# NOTES from eCognition Workshop

Anatomy of the Main Menu Bar

Buttons	Function
File View Image Objects	Buttons for creating/opening projects and workspaces. N.B. in the eCog world, projects are nested within workspaces
Analysis Library	Selection of analysis window. Stage #4, for example, loads up a set of tiled windows for "Process Properties", "Process Tree", "Class Hiearchy", etc. 1 = Load and manage data, 2 = configure analysis, 3 = Review Results, 4 = Develop Rulesets View settings
	Controls the display of (1) the original raw imagery (there's another button you can use to toggle through individual bands), (2) classified objects, (3) selected objects (if a ML-based classification procedure is to be used)
🛃 💽 💽	Control the display of object outlines; T = sets transparency on/off; P = turns off/on polygons
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n (* 1997) (	Control the blending/mixing of raster bands (button on left), or presentation of vector data (e.g., polygon colour, =funky spaceship looking icon)
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🛍 💕 📴 66° 🛠 📐	These allow you to open closed processing pane windows, e.g., the script with a gear symbol refers to the Rule set window.

#### **Key Resources:**

- The User's guide acts as an operating manual; the reference book as an encyclopedia.
- The eCognition Community is a good reference as well; users can access free of charge.
- It's an integrated environment for discussions, uploads, downloads, etc.
- You can also provide product feedback, and there's social networking facilities.
- Not a support portal, though.
- If you need help, please identify yourself and provide a detailed description of the problem, along with screenshots.
- <u>http://letters-sal.blogspot.de</u> (Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne)
- Need maintenance? <u>maintenance@ecognition.com</u>, or Support@eCognition.com
- You can check out more examples on the eCognition Community link:

http://www.ecognition.com/community



## OCT.17, 2017

- Instructors: Keith Peterson (Product Manager; originally from Vermont, USA) and Matthias Staengel; LULC – land use land cover = Matthias Staengel (Masters in Applied Geoinformatics): <u>keith\_peterson@trimble.com</u>, matthias\_staengel@trimble.com
- Fundamentals training complete image analysis workflow; introduction to tools and features.
- Analysis strategies training- more production-oriented training.
- Inpho Trimble program for pre-processing of imagery.
- eCog Developer = object-oriented image analysis; constructs rule sets; executes locally.
- eCog Architect = provides an easy-to-use front end for non-eCog users to interact with.
- eCog Server = supports batch processing.
- eCog can combine data from multiple sources, e.g., vector data, DEM point cloud, rasters to produce superior results.
- Key step is the Rule Set Development.
- eCognition Server allows for batch processing, dynamic load balancing, service-oriented architecture, highly scalable. Can do parallel processing, but need two licenses (one per processor).
- Application areas are typically forest classification, urban, and ag, but also offshore (e.g., sea floor mapping). Defense and Security (e.g., fire detection) is another big one.
- Paper: "German engineering: Imagery tools automate vegetation mapping in the Rhineland".

- Paper: "A versatile, production-oriented approach to high-resolution tree-canopy mapping in urban and suburban landscapes..."
- Agro-forestry: Tree counting in palm oil plantations in SE Asia
- Application: Development of 2010 national land cover database for the Nepal.
- In Austria: achieved 95% accuracy for automatic vegetation and building extraction with high-resolution imagery.
- Paper: "Automatic three-dimensional features extraction: the case study of L'Aquila for collapse identification after April 6, 2009 earthquake" (recognition success: 93%, compared to pixel-based approaches of 64%).
- V9 was released around 2014.
- There's some more advanced data support (e.g., MrSID, LAZ files) in v 9.2.
- Big emphasis on machine learning: use of neural networks, etc.
- Google TensorFlow library
- Point cloud classification rasterizing point clouds, assigning classes to point clouds, export, etc.
- Point Cloud Input (\*.LAS) use case for generating DTMs. The point cloud gets rasterized (e.g., with maximum return), and then is subject to classification: ground, buildings, trees, power poles (?)
- Use case: change detection (I)
- What is a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) "deep learning"? Filters are applied at teach traning image at different resolutions and output of each convolved image is used as the input to the next layer to identify features. Can lead to some very low error rates compared to template matching (6.8% vs. 22.2%).
- License handling based on files is replaced with Trusted Storage. You borrow and activate from the FlexNet cloud (?)
- Big development area has been to combine vector and raster data formats.
- OBIA = Object-based Image Analysis: colour, tone, texture, etc. A pixel is the information carrier.Pixels do not contain enough information to describe what they see, e.g., water in a river, or a lake? O'Niel-Dunne 2009 objects more meaningful when shape and context are involved.
- For instance, buildings that border on shadow objects can be inferred to have height that can be used to distinguish a building roof from a paved road surface, for instance.
- Image analysis workflow: based on Rule sets. Contains all the processes or algorithms you
  need to extract and export objects of interest. Segmentation, classification steps, reshaping
  and refinement are all sequences to finish your classification.
- CNL = Cognition Network Language the language for translating human recognition process.

