

DETECTION AND MAPPING OF SMALL-SCALE AND SLOW-MOVING
LANDSLIDES FROM VERY HIGH RESOLUTION OPTICAL SATELLITE
DATA

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DEDICATION

This thesis is specially dedicated to my spiritual father Apostle Johnson Suleman, my beloved wife Rhoda and my treasured children Deborah, Daniel and Emmanuel – For your prayers, patience and labour of love.

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ABSTRACT

Small slope failures are often ignored because of their perceived less severe impact. Although they may have small velocity, small slope failures can cause damages to facilities such roads and pipelines. The main objective of this research is to utilise very high resolution Pleiades-1 data to extract surface features and identify surface deformations susceptible to small slope failures. An algorithm was developed using object-based image analysis (OBIA), Pleiades-1 imagery, Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) Global Digital Elevation Model (GDEM) and Real Time Kinematic-Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS) data. Using the OBIA algorithm four different object attribute parameters namely spectral, textural, spatial and topographic characteristics were applied in a rule-based classification, for semi-automated detection of small translational landslides. The developed OBIA algorithm was further modified by using Pleiades-1 imagery, Nearest Neighbors (k-NN) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) techniques in example-based classification for the detection of small landslides, with focus on the effects of the training samples size and type on the results of the classification. The horizontal displacement of the landslides was investigated based on sub-pixel image correlation method using Pleiades-1 images and Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM). Kalman filtering method and RTK-GPS observations from TUSAGA-Aktif Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Network in Turkey were utilised to formulate kinematic analysis model for the landslides. The developed algorithms were validated in Kutlugün test site in Northeastern Turkey. In the rule-based classification results, a total of 123 small landslides covering a total area of approximately 413.332 m² were detected. The size of landslides detected varied between 0.747 and 7.469 m². The detected landslides yielded user's accuracy of 81.8%, producer's accuracy of 80.6%, quality percentage of 82% and computed kappa index of 0.87. In the small landslides detection using the example-based classification, the SVM method had higher producer accuracy (85.9%), user accuracy (89.4%) and kappa index (0.82) compared to the k-NN algorithm that had producer accuracy (83.1%), user accuracy (86.0%) and kappa index (0.80). A total of 128 small landslides were detected using k-NN algorithm, while a total of 134 landslides were detected using SVM algorithm. The displacement results from RTK-GPS measurements varied from 2.77 mm to 24.87 mm in 6 months, while the velocities varied from 0.80 mm to 8.28 mm/6 month. The displacements from optical image correlation agreed well with RTK-GPS results and provided a more uniform movement pattern than could be derived solely using the RTK-GPS measurements. The landslide movements are dominantly toward the north direction. These trends agree with the results of previous study in the area. The main contributions of this research include – development of a comprehensive metrics to quantify the attribute parameters of small landslides, derivation of susceptibility and inventory maps for small landslides, and the design of an early warning system for small slope failures on highway infrastructures. The results of this research will add to the increasing applications of Pleiades-1 image in landslide investigations.

ABSTRAK

Kegagalan cerun kecil sering diabaikan kerana impaknya yang kurang ketara. Walaupun ia mungkin mempunyai nilai halaju yang kecil, kegagalan cerun kecil boleh menyebabkan kerosakan kepada kemudahan seperti jalan dan saluran paip. Objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk menggunakan data Pleiades-1 resolusi tinggi untuk mengekstrak ciri-ciri permukaan dan mengenal pasti perubahan bentuk permukaan yang mudah terdedah kepada kegagalan cerun kecil. Satu algoritma telah dibangunkan menggunakan data imej berasaskan objek (OBIA), imej Pleiades-1, Pancaran Terma dan Radiometer Pantul Bawaan Angkasa Lanjutan (ASTER) Model Ketinggian Berdigit Global (GDEM) dan Kinematik Masa Hakiki-Sistem Penentududukan Global (RTK-GPS). Dengan menggunakan algoritma OBIA, empat parameter atribut objek yang berbeza iaitu ciri spektral, tekstural, spatial dan topografi digunakan dalam klasifikasi berasaskan peraturan untuk pengesanan separa automatik bagi tanah runtuh translasi kecil. Algoritma OBIA yang dibangunkan kemudian diubahsuai dengan menggunakan imejan Pleiades-1, teknik Jiran Terdekat (k-NN) dan Mesin Sokongan Vektor (SVM) dalam klasifikasi berasaskan contoh untuk mengesan tanah runtuh kecil, dengan memberi tumpuan kepada saiz kesan sampel latihan dan jenis pada hasil klasifikasi. Anjakan mendatar tanah runtuh dikaji berdasarkan kaedah korelasi imej sub-piksel menggunakan imej Pleiades-1 dan Misi Topografi Radar Ulang-Alik (SRTM). Kaedah penapisan Kalman dan pemerhatian RTK-GPS dari Rangkaian Sistem Satelit Navigasi Global TUSAGA-Aktif Global (GNSS) di Turki telah digunakan untuk merumus model analisis kinematik untuk tanah runtuh. Algoritma yang dibangunkan telah disahkan di tapak ujian Kutlugün di Timur Laut Turki. Berdasarkan keputusan klasifikasi berasaskan peraturan, sejumlah 123 tanah runtuh kecil yang meliputi kawasan seluas 413.332 m² telah dikesan. Saiz tanah runtuh dikesan bervariasi antara 0.747 dan 7.469 m². Tanah runtuh kecil yang dikesan menghasilkan ketepatan pengguna sebanyak 81.8%, ketepatan pengeluaran 80.6%, peratusan kualiti 82% dan indeks kappa yang dikira sebanyak 0.87. Dalam pengesanan tanah runtuh kecil menggunakan klasifikasi berasaskan contoh, kaedah SVM mempunyai ketepatan pengeluaran yang lebih tinggi (85.9%), ketepatan pengguna (89.4%) dan indeks kappa (0.82) berbanding dengan algoritma k-NN yang mempunyai ketepatan pengeluaran (83.1%), ketepatan pengguna (86.0%) dan indeks kappa (0.80). Sejumlah 128 tanah runtuh kecil dikesan menggunakan algoritma k-NN, sementara sejumlah 134 tanah runtuh dikesan menggunakan algoritma SVM. Hasil anjakan daripada pengukuran RTK-GPS bervariasi dari 2.77 mm menjadi 24.87 mm dalam 6 bulan, manakala halaju bervariasi dari 0.80 mm menjadi 8.28 mm / 6 bulan. Anjakan dari korelasi imej optik telah dipersetujui dengan baik dengan hasil RTK-GPS dan menyediakan corak pergerakan yang lebih seragam daripada yang boleh diperolehi dengan menggunakan pengukuran RTK-GPS. Pergerakan tanah runtuh adalah dominan dalam arah utara. Tren ini sependapat dengan hasil kajian terdahulu di kawasan tersebut. Sumbangan utama kajian ini termasuk - pembangunan metrik komprehensif untuk mengukur parameter sifat tanah runtuh kecil, penerbitan kerentanan dan peta inventori untuk tanah runtuh kecil, dan reka bentuk sistem amaran awal untuk kegagalan cerun kecil di infrastruktur lebuhraya. Hasil kajian ini akan menambah kepada aplikasi imej Pleiades-1 dalam penyelidikan tanah runtuh.

