

# A QGIS based workflow for optimized cable road layout planning



L. Bont, L. Ramstein, F. Frutig, P. Moll, H. Heinimann and J. Schweier  
 Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research / ETH Zurich  
 Contact: leo.bont@wsl.ch

ETH zürich

WHFF-CH

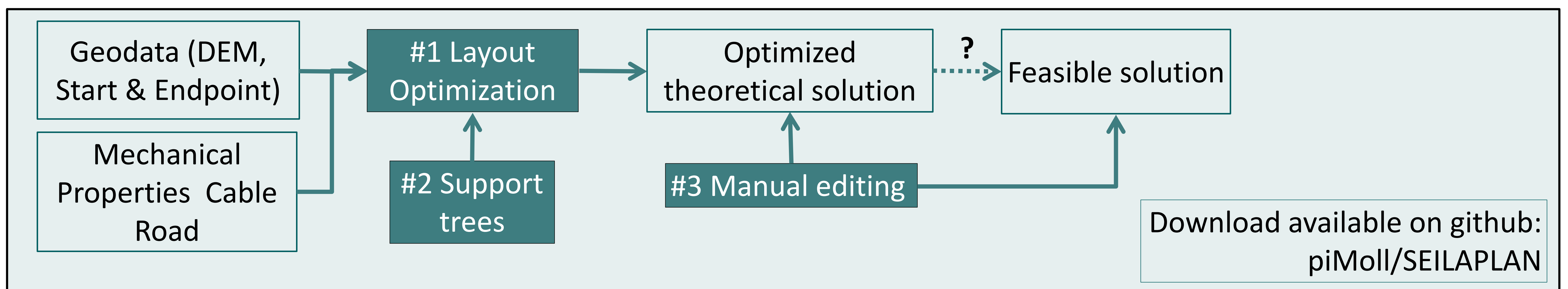
1<sup>st</sup> International Electronic Conference on Forests, 15–30 November 2020

**Context:** Cable logging is the principal wood extraction method in steep terrain.

- Planning of a cable road is a complex task
- Available planning tools do not fulfil the requirements of the practice (unprecise or unknown method to compute skyline properties / not integrated in a GIS / do not optimize the solution)
- Solution may not be feasible as not matched with existing trees (for supports)

