

SPECTRAL MATCHING THROUGH DATA COMPRESSION

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ABSTRACT:

This paper proposes to use compression-based similarity measures to cluster spectral signatures on the basis of their similarities. Such universal distances estimate the shared information between two objects by comparing their compression factors, which can be obtained by any standard compressor. Experiments on spectra, both collected in the field and selected from a hyperspectral scene, show that these methods may outperform traditional choices for spectral distances based on vector processing such as Spectral Angle, Spectral Information Divergence, Spectral Correlation, and Euclidean Distance.

1 INTRODUCTION

The processing of hyperspectral images for detection and classification purposes often relies on estimating the similarities between spectra, represented by vectors composed of the values in each image element (or pixel) across all the spectral bands. Spectral matching has at its core the use of a distance measure as a mean to quantify the distance between any pair of such spectra. Among the adopted measures, often having their origins in vector processing, popular choices are the Euclidean distance (ED), the Spectral Angle (SA) (F.A. Kruse, 1993), the Spectral Correlation (SC) (De Carvalho and Meneses, 2000), and the Spectral Information Divergence (SID) (Du et al., 2004). The performances of these spectral distances have been compared in (Robila and Gershman, 2005) and (Van der Meer, 2006), with both works agreeing on considering SID as a slightly more discriminative distance among the mentioned ones.

This paper proposes to use compression-based similarity measures as a valid alternative to quantify the similarity between spectral signatures. These measures employ general off-the-shelf compressors in an unusual way, by exploiting them to estimate the amount of information shared by two objects. They can be employed for clustering and classification on diverse data types, outperforming general distance measures (Keogh et al., 2004). Experiments on satellite images using these techniques have been presented in (Cerra et al., 2010).

To assess the quality of the distances obtained with the proposed method we perform an unsupervised hierarchical clustering with all the distances mentioned above on two sets of spectral signatures: one collected on the field and related to different kinds of rocks, and another related to different roofs materials and selected from a hyperspectral scene acquired by the satellite HyMAP. Results suggest that compression-based methods could outperform traditional similarity measures employed in spectral matching at capturing similarities between the spectra which could be not obvious at a first inspection.

The work is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces the proposed Normalized Compression Distance (NCD), while Section 3 presents a brief reminder on well-known spectral distances. Section 4 reports experiments on rocks and roofs categorization. We conclude in Section 5.

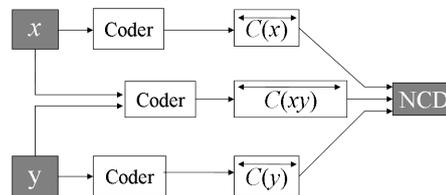


Figure 1: Computation of a distance between two general objects x and y by means of a standard compressor C . The sizes of the objects compressed separately and jointly are compared, yielding a distance ranging from 0 to 1.

2 NORMALIZED COMPRESSION DISTANCE

The most widely known and used compression based similarity measure for general data is the Normalized Compression Distance (NCD). The NCD derives from the notion of the Kolmogorov complexity $K(x)$ of an object x , which quantifies how difficult it is to compute or describe x (Kolmogorov, 1968). The quantity $K(x)$ is incomputable in se, but can be approximated by compression algorithms and on its basis the NCD is defined for any two objects x and y as:

$$NCD(x, y) = \frac{C(x, y) - \min\{C(x), C(y)\}}{\max\{C(x), C(y)\}}, \quad (1)$$

where $C(x)$ represents the size of x after being compressed by a general off-the-shelf compressor (such as Gzip), and $C(x, y)$ is the size of the compressed version of x appended to y (Fig. 1). The NCD ranges approximately from 0 to 1, representing maximum and minimum similarity, respectively. The idea is that if x and y share common information they will compress better together than separately, as the compressor will be able to reuse recurring patterns found in one of them to more efficiently compress the other. One of the main advantages of such distance is its parameter-free approach, which makes it applicable to diverse data types (Cilibrasi and Vitányi, 2005), as the NCD only depends on the compressor adopted and its internal parameters. Anyway performance comparisons for general compression algorithms have shown this dependance to be loose (Cebrian et al., 2005). Furthermore, this distance has been shown to be resistant to noise (Cebrian et al., 2007). To compute the NCD between two spectra, a compressor belonging to the lz-family (Ziv and Lempel, 1978) has been applied to the spectra converted into ASCII

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text files.

