



ENVI Feature Extraction Module User's Guide



Feature Extraction Module Version 4.6
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Chapter 1: Introduction

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Introduction to ENVI Feature Extraction

ENVI Feature Extraction is a module for extracting information from high-resolution panchromatic or multispectral imagery based on spatial, spectral, and texture characteristics. You can use ENVI Feature Extraction to extract a wide variety of features such as vehicles, buildings, roads, bridges, rivers, lakes, and fields. ENVI Feature Extraction is designed to work with any type of image data in an optimized, user-friendly, and reproducible fashion so you can spend less time understanding processing details and more time interpreting results.

One of the most exciting and innovative aspects of ENVI Feature Extraction in ENVI Zoom is the ability to preview your results at each step (through a Preview Portal) as you fine-tune a few simple parameters.

Another benefit is that ENVI Feature Extraction uses an object-based approach to classify imagery. An object is a region of interest with spatial, spectral (brightness and color), and/or texture characteristics that define the region. ENVI Feature Extraction lets you extract multiple features at a time. Traditional remote sensing classification techniques are pixel-based, meaning that spectral information in each pixel is used to classify imagery. This technique works well with hyperspectral data, but it is not ideal for panchromatic or multispectral imagery. With high-resolution panchromatic or multispectral imagery, an object-based method offers more flexibility in the types of features to be extracted.

Tip: See the ENVI Tutorials on the ITT Visual Information Solutions website (or on the ENVI Resource DVD that shipped with your ENVI installation) for step-by-step examples.

The Feature Extraction Workflow

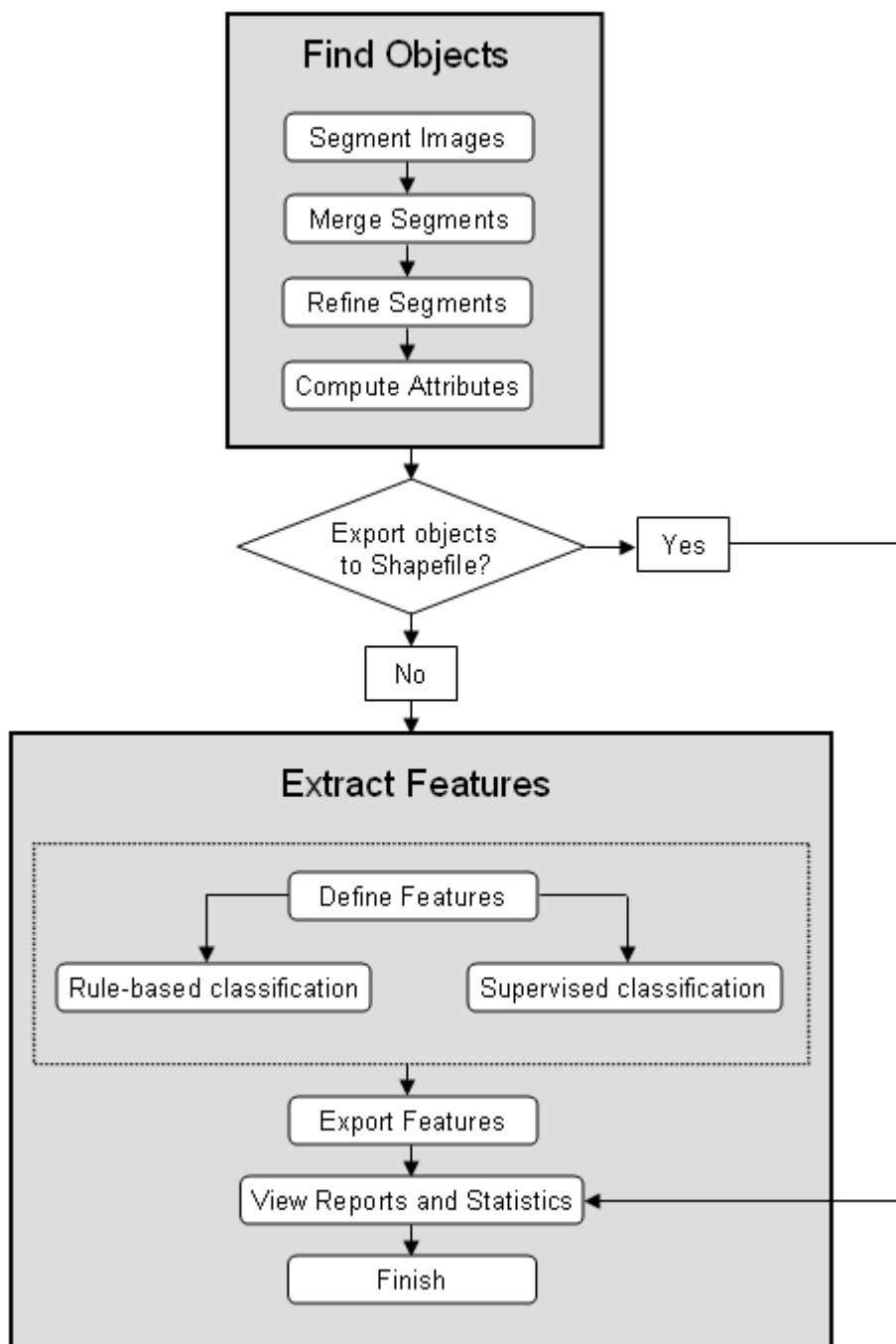
ENVI Feature Extraction is the combined process of segmenting an image into regions of pixels, computing attributes for each region to create objects, and classifying the objects (with rule-based or supervised classification) based on those attributes, to extract features. The workflow is designed to be helpful and intuitive, while allowing you to customize it to your specific application.

To start ENVI Feature Extraction, select **Processing > Feature Extraction** from the menu bar and select input files (base image, optional ancillary files, and an optional mask file) for processing, as described in "[Overview of Input Files](#)" on page 12. The Feature Extraction dialog appears, and the workflow begins.

Note: Make sure you have adequate disk space before processing very large files.

The workflow consists of two primary steps: Find Objects and Extract Features. The Find Objects task is divided into four steps: Segment, Merge, Refine, and Compute Attributes. When you complete this task, you will perform the Extract Features task, which consists of supervised or rule-based classification and exporting classification results to shapefiles and/ or raster images.

Click **Previous** at any time throughout the workflow to return to a previous step and revise your parameter settings. Click **Next** to accept the settings and proceed to the next step. You can also enable the **Preview** option anytime throughout the process to show a Preview Portal, which provides a real-time preview of segmentation or classification results as you adjust parameter settings. Click the blue Tip links at each step to view the corresponding Help.



You can also run the Feature Extraction workflow in batch mode, using the ENVI_FX_DOIT procedure in ENVI programming. See ["ENVI_FX_DOIT"](#) on page 64.

Working with Multiple Layers

As you proceed through the Feature Extraction workflow, several different layers may be available in the Layer Manager. Because of the workflow's dependency on the display, you can only add new layers; you cannot remove existing layers. To hide or show layers, right-click on the appropriate layer name(s) and select **Show** or **Hide**, respectively. Or, reorder layers as needed to view layers of interest.

Preprocessing

Consider preprocessing your input image in ENVI prior to using the image in ENVI Feature Extraction. After you have preprocessed the image, you can right-click on its filename in the Available Bands List in ENVI, and select **Open File in ENVI Zoom**.

Spatial Down-sampling

Reducing the spatial resolution of your input image can speed up processing and remove small, unwanted features. If your input image is very large, you can down-sample the image to speed processing time. For example, you can down-sample a 10,000 x 10,000 pixel image by a factor of 10 to yield a 1,000 x 1,000 pixel image. Or, if you want to extract features with a large area (such as fields), down-sampling can assist in reducing noise in the input image. You can spatially subset an image in ENVI Zoom prior to using it in ENVI Feature Extraction.

Hyperspectral Data

If you want to process data from a hyperspectral sensor in ENVI Feature Extraction, you should use only those bands that best show features of interest. Consider using ENVI's preprocessing tools to reduce the number of bands in the dataset before using ENVI Feature Extraction.

Layer Stacking

You can use ENVI's Layer Stacking tool to build a new multi-band file that consists of your input image plus any ancillary data such as DEMs, lidar images, or SAR images. When you process the multi-band file in ENVI Feature Extraction, ENVI Zoom stores the data from the ancillary datasets as additional `avg_band_x` attributes (see "[Spectral Attributes](#)" on page 28). These extra attributes can considerably improve your classification results.

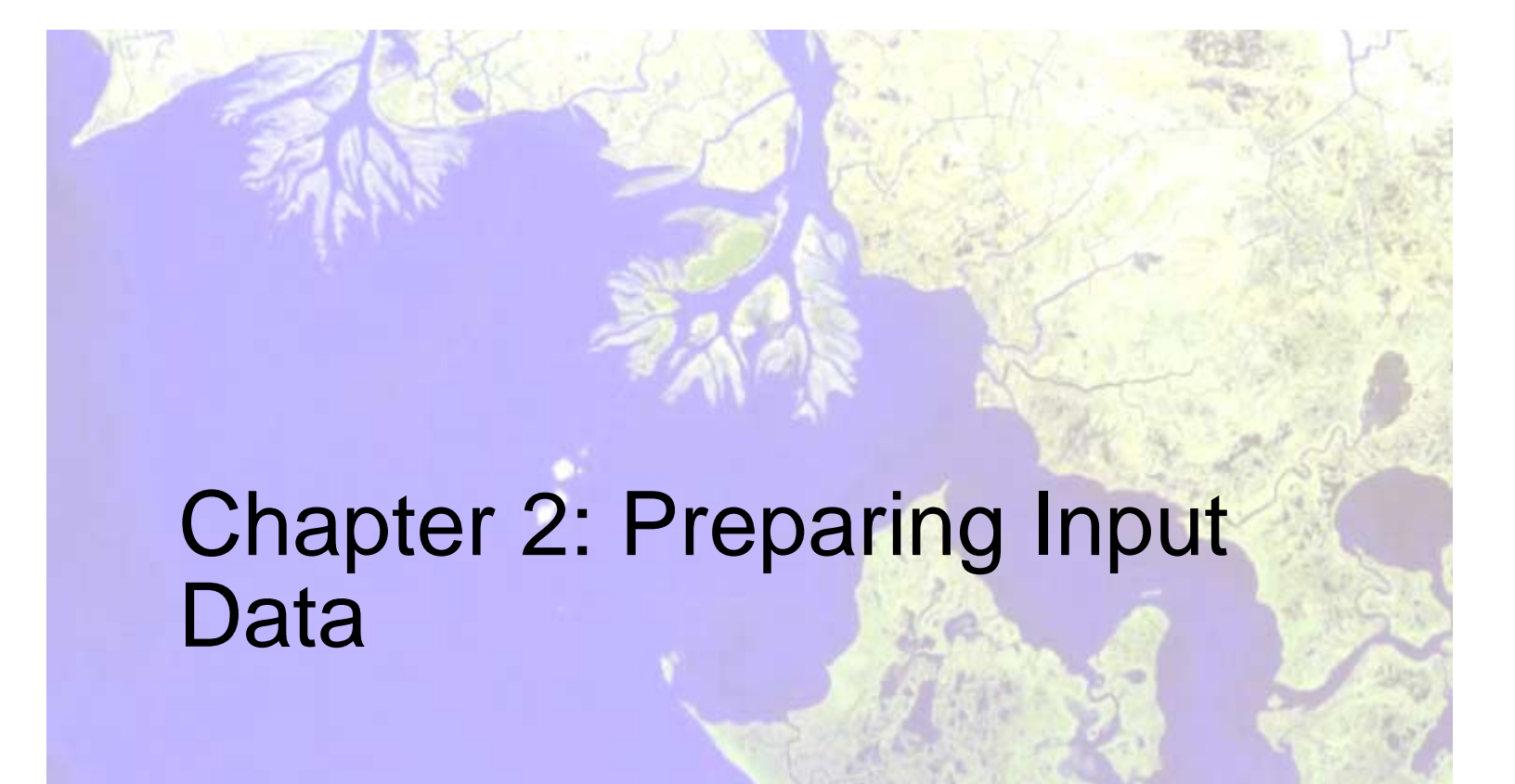
Spatial Filtering

If your input image contains a lot of noise, you can apply a spatial filter in ENVI and use the filtered dataset in ENVI Feature Extraction. You should ideally select a filter that preserves edges well, such as a Lee or median filter.

Installing and Licensing ENVI Feature Extraction

The ENVI Feature Extraction Module is automatically installed when you install ENVI. However, to use the ENVI Feature Extraction Module, you must purchase a ENVI Feature Extraction license. Contact ITT Visual Information Solutions or your ENVI distributor to purchase a license.

For supported platforms and information about entering a new ENVI license, refer to the *Installation and Licensing Guide*, which is available on the ITT Visual Information Solutions website, on the ENVI installation DVD, or on the ENVI Resource DVD that shipped with your software.



Chapter 2: Preparing Input Data

In this chapter you will find:

- Overview of Input Files, [12](#)
- Selecting a Base Image, [13](#)
- Working with Ancillary Data, [14](#)
- Working with Masks, [15](#)

Overview of Input Files

Before you begin the Feature Extraction workflow, you need to select a base image, any optional ancillary data, and an optional mask file. A base image is the primary image from which features will be extracted. Ancillary data are additional datasets of the same geographic area as the base image, which will aid in classification (for example, height data). Mask data allow you to confine processing to certain areas of the base image.

Use the following steps to open any of these files.

1. From the menu bar, select **Processing > Feature Extraction**. The Select Fx Input Files dialog appears.
2. If your base image is not already open, click **Open File**. The Open dialog appears.
3. Select one or more image files and click **Open**. To select more than one file, use the **Ctrl** key.

Base images, ancillary data, and mask files are listed in their respective fields under the Select Additional Files category of the Select Fx Input Files dialog. You can remove files from any field by right-clicking in the field and selecting **Remove** or **Remove All**. Use the following buttons to select input files:



Base image



Ancillary data



Mask image

Selecting a Base Image

The base image is the primary image from which features will be extracted. The map projection of the base image becomes the base map projection for any ancillary data you add.

You can only designate one image as the base image, and you cannot designate an image as both a base and ancillary or mask.

Follow these steps to continue:

1. Expand the Select Additional Files category of the Select Fx Input Files dialog.
2. If you previously selected one file for input, the **Base Image** field lists that filename. If you selected more than one image file for input, the **Base Image** field lists only the first filename you selected.
3. To specify a different image to use as the base image, click the Base Image button to make the **Base Image** field active. Select a filename that you already opened from the Select Fx Input Files dialog, or click the **Open File** button and select a new file. The Base Image field lists the file you added.
4. Perform optional spectral or spatial subsetting on the base image. See "Selecting a Spectral Subset" in ENVI Zoom Help and "Selecting a Spatial Subset" in ENVI Zoom Help for details.
5. You can continue with selecting ancillary data and/or mask files for input, or click **OK** in the Select Fx Input Files dialog to begin the Feature Extraction workflow.

If you spatially or spectrally subsetted the base image, the Preparing Data dialog appears with a progress bar. When processing is complete, Feature Extraction proceeds to the Find Objects task of the workflow (see "[Segmenting Images](#)" on page 20). At this point, you cannot click **Previous** to return to the data selection steps.

Working with Ancillary Data

You can use raster ancillary data in the Feature Extraction workflow to help extract features of interest. For example, you could combine a LiDAR digital surface model (DSM) with a base image to identify rooftops in a residential area. After computing attributes, you could build a rule using the height information from the DSM to more accurately extract the rooftops.

Multiple ancillary datasets often provide more accurate results in Feature Extraction. In the example above, you could also import a classification map of the residential area to delineate vegetation. Thus, you can build upon your rule set to ignore areas identified as vegetation, reducing clutter in the final result.

