



UNIWERSYTET IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA W POZNANIU

Wydział Nauk Geograficznych i Geologicznych

---

**Field of studies: Geoinformation**

**Album ID: 455828**

**Tomasz Matuszek**

**Measuring impact of Landsat 8 thermal band on  
supervised land cover classification results**

*Ocena wpływu zastosowania kanału termalnego  
Landsat na wyniki nadzorowanej klasyfikacji pokrycia  
terenu*

Engineer's Thesis written  
in the Institute of Geoecology and Geoinformation  
under the supervision of  
dr. hab. Jakub Nowosad

Poznań, 2023



# Abstract

## Abstrakt

Streszczenie powinno przedstawiać skrótowo główny problem pracy i jego rozwiązanie. Możliwa struktura streszczenia to: (1) 1-3 zdania wstępu do problemu (czym się zajmujemy, dlaczego jest to ważne, jakie są problemy/luki do wypełnienia), (2) 1 zdanie opisujące cel pracy, (3) 1-3 zdania przedstawiające użyte materiały (dane) i metody (techniki, narzędzia), (4) 1-3 zdania obrazujące główne wyniki pracy, (5) 1-2 zdania podsumowujące; możliwe jest też określenie dalszych kroków/planów.

Słowa kluczowe: (4-6 słów/zwrotów opisujących treść pracy, które nie wystąpiły w tytule)

## Abstract

The abstract must be consistent with the above text.

Keywords: (as stated before)

# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2 Source data</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Satellite imagery . . . . .	8
2.2 Land cover data . . . . .	9
<b>3 Methods</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1 Machine learning . . . . .	13
3.2 R language environment . . . . .	14
<b>4 Result of the model - land cover map</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5 Assessing model quality</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>6 Evaluation of thermal band's impact on prediction results</b>	<b>21</b>
6.1 Overall importance of thermal band . . . . .	21
6.2 Spatial distribution of thermal band's importance . . . . .	21
<b>7 Conclusion</b>	<b>23</b>

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

- applications and relevance of land cover maps
- machine learning and supervised classification of satellite images as a tool for creating land cover maps
- pointing out that thermal band is often omitted in land cover classification models, exact impact of thermal factor isn't fully clear
- goal of the thesis is to create land cover map of Poznań metropolitan area and measure the impact of thermal band on the model results

---

Wprowadzenie powinno mieć charakter opisu od ogółu do szczegółu (np. trzy-pięć paragrafów). Pierwszy paragraf powinien być najbardziej ogólny, a kolejne powinny przybliżać czytelnika do problemu. Przedostatni paragraf powinien określić jaki jest problem (są problemy), który praca ma rozwiązać i dlaczego jest to (są one) ważne.

Wprowadzenie powinno być zakończone stwierdzeniem celu pracy. Dodatkowo tutaj może znaleźć się również krótki opis co zostało zrealizowane w pracy.

Pisząc ten rozdział proszę pomyśleć o osobach, które zupełnie nie znają opisywanej tematyki. Należy tutaj krok po kroku wyjaśnić podstawowe koncepcje, istotność problemu,

wyniki poprzednich podobnych badań, itd. Ten rozdział obejmuje tylko kwestie, które już zostały wykonane przez inne osoby - nowe wyniki mają swoje miejsce w rozdziale **?@sec-wyniki**.

Każda kwestia opisana w tym rozdziale powinna być cytowana. Dodatkowo cytowania odbywa się poprzez uzupełnienie pliku `thesis.bib` zapisem w formacie BibTeX, a następnie dodanie nazwy referencji poprzedzonej znakiem @. Przykładowo, zacytowanie książki *Geocomputation with R* odbywa się poprzez (Lovelace et al., 2019).

W przypadku, gdy cytowanie zostało poprawnie wpisane oraz istnieje w pliku `thesis.bib` to bibliografia powinna się automatycznie wygenerować na końcu pracy.

