

Performance of Combination of Texture and Object Based Techniques in Image Classification for Urban Land Cover

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ABSTRACT

Satellite imagery paves way to obtain tangible information through remote sensing techniques. It is necessary to classify the image in order to extract the features. There exist various classification techniques and algorithms to retrieve various features from imagery. As the technology development proceeds in a faster track it is necessary to compensate its advancements by developing new techniques for feature retrieval. As far as high resolution satellite imagery are concerned object based feature retrieval and texture based feature retrieval techniques are gaining its importance. The texture based feature retrieval has various techniques involved in it, among which Haralick's texture parameters has much importance. Thereby object based technique also has its own way of algorithms and processes for feature retrieval. The eCognition software provides a platform for combining texture and object based technique. It is well known from various journals that object based technique is best for classifying high resolution imagery. Thus the image is primarily segmented into objects for classification. The Haralick's texture parameters which serve well in classification of urban land cover is chosen by computing statistical analysis. Finally the chosen texture parameter is adopted in the classification of the objects. The classified imagery is checked for accuracy and a high accuracy of 94.5% is obtained.

Keywords: texture; object; satellite imagery; haralick's texture parameters; statistical analysis; urban feature extraction; classification

INTRODUCTION

The object based feature retrieval technique is gaining its importance as the resolution of the satellite imagery increases. Earlier in low resolution images a single pixel holds a specific feature whereas in high resolution imagery, many pixels together comprises a feature. Thus clubbing the pixels together as objects serve good in feature extraction. The segmentation process clusters the pixels into groups forming objects. Further processes are carried out over the objects so as to classify the imagery or extract a specified feature.

While describing texture based feature retrieval it is important to notify that, the texture parameters takes the spatial relationship (i.e.) the information about the spatial arrangement of intensities or colours into account. Thus both spatial and spectral characteristics are considered in texture based technique.

Thereby taking into study the performance of object based technique combined with texture based technique is expected to give better accuracy in image classification. The eCognition software paves a finest platform to exhibit and experiment the behavior of the combination of these techniques.

DATA USED

High resolution satellite imagery of an urban land cover is required for the study. The IKONOS imagery of SanDiego city, California, USA is used, which provides a spatial resolution of 1m. SanDiego is one among the important cities of California which has a dense urban land cover. Fig. 1 is the true colour IKONOS imagery of a part of SanDiego city.



Figure 1. IKONOS image of San Diego city.

METHODOLOGY

Primarily the optimum texture parameter has to be statistically analyzed and known. There are nearly thirteen Haralick's texture parameters. Each of the texture layer is computed and analyzed individually for various urban features. The statistical computations are made for each urban feature so as to examine the optimal texture parameter for urban feature retrieval. The statistical mean and range were chosen for statistical analysis.

In eCognition platform, the segmentation process is carried out so as to split the image into objects. Over the object layer, the classification is carried out based on the chosen texture parameter. Finally the classified image is checked for accuracy. Fig. 2 describes the methodology in a form of flow chart.

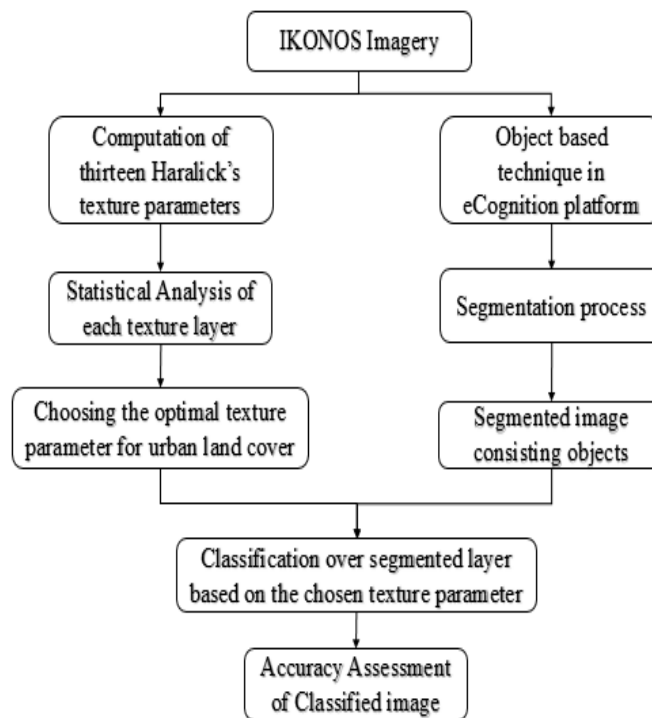


Figure 2. Methodology Flow Chart.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Statistical Examination of Texture Parameters

The texture analysis is performed over the IKONOS imagery so as to examine the capacity of each texture parameter in urban feature extraction. The statistical mean of each layer over various urban features proved essential in identifying the optimal texture parameter. The Haralick texture parameter, GLCM Mean is found to be of considerable importance because of its considerable variation in each direction from fig 3.

