





### A new method for geomorphological studies and land-cover classification also using Machine Learning techniques M. La Salandra - G. Miniello International Symposium on Grids & Clouds 2021 (ISGC 2021)

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# Outline

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# The importance of photogrammetry and classification studies for hydro-geomorphological high-risk areas

- Our collaboration comes from the need to develop an original and optimized photogrammetric workflow to perform territorial mapping and change detection analysis using aerial images and the one to create an original well-populated dataset to develop Machine Learning tasks for territorial feature classification
- Photogrammetric workflow which returns different output, also manages large amount of data exploiting FOSS (MicMac, GDAL and Orfeo ToolBox libraries) and computing cluster hosted by ReCaS-Bari data center, to deploy the most computationally expensive steps and optimize the processing time
- Large datasets of UAV images of two reaches of the Basento river (Basilicata, Italy) with a very high-resolution were used
- The high resolution aerial images are meant to be used to train different Convolutional Neural Networks performing territorial classification of hydro-geomorphological high-risk areas
- We just test a couple of different NNs on the EUROSAT satellite images dataset to explore models that could be used when our dataset will be ready
- The HTC cluster and the new GPU cluster belonging to **ReCas-Bari data center** were used
- This work is being developed in the context of **Close to the Earth** and **RPASInAir projects** 
  - Call: "Avviso MIUR n. 1735 del 13/07/2017 AVVISO PER LA PRESENTAZIONE DI PROGETTI DI RICERCA INDUSTRIALE E SVILUPPO SPERIMENTALE NELLE 12 AREE DI SPECIALIZZAZIONE INDIVIDUATE DAL PNR 2015-2020"

## The CLOSE and the RPAS in Air Projects

### **CLOSE TO THE EARTH**

**RPASInAir** 

### • The CLOSE project

- cofunded by European Union SIF, Ricerca e Innovazione 2014-2020
- aims to build a technological prototype opening the access to the missions at Very Low Earth Orbit (lower than 250 km)
- **GOAL**: design a low mass vehicle (LOW MASS= below 500 kg, including the propulsion system and payload) with an operating life of at least three years
- The design of the vehicle and its subsystems for the CLOSE mission is a major challenge for the proposing DTA group
- The final objective of the project is to obtain the elements that make it possible to carry out a mission at VLEO

### • The RPASInAir project

- cofunded by European Union SIF, Ricerca e Innovazione 2014-2020
- The UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) is increasingly applied in civilian applications in the field of natural disaster management, assets monitoring and patrolling (coastal patrol, power lines, pipelines...), migration flows and crops observation.
- GOAL: enable innovative service which aims at land monitoring through the employment of data collected by RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems )
- Need to manage new categories of critical events directly linked to the flight of these systems loss of datalink between air platform and pilot station, loss of ATM-pilot station connection, loss of vehicle cognitive capacities.
- Need to realize a Synthetic Environment (SE) to simulate the behavior of RPAS in order to project operations with new types of RPAS in complex scenarios with controlled risk.



## The RaCaS-Bari datacenter

- The ReCaS-Bari Datacenter has been built by the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" and the National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN) in the framework of the <u>ReCaS</u> project
- The aim of the data center is to satisfy the growing need for scientific computing coming from experimental and theoretical groups operating within the INFN Section and the Department of Physics of Bari (Italy)
- Several services available (HTC, HPC, IaaS, PaaS)
- In our study we deploy the FOSS photogrammetric workflow on HTC cluster (128 servers, 8000 CPU core, 4GB of RAM per core, and 4PB of disk space)
- The GPFS distributed file system is used for storage management.
- **HTCondor** batch system
  - Docker containers using Singularity



