

Interactive comment on “Characterizing the Spatial and Temporal Availability of Very High Resolution Satellite Imagery for Monitoring Applications” by Myroslava Lesiv et al.

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Received and published: 19 July 2018

Very high-resolution (VHR) imagery available via online mapping platforms, such as Google Earth™ are commonly utilized for various applications, including the collection of training and validation data for land-cover classifications. However, heavy criticism has been placed on such studies due to a greater spatial and temporal variability of VHR imagery. Despite existing attempts to synthesize the records of VHR imagery across publically-available domains, this is the first, to my successful knowledge implementation of such spatial analysis and synthesis of VHR products.

The advantage of this study stems from an analytical perspective but also making

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analysis and evolving products publically available. This would certainly allow fine-tuning the selection of training and validation data, but also to think carefully about large areas that are sliding off from current VHR coverage.

Unfortunately, though, even this product is timing, in a few years, the relevance of this work will be probably diminished due to changing paradigm in data accessibility and appearance of new products, including microsatellite constellations. On thematic analysis, I was a bit curios that probably not only population density determines interest in recording and making them publically accessible VHR satellite footprints. It seems, the income levels, developed versus, transition and developing countries, might also determine the availability of such VHR imagery (example, the concentration of observations across the US and the EU). This might be underlined in the paper, since it may guide the policies and different levels of accessibility for such datasets.

In sum, the manuscript is timing, with simple but neat spatial analysis and is highly welcomed. It is even more appreciated because authors considered to share produced datasets. Well done.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2018-13>, 2018.

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