

COMPARISON OF QINZHOU BAY WETLAND LANDSCAPE INFORMATION EXTRACTION BY THREE METHODS¹

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KEY WORDS: coastal wetland extraction; Supervised Classification; Decision Trees; Object-oriented; Qingzhou Bay

ABSTRACT:

Wetland ecosystem plays an important role on the environment and sustainable socio-economic development. Based on the TM images in 2010 with a pretreatment of Tasseled Cap transformation, three different methods are used to extract the Qingzhou Bay coastal wetlands using Supervised Classification (SC), Decision Trees (DT) and Object-oriented (OO) methods. Firstly coastal wetlands are picked out by artificial visual interpretation as discriminant standard. The result shows that when the same evaluation template used, the accuracy and Kappa coefficient of SC, DT and OO are 92.00%, 0.8952; 89.00%、0.8582; 91.00%、0.8848 respectively. The total area of coastal wetland is 218.3km² by artificial visual interpretation, and the extracted wetland area of SC, DT and OO is 219 km², 193.70km²、217.40km² respectively. The result indicates that SC is in the first place, followed by OO approach, and the third DT method when used to extract Qingzhou Bay coastal wetland.

1.INTRODUCTION

Wetlands is a unique ecosystem which is formed by the interaction between water and land, being one of the important natural habitats and ecological landscapes whose biodiversity is the richest (Yang, 2002a). According to preliminary statistics, the total wetlands area of China is about 6,594 million hm², about 10% of the world's wetland area (Wu et al, 2007). Using RS technology to extract the information of wetland timely and accurately is an important base for Wetland Research. There are currently a large number of research results, almost covering the most aspects of wetland research, mostly focusing on wetland definition and classification (Yang, 2002), wetland formation and characteristics, resource distribution, wetland eco-tourism, landscape, tourism development and wetlands protection, etc (Yang, 2002b). In recent years, the researchers are always focusing on the following topics such as the physical, chemical, biological processes and mechanisms of wetland

ecosystems; relationship between the processes and the functions (Yang, 2002b); the concept of wetland ecosystem's health, diagnosis indexes, meantime devoting to improvement the ability of early warning (Sun et al, 2013).

Due to the unique and complex nature of the wetland ecosystem, visual interpretation is used to be the main method of wetland information extraction with high precision. But this method often takes more manpower and plentiful time (Yang, 2002b). The implementation of interactive wetland information extraction is a hot spot in current research based on RS software platform of Erdas. Many interactive methods have been used such as supervised classification (SC), decision tree (DT) and object-oriented (OO) method to extract wetland information (Huan et al, 2009; Shen et al, 2007). Due to different understanding and different purpose of information extraction, as well as the diversity of wetlands, a extensive distribution and variability of water environment, etc., one single method used only to extract wetland information is often difficult to

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obtain the desired results (Yin et al, 2010). This article selects qinzhou bay as the sample area, comparing and analyzing the difference of SC, DT and OO, which are often used to extract wetlands information.

1.1 The study area

Qinzhou Bay locates in the south of Qinzhou City, the south of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, belonging to the BeiBu Gulf, and it is one of the most important part of the Beibu Gulf. The connection between Damian Dun (Tortoiseshell Island) at south of Rhino Feet Peninsula and Tiantang Corner of Qisha Peninsula is the south border of Qinzhou Bay. The north of Qinzhou Bay is MaoWeiHai with greatly developed aquaculture. There are hundreds hectares of Mangrove Forests growing in the region. Diurnal tides is the main type in Qinzhou

Bay with an average annual temperature 21.3°C. According to the status quo of China's wetland classification system, "Convention on Wetlands" and "national wetland resources investigation and monitoring of technical regulations", Qinzhou Bay wetlands in southern China is a typical coastal wetlands.

There are various types of coastal wetland in qinzhou bay, including tidal flats wetland, river wetland, mangrove (Composed of mangrove, disadvantage, autumn in tomato, olive wood, red sea lam, lacquer tree species composition and so on) and all other kinds of artificial breeding farm in tidal flats or not in tidal flats. According to the principles of science, regionalism, readability and consistency, combination with the actual situation in Qinzhou Bay Wetlands (Li et al, 2012), Qinzhou Bay Wetland can be classified as table 1.

