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#### ▶ To cite this version:

Mario Serouart, Raul Lopez Lozano, Maeva Beaumont, Brigitte Escale, Benoit de Solan, et al.. Maize plasticity characterization through in-field 3D phenotyping. 7th International Plant Phenotyping Symposium 2022, Sep 2022, Wageningen, Netherlands. . hal-03784065

HAL Id: hal-03784065 https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-03784065

Submitted on 22 Sep 2022

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# Maize plasticity characterization through in-field 3D phenotyping

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7th International Plant Phenotyping Symposium 2022 I Wageningen

#### **BACKGROUND & AIM**

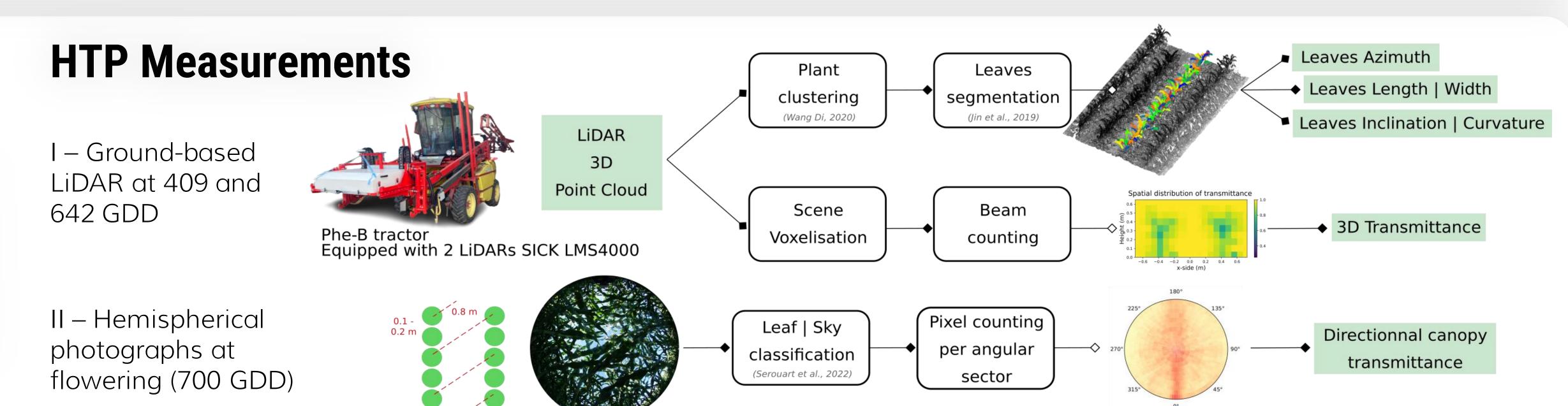
### Identifying architectural traits linked to intra-specific competition.

Plant density and sowing pattern play a key role in light interception and a number of processes that are downstream (canopy photosynthesis, evapotranspiration...). Understanding how maize genotypes can cope with intra-specific competition adapting their architecture to maximize light interception is essential to evaluate the impact of intra-specific competition in biomass production and yield. The objective of this study is to analyse the architectural plasticity of several maize hybrids using indirect high-throughput phenotyping (HTP).