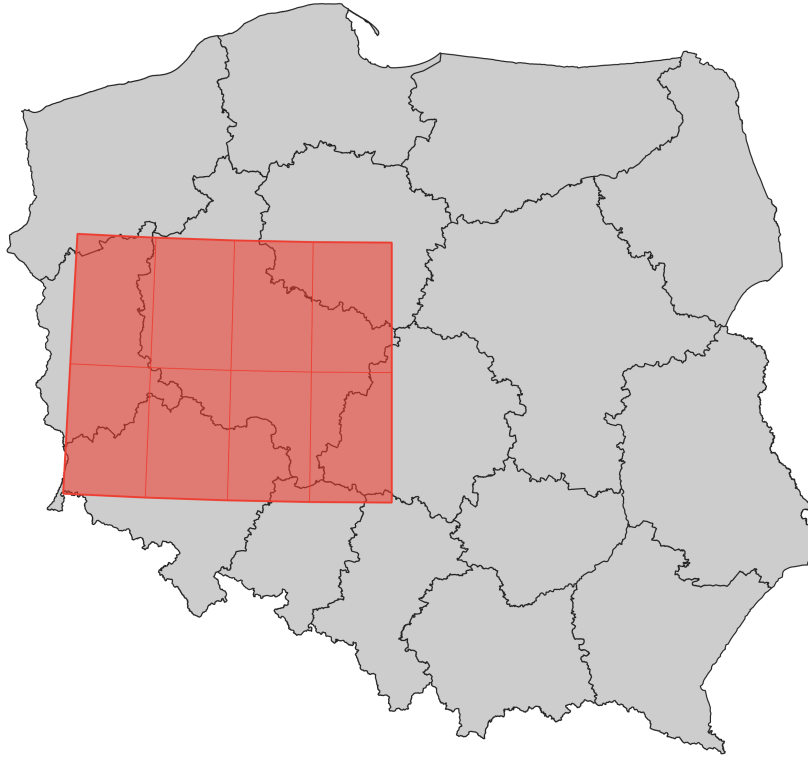
W przypadku, gdy praca dyplomowa opisuje konkretny obszar to można po tym rozdziale stworzyć kolejny rozdział opisujący "obszar badań".

Ten i kolejne rozdziały mogą mieć także podrozdziały. Tworzenie podrozdziałów polega na stworzeniu nowej linii rozpoczynającej się od znaków `##` a następnie tytułu podrozdziału. Dodatkowo w postaci `{#sec-}` można dodać skrót nazwy rozdziału/podrozdziału umożliwiający odnoszenie się do niego używając operatora `[-@sec]`.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Source data**

Landsat ARD dataset, provided by GLAD laboratory at the University of Maryland, was used in this study. Central-Western Poland was chosen as a training area for which satellite imagery and land cover data were downloaded (Figure 2.1). Training points were obtained from LUCAS dataset created by Eurostat (d'Andrimont et al., [2020](#)). This data was pre-processed and then used to train the model and validate its performance.



**Figure 2.1:** *Training area*

## 2.1 Satellite imagery

Satellite imagery from GLAD Landsat ARD is available in 16-day interval composites and is divided into  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  tiles. Processing of original Landsat images performed by GLAD team included converting spectral bands to top-of-atmosphere (TOA) reflectance, converting thermal band to brightness temperature (BT) in Kelvins, scaling the values of all bands as well as adding quality flag for every pixel (Potapov et al., [2020](#)).

Satellite images for eight  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  tiles, covering the study area (Figure 2.1), were downloaded using GLAD Tools v1.1 and PERL programming language. These images are from 10th interval of the year 2018, so downloaded mosaics consist of images created between 24.05.2018 and 8.06.2018. All downloaded images were merged and reprojected from WGS84 coordinate reference system (EPSG:4326) to UTM zone 33N (EPSG:32633). Every band was also resampled from  $0.00025^\circ$  resolution (corresponding to 27.83 m on equator) to 30 meters resolution.



**Table 2.1:** *Formulas of spectral indices dervied from Landsat data*

band/index	short name	formula
Blue	B2	-
Green	B3	-
Red	B4	-
Near Infrared	B5 (NIR)	-
Short-wave Infrared 1	B6 (SWIR1)	-
Short-wave Infrared 2	B7 (SWIR2)	-
Thermal	B10 (TIRS1)	-
Normalized Difference Vegetation Index	NDVI	$(B5 - B4) / (B4 + B5)$
Modified Normalized Difference Water Index	MNDWI	$(B3 - B6) / (B3 + B6)$
Normalized Difference Moisture Index	NDMI	$(B5 - B6) / (B5 + B6)$
Modified Bare Surface Index	MBI	$(B6 - B7 - B5) / (B6 + B7 + B5) + 0.5$

In addition, four spectral indices were derived: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Modified Normalized Difference Water Index (MNDWI), Normalized Difference Moisture Index (NDMI) and Modified Bare soil Index (MBI). Formulas used to calculate these indices can be found in Table 2.1.