Wetland types of Level 1	Wetlands Types Of Level 2
Natural wetlands	Shallow sea waters, Tidal flats, Mangrove, River wetland, Natural vegetation
Artificial wetland	Aquaculture ponds, Coastal farms (such as Shrimp ponds), Reservoir, Paddy field, Artificial vegetation

Table1. Classification systems of Qinzhou Bay Wetland

Since this study focuses on the coastal wetland, the key of information needed to extracted is as followed: tidal flats, farms, vegetation, rivers and seas. Among those elements, the tidal flats include beach wetland, mangroves and Shrimp ponds farms, while vegetation includes shelter forest, trees and natural forest. Artificial wetland is mainly refers to farms, fish farms formed by the pond wetland, such as shrimp ponds (although artificial trace existed, it still maintains the characteristics of wetlands). Because the horizontal resolution of TM images is only 30m, the sea, river and lake are unified into water bodies, while Tidal flats, mangroves, Shrimp ponds farms into coastal wetlands. Urban landuse types include urban land, village land, township construction land, industrial parks and roads. Agricultural landuse includes upland and paddy field. Finally the extracted information in this study can be divided into water, urban land, agricultural land, coastal wetland and vegetation.

1.2 Data Sources And Pretreatment

Landsat TM image data of Qinzhou in 2010 was used with the horizontal resolution of 30 m. In order to get the boundaries of Qinzhou Bay, digital elevation models was used to clip the study area by watershed division.

TC transformation is also called the KT transformation, and its

essence is a special method of principal component analysis. TC not only depends on a single image but also can compare soil brightness and green degree produced by different images, with the aim of image enhancement in extraction of vegetation information (Zi et al, 2011). TC transformation was used to enhance the brightness, green degree and humidity of the image information.

2. THE PROCESS AND METHODS OF WETLAND INFORMATION EXTRACTION

2.1 Technical Process

Artificial visual interpretation, SC, DT and OO methods are used to extract Qinzhou bay wetland information, where artificial visual interpretation used to be the standard for accuracy evaluation. The whole technical process includes hierarchical classification, combining texture analysis and other related indices, as figure 2 showed.

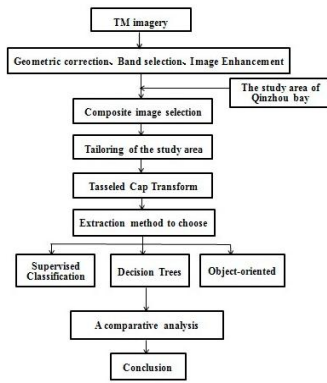


Figure. 2 Analysis process

2.2 Supervised Classification

SC is often applied to more understanding of the situation in study area. Maximum likelihood classification also known as bayesian classification, is supervised classification based on image statistics, which is a typical and the most widely used in supervised classification method, and is also regarded as the

highest accuracy classification in classification method (Dang et al,2010).

According to the characteristic of regional wetland, band combination of (4, 3, 2) is chosen, meanwhile adaptive filter is used to reduce noise to highlight the boundary of wetland types without affecting information expression (Dang et al, 2010). The classification template is evaluated (figure 4.a, 4.b) based on classification template editor in Erdas Imagine and adjusting the classification property field before achieving the classification template information (figure 3). Supervised classification for pixels is performed based on category templates and classification with decision rules of the system default options (the Maximum Likelihood classification). One or more isolated pixels will appear in the classification results, which are need to clump, sieve, eliminate, recode etc(Dang et al,2010).