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\hat{Y}_k	-	Status Vector
$T_{k,k+1}$	-	Prediction Matrix
I	-	Unit Matrix
$N_{k,k+1}$	-	System Noise Matrix
w_k	-	Random Noise Vector at Period k
$Q_{\bar{Y}\bar{Y},k}$	-	Cofactor Matrix of Status Vector
$Q_{ww,k}$	-	Cofactor Matrix of System Noises
V	-	Innovation Vector
L_k	-	Actual Observation
$A_k \hat{Y}_k$	-	Predicted Observation
\sim	-	Approximately
$+, -$	-	Plus, Minus
$/$	-	Division or Per
$^\circ, "$	-	Degree, Minute
$^\circ\text{C}$	-	Degree Celsius
$<, >$	-	Less Than, Greater Than
\leq	-	Less Than or Equal To
$\%$	-	Percentage
$\$$	-	United States of America Dollars
abs	-	Absolute Value
e.g.	-	For Example
etc.	-	And So On
i.e.	-	That Is
h	-	Hour
E	-	East
N	-	North
mm	-	Millimetre
μm	-	Micrometre
m	-	Metre or Mass
km	-	Kilometre
w	-	Weight
g	-	gravity
F	-	Friction
N	-	Normal Force

θ - Slope Angle
 $\tan(\phi)$ - Coefficient of Friction

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Landslide involves downward movement of earth (soil), debris or rock (Cruden and Varnes, 1996). Generally, landslide represents different geological processes that occur over time and space in many mountainous terrains (McKean and Roering, 2004), and causes damage to environment and infrastructure. The prediction of landslide occurrence is a challenging task due to: (i) difficult terrain and lack of access for direct observation, and; (ii) complex and uncertain relationship of many variables such as slope, soil properties, elevation, land cover, and lithology (Dai and Lee, 2002; Guzzetti, 2005).

There are increasing landslide events in many regions of the world (Petley, 2012). The causal factors of these include – anthropogenic and natural interventions on the environment, controlling factors, and the effect of climate change (Sidle et al., 2004; Gutiérrez et al., 2010). The consequences of landslide disasters are visible in many parts of the world, with damages on infrastructures, human lives and the economy. The continuous destruction caused by landslide occurrence requires the development of improved techniques for landslide detection and mapping.

Some of the world's landslide sites are located in the remote areas. These sites are typically characterised by: (1) high elevation differences, with increased precipitation; (2) steep and varied topography, with increased gravitational processes; and (3) high altitudinal change, with varying ecological zones (Lieb, 2006). The main consequence of these characteristics is that some of the landslide sites are not easily accessible using conventional terrestrial survey techniques. Thus, the difficult and inaccessible nature of landslide environment, and the various

difficulties and limitations commonly associated with field studies, has made satellite remote sensing technology a highly viable tool for various landslide mapping studies.

One of the main problems faced in landslide studies is the challenge of detecting and assessing the conditions of small failures. Small failures, typically require more precise and accurate sensors to enhance the mapping of landslide surface features. The spatial resolution of the sensors needs to be relevant to the geomorphological features found in the landslides. Spatial resolution determines the smallest scale to which surface features may be detected. Therefore, a technology capable of mapping small failures precisely and consistently over large swaths of terrain is imperative. One of the main goals of this research is to explore the techniques that are able to detect and map small movements, slow deformations and displacements.

The main innovation in the use of remote sensing technology for operational purposes has been the latest generation of very high resolution (VHR) optical satellites (QuickBird, IKONOS-2, Pléiades-1, WorldView-1 and -2, and GeoEye-1 and -2) with sub-metre ground sampling distance and broad coverage. The main features of these VHR optical satellites images include - shorter repeatpass cycles, higher spatial resolutions and the ability to acquire image datasets of monoscopic, stereo, and multi-view characteristics. The improved spatial resolution can capture small changes with unimaginable level of precision, much better than the results previously achieved with high or medium resolution data (Landsat and ASTER). The spatial resolution improvement also provides mapping opportunities at large scales, suitable for mapping of the small spatial features for slow-moving landslide detection.

The availability of VHR optical satellites images has made it possible to obtain subtle information about features on the ground for many applications related to change detection, environmental monitoring and mapping. VHR optical satellites images can be useful as tools for hazard and risk mapping of infrastructures such as buildings, railway or pipelines. They are also closely related to aerial photographs. Compared to the conventional satellite data, VHR optical satellites images require

little training for visual interpretation. All of these characteristics make VHR optical satellite images an ideal data source for detecting and mapping small slope failures. Although VHR optical satellite images suffer from the effect of cloud cover during data acquisition, they offer a fast and dynamic way of determining ground displacements. Moreover, there is a large repository of optical images from landslides and new images are continuously being added to the collection.

