

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

F: TASSELED CAP TRANSFORMATION IMAGES

Like *Frequently Asked Questions*, a question is posed, e.g., [F1. What is the Tasseled Cap Transformation?](#) Then, an answer is given¹ with comments and opinions. For cross referencing, each item is labeled, e.g., [F1](#).

This tutorial deals with [TASCAP.sml](#), its uses, and its options.

[TASCAP.sml](#) produces a new set of rasters called Tasseled Cap (TC) products. It also produces a set of related n-Space Distance (DS) rasters. Input rasters must have [SRFI units](#) (see [FAQs by Jack B.pdf](#)). SRFI units are integers equal to 100 times percent reflectances. For example, a SRFI value of 6000 is equivalent to a reflectance factor of 60%, and 0 is equal to 0%.

When you run [TASCAP.sml](#), it asks you to select one of 3 Methods:

- **Method 1:** This method comes the closest to being the traditional Tasseled Cap method. But, it can be applied only to [top-of-the-atmosphere](#) (TOA) SRFI-type data only from the [Landsat Thematic Mapper](#) (TM) or [Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus](#) (ETM+) imagery. So, you must include [all 6 multispectral bands](#): BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and MC (see [Table 7A](#)).
- **Method 2:** This method has more flexibility than [Method 1](#). But, it can be applied only to [surface](#) (SFC) SRFI data from TM, ETM+, or any [four-band imager](#) that covers, at least, BL, GL, RL, and NA (see [Table 7A](#)).
- **Method 3:** This method is the most flexible and the most difficult. It may be applied to any SRFI data (TOA or SFC) from [any imager that has at least three spectral bands](#). But, [Method 3](#) requires that you [have done specified analyses](#) of the [input images prior](#) to running it. [This tutorial provides guidance about how you can carry out these specific analyses](#).

The most common use for [TASCAP.sml](#) is to produce two or more measures (TC raster values) of specific biophysical properties from multispectral imagery that has more than two spectral bands. Often, the main measure of interest is [TC Greenness](#) (a kind of [Vegetation Index](#), VI). But, measures of other properties of vegetation such as (leaf) wetness and (leaf) yellowness are also possible. [TC Brightness](#), usually the [1st TC raster](#), has less utility.

[TASCAP.sml](#) lets you extract quantitative (calibrated) information (having SRFI units) from [all existing multispectral bands](#) rather than [just from the two NA and RL bands](#). For example, [Landsat TM](#) and [Landsat ETM+](#) each collect

¹ [Jack F. Paris](#), Ph.D., 2407 Maplewood Cir. E., Longmont, Colorado 80503 USA, jparis37@msn.com, 303-775-1195

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

6 spectral-band images. In this case, the input **SRFI** rasters would be **SRFIBL**, **SRFIGL**, **SRFIRL**, **SRFINA**, **SRFIMB**, and **SRFIMC**. **SPOT 1** and **SPOT 2** each collect only 3 spectral bands. But, **ASTER** collects 9 spectral bands. Many imagers collect 4 bands of multispectral imagery. **SRFI** data from all of these can be processed by **TASCAP.sml**.

Method 3 lets you work with a subset of spectral band images with **as few as 3** bands. Or, you can work with all bands up to **as many as 9** bands. It is best that you select spectral bands that have low cross correlation magnitudes among them. Cross correlation can be analyzed using the **Raster Correlation** tool that is available in **TNTmips' Spatial Data Display**. This tool calculates a **Correlation coefficient**, r , which ranges between -1 and +1. Values of r near zero indicate that the two related spectral bands are independent and therefore may, when both included in an analysis, produce information about at least **two biophysical parameters**.

If you elect to use **Method 1** or **Method 2**, the **output DS and TC rasters** will relate to a **predefined** set of **biophysical measures**, as follows:

- **DS0**: This is the distance, in **n-dimensional SRFI feature space** (also called **n-Space**), between **non-reflecting "BLACK" objects** (i.e., ones having **SRFI values all equal to 0**) and the location in **n-Space** of the set of **SRFI values related to the material object (or mixture of objects) in each given pixel**. The unit of distance for **DS0** is **SRFI units**.
- **TC1 & DS1**: **TC1** is called **TC Brightness**. **TC1** is a weighted average of the **SRFI values**. The **TC1 coefficients** define a **unit vector** in **n-Space**. The **TC1 unit vector** specifies the direction of a line (axis) in **n-Space** called the **1st TC Brightness axis**. This line extends from the origin of **n-Space** to a typically bright object such as dry bare soil. **DS1** is the distance from the **1st TC axis line** to each pixel's **SRFI-related location** in **n-Space**.
- **TC2 & DS2**: **TC2** is called **TC Greenness**. The **2nd TC axis** is forced to be perpendicular to the **1st TC axis**. The **two-dimensional plane**, defined by the **1st TC axis** and the **2nd TC axis**, is forced to contain *the* **n-Space point** that is related to the reflectance spectrum of typical **green vegetation**. Therefore, **TC Greenness** is a **perpendicular-type Vegetation Index**. This is especially true if the **TC Brightness axis** aligns well with the **Line of Bare Soils** in **n-Space**.

Recall that a similar-sounding raster, called **PVI**, is produced by **SRFI.sml** and by **TERCOR.sml**. However, **PVI** was based on **SRFI** values in only 2 spectral bands, namely, **RL** and **NA**. And the **units of PVI** are **not SRFI units**.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Nevertheless, [TC Greenness](#) and [PVI](#) both indicate the [amount of green vegetation present](#) in a way that is [somewhat independent of the brightness of the underlying soil](#), for cases where the amount of green biomass is small.

[DS2](#) is the distance from the [Brightness-Greenness plane](#) and each pixel's location in [n-Space](#).

[TC Greenness](#) has often been used over the past four decades as a way to track temporal patterns of change over time in vegetation amount for seasonal crops and even for whole biospheres. Temporal patterns of [TC Greenness](#) were used extensively in the [LACIE](#) and [AgRISTARS](#) program for crop identification purposes. You can find many references to these uses on the Internet using a search engine like [Google](#).

The continuing use of [Tasseled Cap Greenness](#) is remarkable when you realize that it has been based, in the past, on [uncalibrated](#) image brightness values (i.e., uncorrected image [DNs](#)). But, this error has also plagued other common [Vegetation Indices](#) such as [Normalized Difference Vegetation Index \(NDVI\)](#) when it also has been wrongly calculated on the basis of [uncalibrated](#) image [DNs](#) in the [RL](#) and [NA](#) bands.

- [TC3 & DS3](#): [TC3](#) is called [TC Wetness](#). The [3rd TC axis](#), i.e., the [TC Wetness](#) axis, is mathematically perpendicular to the [1st TC axis](#) and to the [2nd TC axis](#) in [n-Space](#). [DS3](#) is the distance from the [Brightness-Greenness-Wetness "hyperplane"](#) and each pixel's location – as calculated by mathematical equations that operate in [n-Space](#). It is difficult for anyone to visualize the geometric nature of [DS3](#) (and higher level [distances](#) and [TC components](#)). However, mathematically, this is an easy task. [TC Wetness \(TC3\)](#) is related to both soil-surface wetness and open water. Historically, [TC Wetness](#) has not been widely used. But, it is included in [Method 1](#) and [Method 2](#) due to its being defined as a part of [TC theory](#).
- [TC4 & DS4](#): [TC4](#) is called [TC Haze](#) (or [TC Hazeiness](#)). Since dense haze in the atmosphere produces a yellow color shift in natural color imagery, some investigators have referred to [TC4](#) as [TC Yellowness](#). In any case, the [4th TC biophysical indicator \(Haze or Yellowness\)](#) is a noisy measure that accounts for only a small percentage of the overall variations seen among pixels in [n-Space](#) represented by [TM](#), [ETM+](#), or [four-band](#) imagers. [DS4](#) is the distance from the [Brightness-Greenness-Wetness-Haze hyperplane](#) and each pixel's location.

Regardless of the [method](#) being used, the [TASCAP.sml](#) process is a set of scale-preserving operations that retain the [SRFI](#) units of the input data. Thus, a [selected pair](#) of [TC rasters](#) may be used as [SRFI-like inputs](#) to [GRUVI.sml](#).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

This option can produce an optimized final “indicator” raster, e.g., a customized [GRUVI](#) raster for vegetation mapping or a customized [GRUFI](#) raster for specific non-vegetation feature mapping. When [GRUVI.sml](#) is used *following* the use of [TASCAP.sml](#), the final result is an [information extraction process that has involved all available spectral bands](#), rather than just two spectral bands as is normally the case for [GRUVI.sml](#).

When used to produce [TC Brightness](#) and [TC Greenness](#), the outputs of [TASCAP.sml](#) are similar, in functionality, to the [PBI](#) and [PVI](#) rasters that are produced by [SRFI.sml](#) (and modified possibly by [TERCOR.sml](#)). However, these [TC](#) rasters have [SRFI units](#) rather than [PBI and PVI units](#).

The real power of [TASCAP.sml](#) is when a skilled user applies it to situations that address a specific need for a specific information-mapping effort. An example of this kind of non-traditional application is included at the end of this tutorial.

This [SML](#) is similar to the [Progressive Transformation](#) process that is available in [TNTmips](#) as a menu-selectable process. [Progressive Transformation](#) has been in [TNTmips](#) since [Version 4.1](#). But, having this similar process as a [SML](#) script allows you to adapt the process in ways not possible with the hard-coded [Progressive Transformation](#) process.

In Brief ...

This tutorial discusses key [SML functions](#) and [model concepts](#) related to [TASCAP.sml](#). If you are interested in a particular topic below, please go directly to it.

Sec.	Topic (Unique Topics are Bold)	Pages
	Quick Guide to TASCAP.sml	pp. F6-F9
F1.	What is the Tasseled Cap Transformation ?	pp. F9-F14
F2.	Why Are Existing Tasseled Cap Transformation Algorithms Not Adequate ?	pp. F14-F15
F3.	What is the Value of Your Being Able to Construct a Customized TC Transformation?	p. F15
F4.	What Do I Need to Do Before Using TASCAP.sml ?	pp. F15-F16
F5.	When Should I Use Default Inputs to TASCAP.sml ?	p. F16
F6.	How Can I Get the Input Parameters for Method 3 ?	pp. F16-F17
F7.	What do the Results of Method 1 Mean?	pp. F17-F20
F8.	What do the Results of Method 2 Mean?	pp. F20-F22
F9.	What do the Results of Method 3 Mean?	pp. F22-F27
F10.	How Can Method 3 be Used for a Customized Mapping of Something Other than Brightness, Greenness, Wetness, and Yellowness?	pp. F27-F37
	REFERENCES	p. F38

Quick Guide to Using TASCAP.sml ...

If you are already familiar with SML functions and syntax ... and you just want to Run TASCAP.sml, this Quick Guide will help you.

BEFORE you run TASCAP.sml ...

