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# Novel Segmented Stacked AutoEncoder for Effective Dimensionality Reduction and Feature Extraction in Hyperspectral Imaging

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***Abstract***—Stacked autoencoders (SAEs), as part of the deep learning (DL) framework, have been recently proposed for feature extraction in hyperspectral remote sensing. With the help of hidden nodes in deep layers, a high-level abstraction is achieved for data reduction whilst maintaining the key information of the data. As hidden nodes in SAEs have to deal simultaneously with hundreds of features from hypercubes as inputs, this increases the complexity of the process and leads to limited abstraction and performance. As such, segmented SAE (S-SAE) is proposed by confronting the original features into smaller data segments, which are separately processed by different smaller SAEs. This has resulted in reduced complexity but improved efficacy of data abstraction and accuracy of data classification.

***Index Terms***—Deep learning (DL), hyperspectral remote sensing, data reduction, segmented stacked autoencoder (S-SAE).

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Hyperspectral imaging (HSI) is a very motivating field dealing with several different challenges in the last decade. The HSI cameras and devices provide a spatial 2-D image in hundreds of different wavelengths from the electromagnetic spectrum in nature (spectral bands). As a result, a 3-D structure called hypercube is obtained, where each pixel in the 2-D image is represented by an array of spectral values. Obviously, with such amount of information, the use of HSI data for applications including remote classification of image pixels is proving promising, although it demands advanced signal processing applied to stages such as feature extraction or data reduction [1-2].

In the last 2-3 decades, a number of methods have been proposed for feature extraction and data reduction in HSI, including both well-known classical techniques and new approaches. These feature extraction and data reduction techniques aim to boost the general data analysis procedures by improving the characterization of features (efficacy) and/or relieving computational complexity (efficiency). For instance, features containing adequate information usually lead to higher classification accuracy of pixels and, in many cases, this can be done along with a reduction in the number of features (feature dimensionality), which in turn increases the overall efficiency. Although there are many methodologies, in this paper we focus on a particular approach related to a new and really promising field, the deep learning (DL) framework, in particular with the study of stacked autoencoders (SAEs) [3-4].

Based on neural network architectures, SAEs are able to reduce feature dimensionality to few elements contained in the deep layers of those networks. In SAEs, an input pixel of the HSI image is introduced in the network by the first layer (or input layer), with as many nodes as original features (spectral bands) in the pixel. Then, the pixel information travels the network through subsequent layers with reduced number of nodes or units, to finally achieve a reconstructed pixel at the output matching the original one. Therefore, SAEs can be employed effectively for feature extraction, where the abstraction level achieved in deep layers leads to representative reduced features. In that sense, the powerful capabilities from machine learning can be exploited to perform data reduction in such context that seems promising and needs proper investigation.

However, the use of SAEs with HSI data can be complex, due to the hundreds of spectral bands available in the hypercubes. Hidden units in the SAEs layers are required to evaluate the input and derived values from all the spectral bands simultaneously in the same activation functions, and this complexity makes more difficult to find appropriate abstraction. As a result, the main motivation of the present work is to evaluate the SAEs and to propose an alternative solution to address these two main problems: the computational complexity in the implementations, and the lack of proper abstraction in the features, i.e., the limited accuracy in classification analysis.

To this end, we propose a spectral segmentation in the pixels or samples that can divide the complexity and also allow local extraction of features, eventually providing better extraction capability. In this paper, the segmented SAE (S-SAE) method is

introduced, where local SAEs are applied to different segments of the spectrum. By locally working in spectral regions, the computational complexity is reduced and, at the same time, the resulting features are improved thus better classification accuracy is obtained thanks to local extraction of information. From our results it is found that, yet with reduced complexity, S-SAE performs better than the conventional SAE implementation and also other state-of-the-art methods in land-cover analysis, which leaves an open door for future investigation and related ideas.

The organization of the paper is as follows. Section II gives a brief review of related work in HSI feature extraction and data reduction, pointing out differences with the SAE methodology. Then, SAEs are introduced in Section III, while our proposal S-SAE is presented in Section IV. Experimental analysis on real HSI data and results are available in Section V, including classification and also computational complexity evaluations, with concluding remarks in Section VI.

## II. RELATED WORK IN HSI FEATURES AND CLASSIFICATION

In HSI, currently it is possible to find several feature extraction and data reduction methods for subsequent benefits in the data analysis. In general, these methods can be divided in many categorizations depending on the characteristics and functionality of the related procedures. For instance, some methods focus only on the feature representation and require a classifier algorithm afterwards to perform land-cover analysis, while some other methods can include the classification itself, i.e., the work with the features directly provides a classification of the pixels.

Methods focusing on feature representation include widely known classical techniques and, on the other hand, more modern approaches. Among the classical methods we can find principal component analysis (PCA) [5], independent component analysis (ICA) [6], or maximum noise fraction (MNF) [7]. These techniques transform the data by means of a projection, with relation to distribution of variance, statistical independence, and noise ratio, respectively. Although these approaches were introduced quite a few years ago, they are still very employed in the HSI literature, and it is worth to highlight them. On the other hand, some recent proposals comprise, for example, empirical mode decomposition (EMD) [8], singular spectrum analysis (SSA) [9], and morphological profiles (MPs) [10]. The EMD [8] is based on empirical iterations, being able to capture few different components related to frequency, yet its computational cost seems excessive. Meanwhile, the SSA [9] works with singular value decomposition applied to an embedded signal, leading to de-noised pixels and improved classification. Finally, MPs [10] are based on mathematical morphology (erosion and dilation), with opening and closing operators that can capture spatial structures in the images, resulting in high classification accuracy. These works, focusing on feature representation, employed a support vector machine (SVM) for posterior classification, as SVM is currently one of the most powerful and well-known classifiers.