In spite of the highlighted advantages, VHR optical images are still not being adequately utilised for operational application such as landslide detection and mapping. The main reason for this is the absence of standardised image processing technique that meets the requirements of landslide mapping, and can be adapted to suit different landslide types and environmental conditions (Stumpf, 2013). The standard analysis method for landslide mapping is the pixel-based classification. The geometric and contextual information inherent in the images are not being exploited in the per-pixel analysis method (Blaschke, 2010). The per-pixel approach produces intra-class variability and lower classification accuracies, especially when higher resolution images with higher spectral variance, are used (Woodcock and Strahler, 1987). In order to overcome this problem, the object-based image analysis (OBIA), which has the capability to extract geometric and contextual information from VHR images, has become a widely used tool for geoscientific research (Blaschke, 2010).

In order to tackle the menace of landslide hazards, particularly on critical infrastructures such as highways and pipelines, it is important to put in place mitigation measures. One of the main approaches to mitigate the hazards related to landslides is the design and implementation of an early warning system. The landslide early warning systems have been implemented in many regions of the world over the past years (Thiebes and Glade, 2016; Terranova et al., 2015; Segoni et al., 2015).

This study utilises very high resolution optical satellite images, Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS) observations, object-based image analysis (OBIA) techniques, and optical image correlation method for the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides. The study area of this research is

located in Kutlugün Village in Maçka County, Turkey. The North-eastern Black Sea Region of Turkey is a typical mountainous landscape, with complex geological setting and high rainfall pattern, which makes this region vulnerable to landslide events. The previous monitoring campaigns in this study area were based only on periodic and real-time GPS observations (Yalçinkaya et al., 2005; Yalçinkaya and Bayrak, 2005; Bayrak et al., 2015). For the first time, this study is using VHR optical satellite images for the detection and mapping of the Kutlugün landslides.

The thesis is broadly divided into four main sections, as follows: (1) the extraction of small and slow-moving landslide objects from remotely sensed data (Chapter 3, Objective 1). The extraction of small landslide objects from other surrounding features is vital for disaster management; (2) the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides (Chapter 4, Objective 2); (3) the kinematic analysis of small and slow-moving landslides (Chapter 5, Objective 3). The determination of surface displacement rates is important to estimate the hazard related to slow-moving landslides; and (4) the mitigation of hazard and risk related to small and slow-moving landslides (Chapter 6, Objective 4). It is vital to implement an early warning system to reduce the hazard related to small and slow-moving landslides on road infrastructure.

1.1.1 Global Landslide Hazards

One of the basic peculiarities of landslide is that landslide-prone slopes are present in virtually every part of the globe (Gutiérrez et al., 2010). Landslides have, therefore, become one of the most destructive natural phenomena in the world today. The rising global trends in landslide risk can be ascribed to rapid human settlements and development in landslide-prone regions and the consequences of climate change (Petley, 2012). The global distribution of landslide-prone regions (Figure 1.1) shows that these regions are characterised by availability of high relief favourable for landslide occurrence, high precipitation to trigger landslides and high population density (Petley, 2012).

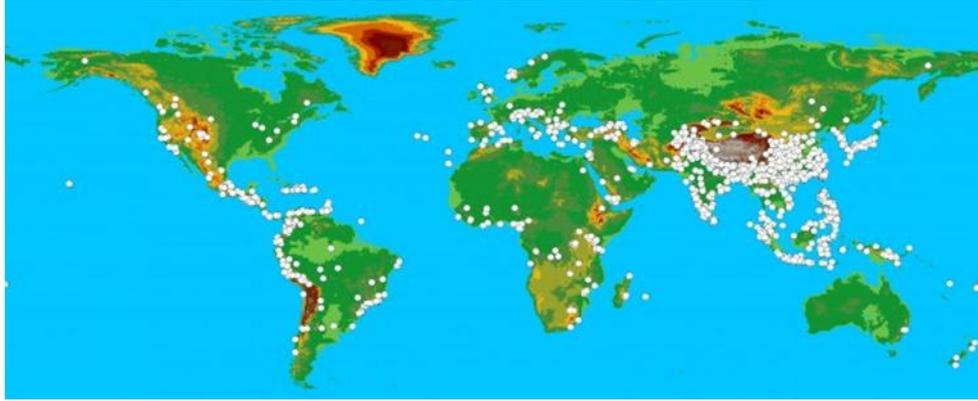


Figure 1.1 Global distribution of non-seismic fatal landslides. Each dot represents a single fatal landslide (Petley, 2012)

The world statistics for only rainfall-induced landslides per continent from April 1903 to June 2012 shows that in this period about 547 landslides have led to the death of 59,060 people, and displacement of over 13 million people, with the estimation of damage caused by landslides during this period being more than US\$7 billion (Guhar-Sapir et al., 2012). Most statistics on impacts of landslides are often underestimated, as most landslides are secondary phenomena, and their statistics appear under the major disasters such as storms, floods or earthquakes. For instance, landslides triggered by earthquake shaking can impact heavily on the aggregate damage attributed to a particular earthquake event. This growing underestimation of the effects of landslide hazards has impacted negatively on the awareness of both the policy makers and general public towards the risk posed by landslides (Lacasse and Nadim, 2009).

1.1.2 Object- Based Image Analysis (OBIA) for Mapping of Small and Slow-Moving Landslides

Some of the approaches adopted for the analysis of optical satellite imagery for landslide mapping include: (i) interpretation of single and stereoscopic images using visual methods (Soeters and van Westen, 1996); (ii) semi-automated pixel-based methods for image classification (Marcelino et al., 2009); (iii) image

classification using semi-automated OBIA methods (Stumpf and Kerle, 2011); (iv) change detection methods (Tsai et al., 2010); and (v) sub-pixel correlation of optical images (Debelli-Gilo and Käab, 2011). The conventional approach for analysing optical remote sensed imagery is the pixel-based methods. However, the pixel-based methods exploit only the spectral characteristics of the analysed image which greatly limits their use for classification of areas with spatially contiguous extent; often leading to errors in the classification results (Stumpf and Kerle, 2011).

