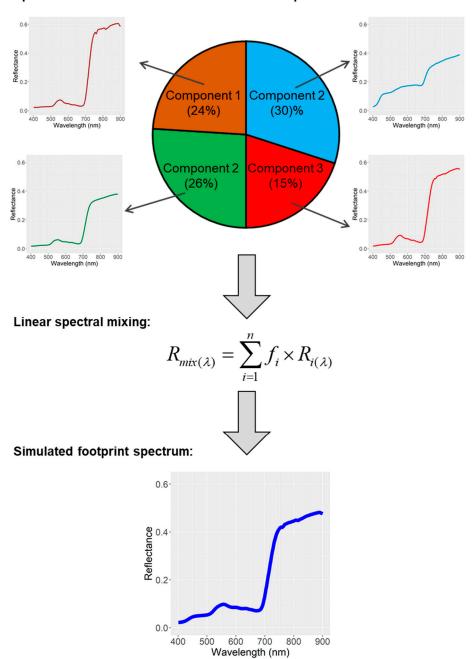




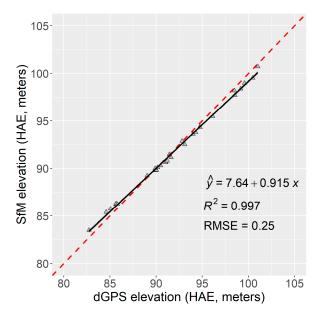
## **Supplementary Materials**

## Spectrum and fractional cover of different components:

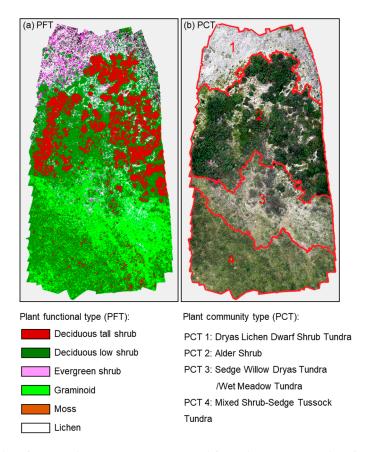


**Figure S1.** Illustration of linear spectral simulation for validation of *Osprey* spectral reflectance data. Spectrum of each component was acquired from the *in-situ* measurements using a Spectra Vista Corporation (SVC) HR-1024i spectrometer. Fractional cover of each component was from the image classification of RGB and TIR. The linear spectral mixing assumes that the spectrum of a footprint (i.e. the entire 'pie') is a linear mixture of its containing components.

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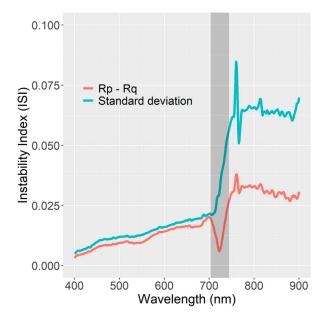


**Figure S2.** Comparison between Structure-from-Motion (SfM) derived DEM and those from dGPS measurements at Kougarok Hillslope case flight. The elevation was measured in height above ellipsoid (HAE). A R<sup>2</sup> of 0.997 and RMSE of 0.25 m was achieved, indicating a high quality of the derived DEM.



**Figure S3.** (a) Plant functional type (PFT) map merged from the raw image classification (i.e. Figure 5); (b) Representative plant community types (PCTs) identified in the case flight region.

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**Figure S4.** The intra-group standard deviation ( $\delta$ ) and inter-group difference ( $R_p$ - $R_q$ ) terms in the instability index. Though higher inter-group differences are seen in near infrared range compared with visible to red edge, much higher intra-group variations are also seen in the near infrared range, leading to the relatively lower spectral separability (as shown in Figure 9c).

**Table S1.** Confusion matrix for PFT-level classification accuracy assessment. The diagonal cells (highlighted by bold text) correspond to reference samples that were correctly classified.

Reference samples								
	Deciduous low to tall shrub	Deciduous low shrub	Evergreen shrub	Graminoid	l Lichen	Non- vegetaion	Total	User's accuracy (%)
Classified results	3							
Deciduous low to tall shrub	170	45	0	3	0	2	220	77.3
Deciduous low shrub	6	404	81	5	3	17	516	78.3
Evergreen shrub	0	0	310	0	0	7	317	97.8
Graminoid	0	7	0	169	0	0	176	96
Lichen	2	0	4	0	281	4	291	96.6
Non-vegetation	6	18	11	0	8	259	302	85.8
Total	184	474	406	177	292	289	1822	
Producer's accuracy	92.4	85.2	76.4	95.5	96.2	89.6		

Note: overall accuracy: 87.43%; Kappa coefficient: 0.85.



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