- You must first run [SRFI.sml](#) to produce the [SRFI](#) rasters that you will input to [TASCAP.sml](#). See [FAQs by Jack B.pdf](#) for details about [SRFI.sml](#). You may also run [TERCOR.sml](#), which also produces a set of terrain-corrected [SRFI](#) rasters and a related pair of [PVI](#) and [PBI](#) rasters. [TASCAP.sml](#) works best when [SRFI](#) data are free of any significant terrain effects.
- If you are going to use [Method 3](#), you must [first view and analyze](#) the [input SRFI](#) images in order to define [a set of line and column locations](#) related to each [key biophysical object](#) in the [SRFI](#) scene. [How to do this](#) is explained later in this tutorial.

The script will ask you to provide or to accept specific information items via a series of [Popup Windows](#), as follows:

- **CONSOLE-WINDOW ADJUSTMENT:** Use your mouse to adjust the size and placement of the [Console Window](#). You need to be able to view its contents as the script runs and prints data to it. Beginning with [TNTmips Version 7.1](#), you only need to adjust this window once. [TNTmips](#) remembers the [Console Window](#) location and size after that. [Click OK](#) to continue.
- **METHOD-NUMBER ENTRY:** You are presented with [three method options](#) (explained on Page 1). Enter [1](#), [2](#), or [3](#). Then, [Click OK](#). Next, go to the instructions associated with the [method](#) you selected:

[Method 1:](#) See Page 7

[Method 2:](#) See Page 7

[Method 3:](#) See Pages 8-9

FAQs by Jack™ F

METHOD 1:

- ❑ **RASTER OBJECTS SELECTION:** Method 1 deals only with the 6 SRFI input rasters associated with TM or ETM+. The input rasters must be top-of-the-atmosphere (TOA) SRFI rasters. And, you must select them in the following order: SRFI1 = SRFIBL, SRFI2 = SRFIGL, SRFI3 = SRFIRL, SRFI4 = SRFINA, SRFI5 = SRFIMB, and SRFI6 = SRFIMC.
- ❑ **SELECT OUTPUT OBJECTS FOR DS0, TC1, DS1, ..., TC4, and DS4:** TASCAP.sml prints a text report to the [Console Window](#) about the number of input rasters, the number of pairs of output rasters, the [names](#) (BLACK, Brightness, Greenness, Wetness, and Haze), and [offsets](#) or [coefficients](#) related to each [output product](#). You can pause to view this information by moving the [Select Object](#) window to one side. Then, you should define a [new Project File](#) that will contain the new [output products](#). [Accept the default names](#) for the [output raster objects](#) (DS0, TC1, DS1, ..., TC4, and DS4). After that, the script then runs to completion.
- ❑ **SAVING THE REPORT:** To save the text report, [Right-Click](#) in the [Console Window](#). Then select the [Save As...](#) option. Since TASCAP.sml has many options, it is a [good idea to save the related report](#).

METHOD 2:

- ❑ **SELECT n-Space ORIGIN TYPE:** [Accept "dark soil"](#) or change to ["BLACK"](#).
- ❑ **NUMBER OF INPUT SRFI RASTERS ENTRY:** Enter 4, 5, or 6 (only). Method 2 processes SRFI rasters that cover, at least, BL, GL, RL, and NA. Optionally, you can process SRFIMB raster and a SRFIMC raster.
- ❑ **NUMBER OF OUTPUT RASTER PAIRS ENTRY:** Method 2 produces a DS0 raster plus 2 to $(\text{NumInputBands} - 1)$ [pairs](#) of TC and DS rasters.
- ❑ **RASTER OBJECT SELECTIONS:** Method 2 deals only with 4, 5, or 6 input SRFI rasters referenced to the [surface \(SFC\)](#). Select them in the following order: SRFI1 = SRFIBL, SRFI2 = SRFIGL, SRFI3 = SRFIRL, SRFI4 = SRFINA, (optional) SRFI5 = SRFIMB and (optional) SRFI6 = SRFIMC.
- ❑ **SELECT (OUTPUT) OBJECTS FOR DS0, TC1, DS1, ..., TC4, and DS4:** TASCAP.sml prints data to the [Console Window](#) about the number of input rasters, the number of pairs output rasters, the [names](#) (Dark Soil or BLACK, Bright Soil, Green Veg., Water, and Yellow Veg.), the [SRFI values](#) in each input band (in order from 1 to 4, from 1 to 5, or from 1 to 6) that represent the [named materials](#), [offsets](#) and [coefficients](#) related to the [output products](#). You can pause to view this information by moving the [Select Object](#) window to one side. Then, you should define a [new Project File](#) that will contain the [output products](#). [Accept the default names](#) for the [output raster objects](#) (DS0, TC1, DS1, ..., TC4, and DS4). The script then runs to completion.
- ❑ **SAVING THE REPORT:** To save the text report, [Right-Click](#) in the [Console Window](#). Then select the [Save As...](#) option. Since TASCAP.sml has many options, it is a [good idea to save the related report](#).

FAQs by Jack™ F

METHOD 3:

- **NUMBER OF INPUT SRFI RASTERS ENTRY:** Method 3 deals with a general set of SRFI rasters from an imager that has from 3 to 9 bands. Therefore, Method 3 can handle any set of SRFI data from multispectral imagers in operation today. ASTER is the current MS imager that has the largest number of spectral bands. However, ASTER bands MC, MD, ME, MF, and MG are highly correlated to each other for many scenes. While all of these ASTER bands can be input to TASCAP.sml, doing so may give too much “weight” to the middle infrared part of the spectrum near the 2.2 μm wavelengths. Thus, it is likely that the number of input SRFI rasters being processed will be from 3 to 6, rather than as high as 7, 8, or 9. Nevertheless, TASCAP.sml is designed to handle up to 9 input SRFI rasters.
- **NUMBER OF OUTPUT RASTER PAIRS ENTRY:** Method 3 outputs 2 to (NumInputBands – 1) pairs of TC and DS rasters plus DS0. However, Method 3 requires that you have already identified (1) a set of biophysical materials and (2) a related set of raster coordinates (LIN, COL values) for each new TC axis that you want TASCAP.sml to define for the production of each new pair of TC and DS output rasters.
- **RASTER OBJECTS SELECTION:** Method 3 deals only with 3 to 9 input SRFI rasters. The selected input SRFI rasters should be surface (sfc) rasters. They may be selected in any order. This allows Method 3 to deal with imagers, such as SPOT imagers that lack the SRFIBL raster. Or, you can skip rasters (or duplicate rasters) as you wish. You should have an order in mind (one that corresponds to the names and LIN,COL coordinates that will be provided next).
- **METHOD-3 LINE & COLUMN PARAMETERS ENTRY:** TASCAP.sml will ask you to provide information about “bp” (biophysical) names and the related SRFI raster coordinates (LIN & COL values). It starts with “bp0 NAME.” If you specify the bp0 NAME to be “BLACK” then TASCAP.sml will set related SRFI values equal to 0. Then, the script goes on to request the “bp1 NAME,” then “bp2 NAME,” and so on until it covers all of the number of pairs of output TC and DS rasters that you want to produce. Suggestions about how to get these names and raster coordinates will be explained later in this tutorial. Basically, you need a table of values such as in the following table:

bp Number	bp NAME	bp LIN	bp COL
0	Dark Soil	73	373
1	Bright Soil	276	154
2	Green Veg.	261	40
3	Yellow Veg.	410	65
4	Urban Materials	99	511
5	Open Water	34	528

These values are for the sample image (550 lines by 550 columns) collected by Landsat 7 ETM+ on 9/30/2001 over Stockton, CA. Your values will differ.

METHOD 3 (Continued)

- **SELECT (OUTPUT) OBJECTS FOR DS0, TC1, DS1, etc.:** TASCAP.sml prints data to the [Console Window](#) about the number of input rasters, the number of pairs output rasters, the [names](#) (Dark Soil, Bright Soil, Dense Green Veg., Water, and Yellow Veg.), the [SRFI values](#) in each input band that represent the [named materials](#), [offsets](#) and [coefficients](#) related to the [output products](#). You can pause to view this information by dragging the [Select Object](#) window to one side. Then, define a [new Project File](#) that will contain the [output products](#). [Accept the default names for the output raster objects](#) (DS0, TC1, DS1, etc. The script then runs to completion.
- **SAVING THE REPORT:** To save the text report, [Right-Click](#) in the [Console Window](#). Then select the [Save As...](#) option. Since TASCAP.sml has many options, it is a good idea to save the related report. This is especially important for [Method 3](#) where you need to record your options.

Examples of all three methods and their variations applications will be discussed later. Now, let's examine the basic ideas behind the Tasseled Cap Transformation.

F1. What is the Tasseled Cap Transformation?

Landsat 1, with its [Multispectral System \(MSS\)](#), was launched successfully in July 1972. At that time, the author was working as a remote-sensing scientist at the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC). There, he led one of the initial investigations of Landsat MSS data called the [Coastal Analysis Team \(CAT\)](#) in the [Houston Area Test Site \(HATS\)](#).

Yes ... this was the [CAT in the HATS](#) investigation!

[MSS](#) collected 80-m resolution calibrated digital imagery in four spectral bands, namely, [GL](#), [RL](#), [RE](#), and [NB](#) (using the band codes in [Table A7](#)). For the [CAT in the HATS](#) study, atmospheric-scattering simulation software was available at NASA JSC to convert image [DNs](#) into accurate estimates of [reflectance-factors \(RF\)](#) at the surface (Paris, 1974). Most investigators, including the author, focused on [two key spectral bands](#), namely, [RL](#) and [NB](#).

When viewed as a [2-Space](#) plot of [NB](#) vs. [RL](#), it became clear to most investigators that the [DNs](#) (and [RFs](#)) for [bare-soil pixels](#) in many typical [MSS](#) scenes had [2-Space](#) locations that fell close to a straight line (see [FAQs by Jack E.pdf](#) for details). This [2-Space](#) feature is now known as the [Line of Bare Soils \(LBS\)](#).

Unfortunately, most investigators did not take the time and the trouble to convert [DNs](#) to [RFs](#). Instead, they wrongly preferred to work directly with the

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

uncalibrated, un-converted image **DN**s. This tradition carried over to the development of **Tasseled Cap** transformation ideas.

Soon, researchers began to develop many ways to **combine DN**s or **RF**s in the **NB** and **RL** bands to create a *single indicator of vegetation amount and vigor*. The combinations were called **Vegetation Indices (VIs)**. [See [GRUVI.sml](#) and [FAQs by Jack E.pdf](#) for more details about **VIs**.]

The most popular **VI** was (and still is) the **Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)** developed by Rouse *et al.* (1974). $NDVI = (RFNB - RFRL) / (RFNB + RFRL)$ or $NDVI = (RFNA - RFRL) / (RFNA + RFRL)$. Before **NDVI**, the **Simple Ratio VI (SRVI)** was preferred where $SRVI = RFNB / RFRL$ (or $SRVI = RFNA / RFRL$).

However, **SRVI** has two flaws. First, it is unstable (undefined or subject to much measurement noise) when **RFRL** is close to zero. Second, there are no limits on the value of **SRVI** on its upper end.