The classifications using pixel-based techniques, which depend solely on spectral signatures, are not useful for detecting geomorphic processes such as landslides (Lahousse et al., 2011; Singleton et al., 2014); and it is difficult to validate the results of the pixel-based methods on the ground (Martha et al., 2010). The disadvantages of the pixel-based approaches became more pronounced, with the advent of very high resolution satellite sensors which provide a spatial resolution of $\leq 5\text{m}$. Pixel-based methods also fail to realize the shape and the spatial relationship between neighbouring pixels, particularly for high resolution imagery, whose neighbouring pixels may have similar spectral behaviour (Blaschke, 2010). The OBIA approach, on the other hand, represents a more advanced method with several advantages. The grouping of image pixels in OBIA into homogeneous objects for the analyses of VHR data can reduce potential noises (Benz et al., 2004; Blaschke, 2010). OBIA integrates spectral statistics of neighbouring and surrounding pixels and the contextual analysis such as textural, spatial and shape measurements for improved image analysis.

OBIA has been widely utilised in the detection and mapping of landslides (Hölbling et al., 2016; Martha et al., 2012; Aksoy and Ercanoglu, 2011; Mondini et al., 2011; Lahousse et al., 2011). In the landslide application domain, the initial research efforts were focused on the development of automated OBIA using low resolution Landsat ETM+ images (Barlow et al., 2003; Martin and Franklin, 2005). The adopted approach was further enhanced in Barlow et al. (2006) by integrating higher resolution SPOT-5 data and geomorphic variables. Further contribution is reported in Moine et al. (2009), who applied sets of spectral, geometric and textural features from aerial and satellite images for automatic characterization of landslides.

An algorithm which integrates spectral, spatial and morphometric characteristics for identification and mapping of five different types of landslides in the Himalayas mountainous terrain, was also developed in Martha et al. (2010). These studies show the increasing potential and applicability of semi-automated and automated OBIA in detecting and mapping landslides. However, all of the studies are concentrated on large landslides.

In this study, OBIA was developed for mapping of small and slow-moving landslides. Cruden and Varnes' velocity classification considers slow-moving landslides as non-turbulent movement of hill-slope materials (soil, debris or rock) at velocities ranging from 1 m/year to 100 m/year, with the very slow-moving landslides moving at velocities of less than 1.6 m/year (Cruden and Varnes, 1996). Small and slow-moving landslides are common natural hazards in mountainous terrains, and they are mainly caused by precipitation, and the resultant increased in pore water pressure. While rapid landslides caused by rain storms and earthquakes result to major casualties (Petley, 2012), slow-moving landslides which are continuously active can still produce significant impacts by causing damages to infrastructure and facilities such as roads and pipelines (Mackey and Roering, 2011; Mansour et al., 2011). It is, therefore, important to embark on early warning to prevent potential landslide disasters by monitoring the slow movements. Remote sensing data constitute an efficient repository of geo-database which can be utilised in landslide susceptibility, hazard and risk mapping. Optical satellite images have the advantages of a higher spatial resolution, which can be exploited to detect small landslides, and a near-vertical acquisition that avoids masks prevalent in a typical landslide mountainous terrain (Lacroix et al., 2015).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Existing landslide studies have paid less attention to investigation and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides that may not lead to loss of lives, but can cause damages to the environment and facilities such as pipeline and road infrastructure. These small slope failures often go undetected and unremediated

because of their perceived less severe impact. Small and slow-moving landslides are predominant in mountainous terrain. The accurate detection of small landslides in the rugged and difficult mountainous environment, is hampered by a lack of field data and difficulties in deploying ground-based sensors. Remote sensing can fill this gap by providing data that are able to detect and map slow deformations of small landslides.

The extraction and mapping of small landslide objects from remotely sensed data is important for hazard assessment and disaster management. The conventional technique for ground objects extraction is based on the spectral signatures of the objects of interest. However, it is complicated to extract small landslide objects in VHR pixels as these subtle features are immersed in cluttered scene within the pixel spatial resolution. One innovative approach to extract small and subtle landslide objects from remotely sensed images is based on the integration of different parametric ground objects using object-based image analysis (Blaschke et al., 2014). The two main challenges in the integration are the complex issues with regards to image segmentation and the number (and values) of image object metrics that need to be determined for the detection of landslide features. While OBIA has been successfully utilised to quantify different image object metrics for the recognition of large landslide objects, no existing literature has determined the best diagnostic features that efficiently detect and map the small and slow-moving landslide objects.

The availability of a new generation of VHR optical satellite images has provided significant benefits for small landslide detection and mapping. One of these images is Pleiades-1 which has been utilised in a wide range of studies such as land cover mapping, preparation of digital terrain models, extraction of urban green space information, and estimation of height variations during earthquakes. But there is still paucity of studies related to their applications and more research is needed to evaluate their potentials, particularly in landslide detection and mapping. The Nearest Neighbors (k-NN) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) are two non-parametric algorithms widely acknowledged for producing accurate classification. However, no studies have compared the performances of these classifiers based on

the criteria of different training sample sizes and Pleiades-1 imagery for detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides.

The detection of small and slow-moving landslides is problematic due to challenges in determining their mechanisms, the exact area affected by the landslides, their displacement rates and the prediction of their future behaviour. Small and slow-moving landslides are usually identified by cracks on ground surfaces or on the impacted facilities. Measuring the widths of the cracks caused by small landslides is quite challenging. These cracks may be hidden under debris or sand boils, and the measurement of their widths requires good skill and judgement, as the width may be overestimated if the sides of the crack have slumped. The conventional techniques to measure the widths of the cracks include extensometer, total station and Global Positioning System (GPS). However, these techniques have limitations in spatial coverage, and their deployment in the difficult mountainous terrain can be challenging. There is therefore the need to employ techniques with wide spatial coverage, accessibility in difficult and harsh terrain, and economical in terms of cost, time and labour.

