7.9 - 1 0 2 3 5
CR-158799

(E79-10235)   EFFECT OF THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE   N79-30596
CLASSIFICATION OF LANDSAT DATA (Instituto de
Pesquisas Espaciais, Sao Jose)   11 p
HC A02/MF A01   CSCL 05B   Unclas
                                                  G3/43   00235

1.Classification *INPE-COM.4/RPE* *C.D.U.:621.38SR:551.508.99*	2.Period	4.Distribution Criterion

8. Title and Sub-title
EFFECT OF THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF LANDSAT DATA

9 Authorized by

Nelson de Jesus Parada
Director

10.Sector *DSE/DIN*   Code *250X*

11.No of Copies   15

12.Authorship
   T. Morimoto
   R. Kumar
   L.C.B. Molion

13.Signature of first author   *R Kumar*

14.No. of Pages   10

15.Price

16.Summary/Notes

      The purpose of this work was to develop a suitable computer program to correct computer compatible tapes, obtained from LANDSAT MSS data, and to study its effect on percentage of correct classification. The LOWTRAN-3 program, developed by the Air Force Geophysics Laboratories and based on a semi-empirical model, was used to calculate the atmospheric transmittance, in conjunction with Turner's model for correction of satellite data for atmospheric interference. It improved the contrast between different natural targets in the MSS LANDSAT data of Brasília, Brazil. It also improved the classification accuracy of sugar canes by about 9%, in the MSS LANDSAT data of Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil.

17.Remarks
For publication in the Proceedings of the "Symposium on Machine Processing of Remotely Sensed Data", LARS, Purdue Univ., Indiana, USA.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this work was to develop a suitable computer program to correct computer compatible tapes, obtained from LANDSAT MSS data, and to study its effect on percentage of correct classification The LOWTRAN-3 program, developed by the Air Force Geophysics Laboratories and based on a semi-empirical model, was used to calculate the atmospheric transmittance, in conjunction with Turner's model for correction of satellite data for atmospheric interference It improved the contrast between different natural targets in the MSS LANDSAT data of Brasilia, Brazil It also improved the classification accuracy of sugar canes by about 9%, in the MSS LANDSAT data of Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil.

I   INTRODUCTION

Radiation from remotely sensed objects in the earth's environment is attenuated in its passage through the atmosphere With the advent of LANDSAT, Skylab and other advanced earth monitoring satellites, it has become increasingly important to know to what extent the atmosphere affects the classification accuracy, using satellite multispectral scanner (MSS) data, of earth resources

The Brazilian Institute of Space Research (INPE) operates a data receiving and a data processing station for the LANDSAT satellite and processes MSS data in the form of photographs, as well as computer compatible tapes. The objectives of the present project were: (1) To develop a suitable, computationally efficient, computer program to correct the tapes of LANDSAT's multispectral scanner (MSS) data for atmospheric interference, and (2), to study the effect of atmospheric interference on (A) the

quality of LANDSAT MSS images for visual photo-interpretation and (B) the percentage of correct classification of the same data, using automatic pattern recognition techniques

II   DETERMINATION OF ATMOSPHERIC TRANSMITTANCE

The calculation of atmospheric transmittance is normally difficult, because of the complicated nature of the radiative transfer equation and of the, usually incompletely known, constituency of the atmosphere at the time for which calculations are to be made There have been innumerable investigations from which methods are derived for calculating atmospheric transmittance[1] (1) Line-by-line calculations· the foundation for the line-by-line calculation is a set of parameters that describe the molecular lines in which radiation is absorbed and emitted Many techniques[1], developed in these calculations, are designed to minimize the computational effort Even with the time-saving approximations applied to the line-by-line calculation, the costs are often excessive for an accuracy beyond that required for correcting LANDSAT MSS data for atmospheric interference (2) Band-Model Calculations Although, in general, these techniques are more efficient computationally than line-by-line calculations, they still take considerably more computer time than, for example, the LOWTRAN 3 method described below. (3) The Aggregate method, developed by the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan (ERIM), is simply a compilation of the special forms of the band-models, assembled in a program In this method, in certain wavelength regions, the conventional models are not used, but empirical fits to experimental data are used to determine the functional form of transmittance[1] Since its spectral range

