Climate change in cities

Can remote sensing help to optimise mitigation strategies?

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Climate Change: General trend



Air temperature in Germany for the years 1881 – 2011 and predictions by climate simulations

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— yearly mean temperature
— smoothed mean
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Climate Change: Implications for cities

- The **awareness about climate change** and its possible consequences for urban areas is growing.
- Planning authorities want to **evaluate the climatic effects** of their planning activities:
 - maintain the livability of cities in the future, e.g.
 - create places with reduced temperatures
 - Facilitate corridors of fresh air
 - Adapted water management to cope with increasing rainfall





Urban Climate Analysis: Information needs

Information is required:

- on the possible **changes** of the climate
- on the **effect of changes in land use** (city structure, new buildings, parks, streets) on the local climate
- on possible mitigation strategies against negative climate impacts

Can remote sensing help to gather this information?





Urban Climate Analysis: Potential of remote sensing

- Area-wide
- Automated and objective mapping
- Regular updates



Isar and Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany (airborne hyperspectral data, false color composite)

Remote Sensing				
Satellite data	thermal Data			
	(Landsat, ASTER,)			
	optical Data			
	(Landsat, Ikonos,)			
	Radar Data			
	(e.g. TerraSAR-X)			
Airborne data	thermal Data			
	(single band, multispectra)			
	optical Data			
	(hyperspectral data, aerial images, stereo data)			
	Lidar Data (accurate height models)			



Urban Climate Analysis: Relevant urban properties

Urban spatial	Climate surface parameters						
characteristics	Temperature	Wind speed	Humidity and precipitation	Air quality			
Building structure	•	•	•	•			
H/W ratio of street canyons	•	•		•			
Sky view factor	•						
Land cover	•	• • •					
Albedo	•						
Emissivity	•						
Thermal inertia	•						
Impervious area	•	• • •					
Vegetation fraction	•	•	•				
Surface water	•			•			
Land use	•		•	•			
Traffic density	•		•	•			
Industrial areas	•		•	•			

Overview of urban spatial characteristics that influence the main for climate surface parameters.

H/W ratio = height to with ratio



Urban Climate Analysis: Potential of remote sensing

- Measuring climate parameters
- Mapping surface characteristics related to urban climate
- Supporting climate modelling



Isar and Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany (airborne hyperspectral data, false color composite)



- Surface temperature
- Albedo
- Radiation



















Landsat



200 m





Remote Sensing: Mapping surface characteristics

- Building structure
- Land use / Land cover
- Impervious surface
- Vegetation density

- ..





Remote Sensing: Mapping surface characteristics



Remote Sensing: Mapping surface characteristics

Vegetation density per building block in Munich

Data source: Airborne hyperspectral data (HyMap)







- Basic spatial information:
 - Buildings
 - Object heights
 - Surface materials
 - Vegetation properties
 - ...





Applied urban micro climate model: ENVI-met, University of Mainz (<u>www.envi-met.com</u>)





100 m

Airborne hyperspectral data (4 m)



Height model (airborne stereo data)

Applied urban micro climate model: ENVI-met, University of Mainz (www.envi-met.com)





Leaf Area Index (LAI)

Albedo

Surface materials

Applied urban micro climate model: ENVI-met, University of Mainz (<u>www.envi-met.com</u>)





Roof and facade properties										
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3D input data set

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Conclusions - Can remote sensing help to optimise mitigation strategies?

What **remote sensing cannot** provide:

- direct measurements of air temperature, precipitation, wind etc.

- measurement/simulation of the effect of the spatial changes on the local climate

What **remote sensing can** provide:

- Support of in situ measurements and simulations:
 - Time series of RS date since 1970 to learn from the past
 - Up-to-date basic spatial information for climate models



Conclusions - Can remote sensing help to optimise mitigation strategies?

Required information to which remote sensing can contribute:

- a) possible changes of the climate
 + surface temperature
 + albedo
- b) on the effect of changes in land use (city structure, new buildings, parks, streets) on the local climate
 - + mapping city structure (change)
 - + mapping land use/land cover change
- c) possible mitigation strategies for negative climate impacts
 - + identifying location where such strategies might be implemented





Thank you for your attention!

