

CNNs for Remote Sensing Semantic Segmentation

Ondřej Pešek, Martin Landa
Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering

At: Institut plánování a rozvoje, Praha

7th May 2025



Table of Contents

Ondřej Pešek

Methodology

- Architectures Examined
- Approaches Examined

Use cases

- Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data
- Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

Methodology

Ondřej Pešek

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Architectures Examined

Ondřej Pešek

- ▶ FCN [1]
- ▶ U-Net [2]
- ▶ SegNet [3]
- ▶ DeepLabv3+ [4] with three backbone models [5]
 - ▶ ResNet-50
 - ▶ ResNet-101
 - ▶ ResNet-152

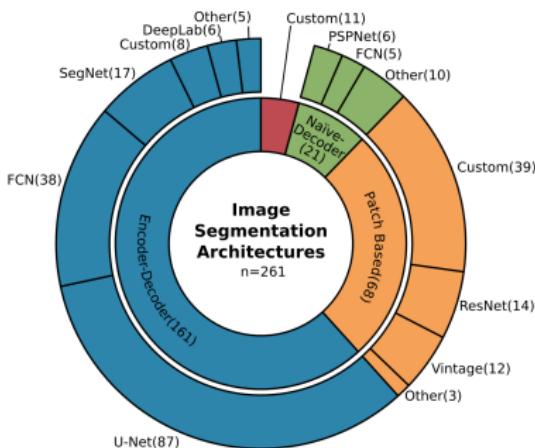


Figure 1: Overview of the most frequently used convolutional neural networks for semantic segmentation in the field of remote sensing. Source: [6]

Methodology
Architectures Examined
Approaches Examined
Use cases
Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data
Road Surface Classification
Conclusions
References

Approaches Examined

Ondřej Pešek

- ▶ Different features of interest
 - ▶ Vegetation
 - ▶ Urban features
- ▶ Different approaches
 - ▶ Land cover classification
 - ▶ Land use classification
- ▶ Different spatial resolution
 - ▶ Sentinel-2 – 10 to 60 metres
 - ▶ Aerial imagery – 10 centimetres
- ▶ Different input bandsets
 - ▶ All bands provided in the data source
 - ▶ RGB
 - ▶ All bands enhanced by NDVI
- ▶ Different class number
 - ▶ Binary classification
 - ▶ Multi-class classification
- ▶ Different dataset sizes
- ▶ Compare with random forests

Methodology
Architectures Examined
Approaches Examined
Use cases
Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data
Road Surface Classification
Conclusions
References

Use cases

Ondřej Pešek

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek

Use case definition:

- ▶ Published in Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment journal:
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2024.101238>
- ▶ Training dataset published on Zenodo server:
<https://zenodo.org/records/8413116>
- ▶ Using Sentinel-2 data as input
- ▶ Using 10-metre imagery is rare for urban greenery detection
- ▶ The first study using CNNs for urban green land use classification
- ▶ Very limited training dataset
- ▶ Three levels
 - ▶ Level 1: Non-vegetated pixels, vegetation
 - ▶ Level 2: Non-vegetated pixels, non-recreational vegetation, recreational vegetation
 - ▶ Level 3: Non-vegetated pixels, non-recreational vegetation, low recreational vegetation, high recreational vegetation

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

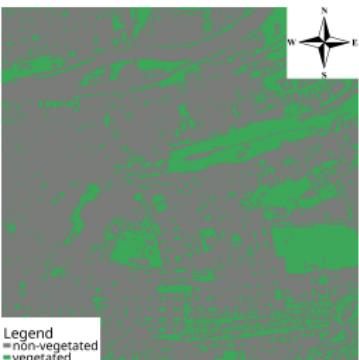
References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

