obtain the standard deviation. The result showed that the average height difference between the DSM and DTM was 3.4 m with a minimum and maximum difference as 0.2 m and 10.808 m respectively. The standard deviation obtained was 4.9 m.

## 1. Introduction

Spatial data acquisition technology from above the earth's surface to obtain three-dimensional (3D) data can be completed using aerial photogrammetry and radar. The representation of topography on a specific reference system is generally related to Digital Terrain Models (DTMs). DTMs can be created with a terrestrial survey or remote sensing in areas where remote sensing is faster than a survey. Remote sensing technologies that can be used to produce data and information about the objects on the surface are aerial photogrammetry and radar. The height data model from those technologies will represent the DTM and the Digital Surface Model (DSM). DSMs represent the height of objects such as trees, buildings, ground level, and so on. This data is formed after orthorectification, a geometric correction process using satellite imagery to fix geometric errors related to topography, sensor geometry, and other factors. The height information is obtained for any point on the earth's surface by calculating the phase difference received by the two antennas on

the mission's two satellites with X-band radar signals, such as TerraSAR-X or TanDEM-X [1]. DSM as one of height data model with grid spacing between 5-10 m is a digital earth surface model represented the earth surface height. The elevation model is based on a pair of stereo TerraSAR-X StripMaps with 3 m resolution. Then, the StripMaps are processed using the radargrammetric technique by matching a homolog point from two images in the same area with different geometry [2]. The vertical accuracy value of an object showed the uncertainty of geometry of the height value on an object in the image towards an object which is considered correct in the actual position. The vertical accuracy of an object is the LE90 value, and it is based on a comparison between the height data values of a point that has been examined and is considered correct. Height value accuracy of any examined point should not fall below 90% [3].

The rapid development of technology for photogrammetry data processing, especially aerial photos, can fulfill several needs and purposes. DTMs provide information on the height of the earth's surface in digital format (raster or vector) that shows the earth's

\*Yustisi A. Lumban-Gaol, Email: [yustisi.ardhitasari@big.go.id](mailto:yustisi.ardhitasari@big.go.id)

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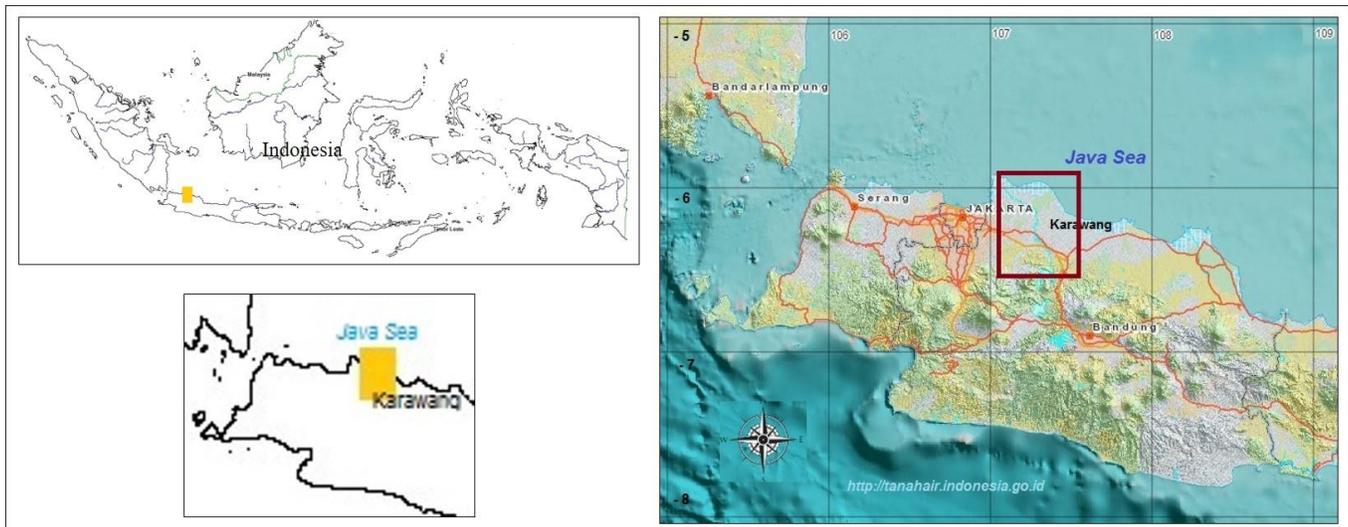


