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ESTIMATION OF A LARGE AREA CROP ACREAGE INVENTORY USING REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY*

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O. SUMMARY

Based upon the existing remote sensing capabilities, the useful information about the acreage of some crop of economic interest can be obtained from multispectral scanner measurements acquired over an agricultural area. If the goal is to determine the acreages covered by various crops over some large area such as the continental United States, then some sampling procedure will be necessary since it would not be practical to collect and process a set of scanner data covering the entire area.

In this report we develop a model for the evaluation of acreages (proportions) of different crop-types over a geographical area using a classification approach and give methods for estimating the crop acreages. If prior information is available on the classification errors associated with the classification algorithm used, the estimation method provides the best estimate for the crop acreages. Otherwise, the method would first require a certain amount of ground truth in the area of interest to be obtained so that the classifier can be trained and the classification errors estimated.

If the main interest lies in estimating the acreages of a specific croptype such as wheat, it is suggested to treat the problem as a two-crop problem: wheat vs. non-wheat, since this simplifies the estimation problem considerably. The error analysis and the sample size problem is investigated for the two-crop approach. Certain numerical results for sample sizes are given for a JSC-ERTS-1 data example on wheat identification performance in Hill County, Montana and Burke County, North Dakota. Lastly, for a large area crop acreages inventory we suggest a sampling scheme for acquiring sample data and discuss the problem of crop acreage estimation and the error analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years the development of several automatic data processing techniques for statistical pattern recognition has enhanced considerably the scope of remote sensing technology for the study of earth resources, particularly in the field of agriculture. It now appears that a system for performing a large area crop inventory can be developed on the basis of existing remote sensing capabilities.

The data handling and analysis for remotely sensed agricultural resources over a large area may not be feasible both from technical and economical viewpoints if each scanned data point is being processed for its recognition. For example, if a complete recognition is desired for an ERTS scene, it would require processing over half a million data points. As such, an important requirement for any system to be developed for a large area crop inventory should be to have a suitable crop acreage estimation technique that uses only a sample of the unlabeled remotely sensed data obtained for the area of interest for the purpose of recognition.

In this report we discuss a large area crop acreage estimation procedure that would meet this requirement for the system. We develop a model for the evaluation of crop proportions for an agricultural area and provide methods for crop acreage estimation, taking into consideration the classification errors likely to arise in labeling remotely sensed data. The error analysis for the model is studied and expressions for variances of different estimates are given, in general as well as in specific cases. For the two-crop situation, the problem of sample size is investigated and certain numerical results for the sample size are provided. Next, we extend the scope of our study to investigate a large area crop inventory.

2. CROP PROPORTIONS MODEL

Suppose there are m different crops $\pi_1, \pi_2, \ldots, \pi_m$ in the agricultural area of interest and that every data point is identifiable with respect to one of these crops. Let p_i denote the proportion of pixels in π_i , $i=1,2,\ldots,m$. Considering a random sample of n unlabeled remotely sensed data points, let n_i be the number of points classified into π_i , $i=1,2,\ldots,m$, using a classification algorithm. Suppose n(i|j) is the number of data points to be in π_j but classified into π_i , then

$$n_i = n(i|1) + n(i|2) + \dots + n(i|m)$$

and

$$\frac{n}{n} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{n(i|j)}{n}$$
, $i=1,2,...,m$ (2.1)

are the observed crop proportions for the sample data under the classification algorithm used. The observed proportion n_i/n is a biased estimate of p_i since it estimates unbiasedly $E[n_i/n]$ given by

$$e_{i} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} E\left[\frac{n(i|j)}{n}\right]$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{m} P_{j} P(i|j) \qquad (2.2)$$

where $P(i \mid j)$ denotes the probability of classifying a data point from π_j into π_i under the classification algorithm. It may be pointed out that processing of remotely sensed data for total recognition would lead to an evaluation of the expected classified crop proportions e_i 's instead of the

actual crop proportions p_i 's. Of course, if the classification algorithm performs so well that the classification errors are sufficiently small, e_i will be close enough to p_i , $i=1,2,\ldots,m$. But most statistical pattern recognition techniques for processing of remotely sensed data are expected to be fallible and thereby the two types of proportions are not going to be near equal. Henceforth in our discussion we will assume that P(i|j) > 0 for at least one j different from i.

Denoting the observed proportion n_i/n by $\hat{e}_i, i=1,2,...,m$, it follows from (2.2) that

$$e = E[\hat{e}]$$

or

$$e = Pp (2.3)$$

where

$$\mathbf{e} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 \\ \mathbf{e}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{m}} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_1 \\ \mathbf{p}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{m}} \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P(1|1) & P(1|2) & \dots & P(1|m) \\ P(2|1) & P(2|2) & \dots & P(2|m) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ P(m|1) & P(m|2) & P(m|m) \end{bmatrix}$$

Accordingly, the vector of actual crop proportions

$$p = P^{-1}e$$
 (2.4)

are obtained subject to $\sum_{i=1}^{m} p_i = 1$ provided e and P are known.

case of \hat{p} not only the estimate \hat{p} itself but bias as well as mean square error quantities will also depend upon how \hat{P} is obtained. One solution for \hat{P} and the probability distribution of its components is suggested therein, as well.

3. TWO-CROP APPROACH

Sometimes the main interest is in estimating the acreage of a specific crop type in the area of interest. In that case one approach to the acreage estimation problem lies in considering π_1 to be the specific crop type and π_0 to be the "other crop" consisting of the remainder of the crops, and then treating it as a two-crop situation. However, lumping of different crops together for the "other crop" would require certain caution and should be judged in terms of the classification performance for the two-crop case as against that for the case of the original set of crops. For the Gaussian maximum likelihood classifier, Basu and Odell (1973) have investigated this problem and have shown that the classification performance for the class of main interest may or may not improve when the classification is performed using the two-class approach. But the problem under this approach is greatly simplified and, barring extreme cases, perhaps it will provide satisfactory solutions in the remote sensing situation when interest only lies in ascertaining the acreage cover of one specific crop.

Now considering two crops π_1 and π_0 , let $P(1|0) = \Phi_1$ and $P(0|1) = \Phi_2$ for the probabilities of misclassification when a certain classifier is used. We will assume that $\Phi_1 + \Phi_2 \neq 1$. Then

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \phi_2 & \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 & 1 - \phi_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

If p_1 and p_2 are the actual crop proportions of π_1 and π_0 , respectively, whereas e_1 and e_2 are their respective expected classified crop proportions under the classifier used, it follows from (2.3) that

$$e_1 = (1-\Phi_2) p_1 + \Phi_1 (1-p_1)$$
 (3.1)

and

$$e_2 = 1 - e_1$$
 .

On the other hand,

$$p_{1} = \frac{e_{1} - \Phi_{1}}{1 - \Phi_{1} - \Phi_{2}} \tag{3.2}$$

and

$$p_2 = \frac{e_2 - \Phi_2}{1 - \Phi_1 - \Phi_2}$$
 or $p_2 = 1 - p_1$.

Suppose from a random sample of n unlabeled remotely sensed data points, $n_1 \text{ points were classified into } \pi_1 \text{ and } n_2 = n-n_1 \text{ points were classified into } \pi_0 \text{ by the classifier. Then}$

$$\hat{e}_1 = \frac{n_1}{n}$$
, (3.3)

$$\hat{p}_1 = \frac{\hat{e}_1 - \Phi_1}{1 - \Phi_1 - \Phi_2} \tag{3.4}$$

if Φ_1 and Φ_2 are known, and

$$\hat{\hat{p}}_{1} = \frac{\hat{e}_{1} - \hat{\Phi}_{1}}{1 - \hat{\Phi}_{1} - \hat{\Phi}_{2}}$$
 (3.5)

when ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are unknown and have estimates $\hat{\phi}_1$ and $\hat{\phi}_2$ respectively. Clearly

$$Var(\hat{p}_1) = \frac{1}{(1-\phi_1 - \phi_2)^2} Var(\hat{e}_1)$$
 (3.6)

For the estimate p_1 in (3.5), it easily follows that

Bias
$$(\hat{p}_1) = (e_1 - \Phi_1) E[T - \theta] - E[T(\hat{\Phi}_1 - \Phi_1)]$$
 (3.7)

where

$$T = (1 - \hat{\Phi}_1 - \hat{\Phi}_2)^{-1}$$

and

$$\theta = (1 - \Phi_1 - \Phi_2)^{-1} .$$

However, evalution of expected values in (3.7) may be quite a difficult job and so an exact bias value may not be accessible. An evaluation of the \hat{P}_1 in its exact form is even more difficult. As such we instead consider having it in the following approximate form obtained in Appendix 1 using the δ -method. For a discussion on the method, see Rao (1965).

$$MSE(\hat{p}_1) = \frac{1}{[1-\phi_1-\phi_2]^2} (Var(\hat{e}_1) + [1-\frac{e_1-\phi_1}{1-\phi_1-\phi_2}]^2 Var(\hat{\phi}_1) + [\frac{e_1-\phi_1}{1-\phi_1-\phi_2}]^2 Var(\hat{\phi}_2))$$
(3.8)

or

$$MSE(\hat{p}_1) = \frac{1}{[1-\Phi_1-\Phi_2]^2} [Var(\hat{e}_1) + (1-p_1)^2 Var(\hat{\Phi}_1) + p_1^2 Var(\hat{\Phi}_2)]$$
 (3.9)

where p_1 is given by (3.2).

