

Google Earth Web Service as a Support for GIS Mapping in Geospatial Research at Universities

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Study Area



Location

The study region is located in western Turkey, Izmir surroundings

Humans

Anthropogenic pressure: well developed transport network, intensive shipping & maritime constructions, densely populated urban districts, agricultural cultivation.

Landscapes

The region of Izmir is a particular part of Turkey: it has unique landscapes with variety of vegetation types, diverse relief and natural reserve areas.

Biodiversity

Vegetation within the Aegean region has very complex character. Area is characterized by the the variety, biogeographical diversity and richness.

Metropolis

Izmir, a 3rd large city of Turkey: high industrial importance (factories and plants).

Examples

Seaport: Izmir is a key harbor, strategic for the country and Mediterranean Sea.

Research Questions and Goals



Izmir: aerial view. Source: Google Earth

Visualization

Visualization of the landscapes in the given time scope of 13 years (1987-2000)

Results

Demonstration & discussion of the results

Research Questions and Goals:

Question 1

How landscapes within the test area of Izmir region changed due to the anthropogenic effects ?

Question 2

If there are changes, what are the exact areas (in ha or km) occupied by every land cover type ?

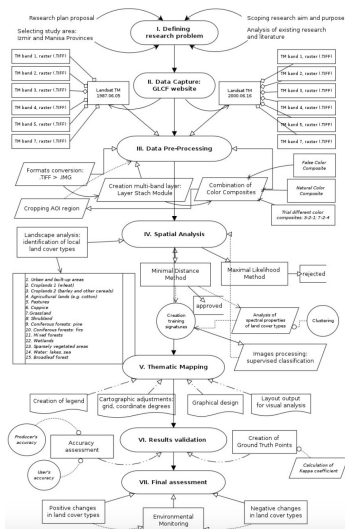
Question 3

How can remote sensing (RS) data and GIS tools of Erdas Imagine be used for answering questions (1) and (2).

Computations Quality

Calculate & assess accuracy

Methods



Data Preprocessing

Data import and conversion

Study Area

Creating multi-band layer & color composite
Selecting AOI (Area Of Interest)

Clustering

Clustering segmentation and classification
GIS Mapping

Quality Assessment

Verification via Google Earth. Accuracy Assessment

Results

Analyzing results. Landscape Mapping

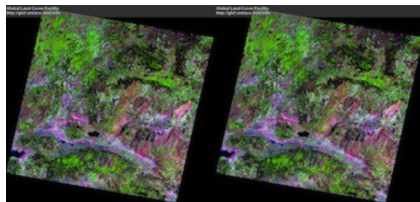
Methodological Flowchart

Data Import



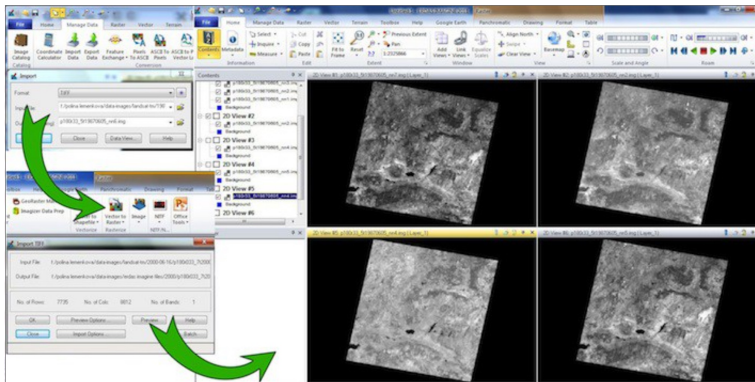
- Study Area. Selecting study area covered by Landsat TM scenes.
- GLCF website: Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM)
- Global Land Cover Facility (GLCF) Earth Science Data Interface
- Analysis of vegetation types: images taken during summer (June).

For selecting target area, a spatial mask of coordinates ranging from 26°00'-26°00' E to 38°00'-39°00' N was applied.



- Target images: 1987 and 2000
- Time span of 13-years (1987-2000)
- Change detection in the land cover types.

Data Conversion



Conversion of raw .TIFF Landsat TM images into Erdas Imagine ".img" format.