The **NDVI** expression was designed to correct these two flaws, as follows. **NDVI** has a limited range, which is **-1 to +1** (and is often less than even this range). When **RFRL** approaches **zero**, **NDVI** approaches **+1**. When **RFNA** approaches **zero**, **NDVI** approaches **-1**. And, there is a one-to-one (albeit non-linear) relationship between **SRVI** and **NDVI**.

Using only two spectral bands, namely, **NB** and **RL**, **NDVI** was popular. But, **NDVI** is not the only approach to the task of formulating a **VI** (see [FAQs by Jack F.pdf](#)). Kauth and Thomas (1976) first defined a set of **Tasseled Cap (TC) transformation** operations to be applied to the **DN**s in all four **MSS** bands to create a new set of four **TC rasters**. These **TC coefficients** were designed with four specific biophysical properties in mind – one **TC raster** per biophysical property. In particular, Kauth and Thomas (1976) defined equations that produce **TC Brightness**, **TC Greenness**, **TC Yellowness**, and **TC Non-Such** indicators from Landsat **MSS** data as follows:

The **Kauth-Thomas** equations for **MSS** are:

```
TC Brightness = +0.433 DNGL + 0.632 DNRL + 0.586 DNRE + 0.264 DNNB
TC Greenness  = -0.290 DNGL - 0.562 DNRL + 0.600 DNRE + 0.491 DNNB
TC Yellowness = -0.829 DNGL + 0.522 DNRL + -.039 DNRE + 0.194 DNNB
TC Non-Such   = +0.223 DNGL + 0.012 DNRL - 0.543 DNRE + 0.810 DNNB
```

TC Greenness was used extensively in the **LACIE** and **AgRISTARS** programs of the 1970s and 1980s as a **reliable** and **consistent “perpendicular” VI** that tracked the temporal patterns of change in annual crops over a season as the crops emerged from bare soil, increased in green biomass. Then, as the crop matured (becoming more yellow after senescence), changes were tracked by

FAQs by Jack™ F

the **TC Yellowness** values. **TC Brightness** did not play a role in this sequence of growth and change. In fact, for agricultural situations, **TC Brightness** variations were more like “noise” than like “signal.” In retrospect, the ignoring of **TC Brightness** was fortuitous: the **Kauth-Thomas formulation** was based on biophysical indicators from **uncalibrated image DNs**. Later, they and others suggested that the **TC transformation** would work better if it had been based on estimates of **reflectance factors** either at **TOA** or, better yet, at the **surface**.

TC raster values are **perpendicular indices**. How do we know this to be true? First, **TC coefficients** are **components of mutually orthogonal set of unit vectors** that performs rotations in **n-Space** without changes in scale. That is, the **magnitude** of each **TC vector** (having **TC coefficients** as components) is **equal to 1.00**. Second, the **vector dot products** of **each and every possible pair** of **TC unit vectors** are **all equal to zero**. The latter condition is a requirement of orthogonality among **TC axes**.

A useful attribute of the **TC coefficients** is that each **TC transformation** is a **scale-preserving rotation** of **DNs** from an **original n-Space** to a **new n-Space** defined by a new set of measures such as **TC Brightness**, **TC Greenness**, **TC Yellowness**, and **TC Non-Such** (in the particular case of **four-band MSS DN data**).

Landsat 4 carried the **Thematic Mapper (TM)** imager with **6** spectral bands (**BL**, **GL**, **RL**, **NA**, **MB**, and **MC**). Crist and Cicone (1984) developed a **different set** of **TC coefficients** to be applied to the **DN values** in the **6** bands of **TM**. In a tabular form, the **Landsat 4 TM TC coefficients** are:

DNBL	DNGL	DNRL	DNNA	DNMB	DNMC
0.3037	0.2793	0.4743	0.5585	0.5082	0.1863
-0.2848	-0.2435	-0.5436	0.7243	0.0840	-0.1800
0.1509	0.1973	0.3279	0.3406	-0.7112	-0.4572
0.8832	-0.0819	-0.4580	-0.0032	-0.0563	0.0130
0.0573	-0.0260	0.0335	-0.1943	0.4766	-0.8545
0.1238	-0.9038	0.4041	0.0573	-0.0261	0.0240

The magnitude of each of these unit-vectors (for each row of this matrix) is equal to **1.0**. And, all of the vector dot products are indeed equal to zero. Thus, these **Landsat 4 TM DN related TC coefficients** perform a **scale-preserving rotation** from the **original 6-Space** to a **new 6-Space**. The **new 6-Space** components represent the following biophysical materials types and conditions: **TC Brightness**, **TC Greenness**, **TC Wetness**, **TC Haze** (which is a bit like **TC Yellowness**), **TC5**, and **TC6** (neither of which was related by Crist and Cicone to any specific biophysical properties).

When **Landsat 5** was launched with its **TM** imager, the **TC coefficients** had to be redefined again to reflect the **differences in DN response between the TM**

FAQs by Jack™ F

imager on Landsat 4 and the TM imager on Landsat 5. Landsat 7 had a TM-like imager called ETM+ that was very different than the TMs on Landsat 4 or Landsat 5. Again, TC coefficients were redefined to reflect the changes in DNs associated with Landsat 7 ETM+.

Throughout this long period of development, it was sometimes recognized that a more consistent set of TC products would be produced from reflectance-factor data than from uncalibrated DN data. A paper by USGS defines a set of TC coefficients that are applied to reflectance factor data (but from a six band imager like TM or ETM+ consisting of BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and MC). In this case, the TC components were designed to relate to TC Brightness, TC Greenness, TC Wetness, TC Haze, TC5, and TC6. The TC coefficients for the USGS reflectance-factor related six-band imagery data case are:

RFBL	RFGL	RFRL	RFNA	RFMB	RFMC
0.3561	0.3972	0.3904	0.6966	0.2286	0.1596
-0.3344	-0.3544	-0.4556	0.6966	-0.0242	-0.2630
0.2626	0.2141	0.0926	0.0656	-0.7629	-0.5388
0.0805	-0.0498	0.1950	-0.1327	0.5752	-0.7775
-0.7252	-0.0202	0.6683	0.0631	-0.1494	-0.0274
0.4000	-0.8172	0.3832	0.0602	-0.1095	0.0985

These same TC coefficients can be applied to SRFI values. Recall that SRFI values are directly proportional to reflectance factor values. However, the USGS coefficients must be applied to TOA reflectances. Thus, they would be applied to SRFI_{toa} values. Again, they are restricted to a six-band system that has BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and MC bands.

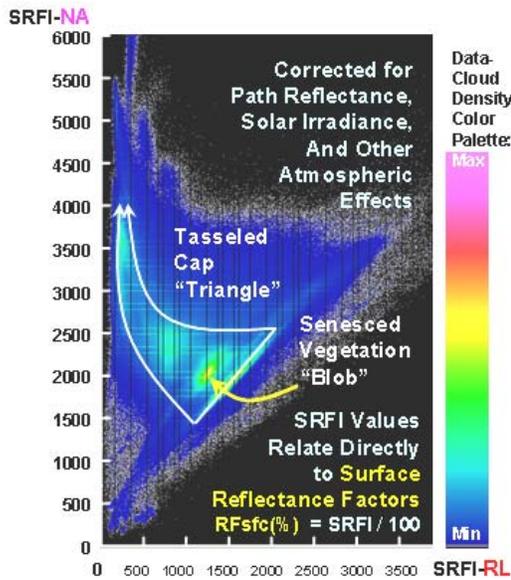
These TC coefficients are also scale-preserving and orthogonal to each other. So, what ever is the scale of the input rasters, the output TC rasters will have the same units, namely, SRFI units.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

As was shown in Figures A19G through A19K, many pixels in a typical MS scene have SRFI values that are the result of mixing between variable-brightness background soils and foreground green vegetation. This was also illustrated in Figure E1D, which is shown again as Figure F1 below.

Figure F1: 2-Space Plot of SRFINA vs. SRFIRL.



In most cases, the observed SRFI values of bare soils appear to be the result of a simple linear mixing between (1) a dark-soil “end member” spectrum (i.e., defined by a set of SRFI values in a set of spectral bands) and (2) a bright-soil “end member” spectrum (another set of SRFI values). This is observed to be most true when two specific bands are considered, namely, RL and NA. But, this is often also true when other spectral bands are considered, such as, BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and/or MC.

If vegetation exists in the foreground of a bare-soil background and if that vegetation has a known spectrum (i.e., set of SRFI values in a set of spectral bands), then the spectra of the mixed pixels occupy a region in n-Space that has the shape of a Tasseled Cap, TC. Working with Landsat MSS data (GL, RL, RE, and NB bands) and annual crops, Kauth and Thomas (1976) first recognized the TC shape in plots of one MSS band versus another MSS band and dubbed this shape as being the shape of an imagined “Tasseled Cap.” Furthermore, when they tracked how the spectral properties changed over time due to emergence and growth of crop vegetation (in the foreground) over a background soils, the resulting spectra stayed within the TC distribution.

Typically, a geographically-located pixel of MSS data in an annual-crop field would have the spectral properties of bare soil before emergence. That is, the n-Space location of the pixel resided somewhere on the Brim of the Tasseled Cap. The actual SRFI-defined n-Space location of bare-soil pixels on the TC Brim depends on several soil properties, such as, texture (mixtures of sand, silt, and clay), the amount of organic matter, the surface roughness of the soil (e.g., often plowed in furrows), the orientation of plowed row directions with respect to the sun’s azimuth, the sun’s elevation angle, and, mostly importantly, the wetness of the soil’s surface.

As emergent vegetation becomes denser, the n-Space location of the pixel moves off of the Line of Bare Soils, i.e., the TC Brim, and moves toward the

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Tip of the TC. If green vegetation becomes dense enough, the **n-Space location** of the pixel will be at or near a single point that is defined by a set of dense-vegetation related **SRFI** values.

If dense vegetation changes color, e.g., goes from being green vegetation to yellow vegetation, and if the biomass density of the vegetation also decreases or changes spatially, e.g., wilts, then the **n-Space location** of the pixel moves away from the dense, green, vegetation point to some other location in **n-Space**. This late-season change is highly variable among crops. So, the temporal path taken in n-Space was dubbed by Kauth and Thomas (1976) as being **TC Tassels** extending from the **TC Tip**. Since the spectral properties of the vegetation change significantly from its vegetative-green stage to later stages, the **TC distribution** is no longer just a 2-dimensional plane (hyperplane) in **n-Space**.

With the advent of **MS** imagers having more than four bands, i.e., Landsat **Thematic Mapper (TM)**, the concept of a **TC distribution** was extended to 6 bands: **BL**, **GL**, **RL**, **NA**, **MB**, and **MC**.