Sample Size

Considering simple random sampling with pixel as the sampling unit, we discuss the problem of sample size necessary to minimize the sampling cost or to achieve a desired amount of precision for the proportion estimate, given that the other is specified. Suppose total sample consists of $N=n+N_1+N_2$ data points selected randomly, where n is the size of sample of unlabeled remotely sensed data used for estimating e_1 , and N_1 and N_2 are sample sizes for ground truth data from π_1 and π_0 and are used to estimate Φ_1 and Φ_2 , respectively. The estimates e_1 , e_1 , and e_2 are all obtained as observed sample proportions and thus it follows from (3.6) and (3.9) that

$$Var(\hat{p}_1) = \frac{e_1(1 - e_1)}{n(1 - \Phi_1 - \Phi_2)^2}$$

and

$$MSE(\hat{p}_1) = \frac{1}{(1-\Phi_1-\Phi_2)^2} \left[\frac{e_1(1-e_1)}{n} + (1-p_1)^2 \frac{\Phi_1(1-\Phi_1)}{N_1} + p_1^2 \frac{\Phi_2(1+\Phi_2)}{N_2} \right]. \quad (3.10)$$

Suppose we want to obtain sample sizes necessary to minimize the sampling cost when $\text{Var}(\hat{\textbf{p}}_1)$ and $\text{MSE}(\hat{\textbf{p}}_1)$ are specified, say each equal to or smaller than σ^2 . In the case of Φ_1 , Φ_2 known, the only cost involved is that of processing the remotely sensed sample data. Clearly, it will be minimum when the sample size n is the smallest integer greater than or equal to

$$\frac{e_1(1-e_1)}{(1-\Phi_2-\Phi_2)^2\sigma^2} . \tag{3.11}$$

For when $^{\varphi}_1$ and $^{\varphi}_2$ are unknown, there are two types of cost involved: one is the cost of processing the total sample data, say at the rate of $^{c}_1$ dollars per data point and the other is the cost of obtaining ground truth, say at the rate of $^{c}_2$ dollars per data point. Then the cost associated with a sample of size N = n + N₁ + N₂ is of the form:

$$C(N) = c_1^n + (c_1^{+c_2}) (N_1^{+N_2})$$
 (3.12)

The purpose is to find N (i.e., n, N₁ and N₂) which minimize C(N) subject to $\hat{p}_1 \leq \sigma^2$. This is done in Appendix 2 where we derive explicit expressions for n, N₁ and N₂ in (A.9).

4. AN EXAMPLE

Certain sites in Hill County, Montana and Burke County, North Dakota were selected to investigate wheat identification performance for the ERTS-1 satellite data during 1973. For the sites in Hill County, there were three acquisition periods, covering both winter and spring wheat seasons, for which ERTS-1 labeled data were evaluated against the ground truth to ascertain wheat identification performance. In the case of the site in Burke County, there were only two acquisition periods covering the spring wheat season. For the classification identification performance results and other details, refer to Appendix 3.

Considering Φ_1 to be the omission percentage for the non-wheat data points and Φ_2 for the wheat data points, we give sample size results in Figure 1-7 for the various cases of omission percentages listed in Appendix 3, assuming different wheat proportions in the area and Φ_2 = .01. Based on these results, the following conclusions are drawn:

- 1. Expected labeled wheat proportion, e₁, increases as the actual proportion of wheat, p₁, increases for the area, though not strictly. Though to a certain extent it depends upon the magnitude of the omission percentages for both non-wheat and wheat data points, it tends to centralize away from too low or too high values for the percentage.
- 2. Sample size for the unlabeled remotely sensed data first increases as the actual wheat proportion increases and then decreases later on; the point of decrease depends upon the size of the two omission percentages.

- 3. All sample sizes increase as the total omission rate ${}^{\Phi}1$ + ${}^{\Phi}2$ increases.
- 4. Sample size, for the unlabeled remotely sensed data is much larger when Φ_1 , Φ_2 are unknown compared to when these are known.
- 5. In the case of Φ_1 , Φ_2 unknown, the sample size for the unlabeled remotely sensed data is proportional to c_2/c_1 , the ratio of two types of cost.
- 6. Sample sizes for ground truth of wheat and non-wheat are inversely proportioned to c_2/c_1 .
- 7. Sample size for the ground truth of wheat is larger than that for non-wheat when the expected labeled wheat proportion is below .5. Reverse is the case when such proportion is above .5. A similar trend holds against the actual wheat proportion, though not strictly.
- 8. Sample size for the ground truth increases as either of the two omission percentages increases when the other is held fixed.

For making a comparison of sample sizes irrespective of the wheat proportion which, in fact, is unknown, a suitable criterian is to determine the sample sizes against values for the coefficient of variation, C.V. = σ/p . Generally the wheat coverage in any area of interest is expected to be somewhere in between 1 percent and 20 percent. As such we here give sample sizes for the unlabeled remotely sensed data and the ground truth of wheat as well as nonwheat by specifying σ = .01 and considering certain C.V. values in a 5 to 50 percent range. Numerical results are presented in Table 1 for all different cases of Φ_1 , Φ_2 values that arise from the wheat identification performance

results given in Appendix 3. Moreover, for certain cases the sample sizes are sketched in Figure 8-14. The following conclusions are drawn:

- 1. All samples sizes increase as the total omission percentage $_{\Phi_1}$ + $_{\Phi_2}$ increases.
- 2. Except for the sample size for the ground truth of wheat, sample sizes decrease as the coefficient of variation increases. These are generally very high in numbers for the 5 percent co-efficient of variation but levels off when the co-efficient of variation is 50 percent.
- 3. Sample size for the unlabeled remotely sensed data increases considerably if Φ_1 , Φ_2 are unknown compared to their known case.
- 4. Again, all sample sizes depend upon the ratio ${\rm c_2/c_1}$ as regards the two types of cost.
- 5. Sample size for the ground truth of wheat is consistently larger than that of non-wheat. Also, it shows very small changes over the range of co-efficients of variations being considered here. In cases where there is a high overall omission percentage, and particularly for the non-wheat, it tends to increase as the co-efficient of variation increases.

TABLE 1: Sample sizes: n for the unlabeled remotely sensed data, N for the ground truth of wheat, and N for the ground truth of non-wheat when σ = .01