To use ancillary data with your base image, the following restrictions apply:

- You can only use raster data for ancillary data. To use vector data, you must convert it to raster format in ENVI prior to using it in ENVI Feature Extraction.
- Both the base image and ancillary data must have map information. If the ancillary data is not in the same map projection as the base image, ENVI Zoom will reproject the ancillary data to match the base projection.
- The ancillary data and base image must have some geographic overlap.
- If you spatially subset the base image, the ancillary data will be reprojected to match that spatial extent.
- You can select specific bands to process from the ancillary dataset and base image.

Follow these steps to select ancillary data:

1. Expand the Select Additional Files category of the Select Fx Input Files dialog.
2. Click the **Ancillary Data** button to make the Ancillary Data field active.
3. Select one or more ancillary files if you already opened them from the Select Fx Input Files dialog, or click the **Open File** button and select new files to open. Use the **Ctrl** key to select multiple files. The Ancillary Data field lists the ancillary data files you added.
4. You can continue with selecting a mask file for input, or click **OK** in the Select Fx Input Files dialog to finish selecting input files. The Preparing Data dialog appears, and ENVI Zoom reprojects the ancillary data to match the base projection (if needed) and creates a layer stack from the combined bands of the base image and ancillary data.

ENVI Zoom treats the layer stack as one source file that will be used throughout the rest of the Feature Extraction workflow. You will have an opportunity to save the layer stack at the end of the workflow so that you can restore it for future sessions (instead of re-selecting all of the various data sources used for input).

When the Preparing Data dialog completes, Feature Extraction proceeds to the Find Objects task of the workflow (see "[Segmenting Images](#)" on page 20). At this point, you cannot click **Previous** to return to the data selection steps.

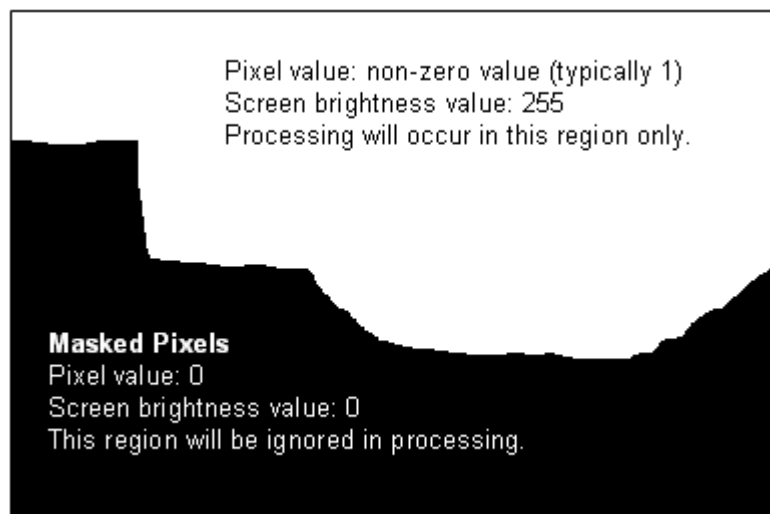
Working with Masks

Masking is a powerful feature in image processing used to reduce clutter and improve accuracy in the final results. Masks allow you to confine image processing to specific areas in the image (a *regular* mask) or to ignore specific areas in an image for processing (an *inverse* mask). In ENVI Feature Extraction, you can import a mask file in the data input step (described here) or generate a new mask from thresholding results in the Refine step (see "[Refining Segments](#)" on page 24).

The following figures show an example of using a mask.



Suppose you want to limit Feature Extraction processing to only residential areas so that you can identify rooftops within the scene. You could create a regular mask (in ENVI or ENVI Zoom), similar to the following example. If you were to import this mask during the data selection step, each subsequent step of the Feature Extraction workflow would ignore the area associated with the masked pixels.



Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to working with masks in ENVI Feature Extraction:

- You can only use a single-band raster image or polygon shapefile as a mask file. Multi-band images or point/line shapefiles are not allowed. ENVI Zoom will convert polygon shapefiles to raster images for Feature Extraction.
- You can only specify one mask file for input. If you have multiple mask files, you can combine them into one image in ENVI prior to using ENVI Feature Extraction.
- A raster mask must have the same map projection as the base image. Masks are not reprojected to match the base image. If the mask has a different map projection than the base image, you could change the mask's map projection in ENVI prior to using it in ENVI Feature Extraction.
- A raster mask must have the same spatial extent as the base image. When you combine ancillary data with a base image, ENVI Zoom creates a layer stack from the two inputs and uses the layer stack as input into Feature Extraction. In some cases, the layer stack will be reprojected and have a different spatial extent than the original base image. If you were to use a raster mask that was created from the original base image in the Feature Extraction workflow, you may receive an error message during segmentation because the spatial extents are different between the layer stack and the raster mask. If you are combining ancillary data and a mask with your base image, you can use the following steps to avoid this reprojection problem: (1) After selecting input data, cancel out of the Feature Extraction workflow. You will be prompted to save the mask and layer stack. (2) Save the vector or raster *mask* and *layer stack* to separate raster files. (3) Restart Feature Extraction, and use the layer stack as the base image, and the saved raster mask as the mask file. This method allows you to use the same raster mask and layer stack in the ENVI_FX_DOIT programmatic routine as well as the interactive Feature Extraction.
- You cannot use the same image for the base and/or ancillary data and/or mask file.

Selecting a Mask File

1. Expand the Select Additional Files category of the Select Fx Input Files dialog.
2. Click the **Mask File** button to make the Mask File field active.
3. Select a mask file if you already opened it from the Select Fx Input Files dialog, or click the **Open File** button and select a new file to open. The Mask File field lists the file you added. You can select a single-band raster image or polygon shapefile as the mask file.
4. By default, Feature Extraction will ignore areas with pixel values of 0 in the mask during processing. To use an inverse version of the mask, right-click on the mask's filename in the Mask Field and select **Inverse**. Feature Extraction will then process the areas with pixel values of 0 and will ignore all other pixels.
5. Click **OK** in the Select Fx Input Files dialog to finish selecting input files. The Preparing Data dialog appears if you selected a polygon shapefile for the mask file.
6. Feature Extraction proceeds to the Find Objects task of the workflow (see "[Segmenting Images](#)" on page 20). At this point, you cannot click **Previous** to return to the data selection steps.

Creating a Mask File in ENVI Zoom

Following are some suggested steps for creating a mask file in ENVI Zoom:

1. Open and display an image in ENVI Zoom.

2. From the menu bar, select **File > New > Vector Layer**. The Create New Vector Layer dialog appears.
3. Enter a **Layer Name**.
4. From the **Record Type** drop-down list, select **Polygon**.
5. Click **OK**.
6. Use ENVI Zoom's vector creation tools to draw polygons in the Image window, defining masked regions. See "Creating Vector Records" in ENVI Zoom Help for details.
7. From the menu bar, select **File > Save As > New Vector**. Save the vector layer to a shapefile.
8. Import the shapefile as described in "[Selecting a Mask File](#)" on page 16.

You can also use ENVI to create mask files, and import these into ENVI Feature Extraction. See "Creating Masks" in ENVI Help for details.



Chapter 3: Finding Objects

In this chapter you will find:

Segmenting Images, [20](#)

Merging Segments, [22](#)

Refining Segments, [24](#)

Computing Attributes, [26](#)

Segmenting Images

Segmentation is the process of partitioning an image into segments by grouping neighboring pixels with similar feature values (brightness, texture, color, etc.) These segments ideally correspond to real-world objects.

ENVI Zoom employs an edge-based segmentation algorithm that is very fast and only requires one input parameter (**Scale Level**). By suppressing weak edges to different levels, the algorithm can yield multi-scale segmentation results from finer to coarser segmentation.

Choosing a high **Scale Level** causes fewer segments to be defined, and choosing a low **Scale Level** causes more segments to be defined. You should ideally choose the highest **Scale Level** that delineates the boundaries of features as well as possible. Good segmentation ensures that classification results are more accurate. If you choose too high of a **Scale Level**, the boundaries between segments will not be properly delineated and you will lose features of interest.

You should ensure that features of interest are not grouped into segments represented by other features. You should also ensure that a feature of interest is not divided into too many small segments (over-segmentation; usually the result of a low **Scale Level**). If you cannot avoid this problem in the Segment step, then you can use Merge in the second step to improve the delineation of feature boundaries. You can also use the Refine step to solve over-segmentation issues for certain features.

Perform the following steps:

1. In the Feature Extraction dialog, enable the **Preview** option to display a Preview Portal showing the current segmentation results.

You can use **Blend**, **Flicker**, and **Swipe** tools to view the underlying layer. You can also use the **Pan**, **Zoom**, and **Transparency** tools, although these are for display purposes only; they do not affect ENVI Feature Extraction results.


You cannot adjust the **Contrast**, **Brightness**, **Stretch**, or **Sharpen** values in a Preview Portal.

If a Preview Portal is displayed over an image, you can use any of ENVI Zoom's enhancement tools on the image by first clicking on the image in the Image window or selecting the image layer in the Layer Manager. You can also move the Preview Portal around the image or resize it to look at different areas.

Note: For optimal Preview Portal performance, set the **Zoom** to 100 percent before running ENVI Feature Extraction. See "Zooming" in ENVI Zoom Help.

2. Adjust the **Scale Level** as necessary. Values range from 0.0 (finest segmentation) to 100.0 (coarsest segmentation; all pixels are assigned to one segment). The default value is 50.0. Increasing the **Scale Level** results in fewer segments. Use the slider or type a number in the provided field, and press **Enter** to set this value. As you change the value, the Preview Portal shows the results in real time. Following are some tips on changing the value:
 - Click on the slider bar to the right or left of the indicator to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 10.0.
 - Click on the arrows to the right or left of the slider bar to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 1.0.

- Click the up/down arrow keys next to the value field to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 0.1.
 - Click the slider, then use the arrow keys (on your keyboard) to increase or decrease the value by 0.1.
 - Click the slider, then press **Home** to move the slider to 100.0 or **End** to move the slider to 0.0.
 - Type a value into the provided field and press **Enter**.
3. You can choose to select specific bands for input into the Segment step. For example, suppose you selected a low-resolution DEM as ancillary data for use with a Quickbird high-resolution optical image in Feature Extraction (see "[Working with Ancillary Data](#)" on page 14). ENVI Zoom creates a layer stack from these datasets as input into the Segment step. You would like to retain the shapes of the objects derived from segmentation (to match what you see in the optical image), while ignoring the DEM data. So you could select only the bands in the layer stack corresponding to the optical data, as input into the Segment step.

Click the **Select Input Bands** button . The Select Input Bands dialog appears. All bands from the base image are selected by default. To select a single band, right-click on the image filename and choose **Select None**, then click to select a single band. Or, use the **Ctrl** key to select multiple bands. Click **OK**. The Preview Portal updates to show the selected bands of data.

4. When you are satisfied with the results, click **Next** to process the entire image. The Process Manager (in the ENVI Zoom Status Bar) shows the status of segmentation processing.

ENVI Zoom creates a Region Means image, adds it to the Layer Manager, and displays it in the Image window. (An example layer name is *filenameRegionMeans*.) The Region Means image is a raster file that shows the results of the segmentation process. Each segment is assigned the mean band values of all the pixels that belong to that region. Feature Extraction proceeds to the Merge step (Step 2 of 4 of the Find Objects task).

Merging Segments

Merging is an optional step used to aggregate small segments within larger, textured areas such as trees, clouds, or fields, where over-segmentation may be a problem. For example, if your image shows thick vegetation, increasing the **Scale Level** (in the previous Segment step) may not sufficiently delineate tree-covered areas. The results may be over-segmented if you set a small **Scale Level** value or under-segmented if you set a large **Scale Level** value. Merging would be a useful option in this case for improving the delineation of tree boundaries.

The **Merge Level** parameter in the ENVI Feature Extraction dialog represents the threshold lambda value, which ranges from 0.0 to 100.0 (see “[Background](#)” on page 23). Through an increasing nonlinear mapping, the parameter is more controllable and suitable for preview. You should ideally choose the highest **Merge Level** that delineates the boundaries of features as well as possible.

If merging is not a useful option for your image, you can proceed directly to the Refine step by clicking **Next** in the Merge step (leaving the **Merge Level** at the default value of 0.0). No merging will be performed.

Perform the following steps:

1. Enable the **Preview** option to display a Preview Portal showing the current segmentation results.
2. Adjust the **Merge Level** as necessary. Values range from 0.0 (default; no merging) to 100.0 (all segments merge into one). Use the slider or type a number in the provided field and press **Enter** to set this value. As you change the value, the Preview Portal shows the results in real time. Following are some tips on changing the value:
 - Click on the slider bar to the right or left of the indicator to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 10.0.
 - Click on the arrows to the right or left of the slider bar to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 1.0.
 - Click the up/down arrow keys next to the value field to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 0.1.
 - Click the slider, then use the arrow keys (on your keyboard) to increase or decrease the value by 0.1.
 - Click the slider, then press **Home** to move the slider to 100.0 or **End** to move the slider to 0.0.
 - Type a value into the provided field and press **Enter**.
3. When you are satisfied with the results, click **Next**. The Preview Portal closes. ENVI Zoom applies merging to the entire image, and the Process Manager (in the ENVI Zoom Status Bar) shows the status of merge processing.

ENVI Zoom creates a merged Region Means image, adds it to the Layer Manager, and displays it in the Image window. (An example layer name is *filenamemergedRegionMeans*.) ENVI Zoom removes from the Layer Manager the Region Means image created during the Segment step. Feature Extraction proceeds to the Refine step (Step 3 of 4 of the Find Objects task).

Background

ENVI Zoom employs the Full Lambda-Schedule algorithm created by Robinson, Redding and Crisp (2002). In ENVI Zoom, the algorithm iteratively merges adjacent segments based on a combination of spectral and spatial information. Merging proceeds if the algorithm finds a pair of adjacent regions, i and j , such that the merging cost $t_{i,j}$ is less than a defined threshold lambda value:

$$t_{i,j} = \frac{\frac{|O_i| \cdot |O_j|}{|O_i| + |O_j|} \cdot \|u_i - u_j\|^2}{\text{length}(\partial(O_i, O_j))}$$

Where:

O_i is region i of the image

$|O_i|$ is the area of region i

u_i is the average value in region i

u_j is the average value in region j

$\|u_i - u_j\|$ is the Euclidean distance between the spectral values of regions i and j

$\text{length}(\partial(O_i, O_j))$ is the length of the common boundary of O_i and O_j

Reference:

Robinson, D. J., Redding, N. J., and Crisp, D. J. (2002). *Implementation of a fast algorithm for segmenting SAR imagery*, Scientific and Technical Report, 01 January 2002. Australia: Defense Science and Technology Organization.

Refining Segments

You can choose to refine segmentation results using another optional merging method called thresholding, which is useful for extracting point features (for example, airplanes or buildings) when over-segmentation is a problem. Thresholding is a raster operation that works with one band of your Region Means image to group adjacent segments based on their brightness value (digital number or DN). Thresholding works well with features that are in high contrast to their background (for example, bright aircraft against a dark tarmac).

Choose one of the following options:

- **No Thresholding (default):** No thresholding will be performed. Click **Next** to proceed to the Compute Attributes step (Step 4 of 4 of the Find Objects task).
- **Thresholding (advanced):** If you select this option, a histogram of the first band of the Region Means image appears. Follow the steps below to continue.

The Preview option is enabled, and a blank Preview Portal is displayed.

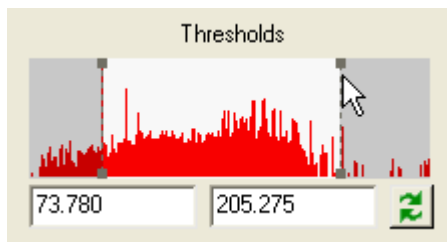
Note: You may find it helpful to use the Transparency tool to adjust the transparency of the thresholding results in the Preview Portal so that you can see the underlying image.

