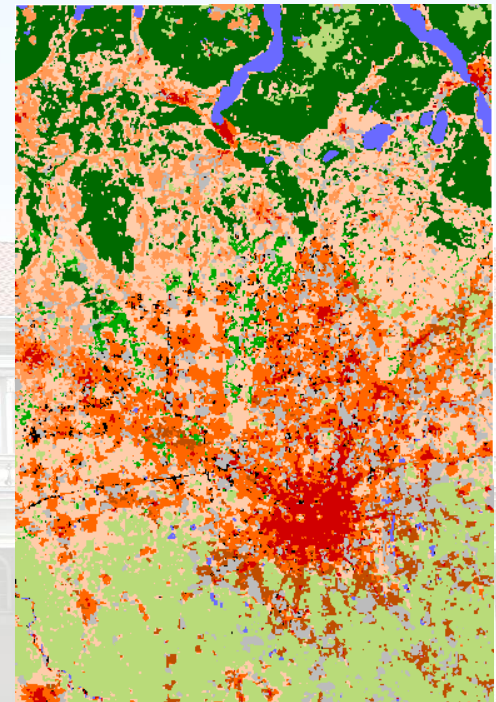


CENSUS of Cities: LCZ Classification of Cities (Level 0) – Workflow and Initial Results from Various Cities

ICUC9 - 9th International Conference on Urban Climate jointly with 12th Symposium on the Urban Environment, 21.7.15, Toulouse

Bechtel, Benjamin^{1*}, Foley, Mícheál², Mills, Gerald², Ching, Jason³, See, Linda⁴, Alexander, Paul⁵, O'Connor, Martin², Albuquerque, Taciana⁶, Andrade, Maria de Fatima, Brovelli, Maria⁸, Das, Debashish⁹, Fonte, Cidalia Costa¹⁰, Petit, Gwendall¹¹, Hanif, Uzma¹², Jimenez, Jose¹³, Lackner, Stefan¹⁴, Liu, Weibo¹⁵, Perera, Narein¹⁶, Rosni, Nur Aulia¹⁷, Theeuwes, Nathalie¹⁸, Gál, Tamás¹⁹

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WUDAPT

- **Knowledge about the footprint and internal structure of urban areas is relevant for various applications**
- The World Urban Database and Portal Tool: international collaborative project for the **acquisition, storage and dissemination of climate relevant data** on the physical geographies of cities worldwide
- result will be a physical census of cities
- describe the **form** (surface cover, the construction materials and geometry) **and function** (metabolism, i.e. exchange of energy, water and materials) of cities **in different levels of detail**



Level 2

- Detailed description of urban landscape parameters at a scale suited to boundary-layer models
- Use of all available databases (e.g. building footprints)



Level 1

- More precise parameter values for each LCZ
- Focus on aspects of form (e.g. building heights, street width) and functions (e.g. building use).
- Sampling of LCZ using [GeoWiki](#)



Level 0

- Local Climate Zones (LCZ) along with parameter ranges
- Categorise city neighbourhoods into LCZ types
- Local experts provide training areas
- [GoogleEarth](#), Landsat8 and Saga

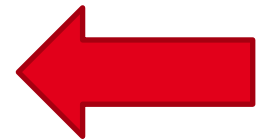


Fig. 1. WUDAPT's data hierarchy

The landscape universe

Local Climate Zones (Stewart & Oke 2012)

- *regions of uniform surface cover, structure, material, and human activity that span hundreds of meters to several kilometers in horizontal scale*
- *Each LCZ has a characteristic screen-height temperature regime*
- Generic, no cultural bias
- Large number of geometric, thermal, radiative, metabolic, and surface cover properties

1. Compact high-rise	Dense mix of tall buildings to tens of stories. Few or no trees. Land cover mostly paved. Concrete, steel, stone, and glass construction materials.	A. Dense trees	Heavily wooded landscape of deciduous and/or evergreen trees. Land cover mostly pervious (low plants). Zone function is natural forest, tree cultivation, or urban park.
2. Compact midrise	Dense mix of midrise buildings (3–9 stories). Few or no trees. Land cover mostly paved. Stone, brick, tile, and concrete construction materials.	B. Scattered trees	Lightly wooded landscape of deciduous and/or evergreen trees. Land cover mostly pervious (low plants). Zone function is natural forest, tree cultivation, or urban park.
3. Compact low-rise	Dense mix of low-rise buildings (1–3 stories). Few or no trees. Land cover mostly paved. Stone, brick, tile, and concrete construction materials.	C. Bush, scrub	Open arrangement of bushes, shrubs, and short, woody trees. Land cover mostly pervious (bare soil or sand). Zone function is natural scrubland or agriculture.
4. Open high-rise	Open arrangement of tall buildings to tens of stories. Abundance of pervious land cover (low plants, scattered trees). Concrete, steel, stone, and glass construction materials.	D. Low plants	Featureless landscape of grass or herbaceous plants/crops. Few or no trees. Zone function is natural grassland, agriculture, or urban park.
5. Open midrise	Open arrangement of midrise buildings (3–9 stories). Abundance of pervious land cover (low plants, scattered trees). Concrete, steel, stone, and glass construction materials.	E. Bare rock or paved	Featureless landscape of rock or paved cover. Few or no trees or plants. Zone function is natural desert (rock) or urban transportation.
6. Open low-rise	Open arrangement of low-rise buildings (1–3 stories). Abundance of pervious land cover (low plants, scattered trees). Wood, brick, stone, tile, and concrete construction materials.	F. Bare soil or sand	Featureless landscape of soil or sand cover. Few or no trees or plants. Zone function is natural desert or agriculture.
7. Lightweight low-rise	Dense mix of single-story buildings. Few or no trees. Land cover mostly hard-packed. Lightweight construction materials (e.g., wood, thatch, corrugated metal).	G. Water	Large, open water bodies such as seas and lakes, or small bodies such as rivers, reservoirs, and lagoons.
8. Large low-rise	Open arrangement of large low-rise buildings (1–3 stories). Few or no trees. Land cover mostly paved. Steel, concrete, metal, and stone construction materials.	VARIABLE LAND COVER PROPERTIES Variable or ephemeral land cover properties that change significantly with synoptic weather patterns, agricultural practices, and/or seasonal cycles.	
9. Sparsely built	Sparse arrangement of small or medium-sized buildings in a natural setting. Abundance of pervious land cover (low plants, scattered trees).	b. bare trees	Leafless deciduous trees (e.g., winter). Increased sky view factor. Reduced albedo.
10. Heavy industry	Low-rise and midrise industrial structures (towers, tanks, stacks). Few or no trees. Land cover mostly paved or hard-packed. Metal, steel, and concrete construction materials.	s. snow cover	Snow cover >10 cm in depth. Low admittance. High albedo.
		d. dry ground	Parched soil. Low admittance. Large Bowen ratio. Increased albedo.
		w. wet ground	Waterlogged soil. High admittance. Small Bowen ratio. Reduced albedo.

Stewart & Oke 2012

Are LCZs suitable for mapping?

