

SUGARCANE CROP EXTRACTION USING OBJECT-ORIENTED METHOD FROM ZY-3 HIGH RESOLUTION SATELLITE TLC IMAGE

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ABSTRACT:

Sugarcane is one of the most important crops in Guangxi, China. As the development of satellite remote sensing technology, more remotely sensed images can be used for monitoring sugarcane crop. With the help of Three Line Camera (TLC) images, wide coverage and stereoscopic mapping ability, Chinese ZY-3 high resolution stereoscopic mapping satellite is useful in attaining more information for sugarcane crop monitoring, such as spectral, shape, texture difference between forward, nadir and backward images. Digital surface model (DSM) derived from ZY-3 TLC images are also able to provide height information for sugarcane crop. In this study, we make attempt to extract sugarcane crop from ZY-3 images, which are acquired in harvest period. Ortho-rectified TLC images, fused image, DSM are processed for our extraction. Then Object-oriented method is used in image segmentation, example collection, and feature extraction. The results of our study show that with the help of ZY-3 TLC image, the information of sugarcane crop in harvest time can be automatic extracted, with an overall accuracy of about 85.3%.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Sugarcane is one of the most important crops in Guangxi, China. Guangxi's production of sugar, which is extracted from sugarcane, takes up 62.7% of China, and about 20,000,000 populations are more or less related with sugar industry. In a word, sugarcane cultivation is of vital importance for Guangxi's economy, and even the whole Chinese sugar production. Therefore, precise sugarcane crop management is important. The Guangxi Sugar Industry Development Department carried out series of projects to monitor the sugarcane crop of Double High (High production and High sweetness) sugarcane base and sugarcane preservation area. Guangxi Agency of Surveying, Mapping, and Geo-information also completed the sugarcane survey in 2014-2015 for the whole Guangxi province as specific job of the Guangxi National Geo-survey Project. A fast, convenient and applicable technique should be needed for sugarcane monitoring annual or even seasonal for Guangxi.

As the development of satellite remote sensing technology, more remotely sensed images can be used for monitoring sugarcane crop. For example, in some studies, optics satellite images with medium or high resolution, multispectral bands are often facilitated for the sugarcane crops extraction and yield prediction (Patel, 1985, Rudorff, 1990, Rao, 2002, Galvão, 2005, Baghdadi, 2009, Elhajj, 2009, Rudorff). However, challenges exist in sugarcane monitoring for Guangxi with satellite remotely sensed image, such as that the cloudy climate limits the image availability and usability, thus researchers expected to develop solutions for more data sources which can fulfil the requirement of sugarcane crop monitoring. And the sugarcane

crop may be mixed with other ground objects like corn fields and paddy in the image. In this case, height information can be considered as an important factor to distinct sugarcane crop with others.

ZY-3 high resolution satellite is the first Chinese civil high resolution stereo mapping satellite, launched on Jan 9, 2012. It is equipped with Three Line Cameras and multispectral camera, and can provide us with more available bands and wider coverage (52 km swath width) in land cover monitoring, also for the sugarcane crop. With the help of its Three-Line-Camera (TLC) image, sugarcane crop can be observed from different angle from 2.1 meters (nadir) to 3.6 meter (forward and backward) high resolution at the same time. Meanwhile the 5.8 meters multispectral camera is able to provide multispectral information for us. In this way, images acquired from different angles may show different spectral and texture features for the 3-4 meters height and ripe sugarcane planted in regular interval. Meanwhile the Digital Surface Model (DSM) derived from ZY-3 TLC image can be used to distinct the sugarcane and other ground objects according to their different height. Meanwhile the multispectral image can be fused with panchromatic nadir image for generating higher resolution multispectral image.

In this study, we make attempt to extract sugarcane crop from ZY-3 images, which were acquired in harvest period. Then accuracy assessment is provided to analyse the results of sugarcane extraction. Finally, conclusions are drawn at the end of this paper.

2. DATA AND METHODS

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2.1 Data

In this study, ZY-3 high resolution stereoscopic mapping satellite images are used for experiment. And Fusui, Guangxi is considered as the study area.