Coeffi-	Liboat	Omissio	n rates	Expected	T & A		Φ 2:	nd A	nlenovm o	200	
cient of	Wheat propor-	Φ ₁	^p 2	labeled	^Φ 1, ^Φ 2			2	nknown c		
variation		1	2	wheat	known: Sample	i	$c_{2}/c_{1}=5$			$c_2/c_1 = 20$	
	P ₁			proportion	size	Sample	Ground		Sample	Ground	
				e ₁	n	size	sample N		size n	sample N ₁	
				<u> L</u>		n	N ₁	N ₂		1 1	N ₂
0.050	0.200	0.200	0.300	0.3000	8400	26884 12141	7664 2832	2195 · 1022	42979	550 2377	876 58
		0.100	0.250	0.2300	4192 3734	10632	2700	569	16638	2264 1732	476 10
		0.100	0.150	0.2500	3334 2045	9200 7275	2083 1295	620 594	14319	1059	4 86
		0.050	0.100	0.2200	2376 1706	5667 2170	974	33E 39	8533 2574	784	70 3
0.100	0.100	0.200.	0.300	0.2500	7500	24713	8390	1068	39712	7205	918
0,100		0.100	0.250	0.1650	3261 3100	10064	2971 2982	477	15875 15054	2520 2523	405 230
		0.100	0.150	0.1750	2567	7625	2212 1295	293 264	12030	1866 1976	247 220
		0.050	0.200	0.1250 0.1350	1945	5346 4237	293	152	6518	817	125
		0.000	0.050	0.0950	953	1127	0	35	1278		
0.150	0.067	0.200	0.300	0.2333 0.1433	715E 2907	23893 9181	8610 2995	7 05	38469 14646	7410 2554	607 264
		0.150	0.100 0.150	0.2000 0.1500	2845 2267	8998 6 991	3061 2238	184	14357 11105	2611 1901	157 162
	w	0.050	0.200	0.1000	1600 1319	4006 3658	1275 984	168	7224 5694	1069 819	1 41 81
		0.000	0.050	0.0633	658	754	0	19	838	0	. 11
0.200	0.050	0.200	0.300	0.2250	6975	23460 8749	8716 3003	5 2 6 22 9	37816 13997	7510 2568	453 196
		0.100 0.150	0.250	0.1325	27 21 27 0 9	8729	3098	137	13972	2650	118
	•	0.100	0.150	0.1375 0.0875	2109 1420	6651 4214	2247 1261	141	1060C 6647	1916 1063	120
		0.050	0.100	0.0925 0.0475	1162 502	3343 565	976 0	71 12	5243 620	818	60 7
0.250	0.040	0.200	0.300	0.2200	6864	23194	8778	419	37414	75€9	3 € 2
		0.100	0.250	0.1250	2607 2624	8481 8560	3005 3118	181 110	13597 13729	2575 2673	155 94
		0.100	0.150	0.1300	2011	6438	2251	112	10293 6287	1924	96 81
· ×		0.050	0.200	0.0800	1309 1065	3970 3146	1250 969	5 6	4958	816	47 5
		0.000	0.050	0.0380	406	451	0	9	490		
0.300	0.033	0.200	0.300	0.2167	6789 2530	23014 8300	8 E 1 9 3 0 0 6	349 150	37142 13324	7608 2580	301 129
		0.150	0.100 0.150	0.1750 0.1250	2567 1945	6293	3132 2253	91 93	13561 10079	2689 1929	78 80
		0.050	0.200	0.0750 0.0783	1234	3 8 0 3 3 0 1 0	1242 964	79 46	6041 4761	1055 815	67 · 39
		0.000	0.050	0.0317	340	375	0	7	405	0	4
0.350	0.029	0.200	0.300	0.2143 0.1186	6735 2474	22824 8168	8847 3006	299 128	36946 13127	7635 2583	258 110
		0.150	0.100	0.1714	2526	8359	3141	78	13439	2700	67
	•0	0.100	0.150	0.1214	1897 1180	6167 3682	2254 1236	7 9 6 7	9923 5862	1933 1052	6 8 5 7
*	•	0.050	0.100	0.0743	95 2 2 9 3	2911 321	96 Ü	3 9 €	4616 344	814	33 3
0.400	0.025	0.200	0.300	0.2125	6694	22725	8386	261	36797	7656	225
		0.100	0.250	0.1163	2432 2494	8069 8295	3006 3148	112 68	12977	25 65 27 0 8	96 59
		0.100	0.150	0.1138	1661 1139	6107 3590	2255 1231	6 9 5 8	9805 5725	1935 1050	60 50
		0.050	0.100	0.0712	91 6 25 7	2635 260	956	34	4506 300	813	29
0.450	0.022	0.200	0.300	0.2111	6662	22708	8885	232	36681	7672	200
		0.100	0.250	0.1144	2399	7551	3006	99	12860	2586	85
		0.100	0.150	0.1667	2470 1333	£044	3153 2255	61 61·	13272 9712	2714 1937	5 2 5 3
		0.050	0.200	0.0867	1107 888	3518 2775	1227 954	52	5618 4419	1048 812	44 26
		0.000	0.050	0.0211	229	248	0	46	265	0	2
0.500	0.020	0.200	0.300	0.2100	6636 2373	22646 7928	8898 3066	203 89	36583 12766	7684 2587	180
X		0.150	0.100	0.1650	2450 1810	8 2 0 3 5 9 9 3	3157	5.5	13213	2719	47
		0.050	0.200	0.0650	1001	3460	2255 1220	5.5 4.6	9637 5531	1938 1046	48
	i,	0.050	0.100	0.0670	207 .	2727 - 223	951 0	27	4348	811	23

5. A LARGE AREA CROP ACREAGE ESTIMATION

Our previous discussion, in essence, applies to crop acreage inventory for an agricultural area which is homogeneous in respect to agricultural practices and thus is not expected to be large enough. Since a major objective of the JSC-EOD project is to perform or estimate crop acreages for a large area using available remote sensing capabilities, we here suggest a sampling procedure to procure sample data for the purpose of estimating a large area crop acreage inventory and discuss the error analysis associated with it.

Once again, we assume that the frame is made of agricultural areas; the non-agricultural areas in the region of interest can be easily excluded by way of a monitoring system. As a first step in the sampling procedure, we suggest having a geographical-based stratification which effects a division of the region into reasonably homogeneous areas with respect to physical and climatological conditions. Considering additional factors of (i) the predominance of various crop-types and (ii) the latitude and longitude, a finer stratification must be achieved. This is to obtain better discrimination for the underlying crop-types and to control variability which may otherwise dominate over the distinction that exists between the resolution classes for these crop-types.

Note that as a result of stratification one may only need to consider a part of the region for frame if crops of interest do not cover the whole region. So depending upon whether the frame would require consideration of the complete region or only a part of it, one should make a list of strata making up the frame for the purpose of sampling.

Remoting sensing data gathered by an ERTS satellite is documented in terms of scenes, each covering approximately an area of 100×100 miles and

divided into four strips where each strip has approximately 6,400 scanlines in it. As such, we suggest a three stage sampling plan to be independently carried out in each stratum: select randomly ERTS scenes at the first stage, strips within scenes at the second stage and scanlines within strips at the third stage. Of course, one may consider one more stage in selecting pixels within scanlines. However, sampling at this stage is excluded from the plan because it is inconvenient and uneconomical.

Notations

Let R be the region (in the sense of frame) of interest for estimating crop acreages. Suppose it is stratified into strata R_t , $t=1,2,\ldots,L$, with weights w_t , the proportion of pixels in tth stratum, $t=1,2,\ldots,L$ so that

$$R = \bigcup_{t=1}^{L} R_{t} \qquad \text{with} \quad \sum_{t=1}^{L} w_{t} = 1 .$$

In stratum R_t , let I_t be the number of scenes whereas J, H and n denote the number of strips per scene, number of scanlines per strip and number of pixels per scanlines, respectively. From the previous paragraph it is obvious that there is no need to distinguish between strata in the categories of strips per scene, scanlines per strip and pixels per scanline. Next, let $e_{tijh}(\pi_k)$ be the expected proportion of pixels to be classified in π_k from the hth scanline in jth strip of ith scene for stratum R_t , t=1,2,...,L.

$$e_{tij}(\pi_k) = \sum_{h=1}^{H} e_{tijh}(\pi_k)$$

the expected proportion of pixels to be classified in $\boldsymbol{\pi}_k$ from the jth strip in ith scene,

$$e_{ti}(\pi_k) = \sum_{j=1}^{J} \sum_{h=1}^{H} e_{tijh}(\pi_k),$$

the expected proportions of pixels to be classified in $\pi_{\boldsymbol{k}}$ from the ith scene,

$$e_t(\pi_k) = \sum_{i=1}^{I_t} \sum_{j=1}^{J} \sum_{h=1}^{H} e_{tijh}(\pi_k)$$
,

the expected proportion of pixels to be classified in π_k . Accordingly,

$$e(\pi_k) = \sum_{t=1}^{L} w_t e_t(\pi_k)$$
, (5.1)

is the expected proportion of pixels to be classified in $\boldsymbol{\pi}_k,\ k=1,2,\dots,m,$ for the region R.