3 SPECTRAL DISTANCES

In all the following definitions, unless otherwise stated, x and y are assumed to be n -dimensional vectors representing spectra, with n being the number of bands in each spectrum.

3.1 Euclidean Distance

The Euclidean Distance (ED) quantifies the distance between two vectors x and y as:

$$ED(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2} \quad (2)$$

As simple as it may be, this distance often gives the best results in several data mining problems (Keogh et al., 2004).

3.2 Spectral Angle

The Spectral Angle (SA) measures the angle between two vectors representing two spectra, and is a widely used distance in spectral matching for its partial independence from illumination conditions. It is defined for x and y as the arccosine of the dot-product between the two vectors (Kruse et al., 1993):

$$SA(x, y) = \cos^{-1} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2}} \quad (3)$$

3.3 Spectral Correlation

We compute the Spectral Correlation (SC) between two spectra x and y as:

$$SC(x, y) = \sqrt{\frac{1 - r(x, y)}{2}}, \quad (4)$$

where $r(x, y)$ is the correlation between x and y :

$$r(x, y) = \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}, \quad (5)$$

with σ_{xy} being the covariance between x and y , and σ_x and σ_y the standard deviations of x and y (De Carvalho and Meneses, 2000).

3.4 Spectral Information Divergence

The spectral information divergence (SID) (Du et al., 2004) derives from information theory notions. If we consider two spectra x and y as two probability distributions $p_x(i)$ and $p_y(i)$, the SID is given by the Kullback-Leibler divergence, or relative entropy (Kullback and Leibler, 1951), between $p_x(i)$ and $p_y(i)$:

$$SID(x, y) = d(p_x(i)||p_y(i)) + d(p_y(i)||p_x(i)), \quad (6)$$

where

$$d(p_x(i)||p_y(i)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_x(i) \log \frac{p_x(i)}{p_y(i)}. \quad (7)$$

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

We tested the discriminative power of the previously introduced distances on a set of spectral signatures, chosen from different materials divided into some categories.

4.1 Rocks Categorization

For this experiments we selected randomly a set of 41 spectra from the ASTER 2.0 spectral library (Baldrige et al., 2009), categorized as in Fig. 2. Being the spectral range not constant across all the spectra, each spectrum has been resampled to the 244 bands of the future EnMAP mission's sensor (Mueller et al., 2010), spanning the interval 0.42-2.45 μm , as described in (Van der Meer et al., 2001). The dataset looks a difficult one at first sight, as in some occasions the spectra exhibit similar behaviour or overlap (Fig. 3).

Class	Igneous				Sedimentary
Subclass	Mafic	Felsic			Shale
Name	Basalt	Tuff	Rhyolite	Dacite	Phosphorite
Origin	8 locations	Nevada	Spain	Spain	Idaho
Samples	20	4	10	2	5

Figure 2: Categories of the rocks related to the analyzed spectra.

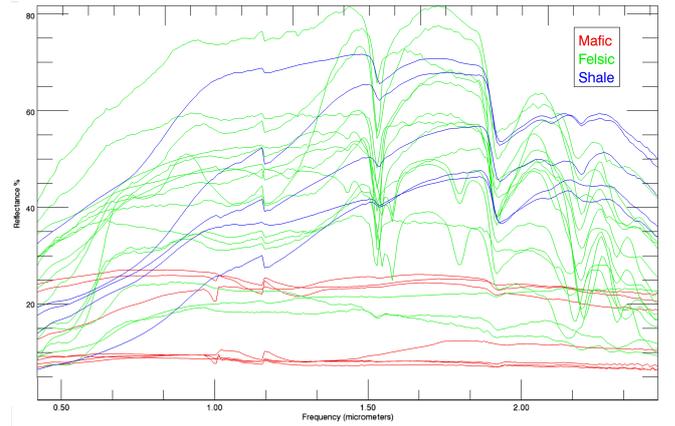


Figure 3: The 41 spectra analyzed, belonging to three classes of rocks.