#### **METHODS**

## **Experiment**

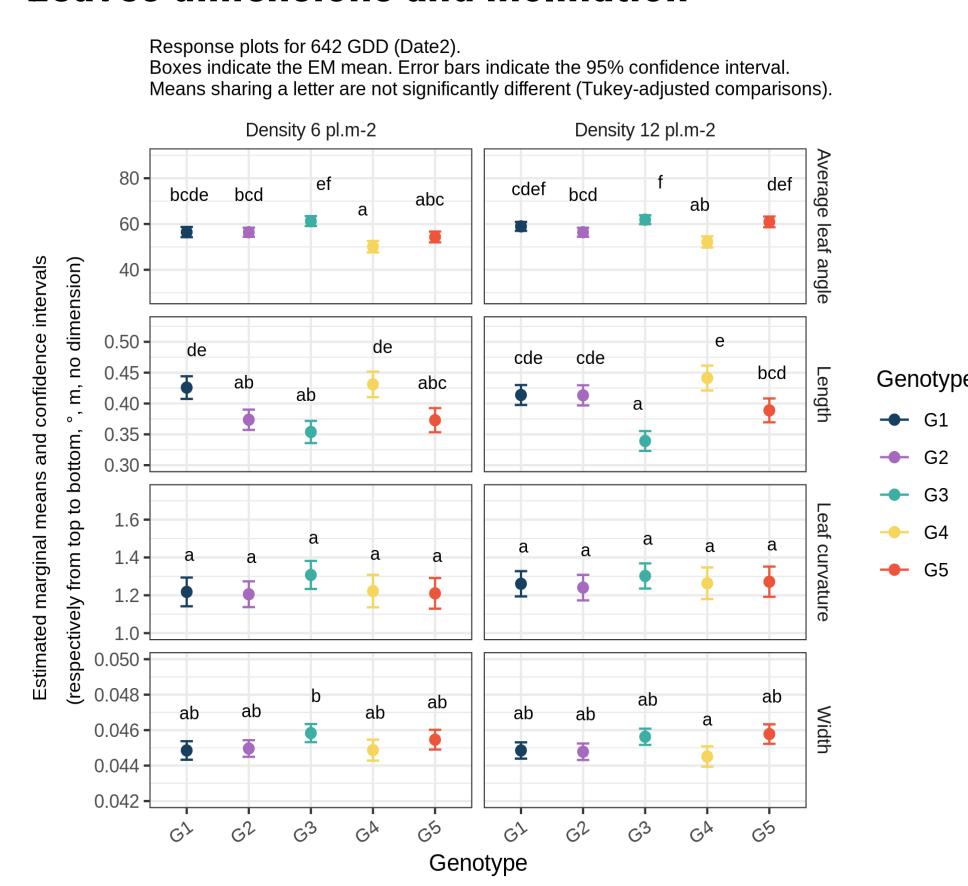
A field experiment was conducted in Montardon, France. Five commercial maize hybrids were sown at two plant density (6 and 12 plants.m-2) at 0.8 m rows spacing with three replicates.



#### RESULTS

## Genotypic differences in maize plant architecture

#### **Leaves dimensions and inclination**



LiDAR-derived traits on leaves dimensions and inclination indicates significant differences among genotypes.