Setting Thresholds


Click and drag the dashed vertical lines on the histogram to define the lower and upper limits of the threshold, or enter minimum and maximum values in the fields provided. ENVI Zoom computes and displays a mask image in the Preview Portal, which dynamically updates to show changes you make to the histogram.

Pixel values below the low threshold and above the high threshold are assigned a value of 0, and values between the thresholds are assigned a value of 255 in the mask image. When you define the lower and upper limits of the threshold, you are essentially defining new boundaries for your features of interest. The black area in the mask image represents one big region, while the white areas represent other distinct regions.

When you click **Next**, ENVI Zoom computes a mask image for the entire scene, segments the mask image, and assigns each distinct region a unique identifier. The identifiers are then used in computing attributes. If you do not adjust the histogram values, no thresholding is performed.



Selecting a Different Band for the Refine Step

By default, the first band of the Region Means image is used for thresholding. To change the input band, click the **Select Input Bands** button . The Select Input Bands dialog appears. Select one band from the Region Means image, and click **OK**. The histogram and Preview Portal update to reflect the data from your selected band. (The Region Means image is a raster file that was created during the Segment step that shows the results of the segmentation process. Each segment is assigned the mean band values of all the pixels that belong to that region.)

Creating a Mask

Enable the **Create Mask** option if you want to create a raster layer from the mask that appears in the Preview Portal. Creating a mask during the Refine step is useful for filtering out unwanted features or noise from your segmentation results. A mask created during the Refine step is based on *segments* rather than individual pixels (as with a raster mask selected from the Select Fx Input Files dialog).

To use an inverse version of the mask, enable the **Inverse** option. Feature Extraction will then process areas in the mask with pixel values of 0 and will ignore all other pixels.

When you click **Next**, the mask is combined with the existing Region Means image to produce a new Region Means image, which is displayed in the Image window and added to the Layer Manager. ENVI Zoom will process areas with pixel values of 1 throughout the remaining workflow. You cannot click **Previous** from the Refine step and expect to use this mask when repeating the Segment and Merge steps. You will have an opportunity to save the mask to disk when you exit the Feature Extraction workflow.

If you selected a mask file for input prior to starting the Feature Extraction workflow, and you create a new mask during the Refine step, ENVI Zoom will combine the two masks into one for the remaining workflow.

Note: If you create a mask during the Refine step and proceed with selecting training data for supervised classification, the objects within the masked area will not be highlighted in color when you move your cursor over them. (See "[Defining Training Data](#)" on page 33).

Proceeding with Feature Extraction

When you are satisfied with the results, click **Next**. The Preview Portal closes. The Process Manager (in the ENVI Zoom Status Bar) shows the status of threshold processing. ENVI Zoom creates a refined Region Means image and adds it to the Layer Manager. (An example layer name is *filenameRefinedRegionMeans*.) ENVI Zoom removes from the Layer Manager the Region Means image created during the Merge step.

Feature Extraction proceeds to the Compute Attributes step (Step 4 of 4 of the Find Objects task).

Computing Attributes

ENVI Feature Extraction uses an object-based approach to classification, as opposed to pixel-based classification. The benefit of an object-based approach is that objects can be depicted with a variety of spatial, spectral, and texture attributes. In the Compute Attributes step, you define which attributes to compute for each object. Various preference settings control how ENVI Zoom computes the attributes. See "[ENVI Feature Extraction Preferences](#)" on page 60. You can use these attributes to help define classes when you perform rule-based or supervised classification.

1. Select any of the following attribute types to compute:
 - **Spatial:** See "[Spatial Attributes](#)" on page 27. You must choose to compute spatial attributes if you plan to export segmentation results as described in "[Exporting Vectors](#)" on page 32.
 - **Spectral:** See "[Spectral Attributes](#)" on page 28.
 - **Texture:** See "[Texture Attributes](#)" on page 29.
 - **Color Space and Band Ratio:** For use with multispectral images only. See "[Color Space and Band Ratio Attributes](#)" on page 29.
2. Click **Next**. ENVI Zoom computes the attributes for each object.

If you choose to compute spatial attributes, ENVI Zoom performs an internal raster-to-vector operation and computes spatial attributes from the vectors.

The previous steps (Segment, Merge, and Refine) can easily create very large segments that represent background objects and are meaningless in the context of classification. Creating vectors from these large regions consumes a lot of memory and results in poor display performance; therefore, ENVI Zoom ignores these large regions during vectorization. ENVI Zoom will not vectorize any region with more vertices than you specify in the **Maximum Number of Vector Vertices** preference. If you want to extract very large regions from an image, you should first down-sample the image prior to running ENVI Feature Extraction.

ENVI Zoom proceeds to the Extract Features task of the Feature Extraction dialog.

Note: ENVI Zoom computes attributes only for purposes of supervised or rule-based classification; the attributes are not passed to any output shapefiles you create during the Export task.

Spatial Attributes

| Attribute | Description |
|------------|--|
| AREA | Total area of the polygon, minus the area of the holes. Values are in map units. |
| LENGTH | The combined length of all boundaries of the polygon, including the boundaries of the holes. This is different than the MAXAXISLEN attribute. Values are in map units. |
| COMPACT | A shape measure that indicates the compactness of the polygon. A circle is the most compact shape with a value of $1 / \pi$. The compactness value of a square is $1 / 2(\sqrt{\pi})$. $COMPACT = \text{Sqrt}(4 * AREA / \pi) / \text{outer contour length}$ |
| CONVEXITY | Polygons are either convex or concave. This attribute measures the convexity of the polygon. The convexity value for a convex polygon with no holes is 1.0, while the value for a concave polygon is less than 1.0. $CONVEXITY = \text{length of convex hull} / LENGTH$ |
| SOLIDITY | A shape measure that compares the area of the polygon to the area of a convex hull surrounding the polygon. The solidity value for a convex polygon with no holes is 1.0, and the value for a concave polygon is less than 1.0. $SOLIDITY = AREA / \text{area of convex hull}$ |
| ROUNDNESS | A shape measure that compares the area of the polygon to the square of the maximum diameter of the polygon. The "maximum diameter" is the length of the major axis of an oriented bounding box enclosing the polygon. The roundness value for a circle is 1, and the value for a square is $4 / \pi$. $ROUNDNESS = 4 * (AREA) / (\pi * MAXAXISLEN^2)$ |
| FORMFACTOR | A shape measure that compares the area of the polygon to the square of the total perimeter. The form factor value of a circle is 1, and the value of a square is $\pi / 4$. $FORMFACTOR = 4 * \pi * (AREA) / (\text{total perimeter})^2$ |
| ELONGATION | A shape measure that indicates the ratio of the major axis of the polygon to the minor axis of the polygon. The major and minor axes are derived from an oriented bounding box containing the polygon. The elongation value for a square is 1.0, and the value for a rectangle is greater than 1.0. $ELONGATION = MAXAXISLEN / MINAXISLEN$ |
| RECT_FIT | A shape measure that indicates how well the shape is described by a rectangle. This attribute compares the area of the polygon to the area of the oriented bounding box enclosing the polygon. The rectangular fit value for a rectangle is 1.0, and the value for a non-rectangular shape is less than 1.0. $RECT_FIT = AREA / (MAXAXISLEN * MINAXISLEN)$ |

| | |
|------------|--|
| MAINDIR | The angle subtended by the major axis of the polygon and the x-axis in degrees. The main direction value ranges from 0 to 180 degrees. 90 degrees is North/South, and 0 to 180 degrees is East/West. |
| MAJAXISLEN | The length of the major axis of an oriented bounding box enclosing the polygon. Values are map units of the pixel size. If the image is not georeferenced, then pixel units are reported. |
| MINAXISLEN | The length of the minor axis of an oriented bounding box enclosing the polygon. Values are map units of the pixel size. If the image is not georeferenced, then pixel units are reported. |
| NUMHOLES | The number of holes in the polygon. Integer value. |
| HOLESOLRAT | The ratio of the total area of the polygon to the area of the outer contour of the polygon. The hole solid ratio value for a polygon with no holes is 1.0. $HOLESOLRAT = \text{AREA} / \text{outer contour area}$ |

Formulas for calculating COMPACT, CONVEXITY, SOLIDITY, ROUNDNESS, and FORMFACTOR are from Russ (2002).

ENVI Zoom calculates all of the spatial attributes based on a smoothed version of the geometry, not the original geometry (Douglas and Peucker, 1973). Performing calculations on a smoothed geometry ensures the shape measurements are less sensitive to object rotation.

References:

Douglas, D. H., and T. K. Peucker. (1973). Algorithms for the reduction of the number of points required to represent a digitized line or its caricature. *Cartographica*, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 112-122.

Russ, J. C. (2002). *The Image Processing Handbook*, Fourth Edition. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Spectral Attributes

The following four attributes are computed for each band x in the original image. The shapefile attributes have $4 * x$ entries comprising the spectral attributes.

| Attribute | Description |
|--------------|--|
| MINBAND_ x | Minimum value of the pixels comprising the region in band x . |
| MAXBAND_ x | Maximum value of the pixels comprising the region in band x . |
| AVGBAND_ x | Average value of the pixels comprising the region in band x . |
| STDBAND_ x | Standard deviation value of the pixels comprising the region in band x . |

Texture Attributes

| Attribute | Description |
|-------------|---|
| TX_RANGE | Average data range of the pixels comprising the region inside the kernel. A kernel is an array of pixels used to constrain an operation to a subset of pixels. Refer to the Texture Kernel Size preference (see "ENVI Feature Extraction Preferences" on page 60). |
| TX_MEAN | Average value of the pixels comprising the region inside the kernel. |
| TX_VARIANCE | Average variance of the pixels comprising the region inside the kernel. |
| TX_ENTROPY | Average entropy value of the pixels comprising the region inside the kernel. ENVI Zoom computes entropy, in part, from the Max Bins in Histogram preference. |

Color Space and Band Ratio Attributes

In the Compute Attributes step, you can choose to compute hue, saturation, and intensity (HSI) attributes; and a normalized band ratio between two bands in a multispectral image. If you select both options, ENVI Zoom computes the following attributes and adds them to the "Customized" folder:


| Attribute | Description |
|------------|---|
| BANDRATIO | Values range from -1.0 to 1.0. See "Band Ratio" on page 30. |
| HUE | Hue is often used as a color filter and is measured in degrees from 0 to 360. A value of 0 is red, 120 is green, and 240 is blue. |
| SATURATION | Saturation is often used as a color filter and is measured in floating-point values that range from 0 to 1.0. |
| INTENSITY | Intensity often provides a better measure of brightness than using the <code>AVGBAND_x</code> spectral attribute. Intensity is measured in floating-point values from 0 to 1.0. |

Color Space

To compute HSI color space attributes, you must have an input multispectral file with at least three bands.

1. Enable the **Color Space** option.

If the file has wavelength information, ENVI Zoom chooses the default bands to use in computing the color space. If the file does not have wavelength information, ENVI Zoom uses the first three bands to compute color space.

Optionally click the **Color Space** button  in the Compute Attributes step to modify the default bands. The Select Input Bands dialog appears.

2. When you click on band names in the bottom part of the Select Input Bands dialog, color gun assignments will automatically cycle through red, green, then blue (in that order). Click the band name you want to assign to red. A red box appears next to the band name. Repeat for the green and blue bands. Colored boxes appear next to the bands to indicate which color is assigned to those bands.

3. Click **OK** in the Select Input Bands dialog.

Band Ratio

ENVI Zoom computes a normalized band ratio between two bands, using the following equation:

$$(B2 - B1) / (B2 + B1 + eps)$$


Where *eps* is a small number to avoid division by zero.



Band ratio values range from -1.0 to 1.0 for non-negative data values. For multispectral data, if you assign the red band to B1 and the near-infrared band to B2, then the BANDRATIO attribute is a measure of normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI). Green vegetation has a high NDVI value.


Perform the following steps to compute the BANDRATIO attribute:

1. Enable the **Band Ratio** option.

If the file has wavelength information, ENVI Zoom chooses the default bands to use in computing the band ratio. If the file does not have wavelength information, ENVI Zoom uses the first two bands to compute the band ratio.

Optionally click the **Band Ratio** button  in the Compute Attributes step to modify the default bands. The Select Input Bands dialog appears.

2. Select the band you want to assign to Band 1. A  icon appears next to this band.
3. Select the band you want to assign to Band 2. A  icon appears next to this band.
4. Click **OK** in the Select Input Bands dialog.



Chapter 4: Extracting Features

In this chapter you will find:

- Classifying or Exporting, [32](#)
- Supervised Classification, [33](#)
- Rule-Based Classification, [42](#)
- Exporting Classification Results, [48](#)

Classifying or Exporting

The Extract Features task guides you through the process of defining features (such as lakes, fields, or vehicles) and performing object-based classification to assign the objects to a feature, using supervised or rule-based classification. You can then export the resulting classification into a polygon shapefile and/or raster map and view a summary and statistics of your results.

When the Extract Features task appears (following Compute Attributes), you are presented with three choices. Select an option, and click **Next**.

- **Classify by selecting examples:** See "[Supervised Classification](#)" on page 33.
- **Classify by creating rules:** See "[Rule-Based Classification](#)" on page 42.
- **Export Vectors:** See "[Exporting Vectors](#)" on page 32.

Exporting Vectors

You can choose to export vector objects and attributes from the Find Objects task to a shapefile instead of running supervised or rule-based classification.

Note: You must choose to compute spatial attributes (see "[Computing Attributes](#)" on page 26) for the **Export Vectors** option to be available.

After selecting **Export Vectors** and clicking **Next**, the Export Vectors dialog appears. Follow these steps to continue:

1. Enter an output directory and filename for the shapefile.
2. Click **Export Attributes** if you want to write the computed attributes to a `.dbf` file associated with the output shapefile.
3. Click **Next**. After processing is complete, a summary dialog appears with the processing options and settings you used throughout the Feature Extraction workflow (see "[Understanding Reports and Statistics](#)" on page 51).
4. Click **Finish** to exit the Feature Extraction workflow, or click **Previous** if you need to revisit any step in the workflow.

Supervised Classification

Supervised classification is the process of using training data (samples of known identity) to assign objects of unknown identity to one or more known features. The more features and training samples you select, the better the results from supervised classification. However, selecting an overwhelming number of training samples will cause poor performance during classification and when previewing classification results. You must define at least two features with at least one training sample each before clicking **Next** to proceed to the Export task.

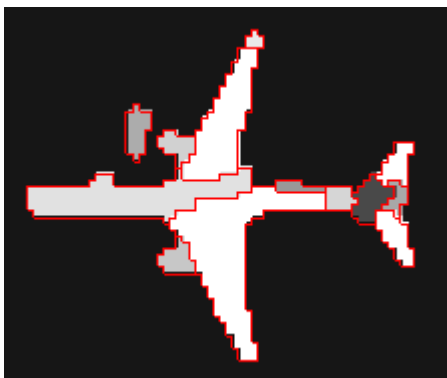
Defining Training Data


Training data consist of objects that you select as representative samples of known features. Perform the following steps to define training data:

1. The Extract Features task begins with one undefined feature (`Feature_1`). As you move around the Region Means image, the objects underlying your cursor are highlighted with the color assigned to that feature.
2. A feature may not appear highly segmented at a visual glance; the color variations of the feature in the Region Means image may be so small that you cannot discern the individual objects that make up the feature. Following is an example of a feature that consists of many different objects.



To see the boundaries of the individual objects, enable the **Show Boundaries** option under the Features tab. Following is an example.



3. To assign an individual object to a feature, click the **Select** button  in the main toolbar and click on a highlighted object to select it. The color of the object changes to the feature color. Continue selecting objects as training data for a feature. The feature name updates to show the number of objects you added. Choose a variety of different sizes and colors of objects that represent a feature of interest.



To select multiple objects at once, click and drag the cursor to draw a box around the objects. ENVI Zoom assigns all of the segments that are completely enclosed within the selection box to the feature.