## 2.2 Land cover data

Data collected during LUCAS survey performed by Eurostat was chosen as land cover training set. At the moment of writing, it is the most accurate and comprehensive dataset containing information about land use and land cover (Pflugmacher et al., 2019) due to the fact, that every point was either manually photo-interpreted or assessed during *in-situ* visit.

LUCAS survey consists of two phases. First phase is based on grid of points with 2km spacing covering whole territory of the European Union (which equals to more than 1 million points). Each point of the grid is visually interpreted using ortho-photos or satellite images, and classified into one of seven major land-cover classes. These classes are: arable land, permanent crops, grassland, wooded areas/shrub land, bare land, artificial land and water. In the second phase, a subsample of grid points is selected and then visited by Eurostat surveyors. They classify each point according to full LUCAS land cover and land use classification. The survey takes place in the spring and summer in order to observe chosen places in high vegetation season (d'Andrimont et al., 2020).

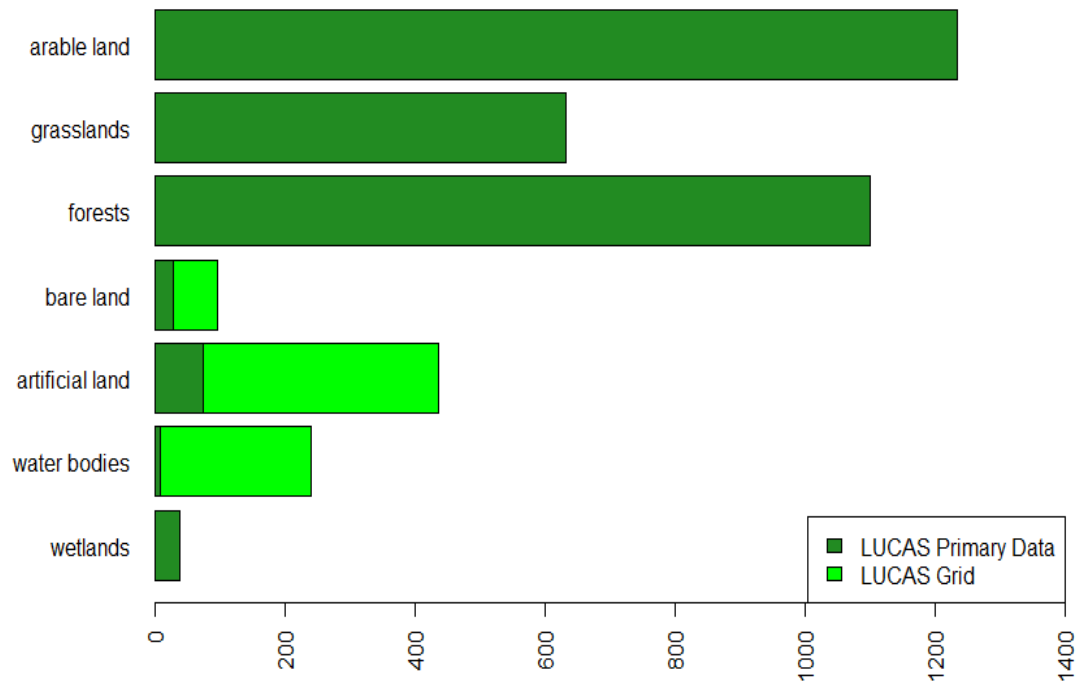
**Table 2.2:** *Filters applied to reclassified land cover groups. IMP - impervious surface, HRB - herbaceous plants cover, TC - tree cover*