In contrast, among the methods focusing on classification, we can find graph-based learning [11], sparsity-representation-based techniques [12], random subspace ensembles (RSEs) [13], spectral-spatial-constrain method [14], and multi-feature-learning-based

classification [15]. Graph-based learning [11] addresses the spatial relationship among pixels considering semi-supervised learning. This method achieves good results, yet large sizes of HSI images can lead to computational complexity. The approach in [12] proposes a dictionary-based sparse representation, considering smoothing terms and joint-sparsity models, with accurate results. Regarding the RSE methodology in [13], RSEs are combined with decision tree and extreme learning machine algorithms, achieving state-of-the-art performances. In the spectral-spatial-constrain method [14], the spatial relationship among pixels is translated into a hypergraph structure (being each pixel a vertex) to which a semi-supervised learning is applied, showing superiority to other methods such as conditional random fields, among others. Finally, in [15], they propose a new classification framework based on the integration of different features, including linear and non-linear ones. This method provides good results with no significant increase in the computational complexity.

However, recently DL techniques are also being introduced and evaluated for feature representation and classification in HSI [3-4]. Unlike the feature representation techniques mentioned above, the DL methodologies are based on machine learning, which is reporting an increasing interest in the last years as this learning type is claimed to provide really powerful capabilities and successful analysis. That is the reason why there is a high interest in the evaluation of these methods, where further analysis and research is still required. From these methodologies, a really motivating approach is the one related to SAEs for feature representation, and this is where our work is developed, using SVM as a classifier.

### III. STACKED AUTOENCODERS

A basic AE is a DL-architecture model in which an original signal at the input is reconstructed at the output going through an intermediate layer with reduced number of hidden nodes. The AE model tries to learn deep and abstract features in those reduced hidden nodes, so a reconstruction is feasible from them. In Fig. 1, a basic scheme of an AE is represented, where the input signal  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathfrak{R}^N$  can be reduced to  $F$  features presenting high abstraction, so finally the original signal can be reconstructed into  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathfrak{R}^N$ .

The AE training consists of reproducing input signals at the output of the model, so internal units are able to provide the original information. Ensuring a proper reconstruction, the values in the layer can then be employed as new reduced features representing the original signal  $\mathbf{p}$ . The AE satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &= f(w_y \mathbf{p} + b_y) \\ \mathbf{z} &= f(w_z \mathbf{y} + b_z) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where the interval variable  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathfrak{R}^F$  is obtained from  $\mathbf{p}$  by the weights  $w_y$  and common bias  $b_y$ ; and the reconstructed signal  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathfrak{R}^N$ , supposed to match  $\mathbf{p}$ , is obtained directly from the layer output  $\mathbf{y}$  by  $w_z$  and  $b_z$ ;  $f(\cdot)$  represents the activation function, which introduces the nonlinearity in the network.

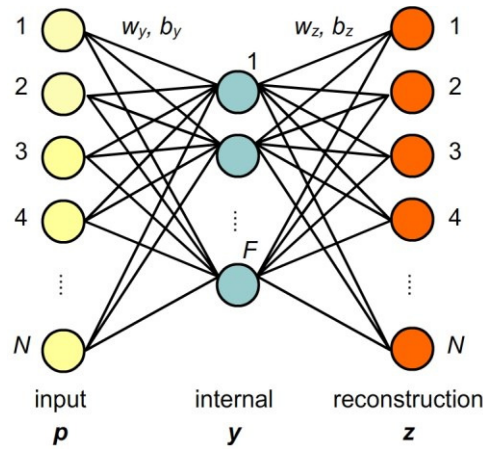


Fig. 1. Basic AE scheme.

To train the AE and determine the optimized parameters, the error between  $\mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  needs to be minimized, i.e.

$$\arg \min_{w_y, w_z, b_y, b_z} [error(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{z})]. \quad (2)$$

SAEs can be defined expanding this concept and simply introducing several layers between the input and the output. Therefore, final features are obtained through progressive abstraction levels. In Fig. 2, a SAE with two layers is shown, where usually  $F < L$ .

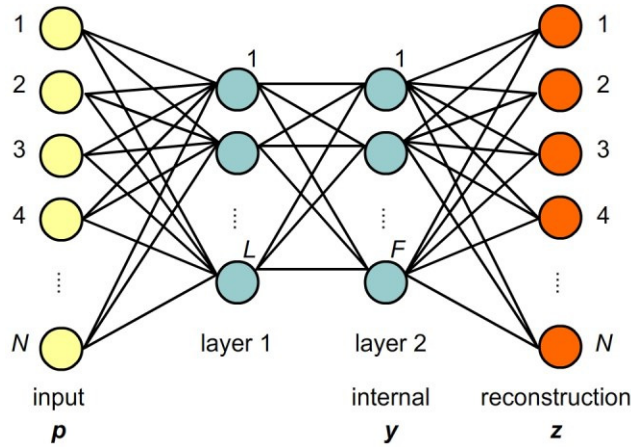


Fig. 2. Stacked AE scheme (2 layers).

In hyperspectral remote sensing, SAEs can be used for feature reduction in the spectral domain of pixels, in an unsupervised manner. After training the SAE with a representative portion of samples, every pixel can then be reduced to the output values ( $\mathbf{y}$ ) of the deepest layer.