Note: Be careful using the selection box because selecting an overwhelming number of training samples will cause poor performance during classification and when previewing classification results. Also, if you created a mask during the Refine step or if you input a mask file at the beginning of the workflow, the objects within the masked area will not be highlighted in color when you move your cursor over them.


Note: You cannot select training samples in images with an arbitrary map projection.

4. To remove an individual object from the selection, click on the object. The feature name updates to show one less object.

Adding and Deleting Features

1. To define a new feature, click the **Add Feature** button . A new feature appears in the Feature Extraction dialog with a new color. As you move around the image, the objects underlying your cursor are highlighted with the color assigned to that feature. To select training data for a new feature, click the feature name, then click on individual objects to assign them to that feature.
2. To remove a feature, select that feature name and click the **Delete Feature** button . Or, right-click on the feature name and select **Delete Feature**.

Editing Feature Properties

1. Choose an option to edit feature properties:
 - Select a feature name and click the **Feature Properties** button .
 - Right-click on a feature name and select **Feature Properties**.
 - Double-click a feature name.

The Properties dialog appears.

2. Edit the **Feature Name** and **Feature Color** as appropriate.
3. Click **OK** in the Properties dialog.

Saving and Restoring Training Data

You can save your current training data and classification parameters to an XML file, and you can also restore an existing training data file for use during classification. Saving and restoring training data allows you to experiment with different settings and compare/contrast results to determine the best solution. You can also use training data files in batch mode in ENVI programming. See "[ENVI_FX_DOIT](#)" on page 64 for details.

Following are some scenarios that illustrate the use of training data:

- Define training data for one image, then save iterations of that training data while exploring other, potentially better, options for classifying the image.
- Define training data for one image, then reuse the training data to classify similar images.
- Define training data for multiple images and save all of the training data to the same file, which you can then use to classify other similar images.

The term *similar*, in this case, refers to images collected by the same sensor under similar environmental conditions. For example, you don't want to use a training data file that you extracted from a Quickbird image with Landsat images. For best results, images should also have the same geographic projection, the same number of bands, and the same workflow parameters (**Scale Level**, **Merge Level**, and thresholds).

The second and third scenarios above are advanced options that are helpful if you have many images from the same sensor (for example, multiple images of the same area) that were collected under roughly the same environmental conditions, and you are interested in extracting the same set of features from each image. You can save and restore training data as an alternative to building a rule set for the images, and you can use the training data with batch processing.

Training Data Files


A training data file contains the following information:

- Parameters you used to generate objects during the Find Objects step of the Feature Extraction Workflow (**Scale Level**, **Merge Level**, thresholding values, and computed attributes)
- Classification methods and associated parameters
- Attribute data and training samples for one or more images

You can save multiple sets of training data collected from different images to one XML file. When you restore the XML file, ENVI Zoom reads the attribute data and uses these objects for supervised classification.

Saving Training Data


Follow these steps to save your training data to an XML file.

1. During supervised classification, define at least two features with at least one object selected for each feature.
2. Click the **Save Training Data As** button . The File Save As dialog appears.
3. Select an output directory and XML filename, and click **Open**.

Training data are tied to the **Scale Level**, **Merge Level**, and thresholding values you use in the Find Objects task of the Feature Extraction workflow. So, after saving your training data, you cannot change any of these values and restore the same training data file for use in supervised classification. Each image that you use with restored training data must have the same **Scale Level**, **Merge Level**, and thresholding values.

Restoring Training Data

Follow these steps to restore training data for use with the same image.

1. Click the **Restore Training Data** button . The Restore Training Data dialog appears.
2. Select a training data file (.xml), and click **Open**. If the file contains workflow parameters that match those of your current image, ENVI Zoom restores and displays the training data. The feature list in the Feature Extraction dialog updates to show the new features.


Follow the steps below to restore a training data file for use with subsequent images. The images do not have to have the same spatial dimensions as the original image from which you created the training data file.

Note: You can only restore one training data file per image. Also, the image must have the same number of bands as the images used to generate the training data file. For example, you cannot process a multispectral image with a training data file built from a set of panchromatic images.

1. Process each subsequent image separately in ENVI Feature Extraction, using the same **Scale Level**, **Merge Level**, and **Refine** values.
2. In the Supervised Classification dialog, Select a training data file (.xml), and click **Open**.
The feature list in the Feature Extraction dialog updates to show the object count for each feature, and ENVI Zoom loads the attributes from the original source image. Objects are not displayed in your current image if they were derived from a different source image.

Saving Edits to a Restored Training Data File

When working with a restored training data file, you can add or delete features from the feature list or change classification parameters as needed. When you save your updates, the current training data set is updated.

1. Click the **Save Training Data As** button . The File Save As dialog appears. If you choose the same filename as the restored training data file, you will be prompted whether or not to overwrite the existing file.
2. Click **OK** to overwrite the existing training data file, or enter a different filename and click **OK**. Writing your results to a different file gives you the option of versioning your training data files, allowing you to roll back your edits in the future if needed.

When working with a restored training data set, you can delete features from the feature list. If you save your edits, the features you deleted will not appear in the file that you save. If you restore a training data set and delete all of the features, you are essentially starting over again as if you never restored a file. This option allows you to clear out all previously restored parameters if needed.


Tip: See the ENVI Tutorials on the ITT Visual Information Solutions website (or on the ENVI Resource DVD that shipped with your ENVI installation) for step-by-step examples.

Importing Ground Truth Data

You can import ground truth data in the form of point and polygon shapefiles, when performing supervised classification. Ground truth data define areas of an image with known feature types, thus it represents a true classification for specific areas of the image. For example, a GIS user can import polygon shapefiles representing known land-cover types into a supervised classification workflow. This saves time because the user does not have to manually select these land-cover types and locations in the image.

You can open multiple shapefiles, select records from multiple attribute viewers (see Step 4), and define multiple features. It is recommended that you define one or more new (empty) features before importing ground truth data.

Follow these steps to import ground truth data into your workflow:

1. Click the **Import Truth Data from Shapefile** button . The Select Shapefile for Import dialog appears.
2. Click **Open File**, and select one or more point or polygon shapefiles containing ground truth data. The shapefiles are listed in the Select Shapefile for Import dialog. Click **OK** in this dialog.

The vector layers appear in the Image window and Layer Manager and will remain there throughout the rest of the Feature Extraction workflow. An Import Attributes dialog also appears for each shapefile. This dialog is similar to the Vector Attribute Viewer dialog in ENVI Zoom.

3. In the Supervised Classification dialog, select a feature name to which you will add ground truth data. If you have not yet defined any new features (see "[Adding and Deleting Features](#)" on page 34), the ground truth data will be added to the default `Feature_1`.
4. If you opened multiple shapefiles, choose the Import Attributes dialog that contains ground truth data you want to import. In that dialog, select one or more records that represent the feature you are interested in. Click the row numbers to select records. Use **Ctrl**-click to select multiple, non-adjacent rows; or use **Shift**-click to select a group of adjacent rows. The vectors associated with the selected records are highlighted in cyan in the Image window.

Note: A shapefile may not necessarily represent ground truth data for only one feature; it may describe several different features. For example, you may have one polygon shapefile that contains ground truth data for different land-cover types (forest, agricultural, urban, etc.)

Note: Attributes associated with the ground truth shapefiles (for example, area, perimeter, population, etc.) cannot be used to improve rule-based or supervised classification results (as described in Computing Attributes). Only the spatial locations of the shapefile records are imported into the classification workflow.

5. Click **Import Selected** in the Import Attributes dialog. ENVI Zoom adds the selected vector records to the current feature by matching the point or polygon spatial locations with specific objects in the Region Means image. The objects are highlighted with the color assigned to that feature, and the feature name updates to show the number of new objects added. You can delete any unwanted objects or add them to another feature if needed (see "[Defining Training Data](#)" on page 33).
6. In the case of polygon shapefiles, all objects in the Region Means image that fall completely underneath the selected polygon will be added to the current feature. Other objects outside of the polygon may also be added if they have the same labels (ID numbers) as the regions within the polygon. This is the default method.

You may find that this method adds too many objects to the current feature. Enable the **Convert to Centroid** option if you want ENVI Zoom to use the centroid of the selected polygons as the basis for adding objects to the current feature. This method treats the centroids of the selected polygons as *point* records when finding associated objects. Click **Import Selected** again. The objects associated with the centroid location are highlighted and added to the current feature.

7. To add ground truth data to a different feature, select that feature name in the Supervised Classification dialog. Open a new shapefile, or select different records from your current shapefile (using the corresponding Import Attributes dialog) and add them to your selected feature, using steps 4-6 above.

Previewing Supervised Classification Results

After defining at least two features with at least one training sample each, click the **Preview** check box in the Extract Features task to view classification results in a Preview Portal. As you add or remove features, select objects, or add attributes, the Preview Portal dynamically updates to reflect the changes to the classification.

Note: Disabling the **Preview** option when selecting training data may improve performance. ENVI Zoom still recomputes classification results whenever you change the training data.

As you adjust the parameters under the Algorithm tab while the **Preview** option is enabled, click **Update** to see the changes to classification results in the Preview Portal.

After defining features and selecting training data, you can proceed directly to the Export task by clicking **Next**. (See "[Exporting Classification Results](#)" on page 48.) You can define up to 47 features. Advanced users can select specific attributes to use in classification, choose a classification method, and define parameters for that method. See "[Selecting Attributes for Classification \(Advanced\)](#)" on page 38 and "[Selecting a Supervised Classification Method \(Advanced\)](#)" on page 39.


Selecting Attributes for Classification (Advanced)






Once you have selected your training data, you can choose spatial, spectral, and/or texture attributes to use in further classifying a feature. (See "[Computing Attributes](#)" on page 26 for a description of each attribute.) You must select at least one attribute before continuing.

Some attributes are more useful when differentiating objects, and classification results may not be as accurate when you use all attributes equally since the irrelevant attributes could introduce noise into the results. Consider using the **Auto Select Attributes** feature, described in the table below. This feature is particularly useful when you have a large number of objects.

Note: ENVI Zoom computes attributes only for purposes of classification; the attributes are not passed to any output shapefiles you create during the Export task. The order of the attributes in the Selected Attributes list does not affect the classification results.

Follow these steps to select attributes for classification:

1. Click the **Attributes** tab in the Feature Extraction dialog. By default, all attributes are automatically added to the Selected Attributes list.
2. To select individual attributes for classification, expand the Spectral, Texture, and Spatial folders to see their respective attributes. Each attribute is shown with an  icon. (The "Customized" folder contains the Color Space and Band Ratio attributes if you calculated them for a multispectral image.) Use the following buttons to select or unselect attributes:

| Button | Button Name | Description |
|---|-------------------------|---|
|  | Select Attribute | Select an individual attribute, then click this button to move the attribute to the Selected Attributes list. If you select a folder (such as Spatial), this selects all the attributes in that folder. |
|  | Unselect Attribute | Select an individual attribute from the Selected Attributes list, then click this button to remove the attribute from the Selected Attributes list. |
|  | Select All Attributes | Click this button to add all spatial, spectral, texture, and customized (if any) attributes to the Selected Attributes list. |
|  | Unselect All Attributes | Click this button to remove all attributes from the Selected Attributes list. |
|  | Auto Select Attributes | Click this button if you want ENVI Zoom to determine the best attributes to use for classifying features. The underlying logic is based on the reference below. This button is enabled once you define at least two features with at least two objects each. Reference: <i>An interval based attribute ranking technique.</i> Unpublished report, ITT Visual Information Solutions. A copy of this paper is available from ITT Visual Information Solutions Technical Support. |

Selecting a Supervised Classification Method (Advanced)

Follow these steps to select a classification method:

1. Click the **Algorithm** tab in the Feature Extraction dialog.

2. Select a method from the Classification Algorithm drop-down list, and define the appropriate parameters. (See "[K Nearest Neighbor](#)" on page 40 and "[Support Vector Machine](#)" on page 40.) To reset parameters to their default values, click **Reset**.

As you adjust the parameters under the Algorithm tab while the **Preview** option is enabled (see "[Previewing Supervised Classification Results](#)" on page 38), click **Update** to see the changes to classification results in the Preview Portal.

3. Click **OK**.

K Nearest Neighbor

The K Nearest Neighbor classification method considers the Euclidean distance in n-dimensional space of the target to the elements in the training data, where n is defined by the number of object attributes used during classification. This method is generally more robust than a traditional nearest-neighbor classifier, since the K nearest distances are used as a majority vote to determine which class the target belongs to. The K Nearest Neighbor method is much less sensitive to outliers and noise in the dataset and generally produces a more accurate classification result compared with traditional nearest-neighbor methods.

Enter an odd integer value of 3 or higher in the **K Parameter** field. The default value is 3. The **K Parameter** is the number of neighbors considered during classification. Experiment with different values to see which gives you the best result, but realize that changing the value changes the classification results considerably. The ideal choice for **K Parameter** depends on the dataset and the training data you select. Larger values tend to reduce the effect of noise and outliers, but they may cause inaccurate classification. Typically, values of 3, 5, or 7 work well.

For example, suppose you have four classes and you set the **K Parameter** to 3. ENVI Zoom returns the distances from the target to the three nearest neighbors in the training dataset. The distances are 5.0 (class A), 6.0 (class A), and 3.0 (class B). In this case, the target is assigned to class A because it found two close neighbors in class A that "out-vote" the one from class B, even though the class B neighbor is actually closer.

Support Vector Machine

Support Vector Machine (SVM) is a classification system derived from statistical learning theory. When you select this option, you need to define various parameters:

1. Select the **Kernel Type** to use in the SVM classifier from the drop-down list. Depending on the option you select, additional fields may appear. All of these options are different ways of mathematically representing a kernel function. The Radial Basis Function kernel type (default) works well in most cases.

$$\text{Linear: } K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\text{Polynomial: } K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = (\gamma \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j + r)^d, \gamma > 0$$

$$\text{Radial Basis Function: } K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \exp(-\gamma \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|^2), \gamma > 0$$

$$\text{Sigmoid: } K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \tanh(\gamma \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j + r)$$

2. If the **Kernel Type** is **Polynomial**, set the **Degree of Kernel Polynomial** to specify the degree used for the SVM classification. The minimum value is 1 (default), and the maximum value is 6. Increasing this parameter more accurately delineates the boundary between classes. A value of 1 represents a first-degree polynomial function, which is essentially a straight line between two classes. A value of 1 works well when you have two very distinctive classes. In most cases, however, you will be working with imagery that has a high degree of variation and mixed pixels. Increasing the polynomial value causes the algorithm to more accurately follow the contours between classes, but you risk fitting the classification to noise.
3. If the **Kernel Type** is **Polynomial** or **Sigmoid**, specify the **Bias in Kernel Function** for the kernel to use in the SVM algorithm (shown as "r" in the above equations). The default value is 1.00.
4. If the kernel type is **Polynomial**, **Radial Basis Function**, or **Sigmoid**, use the **Gamma in Kernel Function** field to set the gamma parameter used in the kernel function. This value is a floating-point value greater than 0.01. The default is the inverse of the number of computed attributes.
5. Specify the **Penalty Parameter** for the SVM algorithm to use. This value is a floating-point value greater than 0.01. The default value is 100.0. The penalty parameter controls the trade-off between allowing training errors and forcing rigid margins. The more you increase this value, the more the parameter suppresses training data from "jumping" classes as you make changes to other parameters. Increasing this value also increases the cost of misclassifying points and causes ENVI to create a more accurate model that may not generalize well.
6. Use the **Classification Probability Threshold** field to set the probability that is required for the SVM classifier to classify a pixel. Pixels where all rule probabilities are less than this threshold are unclassified. The range is from 0.0 to 1.0. The default is 0.0. Increasing this value results in more unclassified pixels.

References:

Chang, C.-C. and C.-J. Lin. (2001). *LIBSVM: a library for support vector machines*.