- Developed for measurement site description of UHI studies
 - but also useful discretization of the landscape with respect to its surface layer climate
 - Can an LCZ be assigned to any urban structure? (complete)
 - And can only one LCZ be assigned to a given structure? (disjoint)
- Bechtel et al. 2015
- no *overlaps* or *holes*, outliers excluded from the standard set
 - scheme considers *a priori* knowledge about the frequency certain structures
 - possibility to define subclasses (= mixtures between the standard classes)
 - some areas fuzzy in terms of LCZ
 - **LCZ provide a disjoint and largely complementary discretisation**
 - **well balanced between accuracy and universality**

Requirements for LCZ mapping

- simple workflow in the form of a protocol
- enabling local operators with different backgrounds to derive a LCZ map
- Universal
- as objective as possible
- computationally efficient
- fiscally inexpensive (based on free and widely available data and software)

LCZ mapping schemes evaluated

- manual sampling of grid cells using Geo-Wiki (Mills 2013)
- digitisation of homogenous LCZs
- GIS-based approach using building data (Lelovics et al. 2014)
- object based image analysis (Gamba et al. 2012; Weng 2014)
- supervised pixel-based classification (Bechtel 2011; Bechtel and Daneke 2012).

workflow

Google Earth

SAGA

Raster processing

Load LS data
GDAL: Import Raster

Crop to ROI
Clip Grid with Polygon

Resample
1. grid system
Resampling

Resample further
grid systems
Resampling

Vector processing

Digitize training data

Load KML
OGR: Import Vector Data

Merge
Merge Layers

Project
Coordinate transformation (shapes)

Supervised classification
Random Forest (ViGra)

Post class filtering
Majority Filter

Export 2 KML
Export Grid to KML

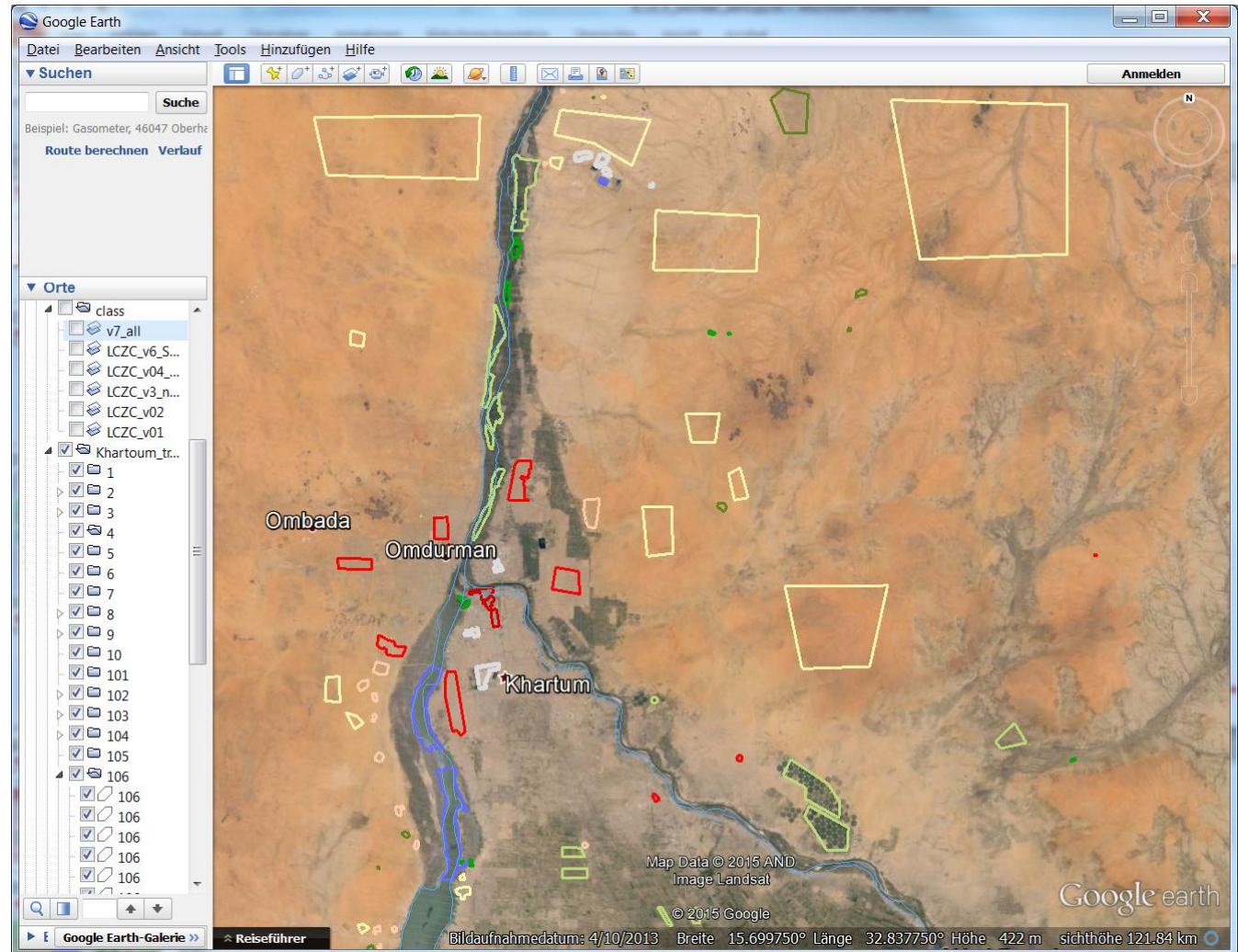
Evaluate

Improve





Khartoum





Universität Hamburg
LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

File Geoprocessing Map Window ?

Manager

Tools Data Maps

Tree Thumbnails

120; 959x 1043y; 425160x 1673280y

Messages

General Execution Errors

[2015-07-16/17:04:58] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\Entropy.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:04:58] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\GLCMCorrelation.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:04:58] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\GLCMMean.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:04:58] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\GLCMVariance.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:04:58] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\Homogeneity.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:04:58] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\Intensity_VH.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:04:59] Load grid: L:\LCZ\SAR\data\feat\SAR\MAX.sgrd...okay
[2015-07-16/17:06:36] Executing tool: Local

ready

Local Climate Zone Classification

Data Objects

Grids

Grid System 120; 959x 1043y; 425160x 1673280y

>> Features 35 objects (LC81730492013114LGN01_B1, LC81730492013114LGN01_B2, LC81730492013114LGN01_B3, LC81730492013114LGN01_B4, LC81730492013114LGN01_B5, LC81730492013114LGN01_B6, LC81730492013114LGN01_B7, LC81730492013114LGN01_B8, LC81730492013114LGN01_B9, LC81730492013114LGN01_B10, LC81730492013114LGN01_B11, LC81730492013114LGN01_B12, LC81730492013114LGN01_B13, LC81730492013114LGN01_B14, LC81730492013114LGN01_B15, LC81730492013114LGN01_B16, LC81730492013114LGN01_B17, LC81730492013114LGN01_B18, LC81730492013114LGN01_B19, LC81730492013114LGN01_B20, LC81730492013114LGN01_B21, LC81730492013114LGN01_B22, LC81730492013114LGN01_B23, LC81730492013114LGN01_B24, LC81730492013114LGN01_B25, LC81730492013114LGN01_B26, LC81730492013114LGN01_B27, LC81730492013114LGN01_B28, LC81730492013114LGN01_B29, LC81730492013114LGN01_B30, LC81730492013114LGN01_B31, LC81730492013114LGN01_B32, LC81730492013114LGN01_B33, LC81730492013114LGN01_B34, LC81730492013114LGN01_B35)