Class #	Signature Name	Color	Red	Green	Blue	Value	Order	Count	Prob.	P	I	H	A	FS
1	Water		0.152	0.380	0.522	83	83	69913	1.000	X	X	X	X	
2	Urban land		0.627	1.000	1.000	94	176	18342	1.000	X	X	X	X	
3	Agricultural land		0.627	0.720	0.561	96	270	7601	1.000	X	X	X	X	
4	Coastal wetland		0.274	0.485	0.462	51	321	25864	1.000	X	X	X	X	
5	Vegetation		0.709	0.322	0.288	43	364	5367	1.000	X	X	X	X	

Figure. 3 Classification Template

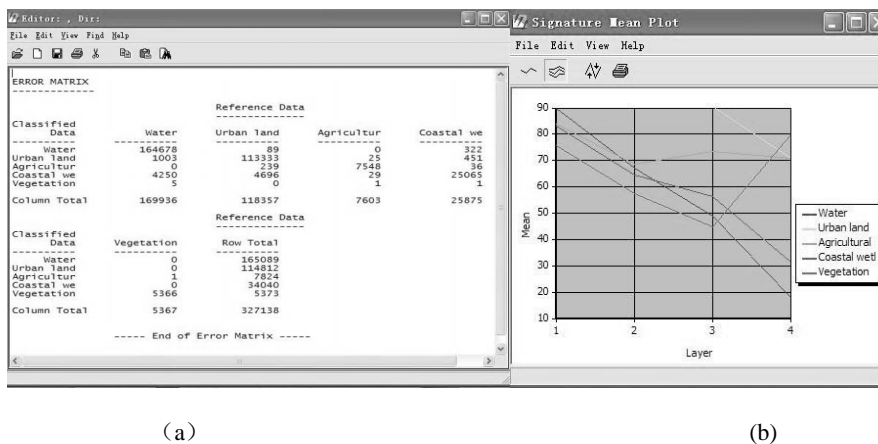


Figure. 4 classification template evaluation

2.3 Decision Tree Method

Classification rules used to classify RS image can be produced by expert experiences, mathematical statistics and inductive methods in the process of DT classification based on knowledge (Li and Jia et al,2008).

Basic concept and elements of experts classifier are composed by decision tree, assumptions, rules, variable and related knowledge base. When image of band 4 selected, water is the most clear while tidal flats is the second one. When image of band 3 chosed, the vegetation and agricultural land are very clear while the others are fuzzy. According image clarity of the band and the pixel value in study area, decision rules are arranged as table 5.

water	TM Band 4 >=5 且 <=38
vegetation	TM Band 3 >=10 且 <=60
Agricultural land	TM Band 3 >=55 且 <=85
Coastal wetland	TM Band 1 >=90 且 <=255
Vegetation	TM Band 4 >=35 且 <=60

Table 5. Decision rules

The classification results can be viewed when region of interest chosen in knowledge classification and output option determined after knowledge base built by starting knowledge engineers, placing assumed elements to define rules, picking out the variables and testing knowledge base. Automatic classification will produce a lot of isolated pixel and it is necessary to eliminate and clump (Dang et al,2010).

2.4 Object-Oriented Method

Object-oriented essentially differs to the traditional classification method based on pixels, for OO not dealing with single pixel, instead the whole image is regarded as a combination of different objects which can be interpreted (Wang et al, 2009). OO utilizes spectrum information, texture feature and topology relations together to segment multiscale objects joint the thematic information. Fuzzy discrimination function is established through visual interpretation to classify

different objects (Sun,Tong and Qin, 2008). OO is implemented based on software platform of ENVI and the process can be divided into two steps: finding object firstly and extracting feature followed. The steps for finding objects as following: image segmentation, block merge, block refining, computing object properties. Feature extraction can be achieved by supervised classification or classification based on rules. After many experiments (Yu and Zhan,2012;Hou et al,2010;Li et al,2008;Huang et al,2010;Xun et al,2013), the segmentation and merging threshold used are 51 and 48.3 respectively. The process of OO can be organized as figure 6.