Hsu, C.-W., C.-C. Chang, and C.-J. Lin. (2007). *A practical guide to support vector classification*. National Taiwan University. <http://ntu.csie.org/~cjlin/papers/guide/guide.pdf>.

Wu, T.-F., C.-J. Lin, and R. C. Weng. (2004). Probability estimates for multi-class classification by pairwise coupling. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 5:975-1005, <http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/papers/svmprob/svmprob.pdf>.

Rule-Based Classification

Rule-based classification is an advanced method that lets you define features by building rules based on object attributes. Rule-based classification is a powerful tool for feature extraction, often performing better than supervised classification for many feature types. Rule-building is primarily based on human knowledge and reasoning about specific feature types: For example, roads are elongated, some buildings approximate a rectangular shape, vegetation has a high NDVI value, and trees are highly textured compared to grass.

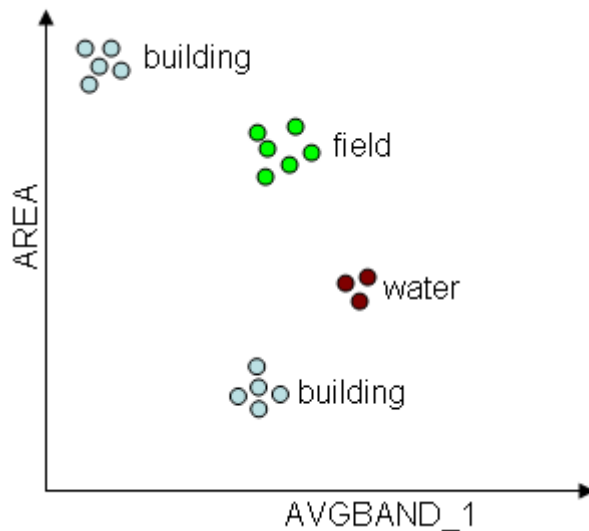
Taking this concept a step further, you define a rule using one or more conditions; for example, you could define the rule for "lake" as the following:

- Objects with an area greater than 500 pixels AND
- Objects with an elongation less than 0.5 AND
- Objects with a band ratio value less than 0.3

And you could define the rules for "road" as the following:

- Objects with an elongation greater than 0.9 AND
- Objects with a compactness less than 0.3 AND
- Objects with a standard deviation less than 20

Each object represents a data point (sample) in the attributes' n-dimensional space. You can define multiple rules (thus building a rule set) for a given feature in cases where the objects assigned to a feature belong to more than one cluster in n-dimensional space. The following figure shows an example 2D plot of the AREA versus AVGBAND_1 attributes:



Using this example, you may need to define multiple rules for the feature type "building" to cover different types of buildings such as small white buildings, buildings with red roofs, etc.

Reference:

Jin, X., and S. Paswaters. (2007). A fuzzy rule base system for object-based feature extraction and classification. In *Signal Processing, Sensor Fusion, and Target Recognition XVI* (I. Kadar, editor). Proceedings of SPIE, Vol. 6567, pp. 65671H1 - 65671H12. To obtain a copy of this paper in PDF format, please contact ITT Visual Information Solutions Technical Support.

Tip: See the ENVI Tutorials on the ITT Visual Information Solutions website (or on the ENVI Resource DVD that shipped with your ENVI installation) for step-by-step examples.

Fuzzy Logic

Traditional rule-based classification is based on strict binary rules, for example: objects meeting the rules for "tree" are classified as "tree," objects meeting the rules for "urban" are classified as "urban," and objects meeting neither rule remain unclassified. Fuzzy logic is an important element in ENVI Feature Extraction rule-based classification. Rather than classifying an object as fully "true" or "false" (as in binary rules), fuzzy logic uses a membership function to represent the degree that an object belongs to a feature type.


Information extraction from remote sensing data is limited by noisy sensor measurements with limited spectral and spatial resolution, signal degradation from image pre-processing, and imprecise transitions between land-use classes. Most remote sensing images contain mixed pixels that belong to one or more classes. Fuzzy logic helps alleviate this problem by simulating uncertainty or partial information that is consistent with human reasoning.

The output of each fuzzy rule is a confidence map, where values represent the degree that an object belongs to the feature type defined by this rule. In classification, the object is assigned to the feature type that has the maximum confidence value.

With rule-based classification, you can control the degree of fuzzy logic of each condition when you build rules.

Building Rules


Perform the following steps to build new rules:

1. The Extract Features task begins with one undefined feature (`Feature_1`) and one undefined rule (indicated by an icon).
2. To begin building a rule, choose one of the following options:
 - Double-click a rule name.
 - Select a rule name and click the **Add Attribute to Rule** button .
 - Right-click on a rule name and select **Add Attribute to Rule**.

The Attribute Selection dialog appears.

Selecting Attributes

Follow these steps to select attributes for classification:

1. Expand the Spectral, Texture, Spatial, or Customized folders. Each attribute is shown with an  icon.
2. Select an attribute name and enable the **Show Attribute Image** option to view a grayscale image of attribute values among all of the objects in the scene. The attribute image helps you select the appropriate attributes to define a rule for a certain feature. If the objects belonging to the feature have a high contrast relative to the other objects, then the attribute is a good choice for this rule. You can adjust the image transparency to view the underlying image if needed, using the Transparency slider on the main toolbar.

You can also use the cursor to roam over objects in the image and view the objects' attribute values in the Cursor Value panel. If you select a different attribute, the display will update.

3. Double-click on an attribute name, or select an attribute name and click **Next**. An interactive histogram dialog appears. The histogram shows the frequency of occurrence (y-axis) of the attribute values (x-axis) for all of the vector objects in the image.
4. To define minimum and/or maximum values for an attribute, click and drag the dashed vertical lines on the histogram. Or, type minimum and maximum values in the provided fields, and press **Enter**.
5. The **Show Rule Confidence Image** option is enabled by default. As you adjust the histogram range, the Preview Portal updates to show the relative confidence of each object belonging to a feature. The higher the brightness of an object, the higher the confidence that the object belongs to the feature. If an object is very dark, it likely does not belong to the feature.

You can observe the brightness values of the objects in the Cursor Value category of the ENVI Zoom interface. Because of the fuzzy logic applied underneath, you will notice that some objects have a brightness value between 0 and 255. If your rule set only has one rule, any object with a brightness value greater than 255 times the **Confidence Threshold** value (in the Advanced Settings dialog) will be classified as the feature. The default **Confidence Threshold** value is 0.4. So if the brightness value of an object is greater than 102, then this object will be classified as the feature using this rule.

6. Move the **Fuzzy Tolerance** slider bar to adjust the degree of fuzzy logic applied to that rule, to better model the uncertainty inherent in classification. The default value is 5.0 percent, and the maximum value is 20.0 percent.


When you adjust the **Fuzzy Tolerance** to a larger value, more objects will appear in the transition area between feature and non-feature. If you set the **Fuzzy Tolerance** to 0.0 percent, no fuzzy logic is applied when distinguishing among features.

When working with multiple rules or a rule defined by multiple attributes, it is recommended to set the **Fuzzy Tolerance** to a non-zero value. When you enable fuzzy logic in this manner, ENVI Zoom will not reject the object as a certain feature type using a single binary condition; instead, it considers information from all conditions to make a decision.


Suppose an object belongs to the feature type "water" if the mean spectral value of band 1 is less than 50.00 AND the area is larger than 500.00. If an object has a mean spectral value of 30.00 for band 1 AND an area of 499.00, according to binary classification, ENVI Zoom would reject this object as belonging to the feature type "water." Fuzzy logic would allow you to better approximate the uncertainty in human reasoning so that the object would have a very high probability of belonging to the "water" feature type.

Following are some tips on changing the value:





- Click on the slider bar to the right or left of the indicator to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 10.0.





- Click on the arrows to the right or left of the slider bar to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 1.0.
 - Click the up/down arrow keys next to the value field to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 0.1.
 - Click the slider, then use the arrow keys (on your keyboard) to increase or decrease the value by 0.1.
 - Click the slider, then press **Home** to move the slider to 100.0 or **End** to move the slider to 0.0.
 - Type a value into the provided field and press **Enter**.
7. From the **Membership Function Set Type** drop-down list, select **S-Type** (default) or **Linear**. Membership functions are mathematical concepts for modeling the underlying data distribution. ENVI Feature Extraction defines two membership function sets to model the fuzzy concepts of "greater than," "less than," and "in between." See Jin and Paswaters (2007) for the theory behind S-Type and piecewise linear membership function sets. The ideal option depends on the distribution of the input variable values. With the same **Fuzzy Tolerance** value, the S-type membership function set provides a lesser degree of fuzziness than the linear membership function set.
 8. Click the **Logic NOT** check box to apply an inverse of the attribute values. The confidence image (in the Preview Portal) updates accordingly.
 9. This step only applies if you have already defined at least one attribute for this rule. From the **AND** drop-down list, select a logic method to combine the current condition with the previous condition. The choices are **AND** (default) or **OR**.
 10. When you are satisfied with the attribute settings, click **OK**. An  icon appears under the rule name in the Feature Extraction dialog to indicate that you have added an attribute to the rule. The icon is followed by a brief summary of the attribute definition.

Editing Rule Properties

1. Select a rule name and click the **Rule Properties** button , or right-click on a rule name and select **Rule Properties**. The Properties dialog appears.
2. Enter a **Rule Weight** value between 0 and 1.00 if you want to assign the rule a lower confidence level (if you think the rule is less reliable than others). The default value of 1.00 is sufficient in most cases.


Managing Features and Rules

- To define a new feature, click the **Add Feature** button . A new, undefined feature with one undefined rule is added to the feature list.
- To delete a feature, select a feature name and click the **Delete Feature** button .
- To add a new rule to a feature, select a feature name and click the **Add Rule to Feature** button . Or, right-click on a feature name or rule name under that feature, and select **Add Rule to Feature**. A new, undefined rule appears under the feature name.
- To delete a rule, select the rule name and click the **Delete Rule** button . Or, right-click on the rule name and select **Delete Rule**.

- To start over and define a new rule set, click the **New Rule Set** button . A warning dialog asks if you want to delete all of your existing rules and features. Click **OK** if you wish to continue and to delete any previously defined rules. The Extract Features task begins with one undefined feature (Feature_1) and one undefined rule.
- To load an existing rule set from disk, click the **Restore Rule Set** button . A file selection dialog appears. Select an XML file (.xml) containing a rule set, and click **Open**.
- To save a rule set that you have been working on, click the **Save Rule Set As** button . A file selection dialog appears. Select an output XML filename (.xml), and click **Open**.
- To display a summary of your current rule sets, click the **Display Rule Set** button . The Display Rule Set dialog appears with a text summary of the rules you have defined. For example:


```
Rule Set: #1 (1.000): If area > 630.0000 AND avgband_2 < 307.0000
AND stdband_4 > 100.0000, then object belongs to Tree. #2 (1.000): If
tx_variance > 1000.0000, then object belongs to Urban.
```
- To edit attributes, choose one of the following options:
 - Double-click an attribute name.
 - Select an attribute name, and click **Edit Attribute**.
 - Right-click on an attribute name, and select **Edit Attribute**.
- To delete attributes, choose one of the following options:
 - Select an attribute name, and click **Delete Attribute**.
 - Right-click on an attribute name, and select **Delete Attribute**.

Advanced Settings

1. From the Feature Extraction dialog, click the **Advanced Settings** button . The Advanced Settings dialog appears.
2. Enter a **Confidence Threshold** value. During classification, an object is assigned to the class with the maximum confidence value or it remains unclassified if the maximum confidence value is below the **Confidence Threshold**. Values range from 0 to 1.00. The default value is 0.40.
3. From the **AND Operator** drop-down list, select one of the following options to apply to the entire rule set. Assume the membership function value of condition C1 is m_1 , and the membership function value of condition C2 is m_2 .
 - **min:** (default) The confidence value of C1 AND C2 is $\min(m_1, m_2)$.
 - **product:** The confidence value of C1 AND C2 is $m_1 * m_2$.
4. From the **OR Operator** drop-down list, select one of the following options to apply to the entire rule set. Assume the membership function value of condition C1 is m_1 , and the membership function value of condition C2 is m_2 .
 - **max:** (default) The confidence value of C1 OR C2 is $\max(m_1, m_2)$.
 - **probabilistic:** The confidence value of C1 OR C2 is $m_1 + m_2 - m_1 * m_2$.

5. Enter a **Default Fuzzy Tolerance** value to change the default **Fuzzy Tolerance** value in the interactive histograms. This is useful if you want to use the same value among all the rules that you define. Values range from 0 to 20 percent. The default value is 5 percent. Changing this value does not affect rules that you have already built.
6. From the **Default Membership Function Set Type** drop-down list, select **S-Type** (default) or **Linear** to define the default membership function set type used in the interactive histograms. This is useful if you want to use the same membership function set type among all the rules that you define. Membership functions are mathematical concepts for modeling the underlying data distribution. The ideal option depends on the distribution of the input variable values. Changing this value does not affect rules that you have already built. See Jin and Paswaters (2007) for the theory behind S-Type and piecewise linear membership function sets.

Reference:

Jin, X., and S. Paswaters. (2007). A fuzzy rule base system for object-based feature extraction and classification. In *Signal Processing, Sensor Fusion, and Target Recognition XVI* (I. Kadar, editor). Proceedings of SPIE, Vol. 6567, pp. 65671H1 - 65671H12. To obtain a copy of this paper in PDF format, please contact ITT Visual Information Solutions Technical Support.

Previewing Rule-Based Classification Results

After defining at least one feature with at least one rule, click the **Preview** check box in the Extract Features task to view classification results in a Preview Portal. Undefined rules are ignored. You can move the Preview Portal around the image to look at classification results for different areas.

Exporting Classification Results

When you have finished the required steps in the Supervised Classification or Rule-Based Classification steps, click **Next** to proceed to the Export step.

The **Export Vector Results** option (under the Vector Output tab) is enabled by default. You can choose to export classification results to a single shapefile or to individual shapefiles for each feature.

For rule-based and supervised classification, only those features that were used in classification (those with at least one object assigned to them) will be exported. If you are performing rule-based classification, the Export step will not complete if none of the features you defined are used in classification.

1. Choose one of the following options:
 - Enable the **Export features to a single layer option**, and select **Polygon**, **Point**, or **Line** from the drop-down list provided. This option is not selected by default. Then select an output shapefile name.
 - Click the check boxes next to feature names to output individual features to their own shapefiles. Select **Polygon**, **Point**, or **Line** from the corresponding drop-down lists. Selecting **Line** will convert polygon objects to the centerline, and selecting **Point** will output a point shapefile that represents the centers of polygon objects. Select an output directory to save the shapefiles. The shapefiles will have the same names as the feature names you specified during classification.
 - Click the **Export Attributes** check box to write attributes associated with the vector objects (following classification) to the `.dbf` file associated with the output shapefile. For polygon shapefiles, all attributes will be written. For polyline shapefiles, only the length attribute will be computed. No attributes will be written for point shapefiles.
2. If you selected to output vector results to a **Line** shapefile, an **Advanced** button appears. When you click the **Advanced** button, the Centerline Parameters dialog appears. Here, you can modify the default parameters for centerline calculations. The default values work well in most cases, but you have the option to modify the values if your polyline results are unacceptable. After experimenting with different values, you can click **Reset** to return to the default values if needed.
 - **Distance:** Minimum distance allowed for the weighted medial axis. Values range from 0 to (no units). The default value is 0, which gives the best results in most cases.
 - **Angle:** Minimum angle (in degrees) allowed for the medial axis. Values range from 0 to 90 degrees. The default value is 60 degrees.
 - **Prune:** This option is selected by default. Pruning means that unwanted edges will be removed from the medial axis.
 - **Remove Spurs:** This option is selected by default so that spurs will be removed from polylines.
 - If the **Remove Spurs** option is enabled, use the **Spur Threshold** field to set the maximum spur length. Values range from 0.1 to 1. The default value is 0.5.