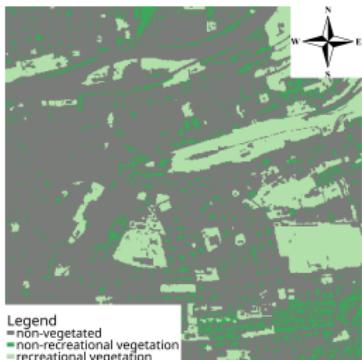
Ondřej Pešek



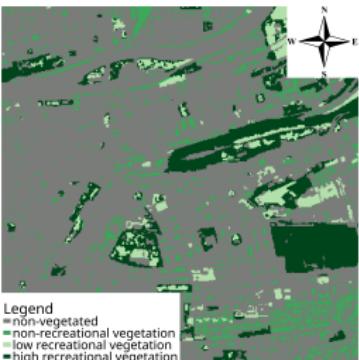
(a) Dlaždice Sentinel-2 z 03/06/2019



(b) Dataset — úroveň 1



(c) Dataset — úroveň 2



(d) Dataset — úroveň 3

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek

Table 1: Overall accuracy values in per cent for various configurations and architectures on the **level-1** nomenclature. The values were computed over the validation dataset. Rows abbreviations explained: dN% means dropout, N indicates the dropout ratio, and rnN indicates the ResNet depth in the DeepLabv3+ backbone model. Columns abbreviations explained: fb means the full-band images dataset, rgb means the dataset comprising the red, green, and blue bands, rgbn.dvi means the rgbs dataset enhanced by the NDVI, and the _a suffix means that the dataset was augmented. The best result is highlighted in bold.

Architecture	fb	fb.a	rgb	rgb.a	rgbn.dvi	rgbn.dvi.a
FCN_d00	72.8	79.6	70.7	79.4	70.1	79.8
FCN_d50	72.2	79.3	69.7	78.2	61.7	78.8
U-Net_d00	91.8	94.8	88.8	93.7	92.5	94.7
U-Net_d50	93.6	94.8	92.6	93.6	92.2	94.3
SegNet_d00	51.7	89.2	50.4	85.8	78.2	91.3
SegNet_d50	82.2	87.7	80.6	82.7	68.7	88.8
DeepLabV3+_rn50_d00	75.5	82.3	68.4	77.5	68.5	83.1
DeepLabV3+_rn50_d50	80.2	83.6	44.8	79.8	67.7	78.0
DeepLabV3+_rn101_d00	75.0	81.8	57.4	79.6	64.5	83.0
DeepLabV3+_rn101_d50	74.3	84.8	72.2	78.1	65.2	76.0
DeepLabV3+_rn152_d00	76.4	82.1	68.6	78.1	65.9	82.8
DeepLabV3+_rn152_d50	74.4	84.8	71.4	78.3	66.4	76.0
random_forests	92.7	92.7	90.1	90.1	93.2	93.2

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek

Table 2: Overall accuracy values in per cent for various configurations and architectures on the **level-2** nomenclature. The values were computed over the validation dataset. Rows abbreviations explained: dN% means dropout, N indicates the dropout ratio, and rnN indicates the ResNet depth in the DeepLabv3+ backbone model. Columns abbreviations explained: fb means the full-band images dataset, rgb means the dataset comprising the red, green, and blue bands, rgbdndvi means the rgbd dataset enhanced by the NDVI, and the _a suffix means that the dataset was augmented. The best result is highlighted in bold.

Architecture	fb	fb_a	rgb	rgb_a	rgb_ndvi	rgb_ndvi_a
FCN_d00	64.8	75.6	64.9	75.0	64.9	75.3
FCN_d50	64.5	74.1	62.2	76.1	59.3	74.7
U-Net_d00	87.1	90.0	85.6	88.9	86.0	89.6
U-Net_d50	82.4	89.9	86.1	89.0	80.4	86.8
SegNet_d00	72.8	83.2	67.0	80.0	77.7	85.7
SegNet_d50	65.0	71.4	58.2	79.2	51.6	77.8
DeepLabV3+_rn50_d00	67.6	78.8	62.4	73.8	74.6	79.5
DeepLabV3+_rn50_d50	73.3	78.2	64.1	68.8	74.9	73.7
DeepLabV3+_rn101_d00	65.1	75.0	61.0	72.3	76.9	76.7
DeepLabV3+_rn101_d50	71.5	76.7	66.0	56.7	73.4	73.8
DeepLabV3+_rn152_d00	66.2	75.4	59.1	73.1	76.6	76.4
DeepLabV3+_rn152_d50	64.4	72.8	65.9	60.8	74.1	73.3
random_forests	84.3	84.3	78.6	78.6	80.6	80.6

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek



(a) A patch of a Sentinel-2 image tile.



(b) Ground-truth mask.