Figure 1. The location of Karawang Regency, West Java.

surface topography. Digital aerial photogrammetry is an advance tool used to build models of the earth's surface that can produce high resolution DTMs by image matching automatically. Currently, acquisition technology uses digital cameras that provide direct, high-resolution images. The dimension of internal DTMs are measured in pixels and are related to the camera metrics quality, photo scale, flight height, Ground Sample Distance (GSD), surface morphology, vegetation, shadows, and atmospheric conditions. Digital photogrammetry can produce a 3D height point with high spatial resolution, and the image correlation method is applied to DTM extraction automatically. Standard procedure for producing DTM is based on basic steps consisting of internal orientation, external orientation, and point extraction.

Internal orientation aims to assign the position of the frame inside the camera to fix the distortion and set the known coordinate values on certain points. External orientation consists of two steps: relative orientation, and absolute orientation. Relative orientation is done to build a stereoscopic model. Automatic procedure for image processing and DTM extracting generates a high precision model in a very short time, which reduce manual editing. DTM accuracy is related to image quality and terrain features.

The accuracy level of TerraSAR-X along with spatial resolution is very high, and a DTM generated from TerraSAR-X is 90% accurate within a range of 9.75 m [4]. The same research was completed by Seferick et al. (2012) [5] and their results showed that the accuracy of DEM TerraSAR-X was between 8 to 10 m depending on a slope with an RMSEz value of approximately 2.5 m. The purpose of this research was to analyze the vertical accuracy of DTMs by comparing the vertical value of DSMs from TerraSAR-X with DTMs from aerial photos.

## 2. Materials and Method

### 2.1. Study area

This research was completed from July 2017 through November 2017 at Indonesia Geospatial Information Agency (BIG). This study is located in the Karawang Regency in the north part of the West Java Province. Geographically, it is located

between Longitude 107°15'33" - 107°21'31" East and Latitude 6°13'32" - 6°21'36" South as is shown in Figure 1.

### 2.2. Materials and data used

The primary data used in this study consists of DTMs from aerial photos and DSMs from TerraSAR-X. The aerial data acquisition process including Ground Control Point (GCP) survey was not discussed in this article. Details of the materials used are provided in Table 1.

### 2.3. DTM Photogrammetry Process

Digital aerial photos from acquisition contain information about the camera, images, and external orientation (EO). Beforehand, premark was installed as a GCP so the control point could be captured in the images, which is very important in aerial triangulation. Global Positioning System (GPS) survey was done on each premark to obtain an accurate geo-reference point for image processing so that each image had a reference system in line with the needs of mapping the results. GCP was used to process data for geometric correction on mosaic orthophoto to produce a highly accurate map.

Table 1. DSM and aerial photogrammetry specification.

Materials	Specifications
DSM TerraSAR-X in 2011, orthorectification	Resolution: 9 m
Aerial photogrammetry in November 2016	Leica RDC30 60MP 6 micron Ground sample distance 10 cm Flight height 1000-1300 m Photo scale 14000-16000 Overlap 65% Sidelap 30%

Scale uniformity on each photo required several control points. Photogrammetric work covers a wide area which produces a lot of images, so the control points were with aerial triangulation. Aerial triangulation is a coordinate transformation from image to ground using GCP. Aerial triangulation was used to establish a direct relationship between the photo and ground coordinate systems without a relative and absolute orientation process [6].