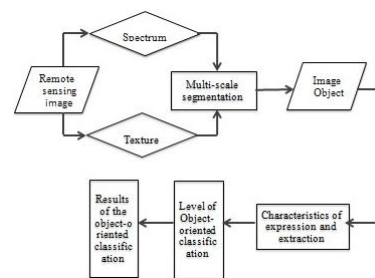


Figure. 6 Flow chart of OO

3 RESULT and EVALUATION

In RS image classification, the evaluation indices often used are as followed, the overall classification accuracy, Kappa coefficient, Commission Errors, Omission Errors. Confusion Matrix (CM) is used to compare classification results and the real information of terrain reflected by RS image. In this study, the accuracy of analysis is all utilized by ERDAS. Firstly Stratified Random distribution is used to pick out 200 pixels randomly from RS image, and comparison of information for every point is preformed between extracted information and real one by artificial visual discrimination. Classification confusion matrix, classification accuracy and Kappa coefficient of those 200 pixels are exported by the Accuracy Assessment Analysis Tool.

Class Name	reference Totals	Classified Totals	Number Correct	Producers Accuracy	Users Accuracy
Undefined	1	1	1	---	---
Water	70	70	66	94.29%	94.29%
Urban land	27	29	22	81.48%	75.86%
Agricultural land	45	45	45	100.00%	100.00%
Coastal wetland	16	19	14	87.50%	73.68%
Vegetation	40	36	36	90.00%	100.00%
Totals	199	200	184		

Annotation: Overall Classification Accuracy =92.00% Overall Kappa Statistics = 0.8952

Table 7 . Accuracy Evaluation of TC

Class Name	Reference Totals	Classified Totals	Number Correct	Producers Accuracy	Users Accuracy
Undefined	68	67	67	---	---
Water	24	30	24	100.00%	80.00%
Urban land	14	23	11	78.57%	47.83%
Agricultural and	8	4	4	50.00%	100.00%
Coastal wetland	36	33	30	83.33%	90.91%
Vegetation	50	43	42	84.00%	97.67%
Totals	200	200	178		

Annotation: Overall Classification Accuracy =89.00% Overall Kappa Statistics =0.8582

Table 8. Accuracy Evaluation of DT

Class Name	Reference Totals	Classified Totals	Number Correct	Producers Accuracy	Users Accuracy
Undefined	64	64	64	---	---
Water	36	40	34	94.44%	85.00%
Urban land	11	14	6	54.55%	42.86%
Agricultural land	12	6	6	50.00%	100.00%
Coastal wetland	32	33	30	93.75%	90.91%
Vegetation	45	43	42	93.33%	97.67%
Totals	200	200	182	---	---

Annotation: Overall Classification Accuracy =91.00% Overall Kappa Statistics = 0.8848

Table9 . Accuracy Evaluation of OO

When the same evaluation template is used, total accuracy of SC, DT and OO are 92.00%, 89.00% and 91.00% respectively, while Kappa coefficient is 0.8952, 0.8582 and 0.8952 respectively.

The total accuracy of SC can reach as high as 92.00%. The main reasons may be related with the following factors, including familiar with the study area, the maximum likelihood method used. The bands used in study are the combination of band (4 3 2) of TM images, which results in that waters are dark blue while vegetation appears red. So it is easy to select training area to achieve high accuracy. While since it is easily confused among agricultural land, urban land, water and coastal wetland with 30m resolution TM images, meanwhile a mixture of various land types exists in the training area, the classification accuracy is reduced to some extent.

The establishment of the knowledge base is the precondition of the DT methods, the definition of rules and the determination of variable are the key in wetland extraction. Water and coastal wetland choose the same band of 4, and wavelength ranges in 5-38 and 35-60 respectively. Since the spectral characteristics

of artificial breeding farms, such as shrimp ponds, seems like water surface, which leads to a less obvious results, as it shows that water is confused with artificial breeding farm.

OO based on ENVI can effectively identify water, construction and other features, which is because that not only the object shape and structure characteristic used, but also shape and texture of the image taken into account together. It is in this sense that the conflicts such as "same body different spectrum" and "foreign body with spectrum" are resolved in a certain extent. The key factor of OO is the threshold selection in the process of image segmentation and merging. Since it is difficult to obtain the optimal image segmentation scale (Dang et al, 2010) that a small amount of water confused with coastal wetland, which affects the precision of classification. In addition, OO method is good at recognizing high resolution image while TM data used only with a horizontal resolution of 30m, that affects the accuracy of coastal wetland information. But on the whole, it still reaches the classification accuracy of 91%.

