Spatial Geotechnologies and GIS tools for urban planners applied to the analysis of urban heat island. Case Caracas city, Venezuela.

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Summary.

The city of Caracas, as many others Latin-American cities, has experimented a fast growth in the late 20 years, demographic pressures, and the lack of an appropriate urban planification, and others socio-economic problems, tend to reinforce the urbanization phenomena, that has transformed the environment, and the quality of life in these cities. Geospatial tools has provide an interesting perspective to understand the dynamics of these phenomena, the use of thermal band to measure the extension an intensity of urban heat island has been used combined with terrestrial observations, to explain the changes in the urban surface patterns. Combining radiometric, resampling and geometrics corrections techniques, and integrating this information into a GIS, it is possible to compare urban land use to urban surface temperature and identified urban heat critical areas, more accuracy. These works shows the result of the observations develops in the city of Caracas. The geospatial analysis was developed, using LANDSAT 8 OLI images for the period of selected, ERDAS 2014 for image processing, and ARC-GIS 10.3 for cartographic development. Radiometric and Geometric correction (pixel by pixel) with ERDAS, allow us to work at urban scales, in order to observe the variations in the urban canopy related to the urban surface temperatures patterns. Results of the study were useful to identify critical areas and urban structures related to these thermal patterns. This information will be use by urban planners, to develop mitigations and adaptation strategies, in order to prevent the intensification of the urban heat island, during the occurrence of an strong dry season, or heat waves, which might affect the city, the populations and the environment.

Key words: GIS, urban heat patterns, adaptation-mitigation strategies.

2. Introduction

Studies around the world of urban heat island phenomena using remote sensing techniques, have always the limitations of the spatial resolution, which may vary, depending on the period and the sensor selected for thermal analysis. For example, MODIS, AVHRR spatial resolution is around 1 km, ASTER 90 m, and LANDSAT 7 ETM, 60 m. These spatial resolution result particularly low for urban scales, even in the case of LANDSAT 7, one of the best original resolution available. Recently was launch LANDSAT 8 OLI, with an spatial resolution for thermal bands of 100 m, but resample to 30 m for final users.

These works shows the result of the geospatial analysis of the urban heat island phenomena in the city of Caracas. Combining radiometric and geometrics corrections with resampling techniques, and integrating this information into a GIS, allow us to work at to urban scales, to observe the variations in urban canopy related to the urban surface temperatures patterns.

Caracas city is located in the North-South America (10 ° 20'-10 ° 35'N and 66 ° 45'-67 °0´ W) near the Caribbean Sea in a narrow valley (30 km wide) with an intricate topography (Fig.1). The city has currently a population about 4 million inhabitants, with a very high construction and population densities and, as a result, a high pressure on water resources and soil. Most of the medium class and low-income population (1.5 million inhabitants) lives in the southwest and west areas of the city, which is the sector with the most complex socio-environmental problems.

