

living planet symposium BONN 23-27 May 2022

TAKING THE PULSE OF OUR PLANET FROM SPACE

Monitoring of temporary inundations using Sentinel-1 and -2



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Inland excess water background



Definition?

- Factors
- Temporal distribution
- Spatial distribution

Impact

"Floods that occur when – due to limited runoff, infiltration and evaporation – superfluous water remains on the surface, or at places where groundwater – flowing towards lower areas – appears on the surface by leakage through porous soil."

Inland excess water, excess water, inland water, surface ponding, standing water, sitting water, areal flood, surface water flood.





Management of IEW



IEW is a problem or an opportunity?

Key reason for IEW mapping/monitoring:

- > to locate inland excess water
- > to understand the *formation* of the inundations

> to find the possibilities for *intervention*





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Methods of IEW mapping

- In situ measurements
- > Hazard mapping
- > Hydrological modelling
- Remote sensing based mapping

(RGB/NIR aerial photographs, multi- and hyperspectral aerial and satellite imagery, radar satellite images, drone images)















Continuous monitoring of inland excess water



> Aims:

- Operational (not just for science)
- National (or at least regional)
- Detailed (high spatial resolution)
- Timely (high temporal resolution)
- Completely automated (no user interference)
- Accurate (better than what?)
- Affordable (how much is it allowed to cost?)
- Since about 2016, continuous incremental improvements
- In collaboration with actual users
- > Teamwork



Study areas





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- > Multispectral satellite data
 - Sentinel-2
- Radar satellite data
 - Sentinel-1
- > Auxiliary data
 - Soil texture data
 - Mask for training
 - Mask for non-water areas

 (water, permanent wetlands,
 transportation infrastructure, builtup areas)



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Monitoring framework





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Automation

- > 15 Python scripts
- ➤ ~ 3000 lines of code
- > arcpy, numpy, gdal
- > 2 sets: daily and weekly
- Manual start of sets of scripts

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test2.py	61			(output, err) = p.com	1 157	# step 5 Postproessing
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Preprocessing



- > ESA SNAP software gpt tool
- > Multispectral data:

Level 2A: Band selection, resampling to 10 meter, cloud masking and mosaicking

> Radar preprocessing







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Processing - Radar

Radar threshold:

 $uthr_b = \bar{x} + k * \sigma$, $lthr_b = x_{min} + (3 * (\bar{x} - x_{min})/5)$ b: VV / VH band, $uthr_b$, $lthr_b$: upper/lower threshold in db, \bar{x} : mean backscatter of training samples in db, σ : standard deviation of training samples in db, x_{min} : minimum of training samples in db, K: user defined constant

Water pixels:

water pixel = $lthr_b < xVV_{VH} < uthr_b$ x: value of an individual pixel in both bands

→ Adapted for sandy areas





Processing - Multispectral



A. ISODATA (Ball & Hall 1965)

- Iterative clustering
- ArcGIS/arcpy implementation
- Statistics of resulting classes are compared with statistics of reference water class
- Classes with the smallest spectral angle distance to the reference class are labeled as water

B. Modified Normalized Difference Water Index (Xu et al. 2006):

 $MNDWI = \frac{\rho_{green} - \rho_{SWIR}}{\rho_{green} + \rho_{SWIR}} = \frac{B3 - B11}{B3 + B11}, \text{ where B3 and B11 Sentinel-2 bands (10 meter)}$

$$MNDWI_{threshold} = MNDWI_{mean} - k * MNDWI_{std}$$

where

MNDWI_{mean} : mean index value of the reference pixels,
MNDWI_{std} : standard deviation of the reference pixels,
k: multiplication factor

Integration



Many water maps from different days and areas combined into one weekly map:

- Extend to total study area
- Reclassify (-100, 0, 1)
- Calculate relative frequency
- Slicing based on reliability threshold (e.g. 50%)
- Masking of non IEW areas
- > Filtering
- Vectorizing
- Calculate statistics for administrative areas





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Results 2021



10 weeks in January – April 2021



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Validation

Based on:

- Drone images
- Aerial photographs
- Very high resolution multispectral satellite data (Planet, Spot, Worldview-3)

Reference

water

7807

4513

12320

pixels no water

no water

water

Total

4454908

3494

4458402

Detected

Producer's

Acc.

99.92

36.63

OA

Total

4462715

8007

4470722



Possibilities for further development



- New data sources
- > Calibration + validation based on high resolution satellite data of large areas
- > Data cube storage
- > New algorithms (AI)
- Geographic area specific parameters
- Include dynamic data
- Conversion to open source
- > Data publication



Thank you for your attention

<u>Posters</u>: Operational weekly inland excess water mapping -Zalán Tobak (Wednesday)

Inland excess water delineation using machine learning on medium resolution data - Balázs Kajári (Friday)

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