### METHOD

- Photogrammetry is a technique that allows to extrapolate three-dimensional information by overlapping two-dimensional images
- To perform this task, the Structure from Motion (SfM) algorithm follows 3 steps [1]:
  - detection of key features and tie-points of the images,
  - estimation of calibration parameters and camera positions and orientations,
  - dense-matching and point cloud generation
- To achieve high-resolution information on wide areas of the Earth surface a photogrammetric workflow based on MicMac, GDAL and Orfeo ToolBox open source libraries was developed using High-Throughput Computing environment (HTC)
- This approach was fundamental to <u>leverage the resources of the ReCaS-Bari computing cluster</u> and managing large image datasets to return different output. In our work:
  - **3 OUTPUT:** Orthophotomosaic, Dense point cloud and Digital Elevation Model (DEM)
  - Task to accomplish: elasticity of managing each step of the workflow in the most efficient way to get the output in a good range of time

### The processing chain of the FOSS photogrammetric workflow

• Photogrammetric workflow characterized by a sequence of 15 steps summarized here:



### Just few info on the main commands...

- STEP1 MicMac "Tapioca Graph":
  - Extracts the key features and find the candidate matching features of images creating a list of all overlapping image pairs (that potentially have common key features) by leveraging embedded GPS data recorded during the UAV flight missions;
- STEP2 MicMac "Tapioca File":
  - **Computes** the homologous features (tie-points) of the images and remove the outlier initial features matched. It uses the list of overlapping image pairs and the tie points extraction option based on one-third of the pixel width of the image;
- STEP3 MicMac "Tapas":
  - Performs the bundle adjustment operation to retrieve the 3D positions of key features and camera parameters so that internal orientation and external orientation parameters are generated
- STEP8 "otbcli\_Mosaic" Orfeo ToolBox:
  - Generates orthophotomosaic. In order to produce seamless mosaic, this operation blends all previous orthophotos on the maximum overlapping area through a feathering method (mean convolution filter that replaces each pixel value with the mean value of its neighbors);
- STEP10 MicMac "C3DC":
  - Generates dense point cloud identifing pixel-to-pixel matches within an image pairs, computes the 3D coordinate and, for each image generates a depth map (grey-scale image that contains information relating to the distance of the surfaces of scene objects from a viewpoint);
- STEP11 MicMac "PIMs2Mnt"
  - Generates Digital Elevation Model (DEM) that blends the individual depth maps.

## Test Results and Performance Evaluation

- **AREA OF INTEREST**: two reaches of the Basento river (Basilicata, southeastern Italy)
- 2 DATASETS: 1139 and 2190 images acquired through low altitude UAV flight missions (50 m above ground level of take-off location)
- HIGH-RESOLUTION AERIAL IMAGES: 1,09 cm/pixel
- MAIN CHALLENGING ISSUES:
  - Overcoming the computational load related to the determination of tie-points, orthophoto and DEM
  - Parallelization of the most demanding steps on independent WNs
  - Each job must perform the parallel calculation of tie-points on a small subset of the original image dataset and then combine
  - Similar approach must be developed for orthophoto and DEM

\*Parallel computing of tie points on indipendent worker node \*\*Parallel computing of orthophoto and DEM on indipendent worker node



# **Configuration 1: Time Perfomances**

- Different configurations of photogrammetric workflow and different number of images have been carried out to evaluate workflow best performances
- 1139 images took a wall time of  $\sim$  37 hours (previous version)



# **Configuration 1: Calibration Stability**

• An incorrect radiometric calibration of the final orthophotomosaic has been found (exposure compensation and multi-band blending of tiles), due to incorrect configuration and poor stability of the MicMac commands on large dataset





# **Configuration 2: Time Performances**

- 1139 images took a wall time of about 25 hours (current version)
- ~33% time reduction compared to the previous configuration



# **Configuration 2: Calibration Stability**

• The box on the right shows a perfect radiometric calibration, obtained by Orfeo Tool Box feathering-method.



