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Front Matter: Volume 6752

, "Front Matter: Volume 6752," Proc. SPIE 6752, Geoinformatics 2007:
Remotely Sensed Data and Information, 675201 (21 September 2007); doi:
10.1117/12.763746

SPIE.

Event: Geoinformatics 2007, 2007, Nanjing, China

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Geoinformatics 2007

Remotely Sensed Data and Information

Weimin Ju
Shuhe Zhao
Editors

25–27 May 2007
Nanjing, China

Organized by
Nanjing University (China)

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Nanjing University (China)
CPGIS—The International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic
Information Sciences
Cartography Committee, AAG (USA)
GIS Committee, AAG (USA)
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Cosponsored by
State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science, Jointly Sponsored by the Institute of Remote
Sensing Applications of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing Normal University (China)
Jiangsu Provincial Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (China)

Published by
SPIE

Part One of Two Parts

Volume 6752

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 6752

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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Geoinformatics 2007: Remotely Sensed Data and Information*, edited by Weimin Ju, Shuhe Zhao, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 6752 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2007) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X

ISBN 9780819469120

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA

Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445

SPIE.org

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Contents

Part One

xvii	<i>Conference Committees</i>
xxi	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 REMOTE SENSING DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING

6752 02	Removing shadows from Google Earth satellite images [6752-01] J. Guo, State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China), Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China), and Beijing Normal Univ. (China); P. Gong, State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China), Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China), Beijing Normal Univ. (China), and Univ. of California, Berkeley (USA); L. Liang, State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China), Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China), and Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
6752 03	The architecture of data collection planning system for environment observing satellite network [6752-02] X. Xu, R. He, Nanjing Univ. (China); W. Li, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China)
6752 04	Spectral features recognition based on data mining algorithms [6752-03] P. Du, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China) and Univ. of Nottingham (United Kingdom); H. Su, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China); W. Zhang, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China)
6752 05	High resolution satellite imagery segmentation based on features adaptively combining texture and spectral distributions [6752-04] S. G. Wang, A. P. Wang, Wuhan Univ. (China); L. Ni, Aeromatex, Inc. (China); Y. Wang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
6752 06	LIDAR data filtering and classification with TIN and assistant plane [6752-05] Q. Zeng, Shanghai Univ. (China); J. Mao, Shanghai Univ. (China) and Jiangxi Normal Univ. (China); X. Li, X. Liu, Shanghai Univ. (China)
6752 07	Radiometric terrain correction of SPOT5 image [6752-06] X. Feng, Ningbo Univ. (China) and Zhejiang Univ. (China); F. Zhang, K. Wang, Zhejiang Univ. (China)
6752 08	Geometric correction and pan-sharpening data fusion of QuickBird ortho ready standard imagery [6752-07] B. Shi, N. Chen, Shanghai Normal Univ. (China); C. Liu, Tongji Univ. (China)
6752 09	An EMD-IHS model for high resolution image fusion [6752-08] J. Wang, C. Xu, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China); J. Zhang, Z. Liu, Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (China)

- 6752 0A **Segmentation of tree crown model with complex structure from airborne LIDAR data** [6752-09]
F. Tang, X. Zhang, J. Liu, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 0B **Accuracy analysis and error correction of MODIS surface reflectance products** [6752-10]
X. Liu, Shanghai Univ. (China) and Yangtze Univ. (China); X. Li, J. Mao, Q. Zeng, Shanghai Univ. (China); Q. Chen, Shanghai Univ. of Engineering Science (China); C. Guan, Shanghai Univ. (China)
- 6752 0C **Study on characteristics of multi-angle polarized reflection of peat** [6752-11]
Y. Han, N. Zhao, Y. Zhao, Northeast Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 0D **Wavelet-based feature extraction and similarity measure in hyperspectral remote sensing** [6752-12]
W. Zhang, P. Du, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China)
- 6752 0E **Remote sensing image segmentation based on self-organizing map at multiple-scale** [6752-13]
Z. Zhou, S. Wei, X. Zhang, X. Zhao, Beijing Univ. of Civil Engineering and Architecture (China)
- 6752 0F **Orthorectification model research of Beijing-1 small satellite image** [6752-14]
J. Gong, Wuhan Univ. (China) and State Key Lab. of Resources and Environment Information Systems (China); X. Yang, C. Zhou, D. Zhang, State Key Lab. of Resources and Environment Information Systems (China)
- 6752 0G **Computation and validation on atmospheric transmittance model of remote sensing** [6752-15]
N. Hu, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); S. Tang, National Meteorological Satellite Ctr. (China)
- 6752 0H **Identification and extraction of the faults based on object driven in image understanding** [6752-16]
K. Xu, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); C. Kong, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); D. Xie, Z. Xiao, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 0I **A new approach for segmentation of forest images based on the color and texture** [6752-17]
Q. Sheng, J. Zhang, H. Xiao, Wuhan Univ. (China); L. Xu, Southwest Agricultural Univ. (China)
- 6752 0J **Hyperspectral expert classifier based on data fusion technique** [6752-18]
L. Mei, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); B. A. F. Bassam, Al Mustansirya Univ. (Iraq); F. Liu, Y. Guo, G. Wu, X. Wu, China Univ. of Geosciences (China)
- 6752 0K **Separating manual operation from remote sensing image processing procedure for high performance parallel computing** [6752-19]
W. Xuan, Peking Univ. (China); Z. Lin, Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping (China); X. Chen, Peking Univ. (China); G. Zhao, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 0L **Visualizing the uncertainty of geo-information from Landsat ETM+ imagery by fuzzy reasoning** [6752-20]
P. Wang, F. Huang, Northeast Normal Univ. (China); X. Liu, China Univ. of Geosciences (China)

