

Classification in High-resolution Aerial Imagery using Identification of Cloud

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Abstract: Clouds and shadows pose severe problems in discernment of the scene and recognizing confirmation of articles in aerial photography. The changes in illumination, ensued by the presence of cloud and the shadow, are some of the reasons that lead to ambiguity, while doing picture division leading to detection of targeted objects. Conventional methods are efficient in perceiving thick fogs in contrastive establishment, but perform ineffectually in the impression of slim fogs, different clouds and their shadows. Reference pictures for the data are required in most cases, and separate algorithms are pursued to identify clouds and shadows in an image, which most likely will not be reachable in all circumstances. Techniques used in this paper to recognize cloud and shadows, obviating the need for reference images, are image enhancement, analysis of color histogram of input images, adoption of automatic thresholding and mathematical morphology on the input image. The proposed algorithm, was found to be fast, and experimented on various images that contained multiple white cloud clusters of different shapes, thickness and their shadows. The algorithm was endorsed with an accuracy of 94.6% and 87.2% for unmistakable evidence of fogs and shadows, separately.

Index Terms: aerial image, automatic threshold, cloud detection, color histogram, morphological operations, shadow detection

I. INTRODUCTION

During examination of ethereal images, few inescapable challenges crop up, when pictures of assigned objects are infringed with clouds and tiny shadows. Examination of ethereal pictures are impeded by the daunting presence of overcast sky, with thickness, impinging shadows of other objects, and poor illumination. These natural establishments render the tasks of image segmentation and affirmation of object even more intricate exercises. Acquisition of cloud-free and shadow free transparent images is crucial in the domain of aerial surveillance or aerial photography, when interrupted by weather factors, climate, time of day, and distance, from the object(s) of interest.

Numerous techniques were developed for eliminating effects of fogs and the cast shadows [1]. Generally, clouds appear as white clusters, of varying opacity, at different altitudes, while shadows would be revealed regions, darker than normal. Besides the targeted object, there could be more than one object of a comparable shape, size, and assortment in the image. Presence of multiple objects, with contrasting values of pixel intensity in an image, pose inevitable impairments in the distinct identification of the clouds and the shadows. It is imperative to find out a suitable threshold worth to recognize the object of interest. Towards this end, this paper presents an assessment of recuperating techniques such as picture preprocessing, assortment histogram, thresholding and morphological exercises. This paper is organized as follows: similar works in the same area are discussed in section II, followed by the methodology took on in this paper, in region III. Region IV reviews results, followed by shutting remarks, in section V.

II. RELATED WORKS

Cloud detection methods are categorized based on the technique applied to find the presence of things. Majority of these criminal examiner methodologies rely upon the thresholding, statistical, radiance and reflectance, and neural network (NN) approaches. The most extensively used methodology, is based on the threshold technique due to the ease and speed of implementation, deeply grounded shared trait and, accumulated experience of the strategy.

Guo et al. [2] suggest detection of clouds based on Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. With the help of training samples, they extracted the model's feature followed by use of a clustering procedure, to create superpixels from images. Their method is incapable of detecting petite fogs, that are clear, at the edge of a thick cloud. Reguiegue et al. [3] worked with the artificial intelligence approach to find cloudy areas in an image. They attempted both the fuzzy logic and neural network approaches, but preferred the latter method. Their estimation is bleak and inefficient in the recognition of different types of clouds, and in particular, ID of fogs during night. Chen et al. [4] performed a CNN-put together concentrate with respect to for classifications of clouds as thick cloud, thin cloud and, shadows. But, this is also a prolonged process. Sun et al. [5] presented the recognizable proof of clouds considering the reflectance property. They used a multi-spectral pixel dataset, as the ground truth, and then found the ghost contrasts among clear and obscure images. They attempted various things with frequencies in the extent of the visible reach to short wave infra-red (SWIR). They were able to achieve 85% precision for various datasets. Nevertheless, this methodology is relevant given that sensor data is available, close by a reference picture. Chao-Hung Lin et al. [6] pursued a method based on invariant pixel determination and radiometric normalization, by slanting on the weighted Principal Component Analysis (PCA) algorithm. All these techniques are constrained by the requirement of comparison with a reference image.