# Workflow Implementation

- In the Configuration 2 reduction in processing time was due to:
  - different configuration of the photogrammetric workflow
  - 50 images per jobs
  - 23 worker nodes
- **Issues** related to:
  - cluster's queue that manages the execution of user's jobs
  - computing resources and performance of the worker nodes
  - several parallel jobs running on a single node greatly affecting the performance since the photogrammetric workflow is characterized by some multi-thread MicMac command

- In the same configuration a significant **reduction in processing time** was due to:
  - number of input images per job reduced from 50 to 3 images
  - number of worker nodes increased from 23 to 56

#### Table 1

Processing time of 1139 images with different nodes configuration.

		Processing time [min	n]
	workflo	ow_final	workflow_pssh
STEP	23 nodes	56 nodes	103 nodes
Tie points computation	755	451	235
Relative and absolute camera orientation	120	85	85
Orthophotomosaic	370	152	73
Point Cloud	75	60	38
DEM	155	151	151
Overall	1475	899	582

# Workflow Implementation

- Further improvement in workflow performances using a dedicated slot on each worker node of the cluster to run a single job via "pssh"
  - Higher deployment on different nodes
  - Parallel access to a higher number of nodes overcoming the batch system job management
  - Generation of a 103 node list associated with an id number to create a jobs execution scheme



**Table 1**Processing time of 1139 images with different nodes configuration.

		Processing time [min]	]
	workflow	_final	workflow_pssh
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# Results

- Optimising our workflow mainly implied a significant time reduction of the workflow's distributed steps.
- Comparing to the 56-nodes test (1139 images):
  - a time reduction of 50% was recorded in the overlapping image pairs computation,
  - ~ 59% in tie points computation,
  - $\sim 25\%$  in the orthophoto generation,
  - $\sim 67\%$  in the orthophotomosaic generation,
  - $\sim$  37% in the dense point cloud generation.
- This represents a very good result, especially compared to the processing time of the same dataset using a commercial SfM software (Pix4D) on a single workstation
  - In this case there was a significant reduction of the processing time of ~ 73%

#### Table 2

Processing time with different dataset and software.

		Processing time [min]	
	113	9 images	2190 images
STEP	workstation (Pix4D)	cluster (FOSS workflow)	cluster (FOSS workflow)
Tie points and camera calibration	240	320	705
Point Cloud	1260	38	114
DEM and Orthophotomosaic	637	224	480
Overall	2137	582	1299
	> 35 hrs	< 10 hrs	< 22 hrs

- In order to verify the computing capacity of the FOSS photogrammetric workflow, a dataset of 2190 was also processed
  - The total amount of processing time in this case is less 22 hrs

### Processing time of the workflow's distributed steps with different nodes configuration



# Output



#### 1139 images:

- a) Orthophotmosaic (1.3 cm/pixel);
- b) Digital Elevation Model (2.5 cm/pixel);
- c) Dense point cloud (~95.000.000 densified points)



### 2190 images:

- a) Orthophotmosaic (1.3 cm/pixel);
- b) Digital Elevation Model (2.5 cm/pixel);
- c) Dense point cloud (~400.000.000 densified points)

## **TERRITORIAL CLASSIFICATION USING NNs**

- Both the images taken by the drone and the final ortophotomosaic, once opportunely cut, can be used to create an original dataset of aerial images that can be divided in classes. This part of our work is currently ongoing to get the most suitable arrangement. (WORK IN PROGRESS)
- Comparing our images to those used in other datasets built for the purpose, a considerable resolution downgrade will be operated
- For change detection studies, the most important classes that must be included in our work must be «Terrain», «Water» and «Vegetation»
- Two different models have been tested for territorial classification on the **EuroSAT dataset** [2] (available at <a href="https://github.com/phelber/eurosat">https://github.com/phelber/eurosat</a>), which was explored as a first approach for the next step of our studies
- The EuroSAT dataset consists of a collection of 27,000 Sentinel-2 satellite images made of 13 spectral bands and 10 prelabeled classes : 'Annual Crop','Forest', 'Herbaceous Vegetation', 'Highway', 'Industrial', 'Pasture', 'Permanent Crop', 'Residential', 'River','Sea Lake'.