- 6752 OM **Edge-preserve image smoothing algorithm based on convexity model and its application in the airport extraction** [6752-21]
K. Sun, D. Li, Y. Chen, H. Sui, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 ON **Remotely sensed imagery intelligent interpretation based on image segmentation and support vector machines** [6752-22]
D. Mo, H. Lin, J. Li, H. Sun, Central South Univ. of Forestry and Technology (China); T. Liu, Central South Univ. of Forestry and Technology (China) and Central South Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning State Forestry Administration (China); Y. Xiong, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 OO **Fusion of multisensor images based on the curvelet transform** [6752-23]
M. Xiao, Z. He, Y. Jia, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 OP **Remote sensing image fusion based on fuzzy theory in pixel level and assessing the quality of resulting images** [6752-24]
Z. Xiao, Nanjing Univ. (China); H. Jiang, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Zhejiang Forestry Univ. (China); H. Zhou, Nanjing Univ. (China); S. Yu, Zhejiang Forestry Univ. (China)
- 6752 OQ **Phase unwrapping methods of corner reflector DInSAR monitoring slow ground deformation** [6752-25]
W. Fu, Nanjing Univ. (China); X. Guo, China Aero Geophysical Survey & Remote Sensing Ctr. for Land and Resources (China); Q. Tian, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 OR **Study on data mining technology in hyperspectral remote sensing** [6752-26]
H. Su, Y. Sheng, Y. Wen, H. Tao, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 OS **Image fusion based on improved HIS and curvelet transform integrated method** [6752-27]
S. Cheng, Y. Yang, Y. Li, Hohai Univ. (China)
- 6752 OT **Cloud model based fuzzy C-means clustering and its application** [6752-28]
K. Qin, M. Xu, Wuhan Univ. (China); D. Li, China Institute of Electronic System Engineering (China)
- 6752 OU **An effective method to detect straight lines from high spatial resolution remotely sensed imagery and its applications for runway extraction** [6752-29]
M. Wang, X. Zhang, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 OV **A novel AMSS-MEDIAN fusion filter for SAR imagery noise reduction** [6752-30]
C. Xu, J. Gao, J. Wang, J. Sun, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China)
- 6752 OW **Applying texture marker-controlled watershed transform to the segmentation of IKONOS image** [6752-31]
P. Xiao, X. Feng, S. Zhao, Nanjing Univ. (China); S. Xie, Nanjing Urban Planning Bureau (China); P. Wang, R. Badawi, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 OX **A fast preprocessing algorithm for massive MODIS 1B data** [6752-32]
Y. Shu, Y. Liu, Z. Duan, Y. Zhang, Z. Chen, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 OY **The key techniques on establishing image database** [6752-33]
C. Qian, J. Wang, Y. Rui, Nanjing Univ. (China)

- 6752 02 **Evaluation of the surface reflectance retrieval on the satellite data** [6752-34]
C. Xu, X. Feng, P. Xiao, P. Wang, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 10 **Automatic estimation of LIDAR points data spatial resolution distribution** [6752-35]
H. Li, D. Li, X. Huang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 11 **Application of SUSAN to reduce the speckle noise of remote sensing image** [6752-36]
X. Zang, Y. Chen, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China); S. Wang, China Univ. of Geosciences (China)
- 6752 12 **3D geo-positioning based on bias-compensated rational function model for QuickBird imagery** [6752-37]
G. Qiao, W. Wang, J. Zhang, Tongji Univ. (China)
- 6752 13 **Model simulation for sensitivity of hyperspectral indices to LAI, leaf chlorophyll, and internal structure parameter** [6752-38]
J. Yuan, Hebei Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); Z. Niu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); W. Fu, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 14 **Kernel based simplification of canopy reflectance model using partial least square regression** [6752-39]
Y. Yu, X. Mu, Q. Liu, Z. Liu, State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China), Beijing Normal Univ. (China), and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); Y. Wang, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); G. Yan, State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China), Beijing Normal Univ. (China), and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6752 15 **Forward image mapping using image inpainting** [6752-40]
C. Shen, A. Fang, F. Li, East China Normal Univ. (China); Y. Peng, East China Normal Univ. (China) and UMPA, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France)
- 6752 16 **Improving fundamental factors among correlation matching algorithms in underwater TANS** [6752-41]
Y. Lin, L. Yan, Peking Univ. (China); Q. Tong, Peking Univ. (China) and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6752 17 **A twin central line projection model for asynchronous sampling line scanner satellite imagery** [6752-42]
J. Gong, Wuhan Univ. (China); X. Hu, Wuhan Univ. (China) and Hainan Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (China); F. Geng, Hainan Univ. (China)

