

CNNs for Remote Sensing Semantic Segmentation

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Architectures Examined

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

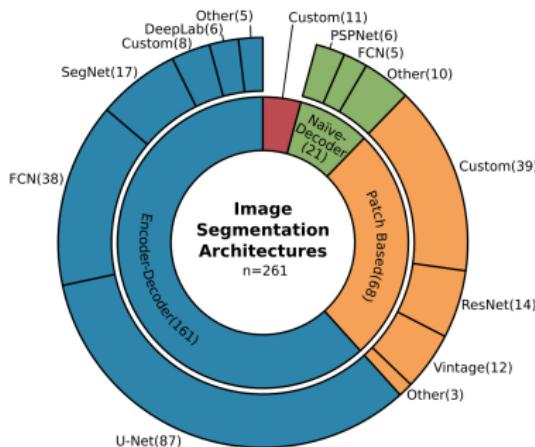


Figure 1: Overview of the most frequently used convolutional neural networks for semantic segmentation in the field of remote sensing. Source: [6]

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- ▶ Different features of interest
 - ▶ Clouds
 - ▶ Vegetation
 - ▶ Urban features
- ▶ Different approaches
 - ▶ Land cover classification
 - ▶ Land use classification
- ▶ Different spatial resolution
 - ▶ VEN μ S – 5 to 10 metres
 - ▶ 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

Approaches Examined — the effect of common anti-overfitting methods

- ▶ Dropout [7]
- ▶ Data augmentation

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Use Cases — Urban Greenery

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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

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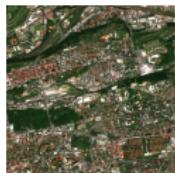
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(a) A patch of a Sentinel-2 image tile.



(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.

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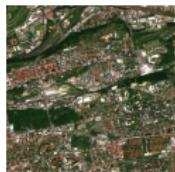
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(a) A patch of a Sentinel-2 image tile.



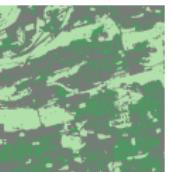
(b) Ground-truth mask.



(c) FCN — D 0%.
OA 64.8%



(d) FCN — D 50%.
OA 64.5%



(e) U-Net — D 0%.
OA 87.1%



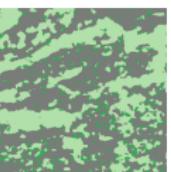
(f) U-Net —
D 50%. OA 82.4%



(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%



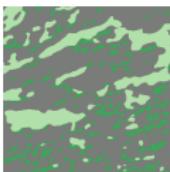
(k) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-101 —
D 0%. OA 65.1%



(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

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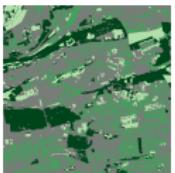
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(a) A patch of a
Sentinel-2 image
tile.



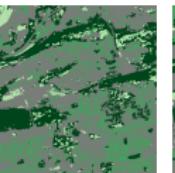
(b) Ground-truth
mask.



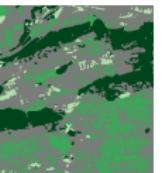
(c) FCN — D 0%.
OA 59.1%



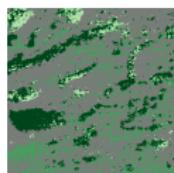
(d) FCN — D 50%.
OA 58.5%



(e) U-Net — D 0%.
OA 80.6%



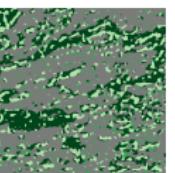
(f) U-Net —
D 50%. OA 73.9%



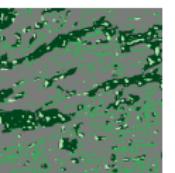
(g) SegNet —
D 0%. OA 60.6%



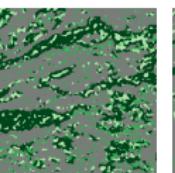
(h) SegNet —
D 50%. OA 45.8%



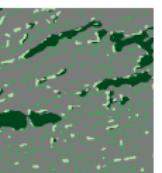
(i) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-50 —
D 0%. OA 59.1%



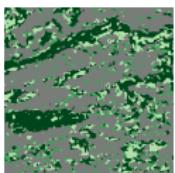
(j) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-50 —
D 50%. OA 65.9%



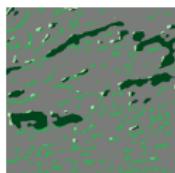
(k) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-101 —
D 0%. OA 58.7%



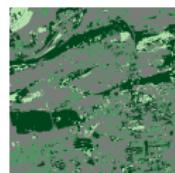
(l) DeeplabV3+
with ResNet-101 —
D 50%. OA 60.0%



(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%



(p) Legend.