Creating Multi-band Color Composite

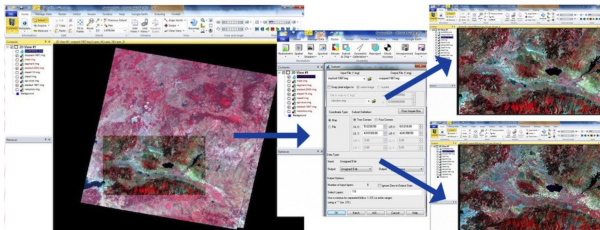
The diagram illustrates the workflow for creating a multi-band color composite in ArcGIS:

- Diagram:** A 'LAYERSTACK Conditional' diagram shows two 'INPUT RASTER #1' and 'INPUT RASTER #2' feeding into a 'Variable LAYERSTACK' box, which then outputs to an 'OUTPUT RASTER'.
- Step 1:** A screenshot of the 'Layer Selection and Tracking' dialog box. The 'Layer' field is set to 'Input File 1.img'. The 'Expression' field contains a conditional statement: `if(IsNull($Raster1), $Raster2, $Raster1)`.
- Step 2:** A screenshot of the 'Process' dialog box. The 'Tool Name' is 'Variable LAYERSTACK' and the 'Tool Path' is 'C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\toolbox\Variable LAYERSTACK.tbx'.
- Step 3:** A screenshot of the 'Layer Properties' dialog box for 'Input File 1.img'. The 'Color Table' tab is selected, showing a 'Color Table' with 256 entries.
- Final Output:** Two screenshots of the ArcGIS interface showing the final multi-band color composite image. The top screenshot shows the image in the 'Contents' pane, and the bottom screenshot shows the image in the 'Data View' pane.

Selecting AOI

Test area: Izmir surroundings.

- Test area: Manisa and Izmir provinces covering various landscapes types;
- AOI ecological diversity: urban built-up areas, coastal zone, agricultural crop areas, hilly landscapes;
- Urban areas located on the coastal area of the Aegean Sea with ca. 4 M people;
- Human impact on the environment: demographic, cultural & economic pressure;
- This is reflected in various land cover types, landscapes patterns, heterogeneity;



- Left: Selecting AOI from the overlapping initial Landsat images.
- Center: adjusting parameters, Erdas Imagine.
- Right: AOI 1987 (above) and AOI 2000 (below).

Clustering Segmentation

Principle of Clustering

The logical algorithmic approach of clustering segmentation consists in merging pixels on the images into clusters. Grouping pixels is based on the assessment of their homogeneity, that is, distinguishability from the neighboring pixel elements.

Differentiating Patterns

Image classification consists in assignation of all pixels into land cover classes of the study area. Classification is done using multispectral data, spectral pattern (signatures) of the pixels that represent land cover classes.

Segmentation Application

Clusters enable to analyze spectral & textural characteristics of the land cover types, i.e. to perform spatial analysis. Accurate cluster segmentation of the images is an important step for supervised classification.

Examples

Digital Numbers (DNs) The DN's show values of the spectral reflectance in land cover features and individual object properties. Various land cover types and landscape features are detected using individual properties of digital numbers (DNs) of the pixels.

Clustering: Algorithm

Conceptual Approach

Clustering was performed to classify pixels into thematic groups, or clusters. Number of clusters = 15, which responds to the selected land cover types in the study area.

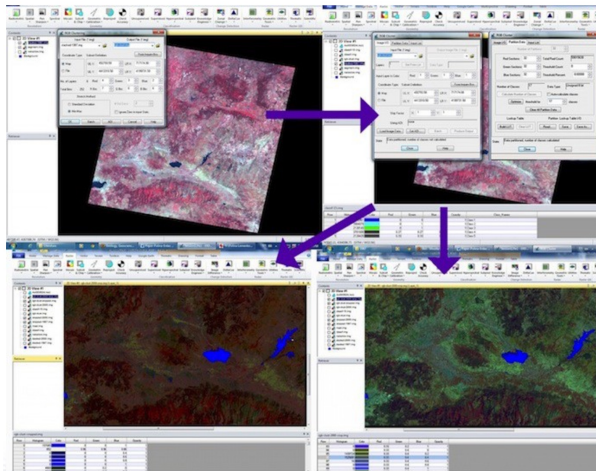
Iteration Process

During clustering, each digital pixel on the image is categorized to the respecting cluster. Assigned cluster is the one to which the mean DN value of the given pixel is the closest one. The process is repeated in an iterative way.

Examples

Identification: Iteration continued until optimal values of the class groups and the pixels assigned to the corresponding classes are reached. Afterwards, the land cover types were visually assessed and identified for each land cover class.

Clustering: Visualization

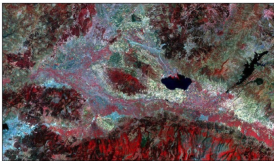


- Final thematic mapping is based on the results of the image classification:
- Visualizing landscape structure and land cover in the study area.
- Final thematic maps are represented on the following two slides.

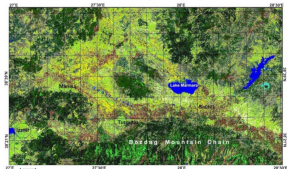
Maps of 1987 and 2000

LAND COVER TYPES IN PROVINCES MANISA AND IZMIR, WESTERN TURKEY.
Supervised classification applied to Landsat TM image, 2000.

