

ENVI Classic Tutorial: Hyperspectral Signatures and Spectral Resolution

| | |
|--|----|
| Hyperspectral Signatures and Spectral Resolution | 2 |
| Files Used in this Tutorial | 2 |
| Spectral Resolution | 5 |
| Spectral Modeling and Resolution | 5 |
| Case History: Cuprite, Nevada, USA | 7 |
| Open and View USGS Library Spectra | 8 |
| View Landsat TM Image and Spectra | 9 |
| View GEOSCAN Image and Spectra | 12 |
| View GER63 Image and Spectra | 15 |
| View HyMap Image and Spectra | 17 |
| View AVIRIS Image and Spectra | 20 |
| Draw Conclusions | 23 |

Hyperspectral Signatures and Spectral Resolution

This tutorial compares the spectral resolution of several different sensors and the effect of resolution on the ability to discriminate and identify materials with distinct spectral signatures. The tutorial uses Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) data, GEOSCAN data, Geophysical and Environmental Research 63-band (GER63) data, Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (AVIRIS) data, and HyMap data from Cuprite, Nevada, USA, for intercomparison and comparison to materials from the USGS spectral library.

Files Used in this Tutorial

Download data files from the [Exelis website](#).

| File | Description |
|---------------------|--|
| cup95eff.int (.hdr) | AVIRIS EFFORT-polished, atmospherically corrected apparent reflectance data, converted to integer format by multiplying the reflectance values by 1000 to conserve disk space. Values of 1000 represent reflectance values of 1.0. |
| cup95eff.txt | Kaolinite and alunite average spectra from cup95eff.int |
| cup99hy.eff (.hdr) | HyMap reflectance data |
| cup99hy_em.txt | Kaolinite and alunite average spectra from cup99hy.eff |
| cupgerem.txt | Kaolinite and alunite average spectra from cupgersb.img |
| cupgersb.img (.hdr) | GER63 reflectance image subset |
| cupgs_em.txt | Kaolinite and alunite average spectra from cupgs_sb.img |
| cupgs_sb.img (.hdr) | GEOSCAN reflectance image subset |
| cuptm_em.txt | Kaolinite and alunite average spectra from cuptm_rf.img |
| cuptm_rf.img (.hdr) | TM reflectance subset |
| usgs_em.sli (.hdr) | Subset of USGS spectral library |
| usgs_min.sli (.hdr) | Full USGS spectral library. Use if you want a more detailed comparison. |

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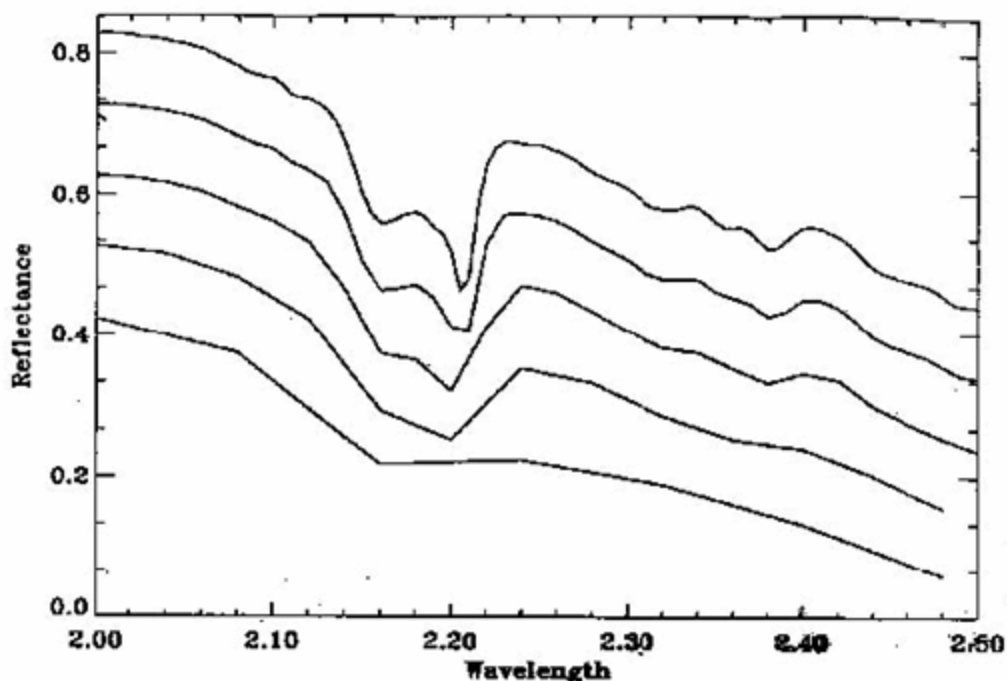
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Spectral Resolution

Spectral resolution determines the way we see individual spectral features in materials measured from imaging spectrometry. Many people confuse the terms spectral resolution and spectral sampling. These are very different.

Spectral resolution refers to the width of an instrument response (band-pass) at half of the band depth, or the full width half maximum (FWHM). Spectral sampling usually refers to the band spacing - the quantization of the spectrum at discrete steps - and may be very different from the spectral resolution. Quality spectrometers are usually designed so that the band spacing is about equal to the band FWHM, which explains why band spacing is often used interchangeably with spectral resolution.

