

Multi-Source Data Fusion and Image Compression in Urban Remote Sensing

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Abstract

The quantity of geospatial data has increased significantly over the last couple of years. This is as a result of technical advances that have opened up new opportunities for the observation of the earth. Examples here include the inauguration of high-resolution commercial sensors and digital aerial cameras. In view of the ever increasing amount of geospatial data, it is imperative that the best information for a particular application be extracted from the available data sources. Furthermore, it is also important that appropriate procedures for information extraction be adopted. To this end, it is clear that algorithmic developments in various fields such as automatic image understanding, data fusion, image compression etc. will continue to play an important role.

In this study, the extraction and interpretation of urban objects from remotely sensed image data is investigated. The selected test area encompasses a part of the city of Karlsruhe, Germany. Different types of geospatial data of varying spatial resolutions are employed including airborne laser scanning data, Daedalus scanner, colour infrared, SPOT panchromatic and Landsat-TM imagery. The additional channel concept is used to fuse the various data sources. Training data is procured through manual digitisation methods. An expanded object feature base that includes both spectral and spatial features is adopted and a supervised classification applied. Shadow effects present in especially the fused high-resolution imagery are subsequently eliminated. It is demonstrated that the classification results are significantly improved through the fusion of multi-spectral and geometric data sets.

To investigate the effect of image compression on different geospatial data, the wavelet-based software *LuRaWave* is employed. The different data sets are then systematically compressed channel-by-channel. In general, it is observed that the severity in the image distortion increases with increasing compression rate. This is particularly conspicuous at higher compression rates ($K \geq 50$). Other than the compression rate applied, the resulting smoothing effect is also influenced by the image spatial resolution as well as the intrinsic image content, with heterogeneous object features such as built environments clearly affected more than corresponding homogeneous features like water. This study also calls attention to the disparity in the compression between graphical and image data in compound documents like maps.

The reconstructed imagery from the compressed data are then classified using the approach described above. Both the geometric and semantic quality of the different results are then analysed with special attention being focused on built environments. It is demonstrated that reconstructed images from compression rates of up to 15 can be used for tasks such as extraction and interpretation of features. On the other hand, compression ratios below 5 are safe for precise photogrammetric analysis and point

determination.

The applicability of the above methods in a developing country is also investigated. In this respect, the present status as well as the background to the map updating problem in Kenya are examined. The basic mapping challenge and the major limitations of the map revision approach used in Kenya are also highlighted. The possibility of adopting satellite image maps as a means to achieving speedy and cost-effective map updating in developing countries is then evaluated. A concrete proposal incorporating legal changes, restructuring of survey administration as well as technical recommendations is then presented as the way forward to solving the map revision problem in Kenya. Finally, guidelines for the conception of geoinformation management in Kenya are then outlined.

Zusammenfassung

Die Menge der Geodaten nahm in den letzten Jahren stark zu. Auch in den kommenden Jahren wird die Menge dieser Daten wachsen, weil der technische Fortschritt neue Möglichkeiten zur Beobachtung der Erde schafft. Beispiele für diese Entwicklung sind der zunehmende Einsatz von hochauflösenden Fernerkundungssensoren und digitalen Luftbildkameras. Angesichts der zunehmenden Anzahl von Geodaten werden Fragen nach der auf das jeweilige Problem angepassten Wahl und entsprechend geeigneter Verarbeitung dieser Daten immer wichtiger. Hierbei werden Entwicklungen von Algorithmen auf verschiedenen Gebieten wie z.B. der automatischen Bilderkennung, Datenfusion, Bildkompression usw. eine wichtige Rolle spielen.

In dieser Arbeit wurde die Extraktion und Interpretation von künstlichen Objekten in Städten aus Fernerkundungsdaten untersucht. Als Testgebiet wurde ein Teil der Stadt Karlsruhe gewählt. Verschiedene Arten von Geodaten mit unterschiedlicher Auflösung standen zur Verfügung: Laserscanner-Daten, Daedalus-Daten, Luftbilder, SPOT-Daten, und Landsat TM-Daten. Basierend auf dem "Additional Channel"-Prinzip wurden diese Daten zusammengefasst. Die Trainingsdaten wurden durch manuelle Verfahren erfasst. Der Merkmalsraum wurde erweitert, um spektrale und räumliche Merkmale verarbeiten zu können. Danach wurde eine überwachte Klassifizierung der Daten durchgeführt. Schatteneffekte, die sich besonders auf die hochauflösenden Daten auswirken, wurden eliminiert. Es hat sich gezeigt, daß durch die Kombination von unterschiedlichen multispektralen und geometrischen Datensätzen die Klassifikationsergebnisse deutlich verbessert werden können.