Changet al.[7]focused on incremental learning based scheme for the conspicuous confirmation of cloud in pictures. They extracted spectral information from bright regions of images, which were used to set up a mind association, to detect the presence of clouds. Shen et al.[8] succeeded in the identification of shaky fogs, followed by their removal, to achieve sans cloud pictures, with high assortment steadiness. This was accomplished by extraction of spooky information from the non-jumbled regions in the image. Cheng et al. [9] had a go at output pixel replacement technique, which was inefficient in handling changes in multi-transient pictures. Plant et al. [10] developed an approach that utilized a base image and an auxiliary picture. With the help of the last choice, the algorithm would map the obscure pixels into terribly similar pixels. They used this approach in the Tsunami early warnings system. Hughes et al. [11] proposed a NN-based approach for pinpointing clouds and shadows. They achieved an accuracy of 98.8%, which outmaneuvered any leftover methods. However, the limit decision, getting ready and testing are tedious processes that warrant extensive training time.

Abraham et al. [12] acquainted a system with eliminate cloud and cloud shadows, using the threshold scheme. The selection of threshold value was based on the local luminance, in an image. Additional processing was required to detect and remove denser clouds. Lin et al. [13] came up with a technique considering information cloning, to wipe out clouds from multi-temporal images. They used the thresholding approach to locate clouds and cloud shadows. But the method is inefficient in handling the clouds. Shahtahmassebi et al. [14] did a concentrated overview of detection and a short time later the departure of shadows with histogram matching, multi-sourced data fusion, and multi-temporal imagery. They probed shadow detection, prior to the detection. Factors such as illumination, geometric and texture information of objects were reconsidered in the detection of the overcast shadows. Makara et al. [16] worked on the modified acknowledgment of shadows in images from metropolitan scenes. Their thought relied upon the blackbody description model. They probed the properties of sources of illumination, the properties of illumination in shadowed areas, and the automated setting of parametric values. Sirmacek et al. [17] offered a method for managing detected shadows from an image. They used the thoughts of the color invariant feature and the grayscale histogram, to deduce shadows in the image. Simpson et al. [18] discussed a general reply for recognize cloud shadows, under arbitrary conditions, based on parameters such as cloud height and the point subtended between the satellite and sun. But, their scheme is bungle prone; as the outcome is basically impaired by conditions of poor illumination, if the calculation of parameters referred to above is mixed up. Wang et al. [19] propounded an arrangement wherein pictures were first segmented into homogeneous regions. Then, a region of interest was chosen considering the pixel force of the regions. Bright regions were selected as clouds and dark regions were selected as shadows. This method is impractical, if the image contains other objects of high or low intensity values.

III. METHODOLOGY

The steps involved in identifying cloud and shadow are given in Fig.1. The cooperation starts with the pre-taking care of an input RGB picture. Pre-dealing with incorporates enhancement techniques that are different for the identification of shadows and cloud. Picture update procedures are expected to perceive the boundary of cloud and shadow. To perceive a cloud, the RGB image is converted to HSV, followed by capturing a histogram of the image. This is followed by application of contrast adjustment procedures on the input image. The intent of contrast adjustment is to improve the overall lightness or obscurity in an image, which map the pixels of the picture, with intense center regard, to 255, and pixels with lowest intensity values to 0. Contrast adjustments are performed on the image, since it would redesign outlines of the cloud. Picture sharpening was done as a preprocessing method to identify cloud shadows. Here unsharp masking [20] was used to sharpen the image that incorporates an image subtraction technique.

$$Ma(s,q) = Im(s,q) - Im'(s,q)$$

(1) where $Mask(s,q)$ is the sharpened image, $Im(s,q)$ is the original image and $Im'(s,q)$ is the blurred image. In order to get the blurred image, perform any smoothing technique. Here Gaussian blurring [21] was performed on the image. This is nothing but the convolution of an image with Gaussian kernel that takes the form, application of sensor-specific methods for the de-shadowing process. Al Najwadi et al. [15] done a survey of overcast

The symbol for standard deviation is denoted as σ . Next, the unsharp masking is done to the principal picture. This cycle works on the edges of shadows. This would in like manner help with additional fostering the image by increasing contrast.

The next step is filtering on the image components, separately, to remove noise from the image, while preserving its edges. Next, median filtering [22] is performed, where the value of the pixel is substituted with the median of the neighboring pixel intensity values. The detection could be chipped away at further, if the assortment histograms of the data pictures were examined autonomously. If the values of pixel force at a comparative pixel position planes are very high, it might be considered as cloud pixel, and expecting that the value is small that could be the shadow pixels. Then, a linear arranging is performed so the pixel values would be in the range (0 to 1).