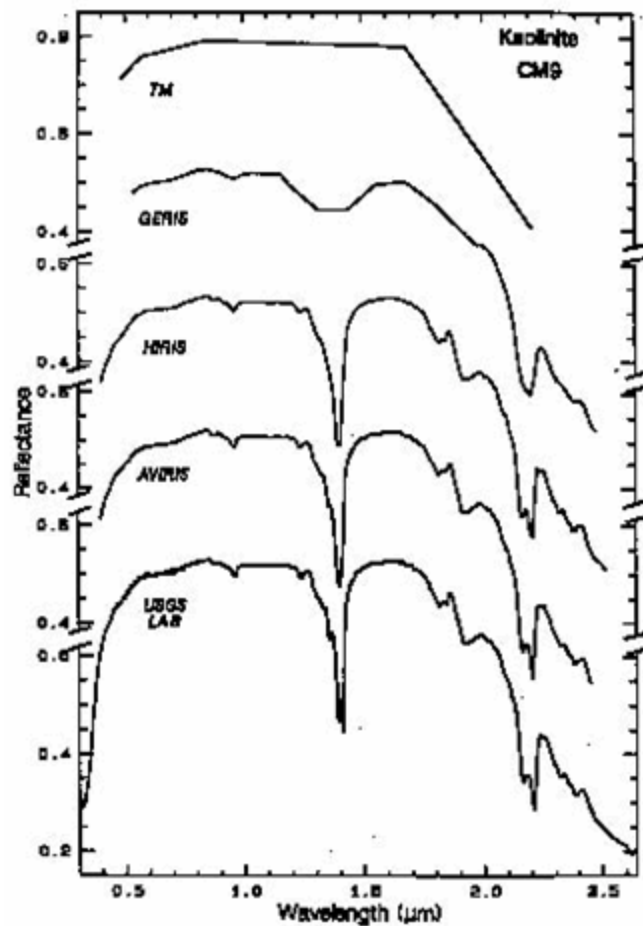
The exercises that follow compare the effect of the spectral resolution of different sensors on the spectral signatures of minerals. The graph below shows the modeled effect of spectral resolution on the appearance of spectral features for Kaolinite.



Spectral Modeling and Resolution

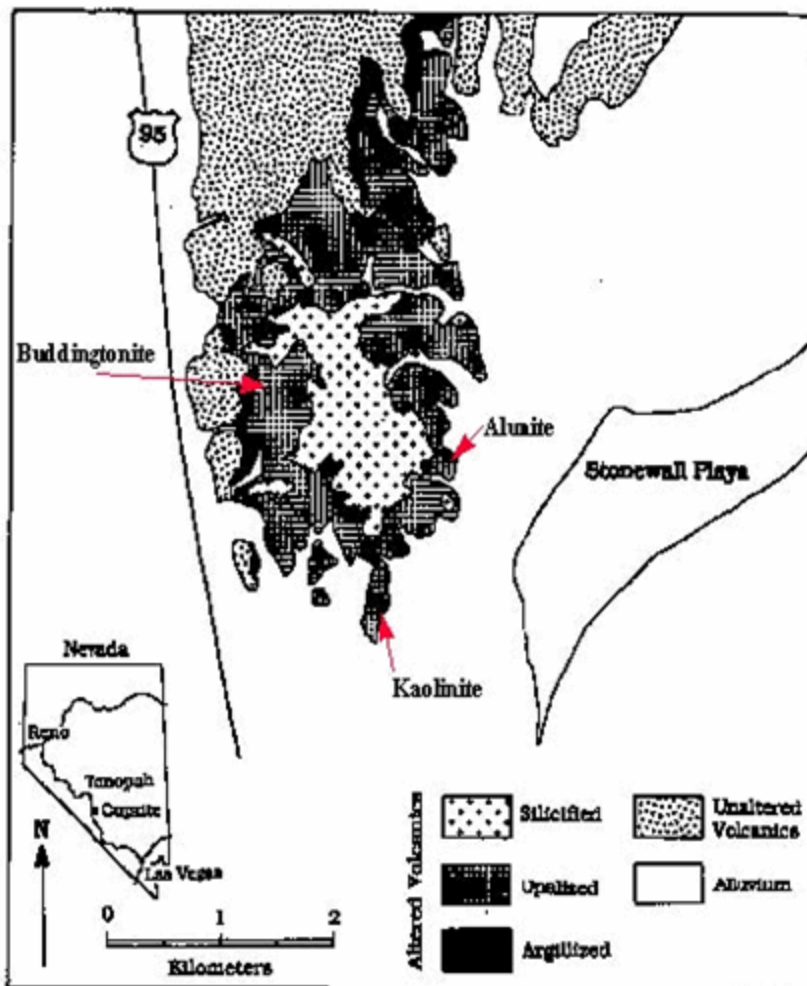
Spectral modeling shows that spectral resolution requirements for imaging spectrometers depend upon the character of the material being measured. Kaolinite, for example (see the plot below), exhibits a characteristic doublet near 2.2 μm at 20 nm resolution. Even at 40 nm resolution, the asymmetrical shape of the band may be enough to identify the mineral, even though the spectral features have not been fully resolved.

The spectral resolution required for a specific sensor is a direct function of the material you are trying to identify, and the contrast between that material and the background materials. The following figure from Swayze (1997) shows modeled spectra for kaolinite from several different sensors.



Case History: Cuprite, Nevada, USA

Cuprite has been used extensively as a test site for remote sensing instrument validation (Abrams et al., 1978; Kahle and Goetz, 1983; Kruse et al., 1990; Hook et al., 1991). Refer to the following alteration map of the region.