ID	LC class	LUCAS Grid	LUCAS Primary Data	Filters
1	arable land	-	B00 (Cropland)	<30% IMP
2	grasslands	-	E00 (Grassland), D00 (Shrubland)	>50% HRB; <30% IMP
3	forests	-	C00 (Woodland)	>50% TC; <20% IMP
4	bare land	6 (Bare surface)	F00 (Bare land)	-
5	artificial land	7 (Artificial areas)	A00 (Artificial land)	>70% IMP
6	water bodies	8 (Inland water)	G00 (Water areas)	-
7	wetlands	-	H00 (Wetlands)	-

Surveyor not only assign land cover and land use classes to points, but they also add auxillary information such as plant species present at the site, percentage of land coverage for a chosen class, height of the trees and their maturity, as well as information about water management and irrigation. If there are more than one land cover/land use types at the point, observer can also assign a secondary class for every LUCAS point.

Majority of the training points used for the classification model were points from the second phase of LUCAS survey, also called LUCAS Primary Data. We downloaded a total of 4,153 points for the study area. Pre-processing step included omitting records with missing data, excluding artificial linear land cover classes (e.g. roads or railways) and excluding points that were surveyed more than 500 meters from their theoretical location. In the next step, detailed land cover classes were aggregated into eight main groups of land cover types. Two of them - grassland and shrubland were additionally aggregated into one land cover class. Then, we filtered some of the classes according to the percentage of land coverage or percentage of impervious surface coverage (Table 2.2).

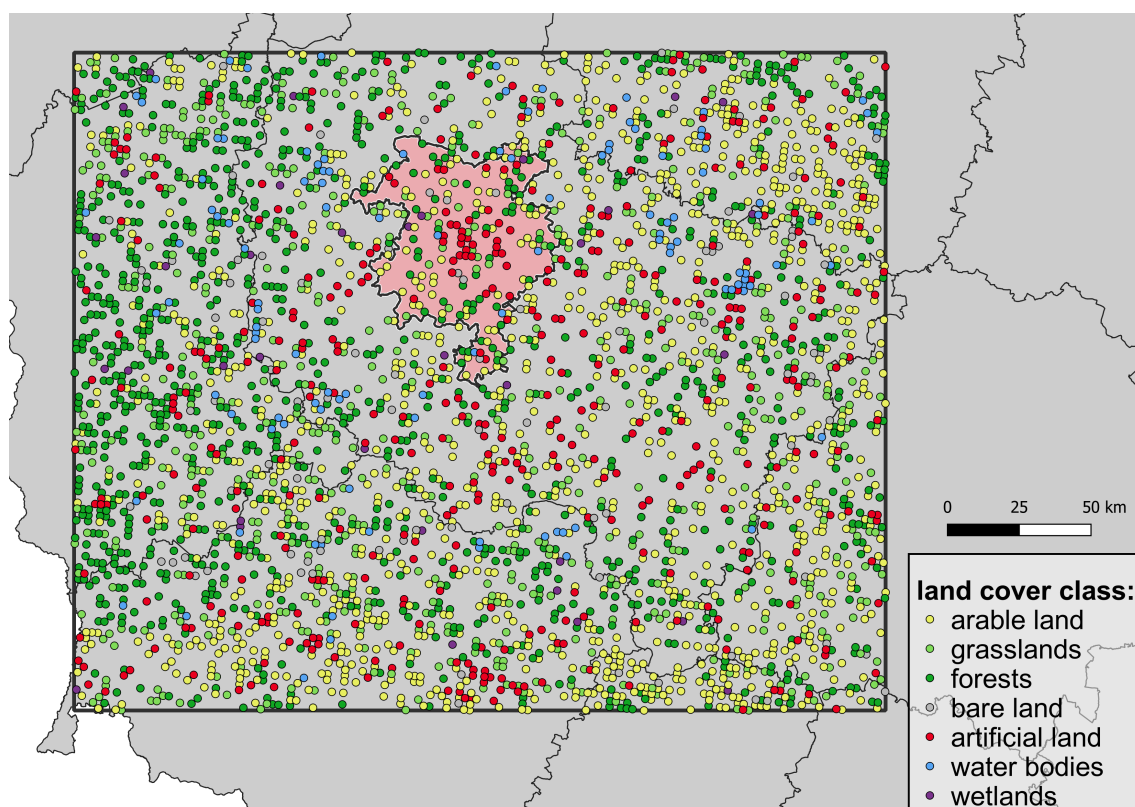
For the least frequent classes in the LUCAS Primary Data dataset - bare land, artificial land and water bodies - we also added points classified during the first phase of LUCAS survey (Figure 2.2). This step was necessary to ensure that every land cover class is represented by enough number of points. It was not possible only for wetlands class, because of lack of such category in the first phase classification. At the end of the pre-processing, we were left with 3,778 training points (Buck et al., 2015).