2.1.1 ZY-3 images

The ZY-3 (Ziyuan-3) satellite, launched and operated by the Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center (SASMAC), National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information (NASG), China, is the first of a new type of civil high resolution satellite in China. With a high spatial resolution camera (2.1-m ground sample distance (GSD) TDI-CCD panchromatic (PAN) camera and 5.8 m GSD multispectral (MUX) camera), image products are designed to meet the requirements of the following fields: surveying and mapping, monitoring land resources, land use and planning, agriculture, environmental monitoring and protection, traffic and other important areas. The ZY-3 satellite's 2.1-m panchromatic nadir data can be used in generating orthorectified images, fusing images, updating maps and performing interpretation tasks. The panchromatic band pass of ZY-3 ranges from 450 nm to 800 nm; details of the specifications of ZY-3 can be seen in Table 1. The digital number (DN) dynamic range is 10-bit quantization. The swath width of its panchromatic camera is 52 km at nadir. The three camera equipped in ZY-3 satellite platform combined together as the three line camera (TLC). TLC images are useful in generating a stereo image and can be further processed to create a Digital Surface Model (DSM). A technical description of the ZY-3 satellite can be found on the official website of SASMAC (Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center, 2018).

Specification	Value
Orbit height	505.983 km
Orbit inclination	97.421 °
Revisit time	59 days
Field of regard	32 ° (nadir angle)
Image sensor	TLC cameras Multispectral camera
Swath width	52km (nadir)
Panchromatic GSD	2.1m (nadir)
	3.6m (forward)
Panchromatic band	0.5~0.8 μm
	3.6m (backward)
Multispectral GSD	5.8m
Multispectral band 1	0.45~0.52 μm
Multispectral band 2	0.52~0.59 μm
Multispectral band 3	0.63~0.69 μm
Multispectral band 4	0.77~0.89 μm

Table 1. Parameters of ZY-3 satellite

In this study, clip of ZY-3 TLC images that cover a 26 x 26 km area (12381-pixel by 12500-pixel area for fused image, 2.08meters resolution in Y-axis and 2.1 meters resolution in X-axis) are used for sugarcane crop extraction as the experiment. And then 7 groups of ZY-3 images that acquired on December 28th, 2017 and August 10th, 2016 (Both are the mature period for sugarcane, and the images of December 28th, 2017 takes up 89% of the area) and are used to cover the whole Fusui area, and implement the sugarcane crop extraction in the proposed method. All images are of good quality with no cloud coverage, no bad line, and no blurring.

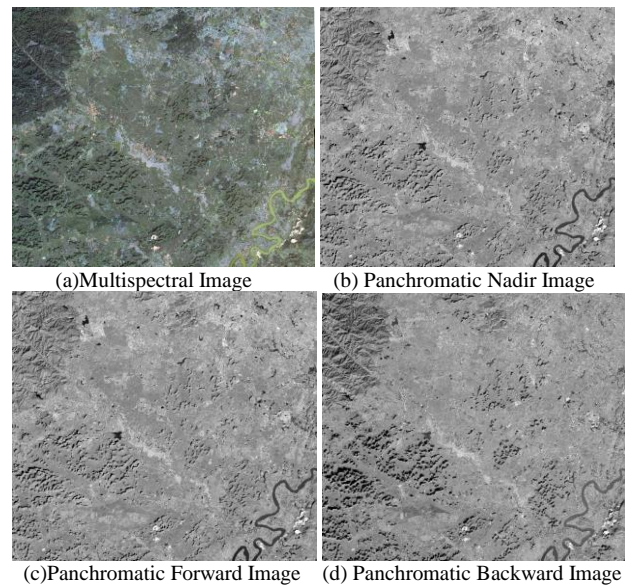


Figure 1. Experimental clip of ZY-3 images.

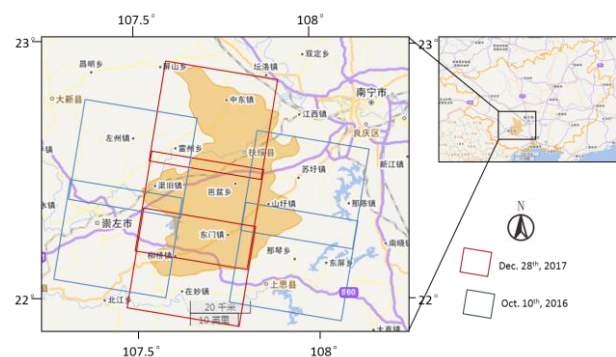


Figure 2. Study area and data

2.1.2 Study Area

Fusui is a county of Guangxi Province, which lays in the southern part of China. Fusui is low and plain in its medium area, and some small hills exist in this area. Most of the area here is covered by vegetation. Fusui has the subtropical monsoon climate, thus the cloudy and rainy weather is a challenge for satellite image acquisition. Sugarcane is the major crop in this Fusui. This area has planted the second largest amount of sugarcane in the whole China, and takes up 60% of the local revenues. In other words, sugarcane industry is of vital importance for Fusui, and even the whole China. Thus it is necessary to monitor the wide distribution and area for the sugarcane crops, and provide an accurate and objective result for local government and sugarcane farmer.