SESSION 2 REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS

- 6752 18 **Modeling spatial-temporal change of Poyang Lake using multi-temporal Landsat imagery** [6752-43]
F. Hui, Nanjing Univ. (China); B. Xu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Univ. of Utah (USA); H. Huang, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); P. Gong, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Univ. of California, Berkeley (USA)
- 6752 19 **Hyperspectral models of coastal water depth extraction** [6752-44]
J. Wang, Q. Tian, W. Fu, X. Wang, X. Du, Nanjing Univ. (China)

- 6752 1A **Study on the extraction of urban roads from high-resolution remotely sensed imagery based on the knowledge of road features** [6752-45]
K. Guan, Q. Tian, Z. Li, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 1B **Hydrophytes extraction in Taihu Lake, China: an approach of integrating decision tree with water depth based on Landsat TM and SPOT** [6752-46]
S. Zhang, R. Ma, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China); S. Zhao, C. Wang, W. Tang, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 1C **Remote sensing parameter model of suspended sediment and its application in the Yangtze River estuary** [6752-47]
Y. Wang, China Meteorological Administration (China) and Institute of Atmospheric Physics (China); F. Yan, Nanjing Univ. (China); P. Zhang, W. Dong, China Meteorological Administration (China); Y. Zhang, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1D **Study on extracting reflectance just beneath water surface from remote sensing reflectance** [6752-48]
T. Liu, A. Dong, W. Xu, D. Li, Donghua Univ. (China)
- 6752 1E **Lake areas monitoring based on unmixing mixed pixels united with double-edge extraction** [6752-49]
Z. Hu, J. Bi, C. Ji, D. Zhong, T. Chi, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); S. Liu, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1F **Mapping coral reef benthic cover with fused IKONOS imagery** [6752-50]
Y. Wang, Y. Chen, J. Li, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1G **A self-adaptive algorithm for traffic sign detection in motion image based on color and shape features** [6752-51]
K. Zhang, Y. Sheng, Z. Gong, C. Ye, Y. Li, C. Liang, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1H **Method of individual tree crown detection** [6752-52]
Y. Xiong, J. Wu, East China Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1I **A new approach for estimating the vegetation fraction in mountainous area** [6752-53]
Y. Yang, Q. Tian, Nanjing Univ. (China); L. Xu, State Oceanic Administration (China)
- 6752 1J **Simplified bio-optical modeling of concentrations of total suspended matter in a turbid inland water condition** [6752-54]
J. P. Xu, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology (China) and Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); B. Zhang, K. S. Song, Z. M. Wang, D. W. Liu, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology (China); X. F. Li, H. T. Duan, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology (China) and Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)
- 6752 1K **Mapping grass communities based on multi-temporal Landsat TM imagery and environmental variables** [6752-55]
Y. Zeng, Wuhan Univ. (China) and Information Ctr. of Beijing Municipal Bureau of State Land and Resources (China); Y. Liu, Y. Liu, Wuhan Univ. (China) and State Key Lab. of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (China); J. de Leeuw, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (Netherlands)