Unlike fast landslide processes, emergency evacuation actions are not required for slow-moving landslides. But active and continuous movement by slow-moving landslides, for example on road infrastructure, requires timely maintenance and stabilisation works. One main approach to mitigate risk from landslides is implementing an early warning system (Schuster and Highland, 2007). In many regions of the world, landslide early warning systems have been designed, to mitigate the danger of sudden acceleration and catastrophic failure of large fast-moving landslides. These alert systems have been implemented by taking advantage of the availability of rainfall forecasts data, and the progress in information and communications technology (ICT). However, little or no attention has been invested on the design of early warning systems to provide information of small slope failures on vital infrastructure such as highway. The implementation of such a warning system on the highways will generate alerts to the relevant agencies for timely maintenance and remediation, and to manage risks associated with small and slow-moving landslides.

1.3 Research Questions

The research questions addressed in this thesis are:

- (a) What are the best diagnostic features for the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides?
- (b) What are the efficient techniques for the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides?
- (c) What are the displacement rates and velocities of the small and slow-moving landslides?
- (d) How can highway infrastructure be protected from the risk of small and slow-moving landslides?

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to utilise VHR optical satellite data to extract surface features and identify surface deformations susceptible to landslides, with emphasis on small and slow-moving landslides. The specific objectives are outlined as follows:

- (a) To determine the best attribute parameters that distinctively distinguish the small and slow-moving landslides from other surrounding objects using semi-automated object-based image analysis (OBIA)
- (b) To compare and evaluate the performance of k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifiers for the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides using Pleiades-1 imagery
- (c) To determine the kinematics of small and slow-moving landslides using sub-pixel image correlation method and Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring data

- (d) To design and implement an early warning system for highway infrastructure.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research deals with small and slow-moving landslides with length less than 10 m and area smaller than 100 m². According to Cruden and Varnes' (1996) rate of movement classification, the displacement rates of extremely slow and very slow landslides are less than 1.6 m/year. The use of remote sensing images for the extraction and mapping of small and slow-moving landslide objects is important in studies related to environmental monitoring and disaster management.

The attribute parameters employed for the extraction of small and slow-moving landslides from other surrounding objects include spectral, textural, spatial (geometric) and topographic parameters. The spectral attributes used are mean reflectance in the blue, green, red and near-infrared (NIR) bands; normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI); and hue, intensity and saturation (HIS) colour space transformation. The textural attributes used are NDVI (mean), NDVI (variance), NDVI (entropy), and GLCM mean in the red, green, blue and NIR bands. The main spatial attributes employed are length, area, compactness, solidity, roundness, elongation and rectangular fit. Finally, the topographic parameters used are slope and elevation. All the attribute parameters were integrated by using very high resolution (VHR) Pléiades-1 optical satellite image and semi-automated object-based image analysis (OBIA), to extract small landslide objects in the Kutlugün study area. The rule-based approach was used in the classification.

Pléiades-1 is the latest generation of VHR optical satellite imagery designed for land and coastal applications. There is, therefore, the need to evaluate the potential and applicability of Pleiades-1 imagery, particularly for small landslides detection and mapping. K-NN and SVM are the two classifiers adapted in ENVI 5.1 image processing software for the evaluation and comparison of the performance of Pléiades-1 image in the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides. K-NN is a classical technique, yet robust and simple for professional applications;

while SVM is a new generation algorithm widely used in scientific applications. It is therefore important to compare the performances of these two algorithms. The novel approaches applied in the performance evaluation of the two algorithms were based on the investigation of the effects of the training sample sizes and type on the accuracy of the classification results.

The kinematics and movement characteristics of slow-moving landslides over time were investigated using two approaches. The first approach was based on sub-pixel image correlation of two Pléiades-1 images using the software Co-Registration of Optically Sensed Images and Correlation (Cosi-Corr), to determine the horizontal displacements of the small landslides. In the second approach, RTK-GPS data and Kalman filtering procedures were used to determine the horizontal displacements and velocity fields of the landslide study area. A comparison of results of the two approaches was carried out to determine the displacement patterns of the landslide study area.

The design and implementation of an early warning system for highway infrastructure is important to provide relevant information for prompt maintenance and remediation, and to reduce risks related to slow-moving landslides. The case study is Trabzon-Gümüşhane Highway in Turkey. The framework of the early warning system is based on the server processing and two-way communication concepts, using the principles of Reverse Network Real-Time Kinematic positioning system (RNRTK). The main requirements for the early warning system include: low-cost GPS receivers for field data streaming, the software to implement the reverse RTK algorithms, Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) infrastructure, and the transmission/internet infrastructures to enable data streaming and communication between reference and control processing centre. The three main components of the early warning system are - monitoring system, analysis system and alert system. The early warning system uses velocity to set the thresholds and alert levels. The field test of the early warning system was performed using ISKANDARnet CORS infrastructure, located in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The mapping of surface deformation is an important aspect for understanding the mechanics of landslide processes, and is useful in monitoring activities for the purpose of ensuring safety of people and/or infrastructures. Mapping enhances the understanding of the magnitude and frequency of the landslide occurrence. Mapping also enables the causal factors prompting the landslides to be analysed. For instance, mapping landslides during rainy and non-rainy seasons can provide better correlations between displacements and hydrogeological forces. Long-term acquisition of monitoring data for landslide mapping are useful for planning of sustainable mitigation measures, which permits a better estimation and quantification of the future scenarios of the landslide.

The main products of this research are landslide inventory/displacement maps, and an early warning system for slow-moving landslides on highway infrastructure. These products are important tools for the scientific community, government agencies, planners and engineers, and the general public, for the mitigation of landslide hazards and risks. The mapping of slow-moving landslide phenomena is important for the scientific community, to improve the understanding of the mechanisms of landslide processes, their triggering forces, and sustainable measures to mitigate their effects and reduce the loss of infrastructures and assets. It is also important for understanding the kinematic of their movements and for their correct analysis and interpretation.