- **Rule sets** can be stored in **\*.dcp** file format, and can have parent-child nested relationships.
- Data Handling: can combine data from various sensors and platforms within eCognition Projects. Projects saved as \*.dpr files.
- A workspace acts as a container for projects, and are stored as \*.dpj files. You need this for Server.

#### Exercise #1

- 4-band Imagery (RGB & NIR); DSM, DTM, shapefile, FileGDB.
- Prior to working with eCog data, it is important that they share the same coordinate system and overlay correctly. You can't project/re-project data in eCog. Atmospheric correction? Mosaicing? Geo-rectification? The viewing tools are important for inspecting your layers, and for making sure everything is logically named. If you haven't set the names properly the processing downstream may not recognize your layers.

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- The "View Settings" buttons allow you to launch a few tasks (number 1-4).
- Start by creating a workspace:



• Then create a new project and load the data (as separate .tif files):



• Then load the shapefile "manholes.shp" (make sure that the show file type is "all'):

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- Be sure to save the project! It's not done automatically.
- Projects created with a Workspace are stored in the "dpr" sub-folder as a \*.dpr file (created once the project is saved).
- Viewing tools:



• You change the way the bands are mixed (via the Edit Image Layer Mixing button):

• You can see that it's good to use Layer name aliases to make them human interpretible:

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• You can open the pan window to keep track of where you are in the bigger landscape:



Splitting horizontally or vertically (via Window on main menu):



- Five processing steps:
  - (1) pre-processing,
  - (2) Segmentation creates the object primitives

(3) Classification – define classes of interest, create a class hierarchy, object classification (iterative process from 2->4; done many times)

(4) Refinement – Can reshape objects, or establish objects of interest (iterative)

(5) Export – Configure object features for export; export format results.

- The Process Tree is where you actually create and manage your processes to build a Rule set.
- The **Class Hierarchy** window allows you to create, define and manage classes
- Image Object Information displays image object feature (attribute) information
- Process Properties allows yo uto view/edit process parameters
- Feature View
- A Process is an elementary rule set procedure. Managed and executed in the Process Window tree. Processes are configured in the "Edit Process" dialog window. Processes can be arranged to form a hierarchical structure, and grouped into functional modules. You can execute all the processes, or just highlight particular sub-processes to run (important with large data sets?)
- Domain = region of interest to be processed (e.g., entire image)
- Types of features:
  - 1. Vector Features allows addressing attributes of vector objects (e.g., perimiter of a polygon vector object)
  - 2. Object Features attributes of image objects (e.g., size on an image object)
  - 3. Global Features
- Segmentation kicks off the initial object identification procedure. Different approaches: (1) top-down (very fast), or (2) Bottom-up (very powerful but slower).
- An object is a group of pixels and foundation of all image analyses. Objects carry features.
- Object primitives are the result of initial segmentation usually fragments of objects of actual interest. But they carry useful information. <u>Good object primitives are as large as</u> <u>possible and small enough to be used as building blocks</u>. The image fragments can always be aggregated into bigger objects as needed.
- Projects can contain multiple image Object levels with different sized objects (scale dependent).

- Segmentation algorithms: (1) Chessboard, (2) Quadtree-based, (3) Multi resoluttion, (4) Multi-threshold, (5) Split
- But Segmentation also means the alteration of image objects, e.g., pixel-based object resizing, object merging, object removal, image object fusion, object growing
- **Chessboard Segmentation**: top-down approach, splits pixel or image object domain into smaller square image objects; smallest possible size is 1x1 pixel. Can be used to convert GIS vector layers to image objects (from shapefile); all cells of the same size. You can use thematic layers as "clips" to specify your AOI.
- Quadree-based Segmentation top-down approach, splits pixel into a quadtree grid formed by square image objects; smallest possible size of an object is 1x1 pixel, maximum size is 256 x 256 pixels. Scale defines the maximum color difference within each selected image layer inside square image objects. Increasing scale parameter allows for more heterogeneity within the objects. It's a quick way to create object primitives. For instance – need to segregate out a large body of water? This is a quick way to segment it and set it aside.
- Multi-resolution Segmentation bottom-up approach; splits pixel or image object domain based on a pairwise region merging technique; starts with single pixel-sized objects and groups like neighbours together. Main parameter is the "scale" parameter. It's the upper threshold of homogeneity. The seed looks for its best fitting neighbour for a potential merger. What scale parameter is best? No answer, depends on your sensor type, what you're trying to do, your expert opinion, etc. Look at the ESP Tool (Estimation of Scale Parameter) tool to help you find a good fitting scale parameter. Also: "Shape" and "compactness" are important parameters, too. Values are set between [0.1,0.9]. More compact objects are not "lengthy", i.e., linear. Layer weights can be adjusted, too, which can be quite helpful. For instance, a particular band may have more information for the object you're after.
- **Contrast-split Segmentation** Top down approach; splits an image or image object into dark vs. bright regions. This can be a very cool way to generate the segmentation. It's incredibly powerful in many situations and is one of our favourite "go to" algorithms.
- **Multithreshold Segmentation** bottom up approach, splits the domain into objects based on user-defined pixel threshold values. (Is this what Matt used for PIPL habitat classification?) Limited to a single image layer.

