LAND USE AND LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION OF SENTINEL 2-A: ST PETERSBURG CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

Land use and land cover (LULC) maps in many areas have been used by companies, government offices, municipalities, and ministries. Accurate classification for LULC using remotely sensed data requires State of Art classification methods. The SNAP free software and ArcGIS Desktop were used for analysis and report. In this study, the optical Sentinel-2 images were used. In order to analyze the data, an object-oriented method was applied: Supported Vector Machines (SVM). An accuracy assessment is also applied to the classified results based on the ground truth points or known reference pixels. The overall classification accuracy of 83.64% with the kappa value of 0.802 was achieved using SVM. The study indicated that of SVM algorithms, the proposed framework on Sentinel-2 imagery results is satisfactory for LULC maps.

1. INTRODUCTION

Land Use Land Cover Maps are extensively used in many different organizations for various purposes. Since the usage and purpose vary, the importance of data itself and the analysis of data are really important for critical and accurate decisions. LULC maps are created by classification of images which are aerial photographs or satellite images in general. Urban is dynamic in nature, and up-to-date data is required for timely-manner information and analysis (Cavur et al, 2015).

Mapping and monitoring of land cover have been widely recognized as an important scientific goal since created information could be used to support environmental and atmospheric models, decision-making procedures etc. Currently, most of this information is collected by means of statistics, surveys, and mapping or digitizing from aerial imagery. However, the statistical data is usually course at spatial and temporal scales for large urban environments (Cavur et al, 2015). Recently, real-time information is important for critical decision and therefore, the data and the analysis methodology are critical to providing up-to-date results. In the data side, ESA has been providing Sentinel images for various purposes. Sentinel 2 data can meet the analysis requirements with its properties. Spatial resolution is one of the most important properties of satellite sensors that varies cm to km (Demirkan, Duzgun, 2017). Spectral resolution is another important property of a satellite sensor. Since Sentinel 2 data is multispectral, can be concluded successfully for LULC classes (Demirkan, Duzgun, 2017).

There are many fields of study and research fields that utilize remotely sensed data. Landsat, SPOT, IKANOS, and MODIS have spectral and/or spatial characteristics and mission objectives similar to those of Sentinel-2. The recent research related to the Sentinel-2 includes comparing Landsat-8 classification accuracies with Sentinel-2, sub-pixel feature detection evaluation between Landsat-8, Sentinel-2. Likewise, SOPT-5 failed to detect some large landscape features due to spectral limitations. On the other hand, undetected objects were successfully detected by Sentinel-2 (Radoux et al, 2016) (Demirkan, Duzgun, 2017).

Image classification for EO data has gained popularity among many researchers. There are many classification methods (George et al, 2012). Image classification is the process of assigning pixels/objects of the image to the predefined land use land cover classes. It is a complicated and time-consuming procedure and the result is affected by different factors such as classification method, nature, and the type of urban structure etc. In order to get a convincing result to be used by urban planners, combining the different classification approaches would be necessary.

The main objective of this study is to use Sentinel-2A satellite images and prove that the Sentinel 2 images are usable for classification with a good and reasonable accuracy for LULC.

2. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

2.1 Data

The urban area covered in this study is part of St Petersburg, where Sentinel 2A satellite image is used. It has many classification approaches which applied to the Sentinel satellite images. For instance, in a fusion approach for Sentinels data is introduced (Kaplan et al, 2018). It is proved that the object-oriented approach better than the pixel-based approach for LULC classification (Maglione et al, 2013 and Kaplan et al,
2018). In this study, the SVM classification approach is applied on Sentinel 2 data with a unique methodology. The SVM’s performance is dependent on the selection of the appropriate kernel type and (Petropoulos et al, 2007). In this study a radial basis function kernel is selected as it is found to be more suitable for LULC applications (Petropoulos et al, 2007) has the 13 bands resolution images among the satellite.

The main objective of Sentinel 2 satellite are providing data for risk management, land use and land cover mapping, change detection, natural hazards, water management. Sentinel-2 gives global coverage every five days. It is equipped with a multispectral imager (MSI) with 13 bands (Drusch et al, 2012). Figure 1 shows the selected site from St Petersburg, which covers a central business district, densely built up with road features and river.

At first, the product of Sentinel 2-A was opened in SNAP. It was resampled in 10 meters in all bands because of further applications. Then, the image was saved as in ENVI format and further steps were applied in ENVI.

Figure 1. Sentinel 2 image for the study area in St. Petersburg.

### 2.2 Methodology

The research methodology followed in this study has five steps, which are data collection, preprocessing, first level classification, second level classification and combining classes and accuracy assessment which is shown in Figure 1.

In data collection phase, ESA Sentinel Online website was used (https://scihub.copernicus.eu/dhus/). Drawing region of interest and making a search is described in the same website. All the data are available free of charge.

Preprocessing has been done by the application called SNAP which was developed for ESA by CS in partnership with Brockmann Consult, CS-Romania, Telespazio Vega Deutschland, INRA, and UCL and named Sentinels Application Platform.

The first classification level of this study consisted of four main classes which are water, vegetation, bare land and build up. For classification of the first level, there were three pre-steps. The first step was creating normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), the second was creating normalized difference water index (NDWI) and the third was masking the image with these indices. After these steps, SVM was applied for classification. Second level classification and class combination are also done by ENVI. In second level classification, all classes had their own masked image. For example, in water class, only the water containing areas had a normal pixel value and the others were zero, which means that all pixels appeared black during the visualization of the area. Those raw data were created before first level classification. Again, for second level classification, SVM was used and LULC maps were created.

Last part of the study was accuracy assessment. In order to verify that this study is legitimate, accuracies and kappa coefficients of each test were calculated.

Details of the study steps are given in Figure 2. The numbers near each class represent the CORINE LULC hierarchy code.

![Flowchart of the applied classification methodology.](image)

Vegetation can be extracted from NDVI (El-Gammal et al, 2014). NDVI formula is given in the following equation. Figure 3 indicates the NDVI of the interested region.

\[
NDVI = \frac{(NI-Red)}{(NI + Red)}
\]
Then some thresholding should be done for extracting water. NDWI formula is given in the following equation (Qiao et al., 2012). Figure 4 indicates the NDWI of the interested region.

\[
NDVI = \frac{\text{Green} - \text{NI}}{\text{Green} + \text{NI}}
\]

In this study, each step in each level increases the accuracies of the classification. Using NDVI and NDWI was very helpful.

In this level, classes of the classification data divided into subcategories and some categories merged together shown in the flowchart of the framework. For example, water is divided into inland water and marine water. Vegetation is divided into forest and vegetated agriculture land. Bare land is divided into barren land and non-vegetated agriculture land. Then vegetated and non-vegetated agriculture lands are combined.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
success is proven with the case study accuracy results and successfully for creating LULC maps with Sentinel-2 data. Its Consequently, it can be said that the methodology worked successfully for creating LULC maps with Sentinel-2 data. Its success is proven with the case study accuracy results and Kappa coefficients.

4. CONCLUSION

The main objective of this study was to create a LULC map and to test the capabilities of the newly launched Sentinel-2 sensor for EO.

Two steps of the framework were developed for similar data types to extract information for LULC. The methodology and framework with selected approach (SVM) were given reliable result for urban planning. The accuracy and Kappa statistics results which are 83.64 and 0.802 respectively are satisfactory for urban planning.

Consequently, it can be said that the methodology worked successfully for creating LULC maps with Sentinel-2 data. Its success is proven with the case study accuracy results and Kappa coefficients.

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