High-resolution Remote Sensing Clustering Analysis Based on Object-based Fuzzy Data Modeling

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Abstract

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1. Introduction

Clustering analysis is a wide useful tool in remote sensing applications. However, there exists uncertainty in classifications of remote sensing image. For instance, owing to the inherent uncertainty of remote sensing and the many sources of interference, there may be a series of uncertainties in the spectral signatures between classes and spectral variation within classes (Cheng et al., 2004). On this account, conventional, crisp clustering algorithms may not perform well in classifications of remote sensing in most cases. Since the 1980s, fuzzy clustering has been extensively studied and successfully applied in remote sensing classification. The most commonly utilized fuzzy clustering algorithm is fuzzy c-means (FCM) algorithm (Bezdek et al., 1984). Many researchers have applied FCM to remote sensing image analyses (Ibrahim et al., 2005; Schowengerdt, 2006; Ghosh et al., 2011) , and have achieved more satisfactory results than hard classifications such as k-means and maximum likelihood classification. Standard FCM algorithm is applied

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to low-resolution images and based on image pixels, but high-resolution remote sensing image have smaller targets and more information. More details in the high-resolution (more than 10m) images mean it more difficult to describe a ground object, which indicates that as a pixel-based method, FCM algorithm cannot obtain the desired land cover classification results of high-resolution remote sensing images. To take advantage of more detailed information of high-resolution images, object-based classification methods for medium to high-resolution images can provide a valid alternative to pixel-based classification methods (Geneletti and Gorte, 2003; Guo et al., 2007; Tenenbaum et al., 2011; Yu et al., 2012). However, it is difficult to extract effective and stable features from the segmentation units, which directly affects the accuracy and stability. For example, the mean spectral signature is typically used to describe a segmentation unit, but this may not appropriately partition two different objects with the same mean value. He et al. (2016) recently proposed an unsupervised classification method that adopts an object-based interval value modeling method fuzzy clustering algorithm. However, with the development of remote sensing technology and the launching of third generation commercial Earth observation satellites such as WorldView-4 satellites, the spatial resolution of remote sensing images can reach to about 0.4m, interval-valued modeling cannot represent a feature's uncertainty in the segmentation units.

To put forward the method for describing the uncertainty and obtain better results for high-resolution,remote sensing image clustering analysis, we proposed an object-based fuzzy data modeling method and a new interval type 2 fuzzy clustering algorithm.

This article is organized as follows. Fuzzy Set Data are defined and constructed in Section 2.

2. Fuzzy set valued data modeling and dissimilarity metric

2.1. Definition of fuzzy set valued data

Since Zadeh (1965) introduced the concept of fuzzy set (FS) whose elements have degrees of membership, we know it can describe the uncertainty of objects. A set of membership degrees can be thought of as membership functions (MF) mapping predicates into fuzzy sets. The widely used and fundamental membership function of fuzzy sets is triangle membership function. So we use triangle MF fuzzy set to define fuzzy set valued data.

Definition 1 Triangle MF Fuzzy Set Valued Data

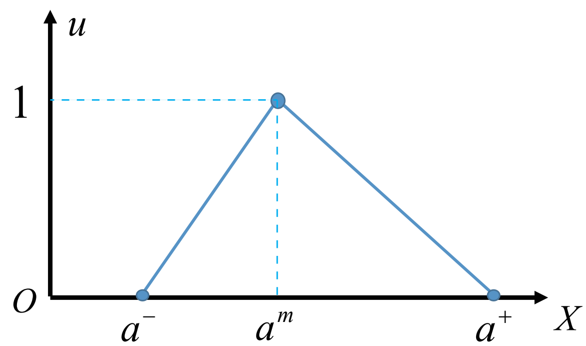

Figure 1: The triangle MF fuzzy set $\tilde{A}$

Let $A = \{a^-, \ldots, a^m, \cdots, a^+\}$ be a set containing some sorted numbers, where a^+ and a^- are real numbers representing the lower and upper bounds of the interval set A, and a^m is the median number of A. Triangle MF fuzzy set valued data modeling denoted by $\tilde{A}$ can be defined by a triangle membership function fuzzy set constructed by these three critical parameters: $(a^-, 0)$,$(a^m, 1)$,$(a^+, 0)$. As shown in Figure 1, $(a^-, 0)$ and $(a^+, 0)$ build the bottom edge of the triangle MF in geometry and form an interval set within a certain range in algebra that ensures the range of variation (Moore, 1966), $(a^m, 1)$ is the apex of triangle MF, and a^m is the median number of set A. As is well-known, the median that is the value separating the higher half of a data sample or a probability distribution from the lower half is about the statistical concept. The basic advantage of the median in describing data compared to the mean is that it is not skewed so much by extremely large or small values, and so it may give a better idea of a 'typical' value (Bissell, 1994). Therefore, we use the median number to construct triangle MF which has good robustness to noise points and outlier.

2.2. Definition of distance for fuzzy set valued data

Distance is a numerical description of how far apart objects are, a distance function or metric is a dissimilarity and triangle inequality for different datasets and plays an important role in clustering analysis. There are many distance metrics for fuzzy set data (e.g.,city-block, Euclidean, Mahalanobis, Hausdorff, Wasserstein) can be found in (Wang, 1997; Zwick et al., 1987; Diamond and Kloeden, 1994; Chaudhur and Rosenfeld, 1996; Saha et al., 2002; De Carvalho et al., 2006; Irpino et al., 2014). However, the optimal dissimilarity metric depends on the application.

Hausdorff distance measures how far two subsets of a metric space are from each other, Chaudhur and Rosenfeld (1996) introduced a Hausdorff metric distance between fuzzy sets. Let $\tilde{A}$ and $\tilde{B}$ be two fuzzy sets, $\tilde{A}_\alpha$ and $\tilde{B}_\alpha$ be the α cut

reflexivity: $d(\tilde{A}, \tilde{A}) = 0$, *symmetry*: $d(\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}) = d(\tilde{B}, \tilde{A})$, and *the triangular inequality*: $d(\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}) \leq d(\tilde{A}, \tilde{C}) + d(\tilde{C}, \tilde{B})$.

3. sec 3

4. sec 4

5. sec 5

6. sec 6

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