2.1.3 TLC Images Preprocessing

In this study, experimental clip of ZY-3 TLC images that cover a 26 x26 km area are used for sugarcane crop extraction. Then 7 scenes of ZY-3 images are processed for the whole Fusui area sugarcane crop extraction. Therefore, below preprocessing steps include all these ZY-3 images.

1) Orthorectification

To achieve certain spatial accuracy and correct alignment for different images of ZY-3, including panchromatic image, multispectral image, forward image, and backward image, orthorectification should be done. Using the RPC file that the

ZY-3 sensor corrected level images provide, the images of ZY-3 are roughly orthorectified, in the datum of WGS 1984. The residential error of the orthorectified images are about 5 meters, which is enough for information extraction. In this way, the orthorectified TLC images are correctly aligned.

2) Image Fusion

Image fusion processing is useful in take advantage of the higher resolution of panchromatic image and more spectral bands of multispectral image. The orthorectified panchromatic image and orthorectified multispectral image are prepared for image fusion. Pansharpening is a process of merging high-resolution panchromatic and lower resolution multispectral imagery to create a single high-resolution color image (Chavez, 1991). Pansharpening uses spatial information in the high-resolution grayscale band and color information in the multispectral bands to create a high-resolution color image, essentially increasing the resolution of the color information in the data set to match that of the panchromatic band. With the help of Pansharpening method, the 2.1 meters orthorectified panchromatic image is merge with the 5.8 meters orthorectified multispectral image, achieving a 2.1 meters multispectral image, which has blue, green, red, near infrared (NIR) 4 different bands.

3) DSM generation

The DSM could be acquired through techniques such as photogrammetry, lidar, SAR, land surveying, etc. (Li, 2005, Prasad, 2009). ZY-3 satellite is designed for DSM producing. Its TLC image is able to generate DSM with photogrammetry method in the scale of 1:50000. To distinct the height between sugarcane and other crop, field, grassland, or bare soil, DSM is considered to be important data for sugarcane extraction. According to the designed accuracy of ZY-3 DSM, we generate the epipolar images from ZY-3's orthorectified forward image and nadir image. This study use forward and nadir image for DSM generating, because we compare the DSM results derived from forward and backward images, forward and nadir images, backward and nadir images respectively. Among these DSMs, which is created from forward and nadir images has best accuracy and image quality. For example, the forward and backward images have larger angle difference, that limits the alignment results, and the DSM has many more lines and spots with false values. In this case, the forward and nadir image are combined together to produce the 10 meters resolution DSM, which would provide the height information for sugarcane crop extraction.

2.2 Methods

For achieving sugarcane crop extraction with ZY-3 TLC images, object-oriented method is used in the image analysis and information extraction, including image segmentation, example collection, attribute analysis, feature extraction. We first use one clip of ZY-3 image to examine the results of our proposed method. Then in this way, we extract the sugarcane crop for the whole Fusui area.

2.2.1 Image Segmentation

Image segmentation is the process of partitioning a digital image into multiple segments (sets of pixels, also known as super-pixels) (Linda, 2001). The goal of segmentation is to simplify and/or change the representation of an image into something that is more meaningful and easier to analyse (Barghout, 2003).

Image segmentation is typically used to locate objects and boundaries (lines, curves, etc.) in images. More precisely, image segmentation is the process of assigning a label to every pixel in an image such that pixels with the same label share certain characteristics. The result of image segmentation is a set of segments that collectively cover the entire image, or a set of contours extracted from the image (see edge detection). Each of the pixels in a region are similar with respect to some characteristic or computed property, such as color, intensity, or texture. Adjacent regions are significantly different with respect to the same characteristic(s).

2.2.2 Example Collection

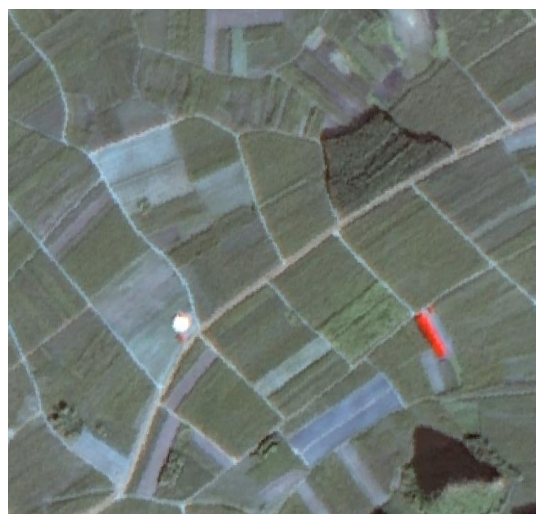
High quality sugarcane crop example can help gathering accurate attributes, and thus expect a good extraction results. Sugarcane crop has different characteristics in different seasons, and different type of sugarcane may also takes on completely different features. In this case, example collection should consider the growing stage and planted type. The ZY-3 images are acquired on December, 28th, 2016, thus sugarcane is in its mature period. In this period, sugarcane is mature and some of the sugarcane crops are harvested. We classify the sugarcane crop into several kinds, new-planted, mature, harvested. According to the segmented image and sugarcane classes, we collect sugarcane crop examples in the image and store them in the form of shapefile, which can be used in feature extraction. Also, examples of waterbody, building, road, forestry, field, bare soil are collected for distinguishing the sugarcane crop.