Estimates

Suppose m_t , r and s denote the corresponding number of scenes, number of strips per scenes and number of scanlines per strip that one selected for R_t , $t=1,2,\ldots,L$, using the stratified three stage random sampling described earlier. Let $n_{tijh}(\pi_k)$ be the number of pixels classified into π_k from the hth selected scanline in jth selected strip of the ith selected scene in R_t . Then considering the observed proportions of classified data points into different crops for estimates, one has

$$\hat{e}_{tijh}(\pi_k) = \frac{n_{tijh}(\pi_k)}{n} ,$$

$$\hat{e}_{tij}(\pi_k) = \frac{1}{ns} \sum_{h=1}^{s} n_{tijh}(\pi_k),$$

$$\hat{e}_{ti}(\pi_k) = \frac{1}{nsr} \sum_{j=1}^{r} \sum_{h=1}^{s} n_{tijh}(\pi_k),$$

$$\hat{e}_t(\pi_k) = \frac{1}{\text{nsrm}_t} \sum_{i=1}^{m_t} \sum_{j=1}^{r} \sum_{h=1}^{s} n_{tijh}(\pi_k),$$

and

$$\hat{e}(\pi_k) = \sum_{t=1}^{L} w_t \hat{e}_t(\pi_k), \qquad k = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (5.2)

Next, expressions for $Var(e_t(\pi_k))$ and $Cov(e_t(\pi_k), e_t(\pi_k))(k \not= k')$ can be obtained without much difficulty. For example, refer to Section 10.8 in Cochran (1963) for the general discussion on three stage sampling plan. Hence, the covariance matrix of \hat{e} is given by

$$Var(\hat{e}(\pi_k)) = \sum_{t=1}^{L} w_t^2 Var(\hat{e}_t(\pi_k))$$

and
$$Cov(\hat{e}(\pi_k), \hat{e}(\pi_k)) = \sum_{t=1}^{L} w_t^2 Cov(\hat{e}_t(\pi_k), \hat{e}_t(\pi_k)), k \neq k', k=1,2,...,m$$
 (5.3)

Similarly, an estimate of the covariance matrix is obtained by replacing the unknown quantities by their estimates in (5.3). In this context, see Chhikara and Odell (1974) who have discussed such results in greater details.

Now to obtain the actual crop proportions, there is a need to consider whether or not the classification error matrix is the same for each stratum. When the area is wide and large and the stratification is performed considering factors mentioned in the beginning of this section, it is quite likely that these classification error matrices will not be the same for different strata.

In that case, find an estimate of p_k , k=1,2,...,m, using (2.5) if the classification error matrix is known and (2.6) if it is unknown for each stratum. Denoting p_k by $p_t(\pi_k)$ for stratum R_t , it then follows that

$$\hat{p}_{k} = \sum_{t=1}^{L} \hat{w}_{t} \hat{p}_{t} (\pi_{k}) , \qquad k = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (5.4)

when the classification matrices, say P_t , t = 1, 2, ..., L, are known, and

$$\hat{\hat{p}}_{k} = \sum_{t=1}^{L} \hat{w}_{t} \hat{p}_{t} (\pi_{k}) , \qquad k = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (5.5)

when these are unknown and are separately estimated using ground truth data from each stratum. Next, $\text{Var}(\mathbf{\hat{p}_k})$ and $\text{MSE}(\mathbf{\hat{p}_k})$ are respectively obtained from (A.2) and (A.7) after making an appropriate substitution from (5.2).

On the other hand, either there is the same classification error matrix for all strata or can be made so by proper adjustment of signatures in the classification algorithm for each stratum. For then an estimate of crop proportions p_k , $k=1,2,\ldots,m$ is directly given by (2.5) if the common classification error matrix is known and by (2.6) if it is unknown, using $e(\pi_k)$, $k=1,2,\ldots,m$ of (5.1) for e. Hence, both estimates and their error analyses are obtained by following the general procedure given in Section 2.

In fact, our approach in Section 2 is quite general and can be applied to perform any large area acreage inventory by considering an appropriate sampling scheme for both the unlabeled remotely sensed data and the ground truthed data.

Once again if interest lies in estimating only the wheat acreage, the two-crop approach of Section 3 can be applied. Then an estimate of wheat proportion is obtained from (3.4) or (3.5) as the case may be, either first

obtaining it stratumwise and then combining as we did above in (5.4) and (5.5) or directly, depending upon whether or not the classification error matrix is the same for different strata. Subsequently, the precision of this estimate and the sample size necessary to achieve a desired precision with minimum cost can be easily obtained by applying our technique of Section 3.

Sample Size

Taking the cost factor into consideration, suppose we want to determine the sample size that either minimizes the sampling cost for a specified precision or maximizes the precision of the estimate for a fixed cost.

Though a large initial cost is involved in acquiring remotely sensed data, presently we are mainly concerned with the cost of the processing and labeling of the sampled data. In general, any such cost can be considered as

$$c_t = c_1^m + c_2^m + c_3^m + c_3^m$$

for the sample in stratum R_t , and

$$C = (c_1 + c_2 r + c_3 rs) \sum_{t=1}^{L} m_t$$

for the area of interest.

In case of unknown classification error matrix or matrices, there is an additional cost of sampling the ground truth, say C'. As such the total cost involved is C = C + C'. Now if the cost is fixed, say $C'' \leq C_0$, a determination of sample sizes for both the unlabeled remotely sensed data in all three categories and the ground truth for various crops can be achieved by solving equations obtained by equating the partial derivatives of

$$MSE(\hat{p}_{k}) + \lambda(C''-C_{0})$$
, $k = 1, 2, ..., m$

where λ is a Lagrange multiplier, with respect to m_t , r, s and the ground truth sample sizes to zero. Similarly, when the MSE (\hat{p}_k) is fixed, say σ_k^2 , $k=1,2,\ldots,m$, again this can be achieved by considering the function

$$C'' + \lambda_k [MSE(\hat{p}_k) - \sigma_k^2], \quad k = 1, 2, ..., m$$

for minimization. This, of course, would lead to k different values for various sample sizes unless we consider the minimization from the point of a specific crop-type proportion estimate. On the other hand, a unique determination can be obtained by considering the largest value obtained in each case.

It may be pointed out that under this procedure, it will be difficult to give any closed form expression for any sample size and its carrying out would involve some optimization technique.

If the classification error matrix (or matrices) is known, the sample sizes \mathbf{m}_{t} (t=1,2,...,L), \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{s} can be easily determined by minimizing $\mathrm{Var}(\hat{\mathbf{e}}(\pi_k)) + \lambda(\mathrm{C-C_0})$ or $\mathrm{C} + \lambda_k[\mathrm{Var}(\hat{\mathbf{e}}(\pi_k)) - \sigma_k^2]$ as the case may be. Moreover, the sample size problem in the case of unknown classification error matrix or matrices can be treated either by assuming the classification errors known or by investigating the two types of sampling separately.

6. FURTHER REMARKS

In actual practice it may not be possible to have every data point identified with one of the crops in the area of interest, particularly if the area is large. This may be caused by not knowing all crop-types that exist in the area or some data points representing pixels falling on the field boundaries. As such the model developed in this report may be viewed somewhat restricted. Its use for performing a large area crop inventory may be considered subsequent to obtaining information about the agricultural practices in the area.

It is extremely difficult to model the problem of a large area crop inventory in its full generality unless certain constraints are imposed. The condition of identifiability is one such constraint that one must have in order to deal with the problem analytically.

A.1. Variances of Components of p

For p given in (2.5), the covariance matrix,

$$E[(\hat{p} - p)(\hat{p} - p)^T] = P^{-1} E[(\hat{e} - e)(\hat{e} - e)^T](P^{-1})^T$$

or

$$\sum_{p=(P^{-1})}^{n} V(P^{-1})^{T}$$
(A.1)

where V denotes the covariance matrix of \hat{e} . Denoting the (i, j)th element of p^{-1} by p^{ij} , it follows that the variance of \hat{p}_i , the ith element of \hat{p} , is given by

$$\operatorname{Var}(\hat{p}_{i}) = \sum_{j \neq 1}^{m} (P^{ij})^{2} \operatorname{Var}(\hat{e}_{j}) + \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{m} P^{ij} P^{ik} \operatorname{Cov}(\hat{e}_{j}, \hat{e}_{k})$$

$$(A.2)$$

where $V(\hat{e}_j)$ and $Cov(\hat{e}_j, \hat{e}_k)$ would depend upon the sampling scheme used for obtaining samples of unlabeled remotely sensed data points.