The acquisition of slow-moving landslide information is important for the planning and operations of governments at all levels to mitigate losses associated with these landslides. This will enhance the responsibility of governments to build and maintain vital infrastructures, promote public's health and safety, and articulate efficient land-use management legislations for building and grading controls. This will also contribute to increased government funding towards landslide and hazard mapping. Without such pivotal role, losses to the nation and to individuals from landslides will continue to increase greatly.

The inventory of slow-moving landslides can be very useful to planners, developers and engineers for choosing suitable sites for future land use planning and developments, planning of urban settlement, road corridor planning and management. It is important to locate constructions in the stable zones, as roads constructed along unstable or partially unstable slopes will lead to problems during construction and the subsequent maintenance phase. Also, information on the surface evolution of an unstable slope provides tools for engineers to carry out correct design of effective stabilization measures. This information is important to design and implement mitigation measures, particularly for the setting up of an early warning system that can reduce harm to human lives and promote harmonious socio-economic activities.

Public safety is another significant aspect requiring the use of landslide inventory map and alert system. This is useful for emergency response teams, public safety teams, and the citizens living in the landslide-prone areas. In many areas residential and commercial buildings are located close to edge of the road. In most cases road construction leads to landslide occurrence, and constitute a high level of risk to the people living in close proximity to the road corridor. It is, therefore, important to make known to the public the areas which are susceptible to landslides and earthworks instability.

1.7 Study Area

Landslide is ranked second in frequent natural disasters in Turkey after the earthquake (Hasekiogullari and Ercanoglu, 2012). The study area is Kutlugün in Maçka district of Turkey (Figure 1.2) located approximately between $39^{\circ} 43''$ E and $39^{\circ} 46''$ E and $40^{\circ} 56''$ N and $40^{\circ} 58''$ N and covering the area of 25 km^2 . The schematic diagram of Kutlugün landslides is shown in Figure 1.3, while the landslide susceptibility map produced for the study area is given in Figure 1.4. The topography of the study area consists of hillsides, mountains, valleys and stream channels. Human settlements are mostly concentrated in the mountain foothills, while grasslands, forested lands and plateaus are located at higher altitudes. The digital

elevation model (DEM) shows that the terrain slope of this area is about 0° to 76° of which about 33% are slope around 0° to 20° and the rest are higher slopes (Kavzoglu et al., 2014). The DEM also indicates that the dominant area are mountainous terrain with the elevation of 0 to 3,500 m above mean sea level. Landslides are evident in the area at elevation from sea level to 1500 m but the largest are identified within 1000 to 1500 m due to the lithological character with pyroclastic compositions (Yalcin et al. 2011).

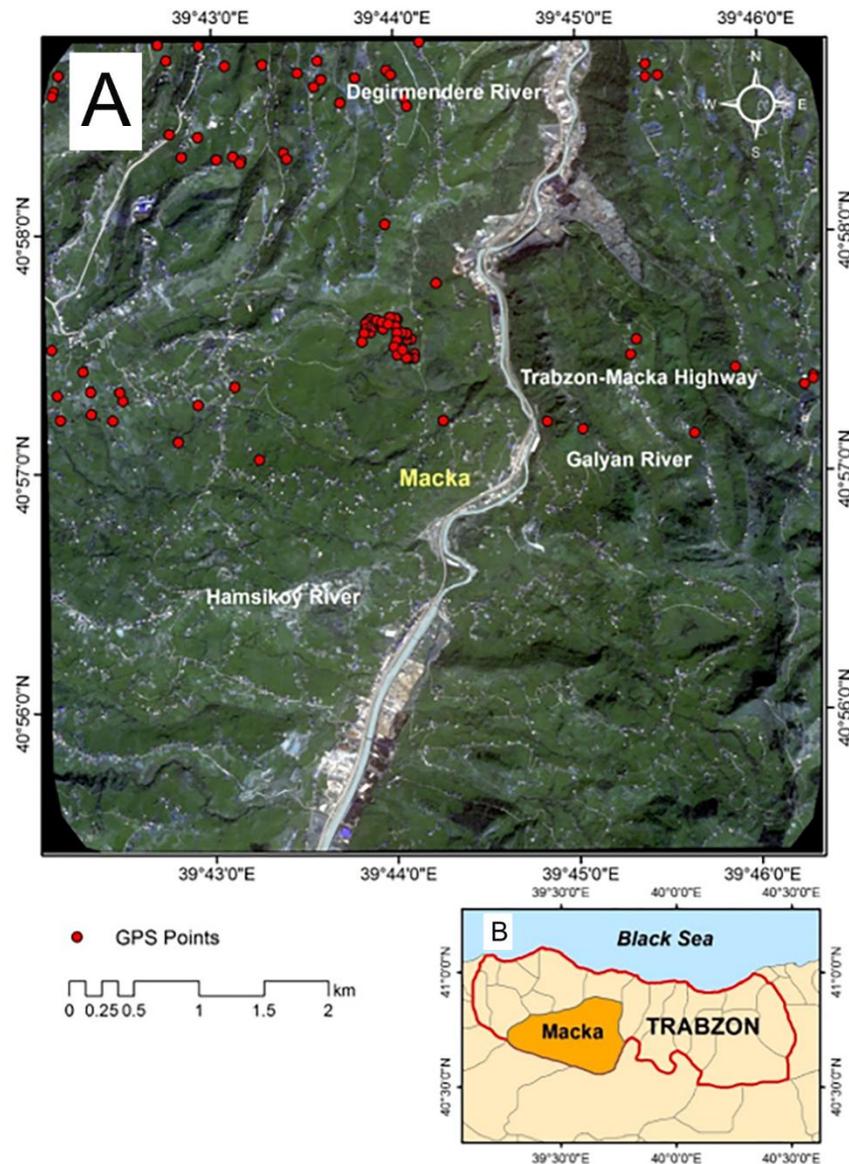


Figure 1.2 (A) Pleiades-1 image of study area showing GPS points; (B) Map of Turkey showing location of study area

