

Correcting EO-1 Hyperion Data for Atmospheric Attenuation

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Abstract: The process, which transforms the data from spectral radiance to spectral reflectance, is known as atmospheric correction, compensation, or removal. Hyperion images are the rich source of information contained in hundreds of narrow contiguous spectral bands. There are a number of atmospheric agents which contaminate the content of various bands of information. To get the complete advantage of Hyperion data it is required to apply atmospheric correction so that the influence of atmosphere on the Earth observation data can be removed. Primary type includes scene based and radiation transmission model based algorithms. Major scene based algorithms are IAR and ELM. MODTRAN is very popular and effective atmospheric transmission model for correcting multispectral and hyperspectral data. MODTRAN based FLAASH algorithms available in ENVI are very effective for Hyperion data atmospheric correction. In this paper IAR, ELM and FLAASH available in ENVI has been applied for atmosphere correction of Hyperion data and comparative analysis is carried out.

Key Words: IAR-Internal Average Reflectance, ELM-Empirical Line Method, MODTRAN-MODerate resolution atmospheric TRANsmission, FLAASH-Fast Line-of-sight Atmospheric Analysis of Spectral Hypercube.

1. Introduction

Hyperion sensor is a hyperspectral imager on board of Earth Observatio-1 (EO-1) satellite.

The process, which transforms the data from spectral radiance to spectral reflectance, is known as atmospheric correction, compensation, or removal.

1.1 Hyperspectral Data-Hyperion

The data of EO-1 are archived and distributed by the USGS Center for Earth Resources

Observation and Science (EROS) and placed in the public domain. There are 242 spectral bands ranging from 356 to 2577 nm. Out of which only 198 bands are calibrated and hence can be used for further processing. The spatial resolution of Hyperion is 30 meter. Each Hyperion scene is collected as a narrow strip, covering a ground area approximately 7.7 km in the across-track direction, and 42 km or 185 km in the along-track direction (depending on the original data acquisition request).

The product is distributed by USGS, and the level one product, which is only radiometrically corrected, is available (Pearlman, et al., 2003; USGS, 2004a).

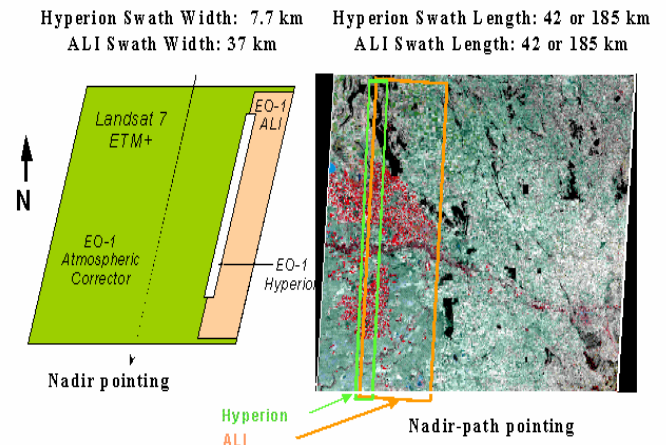


Fig.1 Hyperion's Swath Width and Length, (USGS, 2004b)

1.2 Concepts of Atmospheric Correction

Radiation entering a sensor is classified as in Fig. 2. Atmospheric correction is the processing to eliminate S_2 , S_3 and clouds and gaseous absorption which are contaminating the observed pixels.

1.3 Need of Atmospheric Correction for EO-1 Hyperion Images

EO-1 Hyperion hyperspectral images are the rich source of information contained in hundreds of narrow contiguous spectral bands. There are a number of atmospheric agents which contaminate the content of various bands of information. To get the complete advantage of Hyperion data it is required to apply atmospheric corrections so that some bands which contain useful information and contaminated by atmospheric agents that can be retrieved.

The atmospheric correction is often considered as a critical pre-processing step to achieve full spectral information from every pixel especially with hyperspectral data. In hyperspectral image analysis, some approaches have been implemented using spectral library or field spectra. If atmospheric correction is not applied, there is a marked difference between observed spectral radiance and spectral library or field spectra. These differences may negatively influence the accuracy to which the image analysis has been carried out based on an independent spectral library or field spectra (Perry E. Metal., 2000).

Chauhan, 2008, has studied several hyperspectral atmospheric correction approaches developed during the last two

decades, out of that some approaches are applied to correcting Hyperion data in this research work.