The training process in SAEs consists of an iterative update of the multiple internal coefficients  $w$  and  $b$ , an update by which the error between the input pixel and the reconstructed one at the output of the network is progressively reduced until it is below some value or threshold. An effective training translates into a reduced error as expressed in equation (2), which ensures appropriate internal features. Fig. 3 shows both the original spectral data and the reconstructed profile after an appropriate training of the SAE, where the similarity between both profiles is clear. This similarity proves that the SAE network is able to reconstruct the input pixel

from internal layers with reduced number of nodes, i.e., the reduced features  $F$  from the internal layer are representative and contain the main information from the pixel by high abstraction, being possible to employ them for feature extraction.

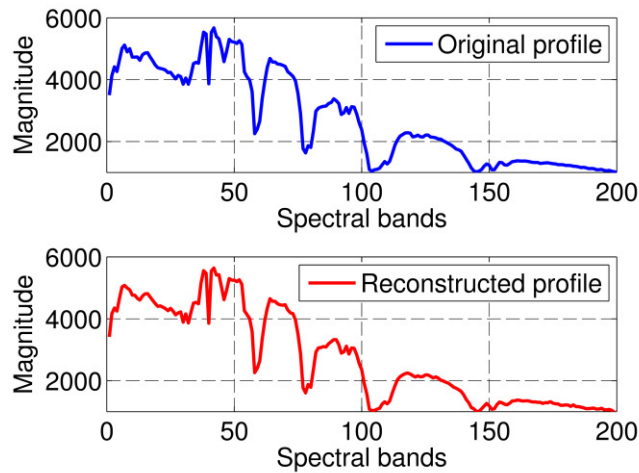


Fig. 3. Original spectral profile (top) and reconstructed one by SAE (bottom).

#### IV. SEGMENTED SAE

The conventional application of SAEs treats equally and simultaneously all spectral bands. This yields complexity because hidden nodes in the first layer deal directly with the original feature dimension, which seems excessive. In addition, there are no considerations with relation to the different spectral regions of the data, while it is usual to find particular local regions with more information than others.

For all that, SAEs application can be implemented by parts, into different segments of the spectrum. This concept was already introduced for other feature extraction methods such as principal component analysis (PCA) [5], segmented PCA [16] and other similar variants [17].

Fig. 4 presents the generic structure of our proposed S-SAE, where the spectral domain of samples  $\mathbf{p}$  is segmented into  $K$  different regions  $\mathbf{p}_k, k \in [1, K]$  to which the SAE technique is applied individually.

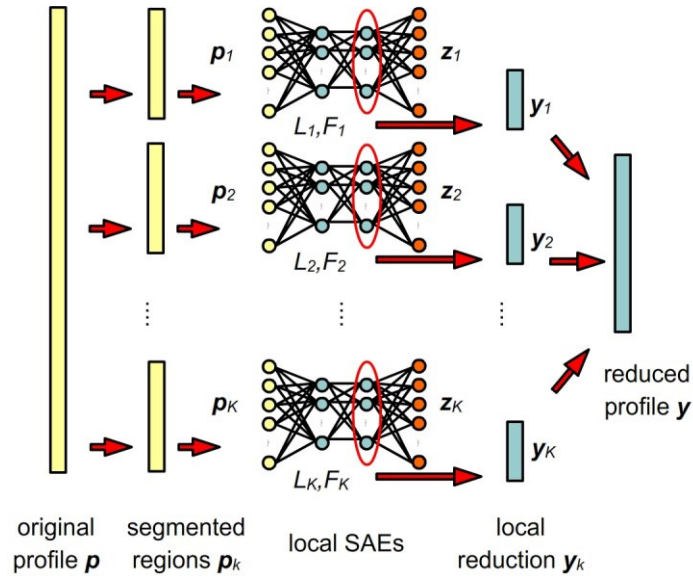


Fig. 4. S-SAE structure using several two-layer SAEs.

Since local SAEs have a small region of the spectrum as input, they present reduced number of hidden nodes ( $L_k, F_k$ ), i.e., S-SAE needs several SAEs but they are simpler than the one employed in the conventional case. In addition, abstraction from the deep layers is achieved in an easier way. Finally, reduced features from local regions  $y_k, k \in [1, K]$  are concatenated ( $\sum_{k=1}^K F_k = F$ ) to form a reduced feature vector.

The determination of segmented regions is related to the correlation matrix among the spectral bands for a given data set. Similarly to [16] and also [17], high correlated regions from the correlation matrix can be used to define the segments in S-SAE. More information can be found in Section V.D and Section V.E.

## V. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS

To prove the enhancement derived from our proposal, several experiments are developed and evaluated. Feature extraction/data reduction is applied to both natural and urban data sets. The resulting features are then inputted to a SVM classifier, where the classification accuracy is taken as a quantitative measurement of our proposal performance. Detailed description is available in the following.

### A. Data Set Description

The 92AV3C data set [18], also known as Indian Pine image, was taken over Indiana, USA, with the AVIRIS instrument. It is a  $145 \times 145$  pixels subscene extracted from the original image, presenting 220 spectral bands. However, due to noise and water absorption regions, some bands (104-108, 150-163, and 220) are commonly removed, working with a total of 200 spectral bands. It presents 16 labeled classes, which can be seen in Fig. 5. On the other hand, the Pavia CA data set is a  $150 \times 150$  subscene extracted



from Pavia Center image [19] (ROSIS instrument), with a total of 102 spectral bands available and 7 labeled classes in urban environment (Fig. 6).