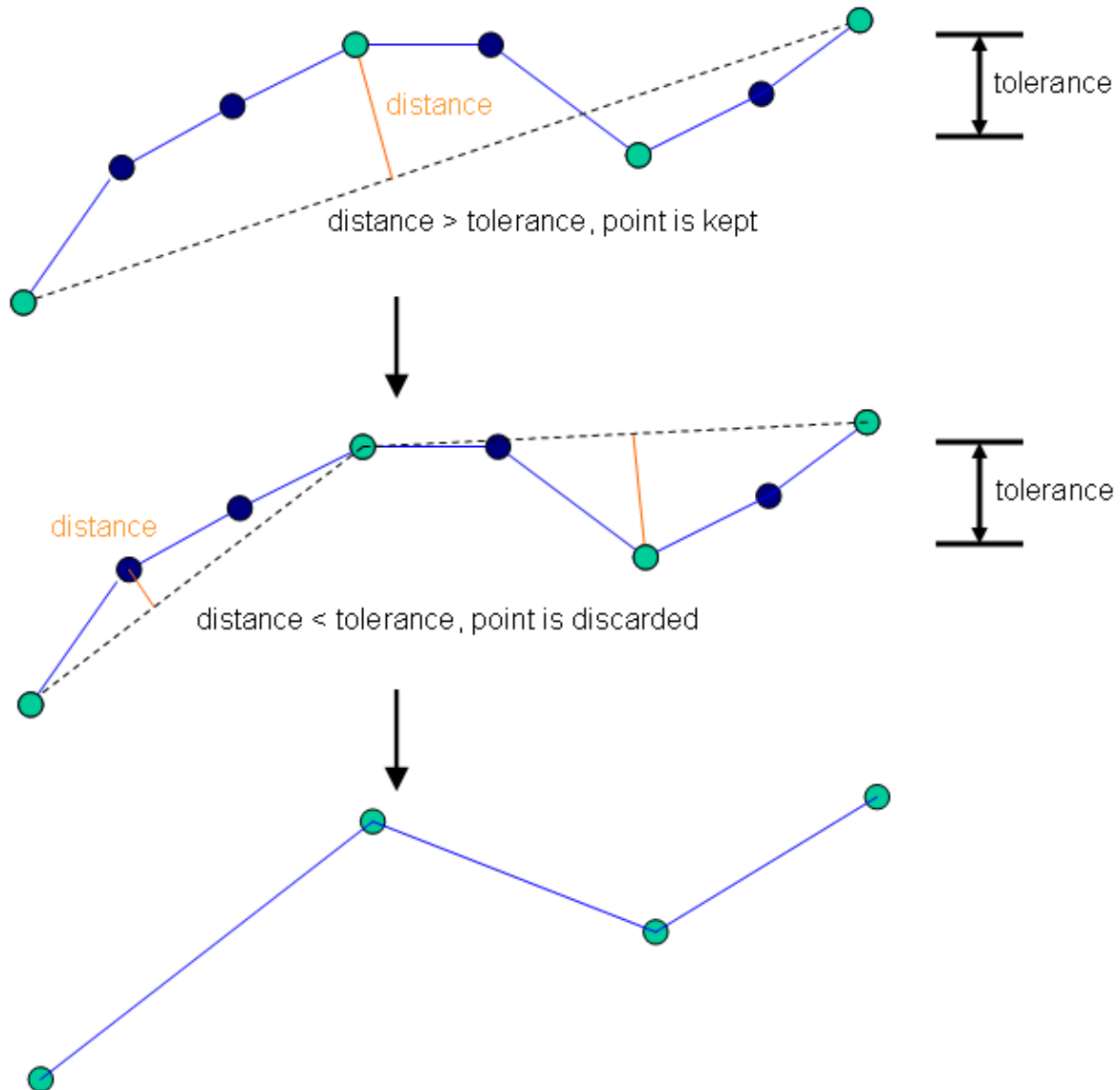
Smoothing Vectors

The **Smooth Vectors** option uses the Douglas-Peucker line simplification algorithm:

Douglas, D. H., and T. K. Peucker. (1973). Algorithms for the reduction of the number of points required to represent a digitized line or its caricature. *Cartographica*, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 112-122.

This algorithm uses the minimum number of vertices to describe a feature at a given scale. It is best suited for generalizing curved features such as rivers and not for structured objects such as buildings. The algorithm starts by identifying the first and last points in a polyline or polygon and drawing an imaginary line between them.

For all the points in between, the algorithm identifies the one with the greatest distance (d) to this baseline. If this distance is greater than the **Smoothing Threshold (Pixels)** value that you specify, the algorithm keeps this point and defines two sub-polylines from the point. The algorithm repeats the process with each sub-polyline until none of the points' distances from each successive baseline is greater than the **Smoothing Threshold (Pixels)**. The points that are kept when the iteration finishes describe the new feature.

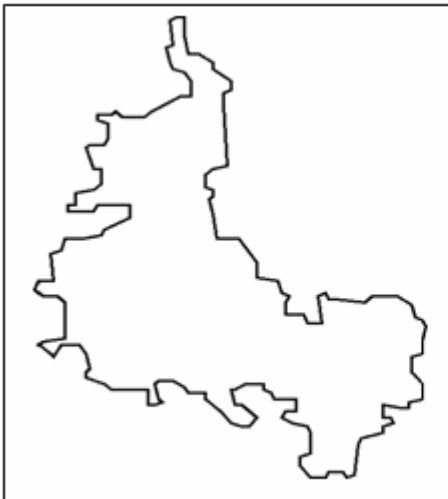


In ENVI Zoom, a smoothed polygon will have a minimum of five vertices, and a smoothed polyline will have a minimum of four vertices. ENVI Zoom determines how the image is projected and translates the **Smoothing Threshold (Pixels)** value into map units before applying the smoothing.

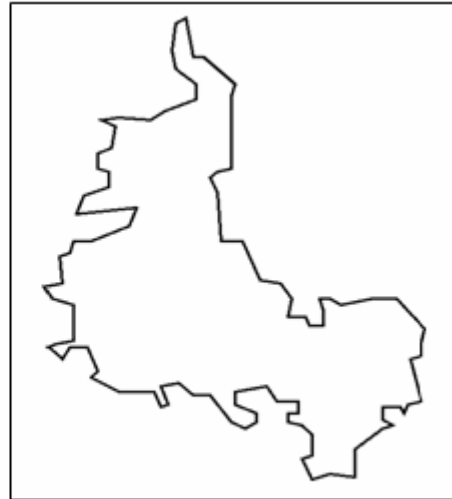
If the **Smooth Vectors on Export** preference is set to **True**, the following options are available in the Export step. See "[ENVI Feature Extraction Preferences](#)" on page 60 for more information on this preference.

Follow these steps to smooth your vectors:

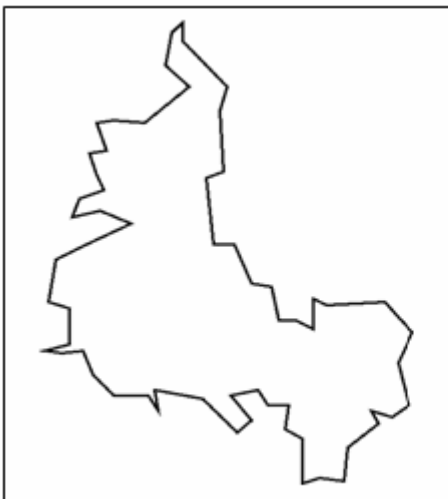
1. Enable the **Smooth Vectors** option to generalize all of your polyline and polygon vectors using the Douglas-Peucker line simplification algorithm. You cannot select specific vectors to generalize.
2. Enter a **Smoothing Threshold (Pixels)** integer value to indicate the level of generalization, if any. The default value is 1. A larger value results in straighter lines and less detail in your polylines and polygons. The maximum value is 99, although values greater than 10 are seldom useful. The following figure shows a comparison of different pixel values:



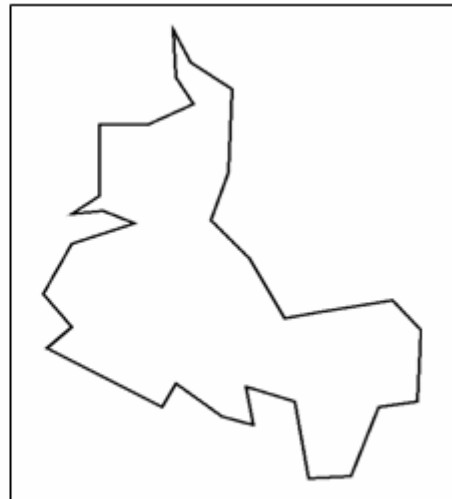
Smoothing Threshold (Pixels) = 1



Smoothing Threshold (Pixels) = 2



Smoothing Threshold (Pixels) = 4



Smoothing Threshold (Pixels) = 5

Exporting Classification Images

Click the Image Output tab, then enable the **Export Class Results** option if you want to export rule-based or supervised classification results to a raster image. Click the **File or Memory** button to output the raster image to file or memory. The file output is an ENVI-format file.

When creating shapefile and/or image output, you can choose to automatically load the results by clicking the **Display Datasets After Export** check box. This option is enabled by default. Click **Next** in the Export step to create vector shapefiles and/or classification images. Feature Extraction proceeds to the reporting step.

If you click **Previous** to change any classification options, then click **Next** to proceed to the Export step, the default Export options are selected.

Exporting Rule Images

Click the Image Output tab, then enable the **Export Rule Results** option if you want to export a rule confidence image from rule-based or supervised classification results to a raster image. This is a multi-band image that shows the relative confidence of each object belonging to a feature. See "[Selecting Attributes](#)" on page 43 for a more detailed description of this image.

Click the **File or Memory** button to output the raster image to file or memory. The file output is an ENVI-format file.

When creating shapefile and/or image output, you can choose to automatically load the results by clicking the **Display Datasets After Export** check box. This option is enabled by default. Click **Next** in the Export step to create vector shapefiles and/or classification images. Feature Extraction proceeds to the reporting step.

If you click **Previous** to change any classification options, then click **Next** to proceed to the Export step, the default Export options are selected.

Understanding Reports and Statistics

After you export your classification results, you are presented with a summary of the processing options and settings you used throughout the Feature Extraction workflow. The Report tab lists the following items:

- Filename of the input image file used for Feature Extraction
- Scale Level, Merge Level, and thresholding values used in the Refine step
- Types of attributes computed: Spatial, Spectral, Texture, Color Space, and/or Band Ratio. Bands used for Color Space and Band Ratio attributes are also reported.
- Classification type: Rule-Based or Supervised
- Rule sets used for rule-based classification
- Algorithm used for supervised classification
- Summary of export options, including feature names and types, output shapefile names and directories. The Report tab only describes features that were classified and exported.
- Smoothing Threshold (Pixels) values, and filenames of classification images

This information may vary slightly if you access the report from the Export Vectors dialog (in the Find Objects task) rather than from the classification steps.

A Statistics tab is also available if you exported your classification results to vector shapefiles. The Statistics tab presents a table view of the features you defined. The Statistics tab only describes features that were classified and exported. The following columns are provided:

- **Feature Name:** The names assigned to each of your features
- **Feature Count:** The total number of polygons, polylines, or points belonging to each feature

The following additional columns are provided for polygon features only and are in map units determined by the input image:

- **Total Area**
- **Mean Area**
- **Maximum Area**
- **Minimum Area**

You can sort the table cells by right-clicking anywhere in the table and selecting **Sort by selected column forward** (ascending order) or **Sort by selected column reverse** (descending order).

Saving Reports

You can save all of the information under the Report and Statistics tabs to a text file by clicking **Save Text Report**. The Save FX Report dialog appears. Select an output filename and location, and click **OK**.

Modifying Export Options

After viewing the processing summary, you can click **Finish** to exit the Feature Extraction workflow. Or, click **Previous** to go back to the Export step and change the output options for classification results.

If you click **Previous**, any output that you created is removed from the Data Manager and Layer Manager. If you click **Next** from the Export step without making any changes, Feature Extraction will not re-create the output. You must make at least one change in the Export step for Feature Extraction to create new shapefiles and/or classification images.

An aerial photograph of a landscape, possibly a forest or agricultural area, with a semi-transparent blue overlay on the left side. The text is positioned over the blue area.

Chapter 5: Tips and Tricks for Using ENVI Feature Extraction

In this chapter you will find:

General Tips and Tricks, [54](#)

Find Objects Task, [56](#)

Extract Features Task, [57](#)

General Tips and Tricks

Following are some helpful tips for progressing through the Feature Extraction workflow.

Note: Make sure you have adequate disk space before processing large files.

Working with Multiple Layers

As you proceed through the workflow and create Region Means images, the Layer Manager will show multiple raster layers. Because of the workflow's dependency on the display, you can only add new layers; you cannot remove existing layers. To hide or show layers, right-click on the appropriate layer name(s) and select **Show** or **Hide**, respectively. Or, reorder layers as needed to view layers of interest.

Working with Preview Portals

For optimal Preview Portal performance, set the Zoom to 100 percent before running ENVI Feature Extraction. See "Zooming" in ENVI Zoom Help.

You can use Blend, Flicker, and Swipe tools to view the underlying layer when a Preview Portal is displayed. You can also use the Pan, Zoom, and Transparency tools, although these are for display purposes only; they do not affect ENVI Feature Extraction results.

You cannot adjust the Contrast, Brightness, Stretch, or Sharpen values in a Preview Portal.

If a Preview Portal is displayed over an image, you can use any of ENVI Zoom's enhancement tools on the image by first clicking on the image in the Image window or selecting the image layer in the Layer Manager. You can also move the Preview Portal around the image or resize it to look at different areas.

If tile rendering performance is slow or non-responsive in the Preview Portal, try setting the preference **Use Graphics Card to Accelerate Enhancement Tools** to **No**. To effectively use this preference, ensure your hardware and software meet the listed requirements. See "Display General Preferences" in ENVI Zoom Help for details.

Working with Slider Bars

The following tips apply to slider bars used for Scale Level, Merge Level, and Fuzzy Tolerance parameters.

- Click on the slider bar to the right or left of the indicator to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 10.0.
- Click on the arrows to the right or left of the slider bar to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 1.0.
- Click the up/down arrow keys next to the value field to move the slider up or down incrementally by a value of 0.1.
- Click the slider, then use the arrow keys (on your keyboard) to increase or decrease the value by 0.1.
- Click the slider, then press **Home** to move the slider to 100.0 or **End** to move the slider to 0.0.
- Type a value into the provided field and press **Enter**.

Working with Ancillary Data

To use ancillary data with your base image, the following restrictions apply:

- You can only use raster data for ancillary data; vector data is not allowed. You can convert any vector ancillary data to raster format in ENVI prior to using it in ENVI Feature Extraction.
- Both the base image and ancillary data must have map information. If the ancillary data is not in the same map projection as the base image, ENVI Zoom will reproject the ancillary data to match the base projection.
- The ancillary data and base image must have some geographic overlap.
- If you spatially subset the base image, the ancillary data will be reprojected to match that spatial extent.
- You can select specific bands to process from the ancillary dataset and base image.

Working with Masks

The following restrictions apply to working with masks in ENVI Feature Extraction:

- You can only use a single-band raster image or polygon shapefile as a mask file. Multi-band images or point/line shapefiles are not allowed. ENVI Zoom will convert polygon shapefiles to raster images for Feature Extraction.
- You can only specify one mask file for input. If you have multiple mask files, you can combine them into one image in ENVI prior to using ENVI Feature Extraction.
- A raster mask must have the same spatial extent and map projection as the base image. Masks are not reprojected to match the base image. If the mask has a different map projection than the base image, you could change the mask's map projection in ENVI prior to using it in ENVI Feature Extraction.
- You cannot use the same image for the base and/or ancillary data and/or mask file.