Woody vegetation has been found to have a special place in the **TC** distribution. Between the **TC Brim** and the **TC Tip** is domain called the **TC Badge**. The **TC Badge** is located on the dark side (defined in the non-near-infrared band) of the **TC Cap**. This is like a badge that a police official might wear on the front of a police cap; though, a police officer would not likely want to wear a **TC** as it looks a bit like a dunce cap. But, the idea here is that woody vegetation is different than most annual crop vegetation. The woody stems interfere with the multiple scattering of near infrared radiation within the vegetation canopy. This causes the **near infrared SRFI** values to be significantly lower than for most herbaceous vegetation types of the same density. Some annual crops behave like woody vegetation, e.g., corn that has stalks that also interfere with near-infrared radiation multiple scattering.

F2. Why Aren't Existing Tasseled Cap Transformation Algorithms Adequate?

A basic conceptual error was made when formulating translational (T) and rotational (R) mathematical operations that would operate on **MS** data having from 2 to 6 spectral bands. The **published TC coefficients** were defined as operations on the uncalibrated **DNs** of each of the spectral band images being analyzed. In retrospect, a different set of **TC T&R coefficients** *should* have been developed for application to *calibrated reflectance factor values*, such as for **SRFI** values. As we know now from previous discussions, **DN** values change due to changes in the sun's elevation angle and due to changes in the scattering and absorption properties of the atmosphere. **SRFI** values are designed to not be changed by changes in the sun's elevation angle nor by changes in the atmosphere.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

In addition to this oversight, there is the problem of changing foreground-vegetation “end member” properties in even [SRFI-defined n-Space](#). In a given vegetation pixel, the foreground spectral properties of vegetation affects how the vegetation and soil spectra mix to cause a set of [SRFI](#) values.

This type of variability is handled for a [2-Space](#) situation by a [Vegetation Index](#) (VI) algorithm such as [GRUVI](#). [GRUVI.sml](#) usually takes, as input, the two rasters of [SRFIRL](#) and [SRFINA](#). But, it also works with other [SRFI](#) pairs such as [SRFIGL](#) and [SRFINA](#), [SRFIBL](#) and [SRFINA](#), [SRFIMB](#) and [SRFINA](#), or [SRFIMC](#) and [SRFINA](#). Since [GRUVI](#) can be configured to produce any of several classic [VIs](#), the results can mimic or equal the results of [NDVI](#), [GNDVI](#), [SAVI](#), [TSAVI](#), [OSAVI](#), and even a [perpendicular VI](#).

But, [GRUVI.sml](#) can work ONLY with [two](#) input [SRFI](#) rasters (or [two rasters](#) having [SRFI](#) units).

[TASCAP.sml](#) works with any (reasonable) number of input rasters and produces two or more output [TC](#) rasters that have [SRFI](#) units. Thus, a pair of [TC](#) rasters can be used as input to [GRUVI.sml](#). Thus, [TASCAP.sml](#) might be used before using [GRUVI.sml](#).

[F3. What is the Value of Your Being Able to Construct a Customized TC Transformation?](#)

Any view of the [n-Space TC](#) from the perspective of just two spectral band [SRFI](#) plots will likely be not optimal. A major purpose of any [TC](#) transformation is to re-orient the [TC](#) feature, as defined by a new set of [TC rasters](#) so that the [TC feature](#) (1) can be viewed in a “perpendicular” way directly at the [2-D TC plane](#) or (2) can be viewed along the edge of the [TC plane](#). The [TC transformation](#) allows an analyst to identify other materials, e.g., open water, roof materials, road materials, senescent vegetation, that are not *in* the [TC plane](#). [Figure E1E](#) gives a hint of this for a blob of senesced vegetation that is seen in a plot of [SRFIGL](#) vs. [SRFIRL](#). However, this kind of separation can be optimized through a properly constructed [TC](#) transformation such as is possible by using [TASCAP.sml](#).

[F4. What Do I Need to Do Before Using TASCAP.sml?](#)

Since [TASCAP.sml](#) is a customized transformation that operates on a set of [SRFI](#) rasters, it is necessary to use [SRFI.sml](#) before using [TASCAP.sml](#). If the terrain is hilly, you might also use [TERCOR.sml](#) to correct [SRFI](#) values for terrain slope and aspect effects.

In addition, you need to select [one of three methods](#) to provide input parameters to [TASCAP.sml](#). These three methods are explained in separate [FAQs](#) below.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

The three methods address three situations, as follows:

1. Use [default TC coefficients](#) (applied to [Landsat TM](#) or [ETM+ SRFIta](#) values to generate pre-defined, specific biophysical measures)
2. Use [default SRFI](#) values for specific, pre-defined biophysical end members (applied to 4 to 6 bands of [SRFIsfc](#) values to generate specific biophysical measures)
3. Designate the [raster coordinates \(line and column locations\)](#) for desired end-member biophysical features in [SRFIta](#) or [SRFIsfc image rasters](#). In this case, [TASCAP.sml](#) will use the [SRFI values](#) at the designated locations to compute [TC coefficients](#) that are related to the designated biophysical measures.

[F5. When Should I Use Default Inputs to TASCAP.sml?](#)

If you are doing a [classic TC transformation](#), you can choose to use default values for [TC coefficients](#) or [SRFI](#) values for pre-defined materials types, namely, (1) [dark soil](#) or [BLACK](#), (2) [bright soil](#), and (3) [green vegetation](#). This classic mode usually works on a set or subset of [SRFI](#) rasters in up to six bands, namely, [BL](#), [GL](#), [RL](#), [NA](#), [MB](#), and [MC](#). In this [Method 1](#), it is necessary to pick input rasters in a [predefined order](#) (so that default values of [SRFI](#) are matched to the appropriate spectral bands). [TASCAP.sml](#) allows you to pick a “BLACK” object, rather than a “dark soil” object as the starting point in [n-Space](#). [Method 2](#) uses [default SRFI “signatures”](#) as inputs for producing [TC coefficients](#).

[F6. How Can I Get the Input Parameters for Method 3?](#)

Here is how.

First, decide what particular biophysical material or property you would like to map vis-à-vis other materials and biophysical properties in the scene. For example, the traditional use of [Tasseled Cap](#) is to [isolate a perpendicular measure of green vegetation biomass density](#) vis-à-vis [bare soil](#) having variable degrees of brightness. Another traditional use would be to isolate a [yellow-vegetation indicator](#) vis-à-vis [variable-brightness bare soils and various amounts of green vegetation biomass](#).

The approach that you should make here is to select the main biophysical property of interest to you [late](#) in the input-parameters sequence. For [Method 3](#), you must specify the input-parameters sequence by picking on a particular representative pixel by its line and column position for each biophysical property in the sequence.

This will become more obvious in a later “answer” to a later “FAQ.” First, let’s use [Method 1](#) and [Method 2](#) on a [TNTlite-compatible](#) sample of [Landsat 7 ETM+](#) data collected near [Stockton, CA](#), on [September 30, 2001](#). [This sample is available on the [Microlmages, Inc., Web site](#).]

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

F7. What do the Results of Method 1 Mean?

Before you use, [Method 1](#), you need to process the source imagery rasters (having uncalibrated DN values) to create [SRFItoa](#) rasters. Here is metadata that you need to know when using [SRFI.sml](#) to do this:

- [Site Name](#): Stockton, CA
- [Collection Date](#): 20010930
- [Sun-Elevation Angle](#): 45.18 (degrees)
- [Imager Number](#): 4 (Landsat-7 ETM+)
- [Atmospheric-Correction Level](#): 1 (SRFItoa)
- [Processing Date](#): 20020529
- [Source Code](#): 2 (NLAPS, EarthExplorer)
- [Gaincode](#): HHLH
- [Selected raster objects \(input\) in L7_20010930.rvc](#): BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and MC
- [Output rasters in SRFItoa \(.rvc\)](#): SRFIBL, SRFI GL, SRFIRL, SRFINA, SRFIMB, and SRFIMC (but not PBI and PVI since this is the [SRFItoa](#) option)

Then, you can process the [SRFItoa](#) rasters using [TASCAP.sml Method 1](#).

Here are your responses:

- [Method Number](#): 1
- [Input SRFI rasters in SRFItoa.rvc](#): SRFI1 = SRFIBL ... SRFI6 = SRFIMC
- [Output rasters](#): DS0, TC1, DS1, TC2, DS2, TC3, DS3, TC4, and DS4

The [Console Window](#) (report) lists the sequence of biophysical materials that control (are related) to the TC output rasters. They are (for [Method 1](#)):

[BPVO](#): BLACK
[BPV1](#): Brightness
[BPV2](#): Greenness
[BPV3](#): Wetness
[BPV4](#): Haze

The starting point for [Method 1](#) (in [6-Space](#)) is a [BLACK](#) object ([BP0](#)), i.e., where $SRFI = 0$ for all bands. All image pixels have a Euclidian distance (in SRFI units) from this starting point that is represented by the [DS0](#) raster.

From that point, the 1st TC unit vector (TC coefficients associated with [tc1](#)) are:

[tc1](#): 0.3561 0.3972 0.3904 0.6966 0.2286 0.1596

Note that these coefficients are all positive and are nearly equal to each other (except for the 4th component, related to [SRFINA](#) and the 6th component,

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

related to [SRFIMC](#)). The square root of the sum of the squares of these components is equal to 1.0000. The relative magnitudes of this [tc1](#) vector are approximately proportional to the brightness of typically bare soil in terms of [SRFI](#) units. Thus, a property of overall brightness is captured in [TC1](#). In [6-Space](#), the distances from the line defined by [tc1](#) to all of the [points in 6-Space associated with each pixel](#) is captured in the [DS1](#) raster (having [SRFI](#) units). Note that [DS1](#) can be calculated with having defined the higher order [TC axes](#).

The 2nd [TC unit vector](#) ([TC coefficients](#) associated with [tc2](#)) are:

[tc2](#): -0.3344 -0.3544 -0.4556 0.6966 -0.0242 -0.2630

Note that, except for the 4th component, all of these coefficients are negative. And, the 4th [component](#) (related to [SRFINA](#)) is large in magnitude. In a way, [tc2](#) relates to the [difference](#) between [SRFINA](#) and [a combination of SRFI values](#) in the [BL](#), [GL](#), [RL](#), [MB](#), and [MC](#) spectral bands. Green vegetation absorbs radiant energy in all of the non-near-infrared bands while reflecting radiant energy (more than absorption) in the [NIR \(NA\)](#) band. The latter is due to multiple scattering in the leaves and the lack of absorption of radiant energy by leaf chlorophyll, other leaf pigments, and leaf water – in the [NIR](#) part of the spectrum only.

These physical spectral characteristics are captured in the [TC2](#) raster as a single number in a way that is not affected by correlated changes in brightness.