(c) FCN — D 0%. OA 72.8%



(d) FCN — D 50%. OA 72.2%



(e) U-Net — D 0%. OA 91.8%



(f) U-Net — D 50%. OA 93.6%



(g) SegNet — D 0%. OA 51.7%



(h) SegNet — D 50%. OA 82.2%



(i) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 0%. OA 75.5%



(j) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 50%. OA 80.2%



(k) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-101 — D 0%. OA 75.0%



(l) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-101 — D 50%. OA 74.3%



(m) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-152 — D 0%. OA 76.4%



(n) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-152 — D 50%. OA 74.4%



(o) Random forests. OA 92.7%

Legend
■ non-vegetated
■ vegetated

0 800 1 600 2 400 m

(p) Legend.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data

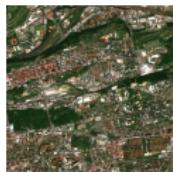
Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek



(a) A patch of a Sentinel-2 image tile.



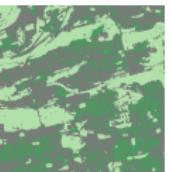
(b) Ground-truth mask.



(c) FCN — D 0%.
OA 64.8%



(d) FCN — D 50%.
OA 64.5%



(e) U-Net — D 0%.
OA 87.1%



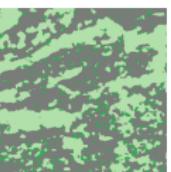
(f) U-Net —
D 50%. OA 82.4%



(g) SegNet —
D 0%. OA 72.8%



(h) SegNet —
D 50%. OA 65.0%



(i) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-50 —
D 0%. OA 67.6%



(j) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-50 —
D 50%. OA 73.3%



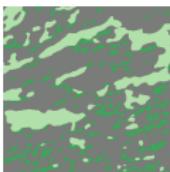
(k) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-101 —
D 0%. OA 65.1%



(l) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-101 —
D 50%. OA 71.5%



(m) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-152 —
D 0%. OA 66.2%



(n) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-152 —
D 50%. OA 64.4%



(o) Random forests.
OA %84.3

Legend
non-vegetated
non-recreational vegetation
recreational vegetation

0 800 1 600 2 400 m

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

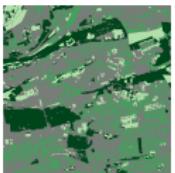
References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek



(a) A patch of a Sentinel-2 image tile.



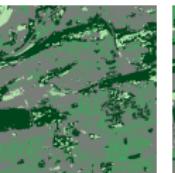
(b) Ground-truth mask.



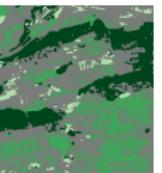
(c) FCN — D 0%. OA 59.1%



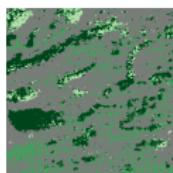
(d) FCN — D 50%. OA 58.5%



(e) U-Net — D 0%. OA 80.6%



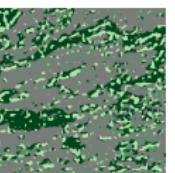
(f) U-Net — D 50%. OA 73.9%



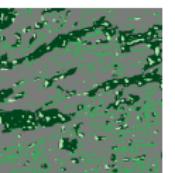
(g) SegNet — D 0%. OA 60.6%



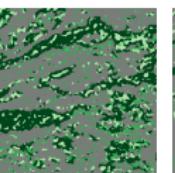
(h) SegNet — D 50%. OA 45.8%



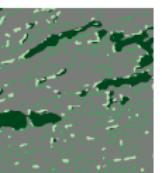
(i) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 0%. OA 59.1%



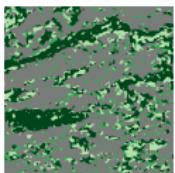
(j) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 50%. OA 65.9%



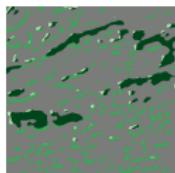
(k) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-101 — D 0%. OA 58.7%



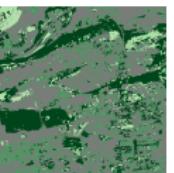
(l) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-101 — D 50%. OA 60.0%



(m) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-152 — D 0%. OA 57.3%



(n) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-152 — D 50%. OA 60.7%



(o) Random forests. OA 80.9%

Legend
non-vegetated
non-recreational vegetation
low recreational vegetation
high recreational vegetation

0 800 1 600 2 400 m

(p) Legend.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

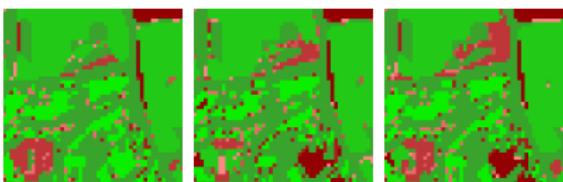
Ondřej Pešek



(a) Bing Maps aerial photo covering the sample area.