Find Objects Task

The following tips and tricks pertain to the Find Objects task of the Feature Extraction workflow.

Segmenting Images

If the **Preview** option is enabled, you can click once in the Image window to select the image layer, then increase the transparency of the image (using the Transparency slider in the main toolbar). This helps you better discern the segments displayed in the Preview Portal.

You should ideally choose the highest **Scale Level** that delineates the boundaries of features as well as possible. If you choose too high of a **Scale Level**, the boundaries between segments will not be properly delineated and you will lose features of interest. You should ensure that features of interest are not grouped into segments represented by other features.

You should also ensure that a feature of interest is not divided into too many small segments (over-segmentation; usually the result of a low **Scale Level**). If you cannot avoid this problem in the Segment step, then you can use Merge in the second step to improve the delineation of feature boundaries.

Throughout the process of segmenting images, merging segments, and refining segments, you can easily create very large segments that represent background objects and are meaningless in the context of classification. Creating vectors from these large regions consumes a lot of memory and results in poor display performance; therefore, ENVI Zoom ignores these large regions during vectorization. If you want to extract very large regions from an image, you should first down-sample the image prior to running ENVI Feature Extraction.

Merging Segments

Merging is an optional step used to aggregate small segments within larger, textured areas such as trees, clouds, or fields, where over-segmentation may be a problem. For example, if your image shows thick vegetation, increasing the **Scale Level** (in the previous Segment step) may not sufficiently delineate tree-covered areas. The results may be over-segmented if you set a small **Scale Level** value or under-segmented if you set a large **Scale Level** value. Merging would be a useful option in this case for improving the delineation of tree boundaries.

If merging is not a useful option for your image, you can proceed directly to the Refine step by clicking **Next** in the Merge step (leaving the **Merge Level** at the default value of 0.0). No merging will be performed.

Refining Segments

When setting thresholds, you may find it helpful to use the Transparency tool to adjust the transparency of the thresholding results in the Preview Portal so that you can see the underlying image.

Computing Attributes

In the Compute Attributes step, band ratio and color space attributes reside in the Customized folder.

ENVI Zoom computes attributes only for purposes of supervised or rule-based classification; the attributes are not passed to any output shapefiles you create during the Export task.

You must choose to compute spatial attributes if you plan to export segmentation results and for the Export Vectors option to be available in the Extract Features task.

Extract Features Task

The following tips and tricks pertain to the Extract Features task of the Feature Extraction workflow.

Supervised Classification

The more features and training data you select, the better the results from supervised classification. However, selecting an overwhelming number of training data will cause poor performance during classification and when previewing classification results.

After defining at least two features with at least one training sample each, you can click the **Preview** check box in the Extract Features task to view classification results in a Preview Portal. As you add or remove features, select objects, or add attributes, the Preview Portal dynamically updates to reflect the changes to the classification. Disabling the **Preview** option when selecting training data may improve performance. ENVI Zoom still recomputes classification results whenever you change the training data. As you adjust the parameters under the Algorithm tab while the **Preview** option is enabled, click **Update** to see the changes to classification results in the Preview Portal.

Collecting Training Data

When you begin supervised classification, you may need to click once in the image to activate the process of collecting training data. Then as you move around the image, the objects underlying your cursor are highlighted with the color assigned to the currently selected feature.

You can enable the **Show Boundaries** option under the Features tab to view the boundaries of the individual objects.

Try to select objects with a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and colors, that represent a given feature.

To select multiple objects at once, click and drag the cursor to draw a box around the objects. ENVI Zoom assigns all of the segments that are completely enclosed within the selection box to the feature. However, be careful using the selection box because selecting an overwhelming number of training samples will cause poor performance during classification and when previewing classification results.

You must define at least two features to perform supervised classification.

Saving and Restoring Training Data

You can save multiple sets of training data collected from different images to one XML file. When you restore the XML file, ENVI Zoom reads the attribute data and uses these objects for supervised classification.

Training data are tied to the Scale Level, Merge Level, and thresholding values you use in the Find Objects task of the Feature Extraction workflow. So, after saving your training data, you cannot change any of these values and restore the same training data file for use in supervised classification. Each image that you use with restored training data must have the same Scale Level, Merge Level, and Refine values.

You can only restore one training data file per image. Also, the image must have the same number of bands as the images used to generate the training data file. For example, you cannot process a multispectral image with a training data file built from a set of panchromatic images.

If you want to use the same training data file for similar images, those images should be from the same sensor under similar environmental conditions. For example, you don't want to use a training data file that you extracted from a Quickbird image with Landsat images. For best results, images should also have the same geographic projection, the same number of bands, and the same workflow parameters (Scale Level, Merge Level, and thresholds).

Rule-Based Classification

If you enable the **Show Attribute Image** option, you can adjust the image transparency to view the underlying image if needed, using the Transparency slider on the main toolbar. You can also use the cursor to roam over objects in the image and view the objects' attribute values in the Cursor Value panel. If you select a different attribute, the display will update.

When viewing the rule confidence image, you can observe the brightness values of the objects in the Cursor Value category of the ENVI Zoom interface. Because of the fuzzy logic applied underneath, you will notice that some objects have a brightness value between 0 and 255. If your rule set only has one rule, any object with a brightness value greater than 255 times the **Confidence Threshold** value (in the Advanced Settings dialog) will be classified as the feature. The default **Confidence Threshold** value is 0.4. So if the brightness value of an object is greater than 102, then this object will be classified as the feature using this rule.

When working with multiple rules or a rule defined by multiple attributes, it is recommended to set the **Fuzzy Tolerance** to a non-zero value. When you enable fuzzy logic in this manner, ENVI Zoom will not reject the object as a certain feature type using a single binary condition; instead, it considers information from all conditions to make a decision.

After defining at least one feature with at least one rule, click the **Preview** check box in the Extract Features task to view classification results in a Preview Portal. Undefined rules are ignored. You can move the Preview Portal around the image to look at classification results for different areas.

Exporting Classification Results

If you choose to smooth your vector results, keep in mind that values greater than 10 for the **Smoothing Threshold (Pixels)** value are seldom useful. In most cases, you should choose a value between 1 and 5. Experiment with different values to determine the ideal amount of smoothing.

After viewing reports and statistics, you can click **Finish** to exit the Feature Extraction workflow. Or, click **Previous** to go back to the Export step and change the output options for classification results.

If you click **Previous**, any output that you created is removed from the Data Manager and Layer Manager. If you click **Next** from the Export step without making any changes, Feature Extraction will not re-create the output. You must make at least one change in the Export step for Feature Extraction to create new shapefiles and/or classification images.



Chapter 6: Preferences

In this chapter you will find:

ENVI Feature Extraction Preferences, [60](#)

ENVI Feature Extraction Preferences

You can set preferences to change various ENVI Feature Extraction properties. When you change a preference, it immediately takes effect without requiring you to restart ENVI Zoom. However, if you are currently working in ENVI Feature Extraction and you change a preference, you need to restart ENVI Feature Extraction for the change to take effect.

To edit preferences, select **File > Preferences** from the menu bar. The ENVI Zoom Preferences dialog appears. Select **Feature Extraction** in the left tree view.

| Preference | Description |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Confirm on Exit | Enable or disable whether ENVI Zoom confirms that you want to exit the Feature Extraction workflow when you exit ENVI Feature Extraction. The default is True . |
| Enable Drag Events in Preview | Enable or disable whether the Preview Portal updates on-the-fly as you drag the Scale Level and Merge Level sliders or if you adjust the interactive histogram values in rule-based classification. The default is False , which means the Preview Portal is only updated when you let go of the sliders. |
| Preview Foreground Color | Set the boundary color in the Segment and Merge Preview Portals. The default color is green [0,255,0]. |
| Default Scale Level | Set an initial value for the segmentation Scale Level . The default value is 50. |
| Max Bins in Histogram | Set the number of bins used for textural calculations during vectorization. Larger values require more memory to store the histogram but result in higher accuracy for images with a higher bit depth. The default value is 256. |
| Number of Vectors Per Tile | Set the number of vectors that are simultaneously read into memory during vectorization. Increasing this value should slightly improve vectorization performance at the cost of using more memory. The default value is 100000. |
| Use Spatial Attributes | The default value is True , which means the Spatial check box is enabled in the Compute Attributes step. Set this preference to False if you do not want to calculate spatial attributes during the Feature Extraction workflow. |
| Use Spectral Attributes | The default value is True , which means the Spectral check box is enabled in the Compute Attributes step. Set this preference to False if you do not want to calculate spectral attributes during the Feature Extraction workflow. |
| Use Textural Attributes | The default value is True , which means the Texture check box is enabled in the Compute Attributes step. Set this preference to False if you do not want to calculate texture attributes during the Feature Extraction workflow. |
| Use Color Space Attributes | The default value is True , which means the Color Space check box is enabled in the Compute Attributes step for multispectral images. Set this preference to False if you do not want to calculate color space attributes during the Feature Extraction workflow. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Use Band Ratio Attributes | The default value is True , which means the Band Ratio check box is enabled in the Compute Attributes step for multispectral images. Set this preference to False if you do not want to calculate the band ratio attribute during the Feature Extraction workflow. |
| Texture Kernel Size | Set the kernel size used to perform texture calculations during vectorization. Use an odd number of 3 or higher. The maximum value is 19. The default value is 3. Larger values provide more information at the expense of slower performance. |
| Maximum Number of Vector Vertices | Set the maximum number of vertices that ENVI Zoom produces for any single polygon during the Compute Attributes step. The default value is 200000. Smaller values cause ENVI Zoom to ignore regions that do not meet the criteria for creating vector polygons. As the value increases, ENVI Zoom tries to include larger regions at the expense of slower performance. |
| Maximum File Size of Shapefiles (Mbytes) | Set the approximate maximum file size of shapefiles if you choose to create vector output during the Export task. The default value is 500 MB. |
| Delete Temporary Directory on Exit | Throughout the Feature Extraction workflow, ENVI Zoom creates several temporary files and directories. You can choose to automatically delete these when exiting ENVI Zoom by setting this preference to Yes (the default). |
| Smooth Vectors on Export | Set this preference to True if you want the option to generalize your polyline and polygon vectors using the Douglas-Peucker line simplification algorithm (in the Export step following classification). Set this preference to False if you do not want the smoothing option to appear in the Export step. |
| Smoothing Threshold (pixels) | Set the default number of pixels to use in vector smoothing. This preference only applies if you set the Smooth Vectors on Export preference to True . You can still set the Smoothing Threshold (Pixels) value in the Export dialog, regardless of this preference. |



Chapter 7: ENVI_FX_DOIT

In this chapter you will find:

ENVI_FX_DOIT, [64](#)

ENVI_FX_DOIT

This procedure automates the ENVI Feature Extraction workflow for programmatic access using various segmentation and classification parameters.

Syntax

See the "Syntax" heading in the Overview chapter of the *ENVI Reference Guide* for a description of the syntax below.

```
ENVI_DOIT, 'ENVI_FX_DOIT' [, A_FID=array] [, A_POS=array] [, BR_BANDS=array]
[, CENTERLINE_OPTIONS=array] [, CONF_THRESHOLD=floating point] [, CS_BANDS=array],
DIMS=array, FID=file ID [, /EXPORT_ATTRIBUTES] [, /EXPORT_RASTER] [, /INVERSE_MASK]
[, KERNEL_SIZE=long integer] [, M_FID=file ID] [, MERGE_LEVEL=floating point], POS=array
[, R_FID=variable] [, RASTER_FILENAME=string or string array] [, /RAW_ATTRIBUTES]
[, RAW_FILENAME=string] [, REFINE_BAND=integer] [, /REFINE_INVERSE] [, /REFINE_MASK]
[, RULESET_FILENAME=string], SCALE_LEVEL=floating point [, SEGMENT_BANDS=array]
[, SMOOTHING_THRESHOLD=floating point] [, TD_FILENAME=string]
[, THRESHOLD_LOWER=floating point] [, THRESHOLD_UPPER=floating point]
[, VECTOR_FILENAME=string] [, VECTOR_OPTIONS=string array]
```

Keywords

A_FID (optional)

Set this keyword to an array of file IDs for ancillary data files. Use this keyword in conjunction with the A_POS keyword. The number of elements of A_FID must equal the number of elements of A_POS.

A_POS (optional)

Set this keyword to an array of long integers representing band numbers to process in the ancillary data files. Use this keyword in conjunction with the A_FID keyword. Specify bands starting with zero (Band 1=0, Band 2=1, etc.)

Each element in the A_POS array corresponds to an element in the A_FID array. For example, suppose you have two ancillary files whose file IDs are 100 and 200. You want to process Band 1 from file ID 200, and you want to process Bands 2, 3, 4, and 5 from file ID 100. Write the code as follows:

```
A_FID = [200, 100, 100, 100, 100]
A_POS = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
```

Or, to process all bands from the same file (100), write the code as follows:

```
A_FID = [100, 100, 100, 100, 100]
A_POS = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
```


BR_BANDS (optional)

Set this keyword to a two-element array of long integers representing band numbers used to calculate the Band Ratio attribute, in the following order: [*redband*, *NIRband*]. If you do not use this keyword, ENVI Zoom determines the red and near-infrared bands using wavelength information from the input file. If no wavelength information is available, ENVI Zoom uses the first two bands in the input file to calculate the Band Ratio attribute.

CENTERLINE_OPTIONS (optional)

If you export vector results to a polyline shapefile, set this keyword to a five-element array of floating-point values, where each element represents a centerline parameter: [*distance*, *angle*, *prune*, *remove spurs*, *spur threshold*]

- *distance* [0]: Minimum distance allowed for the weighted medial axis. The default value is 0. This is a unitless parameter; values can be equal to or greater than 0.
- *angle* [1]: Minimum angle (in degrees) allowed for the medial axis. Values range from 0 to 180.0 degrees. The default value is 60.0 degrees.
- *prune* [2]: This option is set to 1.0 by default, which means that unwanted edges will be removed from the medial axis. Set this array element to 0 if you do not want to enable pruning.
- *remove spurs* [3]: This option is set to 1.0 by default, which means that spurs will be removed from polylines. Set this array element to 0 if you do not want to remove spurs.
- *spur threshold* [4]: If you set the *remove spurs* option (array element [3]) to 1, then set the *spur threshold* element to the maximum spur length. Values range from 0.1 to 1. The default value is 0.5.

Following is an example of using this keyword when you want to perform pruning and removing spurs:

```
centerline_options = [0.0, 60.0, 1.0, 1.0, 0.5]
```

CONF_THRESHOLD (optional)

Set this keyword to a floating-point value representing the **Confidence Threshold** parameter used in rule-based classification and in the Support Vector Machine (SVM) method of supervised classification. Values range from 0.0 to 1.0. The default value is 0.0.

Note: The default value for this parameter in the Feature Extraction dialog in ENVI Zoom is 0.0 for supervised classification and 0.40 for rule-based classification.

CS_BANDS (optional)

Set this keyword to a three-element array of long integers representing band numbers used to calculate the Color Space attribute, in the following order: [*redband*, *greenband*, *blueband*]. If you do not use this keyword, ENVI Zoom determines the RGB bands using wavelength information from the input file. If no wavelength information is available, ENVI Zoom uses the first three bands in the input file to calculate the Color Space attribute.

DIMS

The dimensions keyword is a five-element array of long integers that defines the spatial subset (of a file or array) to use for processing. Nearly every time you specify the keyword FID, you must also specify the spatial subset of the corresponding file (even if the entire file, with no spatial subsetting, is to be processed).