## Exercise #2 – Feature Extraction

- Quickbird 5-band imagery (4 multi-spectral bands of 2.4m and one panchromatic)
- Hit #4 Develop Rulesets to display the multi-panels.
- From there, within the Process Tree window, you need to manually create a few layers in the hierarchy tree to get things started. In our case, "Maricopa", then "Segmentation" as a child process.



- Varying the scale, shape, and compactness parameters for multi-resolution segmentation:
- You can inspect the processing time on the left of the process.



- Querying the properties of your displayed features can be accessed from "Image Object Information" window pane right click anywhere and select what properties you want to see:
- Pixel counts, for instance, will be in the highest resolution layer you've provided as input.
- Useful way to investigate the pixel values you want to use in your classification

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- Feature View tool used to explore various feature values and ranges across all image objects
- If you check the box at the bottom of the Feature View Pane, you'll be able to specify ranges of values, and you can click on different bands, e.g., NIR.



- Before starting the image classification process it is helpful to start to define a class hierarchy, e.g., veg vs. none veg, for veg: forest, non forest
- Prereqs: need to have objects (from segmentation)
- Need a class description, a target class contained within the class hierarchy
- Need a unique feature, or combination of features
- Use the Class Hierarchy window classes can be created individually, named, have a defined color, duplicated and deleted, and can contain conditions (i.e., the class description).
- Class inheritance & semantic relationships. The class hierarchy has two tabs: (1) groups

   classes grouped according to logical relationships, (2) inheritance classes can be
   grouped according to their physical relationship.
- Condition from the parent class are inherited by the child class.
- "Relative border to..." --> example of a semantic class relationship. Without grouping "dense" and "sparse veg" in a group eCog won't be able to take advantage of context. But for new users it's fine to keep separate classes.
- Assign objects that fulfill certain criteria to a target class e.g., all dark objects are "water". Combine multiple criteria with "and/or" operators. You can also use "soft" borders between conditions.
- Knowledge-based classification integrate your expert knowledge of an area: (1) elevated objects with shadows; (2) islands are land surrounded by water; (3) buildings of a certain density are urban areas; (4) streets over water are bridges

- Fundamental classification algorithms: (1) "Assign Class", and (2) "Classification" you define the thresholds.
- The following screen shot shows NIR between 0 and 200 as a good way to capture water:



• Creating conditions

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• Execute your process and then hit the button "View Classification" to inspect the new classification results:



- Image Object Reshaping we'll use an algorithm called "grow region" to grow the water into the larger boundaries.
- Then in a final step we'll remove small, trivial objects. This will eliminate potential 'salt and pepper' effects.
- Excellent for applying a minimal mapping unit.
- In this example we'll apply a merge to water:

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• You can use the "grow region" to have one class blob into another class (e.g., water into "missed water"):

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- You can export your image objects using the "export vector layer" process:
- You can specify the fields that should appear in the attribute table by clicking on the "Attributes" control and specifying which of the fields you want to appear in the export shapefile:
- How do get at the class name of the features?

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 But you should first merge the features into their classes. Use the process Merge Region.

## OCT.18, 2017 (Day #2)

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- In the Ex #2b, you'll be working with an ndsm, which is a normalized digital surface model (=dsm – dtm). DTM = bare earth. DSM = surface model, including above ground structures/features.
- Note how you can toggle through your data layers using the "next layer", 'previous layer" buttons.



- Experimenting with blending of bands to enhance feature exploration:
- In this case, NIR has been assigned to the green band.

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- Notice the way the vegetation really stands out:
- But also, you can start to distinguish different species (conifers vs. non-conifers)



- You can do some pre-processing within eCog, e.g., NDVI calculation.
- There is an algorithm to do raster calculation ("layer arithmetics")
- Multi-resolution segmentation = one of the strongest for natural environments.
- E.g.,

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 This did a good job of distinguishing forest from shadow; the building is pretty well identified.



- For this project, we're going to employ a hierarchical classification method.
- Start by separating forest v non-forest. What's unique about forest? They're elevated and "green" (i.e., high NDVI).
- Hierarchy: Elev vs. Non-Elev.
- Elev: Vegetated vs. Non-Vegetated.
- <u>The ndsm will provide the elevation information of above-ground features</u>. No terrain! Just above ground stuff like trees and buildings. --> inspection of features in "Feature view" suggest a possible cutoff for height is 1m. Elevated objects will have ndsm > 1. To execute we need a class, a feature, a threshold, and an algorithm.



 N.B. Before we can classify (assign class) we need to first create the class in the "Class Hierarchy window":



• Notice how we choose the class that will be assigned ("Elevated") on the right side.

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- Here a filter on "Elevated" is being set because "veg" is nested within elevated. So, under the Process Properties, under "Class Filter", choose "Elevated":
- But under "Algorithm Parameters" you want to specify your new class via "use class" = <u>Forest</u>. This is a short cut to creating new classes in your Class Hierarchy (it will be created for you).