2.2.3 Attributes Analysis

Based on the segmented image, combined with orthorectified TLC images, fused multispectral image, DSM image, we analyse the spectral, texture, shape, height, normalized differential vegetation index (NDVI). These features can be considered as the attributes for sugarcane crop from the remote sensing aspect. Using statistical method, we calculate the mean, standard deviation, data range, maximum value, minimum value for spectral, texture, height, NDVI for the example segmented object and the whole image objects. In the spectral and texture analysis, we find that the sugarcane crops in nadir image, forward image, and backward image have slightly different attributes values. Because sugarcane has certain height (about 3-5 meters), consider the sugarcane shadow also affects the colour and texture that is resampled in the 2-3 meters pixel of the image, thus from different observed angles for TLC images can reflect different feature (Figure 3).

2.2.4 Feature Extraction

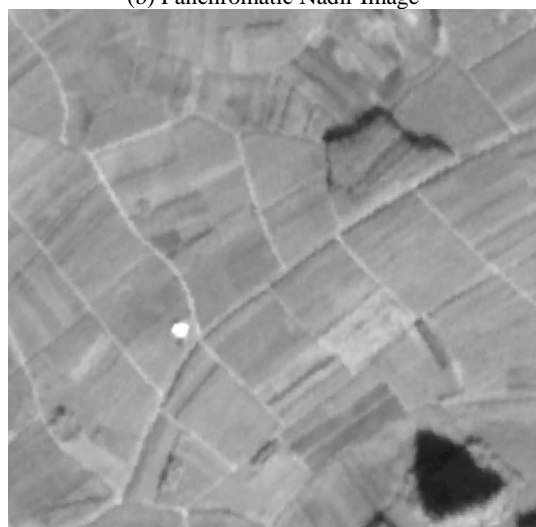
In machine learning, pattern recognition and in image processing, feature extraction starts from an initial set of measured data and builds derived values (features) intended to be informative and non-redundant, facilitating the subsequent learning and generalization steps, and in some cases leading to better human interpretations. Feature extraction is a general term for methods of constructing combinations of the variables to get around these problems while still describing the data with sufficient accuracy. Many machine learning practitioners believe that properly optimized feature extraction is the key to effective model construction. According to the segmented example objects and the attribute statistics result, we using Support Vector Machine (SVM) algorithm (Cortes, 1995) to classify the other objects in the ZY-3 image into new-planted sugarcane, mature sugarcane, harvested sugarcane, waterbody, building, road, forestry, field, bare soil. All these are processed in ENVI/IDL.



(a) Multispectral Image



(b) Panchromatic Nadir Image



(c) Panchromatic Forward Image



(d) Panchromatic Backward Image

Figure 3. Comparisons of sugarcane crop in ZY-3 TLC images

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Sugarcane crops are automatic extracted from the ZY-3 images in the form of shapefile, which includes new-planted sugarcane, mature sugarcane, harvested sugarcane, waterbody, building, road, forestry, field, bare soil and unclassified class. We analyse the results the accuracy, discussing the advantage and shortage of our proposed method.

3.1 Results

Based on the orthorectified ZY-3 fused image (Figure 4), forward image, backward image, DSM derived from TLC images (Figure 5), the classification are done, including new-planted sugarcane, mature sugarcane, harvested sugarcane, waterbody, building, road, forestry, field, bare soil. Classification result can be seen in Figure 6. From the fused multispectral image, we can find that the sugarcane crop is quite significant in 2.1 meters resolution. And in the DSM, height for different ground objects can also be clearly seen. Especially the sugarcane planted area and the mountain.