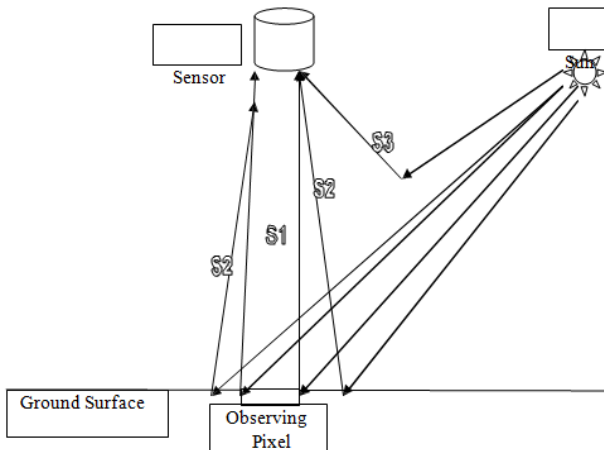


Fig.2: Radiation Entering a Sensor
Where, S1: Radiance to be observed,
S2: Radiance from atmospheric dispersion (Neighboring effect)
S3: Path Radiance

2 Atmospheric Correction Approaches

Atmospheric correction may be applied by collecting information from scene (image) or by modeling radiation transmission through atmosphere.

2.1 Scene Based Empirical Approaches

These approaches are based on the radiance values at present in the image (i.e. scene) therefore they are known as scene based empirical approaches. IAR, FFC and ELM approaches are commonly used by various researchers.

2.1.1 Internal Average Relative (IAR) Reflectance

The Internal Average Relative (IAR) Reflectance approach (Kruse, F.A., 1988) calculates the average spectrum of a scene. The spectrum of any pixel in the scene is then divided by the average spectrum to estimate the relative reflectance spectrum for the pixel. This approach does not need any field measurements of reflectance spectra of surface targets. This approach is mostly applicable for imaging data acquired over arid areas without vegetation.

2.1.2 Empirical Line Method (ELM)

The empirical line approach (Karpouzli E. and Malthus, T, 2003) calculates the surface reflectance based on the field measurement of reference pixels and regression analysis. This method assumes that the radiance and reflected values for each wavelength channel of the sensor are linearly related. Therefore the imaging spectrometer data are linearly regressed against the field-measured radiances spectra to derive the gain and offset curves. The

gain and offset curves are then applied to the whole image for the derivation of surface reflectance values for the entire scene.

2.2 Radiation Transport Models based approach

These scene based approaches discussed above are not generally producing very good results, as the linearity assumption, which presumes uniform atmospheric transmission, scattering and adjacency effects throughout the scene, may not be accurate. In radiation transport modeling efforts are made to understand and remove the effects of major atmospheric processes with radiations such as absorption and scattering. Very effective and latest atmospheric transmission model is Moderate resolution atmospheric TRANsmission (MODTRAN). MODTRAN is an algorithm and computer model, which is developed by the, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in collaboration with Spectral Sciences, Inc. (SSI). MODTRAN calculates atmospheric transmittance and radiance for frequencies from 0 to 50,000 cm^{-1} at moderate spectral resolution of 1 cm^{-1} . MODTRAN's internal minimum spectral resolution of 1 cm^{-1} which corresponds to a spectral resolution of about 0.625 nm at the uppermost wavelength (Lentilucci et al., 2008). The latest model is MODTRAN 4 which is the newly released radiative transfer model which provides accuracy required for the processing of hyperspectral imagery. Therefore FLAASH MODTRAN 4 based approach is discussed in further sections.

2.2.1 Fast Line-of-Sight Atmospheric Analysis of Spectral Hypercubes (FLAASH)

FLAASH is an efficient correction code based on MODTRAN 4 that has been developed collaboratively by Spectral Sciences, Inc. and the Air Force Research Laboratory; with assistance from the Spectral Information Technical Applications Center (SITAC) (Adler-Golden et al., 2008). FLAASH is available in the Research Systems Inc. ENVI software package. FLAASH operates in the 0.4–2.5 μm spectral range (Kruse F.A., 2008).

3 Implementation of Atmospheric Correction Algorithms

Hyperion data is corrected using various algorithms available in different software's.

3.1 Scene Based Empirical Approaches

It is very easy to apply scene based empirical approaches as they require either nil or very less input parameters.

3.1.1 IAR

This is particularly effective for reducing hyperspectral data to relative reflectance in an area where no ground measurements exist and little is known about the scene. It works best for arid areas with no vegetation. IAR Reflectance calibration is used to normalize image to scene average spectrum. An average spectrum is calculated from the entire scene and is used as the reference spectrum, which is then divided into the spectrum at each pixel of the image. IAR algorithm available with RS-ENVI is implemented on Hyperion data and results are analyzed.

3.1.2 ELM

Empirical Line calibration is used to force spectral data to match selected field reflectance spectra. A linear regression is used for each band to equate DN and reflectance. This is equivalent to removing the solar irradiance and the atmospheric path radiance. The following equations show how the empirical line gain and offset values are calculated.

$$\text{Reflectance}(\text{field spectrum}) = \text{gain} \times \text{radiance}(\text{input data}) + \text{offset}$$

ENVI's empirical line calibration requires at least one field, laboratory, or other reference spectrum; these can come from spectral profiles or plots, spectral libraries, ROIs, statistics or from ASCII files. Input spectra will automatically be resampled to match the selected data wavelengths. If more than one spectrum is used, then the regression for each band will be calculated by fitting the regression line through all of the spectra. If only one spectrum is used, then the regression line will be assumed to pass through the origin (zero reflectance equals zero DN). The calibration can also be performed on a dataset using existing factors. For atmospheric correction fields spectra collected during field study is used and relative image spectra has been found out by georeferencing the locations of field data collected.