**Figure 2.2:** *Distribution of land cover classes after pre-processing*

After extracting values from Landsat ARD raster, LUCAS points were also filtered using quality flag provided. Only points with clear-sky quality flag were taken into account during the process of model training. We also excluded water bodies points in which NDWI was lower than 0. These two conditions excluded over 400 points in total.

Training set obtained after pre-processing can be seen in Figure 2.3. Spatial distribution of data points was fairly even and due to the structure of LUCAS data set, every point was located at least 2 kilometers from another one.



**Figure 2.3:** *Spatial distribution of LUCAS training points after pre-processing*

## Chapter 3

# Methods

Workflow of our study consisted of several stages: preprocessing source data (described in Chapter 2), creating training dataset, model's parameters tuning, land cover map prediction, model quality assessment and evaluating the impact of thermal band on model's results. Every of these steps was performed using R programming language (R Core Team, [2021](#)). Final visualisations were created in QGIS software (QGIS Development Team, [2009](#)). Both programming environment and GIS software used in this process are open-source.

ADD WORKFLOW CHART

### 3.1 Machine learning

Machine learning is a computation method used to teach machines to learn from datasets in order to handle the data more efficiently and enhance from experience automatically without being specifically programmed (Mahesh, [2018](#)) (Sarker, [2021](#)). We can divide machine learning into two main groups: supervised and unsupervised.

Unsupervised learning analyzes unlabeled datasets without the need for human intervention. This is widely used for extracting generative features, identifying meaningful trends and structures, groupings in results, and exploratory purposes. (Sarker, [2021](#)) This type of machine learning discovers hidden patterns or data groupings (clusters)

which is used in exploratory analysis or objects segmentation. The most common unsupervised learning algorithm is clustering.

Supervised learning uses labeled training data and a collection of training examples which are used by algorithm to find relationships and functions between different variables used to describe training data. It is carried out when certain goals are identified to be accomplished from a certain set of inputs. There are two types of supervised learning tasks: classification (seperating data) and regression (fitting data). (Sarker, 2021)

In this study, supervised classification algorithm called Random Forest was used.

### **3.1.1 Random forest algorithm**

- what is a decision tree
- how random forest algorithm works

### **3.1.2 Parameter tuning**

- what is tuning of model's parameters

### **3.1.3 Model quality assessment**

- measures and indices of classification model quality
- idea of resampling
- idea of nested resampling
- spatial cross-validation and its purpose

## **3.2 R language environment**

Almost every step of analysis described in previous sections was performed with use of R (R Core Team, 2021) - an open-source programming language designed mainly for statistical computing and visualizing data. We used RStudio (RStudio Team, 2020)

as an integrated development environment (IDE) created for R. Apart from base R functionalities, we used a number of packages created by R community. We used *terra* package (Hijmans, 2022) to perform raster data operations and *sf* (Pebesma, 2022) to manipulate and process vector data. To conduct machine learning steps of our analysis, we used whole environment of various machine learning packages called *mlr3* (Lang et al., 2022). Random forest algorithm used by *mlr3* framework is part of *ranger* package (Wright et al., 2021) . We also used *dplyr* and *tidyr* packages (Wickham et al., 2021b) to clean and process tabular data. *DALEX* and *DALEXtra* (Biecek et al., 2022) packages provided various functionalities enabling us to estimate variable importance and visualize these results with the help of *ggplot2* package (Wickham et al., 2021a). Package called *gstat* (Pebesma et al., 2021) helped us to interpolate variable importance values from points to continuous raster layer. In addition, *future* package (Bengtsson, 2021) was used to enable multi-threading of some computationally intensive tasks.