Figure 4. ZY-3 Orthorectified fused multispectral image (2.1 meters)

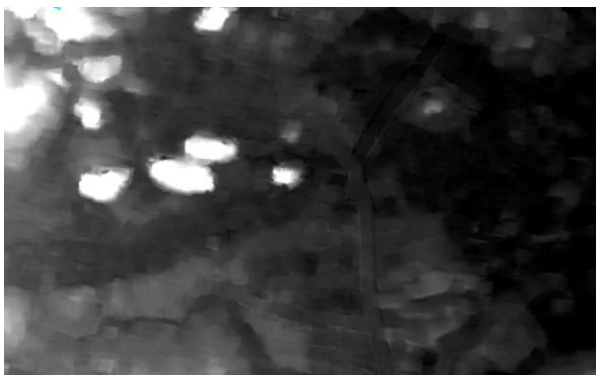


Figure 5. ZY-3 DSM (10meters)

The classification results show us that most of the new-planted sugarcane, mature sugarcane, harvested sugarcane, waterbody, building, road, forestry, field, bare soil are extracted. Results can be seen in Fig. 5.



Figure 6. Classification results

We assess the accuracy of sugarcane crop using ground truth samples. Result show that the overall accuracy of sugarcane extraction is 83.1%, including 13.3% commission error and 21.9% omission error. The sugarcane crop extraction result of the whole Fusui area is 937.8 km². Compared with the 800 km² local report from sugar industry department, using our proposed method, the overall accuracy of the whole Fusui sugarcane crop area reaches about 85.3%. Result can be seen in Figure 7.

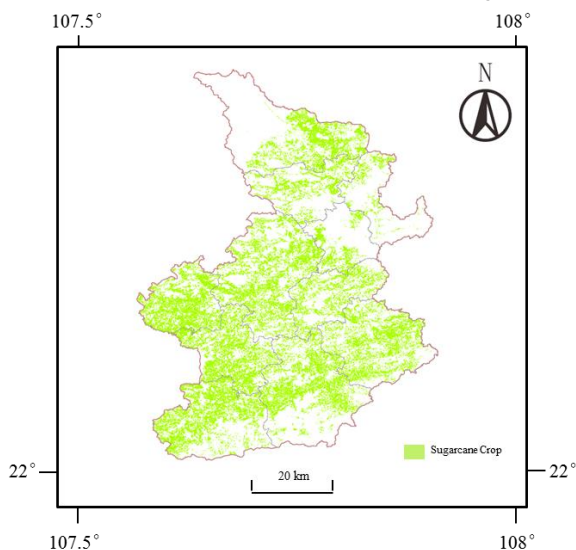


Figure 7 Sugarcane crop extraction of Fusui, China.

3.2 Discussions

As we can see in the results, using ZY-3 TLC image and multispectral image is suitable to extract sugarcane crop information.

Some reasons are listed below. First, ZY-3 TLC image can derive DSM at the resolution of about 10 meters, which provide height information for us in identify mature sugarcane of 3-5 meters high. This is very important to distinct sugarcane and other plantation that has the similar spectral, texture and even the shape characteristics, like paddy, corn, and leaf-silk. Second, also because the 3-5 meters height, it is different to observe sugarcane from the air, therefore the texture of sugarcane is slightly different in forward image, nadir image, and backward image. The ZY-3 TLC images acquired from different angles has such advantage for mature sugarcane interpretation. Third, the wide field of view (52km) for ZY-3 camera is very suitable to acquire the wide sugarcane planted area at the same growth period, especially in Fusui, Guangxi.

Still, some limitations exist in this study. First is that only DN value is used in the spectral analysis for ZY-3 image, but the reflectance. In this word, with no accurate radiometric correction or no atmospheric correction, the result of spectral calculation is not quantity enough on some extent. Second, very few areas of Fusui cannot be covered by ZY-3 image at the same time. In this case, the extraction results in such area may have uncertainty. Third, some ground objects are easily confused with sugarcane, for example, the bare soil is similar to the harvested sugarcane, the paddy field may be identified as newly planted sugarcane, and some fields can be confused with mature sugarcane. We will analyse these confusions and try to find the solution. Fouth, the experimental samples are not enough. In future work we may collect more ground truth for the machine learning.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we fully use ZY-3 TLC images and multispectral image to produce fuse multispectral image and DSM. Along with the forward image and backward image, the sugarcane crop information is extracted using object-oriented method. The results show us that with the help of high resolution multispectral image and DSM that derived from ZY-3 images, using object-oriented feature extraction method, the sugarcane crop in mature period can be extracted in an acceptable overall accuracy of about 85.3%. Our study provides a new way to take full advantage for stereoscopic mapping satellite, like monitor sugarcane or other crops, and shows us that, besides generating DSM, stereoscopic mapping satellite has more other applied potential.

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