Political strategies and urban planning policies in Venezuela have been oriented to strategies that provide solutions to urgent issues related to poverty, water scarcity and health, but leaving behind the problems related to urban environment and climate change (Córdova, K; 2011).
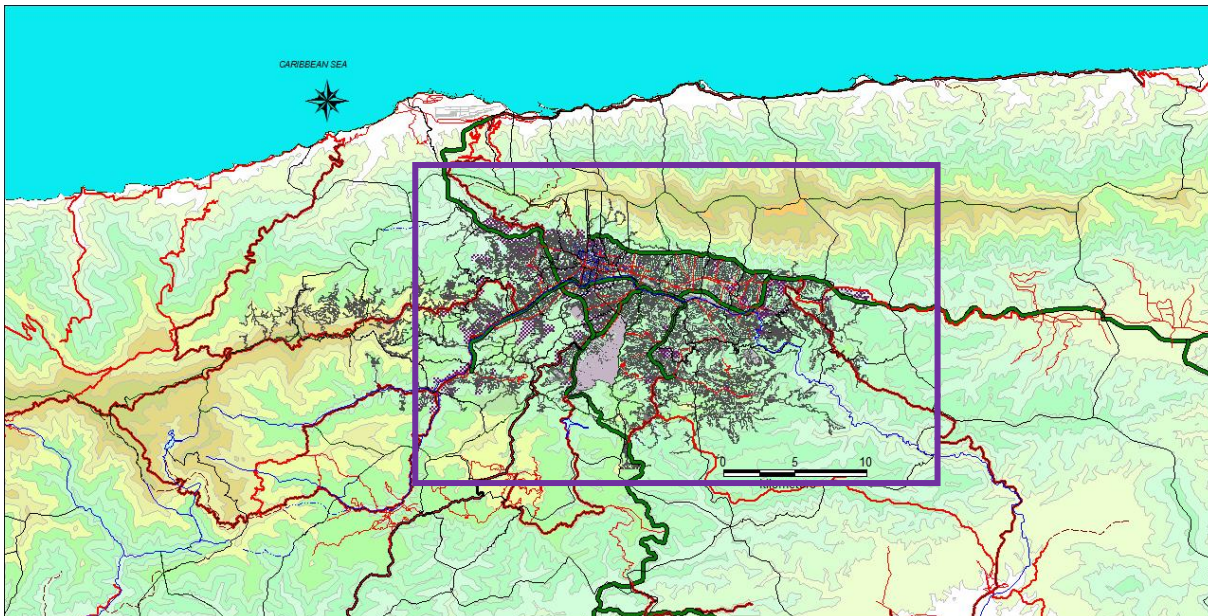
Fig.1 Caracas city. Localization of the study area. Source: Cartographical Databases-IGSBV.

3.1 Methodology and Materials.

Data source and processing:
In this study, Landsat-8 L1T data provided by USGS with a track number LC8004053 was acquired in 2013-11-18, with a temporal resolution of 16-days. Landsat-8 TIRS is one of the most accurate thermal infrared sensors with relatively high spatial resolutions at present. It has the capability to acquire information in two thermal infrared spectral bands of 10.90 and 12.0 µm. Landsat 8 TIRS (Thermal Infrared Sensor) Band 10 and 11 and OLI (Operational Land Imaginer) Thermal constant K1 and K2 and other image statistic are obtain from metadata of the image file.

For data preprocessing, four procedures were implemented with ERDAS IMAGINE 2014 and ARC GIS 10.3. First, radiometric calibration and atmospheric correction were made to the OLI imagery. In this procedure, Digital Number (DN) values recorded by the sensor were converted into apparent reflectance and satellite brightness temperature for OLI-TIRS.

Second, TIRS bands resampled in a 30-m resolution were reprojected from UTM/WGS1984 to LAT/LONG/WGS84, third, TIRS bands converted were integrated into a GIS with vectorial layers, of some relevant political and spatial information and finally NDVI analysis was done to compare LST patterns with NDVI results.

Temperature from TIRS:
The thermal TIRS bands 10 and 11 can be used to compute brightness temperature from radiance by inverting the Planck function. First of all, we need to convert the original DNs of TIRS into Top of Atmospheric Radiance (TOAr).Therefore, the original digital numbers (DN) of Landsat 8 TIR bands are converted into radiance based on the methods provided by Chander and Markham (2003) and the Landsat 8 Science Data Users Handbook (2015). The following equation 1 is used to convert original DNs into TOAr as shown below:

$$TOAr = M * DN + B \text{ (eq.1)}$$

Where*: M* is the Radiance Multiplier and *B* is the Radiance Add

The M, B values are in the metadata file of Landsat 8 data. Table 1 below shows the parameters that we need for this task. In this study the high-gain setting was selected. The radiometric calibration of thermal band 10 and Landsat 8 was done using following K1, K2 constants:

Table 1. The metadata of Landsat 8- TIR

Metadata of Landsat 8- TIR	Band 10
Radiance Multiplier(M)	0.0003342
Radiance Add(B)	0.1
K1	774.89
K2	1321.08

After we have got the TOAr values, TIRS band data can be converted from spectral radiance to brightness temperature, equation 2 (Landsat 8 Science Data Users Handbook, 2015) using the thermal constants provided in the metadata file:

$$T = \frac{K2}{\ln\left(\frac{K1}{L\lambda} + 1\right)} \text{ (eq. 2)}$$

where:

T = At-satellite brightness temperature (K)
Lλ = TOA spectral radiance (Watts/(m2 * srad * μm))
K1 = Band-specific thermal conversion constant from the metadata (K1_CONSTANT_BAND_x, where x is the band number, 10 or 11)
K2 = Band-specific thermal conversion constant from the metadata (K2_CONSTANT_BAND_x, where x is the band number, 10 or 11).

By using K1 and K2 parameters, we have converted the TOAr values into temperature in degrees kelvin. After this stage, we need to convert the unit of the temperature values into Fahrenheit or Celsius. This can be done by subtracting 273.15 from the degrees kelvin.

Though Landsat 8 TIRS has two thermal bands (10 and 11), only data from Band 10 are suitable at the moment for LST retrieval, due to the larger uncertainty in the Band 11 values (Barsi,J.A *et all*, 2014). Therefore, it was necessary to use a mono-window algorithm in the following form for LST retrieval from the Landsat 8 TIRS Band 10 data (Wang.F *et all*, 2015):

$$Ts = [a10(1 − C10 − D10) + (b10(1 − C10 − D10) + C10 + D10)T10 − D10Ta]/C10$$

where:

Ts is the LST retrieved from the Landsat 8 TIRS Band 10 data; Ta is the effective mean atmospheric temperature; T10 is the brightness temperature of Landsat 8 TIRS Band 10; a10 and b10 are the constants used to approximate the derivative of the Planck radiance function (Wang.F *et all*, 2015).

After complete the radiometric calibration and atmospheric correction, geometric corrections were developed in order to reproject the TIRS bands resampled in a 30-m resolution, from UTM /WGS 1984 to LAT /LONG /WGS84 to match the vectorial layer availables.

3.2 . Results and discussion

GIS data, such as topographic variables, were first integrated in remote sensing natural mapping studies, because satellite data did not provide sufficient detail for effective management resource (Rogan, J., Miller, J., Wulder, M. A., & Franklin, S. E., 2006). The same happen in the case of urban climate studies, remote sensing did not provide sufficient detail for effective management for urban planners. Traditional studies about heat urban island has low spatial resolution, that barely shows the urban sprawl phenomena, and general differences in LST between urban and peri urban areas (Fig.2).
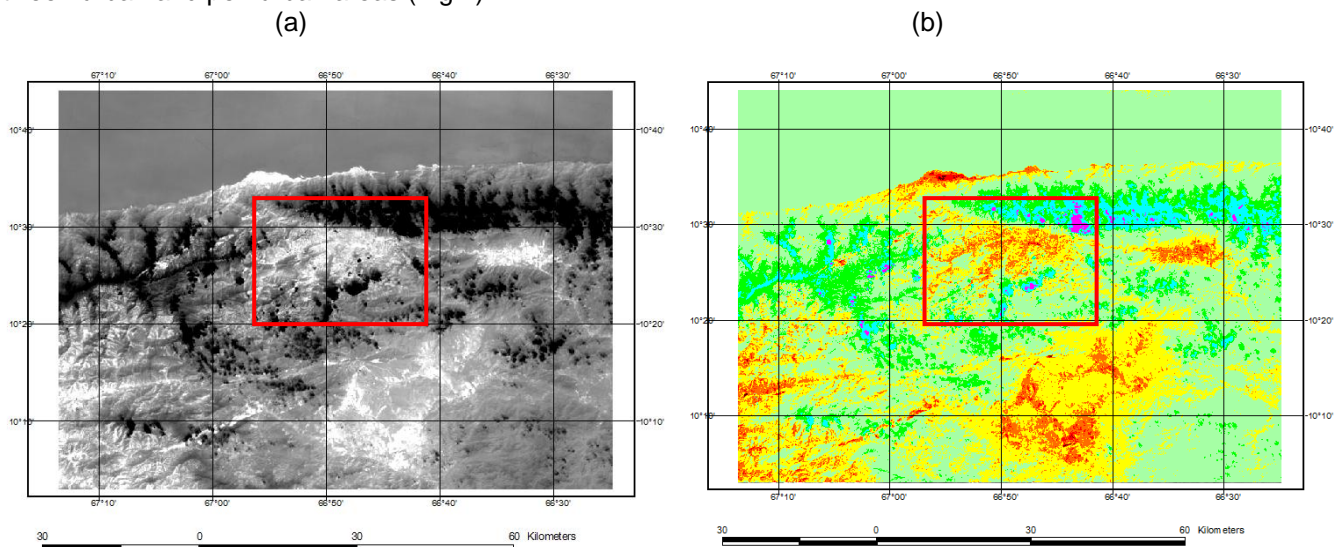
(a)   (b)