The comparisons of three methods used are as shown in table

10 according to previous studies and wetland information extraction of QinZhou Bay (Dang et al,2010).

	SC	DT	OO
advantages	Highlight the characteristics of wetland, resulting in good classification results in subclass of Wetlands. The operation is simple, can be implemented in the ENVI and ERDAS	Define the classification rules; The small amount of calculation relatively; It can display the importance of the field;	the extraction results objectively, figure boundary smoothing, object feature rich
disadvantages	the Spectral characteristics of demand is high	Continuity field hard to predict	difficult to obtain the optimal segmentation scale
Suitable range	The area Affected by the phonological characteristics is not big	Various types of wetlands and area is large	Various types of wetlands and area is large
advice	Combining with field spectral characteristics	brief attribute before classification	Select appropriate segmentation scale

Table10. Comparison of SC, DC and OO

The total area of study area is 2542.00 km², among which the total area of coastal wetland through a visual discrimination is 218.30 km², accounting for about 8.59% of total area. Wetland areas of three methods are 219 km², 193.7 km², 217.4 km² respectively. The result shows that extraction of wetland area through SC is most similar with visual interpretation with a more area of 0.7 km², while OO resulting in 0.9 km² missing and DT 28.3 km² missing. On the whole both classification accuracy and Kappa coefficient of supervised classification are higher than the other two methods.

In general, OO classification method should be optimal. While in this study, the coarse horizontal resolution of TM image and the particularity of coastal wetlands will be the main factors influencing the classification accuracy. As it known that horizontal resolution of TM image is only 30m, while existed research shows that OO approach will get the best results when 10m, 0.61m or 0.5m horizontal resolution image used with the classification accuracy as high as 90% (Yu and Zhan,2012;Hou et al,2010;Li etal,2008;Huang et al,2010;Xu etal,2013).

Secondly, QinZhou bay wetlands are mainly distributed in MAO tail sea - LongMen islands - inland sea area of longMen port and the coast of south sea area of longMen port. The governed types of wetland are as followed, such as beaches, tidal flats hygrophilous mangroves, fish (or shrimp) ponds, the big oyster beds of Oyster row. The amount of wetland types and area Inland sea are bigger than offshore area. From the viewpoint of spatial distribution, the main aggregated wetland includes farms, tidal flats and mangrove forests. Oyster row concentrated at Maowei sea - the mouth of longMen Port and the Shrimp (or fish) ponds partly distribute at the northeast

shore of MAO wei sea and the big ring village. The main type which distributes discretely is shrimp ponds near the shoreline. The size of every oyster rafts ranges between 20m and 40m, while oyster rafts connected into a large scale pieces. The average size of shrimp pounds is at about 25*25m. Obviously TM 30m horizontal resolution is insufficient to express shrimp discrete distribution, thus resulting in lower classification accuracy of OO.

From the viewpoint of spatial location, the water is assigned into the wetland through SC as a mistake, consequently resulting in the increasing of wetland area. The typical case is that an isolated Gold Nest Reservoir and a small part of Dafeng River Basin divided into wetlands. Some scattered wetlands (average size about 2.44* 10⁻⁴ km²) produced by OO method, are divided into water bodies, mainly distributed in MAO sea, while in the results of DT the naccuracy region scattering along rivers and estuary partly with the average area about 2.70 * 10⁻⁴ km².

Some interpretation error happens in the sub-type of wetland, such as Gold Nest Reservoir is interpreted into the wetland, while the oyster rows into urban landuse by SC. The oyster rows, tidal flats and mangrove forests of longmen islands are divided into water by DT. MAO tail farms (mainly to shrimp pounds) are interpolated into farmland or water, which locates in the north bank of Maowei Sea by OO. And other inaccurate classification by OO is that tidal flats mangrove is categorized into water at the shore of Maowei Sea. The finnal classification by SC, DT and OO is shown in Figure 11.b, 11.c and 11.d, while Figure 11.a is the original TM images.