<< LCZC <create>

< LCZC (Filtered) <not set>

Options

Training Areas L:\LCZ\SAR\data\train\Khartoum_train_bb_v07.kmz

Random Forest Tree Count 32

Class Definition File L:\LCZ\SAR\doc\cmap_WUDAPT_2015.txt

Save LCZC as... L:\LCZ\SAR\data\class\KHAR[fs]all[tr]v0.7.kmz

Okay Cancel Load Save Defaults

Unit

Z-Scale 1

Z-Offset 0

Show Cell Value ☐

Memory Handling Normal

Display

Transparency [0

Show at all scales ☒

Interpolation None

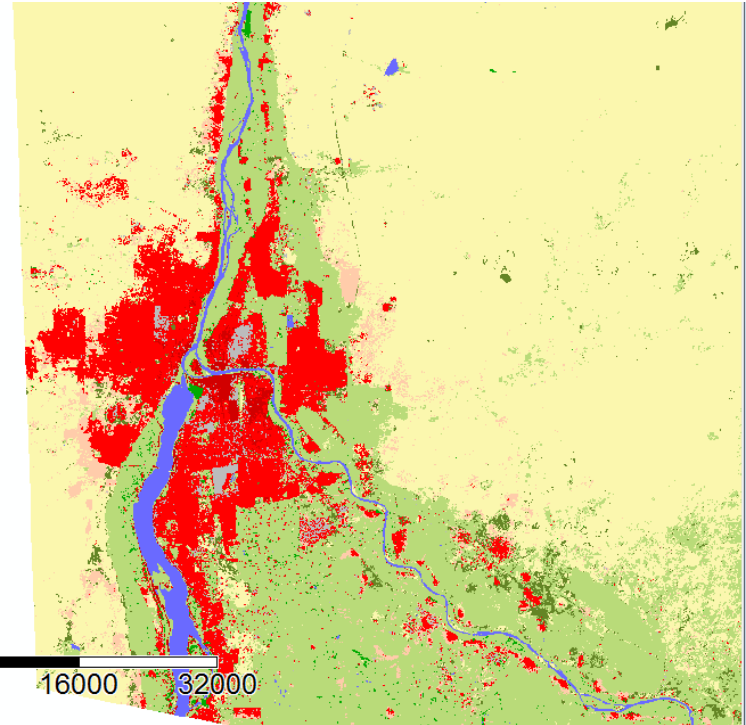
Colors

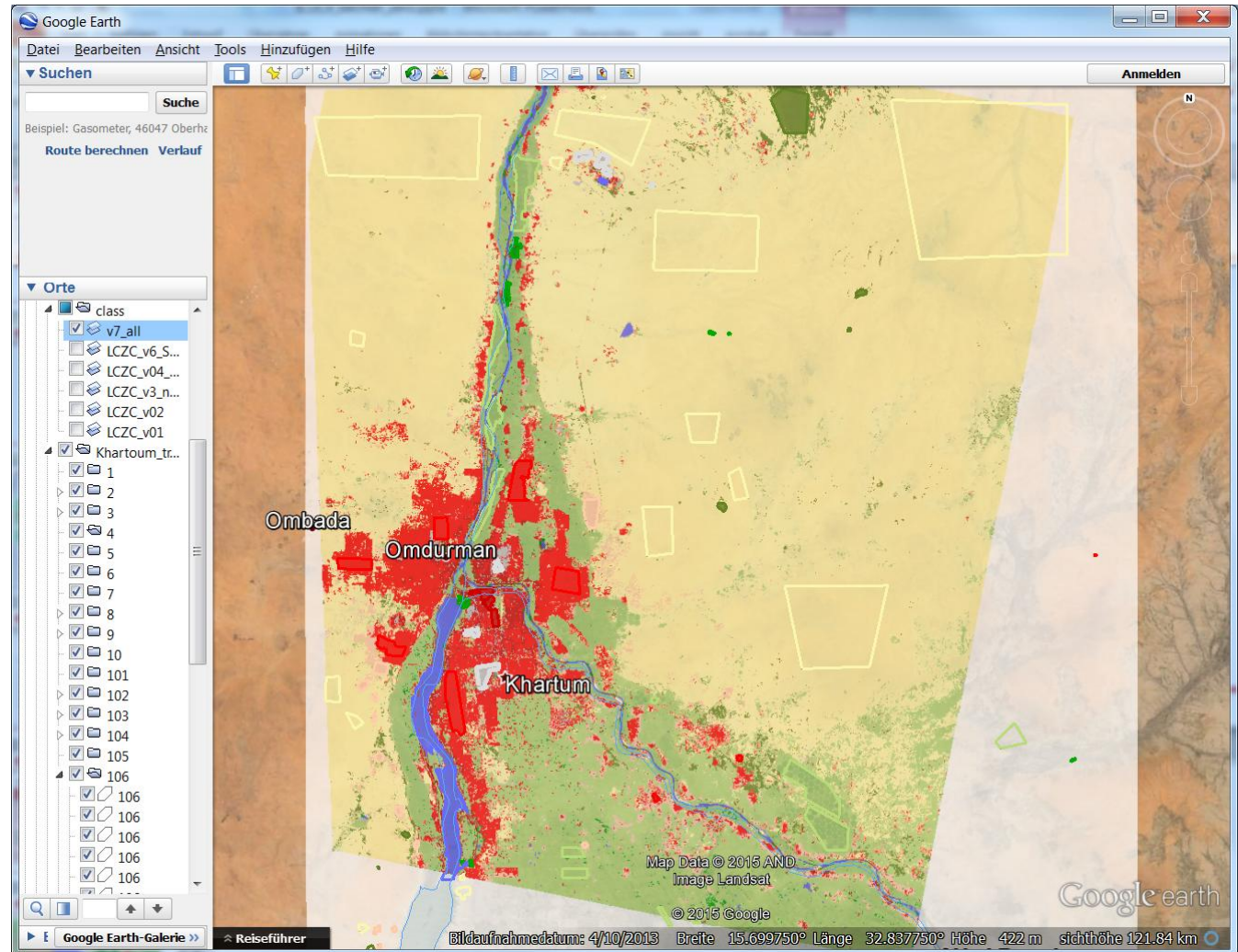
Type Lookup Table

Lookup Table

Table (columns: 5, rows: 17)