1. Landsat TM initial image

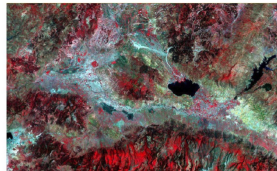


2. Thematic map of land cover types

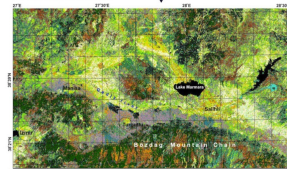


LAND COVER TYPES IN PROVINCES MANISA AND IZMIR, WESTERN TURKEY.
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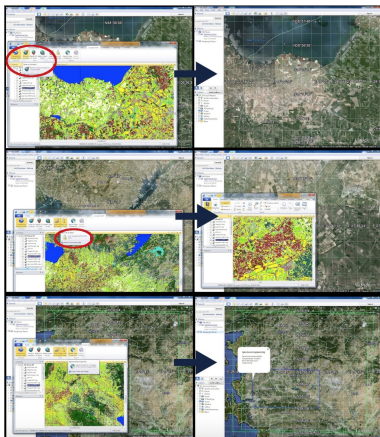


1987

2000

Classified Landsat TM image (above) and thematic map of land cover types (below).

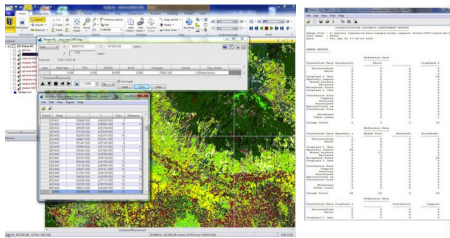
Verification via the Google Earth: Algorithm



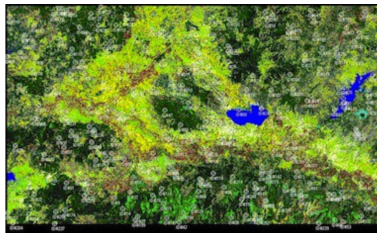
Linking Map with the Google Earth

- The selected areas with the most diverse landscape structure and high heterogeneity of the land cover types, have been verified by the overlapping of the Google Earth aerial images.
- The function “connect to Google Earth” was activated that enabled to visualize the same region of the current study on the Google Earth in a simultaneous way.
- The functions “Link Google Earth to View” and “Sync Google Earth to View” enabled to synchronize the view areas between the Google Earth and the current view on the image.
- This enabled to check the difficult study areas where questions arose in which land cover type this site belongs.

Computing Error Matrix



Left: Correction of the assigned class values of the generated points according to the real values.
 Right: Error matrix generated for each land cover class, Landsat TM classification 1987.



Results validation: the quality control and validation of the results
 Quality control was performed using accuracy assessment operations in Erdas Imagine menu

Final Calculations

ACCURACY TOTALS

Class Name	Reference Totals	Classified Totals	Number Correct	Producers Accuracy	Users Accuracy
Unclassified	0	0	0	---	---
Water	2	2	2	66.67%	100.00%
Cropland 2 (barley, rye)	14	14	14	77.78%	100.00%
Sparsely vegeta	42	41	39	92.86%	95.12%
Mixed forests	30	27	27	90.00%	100.00%
Wetlands	3	1	1	20.00%	100.00%
Broadleaf forest	29	21	24	86.66%	82.57%
Cropland 1 (wheat)	2	2	2	55.56%	100.00%
Coniferous forest	4	0	0	---	---
Coppice	25	23	21	84.00%	91.80%
Pastures	21	18	18	85.71%	100.00%
Grasslands	6	2	2	33.33%	100.00%
Agricultural la	2	2	2	40.00%	100.00%
Coniferous forest	24	24	21	87.50%	91.25%
Shrubland	1	0	0	---	---
Urban areas	1	5	1	100.00%	2.00%
Totals	256	256	208		

Overall Classification Accuracy = 81.25%

----- End of Accuracy Totals -----

KAPPA (K) STATISTICS

Overall Kappa Statistics = 0.7923

Conditional Kappa for each Category:

Class Name	Kappa
Unclassified	0.0000
Water	1.0000
Cropland 2 (barley, rye)	1.0000
Sparsely vegetated areas	0.9416
Mixed forests	1.0000
Wetlands	1.0000
Broadleaf forest	0.8181
Cropland 1 (wheat)	1.0000
Coniferous forest (fir)	0.8108
Coppice	0.8086
Pastures	1.0000
Grasslands	1.0000
Agricultural lands (cotton, etc)	0.8929
Coniferous forest (pine)	0.8929
Shrubland	0.0919
Urban areas	0.0000