(b) Ground-truth mask.

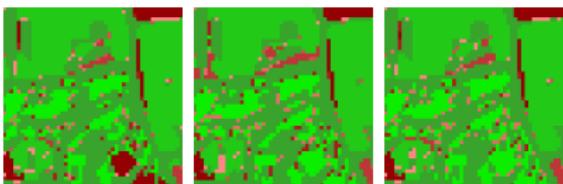
(c) Legend.



(d) After a training using full-band input.

(e) Using only RGB.

(f) Using full-band input enhanced with NDVI.



(g) Using augmented full-band input.

(h) Using only augmented RGB.

(i) Using augmented full-band input enhanced with NDVI.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek

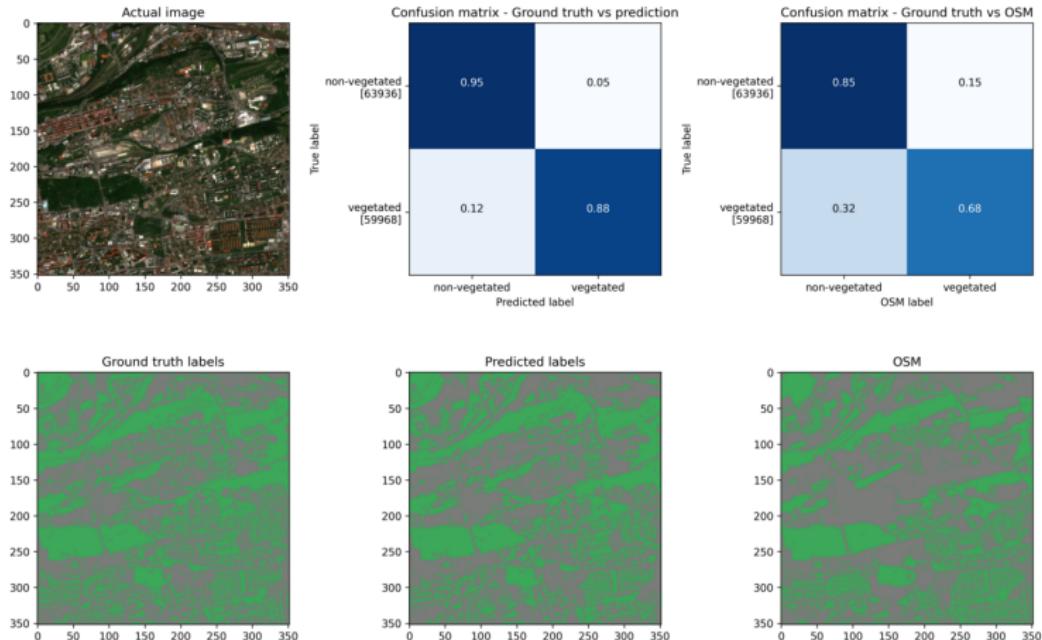


Figure 7: Comparison of OSM data and results from the level-1 detection of U-Net without dropout layers trained on the full-band dataset. The validation patch.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Cloud Detection

