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used to automate the initial classification of the LiDAR point cloud based on a set of predetermined parameters. Lidar technicians refer to ground cover research (natural and cultural features) within the project area and determine algorithms most suitable for the initial automated LiDAR classification. (Some algorithms/filters recognize the ground in forests well, while others have greater capability in urban areas). During this process each point is given an initial classification (e.g., as ground, vegetation, or noise) based on the point's coordinates and the relation to its neighbors. Classifications to be assigned include all those outlined by ASPRS standards. The initial classifications produce a coarse and inexact dataset, but offer an adequate starting point for the subsequent manual classification procedure. During this step, "overlap" points are automatically classified (those originating from neighboring flightlines) using information gathered from the ABGPS and IMU data. Any duplicate points existing from adjacent flightlines are removed during this process. Hydrographic breaklines are collected using LiDARgrammetry to ensure hydroflattened water surfaces. This process involves manipulating the LiDAR data's intensity information to create a metrically sound stereo environment. From this generated "imagery", breaklines are photogrammetrically compiled. Breakline polygons are created to represent open water bodies. The LiDAR points that fall within these areas are classified as "water." Breaklines representing streams and rivers shall be smooth, continuous, and monotonic, and represent the water surface without any stair steps except for dams and rapids. All hydrographic breaklines include a 1 foot buffer, with the points being re-classified as Class 10 (ignored ground). TerraSolid is further used for the subsequent manual classification of the LiDAR points allowing technicians to view the point cloud in a number of ways to ensure accuracy and consistency of points and uniformity of point coverage.</stepDesc>
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