

# DETECTING WATER BODIES ON RADARSAT IMAGERY

Gangyao Kuang, and Zhiguo He, School of Electronics Science and Engineering,  
National University of Defense Technology, China

Jonathan Li, Department of Geography and Environmental Management,  
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario

*This paper presents a novel geodesic active contour (GAC) model based on an edge detector for rapid detection of water bodies from spaceborne synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery with high speckle noise. The original edge indicator function based on gradients is replaced by an edge indicator function based on the ratio of exponentially weighted averages (ROEWA) operator. Thus, the capability of edge detection and the accuracy of locating edges are greatly improved, which makes the model more appropriate for SAR images. In addition, an enhancing term is added to the original model's energy function in order to boost the strength for the contour's evolution. An unconditionally stable additive operator splitting (AOS) scheme and a fast algorithm for re-initialization of the level set function are adopted, which not only enhances the model's stability, but also speeds up the model's convergence remarkably. The experimental results on simulated and real RADARSAT-1/2 images show its efficiency and accuracy.*

*Cet article présente un nouveau modèle de contour actif géodésique (GAC, de l'anglais geodesic active contour) fondé sur un détecteur de contours pour détection rapide des plans d'eau à partir d'images radar à synthèse d'ouverture (RSO) spatioporté avec bruits de chatolement élevés. La fonction originale d'indicateur de contours fondée sur les gradients est remplacée par une fonction d'indicateur de contours fondée sur le rapport d'un opérateur de moyennes pondérées de façon exponentielle (ROEWA). Par conséquent, la capacité de détection des contours et l'exactitude des contours localisés sont grandement améliorées, ce qui rend le modèle plus adéquat pour les images RSO. De plus, une modalité d'amélioration s'ajoute à la fonction d'énergie du modèle original dans le but de renforcer la puissance de l'évolution des contours. On a adopté un scénario de séparation d'opérateur additif (SOA) inconditionnellement stable et un algorithme rapide pour la réinitialisation des surfaces de niveau, ce qui non seulement améliore la stabilité du modèle, mais accélère aussi la convergence du modèle de façon remarquable. Les résultats expérimentaux sur des images simulées et réelles RADARSAT-1/2 démontrent son efficacité et son exactitude.*



Gangyao Kuang



Jonathan Li  
junli@uwaterloo.ca



Zhiguo He

## 1. Introduction

Water bodies are important features in SAR imagery. The detection of water bodies is a challenging task due to the high speckle noise and the complex background. In this paper, a novel geodesic active contour (GAC) model is proposed for rapid detection of water bodies from SAR imagery with high speckle noise. The original edge indicator function based on gradients is replaced by an edge indicator function based on the ratio of exponentially weighted averages (ROEWA) operator. Thus, the capability of edge detection and the accuracy of locating edges are greatly improved, which makes the model more appropriate for SAR images. In addition, an enhancing term is added to the original model's energy function in order to boost the strength for the contour's evolution. An unconditionally stable additive operator splitting (AOS) scheme and a fast algorithm for re-initialization of the level set function are adopted, which not only enhances the model's stability, but also speeds up the model's convergence remarkably. The experimental results on simulated and real RADARSAT-1/2 images show its efficiency and accuracy.

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[Oliver et al. 1996; Collins and Kopp 2008], Ma [a (MRF) [Fjortoft et al. 2003], [Shu et al. 2010], a [Cook et al. 1994]. T

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 [Weickert et al. 1998] a a a a -  
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SAR, T, S, 2, GAC, SAR, ROEWA, GAC, S, 4, RADARSAT-1/2SAR, T, S, 5, F, S, 6, 7

## 2. Background

$L(x, y) \in R^2$ ,  $u_0(x, y): \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow R^+$ ,  $C(s) = (x(s), y(s)): [0, L(C)] \rightarrow R^2$ . [Caselles et al. 1997]

$$\int_0^{L(C)} g(|\nabla u_0(C(s))|) ds \quad (1)$$

$\nabla u_0(C(s))$ ,  $\mathcal{N}u_0(C(s))$ ,  $g(r): [0, r] \rightarrow R^+$ ,  $g(0) = 1$ ,  $g(r) \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . [Caselles et al. 1997]

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = [g\kappa - \langle \nabla g, \vec{n} \rangle] \vec{n} \quad (2)$$

where  $\kappa$  is the mean curvature,  $\vec{n}$  is the unit inward normal. [Caselles et al. 1997]. Osher and Sethian [1998]