---





## Chapter 4

# Result of the model - land cover map

- land cover map of Poznań metropolitan area
- comparison of land cover map and RGB satellite imagery
- probability map of model results

---

Część **Wyniki** może składać się z jednego lub więcej rozdziałów. Każdy z tych rozdziałów powinien mieć tytuł adekwatny do swojej treści.

Rozdziały wynikowe powinny korzystać z wiedzy opisanej w poprzednich rozdziałach (Rozdziały **?@sec-lit**, **?@sec-dane**, **?@sec-metody**). W przypadku prac analitycznych, ich treść powinna przedstawiać kolejne etapy eksploracji i analizy danych. W przypadku prac technicznych, treść tych rozdziałów powinna opisywać stworzone narzędzia, a następnie pokazywać ich zastosowanie/a.

W przypadku prac technicznych warto pokazywać fragmenty napisanego rozwiązania lub jego wywołania używając bloków kodu.

```
moja_funkcja = function(x){  
  cat(x, "rządzi!")  
}  
moja_funkcja("Autor tej pracy")
```

Autor tej pracy rządzi!

## Chapter 5

# Assessing model quality

Table with quality indices:

- overall accuracy (OA) / classification error (CE)
  - producer's and user's accuracy (PA, UA)
  - Kappa coefficient
- 

Część **Wyniki** może składać się z jednego lub więcej rozdziałów. Każdy z tych rozdziałów powinien mieć tytuł adekwatny do swojej treści.

Rozdziały wynikowe powinny korzystać z wiedzy opisanej w poprzednich rozdziałach (Rozdziały **?@sec-lit**, **?@sec-dane**, **?@sec-metody**). W przypadku prac analitycznych, ich treść powinna przedstawiać kolejne etapy eksploracji i analizy danych. W przypadku prac technicznych, treść tych rozdziałów powinna opisywać stworzone narzędzia, a następnie pokazywać ich zastosowanie/a.

W przypadku prac technicznych warto pokazywać fragmenty napisanego rozwiązania lub jego wywołania używając bloków kodu.

```
moja_funkcja = function(x){  
  cat(x, "rządzi!")  
}  
moja_funkcja("Autor tej pracy")
```

Autor tej pracy rządzi!

## Chapter 6

# Evaluation of thermal band's impact on prediction results

### 6.1 Overall importance of thermal band

- mean temperature for every predicted land cover class
- variable importance plots, variable profiles
- mean importance of thermal band on each land cover class

### 6.2 Spatial distribution of thermal band's importance

- thermal band importance map (two methods: raster aggregation and interpolation of importance in LUCAS points)
- difference raster map between prediction with and without thermal band included, transition matrix

---

Część **Wyniki** może składać się z jednego lub więcej rozdziałów. Każdy z tych rozdziałów powinien mieć tytuł adekwatny do swojej treści.

Rozdziały wynikowe powinny korzystać z wiedzy opisanej w poprzednich rozdziałach (Rozdziały **?@sec-lit**, **?@sec-dane**, **?@sec-metody**). W przypadku prac analitycznych, ich treść powinna przedstawiać kolejne etapy eksploracji i analizy danych. W przypadku prac technicznych, treść tych rozdziałów powinna opisywać stworzone narzędzia, a następnie pokazywać ich zastosowanie/a.

W przypadku prac technicznych warto pokazywać fragmenty napisanego rozwiązania lub jego wywołania używając bloków kodu.

```
moja_funkcja = function(x){  
  cat(x, "rządzi!")  
}  
moja_funkcja("Autor tej pracy")
```

Autor tej pracy rządzi!

## Chapter 7

# Conclusion

- land cover map of Poznań metropolitan area was created, impact of thermal band on classification results was measured
- despite thermal band having low overall impact on model results, there is a strong spatial auto-correlation for its importance
- land surface temperature was especially significant for land cover classification of urban areas, it helped in identify built-up areas
- it may mean that thermal band will become increasingly important in studies on urban sprawl and suburbanisation
- better land cover maps will help in better management of metropolitan areas growth and quantifying impact of urbanisation on natural environment more precisely

---

Podsumowanie pracy jest w pewnym sensie znacznie rozbudowanym abstraktem. Należy wyliczyć i opisać osiągnięcia uzyskane w pracy dyplomowej. Tutaj jednak (w przeciwieństwie do np. rozdziału **2.1. Wprowadzenie**) należy przechodzić od szczegółu do ogółu - co zostało stworzone/określone, jak zostało to zrobione, jakie ma to konsekwencje, itd.