Ondřej Pešek

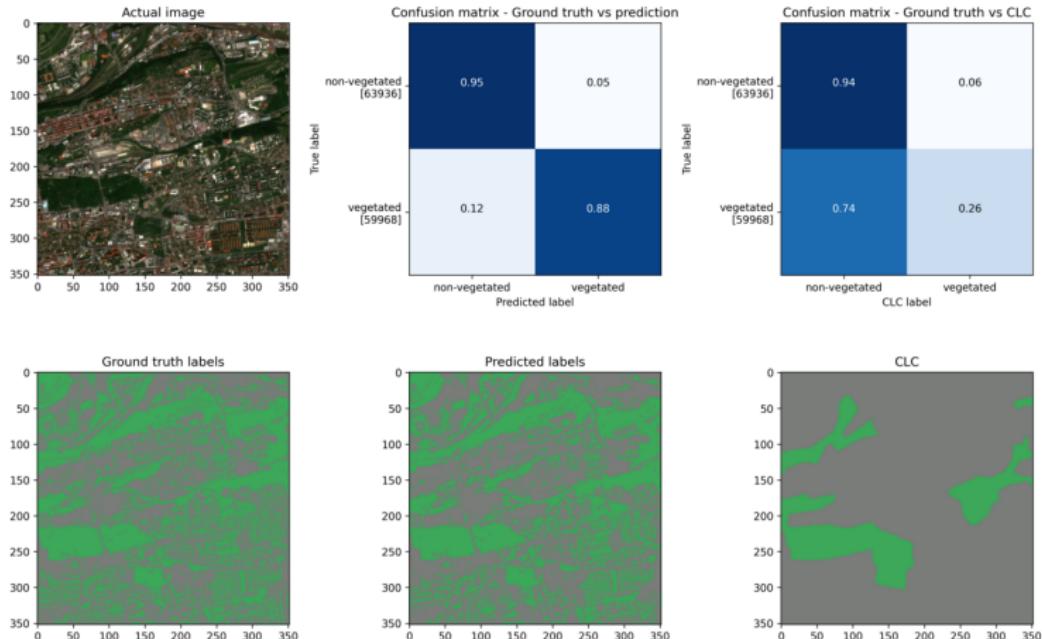


Figure 8: Porovnání dat CORINE Land Cover a výsledků vyprodukovaných architekturou U-Net bez výpadkových vrstev trénované na datasetu úrovni 1 využívajícím všechn obrazových kanálů.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

Ondřej Pešek

Conclusions:

- ▶ CNNs reached good results
 - ▶ Vegetation detection: Highest overall accuracy over 95%
 - ▶ Vegetation land use classification: Highest overall accuracy over 90%
- ▶ CNNs can handle even the land use task
- ▶ Results reached using CNNs are more accurate than available open datasets
- ▶ Extra bands and NDVI improve results
- ▶ Dropout did not improve results
- ▶ Data augmentation improved results
- ▶ The best results reached by U-Net

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Road Surface Classification

Ondřej Pešek

Use case definition:

- ▶ Submitted for publishing, waiting for the second round of peer reviews... still
- ▶ Training dataset published on Zenodo server:
<https://zenodo.org/records/10602515>
- ▶ Using 10-cm aerial data as input
- ▶ The first study using CNNs to distinguish between modular and compact road surface on remotely sensed data

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Road Surface Classification

Ondřej Pešek

Table 3: Overall accuracy values in per cent for various configurations and architectures. The values were computed over the validation dataset. Rows abbreviations explained: dN% means dropout, N indicates the dropout ratio, and rnN indicates the ResNet depth in the DeepLabV3+ backbone model. Columns abbreviations explained: fb means the full-band images dataset, rgb means the dataset comprising the red, green, and blue bands, rgb_ndvi means the rgb dataset enhanced by the NDVI, and the _a suffix means that the dataset was augmented. The best result is highlighted in bold.

Architecture	fb	fb.a	rgb	rgb.a	rgb_ndvi	rgb_ndvi.a
FCN_d00	89.5	89.7	89.4	87.0	89.2	90.2
FCN_d50	71.4	83.2	80.9	67.8	74.2	73.0
U-Net_d00	91.1	89.2	87.6	90.3	90.9	89.6
U-Net_d50	77.6	67.7	69.1	71.2	79.8	66.8
SegNet_d00	90.3	88.1	86.8	87.8	89.6	88.8
SegNet_d50	66.7	83.7	80.1	75.4	79.2	84.6
DeepLabV3+_rn50_d00	81.2	79.7	81.3	86.9	75.4	84.7
DeepLabV3+_rn50_d50	67.2	69.3	70.9	81.9	66.5	63.1
DeepLabV3+_rn101_d00	75.9	82.6	80.0	84.9	83.9	86.2
DeepLabV3+_rn101_d50	69.0	65.7	83.2	81.7	62.6	48.1
DeepLabV3+_rn152_d00	77.4	85.9	84.4	83.2	80.8	74.0
DeepLabV3+_rn152_d50	75.3	69.8	79.3	82.1	63.8	70.4
random_forests	59.4	59.4	65.5	66.5	60.5	60.5

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Road Surface Classification

Ondřej Pešek



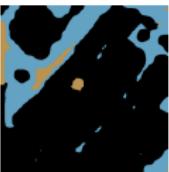
(a) A patch of the aerial imagery.



