

Classifying high resolution image data in Southeast Asian urban areas using MFC line scanner data

Frank Lehmann, Dr. Martin Oczipka, Tilman Bucher, Florian Moder German Aerospace Center (DLR), Berlin

In 2007 German Aerospace Center (DLR) developed a new push-broom sensor. The MultiFunctional Camera (MFC) is a three-line-push broom scanner for terrestrial an airborne applications. One to five autonomic RGB-CCDs with 6.000 to 14.000 pixels can be used to record image data. In general the optic is exchangeable. Three RGB-CCDs with 8000 pixels and an 80mm optic were used to acquire image data of Padang/ Sumatra.



The Multi Functional Camera - MFC 3



3 Line - CCD sensors



Sensor geometry of the MFC 3

The project area covers about 120 km² including the centre of town and the harbour. With the photogrammetric processing, an orthophoto mosaic and a digital surface model were generated. The geometric resolution of the image data and the DSM is 12cm.



Location of the project area



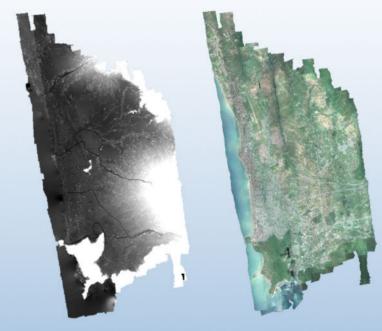
Aerial view of Padang

In this project, the image data and the resulting DSM was used to classify the land use of the city of Padang. High resolution of image data and surface model is essential to analyse urban regions satisfactorily and in great detail. On the other hand the heterogeneity caused by the very high resolution makes this analysis very complex.

This study shows how a DSM can be used to support the image analysis. A near infrared band is not (yet) integrated. This causes difficulties in separating vegetation from no vegetation. Still, using geometric image information and the high resolution DSM can minimize these problems. By generating a normalized DSM which provides object heights irrespective from surface elevation very good classification results can be achieved.

Definiens Developer and Definiens Server software technology was applied to classify the whole city using the tiling and stitching tool. Due to changing conditions during the flight campaign the classifying algorithm had to be adapted to the image data. This process adaption was done using Definiens action library.

The classification results can be easily exported to a geographical information system (GIS) as shape- or Autocad dxf-file. The GIS can be used to quickly generate large scale maps in urban areas especially in developing countries and emerging markets, where new maps are essential for land management purposes, urban planning and monitoring.

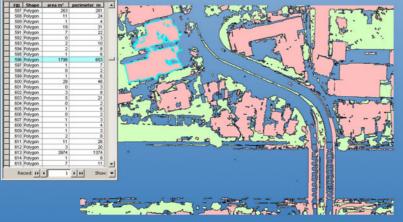


Digital surface model of the project area

Image mosaic of all orthophotos of the project area



Principle of a normalized DSM (nDSM) - the difference of a DSM and a DEM produces a plain surface providing mere object heights.



Shape files exported from the classification results



Subset from an orthophoto of Padang



Classification result of the same scene