- 6752 1L **Modeling the spectral absorption by CDOM in Meiliang Bay, Taihu Lake** [6752-56]
Q. Fu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Graduate Univ. of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); S. Wang, Y. Zhou, F. Yan, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); J. Wang, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 1M **Determination of chlorophyll-a concentration using inverse continuum removal analysis of fluorescence peak in Lake Chagan, China** [6752-57]
H. Duan, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China) and Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology (China); R. Ma, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China); B. Zhang, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology (China); K. Song, Z. Wang, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China)
- 6752 1N **Cluster analysis approach for DEM change detection based on aerial images** [6752-58]
M. Wang, T. Feng, J. Pan, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 1O **Retrieval of LAI by assimilating remotely sensed data into a simple crop growth model** [6752-59]
X. Yang, X. Mu, D. Wang, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); Z. Li, Beijing Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); W. Zhang, G. Yan, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1P **Automatic 3D power line reconstruction of multi-angular imaging power line inspection system** [6752-60]
W. Zhang, G. Yan, N. Wang, Q. Li, W. Zhao, Beijing Normal Univ. (China), State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China), and Beijing Key Lab. for Remote Sensing of Environment and Digital Cities (China)
- 6752 1Q **Digital mountains: toward development and environment protection in mountain regions** [6752-61]
X. Jiang, Key Lab. of Mountain Hazards and Surface Process (China) and Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (China)
- 6752 1R **Information extraction of suspended sediment's relative density and distribution change in Lake Chaohu based on Landsat TM/ETM+ data** [6752-62]
X. Wang, C. Mei, W. Li, Anhui Normal Univ. (China) and Work Station of Anhui Province for Remote Sensing Archaeology (China); X. Zhang, Univ. of Memphis (USA)
- 6752 1S **Assessment of surface urban heat island effects and associated surface biophysical indicators using MODIS imagery** [6752-63]
Y. Zeng, Central South Univ. (China) and Liaoning Technical Univ. (China); H. Li, B. Xue, H. Zhang, Central South Univ. (China)
- 6752 1T **Application of MODIS data to assess the urban heat island in Shanghai City, China** [6752-64]
F. Yan, Nanjing Univ. (China); Z. Qin, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (China); Y. Wang, China Meteorological Administration (China)
- 6752 1U **Canopy BRDF simulation of forest with different crown shape and height in larger scale based on radiosity method** [6752-65]
J. Song, Y. Qu, J. Wang, H. Wan, X. Liu, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)

- 6752 1V **A wavelet based algorithm for DTM extraction from airborne laser scanning data** [6752-66]
L. Xu, State Oceanic Administration (China); Y. Yang, Q. Tian, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 1W **Estimation and seasonal monitoring of urban vegetation abundance based on remote sensing** [6752-67]
J. Zhou, Y. H. Chen, J. Li, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); Q. H. Weng, Beijing Normal Univ. (China) and Indiana State Univ. (USA); Y. Tang, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 1X **Remotely sensed monitoring of urban heat island in Chongqing** [6752-68]
Y. Tian, Southwest Univ. (China) and Chongqing Institute of Meteorological Science (China); Y. Gao, Chongqing Institute of Meteorological Science (China); J. Yi, Southwest Univ. (China); L. Zhu, Chongqing Technology and Business Univ. (China)
- 6752 1Y **Quantitative evaluation of desertification extent based on geographic unit by remote sensing image** [6752-69]
Z. Wang, D. Wang, Ludong Univ. (China); C. Zhang, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); A. Zhang, Ludong Univ. (China)
- 6752 1Z **The spatial relation of soil erosion and soil types in Jinan based on RS and GIS** [6752-70]
G. Wu, H. Si, B. Zhong, Q. Wu, B. Wei, C. Song, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 20 **Cenozoic geomorphological and paleo-environmental evolution survey using multi-source data conformity** [6752-71]
Y. Zhu, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); Z. Sun, Jilin Normal Univ. (China); C. Li, Q. Yu, China Geological Survey Bureau (China); K. Zhang, X. Kou, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); W. Wang, Regional Geological Survey Institute of Hubei Province (China)
- 6752 21 **Fusion of Radarsat SAR and ETM+ imagery for identification of fresh water wetland** [6752-72]
R. Ruan, Hohai Univ. (China); X. Feng, Nanjing Univ. (China); Y. She, Hohai Univ. (China)
- 6752 22 **Hyperspectral indices for leaf and pixel chlorophyll estimation in open-canopy tree** [6752-73]
J. Zhao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School of the CAS (China); X. Chen, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China); G. Japper, H. Chang, Z. Ma, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School of the CAS (China); Y. Duan, Graduate School of the CAS (China)
- 6752 23 **An approach for desertification monitoring in Hulun Buir grassland of Inner Mongolia, China** [6752-74]
Y. Zhu, Nanjing Univ. (China); Z. Qin, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); B. Xu, M. Gao, Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); H. Pei, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 24 **Estimating hydrocarbon content using hyperspectral remote sensing at Qaidam Basin, China** [6752-75]
P. Hu, Q. Tian, Z. Guan, Nanjing Univ. (China); B. Yan, China Aero Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing Ctr. for Land and Resources (China)

