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Segmentation of SAR Imagery Containing Forest Clear Cuts

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Abstract: A Hierarchical Step-Wise Optimisation (HSWO) algorithm has been adapted to the problem of identifying and mapping forest clear cuts in synthetic aperture radar (SAR) C-band imagery. Preliminary results are presented. The mean grey level of a segment is the most useful segment discriminator, especially for recent clear cuts, but relative segment size and the ratio of perimeter length to surface area (P/A) appear to be useful secondary discriminators. A filtered image which is segmented appears to be the most reliable for locating clear cuts, whereas the unfiltered image, when segmented, yields better boundary information. A method for combining both segment partitions is presented. All clear cuts in the sample were identified. Surface areas concord with manually estimated values.

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