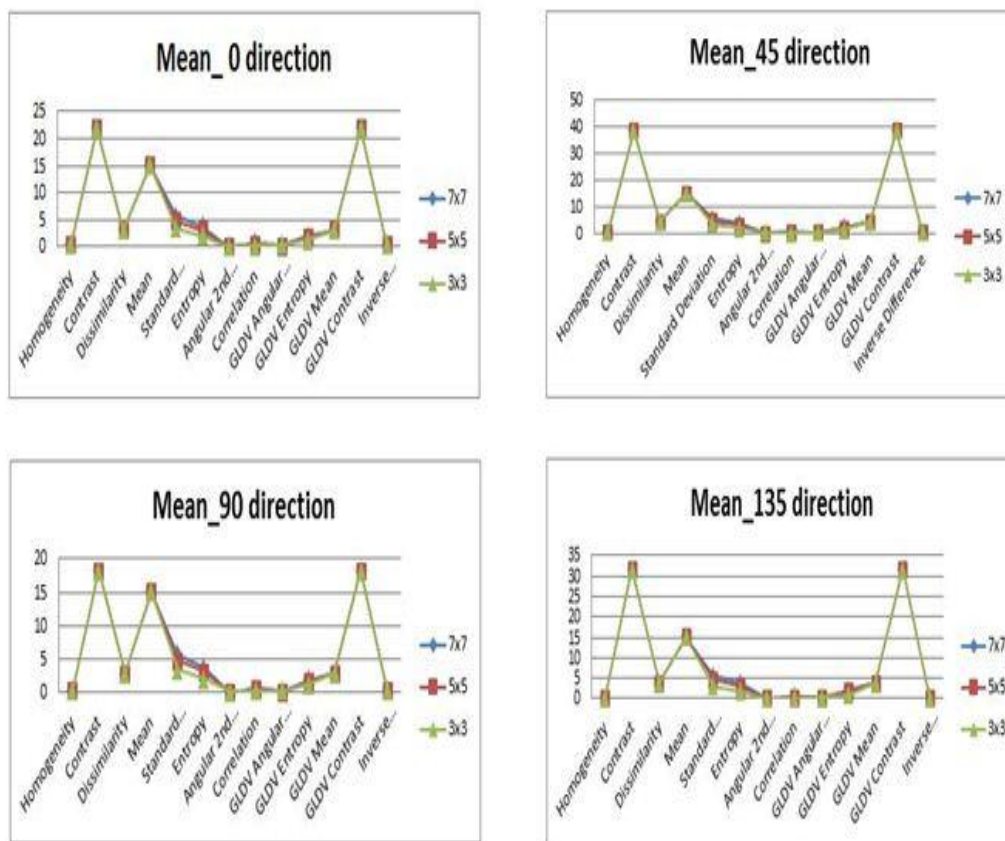


Figure 3. Results from statistical Analysis.

B. Segmentation Process

The preliminary step involving object based technique is segmentation. Multi resolution segmentation algorithm is used for segmentation. An optimal scale, shape factor and compactness are also prescribed in order to obtain optimal objects essential for classification of urban land cover.

C. Classification and Accuracy Assessment

The classification is thus carried out over the segmented imagery. Based on the GLCM Mean values, the urban features such as Road, Tree, Barren land, Concrete Building, Red Tiled building, Wooden building and Shadow were classified. Fig. 4 shows the classified image.

Finally in order to validate the performance of the technique involving both texture and object based technique, accuracy assessment is carried over the classified image and an accuracy of 94.5% is obtained.

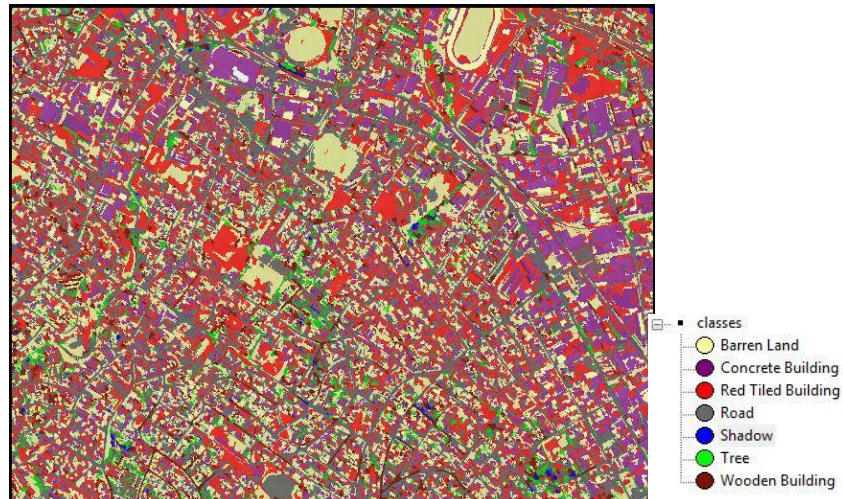


Figure 4. Classified image.

CONCLUSION

The urban land cover classification is done in an effective manner with a very good accuracy of 94.5% adopting the texture and object based technique together in a single platform. This efficiency proves the efficiency of the combination of two new techniques. Thus it is evident that high resolution satellite imageries has a better technique for image classification than the traditional ones.

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