(1 to 30 μm) does not include the visible wavelength region, it is not suitable for our purpose. (4) LOWTRAN 3 Method The LOWTRAN 3 program[2] is based on a semi-empirical model and calculates the transmittance (averaged over a 20 cm^{-1} interval) for a given atmospheric path[3], at steps of 5 cm^{-1}, from 350 cm^{-1} to 40,000 cm^{-1} (0.25 to 28.5 μm)

The main assumptions made in this program are that the atmosphere can be represented by a 33-layer model, and that the average transmittance over a 20 cm^{-1} interval (due to molecular absorption) can be represented by a single parameter model, determined empirically using both laboratory transmittance data and available molecular line constants. The absorption coefficients for water vapor, ozone, and the combined effects of the uniformly mixed gases (CO_2, N_2O, CH_4, CO, N_2, and O_2) are digitized in this program

A choice of six model atmospheres (1962 U.S. Standard Atmosphere, Tropical (15°N), Midlatitude Summer (45°N, July), Midlatitude Winter (45°, January), Subarctic Summer (60°N, July), and Subarctic Winter (60°N, January), is given, with an option for a seventh model, which can be inserted as a set of radiosonde data. The aerosol attenuation is calculated for a given visual range, using an interpolation | extrapolation scheme, with two aerosol models, based on measurements of continental aerosols under moderate visibility conditions (5 km and 23 km at sea level). The altitude, pressure, temperature, water vapor density, and ozone density for six model atmospheres, as well as the number of particles per cm^3 for two haze models (visual ranges of 5 and 23 km), are provided as basic input data

This program was used for calculating the transmittance of the atmosphere because it is reasonably accurate, user-oriented, computationally very efficient, well documented and revised by the Air Force Geophysics Laboratories at regular periods of time, utilizing recent laboratory measurements and theoretical calculations.

III CORRECTION OF LANDSAT MSS DATA FOR ATMOSPHERIC INTERFERENCE

Computer compatible tapes of LANDSAT MSS data were corrected using the 'atmospheric model for correction of spacecraft data', as given by Turner (1972)[4] This model assumes a plane-parallel atmosphere but can be applied to the case of a realistic spherical

atmosphere, if the nadir view angle is small, or if the satellite's altitude is not too great The target was assumed to be diffuse. The eight parameters needed by the model are wavelength, azimuth and zenith angles of the sun, azimuth and nadir view angles of the sensing device, height of the sensing device above the terrain, visual range at the ground, and average background terrain albedo

The day, month, year, and local time of the satellite, along with the longitude and latitude of the ground scene, were used in a separate computer program to obtain the solar azimuth and zenith angles The background terrain spectral albedo was estimated by the values of spectral reflectance of the known types of ground covers available in the literature It was found that changing the scanning angle of the satellite from 0° to 10° had almost no effect on the calculated transmittance of the atmosphere. The elapsed time on a B-6700 computer to correct 4 images, each of 512 > 512 pixels (i e 1,048,576 pixels) for atmospheric interference, was about 15 minutes

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

LANDSAT MSS data of Brasilia, Brazil, were corrected using this algorithm and available radiosonde data Figures 1 to 3 show the original image in band 4 (0 5 to 0 6 μm), band 7 (0 8 to 1 1 μm) and a color composite, respectively. Figures 4 to 6 show the respective figures 1 to 3 corrected for atmospheric interference

Note that the corrected images have better contrast between natural targets, thus making it easier to discriminate between them by photo-interpretation. In addition, one can see textural features of certain areas like vegetation, roads, etc better in the corrected images.