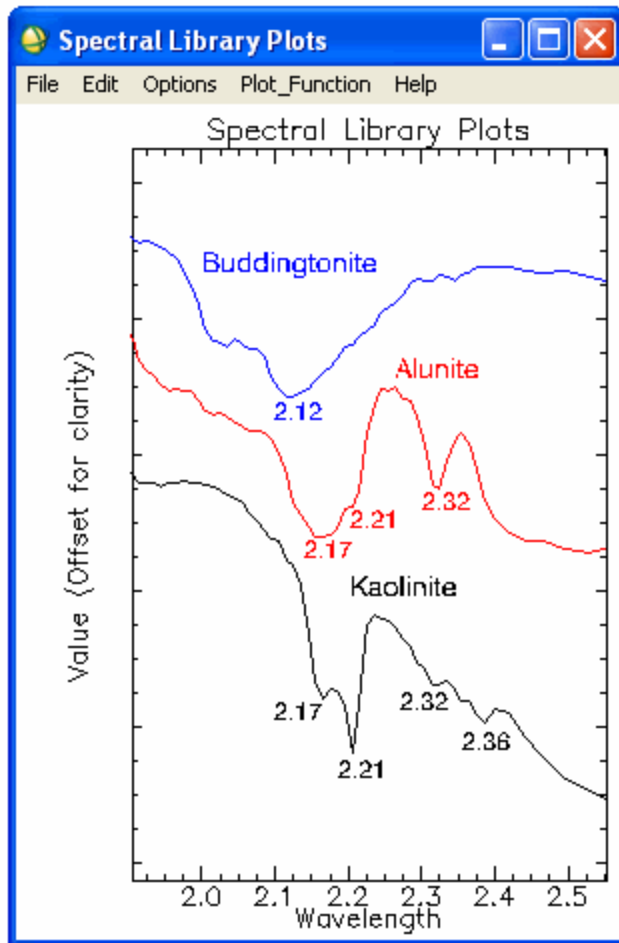
This tutorial illustrates the effects of spatial and spectral resolution on information extraction from multispectral and hyperspectral data. You will use Landsat TM, GEOSCAN MkII, GER63, HyMap and AVIRIS images of Cuprite, Nevada, USA, and you will see the effect of different spatial and spectral resolutions on mineralogic mapping through remote sensing.

All of these datasets have been calibrated to reflectance. Only three of the numerous materials present at the Cuprite site are used for comparison. Average kaolinite, alunite, and buddingtonite image spectra were selected from known occurrences at Cuprite. Laboratory spectra from the USGS spectral library (Clark et al., 1990) of the three selected minerals are provided for comparison to the image spectra.

Open and View USGS Library Spectra

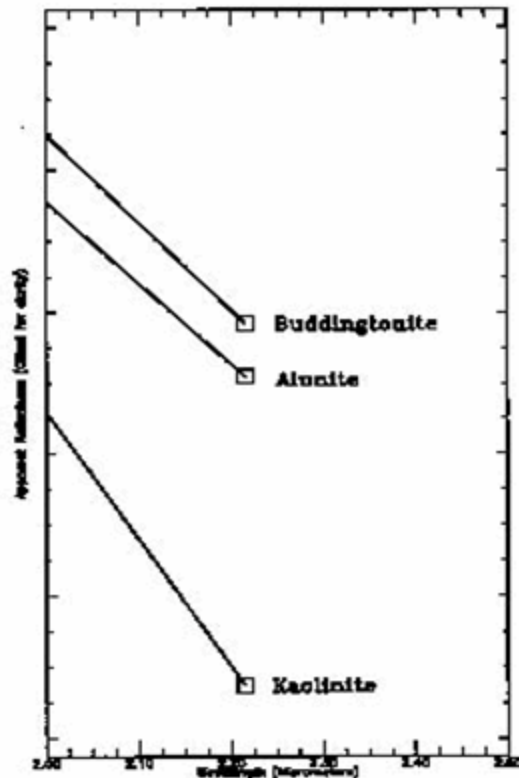
1. From the ENVI® Classic main menu bar, select **Spectral > Spectral Libraries > Spectral Library Viewer**. A Spectral Library Input File dialog appears.
2. Click **Open** and select **Spectral Library**. A file selection dialog appears.
3. Select `usgs_em.sli`. These spectra represent USGS laboratory measurements for kaolinite, alunite, buddingtonite, and opal, in Cuprite, measured with a Beckman spectrometer. Click **Open**.
4. Select `usgs_em.sli` in the Spectral Library Input File dialog, and click **OK**. The Spectral Library Viewer dialog appears.
5. In the Spectral Library Viewer dialog, select each mineral. The spectra appear in a Spectral Library Plots window.
6. Examine the detail in the spectral plots, particularly the absorption feature positions, depths, and shapes near 2.2 - 2.4 μm . For better comparison, use the middle mouse button to draw a box in the plot window from 2.0 to 2.5 μm . Following is an annotated plot of laboratory spectra for kaolinite,

alunite, and buddingtonite, showing the absorption features of interest:



View Landsat TM Image and Spectra

The following plot shows region of interest (ROI) mean spectra for kaolinite, alunite, and buddingtonite. The small squares indicate the TM band 7 (2.21 μm) center point. The lines indicate the slope from TM band 5 (1.65 μm). The spectra appear very similar, and you cannot effectively discriminate between the three endmembers.