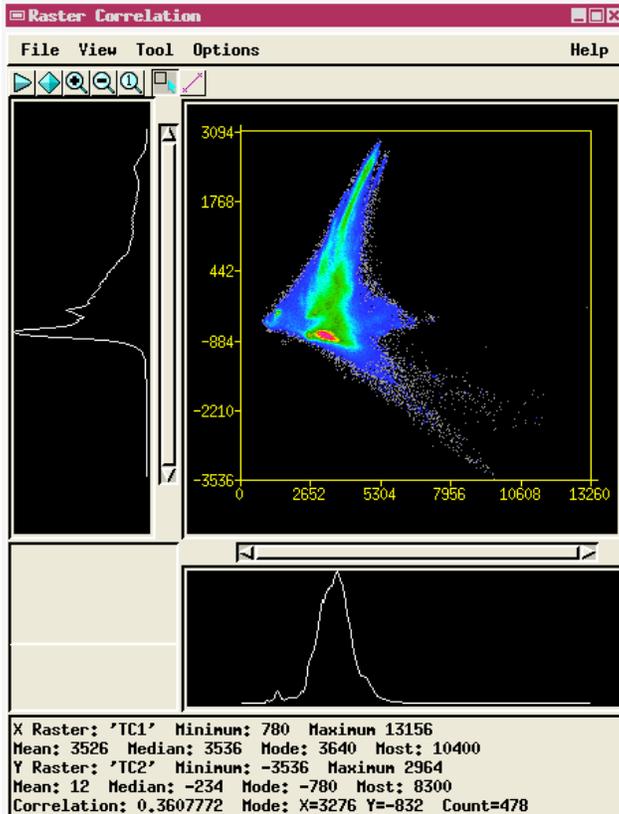
[DS2](#) is a raster of distances from the [plane](#) defined by [tc1](#) and [tc2](#) for each pixel in the image (as plotted in [2-Space](#)). If a pixel consists of a mixture – linear mixture or non-linear mixture – between bare soil (of variable brightness) and green vegetation, then [DS2](#) will be relatively small.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Examine a typical scatter plot of TC2 vs. TC1 (see Figure F7):

[Figure F7. Scatter Plot of TC2 vs. TC1 for Method 1](#) (from Raster Correlation tool in TNTmips)



The [Tasseled Cap shape](#) is quite visible; however, the whole [Tasseled Cap](#) feature seems to be rotated from its most optimum position. That is, the [Brim of the Cap](#) (marked by red colors) is not quite horizontal. And, the [Tip of the Cap](#) looks foreshortened. This lack of perfection is due to the [USGS TC coefficients](#) being wrong or being applied to independently calibrated imagery (in terms of [SRFI](#) values). The apparent maximum magnitude of [TC2](#) is suspiciously low (only 2964); it should be closer to 6000. This is evidence of significant [TC tilt](#) (this result happens only with [Method 1](#)).

The 3rd [TC unit vector](#) ([TC coefficients](#) associated with [tc3](#)) are:

[tc3](#): 0.2626 0.2141 0.0926 0.0656 -0.7629 -0.5388

The [positive TC coefficients](#) are related to the [visible bands](#) (first three [TC components](#)). The [negative TC coefficients](#) are related to the [two middle infrared bands](#) (last two [TC components](#)). The 4th [TC coefficient](#) is nearly zero (related to [SRFINA](#) band). This distribution of coefficients reflects the

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

fact that open water is relative bright in the visible bands and relative dark in the middle infrared bands. **tc3** is essentially a weighted difference between the visible bands and middle infrared bands.

DC3 is the distance between each pixel in **6 Space** and the **hyperplane** defined by **tc1**, **tc2**, and **tc3**. The term, **hyperplane**, is a term used to describe the **n-Space** domain as a subset of the full higher-dimensional space like **6-Space**. If only three spectral bands would have been used for this analysis, then **DS3** values would all be zero due to the related pixels being contained in the domain represented by three axes. But, in **6-Space**, there is room to have separations between pixels and the hyperplane defined by **only 3 TC** axes.

The **4th TC unit vector** (**TC coefficients** associated with **tc4**) are:

tc4: 0.0805 -0.0498 0.1950 -0.1327 0.5752 -0.7775

The magnitudes and signs of these coefficients suggest that **TC4** is related to objects that are relatively bright in the **RL** band and in the **MB** band, but relatively dark in the **MC** and **NA** bands. These are the characteristics of yellow vegetation (relative to soil, green vegetation, and water / wet objects). Historically, the **4th TC component** is called **Haze** (or haziness). But, it could have been just as well called **TC Yellowness**.

The **DS4** raster is the remaining “distance” in **6 Space** after the **first four TC axes** have been defined. An enhanced display of **DS4** shows it to be large for materials in the urban areas of the scene. But, some vegetation has surprisingly high values of **DS4**. The latter may be due to the general nature of **Method 1** (operating as it does on **SRFI** values that have not been matched to the standard **USGS** coefficients). The situation improves when you use **Method 2** or **Method 3** (the best of the three methods).

[F8. What do the Results of Method 2 Mean?](#)

Before you use, **Method 2**, you need to process the source imagery rasters (having uncalibrated **DN** values) to create **SRFI_{sfc}** rasters. Here is metadata that you need to know when using **SRFI.sml** to do this:

- **Site Name:** Stockton, CA
- **Collection Date:** 20010930
- **Sun-Elevation Angle:** 45.18 (degrees)
- **Imager Number:** 4 (Landsat-7 ETM+)
- **Atmospheric-Correction Level:** 3 (SRFI_{sfc})
- **delcf:** 0.05
- **msfac:** 1.0000
- **icRL:** 1.45 (low-altitude site like Stockton deserves higher value than default)
- **Processing Date:** 20020529

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

- [Source Code](#): 2 (NLAPS, EarthExplorer)
- [Gaincode](#): HHHLHH
- [Selected raster objects \(input\) in L7_20010930.rvc](#): BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and MC
- [Output rasters in SRFIsfc \(.rvc\)](#): SRFIBL, SRFIGL, SRFIRL, SRFINA, SRFIMB, SRFIMC, PBI, and PVI (since this is the [SRFIsfc](#) option)

Next, you would run [TASCAP.sml](#) with the [Method-2](#) option. When asked to select the [n-SPACE ORIGIN TYPE](#), you have two options: [Dark Soil](#) (the default option) or [BLACK](#). Traditionally, historic [TC](#) coefficients have been based on an [n-Space origin](#) being at the point in [n-Space](#) where either image [DNs](#) are all equal to 0 or where [reflectance factors](#) are all equal to 0. If you respond with [BLACK](#) (typed exactly as shown in all caps), then [Method 2](#) will produce [TC](#) coefficients based on the origin being where [SRFI](#) values are all equal to 0. Otherwise, i.e., the [Dark Soil](#) (default) option will be used with the corresponding [SRFI](#) values associated with dark soil.

The next entry inquiry asks you to declare the number of [SRFI](#) rasters to be processed. Your choice must be either 4, 5, or 6. The number of output raster pairs (the next query) can be as high as the number of [SRFI](#) rasters less one. That is, if you decided to use 6 input [SRFI](#) rasters, then the number of output raster pairs can be as high as 5.

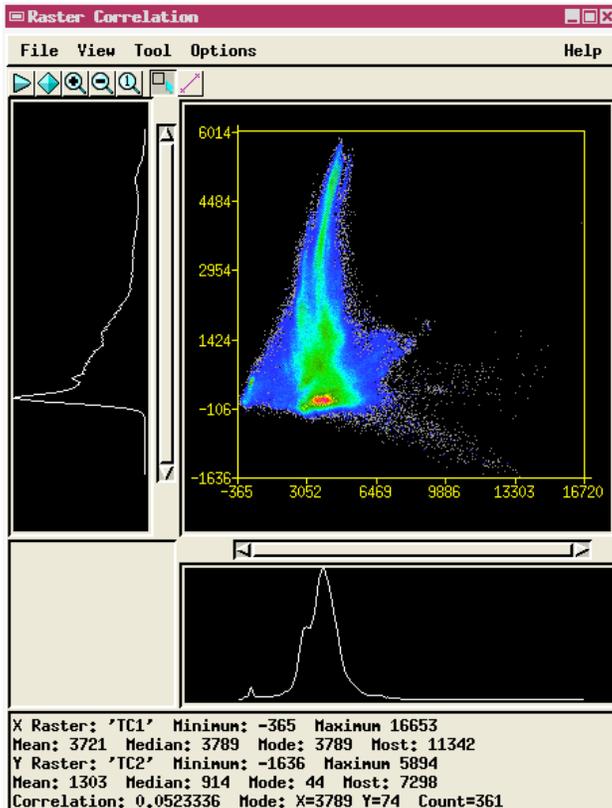
When you select rasters to assign to [SRFI1](#), [SRFI2](#), etc., you must select them in the following order: [SRFIBL](#), [SRFIGL](#), [SRFIRL](#), [SRFINA](#), [SRFIMB](#), and [SRFIMC](#) (up to the number requested by the script). [TASCAP.sml](#) contains pre-defined sets of [SRFI](#) values that are associated with each output pair of rasters being produced by this script by [Method 2](#).

This time, for the same example used to illustrate [Method 1](#), the [Raster Correlation](#) between [TC2](#) and [TC1](#) is as shown in [Figure F8](#) (on the next page). Compare this figure to [Figure F7](#) ([Method 1](#)).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Figure F8. Scatter Plot of TC2 vs. TC1 for Method 2 (from Raster Correlation tool in TNTmips)



Note that the [Brim of the TC](#) is more horizontal than it was for [Method 1](#). Also, the [Correlation](#) between TC2 and TC1 (for this [Method 2](#) case) is almost zero (0.05). When [Method 1](#) was used, the [Correlation](#) between TC2 and TC1 was large: 0.36. This is evidence that [Method 2](#) produces a better set of TC rasters than did [Method 1](#). However, the best set of TC rasters will come from [Method 3](#), which is discussed next.

F9. What do the Results of Method 3 Mean?

Before you use, [Method 3](#), you need to process the source imagery rasters (having uncalibrated DN values) to create [SRFIsfc](#) rasters. Here is metadata that you need to know when using [SRFI.sml](#) to do this:

- [Site Name](#): Stockton, CA
- [Collection Date](#): 20010930
- [Sun-Elevation Angle](#): 45.18 (degrees)
- [Imager Number](#): 4 (Landsat-7 ETM+)
- [Atmospheric-Correction Level](#): 3 (SRFIsfc)
- [delcf](#): 0.05
- [msfac](#): 1.0000

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

- **icRL:** 1.45 (low-altitude site like Stockton deserves higher value than default)
- **Processing Date:** 20020529
- **Source Code:** 2 (NLAPS, EarthExplorer)
- **Gaincode:** HHHLLH
- **Selected raster objects (input) in L7_20010930.rvc:** BL, GL, RL, NA, MB, and MC
- **Output rasters in SRFIsfc (.rvc):** SRFIBL, SRFIGL, SRFIRL, SRFINA, SRFIMB, SRFIMC, PBI, and PVI (since this is the **SRFIsfc** option)

Then, you need to **find and record specific pixels (by line and column position) that are related to specific key biophysical materials**. To do this, you need to use TNTmips standard (menu-driven) **Display Spatial Data** tools.