In the case of random sampling with sampling unit as pixel (i.e. one data point),

$$\text{Var}(\hat{e}_{j}) = \frac{e_{j}(1 - e_{j})}{n}$$
 (A.3)

and

Cov
$$(\hat{e}_{j}, \hat{e}_{k}) = -\frac{e_{j}e_{k}}{n}, j \neq k, j, k = 1, 2, ..., m,$$

ignoring the finite population correction due to large population size. Next

an unbiased estimate of these quantities is given by

$$\hat{\text{Var}}(\hat{e}_{j}) = \frac{\hat{e}_{j}(1 - \hat{e}_{j})}{n - 1}$$

$$\hat{\text{Cov}}(\hat{e}_{j}, \hat{e}_{k}) = -\frac{\hat{e}_{j} \hat{e}_{k}}{n - 1}, j \neq k, j, k = 1, 2, ..., m.$$

On the other hand if the sampling unit is a 5 x 6 mile segment consisting of r pixels then considering a random sample of m segments (here for the sample size one may consider n = mr data points) from the total of M segments in the area of interest and again ignoring the finite population correction, one gets (Cochran, 1963)

$$\operatorname{Var}(\hat{e}_{j}) = \frac{1}{m(M-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{M} (e_{ji} - e_{j})^{2}$$

and

Cov
$$(\hat{e}_{j}, \hat{e}_{k}) = \frac{1}{m (M-1)} \sum_{j=1}^{M} (e_{ji} - e_{j})(e_{ki} - e_{k}), j \neq k$$

$$j, k = 1, 2, ..., m$$

where e_{ji} denotes the proportion of classified data points in π_{j} for the ith segment. Once again, for their unbiased estimates

$$\hat{\text{Var}}(\hat{e}_{j}) = \frac{1}{m(m-1)} \sum_{j=1}^{m} (\hat{e}_{ji} - \hat{e}_{j})^{2}$$

and

$$\hat{\text{Cov}}(\hat{e}_{j}, \hat{e}_{k}) = \frac{1}{m(m-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\hat{e}_{ji} - \hat{e}_{j})(\hat{e}_{ki} - \hat{e}_{k}), i \neq k,$$

$$j, k = 1, 2, ..., m.$$

Similarly, components of $\,V\,$ and their estimates can be obtained for other types of sampling plans. Making appropriate substitution in (A.1) or (A.2), variances for the components of \hat{p} and their estimates are then obtained.

A.2. Mean Square Errors of Components of p.

First we calculate the bias of p given by

Bias
$$(\hat{p}) = E[\hat{p}-p]$$

$$= E[\hat{p}^{-1}\hat{e} - p^{-1}e]$$

$$= E[\hat{p}^{-1}(\hat{e}-e) + (\hat{p}^{-1} - p^{-1})e]$$

$$= E[\hat{p}^{-1} - p^{-1}]e$$
(A.5)

because the first term is zero due $E(\hat{e}-e)=0$ for a given \hat{P}^{-1} . Clearly, the bias depends upon how much bias there is in \hat{P}^{-1} , and

Bias
$$(\hat{p}) = (Bias (\hat{P}^{-1}))e$$
.

In order to find the mean square error of any component of \hat{p} , let us first consider the evaluation of matrix,

$$E[(\hat{p}-p)(\hat{p}-p)^{T}] = E[(\hat{p}-1\hat{e} - p^{-1}e)(\hat{p}-1\hat{e} - p^{-1}e)^{T}]$$

$$= E [(\hat{P}^{-1})(\hat{e}-e)(\hat{e}-e)^{T}(\hat{P}^{-1})^{T} + (\hat{P}^{-1} - P^{-1}) ee^{T} (\hat{P}^{-1} - P^{-1})^{T}]$$

$$= E [(\hat{P}^{-1}) V (\hat{P}^{-1})^{T}] + E [(\hat{P}^{-1} - P^{-1}) ee^{T} (\hat{P}^{-1} - P^{-1})^{T}]$$

(A.6)

where E stands for expectation with respect to \hat{P} . Again, denoting the (i, j)th element of p^{-1} by p^{ij} and that of \hat{P}^{-1} by \hat{P}^{ij} , it follows from (A.6) that the mean square error of \hat{p}_i , the i^{th} component of \hat{p}_i , is given by

$$MSE (\hat{p}_{i}) = E \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^{m} (\hat{p}^{ij})^{2} & Var (\hat{e}_{j}) + \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{m} \hat{p}^{ij} & \hat{p}^{ik} & Cov (\hat{e}_{j}, \hat{e}_{k}) \\ + \sum_{j=1}^{m} e_{j}^{2} & E [\hat{p}^{ij} - p^{ij}]^{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{m} e_{j} e_{k} E [(\hat{p}^{ij} - p^{ij}) (\hat{p}^{ik} - p^{ik})] \end{bmatrix}, \quad (A.7)$$

i = 1, 2, ..., m.

Once again, V, i.e. Var (\hat{e}_j) and Cov (\hat{e}_j, \hat{e}_k) , j and k = 1, 2, ..., m, may be obtained as in (A.3) and (A.4). If some other sampling plan is used for selecting remotely sensed data to obtain the estimates \hat{e}_j 's, expression for V can accordingly be obtained. To evaluate expectation in (A.7), one needs to find the distribution of \hat{P} . This will, of course, depend upon how \hat{P} is obtained. In general, it will be difficult to obtain any exact distribution of \hat{P} . However, if the sampling of ground truth involves separate independent samples from each crop and \hat{P} is obtained as the matrix of observed proportions among randomly selected pixels classified

into different crops using a classifier, each column vector of \hat{P} has a multinomial distribution and is stochaotically independent of the others in \hat{P} . Since expectation in (A.7) is for elements of \hat{P}^{-1} , it may not be easy to derive the MSE (\hat{p}_i) in a closed form, especially if the number of crops is large.

APPENDIX 2

Two-Crop Case

First we derive the $MSE(\hat{p}_1)$ as in (3.8).

Proof of (3.8)

Considering the estimates $\hat{\phi}_1$, $\hat{\phi}_2$ and \hat{e} , being obtained from independent sets of samples, it follows by an application of the $\underline{\delta\text{-method}}$ that

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{MSE}(\hat{\hat{\mathbf{p}}}_1) & \doteq \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{p}_1}{\partial \mathbf{e}_1}\right)^2 & \text{Var}(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1) & + \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{p}_1}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{q}}_1}\right)^2 & \text{Var}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_1) & + \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{p}_1}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{q}}_2}\right)^2 & \text{Var}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_2) \\ & & \doteq & \frac{1}{(1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_2)^2} & \text{Var}(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1) & + \left[\frac{\mathbf{e}_1-1+\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_2}{(1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_2)^2}\right]^2 & \text{Var}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_1) \\ & & + \left[\frac{\mathbf{e}_1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_1}{(1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_1-\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_2)^2}\right]^2 & \text{Var}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_2) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_{1}) \doteq \frac{1}{(1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2})^{2}} \left(\text{Var}(\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{1}) + \left[1 - \frac{\mathbf{e}_{1}-\Phi_{1}}{1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2}} \right]^{2} \right. \\ \left. + \left[\frac{\mathbf{e}_{1} - \Phi_{1}}{1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2}} \right]^{2} \right. \\ \left. + \left[\frac{\mathbf{e}_{1} - \Phi_{1}}{1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2}} \right]^{2} \right.$$

Here dot with equality sign means equality with approximation. This establishes (3.8).

For a determination of sample size necessary to minimize the cost subject to MSE $(\hat{p}_{\pm}) \leq \sigma^2$ as discussed in section 3, it is achieved by minimizing the function

$$F = C (N) + \lambda (MSE (\hat{p}_1) - \sigma^2)$$

with respect to n, N_1 and N_2 , where C (N) is given in (3.12) and MSE(\hat{p}_1) is given in (3.10). By rewriting, we have

$$F = c_1 n + (c_1 + c_2) (N_1 + N_2) + \lambda (1 - \Phi_1 - \Phi_2)^{-2}$$

$$\cdot \left[\frac{e_1(1 - e_1)}{n} + (1 - p_1)^2 \frac{\Phi_1(1 - \Phi_1)}{N_1} + p_1^2 \frac{\Phi_2(1 - \Phi_2)}{N_2} - \sigma^2(1 - \Phi_1 - \Phi_2)^2 \right].$$

Taking partial derivatives of F with respect to n, N_1 and N_2 and equating each to zero, one obtains the following set of equations.

$$c_{1} - \lambda (1 - \Phi_{1} - \Phi_{2})^{-2} \frac{e_{1} (1 - e)}{n^{2}} = 0$$

$$(c_{1} + c_{2}) - \lambda (1 - \Phi_{1} - \Phi_{2})^{-2} (1 - P_{1})^{2} \frac{\Phi_{1} (1 - \Phi_{1})}{N_{1}^{2}} = 0$$

$$(c_{1} + c_{2}) - \lambda (1 - \Phi_{1} - \Phi_{2})^{-2} P_{1}^{2} \frac{\Phi_{2} (1 - \Phi_{2})}{N_{2}^{2}} = 0$$