📲 Exercise28 - Developer - [FindForest - New Level of 1: Mean ndvi]		- a ×
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main	Features Classification Class Evaluation	Groups Inheritance . 0.203799 0.04
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- Keith then proceeded with a graduated classification of Forest: (1) <5m, (2) 5-10m, (3) 10-15m, (4) 15-20m, (5) > 20m.
- As a note: you can filter out the classes for display (probably not good practice).
- He applied the process "Copy Image object level"



- If you screw up your classification at this point, you can use the "X" button to delete the new Level2 and regenerate it from Level 1.
- This is Keith's logic to copy Level1 to a new level = as eCog has no undo button, this is a good safeguard when you're working your way through an analysis. If you are unhappy, you can always delete the new Level 2 and recopy it to repair your mangled classification procedure.
- Notice that we will now set the criteria < 10m as there are no longer features <5m in the dataset!

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→ Exercise28 - Developer - [FindForest.v2.dpr - Level 2 of 2: Classification]				- a ×
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 You can retrieve "Feature View" statistics on the classified objects by selecting "Scene Features", Class Related, Area of Classified Objects.



Exercise #3

- Supervised classification just need to select samples for the algorithm, which classifies for you.
- We'll look at an area north of Denver to identify agricultural areas.
- We'll combine multiple segmentations.
- We'll apply supervised classification, then do some manual editing, followed by refinement and export.
- Data from ESA Sentinel-2 (B,G,R,NIR). Sentinel-2 doesn't have thermal bands, but it has three different bands in the red-edge which is very good for vegetation classification.
- Multiple band combination via ESRI = Composite Bands (inside the Raster tools).

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	Single band raster datasets	
	Composite Bands	
	Multiband raster dataset	
	RGB Composite	
	Usage	~

- Use the chessboard algorithm with a very large pixel size (1,000,000) and an AOI to segment your study area into inside and outside the AOI.
- Access the "Num of Overlap" as a Feature property "Create new 'Number of overlapping thematic objects". This will set a binary value of 1 or 0 depending upon whether a pixel is inside or outside the AOI (or other thematic boundary layer).
- Set an "Assign Class" algorithm, choosing a Condition of "Num. of overlap -= 0", defining it as "Background". Apparently its easier to work with this way as you can focus your subsequent ruleset on portions of the image NOT background.



- Then, when you do your segmentation on the area of interest, you can set your Class Filter to be "unclassified" – this will focus the Multiresolution segmentation only on the portions of the image NOT in the "Background", i.e., inside your area of interest~
- Set to Level Usage to "Use Current".
- Scale parameter set to 60.

Edit Process				?	×
Name		Algı Ap	orithm Description ply an optimization procedure wh	ch locally minimizes the average heterogeneity of	
✓ Automatic unclassified at New Level: (	60 [shape:0.1 compct.:0.5]	ima Algi	age objects for a given resolution orithm pa <u>r</u> ameters		
Algorithm		Pa	arameter	Value	
multiresolution segmentation	1	A 1	Level Settings Level Usage	Use current	
Domain			Compatibility mode Segmentation Settings	None	
image object level	,	<u> </u>	Image Layer weights	1, 1, 1, 1	
Parameter	Value		Thematic Layer usage     Scale parameter	Yes 60	
Level Class filter	New Level		▲ Composition of homogen	eity criterion	
Condition	unclassilied		Shape	0.1	
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Region	From Parent				
Max. number of objects	all				
Loops & Cycles					
Loop while something ch	anges only				
Number of cycles 1	,				
			<u>E</u> xecute	<u>O</u> k <u>C</u> ancel <u>H</u> e	р

#### Accessing the sampling tools;





- Gathering sample: click on the class in your hierarchy (e.g., "agriculture"), activate the "Select Samples", and double click on features in the image. Every time you do this you will add objects to the "selection" bin.
- Just as a note: if you click on the mouse button, you can drag your surface while still in edit mode.



- When you've finished selecting, add a "Classification" chapter to your tree, and create a new classifier, in this case choose a support vector machine, and choose to use only your selection. This step will create the model (e.g., "Model\_01").
- Execute, then create a second classifier process, but this time apply a filter to the "unclassified" objects in the image. This will apply the model predictions. For "operation" it will be "Apply".