## GPU cluster @ ReCaS-Bari

- To develop ML tasks of this study a new cluster **@ReCaS-Bari data center** was exploited
- Currently, the cluster is composed of 5 machines. Each one counts:
  - 4 GPU NVIDIA V100 32GB
  - 96 CPUs
  - 753.5 GB RAM
  - 6 TB SSD Disk
- Thanks to the high number of cores, the GPUs allow the running of high-performance parallel algorithms reducing the overall execution time
- The configured cluster is able to run batch jobs or open interactive environments where users are able to write code and test it in real time
- In our study we used interactive mode implementing algorithms directly with Jupyter/Tensorflow

### **EUROSAT Class Distribution**

Class Number	Class Name	Population
1	Permanent Crop	2500
2	Residential	3000
3	Herbaceous Vegetation	3000
4	Pasture	2000
5	River	2500
6	Industrial	2500
7	Forest	3000
8	Annual Crop	3000
9	Highway	2500
10	Sea Labe	3000
TOTAL		27000



## **MODEL 1: MAX POOLING**



**MODEL 1:** A model with a sequence of pairs of max pooling and convolution layers ending with a dropout layer (30%) and a dense layer.

Epochs=150 Test accuracy: 0.90

	index	y_true	accurate_preds	label_count	class_acc	overall_acc
0	0	b'AnnualCrop'	1276	1500	0.850667	0.900148
1	1	b'Forest'	1426	1500	0.950667	0.900148
2	2	b'HerbaceousVegetation'	1311	1500	0.874000	0.900148
3	3	b'Highway'	1082	1250	0.865600	0.900148
4	4	b'Industrial'	1176	1250	0.940800	0.900148
5	5	b'Pasture'	912	1000	0.912000	0.900148
6	6	b'PermanentCrop'	999	1250	0.799200	0.900148
7	7	b'Residential'	1406	1500	0.937333	0.900148
8	8	b'River'	1124	1250	0.899200	0.900148
9	9	b'SeaLake'	1440	1500	0.960000	0.900148

# MODEL 2: VGG16 MODEL

- For this training we use a different approach adding convolutional base of the VGG16 Keras Model (pre-loaded weights) to exploit **data augmentation** technique and improving the results **[3]**
- In addition to **Model Checkpoint**, the **EarlyStopping** and **ReduceLROnPlateau** callback functions were added to limit the overfitting and reduce the learning rate if no improvements are seen after a fixed number of epochs

**Epochs**=150 early stopped after 30 epochs **Test accuracy:** 0.97

	index	y_true	accurate_preds	label_count	class_acc	overall_acc
0	0	b'AnnualCrop'	1405	1500	0.936667	0.969778
1	1	b'Forest'	1491	1500	0.994000	0.969778
2	2	b'HerbaceousVegetation'	1387	1500	0.924667	0.969778
3	3	b'Highway'	1206	1250	0.964800	0.969778
4	4	b'Industrial'	1232	1250	0.985600	0.969778
5	5	b'Pasture'	970	1000	0.970000	0.969778
6	6	b'PermanentCrop'	1203	1250	0.962400	0.969778
7	7	b'Residential'	1490	1500	0.993333	0.969778
8	8	b'River'	1225	1250	0.980000	0.969778
9	9	b'SeaLake'	1483	1500	0.988667	0.969778



