

EXTRACTION OF ROCKY DESERTIFICATION FROM DISP IMAGERY: A CASE STUDY OF LIUPANSHUI, GUIZHOU, CHINA

Guoqing Zhou^{a,b,*}, Zhiliang Wu^a, Wei Wang^a, Yujun Shi^a, Guodong Mao^a, Yu Huang^a, Bin Jia^a, Guoqing Gao^a, Pengyun Chen^a

^a Guangxi Key Laboratory for Spatial Information and Geomatics, Guilin University of Technology, Guilin, Guangxi, 541004, China; glitezhou@yahoo.com

^b College of Precision Instrument and Opto-Electronic Engineering, Tianjin University, Tianjin, 300072, China; zrt65@tju.edu.cn

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ABSTRACT:

Karst rocky desertification is a typical type of land degradation in Guizhou Province, China. It causes great ecological and economical implications to the local people. This paper utilized the declassified intelligence satellite photography (DISP) of 1960s to extract the karst rocky desertification area to analyze the early situation of karst rocky desertification in Liupanshui, Guizhou, China. Due to the lack of ground control points and parameters of the satellite, a polynomial orthographic correction model with considering altitude difference correction is proposed for orthorectification of DISP imagery. With the proposed model, the 96 DISP images from four missions are orthorectified. The images are assembled into a seamless image map of the karst area of Guizhou, China. The assembled image map is produced to thematic map of karst rocky desertification by visual interpretation in Liupanshui city. With the assembled image map, extraction of rocky desertification is conducted.

1. INTRODUCTION

Karst rocky desertification has become an important topic to prevent soil erosion, restore vegetation, and pull farmers out of poverty in the karst areas of Southwestern China. Guizhou Province has the largest desertification area, suffering the most homogeneous, the deepest and the most serious from rocky desertification (Zhao, 2011). The rocky desertification area in Guizhou covers 37597.36 km², accounting for 21.34% of the entire land area of Guizhou Province, approximately 34.47% of the total area of karst of China. (<http://www.gzrd.gov.cn/gzdt/gdgz/2207.shtml>). Therefore, the use of DISP image to draw a typical karst terrain of Guizhou rocky desertification distribution map is of great significance for scientific research on the history of rocky desertification change and development characteristics.

2. DATA

2.1 Study Area

Liupanshui is located in the west of Guizhou Province, in the east longitude 104°18'20"~105°42'50", latitude 25°19'44"~26°55'33" (Figure 1). Its total area is 9,926 km², accounting for the province's total area of 5.63%. Liupanshui has the most severe karst rocky desertification in Guizhou, the karst area of which was 63.18% of total city area until 2005. The area of karst rocky desertification is 3,460 km², representing 34.8% of the total area of the city. Among them, the area of very severe rocky desertification is 565 km². It is a typical karst ecosystem with a wide range of distribution in karst, complete morphological types and obvious regional distribution.



Figure 1. The location of Liupanshui

2.2 DISP Image

Declassified intelligence satellite photographs (DISP) is the first generation of photographic reconnaissance satellites between 1960 and 1972 (Zhou, 2016). The systems include CORONA, ARGON and LANYARD. In this paper the CORONA imagery was used. Early DISP images were served in both military and intelligence. After President Bill Clinton signed an executive order of intelligence declassified, it became a public satellite image of decrypting information. More than 990,000 images collected from 1959 to 1980 were declassified by this executive order. Only NARA and the US Geological Survey (USGS) were authorized to provide access and product support for the February 1995 and September 2002 datasets (McDonald, 1995). The DISPs used in this paper are all from the US Geological Survey Bureau website.

This paper uses the declassified intelligence satellite photographs image (DISP) from the US Geological Survey Website as the basic image to study the karst region of Guizhou Province in the 1960s. The 96 images come from five different Missions of CORONA satellite, including 1035-1 Mission, 1102-2 Mission, 1106-1 Mission and 1114-2 Mission (Figure

* Corresponding author: Guoqing Zhou; Tel./Fax: +86(773)5896073; E-mail: glitezhou@yahoo.com

2).The image DS1106-2119DF071-097 accessed by Mission1106-2 fully cover the research area of Liupanshui City.