- DIMS[0]: A pointer to an open ROI; use only in cases where ROIs define the spatial subset. Otherwise, set to -1L.
- DIMS[1]: The starting sample number. The first x pixel is 0.
- DIMS[2]: The ending sample number
- DIMS[3]: The starting line number. The first y pixel is 0.
- DIMS[4]: The ending line number

To process an entire file (with no spatial subsetting), define DIMS as shown in the following code example. This example assumes you have already opened a file using ENVI_SELECT or ENVI_PICKFILE:

```
envi_file_query, fid, dims=dims
```

You cannot define DIMS as a pointer to a region of interest (ROI) in any of ENVI's _DOIT library routines. Using the following example code with a _DOIT library routine will result in an error message when you run the program:

```
roi_ids = ENVI_GET_ROI_IDS()  
roi_dims = ENVI_GET_ROI_DIMS_PTR(roi_ids[0])  
dims= [roi_dims,0,0,0,0]
```

EXPORT_ATTRIBUTES (optional)

Use this keyword in conjunction with the VECTOR_FILENAME keyword. Set this keyword if you want to write attributes associated with the vector objects (following classification) to the output shapefile (.dbf).

EXPORT_RASTER (optional)

Use this keyword in conjunction with the RASTER_FILENAME keyword. Set this keyword if you want to output classification results to a classification image and/or rule confidence image.

FID

The file ID (FID) is a long-integer scalar with a value greater than 0. An invalid FID has a value of -1. The FID is provided as a named variable by one of several ENVI routines used to open or select a file. Often, the FID is returned from the keyword R_FID in the procedure ENVI_OPEN_FILE. All file processing using ENVI's routines is accomplished by referring to its FID. If you work directly with the file in IDL, the FID is *not* equivalent to a logical unit number (LUN).

INVERSE_MASK (optional)

Set this keyword if you want to invert the mask specified by the M_FID keyword. Inverting the mask means that Feature Extraction will process the areas with pixel values of 0.

KERNEL_SIZE (optional)

Set this keyword to a long-integer odd number representing the size of the kernel used in texture attribute calculations. The default value is 3.

M_FID (optional)

Set this keyword to the file ID of a raster mask image. If you specify this keyword, then Feature Extraction will ignore areas with pixel values of 0 in the mask.

MERGE_LEVEL (optional)

Set this keyword to a floating-point value (between 0.0 and 100.0) for the **Merge Level** parameter used during segmentation. If the value is 0.0, then no merging will be performed.

POS

Use this keyword to specify an array of band positions, indicating the band numbers on which to perform the operation. This keyword indicates the spectral subset of bands to use in processing. POS is an array of long integers, ranging from 0 to the number of bands minus 1. Specify bands starting with zero (Band 1=0, Band 2=1, etc.) For example, to process only Bands 3 and 4 of a multi-band file, POS=[2, 3].

POS is typically used with individual files. The example code below for ENVI_STATS_DOIT illustrates the use of POS for a single file with four bands of data:

```
pos=[0,1,2,3]
envi_doit, 'envi_stats_doit', dims=dims, fid=fid, pos=pos, $
comp_flag=3, dmin=dmin, dmax=dmax, mean=mean, stdv=stdv, hist=hist
```

But what if you need to create an output file consisting of data from different bands, each from different files? Library routines such as CF_DOIT and ENVI_LAYER_STACKING_DOIT can accomplish this, but they use the POS keyword differently. Suppose you have four files, `test1`, `test2`, `test3`, and `test4`, with corresponding FIDs of `fid1`, `fid2`, `fid3`, and `fid4`, respectively. In the following example, you want Band 3 from `test1` in the first position, Band 2 from `test2` in the second position, Band 6 from `test3` in the third position, and Band 4 from `test4` in the fourth position. The code should be as follows:

```
fid_array = [fid1,fid2,fid3,fid4]
pos=[2,1,5,3]
envi_doit, 'cf_doit', dims=dims, fid=fid_array
out_name='test_composite_file'
```

R_FID (optional)

This keyword is a returned variable containing a file ID. One of the following values will be returned:

- If processing fails for any reason, then `R_FID = -1`.
- If you specify the `RASTER_FILENAME` keyword and processing is successful, `R_FID` will contain the file ID of the classification image.
- If you do not specify the `RASTER_FILENAME` keyword and processing is successful, `R_FID` will contain the file ID of the input file (`R_FID = FID`).

RASTER_FILENAME (optional)

Use this keyword to specify the filenames of an output classification image and/or rule image when you set the EXPORT_RASTER keyword. If you do not set this keyword, then ENVI does not create output raster files.

To create an output classification image only, set RASTER_FILENAME to a string value, for example: RASTER_FILENAME='class.img'.

To create both classification and rule confidence images, set RASTER_FILENAME to a two-element string array as follows: RASTER_FILENAME=['class.img', 'rule.img'].

To create a rule image only, set RASTER_FILENAME to a two-element string array with the first element as a null string, for example: RASTER_FILENAME=['', 'rule.img'].

RAW_ATTRIBUTES (optional)

Use this keyword in conjunction with the RAW_FILENAME keyword. Set this keyword if you want to output the raw attributes (prior to classification) to the output shapefile attribute file.

RAW_FILENAME (optional)

Set this keyword to a string value with the filename of a shapefile where you can output the raw vectors (prior to classification). If you use this keyword, ENVI_FX_DOIT skips classification and ignores the following keywords: CONF_THRESHOLD, VECTOR_FILENAME, VECTOR_OPTIONS, SMOOTHING_THRESHOLD, and RASTER_FILENAME. Outputting raw vectors requires you to compute attributes, so you still need to specify the RULESET_FILENAME or TD_FILENAME keyword.

REFINE_BAND (optional)

Set this keyword to a long-integer value representing the band of the Region Means image used during the Refine step. You must also specify the THRESHOLD_LOWER and THRESHOLD_UPPER keywords.

If you also set the SEGMENT_BANDS keyword, then the Region Means image will only consist of the bands specified by SEGMENT_BANDS instead of all bands in the image. In this case, REFINE_BAND must correspond to one of the bands in the resulting Region Means image rather than a band from the original image.

REFINE_INVERSE (optional)

Set this keyword if you want to invert the mask created during the Refine step (if any). You must set the REFINE_MASK keyword. Inverting the mask means that Feature Extraction will process the areas with pixel values of 0.

REFINE_MASK (optional)

Set this keyword if you want to create a mask during the Refine step. To set this keyword, you must also set the THRESHOLD_LOWER and THRESHOLD_UPPER keywords. Feature Extraction will ignore areas with pixel values of 0 in the mask.

RULESET_FILENAME (optional)

Set this keyword to a string value with the filename (.xml) of an input rule set if you are performing rule-based classification. ENVI_FX_DOIT uses this keyword to read in the attributes computed for rule-based classification.

Note: You must use the RULESET_FILENAME or TD_FILENAME keyword, but not both.

SCALE_LEVEL

Set this keyword to a floating-point value (between 0.0 and 100.0) for the **Scale Level** parameter used during segmentation.

SEGMENT_BANDS (optional)

Set this keyword to an array of long integers representing the band numbers used for segmentation. The default is to use all bands in the input image: SEGMENT_BANDS=lindgen(*nbands*).

SMOOTHING_THRESHOLD (optional)

Set this keyword to a floating-point value (in units of pixels) to use during vector smoothing. The default value is 1.0. Setting this keyword to 0.0 disables vector smoothing. This keyword has no effect if you do not set the VECTOR_FILENAME keyword.

TD_FILENAME (optional)

Set this keyword to a string value with the filename of a training dataset if you are performing supervised classification. ENVI_FX_DOIT uses this keyword to read in the attributes computed for supervised classification.

Note: You must use the RULESET_FILENAME or TD_FILENAME keyword, but not both.

THRESHOLD_LOWER (optional)

Set this keyword to a floating-point value representing the low threshold for the Refine step. The default value is 0.0.

Note: The Refine step will be performed only if THRESHOLD_LOWER < THRESHOLD_UPPER.

THRESHOLD_UPPER (optional)

Set this keyword to a floating-point value representing the upper threshold for the Refine step. The default value is 0.0.

VECTOR_FILENAME (optional)

Set this keyword to a string value with the full path to a file or directory where the vector shapefiles will be output. If you set this keyword to a directory name, then ENVI creates separate shapefiles for each feature and writes them to this directory. If you set this keyword to a filename with a `.shp` extension, then ENVI creates a single shapefile containing all the features. If you do not set this keyword, then no vectors are created.

VECTOR_OPTIONS (optional)

Set this keyword to a string array indicating the type of vector output desired for each feature. Valid values are `'Point'`, `'Line'`, or `'Polygon'`. The default value is `'Polygon'`. The number of elements in this array is determined by the number of features that have been extracted. This keyword has no effect if you did not set the `VECTOR_FILENAME` keyword. If you set `VECTOR_FILENAME` to a filename, only the first value in the `VECTOR_OPTIONS` array is used to determine the output type.

Example

The following example uses `ENVI_FX_DOIT` to automatically extract water and healthy vegetation from a QuickBird multispectral image of Boulder, Colorado. It uses the files `qb_boulder_msi` and `qb_boulder_msi_ruleset.xml`, which are provided in the `envidata\feature_extraction` directory of the ENVI Resource DVD that shipped with your ENVI software. The example code performs segmentation and merging with no refinement. It computes spatial, spectral, and texture attributes. It performs rule-based classification using an existing rule set (`qb_boulder_msi_ruleset.xml`) and creates separate, smoothed, polygon shapefiles for the vegetation and water features in the specified output directory.

```

pro example_fx_doit
  compile_opt strictarr, hidden
  ;
  ; First restore all the base save files
  ;
  envi, /restore_base_save_files
  ;
  ; Initialize ENVI and send all errors
  ; and warnings to the file batch.txt
  ;
  envi_batch_init, log_file = 'batch.txt'
  ;
  ; Specify the input image file, rule set,
  ; and output directory for vector shapefiles
  ;
  imgFile = 'qb_boulder_msi'
  rulesetfilename = 'qb_boulder_msi_ruleset.xml'
  vectorFilename = 'vector_out'
  ;
  ; Open the image file
  ;
  envi_open_file, imgFile, r_fid=fid
  if (fid eq -1) then begin
    envi_batch_exit
    return
  endif
  ;
  ; Set the necessary variables
  ;
  envi_file_query, fid, dims=dims, nb=nb
  pos = lindgen(nb)
  ;
  ; Call the doit
  ;
  envi_doit, 'envi_fx_doit', fid=fid, dims=dims, $
    pos=pos, scale_level=60.0, merge_level=67.0, $
    conf_threshold=0.20, ruleset_filename=rulesetfilename, $
    vector_filename=vectorfilename, r_fid=r_fid
  ;
  if (r_fid eq -1) then begin
    str = 'Processing failed for ' + imgFile
    envi_error, str
  endif
  ;
  ; Exit ENVI
  ;

```

To output the raw vectors to a shapefile in the above example (without performing classification), call ENVI_FX_DOIT as follows. Outputting raw vectors requires you to compute attributes, so you should also specify the RULESET_FILENAME or TD_FILENAME keyword.

```

envi_doit, 'envi_fx_doit', fid=fid, dims=dims, $
  pos=pos, scale_level=60.0, merge_level=67.0, $
  ruleset_filename=rulesetfilename, $
  raw_filename=rawFilename, /raw_attributes, $
  rfid=r_fid

```




Glossary

ancillary data

Additional datasets of the same geographic area as the base image, which will aid in classification (for example, height data).

attribute image

In rule-based classification, a greyscale image showing values of a given attribute among all the objects in the scene. If the objects belonging to the feature have a high contrast relative to the other objects, then the attribute is a good choice for the rule you are currently building.

attributes

Spatial, spectral, or texture properties of a vector object that can be used to classify the object into a known feature type.

centroid

The center of mass of a polygon. The centroid may not necessarily lie on the polygon; it may fall within a hole in the polygon.

color space

A mathematical way of representing color in terms of intensity values, often as a 3D model.

down-sample

To reduce the spatial resolution of an image in order to improve performance time or reduce the amount of noise in the image. For example, you can down-sample a 10,000 by 10,000 pixel image by a factor of 10 to yield a 1,000 by 1,000 pixel image.

feature

A user-defined geographic phenomenon that can be modeled or represented using geographic datasets. Examples include roads, buildings, grasslands, and water bodies.

fuzzy logic

Information extraction from remote sensing data is limited by noisy sensor measurements with limited spectral and spatial resolution, signal degradation from image pre-processing, and imprecise transitions between land-use classes. Most remote sensing images contain mixed pixels that belong to one or more class. Fuzzy logic helps alleviate this problem by simulating uncertainty or partial information that is consistent with human reasoning.

ground truth data

Data that represent known feature types within an image, thus providing a true classification for specific areas of the image.

K Nearest Neighbor

A supervised classification method that considers the Euclidean distance in n-dimensional space of the target to the elements in the training data, where n is defined by the number of object attributes used during classification. This method is generally more robust than a traditional nearest-neighbor classifier, since the K nearest distances are used as a majority vote to determine which class the target belongs to. The K Nearest Neighbor method is much less sensitive to outliers and noise in the dataset and generally produces a more accurate classification result compared with traditional nearest-neighbor methods.

kernel

An array of pixels used to constrain an operation to a subset of pixels.

layer stack

A collection of raster datasets that includes specific bands from one base image and multiple ancillary datasets. ENVI Zoom combines the overlapping areas from the various data into one dataset to use in Feature Extraction processing. You can save the layer stack to a file on disk and later restore it for use with Feature Extraction so that you do not have to re-select all of the original data for input.

membership function

A mathematical concept for modeling the underlying data distribution.

merging

The process of aggregating small segments within textured areas such as trees or clouds, where over-segmentation may be a problem. ENVI Zooms merging algorithm iteratively merges adjacent segments based on a combination of spectral and spatial information.

object

A segment with computed attributes, which is assigned through supervised or rule-based classification to a feature.

object-based processing

Remote sensing techniques that classify a set of input objects rather than classifying pixels individually.

pixel-based processing

In remote sensing, the traditional approach to exploitation and classification where each pixel in an image is treated as an independent data point.

Preview Portal

A floating window positioned over the primary layer displayed in the Image window, which shows real-time segmentation or classification results for that portion of the layer.

Region Means image

A raster file that ENVI Zoom generates after you perform the steps in the Segment, Merge, and Refine steps. It shows the results of the segmentation process; each region is assigned the mean spectral values of all the pixels that belong to that region.

rule confidence image

An image that shows the relative confidence of each object belonging to a feature. The higher the brightness of an object, the higher the confidence that the object belongs to the feature. If an object is very dark, it likely does not belong to the feature.

rule set

A set of criteria that you build, based on human reasoning logic, to define a feature of interest using computed attributes.

rule-based classification

A classification method that lets you define features by building rules based on object attributes. Rule-building is primarily based on human knowledge and reasoning about specific feature types; for example, roads are elongated; some buildings approximate a rectangular shape; vegetation has a high NDVI value; trees are highly textured compared with grass, etc. Rule-based classification implements a concept called fuzzy logic to classify features.

segment

A group of neighboring pixels with similar spatial, spectral (brightness and color), and/or texture characteristics.

supervised classification

The process of using training data (samples of known identity) to assign objects of unknown identity to one or more known features.

Support Vector Machine (SVM)

A classification system derived from statistical learning theory.

task

The ENVI Feature Extraction workflow involves three primary tasks: Find Objects (which includes the Segment, Merge, and Refine Steps), Extract Features (classification), and Export.

texture

In image processing, a function of the distribution of the different grey levels in an image. A flat image in which all digital numbers (DNs) are equal is said to have a uniform texture.

thresholding

The rules and limits for distinguishing objects from the background, based on local pixel information. Thresholding is an optional step used to extract point features (for example, airplanes) when over-segmentation is a problem. Thresholding is a raster operation that works with the first band of your Region Means image to group adjacent segments based on their brightness value (digital number or DN). Thresholding works well with features that are in high contrast to their background (for example, bright aircraft against a dark tarmac).

training data

Objects that you select as representative samples of known features. Training data are used in supervised classification to assign objects of unknown identity to one or more known features.



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