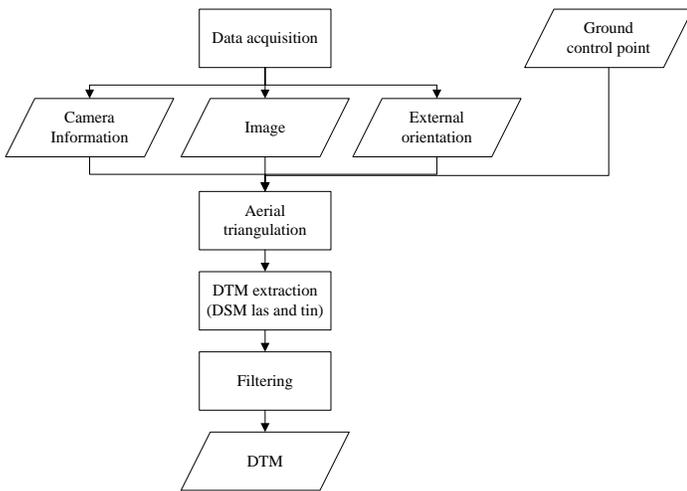


Figure 2. DTM photogrammetry flowchart.

The DTM photogrammetry was extracted from aerial photos after the aerial triangulation process using Inpho 5.4 to produce a DSM. After that, the DSM was filtered using software Terrasolid to obtain a DTM (Figure 2).

DTMs are used to describe terrain or relief models in 3D. DTMs depict actual shapes in the real world and is visualized using graphic computers and virtual reality technology [7]. The utilization of aerial photo techniques to produce 3D data has been heavily studied and is discussed in several publications. A discussion on the utilization of medium format cameras for producing 3D images was written by Warner et al. and used medium format Rollei 6006 cameras that could obtain a horizontal accuracy of 0.5 m and vertical accuracy of 1 m (1996) [8]. Currently, data acquisition and aerial photo processing uses the full digital system [9]. The provider and developer of photogrammetry software integrated data processing using AutoCAD and ArcGIS for vector data [6].

#### 2.4. The determination of check points

Hereafter, the DTM from aerial photogrammetry was compared to the DSM from TerraSAR-X to find out the accuracy of the DSM. From the research location, an area was chosen to be an examination sample area. The sample area was a paddy field, based on the assumption that a paddy field is relatively flat. A DSM was examined directly without smoothing to eliminate spikes. The comparison between both elevation models was performed using the Combine/Compare Terrain Layers menu on Global Mapper with sample spacing matching the higher resolution, 0.5 m x 0.5 m.

The retrieval of sample points for examination (Figure 3) began by looking at the visual area of the paddy field, and a maximum limit of the coordinates was determined. From that boundary, the sample points were taken systematically with a range of 500 m between each point in either a north-south or east-west direction. This range was decided by assuming that each point represented the paddy field and was accurate enough to represent the elevation difference between DTM and DSM [10]. The selected points still had spikes or extreme values due to normal error. To reduce the effect of such error, any points with an elevation difference of more than 5.2 m were eliminated [3].

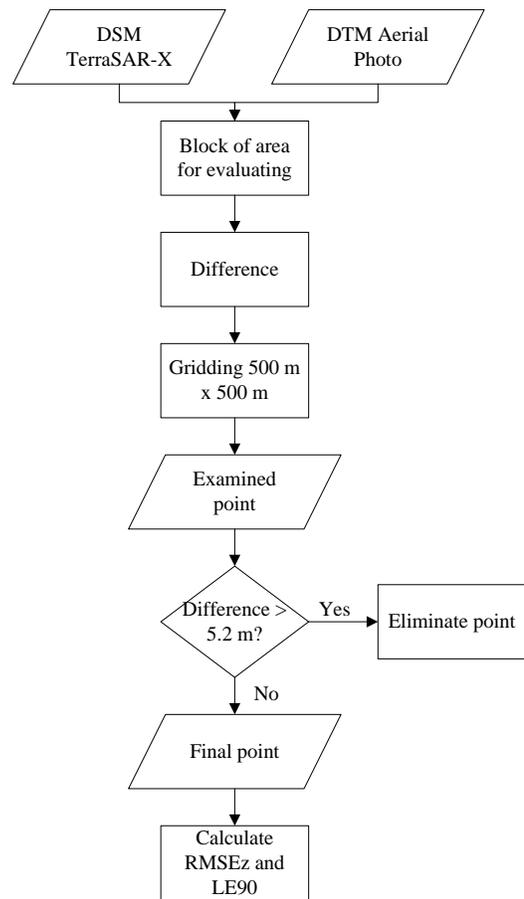


Figure 3. Statistic examined process for DSM and DTM.