Fig.2 *Metropolitan area of Caracas city. Low spatial resolution, (a) B10 Landsat 8, (b) and LST. Red square shows the resample area.*

(a)   (b)
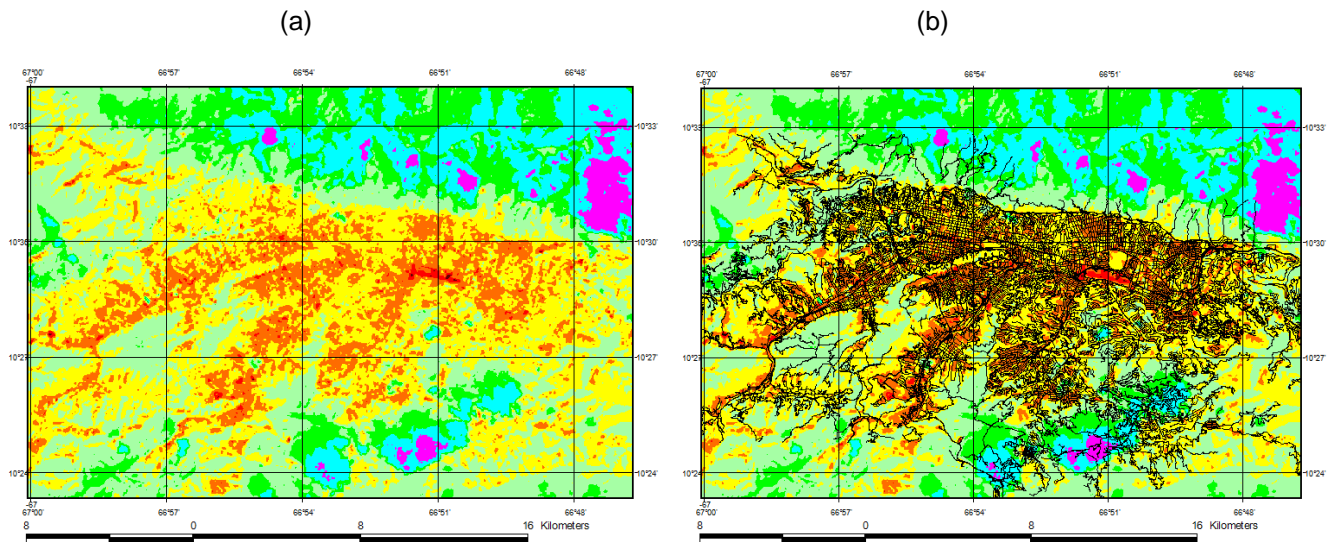

Fig. 3 Example of GIS showing resampled area (a) and with vectorial layers of city streets in Caracas city(b).