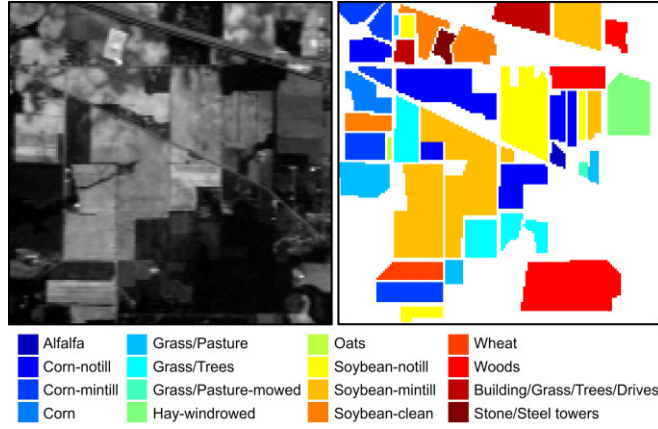


Fig. 5. 92AV3C data set [18] with classes' description.

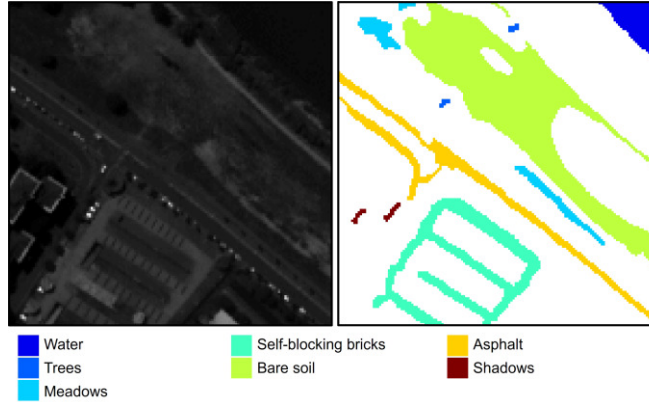


Fig. 6. Pavia CA data set [19] with classes' description.

### B. Experimental Setup

The main purpose here is to compare conventional SAE with our S-SAE. In addition, some classical data reduction techniques [1] are included for benchmarking. These methods comprise PCA [5], ICA [6], and MNF [7]. Furthermore, EMD [8] and SSA [9] applied in the spectral domain (1-D) are also included in the classification accuracy evaluations for further benchmarking. All the experiments are carried out in MATLAB environment (version 8.0, 64-bit), with a 3.00-GHz CPU and 8-GB memory.

Performance of the different methods is evaluated by the pixels classification accuracy that features are able to produce out of an SVM classifier (LIBSVM [20]). Gaussian RBF is selected as a kernel function, where parameters penalty ( $c$ ) and gamma ( $\gamma$ ) are tuned every time by a grid search (only considering the training samples) with values  $\{10^0, 10^1, 10^2, 10^3, 10^4, 10^5\}$  and  $\{10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-1}, 10^0, 10^1, 10^2\}$  for  $c$  and  $\gamma$ , respectively. The SVMs are built by the training samples, selected randomly with an equal sample rate of 5% in each class, using the remainder samples for testing, i.e., no sample overlapping is allowed. This is repeated 10 times to ensure statistical significance. Mean overall accuracy and McNemar's test values [21] are evaluated.

### C. Configuration for SAE

The DL context usually entails some complexity in configuration and selection of parameters. In this case, conventional SAEs can be implemented in several different ways. From [3], it is suggested the use of among 2-6 layers with 20-60 hidden units in each layer except in the deepest one, where the number of units simply matches the number of desired features ( $F$ ). In order to find an appropriate configuration, we analyze the effect of parameters, layer depth and hidden units, as shown in Table I.

TABLE I  
EFFECT OF LAYER DEPTH AND HIDDEN UNITS FOR  $F=10$

Number of units ( $L$ )	Number of layers				
	2	3	4	5	6
<b>92AV3C</b>					
20	68.33	68.84	66.62	60.39	59.24
40	<b>74.01</b>	68.87	69.43	67.26	65.83
60	71.84	69.93	69.13	67.90	67.06
<b>Pavia CA</b>					
20	97.06	96.92	96.87	96.52	96.71
40	<b>97.16</b>	96.77	96.71	96.75	96.77
60	96.69	97.00	96.98	96.78	96.95

As can be seen in Table I, higher number of layers or hidden units not necessarily improves the classification performance, as already indicated in [3]. From these results, we state a two-layer configuration with 40 units, shown in Table II. All SAEs implemented here employ scaled conjugate gradient backpropagation, with sigmoid activation function and a rather low 2000 epoch (iterations) limit for training, for fast experiments and analysis.

TABLE II  
CONVENTIONAL SAE CONFIGURATION FOR 92AV3C AND PAVIA CA

Region	Layer-nodes		Reduced features ( $F$ )
Original profile ( $N$ )	1st	$L=40$	5, 10, 15, 20
	2nd	$F$	

### D. Configuration for S-SAE

Our proposal needs to define different segments of data to be computed separately. According to [16], the correlation among spectral bands, i.e., the correlation matrix, can be used effectively for this purpose. The correlation matrix is closely related to the covariance matrix. For that reason, usually the former one is defined by the latter. Given the definition of covariance matrix as  $Cov = E\{(\mathbf{p} - E\{\mathbf{p}\})(\mathbf{p} - E\{\mathbf{p}\})^T\}$ , where  $E\{\}$  is the mathematical expectation operator, then the elements  $(i, j)$  inside the correlation matrix can be defined according to  $Corr(i, j) = Cov(i, j) / \sqrt{Cov(i, i)Cov(j, j)}$ . Please note that  $Cov(i, i)$  and  $Cov(j, j)$  represent the variance of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  and the  $j^{\text{th}}$  spectral bands from the hypercube, respectively. In that sense,  $Corr(i, j)$  describes the correlation between the  $i^{\text{th}}$  and the  $j^{\text{th}}$  bands. The complete correlation matrix provides the correlation between every pair of bands in the hypercube, which can be effectively used to define the segmented regions. To this end, correlation distribution

from both data sets is obtained by representing the correlation value between all bands in an image, as shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, respectively.