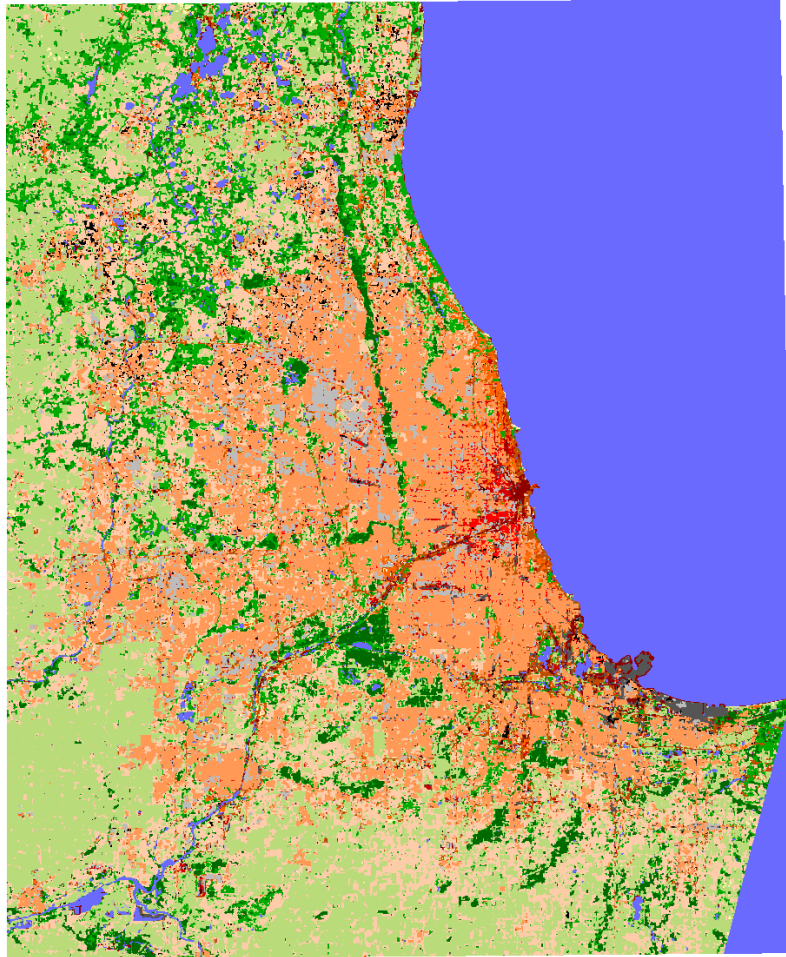
Apply Restore Load Save



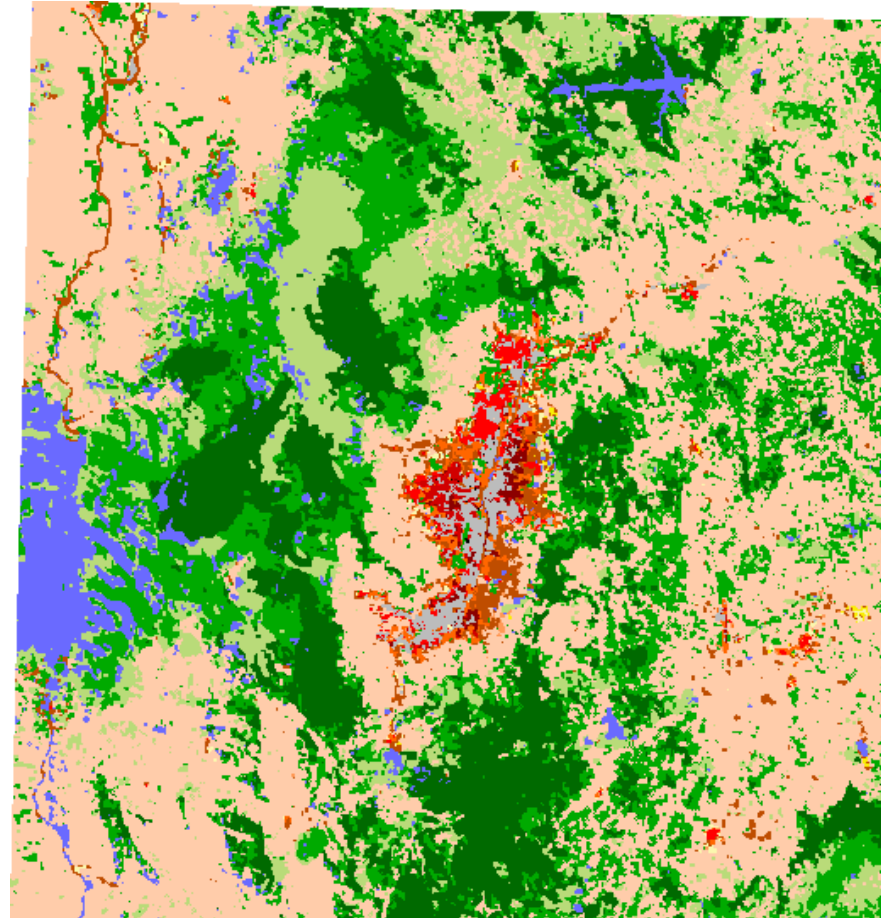


Testcases

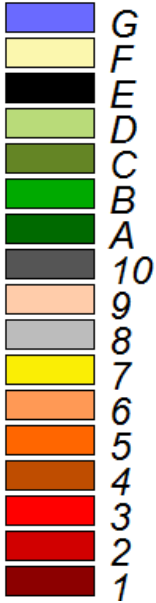
City	Köppen Climate Zone
Colombo, Kolkata, Medellin, Vitoria	Tropical/megathermal climates
Khartoum	Dry (arid and semiarid) climates
Budapest, Coimbra, Dublin, Guangzhou, Houston, Milan, Nantes, Sao Paulo, Vancouver, Wageningen	Temperate/mesothermal climates
Beijing, Chicago	Continental/microthermal climates

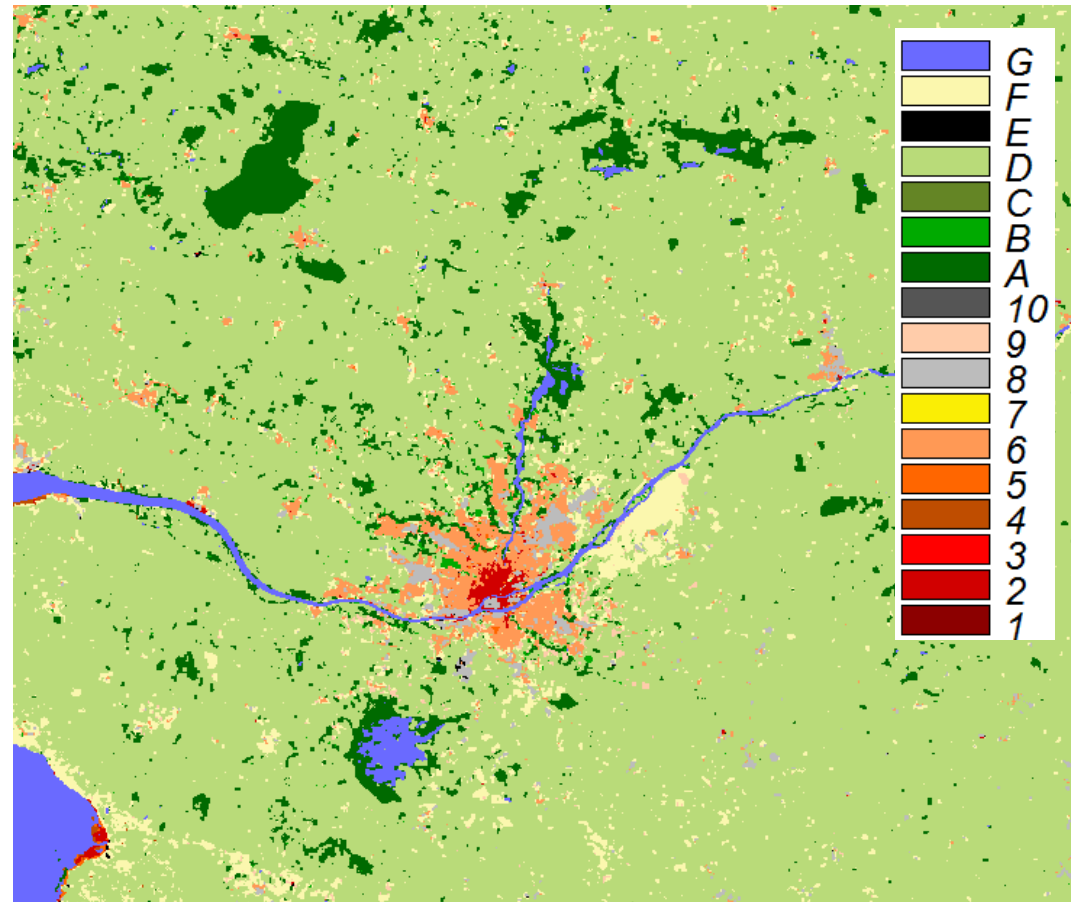
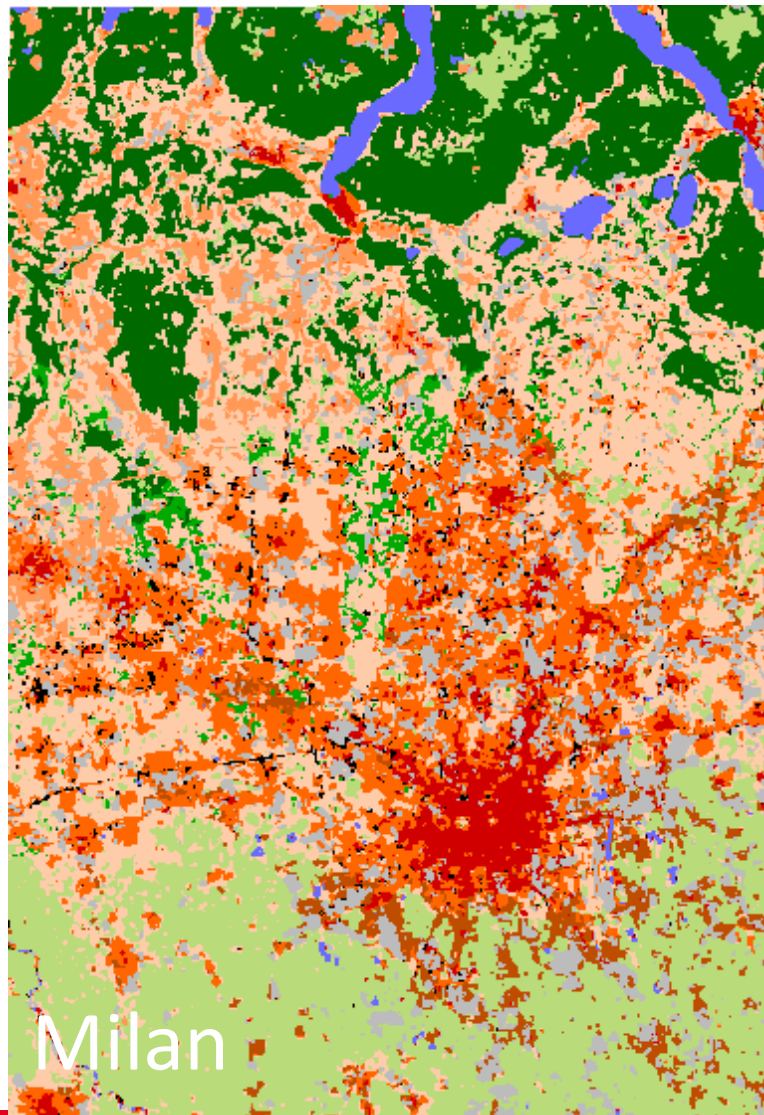