Um die Auswirkung von Kompressionsverfahren auf die Qualität verschiedener Geodaten zu untersuchen, wurde die wavelet-basierte Bildkompressionssoftware *LuRaWave* eingesetzt. Die verschiedenen Geodaten wurden systematisch je Kanal mit unterschiedlichen Kompressionsraten komprimiert. Es zeigte sich, daß die Verzerrung mit der Kompressionsrate wächst. Dieser Effekt trat besonders bei hohen Kompressionsraten ($K \geq 50$) auf. Außerdem wurde die Verzerrung auch von Bildauflösung und Bildinhalt beeinflusst. Heterogene Objekte wie z.B. Siedlungsgebiete sind stärker von der dabei auftretenden Glättung betroffen als homogene Objekte wie z.B. Wasser. Diese Arbeit zeigt aber auch die unterschiedlichen Auswirkungen bei der Komprimierung von graphischen und Bilddaten in kombinierten Dokumenten wie Karten.

Die aus den komprimierten Daten wieder rekonstruierten Bilder wurden durch das oben beschriebene Verfahren klassifiziert. Die geometrische und semantische Qualität der Ergebnisse wurde analysiert. In dieser Untersuchung wurden vor allem Siedlungsgebiete untersucht. Es läßt sich feststellen, daß Bilder, die mit Kompres-

sionsraten bis zu 15 komprimiert wurden, für die Zwecke der Extraktion und Interpretation von Merkmalen noch eingesetzt werden können. Für präzise photogrammetrische Analysen und Punktbestimmungen müssen allerdings Kompressionsraten unter 5 eingehalten werden.

Die Einsatzbarkeit dieser Verfahren in Entwicklungsländern wurde getestet. Dazu wurde sowohl das gegenwärtige Vorgehen bei der topographischen Kartenaktualisierung in Kenia als auch die historische Entwicklung und die jeweils aufgetretenen Probleme betrachtet. Es wurde die Möglichkeit untersucht, ob sich die Herstellung von Satellitenbildkarten als ein schnelles, kostengünstiges Kartenaktualisierungsverfahren in Entwicklungsländern einsetzen lässt. Ein konkreter Vorschlag, der Gesetzänderungen, Umstrukturierung der Vermessungsverwaltung als auch technische Verfahren umfaßt, wurde als eine langfristige Lösung für die Kartenfortführungsprobleme in Kenia vorgelegt. Zum Schluß wurden Vorschläge für die Verwaltung von Geoinformationen in Kenia gemacht.

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to two great role models in my life - my late grandfather Joseph Kiilu Mutwa and my late uncle Francis Musili Nthuli. I wish to thank both of them most sincerely for teaching me in a very simple, yet exemplary manner, an important lesson in life. That in humility lies grandeur.

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Abbreviations and Symbols

ALS	Airborne Laser Scanning
ATKIS	Amtliches Topographisch-Kartographisches Informationssystem
CAD	Computer Assisted Design
CCD	Charged Couple Device
CIR	Colour Infra-Red
CIS	Confederation of Independent States
DCT	Discrete Cosine Transform
DGK	Deutsche Grundkarte
DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
DPCM	Differential Pulse Code Modulation
DSM	Digital Surface Model
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
DWT	Discrete Wavelet Transform
EDM	Electronic Distance Measurement
GCP	Ground Control Point
GIS	Geoinformation System
GLCM	Grey Level Co-occurrence Matrix
HRSC	High Resolution Stereo Camera
HVS	Human Visual System
INS	Inertial Navigation System
InSAR	Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar
IPF	Institute for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing, University of Karlsruhe
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISPRS	International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
JPEG	Joint Photographic Experts Group
K	Compression Ratio
MTF	Modulation Transfer Function
NDTD	National Digital Topographic Database
NDVI	Normalised Difference Vegetation Index
NGI	National Geoinformation Infrastructure
NIC	Non-Industrialised Country
NMA	National Mapping Agency
PSNR	Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio
RLE	Run Length Encoding
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
SAR	Synthetic Aperture Radar
SK	Survey of Kenya
S/N	Signal-to-Noise Ratio
UN	United Nations