The main land cover and land use are green tea, hazelnut, deciduous, coniferous, pasture, soil, rock, water, agriculture, and urban (Kavzoglu et al., 2015). Landslides are more prominent in deciduous and hazelnut areas. The composition of the deciduous vegetation includes thicket, brake and small wood. The surface flow of precipitations is obstructed by these tree types, leading to the increase in the pore water pressure of soil, and the increasing likelihood of landslide occurrence (Yalcin et al., 2011). The hydrology of this area is regulated by the activities of Değirmendere River Basin, which is surrounded by high mountains with maximum elevation of 3080 m. The size of the drainage area impacted by this river basin is about 1054 km² (Gürer and Uçar, 2010). Road construction, quarrying and tunnelling through the high mountainous terrain are the main anthropogenic activities in the study area. The Kutlugün landslides have contributed to the deformation of the highway, and destruction of a retaining wall and potable water pipeline in the study area (Yalçinkaya et al., 2005).

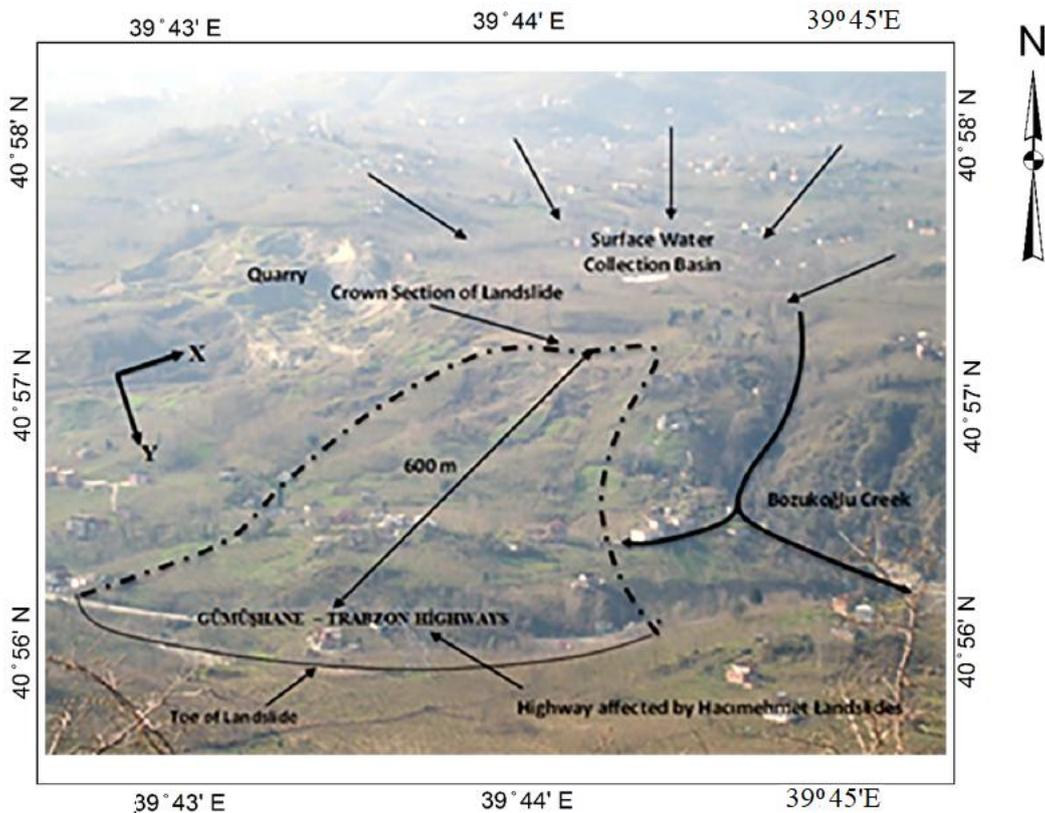


Figure 1.3 Schematic diagram of Kutlugün landslide

The area experiences temperate climate in summers and rainy season usually starting from September and ending around April. The average annual precipitation of the region is about 830 mm (Kavzoglu et al., 2014). However, the rainfall regime is not regular with some periods of unexpected and prolonged heavy rains, making the soil mantle to be mostly saturated. The coldest month is February with an average temperature of 6.7 °C, while August is the hottest month with an average temperature of 23.2 °C. (Yalcin et al., 2011). The geology of Kutlugün landslide area consists of weathered andesite-basalt and pyroclastic rocks, with clays developing due to the weathering of the rocks (Yalçinkaya and Bayrak, 2005).