The vertical accuracy of points was calculated using the RMSE (Root Mean Square Error) method from the difference between vertical values of a DSM TerraSAR-X and a DTM Aerial Photo on 90% confidence level. A total of 121 points were examined. RMSE and LE90 values were obtained from the equation below [11]:

$$RMSEz = \sqrt{\sum(z_{DSM} - z_{DTM})} \quad (1)$$

$$LE90 = 1.6499 \times RMSEz \quad (2)$$

where

- $z_{DSM}$  : vertical value on the DSM
- $z_{DTM}$  : vertical value on the DTM
- RMSEz : RMSE on z (vertical)
- LE90 : confidence level 90%

### 3. Results and Discussion

The accuracy information of orthorectification of the DSM TerraSAR-X from BIG was presented in Table 2. The difference between the DSM and the DTM of the sample area can be seen in Figure 6. and Table 3. A negative value indicates that the DSM TerraSAR-X elevation was lower than in the DTM aerial photo, while a positive value means the opposite. Then, the examined point was taken systematically on paddy field. The total number of examine point was 121 with range 500 m both directions, north to south and west to east (Figure 5). Based on statistical results from the examined points, the difference in maximum value was 10.8 m, minimum value was 0.2 m, and average value was 3.4 m. The RMSEz and LE90 values were 4.2 m and 6.9 m respectively.

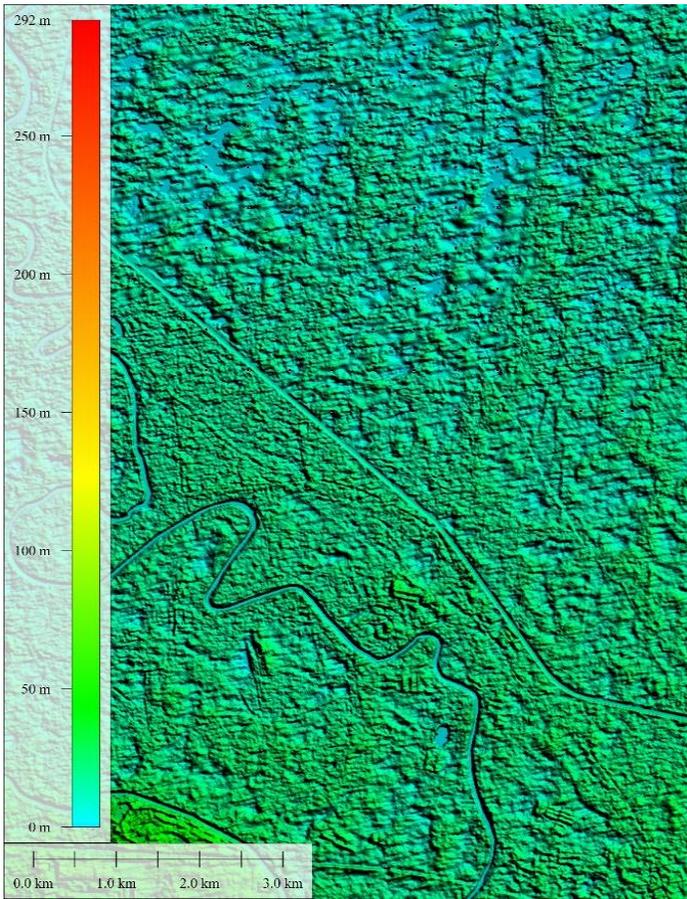


Figure 4. DSM TerraSAR-X elevation range.