To arrive at an estimate of change in percentage of correct classification, after correction for atmospheric interference, LANDSAT MSS Data of Ribeirão Preto (July 1, 1977), was corrected for atmospheric interference using this algorithm The Department of Remote Sensing of Earth Resources of INPE had classified the sugar canes in this area, using aerial photography The original and corrected images gave classification accuracies of sugar canes to be 68 1% and 77 3% respectively, using the single-cell option of Image-100 as compared to the results obtained by aerial photography Image-100 is a data processing system marketed by the General Electric Co to extract thematic information and enhance

multispectral imagery. Further experiments need to be done to establish if correcting LANDSAT MSS data for atmospheric interference significantly improves, statistically, the percentage of correct classification. Future plans include more experiments with the current algorithm, using a pixel-by-pixel maximum likelihood gaussian classifier, as well as a sample classifier, making the current algorithm computationally more efficient, and comparing the results to those of other algorithms of correcting satellite data for atmospheric interference reported in the literature, with respect to their effect on classification accuracy.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Dr Celso de Renna e Souza, Head, Informatics Division (INPE) and the Department of Remote Sensing (INPE) for their assistance with this work. In addition, the authors would like to thank Dr. Nelson de Jesus Parada, Director of INPE, for his permission to publish this work

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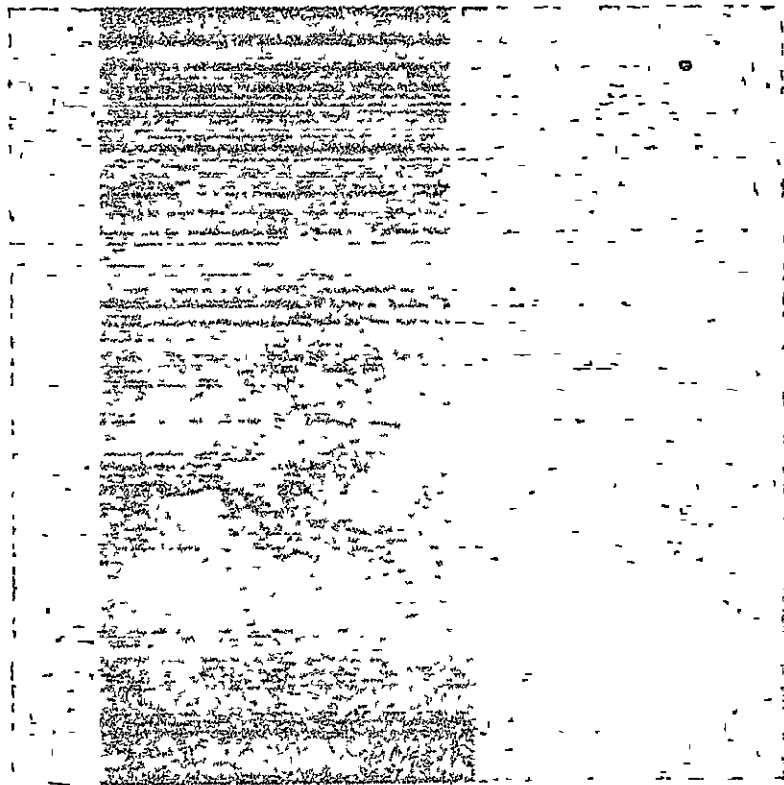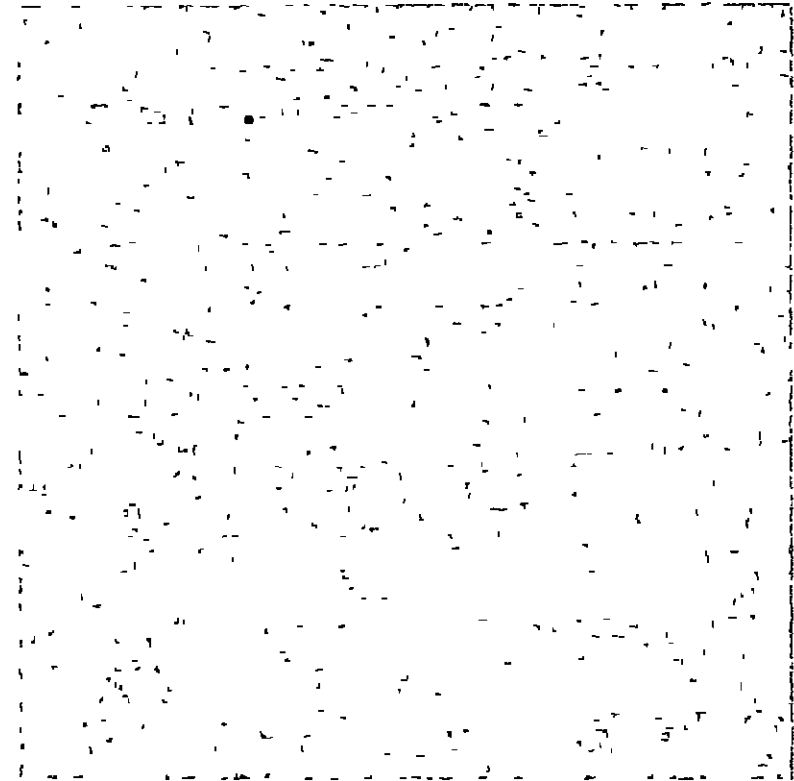
Figure 1. Original Image in Band 4.