Process: Spatial Data Display

From the TNTmips main menu:

- Menu path: **Display > Spatial Data...** The **Spatial Data Display** menu bar appears.
- Select **New 2D Group**. The **Group 1 – Group Controls** box appears and the **Group 1 – View 1** window appears.
- In the **Group 1 – Group Controls** box, select **Add Raster...** . From the list, select **Add RGB Raster ...** .
- Navigate to the location of the **SRFIsfc.rvc** file. Assign **SRFINA** to **Red**, **SRFIRL** to **Green**, and **SRFIGL** to **Blue**. When the Raster Layer Controls box appears, disable the **DataTips** (under each color label) and Click **OK**.
- A **color infrared (CIR)** depiction of the scene appears.

You can easily recognize many of the key biophysical materials in this small scene. **Bare soil** has **shades of gray with dark bare soil being dark gray and bright bare soil being bright gray**. **Dense green vegetation** is red. **Yellow vegetation** is yellow or brown. **Urban materials** are **bright gray to white**. **Open water** is **dark blue or black**.

You need to select specific pixels, by line and column position, that well represent these key biophysical (bp) materials.

- Turn on the **Object Coordinates...** tool (go through the **Tool** icon next to the layer in the **Group 1 – Group Controls** box to find the icon that turns on this tool).
- As you move the cursor around the image, you will see the **Line:** and **Column:** coordinates of the cursor's location. It is a floating point number. When you have selected a bp object, round up to the nearest integer and record the **Line:** and **Column:** in your notebook. This is like the list on **Page F8**. There

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

are many pixels to select from regarding being a representative of each biophysical material type.

Process: Raster Correlation

From the [Group 1 – Group Controls](#) box:

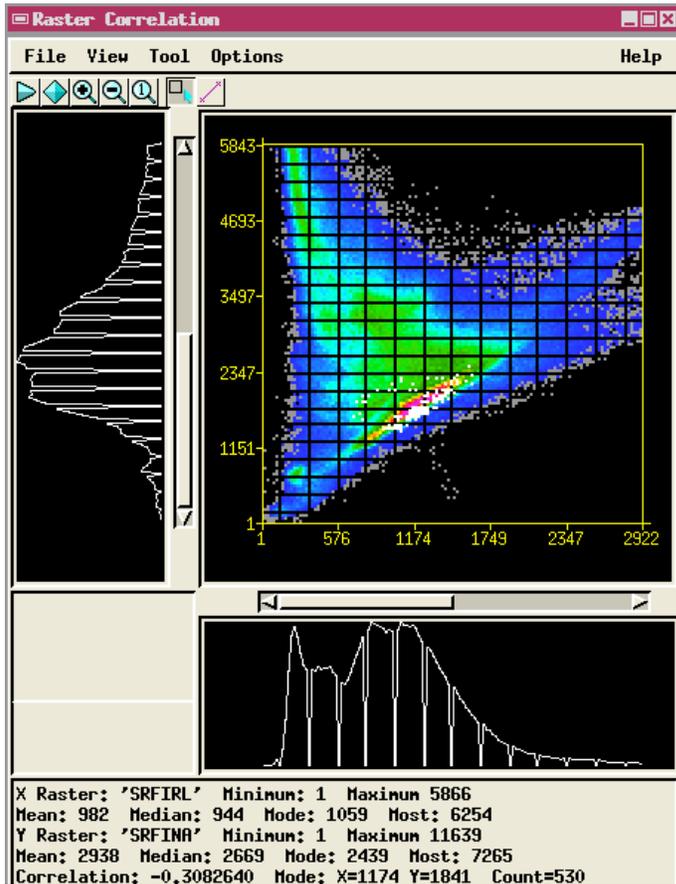
- Select [Raster Correlation](#) from the [Tools](#) drop-down list. A default scatterplot is displayed of [SRFIRL](#) vs. [SRFINA](#).
- Click [File](#) then [New](#). Then, assign [SRFIRL](#) to the [X Axis](#) and [SRFINA](#) to the [Y Axis](#). The scatter plot changes.
- As you move the cursor around the [CIR](#) image, you will see white pixels appear in the [Raster Correlation](#) window. This is called the “dancing pixels” feature. It shows you where the pixels near the cursor’s location plot out in the [2-Space plot](#) in the [Raster Correlation](#) tool.
- If the “dancing pixels” don’t dance, try leaving [TNTmips](#) altogether and repeating the above sequence. “Dancing pixels” requires memory on the graphics board – memory that might be saturated when [TNTmips](#) is used too much. This is an on-again / off-again tool that takes patience to have it appear.
- Sometimes, you have to [Restart](#) the computer to gain back the memory needed to make the pixels “dance.” When you are successful, you can see how certain pixels map over into [SRFI 2-Space](#).
- [Figure F9A](#) (next page) shows the locations of bare soil pixels – dark and bright – in [SRFINA vs. SRFIRL 2-Space](#).
- [Raster Correlation](#) is a useful tool for viewing [n-Space](#) from different perspectives – two coordinate axes at a time.

In any case, you will need to find [Line:](#) and [Column:](#) coordinates for each pixel that will represent each biophysical material type for using [Method 3](#) of [TASCAP.sml](#).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Figure F9A. SRFINA vs. SRFIRL with Dancing Pixels (White).

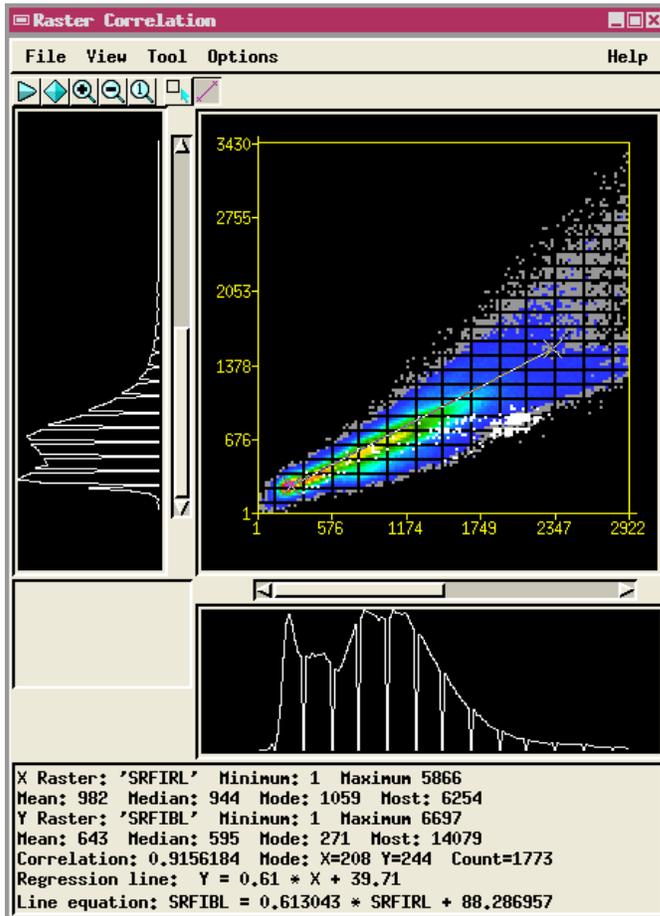


When you point the cursor at yellow ag fields (in the CIR image), the related location in [SRFINA vs. SRFIRL](#) space is in the continuum between the [Line of Bare Soils](#) (white pixels above) and the [Point of Dense Green Vegetation](#) (off the plot at the upper left). But, this location is an illusion. If you view, for example, a plot of [SRFIBL vs. SRFIRL](#) for the same spatial pixels, they can be seen as being clearly not in the mixture between bare soil and dense green vegetation. This is shown in [Figure F9B](#) (next page).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Figure F9B. SRFIBL vs. SRFIRL Scatterplot.



The white pixels (dancing pixels) show the location of brown and yellow ag fields in this 2-Space plot. The thin gray line is the location of the edge of the Tasseled Cap that represents a mixture between bare soils and dense green vegetation.

The TC process aims at defining an axis to represent the property of being like Yellow Vegetation vis-à-vis being like a mixture of bare soil and green vegetation. Ultimately, an axis will be defined as a unique indicator of being like open water vis-à-vis all non-water materials in the scene.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

F10. How Can Method 3 be Used for a Customized Mapping of Something Other than Brightness, Greenness, Wetness, and Yellowness?

Suppose that you want to map **Open Water** with the help of a **customized TC** index.

First, consider the general spectral properties of **Open Water**. In most cases, **Open Water** is darker than most other objects in a scene. This is true for all bands and is especially true for the **NA**, **MB**, and **MC** bands. This implies that **TC Brightness** alone might be used to map **Open Water**. You would need only to define a ceiling value for **TC Brightness** such that all water pixels would have a **TC Brightness** below that ceiling value.

But, in some cases, **Open Water**, might be brighter than land materials due to the water being shallow, being high in sediment content, and/or being partly vegetated (e.g., floating algae). In these cases, the otherwise useful property of being darker than a ceiling value in the **TC Brightness** image would not be valid. Other biophysical properties would be needed to avoid erroneous classifications.

Let's consider the use of **Method 3** with the line and column values on **Page F8** with the goal of constructing a **TC Open Water** raster (which will be called **TC5**).

The responses you would make, in this case, when running **TASCAP.sml** with **this goal in mind** are:

- **Method Number:** 3
- **Number of Input SRFI Rasters:** 6
- **Number of Output Raster Pairs:** 5
- **Select (input) raster objects:**
 - **SRFI1:** select **SRFIBL**
 - **SRFI2:** select **SRFIGL**
 - **SRFI3:** select **SRFIRL**
 - **SRFI4:** select **SRFINA**
 - **SRFI5:** select **SRFIMB**
 - **SRFI6:** select **SRFIMC**
- **bp0 Name:** Dark Soil
 - **LIN:** 73
 - **COL:** 373
- **bp1 Name:** Bright Soil
 - **LIN:** 276
 - **COL:** 154
- **bp2 Name:** Green Veg.
 - **LIN:** 261
 - **COL:** 40

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

- **bp3 Name:** Yellow Veg.
 - **LIN:** 410
 - **COL:** 65
- **bp4 Name:** Urban Materials
 - **LIN:** 99
 - **COL:** 511
- **bp5 Name:** Open Water
 - **LIN:** 34
 - **COL:** 528
- **Output Rasters:** accept each of the default raster names. Put the output rasters in new **TNTmips Project File** called **Method_3_Open_Water (.rvc)**.

