

Terrain classification of Southwest Japan including the Seto Inland Sea by object based area segmentation

IWAHASHI, Junko^{1*} ; MATSUSHI, Yuki² ; FUKUOKA, Hiroshi³

¹GSI of Japan, ²Kyoto University, ³Niigata University

Terrain classification studies have been predominantly pixel-based using DEMs. Previously the corresponding author developed a pixel-based automated classification method of topography using slope gradient, convexity, and texture calculated from a DEM for small-scaled classification of plains, terraces, hills, mountains, and volcanos (Iwahashi, 1994; Iwahashi and Pike, 2007). However, a pixel-based approach could not handle scale issues or increasing noise associated with enlarging resolution of DEMs. In addition, pixel data include problems of data volume and difficulties in spatial joining with attributes of thematic maps.

Recently object based techniques for land-cover classification using color orthoimages or satellite images have become popular. In this presentation, the authors introduce the method of making terrain-type polygons by object-based software using a combined image of geometric signatures. We produced a terrain classification map of Southwest Japan including the Seto Inland Sea using a 150-m DEM which was a mosaic of land elevation and seafloor elevation. The terrain-type polygons were statistically compared with other thematic maps such as landslide distribution and lithology.

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References

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