Transects in the inter-row

32 photos per replicate

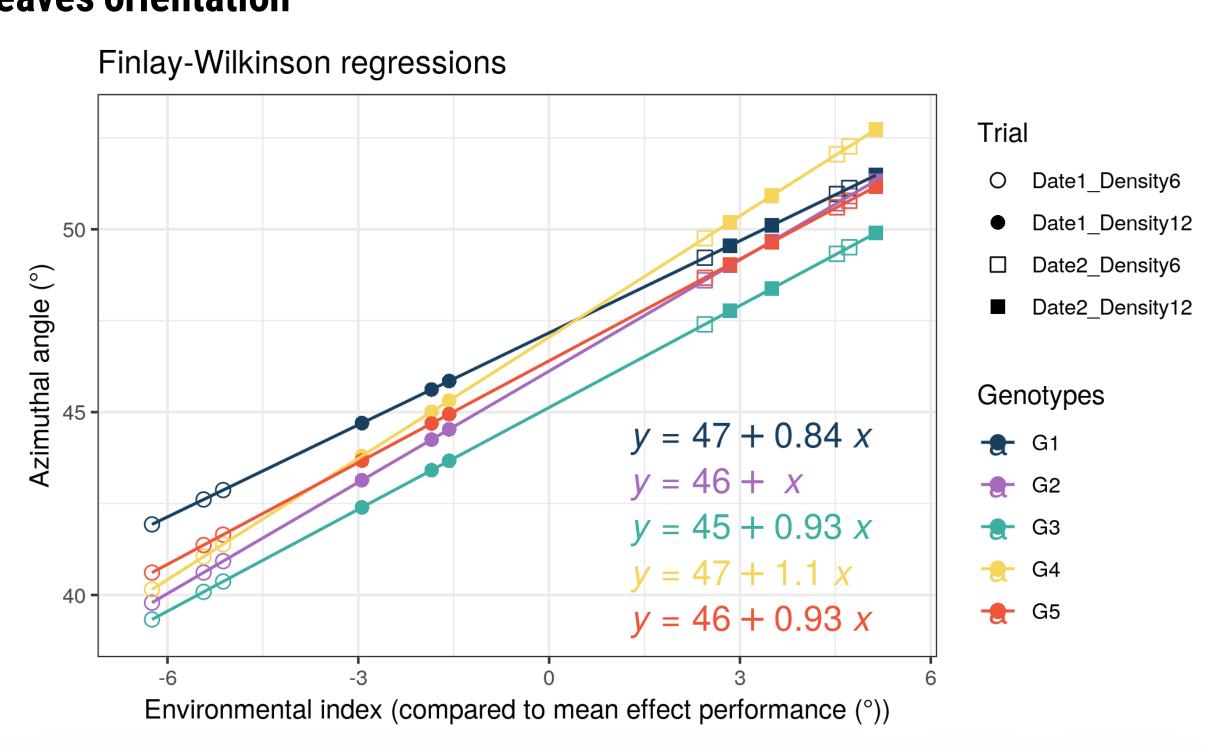
The differences are observed for leaves length and inclination:

G3 presents, systematically, shorter and more inclined leaves compared to all the others.

No significant differences were observed among the genotypes depending on plant density

G1

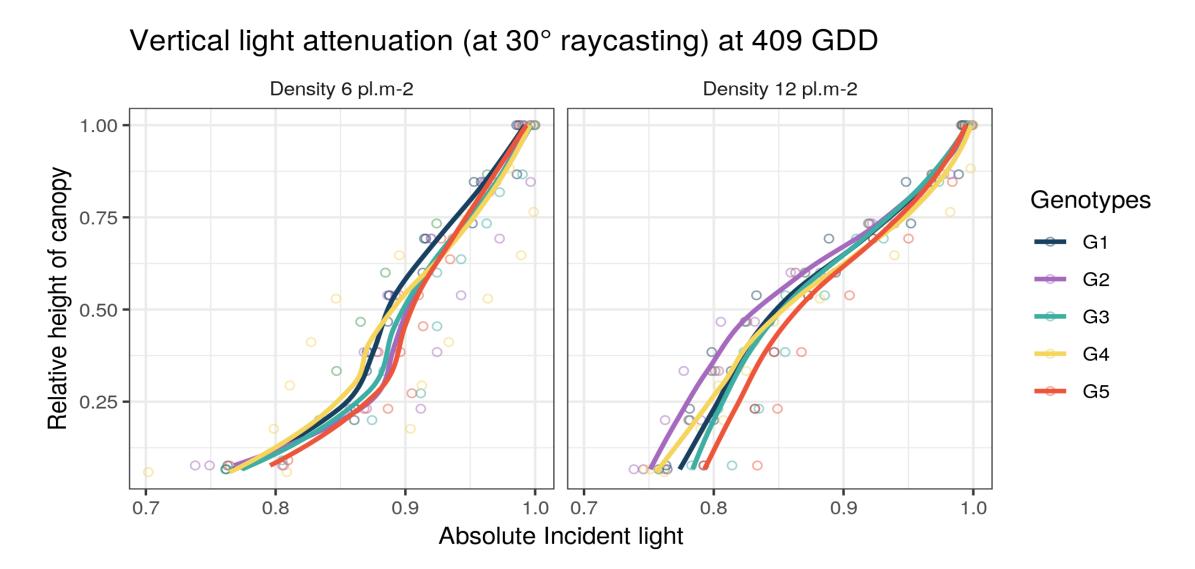
### **Leaves orientation**



An increased proportion towards azimuth angles > 45° as density increases is noted. The G4 genotype has the highest tendency to position itself perpendicular to the high density row in the sensitive also environments. most changes, with the highest 1 βi value environmental environnement. G3 is the least sensitive of the genotypes presented to environmental variations. G1 is not as capable of adjusting in competitive environmental conditions.