Ten rozdział powinien też zawierać opis kwestii, których nie udało się rozwiązać w pracy dyplomowej (i dlaczego się nie udało) oraz pomysły na przyszłe ulepszenie uzyskanych wyników lub dalsze badania.



# Bibliography

- Bengtsson, H (2021). *future: Unified Parallel and Distributed Processing in R for Everyone*. R package version 1.23.0. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=future>.
- Biecek, P, S Maksymiuk, and H Baniecki (2022). *DALEX: moDel Agnostic Language for Exploration and eXplanation*. R package version 2.4.0. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=DALEX>.
- Buck, O, C Haub, S Woditsch, D Lindemann, Luca Kleinewillinghöfer, G Hazeu, B Kosztra, S Kleeschulte, S Arnold, and Martin Hölzl (30, 2015). *Analysis of the LUCAS nomenclature and proposal for adaptation of the nomenclature in view of its use by the Copernicus land monitoring services*. [https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/LUCAS\\_Copernicus\\_Report\\_v22.pdf](https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/LUCAS_Copernicus_Report_v22.pdf).
- d'Andrimont, R, M Yordanov, L Martinez-Sanchez, B Eiselt, A Palmieri, P Dominici, J Gallego, HI Reuter, C Joebgies, G Lemoine, and M van der Velde (2020). Harmonised LUCAS in-situ land cover and use database for field surveys from 2006 to 2018 in the European Union. *Scientific Data* 7(1), 352.
- Hijmans, RJ (2022). *terra: Spatial Data Analysis*. R package version 1.5-21. <https://rspatial.org/terra/>.
- Lang, M, B Bischl, J Richter, P Schratz, and M Binder (2022). *mlr3: Machine Learning in R - Next Generation*. R package version 0.13.3. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=mlr3>.
- Lovelace, R, J Nowosad, and J Muenchow (2019). *Geocomputation with R*. CRC Press.
- Mahesh, B (2018). Machine Learning Algorithms - A Review. en. 9(1).
- Pebesma, E (2022). *sf: Simple Features for R*. R package version 1.0-7. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=sf>.

- Pebesma, E and B Graeler (2021). *gstat: Spatial and Spatio-Temporal Geostatistical Modelling, Prediction and Simulation*. R package version 2.0-8. <https://github.com/r-spatial/gstat/>.
- Pflugmacher, D, A Rabe, M Peters, and P Hostert (2019). Mapping pan-European land cover using Landsat spectral-temporal metrics and the European LUCAS survey. *Remote Sensing of Environment* **221**, 583–595.
- Potapov, P, MC Hansen, I Kommareddy, A Kommareddy, S Turubanova, A Pickens, B Adusei, A Tyukavina, and Q Ying (29, 2020). Landsat Analysis Ready Data for Global Land Cover and Land Cover Change Mapping. *Remote Sensing* **12**(3), 426.
- QGIS Development Team (2009). *QGIS Geographic Information System*. Open Source Geospatial Foundation. <http://qgis.org>.
- R Core Team (2021). *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Vienna, Austria. <https://www.R-project.org/>.
- RStudio Team (2020). *RStudio: Integrated Development Environment for R*. RStudio, PBC. Boston, MA. <http://www.rstudio.com/>.
- Sarker, IH (2021). Machine Learning: Algorithms, Real-World Applications and Research Directions. en. *SN Computer Science* **2**(3), 160. (Visited on 12/15/2022).
- Wickham, H, W Chang, L Henry, TL Pedersen, K Takahashi, C Wilke, K Woo, H Yutani, and D Dunnington (2021a). *ggplot2: Create Elegant Data Visualisations Using the Grammar of Graphics*. R package version 3.3.5. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=ggplot2>.
- Wickham, H, R François, L Henry, and K Müller (2021b). *dplyr: A Grammar of Data Manipulation*. R package version 1.0.7. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dplyr>.
- Wright, MN, S Wager, and P Probst (2021). *ranger: A Fast Implementation of Random Forests*. R package version 0.13.1. <https://github.com/imbs-hl/ranger>.