📲 Exercise3 - Developer - [52_stack_20170718_23348_02-v3.dpr - New Level of 1: Samples]		- a ×
🐨 File View Image Objects Analysis Library Classification Process Tools Export Window Help		×
		6 2 N
	a vi burr burrin	- • •
Workspace • • • ×		* # X
Exercise3 Name	Auto nam unclassified at New	rLevel 60 [s 💠 🔩 🕨 🏌 🐇
e Solate AUI	w Level' Setting	Value
- 0.610 with Num. of overlap: AOI = 0 at N	lew Level: Backgi Algorithm	multiresolution segmentation A
Segmentation	⊿ Domain	increase ability of the set
E 01:30.016 unclassified at New Level: 60 (s	hape:0.1 compct	New Level
	Class filter	unclassified
	Condition	
	Map	From Parent
	Region	From Parent
	Algorithm parameters	a1
	▲ Level Settings	
	Level Usage	Use current
	Compatibility mode	None
	✓ Segmentation Settings	
	<ul> <li>Image Layer weights</li> <li>Thematic Layer usage</li> </ul>	Yes
<	> Scale parameter	60 ~
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Edit Process				? ×
Name			Algorithm Description	
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do			Algorithm pa <u>r</u> ameters	
Algorithm			Parameter	Value
classifier		~	Operation	Train
			Configuration	
Domain			Use samples only	Yes
image object level			▲ Feature Space	
			Source	object based
Parameter	Value		Features	[ Mean blue, Mean green, Mean nir, Mean r
Level	New Level		Normalize	No
Class filter	none		▲ Classifier	
Condition			Туре	SVM
Мар	From Parent		Kernel type	linear
Region	From Parent		С	2
Max. number of objects	all			
Loops & Cycles				
Loop while something ch	anges only			
Number of cycles 1		~		
			<u>E</u> xect	ute <u>O</u> k <u>C</u> ancel <u>H</u> elp

dit Process			?
Name		Algorithm Description	
. ✓ A <u>u</u> tomatic		Train, apply and query a supe SVM, Decision Tree, Random	ervised classification using specified methods (Bayes, KNN n Trees)
at New Level: classifier: tra	in s∨m using blue, green, nir, red, Briç	Algorithm pa <u>r</u> ameters	
Algorithm		Parameter	Value
classifier	~	Operation	Apply
		Configuration	Model_01
Domain		▲ Feature Space	
		Source	object based
iniage objectiever	~		
Parameter	Value		
Level	New Level		
Class filter	unclassified		
Condition			
Мар	From Parent		
Region	From Parent		
Max. number of objects	all		
Loops & Cycles			
Loop while something ch	nanges only		
Number of cycles 1	~		
		-	

- It is possible to manually edit the surface,
- Under View, Toolbars, choose the "Manual Editing" toolbar.
- Look at the toolbar you'll see it's set on a particular class, e.g., "grassland", so basically and objects you select on the screen can be assigned to the class grassland.



 As we saw before, a good final step will be to Copy your level to a new level (Level 2), and then add some processes for merging the objects prior to export.



- As we saw before, a good final step will be to Copy your level to a new level (Level 2), and then add some processes for merging the objects prior to export.
- It's possible to apply training locations from other images using a model training approach involving the creation and importation of "Sample Statistics".
- This involves a .csv export of the characteristics of your sample objects, which you can then bring into a training and application in other landscapes / images.

## OCT.19/17

- Template matching to identify particular objects (this is new data provided by the instructors last minute).
- New work by eCog on CNN (neural networks) is very promising and generates much lower error rates than with template matching (e.g., 6.8% vs. 22%).
- To load two layers, not in the same space, you can load mulitple maps within single projects.
- Templates for our trees will be created from two different locations.

Modify Project	? ×
Project Image Layers Thematic Layers Metadata Maps	
Project Name DemoA	
Map main ~	Su <u>b</u> set Selection
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	Pixel size (unit) 0.0002645833333
Imag         File Location           Layer 1         C:\data\Conferences\2017\eCognition_(17-19Oct2017)\WorkshopData\Fundament           Layer 2         C:\data\Conferences\2017\eCognition_(17-19Oct2017)\WorkshopData\Fundament           Layer 3         C:\data\Conferences\2017\eCognition_(17-19Oct2017)\WorkshopData\Fundament	<ul> <li>▲ Insert</li> <li>▼ Remove</li> <li>Edit</li> <li>No Data</li> <li>✓ Enforce fitting</li> </ul>
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Thematic Layer Alias Fi At W H	<ul> <li>▲ Insert</li> <li>▼ Remove</li> <li>▲ Edit</li> </ul>
Metadata Name Fi D	<ul> <li>▲ Insert</li> <li>▼ Remove</li> <li>▲ Edit</li> <li>▲ Preview</li> </ul>
<u>k</u>	Cancel

Notice how you can toggle between maps in the main menu:



Right click anywhere on the menu bar and launch "Template Editor"



• Good for when objects are of uniform shape and size.