**Aim:** User friendly QGIS plugin, containing an optimization algorithm based on catenary and detecting support trees

**Results:** Workflow in QGIS



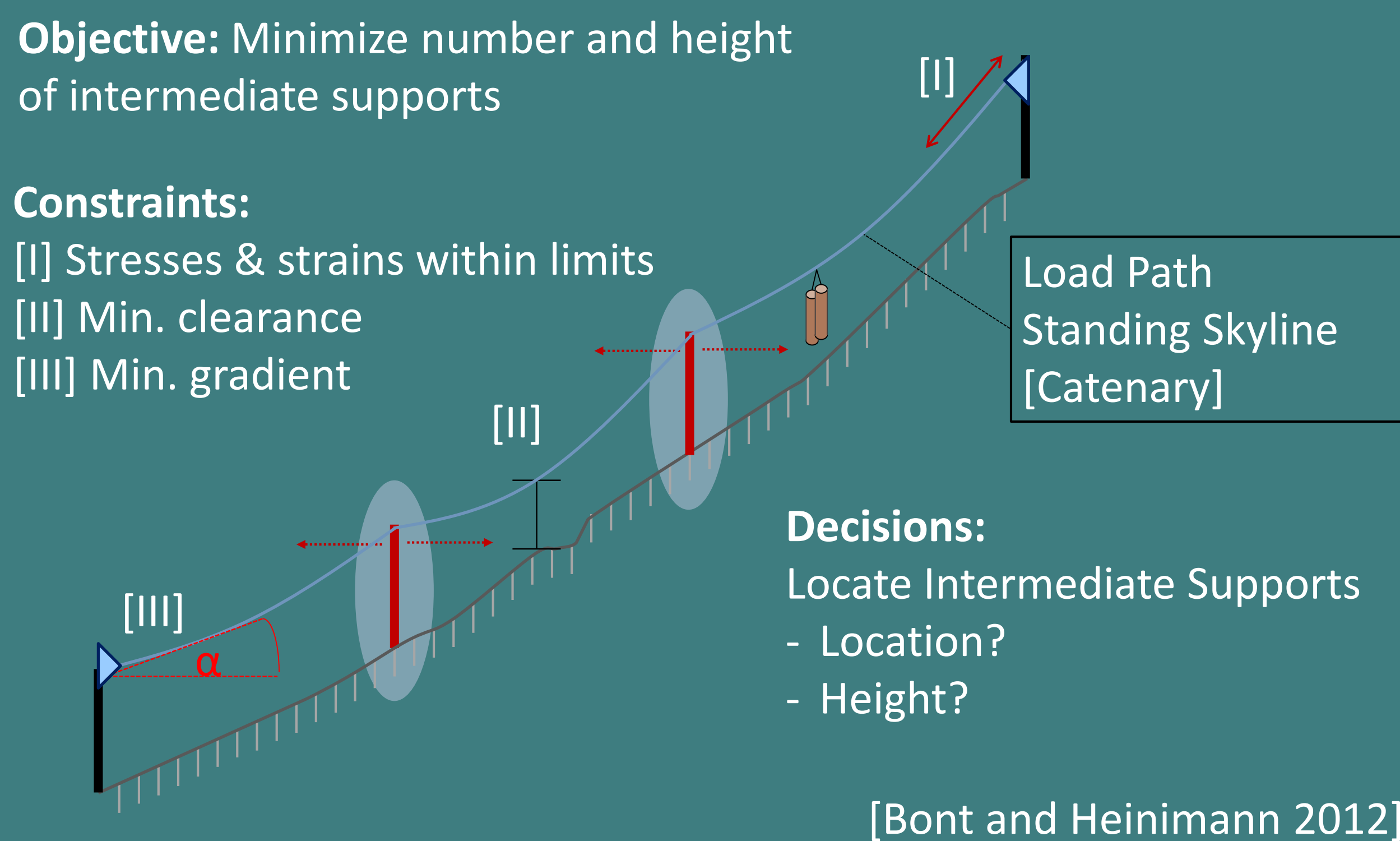
## #1 Optimize cable road layout

**Objective:** Minimize number and height of intermediate supports

**Constraints:**

- [I] Stresses & strains within limits
- [II] Min. clearance
- [III] Min. gradient

**Decisions:**  
 Locate Intermediate Supports  
 - Location?  
 - Height?



[Bont and Heinimann 2012]

## #2 Identifying support and anchor trees from remote sensing data

- Objective: Predicting Tree Height and DBH from available Remote Sensing data
- 72 method combinations were evaluated (3 Types of CHM x 8 Filter Methods x 3 Tree detection algorithms)
- Best results were achieved based on ALS Data - resolution dependent Gauss Filter - local maxima tree detection algorithm
- Tree position and tree height of the correctly detected trees show useful accuracies for cable line planning.