### MODEL ACCURACY SUMMARY

	y_true	label_count	Mod1_class_acc	Mod1_overall_acc	Mod2_class_acc	Mod2_overall_acc
0	b'AnnualCrop'	1500	0.875333	0.840963	0.936667	0.969778
1	b'Forest'	1500	0.879333	0.840963	0.994000	0.969778
2	b'HerbaceousVegetation'	1500	0.760667	0.840963	0.924667	0.969778
3	b'Highway'	1250	0.718400	0.840963	0.964800	0.969778
4	b'Industrial'	1250	0.981600	0.840963	0.985600	0.969778
5	b'Pasture'	1000	0.836000	0.840963	0.970000	0.969778
6	b'PermanentCrop'	1250	0.826400	0.840963	0.962400	0.969778
7	b'Residential'	1500	0.688000	0.840963	0.993333	0.969778
8	b'River'	1250	0.943200	0.840963	0.980000	0.969778
9	b'SeaLake'	1500	0.916667	0.840963	0.988667	0.969778

### NNs RESULTS FOR EUROSAT DATA CLASSIFICATION



#### **BEST MODEL: VGG16 MODEL**

	index	y_true	accurate_preds	label_count	class_acc	overall_acc
0	0	b'AnnualCrop'	1405	1500	0.936667	0.969778
1	1	b'Forest'	1491	1500	0.994000	0.969778
2	2	b'HerbaceousVegetation'	1387	1500	0.924667	0.969778
3	3	b'Highway'	1206	1250	0.964800	0.969778
4	4	b'Industrial'	1232	1250	0.985600	0.969778
5	5	b'Pasture'	970	1000	0.970000	0.969778
6	6	b'PermanentCrop'	1203	1250	0.962400	0.969778
7	7	b'Residential'	1490	1500	0.993333	0.969778
8	8	b'River'	1225	1250	0.980000	0.969778
9	9	b'SeaLake'	1483	1500	0.988667	0.969778

### NNs RESULTS FOR EUROSAT DATA CLASSIFICATION

• Misclassification and percentage of wrong predictions for each class for the best model

Class Number	Class Name	Mostly misclassified for class	
1	Permanent Crop	Herbaceous Vegetation	
2	Residential	Industrial	
3	Herbaceous Vegetation	Permanent Crop	Wrong predictions for each class 7.5%
4	Pasture	Forest	100 113 6.3%
5	River	Highway	80 95
6	Industrial	Residential	<sup>60</sup> 3.8% 3.5% 3.5%
7	Forest	Pasture	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
8	Annual Crop	Permanent Crop	0 10 10 9 17
9	Highway	River	permanent Reside vese Rt Indt Annua Hite See
10	Sea Lake	Annual Crop/Forest	Heithac 26

# CONCLUSIONS

- An **original FOSS photogrammetric workflow** to process a large dataset of geotagged high-resolution images in a single run was presented.
- Processing time has been optimized distributing the computationally more expensive steps on cluster nodes
- A comparison of the processing time with different configurations both of the workflow commands and of the WNs was presented
- Results showed that increasing the number of the jobs (thus reducing their workload) and the number of WNs the processing time is drastically reduced
  - this ensured time parallel execution and faster file writing performed by each node on the File System (GPFS).
- 1139 and 2190 high-resolution images (1.09 cm/pixel) have been processed in a relative short time, generating respectively the orthophotomosaic (1.3 cm/pixel), the dense point cloud (~ 95.000.000 and ~ 400.000.000 densified points) and DEM (2.5 cm/pixel) of the detected areas.
- All these objects are useful to **perform detailed hydro-geomorphological analysis** of the investigated area
- Further improvements could be expected using more dedicated slot of all worker nodes of the cluster to perform jobs, distributing them and further increasing their parallel execution.
- More populated dataset will be used and a re- calibration on the workflow will be considered
- From the orthophotos an original dataset will be generated to perform territorial classification
- We applied NNs to the EUROSAT dataset (27,000 satellite imgs) to test 2 different models for land cover classification
  - Our best model was a VGG16 Keras Model (pre-loaded weights) in which we used data augmentation technique reaching an overall accuracy of 97% and also reducing test loss to less than ∼10%

[1] Ullman, 1979; Snavely et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2019

[2] *Patrick Helber, Benjamin Bischke, Andreas Dengel, Damian Borth* Eurosat: A novel dataset and deep learning benchmark for land use and land cover classification. IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing, 2019.