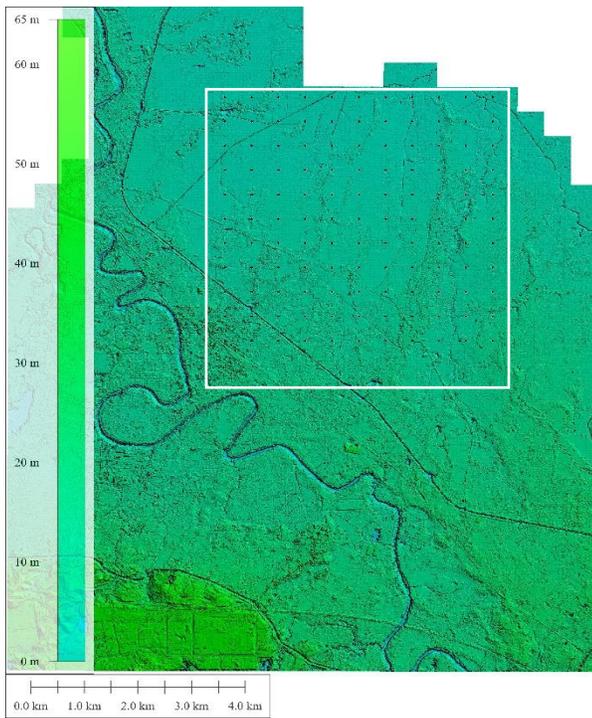


Figure 5. DTM aerial photogrammetry elevation range, white box was the examined area.

Table 2. DSM TerraSAR-X resolution.

Image statistics		ICESat statistics	
Min (m)	0	Nu. of points	135
Max (m)	292	RMSE (m)	2.4
Mean (m)	41.6	LE90 (m)	5.4
STD (m)	35.9		

From 121 examined points, there were 23 points with a difference greater than 5.2 m. After those points were eliminated, the RMSEz value become 2.9 m with LE90 4.9 m, which means the vertical accuracy value at a 90% confidence level was 4.9 m. This result fulfills the specification for a base map on a 1:25.000 scale class 1 in line with [1] BIG Regulation Nu. 15 Year 2014.

To see the form of a cross-section from the DTM and the DSM, a cross-section graphic analysis was done. The sample cross-section of a DEM can be seen in Figure 6.

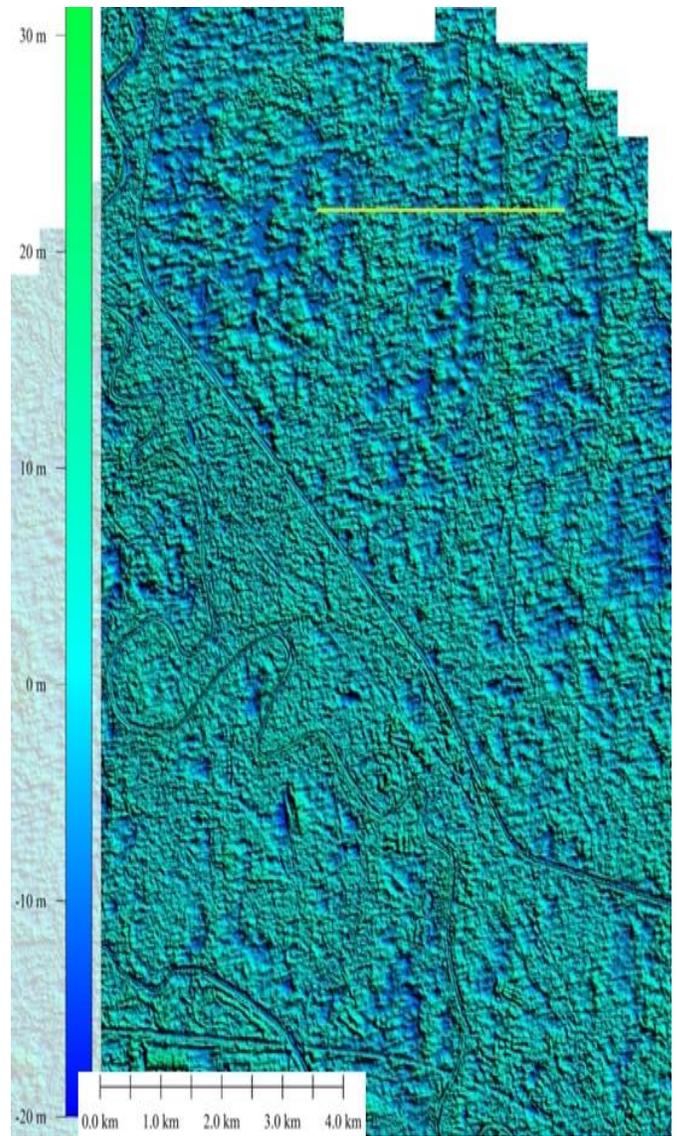
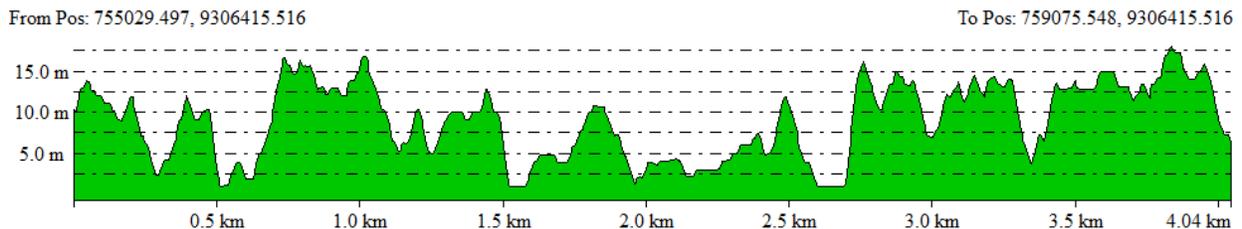


