

# Remote sensing, Fall 2020: project and image data

The general overall goal is to classify or threshold a selected area, generate clean and meaningful polygon vectors for selected features, and present these with the satellite image, and/or DEM layers. The features might be basic land cover you can identify with local ground knowledge. Examples might include and expand upon lab examples, using threshold values from ratios, indices, transforms or supervised and unsupervised classifications to enhance and extract features such as vegetated or urban classes, fires or glaciers.

Using 2 or more images to show change can be appealing, but is not a requirement.

**Week 1 (Nov 19):** data extraction, clip/subset and preliminary examination

**Week 2 (Nov 26):** channel creation / classification, cleaning / sieving

**Week 3 (Dec 3):** vectors/analysis/write-up (Dec 8 finish - extensions possible)

## Week one: Dataset extraction

Datasets will be created, most likely from Landsat TM (1984-2011) or OLI (2013-2020); aim at a subset approximately filling a screen but not much more e.g. ~1600 x 1200 pixels. You can also select some ASTER data (2000-07 and SPOT (2005-2010) with similar resolution. Landsat 7, 8 and SPOT have a higher resolution PAN band; ASTER is 15m multispectral till 2007.

It is ideal to select an area and possible application before you download image data.

The process for data search is the same as for Lab 5 (Environmental Change), except for downloading and extracting the full scene product (the last option), which will range from 400mb to 1 Gb in size, compared to the 'QuickLook' images used in Lab 5 (~12mb).

L8 image datafiles are bigger than L5 – more bands, 16 bit data

### 1. Image search and selection

Earth Explorer: <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov> or <https://glovis.usgs.gov>

Zoom to your chosen area, and use 'Map' option to select your area

Change max cloud cover to 10%

Collection: e.g. Landsat → Collection 1 → Level 1 → Landsat 4-5 TM or Landsat 8 OLI

Remember that Landsat 7 data are only good for 1999-2002

Remember to search for summer months only in (western) Canada

Identify your area with the 'use map' option

Unlike the environmental change exercise, you will want the **Level 1 GeoTIFF product** but you might first view the **LandsatLook** product to be sure it's good – e.g. view for clouds

## 2. Scene download

Select the optimal scene(s) from Landsat archive or other

This brings up a new window asking for a user name and password

The class group username is: **geog357**

The password is: **unbc4thenorth**

Note: Landsat 8 scenes are directly downloadable; this may be true for some Landsat 5 scenes, and if they are not, they take up to 72 hours to be delivered

If this is really the scene you want, then continue as below .... Be sure to check for cloud cover

Select 'download' button for 'Level 1 product' (the last listed option)

This downloads a tar.gz file, select your folder and save ... it may take 5-10 minutes ...

right-click on the saved file which will be filename.tar.gz

select open with → 7-Zip and Extract here (creates the tar file)

.tar file → 7-zip-> extract files from the .tar

This will produce .tif files – one for each band (7 for Landsat5) or (12 for Landsat8) (bands 1-11, including 2 TIRS, 1 PAN and also BQA) plus 2 text files.

## 3. Creating a multi-channel .pix file

All you need do in most cases is drag the metadata file into the TOC, and select the MS option, or just open the metadata (ends in .... mtl.txt) all the TIFs are present, and the rasters listed.

The method selects only layers with the same pixel resolution - 6 for TM and 8 for OLI. (No thermal/PAN). It's not yet permanent, only onscreen so we then need to create the PIX file:

File-> Utility-> Import to PCIDSK

Name it suitably in destination file and navigate to suitable folder

Take the other parameter defaults and IMPORT .. this takes a few minutes

When done, open your new pix file and remove the previous mtl from the maps display

The file layers are nicely identified by their EM spectrum location.

You can also load the PAN file if there is one ... layer-> add -> grayscale and pick band 8 TIF

I hope that by now they have formatted all image scenes in this way, with the metadata file.

If not, see instructions below

Make sure you have retained or recorded your **image date(s)**

I've repeated clipping/subset instructions below, though you already did this in Lab 5.

#### 4. Subset/clip your area of interest - don't try to capture too large an area

Set up your screen display to cover the area you want – a 'landscape' rectangle is usually best to optimise the use of the screen; square or portrait shaped areas are generally not as effective.

*Subset your area of interest:*

Tools-> subsetting / clipping

Choose a new file name that will describe your selected area

Tick the bands you need (likely all)

Select **use current view** as option under Define Clip Region / Definition method dropdown

Note: if you are working with >1 scene, you need to do steps 1-3 independently for each scene, and when it comes to step 4, subset one first and then clip the rest to match the first - use select a file definition method option if it's possible the current view has changed (use the first clip to define subsequent clips). But why am I repeating this – you already did this in Lab 5 !

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Here is the old way to turn multiple band TIF files into a single .pix file  
you might have to use this if the .mtl file is absent or does not link properly:

Open the first .tif (band 1) in Focus *convert this to a .pix file by:*

a. File-> Utility → choose **translate**

The source file is your .tif, the destination file is a new .pix file (you pick the name)

Click on: Select all - . add transfer -> close

*Now select File -> utility and choose **transfer***

For source file, pick the next band .tif file (Band 2)

For destination, pick the .pix file created in the previous step

select the new band, add and transfer

Repeat this process for the other .tif files - it will add them all to the SAME pix file

When done, view your favourite band combo as RGB composite

# GEOG357 Project outline 2020

## 1. Project design

- a. Geographic area ? (province / country / region ?
- b. Application area e.g. forestry, habitat (landcover), glaciers, urban development
- c. Image requirements – expected years, could include change but not required
- d. Anticipated processing e.g. classification, ratios, transforms, indices
- e. Expected outcomes e.g. extracted features or classes

## 2. Steps

Week 1: Preview and Download imagery, convert to pix file and clip to fit – I recommend a screen size study area to avoid excessive pan and zoom e.g. max. 1800 x1200 pixels (approx.)

Week 2: Image processing: classification, ratios/indices, transform etc., (change detection) feature extraction, vector creation

Week 3: Final images and results – e.g. vectors overlain on optimal image, calculation and presentation of results; possible 3D images using DEM; possible inclusion of Google maps/earth image for context/reference. Write up text.

### General process for creating feature vectors from image data with lab numbers listed:

- Select bands and channels to maximise feature contrast – lab 2-4
- Classify (multispectral) or threshold (single channel) - lab 2-4, 7-8
- Create single DN channel or bitmap for information classes / features – lab 2, 7
- Clean results -> sieve – lab 2-3, 7-8
- Possible inclusion of DEM layers – lab 9

## Project Output Summary

**Introduction:** A brief summary of your project – goals, area and result

### Study Area and Data Source

- Study area description
- The data you need for the project (including image dates)
- Comments on image quality (clouds, time of year etc.)

### Data methods and analysis

- brief description of methods (could use point form)
- the primary resulting channels from analysis e.g. ratio or classification

### Results

- Discussion of results
- Final image display e.g. vectors on image
- Final conclusions of successes or limitation

Images do not need to be super high res. 150 dpi is suggested as enough (.jpg)

You can provide zoom in images if it helps to show detail

submit project as word doc (or libre) and pdf in case of minor edits, pdf for final presentation