## #3 Manual Editing

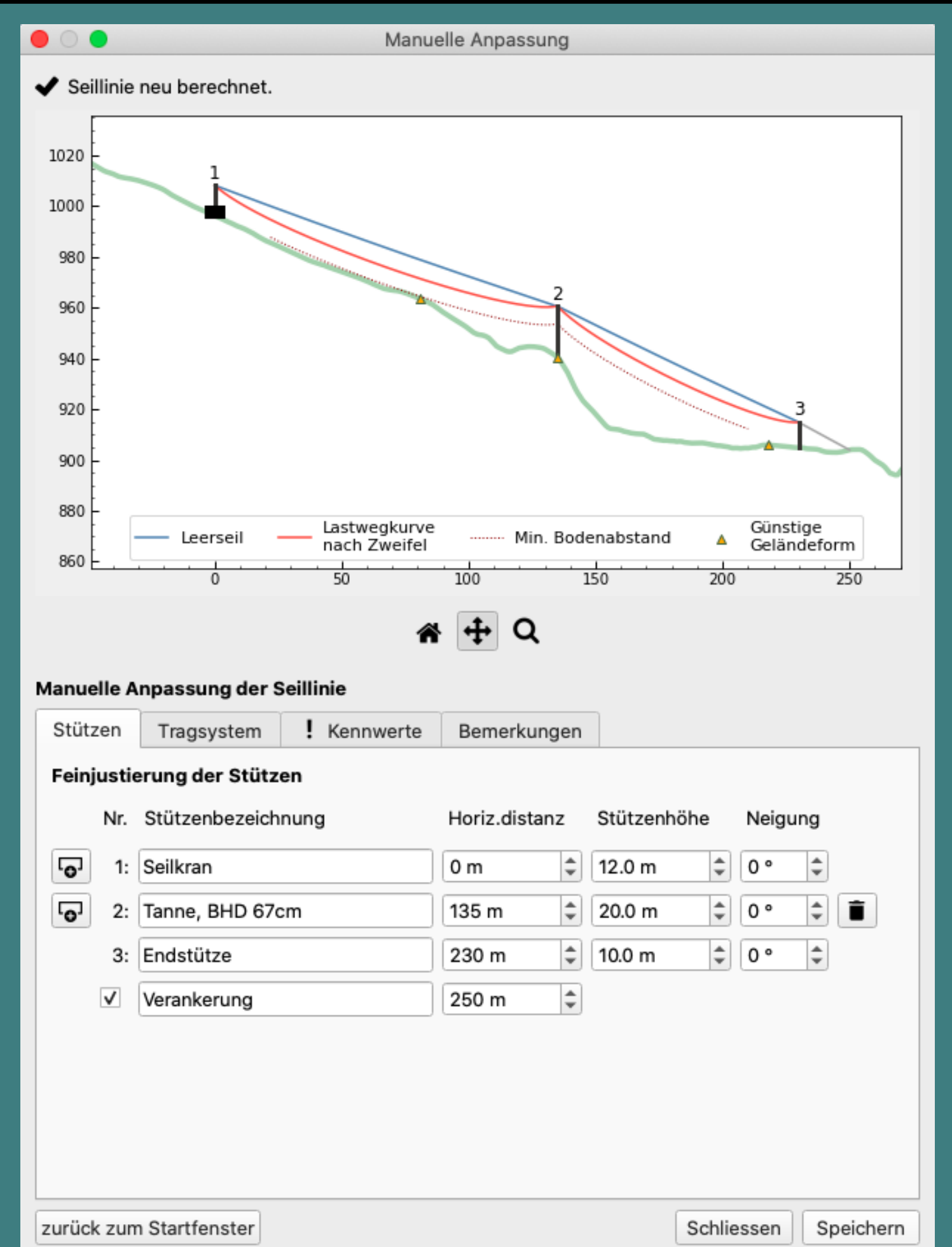
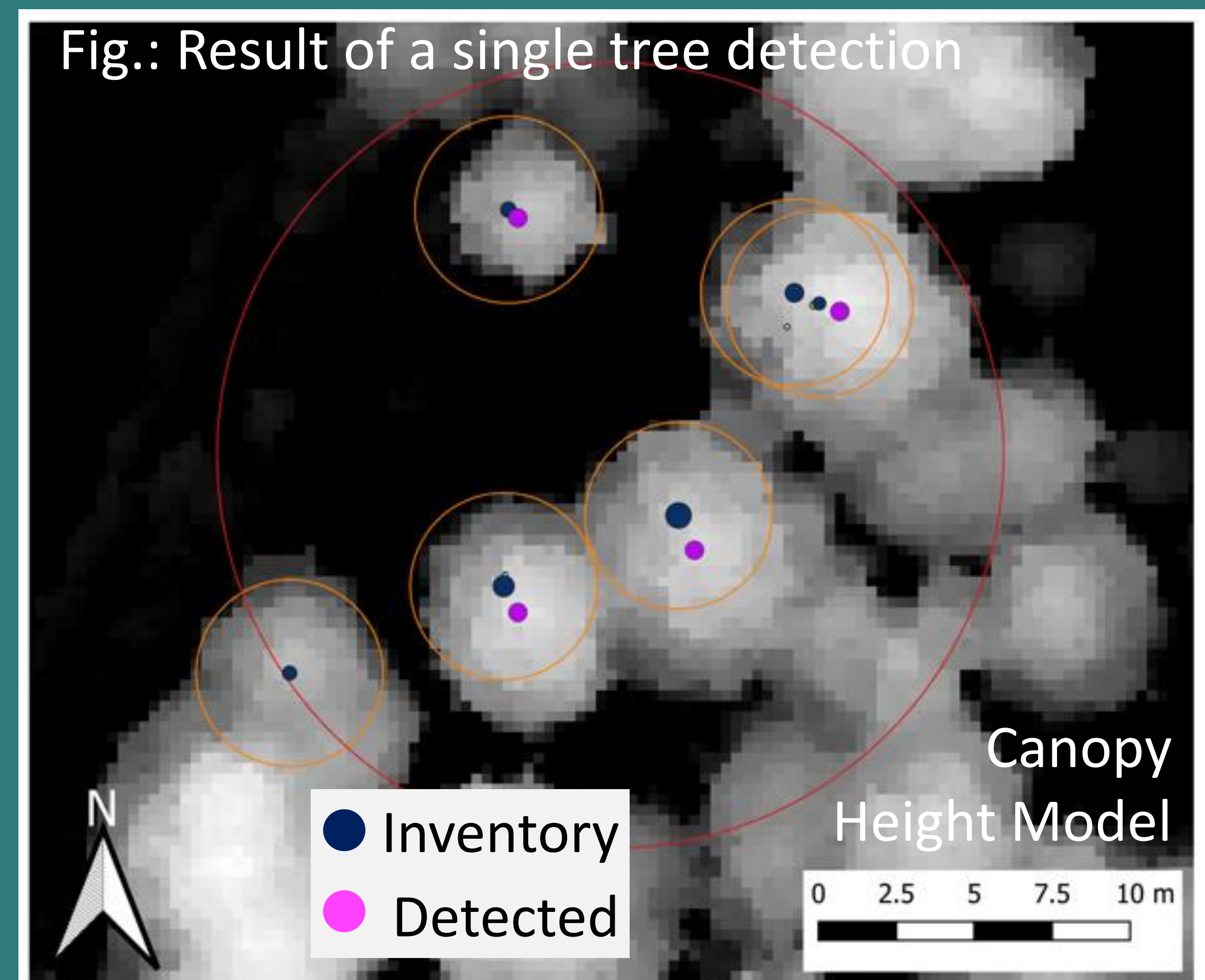


Fig.: Result of a single tree detection



**Conclusions & Outlook:** Workflow simplifies Cable Road planning and calculates more efficient solutions

- Master version available
- Ability for manual editing remains necessary