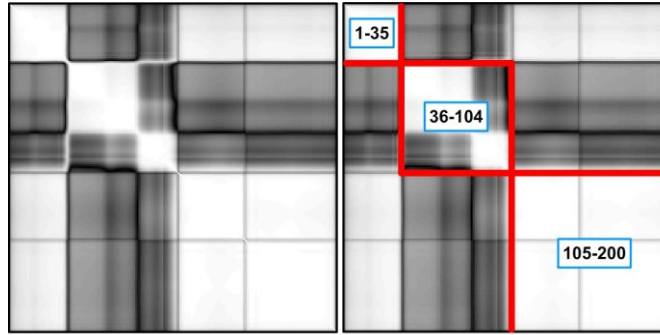


Fig. 7. Correlation matrix (left, with white = 1 or -1; black = 0), and selected regions (right) for 92AV3C data set.

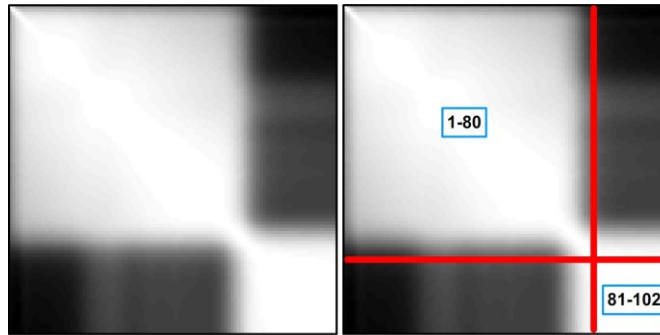


Fig. 8. Correlation matrix (left, with white = 1 or -1; black = 0), and selected regions (right) for Pavia CA data set.

As suggested in [16], segmentation can be approximately derived from the main correlation groups arisen. Accordingly, Table III states the proposed segmentation for both data sets. Nodes in the first layer are simply divided by the number of segments. We also divide the total number of features (5, 10, 15, and 20) evenly among the segments if possible; otherwise, remaining features are allocated to the widest segment.

TABLE III  
SEGMENTED-SAE CONFIGURATION FOR 92AV3C AND PAVIA CA

Region	Range	Layer-nodes	Reduced features ( $F=\sum F_k$ )				
<b>92AV3C</b>							
Segment $N_1$	1-35	1st	$L_1=13$	1	3	5	6
		2nd	$F_1$				
Segment $N_2$	36-104	1st	$L_2=13$	2	3	5	7
		2nd	$F_2$				
Segment $N_3$	105-200	1st	$L_3=13$	2	4	5	7
		2nd	$F_3$				
<b>Pavia CA</b>							
Segment $N_1$	1-80	1st	$L_1=20$	3	5	8	10
		2nd	$F_1$				
Segment $N_2$	81-102	1st	$L_2=20$	2	5	7	10
		2nd	$F_2$				

### E. Effect of the Segmentation Selection

The behavior of the S-SAE proposal is highly dependent on the segmented regions implemented. The information derived from the correlation matrix of a given data set provides the solution in selecting these regions, as explained in Section IV and Section V.D. However, from these correlation matrices sometimes is still possible to derive a few different segmentations. In this subsection, we analyze this fact with clear examples.

Taking the 92AV3C data set and the case with  $F=20$  features, we now define some alternative configurations to the proposed one in Section V.D. Three different segmentations are proposed, two of them trying to adjust to the correlated regions and, additionally, a third one randomly chosen. From these new configurations, we expect that the first two provide similar classification accuracy to the original one, while the random segmentation case would lead to no improvement, as the configuration is not appropriate. Fig. 9 shows the configurations analyzed, while the overall accuracy in classification is provided in Table IV.

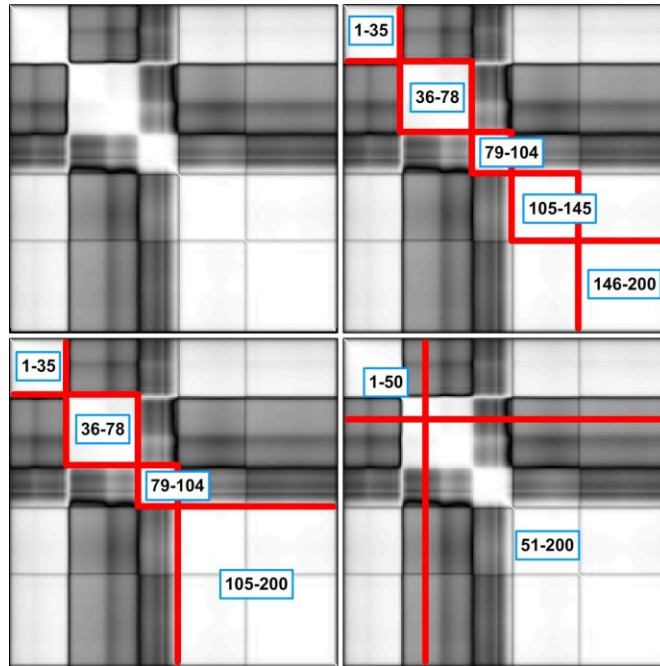


Fig. 9. (Top-left) Correlation matrix (white = 1 or -1; black = 0), and selected regions in configurations (top-right) C-1, (bottom-left), C-2, and (bottom-right) C-3 for 92AV3C data set with  $F=20$  features.