View TM Mean Kaolinite and Alunite Image Spectra

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **Window > Start New Plot Window**. A blank ENVI Classic Plot Window appears.
2. From the ENVI Classic Plot Window menu bar, select **File > Input Data > ASCII**. A file selection dialog appears.
3. Select `cuptm_em.txt` and click **Open**. An Input ASCII File dialog appears. Click **OK** to plot the mean kaolinite and alunite spectra.

Compare Mean Spectra and Library Spectra

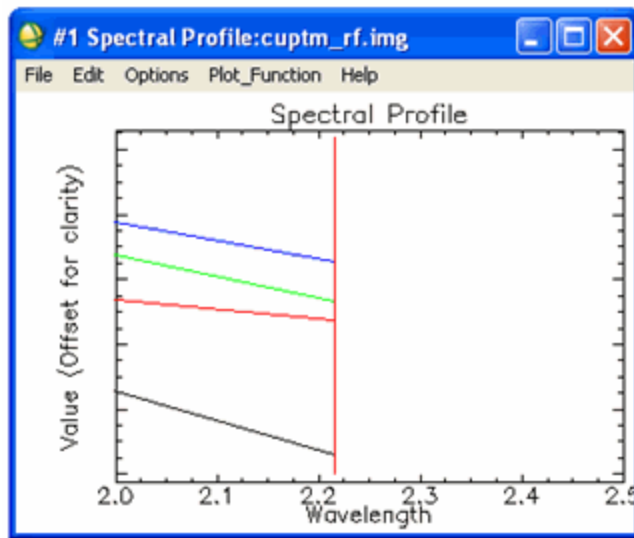
Refer to these steps throughout the rest of the tutorial whenever you compare library spectra and ROI mean spectra from different sensors.

1. Right-click in the Spectral Library Plots window and select **Plot Key**.
2. Click and drag the Kaolinite and Alunite spectrum names from the Spectral Library Plots window to the ENVI Classic Plot Window.
3. Right-click in the ENVI Classic Plot Window and select **Plot Key**.

4. For easier comparison, select **Edit > Data Parameters** from the ENVI Classic Plot Window menu bar, and change the **Mean:Kaolinite** and **Mean:Alunite** colors to match the colors of the corresponding library spectra.

Open Landsat TM Image

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **File > Open Image File**. A file selection dialog appears.
2. Select `cuptm_rf.img`. Click **Open**. This file contains Landsat TM data for Cuprite with a spatial resolution of 30 m and a spectral resolution of up to 100 nm. These public-domain data were acquired on 4 October 1984.
3. In the Available Bands List, select the **Gray Scale** radio button, select **Band 6**, and click **Load Band**.
4. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Profiles > Z Profile (Spectrum)**. A Spectral Profile plot window appears.
5. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Pixel Locator**. A Pixel Locator dialog appears.
6. Enter the pixel location (**248, 351**), a kaolinite feature, and click **Apply**.
7. Right-click in the Spectral Profile plot window and select **Collect Spectra**.
8. Enter the following pixel locations and click **Apply** each time.
 - Alunite (260, 330)
 - Buddingtonite (202, 295)
 - Silica or Opal (251, 297)
9. From the Spectral Profile menu bar, select **Edit > Plot Parameters**. A Plot Parameters dialog appears.
10. The X-Axis radio button is selected by default. Enter **Range** values from **2.0** to **2.5**. Click **Apply**, then **Cancel**.
11. Right-click in the Spectral Profile window and select **Stack Plots**.



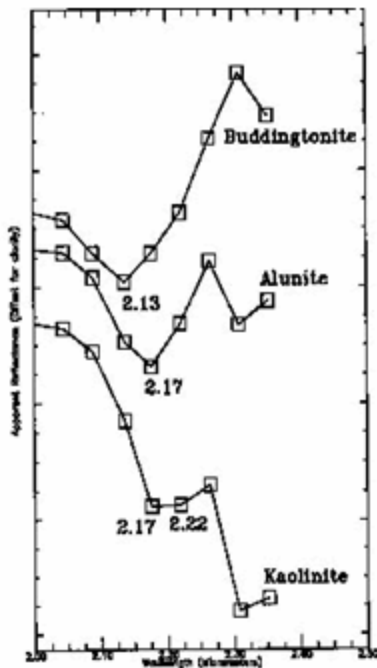
12. Compare the apparent reflectance spectra to the library spectra, by dragging and dropping spectra from the ENVI Classic Plot Window into the Spectral Profile.
13. See "Draw Conclusions" on page 23, and answer some of the questions pertaining to Landsat TM data.
14. When you are finished, close the display group, ENVI Classic Plot Window, and Spectral Profile. Keep the Spectral Library Plots window open for the remaining exercises.

View GEOSCAN Image and Spectra

The GEOSCAN MkII sensor, flown on a light aircraft during the late 1980s, was a commercial aircraft system that acquired up to 24 spectral channels selected from 46 available bands. GEOSCAN covered a spectral range from 0.45 to 12.0 μm using grating dispersive optics and three sets of linear array detectors (Lyon and Honey, 1989).

GEOSCAN's high spatial resolution makes it suitable for detailed geologic mapping (Hook et al., 1991). A typical data acquisition for geology resulted in 10 bands in the visible/near infrared (VNIR, 0.52 - 0.96 μm), 8 bands in the shortwave infrared (SWIR, 2.04 - 2.35 μm), and thermal infrared (TIR, 8.64 - 11.28 μm) regions (Lyon and Honey, 1990). The relatively low number of spectral bands and low spectral resolution limit mineralogic mapping to a few groups of minerals in the absence of ground information. However, the strategic placement of the SWIR bands provides more mineralogic information than expected under such limited spectral resolution.