Part Two

- 6752 25 **Remote sensing monitoring of grass growing in grassland ecosystems of China** [6752-76]
L. Lu, Nanjing Univ. (China); Z. Qin, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); B. Xu, W. Tao, Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); L. Jiang, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 26 **Using hyperspectral data to detect the responses of masson pine's needle spectral reflectance to acid stress** [6752-77]
X. Song, H. Jiang, Nanjing Univ. (China); S. Yu, G. Zhou, Zhejiang Forestry Univ. (China)
- 6752 27 **Satellite-measured characteristics and changes of urban heat island of Nanjing City Zone, China** [6752-78]
R. Wang, Y. Xu, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 28 **Quantitative study on spatio-temporal change of urban landscape pattern based on RS/GIS: a case of Xi'an metropolitan area in China** [6752-79]
M. Chen, Y. Zong, Q. Ma, J. Li, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 29 **Mapping drought status of winter wheat from MODIS data in North China Plain** [6752-80]
L. Gao, Nanjing Univ. (China); Z. Qin, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); B. Xu, Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); L. Lu, H. Pei, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 2A **Comparison of urban heat island retrieval method from Landsat TM thermal data** [6752-81]
X. Zhang, Zhejiang Univ. (China) and Nanjing Univ. (China); K. Wang, Zhejiang Univ. (China); Y. Song, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Land Surveying and Mapping Institute of Shandong Province (China)
- 6752 2B **Integration of remote sensing technique and hydrologic model for monitoring tidal flat dynamics of Juiduansha in Shanghai** [6752-82]
Z. Zheng, East China Normal Univ. (China); Y. Zhou, East China Normal Univ. (China) and Jilin Univ. (China); X. Jiang, East China Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 2C **Hydrophytes extraction from Landsat TM multi-spectral image in Taihu Lake, China: an approach of decision tree** [6752-83]
C. Wang, S. Zhao, Nanjing Univ. (China); R. Ma, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China); W. Tang, Nanjing Univ. (China); S. Zhang, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China)
- 6752 2D **Extraction of enclosure culture area from SPOT-5 image based on texture feature** [6752-84]
W. Tang, S. Zhao, Nanjing Univ. (China); R. Ma, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China); C. Wang, Nanjing Univ. (China); S. Zhang, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China); X. Li, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 2E **Research on mapping trophic state of water bodies based on Landsat TM images in Taihu Lake** [6752-85]
D. Wang, X. Feng, Nanjing Univ. (China); R. Ma, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China)

6752 2F **Monitoring the urban heat island and the spatial expansion: using thermal remote sensing image of ETM+ band6** [6752-86]
J. Zhang, Y. Li, South China Normal Univ. (China); Y. Wang, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry (China)

6752 2G **Water quality assessment and change detection in urban wetland using high spatial resolution satellite imagery** [6752-87]
H. Zhou, Nanjing Univ. (China); H. Jiang, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Zhejiang Forestry College (China); Z. Xiao, Nanjing Univ. (China); S. Yu, Zhejiang Forestry College (China); J. Chang, Zhejiang Univ. (China)

SESSION 3 LAND USE/LAND COVER CHANGE

6752 2H **Fusion of RADARSAT fine-beam SAR and QuickBird data for land-cover mapping and change detection** [6752-88]
Y. Ban, H. Hu, I. Rangel, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)

6752 2I **Extraction of events and rules of land use/cover change from the policy text** [6752-89]
G. Lin, Sun Yat-Sen Univ. (China) and Fujian Normal Univ. (China); B. Xia, Sun Yat-Sen Univ. (China); W. Huang, H. Jiang, Y. Chen, Fujian Normal Univ. (China)

6752 2J **Comparison of object-oriented with pixel-based classification techniques on urban classification using TM and IKONOS imagery** [6752-90]
P. Wang, X. Feng, S. Zhao, P. Xiao, C. Xu, Nanjing Univ. (China)

6752 2K **Neural network classification with optimization by genetic algorithms for remote sensing imagery** [6752-91]
X. Tong, X. Zhang, Tongji Univ. (China)

6752 2L **Identification of coastal wetland using rule inferring** [6752-92]
R. Ruan, L. Xia, Z. Yan, Hohai Univ. (China)

6752 2M **Tupu methods on land use change based on space-temporal-attribute in Karst** [6752-93]
T. Wang, Y. An, Guizhou Normal Univ. (China); P. Zhang, IASPEC (China); R. Tang, Guizhou Normal Univ. (China)

6752 2N **Multi-scale land-use image fusion based on wavelet transform** [6752-94]
X. Zhang, Y. Fu, J. Zhu, W. Zhang, Sun Yat-sen Univ. (China)

6752 2O **Wetland change in the rapidly urbanizing area: take Nanjing as an example** [6752-95]
L. Zhou, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China) and Graduate School of The Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); N. Jiang, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China); M. Zhao, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China); S. Wang, X. Liu, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China) and Graduate School of The Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

6752 2P **Pattern change and dynamic evolution of urban green space based on multi-temporal remote sensing images: a case study of Xuzhou City** [6752-96]
H. Zhang, P. Du, C. Pan, Z. Yin, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China)