Using geometric and resampling techniques, and integrating this information into a GIS (Fig.3), it is possible to increase the information recover in the LST analysis. This method allows urban planner to visualize and understand the differences between urban sectors, and associate these differences to urban land use and urban construction materials. Complementary analysis like NDVI index was done to show the relationship between LST and impervious surfaces, usually high urban density and high temperatures appear to be related (Fig.4). NDVI is very sensitive technique to identify impervious surfaces, usually associated to urban materials.
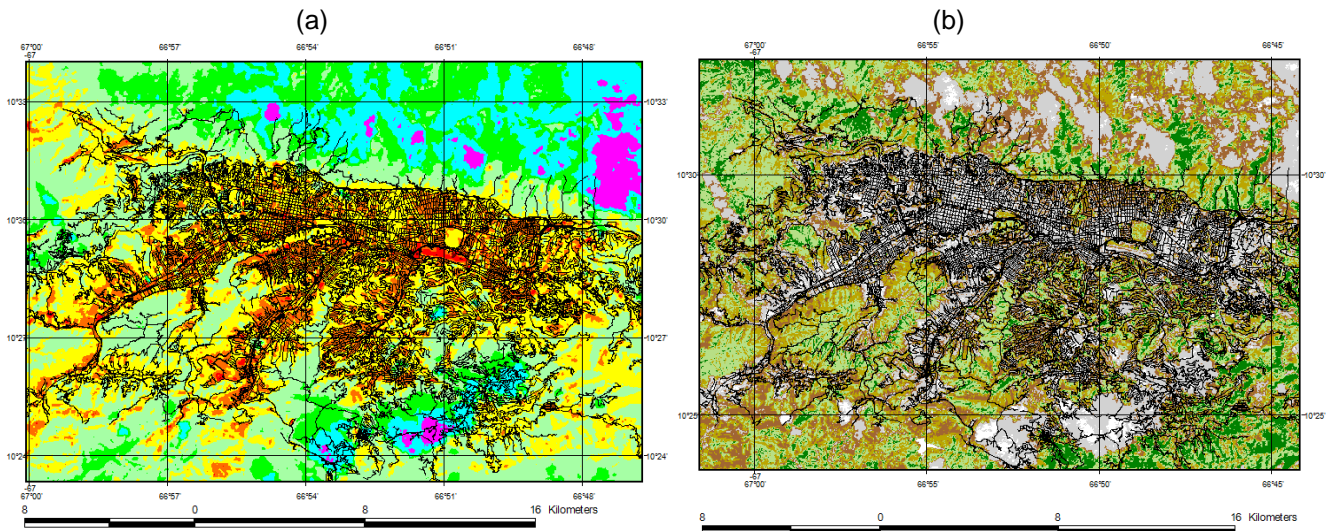
(a)   (b)

Fig. 4 Example of GIS showing resampled area and with vectorial layers of city streets in Caracas city (a) and NDVI analysis (b).

Complementary analysis, depending on the necessities of urban management can be done, adding layers with administrative boundaries of municipalities, urban cadastre, rivers, topographic layers, population density, etc. In order to development a more effective strategy to reduce the intensity of the heat urban island, local municipalities must have a more detail information of local heat urban patterns. Medium spatial resolution can point out the critical areas, where it will be necessary to focus, to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

3.3 Conclusions

Integration of GIS data with remotely sensed imagery has increased interest because increased data availability, quality, and decreased data costs across large study extents. This methodology, also demonstrated the potential of data integration/fusion, for urban change mapping. In urban heat island studies, downscaling techniques combine with vectorial layers into a GIS, can explain better the differences in urban surface temperatures patterns, medium spatial resolution is been used more frequently in urban heat island and urban climate analysis.

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