Figure 2. Original Image in Band 7.
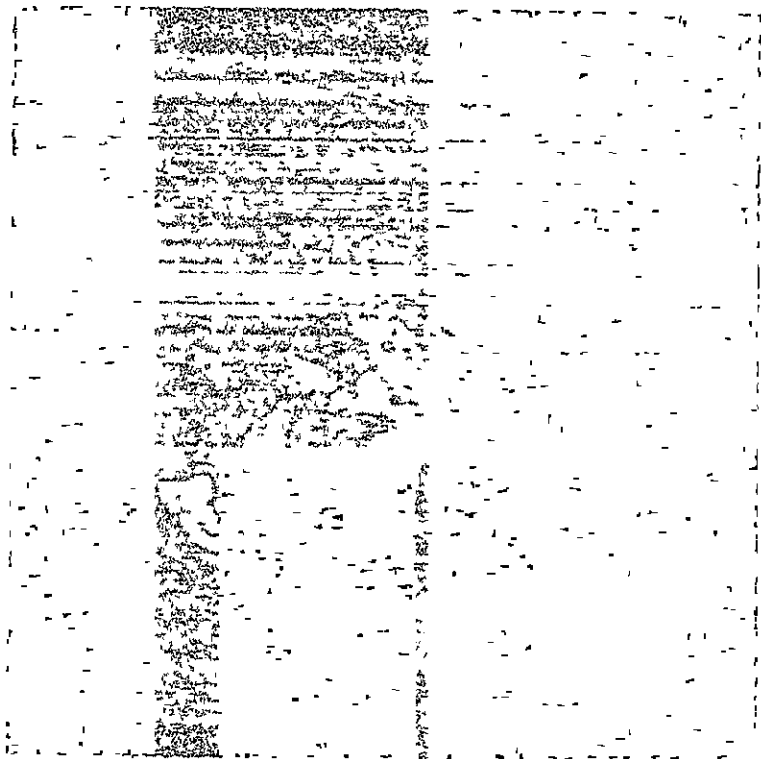
Figure 3. Original Image – Composite color
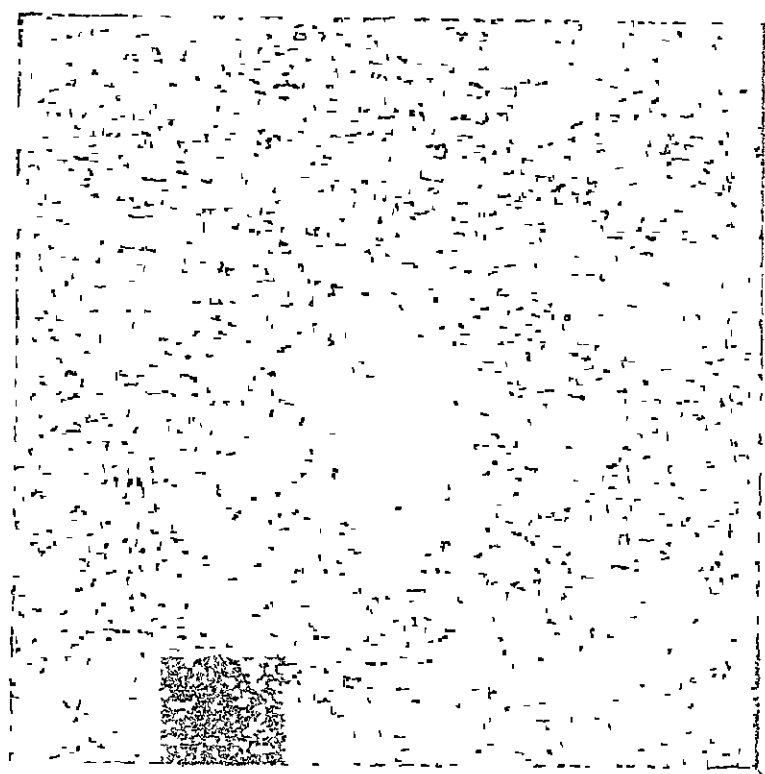
Figure 4. Corrected Image in Band 4.
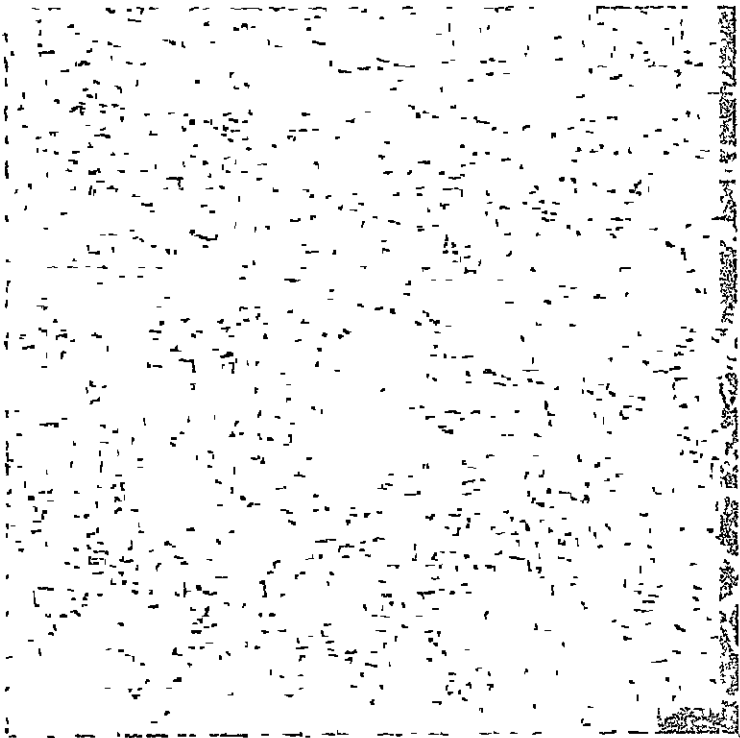
Figure 5. Corrected Image in Band 7.