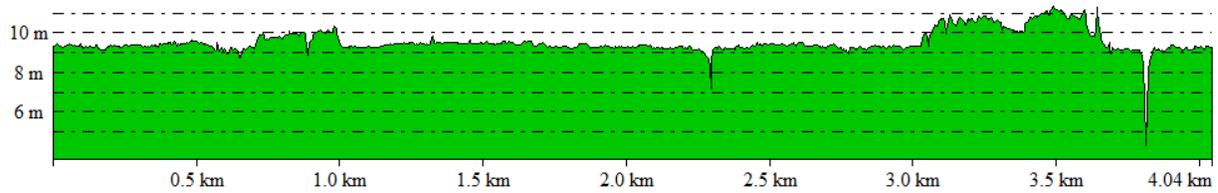
Figure 6. The elevation difference between DTM and DSM, yellow line was the sample for cross-section.

Table 3. The difference between DSM TerraSAR-X and DTM aerial photogrammetry.

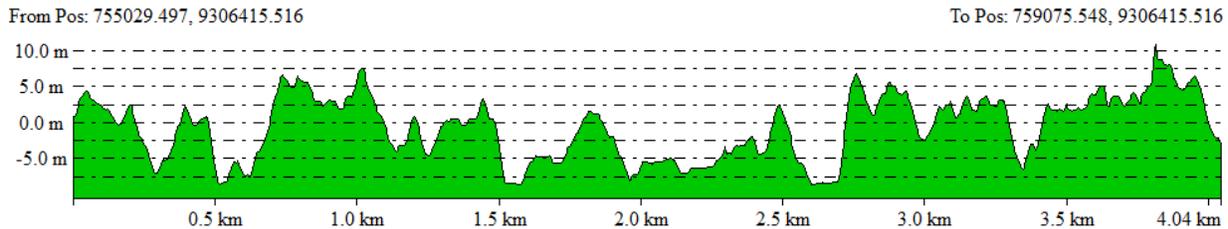
No	X	Y	Z	No	X	Y	Z	No	X	Y	Z
1	754000	9308000	-3.972	41	755500	9304500	3.894	81	757500	9306500	-3.942
2	754000	9307500	0.376	42	755500	9304000	-1.51	82	757500	9306000	-8.44
3	754000	9307000	4.577	43	755500	9303500	-0.161	83	757500	9305500	-9.351
4	754000	9306500	-3.641	44	755500	9303000	3.192	84	757500	9305000	-10.808
5	754000	9306000	-5.727	45	756000	9308000	-4.453	85	757500	9304500	-1.558
6	754000	9305500	-8.806	46	756000	9307500	4.249	86	757500	9304000	0.576
7	754000	9305000	2.005	47	756000	9307000	3.477	87	757500	9303500	-6.552
8	754000	9304500	7.152	48	756000	9306500	7.737	88	757500	9303000	-0.257
9	754000	9304000	4.728	49	756000	9306000	4.026	89	758000	9308000	3.985
10	754000	9303500	1.038	50	756000	9305500	5.134	90	758000	9307500	-6.659
11	754000	9303000	-4.375	51	756000	9305000	2.249	91	758000	9307000	-1.072
12	754500	9308000	0.472	52	756000	9304500	-7.246	92	758000	9306500	-1.328
13	754500	9307500	-2.82	53	756000	9304000	-3.047	93	758000	9306000	3.581
14	754500	9307000	0.155	54	756000	9303500	-1.152	94	758000	9305500	-1.052
15	754500	9306500	4.278	55	756000	9303000	-7.689	95	758000	9305000	4.863
16	754500	9306000	-9.396	56	756500	9308000	-6.606	96	758000	9304500	-0.42
17	754500	9305500	-3.316	57	756500	9307500	-6.262	97	758000	9304000	6.261
18	754500	9305000	-6.891	58	756500	9307000	4.802	98	758000	9303500	4.378
19	754500	9304500	0.745	59	756500	9306500	-0.775	99	758000	9303000	-5.167
20	754500	9304000	0.248	60	756500	9306000	0.798	100	758500	9308000	-2.864
21	754500	9303500	-4.528	61	756500	9305500	-4.061	101	758500	9307500	5.298
22	754500	9303000	0.661	62	756500	9305000	-0.314	102	758500	9307000	3.358
23	755000	9308000	-1.839	63	756500	9304500	-3.851	103	758500	9306500	1.638
24	755000	9307500	4.869	64	756500	9304000	1.045	104	758500	9306000	4.5
25	755000	9307000	0.957	65	756500	9303500	4.311	105	758500	9305500	8.423
26	755000	9306500	3.702	66	756500	9303000	-3.555	106	758500	9305000	0.763
27	755000	9306000	2.996	67	757000	9308000	-2.406	107	758500	9304500	1.855