Chicago

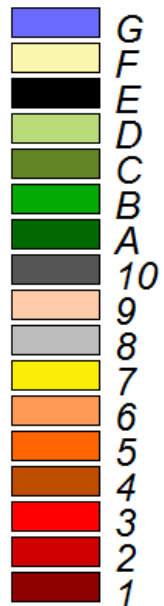
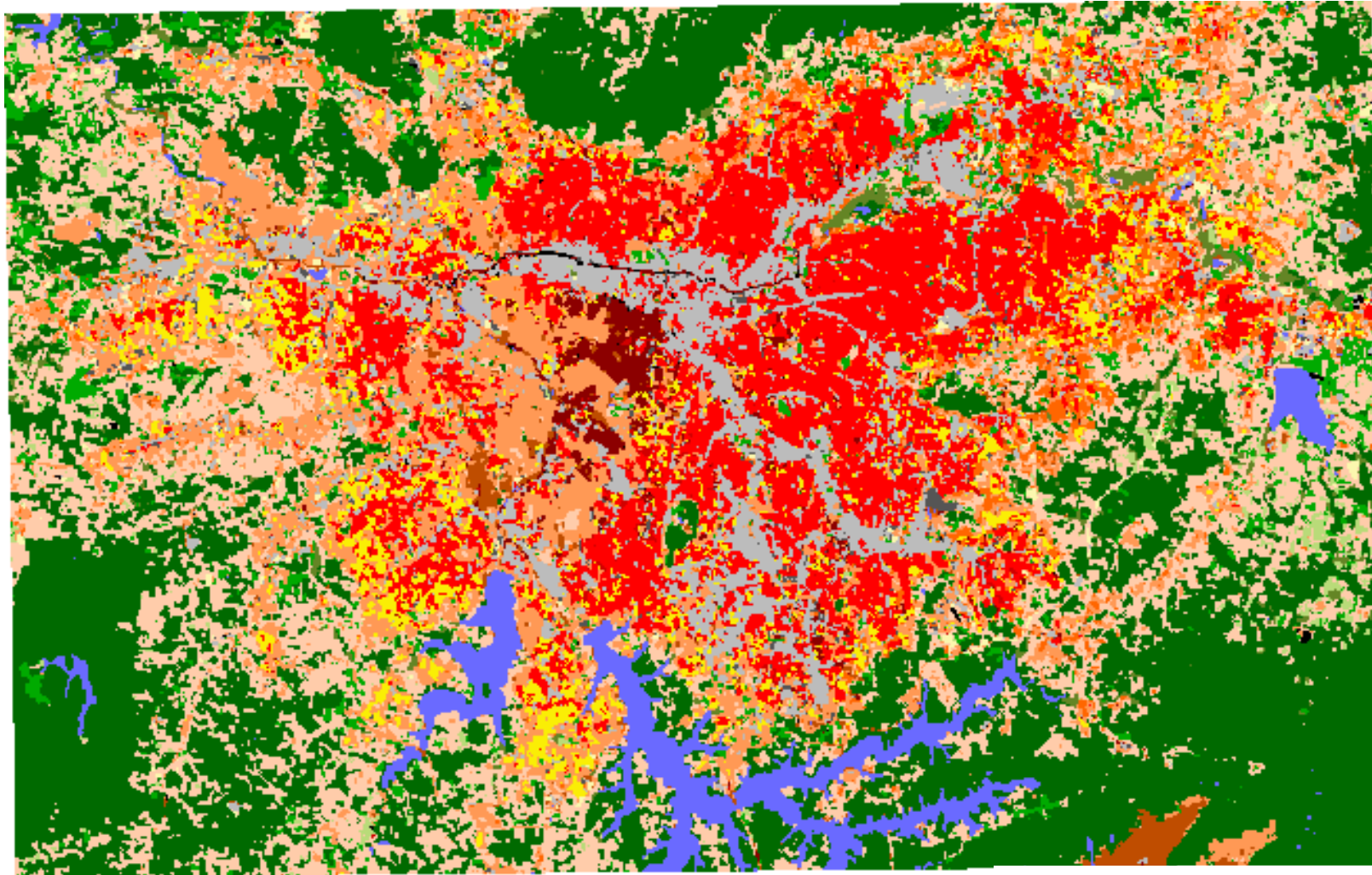


Medelin





Nantes



Sao Paulo

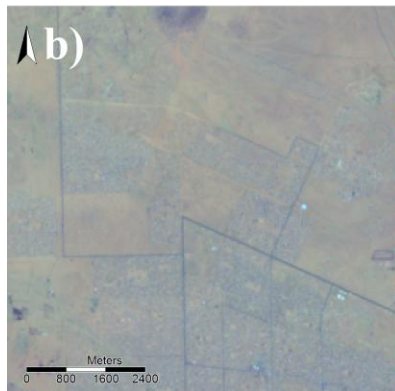
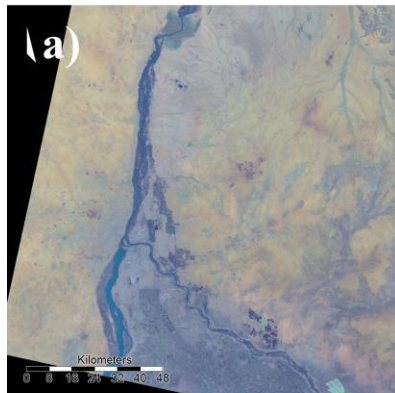
Lessons learned

- Applicable in different parts of the world (climates and cultures)
- Good framework to compare settlement structures
- Spectral seperability difficult in arid areas
- Subclasses needed (some built-up areas are close to natural classes in climate response)



Outlook

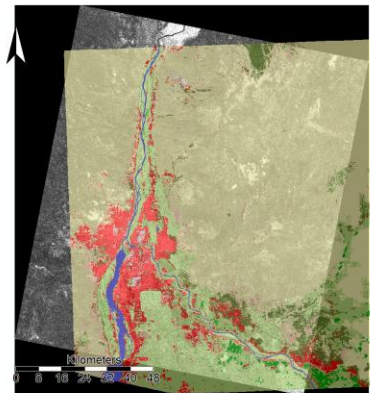
LS1
[Bands 7-4-2]