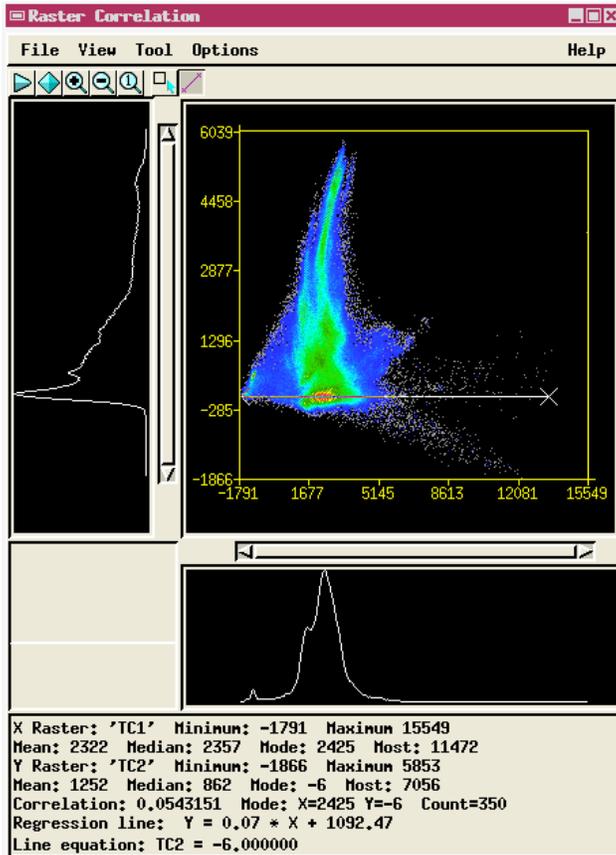
This approach will produce, as **TC5** values, a good measure of how likely it is that a pixel is **Open Water**. In this case, the intermediate biophysical measures (**TC1**, **TC2**, **TC3**, and **TC4**) serve only to capture land features so that the **TC5** indicator clearly relates only to **Open Water**.

One way to see this fact this is to examine at scatterplots for the various pairs of **TC** rasters. The best **TNTmips** tool for this purpose is the **Raster Correlation**. Scatterplots and correlation data are shown on the following pages in *Figures F10A through F10F*.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Figure F10A: TC2 (TC Greenness) vs. TC1 (TC Brightness).

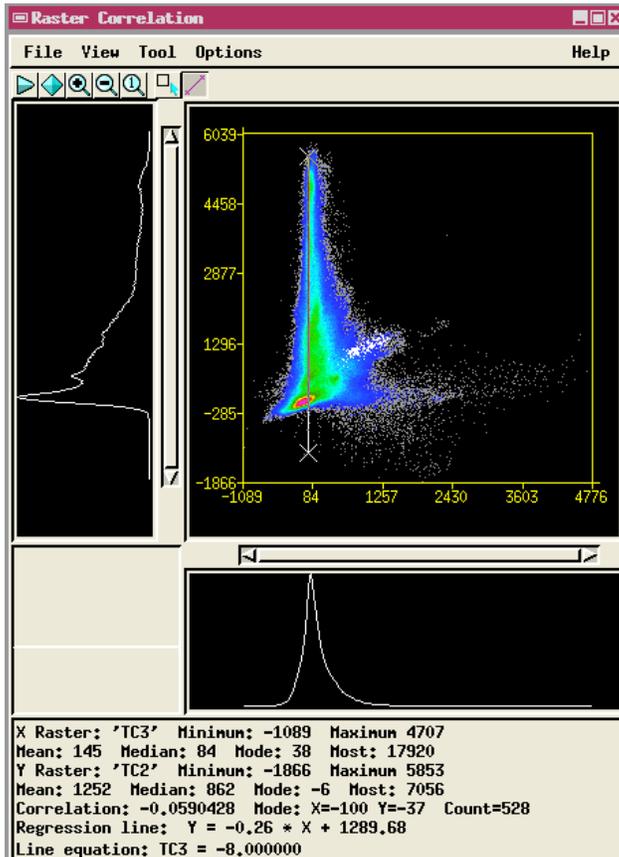


This TC Greenness vs. TC Brightness scatter plot shows the Tasseled Cap distribution feature “full on,” i.e., with no tilt distortion or tilt reduction. Note that the Line of Bare Soils (indicated by the gray Line equation) is in an ideal orientation (i.e., horizontal at $TC2 \cong 0$). Note also that the range of TC2 is up to nearly +6000, as expected.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

[Figure F10B: TC2 vs. TC3 \(TC Greenness vs. TC Yellowness\).](#)



In this scatterplot, we can see how the [soil-green-veg mixture-related TC plane](#) looks across its “edge.” The [Tasseled Cap triangular Feature](#) is in a [plane](#) that is represented in [Figure F10B](#) by the vertical gray Equation Line (i.e., where $TC3 \cong 0$). The “dancing” [white pixels](#) show that pixels dominated by yellow (and brown) colored crops have large positive values for [TC3](#). It also shows that some pixels (not bare soil, not green vegetation, and not yellow vegetation) have negative values for [TC3](#).

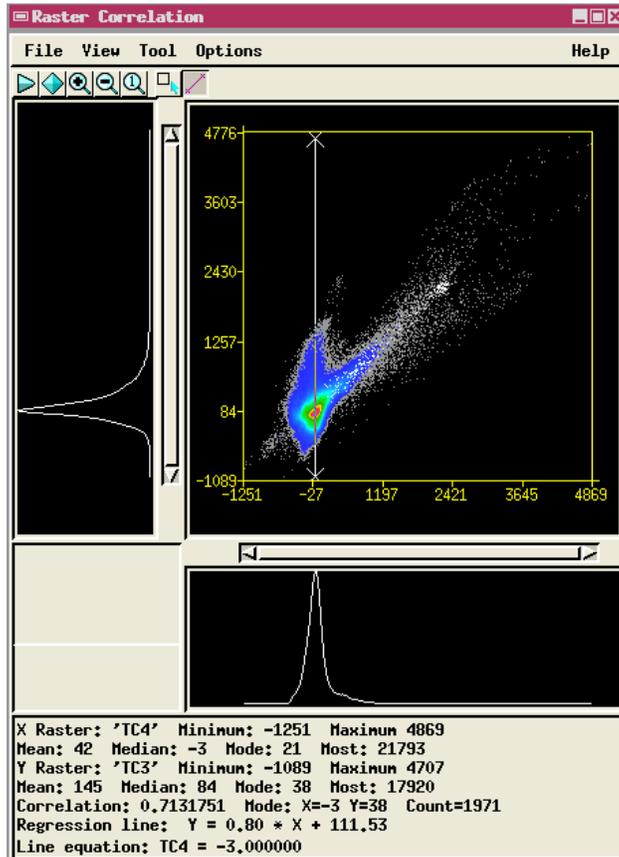
This width of the distribution of [TC3](#) in this plot also indicates that the [soil-green-veg mixture-related TC plane](#) is a “fat” plane, not a “thin” plane. But, there are two more [TC](#) components, i.e., [TC4](#) and [TC5](#), that may explain spectral variations that here are displayed as variations in [TC3](#).

Note: At times, the “dancing pixels” feature does not work in [TNTmips](#). The author has found that it is helpful to reset clipboard memory and [TNTmips](#)’ use of memory (that is essential to the functioning of this feature). You can do this by (1) copying a small item (such as a single text letter) into clipboard memory by using [<Control><C>](#) and/or (2) exiting [TNTmips](#) and re-launching [TNTmips](#). In some cases, it is necessary to restart your computer.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Figure F10C: TC3 vs. TC4 (TC Yellowness vs. TC “urban materials” ness).



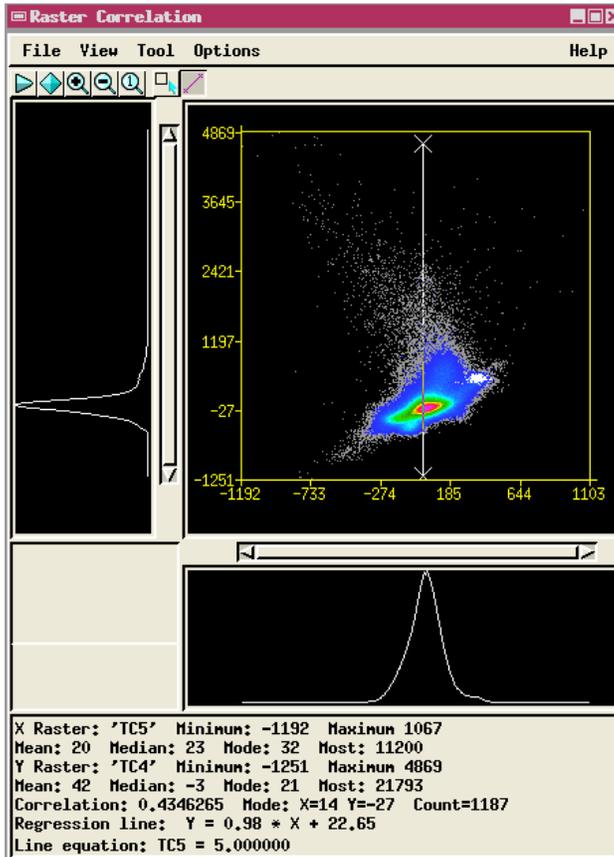
This plot shows that **TC4** (the measure of being like “urban materials”) stands away from the **hyperplane** defined by **TC1**, **TC2**, and **TC3 axes** (represented in this figure by the vertical gray Equation line). The high concentration of pixels (red colors) at a **point** (where **TC3** \cong 0 and **TC4** \cong 0) in this plot shows that **most of the pixels in this scene** consist of mixtures between **bare soil and green vegetation**. However, the vertical extension concentration (on the gray line where **TC4 = 0**) represents the pixels that are dominated by yellow vegetation.

The white colors show where urban materials are (as shown by the “dancing pixels” in the **Raster Correlation** tool).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

Figure F10D: TC4 vs. TC5 (from the Open-Water Method 3 Run).

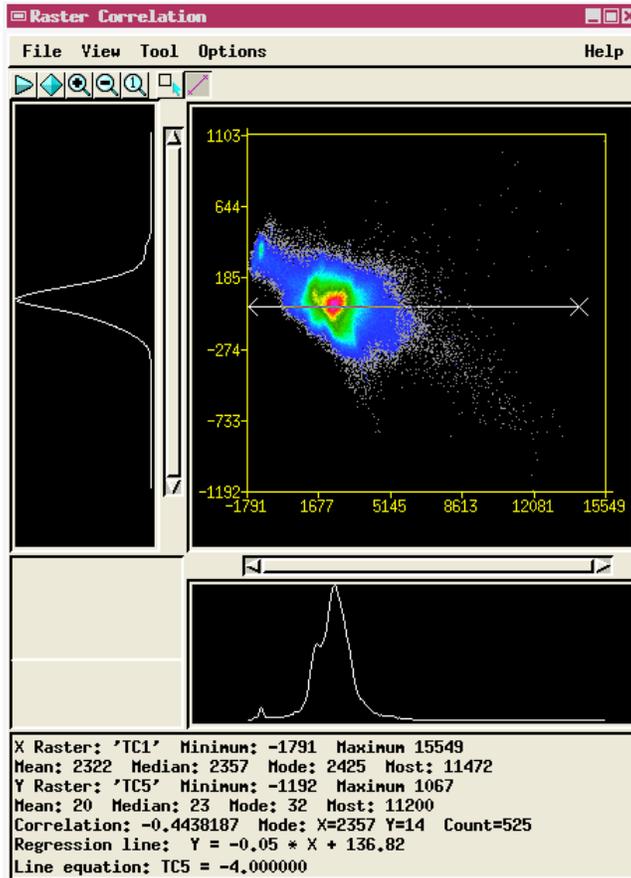


This figure shows that the indicator of being like [Open Water](#), i.e., [TC5](#), is well separated from the other the other indicators (as again represented by the vertical gray Equation line where $TC5 \cong 0$).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

[Figure F10E: TC5 vs. TC1 \(from the Open-Water Method 3 Run\).](#)



The best 2-Space combination of TC values for mapping Open Water is TC5 vs. TC1. The scatterplot above shows that two main clusters of points exist in this 2-Space. The largest cluster is near where TC1 = 2257 and TC5 = 14 (which are the Mode: values for X and Y related to the Correlation: stats of the text report below the figure). These are all of the [land pixels](#). The smaller cluster is near where TC1 = -1179 and TC5 = 365. This is the location of the [water pixels](#) in this 2-Space plot.