We computed a distance matrix related to the 41 spectra according to all the introduced distances. Then, we performed on each distance matrix an unsupervised hierarchical clustering, by deriving a dendrogram (binary tree) which represents the matrix in 2 dimensions, as described in (Cilibrasi and Vitányi, 2005). Results are reported in Fig. 4. Each leaf represents a spectrum, with the spectra which behave more similarly appearing as siblings. The evaluation is done by visually inspecting if spectra belonging to the same class are correctly clustered in some branch of the tree, i.e. by checking how much each class can be isolated by "cutting" the tree at convenient points. The NCD is the only method yielding a good separation between the clusters, with the exception of the acceptable results obtained by the SA. It is surprising how the SID, which outperforms other distances in (Robila and Gershman, 2005) and (Van der Meer, 2006), results in a quite confused dendrogram. For the NCD the values have been first quantized in bytes to provide a meaningful data representation to the compressor used (Keogh et al., 2004). We also tested the other distances on the quantized data, but this resulted in even worse results. This suggests that the NCD could be able to capture information inside the spectra which does not result obvious.

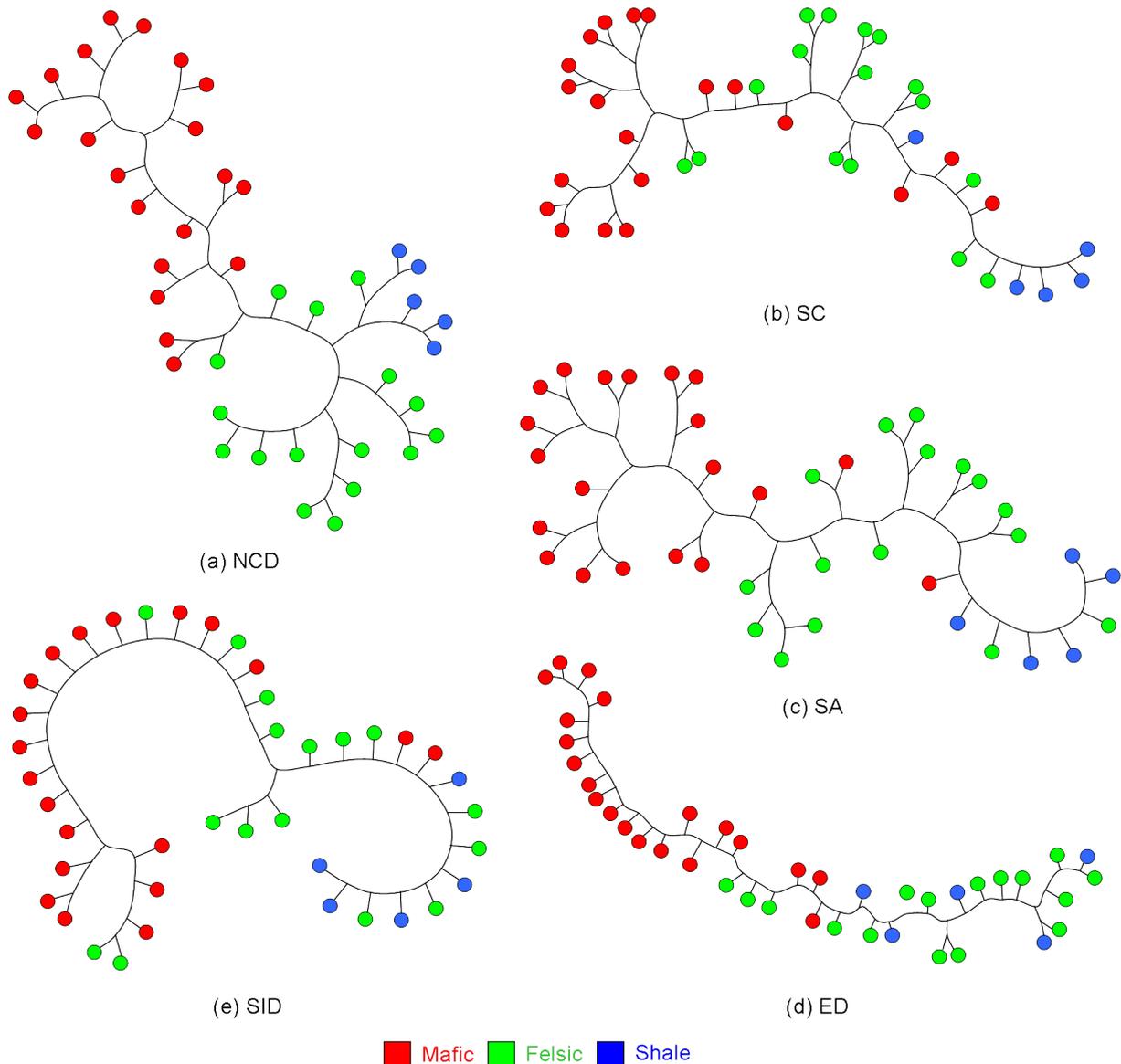


Figure 4: Hierarchical clusterings for the dataset in Fig. 3, with each node in the tree representing an object, color-coded as in the reported legend. From top-left in clockwise order: results for NCD, SC, SA, ED, and SID distances.