----- End of Kappa Statistics -----

ACCURACY TOTALS

Class Name	Reference Totals	Classified Totals	Number Correct	Producers Accuracy	Users Accuracy
Unclassified	0	0	0	---	---
Grasslands	23	23	20	86.96%	80.00%
Urban areas	2	2	2	77.78%	87.50%
Coniferous forest	10	10	9	90.00%	69.23%
Coppice	4	3	3	75.00%	100.00%
Coniferous forest	23	19	18	78.26%	84.74%
Wetlands	3	1	0	0.00%	0.00%
Cropland 1 (wheat)	5	0	0	---	---
Cropland 2 (barley, rye)	17	17	14	82.35%	82.35%
Mixed forests	7	6	4	57.14%	66.67%
Mixed forests	32	41	31	96.88%	75.61%
Agricultural lands	16	10	10	62.50%	100.00%
Pastures	18	19	14	77.78%	73.68%
Sparsely vegeta	42	46	40	95.24%	56.96%
Broadleaf forest	10	14	9	90.00%	64.29%
Shrubland	2	4	2	100.00%	75.00%
Totals	256	256	206		

Overall Classification Accuracy = 80.47%

----- End of Accuracy Totals -----

KAPPA (K) STATISTICS

Overall Kappa Statistics = 0.7842

Conditional Kappa for each Category:

Class Name	Kappa
Unclassified	0.0000
Grasslands	0.8000
Urban areas	0.8750
Coniferous forest (pine)	0.6798
Coppice	1.0000
Coniferous forest (fir)	0.8422
Wetlands	0.0119
Cropland 1 (wheat)	0.0000
Cropland 2 (barley, rye)	0.7784
Mixed forests	0.6115
Mixed forests	0.6579
Agricultural lands (cotton, etc)	0.7119
Pastures	0.6000
Sparsely vegetated areas	0.7169
Broadleaf forest	0.6440
Shrubland	0.6283

----- End of Kappa Statistics -----

Classification of Landsat TM image, 1987. Classification of Landsat TM image, 2000.

Accuracy Results: Kappa Statistics

Land Cover Class	No pixels, 1987	No of pixels, 2000	Area(ha), 1987	Area (ha), 2000
Grasslands	411879	795422	2141	4134
Urban areas	1443590	1797360	7504	9342
Coniferous forest (pines)	1253627	1711708	6516	8898
Coniferous forests (firs)	871502	921977	4530	4793
Coppice	1058062	134659	5500	700
Wetlands	51041	27721	265	144
Croplands 1 (wheat)	458425	643684	2382	3345
Croplands 2 (barley, cereals)	220975	850931	1149	4423
Mixed forests	790421	242800	4109	1262
Agricultural lands (cotton, etc)	24344	925968	127	4813
Pastures	815377	283646	4238	1474
Sparsely vegetated areas	165250	1137789	859	5914
Broadleaf forests	1716519	1098428	8923	5710
Shrubland	1260254	350603	6550	1822

Accuracy results for Landsat TM image classification are computed as follows:

- The classification of the image 1987: accuracy 81.25%, 2000: 80,47%.
- Kappa statistics for the image 2000: 0.7843, for the image 1987: 0.7923

Comments on Table

Land Cover Changes

The results indicate changes in land cover types affected by human activities, i.e. increased agricultural areas. Natural vegetation, decreased, which can be explained by the expansion of the agricultural lands.

1987

1987: croplands (wheat) covered 71% of the today's area (2000): 2382 vs. 3345 ha. Coppice areas covered 5500 ha while later on there are only 700 ha in this land type.

2000

Increase in barley cropland areas is noticeable as well: 1149 ha in 1987 vs. 4423 ha in 2000. Sparsely vegetated areas in 2000 also occupy more areas : 5914 ha, against 859 ha in 1987.

Conclusions

Conclusions:

- Increased human activities (agricultural works, urbanization, industrialization) affect environment, cause negative impacts on the ecosystems and make changes in the vegetation coverage (land cover types).
- Climate change affect land cover types: decrease of typical woody vegetation.
- Drastic land use changes are recorded and detected in diverse regions of Turkey, including Izmir surroundings.

Résumé:

Actuality

Monitoring land cover changes is necessary for maintaining environmental sustainability. Updated information and spatial analysis are useful tools.

Dynamics

The classification results detected changes in landscapes in 2000 comparing to 1987. This proved anthropogenic impacts on the landscapes which affect sustainable environmental development of the region.

Techniques

The results demonstrated successful combination of the RS data and methods of GIS spatial analysis, effective for monitoring of highly heterogeneous landscapes in the area of intensive anthropogenic activities.

Thank you for attention !

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