The following plot shows ROI mean spectra for kaolinite, alunite, and buddingtonite. The spectra for these minerals appear quite different in the GEOSCAN data, even with the relatively widely spaced spectral bands.



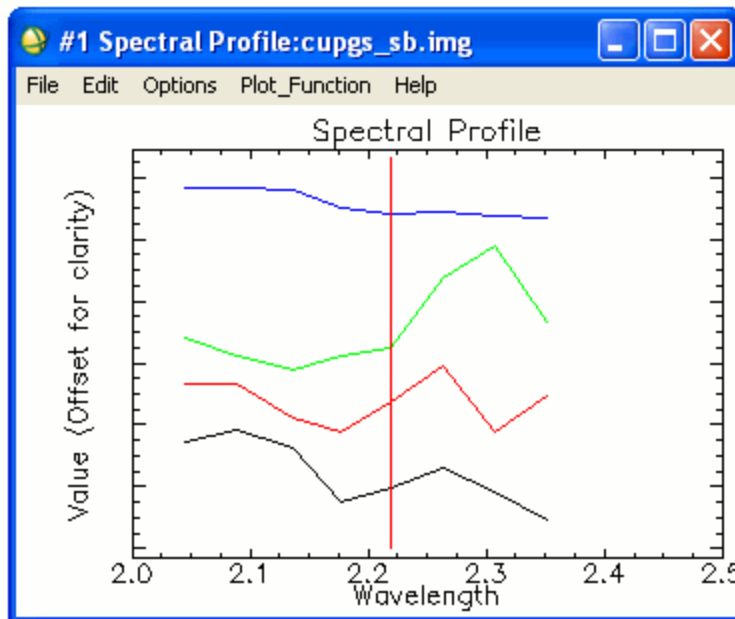
View GEOSCAN Mean Kaolinite and Alunite Image Spectra

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **Window > Start New Plot Window**. A blank ENVI Classic Plot Window appears.
2. From the ENVI Classic Plot Window menu bar, select **File > Input Data > ASCII**. A file selection dialog appears.
3. Select `cupgs_em.txt` and click **Open**. An Input ASCII File dialog appears. Click **OK** to plot the kaolinite and alunite spectra in the ENVI Classic Plot Window.
4. Compare these spectra to the USGS library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to the spectra from the other sensors.

Open GEOSCAN Image

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **File > Open Image File**. A file selection dialog appears.
2. Select `cupgs_sb.img`. Click **Open**. This file contains GEOSCAN imagery of Cuprite (collected in 1989), at approximately 60 nm spectral resolution with 44 nm sampling, converted to apparent reflectance using a Flat Field correction in ENVI Classic.
3. To optionally view a color composite that enhances mineralogical differences, select the **RGB Color** radio button, select **Band 13**, **Band 15**, and **Band 18**, and click **Load RGB**.
4. In the Available Bands List, select the **Gray Scale** radio button, select **Band 15**, and click **Load Band**.

5. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Profiles > Z Profile (Spectrum)**. A Spectral Profile plot window appears.
6. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Pixel Locator**. A Pixel Locator dialog appears.
7. Enter the pixel location (**275, 761**), a kaolinite feature, and click **Apply**.
8. Right-click in the Spectral Profile plot window and select **Collect Spectra**.
9. Enter the following pixel locations and click **Apply** each time.
Alunite (435, 551)
Buddingtonite (168, 475)
Silica or Opal (371, 592)
10. From the Spectral Profile menu bar, select **Edit > Plot Parameters**. A Plot Parameters dialog appears.
11. The X-Axis radio button is selected by default. Enter **Range** values from **2.0** to **2.5**. Click **Apply**, then **Cancel**.
12. Right-click in the Spectral Profile window and select **Stack Plots**.

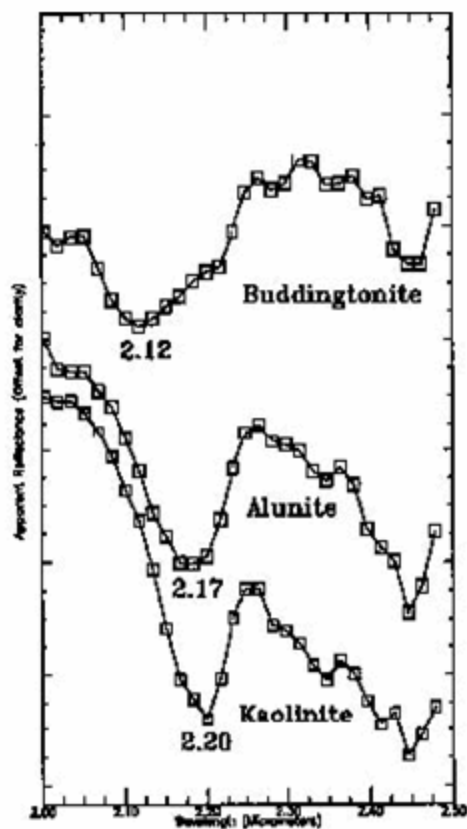


13. Compare the GEOSCAN image spectra to the library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to the Landsat TM spectra.
14. See "Draw Conclusions" on page 23, and answer some of the questions pertaining to GEOSCAN data.
15. When you are finished, close the display group, ENVI Classic Plot Window, and Spectral Profile. Keep the Spectral Library Plots window open for the remaining exercises.