4.2 Roofs Categorization

A second experiment has been carried out on the spectral signatures related to a set of homogeneous areas in an image captured by the airborne HyMAP sensor over Munich, Germany. Each area is represented by the average value of the pixels it contains, each of which has 126 spectral bands, spanning the wavelength interval $0.45\text{-}2.5\ \mu\text{m}$, and 5 metres spatial resolution. The pixels have been manually selected from a set of HyMAP scenes and belong to roofs composed of different materials (Heldens, 2010), and are shown in Fig. 5. Sometimes these pixels are not pure: for example roofs covered by vegetation result mixed with the underlying materials. The hierarchical clusterings reported in Fig. 6 has been derived as in the previous experiment for the NCD and the SA distances. In this case both clusterings present some confusion, as not every class has its elements correctly placed in an isolated cluster. No method is yielding a clear better performance: nevertheless, in the SA clustering a pixel belonging to a zinc roof is placed very far away from the other two, while for the NCD the misplaced objects are closer to their correct clusters.

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we proposed to use a general similarity measure based on data compression, the Normalized Compression Distance (NCD), to categorize spectra belonging to different kinds of rocks. Being the spectra extracted from different materials, the task looks quite demanding (Figs. 2 and 3). An unsupervised hierarchical clustering, carried out on the basis of the NCD distances between the spectra, resulted in a better performance with respect to traditional distances used in spectral matching. The spectra have been analyzed in a spectral range characteristic of many hyperspectral sensors such as AVIRIS, HyMAP, EnMAP, and Hyperion. The proposed technique could be then successfully employed to characterize the contents of a scene acquired by such sensors.

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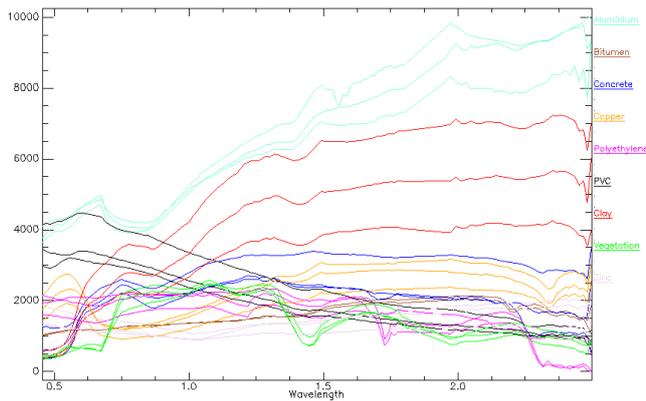


Figure 5: The 27 spectra analyzed, belonging to roofs composed of 9 materials.

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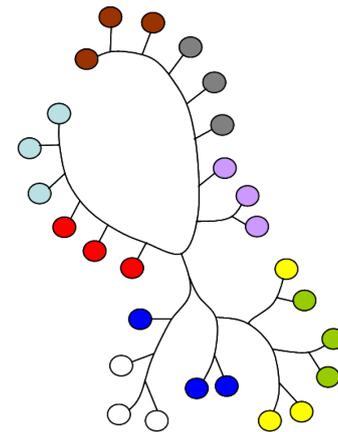
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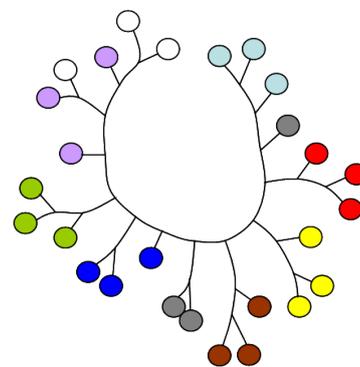
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(a) NCD



(b) SA

Aluminium	Polyethylene	Concrete
Zinc	Copper	PVC
Clay	Vegetation	Bitumen

Figure 6: Hierarchical clusterings for 27 pixels collected on roofs of 9 different materials. Results for NCD and Spectral Angle distances.

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