TABLE IV  
S-SAE PROPOSED AND ALTERNATIVE CONFIGURATIONS FOR 92AV3C WITH  $F=20$

	Configuration	OA (%)
Prop.	$N_k = \{1-35, 36-104, 105-200\}$	80.66
	$L_k = \{13, 13, 13\}$	
	$F_k = \{6, 7, 7\}$	
C-1 (k=5)	$N_k = \{1-35, 36-78, 79-104, 105-145, 146-200\}$	79.57
	$L_k = \{8, 8, 8, 8\}$	
	$F_k = \{4, 4, 4, 4\}$	
C-2 (k=4)	$N_k = \{1-35, 36-78, 79-104, 105-200\}$	79.23
	$L_k = \{10, 10, 10, 10\}$	
	$F_k = \{5, 5, 5, 5\}$	
C-3 (k=2)	$N_k = \{1-50, 51-200\}$	75.39
	$L_k = \{20, 20\}$	
	$F_k = \{10, 10\}$	

As shown by the results, the alternative configurations C-1 and C-2, with 5 and 4 segmented regions, respectively, are able to produce good results similar to the original configuration proposed. On the other hand, randomly selected configuration C-3 leads to degradation of the classification accuracy, as the two selected segments are not in accordance with the criterion suggested. In summary, the performance of S-SAE is dependent on the correct selection procedure of segments, which must follow the criteria introduced in Section IV and V.D.

#### F. Classification Accuracy Results

In Fig. 10 and Fig. 11, the overall accuracy obtained by PCA, ICA, MNF, conventional SAE, and S-SAE with different number of features is shown for 92AV3C and Pavia CA, respectively. In addition, Table V provides a comparison of the best result obtained by each method, now including the EMD and SSA methods that use the original dimensionality of features ( $N$ ). For the 92AV3C data set, conventional SAE seems to perform worse than the rest techniques except the EMD. However, for Pavia CA, SAE presents the third best result. In both cases, S-SAE outperforms not only SAE but the rest of methods, only the SSA in the 92AV3C case provides higher accuracy, but employing much more features, 200 instead of 20. McNemar's test values having PCA as a reference also validate these results.

Further evaluation using the class-by-class and the average accuracy is given in Tables VI-VII, which demonstrates that the proposed S-SAE approach generally leads to better or comparable accuracy in comparison to other state-of-the-art approaches. However, MNF and SSA perform better in some classes, possibly owing the noise suppression model applied. As a result, it can be interesting to investigate the combination of MNF/SSA and S-SAE for further improved classification accuracy.

It is also found that in few cases, especially for the 92AV3C dataset, conventional SAE slightly outperforms S-SAE for some ground truth classes. This seems to be related to those classes with a really small number of samples available. Although this fact has no negative impact on our proposal, further research is expected with relation to this particular point.

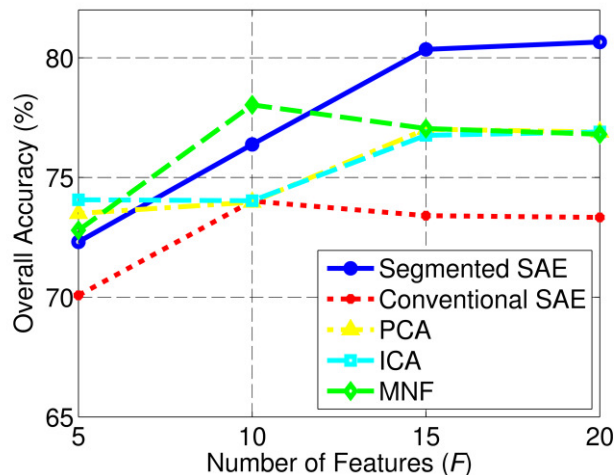


Fig. 10. Overall accuracy (%) for the 92AV3C data set using S-SAE, conventional SAE, PCA, ICA, and MNF.

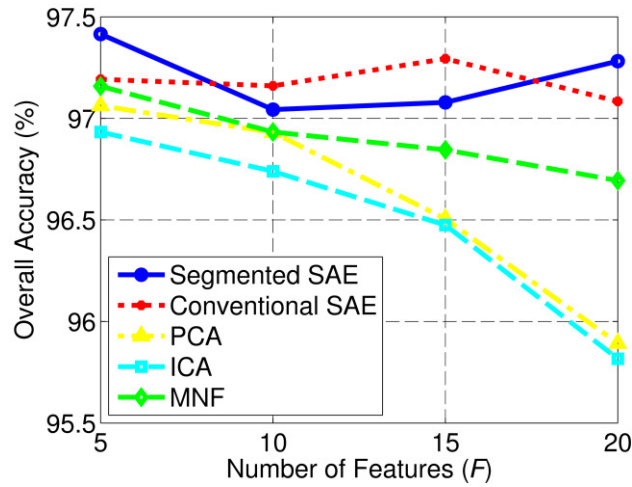


Fig. 11. Overall accuracy (%) for the Pavia CA data set using S-SAE, conventional SAE, PCA, ICA, and MNF.