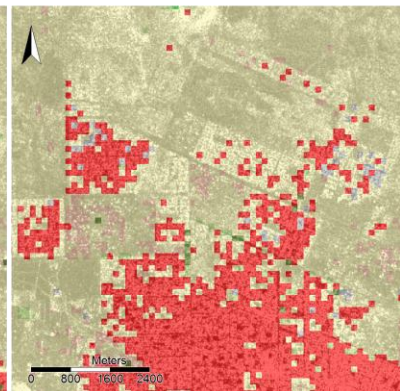
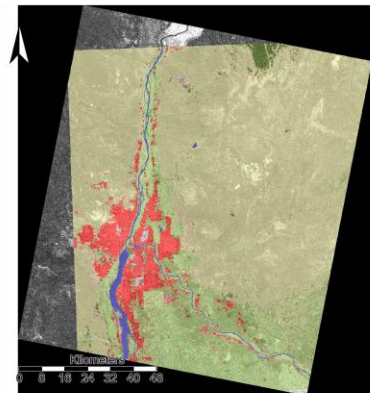
SAR
[GLCM_{contr} - A_{vv} - A_{vh}] [RF, LS1]



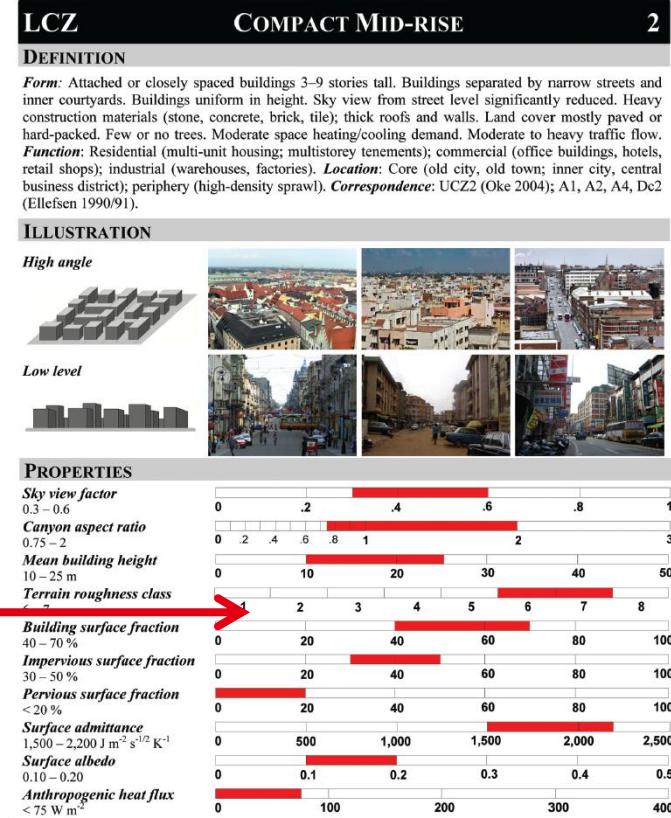
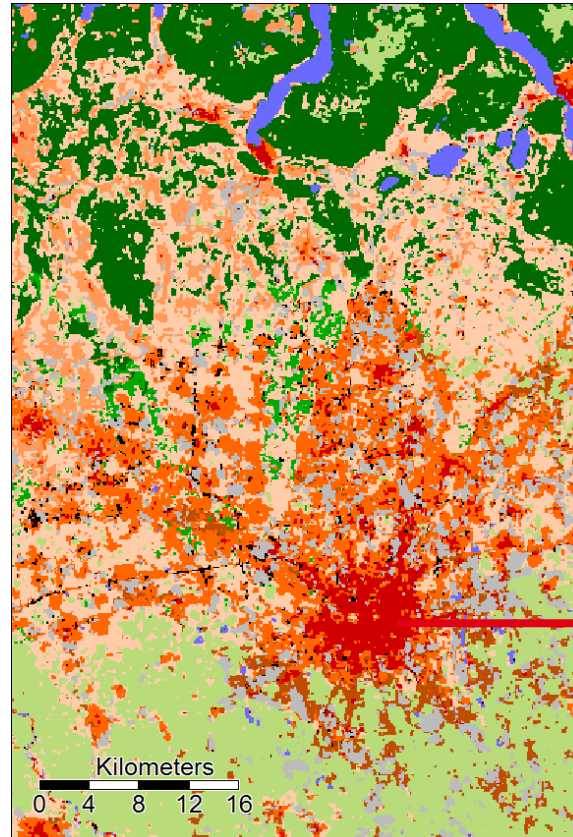
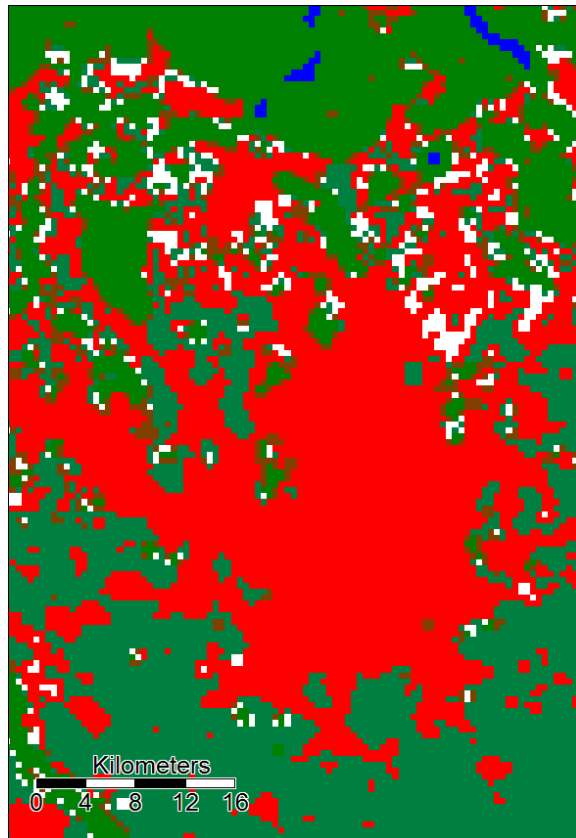
LCZ
[RF, LS1]