3.2 Radiation Transport Models based approach

3.2.1 Atmospheric Correction using FLAASH in ENVI

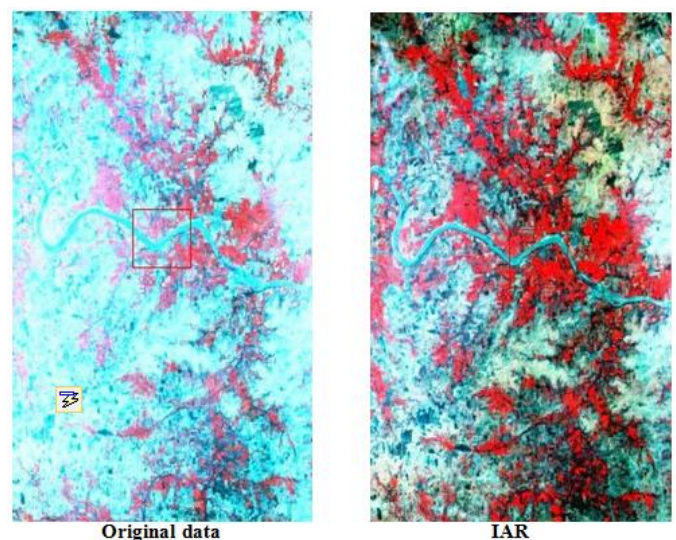
FLAASH software is a MODTRAN based package. With several refined atmospheric models and aerosol models, the user interface is simplified. The inputs required are Input radiance image, Atmospheric parameters, Sensor and Ground parameters and Scene parameters. Input radiance image is ENVI standard image and contains 196 calibrated bands only out of 224 bands with original Hyperion data as non-calibrated bands set to zero. Atmospheric parameters include Atmospheric model, Aerosol model and Initial visibility (km). Sensor and Ground parameter input includes sensor type, flying height and ground elevation which is the average elevation of the study area can be obtained from topographical map. Scene parameters include Scene Center Location, Flight Date

and Flight Time (GMT) which can be obtained from ".met" file. Then the atmospherically corrected image is generated and in addition to it cloud mask and column water image has been generated.

4. Results and Discussion

Hyperion scene including the Lonarc crater and some other parts of Mahekar and Buldana district of Maharashtra state is applied for atmospheric correction. The image used is EO1H1450462008007110KF. "EO1" stands for the satellite EO1 and "H" stands for Hyperion. The numbers, 145 and 046, are the WRS path and row respectively. 2008 is the year of image acquisition while 007 is the Julian day of acquisition. The first "1" following "007" indicates that the Hyperion sensor is on. The second "1" indicates that the ALI sensor is on. The following "0", indicates that the AC sensor is off. "K" is a code for the pointing mode, and "F" is the code for the scene length. There are three files received with the distributed scene, the metadata (.met), the image (.L1R), and the header file (.hdr). The image file is stored in BIL order.

Scene based and radiation transport model based approaches are applied for atmospheric correction and portion of the image where atmospheric attenuation is appreciable that is shown in the fig. 3 and comparative analysis is carried out.



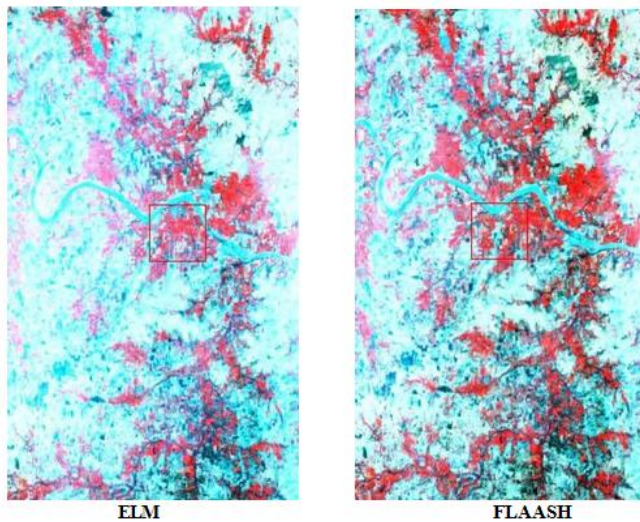


Fig.3: Atmospheric correction of Hyperion data using scene & model based approaches

Image in fig.3 shows that original data has much more atmospheric attenuation over this portion of the image. IAR approach averages out the reflectance values over the scene, therefore image appears as a smooth image. ELM result is not good maybe due to spectra used for calibration is spectral collected for various crops and it is suggested to use dark and bright regions for calibration. Result of FLAASH appears very good and it corrects data for atmospheric scattering, atmospheric absorption and adjacency effect.

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