Use Cases — Urban Greenery

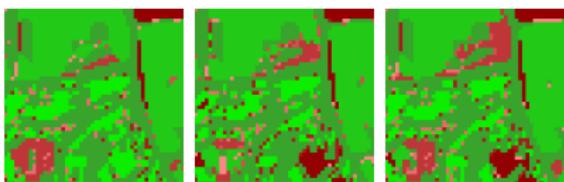
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(a) Bing Maps aerial photo covering the sample area.

(b) Ground-truth mask.

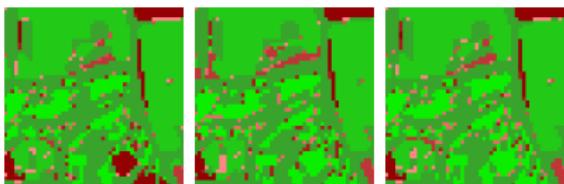
(c) Legend.



(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.

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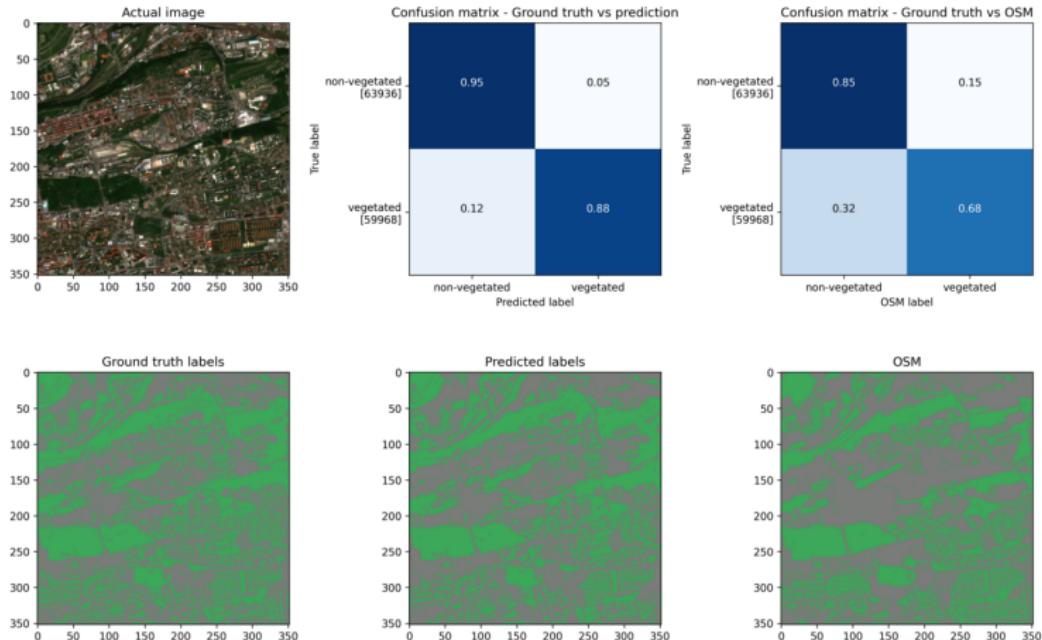


Figure 6: Comparison of OSM data and results from the level-1 detection of U-Net without dropout layers trained on the full-band dataset. The validation patch.

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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

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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

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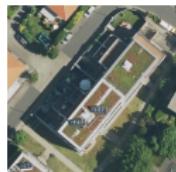
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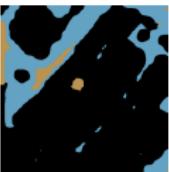
(a) A patch of the aerial imagery.



(b) Ground-truth mask.



(c) FCN — D 0%.
OA 89.5%



(d) FCN — D 50%.
OA 71.4%



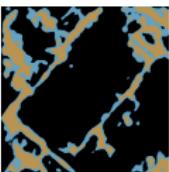
(e) U-Net — D 0%.
OA 91.1%



(f) U-Net — D 50%. OA 77.6%



(g) SegNet — D 0%. OA 90.3%



(h) SegNet — D 50%. OA 66.7%



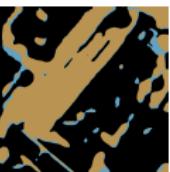
(i) DeeplabV3+ with ResNet-50 — D 0%. OA 81.2%



(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.

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(a) A patch of the aerial imagery.

(b) Ground-truth mask.

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

0 9 18 27 m

(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.

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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

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- ▶ 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

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Conclusions — Desired Extensions

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- ▶ 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

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- [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.
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- [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>.

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Thank you for your attention.