Although the total classification accuracy of SC is higher than

other methods, while accuracy of the producers and the users of SC are the lowest. On the contrary, the OO methods has the highest accuracy as table 3-5 shown. The texture feature of shrimp ponds and oyster rows is obvious, so those feature can be picked out more easily by OO. Although it is difficult for DT to define the threshold of the wetland and water, since in the value of 35 to 38 water and wetlands are mixed together, which mainly reflected in the oyster rows and Shrimp ponds. But in general the water and wetlands can be separated apart. SC is mainly according to sample pixels. Since the differences of tidal flats, mangroves and Shrimp ponds are bigger than other, then they are easier to be identified, while oyster rows is similar with water, their accuracy is not good as the features above.

4. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

A comparison of SC, DT and OO used to extract QinZhou Bay wetland after TC transformation has been done, and the result shows that a certain accuracy of wetland information can be obtained by any one in the three methods. The suitable method should be selected according to specific data accuracy and classification requirements.

When the same classification characteristics and the premise of accuracy evaluation samples used, the accuracy and Kappa coefficient of the three methods are 92.00% and 0.8952, 89.00% and 0.8582, 91.00% and 0.8848 respectively. The results indicate that SC used to extract Qinzhou Bay wetland will achieve the best overall effect.

In the process of coastal wetland information extraction, a small number of wetland and water mixed together, and the OO method does not show its advantage when 30m resolution TM images used. Meanwhile in Wetland classification process, the setting of parameters and thresholds mainly depend on the person's subjective experience. How to accurately determine the Segmentation and merging of the scale of the threshold still need a large number of trials. In addition, how to use the image texture information effectively also need to be further excavated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to thank the financial support from national natural science foundation of China under grant 41101348, application foundation development program of science and technology departure in Sichuan Province under grant 2010JY0089, key project in natural science of education department in Sichuan Province under grant 2009ZA120.

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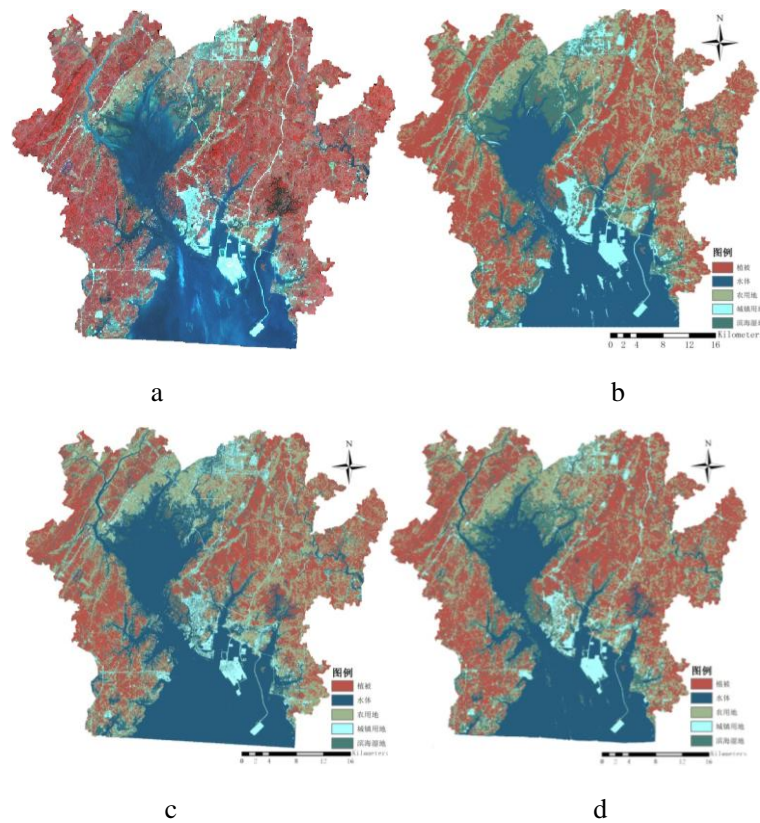


Figure 11. The extraction results contrast