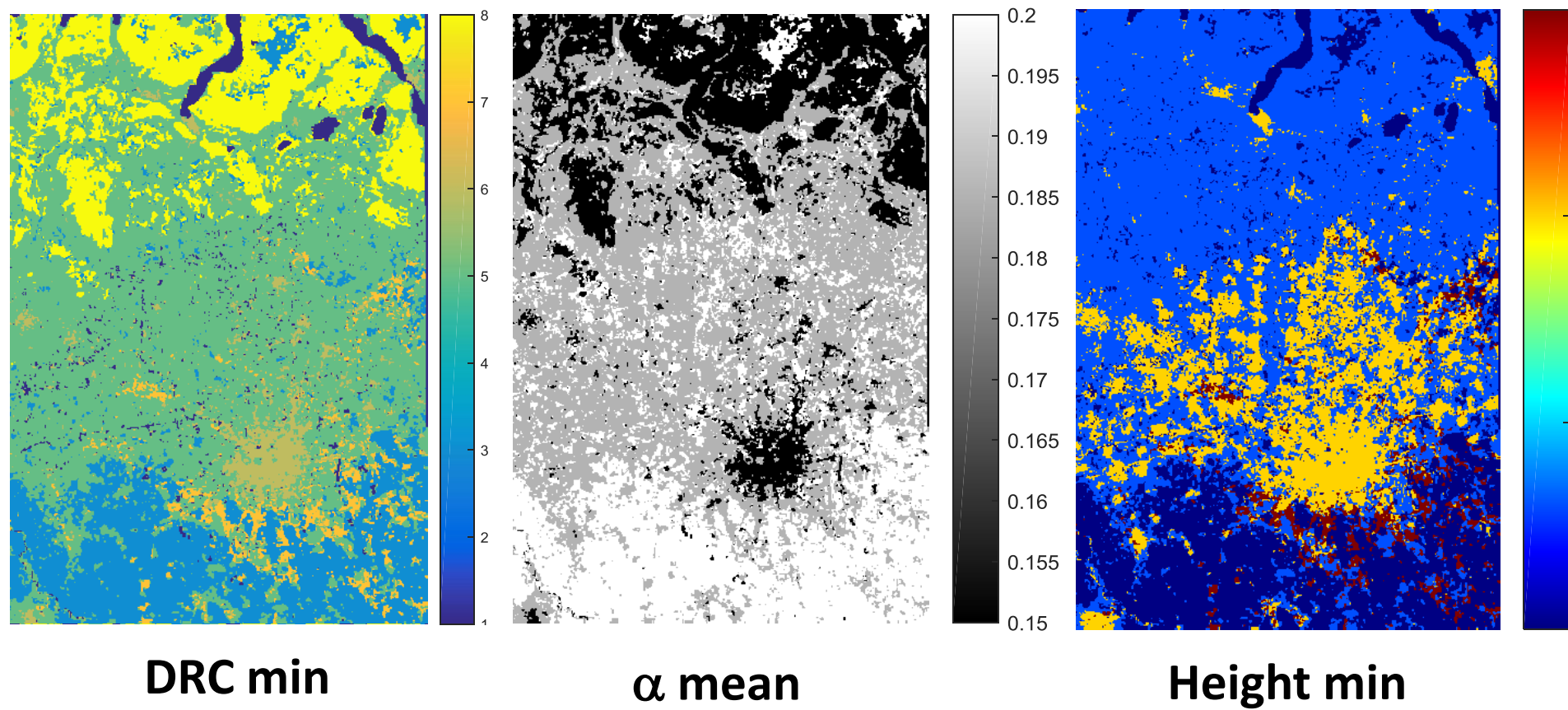


LCZ
[RF, all]