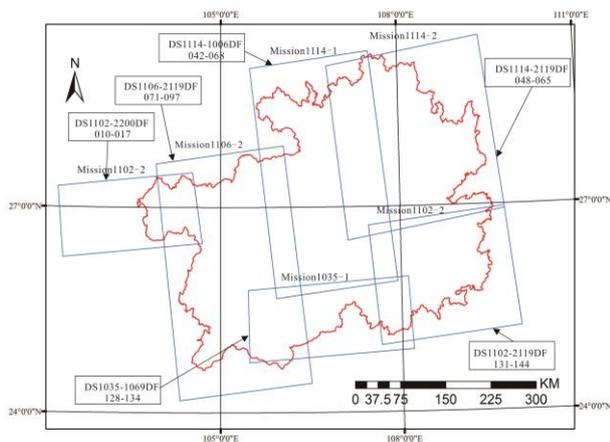


Figure 2. The coverage area of DISP imagery in Guizhou

3. DISP IMAGE DATA PROCESSING

3.1 Geometric Rectification of the Images

The geometric distortions of remote sensing images are systematic and non-systematic, mainly including satellite image acquisition methods, the sensor orientation elements, topography and atmospheric refraction (Yang, 2002). Geometric distortion of the remote sensing image changes the geometric location, size and shape of some objects, and therefore cannot be directly used in specific research applications. Therefore, remote sensing images must be geometrically corrected prior to specific application studies. Geometric correction is to correct the geometric distortion of the image, which can be divided into two types: geometric approximate correction and geometric accurate correction. Geometric approximate correction is to correct systematic errors. Geometric accurate correction is a geometric correction by adding control points, which uses a mathematical model to simulate geometric distortion of remote sensing images and then apply this model to perform geometric correction through the corresponding geometric distortion models that are obtained by distorting the corresponding points between the remote sensing image and the standard map (Amini, 2005).

Due to the parameters of the satellite are unknown, such as the interior and external orientation parameters and the camera lens distortion parameters, the correction method that requires satellite parameters cannot be used when correcting the DISP image. The polynomial model does not depend on the parameters of the satellite, only a sufficient amount of control points, so the model is suitable for dealing with these historical images. As the study area belongs to the karst topography, multi-hilly, peak cluster depression and other terrain, the elevation in the image of the distortions will be an important element. In this paper, the polynomial model is added to the elevation, and a 3-dimensional 2-order polynomial model is established to correct the deformation caused by the height difference. The 3-dimensional polynomial expression is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} X_I = \sum_{i=0}^M \sum_{j=0}^N \sum_{k=0}^Q a_{ij} \cdot X_G^i Y_G^j Z_G^k \\ Y_I = \sum_{i=0}^M \sum_{j=0}^N \sum_{k=0}^Q b_{ij} \cdot X_G^i Y_G^j Z_G^k \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Then, Equation (1) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\begin{cases} X_I = a_0 + a_1 X_G + a_2 Y_G + a_3 Z_G + a_4 X_G^2 + \\ a_5 Y_G^2 + a_6 Z_G^2 + a_7 X_G Y_G + a_8 X_G Z_G + a_9 Y_G Z_G + \dots \\ Y_I = b_0 + b_1 X_G + b_2 Y_G + b_3 Z_G + b_4 X_G^2 + \\ b_5 Y_G^2 + b_6 Z_G^2 + b_7 X_G Y_G + b_8 X_G Z_G + b_9 Y_G Z_G + \dots \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Where, (X_I, Y_I) represents image point coordinates of the imagery; (X_G, Y_G, Z_G) represents the ground point coordinates. The relationship between N and n can be expressed as:

$$N = \frac{(n+1) + (n+2)}{2} \quad (3)$$

Where, N represents the number of coefficient, n represents the degree of polynomial.