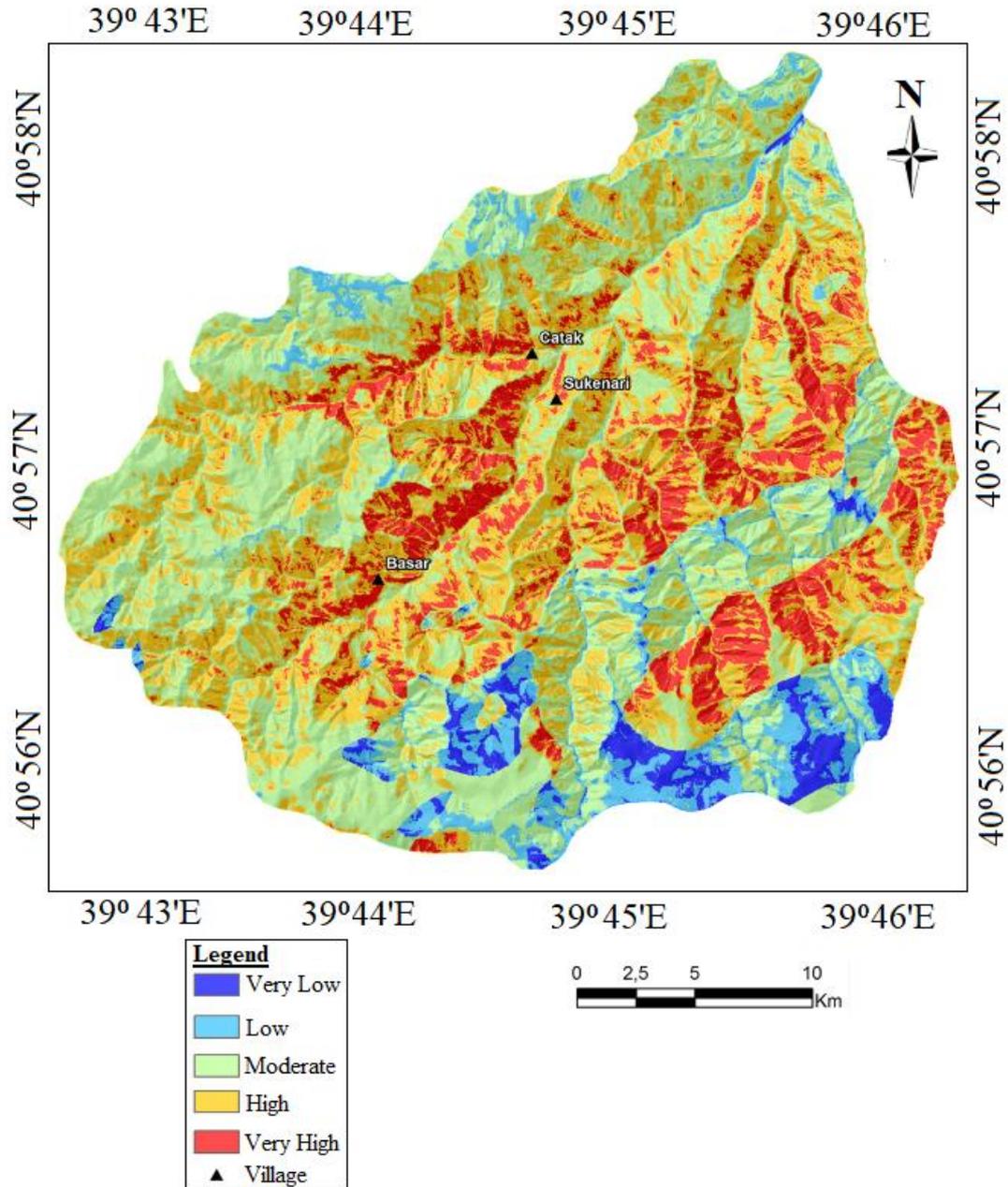


Figure 1.4 Landslide susceptibility map of the study area (Kavzoglu et al., 2015)

The topographical characteristics of Kutlugün, including geomorphology (slope and elevation), land use/cover types, anthropogenic activities, hydrologic conditions, meteorological patterns, and geological structure have led to increased shallow landslide occurrence in the area. The type of landslides movement in the study area, according to Varnes' (1978) classification of slope movements is slide, and soil is the dominant material involved in the landslides (Yalçinkaya and Bayrak

2005). The movement of shallow translational slides in the area amounts to several centimetres per month (Yalçinkaya and Bayrak 2005).

1.7.1 Data used for the Study

Table 1.1 presents the data used for this study, along with details of the acquisition parameters.

Table 1.1 Data used for the study

Data	Data/time of acquisition (dd/mm/yyyy)	Mean Across/ Mean along track viewing angle	Mean Across/ Mean along track incidence angle	Solar azimuth/ elevation	Spectral bands	Resolution
Pleiades-1 (Mono)	21-10-2012 08:30:15.8	15.66/ -12.24	-19.79/ 9.97	168.92/ 37.70	PAN: 0.47-0.83 μm (black and white); MS bands: Blue = 0.43-0.55 μm ; Green = 0.50-0.62 μm ; Red = 0.59-0.71 μm ; Near Infrared = 0.74-0.94 μm	PAN = 0.7 m MS = 2.8 m
Pleiades-1 (Mono)	03-04-2013 08:18:20.9	-4.47/ 2.08	5.26/ -1.20	152.73/ 51.66		
GPS epoch1 GPS epoch2 GPS epoch3	24-10-2012 25-01-2013 25-03-2013					5 mm
ASTER GDEM	17-10-2011					30 m
SRTM	11-02-2000 17-04-2013	(Date acquired) (Date updated)				30 m

1.8 Structure of Thesis

In Chapter 1 the background of the study, statement of the problem, study objectives, scope of the study, significance of the study, study area, data used and the structure of thesis, are presented.

Chapter 2 presents a review of landslide processes and mapping methods, with particular emphasis on remote sensing approaches, namely - Very High Resolution (VHR) Optical Imagery, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Ground-Based Interferometric SAR, Airborne Laser Scanning, Terrestrial Laser Scanning, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

Chapter 3 presents the extraction of small and slow-moving landslides using object-based approach and very high resolution Pleiades-1 imagery. The rule-based classification was performed using spectral, textural, spatial and topographic characteristics.

In Chapter 4 the supervised object-based techniques for the detection and mapping of small and slow-moving landslides is presented. The performance of two supervised algorithms - k-NN and SVM using Pleiades-1 imagery are analysed and evaluated.

Chapter 5 presents the kinematic analysis of the small and slow-moving landslides. The displacement pattern of the small and slow-moving landslides was analysed using sub-pixel image correlation techniques. A kinematic deformation model was formulated using Kalman filtering techniques, to evaluate the performance of the image correlation approach, and to estimate the velocity fields of the landslides study area.

In Chapter 6 the design and implementation of an early warning system for slow-moving landslides is presented. This chapter includes the concepts for the design of the early warning system, requirements and specifications for the early warning system, components of the early warning system, and field test for validation of the early warning system.

Finally, the summary, conclusions and recommendations for future work are discussed in Chapter 7.

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