## Consequences for canopy transmittance

### Vertical profile of light attenuation at stage V8

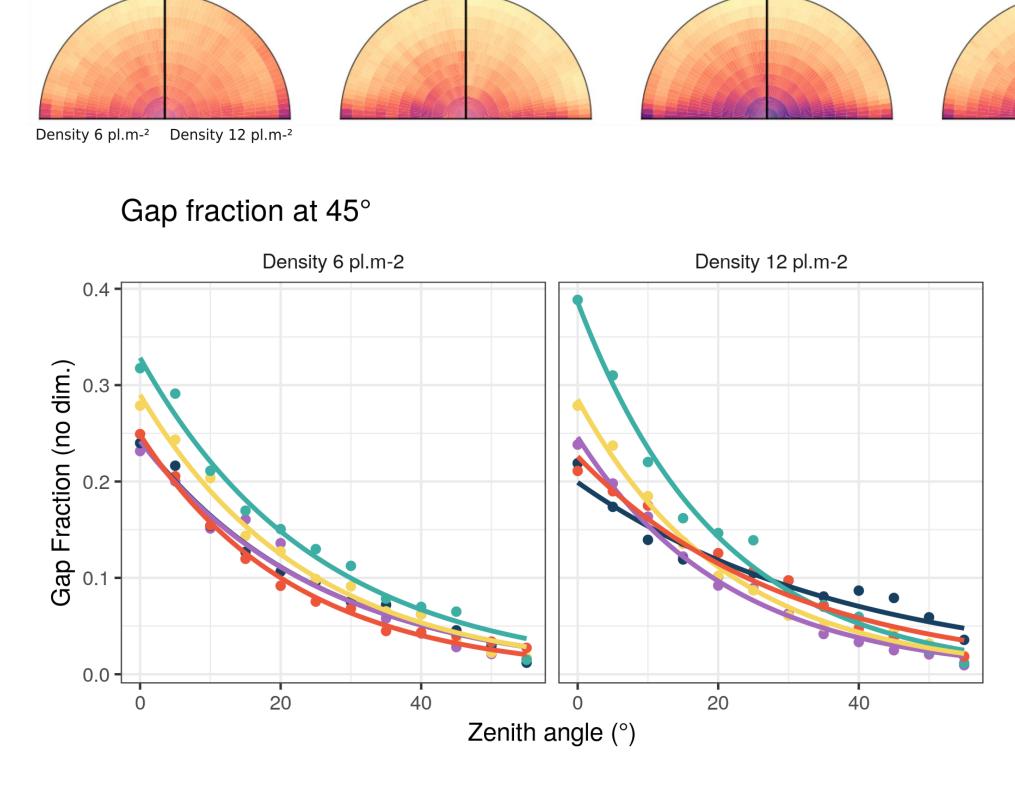


It can be estimated from LiDAR transmittance, inverting Beer-Lambert law. Thus, vertical light attenuation, i.e. impact of architecture in canopy light distribution, can be computed, also showing up to 5% differences in light perception between genotypes in lower canopy layers at early-medium stage. Further stages should be studied later.

### Total canopy gap fraction at flowering

G<sub>2</sub>

G3



G3 due seems, to least plasticity, to be more sparse with holes, especially in the near nadir directions, that may play a in the amount of perceived in direct radiation. The question here would be: Is the azimuthal plasticity, i.e. light interception and shade avoidance, a consequence of genetically and poorly adapted set of correlated functional traits



CONCLUSION

According to GxE interactions traits distributions, we would be able to model realistic canopies and further investigate impact of radiative transfer on yield.



Gap fraction

Row Dir.