$\phi(x, y, t) = 0$ ,  $C(t) = z(x, y) : \phi(x, y, t) = 0$ ,  $\vec{E} \cdot (2)$ . [Caselles et al. 1997]

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = g\kappa |\nabla \phi| + \nabla g \cdot \nabla \phi \quad (3)$$

## 3. Proposed Model

### 3.1 ROEWA Operator

T ROEWA, Fjortoft et al. [1998], (MMSE), I, a, MMSE, a, b, a, (ID)

$$f(x) = C z^L \rho x_f \quad (4)$$

$C$ ,  $a$ ,  $a$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $I$ ,  $a$ ,  $f(x)$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $a$ ,  $a$ ,  $a$ ,  $f_1(x)$ ,  $f_2(x)$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1+b} = f_1(x) + \frac{b}{1+b} f_2(x-1), x = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (5)$$

$$f_1(x) = a \cdot b^x H(x), f_2(x) = a \cdot b^{-x} H(-x), 0 < b = e^{-a} < 1, a = 1 - b, H(x)$$

$I$ ,  $x$ ,  $0$ ,  $a$ ,  $Ba$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $a$ ,  $MMSE$ ,  $ROEWA$

$$\begin{cases} r_{X \max}(x, y) = \max \left\{ \frac{\hat{u}_{X1}(x-1, y)}{\hat{u}_{X2}(x+1, y)}, \frac{\hat{u}_{X2}(x+1, y)}{\hat{u}_{X1}(x-1, y)} \right\} \\ r_{Y \max}(x, y) = \max \left\{ \frac{\hat{u}_{Y1}(x, y-1)}{\hat{u}_{Y2}(x, y+1)}, \frac{\hat{u}_{Y2}(x, y+1)}{\hat{u}_{Y1}(x, y-1)} \right\} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $\hat{u}_{X1}$ ,  $\hat{u}_{X2}$ ,  $\hat{u}_{Y1}$  and  $\hat{u}_{Y2}$  are the exponentially

$$\begin{cases} \hat{u}_{X1}(x, y) = f_1(x) * (f(y) \bullet u_0(x, y)) \\ \hat{u}_{X2}(x, y) = f_2(x) * (f(y) \bullet u_0(x, y)) \\ \hat{u}_{Y1}(x, y) = f_1(y) \bullet (f(x) * u_0(x, y)) \\ \hat{u}_{Y2}(x, y) = f_2(y) \bullet (f(x) * u_0(x, y)) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$|r_{\max}(x, y)| = \sqrt{r_{X \max}^2(x, y) + r_{Y \max}^2(x, y)} \quad (8)$$

$F$ ,  $1$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $a$ ,  $a$ ,  $ROEWA$ ,  $a$ ,  $ROEWA$ ,  $a$ ,  $T$ ,  $b$ ,  $ROEWA$ ,  $a$ ,  $C$ ,  $ROEWA$ ,  $a$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $SAR$ ,  $a$