- 6752 2Q **Bivariate Moran spatial correlation analysis between zonal farm-land use and rural population distribution** [6752-97]
S. Zhu, Z. Chen, D. Chen, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 2R **Discussion of identifying urbanized area based on the method of three-factor analysis: a case study on Chaoyang District of Beijing** [6752-98]
J. Lin, F. Huang, S. Zhang, J. Chu, Peking Univ. (China)
- 6752 2S **Extraction and evaluation of urban agriculture region based on RS and GIS: a case study in Beijing** [6752-99]
H. Wang, H. Liu, Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science, Beijing Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); J. Liu, H. Liu, Beijing Research Ctr. of Agriculture and Economics (China); W. Huang, C. Wang, Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science, Beijing Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6752 2T **Content-based multipurpose watermarking for remote sensing images** [6752-100]
R. Zhao, Wuhan Univ. (China); G. Jiang, Information Engineering Univ. (China); S. Wang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 2U **Analysis and preliminary design of Kunming land use and planning management information system** [6752-101]
L. Li, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Kunming Land and Resources Bureau (China); Z. Chen, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 2V **Analyzing urban sprawl through rose map and thematic map based on GIS: a case in Wuhan City, China** [6752-102]
K. Wang, Y. Liu, Y. Liu, Y. Nong, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 2W **How micro-circumstances influence the urban residential land value: a case study in Danyang, China** [6752-103]
B. Zheng, Y. Liu, L. Huang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 2X **Analysis of urban land use growth in Su-Xi-Chang cities in China during 1979–2001** [6752-104]
L. Wang, C. Ke, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 2Y **Land-use conversion and its regulative mechanism in metropolitan area in West China** [6752-105]
Z. Yang, Lanzhou Univ. (China); H. Chang, Panzhihua Univ. (China); S. Niu, G. Li, Lanzhou Univ. (China)
- 6752 2Z **A land-cover classifier using tolerant rough set and multi-class SVM** [6752-106]
X. Wu, F. Liu, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); B. A. F. Bassam, Mustansiriyah Univ. (Iraq); Y. Guo, China Univ. of Geosciences (China)
- 6752 30 **Spatial units of land use potential evaluation on regional scales** [6752-107]
Z. Yang, S. Zhu, F. Li, D. Chen, Nanjing Univ. (China)

- 6752 31 **Research on the Tupu methods of land-use spatial pattern and its change: a case study in Yuanyang Hani terrace** [6752-108]
W. Hu, Kunming Science and Technology Univ. (China) and Yunnan Normal Univ. (China); Y. Jiao, Yunnan Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 32 **Agent-based modeling in land use and land cover change studies** [6752-109]
G. Wu, B. Zhong, H. Si, B. Wei, Q. Wu, C. Song, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 33 **Spatial optimum collocation model of urban land and its algorithm** [6752-110]
X. Kong, X. Li, Shandong Economic Univ. (China)
- 6752 34 **Research on application of intelligent computation based LUCC model in urbanization process** [6752-111]
Z. Chen, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Jiangsu Province Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (China)
- 6752 35 **Classifying rural land-use using multi-feature approach for national land-use survey** [6752-112]
F. Xia, Y. F. Liu, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 36 **Quantitative analysis and simulation of land use changes in the Pearl River Delta, China** [6752-113]
H. Zhang, Y. Zeng, B. Zou, Central South Univ. (China); P. Xiao, Nanjing Univ. (China); D. Hu, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); J. Peng, Nanjing Agricultural Univ. (China)
- 6752 37 **Modeling urban land use changes in Lanzhou, China with GIS and DUEM** [6752-114]
X. Xu, Lanzhou Univ. (China) and Nantong Univ. (China); J. Zhang, J. Li, Lanzhou Univ. (China); J. Yu, T. Zhou, Nantong Univ. (China)
- 6752 38 **Mapping ecosystem service dynamic in Wuyuer River watershed, Northeast China from 1954 to 2000** [6752-115]
F. Huang, P. Wang, Y. Li, Northeast Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 39 **Land appraisal based on cloud model and sales comparison approach** [6752-116]
S. Hu, D. Li, Y. Liu, Wuhan Univ. (China); D. Li, Institute of Electronic System Engineering (China); H. Yu, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 3A **Effects of urbanization on spatiotemporal changes of land cover pattern: a case of Changsha, China** [6752-117]
B. Zou, Y. Zeng, Central South Univ. (China) and Liaoning Technical Univ. (China); H. Zhang, K. Yang, Central South Univ. (China); M. Dong, Hunan Univ. of Arts and Science (China)
- 6752 3B **Wetland landscape pattern evolvement character and its driving mechanism based on TM images of Hubei Province** [6752-118]
C. Kong, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); K. Xu, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); C. Wu, H. Deng, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); Y. Zhang, Central China Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 3C **Object-based classification for mangrove with VHR remotely sensed image** [6752-119]
Z. Liu, State Key Lab. of Remote Sensing Science (China) and Beijing Normal Univ. (China); J. Li, Beijing Normal Univ. (China); B. Lim, C. Seng, S. Inbaraj, Cilix Corp. Sdn Bhd (Malaysia)

