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早川 裕弐^{1*}; 小花和 宏之²; 鳴橋 竜太郎³; 吉田 英嗣⁴; 財城 真寿美⁵; 紺谷 亮一⁶; 須藤 寛史⁷; 小高 敬寛⁸; 山口 雄治⁹; Kulakoglu Fikri¹⁰

HAYAKAWA, Yuichi S.^{1*}; OBANAWA, Hiroyuki²; NARUHASHI, Ryutaro³; YOSHIDA, Hidetsugu⁴; ZAIKI, Masumi⁵; KONTANI, Ryoichi⁶; SUDO, Hiroshi⁷; ODAKA, Takahiro⁸; YAMAGUCHI, Yuji⁹; KULAKOGLU, Fikri¹⁰

¹ 東京大学空間情報科学研究センター, ² 千葉大学環境リモートセンシング研究センター, ³ 東京大学地震研究所, ⁴ 明治大学文学部, ⁵ 成蹊大学経済学部, ⁶ ノートルダム清心女子大学, ⁷ 岡山市立オリエント美術館, ⁸ 早稲田大学, ⁹ 岡山大学埋蔵文化財調査研究センター, ¹⁰ アンカラ大学

¹Center for Spatial Information Science, The University of Tokyo, ²Center for Environmental Remote Sensing, Chiba University, ³Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, ⁴Department of Geography, Meiji University, ⁵Faculty of Economics, Seikei University, ⁶Notre Dame Seishin University, ⁷Okayama Orient Museum, ⁸Waseda University, ⁹Okayama University, ¹⁰Ankara University

Human habitat and cultural activities had been significantly influenced by natural environments including landforms in the prehistoric periods. Assessment of such relationships between palaeoenvironment and artificial remains is therefore crucial in understanding the historic development. Here we examine the nature-human interactive system in the ancient period of Kayseri region, central Anatolia Highland in Turkey, in terms of spatial analysis of the distribution of landforms and archaeological settlements, targeting mainly the period from B.C. 3000 to A.D.100. We perform geospatial analyses based on several topographic data including topographic maps, satellite-based remote sensing (10 m DEM derived from PRISM sensor images on ALOS), ground-based laser rangefinder measurement with global navigation satellite system (LRF + GNSS) and ground-based structure from motion multi-view stereo photogrammetry (SfM-MVS). The topographic data at different levels of scales provides both regional- and local-scale views of landform conditions, landform classifications, and detailed characteristics of settlements. Certain effects of gradual and sudden changes in palaeoenvironment on human activities are detected, and potential of natural disasters in the study area is also discussed.

Keywords: geoaerchaeology, landform classification, digital elevation models, structure from motion