View GER63 Image and Spectra

The Geophysical and Environmental Research 63-band scanner (GER63) has an advertised spectral resolution of 17.5 nm, but comparison with other sensors and laboratory spectra suggests that 35 nm resolution with 17.5 nm sampling is more likely. Four bad bands were dropped so that only 59 spectral bands are available. The GER63 data used in this exercise were acquired during August 1987. Selected analysis results were previously published in Kruse et al. (1990).

The plot below shows the ROI mean spectra for kaolinite, alunite, and buddingtonite. The GER63 data adequately discriminate alunite and buddingtonite, but they do not fully resolve the kaolinite “doublet” near 2.2 μm shown in the laboratory spectra.



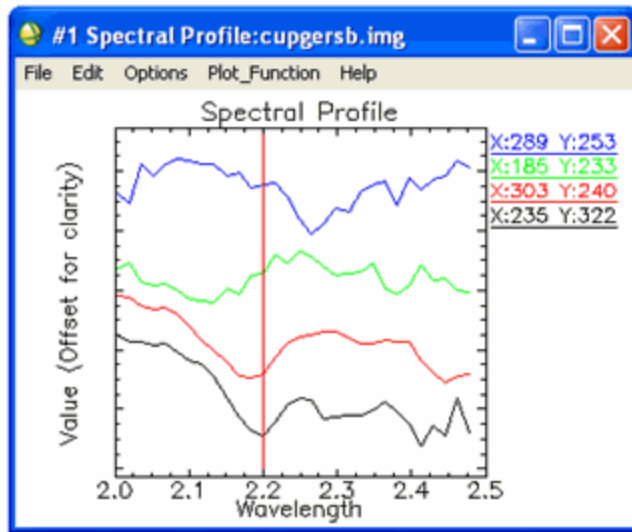
View GER63 Mean Kaolinite and Alunite Image Spectra

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **Window > Start New Plot Window**. A blank ENVI Classic Plot Window appears.
2. From the ENVI Classic Plot Window menu bar, select **File > Input Data > ASCII**. A file selection dialog appears.

3. Select `cupgerem.txt` and click **Open**. An Input ASCII File dialog appears. Click **OK** to plot the kaolinite and alunite spectra in the ENVI Classic Plot Window.
4. Compare these spectra to the USGS library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to the spectra from the other sensors.

Open GER63 Image

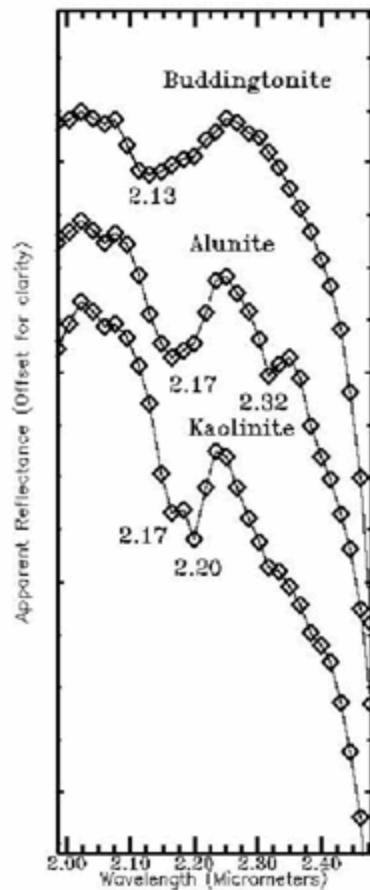
1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **File > Open Image File**. A file selection dialog appears.
2. Select `cupgersb.img`. Click **Open**.
3. To optionally view a color composite that enhances mineralogical differences, select the **RGB Color** radio button, select **Band 36**, **Band 42**, and **Band 50**, and click **Load RGB**.
4. In the Available Bands List, select the **Gray Scale** radio button, select **Band 42**, and click **Load Band**.
5. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Profiles > Z Profile (Spectrum)**. A Spectral Profile plot window appears.
6. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Pixel Locator**. A Pixel Locator dialog appears.
7. Enter the pixel location (**235, 322**), a kaolinite feature, and click **Apply**.
8. Right-click in the Spectral Profile plot window and select **Collect Spectra**.
9. Enter the following pixel locations and click Apply each time.
 - Alunite (303, 240)
 - Buddingtonite (185, 233)
 - Silica or Opal (289, 253)
10. From the Spectral Profile menu bar, select **Edit > Plot Parameters**. A Plot Parameters dialog appears.
11. The **X-Axis** radio button is selected by default. Enter **Range** values from **2.0** to **2.5**. Click **Apply**, then **Cancel**.
12. Right-click in the Spectral Profile window and select **Stack Plots**.



13. Compare the GER63 image spectra to the library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to spectra from the other sensors.
14. See "Draw Conclusions" on page 23, and answer some of the questions pertaining to GER63 data.
15. When you are finished, close the display group, ENVI Classic Plot Window, and Spectral Profile. Keep the Spectral Library Plots window open for the remaining exercises.

View HyMap Image and Spectra

HyMap is a state-of-the-art, aircraft-mounted, hyperspectral sensor developed by Integrated Spectronics, Sydney, Australia, and operated by HyVista Corporation. HyMap provides unprecedented spatial, spectral and radiometric resolution (Cocks et al., 1998). The system has a whiskbroom scanner utilizing diffraction gratings and four 32-element detector arrays to provide 126 spectral channels covering the 0.44 - 2.5 μm range over a 512-pixel swath. Spectral resolution varies from 10 - 20 nm with 3 - 10 m spatial resolution and a signal-to-noise ratio over 1000:1. The HyMap data described here were acquired on September 11, 1999. Selected analysis results were published in Kruse et al. (1999). The plot below shows ROI mean spectra for kaolinite, alunite, and buddingtonite.



