

Reprinted from

**Symposium on  
Machine Processing of  
Remotely Sensed Data  
and  
Soil Information Systems  
and  
Remote Sensing and Soil Survey**

**June 3-6, 1980**

**Proceedings**

The Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing

Purdue University  
West Lafayette  
Indiana 47907 USA

IEEE Catalog No.  
80CH1533-9 MPRSD

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THE MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD METHOD FOR ESTIMATING ARGENTINE CROP AND SOIL TEST SITES USING REMOTE SENSING DATA

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Our object is to study Pattern Recognition of different kind of crops in Argentine training areas by means of Maximum Likelihood Estimators just to get their multispectral signatures or distinctive spectral characteristics.

We suppose multivariate normal populations with means  $\mu_k$ , covariance matrix  $A^k$  and normal density functions:

$$f(X) = (2\pi)^{-n/2} |A^k|^{-1/2} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (X - \mu^k)^T (A^k)^{-1} (X - \mu^k) \right]$$

where n is the dimension of X.

Given a random sample  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  of size n, the likelihood function is given by

$$L(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(X_i, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k)$$

The  $i^{\text{th}}$  pattern will be treated as a column vector  $X_i$  of high dimensionality, that measures the spectral reflectance of a pixel of land and assigns statistically that plot to a class of land of use.

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ X_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Besides we'll try to study the application of the maximum likelihood principle to pattern classification making use of Bayes' formula for conditional probabilities.