- Create a name and specify a workspace for your template. It's good to have "template" folders within your project to hold these.
- When you center your cross-hair on an example feature, you can specify how big the box should be, and specify how many pixels the boundary should have ("context")



 Now I toggle to the other map; notice how the samples are getting pooled, though they're from different maps:



- You can also select to "Adjust the Sample", which allows you to modify the bounding box and orientation.
- In the next step, you can generate the template, specifying which band (layer) you want to use. N.B. you can use mean pixel values, with a mask, and grouped to allow you to capture some variation in your sample.
- Once you generate your template, it is a mean composite of all of your samples:



- Notice the level of correlation statistic.
- Use the layer/template (green band) with the highest correlation between samples.
- You'll notice that the templates have now been stored as .tiffs in the folder you specified.
- Then move into the tab "Test Template"
- You have other parameters to set: Ground truth tolerance, threshold (use the same value as your correlation statistics), and Rot. Step (if you want to specify increments of rotation for your template matching if your object isn't round – the smaller the number the longer the processing time).
- If you lower the threshold it's going to pick up trees that don't quite match your template; but be careful, you can produce more false positives.
- By drawing a bounding box it will pull objects for you, using your template.
- You can inspect each of the "unclassified" objects and indicate whether it's "Correct" or "False". Objects then get moved into either the "Correct" or "False" bins depending, and you will get statistics on the quality of your template.
- Notice the checkbox for "Update Template" You can also go back to "Generate Templates" and click again on the "Generate template" button to regenerate your template. My correlation went up to 0.877.

• Setting up a template matching process:



- The following illustrates how you need to set the template folder to the folder you created during your template matching procedure (in our case, the folder with mean layer 2).
- Input layer is also set to "Layer 2" (i.e., band 2).

Edit Process						?	Х
Name Automatic		Algorithm Descriptio	on J.				
template matching		Algorithm paramete	rs				
Algorithm template matching	~	Parameter Template folder Input layer		Value C:\data\Cor Layer 2	iferences\2017\eCo	gnition_(1	7
Domain pixel level	~	Output layer Rotation step Threshold		ccPineTree 0 0.8			
Parameter Va Condition Map Fro Main Main Fro Act <cru< td=""><td>lue m Parent pB m Parent ive Map eate new variable&gt;</td><td>I nematic layer</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></cru<>	lue m Parent pB m Parent ive Map eate new variable>	I nematic layer					
Loops & Cycles ✓ Loop while something changes o Number of cycles 1	nly ~						
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• Note which map layer do you want to apply to?

 The following illustrates how you can embed the map layer you are processing – add a new process, and choose the map to be "MapB" (or whatever). Now when you embed a child process, you can specify "from parent" in the



• To display the features, choose to Edit Image Laery Mixing

Edit Image Layer Mixing	?	)	×
Image Layer	R	G	В
Layer 1			
Layer 2			
Layer 3			
ccPineTree	0	0	0
Equalizing	- <u>S</u> hiff	t	
none v Parameter v		<b>•</b>	]
✓ Auto update			
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• Another way to display (false colour rainbow):

N TemplateMatching - Developer - [DemoA.v4.dpr - Paels]		- 0 ×
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- You can specify a Thematic Layer to produce vector points for output
- You can add the points as a vector layer for inspection:



- How do we count the number of trees?
- You can choose the image object information button (the blue "i") and add the scene level summary "Number of vector objects in thematic layer" to produce a total count of vector objects in the display.
- In this case, there are 494 trees.



• You can check out more examples on the eCognition Community link:

http://www.ecognition.com/community

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What are you doing?		Ś					

### POINTS CLOUDS IN ECOGNITION

- When you bring point clouds into eCog it produces rasters from it based on intensity.
- Ex., extracting a DSM layer from a Lidar point cloud.
- Algorithim: rasterize point cloud.
- Resolving low data sections via gap filling: (1) use a segmentation process to identify the unclassified pixles, (2) apply a "Median filter" to apply the neighbourhood values to your unclassified pixels.
- Keith: when we release eCog 9.3 there will be tutorials on point cloud classification, and point cloud change detection tutorials.
- Any plan to apply templates to point clouds?

**Exercise #4** – Urban Building Footprint Change, with thematic-layer based segmentation and classification, with segmentation and classification, doing vector-based object refinement, and finally, GIS-ready export

- For example: cadastral data is generally not 100% up to date. Freshly collected imagery will have buildings not "known" by the cadastre.
- We're work with 4-band VHR data, Lidar based DSM, DTM, and a building footprint (.shp)
- For this exercise you'll load in a pre-existing rule set (look for a \*.dcp).
- Goal is to find new buildings. What will help us out? Elevation, NDVI, height (ndsm), vector layer will help us to determine what's "new". The following is the procedure for creating a chessboard focusing on the vector data:

Agartematic   Agartematic </th <th>dit Process</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>? &gt;</th>	dit Process					? >
Addomatic Spittle pasel domain or an image object domain into square image object.   Agrintim agrinteers Value   dess board 2000 creating Lewell* Agrintim parameters   Object Size 2000   amanie Value   Condition	Name		Algorithm Description			
dess board 2000 creating 'Level'     Algorithm     dess board segmentation     Domain   proteilevel   Parameter   Value   Condition   Map   From Parent     Denser   Value   Condition   Map           Itematic Layer usage   Thematic Layer usage   Thematic Layer usage                 Itematic Layer usage                 Itematic Layer usage              Itematic Layer usage           Itematic Layer usage                    Itematic Layer usage   <	∠A <u>u</u> tomatic	<u></u>	Split the pixel domain or an image object domain into square image objects.			
Adjorithm  testsbard segmentetion  contain  main  provide with a more incompany  provide with	chess board: 2000 creating 'Le	vel1'	Algorithm pa <u>r</u> ameters	Algorithm parameters		
object Size 200     Domain Object Size        priselitevel Ves     Parameter Value        Condition Ves        Condition Ves        Condition Ves           Condition Ves                   Condition Non-Nes No,	Algorithm		Parameter	Value		
Demain     provide level     Parameter   Value   Condition   From Parent     Loops & Cycles   Cloop while something changes only   Number of cycles     Thematic Layer usage     Number of cycles     Condition     None Ves, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No	chessboard segmentation	~	Object Size	2000		
pixel level  Parameter Value Condition  Map From Parent Loops & Cycles Cloop while something changes only Number of cycles Condition  No. No. Yes. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No	<u>D</u> omain		Overwrite existing level	Yes		
Parameter Value Condition Map From Parent Loops & Cycles Cloop while something changes only Number of cycles Control Cycles C	pixel level	~	Thematic Layer usage	No, No, Yes	s, No, No, No, No, No, 1	lo, No
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			<u>E</u> xecute	<u>O</u> k	<u>C</u> ancel	<u>H</u> elp
	tie Ver Image Objects Analysis Library (Lussford			Utan Footpri     · Utan footpri     · Utan footpri     · Process Tree - (Utan f · Properation · Properation · Find Solid · Provent for the set · Convert Object · Smooth for the set · Solid · Smooth for the set · Set · Smooth for the set · Set · Set · Smooth for the set · Set	Control Change v.0) In Change (Chang for Demo purposes to "h gualanges Budings Existing budings Budings Existing budings uidings is a sub- rest of Interest to Vector ding. Trees at Level's convert in wive settings on all panes referement Vector Objects simplifications may distance=0. thematic layer converted vector the union chain redemonals can	dor 🛠 🔝 eset" Project) classified based on GIS ve wage objects to 'Polygon' i se layer 'converted_vector, w objects' nor dictance = 0.00% i law
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- "Assign Class" vs. "Classification" = Assign Class allows for a flexible class definition schema.
- But they are restricted to Boolean operators.

 "Classification" has more class description tools. Boolean and membership functions can be used.

Edit Process			?	×
Name V Automatic		Algorithm Description Evaluate the membership value of an image object to a list of selected classes.		
Elevated Objects at Level2	:: New Building, Trees	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm Classification	~	Parameter Value Active classes New Building, Trees Erase old classification, if there is no new c No		
image object level	~			
Parameter Level Class filter Condition Map Region Max. number of objects	Value Level2 Elevated Objects  From Parent From Parent all			
Loops & Cycles Coop while something ch Number of cycles	ianges only ~			
		<u>Execute</u> <u>Ok</u> <u>Cancel</u>	<u>H</u> el	þ

• Class definition is in the class itself.

 Look at the class in the class hierarchy – there are rules defining membership, which the Classification algorithm will access. The class defifinition is fixed. You can also flexibly define how the class membership is assigned.



📲 Exercise04 - Developer - (RGBNIR - Level2 of 2: Classification)									, a x
-₩ File View Image Objects Analysis Library Classification Process Tools Export Window H	felp								×
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	(   ¢ •	Find_New_Buildings	_			^	asses	· Ver	tor-related
	Class Description	? ×	ects base	ed on the ge	neration of		Elevated Object	ts Cla	ss-related features
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- We are going to use a new algorithm: **pixel-based object resizing**
- We're using mode "Shrinking". This is because there are some erroneous "threads" streaming off these buildings.
- When we remove pixels, they get assigned to the "unclassified" class.
- Loops and cycles are also important for the execution of this algorithm.

Edit Process				?	×
Name		Algorithm Description			
Automatic		Grow or shrink objects based on pixel c	riteria.		
loop: New Building at Level	3: shrink using unclassified where nc	Algorithm parameters			
Algorithm		Parameter	Value		
pixel-based object resizing	~	Mode	Shrinking		^
		Class for new image objects	unclassified		
Domain		Preserve current object type	Yes		
limage object lough		Enable compatibility to version < 8.0	No		
Intrage objectiever	~	▲ Growing/Shrinking Directions			
Parameter	Value	X direction	yes		
evel	l evel3	Y direction	yes		
Class filter	New Building	Z direction	no		
Condition		Pixel Layer Constraint 1			
Мар	From Parent	Layer	ndsm		
Region	From Parent	Operation	<		
Max. number of objects	all	Reference	absolute value		
		Value	2		
		Pixel Layer Constraint 2			
		Layer	<no layer=""></no>		~
Loops & Cycles		▲ Candidate Surface Tension			
Loop while something ch	anges only				
Numper of cycles - Infin	ne –				
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			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

 Keith then went and threw away the small buildings (assigning them back into the "unclassified" category):

