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Modeling of Forest Structure and Dynamics

Guest Editors:

Dr. Nikolay S. Strigul

Department of Mathematics and
Statistics, College of Arts and
Sciences, Washington State
University Vancouver, Vancouver,
WA 98686, USA

Dr. Demetrios Gatzolis

Research Forester US Forest
Service | FS · Pacific Northwest
Research Station

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Message from the Guest Editors

Forests are complex adaptive systems and their modelling involves substantial modeling challenges. In recent years, large datasets recording ecological variables have become widely available. These datasets provides opportunities to complement traditional experimental approaches with new generation predictive models of forest dynamics and data-driven discovery and hypothesis testing methods. These new approaches aim to evaluate vegetation and biochemistry dynamics at different spatial scales, from forests stands to the regional and continental scales. The underlying modeling challenges include three major components: (1) the use of individual-based models, as they are among the most suitable and promising tools for simulating complex-adaptive systems and interactions on multiple scales, (2) the development of different scaling methods that approximate individual-based processes, and (3) the investigation of various inverse problems to connect models with empirical data including imagery and 3D modeling.



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Prof. Dr. Giacomo Alessandro Gerosa

Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia, I-25121 Brescia, Italy

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Forests Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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