There is a clear separation between the [land-pixels cluster](#) and the [water-pixels cluster](#). It appears that a diagonal “decision” line (not shown) drawn between these two clusters could serve well as a means for [classifying water pixels from land pixels](#). An ideal tool for determining the best position of this diagonal “decision” line is [GRUVI.sml](#). In this case, the [GRUVI.sml SRFIX](#) raster would be assigned to TC1 and the [GRUVI.sml SRFIY](#) raster would be assigned to TC5. The [Line of Background Materials \(LBM\)](#) would be the horizontal gray Equation line shown above. In this case, [LBM](#) has a slope of 0.0. A logical value for the [GRUVI.sml Xorg](#) parameter is the minimum value of TC1, which is -1171. Selecting a [GRUVI.sml bnp](#) value of 0.02 causes the [lines of constant GRUFI values](#) to be like the spokes of a wheel, in the

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

scatterplot of TC5 vs. TC1. These GRUFI isolines extend in radial directions from a hub where TC1 equals to about -1200 and TC5 = 14. One of these isolines (one of the values of GRUFI) can serve as a decision point in the distribution of GRUFI values. Water pixels would have values of GRUFI greater than the decision point; land pixels would have values of GRUFI less than the decision point.

Try using GRUVI.sml with the following inputs:

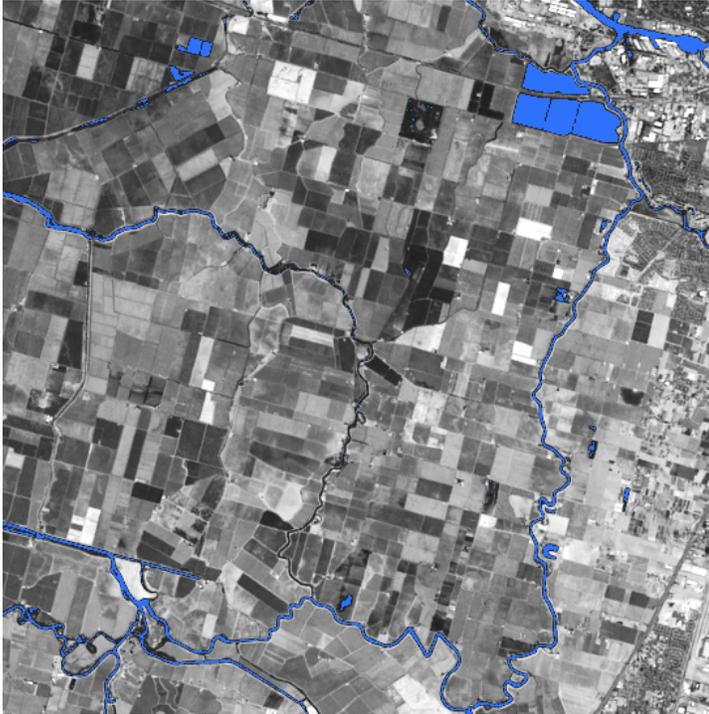
- GRUFI “Way” Selected: 2
- Foreground Materials Name: Open Water
- Background Materials Name: Non Open Water
- Foreground Materials Point, Xf: -1179 (typical TC1 for water)
- Foreground Materials Point, Yf: 365 (typical TC5 for water)
- Line of Background Materials (LBM), slope: 0.0 (where is TC5 \approx 0)
- Background Materials Point, Xb: 2257 (typical TC1 for background)
- Background Materials Point, Yb: 14 (typical TC5 for background)
- Line of Background Materials X Origin, Xorg: -1791 (minimum TC1)
- Test Area: No
- bnp Value: 0.02 (makes GRUFI like a ND algorithm)
- Input SRFIX Raster: TC1
- Input SRFIY Raster: TC5
- Output Rasters: GRFBI & GRUFI. GRUFI serves as an indicator of being Open Water.

Now, a map of Open Water can be made by setting a threshold on GRUFI (see the next page).

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

[Figure F10F: Map of Open Water \(Light Blue\) Using a Threshold \(630\) on GRUFI Values.](#)

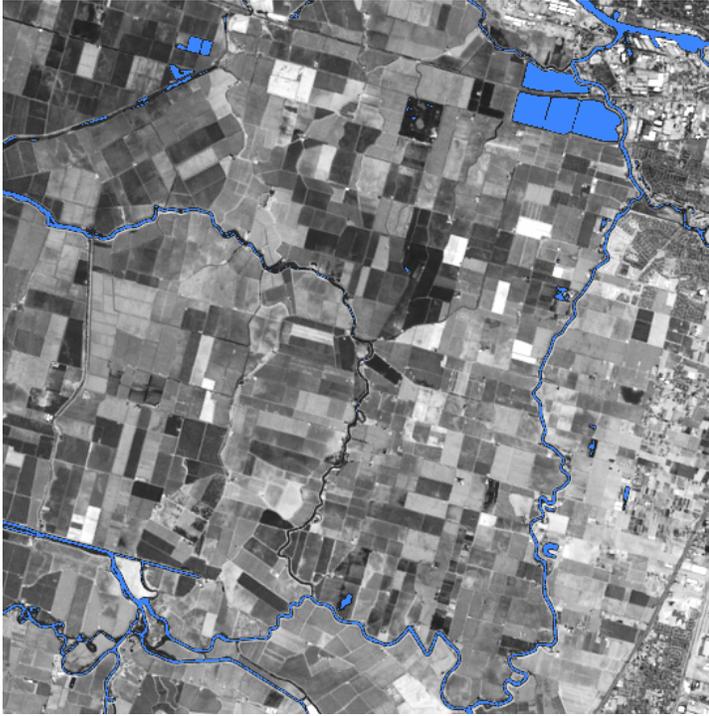


It is possible that a threshold value of -200 for **TC1** could have served as an indicator that a pixel is **Open Water**. The corresponding **TC1 only** related **Open Water** map is shown on the next page.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

[Figure F10G: Map of Open Water \(Light Blue\) Using a Threshold \(-200\) on TC1 Values.](#)



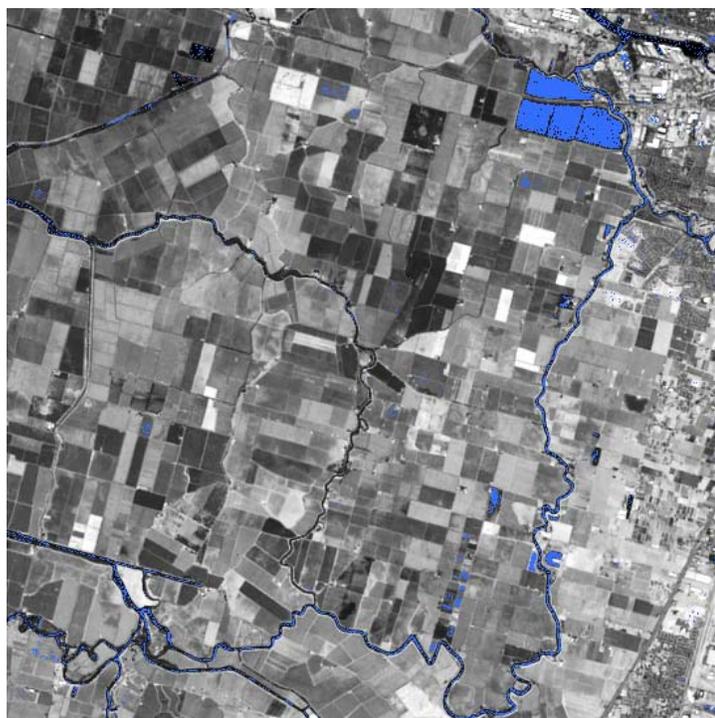
In this case, a simple [threshold on TC1](#) seems to work well. In a different scene, bright water pixels would be misclassified.

Using simple [threshold on TC5](#) (see next page) to produce a map of [Open Water](#) does not work as well as the [TC1](#) threshold or the GRUFI threshold.

FAQs by Jack™ F

Tutorials about Remote Sensing Science and Geospatial Information Technologies

[Figure F10H: Map of Open Water \(Light Blue\) Using a Threshold \(+300\) on TC5 Values.](#)



The author of this script hopes that you will try complex approaches like the one presented in this section in order to use a combination of [TASCAP.sml](#) and [GRUVI.sml](#) processes to obtain good maps of specific biophysical features. At the end of the day, the information content of the multispectral images will determine what biophysical data can be extracted – regardless of the technique being used.

[TASCAP.sml](#) and [GRUVI.sml](#) also will have important roles as a way to prepare image data (converted to [SRFI](#) values) prior to using the script called [OBJECT.sml](#). This script breaks a scene up into a large number of polygons with one polygon for each scene object. Scene objects are entities such as each agricultural field, each body of water, each urban area, each forest stand, etc. [OBJECT.sml](#) will process source rasters to extract attributes attached to each scene-object polygon as a database table. The source rasters may be biophysical rasters produced by [TASCAP.sml](#).

REFERENCES

- Birth, G.S. and G. McVey, 1968: Measuring the color growing turf with a reflectance spectrophotometer. *Agronomy Journal*, 60:640-643
- Crist, E. P. and R. C. Cicone, 1984: A Physically-Based Transformation of Thematic Mapper Data--The TM Tasseled Cap," in *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, Vol. 22, No. 3, May 1984, pp. 256-263
- Kauth, and Thomas, 1976: The Tasseled Cap -- A Graphic Description of the Spectral-Temporal Development of Agricultural Crops as Seen by LANDSAT. *Proceedings of the Symposium on Machine Processing of Remotely Sensed Data*, Purdue University of West Lafayette, Indiana, 1976, pp. 4B-41 to 4B-51.
- Paris, J. F., 1974: Coastal zone mapping from ERTS-1 data using computer-aided techniques. *2nd Canadian Symposium. on Remote Sensing*, Vol. II, pp. 515-528.
- Paris, Jack F., 1991: Progressive Transformation: A Simple, Customized Approach for Dimensional Reduction and Scalar Parameter Generation for Remotely-Sensed Data Analysis. *Digest of the 1991 International Geosciences and Remote Sensing Symposium*, pp. 1467-1470.
- Rouse, J. W., Jr., R. H. Haas, D. W. Deering, J. A. Schell, J. A., and J. C. Harlan, 1974: Monitoring the vernal advancement and retrogradation (green wave effect) of natural vegetation; NASA/GSFC Type III Final Report, Greenbelt, MD., p. 371.