- 6752 3D **Evolutionary support vector machine and its application in remote sensing imagery classification** [6752-120]
Y. Guo, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); L. Kang, China Univ. of Geosciences (China) and Wuhan Univ. (China); F. Liu, L. Mei, China Univ. of Geosciences (China)
- 6752 3E **Research on landscape pattern change in Niyanghe watershed based on remote sensing and GIS** [6752-121]
Y. Jiang, C. Ke, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 3F **Classification of high spatial resolution imagery using optimal Gabor-filters-based texture features** [6752-122]
Y. Zhao, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China); B. Wu, Fuzhou Univ. (China)
- 6752 3G **Multi-scale texture analysis for urban land use/cover classification using high spatial resolution satellite data** [6752-123]
Y. Zhang, L. Chen, B. Yu, Hohai Univ. (China)
- 6752 3H **A sampling strategy for a single step land cover change classification** [6752-124]
Z. Huang, X. Jia, Univ. College, UNSW, Australian Defence Force Academy (Australia); L. Ge, Univ. of New South Wales (Australia)
- 6752 3I **Object-oriented classification of very high-resolution remote sensing imagery based on improved CSC and SVM** [6752-125]
H. Li, Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (China); H. Gu, Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (China) and Liaoning Technical Univ. (China); Y. Han, J. Yang, Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (China)
- 6752 3J **Investigation of the methods of extracting information from IKONOS image in Qixia district of Nanjing land cover** [6752-126]
B. Rami, X. Feng, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 3K **An analysis of urban expansion of Wuhan City based on multi-temporal remote sensing images and GIS** [6752-127]
Z. Zeng, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Z. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Wuhan Urban Planning and Land Administration Information Ctr. (China); M. Peng, Wuhan Urban Planning and Land Administration Information Ctr. (China); X. Lu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6752 3L **Support vector regression with genetic algorithms for estimating impervious surface and vegetation distributions using ETM+ data** [6752-128]
L. Chen, Y. Zhang, B. Chen, Hohai Univ. (China)
- 6752 3M **Classification of Landsat 7 ETM+ imagery in western mountainous area of Zhejiang based on gray-gradient co-concurrency matrix** [6752-129]
L. Feng, M. Li, Y. Liu, Nanjing Univ. (China)
- 6752 3N **Dynamic land use monitoring in small-medium sized cities by remote sensing: a case in Jian City, Jiangxi Province** [6752-130]
X. Le, Nanjing Univ. (China); Z. Fan, Mountain-River-Lake Development Office (China); Y. Zhang, Nanjing Univ. (China)

6752 3O **An object-based classification approach for high-spatial resolution imagery** [6752-131]
X. Li, S. Zhao, Y. Rui, W. Tang, Nanjing Univ. (China)

6752 3P **Impacts of land use/cover change on spatial variation of land surface temperature in Urumqi, China** [6752-132]
H. Pei, Nanjing Univ. (China); Z. Qin, Nanjing Univ. (China) and Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); S. Fang, Xinjiang Univ. (China); B. Xu, Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China); C. Zhang, L. Lu, Nanjing Univ. (China); M. Gao, Institute of Agro-Resources and Regional Planning (China)

6752 3Q **Design and realization of high quality prime farmland planning and management information system** [6752-133]
M. Li, G. Liu, Y. Liu, Z. Jiang, Nanjing Univ. (China)

SESSION 4 SATELLITE POSITIONING AND NEW SURVEY TECHNOLOGIES

6752 3R **A data model with spatio-temporal characteristic for dynamic vehicle navigation system** [6752-134]
Z. Zeng, Q. Li, B. Li, D. Xu, Wuhan Univ. (China)

6752 3S **The simulation and realization of Galileo E1-C IF signal** [6752-135]
W. Wang, J. Guo, J. Shi, Wuhan Univ. (China)

6752 3T **Precise orbit determination of GPS satellite using regional tracking network** [6752-136]
M. Li, Y. Lou, C. Shi, R. Zou, Wuhan Univ. (China)

6752 3U **Research on the selection of suitable matching area in the gravity aided navigation** [6752-137]
L. Yan, H. Wu, Wuhan Univ. (China)

6752 3V **Acquisition and tracking schemes for GPS software receiver** [6752-138]
C. Hu, X. Li, L. An, Tongji Univ. (China)