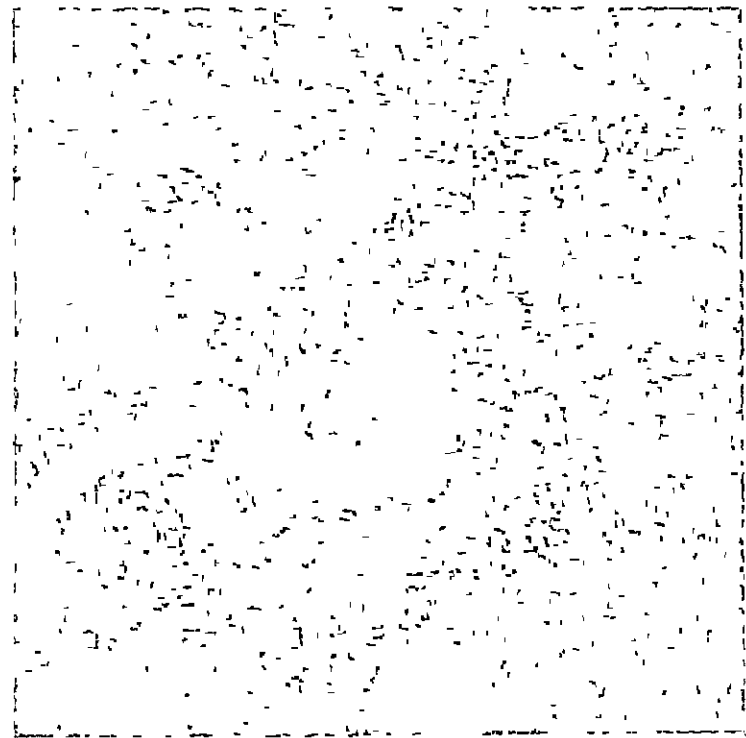
Figure 6. Corrected Image Composite Color.