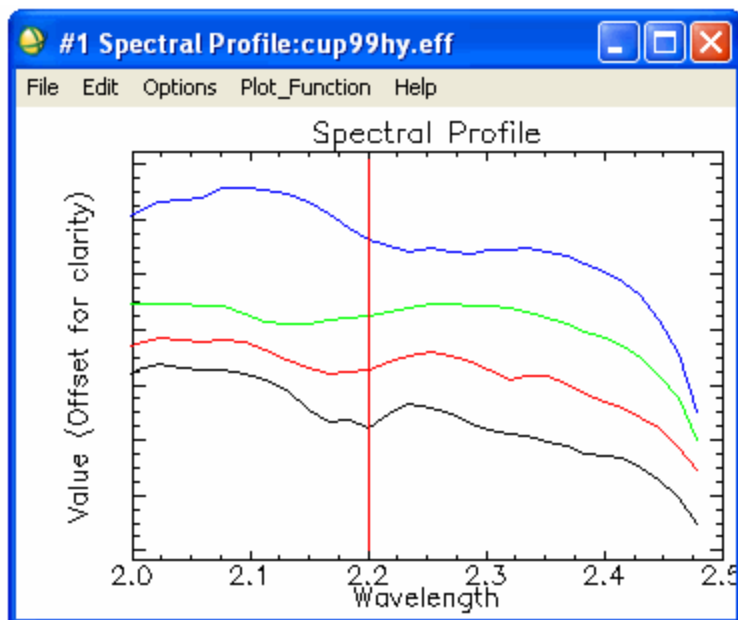
View HyMap Mean Kaolinite and Alunite Image Spectra

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **Window > Start New Plot Window**. A blank ENVI Classic Plot Window appears.
2. From the ENVI Classic Plot Window menu bar, select **File > Input Data > ASCII**. A file selection dialog appears.
3. Select `cup99hy_em.txt`. Click **Open**. An Input ASCII File dialog appears. Click **OK** to plot the kaolinite and alunite spectra in the ENVI Classic Plot Window.
4. Compare these spectra to the USGS library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to the spectra from the other sensors.

Open HyMap Image

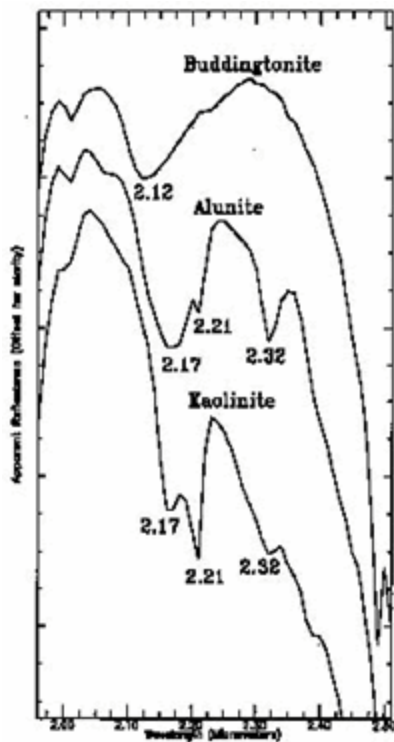
1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **File > Open Image File**. A file selection dialog appears.

2. Select `cup99hy.eff`. Click **Open**. This file contains HyMap EFFORT-polished, atmospherically corrected apparent reflectance data. The data are rotated 180 degrees from north, so north is at the bottom of the image.
3. To optionally view a color composite that enhances mineralogical differences, select the **RGB Color** radio button, select **Band 104**, **Band 109**, and **Band 117**, and click **Load RGB**.
4. In the Available Bands List, select the **Gray Scale** radio button, select **Band 109**, and click **Load Band**.
5. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Profiles > Z Profile (Spectrum)**. A Spectral Profile plot window appears.
6. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Pixel Locator**. A Pixel Locator dialog appears.
7. Enter the pixel location (**248, 401**), a kaolinite feature, and click **Apply**.
8. Right-click in the Spectral Profile plot window and select **Collect Spectra**.
9. Enter the following pixel locations and click **Apply** each time.
 - Alunite: (184, 568)
 - Buddingtonite: (370, 594)
 - Silica or Opal: (172, 629)
10. From the Spectral Profile menu bar, select **Edit > Plot Parameters**. A Plot Parameters dialog appears.
11. The X-Axis radio button is selected by default. Enter **Range** values from **2.0** to **2.5**. Click **Apply**, then **Cancel**.
12. Right-click in the Spectral Profile window and select **Stack Plots**.
13. Compare the HyMap image spectra to the library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to spectra from the other sensors.
14. See "Draw Conclusions" on page 23, and answer some of the questions pertaining to HyMap data.
15. When you are finished, close the display group, ENVI Classic Plot Window, and Spectral Profile. Keep the Spectral Library Plots window open for the remaining exercise.



View AVIRIS Image and Spectra

AVIRIS data have approximately 10 nm spectral resolution and 20 m spatial resolution. The AVIRIS data used in this exercise were acquired during July 1995 as part of an AVIRIS Group Shoot (Kruse and Huntington, 1996). The following plot shows the ROI mean spectra for kaolinite, alunite, and buddingtonite. Compare these to the library spectra and note the high quality and nearly identical signatures.