28	755000	9305500	-1.624	68	757000	9307500	0.925	108	758500	9304000	4.613
29	755000	9305000	2.933	69	757000	9307000	3.056	109	758500	9303500	3.655
30	755000	9304500	1.499	70	757000	9306500	3.89	110	758500	9303000	3.465
31	755000	9304000	3.986	71	757000	9306000	-7.521	111	759000	9308000	3.18
32	755000	9303500	3.635	72	757000	9305500	-9.084	112	759000	9307500	0.357
33	755000	9303000	3.241	73	757000	9305000	-2.893	113	759000	9307000	0.466
34	755500	9308000	-4.334	74	757000	9304500	-1.636	114	759000	9306500	-3.496
35	755500	9307500	0.523	75	757000	9304000	4.002	115	759000	9306000	-0.502
36	755500	9307000	0.482	76	757000	9303500	-4.239	116	759000	9305500	3.17
37	755500	9306500	-0.927	77	757000	9303000	-2.274	117	759000	9305000	-1.703
38	755500	9306000	1.573	78	757500	9308000	6.151	118	759000	9304500	-7.686
39	755500	9305500	-0.345	79	757500	9307500	5.917	119	759000	9304000	-2.701
40	755500	9305000	-1.809	80	757500	9307000	-0.722	120	759000	9303500	0.876
								121	759000	9303000	-0.658



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 7. Cross-section of (a) DSM TerraSAR-X; (b) DTM aerial photogrammetry; (c) The elevation differences between DSM and DTM.

Figure 7b above shows that the surface from a DTM aerial photo was relatively flat while on the DSM spikes were still occur (Figure 7a). Additionally, the DSM from TerraSAR-X was rougher than the DTM aerial photo because DSM has a lower spatial resolution. Smoothing the DMS using validated points can be done to eliminate spikes, but this step was not completed in this research. The elevation differences between DSM and DTM was seen in Figure 7c where the metrics value had already discussed before.

#### 4. Conclusion

Until now, a DTM from aerial photography was the most ideal for finding basic data for topographic mapping. From this study, the vertical accuracy of a DSM TerraSAR-X was 4.9 m with an average value of 3.4 m and standard deviation of 2.9 m. This result leads to the conclusion that on a paddy or flat area, a DSM TerraSAR-X can also be used for situations that need high vertical accuracy.

#### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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