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AUTHOR/SESSION CHAIRMAN BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please supply the following information for each author. Additional
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Name:
Ravindra Kumar

Title:
Associate Researcher (equivalent to associate professor in U.S.A.)

Affiliation:
Instituto de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE/CNPq)

C.P. 515, 12200 - São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil

22-9977, Ext. 237

Your brief biographical sketch
must fit within the inner line
of this rectangle. Please keep
typing flush left near the
inner left line.

Ravindra Kumar received B. Tech.
(Hons.) degree from the Indian
Institute of Technology, Kharagpur,
India in 1968. He received M.S. and
Ph.D. degrees from school of
engineering and LARS, Purdue
University in 1970 and 1973
respectively. Since Jan 1974, he has
been with the Instituto de Pesquisas
Espaciais (INPE/CNPq). He has taught
graduate courses, guided graduate
students and published about 35 papers
in the general area of, "Remote
Sensing of Agriculture and Earth
Resources". He is a member of Sigma
Xi.

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Please supply the following information for each author. Additional copies of this form are provided.

| Name |
| Tsutomu Morimoto |
| Title |
| Research Assistant |
| Instituto de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE/CNPq) |
| C.P. 515, 12200 - São José dos Campos, SP - Brazil |
| 22-9977, Ext 220 |

Your brief biographical sketch must fit within the inner line of this rectangle. Please keep typing flush left near the inner left line.

Tsutomu Morimoto received B.Sc. degree in Physics from FFCL UNESP - Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil and M.Sc. in Meteorology from Instituto de Pesquisas Especiais (INPE/CNPq) in 1978. He has been a graduate research assistant at INPE since 1974. His research interests are in physical meteorology and climatology.

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AUTHOR/SESSION CHAIRMAN BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please supply the following information for each author. Additional
copies of this form are provided

Name
Luiz Carlos Baldicero Molion

Associate Researcher (equivalent to associate professor in USA)

Instituto de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE/CNPq)

C.P. 515, 12200 - São José dos Campos, SP - Brazil

22-9977; Ext. 220

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inner left line

Luiz Carlos Baldicero Molion received
B.Sc. Degree in Physics from the
University of São Paulo, Brazil in
1969. He received Ph.D. degree from
the department of meteorology,
University of Wisconsin in 1975. Since
1970, he has been with the Instituto
de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE/CNPq) He
has been teaching graduate courses,
guiding graduate students and doing
research in the general areas of
micrometeorology, climatology and
physical meteorology.

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