(b) Ground-truth mask.



(c) FCN — D 0%.
OA 89.5%



(d) FCN — D 50%.
OA 71.4%



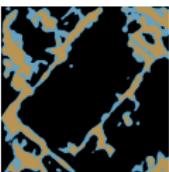
(e) U-Net — D 0%.
OA 91.1%



(f) U-Net — D 50%. OA 77.6%



(g) SegNet — D 0%. OA 90.3%



(h) SegNet — D 50%. OA 66.7%



(i) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 0%. OA 81.2%



(j) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 50%. OA 67.2%



(k) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-101 — D 0%. OA 75.9%



(l) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-101 — D 50%. OA 69.0%



(m) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-152 — D 0%. OA 77.4%



(n) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-152 — D 50%. OA 75.3%



(o) Random forests.
OA 59.4%

Legend
■ Non-road area
■ Compact surface
■ Modular surface

0 9 18 27 m

(p) Legend.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Road Surface Classification

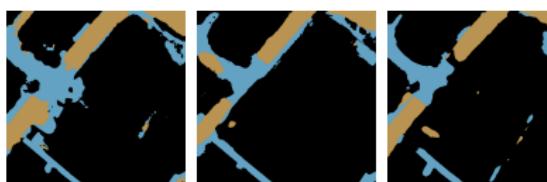
Ondřej Pešek



(d) After a training using full-band input.

(e) Using only RGB.

(f) Using full-band input enhanced with NDVI.



Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Use Cases — Road Surface Classification

Ondřej Pešek

Conclusions:

- ▶ CNNs can deal with the task
- ▶ Extra bands improved results, NDVI did not
- ▶ Dropout did not improve results
- ▶ Ambivalent effect of simple data augmentation
- ▶ The best results reached by U-Net

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Conclusions

Ondřej Pešek

- ▶ U-Net was always the best performing of the tested architectures
- ▶ In all the presented use cases, U-Net overperformed existing approaches and open datasets
- ▶ FCN and DeepLabv3+ are training data-greedier than the other architectures
- ▶ The number of classes did not have any influence on the performance of the CNN
- ▶ Extra bands and NDVI (usually) improve the performance but even the results reached on pure RGB outperform existing methods
- ▶ Thanks to its context consciousness, CNNs can deal even with challenging tasks as land use or clouds over desert detection

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Conclusions — Desired Extensions

Ondřej Pešek

- ▶ More use cases
- ▶ Research on the relationship between batch normalisation and dropout
- ▶ Deeper research on various data augmentation techniques
- ▶ More architectures
- ▶ Make GIS addons out of the accompanying source code

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

References |

Ondřej Pešek

- [1] J. Long, E. Shelhamer, and T. Darrell. Fully convolutional networks for semantic segmentation. In *IEEE conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition CVPR*, pages 3431–3440, 2015.
- [2] O. RONNEBERGER, P. FISCHER, and T. BROX. U-net: Convolutional networks for biomedical image segmentation. In *International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention MICCAI*, pages 234–241, 2015.
- [3] V. BADRINARAYANAN, A. KENDALL, and R. CIPOLLA. Segnet: A deep convolutional encoder-decoder architecture for image segmentation. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, 39(12):2481–2495, 2017.
- [4] L. CHEN, Y. ZHU, G. PAPANDREOU, F. SCHROFF, and H. ADAM. Encoder-decoder with atrous separable convolution for semantic image segmentation. In *European Conference on Computer Vision ECCV*, pages 833–851, 2018.
- [5] K. HE, X. ZHANG, S. REN, and J. SUN. Deep residual learning for image recognition. pages 770–778, 2016.
- [6] T. HOESER and C. KUENZER. Object detection and image segmentation with deep learning on earth observation data: A review-part ii: Applications. *Remote Sensing*, 11(10), 2020.
- [7] G. E. HINTON, N. SRISTAVA, A. KRIZHEVSKY, I. SUTSKEVER, and R. R. SALAKHUTDINOV. Improving neural networks by preventing co-adaptation of feature detectors, 2012. URL <http://arxiv.org/abs/1207.0580>.

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Methodology

Architectures Examined

Approaches Examined

Use cases

Urban greenery on
Sentinel-2 data

Road Surface Classification

Conclusions

References

Thank you for your attention.