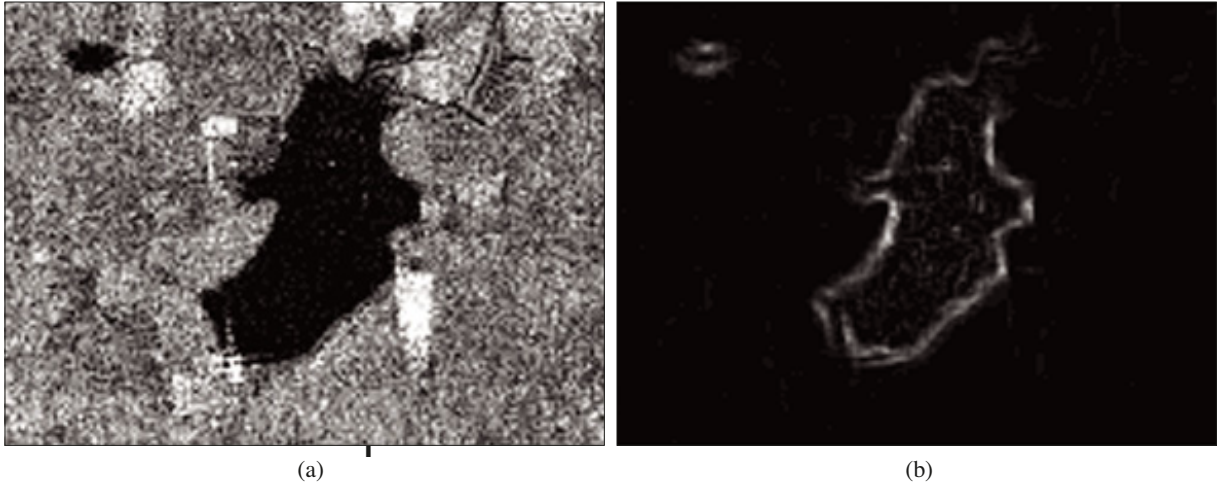


Figure 1: Water boundaries extracted from a RADARSAT-1 image. (a) Original image; (b) edges detected by the ROEWA operator.

### 3.2 GAC Model Based on the ROEWA Operator

$$\int_0^{L(C)} g(|r_{\max}|) ds + \alpha \int_{\omega} g(|r_{\max}|) da \quad (9)$$

$$g(|r_{\max}|) = \frac{1}{1 + |r_{\max}|^2 / \lambda^2} \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = [g\kappa + \alpha g - \langle \nabla g, \vec{n} \rangle] \vec{n} \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = g(\kappa + \alpha) |\nabla \phi| + \nabla g \cdot \nabla \phi \quad (12)$$

where  $\kappa = \text{div} \left( \frac{\nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|} \right)$ . To facilitate the numerical

the property of the divergence  $\text{div}(\varphi \vec{A}) = \varphi \text{div}(\vec{A}) + \vec{A} \cdot \nabla \varphi$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \left[ \text{div} \left( g \frac{\nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|} \right) + \alpha g \right] |\nabla \phi| \quad (13)$$

## 4. Implementation

the property of the divergence  $\text{div}(\varphi \vec{A}) = \varphi \text{div}(\vec{A}) + \vec{A} \cdot \nabla \varphi$

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### 4.1 Numerical Scheme

the property of the divergence  $\text{div}(\varphi \vec{A}) = \varphi \text{div}(\vec{A}) + \vec{A} \cdot \nabla \varphi$

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$$\phi(x, y) = \begin{cases} -\sqrt{(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2}, & \text{if } (x, y) \text{ is inside } C \\ 0, & \text{if } (x, y) \text{ is on } C \\ \sqrt{(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2}, & \text{if } (x, y) \text{ is outside } C \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

$$|\nabla\phi| = 1 \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial t} = \text{div}(g \nabla\phi) + \alpha g \quad (15)$$

By defining two matrix operators:  $A_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(g \frac{\partial}{\partial x})$ ,  $A_2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(g \frac{\partial}{\partial y})$ , we can rewrite Eq. (15) as

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial t} = (A_1 + A_2)\phi + \alpha g \quad (16)$$

Furthermore, let  $\sigma_{i,j}^n = \phi(n\tau, x_i, y_j)$  be an approximation of  $\phi(t, x, y)$ . Time  $n\tau$  is discretized as a matrix  $[\phi_{ij}^n]_{N_x \times N_y}$ . Or the matrix  $[\phi_{ij}^n]_{N_x \times N_y}$  should be converted to a column vector  $\phi^n$  of size  $N = N_x \times N_y$ . Then the matrix  $[A_1 + A_2]$  can be converted to a matrix  $[I - 2\tau A_l]$  of size  $N \times N$ . Then the equation (16) can be written as

$$\phi^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l=1}^2 [I - 2\tau A_l]^{-1} (\phi^n + \tau \alpha g) \quad (17)$$

$$A_l (l=1, 2) \quad (17) \quad A_l = [a_{l,ij}]_{N \times N}$$

$$a_{l,ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{g_i + g_j}{2h^2}, & j \in N(i) \\ -\sum_{k \in N(i)} \frac{g_i + g_k}{2h^2}, & j = i \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

The Thomas algorithm [Weickert et al. 1998].

### 4.2 Re-initialization of the Level Set Function

The Thomas algorithm [Weickert et al. 1998].

$L \times z = y$ ,  $N_x \times b = a$ ,  $1D$ ,  $f: x \rightarrow R$

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$D_f(x) = \min_{x' \in \Omega} \{(x - x')^2 + f(x')\}$ . Note that for each  $x' \in \Omega$ ,  $f(x')$  is a function of  $x'$ . I

$= \min_{x', y' \in \Omega} \{(x - x')^2 + (y - y')^2 + f(x', y')\}$ . Note that form can be separated, i.e.,  $D_f(x, y) = \min_{x' \in \Omega} \{(x - x')^2 + D_{f_{x'}}(y)\}$ , where  $D_{f_{x'}}(y) = \min_{y' \in \Omega} \{(y - y')^2 + f(x', y')\}$ .

[Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher 2004]. Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher [2004]. T 512 384. I a 0.037

### 4.3 Segmentation Algorithm

Ba, a SAR a T a S, a  $\phi^0$  a n=0. S 2, g b E . (10). S 3, b a a b E . (17)  $\phi^{n+1}$ .

S 4, a  $\phi^{n+1}$  S 5,  $\phi^{n+1}$  I , , n = n + 1 a .

I  $\phi^n$  a  $\phi^{n+1}$  b A a B, T T a H(A, B), T a T a , T = h a H(A, B) = a (h(A, B), h(B, A)) Ha - tance between A and B. Here  $h(B, A) = \min_{a \in A} \min_{b \in B} \|a - b\|$

$h(B, A) = \min_{b \in B} \min_{a \in A} \|b - a\|$  is the directed Hausdorff

B A. T a a a , a a a a a a . I E . (5), a a b a ROEWA , a SAR a Fjortoft et al. [1998], a = 0.3, b = 0.7, a SAR a . I E . (10), a a a a g, a ,  $\beta$  a a a g. I r , a ,  $\beta$  a a I E . (9), a a . I , a > 0 ; a a a a , a . b [-1, 1] a a a a , a a a a . O a , a a a a . A a a , a b a a a . I E . (18), h

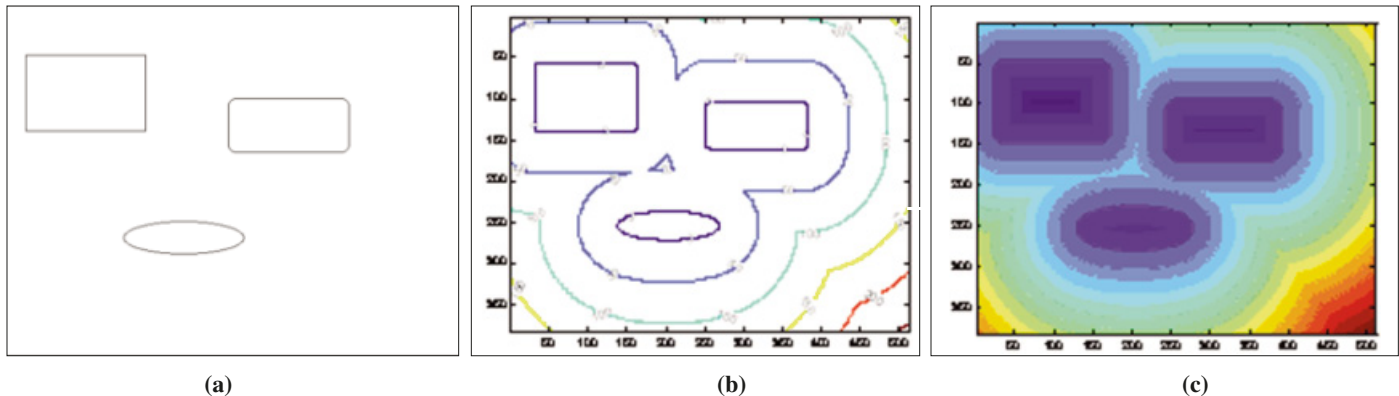


Figure 2: Signed distance function for a simple image using the distance transform. (a) Simple image. (b) Contours of the signed distance function. (c) Image of the signed distance function.



$\tau = 10.0$   
 $h = 1.1$   
 $\lambda = 0.1$   
 $a = 1$   
 $b = 0.5$   
 $\tau = 5$

### 5. Results and Discussion

MATLAB V7.4  
 PC  
 CPU  
 1 GB RAM  
 T  
 C++  
 $b = 0.68$

RADARSAT-1  
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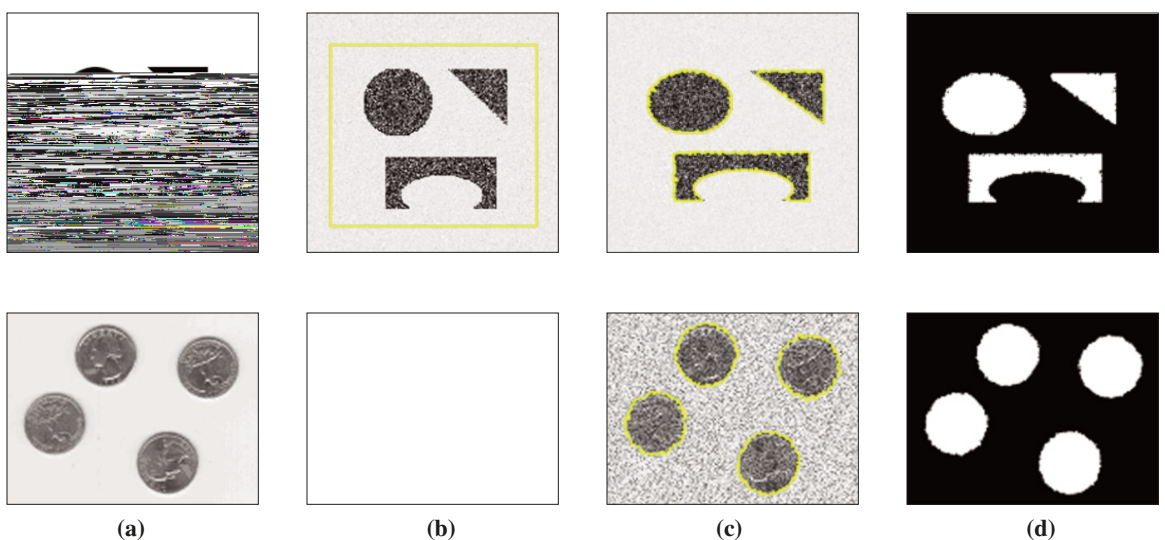


Figure 3: Segmentation results of two simulated SAR images using our method. (a) Two original optical images. (b) Simulated SAR images with initial contours; (c) Detected contours; (d) Segmentation results.

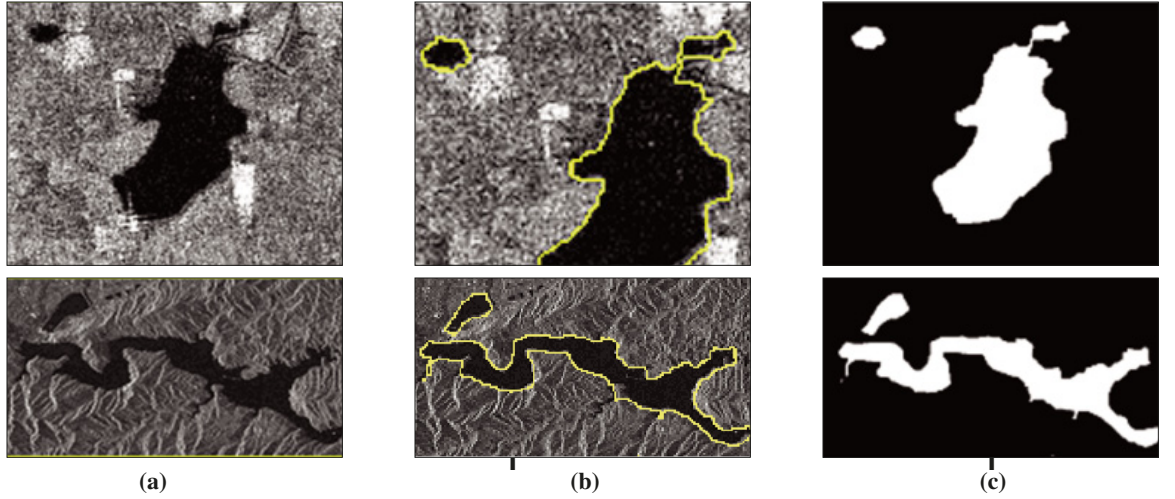


Figure 4: Segmentation results of two RADARSAT-1 images using our method. (a) Original image extracts with initial contours; (b) Detected contours; (c) Segmentation results.

## 6. Performance Evaluation

### 6.1 Quality Evaluation

Observe that the initial contours are not accurate enough to represent the object boundaries. The detected contours are more accurate and complete. The segmentation results are shown in Figure 4(c). The detected contours are more accurate and complete than the initial contours. The segmentation results are shown in Figure 4(c). The detected contours are more accurate and complete than the initial contours.

*Caves et al. [1998]*

*Caves et al. [1998]*

image  $\sigma_{RI}^2$  and normalized likelihood ratio of log

$D, S, u_0, m, n, a, u_{seg}, a, RI$

$$RI = u_{seg} / u_0 \quad (19)$$

The detected contours are more accurate and complete than the initial contours. The segmentation results are shown in Figure 4(c). The detected contours are more accurate and complete than the initial contours.

$$\sigma_{RI}^2 = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{k=1}^k \frac{n_k}{mn-1} (RI_k^2 - \overline{RI}^2) \quad (20)$$

$$D = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{k=1}^k \frac{n_k}{mn} (\ln RI_k) \quad (21)$$

$n_k$  is the pixel numbers of  $RI_k$ ,  $\overline{RI}^2$  and  $RI_k^2$  are

Tab 1.

Table 1: Evaluation results of segmentation quality for two RADARSAT-1 and five RADARSAT-2 images.

RADARSAT-1 a 1		RADARSAT-1 a 2		RADARSAT-2 a 1		RADARSAT-2 a 2		RADARSAT-2 a 3		RADARSAT-2 a 4		RADARSAT-2 a 5	
$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D	$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D	$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D	$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D	$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D	$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D	$\sigma_{RI}^2$	D
0.12	0.23	0.11	0.21	0.14	0.23	0.15	0.25	0.12	0.22	0.17	0.24	0.16	0.25

Table 2: Time consumed by the algorithm for images with different sizes.

S ( )	64' 64	128' 128	256' 256	512' 512	1024' 1024
T ( . )	1.7	6.1	26.5	143.6	864.8



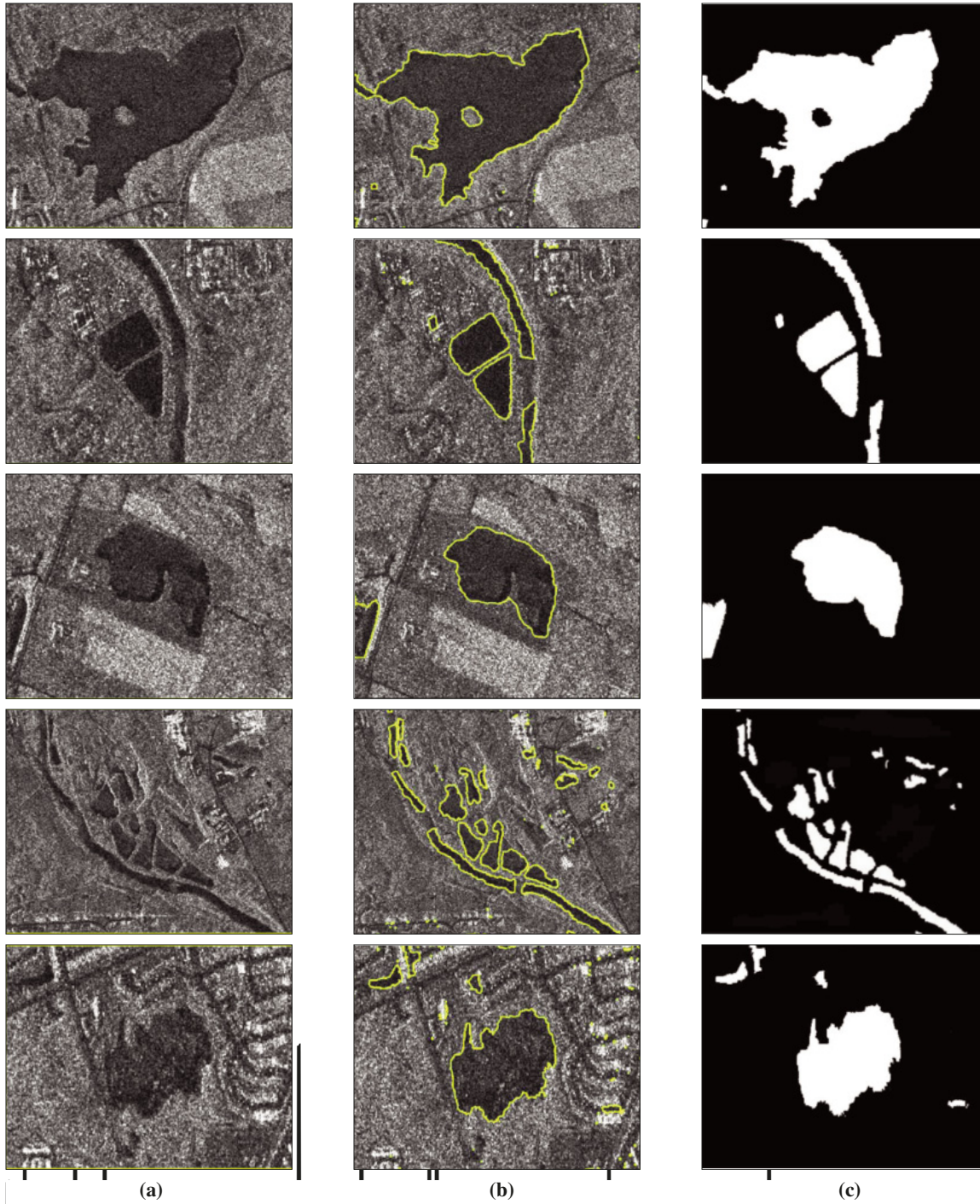


Figure 5: Segmentation results of five RADARSAT-2 images using our method. (a) Original image extracts with initial contours; (b) Detected contours; (c) Segmentation results.

<p>I a a a a a . T a a b a a a Tab 2.</p> <h2>6.2 Comparison</h2> <p>I a a a a a a a a a a</p>	<p>a a a -ba a ba a a ( [Fjortoft et al. 1993] a a ), a GAC ba ROEWA (MCAC) t F t 6 -ba a RADARSAT-1 a .Q t a a a a a a Tab 3.</p>
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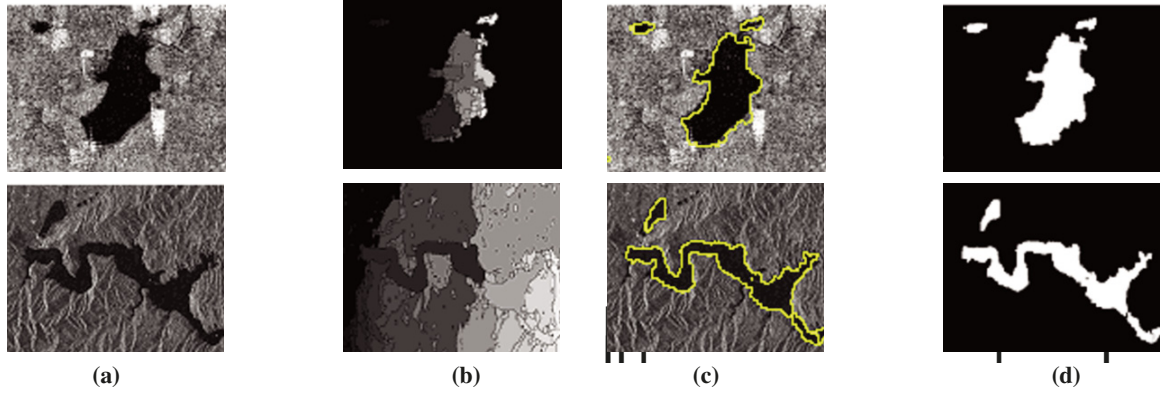


Figure 6: Segmentation results of the edge-based algorithm. (a) Original images; (b) Results of the watershed algorithm; (c) Detected boundaries; (d) Segmentation results.

Table 3: Quantitative comparison of the two segmentation algorithms.

A	RADARSAT a 1		RADARSAT a 2	
	$\sigma^2_{Rl}$	$D$	$\sigma^2_{Rl}$	$D$
MGAC	0.12	0.23	0.11	0.21
E -ba	0.27	0.38	0.24	0.35

[Papandreou and Maragos 2007]

SAR

## Acknowledgments

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## 7. Concluding Remarks

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Authors

Dr. Gangyao Kuang B.S. a  
 M.S. C a S t U ,  
 C a , 1988 a 1991, a P.D.  
 N a a U D Na a D  
 T (NUDT), C a , 1995. \$ 1996,  
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 Dr. Jonathan Li P.D.  
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 Dr. Zhiguo He B.S. , M.S. , a  
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