Considering only the admissible solution of these equations, one has

$$n = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda e_{1} (1-e_{1})}{c_{1} (1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2})^{2}}}$$

$$N_{1} = (1-p_{1}) \sqrt{\frac{\lambda \Phi_{1} (1-\Phi_{1})}{(c_{1}+c_{2}) (1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2})^{2}}}$$

$$N_{2} = p_{1} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda \Phi_{2} (1-\Phi_{2})}{(c_{1}+c_{2}) (1-\Phi_{1}-\Phi_{2})^{2}}}.$$
(A.8)

Considering that MSE $(p_1) = \sigma^2$ and making substitution in (3.10)

for n, N_1 and N_2 obtained in (A.8), one gets

$$\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2 (1 - \phi_1 - \phi_2)} \left[\sqrt{c_1 e_1 (1 - e_1) + (1 - p_1)} \sqrt{(c_1 + c_2) \phi_1 (1 - \phi_1)} + p_1 \sqrt{(c_1 + c_2) \phi_2 (1 - \phi_2)} \right]$$

After substituting for $\sqrt{\lambda}$ in (A.8), the sample sizes n, N₁ and N₂ are obtained as following:

$$n = \frac{e_{1}(1-e_{1})/c_{1}}{\sigma^{2}(1-\phi_{1}-\phi_{2})^{2}} \left[\sqrt{c_{1}e_{1}} (1-e_{1}) + (1-p_{1}) \sqrt{(c_{1}+c_{2})\phi_{1}(1-\phi_{1})} + p_{1}\sqrt{(c_{1}+c_{2})\phi_{2}(1-\phi_{2})} \right]$$

$$N_{1} = \frac{(1-p_{1})}{\sigma^{2}(1-\phi_{1}-\phi_{2})^{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\phi_{1}(1-\phi_{1})}{c_{1}^{+}c_{2}}} \left[\sqrt{c_{1}e_{1}(1-e_{1})} + (1-p_{1})\sqrt{(c_{1}^{+}c_{2})} \phi_{1}(1-\phi_{1})} + (1-p_$$

$$N_{2} = \frac{p_{1}}{\sigma^{2}(1-\phi_{1}-\phi_{2})^{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\phi_{2}(1-\phi_{2})}{c_{1}+c_{2}}} \sqrt{\frac{\phi_{1}(1-\phi_{1})}{c_{1}+c_{1}}} + \frac{(1-p_{1})\sqrt{(c_{1}+c_{2})\phi_{1}(1-\phi_{1})}}{+p_{1}\sqrt{(c_{1}+c_{2})\phi_{2}(1-\phi_{2})}} (A.9)$$

It can be easily seen that n is a monotone increasing and N_1 , N_2 are monotone decreasing functions in c_2/c_1 , the ratio of two types of cost. For when e_1 , ϕ_1 , ϕ_2 , are unknown, estimates of n, N_1 and N_2 can be obtained from (A.9) by replacing these unknown quantities by their estimates.

APPENDIX 3

ERTS-1 DATA INVESTIGATION

FOR

WHEAT IDENTIFICATION

1. Hill County, Montana

- . Complete ground for evaluation in 2 \times 6 mile area in Hill County North
- . Ground identifications of wheat, barley, oats in Hill County South
- ERTS-1 data evaluated at three acquisition periods covering spring and winter wheat seasons

<u>Date</u> <u>Winter Wheat Stage</u> <u>Spring V</u>	micat blage
•	emergence cover ed

. Classification performance results:

W NW

Commission/Omission Percentages

W NW

W NW

W	70 30 20 80	W	[90 [15]	10	W	[80 5	20	
NW	20 80	NW	15	85	NW	_ 5	95	
	May 23(t ₁)		June	27(t ₂)		Jul	y 16(t ₃)	
W	W NW [90 10] 5 95		W [90 _5		W		NW 5 100	
NW		NW	L 5	95]				
,	May, June (t ₁ ,t ₂)		May, (t ₁ ,t				e, July t ₂ ,t ₃)	

2. Burke County, North Dakota

- . Complete ground truth for evaluation in 2×10 mile area
- ERTS-1 data evaluated at two acquisition periods

Date	Spring Wheat Stage							
June 5	3"-4" growth							
June 23	Jointing							

Classification performance results:

Commission/Omission Percentages

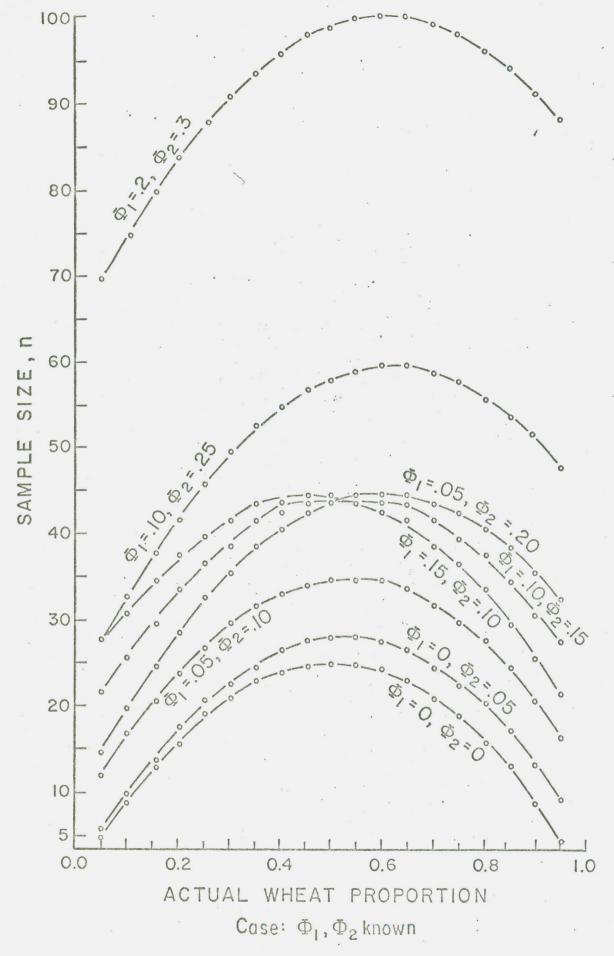


FIGURE I

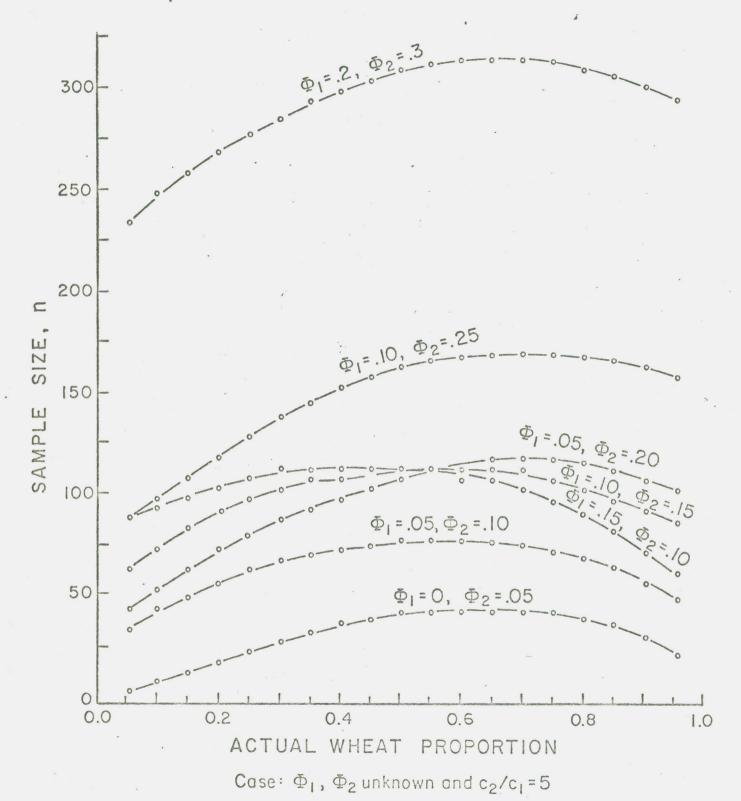


FIGURE 2

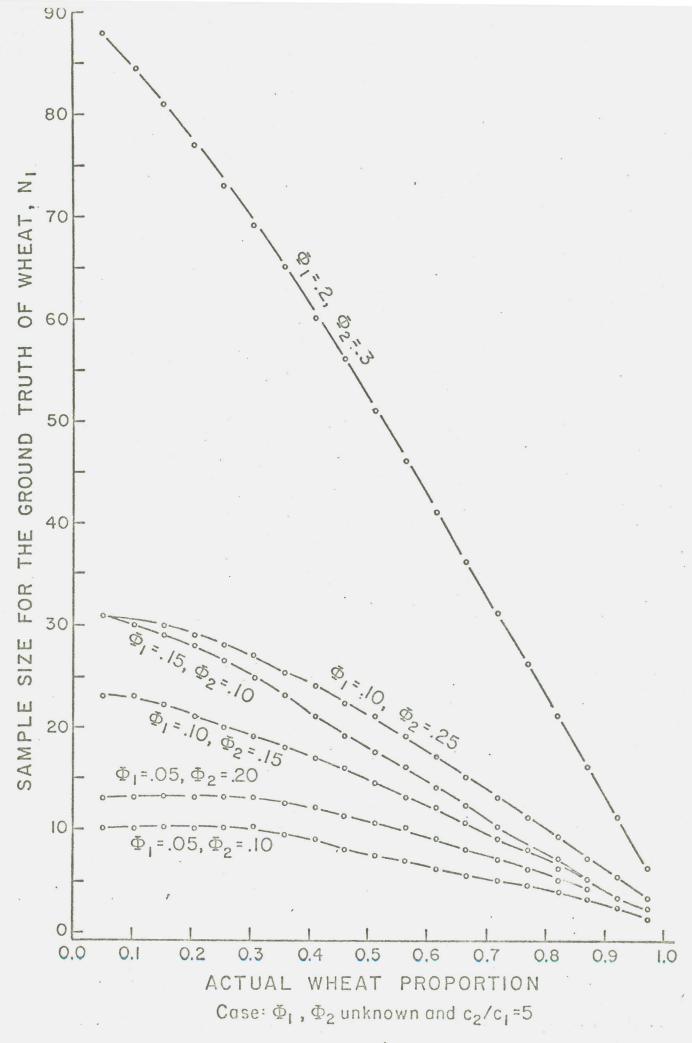
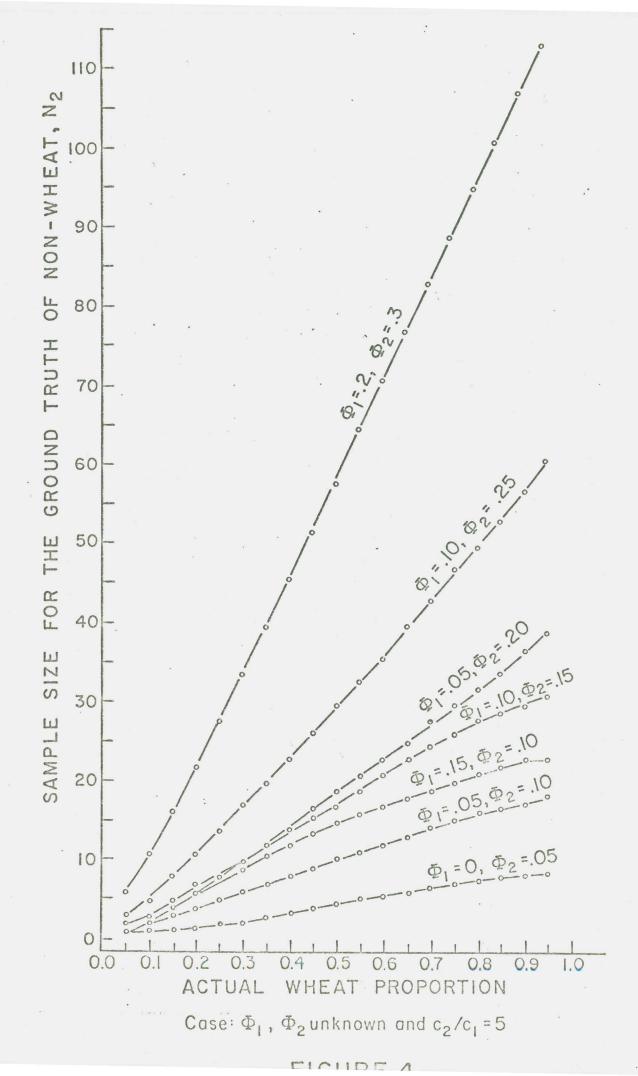
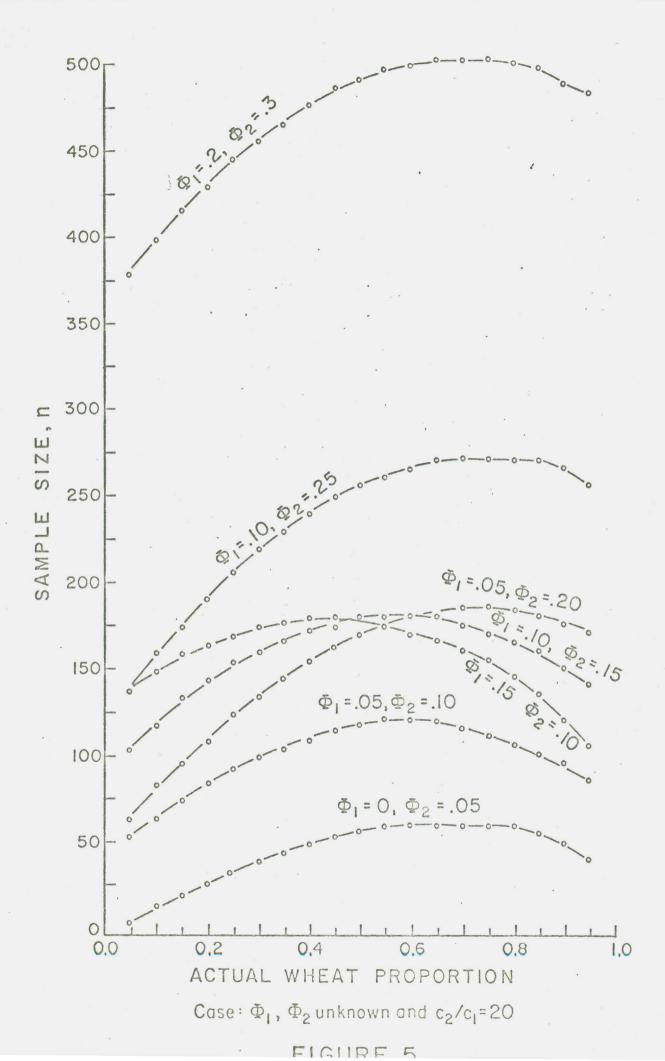