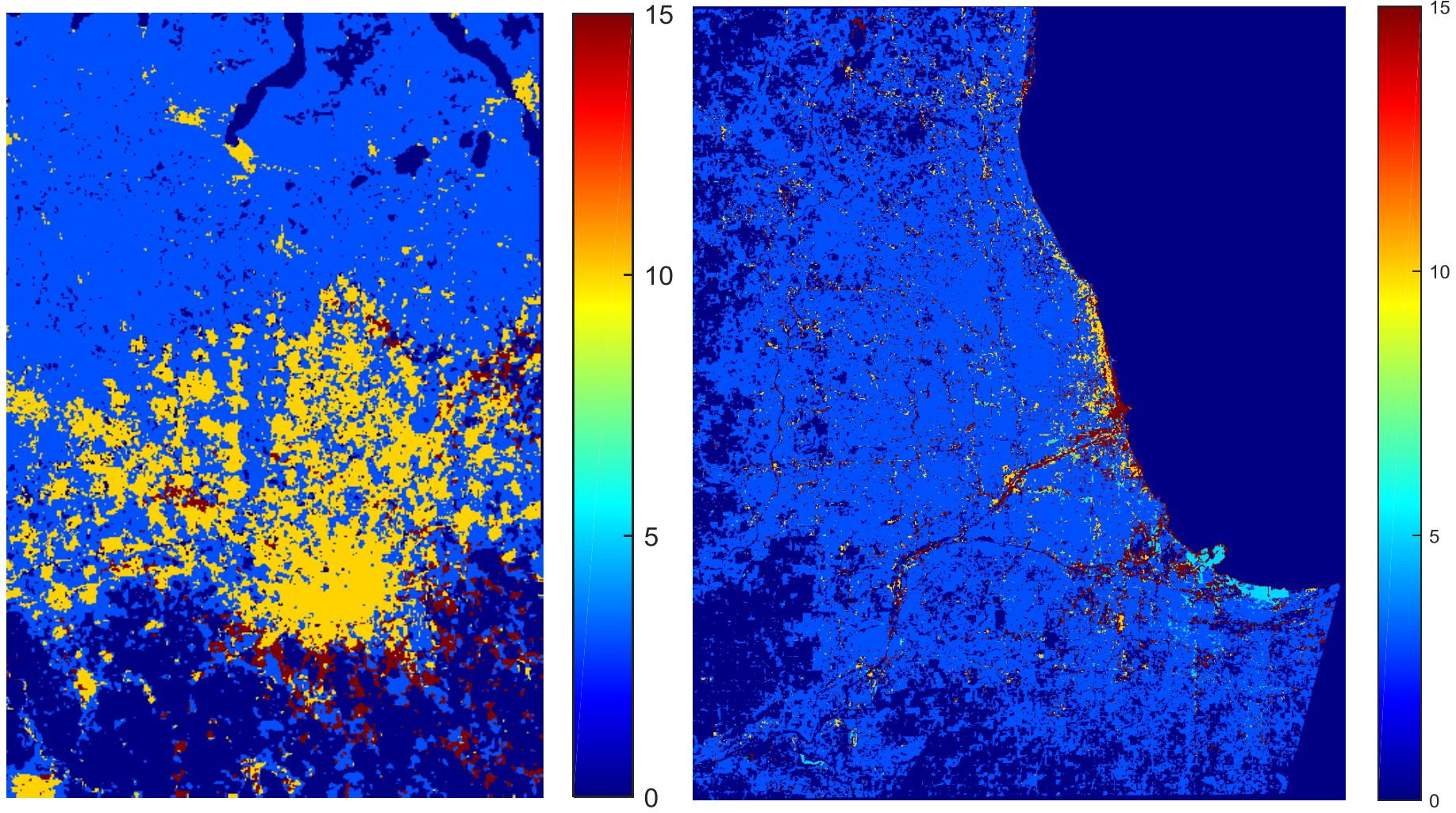


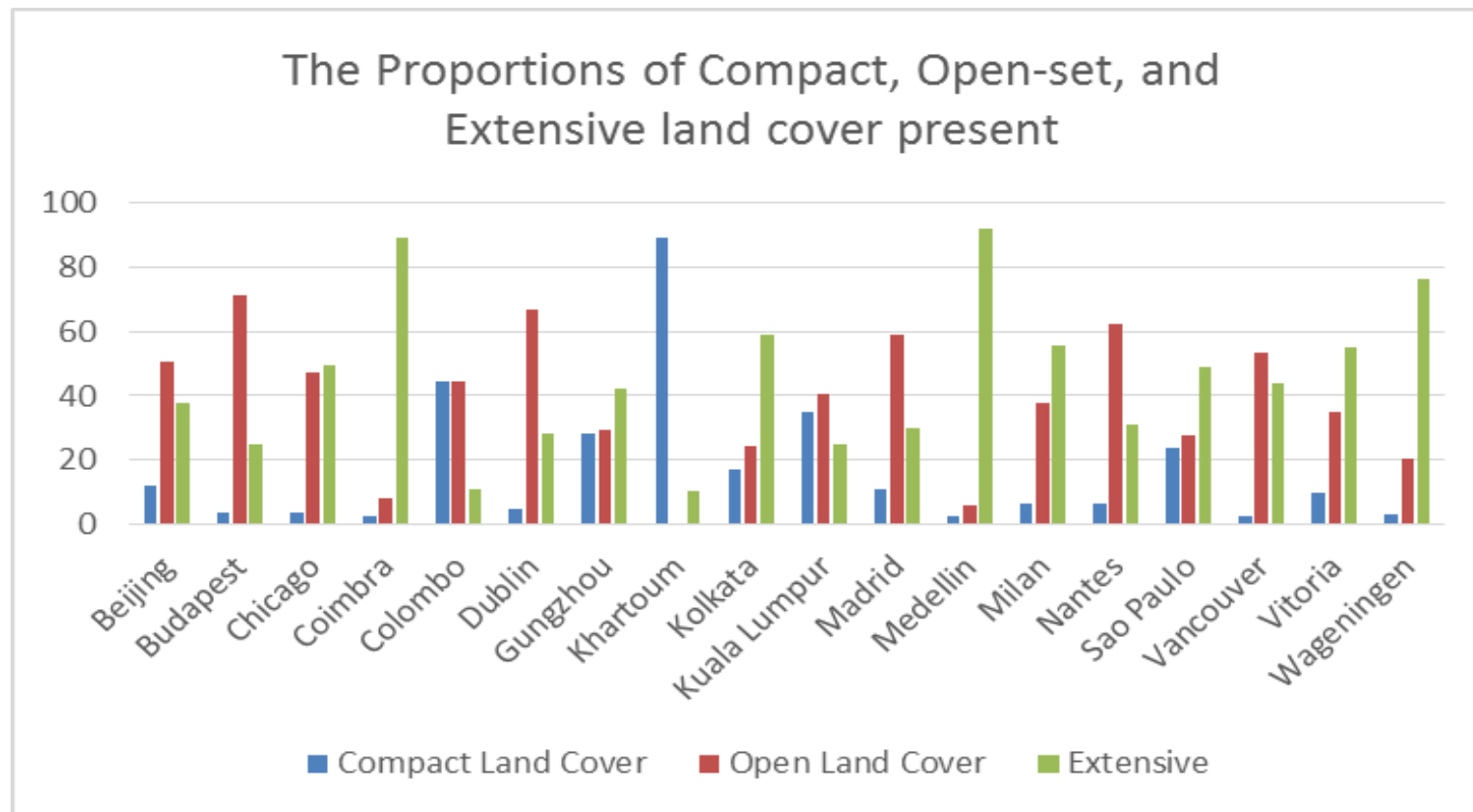
Achievements of level 0





Height min





LCZ COMPACT MID-RISE

2

DEFINITION

Form: Attached or closely spaced buildings 3–9 stories tall. Buildings separated by narrow streets and inner courtyards. Buildings uniform in height. Sky view from street level significantly reduced. Heavy construction materials (stone, concrete, brick, tile); thick roofs and walls. Land cover mostly paved or hard-packed. Few or no trees. Moderate space heating/cooling demand. Moderate to heavy traffic flow. **Function:** Residential (multi-unit housing; multistorey tenements); commercial (office buildings, hotels, retail shops); industrial (warehouses, factories). **Location:** Core (old city, old town; inner city, central business district); periphery (high-density sprawl). **Correspondence:** UCZ2 (Oke 2004); A1, A2, A4, Dc2 (Ellefsen 1990/91).

ILLUSTRATION

High angle



Low level



PROPERTIES

Sky view factor

0.3 – 0.6

Canyon aspect ratio

0.75 – 2

Mean building height

10 – 25 m

Terrain roughness class

6 – 7

Building surface fraction

40 – 70 %

Impervious surface fraction

30 – 50 %

Pervious surface fraction

< 20 %

Surface admittance

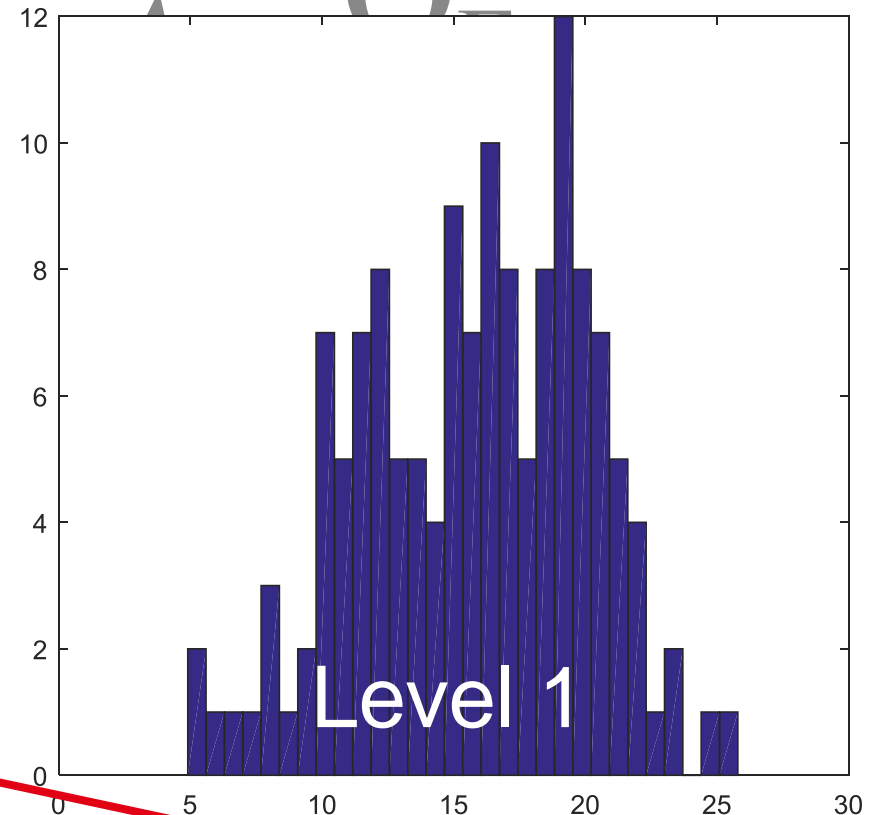
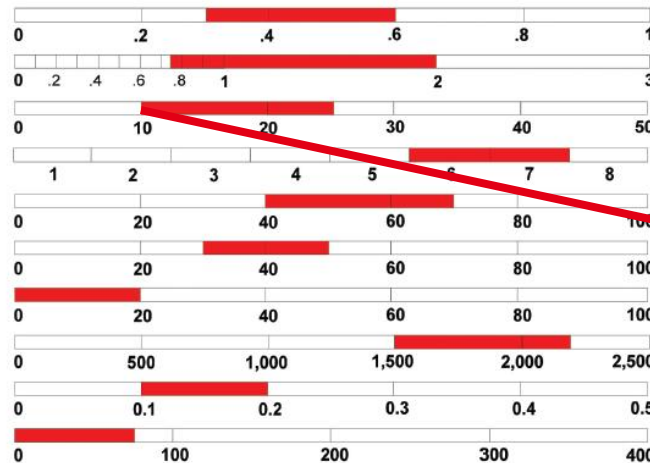
1,500 – 2,200 J m⁻² s^{-1/2} K⁻¹

Surface albedo

0.10 – 0.20

Anthropogenic heat flux

< 75 W m⁻²



Get involved

**Classify your city
Manuals at wudapt.org**

Attend workshop tomorrow
22nd July, at 4pm
Cassiopee room

World Urban Database

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[Events](#)

[Local Climate Zones](#)

[Papers](#)

[Want to get involved?](#)



The World Urban Database and Access Portal Tools (WUDAPT) is an initiative to collect data on the form and function of cities around the world.

The impact of cities on the climate at urban, regional and global scales is a topic of considerable debate. Much of the relevant research to date has been focused on mapping urban centers using demographic and administrative information, often supplemented by remote sensing. However, these data provide no information on the internal make-up of cities, which is important for understanding their impact on the environment as well as their vulnerability to change. The most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) notes the dearth of information on urban areas. The WUDAPT initiative is designed to fill this gap.



Create LCZ Training Areas

Follow the simple steps outlined here to create LCZ training areas for your city

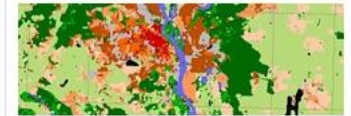
[Read More >](#)



Classify your City

Follow the step-by-step instructions to create an LCZ classification of your city

[Read More >](#)



View LCZ maps

Access LCZ maps for different cities around the world using Geopedia

[Read More >](#)