Edit Process			?	×
<u>N</u> ame ☑ A <u>u</u> tomatic		Algorithm Description Assign all objects in the image object domain to the class spe- parameter.	cified by the Use class	
New Building with Area <= 2	500 Pxl at Level3: unclassified	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm assign class	~	Parameter Value Use class unclassified		
image object level	~			
Parameter Level Class filter Condition Map Region Max. number of objects	Value Level3 New Building Area <= 2500 Pxl From Parent From Parent all			
Loops & Cycles	ianges only			
		<u>Execute</u>	<u>C</u> ancel <u>H</u> el	р

• Keith also applies a grow with a reference made to the surface tension:

Edit Process			?	×
Name		Algorithm Description		
Automatic		Grow or shrink objects based on pixel criteria.		
10x: Trees at Level3: grow	into unclassified where rel. area of ob	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm		Parameter Value		
pixel-based object resizing	~	Mode Growing		^
		Preserve current object type Yes		
<u>D</u> omain		Enable compatibility to version < 8.0 No		
image object level		▲ Growing/Shrinking Directions		
ininage objectiever	~	X direction yes		
Parameter	Value	Y direction yes		
Level	Level3	Z direction no		
Class filter	Trees	▲ Candidate Object Domain		
Condition		Class filter unclassified		
Мар	From Parent	Threshold condition		
Region	From Parent	▲ Pixel Layer Constraint 1		
Max. number of objects	all	Layer <no layer=""></no>		
		▲ Pixel Layer Constraint 2		
		Layer <no layer=""></no>		
		▲ Candidate Surface Tension		
Loops & Cycles		Reference ohiect		<b>•</b>
Loop while something ch	hanges only			
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		Execute Ok Cancel	Hel	In
			<u> 11</u> 61	4

 We can convert our objects to vector objects, visible as having a "vectory" icon in the tree. (algorithm = "convert image objects to vector objects")





Vector simplification:

Edit Process			?	×
Name		Algorithm Description		
Automatic		Simplify lines or polygons using Douglas-Peucker algorithm.		
vector simplification: max di	stance=0.6: layer 'converted_vector_	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm		Parameter Value		
vector simplification		Output vector laver converted vector simplified		
		Stop criteria Max distance		
Domain		Epsilon 0.6		
vectors	~			
Parameter	Value			
Condition	value			
Mar	 France Descent			
The metic Vester Lever	From Parent			
Themalic Vector Layer	convened_vector_objects			
Loops & Ovcles				
Loop while something ch	anges only			
Number of cycles 1	~			
		Execute Ok Cancel	Help	)

## Vector smoothing:

Edit Process			?	$\times$
Name ✓ A <u>u</u> tomatic		Algorithm Description Smooth lines or polygons.		
smooth using cubic polynomi	ials (approx. distance = 0.005): laye	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm       Domain		Parameter     Value       Output vector layer     vector_trees_smoothed       Approximation tolerance     0.005       Smooth mode     Cubic polynomials		
Parameter Condition Map Thematic Vector Layer	Value vector attribute "Class" = "Tre From Parent converted_vector_simplified			
Loops & Cycles	inges only			
		Execute Ok Cancel	<u>H</u> e	lp

Vector orthogonalization = "squaring"

- It's going to take each building object and put a bounding box around it.
- Within the bounding box we apply a chessboard segmentation of some value, e.g., 0.20.
- The merge threshold determines whether the perimeter will be extended out to the boundary box perimeter.

Edit Process			?	×
Name		Algorithm Description		
✓ A <u>u</u> tomatic		Generalize polygons into rectilinear (	(orthogonal) polygons at specified granularity.	
vector orthogonalization: laye	$r'converted_vector_simplified' \rightarrow v$	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm		Parameter	Value	
vector orthogonalization	~	Output vector layer	vector_NewBuildings_rectilinear	
		Chessboard size (pixels)	20	
<u>D</u> omain		Merge threshold	0.25	
vectors	~	Main direction	<auto-detect></auto-detect>	
Parameter Condition Map Thematic Vector Layer	Value vector attribute "Class" = "Ne From Parent converted_vector_simplified			
Loop while something cha	nges only			
Number of cycles	~			
		Execute	Qk <u>C</u> ancel <u>H</u> e	elp



• One more problem to fix = the overlap between the vector objects:



• Let's subtract one vector layer from another.

dit Process			?	×
Name		Algorithm Description		
		Merge vector layers by applying ve results will be appended to the outp	ector boolean operation for overlapping areas. The but layer, without affecting its current content and will	
vector boolean operation 'su	ubtraction' on layers '[vector_tree_	Algorithm parameters		
Algorithm		Parameter	Value	
vector boolean operation		Boolean operation	Subtraction	
		Subtract layer	Footprints	
Domain		Output vector layer	vector_tree_subtract2	
vectore (multiple levere)		Overwrite output layer	No	
vectors (multiple layers)				
Parameter	Value			
Condition				
Мар	From Parent			
Use Array	No			
Thematic Vector Layers	[vector_tree_subtract1]			
Loops & Oveles				
Loop while something chi	anges only			
Number of cycles 1	~			
		Execute	Ok Cancel Help	)
		Everate		_



- Vector Integration snapping or averaging.
- After export to ArcGIS:

