UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

CHLOROPHYLL-A ESTIMATION FROM REMOTELY SENSED DATA

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CHLOROPHYLL-A ESTIMATION FROM REMOTELY SENSED DATA

By

FATIMA AWAD ALLAH MOHAMMED ALI

Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in the Faculty of Engineering Universiti Putra Malaysia

April 2000

UPM

Dedicated to

My parents and my sister for their encouragement and support

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science.

CHLOROPHYLL-A ESTIMATION FROM REMOTELY-SENSED DATA

By

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April 2000

Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shattri B. Mansor

Faculty: Engineering

The science of remote sensing is commonly defined as method that employs electromagnetic energy to detect, record, and measure characteristics of a target. Concentrations of chlorophyll-a in water have been estimated from the spectral distribution of back-scattered light, related to reflectance. Remote sensing in general has been used much more extensively for oceans than for inland waters. Advanced image processing techniques introduced and applied using Landsat Thematic Mapper data acquired on February 22, 1994 over the indicated region of South China Sea.

The objective of the study was to calculate the chlorophyll-a concentration along Kuala Terengganu. The method was carried out to calculate the chlorophyll-a concentration in the study area that is, digital image processing which include preprocessing, display, enhancement, information extraction, and algorithm to calculate the estimated chlorophyll-a.

Results of the regression analysis of DNs against referenced chlorophyll-a was used to calculate the actual chlorophyll-a concentration (calculated chlorophyll-a) of Landsat TM bands1, 2, and 3.

The results show that the chlorophyll-a concentrations in the study area are significantly correlated with band 1, 2, and 3. The lower chlorophyll-a concentration with levels (0.031-0.019) mg/m^3, the higher chlorophyll-a concentration with levels (0.404-0.391) mg/m^3. Finally, band 2 was the best in terms of all the parameters evaluated

In conclusion, remote sensing is an important technology for measuring chlorophyll-a concentration in the coastal water of South China Sea. From the result, TM sensor has been found a useful tool for studying chlorophyll-a concentration.

Abstrak tesis dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia untuk keperluan Ijazah Sarjana Sains

ANGGARAN KLOROFIL-a DARIPADA DATA PENDERIAAN JAUH

Oleh

FATIMA AWAD ALLAH MOHAMMED

April 2000

Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Dr. Shattri B. Mansor

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Teknologi penderiaan jauh merupakan satu kaedah yang menggunakan tenaga elektromagnet untuk mengesan, merekod dan mengukur kriteria sesuatu sasaran. Konsentrasi klorofil-a pada badan air telah dihitung daripada taburan spektra hasil penyerakan semula cahaya, yang mana ia berkaitan dengan pantulan. Penderiaan jauh secara amnya, lebih banyak digunakan secara ekstensif dalam kajian perairan laut berbanding badan air di kawasan daratan. Teknik memproses imej lanjutan diperkenalkan dalam kajian ini dan diaplikasikan ke atas data imej Landsat Thematic Mapper yang diperolehi pada 22 Februari 1994 bagi kawasan perairan Laut China Selatan.

Objektif kajian adalah menghitung konsentrasi klorofil-a di sepanjang pantai Kuala Terengganu. Metod pemprosesan imej yang digunakan merangkumi pra-pemprosesan, pemaparan, penjelasan imej dan pengekstrakan maklumat serta algoritma yang digunakan untuk menghitung anggaran klorofil-a. Kedua-dua langkah ini akan

diintegrasikan merangkumi pengekstrakan maklumat daripada imej dan anggaran klorofil-a menggunakan algoritma.

Keputusan daripada analisa regression DN dengan klorofil-a rujukan digunakan untuk mengira kepekatan sebenar klorofil-a (klorofil-a yang dikira) bagi jalur Landsat Tm 1, 2 dan 3.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan korelasi konsentrasi klorofil-a di kawasan kajian adalah signifikan dengan jalur 1,2 dan 3. Nilai terendah konsentrasi klorofil-a adalah 0.031- 0.019 mg/m^3, manakala nilai tertinggi konsentrasi klorofil-a adalah 0.404 - 0.391 mg/m^3. Akhir sekali, didapati jalur 2 adalah paling baik untuk parameter-parameter yang dikaji.

Kesimpulannya, penderiaan jauh merupakan teknologi yang penting untuk mengukur konsentrasi klorofil-a di kawasan perairan pantai Laut China Selatan. Berdasarkan hasil yang diperolehi, didapati penderia Thematic Mapper merupakan alat yang berguna untuk mengkaji konsentrasi klorofil-a.

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I certify that an Examination Committee met on 24 April, 2000 to conduct the final examination of Fatima Awadallah Mohammed Ali, on her Master of Science thesis entitled "Chlorophyll-a Estimation From Remotely-Sensed Data" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulation 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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Date: 6/6/2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DEDICATION		ii
ABSTRACT		iii
ABSTRAK		v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		vii
APPROVAL SHEETS		vii
DECLARATION FORM		x
LIST OF TABLES		xiv
LIST OF FIGURES		xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		xvii
CHAPTER		
I	**INTRODUCTION**	1
	Introduction	1
	Chlorophyll-a	3
	Objectives of the Study	6
	Research Problem	6
II	**LITERATURE REVIEW**	7
	The Importance of Phytoplankton	7
	The Importance of Chlorophyll Measurement in the Sea	10
	Measurement of Chlorophyll Concentrations Using Satellite Data	12
	Landsat Program Background	17
	The Advantages of Landsat Images	18
	The Thematic Mapper as an Ocean Color Sensor (Chlorophyll Studies)	21
	Remote Sensing	25
	The Importance of Remote Sensing	26
	Remote Sensing in Oceanography	27
	Remotely Sensed Ocean Color	28
	Digital Image Processing	29
	Coastal Zone Color Scanner (CZCS)	30
	ADEOS/OCTS	34
	SeaWiFS	37
III	**MATERIALS AND METHODS**	39
	Background of the Study Area	39

Study Area..... 40
Methods..... 42
Digital Imaging Processing..... 42
Preprocessing..... 43
Information Enhancement..... 43
Information Extraction..... 44
Imaging Rectification and Restoration..... 45
Geo-Correction (Geometric Correction)..... 45
Noise Removal..... 46
Image Enhancement..... 47
Level Slicing..... 47
Contrast Stretching..... 48
Image Classification..... 48
Supervised Classification..... 49
Unsupervised Classification..... 50
Algorithm Description..... 51
Contrasts A and B..... 52
Modeling Description..... 52
Computer programming..... 54
Statistical Analysis..... 57

IV **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**..... 58
Image Processing..... 58
Geo-Correction..... 58
Image Enhancement..... 60
Equalization Enhancement..... 61
Infrequency Enhancement..... 61
Square Root Enhancement..... 62
Linear Enhancement..... 62
Noise Removal..... 64
Mode Filter..... 64
Average Filter..... 64
Median Filter..... 66
Classification..... 67
Supervised Classification..... 67
Unsupervised Classification..... 69
Level Slicing..... 70
Calculation of the Chlorophyll-a Using the Algorithm..... 73
The Relationship between the Absorption coefficients and the Wavelength..... 73
Phytoplankton..... 73
Pure Sea Water..... 75
Yellow Substance (Gelbstoff) and Detritus..... 75
The Relationship between the Backscattering Coefficients and the Wavelength 77
The Relationship between the Reflectance and Wavelength... 80

Regression Analysis..... 82
Final Image Description..... 89

V **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**..... 94
Conclusion..... 94
Recommendations..... 96
VI Bibliography..... 97
Appendices..... 109
Appendix A..... 110
C++ Programming Report..... 110
Appendix B 120
Supervise Classification Report..... 120
Appendix C..... 129
Unsupervised Classification Report..... 129
VITA..... 133

LIST OF TABLES

Tables		Page
1	Thematic Mapper (TM) Vs. Multispectral Scanner (MSS).....	17
2	Thematic Mapper Spectral Bands.....	20
3	Spectral Bands of the Coastal Zone Color Scanner.....	33
4	The ADEOS Science Program Progresses	35
5	The central wavelength and bandwidths for SeaWiFS.....	37
6	Linear Regression Analysis, Analysis of Variance (Band 2).....	82
7	Linear Regression Analysis, Analysis of Variance (Band 1).....	84
8	Linear Regression Analysis, Analysis of Variance (Band 3).....	84
9	Estimated and Calculated Chlorophyll-a Concentration for Band 2.....	85
10	Estimated and Calculated Chlorophyll-a Concentration for Band 1.....	87
11	Estimated and Calculated Chlorophyll-a Concentration for Band 3.....	88

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures		Page
1	Geographical location of South China Sea	41
2	Flow Chart Calculated The Radiance.....	55
3	Flow Chart Calculated Chlorophyll-a.....	56
4	The Original Image.....	58
5	The Image after Geocoded.....	60
6	Equalization Enhancement.....	61
7	Infrequency Enhancement.....	62
8	Squared Root Enhancement.....	63
9	Linear Enhancement.....	63
10	Image before Mode Filter.....	65
11	Image after Mode Filter.....	65
12	Image before Average Filter.....	65
13	Image after Average Filter.....	65
14	Image before Median Filter.....	66
15	Image after Median Filter.....	66
16	Maximum Likelihood Classifier.....	68
17	Minimum Distance Classifier.....	68
18	Parallelepiped Classifier.....	69
19	Unsupervised Classification K-Means.....	70
20	Unsupervised Classification Fuzzy K-Means.....	71

21	Unsupervised Classification Iso data.....	71
22	The Image after Level Slicing.....	72
23	The Relationship between Wavelength and Absorption Coefficient of Phytoplankton.....	74
24	The Relationship between Wavelength and Absorption Coefficient of Pure Seawater.....	74
25	The Relationship Between Wavelength and Absorption Coefficient of Detritus.....	76
26	The Relationship Between Wavelength and Absorption Coefficient of Gelbstoff.....	76
27	The Relationship Between the Wavelength and the Backscattering Coefficient of Pure Sea Water.....	78
28	The Relationship between Chlorophyll Specific Scattering and Wavelength.....	78
29	Absorption spectra for the Seawater, Gelbstoff, Phytoplankton, and Detritus with the Wavelength.....	79
30	The Relationship between Reflectance and the Wavelength.....	81
31	Correlation between DN values (band 2) and chlorophyll-a calculated...	85
32	Correlation between DN values (band 1) and chlorophyll-a calculated...	87
33	Correlation between DN values (band 3) and chlorophyll-a calculated...	88
34	Map Distribution of Chlorophyll-a Concentration.....	90
35	Chlorophyll-a concentration in band 1.....	93
36	Chlorophyll-a concentration in band 3.....	93

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADEOS	Advanced Earth Observation Satellite
AVHRR	Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer
CZCS	Coastal Zone Color Scanner
CHL	Chlorophyll-a
Co_2	Carbon Dioxide
DN	Digital Number
GCPs	Ground Control Points
m	Meter
MSS	Multspectral Scanner
mg	Milligram
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASDA	National Space Development Agency of Japan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NIR	Near Infrared
OCTS	Ocean Color and Temperature Scanner
RS	Remote Sensing
S	South
SCS	South China Sea
SeaWiFS	Sea-Viewing Wide Field of View Sensor
SAS	Statistical Analysis System

TM	Thematic Mapper
VICAR	Video Image Communication and Retrieval
JPL	Jet Propulsion laboratory

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The science of remote sensing is commonly defined as methods that employ electromagnetic energy to detect, record and measure characteristics of a target, such as the Earth's (Sabins, 1986). The remote sensing process involves the collection and analysis of data about the electromagnetic energy reflected and/or emitted from an object in order to obtain useful information about the object (Lillesand and Kieffer, 1994). One of remote sensing application is the study of the concentration of Chlorophyll-a in coastal areas. Algal chlorophyll-a is measurable and quantifiable in a laboratory by extracting the plant pigments from cells and analyzing pigment concentration in the extract (Nusch, 1980). However, because the amount of algal chlorophyll is indicative of the productivity and tropic status of surface waters, it is desirable to monitor pigment densities over expanses of geographic space and at numerous points in time, both within one 'growing season' and from one year to the next. Therefore, remote sensing is viewed as an important technology for assessing chlorophyll-a concentration (e.g., Johnson, 1978).

The remote sensing tool can be utilized to give a more comprehensive spatio_temporal perspective on a coastal zone. There have been many satellites and airborne studies of different coasts. This has resulted in the development of several different algorithms for the retrieval of phytoplankton from the optical properties of

water. These algorithms are based on an understanding of the reflection, absorption and scatter of light by water and its constituents (Gordon & Morel, 1983).

The potential of remote sensing techniques to quantify plankton alga populations has been recognized by several authors (Huang and Lulla 1986, Lathrop and Lillesand 1986). Quantification of algae in these studies involved the development of empirical relationships between chlorophyll concentrations and radiance measured at the sensors.

Multi-spectral satellite imagery is a relatively new tool in aquatic sciences. It can provide synoptic data on environmental parameters that may affect the eutrophication process of the aquatic system. By applying appropriate algorithms, a group of detailed images or maps can be prepared that quantify the spatial distribution of such important water quality components as phytoplankton chlorophyll-a and suspended matter, in ocean and even coastal waters (Gordon 1973, Ritchie et al. 1976, Johnson 1978, Gordon and Clark 1980, Gordon et al. 1980, Gower 1980, Morel 1980, Gordon and Morel 1983). These bio-optical algorithms are derived from in situ measurements and differ mainly in their used coefficients. These latter distinguish between low and high phytoplankton concentrations. For coastal waters, the algorithms are highly sensitive to the water region presently considered.

Satellite remote sensing has demonstrated its usefulness in estimating the concentrations of both suspended sediments and chlorophyll-a. Suspended sediment concentrations have been determined in the Delaware Bay by using the Landsat Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS) (Klemas et al; 1974), and the Advanced Very High Resolution

Radiometer (AVHRR) (Stumpf and Pennock, 1989). Chlorophyll-a concentrations have been estimated in other study areas with the Coastal Zone Color Scanner (CZCS) (Gordon et al; 1983) and the Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) (Tassan, 1987; Pattiaratchi et al; 1994). The concentrations of optically active water constituents can be estimated from satellite images by the interpretation of received radiance at the sensor at different wavelengths (Gordon and Morel, 1983).

Chlorophyll-a

Chlorophyll-a is a pigment present in living plants, which is responsible for photosynthesis. In productivity studies, chlorophyll-a is usually taken as the measure of phytoplankton biomass (Gordon and Morel 1983). Elevated chlorophyll-a concentrations associated with algae, most often result from high levels of water-borne nutrients, which can generate foul smelling and even toxic water conditions. While the measurement of the chlorophyll-a content of surface waters is well established, the reliability of optical properties measurements and the effects deriving from the scattering and absorption by organic and inorganic particles in the water column in turbid water, such as occurs along the Terengganu coast, has not been established. The thrust of this preliminary investigation is to provide a basis for future and more intensive analysis of such parameters along Terengganu coasts based upon the technology of remote sensing.

Concentrations of chlorophyll-a in water have been estimated from the spectral distribution of back-scattered light (Gitelson *et al.* 1993a, Kirk 1994) and tripton have

been related to reflectance, but much less frequently. Remote sensing in general has been used much more extensively for oceans than for inland water, especially those of small to moderate size. Estimation of the Chlorophyll-a content in water is important due to its indication of phytoplankton, which is the basis of the marine food chain. A high level of accuracy for the direct estimation of phytoplankton can be obtained by using color change from blue to green as chlorophyll-a pigments in water becomes more abundant (Sathyendranath and Morel, 1983).

Photosynthesis by phytoplankton depends on a group of very similar photosynthetic pigments, know collectively as chlorophyll-a, which strongly absorb light in the region of 450 nm. Increasing the concentration of chlorophyll-a in water results in a progressively greener coloration due to a combination between this absorption and increased backscatter at 500 to 600 nm. The color change can be measured either in the laboratory or remotely from aircraft or satellite, and used to quantify phytoplankton biomass (Gorden *et al.* 1983).

The mapping of phytoplankton concentrations and suspended sediment in coastal waters is now preferably performed using remotely sensed data to remotely determine the quantity of phytoplankton in water and the spectral response of its chlorophyll-a concentration. Algorithm that was used for the computation of chlorophyll-a concentration has generally the formula of the form (Sathyendranath *et al* 1988).

$$Chl = A\,[L_w(\lambda_1)/\,L_w(\lambda_2)\,]^B \qquad (1)$$

Where L_w is the radiance, λ_1 and λ_2 are wavelengths, Chl is the concentration of chlorophyll-a (mg/ m^{-3}), and A and B are constants which depend on optical properties of water and the chosen channel combination 1 and 2.

Chlorophyll-a absorbs light most efficiently at the ends of the visible spectrum, in the ranges of red and violet-blue light. Absorption is weak between 450 and 650 nm, hence, the green color of the pigment. In the ocean, most of the chlorophyll-a is contained in the members of the phytoplankton, microscopic green plants forming the lowest tropic level of the marine food web. Ocean water, when containing very little particulate matter, scatters as a Raleigh scatter with the well-known deep purple or bluish color of the ocean. When particulate matter is added to the water, the scattering characteristics and the color changed, as well. As the concentration of phytoplankton increases, ocean color shifts from blue to green. However, some phytoplankton, such as the various red tide, can change the water to colors such as red, yellow, blue-green, or mahogany. Hence, the measurement of ocean color from space can give us an indictor of the chlorophyll-a content of the ocean.

Objectives Of The Study

The main objectives of this study are:

- To measure the concentration of chlorophyll-a in Trengganu coast near-shore waters.
- To use digital image processing techniques in detection of chlorophyll-a concentration.
- To estimate the distribution of the chlorophyll-a concentration of the study area.

Research Problem

Using the traditional methods to calculate the chlorophyll-a is costly, time consuming and not accurate, so as a result of that a new technology should be used to answer those problems. Remote sensing is a new vision that can be used to calculate the chlorophyll-a concentration. In addition of that remote sensing can cover a very big area compare with the traditional methods.