3.2 Selection of Control Points

The selection of ground control points is the most essential step in geometric correction of remote sensing imagery. As historical images have been more than half a century ago, it difficult to obtain the contemporary high-precision map of the image. This paper selects the Google Earth image as the reference image for the control points. Finding the current corresponding feature point on historical imagery map not only needs manual identification, but also needs historical events to identify the stable surface features. In order to select accurate feature points, try to select those with clear indicators, such as bridges, building corners, intersections and other road inflection points. The control points should be distributed on the image as evenly as possible, so as not to overly centralize control points, as missing or too few control points in some place would cause big error and deformation.

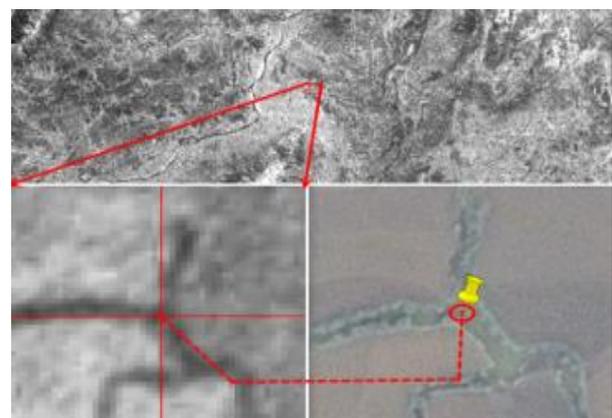


Figure 3. Selection of control points on Google Earth

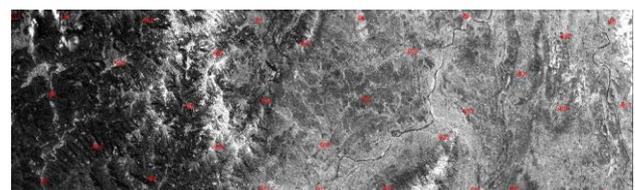


Figure 4. Distribution of selected control points

interpretation signs are those that can indirectly reflect the target features of remote sensing images (Jiang, 2002). In order to establish the interpretation of the signs, our team members conducted a field survey to obtain the real image of rocky desertification area. A visual interpretation of signs is established according to the corresponding position (Figure 12 and table 1).

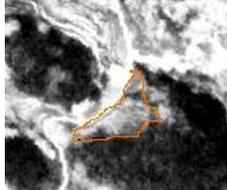
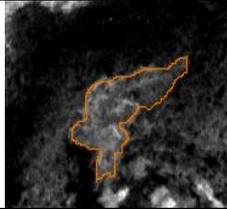
The of rocky desertificati--on	Slope (°)	Sign of visual interpretation	image
mildly severe	5~15	The lower part of hillside and the shape is irregular	
moderately severe	15~25	The lower part of hillside and the shape is irregular	
severe	>25	The lower part of hillside and the shape is regular	

Table 1. The Establishment of Visual Interpretation Signs

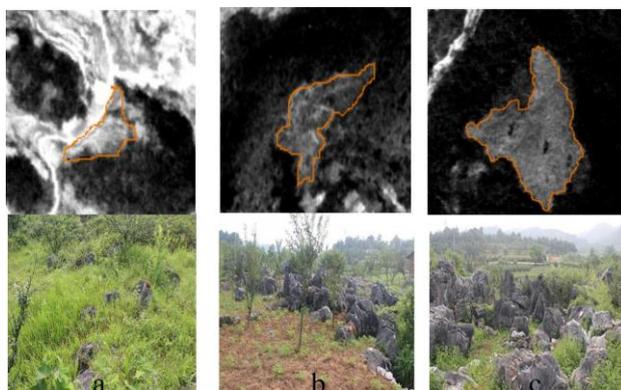


Figure 12. Real images of rocky desertification area (a. mildly severe, b. moderately severe, c. severe)

4.2 Extraction of Karst Rocky Desertification

This article interprets the karst rocky desertification classification system visually by man-machine interactive interpretation. In order to improve the accuracy, some data will be used directly, including 2005 rocky desertification thematic map, slope thematic map and DISP images, in the process of depicting rocky desertification area.