TABLE V  
MEAN OVERALL ACCURACY (%), MEAN MCNEMAR'S TEST [Z] AND NUMBER OF FEATURES (F) FROM PCA, ICA, MNF, SAE, S-SAE, EMD, AND SSA APPROACHES

Method	92AV3C	Pavia CA
PCA	77.01 [-0.00] (15)	97.06 [-0.00] (5)
ICA	76.90 [-0.21] (20)	96.93 [-1.27] (5)
MNF	78.03 [+2.14] (10)	97.16 [+0.11] (5)
SAE	74.01 [-6.07] (10)	97.29 [+1.07] (15)
S-SAE	80.66 [+8.14] (20)	<b>97.42 [+1.60] (5)</b>
EMD	65.40 [-21.9] (200)	90.71 [-16.3] (102)
SSA	<b>82.13 [+11.7] (200)</b>	97.35 [+1.31] (102)

TABLE VI  
MEAN CLASS-BY-CLASS ACCURACIES (%) OBTAINED FROM PCA (F=15), ICA (F=20), MNF (F=10), SAE (F=10), S-SAE (F=20), EMD (F=200), AND SSA (F=200) APPROACHES INCLUDING NUMBER OF SAMPLES (NoS) IN EACH CLASS FOR 92AV3C

Class	NoS	PCA	ICA	MNF	SAE	S-SAE	EMD	SSA
█	54	50.20	46.86	65.88	63.53	55.29	20.00	75.29
█	143	74.58	77.83	72.10	65.62	78.91	62.12	81.57
█	834	60.88	59.14	70.27	56.69	68.17	53.61	69.04
█	234	46.26	45.32	48.42	43.60	54.96	33.11	65.09
█	497	88.39	88.26	86.95	86.55	88.92	73.37	89.66
█	747	92.50	93.10	90.27	89.61	93.07	84.87	93.23
█	26	67.50	60.83	65.00	60.42	59.17	14.17	82.08
█	489	97.87	96.96	93.00	94.57	96.01	80.91	96.29
█	20	24.21	18.95	34.21	38.95	36.32	04.21	44.74
█	968	62.30	62.81	72.46	67.31	74.00	51.37	72.71
█	246	77.95	76.99	81.17	78.07	82.98	65.88	82.92
█	614	67.86	65.54	63.71	57.87	71.99	51.03	81.87
█	212	98.31	98.41	94.38	93.23	96.67	82.19	96.22
█	129	93.87	92.05	94.27	92.10	93.69	87.87	94.84
█	380	51.50	57.48	35.98	35.93	44.88	37.40	44.02
█	95	81.33	78.22	87.11	81.00	83.00	67.67	84.89
Av. Acc.		70.97	69.92	72.20	69.07	73.63	54.36	78.40
Ov. Acc.		77.01	76.90	78.03	74.01	80.66	65.40	82.13

TABLE VII  
MEAN CLASS-BY-CLASS ACCURACIES (%) OBTAINED FROM PCA ( $F=5$ ), ICA ( $F=5$ ), MNF ( $F=5$ ), SAE ( $F=15$ ), S-SAE ( $F=5$ ), EMD ( $F=102$ ), AND SSA ( $F=102$ ) APPROACHES INCLUDING NUMBER OF SAMPLES (NoS) IN EACH CLASS FOR PAVIA CA

Class	NoS	PCA	ICA	MNF	SAE	S-SAE	EMD	SSA
	447	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.63	100.0
	28	23.46	21.92	23.85	18.08	23.08	24.23	20.77
	347	83.43	83.47	89.24	86.57	87.84	81.85	89.18
	1213	96.23	95.80	95.82	96.07	96.43	88.95	96.04
	3512	98.73	98.63	98.66	99.07	98.86	91.59	98.90
	893	97.59	97.67	96.85	97.09	97.63	95.57	97.11
	43	99.75	99.50	100.0	99.75	100.0	17.75	100.0
Av. Acc.		85.60	85.28	86.34	85.23	86.26	70.94	86.00
Ov. Acc.		97.06	96.93	97.16	97.29	97.42	90.71	97.35

### G. Computational Complexity Evaluations

Although several local SAEs are employed, S-SAE is able to decrease complexity in the network system due to the overall number of neural connections, which is reduced in comparison to the conventional SAE. The number of hidden units in local SAEs is small; hence the quantity of corresponding interconnections among them is limited. However, for conventional SAE, the whole number of units easily leads to multiplicity of these connections.

Regarding Fig. 2, the number of connections for the conventional SAE method is given by the expression  $[N \times L + L \times F + F \times N]$ , however, in the S-SAE case, the number of connections is derived from  $\sum_k [N_k \times L_k + L_k \times F_k + F_k \times N_k]$ . Considering the basic case in which parameters  $N$ ,  $L$ , and  $F$  are approximately divided by the number of regions selected, the complexity of S-SAE with relation to conventional SAE can generally be expressed as  $K \times [(N \times L)/K^2 + (L \times F)/K^2 + (F \times N)/K^2]$ . Thus, the new case is  $[N \times L + L \times F + F \times N]/K$ , i.e., the conventional complexity divided by the number of segments  $K$ .

The S-SAE approach avoids irrelevant neural connections so the complexity of the network is reduced. This is also shown in Table VIII, where the reduction percentage is similar for the different number of features ( $F$ ). As explained above, this is because the reduction is closely related to the number of segments or regions employed in S-SAE. From our results, S-SAE reduces complexity to about 50% for the Pavia CA data and up to 67% for the 92AV3C data set.