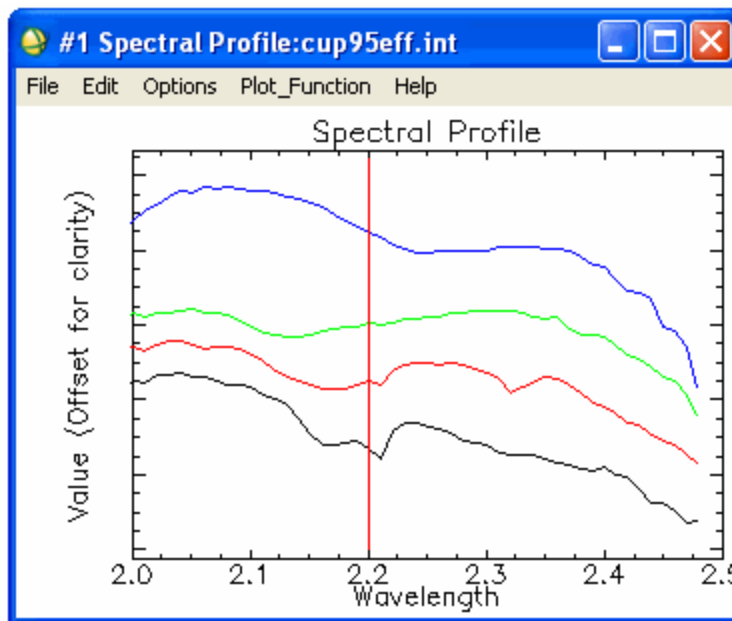
View AVIRIS Mean Kaolinite and Alunite Image Spectra

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **Window > Start New Plot Window**. A blank ENVI Classic Plot Window appears.
2. From the ENVI Classic Plot Window menu bar, select **File > Input Data > ASCII**. A file selection dialog appears.
3. Select `cup95eff.txt`. Click **Open**. An Input ASCII File dialog appears. Click **OK** to plot the kaolinite and alunite spectra in the ENVI Classic Plot Window.
4. Compare these spectra to the USGS library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to the spectra from the other sensors.

Open AVIRIS Image

1. From the ENVI Classic main menu bar, select **File > Open Image File**. A file selection dialog appears.
2. Select `cup95eff.int`. Click **Open**. A color composite of bands 183, 193, and 207 automatically loads in a new display group.
3. In the Available Bands List, select the **Gray Scale** radio button, select **Band 193**, and click **Load Band**.
4. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Profiles > Z Profile (Spectrum)**. A Spectral Profile plot window appears.

5. From the Display group menu bar, select **Tools > Pixel Locator**. A Pixel Locator dialog appears.
6. Enter the pixel location (**500, 581**), which is a Kaolinite feature, and click **Apply**.
7. Right-click in the Spectral Profile plot window and select **Collect Spectra**.
8. Enter the following pixel locations and click **Apply** each time.
 - Alunite (538, 536)
 - Buddingtonite (447, 484)
 - Silica or Opal (525, 505)
9. From the Spectral Profile menu bar, select **Edit > Plot Parameters**. A Plot Parameters dialog appears.
10. The X-Axis radio button is selected by default. Enter **Range** values from **2.0** to **2.5**. Click **Apply**, then **Cancel**.
11. Right-click in the Spectral Profile window and select **Stack Plots**.
12. Compare the AVIRIS image spectra to the library spectra (in the Spectral Library Plots window) and to spectra from the other sensors.
13. See "Draw Conclusions" on page 23, and answer some of the questions pertaining to AVIRIS data.



Draw Conclusions

The four sensors and the library spectra that you have evaluated represent a broad range of spectral resolutions. Using the USGS library spectra as ground truth, evaluate how well each of the sensors represents the ground truth information. Consider what it means to discriminate between materials versus identification of materials.

Consider the following questions:

1. From the library spectra, what is the minimum spacing of absorption features in the 2.0 - 2.5 μm range?
2. The TM data dramatically undersample the 2.0 - 2.5 μm range, as only TM band 7 is available. What evidence do you see for absorption features in this range? What differences are apparent in the TM spectra of minerals with absorption features in this range?
3. The GEOSCAN data also undersample the 2.0 - 2.5 μm range, however, the bands are strategically placed. What differences do you see between the GEOSCAN spectra for the different minerals? Could some of the bands have been placed differently to provide better mapping of specific minerals?
4. The GER63 data provide improved spectral resolution over the GEOSCAN data, and you can observe individual features. The advertised spectral resolution of the GER63 between 2.0 - 2.5 μm is 17.5 nm. Examine the GER63 kaolinite spectrum and defend or refute this specification. Do the more closely spaced spectral bands of the GER63 sensor provide a significant advantage over the GEOSCAN data in mapping and identifying these reference minerals?
5. What are the main differences between mineral spectra at Cuprite caused by the change from 10 nm spectral resolution (AVIRIS) to 17 nm spectral resolution (HyMap)?
6. The AVIRIS data provide the best spectral resolution of the sensors examined here. How do the AVIRIS and laboratory spectra compare? What are the major similarities and differences? What factors affect the comparison of the two data types?
7. Examine all of the images and spectra. What role does spatial resolution play in the comparison?
8. Based on the library spectra, provide sensor spectral and spatial resolution design specifications as well as recommendations on placement of spectral bands for mineral mapping. Examine the trade-offs between continuous high-spectral resolution bands and strategically placed, lower-resolution bands.

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