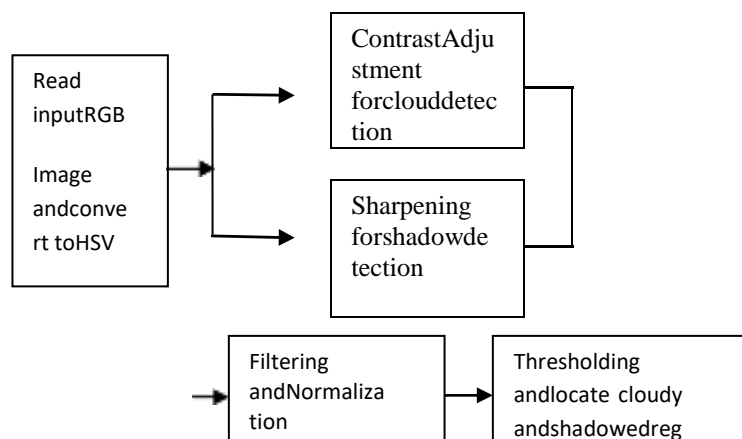


Fig.1. Approach to identify clouds and shadows

Following this, Otsu's automatic thresholding [23] was carried out to segment the cloud and its shadow. The thresholded picture would go probably as a shroud. Since the threshold value is extraordinary, the cover would be different for different images. Subsequent to this step, a sequence of morphological techniques [24] were applied on the image. Area opening is a compound operation where erosion is performed on the image followed by broadening. This would help in smoothing the goal shape and the illuminated area. The limit that was selected for area opening was based on the surveyed size of the related part locale. Area opening was performed first, followed by broadening operation. The resultant image had to undergo dilation operation. Dilation would help with filling in the little openings, inside the region, and decide a fair changed limit. The essential element that was picked for this step would be either plate or circle, the shape that is closest to the target object's shape. The region of interest was irregularly shaped cloud and its shadow; accordingly, plate or circle would be the ideal choice. Finally, image derivation was performed to level out the uneven image and detect the shadow or cloud.

IV. RESULT

The uniqueness of the proffered approach is its simplicity and the way that the blend of histogram assessment and morphological exercises were used to secure the intended result. The HSV histogram affords an estimate of the threshold value and the number of white and dark pixels.

The mentioned threshold value can be cross-verified with the limit regard gained from Otsu's technique. Simplicity of the proposed technique should be conspicuous by the minimal needs for human mediation, taking care of time, and resource requirements. Another noteworthy point is the proposed technique's capability to identify various clouds of different sizes, shapes as well as slight fogs. Review of the test results uncover that the breaking point a motivation for detection vary from 0.32 to 0.009, and above 0.54 to 0.8 for clouds. On performing the preprocessing steps, the concentrations above the specified edge range were selected, from the image. A mask was produced using the image, based on the threshold value. Then, a locale opening, inside an extent of 50-150, was performed, assuming the size of the image as 300 x 300.

The novel approach, outlined in Fig.1, was studied with 30 images. Diverse types of the captured aerial images are presented in Fig. 2(a) through Fig. 6(a). The Fig. 2(a) contains a single cluster of cloud and shadow, Fig. 3(a) contains four gatherings of fogs and many shadows, Fig. 4(a) contains two lots of surges of basically tantamount size and shape and its shadows, Fig. 5(a) has different cloud lots of various shapes and gauges and its shadows, Fig. 6(a) has a single gathering with thin cloud towards its edges.

Execution of the suggested procedure made clear outputs for unmistakable confirmation of fogs and shadows. Relatively few mistakes were observed in terms of misclassification of more dark objects as shadows (insinuate Fig. 4(c) and Fig. 5(c)). The accuracy of identification was found to choose the capability of the method,



Fig 4(a). Source Image Fig 4(b). Cloud region Fig 4(c). Shadow region

Table I

Categories	Accuracy
ThickCloud	98.2%
ThinCloud	91.6%
ThickShadow	95.1%
ThinShadow	83.7%

V.CONCLUSION

A simple method for identifying shadow and cloud was discussed in the paper where the assortment histogram technique together with modified thresholding is used to distinguish the threshold worth to find the presence of cloud and shadow in the image. After finding the threshold value, various morphological exercises had applied on the image map to identify the area of cloud and shadow in the image. The assessment of the proposed approach, has validated detection of great and terrible fogs, various and scattered fogs as well as darker cloud shadows present in aerial images. However, darker objects being misidentified as shadows, and unmistakable evidence of the lighter shadows, in an image, are areas that warrant refinement to the proposed method.

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