Bento Rodrigues dam collapse (2015)



Context

- 5th november 2015
- Collapse of the tailings dam at the Germano iron ore mine
- Causing a massive toxic mudflow
- 200 homes destroyed and 19 deaths
- Contamination upto the Atlantic ocean 620 km downstream





Source: Senado Federal, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bento_Rodrigues,_Mariana,_Minas_Gerais_(228 28956680).jpg

Data availability

Exploration through GLOVIS

Criteria for the search:

- Before and after the event
- Low cloud cover

This returns two suitable images from LANDSAT 8:

- Before image dating from 11 october 2015
- After image dating from 12 november 2015

Event spectral characteristics

- The mudflow is brown and is deposited by the flooding
 - Changes in reflectance in bands 4,3,2

- The mudflow is mostly water
 - > Strong absorbance in IR, bands 5, 6, 7

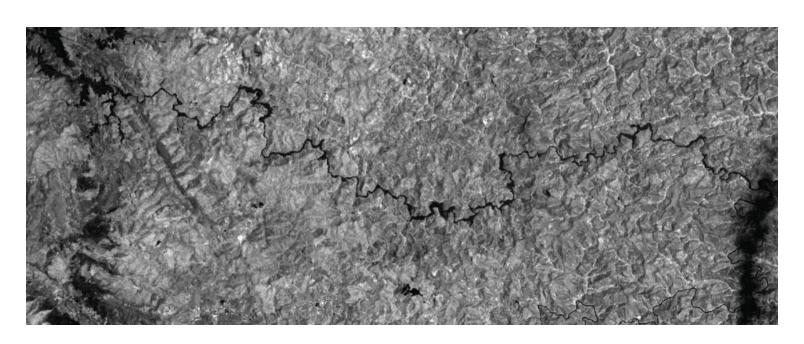
Data exploration

Bands 4, 3, 2



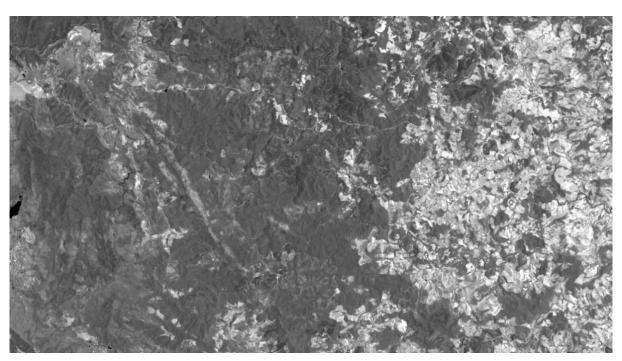
Data exploration

Band 5: NIR

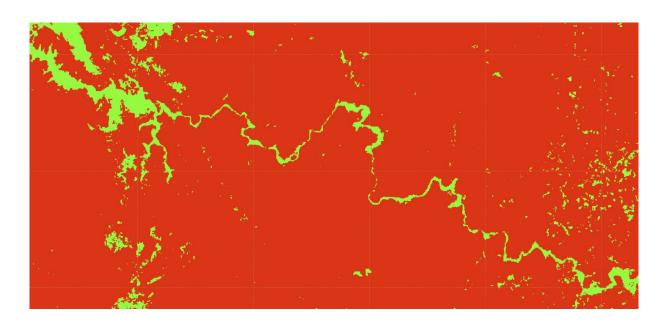


Data exploration

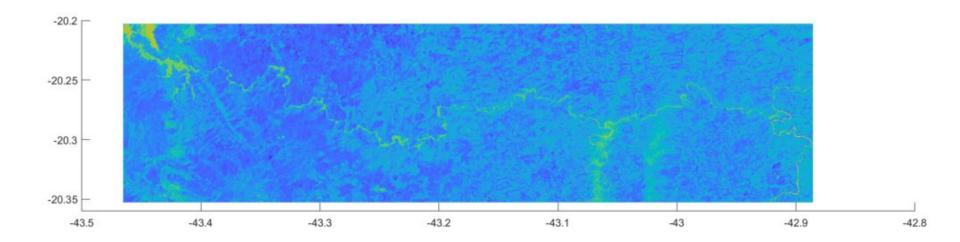
Band 6: SWIR



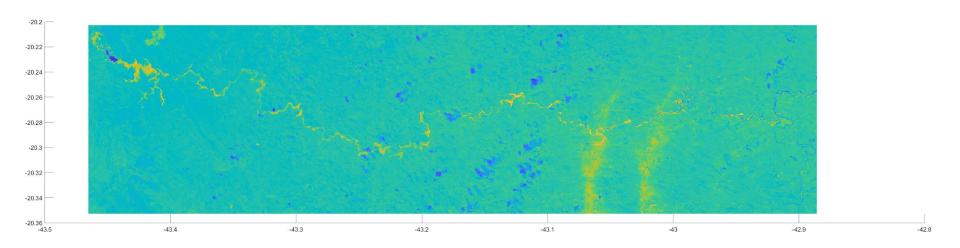
Classifier



• NDWI using bands 5 and 3



• Difference on NDWI (B5, B3)



Merging the difference on the NDWI with a DEM

- Adding per pixel constraints
 - Threshold on the NDWI difference +
 - Changes in B5 reflectance → B5_after < B5_before
 - Manually selecting the zone of study
 - o ..

Questions ?