[3] K. Simonyan, A. Zisserman, Very Deep Convolutional Networks for Large-Scale Image Recognition, International Conference on Learning Representations, 2015

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- ReCaS (Azione I Interventi di rafforzamento strutturale, PONa3\_00052, Avviso 254/Ric)
- PRISMA (Asse II Sostegno all'innovazione, PON04a2\_A)

The Aerospace Technology District (DTA Scarl) is the leading proponent for the CLOSE to the Earth and the RPASInAir projects

The photogrammetry study activities described are part of the objectives of a PhD project in Geosciences "Application of UAV system and SfM techniques to assess the hydrogeological hazard of a fluvial system" at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Bari and of the "RPASinAir - Integrazione dei Sistemi Aeromobili a Pilotaggio Remoto nello spazio aereo non segregato per servizi", PON ricerca e innovazione 2014-2020.

## BACKUP

## **ReCaS-Bari** future configuration



## Wrong Predictions

Class Number	Class Name	Wrong Preds
1	Permanent Crop	47
2	Residential	10
3	Herbaceous Vegetation	113
4	Pasture	30
5	River	25
6	Industrial	18
7	Forest	9
8	Annual Crop	95
9	Highway	44
10	Sea Lake	17

## NN MODELS FOR CLASSIFICATION

#### Model: "sequential\_3"

Layer (type)	Output	Shape	Param #
conv2d_12 (Conv2D)	(None,	62, 62, 32)	896
<pre>max_pooling2d_12 (MaxPooling</pre>	(None,	31, 31, 32)	0
conv2d_13 (Conv2D)	(None,	29, 29, 64)	18496
<pre>max_pooling2d_13 (MaxPooling</pre>	(None,	14, 14, 64)	0
conv2d_14 (Conv2D)	(None,	12, 12, 128)	73856
<pre>max_pooling2d_14 (MaxPooling</pre>	(None,	6, 6, 128)	0
conv2d_15 (Conv2D)	(None,	4, 4, 256)	295168
<pre>max_pooling2d_15 (MaxPooling</pre>	(None,	2, 2, 256)	0
flatten_3 (Flatten)	(None,	1024)	0
dropout_5 (Dropout)	(None,	1024)	0
dense_6 (Dense)	(None,	512)	524800
dropout_6 (Dropout)	(None,	512)	0
dense_7 (Dense)	(None,	10)	5130
Total params: 918,346 Trainable params: 918,346 Non-trainable params: 0			

#### Model: "vgg16"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
input_1 (InputLayer)	[(None, 64, 64, 3)]	0
block1_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 64, 64, 64)	1792
block1_conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 64, 64, 64)	36928
<pre>block1_pool (MaxPooling2D)</pre>	(None, 32, 32, 64)	0
block2_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 32, 32, 128)	73856
block2_conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 32, 32, 128)	147584
block2_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 16, 16, 128)	0
block3_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 16, 16, 256)	295168
block3_conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 16, 16, 256)	590080
block3_conv3 (Conv2D)	(None, 16, 16, 256)	590080
block3_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 8, 8, 256)	0
block4_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 8, 8, 512)	1180160
block4_conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 8, 8, 512)	2359808
block4_conv3 (Conv2D)	(None, 8, 8, 512)	2359808
block4_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 4, 4, 512)	0
block5_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 4, 4, 512)	2359808
block5_conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 4, 4, 512)	2359808
block5_conv3 (Conv2D)	(None, 4, 4, 512)	2359808
block5_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 2, 2, 512)	0

Non-trainable params: 0

### A SAMPLE OF IMAGE (64×64)FOR EACH CLASS

#### PermanentCrop



Industrial



#### Residential



Forest



#### HerbaceousVegetation



AnnualCrop



Pasture



Highway



River



SeaLake