6752 3W **Data pretreatment in GPS baseline solution based on wavelet** [6752-139]
X. Shi, C. Zhao, Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology (China); L. Zhu, The Fifth Team of Jaingsu Coalfield Geology (China)

6752 3X **Discussion on integrated digital chart data model and display platform for pocket navigator system (PNS)** [6752-140]
H. Sui, J. Xiao, Wuhan Univ. (China); Q. Wang, Taiyuan Land and Resources Bureau (China); Q. Li, Wuhan Univ. (China)

6752 3Y **Modeling and query the uncertainty of network constrained moving objects based on RFID data** [6752-141]
L. Han, K. Xie, X. Ma, G. Song, Peking Univ. (China)

6752 3Z **Optimal estimation of tropospheric delay corrections to INSAR results from GPS observations based on SVM** [6752-142]
X. Song, D. Li, M. Liao, L. Cheng, Wuhan Univ. (China)

- 6752 40 **Automatic registration for ASAR and TM images based on region features** [6752-143]
D. Zhang, L. Yu, Z. Cai, Zhejiang Univ. (China)
- 6752 41 **Registration and mosaicking of cloud contaminated images** [6752-144]
F. Li, East China Normal Univ. (China); Y. Peng, East China Normal Univ. (China) and École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France); S. Xing, C. Shen, East China Normal Univ. (China)
- 6752 42 **Efficient IBP with super resolution for ALOS imagery** [6752-145]
F. Li, D. Fraser, X. Jia, Univ. of New South Wales (Australia)
- 6752 43 **The research and the realization of remote sensing data sharing platform based on the satellite link** [6752-146]
X. Zhang, M. Li, S. Hao, H. Yang, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (China)
- 6752 44 **Positional accuracy in RPC point determination based on high-resolution imagery** [6752-147]
H. Meng, Y. Liu, J. Zhang, H. Gong, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6752 45 **The design and implementation of grid computing platform for aerosol remote sensing (GCP-ARS)** [6752-148]
J. Tang, Peking Univ. (China); A. Zhang, Beijing Univ. of Chemical Technology (China)
- 6752 46 **The study on data customization and collection planning system of remote sensing satellite for environment** [6752-149]
W. Li, Y. Chen, R. He, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China)
- 6752 47 **Mutual information based registration of LIDAR and optical images** [6752-150]
F. Deng, S. Li, Wuhan Univ. (China); G. Su, Academy of Optoelectronics (China)
- 6752 48 **An experimental study on the IMU/DGPS/camera system calibration** [6752-151]
Q. Li, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China) and Hebei Univ. of Engineering (China); D. Guo, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China) and China Aero Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing Ctr. for Land and Resources (China)
- 6752 49 **The analysis of the error sources affecting the accuracy of attitude determined by star sensor** [6752-152]
J. Xie, W. Jiang, Wuhan Univ. (China)

Author Index

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Introduction

We are pleased to present the proceedings from the 15th International Conference on Geoinformatics in 2007 (Geoinformatics 2007).

Since its inception in 1992, the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences (CPGIS) has sponsored a series of international conferences on geoinformatics, which encourages academic exchange and fosters friendship and collaboration among professionals and practitioners worldwide. After successful Geoinformatics meetings in 2006 (Wuhan, China), and in 2005 (Toronto, Canada), Geoinformatics 2007, held in Nanjing, China, was also highly successful. This year's meeting was organized by the Department of Geographic Information Science and International Institute of Earth System Science at Nanjing University.

Geoinformatics 2007 was also part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the cartography specialization at Nanjing University and the 15th anniversary of CPGIS. The meeting covered a wide range of topics in theories, techniques, and applications of geoinformatics, as well as new philosophical views on the future development of this discipline. Over 500 participants from more than 10 countries and regions made Geoinformatics 2007 an exciting event.

The conference theme of Geoinformatics 2007 was "Cartography, Spatial Analysis and Visualization for Harmonious Society," which emphasizes the roles of geospatial information sciences in promoting harmony in societies through informed land use decision making, effective visualization and analysis of spatial information in various sectors of a society, and developing new tools for integrated assessments involving multiple spatial information sources for various stakeholders, etc. This year we received 805 abstracts, accepted 605 abstracts, and accepted 454 full papers for publication after a peer-review process. In total, 215 oral and 294 poster presentations were delivered at the conference. Through these presentations and various forums, the participants showcased their recent achievements and exchanged scientific ideas and technical skills in the field of geospatial information science.

On behalf of the conference technical and local organizing committees, I would like to thank all participants in the conference and contributors to these proceedings. Your support made this year's conference a highly successful and memorable event. We sincerely hope that this momentum will continue into the future, and we will count on your continued support.

Jingming Chen