TABLE VIII  
NUMBER OF NEURAL CONNECTIONS AND REDUCTION USING DIFFERENT NUMBER OF FEATURES ( $F$ )

Data set	$F$	SAE	S-SAE	Reduction
92AV3C	5	9200	3030	67.07%
	10	10400	3426	67.06%
	15	11600	3795	67.28%
	20	12800	4225	66.99%
Pavia CA	5	4790	2424	49.39%
	10	5500	2750	50.00%
	15	6210	3134	49.53%
	20	6920	3460	50.00%

Following the reduction of neural interconnections, the approximated computational complexity expressed in number of Multiply-ACcumulates (MACs) can be easily derived. Given a trained network, every time the data reduction is applied to a new

pixel or sample, approximately a total of  $[N \times L + L \times F]$  MACs are required (from input to internal layer) in the conventional SAE method. Similarly,  $[N \times L + L \times F]/K$  is the cost involved in the S-SAE, where again it is reduced by a saving factor equal to the number of defined segments. Moreover, for the PCA technique (similar to MNF and ICA), the truncation projection consists of a simple multiplication of the pixel with the Eigenvectors matrix, resulting in  $[N \times F]$  MACs. On the other hand, for the EMD and SSA methods, the complexity analysis is not included as it is much higher and independent to the number of features  $F$ . Giving some numbers to these expressions, Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 show the complexity for 92AV3C and Pavia CA, with different number of features  $F$ .

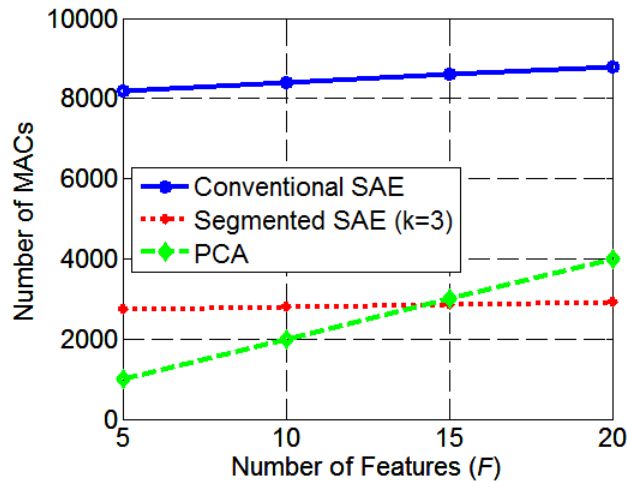


Fig. 12. Computational complexity (number of MACs) for the 92AV3C data set.

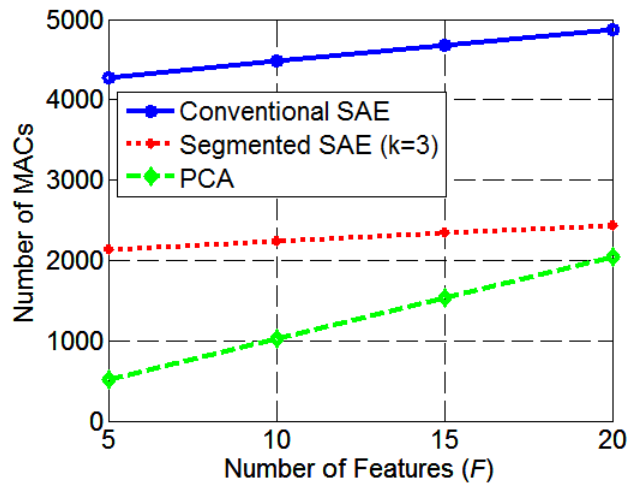


Fig. 13. Computational complexity (number of MACs) for the Pavia CA data set.

The conventional SAE method requires the maximum number of MACs, a number that slightly increases as long as more features  $F$  are extracted, while the MACs involved in the S-SAE approach are simply divided by the number of regions in the segmentation. On the other hand, classical techniques such as PCA present the lowest complexity, although when  $F$  increases it can surpass the S-SAE complexity, which proves the general benefits achieved from the segmentation concept.



Finally, the approximated computation time can also be used for assessment comparison. This time is obtained from both the conventional and the segmented SAE under the same conditions, measuring the elapsed time required in extracting the reduced features  $F$  from a pixel given a trained two-layer SAE or S-SAE. This is done for several randomly selected pixels, providing the mean values in Table IX. As can be seen, the reduction in number of neural interconnections and MACs explained above leads to faster implementations as well, where the time required in extracting features from an original pixel is reduced in 60% and about 44% for the 92AV3C and Pavia CA data sets, respectively.

TABLE IX  
APPROXIMATED COMPUTATION TIME IN MILLISECONDS USING DIFFERENT NUMBER OF FEATURES ( $F$ )

Data set	$F$	SAE	S-SAE	Reduction
92AV3C	5	4.6	2.0	56.52%
	10	6.4	2.6	59.38%
	15	8.0	3.2	60.00%
	20	9.8	3.8	61.22%
Pavia CA	5	3.3	1.9	42.42%
	10	5.0	2.8	44.00%
	15	6.7	3.7	44.78%
	20	8.7	4.7	45.98%

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

As part of the DL framework being explored in the very recent years, SAEs are proved to be an effective method for feature extraction/abstraction and data reduction in HSI. In this paper, a variant of SAEs, namely Segmented-SAEs, is proposed, where the original spectral domain is divided in different regions to which individual SAEs are applied, reducing the complexity of the learning processes and extracting local information that leads to better performance. This introductory analysis proves high potential in applying DL algorithms and deriving variants from them, allowing improved classification accuracy in hyperspectral remote sensing. Future work will explore the combination of most state-of-the-art techniques including 2D SSA [22], adaptive sparse representation [23, 27], Hybrid and sampling-based clustering ensemble [24], weakly supervised learning [25], tensor rank selection [26], gradient and subspace processing [28] and salient based deep learning [29].

## VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank the anonymous reviewers and the Associate Editor for their constructive comments to further improve the quality of this paper. The work is partially supported by the University of Strathclyde and the following grants: National Natural Science Foundation of China (61272381, 61471132, 61401163), Science and Technology Major Project of Education Department of Guangdong Province (2014KZDXM060), the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (No.2015ZZ032), and Science and Technology Project of Guangzhou City (2014J4100078).

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