FIGURE 3





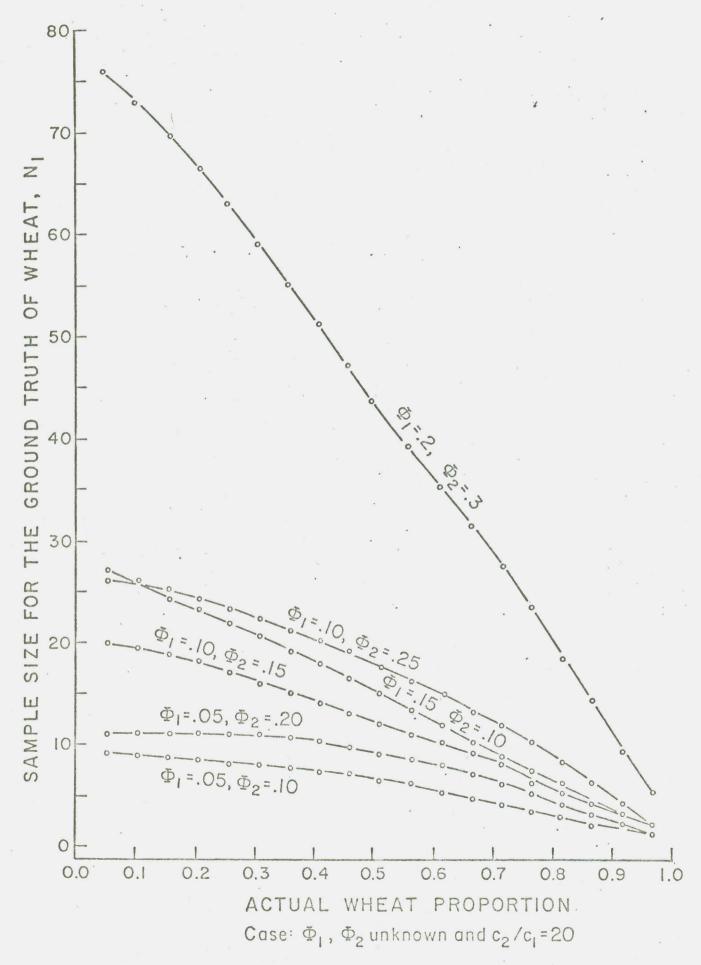
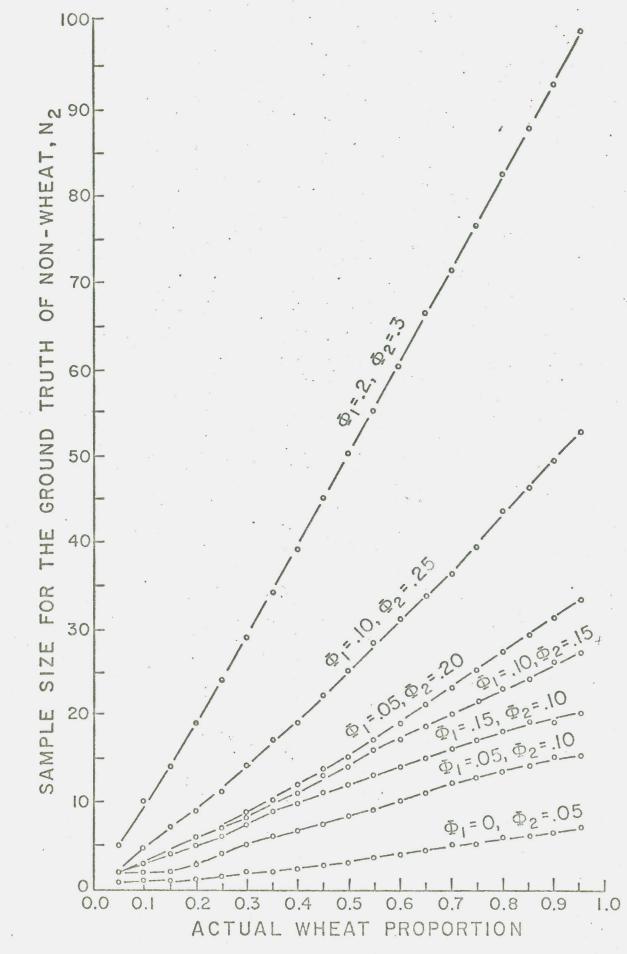


FIGURE 6



Case: Φ_1 , Φ_2 unknown and $c_2/c_1 = 20$

FIGURE 7

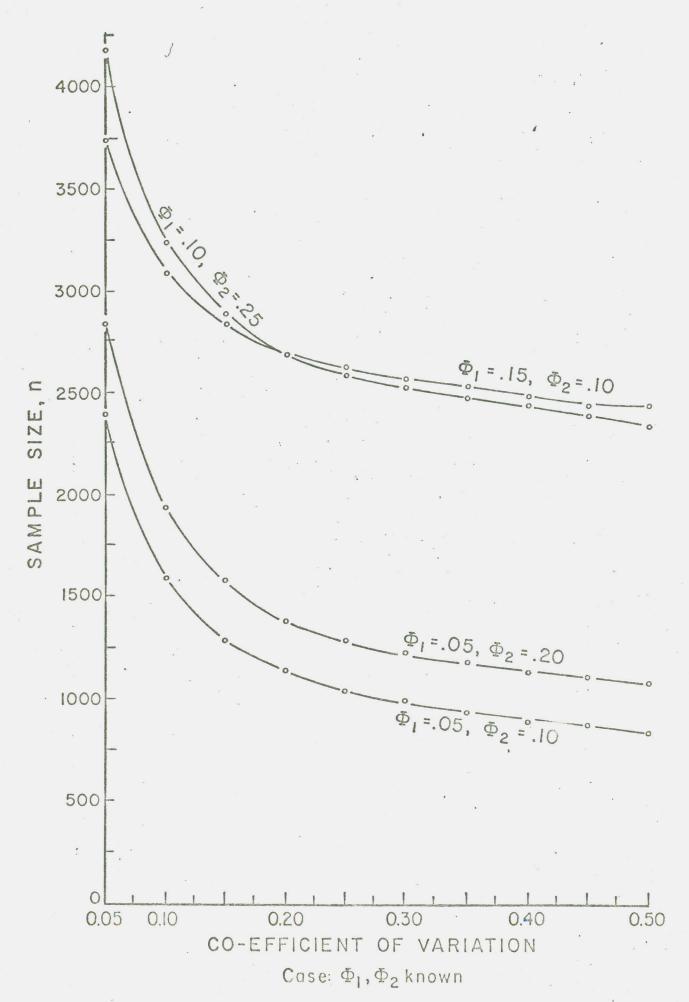


FIGURE 8

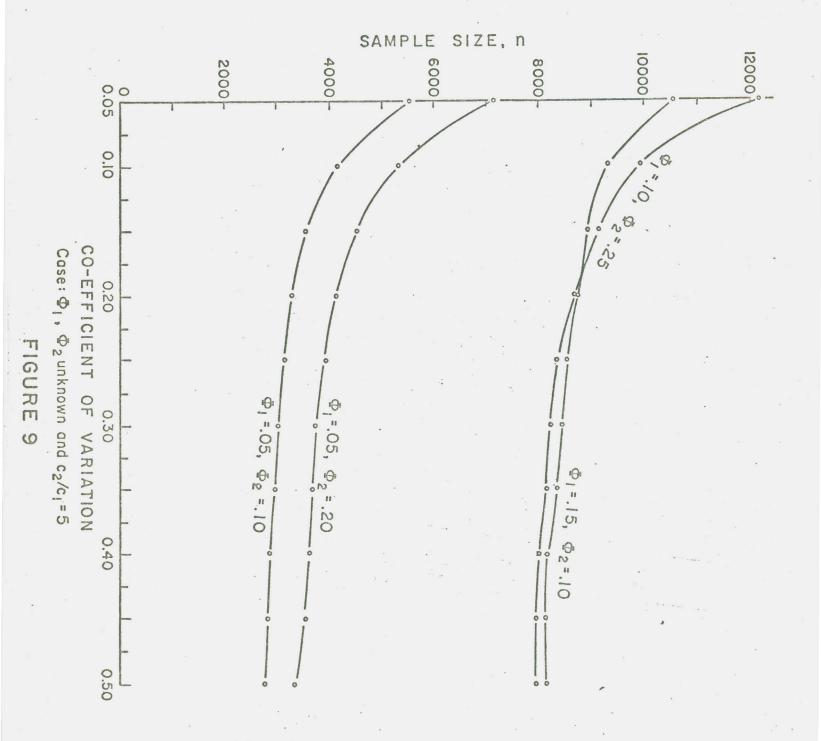


FIGURE 10

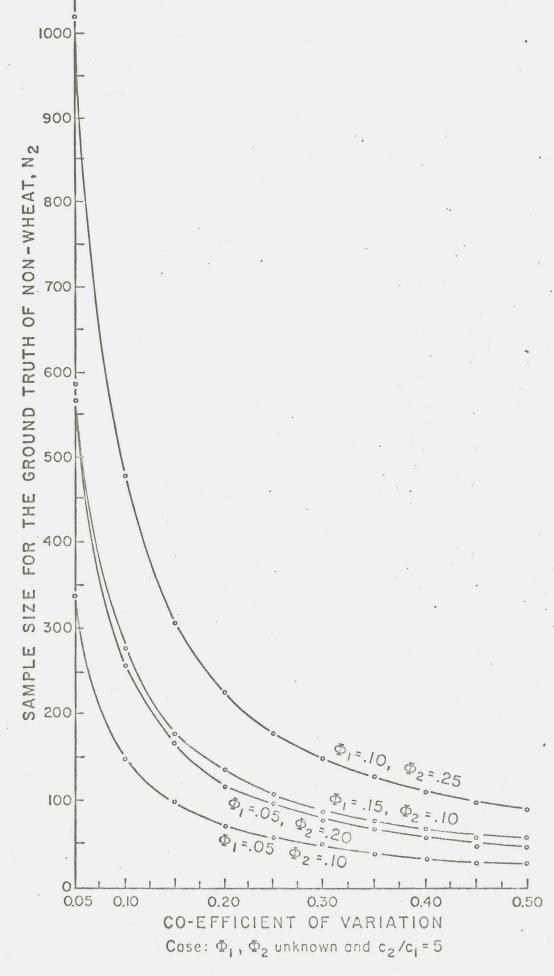


FIGURE II

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