In terms of the relative position, the rocky desertification area in modern times contains the rocky desertification area in the 1960s, so it is possible to apply the thematic map of rocky desertification to determine the area of rocky desertification in the 1960s. In addition, from the interpretation of the information, we can see that the 1960s rocky desertification

area will be less than 22°. Therefore, according to the overlapping area of modern rocky desertification area and 22° slope map, it is possible to reduce the range of interpretation and improve the accuracy of interpretation by obtaining the rocky desertification area in the 1960s. Finally, according to the interpretation of signs, we finally depict the rocky desertification area. Images of karst areas in Liupanshui city in 1960s, were cut into several parts according to the vectors of each county. In the 1960s, the area of rocky desertification in Liupanshui reached 4,938.185 km² (49.75% of total city area), with very severe rocky desertification area of 608.50 km² (6.08% of total city area); moderate rocky desertification area of 730.55 km² (7.36% of total city area); mild rock desertification area of 3,604.13 km² (36.31% of total city area). In 2005, the area of rock desertification in Liupanshui was more than 3,460 km², which was 1.4 times of that in the 1960s. Then, the rocky desertification areas were mapped in each county, and the distribution map of rocky desertification in 1960s in Liupanshui City of Guizhou Province was produced (Figure 13,14), while the area of rocky desertification is obtained.

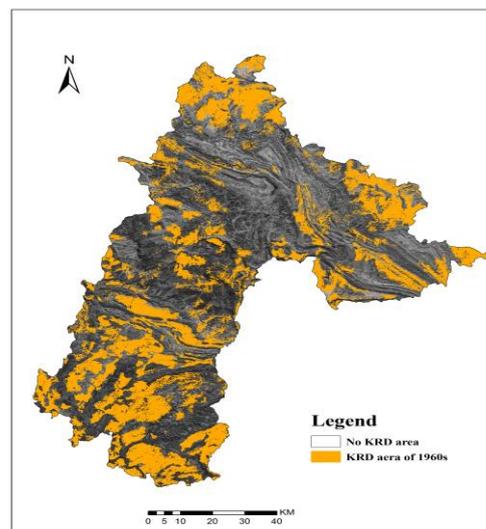


Figure 12. Rocky desertification area of Liupanshui in 1960s

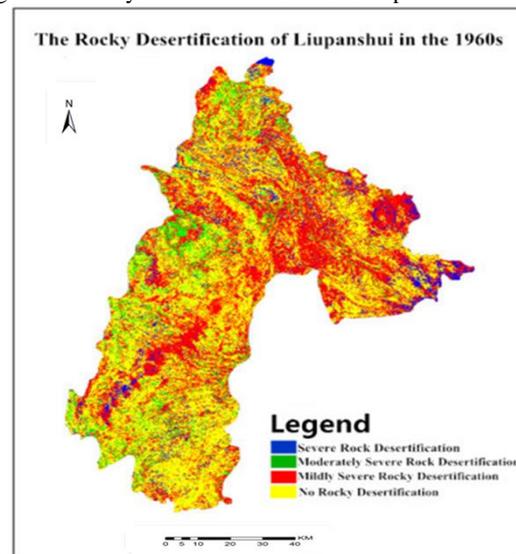


Figure 13. The thematic map of rocky desertification distribution in Liupanshui City in the 1960s (Yellow: no rocky desertification, Red: mildly severe, Green: moderately severe, Blue: severe)

4.3. Accuracy Evaluation of Final Products

Based on the high resolution images of Google Earth as present reference images and DISP images as historical reference images, we verified the regional classification results of karst rocky desertification in the 1960s (Figure 13). After a lot of image matching tests and on-site inspection of regional map provided by Provincial Land and Environmental Protection Departments of Guizhou province, the precision reached the requirements.



Figure 13. Verification of rocky desertification area extraction

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the DISP image processing, the high resolution image mosaic of Guizhou Province in 1960s was completed, and the rocky desertification in the 1960s in Lupanshui area of Guizhou Province was extracted. The experiments have achieved good results and can provide an effective means. for the extraction of ground objects information and the desertification extraction of larger areas in the future.

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